### The Acton Free Press

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6 The Acton Free Press, Thursday, Dec. 28, 1978

### Why not change locale?

That proposed plaza in Acton's east end is not going to go away so easily as some councillors and members of planning board would like to see.

Last week developer Jerry Sprackman of Landawn Shopping Centre Ltd. spoke to council, and the majority of council members voted to take another look at his proposal, rejected by planning board twice. The board said the development was premature and would cause a harmful impact on existing merchants if built before more houses are constructed in Acton and area.

However, there are some people in Acton, perhaps a majority, who, would like to see the plaza go ahead with its large Zehrs supermarket. They contend the presence of a plaza would keep rather than hinder shoppers from remaining in Acton rather than going to Guelph, Georgetown and other points.

There are points for both sides in the dispute. The argument could go on interminably without any decision if councillors don't stop passing the buck. Perhaps some of them memember the public reaction when they decided to build a new headquarters on the Seventh Line. Ratepayers were so annoyed with the expenditure and raised such an outery council changed its collective mind after some pretty fancy waffling.

A developer's proposal and municipal expenditures are like

comparing apples and oranges but public reaction can c matters if planning board and council do not reflect the wishes of the public. Planned and controlled development don't necessarily go hand in

We can understand the reluctance of council to give the goahead to a project which would hurt the existing business in Acton now making strides improving the downtown. By the same token, if the public is unhappy with shopping facilities they are not going to improve public relations or keep shoppers in Acton by resisting developments.

Plazas and malls are not a problem exclusive to Acton. Present business has seen the effects of malls and shipping plazas in Guelph where a vigorous downtown has been hurt by outlying malls. Pressures for these developments will continue to mount, as councillors are fully aware, and their decision won't necessarily be long term.

The answer to the dilemma counci I faces is to persuade the developer to take a look at providing more shopping facilities in the downtown area instead of on the periphery such as proposed by Art Gordon before planning board for the old Force Electric plant and property, now vacant at the corner of Eastern Avenue and Mill Street It would extend the downtown and make extra shopping facilities, which residents want, available,

What others say:



READERS

#### Philbrook report criticized

Following is a letter sent to MP Dr. Frank Philbrook and filed with the Free Press for publication:

Dr Frank A. Philbrook, MP-Halton

I must take issue with several of the statements made in your latest "Philbrook Report"

With regards to general economic policy, you state that "Our Liberal government is finally being vindicated."

While the dollar once again slips below

the 85c mark, the unemployed join legions which are quickly approaching 1 million in number, and inflation steadily climbs (currently 8.7 per cent), I find your apparent interpretation of vindication to be somewhat illogical, if not perverted.

The bold headlines contained in the Philbrook Report loudly proctain "Spending Cuts", "Job Creation", "Taxes Cut", and "Industry Stimulated". Were these statements not so pathetic in their lack of substance, they would surely be

I also note that you've once again taken aim at organized labor under the heading "The Labor Elections Act". Your

suggested Bill to "force" labor unions to hold fair secret ballot votes with regards to elections, or contract ratification is totally beyond belief! To even suggest that a representative of management be present at such a vote is not only ridiculous, but could be termed illegal under the Canada Labour Code, Part V, Section 134 (1) (a),

and (b), and 184 (1) (a). You surely cannot believe that a management representative at a Union meeting "would guarantee that the results of labor elections truly represent the feelings of the membership without undue influence."

I can readily assure you that labor Unions need no lessons on democracy from the current government

: Perhaps I'm being unduly harsh. Perhaps in your next "Philbrook Report" you will be offering a quid pro quo for this undue interference with the fundamental democratic right to freedom of association. Perhaps you will suggest that a Union Rep be present at any corporate boardroom meeting. Perhaps you will suggest that any decisions of such meetings be ratified first by secret ballot. Perhaps you will agree to publicly scrutinize all decisions, and financial reports of these same cor-

porations. Perhaps-but I doubt it. I'm afraid that the constituents you represent deserve better than the subterfuge contained in your latest "Philbrook Report".

This has been and still will be a challenge

to every living soul until love and desire for

it by all men is sincere, and an honest effort

is made to relieve suffering with action as

So let's all get to work and through our

love and action make this world at least

livable for all of God's creatures, for our

well as words.

own salvation.

Yours truly, Allan Foster, Acton

Yours sincerely,

George Graham

R.R. 1, Limehouse.

# Smiley

Well, it's been quite a week. I've been on TV, twice; I've slipped on the ice, fallen and sprained my wrist; and I've had an operation on my nose.

I was terrific on TV, or so they tell me, I missed it. The chap who did the interview told me when it would appear, and I promptly forgot. I called him to ask whether it would be shown again, and he told me when. I made a special trip home at 1 p.m. to see it. It had been shown at 12 noon. My wife was furious. I was just as glad. If I'd seen it, I might have quit my job and run off to Hollywood, there to become just another ambitious starlet, subject to the whims of casting directors and other such vermin.

As for spraining my wrist, I wonder if it weren't a psychological ploy. I was halfway through marking the pre-Christmas exams, and my mind was beginning to crack. I'd begun wondering whether the students and I had been reading the same plays and stories.

One student, dealing with a story set in South Africa, had a moose involved. A moose. In South Africa. Another informed me that Lady Macbeth, the great, dark murderess of Shakespeare's play, was sweet and kind at first, and we sort of liked her, but she got mean later.

Frankly, when I slipped on the ice and fell, I wouldn't be surprised if deliberately let my wrist fold under me, hoping it would break. At any rate, whimpered around for several days, claiming I could mark no more papers with a broken wrist, until an unsympathetic doctor informed me it was a mild sprain.

I didn't whimper on the operating table. I just groaned and grunted with agony. First, the doctor covered my eyes with various towels and things, so I couldn't see the needle and the scalpel approaching. I gritted my teeth so hard a filling fell out.

Ever had a needle in the nose? Don't, if you can help it. Tell them to knock you out with a total. I've had them in every portion of my anatomy, and the nose is Number One, except perhaps for the shot from the dentist in the front upper gum.

There is, though, something mildly intriguing when the doctor says, "You have very tough skin on your nose, for some reason." This, while he's sewing you up, and snip, snipping the loose ends of plastic thread. The whole thing didn't hurt any more than a smash in the face with a knuckle-duster.

At any rate, I'll never again be able to say, scornfully, "It's no skin off my nose."

However, I had lots of fun with the nose. I went straight from the operating table back to school, and the students, understandably, were fascinated.

"Hoo hitcha, sir?" Told them they should see the other guy.

"Jer wife get violent at THIS hour of the morning?" No, 1 told them quietly, it happened the night before. "What happened, sir?"

"I had my nose bobbed, Debbie. My wife has been complaining for years that she can't kiss me properly, because of that big nose, so I had a chunk removed.

Told another group that my nose had been smashed into ground earthworm texture by the Gestapo in World War II. and the steel braces inserted by an eminent British surgeon to give it a semblance of shape had finally rusted, and been removed.

To another class I stated solemnly that my big, hooked nose had always bothered me, as being short or fat or riddled with acne bothers other people, that I'd finally decided to do something about it, and that if they could wait until next Monday, when the stitches came out, they'd find I had a charming, turned-up nose with round nostrils through which they could peer and see my brain lurching around.

To still another class I suggested that a hyena had escaped from the nearest zoo, pushed in our unlocked cellar window, crept up the stairs in the middle of the

night, and bitten off my nose at the roots. A very large bandage on a very large nose made any of these stories acceptable, and the more far-fetched the story, the better it went over. I do believe I received the most compassionate looks from the klds to whom I suggested that I'd had to have the nose amputated because I'd bent so close to a pound of hamburger, looking for some meat in it, that a rat had leaped out of it, nailed me on the nose, and I'd had to have it cut off because of possible cyrrhosis of the liver from a rat bite. I told them no nose is a good nose, and they

Golly blue, this isn't much of a post Christmas column, is it? Oh, well, Christmas is a big pain in the arm, anyway. Beginning as a pagan celebration, it has passed through a spiritual celebration, based on a doubtful birthday of Our Lord Jesus, right back to a pagan rite based on advertising, materialism and turkeys, of all things.

Anyway, have a happy festive season, everybody, and we'll try to do the same. It's the best we all can do in these perilous

times.

What else is new?

Bette Stephenson, Ontario's minister of education, colleges and universities, and a former minister of labor, has announced 44 men and women will fan out over the province, bent on persuading small and medium sized industries to take part in apprenticeship training plans,

The whole program sounds as if some person in government has given birth to a wonderful new idea. In case government hasn't heard, apprenticeship is as old as labor itself, a system of training which was going strong 2,000 years ago, says the editor of the Wingham Advance Times.

To be more specific, apprenticeship was a flourishing part of our practical education system until government decided about 20 years ago to interfere. By raising minimum wage levels to the present figure of nearly three dollars an hour (\$2.15 for under 16 years) government made it impossible for the average employer to hire unskilled young people and provide them with training.

Community colleges were supposed to take over for on-the-job education but despite their success in some fields, the colleges have patently failed to teach the skills which are in keen demand at present. Students willing to spend three to five years necessary in some of the more highly

skilled trades are rare indeed. As a consequence the minister has now recognized what industry has known all along. We have an abundance of white-collar graduates, many of them unemployed, and a dearth of the blue-collar types who can make the wheels of production turn.

So now the government is prepared to present employers with apprenticeship plans which will, no doube, assist employers with tax-supported grants to offset the high minimum wage requirements. The details should be interesting.

One important factor in apprenticeship training is being overlooked. In the days when young people were accepted for apprenticeship it was understood that they would be earning low wages and would be expected to take their share of general duties as the price of eventual journeyman status in their chosen trades. Today officialdom feels bound to keep the young learners happy with incomes which will provide the young people with cars and lots

of spending money. Sacrifices on the road to sussess have some merit. The graduates of that hard school are usually very proud of their skills and seldom begrudge the price of personal achievement.

-Wingham Advance Times

## Plaza won't help downtown downtown "where it's at"

Dear Sir:

I have been reading with great interest the on again-off again proposed shopping centre on the eastern edge of the Town of Acton. May I suggest that the council members and the officials that are against this proposed shopping centre should be congratulated for their decision.

Look around us, the problems that have been created in our surrounding towns Milton, Georgetown and just about any other town in North America. The problem of revitalization of the downtown core. The shopping centre at the edge of town has never helped the downtown. It erodes the existing retail, and in turn the tax base of the town.

Acton has started a very well planned redevelopment of its core. This should be continued with the possibility of closing some side streets, incorporating some parking areas, and the continuation of pedestrianization of areas in the core, along with an

active Business Improvement Area. Let us be realistic. No matter how much retail is added to the edge of town, Acton will remain strictly as a local retail area. People will still go to Guelph . Brampton . -Mississauga Toronto etc. for their Department Store comparative shopping.

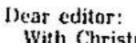
The future retail lies in local neighborhood speciality shopping areas at one end of the scale and large regional shopping centres at the other end of the scale. The middle ground of retail is neither fish nor fowl, and only hurts the existing local mer-

No matter how many retail market reports are prepared projecting Acton needs, remember that "Downtown is where

it's at." That's the heartbeat of any town and should be protected. Lloyd Sankey

R.R. 4 Acton, Ontario.

# Love, respect key to hope



With Christmas here and gone I would like to express my good wishes to your paper for the good job it has done in the past, and to all those who agreed and disagreed with my comments. This, is in my opinion, a step in the right direction.

In an effort to improve our world as brothers in Christ, an effort we should all be interested in, let us bring this brother by love to realization by relieving suffering caused by injustice to our fellow man throughout the world. I have taken time to listen to many dif-

ferent church sermons and also the political

themes of our leadership, and conclude our greatest hope to improve the world would be to bring brotherly love and respect for our fellow man to reality, although I see little improvement. A few men still hold

progress at a standstill. The good Lord gave us the 10 Commandments to respect and obey as children of God. I have talked to all nationalities and different faiths and found none of them in darkness as regards to the commandments of God. So I have come to the conclusion that in God's name an honest and sincere effort is all that is necessary to bring love for our neighbors to realization.

Nuclear energy dilemma

The question of nuclear energy for civilian use continues to be batted around by opposing sides. Each side has its own compelling ethical and technical arguments. An unskilled spectator gets dizzy trying to follow the progress of the game. But once in a while, someone manages to

distill for an instant the swirling controversy and we can see what's going on. Paul Abrecht, director of the World Council of Churches' sub-unit on church and society, has done just that. Writing in the Ecumenical Review, he comments

that at our present state of technology, committing ourselves to nuclear energy development means "foreclosing the options for future generations." If "foreclosing" makes you think of

mortgages, it's a good analogy. You

wouldn't buy a house now, live in it for your life-time, and commit your grandson to pay for it after the house has become useless and broken down. You couldn't know if he would be willing to pay for it, or able to pay for it.

But that's what we're doing with nuclear energy. We build plants now. We use the energy from them now. But we commit our grandchildren, and their grandchildren, to take care of our nuclear wastes, without knowing whether they would be willing or able to do so.

Until we are sure we can dispose of nuclear wastes safely, increasing our dependence on nuclear energy sources will be "foreclosing the options for future generations."

-Unchurched editorials

## Agrees with evangelist

Thurs., Dec. 21, 1978

I would just like to let you know I really enjoyed the article in Dec. 20's paper about the evangelist who exposed Darwin's and Freud's doctrines for what they really are; destructive! I appreclate your decision to have it printed.

I agree with all my heart with what was said and find it very fitting with the spirit of Christmas because truly, if it wasn't for the first Christmas, we would have no reason for living whatsoever! But praise God, The Lord has come.

you for listening.

Let earth RECEIVE her KING! Thank

Sincerely, Jonathan Binnle 173 Perth St.,



Winter reflections.