

Barnard's new novel could use a little surgery itself

Christian Barnard pioneered the heart transplant and his name is writ large on the cover of *Night Season*, his second novel. Actually Barnard is the co-author. Seigfried Stander, a South

African journalist and prize-winning novelist co-authored the book and it's fun to try and divine who contributed what to this harlequin transplant in hard cover. Barnard is certainly

responsible for the medical details which are plentiful and fascinating. The story itself hangs on what seems to be an improbable premise. Dr. Charles de la Porte discovers that one of his

patients (who happens to be a former lover and who also happens to be a beautiful woman doctor) has breast cancer. He also discovers that the cancer has spread extensively, and he's sure

there's no medical hope for her. So - and this seems odd to me - he tells her she's fine so that she can live out the rest of her life without fear or surgical mutilation.

His patient discovers her medical plight accidentally, and threatens to sue which puts de la Porte in a delicate situation especially since he's had an affair with his patient, and he also knows things about her radical student past that the police would like to know.

On the way through the novel good insights are dropped about euthanasia and the philosophy of physicianship. ("Death is

Christiaan Barnard
Seigfried Stander
NIGHT SEASON



the enemy" and "No doctor could be a murderer or a torturer or a sadist.") De la Porte's final dilemma is whether or not to pull the plug on his former patient and lover. And I'm not going to tell you how it ends.

Book review

And now, for something completely different - a collection of personal stories by Andy MacDonald, called *Don't Slip on the Soap*. MacDonald is a Cape Breton writer with a seemingly endless store of tales resulting from his poverty stricken boyhood with nine brothers and sisters. His first book was *Bread and Molasses*.

Most of MacDonald's stories centre on Pa, a crusty old gent with maybe one or two jolly days a year. The stories

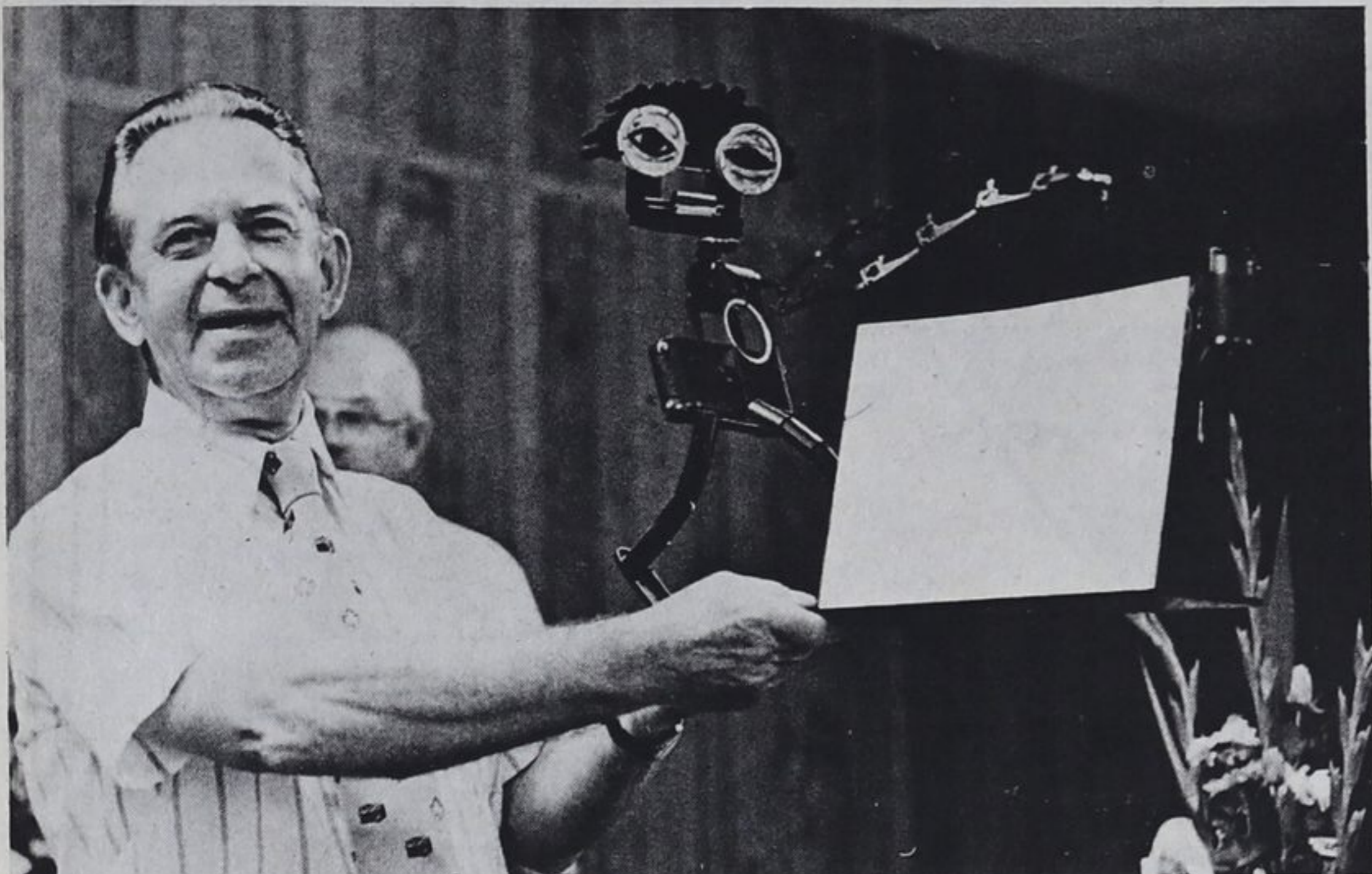
are the kind that are handed down in families - remember the time the outhouse caught fire while Pa was in it? And the time Murray ate the flypad?

It's good homespun stuff and survivors of the Depression will shed a nostalgic tear. However, most of the tales sound as if they'd be better if they were read aloud. They lack the spark that makes them Ray Guy and Greg Clark generate chuckles. MacDonald has a way of suddenly switching into

present tense in mid-anecdote which I found irritating, and his style could hardly be called polished. After a (present tense) spell of eating molasses candy in bed he comments, "We would usually fall asleep with our tongue on our hand, thinking never again will we eat so much (until the next time of course.)"

Will there be a next time for Andy Mac-

donald? Probably so. There seems no likelihood that his allegedly sidesplitting stories of life with a grumpy Pa will run out. *Night Season* by Christian N. Barnard and Seigfried Stander. Hutchinson of London Pub. \$12.95 hard cover. *Don't Slip on the Soap* by Andy MacDonald. Musson Pub. \$6.95 paperback.



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DEATHS
Houden - Walter, at St. Joseph's Hospital, Sarnia on Wednesday, June 7, 1978. Walter Houden of Point Edward. In his 84th year. Beloved husband of Elsie May Doan. Dear father of Douglas and Denton of Sarnia. Step-father of Mrs. Ada Lamb of Toronto. Also survived by 3 grand-children. Brother of Mervin Houden, Beulah Bell and Oda Wood all of Elmvalle. The funeral was held at the James H. Lynn Funeral Home Elmvalle on Friday, June 9 at 2 p.m. Interment Elmvalle Cemetery. 47

CARDS OF THANKS
The family of Thomas Hobson wish to express a sincere thank you to friends, neighbours, relatives, neighbours, Saurin W.I. and Drs. Patchell, McKenzie and Young. Also to the nurses of Penetang Hospital and Mike Stone of Lynn Funeral Home during their recent bereavement. 47

Archer - The family of the late Ashton Archer would like to express sincere thanks to friends, neighbours, relatives and pallbearers for kindness shown to us during the recent loss of a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered. Also we would like to thank you all for the many cards of sympathy. Effie Archer and family. 47

CARDS OF THANKS
The family of the late Lottie Dickie wish to express their thanks and appreciation shown to them by: James Lynn Funeral Home, Ladies of the Elmvalle Wycliff Church, Rev. Kirk, relatives and friends in their time of sorrow. 47

IN MEMORIAM
In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and grandmother Gladys Ritchie who passed away June 10, 1977. Time speeds on, one year is gone. Since death its gloomy shadow cast Upon our home, where all was bright And took from us a shining light. We miss that light, and ever will; Her vacant place none can fill. Here we mourn, but not in vain For in Heaven we will meet again. Always remembered by Allan and family. 47

In loving memory of George Wright who passed away June 19, 1968. In depths of sorrow we cannot tell, Of the loss of one we love so well. And while he sleeps a peaceful sleep, His memory we shall always keep. Always remembered and sadly missed by wife, Rose and family. 47

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