

Theatre-Aid

The trouble with growing up: not everyone understands what it's all about.

Songwriters Harry Chapin, Kenny Loggins and Valdy have taken a good stab at trying to explain it.

So have a group of five people who wrote a multimedia musical drama called *The Trouble With Growing Up*...

The show was presented to a sell-out crowd at the John Elliott Theatre Saturday.

Jim Broughton, Jamie Campbell, Victor Hanson, Edgar Thatcher and Dianne Ticknor produced an excellent show.

It was all the more worthwhile because proceeds from the \$6 tickets will be used to help build a Halton Youth Centre for troubled teens. Call it Halton's answer to Bob Geldof's Live-Aid - this is Theatre Aid.

Through the music of contemporary storytellers such as Kenny Loggins, the musical drama was full of fun, but it also served as a reminder about all the conflicts our youth face in today's changing world.

We hope the cast will consider taking their show on the road, as the saying goes. There's a message in this show that should be shared with others.

Tactics all wrong

Battle-lines have been drawn and tensions are mounting.

Doctors in Timmins and North Bay have voted to opt out of OHIP. In Cornwall, doctors have decided to charge for previously free services to protest the Liberal Government's plan to outlaw extra-billing.

Will Halton Hills be the next community where doctors take a stand against conforming to OHIP rates?

Where does the insanity stop? Last week the president of the Cornwall Academy of Medicine compared Premier David Peterson's party to Hitler's Nazi party.

Doctors are making their points loud and clear to the Government and the people. But they're going about it in the wrong way.

As we've heard time and time again, money isn't the primary issue at stake for doctors; it's their fear of losing their autonomy to practise medicine without overbearing government controls.

As one doctor recently told a Toronto newspaper, the Ontario Medical Association has a terrible public relations strategy.

"We're thought of poorly and the Government has managed to convey the impression that the 13 per cent of doctors who extra-bill are greedy," the doctor said.

The message hasn't been getting out to the people. Citizens understand the need for self-government and generally abhor more news of increasing taxes and more government control.

It's ludicrous to threaten the very citizens doctors seek support from. Charging for previously free services only damages a doctor's reputation.

OHIP and extra-billing are political issues. Doctors have to prove to the public and to two levels of government that reforms are needed to ensure we keep our health care system strong.

The provincial government wants doctors to stop extra-billing. But the federal government also defends universality of health care.

In the end, the issue will not be decided because of a powerful doctor's lobby with intense pressure tactics. The battle will be won depending on how persuasive their argument is for changing the system.

A pattern of new beginnings



Clergy Comment

By REV. WALTER RIDLEY
Huttonville-Norval Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada

Rev. Howard Thurman, a distinguished black clergyman in the U.S. told an amazing story of a childhood experience in one of his books.

He was one of a large family, brought up in a tiny cabin in one of the southern states. One day, his youngest baby brother was discovered sitting on the grass playing with a large rattlesnake. The baby would pat the rattlesnake on the head, and laugh; and when the snake would start to move away, would pull it back again. The father and mother watched from within the house, afraid to move out, lest they alarm the rattlesnake and cause it to strike. Finally the game was over and the rattlesnake crawled away in the grass.

Thurman had his own theory about the incident. He thought that the snake did not strike because it had no fear. The strike is the instinctive response of fear, and the rattlesnake had no fear because the baby had no fear.

It may be impossible to determine whether Thurman's theory of the rattlesnake is true. But undoubtedly he is right that fear in human beings leads to actions that are irrational and cruel.

How much of the hostility between East and West in recent years; how much of the astronomical increase in the nuclear arms race; how much of the savage violence in the Middle East or South Africa or Central America has been the senseless reaction to fear?

A frightened rattlesnake striking at a baby would not surprise us. What does surprise us and give us great concern today is what frightened human beings are doing to each other.

The Bible marks the days not from morning to evening, but from evening to morning. That is symbolic. It marks a pattern of new beginnings from old endings, new light after frightening darkness.

Our society, our world, with its prejudice, its hatred, its fear is indeed frightening - but our hope lies in the fact that precisely because this 'darkness' is of our own making, by God's grace 'light' can also be of our making.

The 'darkness' of the 1950's for the black people of the United States brought forth Martin Luther King who ushered in a new dawn. The fear of what the result may be of a continuous stockpiling of nuclear armaments eventually led to the Geneva summit and the mutual New Year's day peace messages by Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev. A new dawn?

As we begin a new year we should dare to dream the impossible dream. We should look, not backward with fear, but forward with hope. Now, as in the times past, the darkness which may look like the evening of the world, may in fact lead to the dawn of a better day.



"Certainly will make free trade easier - the U.S. will OWN us soon!"

PM just talks too much



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ask 10 people why the popularity of the Mulroney government has plummeted in the last six months and chances are you will get 10 different answers. Everyone seems to have a very personal theory on the subject.

So I can't think of any particular reason why I shouldn't have one, too.

And it's my unscientific, and unsubstantiated, view that the prime minister just talks too much. After nearly 16 months in office and for reasons I can't fully comprehend, Mulroney can't seem to get a handle on a simple "yes" or "no".

Mind you, there is obviously more than that involved when the popularity of a political party takes such a drastic tumble. But I cling faithfully to the view that, had the prime minister shown more austerity in his oratory, his government would not now be wallowing down there with the Liberals in the opinion surveys.

Even some of the major issues that caused the prime minister so much trouble were often compounded by too much chatter. For instance, his patronage binge would have been far more palatable had he not talked so much about the horrid practice under the Grits. And many of those little controversies over what he knew and didn't know or what he was told or not told, could have been avoided - or at least simplified - if there weren't so many careless comments tossed out.

Even when people criticize the government for failing to meet expectations, it's basically a problem of too much talk. It was oratorical overkill, usually the prime minister's, that created the expectations.

And expectations can be created in ways other than overtly offering

promises. Merely denouncing the practices of other parties leaves a clear message of greater things to come.

NOT HELPFUL

Talking too much can also be an unnecessary aggravation for people who have heard the same message 100 times. And, in this electronic age, it isn't necessary to repeat statements over and over again, unless in a new context.

Some repetitions are probably counter-productive. And I suspect the oft-repeated boasts about the number of jobs being created - which varies little from the number of jobs created under the Liberals - is of great annoyance to the many unemployed in the country.

And those who are impressed, such as economists, don't have to be told more than once.

But the greatest example of verbal extravagance being counter-productive occurs in Parliament. There, on a daily basis, the prime minister literally invites unnecessary problems by continuing to attack the opposition parties.

There are times when he gives the appearance of being locked in a life and death struggle with the long-gone Trudeau government to win the hearts of Canadians. And you can't begin to count the occasions when, in answer to questions, he merely lists the sins of that previous government.

Sure, his own MPs applaud wildly, but it was ever thus. Does anyone out there really care, at this stage, about the policies of a defeated government? I can't imagine why.

NO IMPROVEMENT

What surprises me is how the prime minister, rather than economizing on his rhetoric, seems to have become even more expansive in that area.

Much of it is probably due to the fact that he gets so much enjoyment out of sparring with his opponents. It's obviously extremely difficult for him to

resist the temptation to get in that extra shot. And he fairly beams when he can point at John Turner and refer to something he might have done in 1974.

Mulroney was in his element when, in responding to questions about the closing of the Gulf refinery in Montreal, he was able to refer to similar closures under the Liberals.

Ignoring the question about why his government allowed the refinery to close, Mulroney simply blamed the Liberals for destroying the whole refining industry in Quebec. "The people who shut down refineries in the province of Quebec were the Liberals who went 'Bang! Bang! Bang!'"

He thumped his fist into his hand to emphasize the point. The prime minister might have had fun, but it served to aggravate the opposition and turn the House into a three-ring circus.

When the NDP's Lorne Nystrom asked Mulroney to make a report public and said "it's a question of credibility for the prime minister and his government," he got this reply:

"Mr. Speaker, when an NDPer talks about credibility he should choke on the words."

Then, turning to Nystrom, he said "you supported your sweethearts in the Liberal Party who brought in the National Energy Program that crushed, not only western Canada, but the refining industry in eastern Canada. You should be ashamed of yourself for even asking the question."

It brought the prime minister a rousing round of applause from his own troops but whether it means "yes" or "no" is anyone's guess.

And what this type of politicking means in the opinion polls is also anyone's guess. Mine is that, when used constantly, it's damaging to one's political health.

It wouldn't do to have a prime minister who says nothing beyond the bare verbal necessities. But there's a big, accommodating, middle ground.

All wet on Acid Rain



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

TORONTO - The Davis-Lewis report on acid rain has been, as many people around here joked, rained upon rather acidly since its publication.

In this country, not surprisingly, most of the downpour has been directed at the mildness of the financial shower Davis and Lewis recommended.

South of the border, on the other hand, a lot of the comment could be summarized by the editorial headline

in the Wall Street Journal: All Wet on Acid Rain.

The common wisdom in Canada is that acid rain is a severe environmental hazard that will kill our lakes and maybe our forests if we don't do something about it.

That's why former Ontario Premier Bill Davis and former U.S. Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis were appointed by the Canadian and U.S. governments to jointly examine its cross-boundary implications.

Canadians put the blame for acid rain squarely on sulphur dioxide emissions pumped into the atmosphere from sources such as the coal-burning power plants of the U.S. Midwest.

The sulphur dioxide combines with water droplets and falls as acid rain.

In short, the impression in this country is that acid rain is man-made.

In the U.S. there is major resist-

ance to accepting that conclusion.

Many don't even agree acid rain is a problem - while among those who will acknowledge there is a threat from acidic precipitation, there is no consensus that sulphur dioxide is actually the prime villain.

What the Davis-Lewis report does is advance the Canadian argument that acid rain is (to quote it) "a severe environmental hazard" about which the scientific evidence is 'overwhelming'.

It calls for \$5 billion over five years to develop new coal technologies in demonstration projects to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions.

In short, it buys the Canadian view, much to the chagrin of critics like the Wall Street Journal.

For example, the Journal quotes from a 1,300 page, 50-contributor U.S. Environmental Protection Agency summary document to the effect that man-made acid rain's effects "may be overwhelmed by natural acidification processes and not cause a measurable change" in soils or lakes.

Or, to put it another way, acidic lakes and forests are more a natural phenomena than human-originated.

If they are, of course, there is no point in spending billions to "clean up" an environment that isn't dirty.

The measure of Bill Davis' negotiating triumph is that he got Lewis to reject that view.

Unfortunately, his victory has been lost in the criticism here that the report didn't go far enough, that it didn't set targets for sulphur dioxide emission reductions in the U.S. or commit money to anything beyond technology research.

But that's foolish. Until all the evidence is in the Americans won't blindly agree to Canadian assumptions about acid rain anyway.

Halton's History

THIRTY YEARS AGO - Dr. J.E. Jackson died in Westminster Hospital. Dr. Jackson practised dentistry in Georgetown before he joined the armed forces during World War II. The 59-year-old doctor was a veteran of both world wars.

The Georgetown Raiders defeated the Toronto Lyndhursts 13-5 in a benefit game for injured players. Bud Varey had 4 goals, Ron Dixon 3 and Harry Chappel had 2.

New members of the Esquering council took their oath of office. There were no changes on the town council. The township does have a new reeve and deputy, Walter Linham and George Currie.

Stewarttown resident Alexander (Sandy) Best addressed members of the Royal Canadian Institute at Convocation Hall in Toronto. Mr. Best is a member of the University of Toronto's botany department. He is also vice-president of the North American Lily Society.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO - Rev. Harold Patzer is the new minister at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Mr. Patzer is from Moncton, New Brunswick and succeeds John Kliffner who is now at Our Saviour Church in Ottawa.

John T. Armstrong and Fran Baines are two Georgetown delegates from Halton East going to next month's Ontario Progressive Conservative leadership convention.

There were 27 people killed in traffic accidents in 1970, according to police departments throughout Halton. Only Milton and Georgetown were free of fatalities.

The Rebels wrestling team began their season with a victory in the eight team West Hill Invitational. They even defeated last year's Ontario champions, Winston Churchill. Team captain Clive Llewellyn won the 141 lb. class, John Tost the 168 lb. class and Jim Breckenridge was the 194 lb. champ.

TEN YEARS AGO - Kris Barber of Glen Williams and Patty Fletcher of Scarborough won the Novice Dance Pairs crown at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships in London. Kris is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barber of Park Street in Glen Williams.

Joseph Pentesco of 46 Marilyn Crescent in Georgetown was one of five salesmen named to the Regal Ware Inc. Hall of Fame. He was also named to the company's 100 club.

The Senior Rebels basketball team won their last two games after losing their opener. They most recently defeated Aldershot 75 to 56. Rick Goulette led the Rebels with 18 points.

Barb Curry has been matching her fellow Hotshots in scoring lately. Last week she had 18 points to lead her basketball team to a 32-16 win over the Knicks.

FIVE YEARS AGO - Dwayne DeCoste has been chosen to represent Georgetown at the Youth Bowling Council National Championships. His qualifying score for eight games was 1674 with a game high score of 253.

Former GDMHA coach Bill Richmond coached his Oakville juvenile hockey team to a 9-6 defeat against the Czechoslovakian national team. Richmond coached in Georgetown 10 years ago.

Original Georgetown Koppikat Jack Ferguson is returning to town to be in the Georgetown Little Theatre's upcoming comedy-drama 'Count Dracula'.

About 150 people were out to meet Fran Baines who wants to be the Progressive Conservative candidate as MPP for Halton-Burlington. John McDermid, Mayor Pomeroy and former Regional Chairman Ric Morrow attended.

Poets' Corner

CHANGED

I'm changed
renewed
overwhelmed
by the way
you gently
lead me back
to myself.
You make me proud
to feel I'm worth
the effort
of your interest
and caring.
My self-image
clears

with every kind word
you utter.
I become the you
in your heart.

—By MARLOWE C. DICKSON,
RR2, Beeton

Send us a letter

The Herald,
45 Guelph Street,
Georgetown, Ont.