

What is "French Inversion" anyway?

by Vivian Huizenga

Surprising enough, many people have misconceptions as to what the French Immersion program is all about. They say things like:

"God, you must be really good to take your subjects in French!"

"So what are the courses you take in French?"

"Holy Toledo, its worth 5 courses!"

Listen, prior to the course I had absolutely no French schooling. All my secondary schooling was in the USA and we had the choice of German or French. I took German because only prissy girls took French. Well... living in Canada, French is such an advantage, I decided to take a deep breath and dive in. I was so scared, especially because I knew I'd be at the bottom of the pile unlike most

Canadian students. I went to see Professor Blouin about what I could do to prepare myself and started a series of tapes and a book to practice with over the summer. Merci beaucoup!

The French Immersion program is worth five courses but we are studying the French language, upside down, inside out and all around. The course starts at 9:00 AM and finishes at 12:00. No break, no English, no mercy. We rotate professors with a different one for each hour, each with their own presentation. Some are sweet, gentle and encouraging. "Come on, your brains are like computers, it's amazing what we can learn" or "Oh, if that's too hard for you, don't worry. It takes time to learn all this." Then there is one whom you can hear all the way down the hall with the A class. (The total French

Immersion student group is divided into A and B classes based on a comprehension test taken the first day.) Yes sir, we are trying to concentrate on the present class but our stomachs are churning with anxiety for the next class! So far, one hour is devoted to grammar and vocabulary, another to repetition and familiarity with simple structures and sounds, and then the scary class is comprehension that is just out of reach and we must strain to respond to forceful interrogation like; What! Repet  , say it louder, I don't like your monsieur, it's not sh sh sh, monsieur!, If you look down, I'm going to ask you a question, ha ha! I'm not going to shoot you! (no, just ours feeling) What? He put the car in his pocket? C'mon Tracy. Again. Again. Again.

Help us! It's like running for cover from a rapid

firing machine gun. Someone even fainted before that class! Seriously, it's all done in good spirit and the fruits are sweet.

Bon, nous etudient et France. Nous pouvons France parle de plus en plus. Moi aussie. Merci. ■

pas

français

PARLE

NE

On

ici

Correction Correction

The story on page 3 of last week's Gem "Gift Donated for Rink Restoration" listed the amount donated far below the correct sum. Mr. Young actually made a gift of \$300,000. We apologize for this error. ■

Marian/Bernadine Update

With the start of a new year things are busy for everyone and the residents of Marian and Bernadine are no exception. With everything from elections to parties, haircuts to water raids going on, this year promises to be one of the best yet.

Congratulations are extended to this year's new executive. Marian's include: Dave Valley, President; Brady McVarish, Vice President; Greg Wilson, comptroller; and Mark Ronahan, treasurer. From Bernadine we have Tracey Gullage, President; Dorothy Hachey, Vice President; Karen Anne Ellsworth, treasurer; Brenda Gallant, secretary; Lori Barry and Laura Kilfoil, food representatives. A special word of congratulations goes out to Cathy Ronahan, the new head resident at Bernadine Hall.

The new year also brings thoughts of initiation for the Freshmen and fun for the Upperclassmen. Though nothing formal in this area has been done yet, there are stories of a few Freshmen getting wet during a swim in Lake Marian. Take it from a former Freshmen, the best is yet to come.

In other news, it seems the seems the friendly rivalry between Bernadine and Marian is as strong as ever. Bernadine girls recently retaliated to a water attack from the guys. Though no details of the girl's attack were given, it was said that Marian bathrooms could have been used as laundry rooms! (?) The attack of the girls took place in the early morning after which both houses enjoyed breakfast at the cafeteria. It was all in fun and no offense was intended. Is the war over or will Marian retaliate once more?

Speaking of fun, a special thanks should be given to Brady McVarish and Gregg Flynn for hosting that great "Welcome Back" party. It was a rocking party and a good time was had by all. Thanks guys.

So that's all from the residents for now. Next column will be on a more serious topic: Bernadine's adoption of their own foster child. For now here's a thought for the week; If you need a haircut see Kelley in room 200B Marian. He may even initial it for you! ■

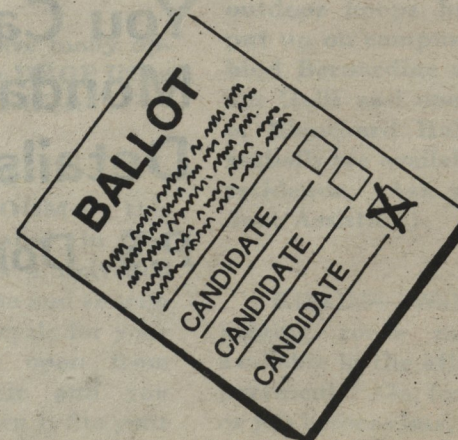
Notice

Nominations for the following Student Council positions will be opening Thursday, Sept. 24 1987:

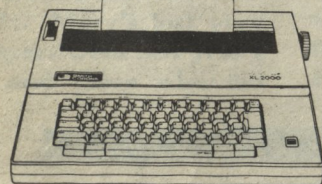
- 1 Science Representative
- 1 Education Representative
- 1 Veterinary Medicine Representative
- 2 Senate Representative
- 1 Board of Governors Representative
- 1 Business Representative
- 1 Freshman Class Representative

Nominations will close Wednesday, Oct. 7 1987 at 4:30pm. with a compulsory nominee's meeting at 5:00pm

Elections run October 15-16. Nomination forms may be picked up at the Student Union Office in the Barn, Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00 pm.



JUST WRITE FOR ANY COURSE...
Smith Corona On Campus



XL 2000 Electronic Typewriter with Spell-Right™ Electronic Dictionary... The Affordable Portable — Perfect for Back-to-School

- Spell-Right™ electronic dictionary checks spelling of 50,000 words.
- WordFind™ locates errors.
- Full line memory correction allows correction from one character to an entire line.
- WordEraser® removes an entire word with one tap of a key.
- Other features include bold print, auto return, auto center, auto halfspace, auto super/subscript, end of page warning, and more.

Save \$40.00 **\$309.95**
or Rent to Own

\$39.95 month (x9)

XL 1000 Electronic Typewriter

Save \$30.00 **\$259.95**
or Rent to Own

\$34.95 month (x9)

Carter & Co. Ltd.
74 Queen St. 566-4260