

# Editorial

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Publisher.....A. 'Sandy' Harbinson  
Ad Manager.....Linda Harbinson  
Ad Representative.....Halyna Worth  
Admin. Asst.....Gayle Fournier



## Will northern concerns finally be heard? Voice for the north

People of Lake Nipigon Riding and northern Ontario in general, have suddenly found themselves with an unprecedented voice in government.

The north has long been the resource sector of Ontario. Over the years it has been taken for granted by those in the Golden Horseshoe of the Toronto area that we would continue to feed their industrial wealth, without complaining or questioning. Even more recently, Toronto has looked to northern Ontario as a place to dump its garbage.

The idea that the north was too weak to argue the dictates of Toronto may have been shattered last week with the cabinet unveiled by Ontario's new NDP premier Bob Rae.

For the Lake Nipigon area, our voice in Queen's Park Gilles Pouliot (who can speak confidently with a 65 per cent mandate from the voters), was named Minister of Mines with responsibilities for Francophone Affairs. Other northern appointments include the Treasury and Deputy Premier positions to Floyd Laughren of Sudbury and the Attorney General post to Howard Hampton from Rainy River; two very high level positions.

Northerners should resist the temptation to think this increased representation will mean a financial windfall for the north. There are still only so many dollars, and there are a lot of places which need the money throughout the province.

However with a record six ministers from northern Ontario, there will be greater strength to the different perspective of the north. Hopefully, this will lead to smarter spending of money in the north, if not more. If Premier Bob Rae's appointments were something more than token appointments to please the north (and women, with a record eleven women named to the cabinet) then we may well be seeing an end to Toronto solutions for northern problems.

It would be truly refreshing to have all the members of the provincial legislature realize that it is not all tundra and polar bears once you get north of Barrie.

Greg Giddens



### LETTERS ARE WELCOME

The Terrace Bay Schreiber News welcomes letters to the editor on any subject. Letters can be mailed to the News, Box 579, Terrace Bay, P0T 2W0, or dropped off at the News office at 13 Simcoe Plaza in Terrace Bay.

Letters must be signed, and have the phone number and address of the author for verification.

We will not knowingly print false, libelous or anonymous comments.

Letters to the editor are important to community newspapers. They serve to reflect opinions of members of the community we serve. However we must insist on these rules to ensure that this very important forum is used responsibly.

# Adultery also among animals

*I told my wife the truth: that I was seeing a psychiatrist. Then she told me the truth: that she was seeing a psychiatrist, two plumbers and a bartender.*

Rodney Dangerfield.

Ah, adultery. "A sport created by the marriage system" according to one cynical wag. A sport that goes back a long way too, apparently. "An ancient and long-established custom...to set your neighbour's bed a-shaking." Who wrote that -- Harold Robbins? Erica Jong? Irving Layton?

Nope. Those words were put together by an Italian scribbler by the name of Juvenal about two thousand years ago.

Oh well, at least the sin of adultery is confined to the human animal, right? Homo sapiens may be an inveterate two-timer, but the other species on the planet are simple, decent, honest types

that stick with their mates no matter what.

Isn't that what the biology prof, Readers' Digest and all those Walt Disney movies taught us?

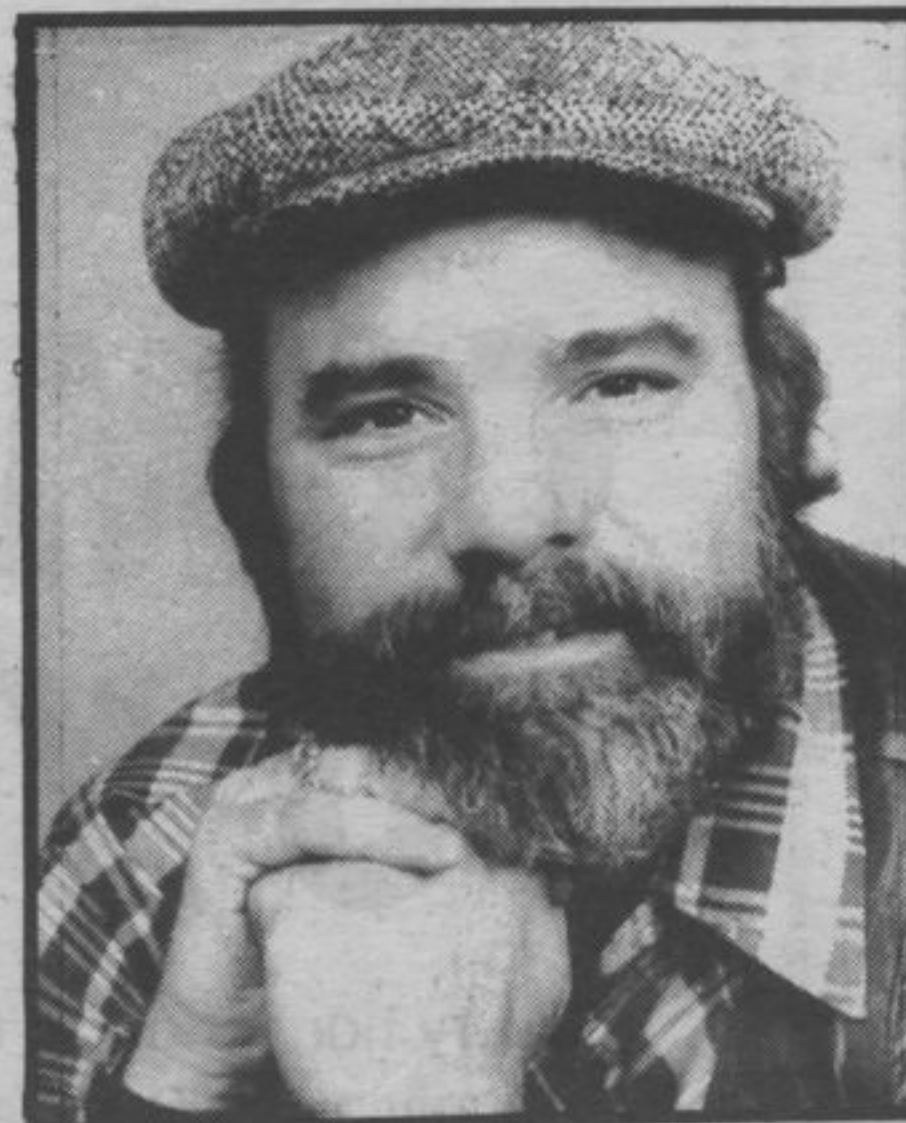
Well, that used to be the way things were, Virginia. Up until just a few years ago, biologists believed that about 95 percent of all bird species were nuclear family types, one mother and one father sharing the burden of raising their brood. Lately, scientists have been looking a little more closely and discovering that those families aren't quite as squeaky-clean as they'd first thought.

In fact they now estimate that up to 30 percent of the birds in any given nest were probably sired by a, as the saying goes, "non-resident male".

And it's not just our feathered friends who are afflicted with the roving

eye. Scientists have been shadowing rabbits, elk and ground squirrels more closely than ever before.

Same story, basically. They've found that the aforementioned species fool



Arthur Black

around a lot more than we ever thought they did -- and what's more it's the females who usually initiate the debauchery.

As often as not, the male is reduced to a helpless

blustering cuckold, storming around kicking pine cones and cursing his in-laws while his inamorata is out painting the forest red with some other stud.

The male Idaho ground squirrel is particularly pathetic. When his mate is in heat, the male dogs her tirelessly right around the clock. He'll even chase her down a hole and sit on top of it to keep her away from any passing curly-tailed Casanovas.

As for birds, the experts are having trouble finding any feathered species that lives up to the old Puritan ethic. Even tiny chickadees, those chirpy, Audrey Hepburnish innocents who spend the winters with us, are not, it seems, immune to an illicit roll in the snow.

Philandering is rampant in the so-called animal world. Patricia Gowaty, a biologist at Clemson

University says "it seems that all our old assumptions are incorrect."

Mind you, there may be a perfectly sound biological reason for all the extra-marital matings these critters get up to. Experts theorize that the females may be ensuring that their eggs get fertilized by a variety of male donors, thus guaranteeing genetic diversity in her offspring.

Unlike humans, they don't do it just for fun.

Reminds me of the story of the old general who, off to the wars, locked his young wife in a chastity belt and gave the key to his best friend. "If I'm not back in a year, release my wife" said the General, and then he set off. That night in camp the General looked up to see his best friend galloping up to his tent. "General," he gasped, "you gave me the wrong key."