

## Courting fiscal disaster

# Bring down the government

By the time you read this, we'd like to think, Canada's Liberal government will have collapsed or will be about to collapse under the weight of a non-confidence motion that was expected to come before the House yesterday (Tuesday).

The focus for the show of solidarity by the Conservative and New Democratic parties, of course, is last week's budget, not so much the blueprint for economic recovery, as the government has called it, as a fiscal disaster just waiting to happen, skillfully disguised behind a smokescreen of half-hearted incentive programs geared to the beleaguered small business sector and the unemployment problem.

Finance minister Allan MacEachen has had his chance. Seven months of non-stop cries of outrage and genuine pain failed to prompt any more than a token response from the public servant whose name has become synonymous with arrogance, disinterest and plain old-fashioned tunnel vision.

MacEachen has replaced Pierre Trudeau as the modern world's answer to Marie Antoinette, that aristocratic French champion of class distinctions who uttered the immortal words "Let them eat cake". Like her, it seems, MacEachen has no idea what democracy is for or about; like her, he shall lose his political life beneath the guillotine knife, albeit the sharp blade of our condemnation.

Having trotted out the old inflation issue once its Constitutional meanderings were milked for all they were worth,

the Liberal government has somehow concluded that what's best for the Canadian people is a greater rate of government spending and some frontal attacks on the unemployment, small business and housing problems. Rather than confronting the Bank of Canada and its colleagues in crime, the Liberals believe they have our approval to increase the national debt from \$9 billion to almost \$20 billion in an effort to set things straight.

What absurdity! The MacEachen budget is bound to sink us and none of us should sit by and let that happen. Do not be put off by the budget's concessions to public pressure: the civil servants' six per cent wage hike ceiling, the tough-guy stance against labor, the job creation programs. These amount to just so much fluff.

These are critical times for Canadians; make no mistake in realizing that a wrong move now could touch off a panic. The new budget has already weakened worldwide confidence in the Canadian dollar; business investments will continue to drop.

Unless the loyal Opposition can prove its worth in a way never before required. The question of whether the Conservatives or New Democrats can provide the economic solutions we need is irrelevant at this point. At hand is the absolute need for them to halt the Liberal policies before they inflict even greater damage.

We wish the Opposition parties strength and stamina in their parliamentary efforts to bring down the Liberals.

## Librarian's study a terrible waste

It was with heaping praise that the new "School Library Program Guidelines" was introduced last week to members of the Halton board of education.

This yellow 65-page report, a full quarter-inch thick, could easily have been reduced to a mere three pages of useful information. The report belabors a vague point in synonymous paragraphs that really don't say anything particularly new or useful in practical terms to school librarians or anyone else.

The purpose of the document is apparently to outline for teachers, teacher-librarians and administrators, a school library program.

It's just silly, really, to think that over ten board employees have spent three years producing a product that says nothing solid or constructive.

The amazing thing about it is that this report has been ordered by other school boards in Canada, at a cost of \$10 apiece. So far, according to Halton Hills trustee Arlene Bruce, 275 copies of the report have been sold outside the region, with 115 copies having been bought by the Vancouver school board.

"We've had to print over 150 copies and orders are still coming in," Pauline Weber, editor of the booklet said.

By charging \$10 a copy, the board hopes to recover the cost of producing and printing the report.

Thanks to a complimentary review in a Canadian journal for school librarians called

### STAFF COMMENT

By Ani Pederian

"Emergency Librarian", the Halton board expects to continue filling orders for the report next year, Mrs. Weber said.

For some strange reason, the cost of producing the report is nebulous. Nobody can give a more definite answer than editor Weber, who said it cost "several thousand dollars". None of the Halton Hills trustees knew, and superintendent of program Bob Dixon, who recommended the study be undertaken in 1979, and superintendent of finance Barb Moore both failed to respond to inquiries from The Herald as of press-time.

"It's hard to estimate the cost and pin it down to a particular dollar figure," Mrs. Weber claims.

She said the writing team of ten teacher-librarians took off school days to work on the report, and during their absence supply teachers were brought in to cover for them at their regular duties.

If the reports sell well, Mrs. Weber is hoping to make enough money to write up an evaluation of the school library program to look onto page 65. Why bother?



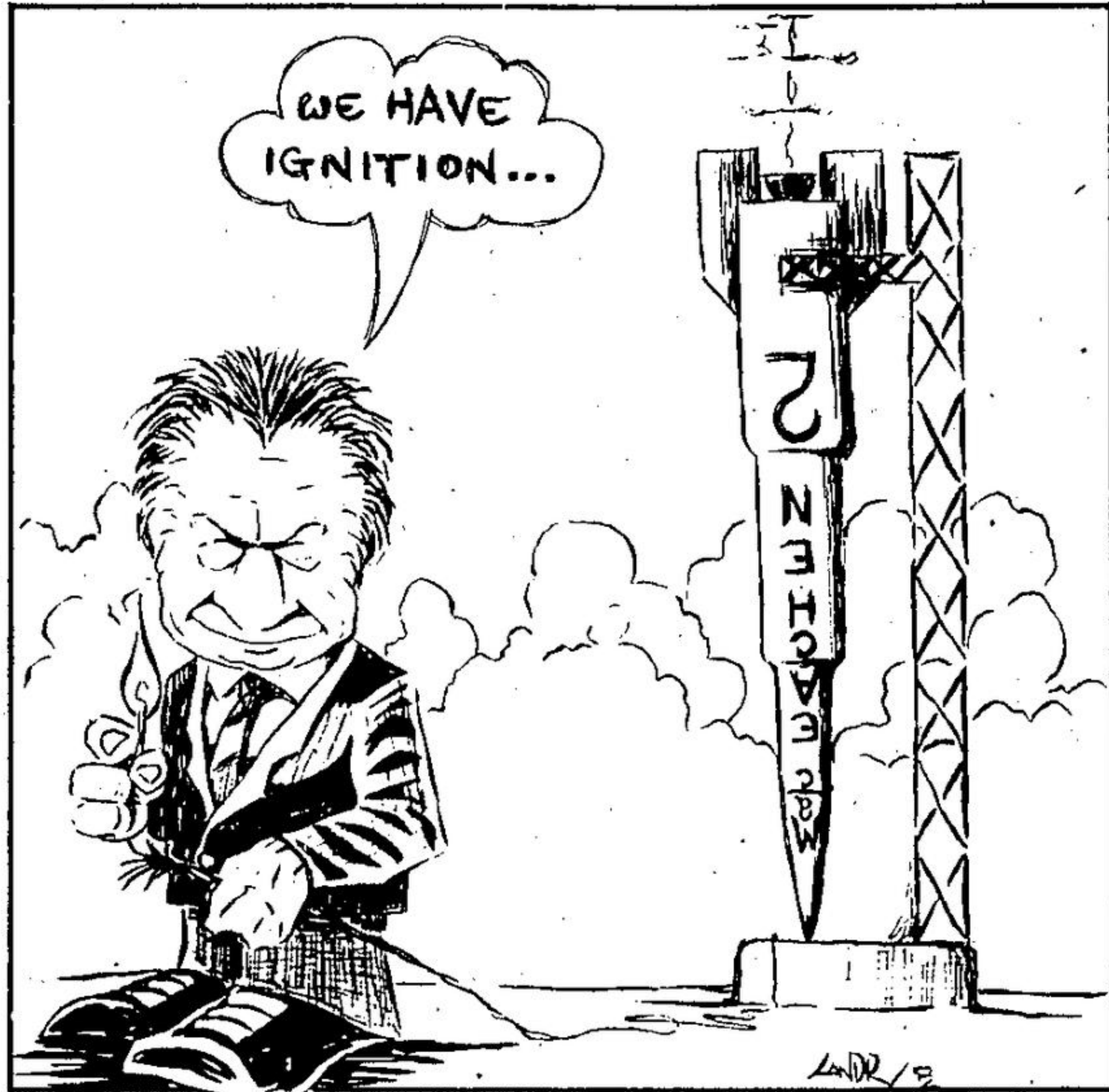
Two out of three Halton Hills trustees sang the praises of the report.

"I think it's really a tremendous textbook for librarians and schools and it's also interesting for parents to see what kind of programs go on, to see the kind of things librarians are supposed to develop," trustee Arlene Bruce said.

Acknowledging nevertheless that she doesn't think parents will read the report, Mrs. Bruce said that it wasn't intended to be read by parents anyway. It's to be used by school librarians and classroom teachers, she said.

With the meat of the matter buried in the back pages of the report, it's doubtful whether anybody will be willing to wade through the fluff about "The joy of reading, viewing and listening," and "finding and using information, a library skills program" to find it.

As for school librarians gaining anything from it, other than the role description stating what the board expects of its school librarians, there isn't anything new, something that even Pauline Weber admitted. Continued on page A6



## When Clark meets the press, critics observe dignity, grace



### Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Watching Tory Leader Joe Clark over the last couple of years, the one thing that has intrigued me more than anything else is the decency he displays in dealing with his journalistic detractors.

I've been waiting for him to explode at us. But day after day, press conference after press conference, he will gracefully accept questions from his critics, acknowledge them with respect, and answer them with painstaking sincerity. And although the temptation, on occasions, must be great, he simply never puts down the questioner.

If we said some of the things about Pierre Trudeau that we have said about Joe Clark, the prime minister's news conference would be raging infernos. Even as things stand, they are usually peppered with assorted put-downs and other minor pot-shots.

But not with Clark. Despite the fact that he has taken more journalistic punishment than any political leader in recent history - some of it as far removed from politics as his swimming, walking and eating habits - he has never given the slightest indication of bearing grudges. It

doesn't seem to matter whether you call him Wimp or Wonderman, you get treated with the same apparent respect.

How he can muster up this degree of decency is something that has puzzled me for a long time.

BACKGROUND HELPED We now were sitting in a restaurant - and if you must know, we were eating baked beans - and I was trying to find out just how difficult it was, deep down, for Clark to deal with his detractors the way he does. Surely there must be occasions when he has an overwhelming urge to lash out at some of us.

That little chortle came out of the corner of his mouth. "No, not really," he said. And then he went on to offer an interesting explanation as to why it might be easier for him to accept this criticism than it is for other political leaders.

"I had an advantage in this respect inasmuch as I was literally raised in a weekly newspaper in High River. And weekly newspapers exist to bring people together, to be an agency of cohesion in a community. You were taught not to injure.

"Then when I was 17, I went to a city daily and I was startled by the contrast. There, you were expected to analyze, to criticize and sometimes make snap decisions on imperfect information. You quickly learned about the adversary role that exists between politicians and the press... the impact of all this at a very early age has, I think, helped me a great deal. I came into public life more prepared for what would happen than many of my colleagues.

"And as I once heard Dalton Camp say to Bob Stanfield about the press, 'You've got to learn to live with those guys.'"

Clark smiled as he recalled that.

CITES THIP But even with this background and understanding, surely there were occasions when he felt he was simply treated unfairly by the media?

Without hesitation, he mentioned his tour of Southeast Asia prior to becoming prime minister. On that occasion, his every move and comment was unmercifully dissected and, in the view of some, elaborately embellished. "That fine line between truth and fiction was crossed a fair bit," said the Tory leader. "And I think that was costly for me." But there was no trace of annoyance as he spoke.

"I have another advantage in that I don't bruise easily," he continued. And later he was to add: "I don't bear grudges easily."

But aren't there some journalists he feels bitter about? "Oh, there are one or two I'd rather stay away from - there is just no way they would give me a fair break - but it's not a case of being bitter; it's more a case of them disappointing me with their standards. "But I get along with them alright. If you look for the pleasant things in people you can normally get along with them. And I don't feel any need to put people down or to seek revenge. There is just no point to that."

So Joe Clark doesn't have to swallow hard and feign respect when confronted with queries from his most caustic critics. "Not at all," he says cheerfully. "Most questions deserve respectful answers."

"Not even in the back of my mind is there a feeling that I have to settle someone's hash."

He paused for a bite. "But that's not to say I forget. I remember things very clearly. But the important thing is what I do with what I remember."

## Don't call them liars, bandits - our MPPs are 'gentlemen'



### Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Every once in a while a story appears about one or other MPP here being expelled from the Legislative Assembly because he used "unparliamentary language." (No women have qualified yet.)

The latest was MPP Tony Grande (NDP-Oakwood).

The scenario, and Grande's was no exception, usually goes this way: An opposition Liberal or New Democrat will ask a cabinet minister a question. The reply will be unsatisfactory in the member's eyes, and he will then accuse the minister of "misleading the House", or, as in Grande's case, use the word "lying" instead.

Under standing orders one MPP cannot accuse another of uttering a deliberate falsehood, so the Assembly Speaker invariably asks the opposition member to withdraw his accusation.

Usually he will, but sometimes - either for the premeditated reason that it ensures more publicity for his point, or sometimes from genuine anger - he refuses.

Bingo. The Speaker has the Sergeant-at-arms escort the member out for the remainder of the day's sitting. The MPP is "named".

GAME PLAYED The following day the member

normally withdraws the remark and is again seated in the Assembly.

It is a game often played, for obvious reasons mainly by opposition members, but sometimes even the government benches get into the act with charges the Grits or New Democrats are misleading the place.

Most of this is fun, and the current session of the Legislature has had the usual quota of expulsions and attempts to call the other guys nasty names without breaching the rules.

The purpose of these rules are to ensure a minimum level of order and decorum in the Assembly by assuming that all MPPs are "gentlemen" (in the 19th century sense) and entitled to have their words taken at face value.

The rules say - aside from not calling each other liar - these "gentlemen" should not impute false or unavowed motives to their fellow members, make "allegations" (in a general sense), or use abusive and insulting language.

To do so is "unparliamentary".

ZIEMBA EXAMPLE For all the light-hearted gamesmanship involved in this, there are exceptions. MPP Bob Nixon (L-Brant-Oxford-Norfolk) once went to the brink with MPP Elle Martel (NDP-Sudbury East) to get him to withdraw an allegation.

And in the last parliament then-speaker Jack Stokes expelled MPP Ed

Ziemba (NDP-High Park) indefinitely when he refused to withdraw a cheap charge of corruption against MPP David Rotenberg (PC-Wilson Heights).

The eagle-ear and judgment of the Speaker is the key here, and one has a distinct impression that often MPPs on all sides go out of their way to test the talents of whomever occupies the Chair.

MPP Albert Roy (L-Ottawa East), seems to be leading that brigade this session, with back-up from Grande.

ROBIN HOOD

Roy actually succeeded with the word "bandit", using it to describe the government benches until Deputy Speaker Sam Cureatz (who is sharp and balanced) reconsidered his acceptance of the word under Conservative protests.

Roy then conceded he did not mean "bandit" in the true sense, withdrew it, and substituted the phrase "Robin Hoods in reverse" instead.

But Roy was less accommodating when Speaker John Turner ruled the word "hypocrisy" could not be used in connection with Treasurer Frank Miller - he said without using it he couldn't criticize the government.

Still, for "peacefulness" he later backed down.

Meanwhile, his point is on file, and the game continues, one of the more diverting minor (most of the time) occurrences around this place.

## Halton's History from our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Statistics compiled by the public school board reveal how sharply the school population will be increasing in years to come, and why the new public school came none too soon. These same figures show the necessity of immediate planning for more high school accommodation. For the next five years, pupils entering high school from the local schools will number from 45 to 55. Starting in 1957, the figure jumps to 60 then to 70, and in 1961, present indications are that at least 100 Georgetown pupils will be first formers. Coupled with this is the fact that rural school enrollment is growing too. Both Norval and Glen Williams are growing communities and in time will be sending more students on to high school.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Dr. Harry Harley of Oakville is officially the member of parliament for Halton riding. A recount of the vote cast in the federal election in Halton was conducted before Judge Elliott at the Milton court house June 30 and indicated no change in previous standings between Dr. Harley and Sandy Best, the incumbent who led by 61 votes before the services ballots swept Dr. Harley into a 98 vote lead. About 470 votes were invalid according to the election act and were ineligible for consideration. Dr. Harley's victory puts Halton county out of the government for the first time in five years.

TEN YEARS AGO—Georgetown's Golden Year weekend celebration, an obvious success for the revellers, was likely a success financially as well, according to committee spokesman Dan Wagstaffe. He told The Herald yesterday that a meeting Wednesday will deal with the financial end of it and determined just how much they will be able to turn over to the Georgetown hospital. "It was just great to see so many people in Georgetown participating", Mr. Wagstaffe said. "Somebody up there sure took care of us by providing perfect weekend weather. With rain Friday and again Monday it was like the parading of the waters."

ONE YEAR AGO—Town negotiators and officials from the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), representing public works members of Local 73 have settled on a two-year contract ending almost two months of negotiations. Town clerk-administrator Ken Richardson told council Monday night that both parties met earlier that day to iron out the remaining details of the new package. The 37 members of the local who are responsible for garbage collection and park and cemetery maintenance, will receive a 90-cent per hour wage increase over their 1980 agreement in the first year of the new contract and an eleven per cent rise in 1982. The agreement is retroactive to April.

## POET'S CORNER Special Days

It hurts, to roll your name around, in my mind. Memories sometime seem more real than the chasm separating us.

More the pity: You never really knew, how fervent glances warmed my being like sunlight, in a winter porch.

We'll never say goodbye; We never made it to hello. I'll just put you away like a photo in an album, and take you on our special days.

—By Marlowe C. Dickson RR 2 Beeton

## The Chain

The scraping sting of the rusty chain, clamps into my soft tender flesh. I try to break free, but, I am too weak. Nothing can stop the powerful grasp it conveys. Desperately... with the strength from fear itself I hold on.

—By KIM McMULLEN AHS student

## Immature Confusion

I leave my kin in search of a change I need, I look for that change in dark alley ways But there is no change, Only forgotten members of a forgetting society. So I join up with others who say they seek the same. Their hard times contrast my ideas. Eventually it is the changes from whom I seek the change, I feel that I will never find my corner in life's circle. What kind of life can a changer live? Maybe it's living that needs a change?

—By TONY SAXON AHS student

THE HERALD'S Special Report on 'Riding the Recession' returns next week