

A Student Speaks

Should Allow More Scope For Students to Question

by David Blaney

The question of a student's role in the secondary educational system is a very touchy one for it brings up the idea of student power, or student responsibility, or any of the multitude of names that that nebulous quantity is referred to by.

I am not going to get into the question of whether a student has the right to actively question his curriculum or his individual teachers although I believe that to some extent he must certainly have. What I want to discuss is the general question of where a student should fit into the system in general, as opposed to where he is fitted in now.

A student is fully aware that much of his role in the secondary educational system is the passive role of a receptor. However if he has not already succumbed to the idea that the teacher is handing down the one and only true word he also realizes that it is his duty to question every single idea that is transmitted to him by his teachers. He is to be a critical receptor who must actively question what he has been told. It is at this point that he is liable to find himself in trouble. An objective analysis would reveal that it is most difficult to question each minor point as it comes along, when you do not have a grasp of the whole picture. Consequently many teachers when confronted with numerous queries are apt to consider it far more relevant to simply brush them off in favour of finishing an assigned course justifying this action by saying that if the student just waits he will find out later as to whether his question was even necessary. This leads many students to give up questioning altogether, not only in the classroom where they have what is nearly their only chance to ask questions and express opinions but also in their minds.

This refusal on the part of many students, to not only ex-

press opinions but to just form them in the first place is perhaps understandable but it is nevertheless a direct denial of what a student must do to be the most out of what he is being taught. A student must be ready and willing to form opinions on anything that has been told where opinions can be formed. I don't suggest that students should go around arguing that one and one makes something other than two, but he should certainly be free to question attitudes and ideas that his various teachers may transmit on subjective questions on the order of present society is good because of the American Civil War was caused by—

Both teachers and students should recognize that there is nothing wrong in the idea of forming an opinion with whatever information is available as long as a person is free to change that opinion as soon as later information shows that it is not as correct as it could be. For if a person has not been forming opinions right from the start how are we going to determine when we have gained sufficient knowledge to do so? If it is quite obvious that no person will ever know the last word on any topic, so unless we are going to set some sort of arbitrary age limit on when we are allowed to begin to think for ourselves we are going to have to let teachers start just as soon as he or she is able.

Now of course comes the question of how do we tell when a person is ready to begin to think and this can only be answered by the student involved. When a person is ready in his own mind to begin to form opinions then he is ready to begin to think. It is as simple as that.

It is not only the duty of all teachers to encourage their students to think it is also the duty of each student to encourage the expression of opinions of his fellows whether they are in lower grades than himself or not.

2,000 Books on Saturday Busiest Day for Library

"We handled close to 2,000 books on Saturday, our busiest day ever," Georgetown librarian Miss Marjorie Nazer told The Herald Monday. The record day saw every aisle crowded with borrowers and queue lines of members waiting for bustling staff members to check them through.

The annual report released by the Library Board this week indicates busy days at the library are the rule rather than the exception. Circulation continued to spiral upwards during 1967 reached the 109,560 mark, an increase of 16,906 over the previous year.

The library has 4,578 active members as well as another thousand who make occasional use of the 18,032 books in stock and 2,225 periodicals. In 1967 a total of 2,901 new books were added to the shelves and 475 were either lost or discarded.

| Books In Stock | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Adult Fiction | 4,031 |
| Adult Non-fiction | 7,161 |
| Adult Reference | 351 |
| 12,443 | |
| Jr. Fiction & Non-fiction | 5,449 |
| Junior Reference | 140 |
| 5,589 | |
| 18,032 | |
| New books added to Stock during 1967 | |
| Books borrowed from other Libraries | 73 |
| Books lost and discarded | 475 |
| Adult Circulation | |
| 100 General & Philosophy | 921 |
| 200 Religion | 534 |
| 300 Social Science | 2,008 |
| 400 Language | 170 |
| 500 Pure Science | 1,408 |
| 600 Useful Arts | 3,169 |
| 700 Arts and Recreation | 2,875 |
| 800 Literature | 1,814 |
| 900 History | 2,823 |
| 910 Travel | 2,103 |
| 920 Biography | 3,204 |
| Total Non-Fiction | |
| 20,835 | |
| Total Fiction | |
| 31,498 | |
| Adult Total | |
| 52,333 | |
| Junior Total | |
| 87,227 | |
| Total | |
| 109,560 | |
| Periodicals, approx. | |
| 2,225 | |

| Membership | |
|----------------|-------|
| Adult Town | 1,588 |
| Junior Town | 2,009 |
| Adult NRM | 232 |
| Junior NRM | 749 |
| Total | |
| 4,578 | |
| active members | |

ASHGROVE Elect Elders, Stewards For New Joint Church

A very pleasant evening of good fellowship and harmony was held on Wednesday, January 24th in Ashgrove Church when the first meeting of the newly formed congregation uniting the two United Churches of Hornby and Ashgrove enjoyed a splendid turnout. The business of the evening was electing the elders and stewards and also appointing Frank Ruddle as an honorary elder, his name to be added to the honorary list. Then followed a social get-acquainted time, with lunch.

February 2nd is coming! Will the groundhog see his shadow? We hope he does, as it only means six more weeks of winter and then, that ever-popular lady Spring, will be here and made very welcome.

We are all very sorry that Nelson Stark had to be taken to Georgetown Hospital. His friends wish him a speedy recovery.

Happy birthday to Mr. Arthur Ruddle who celebrates his big day February 6th.

Heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Wilson, 63, Charles St., who celebrate their thirtieth wedding anniversary on February 5th.

Thirty years of wedded bliss. Yes, it was 1938. Everyone hopes that both of them

Have many more years from this date, And may their lives in every way Be very happy and merry. To both of you God bless you on This fifth of February.

Month To Go, Still 80% To Get Licences

As of Tuesday morning approximately 19.5 per cent of car owners in this district had obtained 1968 license plates, about 5 per cent less than last year.

If this trend should continue at the same rate, for the next few days, it means an almost inevitable long line-up during February. The Department has said that the 'no extension rule' will be adhered to and plates must be obtained. They also point out that there is a large increase in car owners in all parts of Ontario, and this will be a contributing factor.

There are almost two million drivers in the province, and 280 issuing offices.

The blue and white plates are on sale till the end of the month, and commercial vehicles and trailer plates go on sale March 31st.

The local office hopes that business will begin to brighten this weekend. Last week was a disappointing one with only some forty five registrations on Saturday morning. Instead of the anticipated 250 to 300. If however, the next few days, a definite quickening in business takes place, there will be no need for anyone to wait locally.

Big Value, Small Investment For Horticulture Members

The annual meeting of the Georgetown Horticultural Society was held Wednesday, January 17th, in Knox Church Hall with forty members present, some of the rural members having only been released from winter's grip just hours before the meeting.

Fred Duffield, president of the Society gave a generous welcome and thank you to all present for their effort and interest by attending. A comprehensive word picture of the past year's activities was unfolded. Norman Bird, secretary-treasurer presented a complete financial year-end report which proved the most active year yet in the history of the Society. Mr. Bird informed the meeting that the treasurer's books had been fully audited and approved. This having been undertaken by manager Donald H. Wingrove and Kenneth C. Hooper of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

The president in his report drew the attention of the meeting to the activities that the membership had taken part in the latter part of the year, namely the panel discussion meeting in November, a bus trip to the Royal Botanical Headquarters in Hamilton to view a Christmas arrangement show and competition and a December meeting which took on a party flavor. Reference was made also to the plantings undertaken by the Society at the Islands on main street and a permanent planting of crab trees and peonies at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. He also thanked the social committee headed by Mrs. Wm. Boyle for the refreshments always on hand at the close of each meeting.

Mr. Duffield called on Robert Barber to report on the success of the Jump Flower Show and the Centennial Flower Show held in September. Classes had been increased and entries increased also. Trophies and Awards had also been added to which had created more interest.

H.J. Herder reported on the past year's membership pointing out the activities, social time and competitions enjoyed by the membership for only one dollar a year. He further informed the meeting that the Georgetown Society is one of 245 societies and part of a 45,000 membership divided into 16 districts in Ontario. Mr. Herder urged the members to increase the Georgetown membership during 1968.

Before turning the meeting over to Mr. Norman Bird for the election of officers the president commented on the faithful interest and concern by Mr. Bird in his office as Secretary-Treasurer. Due to Mr. Bird's interest and guidance the Society has functioned smoothly in the past and expressed the hope that Mr. Bird would continue in this capacity.

The suggested list of officers and board members presented

by the nominating committee were duly considered and approved to guide the Society during 1968.

President J.F. Duffield: 1st vice president, D.N. Cole; 2nd vice president, H.J. Herder. Directors for two years: Mrs. W. Imeson, Mrs. Wm. Boyle, Mrs. H.J. Herder, Mr. J.L. Colter, Mr. Bruce Harley. Directors for one year: Mrs. J. F. Duffield, Mrs. W. R. Norton, Mr. R. Williams, Mr. R. S. Barber, Mr. C. Renwick.

Before turning the meeting back to Mr. Duffield, Mr. Bird spoke highly of the board meetings during the past year. The business and activity planning had been properly executed by concerned members and because of this he found his duties as secretary-treasurer most enjoyable.

The president formally introduced to the meeting W. J. Packham, director of District 8 of the Ontario Horticultural Association. Mr. Packham complimented the local Society on its organization, activities carried out and the form this annual meeting was being presented which was indicative of all monthly meetings. Mr. Packham spoke briefly on the duties and activities of his office as Director and the overall picture of the Ontario Horticultural Association working in conjunction with the Ontario Department of Agriculture. Mention was made of the Association Convention planned for Windsor in June this year. The activities planned for the delegates and members will be a drawing card for a large attendance this year. A number of colored slides depicting highlights of recent flower shows attended by Mr. Packham were projected to the enjoyment of all present.

Douglas Cole thanked Mr. Packham for his visit, informative message and slides, expressing the hope that he and Mrs. Packham would find time to make a second visit to this Society later in the year.

A door prize draw was held at this point in the meeting and the following members of the audience held lucky tickets: Ben Case, W.J. Packham, Mrs. Joseph Murray, Miss Eileen Jackson, Mrs. Fred Heison and E. Barr.

The February public meeting will welcome Ernest Ball, a local

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al citizen, who will present an illustrated talk of a recent trip to New Zealand and other parts of call in the south Pacific.

The March meeting will introduce Wm. Hartnell, noted horticulturist and lecturer, as guest for the evening.

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