

Editorial comment

Brian's Drive of '86

Everybody likes the underdog. I always liked the Boston Red Sox until this year. I told everyone they were underrated. I told everyone the Sox would have their year soon. Now I hate them.

The Sox are, in first and the Jays are in second. Boo, hiss, humbug. Now it's go Jays go! The Sox can finish at the bottom and I wouldn't care less. Then again, once the Jays are on top again, myself and others will start grumbling about Damaso Garcia's bad attitude and how we love/hate George Bell's temper.

Do you see a trend developing? Most baseball lovers would not admit to it, but they suffer acute bouts of a rare affliction known as complacency fever. The symptoms? Severe discomfort and dissatisfaction when things stay the same for just too long.

If the Jays are battling for first place and making headway, then that's fine. When the Jays finally reach first place, things are fine too.

But when the Jays are in first place for

longer than two weeks and something called novelty begins to wear thin, the disease strikes. Instead of remaining overjoyed at the fact that the Jays are still tops, the fans begin to see the team as being complacent. They notice things that were overlooked before. Tiny irregularities become giant faults. If the second place team comes within five games of first, then it's said that the Jays are faltering.

In short, victory begins to look like complacency and soon, the glitter no longer looks like gold.

What happens in baseball happens in politics. Ask Brian Mulroney. He hired somebody last week to bring pennant fever back to the masses.

Brian remembers the days when he could go to the east coast or to Quebec and be cheered by thousands. Now he only sees hundreds jeering.

He remembers what it was like to have the press give him the benefit of the doubt. He recalls the glory days of 60 per cent in the

popularity polls. Most of all, he wants it back. So he hired a guy named Dalton Camp to make it as it was.

Dalton, take notes. Here's some thoughts from a guy whose opinion is not worth over a hundred grand a year.

One of Brian's biggest problems is the fact that he so desperately wants things to be like they were. He should be doing the opposite. He should try to bring beyond the past to better than ever were before.

Quit talking about Trudeau and blaming him for everything from the deficit to the stain on your tie.

People want you to stop being complacent and whiny. They want to see leadership coming from the leader's office. Like the Jays, they want you to win more games and improve your record. In baseball and politics, standing still is sliding backward.

Dalton, it'll be a tough job. Look beyond the next election. For the first two years of Brian's government, all we heard about was the last election.

Carey Nieuwhof

Unfortunately for us, it seems all we're going to hear about for the coming two years is the next election. Sorry Dalton, we don't need to be reminded about that. It just may be time for the prime minister to start governing.

Get his head clear. Tell him to tell the press to take a hike. That's it, yell at them. This is the only way you earn their respect. It's like facing Roger Clemens. The only way you can conquer him is to get mad and smash one out of the park. All the sweet talk in the world is only going to get you a strikeout.

You must realize that complacency fever is going to happen. The electorate of this country will naturally start to criticize the guy on top. Mulroney must realize that he is that man. Buy him a thick skin and tell him to battle back.

Like the grand old game, honeymoons quickly end. Soon you have to earn respect by constantly improving. Remember Dalton and Brian, when the honeymoon ends, the fans will divorce you quickly.

A tale of two beds

We hadn't really noticed before, but having got back from vacation we noticed it the following day.

Stiff backs, aching creaking muscles, cricks in the neck: in short, all the classic symptoms of two rusty robots trying to get out of bed.

We blamed everything from jet lag to coffee, from swimming to airport food (which is fair comment), but finally the truth dawned on us. It was the bed.

Nothing had happened to it. It was still the extra-large western king sized orthopedic 42 square foot luxury item it had always been. The bed hadn't altered. We had.

Having been spoiled rotten with soft beds for 15 nights it was like sleeping on the bottom tier of a gulag special in Novosibirsk, minus the straw.

We were convinced we would adapt. After

all it was our pride and joy as well as Eatons' top of the line. But by day two, reality set in. More aching, creaking, grinding and moaning.

Now it was big decision time.

The second of the two waterbed stores had an excellent selection, everything from a simple box with a simple plastic bag and no baffles, very popular with kids and teens and doubling as a trampoline, to king size motionless four posters complete with thermostat controlled heaters, padded tops to lay on, the whole bit. Yes, you gentle readers have guessed. We bought the whole bit.

Anything for a good night's sleep. I was beginning to understand why the chief weapon in the arsenal or interrogation is sleep-deprivation. We were like two zombies by day three.

Dismantling the "Old" king size, moving

You can actually sleep on it.

No. 1 Son's single out so he inherited the old king, moving the new waterbed in, assembly, filling, burping, heating, and making the bed, only took the three of us two days. Luckily we have bed chesterfields coming out of our ears as a temporary refuge. But now the big test.

Musical beds

It was like crawling into a cold swamp. We persevered but chattering teeth and shivers do not make for deep sleep. After all this planning action could it be us?

No, it was the temperature probe that had worked its way under the cardboard liner in the corner. This kidded the heater into thinking we were warm.

Freeing the heater probe, cranking up the head, and presto, by the next night it was like crawling onto a tropical marsh at the equator,

Ray Baker

in August. Perhaps too hot for one of us, although I enjoyed it. All it needed was a recording of cicadas and bull frogs to complete the picture. Instead we compromised on heat.

Now we were getting there, just a small two-day experimental period with water levels ranging from "Oh dear, I've disappeared out of sight," to "Please don't move or you'll bounce me out of bed again," and we got the thing beat.

Now we could roll, sit, jump, and turn with ease. I even stood on the bed. But, I didn't walk across it. I figured one man in history walking on water was enough.

THIS WEEK'S QUOTE: "You make your bed and you lie on it".

Ray Baker is a freelance writer. He and his family live in Penetanguishene, where the water is not only the purest in Canada.

Letters

Criminal Code amendments assailed

Dear Editor,

In June of this year, John Crosbie, at the time Conservative minister of justice, announced the introduction of proposed amendments to the Criminal Code which try to define pornography and prescribe severe penalties for its manufacture and dissemination.

If Crosbie's position and that of his political cohorts on this matter remains unchallenged, it could become unlawful to project a film

which shows sexual activity of any sort, even hugging, kissing or holding hands.

The pertinent section of the Bill which is a blatant violation of Canadian civil liberties, outlines a number of specific visual prohibitions in respect of sexual activity and further sets out broad, almost unlimited definitions of visual prohibition by the addition of the words: "or any other sexual activity."

Under the proposed Bill, the courts, prosecutors and police would have little or no difficulty in prohibiting the showing of any film that they may consider morally unaccep-

table. Crosbie's assurances that "artistic merit" would be a defence under the Bill is as reassuring as a tire. The inclusion of the proviso, "or any other sexual activity" in the proposed statute, is dangerous and repressive. This type of legal booby-trap and gag rule is more in keeping with those jurisdictions and individuals that subscribe to curbstone law and kangaroo courts. I find it astonishing that certain legislators, and federal bureaucrats in the Justice Department who present themselves as lawyers, would ever countenance and support such

retrogressive legislation.

If the federal Tories are successful in imposing this kind of law on the nation, what is there to stop them from enacting other legislative Acts censoring newspapers and periodicals and designating their local political hacks in a given community, to act as censors and prosecutors?

Sincerely yours,
William J. Ogilvie,
Box 132,
Midland, Ontario.

RCAF reunion next month

Dear Editor:

There may be readers of your newspaper who would be interested in knowing of the forthcoming 41st annual reunion of No. 6 Service Flying Training School, Dunnville, Ont.

For the past 40 years, Royal Canadian Air Force personnel who were stationed at No. 6 SFTS during the war have gathered in Dunnville to celebrate their station reunion.

This year marks their 41st get-together which will take place Sept. 19, 20 and 21.

The event begins with the mayor's reception Friday evening at the Riverview Motel, a golf tournament Saturday morning, a parade to the memorial service and flypast of wartime Harvard aircraft in the afternoon followed by a banquet and films of past reunions on Saturday night. The weekend closes Sunday morning with a breakfast cookout of pancakes and sausages.

Air Commodore Leonard Birchall, OBE., DFC., CD ("The Saviour of Ceylon") will take the salute and inspect the cadets of No. 611 Harvard Squadron, RCAF and our veterans.

All veterans of No. 6 are invited. If not on the mailing list please contact Frank Scholfield, 646 Alder St. West, Dunnville, Ont., N1A 1S5, or call (416) 774-5480.

Sincerely,
Frank Scholfield
Adjutant-General

We invite our readers to express their views on subjects of personal interest.

This newspaper reserves the right to edit all material submitted for space, grammar and legal restrictions.

Please include name, address and phone number of writer with article.

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Letters

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