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A Ted Bit I'm not holding a grudge, just correcting a 'wrong'

This past week, The Sidekick and I were driving around town, listening to music on the satellite radio.

The Simon & Garfunkel song *Scarborough Fair* started playing, and we sat back and took in the magical sound of the tune, with that distinctive harp playing in the background.

It has always been one of those mystical songs that makes me reflect about life, and recall where I was when I heard it first. Those opening lyrics are so familiar—

"Are you goin' to Scarborough Fair? Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme.

Remember me to one who lives there, she once was a true love of mine..."

"You know, I remember back in high school," I said to The Sidekick, "I was in Mr. (Paul) Legge's Grade 12 English class. At the time, we were studying various modern songwriters' lyrics, and *Scarborough Fair* was one of them."

I went on to tell her how, during the class discussion of the *Scarborough Fair* lyrics, I made the comment that it was interesting how the song's mood is solitary, and when it played in the soundtrack to the 1968 movie *The Graduate*, (starring Dustin Hoffman) it mirrored the scene with a very solitary person (Hoffman) walking through the city, on his way home from university.

I recall feeling sorry for the guy, as he was trying to find himself (in a somewhat comical manner) and eventually 'found himself' in the arms of an older married woman.

"Ted, *Scarborough Fair* was not in *The Graduate*," said Mr. Legge. "You're confusing it with *Mrs. Robinson*."

"It ran during the opening credits," I protested. "It was when Dustin Hoffman was walking..."

Mr. Legge cut me off and moved on to another student.

I was never able to make my point. Back then, I was shy and non-confrontational, so I didn't labour the point. I just had to let it go by in spite of the fact I knew I was right.

"But man, did it ever annoy me," I said to The Sidekick. "And in spite of

the fact he was a great teacher, I've never forgiven Mr. Legge for not letting me finish making my point. I **KNOW** *Scarborough Fair* played through the credits— I should remember. Geez, I took a girl to that movie, and it was our first date! We saw *The Graduate* at the old Odeon Theatre on Main Street in Brampton. It was in the late fall and it snowed as we were watching the movie, and I didn't have any snow tires on the car at the time, so it was a long slippery drive home..."

Okay at that point, I could sense The Sidekick's eyes were rolling a bit, and it was close. I might have told her this story a couple times before...

It was perhaps the right time to return to the original premise.

"Back then," I continued, "we didn't have a reference like Wikipedia available to pull up on our Blackberry and say 'See Mr. Legge! It did run through the credits of *The Graduate*!' I'm right,

you're wrong!"

The Sidekick looked at me and quietly said, "Ted maybe it's time that you let it go. Man, do you ever hold a grudge for a long time..."

"Don't be silly," I said, my blood pressure starting to calm a bit. "I'm not holding a grudge... I'm just

trying to, er, ahem, correct a wrong."

"Sounds like a grudge to me," she said, tossing it back at me.

By then, *Scarborough Fair* was over and another song started to play.

It was time to change the subject to another topic.

There are those moments in life when you realize it is best to shut up and let it go.

I did just that in the English classroom back in 1968— and I did it again, this past week.

And I'm not holding a grudge— much. I'm just correcting a wrong.

Just for the record: Mr. Legge, you were wrong! The song *Scarborough Fair* did play through the opening credits of *The Graduate*.

Phew, that felt good.

—Ted Brown can be reached at tbrown@theifp.ca



**TED
BROWN**

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have Wikipedia
available...'*