



Vocal group visits town on 75,000-mile tour

"His Ambassadors" will visit Georgetown Aug. 26. This highly talented vocal and instrumental group is appearing at Maple Avenue Baptist Church, 177 Maple Ave., Georgetown.

In the past few years of His Ambassadors' ministry, they have traveled 500,000 miles around the world. This tour will take the group another 75,000 miles throughout the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Scandinavia and continental Europe. Mixing sacred hymns and contemporary

Christian music with equal capabilities. His Ambassadors provide a varied program of music, testimony of God's love and evidence of the happiness you can find by knowing Jesus Christ. The relaxed and low-key atmosphere of their fine musical program makes His Ambassadors a pure pleasure to experience in concert.

You certainly will not want to miss this excellent musical ministry, so make your plans now to see and hear His Ambassadors at Maple Avenue Baptist Church Aug. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

A message from Koko

Like many other people I know, one of the items on my summer agenda has been to catch up on my reading.

Recently I had the good fortune to read *People of the Lake*, by anthropologist Richard E. Leakey (Doubleday Press, 1978). Part of the argument of his book is that the more we learn about our human past, the more we understand the human present. Along the way, Leakey tells this interesting anecdote about a Stanford University graduate student and her "talking" gorilla, named Koko:

"Three days after Koko had bitten her in a fit of anger, Penny Patterson, the student, asked the ape (in sign language), 'What did you do to Penny?' Koko replied, 'Bite.' 'You admit it?' Patterson continued. Looking a little contrite, Koko said, 'Sorry bite scratch.' Patterson then asked Koko why she had bitten her. 'Because mad', came the answer. 'Why mad?' 'Don't know.' The conversation ended."

What intrigued Dr. Leakey was the ability of the gorilla to comment about past events in such a human manner. But what intrigues me is how closely the moral character of Koko the gorilla parallels the moral character of so many humans today.

I have seen innumerable examples this summer of the so-called "homo sapiens" behaving exactly like gorillas. They bite and scratch a friend in a fit of anger. Several days later over cocktails they remember. They manage to grunt the words that approximate an apology. And then when asked why in the world they behaved (if you will excuse the pun) like an animal, they suddenly look terribly puzzled and say "Don't know."

Most of us are tacitly grateful that human beings are "intelligent" creatures above the lower orders of the animal world. Perhaps we should re-examine our assumption. I can't think of any animal that tops a human being for moodiness, contrariness and sheer omeriness. Under the banners of "self-expression" and "free to be me", we manage to bite, scratch, gouge and generally hurt even our friends in the best tradition of Koko the gorilla. And if anyone questions why we did all this, we shrug our shoulders and go back to play in the jungle.

I believe the moral character of a human being is made of sterner stuff than that of a gorilla. What separates humanity from the lower orders of the animal world is "accountability". People have the right to hold each other accountable for their words and actions. It is not acceptable human behavior to shrug your shoulders before the hurts you may have caused, and then ride merrily away on your dirt bike to play in the jungle. Mere apologies are not enough when you hurt another person. Even Koko the gorilla can manage that! The "accountability" that makes human beings what



CLERGY COMMENT

By The Rev. Dr. Thomas Sandy
St. Andrew's-Ballaasaf United

they are requires more disciplined behavior. It is the human being who not only feels sorry for the hurt, but labors to heal the hurt - and then tries never to hurt again.

I'm afraid that our self-indulgent summers leave behind a trail of broken relationships and hurt feelings. Think back on the last family quarrel, neighborhood squabble or shopping centre conflict. Perhaps before the summer ends it is time to work to heal the hurts, and vow never to hurt again. I doubt if Koko the gorilla will care. But your fellow humans will thank you.

El Whitney Would Approve
The nearest thing to a perpetual energy machine is being tested for use in Texas' Cotton Belt. The device is a cotton gin powered by the trash it creates. The gin trash research would allow cotton farmers to be more energy independent, but could also have implications for alternative fuels from agricultural residues—trash.

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Parkette performance, area tour introduces Morris dancing here

Halton Hills has had many opportunities to see traditional Scottish highland dancing as well as festive eastern European dancing, but several area appearances by enthusiasts from Guelph, Toronto and the U.S. this month will acquaint us with an ancient English performance called "Morris dancing".

With Crewson's Corners potter Larry Davidson and his Acton native wife Brenda Ahern in their midst, several teams of Morris dancers will put on shows this Sunday (Aug. 22) and Aug. 28 in Georgetown.

Terra Cotta, Glen Williams, Erin and Belfountain.

The big premiere is this Sunday at Terra Cotta's Forge parkette, located behind the Forge Studio Gallery, next door to the Terra Cotta Inn, where separate performances will take place at 2:30 and 4 p.m. Featured will be the Black Sheep Morris, made up of about 16 women, most from Guelph or Toronto, who'll dance in groups of six. Ms. Ahern is their foreperson and will accompany the dancers on accordion.

The following Thursday, an annual gathering of five or six men's teams from southern Ontario and the U.S. take Morris dancing on a local tour. With their campsite at Crewson's Corners, the "Ontario Travelling Morris" will visit Glen Williams late in the morning, move onto Terra Cotta for noon, then to Erin for about 2 p.m., Belfountain and the Forks of the Credit for 4 to 5 p.m. and then to Georgetown for about 8:30. Watch The Herald for specific details about performance locations and times.

All area performances are free to spectators. A representative of the dancers will "pass the hat" at each location.

Mr. Davidson and Ms. Ahern first heard about Morris dancing five or six years ago when both were members of the Fiddlers Three folk club in Toronto, sharing an appreciation for the traditional performing arts.

Mr. Davidson explained that Morris dancing originated as a pagan fertility ritual in what is now Oxford County, England. There, farmers and their families would gather each spring and, accom-

panied by the pipe and tabor, would try and awaken the earth spirits on which they relied for the success of their seasonal plantings.

The dancers wore - and still wear - all white garb, symbolizing purity, and with bells tied to their shins to ward off any evil spirits. Mr. Davidson, a member of Toronto's "Hogtown Morris", says there is no real similarity between Morris dancing and the more famous style from the British Isles, the highland fling, but one might perceive some similarities, he said, between Morris and Spanish or even Greek traditional dancing.

Hoping to attend one of the massive "ring meetings" held by Morris dancers in England next year, Mr. Davidson and Ms. Ahern have fostered some local interest in the artform in Halton Hills. Currently, Mr. Davidson said, there are a handful of local devotees, suggesting that a Halton Hills chapter might be formed next year. In the ensuing seasons, though, dozens of residents will get their first chances to see an ancient rite-turned-performance in their own backyard.

HALTON HILLS ARTS COUNCIL

Library lives!

Libraries mean books, right? Only partially right. The modern library provides much more than a book lending service. Available also are records, films and "talking books" on tape for the blind. But the library's function in today's world has expanded far beyond these services.



The Halton Hills libraries in both Georgetown and Acton have been very busy this summer providing children's programs of interest to tots up to teens. By doing so, they may have saved the sanity of some harried mother, driven to distraction by her darling children's moans of "There's nothing to do!"

The wrap up for all this summer activity comes Aug. 31 with a special children's program at the John Elliott Theatre. For information, phone 877-2681.

Don't think the kids get all the attention. Adult programs will recommence in September with the

A Cow As Big As An Elephant

Agricultural scientists, excited about the prospects for genetic technology that could produce entirely new sources of food, say they stand on the same threshold where aerospace researchers stood 30 years ago.

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