

A COMMUNITY PROBLEM

Park vandals hurting selves

It is frustratingly ironic that a popular target for local vandals lately has been the main concession booth at Fairgrounds Park in Georgetown.

Recently taken over by the Optimist Club, the brick structure, which also houses washrooms, dispenses snacks and soft drinks to baseball players and other park visitors with part of the proceeds going to Optimist programs centered on the young.

The Optimists are the "friends of youth", as their motto states, and between the annual "pass, dribble and shoot" basketball competitions they stage for young people and the elaborate drug education seminar series for parents, they certainly do a great deal to improve the lot of youth.

So it must be very discouraging for club members to fall victim to a crime which is unfortunately attributed, statistically, to youth. Two break-and-enters at the concession booth in recent weeks have cost the Optimists more in door and lock repairs than in lost merchandise: only cigarettes and snacks were taken. But in the first attack, at least, the vandals left their classic trademark - everything was turned upside down.

The Optimists, if only by virtue of their club name, will persevere in their youth-oriented community work. Hundreds of local kids benefit from their events and projects every year, and the more ambitious programs taken on in recent years will likely multiply those benefits tenfold.

If you're the parent of a teenager or pre-teen, talk to them about the kinds of problems that concern the Optimists. If they're confused about drug abuse, the club can probably help your family. If they're feeling pressured by their peers to smash a window or shoplift for the sake of a thrill, maybe there's something in the Optimist repertoire to help you too.

Vandalism, of course, is always a community tragedy, but the irony accompanying attacks on the Optimist-operated snackbar in the park makes it a case of youth hurting youth.

Those involved with the vandalism, by the way, should be alerted to the fact that the concession booth is now being watched carefully by police. The perpetrators would do well to consider the overall impact of their actions and then pursue a different nocturnal activity. That is what Optimism is all about - helping youth, not sending them to jail.

Vandalism survey

At the request of Centennial Public School in Georgetown, The Herald is reprinting the questionnaire on vandalism circulated in recent months by Centennial students. To poll residents in a wider area than was canvassed by the students, The Herald invites you to fill in the following questionnaire and submit your answers to Centennial School at 233 Delrex Blvd., care of teacher Pat Bail. Results of the survey, which will appear in a forthcoming issue of The Herald, will be presented by the students to town council next Monday evening.

- 1A) Have you ever been a victim of vandalism?
- B) When did this act of vandalism occur?
- C) What were your feelings when you discovered this vandalism?
- D) What type of things were damaged?
- E) How was the property damaged?
- F) How did they enter?
- G) What was the value of the articles damaged?
- H) Were you ever satisfactorily reimbursed for the damage?
- I) Were the culprits caught?
- J) What was the age of the culprits?
- K) Were the culprits residents of Georgetown?
- L) Were they from your neighbourhood?
- M) What penalty did the culprits receive? (If nothing was done, do you know why?)
- 2 If you ever witnessed an act of vandalism, what would you do about it?
- 3 Is vandalism a common problem in your neighbourhood?
- 4 Why do you think vandalism occurs?
- 5 Do you think vandalism is increasing?
- 6 What are you doing on your own property to prevent vandalism?
- 7 How would you try to prevent or even solve the problem of vandalism?



Our Parliament under seige: jokes turn into lead balloons



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Given the current ugly mood in Parliament - some people call it a seige mentality - MPs should immediately resolve not to try telling a joke, not to offer a light-hearted comment to an opponent and, above all, not to be heard laughing - at anything.

There is nothing funny around Parliament Hill right now, absolutely nothing. There is bitterness, anger and resentment as MPs wait in ambush for incidents of potential embarrassment. Jovial remarks that traditionally lightened the day for MPs, are out.



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau, Thomson News Service
Mean. Petty. Hypocritical. Regressive. A sell-out of the poor. Puppy and pizza taxes. The Grinch who stole Christmas.

The litany of abuse for Treasurer Frank Miller's budget rolls on endlessly. One would think Miller was the original Snake in the Garden of Eden from the carping of his critics.

MPP Pat Reid (L-Rainy River) cleverly made the point by reciting a piece of doggerel in the Legislature: "How much is that doggie in the window. The one in the old pet store? Well, because of Frank and Willy, It's now seven per cent more."

And yet...who pretends a store-bought puppy is a necessity of life? Or an order-in pizza? Or that paintbrushes should be taxed and not cleaning agents?

Except for non-prepared food, a true necessity of life, sales tax exemptions never made much sense anyway, although Miller continues to allow other items like children's clothing and heating oil to escape the grab of the taxman.

ONE CRITIC
One journalistic critic of Miller's made the opposition case against Miller's budget another way.

Comparing cost calculations showed closing the sales tax loopholes would cost a welfare family \$42 a year, a working class family \$96 a year, and a middle-class family \$176 a year, he wrote.

Accepting his figures (I have doubts), he argues this is regressive taxation, meaning the so-called rich get off paying proportionately less of their income than the so-called poor.

In fact, I see it as progressive taxation. The rich, because they

Someone might take them seriously and accuse the author of some indescribable evil.

It's a pity, but that's the way things are right now.

By the sound of things, Solicitor-General Robert Kaplan made a rather tasteless remark in an elevator to Tory MP Pat Carney about prostitution in her riding. But the remark itself may not have been any worse than the fact that it - apparently an attempt at alleged humor - became a public, and embarrassing issue.

In the good old days, it was possible to have private - yes, even tasteless - conversations in parliamentary elevators and cafeterias without fear of being published. But not any more.

The hostile reaction was instantaneous. Letters poured into editorial pages denouncing the laughing MPs. Radio talk shows were filled with condemnations. A couple of days later there was even a motion passed in Parliament to help MPs clear their conscience. It began: "That this House assure the Women of Canada that the issue of family violence, and especially of wife-battering, is considered by all members of this House to be an extremely grave and alarming one..."

But even this hasn't cleared the air. There is still an obvious sense of outrage about the original laughter.

As said earlier, any sound of laughter is decidedly dangerous in today's parliamentary atmosphere, and those MPs who permitted themselves a giggle weren't particularly astute, but we shouldn't lose our perspective about the whole thing. Regardless of what you may think of your MP, he's not likely to laugh at wife-battering.

What wasn't widely reported about this is that Mrs. Mitchell in asking Kaplan about wife-beating, began by saying, "I have an upbeat question for the minister." And since there was absolutely nothing upbeat about the question, it seems safe to assume that her use of the phrase was meant to be amusing.

That, in my mind, comes close to vocal entrapment.

There have been other examples of misplaced humor and laughter, which we won't pursue at the moment. The point is, however, that given today's hostile parliamentary environment, MPs would be well advised to stick to prepared speeches, keep silent in corridors and elevators and, above all, keep frowning.

consume more, get taxed more than the poor.

Except for a few lonely voices (yours truly, for instance, and no politicians), nobody is protesting what Miller is spending, only the method he is using in paying for some of it.

WHERE NEXT?
Given the unwillingness of any of the old-line political parties, whether Conservative, Liberal, or NDP, to countenance restraint of spending, their focus must be on how to pay for government's extravagance.

Both the Liberals and NDP suggest letting the budget deficit accelerate into the stratosphere. (Miller let it soar 124 per cent. What more do they want?)

Miller, preferring to pay part of his expenses by raising taxes, claims the average Ontario household will be set back only \$125 to \$150. The NDP claim \$300, but they add together tax increases over two years to get that figure.

Liberal Leader David Peterson said the cost, depending on lifestyle,

would be between \$180 and \$730 per family. He thought it outrageous.

JOB CREATION
Whoever is right someone has to pay now or in the future.

Far more important, and what is getting lost in the pizza and puppy shuffle by the critics, is what the Miller budget is all about: job creation. You can't pay taxes if you're not working. No one doubts jobs and inflation are Ontarians' key concerns, and the budget tackles one of them. (Increased taxes are inflationary and large deficits may also be. Since spending can't be cut it looks like Miller made a trade-off in inflation.)

Miller abolished corporation taxes for incorporated small business as a spur to investment.

"I am trying to create jobs. The people creating jobs today are those who are making enough profit to reinvest," he said.

Rather than being mean or regressive, giving a break to the most labor-intensive sector of the economy during a recession seems to make sense.

Halton's History from our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Don Barrager was elected president of Georgetown Lions Club, succeeding Ray Whitmee when the annual election took place at the club's dinner meeting in the McGibbon House. Senior officers of the club for the next year will be Jack Gunning, first vice-president; Clarence Kennedy, second vice-president; Albert Tennant third vice-president; Spence McKinnon, secretary; and Bob Reichardt, treasurer. Other club officers are: Walter Gray, Lion tamer; George C. Brown, tall twister; Fred Chapman, bulletin editor.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Georgetown School (Compolette) will have new staff when classes reconvene in the fall. About 14 new teachers have been hired by the board to fill vacancies left by resigning staff members and new teaching positions created by the technical wing. A large quantity of equipment has been purchased for the shop classes now under construction and the board is currently awaiting shipment. Technical and occupational course teachers will arrive here in August to set up the equipment so that everything will be ready for September. Students who have trouble with the regular course now may receive instruction in a trade before leaving school. This is made possible by the recently introduced government grant system by which the federal government pays 75 per cent of cost on all technical areas and the provincial government 25 per cent. Although the entire project converting Georgetown High to a Composite school will cost close to a million and a half dollars, the total cost to this area (Georgetown and Esquesing) is approximately only \$41,000.

TEN YEARS AGO—For the first time since Smith and Stone started business almost 50 years ago, the entire sales and marketing group will be located in Georgetown. At the end of this month, the 18-member force, now located at St. Clair and Yonge in Toronto, will move into newly created offices in the Smith and Stone plant. The move is part of a plan to cut costs and improve communication between sales and marketing and the manufacturing group, vice-president Tom Creaghan said.

POET'S CORNER Free Stone Quarry

Stone was drawn by horses to the railway siding
Used high up wagons as the stone did ride in
With horse and cart, they stripped the stone
Some men worked in pairs, and some alone.
With hammer and chisel, they learned a skill
Practice time they did work with a will
They cut that rock so good and straight
Window sills and flags, they were great.
Derrick man, with care, dragged those slabs anywhere
Some of them brittle, like rag would tear
Stone houses, they were built that day
Masons worked, for a very low pay.
Now modern day trucks haul it all the way
The average man can't build to stay
As plain as a box, just a place to stay
Most artistic of this day, are let go astray.
To-day, buildings are built of glass and steel
They tower to the sky, that's not real
It is just a box, style plain place
People to-day are a mixed up race.
Someone built a stone house across the street
It was a place where skilled masons meet
With fancy work out of this world so complete
Politicians wreck it, this act to them a perfect treat.
—By Albert Brooks, RR2 Acton



AND THANK YOU, CANTANTE

Honoring some of the best-loved tunes written by modern composers and singers, the Cantante Singers performed by Bill Kent and another by Diana Collett. Immensely enjoyed by the audience, there were a couple of original tunes in the repertoire as well, written and performed by Bill Kent and another by Diana Collett. The Herald's review of Friday's concert will appear in this Friday's Weekend Extra.