

Teachers involved . . .

It is good to see the guidance teacher and the staff at the high school take the bull by the horns over the perplexing and confusing questions which are currently creating so much concern among parents and youth.

The Family Life Education series which guidance teacher Brian Skerrett has inaugurated at the high school has attracted much interest in town and district and the last discussion on drugs was well attended by all the groups concerned.

It would be easy for the staff at the high school to gloss over all the happenings among students as so much poppycock and turn their heads the other way. The fact they have chosen to become involved in the students' problems and offer the benefit of their advice and the experts' shows that they are not only involved but concerned about the students under their care.

We wouldn't doubt that much of the criticism of the teaching profession and its monetary motives would rapidly dissipate if this involvement was universal across the province. Taxpayers should, and would, appreciate a teaching profession which made some effort to influence students not only in school hours but beyond.

Young people are struggling to establish their independence and older people are frustrated by their inability to communicate effectively with them. Teachers, whether they are aware of it or not, play a key role in the development of the young although it is sometimes obscured when parents run across someone in the profession who thinks of it as a 9 to 4 job.

Despite the protests, young people are looking for solid foundations on which to base their lives. They aren't easily fooled. They can detect a phoney the proverbial mile away.

Discussions and meetings are certainly not going to solve all the problems connected with drug abuse and the so-called "new morality" but they are bringing them into the public eye and contributing some much needed thought.

It is ridiculous for adults to constantly dwell on prohibitive behaviour when we can't produce both informed opinion and history to back up opinions.

We are sure that most of the adults and young people who attended the last meeting of the Family Life Education series came away better informed than when they entered.



(Staff Photo)

WINTER REFLECTIONS

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley



Do you know what the upcoming generation of Canadian men is going to marry? Rotten wives. And do you know why? Because the mothers of these potential wives have spoiled them rotten.

They have over-protected them, tried unsuccessfully to impose their own dubious taste on them, and refused to allow their daughters to learn anything practical, like sewing or cooking.

This is not a blanket condemnation, but it certainly applies to many people I know. Nor must I blame it all on mothers. Many fathers aid and abet.

I speak from experience. These middle-aged spotters are driven by several motives. Most of them were growing up when things were tough all over, and they are ruthlessly determined that their kids are going to have all the "advantages" they couldn't have.

Thus we have a plethora of lessons in music, ballet, figure-skating. We have the very latest fashions and fads, regardless of cost. We have cars for kids who would be dangerous on a tricycle.

Another motive is fear. By shielding their children from any and all unpleasantness, including work, they hope to keep them "straight" and out of the clutches of drugs, sex and hippiedom. More often they drive them into trying something out of their boredom with their diet of pabulum.

Another reason for the cocoon-like over-protection is love. You don't like to see someone you love in trouble, whether it's emotional, financial or legal.

And a final motive is plain laziness. Mothers say, "I'd rather do it myself than have to nag at her (or him)." So do fathers. Thus many of the things which middle-aged people consider virtues: punctuality, diligence, courtesy, cleanliness go by the board.

But when you have to tell an 18-year-old girl to wash her feet, there's something wrong.

My neighbor, whose son is at college, was awakened early Saturday morning by a long-distance (collect, naturally) call from said son. His car had collapsed and he wanted to buy another one.

Choking back his natural fury, father said he would think it over. Result? He and his wife drove about 300 miles to see the kid and get something settled.

Off the cuff

A woman with horse sense never becomes a nag.

War knocks the 'I' out of glory.

Public opinion is what people think people think.

Some stretch pants have no other choice.

Example two. Our daughter is at college. My wife writes about three times a week, and her letters consist mostly of "Do this" and "Don't do that."

The kid needed winter boots and a winter coat. This of course is very unusual in Canada, and demands urgent action. And, of course, at 18 she's much too young to buy them for herself. And of course she might be lonely in that big city, with no friends.

So we drive through 450 miles of that fog and rain. Counting hotel bill, tips, gas, and a couple of dinners out, those boots and that coat cost about four times what they should have.

And then the brat says the isn't lonely at all. That's the only reason I went, and I told her so.

However and despite, we had a pleasant weekend. Dining out, we sat beside a young couple. He was a Czech, not long out, very smooth, very handsome. She was a Newfoundland, very friendly, very open.

Then a Sikh (Indian, turban and beard) came in and sat nearby, looking desperately lonely. I asked him over. The chef, a young Czech who was a friend of the other one, joined us and said he'd like to take my daughter out. Kim spilled something on her mother's best blouse.

We adjourned to our hotel room for a couple of pleasant hours. The Newfy girl asked Kim if she'd like to share an apartment. I wouldn't be surprised if a Czech did, too. My wife worried about the smooth Czechs. The Sikh lost his melancholy.

Don't think I've strayed from my theme. Our kid is spoiled rotten. She cooks like a one-armed paper-hanger and couldn't sew two burlap bags together. My deepest sympathy is extended to her future husband.

Salt and Pepper



by hartley coles

Modern management takes a hard look at its employees these days. If you wonder why the boss has been looking at you in a strange manner lately, it could mean one of three things:

(1) You are a female and your design is more interesting than the blueprints for whatever project on which you are working.

(2) You have been picked for top management and your immediate superior wonders how the brass could possibly have selected such a dimwit.

(3) The company is conducting an employee performance appraisal program and the boss is trying to pigeon hole you because you cool like a dove.

This business of appraising employees is not a new one by any means but the manner in which the personnel officer goes

about it is much more scientific than it was a few years ago.

The old method of appraising a new employee consisted of hiring someone and then keeping an eye on them for the first 10 years. After a decent interval of two or three more years you could expect a word of commendation from the foreman or the superintendent and a hint that you could expect to be kept on as a permanent employee if you continued to show the promise exhibited in the probationary period.

Times have changed. Some plants have a continuous stream of employees coming in one door and leaving through another. So the appraisal must be more methodical and above all quick and to the point.

Here is how one firm does the hatchet job and we reprint it for the benefit of those who may be just inaugurating an employee appraisal program:

PERFORMANCE FACTORS	Grade to Employee Performance		Appraisal Performance Degree		
	Far Exceeds Job Requirements	Exceeds Job Requirements	Meets Job Requirements	Needs Some Improvement	Does Not Meet Minimum Requirements
QUALITY	Keeps tall buildings with a single hand	Must take building apart to keep over tall buildings	Can only keep over a short building or medium with so spikes	Crashes into buildings when attempting to jump over them	Cannot recognize buildings at all, much less jump
TIMELINESS	Is faster than a speeding bullet	Is as fast as a speeding bullet	Not quite so fast as a speeding bullet	Would you believe it's slow bullet?	Wanders off with bullets when attempting to shoot you
INITIATIVE	Is stronger than a locomotive	Is stronger than a bull elephant	Is stronger than a bull	Shoots the bull	Smells like a bull
ADAPTABILITY	Walks on water consistently	Walks on water to emeralgates	Walks with water	Drinks water	Passes water to emeralgates
COMMUNICATION	Talks with God	Talks with the Angels	Talks to himself	Argues with himself	Looses those arguments

Ever been embarrassed by trying to suppress a yawn in front of someone you really like, and are interested in? It is almost a signal that you are bored and not interested in what they have to say.

But 'taint necessarily so:

A yawn is an involuntary reflex. Once it has started it's most impossible to stop. You can hold your mouth closed, but yawning muscles still contract.

Why do you yawn? It happens when muscles are thoroughly relaxed and oxygen is slowly cut off. A person who yawns often probably is not getting enough oxygen. He may need better ventilation or

exercise, or in need of sleep. A yawn does not mean you are bored.

Does that let you off the hook?

If it doesn't, remember that suggestion can also cause a big wide yawn. Those who see others yawning are likely to yawn, too.

In fact, sometimes even reading about yawning can make you yawn. So can fatigue and drowsiness.

Hasn't the weather been bleak, lately.

I've been up since one a.m.

Ho-o-o-hum-m-m.

Free Press

back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, November 17, 1949.

One of the most impressive and finest Remembrance Day services ever held in Acton was last Friday when Lieut. Governor and Mrs. Ray Lawson visited Acton and in addition to unveiling the new memorial tablets met the next of kin of these Acton soldiers and attended a civic dinner in the Y.M.C.A. It was a crowded three hours but all the arrangements went off effectively.

Headed by the Boys' and Girls' band the parade formed in the park. Lieut. R. M. Storey gave the Legion charge and Legionnaire A. E. Mills read the names from the memorial. Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Mr. Amos Mason. The benediction was said by Rev. Gower.

At the service in the United Church a choir of Legion members led by E. A. Hansen at the organ led in the singing. Rev. A. O. Foreman, Rev. W. G. Luxton, Rev. R. H. Armstrong and Rev. Gower took part and the Lieutenant-Governor read the Scripture. The memorial address was given by Major Forth of Oakville.

Reeve Theron Jones presided at the civic dinner in the Y.M.C.A. attended by council, school board, representatives of the Legion and various organizations. June Dunn, drum majorette of the band, presented flowers to Mrs. Lawson.

The Lieut. Governor spoke informally and told of the joy they felt at visiting various parts of the province. He complimented the community and organizations in the part they played in erecting a memorial and in the service of remembrance.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, November 30, 1919.

At council meeting A.O.T. Beardmore introduced a very important matter relative to the waterworks project. He considered it advisable that a bylaw be put to the people appointing commissioners for the waterworks. He suggested the reeve and four other elected officers.

This Sunday is Tuberculosis Sunday. Consumption is a more dangerous disease than any. Literature will be distributed.

The main feature of the meeting of the Literary Society was a debate on the subject Resolved That Women Should have Votes. The debaters on the affirmative

were Elsie Stewart, Isabel McNiven, Alice James, and the negative James Talman and Willie Stewart. Both sides gave their points with suitable dignity but the affirmative won. A few jests were read by Margaret McNabb.

A communication from the Hydro Commission granted an increase in salary to Municipal Officer Reid from \$240 to \$600. In future, however, Mr. Reid will be required to read all the meters, make out and deliver the bills and do the clerical work in connection with the Hydro.

Surely butter at 57 cents and eggs at 68 cents per dozen have reached the peak in their soaring prices for a country town like this.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, November 22, 1894.

Numbers of our citizens have attended the Moody evangelism meetings in Toronto.

The attendance at the Methodist Sunday School reached high water mark Sunday. There were 266 present.

Owing to the heavy frosts the plowing match had to be put off for this year.

What Acton lacks in attractive business blocks is largely compensated for in handsome private residences, of which it possesses more than most towns of this population. One of the prettiest and most homelike is the new residence of Mr. Alex Sadow, manager of the manufacturing department of the Canada Glove Works, at the corner of Bower Ave. and Elgin St. The house is very conveniently arranged. The front entrance is through a pillared piazza into a commodious hall which opens into double parlour. The staircase is very artistic, built of cherry with carved newel posts, and on the landing are two stained glass windows. It has hot and cold water and also a splendid cellar.

Ald. Stewart charged with boodling has resigned his seat on Toronto city council.

The London Economist thinks the days of excessive cheapness of money are drawing to a close.

At Limehouse Messrs. G. A. Henderson, J. R. Lindsay and R. C. McCullough have put in private systems of waterworks which promise to be highly satisfactory. The water flows very freely from the rock into a tank.

Harris and Co. are erecting a driving shed of large dimensions in connection with the mill they are renovating.



Photos from the past

TENNIS ENTHUSIASTS of years ago were pictured in the picture taken at the town's tennis courts years ago. Recognize anyone?