

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Junior Jet Set

Education, like anything else, cannot stand still.

There have been many improvements in the past twenty years.

In rural areas, consolidated schools have replaced one-room country schools. Vocational and technical education has become available in towns like Georgetown. Gymnasiums and music rooms have enhanced physical and cultural development of our young people. Teachers are receiving monetary reward in addition to their professional status.

But we sometimes wonder if, even in this jet age, those in authority aren't moving too fast, trying radical ideas without sufficient testing.

Are we returning to the one-room schools, so happily abandoned only a few years ago, with the open concept idea at Pineview, now slated for Georgetown's new Moore Park school in the fall?

And is transportation of youngsters from their home school areas necessary or desirable?

Consolidated schools came into being to give rural children urban advantages and, we suspect, because no longer would

teachers face the task of teaching eight grades. This led to a costly, but necessary transportation system in the country.

Now we find that more and more town children are being taken by bus to schools some miles distant when they are within walking distance of a nearby school. If specialized teaching is the reason, would it not be easier and cheaper to have teachers commute from school to school?

Real estate ads use 'close to schools' as a feature when buying a home. Parents who think it is an advantage to have their elementary children at a school nearby, where they come home at noon hour, and are home five or ten minutes after the school day is over, will be rightly perturbed at this jet set theory of transporting toddlers to distant locations.

As for the open concept school, so widely promoted today, perhaps parents should have the same opinion as a motorist when highway improvements are being made. Here one finds a sign 'proceed at your own risk' with an alternative route for those who value their cars. Are our young people not equally important?

What Is Obscenity?

An editorial decrying four letter words in a university publication brought a rather startling reaction in the Herald mail bag this week.

We cannot dispute many of M. J. Harrison's remarks on the imperfections of our world. Now we can uphold our term of 'slum language' on which he so rightly checked us. We might have more properly used 'the language of illiterates' but we can't agree with his defence of foul language.

The use of four letter words is certainly obscene in dictionary parlance (filthy; lewd; impure in language.)

But there is a more general obscenity — not knowing how to do the right thing, use the right word, in a given circumstance — which is one of the things education is designed to overcome.

One should therefore expect more of a public school graduate than one who never attended school; more of a high school graduate than a dropout; more of a college graduate, in rising progression.

Above all, we should expect that education enhance a man's judgment.

Perhaps we should define obscenity as an offence against present company; knowing what to say and when to say it; deliberately flouting an accepted standard of conduct.

Those in charge of the University of Waterloo publication are doing this. And by so doing they are debasing our education system, bringing shame and ridicule to institutions carefully nurtured and subsidized by our tax dollars.

We have a perfect right to insist that this be ended.

Served His Community

In his 24 years in Georgetown, Don Berrager had served his adopted community well.

Besides building a successful business enterprise, he was active in the Lions Club, which he had served as president, was a member of town council for two years, and was a past president of the Ontario Dry Cleaners' Institute.

His death last week, at the early age

of 51, leaves a second void in the town's business community, following that of Ed Wiener, who had also been a dynamic leader in community and businessmen's affairs.

Georgetown can be grateful that men like these chose Georgetown as their adopted community. The town is a better place for having had them here.

They will be missed.

THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

MILTON HOSPITAL HIRES ADMINISTRATOR

MILTON: A 30 year old Toronto man has been appointed as new administrator at the troubled Milton District Hospital. Board chairman J. M. Ledwith confirmed that Ronald Woods, currently assistant administrator at North York General Hospital, will fill the office vacated six weeks ago by Dalton McQuaig who resigned amid staff turmoil and allegations of sabotage of hospital equipment.

RESIDENTS PROTEST OFFICIAL PLAN

BRAMALEA: Three hundred and fifty ratepayers who crammed Victoria Park auditorium last week were told that Chinguacousy Township will one day be the home of 550,000 living in four city areas and one northern rural area. Planning consultant Norman Pearson's plan calls for five zones Bramalea, Huttonville, Altona, Mayfield and a northern strip, and sets land use and development policies for the next 40 years.

TEACHER PLANS LEGAL BATTLE

OAKVILLE: The head of the Guidance Department of White Oaks secondary school is in danger of losing his job and students at the school are threatening to protest if the move is carried through. Phil Mullen who has held the

post at White Oaks for the past five years was given notice of the removal of his leadership and subsequent transfer to another school March 2, but intends to fight this move by the county board. Board chairman Douglas Wood said the reasons for Mullen's removal were personal and confidential and could not be revealed.

ACQUIRES OLD POST OFFICE BELL

ACTON: The bell which tolled the hours in Acton for over half a century from the top of the old post office tower will soon be mounted on display at the home of Hillis E. Rowland, R. R. 3, Brampton. Mr. Rowland will be displaying the old post office bell along with 400 other bells he has picked up in his travels over the last three years.

COUNCIL OKAYS INDOOR POOL

BRAMPTON — Bramptonians may be swimming in the town's own indoor pool by this time next year. Brampton council's general committee has recommended that immediate negotiations get underway with Peel County Board of Education to come up with an agreement to build the pool as an addition to Brampton Centennial Secondary School.

RECORD CROWD FOR TOURNEY

ERIN: The sixth annual Erin

METHODS IMPROVED

200,000 ENROLLED IN RED CROSS SWIMMING

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Water Safety Service. In 1946, 107 instructors were trained and approximately 4,000 pupils received awards. In 1969, the total enrolled in the Red Cross system was over 200,000.

The need for more mass public education stimulated production of pamphlets, posters, wallet cards and films. There are 122 film centres in Ontario.

Artificial respiration methods have progressed from Schafer to Holger Nielsen to Silvester to the present Rescue Breathing.

DROWNPROOFING

Drownproofing is the latest skill now introduced at Beginner level.

Although many innovations have been added, the basic reason for the Water Safety Service remains the same — to reduce suffering caused by drownings and water accidents.

Kinsmen Girls' Softball League stands for sportsmanship and fun combined with organized softball.



AN H OF A NOTE

IN THE MAIL BAG

Can't Agree, Wants Names All Facts, In News Items

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your editorial reply to my earlier correspondence.

I cannot, however, overcome an irresistible compulsion to rebut it because it is so patently self-defeating.

In the first instance, you readily admit "the present town council tends to do most of its talking at Committee meetings, and a minimum at formal Council sessions." Your reason for not reporting those Committee meetings is a shortage of staff and a desire to avoid over reporting. Having recognized, however, that most of the town's business is being done in Committee, surely you would feel obliged to make a decision to cover the Committee in favour of the Council meeting, which decision would neither further burden your staff nor create conflicting news items. Your absence from Committee meetings tends to encourage an already disagreeable practice which the present Town Council seems to be engaging in. On several occasions when members of the public have been present at Committee meetings, they have been asked to leave when it suited the Committee's convenience so that presumably the Committee could then discuss an item which it didn't want overheard by those persons. These meetings, of course, are public and that kind of practice should be brought to the attention of the voting public. It cannot, however, if you do not attend those meetings.

In the second instance, your editorial reply is most disappointing. The suppression of factual news can never be justified on the basis of economic gain. To admit to such a belief is to admit to a totally misconstrued purpose as a newspaper. Firstly, you cannot seriously suggest that all of the persons whose names would otherwise appear undesirably in print are saved from further suffering by your unilateral act of censorship. Anyone reading a Toronto daily will generally come upon that information and if it is not a sizeable enough event to warrant reproduction in a Toronto paper, then word of mouth will circulate the event within the Town. It must be apparent that the rumoured difficulties of a person are much more harmful than a factual statement of those difficulties and their subsequent disposition. For example, a person might quite properly be charged with a serious offence but have that charge dismissed upon the presentation of all of the evidence. If, as a newspaper, you reported this evidence that person would suffer far less than he would if his 'reputation' were subjected to the initial rumours of the charge with no follow-up of their disposition. To suggest also that you are protecting yourself from financial loss by reason of your not offending persons who might find themselves notoriously exhibited in print, is to suggest that your advertisers are all people of poor repute

and I am sure that that is not the case.

You, of course, better than anyone else, recognizes the public trust that rests with all publishers of newspapers and while the quality of the printed page may vary, it should not do so for the reasons you advance. Good, factual and consistent reporting is something that every newspaper must provide to be worthy of its name. If each of us in our own minds were motivated by the fear of economic censure for our acts, then our society would indeed be at a low level. I personally do not think that you believe that and I sincerely hope that your future practice will be such as to demonstrate the traditional and honourable role you have in factual and fair reporting of the events that make news.

Yours very truly,
— R. R. Dodokin

IN THE MAIL BAG

Monetary Outlook Is Shock to This Reader

R. R. I, Georgetown

Dear Editor: Your editorial stating that you didn't use names of people accused or convicted of various offences for monetary reasons was quite a shock. Whatever became of the fearless crusading editor that was shown on the old late show newspaper story.

Anyway it indicates you have the same attitude as the great majority of citizens.

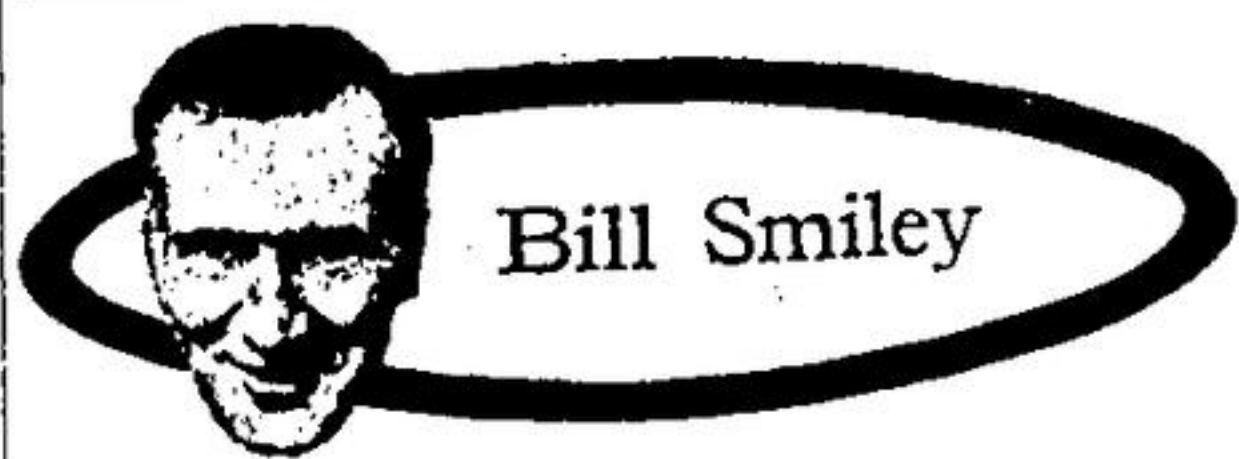
However, possibly you could editorialize a little on the proposed industrial incinerator on 25 Highway.

One of the few benefits we have in this area, compared with areas closer to Lake Ontario is more or less clean air to breathe.

It seems obvious, despite what Mr. Kerr says that what is burnt up will come down somewhere. While the smoke nuisance may be almost eliminated in this project, they can do nothing about the smell of it.

With everything going into it from garbage to chemicals and metal being burned, the prevailing west wind in the Georgetown area should bring us memories of Sudbury or Burlington Beach.

Yours truly
Jim Ross



SUN SHINES A DAY AT A TIME

This has been quite a winter, in more ways than one. Cold, snow, cold, snow. When it wasn't cold enough to freeze the brains of a brass monkey, God, or the weatherman, or somebody, let fly with the confetti as though it were the biggest wedding in the world.

And I'm stuck with three females — a broody wife, a moody daughter, and a pregnant cat. So things haven't exactly looked up as spring hides well around that corner.

However, there are always bright spots, and I've had a fair share of them. Terry Barker took me to task in a long, intelligent rebuttal to a rather disgruntled column I wrote about teaching. He didn't convince me, but let's say that I am a little more disgruntled than I was.

There are deep and satisfying rewards in teaching, along with the frustration, red tape and the feeling that you're hopelessly entangled in a huge cobweb. There's a real thrill in seeing young people grapple with new ideas, and light up as the ideas get through.

Then I had a thoughtful letter from a Quallum Beach, B.C., reader enclosing a clipping from the North Battleford (Sask.) News-Optimist stat-

NEWS ECHOES

From the Herald of 10, 20 and 30 Years Ago

1960

● Possibility of curtailing passenger service on the Barrie-Hamilton CNR line running through town was indicated at Monday's council meeting by Cr. John Elliott.

● Bob Collett of Weston was the winner of the \$1,000 grand prize when the local Kinsmen held their stag dinner in the Legion Hall Friday.

1950

● Two new teachers will join the Georgetown Public School teaching staff next term. Harold Henry has been hired as assistant principal, and will teach one of the senior grades, and Miss Luena Campbell has also accepted a position with the staff. Two veteran teachers, Misses Hazel Harrison and May Langan will retire at the end of this term.

1940

● Soldiers Comfort Committee has been formed to facilitate the sending of parcels to local soldiers overseas. To keep down the cost of sending parcels they will be packed and addressed to individuals but sent in one consignment. Mrs. A. Reeve is chairman, Mrs. Sid MacKenzie treasurer, and Mrs. R. Guyot secretary. Any contribution should be left with Mrs. D. Livingstone, Georgetown, or Mrs. Guyot, Glen Williams.

some Major-General. The Bill. Detected grave concern beneath your casual request for prayers. I have solicited our Father on your daughter's behalf and I feel that He answered your prayer. May God bless you and yours in the name of his son Jesus Christ." That was all from a complete stranger.

From Red Deer came a long letter full of scriptural comfort and the assurance that his (or her) prayers would be with us. Others sent prayers that had helped them in time of trouble.

This is only a sampling. I am not an emotional or sentimental person. My wife calls me Old Stoneface. But it has touched me deeply that so many people have tried to communicate with, and help, a stranger. Sometimes a columnist feels that he is writing in a great, cold void. It's not a good feeling.

Now I know better and I will be of good heart. Meanwhile we live a day at a time, the sun shines, spring is on its way. Thank you all. It's good to know that there is still a great deal of human kindness in a world that sometimes looks a bit bleak.

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