

GRAPE VINE

Carnival on Saturday

If you thought there were lots of games and prizes at last year's Robert Little Spring Carnival, then circle Saturday on your calendar, because the '95 edition is going to be bigger and better than ever.

There will be the usual ring toss, pitching game with Constable Bill Riddle's radar gun and the loony board, but also a silent auction — with items from \$10 to \$500 — pony rides, paper airplane contests and a crazy boat race.

Prizes include a family weekend at Haliburton's Wig-a-mog Inn (valued at \$500), gift certificates from MacMillan's and TimBri, a shoulder bag from the Hide House and an oil change from Acton Auto Tech.

"We'd like to attract more adults and other people from the community," says organizer Gladys Stoneham. "It's a really cheap afternoon. There's a prize every time and most events are \$1. You can't beat that."

The event runs from 11 am to 2.

Trunk Sale kicks off

One down, only 20 more to go.

Action for Acton's Trunk Sale kicked off its season at the Hide House parking lot on Saturday under sunny skies with about 50 cars paying the \$5 donation to open their trunks.

"We received a lot of comments and a lot of people came back

from last year who saved stuff during the winter," said organizer Jack Carpenter on Monday.

Liberal candidate Walt Elliot showed up unexpectedly, despite having already been invited with the four other provincial election candidates on June 3.

"I wonder if he was taking advantage of voters?" Carpenter asked. "One lady approached me and said, 'Well, there's one promise he didn't keep.'"

Challenge at St. Joe's

Challenge '95, a group of teens and college students from across Canada, spoke to about 40 St. Joseph's students on Thursday about chastity; self respect and respecting one's sexuality.

"We talk to the kids about what they think chastity means, what it means to us and then we do a few skits," said member Maaiké Debruyne, a 20-year-old native of Chilliwack, B.C., who adds the Challenge group spoke to over 60,000 people last year and hopes to top 100,000 this year.

Debruyne, is in her second year talking to people about chastity.

"I think what I've learned this year is how much kids need to learn the positive message about saving sex until marriage. Especially in today's society with sex in the media."

Calling all Newfies!

The Salvation Army on Mill Street will be hosting a traditional *Newfie Jiggs* dinner next Saturday, June 3, starting at 6:30 pm.

The food, music and entertainment of Newfoundland will be featured, and all Actonites are invited to the fun evening.

Call 853-1140 for ticket info.



GOOD EATS! Rotarian Bob Currie serves up a hot dog to customer Lynette Bayley at Saturday's barbecue in front of Al and Al's Meats. Acton's Lori Ball held the barbecue after bidding \$1,000 for a box of burgers and hot dogs at the Rotary's recent Gala Dinner and Auction. The barbecue raised some \$200 for Acton FoodShare. From left: Currie, Blooms Away co-owner Olev Richling, Debbie Jordan, Bayley and Al's co-owner Janet Cunneynworth. (Eve Martin photo)

Questioning current events

I have purposely avoided writing about the circus which dominates the airwaves from L.A. You know, the one starring a former football player nick-named after a Florida breakfast beverage.

I can't stomach show trials where the judge, lawyers and defendant become stars in a type of macabre soap opera.

Trials, especially murder trials, are about tragedy. They should not become a drama to satisfy the prurient interests of the masses. They should provide a final justice for the victim. Instead the victim is often relegated to the role of extra in today's "Trial by Tube."

Thankfully, Canadian law forbids much of the over-exposure seen in U.S. courts.

Not that our own electronic Peeping Toms didn't try. "Freedom of the press," and "Justice must be seen to be just," were the purported reasons for their interest in the Bernardo trial. Methinks the \$500 million-plus revenues being earned by CNN played a big part in their sudden desire to ensure us our courts are thorough.

Two years ago an acquaintance, who was connected to the investigation, told me: "Mike, if the truth of what really happened to those two girls ever comes out, this entire province will vomit!" Last week, the prosecutor outlined what the crown expects to prove. More horrors will surely follow.

I have tried, and am still trying, to avoid learning the grisly details of this case. Why would anyone want to know? Isn't it enough to know that three beautiful children, who deserved a future, were abducted, assaulted and murdered? Will hearing the details of their last hours make the deed more or less horrendous?

What can be more heinous than assaulting and murdering a child? Shouldn't we, as a society, be doing everything within our powers to protect the dignity of these children in their final torment? Is it necessary to make the murderers heroes to the sadistic pedophiles in our midst? There are others out there you know.

I think it's disgusting that the

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



same media who claimed the high moral ground, when arguing access to all trial evidence including videotapes, are now advertising their trial coverage. You'd think it was a football game, complete with colour commentators.

I really object to CFRB reports referring to Kristen and Leslie as "young women." They were 15 and 14. "Young women" implies a certain maturity and worldliness that should have made them harder targets. They were just kids and I'm fed up with this politically correct B.S. newsspeak. I am now a former CFRB listener.

If I had the power, I would sentence everyone who champions the publication of the specific details of this crime to watch those tapes over and over and over. Let them live with the same nightmares the parents surely have.

Justice Minister Allan Rock made some cosmetic changes to his gun registration proposals last week. He had to know that they wouldn't satisfy the opponents to his legislation. On the weekend, the P.M. announced that the provinces would have to pick up the cost of registration. Some estimates are over \$100 million for this exercise in bureaucracy.

What's really going on here? The feds know that four provinces, two territories and all the natives oppose this bill. Let's assume, or pray, that Chretien, Rock

and the rest aren't completely out-to-lunch. They must know that the latest announcements will only inflame the debate.

Why are these astute politicians taking all this flak over gun registration? There has to be a deeper purpose. Compromise, not confrontation, is the Liberal way.

Consider this: Two months ago the heat was really on for the government to pass Bill C-226, which would keep murderers in jail for their full sentences. People were demanding changes to the Y.O.A. Melanie Carpenter's murder was on everyone's mind. Citizens were united and demanding action.

How much have you heard about these issues lately? Canadians are divided over gun registration. The heat is off any meaningful changes to toughen our laws for criminals. Instead, the government is proposing to impose a criminal record on anybody who doesn't register uncle Billy's old .22. Will Rock next proclaim that, to ensure no other children are assaulted and murdered, he's going to license video-cameras?

Too Machiavellian for you? Think about it! Alienating western, northern, eastern and native voters? A mini-caucus revolt is happening. For what? You tell me? If not this, what the hell are those guys up to?

This week's *Bonehead Move of the Week* goes to me. I wasted 90 minutes watching the provincial party leaders' debate.

I thought Lyn McLeod won by a bit. She has an irritating little smirk when she speaks. I had a teacher who talked like that. I hated the old battle-axe. Mike Harris was so sincere he was wooden. Was Bob Rae there?

HEY!

Have you decided who you'll vote for on June 8?

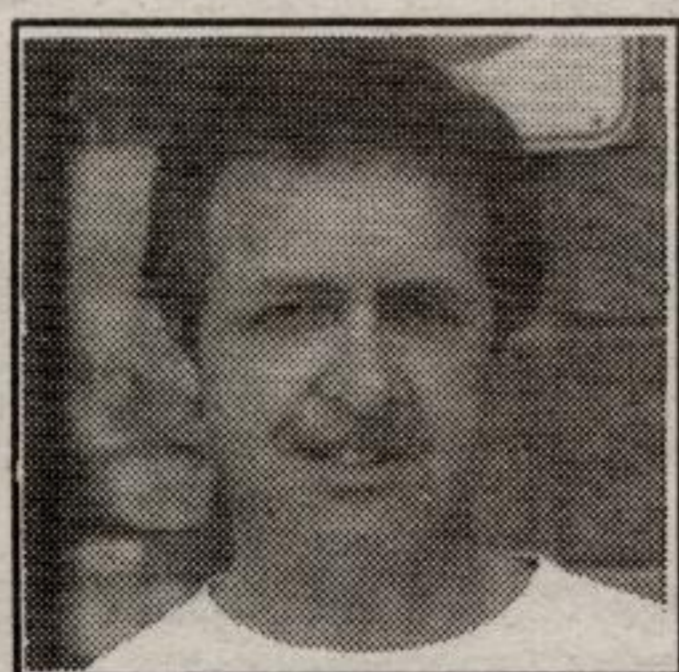


"Ted Chudleigh. He's the only candidate who's come to my door. He was friendly and personable, handed me a brochure and came back the next day. I've traditionally voted Liberal, but the Conservatives should get another chance."

Robin Fendley, Churchill Road

"It sure isn't going to be NDP. It's always promises, promises until they are elected. Tax on cars was supposed to go up four per cent for the year, but went up 11 per cent. What kind of promise is that? It's crap."

John Reid, Arthur Street



"Ted Chudleigh. I like the Conservatives' 'Common Sense' platform. And I like Mike Harris. He's reserved and not arrogant, like other politicians. Noel Duignan is a dim-wit and a socialist to boot."

Eileen Hutchison, Knox Street

"I'm a Conservative at heart, but I voted NDP the last time in a protest vote. They haven't harmed me. I like Duignan. He hasn't done anything bad and he's visible when necessary."

Max MacSween, Elmore Drive



Same time last year ...

The first-ever Trunk Sale attracted many bargain-hunters and organizers announced plans to continue the event through the summer ... Acton's Parent-Child Resource Centre celebrated its 10th anniversary ... Police announced a crackdown on local area bush parties to cut down on teen alcohol abuse.