

Georgetown Herald

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Page 4 Thursday Evening, May 19th, 1966

Should Be High Paid

The teaching profession, for so many years one of the lowest paid of man's endeavours, has suddenly blossomed into an attractive occupation.

Salaries have skyrocketed since the war years, due to a variety of reasons. The law of supply and demand applied here as it does in other fields, and school boards found themselves for a few years competing desperately in a field where there were more jobs than people to fill them. Teachers, at the same time, established a strong Federation which concerned itself with salaries and was not averse to threatening boycotting of areas which did not conform to suggested schedules. And boards, infused with new members who took a realistic attitude to present day living costs were prompt to meet the situation with hefty salary boosts.

Now we have reached the stage where public school teaching, particularly, is perhaps the best paid profession, considering the training period and cost of such training. And the time is coming when teaching needs assessing on a cost basis.

We have always subscribed to the theory that teaching should be a high paid profession. It is in a school that scientific progress has its birth, that the arts are nurtured, and where all of man's progress can be measured.

The man and woman who are entrusted to disseminate this knowledge should therefore, be a very special group to which our most talented members of society should be drawn.

Now that salaries have reached a point where teaching is attracting such people, it is time to reassess our training schools, to stiffen entrance requirements, demand more intensive studies. For if teachers are to be paid salaries equivalent to other professions where a longer period is spent in the learning process, standards must be considerably stiffened.

At the same time, we think the Department of Education should seriously consider making school teaching a civil service.

Despite government grants, it is not possible for sparsely settled or economically poorer municipalities to compete with salaries being paid in wealthier parts of the country. And our young brains are just as important in one part of the country as another and should have similar teaching advantages.

We see no reason why a central agency, assigning teachers to their posts, should not work. Nor would it interfere with local autonomy, for school boards still have plenty to keep them busy. Standard salary schedules and teacher hiring be dropped from the program.

That's Gratitude?

High school education in North Halton, since the war years, has benefited by a tremendous improvement in school buildings.

Georgetown's high school has been completely replaced by a new building which, with gymnasium, home economics and shop rooms, laboratories, and attractive classrooms is surely one of the finest possible.

Similar improvements at Milton and Acton have given the three North Halton towns the finest in physical equipment. Nor have they been lax in engaging teachers with high qualifications, and in keeping abreast of any features which make for better education.

It was somewhat disconcerting to see statistics in a daily paper last week which revealed what teachers think of their school boards. The survey, supposedly a secret one by the Teachers Federation, was published by a Toronto newspaper, and we were surprised to find that North Halton teachers rated their accommodation and their teacher-board relationships in one of the lowest groups.

Let's hope that our North Halton teachers filled out their questionnaires without too much thought, for we think the reverse is true, and our school board should have the highest praise for its work over the past decade.

Road Controversy Settled

Indications that controversy over putting Delrex East roads in shape has ended is good news not only for residents in that part of town, but for everyone interested in Georgetown's future.

The differences between the town and Delrex Development's have already been magnified too much. When one part of town talks secession — when council members and subdividers seem to be at loggerheads every time they meet — when legal letters go back and forth between the two parties, it is not good publicity. It is hoped that settlement of the road

question will be only the first step in more harmonious relations and that Georgetown will pull out of the "slough of despondency" which has plagued it during a period of growing pains.

We have a good town council, interested in a progressive Georgetown. We have a large development firm which, unlike some others, has resident members who are interested in Georgetown as their home, not just as figures on a financial statement.

We are confident that any differences can be solved as the road situation was, by mutual give-and-take.



APARTHIED

Controversial Corner

by Ian Cass

THE U2 & CANADA'S DEFENSE

The ill-fated, badly timed flight of Mr. Powers in his U2 aircraft has achieved many negative results. One result, which may be positive or negative depending on future events, is the further emphasis of this country's lack of control over its own destiny. One many conditions of our country is unlikely to affect the situation very much. The world knows, and Russia in particular knows, that Canada has no defense of its own and no defense policy. She stands hesitating on the side lines, unable to take any action, bound by the undeniable fact that any effective defense of this country, if one exists, must be provided by the U.S. Defense Command.

THE DISTRICT at a Glance

BRAMPTON

Brampton is having its own "festival" of sorts. The Flying Club's application for a commercial festival was approved by the Board of Transport yesterday. If it is granted, planes may be chartered to the field by industrial businessmen and others in the area who are interested.

ACTON

In spite of efforts by Beardmore and Company to reduce the level of Fairy Lake by removing three stop logs at the dam, continuous rains have kept the level of the water at the lake above normal.

OAKVILLE

Medical training, art, typing and domestic science are a few of the courses on the high school curriculum. Dr. Gordon Farthing told the Oakville School Board Tuesday night.

BURLINGTON

A site for Burlington's proposed new civic centre will probably be selected before the end of May, members of a special committee charged with this problem said last Monday.

MILTON

Hilton Centennial Manor, Milton, is practically bursting at the seams and, pressured by a large waiting list of persons wishing admittance, took its first step towards solving accommodation problems this month when the two largest wings of a 120-bed expansion program were opened.

ORANGEVILLE

Formation of a go-cart club in the Orangeville area is already under way, according to Bill Robb, organizer of the club. Mr. Robb said 20 or 25 prospective members already exist and that negotiations are being carried on with members of the Recreation Committee for use of the building.

THE MAIL BAG

FOR THE WILD AND WOOLY
— 31 Byron St., May 14th, 1966

Dear Sir:

When Georgetown harbers decided to raise the price of haircuts and other services beginning next month, they may well have been responsible for establishing a new trend in living, at least in the east.

Not that I am opposed to a mere 25% increase in the cost of a haircut. This is very little after the last small increase of about 33% two or three years ago. And we will remember the new price will be only 50% higher than it was ten years ago.

Sugar and Spice

Disseminated by BILL BAKERLY of the Western Bunch

We've just staggered through again. Each year at this time, when most folks are thoroughly enjoying the burgeoning of spring, some of us are going through the harrowing, destroying experience of the Music Festival.

Each year it puts another splash of alive in my wig. Each year it forces another line in my already furrowed forehead. And each year, I am positive the Old Lady Jones' got through it without a complete nervous collapse.

But the human constitution seems to be made of a composite of old rubber boots and strap iron. I have already recovered to the point where my head is no longer thudding like a bongo drum. And Mum has once again tottered back from the brink of insanity and is her usual brack bullying self.

This year, our kids played in seven different piano classes. They went on several trips to the festival casino, and about 300 miles on the old '64 Buick, which gives us some 13 miles to the gallon.

However, I don't mind the expense. It's the bedlam that gets me down. Just trying to keep those kids in clean clothes is a feat in itself. And somebody was always late, or had got mud on her dress. We snarled and hurled recriminations on every trip until we were five miles out of town.

The festival hall is always the same. Beneath its apparent quiet and orderliness loathes a tangled current of confusion, hope and fear. Women all quietly about, nothing except their fatty hair, wild eyes and chewed lipstick to mark them as festival mothers.

Kids giggle and squirm with nerves as the big moment nears. The girls are all fussed up in their best dresses, with fancy bows and sparkling eyes and shining hair. The boys are quieter, stiffer, pale and tense. Their hands are sweating and they rub them on their pants.

Scattered here and there are the teachers, outwardly calm, inwardly churning. This is the culmination of months of hard work for the school. It can bring elation or dejection, depending on how their charges come through.

So there can be no opposition to the latest increase. Perhaps a few of the older inhabitants may protest, but some one has to pay the "fringe benefits" to any labour group.

However, with the same old-fashioned dullness of our eastern civilization, it just might be that some men would like to revert to the old wild west style of living.

In those days, you recall, the rank and file of the male population wore their hair to their shoulders, had mustaches (some waxed at that) and a beard the outlaw type could hide his guns behind.

Not for them the pallid, waxed features of their eastern brothers! What wasn't covered by tan was covered by whiskers and they were happy. No doubt their wives got a thrill, too, in having a bush between them and that early morning kiss.

Look at the masterly appearance of those long sideburns, the strength apparent in that delicately tapered and waxed mustache and you have a picture that would thrill any he-man!

Go back a little further to the Biblical patriarchs and get a similar view except for the robes and toques.

What a magnificent change to contemplate. What a release from the drudgery of that scrape and scratch ordeal every morning! What a relief to go out for the evening no different in appearance from that of the morning when you got up. How stimulating not to have a deadline to meet with the village tonorialist every so often for that plucking session!

To me, the change looks inevitable. It has to come! Youth must lead the way and demand that all males must follow. Alas, I too, would join them, but age and decrepitude would forbid that I carry around the extra weight that would be involved.

Then the adjudicator rings his bell. Dead quiet reigns. The first contestant, looking as awkward as an elephant, mounts the stage and the tension rises. One of those distraught mothers is holding her breath, her heart pounding painfully.

Sometimes one of the kids will get stuck. She'll hit a wrong chord, pause, try to recall, play a dissonant, loud chord. She sits there looking at the keyboard as though it were a monument to Chinese. She plays a couple of notes, looks down at the keys, looks down at the keys again. Her despair and agony are almost matched by those of the audience.

This year our adjudicator, David Ouchterlony of the conservatory, told a story about this sort of thing. It happened at a festival, in a five and under class. This little guy started off well, then got stuck. He fumbled around for a minute, then got going again.

But the second time, his right hand had started one note too high, and the whole piece went like that. He knew what order to play the notes in, and he was flying along in great style, but after a minute realized it sounded like a cat on a tin roof. He stopped dead, put his hands on his hips and stared at the piano in silence. Then he piped: "Hey, what's the matter with this piano?" in a clear tone.

When a class has finished playing, everyone sits looking as calm as a canary at a golf convention. The adjudicator scribbles notes. Then he walks to the front and the aficionados lean forward slightly, strung like wire, and the moment of truth arrives. When it's all over you hate the man bitterly, or think him an exceptionally discerning type, depending on how he has treated your offspring.

Tears lurk over the surface for the youngsters who have worked hard for months, then made a mess of the piece because of festival nerves. Mature women feel like screaming. The odd father present slumps as though he'd had a heart attack.

Oh it's a grand business, the Music Festival. But mothers, unlike cats, have only one Neat year: at festival time. I shall enter a monastery for a week, and let the chips and the tears fall where they may.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald, May 22nd, 1935

At a special meeting of the High School Board on Saturday afternoon, James M. Paton, M.A. of Hamilton was engaged as principal of Georgetown High School to succeed Mr. Ralph Ross who resigned last month. Mr. Paton's salary will be \$2,500.

Our local quarries are quite busy at present and every available man is working. It's beginning to look as if the depression is moving out.

Chief Inspector George Guthrie has been promoted to Deputy-Chief of the Toronto Police Force and will take over his new duties on November 30th, 1935. His many old friends in Georgetown and vicinity extend congratulations.

Georgetown beat Brampton in the first game of the tri-county baseball opener here Saturday 14 to 6. Georgetown batting order: Harry Woods, catcher; Andy Ritchie, short stop; Lefty McMillan, 3rd base; Foster Beaumont, right field; Ed Hoare, centre field; Sheeny Tost, second base; Bill Ritchie, left field; Benny Benham, first base; Roy Wilcox and Fat Walters, pitchers.

At the Gregory Theatre — "One More Spring," starring Janet Gaynor and Warner Baxter; "Kid Millions," starring Eddie Cantor; and "The Iron Duke" starring George Arliss.

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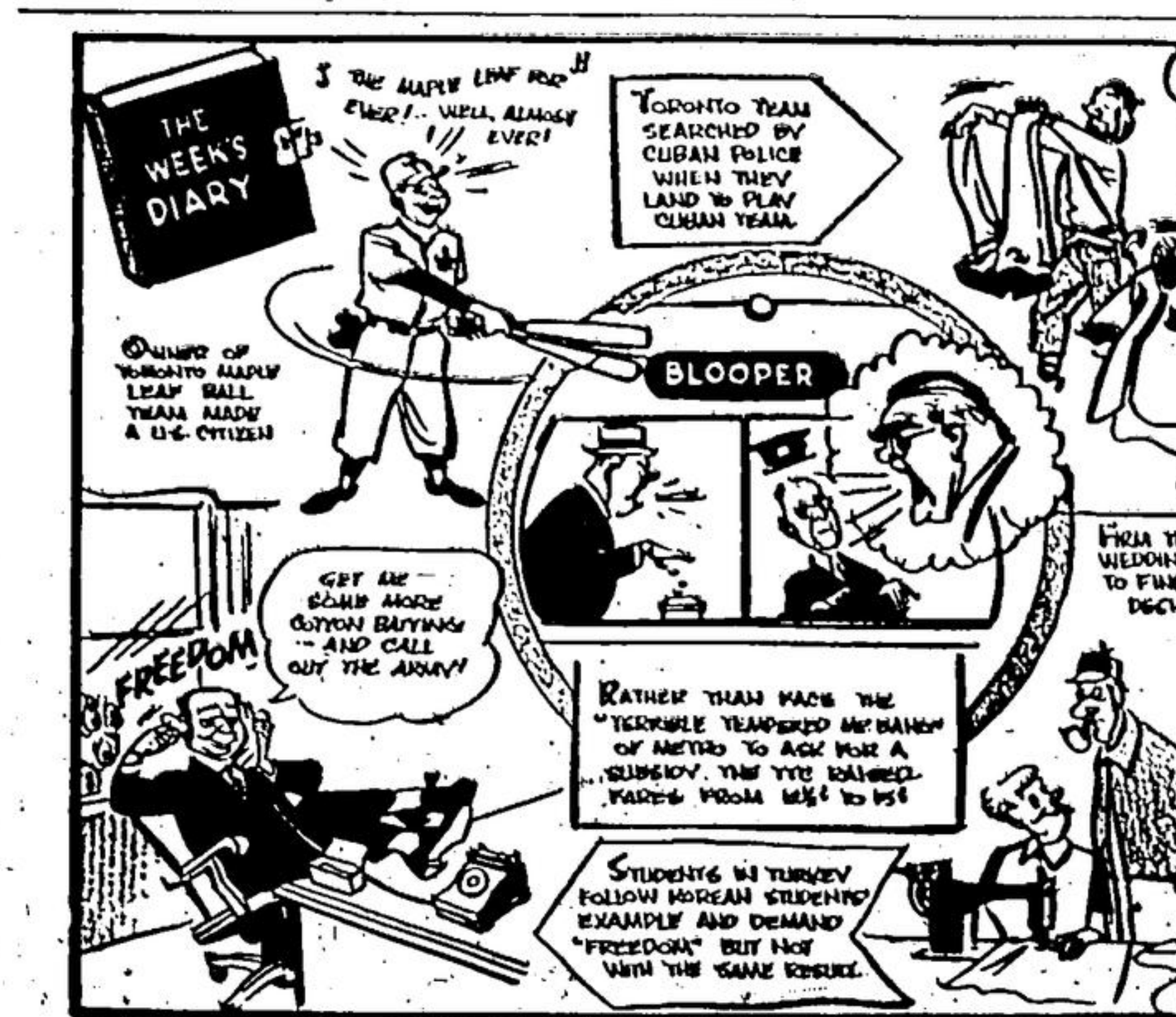
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WORDS OF THE WISE
The people sensible enough to give good advice are usually sensible enough to give none. — (Eden Phillpotts)



HEADLINES IN REVIEW