

your next class.

But if they are good, and Con-

ventional Emotions by Lesley

Choyce is more than a good col-

lection of short stories, they only

until the book is finished and

there just isn't any reason to pick

in Canada on Satuday is gone.

you went to school with, who

what is his relationsip between

Mock chicken? says the old

his sandwich and himself.

swing from tree branches, who

people on the bus, those crazies up with tenderness and light.

up that development theory.

**Conventional Emotions** 

By Lesley Choyce

Cretive Publishers

Subscribe Today!

**CANADIAN DIMENSION** 

## Canada's Socialist News-Magazine

8th R3B floor 1K2 apart at the expense Orwell devised a world where

man. What does it all mean? It means mock chicken.

Might as well say it straight. Choyce can take his characters out of Lakehurst, New Brunswick, or away from the charging wind of Bras d'Or Lake in Cape Breton, but he can't convince them that Halifax is the place to be. Lakehurst's Boone Callick and Cape Breton's Ronnie Mac-Nab know that people in Halifax make them feel like puking, and those people in Ottawa are just as bad: Ronnie says that Pierre Pisshole Trudeau himself could come knocking at the door and tell him Al McEachern had taken provide that nice break from Jesus country couldn't run withdevelopment versus modernizaout a Cape Bretoner and Ronnie tion theory, an escape from Marx McNab was the only man and versus Smith. And they are short still Ronnie would have said to enough to let you pretend that his wife, "Kaline, won't you offer soon, you too will buckle up and Mr. Prime Minister a cuppa tea read that two hundred pages for and then ask him to be on his

Choyce's men in Conventional Emotions are always on the way somewhere: to home, to Halifax, to school, to visit their girl, hitchmake you want more, and more, hiking across Canada only to turn back at Alberta. They drive their own cars and know how to fix them. They listen to their professors and know when to quit They know all about lust and god good friends, and they acknowledge their parents.

I wish some of these peole were in my classes. They know the despair of living in the Atlantic, but they don't talk in terms of regional disparities. They might Conventional Emotions is have heard of Marx, but they almost like riding home after would think you were talking high school on the bus, sitting about Mark so-and-so, who between your two favorite people smashed his head up against the in the world at the moment, reliv- dashboard after losing his brakes ing the Sunday drive to the States on an iced up Renous highway to pick up some American beer turn. And they could tell you and some Tickled Pink, a Yankee growing Christmas trees as a version of Baby Duck, to drink development project in Cape because all the alcohol you bought Breton just wasn't as nice as having Kaline opening up the back Choyce's characters are those door and having your world fill

hate their teachers, who fall in love with their best friend's girl, and who go to school in Halifax. Lesley Choyce was born in Riv-And they are the people you see rside, New Jersey in 1951. He in your classes everyday, believ- moved to Canada in the late 1970s ing what their professors tell and now lives in Nova Scotia. He them, and tring to be like their is the editor/publisher of Pottersprofs by going down to the Public field Press, and teaches part time Gardens to ask an old man just at Dalhousie University.

## Read.

By JOHN GUSHUE

(CUP) - Postman wrote this book during 1984, a year during which academics and media analysts were drawing a frenzy of connections between George ...trying to improve Orwell's novel of the same name television is a futile and the more frightening realities activity, as long as of modern society. Postman gives Orwell his due, but also notes the our education similarities between the oftensystem is allowed to compared Nineteen Eighty-Four continue falling and Brave New World are not as simple as they appear to be.

apart at the expense terror was imposed through the deprivation of pleasure. Huxley of television. on the other hand, feared terror could be as easily created through the excessive supply of pleasure. And it is Postman's theory that

Huxley, not Orwell, may turn out to be right.

Postman - a respected New York critic and educater is a prophet's prophet; he draws simple lines between Orwell and Huxley, to media seer Marshall McLuhan, introducing their warnings and predictions together before delivering an alarming message of his own.

Amusing Ourselves to Death By Neil Postman

Simply put, Postman fears the methods of learning and communication are not only changing, but are radically deteriorating.

Perhaps the subtitle of the book best illustrates his point - 'Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business'. Drawing on the intellectual and historical property of centuries of civilization, Postman

isiness would work so much

harder that government would

be able to recoup more revenue

om the increased economic

tivity than they lost from the

ginal cut in taxes. Such uto-

an views of fiscal policy have an

nitively appealing quality.

However any tax cut must be

atched by an equal cut in

overnment spending. This

irned out to be impossible to

achieve. Everyone wanted the tax

cut, but no one felt inclined to

hand over their share of the social

security blanket. The result was

that with lower tax rates and

higher government spending, the

ion as government scrambled to

With the military a simple

fudging of data allowed for the

continuation of lavish 'spending

banquets'. This was all achieved

at the President's expense. As

Stockman writes, Weinberger, a

Harvard-trained cabinet officer,

turned presidential meetings into

the intellectual equivalent of

Sesame Street, using cartoons to

Illustrate his points to the

Ultimately, Stockman blames

deficit ballooned to over \$200 bill-

borrow the difference.

President.

makes elaborate and impressive attempts to show a society dependent on Eyewitness News. Johnny Carson and Miami Vice is a society going down the tubes.

One of the strengths of Postman's work is an extensive use of historical background. To prove that Americans of 200 years ago are of a society more passionate about learning, literacy and debate, he provides lengthy examples of the popularity of pamphlets, newspapers, journals and rousing public arguments in Ben Franklin's New England before discussing the dearth of same in today's media and

Unlike many media critics, Postman doesn't take shots at the type of show that people watch; for him, trying to improve television is a futile activity, as long as our education system is allowed to continue falling apart at the expense of television.

Postman is not an obsessed

wet

The perfect political mentality - that of a football coach, combining the will to win with the belief that the game is impor-

- Eugene McCarthy

## By PAT SAVAGE

In The Rainmaker, Keith Davey has chosen to tell us very little about the history of the Liberal Party over the past 25 years. This is disappointing because Davey has been around so long and done so much, that we expect more of hime

Director of the Liberal Party from 1961-65 and then appointed as liberal senator, Davey has been intimately involved in the running of seven of the past nine liberal campaigns. He has served three different Liberal prime ministers, and survived two of them to go on and manage future campaigns. In the Liberal Party, Keith Davey is the Mr. Fix-it.

So when The Rainmaker reads like Jean Chretien's Straight From the Heart, a selecton of anecdotes lacking analysis or thought, Davey has fallen short of

For example, Davey describes a 1964 meeting between the Liberals and the NDP to discuss a possible merger. "There was much agreement about policies, programs and dirctions, but equally much disagreement about political philosophies and the practicality of such a merger." That is political parties in Canada!

son was first elected prime n The most divisive issue of the 1963 election was whether Canada should accept American nuclear weapons on her soil.

example of the rhetoric and exposition that people are losing the ability (and desire) to contribute

Postman is more critical of television reformers than of the people who churn out demographic ally-designed programming. A case in point: he agrees Sesame Street, the wunderkind of children's programming, is educational, but argues that what the show really teaches children is not so much how to learn, but how to

man, bent on wrecking television

sets to cast out evil demons; rather,

he offers his own writing as an

love television.

And, Postman argues, the television industry is adept at maintaining a child's addicition by maintaining a satisfactory level of child-like television for lifetime consumption. In other words, television hasn't grown up, and probably can't.

Postman is also a teacher's teacher; he is passionately concerned about education, and his arguments seem to carry more weight because of committment to the quality of learning in our schools. While calling on teachers to not use television as a teaching

tool, he also advises everyon remember the importance of reaing in the learning process, the importance of the medium in our culture.

Postman is just as concerned about the future of a society that relies on television advertising and newscasts for the information on which to make important decision, such as that for a presidential election. Ronald Reagan is admired as the Great Communicator, not for his ability to administer or govern. (Reagan himself seems like a prophet: Postman uses a 1966 quote of Reagan's -

and no. Postman seems to conclude. He fears the prominence of television as a deciding factor in so many features of Western society, from decision-making to cultural policy. "No medium is excessively dangerous if its users understand what its dangers are," Postman writes. It is comprehension and independence that we could use more of, and not another banal TV show.

FOR POLITICS SENATOR 1

This decision is seen by many to be of great importance in Canadian history. George Grant went on to write book about what this decision represented for Canada because they have seen the rouged face of power."

Davey's comments on the situation refer only to the profitability of such a move. "It was

Subscribe to:

be placed on American guided missiles already on Canadian

> By Senator Keith Davey Stoddart Publishing Co.

Lament For A Nation. The Pearson reversal prompted Trudeau o postpone and reconsider his entering the Liberal party. Trueau also went on to describe the liberals as opportunists who tremble with anticipation the party appreciated Mike Pearson's stated action plan. People

and her demise as a nation -

obvious that both the public and were ready for bold stroke and Mike Pearson met their wish. 'We are never told what Keith Davey, a self styled, reformliberal, Canadian nationalist thinks. Rather, he seems more concerned with the public reaction to the bold stroke than the ramifications which it carried. Patronage is one issue where

we do know what Davey thinks. When Davey asserts that he 'never did get up to speed when it came to patronage," the rest of us can only marvel at the speed he did attain and the apparent ease with which it was achieved.

In 1979 the Liberals were preparing to go to the polls but had no one to run their Ontario campaign. Davey picked a fellow called Royce Frith to run the Ontario campaign. As Davey tells us, "The Senate was the price Royce asked, to become our 1979 Ontario campaign chair, since it neant giving up a lucrative law ractice. It was a good deal for all

Davey's book also has an aggravating schoolboy flavour to i throughout. Beginning with the illustrations that are all autographed by his friends with cryptic notes - which I'm sure mean something to Keith Davey.

He tells us of pranks he played in college, such as packing a tiny tories meeting with liberals and getting the word progressive deleted from the Progressive Conservative constitution. The day Trudeau resigned, for

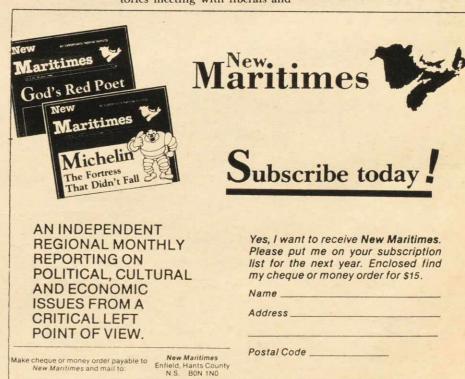
the first time in 1979, Davey tells us that Jim Coutts, himself, and a bunch of cronies went out to a restaurant. "For no reason at all I said to Coutts, "I'll bet you're afraid to throw this chocolate cream bun at that guy over there.' I had no sooner said it than Coutts had looped the thing right out of the alcove and smack on top of the bald pate of our

Now what the hell is Davey telling us this for? Is is meant to show the spiritual loss he felt at the loss of his leader, or that, 'hey, we're just as crazy as everybody else." Either way it seems it is these crazy little tricks that turn Davey on about politics.

This love for the comraderie and scheming, strategic side of politics could make for an interesting study of a particular kind of politics, however even that

Davey's strategy on approaching an issue during an election would be humourous if it weren't so sadly obvious that it has also been universally accepted. If you opponent calls you fat you don't respond by saying "I'm not". You say "you're bald", and that's the level of debate we've come to expect and accept in Canadian elections.

It is disappointing that Davey has written the book he has. He was in a unique position to comment on the recent history of the Liberal Party, decisions it has reached and why. Instead he tells us little that had not already been told. The Rainmaker just isn't worth the read.



Plus ca change. . . en suggested that people and By RICHARD HOWARD

How big can government grow and how much should government control? These are the main questions posed in David Stockman's book, The Triumph of

Stockman, the director of the Office of Management and Budget under the Reagan Administration until his unseemly demise in 1984, argues that American government is inextricably linked to every facet of the U.S. economy. He paints a grim picture of the workings of American bureaucracy. Tariffs, subsidies import restrictions and private intrest groups all stifle and distor the free market system

The Triumph of Harper and Row

the triumph of politics is essentially over economics and common sense. Government follows a single entry bookkeepig mentality. Every single interest group, union, and depressed area clam-ours for handouts while simultaneously demanding less government intervention and

Stockman cites two glaring examples of government waste. The first is Social Security, demographic time bomb which threatens to drain every cent of future tax revenue unless drastic changes are made, the second is military spending which under the direction of Caspar Weinberger ('Cap the Shovel'), topped 1.46 trillion dollars over a three year

This is where supply-side economics falls flat on its face. The main tenet of supply-side theory was that a decrese in the marginal tax rate would stimulate overall economic activity. People would\_ work more because they were taxed less and business would invest more because after tax profits would be higher. It was

both Reagan his inability to ffectively delegate responsibily, and the self-seeking interests congressmen and senators for he failure of supply-side econmics. The paltry tax cuts that eventually did get enacted came oo late and were eroded by inflaion. Government subsidies were never altered and 'pork barrel' politics remained alive and ntact. Supply side economics ailed because while internally logical, it could never be successfully grafted onto the American conomy. Stockman, disillusioned with the entire decision making process, jumped off the boat of fiscal conservatism to seek solace in the arms of Liberal Kevnesian) Democrats

The Triumph of Politics is an excellent description of American bureaucracy and the mentality of those who pull the strings. Stockman is a man with formidable intellectual powers and this fact ais not lost on the reader. It merely serves to sustain the old adage the more thin change, the more they stay the same.

all Davey, one of the Liberal Party's main strategists at the time, has to say about the possible merger of two of the three major The 1963 election, when Pearter is also skated over quickly.

The Conservative Party under John Diefenbaker said no. Pearson reversed the Liberal position of the past and decided that if elected, a Liberal government would allow nuclear warheads to Brqadside A feminist monthly newspaper providing analysis of politics, arts, updates, comment and \$16:/10 issues

Broadside. PO Box 494, Station P, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2T1

10 The Dalhousie Gazette, Thursday, October 9, 1986