

WHETTED DAILY

Our Appetite For Violence

There was a time in Ontario a century ago when crowds would gather to watch the spectacle of a public execution.

Eventually it was decided that if a man were to be hanged, he should at least be allowed to die in peace. The move was hailed as a grand step forward in man's showing of his humanity. But though a policy may have been changed, man remained the same. If the public had been allowed to continue seeing criminals executed, they would eagerly have continued to come.

Nor have we changed today. Our idea of an evening's entertainment is to watch stories of half a dozen murders on television (it's an interesting exercise to count the number of fights and deaths portrayed on an average evening's TV programs—you would probably be amazed by your tally). The latest hit movie in Toronto is Death Wish, about a New Yorker who makes the audience literally cheer each time he kills a mugger.

Aristotle had a theory that if we could see such grisly things on the stage, emotional experience would rid us of the desire to do the same things in real life. But his theory does not seem to work in practice.

When Clockwork Orange was the rage in London, the transients who slept along the embankment by the Thames found themselves the victims of an unprecedented number of beatings, after the pattern of senseless violence that the movie was popularizing.

As our cities become increasingly unsafe, our amusements become more and more the bloody shows that pretend to be art because of their realism. Instead of turning us away from violence, the sights we see on the box and in the theatre simply seem to whet our appetite for more.

Some of those who paid dollars to watch Evel Knievel's supercycle jump across the Snake River Canyon on closed circuit television at a theatre, or many more dollars to be on the site, complained that they had been ripped off.

Of course they didn't get their money's worth—the man survived, and they had gone to watch him die.

Knievel's actions may be foolhardy; but the actions of the thousands of voyeurs who paid out their dollars to urge him on to tempt death are frightening. We wonder what will be next. Are we not far removed from the days of public executions?

Driver Slower Or Slowly

Last winter's oil-shortage crisis, which never really occurred in Ontario, may have faded, but the long-term need for fuel conservation is still very much on many minds, including those in government.

In Ontario, a provincial government group is looking at various ways to slow gasoline consumption.

One idea (now pay attention, all you car drivers) is to introduce a system of compulsory tune-ups for vehicles, to be given at special government test centres.

As most of us know, or at least, should realize, a poorly tuned vehicle engine uses more gasoline than one that is properly tuned.

Another idea is to reduce

motor vehicle licences to a nominal amount, but then raise gasoline taxes sharply, perhaps even doubling them, or more.

Such a move is supposed to make motorists think twice about chugging along streets and highways at excessive speeds. Guzzling speeds of 60, 70 or 80 mph would be out, and drivers would be forced to proceed at a more leisurely pace, such as 40 or 50 mph.

Of course, such actions are at the think-tank level. It may be years yet before we have to employ such excessive fuel conservation measures.

And besides, if we make it too costly to drive in Ontario, people, especially tourists, might not come here.

Are You Worth A Million?

Before very much longer, executives in the United States will be paid in excess of \$1,000,000 a year. Admittedly, there will be only a handful because even with inflation this is considered a lot of money.

In 1973, General Motors paid its top executives \$21,000,000. Chairman Richard Gertsberg was paid a total of \$923,000.

One question that arises is this: despite the high taxes an executive might pay, despite his long hours, despite the responsibility—can any one man truly earn \$1,000,000 a year? Clearly, a few already are paid almost that. Do they deserve such excessive salaries?

Rumouration such as this must be seen in the light of not just North American but global realities. The United Nations, the World Bank, regional development banks and many other national and international agencies are trying to

cope with a poverty problem that boggles the mind.

Hundreds of millions are malnourished or starving. The World Bank is supporting a rural development project in a region of Tanzania where people are earning annual per capita incomes of \$20, less than 50 cents a week in terms of our purchasing power. Surely no salaried executive can say in all honesty he deserves to be paid 50,000 times as much as the poor, not only of Tanzania, but also of far too many regions around the world where people are hungry and starving.

The search for greater social and economic justice in the world should be carried on not just in the developing countries where, admittedly, inequities exist. It should be carried on also in the rich countries, where privilege and excessive wealth also live side by side with poverty.



(Herald Photo)

This collection of shopping carts has been resting at the corner of Sinclair Avenue and Duncan Drive in Georgetown in the swamp at

the lower end of the Georgetown Market Centre since the addition was completed and new stores were opened. At a cost of more than \$40 each you would think that some store using such carts would claim them.

BILL SMILEY

Holidays In September Good Time To Remember

If I were a young fellow, starting all over again, I would try to fringe myself into a job where I could take my holidays in September, preferably stretching them to about the middle of October.

These are the golden months in this country. I know, I've lived here longer than I care to remember. October is beautiful, but September is beautiful, beneficent and blessed by a Higher Power. And I don't mean the Hydro.

The other so-called summer months are a pain in the arm. June is hot and humid and mosquitoes, July and August are impossible: stifling when you're trying to sleep, or raining when you're trying to camp.

November is fit only for Remembrance Day, when even the birds weep, because the overhead (clouds) is so low they can't even fly.

COMMERCIALIZED MESS December is a hectic, commercialized mess, when you don't know whether you're going to have a "green" Christmas, meaning dirty and sloppy and slushy, or a "white" Christmas, meaning up to your navel in snow.

January is a long, forbidding month, something like a long, forbidding school teacher, with a drip on his nose, frozen. It promises nothing, threatens much. February is shorter, but sneakier. It snows and snows and it gets colder and colder. And you get the flu and you get sickening cards from friends who have gone south for the winter.

January and February, unmarried, spawn March, which is like something illegitimate borne by a drab in a ditch. Occasionally it

turns out to be a beautiful child, but nine times out of ten it is retarded.

April, Browning, writing from Italy, said: "Oh to be in England, now that April's there." Maybe England. But another poet, T. S. Eliot, must have been referring to Canada when he said: "April is the cruellest month." There's not much snow left, except in the woods and shadowed corners, but that's about all you can say about it.

Then, as most of us know, comes May. Ah, May, the burgeoning of Spring, the little tender shoots coming out on the trees, the sun warming up, the trout sweaters, summer just around the corner.

Everything is green, still, in September. I can visualize a fishing camp, good food, a chilly swim, a fire and sweaters, good conversation with good friends, a game of chess, early to bed and up early for a try at the fish, some books, no telephone, no wife, no kids. If this sounds like male chauvinism, it is.

NO TOURISTS That leaves only September and October. No tourists, no mosquitoes, no snow. Just yellow sunshine, a bountiful larder of the harvest, warm days, cool nights when sleep is deep and sweet.

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That is perhaps one of the things the more strident feminists in our midst absorbed. Once in a while he must get away from his woman. He's not trying to prove his manhood or anything psychological like that.

He's merely trying to save his sanity. He's sick, right to the heart, of hearing what Mabel said to Marjorie and what Marjorie is going to do about Jack, who drinks too much, and what Mabel is going to do about her kid, who is smoking pot.

Maybe I'm a male chauvinist, but I'm not a pig. I've changed diapers, done dishes, scrubbed floors, fed babies, long before Women's Lib became fashionable.

But once in a while I have to get away from my woman, with the other braves, and exchange male proprieties, foolishness and far-out stories.

Today we take a sauna bath. I'll bet that a hundred years ago Bull-With-The-Buffalo's-Bum and Sneaky-With-The-Beaver took off for a month's hunting and fishing when they could no longer stand Myrtle White-Father and Mary Six-Babies gossiping about their babies. And I'll bet they took it in September.

So Mr. Davis, it is assumed, has decided that a way of getting to them is to carry the light to their homeland.

If he can become a folk hero in Italy he may become a hero to his sons and daughters here.

It is at least novel electioneering. And who can say, it might work. At most it only means two weeks of effort and perhaps a few cases of indigestion as he frantically travels throughout the country and indulges in the rich food with which he undoubtedly will be swamped.

THE OTHERS? But then, having done this for the Italians where does the trail end?

Does he have to do it for other groups?

There are now said to be 100,000 blacks in Toronto. Does this mean trips to Jamaica and the other islands in the Caribbean?

What about the Finns and the Poles, the Portuguese and the many other groups now so widely represented in Ontario?

Is he also going to visit their homelands? We may end up by calling him Travelling Bill.

VIEWPOINT

So Goes The United States So Goes Entire Free World

By G. LANDBOROUGH

In 1963 when the American President Abraham Lincoln made his now famous Gettysburg address, he spoke of "a government of the people, by the people and for the people." The recent Watergate scandal and the ensuing results, have taken true democracy from the American people.

At a time when the only comfort to be attained from Watergate was that democracy really does work, President Gerald Ford's full and absolute pardon of Richard Nixon has again plunged the nation into doubt and suspicion.

Once again cries of impeachment against a President of the United States are heard. This time, it is against a man who has not been in office for two full months, a man who was presented to the people as solid, honest, a man of conviction, a man without enemies, a regular hometown boy.

CONSCIENCE

Gerald Ford in granting the pardon spoke of "mercy" and "the duty of his conscience." Whatever happened to the conscience of the American people, who as president (the highest form of office) Gerald Ford is supposed to represent.

Mercy is an admirable trait in anyone, but it is not keeping with the accepted system of trial through the courts, and then mercy. Equal justice depends on this.

The prisons are full of men and women for whom the public would feel compassion and indeed mercy if the exact stories of their lives were known. One cannot believe that if Mr. Nixon had

been tried through the court and then pardoned that the people of the United States would have withheld "mercy". We all know that Nixon as a man has suffered as much public and personal degradation as possible, to confine him in a jail would not serve justice. The natural punishment of being a fallen world leader - the loss of power is perhaps the greatest punishment of all.

Mercy, yes but justice through the proper channels. In America today the keyword seems to be "conscience". It seems political leaders can perpetrate almost anything, if it is in keeping with the dictates of their conscience.

What has happened to the conscience of the people—conscience by the people and for the people?

PARDONS

At the time of this writing it is being suggested that pardons for all Watergate offenders is under consideration. When, and if, such a thing happens the people live in a democracy. In effect in order to justify such a thing all burglars, spies, perjurers, and those guilty of manipulation of public funds would have to be set free. There is no equal justice in what Gerald Ford has done.

Ending the Watergate tragedy was fundamental to restoring faith and trust in the American government. The manner in which Gerald Ford has chosen to do so however, has succeeded in what Senator Robert Byrd has called "the cover up of cover-ups."

The general public opinion is "someone got to Mr. Ford." As recent as Aug. 28, Mr.

Ford did not see a pardon for Mr. Nixon.

What caused him to change his mind? Personal compassion for a dangerously depressed Richard Nixon would not in itself be sufficient reason, and if it were Mr. Ford cannot remain in office if personal feelings come before the welfare of the majority.

One cannot fathom the reasoning behind Ford's surprise decision, and nothing printed thus far has done anything to change this.

Abraham Lincoln said: "The dogmas of the quiet past are insufficient to the present struggle." Well the past has been anything but quiet, but the truth of the statement applies perhaps more so today than it did 100 years ago when it was written.

Gerald Ford's decision will be in effect worse than the crimes of Watergate - the people did not want "a pound of flesh" they wanted justice, to see the system worked for rich and poor alike. Justice can be tempered with mercy, but one cannot give mercy before justice, to do so shakes the basic fundamentals on which equality for all is based.

The world soberly watches in grim bewilderment - for as it goes in the United States of America so will it follow in the rest of the free world.

130 Residents Participated

About 130 Halton residents participated in the recent Halton Farmstead and Rural Homes improvement competition.

"We wanted to get people to spruce up their places for the plowing match to make us proud of Halton," explained Gerald Carlton, chairman of the competition committee.

"So we offered cash prizes and an aerial photograph of their property donated by the Glen Elton Company."

The first prize for the most improvements following two judgments in 1973 and 1974 went to Rock Harris, RR 6, Milton for farmsteads; and to Joseph Bonanno, RR 2, Georgetown in the rural homes class. Ford Wickson, Trafalgar Rd., Georgetown won first prize for improvements he had already made before the competition was initiated. Besides the \$50 cheque and photo first prize winners received a silver tea service donated by the Robert Simpson Company."

Second prize in each category: Bill Gregg, RR 2 Rockwood—farmstead; David Moffat, RR2, Hornby—rural homes; Limestone Hall Farms, RR6, Milton—already improved. \$50 cheques also went to third and fourth and fifth prize winners.

Prizes were presented at a special banquet held on August 7, to which all contestants were invited and each received a plaque.

READER'S FORUM

Board Is Taken To Task Over School Closing

Sir: I have been following the events involving your board with regards to the Norval school issue. Let me first point out to member William Lawson, and any others to whom this applies, that any elected member of any board, private or public, is accountable to his electorate for the manner in which he represents them.

He can vote according to his own judgment as he stated; but in such case he should not waste his time or money on another election campaign. Usually the people know what is best for them. You were all voted into office by people who believed you would represent them honestly. This is called the democratic system. Mr. Lawson, and people who think like him are ignorant of the basic concepts of government.

Another agreeable advantage of the democratic system is its flexibility. When something is not functioning successfully in its present form, it is easily changed. When it is proven to the elected members, (as was the case involving the Norval school) that the electorate were not happy; that there was indeed a workable alternative; that there was widespread support for the attitude of the citizens of Norval, the board members are more than foolish to ignore this. They are unreasonable. People who cannot change their minds when proved wrong are usually ill-educated, or immature, or insecure, or all of these things.

A system is only as good as the people elected to run it. If I were under the jurisdiction of the Halton

School Board (which I am not) I would be very uneasy, at least up until the next election. I believe the people of Halton County who are not already concerned will soon be so. I understand that some of these board members went in by acclamation. One of these was member Lawson. The obvious thing to say would be that Halton County got what it deserved, but I hesitate to say this as I know there are many concerned people in the North Halton area.

My sympathy is extended to all the Norval people who fought so courageously. They have lost a battle. However, to the members of the Halton School Board, I would like to point out that YOU have definitely NOT won the war.

Joyce Hutton Streetsville

Improper Preparation Danger Of Preserves

Ministry of Health today cautioned residents that improper preparation of home preserves can result in botulism, a form of food poisoning. Botulism poisoning leads to paralysis of limbs, respiratory failure, and death in 55 per cent of recorded cases.

The botulism microbe, commonly present in soil, is contacted by acid. Therefore, home canned fruits and tomatoes of the standard variety do not normally become contaminated. All other vegetables, including the golden yellow low acid tomato, must be home processed in the container at temperatures considerably

higher than the boiling point of water to destroy the botulism microbe.

For safe preservation of vegetables a pressure cooker should always be used. Different vegetables require different pressures and cooking times to attain the specific temperature needed to kill the botulism microbe. Reliable cook books and pressure cooker manuals will provide correct processing times and pressures.

As an added safeguard, all home vegetable preserves should be boiled in their liquid for at least 15 minutes before tasting or serving (20 minutes for corn or squash).

QUEEN'S PARK

Travelling Bill Is Off To Italy

By DON O'HEARN Queen's Park Bureau Of The Herald

TORONTO La dolce vita! Premier Davis has always liked to travel but this time he is exceeding himself.

A month from now the premier will be in the final stages of a grand tour of Italy.

Grand tour? Really grand. For two weeks he will be visiting cities, towns, villages and hamlets with a whole plane-load of Italians from across the province as his escort.

It is doubtful if the land of the sun and the grape will have seen such an invasion since the war.

MANY ITALIANS This is politics, of course. There are even some cynics among pundits who have classed the junket as the first shot in the 1975 election campaign.

The reason it is political is that it is estimated there are now at least 500,000 Italians who emigrated from Italy living in Ontario. And in addition there are many, many more who are of Italian descent.

These people are closely knit and as a group they have tended to vote Liberal.

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OOMPAH - PAH - PAH. The Schmalz and Lena Picketheimer family band from New Dundee, tune up for this year's Pioneer Festival, to be held at Black

Creek Pioneer Village on Saturday, September 21. The German band is just one of many colorful attractions planned for this year's festivities including

demonstrations of arts, crafts and chores that recall life in pre-Confederation rural Ontario, lots of country-style cooking, a quilt auction, a Mennonite far-

mers market, spelling bees and numerous other activities for family enjoyment. Black Creek is located at Jane Street and Steeles Avenue in north-west Metro Toronto.

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

10 YEARS AGO Halton Terminal Warehouse opened on Armstrong Avenue in Georgetown, with Ross Selpas as manager and John Perry as director. Before, closest point that out-of-country goods could get to Georgetown was Brampton.

30 YEARS AGO Cleave reunion was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hyatt McClure, with more than 50 persons attending, and it was decided to make the gathering an annual affair. Harold Cleave of Georgetown was named president of a new executive to plan the gatherings.

Georgetown offered \$30,000 to the United Church of Canada for the Cedarvale school property. The town had plans to make the purchase into a recreational facility. Coun. Bill Smith told town council: "We can't afford not to acquire this."

Norman J. Braida, assistant general manager of Beardmore and Company, in Acton, was on his way to Paris to attend an international leather show and to promote the company's products.

Norval group committee of clubs and scouts met at the home of Tom Pettigill to make plans for the season's activities. Scouts would meet at the United Church and clubs at the Anglican Church.

20 YEARS AGO Georgetown council voted to renew its agreement with Ontario Provincial Police, despite some objections. Reeve Stan Allen was opposed, saying he does not favor a policing system which operates outside the control of council.

Ending a season which promised bigger things, Georgetown N & G's lost a close match to Sarnia to spell final to their hopes for a second Ontario championship. The local team had only a brief lead on a goal by Bob McCandless, and dropped the match 5-4.

30 YEARS AGO Capt. Fred Castle, overseas since 1941, arrived back in Canada, serving with a prisoner-of-war escort. He took part in the allied invasions of Italy and Sicily.

Harold Wheeler, well-known Glen Williams resident, purchased the general store in the Glen. The business formerly was operated by William Schenk.

Mrs. W. F. Smith was elected to head a retail committee on the Georgetown Board of Trade. Serving with her were Sid Silver, Joseph Gibbons, C. J. Buck, R. W. Robb, A. W. Benton and Allen Norton. Viallor Jack Fraser discussed the 48-hour week, and suggested that stores in smaller communities should be open two evenings a week.

Helen Cox, Adeleine Cunningham and Eleanor Griffin of Cedarvale attended the Girls' Garden Achievement Day at Maraville.

Principal Walter Carpenter reported that 120 students were enrolled at Georgetown High School this year. Rugby and basketball already were being organized.

Sgt. Maj. Duncan Post, son of Mrs. Fred Post, serving in France, wrote home about his experiences when the Royal Air Force mistakenly bombed allied troops in Normandy. He called it "a hell of a day."