

Go Ask Alice worth reading

Parents owe those who have criticized the use of the book "Go Ask Alice" in Halton schools, a great deal of thanks.

Not because of those critics' stand of the content of the book which they loudly claim as being pornographic, but because they've created such a furor over that book some young people who might otherwise not have read it are picking it up and reading a very startling message about a very serious and misunderstood problem of today; drugs.

The book is a poignant description of one girl's attempts and subsequent failure to handle drugs. It deserves to be read by as many young people as possible.

Publishers of the book could not have come up with a better method of drawing attention to the book than that provided by the upset parents who have deluged every newspaper in the county with their letters of objection.

Label a book "pornographic" and you automatically draw interest to it. Content, if the book has any will carry the interest from that point.

Content "Go Ask Alice" most certainly has.

The book is actually the diaries of a young teenage girl who becomes inculcated into the drug scene.

The shock of the book lies not in the fact that it's a true story but in the way in which this girl was slowly and relentlessly pulled into something of which she had little understanding and over which she had no control. It ends in her death.

Certainly the book contains a fair amount of strong language. But doesn't life?

Of course that doesn't make it right to use such language in a book that is going to be sitting on a public school book shelf (good editing could delete most of it without lessening the punch) but, having read the book we should conclude that the language is not to the level of being offensive.

Pornographic? The instances that might be regarded as such are few and far between. They were so

separate in fact, from the intent of the book that they passed by with little thought. Portraying sex was not the intent of this book and that's an important consideration when deciding if something is pornographic.

A walk past the magazine rack at the neighborhood milk store could be much more titillating than "Go Ask Alice."

If there's any stimulation in this book it's the stimulation to think.

No, "Go Ask Alice" is not an improper book for young people to read. In fact it could be an important book for them if (and this is a big if) they receive some direction and support while reading it.

That can come in a classroom discussion or over dinner at the family table.

By providing an open, frank look at the questions that "Go Ask Alice" has to bring up, parents, teachers, and the students can better handle a situation that, in today's world even here in Georgetown, most teenagers are going to face.

That, as far as we're concerned, is the important aspect of this debate. Being open and being very frank.

To hide something away beneath the counter adds a definite taint of darkness and unacceptability to it. Bring it out into the open, into the light of public scrutiny and analysis, and it loses that evil or dirty connotation.

Trying to hide "Go Ask Alice" behind a flimsy curtain of censorship would deprive young, learning minds of a look into a world the lessons from which they can benefit by.

For the lessons in "Go Ask Alice" are very important ones. They're hard, they're painful but they are all too real.

They could, just possibly make a difference in someone's life. If it takes calling an important piece of contemporary writing, "pornographic" in order to get young people to read it, then so be it.

The end may justify the means. However, the means, we feel, are actually undeserving of the criticism in the first place.



On the home front

Your trick better be good!

By Susan De Facendis

Having looked in stunned amazement at the price of candy, I think this Halloween I'm either going to give away money, which is a fairly worthless commodity now anyway, or take the tricks.

I shall simply defy the goblins to do their worst, unless they would consider accepting a handshake and my best wishes.

Some of the larger, mouthier kids (men?), are never satisfied with the handouts they get anyway. They look at you with a distinct sneer upon their faces and say things like, "Geeze Lady! Is that all?"

I usually find that I can quell them, by

drawing myself up to my full 5'9" height, glaring up at them, and saying, "Yeah! What do you want to make of it sonny boy?"

I remember having a confrontation with my son Richard last Halloween, as I believed he was too old to continue his annual free-loading career. As usual, he conned me out of my decision, by promising to bend his knees all evening in order to save me embarrassment.

As he was dressing up as Quasimodo the hunchback, I hoped that, not only would that adequately foreshorten him, but also be an effective enough disguise to conceal his identity altogether.

I later learned, to my complete horror, that he managed to fill two bags of goodies, in

three hours, all virtually from one house. It appears he discovered a decidedly inebriated homeowner, who couldn't remember from one minute to the next, who had last knocked on his door. The poor man spent an entire evening, distributing largesse to my conscienceless son.

To the little ones, however, it is a major highlight of the year and Teresa, now five years old believes that every occasion merits a decorating spree. Since September she has covered the refrigerator, the fireplace, our storm door and living room windows, with an assortment of hand-drawn cut-outs, beginning with Thanksgiving turkeys, Autumn leaves and apples.

When she finally exhausted the

Thanksgiving symbols, she graduated to witches; moons; pumpkins and odd-looking cats and, upon closer inspection, I notice there are even a few Christmas trees and stockings now interspersed in this colorful collage.

Teresa decided this year, that she was going to shell out as an octopus. When I queried her motives, she had apparently figured out, that with all those extra arms, she could carry more bags.

I am afraid to ask the other two their plans. With the number of swimming pools that have made their appearance over the summer, I am just waiting for one of them to think of swimming their way around the district as Jaws.

Queen's Park Commentary

The attention is all on the NDP

By DON O'HEARN
Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

Robert Nixon has been doing his best to have us think otherwise, but the Liberals are going to be in a bad spot and the NDP will be up to its neck in good luck in the session which opened Tuesday.

The Liberals are going to be handcuffed while the Lewis party will be able to do pretty well anything it wants to without worrying.

The reason is that the Liberals desperately won't

want a quick election. And to avoid one they probably will, as the saying goes, have to swallow their spit.

While the NDP fully aware of this will be able to live recklessly, just as recklessly as it likes.

Politically Set Back?

The Liberal problem is that the party at present is to all practical purposes leaderless.

Nixon is now only a caretaker and the possibility of having to go to the country under him is unthinkable.

The situation won't be corrected until the leadership

convention in January.

And in the interim times will be dismal for the party legislatively.

And it also could be set back politically.

At the session Lewis and his cohorts will be storming to the attack.

They are so hot to get off the mark you can pretty well feel it in the air around here.

The Liberals won't be able to storm.

They will do their best to give the appearance of vitality and authority.

But it will have to be a

disorganized, catch-as-catch-can effort and in the final result almost certainly will flounder.

And it appears inevitable that the impression left with the public will be one of political ineffectiveness.

NDP Adept

The NDP can be expected to get a big press.

The party in recent years on balance consistently has received more than its share.

This has been partly because it has concentrated highly on emotional issues - good demagoguery, and good news

copy.

And also because it has been adept in playing the press - the quick Lewis witticisms and sword thrusts, the pithy (if sometimes thoughtless) slashes of his colleagues, are what the press, particularly radio and television, eats up.

In contrast the Liberals will be in the shadows. They probably will get trapped into several votes against the government which in their long-term interest they should support but which realistically they will have to squirm out of.

It looks like a poor time to be a Liberal.

Years Ago

Guns seized under War Measures Act

From the files of the Herald
FIVE YEARS AGO

All weapons were removed from the Georgetown Armouries following the application of the War Measures Act. The weapons have been placed in storage in a secret locker somewhere in Toronto. All weapons are under close guard until the repeal of the Act in Canada.

Brenda Crane will receive a special award at this year's high school commencement exercises. Brenda was one of three north Halton girls to receive honors and to be presented with the University Women's Club award.

A former Georgetown District High School student, Brian Wood, has completed his training course with the armed forces at Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, and has received a post in Winnipeg.

Georgetown will be purchasing a new pumper for the fire department to replace the old Esqueping truck that has served the area for so many years. The sum of \$35,605 was approved for the expenditure that will retire the truck from service and permit the force to keep the antique truck as a souvenir of the past.

TEN YEARS AGO

Mayor Joseph Gibbons plans to go to the Ontario Municipal Board and fight the town decision to install a water tower on land recently acquired on Todd Road. He feels the cost of the project would force the town further in debt and that it is not needed at the time.

There will be four names on the ballots for the federal election to take place in November: Allan Masson PC, Harry Harley Liberal; Murray Kernighan NDP, and Henry Timmins hope to gain favor for themselves and their parties.

Christmas shopping has started early in Georgetown. A ladies' suede coat was the first item for thieves at Silvers Department Store. Three cars were stolen from area dealers and the Main Street section of town during the week.

The population of Halton County has increased by 5,717 people since the last census was taken. The area is now one of the largest population centres in Ontario.

Piped oxygen was added to the Georgetown District Memorial Hospital due to the generosity of the Varian Company of Georgetown. The company provided the second largest donation for the upgrading of the facility since the building program began.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

A brief snow storm dumped a light sprinkling of the fluffy white stuff which remained long enough for everyone to accept the fact that the winter was on its way. The warm morning sun quickly erased the first effects of winter.

Georgetown residents were shaken for a moment when an explosion rocked the town. The bang was heard by almost the entire town about 8 p.m. Workmen at the quarry were in the process of blasting a new section for excavation the following morning.

This Sunday the 121st anniversary of St. John's United Church will be celebrated by the congregation. The church was amalgamated in 1839.

Experienced buffers are wanted by a Georgetown firm.

There will be a crackdown in church and charity lotteries offering more than \$50 in prizes which is against the Lottery and Gambling Act. Groups violating the act will be warned prior to charges being laid.

Viewpoint

A scientific goblin

By Gerry Landsborough

This week in honour of Halloween, Viewpoint looks at goblins and ghosts and things that go bump in the dark.

All are looked upon much more seriously today under the new heading of parapsychology.

Parapsychology is a scientific investigation of psychic phenomena. ESP or Extra Sensory Perception is a term that is widely used today to cover a variety of psychic experiences. The term itself is not always used correctly.

ESP is the belief of many scientists now studying psychic phenomena that we all have ESP though some people are more aware of it than others.

Professor William Trenchard, often referred to as "The Father of Parapsychology", has been studying the supernatural for 50 years. He established the first department of parapsychology at Utrecht University in Holland more than 23 years ago. Prof. Trenchard looks upon ghosts as a natural phenomena as real as you or I. He has written more than 50 books on the subject of

paranormal phenomena and believes that in the near future parapsychology will be as commonplace as psychoanalysis is today. In Toronto, Prof. George Owen, formerly a Cambridge scientist for more than 20 years, now spends all of his time devoted to psychic research. He heads the New Horizons Research Foundation, a parapsychology think-tank.

Many accredited scientists around the world now give credence to paranormal events, and are using sober scientific controls to monitor and hopefully explain the energy force behind such happenings.

Kirlian photography is a method devised that shows auras of psychic power around the fingertips of those who claim psychic ability. Perhaps Kirlian photography, which is done without light, is a means of photographing a person's "aura" or "four forces of psychic energy": electric, magnetic, gravitational or atomic.

Uri Geller is a young man who has recently come into the public eye through his ability to bend metal through the power of concentration alone. He bends keys, locks, and turns the dials on watches. It is believed that he is able to emit and control this

unknown force.

Under the heading of parapsychology the following are some of the paranormal events now being studied.

Telepathy—the experience of seeing an event before it happens.

Clairvoyance—the ability to read another's thoughts, to receive or transmit a message through thought alone.

Auras—the study of halos of coloured energy around the body as seen by people with psychic ability.

Psychokinesis—the ability to move matter, to bend or move an object mind power alone.

Ghosts—the study of apparitions or poltergeists (noisy ghosts than can move objects).

Astral projection—the ability to send an ethereal double or a body of light away from the material body attached by an elastic cord. This body can view happenings anywhere while the human body sleeps.

Clairvoyance—the ability to discern objects not perceived by the senses. Kirlian photography—photographs made without light of auras of energy around the

fingertips of people who are psychic.

Pyramidology—the study of the properties to alter natural process by placing in a pyramid shape.

The above list of phenomena is not a full description of everything now covered in parapsychology.

Many of the above were believed to be the workings of evil or a type of trickery. However today with sober scientific study these happenings are now being investigated in the hope of finding a common cause or explanation.

Toronto members of the Toronto Society for Psychic Research have made what some consider to be a milestone in psychic research. This group has, by thought concentration alone, produced a series of rappings that would seem to point out that the right frame of mind can produce "paranormal phenomena."

The new science of parapsychology will chart and explore new frontiers of the mind, that may prove more vast and powerful than anything heretofore discovered. It will offer a scientific explanation for goblins, and ghosts, and things that go bump in the night.