

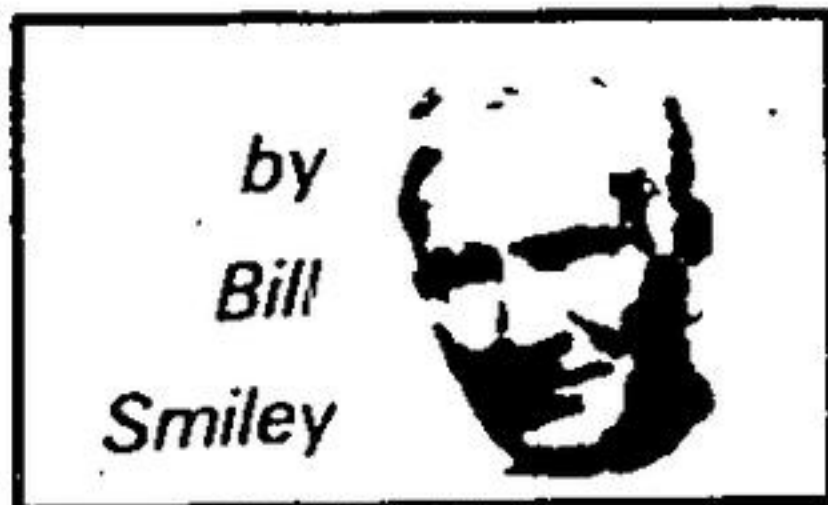
Freshmen's boners change history

Too hot. Nothing on TV. Nothing in the papers. Two grandboys, one of whom wants a peanut butter and honey sandwich, the other a jam and banana sandwich. Not the best day for writing a serious column.

So. Let's have something on the light side. I am deeply indebted to a faithful reader for the following, a compilation of "boners" or "howlers" put together by historian Anders Henrikson from students at McMaster University and University of Alberta in their freshman year. I'd love to print the whole thing, but haven't space, so will settle for a few, with the odd editorial comment.

First, about the Black Death. "In the 1400 hundreds most Englishmen were perpendicular. Finally, Europe caught the Black Death. The bubonic plague is a social disease in the sense that it can be transmitted by intercourse and other etceteras. It was spread from port to port by infected rats. Victims of the Black Death grew boobs on their necks. The plague also helped the emergence of the English language as the national language of England, France and Italy." Now you should know about the Black Death, should the subject come up at a cocktail party. Just ask, "Where did you get those boobs on your neck?"

Now, all the gen on the Middle Ages. "During the Middle Ages, everybody was middle aged." Well, I'd give him a mark for that.



by Bill Smiley

Now the next phase. "The Middle Ages slumped to a halt. The renaissance bolted in from the blue. Life reeked with joy. Italy became robust and more individuals felt the value of their human being. Italy, of course, was much closer to the rest of the world, thanks to northern Europe. Man was determined to civilize himself, even if heads had to roll. It became sheik to be educated. Europe was full of incredible churches with art bulging out their doors." That takes care of the Renaissance. Nicely.

But the Reformation is not neglected. "The Reformation happened when German nobles resented the idea that lithe were going to Papal France or the Pope, thus enriching Catholic coffers. An angry Martin Luther nailed 95 theocrats to a church door. Theologically, Luther was into reorientation mutation. The Popes, of course, were usually Catholic. The last Jesuit priest died in the 19th century."

More. "After the reformation were wars both foreign and infernal. If the Spanish could gain the Netherlands they would

have a stronghold throughout Northern Europe which would include their positions in Italy, Burgandy, central Europe and India. The German Emperor's lower passage was blocked by the French for years and years." No wonder we had two world wars!

Just some other gems. "Louis XIV became King of the Sun. If he didn't like someone he sent them to the gallows for the rest of their lives."

"The French revolution was accomplished before it happened. Napoleon was ill with bladder problems and was very tense and unrestrained." Poor devil.

The 19th century? "Industrialization was precipitating in England. Problems were so complicated that in Paris, out of a population of one million people, two million able bodies were on the loose." Him! Always knew the French were loose, but not quite that loose.

Politics? "The middle class was tired and needed a rest. The old order could see the lid holding down new ideas beginning to shake. Among the goals of the christis were universal sufferage and an anal parliament. Voting was to be done by ballad." Well, have things changed all that much?

Culture? "(It) fomented from Europe's tip to its top. Richard Strauss, who was violent but methodical like his wife made him, plunged into vicious and perverse

plays. Dramatized were adventures in seduction and abortion. Music reeked with reality. Wagner with master of music, and people did not forget his contribution. When he died, they labeled his seat as "historical." Other countries had their own artists. France had Chekhov."

Moving along. "World War I broke out around 1912-1914. Germany was on one side of France and Russia on the other. Q! war people get killed and then they aren't people any more, but friends. In 1937 Lenin revolted Russia."

And on to World War II. "Germany was displaced after WWI. This gave rise to Hitler. Germany was morbidly over-excited and unbalanced. Berlin became the decadent capital, where all forms of sexual deprivation were practised. A huge antisemitic movement arose. . .

"Moosealini rested his foundations on 8 million bayonets and invaded Hi Lee Salasy." Sounds jolly uncomfortable for Moosy.

"Germany invaded Poland, France invaded Belgium, and Russia invaded everybody. War screeched to an end when a nukulear explosion was dropped on Heroshima. A whole generation had been wipe out in two wars, and their forlorne families were left to pick up the pieces."

Those are just samplings. It's not quite the way I remember my history, but it sure as hell is more interesting.



Cadet Julie Balch of 756 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron Georgetown is one of 50 cadets participating in the Senior Military Band course at the cadet summer training school, Canadian Forces Base Borden. The course advances the cadets in their knowledge of both written and practical music through daily classes and participation in various parades and competitions. A training bonus of \$240 is awarded to each cadet upon completion of the course.

Meanderings

by M.E. Barkman

Lately the sap beetles have been troublesome in the raspberry patch. I remembered reading that one should put out a dish of elder vinegar and they would all flock to it and leave the berries alone.

Some apple cider had turned to vinegar; so I was going to give it a try. After an hour I checked the dish and it was filled with hundreds of the creatures. I decided to get rid of them quickly and poured boiling water over them and then gave them a burial. When I picked the raspberries I didn't find one among them. So all I have to do is keep some elder vinegar on hand when the raspberry season is in full swing.

The beetles like sweet corn too. Perhaps I'd better prepare some more dishes for the little fellows when the corn is ready.

No dome, in Halton but bid anyway

The provincial proposal call for a dome stadium is nothing but "political posturing," Burlington Councillor Jim Grieve told regional council last week.

However, a sound majority of Halton regional councillors are backing a Halton or a joint Halton-Peel proposal for a domed stadium west of Toronto. "There are five million Ontario residents living within an hour's drive of here," Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett told council last Wednesday. "The site could be cleared of traffic in an hour. That's a big consideration."

Grieve, and a few other councillors, feel the decision where the dome stadium will go

was made long ago. (Metro Toronto officials are confident the stadium will be built in Exhibition Place.)

Regional Chairman Jack Raftis takes a more serious view. "If the province is asking for submissions from other municipalities, we have to take the province seriously." He added that the province is aware there are other municipalities in Ontario besides Toronto.

Burlington Councillor Steve Toth asked how the region can expect to go through an environmental assessment for a dome stadium "when we can't even get a garbage dump?"

Oakville's Peter Arch, another skeptic, believes the stadium will be placed where it will satisfy the most voters—three million of them in Toronto. "That politics."

Halton Council has okayed an expenditure of \$2,000 to allow the engaging of a consultant to put the finishing touches on a regional dome stadium proposal. Five sites have been chosen tentatively from a roster of 11, for further study.

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Century-old barn for Ag museum

The 100-year-old Rutherford barn, a landmark in the Woodbridge area, is being moved to the Ontario Agricultural Museum near Milton this summer. The museum is just off 401 Highway.

The relocation of the barn is the first in a series of projects planned by Ministry of Agriculture and Food to commemorate Ontario's bicentennial year in 1984.

Much of the barn was built in 1881 by Reverend Peter MacNaughton, well-known barn framer at the time. In 1929 it was enlarged to its present size by Charles Rutherford.

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