

EDITORIAL

Callous bombing

There was a bitter twist to last Sunday's Remembrance ceremony in the small Northern Irish town of Enniskillen. An IRA bomb - allegedly detonated by a British Army scanning device - killed eleven people and injured dozens of others. In a statement to the press, Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams extended his condolences to the families and friends of those who were killed or injured in the blast. "I do not try and justify (the) bomb", he said. "I regret very much that it happened."

Even though the bomb may have been intended to kill members of the security forces, the callous nature of the attack has appalled those who were previously sympathetic to the IRA's commitment to end British rule in Northern Ireland. The casualties of the bombing included Catholics and Protestants, pensioners and children. It was the worst terrorist attack in the Province since 1982, when an Irish National Liberation Army squad machine-gunned Protestant churchgoers.

The irony is that just three weeks ago, a smug and self-satisfied British Army spokesperson claimed that the IRA had suffered a severe set-back following the discovery of over a ton of explosives in a farm house in County Tyrone. If Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary is to be believed, last weekend's bombing represents a change of tactics on behalf of the IRA. Tom King claims that the IRA is reacting to a succession of defeats earlier this year.

But why bomb a Remembrance Day ceremony? Admittedly, a few Irish Catholics feel that the ceremony is merely an excuse for the people of Ulster to re-affirm their contentious allegiance to the British flag. But in a Northern Irish context, Remembrance Day means more than that. It serves as a monument to the absurdity of war in a country that needs no reminder. So next year, the people of Enniskillen will have another reason to wear their blood-red poppies on November 11.

Racism

The ongoing Royal Commission investigation into the wrongful murder conviction of Donald Marshall has made a laughing stock of Nova Scotia's judicial system and the RCMP. At best, Marshall's trial and eventual conviction could be regarded as a gross miscarriage of justice: at worst, it was a blatant example of racism.

The inquiry has raised a number of interesting questions? Not just in a judicial sense, I hasten to add - but in the way the Indian is perceived by white society. Coming from Sydney's Membertou reserve, Marshall would have known about racism. But even though things have changed since Marshall was a teenager, Indians from the reserve still feel uncomfortable making the short trip downtown.

Band Chief Terry Paul was quoted recently in *The Globe and Mail* as saying that racism is alive and well in the city of Sydney. Referring to the Marshall case, he said, "We want to show the Canadian public what we have been dealing with here. Hopefully, they will understand that the problem extends a lot further than what has happened to Donald Marshall."

Even in a supposedly enlightened society, Indians are still victims of racism. Here in Atlantic Canada, the Micmac and Maliseet peoples live in marginal communities. Not so long ago, I was talking to a young lady who has lived in Fredericton most of her life. "I'd never seen an Indian, and I didn't even know the St. Mary's reserve existed", she admitted. This lack of contact has invariably fostered certain stereotypic images - most of which probably led to Marshall's eventual conviction.



Mugwump

By RICK HUTCHINS Journal

Ah yes, to be back mugging wumps again, shoveling crapola for your reading pleasure.

Last night I watched "Sargeant Peppers 20 Years Ago Today" T.V. special. It was a special treat to see Timothy Leary preach "Turn on, tune in and drop out," I mean, today that's just not practical. How about a new slogan for the student of the eighties, maybe "turn on the computer, tune in the VCR and drop the Michael Jackson L.P.'s" (how radical)!

Seriously, the year 1967 was something else. There was war in Viet Nam, drug culture in San Francisco and free love everywhere. The Beatles were prophets, along with Ravi Shankar and Bob Dylan, everyone was rebelling from something. It's unfortunate how little has changed. I mean there's war in Iraq, Iran, and Lebanon; cocaine has replaced heroine; AIDS has made "free love" into "safe sex"; and our prophets are still predicting doom. I miss the Beatles. Hell, I miss free love, but most of all I miss the optimism. That "people power" can move mountains.

If you like music (I mean real music), don't miss the double Blues Band playing next Friday in the SUB. It's not often that a top flight rythm and blues band makes it to Freddy Beach (these guys actually be-head a Madonna doll in the opening set).

Well, it's finally going to happen. After writing over 1,000 letters Mark Braithwaite is going to appear on an upcoming episode of Family Ties. On this particular show Mark plays a "yuppie" executive who convinces Alex to invest all of his money in a new clothing company that manufactures "Alf" wear. The investment is so profitable that Mark gets abducted by PTL extremists and held for \$10 million ransom. Alex refuses to pay the money and Mark becomes brainwashed by Jim Baker. As the show ends we find Mark trying to convince Alex to become a born again Christian Dior.

Final Note: Dear Frank, now that you are premier can we get Boxcar Willie to write a new provincial song?