

'Tacky timing' and 'sheer stupidity'

Everybody knows the old saw that "when the going gets tough, the tough get going." Everybody that is, except NDP Leader Jack Layton.

His idea is that "when the going gets tough, you cut and run."

How else to characterize his shameful charge that our brave troops fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan are on the "wrong mission," this on the very day that four of those Canadians were killed fighting for our cherished ideals of freedom and democracy?

Talk about tacky timing. Not to mention sheer stupidity. Layton's complaint is that the focus on the Afghanistan mission should be on humanitarian aid, reconstruction and a comprehensive peace package. He's even willing - indeed, anxious - to sit down with the Taliban and negotiate a deal. Can he be serious? Apparently. Does he not understand that the Taliban - and groups like them - have no interest in negotiating anything with us? Does he not understand that by mouthing off he is not only playing into the hands of the Taliban and perhaps undermining the morale of our troops - who surely deserve our support rather than partisan approbation?

Even Liberal defence critic Ujjal Dosanjah, not always a man noted for a common sense approach to issues, understands that on the day that four soldiers died - bringing the death total to 31 - it's "not the day to express doubts."

"We knew there were going to be casualties, and it's painful every time there's a casualty or injury to our soldiers. But you cannot - every time there is a serious loss - begin to say 'Let's pull out.'" Exactly.

Does Layton not know - or does he not care - that the Taliban, those people with whom Layton wants to break bread with, operated one of the vilest regimes in the world when they were in power?

How can Layton - leader of a party which brags that it is "The Better Choice for Women" - want to sit down with people who, as the National Post summed it up in a Saturday editorial, "banned women from most jobs; prevented girls from receiving any education past primary school; forbade women from going out in public without a close male relative and banned women from appearing in public without being covered in a burqa from head to toe. An exposed wrist or ankle was enough for a woman to receive a public beating by religious police."

Or, as Human Rights Watch said, "The Taliban have sought to erase women from public life." And that's not even counting the brutality they inflicted on political opponents and religious and ethnic minorities of all genders and ages.

The big argument used by Layton and the NDP against helping the U.S. unseat Saddam Hussein was that it had not been endorsed by the United Nations.

Well, the Afghanistan mission - the result of a specific request for help from the first-ever elected government of that country - has been endorsed both by our NATO allies and the UN. So much for consistency. The truth is for Layton and his fellow travelers, it's appeasement at any cost. Worse, Layton and his party officials have accused Prime Stephen Harper of bowing to U.S. President George Bush in his foreign policy. What a cheap shot. This mission - first endorsed by the Liberals when they were in government - has nothing to do with Bush. It does, however, have everything to do with our responsibility as a free and prosperous nation to join our many allies and do our part. And sometimes, unfortunately, that part includes taking up arms against those whose only goal in life is the death of everything we in the West believe in.

As for Layton's spurious argument that the mission should be less about fighting and more about rebuilding, well, there are two things to say about that.

First, how do you rebuild when you've got a resurgent army attacking and attempting to destroy everything you do?

And second, to the extend it is possible given the realities on the ground; Canadians have been busy helping to repair the damage to that country.

In a Monday opinion piece in the Toronto Star, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay - who has witnessed the progress first-hand - writes that "because of the work of our Canadian Forces members, girls are now going to school ... Wells are being dug and pipes installed to bring water to villages. Roads are being resurfaced so that farmers can get their vegetables to market."

There's more too, but you get the point. Layton, it seems, doesn't. He should be ashamed of himself for playing cheap politics on the emotions over the death of soldiers and for shaming a proud Canadian history of getting going when the going gets tough.



National Affairs

Claire Hoy

I continue to be amazed by my kids

The other day my eldest daughter Lexie gave me a hug. Without prompting!

If was one of those brief, yet touching moments in a parent's life. Just like in those martial arts movies, objects are suspended in mid-air as though time stood still, as this exchange took place. Okay, not really, but that's how I'd film it if I were a director.

At eight going on 18, Lexie is an interesting package. She's bright, mostly cheery, intelligence, somewhat intense and she's beginning to understand the world. She loves to play and exert energy. But she also likes her solitude to play quietly, colour or read. She acts out real-life scenarios of the past day's events at school, or relives a scene in a movie.

In what I'm confident is a way to get me back for my sarcasm, she asked me if I could pinch my wenis (pay close attention to the spelling). Startled, she then informed me it's the rough patch of skin on your elbow. A funny, little word, it can suffer from over use, as kids are apt to do. She doesn't yet understand what happens to wise guys.

Lexie tries to sing, and after 10 minutes of serenading the entire block from her bedroom, we have to not-so-politely ask her to refrain. Bless her heart, she tries.

From a vantage point of roughly three inches away, I stared into my youngest daughter's eyes the other morning. She stared back, tilting her head a bit as if to say "wow, this is a unique experience, hey, there's a lot more in there than meets the eye, dad!" At least that's how I prefer to interpret it. It was, more likely, "gee dad,

Postal woes

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You can also the local Canada Post representative at 905-495-5056, but they do not return messages. Beware of the long message on the line. Listen to it before leaving yours or call Canada Post at 1-800-267-1177 Option 1 then Option 20. Also call our regional and local councillors David Lyons 905-838-2689 david.lyons@caledon.ca, and Allan Thompson 905-873-6811 or allan.thompson@caledon.ca but they may not be able to help.

Enough is enough. Canada Post works for us, not the other way around.

All those affected now, take action and the others waiting for Canada Post to degrade their service take action, too. Write, call, fax and e-mail. Protest this over reaction and the underhanded manner our government has treated their so-called customers.

Jim Cassell
RR 4 Caledon East



Mark Pavilons

your nose is huge at this distance, better watch you don't put someone's eye out with that thing!"

She plopped her still heavy head on my chest, and scrunched her hands beneath her body to keep warm, like a little bear cub or something similarly soft and cute.

She's desperately trying to talk, and just when you think she's on the verge of some intellectual outburst, she points at you and says, "ba!" And then she points at the TV and says "ba!" Then she grabs a cookie and exclaims, "ba!"

She's bright and still new, like when the world was young.

She's an amazing little human being, even if she stuffs egg noodles down her snappy tee, hoarding them for winter.

My middle child, the only male of the Pavilons line, continues to wreak havoc. He's a very interesting factor in our family equation.

Sure, at times he's a cute as a bunny and he already knows how to turn on the charm. He's the epitome of little boyhood - he simply loves everything that little boys love. I do test him more often than not, by asking him if he's ever tried worms on his toast, or if he's ever seen the Loch Ness Monster.

I guess I shouldn't shatter the image he has that his father is the be all and end all. I think he's starting to realize the truth, though.

He's well rounded - his heart is as big as his imagination. Without any encouragement at all, he's turned into quite the mini-me (negative qualities excluded).

When I'm alone with my thoughts (not easy in a five-person family), I am still amazed - almost puzzled - at how I got here.

I recall the lyrics to the Talking Heads song *Once In A Lifetime*:

"And you may ask yourself - well ... how did I get here?"

And you may tell yourself This is not my beautiful house!

And you may tell yourself This is not my beautiful wife!

And you may tell yourself

My god! ... what have I done?"

It's all just a blur, this monumental journey from adolescence to feigned adulthood, to marriage and parenthood.

But the fruits of my labours are there, in front of me, day in and day out. In the shape of human beings, my greatest accomplishments to date are, in order of appearance, Alexandria, Liam and Kyleigh. How their individual stories unfold remains to be seen. Hopefully, our influence and loving environment has given them the necessary foundations to venture out into the world and make valuable contributions to this planet.

And to think I have a hand in all of this still continues to perplex me. Becoming a father is easy, but sliding into those comfortable slippers as father is quite another matter. It's a constant learning experience and thanks to three very fine teachers of mine, I think I'll be okay. Maybe I'll even graduate with honours!

From here on in, it looks like teamwork is the key to success. We will all learn by doing. If we continue to keep one another on our toes, we'll be just fine. A few more impromptu hugs may just hit the spot, too.



PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE NO. 2
Bolton Arterial Roads - Stage 2
Class Environmental Assessment

Wednesday, September 20, 2006 | 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Albion Bolton Community Centre
150 Queen Street South, Bolton, ON

The Town of Caledon has completed the analysis and evaluation of the alternatives for the Bolton Arterial Roads - Stage 2 Class Environmental Assessment.

The Bolton Arterial Roads Individual Environmental Assessment was approved by the Minister of the Environment in April 2000. As part of the Conditions of Approval, the Minister of the Environment required that a future Class Environmental Assessment be carried out for the confirmation of the WN2 (North West Quadrant, Duffy's Lane) alternative prior to proceeding with the detail design for the road infrastructure north of King Street. The Study Area for consideration is limited to a section of the WN2 alternative between Duffy's Lane and Highway 50 (Regional Road 50). The Study Area is shown on the key plan at right. At the June 2005 Public Information Centre, two alternatives were presented. The study is recommending the southern alternative as the technically preferred alternative.



Public consultation is an important part of the Class Environmental Assessment Study. The purpose of this information centre is to obtain public input concerning the Technically Preferred Alternative and associated mitigation measures. After the Public Information Centre, comments will be reviewed and incorporated into the study and the Environmental Study Report will be prepared and filed for the 30-day public review period. The study is being conducted in compliance with Schedule 'B' of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment.

If you cannot attend the September 20, 2006 Public Information Centre and would like to be on the study mailing list to receive future notices, please contact either of the following:

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