

# THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

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## The Editor's Column

### AN ANNIVERSARY

Friday night marks the anniversary of what has been an important milestone in the history of Georgetown — the establishment of the Recreational Council. Slightly over a year ago now, a group of men began meeting to discuss such a project, and after a series of preliminary meetings, the Father and Son Evening was planned to acquaint the general public, fathers in particular, with the idea of centralizing organized recreation under a paid organizer whose duty it would be to help existing groups, to foster new ideas and provide continuity for sporadic organizations which are born, thrive for a few years, and die when their leaders disappear.

The Recreational Council has not been out to set any records in its first year of existence. It has followed a policy of moving slowly, consolidating as it went, and not dissipating its efforts by attempting too many things at a time. Thus, Teen Town was organized, developed, until today it is one of the most promising branches of the Council. The young people have done a splendid job of renovating the Old Town Hall under Mr. Newman's guidance and with the Council providing the funds. In its infancy, as yet, the main activity has been a Friday night dance, but the ultimate object is far greater than just to provide a dance hall for the teen agers and the new year will see more diverse activities for the young people. Softball and hardball were encouraged last summer, and an auspicious start made at track and field instruction with the Civic Holiday field day. Last winter's hockey for bantams and juveniles was a stand-out, and the Industrial Softball, Bridge Club, Girls' Club and Apprentice Productions theatrical group are all tied in with the G.R.C.

In our opinion, a logical development in the future will be for the Recreational Director to be given complete charge of all recreational facilities in town — the main two being the Park and the Arena. We do not mean by this that he should be a board of management. This job can be quite well handled by a Board of Parks Management (which incidentally might well have the park under its jurisdiction as well.) What we mean is that the Recreational Director, who is a town employee paid from public funds, should have charge of the booking of both park and arena to give the maximum use of the facilities for town recreation. We would suggest that next summer, Council should give control of the park to Mr. Newman, have him coordinate a schedule of activities to take in games and practices for all groups of ball players, special events, picnics, et al. This centralization would obviate any minor disputes such as occurred last season when one group might take over the park on an evening when some other group had planned to use it. The park could be used as a "trial horse" and if the plan worked, the same could be tried with the arena.

Until such a plan is adopted, we feel that the town is not deriving the maximum benefit from the services of a director and in time, if he did not have this control of sports facilities, he would be a fifth wheel on the wagon.

### A NEW COUNCIL

There is a preponderance of new faces as the 1947 Council prepares to take office next year. Only two of the nine seats are in doubt, with acclamation filling all offices except Ward 3 Councillors — where it is becoming traditional for an election to be held, regardless of how the rest of the town goes. We have never agreed with the policy of candidates dropping out so as not to "force" an election, or of those who would frown on a candidate who insisted on running even though it meant an election. Voting by secret ballot is one of our most cherished democratic possessions and when acclamations to public office become the rule rather than the exception we are providing fertile ground for sowing the seed of fascism and despotism.

By this, we do not imply any such tendencies to the mayor-elect or any of his council members. There is no one in town whom we know that likes a battle at the polls more than Mr. Gibbons and we detected a note of disappointment in his speech last Friday when he found that his resumption of the highest office in council was to be taken without the savour of an election.

We are particularly pleased to see an election for at least one seat on the Public School Board. Here again we do not intend to cast a slur on any of those citizens who have served well on the board, many of them wishing to retire but unable to find anyone to replace them. It is the public apathy which finds so few willing to offer themselves for service on this body which is such a large share of the tax money that we de-

There should be two, three, or half a dozen people

## Sunday School Lesson

### A LETTER ON CHRISTIAN LIVING

By Rev. R. O. Todd  
**LESSON: Acts 19:1 - 20; Ephesians 6:10-12**  
 The narrative part of this lesson (Acts 19:1 - 20) describes with exceptional vividness, one of the most formidable demonstrations against Christianity Paul ever had to face. Afterwards, in his first epistle to the Corinthians, he says, speaking symbolically perhaps, that he "fought with beasts at Ephesus." The demonstration was provoked by one of the big business interests of the city, the Civic Association of Silversmiths. Evidently they had been enjoying the proceeds of a profitable traffic in silver images of the fertility goddess, Diana. Their profits were threatened by the rise of Christianity which condemned idol worship and all forms of paganism and nature-worship. Now the silversmiths enjoyed the services of a very clever, yet unscrupulous public relations man by the name of Demetrius, who was able to stir up a mob by appealing to religious tradition and prejudice, superstition, civic patriotism and the natural conservatism of the citizens. (Very similar to the appeals of the unofficial (?) public relations men of the big business of another day) A purely selfish economic motive lay behind this working on mob psychology. Very naturally it was not given any prominence for sin is always deceitful, hypocritical and dishonest. Some of the city fathers were rather friendly towards Paul and one of them made a very astute speech, minimizing the anti-pagan tendencies of

Christianity (is there a modern parallel?) and suggesting that total redress could be sought for any real injury. This however, was no real victory for Paul and Christianity, however, for what the official said could hardly be styled a true defence of Christian teaching. The mob was dispersed, but was only confirmed in the righteousness of its pagan attitudes and standards. The Ephesian town clerk, although an astute politician did not overcome the evil which manifested itself; he only appeased it. And as we know by modern experience appeasement does not work where real evil is concerned.

For behind the motives that set the mob in motion and created the disorders in the city, economic interest, religious tradition and prejudice, superstition, patriotism and conservatism, and mob psychology—Paul saw a deep power of evil. It is not something that can be explained in terms of isolated evil deeds, or in terms of economic, politics, prejudice of race, class or religion. It is a spiritual thing. Paul speaks of it in Ephesians 6:12, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and power, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" and by "high places" he does not mean politics or government. He means "we are not simply fighting men with their ignorance, superstition, self-interest and cruelty. Rather we are fighting a spiritual force of evil, which makes use of the lusts and ambitions and weaknesses of men." (How good a description this is of the spiritual evil behind the machinations of the Liquor Trade's political and propagandist activity, and those Big Business

interests which today use their influence against all efforts towards social security.) Paul tells the Christians of Ephesus that it is possible to defeat this spiritual wickedness only by the power of God. "Take unto you," he says, "the whole armour of God." Notice that it is the armour of GOD! Nothing but the truth and the righteousness that are the gift of God in Jesus Christ will prevail against this evil spiritual force. Faith, the Word of God, and Prayer, are all weapons against it, and by them the Christian is given power to set the world in order.

One does not have to be very religious in our day to see or feel the presence of an evil force in the world which is more powerful than our human wills. The very fact that in spite of the peoples' avowed desire for peace, the world seems to be travelling toward war at an increasing speed, is evidence of it. It is a power which brings those who are "carnally-minded" and at "enmity with God," as Paul says, or, as we might say, "those who seek their own self-interest," into subjection to itself. How can people thus in subjection, then be free? They cannot.

The individual who seeks his own self-interest is not free; he is in bondage to a power of evil stronger than himself. The nation which seeks out its own self-interest cannot be a free nation; it too is subject. The State which seeks its own self-interest cannot be a free state; it is a tyrant, and its citizens are slaves. The social order where men seek their own interest at the expense of others, cannot be a free social or economic order, for a portion of its members, and a large portion, will always be slaves. Because they have seen the truth of this, many people in our time are pessimistic; they have come to feel that the race is being driven to commit suicide. They have come to feel that men are in the grip of a "fate" from which they cannot free themselves. And this pessimistic mood does not promote confidence in the future, or in the ability of the United Nations Organization to bring order out of interna-

in each ward each year who feel that they have something to contribute to the school board or the Council. Then we should elevate the holding of public office from a duty to a combined duty and honour in the knowledge that the majority have expressed their will and the governing bodies are truly the chosen representatives of the people.

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tional chaos. The "pep" talks of our statesmen fall on deaf ears today. The Church of Jesus Christ also takes a very sober and realistic view of the situation. It has always recognized the power of sin which holds men in its tyrannical and satanic hold. But Christians are a body of people in society today (the one body) which can face the future without pessimism. For they know where the power is which has contended, is contending, and will contend, successfully against sin. They know that this power is God himself; that it has already smashed the unassailable fortress of sin in the work of God's son. They know that God's Spirit throughout the preaching of His Word is active today to convict the world with respect of sin and righteousness and judgment. And the Church today calls upon men who would be truly free to repent and believe the gospel, and to "take unto them the whole armour of God." In doing this there is victory already, for the Kingdom of God is come with power wherever a man stands steadfast in faith — whether he lives or dies. The salvation of our God makes sinful men free; it makes them masters of their fate.

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