

Spot check 'ends' don't justify seasonal 'means'

The Christmas season is also, ironically, the spot check season: it's somehow paradoxical that the time for holiday cheer is also supposed to be a time for self-restraint.
And while no one would fault the police across North America for implementing programs ostensibly designed to reduce the number of drunk drivers on the roads, we readily criticize the rationale behind such moves - these are at best band-aid pseudo-cures for a social problem that in fact has little if anything to do with the majority of highway accidents and fatalities and injuries.

selves have a simple, dual role in the scenario of drunk driving: accident prevention in the case of clearly intoxicated drivers and grim as it sounds, accident care and clean-up after the fact.
The average cop on the beat can accurately say that if even one life is saved by Christmas spotchecks, the program is worthwhile. But this is emotive rhetoric and not logic. A recent ministry of transportation survey found that roughly 80 per cent of highway mishaps are the result of drivers not paying attention to their responsibility behind the wheel; alcohol had nothing to do with their shortcoming.



Leger's illness gave a chance to show personal courage

Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

As a Governor-General, Jules Leger didn't have the noble aloofness of Vincent Massey, the profound presence of Viscount Alexander, the athletic flair of Roland Michener, but when he came to serene courage, he was in a class by himself.
It's a pity that ill-health prevented him from leaving an even larger imprint on the country he loved so much. But what this same ill-health did do was provide him with an opportunity to demonstrate a personal courage that had never before been on public display in Canada. Never had a Governor-General, or any other Canadian public figure, had to relearn to speak two languages while being watched by an entire nation.

never before ventured inside its massive gates. "I think if one can, further Canadianize the position that is what I should like to do," he said in 1976. And that he did.
GREAT DEBT
Quite apart from overseeing the transfer of royal authority from the Queen to the Governor-General, Leger Canadianized his office in countless other ways. The walls of "Rideau Hall" were seen adorned with the works of Canadian painters, replacing those starchy portraits of former Governors-General. The old buildings of then rocked with parties, particularly children's parties, and two years after that first massive stroke, Leger and his wife were off touring every province and territory, always telling Canadians to have faith in the future of their country. And most of us didn't realize just how often he fought that message into Quebec at a key time in our history.

learn English, a language that he first learned as a schoolboy. Few of us will ever comprehend the deeply discouraging daily struggle he faced as he wrestled with just those simple words he would once again utter in public with his royal wife at his side, ready to complete each sentence.
Gaby, as she is known, is equally remarkable - a quiet small town Quebec mother who shunned the spotlight but, when the need arose, stepped in without a stammer. She even read speeches to open Parliament.
NOT KNOWN
When Jules Leger was appointed Governor-general, he was best known by many Canadians as a brother of Paul-Emile Cardinal Leger. It's true he had been a distinguished diplomat, but so had hundreds of others. The world diplomacy tends to be off by itself, hiding its performers under a grey blanket of harmless stoniness. With few exceptions, career diplomats are not regarded as high-impact personalities. University teachers perhaps, but potential Governor-General?

Letter from the Editor



Paul Dorsey

Filed under 'Misc.'

We're "departmentalizing" at The Herald; new items this week.
In the Quirks of History Department, home of Rex Heslop Sr.'s "Blueprint for Decentralization" and other misplaced musings, a September, 1944, letter found at the bottom of yesteryear's mailbag, no doubt addressed to the late Mary Ileen, wife and business partner of former Herald editor Walter, who was then at war overseas.
"To the Lady Editor, Dear Madam:
I wish to call to your attention a little discrepancy which has happened recently in your valued paper. Why is it when a Canadian-born soldier has an honorary award of distinction given him, it is crammed in the smallest space and typed in the very smallest (sic) type available, while a student in the next column in large blocked headlines? Was it because he was not a town boy?!! This is getting undesirable publicity and even disgust in the community.

million, leaving 5 million to do the work. Two million federal government employees leave 3 million to do the work. Another 500,000 in the armed forces leave 2,500,000 workers. Deduct 1,250,000 provincial and municipal workers, which leaves 1,250,000 to do the work. There are 250,000 people in hospitals, asylums, etc., leaving one million to do the work. But 700,000 of these are unemployed and 200,000 are on welfare or won't work, so that leaves 100,000 to do the work. Now it may interest you to know that there are 80,000 people out of the country at any one time and 19,998 people in jail, so that leaves just two people to do all the work. And that is you and me, brother, and I'm getting tired of doing everything by myself!

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Carleton by-election victory favors leadership strategy

Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Just for interest let's assume local matters did not dominate in the contest, but rather broader provincial concerns. These could impact to the same degree in other ridings during a general election.
If the turnout were the normal 60 to 70 per cent, and the same split holds as in the by-election, the opposition is in trouble.
LOOK BACK
It's worthwhile to compare past elections-the strongly Tory 1971 general election, the anti-Davis tide in 1975, and the pro-conservative 1977 general election-to the Carleton results.
(That raw votes to be translated into relative percentages.)
On these grounds it appears the Conservatives have regained their 1971 popularity in Carleton, with the Liberals improving slightly while the NDP sank somewhat.

provincial election, when the Conservatives ran as the John Roberts Party, since the then-premier led his party in popularity by long strides. (The Tories lost seats but still won the election.)
A second element that seems to work in the Conservatives' favor is, paradoxically, the economic situation, the belief that in troubled times men rather than gambling on the unknown.
So far, the "time for a change" sentiment does not appear to be working.
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Halton's History
From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO-"We didn't allow enough for expansion, Georgetown had the greatest growth in history last year," said Mayor Harold Cleave at Monday's nomination meeting in the public library. Mayor Cleave was explaining to the eighty-odd ratepayers present, the reason for an estimated \$6,883 deficit on the year's operations which is forecast by an interim statement of finances as of November 15th.

Georgetown has a new band-the Georgetown Citizens Pipe Band. The new aggregation, which includes both men and women in its playing ranks, had its inaugural meeting on Thursday, boasting a membership of 10 pipers and six drummers.
Suggesting that study be given to legislation which would force owners of vacant property to keep the property in shape or have it torn down, Mayor Hyde found council in agreement with him Monday night.

Forty-four years in township politics is the impressive record racked up by George Currie, retiring reeve of Esquesing. The 80-year-old "Senator", as he is affectionately known around the township, has only been out of office four years since 1926 when he first ran for Esquesing Council. Fourteen of the 44 years he served as reeve, and the remainder of the time, he was either deputy reeve or councillor.

ONE YEAR AGO-Bruce McLaughlin, president of Focal Properties Ltd., is tired of fighting the community and has asked the people of Halton Hills to "suspend their disbelief" and seek an "air of co-operation". Referring to the controversy surrounding his proposed 1,740-home development south of Georgetown, Mr. McLaughlin told the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce last week that "it is time for us all to have the humility to back down from strong positions and commit ourselves to co-operation."
Gord Douglas, a well-known member of the North Halton Scout movement, has received the medal of merit for his outstanding contribution to the movement during the past 17 years. Mr. Douglas was presented with a letter Nov. 21 telling him he had received the award, but the actual medal will be presented at a later date.

Advertisement for Panasonic Dream IC television, featuring a photograph of a woman and child with the TV.