

Environment

Environment article will be forthcoming

By DR. LEN LANDRY
My wife called me yesterday.
"Len?"
"Yeah," I answered.
"Barbara needs the article," Rita said.
"What article?" I asked.
"The one on 'Acid Rain'."
"Oh..." and I thought for a moment...uh, oh... "Oh, you mean the one where we describe how Ontario alone has 250,000 or so inland lakes, and countless rivers and streams. Then we go on to say how research in the eighties determined how many would die by the year 2000..."
"Well, some facts would be appreciated, I suppose..." Rita added.
"Did you know..." I continued.
"That had we continued our evil ways, 48,000 of these lakes would have died because of acidification by the turn of the century? Man, if you go to a Blue Jay game and the house is pretty much



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packed, that's one lake for very face in the crowd... each dead from acid rain, in Ontario alone, by the year 2000... That's scary!"
"Fourteen hundred lakes are already dead in Ontario, that means they're level one lakes... already acidified, devoid of life, simply because they were guilty of not having enough surrounding limestone to buffer the steady acid fallout from burning fossil fuels, hydro plants, I.N.C.O. exhaust fumes, and so on."
"Those dead lakes are pretty in a strange way, Rita." I con-

tinued. "Crystal clear, quiet... deadly quiet... granite islands and shorelines..."
"And no fish," Rita added.
"Right," I said. "I found that out the hard way. But, we're getting better, we hope. Places like I.N.C.O. are cleaning up; there's new acid rain legislation in Canada and now the United States is putting forth clean air documents."
"But we don't blame the Americans for this problem," Rita continued.
"Right," I added. "Sure, they cause about fifty per cent of our

acid rain woes, but we kick back about ten per cent of theirs, and, most amazingly, during the last decade, studies showed that Canadians were far greater polluters on a per capita basis, almost twice as bad when it came to sulphur dioxide emissions which cause seventy per cent of acid rain."

"So, we should encourage energy conservation, anti-pollution legislation, and companies that are trying to clean up their act. And we should discourage those tall, smoke-belching stacks that simply cause the polluting particles to drift to someone else's backyard."

"Don't forget cars," Rita said with a smile.

"Aw, I love my old 1975 Batmobile."

"But auto emissions cause most of the nitrous oxide pollution, which causes about thirty

per cent of our acid rain."

"Conclusions?" Rita asked.

"Well, we need to become more aware of the acid rain issue. It's invisible, for the most part. In a sense, it's raining air pollution all the time, causing asthma and other health effects. We need to document and study these effects, but we also need the political will to act... now! Those lakes are simply markers of our polluted world... and people can find out about their lakes from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment."

"There's so much to say... so, u, when does Barbara need the article, Rita?" I asked.

"Now!" she answered.

"Consider it done," I said. "But I'll be back with more stuff, I hope..."

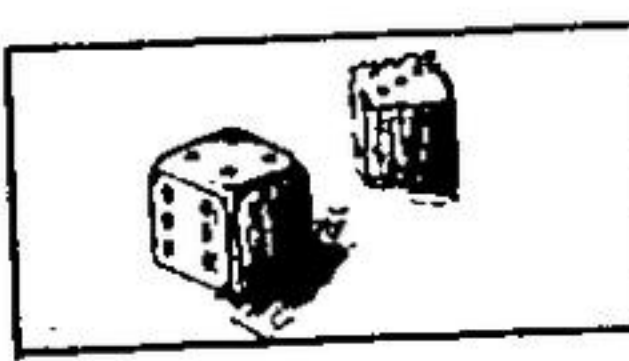
"And we're getting a new car!" one of the kids in the background said...

Community



Hallowe'en party

Hallon Hills Librarian, Maureen Wilson, was host to costumed kids last Friday afternoon as the Georgetown Library hosted a Halloween Party.



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