

## Opinion Page

# Our natives live in third world squalor

By VIC PARSONS  
Ottawa Bureau

Thomson News Service

When carloads of native demonstrators arrived on Parliament Hill recently to protest changes in a federal post-secondary education program, an intriguing counterpoint was being played elsewhere.

There were reports that Air Creebec, a regional airline owned by the Cree of Northern Quebec, was assembling a bid to take over troubled Wardair Inc.

As it happens, the proposal did not get off the ground. In light of Wardair's problems, Air Creebec was probably wise not to go ahead.

But the very fact that an Indian-owned company was solid enough to consider the takeover suggests welcome changes in Canadian society.

Despite that, the country has a nagging problem that will not go away and which cries out for solution.

A week before the Indian hunger strikers and their supporters demonstrated on the Hill, the Canadian Human Rights Commission drew attention to a sad fact.

"An Indian youngster in Canada has a better chance of being sent to prison than of completing university," the commission's annual report to Parliament complained. The system is heavily weighed against them.

Unemployment, suicide, family breakup and alcohol abuse is rampant. Federal statistics show about a third of reserve housing have no central heating, sewerage or septic tanks. A quarter of the homes have no running water.

In many places, these Canadians - the first Canadians, we should add - live in Third World squalor.

### MANY FAILURES

The tendency over the years has been to throw money, administered largely by white

bureaucrats, at the problem. Last year, for instance, Ottawa paid about \$2 billion into its Indian and Inuit Affairs Program. There have been some success, but too many failures.

Under the Native Economic Development Program, now extended to the end of July, more than \$270 million has been paid in five years to support nearly 700 business projects. Land claim settlements are helping. Air Creebec, for example, was purchased through funds paid to the James Bay Cree as part of their 1975 settlement.

But that's not enough. Ottawa was criticized in the commission report for its "abysmal" record in failing to hire native people for jobs in federal agencies other than Indian Affairs.

And the trend toward self-government must pick up. In Brian Mulroney's haste to reach the Meech Lake accord, he ignored the constitutional needs of Canada's poorest people.

One of the successes, involving a relatively modest federal payment, has been post-secondary education. Twenty-five years ago, the number of native university students was less than 150. Now, about 15,000 attend post-secondary schools.

This change has borne fruit. We are seeing now a new class of articulate, sophisticated native leaders. They are increasingly adept in using the white man's methods, and their own traditions, to get control of their lives. They deserve much credit for recent improvements.

### GOOD PROGRAM

Unfortunately, the federal government seems unsettled by the cost of what it admits is, in the words of Indian Affairs Minister Pierre Cadieux, one of the "most successful programs my department has ever undertaken."

## Behind the iron gates

Kell's  
Korner

Donna Kell  
Herald Staff

The mysterious Watchtower Bible Society is like a town within a town.

It seems a person could live there and never touch base with the rest of Halton Hills where there is industry, a residential population and internal government.

Now the group, which also has all these things, is asking to get bigger and better in Halton Hills.

The Watchtower society, built and operated by the religious sect, the Jehovah's Witnesses, is an accepted property in Georgetown, renowned for its vastness and viewed with curiosity through its iron gates.

Recently, the bible society applied to the town to get rezoning permission to expand on its 172-acre property. The proposal would give the group expanded residential capacity and new administrative buildings.

To present this proposal, the Jehovah's Witness group filled the town council for a public meeting, armed with pictorial propaganda that decorated the walls for several hours. The room was filled with aerial photographs and schematic drawings as pleasant men in well-fitting suits milled about the room, smelling of Ivory soap.

The suited men sat themselves on one side of the room for questions and presentations. But some

supporters carefully hid themselves on the other side of the room, where some protesters were seated.

There was a marked discrepancy between neighbors who loved the Watchtower and those who seemed to disapprove. It was puzzling. How could one group call the Watchtower "a good neighbor" while the other cursed the group's proposed expansion?

The answer is simple. There hidden among the objectors, smelling of Ivory soap but not wearing suits were bona fide Watchtower neighbors who were also Jehovah's Witnesses.

They failed to identify themselves as a biased source as they spoke in favor of the expansion proposal. Let's ask a Presbyterian or a Catholic if he would like his church property expanded. Let's hear him deny that the parish run by Pastor Maclean or Father O'Reilly is anything but "a good neighbor." To say otherwise might be equated with blasphemy.

This is not to say Watchtower is not a good neighbor. It might well be. But there are those who are complaining that the view from their backyards, facing the interior of the 172-acre complex is littered with machinery from construction.

That's one side of the story. But the other side must be told. Since an organized tour of the Watchtower plant for thousands of Halton Hills residents is out of the question, perhaps representatives at the local government level could be there in our place.

Maybe people in Halton Hills should know what goes on behind those, iron gates before the town within a town gets bigger.

## LETTERS

# POWER raises \$8,000 for dump fight

Dear Sir,

Please allow us to express our thanks to you for publicizing our giant garage sale and to the citizens of Halton Hills for their response in making our sale a "giant success." We are most grateful to the families who donated their treasures. There was something for everyone and we also say thanks to the thousands who came and supported us and our cause to "stop the dump."

From your generosity POWER realized just over \$8,000. This will be a big help in meeting expenses involved in sending legal representation to the MOE Environmental Assessment Hearings. We should all feel proud to be part of such a wonderful community - just another reason why this dump must not be allowed to destroy it.

One must be careful not to single out individuals but there are some people who must be recognized. We ask you to support our sponsors, as they have supported us:

Halton Rapid Print, who printed and folded 1200 flyers free; Knechels and IGA in Georgetown for donating buns and wieners; Tim Horton for donating recyclable paper cups; Frenchy's Fries for donating ketchup and mustard; Bill and Joe Brooks of Brooks Farm Service, Limehouse for the use of a large truck; Rob Charette of A Touch of Class Kitchen Showroom for the use of a large

truck; MacDonalds for the use of their igloo drink dispenser; Tom and Linda Hill of Georgetown Rental for the use of a coffee urn; Donna Robbins of Georgetown Fabric for the garage sale advertisements in the paper; Esso Service Station on Queen St. in Acton and Wendy's in Georgetown for billboard advertising; Acton Welding; Speyside Store; Georgetown Little Theatre; University Women's Club for donation of books and for the loan of tables; Town of Halton Hills and Limehouse Women's Institute.

We extend a special thanks to Mayor Russell Miller and the Town of Halton Hills for the use of public works yard. Thanks to Ted Drewlo, Frank Morette, the public works department for their help and cooperation.

Last but not least to the POWER members themselves who gave so much time and worked so hard, "thanks." We also thank the many friends of POWER members who volunteered and helped in so many ways. The delivery of pamphlets to almost every household in Halton Hills could not have been accomplished without their help. No project is a success without the tireless effort of committee heads. They do deserve recognition.

Bake table - Pat Thompson; Coffee - Joan Lister; Hot dogs - Carey and David Banks, Tina Love, Lesley Break; Signs - Pam Sheldon and David Noble; Cash - Marjorie

Kirkwood and Linda Noble; Mega phone advertising - Malcolm McKenzie, David Noble, Barbara Halsall; Media coverage - Rita Landry, Pam Sheldon, Barbara Halsall; Public awareness display - Chris Rumley, David Noble and Pat Woode.

We thank the following families for pick-ups and storage: Kirkwood, French, Brooks, Benton, Noble, Inglis, McGregor, Pettipher, Banks, Everson, Beardmore, Cunningham, Petullo.

If we have missed anyone please accept our apologies and thanks. We are pleased to say that after the Salvation Army chose items they can use in their work that POWER had only one large truck load left. This will be auctioned as soon as arrangements can be made.

Thanks again, Glenda Benton, on behalf of the Events Committee and POWER

## Write us!

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make on something you read in the Herald, send us a letter or drop by the office with your signed letter to the editor at 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown. The mailing address is 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 3Z6. We're waiting to hear from you.

# Human rights commission has shown its real face

Dear Sir,

Finally the Canadian Human Rights Commission has shown its real face. Mrs. Michelle Falardeau Ramsey, president of the Commission, declared that a women's group is engaging in hate propaganda and infringing on the rights of the homosexuals. The group in question is REAL women (Real, Equal, Active, for Life). The statements questioned compared "homosexuals dying of AIDS" to "two-pack-a-day smokers dying of lung cancer" and declared that "pornography and prostitution are a threat to the family." Mrs. Falardeau Ramsey spoke not as much to defend the rights of the homosexuals, as to attack REAL women. She added that the group does not deserve the \$21,000 they received from the Federal Government this year for organizing a conference in Ottawa.

Certainly if the Human Rights Commission cared about homosex-

uals dying of AIDS, it would be for telling them the whole truth about the risks and the consequences of their lifestyle. REAL women did just that. In addition, this group is fighting the uphill battle against prostitution and pornography. Apparently REAL women's work is irritating the other side: The National Action Committee for the status of women (NAC), represented in the House by some Liberal and NDP MPs, clearly embraced the commission's view by raising the point of the \$21,000 grant in the house during "question period." Because of the criticism REAL women received, we must conclude that the other side must be for pornography, for prostitution and against warning homosexuals of the risks intrinsic with their lifestyle.

The truth proclaimed by REAL women is hard to swallow for the people who have been fed "pleasure" with no moral founda-

tions. The last tactic for avoiding to face the truth is to dismiss it as "hate propaganda." It is paradoxical that the Human Rights Commission, which is normally on the side of individual rights, now wants to deny REAL women their right to free speech. It is also indicative that while groups affiliated with the NAC receive grants from the federal government amounting to more than \$10 million per year, the Human Rights Commission wants to rescind a few thousand dollars of funding granted to a women's group which happens to be on the "right" side on moral issues. It is finally clear that, on these issues, the Human Rights Commission's "rights" lie very much to the "left."

Giuseppe Gori,  
Family Coalition Party,  
Halton North Riding Association

## So, what's your color?

By IAN WEIR

Remember the good old 1970s? That was the glorious era when you couldn't go to a party without being asked - ad nauseum - what your sign was.

This was always a trial for those of us who believe astrology makes about as much sense as Don Cherry, or perhaps the average federal budget. (If you must know, my own sign is Virgo ascendant, with Irritation rising.)

But mercifully this fascination with signs seemed to die out in the '80s - perhaps reflecting a growing awareness that there's only one sign bearing any relevance to the average person's journey through life. It's the one that says "Watch For Rocks On Road."

But now, just as we thought it was finally safe to make casual party chit-chat again, the New Age movement has struck back. Here on the brink of the 1990s, we're introduced to the marvels of... wait for it... Colorology.

Colorology is, of course, the science of colors. More specifically, according to a newspaper article I read this morning, colorology maintains that "everyone is born

under a color sign that dominates character traits and life experience."

You guessed it. "What's your sign?" is about to be replaced by "What's your color?" as the officially approved Enlightened and Spiritual conversation-starter. Oh, goody gum-drops.

I suppose we could always try to deflect this question by answering it literally. (My own color is a sort of pasty-white, occasionally tinged with purple when I'm hounded by nitwits at parties.)

But somehow I doubt this will work. In which case it's time for us all to learn about colorology.

This may be tricky, since the article didn't specify how one gets born under a "color sign" in the first place. What precisely are these things? Are they abstract and mystical, or are they literally colored signs?

I mean, the behavior of many of my best friends might suggest they were born under a red neon sign reading "Licensed Premises." But somehow I doubt this is what the colorologists mean.

In any case, we're told certain colors are linked with certain per-

sonality traits. Orange people, for instance, are competent and organized. Yellow people are expressive and sociable, and green people are benevolent, service-oriented and scientific.

Now, you'll already have perceived a glaring omission. Apparently, all of the colors on the list are positive.

As such, it would seem the colorologists have utterly failed to identify the color which explains some of your in-laws. ("This is Bert. He's a kind of puce person. Try using a spoon on that soup, Bert.")

Still, we're assured colorology is a wonderfully useful guide to character.

Apparently, people subconsciously dress in colors which reveal deep truths about themselves. And an English colorologist named Steven John Culbert is quoted as giving specific - and splendid - examples.

Forget about "What's your sign?" Don't even bother with "What's your color?" Get right to the heart of the issue: "So, hey tell me about your knickers."

Oh, the '90s are going to be just one heckuva decade.