

In response to "Quebecoise in UPEI"

As an anglophone born and raised in the province of Quebec, I feel I have the right to speak out not only about the Constitutional Crisis but also about the attitudes surrounding it.

Ms. "Quebecoise", I completely agree with you that yes, this whole mess is indeed serious and should not be dismissed as trivial. It is a terrible problem that must be solved before it is too late and Canada is torn apart. However, if the negotiators share your ignorant attitude, we are obviously a long way from a breakthrough.

First of all, Canada is made up of a variety of cultures. That's what makes it such an interesting nation. There is more to Canada than just English and French - we are Native, Irish, Scottish, Oriental, Russian, German, Italian, Jewish, Ukrainian, Dutch and a whole slew of other nationalities. We can learn from one another and we can adapt to each other's heritage. We are diverse.

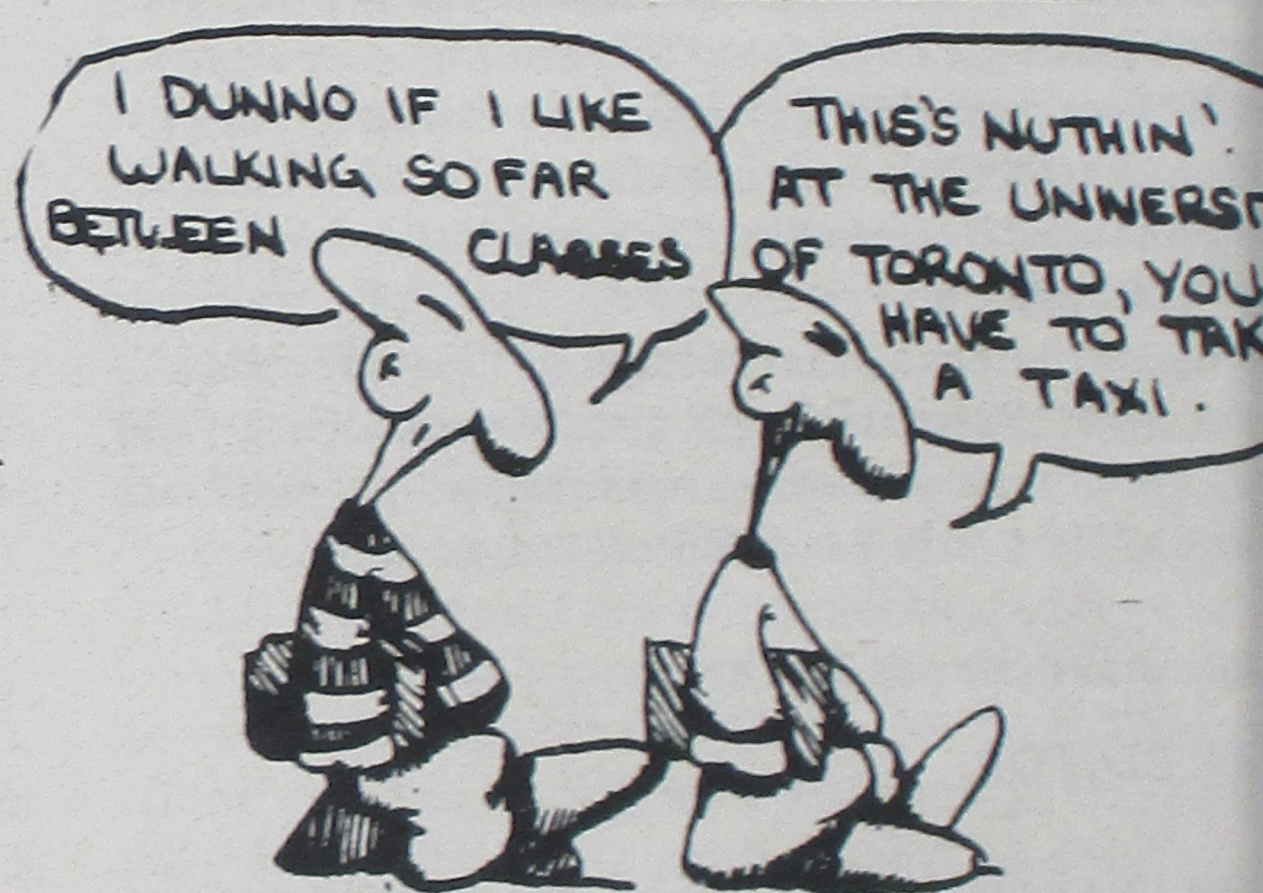
Secondly, Canada is a country with ten provinces and two territories, each of which by itself can be considered distinct in its own right without having a document stating that fact. By saying Quebec is different from other provinces is no surprise - every division of this country is different from another, yet amazingly, they all seem to get along.

Thirdly, as individuals, we should all be subject to equal opportunity - not because of the colour of our skin, the gods we choose to worship, or, least of all, whether we are French or English. Rather, in spite of all that crap. I have no argument in terms of bilingualism; I think it is favourable to anyone who can speak more than one language. But let's not make Canadian citizens who are not able to do so feel like an oppressed and undesirable minority in their own country.

Fourthly, Ms. "Quebecoise", the French got a pretty good deal out of that war back in 1763. They lost but at least they got to stay. It could have been worse: your ancestors could have been deported like the Acadians - so don't knock it. Be grateful - and I think we all should be for the right to live freely and develop our potential as individuals.

Fifthly, Quebec couldn't make it on its own back in the fifties and it won't be able to do it now. If you seem to think it can, perhaps you should go dig up Duplessis and Leveque and see if they can help. Finally, I think the whole problem with this crisis (and this is what formulates the attitudes) is that we have forgotten what this multi-cultural society has made us. I may be from Quebec, I may have British ancestors, I may speak French, but I am not a Quebecer, a Brit or even simply bilingual. Honey, I'm a Canadian and, believe it or not, so are you. Let's just hope we can get home for Christmas without passports.

Signed, A concerned CANADIAN from Quebec.



Please note: In the October 3rd issue of the X-Press the Residence Life article should have read Blanchard Hall had no participants in the shinaran carwash not Bernadine Hall as stated. Also Mario Hall raised \$550 at the Terry Fox run. Sorry for a problems.