



Michael Hollett
Herald editor

Bright lights and boiling studios

Relax Knowlton Nash, Harry Reasoner and the rest of you video journalism hot shots. Michael Hollett won't be moving in on your territory, at least for a while yet.

A few of you who, in your search for the correct time, weather or latest hockey score happen to turn to Halton Cable four this week might be surprised to see my smiling mug staring back at you.

Last week, myself, and two other local journalists took part in taping a television all-candidates debate which, admittedly, has not received the huge audience that Sunday night's slugfest between the party leaders did.

NOT EMBARRASSING

With the prompting of Halton cable and the local Jaycees we spent about an hour and a half taping a question and answer period with five of the six Brampton-Georgetown candidates last Thursday. The show is being broadcast throughout this week and, since I've already had a chance to look at it and I didn't catch myself in a highly embarrassing pose, I'm not afraid to admit the event took place.

Under the show's format we gentlemen, and woman, of the press did not have to grill the five candidates with our probing questions. However, between the studio lights and the fact that last Thursday would have been more suited in the middle of July rather than May, ourselves and the candidates were equally grilled, not by the debate but rather by the heat.

Ever try pretending you would wear a corduroy jacket during the hottest day of the year, when you're inside a windowless room with fiercely hot lights directed straight at you? I did and if you don't notice the rivers of perspiration pouring off my face it's a miracle.

FLEW BY

Before the debate as I rushed to make sure I had enough questions to carry me through the show, the 90 minute time slot seemed imposing. However, once the show got going and five, count 'em five, politicians had a chance to pontificate and proselytize on pressing political problems, the time flew by.

But despite the berevity and near fatal working conditions of the program, it was an interesting and revealing experience though I question its primetime potential.

Each character in the cast of the five political players had his own clearly developed personality.

Liberal incumbent MP Hoss Milne, he appears to be in a tougher fight than he had probably anticipated this election campaign, did his best to project himself as the steady, responsible incumbent MP. He tried to answer coolly and with as many facts as he could muster, the questions directed at him by the press. Despite this he managed to slip

in a few zinger quips, primarily directed at his Conservative opponent John McDermid.

NDP candidate David Moulton also played his role consistently with his previous campaign appearances. Moulton came across as a good natured, positive hopeful who came to the debate armed both with facts and a healthy supply of smiles. A few viewers may have been startled by his youth when viewed alongside the other candidates.

ONE JOKE

Libertarian Joe Yundi came across as a one joke comedian. No matter what issue was being discussed or what point was raised, Yundi's response was the same—the other parties want to spend all your money while we want to give it back to you. The individual and the private sector will solve all of society's ills. Yundi could have saved a lot of time by simply holding up a flash card that said "Cut government" everytime he was asked for a comment.

Communist candidate Jim Bridgewood was probably a lot calmer and less wild eyed than many would have expected considering his party affiliation. But once he opened his mouth his cliché sounding comments about monopoly capital and the like probably lost a good chunk of voters.

Tory John McDermid has said before that he has a bad temper but says he has mastered it. I hate to seem like I'm picking on the fellow but after Thursday, I'd say he's still mastering that temper. Of all the candidates, McDermid was the one that could not resist heckling, laughing and commenting while the other candidate spoke.

McDermid was also guilty of another fault which I have criticized him for before, when given the opportunity he rarely gave clearly defined policies. I was floored when, during the candidates' summation period when they were allowed to capsule their programs, McDermid chose to thank the station and the Press for the time, saying he would work hard in his constituency and, most of all urged us all to vote, "no matter who for".

Something tells me he would rather the Miloe, Moulton eccetera voters stay home on May 22 rather than vote against him.

Still, the meeting that will probably have the greatest impact on local voters, both by word of mouth and personal appearance, will be tonight's all-candidate meeting at GDHS.

As for me, I crawled home from the sweaty studio Thursday night, slipped into some shorts and parked myself in front of the Boston-Montreal hockey game on TV, now that's entertainment.

And as for television, well, I think I'll stay behind my typewriter rather than in front of the TV cameras.

Letters to the Editor

Voters should vote on policies

To the editor of The Herald:
Trudeau - Financial Disaster
As we approach the most important federal election in our history, I am fervently hoping that Canadians will judge political candidates on policies as opposed to such frivolous items as why Joe Clark lost his luggage while on a world tour.
Pierre Trudeau became Prime Minister in April, 1968. Consider the financial record of his administration (source: Public Accounts, Department of

Finance; percentage figures have been adjusted to take inflation into account):
1) In 1968 the gross federal debt was \$33 billion; in 1978 it was \$80 billion, increase 25 per cent. (When I asked Pierre Trudeau to explain this while he was in Edmonton last year, he typically evaded the question).
2) In 1968 the annual interest we paid on our federal debt was \$1.3 billion; in 1978 it was \$5.6 billion. Increase 129 per cent.

3) In 1978, 13 per cent of the total federal budget was devoted solely to interest payments on the federal debt. This would be like every working Canadian paying \$560 just to cover the federal government's interest obligations.
4) Since 1968 annual federal spending has increased 105 per cent.
5) Since 1968 the annual federal deficits have increased 496 per cent.
6) Due to ravaging inflation, what would have cost \$1.00 in

1968 cost \$1.94 in 1978. Increase 94 per cent. (Inflation is caused by a number of factors, but the most important factor is irresponsible government policies).
This is a record of monstrous incompetence and utter disregard for the welfare of the Canadian people. We have had eleven years of financial disaster - can we afford another five years?
Sincerely,
Peter D. Schalin,
Edmonton, Alberta.

GLT supports center proposal

The following letter has been sent to the mayor and council of Halton Hills.
Dear Mayor Pomeroy and Members of Council:
Georgetown Little Theatre would like to advise you that it strongly supports the concept of a combined theatre-library-exhibition gallery in downtown Georgetown as proposed by the Town's professional consultants.

As active members of the Arts Plus Committee we appreciated being briefed first hand by Bob Bailey and Keith Wagland as to their final recommendations prior to their being made public. In our opinion the architect's revised concept is an excellent compromise in that it will not only preserve the esthetic integrity of the former church (both outside and inside), but will also provide for a virtually completely new library building (thereby satisfying critics of the previous "add-on" proposals) and, at the same time, permit the erection of a fully-equipped theatre with permanent, raked seating. This extremely imaginative concept—made possible by Council's initiative in securing options on three nearby properties—will undoubtedly assist greatly in revitalizing the downtown core without overly disturbing the residential nature of Market Street. Furthermore, in blending the proposed two new structures with the present library-church building, the architect has arrived at an integrated concept which would appear to fully comply with the Ontario Municipal Board's ruling.

In giving our unequivocal endorsement to Messrs. Bailey's and Wagland's proposals, with respect we feel we have to add one caution, namely, that should Council decide to proceed with this proposal, it is imperative in our view (based on the unfortunately often negative experiences of other community groups) that the architect selected to translate

whole Town of Halton Hills can take pride must not be marred by final design features insensitive to performers' requirements, i.e. whereas the final result might "look good" from the perspective of front-of-house, operationally—perhaps because of architectural "savings" back—and below stage—it could be a continuing source of frustration to those engaged in staging productions.
GLT would again like to assure Town Council of its continuing support and co-operation in developing the best possible theatre facilities, and to that end would request the opportunity for consultation with the architect prior to approval of final drawings. Finally, it would be our hope that council will see its way clear to moving ahead with this imaginative proposal since it holds so much promise for the community as a whole.
Thank you for the long overdue recognition of the needs of the arts in this community.
Yours sincerely,
John Roe,
President.

this concept into actuality should at the very least be as knowledgeable and as experienced in theatre design as Mr. Wagland. The opportunity to have a theatre in which the

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