

Petit Manuel d'Histoire du Quebec

Shake off colonial attitude — Bergeron

By PAUL BOURQUE

Leandre Bergeron, author of the Canadian best seller *Petit Manuel d'Histoire du Quebec* said at a press conference last Tuesday, "politically effective action is grass roots politicizing. We must shake off the colonial attitude which makes us produce such archaic stuff.

"People react to cartoons, to the spectacle, to records, to theatre. This is infiltration of the media. In the book we are doing something alive not dead, we want to live it up with pictures and cartoons. We want to go right through our history up to the present, then we will start to make our own history."

The phenomenal success of the book in sheer numbers sold is testimony to the effectiveness of Bergeron's approach. The book has sold over 100,000 copies (5,000 copies sold is considered a best seller in Canada) since released last August and has become an all-time Canadian best seller. The English translation *The History of Quebec; A Patriot's Handbook* sold 10,000 copies in only three weeks and has since come out in comic book form.

"The response cuts right across age barriers. High school kids are challenging what their teachers are saying." When Father Demarais "a French Canadian mother to French Canadian mothers" made some disparaging remarks about the *Petit Manuel* "one lady got up and really denounced this guy."

Bergeron who was known as a leader of French Canadian separatism remarked that "leaders are very dangerous. Colonialized people have a tendency to look for a messiah. Leaders must be criticized constantly. I am anti-messianic."

New Canadian Press has struggled to get *The History of Quebec* distributed to the public. A spokesman for the NC Press said distribution in the Toronto area is controlled by Metro News, a subsidiary of a firm based in St. Louis,

U.S. Pressure from the Canadian Liberation movement resulted in the distribution for 1,500 copies; in places like Belleville, Gravenhurst and Peterborough. Not one copy was placed in stores in Toronto. Stores such as Eatons and Simpsons could not sell the book although they specifically requested it. The Metro News contract forbids stores to carry books not on its list. Metro News finally agreed to have the book in Toronto stores by Oct. 25. This has not happened.

Imperial Oil (American owned) refused to allow the publication of C.W. Jefferys historical drawings in *The History of Quebec*. Imperial Oil has said that the NC Press could not have the drawings because it "espouses a particular political or social philosophy."

The drawings, they said were purchased on the condition that they be used for "general charitable and educational purposes." In an open letter to the chairman of the board of Imperial Oil, the NC Press replied that "Imperial Oil purchased the C.W. Jefferys drawings with profits made from the Canadian people and is now using them as a means to censor any Canadian history that does not agree with a certain particular political or social philosophy; namely that of Imperial Oil."

Following demonstrations in front of the Imperial Oil Building Esso agreed in principle that the drawings could be used by the NC Press but signed no written agreement. Thus the publication of the book could be halted by a court injunction. The NC Press maintains that no permission should be necessary for the use of such Canadian cultural heritage. The question they ask is "should a U.S.-owned firm be permitted to deny to the Canadian people our own national heritage?"



photo by TIM CLARK

STUDY IN THE SUN: That was what many York students did this past weekend as the campus was blessed with great weather highly uncommon to York in November.

Atkinson student in board elections

Peter McGoe, ex-Atkinson College president and student senator, is one of seven nominees to stand election for one of two positions on the board of governors open to senate members. McGoe, the only student nominee, was added to the list at Thursday's senate meeting.

Results of the mail ballot should be known tomorrow. This is the first senate election for the board positions. Previously, the board selected its senate members. No student has ever been a board member. The other six nominees, selected by the nominating committee prior to the senate meeting are: Jean Burnett, sociology; William Echard, history, (both from Glendon); Seymour Friedland, administrative studies; Harold Kaplan, political science; Virginia Rock, English; and Jack Warwick, French literature.

By the York Act senate is not authorized to elect board members. Board chairman Robert MacIntosh has agreed to accept the senate vote and appoint the elected members,

thus preserving the technicalities.

This is one revision area the York committee looking into government structure will consider. Senate endorsed the recent decision made by the board of governors and the Committee on the Organization and Structure of Senate and University for the structure of the new committee.

Four faculty, four board governors, three students, one non-

academic staff member, and president David Slater will form the 13 member committee. COSSU co-chairman Howard Adelman said this structure had one student less than senate originally proposed, but COSSU felt it was better not to fight the parity issue but agree to a compromise position. COSSU added a rider to their endorsement asking that all elements of the university be represented in selecting the 13 individuals.

Slater criticized by COSSU

The senate's Committee on the Organization and Structure of Senate and the University has voiced concern that it was not consulted by president David Slater in the setting up of administration structures.

Co-chairman Michael Creal said it was ridiculous to make appointments that the faculty were in the dark about and felt it would be "nice" if we had some time to consider vice-presidential appointments. He felt with an absence

of procedures, "serious bumbles" can occur.

Co-chairman Howard Adelman said the jurisdiction of the vice-presidents was crucial to senate's operation. Senate members, he said, were appointed to presidential advisory committees without senate consultation. He said Slater "was not attuned to that consultation. . . it's not where his ear is at. . . it's important someone keep tugging at it."

York Student Clinic offers variety of aid

By HARRY STINSON

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, the door stands open and the phone attended at the York Student Clinic on the second floor of Vanier Residence. Volunteer counsellors await the drug trippers, the lonely, the pregnant, the distraught, and the inquiring.

It is the sort of business where one wishes there were no customers, but then there would only be the feeling that people didn't know about the clinic, or were unable to get in touch, or were afraid to. . .

Birth control and abortion largest service

But people do come, and people do phone. Since Sept. 10 there have been 267 calls about abortion alone.

Birth control is a big problem; that, and drugs, and people who are desperately lonely. And quite often, they want to just talk. But the counsellors are glad to comply: perhaps the talk heads off a tragedy. It is this type of advance therapy that is the best.

More often the problem is birth control or abortion. The Clinic has outfitted a separate room with books, pamphlets, models, and actual devices, where a complete session can be offered. The Clinic finds most women and men basically ignorant of the full scope of the field, as a result of society's still-nervous attitude toward standards regarding the subject of birth control.

Frequently women come in already determined to have an abortion, and the counsellors must work back through the whole decisive process in order to determine the actual best choice. To begin with, the patient may not be pregnant at all. In any case, the counsellor outlines the massive spectrum of alternatives and complications, thus encouraging her to start questioning details, discussing procedures, calming down, and proceeding more rationally.

In cases of doubt, they will urge pregnancy tests. However, the counsellors will go no further than presenting the prospects as objectively as possible; once the patient is fully aware of the context of her decision, it becomes a matter of personal choice. And should the choice still be abortion, the Clinic will provide doctors' names, telephone numbers, relevant information (such as cost; about \$90-\$225 range, with prices rising), and a sincere pledge of continued interest in her case. But the Student Clinic does not intend on acquiring the reputation of a place to quickly get an abortion doctor's name.

Drug tripper help down

In problems of drug tripping again the first step will be calming the student down. The counsellor will try talking him down, playing it by ear, steering him back to reality. For

these purposes, there is another small room; the Tripping Room.

The lights are turned on to reduce sensuality, there are posters on the walls, large soft pillows, games like Monopoly, plastic construction toys, and books spread around. The counsellor works to try and distract and ground the tripper, with the eventual goal of getting him to go to sleep on the cot in the corner.

Information centre built up

The Clinic is building up a lending library, to cover the wide range of problems they encounter. They have also opened their files, containing information on birth control, sexuality, sterilization, vasectomy, abortion, drug crisis information, all their correspondence and minutes, training material, bibliographies, and more. Both the files and library are continually being replenished and updated.

A bulletin board keeps track of all the Clinic's activities. More confidential files are kept on as many doctors as possible; their attitudes, sympathies, techniques, prices, even information on their nurses and receptionists. Thus the Clinic can try and recommend the best doctor for an individual's needs. Much harm can be done by old-school doctors, prone to condemning pregnant patients, so the Clinic zealously encourages feedback and research.

Although the University would prefer they concentrate their efforts at York, the Clinic is working in the outside community. North York has no planned parenthood organization, a definite need that must be met. A recent birth control presentation at MacKenzie Collegiate was so successful that the physical education department indicated that they will invite the Clinic people back for an expanded program. A teenage Y.M.C.A. group invited them to come and help establish a birth control clinic. Plans are underway for a portable, transparency, display on birth control methods that the Clinic will be able to use in travelling seminars.

The people who work there...

Two paid co-ordinators were selected from an impressive crop of applicants this summer. They are in the clinic from nine to five every day, and do the occasional night shift as well.

In all, 33 people serve a shift at some point during the week's schedule, and one volunteer, whose room is located adjacent to the Clinic, is always on emergency call.

They train by the apprentice system: serving shifts with old volunteers, watching them, talking with them, reading all

they can, and just acquiring experience. One particularly valuable technique is role-playing. Two experienced counsellors will act out an encounter with a patient; or a veteran will play the part of the patient and challenge the recruit to handle the situation. In both cases, a valuable session of discussion, evaluation, and suggestion follows.

Most volunteers have special interests — areas they prefer to work in. Those concerned more about drugs are on hand at night, when the trippers are most frequent: the birth control people are on duty during the day.

Always a telephone

And always, there is the telephone. Sometimes it is only a matter of directions to get to the Clinic, but all calls are faithfully logged for future reference. Usual callers want birth control information, or help with a bad trip, or they are lonely, distraught, disoriented, insecure, or depressed. Conversations typically begin with small talk, but the counsellor knows that gradually the emphasis will turn toward the caller's problem. A volunteer learns how to give frank assessments and firm advice in as understanding, sympathetic, and reassuring a manner as possible. And he accustoms himself to urging a caller to feel free to phone again, even at the end of harrowing conversations that have been known to last for as long as four hours.

Red tape tie-ups

The Clinic has its own problems too. At night, Vanier Residence is locked; the only way to reach the Clinic is to dial 27 on the intercom downstairs. Yet how reasonable is it to expect a person under the influence of drugs, or hysteria, or tension, or worry, or anyone of the endless complications of modern life, to be able to pierce the physical and psychological barrier erected in the name of campus security? Conversely, York security personnel are reluctant to provide access to other buildings for Clinic workers tracking down late-night drug calls or similar emergencies.

On the other flank, university and college petty politics batter the Clinic's budget and status, and use the funding of vital services as a pawn in infantile power struggles.

The Clinic still needs volunteers to be on hand Saturday and Sunday during the day, and to help out in the limitless research that must still be done.

Anyone who has ever needed it, and those who may need it in the future, must agree that the Student Clinic is playing a vital role in the York community, and deserves considerably more support and recognition than it is now accorded.