

Business Page



Tom Ramautarsingh (left) presents Oscar Robb with a set of bookends in recognition of Mr. Robb being the most senior retiree who attended a recent luncheon for retired Georgetown District High School teachers held at Le Chateau Restaurant in Georgetown. (Herald photo)

Retired teachers gather to recall old times

Retired Georgetown and District High School teachers recently got together at the Le Chateau Restaurant in Georgetown to reminisce and tell each other what they are doing now.

Ex-Social Science teacher Tom Ramautarsingh who along with Al Rye, Trevor Williams and Jan Ferguson, organized the reunion, said, "it gave us a chance to exchange stories and re-live past memories."

Although a first-time event Mr. Ramautarsingh thinks the teachers might start meeting regularly.

"Several teachers who attended said they would be willing to serve on a steering committee to organize a get-together for the spring," Mr. Ramautarsingh said.

Oscar Robb who headed the high school's technology program from 1960 to 1970 was presented with a set of bookends in recognition of being the senior retiree at the luncheon.

cheon.

Mr. Robb said the most memorable experience at Georgetown high school was "introducing, planning equipping and staffing the school's technical program."

Mr. Robb retired from teaching in 1970. He began his career in 1924. Currently he and his wife live in Kitchener.

Fourteen ex-teachers along with several spouses attended the gathering. Others who were invited but unable to attend sent letters of support for the gathering, Mr. Ramautarsingh said.

Decade of greed will be followed by disgust of excesses



Diane Maley
Your Business
Thompson News Service

As the 1980s draw to a close, a movement is growing, one that will make the 1960s look muddled by comparison. The Eighties, the decade of greed, will be followed by a groundswell of disgust at the excesses of consumerism.

This disgust will be accompanied by growing apprehension about the homogenization of man and the excesses of liberal democracy.

No, this movement will not be peopled by neo-conservatives or other right-wing reactionaries. It will be led by liberal democrats. If the current debate raging through the intellectual community is any indication, it will be peopled by professors, journalists and, yes, businessmen and women.

It's hard to say when the debate began. It may have been two years ago, when Allan Bloom, a political theorist from the University of Chicago, published his book, *The Closing of the American Mind*. The latest round began last summer, when one of Mr. Bloom's students, Francis Fukuyama, published an article in an American journal, *The National Interest*, entitled "The End of History." Mr. Fukuyama is deputy director of the U.S. State Department's policy planning staff.

FUR IS FLYING

The howls of outrage are still echoing. Mr. Fukuyama's article

has been denounced by Lewis Lapham in Harper's magazine. It has been discussed in *The New York Times* and any other international publication worth its salt. In Canada, *The Globe and Mail* has taken up the torch. The debate is just beginning, and we will hear more of Mr. Fukuyama before it is over.

In his beautifully crafted article, Mr. Fukuyama appears to gloat about the victory of liberal democracy over communism, of idealism over historical materialism. But what he is really up to is warning us about the dangers of consumerism and the universal homogeneous society. More about Mr. Fukuyama later.

Proponents of radical anti-consumerism are not limited to the United States. William Dimma, deputy chairman of Royal Trust, Canada's largest trust company, has donned the loincloth of the prophet and joined in the warning. Mr. Dimma gave a lecture at York University recently that would make the hair of most modern, money-shuffling capitalists stand on end. For a banker, it is a remarkable speech, indeed.

DIMMA'S DENUNCIATION

"There is little doubt that, on a continuum anchored by materialism and greed at one end and by idealism and a sense of community at the other, the balance continues to shift ominously in the wrong direction," Mr. Dimma says. "Greed is definitely in. The pursuit of broader community goals is not only out but is viewed in some circles as downright stupid or as a foolish and irrelevant anachronism..."

"And can this ostensibly inexorable slide to baser values and goals be reversed? I'm not sure. Sometimes in an optimistic mood, I foresee a turning away, even a revulsion, from the flamboyant over-consumption of those who make a religion out of ostentation. The trouble with excess is that it goes too far..."

"A parallel concern arises out of a growing alarm that the environment is more vulnerable sooner than we had once thought. Still another thrust is the sober recognition that six billion people living on this planet by the end of this century will force change upon us."

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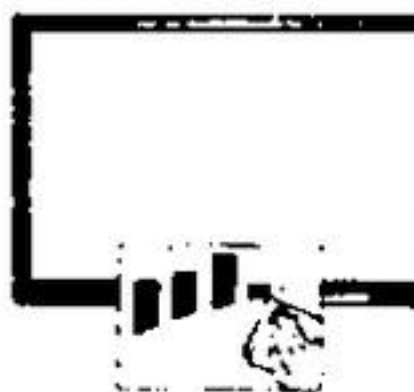
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