

CLERGY COMMENT Comic strip messages ring true

By BOB OLLIVIER
Herald Columnist

A recent column in a large daily newspaper draws on the not-so-new religious comic books. With bold headlines and a carefully chosen picture, they attempt to dramatize and mislead.

The article points out the editors' obvious disbelief in the claims of Crusader Comics that rock music is "a tool of Satan," evolution is a "devilish hoax," astrology and fortune telling are the "tools of demons."

Personally, I believe they are tools of Satan. But then, I am a Christian and not the agnostic religion editor of a large daily trying to make an impression.

Some things in these comics bother me, but for the most part they carry a message. One indicates there is a problem with the many new translations of the scriptures. There are at least two that I would never read or study, and they are carried by evangelists. Some of these "interpretations" deaden the power of the Word of God.

Check your favourite verse to see if it reads well before buying. A discussion on translations will appear in this column in the near future.

The Senior Choir of St. John's United Church will present a Cantata at 7:30 p.m. April 12.

Palm Sunday is an apt day for this Cantata, "No Greater Love", and the majesty and maturity of voice will enhance this presentation to a "don't-miss" category.

A recent survey from the U.S. indicates that the father is the controlling influence in the home. One such area of influence involves attendance at church and religious values. The prevailing view has been that the mother's influence is greater in religious life, and the fathers' in the areas of politics and work ethic. The ancient Jews knew that the fathers' influence was greater in the religious aspects of life and still feel this way.

The probable sites of ancient Sodom and Gomorrah, along with three other "cities of the plains", have been discovered. The location is the southeast end of the Dead Sea. The sites have the present-day names of Badedh-Dhra and Numera.

Masada is a city set on a high hill at the eastern edge of the Judean desert. A sheer drop of 1,300 feet made it a natural fortress, as the Roman army of the first century A.D. was to find out. The Jews were under the rule of Rome and one of the many rebellions was by the "Maccabees" at Masada. There followed a four-year siege ending when 960 men, women and children committed suicide rather than be slaves to the "pagans". They held off 15,000 soldiers of the Roman Tenth Legion, and the suicide pact was on the eve of Passover in the year AD 73. This part of Jewish and religious history will be portrayed in a four-part epic on TV next week, Sunday through Wednesday (April 5 to 8) 9am on channels 7, 9 and 13. Don't miss it.

Esplen acquitted in shooting

Robert Esplen was acquitted last week of manslaughter, but he and wife Patricia plan to sell their home at Highway 25 and the Sideroad 10 to leave behind the unhappy memories.

Following nine hours of deliberation a week ago Thursday, a Supreme Court jury in Milton declared Mr. Esplen, 50, not guilty of manslaughter in the May 11 shooting death of Andre Wysman, a young Milton resident who had been fishing on Mr. Esplen's private property.

Mr. Esplen's lawyer, David Humphrey, called the accident "a fluke of all flukes".

Spotting Mr. Wysman, 21, and two others fishing in a pond on his property, Mr. Esplen said he testified that he challenged them with a .22 calibre rifle. The car dealer fired a shot in the air and one into the pond to try and scare the men off, he said, then took it step forward, but slipped on the lawn, which was still wet with early morning dew.

Mr. Esplen's rifle discharged again, this time wounding Mr. Wysman in the back. The young man died several hours later at Milton District Hospital after Halton regional police, who Mr. Esplen had called, summoned an ambulance.

Regional study would upgrade sewage plant

Herald Special

A regional study on sludge management presented to a general committee Monday suggests that among the upgrading necessary at present sludge digestion facilities is installation of a new secondary anaerobic digester with a capacity of 340 cubic metres as soon as possible at the Acton water pollution control plant.

The report also calls for converting the Burlington Skyway Water Pollution Control Plant to sludge disposal by dewatering and digested sludge cake landfilling as soon as a landfill site can be found to receive the sludge cake.

All other pollution control plants should continue to dispose of sludge by spreading it on farmland.

Research should be carried out to find acceptable ways of storing sludge off-site so it complies with ministry of environment guidelines for sludge utilization on agricultural land.

If acceptable alternate sludge storage methods can't be

found, covered off-site storage tanks should be located in the major areas of farmland suitable for use in the sludge utilization program.

Sludge haulage from pollution plants to storage blending plants should be done by private contractors providing road tractors to move region-owned semi tank trailers. Sludge spreading should be with region-owned and operated tractor-type vehicles. Sludge cake haulage to a landfill site should be by contract.

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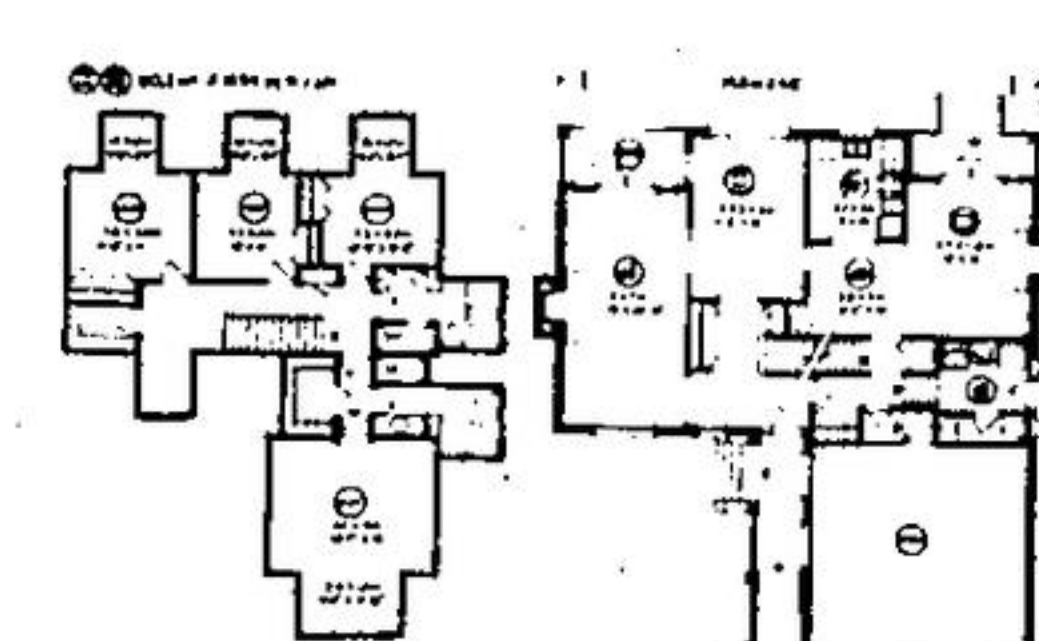

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Home of the Week

PLAN NO. 81-2052
MAY 1980 P. 48 N. 10

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The elevated porch-style main entry leads into a commodious reception foyer and outerwear storage area, which faces the stairway to the second level. From the foyer, traffic moves naturally to the left and into the long rectangular formal living room. The living room features a raised-hearth masonry fireplace, charming arched front windows which lend an air of formality to the room, and French doors provide access to the formal dining room and enable the complete separation of living and dining functions.

The step-saving U-configuration kitchen-dinette combination is positioned mid-way between the dining room and the large family room/T.V. lounge, making possible excellent separation of formal dining when entertaining and more casual family meals. The kitchen provides generous counter-top work surfaces and abundant cupboard storage. The family room features a second raised-hearth masonry fireplace and French doors opening onto an elevated rear patio.

A convenient two-piece vanity bathroom and laundry-utility complex is positioned mid-way between the family room and the double enclosed garage, and is sunken four risers from the main living level.

All four bedrooms are positioned on the second level as are two four-piece baths with whirlpool tubs, an outerwear storage closet and a walk-in linen storage facility. Each of the bedrooms has ample closet storage and excellent exposure for view and natural light. The large master bedroom over the garage would have a full walk-in closet and a four-piece ensuite bath with shower and whirlpool bath, and the stove formed by the large front-facing dormer would serve as a private lounge area or, if not required as a bedroom, this space could be developed as a high-style office/study/lounge area.

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