

# Editorial

## Say goodnight, Brian

The most recent Gallup poll suggests that our esteemed Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney (referred to lovingly in some sectors of the nursing industry as good old 'BM') should pull a Maggie Thatcher and drop out of politics altogether.

Fully 58 per cent of those Canadians polled felt Mr. Mulroney should resign as leader of the federal Progressive Conservative party, thereby also stepping down as our Prime Minister.

While I view opinion polls with a somewhat jaundiced eye, I feel this one is bang on, as more and more Mr. Mulroney appears to be out of step with Canadian realities and is viewed - even within the rank and file of his own party - as a lame duck Prime Minister.

Another recent poll carried out by Environics Research Group of Toronto, for the Toronto Star and CTV, cited concerns about the economy as the biggest problem facing Canada today.

This was self-evident some time ago, so what does our PM do? He commissions a forum on national unity. Good choice, Brian.

Canada is a net importer of oil - meaning we export more oil than we import - yet we could become embroiled, thanks to federal leadership, in a war in the Middle East simply because Mr. Mulroney wants to placate and play up to, our neighbours to the south, the 'United Ingrates of America.'

Don't be fooled by the synophantic rhetoric being tossed about in attempts to justify military action - which would include Canadian military personnel - against Iraq.

Plain and simple, it is an attempt to protect U.S. big oil interests in the Middle East.

Comparisons to events leading up to the Second World War and the threat of another Hitler on the rise are nauseating, at best and at worst, examples of the United States propaganda machine, working overtime.

Don't kid yourself. If Saddam Hussain had moved on Saudi Arabia, the whole Arab world would have turned against him, and his regime, not to mention his country, would have been wiped out.

Historically speaking, Iraq did have a legitimate claim on Kuwait. The country was once a province of Iraq, however the claim should have been settled by diplomatic means rather than by force.

Colin Gibson

Editor's Notebook



Regardless, like a lap dog, Canada followed the U.S. lead, thanks to our Prime Minister, ably seconded by Joe Clark. That's real leadership boys.

Remember when Joe Clark was Prime Minister? He almost impaled himself on a bayonet while inspecting troops. He certainly has military experience.

Mr. Mulroney proudly announced the Hibernian oil field, off Newfoundland, would be developed. At a staggering cost to the Canadian taxpayer, it should be added.

Well done Brian. The only problem is, we don't have a tanker fleet which could safely transport the oil.

A scathing report on Canada's tanker fleet was released recently, questioning the capability of our transport fleet to transport oil safely.

It was similarly reported, that with the present state of unpreparedness, Canada would have a hard time containing a minor oil spill let alone a major one.

What happens if there is a disaster in the Hibernia oil fields, Brian?

Still with the environment and getting back to the Middle East Crisis, does it make sense that Canadian military personnel should die to protect U.S. interests in oil, which has been identified as the main polluter of the environment? I think not.

It is ironic that members of the United Nations are facing off against Iraq when in fact, the U.S. has taken a firm position against continued use of fossil fuels. Somebody should make up their mind somewhere along the line.

Yet our Prime Minister goes blithely along his merry way more concerned with partisan politics (the GST and Senate debacle) than real issues which concern Canadians.

Get real, Brian. Better yet, follow the lead of Margaret Thatcher and get out.

The Halton Hills

# HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

A Division of Canadian Newspaper Company Limited  
45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6



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877-2201

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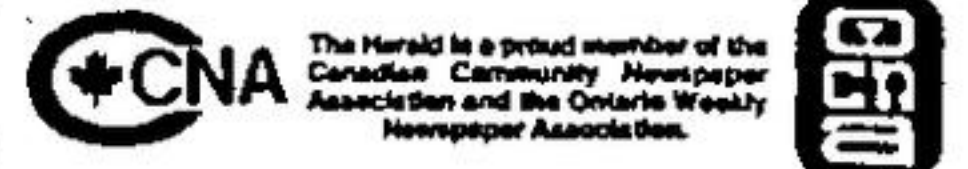
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## Being mindful of fragile health

Since I'm a man - or near enough that it makes little difference - you can imagine my reaction to the charge that has been levied by the host of the CBC program, Doctor, Doctor.

Men, claims Dr. Art Hister, are much bigger hypochondriacs than women.

Well, there is, of course, just one suitable response to this sort of allegation.

A man should cry out in righteous indignation, summon up his mightiest wrath and fire off an absolutely furious letter of protest.

And I would have done exactly this - if it weren't the sort of behaviour that is likely to cause fatal strokes and aneurisms.

It's a curse, having to be so mindful of your fragile health.

There are two reasons why Dr. Hister should be heartily ashamed of making this allegation. The first is that he's slandering each and every male among us. The second is that he's right.

Let me hasten to say that I'm not necessarily speaking personally here. As pathetic hypochondriacs go, I'm not an overwhelmingly pathetic hypochondriac.

I used to be a lot worse, before I made a major lifestyle change - I gave up reading news items which begin "Medical researchers have discovered..."

As we both know, no good ever comes of reading such items. They invariably reveal that doctors have proven yet another of your favorite foods, beverages or activities can kill you.

A benchmark of sorts was established a few years back, when medical researchers identified a link between stress and cancer. Here we had proof



Ian Weir

Weir's View  
Damon Hunt Sent.

positive: worrying about cancer can cause cancer.

It's undeniable, however, that men tend toward hypochondria. Most of us have, over the years, suffered from such a rich variety of fatal ailments that it's a miracle we're still alive.

I tend to think this can only be explained by our inner virtue.

It's also undeniable that women aren't nearly so bad. The Love of My Life and I, for instance, have a subtly but distinctly different response to illness.

She waits until she's as sick as a dog, and then proclaims, bravely: "There's no point in calling the doctor - I'm not THAT sick."

I wait until I'm moderately uncomfortable, and then whisper, sepulchurally: "There's no point in calling the doctor - it's too late."

The question, of course, is WHY men are more hypochondriacal than women.

One could argue, I suppose, that there's a simple reason why men whine so much more - it's simply that we're so good at it.

But it wouldn't make sense to claim that men are bigger

hypochondriacs than women because they're much bigger sissies. Heavens, no. This would be silly. Ha, Ha.

No, there has to be a scientific explanation.

Just for starters, it's clear that women don't need to worry about their health as much, since they live on average more than eight years longer than men.

There are two schools of thought on this. One holds that women live longer because they are genetically healthier. The other holds that they do it out of sheer spite.

But my own theory is that male hypochondria dates back to our earliest history, when the rigors of hunting put male health in constant peril.

It's easy to imagine a group of Neanderthals reminiscing sadly round the campfire: "And look what happened to Og. He ate properly, exercised regularly and never touched a drop. Then one morning he woke up with the sniffles - and two days later he was trampled on by a woolly mammoth."

Throughout human history, men have faced health hazards much more frequently than women. While Attila the Hun was out trying to conquer Europe, Mrs. Hun was undoubtedly at home with her friends, playing bridge and muttering that she should have married Alaric the Visigoth instead.

Yes, it's always been tragically difficult to be male. And now, to top it off, we're accused of being wimps and snivellers.

It's enough to make a guy feel sicker than he already does.

## Poets' Corner

WHAT IF? (GARTH TURNER)

What if  
We really do make some Constitutional changes?  
Sincerely concern ourselves with alternative rearranges?  
What if  
Property rights are put in the Constitution?  
Government weren't such an institution for solution?  
What if  
We had a Credit for Family Care?  
And, Credit any volunteer for their share?  
What if  
We could free the RRSP  
For whatever it is we wish them to be?  
What if  
The Feds were involved with control of waste?  
Would they handle it with much better taste?  
What if  
Housing policy was integrated?  
What if  
Federal politicians were more accountable  
So problems won't become so

Insurmountable?

What if  
We really do put Democracy to work  
For major issues treated with a smirk?  
What if  
We resorted to alternative fuels?  
Such as, new buildings be 'solar' in our Rules?  
What if  
The Budget were made to balance  
By people who really do have the talents?  
What if  
The tax system was changed  
Since it is an act not easily arranged?  
What if  
We approach taxes in a new proportion?  
When we see them now as pure extortion?  
What if  
We all hear what it is YOU think  
To get out of the red  
And, into the pink?  
Lois A. Richardson,  
Georgetown.