

We're all in this together, like it or not

To the Editor of the Herald: I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the Herald and particularly to your staff reporter Celia Saxon for an excellent job.

I am referring to the series of articles in the Herald about the youth in town, "There's nothing to do, but who is to blame?" There was a real effort put into this series: a lot of ground covered, frustration and surprises encountered.

This seems to be the kind of trust that youths feel their parents have for them. It is not a very secure feeling for them.

Celia is right in my opinion when she says communication and motivation are the two most important things in our lives.

I wish I could help my son get off drugs but I wouldn't want anyone to know the family has a problem like that.

In a lot of cases like these the only reason the youth does or does not get help is to save face for the family.

doing nothing. Maybe this is what they like to do. Maybe it is all they can find to do.

If this is all they can find to do and you don't like it, see what you can do to help them find something more constructive for themselves and the community.

on an equal basis, could get together and discuss our differences, no matter what sex we are or walk of life we have taken. Just people talking to people. Get our misunderstandings out in the open. I am sure it would be most rewarding for all concerned.

We cannot expect to live as a community without communications. It would not solve all the problems but it would be a positive means of identifying them and then we could take some action towards correcting them.

If we ignore them now, when we are older and can't do much to help ourselves they may remember when we were all younger and how much we did for them. It could be a frightening experience for us in the future.

Who is to blame? I would say all of us in our society today. We are all interdependent. Like it or not that's the way it is. So we all share the blame or credit, whichever we deserve.

I would like to see a meeting place where adults and youths

Then the Herald wouldn't feel it necessary to run a series on who is to blame. They could then run a series on what is being done to correct the problems that already exist.

Lou Egerton

I have purposely waited before stating my ideas in order to see what reaction you would receive from the public. Well, it has come as no surprise to me that a week or two later there has not been one comment on this series printed. I will be very much surprised if there are any in the future.

The sad truth, as I see it, is that people just don't care. This does not apply to everyone as there are some wonderful people around who are willing to help. But they are a small minority in comparison to the need.

These are the most lacking in our lives today. Sure there is a communications gap. How could it be otherwise? Communications has to be a two-way street. You can't communicate when one is yelling and the other is tuned out.

You have to transmit and receive. When the youth find out, after trying many times that they are always receiving and not allowed to transmit they just give up. They then rebel in their own way at a society that either doesn't understand or doesn't want to—it really doesn't matter which. Their incentive has been destroyed and the end result is the same.

The names we hang on them like "long haired freaks" or "punks." How about "filthy traps?" That's another nice one. How would you react if a youth hung a few names like that on you? Think about it.

We object sometimes to their language, but who did they learn it from?

But those "punks" and "freaks": are they not someone's sons and daughters? I am sure if they fell out of a UFO we would have read about it in the papers. Someone, somewhere must have brought them to arrive at where they are today.

I don't know of any youths who are making these sex films that seem to be all the rage today. How many are writing the obscene books that are on the market today? Who is it that makes up the commercials for TV that tell you to take a pill when your mother-in-law comes to visit? Or what beer or whiskey to drink to have the fun time of your life and leave people thinking that, without it, the party would be a wipe out.

They don't grow the poppies from which heroin is derived. They only abuse it, after we freely put it at their disposal.

We teach them by our example how to drink, how to get drunk. We even lower the drinking age so we can get more of their money or votes. Then we sit back and criticize the spiralling upward trend of young alcoholics.

They can't even take credit for the so-called generation gap. That was created for them somewhere between the cradle and the age they are now.

Last but not least: don't criticize the next time you see a group of youths just standing around doing nothing—wherever you are, wherever they are—until you have investigated the facts, found out why they are standing there

DON'T MISS
KEN CAMPBELL AND RENAISSANCE ON "CROSSROADS"
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH
Channel 11 at 1.30 p.m.
Channel 13 at 8 a.m.



The Single Parents Club held their children's Christmas party this past Sunday at St. Andrews United Church. Here Santa can be seen distributing gifts to the children. The Single Parents Club is still open to join. Anyone wishing further information should get in touch with Mrs. Jill Calloway, Tel. 877-8306.

Some questions for Mr. Bodnar

To the Editor of the Herald: We would like to thank all those who participated in our mass meeting on Education in Halton at Joseph Gibbons School. We hope at future meetings the turnout will be even larger. Only through public awareness and participation can we ensure our children will have the education which will enrich their lives in the future.

However, due to lack of time we were unable to approach Mr. Bodnar, our trustee, with questions we think are pertinent to our children's education. Since Mr. Bodnar seems to ignore our personal letters and telephone calls for the most part, we thought it necessary to ask him these questions through the newspaper to ensure all those interested will be able to read his responses.

Because Mr. Bodnar emphasized at the meeting he is willing to receive all parents' responses we felt we would respond to his most kind request.

We sincerely hope Mr.

Bodnar will respond in like through the news media promptly to show the sincerity of his offer.

The following are the questions posed from different sectors of Georgetown.

1—Mr. Bodnar suggested that we, as parents, are trying to create an anarchy because we dare to question the board and school policies. Is this the attitude we should expect from our representative paid for by our tax dollars?

2—We understand Halton board has operated with annual surpluses of approximately \$20,000 each of the last three years. We established at the meeting that this is true but that this is being stored away for a future education centre for administration. Can you reaffirm this? Why are we told, because of economics we can't have more teachers to eliminate split grades and overcrowded classes? Our children and teachers are suffering.

We realize \$20,000 per year is a drop in the bucket in comparison to the whole budget but do you not feel it could not be used to relieve the problems of today instead of worrying about a future educational centre?

We understand the parents at Wigglesworth are being asked to donate and build playground equipment because the board won't give them any. Don't you think this small expense could come from the surplus? How much would this cost?

3—Why do we have split grades with high numbers at Park when some other schools do not have this problem? You stated that Park was allotted six teachers to do with as deemed necessary but Mr. Oppica says he was allotted five teachers and one resource person. Who's right?

4—What is the trustee and board doing to investigate the recent seven transfers from Park? We realize this is a small number in comparison to all students but, considering the inconvenience these parents are going through to take their kids across town to school, there must be a large problem. Do you not agree?

5—During a professional development day last year the board's itinerary was that primary teachers could either

go to meetings for the afternoon or go skiing. Do you believe in this arrangement considering our children are home and some of the teachers are out having a good time?

6—It is hard to find out just where a child stands in class achievement. Anecdotal report cards with remarks such as "satisfactory" or "average" tell us nothing. Average to what? May I ask, is there no way we can have a true marking scheme or is the board afraid that if marks were brought back many children would not make the grade under the present system?

7—Why was the accepted procedure of advertising for a new Director of Education ignored. Although there may be good men in our system do you not feel this "appointment" was undemocratic?

8—Did you vote for the values questionnaire? You seemed to be confused as to where it came from and when it passed? Do you know what is being implemented in our schools or not?

We hope the task of responding to our questions will

not be too difficult. I remain
Betty Fisher
'Concerned Parents'

Norval resident

Funeral services were held December 15 for Margaret Vera Taylor who died at the age of 74 at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, December 12, 1974.

She was the daughter of James Arnett Lumby and Mary Scott.

A Norval resident for the past 14 years, Mrs. Taylor previously resided at the Forks of the Credit, Burnt River and in Guelph for 45 years.

She married James E. Taylor August 9, 1922. He predeceased her in 1959.

Mrs. Taylor is survived by daughter Mary Elizabeth (Beite), (Mrs. Stanton of Hamilton), and a son Bill of Guelph. Also a sister Mrs. Lillian Muncy of San Francisco, California.

She was predeceased by brothers George, Russell, James C. and a sister Maisie (Mrs. Harold Gollop).

She was a member of the Anglican Church. As a hobby she assisted in a business run by her niece Mrs. Aldo Ferri's (Beite), listen to them pouring out their hearts to someone they have found they can talk to, someone they feel will at least communicate with them even if we don't hold a magic wand that we can zap up the answers they are searching for.

They don't expect you to understand completely nor do they want you to agree with all of their ideas. They just want to feel someone cares. They desperately seek guidance, truth (not half-truths), real love (not just lip service), standards (not just double standards). They want trust; real trust.

So many young people I have talked to say "My parents say they trust me, but they won't let me go out of the house."

I would trust a wild lion with my life, providing, of course, I had checked and double checked that there was no way it could get out at me and that the lock on its cage was secure.

Some parents accuse and threaten all kinds of things about the young people and the way they are doing things. How often I hear the story from young people who are accused by their mother or father who, in the meantime, are either living with their boyfriend or girlfriend or having an affair on the side. It is pretty hard to come up with an honest answer under these circumstances. Double standards again.

Parents are scared today. They try burying their heads in the sand, hoping the whole scene will change while doing nothing to bring about that change.

We have allowed permissiveness to get out of hand; now we can use the excuse that it is too late.

They say "My son or daughter drinks more than I like them to, but, thank God they don't use drugs."

"I have made sure they can't say my daughter came home pregnant to shame the family

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That's nice to hear

To the Editor of the Herald: Thanks for letter and subscription bill. It is really something to receive the Herald each week and it is like having a walk around Georgetown for me. I love you dear town and its friendly people who have no equal anywhere on earth. I think the new look of the paper is fine and a lot of work must have gone into its preparation.

I would like to wish you and all "Georgetownians" a Merry Christmas and good health and prosperity for 1975. Georgetown I love you. "Hi Roma."

Sincerely yours
John Hill
23 Leatherby Close, Southway
Plymouth, Devon, England

Ashgrove
Hail the new year

By Mrs. John Bellbuddy
Congratulations and good wishes go to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Alexander 14 Rexway Drive in town who celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary on Dec. 31 Bob and Norma farmed for some years on the Eighth Line before moving into town and she is a great Institute worker.

The old year has nearly gone and a new year is coming. Time has a way of slipping past us. Today we have much more time than our fathers had but what do we do with extra time that we save by doing everything faster and going everywhere quicker?

Farewell to the old year, the last page is written. With each deed recorded, the record now stands. Were they evil or good, there are no retractions, for yesterday's chapters are now in God's hands. So hail to the new year, horizons will constantly beckon to those who march onward with banners unfurled. Have faith in the future. Shout the glad tidings. A Happy New Year. It's a wonderful world.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS ...

I wish to extend to all residents of the Town of Halton Hills

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And A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Mayor Thomas J. Hill

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