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**Bill's
Bulletin
Board**

By Bill Rea

Here's a major revelation for all of you.

I'm a smart guy.

I have proof of that too, because I was one of those people who waste . . . er . . . spent last Sunday evening taking part in Test the Nation, the national IQ test that was on CBC.

No, I didn't get a perfect score of 60 correct answers, and that's probably a good thing. Can you imagine how insufferable I'd be if I were that smart? Just think of how full of myself I already am.

But I did do quite well, although I intend to keep my score to myself for a number of reasons, including the fact that I don't like to be too blatant when it comes to bragging. I'm the kind of person who likes to be a little subtle when it comes to patting myself on the back.

Besides, if I stated what I got, a lot of people would probably not believe me, so what's the point?

I might have done better, but I recall I was tired, and a little preoccupied. Mondays and Tuesdays are the two busiest days of the week for me at work. I'm always a little tense Sunday nights, thinking about

what's to come, thus probably not at my best.

The truth is I have always done rather well on these tests, so I didn't need two hours of jazzed-up glitz on a Sunday night to tell me what I already knew.

Some parts, of course, saw better scores than others. I did very well on the language section. I guess that should be expected of me, considering the line of work in which I'm in, but these were really the parts of the test I enjoyed the least. There are people who know I write for a living who are surprised by the fact that I hate word games. A rousing game of euchre, or even Monopoly, will hold my attention a lot longer than Scrabble. I'll do a Sudoku or Kakuro at the drop of a hat, but I think I was still in elementary school the last time I started a crossword puzzle. Different things amuse different minds.

Math problems have always entertained me, so it's not too surprising (to me at least) that I did very well in that section of last Sunday's test (okay, 12 out of 12).

I've always enjoyed logic problems, so I was a

little disappointed in my score in that section.

I also thought there was a little dirty pool played on the part of the people running the test. Those of you who actually took it will of course recall we were told there would be practice questions at the start of each section. But the visual memory part opened with some video of two little children at dinner, and I remember being led to believe it was down time, as far as the brain gymnastics were concerned. I'll bet there were many people who left the room to answer calls of nature, or deal with other concerns. Then, we were suddenly told that we were being quizzed on the little flick. The next four questions were based on it.

I was angry, and my wife was angry too. I would have been angrier, had I not correctly answered all four questions.

I did tell you I was a smart guy.

An exercise such as this has its amusing and fun aspects, although I suspect it prompted a lot of country-wide frustration and consternation. I know, because I saw an example of such at the other end of the sofa on which I was sitting.

"I don't know why I'm putting myself through this," Beth indignantly exclaimed at one point. "I don't need this."

As things turned out, Beth's score was very respectable, although this was one of those few times in my domestic situation in which the male ego won

one.

But that still leaves open the question of just how useful are these quizzes and tests. Most of us were subjected to them when we were kids, as some people tried to figure out what our IQs were. Yet I'm at a loss to see any particular use that information was put to. In school, I was surrounded by kids who were smart, answered all the questions right and naturally hung around the rarified circles, at least as far as academics were concerned. And there were others whose understanding of involved math consisted of them grasping that seven is greater than six. I, and most of my other classmates, were clumped in the mushy middle, yet the whole gang of us were in the same class, subject to the same rules, with the same homework assignments and expected to write the same exams. Some of us just received more impressive report cards at the end of term.

And those good marks didn't necessarily mean success in later life. We've all heard stories (if we didn't actually see cases) of kids who goofed off in school, yet demonstrated an uncanny ability to turn a buck later on. And I know at least one person who graduated high school as an Ontario Scholar, but who was on welfare last I heard, and there was little in the way of expectation that that person would ever get off it.

Granted, there are a lot of factors in individual secrets of success, with

brains and marks just being part of a long list. Adverse living situations can either be inhibiting or motivating, or both. My friend on welfare, for example, grew up in a domestic version of a hellhole, and had all kinds of trouble trying to get over it.

And if we're going to discuss success, then we have to define it, and each of us has a different definition. I have friends who are extremely intellectual and well-read, who can speak with authority on a variety of topics and can verbally defend their positions with confidence, yet they are content to spend their work hours doing what many would consider manual labour. But it's their choice, is it not? One of these friends stated very bluntly once that it's his life and he's living it as he chooses. Good for him. My wife's uncle once told me about the value of having a job that you enjoy, and the cases of which he had heard of people leaving occupations they enjoyed for the prospect of bigger pay cheques, and found themselves enduring heart attacks, sometimes fatal ones, just a couple of years later.

So scoring well on an IQ test, to my mind at least, offers very little, outside of bragging rights.

As proof of that, I offer the words you have just read.

You do realize I would have thought of something else to write a column about if I had wiped out on last Sunday's test.

Editorial

Will take time to absorb all these budgets

As you have probably noticed by now, this week's edition of the Sentinel is rather heavy with budget news.

That's understandable, seeing as both the federal and provincial governments brought down their budgets last week, and King councillors spent about four hours wading through pages of material Monday night.

Despite the fact we're talking about different levels of government and varying party affiliations, it is clear that these budgets are not developed in vacuums. What Jim Flaherty announced in the House of Commons in Ottawa last Monday is going to impact in some way in what King councillors are expected to deal with. The most striking example so far is the announcement Ontario Finance Minister Greg

Sorbara made Thursday that GTA pooling to finance social programs in Toronto is going to be phased out. That will have an impact on York Region's budget this year (the Region is working on a budget too, don't forget), and Mayor Margaret Black observed Monday night that could offset part of the tax hike the Township eventually approves.

Budgets are formidable documents. This newspaper office has obtained a copy of the budget package that Sorbara brought down last week, and it amounts to more than 200 pages of mind-numbing facts, figures and politicking, with certain implications being readily apparent, while others will be more completely grasped in the fullness of time.

People in this area cheered Flaherty last Monday because \$12 mil-

lion has been committed to the protection and preservation of the Lake Simcoe environment.

Municipal politicians gave Sorbara a standing ovation when he addressed a budget breakfast in Vaughan Monday and commented on the phasing out of the pooling. But we in Ontario are

still paying the health care premium, a tax increase Premier Dalton McGuinty pledged we wouldn't see four years ago when he was seeking his current job.

Municipal politicians discussed a range of issues Monday night directly related to the budget, while they also had to continue fielding

concerns that some people still have that something bad is in the works for Nobleton Community Hall.

And all this talk and paper is going to be determined how much we have to pay in taxes this year.

The answers are coming, but they're going to take a while.

Letters to the Editor

**Some facts about
King Township growth**

The March 14 edition of the King Weekly included an article on the 2006 census indicating that there had been little growth in the township in the previous five years.

True! The article also contained comments that a "little" future growth was desirable. The description

"little" hardly stands up in the light of proposed developments in the pipeline. Your readers may not be aware of them. The salient facts are:

- Number of residential properties in King today — 7,016.
- New houses on lands already designated for

- development — 3,300.
- New houses on lands held for development — 2,200.
- New houses in hamlets and country areas — ?
- A 78 per cent increase on the existing 7,016.
- Add commercial/industrial development in the

See 'Need' on page 4