

Editorial

Buy Canadian

If further proof was needed that the faltering Canadian economy impacts on all our lives, down to and including the local level, one need look no further than the situation facing Georgetown's Standard Products Ltd.

The company, which makes auto parts, announced Monday that over 200 employees would be laid-off for a minimum of two weeks with some employees facing the possibility of extended unemployment in March.

A company spokesperson, Personnel Manager Juanita Harren, told The Herald, "The way things look, it (the layoff in March) could be more than one week but I can't say for sure."

Other small manufacturing companies are also feeling the pinch of the shrinking economy and all signs point to the fact that things could still get worse before things pick up again and the economy bounces back.

Canadians in general, and Ontarians in particular, are reacting to the economic woes in an odd manner.

They expect governments, whether at the municipal, provincial or federal level to come to the rescue with some miracle solution that will make things right again.

Be advised, this just won't happen.

Granted, our economy and economic policies are equally badly in need of an overhaul (one that is long overdue) but ordinary Canadians can help out by following a single rule. Buy Canadian.

That would seem to be stating the obvious, yet more and more Canadians are flocking south of the border for "bargains" and this exodus of loonies is having an effect on our economy.

Statistics Canada reveals that 5.5 million Canadians crossed the United States border in December alone. That figure represents a 24 per cent increase for the same month in 1989.

The same report states that 4.5 million Canadians, in December, were on one-day trips. Translated that can only mean shopping excursions.

"We're cutting our own throats," said Don Eastwood, managing director of the Canadian Organization of Small Businesses.

This is no idle statement.

Figures issued by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, show that Ontarians spent at least \$600 million shopping in the United States in 1990.

Using the formula that \$100,000 in sales represents one Ontario job, it can be calculated that 6,000 jobs were lost in Ontario alone because of the Canadian money spent in the United States.

Granted, because of the differences in the tax systems, bargains are obtainable by crossing the border to shop.

But every dollar spent in the United States means less money being pumped into the Canadian economy at a time when it is badly needed. This in turn means lost jobs here at home.

Think of this the next time you tell a laid-off friend that you are going to Buffalo on the weekend for a shopping spree.

School board rapped

Dear Sir:

The headline news that a depressed construction industry will save Halton taxpayers \$4 million for a new "replacement" Oakville-Trafalgar high school somehow understates the fact that the Halton Board of Education will now increase its present debt of \$44 million by another \$5.9 million.

Environment concern

Dear Sir:

Every year I am appalled at the number of people who run their motors while sitting in their cars, outside of stores, banks and schools - especially the latter.

Don't these people know that an idling motor spews forth the worst kind of pollution?

If they do know - don't they care?

This lack of concern will affect everyone, but particularly their children, grandchildren and future generations.

More than 700 scientists attending the World Climate Conference in Geneva stated that we are fastly moving toward an ecological disaster.

Please, do your part by turning off your key - you can help (and will even save money).

Thankyou,
Mrs. D. Carrington,
Georgetown.

With savings like that, think how much more the Trustees could have saved if they had voted instead to "reoccupy" the nearby Lakeshore situated \$20 million valued G.E. Perdue High School when it's one dollar a year lease expires on August 1991! Do they believe a one dollar yearly rental income will offset the interest cost on \$5.9 million to be debentured?

Meanwhile, weeks before the February 14th meeting of the Trustees was to review and then vote on the tenders submitted, the Board deposited \$206,700.00 of the taxpayer's money into a non-interest bearing account with the Town of Oakville's Building Department. This was done in spite of the fact that no building permit can be issued until the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) has approved the issuing of another \$5.9 million debenture. No one at the Board could give a date as to when the OMB would hear the Board's application, while interest is lost on a daily basis at taxpayers expense.

Halton's taxpayers loss, not savings, can simply be added up by including another \$5.9 million to the debt load, a loss of a \$20 million high school being leased out for one Loonie, and the misuse of \$206,700.00.

George Pickios,
Oakville.

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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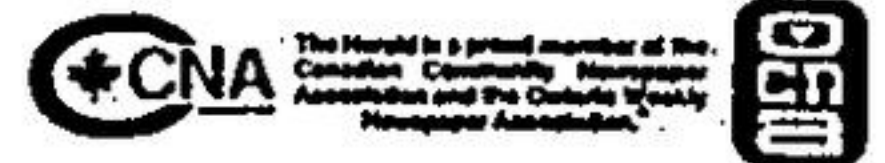
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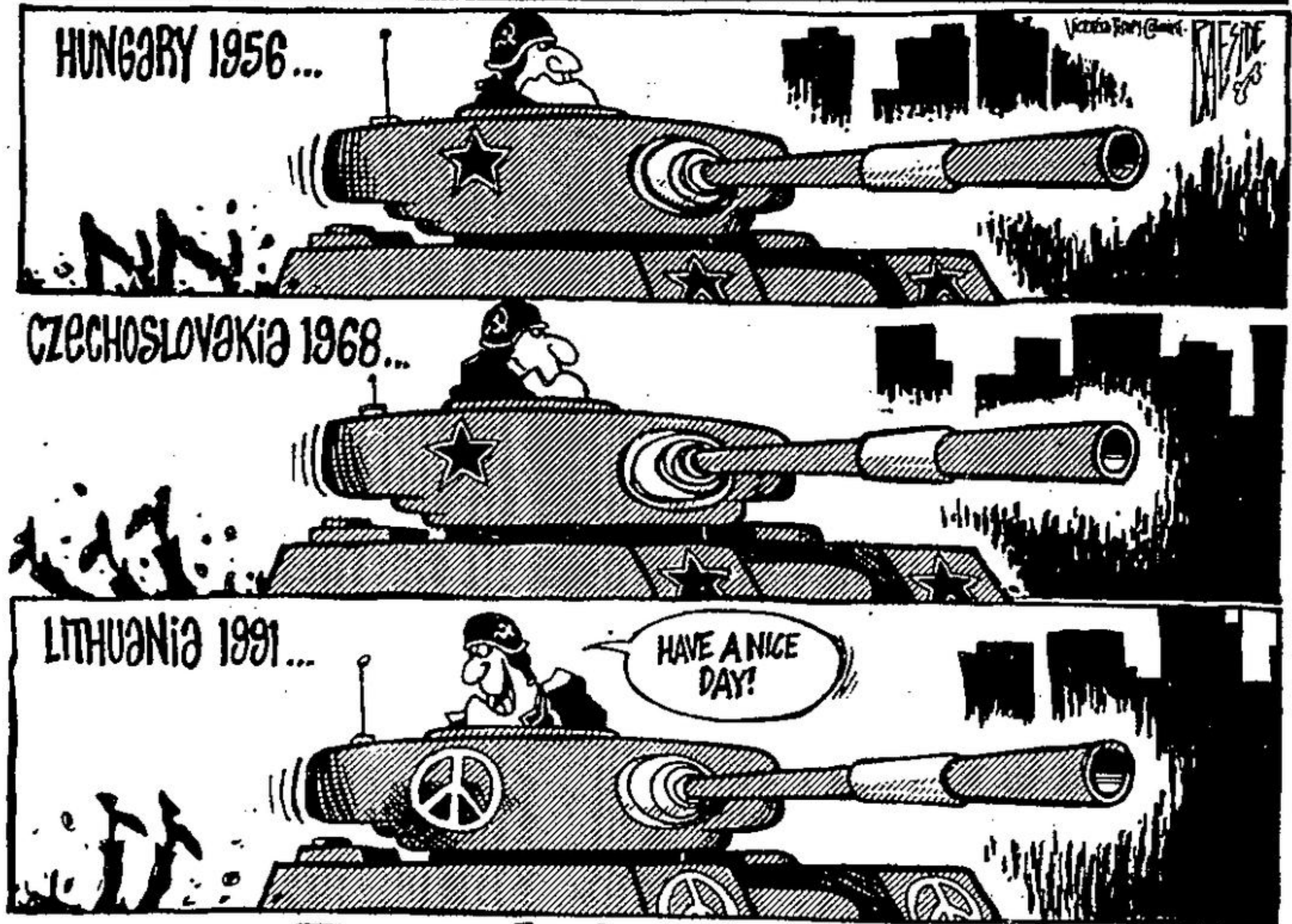
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People's Forum People must be told of issues

Dear Editor:

At election time, only two out of three Canadians even bother to go to the polls. It is no wonder that we are governed in Ontario by a "majority" government representing only 37% of the valid votes, i.e. 22% of the eligible voters, i.e. less than 15% of the people. So much for a majority! No wonder that both federally and provincially we seem to go through cycles of short "dictatorships" of one color or another with no connection to the real needs of the people! Many people who show up to vote do not bother getting informed about the issues. Others just gave up on their democratic right to request the political representation we deserve. It is this mass apathy and the inertness of the moral (but silent) majority that I am trying to stir up with my frequent letters. If we say nothing, we deserve the governments we are getting.

Lately, two women were enough stimulated by my writing to publicly respond. A letter from the first was published in the Independent on Feb. 13. She makes two points: that I constantly show lack of respect for women's rights and that I should stop writing to the papers. Her interpretation of my statements as being against women's rights is ludicrous: I have three daughters myself, the majority of the FCP supporters in this town are women and I hope this letter will provide her with a clearer understanding of my position.

I was very glad that The Herald published on Feb. 8 a response from a self-defined radical feminist. If not the beginning of a dialogue, this may provide the opportunity for a clarification of our perhaps no so different opi-

nions. I do not see anything wrong in being radical in the sense that she explains: "being routed." I strongly agree with her first two points: "safety of the person for all women," and "calling abusive males to account." I believe that men have a long way to go towards changing their attitude and respecting women in their private lives as well as in public.

I also agree with her fourth point: she wishes "an end to demeaning advertisements, pornography, sex-role stereotyping" and exploitation of women "for sex or profit in this consumer-oriented society." I could not have said it better myself.

This gives me an opportunity to go back to her third point: the "sexual liberation" pitch. On this point the consistency of the "feminist" argument has to be checked. In advocating safe abortion for women who "need" them, for example, I believe that they are calling for their own exploitation and oppression. How is our first objective: "Safety of the person for all women" compatible with abortion on demand? Abortion denies the fundamental right to life to more than 16,000 women each year in Ontario alone. In addition, abortion contributes to the exploitation of women "for sex or profit": Sex exploitation, as men are encouraged towards taking matters of procreation lightly and not encouraged in exercising self-control and respect for women, if the abortion "fix" is available. - Profit exploitation, as many abortionists make considerable amounts of money from this practice. In addition many mothers are in further predicaments, having to deal with post-abortion syndrome and often other medical post-abortion

problems. To sum up, on the "sexual behaviour" question, the request of some women, and men, of being free from control and advise (not coercion) from family, friends and church may end up working to their disadvantage.

On her last point: "working towards a more equitable distribution of power and profits," we must progress at the individual and local levels. Measuring what is "equitable" is not only a question of numbers, but also a question of attitude. For example, when a property is registered only in the name of one spouse (is there really trust between the two?); When a woman is regarded as less capable in the board rooms of large corporations, etc. ... However, if less women chose (or were unavailable for) a particular job, equal representation cannot be imposed. Finally, equal pay for equal work is a must, but equal pay for work of equal value is a socialist excuse for centralized wage control (see my letter to The Herald, published last Dec. 8).

I would like to thank Joan for letting us know of her position, which I think is far from those I quoted in my original letter. However, I have to disagree with her final remarks. I perceive that she would happily get rid of the "old" values altogether and of the Judaeo-Christian moral system onto which this country was founded and prospered. Does she think that the current "sexual liberation" morality is a basis onto which to be "rooted" on? If she would dispose of traditional values and morals, onto which new moral system would she be "rooted"?

Sincerely,
Giuseppe Gori,