

# YOUTH PAGE

## fresh tracks by Barbara McIntosh

### DREAM TALK

The other night I dreamt that my \$175 cap tooth fell out while I was eating chips and onion dip at a party, and I've been turned off the stuff ever since.

In discussing the problem over breakfast, my one room-mate confessed the dream her car was stolen, and the other put her face through some terrible contortions telling me how she dreamt she had a giant worm growing out of her right cheek.

Curiosity aroused, I hit the local library to see what Sigmund Freud and Dr. Stekel would have to say. I settled for a Dr. Wachtel and his theories on dream interpretation.

In the first place, he says it's impossible to look up in any book what your dreams mean because everyone has their own set of built-in code language of the subconscious, with specific personal meanings.

When you sleep, your unconscious mind is in full control and you can't pick and choose your dreams. It's a sort of filing cabinet that stores all your experiences, even though they may not have impressed you at the time. Sometimes it acts like a closet where you toss old rags that you don't want to remember and you don't want anyone to know about. Every once in a while they come out in your dreams.

Dr. Wachtel says you shouldn't take any of your dreams literally. For example if you've dreamt that you killed your mother lately, it doesn't necessarily mean you wish she were dead. He explains that likely when you were younger, you were angry because she insisted you take a bath or something, and you wished at the time that she would go you-know-where. It had no significance then, but your subconscious stored it away under H for hate and it came out in your dream.

Violent dreams are really no cause to get upset. In fact they may even be good for you. In your dreams you can rob banks, commit murders, tear people into pieces and do thousands of other things that would land you in jail if you did them in real life. If they relax inner tensions they aren't doing you any harm, unless you start feeling guilty about them in the morning.

Actually dreams can be useful guides because often your subconscious is trying to tell you something valuable. For example, if you've dreamt you killed your mother lately and you're over 20 and out of school, it could be that inner self giving you the hint—"it's time you performed the little operation known as parentectomy—the breaking away from your home to fly your own kite or sink your own boat."

The study of dreams has become a profession all its own and often holds the key to emotional hang-ups. Thousands of people spend a lot of money to find out what their dreams are trying to say to them.

Actually self-analysis is easy if you can accurately translate your dream-code into concrete things in your experiences. If your interpretation makes you feel better you've probably translated the dream correctly.

On the basis of this, I took a second look at my dream about my front tooth falling out and was able to come up with a logical explanation. I must avoid all trees while driving my car so that I don't risk crushing another tooth against the steering wheel, and above all, I must give up chips and onion dip—they're fattening.

P.S. Over the weekend I met a cute cocker spaniel named Allen in Muskoka, who now lives me two popsicles and a Valentine.

## NOTES FROM ACTON HIGH

By Terry Curtis

### School ends Thursday

School ends this Thursday for those who have the minimum 60% exemption mark. Students who didn't quite make it get to write final exams which begin on the fated Friday 13.

At this time many students are unaware that exams start Friday 13.

What a shame for those who have to write, when the weather is so warm and the quarries so near and refreshing.

### 12 A party

Tuesday June 10, Mrs. Huggins, her family, and 12A students ventured to Rockwood Conservation area for a form

party. Picnic baskets, guitars, swim suits, Indian hats and incense proved the garb for a good time.

### Trip to power station

On Monday June 9, Mr. Goodman's grade 11 physics class and other interested students travelled to Pickering, Ont. to tour the Thermo Nuclear Power Plant.

During the afternoon they then went to the University of Toronto and observed an Electronic Accelerator. This object sends electrons down a pipe on an electric beam which heats metal to create an electronic magnetic wave front. This source of power cost 3 million dollars to construct and is located 35 feet underground, to prevent radiation in the city.



OUTSTANDING PLAYER for the Junior Girls' basketball team was Trina Van Der Polder. Behind her are team-mates Donna Moore, Bonnie Jones, Cathy Cook, Branda McNabb, Barbara McNabb, Margaret Slaven, Cathy Smith, Susan McGilgalloway, Susan Clendenning and coach Mrs. Hunter.—(Staff Photo)



TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONS received their trophies on Tuesday afternoon. They were (right) Jim Slaven, Senior Boys; Bob Andrews, Junior Boys; Dale Fisher, Midget Boys; Lynn Dunn, Junior Girls; Evelyn Van Der Brink, Senior Girls; Donna Moore, Midget Girls.—(Staff Photo)

## Playground plans underway

Acton summer playground should be bigger and busier than ever this season, according to playground director Don Price. With a budget of over \$2,000 and a staff of 15 eager-leaders signed on, plans for an action packed program are underway. 'Fairy Tales' has been chosen as this year's main theme because it can be easily worked into projects for all the various age groups involved. In addition to sleep-outs, penny carnivals, a bicycle rodeo, a spook house and a host of other activities, trips are planned possibly to Toronto Island, Toronto International Airport, Kelso, High Park, and Pioneer Village at Black Creek.

Louise McElroy of Guelph will be in charge of the Red Cross beginner swimming again this year in the wading pool, assisted by Mary Frances Marcoux. The cost for lessons will be \$5 single and \$9 for a family.

Jo Marie Marchment is this year's assistant playground supervisor. Intermediate leaders are Mary Ann Freuler, Ellen

## Top athletes for 1969 named at high school

With an undefeated record in seven cross country competitions this year, Jim Slaven was named Outstanding Track Athlete and also Outstanding All-Round Male Athlete in the Acton high school on Tuesday afternoon.

Throughout his four years in high school competitions, Jim has been a CWOSSA B Champion 10 times, a CWOSSA A Champion three times, and taken a first, two seconds and a third in Ontario finals.

This year he was the Senior CWOSSA B Champion and the OFSSAA Senior Boys Champion in the four-mile race. He

represented the school at indoor track competitions during the winter and took the CWOSSA B and A two-mile Senior Championship with a 9:41 time. He climaxed his racing season with a third at the Ontario Secondary School finals in Toronto with a 9:29 time in the senior two-mile race.

Top Female Athlete of the year is Susan Clendenning from grade 11 C. She was captain of the junior basketball team and a participant in nearly all sports activities. In addition she organized the girls' intermural sports program and acted as referee for the games.

Susan Marchment, Dolores Jordan, Jeff Cooper, Kathy Dunn and David Lee, Sharon Ellerby and Larry Quinn are leaders in training.

All intermediate, junior, and leaders in training are being sponsored for a training camp in Bolton June 22-26.

The playground will be enrolling children from five to

12 years old. Mr. Price adds, "From what I hear we're going to be swamped this year. We don't want to have to babysit them if they haven't been to school yet."

An early registration is planned for June 28. Children will still be able to sign in on the opening day July 7. The cost will be \$4 for a single child and \$7 for a family.



JIM SLAVEN and Susan Clendenning were chosen Tuesday afternoon. Jim also won the trophy for top Acton district high school athletes for 1969 on outstanding track star of the year.—(Staff Photo)

### Skerrett optimistic

## Experiment in study contracts working

For the past few months Acton high school has been experimenting with the contract-to-learn system and indications are that it may prove a valuable innovation in learning.

In the words of its initiator, guidance instructor Brian Skerrett, "I like it. I'm not entirely convinced that it's good for all students, but it's certainly better for some."

Mr. Skerrett drew up the contracts in an effort to allow more freedom to students who find particular subjects too easy to enjoy classes, or for those who could work more successfully outside the classroom atmosphere.

Under the system, the student may be exempted from attending classes in a subject on the condition that he agrees to cover the required work on his own, or on condition that he follows through on a project outside of the prescribed course of study. The teacher, the student, and the parent must sign the agreement and any one of the three can cancel the contract if they don't feel it is working out.

This year 27 contracts have been signed. Each contract is for a specific subject and some students have taken out more than one. Mr. Skerrett has noted that very few students can handle more than two or three contracts at a time.

Most of the staff are in agreement with the basic concepts in the contract idea, but some have reservations about its success.

In an opinion survey distributed by Mr. Skerrett to the staff, one teacher argued that with study facilities so limited in the school, there was nowhere for the student on contract to spend that 40-minute spare. A period is hardly enough time to leave school to work on an outside project. Mr. Skerrett feels this

problem will be eliminated when a better study area can be set up.

Another teacher stressed that the major problem appeared to lie in educating the teachers to accept the fact that some students really can work responsibly on their own. Some are genuinely bored with the classroom approach to learning and can profit from the contract method.

Principal Ted Hansen is pleased with the results so far. "We got about what we expected," he says. "Some students can handle the freedom and others use it as a means of ducking out of responsibility."

As far as Mr. Skerrett is concerned the only real problem arises when you allow the top, most responsible students to stay away on contract, eliminating the most responsive, stimulating contributors to

classroom discussions. He believes this could perhaps be overcome by initiating shorter contracts of two weeks or a month, rather than the entire year.

"I'm convinced that the system can be used to solve behavior problems as well," adds Mr. Skerrett. "If we take a student who has to pass a subject to make his year and he's getting 32%, I would say put him on contract. If he's not the least bit interested in ancient history classes so he's become a class nuisance, you tell him that he can either study it outside of school or perhaps do some other project in the same basic area. I don't believe it's fair to hold people back because of one subject they don't like."

The decision on whether or not a student may go on contract still rests with the

teachers and it does entail more work on their part. The teacher has to set up or approve the outside project in the first place and weekly student-teacher briefing sessions have to be arranged during spares or after school. Next year the school timetable will include an activity period every day, which may be used for these interviews.

Mr. Skerrett is optimistic about the way that some students will perform under the system although he admits that it won't work for everyone.

"There were some cases this year where the contracts could have been cancelled but it was so close to the end of the year that it wouldn't have accomplished anything. Next year the system will start in September and students who do not perform up to standard will lose the contract privilege," he says.

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