

EDITORIAL COMMENT

We Haven't Budged

The anticipated flood of letters objecting to our remarks about the Hall-Dennis report on education, has not changed our mind: one whit on the subject.

We do not say that the report is all bad. We do say that the basic premise of having children decide what they want to learn and when, of having no formal examinations, no grades, is placing teachers and students in an impossible situation which can only end to the detriment of an upcoming generation.

We have perhaps already been too permissive towards young people, tending to take them too seriously. We seem to be seeking a togetherness of which our parents never thought. We have harped on the bad things in our world, on giving young people their head, to such an extent that today's child thinks he has a perfect right to treat anyone over voting age as a relic of the past.

Our quarrel with the Hall report is that a group of supposedly sensible adults could come up with support for the attitude of a young minority who frown on education as a means to a better economic future and dream of some mystical world where they sit and contemplate the stars

while some mysterious force looks after their bodily needs.

We don't criticize the youngsters too much. This attitude is not new, and is to be expected, particularly among university freshmen, facing a new world of knowledge, free of some of the guidelines of secondary schooling.

What they need, and what they got in the past, was a tolerance by adults, who winked an eye at some of their shenanigans, used a wet blanket when necessary, but above all, didn't exaggerate things out of proportion.

Now too many parents, too many teachers, are fostering this free-wheeling attitude, goading youngsters into paths of thinking which will have to be painfully discarded when the moment of truth (a job) arrives.

Whether we like it or not, we live in a competitive world, and the person who comes out on top is the one who learns early and well that he must conform to it. Permissive learning, as the Hall report recommends, can only lead to disaster for a generation of young people if it ever is adopted. Let's hope some sanity still exists among those we trust to chart our educational paths.

Good News for Seniors

Some senior citizens, caught in an inflationary spiral, when a fixed income is shrinking in value, will welcome the news that town and township may combine on an apartment project geared to income.

The Kinsmen club has been active in promoting this for some time, and had reached the building stage a couple of years ago, only to become bogged down in red tape. By the time this began to unravel, costs had increased so sharply that the Kin had to take a second look at their prospective financing.

Now instead of this being a privately financed project, the provincial and federal governments will underwrite the cost completely. Only stipulation is that the municipalities

grant a fixed tax ceiling of \$25 per year per unit.

The plan would seem to be an ideal one for a town like Georgetown. Rents have reached the stage where an employed person is hard put to make his budget balance. A pensioner, faced not only with rising rents, but with a cost of living increase for food and clothing, is finding it impossible to keep up unless he has an extra source of income, or an assist from his family.

Fortunately many have this, and construction of an apartment building will not mean that hundreds of people will be competing for the 24 units planned. But it is probable that demand will exceed supply, even then.

Full Circle

Those who patronize Gray Coach Lines will note that next Monday, the buses will return to their former Main Street route, and the terminal will move back to its former location at Stan's Restaurant.

Since council pushed them off Main Street a few months ago, it became more and more like a comic opera.

First the residents of Church, Charles and Maple lodged a protest at the new route, with some justification, for their streets are mainly residential.

Council immediately began to back-track, and suggestions flew thick and fast. A return to Main St., a complete highway route, and the old one of years back, down Mill and Water Streets to the highway, were all talked about.

One morning the parking meters which had been placed in front of the restaurant were removed and the terminal almost restored, then a fast change was made back to the Charles route.

HALYON EAST M.P.P.

JIM SNOW REPORTS



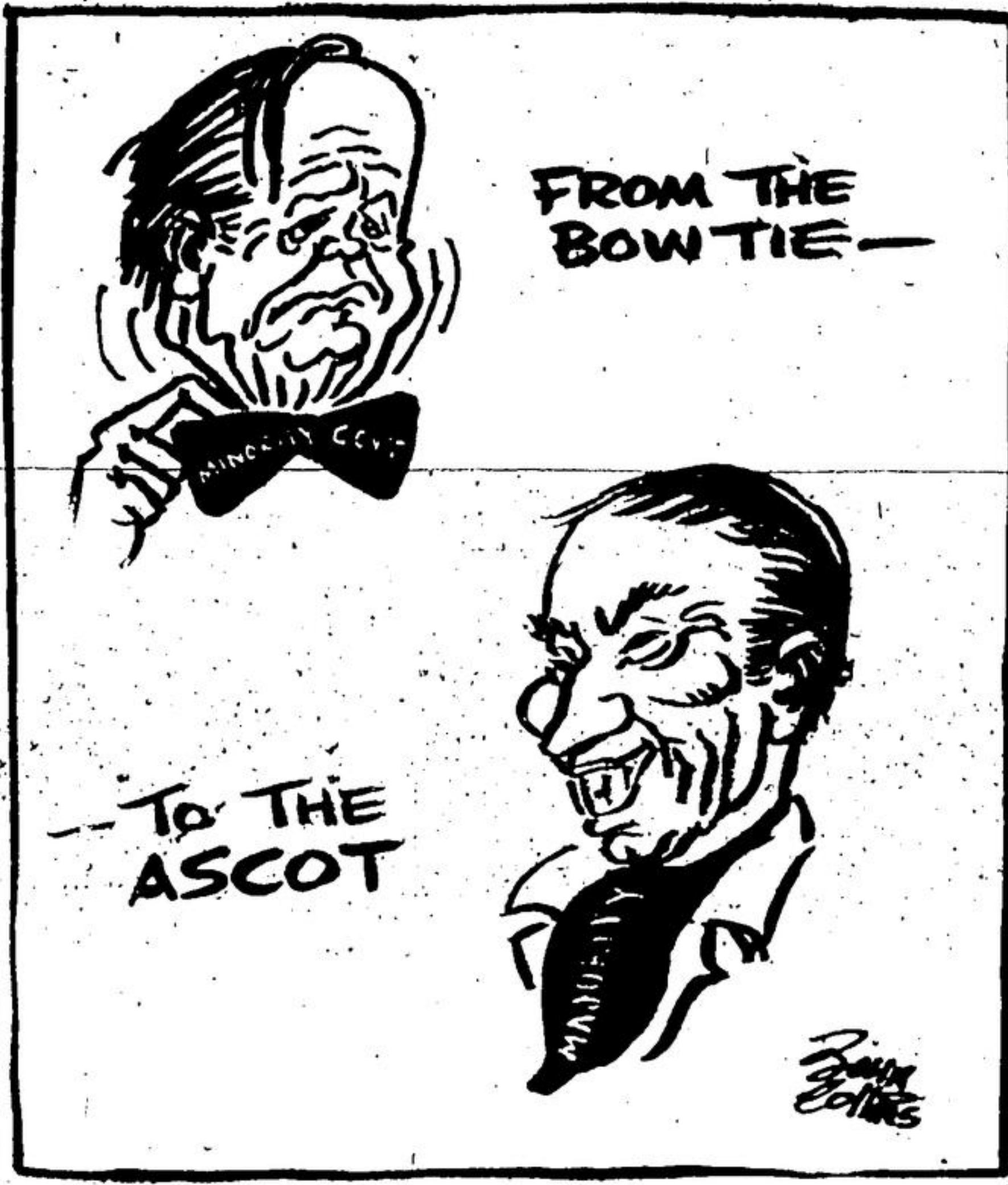
MONDAY, JULY 1st, I had the opportunity and the pleasure of representing the Honourable John P. Robarts, Q.C., Prime Minister of Ontario, at the official flag raising ceremony of the '68 Windsor-Detroit International Freedom Festival. This Freedom Festival has been held annually for the last ten years and is sponsored by the Councils of the Cities of Windsor and Detroit to celebrate and promote the goodwill between our sister cities along with our great countries of Canada and

the United States. The Honourable Paul Martin represented the Federal Government at the flag raising while I represented the Province of Ontario.

THIS WEEK the Honourable William Davis, Q.C., Minister of Education, introduced legislation to establish larger units of administration for Roman Catholic separate schools. Briefly, this legislation when passed will establish County Separate School Boards for the separate schools similar to the County Boards of Education being established for the primary and secondary public schools.

THE ESTABLISHMENT of a new provincial park in the Chapeau area has been announced by the Honourable Rene Brunelle, Minister of Lands and Forests. This 112,000 acre park is on Missisquoi Lake and will be known as the Missisquoi Lake Provincial Park.

WE ARE LOOKING forward next Thursday to a visit to the Legislature by 24 high school students from Whitehorse in the Yukon Territories, who are spending a week as guests of



CHANGING STYLES IN OTTAWA

THE MAIL BAG

Present Education System Not Geared To Realities

17 Edith Street, Georgetown, Ont.

Dear Mr. Editor:

I disagree with your stand on the Hall-Dennis Report on education, discussed in the editorials of your last two issues.

As a person with only four years of teaching experience, and about fifteen in the "hard world of business", even I have been aware that the tightly structured course of study in our schools (grades, marks, ex-

aminations, fixed curriculum, etc.) simply does not relate to the realities of either the business world or the learning human being.

Before we write off the very learned members of the Hall-Dennis Commission as "crackpots" who are "out of their minds", or send off ill-considered diatribes to the news media or MPP Jim Snow, let's take a closer look at these sacred institutions that we consider so essential to the preservation of our society.

SUGAR AND SPICE by Bill Smiley

Ah, That Silver Lining

If your family is anything like mine, you must sometimes put your head down on your arms and weep, quietly and bitterly.

We go through periods of passivity and moridity to the point where mass suicide seems the only sane solution.

And with the perversity of life, suddenly the clouds break, the sun comes out, the rainbow appears, there's a pot of gold at its base and God is gone, again back in His heaven, instead of hanging around the pool-hall.

EXAMINATIONS

Typically, the student is denied the use of reference material during examinations; he is expected to have memorized what he needs. Examinations can at best ask fragmentary questions within their strict time limit. The air of suspicion which permeates the classroom is unlikely to produce the best mental atmosphere in which the student can perform well.

Finally, the dam broke. All in one day we hit the crisis. Hugh phoned from Quebec City to learn that his mum was likely breathing her last. Kim was granted her year at school. And that night a shaky old lady of about 90 called from the hospital to tell me that she was alive though not exactly kicking.

During the next week the tide rose and the old family ship which had been high and dry on the bleak beach amid the rotting weeds began to float again.

Hugh phoned his mother in hospital and she was so glad to hear from him that she forgot to give him hell for not writing her. The missus came home from hospital with an all-clear, beautiful scar and feeling remarkably perky. Kim recovered her health with amazing speed.

So as it stands now Hugh has a job as a waiter in Quebec City is happy and has stopped smoking and biting his nails. My wife is overwhelmed by the flowers and cards from friends. Didn't think she had many. And she's feeling great on a cloud because her brother has invited her to visit him in Quebec City and she's going all the way by herself with no parents to ruin everything.

All of this is rather uninteresting but it is written as inspirational material for those thousands of gallant men across the country who are about ready to burst into tears.

Don't let it get you down Jack. Behind every dark cloud there is a darker one. Just keep that in mind and you'll be amazed at how you feel when the sun suddenly comes out. If you can live so long.

were among the slow learners, however hard we tried, how hopeless it seemed to compete with those seemingly blessed people who sailed through exams without a care in the world.

The Hall-Dennis Report recommends that this rigid grading system be abolished, and that each student be given the opportunity to advance at his own best speed.

Thus the slow student could achieve his own goals without the constant fear of failure, and develop into a useful and contented member of society instead of a social dropout. The advanced student would be able to move ahead as quickly as he is able, and could therefore cover much more ground than is possible for him at present. The average student would probably experience little change under the new system.

THE RIGID CURRICULUM

Present curricula having rigid blocks of time devoted to stock subjects are catering to those who seek a standardized society or a neat pigeon-hole in which to fit the graduating student. Unfortunately for them, students are not made like engine blocks coming off an assembly line. They have individual interests and varying capabilities. Too often the present system stifles an interest in an area in which the student might otherwise have excelled.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

In a society almost dominated by technology it is tempting to overemphasize the importance of learning a trade, as indicated by another of your editorials. The pillar of traditional trade training is that it becomes largely obsolete as techniques change. In your own business, Mr. Editor, the technology of printing is going through a revolution as computer-programmed photo-printing supplants the time honoured mysteries of the linotype machine or the even older craft of handset type. The student with too specialized a training in a trade, but without the breadth of education needed to help him think, may find himself unemployed much sooner than he imagines.

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

As a private citizen you are entitled to both your opinions and the areas in which you choose to be knowledgeable. However, as editor of the only news medium in town you have a further responsibility to be better informed about the rapid changes going on in the world, and in particular about matters of local significance.

You suggested editorially that the Hall-Dennis recommendations, if carried out, would be as deadly and final as any Communist takeover could ever be.

While it is encouraging to note that the Herald is beginning to deal with issues of social significance, I suspect that you are deluding yourself and insulting the intelligence of your readers if you really believe that most people in Georgetown still accept the comfortable, middle-class myth that all will be well if we will just cling to the simple practices of our grandfathers.

Personally, I have a higher respect for my neighbours, young and old, and I have great hope for the youthful vigour and imagination of Canadians in the twentieth century.

— JAMES WARREN

Georgetown Herald

Published by Home Newspapers Limited
Georgetown, Ontario
Walter C. Blehn, Publisher

Garfield McGilvray, Production Superintendent
Terry Harley, Aileen Bradley, News Editor, Accountant
Valerie Tost, Anne Currie, Reporter
Frank Mullin, Advertising Manager
Leslie Clark, Dave Hastings, Myles Gilson, John McClements, George Young

ARNOLD RATHBUN

SUN LIFE OF CANADA
877-4931

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

DONALD A. GAY

D.C. Introducing
BIO - ENGINEERING
the new, painless, SPINAL THERAPY
30 Mill St. - Georgetown
for appointment call 877-3401

BARRAGER'S

Cleaners-Shirt Launderers
877-2279
18 Main St. - 166 Guelph
All work done on premises

CORBETT

Chiropractic Clinic
SPINAL X-RAY
SERVICE AVAILABLE
By Appointment: 877-6631
69 Mill St. (Old Post Office)

Wallace Thompson

3rd Division Court
877-2963
Clerk & Commissioner

Walker - Currie

OPYOMETRISTS
12 Main St. S., Brampton
Phone 451-4474
Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesday to Saturday
Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Evenings by Appointment

GEORGETOWN Animal Clinic

106 Guelph Street
Office Hours
9-5 p.m. Monday to Friday
Doctor's Hours
9-11 a.m. Monday to Saturday
6-8 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday
R. GASKIN, D.V.M.
B. BUCKRELL, D.V.M.
Phone: 877-2741

McBain and Hulme

Ontario Land Surveyors
Willowdale
222-2536
L.C. MILLESSE, O.L.S.
877-8275 (residence)

W. H. CARR

Professional Engineer
Consulting Engineer
Ontario Land Surveyor
Office: 877-2211
877-3300 Home

ROBERT R. HAMILTON

OPYOMETRIST
118 Mountainview Road South
Carretal Bldg.
For Appointment
877-3971

MONUMENTS

POLLOCK & CAMPBELL
DESIGNS ON REQUEST
Inspect our work in Greenwood Cemetery
PHONE 621-7580
62 Water Street North
G A L Y

OPYOMETRIST

L. M. Brown O. D.,
35 Mill St.
For Appointments phone
877-3471

Koller Construction

Is Now Installing
ALUMINUM SIDING,
WINDOWS & DOORS
All Work Guaranteed
Free estimates,
CALL 877-9102