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can cope with our problem better than we're coping with it now.

I also assume that any technology we come up with to deal with the problem now will be obsolete almost as soon as we invent it. Future generations will be faced with the same situation. That means any solution we come up with now will really be temporary, whether we call our waste site "disposal" (burying the stuff so it can be forgotten) or "storage" (just putting it somewhere safe for now, until we get better technology or ideas for dealing with the stuff). Storage seems like a more ethical solution -

since we will then be forced to build in permanent safeguards that will allow future regulators to deal with either our mistakes, or with the simple passage of time - where buildings deteriorate, foundations crumble, and legal agreements fade into the archives.

These ethical issues are raised very clearly in the report prepared by the Atikokan Community Liaison Group. Atikokan was looking at the idea of being a "happy host" for low-level wastes from Port Hope, so a Community Liaison Group (CLG) was established, as they were in all the other communities that considered the idea. In February, the

CLG recommended to the Atikokan township council that the community opt out of the site selection process. Eventually, the council voted to accept that recommendation. In May, the Atikokan CLG completed a unanimous report, explaining its reason for that choice.

That report raises fundamental questions about the whole approach we're taking to nuclear energy, and waste disposal. It praises the federal government "for establishing a process of citizen involvement and participation to deal with a very contentious issue." But the report adds "the

implementation of the process with the community liaison groups was seriously flawed and may well have been self-defeating."

Among other things, the Atikokan report questions:

-the willingness "on the part of the technocrats associated with the Siting Task Force and the nuclear industry to discuss ethical issues related to the radioactive waste problem."

-"the whole philosophy about which this process revolves seems to be one of finding a site, monitoring it for a short time, and then walking away from it. This is totally unacceptable to this

CLG."

-the ethics of "transferring waste liabilities from politically strong populations (in the south to weaker communities" (in the north). "Offering to financially compensate a northern town with short-term jobs and grants in lieu of taxes is sufficiently seductive to border on coercion. Small towns with vulnerable economies have few options with which to secure economic survival. The poverty of alternatives clouds the ability of people to evaluate risk against potential benefits."

Powerful stuff. Marcel Mass are you listening?

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## All the World's a circus- cont'd from page 5

tle sex on a Saturday night. We'd like to have a lot but we're Canadian.

It is our amazing diversities - the thick and rich heritage of French Canadians ladled onto canvasses and versified by Acadian folksingers that line the boardwalk in Old Quebec City, the beautiful confusion of Toronto's Chinatown, the charming innocence of our Anglo Saxon east contrasted against the lotus-like dreaminess of our Asian west, the weekend warriors of Alberta's old west who use the bestial fury of the summer Stampede as a tune-up to the real rodeo when they ride their trusty steeds into the lobby of the Royal York Hotel during Grey Cup week and spread the fruits of freedom on the plush, red carpets - it is these incredible and indelible contradictions that are at once uniquely Canadian, gutsy, genuine and silently boastful of our tolerant nature.

The very pride of being

Canadian is that we are not proud to the error of arrogance but modest and accommodating and when someone says something nice about us the best we can do is blush. Strange that we have shown the world this most virtuous shade of our character and now we darkly savage each other from within.

The burning of the Fleur-de-Liis and other ugly incidents of English-only, French baiting - this is not us, not mainstream take-out-the-garbage, pay-your-parking-fines Canadians. All this front page fodder is the forum of fanatics on both sides who never would have been called to the front except by dangerous deal makers on both sides who need these examples of violence and hatred to put punch up their political dog and pony shows.

At the heart of all this and at the fault of all this is the consummate compromiser and grand daddy of dealmaking - Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Compromisers and dealmakers make great car salesmen and real estate developers but a prime minister needs a little more...like policy and principles.

Now that Mulroney's back is to the wall, the back with Lucien

Bouchard's knife still in it, at the Meech Lake deal continues sour and smell bad - he can't promise no more, there are more deals to be done. Normal a leader could stand on policy be steeled by principle but in this case there is none and so he's brooding and broken atop a heap of half-secret concessions at too, too many trade-offs.

And seeing this, Canadian panic. We choose up sides in language and lineage - it's ge even, last-straw, blackmail time and at once we feel rightful guilty and falsely self-righteous. This is not our fault, it is not even our fight.

It's important to remember that the Meech Lake debacle is the prejudicial project of elected leaders who, by and large couldn't organize sex in a bordello or sell bandages in downtown Chernobyl.

The June 23 deadline, typical of the man that set it, is arbitrary and artificial. Trash it!

Then we'll all take a deep breath, a long walk, a stiff drink and we'll approach the constitutional problem at such a time when cooler heads can prevail. Or, ideally, when heads with something in them can prevail.



# Northern

## FAMILY ALLOWANCE DRAW

**Cash your family allowance cheque at your Northern Store in Schreiber and enter our Draw.**

**You could win the amount of your family allowance cheque.**

**Draw to take place at the store at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday June 30, 1990**



No purchase necessary.

### THANK YOU



Thank you to Mom, Paul, Rod, Linda, Eric, Marisa, Michelle, Rene, Tony, Lisa, Dad and Grandma for the barbeque and dad, also for the bouquet of flowers. A special thank you to Mom, Paul and Linda for attending my graduation and to Jack and Lance for putting up with my studying for the year. You all mean so much to me.

Wendy



### CNIB ONTARIO MEDICAL MOBILE EYE CARE UNIT

Do you have an eye problem yet no way of getting to see an Ophthalmologist? If you are living in Schreiber or Terrace Bay, the services of an eye specialist will be brought to you on the **CNIB Medical Mobile Eye Care Unit** from August 27 to August 31.

Call 824-2413 for a complete eye examination if you are having visual difficulties.