

A time to consider an appreciation

To have, for instance, French rammed down your throat against all reason and by someone more powerful than you are, is an act repugnant to all who live with a fundamental principle of tolerance to minorities.

It is against all reason because it makes you wonder how you can make someone speak French if they don't want to. The better idea is to demonstrate that by speaking French, you will be rewarded.

Obviously, the party trying to impose its will on you is blind to the real nature of things, heedless to the needless destruction it causes, derelict in its responsibilities and, like the Halton board of education, due for a day of reckoning.

School trustees on the board of education have an opportunity tomorrow (Thursday) to show that they won't blindly ram the chairmanship concept down the throats of secondary schools still organized under the traditional headship concept.

Tomorrow the trustees will be asked to lift from the table a motion by Halton Hills trustee Don Long to leave the organization of high schools as they are until it can objectively be demonstrated which organization will

provide a higher quality of education or a lower cost.

Teachers at Georgetown district high school and eight other high schools organized under the traditional structure have voted against the mandatory imposition of the chairmanship; the embargo by Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) on applying for chairmanship positions has been successful. The board is the only one in the province to opt for a system of chairmen in all its schools despite being unaware of the advantages, if any.

School trustees who continue to quash open discussion on the issue are reminded of the words of Rev. Gary Morton, the board chairman: "You don't have to be sick to get better; but we must be careful that we don't make a healthy body sick in the process."

Should the board not air the issue tomorrow, it will be a sign of its own illness and though the medicine be bitter, it can't be avoided. The sooner the board reconsiders its blind course towards what no one knows, the healthier will be its relations with the people it serves and the people it employs, and the better example it sets to the students in the school system.



A little "this and that" about those on the go on this crazy planet where we share space

By GERRY LANDSHOROUGH
Who is saying what these days? Do you care - does it really matter? Or like most of us do you have a little part of you inside of you that just loves to hear how the rest of the world feels inside - where it really counts.

Well read our dear readers, for a bit of this and that being quoted about those on the go all around this crazy planet where we all share a little space, a little heartache, a little sunshine and a few laughs - as we all try to muddle on through.

How about Sylvester Stallone - star of Rocky - and the hottest thing to hit the big screen in a long time. He's mucho-macho. Even though he has now "made it", he's a little resentful about all the years on the way up to that great glittering star at the top. When asked about those who now wish to become his instant friends (the kind fame and fortune buy for you) he had this classic quote to reply with: "Where were you when I was living in the Hotel Barf and eating hot and cold running disease?" Nice - boy mmmmm and another star is born.

Here's a pip hot off the Canadian press... Margaret Trudeau (What else is new). Margaret gorgeous in a creamy white dress with pearls at the hem - sipping her Cabernet Sauvignon at the White House dinner and absolutely dazzling everyone - and she had a run in her stocking. "Can you believe it? The Canadian Press seems to have it all backwards - your not supposed to run down your own Beauty always comes from within not from without.

Margaret Trudeau is different - she doesn't want to fit a pre formed mould. This is one member of Canadian journalism that believes Margaret Trudeau is one beautiful person runs or no runs. For shame for shame, beauty, according to some members of the Canadian Press could never be a run in a silk stocking.

If the Scots have Nessie - guess what the Russians have? You guessed it Loch Ness. It of course Pravda reports a huge snake like creature in Lake Kik-Koi. An expert on evolution Dr. Sergei Kumov said "it would be wrong to dismiss the idea of a monster." Why not?

Here's the wife of baseball star Johnny Bench with the ultimate in wifely putdowns. "He is a great athlete, a mediocre everything else, and a true tragedy as a person." Ahhhh for wedded bliss.

Have you ever asked yourself the question...How does a Prince choose a wife? No. Well here's where you find the answer. A fishmonger once offered Prince Charles this sage bit of wisdom: "Master make sure you look at the mother first." Well, the whole thing sounds a little fishy to me - but we all know that he's bound to make a good catch. oohhhh

Here's a believe it or not straight from the heart of downtown Etobicoke. They have a new by-law that forbids anyone to sing or whistle in residential areas between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. Can you believe it. Picture this...Boy meets girl (in Etobicoke) boy dates girl (time passes) boy kisses girl (midnight is here) boy kicks up heel and trips down Burnhamthorpe road doing Gene Kelly Singing in the Rain. "I'm in love, I'm in love with a..." boy arrested and charged with singing and whistling. I tell you folks the world has gone to hell in a handcart.

Here's a word of wisdom from a group of London doctors who have formed CURB - Campaign on the Use and Restriction of Barbiturates, for all you insomnia sufferers out there in reader land. Forget the pills - that's right dear readers, and not to leave you all up in the air wondering what to do, the good doctors have a first rate substitute for your tranquilizers. Don't take drugs to go to sleep - make love instead." Do you see that Martha? Love-making according to the doctors report, is an excellent way to relax and get a good night's sleep. Sleep on it.

Here's a quote worth cutting out and carrying around with you Richard Harris speaking about his relationship with his wife Anne Furlth had this to say: "My relationship with Anne transcends sexuality. It embraces the most beautiful word in the dictionary. A word called caring." That's one word we could all do a little more with Richard my lad - thanks for reminding us.

Last but not least comes this eye-stopper from George Gamster of the Toronto Star. When Peter Falk star of Columbo leaves a poker game he takes out his glass eye places it on his cards and warns the other players, "I'm keeping my eye on you." Really folks that's the way he does it.

Till next week - here's looking at you.

On The Home Front

Spring has sprung

By SUSAN De FACENDIS
By George, I think we made it! Am I wrong - or did spring suddenly and boisterously leap into the frozen north to touch our pallid faces with its warmth?

Apart from the fact that by the time this column appears in print we shall doubtless be buried under yet another 12 inches of snow, one cannot let this first appearance of spring pass unnoticed, unheralded.

It is definitely the "silly" season. As the days become balmy we become barmy, kicking up our heels like new colts, flinging off our coats, opening the windows and delighting in an orgy of excess energy.

Thoughts of spring, mad March hares and easter bunnies brought to mind a foolish, long-ago incident that seems appropriate for this week of general madness.

Once upon a time, at around the age of 12, I kidnapped a rabbit. His name was Wilfred. Now Wilfred was not one of your ordinary *Oryctolagus cuniculus*. He was possibly the largest rabbit I have ever seen, with unquestionably the longest ears.

Silvery grey in colour, he would regard you with a glint of humorous intelligence; refuse anything but the choicest of carrots and was generally a pretty amiable fellow as far as rabbits went.

The major drawback to my friendship with Wilfred, was simply that he was not mine. He belonged to my closest girlfriend who also happened to have a rather tyrannical grandmother living in the house.

In the unfathomable way of adults, granny promised Wilfred to the local butcher and it was this horrifying turn of events that resulted in the kidnapping of Wilfred.

My girlfriend and I, acting in collusion, stuffed Wilfred into a canvas carry bag and I rapidly headed for a bus stop and home. In retrospect I think granny knew what I was up to, because she insisted on walking to the bus stop with me - the small talk and my guilty conscience not being made any easier to bear as the heavy Wilfred ungratefully kicked and squirmed.

My mother took the arrival of a large, angry grey rabbit unceremoniously dumped on the middle of her livingroom carpet, with equanimity. She had developed a certain fatalistic attitude toward whatever I might happen to adopt from the animal kingdom, no doubt with the idea that an assortment of rabbits, white mice, fish, dogs and hedgehogs were probably a lesser evil for her daughter than boyfriends.

For four glorious hours Wilfred was mine, but alas, much as I would like to end the story happily, I cannot.

Inevitably there came a knock at the door and there stood granny, the red roses bobbing furiously on her hat as she demanded the return of Wilfred. Having verified his absence and questioned her grand-daughter, she had come to regain rightful possession of her property. I can only assume granny did not take her promises to butchers lightly.

Heartick and filled with the anger of outraged justice, I replaced Wilfred in the bag, took one final look at his magnificent whiskers, stroked his silky ears for the last time - and silently handed him over to his doom.

It is strange. While I cannot remember the name or face of one single boyfriend from those far-off days, I have never been able to see an Easter rabbit without fondly remembering Wilfred.

Well, I warned you it was the silly season.

Nothing gained

Public works committee chairman Jack Rafits wants to use threats to gain compliance by developers to dedicate land for widening of regional roads.

And if the developers fail to see the logic of helping the region, then he proposes the region wield a big stick threatening expropriation or difficulty in gaining approval of subdivision agreements when they appear before council.

Mr. Rafits told the committee possibly it should check assessment on lands and determine the rate of taxation. If a developer does not comply with the request for dedication, the regional assessment office be called to re-assess the land to increase the taxes paid.

Until the Blair Commission recommendations calling for market value assessment on all properties is implemented, re-assessment of properties can't be made unless there's been a change in ownership in the area; or servicing and improvements made.

Queen's Park

Smith enunciations fuel separatist fires

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

Liberal leader Stuart Smith could be very much like a little boy playing with matches. For by now Dr. Smith has made it very evident that he hopes to make National Unity an issue in the provincial election, and this is living dangerously indeed.

SHOWS IGNORANCE.
Dr. Smith grew up in Montreal but he shows little appreciation of the true climate either in that city or in the province of Quebec.

Particularly he doesn't show appreciation of the strong separatist press in the province and of the strong propaganda machine which Rene Levesque and the Parti Quebecois will mount.

In fact, rather than appreciate this Dr. Smith seems determined to give it ammunition.

GIVING EXAMPLES.
The Liberal leader has been travelling across Ontario preaching the message that we are not treating our Frenchophones properly.

He says we don't give our French the same rights as the English enjoy in Quebec

and goes on to give examples. Aside from the fact that Dr. Smith is on dubious ground today he is feeding the Quebec press and propagandists just what they are looking for.

When one of the province's three main party leaders accuses it of discrimination they can paint a convincing picture for their Quebec audience and particularly that element in it which is still undecided on the separation question.

WIN SUPPORT.
A disturbing point is that the Smith campaign could win considerable support. There is a large group of people in Ontario who would be militant towards Quebec.

Not realizing the true situation in the province they would like to see us fighting it at least with a continual battle of words. Smith is now their natural leader.

Thank goodness that the premier and Stephen Lewis, appreciating the realities of the situation, have taken a more statesmanlike approach.

Looking through our files

20 YEARS AGO

Our population, as shown by the assessor's returns is 2,889. According to the records of the division registrar during year 1947, there was one birth and no still births. Deaths from all causes numbered 19.

Total health spending for the year was \$3,919.54, town council was told. The medical officer received \$363.14, the Public Health Nurse \$792.00 and the Sanitary Inspector \$210.00.

The municipal offices are now located at the Post Office in the upstairs room used during the war by the Red Cross.

On Sunday afternoon the fire brigade was called to the home of Mr. Sorenson in College View to put out a roof fire. The brigade also was called to Cedarvale School to put out a fire.

Junior Beaumont, a Glen Williams boy who played left wing on Georgetown's Junior "C" hockey team this year, has been chosen to attend a three day Hockey School at Maple Leaf Gardens.

20 YEARS AGO
The Chamber of Commerce has asked that a sub post office be established in the eastern part of Georgetown. A letter has been sent to Ottawa through the local postmaster outlining the need for a branch office until Georgetown gets postal delivery.

CHWO Radio, of Oakville, presented a play-by-play account of the Georgetown Raider-Oakville Meteor game. Behind the "mike" repeating what he saw on the ice before him was CHWO announcer Bob

McLaughlin.

In a panel discussion at Chapel Street Home and School meeting, 12 pupils participated in a panel discussion lead by Mrs. W.S. Sloan. Questions such as "What improvements would you institute if you were principal?" and "Do you think jeans should be worn in school?" were debated.

Meeting with the Georgetown Planning Board on Monday, council heard Mr. Pearson from the Ontario Board of Planning state his views on the zoning bylaws. "It's council's job to make the very best decision for the good of the town on the whole, and with the vision for twenty years ahead," Mr. Pearson said.

10 YEARS AGO
One hundred and five public school pupils will leave June 12 for Expo. They have chartered buses through Georgetown Transportation Company. The three-day jaunt will cost the students \$45.

Parkin Associates of Toronto have been engaged to do architectural work on additions that will go on Georgetown Public School and Centennial Senior Public School.

A six-week program of informal fun has been started by the local YMCA. Known as the So-ed Club, meaning social education club, it is aimed at the frequently forgotten single adults between 21 and 40.

Only three members of county council were in favor of moving the county museum at last week's county council meeting. Deputy Reeve Rogers felt that the museum should be moved out to Kelso Conservation Area.

Differences in life of Quebecois noted in old report

By STEWART MacLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

Some time ago, an outsider went into Quebec, took a look at the controversial educational system and wrote this: "In Montreal and Quebec there are English schools and French schools; the children in these are accustomed to fight nation against nation, and the quarrels that arise among boys in the streets usually exhibit a division into English on one side, and French on the other."

We have all heard this before in the last few years.

Then this particular outsider took a careful look at the media in Quebec. Those who are familiar with the literature of France, know that the same opinion will be

expressed by an English and French writer of the present day, not merely in different words, but in a style different as to mark utterly different habits of thought.

"The article in the newspapers of each race, are written in a style as widely different as those of France and England at present; and the arguments which convince the one, are calculated to appear utterly unintelligible to the other."

"This difference of language produces misconceptions yet more fatal even than those which it occasions with respect to opinions; it aggravates the national animosities, by representing all the events of the day in utterly different lights."

WONDERING WHY?
Just about now, you must be wondering why I am repeating these observations at such length. Well, we have been hearing exactly this type of explanation ever since bilingualism and biculturalism became such a big issue 15 years ago. And with the current

focus on separatism and national animosities - not to mention educational rights and separatists in the media - there is nothing new in any of these quotations.

Right. But it happens that these views were expressed 137 years ago by John George Durham who was sent from England to study the present and future government of Upper and Lower Canada. The Durham report is a fascinating document in light of present day developments.

Some of it could have been written by our current politicians.

"It is difficult to conceive the perversity with which misrepresentations are habitually made, and the gross delusions which find currency among the people; they thus live in a world of misconceptions, in which each party is set against the other not only by diversity of feelings and opinions, but by an actual belief in an utterly different set of facts."

We have heard that many times since

Lord Durham went home. And back in 1840, this British observer was noting that "Never again will the present generation of French Canadians yield a loyal submission to a British government."

SOUNDS FAMILIAR
About the English in Quebec, the good Lord had this observation: "They find themselves still a minority in the midst of a hostile and organized people; apprehensions of secret conspiracies and sanguinary designs haunt them incessantly, and their only hope of safety is supposed to rest on systematically terrifying and disabling the French."

And so far as the French-dominated National Assembly was concerned, "It cannot be denied that they overlooked with considerable jealousy and dislike on the increase and prosperity of what they regarded as a foreign and hostile race...and instead of legislating in the American spirit and first providing for the future population of the Province, their primary care was in the spirit

of legislation which prevails in the old world, to guard the interests and feelings of the present race of inhabitants."

Here is another 1840 observation: "However unwilling we may be to attribute the disorders of a country connected with us to a cause so fatal to its tranquillity, and one which seems so difficult to remove, no very long or labored consideration of the relative characters and positions of these races is needed for convincing us of their invincible hostility towards each other."

"It is scarcely possible to conceive descendants of any of the great European nations more unlike each other in character and temperament, more totally separated from each other by language, laws and modes of life, or placed in circumstances more calculated to produce mutual misunderstanding, jealousy and hatred."

I find this encouraging. Things have obviously improved in the last 137 years, and perhaps we'll yet make it to the finish line.

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