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Urges Decrease in School Work Fields

The following submission was presented to the North Halton High School District Board at its final meeting of 1958 by Acton member E. S. Force, for consideration by its members:

The principal of the Acton High School, at Commencement exercises, expressed an important observation: "The acceptance and general approval by society today, of the normal or average student and citizen tends to dilute the real goals of perfection; thereby depriving, through lack of enthusiastic recognition, many persons of latent capacities from ever tasting that real satisfaction of a job truly well done."

This observation is also stressed by an eminently qualified philosopher, George Santayana: "Perfection is the justification of being."

The message outlined was ironically supported by the newspaper coverage of the commencement exercises. One newspaper heard and assimilated and reproduced the message. The other newspaper reproduced a rather more popular but negative theme: too many students are satisfied with average records. Again, unfortunately, this rather negative observation is heard on the streets and in gathering places and, even though a popular practice, robs available supporting man-hours of the correct, positive observation.

Stifling Achievement?

Is our school board, in the writer's opinion composed of citizens appointed to be workers at and leaders in idealistic educational facilities and programs, within the taxpayers' capacity to provide, helping the students toward this desirable goal? and are we, too, encouraging the well balanced, all round, average citizen and thereby stifling potential achievement?

Let's listen to and think of what is heard and read all around us today. University heads implying

the needs of government subsidization; government spokesmen implying the needs of capitalistic industrial educational subsidization; university professional personnel decrying the educational standard of entrants; secondary school principals decrying the educational standard of entrants; elementary school spokesmen decrying students' home background, while usurping some home responsibilities; possibly reluctantly relinquished; school board members decrying teacher capabilities (as though the average member could differentiate).

Something is obviously wrong. Self-defensive thinking and crying might seem to be more widespread rather than less necessary in our law abiding citizenry.

Observations

I have recently observed a secondary school grade 13 student, on the record a first class honing student throughout school life, earn a genuinely heart-breaking 45 in English composition; a discouraging and widespread occurrence in grades 12 and 13. A study of this particular problem reveals that capacities are inadequate, without outside contributory time and thought-robbing interests.

The history of a good student's working hours is:

Approximately 14 hours weekly at school from age 5 to 6—yearly total 560 hours.

Approximately 27 hours weekly at school from age 6 to 12—yearly total 1,008 hours.

Approximately 27 hours weekly at school plus two hours homework from age 12 to 13—yearly total 1,100 hours.

Approximately 25 hours weekly at school plus 5 hours homework in grades 9 and 10—yearly total 1,125 hours.

Approximately 25 hours weekly at school plus 7 hours homework in grades 11 and 12—yearly total 1,200 hours.

Approximately 25 hours weekly

at school plus 15 hours homework in grade 13—yearly total 1,500 hours.

A grand total of approximately 15,000 hours of schoolwork.

Now an obvious deduction, if the student fails in capacity to reach recognized standards in this time schedule, would be: not enough available schoolwork man-hours.

Lists Solutions

There could be three separate solutions:

1. A reduction in the content of each grade, with a consequent increase in the total number of elementary and secondary school-years.
2. An increase in the daily or weekly, and therefore yearly school attendance hours.
3. A decrease in the number of school-work fields, towards that older, basic, so-termed 3R curriculum.

In support of solution 3, the following reasons could apply:

Between the stages of kindergarten and secondary school graduation, achievement in academic examination percentages plus a supporting every-student-participating recreational program could possibly hold off adult-type boredom.

Less dilution of directional effort should increase individual and collective results and rewards.

The higher standard student will study and learn better; a specialized field of art or craft or profession; a well rounded, balanced, adjusted citizenship; avoidance of "a little knowledge is dangerous" or "Jack of all trades, master of none" or "a well rounded vegetable."

This presentation could earn a title of over-simplification; but it is possibly axiomatic that people over-complicate simple and obvious deductions, in pursuit of self-importance.

Open Homes to Visitors During Festive Season

Recent visitors with Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Howard were their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Craig, Linda and Steven of Markham.

Rev. and Mrs. A. E. Hayward spent New Year's with relatives in Toronto.

Holiday visitors with Mr. and Mrs. M. J. McCutcheon included Mr. and Mrs. George McMillan, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor of Toronto, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Tunney, Erin, Mr. and Mrs. Elus Hall and Ray, Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Hall, Hillsburgh.

Susan and Marilyn Hanson of Montreal, Que., spent a day last week with Muriel McCutcheon.

Mr. Archie Thompson, Hillsburgh; Mr. Roy Thompson, Toronto; and Mrs. Marion Watson, Orton visited recently with Mr. and Mrs. Byron Bruce and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Atken had as their holiday guests Rev. and Mrs. Hugh Moorehouse and daughter of Woodstock and Rev. A. O. W. Foreman of Guelph.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Henderson and Evelyn of Barrow, Mrs. Thomas H. Fines and Doris were holiday guests with Mr. and Mrs. Ross Ferguson and family.

R.C.N. Visitor

Jack Johnsonstone of the R.C.N. visited recently with his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Stewart and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold, Sutter, Gail and Duane of Niagara Falls were visitors with the farmer's mother and aunt, Mrs. G. Sutter and Miss E. Balde during the holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Robertson of Guelph, Alan Robertson of Queen's University, Kingston, Mrs. George Young, Acton, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Robertson, Lynda and Donna of Reddale, Mr. Douglas Robertson and Murray of Guelph were recent visitors with Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Robertson.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Stevenson of Toronto spent New Year's with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. McMillan.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ford, Rockwood, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Cynja, Miss Isabelle Ford of Guelph visited with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Ford and family on New Year's day.

Family Dinner

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Anderson entertained at a family dinner during the festive season. Those attending included Mr. and Mrs. Albert Avey, Roy and Bert Mousa, Mr. and Mrs. John Avey and Ruth of Orton.

Mr. Jerry Klumpshower who is enrolled at the Bible College at Grand Rapids, Mich. was home for the evening with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Klumpshower of Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Festa and daughters Lorraine and Marie spent the holidays with relatives in Montreal.

Some returning Mr. Festa received the news of the death of a sister in Montreal.

Barry Clarke Jr. spent part of the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Brown and family, Hillsburgh.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Sinclair and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jack

with Mr. and Mrs. Brock Miller at Silvercreek.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Nick Cynja (nee Elizabeth Ford) who were married in Guelph recently.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Snyder, Lynn and Barbara returned home Saturday from Pennsylvania, where they spent a couple of weeks with relatives. Lynn underwent an emergency appendectomy during their visit but has recovered and is back to school again.

Mr. Thomas H. Fines is a patient at the Guelph General Hospital, where his condition remains unchanged.

Mr. Barry Clarke and son Robert spent the weekend ice fishing at Lake Simcoe and report poor fishing.

Many Prizes Won at Institute Holiday Party; Bee at Church

The Ballinafad W.I. holiday party was a huge success although the roads were quite slippery. 30 tables of euchre were played. First prizes went to Mrs. J. Murray and Lloyd McEnery, second, Mrs. A. McLean and James Cunningham.

Other prizes were lucky door, Tom Gibson, lucky chair, Mrs. G. Gillies, spot dance, Mrs. Don Landsay and Lloyd McEnery; birthday, Miss Katherine McPhedran and Mr. Remick, mystery spot dance, Mrs. James Cramble and Mel McCallough; wedding anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Robert McEnery, 46 years married.

Dancing was to Mrs. O'Rourke's orchestra Eric Packer was floor manager.

New Year Visitors

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Smith and family at Ferguson.

New Year visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Murray McBride were the latter's father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. J. McBride.

Outsiders

County council, during a special meeting last week, decided to allow fox bounties to be paid to residents from outside Halton County.

Anyone can claim the \$5 adult or \$15 pup bounty, provided he carries a township license which is issued in Trafalgar, Burlington, Nassagaweya and Esqueaux.

BALLINAFAD

Mr. Ivan Hill of Simcoe; grandmother, Mrs. Janie Hill, Seaforth; brothers, Mr. and Mrs. Elmore Hill of London and Mr. and Mrs. David Hill of Cooksville; sister, Mr. and Mrs. Murray Selves, St. Mary's.

Weekend visitors included Mr. Lloyd Strachen, Cayuga; Miss Carol Beaver, Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. Kent Anderson, Aurora; Mr. and Mrs. John Cockburn, Toronto.

The men held a very successful bee insulating the church.

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You may buy a Sav-A-Seal for 5 cents at the check-out with every 50c purchase. Two 5c Sav-A-Seals for every \$1 purchase and so on. When you have \$22 in Sav-A-Seals, you may turn them in immediately for \$22—a cash bonus of \$1.

OR

Instead of cash, you may turn your Sav-A-Seals in for a Sav-A-Bond. After one year, you may cash this bond for \$25—a cash bonus of \$3.

OR

You may keep your bond and receive 6% interest every year for another 5 years, in the form of 50c coupons cashable every four months. After six years, your original savings of \$22 have grown to \$32.50—a total cash bonus of \$10.50.

You may turn in your Sav-A-Seals or Sav-A-Bonds at any time and receive your full money back—even if your book is not completed.

PRICES EFFECTIVE JAN. 8, 9, 10.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Grand Union Reduces Coffee Prices

GRAND UNION COFFEE lb. 68c

EARLY MORN COFFEE lb. 56c

GRAND UNION INSTANT COFFEE 6 OZ. JAR 95c

EARLY MORN INSTANT COFFEE 6 OZ. JAR 91c

MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE lb. 82c

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FIRM, FRESH, NO. 1 CALIF. LETTUCE ICEBERG 2 HDS. 29¢

CANADA NO. 1 ONIONS YELLOW COOKING 3 LB. POLY BAG 25¢

NO. 1 BRADFORD GROWN CARROTS TENDER, SLENDER, 3 LB. POLY BAG 17¢

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ARKELL CHOICE DICED BEETS 2 1/2 OZ. CAN 9¢

STANDARD PEAS SUN BLEST 15 OZ. CAN 9¢

DELICIOUS Kraft Dinner 3 PKGS. 39¢

LIQUID BLEACH JAVEX 37 OZ. BTL 23¢

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