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Acton School Board Member Urges More Emphasis on 3Rs

Dear Mr. Editor: In the hope that your readers will find food for thought in my remarks, I am sending you a submission made to the North Halton High School district board. opinions are my own, and any comment by you or your readers will be welcomed.

The principal of the Acton high school, at Commencement exercises expressed an important observation: "The acceptance and gene ral approval, by society today, of the norm or average student and citizen tends to dilute the real goals of perfection, thereby depriving, through lack of enthusiastic recognition, many persons of latent capacities from ever tasting that real satisfaction of a job truly well done."

This observation is also stresd by an eminently qualified philosopher, George Santayana, "Perfection is the justification of be-

The message outlined was ironiccoverage of the commencement exercises. One newspaper heard and assimilated and reproduced the message. The other newspaper reproduced a rather more popular but negative theme: too many students are satisfied with average records. Again, unfortunately, this rather negative observation heard on the streets and in gathering places, and, even though a popular practice, robs available supporting man-hours of the cor-

rect, positive observation. Is our school board, in the writer's opinion composed of citizens appointed to be workers at and leaders in idealistic educational facilities and programs, within the taxpayers' capacity to proviide, helping the students toward this desirable goal? Or are we, loo, encouraging the well-balanced, all : round, average citizen and thereby stifling potenial achieve-

Let's listen to and think of what is heard and read all around us today. University heads implying the needs of government subsidization; government spokesmen im plying the needs of capitalistic industrial educational subsidization, university professional personne decrying the educational standard of entrants; secondary school principals decrying the educational standards of entrants; elementary school spokesmen decrying students' home background, while usurping some home responsibilities, reluctantly reliquished; school board members decrying teacher capabilities (as though the average member could differenti-

Samething is obviously wrong. might seem to be more widespread rather than less necessary in our more law abiding citizenry.

I have recently observed a secondary-school grade, thirteen student, on the record a first class honour student throughout school-life SCREENS = earn a genuinely heartbreaking 50 in English Composition; a discouraging and widespread occurrence in grades 12 and 13. A study of ... Free Estimates | this particular problem reveals that capacities are inadequate, without outside contributory

and thought-robbing interests. The history of a good student's working hours is: Approximately 14 hours weekly at school from age 5 to 6, yearly

Approximately 27 hours weekly at school from age 6 to 12, yearly ital 1.000 hours.

Approximately 27 hours weekly at school plus 2 hours homework from age 12 to 13, yearly total of

Approximately 25 hours weekly at school plus 5 hours homework in grades 9 and 10, yearly total 7125 hours.

Approximately 25 hours weekly at school plus 7 hours homework in grades 11 and 12, yearly total 1200 hours.

Approximately 25 hours weekly school plus 15 hours homework in grade 13, yearly total 1500 hrs. A grand total of approximately 15000 hours of school work.

Now an obvious deduction, the student fails in capacity reach recognized standards in this time schedule, would be; not enough available school work man-

There could be three separate

1. A reduction in the content of dom. each grade, with a consequent in- Less dilution of directional efcrease in the total number of el- fort should increase individual ementary and secondary school- and collective results and rewards.

2. An increase in the daily or study and learn better: weekly, and therefore yearly, school attendance hours.

3. A decrease in the number of school-work fields, towards that led citizenship job. older, basic, so-termed 3R curricu-

lowing reasons could apply: Between the stages of kinder- This presentation could carn a garten and secondary-school grad- title of oversimplification; but it uations achievement in academic s possibly axiomatic that people examination percentages plus a over-complicate simple and obsupporting every-student participa- vious deductions, in pursuit of ting recreational program could self-importance.

Sugar and Spice

"This is a really great plan,"

like to believe that the people of

this province will show the same

told press, radio and television re-

porters, that the Commission did

not anticipate a "queue of would-

be patients outside each hospital

"More than 72 per cent of the

population already have some form

of hospital insurance through in-

surance companies, Blue Cross,

Dr. Urquahart said the Commission

is specially happy that the medical

ocal hospital medical staffs to set

up committees to assure the most

effective use of hospital facilities.

Urguhart, "with the commission's

expressed desire that hospitals

should retain their local autonomy

Referring to the many ways in

which the introduction of Ontario

Hospital Insurance will assist the

hospitals of the Province, Dr.-Urqu-

hart said that one of the most not-

under the plan."

"This is in keeping." said Dr.

and other prepayment plans," he

door on New Year's Eve."

I can't see why there's so much | But when the fight between gi fuss about colour. We adopted a den lovers and dog owners gets Acton, Ont., coal-black baby this Christmas, into full swing next spring, don't and already he's as dear to us as be surprised to read some stirring one of our own. Of course, we editorial about the divine right hospital indigents. Dr. Urquhart didn't stipulate, when we were of dogs to roll in the tulips. looking for him, what colour he was to be, as so many would-be Says Insurance Plan is parents do. We just wanted a baby, and we got a dandy, Great Ontario Blessing

The kids eren't bothered by his colour, either. They've wanted a new baby brother for years, and man of the Ontario Hospital Servthey're fascinated by him. They spend hours looking at him, play- today that the people of Ontario ing with him, fatching him toys can help to make the forthcoming said Dr. Urquhart, "Mr. Swanson and warming his milk.

We had quite a time training ever enjoyed. The plan, which behim. His new parents wanted some- gan at one minute past midnight thing dignified and distinguished, on New Year's day, will provide all like Othelio. Various friends and basic hospitalization needs for more of than 90 per cent of Ontario's relatives contributed all sorts suitable, if unoriginal monikers. 5,850,000 population. But the name the kids chose for him was both original and suit- Dr. Urquahart told a press conferable. So "Playboy" he is. And ence at Queen's Park, "great in its not a bad name for a seven-weeks concept and great in its scope. We old spaniel pup, at that.

It's the first dog we've ever had good sense and spirit of cooperaat Draughty Windows, the old tion in using Ontario Hospital Infamily manor. And it's apparent surance as they did in registering already that he's going to domin- for its benefits." Dr. Urquhart ate the scene. It requires combined strength, patience ingenuity of the entire family to cope with the little black devil.

His first night in the house gave us a taste of things to come. went to sleep like a baby in his new bed. But about 2 a.m. I was dredged out of a deep and honest sleep by the loudest, most pitiful said. "For these people there will wailing you've ever heard. So I be no novelty about prepaid hospispent the next two hours sitting tal' care, even though OHI will be on the kitchen floor in my pyjamas far more comprehensive than any letting him gnaw my hand, the only corresponding plan- in the past." thing that would shut him up.

Every time I'd get him settled profession has offered to encourage down and start to sneak away, the little black head would bob between the paws on the edge of his box, the brown eyes would give me a look of desperate appeal, and the heart-rending crying would

Three nights of this and I was about ready for the boneyard. My nerves were shot. I was worn out. I was snapping at the kids and the old lady. We tried everything. Put a ticking alarm clock in with nim" suggested dog owners. He promptly launched the alarm clock with a full-scale christening. Extra blankets, warm milk, prolonged caresses, had no effect. He wanted company.

I was about ready to start shooting the nembutal into him, when somebody suggested trying a hot water bottle. I know how Archimedes felt when he leapt out of his bathtub crying "Eureka". Playboy now steeps through, his alarm clock ticking away and his mother, Self-defensive thinking and crying in the guise of a hot water bottle, under his fat little belly. I know it will be the ruination of him, and that he'll probably need pyschiatric treatment when he finds out that his mother leaks when you bite her, but for the present, we are both getting some sleep.

> But that's only one department satisfied. The book says when he makes a mess, you're supposed to hold his nose close to it. say "No!" in a firm tone, then put him on the paper he's supposed to use. I have personally done this at least 84 times but Playboy apparently hasn't read the book. He goes right. on using any portion of any floor he feels like using. He's made the living room rug three times. despite the utmost vigilance.

It's a good thing I'm, in the newspaper business. My wife used to complain because I "brought home so many newspapers. Now she's crying for more, and we're going to have to step up our press run. It's not that Playboy uses the papers. But he likes the game of trying to find a spot on the floor that doesn't have a paper spread

Now, for years I've been bored to tears by people telling me about the cute tricks their dogs have performed. I've been horrified to see people treating dogs like children. I've been annoyed by large dogs with dirty feet planting the latter firmly on my trousers: So don't think that one mere small spaniel pup is going to destroy all; those fine anti-canine prejudices I've ... built up.

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Avoidance of "a little knowledge In support of solution 3, the fol- trades, master of none" or "a well rounded vegetable."

possibly hold off adult-type bore! -- An Acton board member.

elimination of the indigent patient

tribute to his predecessor as Commission chairman, Arthur J. Swanices Commission, said in Toronto "Despite constant ill heafth" devoted himself unsparingly to hospital insurance plan one of the greatest blessings the province has

Relief Cases and other potential that they will pay OHI premiums for their relief cases rather than pital indigent bills as they occur Dr. Urquhart paid a special

problem. This, he said, will be done in two ways. Residents who receive Public Assistance from the Ontario Department of Public Wel fare will be covered without paying premiums, and municipalities have been invited by the Commission to insure their own, Unemployment fairly recent decision, already many municipalities have indicated run the risk of footing heavy hos-Dr. R. W. Ian Urquhart, chair-

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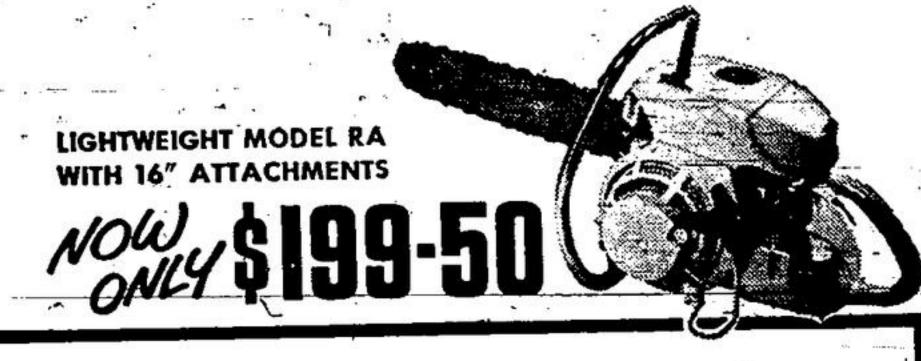
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Proprietor

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months If any one man can be the earliest days of the Commission until his retirement last the development of the plan from called its architect it is he.

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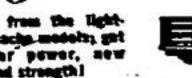
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