

James Bailey

Interview with a cloud

In the wake of Mayor Martin In the wake of Mayor Martin Dobkin's call for a judicial inquiry into alleged malfeasance concerning the operation of city government, there have been charges that a cloud has unjustly spread over all our municipal politicians. To determine the truth or falsehood of those charges, I decided to interview that mysterious figure, the cloud

mysterious figure, the cloud

Bailey: How do you feel about the charges that you've unjustly spread over all the dedicated public servants at city

Cloud: Well, man, it's like this. When you're a cloud, you don't have much choice how you spread, dig? I mean, I don't try to spread justly or unjustly, I just spread, know what I mean? It's not

Bailey: So you feel the charges are un-

Cloud: Man, we clouds are used to unfair treatment. Have you ever met anyone who liked clouds? I mean, you dudes all get off on a sunny day, but have you ever had a good thing to say about

I'm fair with you, but you're just not Bailey: Why do you say you're fair

Cloud: You mean you don't know? Man, you're too much. Just take a look. When Dobkin made his charges, did I spread evenly or not? Well, did I? Bailey: I don't follow you.

Cloud: Hey, man, I could have changed the whole complexion of this thing just by a little concentration, as we call . No, not concentration, I mean, like, concentrating my particles over a few selected heads, so the cloud over some

that would have been sooty of me.

Bailey: In other words, you feel you could have had a significant effect on the outcome of the judical inquiry

Cloud: No doubt about it, man. People don't appreciate the importance of clouds. You take your average politician. If I hang over him dark and heavy, he don't go nowhere. I mean, you take your Tricky Dick Nixon, he was just boppin along, feelin' fine until people started sayin', ''There's a cloud over the presidency.'' Didn't take too long, it was all over. By the way, I don't like to brag, but that particular cloud was my brother,

Bailey: If you stay away, then the politician continues to be successful?

Cloud (exasperated): Man, you got to get yourself together. That's a dam fool question for a dude in your line of work. If a politician has no cloud at all, then none of the other politicians trust him, so he can't get nothin' past them. The trick is to get just the right color. Bailey: You mean. Cloud: Not too white, not too black,

just a nice, off-tone kind of grey. Gets ou to the top every time.

Bailey: Other than color, what sort of

tricks are there to being a cloud?
Cloud: That's about it, man, I mean it's not the most creative gig to get into, if you dig. Course, you can hang high or hang low, which sometimes makes a

Bailey: Again, I'm afraid I don't

follow.

Cloud: If you say a cloud is hanging over city hall, it's like the situation is serious, but not hopeless. When you say a cloud has descended over city hall, man,

Bailey: I never realized you had that

Cloud: I try to be responsible about it, man. Like I'll hang in most times, but I never descend unless I've confirmed my information from at least two reliable sources. You'd be freaked how many promising political careers have been destroyed by irresponsible descending...

know what I mean?
Bailey: I don't want to seem impolite, but I'm certain a number of our local politicians would be interested in know ing how long you plan to spend in

well, man, it's like this. I'm like all the other people who work around city hall. I dig working here, and I got no complaints, but I think I'll be moving along after a while — for a better Burned up

Rusi

Billimoria

Would anyone like to spare some sympathy for Mr. Tom Dawes? His is a hard lot, indeed, as revealed by him in a tearful Dawes? files is a hard lot, indeed, as revealed by min in a learnin letter to a Toronto newspaper. The letter complains of "a conspiracy against the individual who regularly enjoys a cigarette," the conspirators being the tobacco companies for printing "ominous health warnings" on cigarette packages, "the cancer, heart and respiratory disease societies and foundations which indevertently(?) support this ploy," and the people who, when Mr. Dawes cannot refrain from smoking in an elevator, give him icy stares. Such mean people!

The letter then ends with this heart-rending cry against man's inhumanity to Mr. Dawes:

"Even the most hardened non-smoker must experience a

pang of sympathy for the poor wretch who, faced with a 20-minute nicotineless ride from Islington to Yonge, inhales frantically before casting his unfinished cigarette on to the platform and diving headlong into the compart-ment through a nine-inch space between the closing

Well, Mr. Dawes, I sympathize with you, or to be more precise, I pity you. It is indeed utterly pitiful to find a human being so without self-control, so enslaved and addicted to an unhygienic habit that he cannot stay away from this habit for even 20 minutes without going to pieces. And even more than I pity you, I pity your victims, those mean people who must suffer the fort and the harmful effects of your lack of consideration

But then whoever heard of a smoker worrying about anybody's comfort except his own. Here is Miss Gale Garnett talking in a thoroughly addlepated manner in one of her

"Before you start legislating who's going to be thrown out of the movie houses, let's have a bit of democracy. Take a survey. Poll a cross-section of men and women between the ages of 18 and 45 and find out if the smokers out-

number the non-smokers. I have a hunch they do." Bravo, Miss Garnett! This is really democratic of you, if we assume that in a democracy people under 18 and over 45 don't count or that the democratic method of arriving at a majority verdict is by excluding from voting all those who might oppose the motion. "Don't get all superior," she says to the non-smokers, as if they are the aggressors and not the victims, and adds that if she is going to die from the damn cigarettes, it's her business. She simply will not understand that in the process of dying she is killing innocent bystanders too and is making a

thorough nuisance of herself with her "damn cigarettes."
Miss Garnett should read the report of the U.S. Interstate
Commerce Commission on how harmful secondand smoke is
to others. She should also read what another female columnist

has written in the same paper for which Miss Garnett writes:
"One individual's freedom should stop where the
other person's begins. The right to breathe clean air during public transportation is surely where the next person's freedom begins." son's freedom begins.

I am not attempting to reform smokers. Their addiction is their misfortune. But I question their right to smoke on any form of public transport, in department stores, in bookshops and, especially, in indoor places where people gather to eat or to be entertained. This is where government has got to be forced to introduce effective legislation instead of merely paying lip service to the idea by issuing endless warnings. I should have the right to watch a movie or have my meal in a restaurant without being forced to choke over the smoke blown at and around me from the dirty nose or throat of any of these addicts.

This nose-and-throat-defecation (and you won't find a more accurate definition of smoking anywhere) should not be per mitted in such places

Stewart

John



Questions

Mississauga's Concerned Citizens' Committee has indicated intends to look into a number of civic concerns which might be of interest to the residents of our community

However, I'm not sure at this point whether the committee However, I'm not sure at this point whether the committee members are addressing themselves to the proper problems. For instance, they have announced that they are going to investigate what, to my mind, is a totally justified and long overdue increase in the Credit Valley. Conservation Authority

budget. Here are some questions which might prove of more pressing concern to most Mississaugans: Why isn't council charging admission to its chaotic deliberations, especially considering the hordes who have taken to descending on city hall recently?

Why can't construction stop at the Southdown traffic circle

in rush-hour to avoid traffic backups of infuriating proportions both north and south of the QEW? How can provincial Housing Minister Donald Irvine call this city a "no growth" municipality in the face of the facts to the contrary, and why is Premier Bill Davis suddenly reconsidering his government's position on the Madoc garbage site and the Malport piggyback terminal, both of which affect his

riding directly How come you get vertigo every time you walk south on Highway 10 from Dundas St.? Why did the powers that be decide to make the Dundas St.

Why did the powers and be detected that strip a pilot project for irreversible urban blight?
Why doesn't Mississauga have a professional sports team, or a facility to accommodate one, when places like Green Bay, Wisconsin, with less than half our population have an NFL

Why isn't there a place to have a beer in Mississauga in a relaxed, unassuming atmosphere such as the one in Oakville's Halton Hotel?

How could a Peel regional committee recommend that the next regional chairman be appointed from the present council plus the present appointed chairman instead of by popular elec-tion, or at least from among the new council as the provincial government has decreed?

why does a centre of activity such as this community have only one radio station which goes off the air at dusk, no television station and no required daily newspaper?

Why don't Hazel McCallion and Martin Dobkin, Ron Searle

and Lou Parsons form a professional insult-comedy tag team?
Why do noisy, rude delegations to council automatically expect that because they represent a certain block of votes they

pect that because they represent a certain block of votes they should get their way, no matter what the consequences of council's action might be?

What justification can there be for the democratic inequity that sees Mississauga footing over 70 percent of the bills for Peel region and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, while having less than 50 percent of the representation at the region, and actually being outvoted on CVCA by five northern villages? The villages have a good deal less than 10 percent of our population.

our population.

How can mayor Martin Dobkin, who has done such a good job with civic policy matters, continue to blunder in his ap proach to other areas of his job — his trip to Europe, his public

berating of the concerned citizens, and his appearance in a radio advertisement promoting the Mississauga News? Why is it that 95 percent of the citizens of the city don't seem to be interested in any issues until their taxes start to increase substantially?

Finally, even though it's a little far afield, I wonder if the Concerned Citizens' Committee could figure out why nobody in the world seems to be able to beat that snivelling southpaw brat

Dr. Stewart Page

Morality and the lock-up

Critics of mental health practices have focused much of their attac practice of "civil commitment." the practice of institutionalizing a person against his will, and without any immediate legal recourse, although he has broken no law.

In Canada, a person may be committed if a physician deems him to be mentally disordered and "dangerous" to himself or others. A person behaving unusually, but who is neither dangerous not sick, might be labelled eccentric. A person thought dangerous, but not necessarily sick, could be labelled a potential criminal. A person considered to be both sick and dangerous would fit the legal requirements of civil commitThe "proper" disposition of persons in the remaining category, that is, persons who may be sick, even grossly dis turbed, but who do not appear to be of danger to anyone, invites legal and moral debate. This latter category continues to account for a high percentage of com-

However, if such mentally ill or otherwise disturbed individuals, whose counter-productive behavior is socially unacceptable, could not be legally treated against their will, then a con-siderable number of persons will exist for whom alternative treatment or management strategies must seemingly

be sought.
It has not been clearly demonstrated by anti-civil commitment writers how

families and mental health personnel may deal satisfactorily with difficult, real and immediate clinical situations and still adhere to the high ideal of non-

coercive treatment.
Some observers have proposed abandoning mental institutions in favor of "cooperative retreats"—pseudo-resorts where people could "get away from it all." These observers do not deal with the involuntary measures, that is, with the moral question of whether a person might validly be forced to enter a

'cooperative retreat.' The strategy of restricting psy-chiatric hospital in-patient beds has also been suggested. However, this has been criticized by many psychiatrists on

rounds that, among other things, it would increase the number of mentally ill persons in jails or prisons. Moreover, making commitment difficult to obtain, making commitment difficult to obtain, as in California, may well bring cries from the public, spurred by visions of "patients loose in the community."

Also, many of the people who work in mental hospitals and who value the security, protectiveness, and fringe benefits of public service, protest toward any suggestion that their places of employment be "phased out" in favor of 'treatment in the community." Nor can private centres or general hospitals han-dle many psychiatric cases, especially the more troublesome ones, nor do they wish to, since this is taken by them to be "the job" of the mental institution

Pious appeals to mental health authorities to eliminate the "moral crime" of civil commitment makes no more sense than demands from a minority that the chamber of commerce stop "exploiting" girls in beauty contests, while many other community elements, such as parents, modelling agencies and the contestants are helping to stage these

very events.

No established social practice of the community is likely to be eliminated through moral arguments of a minority, while the practice is otherwise being tolerated, established and maintained by the majority, especially as the latter may be held to constitute, in the area of men-tal health, the real client of the mertal health establishment and hospital.

Leslie Robinson

In praise of Stephen Lewis

province. A young province. Its wealth

and resources and possibilities in human terms are incalculable."

That quote was from Stephen Lewis ments after he was elected leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party in

Lewis first entered the legislature as Lewis first effected the legislature at the member from Scarborough West following the 1963 provincial general election. At 25, he was one of the youngest members ever elected to Queen's Park, During his first seven years in the legislature, he became wide ly known as the NDP spokesman on health and welfare, education, labor and

correctional services From 1961 to 1963, Lewis served as the NDP's first national director of organization following the party's founding convention. Even as a history stu dent at the University of Toronto, he was

and Lester B. Pearson.

After university, Lewis spent two
years in Africa — teaching at a high school in Ghana, establishing another school in a Nigerian village and working in the bush with university extension students. He later travelled across the continent to East Africa, where he lived

and taught in Uganda and Kenya Lewis has often been acclaimed the best orator in the legislature, even by mbers of opposing parties

'The NDP leader's reputation as a public speaker is such that several Hansard employees who record the debates of the legislature in rotating shifts, came back to watch Mr. Lewis's speech from the public galleries during their off-shifts," stated the Globe and Mail. This comment was in reference to the reply by Lewis to the Speech from the Throne in which he compared the sad situation of the Ontario government to a Shakespearean tragedy. It was Lewis who brought attention to the high level of uranium dust in the mines at Elliot Lake. Lewis was up all night writing a 19-page paper on the matter. He produced it in longhand between 10 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. Tuesday, got a clean shirt and a shave worked through the morning in his of-fice, then went before a commission dealing with miners' problems. The night before he had also attended a meeting on

As a woman attending the Liberal convention in Windsor asked Liberal leader Bob Nixon, regarding the Johns-Manville affair, "Why wasn't it the Liberals? Should we be taking our problems to Stephen Lewis?" The Johns-Manville plant in Toronto has been involved in a controversy concerning asbestos fibres and the health of its

In the past year, Lewis has called for increased consumer protection to assist Ontario families, who far too frequently ever anxious to charge all that the market will bear. To curb this corporate pattern, Lewis has repeatedly called for a provincial prices review board to monitor price increases and roll them back when they are found to be un

Lewis was so vehement about the in crease in gasoline and home heating oil prices in May, 1974 that the Kingston Whig Standard stated, "The only Ontario politician who seems really furious over the buge increase in gasoline prices is the huge increase in gasoline prices is Stephen Lewis.'

He also argued successfully for a new deal for Ontario's old age pensioners, giving them a maximum monthly income of \$216.67.

A Toronto-wide hospital strike was averted in April, 1974 with Lewis playing a vital role together with the minister of health after the mediation talks had

Persons working with Lewis know

dance of sincerity, humanity and motiva-tion. His NDP colleague Pat Lawlor (Toronto-Lakeshore) says, "Steve Lewis is an extremely humane human being". Although he must work within the

political and bureaucratic structure, Lewis never loses sight of his goals. He and provide human and humane

When speaking to his party on "What makes it all worthwhile," Lewis explained his goal of making society a good place for all people. There were few dry eyes when he finished. There is the greatest of respect for Lewis within the party because of this quality of giving a shot of adrenalin and putting things in perspective when nothing seems to be going right. After listening to him speak, things fit together and the long-term goals are worth the fight, no matter how

hard the struggle.

Leslie Robinson is a member of the Peel South New Democratic Party

Karl Schuessler



Report on the teacher

I've been doing a fair amount of teaching, and school isn't what it used to be. In my day, students brought home the report cards. I had to explain to my parents those grades of mine - grades which I must admit, hardly ever made honor roll

But that's all changed now. I'm the teacher and I bring home the report

At the end of my seminars, I pass out a questionaire asking students to

evaluate my teaching. The results make up my report card.

And every time I come home, my wife and girls stand at the door and ask,

"Let's see your report card, Daddy."
And let me assure you, that's harder on
me than, "Let's see your marks, son."
Oh, there are a few things in my

favor. I don't have to stand up to those strict letter grades. The As, the Bs, Cs and Ds. My report card is couched in more gentle language. The students have boxes to check: adequate, fair, inade

quate, or they tick off "completely," a limited extent,' and "Not at all."

But I'm no dummy. I see letter grades behind it all. I can feel numbe grades behind it all. I can feel number scores between those check marks. One question comes right to the point: How do you rate your teacher? Excellent? Good? Fair? Poor? I've also got five categories to pass. Do I know my material? Do I make use of questions in class? Do I have control of the class? Can class? Do I have control of the class? Can I motivate the class to learn? Do I follow

the course outline? Then comes the crunch: I'm measured and laid out on a scale of 0-8. Zero is "not satisfactory" and 8 "very

That's my last testing ground. A number one is no fun, three is a bore, with four I need more, at five I'm barely alive, and of course, seven is heaven. But to be eight is simply great.

What I really like is the one word

description the students have to come up with to describe my course. I soar when I

"enlightening," "stimulating," eat" and "enthusiastic." I glide on "good," "worthwhile" and "satisfying."
And I take plunges on "a waste of

But as I used to tell my parents, and as I now tell my friends, my wife, my kids, my students and Humber College management: "No one's perfect".

And that report card of mine un-derscores that for sure!

By Keith Ellwood

Through the ages of man

In his description of the seven ages of man, Shakespeare takes us from the ir man, snakespeare takes as norm the in-fant "mewing and puking in the nurse's arms," to the last scene where the old man is "turning again toward childish treble" and "pipes and whistles in his sound," and ends it all "sans teeth, sans

eyes, sans taste, sans everything."

Three scholars from Yale, Harvard and U.C.L.A. have taken this idea, expanded it and have reached some remarkably similar conclusions, though

with refinements.

Noting that Freud and Spock chartered about every inch of childhood, the trip started study on ages 16 to 50 and beyond. Their names, incidentally, are Daniel Levinson, Yale psychologist; George Vaillant, a psychiatrist from Harvard; and Roger Gould, psychiatrist. Kicking off their journey down memory lane, they found that between ages 16-22, young people begin to find their peers useful allies in an effort to break the hold of the family. In turn, the peer groups tend to impose group beliefs. In this period, emotions are kept under wraps and friendships are brittle. A dis-agreement by a friend is viewed as

Between ages 23 to 28, Gould, Levin-son and Vaillant see this period as an age of reaching out to others. The growing adult is expansive and devoted to master ing the world. Levinson saw this time as a period of "togetherness" in marriage. He also noted that at this time a man is likely than himself by some eight to 15 years.

Their heads nodding in unison, the

researchers have agreed that ages 29 to 34 are crucial years. At age 30, there is usually a crisis of one kind or another. Assurance wavers, life begins to look more difficult and new questions pop up such as "What is life all about?" and then the introspective: "Why can't I be accepted for what I am, not what others (wife, boss, society) expect me to be?"
This period, the researchers noted, is the danger period for marriages. Marital relationships lose "that ol" black magic" and social life tends to decline at this point. Vaillant sees a crassness, callowness and materialism at this stage Marriages become vulnerable to infidelity and divorce. Levinson said: "If a man doesn't settle down by age 34, his chances of forming areasonable satisfying life structure are quite small.

ages 35 to 43. The researchers agree that at this point there is an awareness that death will come and the sand is running out. The savants found this age to be a ort of second adolescence. All values are open to question and the mid-lifer wonders whether he has time to change. Parents are blamed for personality problems. There is one last chance to make it big in one's career. However, Valliant says, "Mid-life crisis does not appear to portend decay. It often heralds new stage of man,

And then comes the "settling down stage between ages 44 and 50 when the die has been cast and decisions must be lived with. The trio found that this is the period when increasing attention is paid

to old values and a few friends. Money is less important. False ambition has been put aside and a more steady course is

This is followed by mellowing after the 50 mark has been reached. These are years marked by a softening of feelings and relationships, a tendency to avoid emotional issues and a pre-occupation with everyday joys, triumphs and irritations. Parents are no longer blamed for personal problems. There is little concern for either past or present

Perhaps Robert Browning summed up the situation in his poem Rabbi Ben

Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be.

