

Spirit of '75

Community spirit is a very tenuous item. It ebbs and flows much like our Credit River during a very unpredictable spring. However it has been with a great deal of satisfaction that we've been noting a very marked rise of late in the spirit of Georgetowners.

Perhaps it's spring.

Perhaps it's a result of the recent predictions released by the region which indicate Georgetown of the 1970's and '80's is going to be THE CENTRE of North Halton. The figures indicate that the growth in population of our town is going to be very strong for the next five years.

Now growth can be looked upon in many ways. For the optimistic it can be a sign of a tremendously active and interesting town, financially and culturally. The hustle and bustle of a lively shopping district is something that's hard to beat. It stimulates eagerness and excitement among all of us, not just the merchants.

That excitement is not long in spreading outward to encompass all other aspects of a town's life. The many clubs and groups within a community grow directly with the town and, with them, grow the community activities generated by those same clubs.

There's little doubt that growth can be exciting and beneficial for a town.

However growth has its negative aspects, the major one being the supposed loss of small town character. We say supposed because the friendliness and familiarity that go along with small towns need not necessarily fall victim to growth.

Familiarity, after all, can exist anywhere just as friendliness can. All that's required is a willingness and an

effort from all of us to retain what we like most about our Georgetown.

Point of fact. Consider Georgetown five years ago and today. The attitude of the merchants towards their customers has really not changed all that much, despite the growth of the town. The familiarity is still there.

If anything, we find now that many of the merchants of Georgetown are becoming all the more optimistic in light of the upward trend here in town. They are looking now at how to further increase their involvement with the community. A good example was last fall's Halloween activities in town. Tremendous.

But merchants aren't the only ones catching onto the "Spirit of '75 Plus Five." Newcomers to the town recently dropped by to introduce themselves and to find out a little bit about the town. Their bright smiles and pleasant attitudes were great. And they were smiling because they liked what they found here in Georgetown. As many of us have.

Yes, things are looking very bright and optimistic for Georgetown in the final five years of this decade. It's now just a matter of all of us catching and sharing that spirit.

If you look in our window the next time you drive by our offices on Main Street you'll probably notice one of the world's brightest and biggest Happy Faces. To tell you the truth it would be darn hard for you to ignore it.

That pretty well typifies our attitude here at the Herald about the future of Georgetown and, right along with it, ourselves. So smile along with us.

Look out 1980, here comes Georgetown.



They've come a long way

Admittedly I get a tremendous kick out of any live theatrical production I see. However rarely is the kick as strong as the one I got last Thursday night viewing the GDHS production of *Godspell*.

It was a heckuva fine production and one which deserves a little extra attention.

I suppose a lot of us probably held a certain, very wrong attitude towards a high school musical, borne of the days when a group of kids—most of them unable to carry a note—struggled their way through a production of *My Fair Lady* or *South Pacific*.

The meaning and intent of the plays were so distant and thus so irrelevant to the players that most of the kids who somehow got conned into appearing got nothing from the production and thus gave nothing in return.

The GDHS production of last week however, provided excellent proof that, finally, relevancy is appearing in another form of high school life. Given the proper motivation and purpose, those GDHS students produced a lively, meaningful production.

Okay, to all those who commented in the hall during intermission that it didn't quite compare to the Toronto production you're darn right, there was no comparison.

In fact, if you wanted to compare them—one against the other—you would find that the GDHS production probably would come out ahead.

Consider the money that was spent in developing the Toronto production of *Godspell*. Thousands compared to GDHS's \$2,000 budget. Compare the auditions held to whittle all the hopeful singers and dancers in Toronto down to the cream of the crop with the number of interested students willing to perform in Georgetown's production.

Then compare the overall quality.

I guess the best sign of just how well the local students performed came during the final scene Thursday night. I noticed an older woman and a young girl sitting in front of us, both wiping away a tear or two. Now that's a fine tribute to a good performance, particularly considering that same performance had all of us laughing a few minutes before.

A few singular performances deserved special congratulations.

Larry Thompson—who ever you are—well done! Larry was the musical director and the mainstay behind the entire production. His work on the organ, piano and synthesizer were tremendous and then, to cap it all, he threw in a beautiful song near the end. It couldn't have been better.

Jesus, played by Jack Langedyck, was equally good. It's a demanding



by BILL JOHNSTON

role which runs the gamut of pretty well every type of performance from slapstick comedy to vaudeville to hard drama. Jack came through in almost every case.

Rob Mills' portrayal of John the Baptist and Judas Iscariot came through in full color...black. He certainly got the point across.

All of the solo performances, with one exception, were surprisingly well done. I say surprisingly because, still recalling the days of old, a high school production usually featured one or, at the best, two strong singers while the rest shone best in a singalong.

With that one exception each of the soloists in the GDHS production came through loud, strong and beautifully on key. Karen Van Sicker's handling of "Day by day" and Jeff Jobb's "All good gifts" were only outdone by "By my side" by Kim Poyntz and Sue Glover.

There's one person who deserves a lot of credit who, we noticed, preferred to play a low key role in the production. To get students together. To get them to work as hard as they obviously did. To get students to project images and feelings as well as they did. To basically take on the entire job with no other purpose than to provide a medium for young people to express themselves and to realize ambitions which otherwise might go uncalled.

To Michele Mole our hearty congratulations. The director's the one who puts the whole thing together and you did a tremendously great job of putting *Godspell* together.

Viewpoint

So that's what Gerry looks like



By Gerry Landsborough

Well dear reader, this week or next, the truth will be out. I would personally like to claim no responsibility for the facsimile of my essence which appears above this by-line. This in no way is to be taken as an interpretation of the work of our very competent photographer. Unless of course the photo is especially good, which makes our photographer especially competent.

The truth of the matter is for all who have favored me with such enthusiastic response over the past year when we have discussed philosophy, the world situation, or just little items of interest here at home, I don't smoke a pipe, ponder the world problems with an aged head filled to the brim with wisdom, or rock back and forth in front of the fire in "ye old rocking chair."

On the other hand there was really no attempt on my part to delude female readers especially the gum-to lip type, and try to pass for a "well-informed, hard-nosed male reporter." I've really always been female or a reasonable facsimile. Apparently photos are the "expected thing" for columnists, and, as I am often found suggesting that we all show a little more flexibility in our viewpoints, it became apparent that I should make the same gesture myself, all things taken into consideration.

I'm hoping the surface value that you place or remove from the above does not dissolution you too much - one way or the other.

We often read the "prophets of doom" who are forever forecasting that only the

grim and gorey make headlines today. With that in mind and with all due respect to the foregoing I'll share some recent news stories that still have me chuckling.

Down in the southern states they have an -I hope you're ready for this—a drive-through funeral parlour. Here is the ultimate in man's continuing effort to be the laughing stock of the animal kingdom and the whole universe for that matter. The deceased lies enclosed in a glass compartment like "Sleeping Beauty" as all his "dearly beloved friends" who have cocktails scheduled for six, and couldn't possibly be late, can drive by in deep, heartfelt respect for the dearly departed.

Mind you up here we also have a few funeral rituals that could be capped as "sick trips" but fortunately they are in the minority. I must mention that the quick mind of Johnny Carson, the late night talk host, quipped "Sort of a Jack in the box."

Now to continue along the same line of stupidity depending on your viewpoint. We have the handsome, gentle looking biologist Lyall Watson, down in Toronto publicizing his latest book saying, "Picking a flower is like killing a youth. Saying it with flowers is like saying it with a massacre." Now at this point I really had to stop for a moment in order to regain composure. Mr. Watson continues, "What could be more appropriate I suppose than picking flowers to accompany a coffin. Death everywhere."

Now here I am - I love flowers, I've never considered massacre for a minute. Imagine how I felt, the traumatic experience of knowing the end result of my uncaring attitude. Guess I'll just have to put on my philosopher's hat and "work it out."

I cannot stop here without giving you this gem from the Star's headlines. With all due respect to the intelligence of the following gentleman, I give you his exact words. "You know a marriage can be a regressive institution. You are young, you're free; you've at least got rid of parental authority. Suddenly you get married and authority is there again. You don't have to report to your mother. You have to report to your wife." Fantastic statement for the pretense of I.W.Y. The speaker of that statement is the suave, debonair, bon vivant, the diplomat of the ski slopes, our own Pierre Elliott Trudeau. Can you imagine the possibilities.

Reporter: "Hello hon I'm home. I just wanted to go over the energy crisis with you."

Reply: "I'm up to here with the energy crisis. I wonder what's on all the news."

Reporter: "But sweetie I've brought the Ambassador home."

Reply: "I'm going to my room."

It must be my imagination, it could never really happen like that, not the man who, in his own circle, is known as "The Brains." Could it?

5 YEARS AGO
Bell Canada installed 895 new telephones to service the Georgetown area. At present there are 8,630 phones in town.

An electric fly-trap has been designed and will hopefully be manufactured by a Georgetown company. Hank Levers of Levers Engineering and K. L. Duncan of Duncan Associates plan to market the device that draws the fly by "Blacklight" and electrocutes them when they fly to the light.

Susan Allen and Debbie Gibson displayed their new maxi-coats for the Herald in an interview outlining the advantages and disadvantages of the added length.

Irwin Noble, owner and operator of the Georgetown Dairy, sold the milk routes and closed the milk processing plant but will continue to operate the dairy bar and manufacture his own ice cream.

10 YEARS AGO
A bus service designed to integrate the east and west section of town has begun this week. The inaugural run was delayed due to the added snowfall that made it impossible for traffic in the area to operate safely. A 12-year-old Newfoundland native and a student at Holy Cross School was struck and killed on the weekend. Patrick Richard More was hit as he attempted to cross Highway 7 at the intersection of John Street and Highway Seven.

Heaters for the Georgetown arena will be given a second chance as patrons will be polled to determine the need for the heaters and the added expense.

15 YEARS AGO
Robert Hess, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Hess, RR 1 Terra Cotta, was presented with his wings as a recent graduate of RCAF Air Observer School in Winnipeg and granted a commission in the RCAF's regular force with promotion to the rank of flying officer.

Phase one of the hospital's building fund appeal was kicked-off as representatives for

various districts were chosen. District leader is Denny Charles, assisted by Paul Nielsen, Frank Wilson, Jesse McEnery, Campbell Sinclair, Harold Wheeler, Mrs. J. Crichton, Mrs. E. Sanford.

Georgetown council has refused Delrex Developments the right to release more residential land for sale at the present time. Land will be made available when a greater volume of homes have been sold in the Delrex

complex.

The Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band badly needs new kilts and band equipment to continue operation. The sum of \$700 would help the girls continue their work and that should come from the town's annual grant of \$1,500. The band performs free for the public which should be valued at \$100 a performance. Further planning will solve the problem.

Thanks to the merchants

We've received a number of thank you notes from winners of both the Festival of Values contest and the Instant Millionaires. We would like to thank those readers for their kind

notes and pass them along to the many merchants taking part in those two successful promotions. As we said before, without the merchants, these promotions would not be available to our readers.

Province wrong on landfill

To the Editor of the Herald:

Sometimes I get the feeling of hitting my head against the wall backing the provincial government, municipalities, and some stupid politicians on environmental problems, but small successes spur me on. My main frustrations seem to be caused by public relations people. For instance, claims that Ontario's plans for reclamation energy producing plants are a world first, that North York's experimental

plant will cause other jurisdictions to turn to this innovation for future technology infuriates me, for in my files I have evidence of technology far in advance of anything this province has planned. Ontario is planning 100 to 1,000 tons per day plants. St. Louis is building an 8,000 ton per day plant. Hempstead, Long Island has awarded a contract for a 3,000-ton per day plant. Indeed there are over 30

such plants on this continent. Here in Halton, much has been said, and written about our reclamation plant. The draw back to our plant is that Queen's Park has put the cart before the horse. Today's problem is the public and environmental unacceptability of landfilling garbage. If inert materials were put in quarries or pits (with the object of mining them in the future) there would be little or no objection. This is not happening.

We intend to landfill the organic material, the pollutants. Those that attract vermin, cause gas, and poison our water. The obvious solution should have been the incineration of the pollutants for energy Phase 1 and provision for reclaiming secondary materials as Phase 2.

W. A. Johnson
(Group United Against Rural Dumping)