

# Trip west gives student chance to reassess

The War Amps says: It's time for...

It was late Tuesday night when Mike Peters finally rolled into the driveway of his Goodwood home, some two hours after touching down at Pearson International Airport on a delayed flight from Calgary, Alberta.

He was greeted by his mother Mary, who embraced him in the type of hug only a mom can give after four months of separation from an emerging 20-year-old offspring.

Back in early May, Mike and my son Shane stowed their back packs and guitars onto a jet plane and headed west in search of summer jobs and a change of scenery. They both landed on their feet, taking jobs at hotels in the scenic Jasper area. The work wasn't glamorous and the money wasn't great, but they worked double shifts and kept expenses down by rooming with others who were similarly employed.

While Shane's experience as a housekeeping crew member resulted in his finally learning to make a bed properly after all these years, Mike's employment in a hotel kitchen equipped him with valuable gourmet cooking skills. This is bound to add to his marketability with the opposite sex in these days of gender diversification. He is now able to undertake every step in the preparation of an exotic salmon dish, from filleting the fish through seasoning and cooking. Although he admitted that after a summer spent catering to the whims of fine diners, he would be more than happy to partake of Mom's home cooking for a few days.

As people their age are inclined to do, Shane and Mike arrived home with little time to spare before departing east to Ottawa to set themselves up for the school year at Carleton University. While Shane will begin his freshman year, Mike is embarking on year three and has established himself as a paid employee with the university newspaper. But it could well be a politically softened version of the old rightist-leaning Mike they see at the paper this fall.

For it appears that Mike, an ardent young Tory before going west last spring, had his head turned around upon witnessing firsthand Ralph Klein's bare bones approach to balancing Alberta's budget. In fact, Mike admitted during the drive home that after seeing Kindergarten and school bus service become pay-for-service propositions in that province under Klein's stingy rule, he may well have converted from a hard liner to a Red Tory. He went so far as to allow he had even read a book by former national NDP leader Ed Broadbent during his time away!

His message to Ontario premier Mike Harris, whose campaign promises and early actions have drawn the obvious



From where I live

Bruce Stapley

comparisons to Klein is to draw the line and attack the overall economic structure before putting his slash and burn

machine into high gear. I'm sure that if Mike finds that Harris is cutting too deep into the flesh of what he sees as Ontario's essential services, he'll write about it in the Carleton University newspaper!

There's nothing like a venture into someone else's back yard to help a young firebrand reassess his own turf. The engineering students at Carleton might just have to find themselves another ally in the local press.

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