

Renaissance releases education allegations

Halton Renaissance Committee has released and made public what it claims to be facts substantiating allegations made during an earlier meeting with Halton Board of Education.

The committee had, among other things, charged that the board had promoted permissive or liberal educators to high positions as opposed to the traditional or conservative people in the system.

The brief makes reference to particular schools and particular individuals in the system. Names of individuals had been blanked out in copies released for publication.

By-passed

The committee charged that a chairman appointed at Q. E. School lacks a Type A teaching certificate. "Why

were many other more qualified people by-passed?" the brief asks.

"It is contended that poorly qualified people have been and will be appointed to these positions unless the board formulates precise policies which emphasize specialist requirements for each subject headed.

This report has shown that Burlington controls the Halton education system. This in itself is unimportant. What is important however, is that the Halton education system encourages the progressive modern style which too often is synonymous with undisciplined anarchy. Those elements shown to be ineffective are still being implemented as evidenced by the L.B.P. report and the transfer of a

principal from one undisciplined school to another.

"It has also been shown that demotions, rather than being random, have a clear pattern which strengthens the allegation that the Burlington group is consolidating its position and policies."

Poor performance

"Finally it has been shown that the four or five worst schools in the system in terms of performance in the mathematics competition are the same few schools that receive all the publicity and criticism as being permissive, undisciplined and of low educational benefit. This cannot be ascribed to coincidence."

In the brief, committee chairman Gordon Reade points out that 11 of the 14 people on the administrative council came from the Burlington system. The committee objects to that trend because it feels educators in the northern and eastern parts of the region are being held back because they tend to be more conservative and traditional in their methods.

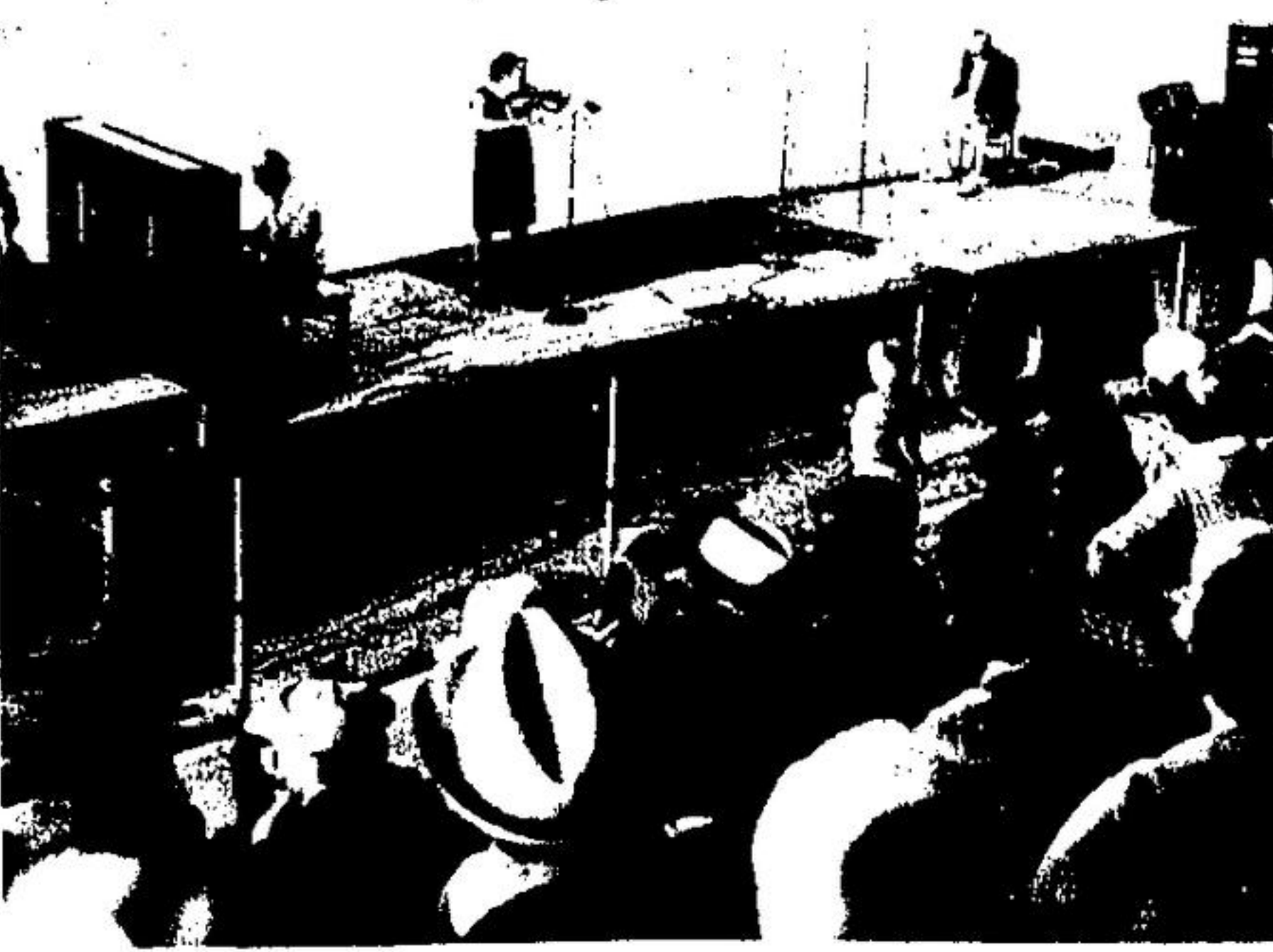
Board Chairman Judy Alexander and vice-chairman Gary Morton issued a 10 page press release rebutting many of the points made in the Renaissance brief.

The brief was to be presented at an in-camera meeting of the board Thursday. Because of difficulty in coming to terms of a meeting and scheduling one, the meeting never took place, but the brief was released, followed by the board response.

The board reply states that the choice of personnel is based on an assessment of ability and effectiveness, not geography. "At no time has any criteria been used other than the best person for the job." The board response also elaborates on the criteria used for selection of personnel and the interviewing process.

The response offers a stiff rebuttal to criticism levelled at Lord Elgin High School. Renaissance claims to have been told by educators that Lord Elgin High School graduates usually drop or fail math and science whilst at university.

"The board has no such



FIDDLER DOROTHY O'ROURKE of Acton played before 500 persons last week as she competed in the Old Time Fiddlers Contest at Milton's Rotarama '75. Leo Desjardins of Port Colborne accompanied her on the piano.

Uniform exams tabled until next year

A bid by Trustees Len Crozier and Richard Goodlin to have higher standards and uniform exams in operation by next fall, failed at Thursday's Halton Board of Education meeting.

They told the Board improved promotional procedures are needed and that this could be achieved with region wide standards and uniform examinations.

The two trustees wanted uniform exams in all grades but were willing to settle for them in grades 7, 8, 11, 12 and 13. They urged the Board to have them working by next fall.

Superintendent John Boich told the Board it would be impossible to have uniform testing by next fall and feared such a plan would jeopardize the Board's standardized testing program.

He predicted standardized exams would end the problem of some teachers marking too softly and others marking too hard.

Goodlin and Trustee James Clelland both stated they had talked to top students who were graduating and they complained about the lack of tough standards in Halton high schools.

Boich said he would be reporting to the board next year on the standardized testing program and suggested that might be the best time to discuss higher standards and uniform exams and curriculum.

He explained publishers of textbooks provide tests which all Halton schools use.

The Board decided to table the motion until the report on standardized testing is completed.

Six winners receive bras

Wonderbra draw winners at Gal's Pals clothing store on Saturday were Selina Schmidt, Churchill Rd., Margaret Towler, Church St., Shirley Cook, Longfield Rd., Susan Wilson, R.R. 2 Acton, Lil Wagner, Willow St. and Helga Lotz, Fergus.

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Let's talk about horses

by Jennifer Barr



Every beautiful weekend, people phone wanting the names of places where they can rent a horse "for an hour or two". I'm always sorry when I can do little to help them but am so glad for the horse's sake.

Most horsemen abhor the idea of renting their horses—it's almost akin to renting your spouse (please don't call me on that one). Anyone interested in proper horsemanship will be willing to undertake instruction at a good school and then will usually purchase their own horse.

Unfortunately, the majority of people who want to rent a horse for a Saturday trail ride are those who class a horse with a snowmobile—Kick like hell and go like the wind. If you don't fall off you can ride!

This isn't meant as a put down but the horse is no machine, he's a human being, too.

Financially, a horse rental or dude ranch type business is rarely feasible, so the profit is eliminated.

I realize there are horsemen who would love to get back on a horse once in a while, and they're the people who suffer from the lack of livery stables.

Watch the newspaper ads in the area. Reputable stables will advertise just what they have to offer.

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Happy Birthday

Our irascible baby donkey is a year old. BoJay, as he is now called the outgrew the original name of Beau Jangles, is almost as large as his mother was but twice as sassy.

To start with, he looks like a yak. His three-inch-long wool refuses to shed out and we haven't the courage to clip him. The front end has emerged a bit as if he ran into some hedge clippers. However the back is reminiscent of a baby buffalo.

We trimmed his hooves recently—a harrowing experience. Despite the fact that he's been well-trained, (we've tried, anyway), he just didn't want his hooves done. After an hour of violent rodeo stuff, Mack and I ended up covered in bruises, kicks, bloody scrapes and bad tempers. BoJay got a slight bump on his lip and thought he was very badly done by.

BoJay believes the whole world revolves around him and he's not far wrong. All the horses and local humans think the sun shines out of him, so he capitalizes on it. Fences are made to crawl under and if he doesn't like

where he gets to he won't admit it. Horses' tails were made to swing on—and they let him!

His mother, Anna Belle, used to be extremely well-mannered and could join the riding sessions in the paddock, sedately walking around and staying out of the way. BoJay has been barred on pain of death!

The first time he was allowed to join in, he shrieked "Hee haw" with delight and spent the entire period racing round in circles just in front of a cantering horse or climbing up their back ends as one was attempting to execute a turn on the forehand.

Speaking of "hee haws", we are rapidly learning what it's like to live with a male donkey. Whereas his mother would moan and hurrumph with quiet dignity, BoJay bellows at the world with more frequency than an eight party telephone.

Mind you, I wouldn't trade him for the world. He sure makes life interesting.

information and it would appreciate very much if those educators would come forward with this evidence. The Board's Secondary School Graduates Committee, which interviewed hundreds of students and many university people, did not find any evidence of the truth of this statement."

Go before board

The Board response agreed a recommendation urging advertising of senior jobs both inside and outside the region prior to appointments will go before the board prior to any further senior appointments.

Renaissance recommended the board survey the schools and take immediate action to change schools which appear to provide inferior education in the basics.

The board response indicated "Where weaknesses are evident, administrative action is taken to improve program or instruction. Such actions do not occur overnight and they do not get high public visibility."

The fourth recommendation urges the board to put more credibility on public input and adopt a probing stance with respect to staff recommendations as compared to the commonly accepted dictum "the staff knows best."

Acton defended

The board response dealt with charges about morale and operation at Acton District High School. "Mr. Reade has criticized the operation of Acton D.H.S. To some extent the Board depends on the trustee, in addition to the administration, for information and assessment on matters such as morale and school operations. The deficiencies that Mr. Reade claims have not been reported by the local trustee. In fact, Mr. Watson (Tom) is convinced the Acton community is strongly supportive of the school and its principal. Of course, as with other schools, the Board will continue to be sensitive to trustee response and administrative reports."

Renaissance made four recommendations in its presentation. The committee recommended the interviewing committee contain a majority of trustees. The board response explains that

that proposal is unworkable because of the many hours required for the job, but by the same token agrees that trustees have a major role to play in selection of principals and supervisory officers. "There has been significant trustee involvement," said the reply.

The response indicated public representation is sought on the Halton Education News, program councils, and at the school level through such devices as community surveys, advisory groups. Home and School Associations and so on.



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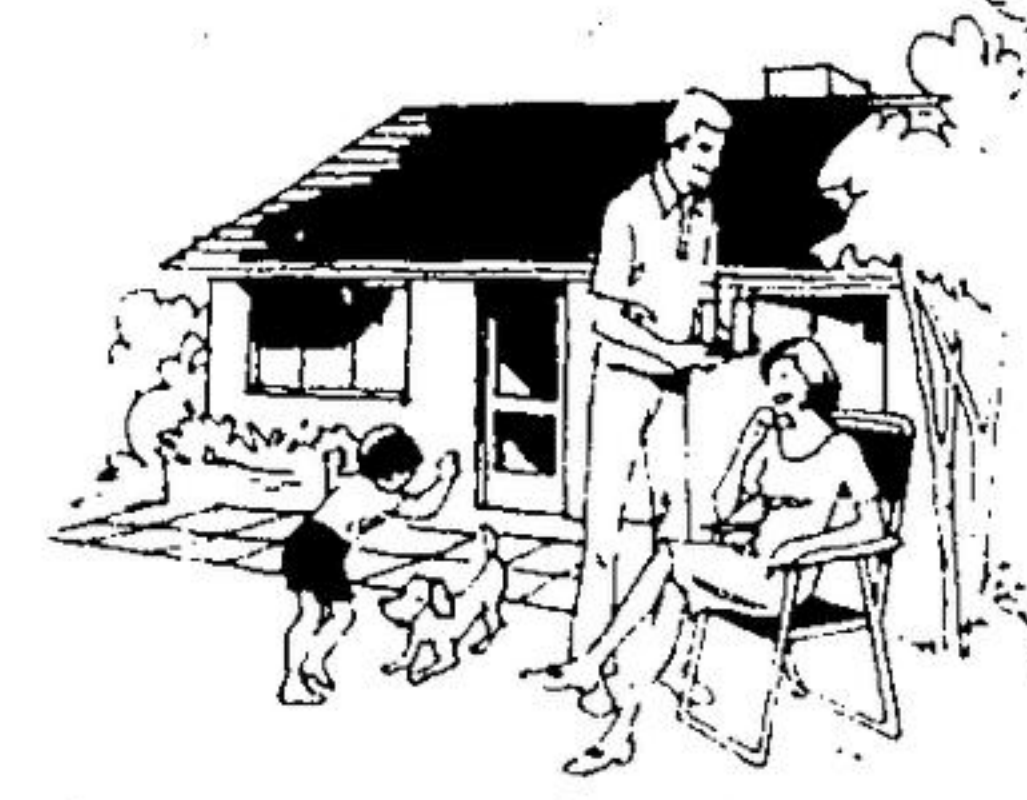
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- 2. Ontario Home Renewal Program (OHRP)** offers grants and loans for home improvements through local municipalities to low and moderate income homeowners. This plan works to rehabilitate sub-standard dwellings—especially those with faulty structural and sanitary conditions—and to upgrade plumbing, heating and electrical systems.
- 3. Ontario Housing Action Program (OHAP)** helps municipalities and developers to increase the supply of serviced land, thus lowering the cost of home ownership and rental accommodations. It also encourages the building industry to more closely match the housing mix to the purchasing power of the majority of the population.
- 4. Ontario Home Buyers Grant** provides a \$1,500 grant in three instalments to any Ontario resident who is 18 or older and buying a first home. There are no price or income restrictions but the home must be the buyer's principal residence and acquired at fair market value. The purchase must be completed by December 31, 1975 and the buyer must be living in the home by June 30, 1976.

If you would like more information or free literature on these four housing programs, write to:

Ministry of Housing
Communications and Information Services
101 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1P8

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