

Mentally Retarded Week

Breaking away

The mentally-handicapped have often been misunderstood in communities in which they live. In this light, we hope that people will focus their thoughts towards the similarities between us, rather than the differences.

Jean Vanier, son of George Vanier, a former Governor-General of Canada, believed that mentally handicapped people would regress if they were put in institutions.

Mr. Vanier was instrumental in creating group homes in France in which the mentally-handicapped could live normal lives and be integrated into society.

Terry Laidlaw of Norval is one who shares Mr. Vanier's views. He has worked with the mentally handicapped for the past six years. As a coach for the Arc Angels floor hockey team, he speaks for many who devote their time and care for the mentally handicapped.

"When it comes to sharing things such as emotions of love and hate, we are the same, but if you ask them to program a computer they (mentally-handicapped) can't do it.

People don't know any better than to sympathize or feel sorry, but they just want to be

treated the same as everyone else," Mr. Laidlaw says.

The growing trend in government circles and among those who work with the mentally-handicapped is to have these special individuals exposed to life in a community away from institutions.

Some residents might argue that group homes wouldn't be suitable for their neighborhood. It could be dangerous for their children to be exposed to these special individuals, they might say. This type of reluctance (and more often real fear) comes in part from uncertainty and lack of information.

The challenge for supporters of the mentally-handicapped is to provide the community with confidence so that they will feel more secure in the presence of mentally-handicapped.

Ask Mr. Laidlaw and he will tell you that members of the Arc Angels have more to teach him than he can ever give back in return.

With enough support, the mentally-handicapped of North Halton can enjoy life more fully with a more involved role in the community. We can all benefit by the experience.

More challenges

The Georgetown Chrysler Raiders hockey club entered a new era when they committed themselves to what is hoped will be a tougher, more competitive Senior A league.

After losing many of their veterans from the Hardy Cup championship team of 1981-82, this past season was a lesson in humility.

With Georgetown's franchise located so close to Toronto, there should be incentive for many hockey players from that area to join the high profile senior league as a Raider.

Assuming the Raiders will try to produce a team capable of winning the Allan Cup, we wonder how this maturing of the club will affect hockey in

Georgetown.

After losing in Intermediate A Hardy Cup competitions in the late '70s, team executive members realized that only with higher calibre ex-pros and a broader financial base could the Raiders win outside of Ontario's backyard.

The goal was admirable and the stakes were high - in effect, the Raiders became a big business. The change in strategy worked and in 1982 the Georgetown club produced a winner.

The club has voted for a league change and we wish them well. The new challenge should stimulate fan appeal as players step onto the ice for the team's 60th anniversary next September.



Astonishing how the media sketched Davis' biography



Ottawa Report

By Stewart McLeod

What was so astonishing about Premier William Davis' flirtation with the Tory leadership was the way the media managed to build it into a pending coronation. By the time the 53-year old premier announced that he wouldn't be a candidate, our perspective had been thrown entirely out of whack.

It's frightening to think of the publicity that might have pelted us had Davis decided to run. Even as he bowed out, he was treated to biographical sketches of his entire political career.

No, there can be no doubt about the inordinate influence the Toronto-based media has on our thinking processes. It's not just the fact that the biggest, and perhaps best, newspapers are based there, but it is also the headquarters for all news services and the originating point for all national TV network newscasts. And it's perhaps inevitable that people and events in Toronto are viewed through a larger magnifying glass than in other parts of the country.

Just look back on that April 30 debate by Tory leadership hopefuls in Toronto's Massey Hall. It was widely billed as the biggest event of the campaign - a showdown, some said - that would make or break the participants.

Political reviewers later told us how Joe Clark's momentum had been jeopardized, how David Crombie had zoomed back into the campaign, and how Brian Mulroney had clearly

advanced his national stature. The weekend media was chock-a-block with details.

LOCATION MATTERS
It would be interesting to know how much attention this debate would have received had it been held in, say, Saskatoon and was only televised to four provinces - which is what happened - and the participants were asked, while 1.6 million Canadians are unemployed, whether they would each commit themselves to financing a domed stadium in the host city? Would the Globe and Mail then say on the front page that as a result of the debate, the leadership race had "burst wide open"?

On the morning that Premier Davis announced his non-entry, I had breakfast with a group of western Tory MPs who, having canvassed their ridings, were offering a quiet and gloomy scenario for a Davis campaign. To a man, they hoped the premier would resist any temptation to run because it would certainly bring out Premier Peter Lougheed with his guns blazing in opposition. "There will be one hell of a mess," said one of the MPs "and there is just no support out there for Davis."

Another said that "I just can't believe that his advisers would be so out to lunch as to urge him on." A week earlier, when speculation about a Davis entry began intensifying, the picture wasn't so clear but now, they said, it was crystal-like. They couldn't understand who Davis' pollsters might have been talking to in the West.

It was startling to go from this furtive-brow conversation to the news stand and pick up the Toronto newspapers. One had a headline about this being "D-day". Another was still quoting aides, cabinet colleagues and Davis family members in predicting an entry. With help from radio and television we were being slathered in hype about the premier.

An "urgent" news item clattered over the Canadian Press wires. Ontario Premier William Davis returned to Queen's Park today after two days at his home conferring with family and advisers about whether he should run for the federal Progressive Conservative leadership...

What we had here was an urgent message - that's just one step below a "bulletin" - saying the premier had travelled from point A to point B. Not even the Queen or the Pope can always command that attention. The only Davis quote in the story was that he would "have a chat" with his ministers.

An Ottawa radio station interrupted programming to say that Davis now was closeted with his cabinet. The announcer sounded like an American broadcaster in 1962 who told us that President Kennedy was closeted with his military advisers over the Cuban missile crisis...

Breathlessly, we were told it wouldn't be long before Davis would actually make an announcement. If we could only wait 15 minutes.

Amid this incredible hype, it really wasn't easy to keep things in perspective. In the circumstances, you had to pinch yourself to realize we were talking about a unilingual provincial premier, with no significant support outside his own province - indeed, there was open hostility in some parts of the country - and who, by his own admission, would have an uphill struggle to become leader of a fractious political party that happens to be in opposition.

The panting journalism surrounding the Davis dithering over the Tory leadership seemed a far cry from The Toronto Star's reaction to the election of Alberta's Joe Clark as national party leader in 1978. "Joe Who?" asked the Star.

A recipe for anarchy and favoritism



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Maybe it is the frustration that comes from having been 40 years out of power that sometimes drives the opposition Liberals and NDP off the deep end.

That's the charitable explanation for their silly performance the morning after The Globe and Mail splashed budget material all over its front page.

Like baying hounds after a stag (and that noble animal can symbolize quite well how Treasurer Frank Miller has acted throughout this budget leak ordeal), opposition MLAs demanded Miller speak and then refused to allow him to do so.

Their antics actually started the night before when they saw early copies of The Globe article.

Even though the hours of adjournment are set in standing orders - mainly at opposition insistence to prevent the government holding all-night sittings as it did once upon a time - the Liberals in particular wanted to break the rules and keep on going.

QUICK TEMPER
Matters became so heated at one point that MLA Jack Riddell (L-Huron-Bruce), who is known for his temper, actually crossed the floor to jab Conservative Whip Bud Gregory in the chest.

Liberal House Leader Bob Nixon, who is usually sensible about the ways of the Legislature, later told Speaker John Turner that there are times when

he should ignore a "rigid reading" of the rules and "use your own judgement". What a recipe for anarchy and favoritism.

The next morning the nonsense escalated.

True, it started out well. Both Liberal Leader David Peterson and NDP Leader Bob Rae rose to claim their privileges as MLAs had been breached by the supposed budget leak. It was a technique for putting their views on record.

In the process, they also made legitimate points about Miller's responsibilities for preserving secrecy (as the minister, not personally) and for accepting blame when something went wrong.

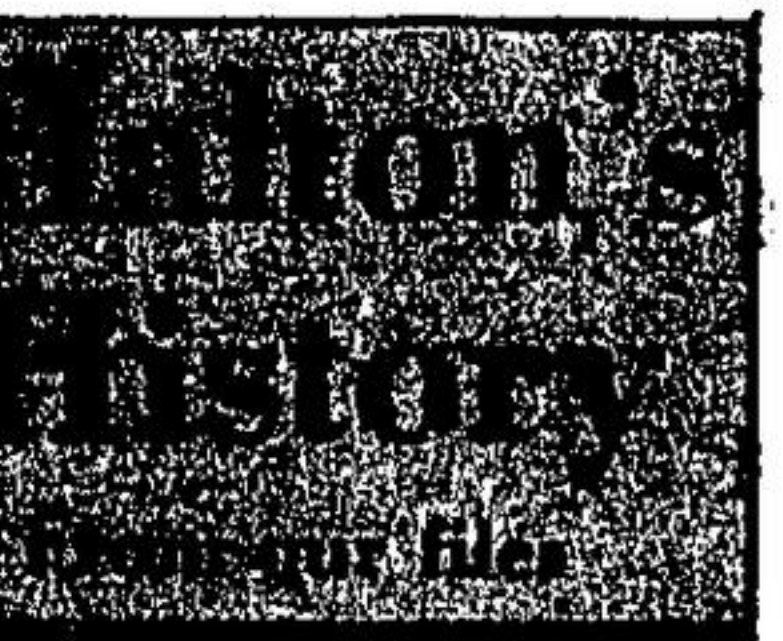
WHERE NEXT
Tory House Leader Tom Wells then noted that parliamentary preced-

ent has always defined a member's privileges in terms of the right to speak freely and has specifically excluded anything to do with ministerial responsibilities or budget leaks.

Turner, who then wanted to take the matter under advisement and move on to regular business - which would have included a statement by Miller - suddenly found himself under savage attack by Nixon.

The Grit House Leader wanted his views on privilege on the record. Fair enough, except he had nothing new to say and was simply keeping Miller from speaking.

Nixon's insistence was even more strange when you consider that after Miller's statement they could have personally questioned the Treasurer. Instead he remained silent.



THIRTY YEARS AGO - A \$1,000 donation from Georgetown's Lions Club will boost Georgetown's financial campaign for a swimming pool if the fact-finding committee decides to go ahead with the project. At a directors' meeting of the club last week, the Lions decided to forego this year's Stay-at-Home Camp and donate the money, which could be spent on the camp, to a swimming pool. The club has also offered a building lot on Water Street beside the post office as a site for the pool. Some weeks ago, Mayor Armstrong appointed a committee representative of most local organizations to investigate the possibility of building a pool, and there seems every likelihood that the project may be started this year. Another current project is the erection of swings in the Wrigglesworth School playground, which was the club's gift to the new school when it was opened last fall.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO - A new ambulance for the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service is expected to arrive May 24, and will be on display at the next regular meeting of the GVAS, which has been set for the 29th. This will be the last general meeting until September and the public are invited to attend. The meeting is at Wrigglesworth Public School. A talk on stretcher loading and unloading will be given by Jack Hamilton of St. John's Ambulance, then a crew of St. John men will be on hand to demonstrate. The GVAS was called on seven times during the month of April. Five of the runs were to Guelph Hospitals, three of those to the General and two to St. Joseph's. The other runs were to Toronto's Central Hospital, Brampton's Peel Memorial Hospital. Only one of the calls resulted from an auto accident.

TEN YEARS AGO - The advantages and disadvantages of locating an indoor swimming pool at Georgetown District High School were discussed at length at a committee of the whole meeting May 10. Opinions of councillors varied, with Mayor Bill Smith, Coun. Roy Booth and Phil Siddall saying they were open-minded on the subject and had changed their minds as various new facts emerged. Most strongly opposed to the high school location was Reeve Ric Morrow who claimed the ownership of the pool being vested in the board of education would put them in the driver's seat. "I don't want to put town money into a pool then turn it over to the board," he said. He contended the pool should be contained in a recreation complex. Coun. Ern Hyde supported the high school location, claiming the pool would be used much more at that location. Coun. Mike Armstrong asked if the pre-schoolers would have use of the pool. Coun. Harry Levy said the proposed schedule left five hours a week during the school week for public use.

ONE YEAR AGO - Halton Hills Hydro is moving its outside crews, superintendents and operations department from Georgetown to Acton. The move was announced Friday by commission chairman Ab Tennant. He said 18 people will be moving from the Georgetown offices on Mill Street to the Acton building, which has been used as a billing office for the last one and a half years following the amalgamation of Acton, Esqueping and Georgetown Hydro commissions. Expected to be completed by June, the move was inspired by a shortage of space at the Georgetown offices. "The Georgetown building is bursting at the seams, as far as the office operations are concerned," Mr. Tennant told The Herald. Following the move, the Georgetown building will only contain accounting, and management offices. Bills can continue to be paid at both offices.

Sexual abuse - is your child safe?

This is the final in a three part series of articles submitted by Citizens Against Violent Pornography. It deals with sexual abuse of children and what parents can do to safeguard their children. The fact that pedophiles photograph their victims results in much of the child pornography available today.

Our group has been working to gain support for Bill C-53, The Child Exploitation Act which would prohibit the use of those under the age of 18 in pornographic visual material. We have group petitions available for signature through the churches. In addition one can sign and send the "clip and mail" coupons found in this newspaper and directed to Mark MacGuigan, Minister of Justice, supporting Bill C-53.

"...and don't talk to strangers!" How many times have we heard that warning as a youngster goes out the door? But things have changed. Now it's not just the stranger with candy we must warn our children about. It's the relative, neighbor, even a well respected professional who may be a child molester. Statistics show that 84 per cent of molested children are molested by someone they know and trust.

Pedophiles, people who can only get sexual satisfaction from relations with children, take time to develop a secure friendship with the children they desire. There is a tendency also to take pictures of their victims and to share these with other pedophiles. This is how much of the child pornography available here is originally produced.

Most parents do not suspect what is going on because they assume their child is safe at his or her music lesson, game practice or visiting with a good friend. However, there are some common signs that abuse is taking place.

These include loss of sleep or appetite, a sudden interest in sex,

unexplained illness or mood changes and avoidance of previously enjoyed activities or people. Believe your child if he says he has been molested. Children seldom lie about this. Accept his statements calmly and call the appropriate authorities to investigate. Get psychological counselling from an experienced sexual abuse therapist if you feel your child needs help overcoming his trauma. Many do.

Avoiding Child Molestation
Know the people who deal with your children. Don't just "drop" them off for lessons etc. Make your presence known. If you must leave, check back often at irregular times.

Always give kids specific instructions. Have an established emergency procedure including people to whom your child can go if you are unavailable.

Play "what if" games with your children to reinforce expected behaviour. Children should say "No, thanks" and go directly home if approached by a stranger or if a suspicious request is made by someone they know.

Respect your child's intuition about people. If he refuses to kiss or cosy up to someone, don't push him. By doing so you only teach him to mistrust his own instincts.

If your child has very negative feelings toward someone, explore why. Without alarming your child, let him know that all people are not kind and good. Teach him not to let anyone touch him where he does not want to be touched.

Molesters often make their victims feel responsible for the situation. Explain to your child that he may be told that he is doing something wrong when really someone else is. He should tell his parents right away.

Keep communication lines open so that a child feeling guilty or ashamed can express his feelings and their cause. A child may only get up enough courage to say it once. Don't miss it.

No standardization of computers

Other companies offer (or soon will) units of equal operational simplicity. While this machine was designed for the general public, it would allow many of the handicapped access to an unmodified work environment.

Employers hesitate to change their equipment to meet the needs of one individual particularly if it means slowing the production of others. There are several approaches to this problem. A device can be placed on top of the keyboard which makes it easier to strike the appropriate selection, separate controls can be plugged into the computer that would be for the use of the disabled, or preprogramming the machine with special instructions each time for the individual user.

If a user has limited control of his hands and must rest them on something to prevent erratic movement, he

can place them right on the keyboard. A thick clear piece of plastic with homes corresponding to the key positions is placed over the controls. Pushing an object like a head stick or finger in holes would activate the now recessed keys. In this way only deliberate motions would be recognized by the machine.

Changing the shape, size, order and style of the keys and the keyboard has very little effect on the computer but it may mean holding a job, living more independently, security, and the ability to communicate for the operator.

Special programming and exotic controls will be discussed later. The office functions of a computer are a small part of its ability. Communication, education, and environmental control are its greatest strengths for the handicapped.