

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

A Division of Canadian Newspapers Company Limited
45 Guelph Street, Georgetown L7G 3Z6, Ontario

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Second Class Mail - Registered Number 8943

Page 4 - SECTION A, THE HERALD, Wednesday, July 15, 1987

Going too far

Regional councillors have listened to tirades from Burlington Mayor Roly Bird for years. But this time, his stinging words have gone too far.

Last week, Mr. Bird announced a "position paper" he had put together calling for an all-out review of representation at Halton Region.

He's unhappy Halton Hills councillor Pam Sheldon called the Burlington rebuttal on a landfill site proposal "insulting". That's understandable. With such an emotional issue, strong words are bound to spark further disagreement.

But as we say, Mr. Bird has gone too far. He's now attacked the staff at Halton Region for being biased in favor of the Milton site over a Burlington site. In the past he's attacked the media for his concern over its stories with warnings of reading every story written by council reporters.

A shrewd man, perhaps the Burlington mayor feels by going to the offensive he can create such a smokescreen as to deflect attention away from the problems of his city.

If anything, the councillor should look on Halton Hills as the "honest broker" between the larger centres, having an opinion on larger centres such as Oakville and Burlington without self-interest.

Halton Hills has paid its fair share in its association with Halton Region. To suggest Georgetown and Acton give up a seat to Burlington, which now has nine members, is ludicrous.

Instead of wasting time on position papers, Mr. Bird could put his energy into more positive, constructive use.

Time to leave

It's just over two years since Don Knight won the Halton-Burlington riding in the provincial election.

When most other politicians would jump at the chance to stay on board the Peterson ship, as it steams ahead on a wave of popularity, Mr. Knight is retiring.

The decision by Mr. Knight may come as a shock to many.

The MPP could have possibly carried on for a four-year term, basking in the prestige and privileges which accompany the position. But he made his announcement in time for another candidate to take his place as a candidate before the next provincial election. He left neither his party of his constituents in a difficult position.

An independent man and successful business entrepreneur, Mr. Knight undoubtedly found many aspects of his job unappealing. The government machine plods along ever so slowly and standing idly by as a backbencher isn't the most rewarding place to be at times.

However, Mr. Knight served his constituents well. He attended many functions religiously, kept in touch with local issues and worked well with our Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller.

Mr. Knight's resignation underlines the need to find new ways to keep good people in government when a party holds a large majority. The opportunities for backbenchers, who are really at the heart of our democratic system, are limited. Some may hang on for the lone reason that it's great to be in power.

Others, such as Mr. Knight, are most honest about their feelings. The MPP picked the right time for an exit and did so with class. Those who knew him will remember his openness, honesty and dedication.

Baby boom earners need to save today



Your Business

By DIANNE MALEY
Business Analyst

Being 40 is better than being 20, 50, pregnant or mugged, as the saying goes. This message has been turning up on novelty T-shirts and birthday cards lately as more of the post-war baby boom reach age 40.

Starting middle age in the face also has a way of focusing one's attention on retirement.

Only 25 years left to save the \$1 million or so you will need to retire in the style to which you have grown accustomed.

A person earning \$30,000 today would need an annual income of more than \$100,000 25 years from now just to break even, assuming inflation averages five per cent.

You would have to save a substantial amount of money to generate an income like that.

Hidden dangers abound to upset your plans. Inflation or deflation, high interest rates or low ones, could leave your plans in shambles.

Building a solid retirement plan on shifting economic sands requires the wisdom of Solomon.

Enter the Canadian Bankers Association with a new self-help booklet, Steps to Retirement, available at your local bank branch.

COUNTDOWN
The CBA offers a step-by-step guide to retirement planning, starting with a countdown to retirement.

If you have 25 years to go, the CBA advises you to save 10 per cent of your income or use it to repay mortgage and other loans; reinvest your tax refunds in registered retirement savings plans; find out details of your company's pension plan and insurance; buy a home; and make a will, among other things.

Home, insurance and will are the bedrock of good financial planning, says Beverly Hanna, a sales representative with Dominion Securities. After that come investments, both inside and outside savings plans.

Ms Hanna points to the pitfalls of not planning well. You will pay more tax than you have to. Worse, you may end up on government assistance, which will leave you living well below the poverty line.

The first step is to take a financial inventory. Add up the value of your home and possessions, your RRSPs and your investments. Subtract your mortgage and other loans to find your net worth. You may be pleasantly surprised, the CBA says.

If you are not, don't panic. You can still set things straight. All you have to do is save like mad and earn 15 per cent a year on your savings.

Like good bankers, the CBA points out what compound interest can do for you. If you invest \$1,000 a year for 25 years in an RRSP paying nine per cent interest, you will end up with \$95,320. That's a far cry from the \$100,000 a year you will need to preserve your current lifestyle.

Leslie Mezei, a financial planner, shows the importance of high returns in a recent article in Financial Planner magazine. He also shows the importance of starting early.

Mr. Mezei's example assumes five per cent inflation over your 35-year working life. He assumes you will contribute \$3,500 a year to your RRSP, increasing by five per cent each year. You would invest a total of \$315,121, much of which would come from income tax refunds.

A return of 10 per cent a year would mean your investment would grow to \$1.7 million by the time you retired. After subtracting inflation, you would be left with the equivalent of \$315,291 in today's dollars.

Now look what a 15 per cent return does. A yield of 15 per cent would raise your savings to \$5.1 million, with a value of \$931,523 in today's dollars.

Minister's logic peculiar piece

That was a peculiar piece of logic unloaded on us by Labor Minister Pierre Cadieux when he explained - or tried to - why he would not appoint a mediator in the letter carriers' strike.

What he said, and with a straight face to boot, was that "there hasn't been enough movement" in negotiations to warrant mediation.

Without claiming any expertise in labor relations, I've always clung to this quaint belief that lack of movement is precisely the reason mediators are required. If there is enough movement, I always figured, who needs a mediator?

Obviously, I've had it all backwards.

But what I don't have backwards at least I don't think so - is that Mr. Cadieux's personal philosophy about mediation is irrelevant in the present case. He might be the labor minister but so far as the postal strike is concerned, I suspect he is merely the spokesman for a government that is determined to have the post office pay its own way.

Settling a labor dispute is not the main objective. And neither was it the main objective when U.S. President Ronald Reagan fired striking air controllers six years ago.

The president won prolonged public applause for his nifty action. And the Mulroney government is convinced that in any showdown with the post office, it, too, will be



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

applauded. The post office, through no fault of the letter carriers, is not the most popular institution in the country.

IMPORTANT TARGET
One of the ironies in this whole messy business is that the post office was converted into a Crown corporation so there would be no government interference; so that a new, more efficient postal service could be financially self-sufficient by 1992.

And now, when both Canada Post and the letter carriers' union request the services of a federal mediator, the government refuses. If that's a hands-off attitude on the part of government, one would hate to see what hands-on might mean.

When was the last time you saw mediation refused when it was requested by both sides?

No, there is very direct government involvement in this postal dispute. And it was quite a coincidence that, in the midst of an increasingly violent walkout, a Tory-dominated Commons committee

recommended that the postal system be declared an essential service.

This means postal workers would lose the right to strike.

With private courier services sprouting up all over the country, there has probably never been a time when the postal system was less essential.

And we're all aware of the controversial plan the government has to turn some post offices over to private franchise operators, while closing others. It has already been done in some cases, apparently at notable savings, and what would justify this process more than continuing labor strife in the post office?

WRONG UNION
It's a pity this sturdy government stand is being taken against the letter carriers because, over the years, their union has caused less public inconvenience than just about any other group in the post office.

And no one can accuse the union of making any of the outrageous demands that governments often face when the winds of public opinion are blowing in the wrong direction. What the letter carriers are asking for is, effectively, the status quo. What Canada Post - or, if you prefer, the government - wants is union agreement to implement an austerity program.

The union is being asked to accept

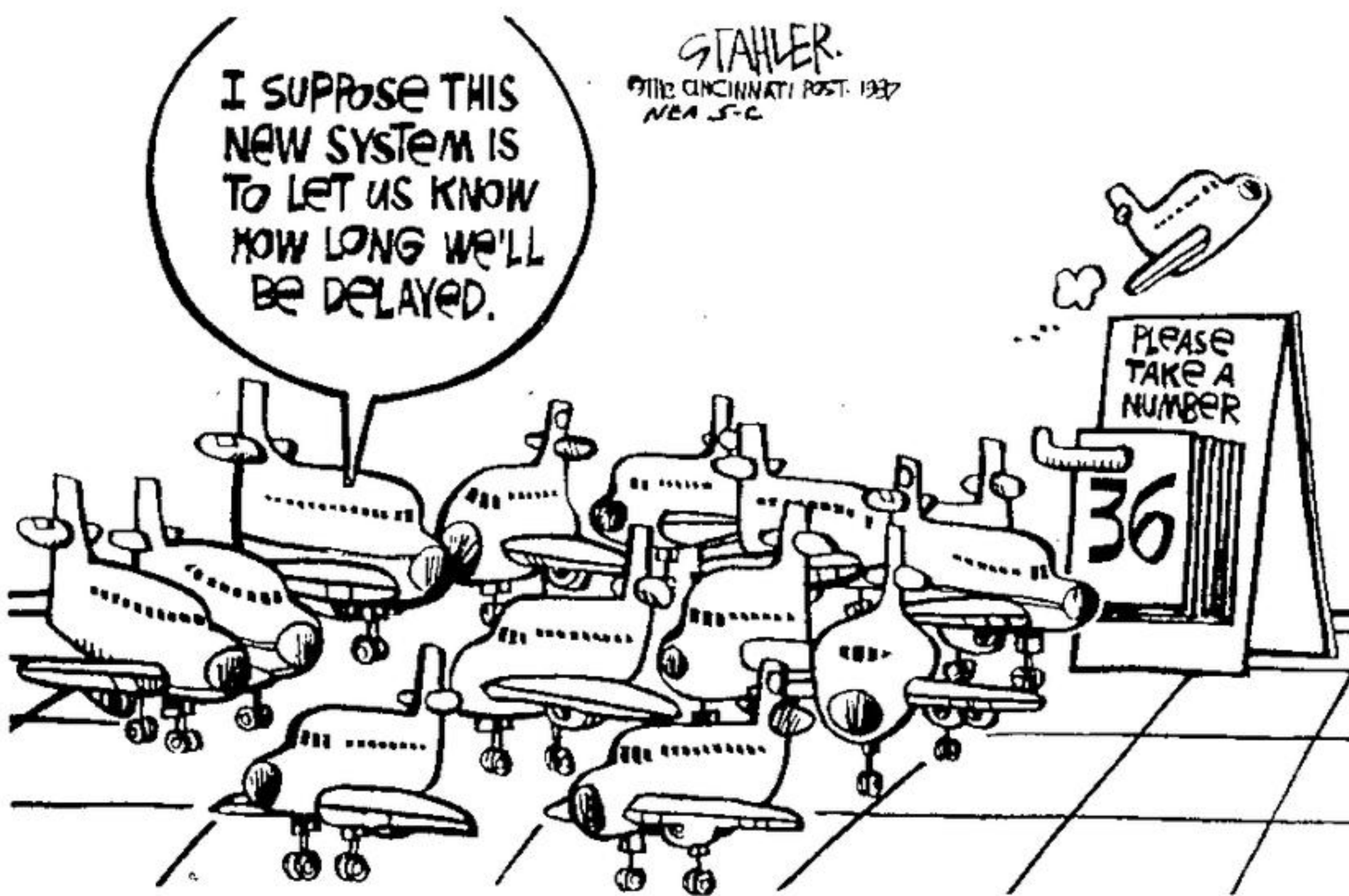
reduced job security, including up to 2,000 layoffs. Carriers are also being asked to remain on the routes during the lunch hour and, in some cases, to provide their own cars.

Canada Post is, of course, under a great deal of pressure to meet its break-even targets and if this is to be done, the operation will obviously have to undergo some streamlining. The corporation is not simply being mean-spirited.

Given the positions of Canada Post and the union, it certainly should come as no surprise to Mr. Cadieux that there has been little movement in the negotiations. And, unfortunately, the longer the strike goes on, with its inevitable outbreaks of violence, the possibility of real movement becomes less and less likely.

When Canada Post and the union requested federal mediation, it was agreed that the use of "replacement workers" - the prime cause of the violence - would be halted. And if the government was the slightest bit interested in bringing this messy business to a peaceful conclusion - while improving the public's perception of the post office - a mediator would have been appointed within hours of the joint request.

But there are obviously other things in mind.



I SUPPOSE THIS NEW SYSTEM IS TO LET US KNOW HOW LONG WE'LL BE DELAYED.

STAWLER
5716 CINCINNATI POST 1987
NEA 5-C

REUNION REFLECTIONS

Centennial weekend 'super'

Dear Sir,
I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to those people responsible for organizing the GDHS Centennial weekend.

In particular I would like to thank the "Old Faithfuls" (Louie and Grover) Brian Lewis and Karen (Norton) Harrison for caring and carrying the load for the rest of us as they have done for so many years.

Tom Beer the Chairman must also be acknowledged and appreciated by all of us that attended and contributed only a fee for registration and an anticipation of what he and his committees had planned on our behalf.

All the people, that we as benefactors of their hard and thankless toll, did not see or hear about, such as the people that researched the whereabouts of all the past students so that they were all invited must not be forgotten. Did you make their job any easier or did you begrudge the time you gave them? To those of you that helped make their jobs easier I thank you. To track down past students across the globe from Australia to Russia was a mammoth task. My hat is off to you for a Super Job. I especially appreciate your locating myself and my old classmates for this event.

I cannot remember when I have spent a weekend that I enjoyed more than this one renewing old acquaintances and visiting with them. I think only one of my classmates stumbled me on identification.

This weekend brought back memories of years gone by that were all very happy and vivid and all but forgotten.

I was amazed by the number of people that took time out to attend, especially realizing how far some people travelled to be there.

Never forget GDHS reunion

Dear Sir:
This letter will be brief as I have little energy left after the G.D.H.S. Reunion. It was a wild weekend that I will never forget. I just hope my voice recovers and my face muscles can relax again.

On behalf of the fifty or so students from the class of '60 who were there, many thanks to the organizers of this event and to the local businesses who generously supported it. It was a wonderful time - a gift in a way to those who participated. Well done!

Sincerely,
Jane Fogal
Congratulations also to the cast and crew of the '100 Year Review'. We thought it was great!

It was a moving experience to watch Miss Luke cut the ribbon to officially open this reunion. I'm sure many people felt that little lump in the throat, remembering back to the days spent in her classrooms. In my case I think maybe the lump was a guilt reaction remembering the lack of cooperation and participation I showed in her classes. I think there were a few more like me standing before the platform as well.

I was honoured to find my class photo included in the year book for this Centennial Book. My mother pointed out that my Grandfather, my mother, age 4, and my aunt Irene were also pictured in the Eldorado Park picture. This will be something to show our future rela-

tions and friends in years to come. I'm sure you found many changes to your old neighborhood if you haven't been back in years much like we found in GDHS facilities, changes like this being a sign of the progressive era we live in today.

If I was to find a fault with the organization of the trip back down memory lane and the hallowed halls of GDHS it would be that it should have been a week long not a weekend.

Hoping you will keep my name on file so that you might advise me in advance for the next reunion so that I might book a vacation period.

Yours Respectfully and Ever Grateful
Jack (John C) Thompson.



PYRAMID POWER - The Georgetown District High School cheerleaders performed in a scene from the musical 100 Years in Revue play at John Elliott Theatre during the high school centennial reunion July 3-5. The play was a hit with those who saw it. Almost 3,000 registered for the reunion and the Saturday night dance attracted almost 4,000. (Herald photo)



30 years ago

Colonel T. L. Kennedy officially opened the new conservation area at Heart Lake near Brampton, last week. The Colonel made an ardent plea for conservation during his speech.

Over 80 young people from Halton County, representing 4-H clubs, will make a tour of Hamilton and district tomorrow. The president of 4-H clubs in Halton is A. T. Woodley. He is organizing the tour.

15 years ago

The Georgetown firefighters questioned council this week about their proposed budget. Deputy District Chief Erwin Lewes' salary of \$1800 will now be in the department's \$25,000 budget. Firefighter Tom Massena said the chief's salary will reduce the amount given to the rest of the volunteers.

Don Kyle, local campaign chairman for the Canadian Cancer Society said Georgetown residents donated \$12,500 to the Society during a recent fundraising drive.

Members of the Georgetown Little Theatre Group will be joining the Central Ontario Drama League. The Group had its monthly meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Goudy last week.

Six homeowners on Metcalf court have hired a lawyer to represent their case to the builders. The footage along their backyards is sliding into the ravine.

10 years ago

Barb Stevens, supervisor of Halton Helping Hands, is appealing to residents to volunteer their time to help seniors and disabled persons. Mrs. Stevens now has 40 clients throughout Georgetown and Acton.

The 15-member crew of the Georgetown Adventurers returned Monday from their canoe trip to Prince Edward Island. Howard Powell, the trip's supervisor, was welcomed home by Governor General Jules Leger and a CBC Television crew. Other members of the expedition include Rob Heaton, Mike Dixon, Brian Hastings and Tom Hastings.

Independent truckers in Halton are appealing a proposal by council to ban trucks travelling along 17 sideroad. Don Murdy of Industrious Ltd. told Council the route is essential for his business.

Roxie Hamilton, 14, Georgetown, nursed a six-week old starling back to health recently. The bird has been named Peeper.

5 years ago

Following the federal government's recent "Six and five" wage restraint, councillors agreed to limit their wage increases to six per cent for next year. The move was supported by councillor Russ Miller.

Thirty-five-year-old firefighter Bill Cuningham was named Halton's new fire chief this week, replacing Mick Holmes.

Georgetown residents were left in the dark for close to three hours last Tuesday when a tractor-trailer smashed into a hydro pole in front of the A and P Store on Guelph Street.

The Glen Williams Merchants won both home and away game encounters with their Cambridge fastball opponents in Intercounty action last week. Hitters were Paul Mastalers and Steve Alworth.

Poets' Corner

Canada's heroes
Are athletes
Unlike other
Countries
Who praise warriors,
Or mere politicians,
Welcome Rick
Thank you, Terry.

In fear
Bark yard bar-b-que,
And beer
Radio drugged
Unable to listen
To their own voices,
There are other choices.