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# Ever vigilant

Progressive Conservative Leader Joe Clark has issued a warning to Canadians that while they generally support the RCMP in on-going security scandal, there is a threat to basic freedom which may result.

Let's recap some of the situation surrounding the disclosures that have surfaced in the past month.

The RCMP was involved in a break-in at the Agence-Press-Libre de Quebec; entry was made into offices where computer tapes containing membership lists of the Parti

Quebecois were held; and a barn was burned in the Eastern Townships of Quebec to prevent a meeting between the FLQ and the American Black Panthers.

Zeroing in on the PQ list entry some very questionable comments were made by elected government officials.

Solicitor-general Francis Fox told the House of Commons that Canadians "not to be overly hasty in passing judgment in this case." He said the climate of the times may have dictated the action and that there is some possibility that the act may not be illegal since the tapes were returned.

Then at a press conference the Prime Minister states that "what I'm saying is that maybe there are certain cases of surveillance which should be authorized in the name of national security."

Maybe. But Canadians now have no assurance that the institutions that have been the foundation of this country's development have become a tool of the government in power.

Since the statements by Mr. Fox and Mr. Trudeau we have learned that tax information, personal medical information, and mail have been made available to the police forces.

It is incomprehensible that such actions could take place while Canadians have always prided themselves with an efficient and confidential handling of such information. It is equally incomprehensible that the ministers responsible for overseeing such acts have not advised the Canadian people of when they were informed, or whether they authorized such actions, and for what purpose.

Until this is provided openly and honestly we may have taken the first steps toward the erosion of our freedoms that Mr. Clark speaks of.

## DID YOU KNOW?

By *Janice*

ON MARCH 17, 1889, A SUBMARINE, DEVELOPED BY JOHN P. HOLLAND, REMAINED SUBMERGED OFF STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. FOR 1 HOUR, 45 MINUTES.

BLUE WHALES, LARGEST CREATURES TO INHABIT THE EARTH, MAY YIELD 10,000 GALLONS OF OIL.

## AROUND THE RIM

### Credit: A social ill?

By BOB RUTTER  
Herald editor

Gerry Landsborough, The Herald's editorial page columnist, this week unwittingly points out one of the greatest social ills affecting today's generation of young people.

Credit. Too much; too easy.

The couple she remarks about who are without adequate food and shelter and with a husband in jail for allowing the family dog to starve to death are in those circumstances through an admitted misuse of credit.

They are both in their early twenties and probably now face a lifetime of distress attempting to untangle an ever-increasing web of liabilities they face.

They will need help.

One answer is to seek credit counselling. While it could be too late in this particular case, it isn't in many others.

And there are others. Many others. I

know because I hear of many from my wife who is a manager for a finance firm. Credit problems are today more common than anyone is yet prepared to acknowledge, and with a worsening economy financial problems by young people overextended on credit will make the situation worse.

All this leads to the Halton Credit Counselling Service request for financial support from North Halton. The group now receives funding from the provincial ministry of community and social services and from both the Oakville and Hamilton-Wentworth Burlington United Ways.

But no funds to support its service in North Halton.

Shortly the group will approach Halton Hills and Milton councils seeking that support. Council should view the application with great care and weigh the advantages of supporting it.

It is a service that no community should be without.

### Got a beef?

Got a beef?  
Want to write to your elected member of the federal or provincial parliament? Then you can contact them at the following addresses:

**CANADA**  
Halton constituency — (Liberal) Dr. Frank Philbrook, MP, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario.  
Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe — Constituency (Liberal) Ross Milne, MP, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario.  
Wellington — Constituency (Liberal) Dr. Frank Maine, MP, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario.

There is no requirement for postage to be affixed to letters mailed to elected members of federal parliament. There is, however, no provision for free mailing to elected mem-

bers of the provincial parliament.

**ONTARIO**  
Halton-Burlington constituency — (Liberal) Julian Reed, MPP, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario.

Oakville constituency — (Progressive Conservative) Hon. James Snow, MPP, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario.

Brampton constituency — (Progressive Conservative) Hon. William Davis, MPP, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario.

Wellington-dufferin-Peel constituency — (Progressive Conservative) Jack Johnson, MPP, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario.

Readers contacting their elected representatives about any concerns they may have should also feel free to direct a copy of their correspondence to The Herald where it will be considered for publication. We welcome letters.



## Some good tear-jerker stories designed to play on our guilt

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH

Whether by coincidence or plan we read a lot of stories at this time of year of need and desperation - of people in plight crying out to us.

These stories play primarily on our guilt, for having so much when others have so little. Some of these stories deserve whatever help the public can give while others are not quite so deserving.

Our guilt for the bounty of Christmas drops more dollars in the black kettle of the Sally Ann and it drops readily for the school drive fund that is always set up strategically in front of the LCBO. Though the gathering of the funds might by a bit calculated, it is usually for a good cause and thus it becomes money well spent.

However, not all the stories of desperation and need fall into the same category. A recent story in the Toronto Star of the Carvello family requires more than the "tears" at first glance.

Mrs. Janet Carvello's husband was sent to jail for 15 days for starving the family's pet dog to death. The only food found in the animal's stomach was its own hair that it had torn from its body in desperation.

The story told of Mrs. Carvello's plight; how the family was broke; and how she herself had not eaten for two days and the room the family shared was without any food for the two Carvello children age three years and three months.

The father was unemployed and the family had been evicted from their apartment. At first glance the story is indeed pathetic, yet, on looking closer you discover in the picture accompanying Mrs. Carvello's tale of woe that she is smoking a cigarette. With two children without food you would wonder where the funds for cigarettes came from.

Starving a dog to death supposedly because you couldn't afford to feed it is inexcusable. The dog was left for 11 days without food or water. One phone call to the Humane Society would have taken care of

that poor animal.

A further letter from Maurice Cowper-Smith of the Toronto Humane Society to the editorial page of The Star told how an inspector also found an aquarium full of fish that had been left to die without the heater or the aerator turned on.

I find it hard to relate to people who cry poverty and yet find the funds for cigarettes. There is a strong streak of irresponsibility in anyone that would allow an animal to starve to death slowly or otherwise for that matter - the same irresponsibility shows in the buying of cigarettes when your children are supposedly without food.

"I say 'humbbug'" to this kind of tear-jerker that tries to milk sympathy in the form of dollars from well-meaning people who feel sorry for the Carvello's plight. Being broke without a job, unemployment having run out, is hard - these are hard times we live in - but the cigarette money could have been spent on food.

If you can find money for smokes in that kind of situation either your priorities are shot or you're just plain irresponsible at any rate you don't get my sympathy.

Another "heart" story of a different nature that recently came to light was that of three-year-old Lori McLachlen who was severely mauled by the family's pet dog. The dog, a five-year-old Doberman Pinscher turned on the youngster turning into the side of her face. It took more than 30 stitches to close the wounds plus plastic surgery to replace the missing bone in Lori's cheek. The wee girl lost several teeth with a rip under her right eye caused the eye to come away from its socket and the doctors say the tear duct in that eye is completely destroyed.

Now the first impression from this story is how sad, and how vicious and unpredictable dogs are. However on looking further it is disclosed that the previous owner of the dog got rid of it because it killed three other dogs.

The owner of the Oxford Animal Shelter Stephanie Williams said the McLachlen family should never have taken the dog for a family pet because "Dobermans are bred as guard dogs and are known for being unpredictable."

Mr. McLachlen said he purchased the dog last summer for protection and as a pet for Lori.

People who buy dogs should be aware of the responsibility of being a pet owner. A dog is only as good as its training or trainer for that matter. Dogs, like people, come in all sizes, shapes and personalities.

Some dogs such as Dobermans and some varieties of Shepherds are bred especially as guard dogs and are not meant to be family pets.

A puppy is best for a family - this allows the dog to grow and become accustomed to having children around. But puppies are not toys and should not be given to youngsters to pull at, poke and toss around. Dogs have temperaments as varied as people and some are not good with small children. Parents have the responsibility of knowing the breed of the animal they bring into their homes, and what type of nature that particular breed is noted for.

The tragic incident with Lori McLachlen could have been avoided by following the above. Mr. McLachlen is at present unemployed and on welfare.

Lori's surgery has already cost more than \$7,000. There is no question that the family is in "need" because of what happened to Lori and a fund has been set up by Citizens Band operators in the area.

However, people should not misplace their emotions and place all the blame on the dog. A guard dog should not be a family pet, and as heartless as it may sound feeding a dog is a luxury you can ill afford in welfare.

It's hard enough to feed a family and the extra three or four dollars a week it takes to feed the dog could well be spent on food for the family.

## A late candidate for NDP leadership?

By DON O'HEARN  
Queens Park Bureau

Will there be a last minute surprise candidate for the New Democratic Party leadership?

One can imagine that certain people near the top of the party are fervently hoping so.

For, so far, the leadership and its campaign has been turning out to be a dud. And it shows every sign of continuing that way.

If any display of the listlessness of the campaign to date was needed it was provided at the OFL convention of the Ontario Federation of Labor.

The convention did have a session on political education at which the three announced candidates - Ian Deans, Mike Breugh and Michael Cassidy - spoke.

But this was pretty well the entire attention that was given to the leadership.

**SCANT INTEREST**  
And, more important, both union leaders and rank and file members made it clear that at this point they couldn't care less.

Very few were committing themselves to any of the candidates, and there was a definite impression that a good share of the delegates didn't feel that anyone of the three was even adequate.

If an assembly of the leading labor people in the province, people who are religiously committed to the NDP, is like this how must the rest of the party feel?

Of the three candidates, Deans apparently is in front with labor.

Mike Breugh apparently did make a bit of an impression, but he is comparatively unknown except to the United Auto Workers in his home-town Oshawa.

Mike Cassidy, as was to be expected, was too long and too complicated and didn't go across.

The main thing going for Deans with the labor people apparently is that he has long been a trade unionist (a firefighters).

**ROUNDED TONES**  
Also in the Hamilton member's favor is that he can sound impressive. He has enrobed himself in an aura of profundity, and his rounded tones probably impressed some people.

The great problem with him is that when you analyse his statements they add up to nothing.

## Looking through our files

**THIRTY YEARS AGO**  
Council voted \$50 bonuses to the town fireman, the three townmen and the clerk-treasurer.

Council also passed accounts including \$2,411 in legal fees for Town solicitor K. M. Langdon. Deputy-Reeve Armstrong said he thought the time had come to have the town solicitor get a retaining fee, but Mayor Gibbons said that this would still not get away from legal expenses. Some members of council were surprised at a charge of \$200 for drafting the proposed building bylaw and the \$500 plus \$75 travelling expenses for gathering information to support the town's claim that the CNR is responsible for widening the John Street Subway.

**TWENTY YEARS AGO**  
An opinion on a Delrex proposal to build 500 semi-detached houses in a portion of the annexed area of Georgetown which a Delrex-town agreement presently precludes, was read in the form of a brief from H. A. Lever, town auditor at Monday's council meeting.

There is a possibility of there being a third service club in Georgetown. Several young men are interested and have met twice with the president of the Oakville Kinsmen Club laying plans for the organization of a Kinsmen Club in Georgetown.

Georgetown Council will invite district manager Lloyd Denby to discuss addition of a number of phone subscribers to the Georgetown exchange if Chingquacious voters favour selling their municipal telephone exchange to the Bell Telephone.

**TEN YEARS AGO**  
By a slim majority of twenty-three votes, George Currie beat out George Leslie for the top spot in Esqueping council, the reeve of the township, when the township went to the polls Monday.

Voting to make repairs to the town's fire engine Monday, council also discussed the purchase of a second engine should Esqueping follow its plan to opt out of the fire area and establish its own department. The township owns one of the truck which are housed in the Georgetown fire hall and would be removing it to its own planned building.

Halton East's recently MPP Jim Snow presented the province's Century of Service award to Georgetown Herald publisher Walter Blehn in recognition of over a century of "distinguished and devoted service to the cause of Canadian journalism." The award was created in commemoration of the centennial of Confederation.

## FUNNYSIDE



By ROSE BUNCH

## Lifting the lid on secret sources

By STEWART MacLEOD  
Ottawa Bureau  
Of The Herald

I sat down here today with something important to say and, since I can't reveal where I got the information, I began wondering how I should describe my sources to indicate authenticity.

No one should ever do this. It's like staring at a word after questioning your own spelling ability. After five seconds the word itself looks ludicrous.

Since Ottawa is a bureaucratic town, and since bureaucrats have this hysterical aversion to being identified in print, we thrive on unidentified sources here. And that's fair. The trouble only arises when we tried to grade the quality of these sources.

We all like to leave the impression we have high-grade sources. There is nothing worse on the Ottawa cocktail circuit than to have people whispering that so-and-so have low-quality sources.

"He's a nice enough guy," someone might remark, "but I wish he would change his sources."

In the old days apparently it was acceptable to merely identify every non-identifiable person as a "source" or "sources". But now, thanks to the grading process, that is the most suspicious form of information on any reliability chart. Only "people" would get a lower rating.

At the other end of the scale, the situation remains in turmoil. For years you could not quote a higher authority than "unimpeachable sources", and that's exactly the term Washington correspondents used when they got information right from the top-of-the-record tips from former president Richard Nixon.

But since 1975, the word "unimpeachable" hasn't had the same solidity. No doubt it will be resurrected in the distant future, but in the meantime we do have problems.

I know some reporters who, when they

get information from the highest possible authority, use the expression "impeccable sources", but I have never felt really comfortable with this since, according to the dictionary, it specifically refers to people "not capable of sin or wrongdoing."

Since I've never known such people I'd rather come up with a better definition. Anyway, there is a tendency to associate "impeccable" with personal grooming-perhaps with people who have slicked-down hair and white shoes.

This brought me back to some of the old standards.

I've always been a bit partial to "authoritative sources", but since I became interested in the over-all subject today I checked the dictionary on this and found it refers to "wielding authority; commanding."

My sources may be incapable of sin, flawless and unimpeachable, but they certainly wouldn't wield any authority, nor are they commanding.

Sneaky; yes.

Another standby is "usually reliable sources", but this is really a form of insult. Since it should be assumed that any source is reliable, then the word "usually" merely dilutes the authenticity. It's like saying "He was pretty close to the mark the last time, let's see if he can tell the truth again."

The trouble with "well-informed" sources is that I always get the feeling that the person is not necessarily well-informed about the subject at hand. Prime Minister Trudeau is well-informed about politics and law, but he's rather dense about technical innovations in forestry and mining.

And "a source close to" someone else really isn't the answer. This term applies to next-door neighbors, barbers, janitors and spouses. In the same vein, "veteran observer" invariably applies to either the author of a story or a taxi driver.

So, in this case, I think I'll forget about sources and state everything as fact. Trouble is, I've forgotten what I intended to say.

Sorry about that.

**the HERALD**  
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