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# One last word before I leave

This is the last time I will have to fill this particular bit of blank space. After nearly a year as editor of *The News* I am off to Sudbury to seek new experiences in a different part of Northern Ontario.

I believe the quality of *The News* has increased during the past year due to the co-operation I have received from the people of both communities. A community newspaper does not cover Parliament, the White House or the United Nations. It covers the neighbourhood, the community and without the assistance and input of the community, one individual, the editor, cannot possibly be aware of everything that goes on.

The readers of community newspapers generate the material that goes into the paper - the editor attempts to put it into some sort of concise order and make sure everyone gets their turn.

It is easy to see by the interest shown by many readers that they feel *The News* is their paper. After a year of working and living here, I too have developed a strong sense of ownership regarding what goes into *The News* and how it will appear. It will not be easy to give up 'my paper' to somebody else.

However, the new editor, Darren MacDonald, will bring a new outlook and new ideas. What will not change is the contribution the readers of the News will continue to make. Of this I am sure.

I could easily fill this space with a list of individuals and organizations I would like to thank for their friendship, help and encouragement over the past year. Take care everyone and thank you for a most interesting year.

Robert A. Cotton

# If you carry it in, carry it out

Dear Editor,

I had the opportunity this summer to experience fishing and camping on several inland lakes in our area. The scenery was breathtaking! The wildlife exciting! The fishing plentiful!

The reason for this letter is to voice my shock, to say the least, at what I observed in some of these remote areas. **Garbage!** That's right, garbage in all shapes and forms in the middle of nowhere.

This letter is not being written to point the blame at anyone. The people who have done this know who they are. The cans, jars, bags, etc. were obviously carried into these areas full. I fail to see the reason why they are left behind when the weight would be less than half when they are empty.

Inland lakes of our area have been enjoyed, for the reasons I previously stated, for years. Generations to come will learn from our woodlands, appreciate the beauty, experience the fishing - but only if we leave them something to enjoy.

A. Collins  
Schreiber

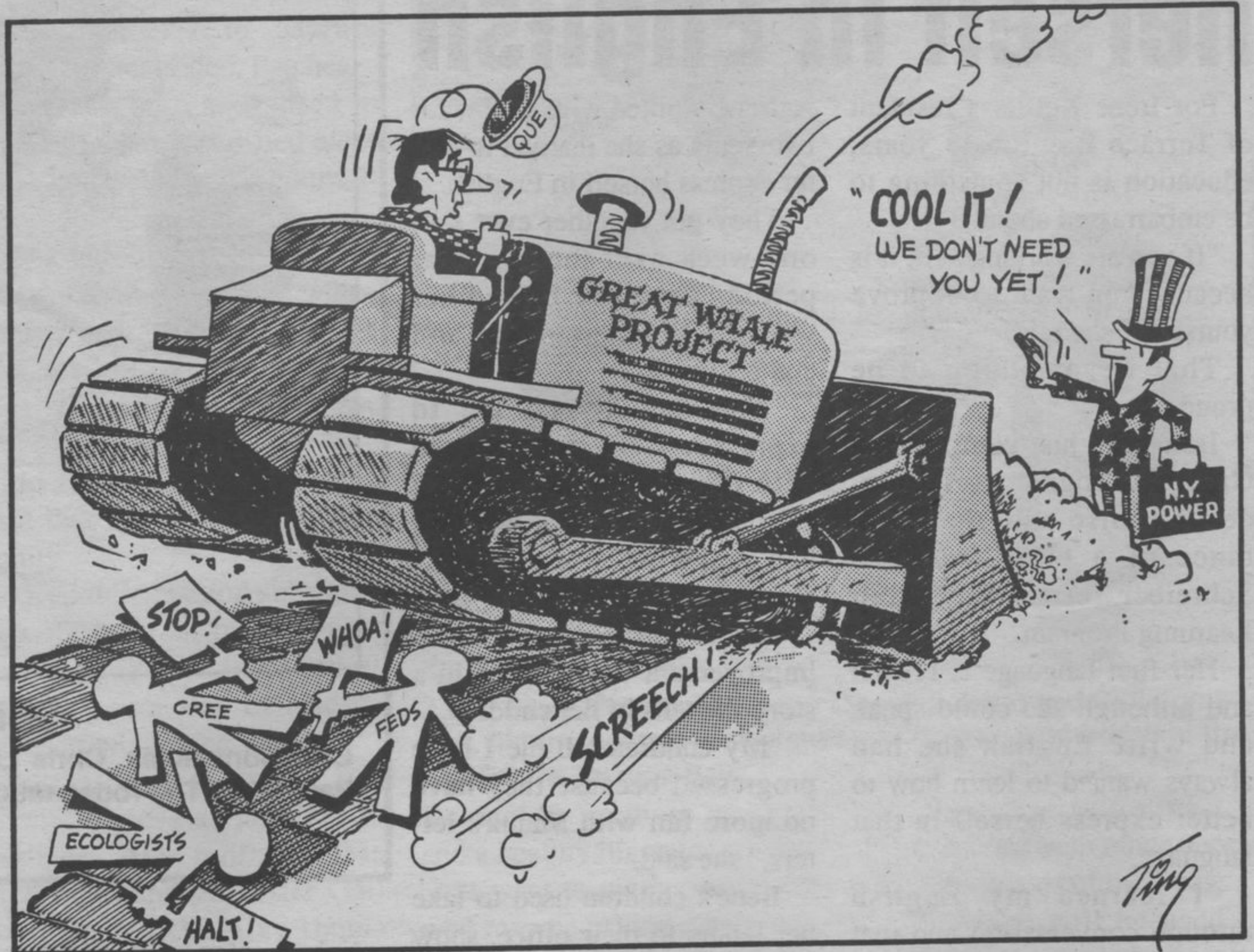
## Letters to the Editor

The Terrace Bay Schreiber News welcomes letters to the editor on any subject.

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.

Letters can be mailed to the News, Box 579, Terrace Bay, P0T 2W0, or dropped off at the News office, 13 Simcoe Plaza in Terrace Bay.



# Grammar ain't great

Here is a letter from a grumpy reader which begins "I have been several times surprised at your careless use of English, but you have outdone yourself in this..." - and the letter goes on to flay me for an alleged linguistic misdemeanor.

All I can say to Grumpy Reader is for God's sake sir, obtain a life. If you have nothing better to do than pore over my poor prose winowing out grammatical offenses, then you are a man in serious need of a hobby.

Have you considered tatting"

Mind you, he has a point. English grammar and I have had little more than a nodding acquaintance since those dreary, dreadful days of Grade 7 English Composition when a merciless Miss Swinson lashed the class with volley upon volley of English Grammar Rules and Regs.

It made me the pathetic unlettered wretch I am today. Even now, I shamle around with my participles dangling obscenely, tripping over misplaced modifiers, slapping ineffectively at insubordinate nouns, averting my eyes shyly from those brazen copulative conjunctions that don't even have the common decency to wear a set of brackets...

It's a situation up with which no one should have to put.

And sometimes I can't - put up with it, I mean. When that happens I have a failsafe cure. I reach for my Fractured English file.

This is where I keep my collection of people who mangle the English language even more grievously than I (do). More often than not, these folks are labouring under a disadvantage - namely that English is clearly not their first language.

Such as whoever wrote this brochure I have for a Japanese car rental firm. Some advice it offers: "When a passenger of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet at him melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage, then tootle him with vigor."

Or these assembly instructions that came with an Italian-made baby carriage: "Insert the blushing for blocking in the proper split, push it deeply and wheel in anti time sense till it stops."

Oh yes, and *buona fortuna*. I believe that's Italian for 'good luck'.

A polite reminder on the back of a Japanese hotel room door is, I think, appropriately Zen-like: "is forbidden to steal the hotel towels please. If you are not person to do such thing, is please not to read notis."

In the Scandinavian countries, English is often spoken, but not always flawlessly. Witness the Oslo cocktail lounge which sports a sign reading: "Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar."

Riding in elevators can be unnerving in the most cosmopolitan of cities, but there's one lift in Belgrade, Yugoslavia that I intend to avoid for the rest of my life.

It carries a sign that reads in (sort of) English: "To move the cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press number of wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order."

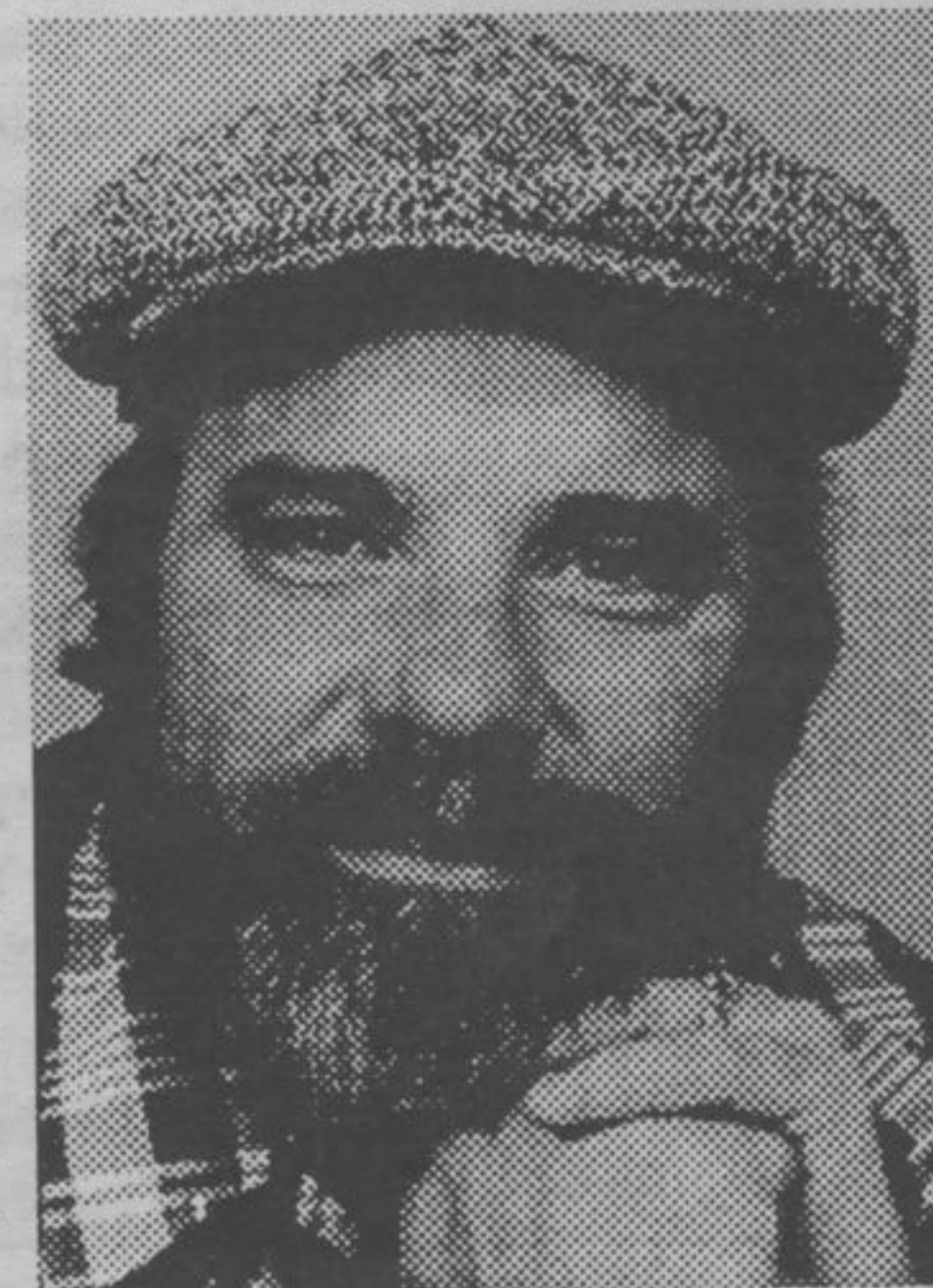
Under which some wag has crayoned: "Or you could take the stairs."

Sometimes overseas English isn't merely mangled - it's fraught with menace. Look at this advertisement in a Hong Kong dentists window. It reads: "Teeth extracted by the latest Methodists."

Or the sign in a Jordanian tailor shop that advises: "Order your summers suit. Because is big rush we will execute customers in strict rotation."

Or the notice on the wall of an Acapulco hotel dining room: "The management has personally passed all the water served here."

No wonder they warn *turistas* not to drink the water.



Arthur Black