



THIRTY SIX YOUNG PEOPLE had their first communion Sunday at St. Joseph's. They were Sean Donovan, Natalia and Gemita Vassellucci, Gabriella Vasquez, Paul Campbell, Beth Munday, Sonia Smith, Brian Harding, Keith Olson, David Roden, Kelly Fitzgerald, Shelly Donstom, Tina Kauter, Christine Couture, Colleen Nolan, Julie Leutsky, Ann Barrett, Christine Beaton, Crista Chaisson, Jean-Paul

Cowan, Suzana Djurinee, Edward Lehovich, Victoria Muspratt, Anela Nikic, Sharon Obrigavitch, Bernadette Rowsell, Suzanne Swezey, Christopher Willmott, Denise Schmidt, Lisa Brent, Lauralee Hachey, Bilinda Taras, Peter van der Eyken, Brent Mandarino and Victor and Narvy Hinojosa.

Guide conference defines purpose

The future challenge was the theme of the Provincial annual conference of the Girl Guides of Canada held on May 5, 6, and 7 at the University of Western Ontario in London. Ontario is divided into 13 areas and the hostesses for the conferences are the Guiders (adult leaders) from the area where the conference is held. London is the Trillium area and was pleased to find everything decorated with colorful trilliums.

There are 12,741 Guiders and personnel in Ontario but only about 650, or five per cent are selected each year to attend this conference. Ben Ginger and myself were fortunate enough this past weekend to attend. We were royally entertained by talented Guiders and Brownies, saw several good films, listened to many speakers, ate great food, heard a men's quartet, called the London Connection, who sang dozens of songs, and exchanged funny stories with other Guiders.

For us in Guiding, every year is the year of the child as we truly believe in the capabilities of the young to learn responsibility, decision making, outdoor skills, autonomy, teamwork, service to others, concern for our environment, respect for cultural identity and the ability to enjoy adults as co-workers.

welcome anyone interested of any age to attend our district council meeting on Thursday, May 11. Please call me at 853-0154 or Pat van der Eyken at 853-1819 for further information. Experience not necessary.

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Youth page editorial Need education values in this complex society

Evidence supporting the need for improved values education continues to mount, says Prof. Sam Luker, of the department of family studies, University of Guelph. We all hear people brag about evading income tax, filing false insurance claims, collecting unearned unemployment benefits, smuggling goods through customs and fixing traffic tickets. The guiding moral principle seems to be: anything goes, just do not get caught.

Not surprisingly, many young people are ill-equipped to cope with values-based issues. Lack of coping skills contributes to such increasingly serious problems as vandalism, drug use, adolescent suicide, marriage breakdowns and teenage alcoholism. Values education could help young people develop a personal values base and make rational decisions about their own lives.

The University of Guelph makes a strong argument for including values education in the regular school curriculum. Prof. Luker observes that many of the problems he sees as a clinical psychologist have a values base, rather than a psychiatric base. Many young people simply have no clear idea of good or bad, right or wrong. As a result, they lurch along, drifting from one crisis to another, without any clear purpose to their lives.

"Education should equip young people to function effectively in our society," says Prof. Luker. "To do this, education should include a values component as well as a cognitive base. Making value decisions is an inescapable fact of living in society."

Should schools teach values? Increasingly, educators are siding with the Honourable Thomas Wells, Ontario's Minister of Education, who says "Schools cannot afford to be morally neutral." Many other people feel that schools cannot be morally neutral; values and moral decisions pervade the "hidden" curriculum.

feel that content of the values system is not as important as the valuing process itself. Teachers help students to develop a personal value system, to become aware of the values in society, to identify and confront values issues and finally, to develop moral reasoning power.

In the past, values education often concentrated on the content rather than the process. Adults either tries to force their values on young people through moralizing and setting a good example, or adopted a "hands off" policy, allowing youths to discover values for themselves. These methods become less effective as society becomes more complex.

New methods of teaching values have been developed in the last decade. Prof. Luker describes values clarification. Through a series of game-like strategies built around life experiences, the students learn how to make the best choices for themselves in values-loaded areas. The teacher helps them recognize and discover what they personally value and prize. Students exchange personal experiences and viewpoints, search for alternatives and predict their consequences. Students' actions and behavior patterns should be compatible with their stated beliefs.

Faculty in the department of family studies at the University of Guelph are concerned about values education as it applied to family counselling, law, education, marital dynamics, parole work, family management, and other related areas.

Values education is a fertile area for research. Although definite research is yet to come, the few studies which have compared values-educated groups with controls are encouraging. They indicate that a systematic values approach tends to reduce behavior problems, restlessness and delinquency and improve academic performance.

"Values clarification is basically a preventive approach," Prof. Luker notes. "And in the long run could prove to be less expensive and more effective than crisis intervention."

Schools prepare for festival

M. Z. Bennett and McKenzie-Smith are the only two schools in Acton taking part in the annual North Halton music festival this year.

Schools from Georgetown, Milton and district will be joining the two Acton schools at M. Z. Bennett where the contest is being held this year.

May 24 will mark the 50th year for the festival. For this reason a few special activities have been planned by the North Halton Music Festival Association.

A contest was held to find a design for the program cover and a special music festival participants' pin which will be awarded this year. Tom Houston from Martin Street school in Milton submitted the winning design for the

Free Press Youth page

Skate-a-thon results soon to be announced

Students who took part in the Rotary club skate-a-thon April 2 have collected and turned in most of their money, however Rotary club officials say there is still a small amount left to collect before the final figures and winners can be announced. The eight schools, Robert Little, M. Z. Bennett, McKenzie-Smith, St. Joseph's, Brookville, Speyside, Limehouse and Ospringe that participated along with celebrity skaters

helped to boost the fund-raising money up \$2,500 to \$3,000 more than last year.

Rotarian Gary Dawkins attributed some of the success to the fact that Brookville took part in the skate-a-thon this year. Hard work and additional sponsors also helped raise the money. Mr. Dawkins said the Rotary club is extremely pleased with both the public and the skaters support in this year's event.

High school news

Senior students are starting to get the results of their exams back. The exams are worth 15 per cent towards the final mark.

Last Friday's dance was very successful. A good crowd attended the band and disc-jockey evening, which was sponsored by the Student Association.

Students and the guidance department are busy working

together making final timetable changes for next year. Drama club members have a heavy rehearsal schedule preparing for their next performance, Lisa and David.

The group are planning another theatre night in the near future. Field day at Acton high will be held next Wednesday, May 17. Students sign up for events and compete against other students in the school.

Paul Bray wins three gold medals

Paul Bray, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Bray, Elizabeth Dr., has won three gold medals in musical competition.

Paul competed in the Clarinet 15 years and under category at the Peel Festival, Civic Centre, Bramalea last month. In this class, he received two golds. In the 18 years and over open class, Paul won a gold medal for the saxophone.

Although he had never competed in this class before, he received the highest marks of all entries. He earned a 90 per cent.

The young Acton resident's three wins earned him the Lester B. Pearson school scholarship for woodwinds and sax.

Paul will be attending a two week youth workshop at Upper Canada College this summer. It is set up for those who desire intense work in the musical field.

McKenzie-Smith news

Our school track and field meet is to be held this week. Some of the events will be shotput, high jump, long jump, triple jump and the winning races. We wish the best of luck to the many contestants in these events. Results will be written up next week.

On Friday the students will have the day off, but the teachers will have another professional development

day in some of the North-Halton schools.

The baseball teams are still practising and the final teams will be picked soon.

The Halton Music Festival is to be held on May 24 in the M.Z. Bennett auditorium. We hope to have groups participating in the triple trio, triple duet and S.S.A. choir. Practices are being held at various times during the day.

Holiday

This Friday, May 12, will be a professional development day at elementary schools in the area. Students will have the day off while teachers attend meetings and other professional development day activities.

St. Joseph's school in Acton will not be closed. The separate school board's next P.D. day will be June 12.

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