

VIEWPOINT

# Closing out the era of the 'me' generation

By GERRY LANDBOROUGH  
Herald columnist

As the first strike of mid-night rings out the old, we not only say goodbye forever as 1979 slips into memory, but also goodbye to an era - the "me" generation, the let-it-all-hang-out crowd, goodby to a decade of "I don't know where I'm heading, but I'm in one hell of a hurry to get there, so out of my way."

I don't think the seventies will have too many fond memories for us, but they were a necessary step towards the year 2000, when all the constant changes rush head on and merge in a world of technological triumphs and medical miracles, where your best friend will be your computer and the arts and sciences will flourish in an intellectual Utopia.

The tragedies of the '70s

outweighed the lighter moments. Terrorism reached new heights, beginning in 1970 at Ohio's Kent State University when National Guardsmen gunned down innocent students during anti-war protests.

In 1975, the Symbionese Liberation Army made headlines with the brainwashing of Patty Hearst, a young newspaper heiress. She became "Tania", the revolutionary. In 1978, the Jonestown massacre, where more than 900 men, women and children suffled out their own lives in a bizarre cult suicide. Idi Amin reached new heights of perversion, tyranny and decadence.

IRANIAN MADNESS

Last, but far from least, come 1979, when the madness of the Ayatollah Khomeini has the world teetering on the brink of warfare.

In the seventies, we seemed to lose more than we gained.

The obituary list reads like a who's who: Bertrand Russell, Nikita Khrushchev, J. Edgar Hoover, Harry S. Truman, Lester Pearson, Lyndon Johnson, Pablo Picasso, Juan Peron, Elijah Muhammad, Chiang Kai-shek, Aristotle Onassis, Mao Tse-tung, Pope Paul VI, Golda Meir, Earl Mountbatten, John Diefenbaker, to name only a few.

Greats in entertainment such as Elvis Presley, Bing Crosby, John Wayne, Joan Crawford, James Japhin, Louis Armstrong, Maurice Chevalier, and Betty Grable are sadly missed.

The seventies saw the "streak", and bare bottoms showed up in the strangest places, as male and female stripped to their birthday suits and ran unabashed through giggling crowds.

Women moved forward in their fight for equality and

divorce, and family breakup reigned supreme: more of the "me" generation.

Science bedazzled us with test tube babies, micro surgery, computerized X-rays providing 100 times more information, called Cat body scanners, and of course, the possibility of the clone - perhaps, the greatest dream of madness yet perceived by man.

MOVIE WORLD

The movie world reached new heights in an effort to catch our imagination and our dollars. We watched Jaws, Star Wars, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, The Exorcist, The Godfather, The Sting, Saturday Night Fever, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Grease; these were the biggies.

On the social scene, the world followed the antics of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis,

Margaret Trudeau, Princess Caroline and Philippe Junot; we listened to the British press as it tried to match up a reluctant Prince Charles, perhaps the world's most dashing eligible bachelor.

It was an era of bare-your-soul-to-the-press as we watched and listened to countless exposes. Betty Ford told us of her fight with drugs and alcohol, Margaret Trudeau reached new heights in baring private happenings, Joan Crawford's daughter told the world about "Mommy Dearest" and Bing Crosby's sons let it all hang out. The reported bedtime antics of political greats made us wonder if they had any time left for running countries.

We watched with pride the Montreal Olympics and then dried tears when we found out how much it cost us.

We watched Quebec struggle

as its leaders try to divide the nation in much the same way as divorce splits the domestic home.

For the most part, "watching" is what was wrong with the seventies; we "watched", and in the eighties we will pay for our lack of involvement in our own futures.

If the seventies fled by quickly, the eighties will only be a blink as we rush headlong toward the year 2000. The changes of the seventies will continue, if the seventies con-

stituted a "me" generation, the eighties will represent "them" and "us".

All in all, we keep moving forward, and in the end, for those of us who survive, the trip will certainly be worth it. Look out 1980, here we come.

Letter to the editor

## Dr. Furness et al praised by departing patients

To the editor of The Herald;

At a time when many people are complaining about doctors and health care, we would like to express the opposite view.

We want to thank Dr. Furness and his associates for the excellent care we have received at the Georgetown Medical Centre. Dr. Furness has given us appointments at very short notice. He has always taken the time to explain the problem and the cure. He has always taken the time to joke with the children, to relax them before starting his examination. He has been thorough and professional.

Like many, we haven't taken the time to express our appreciation before. Now we are moving away from the area and want to say, "Thanks for being there when we needed you."

Sincerely,  
Wayne and Kaye Taylor,  
Georgetown.

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