

# Arts and Ideas

## Universal human values needed

It amounts to a miracle that a man like President Mikhail Gorbachev, trained to believe in the tenets of Marx and Lenin, put an end to the cold war by releasing the imprisoned nations of Eastern Europe into freedom. Truly great leaders like him are to engage in these leaps of the imagination that most of us would simply deem as too risky.

Often these great risk takers put themselves at risk. Jesus, with his universal message of love and peace, was put to death, because the forces he opposed with his teachings, took their strength from war and hate. Would he fare any better today? I doubt it very much.

After all, people who profess to believe in Jesus are sanctioning atomic weapons, discriminate against women, and destroy life on our planet for the sake of short term gain.

The people of the world worship on many different altars. Many of the trouble spots on planet "Earth" are in trouble for religious reasons. In areas where religions clash, war is more often than not the outcome. Yet, we all worship the same god, or divine principle, call it what you may.

Think: The creator created this splendid universe of which we are such a tiny part, loves variety, or the universe (and our world) would not be as varied as it is. I will call the creator She, because this word is a combination of both sexes.

From rather simple building stones She evolved a planet teeming with uncountable life forms. Eventually She evolved awareness in humans that enabled them to contemplate what She had wrought. The more we found



**John Sommer**  
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out, the greater grew our amazement.

Religions were the result of this amazement. We had to express our sense of wonder. Now, some of us do research into the workings of the creator, and call it science.

Science is not the opposite of religion, but rather a complimentary activity. All great scientists are in awe of the universe and therefore very humble. And what is more: Planet "Earth" might be the only planet in the universe to have developed life forms of this kind. What a responsibility!

Not to believe that all humans are brothers and sisters means to wage war against the divine principle that has made us what we are. It is truly the devil who tempts us to fight each other and our environment.

Consider this: Every minute the countries of the world are spending 1.8 million dollars on armaments. Every hour 1,500 children die of hunger. Every day one plant or animal species becomes extinct because of human activities. Every month 7.5 billion dollars are added to the

already accumulated mountain of 1,500 billion dollars of world debt. If we continue this way, the end of the world will be man-made.

To prevent this we will have to come together. We have to develop a world ethic that enshrines a set of universal human values. These might lead us, in time, to religious peace in the world (meaning that the great religions will find out what they have in common with each other, and will act accordingly) and eventually to world peace.

At present we have democracy without morals, knowledge without wisdom, and industry without ecology. We can turn this around and build a democracy based on morals, knowledge based on wisdom, and industry based on ecology.

When we wish each other peace and happiness at Christmas, isn't that what we most desire in our hearts? To make our peace with everything that is beautiful and in need of protection? Isn't the child in the manger also a symbol for planet "Earth," for the beauty and fragility of this world? And shouldn't our happiness come from the deeply felt conviction that no care, and no possible sacrifice, is too much to keep and preserve this world in such a shape that not only we, but many future generations, will be able to live here in joy and comfort?

She, besides many other things, also gave us free will. Nobody but we ourselves are responsible for our fate. If we prosper or perish is totally us to us.

This planet is not going to feed a species of wasters forever. It is not our leaders that lack foresight and courage, it is us.

## Dates are now set for Ontario Contact '91

TORONTO - The dates are set for Canada's largest annual trade show for touring performing artists. Ontario Contact '91 will be held from October 30 to November 2, 1991 at the Toronto Delta Chelsea Inn and Ryerson Theatre.

Established in 1971, Ontario Contact is administered by the Ontario Arts Council's Touring Office.

Ontario Contact brings together professional performers with potential bookers from over 300 communities across the province. Community volunteer presenters, library programmers, boards of education and

regional arts councils have the opportunity to meet, discuss and book touring performers for their next season. At Contact, performers also showcase their work and promote their activities through exhibits.

Contact '91 will feature live performances for both young and adult audiences, ranging from classical and contemporary dance and music to theatre, pup-

petry and mime.

"Bookings arranged through Ontario Contact amount for approximately 70 per cent of the professional touring performances in Ontario," explains Jean-Paul Gagnon, Ontario Arts Council Touring Officer, "the economic benefit to artists and communities throughout the province is estimated to be \$3.5 million."

## Brampton Symphony has orchestral delights

The Brampton Symphony Orchestra wishes you and yours a very merry holiday season with a selection of orchestral delights at Brampton's Heritage Theatre, Dec. 15 at 8 p.m.

Renowned Canadian Bass-Baritone, John Dodington, will join the orchestra as guest

soloist. This concert will feature the return of the "Strings of Tomorrow" - 50 young violin students.

Strauss - Fledermaus Overture. Tchaikovsky - Selections from Sleeping Beauty. Holiday favorites and carol sing-along.

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## ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOTICE

### COMPLETION OF HIGHWAY STUDY

The Ministry of Transportation has completed a study which will result in the widening of Highway 25 from Highway 401 northerly 1.5 kilometres, in the Town of Milton, to four lanes with reconstruction of interchange ramps and provision of turning lanes.

This study followed a Class Environmental Assessment approved for projects of this type. As required by this approval, an Environmental Study Report has been filed with the Environmental Assessment Branch of the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and is available for public review at the following locations:

Ministry of the Environment  
250 Davisville Avenue  
5th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4S 1H2

Ministry of Transportation  
Burlington District Office  
1182 North Shore Blvd. East  
Burlington, Ontario  
L7R 3Z9

Office of the Clerk  
Town of Halton Hills  
Box 128  
36 Main Street South  
Georgetown, Ontario  
L7G 4T1

Ministry of the Environment  
West Central Regional Office  
12th Floor  
Ontario Government Building  
119 King Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L8N 3Z9

Office of the Clerk  
Regional Municipality of Halton  
Box 7000  
1151 Bronte Road  
Oakville, Ontario  
L6J 6E1

Office of the Clerk  
Town of Milton  
Box 1005  
Victoria Park Square  
Milton, Ontario  
L9T 4B6

Environmental study files are available for review at the address noted below. The review period for this project will terminate on January 11, 1991, at which time MTO may commence construction activities. Comments or questions about this study may be directed to:

Mr. Harry Vander Koop  
Senior Project Manager  
Ministry of Transportation  
Planning and Design Section  
Central Region  
Atrium Tower, 4th Floor  
1201 Wilson Avenue  
Downsview, Ontario  
M3M 1J9  
Telephone: (416) 235-5532



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