

# the HERALD Outlook

## Hollywood is falling into foreign hands



**Diane Maley**  
Your Business  
The News Service

Hollywood, that great American dream machine, is falling into foreign hands.

First it was Twentieth Century Fox, then MCM. Now Columbia Pictures of New York, makers of Ghostbusters, is being bought by a big, offshore company, Sony Corp. of Japan. Sony has agreed to pay \$3.4 billion (U.S.) for the movie maker.

This is not Sony's first foray into North America. It already owns CBS Records, for which it paid \$2 billion almost two years ago.

For Sony the investments make sense. It sells stereos, televisions and videocassette recorders. With CBS and Columbia Pictures, it will be able to supply movies, records and videos as well.

Canadians, always mindful of the problems of foreign ownership of cultural industries, may well wonder whether foreign ownership of the movie business makes good sense for the United States. And because we watch the same movies, we too have an interest in who is making them.

### NEW BLOOD

Sony says it will give Columbia's management independence on a day-to-day basis. Two of the company's executives, Victor Kaufman and Lew Korman, plan to resign when the deal is done.

Donald Keough, Columbia's chairman, called Sony an ideal

buyer. "It has all the right characteristics and the ability to take the company to its next important step," he said. Its main characteristic is money.

As well as movies, Columbia makes 11 prime-time television shows and operates 820 movie screens in 220 different locations through its Loews-theatre unit. Coca-Cola Co., its major shareholder, will benefit handsomely from the sale.

The internationalization of the North American culture industry will bring about at least one important change. It will be difficult for Washington in future to use a diversely-owned Hollywood movie industry as a propaganda machine, the way it did in the Second World War.

Global investments, like international trade, will help pave the way for lasting peace. No one wants to fight with their best customers. Far from changing the flavor of American movies, Sony will make money selling them all over the world. Mind you, some people view this mass export of American culture as 'unfortunate,' if not downright sinister, but that's not Sony's fault.

### SELLING OUT

Still, there is bound to be some muttering among Americans. The land of the free already has begun to talk about limiting foreign investment, something that would have been unheard of a few years ago.

It does, it won't be only the Japanese, British and Europeans who get smacked by new laws. Canadians, too, own billions of dollars of land and businesses south of the border. Notwithstanding Robert Campeau's unfortunate experience, Canadian investment in the United States will continue to grow for the foreseeable future.

"OUTLOOK" is published each Saturday by the HALTON HILLS HERALD, Home Newspaper of Halton Hills, A Division of Canadian Newspapers Company Limited, at 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6.

Second Class Mail - Registered Number 0943.

877-2201

877-8822

**PUBLISHER**  
David A. Beattie  
**EDITOR**  
Brian MacLeod  
**AD MANAGER**  
Dan Taylor

**STAFF WRITERS**  
Ben Dummett Donna Kell  
**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Colin Gibson  
**ACCOUNTING**  
Diane Smith  
**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING**  
Joan Mannall

**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Jeannine Valois Craig Teeter  
Stacie Roberts

**PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT**  
Dave Hastings, Supt. Annie Olsen  
Myles Gilson Susanne Wilson

**CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT**  
Marie Shadbolt

### SNAFU® by Bruce Beattie



Happiness is finding a fountain where people make wishes...near a gumball machine.

## Politicians play dubious game of fear

**Derek Nelson**

Queen's Park  
The News Service



Toronto - Quebec politicians and their apologists in the rest of Canada plays a dubious game of fear, every time things don't go their way.

Ontario Premier David Peterson showed how it is done after being asked what effect the Quebec election results might have on the chances of the Meech Lake accord being approved.

First came the threat: "We have to understand what it could potentially mean if it didn't go through," he answered.

"Like what?" reporters automatically responded, their expectation being that Peterson would say rejecting Meech Lake means separatism.

Except he never does. Instead, he talks in vague generalities about "stresses on the country" and about symbolism and about the reasonableness of Meech.

If he is pressed, Peterson gets intense, speaking darkly about "extreme language" and how the media should practice self-censorship on these "sensitive" matters.

What Peterson doesn't seem to realize is that the game of brinkmanship is over. People like him have argued once too often that appeasing Quebec will produce a "strong Canada."

The evidence of the Quebec election campaign is quite clear that it doesn't work.

The openly separatist political party, the Parti Quebecois, won 40 per cent of the vote.

Peterson even concedes a Parti Quebecois victory one day, the reality being that there are "inevitably changes of government."

This rather suggests that Meech Lake or no Meech Lake, Quebec will some day become independent, likely in a sovereignty-association type of pact.

What's the alternative? The nationalist, quasi-separatist Liberal party of Peterson's buddy, Premier Robert Bourassa, won 50 per cent of the vote.

### FIVE PER CENT

The two federalist parties running, Equality and Unity, won only five per cent of the vote between them.

Bourassa was explicit during the election campaign that he supported staying in Canada only because Quebec got more out of the union than it put into it.

And he was equal explicit about Quebec's suppression of English.

"For the first time in the history of Quebec, a premier went so far as to suspend civic liberties, to protect and defend the French language..."

He recalled Bill 22, which was passed in 1974, and boasted: "For the first time since 1759 (the British conquest), English then lost its official status in Quebec; and it was me, and my government, who did it."

Since then, the Supreme Court has backed him, saying it is okay for Quebec to suppress unilingual English signs.

The common law Canadian right to use the English language anywhere in this country, in any fashion, was smashed.

But Bourassa then went further. Opposing the Supreme Court ruling in favor of bilingual signs, he promised to eradicate those as well.

Yet, the signs themselves are only symbolic of the deeper reality that English, as a language and a culture, simply lacks respect from francophone Quebec. It is why English landmarks are given French names and why the eradication of English from the public eye and in the public ear is the prime goal of Quebec nationalism. Life in almost all its public facets is to be lived in French in Quebec.

It was revulsion against such humiliation that produced the predominately anglophone Equality and Unity protest parties.

## How to launch a frigate



**Gil Hardy**

Ottawa Bureau  
The News Service

Commissioning a naval frigate is not like sex or riding a bicycle: you tend to forget how to do it without practice.

Which is where Lt.-Cmdr. George Prudat comes in. The 39-year-old heads a small working group responsible for ensuring the proper traditions and ceremonies are used as Canada's 12 new patrol frigates are commissioned.

The first of the 4,750-tonne frigates will officially join Maritime Command next spring or early summer. Prudat has been working on the ceremonial aspects on and off for the past year.

The delving into archives is necessary because Canada hasn't commissioned a fighting ship since 1973, when the last Tribal-class destroyer entered service. Two small minesweepers were commissioned earlier this year but the ceremony was "not as elaborate" as it would be for a frigate, Prudat said in an interview.

"It's a matter of gathering details because we want to do it right. We have to preserve the traditions that came down from so many years back."

The first of the new frigates to be commissioned will be the Halifax. She becomes HMCS Halifax once commissioned and will be followed by the Vancouver; Ville de Quebec; Toronto, Regina and Calgary.

The first six ships are under construction at a cost of \$2.7 billion and should all be in service by 1992. The first of the remaining six frigates should be launched by 1993.

Prudat said the archives contain plenty of guidelines for the actual commissioning ceremony. But his main problem is deciding how many people should be invited when the Halifax is commissioned at the Saint John Shipbuilding yard in New Brunswick.

### MORE INVOLVED

"We've got other government departments more involved with the shipbuilding program now," Prudat said.

Departments such as Supply and Services and Industry, Science and Technology have a big role in awarding contracts for military hardware and must be properly represented at the commissioning.

"There will probably be between 1,000 and 1,200 people invited to the ceremony. They'll come from all walks of life," he said.

Among those represented will be the workers who built the ships and the companies that supplied material and equipment. There will be military and political VIPs, including the minister of defence, the chief of the defence staff and the chief of maritime command.

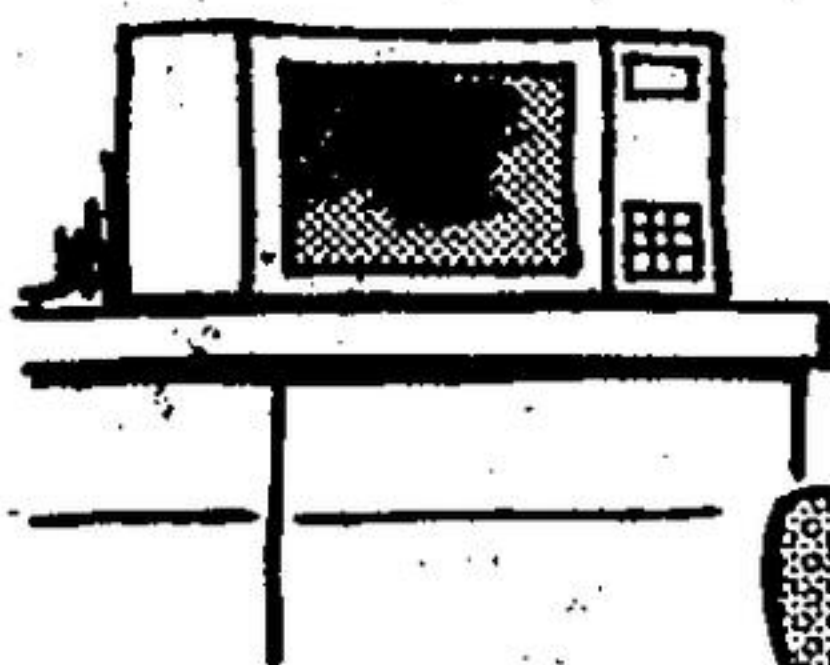
Each naval vessel has a sponsor, usually the wife of a senior politician or naval officer or "captain of industry," Prudat said. Mila Mulroney is the sponsor of the Halifax because she's the prime minister's wife and "it's been a long time since we commissioned a ship."

Members of the ship's company will form up with their backs to the Halifax while a band plays. After a

Continued on Page 21

## Berry's World

ANYTHING GOOD ON THE MICROWAVE OVEN TONIGHT, DEAR?



Gil Berry