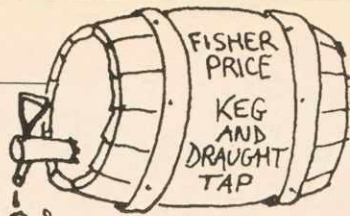


baby  
bottle

GAZETTE GRAPHIC BY SQUID

## opinions

## Booze, Booze, Booze

It struck me as interesting. I was at a party this weekend, and I got a little inebriated. So did several other people. Virtually everyone there was drinking some form of liquor. My vice that evening happened to be a mickey of rum.

In the next apartment was a party of sixteen year-olds. There was an arrangement between the owners of these two apartments so that it was basically an open door arrangement.

It was interesting to watch these kids (of which there were maybe fifteen). They were all seriously liquored up. There were beer bottles and beer caps on every surface imaginable. In the washroom; one rather drunk youngster had decorated an entire wall with urine. I'm sure it wasn't intentional...he probably just staggered.

As a favour, these kids asked some of our party if we would go and buy them some more beer (which they would pay for). We agreed (remembering our own youth). Eighty dollars of beer was purchased for them, and when it

was given to them; it was like a pack of wolves falling on a dead animal. Limbs were flying, and so were the fists. Each person wanted the first, and the second, and quite possibly the third beer first.

I asked myself, was I like this when I was their age? Right in front of me, two of these teenagers were kissing like it was their only source of oxygen. I answered a tentative yes. I remember parties as a kid where I would consume beer left and right. I did not care where the beer came from, and I was not above dipping into someone else's stash.

I think this is what has led to the problems we have now. I don't drink very often (maybe once every six months), but when I do I really go nuts. That night I drank all 14 ounces of Rum, plus three beers. I'll admit that I made a bit of a fool of myself (though not as bad though as some of my earlier experiences). I did manage to avoid swinging from the chandelier...THANK GOD!

But this is a problem in our society. As university students we are expected to drink. We are ex-

pected to have wild parties and huge hangovers. This is part of the mystique of university. A favourite catch phrase of mine was that I was practising for my university days.

Unfortunately, the time will come, eventually, when we will leave school and have to get a real job. How impressed will our boss be if we are dangling from his chandelier at the company Christmas party?

We won't be able to just skip work every Monday because our heads feel like Mount Fuji. Eventually this habit could culminate into an actual drinking problem. The three professions with the highest rates of alcoholism (psychiatrists, lawyers, and stock brokers) all require extensive educations, and subsequently several years at university.

I don't suggest, and I refuse to accept, that I have all the answers, and at my next party maybe I'll try to drink two mickeys. I see the future, and it scares me; so please...just think about it.


DANIEL CLARK

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## Québec identity thriving

...cont'd from previous page: "BOUCHARD"

rance that many Canadians exhibit when it comes to understanding *la belle province* and its people.

Many Canadians see Québec as being monumentally different from the rest of Canada simply because of the language many of its inhabitants speak. It is this attitude, which permeates inside and outside of Québec, that Bouchard and his cronies feed upon. They forget that part of what made Canada unique in 1867 is what makes us unique today: we are a bilingual nation. It is possible for people who speak different languages to share a common national identity.

Separatists promote their cause

as being necessary in order to maintain their culture. Québec does have a unique culture, but this culture is simply one facet of what makes up the Canadian identity.

There is much that people from Québec and the rest of Canada share — a love of hockey and a hatred for Brian Mulroney being just two examples. The separatist leaders feel that the differences that do exist are so vast that it is impossible for their culture to survive within the existing system. In fact, the Québec culture has survived and thrived in Canada (they now serve poutine at Harveys) although there is still room for Canadians to embrace many more elements of Québec culture. We in the rest of

Canada should look at the pride and reverence *Québécois* exhibit towards their compatriots, in the television industry, for example. Most of their prime time shows are locally produced and immensely popular, whereas across the rest of our country the top rated show continues to be 'America's Funniest Home Videos.' Do we have such an inferiority complex in the rest of Canada that we can't even show allegiance to quality work made by Canadians. If it weren't for the CBC (which falls further towards oblivion every year), we would rarely see anything Canadian made.

Most people from Québec are proud of their cultural identity — *Québécois* and Canadian. Perhaps if the rest of Canada were to show that we too are just as proud of what we share with Québec, we could understand each other a little better.

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