theHERALD

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Police chases: a gamble with our lives

Such a waste...Such a terrible

Slowly Acton is pulling itself together after the shock a week ago Saturday that sent waves of sorrow washing over this town.

The sight of a funeral cortege slowly winding its way through the town by itself tightens throats and catches one staring remotely. Such a waste. Such a terrible

waste. Who's to blame? It's a natural reaction to such a terrible loss of

seven young lives. The police? No, for they were

merely doing their duty. But the police system, that states that pursing a young man at 100 mph is a proper method to preserve and protect our property and lives; that is where the guilt lies.

There is the culprit at which a town, needing some means to ensure that such a useless, wasteful incident need not happen again, may point its finger of accusation.

Police chases should be used only in extreme cases (armed robbery, murder) and only then it a senior officer, weighing such things as road, weather and traffic conditions, approves and directs the chase via radio.

To put so much at stake merely to recover a \$5,000 automobile is a tremendous gamble with not only innocent victims' lives but with those of the pursing police officer and, yes. the fellow driving the pursued vehicle.

One life saved far out-balances

the material loss of one very replaceable automobile.

Put yourself in the shoes of any fellow who happens to suddenly see a flashing red light in his rearview mirrow. He may be driving a stolen vehicle. He may be just out for a drive in the family car. He may be drunk. He may be stoned. He may be totally under control.

He's got a split second to decide whether to pull over or run. He doesn't think about the

situation. He could merely put his foot to the floor, and the chase is on. 50 mph, 60 mph, 70, 80, 90, 100

And all the time that flashing red light is shing in his mirror. Imagine, instead, if the pursuing police car slowed down to the legal

limit, be it 50 or 60 miles per hour. The pursued driver pulls ahead until he see's there's no sense in driving at athat break-neck speed. He eventually slows down or heads somewhere to hide. He finally begins to think about the situation.

If he's driving a stolen car he'll likely ditch it, but how many police chases eventually end up that same If he's driving his own car he'll

realize that, through his license plates, he's probably already caught. Nothing good can ever come of that fiery instant on Highway 25 late on the evening of March 13, 1976.

However, we hope that Halton Police will be critical enough of their own procedures to at least consider alternatives to their pursuit present methods.

Help the Red Cross take care of its own

Last year in Georgetown the Red Cross Society spent \$10,774.19. Through its fundraising campaign it collected \$9,771. The water, it's likely they were trained to swim by difference was made up by other Ontario the Red Cross. Last year more than 400 communities who spent less than they raised. In other words, we lived off their surplus.

This week the Red Cross is trying to raise \$12,000 just to maintain the same level of service as it did tast year. The society knows it won't get all the money this week but they hope to get it by the end of March. The society knows, also, it will spend every penny it gets so that 550 volunteers, who contribute over 10,000 hours per year of their time, can have what they need to work with. If you have a head for figures, that's approximately 51 more days than there are in the year ...

What you get for your donation of a couple of bucks, or a five, or even a ten, can be seen on anyone of 11,499 information sheets which have been distributed to each home in Halton Hills the volunteers could reach.

If your house catches fire, or is flooded-and 29 have since 1969 involving 149 people--it is your neighbours representing the Red Cross who help get you over those first few

If you have a backyard pool, or visit the the services it freely receives.

beach and have confidence that your youngsters can handle themselves in the children and adults in Halton Hills were taught to swim and over 1,000 participated in water safety programmes presented by the

Red Cross. Should you need, for a brief period, a wheel chair or a pair of crutches, you have the free loan of such equipment from the loan cupboard operated by the Red Cross.

Or if you have a medical appointment you can't reach on foot or on public trunsit, a Red Cross volunteer, a neighbour of yours, will drive you there.

The elderly in Halton Hills who are losing their strength and ability to care for themselves are helped daily by Red Cross volunteers.

Whatever it is you need, the Red Cross tries to supply it. What the Red Cross needs is a few dollars from your pocketbook. If you didn't give on

Blitz Night, you still have an opportunity to send in a donation in the envelopes accompanying each information sheet. It's time this town paid its own way for

Years Ago

Hyde wants combined liquor store downtown

From the Files of the Herald: FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

Mrs. D.A. Boyd of Georgetown was guest of honour at a surprise party held by her family and friends to celebrate Mrs. Boyd's 81st Birthday. The party was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Hillock.

The Interested Citizens Group of Georgetown, which has been investigating the possibility of bringing the YM-YWCA to town seems to be making favourable progress. Members of the group appeard before town council Monday evening and after explaining their goals to me council received favourable and positive comments from all the councillors present at the meeting.

Mr. Jim Walsh has taken over ownership of the local Dyson Sewing Centre, which machine business.

TEN YEARS AGO Farley Helfant of Howard Wrigglesworth Public School, Georgetown , and Pamela Norton of Glen Williams Public School were winner and runner-up respectively in the inspectorate final of the Ontarlo School Trustees and Ratepayers Association public represented in the contest.

Monday's door to door blitz by the Georgetown Red Cross canvassers netted \$2,275, about \$575 above last year's one night canvass.

FIVE YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Davis was opened four years ago by lost their furniture and most of owner Ollie Dyson who is their clothing in a fire at 68 moving to London where he Main Street, North, Friday will continue in the sewing morning. The house is owned by Mr. J. Alexander of Toronto. The fire started in the upstairs bedroom destroying all the contents in the room and burned through the roof. Extensive amoke and water damage was done thr ughout their half of the dupl

Projected removal of the liquor store from its present Mill St. location has prompted speaking contest final here Councillor Ern Hyde to urge Friday, Ten schools were that a second store be established in the downtown area. At a council committee meeting Monday night Councillor Hyde said that he intends to bring a motion before council to petitlon the province to have a combined liquor and beer outlet in the downtown Georgetown area.



Gerry Landsborough

This week Viewpoint takes a look at three individual topics that will prove to be somewhat related: high speed police chases, rights as applied to the families of criminals and government cutbacks.

The recent tragedy in Acton resulting in the death of seven young people has brought about what we consider a somewhat inappropriate response. It is always sad to watch our reaction to tragedy. It is usually too far reaching one way or another.

Today we have given so many rights to individuals who break our laws, that we seriously hamper the work of those who would enforce them. A police officer on the job has to make a split-second decision. It is something he is trained to do; an integral part of his job.

It is fine for our lawmakers and the general public to sit back in judgement when a tragedy results but unfortunately they don't sit in patrol cars or walk beats or make their judgements with the split-second timing that an officer on the scene has to.

If the police chase in question had resulted in the prevention of loss of life an equal number of people would arise to proclaim the validity of police chases. Last year in Metro a high speed chase by

the police was aborted. The getaway car raced on and eight minutes later hit and killed a pedestrian. The public then complained that the police were negligent in their Police chases are dangerous-that is

true-but a far more dangerous course of action would be to remove the decisionmaking authority of an officer at the scene of a crime. It would be impossible to say whether or

not the accident would have occured with or without the chase. It is unfair that the officer involved has to bear the brunt of public criticism. After all, he was pursuing someone who had broken the law and allegedly stolen a car. Who can say what state of mind the driver of the stolen car was in. Very often in

By DON O'HEARN

Queen's Park Bureau

Of The Herald

TORONTO-Throne Speeches never give

much comfort or political ammunition to the

Normally they are a list of promises; and

The almost automatic reaction of op-

This standard reaction was the respons:

But actually with this Speech they were probably even more frustrated than usual.

For it dldn't even have many of the

And it must have set a new high in

For men leading major parties, facing a

minority government and champing to get

going at criticizing it, the document must

Took Offensive

used it to put the ball squarely in the op-

some mention of the economic state of the

More than annoying, it could have been a

For to an unusual degree the government

Normally in a Throne Speech there is

But in this Speech the dominant theme

The government used the Speech to

This quite properly belonged in the

For it has been becoming clear that the

It probably also has been becoming clear

restate at length its position on restraint.

·But It also was highly political.

will be at the core of the next election.

main division between the government and

the opposition lies in this restraint program,

and that probably in some form or other it

to the NDP and the Liberals, particularly the

former, that for them it may not be the best of

have been a terribly annoying one.

of the two opposition party leaders to this

cromises expressed so vaguely that they are

position leaders to Throne Speeches is that they are uninspiring or that there is "little

not open to any sharp attack.

that is new" in them.

year's Speech here.

customary promises.

vagueness

worrying one.

position court.

was economic.

moment.

cocument.

MSUCA.

opposition.

Queen's Park Commentary

Rights!

police work it's second that count. To change the authority of whether or not to pursue will take more than seconds.

Our deepest feelings of sorrow and sympathy for the parents of those killed should not be allowed to cloud our judgement and blame the officer involved in the chase.

The best solution would be one of moderation, not to totally ban such methods but to use the "abort system" already in practice in many cities in North America including Metro Toronto. If the chase is becoming hazardous the senior communications officer on duty would tell the officer in chase to back off.

Not all police chases reach such speeds as in the Acton tragedy. Many chases result in the saving of lives, taking an impaired driver of the road or stopping a carload of teens with drugs or booze. To give chase or not should be left in the

hands of the officer involved; whether roadiflocks should be set up or the vehicle pursued should be his decision.

Another tragedy of a different sort occurred recently when Harvey Lloyd Holly, 28, d Don Mills was arrested in connection with the strangulation death of two Etobicoke teenagers. His address, the name of his family, and two little children, who are innocent of any crime, were plastered all over

the front pages of the Toronto papers. It cannot serve justice for carloads of morbid thrill seekers to drive by the home of his wife and childre. Again, it is not his wife or children who are accused or are guilty of any crime. His two children have to pay too high a price for something they have no

Is it necessary in the name of "news" to publicize such information as house address and names and ages of children? What about

For there have been some distinct signs

that the public believes in restraints, and

may not have too much patience with those

The government apparently saw this at

the first stages, and endorsed restraint

Throne speech pounds home restraint

who oppose them.

It has happened in some cases that the accused is found innocent-what happens then when the papers have already tried and condemned the alleged criminal? We should demand the exercise of more prudence in dealing with assumed criminals who have not yet been tried.

The families of such persons are innocent victims of a society that demands sensationalism and "unnecessary information" at any price.

Our last topic also involves the complicated subject of "human rights." The "belt tightening" policies of the Davis povernment seem to appear somewant questionable. We cannot deny the need to curb government spending. We do feel however that it was the lack of restraint by the Davis government that created some of

the present problems. Cutting back on Children's Ald seems a shallow way of controlling over-spending. Queen's Park is forcing Metro to cut welfare payments. We are all fed us with free loaders but what we look on with concern are the priorities. What kind of government or society takes from its needlest in order to save precious dollars?

Dollars lost by a free spending government that now has to pay the piper.

Nothing can continue without change. We cannot continue to spend what we don't have without drastic changes taking place. But why place the burden on those least able to bandle it either emotionally or financially? Those who are least able to fight any such cutbacks?

"Rights" can cripple us economically and socially if we can't maintain a balanced approach. In the face of tragedy or crisis some feel the need for action-any kind of action whether appropriate or not.

In the home stretch it becomes a case of priorities. Whether people come first or dollars? Whether the right of the individual to a life that offers hope and true justice for allexists, or is it just another foolish illusion?

But the opposition parties were caught.

The leadership of both parties must be

The NDP still is through its tie with big labor.

The Liberals had drawn back but still have

forced into deep thought whenever it sees the

government again pushing forward

After all, politics is a game, not a war.

she's a political enemy.

to manage.

Next Page Anyway, I turned the page and there wasa huge picture of Evelyn Gigantes, attractive New Democratice Member of the Ontario Legislature for Carleton East. She was making a speech at the Oltawa Women's Centre in honour of International Women's

On Parliament Hills

Who's

with

Lord

Godiva?

By Stewart MacLeod Ottawa Burcau

Ottawa-Things are bound to be a bit distorted when you lie in bed with a

That may explain it, but in any event my recovery has been slowed through all these recurring arguments with women. And I don't like mental arguments with women,

But it seemed that every time I turned a

There was little in the paper about Conservative Leader Joe Clark, but his wife

Maureen McTeer, was speaking her mind.

And she was saying that any future friendship

with Margaret Trudeau would be within the

confines of the next election-in other words,

Diefenbaker and Paul Martin were able to

maintain a marathon personal friendship

whil slashing each other to bits on the

hustings, spouses of politicians should be able

Struck me as a bit heavy. Surely if John

page, some women was saying something to upset me or confuse me. And this never happened during International Women's

newspaper and try to view events through the

heated hase of a devilish flu bug.

Thomson News Service

"Women are still being legally discriminated against, and it may take too long for politicians to realize the way things should be" she was quoted as saying.

And the next paragraph of the story went on: "Ms Gigantes displayed her political tact early in the evening when a male ; photographer arrived at the Centre's door asking to be admitted so he could take some photos. She explained to him that men are not

allowed in the Centre; he left smiling." That's fine. But not long ago, a woman was refused admittance to an Ottawa "menonly" club and she laid charges under one of Ontario's anti-discrimination laws.

Anyway, I am not convinced it requires much political tact to inform someone that his or her entry is barred.

So much to that page. Here was another story about Betty Ford and how she has suddenly become Gerald Ford's No. 1 asset as he seeks another term as U.S. President. And what has helped her most, said the story, was her "openess and honesty" when she said, among other things, she wouldn't object to her daughter having an affair providing it was with "a nice boy."

No Logic

But even after this, I can't grab the logic of Mrs. Ford's statement. I can fully understand the importance of a daughter settling down with a nice guy, but for purpose of an affair I can't get excited about personulities.

And it could lead to problems for the: parents of other teenagers, "Hew, Mom, I'll be sleeping out tonight, but don't worry, he's studying to be a missionary."

I put down the newspaper and picked up a magazine. And a women's convention in Chicago was being told that throughout history, great contributions from women were systematically forgotten, while men were being placed on everlasting pedestals for lesser contributions.

To check the authenticity of this I phoned Mark McClung whose mother, Nellie Mc-Clung, was once Canada's most famous woman-the first one elected to a legislature. But that's not why I phoned him; it so happens he has a magnificant sense of humour. "It's not entirely true that men are

always remembered while women are forgotten," said Mr. McClung, himself hoarse with the flu. "I am thinking particularly of Lord

Godiva." He paused briefly. "Then there was

Whistler's Father." And he thought for a few moments longer. "And Joseph of Arimathea." Time for another aspirin. No. 8 in the second second

On The Home Front

restraints, as it did in the Speech.

the name of being opposed.

By Susan Don Jail?

by Susan De Facendis How I envy those fortunate people who bear the classically pure names of Smith. Brown and Jones.

If Mr. Smith wishes to complicate his tife by adding an incorrigible little 'Y' or 'E', that is his privilege, but his reasons for doing do

dude me. It has been asked-"What's in a name?" Well, if your name happens to be De Fucendis, the difference amounts to about half the alphabet.

I always believed my children would have to be university gradutaes before being capable of writing their full names. Surprisingly, two of them made it by grade 3 while the little one is still valiantly working

No matter how many times I have written the correct spelling when paying my

gas bill, after 15 years it is still being mailed to someone living at our address called Defaceuotis, which sounds remarkably Greek to me. When I reach desperation point and can

no longer put off ordering catalogue merchandise. I settle down for an entire morning at the telephone, as though gearing myself for a full season of hibernation.

I prepare coffee and a sandwich, put my feet up and start dialling. It takes three minutes to order the required Items and three hours to spell my name.

"Dee' as in Donald. No! Not Ronald v'know - 'Dee' as in Don Jail? Don River? Yeah Lady! Don River, as in pollution." Now when it comes to 'elf' we're away to

the races. No trouble here at all. "Eff', as in Fonzi. Right!", after all, everyone know that.

By the time we get to 'en'. I am getting just a little weary and therefore must be excused for any slight spelling mistake that might occur. In fact, by this time I even have difficulty in remembering my name.

"En' as in knucklehead", I bravely continue.

When we reach the final 'ess' I am in a state of exhaustion. My throat is parched and mentally I have become a basket case. Heaven knows what is happening to the lady on the other end of the telephone. I hope she is being compensated for dedication above and beyond the call of duty.

"Ess, as in 'sock it to me'", I murmur finally.

When the hard-worked-for goodies eventually arrive on my doorsteps, I am too relieved that the ordeal is over for another six months, to even care that they are addressed to Mrs. Pluto Fksock.