

Georgetown Herald

A Division of Home Newspapers Company, Limited
22 Main Street South, Georgetown, Ontario
WALTER C. BIEHN, Publisher

Page 2 GEORGETOWN HERALD, THURSDAY, FEB. 17, 1972

EDITORIAL COMMENT

More Bureaucracy

Ontario's move to add regional governments, while still retaining local municipal government, may be good theory.

But to us it seems bad practice. It adds one more bureaucracy in what is already becoming an expensive tangle of elected officials and civil servants, while solving only a few of the ills which beset us in today's complicated political world. Speaking to a church men's club, and a group of high school civics students last week, Gardner Church, who is a member of a government department studying regional reasons for more centralization.

He said municipalities are fighting for industrial assessment so hard that they will take undesirable industries. He pointed to a community's lack of power over its own planning, to difficulty in embarking on certain projects where government grants are not sufficient, to the multiplicity of civic bodies, elected and appointed, all spending public money with little coordination. And he ended with a rather surprising statement that the central government is becoming increasingly bureaucratic and needs the check of regions to restore power to the people. Granted that all the above is true, we cannot accept his conclusion that

creation of regional government on a county basis, or larger, will do much to help the situation.

All we can see from this, is adding an expensive accessory, for it is the intention to still retain most of the smaller governments to handle more mundane local affairs.

We are thus creating a sub-strata of elected officials in full time jobs, at \$10,000 or more a year. There will be clerks and secretaries, engineers and inspectors, all commanding good salaries.

And one would have to be an optimist to think that the smaller local governments are either going to cut their own salaries or those of their local officials.

We agree that some good could come, but is it worth the price?

Would a central region of Halton and - or Peel, for example, not still be competing for industry with other larger regions?

If centralization is the answer, would it not be best for the Ontario government to assume direction of matters of major importance and leave the local bodies as they are?

We fail to see how one more group of elected and appointed officials could justify the heavy cost, when the province already has the power to handle things on its own, holding the purse strings as it does.

How Can You Tell?

No better example of how regional councils are deluding themselves and wasting public funds is needed than a news story emanating last week from Newmarket.

It tells of a two-day study session for 25 York Region councillors at a Huntsville hotel.

"Region Chairman Garfield Wright said he felt public funds should cover the expenditure because the study sessions benefit the general public," says the article.

He said the resort was chosen "to get away from the council chambers and its interruptions to a scene of informality, conducive to open discussions."

And the region administrator was quoted as saying that the country trip and conference "is a common approach in business circles."

Well, we have other ideas, Mr. Wright.

We work for a large company, one of the most successful in the Canadian business scene, and in our twelve years we've never been invited to a conference at a resort yet.

If our firm can successfully carry on business in a competitive industry without this type of frills, we're sure that public business can be conducted just as efficiently.

There was a day when elected civic officials were as conscious of spending taxpayers' money as they were their own. Which is as it should be.

By this, we do not condone parsimony.

But we do not condone wanton expenditure, either, and we hope that York is not setting a precedent for other municipalities to emulate.

Could Lead to This

We are somewhat mystified to read that a firm of transportation experts has come up with the conclusion that (a) Georgetown could use a bus service and (b) this could create a \$20,000 yearly deficit or break even.

Mystified, not at the conclusion, but at the fact that the firm was paid \$2,000 to arrive at facts which most town residents could have contributed gratis.

A community covering such a large area as Georgetown obviously would like to have a bus service.

Whether it would pay its way or not, is a question which only putting it into practice could solve.

You can gather statistics by the bushel, compare Georgetown with other centres which have a bus service, and still not arrive at any pat answer.

If town council, in its wisdom, wants a bus service, then it is sensible to proceed with the second phase of a study which would outline routes, fares and schedules.

If not, then good money is being thrown after bad.

There has been no great outcry that we have heard for a large scale bus system in town.

If a private operator wants to try it on a larger scale than at present, he should be given the go-ahead with the town's blessing.

If, however, it will mean subsidizing from public funds, a referendum is in order to see if a majority want to pay the shot.

If it was voted down, then there would be no need to proceed with details of a bus system which wouldn't be.



Fishing Through The Ice

Birth of Universe Theories Detailed to Sorority Women

A Beta Sigma Phi Founder's Day dinner and ritual of Jewels ceremony to be held April 28, were discussed at the February 11 meeting of the Zeta Alpha Chapter at the home of Mrs. June Campbell. The two Georgetown chapters are celebrating these events with the three Beta Sigma Phi chapters in Brampton this year.

Dinner at Brampton Golf and Country Club will precede the ritual of Jewels in which new members receive their pins and full membership privileges. At the end of the ceremonies, members will be joined by their husbands in dancing.

A spring rummage sale was also discussed during the business after which Mrs. Jeannine Ellis dealt with the theme The Conception of Our Universe for her program on nature.

Mrs. Ellis told members that the question of when and how the universe was born is one of the greatest mysteries of science. For more than 300 years astronomers have been studying the universe with telescopes and yet after all their work, enough to fill the shelves of a library, still leaves the question unanswered.

Of the many theories put forward to explain the nature of the universe three are given the most serious attention and study. They are the Steady State Theory, which suggests there never was a beginning to the universe, the Big Bang hypothesis, which contends the universe started when one large body of high density matter exploded, and the Scillating and Pulsating Universe theory which suggests the universe periodically swells to some maximum size and minimum density and then contracts to the size and density point at which another explosion occurs, and so on endlessly.

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BILL SMILEY

Kim Brings Home Her Intended

I'm rather interested in the subject of marriage these days, for various reasons. Not for myself, Oh, no. Once bitten...

But I was asked to write a ceremony for a mock wedding to take place at a bridal shower recently. I used some stock gags. "Marriage is a solemn institution, and is only to be entered into if you wish to spend the rest of your life in an institution."

And "Do you take this woman to be your awful wedded wife?" And the conclusion, from a "bishop" who has his services confused, "And may God have mercy upon your souls." Stuff like that.

Thought that was the end of it. Then my daughter arrived home for a weekend, with her current fiancé. It seems the young man had asked her to marry him.

The weekend was pretty obviously a confrontation thing, where the parents and the boy (friend are exposed to one another, with the potential bride sitting by, darting wildly nervous glances at both parties. Let's listen in for a moment, as panicky thoughts scoot through her mind.

(Oh why did Dad have to say that? Mom'll think he's stubborn and stupid just because he didn't agree with her. Oh, no, he made another grammar error! Sure enough, Dad pounced on that. Oh, please Mom, don't go into that three-hour story about how you and Dad lived on \$60 a month when you were married. Oh, lordy, why is Dad asking him all those questions about how much a sculptor makes, how many sculptures he's sold, and how he's going to pay back his student loans, as well as mine because of George he isn't going to support us? Oh, dear, I wish I'd never mentioned it.)

Actually, it wasn't like that at all. In fact, I took the whole thing very lightly, as who wouldn't whose daughter has been engaged three times within a year. The only thing that floored me was that Kim said this fellow wanted to ask my permission to marry her. This seemed so old-

worldly in this day and age that I immediately became suspicious.

(Uh-huh. Wants my permission, eh? Let's see. Permission means approval. Approval means it's going to cost me a lot of money, one way or another. And so on.)

However, as I said, I took it all rather off-handedly until I went downstairs Sunday morning, and found my wife and daughter arguing about the wedding; how many guests, who they were to be, what she'd wear, where the reception would be, and all that jazz.

"What wedding?" I roared into the maelstrom. At least it stopped them long enough so that they could re-group forces and attack me. I discovered that I was an old fud, a fuss-pot, an obstacle in the course of true love, a cynic, a materialist, and a few other things such as a miser, a hypocrite ("You and Mom didn't have a nickel when you got married"), and a misanthrope. I cheerfully agreed to all charges, which took the steam out of their attack.

Sent the kids off with a flea in their ear, and half our Sunday roast. The flea will buzz unheeded, and the roast will be scooped with gusto. That's life. Would it were as simple for everybody as it is for the chap who ran the following advertisement in the "personal" column of the city paper recently:

PROFESSOR of surgery and head of surgical research of a North American university, widower, age 60, financially very comfortable, brilliant, good looking, in excellent health, active in sports, with broad interest in the humanities, arts, and music wishes to meet an elegant lady of Jewish faith, age 40 to 50, good looking, intelligent, and independently wealthy. Object - matrimony.

The rest of the ad dealt with the mechanics. The ladies were to send photograph and all details. If they shaped up, a meeting would be arranged selectively by telephone. If they didn't they would get their junk back.

Well, I can't help but admire the man for laying it on the line, even though he is obviously an arrogant boor. He'll get so many

An atheist denies the existence of a God while an agnostic neither affirms nor denies the existence of a God.

GEORGETOWN HERALD
Established 1865
Telephone 877-2201

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TERRY HARLEY
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WHEN THE PAPER DOESN'T COME

My father says the paper that he reads ain't put up right; He finds a lot of fault, he does, persuin' it all night; He say there ain't a single thing within it worth to read, And that it doesn't print the kind of stuff that people need. He tosses it aside and says the news it's all ho-hum; But you ought to hear him holler when the paper doesn't come.

He reads about the weddin's and he snorts like all get out; He reads the social doin's with a most derisive shout; He says they make the papers for the women folks alone. He'll read about the meetings and he'll fume and fret and groan; He says of information, it doesn't have a crumb; But you ought to hear him holler when the paper doesn't come.

He's always first to grab it and reads it plumb clear through; He doesn't miss an item or a want ad - that is true; He says they don't know what we want, those darn newspaper guys, "I'm goin' to take a day sometime and go and put 'em wise;" "Sometimes it seems as though they must be deaf and blind and dumb;" But you ought to hear him holler when the paper doesn't come.

letters he'll never have time to making up your own marriage advertisement. You might be

Nor could I help composing in surprised at how much you have my mind a similar advert ext- to offer to that vale of tears and laughter. Marriage is a solemn Year ladies. It ran to only twelve institution. If you are a solemn words. As a party game, try prig.

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SLEIGH RIDE A WINTERTIME TREAT

Charles Thompson's draught team of Doll and King hauled sleigh loads of

laughing grades five and six pupils around the countryside north of Limehouse

last Wednesday when Mrs. Marie Taylor's class visited

the Thompson farm. The children are from

Wrigglesworth Public school.