

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

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Look ahead with hope

It is a mark of human decency to feel shame at having been born into the 20th century. So began the introduction to a popular reprint.

The statement reflects an uneasy conviction that people of our time have somehow sunk to an ultimate of bestiality and degeneracy, and have brought us to the brink of hell, with about three minutes left to midnight, and the end.

No one, of course, should try to dismiss the facts about our age that have generated despair. Yet we should resist the tendency, as old as humanity, to let the evil of immediate circumstance overwhelm us.

The world today does not impinge upon the individual life with greater peril than our ancestors knew, nor call for a greater courage than they mustered.

The atomic bomb, though it makes possible a new dimension of physical destruction, yet can present to any individual no threat worse than death. Countless generations have lived under that shadow. The stouthearted have always had to build a bridgehead of hope on the edge of pessimism.

In fact, the presence of fear must have been much more immediate to past generations in the path of a conqueror, or in the midst of an epidemic, than to the present multitudes who watch television and the instant communication of bad news it reports daily.

Indeed, television seems to cater to the mysterious twist in human nature that prefers to hear evil than good. Thus we are too little acquainted with the enormous amount of mutual aid, the degree of brotherhood, the dialogue between religions, that, though less than our ability, yet never before reached such a measure.

Moreover, if we are entering the twilight of a spent civilization, we can look for light to come into the Dark Ages where it has always burst forth in the last two thousand years: to the

then, Youngest Christian Churches; this time, the Churches of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Where there is no hope for the future, there is no power in the present. However, there is nothing within our knowledge to destroy the firm conviction that now, as in time past, the prophets of gloom and doom will lose out to the apostles of faith and hope.

Easter People

Spring is a good time for Easter, with its resurgence of life-life bursting from every patch of soil, every branch. Spring is a good symbol of Easter, when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and remember that the tomb could not hold Him; that He came alive for evermore. An important fact of faith.

Proof? It is not a matter of documents, of witnesses. Like most important things in life, the answers are not something you know, but something you live. Not something you discover, but what you have a part in creating.

The proof of the resurrection is in people living the resurrection, living their lives conscious of the living God. People living for others, daily relying on the strength, the insight, the presence of the living God. They are Easter People.

Some Easter People are well known, like Mother Teresa in Calcutta, giving her life to the poor. Most are not famous. You can recognize them though! They are fresh, springlike, alive people, people with a touch of the eternal in them now. They've a great perspective on life, seeing beyond themselves, beyond today. Easter People are a breath of spring after a long winter, a light in a dark room. Easter is about being alive and living.



Spring has sprung, cabin fever lags as last breezes of winter depart

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH
Spring has sprung and victims of "cabin fever" are found everywhere—even right here at home in Halton Hills. Cabin fever you'll no doubt recall is an old time mountain term for what happens to us human folk after being shut away all winter from the warm summer sun and balmy spring breezes.

Cabin fever in one form or another hits everyone young and old alike. The only known cure is the resulting rebound condition occurring regularly about this time of year, known as "Spring Fever". So here it is spring

and what can you do about it? Well, first of all enjoy - then you might want to go break a record. No - not your teenage darling's BTD or Hush 21-12 but the kind of record that might turn up in the Guinness Book of World Records - the 1977 latest edition has just hit the bookshelves.

I guess the reasoning behind some of the stranger records set by what we hope are otherwise perfectly sane people is everyone's basic desire to be a champion at something.

Here's a few of the zanier ones you might want to improve upon or just sit back and chuckle at.

You might want to set a record for growing your finger nails. The record you'll have to beat is held by Murari Moham whose longest nail measures over 13 inches. His fingers resemble a hand with five long skinny snakes twisting and turning in various positions. But nevertheless his 13 inch nails are a definite world's record.

How about being dummy - the mannequin variety.

Why not, all you have to do is take on a voluntary motionless position for longer than 5 hours and 40 minutes. The record is held by William Fugua. Probably someone told him to "dummy up" and the result was a world's record.

What about a kissing record - sound interesting? You'll have to keep at it for more than 119 hours and 12 minutes - after that the poor darlings probably required mouth to mouth resuscitation.

For our medical friends out there in reader land, you might want to challenge the record of former colleague Dr. Albert Weiner. Dr. Weiner is the world's fastest "psychiatrist". He dealt with 50 patients a day in four different treatment rooms. P.S. In 1961 he was found guilty of 12 counts of manslaughter from using unsterilized needles. Now I ask you is that fair? After all if one's going to be the world's fastest psychiatrist something has to go. Sterile equipment shouldn't have to count - should it?

Here's one for our golfing friends. How about balancing golf balls one on top of the other. The record is five new balls straight up held by Mark Baumann. You could say he was right on the ball - or having a ball - or balls of fun or ...

Why not start a ball of string? The record is 11 feet in diameter and weighing 5 tons. It took Francis Johnson since 1950 to amass his collection. His friends probably considered he was just another string along.

By the way the record for the most painstaking editor in terms of suffering through every pun of one's strange and zany writer, is held by the Herald's own incredulously persevering Bob Rutter. Sorry folks you'll just have to pick another category.

Now off you go - pick your poison and watch Halton Hills turn into the record breaking capital of the world. After all - Margaret can't have all the glory.

Moralism is a basic Tory trait, tradition

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

From time to time there are indications that there is a strong block of good old Tory conservatives in the government.

On such matters as rent control policy this conservatism has shone through.

The government has acted, but reluctantly, and often as if it was at the end of a gun. Of course also it has been highly moralistic - with Attorney-General Roy McMurtry and his hockey policy as an outstanding example.

And moralism is in the old time Tory tradition. But nowhere probably has this conservative approach been so well illustrated as in the getting to be famous Blue Jay decision.

The government, after deep thought and long consideration decided not to permit Toronto's new big league ball team to sell beer at CNE Stadium, which will be its home park.

This decision can be nothing but old time morality politics. Thirty years ago beer probably couldn't have been permitted in a hall park without public indignation. But we aren't living 30 years ago. We are living in 1977 and times have changed.

Every one of the other 25 cities in the American and National leagues has beer in

its parks. It has grown to be part of the game. And we have liquor at other sports activities.

Our race tracks are full of bars. If you've ever been to one of our major golf tournaments you know that booze is part of the scene.

NOT PROTECTION But in our government's outlook, apparently there is something sinful about sitting in a stand on a sunny afternoon, watching a ball game and having a cup of beer.

Yes, and it was to be served in paper cups.

Protection wasn't the angle. There wasn't any fear that somebody might try throwing out the first can or bombarding the umpire.

You can't hurt anyone with a paper cup. It was indicated that the government will reconsider its ban if the public shows an interest.

One will get you ten that it will be reconsidered - and before too long.

For there will be pressure not only from the public but from within the house here. With a foolish decision such as this the opposition isn't going to let the government off the hook.

Why even the local police have come out for beer in the park.

Halton Pro-life group critical of comment

The Halton Pro-Life movement has written a telegram to Prime Minister Trudeau demanding federal Health Minister Marc Lalonde resign.

Mr. Lalonde proposed changes to existing abortion policy without the approval of Parliament, the group claims.

Mr. Lalonde proposed that family planning services include abortion counselling and stated that he intends to exert pressure on provincial parliaments to establish abortion clinics.

"Mr. Lalonde has decided that he knows what is best for the rest of Canada without proper parliamentary procedure using the power of

his office to impose his views on abortion for the rest of Canada," said Lynda Ciancone, president of Halton Pro-Life in a press release.

In the telegram to Prime Minister Trudeau it was stated: "Marc Lalonde Minister of Health must go. He is a threat to life and health of Canadians."

Halton Pro-Life, with membership of over 500 Canadians, is affiliated with the Canadian Pro-Life Movement, co-ordinated nationally under Alliance for Life and with Coalition for Life the political arm of Pro-Life located in Toronto and the Front Commun pour La Respect de La Vie of Quebec.

Perhaps new House should be a Senate

By STEWART MacLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

I hope the government doesn't lose sight of the suggestion by Professor Dale Thomson that a new house of Parliament be established to bring together the regional voices of Canada.

Perhaps it should be called the Senate. Professor Thomson's suggestion to a Liberal policy workshop in Toronto should be considered in tandem with an idea from Senator Maurice Lamontagne that still another institution be established to bring together the views of a wide variety of Canadian decision makers. "What is needed is a proper institutional framework, allowing for a well prepared continuing dialogue," says the Quebec senator.

He suggests this new body be called Futures Canada or Horizons Canada. These names don't impress me too much but, again I like the title Senate.

Here we have been talking about Senate reform for some 50 years in Canada, and along come two clear thinkers with ideas for new institutions. It's a heaven-

sent opportunity to accomplish everything within the framework of the much maligned present Senate.

In fact, the Senate all along should have been doing exactly what these two men now are talking about.

Continuing Dialogue Senator Lamontagne wants Futures or Horizons Canada to bring together a well-prepared and continuing dialogue on national issues. He would want his organization to have a representative cross-section of Canadian thinkers to break down the strengthening regionalism in the country. The present trend "leads us to chaos," he says.

It seems to me that was one of the prime responsibilities handed the Senate when it was established by the British North America Act.

Although more emphasis was placed on protecting provincial rights, the founding speeches made it clear the Senate would be a form of sober second-thought, bringing together the views of the regions it protected.

Trouble was, successive governments have never paid enough attention to appointing a truly representative group of Cana-

dians. Partisan bagmen and members of the government in power, tended to get first crack at the comforts of the Senate and the present annual income of \$31,200.

But there is no reason why the selection process can't change, or even be handed over to provincial governments. Prime Minister Trudeau has indicated he would have no objection to this.

The new house advocated by Professor Thomson would include provincial premiers and others nominated by the provinces. He said this would have the effect of recognizing premiers as national statesmen and would eliminate any thoughts of them being powerless in the nation's capital.

He suggested that the new house sit on Mondays and Fridays so the premiers could be home for the rest of the week. This new house would have clearly-defined powers to formulate national policy.

DELAY UNNECESSARY Great idea. But instead of going through the painful process of establishing two new institutions, the government could start by filling some of the present 15 Senate vacancies with provincial premiers, and giving

provincial governments the power to make subsequent appointments as vacancies become available. Senator Lamontagne could draw up the guidelines covering such appointments to ensure there was an adequate cross-section of Canadian opinion.

Naturally there would be conflicts and difficulties as a new revitalized Senate entered the national decision-making process but these problems would arise in any such institution whether it be the Premiers Canada or Retirement Canada.

The point is, the Senate's constitutional authority and physical facilities are already in place. The chamber stands empty most of the time, a majority of senators are usually away from Ottawa, and the institution is gradually losing its relevancy.

But just think how the place would change if, even for one day a week, all provincial premiers got together with other active members of the Canadian decision-making community and helped formulate federal policies? And all at no extra cost.

Looking through our files

30 YEARS AGO
Georgetown council and school board hosted a meeting with guests from Acton, Milton, Nassagaweya, and Esqueping councils and school boards to discuss the formation of a North Halton high school district. Discussion also included a location for the proposed consolidated high school which will serve the entire north end of the county. Mayor Gibbons pointed out advantages to locating the school in Georgetown as opposed to building it at Speyside. A committee composed of one member from each group was appointed to investigate the proposals and report to a later meeting to be held in Milton.

The first five homes in the Veterans' Housing subdivision on the highway have been completed and allocated. There will be 36 homes in the subdivision, mostly 4 and 5 room houses with few 6-room homes. The rents are set at \$22, \$27.50 and \$30 a month and include a flat-rate water heater and a coal stove for heating.

The Georgetown St. John's Ambulance Brigade initiated a free blood-typing service on March 24 by typing blood for several prominent citizens including Mayor Joseph Gibbons.

20 YEARS AGO
W.F. Hunter has moved his real estate business from Brampton to a new building he constructed at the corner of Edward Street and the highway.

Council was informed that a discrepancy of 376 people in the census figures may cost the town \$1,100. Federal census figures for 1955 show Georgetown as having a population of 5,881. According to the figures of Assessment Commissioner Joseph Gibbons the town's population was 6,257.

10 YEARS AGO
The International Bantam Hockey Tournament was forced to move to Acton for one day when an ice planing operation ran into difficulties. At one point bare cement was showing even though the men worked all night to try to save the surface. A free shuttle service took the players and fans to Acton for games.

Two readings were given to a bylaw doubling the price of dog licences in the town. It is the first increase since 1931. Males will now cost \$4, to licence while females cost \$8.

Sid Silver, president of Woodrex Ltd., has announced plans to construct a commercial building on the site of the old Creelman Knitting Machine factory. The new building will house a number of retail stores and offices.

Council approved the purchase of new boots and uniforms for the police force but turned down a tender for a new police cruiser because no trade-in had been asked for in the advertisement.

Daily needs tampering brings 'gut' reaction

By SUSAN DE FACENDIS
It never fails. Let Big Brother start messing around with a nifty gritty reality such as what we can or cannot eat and drink, and you will get a "gut" reaction from the public.

The big issues today are simply too big. Separatism? It is too abstract. Idi Amin? A disgrace to the human race, but he's not likely to run into him at the average PTA meeting. Touch on our daily lives however and "don't touch my diet pop" becomes the rallying cry for vast numbers of dieters and diabetics.

Personally, if the only proof yet existing is that 600 to 800 cans of the stuff a day is going to be dangerous to one's health, then I think the saccharin ban could be well considered somewhat over-cautious. It would appear to me that the average person's waterworks would fold under the pressure of that consumption long before the saccharin could finish them off.

The issue of saccharin however, has obviously opened up yet another gloomy look at our food consumption and its effects.

At the beginning of a three day seminar of the Society of Toxicology being held in Toronto (and keep in mind that was only the first day) we were advised that the white potato, sweet potato, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, turnip, corn, peanuts and cured meats are all hazardous to our health. Maybe this information will at least tempt our kids to finally eat vegetables.

We have already been warned that barbecued steaks are deadly; that eggs will build up enough cholesterol in your arteries to defy a bulldozer and, if I had known in time, I would have warned my great-grandfather, a breakfast-bacon lover, the danger he was courting. Alas, he passed away at the age of 89 before the scientists started doing their "thing" with the monkeys and rats.

Meanwhile, my son Richard joyfully plans ahead for his prospective 120th birthday celebration because he never eats anything anyway, while I prepare my husband's lunch.

A gourmet delight awaits him of sodium nitrate and calcium chloride between two slices of potassium bromate, L-cysteine hydrochloride (roughly translated, a salami and cheese sandwich) and to top it off I even give him a choice of nourishing fresh fruits for dessert - a dyed orange, or a wax coated apple.

Why do I get the feeling when putting dinner on the table each night, that I am playing a role from Arsenic and Old Lace?

No relation to sales

To the editor of The Herald:
Recently the Ontario Handicapped Company has been active selling light bulbs to area residents.
This company is clearly a private enterprise and not a charity.
The North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded, which operates A.R.C. Industries, Tinker Bell Nursery, Countryside Residence, and the Halton Developmental Centre, DOES NOT BENEFIT from the sale of these light bulbs.
Yours truly
Eric J. Taylor
Executive Director

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