

OPINION

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The '90s silver lining is hidden

The 1990s thus far have earned the reputation of a blighted era. Recession, the widening gap between rich and poor and a scarcity of leaders who can be trusted make this a decade we'd probably like to forget.

But to turn a Dickens phrase, It is the worst of times, it is the best of times.

In spite of the economic situation and the ripple effect it has, the political changes which have come about in this decade will be remembered long after the last soup line is discontinued. East and West Germany became one following the tearing down of the Berlin Wall a year earlier. That led to the demise of commu-



Viewpoint

Paula Crowell

nism in all of eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Political and economic pressure has had a profound effect on South Africa.

And while its people are still suffering from the strife, black South Africans are closer to attaining their civil rights than ever before.

This week people all over the world watched as Palestinian

Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat shook hands with former arch enemy, Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Prime Minister.

The two men embarked on a peace process which they hope will see an end to fighting between Israelis and Palestinians.

None of these momentous events translates into instant positive change. But 10 or 12 years before, they weren't even in the realm of possibility.

Perhaps when the human situation reaches its lowest ebb, people decide that change must be dramatic to shake us out of the doldrums.

Whatever the reason for these steps in the right direc-

tion they offer us hope to overcome obstacles closer to home.

If Israelis and Palestinians are attempting peace, surely we can live in harmony with newly-arrived immigrants.

If former communist states are offering people freedom, then surely we can set new examples. That people who are free also have the right to food, shelter, education and opportunities to improve their lives.

Let that be the legacy of the 1990s.

Hospital seeks support as abortions ongoing

An open letter to the people of Markham and Stouffville,

The directors of the Markham-Stouffville Hospital are presently soliciting donations from individuals and businesses in this area to support the hospital fundraising campaign. Although we acknowledge that the hospital is providing a service to our community in some areas, we nonetheless question the integrity of a hospital board which would allow abortionists to be on staff, abortionists who deliberately kill about 200 helpless unborn children each year.

Distressed expectant mothers should be offered practical and emotional help, but the hospital board, at the annual meeting in June of 1992, refused to even consider the implementation of a program of "Informed Consent," whereby the mother is given information regarding the abortion procedure, and advised of the alternatives.

Common sense dictates that it is only when a person has all the facts regarding a situation that he or she can make a wise decision, and these mothers are denied the truth about abortion.

You have a decision to make. You could give your money to the hospital, while they continue to kill more babies, or you could wait until the policy on abortion is changed, to ensure that the life of every human being who enters the Markham-Stouffville Hospital is respected.

Your decision whether or not to donate to the Markham-Stouffville Hospital at this time must

Editor's Mail

be based on the above.

The "choice" is yours!

Jerry Young, Director
York South Right to Life
Association

Editor's note: The Markham Stouffville Hospital responds: The resolution (informed consent)

put forward at the annual general meeting on June 23, 1993 dealt with issues which are specific to the physician-patient relationship and as such are not duties of the hospital. Neither the hospital nor the board of directors of the hospital have authority to specifically interfere with or direct conduct of a physician's clinical practice. Because the content of this resolution clearly fell outside the jurisdiction of the annual general meeting and the hospital board, it was ruled out of order. The process of obtaining informed consent is a fundamental element of the relationship between physicians and their patients.



Sports is half mental 99 per cent of the time

If I ever needed a brain transplant, I'd choose a sports writer's, because I'd want a brain that had never been used.

Norm Van Brocklin

Good old Norm was a football player back in the 60's who was known for long yards and a short fuse. He was especially quick-tempered around sports writers. Especially when they asked stupid questions.

Which sports writers do a good deal of the time. But then, look what they have to work with.

After all, million-dollar short-stops and megabuck goalies don't exactly have to be Rhodes Scholars to do what they do for a living. Aside from their God-given ability, athletes only need about five cliches to deke their way through the average sports interview.

"Knuckles, how much would you say each player is giving out there, today?"

"Ummmmm, I'd say a hundred and ten per cent, Floyd."

"And how are you going to finish the race for the pennant?"

"Uhhhh... we're gonna play it one game at a time."

"And how would you describe your teammates?"

"I'd say that they came to play, Floyd."

"What about your opponents?"

"Uhhhh... well, ya gotta remember, they put on their skates/cleats/running shoes/jock straps one leg at a time, Floyd."

"And what's the most important thing to remember when you're bearing down on that goal/hoop/one-yard line/dart-board/pool cue?"

"Duhhh, I'd say 'concentration', Floyd"

Somebody once asked the great Gordie Howe if he was bilingual. Gordie replied, "All hockey players are bilingual — they speak English and profanity." Well, some athletes are trilingual. Yogi Berra comes to mind. The famous Yankee catcher spoke a dialect so convoluted and esoteric that he was its only known practitioner. Some famous Berraisms:

"You can learn a lot by watching."

"If the people don't wanna come out to the ballpark,



Basic Black

Arthur Black

nobody's gonna stop them."

"A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore."

"Ninety-nine per cent of this game is half mental."

Yogi wasn't the only sports figure to mangle the language. When someone asked Georgia basketball coach Hugh Graham to describe his philosophy, Graham replied:

"It's not how good you can play when you play good. It's how good you play when you play bad and we can play bad as good as anyone in the country."

With raw material like that, it's no wonder sports writers strike out once in a while.

But perhaps not for much longer. I shudder to report that there is a new computer program available from a firm in Missouri. It's aimed at newspapers which regularly carry high school football summaries, and it kind of cuts out the middle man — which is to say, the sports writer. What the Zybrainics Sportswriter Program does, is submit a questionnaire to the coach of the team. The questionnaire has spaces for Opponent, Game Date, Game Location and Weather.

Then, it has a series of blanks, preceded by questions such as: In comparison to our talent, opponent was: Clearly inferior/roughly equal/clearly superior.

Assessment of your team's performance (coach's quote).

Game winning score or play. Quarter/time/description (start with player name).

The MacDonaldization of sports reporting. It had to come.

Reminds me of the story about the excuse Milwaukee Brewers infielder Jim Gantner used to explain why he missed a scheduled interview on a radio show. "Jeez... I clean forgot. I musta had ambrosia."

ADAM

Adam

by Brian Basset

