

SPORT

Johnson-Jonson light up inquiry with tales



The audience at the Dubin Inquiry couldn't take anymore of Ben Johnson's testimony.

Dr. Ballard, we presume?

BY BRENT PLAYNE
The Grope and Flail

Toronto Maple Leafs owner Harold Ballard received a honorary doctorate from the University of Toronto yesterday.

Despite receiving the generous reward, Dr. Ballard was in no mood for celebrating. He was still down on his Maple Leafs, who finished last in the hapless Norris Division.

"Now that I'm Dr. Ballard, I can say that my team is playing like dog food and everyone will

believe it," the Leafs owner said in his acceptance speech. "I think it's high time this team had less gravy and a lot fewer chewy chunks of meat. When I was their age, me and King (Clancy) would feed our dogs fish bones and water.

"Those dogs had fire in their eyes. They had a zest for life because they were always hungry. The Leafs don't give a damn whether they win or not, just as long as they get their money," Dr. Ballard said.



They were throwing dog food at Maple Leaf Gardens.

BY BILL DALLAS
The Grope and Flail

The Dubin inquiry came to a climax yesterday as its star witness, shamed sprinter Ben Johnson, began his testimony with a bang.

He opened his testimony by admitting that he is the reincarnation literary giant Ben Jonson, who died over two hundred years ago. Jonson was known for stories like "Bartholomew Fair".

"When I died, I decided to become reincarnated as an athlete," said Johnson. "Unfortunately to do so, I lost much of my intelligence in the transference. I think that is why I got caught in Seoul.

"I was tired of that writing gig," he continued. "I'm certainly making more headlines for my stupidity as an athlete than for my pomposity as a writer."

Johnson also said that his whole

stable of agents, trainers, and lawyers were "carnies"—people who have been reincarnated.

"We carnies like to stick together," joked Johnson, who said that he is in his seventh life form. "You just can't trust you first timers." Johnson went on to say that Charlie Francis was previously the St. Francis of Assisi, and Dr. Mario Astaphan was Marilyn Monroe.

"Mario was tired of the blonde bombshell stereotype so he terminated his contract, went back to the nether regions and bought the contract for a Caribbean doctor," claimed Johnson. Astaphan was not available for comment.

Johnson justified his use of steroids by thinking he'd be the most famous reincarnated person who ever lived—twice.

"Many carnies can be famous once," says Johnson. "Shirley

MacLaine was nothing until this life. It really takes a lot of energy to be famous in two different time periods. If I would have won the gold medal, I would have been the most famous person in the nether regions.

When asked why Jonson's literary works, like Bartholomew Fair, haven't been received as well as others authors works, like William Shakespeare, Johnson came up with a quick answer.

"Shakespeare blew his wad," Johnson said. "He had enough talent for three of four lives of fame, but he blew it on a pompous poet gag who wrote suggestive tales. Heck, if he was a hockey player, he could have been a Gretzky. He was a one-life wonder.

I spread my fame out. Jonson was mediocre when compared with the best of his time, but I have created more fame than I ever believed," added Johnson.

Ex-Leaf's Cup hopes excite T.O.

BY V.D. CARRIER
The Grope and Flail

Torontonians are all set for hoop-la and glory as an ex-Toronto Maple Leaf is on the verge of winning a Stanley Cup.

Lanny McDonald, who was traded from the Leafs in 1979, has scored at least one point en route to a Stanley Cup victory for the Calgary Flames. Calgary is somewhere west of the centre of the universe - Toronto.

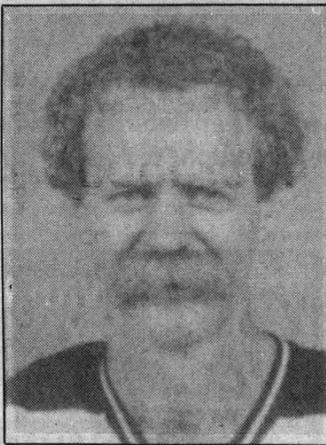
The people of Toronto are very happy to see an ex-Maple Leaf in the playoffs. Said Pal Hal Harold Ballard, "What more can a old fart like me ask for? Lanny will probably maybe possibly win a Stanley Cup, and all my other guys are having a great season on the golf course. Wendel was only three over yesterday!"



Harold Ballard

Dr. Ballard was later more humble when he thanked the university for the honorary degree.

"Now that I have a doctorate of laws I can negotiate on an equal footing with that SOB (Allan) Eagleson. I also won't have to hire those fancy dressed lawyers fresh out of the U of T who bilk you out of your life savings. You never know when you have to change your will. Oh yeah, thank you," said Dr. Ballard.



Lanny McDonald

The Leafs, recent Stanley Cup winners - victorious in 1967 - are proud that one of their offspring may soon finally maybe be wearing a ring comparable to Wayne

Gretzky's many.

"He may be playing for another, obscure team now, but it is fer sure that Lanny got his skill and finesse and leadership abilities when he was playing for Toronto," said Leaf Coach George Armstrong.

Veteran Leaf Borje Salming agreed. "Ja visst ar Lanny en underbar spelare, men han var aldrig sjuk och han korde rikligt duktigt också nar han var i centrum av universen - Toronto," said Salming.

McDonald spent almost seven seasons with the Maple Leafs, playing in 477 games, scoring 219 goals and 240 assists, and receiving 372 minutes in penalties. In 1977, he was named to the second All-Star team. Word has it that he done okay playing for Calgary as well.

"People were upset when we traded Lanny to Colorado but in the long-run, it's a good thing. He going to win us a Stanley Cup isn't he," said Ballard.

Depending on the results of last night's game, Calgary only needs to beat Vancouver once or twice more (which of course they will do) to win their division semi-final. Then Lanny and his teammates only have to beat a few other teams to win the Cup.

actually for Ontario.

Waine Greazly, a hockey player for the Lost Angles Chicken Wings hockey team said "I was disappointed that they did not wake me up. A new category for myself and my work on the team is just being taken too personally. I love hockey, and I think that I will just forget about casting my vote for myself next year."

Len Lather, a hockey coach for the Edmonton Boilers is not about to let this little mishap get in the way of winning the next Oscar. "I know that I will come out a winner and we will be better off without an Oscar this year. They cost too much any way."

Lats and Gretz duke it out again

BY AL CRACKIN
The Grope and Flail
WINGSTOWN, Ont.

If Canada's next minister of communications does not have a majority in the House of Commons behind him, Canadian actors' chance of winning Oscars is going to be extremely tricky and difficult.

"There are hazards in forming a government that ignores the Oscars each year. Every time I bring it up in the House, they all laugh at me. I do not know what to do," stated minister of communications Marcia Masse who appeared at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Awards a few days ago to accept an award for all of Canada, but