

Double dilemma

Dramatically rising insurance rates provides a double dilemma.

We want to be treated fairly, when we've been wronged, when someone else has caused us permanent injury and grief. In this growing age of individual rights, more lawsuits are reaping larger rewards for plaintiffs.

The flip side of the coin is that all of us eventually end up paying more. In some cases, rapidly escalating insurance rates are causing hardships for schools, businesses and municipalities.

This year the Halton Board of Education had its liability insurance rates increased from \$32,000 to \$140,000. In Wellington County, all school athletic programs have been cancelled because the school board was unable to secure proper liability insurance.

The trend to pie-in-the-sky judgments must be curbed.

Lawyers and judges must realize there isn't a bottomless pit - there will eventually be a backlash. Insurance companies and those who carry insurance must do more to make sure our facilities are safer. We have to realize that keeping costs down is a responsibility for us all.

In the meantime, we eagerly await a provincial review that has been promised on these soaring court settlements.

Her life's in shambles after turning to drugs

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was written by a member of the Drug Abuse Committee of Halton Hills. The DAC sponsors a parent's support group and are preparing for Drug Awareness Week Feb. 22 to March 1.

No more party clothes for Jane. No more school. No more pizza parties with her girlfriends, nights punctuated with giggles and howls of teenagers having a good time.

Jane at 15, was seduced by drugs. A few months after sampling the wares of the 32-year-old ex-convict who got her hooked, she ran off with him. He was the father of the three young children and she was their baby-sitter.

At 16, Jane's life was a series of shoddy hotels, fleabag apartments, heroin, prostitution and shoplifting.

She sold herself to support herself and her boyfriend, to feed their daily heroin habit.

Jane's is a true story from the suburbs of Chicago circa 1982 in the days when we classified crime with "big cities". It ends on a morbid note and is well-seasoned with anguish and trauma.

For parents who wish to discuss the presence of addictive substances in our community, the Drug Abuse Committee sponsors a parent's support group on Monday evenings at no charge. This discussion group is not necessarily for parents with problems. Anyone may attend. We often have questions out of sheer curiosity. Come to a support group discussion and exchange your theories, experiences and qualms.

For more information or literature, please phone the Drug Abuse Office at 877-0915. Office hours are Monday 6-9 p.m., Wednesday 1-4 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Crime stoppers coming

If you have information about a crime committed in Halton you could turn it into dollars. Crime Stoppers is coming to Halton this year. Staff Sgt. Richard Kivell said. He would not say when, but said its arrival is a certainty. The program has been studied, and approved in principle, he said.

The Halton Regional Police have already received calls from people who think the department has a Crime Stoppers program and who want to share their information.

Crime Stoppers is a non-profit crime prevention program involving police, media and citizens. Money from a fund of community donations is used to encourage people to volunteer information about serious crimes.

Callers do not have to reveal their identity and receive rewards from \$50 to \$1,000 depending on how useful the information is. Toronto and Hamilton have Crime Stoppers.

Letters to the Editor

Toy drive success

Dear Sir,
The Kinette Club of Georgetown has completed another successful Toy Drive thanks to the generosity of local citizens and businesses. The Kinettes, working in conjunction with the Good Neighbor Service filled bags with toys, books and games for over 100 area children.

Special thanks must go to the students at Georgetown District High School. They collected a generous amount of money and purchased many new toys and items suitable for the teenagers on our Christmas list. Many thanks to them and to all the other groups and individuals who donated money or toys. A special thank you to drop-off centres (for toys) to Arthur F. Johnson and Associates (Finn Poulstrup), The Herald, The Post Office, Miracle Mart Food Store.

Joanne Stiles,
Kinette Club of Georgetown

Super service clubs

Dear Sir,
I would like to take this opportunity to thank four Service Clubs in our community who provided a valuable service this past holiday season. The Georgetown Lions Club and the Acton Legion Branch 197 and the Ladies Auxiliary, sponsored free swimming at both the Acton and Georgetown Indoor Pools. The Acton Rotary Club and the Optimist Club of Georgetown sponsored free skating at the three arenas in town. In total over 3,500 residents took advantage of this generous opportunity.

On behalf of the residents of Halton Hills and the Recreation and Parks Department thank you for your continuous support and for the contributions you make to our community.

Sincerely,
Joy Thompson,
Superintendent of Recreation Services

Club outing

Dear Sir,
On Saturday, December 21, the Drug Abuse Committee of Halton Hills served up hot chocolate and donuts for Chicken Club members participating in the free skating at the Gordon Alcott Arena.

DAC volunteers would like to express their thanks to the following local businesses who very generously contributed to this event: Tim Horton's, Mister Donut, Donut Time, Loblaw's, Miracle Foodmart, A and P, and IGA. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
J. Scannell,
Drug Abuse Committee

Super Sunday

Dear Sir,
Another successful Super Sunday Series has come to a close. On behalf of the Georgetown University Women's Club, I would like to thank The Herald for helping with our publicity campaign and Penniesworth and Georgetown Fabrics for helping with our ticket sales.

A special thank you is extended to the people of Halton Hills who have enthusiastically supported our family concert series right from the start. We will be back with a 1988-89 season. So watch for further details.

Yours Truly,
Carol L. Russell for the
Super Sunday Series Committee

Poets Corner

They drop
their folded bundles
curbside
sometimes
with a short-form kiss
a knowing smile
silent love words

sometimes
with a grant
silence
a fractured door
In all cases
first step from the blocks
The day's race begins.
—By MARLOWE C. DICKSON



"Another example of erosion of confidence in the country's banking system."

Tories predict spring election



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

TORONTO—The big guessing game here in coming months will be whether the Liberals will call an election during 1988.

Premier David Peterson says no, although he has hedged his bets by saying the Grits could be "forced" to go to the polls under certain circumstances.

These would include opposition - meaning Progressive Conservative - "obstruction" of their legislation.

Meanwhile, the Tories are openly predicting a late spring election.

Their scenario goes like this: The special winter sitting of the Legislature that began last Monday will introduce the rest of the Liberals' "reform" package.

Then, later this spring, we'll have a Throne Speech from the Liberals promising further adventures in the bright new Liberal world ahead.

This will be followed by a good

news budget from Treasurer Bob Nixon, whose \$700 million in tax increases last year only come into effect this year.

This gives him considerable financial breathing room to promise new expenditures without raising additional taxes.

At that point, assuming the polls look good, it's off on the electoral trail.

The issue Peterson would use is free trade with the U.S. Give me a mandate to defend Ontario's manufacturing against the sell-out Ottawa Conservatives would be his battle cry.

And it is true that Peterson has been trying to set that tone since he got into power.

Of course, this Conservative analysis, which on the face of it makes a lot of sense, lacks credibility when one considers how often the Tories have cried wolf before.

Former PC Leader Frank Miller saw a Grit plot to go to the polls every time he turned around, first calling for one in early autumn, then late autumn and finally even winter.

None of that made any sense. The Liberals would obviously have to stay in power long enough to establish the high profile required to go into a new election campaign.

And the easiest way to do that would be to introduce the legislation they promised during the last election

campaign.

But, having accomplished that goal - as they will have by later this spring - why wait longer?

The polls show two-thirds of Ontarians like how the Liberals govern, while more than the 44 per cent needed for a majority government say they'd vote for them.

And going this June would solve a couple of major headaches that are going to develop for them as a government within the coming year.

For example, the Liberals' housing policy is pure charade. It promises both increased incomes to landlords and lower rents for tenants, a palpable absurdity.

That has to come back to haunt them.

Moreover, the longer they stay in power the more enemies they make. The problems become tougher because the public will increasingly identify the Liberals with them.

And perhaps the federal Tories will refurbish their image. The current low standing of the federal PCs can only benefit Peterson's Grits (so the conventional wisdom goes).

In any case, we'll know in five months.

Troubled Tories in Quebec



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

There is another aspect to the resignation of Suzanne Blais-Grenier which must be of considerable concern to Prime Minister Mulroney - and that's the effect it could have on his party's standing in Quebec.

Things have not been going well for the federal Tories in Quebec in recent months, and this resignation from cabinet will do absolutely nothing to reverse the trend. Just as Blais-Grenier's departure focused attention on the federal cabinet's weak representation from Montreal, it also points to wider problems in the province.

These problems were already being pointed to rather directly by the opinion polls which show that, despite the fact the Tories won 58 of Quebec's 75 seats just 15 months ago, the Grits now lead them in popular support.

And the latest polls probably haven't yet reflected the full impact of the landslide victory by the provincial Liberal Party in early December.

There is absolutely no doubt that Quebec constitutes the greatest regional worry for the prime minister.

NO BASE
While the Conservative party had strong historic roots planted in the rest

of the country long before 1984's overwhelming victory, Mulroney's remarkable showing in Quebec was more like a spontaneous "happening". As much as it reflected Mulroney's personal appeal as a native son, it was also undoubtedly influenced by the departure of another one, Pierre Trudeau, and the immediate unacceptability of his successor, John Turner.

Many factors were probably at play - but the fact is, the Tories captured the province without those deep organizational roots that sustain parties when the bloom starts to fade - as it inevitably does.

And apart from helping the Hyundai automakers select Quebec as the site for a Canadian assembly plant, the Mulroney government is not able to point to many significant achievements in the province. The removal of shoe quotas will hurt that industry in Quebec and the sale of that Montreal Gulf refinery, which triggered the Blais-Grenier resignation, can be considered a poor seller in political terms.

Of course, it didn't help much when the departing minister made public her resignation letter to the prime minister in which she said, "the influence of Quebec ministers in the decision-making process of the cabinet seems to me to be insufficient."

THIS HAD BEEN A common complaint from Quebec MPs long before Blais-Grenier quit and left Montreal without francophone

representation in cabinet for the first time in living memory.

Not long after the resignation, a Quebec MP suggested to a reporter that the prime minister might have to urge some Montreal Member to quit so a high-profile candidate could be brought into cabinet via a byelection. Then, as an afterthought, he said: "But, the danger here is that the Liberals would probably win the seat."

He insisted he wasn't jesting. Since the Quebec election last month, when the prime minister was perceived to be favoring the Parti Quebecois, many provincial Liberals have remained angry. And, as the Bourassa victory indicated, they are well organized. Furthermore, the federal and provincial Liberals - traditionally distant cousins - have been growing closer of late.

Not long ago, Turner drew a surprising 1,000 people to a \$65-a-plate fund-raising dinner in Quebec City - and his audience was studded with members of the provincial party. Nothing like that happened in the 1984 federal election campaign.

The federal Tories are nowhere close to a panic situation in Quebec - not with the next election some three years away - but there are a good many of those 58 MPs deeply concerned with the way things are going.

The prime minister, they say, will have to do something. Trouble is, no one seems to know what.

Hating the sin, not the sinner



Clergy Comment

By DR. JOHN M. DRICKAMER
Immanuel Lutheran Church
The way I first heard of homosexuality was by reading the Bible as a teenager. Now children learn about it through many media. It is a very pressing issue today. Is it right or wrong? Is it sin and perversion or merely an acceptable "alternative lifestyle"?

We hear a lot of propaganda saying that homosexuality is a perfectly normal "sexual orientation" or "affectional preference". Those who oppose it are derided as repressive, oppressive, and narrow-minded. A talk-show host even threatened preachers with hell for opposing it. But let us respect God and not fear any television personality.

This issue is no different than any other moral issue. It is of primary importance to remember that hating the sin does not mean hating the sinner! God loves the sinner while hating the sin. That is precisely the attitude that He wants to foster in His people.

Christians should always remember that God loves them, too, in spite of

their many sins. Even if we are not tempted to one particular sin, there are other specific sins that do give us a lot of trouble.

Some people do not want to say that homosexuality is a sin. That is also nothing unusual. There are many people who do not want to say that adultery, drunkenness, or income tax evasion are sinful. But that does not matter. It is not our will but God's will that determines what is sinful.

It is a plain and simple fact that the Bible does condemn homosexuality as sinful. To name just a few New Testament passages, consider Romans 1:26-27; 1 Timothy 1:10; and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. The ancient world knew what homosexuality was, and these verses in the original text contain the Greek terminology for it. Those who believe the Bible must admit that homosexuality is a sin.

But God still loves homosexuals and Christ died for their sins, too. Some of the Christians at Corinth had been guilty of homosexuality, but God forgave them for Jesus' sake. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. God forgave them and turned them into former homosexuals.

Homosexuality is like the other

sins condemned in that passage. God loved all those sinners. Christ died for all those sins. God forgave and cleansed the sinners - and He also directed and moved them by His Word to turn away from all those sins.

Homosexuality is nothing less than a sin - but it is also nothing more than a sin. It is not the unforgivable sin. It is contrary to God's will expressed in His Word and also in the way He created Adam and Eve. God's design for human life includes marriage between one man and one woman or, for some individuals, a single, celibate life.

When God forgives departures from that norm, He also says, as He said to the person guilty of adultery, "Go, and sin no more" (John 8:11). God's Word of forgiveness provides the only power for escape from a sinful way of life.

I hope that this article has made it clear that the true Christian attitude toward homosexuality is no less kind, no less loving than Christian opposition to drunkenness, murder, idolatry, stealing, or any other sins. The truth of God's Law hurts. But the truth of God's forgiveness heals!

Halton's History from our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Walter T. Evans installed his son James as worshipful master of the Credit Masonic Lodge, AF and AM. It is the second time in 87 years the lodge had a father install a son.

Norm Long was elected the new president of the Lorne Scots Band at their annual meeting at the Georgetown Fire Hall. Bruce McKerr was voted vice-president.

The high school cadet corps were guests of the Roxy Theatre management Thursday night. They paraded from the armory to the theatre to see "The Long Gray Line" starring Maureen O'Hara and Tyrone Power.

The Provincial bowling team is still number one in the Big Ten bowling league. Last week Jack Kemshead bowled 823 which was the best triple score.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO—Lorraine Enman was named Queen of Georgetown District High School's Winter Carnival. Other contestants were: Colleen Few, Nancy McNeil, Jeanette Rudek, Janet Richmond, Debbie Gummerson, Rosemarie Burke, Pat Zorge, Cindy Gray, Muriel Holmes, Janet McLeod and Pam Constantine.

After a year of using the Masonic Temple the Georgetown Pentecostal Church is moving to the empty First Baptist Church. "We've outgrown our facilities," Pastor Jack McCallum said.

Ray Ellis is the new band leader of the Georgetown Citizen Band; he replaces Art Hilliard. Mr. Ellis is a native of Nottinghamshire, England.

Goal scorer Alistair Blair joined the Georgetown Raiders. After lengthy negotiations Mr. Blair left Woodstock. He has also played for Galt.

TEN YEARS AGO—Halton Hills' Meals-On-Wheels began to roll yesterday. The program was organized by the Opti-Mrs. Club of Georgetown, Councillor Roy Booth, Rev. Peter Barrow of Knox Presbyterian Church, the Georgetown District Memorial Hospital, and the Georgetown Red Cross Association.

Fran Grady of RRS Georgetown won the Labatt's Ontario Breweries Ltd. award for being the second year student with the highest academic achievement in Family and Consumer Studies at Amber College.

Chris Barber, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barber, is competing in the Canadian Figure Skating Championships in London. The Glen Williams skater and his partner, Patty Fletcher of Scarborough, are in the Novice Pairs Dance category.

In any case, we'll know in five months.



By PAT WOOD

Herald Columnist

The Ministry of Health has expanded its assistive devices program to include adults up to 21 years of age.

Three years after its introduction in 1982, when it began 75 per cent funding for children, the Ontario government is finally extending the coverage of devices such as mobility and communication aids to some adults. Only those who were assisted before they turned 19 years old will qualify.

Although this initiative is welcome, it is only the first step in a long awaited expansion and, certainly, a disappointment for the disabled community. At present an individual must apply to their municipality for necessary aids and municipalities have the discretionary power to grant or refuse the request for a medical device. This forces the person to approach a charitable organization (such as the March of Dimes or War Amps) imposing a considerable strain on their budgets.

In light of past statements made by David Peterson in support of full implementation rather than "the discriminatory and unfair method of phasing in the program by age group", the route that has been taken seems contradictory to government claims.

My recent visit to the Aids for Living Centre at Sunnybrook Hospital revealed that there is still considerable work to be done before this centre will be fully functional.

Presently, they can accommodate persons needing special footwear, limited artificial limbs, reconstructed body parts (noses, ears, etc.), or wheelchair seating. All appointments must coincide with the availability of required specialists who assess the person's needs and requirements. Specialists in many of the areas are called in and are not full time staff at the centre.

All assistive devices are being collated by computer in order that access to the information will be readily available as required.

The committee reviewing the accessibility section of the Ontario Building Code have met on several occasions. Discussions have centred around definitions such as barrier free access, accessible route, infirm person, and disabled person. This is necessary for consistency and clarity within the Code. Fire and safe means of egress during emergencies have been debated.

Numerous alternatives were considered including sprinklers, fire safe zones, elevators protected against fire and smoke movement, balconies, audible and visual alarms, and exits (alternate, accessible).

The committee agreed that the disabled have the right to use all facilities within a building and expose themselves to risk. It was also the general consensus that the level of safety for disabled persons should equal, as near as possible, that provided for able bodied people.