

## editor's choice

### Editorial

by HARRY HUSKINS

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes was right when he said, "Taxes are what we pay for civilized society." But just how to go about raising them has been a problem that has confounded society for several thousand years. The local school board met the problem head on last week when it decided to begin levying taxes on the cottages and businesses that lie between the towns of Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Marathon and Manitouwadge.

The decision sounds straightforward enough, however the background that went into making that decision reads like a badly written slapstick comedy. One expects to see the Keystone Kops to come around the corner at any minute.

Some Jackfish residents have been unhappy for years with the educational taxes they are paying. Some think they are too high, others don't think they should be paying school taxes at all. Last fall some of the residents approached the school board to see if the taxes could be lowered or dropped altogether. Later the school board was petitioned to do something about the taxes, and as part of this was included a demand that if Jackfish had to continue to pay taxes, then other people (read Whitesand and Selem) should have to pay taxes too.

The motivation for that demand was probably a legitimate sense of injustice. "Why should we have to pay when they don't," and probably the hope that if enough people got upset and opposed the annexation the school board would just say "It's not worth all the fuss" and drop Jackfish from the tax rolls.

Unfortunately the provincial government doesn't allow a school board to drop areas, only add them. Like a snowball rolling downhill the move began picking things up along the way and going out of control at the same time. A move that started out attempting to drop one area from the Board slowly transformed itself into a movement to add others to the Board.

The things picked up along the way fall into three categories: the Good, the Funny, and the Ugly.

The Good ideas were annexing Hemlo and Winston Lake for any taxes that might eventually come out of them, and annexing any areas where children (4) live outside the Board's area yet attend its schools. The

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## Terrace Bay Schreiber News

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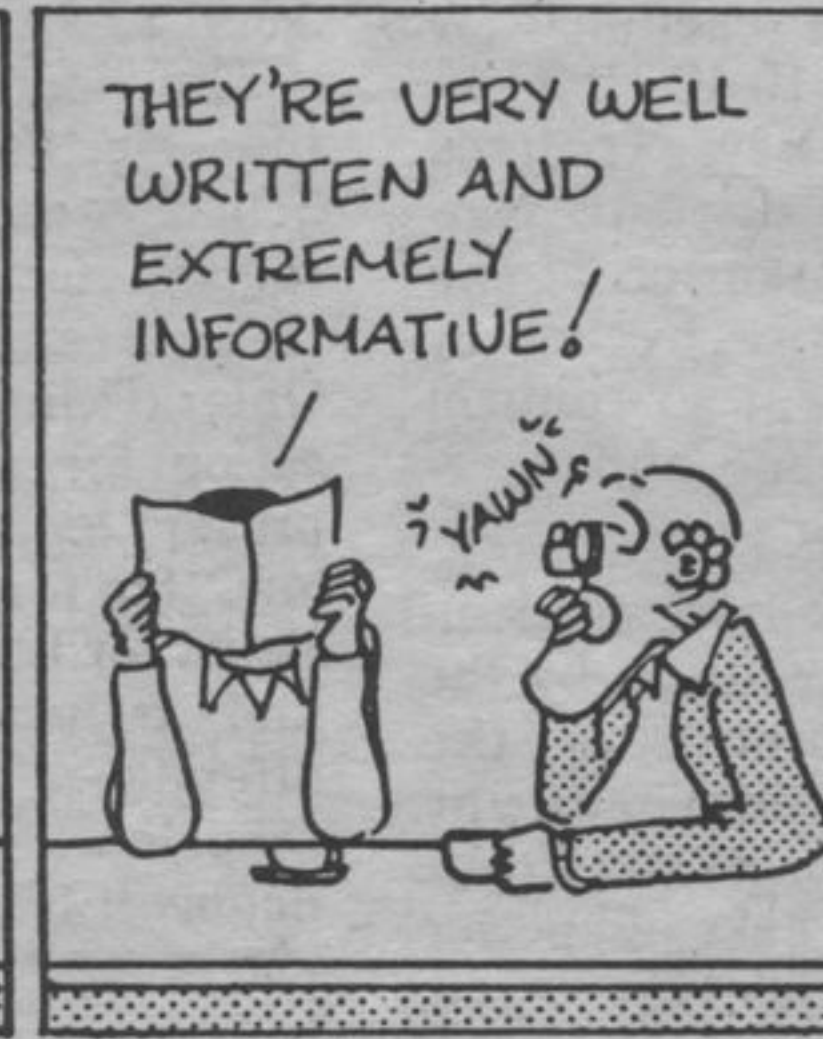
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### GRANDPA AND ME



Keith Penner, M.P./député

## Penner on spousal income tax deductions

Dear Editor:

Recently, an issue has arisen which has caused much concern among Canadians, and especially among many women in my constituency. I am referring to the proposal made by Judy Erola, M.P. for Nickel Belt, to eliminate the spousal tax deduction. I would like to make it clear that Mrs. Erola's suggestion does not reflect government policy in any way. It does not have the sup-

port of the Liberal party, men or women. I would also like to state that I do not share Mrs. Erola's views on this matter.

It is evident to me that Mrs. Erola was in error when she said that only affluent families take advantage of this deduction. A study of the 1980 tax returns shows that three million families claimed this deduction. Nearly three-quarters of them had incomes of \$25,000 or less. The claimants in-

clude the elderly, the working poor, and single parent families. I would not call such people affluent.

How would the removal of this deduction affect people? Let us look, for example, at a family of three - husband, wife and child - where the working spouse has an income of \$20,000. If that family had to forego the spousal tax exemption, they would have to pay nearly \$1000 more in additional income tax. Clearly, to expect such a family to find that much

extra money is unreasonable. For Judy Erola to make this suggestion is irresponsible.

Single parent families also depend on this deduction since, for tax purposes, they can claim one child as the equivalent of a spouse. These families, who now number almost three-quarters of a million, desperately need the \$3,300 deduction.

The contributions made to Canada by childless spouses, not in the labour force, are incalculable. It is these people who carry out

much of the volunteer work so necessary to the well-being of our communities. Canada needs their energy, their dedication and their support.

The Canadian family has been subjected to numerous demands and challenges over the past 20 years. To have a further tension heaped on top is totally unnecessary. Mrs. Erola has contributed to these strains in a most thoughtless fashion.

Keith Penner M.P.

### Arthur Black

## A love machine

Marshall McLuhan made a chilly little observation in an interview he gave a few years before his death. He said: "Projecting current trends, the love machine would appear a natural development in the near future — not just the computerized date-finder, but a machine whereby ultimate orgasm is achieved by direct mechanical stimulation of the pleasure circuits of the brain."

A love machine. Well it hasn't happened yet, as far as I know. But there have been some pretty wierd developments in the field of L'Amour of late.

Such as these bulletins culled from last week's newspapers: ITEM ONE: During the sixties we had a lot of "In's" — Drop-Ins, Sing-Ins, Bed-Ins, Be-Ins. Last

University of South Carolina they had one that was new on me.

A Hug-In. Their Third Annual Hug-In, as a matter of fact.

Students ran around all day clutching people and then getting their quarry to sign a tally sheet, attesting to the fact that they had been well and truly hugged. This was no Bunny Hop. The huggers begged, cajoled, ambushed and even threatened potential huggables in an attempt to fatten their scores. Object of the exercise: to hug as many people as you could in one day. A student by the name of Robbie Martin was the hands-down — or hands-around — winner. He copped 280 signatures, including those of four Deans; the faculty of the entire English Department, and all of the school maintenance

staff.

ITEM TWO: I suppose it's not surprising to discover that spiraling prices have invaded even the wonderful world of romantic trysts. Why should lovers be exempt? There was a time when an amorous couple in search of privacy could rent a room for the afternoon — but have you checked hotel rates lately?

Which may go some distance towards explaining the odd sight that greeted the manager of Public Storage Limited, in Rexdale Ontario, when he went to check out one of his rented storage lockers. When he unlocked the door he found ... well, a bedroom, actually. Complete with bed, dresser, carpet and chairs. The fellow who rented the locker (ostensibly to store his boat) had in fact been using it to entertain a

lady friend. And he'd been doing it for some months before he was found out.

But the manager was quite philosophical about it. "You can't blame him for trying," he said. "A hotel room can cost you \$90 a night. This guy was only paying us \$87 a month."

ITEM THREE: Here in the Great White North, we Canucks do things differently, eh? Especially our perverts. Last week a woman walked into a Winnipeg Police Station with a complaint that was bizarre even by Prairie standards.

She told the Desk Sergeant she'd been attacked. Could she supply a description of the attacker? No problem. He was dressed in a parka, with his face hidden by a scarf.



That's pretty standard, but the rest of his garb was ... memorable.

On the lower part of his body he sported transparent red pantyhose and a pair of pink leg warmers.

The man (if that's what it was) pushed the woman to the ground, then took-off, without trying to hurt her or remove her clothing.

You know in a country like ours, where the winters are long and the nights are cold ... strange things can happen — even to grand institutions like Love.

Thank God Spring is just around the corner.