

Editorial Page

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Some likes and dislikes

Being the new editor, and having met some of you already, and knowing that I'll meet many more during my stay here, I thought I'd use this column to tell you a little bit about myself. Some of my likes and dislikes, and other tidbits of information.

I made myself a list of my likes and dislikes and discovered I don't have many things I don't like. And what tops my list of dislikes you might ask?

Toronto. It's too big, hectic, polluted and stressful. On top of that, Torontonians have a bad attitude problem. They have a "mightier than thee" attitude when it comes to Northern Ontario. But enough about Toronto.

I like skiing (down hill and cross-country) though I prefer the former of the two. I like watching sports on T.V.

As far as I'm concerned, the NFL is better than the CFL. Maybe it's because the Canadian Football League is dying a slow death and I'm not comfortable dealing with death.

My favorite NFL team is the Houston Oilers. It could have something to do with a Canadian quarterback (Warren Moon, formerly of the Edmonton Eskimos) making it in the NFL.

Another thing I don't like is mornings. I'm a night person, which leads me to my next like. Late night television. Two of my favorite programs are David Letterman and Saturday Night Live. There was a good joke about Bush winning the election on Saturday Night Live last week. Some politician in the States said Bush had ordered his secret service-men to shoot Quail if Bush himself was shot. The politician, realizing this was a crude remark to make said, "what I meant to say was that if Bush is shot every-

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One world government?

Dear Editor:

The coming election in Canada will be as fateful for Americans as Canadians. We were given no say in whether we wanted this Free Trade Treaty, but fortunately spirited opposition in Canada has now forced an election. It certainly wasn't planned that way.

The politicians are making a big deal out of the loss of Canada's national identity. This is a very valid fear, but it also applies to America's national identity. This economic merger is just the second in a series that is meant to establish a one-world economy. This will

require a one-world government to run it. It won't be run by democratically-elected politicians but by the big financial giants of this world -- the mega corporation chiefs and international bankers. Our present constitutional guarantees will be worth nothing.

The first stage is already under way in Europe. Now the financiers are pressing for a common currency unit to allow them to move huge sums of capital across national boundaries at will. Mrs. Thatcher has wisely and courageously revolted by saying she is not about to surrender political control over

British affairs at Westminster to a group of planners in Brussels. She added that each nation is far better off being itself, with its own identity, culture and monetary system. Once these are given up it will be next-to-impossible to retrieve them.

I have been a lifelong Conservative, but on this issue they deserve to be kicked out of office. I hope Canadians will do Americans a huge favor by doing just that on November 21.

Ian B. Patten

Fundraiser a success

Dear Editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to express our pleasure with the success of the Terrace Bay First Annual Hallowe'en Skate-a-thon.

The cooperation of many students and adults helped to make the day fun for all.

A total of 98 participants skated during the day and \$2,583.55 has been turned in as of Nov. 11. These funds will be used to pay for coaches' salaries and other expenses incurred by the figure

skating, hockey and ringette clubs throughout the season. Many merchants and businesses donated prizes and services used during the Skate-a-thon. A special thank you to them. The skater who raised the most money during the Skate-a-thon was Allyson Withers. Great job, Allyson.

We look forward to next fall and another Skate-a-thon.

Figure Skating Fund Raising Committee.

Politicians remind me of cockroaches

"Spare me the sight of this thankless breed... who cringe for favours from a screaming mob and do not care what harm they do... providing they can please a crowd!"

Who said that -- and more important -- who was he talking about? Lawyers? Pirates? Rock stars? David Letterman?

Nope, those words came out of the mouth of a Greek chap by the name of Euripides about 2500 year ago. The group he was running down is a group that is as hale and hearty today as it was two and a half millennia ago. Politicians.

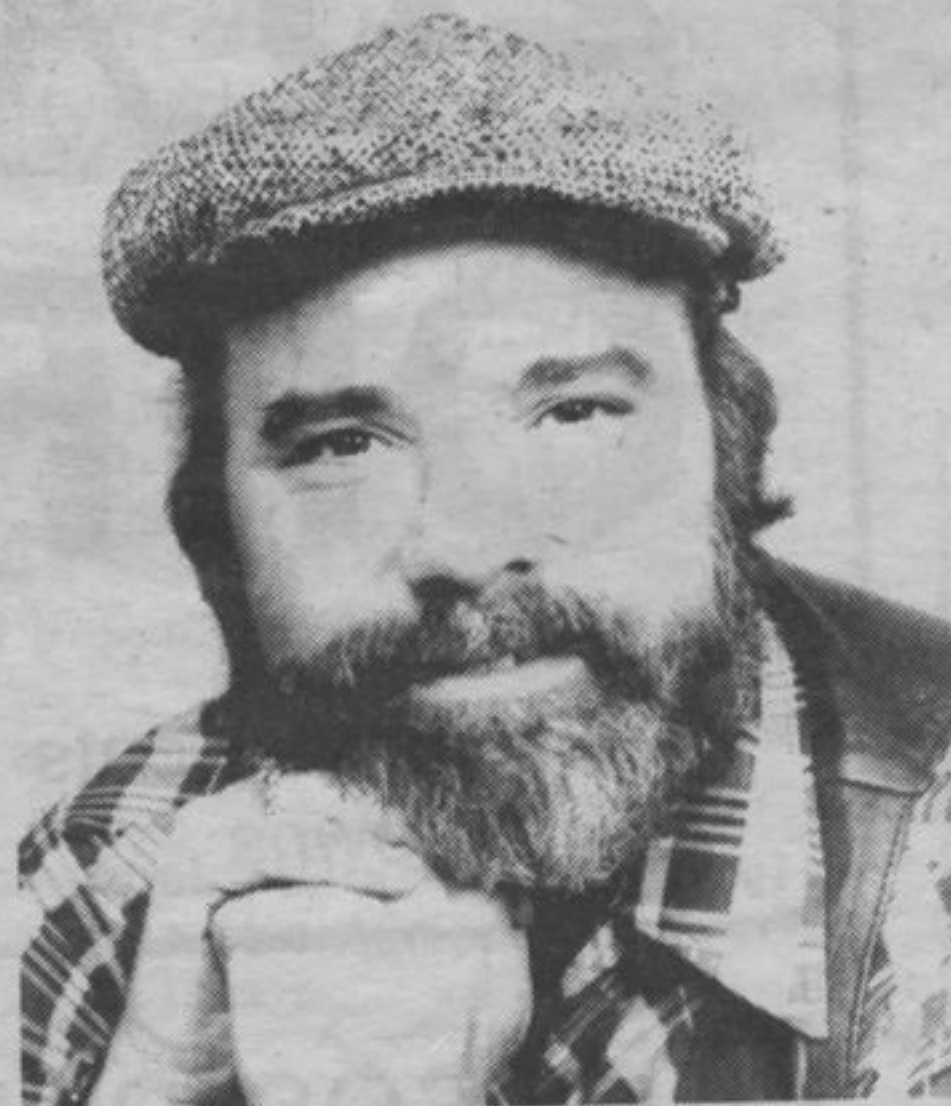
We've had a regular infestation of the critters this year. Not only have our own federal pork barrelists been knocking on our doors and ramming stakes in our lawns, but we've had to contend with the American presidential sweepstakes as well. For the last two months, I haven't been able to turn on the television without having the hydra-headed

Bushbroadbentturnermulroneydunkakis serpent slither out into my living room spitting venom and solhissiting votes. Or even worse, the dreaded "spin doctors" -- the back room handlers and trainers, ever ready to explain to us how we should feel about the cardboard cutouts who are running for office.

All in all, the election campaigns on both sides of the border turned out to be not tremendously exciting affairs -- it's been more of what we used to call in the army "S.O.S." -- Same Old (ummm) Stuff.

But our federal election could have been a real thriller if they'd listened to Judd Buchanan. Back in the summer, the former Liberal cabinet minister tried to get his party to offer a money back guarantee for party donations. In other words, if Liberals didn't make good on their election promises, everybody who donated money to the party would get their money back. Naturally, saner

heads prevailed and Buchanan was grabbed by the elbows and hustled into the back room with as little fuss as possible. Politicians keep their promises? The man must be mad. Besides,



Arthur Black

what if the idea took root and voters started expecting politicians to actually do what they said they'd do? Why, it would be the end of democracy as we know it.

I spotted one other revolutionary political idea in the paper recently. It was a news story concerning some antique whiskey bottles shaped in the likeness of two early Canadian politicians, but it was the headline over the story that caught my fancy.

It read: "BOTTLED POLITICIANS GIVEN TO MUSEUM". Bottled politicians -- what a concept!

Still, you've got to admire politicians for resilience if nothing else. I mean, could you or I stand all those doors slamming in our faces? Could our stomachs survive a steady diet of rubber chicken and lukewarm tea? Could our souls withstand prolonged exposure to Question Period? Dunno about you, but I'd wither up and blow away inside of a week.

Russell Baker, the American humourist, once said of politicians: "They're among the few people who still work, live by their wits, have no job

security, endure brutal hours, and show great ingenuity, even when they're thieves." Yup, politicians are tough, alright.

In fact, and I don't mean this unkindly -- politicians remind me of cockroaches. Like the cockroach, politicians are extremely hardy, quick on their feet, able to live on crummy diets in dark, dank places -- even the Senate.

And both species are amazingly tenacious. Cockroaches have been around for hundreds of millions of years. Just like Allan MacEachen. Scientist say that the only earth species likely to survive a nuclear holocaust would be the cockroach. They didn't mention politicians for fear of jeopardizing their research grants.

Of course, if we did have a nuclear war and only the cockroaches and a few politicians survived... Then the cockroaches would be living on borrowed time.