

Halton Hills Outlook

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Their Outlook

Our presence in US too much for Blank



Your Business

By DIANNE MALEY
Business Analyst
Thomson News Service

Each day, Stephen Blank, professor of Canada-U.S. business studies at New York's Pace University, wakes up and turns on his radio. As he does, he may recall that 10 per cent of New York's electrical power comes from Canada.

He reaches into the kitchen, pours a glass of milk from one of Labatt's American dairies. He picks up his New York Times, printed on Canadian newsprint. He puts on his Brooks Brothers suit (Campeau), bounds down the stairs to the subway, with its shiny new Bombardier cars and goes to work in an office building owned by Olympia and York.

At noon, he strolls over to the Seagram building for lunch and orders a Molson or a Rolling Rock (Labatt). After work, he stops by a bar for a Canadian Club, then heads off to the local cinema, owned by Garth Drabinsky of Cineplex.

And if Robert Campeau wins his fight for Federated Department Store, when Blank stops by Bloomingdale's to pick up some socks or a new tie, he will be buying products owned by a Canadian.

"Brooks Brothers I can take, but Bloomingdale's is too much," Blank joked at a recent news conference.

The event was the launching of a new study, Canadian Horizons, Canada's Growing Presence in the United States, which Prof. Blank prepared for Prudential-Bache Securities Canada Ltd. of Toronto.

WE'RE EVERYWHERE

The Canadian presence in the United States is big and growing, Prof. Blank says. Six out of 10 American newspapers are printed on Canadian newsprint. Three of the top six imported beers are Canadian. More than 800,000 Canadians live in the United States.

John Labatt of London, Ont., owns the fifth-largest dairy in the country. It also has become the first Canadian brewer to venture into the U.S. beer market with its purchase of Rolling Rock.

Montreal-based Seagram is the largest foreign investor in the United States, says Blank. It owns Paul Masson wines of California, a quarter of DuPont, the giant chemical company, Quaker Oats and Scott Paper.

Mr. Drabinski of Cineplex owns 20 theatres with 31 screens in Manhattan alone, where he has caused an uproar by raising the price of a movie from \$6 to \$7 (U.S.).

As well, Canadians own almost 400 U.S. manufacturing companies, second only to West Germany. Canadian companies employ 527,000 Americans, which adds up to about 20 per cent of employment by foreign companies in the United States. Japanese firms, by comparison, employ only six per cent of workers hired by foreign firms.

BUYING NEW YORK

In the real estate business, the Reichmanns' Olympia and York has grown by 25 times in 10 years, Prof. Blank says in his report. O and Y owns eight per cent of the office space in Manhattan, leading Meyer Frucher, chief executive of the state agency that owns the land under O and Y's World Financial Centre, to this wry conclusion:

"There have been two great real estate deals in the history of New York. The first was when the Dutch bought the island of Manhattan. The second was when the Canadians bought the island again."

The point of all this, Prof. Blank says, is that the economic integration Canadian nationalists fear from a free-trade deal has already happened, to no ill effect.

The role of the free-trade agreement may well be to bring the political and regulatory environment into line with the structural changes that have taken place in the North American economy, he says.

In effect, Canada and the United States are two sovereign states with a shared economy in which the national border is becoming increasingly invisible.

"Canadians are no longer the mouse compared to our elephant," says Prof. Blank.

Two's a Crowd

By BILL BUTTLE



"I DON'T GIVE THIS ONE LONG... THEY'RE TAKING SEPARATE HONEYMOONS!"

Society to ruin males with co-ed Lakefield



Weir's View

By Ian Weir
Thomson News Service

It's distressing to hear that society at large is renewing its campaign to ruin the self-confidence and peace of mind of young Canadian males.

I refer, of course, to reports that a private boys' school near Peterborough is planning to admit female students.

The institution in question, Lakefield College School, made headlines back in the 1970s when Prince Andrew decided to study there. (Or, to be more precise, when Prince Philip decided to send him there - no one has ever heard of a teenaged boy making a conscious decision to study anywhere.)

In any case, the school is back in the headlines again, since outraged parents and alumni are warning that the admission of girls will have the direst consequences.

To begin with, the school's board of governors has been warned that admitting girls will wreck the school's proud tradition of producing "disciplined leaders."

Apparently, this is an argument that self-discipline and leadership qualities can only be fostered amongst boys who have not yet discovered that you can do anything other than play rugby on Friday nights. If Napoleon had known about girls at the age of 14, he would never have been able to channel his energies toward conquering Europe.

"Hey, Naps - wanna put the guys through some marching drills this evening?" "Naw, Josephine wants to go roller skating!"

But it seems that loss of self-discipline and leadership potential is far from the worst of the evils that will befall Lakeside if girls are admitted. According to the mother of one of the current students, admitting girls would encourage "insecurity and intimidation" of the boys.

Well, Perhaps I should begin by confessing that, even at the best of times, private schools have in my mind been inextricably linked with intimidation and insecurity. This is because my parents kept threatening to send me to one.

I'm not sure whether this style of parenting is extensively practised now, but it was certainly in vogue when I was growing up.

For several years, any attempt to justify my reluctance to clean my room, cut my hair or do my homework would

prompt a grave nod from my father and the observation that I would probably be happier at private school.

Unfortunately, the institution in question was never a push finishing academy in Switzerland. It was almost always a school run by Anglican brethren who believed wholeheartedly in the virtues of snowshoeing 20 miles before breakfast.

So there was my choice. Clean my room and do my homework, or continue the argument with the mad monks.

All this being said, however, I was kind of taken aback to hear that boys will feel insecure and intimidated if their private school admits girls.

This raises some provocative questions. Are the Lakefield parents concerned that their sons will be intimidated by any and all teenaged girls? Or has the board of governors announced that it will be admitting only the largest and meanest ones?

Perhaps this is just male pride speaking, but I really don't believe that adolescent boys are apt to be intimidated by going to school with adolescent girls. They're too busy being intimidated by other adolescent boys.

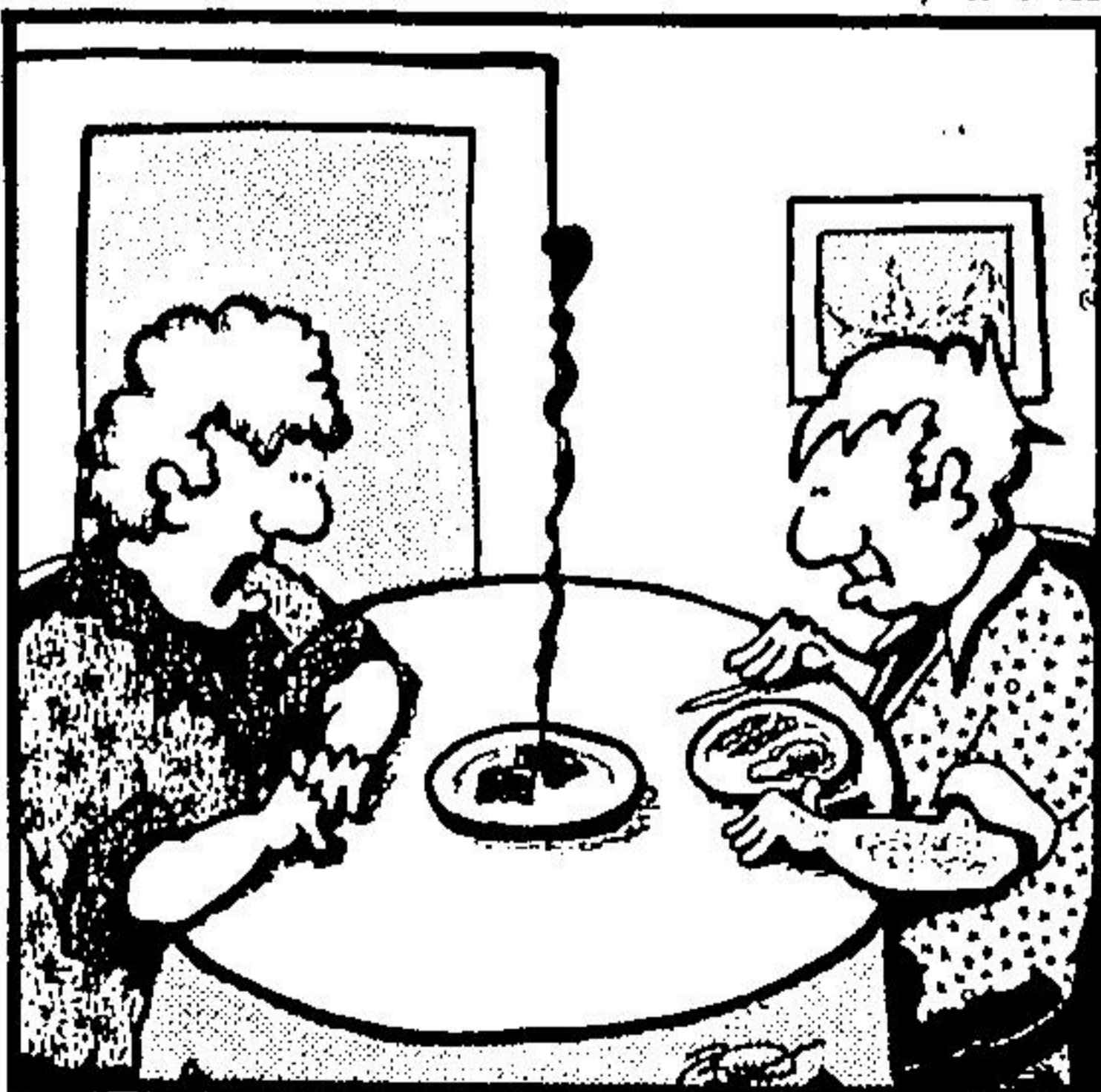
I hope this doesn't sound too much like bragging, but I wasn't remotely intimidated by girls when I was 12. Like most men, I didn't start being intimidated by them until I was 18 or 19.

And I didn't reach the stage of being absolutely cowed and terrified until I was almost 30 - years and years after my friend Greg has stopped pushing me into mud puddles at recess.

Indeed, just imagine how the adult life of Lakeside's most famous student might have been altered had the school gone co-ed 15 years ago.

Two's a Crowd

By BILL BUTTLE



"TRY TO THINK OF IT AS 'TOAST FLAMBEE!'"

Staff Comment



By BRIAN MACLEOD

Halton Hills Hillbillies

Judging by Wednesday's event the dinner for the Business of the Year has got to be the highlight of the year for the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce.

With at least two good old fashioned sing-alongs the packed audience, many of whom had obviously known the four "Burns boys" for years, laughed and sang along with several entertaining speakers.

The popularity of the Burns brothers was obvious at the ceremony. And, as Jack Crichton pointed out, three former mayors, Pete Pomeroy, Bill Smith and Wheldon Emmerson, joined our current Mayor Russ Miller in congratulating the Burns families on their success over the past 57 years.

Without a doubt, the most entertaining speaker of the night was Wheldon "Steamer" Emmerson.

Steamer's act, which many thought might have an intermission and a second act, kept the laughs coming at dazzling pace.

He joked not only about Bob, Clare, Don and Jim (who was unable to make the dinner because he was vacationing in the sunny south) but he took several pot shots at himself.

Remarkably, Steamer was able to get the entire audience to sing along with him on "Jesus wants you for a Sunbeam."

But it was the Burns brothers and their families who made the show. Each stood with ear to ear grins as the "Halton Hills Hillbillies" adorned them with Burns Transport Caps and even a bushy haired wig.

The three brothers obviously enjoyed the night as much as the rest of the audience.

It's one thing to read about the "Business of the Year" in the papers. But anyone who attended the dinner must now have a much better appreciation for the award winners and the efforts of the Chamber for making them feel special.

It was good to see our town councillors take the bull by the horns and lay down the law before agreeing to send a representative to the Acton Quarry Landfill Advisory Committee.

At the Feb. 29 council meeting councillors agreed to several conditions drawn up by Joe Hewitt and Pam Sheldon.

The conditions essentially say we're not going until you guys get your act together.

They didn't pull any punches. They criticized almost every aspect of the proposed committee.

And it worked.

POWER President Ruth French said Wednesday's meeting proved very fruitful.

The name has been changed to the Proposed Acton Quarry Landfill Study Group. That better reflects the mindset of most of the people on the committee, said Mrs. French.

Really, Eco Logic had no choice. The two most important groups to sit on such a committee have to be citizens groups. In this case POWER, and the town.

Councillors' actions on Monday backed up POWER's concerns 100 per cent, and in all likelihood that was the straw that broke the camel's back and forced the changes.