

## Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

It's one of those gloomy November days, with the overcast so low that even the birds are walking.

I have a month's correspondence to catch up on, three weeks of essays to read, and a week's leaf-raking lying in the back yard.

My wife has pains in her stomach and is going to have the living-room re-decorated. I don't know which alarms me more,

My daughter is in the next room, writing an essay on Nietsche, an appalling prospect. Asked her how it was going and she said pretty well, but that she had an idea what she was writing was a lot of crap.

Two of my colleagues lost their fathers unexpectedly on the weekend. Another is in hospital having X-rays on his stomach and hoping it's "only" an ulcer.

Outside my little world lies a Canada deeply troubled by pollution, an unemployment figure that is alarming, and the freedom of the individual under the new government legislation for the prevention of violence.

And outside that world again is the big one, a seemingly hopeless mess of population explosion, food shortages, wars, suspicion, despair and poverty.

Someone has asked me what I think

Well, asking a newspaperman if he is in

about the Ontario government's new ad-

vertising program entitled - "Ontario. Is

favor of advertising is like asking Simpsons

if they are in favor of Sears or enquiring if

banks deal in money. You are sure to get an

Of course, I like advertising. It's the

vehicle which carries the freight for the

printed word. And no newspaper would exist

very long without it. Several have tried and

But if you ask me if positive statements

about Ontario stating Ontarians are the kind

of people who wouldn't be here if there was

any place better, don't upset me a little I can

only reply - No. They make me realize a

little better how fortunate we are here in this

I think it is about time someone did a

little positive thinking about the state of life in this province. I'm a little tired of the

constant complaints which emanate from

almost every quarter about all that is wrong

Of course, everything isn't perect. This is

far from being a Utopia. There are wrongs

to be righted, economic disparities, poverty

both rurally and in the cities, taxes are high,

living is higher, houses hard to get and

people with skills out of work, as well as the

guy who has to work by the sweat of his brow

to earn his daily bread. But compare old

Upper Canada to any other section of the

country and you'll have to admit this piece

of real estate is a pretty attractive place.

with living in dear old Ontari-ari-ario-o.

particular neck of the woods.

there any place you'd rather be?"

affirmative reply.

failed dismally.

Brighton a grant was the first to the class

Oh well, what the hell. You only go through the course once. It's the only life we have, and however bleak it seems, there are always a few rays of sunshine.

Looking on the positive side, it's not so bad. The correspondence, essays and leaves will eventually be dealth with. The livingroom will be decorated, which will cure my wife's pains in the stomach. My daughter will get a C-minus on her essay and blame me for it, but it won't kill her.

We all have to lose our fathers sometime, and maybe it will be only an ulcer, which is practically the trademark of a sensitive person these days.

There's not much I can do about pollution except bagging my leaves instead of buring them, and continuing my refusal to use throw-away bottles. I can't do a darn thing about unemployment except get a kid to rake my lawn, and I've tried, and they aren't interested. And there's little I can do about individual freedom except demand it in this column, which I shall continue to do, and the government had better not start monkeying around trying to censor me.

As for the world, it's always been a mess. Human beings seem to enjoy living in messes of their own making, unlike other

If you read the ads and find out what a

grand place you are living in, then you see

the signature underneath - Government of

Ontario - John Robarts, Prime Minister.

What's your reaction? Do you equate the

success of this province with Mr. Robarts

and his government? Isn't that clever?

Especially when you are paying for the ads.

Cost, according to the Liberals, runs around

excellent. They give you an appreciation of

the opportunities and benefits living here

has conferred on us lucky stiffs. But it

makes you bristle a little when one political

party wants to take all the credit.

THE

**ACTON** 

FREE PRESS

You asked and I repeat, these ads are

a million bucks.

animals. Perhaps that's why so many kids are on drugs today. If we tried to force drugs on them, they'd rebel violently.

And those rays of sunshine do appear. The other night at a party, a lady friend was being embraced rather amorously by a middle-aged gentleman who had been into the grape. She appealed to me, wide-eyed, over his shoulder. As smoothly as a fight referee, I broke up the clutch and simultaneously prevented the gentleman's wife fifrom punching him on the nose.

The first lady told my wife that I had the polish and poise of a European man. My wife thought it was a compliment. Considering some of the European males I have known in my life, I thought it an insult. However, a ray of sunshine, through rather

I got another one this week, when a friend described a confirmation ceremony in a local church. The Archbishop himself was there, and it was a big deal for all. The Arch was asking the children what they had learning in their training for confirmation. They provided the stock answers, which they had learned faithfully.

Hoping to probe a bit deeper, he asked one little guy what else they had learned. The lad muttered something. The Arch looked rather surprised and asked him to repeat it.

Loud and clear, the kid said: "We learned to commit adultery."

Apparently, the whole church broke up, including the Archbishop.

So, into each life some rain must fall. But, at least until the Judgement Day, we can always hope for those rays of sunshine.

Maybe we could have been even better

The ads themselves? They are good. It is

But I don't doubt that any one of the

province's political parties would have

pulled the same stunt — if they had the

LAUNDROMAT washers have probably

been subjected to all kinds of strange

baptisms but surely the lady in charge of

church suppers who cleans turnips, carrots

and potatoes in the machines gets the prize

Good Retailing, trade publication for

furniture and appliances, tells about the

lady who has been cleaning vegetables in

her tumble-action washer for years. Now.

apparently spurred by this, they have

developed a unit that you can wash goldfish

in by setting the action lever at "gentle."

The machine will take up to 15 fish at a

time. More than that and the oxygen supply

opportunity.

for the most ingenuity.

is insufficient.

just the timing I take issue with. They would

have been quite acceptable a year ago.

off under another political flag. Who knows?

Free Press Editorial Page

## It is YOUR business . . .

Monday is nomination time in Acton, as well as Esquesing, Nassagaweya and Erin townships. Eramosa township holds its nomination meeting Saturday, November 28. Rockwood village trustees will be nominated Friday, November 27.

It is a busy and rumor-filled time for the staff of this newspaper, trying to keep tabs on the election scene in every community. And judging by flack already flying about municipal politics in almost every centre mentioned, there should be a good number of candidates tossing their hats in the ring this year.

Nominations are the time when everyone unsatisfied with the way a community is being run has the opportunity to offer an alternative-either themselves or someone they support for public office. If a voter misses nominations and subsequent elections he really has no business complaining about the way things

turn out for the next two years. A keen and enthused electorate is a requisite for good government. Apathy on the part of voters breeds indifference on the part of those who do wind up in office.

Why should they care if no one else does?

There are many and sometimes complex issues for those in public office to face during the next term, including the spectre of regional government. Development pressures will require intelligent and honest members of council, untainted by interests which conflict with the common good.

It is your business to be at municipal nominations and to cast your ballot on election day.

## Cement friendly relations . . .

Payment of grants to the recreation committees of Acton. Milton and Georgetown to help pay the way for township minor hockey players using arenas in the three towns, is recognition by Esquesing council that township residents have a moral obligation to support facilities they use.

Rural people have been welcome to use arena facilities at all three North Halton towns for many years but Esquesing's award of grants is the first tangible recognition that it costs townspeople money to keep these facilities operating each season.

Township residents are well known for their independence and

willingness to pay for the facilities they enjoy. This has been tempered by a conservative outlook on the spending of tax money, a heritage from their forefathers, perhaps, who took a dim view of extrvagance on the part of their elected representatives.

Development in this area has expanded the population of the townships and created a need for recreation facilities. Because of the distance involved, it is impractical for rural areas to build arenas of their own. Use of town-owned facilities is the answer to recreation needs of the townships in these instances, with both urban and rural ratepayers sharing the cost on a per capita basis.

We would hope that Esquesing's action will be followed by similar grants from the other rural municipalities whose ratepayers use the facilities provided by townsfolks.

Some municipalities have adopted a special tax for those from outside their boundaries who take advantage of community programs and use the libraries. Perhaps this is a fair way of doing it but certainly we would prefer that the townships recognized the disparity and offer grants of their own volition. It would cement the already friendly relations between townspeople and their country cousins.

## Cemetery desecration senseless

There is nothing that shocks the sensibilitles of mature people more than the wanton desecration of a cemetery as has been exhibited in Cove Chapel cemetery on Nassagaweya's 28 Sideroad.

This senseless destruction of memorials to people long dead not only leaves a bad taste in the mouth but calls in question the state of mind of those who would do such a deed. Surely they must have "sick" minds as Councillor Ackman suggests, or they are devoid of any human feeling.

The fact that the Cove Chapel cemetery commemorates pioneers in the township makes the deed seem more deplorable. Memorials to those who founded the township should be cherished.

We were glad to hear that teenagers in the township were interested in arranging some restoration work for the cemetery and would be presenting a proposal to Nassagaweya council in the near future. It shows adults have no monopoly on reverence for the dead.

Nassagaweya council's decision to go ahead with plans to restore the old burying ground is also to be commended. Cemeteries are one

way of perpetuating the names of those who came to this area when it was a wilderness, put down roots and laid the foundations for the benfits we enjoy today.

Chapel Cove cemetery is situated in a picturesque part of the township with a large maple free shading the memorials. It has a certain charm, especially in the fall as leaves fall and the stark' branches heighten the loneliness of the scene.

We hope the restoration will preserve the rural atmosphere and preserve the ground as the pioneers knew It.

back issues

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, November 9, 1950.

Improved phone service will be the result of recent changes. No more than live rings will ever be heard on a rural line now. Installation started vesterday on the railway crossing signals on No. 7 highway at

Two sewing classes are being held in the

Y with full enrolment. Working on the rear approach to the new scout hall, with a cement mixer borrowed from Baxters, were Billy Middleton, Tom Watson, Doug, Don and Jack Davidson, John Creasey, Gord Clow, Bill Bruce, Ray Hutt, Wilf Duval, Roy Kirkness and Dave Dills.

Among the veterans who paraded on Remembrance Day was the proud wearer of a brand new war medal just received a few days previously, but awarded for service 52 years ago. Former Reeve James B. Chalmers served in the Spanish-American war over half a century ago. Over 30 years ago he made application for the service medal which was due to him. Last week the medal came, with a certificate in Spanish. The medal bears the following inscription: "First that the people of the Island of Cuba are and of right ought to be free and independent. From the joint resolution of April 20, 1898."

Miss Sybil Bernett, Q.C., has left on a speaking tour of the western provinces on behalf of the Progressive Conservative Association.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press. Thursday, November 25, 1920.

A few minutes before 11 on Sunday morning, just as our citizens were wending their way churchward, the fire alarm sounded. It was soon ascertained that the Austrian restaurant, next to the Baptist church, conducted by Tony Seynuck, was on fire. Vents had to be cut in the roof before the fire could be put out. Tony had made considerable improvements. The loss on the building is about \$600 and on the contents \$500.

Gradually the number of motor cars running is growing smaller. They are being put up for the winter.

The Hydro lighting played fast and loose with subscribers Sunday night. The current was off four or five times within an hour and then went off for a six hour period.

Farms For Sale - 100 acres in Esquesing, orchard, 8 room frame house, barn, six miles from Acton, \$6,500, 150 acres in Nassagaweya, 5 room home, barn, driving shed, 414 miles from Acton, \$4,725; 200 acres in Eramosa township, orchard, barn, stable, good roughcast house of 7 rooms, \$12,500, six miles from Rockwood.

After a period of much suffering Mrs. William Kelly, the dearly beloved mother of the home, lot 20, second line, passed away. A meeting of the ratepayers of Lorne School section was held in the school on

Tuesday evening. Mr. J. M. Denyes, the school inspector, recommended that a trial be made of sending the pupils of the section to Acton school

Taken from the issue of the Free Press. Thursday, November 7, 1895.

This and many other parts of Ontario were probably never as scarce of water at this season of the year. Should winter set in as things are farmers would suffer great inconvenience.

A couple of young fellows from Georgetown with a team of white horses, spent Tuesday afternoon in town. During their visit they were liberal patrons of the hotel bars and by night were hardly able to take care of themselves and not able to drive their tteam properly. About eight o'clock they drove into the rig of Mr. William Whitley, Nassagaweya, at the corner of Mill and Main Sts. and took a wheel off his buggy. Mr. Whitley was not injured but one of the Georgetown young men received a severe shaking up.

The most interesting event of the season in this part of Esquesing township was enacted at the home of Alex Waldle Esq., one of our most prominent agriculturists, on Tuesday afternoon. At four o'clock in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends Mr. Waldie gave his daughter Flora in wedlock to Mr. Duncan McDougall, an enterprising young farmer, son of the late John McDougall of the second line. Rev. J. W. Bae performed the ceremony. The wedding presents were numerous and gave ample proof of the popularity of the young

two choices: let each be his own judge; let The report tells us that justice is the society be the judge - these two can be put together in, let man be the judge - and thirdly, let God be the judge.

Obviously, I choose God because I believe He is the Judge. The next question is, how do you and I know what God thinks of your and my behaviour. Perhaps we can talk about that some other time. Let me say for now that we shall not find the solution to this problem in all kinds of rules and regulations per se, by themselves, but only in meeting and living with Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior.

He is knocking at the door of your heart. He wants to come in and show you what is right. Even more, he wants to be the power in your life to do what is right and good. But he wants you to step down before he will take control of your life.

He is the way, the truth and the light. If you believe in him, you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. That is to say, Christ will make you free.

But what the devil would anyone want to wash goldfish for anyway? You might as well peel french fried potatoes.

THE PARTY OF THE PARTY OF

The clergy speak out

By Rev. Peter Brouwer, B.A., B.D.

Beth-El Christian Reformed Church

BEYOND THE NEW MORALITY II "TO SHOW RIGHT FROM WRONG"

In last week's paper a very concerned "Mother of Four" gave us a little insight into the crisis, the moral crisis that is, in which we find ourselves. She characterizes herself as laying "claim to no other distinction, than trying to show right from wrong". Believe me, "Mother of Four" you are a 'spokesman' for a great 'slient majority'.

How do we show right from Wrong Who's going to be the judge? Who will show us any good?

In my latest article I pointed out that the Keiller Mackay report on religious education in the public schools in Ontario clearly chooses man's reason as expressed in the consensus of society to be the judge of our morals. I reject this with all my being. Because by making this choice the report imagines man to be what God rightfully is, i.e. the ultimate judge of the morals of man. standard by which all men everywhere and at all times can measure any moral standard. Something is right when it is just, and wrong when it is unjust. But, pray, who is to determine what is just and unjust? Man? Which man? Society? The majority in a democracy or the minority in a dictatorship? History is crowded with cases in which majorities were wrong and minorities and individuals were right.

But who are we that we should judge one another's morals? Can any man really dictate the morals of any one else? Can a whole society dictate the morals of the individual? Who's to say which morals are right or wrong?

Are good morals the same for all people and for all times and situations? Who is to judge not only the individual deed but also which standards to apply. Who? That is the big question when all the rubbish of our reasoning is cleared away.

It seems to me we have only three choices, which really boil down to basically

Now, ask me about the timing of these advertisements which state-emphatically that the more people we have boosting Ontario and Canada the better it is. Hard to find anything to quarrel with in that statement.

Well, I think the timing is pretty clever. You see, there's going to be an election in the province next year and opponents of the advertisements declare they are pure propaganda.

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