Two Halton milk producers received gold seal awards for high quality milk at the recent Halton Milk Committee meeting.

Wally Knapp of Lessia Farms RR 2 Georgetown and Stan Waters of Standale Holsteins, also of RR 2 were the recipients. Waters also won a silver tray for top quality milk in Halton.



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More ways to warp a child than strapping

With parents screaming "Back to the Basics," teachers trying to remember what the basics are, and Ministries of Education never letting the left hand know what the right hand is trying to do, it's almost inevitable that the subject of corporal punishment in the schools is revived.

It's a perennial, and it's always good for a headline, whether you are for or against.

It's almost as popular as capital punishment for criminals. And you have no idea, gentle reader, how many people, including students, are in favor of that. I'm quite sure that a referendum would show a majority of Canadians would vote to restore that particular form of official mur-

But while criminals make up a comparatively small segment of our society. rotten kids are always there in great numbers. And there's always someone who wants to pound them, vicariously, through the school system. I

Usually, the business of beating kids is seen in black or white. Or black and blue. On the one hand, you have the fundamentalists, who go back to the Old Testament, "Spare the rod and spoil the .child." These people forget that several of the disciples were fishermen, and that what this particular one meant was, "If you don't let the kid use your spare rod once in a while, he'll grow up to be a lousy angler."

I don't remember Jesus ever sayinganything about pounding kids, but I may

On the other side of the schtick are the other orazies: psychologists and such, who think a kid who is thumped will be warped for life; mothers who read articles by psychologists; and former child-beaters who are now vice-principals.

And in between, as usual, are all the confused, decent and sensible people like you and me, who have given our kids the odd belt, and felt rotten about it.

Both the extreme camps, of course, are full of crap. In the first group, we have

Bill Smiley



people who were whipped unmercifully when they were kids, and now, by some weird type of logic, insist it was good for them. They can hardly wait to spread some of this "good" around.

And in the second group are all the other people who were whipped unmercifully when they were kids and are trying to prove that that is what has made them queer ever since.

A plaque on both their houses. Most of us olders were whipped, now and again, but not unmercifully, and we deserved every stroke of the hairbrush, skelp of the yardstick, and swish of the willow-switch.

It didn't warp us physically or psychologically. It taught us something about the society we would be living in as adults-that there are certain limits, and if you transgress then, you take your licks.

My mother used to work over my kid brother and me about every two weeks. whether we needed it or not. She used a flyswatter, which has a sting like a scorpion. or a yard-stick, which transfers fire to the burn, when we got under the bed and the fly-swatter wouldn't reach. It did us no harm whatever, and probably saved her

My dad, like most men leaving the dirty work to the mother, rarely laid a hand on us. But when he did. . . boy, some hand. He could spank your whole bottom, not just one buttock at a time, with that hand.

The same kld brother and I were in the same class in school one year, and once a week, our teacher, would give us a good strapping, along with a few other delinquents. We thought the world of her, and she of us. The strappings stung, but once in

a while, we'd jerk back our hand and Old Mary would give herself a good crack on the thigh. This doubled the number on each hand, but raised our status in the class.

I've smacked my own kids, occasionally, and the grandboys, but their smoldering anger, and mine, never lasted more than 15 minutes, because the smacking was not done in malice, and they knew they were asking for it.

Beating kids in school? Many parents would like it done. Many others would have a lawyer on you. There are only two reasons for a teacher to use a strap: 1) he or she is a poor teacher; 2) it adds a little drama to the humdrum of the classroom. In 50 years, I've never seen strapping scare anybody or deter anybody.

A word to the bleeding hearts. There are many more insidious ways to warp a child's personality than physical punishment. The real sadists of the classroom, ans they are very few nowadays, are those who use personal harassment, hectoring, and sarcasm. These can do far more damage than a good thump. Ask any kid.

In the whole debate, naturally, my sympathies are with the teacher. There are times when I would have been happy, not just to whip, but to strangle some kid, and go to jall for life meaning five years. with good behaviour. Looking back, I almost wish I had. It's peaceful in prison.

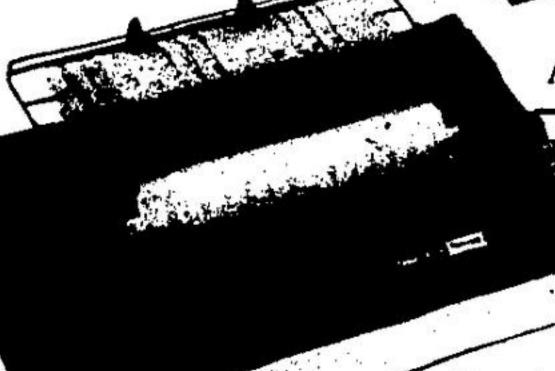
But I have no time for the bully in the classroom. Teachers who know their stuff and have some strength of character have a few discipline problems.

However, let's think for a moment about the sensitive, young woman teacher who asks a lout to do something, and he says, "Screw you."? So the punk gets a "suspension" for a few days (translation: holiday). And the teacher sits, shattered, among her crumbled ideals.

What to do? I'd turf him out of school for a year, and let his parents put up with him. Serve both parties right.

Any opinions? Let's have them.





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