

Comment

Take time to talk to young job applicants

If the energy of our youth could be harnessed into potential for this country, where would the borders stop?

This is the time of year when young graduates look for summer employment to help pay for further education. It's also the time when college graduates look for full time work dreaming for a job related even remotely to their field.

This newspaper has a longstanding policy to give future journalists a chance to get experience in their chosen careers. We offer co-operative positions to both high school and college students. As well, we offer local readers the chance to write an article or take a photograph for publication. This helps them create a portfolio which in turn helps impress prospective employers.

Young people today need more industries to open up their policy and stretch out a welcoming hand to students - if not to hire them, at least to give them a taste of the business.

Too many graduates are discouraged. They are sending hundreds of resumes and receiving few in reply. How much better to take the time to telephone or interview the ones in your own neighborhood - take the time to tell them about your business

and any ideas you may have to help a young person gain a foothold.

It is difficult for the inexperienced to realize that they have skills, attitudes

and knowledge that are in demand. Energy and enthusiasm are not taught in school. They can be harnessed first into a job search and then into the career of

choice. When you receive that resume or telephone call, take time.

It could be just the tonic your company needs.



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Federal, provincial and municipal politicians lie

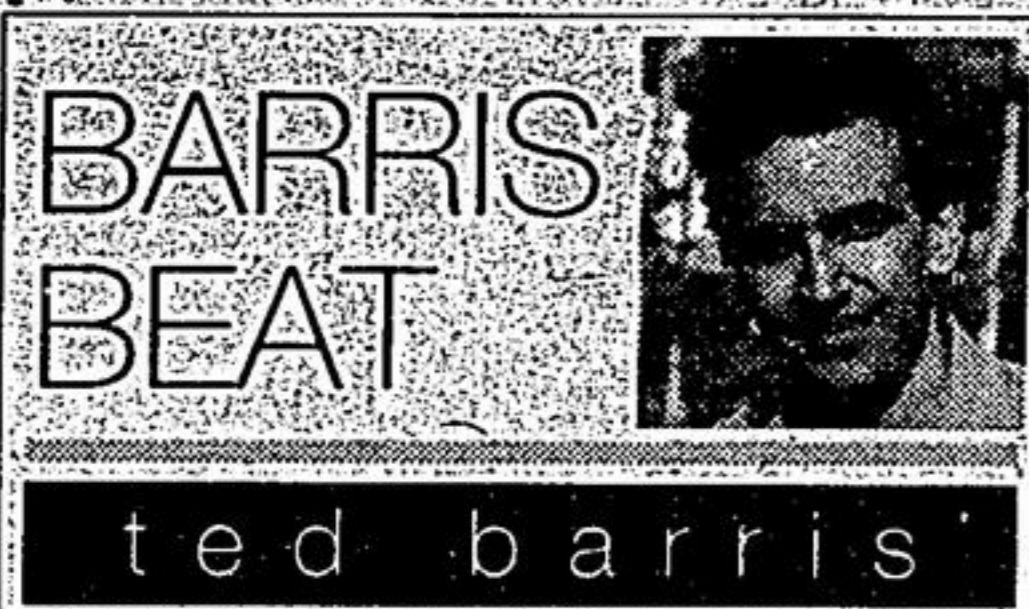
Okay, let's talk about lying.

Nobody on the planet goes through life without telling a lie, uttering a fib, or fudging the truth at least once. Heck, I remember once as a teenager claiming I was at school, when I was really in the city watching an X-rated movie.

But today, as an adult, I could never get away with lying - not to fellow journalists, not to my friends and never to my family. Lying is the highest form of hypocrisy. And a civilized society doesn't tolerate it - unless you're a politician.

Last week, the federal Liberals got into hot water over their 1993 election promise to scrap the Goods and Services Tax. All the top ministers have now claimed they promised no such thing. And while the Liberal reneging cost John Nunziata his caucus seat (because he wouldn't go back on the campaign promise) ministers Chretien, Martin and Copps carry on in a kind of virtual reality devoid of consequences.

What is it about political life that gives its personalities immunity from the socially unacceptable practice of lying? How come they can do it and nobody else can? Ironically, it is the legislative assembly which displays absolutely no tolerance for any accusation of lying. Members are regularly tossed for calling one another liars. And yet, it is the occupants of that assembly - whether Premier Harris claiming he would never make health and education cuts, or Sheila Copps claiming she never threatened to resign over



the GST - who have made a mockery of truth.

There is the same kind of institutionalized hypocrisy rampant at the board of education cham-

ber in Oshawa. At a recent public question-and-answer session there, representations were made by various groups in support of programs destined to become part of Mr. Harris's non-existent education cuts.

Parents and students who spoke before the board were rudely dismissed by the chair and told their questions would be "addressed" by the board's budget committee. "Addressed"

is a fancy way of saying that the public's questions would not be "answered" at all, merely collected, filed and forgotten. In other words, the chair and the board have no intention of answering the questioners' criticisms or constructive inquiries.

In plain English, they lied. I am not advocating revolution here. Canada is civilized enough to correct the imperfections of governance, without having to

resort to the kind of anti-government paramilitary paranoia we've seen in the United States lately. But we cannot allow any among us to live above the law or to administer without truth.

Lying is wrong. If it is unacceptable and unethical for citizens to go back on promises or to dodge legitimate questions that affect the lives of others, it should be the same for our elected representatives.

Poets mysteriously silent on subject of cheese

Once reviled as a subversive, anti-family-values, pre-adolescent fink, Bart Simpson is now being hailed in some quarters as one of the great visionaries of the late 20th century.

His deeply thought-out philosophical entreaty, "Don't have a cow, man," has become the essential end-of-millennium caveat for the thinking person who wants to live long and prosper.

And what was initially regarded as a mindless, if amusing, little rant has been transformed by recent events into a sort of mission statement for humanity.

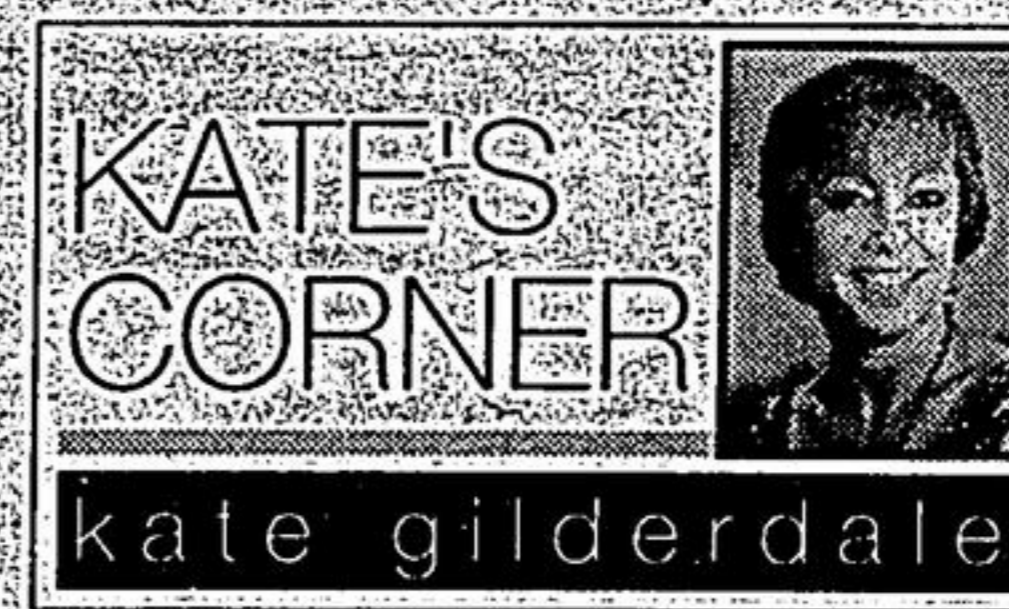
Fail to follow Bart's sage advice and you dice with death in a variety of ways. Just because your brisket isn't British doesn't mean it won't kill you or, at the very least, cause lasting damage to your health. Undercooking your steak or burger, even if it's Canadian, could give you a

nasty dose of salmonella.

Overcooking it, by contrast, increases the risk of stomach cancer threefold, according to yet another gloom and doom scientific report released last week. But maybe all this furor is just a political ploy to take the bite out of the cheese crisis.

My father-in-law, who died at the age of 80, risked his life daily by consuming vast amounts of killer cheese, the ripier and smellier the better. Some of it was so mature, it would come when you whistled. Every time we visited my in-laws, we unknowingly laid our own lives on the line.

As several people have pointed out, however, the controversy over raw milk is not new. It's been a number of years since the specialty cheeses available at most commercial outlets have resembled the delicious camemberts and bries of yore in every aspect except taste.



Made with the non-homicidal milk which renders them not only blameless, but bland and boring, they provide all the evidence you need to understand why people persist in eating the stuff which has not been purified to government standards, and which therefore contains a minuscule health risk.

Since most people who prefer cheese with real flavor are adults, perhaps the answer would be to stock such rogue combustibles behind the counter in pharmacies.

The risks of consumption could be documented in detail by the pharmacist and the purchaser required to sign a wai-

er absolving the seller from any blame attached to sudden death by dairy product.

Or maybe we should get doctors to prescribe a controlled amount of flavorful cheese for true addicts who find themselves unable to kick the habit. While it is surely true, as G.K. Chesterton observed, that "Poets have been mysteriously silent on the subject of cheese," it can still inspire intense passion in the heart of the serious foodie.

As I recall, this government was elected in no small measure on its promise to ban the GST, not brie, a mandate it has sadly failed to honor.

Perhaps it should focus on its original cause célèbre and leave grown-ups to take some responsibility for their own well-being.

Don't have a cow, Mr. Dingwall.
Let them eat cheese.