

fresh tracks

by Barbara McIntosh

A BIG STEP

Would you believe the University of Ottawa has a new course on sex education designed for teachers who will be leading sex and family life classes in elementary and secondary schools this fall. It is the first of its kind in Canada and it is long overdue.

The course stresses the importance of merely providing the facts and prompting discussion, rather than dictating morals and taboos. And this is the kind of enlightened thinking young people have been waiting for.

The traditional high school health classes on the development and care of babies, just didn't answer all the questions.

For years, school boards have been telling themselves it wasn't their responsibility. It would be wrong for them to take sex education out of the home and rob the parents of the experience.

Yet surveys indicate that the majority of parents don't want that responsibility. They shy away from open discussion, and hand out little books. The majority of young Canadians swap knowledge among themselves and somehow manage to get the word.

Actually we get technicolor demonstrations practically every time we go to the movies. Few people get past 12 without thinking they know all about sex and in fact, knowing as much as their parents did at 20.

What young people still need is an objective source of information that can help to ensure a sense of responsibility.

They need teachers who will be open to questions about birth control, homosexuality, and the emotional differences between men and women. They need to be told the facts about the rising number of unwed mothers, and the reasons why the majority of forced marriages don't last. They need to be warned about social diseases and the emotional effects of bad experiences.

Sex has been made such a big deal by our modern commercial society. Many young people are confused. Standards are becoming an individual decision, rather than a dictate of the establishment. To make responsible decisions, they need to know all the facts.

It would seem that sex education in the schools is a step in the right track.

Free Press YOUTH PAGE



BUT, HE'S ONLY A BABY, claims John Timmings. He turned over four of his year-old Angus steers to his 4-H group on Monday night for a steer grading exercise. This fellow came in third. (Staff Photo)

Local 4-H training for the future

4-H clubs could well bring an end to the brain drain off the farms if the local group's activities are a standard example.

On Monday night, 20 young people equipped with their bright orange 4-H folders, gathered at the Don Timmings home for their last meeting of the summer.

The first part of the program took place out in the field behind the Timmings barn where John Timmings had harnessed four of his year-old Angus steers. Each member graded the steers as they would be judged at a fair or by a packing plant. Results were compared with those of older members Bill Lusty and Keith Alken.

Following that, Bob Lasby briefly demonstrated how one would go about grooming a steer for show. It was the kind of thing any town child would enjoy, but to a future farmer it's valuable training that he can actually use.

Once it got too dark to stay outside, Mr. Timmings took the children on a tour of his dairy. Several members live on farms that ship liquid milk and for them it was particularly interesting to see the pasteurization process.

Finally everyone trooped into the garage for a lesson on halter-making for sheep and calves, using booklets from the Department of Agriculture.

Lots of young people have become good farmers without 4-H, but the kind of practical training and experience good 4-H meetings can provide, certainly makes it easier.



LEARNING TO MAKE calf halters is fun as well as under the leadership of Russel Murray and 4-H member Nino Brada. (Staff Photo)

—It's back to school in just 20 days.

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Belated glimpses of Exeter, England

Acton's touring high school students arrived back on Canadian soil two weeks ago, but no doubt Europe is still very much in their minds. The following letter was written for the Free Press from Exeter, the last stop in the one-month holiday before flying home.

While in Plymouth we went for a boat ride in the harbor and viewed various ships and smaller craft.

Another day's excursion took us down the Dart River through beautiful Devon countryside. On one such trip we passed through the moors: nothing but miles and miles of rock, moss, brush and wild horses, sheep and cattle.

Many students, during our lunch stop, tried desperately to catch a few horses for souvenirs but were not very successful. They seemed to dislike Canadians. However, Mrs. Martindale claims they were quite friendly to her.

To the Acton students the last night was a sad one, for Mr. and Mrs. Martindale left that night at 12:45 a.m. for Vienna. They were presented with a silver platter, early in the evening by our now famous spokesman Brian Fisher. At 12:30 a.m. six students were seen sneaking out of the residence to wish them good luck and bon voyage as they left Exeter for Vienna.

Our last day in Exeter was one to remember. Wherever one went one was sure to be blinded by flash bulbs and begged for an autograph. It almost made one feel like a movie star. But everyone realized it was the end of a long and memorable vacation.

To many the tears came easily and everyone seemed a little depressed realizing that many friends made on the trip would never be seen again.

I know myself that one and all thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Europe. Some are even planning a second. So I warn you parents, hold on to your wallets and pay cheques. Europe is a temptation to the young who enjoy meeting people and seeing the many sights.

Sincerely,
Marie Timbers



IN EXETER, ENGLAND the students lodged in the modern university residences with facilities for everything from basketball to record hops. From here they took day excursions through some of the oldest and loveliest parts of southern England.

Dear Actonites:

On July 25, after 29 hours of steady travel from Innsbruck, Austria, 160 Canadian students arrived in Exeter, England, the final stop of an unforgettable trip.

Our new residence was the University of Exeter, which claimed many different amusements for the students. These ranged from ping-pong and tennis to basketball and record sessions in the common room. The University of Exeter is situated in Exeter, a city of 100,000 in the County of Devon, on the Ex River. Exeter is one of England's oldest and loveliest cities. It held its stand against William the Conqueror, who only succeeded in capturing its castle in 1068.

From Exeter have emerged some of England's greatest men, including Sir Francis Drake, Froisher, Hawkins and Raleigh. "The Ship's Inn" in Exeter was a favorite pub of Drake and the "Turks Head" often attracted Charles Dickens.

Our stay in Exeter consisted mainly of short excursions to surrounding historical sites and sea-side resorts. While in Exeter we saw the Guild Hall, an 11th century cathedral, and the ancient Roman wall built by them in A.D. 50.

Each day we made a side trip by bus to a nearby resort. At Torquay many students went for a dip in the ocean, only to complain that the water was cold.

Guidance dialogue '68 tells you where to go

Brian Sherrett, who will be doing guidance work in Acton District High School this fall, has been authorized to attend a guidance conference to be held at the University of Ottawa next week.

Guidance Dialogue '68 is a first in Canadian education. It is designed to help bridge the gap between the guidance counselors of secondary schools and the admissions officers of universities. Invitations have been extended to all sixteen Ontario universities and to the guidance counselors in over 200 high schools in the province.

A committee representing both major groups has prepared the program to ensure that the real problems of mutual concern will be thoroughly discussed. High school representatives should be able to return with complete up-to-date information about university courses, admission requirements, application procedures and financial aids for students. There will also be provision for discussion on confidential reports and the methods by which various test-scores are interpreted. Guidance Dialogue '68 promises to be a big step forward in the Ontario guidance system.

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