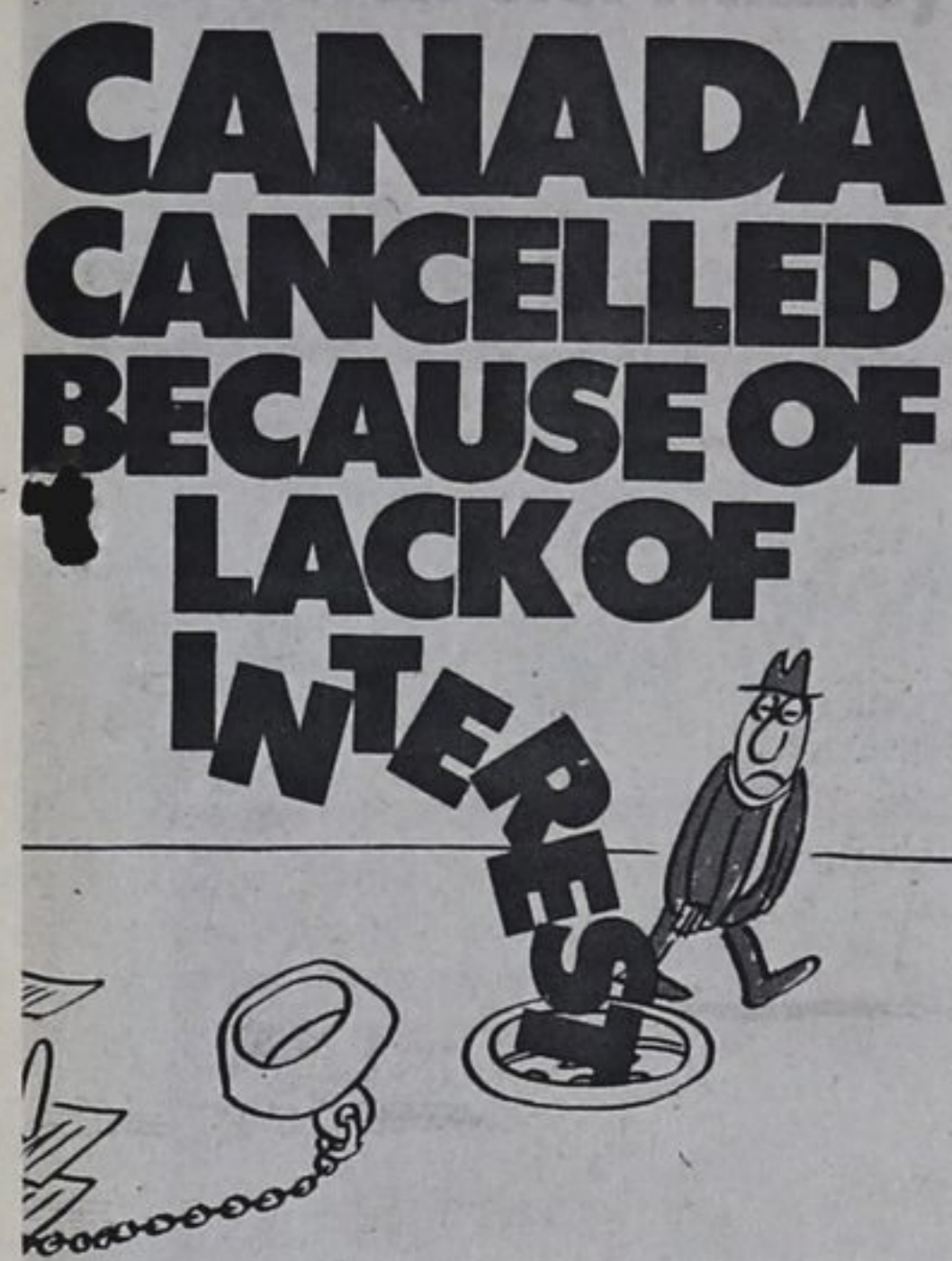


Bookworm

Nicol and Whalley combine for hilarious results



Clever work

Canada, say Eric Nicol and Peter Whalley, Has Been Cancelled Because of Lack of Interest. This is the title of one of the cleverest and funniest books to come off Canadian presses for years.

Canada, Cancelled Because of Lack of Interest is prefaced by two quotations. All that is human must retrograde if it do not advance" and this provides the thesis for the book.

The other quotation is simply, "Merde," by Pierre Elliott Trudeau, and that sets the tone of the irreverent hilarity to come.

And so, for more than 200 pages of wit, laced with characteristic slapdash cartoons by Peter Whalley, Nicol looks back

from a mythical year 2077, at the rise and fall of Canada.

Eric Nicol is almost incapable of writing a sentence without a giggle in it. Employing puns, outrageous flights of imagination, and verbal dead-panning, he comes up with gems like the concept of Pierre and Peter Latete, the two-headed leader of Canada in 1993.

"He addressed the convention in faultless French and English," but alas, his right head turned leftist and the left head turned rightist.

"Before a stunned house, the two heads then attacked one another with shrill name-calling, including obscenities in both languages and climaxing when the Prime Minister of Canada

bit off his own nose, twice."

Louise Shed a tear of laughter for poor Louise Riel, who burned her jock strap at a Miss Blue Bombers beauty contest.

"Louise...called herself a half-breed. By this she meant that half of her didn't...her life was made miserable by Manitobans who heard her called the Transsexual, and wanted to know if she had a dome car."

And pity poor Daisy McGee, the 86-year-old widow who was arrested and imprisoned because she had omitted the postal code on a post card informing the government that her pension cheque was delayed for 18 months because of faulty

glazing on the envelope window.

You'll carry on, laughing, through the Rape of the Lockerroom and Joy Through Unwork, where the Golden Beer Can Award is presented in honour of 22 continuous years on the UIC circuit.

Yet, there is hope. Although Whalley graphically points out that "the 22nd century

belongs to Canada," Nicol's last word is that a few Canadians do indeed survive. "The Canadian Refuge Camper Site in Florida has confirmed arrival of 31 families of Canadians to overwinter, as compared with 27 families last winter. ...we may witness the comeback of the Canadian as a valid form of life."

We may also witness the Leacock Medal around the collective necks of Whalley and Nicol. Canada Cancelled...is a very funny book, and yes, it would make a good Christmas gift.

Says Nicol, "Canadians do not read books

themselves, but give book symbolizing the them to each other at Nativity as conception Christmas—the Canadian without entertainment."

Exorcist sequel- a supernatural smash

by Terry Dupuis
The long-awaited sequel to the 1973 supernatural smash hit The Exorcist begins this week at the Odeon Theatre in Midland. The original Exorcist starred Linda Blair as a young girl who was possessed by the devil, Ellen Burstyn as the distraught mother, and Jason Miller and Max Von Sydow as two priests who attempt to exorcise the evil spirit from the

girl. The 1973 production of The Exorcist was directed by William Friedkin from a novel by William Peter Blatty.

Now nearly four years later comes the sequel to The Exorcist, a movie called The Heretic. Linda Blair repeats her role as Regan. Now 17 she once again finds herself being possessed by an evil spirit. The only other member of the original

cast who appears in the new movie is Max Von Sydow as the elderly priest.

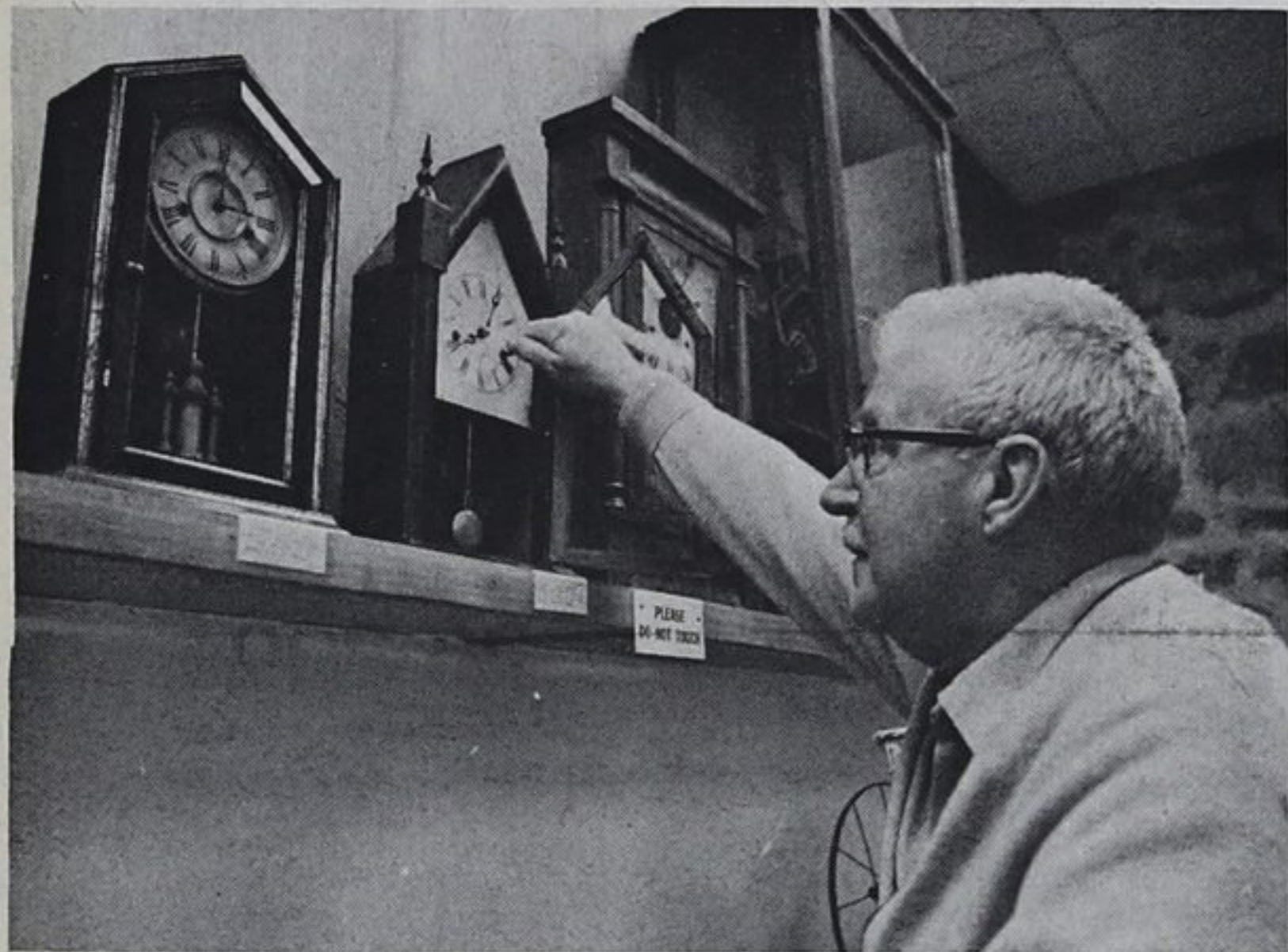
New characters who star in the new Exorcist film include Richard Burton as a priest who is sent by the Vatican to study Regan's strange case and Louise Fletcher as a psychiatrist who is treating Regan. Miss Fletcher won an Academy Award last year for her memorable

role as Nurse Ratched in One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest. Rounding out the cast of The Heretic is Ned Beatty, who was a recent Oscar nominee for Network; James Earl Jones; and veteran actor Paul Henreid.

The director of the new Exorcist movie is John Boorman whose previous credits include the Lee

Marvin crime thriller Point Blank and the controversial film Deliverance.

Starting tomorrow evening at the Pen Theatre is a new adventure family movie called Sinbad And The Eye of the Tiger, starring Patrick Wayne, and a western with Lee Van Cleef called The Stranger And The Gunfighter.



Museum farewell

Huronia Museum curator Vern Farrow went about his daily chore of winding the clocks in the historic establishment for the last time this year. Closed yesterday, the museum will open Victoria Day weekend with a number of new artifacts and exhibits. The revolver kept at Midland's first post office will be on display when the doors re-open, as will a new display of foot-

wear and battery radios. Farrow said the building is shut down over the winter months mainly due to heating costs. The air is still kept at 40 degrees to prevent frost and resulting damage to exhibits. Even at this temperature it costs approximately \$300 a month to heat. The steeple clock Farrow is winding life into, is circa 1880.

Staff photo

Safety tip

The Ontario Safety League advises that if you live in an area not served by school buses make sure you walk your child to school before school starts. Make sure your children know the route to school — particularly if they're first timers — and teach them the rules of the road.

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