

Mosaic

NEWS



The Canada geese have returned.

The federal budget of May 23, 1985, the Green Paper on Canada's International Relations and Ontario's minority Tory government (52 out of 125 seats) are the items dominating the headlines at the present time.

LAW

Full equality is now law. Section 15 of the Charter of Rights which guarantees equal treatment of all Canadians came into effect on April 17, exactly three years after Queen Elizabeth signed the historic document. The charter takes precedence over both federal and provincial laws which means that the courts and politicians must now begin the long process of reshaping Canadian laws and society — and no doubt there will be numerous law suits.

No fault divorce law is expected by this fall. Justice Minister John Crosby, on May 1st, proposed amendments to the 17 year old Divorce Act which will allow "marriage breakdown" to be the sole grounds for divorce and reduce the separation period from three years to one year. Immediate divorces will still be granted where "fault" has been proven. It will also allow for the release of information to help trace spouses who default on support payments.

Canadians adopting foreign children will soon have less administrative red tape to cut through. Effective May 1, 1985, foreign children under 13 will be eligible for sponsorship to Canada when one parent is no longer alive. Under current regulations both parents must not be living. Also, a natural parent with a deceased spouse, who cannot look after all his or her children, can put one or more up for adoption by Canadian families. In addition, a Canadian father who wishes to bring his child, born out of wedlock, to Canada may now sponsor the child for immigration. Under the old rules, he had to adopt the child first. 300 to 400 foreign children are adopted in Canada each year.

Pornographic material and hate literature can now be confiscated by customs officers. This April, a bill amending a section of the Customs Tariff Act was speedily passed through the Commons and the Senate. "Customs officers have now been instructed to impound any material that depicts sex with violence or shows degradation, coercion or exploitation of any person," says Tom Greig, ADM of Customs Programs.

Native peoples. "It's a dream to some and a nightmare to others, but native self-government is on Canada's political agenda," so says an article in the *Ottawa Citizen*. In April the Prime Minister, provincial premiers and native leaders wrestled unsuccessfully with the concept, but they did inch closer to an eventual accommodation — possibly when the 1987 constitutional conference on native rights rolls around. "We're on the cutting edge of aboriginal rights. There are no models you can use. Other countries are looking at what we are doing," said Indian Affairs Minister David Crombie. The shape of what the future could hold, is definitely starting to appear.

HEALTH

Three Canadian children have just been given the chance to lead normal lives. Ester Plumb-Malo, 2, Salvatore Brundia, 17 months and Lindsay Eberhardt, 3, all from Ontario, have recently had liver transplants in the U.S. (Yale University Medical Centre and Boston Children's Hospital) and two of the three have been pronounced in very good health. It has been a happy spring, and in Ester's case, a truly Good Friday, for their parents.



Ester Plumb-Malo, age 2

Adolescent girls. The times haven't changed in some ways. A study of 900 teenagers in Milwaukee reveals exactly the same thing as a similar study done in the late 60's — that by the time girls reach grade seven fully half of them have low self-esteem, whereas only a third of the boys do. This, researchers say, is because society is still sending conflicting messages to girls — to compete and work hard, yet to be submissive and feminine. Boys know that according to the stereotype they're suppose to be stronger, bigger, go after what they want. Thus researchers say "the study seems to suggest that although life has changed significantly for adult women in the past 15 years, stereotypes die hard and they still rule the average teen-age girls' lives".

Type A or B has nothing to do with success. Winston Churchill, Harry Truman, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, are all type B's. In fact, a type A can learn to behave like a milder type B, says Dr. Meyer Friedman, who ten years ago coined the term "Type A" to describe the "harried, hostile, achievement-obsessed personalities who champ and bark their way through the modern workplace". He now has a new book out *Treating Type A Behavior and Your Heart*, in which, after a five year study, he reports that heart patients can fend off future heart attacks by learning to ease up, to slow their speech, control their impatience and basically become a type B personality. Dr. Friedman himself claims to be a reformed true type A personality who is "finally enjoying life".

PEOPLE

This being the posting season, the lists of people coming and going (all of whom are important, of course) are far too long to print. Limiting ourselves (unfortunately as must be) just to heads of posts, those who have been named so far include: **Claude Charland**, Italy; **André Couvrette**, Greece; **Louise Frechette**, Argentina; **Tony Halliday**, Chicago and **Joan Winsor**, Los Angeles.



Stanley Knowles receiving an Order of Canada award from Jeanne Sauvé.