

The Perth Courier

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Honourable Malcolm Cameron
Member of the Baldwin-La Fontaine cabinet, leader of the Clear Grit movement, champion of temperance and founder of The Courier.

STEVE FORSTER, Editor

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Food Store Again

The go-ahead has been given for construction of a new food store on the lot occupied by the former IGA store and it comes as welcome news.

While some would disagree, it is fact that Perthites and those from surrounding communities have been going elsewhere for their weekly shopping.

Other communities with stable shopping centres have prospered due to the fire that consumed the former IGA.

The fire was, without a doubt, a serious blow to the summer economy of a town such as Perth which relies on the summer trade.

However, the smaller food stores in Perth moved to fill the gap left by the IGA loss, many stocking items that would have normally been left off

the shelves.

For the many senior citizens in this community who could not travel elsewhere for their shopping needs, the small stores provided a much needed service.

Virtually every small food and convenience store in Perth made an extra effort to provide more variety in their stock and should be congratulated for their efforts.

The new store should be in operation by mid-winter and with the smaller stores in the area should provide more than adequate shopping facilities for the people of the area.

When the food shopping situation is back to normal, Perthites should not forget the contribution made by the smaller outlets and should continue to support these stores.

Glen Tay Race

Organizers of the **Glen Tay Block Race** must be commended for putting on such a well run event year after year.

The race is unique to Perth and carries on a tradition that began in the early 1900's when the young men of Perth and area tested their endurance in the race.

It is heartening to see that young men, women and children are still testing their stamina in the popular race and some are turning it into a family affair.

In this day and age when fitness is of prime importance, it says a lot when well over 100 people gather to take part in a race such as the **Glen Tay** run.

Comments from participants were all positive, with runners saying they are treated like kings by people manning refreshment stops along the course.

One first-time runner who placed a lowly sixth last, crossed the finish line beaming with the knowledge that while his time was slow, he had at least conquered the course.

"It's worth the \$3 entry fee," said the exhausted near last place finisher, who proudly displayed his 1980 **Glen Tay Block Race** crest that is given to all finishers.

It was also heartening to see local favourite and former son, Doug Scorrar, cross the finish line well ahead of other runners.

Scorrar has raced in and won the **block race** so many times, that when he decides to pack in the running shoes a trophy should be donated in his honour.

His running style and gracefulness on the course epitomizes the race itself — it may be small, but it has character.

Public Housing Needs

There is without a doubt a need for more public (rent-to-income) housing in Perth.

The shortage being seen here now will become much more acute when the downtown revitalization project goes ahead full steam and families living in that area are forced to search for other accommodation.

The housing situation generally in Perth has been poor over the past few years, with little development taking place, but it is horrendous for families living on low fixed incomes.

It has come to light that a woman with four children living in Perth waited for three years trying to get into public housing and provide a decent roof over the heads of her children.

Evicted from her unsuitable home, the woman was ready to take her family to Interval House in Carleton Place for accommodation.

In this day and age that type of situation is intolerable, but unfortunately, all too common.

In Perth, the way public housing has been integrated into the community is

good. There has been no ghetto-like construction of public housing projects.

However, only 16 rent-to-income homes in a town the size of Perth is far too few. The town is growing and there will more need in future years.

One solution to the problem is to have developers who wish to build housing projects here include one or two rent-to-income homes in their plans.

This, of course, is not popular with developers, but it is one way to alleviate the shortage.

The other solution is to have the county consider construction of more rent-to-income homes in Perth, but convincing a conservative council could be a difficult task.

Carleton Place, with a smaller population than Perth, has 64 public housing units compared to the 16 in Perth.

While the social problems in Carleton Place are not the same as Perth, surely that ratio leaves something to be desired.

Dave Laut no crusader until Three Mile Island

By Patricia Rivera

When it comes to espousing causes, Dave Laut has never been one to jump on band-wagons.

In fact, he says, the closest he ever came to crusading before was that he boycotted grapes once.

But something happened one night about a year ago that changed all that: he attended a general meeting of the Lanark-Frontenac Conservers Society (an area organization which promotes energy conservation and which is opposed to nuclear expansion.)

"I had a faint interest in that sort of thing, which stemmed from my having grown up in a mining town (Cardiff, Ont.)," he said. "It was curiosity in part, and partly that I wanted to educate myself on the facts of the matter."

The meeting, it happens, was one held around the time that the nuclear accident occurred at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, and Laut says he "just wanted to find out more."

"I knew at the time that it could have far-reaching effects, just from the things that I gleaned from reading."

And while there are certainly those who would argue with his views, what Dave learned during that informational gathering was enough to prompt him into activism, even if he was unaccustomed to it.

Even the grape boycott, he says, was something which he "wouldn't hold up as being typical" of his nature.

"If anything, I'm middle class. Many of my values are middle class — I play hockey and drink beer; I'm a fairly ordinary person."

Yet, he says, the question of nuclear expansion was "something that really piqued my interest. It's insidious. If it's given enough room to grow, we won't be able to stop it."

Dave says that the Lanark-Frontenac Conservers "are more pro-conservation than anti-nuke, but they took up the opposition to nuclear power" because it seems that Ontario has taken such a pro-nuclear stand.

The authorities, he feels, are placing a lot of eggs in the nuclear basket, and that "requires a fairly substantial offsetting action" on the part of citizens opposed to it.

"It's not somethings that's conducive to being namby-pamby about, or non-committal."

"What we're saying is 'Don't assume the people in high places have your best interests at heart,'" he said. "They're trying to make us think everything's OK."

When he was asked why he decided to take up this cause, and not any of the many other causes which exist, he replied that he chose this one because he "saw the opposition (to nuclear) as being fairly mute."

Other causes have already aroused considerable public sympathy, but he sees the nuclear industry as "going unchecked. There is a less strong public voice against it."

"A lot of people are sold on the idea that this industry is safe. It's like convincing people that muscular dystrophy is OK."

His strongest concern is "for the health and environmental hazards associated with the industry."

Also, he is opposed to the tie-in of nuclear power with weapons. "I don't know how we can keep peace in the world by proliferating the use of nuclear weapons. It's perverted logic."

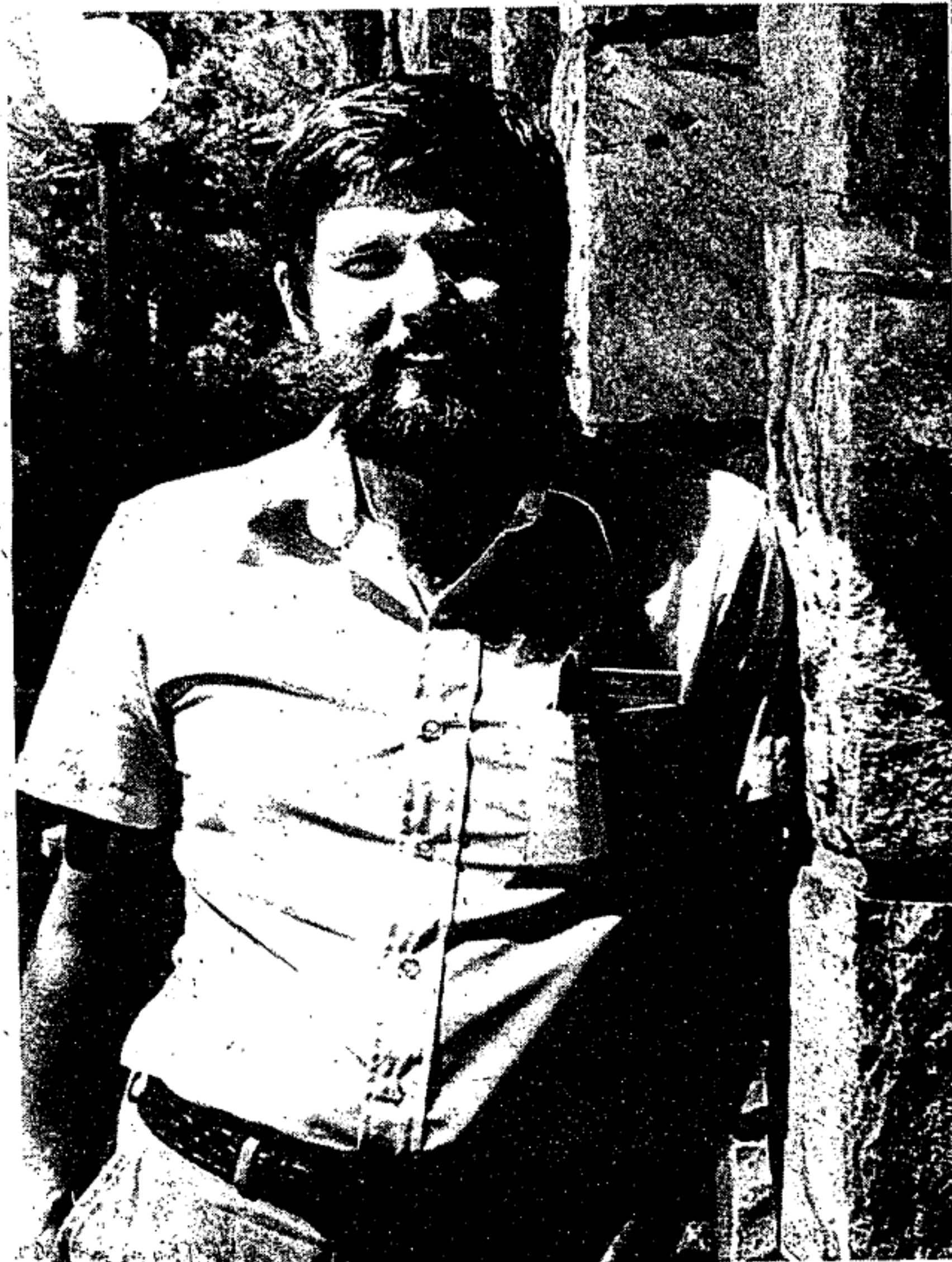
Thirdly, he feels "There is no demonstrated safe method of waste management and disposal."

And while he feels that "vested interests are too strong to stop it completely," he thinks that the "growth can be curtailed. What I'm interested in is seeing it slowed down."

"We don't need (more) nuclear. We already produce a surplus for peak periods."

And though the words flow easily from his lips, as if it were an issue he has turned over in his mind frequently, and he obviously cares about his cause (taking it to the point of handing out leaflets during social gatherings, and now spending at least 10 hours a week studying the industry), he admits that he "never did something like this before."

"I never thought I would be into something like this. Everything I've lived has been against getting into something like this," he says, noting that his own family was involved with Uranium mining, and that he even played on tailings and mine heaps as a child.



Dave Laut: Never figured himself to be a crusader.

"In fact, I had an aversion to doing things like this before. I've always been nervous about causes. It was sort of like storming the Bastille. "But this isn't like that at all.

I feel that I would be remiss if I ignored it, and dismissed it as one of those little problems we learn to live with."

If any one thing describes

Dave Laut's new outlook in a nutshell, it has to be the bumper sticker on his car.

"Better active today than radioactive tomorrow," it says.

Frogs and Snails

People keep asking me if I have any plans for the rest of the summer, such as going on a trip, renting a cottage, learning to scuba-dive or whatever. To each and all of them I have one answer: "I'm going into a rest home where nobody under the age of 50 can get near me."

We've just had a lengthy visit from our grandboys, the first in more than six months.

If you have any druthers when your children are expecting children, put in an application for girls.

There is no girl or girls on earth who could have put their Granddad through the physical obstacle course I've been through in the past week.

When school ended in June, I thought I'd hang around for one more year before making way for a real teacher. I was in pretty good shape and another 10 months in front of the chalkboard would be no sweat.

This week, I've almost decided to retire on the third of September. Somehow, I don't think either the authorities or the students want an English department head cranking around in a wheel chair.

The bursitis in my shoulder is killing me, after throwing a baseball to potential Babe Ruth for hours. My right foot is bruised, battered and sprained from trying to prove I can still kick a football over a big spruce tree. My knees are scraped, my hands are raw, my torso is thoroughly pierced from climbing trees to bring down small boys who can get up, but like cats, can't get down.

My back door had to be removed and repaired after being slammed approximately 3,000 times by the boys and their buddies up the street.

My face is burned to lobster-like hue from being out in the sun as long as seven hours at a stretch. The boys never burn. They're moving too quickly for the sun to hit them a single direct blow.

I don't know much about girls. I had one about 28 years

ago, and she was no problem until she became a teenager.

The only idiosyncrasy she had was wanting to go to the bathroom at the most inopportune times, such as sailing along on the three-lane highway at 60, with two turkeys tail-gating you, and not a tree or bush in sight.

But I'm sure girls are not as curious, daring and dicey as small boys, who want to climb as high as possible, go as fast as possible, lean as far as they can over a dock or cliff, and hit each other as hard as they can over the head with a fist, a stick or a baseball bat.

Do little girls get all cleaned up, dressed up, and then dash through the lawn sprinkler immediately and frequently?

Do little girls go down to the docks with you, ask how deep the water is, then lean over at an angle of 65 degrees to look down and make sure you're not prevaricating?

Do little girls eat junk food all day, then come home and gobble down enough dinner to keep a healthy lumberjack going?

Do little girls plague you because everyone else on the highway is passing you, and when you tell them the other drivers are turkeys, suggest with a grin that maybe you are a chicken?

Do little girls put on boxing gloves and try to hammer the daylight out of each other, no quarter asked or given?

Do little girls, the moment they've arrived for a visit, ask that everything be turned on: the fireplace (in July), the hi-fi, the fans, and the lawn sprinkler?

Do little girls go from six in the morning until nine at night without stopping in one place for more than nine seconds, aside from the odd four-second pee demanded by Granddad?

Well, maybe little girls are not as angelic as I've suggested, but little boys are just as demonic as I've intimated.

In fact, my wife heard at the hairdresser's that little boys are more honest, more affectionate

and more lovable than little girls, who of course, are practicing to be big girls. That may be.

However, I'm about as bruised, battered, bewildered and burnt as though I'd climbed a mountain without any ropes, or crossed a desert without water.

Gran doesn't take the punishment I do. Oh, she does a lot of work. The washing machine is thumping most of the day, there isn't a dry towel in the house, she's about run out of Band-Aids, and she spends hours in the kitchen, whipping up such delicacies as honey-and-peanut butter sandwiches and straw-

berry shortcake. (Guess who picks the berries?)

She had a whirl in the backyard one day, batting, fielding, being shot with the hose, did nobly, but hasn't been out of the house since, and spent most of the next day in bed.

Thank goodness for good neighbours. John "fixeded" the car doors when the boys, through some miracle of mechanics, had made it impossible to close them. He also "fixeded" the sprinkler. (Ballind, the little guy, wants to make sure the past tense is quite clear, so he adds an extra "ed").

Jim, another neighbour, fixeded the door, which was about to



By Bill Smiley

Letters to the editor

No place for fleur-de-lis

Dear Sir:
England was at war with France when Perth was established and had recently lost her war with the United States.

It was necessary to have a quick means of military transport from Ottawa to Kingston far removed from the former French colony on the lower St. Lawrence. The British army, therefore, built the present connecting water system which gave birth to the import of Irish and Scotch loyalists from the old country for its protection. Perth was one of the many settlements that sprang up.

A town's coat of arms is supposed to represent its heritage. If Judge John Matheson does not know this I am surprised at his ignorance. If his inclusion of the fleur-de-lis has some ulterior motive I am shocked. The constant attempts of those in high office to destroy our British cultural heritage only proves — "Bilingual To-day French To-morrow". In any case such an attitude should not

be condoned by the ancestors of those who built this country. I suggest the "Courier" publish a short history of Perth in some detail for the guidance of council.

Sincerely,
A. H. Bell.

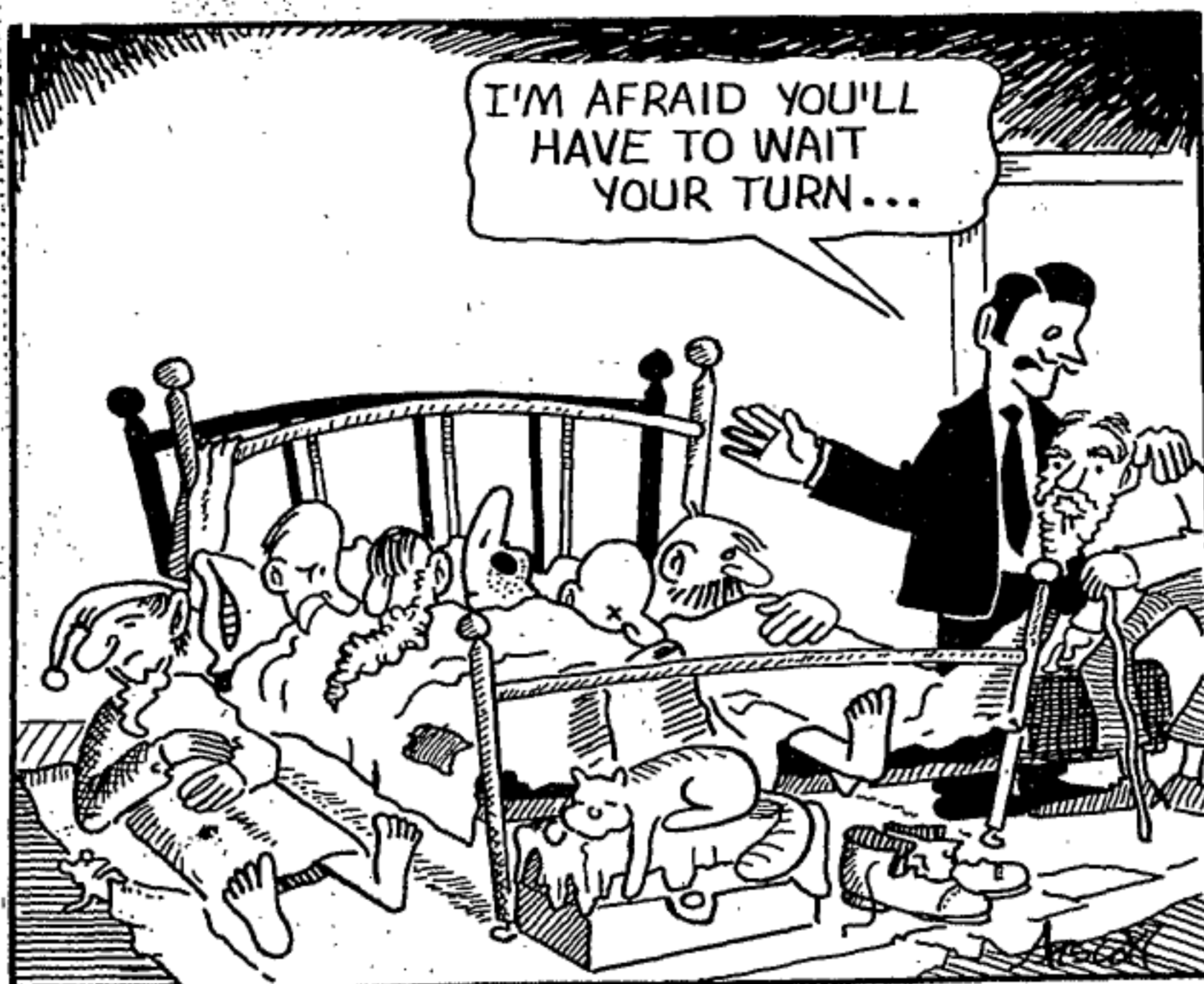
Felled trees sorely missed for shade

Dear Sir:
Walking down the street recently I noted a Tree Service truck and several men busily removing one of the large trees which had died and become a hazard to its surroundings. By and large the town council does a good job in keeping abreast of this problem. But during the recent heat wave it has come to my attention that nothing has been done to replace the trees that have been removed.

The planting of trees in the business section was, we feel, a step in the right direction. But part of the charm of Perth is its magnificent tree-lined streets. If trees die, they must, of course, be removed. But surely it is also incumbent upon the town council (or that part of it charged with this responsibility) to replace the trees which must be cut.

What could be more welcome in the heat of the day than the shade of beautiful trees lining our residential streets?

Sincerely yours,
M. B. Jose



PUBLIC HOUSING INADEQUATE IN LANARK COUNTY.