

You can fight city hall, says Smiley

One of the cynical, apathetic remarks of the 20th century is, "You can't fight city hall."

I think it's American in origin, as are so many of our colorful expressions, but it reflects a conception that has contributed to the skepticism that permeates many aspects of our life.

In essence it betrays a weariness of the individual spirit in a world that is growing ever more corrupt, violent and treacherous.

It means basically that the individual hasn't a chance against the burgeoning bureaucracy, the petty patronage, the you-scratch-yours philosophy that has always been with us, and always will but should be resisted stoutly and sturdily whenever it rears its ugly head.

Jesus fought the city hall of His time, and won, though He lost His life.

Sir Thomas More fought the city hall of his time, which included his king, the nobility and the clergy, and refused to nudge an inch to save his life, because he was right, and city hall was wrong.

Joan of Arc fought her city hall, in the form of her own king, traitors to her vision, and an opposing army.

She wound up being burned at the stake, and became a saint. Her opponents are mere footnotes in history.

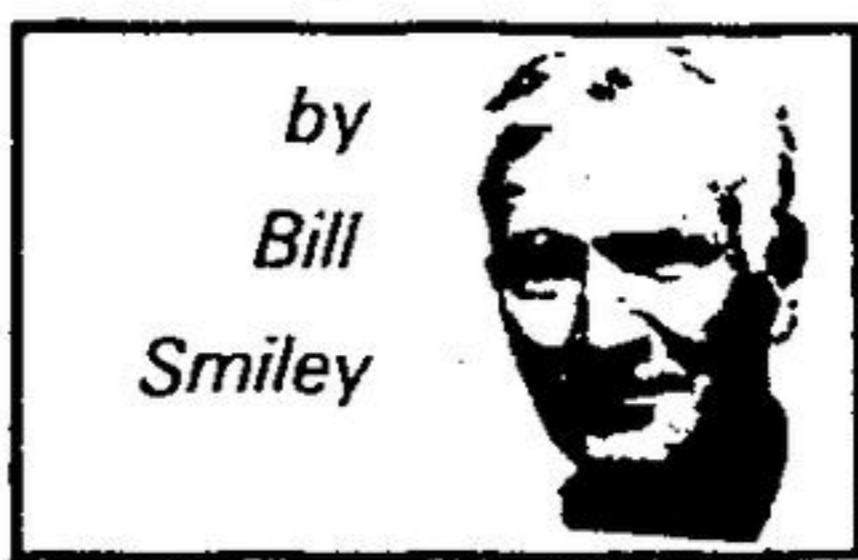
Oliver Cromwell fought his city hall, won his fight, and taught British royalty to mind its pees and quees, if you'll pardon the expression.

William Lyon Mackenzie took on the city hall of his day, and though his only battle with it was a typical Canadian charade, he left it smarting.

I could name a hundred others who coked a snook at city hall, and lost many a battle, but won many a war. The United States is a classic example. Another is the Republic of France. Mahatma Gandhi practically had the British Empire begging him to go change his diaper and leave it alone.

Well, it's nice to be in the company of such, even if only for a little while, and only in the imagination.

The Fourth St. Fusiliers, of which I am a proud, wounded veteran, has fought many a skirmish, several sharp encounters, and a prolonged war of attrition against the local town council, and the will of the people triumphed to the extent of a dozen trees being uncut, a new sidewalk instal-



by Bill Smiley

led, and a desert of pot-holes turned into a paved street.

You've heard of the 30 Years War, the 100 Years War, the War of the Roses, the War of Independence, the Boer War, and The Great War, followed by that sickening euphemism, World War II. Not to mention Korea and Viet Nam.

Well, a lot has been written about them, and millions died in them, but for sheer intensity of emotion, I think the Fourth St. War outdoes them all. That's the reason for this bit of history. In three or four hundred years, the Fourth St. War may be almost forgotten, were it not for some humble scribe to get it down on paper.

It has lasted between seven and nine years, and the veterans will even argue holly about the duration.

I do remember that the hundreds of children who were going to be slaughtered by traffic if the town council achieved its insidious ends are now replaced by grandchildren in many cases.

I do remember that the first rush to the barricades was about as organized as the French revolutionaries' attack on the Bastille.

I do remember that one lady threatened to chain herself high in the branches of a maple tree if the town engineer carried out his plan of massacring maples. There were other threats of a similar but unlikely nature, such as everyone lying down in front of the bulldozers, blowing up the town hall while kidnapping the town engineer and giving him a cement-barrel burial in the bay.

Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed. After half the street was ruined, the works department ran out of money.

Over the years, they tip-toed around the potential explosion, filling in the odd pot-hole and letting the street turn into the semblance of a long-forgotten country lane.

But this spring, falsely feeling that the ancient hatreds had cooled, with new people moving in, and old people dying off,

they foolishly raised the desecrative idea again. Cut down the trees. Tear up the sidewalks, make it a one-block thruway to nowhere.

Like an old, dormant volcano, the people rose in their might and descended on the works committee like a disturbed hornet's nest.

The air was filled with vituperation, calumny and blasphemy. Council cooled off like a bull confronted by an angry elephant.

Another meeting was called. Again The People rose in their wrath. They formed a committee. It consisted of a brilliant mathematician, a contractor, a doctor, a lawyer, and an indomitable nurse. Not just a few angry people to be baffled by engineering jargon.

I don't want to go into the brilliant counter-attack, the superb tactics, the incredible strategy of The People. It's too exciting. You wouldn't sleep tonight.

But we won. The trees stay, the sidewalks will be rebuilt, the thruway will continue to be a residential street, thousands of children will not be cut down by thundering trucks, and the road will be paved.

You can fight city hall.

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Call: 877-5266 or 853-2219
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday

1 Births

CARLIN: Ben Kyle is happy and proud to announce he has finally met his two wonderful parents Ross and Sandy. In return they are so ecstatic and overjoyed in meeting him for the first time, they can't speak. They just sit there with big smiles on their faces and sigh a lot. He was born at 7:58 a.m. on August 8, 1984. He had no comment on what his future will bring but did say he planned to live life to the fullest and return all the love and joy his parents give him. Born in Georgetown Hospital. Ben and his parents will live in Limehouse.

3 Engagements

MR. and Mrs. Bruce Moody are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Kim Catherine to Scott McLaughlin son of Mr. and Mrs. Ora McLaughlin all of Georgetown.

4 Coming Marriages

DON and Agnes McIntyre, and Ted and Dot Jennings, wish to announce the marriage of Lisa and Butch. Wedding to take place at Knox Presbyterian Church, Saturday, September 8, 1984 at 3:30 p.m.

6 Deaths

FLEMING, Thomas (veteran R.N.V.R. Mine Sweeper W.W. 2; vice president Red Chevron Club, Guelph) at St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph, on Saturday August 11, 1984. Thomas Fleming, husband of Elsie, father of Susan of Ottawa, Bridget of Vancouver B.C., Steve and Beth both of Toronto. Grandfather of Christopher Thomas. Rested at the Gilbert MacIntyre and Son Funeral Home, 252 Dublin St. N. Guelph. Cremation has taken place. Memorial service will be held at the chapel of St. Joseph's Hosp. on Saturday August 18, 1984 at 11:30 o'clock. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family. It was Tom's wish that his family and friends gather at the Red Chevron Club Room (upstairs) Elizabeth St. Guelph, following the memorial service.

7 Cards of Thanks

THE FAMILY of the late Mrs. Minnie Simpson would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the cards and flowers, the ladies of Trinity United Church for the lovely lunch after the funeral, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Allen for the food brought in, Rev. Cribber of Knox church for his consoling words. Dr. T.B. Moore and Dr. Hollinger and the nurses of the 3rd floor of Guelph General Hospital for their care of our mother. Also Mr. and Mrs. Tom Nicol of Lakeview Villa for their help and Bruce and Rhoda Shoemaker for their kindness and help. Thank you all.

7 Cards of Thanks

THE family of the late Olive Ruddell wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their floral arrangements, memorial donations, sympathy cards and moral support. Special thanks to the nurses, staff of Millon District Hospital, Dr. Ho and Rev. John Griffen for their many weeks of tender loving care and support. Special thanks also to the Ladies of Hillescent United Church. Thanks also to J.S. Jones & Son Funeral Home for their kind attention.

8 In Memoriams

CHAPLIN—In loving memory of our dear parents, Percy Henry Chaplin, who passed away on August 8, 1973 and Ellen Barbara (Nell) Chaplin, who passed away on August 22, 1976.

10 Coming Events

kid's tv!
CIS-TV now seeing beginners, 4-11 for special TV Studio training to act in Commercials/Movies/TV Series/Pieces & Limited Parents call 1-866-8810.

11 Notices

ACTORS FOR TV
TV Soundstage is now interviewing new people for Special TV Studio training to act in TV Series/TV Commercials/Movies. Part time. All ages. For your Studio call, dial 1-984-3393. gpt

12 Auction Sales

HAMMOND'S SEWING
125 Longfield Rd., Acton
853-0015
Dressmaking, Repairs and Alterations. 011p33

15 Lost or Strayed

MALE Shelti Collie, tan & white, answers to Shep. Lost in area of 17 Slidroad and 3rd line Friday Aug. 10. Reward, 877-6817.

16 Found

FOUND: Male cockatill, Limehouse area, August 9. Call 877-5266 or 877-2671, ask for Becky.

20 Wanted

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21 For Sale

SHERRIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a writ of Fieri Facias issued out of the county court of the Judicial District of Peel to me directed against the goods and chattels of Dennis Fitter and Rita Fitter at the suit of the Bank of Montreal, one of the Chartered Banks of Canada. I have seized and taken in execution a 1980 Buick Skylark car in fair condition (as is) which I will offer for sale by public auction on Tuesday the 21st day of August, 1984 at approximately 7:30 p.m. and also at the same sale at 8:30 p.m. air compressor, drill press, pedestal grinder, wheel balancer, headlight aligners, work bench, quantity of shop equipment, automotive supplies and some household items.
Owners and auctioneer not responsible for any accidents in connection with this sale.
Terms: Cash or know cheque.
Auctioneer: Donald W. Reinhart, Snelgrove
416-846-1071 012p33

21 For Sale

EVENING AUCTION SALE
Friday, Aug. 24th, 5:30 p.m.
For Mr. & Mrs. Archie Cairns
Located on 25 Hwy., 3 miles north of Milton (Hwy. 401).
Consisting of household and some antique items, garden tools, etc. Full listing in next week's paper.
Jim McCartney, Auctioneer
689-8778 Watford

21 For Sale

FACTORY OUTLET
Acton Precast Concrete Ltd.
• Septic tanks & well tiles
• PVC sewer & drain pipe & fittings
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• Sidewalk & patio slabs
• Curbs & parking blocks
853-1529 021p11

21 For Sale

SEALOR POOL SUPPLIES FOR LESS
Example: 8 kg. Sph. GRAN-CL. \$48.50
22.5 kg. BRONZE..... \$208.50
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SWIMMING POOL SALE
Manufacturer is having an inventory clearance on all 1984 brand new above ground pools. Included is a filter, motor, pump, skimmer, deck and fence. Regular \$2,095.00 now \$1,295.00 while supply lasts. NOBODY BEATS OUR PRICE. Call 1-416-523-6467 for details. 021mg37

21 For Sale

AIRLINE ticket, Toronto-Edmonton departure September 3, 6:20 p.m., \$190. 878-1137.
BARRELS, Whiskey and rum, guaranteed wet, 519-927-5777 or 519-833-2668.
BRAND new Commodore Vic 20. Best offer, 877-4335.
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CHAIN saw, very good condition, same as John Deere 55-V. \$175.00 O.B.O. 878-0669.
CULVERTS—Galvanized steel. Most sizes 6" to 48" in stock. Larger sizes by order. Seconds, walkways available. Grating for trenches, walkways and stair treads. Galvanized steel anchor bolts 3/4" x 12" approx. 400 in stock. Several sizes in bronze & stainless steel also in stock. Eden Mills Welding Ltd. Phone 519-856-4091.
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