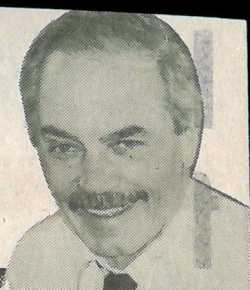


Eyeballs and Eardrums

by BILL WARWICK



Last night I attended a meeting of the North Battleford branch of the Saskatchewan Special Olympics organization. The meeting was held at the Denholm home of Florence Krilow, with President Audrey Abramson in charge.

Some time ago I became the 'chief' of the Provincial Special Olympics public relations committee and have been trying to build on the knowledge I gained while working on Len Quiring's committee during the Provincial Special Olympics held here in North Battleford. Sometimes I have the feeling I'm a slow-learner, but last night I received the local go-ahead to have Florence Krilow help me. From here on the task of organizing a province-wide Special Olympic news network should be much easier.

Here on the local scene a Special Olympic membership drive will get underway shortly. Being 'dumb as a bag of hammers', as the saying goes, I asked what a membership cost? The answer was ten dollars for the year.

My mental calculator decided 4,000 members would bring in \$40,000. That thought was quickly put in line with the requirements when I asked, "How many members do you need?" The answer was 75.

Somewhere inside me something threw a tantrum. The little gremlin was saying we can get more than that.

"What is expected of a member?" was my next question. The answer to that was a list of possible tasks that would likely be a burden on 20 people; much easier for 75 people; but a cake-walk for 4,000. With that many people on the membership list it would be highly likely no one would experience even the slightest degree of stress and more work than ever could be done.

I think of the 1984 Summer Games and the willingness displayed by all members of our community. We had a hard time getting the organizational structure in place, but no trouble whatsoever in finding people who were willing to help with the jobs at hand. That's where the number 4,000 came from.

I think it would be one of the greatest boosts in the world for the local group if we could show it that kind of support as a community. I'll tell you more another time - things that are more specific. In the meantime think about what I've said. I know the Special Olympic people across the entire province have good, hardworking people in their committees. They have a responsible attitude and would benefit greatly by a better understanding of their organization and the work required to maintain it.

Yesterday I had an opportunity to listen to one of the great Indian philosophers of our time - Sidney Fineday. I should say, "I had another opportunity to listen to Sidney." We have had many conversations. This time Bill Swimmer was with him. They were both talking to Jim MacNeill. Sidney brightened when Jim told him one of the people in the Federal-Provincial Relations Office had phoned him from Ottawa. "My articles of this series are going to her. She will be passing them on up the ladder."

The time has come to get things rolling with the Battlefords Cardiac Rehabilitation Group. Now the summer holidays and all other activities will come under the rules and regulations which govern families - the back-to-school discipline - we'll be able to get-on with our Emergency Response installations. We'll be able to get back to the collective walking sessions and all the other things we do to support one another. I'll attempt to get all the information and do my part to pass the messages next week.

By this time next week Ray and Myrna Coates will be in 'Jolly Old England' conversing with the son-in-law and daughter who went to see the Queen. In the meantime they have become grandparents to a baby boy, who no doubt will jump from his crib and make a dash for the airport, to meet the plane. There'll be stories to tell when they come home again.

I heard an interesting statement earlier in the week. It's complete and absolute common sense, but few people realize it. "Our bodies are really laboratories." Cathy Dill made the comment as she explained certain theories of dietary importance.

If more people would realize that their bodies are 'laboratories' we may have a healthier society. At least we wouldn't have people injecting themselves with drugs, smoking or sniffing them. Nor would we have people doing hundreds of other things they know would 'wreck' their laboratories. It's a thought that needed passing on.

I've had an extension on time this morning, but it's time to go. The presses are waiting. See you Monday!