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Comment & Opinions

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EDITORIAL

Don't neglect safety

At this, the turning of the year, thoughts are very often turned to areas other than our own safety. With visions of sugarplums dancing in our heads, it is easy to set aside common sense and prudence.

Each year, we regret to publish the incidents arising from holiday season neglect.

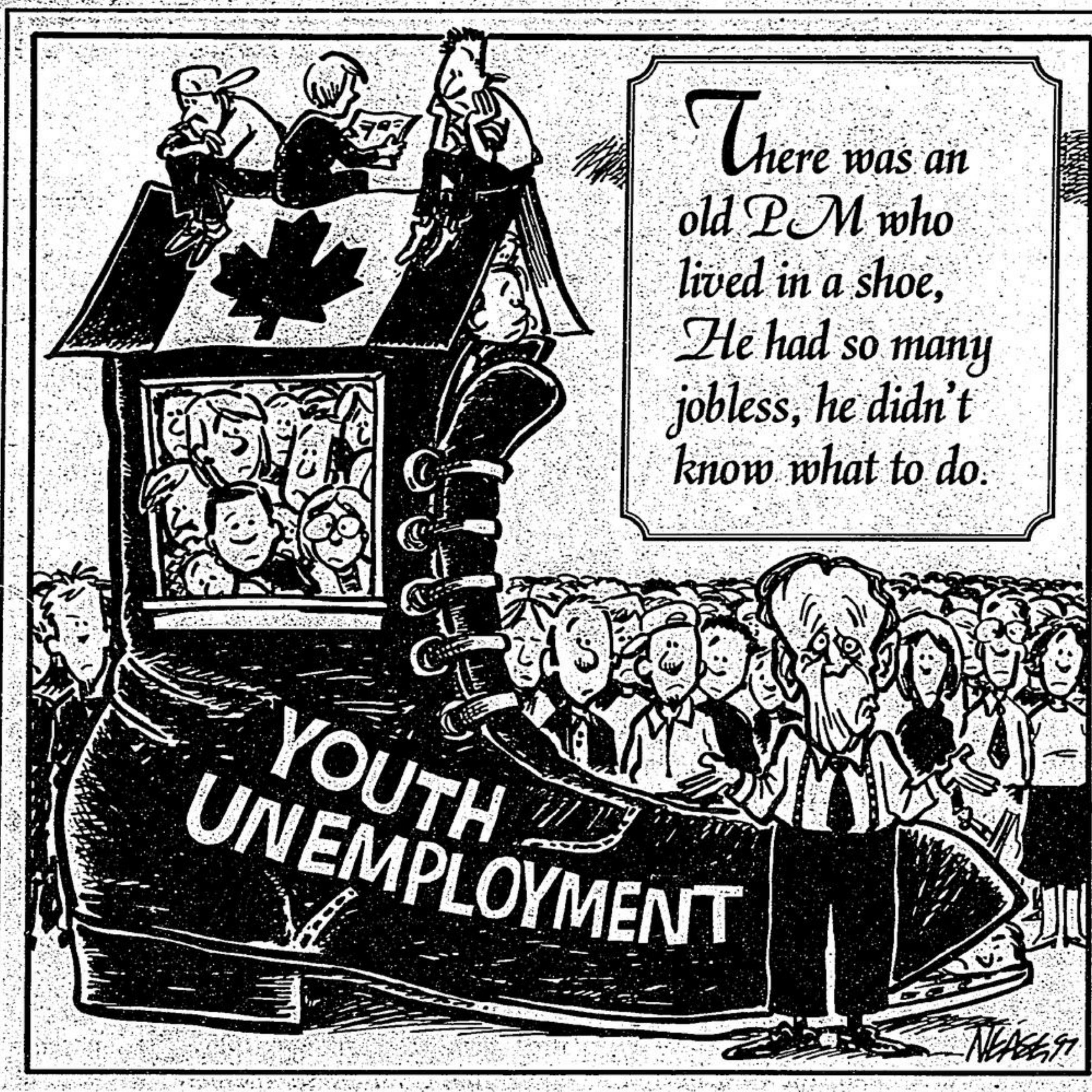
Scarcely a year goes by without our having to notify the public of tragic Christmas tree fires or neglected cigarette fires, of stove fires or careless wiring fires. We regret having to print horrible accident details resulting from drinking and driving, of senseless domestic disputes resulting from alcohol or monetary disputes.

But it is not just careless adult acts which we see each year. It was announced in the Toronto media that Sick Kids Hospital is warning parents to expect up to three hour delays before seeing a doctor at this time of year. Parents, apparently, have so much on their plate, that watching the children becomes even more difficult.

Also, parents run themselves ragged, allowing either lapses in safety or their children's health to be affected. However, in order to preserve some semblance of holiday sanity and because of reduced general practice clinic hours over the season, many parents bring their children to the hospital for treatment of the most minor ailments, clogging up the already-taxed health care system.

Planning, some foresight and an eye to safe practices will help to reduce the number of tragic events over the holidays.

There is much we can do to make the days merry and bright, if only we took a moment.



Everybody's trying to be bald these days

*I do not consider myself bald.
I am simply somewhat taller than
my hair.*

~Anon

Let me throw some names at you: Sean Connery, Donovan Bailey, Patrick Stewart, Michael Jordan, George Foreman, Sinéad O'Connor, Mark Messier, Evander Holyfield.

Notice anything those folks all have in common?

It's more what they don't have in common: Scalp foliage. Dome fur. Head hair. Every person on that list sports a noggin as naked as a cue ball in a wind tunnel.

Not only are they bald — several of them are voluntarily bald.

Basketballer Michael Jordan, singer/nutbar Sinéad O'Connor and

hockey legend Mark Messier could still put away their Gillette razors and grow bushels of hair if they cared to. They don't. They opted for baldness.

Finally! After centuries of bad jokes (not to mention wretched wigs and toupees) — bald is chic.

And not just with human skulls. What's the trendiest building an upwardly mobile metropolis can throw up these days? A dome!

Seattle's got the Kingdome. Houston has the Astrodome. Here in Canada, Toronto and Calgary boast the Skydome and the Saddledome respectively.

I tell ya, for a guy who's had a wide part in his hair since before Wayne Gretzky could skate, these are, um, heady times to live in.



Basic Black

Arthur Black

Seems like just about everybody's trying to be bald these days. Where I live, the hit of our Fall Fair last September was Bevan the Barber. That's because he showed up, clippers in hand, and proceeded to shave the heads of our entire fire department and police detachment. Every officer (men and women) cheerfully agreed to have their heads shaved to raise some money for charity.

Now, there was a time not so very long ago when all of those folks

would rather have lost an arm than appear bald in public, but no more. Bald is In. Glory be.

You can't imagine how sweet this latest fashion development is for those of us who have had to go through life as 'follically challenged' persons.

Oh, it's not being bald that's bad. That's easy. The hard part is the lame jokes we have to endure from our fur-infested, less-evolved brethren.

"Hey, baldie ... is that really your forehead or did someone forget to turn a floor lamp off? Heeyuk."

"Don't walk too close to the budgie cage. He'll think you're the egg that got away! Har har!"

"Hey! Izzat the top of yer head or didja clear a runway for mosquitoes? Nyuk Nyuk!"

The bummer is, no matter how dumb the joke may be, bald guys are expected to react like they've just heard a killer one-liner from Dave Letterman.

Otherwise you get branded as a poor sport.

Am I bitter?

Nah. I'm just sorry it's taken the rest of mankind so long to figure out something we "natural" baldies have known for years:

- That what's hair today can be gone tomorrow.
- That we're not going bald: we're gaining face.
- That a bald man is an honest man — you can see he's got nothing to hide.

Take it from a guy whose medicine cabinet is free of mousse and hair gel and expensive, useless hair restorers — balder really is better.

No fuzz — no bother.

Ordinary citizens — stand up for Canada

Dear Editor,

Is it just me? Or are there others out there who love this country?

I know, it's Christmas time and people are busy with 'getting ready' for the big day. So am I. But, how many of us understand what is going on with this great country?

We are in a state of what would happen if Quebec really did separate. Have you really thought about it? Is it possible, that if they did, could we still be a country? Hardly. Four maritime provinces apart from us!

Oh sure, we read every day in our newspapers and other media how the federal ministers rebut Quebec ministers — but what about the people? When are we going to get into the debate — when are the

ordinary people of Quebec going to get into the debate?

Locally, when we have a problem we get together and talk about it, try to solve our differences, and nine times out of ten the problem can be solved.

But we have to talk about it. We have to get involved.

I don't think a lot of people realize what the outcome would be if it did happen. Many say either they couldn't care less and others say the politicians will solve the problem.

I don't think the politicians alone can solve the problem.

LETTERS

So the question is — "Do we care?"

Let the politicians decide, perhaps some would say we would be better off. Think about it.

We are a country that the world says is the best country in the world. Believe me, if there is separation, it won't be.

It's about time the ordinary citizen stands up for this country.

Let's get together, let's talk about it, let's try to save the best country in the world.

Sometimes it's just a small community like Stouffville that can, with other small communities solve the problem.

Are you interested?

George Lovett
Stouffville

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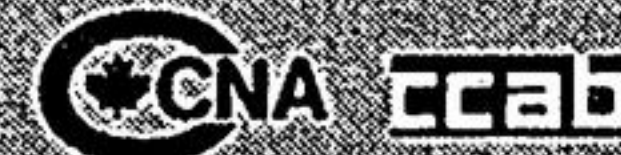
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