

CUPARUC

newsletter of the
concordia university
pensioners association

bulletin de nouvelles
de l'association des retraité(e)s
de l'université concordia

vol. 3, no. 1 1994

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With this issue we are trying an experiment. In order to reduce the amount of paper being circulated and thereby our printing and mailing costs we are including a summary of the minutes of the Oct. 27 meeting of the Association. Copies of the minutes will be available at the May 4, 1994 meeting and will be sent to any member requesting one. Anybody who disapproves of this approach is asked to let the Secretary know.

Dr. Graeme Decarie's address at the October meeting was so good that we obtained his permission to include a transcription of it in this issue.

You will also find the retirement experiences of **June Martin** and **Jack Bordan**.

I would draw your attention to the attached notice of meeting and agenda for the Annual General Meeting, to be held on **Wednesday May 4, 1994 at 10.30 a.m.**

As my term as president expires this year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to making my tenure of office agreeable and, I dare to hope, productive. In particular, I would pick out the noteworthy contribution of **Jack Bordan**, founder of the Association, first President, first Past President and for three years your tireless representative on the Pension and Benefits Committees of the University. I shall still be a member of the Executive, as Past President, and have agreed to continue to be responsible for CUPARUC.

Once again, our thanks to **Anne Adams**, who has kindly looked after the lay-out and set-up of the newsletter.

Jim Whitelaw.

MOT DU PRÉSIDENT

Avec cette livraison nous tentons une expérience. Afin d'éviter une distribution excessive de papier, et les coûts de l'imprimerie et de la poste qui en résultent, nous incluons ci-dedans un résumé du procès-verbal de la réunion du 27 octobre de l'Association. Ce procès-verbal sera distribué lors de l'assemblée du 4 mai, 1994, et un exemplaire sera expédié à tout membre en faisant la demande. Si cette approche ne vous plaît pas, on vous invite à en avertir le secrétaire.

L'allocution prononcée par le docteur **Graeme Decarie** à la réunion du 27 octobre était d'une telle qualité que nous avons obtenu sa permission de la reproduire dans cette livraison.

Vous trouverez également l'expérience de la retraite de **June Martin** et de **Jack Bordan**.

J'attire votre attention sur l'avis de convocation et l'ordre du jour de l'assemblée générale annuelle qui doit avoir lieu le **mercredi 4 mai, 1994 à 10h30**.

J'atteins cette année la fin de mon mandat de président. Je tiens à profiter de cette occasion pour remercier tous ceux et toutes celles qui ont contribué à rendre agréable et, j'ose espérer, productive l'occupation de ce poste. En particulier, je signale la contribution remarquable de **Jack Bordan**, fondateur de l'Association, premier président, premier président sortant et votre représentant infatigable pendant trois ans auprès du Comité de Retraite et du Comité des Avantages sociaux de l'Université. Je demeure membre de l'Exécutif à titre de président sortant, et j'ai accepté de garder la responsabilité de la rédaction de notre bulletin de nouvelles.

Encore une fois, je tiens à remercier **Anne Adams** qui a bien voulu s'occuper de la mise-en-page et de la typographie de ce bulletin.

Jim Whitelaw.

MEETING OF OCT. 27, 1993

Attendance included three members from a distance - Peg MacMurray from Toronto, Alexa Parkin from Nova Scotia and Anne Stokes-Reader from B.C. Karen Gerlach and Jacqueline Hampshire attended for the first time.

A telephone tree has been set up for the Greater Montreal area.

Jack Bordan reported that the Benefits Committee had approved a 2.8% increase in Health Insurance premiums for retired participants. The increase for active members (i.e. still employed) had been 27%, or almost ten times as much. As a result of budget cutbacks, the Dental and Vision Care proposal is now a dead issue.

The Executive's nomination of Muriel Armstrong to replace Jack Bordan on the Pension and Benefits Committees of the University was approved, as was a nomination of Larry Bessner as alternate, should such a position be approved by the Board of Governors. A unanimous vote of thanks was recorded to Jack for his tireless efforts on our behalf on these committees.

For the Programmes Committee Doreen Bates reported on a proposed visit to the Biodome, on the creation of an Out-to-Lunch Club, to meet for lunch monthly, and on plans for the Annual Luncheon.

The Secretary-Treasurer gave a financial statement for the 1992-1993 year, with income of \$ 2477.43 and expenditures of \$ 2018.47. He also reported that we had welcomed ten new members and that four had died.

J-P Pétolas reported on the activities of the Coalition des Aînés. "Information", a Seniors' Independence project funded by a \$100,000 Federal grant, is in full operation, and a list of questions to be put to candidates for the General Election had been devised, as well as other mechanisms for political contact.

The invitation to design the CUPARUC bird and benefit from J-P Pétolas's largesse had been greeted with a thunderous silence, and the Association remains without a symbol. More positively, Norm and Dot Smith were congratulated on their golden wedding anniversary.

Dagmar McDougall (Convener), Libby Gardham and Al Graham were appointed as nominating committee for 1994.

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting should be held on Wednesday, May 4, 1994.

RÉUNION DU 27 OCTOBRE, 1993

L'assistance comptait trois membres lointains - Peg MacMurray (Toronto), Alexa Parkin (N.É) et Anne Stokes-Reader (C-B). Karen Gerlach et Jacqueline Hampshire assistaient pour la première fois.

Un 'arbre téléphonique' a été mis sur pied pour la région du Grand Montréal.

Jack Bordan a rapporté que le Comité des Avantages sociaux avait approuvé une augmentation de 2.8% de la prime de l'assurance-maladie pour les retraité(e)s, comparée à 27% pour les membres "actifs" (toujours à l'emploi), soit, dix fois de plus. A la suite des coupures budgétaires, le projet d'assurance pour les soins dentaires et oculaires est maintenant lettre morte. La nomination de Muriel Armstrong, proposée par l'Exécutif comme remplaçante de Jack Bordan auprès des Comités de Retraite et des Avantages sociaux de l'Université, a été approuvée, ainsi que celle de Larry Bessner comme remplaçant, dès que le Conseil de l'Université aura approuvé un tel mécanisme. Des remerciements ont été votés à l'unanimité à Jack Bordan pour ses efforts infatigables.

Au nom du comité des Activités, Doreen Bates a présenté un projet de visite au Biodôme, la création du "Out-to-Lunch Club" pour des réunions mensuelles, et des renseignements sur le dîner annuel.

Le secrétaire-trésorier a présenté les états-financiers de l'exercice 1992-1993, comportant des revenus de 2477.43 \$ et des dépenses de 2018.47 \$. Il a annoncé dix nouvelles inscriptions et quatre décès.

J-P Pétolas a fait état des activités de la Coalition des Aînés. "Information", un projet visant l'autonomie des gens du troisième âge, qui a bénéficié d'une subvention de 100,000 \$ de la part du gouvernement fédéral, est en plein fonctionnement, y compris la rédaction d'une liste de questions à poser aux candidats aux élections générales et l'établissement de mécanismes visant de meilleurs contacts dans le domaine politique.

L'invitation à profiter de la largesse de J-P Pétolas par le dessin de l'oiseau CUPARUC avait été accueillie par un silence retentissant, de sorte que l'association demeure sans symbole. Du côté positif, des félicitations ont été adressées à Norm et Dot Smith pour le cinquantième anniversaire de leur mariage.

Dagmar McDougall (présidente), Libby Gardham et Al Graham ont été nommés au comité des candidatures.

La date du 4 mai, 1994 a été approuvée pour l'Assemblée générale annuelle.

A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE OCTOBER 25, 1993 FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION

by Graeme Decarie, Ph.D.

The outcome of the elections was not surprising and not as revolutionary as some people would believe. This election result follows a pattern which commenced in 1921, except it was not as obvious when Mulroney was in power.

Historically, we had two parties, the Liberals and the Conservatives which, at one time, were very different. The Conservatives stood for a strong central government and protectionist trade policy. The Liberals stood for a weak central government and free trade.

The Liberals eventually realized that they could never win an election with such a policy. Therefore in 1896 Wilfred Laurier became Liberal Prime Minister through the very simple device of copying the Conservative policy. As a result both parties were essentially the same. This situation alienated many people, those in the provinces on the "outskirts" of the country and lacking power, the farmers who wanted free trade and a decentralized government, both of which would benefit them. However they lacked a party to represent their interests. It is very difficult to organize and start a party with two strong established parties.

However, in the 1917 election the issue was conscription. This issue split the Conservative party and destroyed it. This left a political vacuum, particularly in the West. This gave rise in the West to a brand new regional protest party called the Progressives. The platform of the Progressives was the same as that of Preston Manning's Reform party:

more power to the provinces,
more honesty in government,
get back to old values,
balance the budget,
keep out foreigners, etc.

Even Preston Manning's speeches are the same - Reform means go back to the "good old days" which never existed.

The Progressive party never "made it" in Ottawa and retreated back to the provinces. But there were two spin off parties - the CCF and Social Credit. Such regional protest parties continued to exist throughout the 1920s but then died.

However, in the election of 1957 the Liberal Party, which had been in power for a long time, began to crack under the attacks of Diefenbaker. This is when the regional protest parties began to resurface. Under Diefenbaker the Conservatives elected so many members in Quebec that the old Liberal party in Quebec fell apart. This left a political vacuum in Quebec. This resulted in the establishment of another protest party, the Cr ditistes under R al Caouette. This party, like most such parties, lasted only a few elections because they are ineffective in Ottawa.

Once more, over the next several years, there are two major parties, plus the NDP.

When Brian Mulroney came to power he used a rather simple approach. The existing parties represented what a large number of Canadians wanted (that's why they were successful), but there were no protest parties to satisfy the discontented. What Brian Mulroney did with the Conservative party was to bring in all of the people who were unhappy with what Canada was. He drew in all of the discontented even though they were discontented for different reasons. While it might seem impossible to bring together these people on principle, Brian made it easy since he didn't have any principles. The Conservatives then included the old right wingers from the West (the present Reformers), the nationalists from Quebec, all the while remaining the party of Big Business. He managed to hold them together by giving them what they wanted. For example the nationalists of Quebec did not want any enforcement of bilingual legislation in Quebec, so he didn't enforce it there. The same applied to the West. Both groups wanted more power for the provinces, so he happily gave away power to them. Eventually, he had nothing left to give, so he tried to redesign the constitution. He tried twice, but couldn't deliver. The Canadian people finally came to the breaking point of what he was trying to give away and the whole thing collapsed. With it collapsed Brian Mulroney's Conservative Party. It collapsed because it didn't have a vision of Canada. It had a whole series of visions of what

some people didn't want Canada to be. But there was no central vision of what Canada was or could be. This didn't bother Mulroney, since all of his background was in business where the focus is short term, three months at a time (the fiscal quarter). He governed Canada with the same short term approach.

As the party collapsed the discontented created their own regional protest parties, except for the Maritimes which are desperately poor and rely on Ottawa for their income. They do not want more power to the provinces because they could not raise enough income to survive if they depended upon their own populations. The protest parties are where they have always been: in Quebec and in Alberta.

In Quebec, Lucien Bouchard is on the one hand a treacherous sleaze and on the other an opportunist. He was the one who stabbed Mulroney in the back, not because of principles but because he was taking advantage of an opportunity to make himself a leading figure. Bouchard was able to build a party, as did Mulroney, based on the discontented. He appealed to the nationalists of Quebec, and he attracted all of the dissatisfied unemployed. To these he was able to add all of the people who are unhappy because they come from parts of Quebec which are in decline, which includes virtually all of rural and small town Quebec. Then there were the people who don't like Jean Chrétien (a fairly large number of people). A party built purely on discontent.

In the West Preston Manning built the Reform Party on the same old patterns of discontent over what Canada is. Those who hate the French, those who hate immigrants, those who hate government regulation of business, those who feel the West is neglected by Ottawa - all of these are the basis of the Reform Party.

Kim Campbell was not the cause of the PC's loss. Nobody could have won for them. Jean Charest was very lucky that he was not the leader - if he had been, his career would have ended.

The NDP lost, not because of Audrey McLaughlin, but because in a recession the left always loses. When people are scared or in trouble they prefer to stick with the familiar, and the right is familiar.

All of the parties came out with solutions to the recession. But the recession was not caused in Canada. It's world wide, therefore if Canada didn't cause it we cannot cure it.

With the Liberal win we have the awkward situation of only having one federalist party in Canada. Bouchard's party is a soft-core separatist party. Preston Manning's party is essentially the same thing. It is unlikely that the Liberals will have any intelligent opposition. The NDP provided intelligent opposition because they had the best research team in Ottawa. Since they now only have eight seats they will not have official opposition status and will not have the money to support the research team. The Reform and BQ do not have the research experience nor a central philosophy that makes any sense. What will happen in the House will not be a challenging opposition. It will be a noisy one with lots of posturing, but ineffective. Therefore the Liberals will have it mostly their own way.

Although the BQ and Reform don't have a vision of Canada and Mulroney destroyed any that the Conservatives may have had, unfortunately the Liberals do not have a vision either. Canada underwent a fundamental change some 70 years ago. The Constitution of 1867 was written as a deal between Montreal and Toronto businessmen. They needed a railway built to provide markets for their industry. So the Canadian Constitution talks about the distribution of power and not about the people (as does the American Constitution), nor does it talk about what this country is or should be. So once the railway was built and the country settled the powers the Federal government needed to build the railway were no longer applicable. Therefore by the First World War all that had been done and there was nothing left for the central government to do. By the 1920's the world's technology had developed and the things that had in 1867 been thought of as unimportant and given to the provinces were by then becoming major forces. Such a thing as hydro power (which didn't exist in 1867) had become a major source of power and development and was a provincial matter; education was by then a significant cost item, and was again under provincial jurisdiction. Similarly, things like hospitals, orphanages, recreational activities, roads, etc. had all become major areas of costs, and revenues were provincially controlled. Power had drifted to the provinces but this went unnoticed. The Canadian Constitution should have been rewritten in 1921 to take notice of the fact that the world had changed but it wasn't. The effects have been felt ever since. There is no central vision of what Canada is and should be and what the central government is for.

The Liberal government doesn't have a central vision for Canada either. Free trade has changed the whole nature of the kind of game that has to be considered. Nobody has tackled that. We do have to go through a constitutional

debate. The trouble is that whenever there is a constitutional debate amongst politicians the discussion is about how much power each of them is going to have. That is not the question. The real question is what kind of a country are we trying to create? Where is it going? Once that is decided then the distribution of power can be dealt with. This is not likely to happen.

What we have is a government elected which is a government marking time. What is likely to happen, if the Liberals are very lucky, is that the recession will ease in the next five years, the Liberals will get the credit and they will be in power for the next fifty years. The protest parties will wither and we'll return to traditional politics. The Conservative party will regroup itself and will again become a factor in Canadian politics because, across Canada, it is still the only alternative party.

(At this point Dr. Decarie entertained questions)

Q. What about Quebec?

A. Quebec will not separate because a) Bouchard got less than 50% of the vote and b) the PQ has not gained ground in 13 years. The referendum gave them less than 50% and Parizeau has not had more than that since. To separate, a large majority has to be achieved in order to be recognized by the world community.

Q. The talk of separation is detrimental to Quebec's economy. Why doesn't someone point this out to the people?

A. An article in L'Actualité has pointed out what it has cost in lost jobs, tax revenues, etc., etc. But it is a long slow process. People have a bizarre attitude about what separation would be like. They think there will still be representatives in Ottawa, and transfer payments, and all the federal programmes. A French comedian once said "What Quebecers want is an independent Quebec within a strong and united Canada".

Q. Opinion of Jean Chrétien?

A. Will be a competent PM.

Q. What about his Cabinet?

A. A lot of capable help. Chrétien's problem is Quebec representatives. He must have at least one Anglo Quebecer. Has to have Paul Martin (probably in Finance) because he is the heir apparent. He should make room for Sheila Finestone because of the traditional constituency she represents. Other Anglo Quebecers will not be included, e.g. Clifford Lincoln, Warren Allmand, etc.

Q. What about Chrétien giving money to Bloc Québécois ridings?

A. Bouchard sold his party on the theme of getting real power in Ottawa. The opposition does not have power. If any goodies are given to Bloc ridings it will be as little as possible and the person standing in front of the cameras will not be the local Bloc representative.

Q. Will the GST be rescinded?

A. No. There are several things Chrétien will not do. He will not renegotiate free trade with the US; he may not cancel the Helicopter deal, but may modify it; he won't drop the GST - it is too good to lose and the Conservatives are the ones to get the blame; the military will be one of the major areas where he will have to make decisions.

Q. Will Jean Charest become the leader of the Quebec Liberal Party?

A. No.

(The above is a transcription of the address given to the Oct. 27 meeting of the Association, which Dr. Decarie has kindly authorized us to make available to the membership).

A CRAZY WAY TO HOLIDAY

by Jack Bordan

"It's not a drill, it's not a drill, it's the real thing, move!" That was the message that accompanied the loud banging on the door of the barrack, about an hour after bedtime. And so, following the rehearsed routine, on went the gas mask, and then clothes and boots. This is not a W.W. II re-enactment, it's just one of the adventures in our post-retirement activity.

A SCUD attack wasn't exactly what Sylvia and I had in mind when we travelled almost half-way 'round the globe, but in retrospect the angst that we experienced was amply repaid by the warmth and appreciation of our hosts, the young members of the IDF, the Israel Defence Forces. They didn't have the choice of leaving or staying, as we did. All's well, etc. We suffered no permanent damage and as a souvenir we have a "certificate" which reads

We are proud of you for volunteering at a time like this. Thank you for your courage and for giving us the feeling that we are not alone. I salute you, as a human being, and as a Lieutenant Colonel in the IDF.

[signed] The base commander.
January, 1991

Let me hasten, now, to tell you that this 1991 experience in Israel was, to say the least, unusual. It was just one of four usually peaceful "tours-of-duty" with an organization called Volunteers for Israel.

Since 1982, about 30,000 volunteers, from all over the world, have spent three weeks at a time doing rather mundane work in a hospital or on an Israeli military base. Part of the excitement is the fact that volunteers learn of their posting only on arrival at Ben Gurion airport, where they are welcomed by an army person, a *ma-drich*, or more likely *ma-drich-a*, something like a male or female camp counsellor.

On the base, we wear army-issue "fatigues", with "volunteer" on our shoulder flashes. We live in segregated barracks, like the real service men and women, and eat in the base mess with them. And we don't go hungry: three meals a day, (half-hour shifts), and if you like eggs, and pre-sweetened coffee, the breakfasts and suppers are terrific. But dinner, at mid-day, more than makes up for any breakfast or supper shortfalls.

The excellent balanced menu is centrally prescribed, one month at a time, and posted in each mess-hall. (It's fun to think of every service-person in Israel eating the same thing at the same time on the same day.) It helps if you can read Hebrew, or better yet, if you can enlist the translation services of a friendly service-person. If young, female, and pretty, so much the better.

On the question of language: The *ma-drich-a* or *ma-drich* for each volunteer group speaks the language of the group, English, French, Spanish, as the case may be, in addition to Hebrew, and so language is not a problem. She (or he) is responsible for arranging the on-base logistics, including work assignments, and serves as the official contact between the group members and the base commander. Also, she arranges for off-base weekend hotel reservations, and the like. For the most part, the *ma-drich-ot* or *ma-drich-im* (the plurals you will note) are great kids, performing an assignment as part of their compulsory universal military service.

Our work assignments have been varied: Sylvia has worked in factories and warehouses; I've worked in a scrap-yard, warehouses, a canteen, and both of us have served as kitchen help. I hated K.P. in the Canadian Army, but I rather liked the week that I spent in the IDF kitchen. Maybe it's because I volunteered for that task this time 'round. In addition to the daily work routine, volunteers are taken on tours, and participate in interesting after-work programmes - lectures, sing-songs, mini language classes, and the like.

Our most recent posting, on a naval base, was spent, largely, in weeding the base flower gardens. (Sylvia, in a phone call to the "kids" back home: "Between the kitchen and the garden, it's just like home"). In general, there is little choice of work assignment, although you may refuse to accept a distasteful or overly taxing one. We know a baker who did get to practice his trade but as you might expect, you're unlikely to be asked to do something for which you were trained back home.

The experience, generally, has been great fun. We've had the chance to see Israel from the inside, rather than as typical tourists. In our four years during and following our base duty, we've travelled, on our

own, all over this most fascinating country, and made good friends among both Israelis and volunteers. We also spent a week on an archaeological dig, but that's another story. And the price is right. Volunteers pay only for air-fare, at a discounted rate, and in Israel, only for personal off-base activities.

Each time we come home, to Canada, we marvel again about how trivial our self-imposed Canadian "problem" is. The problems in Israel are real. But our close contact with the country and its people has convinced us of the genuine overwhelming desire for peace. We expect to "enlist" again this spring; maybe we'll be there to witness true peace, true *shalom* in the region.

We'd be glad to answer questions about the programme, since, like bagels and lox, you don't have to be Jewish to enjoy.

RETIRED AND GONE TO THE DOGS

by June Martin, North Vancouver, B.C.

I first visited the west when I was 21 years old, eons ago, and fell in love with the beauty of the mountains and the ocean. I never dreamed that I would spend my later years there. It all came about by chance. My daughter and I made a train journey across Canada when she was about eight, and she too fell in love with the West Coast. When she graduated from college and was employed by a pharmaceutical company they said "Toronto or Vancouver". There was no contest. Off she went, and, when I retired, off I went.

We bought this house about five years ago, before I retired, and Diane moved in with the loves of her life - two dogs. We had this glorious house inspected and did all the things one is supposed to do when one buys a home. This house passed with flying colours, but it must have been the house that Jack built, and he was not a very good builder. We have had a couple of floods and numerous repairs. We have come to the conclusion that if we have a fire we will send the fire trucks to the wrong address and let it burn. Anybody got a match? The up-side is that the land is valuable.

When I arrived after retiring, there was one Irish Wolfhound mixed called Dodi and a Poodle called Bates and a Boxer who visited for about a year. Dogs, dogs everywhere. Dodi was very sick as a pup and she is allergic to all dog food, so we are now experts in personalized dog food. We make a huge batch

every week - meat, rice, carrots, celery, onions, etc. I am sure she is mentally deficient. She is a canine garburator. When we leave the house we have to remember to tie the fridge door. She has been known to open the door - God knows how - and to help herself on more than one occasion. Our dinners for a week have disappeared into her bottomless cavern. Great when you are having guests for dinner. She also has a habit of checking the house and its occupants around three in the morning, and puts that very cold nose right into your face, or wherever anything else is exposed. Early mornings are a joy for her. She is so happy - food once more after a twelve-hour fast, and you had better get up or you will receive a big paw. In spite of all her quirks she is very lovable.

Bates was a stray, and lived for about six months in Wreck Beach, which is near U.B.C. It is our famous nude beach. He managed very well there until winter set in, when somebody brought him home and he landed up at our house. Squirrels are the love of his life. He never catches one, but you have to give him an "A" for effort. We must have about twenty-five squirrels that visit in or around our home on the North Shore. Bates is a very busy dog.

I am sure the postman must want danger pay when he arrives at our house - he receives such a royal welcome. On the up-side, we have not been robbed, and that has happened to a few houses around here.

My first winter went by in a flash, and I wondered about why they said it rains all the time. Sure it rained every day - but the sun came out around 3.00 o'clock every day. Spring arrived in February - the crocuses, daffodils and cherry trees were in bloom by the end of February. I thought I had arrived in Heaven. Summer was wonderful - not too hot and not too cool. It was great. Then October arrived and the rains came and never left until August. Now I know why they say it rains here. Darn near a flood. I would be kind of concerned if I saw some man building an ark on the mountain.

There are many activities for seniors to partake of at reasonable rates and also volunteer work to do. I am back at curling, studying art again, and doing some volunteer work, and so between the dog chores and the above, I am busy.

When I go out in the morning and I see the snow-capped mountains and smell the wonderful air, I still find it lovely. All in all, retirement is good.

COMMENT

Dick McDonald sent in some cuttings from Retirement Wise, a "Health" letter sent out periodically by the YMCA Retirement Fund. A 93-year-old man who beat up an intruder with his slippers and a broomstick elicited the comment from his 87-year-old wife that "He's not so young any more, but he's still tough. It must be my cooking." A 100+ bungee-jumper urges moderation as a clue to longevity. John Kenneth Galbraith, now 85, lamented the "still factor" - i.e. people who see you out walking say "I see you're still getting that exercise", publication is greeted with "Ah, you're still writing", enjoyment of a drink with "Still imbibing?", etc. Galbraith is quoted as having commented: "I plead that we know how much a lifetime has improved. I beg not to hear every day how evident is the poorly engineered end".

LITERARY CORNER

The content of this major addition to the lyric repertoire may sound a little familiar to some of us. Transmitted by the Secretary - author unknown.

Just a line to say I'm living,
that I'm not among the dead,
though I'm getting more forgetful
and mixed up in the head.
Sometimes I can't remember,
when I stand at the foot of the stair,
if I must go up for something
- or have I just come down from there?
And before the fridge so often
my poor mind is filled with doubt;
have I just put the food away,
or have I come to take some out?
So if it's my turn to write you
there's no need for getting sore;
I may think that I have written
and I don't want to be a bore.
Here I stand before the mail-box
with a face so very red;
instead of mailing my letter
I've opened it instead!

ATTENTION SCIENTISTS!

The University has passed on to the President a document dated May 1993 from the Société pour la promotion de la science et de la technologie, a non-profit organization funded largely by grants and contracts from the federal and provincial governments. It is - or was - looking for retired persons with a teaching and/or research background in science and technology who would be interested in "des activités valorisantes s'adressant au public en général mais aux jeunes en particulier et dont le but est d'augmenter la culture générale scientifique et technique de la population et de susciter l'intérêt des jeunes pour des carrières scientifiques".

For further information, contact Monsieur Jean-Pierre Fréchette, Directeur-général, Société pour la promotion de la science et de la technologie, 454, place Jacques-Cartier, 5e étage, Montréal, QC, H2Y 3B3. Tel. (514) 873-1544.