

editorial

DANIELLE BOUDREAU / AS

Here's the deal, Lucien!

In the beginning, Lucien Bouchard was appointed to a government job by his old college friend, Brian Mulroney. (When they met at St. Francis Xavier, Bouchard knew no English and had refused to learn any.) Four years later, he became a Tory MP.

Then he ditched Brian and formed the Bloc Quebecois, a federal party comprised of MPs who had been elected under other party banners and then betrayed them.

Now he is the national Leader of the Opposition. The BQ received nearly half of Quebec's popular vote in 1993's federal election. Bouchard believes even more separatists will emerge next year to vote for the Parti Quebecois, who intend to hold a separatist referendum if elected. Bouchard will be helping the PQ with its election campaign and the (possible) referendum.

Bouchard has claimed that Quebec and Canada are already two different nations due to irreconcilable linguistic and cultural differences. Yet in last week's *Maclean's*, he states that English and French Canadians differ very little in daily life.

When Bouchard's wife was going into labour with their first child, he rushed her to Hull so that the child would be born in Quebec. Despite being such a committed Quebecois francophone, Bouchard married a Californian who has raised their two children as Americans. (They even point to the Stars and Stripes and call it their flag.)

Personally, I've grown a little tired of watching Quebecois burning Canadian flags every year on St. Jean Baptiste Day, and seeing the federal government pour money and jobs into Quebec only to hear BQ and PQ politicians whine about how they'd be better off separating. Consequently, I have drafted the following letter:

Dear Monsieur Bouchard,

The Rest Of Canada, as you like to label the other nine provinces (as if we have identical beliefs and goals), has agreed that Quebec must be freed from Canadian tyranny. (We're sure you'll deny their existence, but if there are Quebecois not wishing to separate, they are welcome to relocate in Canada.) We find all the following deal to be fair and reasonable. You may not agree, but this all we will offer:

You will assume your share of the federal debt, since it accumulated because the government was providing services for Canadians, including those who call themselves Quebecois.

You will have your own currency and your own federal treasury, unlike what you tried for in 1980.

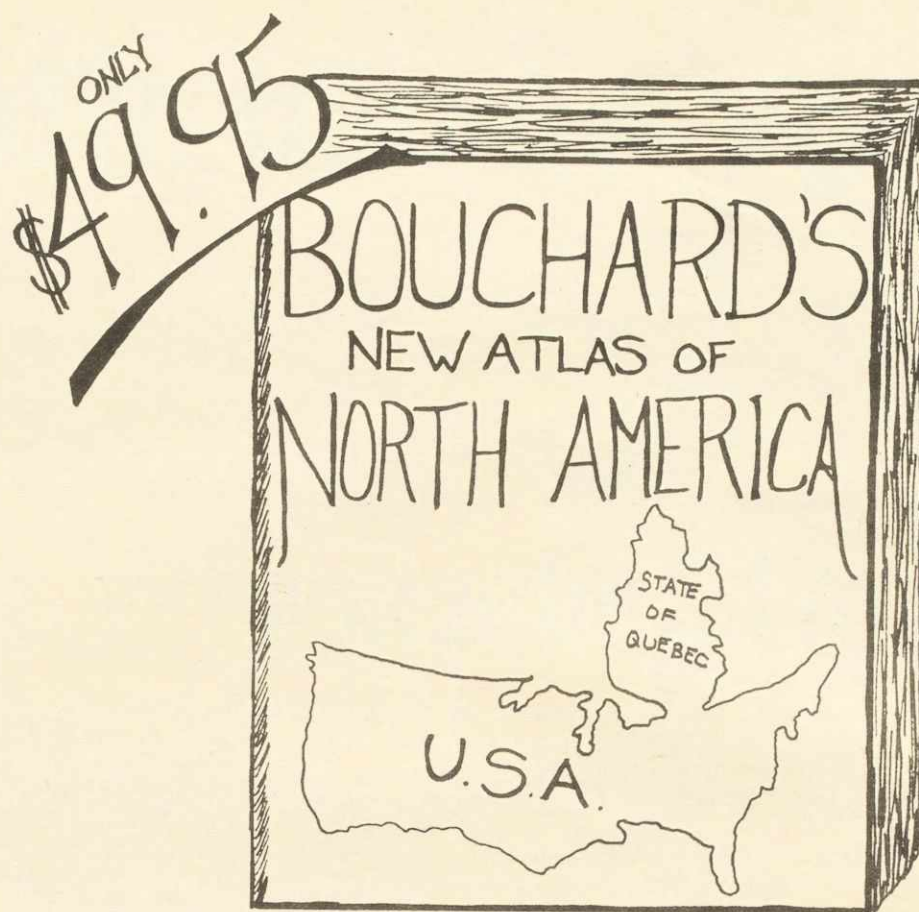
Since you are a new nation, you are not part of FTA or NAFTA and have no free trade deal with Canada; therefore, you will pay the same tariffs and duties any other trading partner faces.

Your citizens will need passports to enter Canada, permits to work here, and to move here they must meet the same criteria as immigrants from other countries.

Pensions for all past and present Quebec MPs regardless of party stripe will be cut off. After all, it's absurd for one country to be funding the social services of another, completely autonomous country. We're sure that you, being an intellectual, will see the irrefutable logic. We trust that your own eligibility for a parliamentary pension will not corrupt your patriotic idealism.

All the best, Monsieur Bouchard!

Richard Lim



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LETTERS

The Dalhousie *Gazette* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Monday noon before publication. Letters may be submitted on MacIntosh or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

Stall appalls

To the editor:

"Julie Sims believes everything she reads." I recently spotted this little bit of information somewhere on campus. But I can't remember where. Was it graffiti in a washroom stall or in the campus newspaper? Far from finding it empowering, I found it shocking an individual would immediately believe that "the names of [20] rapists" she saw on the wall of a campus washroom are in fact rapists (*Gazette*, November 25). Why is she so convinced? Oh, she has a source. Let us consider it.

Washroom wall graffiti occupies the lowest position in the literary spectrum. It is hardly famous for the expression of unbiased, informed, intellectually advanced views. One can lump Sims' secret discovery in with this lot. Otherwise it shows that our water-closet writer has chosen, in the course of furthering her cause, to stoop to the medium usually occupied by the misogynists she vilifies. Is the women's movement so desperate that a washroom stall represents its best efforts? Far from it. Energy directed towards legitimate, positive action will ultimately make a difference — not vengeful, libelous, indeed illegal, tactics. We must question the writer's motives.

Sorry Ms. Sims, this is not the "best thing" I have seen. It's too troubling. As well as being a classic brand of hateful vigilante violence, it misrepresents the "LAW". The identity of said "LAW" is conveniently left obscure. Is it federal,

provincial or municipal? I've certainly heard rapists' names issued across various media, and I don't mean the tissue media. Whatever this law, I believe that a concerted effort to successfully change it would deliver true empowerment.

Len Delicaet

Sell the house

To the editor:

It is a shame to see the various faculties of Dalhousie have to argue about which of their number has the least right to exist, in order that the university survive financially. Perhaps a better question would be to ask whether Dalhousie's 'mission' is to educate or to accumulate real estate.

The university, I believe, owns a huge number of houses within its so-called 'natural boundaries' of Coburg Road, South, Robie and Oxford Streets, as well as beyond. No mention has been made of any consideration given to liquidating these assets in order to provide cash flow to maintain programs. These properties, I would guess, are worth at least \$150,000 each, and cost money to maintain. Yet they gather no rent and pay no taxes to the City of Halifax, and are vacant at night and on weekends. Were they to be sold back into the housing market the streets would be safer, Halifax would gain tax revenues, local property taxes might thus be lower, Dalhousie's maintenance costs would be lower, Dalhousie would raise cash and more housing units would be available in the most desirable living

area in the mainland.

If I had a choice between selling my home and squeezing into a smaller space, or letting my children go into foster homes, I would opt for the former. I wonder why Dalhousie has not even considered the possibility. One can only deduce that, to Dalhousie, the accumulation of capital property has a greater priority than the provision of educational programs. Why is that?

D.S. Armstrong, MD

Reflections

To the editor:

I find it strangely ironic that as a lifelong resident of Montreal, it wasn't until I came to Halifax that I began to get a true appreciation of the scope of the events that occurred Dec. 6, 1989 at the école Polytechnique, five minutes from where I live.

This letter is to express my gratitude to the various groups who put together "The Week of Reflection" at Dalhousie, and especially for arranging the very special vigil Wednesday night attended by Mrs. Laplante-Edward (the mother of one of the fourteen victims and gun control advocate.)

In a stirring message (diminished only by the low number of people in attendance to appreciate it), Mrs. Laplante-Edwards reminded me of some important things. Besides driving home the importance of gun control and dealing with

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