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Yawn! Can't sleep these days

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

Some of us have off-beat sleeping habits. Over the years (those many years of which I talk too much, and won't any more) a good napping time has been during opposition speeches on the budget, particularly during their financial critics' lead offs.

They have lately been masses of overwhelming figures or of righteous indignation which as righteous indignation tends to be has been largely hypocritical nonsense. Very sedating.

But not this year

POSITIVE PROPOSALS

Young Liberal businessman from London David Peterson, gave probably the best budget criticism we have had here in my time. It was informed, perceptive, cutting yet constructive.

Perhaps it didn't sound too well. No major budget speech can hardly do that. These are made principally to establish a record of positions and they have to include figures.

But on reading, it shone.

It was the best attack on government spending and forecasting habits (a controversial matter for some years now) to be heard here. It was a solid, marshalled argument

and made a good case for poor thinking by the government in its fiscal policies.

Most pertinently it pointed out the big spending that has been going on from pension funds and the huge debt to them being piled up and which will have to start being paid back in the eighties.

Peterson challenged that government spending has been limited only by the amount of pension money available to it. And he isn't the only one who thinks that.

But it was the constructive part of his speech which was the most impressive. Not only because it was a change to see positive proposals but also because his seemed practical, well thought out and needed.

As just two examples: There was a proposed 15 point energy program which outlined a thoughtful and aggressive plan for this key area. Then there was talk of "industrial strategy" a subject which many people talk about these days apparently without being too sure just what they are talking about, and though there wasn't a complete strategy outlined there were a number of specifics.

CASSIDY BETTER
Michael Cassidy didn't do too badly either.

He fell for the old NDP traps of exaggeration (the talk of "billions" of dollars of windfall profits in the Hydro uranium contracts. The largest profit that has been estimated for the two mines involved is \$1.6 billion); impracticality (the proposed \$30 million subsidy program for solar heating in new homes. Solar heating still has to be experimental); and indignation (everything was "outrageous").

This means that you rarely accept practically anything an NDP critic says as credible.

But within these limits Cassidy's was the best NDP budget speech in recent years, including his own last year, and he had some good stuff on apprenticeship (which the government has been working on for months but still hasn't arrived at a program), the impact of foreign ownership and other important points of the day.

Again, his stuff was very readable, so long as you kept your tongue in your cheek.

There probably was an advantage to these two critics in that today we are in real economic trouble and they thus had very concrete things to talk about.

But still, even allowing for this, they put some unaccustomed life and thought into budget criticism.

Is it the end?

Tuesday was the day that Ontario residents learned whether the provincial government was prepared to back off on its intent to increase OHIP premiums by more than 37 per cent.

It was also the day that would reveal whether the political career of Darcy McKeough had ended.

Faced with the prospect of a provincial election by opposition parties which have been backed into a corner once too often by what is sometimes described as an arrogant minority government, Bill Davis will have to moderate his position.

But whether the OHIP crisis is resolved or whether the Ontario electorate faces another election, Darcy McKeough has shown that he can err in his decisions, for it was his defense of the OHIP increase in the face of rising opposition that has brought the crisis to the point where it stood yesterday.

As one Halton Hills resident said recently, McKeough's resignation could mean the smell of success for opponents of the Bradley-to-Georgetown hydro corridor. If it does, then it would be worthwhile both for the people opposed to corridor and to the government which has suffered from a tarnished image over its hydro position.

McKeough, then energy minister was responsible for the decision to place the corridor through the Halton Hills Fifth Concession in 1974. Since that time there have been four energy ministers, all of whom have rejected

the honest arguments of the interested Citizens Group (ICG) based presumably upon the cabinet opposition of Darcy McKeough.

The Halton Hills resident believes, and we support that view, that should McKeough resign a moderate element of the government might be able to force the Bradley issue to an independent study. There has never been, either by government or Ontario Hydro, an adequate explanation of why they are not prepared to take such action.

There are still several avenues available to either delay or have rejected the hydro corridor. Among these are the Niagara Escarpment Commission proposals released two months ago, which among other things can only be overruled by ministerial order, the Ontario Municipal Board, and court hearings on questions of law.

Parents rights

Valid points have been raised by many toward the proposed changes in the Criminal Code which removes the right of parents or someone standing in his place to use force in disciplining a child.

What is at issue is whether a parent has the right to use force in correction of a child. The existing law allows such action, but the removal of that section of the Criminal Code is under debate.

Guelph Mercury recently commented that what is really at issue is what is reasonable force by a parent or someone standing in his place?

Attitudes change, and so does what people tend to appreciate as reasonable. Many years ago it was considered correct for a parent to take a child into the woodshed but today that form of discipline would not be acceptable in some quarters. Some might even suggest that it borders on child abuse.

There has to be some control left to the parent to provide discipline of his children. A permissive society has shown that there is a breakdown in respect for those legitimate concerns of society over respect for property and other values. To ask that parents spare the rod is to ask society to make its bed of nails and then have to lie on it.



Tinsel town madness

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH

Let's go Hollywood this week with a quick glance at some stars, some tragedy and some plain stuff and nonsense as we take a birds eye view of life in and around tinsel town.

A star such as Elvis Presley should be remembered and I'm sure his music will live on for generations to come but the wave of Elvis-mania that has been sweeping North America since his death is really getting out of hand. Almost every two-bit promoter has latched onto the "Elvis" make money from the death of Elvis bandwagon.

Even the final dignity of a family funeral has been turned into a three ring circus with promoters trying to sell pictures of the "king of rock and roll" in his coffin to go on everything from coffee cups and beer mugs to bumperstickers and T-shirts.

Greed for the almighty dollar doesn't recognize respect, honor or decency, "anything" goes as long as it sells.

The whole money-making-on-a-dead-man bit becomes a sad commentary on a decaying society that doesn't recognize its own malignancies.

The latest jump on the Elvis gravy train is from Official UFO magazine that claims "scientific proof" that Elvis had an exact duplicate of himself made before his death. The magazine claims that Elvis paid a whopping \$10 million for a cloning of his cells. The cloned duplicate has according to the magazine supposedly escaped from a Los Angeles institution and is now "on the loose on the streets somewhere."

UFO is offering \$100,000 reward for the so-called duplicate.

Personally, I think there ought to be a law protecting the dead against undue exploitation.

What a sad commentary on the type of garbage that can be fed to a willing public - the whole "Elvis after death trip" is sick, sick

sick!

Here at home our own Ontario Censor Board is up to its neck in hot water over its censorship of the latest Hollywood movie Pretty Baby. The film tells the story of a girl living in a brothel and her attitudes towards her mother's clients. The star of the movie is 12-year-old Brooke Shields. The movie apparently depicts scenes of raw sex and language. Its sexual scenes are supposedly quite explicit. The problem as I see it is this - censorship is never a good thing but there is nothing I know of that can exist without some kind of limitation. There are no hard statistics that prove what pornography corrupts - but it's a big "but" there is a very wide scope of what could be considered pornography.

To me having a 12-year-old girl play the role of a prostitute in a whorehouse in the name of realistic drama is "Pornographic". Much more so than the movie itself.

I would agree that an adult's mind is not likely to become corrupt watching a raw movie but what of young minds? I really don't believe in censorship on the whole but I believe there are limits to everything and what alternative is there when the last after the almighty dollar would push aside any limitations?

Hollywood that strange magical place that produced Pretty Baby has always fascinated me. The magic of "tinsel town" where wrong becomes right and right becomes wrong, where a million dreams and crushed hearts are broken and pretty faces are a dime a dozen. It becomes easy to draw parallels and analogies as we watch life in a goldfish bowl. The facade of glamour slips away in the suicides, overdoses, and other tragedies that haunt both heroes and victims alike.

On the lighter side one of my favourite Hollywood stories is about the Washington

diplomat who pestered Errol Flynn to invite him to a "real Hollywood party. He finally got his invitation and was just beaming when met at the door by a gorgeous maid wearing only shoes and her little white cap. "The undressing room is here sir" she said indicating a room filled with discarded clothing. Our diplomatic friend was soon to appear quite naked and ready for whatever his wildest fantasies has prepared him for. The maid led him to a large foyer with big double closed doors from which the sounds of merriment drifted through. The maid asked his name and announced it loudly as she threw open the doors. The diplomat gazed in and was greeted by about thirty guests in full formal dinner dress who stared at first unbelievably, and then with definite displeasure. I'd say he got "his" Hollywood style.

Here's a recent news story about a young Yale lad who definitely wanted to go Hollywood. Alex Kwon a senior at Yale planned to throw a \$40,000 bash in the Great Grassy tradition. Dancing girls, champagne and Monte Carlo gambling were all on the agenda.

Kwon had ordered 10,000 fake French 500 franc notes along with six blackjack tables and 4 baccarat tables. He was going to give anyone who won a million francs either a new Mercedes or Cadillac Seville at the end of the evening. Unfortunately honourable parents back in Korea got wind of the lavish affair planned by their son and family pressure soon cancelled the whole extravaganza.

How sad! Gee, pop! How's a guy at college supposed to have any fun? It would appear that most honourable sons was into too many Hollywood magazines.

Just another bit of Hollywood madness to bite the dust. Till next week see you at the movies, if the censor board doesn't get there first.



Red Cross Society may reduce services

Ontario branches of the Canadian Red Cross Society may be faced with reducing services to the community, says newly-elected Ontario Division president Christopher Paterson.

"In the fiscal year 1977, our costs rose by 13.8 per cent over those of 1976," reports Paterson. "These increases resulted from a combination of inflation, coupled with some expansion of our programs to reach people where we felt there were unmet needs."

"Revenues, however, did not keep pace with these increases. In fact our revenues decreased in 1977 by \$46,000 compared to 1976. While we expect some improvement in our revenue position in 1978, it will not likely increase in line with our cost."

Apart from government funding in specific services such as Blood, Hospitals and Homemakers, Red Cross in Ontario is dependent on United Way for approximately 90 per cent of its funds. The balance is derived from independent fund raising campaigns by Red Cross branches in areas where there is no United Way, and from legacies and other miscellaneous sources.

"If we wish to continue delivering services at the same level in the coming years," says Paterson, "we will be forced to seek additional sources of supplementary funding. We are now building a strong team of

volunteers with expertise in all aspects of fund raising. This team will be responsible for revitalizing and retraining people in our 125 branches to develop strong fund raising mechanisms, both for our own campaigns in March and in support of local United Way appeals.

"We are in competition for dollars, as are so many community service agencies today. In times of lesser affluence, need for such services as ours increases. Unfortunately, as disposable income shrinks, so do donations."

"Only by keeping people constantly aware of the work we do, can we hope for their generosity and support."

Red Cross services to residents of Ontario include the collection, processing and provision of blood, at no charge, to 181 hospitals and 83,444 recipients in the province. Last year, 1630 Red Cross homemakers made 175,800 visits to the sick, elderly or incapacitated. Ten small hospitals were operated in rural Ontario. Through the Family Health program, 733 people learned preventive health care, and the First Aid program graduated 291 instructors. Red Cross also offers Water Safety services, Services to the Schools, and a multitude of Services for Seniors. 90 per cent of programs are executed by volunteers, who also make up the management of the society.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE M'GUIRES
WORLD'S LARGEST TWINS
ARE PROFESSIONAL WRESTLERS BILLY (LEFT) AND BOB (RIGHT) M'GUIRE. BOB IS 30 YEARS OLD, 6'10" TALL, WEIGHING 275 LBS. BILLY IS 30 YEARS OLD, 6'10" TALL, WEIGHING 275 LBS. THEY ARE BROTHERS AND LIVE IN WINDSOR, ONTARIO. BOB WAS SICK ON OCT. 9, 1967 BY A BOLIVIAN SOLDIER, MARCO TERAN.

THE LIVER OF AN ANTS
THE LIVER OF AN ANTS IS 1/16" LONG, 1/16" WIDE, 1/16" THICK, AND WEIGHES 1/16" BUT COOKS IN 13 MINUTES.

THE ANTS
THE ANTS ARE THE ONLY INSECT TO STAY IN THE WINTER. THEY LIVE IN THE WINTER. THEY LIVE IN THE WINTER.

AROUND THE RIM

By BOB RUTTER
Herald editor

From what I've seen of the rehearsals for the Georgetown Little Theatre's production of *The Anniversary* which opens tonight at Howard Wrigglesworth school, I'd say it's a winner.

But while I may be second guessing the reviewer who will file his copy for next week, I found the rehearsals interesting because the play has strong dialogue and certainly the casting appears good.

It's a credit to the GLT that it comes up with strong entries for its seasonal presentations and one day they might be able to show their professionalism in a facility which does justice to their efforts.

The Anniversary is a play by Bill MacMillan and deals with a family situation on the anniversary of the father's death. Mum, played by Vera Macdonald, is, as the release by the GLT says, an evil person

who has undeniable charm. She seeks to destroy anything that's good including the marriage of one of her sons.

I'd say take it in if you can get tickets because Friday and Saturday night performances are already just about sold out.

Using the talents of director Gene Tichauer, a professional, the theatre group has learned some interesting techniques for getting the most out of the performers.

GLT performers learned some interesting techniques from their professional director. These include a game of tag before rehearsals to get everyone warmed up for their stage efforts.

And taking something from the military, which to improve the image of square bashing, director Tichauer also has performers speak their lines into the walls of the school auditorium so that cues have to be projected in order for the action to carry on.

All in all it's a very interesting exercise and by shutting my eyes I thought I was

listening to a radio drama.

It was an incredible bit of timing. Last week two items appeared on my desk sitting on top of each other. One was a press release from Halton Liberal MP Frank Philbrook noting his presentation of \$30,000 to Oakville as part of the Municipal Grant Incentive Program for medium density housing.

And the other was a clipping of a Canadian Press wire service story stating that opposition MPs were denied the right to question in committee the head of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation over suggestions leaked in a memo earlier this year that the government may be making the CMHC a partisan political body. The reason: A directive that said the minister or government MPs would present cheques to municipalities under the incentive grant program.

"All our roads are in bad shape," town engineer Bob Austin told works committee Monday.

That's one of the biggest understatement I've heard in a long time. After having driven through several parts of rural Halton Hills at the weekend, I can verify the statement and add a comment of my own.

It's like a battlefield for drivers on 17 Sideroad between Trafalgar Road and the Fifth Line; the Line north of Limehouse; and Sixth Line near 10 Sideroad.

The town engineer also stated to committee that he's not too worried about the condition of 17 Sideroad and since it would take as long to set up a bylaw as it will to institute licensing of truck traffic in Halton Hills, committee turned down a request by 17 Sideroad resident James Goodlet that half load restrictions be extended.

I have to agree with Mr. Goodlet that 17 Sideroad may not be in condition to take truck traffic when the half load restriction is lifted.

Looking through our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO
Gail Malcolm, young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Malcolm, had a narrow escape from drowning on Sunday. Gail was playing with a group of children on the flats behind her home on Riverview Crescent and was reaching for a stick in the water from the Ewing Street bridge when she toppled in. A neighbor boy, Billy Hancock, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hancock, promptly went to the rescue and pulled her to safety.

In an advertisement sponsored by Molson's: "Today Canada's merchant navy ranks fourth in the world - next to those of the United States, Britain and Norway. Our ocean-going tonnage is now four times as great as before the war. In 1939, we had only 35 regular ocean-going ships on our register. Now there are 157. The total of all our ships of over 1600 gross tons, including upper tankers, canal freighters and coastal passenger vessels, is now 356, representing over a million and a half gross registered tons of merchant shipping."

A nine-year-old Brampton boy is reported to have stolen a car owned by a Brampton insurance man and smashed it up on the Huttonville Bridge last night. The lad was seen taking the car and was pursued by provincial police at a speed of 80 miles an hour over country roads. He escaped with minor injuries in the smash-up. The car was badly damaged.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
Georgetown's Fire Chief Jack Hartlow was elected vice-chairman of the Halton county fire prevention bureau April 10 when the bureau held its annual election of officers in Milton.

A new scale of building permit fees is being adopted in Georgetown, with rates varying up to a \$25 maximum in place of the present \$15. Major change in the new rate structure is to set a \$2 fee on permits for buildings or alterations up to \$200 in value for which there has been no charge up to the present.

The Delrex 582-home request came up for brief mention only at Monday's council meeting. As a group of bylaws were circulated around the table, Coun. Alfred Sykes remarked on inclusion of one which received two readings on April 14, which would allow Delrex to proceed with building 582 homes contrary to terms of the company's 1954 agreement which requires a 40 per cent commercial and industrial ratio. Third reading was not given.

TEN YEARS AGO
A new approach to house building, houses built on assembly lines like the automotive industry, was shown to the mayor and five of the members of council last Wednesday at the Woodstock plant of the Alcan Universal Homes. The company hopes to erect some of these homes around their regular homes in the Sherman Court-Delrex Boulevard area.

Council's adoption "in principle" of a traffic study which would route a Belfield freeway bypass across a valley and across Maple Avenue in the vicinity of the North Halton Golf and Country Club, has residents in that area concerned.

Col. Sanders, the patron saint of Kentucky Fried Chicken franchises, will soon be opening a branch in Georgetown. Construction started last week on the local store at the corner of Maple Avenue and Guelph Street near Georgetown Dairy.

Of this and that

the HERALD
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