

Letters to the editor

Every effort is being made to clean up Crazy Boat Race

To the editor of The Herald: I would like to thank your readers for their comments. Certainly, we in the Jaycees can only learn through constructive criticism. We were pleased with the outcome of the Crazy Boat Race this year and with the kind cooperation and assistance of the folks from Cheltenham on down to Glen Williams. The planning for this year's race started last November 7. We tried to cover all the bases, safety and clean-up being two of our major concerns. We had planned for a bank patrol between Terra Cotta and

Tenth Line bridge of the Georgetown Outlets with throw rings and a back-up consisting of the St. John's Ambulance and members of the Seven-Up C.B. Club with walkie-talkies hooked up to a motorized patrol. These people were in place and in fact did get one unlucky fellow out of the water and to the hospital very quickly. We plan to increase the number of patrolers on both banks next year. We have not forgotten the litter along the length of the river. A fence was stretched across the paper mill dam on

the morning of the race. We considered a net below the finish line, but, inasmuch as a net cannot distinguish between light flotsam and a heavy boat or log which would tear it apart, we discarded the idea. If anyone can show us how to rig such a net effectively, we are certainly willing to consider their plan. We ask the contestants to clean up after themselves. However, once the race is over we have no authority over them. We are not police officers. We can only clean up after them.

Let me assure your readers now that we have the proper equipment, the river will be swept and cleaned up, this year, hopefully by the time this is printed. The net at the dam will be left erected for at least two days next year. This should take care of much of the garbage. Again, I thank your readers for their comments, and I hope everyone enjoyed the race as much as they seem to have done. Ernie Stokley, Crazy Boat Race Chairman.

Halton sheep producer seeks awareness of Canadian lamb

To the editor of The Herald: On the CBC program "Market Place" of April 6, 1980, considerable promotion was given to the preparation of New Zealand lamb for the Canadian market, including cutting, packaging and quality control. Further time was devoted to the preparation and cooking of New Zealand lamb. As a sheep producer, I accept the fact that there is a market for New Zealand lamb on our Canadian dinner table.

However, I do believe that if the CBC is to expend public funds on the promotion of foreign food, then equal and fair comment should be given to the Canadian product. The consumer has the choice between an imported product or a Canadian produced and processed product. When that purchase is made at the food store, we should all remember that every dollar spent on our imported product, is one less dollar going into the Canadian

economy, and one dollar less to go towards creating a Canadian job. There appears to be sufficient lamb produced in Ontario to meet the needs of the fresh meat market. The Ontario Sheep Association would be glad to hear from anyone who

cannot obtain adequate supplies. Remember - the job that is lost could be your own! Yours truly, G.P. Branch, A Halton Sheep Producer and President of Zone 3 Ontario Sheep Association.

VIEWPOINT

Lost in the underground

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH It's been a great week: we've been lied to, cursed at, threatened with law suits and, of course the ultimate threat, "print and be damned."

The reason for all the hoopla is this poor, bedraggled, tattered chunk of idealism we insist on dragging through the world with us. Idealism is not a dreamer's catchword or a fool's companion, but a sincere belief that nothing remains the same - no system, no philosophical thought, no power grip. All pass through cycles and therefore all things, even a just and caring society, are ultimately possible.

My kind of idealism is a belief and a hope for tomorrow - a belief in a people and a nation (of which I'm proud to be a part) who will come out of the silent majority to show the world at large that "Canadian nationalism" is not just a new buzzword.

My travels recently took me to the big city - Bay Street in Toronto - where buzzwords and impressive sounding, meaningless phrases are a way of life. Bay Street has its own language, but behind the sophisticated drizzle is a powerful code that proclaims with God-like reverence that money and power are synonymous. Phrases pop up in conversation such as "synchronized logistical time-place," or "total, organizational contingency" or "parallel, incremental projections" - yes, Virginia, there are people who talk like that. High-sounding phrases that sound impressive, yet mean absolutely nothing.

Still clutching our tattered little chunk of "idealism", we left Bay Street headed for University Avenue, a stop or two there, then on to Queen's Park.

Ah, my friends, with a heavy heart and a troubled soul we left the grey concrete jungle and headed for Georgetown, where threads of sanity still exist.

Going home by way of public transit was an unforgettable experience. The car point "a" was in Weston; we at point "b" were somewhere on University Avenue. The problem as we viewed it was to get from point "b" to point "a" in one piece.

Subways are marvellous things, but to ride the subway you must know if you want to go north or south. One of my greatest failings in life is my refusal to understand the workings of a compass. I've come up with a system that goes something like this: I always choose the wrong direction, so by going opposite to where I think I'm headed, I might just arrive where I want to be. The system is also flawed.

So finding myself at the mercy of black tunnels taking me in the opposite direction of the one I needed, I decided to ask for assistance. When all else fails, ask advice.

First, a handsome member of the boys in blue introduced me to two wise-cracking wits of the transit system. "Follow

me", they said, and like Mary's lost sheep smiling at my rescue, off we went. Blind faith.

Now these two chaps were carrying some rather strange equipment which turned out to be tools of their trade - sewer cleaners for the T.T.C. There we sat on a succession of stops and tunnels, me, they and a great plumber's snake. The talk was very interesting as half the trolley seemed to be enjoying our conversations.

Now, I'm quite sure of the latter statement because when they left after giving me the most explicit directions for the next half of my journey, the chap in the next seat excused himself most politely for any intrusion, but wanted to know if I hailed from Georgetown (part of the earlier conversation). Did I know Gretchen Day, a wonderful human being and a great artist? If anyone out there knows Gretchen, have her give us a call.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gretchen is president of the Halton Hills Arts Council, Gerry).

Almost on the home stretch, we switch to a bus and are engaged in conversation by a Canadian whose American wife can't get through the maze of intrigue at the Immigration department.

His story was so interesting, we missed our stop and had to hoof it two blocks in the pouring rain. Wet, as in sopping, we arrive at our car in the parking lane of our 85-year old auntie's house. Guess what the dear soul had: an errand to run. She'd stepped out. Our keys we had left on the table and so in her sunroom we sat, watching the raindrops fall from the sky.

So much for Pollyanna's trip to the big city.

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