

Free Press
YOUTH PAGE
fresh tracks
by Barbara McIntosh

The Disadvantage of Being Over-Age

Being over-age is not what it was cracked up to be when you were under-age.

Once you are 21, you might as well be 30, that is if you are back home for the summer after being away at school or work, and are out of touch with the local summer action scene.

The old gang has disintegrated. Most are away working and those who stayed behind are married, engaged or going steady. There is suddenly nothing to do when there is no one to do it with. The town seems smaller and dead.

A new gang of swingers that you once shunned because they were two grades behind, have moved into the action set. To them, you are an alien, a not-quite-with-it.

Somehow when you are not with the in-crowd, you lose some of that courage to face the unknown, that spirit of adventure, that love of mystery, that passion to take a chance. The thought of turning up at a dance stag, strikes terror in the soul. Fear of being labelled an over-age wallflower is too much for the ego. Besides, the dance crowd seems younger, and probably are.

For you there's no thrill in slipping rum into a coke because the risk of being caught and charged is gone. There's no feeling of importance standing on the street corner puffing a cigarette because the embarrassment of letting the world know how desperate you are for something to do, is again too much for the ego.

When you lived there full-time, it was great to drive around town in the family car whistling at girls, and beeping the horn at little old ladies. Now as you creep up and down in your car, you are bored to tears.

If you are lucky enough to find a steady date your problems are over. An over-age couple can merge into the action scene if they dress young, and are willing to put in a few extra hours practicing the latest local dance steps.

But if you are unattached, or semi-attached by mail, summer at home can be a dull, lonely experience.

One consolation is the fact that the situation seems to be the same all over whether you live in the city or a small town.

Perhaps a campaign directed to attract the attention and concern of the younger 'in-crowd' would help. How about something along the lines of the "give-a-square-meal-to-a-stray-cat" type.

We could call it "stoop-to-speak-to-a-younger-older-week" and put up posters that read, "Old Friends Can Be Fun Friends Too."

It might work. If it doesn't, remember, periods of solitude can bring peace to the soul . . . eventually.



INTO THE DEEP forever. School is out for the summer and this young fellow would like to forget the whole thing and hurl his report into the school creek. It's all just water under the bridge. (Staff Photo)

Mary Jane New, Swede for a week at United Nations seminar in Waterloo

Mary Jane New turned Swedish for a few days last week as the Acton District High school delegate to a United Nations seminar session at the University of Waterloo.

Each year the history departments in high schools select a student to represent them in the annual event. Mary Jane was an obvious choice for Acton since she was the past president of the school's United Nations Club.

This year's session was attended by 83 students from all across Ontario. They became four-day representatives for 34 United Nations countries. Mary Jane represented Sweden along with Ronald Brunner of Milton.

In preparing for the event, Mary Jane sent to the United Nations in New York, and the Swedish embassy in Ottawa for information that would enable her to think like a Swede. Each student was given a reading list before the conference and had the use of the university library while they were on campus.

"It wasn't hard to get the Swedish viewpoint," claims Mary Jane, "because it is very similar to the Canadian idea." She noted that one difference of opinion is that Sweden believes a country can only have neutrality in times of war. Also Sweden believes strongly that Red China should be recognized at the UN.

The conference was set up to simulate the real thing. Five students from the University of Waterloo were in charge and formed the Secretariate. The students were broken into committees to form resolutions which were then placed before a General Assembly.



MARY JANE NEW attended a United Nations seminar session at University of Waterloo last week as speaker for Sweden in the General Assembly. (Staff Photo)

Registration was last Sunday. On Monday the students listened to a lecture by Bryan Frank, a student at U. of W. and president of the General Assembly, on the U. N. organization and methods of procedure. The Assembly officially opened in the afternoon with a policy statement from each of the member nations. Tuesday was devoted to committee work, deciding which

motions to bring up and writing speeches for presentation. The evening was free enabling the students to watch the national election results on television.

Resolutions brought before the General Assembly on Thursday dealt with most of the major international problems facing the real U.N. After heated debates, the students passed four of the five motions.

(1) An observation force should be established in Laos

and Cambodia, and shipments of arms to Vietnam, by all countries must be stopped.

(2) South African rights in the U.N. should be censured and suspended until they agree to adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

(3) Birth control should begin in all countries to prevent over-population by 2,000.

(4) Independence should be granted to the Portuguese and Spanish colonies of Mozambique, Angola, Portuguese Guinea and Spanish Sahara.

Unfortunately, the resolution which Mary Jane's committee introduced was the one that did not receive assembly approval. It had called for a transfer of the U.N. seat from Nationalist China to Red China. To get the required two-thirds majority, the bill needed 20 votes and it got only 19.

Says Mary Jane, "There wasn't any real highlight because everybody was so keen the whole time. It was really worthwhile."

Of course, along with the seriousness came dances, lunches, trips around the campus, and a banquet. The students were housed in the university residences.

Each year the McCarty Award is presented to the person who makes the greatest contribution to the session. Harvey Tribe, Staffordville, representing the U.S.A. and Douglas Bennett, Cookeville representing the U.S.S.R., tied for the plaque which remains in their schools for the coming year.

Although she is interested in politics, Mary Jane hopes to get her Bachelor of Nursing Science. She will be entering grade 13 in the fall.

Her week was sponsored by the Acton Rotary Club.

A dream come true

By Jackie Palmer

A group of students, not just an ordinary group of students, but students from Acton District High have made a dream come true - a dream that turned from an idea, to a serious thought, then into reality.

What was this strange occurrence?

A trip to Europe visiting the countries of England, France, Germany, Austria, Italy and a small section of Switzerland.

And just what does a group of Acton High Schoolers intend to see and do?

The answer is mainly (concerned with the tourist business) to see the sights naturally. But I think there inside, is a desire to observe and finally mix in with the people overseas, and see what the difference is between them and us, if any - to find out what makes them tick.

And I guess along with this apparent seriousness, comestun, something I am sure will not be scarce, nor soon forgotten.

Arrangements have been made to have the travelling students send back letters to the Free Press from various places along their route so that those at home can share their impressions and experiences.

The group will leave Malton airport this Thursday morning for the one-month holiday in Europe. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martindale, teachers in the high school are accompanying the students.



Little Oliver was attending his first Sunday School class. "Do you say your prayers before eating?" he was asked. "I don't have to," he replied. "My mother is a good cook."

Use of B-B guns in town limits is against the law.

Young Ontario 'Voyageurs' visit cities coast to coast

This summer, over 500 Ontario high school students will visit cities in other provinces across Canada under a new Federal Provincial plan known as the Young Voyageurs Program.

Education Minister William Davis recently signed the agreement sponsored jointly by the Federal Department of the Secretary of State, and the provincial Department of Education.

The first group will leave Ontario on June 29 for a one-week visit with a family in another province.

Similar trips through July and August will enable students to visit cities from Gandar, Newfoundland to Whitehorse, Yukon.

Take B-B guns instead of books back to school

Tuesday morning - the first actual day without school for the children - some of them were drawn back to the Robert Little school. Instead of books, they had B-B guns.

The caretaker, recalling broken windows in the past, called the police. The six boys had disappeared before Const. Stafford arrived.

New hunter examination

Only 13 per cent of Ontario's new prospective hunters have applied for and successfully passed the mandatory hunting licence examination so far this year.

An estimated 24,000 new hunters each year must now pass the Department of Lands and Forests examination before they can purchase their first licence.

Applicants under 20 years of age must take a compulsory

course in hunter safety training. Although not compulsory for persons over this age, the department strongly supports and recommends the safe gun handling course to all applying for the examination.

A hunter examination centre will be set up at the Department of Lands and Forests, Junction of Hwy. 24 and 401, Hespeler. Examining hour will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 6.

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