

## NOSTALGIA, MAN!



Today's younger generation doesn't seem nearly as wild and restless when their elders are called upon to strut their stuff. Such was the case the week before Christmas when the students of Georgetown District High School were treated to a little song and dance by the staff. Principal Don Baker himself might have evoked memories of Elvis when he led vice-principals Joe Brey and John Toms through a boppy set of hits from yesteryear. Jumping from the fifties to the sixties, Jim Broughton and fellow teachers donned their finest hippie regalia for a hootenanny tribute to the days of flower power. Slink-jawed students scratched their spiky haircuts in wonder before heading home to their Go-Go's, Rush and AC-DC records.

(Herald photos by Harald Bransch)

## Conway shows what's wrong with small-'l' liberalism



Queen's Park  
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Scion of the Ottawa Valley establishment, current deputy leader of the Ontario Liberals, young and eloquent MPP Sean Conway illustrates nicely what is wrong with the small 'l' liberalism to which he adheres.

As interpreted by Conway it is a philosophy both intolerant and bigoted. A dictionary definition of small 'l' liberalism reveals its adherents to be people generous of spirit and open of mind, free from narrowness in doctrines or ideas.

Unfortunately, as Conway demonstrated so clearly during the recent sitting here, that is more myth than reality. Small 'l' liberalism as he practices it is ideology and demagoguery.

Two incidents:

The South African consulate sent an invitation to members of all three legislative parties to attend a luncheon with four visiting MPs of South

Africa's (all-white) Parliament. Conway refused to attend, condemned those who did so, and even made a fuss about the invitation.

VERY TOLERANT

One might have expected from a dictionary small 'l' liberal, unlike Conway, some of that philosophy's famous claim to tolerance, to the belief that dialogue and communication are stepping stones on the road to a better world for all humankind.

(That's always the rationale for talking with the Russians, for example.)

It is supposed to be a long-time tenet of the liberal faith that to convince the wrong-minded of the evil underlying their nasty ways it is vital to talk and reason with them.

For this luncheon such an attitude would have been particularly useful since the four South African MPs were broadly representative of that white tribe in southern Africa (three MPs were pro-apartheid, one anti-apartheid), which Conway-style small 'l' liberals wish to convince of the error of their beliefs.

DO JOB

In truth, it might be suggested that had Conway reacted so shabbily to a luncheon invitation from any cultural group other than white Africans he would have found himself on the carpet for racism.

Conway's Pavlovian intolerance carried him so far that he made those MPs, and by extension the almost five

million people who freely elected them, pariahs so beyond the pale even words cannot be exchanged with them.

Moreover, one might note in passing that Conway, as a responsible Ontario legislator, should have taken the opportunity to learn about some of the pitfalls of a truly multicultural society, such as South Africa is, in preparation for Ontario's eventual arrival at the same destination.

NOT NICE

Incident two:

Hugh Segal, close advisor to Premier Bill Davis, resigned and went into the consulting business, advising corporate clients of the whys and hows - the process - of government.

Conway suggested "there may very well be some legitimate question about the honesty of the living" Segal was going to earn, and he wanted a safeguard against Segal "peddling influence and insider information."

Even granting Conway's hereditary suspicions about the financial habits of any Tory, it was still a remarkably mean, narrow-minded and illogical attack.

A trial before the crime, a conviction without evidence, and the assumption that Tory politics must equal crookedness are mirror images of what dictionary small 'l' liberalism is all about.

It looks as though in Conway's eyes the real crime for which Segal and white South Africans must plead guilty is his and their very existence.

## Justice rides on decision

Halton residents should take a keener interest than most in next Tuesday's Ontario Court of Appeal hearing concerning a recent challenge against the authority of provincial court judges to hear criminal cases.

After all, the controversy surfaced right here, in Milton to be exact, where well-known area Judge William Sharpe was considering the case of Walter Valente.

Convicted in August, 1981, of careless driving in the deaths of three cyclists a year previous, Mr. Valente's appeal headed off on a tangent when his lawyer indicated how Canada's new Charter of Rights prohibits provincial court judges, who are not strictly independent since they answer first to the attorney-general, from hearing such cases.

Judge Sharpe agreed that he may not be independent and thus cannot guarantee Mr. Valente a fair trial under the new Charter.

Attorney-general Roy McMurtry immediately appealed the judge's decision, but the precedent was set. In Toronto, Judge Reid Scott halted proceedings in his court after carefully weighing the challenge issued to him. A Toronto justice of the peace has followed suit.

Next Tuesday, the apparent lack of independence among Ontario's judges will be examined in the court of appeal, with both the Ontario Provincial Court Judges Association and the Justice of

the Peace Association for Metro Toronto hoping to intervene in the interest of air and impartial trials.

The argument suggests that because the attorney-general pays Ontario's judicial officers as well as the prosecutors who appear before them, and also decides on case flow in the courts, the judges can hardly be considered independent.

Since the new Charter of Rights requires independent adjudication in criminal trials, Judge Scott for one, according to the Toronto Star, would like judges to be responsible to a legislative committee representing all political parties. The committee in turn would answer to the legislature itself instead of the Cabinet, as is now the case.

For the many Ontario citizens who were never quite sure what the many wrangles over the Constitution involved, here's one fine example of the rather exciting process of constitutional reform at work.

Clearly, changes are needed regarding Ontario's judiciary because of a serious problem that was left largely unattended before because of what might be construed by some as a legal loophole in our Constitution. The new Charter has plugged that hole, and now the full interest of a citizen's civil rights must be properly served. The process brings us that much closer to modern man's judicial ideal, to a fair and equitable legal system and to justice for all.

### Meeting set on gravel plan for hamlet

Concerned about the future of a chunk of land near Stewarttown, the South Essex Landowners Association has organized a meeting to talk about the Halton official plan aggregate protection area designation proposed for the property. The meeting which concerns land straddling the Fifth Line and Sideroad 15 will be held Jan. 10 in the Hornby Community Centre on Steeles Avenue west of the Trafalgar Road intersection. It will begin at 8 p.m. A spokesman for the organization said an attempt would be made to have MNR representative at the session. Interested members of the public are invited to attend.

## Education pendulum swings again

Education minister Dr. Bette Stephenson recently announced changes in the school system, placing more emphasis on core subjects and lessening optional subjects.

The Herald asked Tom Ramautarsingh, a teacher at Georgetown High School who is involved in education at all levels and advocates educational reforms, to express his views on the changes.

Mr. Ramautarsingh graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University with B.A. and M.A. degrees and a Master of Education from the University of Toronto. He is a past president of Halton Secondary School Teachers' Federation, Wilfrid Laurier University Alumni Association, founder and president of the Holy Cross Parents' Association, a former member of W.L.U. Senate and has served on provincial organizations



such as Ontario Association for Curriculum Development, Ontario Educational Research Council, York University Reading Conference Committee, First Chairman and Co-founder of the W.L.U. Language Arts Conference, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation and the Ontario Teachers' Federation.

to state their ideas clearly and correctly and lastly, are unable to write examinations.

Many teachers all over the province have to market their courses and make them attractive to the students since the students select their courses. It has become, in one respect, a bread and butter issue. Teachers who believe in discipline and expect students to work hard had to change their philosophy and strategies to meet the Hall-Dennis syndrome in order to continue in the teaching profession. Others felt that the Hall-Dennis approach to education was too much for them.

In my view the Hall-Dennis philosophy is most advantageous to the highly gifted and well-motivated students who can forge ahead with some assistance from their teachers or even on their own.

Many parents and teachers opposed the new thinking in education where bigness is postulated as being the best and that the more innovations introduced the better the education. The powers that be introduced many experimental ideas and gave new leases to ideas that have already fallen by the wayside in the United States.

I personally believe that innovations and ex-

periments should not be accepted lock, stock and barrel, disregarding the wishes of the majority of parents and teachers, and that innovations should never be introduced in a machine-like fashion.

The 35,000 members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation conducted a study of education at a cost of approximately \$200,000

and produced the book, *At What Cost*. The book was a result of questions asked the 35,000 secondary school teachers, briefs received and public forums held in major cities and areas in Ontario.

Many people see parts of *At What Cost* as being uncomplimentary to the educational system. Professor John Daly of McMaster University wrote *Education or Molasses* as a rebuttal to Hall-Dennis' *Living and Learning*. The Hall-Dennis philosophy was to lead students in the joyful process of "learning by discovery". Many parents see a number of platitudes and pious statements underlying

the Hall-Dennis Report as "the truth shall make you free", and "students must be made to feel that the world is waiting for their sunrise".

The view that a new Jerusalem was at hand and the gates of heaven were there for all to enter seemed to be the thinking. There were to be no failures because the students would select the

courses that suited their needs. In practice is simply meant that if a subject (course) was too difficult, then it was not to be taken.

Many parents feel very uncomfortable when they try to help in the selection of their children's courses because they feel ill-equipped and inadequately prepared to do so.

These same parents find it very difficult to understand why the recipients of the basics and the fundamentals found such a proven system was good for them but not good enough for students in the late '60s and in the '70s. Many parents believe such experimentation does not do justice

to students exposed to such a type of education. They contend that too many students have graduated but few are educated.

At the University of Waterloo in 1977 more than forty-two per cent (42 per cent) of the freshmen students failed a compulsory literacy test. Students were compelled to enter the

remedial writing clinic and to retake the examination.

At the University of Toronto third and fourth year students who failed to pass their literacy test are being asked to withdraw from the institution. McMaster, Carleton and Laurier Universities have all instituted remedial courses.

Education Minister Thomas Wells in 1974 made four English courses and two Canadian Studies courses compulsory. In 1977 all students entering Grades 9 and 10 had to take seven compulsory courses. This was increased to nine courses later. My view was that other courses such as

French, Physical Education, two Histories (British and Canadian), one Geography and two English courses in Grades 9 and 10 concentrating on grammar, composition, spelling, penmanship and literature should have been made compulsory.

Many people believe that examinations should be held for all grades and regional examinations be

**'Many parents believe the pendulum swung too far, that too many students graduated but too few are educated.'**

By TOM RAMAUTARSINGH  
Herald Special

In the late 1960s the Hall-Dennis Report called *Living and Learning*, postulated and emphasized a loosening up of education and permitted a wider choice of curricula in the Ontario educational system.

Because of the implementation of the Hall-

Dennis philosophy in education, the relinquishing of the provincial examinations in Grade 13 and the introduction of the credit system, many parents feel their children have not received the quality of education that was expected. They feel that the majority of students have lost the sense of discipline, the ability to work hard, to read and comprehend what is read,

## Halton's History from our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Herald editor Walter Biehn picked the top ten news stories of the year. The Smith and Stone addition rated first place. Work is already well advanced on this 27,000 square foot building which will increase plant employment by 70 next year. Second biggest news story was the decision of merchants to close Saturday nights and open Friday evenings. In third place was the Ontario Championship won by Georgetown's Juvenile "C" team over Havelock, grouped with the exciting Intermediate playoff series which Elmira won in the seventh game. Following, though not necessarily in this order: approval for a four-room addition to Georgetown high school; opening of the new Howard Wrigglesworth Public School; a road paving program which saw many streets in town get pavement for the first time; construction of a new Bell telephone building on Main Street which heralds what will probably be 1983's biggest story, the introduction of dial phones.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—The burglar-ing of a house at 15 Ontario St. late Christmas Eve and the theft of a 1963 Ford Sedan parked on the same street a little more than an hour later are believed by police to be the work of two Guelph Reformatory inmates who escaped earlier the same day. The escapees were traced from the reformatory to Acton where they ransacked a house and stole their first car. At McCullough's corners at the western town limits, the escapees missed the turn, rolled the car over, and evidently unharmed, made their way to the top of Main Street.

TEN YEARS AGO—Reeve Anne MacArthur has been tentatively elected to the \$10,000 a year job as warden of Halton County after a five-ballot vote in a closed meeting of the new Halton County council members. The election will be formally ratified at the Jan. 9 inaugural meeting of county council. Reeve MacArthur won over Georgetown's Reeve Ric Morrow in the fifth ballot, after a 7-6 vote on the fourth ballot. Mrs. MacArthur will be the second woman to serve as Halton's warden. The first was Mrs. Mary Pettit in 1949 who represented Nelson township, now a part of Burlington. She was the first in the province of Ontario. Mrs. MacArthur is a history teacher at Milton District High School who retires next June.

ONE YEAR AGO—There was no eleventh-hour reprieve last week as employees shut down Irwin-Dorsey Ltd., the Georgetown-based textbook publishing firm caught in a squeeze of conflicting interests between its American parent and the federal government's Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA). The closure Thursday brought to an end six years of confrontation between the agency which seeks to prevent too much foreign investment in Canadian business, and Dow Jones Company of Illinois (including its Georgetown subsidiary) in 1975.

### POET'S CORNER

#### You Sparkle

You sparkle like airborne dust in a sunny warm and friendly room.

Time becomes irrelevant while you coax evil spirits to quit this place.

If all the joy and love that ever existed could be collected together it would add up to you.

—By MARLOWE C. DICKSON, RR2 Beeton

#### Fear

A dark tunnel is visible in the distance. No one knowing what it holds on the other side. I tiptoe entering in midnight darkness. My heart beats rapidly. A sense of insecurity takes my boldness. And suddenly I run back to a welcoming light.

—By NISHA CHANDRA AHS Student

#### Untitled

I watch, as the snow falls gently to the ground, my heart mellow, my mind at peace. Thoughts of love caress my mind. I see a vision on the glistening snow, of a ballerina, her soul full of grace, as she fills my eyes with the vision of dance.

The snow stops, my heart grows cold, my mind confused, and the ballerina dances no more.

—By JOSIE DEVIRGILIO AHS Student

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