

# Entertainment Outlook

## The poll-arization syndrome

News item: A San Francisco-based organization called Poll Scramblers is trying to mount a counter-attack against that bane of election campaigns, the endless flood of opinion polls.

Poll Scramblers is urging voters to undermine the polls by giving false and distorted answers—in short, by lying.

Good grief. Just imagine it—voters, disseminating misinformation and self-serving little fibs to the politicians.

What a novel concept. Naturally, we're all heartily fed up with the polls. To begin with, there's the fear that they can skew the whole process by creating a bandwagon effect. Besides, the fact is that polls are invariably misleading.

When (for instance) voters are polled as to their preference for prime minister, a poll will proclaim that 35 per cent support Whatsit, 32 per cent support Whosit, while 17 per cent support Whatsname. As such, the poll completely suppresses the truth—which is that, when asked which leader would make the best PM, 84 per cent of voters laughed bleakly and 16 per cent muttered dark oaths.

And now, at long last, we're told how to undermine the whole wretched process. Just imagine how the campaign might have unfolded in the news reports, if only we'd adopted this wonderful strategy a month ago.

Oct. 10: A newly-released poll shows that the Tories enter the campaign with the support of 42 per cent of committed voters, with the NDP and the Liberals trailing badly at 26 and 23 per cent.

Prime Minister Mulroney proclaimed that the poll shows Canadians are responding to his government's economic record. John Turner and Ed Broadbent stated that they give no credence to polls, and never comment on them.



### Weir's View

By Ian Weir

Thomson News Service

Oct. 17: A stunning new poll shows that the NDP has vaulted into the lead with 45 per cent of voter support, followed by the Liberals at 38 per cent and the Tories at a disastrous 17 per cent.

A jubilant Ed Broadbent said he had no time to comment, partly because he gives no credence to polls and partly because he and Lucille are busy pricing new drapes for 24 Sussex Dr. John Turner claimed the poll shows his message is starting to get through. Brian Mulroney said he never comments on polls, adding that he gives no credence to any poll that shows him in last place.

Oct. 24: The election campaign took another unexpected twist today, with a new poll showing that 93 per cent of voters are suddenly undecided.

Tory and NDP strategists were stunned by the result, while the Grits were cautiously hopeful. Said one

Turner aide: "Ninety-three per cent of voters are muddled, indecisive, unsure what direction to take? Gosh—they sure sound like Liberals to us."

Oct. 31: Strategists for all three major parties were thrown into confusion

today by a new poll showing that free trade, abortion and the environment are now far down on voters' list of concerns. The new poll shows that the heartbreak of psoriasis is foremost in voters' minds, followed by concerns about neighbors who do not return borrowed lawnmowers and let their dogs

bark at night. Ed Broadbent immediately attacked

the government's record on dandruff-control, while John Turner unveiled a \$4 billion garden-tool-retrieval program.

Nov. 10: All parties refused comment on a staggering new poll which shows the Rhinoceros Party is poised to form a majority government. Strategists for the big three were in seclusion, while Rhino organizers were reportedly sitting round a kitchen table, staring numbly at each other and drinking heavily.

Nov. 15: Doubt has been cast on the validity of the entire polling process, in the wake of a new poll which shows that

86 per cent of Canadians believe Rin Tin Tin would make the best prime minister.

Said an aide to Prime Minister Mulroney: "This poll is laughable, and it confirms our deeply-held belief that opinion polls are meaningless."

Nov. 16: Ottawa was in an uproar today as all three major parties scheduled simultaneous press conferences to announce they have dumped their leader and replaced him with Rin Tin Tin.

Shrugged an aide to former PM Brian Mulroney: "John Diefenbaker had a point. Polls are for dogs."

## Face in the Crowd



Take a close look, you may be a winner. If the face indicated by the arrow is yours, you're the lucky winner of a pair of Georgetown Cinemas courtesy passes. Call us at 877-2201 or 877-8822 or drop in at The Herald, 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont. to claim your prize. If you're not a winner this week, keep on looking. Next week it may be your turn.

## Why is Harrison Ford in a slump?

### ASK DICK KLEINER



DICK KLEINER

By Dick Kleiner

Q. I think Harrison Ford is the sexiest man to come along since Humphrey Bogart, but his last few movies were real stinkers. What has happened? — S.L., Wewoka, Okla.

A. Every actor runs into slumps, like baseball players. It may be that projects, which seem terrific, just don't work out as well as hoped. Or it may be a case of him (or his agent) making bad choices. But he'll have a big hit again; he's too good an actor to keep slumping forever.

Q. We think "Hunter" is an excellent show, portraying what law enforcement should be. Someone told us that Fred Dryer is dead. Is this true? — M.M.S., Grand Island, Neb.

A. No.

Q. Before he hosted "Good Morning, America," David Hartman portrayed a doctor on "The Bold Ones." Was he also a physician called Lucas Tanner? And what was the name of the show on which he played that part? — M.E.P., Amarillo, Texas.

A. He played a character named Lucas Tanner on a series by that name, but Tanner was a teacher, not a doctor. On "The New Doctors," which was one of the segments of "The Bold Ones," he played a doctor named Paul Hunter.

Q. I would like to know the name of the movie Gene Kelly made in Germany with the 508th M.P.s. Pier Angell was in it, too, and it was either in '51 or '52. — G.P.K., Louisville, Ohio.

A. That was something called "The Devil Makes Three."

Q. With the greenhouse effect in the news, I'd like to know the name of a movie that starred Charlton Heston



Harrison Ford



Fred Dryer

and Edward G. Robinson which was about the future and the world was all covered with green smoke. — P.H., New Concord, O.

A. That was a film called "Soylent Green," and it was a chilling forerunner of the greenhouse effect.

Q. Why do actors and actresses always refer to Texans as being cowboys or cowgirls with Southern accents? I'm a Texan and I do not have a Southern accent, nor am I a cowgirl. — UNSIGNED, Houston.

A. Oh, you're the one! It's just that clichés abound in the movies: People from Brooklyn all talk with a Brooklyn accent, while, in reality, most don't. People from Kentucky are all hillbillies. And Texans are all cowpokes. It shows a lack of imagination on the part of writers, that's all.

Q. Hi! I'm 16 years old and interested in acting. Could you tell me who to contact to find out more about it? — M.A., Scottsbluff, Neb.

A. The ideal person would be your high-school drama coach, if you have one. If not, read books by actors and about acting in your library. If a touring company comes to town, try and meet some of the actors in that company. If you REALLY want to act, you'll find a way.



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