

TheMail



CHRISTOPHER MORRIS FOR MACLEAN'S

Canadair Regional Jet: hailed as a marvel

Taking the lead

The Avro Canada C-102 Jetliner (Avro coined the name "Jetliner") first flew on Aug. 10, 1949, beating the Boeing 707 by eight years. Long before the all-Canadian Bombardier CRJ-700 ("Sky King," Cover, Aug. 11), the Jetliner was an advanced medium-range, 725 km/h, intercity, 40-seat passenger jet that set records every time it flew, and gained the admiration and interest of several U.S. airlines, the U.S. military and Trans World Airlines owner Howard Hughes. But even with foreign orders for the C-102 pending, the minister of munitions and supply, C. D. Howe, ordered work on the Jetliner stopped in 1951, telling Avro to concentrate solely on production of the CF-100 Canuck fighter needed in the Korean War. Ironically, the CF-100 did not go into operation until April, 1953, when the war was almost over. Howe never did let production of the Jetliner go ahead after the war ended, and its axing effectively killed Canada's lead in jet transport. Of course, the United States took up the lead in civil jet aviation in North America, and it was not until 1978 that Canada produced another jet passenger plane, the Canadair CL-600 Challenger. Twenty years later, Canada has pro-

duced the excellent Bombardier CRJ-700 passenger jet, and it is being hailed as a marvel. It is ironic that it has taken Canada approximately 50 years to rebuild some of what it had during the time of Avro Canada. Unfortunately, Canada did not seem to appreciate it then.

*Trevor Dailey,
Sarnia, Ont.*

Geography 101

I am a Canadian citizen with a proud Slovak heritage. I am therefore very upset with the map that accompanied "A deluge of anger" (World, Aug. 11). The map shows central Europe, including the Czech Republic and Slovakia—but identified only as the Czech Republic. Had the former Czechoslovakia only recently separated, I might have allowed you some slack in failing to catch this obvious error on your part.

*Dusan Pristach,
Toronto*

A deeper problem

You have probably already received several corrections for your spelling mistake in "On the water" (Newsroom Notes, Aug. 4). *Georgia Straight* is a former hippie newspaper, still being published in Vancouver. The Georgia Strait to which you meant to refer is a body of water west of Vancouver. I am suggesting that the problem is deeper than a simple typo. Throughout the '70s, when the student protesters were readers of the popular *Georgia Straight* newspaper, this was the most common and frequent misspelling of Georgia Strait in University of British Columbia geography courses. I haven't seen it in recent years, so I infer that you have a 40ish former hippie from Vancouver on your editorial or proofreading staff. They live on.

*J. Lewis Robinson,
Professor emeritus of geography,
The University of British Columbia,
Vancouver*

A clean break

Bravo to Dr. Morton Doran for suggesting that Quebec's separation from Canada need not be bitter and divisive ("Maturity and separation," The Road Ahead, Aug. 11). My Canada does in fact include

A potent mix

It is almost a cliché to say that there is no place in this world for racism, but U.S. congressman J. C. Watts's comment that "you can't solve discrimination with discrimination" should be carved in stone ("Black, proud and Republican," Dateline, Aug. 11). His assertion that hard work, sacrifice and commitment to a goal transcend color may seem simplistic, but it is nonetheless a potent success formula for people of any race, creed or color. It is sad, however, to see that such comments have unjustly earned him the label of "traitor" by others of his own race. In the United States (and in Canada), artificial barriers to anyone's improvement reside in the politics of class envy and government dependency. Watts seems determined to break down these barriers, reminding people that a sharp focus on skin color is merely narrow vision.

*Mike Matheson,
Stoney Creek, Ont.*

Quebec, but not at any price. If half the province's population wishes to secede, it is unlikely the separatists will be won over to Confederation. If, as we approach the year 2000, Quebec wants to leave Canada, we should wish its people bon voyage and *bonne chance*.

*Kenneth Scott,
Toronto*

"Maturity and separation" shows how little some Canadians know their country and the basis of its existence. In his simplistic manner, Dr. Morton Doran is advocating the obliteration of Canada and the elimination of Quebec by sending it to the slaughterhouse that will result if Quebec secedes. Canada cannot exist without Quebec, and Quebec cannot exist without Canada.

*Jacques G. Guimond,
Longueuil, Que.*

Well remembered

Your eulogy for economist Robert Bryce was very good ("A nation builder," Obituary, Aug. 11). It indicates the lack of men of that calibre in Canada today.

*Walter Wolfson,
Winnipeg*

Robert Bryce's 40 years of influence on government policies has left us with an employment insurance and welfare system that encourages people not to work, an unaffordable medicare system, old age

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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