

VIEWPOINT

Judge political leaders and not their wives

By Gerry Landsborough
Herald columnist

Election campaigns are not for a certain amount of hoopla and schoolyard name calling sessions, however, some of the garbage being fed to the Canadian public during this campaign is enough to make one downright sick to the stomach.

It questions the maturity and the intellectual ability of Canadian citizens. It appears that one of the major issues of this campaign is not a question of national unity, not the high rate of unemployment, but rather which leader's wife fits the "image" - whatever that is.

We get blubs on Lucille Broadbent's "fine and private person." Ms. Maureen McTeer is being presented as a "liberated lady" with lady being personified. Ms. McTeer's husband gets asked such burning issues as "will you promise that your wife will stay with you for the next four years if

you are elected?" How wonderful - but like Bett Butler... "Frankly Scarlett I just don't give a damn." Since when did the wife of a leader become more important than the leader himself?

WHO CARES?

Last but not least no one could ignore the outrageous antics of Margaret Trudeau - but again does it really matter that much?

A good title for this whole campaign might well be "Beyond Reason." It is understandable that a good marital relationship is an asset to a politician as it is to any other man, but I really don't believe that it becomes more important than the governing of a country in the question of issues.

Even though Margaret Trudeau has attempted to throw some light on the subject, the relationship of any leader with his wife goes on behind closed doors and I really don't believe that the Canadian public is so jaded and pressed for gossip

that it should become a burning issue in our political life.

NAME CALLING

The name calling and below the belt personal remarks during this campaign are degrading to the Canadian public.

We have the opportunity on May 22 to elect a leader for our nation not his wife. Our country faces many problems, the growing pains of a nation you might say and we will need a strong leader to see us through.

The campaign boils down in my mind "do you dislike Trudeau more than you doubt Joe Clark?"

Personally I'm not totally committed to who I will vote for yet I lean towards Trudeau

because of his intellectual ability and his personal demeanor. There is no doubt that he is a strong man and a proud one who for a politician seems fairly straight speaking.

"Get off your ass" might not be very helpful from a campaign point of view but it is a fact of unemployment. Right here in Halton I know of two employees Sheridan Nurseries and Meadow Glen Mushrooms that have to import workers for jobs that Canadian unemployed refuse to do. The jobs are available but minimum wage for hard work does not appeal to our youth. We have 148,000 Howard Hughes on our hands many looking for executive positions with drop out qualifications.

The major criticism of Trudeau: next to his choice in marital partners is his failure to keep all promises and his change of mind on many key issues.

Here I can only go by my own experience circumstance will change many situations from that which is ideal. My own opinions have altered many times over the years based on how much information I had over this, that or the other, so I can't hold this against Trudeau. You have to give it to the man for saying things such as "get off your ass" to the unemployed - it may not be tactful but it is truthful. Again I feel his conduct of his own personal life has been very admirable.

Like many other Canadians I would like to see a debate among the three party leaders.

The earlier refusal of Joe Clark to take part is almost an admission that he can't stand up against the competition and would end up looking badly, if this is the case can we expect him to stand up to running a country? There is an old adage about cautious people it goes something like this... "It is hard to look up to a leader that keeps his ear to the ground?"

A public debate is the answer so that all Canadians that can't get out to the rallies can hear and see and judge for themselves where the leadership of this country will lie

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Save the children seeks support

The Canadian Save the Children Fund is hoping that their display at the Georgetown branch of the library May 8 will spark sufficient interest to result in the formation of a Georgetown chapter of the organization.

The Canadian Save the Children Fund, formerly known as Cansave, is an independent, non-government organization. Sheila Thomson said, Mrs. Thomson is a member of the Mississauga-area chapter, which will be setting up and operating the display at the library.

The board of directors of the organization is made up entirely of volunteers, Mrs. Thomson said. The emphasis is on "ongoing self-help programs", with programs operating in more than 30 developing countries. The programs are designed to provide improved conditions for children, their families and their community.

MONEY SUPPLIED

About 8,000 sponsors provide friendship and care for individual children. Mrs. Thomson said. Programs operate with an individual child, or with a group of 30 to 40 children in a village. The group projects are referred to as COPE, where a sponsor supplies money for one child, but the money is used for community projects such as schools, agricultural improvement or health care.

Mrs. Thomson said that the organization is essentially looking for a few interested peop-

le, who would be responsible for setting up and collecting from the display cards in stores and restaurants; these "plastic bubbles" are an im-



portant fund-raiser for Save the Children, she said.

Save the Children also sells their own Christmas cards, and they suggest people who knit would like to knit items for sale, with the yarn supplied by the organization.

The Valentine tree program in the schools was the big program for the International Year of the Child. Mrs. Thomson said, and it worked so well that the organization has decided to continue with it.

Canadian Save the Children will be at the Georgetown branch of the library on May 8, from 1 to 7 p.m. to answer questions about the organization and what it does. In the meantime, those wishing more information can contact Sue Sones at 877-8300. Mrs. Thomson, said and she may be able to answer some questions.

GDHS students are top typists

Three Georgetown District High School students were among the prizewinners in the Halton typing contests held at Lord Elgin High School April 25.

The team from Georgetown were Ann Emmett, Chris Nagel, Lucy DeFraga, Heather Donaldson, and Lorna Snell. Lucy DeFraga came first in the senior division, with a score of 76.9 words per minute. Heather Donaldson placed third in the junior division with a score of 53.1 words per minute. Lorna Snell placed

first in the novice division with a score of 70.5 words per minute.

"We are proud of these students, and our thanks and congratulations go to them," principal Mike Furlong said. "They bring honor to themselves and to our school."

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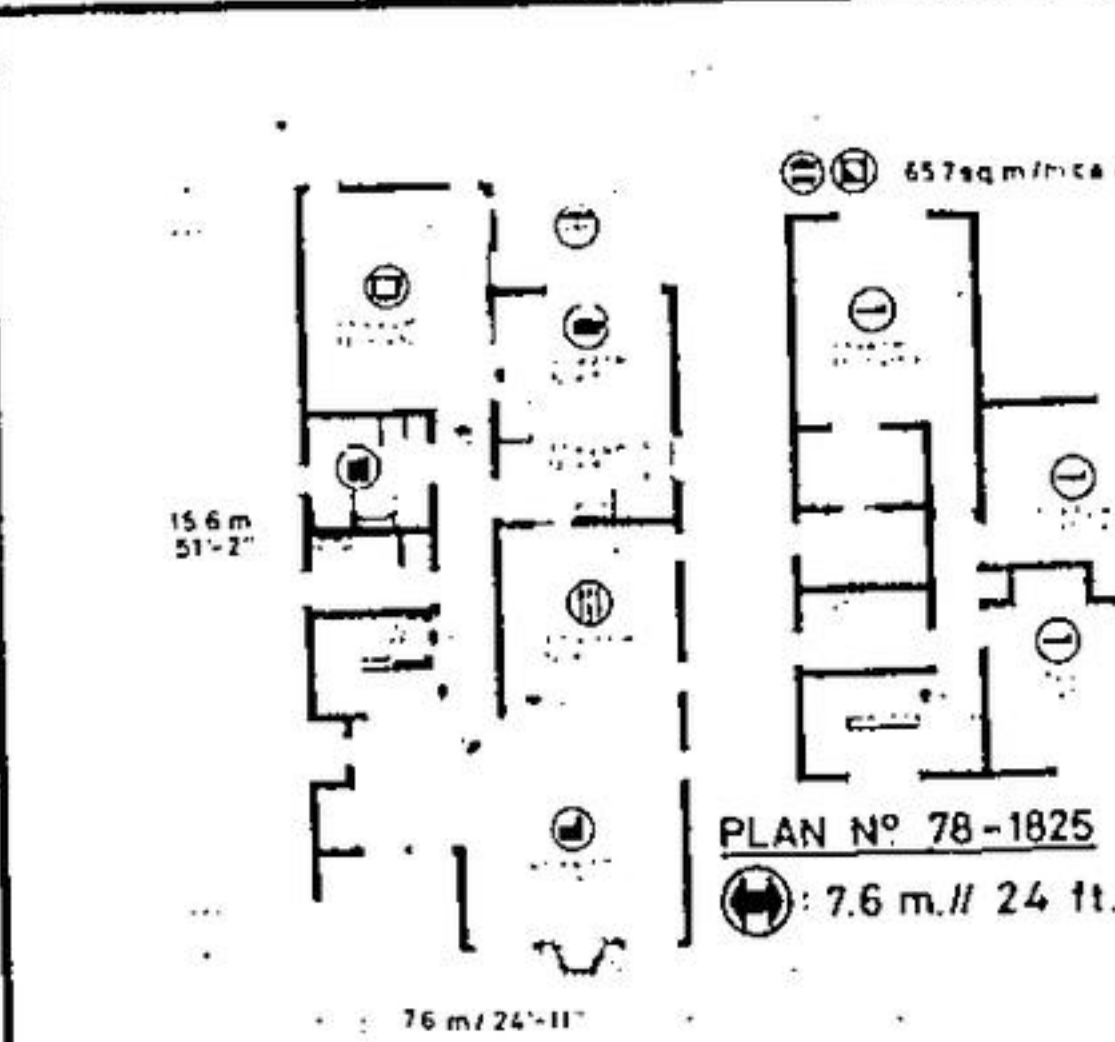
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The weather-protected entry leads into a spacious entrance foyer and naturally to the right, up two risers to the stylish elevated living room dining room combination. Living room features a convivial masonry fireplace flanked by full height windows for excellent natural lighting. The dining room is elevated two risers from the living room and separates from the kitchen via convenient pocket door.

The well planned U shape kitchen has an excellent work triangle and is centrally positioned between the dinette and dining room for excellent separation of formal and casual dining, while still providing for ease of serving. A large family room is sunken two risers from the dinette, and has sliding door access to the rear patio.

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