

editor's  
choice

## Guest Editorial

by JUDIE COOPER

I've always had trouble with stereotypes, but never more so than with Mother's Day. Apple pie, frilly aprons, Quik and morals after the hockey game, endless supplies of warm cookies and all of that . . . it just doesn't add up to Mother for me. Moms now are more likely to be out working (as opposed to working in), attending vital community meetings, leading workshops, chopping wood or playing baseball than lingering over ovens all day at home awaiting with bated breath the return of the children from school and the breadwinner from the job. Actually, I suspect that Grandma too was more likely in her childraising days to be donning coveralls to work during the war effort than aprons for the kitchen. So, if Mom is not by definition what we always thought she was, who and what do we celebrate and honour on Mother's Day, 1983?

- We honour Moms who nurture . . . who pour love and care into little hearts to help them grow into mature, loving, caring adults, whatever their sex or ambitions.

- We honour Moms who take time for themselves . . . so that they don't burn out picking up, changing diapers, scrubbing floors and wiping little noses (and bottoms!) and find that they have nothing left to give to little people who need so much more than simple caretaking.

- We honour all those who fill mothering roles . . . Dads who've taken the time and effort to learn mothering skills so that they can fill in and take over from time to time, or even function superlatively as single dads in today's society without leaving their children unnurtured.

- We honour those who may not have had children of their own, but fill special places in the hearts of neighbourhood children, cousins, nephews and nieces, and kids needing extra love and support. These giving people may not be biological Moms, but mother many.

- We honour those Moms who've had the courage to really let go when it's time for children to go on to independent lives . . . continuing to care, but not control . . . tied to their children by cords of love, not strings of demands.

- We honour "mothering" . . . a relationship, not a static role . . . a relationship unconfined by tradition, sex, occupation or lifestyle. Even God was referred to in Scripture as being like a mother, cradling His own like a mother hen brooding over her nest.

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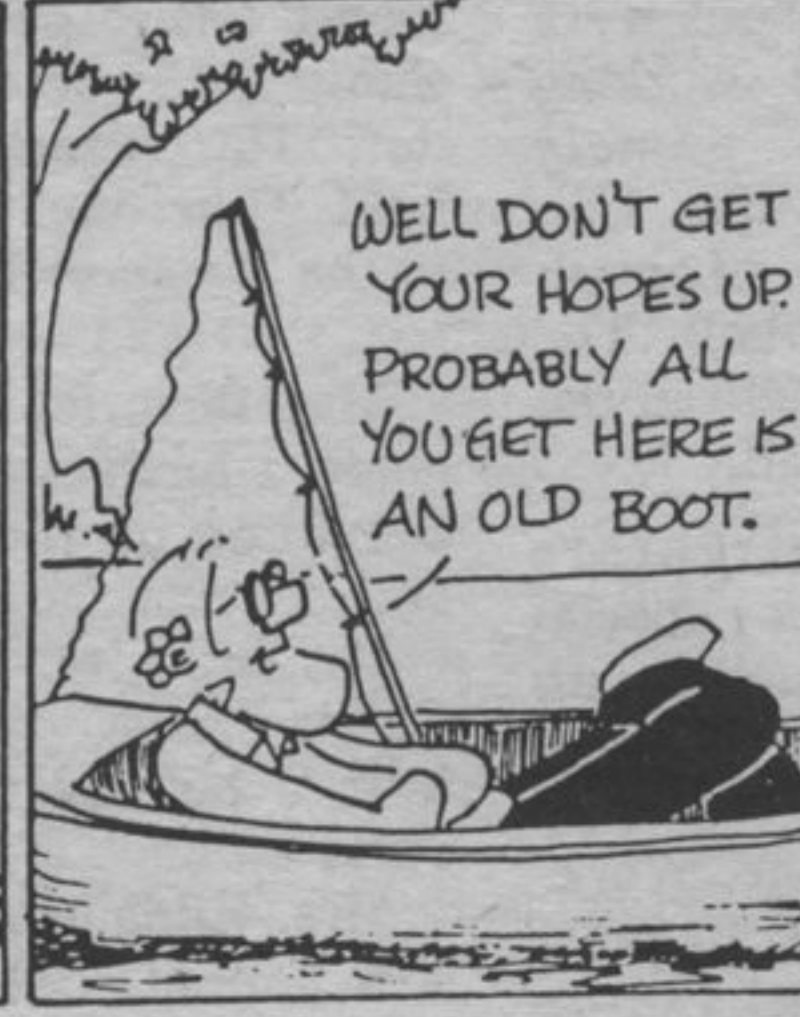
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### GRANDPA AND ME



BY MARK TURRIS

### Northern Affairs

by JANE E. GREER

Glass doors can be a potential danger for energetic children, and for absent-minded adults. The National Research Council estimates that before safety glass requirements were included in the Hazardous Products Act in 1974, almost 10,000 injuries annually resulted from accidents involving glass surfaces in the home.

All these accidents, half of them to children, resulted from the use of ordinary glass. Under violent impact this glass shatters, producing knife-sharp points which can cause serious injury and even death.

The use of safety glass can prevent accidents in the home because, unlike ordinary glass, it is more re-

sistant to shocks and harder to break.

The Hazardous Products Act prohibits the advertisement, sale or importation into Canada of bathtub closures, shower doors, and exterior doors for household use that are not made of safety glass, or that contain a pane of glass which is not safety glass. 'Household use' includes use in all types of residents - private homes, apartments, condominiums, public housing, prefabricated homes and mobile homes.

Requirements for the use of safety glass: tempered, laminated, and wired. When subjected to violent impact, they break into different patterns which are less harmful than the sharp

points produced when ordinary glass shatters.

If your house was built before 1974, it's likely that your doors, tub enclosures, etc., are made of ordinary glass. If you purchase replacements for these parts, the new ones must conform to the Hazardous Products Act, and be made of safety glass. However, if you decide to repair or reglaze doors and tub enclosures instead, be sure to ask for safety glass to ensure maximum safety in your home. Even if you don't replace or repair these parts, you can still reduce the risk of accidents in your home by obeying the following safety rules:

1. Watch your step - never assume a glass door is open; make sure

it's a door, not a fixed panel.

2. Use decorative devices or security railings on sliding glass doors or panels in order to indicate whether they are closed or open.

3. Place a piece of furniture or a plant in front of a fixed large glass expanse.

Don't let young children play near a glass door or panel; if they trip, they could fall against it head first.

5. Use a skid-proof mat or anti-slip strips in the bathtub; a safety railing on the wall of the enclosure is also recommended.

6. Keep doorways clear; toys, small tables, scatter rugs, and other small articles could cause someone to trip and fall into a glass door or panel.

- We honour those Moms who do bake those apple pies, warm cookies and time-consuming meals . . . those who continue in the traditional roles and pour their time and talents into special home-

keeping accomplishments . . . those who choose, often self-sacrificially, to stay at home to achieve their dreams for themselves and their children.

So, here's to Mothering! With thanks . . .

## Arthur Black

# Weird critters banned

I'm really having trouble beginning this column. Seems to be an occupational hazard. When you're trying to be funny for a living, every once in a while, life comes along and deals you a hand that is so bizarre and outrageous it defies satirization. Watergate was one such instance. So is practically any speech by Bill Davis.

I seem to get more than my share of these magic moments simply because of the town I live in. What does Thunder Bay have that makes it so . . . singular? Well we have grain elevators and The Sleeping Giant, and Old Fort William.

And we have our ace in the hole.

Thunder Bay City Council. That friends, is a veritable

Comstock Lode of comic potential.

The Council . . . It's . . . They . . . Maybe I could start the column this way:

Psst! Got any hot Perissodactylus Ungulates out in the garage? Are you harbouring an Edentate or two in the basement? If you've got a nocturnal raptor under wraps, a Pythonidae in the pantry or a Cassowari in the closet - then you're in trouble, good buddy. You're breaking the law, and Thunder Bay City Council is out to get you.

No kidding. Last week, City Council soberly sat down and without cracking a smile, drew up what they are pleased to call: "SCHEDULE 'A' . . . Being a list of animals the keeping of which is prohibited within the City of

Thunder Bay.'

In addition to the aforementioned creatures, citizens of Thunder Bay are henceforth forbidden to own Viverrids, Mustelids, Ursids, Procyonids, Pinnipeds or Crocodilians.

Did I forget pachyderms? Pachyderms are a no-no too.

Our learned elders decided to go easy on Canids and Felids. They can stay. That means that you don't have to ship Fido or Puddytat to your aunt in Kenora.

What have we got here? What we've got is a collection of City Fathers over whose eyes the wool will not be pulled. They've discovered a Ouimet Canyon of a loophole in the cobweb of laws and bylaws, statutes and orders-in-council that govern our daily lives.

They have learned - and just in time I might add - that for God knows how long, people in Thunder Bay have been perfectly at liberty to own kangaroos, gorillas, mongeese, otters, fur seals and alligators.

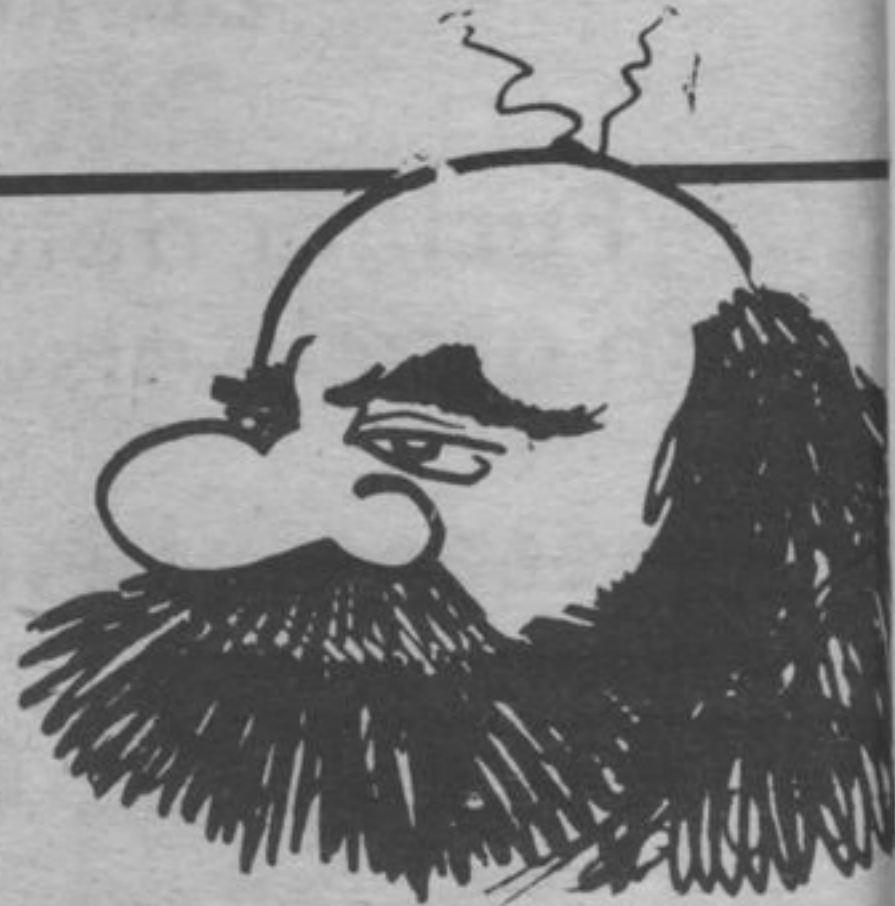
And that at any moment, the streets of Thunder Bay might have been awash with ostriches, coral snakes, armadillos and opossums.

Until City Council put its collective Hush Puppy down, that is.

Now, thanks to Schedule "A", the streets are safe for all of us.

All of us homo sapiens I mean. "Non-human primates" are specifically banned in Schedule "A".

Well you can laugh if you like - but dammit, it's working. I personally patrolled the streets of Thunder Bay for three hours last



night. I failed to turn up a single zebra, kangaroo, gorilla, moose, goose, otter, fur seal or alligator. Just shows you what a vigilant City Council can do when it really works at it.

One problem has occurred to me. If elephants, zebras, gorillas, kangaroos, walruses and alligators are banned from Thunder Bay . . . then that means the city might never have a Municipal Zoo.

Ah but St. Philibusterus, the patron saint of City Fathers, must be watching over us.

We don't need a municipal zoo. We've got City Council.