

One more time

Adele, Steve capture top honors in contest

Adela Rodriguez and Steve Saxon of Acton have once again taken top honors in another level of the Optimist public speaking competitions. Their latest achievements came last Wednesday evening at the Optimists regional competitions held in Milton. Competing against contestants from Milton, Orangeville and Waterdown, and representing Georgetown Optimists, Adele placed first in the girls' category with her speech on separatism, and Steve placed first while speaking on racism.

The pair have worked their way up from their first win in their school, M. Z. Bennett, then to North Halton in Georgetown, and advancing on to the Optimists' regional finals. The two grade seven students will next compete in Heidelberg, Ontario, outside of Kitchener on April 30.

The Free Press has obtained copies of Adele's and Steve's speeches, which are reprinted in full.

by Steve Saxon
Did you hear about the moron who read in the paper that 95 per cent of all accidents happen within five miles of his home?—He moved.

Moron jokes came from the last generation: When you heard that joke, it was probably about a so-called Newfie—or some other derogatory term referring to a minority group.

You probably laughed—you shouldn't have—but you did. Minority groups have always borne the brunt of fool jokes in our society. The people who are presently being offended are the Pakistanis—or anyone else who happens to have brown skin or vaguely resemble them in any way.

There seems to be a silent understanding (or misunderstanding) that this kind of humour is harmless—it really isn't hurting anybody—Perhaps!

But when the humour turns to hatred and spurs young hoodlums to attack immigrants—just because they don't speak our language—it's not a joke anymore!

The funny part of it all is that these self-righteous teenagers who are causing the trouble 'ain't speakin' the language none too good neither!

Besides—how do we expect these new arrivals to learn to speak our mother tongue—if we can't even decide ourselves whether the national language should be French or English? Or both?

You know—there's an old biblical tale that tells how, at one time, everyone in the world spoke the same language. They built a city in which they dwelled—and said, "Come, let us build a tower that will reach the heavens—and let us make a name for ourselves."

In those days—a tower was a symbol of man's pride—of man's desire to raise himself up.

Up—Up—went the tower—and the deity looked down and remarked to Old Peter, "Unless my eyesight is failing me, (which isn't surprising after all these millions of years)—I think I see a building coming up in our direction."

So, God—not wanting them to be his equal—looked down—and made them all speak different languages—and scattered them over the face of the earth.

Since then, each nation has developed its own customs—its own beliefs—and its own variations of the languages. And now, after thousands of years, these people are all coming together again to build a new city, a new nation in fact—called Canada!

They are bringing together and sharing what they have learned, their cherished traditions and values—their teas and coffees and carpets—their brass and marble, their cameras and furniture, their doctors and architects,

yes, and their gourmet delights!

There's an endless number of ethnic restaurants in our major cities, Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Jamaican, French—why, you can take a trip around the world and never leave the city.

Gradually, each new culture has blended into our lives and has given our country character.

BUT—gradually! It didn't happen overnight. But, while an immigrant is busy adapting to Canadian ways, his own cultural influences are at work shaping our way of life.

We are all immigrants in this country, or descendants of immigrants, and yet we hear cries of "live our way, or go back to where you came from!"

If we all adopted that theory, then we should all be living on reservations and hunting our food like the Indians, who are the real—original Canadians.

Immigrants would like to be accepted and learn our ways, but vicious jokes and violent attacks will not help them—or us!

It reminds me of a story I heard once—a bunch of people were trapped at the bottom of a deep well.

Alone—each one tried to climb out. Alone each one tried to reason his way out. They tried meditating, levitating, sacrificing. They argued—they even resorted to violence!

But they couldn't get out! Suddenly—one man got an idea!

"You! Get up on my shoulders. And you! Get up on his shoulders! And you! On his!"

"Together, we can build a tower. Together we will lift each other up. Together, we will help each other out!"

So you see, working together is the only way we can overcome our differences.

Instead of knocking others down—we can lift each other up.

Together, we can build a tower! Together, we must stop racism!

Together and only together, we will build a nation! And we will be proud.

Together we will by Adela Rodriguez

CANADA. A country of ten provinces, two territories, and great wealth. Together, we will keep it this way.

If you were to research all the things that have been done to get our country consolidated, you'd be astonished!

You have all heard something of the Fathers of Confederation. Well... if it weren't for these men, we might not have such a great country as we do today. These dedicated men, worked together, to create a federation of all the provinces we have now.

It took a political deadlock... trade changes... and other strenuous ordeals, to get Confederation on its laborious journey. Then a man named Sir John A. MacDonald, came into the picture. He was a great asset to Confederation, as he was to become the first Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada.

of this Union. That was 110 years ago.

Now that we have this great nation, we should work together, to keep Canada harmoniously united.

If you think about it, it would be just plain selfish to break up such an eminent country now, after so many years of toiling to create it!

I believe it is our responsibility, to keep the work of the Fathers of Confederation going! Why let it all fall to pieces now?

Rene Levesque and his party Quebecois, have been demanding separation of Quebec, from the rest of Canada.

At a time when the world is seeking peace and union of friendship within all the countries, it wouldn't be doing justice to our country, by letting separation disrupt in a future Canada. Why! There would be states and provinces all over the world saying, "If Quebec can do it, why can't we?"

So the part we are playing now, is important to the future of other countries as well as our own.

It is easy for the armchair critics to sit back, and let other people make up our minds for us. Instead of criticizing, we should get ourselves involved into political topics: Trudeau, Levesque, Quebec and politics as a whole.

I know politics can get pretty boring and frustrating. But if we really try understanding it, it can get interesting and involving.

You know, kids like myself can't vote... we can't strike in protest... and we can't form a union. But what we can do, is give our views to parents, teachers and other adults. We can express our opinions by phoning radio stations and writing to newspapers. Maybe if we show concern, we can give a bit of shame to those who do not show any interest in voting or giving support to such a great country as Canada.

We should understand that Canada is a very young country with far to go. It could get better, or it could get worse. It all depends on us!

For the better... we can work together... each doing our own little part... Canada can have a rewarding future.

Or we can work apart... each in our own little corner... and ruin the future of the country.

So when it is our time to vote and support, we will be able to contribute our best effort towards a better Canada.

But we must do it together! Together—we will continue the work of our forefathers. Together—we will prove, that we, the people of Canada, can achieve harmony.

Together—and only together... we will hold a strong unity of provinces and territories for the rest of generations to come.

But we must do it together!

GO tickets stolen

Thieves who stole about \$11,000 worth of Georgetown GO train tickets from the Bloor station won't be riding free for the rest of their lives.

GO spokesman Tom Henry revealed the government owned transit system has a list of the serial numbers for every ticket stolen. The burglary took place sometime between Thursday night and Monday morning.

Henry said lists of the serial numbers of tickets stolen have been posted at every GO train stop on the Georgetown route.

was badly vandalized and the strongbox containing the tickets smashed. The heavy strongbox was found near the station and had been heaved over a fence and down an embankment. Henry said the weight of the strongbox and what was done to it suggests more than one person was involved.

The tickets are good for travel on the Georgetown route, including all stops between the Bloor station and Georgetown.

"We have a very good record of the tickets which were stolen," Henry declared.

Metro Police are investigating the burglary.

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SALE!

Go fly a kite in open

Telephone poles, wires carrying electric power to homes or factories, television aerials and the like seem to have a magnetic attraction for kites. Safety specialists at Ontario Hydro suggest the site for flying kites should be a level, open space away from these overhead obstructions or even airports and trees.

If the kite should become tangled leave it and notify proper authorities. It is better to lose a kite than risk injury or worse.

Wet Weather can increase the potential danger. A wet string may conduct electricity down to the flyer.

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PETER LUTY is all determination as he attempts the high jump on a skateboard. In spite of the warm weather he is wearing gloves and a long-sleeved jacket to protect himself against falls.

First Line accident

A collision between a vehicle and a pick-up truck about noon last Wednesday resulted in a total of \$400 in damages.

The collision on the First Line was between a vehicle driven by Alfred Hill, R. R. 1, Erin, and a pick-up driven by

Margaret Smit, R. R. 1, Acton. Police estimate \$100 damage to the Smit vehicle.

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Free Press Youth page

Continues criticism of Values Education

A Halton clergyman who recently apologized publicly to the former Director of the Values Education program being developed for Ontario schools in Halton and Hamilton Wentworth regions, has renewed his criticism of the Values Education program. In a letter to Rev. Garry Morton, chairman of the Halton Board of Education, Rev. Ken Campbell, founder of the Renaissance parent action group, has urged the Halton Board to study the assumptions and philosophy back of the Values Education program to determine whether it is in fact based on a rejection of the Judeo-Christian ethical system apparently required by the Ontario Education Act.

"It is the duty of a teacher... to inculcate by precept and example respect for religion and the principles of Judeo-Christian morality," Campbell charges that "Values Education" is in fact a sophisticated program aimed at replacing in the schools the teaching of the moral imperatives of the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount.

Campbell recalls that the keynote speaker at a professional development day in Simcoe last fall, speaking on Values Education—the theme for the day—had observed that in our pluralistic society there are no longer any clearly superior philosophic or value systems. "I chided the teachers who came to the seminars I was addressing that day," said Campbell, "for allowing that statement to go unchallenged. It is clear that the liberties we enjoy in Canada, and the institutions which serve our free society, are based on the proven superiority of the Judeo-Christian philosophic and values system. Furthermore, the Ontario Education Act recognizes the responsibility of the public school system to inculcate such basic values in the classroom. Yet not one of the 300 teachers present challenged that statement by the speaker in the question-and-answer period that followed his speech!"

The speaker, Dr. Robert Litke, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Sir Wilfred Laurier University, edited books on Values Education written by Dr. John Meyer, formerly the Director of the Values Education project in Halton and Hamilton-Wentworth.

In his letter Campbell warned the Halton Board of the far-reaching consequences of their failure to face up to their responsibilities in this "crucial issue."

"In view of the social tensions and moral turmoil in our society, there may be no matter of more urgent importance to face this Board... with far-reaching implications." (Continued on Page B5)

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