

Old Georgetown may come of age with parks plan

Ah, what a leisurely, languishing future we behold (once oil supplies are restored), for town council has some ambitious proposals for the relaxing quarter-century ahead and even Bell Canada will see to some of our recreational needs.

Last week's Herald was filled with news from the recreation and parks department: two public meetings were held concerning the new master plan for the town's needs, and Ma Bell came up with the magnanimous gift of a playground for the John Street area.

Offered, we note, as a mere (\$54,000) guidelines for the development of parks and recreational facilities from now until 1990, the master plan devised by the rec department and its consultants speaks in terms of "bigger" and "better", estimating a rough implementation cost of \$1.3 million.

For this relatively-low "capital" output, we could find ourselves (several notches up the population scale) with three new major ball diamonds, one new intermediate diamond, one new football field and five new intermediate ones, six new tennis courts, two outdoor skating rinks, a lengthy system of hiking and biking trails, places to swim and picnic and just tons of open space to run around in.

Sounds like a bargain, especially for the town's prime urban area of Georgetown.

Everywhere you look in Halton Hills these days, people have started seriously speculating on future development, rookie merchants joining veteran builders for a tete-a-tete on topics as diverse as housing and hydro, reclaiming and renovation.

While council has consultants forecasting the future of the Highway 7

corridor through Georgetown, shopkeepers in Acton are trying to co-ordinate a downtown beautification scheme for their business core. Others suggest comprehensive development schemes for the Silver Creek valley and envision new roads crossing traditionally landlocked properties to open whole new patterns for traffic and commerce.

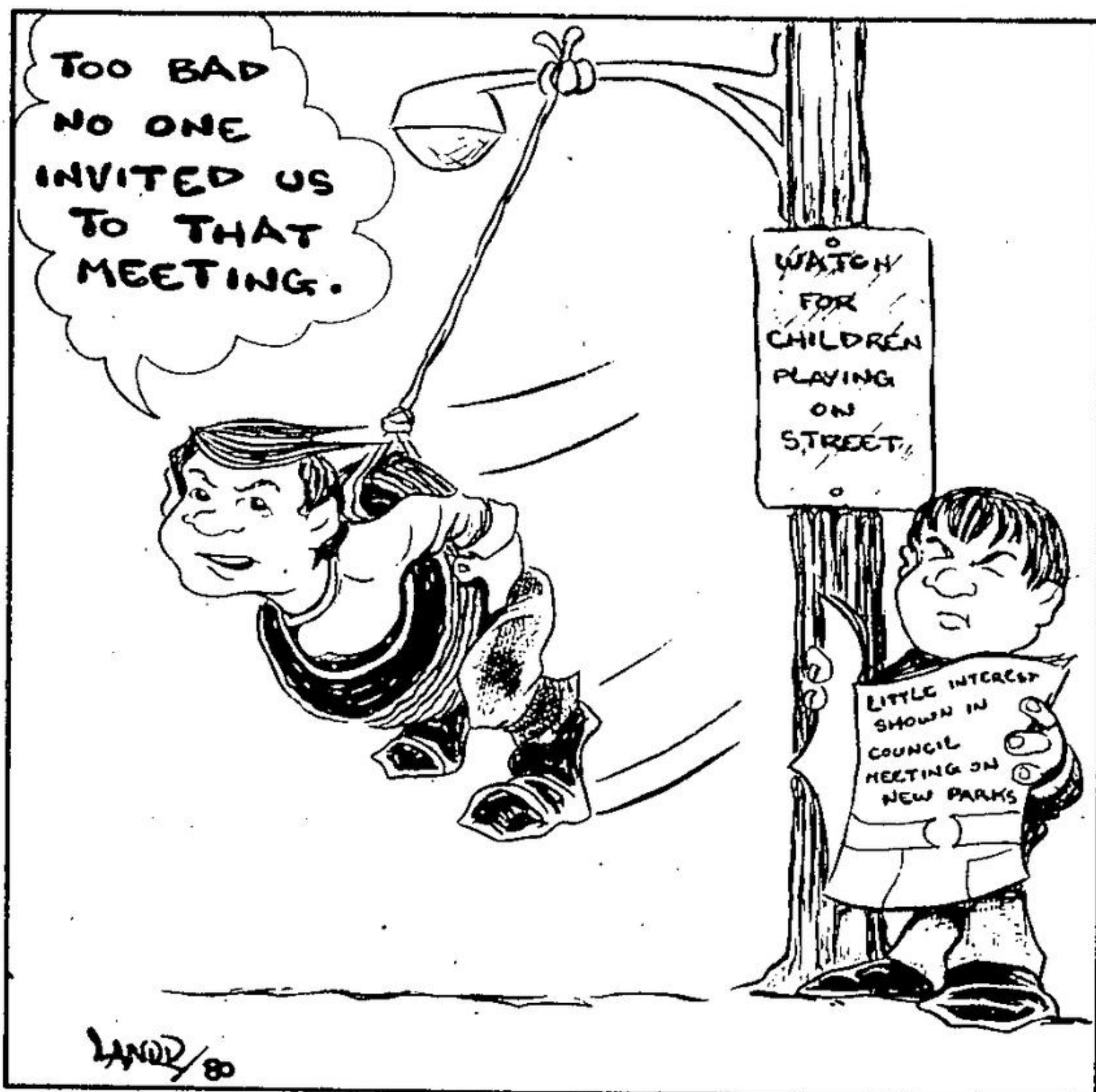
In one of its more impressive scenarios, the master parks plans foresees a winding web of foot trails which would tie urban centres to forested, semi-urban parkland and open, rural countryside.

We feel that specific projects such as this one would not only do much to enhance the cohesiveness of the municipality as a community in the minds of trail users, but would help the master plan, on the whole, make the twin communities of Georgetown and Acton come of age.

We are witnessing another level in the town's progress, one in which civic leaders, halted for the moment in phasing the town's outward growth, concentrate on making maximum use of the available resources within. The long-established parks in Halton Hills, including the Fairgrounds, Cedarvale and Prospect, can continue to serve public need only a while longer. Open space outside those areas can and should be put to better or more active use by citizens.

We see the master parks plan as a highly-functional guide to realizing these goals, goals which will take on more importance to the average citizen as these trying times become less and less affluent.

Recreational facilities within moments of one's home should be promoted in a simplistic, frugal fashion on the town's part as a necessary objective of municipal service.



Clowns and harmonizers: how to hold a seminar



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Not long ago a man-about-Ottawa told me that the most lucrative business in town involves the selling of seminars.

"You wouldn't believe it," he told me. "Every day there are half a dozen seminars in Ottawa, most of them organized by some outside organization at an outrageous fee."

He roared on. "I've seen seminars on communications, on the role of the public service, on the treatment of war veterans, on leisure activities, on architectural landscaping, on the equal opportunities for women, children and animals."

This man, who should know what he's talking about, says government seminars represent our fastest-growing industry. All one has to do, he claims, is organize a seminar in a downtown hotel, set a stiff fee, and it will immediately be filled with enthusiastic public servants.

After hearing this information I tried my best to find out some financial facts about seminars, but I didn't have much luck.

But in the course of my diligent research I came across a fascinating document, issued by the government and entitled "Group Roles Handout." What it is, in effect, is a fast course in seminar observation. There is no point in going to a seminar, it seems, unless you know what to look for.

Anyway, this nifty little government document, starts us off in the right direction. As it says, the members of a group take many roles and "knowing

what some of these roles are will help us understand how the members of a group interact with each other."

It goes on to explain the roles. First there is the co-ordinator. And the document defines this as "someone who makes sure the group stays on the topic."

Next there is the "Paraphraser: Someone who clarifies the ideas which the group is discussing." "Summarizer: Someone who keeps track of the progress that the group is making and keeps the group informed as to how they are doing."

Unfortunately, no one seems to be keeping track of the grammar.

We also have "the information giver and seeker: Someone who offers or asks for information related to the group's task."

The brilliance of these definitions is awesome, isn't it? And don't go away because we haven't even looked at the "less helpful group roles" to watch for.

CLOWN OR JOKER A "clown or joker" is cleverly described as "someone who distracts the group by being funny." And a "blocker, critic or dart-thrower" is "someone who blocks or criticizes things that the group tries to do."

We can assume it would also apply to someone who insists on playing darts while the others try to concentrate on the clown or joker.

Here's one that's worth remembering: "Quiet Member: Someone who participates very little or not at all in the group's activities."

And don't overlook the interrupter: "Someone who interrupts the contribution of others." "These are examples of some of the roles which occur in groups," declares this daring document. "Have any members been playing these roles in your groups? Can you think of any other roles which have not been listed?"

Yes, I can think of a few but they apply to people who write documents entitled "Group Roles Handout" and they are rather unkind. I would hate it if the "harmonizer" - that's "someone who keeps everyone calm" - were to wash my mouth with soap.

Civil service still growing despite McCague's cuts



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Statements from Management Board Chairman George McCague are a rarity in the legislature. While an administratively vital job if performed competently, Management Board is low-profile.

Mr. McCague is responsible for making sure Queen's Park spends its money as efficiently as possible, the government equivalent of a corporation accountant or comptroller.

But management efficiency is not sexy politics, so the opposition never queries, and Mr. McCague rarely volunteers information in the House during question period.

That's why it was unusual when Mr. McCague actually made a statement recently, doubly so in that he was responding not to anything provincial but to a report from the federal auditor-general.

That gentleman said that if the Ottawa civil service performed at only 80 per cent efficiency, still below the private sector's 88 per cent, instead of its current 61 per cent, one-quarter fewer personnel would be needed.

US, TOO

"The distressing fact about his report is that although it may apply only to the federal government it adds to the public perception that government cannot operate efficiently," Mr. McCague said.

In fact the Ontario government is rather proud of how productive it is, and while opposition critics have been able to dent it here and there, the bottom line seems to bear Mr. McCague out.

On Feb. 23, 1975, Ontario had 87,109 employees

(excluding Hydro), while on Feb. 23 this year it was down to 82,957.

Permanent staff reductions were not so severe, but even there 1980 showed only 69,048 compared to 69,818 back in 1975.

In the same time span the federal work force expanded 7.3 per cent, adding 22,000 people to an already swollen bureaucracy.

BRASS TOO

Interesting, too, is that Ottawa's idea of holding the line or cutting back appears to be (from news reports) to fire secretaries and clerks. Mr. McCague claims a 15 per cent reduction in Ontario's senior management levels, the number of executive positions dropping from 689 to 590.

Since 1975 it "thus appears we improved productivity of our work force by 1.8 per cent per year," Mr. McCague said.

And when one takes population growth and new programs into account, the cutbacks are actually quite remarkable.

Mr. McCague believes the civil service is now at an "appropriate level" and only "isolated pockets" exist where further cuts could be made.

TOO MUCH

Actually, that's being over-optimistic, as anyone who's listened to lower-echelon civil servants talk privately will confirm. More than a few drones are still taking up space at Queen's Park amidst many hard workers.

But "fat" is inherent in bureaucracy, and no big operation, whether government or General Motors, can run without a bureaucratic chain-of-command.

The advantage the private sector has in trying to keep costs under control is that corporations (at least until Chrysler) have to make a profit, and therefore need to stay as efficient as possible.

Government, because it's a loss proposition, can expand endlessly.

All the more reason then to be impressed that Ontario has held the line while Ottawa's complement has ballooned out-of-sight.

The question opposition Liberals like to ask is how the numbers were allowed to blossom here in the years prior to the establishment of the 1975 restraint program.

Ahh, yes.

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO-Georgetown's oldest woman resident, Anna Neilsen, who will be 95 this coming September, was honored at a special show at the Rosy Theatre last Thursday when a special Mother's Day program had been arranged. Wheldon Emmerson was emcee for a stage program which included songs by Thomas Warner, Jean Harley and a quartette composed of Mestera, Warner, Emmerson, Jim Burns and Charles Tyler.

University Tours presents an 18-day tour of California and the Canadian Rockies. Personally conducted, Standard Pullmans throughout. Grand Canyon, Los Angeles, San Diego, Catalina, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Victoria, Vancouver, Emerald Lake, Lake Louise, Banff. Best hotels, extensive sightseeing. For \$437, see it all.

A county rate of 7.9 mills was established at the meeting of Halton council last Tuesday in Milton. The 1980 rate is over a third higher than last year's rate of 5.5. Reeve Kenneth Dick of Milton, finance chairman, presented the report in which it was estimated that the county would have to raise \$156,000 with \$96,000 to be spent on roads.

At the Rosy Theatre, the most eagerly awaited motion picture in years - "The rest of the Jolson story, in 'Jolson Sings Again'." Starring Larry Parks and Barbara Hale.

TWENTY YEARS AGO-Controversy over responsibility for fixing Delrex East roads appears to have been settled amicably. On Monday, Mayor Ern Hyde reported to council that at a meeting between the town, Delrex and Department of Highway officials, Delrex officials had "basically agreed to bring roads to DHO standards."

An unforeseen increase in construction costs resulting in high tenders have left the hospital campaign total short of the required amount. It was believed that the need for funds was over when the \$250,000 target amount was reached, but the opening of construction bids revealed the original estimates were low by several thousand dollars.

Catherine Dillon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dillon, R. I. Glen Williams, was honored to have a picture of a negro head, which she had sculpted, in the Globe and Mail on May 2. Miss Dillon will be going to Europe to study, departing on May 24.

A former Georgetown High School student, Bill Zillo, is the new middleweight boxing champion of the Canadian Navy's Atlantic Command. Representing HMCS Stadacona, Bill floored his opponent four times in three rounds before the title fight was stopped in the third.

The small cottage at the corner of Chapel and Guelph Streets by the United Church came under discussion at the planning board meeting this week. A local builder received a letter from Miss I. Bessey, the owner, concerning the advisability of renovating the present structure and erecting a new one.

Ken McMillan, 8 Emery Street, will head the Ontario Hockey Association again this year. Mr. McMillan was unanimously voted into a second term this week when the OHA met to decide on their slate of officers for 1980-81.

TEN YEARS AGO-Opening date of the Golden Horseshoe Dragway is the middle of June, owner Carl Bristol told Esqueping Council last night Monday. The delay was due to the pending court case which, according to Peter Bowman, has been withdrawn temporarily.

Harpin Beaumont, 33, of Glen Williams, is in satisfactory condition in Toronto General Hospital after receiving a kidney Sunday from an 18-year-old Toronto youth, the victim of an automobile accident.

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority will start no new projects this year because of a 50 per cent cut in its budget by the province. Acquisition of new land for a reservoir, development of the Limehouse area just west of Georgetown and the start of a recreation area at Meadowdale with a reservoir and pond were a few of the projects that had to be shelved.

A Halton County Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSSTF) executive said on Friday he has discussed "pink listing" of the Halton County board of education with the provincial organization. Paul Martindale of Acton, president of the Halton OSSSTF, said at a mass meeting of county secondary school teachers that he had discussed both pink listing and the possibility of the parent organization entering local contract negotiations.

The Georgetown area has been designated as part of "limited growth" zone by the provincial government's design for development. The 23-page report was released to municipal representatives in Toronto. The growth pattern for the huge Toronto-centred region puts Georgetown in a "commuter belt" where recreational agricultural and other open space land uses will be retained to the maximum degree.

Georgetown taxpayers are faced with a three-mill tax rate increase this year, despite higher government grants for education. A residential rate of 71 mills, endorsed by council on Monday, means an increase of \$18 per year for the average taxpayer.

A "titled" baseball park, almost a reality last year, when council purchased poles and a lighting system moved a step backward Monday. A council motion, opposed only by Reeve Wm. F. Hunter, sold ten 80 foot poles lighting imported from British Columbia, to Wm. Carr for \$2,500, \$300 less than what the town paid for them.

ONE YEAR AGO-Years of controversy may be over as the Georgetown Public Library and adjoining property have been recommended as the site for Halton Hills' new combined \$1.5 million arts and crafts, theatre and library complex. Subject to approval next Tuesday, municipal officials will open negotiations for the purchase of three private homes on Church and Market Street which occupy part of the land needed for the planned 23,000-square foot complex and parking lot.

The payment of \$40,000 to assist in the restoration of Acton's century-old town hall has been recommended by the town's general committee. After a lengthy debate Monday night during which allegedly proclausal comments made by some councillors raised the ire of those representing Ward 1, (Acton), the committee agreed to earmark \$40,000 in the town's 1980 budget for the project, provided provincial grants were assured first.

The Cheltenham brick yard is one of nine quarry operations the ministry of natural resources is expected to ask the Niagara Escarpment Commission to reconsider for development approval within the next few weeks.

Three civilians and two Halton Regional Police officers were honored at the annual Optimists' Respect for Law banquet last week. The awards are presented each year as part of Respect For Law Week. Nancy Kelham, Margaret Beaumont, Dr. Alex Ashenburt and Constables Tom Nicholson and James Turner each received commemorative plaques.

Schools have a responsibility to provide the means for physical education, but they aren't responsible for the fitness of the Canadian child, Jack Richardson told Georgetown area school principals last week. Mr. Richardson, co-ordinator of physical and health education for the Halton board of education, said the child's parents must be supportive of the school's work in keeping children fit, or provide a model for fitness themselves, otherwise the school won't accomplish much.



Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

Danger signs in the mail

Did six million Jews die in the Nazi gas chambers or not? The question is raised once more this week in one of the more eye-opening pieces of mail to reach The Herald in some time, this one circulated by Ernst Zindel in the form of publicity brochures for the Concerned Parents of German Descent, glaringly illustrated with red and black type, eagle symbols, and yes, even the nasty swastika.

Partially a reaction to the recent decision by Canadian solicitor-general Kaplan to allow Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal to pursue his vocation of vengeance here and partially an outcry against the TV movie serial "Holocaust" (which Zindel says is a complete fabrication), this literature is more alarming to me because it perhaps reflects society's dangerous tilt toward right-wing socio-political policies.

To be sure, Zindel examines the current mid-East crisis in terribly rhetorical terms, but severs his allegiance to the American cause there by scoffing at the U.S. for seeking European assistance 40 years after it allied itself with the Soviets to battle Nazi Germany.

In a commentary entitled "The German Viewpoint", he writes: "We fought Communism ten miles from the Kremlin's gates and left 300,000 dead anti-Communist fighters in Stalingrad, while the Soviet empire's American allies area-bombed the civilian populations of our cities in a genocidal war against our wives, mothers and children. We remember... the vicious hypocrisy inflicted upon us at Nuremberg by the Soviet-American show-trial tribunal."

Zindel goes on to accuse America of launching and fostering the kind of guerilla warfare it now faces in Iran, calling the militant students of Tehran "as American in tradition as apple pie."

The same mail-out heaps praise on Olympic runner Jesse Owens, but more because of his alleged admissions concerning the myths of Hitler's infamous condescension toward the runner than because of the late Owens' athletic abilities. Zindel states that Owens confessed before he died that anti-Nazi forces politicized and fictionalized much of what the West heard concerning the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

There is an emotional appeal to Canadian legislators to do something about the way German-Canadians continue to be ridiculed because of the events of World War II, repeatedly illustrated on television as either bombing oafs or "murderous robots".

Then, of course, there's the "Myth" of the gas chambers:

"Holocaust" attempts to establish its documentary credentials by showing out-of-focus, grainy, washed-out 'atrocity' slides which have long ago been exposed as fakes by such historical research authorities as Faurisson, Butz, Harwood... Where genuine, these atrocity photos depict real victims of real war victims - German victims of Allied air raids and European victims of the Allied hunger blockade...The Institute of Historical Review in Torrance, California, offers \$50,000 for any proof that the Germans had gas chambers for human beings."

Finally, there's an elaborate brochure making available "Nazi secret weapon art posters" at \$3 each: bombs, planes, cannons, etc.

Nazism, like World War II itself, began as a reaction to the same kind of social problems facing us today: economic instability and political weakness. While most Canadians will laugh at much of what Zindel has to say, the majority do seem to harbor similar, reactionary views on current global events; witness the allegedly near-unanimous praise of the American public for their president's botched Tehran rescue attempt.

These are dangerous times; we cannot be seduced by voices convinced that war, vengeance and other strong-arm tactics are the answer to our problems.

the HERALD

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DAVID BEATTIE, Advertising Manager

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