



James Bailey

Ron Searle's New Year

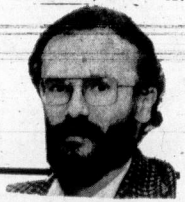
Elected by a scant few votes, I contemplate my fate
No council seat for me to hold, the mayor's chair bears my weight
A pledge of trust has put me here, a pledge I will fulfill
With Terry Butt at my right hand, no-one can thwart my will
With stout heart and a furrowed brow, the crowds my voice will sway
As I recount my past great deeds, no-one will dare say nay
The choice was clear: they could have picked Dobkin's woeful act
Or cast their lot with Townsend's coin and gone off to "react"
Doug Campbell, too, offered himself with psyche soft and dented
His fatal flaw: a book, to wit "It Doesn't Have to Be Lousy to be Printed"
Alas, that last line doesn't scan, an error on my part
But Campbell doesn't either, so I will not change my art
To satisfy the pedantry of poetic tradition Especially when dealing with a man bent on sedition
For Doug presents a threat more real than that of even Marty
I've heard on good authority he knocks the Tory Party

A worthy foe, I'm quick to add, was Councillor Dave Culham
Whose gift with words exceeds my own, except that he does ball 'em
Up while trying hard to be so smooth and erudite
You lost, I won, what else to say but thank you and good night
At last I turn to Martin D., the coroner turned mayor
Who saw more blood at council flow than in intensive care
I mourn his loss although I did give him a fatal shivving
He'll find more luck as coroner than came among the living
The task at hand is awesome, true, the work, the hours, the pay
In fact I fear I may become prematurely grey
This sacrifice I'll make and more to see the city right
Guided as I am by my own private divine light
Some may scoff and some may sneer and some may disagree
But that's because they haven't learned about the real me
A humble soul, that's all I am, just trying to do my best
I live, I love, I laugh, I cry, I like a little jest

A politician, that's my trade, but I have feelings too
Don't be suspicious of my acts, I do it all for you
The council past in deeds and words were not quite what they seemed
The voters found out right enough, and boy, did they get creamed
I say these words objectively, as but a simple man
Above such petty politics in doing what I can
To recognize the good things that the old days gave to us
Strip plazas, high rise, Highway 10, and transit by school bus
At these things this council took a mean and vicious whack
Fear not, my friends, those days aren't gone, Ron Searle will bring them back!
Throughout the year upcoming you will see the things I've done
Coaches, footmen, wigs and snuff, and telling time by sun
I'm on the Police Commission now, a noble righteous crew
Our portraits hang in all stations — the cars will get them too
As your Mayor I'll not allow a single oversight

My picture will be everywhere — the wall, the hall, the light
At City Hall will have my picture smiling out at you
As you sit down you'll see my grin, even in the loo
You won't be bored, I've lots of shots in every type of stance
Peñsive, laughing, resolute, and with a merry glance
So think of me as would a child who got a brand new toy
Sit back, relax, look up and then — enjoy, enjoy, enjoy
When that job's done, I'll turn my hand to other urgent needs
That have within this great city sown the lethal seeds
Of discontent both far and wide, in story and in song
Just leave it up to me my friends, I'm never ever wrong
I've told you once, I've told you twice, it's me that you can trust
Unlike the U.S. President, I very rarely just After things that I should not, the things that are not mine
You should know, as I do, that I'm altogether fine
Politicians aren't all bad, I'll work just like a stallion
But were I you I'd watch out for that cur Hazel McCallion!

John Stewart



A personal recession

For me, 1976 will always be remembered as the year of the great recession.
You may think my concern for the uncertainties of the international economic climate is running away with me, but such is not the case. The recession to which I refer is of a more personal nature.
It is the kind of recession which makes you suspicious that your eyebrows and the crown of your head have declared a DMZ between their respective home bases without your knowledge.
It is, in fact, the kind of recession which provides for an economy of follies, a restraint on the hirsute hinterland that is baffling in its finality.
Those crass individuals who fail to recognize the seriousness of this common affliction often blurt out ridiculously exaggerated simplifications such as "losing your hair eh?" or the infamous "how long have you been going bald?"
As jarring to the composure as these observations may be, they are nothing in comparison to the roving eyes.
The rovers, as they are affectionately known, divert your attention by staring at a spot on your nose directly between your baby brows. Then, like a homing device the eyes slink upwards to the unsuspecting hairline. The rovers find their target cowering where cowlicks once flicked.
But it is not enough for a rover to gaze nonchalantly over your panic-stricken eyes to the nether regions beyond. He, or she, must also register evident shock at the alarming prospects of total loss. Then the rover lowers the eyes once again with a beseeching glance of pity.
In my experience, it is best to flaunt your failing hairline at the rover. Tilt your head forward and down suddenly so that the effect is so overwhelming that words cannot possibly be found to express unwanted sympathy.
Lest you think I am being too sensitive about this problem, let me explain the professional complications it entails.
Lately I have been experiencing nightmares about describing Mississauga East MPP Bud Gregory as "the elegantly uncoiffed honorable gentleman" or "the provincial government's valiant answer to the Masterline look." Is it possible to be objective about a fellow traveller? Will I have to start liking Trudeau or keeping a secret list of females as yet unwilling to emerge from their nylon-lined closets?
To date, I have not been tempted by the CURE. I could never understand why balding males would want to retain their curls so much that they would allow themselves to be subjected to the parade of quack lotions, massages, vitamins, pastes, transplants etc., which are constantly advertised as salvation for baldies.
And no matter what happens, I promise never to plaster four thin strands of hair across an entire expanse of naked scalp.
The ultimate fear of the balding is that they will lose their locks in patches rather than uniformly. You just pray that you don't lose everything around the crown leaving that stark baby-trying-to-back-out-of-the-bush look.
But of course, it's not really in our hands. We just await the inevitable and curse our genes. And maybe, just maybe if we get rich enough and famous enough like Bobby Hull of the World Hairly Association we'll delude ourselves into thinking that we really need a hair transplant in the interests of the greater public good.
This was the year of the real recession, though. It was the year that my high forehead finally got up its nerve and went over the hill.
At least at this time of year when those sarcastic people snicker and ask what happened to the "high forehead," I can tell them it's still in hibernation. In springtime who knows what might be reborn?



Connie Rae

Rent review questions

When government sets an eight to 12 per cent guideline on inflation and establishes a rent review board supposedly to keep rent increases within those guidelines — it seems suspect that the results of the increases allowed are not readily available to the public.
Rent review in Ontario came into effect in July, 1975. Methods of dealing with applications for increases and appeals concerning board rulings have been less than cut and dried. If landlord applications for increases were prepared before July, 1975, special consideration seems to have been given. But it is hard to know for sure because of the reluctance of information officers at the board's appeals office to make public results of any increases granted.
"It's not a matter for the public, but something between landlord and tenant," a board spokesman says.
Welton Management was recently granted rent increases of up to 30 per cent for their

three-bedroom townhouses for geared-to-income families at Southdown Villas on Bromsgrove Road, Welton had applied prior to July, 1975. Another increase of 20 per cent maximum has been asked for March, 1977.
Welton points out that because it takes so long to get a rent increase through, it's still running behind on expenses. Be that as it may, it appears the sympathy of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) rests with the landlord. No one appears unduly concerned about the rising costs of the tenants.
The sympathy of CMHC for the landlord is understandable, of course. Before the rent review process, rent increases had to be approved by CMHC. Now that rent controls are in effect, CMHC still feels it is their duty to "go to bat" for landlords who are being "snowed under" by mounting costs.
CMHC, it should be noted, holds the mortgage for Southdown Villas, is very concern-

ed Welton is "behind in his mortgage payments" and feels Welton "really needs the money." Welton owns four other apartment complexes and some housing developments, but Southdown Villas is the only one that is losing money.
Welton pays seven and a half per cent interest on the 50-year, \$3 million Southdown Villas mortgage in return for, under Section 15 of the National Housing Act, providing rentals that have "regard to the probable family income of the lessees of each family housing unit."
Peel social workers view the rent increases at Southdown Villas as "critical." Says one of the workers: "They need increases to supplement their rent. There's no way they get from us does. But don't quote me. I could lose my job." Because tenants will face (after increases) retroactive rent amounting to hundreds of dollars, social workers predict a rash of evictions at Southdown Villas. But where do you go when you're poor?

One CMHC officer says, "There is too much subsidized housing. The cost to the public is staggering." In Mississauga, there are 598 subsidized Ontario Housing Corporation units available, most of which are occupied by senior citizens. There are another 391 units in various regular apartment buildings throughout the city where tenants get rent subsidies. There are 160 units under construction.
According to Paul Vesna, director of social assistance in Peel, there isn't enough subsidized housing. Of the 2,000 families in Peel on general assistance, 80 per cent could use subsidized housing. He estimates the number of families in Peel waiting for some form of housing assistance at about 2,000. The city's population has grown from 330,000 to 372,000 in one year, and Vesna claims the 12 per cent increase is outpacing the increase in affordable housing.
The bill of rights guarantees us a right to shelter, but at what cost?



Stewart Page

Man, roles and rules

Two years ago, hushed Massey Hall waited excitedly for the virtuoso pianist Van Cliburn to make his stage entrance. Moments later, a passerby on Shuter Street would have heard an ear-splitting ovation. Someone had come on stage from the "wings," acknowledged the applause, and sat down. It was not Van Cliburn, but a tardy, embarrassed, spectator who had a \$12 seat onstage behind Van Cliburn's special chair. The "timing" of this chap's entrance was so exquisite that the audience simply could not keep from applauding, so ready was it to follow the rules of Massey Hall.
The fact that man is a rule-follower, par excellence, constantly bedevils attempts to explain his behaviour. That is, we can predict perhaps 90 per cent of someone's public (that is, his usually observable) behavior, and even much of his more private behavior, assuming we have knowledge of his social position, of the role he's expected to enact and of the particular components of those roles. Society is a melange of roles and its members need to be very skilled actors. There are prescriptions and expectations for each role. A VW is out of place in a millionaire's garage, but not in Ralph Nader's. Sports heroes must be "masculine" and tough. The old Argo quarterback, Ronnie Knox, once brutally shocked the world of sport by retiring

from football to study ballet, write poetry and by calling football a "game for animals." One's self-concept must obviously "fit" his major roles or else he has trouble enacting them. He is obligated to determine the correct setting for each role enactment — you know, maybe Bobby Orr shouldn't sign autographs at a funeral. A guy sometimes has to be a big shot in order to get away with certain roles — for instance, poor people get called crazy, but Howard Hughes was "eccentric."
Roles, being products of culture, are both good and bad. They can sometimes be instructional. They can help you get through life with less trouble than you might have otherwise in that you learn "this is the way to do it" that is, "this is the way you should do it." In this sense, roles and rules are beneficial.
Roles are also bad in that too often they are held to be catalogues for "correct" ways of living one's life. In fact, probably the whole bag of growing up is learning how to shed legitimately the spontaneity and selfishness of childhood, becoming less and less yourself, and learning all about how your culture wants you to perform.
Many things which are called products of "mental illness" or deemed socially undesirable are in fact behaviors which break role prescriptions. Doctors shouldn't wear running

shoes, except on vacation. One shouldn't live in a wigwam, at least not in Mississauga. And a common problem in school counselling occurs when a young person is caught between conflicting norms and roles — for example, between the affluent practices of North American civilization and those of the country his parents came from. Or when one wants to legalize and formalize his love for someone, but finds his parents have big ideas on just how the marriage and wedding "should" be done. The Toronto Star even puts out a yearly publication which is, in effect, a manual on how to get married properly. (Remember, for God's sake, you pay off your minister discreetly — give the dough to your "best man" and he'll handle it.)
We seemingly do need rules — certainly in areas concerning the law, health and safety. But, too bad when one starts jumping through all these hoops people have ready for us, often without really knowing why. Okay, you say you really want to do what society's manuals for proper living tell you to do. Certainly, such can be much safer and less likely to displease others. For example, a chap out in New Brunswick, by the name of Tim Crawford, once actually lived in a wigwam for a summer. (He's not an Indian.) His mother and sister proceeded to get pretty worried about him and his lifestyle

— and one thing led to another. Crawford was quickly committed to one of Canada's mental institutions.
The fact that in Canada an individual such as Tim Crawford may be committed against his will to a mental institution on the signature of but a single doctor (who needn't be a psychiatrist) is a situation now giving various civil libertarians and others grave cause for concern. Too much power in the hands of a single authority, they say.
However, the problem seemingly lies not so much with the law itself, or even with the behavior of doctors or psychiatrists, but rather with psychiatry itself. Does one resent the power of a single mechanic to diagnose and treat a malfunctioning auto without getting a second or third opinion? Psychiatry may be doomed forever to remain, as it is often tritely put, an "inexact science." Psychiatrists thus seem similarly doomed to function as society's emergency healers and scapegoats. It seems sadly inevitable that when an inexact science becomes even more inexact, when all ethics, knowledge and judgment seem to fail — as they inevitably will on occasion — more and more Tim Crawfords will be found.
Dr. Page is director of research at Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital.

Public Pew



Rev Franklin Thomas Bring back the noose

I couldn't believe the news announcer this morning when he reported that inmates in one of Kingston's prisons threatened to blow up outside institutions with outside help if their demands are not met.
I am amazed at how easy it is for prisoners to make their point these days. An innocent person is held at knife point for hours. They riot causing millions of dollars damage. I then have to pay the clean-up and reconstruction bills.
I think it is time we go back to the guidelines God gave us when He initiated our society. As we read our Bible, we see God was more concerned about a safe society than the welfare of a criminal. A man paid for his crime either through restitution of personal loss or by repayment with his life, if he had taken the life of another. This was done without a waiting period of several years to care for the red tape.
Our politicians cheapened the worth of human life by removing the death penalty, which is Biblical. Genesis 9:6 states, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." With this deterrent removed, we see how little regard convicts have for the life of another.
The One who created life taught us how to guard it. I for one am in favor of returning to a method that has proved its effectiveness.
It is somewhat encouraging to note that several American states have just reinstated capital punishment. In Texas, electricians have already serviced the electric chair. Florida could execute in six months and it could happen as soon as 20 days in Georgia. A man has just been hanged in Nassau, Bahamas for the slaying of three people. A government spokesman said, "If we didn't hang people occasionally, the society would fall apart." In Canada, we are beginning to come apart at the seams!
God taught us sanctity of life and respect for our fellow man by instituting capital punishment and insisting that you provide restitution for the material loss you have caused another.
Mr. Thomas is pastor at Sheridan Park Alliance Church, 2681 Windjammer Road, Mississauga.



Tony Abbott

Toward fairer benefits

My colleague, Bud Cullen, minister of manpower and immigration, introduced a bill on Dec. 9 in the House of Commons. The purpose of this bill is to establish a new department of employment and immigration and a new Canada employment and immigration commission.
The bill also contains amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act.
Among these amendments is an increase from eight to 12 in the number of weeks of employment required for an individual to qualify for unemployment insurance benefits.
This amendment was proposed because it has been determined that unemployment insurance is not the most effective means of meeting the needs of claimants with only eight to 11 weeks of insured employment.

The amendment would also promote financial equity by reducing the amount of subsidization of claimants who work only intermittently. It was found that among the eight-to-11-week group of claimants, 80 per cent have no dependents, approximately 50 per cent are under 25 years of age, and many are secondary workers who belong to families with incomes in the middle to upper range.
It has been estimated that approximately 50,000 people would be affected by the higher entrance requirement at any given time.
Another amendment is intended to overhaul and simplify the method used to determine a claimant's entitlement to benefit. This new three-phase benefit structure will establish a better balance between the number of insured

weeks and benefit entitlement. It will be more responsive to local unemployment conditions and will promote motivation to work.
While the benefit entitlement of those with shorter insured employment will, in general, be curtailed, adequate protection will continue for those with longer attachment to the labor force and for those residing in regions with high unemployment rates.
Other amendments deal with developmental uses of unemployment insurance funds and with the right of appeal to the umpire. In addition, pilot projects in the areas of job creation and work-sharing will be initiated. Claimants facing long-term unemployment will be offered the option of voluntary participation in community-oriented work projects. Business

establishments and workers faced with the prospect of short-term layoffs will be able to avoid such layoffs through participation in work sharing schemes.
The purpose of these amendments is to increase the effectiveness of the Unemployment Insurance Act. While some previously qualified workers will be unable to collect unemployment insurance benefits, the general result of the changes will be a more equitable situation for those who genuinely have difficulty finding or keeping jobs.
The act will provide protection for those who honestly require it and deter those who would otherwise tend to abuse the system.
Mr. Abbott is MP for Mississauga and minister of consumer and corporate affairs.