

Election flaws

On paper, it sounds so simple. But electing French trustees for the Halton Roman Catholic School Board is turning out to be a complicated affair.

Nominations and voting will be held tonight in Oakville to elect three French trustees. The positions are new, created by revisions of Bill 75. Across the province, Catholic school boards are electing French trustees to serve until the next municipal elections in 1988.

Until then, successful candidates will complete a two-year term, elected under unusual circumstances. Firstly, there is no representative by region. This means there are Burlington and Oakville candidates wooing the Georgetown, Acton and Milton vote.

Secondly, nominations and voting all take place on the same night. Johnny-come-lately candidates can enter the fray tonight in Halton, make a five-minute speech and be crowned the winner without any other planning or commitment.

We feel sorry for the candidates who have put money and forethought into the campaign, who want to preserve the interests of the school in their area.

It's true, things will be back to normal in 1988. But two years is a long time to elect a candidate using a system that has so many flaws.

Keep status quo

Beer and wine in every corner store is not going to make Halton Hills a better place to live.

We can think of few reasons to pass legislation allowing convenience stores to sell alcohol.

The provincial Liberals are trying to make good on an election promise. It was a popular move more than a year ago to present an alternative to the Brewer's Retail monopoly on beer sales.

Now, thoughtful people are evaluating the costs of selling beer and wine as if it were a grocery item such as bread or milk.

There is a greater chance of alcohol abuse when there is convenient access. Already Halton Hills has been devastated by news of local accidents involving impaired drivers.

We have no guarantees that easier access won't encourage people to drink more often, drink to excess - and drive while impaired.

Selling alcohol in corner stores would mean staff under 18 would have to be let go or re-assigned if the legislation is passed. Hard-working students would be victimized.

Beer and wine shouldn't be seen as the sole savior of convenience stores. If a corner store can't make a profit without alcohol on the shelves, then it's time to re-evaluate its marketing strategy.

The ultimate computer program

By JANET DUVAL, Herald Special

The recent Iceland summit came within a hair of historic agreement on huge missile cuts by both sides, but it finally broke up in failure because of a concept that should interest every computer user: "Star Wars", or the Strategic Defence Initiative.

The vision of "Star Wars" is a system that would be able to shoot down enemy missiles in space, before they ever reach the United States. That's rather like intercepting thousands of bullets fired this way from Orangeville.

latest weapons without warning, just for target practice.

In effect, then, we can write and LIST the Star Wars program, but we can't RUN it until it's needed - and then it has to work perfectly. Even SDI officials admit that at best, the project could only be about 90 per cent accurate - letting through enough missiles to kill 40 million people right off the bat. As a special bonus for Canadians, those stray missiles are to be shot down in the atmosphere right over Canada, before they reach the US border.

One proponent says the program, might work with even 100,000 errors, and maybe it would, but the Venus space probe went astray due to a single programming error, and two-thirds of the computer-guided Cruise missile tests have failed as well. Thousands of computer scientists and physicists have rejected and refused to work on SDI, including many American and Canadian university faculties.

The only person who really seems to believe it could work is Ronald Reagan; even Mr. Gorbachev sees it as a political threat, not a military one, since it will be easy enough to circumvent by the time it's ready. Why is it going on then?

SDI is the ultimate in "gravy trains". Literally trillions of dollars are to be spent, diverting some of the best minds and businesses on the continent, to research and build a "fraudulent concept", says US Navy computer scientist David Parniss, who quit SDI in disgust.

"It's taking public money to build a protective shield that will not protect," but that will pump billions of dollars into public and private groups who are willing to accept the money.

Canadians should be telling Mr. Mulroney, and he should be telling Mr. Reagan, that we put far more trust in a world with fewer nuclear weapons, than in Star Wars.



Guest Column

Computers will do all the "watching" and give the battle commands. SDI officials say that the software will require 10 to 100 million lines of computer code, which is more than 100 times as long as the biggest existing computer program.

This is far too complex a program for any human to write, so new Artificial Intelligence computers are to be developed just to write the program! Are you willing to bet your life on all of this? But wait, there's more.

Imagine writing a program that you can't test or debug. That's the case here: we can't exactly ask Mikhail to fire a few thousand of his

SEND US A LETTER

What do you think about what is happening in Halton Hills...in this province...across the nation and around the world?

We are interested in your opinion. The Herald invites its readers to express their opinion through our citizen's forum section.

All letters must be signed and include an address. Your phone number should be listed in order for

us to verify the signature. Please keep your letter brief and to the point. The maximum length is 400 words.

The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters as to length, good taste and possibly libelous material.

Send your letters to: The Herald, 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 3Z4

Media get 'mindless and vicious'

Prime Minister Mulroney, who has a recognized inclination to exaggerate, probably did it again when he said the media coverage he gets is "vicious and mindless."

Admittedly, the press has been fairly tough on the Conservative prime minister, and perhaps there have been a few occasions when, at least in the eyes of Tories, it would appear rather vicious. But mindless? I doubt it.

There are many viewpoints as to why Mr. Mulroney's press coverage has been somewhat less than flattering. And while the media might deserve its share of blame, the prime minister himself, along with certain cabinet ministers, are not without responsibility.

Many of them, Mr. Mulroney included, had to make a fairly fast adjustment from politician to statesman, and it obviously hasn't been easy. In fact, the prime minister continues to express some surprise that reporters study his every sentence for contradictions.

And why shouldn't they? It might be acceptable for campaigning politicians to contradict themselves in the heat of battle, but prime ministers can't afford that luxury. It creates problems of trust and credibility - and the relative importance of the issue under discussion is basically irrelevant. Little contradictions can be as damaging



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

as big ones, just as little exaggerations can be as dangerous as whoppers.

On the other hand, there is no doubt that Mr. Mulroney is being monitored by the media more closely than any of his predecessors. Not only does his bent toward exaggeration encourage this, but the Parliamentary Press Gallery is far bigger than it used to be.

Perhaps what has caused Mr. Mulroney more grief than anything else is the Access to Information Act - something that hasn't been around long enough to seriously bother previous prime ministers. Under this act, reporters are usually able to get information, much of it potentially embarrassing, that previously remained confidential.

It was under this act, for instance, that we learned all about the cost of Mr. Mulroney's travels, including those horrendous hotel bills in New York and Paris. Without this act to disclose the expense account of Suzanne Blais-Grenier, she probably

would still be in the Mulroney cabinet. And without this act, the prime minister's chief communications adviser would not have had to face embarrassing questions about reporters he was alleged to have entertained.

And without the act, there probably would have been none of that unfavorable publicity about a second airplane being used to carry video equipment for the prime minister's various appearances.

Without the act, the prime minister likely would not have had to deal with those embarrassing questions - which he dealt with badly - about taking a butler and maid on his Asian tour.

This last example, incidentally, would seem to qualify as an example of journalistic over-kill. Why shouldn't the prime minister of Canada have adequate personal staff on foreign trips? I know of no other country where the press is so preoccupied with a leader's personal entourage.

ALL NEW But perhaps our interest in this will wear off once we become more used to the costs. Because the act is new and we have no comparisons, we may be over-awed, and over-reacting, to a travelling head of government.

But this is only a part of the problem Mr. Mulroney is having with

the media. Surely there can be no doubt that his exaggerations bear some of the responsibility for the intense scrutiny of his sentences.

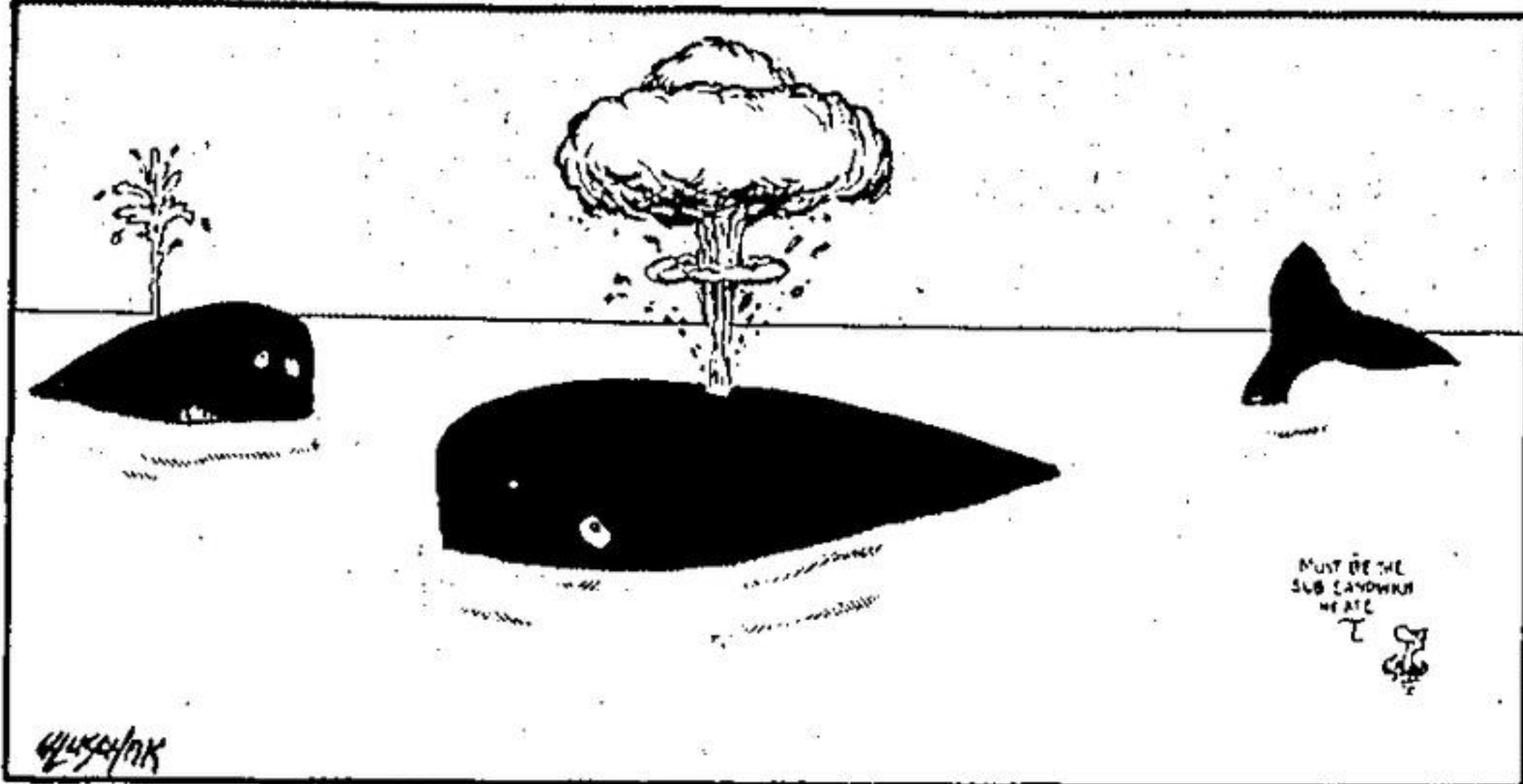
For instance, he should not have told a national television audience that he didn't take his butler, maid "or anyone" on that Asian trip. Clearly, he had.

And his comment about drug abuse becoming an "epidemic" could not escape examination, since just about every authority in Canada disagreed with him. There was also his revised version of events surrounding the resignation of John Fraser - now Commons Speaker - as fisheries minister. And the prime minister's figures on job-creation, in relation to previous governments, have not always been accurate.

And more recently, in commenting on the Tories' dismal drop in the opinion polls just two years after their resounding victory, Mr. Mulroney is telling us that he examined the records and the same thing happened to the Trudeau Liberals two years after their 1968 sweep.

In fact, it didn't happen that way at all. Through most of 1970, the popularity of the Liberals was higher than in the 1968 election.

So is it any wonder that remarks such as this send reporters scurrying to the research libraries? But whether such action is vicious and mindless is, I guess, a matter of very personal opinion.



Citizens' forum

UNICEF helps worldwide

Dear Sir,

The annual UNICEF Halloween campaign is a wonderful opportunity for Canadian children to give something of value to children in a less developed part of the world. Collecting for UNICEF at Halloween is not only an experience in giving to others but it enables our children to learn that they can help children in developing countries live happier, healthier lives.

Through the UNICEF Halloween collection, the world's needy children receive health care, improved nutrition, clean water and a basic education. Each year over 5 million children under the age of five die from dehydration caused by diarrhoea. A simple mixture of sugar, salt and water known as Oral Rehydration Salts prevents a child from losing essential body fluids which causes death. What a simple and effective solution, costing only 10 cents! The \$600,000 which Ontario children raised last year for UNICEF meant that millions survived the dehydration which can cause death.

All Canadian children should be aware of the generous gift they give to other children when they carry the orange-and-black UNICEF box this Halloween. Please encourage

the many UNICEF Trick-or-Treaters this October 31 - their visit to your door and your generous donation will give millions of

children a better tomorrow.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Haig, Provincial Chairman, Ontario UNICEF Committee

I hate asking for money

Dear Sir,

I hate asking for money! Yet that's what I and several hundred other volunteer canvassers have been doing for the past three weeks all across Halton Hills. On behalf of the people who are helped by the United Way supported agencies, we have been out night after night, often in unpleasant weather to ask for donations to make this year's first campaign a success.

The responses from people have been generally positive, almost all people voicing support for the campaign. Donations have ranged from over \$100 to several dollars, with many people indicating that they donate through payroll deduction. I think many people, myself included don't usually have a lot of cash on hand when a canvasser calls. That's the reason I donate through payroll deduction where I work. My contribution comes right off the paycheck and I don't miss the couple of dollars every week.

If we all used payroll deduction to support our United Way, then we wouldn't have to go around asking for money. I hate asking for money. But I will, again, next year; see you then!

Yours sincerely, Jim Kinnear, A volunteer for the United Way

Wanted: former youth campers

United Co-operatives of Ontario (UCO) is looking for participants in its youth camp, specifically in between the years 1970 and 1974.

UCO is planning a 20th-year reunion next August for all participants and leaders of the youth camp programs since 1967. Unfortunately, records of names and addresses for the participants between 1970 and 1974 have been lost.

Anyone having this information, contact: Education and Public Relations, United Co-operatives of Ontario, 151 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, L5A 3A4 (416) 270-3560.

During the 20 years of activity, over 800 young men and women have attended youth camps, always held at Geneva Park, on Lake Couchiching. The program began with 37 boys in attendance, became co-ed in 1970 and was renamed Co-op Young Leaders Program in 1984.

Taxpayers paid for school

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter was filed with The Herald for publication.

Mr. R. Miller, Mayor Town of Halton Hills

Dear Sir, I read an article in The Herald which stated the town is interested in Wrigglesworth School. Part of the article states "The large cost of purchase". I don't understand this statement. If the town wishes to buy the school, should it not be for the sum of one dollar? Was it not for the amount of one dollar that the Town of Halton Hills sold the indoor pool to the Board of Education?

Taxpayers paid for the schools to be built. Taxpayers dollars maintain the building. If the Board of Education wishes to sell the school back to the town, why should the taxpayers pay for it again at market prices? How can you justify your reasons for paying market value for property that technically belongs to the people of Halton Hills?

Yours truly, R. Hiseman, Georgetown

Family, marriage status changing

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter has been sent to the Honorable David Peterson, Larry Grossman, Bob Rae, Honorable Ian Scott and Jack Johnson, M.P.P., Dear Sir,

In my dictionary the definition of family is "parents and their children". In all the history of civilization, the family, thus known, has been the basis and centre of all societies.

The amendment to Bill 7 was tabled on May 6, 1986. It has not yet had third reading, but already the juggernaut is rolling: On October 6 a proposal for Metro Toronto to provide FAMILY health benefits to the sex partners of homosexual and lesbian city workers was referred to a committee for further study - not resoundingly voted down, but gutturally passed along!

I strongly urge you to do all in your power to defeat this "sexual orientation" amendment (Section 17) to Bill 7 to amend the Human Rights Code.

The implications resulting from passage of this bill are horrendous and would deleteriously affect every citizen of this province. It is imperative that it be removed from the bill. I would appreciate your reply to this basic challenge to the quality of life in Ontario.

Margaret M. Willis, RR1 Terra Cotta

SDI program stumbling block

Editors Note: This letter was filed with The Herald for publication.

An open letter to President Ronald Reagan, The White House, and Premier Mikhail Gorbachev, The Kremlin, Moscow

Dear Sirs:

You came so close. Millions around the world would have rejoiced at the agreement which you almost reached in Iceland, to remove all nuclear warheads in Europe, and to reduce long-range weapons at home on each side. But SDI or "Star Wars" was the stumbling block.

Mr. Reagan, you chose your personal vision of a technological "Fortress American", to be achieved through SDI, over the chance to become the statesman of the century. And so the best minds and businesses on the continent, and trillions of dollars, will now be diverted towards building a system that most think will fail, and that will raise higher the walls of fear and distrust dividing you and the Soviets.

Mr. Gorbachev, you have admitted yourself that SDI is more of a political threat than a military one, that it will be easy enough to circumvent if and when it is ever ready. Would it not have been possible then to compromise more at Reykjavik, in order to achieve such an unprecedented arms agreement?

You have both said that nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. You both have many times more weapons than are needed for deterrence. Please get on with agreeing to scrap them.

Yours truly Janet Duval

Halton's History from our files

30 years ago

Former Georgetown Raider star Nick Ferri was appointed coach of the Georgetown Raiders intermediate hockey club. He succeeds Scotty Patterson, coach for the past two seasons.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hill, now of 7 Sarah St., were married at Calvary Baptist Church in Brampton. The local minister of Grace Church, Bruce Penny, assisted in the ceremony.

A minister's association for North Halton is being promoted by three Norval ministers. Rev. J.E. Maxwell, Rev. G. Lockhart Royal and Rev. W. Edgar Gill met at the United Church in Norval to discuss the association.

Corey R. Herrington was installed as the noble grand of the Orion Odd Fellows lodge. Other officers elected include: Alan Edmunds, vice-grand; David Hastings, recording secretary and Roderick King, business secretary.

15 years ago

The lights illuminating the Cedarvale playing field were turned on for the first time. Georgetown Kinsmen Club vice-president Warren McLay flipped the switch. The lights were a Kinsmen project.

Premier Bill Davis announced GO transit service will be coming as far as Georgetown. He said he hopes the system will be ready by late 1972.

Three taxi owners went to town council to complain the \$200,000 by law minimum insurance was too tough and that they could not afford it. Carman Maltby of Flash Taxi, and William Emmerson and Leonard Verschuer of Glen Taxi challenged the bylaw.

Gloria Sinclair won the ladies championship at the North Halton Golf and Country Club. She defeated defending champion Deborah Young in four round medal play.

10 years ago

Two Herald carriers from Georgetown and one from Acton were honored for National Carrier Day. A poll of readers decided these carriers were the best. Geoff, 9 and Jayne Weldon, 7, of Bavor Crescent in Georgetown, and Paul Carter, 12, of Victoria Avenue in Acton were the winners.

Claud Pickett of Georgetown presented a trophy at a ceremony. Douglas A. Gregson of Hillsburgh received the Breeder's Herd award. The presentations were at the West-Central Ontario Holstein Show in Erin.

Georgetown schools dominated the North Halton Public School Cross Country Championships in Milton. Centennial Public School won the junior and senior team championships, Harrison Public School won the bantam team championships, and Stewarttown captured the intermediate championship. Cheryl Thompson and Mike Wroblewski of Centennial were the junior girls and intermediate boys champion respectively.

Georgetown Legion Royalettes were honored at a banquet. Janet McKay won the top batter award for her .619 average. She was followed by Leanne Gilson, .587; Charlene Milton, .587 and Barb Curry at .550. The most improved player was Patti Caruso.

5 years ago

Georgetown's Gougeon Home Furnishings closed after 22 years on Georgetown's Main Street. The owner, Bob Gougeon, decided to start a new career with Pascal's Furniture Ltd. on Highway 10 near Matheson Road in Brampton.

Past president of the Georgetown Optimists Club, Stanley Nolan, welcomed three new members to the club. The members are his sons Carl, Mark and Gord. The new president of the club is Bruce Totten.

Parishioners of Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church were joined by Bishop Paul Reding at the church's 25th anniversary. Father Otger Devent, a former father at Holy Cross, also dropped in from his new home in Downsview.

Brad Butterworth returned to hockey after an eye injury sidelined him for last season.