

# Our Readers Write

**His High School**  
53 Ontario St., St. Catharines,  
March 8, 1965

The Editor,  
Acton Free Press,  
Acton, Ontario.

Dear Sir:  
Some articles concerning Acton District High School in the Free Press dated March 4th prompted this letter. Our high school is losing a truly dedicated and very learned man with the departure of vice-principal Mr. Michael Bevan to exchange teaching in England.

Although I am very glad that Mr. Bevan has been given this wonderful opportunity and even though he may just be gone for a year, in that short span of time all the good that he has done for the school can be undone by those who are left behind, unless there is a drastic change in the

position of guidance counselor, he has given to the students — the senior students in particular — a feeling that someone cares what happens to them in the future and that they will not be completely forgotten once they have finished the secondary part of their education.

As a teacher, he gave his interested students a sense of understanding of the subject that only one who is truly interested in both subject and student can give. As vice-principal, he did much to uphold the administration end of running a high school.

In many cases, he did the jobs which the principal should have done, but which were either overlooked or not thought of. Mr. Bevan capably filled all his posts and still had time to give to the students who requested it. There are, of course, those who do not

agree with me — just as there are always those who do not appreciate something beneficial and good until it is no longer available — and these people are free to voice their opinions by any means they wish, provided they do so in a manner which is above-board and not the stab-in-the-back type.

I feel that Acton District High School, both teachers and students alike, owe a debt of thanks to Mr. Bevan for all that he has given and will give to the school. This could apply to everyone who passes through the halls of Acton High, whether they be student or teacher, for all make a contribution and are a credit to the school.

On another matter, still dealing with the high school — I feel that the school board, and the teachers, should be looking

forward to the future, instead of backward to the past and the previous mistakes that have been. Only in this way are they going to improve the calibre of the student they turn out, and only in this way are they going to encourage students to continue their education.

I think that a good place to start, once the proper facilities are obtained, is with the students themselves. Perhaps some of the university methods could be employed, to a lesser degree, of course. The idea of a discussion group or seminar on pertinent and current topics in which every student participates actively, will help the student to learn to formulate his thoughts into words and to express his ideas logically and rationally.

This method has been used in some classes in Acton High, but not exactly in this way. If this approach was instituted, it would aid the senior student in his preparation for his future in university or places of higher learning, or if he does not continue his formal education, it will enable him to converse intelligently and profitably with the people of the working world. Many of the members of the school are a bit obsolete in their ideas and many of them are just along for the ride — or so it seems. Their job is to get the essentials and that includes the best possible teachers, that are necessary to operate the school properly.

They argue over minor things and do not get down to the real business at hand. The argument over the greenhouse is an example of this. In my "biased opinion", the greenhouse is much needed for the agricultural and biology classes.

Instead of this, they do very little about hiring the best teachers for next year. There are, naturally, one or two members of the board who have the interest of the school at heart, but they are over-powered by the "bench warmers" and "windbags" who raise the disputes, instead of completing some of the work

before them. These meetings of the school board should be open to the public, and if they already are, we — the public — should attend and voice our opinion instead of just complaining to anyone who will listen. This is the only way that anything will be accomplished.

Perhaps if the meetings were open and the public did attend, something would be done to remedy this sad state of affairs in the next election. Not being of voting age, all that I can do, probably in vain, is to bring the obvious to the attention of the parents, taxpayers, citizens and anyone who is interested in the quality of students that Acton puts out.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ideology of democracy for this right to state my opinion in the media of the news. Thanks are also due to the newspaper for allowing me to "sound off".

Yours truly,  
(Miss) Lorraine Lashby

## FIVE POUND OFFER

Dear Sir:  
Another Christmas season has passed and, from a postal standpoint, we feel it was a success. The expeditious handling of the record volumes of mail, well within the periods prescribed, bore this out.

One factor which I feel contributed greatly to this success and deserves special recognition was the excellent co-operation and coverage extended by a number of news media during the peak mailing period. Granted, mail volumes of such magnitude may be a newsworthy item in themselves, but for organizations, such as yours, to provide a service beyond what normally would be expected, is certainly commendable and appreciated. By spreading the word of entry mailing and by encouraging correct addressing and bundling of mail, you have rendered a service of inestimable value to our postal operations.

Consequently, the public may not fully understand or even appreciate the value to them of

your public service organizations, but I can assure you that we in the Department are fully aware of the benefits derived and take this means of conveying our appreciation and thanks. Yours sincerely,  
W. H. Wilson,  
Deputy Postmaster General.

Each year, the Canadian Red Cross administers disaster relief to more than 13,000 victims of house fires in Canada.

**Fred A. Hoffmann**

Optometrist

TA 4-2071

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