

Will lose their special education assistant who knows child's needs

To the Editor:

It was with great sadness and shock we learned this past week that our daughter Bethany's Special Educational Assistant would not be returning to school this fall to work with her.

The ed. assistant has been transferred to a different school and a new assistant will be taking her place.

It's not that we don't feel the new assistant is qualified, for we are quite confident she will be. The frustrating part of this situation is that we as parents were not part of this decision.

Programming for our daughter has and was in place before school ended in June. The ed assistant, teachers, homecare and parents, along with a member from the Bruce County Board of Education all attended the programming meeting, with excellent results.

As the parents of Bethany, we hope we make the right decisions in life for her, but that is very hard for us to do if we are not part of those decisions. Bethany only had this assistant for one year. This "special person" knows our daughter's needs

and frustrations, something that took a whole year to learn.

Now, in September that learning will have to begin all over again. We feel as parents, it is unfair to our daughter and her assistant, since both had to give 150 percent to reach the goals they both achieved this past year.

So, in closing, we ask that if a member from the Board of Education happens to read this letter, before you make decisions you feel are right for our children, please involved those who are working so hard to help them become the "special children" they are.

Sincerely,
Bill and Sheila Collins

P.S. Please find enclosed a poem I found that maybe explains what our children are feeling if only they could express themselves.

A Special Child

A special child is God's gift from above
To teach us patience, kindness and love.
My body may be twisted and bent
And my brain a little slow

But I am a person heaven sent
And I have feelings you know.
Most times I'm happy and have a smile
But sometimes I cry when I'm sad,
I feel pain and discomfort and once in a while
I cry and yell and I'm bad.
Inside this body there lies a wee soul
That would like to be normal,
would like to be whole.
I have thoughts and have feelings
but yet I can't speak
And tell you it's love and understanding I seek.
If you ignore me and think I don't understand
Just reach out and touch me, take my weak hand.
And if you will smile I'll respond on my own
Then I won't feel that I'm all alone.
What I'll be like when I'm full grown
Is, at the present, quite unknown.
So love me and teach me and help me to grow
Into a person you'd all like to know.

By Franklin Owen



A new mode of personal vehicular travel was in evidence on Walkerton streets.

Sunday morning last, when Mr. and Mrs. Jim Albrecht took their newly-acquired four-wheeled gasless carriage, known as a "Side by Side," for a run. Motive power is provided by the foot-peddaling of both the driver and passenger, — a case of the utilizing of personal energy, rather than that of our natural resources, and of course, a lot cheaper.

But it sort of ends there, for the cost of a new Side by Side, is in the \$1,000 to \$1,200 bracket, and American prices at that.

Jim managed to procure the double-bike at a considerably reduced figure, and which might have the side advantage of reducing one's figure, while at the same time one might fantasize that he or she is driving in a car.