

Our Readers Write

Endangered species threat to all

Dear Editor:

I am a Grade 6 student at W. I. Dick Middle School and my classmates and I are very concerned about endangered species.

We have found that more than 6,000 species become extinct every year and we are trying to do something about it. We will be raising money to support wildlife with a bake sale and we will also be presenting information on the endangered species problem to other students in the school.

One class however, is not enough to help save endangered species. We need help from everyone else including the people who run this country.

By taking away animals' rightful homes to serve our own convenience, we're endangering the survival of entire species. By doing this we will eventually endanger ourselves. It is easy to say we are concerned with the environment. We must also be more conservation minded in the sense that we are too wasteful with our resources and produce far too much garbage.

If we do not do something about these problems, all life on planet Earth could disappear.

Andrew Wilton
W. I. Dick School student

Recycling stories are good to see

Dear Editor:

I want to commend Rob Kelly on his excellent editorial regarding the recycling and environmental efforts of Loblaws.

When can we expect the same from *The Canadian Champion* and its owners, *The Toronto Star*.

Collin Best
Town councillor, Ward 2

Homosexuals need to know the truth

Dear Editor:

After a letter of mine regarding AIDS and homosexuality was published as "The letter of the day" in *The Toronto Sun*, I was called by CFRB Radio for a phone-in show last. The show, hosted by Wayne MacLean, lasted two hours. The other guest was Jack Layton, chairman of the Toronto Board of Health.

My main contention was that the source of AIDS, in Canada, is only homosexual, although the virus is transmitted through a number of means from homosexuals, to bisexuals, to heterosexuals and finally to children. The time to act is now, before AIDS becomes a plague of much larger proportions, such as it is in certain parts of Africa where it has spread to all of the population.

My main criticism in this matter, towards the media and the government, is that homosexuals in particular, and society in general, are not told the whole truth:

1. That AIDS can be eradicated only by asking anybody who engages in homosexual acts to abstain from such acts (e.g. anal sex and other unhealthy or perverse sex practices involving excrements);

2. That condoms easily break when used for anal sex (as published in a report from the U.S. Public Health Service) and may be completely ineffective to contain the virus even if they were not breaking (the HIV virus that causes AIDS is much smaller than the smallest pores of condoms);

3. That homosexuals are highly at risk, as the virus is present mostly in the homosexual population and because the average "number of partners per month" figures are so high to virtually guarantee frequent encounters with infected persons.

4. That condoms offer a false sense of safety: they are only 5 to 15 per cent effective (according to the Canadian Consumer's Report) in normal vaginal use (for a period of one year), and the probability of infection increases when condoms are used for periods longer than one year.

About this last point, I was bewildered by the reaction of both the host of CFRB and Councillor Layton: they would refuse to understand how the probability of infection would increase when condoms are used for longer periods of time. Is it not just common sense? Mr. Layton, who claims to understand statistics and has a university degree, refused to admit that probabilities of independent events multiply when those events are combined.

Let us assume a failure rate of condoms of 10 per cent per year, without considering other unfavourable factors. Let us consider the years 1990 to 1996. It is true that in 1996 the failure rate is still the same (10 per cent for that year, independently from other years), but what is the use of not getting infected in 1996 if I had already been infected in 1994?

The important question is: "What is the probability that I will not get infected during the next seven years of regular condom use while engaging in homosexual acts with an infected partner?"

So much for condoms! Can we claim to be caring for homosexuals (and the rest of society) if we will not disclose to them the whole truth?

What we should tell homosexuals and bisexuals, is that they must refrain from homosexual acts altogether. In this case condoms are the worst option.

Giuseppe Gori
Vice President
Family Coalition Party of Ontario

Nassagaweya meeting fails to endorse member's actions

Friday Jan. 7, 1859, Nassagaweya Town Hall - A meeting of constituents, called by M.P.P. John White, has just broken up after refusing to endorse his view on the permanent seat of government of United Canada, or on his criticism of County Treasurer George Brown.

Mr. White, on coming forward to speak, spoke forcibly against the government, denouncing them as erratic. He charged them with adopting a fixed policy on the Seat of Government question for party purposes and finally declared himself ready to resign, unless his constituents approved of his voting for Montreal in preference to the Queen's decision for Ottawa.

There were murmurs that he had been earlier heard to say he would support the Queen's decision if the majority of his constituents were in favour of it.

Last year's decision to ask Queen Victoria to choose a location for the new capital was not unanimous, but her choice, from the five rival cities, was clearly Ottawa.

The meeting positively refused to endorse anything on the seat of government question since this was not the real reason for the meeting. Mr. White had let it be known in advance he would be dealing with the question of the county finances and only introduced the other topic when he discovered, to his astonishment, some of the members of county council were present.

Mr. White turned his attention to the county finances question and the work of George Brown as county treasurer. He maintained two members of the County Council had urged him to investigate mismanagement and misappropriations in the county finances although one of the members now opposes such an investigation.

The charges, he suggested, had not been brought forward by him but by others and yet he was now assailed for carrying out his responsibility.

"You can imagine my surprise, when I began my investigation, to find the proper data essential to my purpose, which the law requires should have been from year to year regularly filed and carefully kept in the Clerk's office and custody, were not to be had and in fact had no existence."



Moments in History

with JIM DILLS

This caused a delay of weeks and months and thus the investigation was delayed.

White told the crowd it had been charged that "one of my friends in the Council had approved of the Council authorizing the Treasurer to buy up County Debentures with a surplus fund which they had at command"

"This is untrue," he declared.

"It has been charged that I have attempted to cast a stain upon the reputation of the treasurer. I have never attempted any such thing. I am not gratified if those charges are not unfounded. I have no reason to rejoice at his fall. The public good should be paramount. Are the people, ground down under heavy burdens, to continue in doubt as to the disposal of their hard earnings and heavy taxes because the feelings of a well paid public servant may be ruffled on account of a lawful inspection of his books and papers? No. Away with such pawky niceties. Such sentimentalism may well befit a boarding school but the people have a right to know where and how their moneys, principal and interest are disposed of and that right in this case, I am determined they shall have in spite of malice, calumny and traduction."

A motion had been prepared thanking Mr. White for the course he had pursued as the representative of the county, but it was not brought forward as the meeting broke up.

□ *Forty-first in a series of facts, sometimes sprinkled with imagination, to reflect Milton's past. Research assistance by Jack Charlton and Alex Cooke.*

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