

Parents favor controversial film

Only two parents openly objected to their children being shown the film "Sexuality and Communication" in high school. The film was shown to parents on Thursday evening at the Family Life meeting at M. Z. Bennett school, and dealt with such things as masturbation, reproductive organs, what is normal in the way of body functions and communications between husband and wife, not necessarily sexual. It also lightly skims over premarital sex.

Amidst much controversy in the large Toronto daily newspapers over the film being shown to students, at M. M. Robertson School in Burlington, the film has raised the question, "What is wrong, and what is right, and who is to give the correct answer?"

Role playing

The film featured a Canadian version of Masters and Johnson, each taking the role of a doctor and female and male patients. The two doctors switch roles as doctor and patient in order to allow both sides to be presented.

During the course of the film, several facts of sexual relationships came up.

The first statement to be made when the film was over was, "This is the film that blew the top off M. M. Robertson school?" one parent exclaimed unbelievably.

This was the statement which started a barrage of statements, mostly in favor of the film being shown to the teenagers.

However, one mother calmly stated, "In my opinion, it is more for family counselling. It should not be in high schools."

Brinn Skerrett, chairman of student services, and coordinator of the family life meetings told the parents, "Nobody is trying to convince you of anything here." He continued, "You are entitled to your own opinions."

A few things the film pointed out, about life in general are that women have feelings too, the belief that crying isn't accepted in boys, dirty jokes convey sex is dirty and the old adage that little boys are admired for what they are going to achieve and little girls are admired for being pretty.

It shows how, when someone is in a bad mood, others can be hurt through lack of communication and if the reason for the mood were discussed, there would be more understanding, thus, no hurt.

Demoralizing

One parent expressed her fears of the film demoralizing her children, while another parent dispelled her fears by saying that if the parents were doing a good enough job during all the years of child rearing, "then that thing (the film) should not even put a dent in their thoughts. One film is not going to change their minds about how they felt before seeing it."

Another irate mother fumed, "My opinion of it is that it is only for married couples with sexual problems."

One father, who explained he can talk to some of his children, and not others, was very enthusiastic about the film being shown to teenagers. "I think it is a beautiful film," he told the group of 30 parents. "I would have no objections to my kids seeing the film." He went on to say, "There are some of my kids I need help in reaching, and if I can get it, I would appreciate it no matter where it came from!"

Most of the parents were unanimous in their decision that "kids are going to learn about sex one way or another, whether we teach them or not. If they are going to learn, I would rather them learn the facts." Some admitted they

too, had learned from the film.

One parent summed up everyone's thoughts by saying, "It is always more difficult to be open with people you are emotionally involved with." He continued to say that the school represented a third party, who, in most cases, could do a better job.

Communication

"The film delved in communication, not sex," one man told the group.

Another pointed out, "If they replaced the sex with drugs in this film, there would be no objections."

A few parents were concerned because the film did not tell their children not to engage in premarital intercourse, while others felt it was not telling them to have it.

"We have to teach our kids a decision-making process. We cannot make up their minds," Mr. Skerrett said.

The student services chairman went on to say that at the present time, health classes taught about pregnancies, abortions and venereal disease.

Mr. Skerrett told the group, "We don't accomplish a great deal by moralising alone." He sees the teachers' role as a clarifier, and that lack of information can lead to problems. "You can never know too much," he said.

Contesting

One parent felt ages nine years and up should see the film, while others agreed it was alright for high school, but no younger.

The film spoke in language of today, and not in a lot of psychological terms which confuse teenagers.

Mixed reactions

The film has been received with mixed reactions throughout Halton, as parents have turned out to see the screening. Halton Renaissance Committee were totally against the film when

Carrier of the week



DEBBIE THORNHILL is a grade six student at Robert Little school, and younger sister of last week's featured carrier Janice. Debbie delivers the Free Press newspapers on a south part of Cobblehill Rd. Her interests include bowling and crafts.

Robert Little News

By Merle McNabb

Well schools over for a week and a half. Most schools were out on Thursday and will go back next Tuesday. I hope you all have a safe, happy holiday.

I'm sorry I didn't put anything in the column last week. I realized on Tuesday that I forgot. My apologies again.

A week ago the women teachers played the girls basketball team (We let them win!) 8-6. It sure was fun to watch.

Last Wednesday the Easter Contest was judged. Mrs. Gardiner's room won for the Jr. rooms for decorating the doors.

Mrs. Doberthien's class and Mrs. Gibson's class won for the Sr.'s in decorating the classes.

Spring

Hikers taking to the parks on Sunday were delighted to hear and see signs of spring everywhere.

Crows were cawing, rivers were running fast and rabbits were to be seen hopping about.

It was shown to them in Milton. However, the showing in Georgetown was received with general enthusiasm.

The film is planned for senior students in the high school, and will require parental permission before seeing the show.

Some parents were concerned about their own communications with their teenagers. Mr. Skerrett told the group he would like to start up a course designed specifically for this reason in September. He mentioned the Parent Effectiveness Training course to be underway in April and recommended it.

"Sexuality and Communication" was originally filmed for medical students.

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JOHNNY JORDAN in his two steering wheel garbage truck, with built-in music.

Whistle while you work musical garbage truck

Music to pack garbage by is the latest wrinkle in a new one man garbage truck, that announces its coming in Halton Hills by blaring rock and roll music.

Johnny Jordan, of Acton, operator of the new truck found it a bit lonesome

driving and collecting garbage all day by himself, so he installed his own tape deck in the cab of the truck, probably the only musical garbage truck for miles around.

Music is not the only innovation in this new truck. It also has two steering wheels

and loads garbage from the front.

The steering wheel on the left is for normal driving and is used only travelling to and from the land fill site or the works garage.

The other steering wheel on the right is used to drive along the street slowly so garbage can be picked up.

The packer is operated from the front so there's no waste motion running around the back of the truck.

The \$31,000 truck was delivered to Halton Hills in January and has been driven by Johnny since then. He joined Halton Hills work department in February 1974.

What does Frank Morette, General Works Superintendent think of music to work by? "If it keeps our men happy, it's all right with me," he commented.

the leadership of Helen Rowe Allison Ginn and Jean Vaughan enjoyed the hour. Ten girls passed their skater's badge that afternoon. They were Sharon Bendicks, Christine Allen, Katie Bell, Karen Van der Eyken, Diane Wilson, Kelly Payne, Jo Anne Van der Eyken, Andrea Jenkinson, Connie Craig and Mary Craig. Many thanks to June Gerth, who tested the girls.

All Easter tickets should now be in as the draw will be held tomorrow at the Beaver meeting. Mothers are reminded of the Scout and Guide Mothers meeting tonight at 8:30 at the Scout Hall. Please come down and meet some new friends.

Scout and Guide news

by Mark Rowe

The first Acton Cubs held a campover and hike Friday March 21 and Saturday March 22.

They slept in St. Alban's hall Friday night. Saturday morning the boys were divided into four groups with a group leader. They were also accompanied by four Scouts, who gave advice and counsel at each of the six stations.

Caribou hunt

The boys pretended they were on a caribou hunt. They stopped at compass direction, bridge, building, lost in the bush, first aid, shelter building and trail signs. Prizes were given based on the number of points earned at each station. Everyone had a good time in spite of the inclement weather.

The hike was held on Bill

Acri's property. The Cubs would like to thank St. Alban's church, Bill Acri, the parents, the Scouts, the Scout and Guide Mothers and M. Z. Bennett school, for helping to make this event a success.

Drill

The Venturers were given a practice drill, Sunday in camping skills. They went out to Mansell Nellis's land on the Sixth Line at about two o'clock. Venturer advisor Harold Saville supervised the boys as they back packed, set up tents, built fires, set up a proper campsite and cooked lunch. Mr. Saville feels that a lot was accomplished in those few hours.

The first and second Guide companies rented ice time Monday afternoon. Approximately 20 girls under

If you get the feeling good things are happening in Ontario



wait 'til you see what the new lottery does for us.

It's like a kind of awakening. More and more of us are getting into things.

Kids' baseball tournaments. The Hamilton Philharmonic. Jogging clubs, folk dancing, art classes, Bonspiels. It's happening all over the Province and it's only the beginning.

Now, we've got a new "Ministry" to help. The Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

Its job is simply to help each of us get more out of life.

At first it will coordinate things already under way. Like the Ontario Summer Games, the Science Centre, the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

But then it will start helping new programs. And

there are literally hundreds of opportunities.

Travelling theatre groups. New hockey rinks. Support for women in the arts. New libraries, in places where they don't even exist. Because part of the idea is to give all of us an equal chance to participate, wherever we live.

How can we do it all? Well, there's the funds from the new Ontario Lottery, starting just a few weeks from now.

The Lottery is expected to provide many millions of dollars. And every dollar we then put into the various programs will be for just one reason. To help each of us get more out of life.

So this is going to be one lottery where all of us win.

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