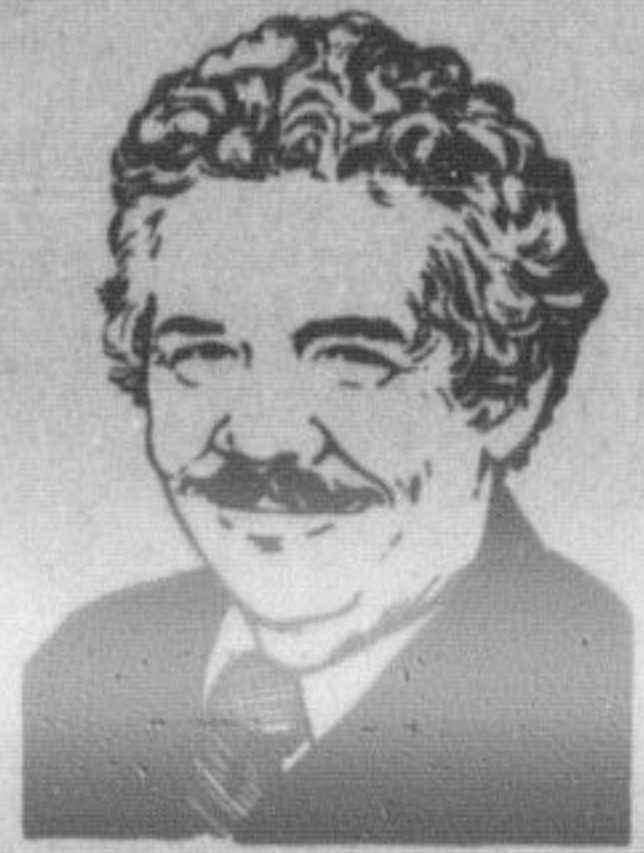


Between the Willows



The way it goes

By DON BYERS
Champion Resident Columnist

The fickle finger of Fate has pointed more than one person into pitfalls neither expected nor imagined.

I read recently of a businessman who had gone bankrupt. Sadly, these days, there is nothing unusual about that. It does become bizarre, however, when you consider what kind of business this man was in.

You see, he ran seminars which were held to instruct people about how to increase their business efficiency. His teaching was based upon a book he had published on the subject.

Unfortunately, he failed to practice what he preached, and went down the tubes.

That's the way it goes. Then there was the columnist, with whom some of you may be familiar, who recently went on and on about his adventures with two dogs, a Schnauzer and a red chow called Matzu.

After recording bemused accounts of life with the pooches, he now must report that both of them have disappeared off the face of Mount Nemo.

That's the way it goes.

This same sad soul spent hours and hours reading selected published pieces of his writing into a cassette tape recorder, painstakingly preparing a demonstration tape for a radio audition.

Through an inexplicable act of stupidity the finished cassette got mixed in with some others. It wasn't until he was well into recording some completely different material that the columnist realized he had done so right over the demo into which he had put so much time and effort.

Yeh. That's the way it goes.

A Canadian couple, returning from a holiday in Mexico, stopped off for a brief stay in Houston, Texas.

Shortly after checking into their hotel room, they went downstairs for dinner. An hour or so later, back in their quarters, they discovered a wad of travellers cheques and several credit cards had been filched from their luggage. Nothing else in the room had been disturbed.

They, of course, quickly reported their loss to the appropriate authorities, provoking a somewhat disinterested response.

Back home in Toronto, because they could not absolutely certain where the theft had taken place, they got on the phone and spent a pile on long distance calls, as they checked every place they had stayed or stopped during their vacation.

At last count, the thief had run up more than \$3,000 on their credit cards, with statements yet to come.

You'll agree this a rotten way to wind up a relaxing winter holiday in the sun.

But, that's the way it goes. Finally, in lighter vein, two men, neighbors in a small town in the USA, got into an argument over the misbehaving dog owned by one of them.

During the ensuing brawl, one combatant bit off the other's nose, necessitating a surgical patch-up job.

Gad. It's bad enough when someone's nose is "out of joint" but, this is ridiculous.

Well, that's the way it goes.

Verdict coming on negligence charge

The trial of a 28-year-old Milton man charged with criminal negligence causing death concluded last week in Burlington provincial court, but it will be another five weeks before provincial court judge William Sharpe hands down a verdict.

In his closing argument Burlington defence lawyer Bruce Hillyer said John Mollin of Woodway St. should never have been charged with the offence in the first place.

Judge Sharpe will deliver his decision Tuesday morning, May 18.

Abortion column biased

Dear Editor:

In response to your editorial entitled, Abortion and the Fifth Estate, I was gravely disappointed by your supposedly unbiased conclusions from the discussion on abortion. For the first five paragraphs you keep assuring the reader that you will refrain from using your column as a "soap-box".

Unfortunately your good intentions were aborted when you introduced the crucial word 'But'. From that moment on you proceeded to orate about how ludicrous the whole evening appeared. You also go so far as to assume the reaction and thoughts of the audience. This spectator stands amazed at how you were able to speak for the people in attendance when you did not ask anyone their opinion, and especially since you left before the final speaker had begun.

As far as your comments about the Pro-lifers speech, I feel that they were fine displays of one-sided journalism. If you had some doubts on the facts

she produced the natural reaction of a journalist would be to ask her to substantiate them. Unfortunately you did not, thus creating a somewhat conspiratorial tone against a woman who would have been more than happy to answer your queries.

The point of Sunday evening's discussion on abortion was to inform the public regarding the alarming rates of abortion in our country, and what can be done about it. I am afraid, sir, that you completely missed the meaning thereby doing little justice if not harm to a group of people trying to heighten everyone's awareness on the atrocities of abortion.

Frankly, I believe you owe the Knights of Columbus and the panelists an apology.

Yours truly,
Maureen Bradley

Editor's Note: Please reread my column, Maureen. Then, read last week's letter to the editor from abortion meeting organizer Ian Jarvis.

Our Readers Write

Appreciate Cancer Society

To the Editor:

April is cancer month, my family and I would like to show our appreciation for the volunteer service. You can not understand until your family gets hit with cancer how much you need other people.

My second operation required radiation treatments afterwards, everyday at Hamilton's Henderson Hospital. We thought we could do it on our own. However, my husband had been on strike for eight months, we needed the work he got. Even if we could figure out a convenient time there would be some delay and it was a stress on both of us.

So, we swallowed our pride and

phoned the cancer volunteer service and the next day they had someone to drive me. I went for five weeks everyday and never had a worry if there would be a driver.

They were so helpful and friendly even if they had to wait two to four hours. Now that I have to go every six weeks or so we can still count on them.

April is cancer month. Cancer is every month. We would like to thank all the local volunteer drivers and workers for being so helpful everyday, every month. Without them the hardship would have been greater.

Our Sincerest Thanks,
Annette Vandenheuvel
and family

Support Cancer campaign

Dear Editor:

Your newspaper, as an instrument for distributing information, reaches many homes throughout the Milton district. It is important for the people of Milton to be aware of the facts presented in the following report.

As the Cancer campaign gets underway, the public need to know how their contribution helps here in Milton.

During 1981, the Milton Unit worked very hard providing the following services:

- Transportation to Princess Margaret and other hospitals in Toronto-Hamilton... 96 two-way trips for a total of 15,851 miles.

- 12 volunteer drivers are involved and their mileage is paid for us.

- Patient Services administered to 50 patients in all.

- 15 mastectomy visits and 30 trips for general visitation were made.

- 325 hours of nursing care and 50 hours of homemaker services were provided, to those in need.

- Full coverage to area schools with education materials and informative demonstrations and talks given.

- Seven packages sent to Princess Margaret Hospital containing books

and magazines for patients' enjoyment.

- Many gifts crocheted and knitted by our special activity group include lap robes, slippers, bed socks, shawls, scarves, aprons as well as plants given to patients.

- Pamphlets, campaign and daffodil materials, posters and such supplies are needed to carry out our work in Education and Campaign.

- The regular April campaign raises funds to cover the many costs. Last year, our residential campaign raised \$23,072; daffodil sales—\$3664; special events—\$1177; industrial—\$2086; Marathon of Hope—\$11,465.

All the above is made possible with the help of many volunteers. We are ever thankful to these people who give of their time to help. Regular monthly meetings of Milton Unit are held at Milton District Hospital on the third Tuesday at 7.30. If anyone is interested, please come out and join us.

Our goal this year is \$27,000. I am confident that Milton will reach its objective. Cancer can be beaten. We need you now—more than ever.

Yours sincerely
Carol Kerr
Campaign Chairman

More about doctor's strike

Dear Editor:

Last week I touched on several facets of the health care problem in Ontario and tried to show how the current crisis fits into it. One aspect not mentioned, but one that must be confronted by all those who hope to contribute to a solution is the feeling of resentment that pops up at the strangest times.

The Resentment
How many times have you heard, "My doctor is great but the profession stinks." A moment's reflection reveals the fallacy of this attitude and further exploration helps explain it. None of us like to admit that some other person or group has more power than we have. But when this realization is forced upon us we feel resentful.

Sometimes in emergency the resentment is almost palpable. Picture the innocent citizen bent on the pursuit of his own work or pleasure when disaster strikes. Suddenly he is at the hospital. There is a long wait (it always seems long anyway) for attention, another long wait for x-rays or whatever and soon for a bed or a treatment and so on. The day, at least, is ruined and someone must be to blame. Choose your own target.

Once a realistic concept of the doctors place in society is accepted it becomes easier to face other problems in health care.

One Solution
Those of you who get free advice at the race track or elsewhere usually give it the consideration it deserves. And so it is, as doctors give advice to patients with no cost to the patient at that time, that we observe a subtle change in attitude among our patients. Perhaps the patient in emergency with the three-week-old rash best exemplifies this trend.

If this person had to pay a user fee to the hospital or the doctor, or both, he might search elsewhere for relief or might at least pay very close attention to the doctor in hopes of learning all he could for future reference. Result: patients who are better informed and better motivated, less pressure on health facilities and better remuneration for doctors.

This particular solution is not perfect. It deserves a harder look.

The Bottomless Pit
The architects of OHIP had a concept of health that had fairly definite limits. There were at that time about five million living gall bladders in Ontario. They felt that no

matter how eager people became for gall bladder removals that there was some eventual limit.

The actual development over the past 10 years has been far different. The number and cost of new tests has grown phenomenally. The stage of disease at which people present themselves has changed (they come earlier).

These two changes alone have demonstrated to the Province that perfect health, like perfect justice, is an ideal to be aimed at, but not achievable at any price in the real world. The result is that financing for health care is geared more to elections than to health needs.

Dr. R.B. Edwards
Milton, Ontario

Hold fast, doctors

Dear Editor:

Mr. Grossman worries publicly that the doctors' walkout could cause hardships and distress to their patients. How touching!

And, what distress are the Provincial governments' edicts bringing to the people of this province? A great many are unemployed and have lost their homes, the cost of all commodities is sky high, gas prices are going up every two or three weeks, and they make little or no effort to remedy the above situations, while they spend millions of dollars on a Jet plane to transport themselves hither and yon, Oil shares and whatever else may take their fancy.

They give themselves substantial raises in wages, and all parties are willing to accept this, even the party

that claims to be for the working man, in spite of the gloomy economic state of this country. All this is accomplished with little or no discussions or meetings.

They are really making an issue of the doctors' requests for more money. They would obviously like to regiment the doctors in with the rest of their herd! "Don't do as I do, do as I say!"

I am bound by the doctors 100 per cent, even if the OHIP rates go up for me as well as everyone else.

Our Doctors are absolutely needed for everyone in this life, but... who needs politicians, especially the variety we have now!

Hold fast, Doctors!

Yours truly,
Margaret Odehnal,
5195 Derry Road, Milton

Dental Health Week

Canada's number one health problem can be decreased by 70 per cent if Canadians practiced good dental hygiene.

This is the motive behind local, provincial and national dental health week which runs until Saturday, April 24. The final day of the campaign to encourage proper dental care will feature a display at Milton Mall where old toothbrushes can be exchanged for new ones as supplies last.

Dentists and related personnel will man the booth and offer some professional advice on tooth care. An audio-visual display, pamphlets and posters will assist in delivering the message of preventive dentistry's advantages. According to local dentist Dr. Larry Tenaschuk, "preventive dentistry has reached a stage where a person no longer has to lose his teeth."

Poster contest

Halton Region had two honorable mention prize winners in a province-wide children's fire prevention poster competition.

Elizabeth Richardson, 10, of Martin St. School in Milton and Peter Armstrong, 10, of Speyside School in Halton Hills each won \$25 prizes

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