James Bailey

Karl Schuessler

the cracks.

Stewart Page

ties versus skinnies

I am sad to report that my normally idyllic existence was drastically altered last week by some appalling news: I'm 12 pounds overweight, a discovery which means that once again I will be forced to undergo the merciless discipline of dieting, to get both down to my former, svelte 154-pound self.

Only those among you with a weight problem will understand. The others — those heartless, metabolically overactive types who can consume a pepperoni, bacon and mushroom pizza without the slightest twinge of guilt might find their interests better served in the sports pages of this newspaper. Should you remain with me, you may, in fact, be offended.

Not that I have anything against skinny peo-ple as individuals. They are probably as morally upright and pleasant as we chubbies, but they could not possibly have the same degree of intestinal fortitude. After all, they have not had the years of experience we have had in self-denial, in turning down desserts, re-

ecting ice cream cones, and passing by bakeries without so much as a sidewards glance. Their gluttony is our strength.

Obesity also instills a more astute apprecia tion of human nature at an earlier age. Every fat kid is ripped off by the sharks of the mens wear seas when he first goes out to make a clothing purchase on his own. Feeling em-barrassed about his size anyway, he is duck soup for the cold-eyed commission salesmar who fits h1m out in the wrong size, then glibly informs him that it's his body, not the suit, that is all wrong. It's great preparation for his adult encounters with those same sharks who will try to make him feel cheap for not buying a \$300 suit, while they themselves are sporting a \$39.95 Woolco catalogue special. Usually it needs a

The trouble with having a natural proclivity for going to fat is that you can never really relay. That bottle of beer or ice cream bar or

chocolate layer cake today means you will have to cut down on something else tomorrow. Ley your attention waver from this fundamental truth for a couple of months and bingo you've gained 12 pounds. Give it anothe six months and you become "heavy set" to your friends, "fat" to those less amicably inclined

Once again you are forced to grin mindlessly as various wits, certain of their originality, mouth 'blimp'' jokes - all in good fun, of course, heh,

As one who has been on both sides of the invisible but very real boundary between fat people and everybody else, I am often surprised at the animosity with which the later sometimes view the former. Conversation about the fat person's size or recent weight gain is made in the same hushed voice which might he used to discuss sexual aberration or criminal conviction. Exclamations like "My, you've certainly gained weight" are made by people who

would never dream of commenting unfavorably about other defiencies in physical appearance

When's the last time you heard the statement. "My, the veins in your nose are certainly standing out this morning" or "My, your acne is becoming much more noticeable."? It's as if being fat was a morally reprehensible state which average-sized people can comment upon with impunity because they have exercised the will-power to stay slim. Nonsense, of course. Most fat people got that way by maintaining the same lifestyle as everybody else instead of following the permanent starvation diet which is their preordained fate.

And the number of average-sized people who join the fat group later on in life as their metabolism slows down suggests that nature, not self-discipline, is what kept them thin when they were younger. Or, to put it another way, the proof of the

pudding is in the eating

Mississauga legal capers

ber 26, 1975

- 47

auga Times, Wednesday, Novem

John

Stewart

The Miss

There's no truth to the rumor that Mississauga is considering changing its name to Sault City in the wake of legal actions taken and threatened in the last few weeks. That's just a vicious snippet being circulated by lawyers, expert in such municipal changes, who are feel-ing left out in the cold as the litigation limousine rolls by: I uness they probably have a visit to complain the I guess they probably have a right to complain, too. Why should the slander, libel and character assassination

buffs have all the fun? Although the suit by Chic and James Murray alleging a conspiracý among five of those involved in the judicial inquiry has gotten most of the publicity, several other people, including former town planning com-missioner Harry Petschar and former Public Utilities Commissioner A. J. G. Leighton, are having their lawyers look into the possibilities of issuing writs. It wouldn't surprise anyone if the "other side" in

this most adversarial of all adversarial encounters also asks for its day in civil court.

It's getting to the point where people start ducking out whenever they see a politician and a lawyer speaking together at city hall. It used to be when you were told that the mayor or one of the councillors was "being served" that you figured a secretary was getting somebody a coffee. Now you have to ask if a court date has been set

Mississauga is becoming known as one of the few places where a politician doesn't have to go to a clothier to get a brand new suit.

The way things are progressing, councillors may have to consult their lawyers before they make any statements at meetings. Maybe Mississauga could import Groucho Marx to chair its regular sessions. When a councillor makes a statement determined to be subject of a possible suit by an off-stage panel of distinguished legal minds, a rubber chicken would descend from the ceiling. Cable 10 could start calling its council broadcasts. "You Bet Your Career.

Pretty soon, we could have councillors really taking the gloves off on procedural matters. Instead of pussyfooting around with "points of clarification" and points of personal privilege" they may come right out with points of defamation and points of character

Where else but good old Mississauga are recesses in council meetings exciting interludes where legal notices are served with that personal touch that means so much? And where else do citizens have the thrill of speak ing to their elected representatives, sure in the knowledge that every delegation is a potential con-

spiracy In honor of our new-found legal notoriety, perhaps we should put up some of those cutesy-pie home-spun rhymes you sometimes see on the signs announcing you are entering a municipality.

How about something along the line of:

Hail to Mississauga, home of the meek Where we'll wear the suit if it fits, may not be old, but we are unique Our history's recorded in writs. Or something more fanciful such as:

There was a young mayor of our town Who vowed to reform with renown Inquiries he made became a crusade

For the lawyers, the judges and clowns



Hurrah for the mail strike! talk in a strange language; they shift into foreign gears; and they put down in print what ed you for your service connected disability is Mail strikers, that's alright. You don't have

to settle. I don't mind. Keep away, keep my mail box empty, bill free, clutter free. Who needs all those sales ads? Those free offers? Those thrill-of-a-lifetime promises if I tear out this sticker and return immediately? I don't miss offers like that at all. And

another thing I don't miss is all those business letters that make my world go around. I know I should be impressed with some of

those letters — embossed paper, well-blacked ink, catchy letterheads, all signatured and secretary initialed.

But those expensive-looking letters don't do anything for me. Maybe it's because I don't erstand them. Those h siness letter writers

educated: a sophisticated con man with a sense

of humor. For instance, while he and The Family, his girls, were in the business of

nurderers Juan Corona or Richard Speck,

Manson was somewhat more discreet. He usual

ly managed to get someone in The Family to

murder for him — under the spell of his "hyp-notic powers," as the girls put it. They thought

he was Jesus Christ. They did everything Charlie told them to do. Charlie even

The Family preached that death was beautiful because Charlie was Christ and

Charlie believed it The Family however, did

not act as if death was beautiful. They did not

kill each other, for example, and they did not

commit suicide trying to savor the ripe aroma of dying. They are, however, either known or

orchestrated their sex orgies for them.

confirmed and continued." The man wrote back in plain English,

they would never dream of saving out loud. One man wrote that "each year a certain "What the hell does all that mean?" The reply came. "There is no change in your physical conamount of preventative maintenance should be performed on asphalt driveways to prevent the dition and so you still will not get any money That's what I like about the mail strike It outward migration of localized failure areas. connects people directly. There are no pieces to When asked what that meant, he replied, "Fix

tie them up into verbal kinks. Now if people really want to do business Why can't he say in print what he says in mouth? Why can't letter writers talk to me in-stead of battering me with words? Why do they they have to come and see me or telephone Then we can talk sensibly, so we'll understand each other. Then we can put aside all those words that can only parade and pomp around in print, that never could make it in the talk to write back to an army veteran and say, "The world

Then we can put aside all the secretary's cliches and put Miss Brown - and her boss to rest

"Take a Poem, Miss Brown" We beg to advise you, and wish to state That yours has arrived of recent date We have it before us, its contents noted; Herewith enclosed are the prices quoted. Attached you will find, as per your request, The sample you wanted; and we would suggest Regarding the matter and due to the fact That up to this moment your order we've lack-

We hope you will not delay it unduly, beg to remain yours very truly

weird and cruel man

Charles Manson was not a "typical" mass murderer, according to Vincent Bugliosi, his prosecutor. Manson was intelligent, though unall, Fromme is now the acting head of The Family until Charlie gets out. She writes to, and receives letters from, Manson nearly every day. Bugliosi has also stated that Fromme must have known that Charlie would be "pleased" at her attempt on Ford's life. For Charlie, Ford is the murder-for-pleasure, Manson actually applied chief "pig" in the U.S. for two credit cards, listing the 16 Family members as "dependents." Unlike mass

build word fortresses so I can't get in?

Is there any reason why a government has

ation heretofore

at was Manson's motive in 1969 in ordering Patricia Krenwinkel, Susan Atkins, Charles Watson and Linda Kasabian to kill actress Sharon Tate, as well as her friends Abigail Folger, Voytek Frykowski and Jay Sebring What was his motive in ordering The Family to murder Leno LaBianca, a Los Angeles super-market millionaire, and his wife? At Manson's rial, the prosecution did not have the burden of proving motive," that is, the "why" of the killings. Bugliosi tried to do so, however, since if Manson and the girls were acquitted (they tried to murder a couple of prosecution too), the evidence indicated that they'd continue on as before.

According to Bugliosi, Manson believed he was all powerful, a seer. He once wrote to Richard Nixon asking that the president turn

for the Jewish problem. He also, like Hitler, felt the world was about to be consumed by an allout racial war - blacks versus whites in a bloody holocaust. Charlie believed that when the war began he'd be able to take The Family back to the desert in Death Valley, where they'd be safe in a "bottomless pit" he figured was out there somewhere.

Manson became concerned the war would be on schedule and ordered the Tate-LaBianca murders to get things going. While Atkins, Krenwinkel, Kasabian, and Watson were on their way to the Tate residence, Manson and other Family members were preparing for the move, gathering supplies for the trip out to the bottomless pit, to escape being caught in the middle of the race war

Neither social scientists nor psychiatrists understand Charles Manson. He is in a class by himself. How could he premeditate, rationaliz and successfully order others to murder at least nine people, and probably more? The theorists say he had brainwashed them, that is, he kept carping on the war theme. It gave The Family members some sort of explanation and rationale for the murders. They then thought

from the war. When Atkins' pregnant victim pleaded for the life of her baby, Atkins looked her in the eye and announced, "Look bitch, I have no mercy for you!"

Manson, as of August, 1969, had spent half of his 33 years in prison. He is, however, a walking example of the need for penal reform. He once begged prison authorities not to let him out again. "Prison is my home," he said. But the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that Manson convicted of nine counts of first-degree murder cannot be executed, since death is a "cruel and unusual punishment' and thus uncon-stitutional. He, with Atkins, Krenwinkel, and Family colleague Leslie Van Houten are serving terms of life imprisonment. The Buglios prosecution team had asked for, and got, the leath penalty for these defendants. Court was told that there were no mitigating circum stances, no indications that mercy had been shown to the victims, nor could it therefore be

any crime in history deserved the death penalty upon a conviction, it was this one. Under present law, Manson will be eligible for parole in 1978. apply

recommended for the murderers, and that if

le. There are even so in California of 35 pe who feel that Lynette Fromme's recent attempt e life of U.S. President Gerald Ford was really ordered from prison by Manson. After

cted of being responsible for the murders

he offered Bugliosi the spot of vice-president. Manson was anti-semitic and thought Hitler was a "tuned-in guy" who had the "right idea"

death was no different from life. Atkins, for example, said she stabbed Sharon Tate because of the "love" in her heart; she was saving Tate

Mr. Page is a psychologist at Lakeshore **Psychiatric Hospital.**

for tradition

Stealing

There has been a lot of shoplifting in London, lately, and a great deal of it is being done by foreigners, and a great deal of that again by people from Asia, particularly from the Middle East. British newspapers and police reports tell us that these people find the sight of vast profusion of goods so openly displayed quite irresistible, with the result that they go through the department stores helping themselves to anything that takes their fancy. Now when I was in London I too noticed — and was

helped by the newspaper reports to notice — that people from what are called "backward countries" find themselves so startled by the fact that everything in a department store is within easy reach and so pleased by the fact that nobody seems to be looking that they immediately want to slip a few odd articles into their

However, what makes the situation odd is that it is the rich, sophisticated people who are often involved in shoplifting. During the recent six-month splurge of shoplifting by foreigners that occurred in London, the average foreign shoplifter turned out to be well-heeled. Among these shoplifters were two princesses from the Middle East, an accountant who had \$20,000 on him at the moment of arrest, the wife of a millionaire, and the wife of the director of a big oil company. None of them was a kleptomaniac. It wasn't that kind of compulsion that made them do it. Perhaps they were out for a high old time, and although they had plenty of money they felt that they could budget their high jinks better by sav-ing on their shopping in this manner.

From my own knowledge of Asia, however, I have evolved a theory about these shoplifters which, I think, is probably more correct than any other. You see, it is nost de rigueur in Asia that if you go abroad you must bring back a present for every one of your 32 uncles and aunts and your 68 cousins. Now some of these people you don't like, some you positively dislike, and you can't see yourself spending good money on them. So this is the best way of complying with tradition without wasting best way of complying with tradition without wasting your own money; set up another tradition — of shoplifting — to solve the problem caused by the first tradition. Then, when you get back home, you can give your friends and relations their bottles of perfumes and their ties and pens without feeling that you have been robbed. True, the department stores have been robbed; proper interview of the test of the solution o

Tony Abbott

A bleak November

November days are frequently dull, cold and depressing, even with the promise of Christmas not so far away. Yet many I have spoken to find this November as bleak a time in history as can be remembered.

Everywhere one turns there is something discouraging: the postal strike, the economic conditions of the country and the resulting wage and price restraints, the teachers' strike in Toronto, the recent rise in gasoline prices. The list could be extended but I think the point is made

POSTAL STRIKE

As a Member of Parliament I have quite properly received numerous phone calls and telgrams regarding the mail stoppage. I realize there is growing disgust and a sense of outrage that a public service such as the mails should be suspended for so long. I share this sense of out-rage and can say little when a constituent of rage and can say little when a constituent of mine tells me that his particular type of business verges on collapse. What can anyone say to this? I have stated publicly that I believe it an intolerable outrage if even one tenth of one percent of business in Mississauga should suffer irrengrably because of the strike. Howefully, and percent of business in Mississauga should surfer irreparably because of the strike. Hopefully, out of this debacle will emerge an improved postal service with a responsibly-led union. Anything less would make the current price paid by Condition insurence table.

Canadians insupportable. The ironic fact about the dispute is that no one — the public, workers or union leaders — has any doubts that the \$1.70 per hour offered by the government is final. It is to say the least a od offer, providing the workers \$68 a week on eek or \$3,536 a year. The fringe nefits are also extremely gene

The real issue then is why do the union leaders persist in maintaining the strike when they must know that their members want to accept the package and get to work. I have spoken to several postal workers in Mississauga accept who have assured me of this fact. One postal veteran of 24 years said that the votes leading up to the strike were rigged and that he resents the whole manner in which the union leaders have acted. He encouraged me to support a move to make future strikes in the post office illegal.

Many people are encouraging me to sup-Many people are encouraging me to sup-port a move to legislate a return to work as has been done in the past. Though I would most cer-tainly support such legislation if it were in-troduced, I am persuaded it would not get to the root cause of the issue. Legislation is the solution craved by the leaders of the postal un-ion who want desperately to be taken off the hook. It is they, under suspiciously un-democratic conditions, who have caused the oc-currence of the strike. Unless their powers are voluntarily curbed by the union itself, there will voluntarily curbed by the union itself, there will never be stability in the Post Office.

Last week in Parliament a proposal was made to order a free vote of the members of the union. With this I am in full agreement and believe it should be enacted. Almost certainly in one form or another, the postal workers will in-sist on their will being carried out.

WAGE AND PRICE RESTRAINTS

Something over a month has passed since the price and wage control legislation was in-troduced to Parliament. Since then the bill has been before the finance and trade

Briefs were submitted by many groups, in-cluding labor unions and associations. It is profoundly disappointing that the major labor groups are not prepared to give the legislation a fair chance. They have shown themselves con-stantly unwilling to consider the merits of the program. It is an irony in my view that if the program fails and Canada becomes uncompetitive as a trading country, the worst im-pact of a recession will fall on the industrial workers. Certainly, there can be differences of nion on the details of the bill. The leader of the opposition, Robert Stanfield, acknowledged this when he described any such program as 'rough justice." The Progressive Co "rough justice." The Progressive Conservatives believe, contrary to the government, that the program should be concluded after 18 months. It is a matter of judgment and I would be inclin-ed to support the PCs in this respect, believing that the continuing the transformed for the support of the program of of restraints should be discontinued as soon as possible.

The finance minister takes the position that there should be a review after 18 months, but not a promised discontinuance. I remain hopeful that circumstances will make continuance beyond this point unnecessary.

In the Nov. 19 edition of The Times, Mr. H. H. Clappison objected to points made in my last column on the wage and price restraints as be-ing the "old party line." I cannot accept this interpretation, although I do not disagree with all the points he has made. Principally, he argues that it is government that must take the blame for inflation not the private sector. He claims government must be blamed for debasing the government must be blamed for debasing the currency and financing "a myriad of welfare

programs." Without question the federal government must shoulder a large part of the blame for domestic inflation, that is inflation not imported from abroad such as quadrupled oil prices. The government itself has acknowledged this and will be announcing sharp cuts for 1976. In addition, hiring will be sharp cuts for 1976. In addition, hiring will be limited and salary increases will be within the wage guidelines. I also agree with Mr. Clap-pison that it is shocking to read of shameful ex-travagance, such as the money spent on the opening of Mirabel Airport. I do not agree with him that last year's pay increase for MPs falls in this category. Since the 33 percent paid to MPs was the first since 1971

the effective increase was about six percent per-year. If wages and prices had maintained this level over the same period we would clearly not require a wage and price program. In 1974, when Robert Stanfield sought elec-

in 1974, when Proper Stanfield sought elec-tion on a program calling for a 90-day freeze followed by, controls, I was opposed. I do not think a freeze does anything more than suppress inflation, only to have it break out in a more virulent form later on. I frankly remain skep tical that the program we have now is going to work. But I do think we have to make an honest effort to make it work and to break the ineffort to make it work and to break the in-flationary psychology. Believe me, I did not enter public life simply to be a purveyor of the "old party line." I have as great a desire as anyone to see that my children inherit a stable, progressive democratic society. But such a society won't be achieved by accident. It will only be if we want to make it happen.

Mr. Abbott is Liberal MP for Mississauga.