

OPINION

Thirteen Unlucky For School Too

by KEITH HOBSON
Well, that weekend we all suffered through earlier this month has been named by someone Labor Day. Therefore, it is a weekend in which everyone should work hard, right? Wrong! If not, then it has to be the weekend when everyone gets ready to go back to school, right? Wrong again! That's two goofs in a row, you better watch it because you can be replaced.

That specific weekend in fact marks the beginning of the new year. Just forget about the calendar for awhile. Because of that esteemed institution called school, we have the year marked out, at least in the minds of most people, by schools beginning and ending.

This appears to point out the strength of the control that the education system holds over our minds. But here I will have to make an assumption. That assumption will be that the young people that I have come in contact with are a good reflection of the present school system. If so then someone is in a lot of trouble. It won't be me because I know what the problem is.

Let us examine the present Ontario school system in Georgetown. There are, at present, 13 years of schooling. In effect this means that you have a lot of 19 and 20-year-old kids who are tied at home for at least 10 months of the year. They are locked into their own community because of the requirements of a society that demands a specific kind of pre-exposure training.

The kids are subjected to a rigid program where they have to go to bed early and get up early. There is no staying up late and studying or just rapping with friends. That might keep the rest of the family awake and you know how miserable the old man is in the morning. You can't be late, or skip a meal. That's a definite

A REAL JOKE
You probably saw that in the last few years of high school the students does not have to write exams. Then you label this freedom of learning. All it is giving a Grade 13 kid the chance to do is the chaotic things he would have done in Grade 9 if given the chance.

As for learning more in the last two years of high school, well that is a real joke. The kids may know a little more of what is in a few books but they are no wiser than they were two years before.

What you have is a situation in which between Grades 11 and 13 there is no real progress made at all. The maturity of the kid remains static. And then there are these vocational programs. But let's not be fooled. These are just job training endeavors designed to ease the conscience of the community. A community that feels it must provide something for those too lazy or stupid to attempt more academic and broadening material.

These vocational programs are just a kind of in-school

playground. They act as a means of keeping potential delinquents off the streets.

COMMUNITY'S FAULT
But this is not necessarily the kids' fault. Their natural inclinations are away from academic material. If you give them an easy way out, they will take it. The fault lies with a community which only wants to do what it thinks is best.

The years between 17 and 19 are, it has been my experience, the years of the greatest awakening of kids. These years should not be spent entirely dependent on the home. The kid should be encouraged to go his own way.

I may be prejudiced but the 11-year system in Quebec seems to be better. The kids have to work harder, but that is still not very hard. There is more pressure on them but that is good, if it is the right kind of pressure.

The school system in Georgetown, like all towns in Ontario, is producing kids who, if they follow all the rules, will grow up to be nice little conforming citizens like society demands. But these same nice little citizens will not be the type of people to which you would like to be close friends.

The Congress of the United States, established by the ratification of the Constitution, had its first meeting on March 4, 1789.

DULL BLADES HARM MOWER

With the month of September comes the beginning of fall gardening chores, says R.F. Gomme, Mr. Gomme, a horticultural specialist with the Ontario ministry of agriculture and food, offers these timely tips for lawn mower care.

Keep your lawn mower blades sharp for even and clean cutting action. Lawn mowers also use less power and last

longer if the blades are sharpened often. This can be done easily with a household file.

While you're working on your mower, clean out the air filter. Dirt and pieces of grass caught inside reduce the mower's efficiency. During the period of rapid growth in autumn, mower blades should be adjusted to a lower cutting height.

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(Herald Photo)

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR

A.E. (Fred) Morris, new administrator at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, sits at his desk in the office he took over at the beginning of September. Before coming here he was director of hospital services at Toronto General Hospital

for 13 years. He is a graduate of University of Toronto, and of Banff School of Advanced Management. He is a member of Health Services Executive, and served on the national task force on the cost of health services in 1969.

Three CAS Offices Become One Location

Halt County Children's Aid Society consolidated its three county offices into one location when it moved into new premises, Saturday.

The new CAS offices are located on the second floor of the new Reimer Building in Burlington.

The move means that the society's offices have closed at 48 Hugh St., Milton; 226 South Service Rd., Oakville; and 377 Brant St., Burlington. Although plans are still incomplete, the society will open

interview offices throughout the county so clients will have easy access to social workers.

Michael Irwin, vice-president of the CAS board of directors, and chairman of its building committee, says the move was stimulated by a need for a greater degree of communication between case workers, supervisors, and the director.

The new premises are slightly larger than the combined space of the three former locations.

SILVERWOOD

Joanne Williams, along with brothers and other relatives, planned a surprise party for their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Crawford, Sept. 7, celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. The party was held in St. Alban's church hall in Glen Williams.

About 85 invited guests showed to help Mr. and Mrs. Crawford celebrate and to wish them 25 more happy years.

The guests enjoyed a buffet supper topped off with a three-tiered wedding cake made by Joanne.

Mrs. Crawford received a corsage of white carnations tied with a silver ribbon, and Mr. Crawford received a carnation

for his jacket. They were presented with filled wallets. The evening was spent dancing to Ross Hillier's music.

Clarence Bain is home after several days in hospital. Mrs. C. Wilson is also in hospital, and get well wishes go to these people.

Mr. W. Scott of Lafayette, Ind., Mr. and Mrs. Peter Scott of Oxford, Ohio, and Bruce Scott of Toronto were Sunday visitors with the Harry Scots.

Community sympathy goes to Bill Penson in the death of his mother, recently.

—Alicia F. C. Scott

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