

Free Press

# YOUTH PAGE

## fresh tracks

by Barbara McIntosh

Listening to speeches at the high school on Tuesday afternoon, I couldn't help but be impressed by the apparent deep concern for major international problems. With the exception of one refreshing tribute to surfing, all six other orators spoke on essentially the same themes—war, violence, draft cards, starvation, poverty, hatred, injustice and hypocrisy. It is obvious that students are not as totally engrossed in boy friends, pop rock, flirty flirtations with Mary Jane and lazy summer days on the grass around the soft ice cream store as many adults would like to believe. They are, in fact, vitally concerned about real issues.

But the thing that ruffled my feathers the wrong way was the fact that not once did one speaker mention Canada or Canadians.

For their examples of racial prejudice and violence they used Detroit and Chicago; in their demonstrations of poverty and starvation they stressed Biafra and American city ghettos; in their pleas against war they concentrated on Vietnam draft dodgers; and in their mention of politics it was Bobby Kennedy and Congress. In fact, even the surfing was off the coast of California and Hawaii.

When one student spoke of government as "senators, the President, and other world leaders" . . . that really touched a nerve. I could very well have been sitting in Little Rapids, Illinois, had it not been for the faded maple leaves on the stage curtains.

The same thing happened in the public school contest. I recall cringing at the mention of "our President" on several occasions, and hearing American statistics on everything from the number of records sold each year to the number of "our" taxes spent on the war in Vietnam.

Certainly I am not about to argue the importance of the United States as the most powerful and influential nation in the world today. It is impossible to disregard its part in practically every major issue. Yet how can we get in and do our part to create a better world, if we cannot relate the situation to ourselves—as Canadians.

Surely we have not been so indoctrinated by American television and magazines, that we can no longer think of ourselves as Canadians, with our own versions of hatred, racial prejudice, injustice, and our own small role to play in international affairs.

If we cannot relate problems to our own nation we are speaking on air, because we are not really relating them to ourselves and we are not really prepared to do anything about them.

## ACTON HIGH

By Terry Curtis

### "Sand Pebbles"

THE SAND PEBBLES at better than popular prices will be shown in the school auditorium this Friday night at 8.30 p.m. It is being sponsored by the Camera and Rocket clubs to raise extra funds. Admission is 75 cents for students and \$1 for adults.

### Staff hits the dust

Next week, Acton Expos (students) will meet the pedagogues for a game of softball. Announcement by Mr. Bray this morning said, "Spring training starts Tuesday after 3.30 for the teachers." Go, Goodman Go!!!

### Dance

Coming May 16, dance at the High to the Statters.

### Fashion show

May 14, Mrs. Hunter—Home Ec teacher, and her students are preparing for a special spring fashion show. So come and see the talent created with needle and thread.

### Trips

Wednesday 11D and 12D are going to Kitchener to tour the Schneider's meat factory, and Kitchener's city hall to the planning department. The question involved is, How important is Kitchener to Acton? Also the future plan for

Kitchener in the year 2000. Mr. Martindale once again takes on student excursions! Do we have old urban centres creeping up in Acton? Hamilton does! May 21, 12AB will be visiting Hamilton's city hall planning department to study urban renewal. Mr. Martindale will be guide for the day. This is another geography trip.

### Gone

To educate yourself geographically, you should visit the area studied. Two previous Acton High students Bob Browne and Phil Dupuis, left Tuesday eastbound for the Maritimes. We hope their purpose isn't defeated!

### Activities for retarded

By Gordon Dawe

Wednesday May 7, will be the annual open house of the staff and trainees at the workshop in Milton (A.R.C. Industries) from 1 p.m.—5 p.m. and 7 p.m.—9 p.m., refreshments will be served and a special feature will be a bake sale.

May 11—17th is Mental Retardation Week and the starting point of the Flowers of Hope Campaign throughout Ontario. May 15, a dance will be sponsored by the Youth Group for adult trainees at the Union Hall in Milton from 7.30—10 p.m., everyone welcome. No admission. Tuesday May 27th brings forth a Euchre under the capable guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Davidson, euchre begins at 8 p.m., all proceeds are used to provide recreational activities for our local retardates.

A special thank you to Acton Pharmacy, Brookville Store, Family Store, Dollar Daddy and Hinton's for donations of gifts used as prizes at our last dance. Also a sincere thank-you for all those who donated to our forthcoming bake sale on such short notice.

It is heartwarming to feel and see the genuine support given by the members of the community. Keep up the good work as Mental Retardation has no respect for age, race, religion or color.

## Steven Van Fleet top talker in high school finals

Grade nine student Steven Van Fleet topped six hopefuls to win the high school speaking contest on Tuesday afternoon.

The winning speech was an articulate, inspiring plea for world peace. He asked for a change in world spirit and the materialistic value system, to a more sincere respect for human life and freedom.

Second place winner Carol Mallet, spoke on the joys of surfing and summer. Patricia Samson, invited the audience to discover who they were as individuals and what they were doing for their world.

Other speakers were Chris Brunelle on the American Negro,

Diane Fisher on Robert Kennedy, Shelly Roy on World Problems, and Mark Hurst on Affects, Effects, and Defects in International Politics.

Chairman Mr. Lambourne said he was impressed with the quality of the speeches presented. With the exception of one, each dealt with important social and political problems.

Judging the event were Mr. Goodman, Mr. May and Mrs. Huenke. While they sorted out their decision, Joe Petric on his accordion and George Beshiri with his guitar provided the audience with a change of pace.

The two top winners received Webster dictionaries.

## Retain strap for "last resort"

The strap is not out in Halton schools.

In an information policy presented to the County Board of Education last Thursday, it was suggested the Board accept corporal punishment (strapping) administered as a last resort by

responsible adults as a means to overcoming behavioral problems.

The policy recognized the serious problem in the discipline of school children and suggested that guidelines are required for teachers and principals.

Trustee J. Henson, introducing the policy, reported it had arisen after considerable discussion with teachers and educators, all of whom agreed it should be retained as a last resort. "Many other things

## The Great Tea Ceremony



By John Vennart and Richard Bessinger

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## Davis meets students Monday

Education Minister William Davis is expected to explain and defend his current Board of Education budget for Halton's Young Progressive Conservatives next Monday night as guest of honor at the third of their distinguished speaker dinner series.

The \$5.00 plate dinner is to begin at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Oakville followed by an address and an open discussion period. However, Mr. Davis has agreed to meet with interested high school students in a separate room between six and seven o'clock. Admission will be 50c to cover the cost of the room.

It is an opportunity for students to air their views to the man at the top and organizers hope that there will be a good response from this area.

## Drop-outs should drop in

Sheridan College in Brampton will run that course again, where drop outs can drop back in. SCEP, or Special College Entrance Program, will go again this summer at the Brampton campus. Its phenomenal success last year ensured its repeat this year.

The program is designed specifically to give high school drop outs another chance. They and adult students aged 19 and over who have been out of school for at least a year are invited to come back and upgrade their basic skills.

Mathematics, science and English are the courses given during the eight-week session. Registration will be held at the college in Brampton, 98 Church St. E. on July 7, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Or for further information contact the Registrar at Sheridan or Mr. Dave Olive, 459-7533 or 364-7491.

Mr. Olive said last year's course "proved conclusively that students have the ability to bring themselves up to the required level through this extensive crash program." He added that the SCEP program does NOT give a student a Secondary School Graduation standing or diploma; it merely qualifies him to enter college as a mature student. And even to do that, he must undergo an assessment at the end of the eight-week course.

Harold Swallow is head of the History department. He has been teaching for 16 years and this is his second term at A.H.S.

## Pedagogues are people

"There is the attitude among some students that what has happened in the past has no relevance to the present, which means history has no relevance," admits Mr. Swallow but he argues, "Actually, history illuminates the present. Without some knowledge of history, people would have no sense of direction."

"A good teacher never concentrates solely on dates and facts," he says. "This is a perversion of history. It should be an interpretation of concepts with facts and dates as the groundwork."

He feels more emphasis is now being placed on Canadian history in the high schools. The grade 10 class studies Canadian history and in Grade 13 there is considerable freedom in the course so the teacher can choose what area he wishes to cover.

On the personal level, he is particularly interested in religious history; the Puritan era of the 17th century and the Methodist rise of the 18th century.

Mr. Swallow is a graduate of the University of Toronto with his Honors B.A. in modern history. He formerly taught for a year at Westminster High School in London and for 13 years in Glencoe near Chatham.

In his spare time, he is an amateur photographer and his wife paints from his pictures. He hopes to install his own darkroom sometime in the future. He enjoys reading novels, used to play at the piano, and raises tropical fish.

During the summers, the Swallows have done considerable travelling, most recently to Europe, the Maritimes and the west coast.

Despite a heavy work load,



Mr. Swallow finds time to dabble in the theatre. He has taken over as director of the school drama club currently preparing for a performance on May 14. The rumor says the play is to be a satire on teachers. Mr. Swallow claims he prefers to work with younger students because they tend to be "less temperamental".

He feels that young people on drugs lack a sense of direction. "They can't come to grips with reality as it exists. It's a sign of being lost and the collapse of the

present civilization." A classical music-lover himself, he finds it impossible to relate to the modern beat. "It's a thing to whip up a type of emotion that never should be whipped up," he claims. "It belongs in some African tribal ceremony."

## Send athletes Yugoslavia if walkathon nets funds

Feet from Milton and Acton are combining efforts this Saturday in a special walkathon. The goal is enough money to finance four young athletes at this year's World Olympics for the Deaf at Belgrade, Yugoslavia from August 9-16.

Canada's trials were held Saturday at McMaster University in Hamilton. Four students from Ontario School for the Deaf in Milton met the Olympic standards and will be eligible to make the trip to Yugoslavia provided enough money can be raised. It is estimated that \$800 per student

is needed for air fare, local transportation, chaperones, uniforms and meals.

It is reported that close to 200 young people will be starting out from Acton travelling down Hwy. 25 to Milton, across to Hornby, up the seventh line to Hwy. 7 and back to Acton. The Milton group will cover the same area but the groups will be spaced so they never meet.

The walkathon is sponsored by the Halton and Peel Association for the Hearing Handicapped. A swimathon at the O.S.D. pool is also planned for May 24.

## NOTICE

A PUBLIC MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED BY THE PLANNING BOARD

IN THE

COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
THURSDAY MAY 15, 1969  
AT 7.30 P.M.

FOR THE DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT NO. 4 TO THE OFFICIAL PLAN OF THE TOWN OF ACTON.

TAIN WILLIAMS  
SECRETARY TREASURER

## Sincere Thanks

THE ROTARY CLUB OF ACTON extends

A SINCERE THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED GLASSES TO ASSIST PEOPLE IN UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

THE DEADLINE FOR FURTHER DONATIONS IS MAY 15th

Eye Glasses May Be Left At Any Of The Following

- Gordon Hardware
- Bank of Montreal
- Root Hardware, Rockwood



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