

# editorial

Considering events in Canada over the last week it is easy to find a topic for editorial comment. That is because something has happened to drastically change Canadian politics. Things just aren't going to be the same anymore.

I'm talking, of course, about the resignation of Pierre Trudeau as leader of the federal Liberals. The man who has dominated both that party and Canada will be doing so no more. True, Pierre will be a sort of caretaker leader until March, but now that the world knows he is leaving, his party is at a virtual standstill. Though Liberals will conduct business as usual, they will be able to do nothing lasting until they have a new man at the helm. The party which so recently was trying to upset the government and force an election is now like the legendary "chicken with its head cut off". It may squirm this way or that, but it can make no prolonged moves in any single direction. Their plight is almost enough to make Prime Minister Clark rest easy. Even with the insecure Conservative government Joe can just know that the last thing a leaderless opposition wants is an election. In fact, if Joe really wanted a majority he would call an election tomorrow. With the future of the Liberals so clouded the Conservatives could probably mop up from coast to coast. Even in Quebec they might make major gains.

If only because of the delicate position it puts them in, the Liberals have to be sorry to see Pierre go. They should also be sorry for a couple more reasons. First of all, Trudeau was an exceptionally successful leader. He swept into power in 1968 and stayed there for eleven years. That is a heck of a long time for anyone to head a nation. Observe, for instance, the American provision allowing a President to serve only two successive terms. Trudeau has been the man responsible for Liberal successes, and more importantly still, he has personified the party to the public.

The second reason Liberals should be sad to lose Pierre is that if he had wanted he probably could have led them back into power. Trudeau has been unpopular at times. Some Canadians have criticized his language policies, some have objected to his regional programs, and others have just disliked him generally. He could, however, win popularity when he needed it, and few Canadians would deny that he is the best man to hold the nation together. In the 1860's the likes of John A. Macdonald and Charles Tupper were devoted to creating Canada, and now Pierre Trudeau is one of the men most devoted to maintaining it. If Trudeau felt Canada needed him as Prime Minister then probably nothing could stop him from regaining that position.

Pierre Trudeau didn't win many Prince Edward Island votes in the last election, but it is nevertheless sad to see a great career end. Who, then, is going to replace him? The Canadian media has been speculating about this. The names most often mentioned have been John Turner and Donald Macdonald, but both those men have one flaw. They are both English, and in a bi-lingual country it only makes sense that one party leader should be French. That is why I think the names Marc Lalonde and Jean Chretien will be mentioned more and more as time passes. These men have as good a chance as anyone to replace Pierre Trudeau.

Anyhow, that's enough about politics. Let's come back to earth (I mean to UPEI) for a moment. As you may know this is the last Sun before Christmas, and so I'd like to thank everyone who worked on the paper this term. I especially express gratitude to the people who made regular contributions, either in writing or in production. Their names are too numerous to list, but nevertheless one person does deserve special mention. That is Pat Ingraham, the student union secretary, who has consistently come through in the clutch with whatever newspaper typing needed to be done. Pat won't be back next term, and we'll miss her, but the rest of us will still be here and the SUN will go on. In the meantime the SUN staff wishes UPEI students happy exams and a merry Christmas.

# the upei sun

The UPEI SUN is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP) with exclusive national advertising rights held by Youthstream, 310 Davenport Road, Toronto, Ontario.

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Contents are the responsibility of the editor. Opinions are those of the persons expressing them. All letters and articles must be signed even if the name is to be withheld from publication.

Deadline for all submissions is Monday noon.

The staff meeting is every Monday at 7 PM in The SUN's office, fourth floor Main, East end.

A sincere thank you and a helluva lot of gratitude to:

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for all the work they did on this week's issue.

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# staff

## to the editor

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to that letter from "Someone Help, It's Terrible" (S.H.I.T.)

First of all, get off the dons' backs! They are human beings, doing their jobs. And for damned poor pay, too! They don't make the rules, they just enforce them. Consider for one moment the hours, effort, and dedication they put into their jobs. Would you take the job? Hell, no! Forget it! For the amount of respect and praise they get, the money's just not worth it. That amount of wear and tear, physically and mentally, isn't worth all the money in the world.

Second, when you S.H.I.T.'s chose to move into Bernadine Hall, you signed leases agreeing to abide by the rules of the house. So abide by them, just as you would if you lived in an apartment

building or at home.

Speaking of home, you mentioned that your mothers had better ways of dealing with things. I don't know about your families, but my parents don't even allow my boyfriend in my bedroom with the door closed, let alone locked and until 2 in the morning. Do yours?

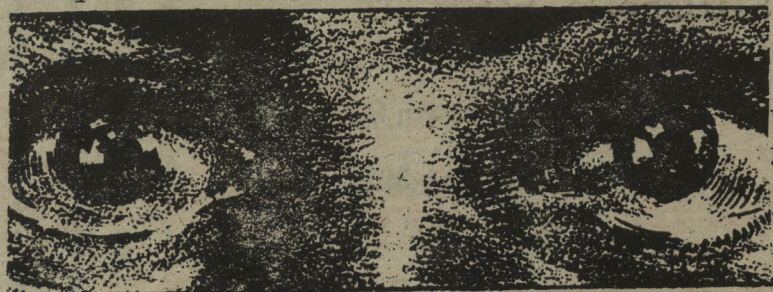
Finally, what quality does one obtain on the 18th birthday to render oneself immediately mature, extremely capable, and infinitely wise? Personally, I am still maturing, still learning, and still occasionally need someone to lean on. Most people are always at that stage - thank God.

Now you've heard both sides.

Sincerely,  
Paulette D.

Caissie

P.S. Use the House Committee suggestion box; that is what it's there for.



We're looking for you to join the SUN staff in 1980.