

School for the community

It's good to see that the new high school will be considered "community-oriented". The gymnasium and the cafeteria auditorium are located so they can be readily used by people in the school on evenings and weekends.

Gone are the days when schools were open only in the daytime, the gleaming floors protected from the rigors of dusty adult shoe-soles. Gradually the policy has been changed. It has become more and more simple to arrange for use of schools for sports and night school classes.

Now community use has been a consideration right from the beginning of planning this beautiful new high school.

The design also allows for the addition of a community facility such as a day care centre - long a need in this town of many working mothers.

When the high school is ready in September of 1977, there will be

four schools in town, all available for extra-hours activities. There will be five gyms - counting the Y. M. C. A. - for adult fun games of badminton, basketball and volleyball as well as the organized sports classes there.

Another aspect of the high school's interest in the community is its upcoming organization of councils to discuss matters of general concern.

A newsletter which went out to parents of high school students last week helps pull together the ties of community and school, which perhaps have become loose.

The Home and School Association no longer functions and the gap must be bridged other ways.

The schools are doing a good job of it, with regular communication with the homes through letters, special programs, and their contributions to the Youth Page of the paper.



The last rose of summer . . . and a sleepy fly



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

One of my recurring dreams is that all my teeth are crumbling, and breaking off like toast. It's a terrible nightmare and I always wake up sweating, jam some fingers into my mouth and groan with relief when I find the teeth are still there, and with pain because I have bitten my fingers.

Today I feel that I'm having a daymare, rather than a nightmare. Last night at dinner, one of my front teeth came away in the midst of a glorious dish of curried chicken. I love curried chicken, and this time my wife had excelled herself, whatever that means, but I am not keen on curried chicken with teeth in it, even when they are my own.

However, this incident did not alarm me, unduly or otherwise. It was only my peg tooth. Every couple of months it comes unscrewed or whatever. I carefully comb it out of the soup or spaghetti, trot down to the dentist with it clutched in my hand; he

dusts it off, pops it back in, cements it in place and I'm back in business, stuffing my guts.

But this morning, munching my matins (in this case a ripe yellow pear that tasted, as so much fruit does nowadays, like wet cardboard), I crunched on something hard. Now I know that pears do not have either bones or stones. They have pips. And I knew that this particular pear did not even have a pip, because my loving wife, knowing I was one tooth short from the night before, had disembowelled it. Right, another front tooth broken off, just beside the missing peg.

There was no pain in either case. Just a sense of horror and self-disgust, as I have in the nightmare. It's bad enough to pull a filling when eating toffee, or to snap off a bit of molar when you crunch down on an unsuspected beef-bone, or even to have an aching tooth yanked. But to have one break off when eating an over-ripe pear. . . Yeeeee!

ledge, has never received any requests for support from Mrs. Fisher.

We, the Secondary Teachers of Halton, try not to involve others in our private battles and we would appreciate others not

involving us in theirs, especially without asking for our support.

Yours truly,
Peter Gayler
President
District 9 O.S.S.T.F.

Reverse censorship in schools

Dear Sir,
With regard to the literature in the schools, I would say there is censorship . . . censorship in reverse. For the books written in the kind of language conducive to the learning of good writing, reading, and speech habits are gradually being neglected and those of questionable taste are taking over the English language classes just as the pornographic movies are taking over the movie industry.

English is not being taught. Social philosophy has taken its place and this is the reason why our young people are not as literate as they should be. They are also being denied a good background in the basics of English literature which in turn prohibits them from calling themselves educated in any sense of the word.

We are drowning in trash outside the school. Some homes have only trashy magazines, some homes are completely devoid of books, some homes have not the language skills to pass on to their children the language of their adopted country and some homes have no culture other than that of the trashy kind now prevalent in the schools.

Don't the children from these homes deserve to be introduced to the literature that lights up the language so that in years to come they will look upon their language as a thing of beauty, not a thing of ugliness? The English language is unlimited in its versatility.

Contrary to popular opinion the parents of the past were no better and no worse than those of today and they were just as varied.

Betty A. Hansford.

Paper and bottle drive

Dear Editor:
I would just like to comment on the paper and bottle drive the High School has undertaken in the past couple of years. I think they did a great job and provided a worthwhile service for our town.

But now it's time for the town to do their share. The collection of bottles and papers should be undertaken by the town. It would certainly be easier for them to do it rather than just a small group.

Pollution is a very serious problem and we're not doing everything we can to help solve it.

I for one wouldn't mind paying a fee each month to have my glass and newspapers collected.

Yours truly,
A Concerned Citizen
—with boxes full of bottles and papers.
Thank you for listening.

Free Press Editorial Page

It takes dimes, not pennies

Hallowe'en is coming, and for years in Acton it's become a habit to save pennies beforehand, to dole out to the costumed callers at the door who carry UNICEF boxes. This year, though, the UNICEF people are pointing out that costs are up a great deal, and it takes far more pennies than it used to, providing aid for children overseas.

Hallowe'en collections from warm-hearted children provided 26 per cent of the total UNICEF Canada budget in 1974, of a total of \$3,290,513.

Projects officially supported by UNICEF Canada, using Hallowe'en donations, include a rural water supply project in Nigeria, preschool children's services in the Caribbean, rural piped water program in Malawi, health services, rural water supply and non-formal education in Botswana, clean water supply program in

Pakistan, emergency well drilling in India, rural school library programs in West Malaysia, dried freeze vaccine project and text book production in Sri Lanka.

This year, it takes more donations of nickels and dimes and quarters, as well as those ever-present pennies.

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers programs need money to operate, and this coming Friday and Saturday are the two days of the year these boys ask directly for financial support from the community. They'll be going door-to-door and standing on street corners with their baskets of gleaming rosy apples and their tags.

They're not selling apples. They're waiting for your donation to support the groups in Acton, and that juicy apple is just your "Thanks You" gesture from the grateful boys.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Re "Go Ask Alice" Controversy

Time and time again, in every community large and small, certain vocal individuals have been responsible for banning "obscene" books for describing the sexual act in animalistic, socially unacceptable terms. If you have taught your children the true meaning of love and marriage: that sex in itself is merely one small part of a lasting, warm relationship between two individuals who should also be friends, companions, helpmates, as well as lovers, why do you worry?

If you have shown them by your own example that marriage is a willing and loving partnership, made openly binding by the legal commitment of marriage to each other, they should be fully aware that sex in itself and of itself is a meaningless act, again I ask, why are you so upset?

You cannot shelter your children from the seamier side of life. By banning this book or any book you make its sales soar; by making it a forbidden thing you automatically increase its "thrill" value and emphasize the negative least important aspect of it. The story dramatically illustrates the power of children's peer pressure groups and the disastrous, tragic results that occur when drugs become a way of life.

Communicate with your children; teach them by your own words and deeds the difference between right and wrong; give them credit for their own intelligence. They can recognize, with your gentle guidance, the difference between a warm loving partnership of adults and the empty, rather sordid attempt of a troubled immature young mind to find comfort and solace through sex alone.

Ours is a society in which sex has been and is vastly over-emphasized; adults and children alike are exposed to many false values bombarded through all media-books, television, movies etc.

Is it not better to introduce such topics as are dealt with in "Go Ask Alice" through such agencies as our educational system so that children can be guided to question the validity of its contents with professional educators and with their parents in open frank discussions? Is it to be preferred that they buy such books in secret and take only superficial, relatively insignificant parts of it to read, and make their own unguided opinions of it?

If you ban the book, they will nevertheless read it—if they see beyond the few objectionable passages to the basically tragic story within, will they not consider themselves even more alienated from "parents who don't understand them"?

Of course the language is offensive; but I doubt that our young are unfamiliar with the terms used. They are exposed to many influences and it is up to us to put things in their proper perspective, to accentuate the positive but also to recognize that negatives exist and minimize them.

High school students are not children. All too soon they reach eighteen by which time they can drive cars, vote, get married. It is the parents' responsibility and through them the educational system to prepare our young people to cope with all facets of modern society, to function reasonably well in what at times seems an unreasonable world.

Mrs. B. W. Jones
12 Norman Ave.

Halton OSSTF disagree

The Editor:
Dear Sir:

I write in response to an article in your paper dated October 18, "Ombudsman won't enter in parents, board battle". My particular concern is with the comments attributed to Mrs. Betty Fisher, two in particular.

She is quoted as saying that teachers are afraid to speak out. This may be true of some individual teachers, but it is not true of teachers as a federation. We in Halton District 9, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation have decided that little is to be gained by waging a war of words in the press. We speak directly, we speak clearly, but we speak directly to the trustees and administration of the Halton Board of Education. This in no way indicates a fear, but rather a clear desire not

to fight private battles in a public arena. We have many avenues of discussion and negotiation with our Board and the mutual trust and respect we strive for is not advanced by publicly airing our differences. Responsible people settle their differences in responsible ways.

The second point on which Mrs. Fisher and I disagree is her statement that "the teachers are supporting us in this battle." If "the teachers" means "the teachers I have talked to" then I agree perhaps that this statement is true. However, if "the teachers" is interpreted to mean "O.S.S.T.F. District 9" or "the Secondary Teachers of Halton" then I must disagree.

The Council of District 9 O.S.S.T.F., the elected representatives of the 1,110 Secondary teachers in Halton, definitely do not have a policy which supports Mrs. Fisher's group. Further, the Council, to my know-

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, October 27, 1855.

First District Motel is under construction a few miles east of Acton, this side of the Seventh Line, and is expected to be finished by next spring. The 10-unit building is being erected by Norman Bros. of Lincolnton and Georgetown. It is located on four-and-a-half acres of land, set back from the highway and ringed by a semi-circle of evergreens.

Scouts and cub-holders one of their regular paper collections on Saturday. The boys called from door to door all over town and piled the bundles of newspapers and magazines onto trucks which had been lent for the project. The paper was not as heavy as in the last collection, but netted some additions to the scout and cub funds.

Plans are being made for the bazaar and tea which the Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen is sponsoring in December. The group met in the Parish Hall Thursday evening of last week. The men are making all the arrangements and articles for the bazaar themselves.

About 20 enrolled for the night school classes in Basic English at the high school on Monday evening. The classes this year will be from 7 to 9 p.m. each Monday. There is only one teacher this year, Oscar I. Drilber of the high school staff.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, October 22, 1925.

Anniversary Day at Knox Church last Sunday was an event of much satisfaction to the congregation. The bracing autumn weather was favorable, and the attendance was large at both services.

Rev. Norman MacEathern, pastor of Knox Church, Toronto, is an eloquent preacher and his discourses were rich in thought, abundant in inspiration and provocative of serious reflection by the leaders.

A miscellaneous shower was tendered Miss Edna Johnston, one of our prospective brides, by her friends and neighbors on Tuesday evening at the family residence, first line. Many beautiful and useful presents were received.

Mr. and Mrs. Bertrand Conover, and Miss Althea, of Erinville, visited at the home of Mrs. Robert Bennett, Lake Avenue, on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Daniels, of Galt, visited Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Soper during the week.

Captain Thomas D. Henderson, who spent the summer in the west, has been at the home of his brother, Mr. C. C. Henderson, Bower Avenue, during the week.

An advertisement for the Government Charter Trade Schools Free Employment Services listed an ad for 50 men wanted at \$6 to \$10 daily to be employed as Auto Mechanics, Engineers, Chauffeurs and Salesmen.

A largely attended meeting of the Halton County Progressive Conservative Association was held in Milton last Wednesday evening. President Norm Wriggley, worth of Ashgrove, occupied the chair. The meeting discussed the question as to whether or not it would be advisable to place a candidate in the field. It was finally decided not to do so.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, October 13, 1900.

The Ladies of Knox church, Acton, extend a cordial invitation to the citizens of Acton to attend their social and lecture on the evening of Thanksgiving. After supper in the basement Rev. Thos. Wilson of London, a splendid speaker, will deliver his lecture on South Africa and its great battle fields will be worth seeing.

The long drought was broken by copious rains on Saturday night and Sunday. The weather the past two months has been exceptionally dry. Many wells and springs have given out. The most serious in this respect is the drying up of the big spring on the third line which feeds the creek running through Acton. This spring was never dry before.

Last Saturday an eleven drove from Acton to have a friendly cricket match with Georgetown. The Acton team has had no practice and has done no playing for 15 or 16 years, with the exception of the game at the old Boys' reunion. Georgetown had the advantage of considerable practice. They take things altogether too seriously, for in order to make a strong team they brought over two or three of the best players of the Stewarttown eleven. Of course Acton was defeated. Scoring for Acton: T. T. Moore, John Clark, G. Hayward, H. P. Moore, F. Gardner, A. E. Nicklin, C. C. Speight, W. Williams, M. Henderson, G. Hynds, Goodwill, Weatherald and Cross.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
PHONE 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 39 Willow St., Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the C.N.A. and the O.N.W.A. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions: 10¢ per copy in advance, 17¢ 50 in Canada, 20¢ 50 in all countries except Great Britain, 25¢ per copy. Second class mail registration number 9115. Advertising is accepted on the condition that in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for. The balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a special price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is hereby offered to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.
David R. Dills, Publisher
Kay Dills, Editor
Don Ryder, Advertising Manager
Copyright 1975