



STUDENTS FROM ACTON and Brantford high schools visited Italy during their school break last month. The Arch of Constantine and the Coliseum in Rome, in the background were enjoyed by all. There were 29 people from Acton who went including

chaperones, plus a cousin of one of the local girls. They met Mr. and Mrs. Lou Bonnette and daughter Diane, who set up the trip, and Aldo Braida and visited Rome, Florence, Pisa, the Isle of Capri and Naples, with numerous smaller places.

# World opens up for students on Italy trip

It's a small world, and getting smaller every day. Several Acton high school students and their chaperones helped prove this statement during a recent trip to Italy.

Twenty-four students, two graduates, one cousin of a student and three chaperones spent nine days roaming around the ruins of Rome, taking pictures of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, having fun in Florence and investigating the Isle of Capri.

Mrs. Sue Burns, of Student Services, and teacher Bill Taylor and his wife LeAnne acted as chaperones during the action-packed trip.

Students going were Ford Alton, Karen Bollert, Edward Couture, Coleen DeBruyn, Janice Ellerby, Paula Gardin, Chris Geggie, Frank Geng, Tony Geng, Paula Kitching, Victoria Lenizky, Lyn Margetts, Jeff McTavish, Susan Mellor, Colin Muir, Joy Musselle, Jim Pink, Jennifer Rowe, Nancy Shoemaker, and her cousin from Sarnia, Kathryn Ritchie, Sue Thompson, Debra Tuffin, Karen Tuffin and Heidi Zeissig. Carol Grant who graduated in January, and Helene Gunther, who is attending Humber College, also went.

The group left on Thursday, March 17 from Toronto International Airport. It was here they met up with 24 Brantford high school students who were to be their travelling companions. After a short stop in Montreal, the group flew non-stop to Brussels, Belgium, and then on to Rome.

After a one and a half hour wait for their luggage in Rome airport, it had inadvertently been left in Brussels, the 54 were whisked off to their hotel.

The group was met in Rome by a few Acton people: Mr. and Mrs. Lou Bonnette, their daughter Diane and son Bob of Acton who are in charge of organizing such trips for thousands of students each year; Aldo Braida, who went along for the holiday; and Jennifer Rowe, who had flown to Rome ahead of time to spend a few extra days. Jennifer flew from Toronto to London, and then to Rome. After the holiday she flew back to London, where her family was visiting and returned to Canada with them.

After having a good night's sleep the first night, the group had a sightseeing, orientation tour of the city in the morning. They saw such sights as the coliseum, the forum, St. Peter's in Chains church, the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain and Seven Hills. In the afternoon they were given a tour of Hadrian's Villa near Tivoli and Villa d'Este, where the gardens are full of hundreds of fountains. Dinner that evening was enjoyed in a restaurant on a mountainside overlooking Tivoli. The group was musically entertained while they ate.

The next day was spent driving to and from the Isle of Capri. At Naples they got on a hydroplane boat which took the students and teachers to the island, where they enjoyed a bus tour.

On the way back to Rome that evening, the bus driver stopped at a cameo factory, where the group got a chance to see earrings and rings being made. They were quite surprised to learn that cameos are made out of sea shells.

A tour of Vatican City including the Basilica of St. Peter, the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel was on the agenda for the next day. The afternoon was free for shopping and the evening was spent at a discoteque.

After a free morning the next day, the group of Canadians left for Florence at noon. Here they stayed at the Hotel Boston. Their first full day of sightseeing included St. Paul's Church, Uffizi Art Gallery, and Academia, with Michelangelo's "David". The same morning they had a tour of the Bell Tower of Florence and a leather factory, where many teenagers bought coats.

Most of the 30 Acton people took the Pisa option that afternoon. The group had a choice to have a free day in Florence, or visit Pisa. The Leaning Tower was the best liked spot in the city. The group also saw many other sights in town, and went to the Space Electronic Discoteque

before heading back to Florence.

The next morning was free for shopping before the bus left to return to Rome. On the way back, they saw the cathedral at Siena and a small town called Orvieto, where they had supper. When they returned, the group was reunited with Paula Gardin, who had spent the week with relatives.

A flight to Brussels was on the agenda for the next day. Once the plane landed at its destination, the group had a tour of the city. The next day the 54 weary travellers caught a plane to Montreal then Toronto, ending their short stint as ambassadors from Acton and Brantford.

Sue Burns explained all the little things which made the trip so successful. The Bonnettes and Franko Bellone, head of a travel agency in Italy, met Jennifer Rowe at the airport a few days early, and gave her tours, fed her well, and "treated Jennifer royally" Mrs. Burns said. She also pointed out that Mr. Bellone is coming to Acton in a

few months to see the Bonnettes and she hopes he enjoys Canada as much as her group enjoyed his country.

Even though the students missed two days of school before the March break officially began, they all, including the chaperones, felt it was worthwhile. Mrs. Burns explained that if the group had left on the Saturday, there would have been thousands of other people at the airports escaping from their routine. She said this would have led to confusion, and possibly lost luggage, or missed flights.

Another advantage, according to student Janice Ellerby, was that the students returned home on Saturday, giving them all day Sunday to catch up on lost sleep and recuperate from jet lag.

The youth of today have the world at their doorstep. They just have to knock and take advantage of what lies ahead. It is trips like this that help today's generation see what is around them, and perhaps have more understanding of people.

## M.P., students discuss death penalty, crime

Convicted murderers make the best prisoners. Halton Member of Parliament Dr. Frank Philbrook told some 30 Acton high school students on Friday.

While speaking to Boris Shean's Grade 12 Canadian Law class, Dr. Philbrook also stated that until three years ago, only one murderer who had been released after his sentence was served, had killed again. He explained that it is usually the white collar worker, convicted of fraud or embezzlement, who causes trouble in prisons, and commits the same crime when released.

His statistics were given after he introduced the subject of capital punishment. Dr. Philbrook had voted against the reinstatement of the death penalty when it came up in the House of Commons last fall.

The M.P. said he felt rehabilitation and confinement were enough punishment. Dr. Philbrook said this

would provide protection for the innocent party in prison who has been wrongly sentenced.

He also told the class the rich and influential usually are not affected by this form of punishment. He explained it "is the little guy and blacks" in the states who are victims of capital punishment.

Although the figures have not yet been made official, said Dr. Philbrook, the trend seems to be the violent crime and murder rates went down in the countries where the death penalty was abolished.

Student Eunice Gibbs asked Dr. Philbrook what it proves if the prisoners convicted of murder are better behaved. The M.P. explained it means less guarding, and the rehabilitation is better. The public can be less afraid, Dr. Philbrook said.

"Are these fears not well rooted?" Miss Gibbs demanded.

Dr. Philbrook explained they are deeply rooted, but not well rooted. The same girl wanted to know if this kind of murderer could get out on parole more easily than someone who had caused trouble while in jail. Mr. Philbrook replied that each case was different, and it depended on the type of murder, whether it be one of passion, which is not likely to be done again, or in cold blood etc. He compared it to the embezzler who steals \$25,000 and the person who steals \$100,000.

One of the students asked him about Charles Manson, who thinks he is Jesus Christ, and who is now serving a life sentence in a California prison for many gruesome murders he either planned or took part in in 1969. Mr. Manson and his accomplices come up for parole next year.

Dr. Philbrook said he felt Mr. Manson was psychotic, and doesn't think in the interest of a humane society he should be put to death. Mr. Manson and friends did

receive the death penalty, but while awaiting the punishment, it was abolished and their sentences reduced to life. The book Helter Skelter and TV movie of the same name tell the stories of the murders and the lengthy and much publicized trials.

Organized crime is running wild in this country, Dr. Philbrook told the students. He explained that organizations operate in the shadows, and police, detectives, R.C.M.P. and O.P.P. must lay specific charges and cannot act solely on suspicions. For this reason, he explained, it is hard to get the organizations' head person, as they may be very respectable citizens of the town. Dr. Philbrook pointed out the "chiefs" could be mayors, ministers, or anyone else respected and unsuspected in the town.

It is getting even harder to convict anyone in organized crime, he said, as the persons involved will invest illegally acquired money, into legal investments.

Criminal investigators must depend heavily upon witnesses, the member of parliament said. Unlike ordinary crimes, where people freely testify against the accused, in organized crime, anyone who knows anything in hesitant, fearful of their lives, Dr. Philbrook said.

One student asked about the decriminalization of marijuana. Dr. Philbrook explained that this was a biased and emotional subject, which is coming up in the House soon. He said changes in the emphasis on punishment could be made with penalties being harder on the trafficker than on the possessor.

Dr. Philbrook said he has



DR. FRANK Philbrook, Liberal member of parliament for Halton and grade 12 student Eunice Gibbs hash out their differences of opinion in an Acton high school room after Dr. Philbrook addressed a Canadian Law class. Miss Gibbs and Dr. Philbrook continued the discussion after most of the class had left.

heard of cases in which a possessor will ask an innocent person to hold something for him (the marijuana), and walk away, knowing the police are coming around the corner. The innocent person is then arrested, dragged through the courts, and left with a black mark on his records, when he is innocent but could not prove it. Dr. Philbrook said even the courts are requesting lesser fines which can be paid out of court, as the courts are becoming bogged down with marijuana cases, which hold up larger cases.

Dr. Philbrook is a member of the Liberal party, in the Federal government.

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## Over 1,100 Sheridan graduates

Plans for the ninth annual convocation were outlined at the monthly meeting of the Sheridan College Board of Governors.

More than 1,100 students are expected to graduate during three separate convocations; one at the new Brampton Campus June 9 and two at the Oakville Campus June 10.

"Arrangements have been made to hold the two Oakville ceremonies in a tent, since the campus does not have sufficient space to accommodate the number of graduates and guests that we anticipate will attend this year," said Registrar Elizabeth Banister.

## Seminar on asthma

The Halton Lung Association will be offering a seminar on "Asthma" at the hospital in Georgetown, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. Guest Speakers will include Dr. George Hahn, Director of the

Asthma Program at the Crippled Children's Centre, Toronto, and Dr. D.S.H. Bell, Staff Member of the Georgetown Hospital. The program will cover all aspects of asthma.

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Milton Mall is located at the corner of Main and Ontario Streets.