

Calculators must be studied

"The Calculator Crisis" or "What's 2 and 2?"

Good titles for books investigating the short and long term affects of allowing students to supplement their own thinking facilities with those pocket calculators.

However there are no such books and there are no such studies. Yet Halton students are racing head-on into the computer age.

For a board that so generously supports studies on almost all aspects of education including that very fine document on the affects of television, on school children, we find it amazing that the Halton Board of Education has not considered an investigation of how calculators should be utilized in classrooms.

But there hasn't been any such

research. Students are now being allowed to use the machines in math classes.

We feel that educational "crutches" like that are detrimental to students. They're not being fully challenged in handling problems when they're allowed to turn to an alternative means of thinking.

This entire matter is almost as serious in its long term affects as those resulting from values education. In fact one seems to be weighing against the other. One is teaching students to rationalize more competently while the other one is supplying an aid so that they don't have to.

Yet we don't hear any cries from parents about the introduction of those \$19.98 calculators into the teaching methods of Halton.



Who can you trust?

Many people really don't understand some of the strange deals that are going on down at the region. "That's the region for you," is about all the comment that our reports and stories about Halton region really generates.

If anyone should even remotely believe that a single tier form of regional government (that idea keeps cropping up at the region) is going to promote a closer relationship between people and government, they had better talk to Halton Hills citizens.

But that's off the topic, which is some of the conniving that goes on at the region.

Like the request last week that \$10,000 be spent on acquiring land for a new operations centre for Oakville and Burlington's works departments, \$10,000 down and how much more to come?

Think of the savings one councillor suggested. Into one facility

could be combined all the personnel that are presently struggling along in seven different locations in Oakville alone.

Putting up one super southern centre would provide a facility into which all of those poor, disbanded souls could go.

After that initial pitch, with visions of savings dancing before their eyes, councillors were beginning to see the need for such a building.

But then, thanks goodness, Oakville's Mayor Harry Barrett, happened to point out that of the seven Oakville facilities, four—sewage plants, waterworks—would still have to be staffed. Who would be going to the new "operations centre"?

A small fact, but one that made all the difference. Council voted down the \$10,000.

There's no moral to all this. It just goes to show you what kind of leadership we are getting down there. If you can't trust your councillor, who can you trust?

On The Home Front

Happy Canada Goose Day

by Susan DeFacienda

However cynical and disbelieving we may be, spring is undoubtedly hovering on the brink of making its shy debut.

It is visible in the first tiny cracks in the soil, heralding the first growth of a tulip bulb; a whisper of something in the air promising...promising...

Years Ago

Hardware moves from Main

From the files of the Herald
Five Years Ago

Council's plans to have a plebiscite on liquor lounges in May will face a delay and the earliest possible date for the vote will be September. According to finance chairman Reeve Ric Morrow the cost of the vote has been budgeted at \$15,000.

Georgetown's Novice 'A' hockey team became Tri-County League 'AA' champions Friday night in Preston. The locals scored a 4-1 victory over Preston. Novices to gain the crown in two straight games.

A hardware store for close to a century on Georgetown's Main Street, Thompson's Hardware, made its last sale in its old locale on Saturday. The store, purchased in October 1969 by Howard Tarzwell, is being combined with his Lumber Mart business at the 17 Sideroad and the Tenth Line.

Two new doctors have set up offices in town over the past few weeks. Dr. Phillip Mead and Dr. Alexander Furness. Dr. Mead opened his office recently at 2 Young Street and Dr. Furness has set up his practice at 3 Maple Ave. W., the same location as Dr. J. Martin.

Ten Years Ago
J. Leonard Lambert, who retired last year after 30 years as principal of Georgetown District High School, is returning to his profession in September. He has accepted a position as principal of Stirling-Rawdon District High School in Stirling.

Minister of Georgetown's First Baptist Church for the past seven and a half years,

It is in the increased frenetic activity of the birds; and in an occasional lost or wandering ray of sunshine that vividly and briefly alights upon dirty window panes and bestows a beneficent, although as yet fickle, kiss upon your face should you venture outside for a moment.

However, I have yet to see the one

definitive moment, when I personally can say, "This is it." That moment, for me, is to witness the return of the geese.

It was really because of my feelings for them, that I became a Canadian citizen. It may be a totally irrational way of making a decision, but from the first time I saw them winging their way across an enormous uncharted sky, they captured my imagination and my heart.

A change in citizenship is unquestionably a major decision, not one to be embarked upon lightly. After all, one can always change shoes, hair colouring and husbands, but how often do you change your nationality?

Comparable to the total dedicated sobriety of a reformed drunkard however, nothing can be more nationalistic than a new Canadian and to me, there is no other living creature that typifies Canada more.

As a new citizen, I now feel legally entitled to pass an opinion on a suitable name for the mid-winter holiday, a name that everyone seems to be playing these days and I would like to see it called Canada Goose Day.

Their unwavering flight southward, marked by the sound of their melancholy honking, warns us of the impending winter. Time to put the storm windows up. Time to clean the furnace. Time to burrow down to the warmth of a fire and dream dreams of a summer past.

The joyful, long-anticipated return northward of the geese, releases us all from the death-like grip of winter into the fullness of spring. Spring, a season when every minute is precious because of its fleeting quality.

Unlike the beaver or the moose, who remain in their northern havens, these large, splendid birds can be seen by the city dweller as they travel over our territory. Their long passage over cities and villages is marked by the cries of the children, calling their parents outside to see the flight of the geese.

The sight of the strength, beauty and freedom of these birds, never fails to bring a lump to my throat. Their strength represents the strength we need to make the vastness of this varied country, one Canada. Their beauty is the beauty of our healthy, growing children. Their freedom is our freedom, to pursue those things we believe to be worthwhile.

They indeed typify Canada. To me, they are a magnificent part of my Canada. They should have their day.

Viewpoint

Geisha boy for hire

by Gerry Landsborough

It's time again for potpourri a regular feature of this column. In potpourri we travel the globe to bring you a sometimes serious and, more often than not, a not so serious tongue-in-cheek look at this wonderful, wacky world around us.

First we're off to good old London, England, where we find a strange and different group of individuals. The Royal Society of Birds has hired a new assistant manager, Mr. A. Bird. If that's not tacky enough for you he joins a staff which includes: Barbara Buzzard, John Partridge, Celia Peacock, and Dorothy Rook. I have a deep down feeling that the personnel manager for the Royal Society is "for the birds."

Now let us trip over to Japan, a country with a long history of where a woman's place really should be. Japan is the home of the famous "geisha girls" whose purpose in life is to bring pleasure to the male of the species. Are you ready for this? Japan has gone

women's lib and is sporting over 200 establishments filled with "geisha boys."

Can you believe it? Viva la liberation. We've all heard the old maxim of the guy who would steal his grandmother's false teeth. Well, police in L.A. are on the lookout for a devilish rogue who has stolen his girl friend's glass eye and is apparently holding it for a \$300 ransom. Felicia Williams claims that her boyfriend demanded money and when she refused he hit her and plucked out her glass eye. I'm sure that with her one good eye that's left our friend Felicia wonders what she ever did "see" in him.

Now it's time to go down under to Brisbane, where an Australian rancher has a unique method of identifying his spouse. His wife apparently has his cat's brand tattooed on her buttocks. One comment here is that if she's ever "trussed" he's sure to be able to pick her out of the maddening crowd. And a happy round-up to you too.

Over to America now where in Boston we hear the sad story of Joseph Machoney who feels that life has always dealt with him from the bottom of the deck. Joseph felt that he just couldn't take it anymore and decided to end it all. He jumped from the Broadway Bridge but, you guessed it, fate was against him again. The tide was out and he landed in mud right up to his neck. He is now in the Boston City Hospital where we hope, for his sake, fate takes a turn for the better.

Here's a weirdie from Fort Wayne, Ind. Fire Inspector William Breeden was making a routine check of a local pet store. What he found, however, was far from routine. The basement had some 80 alligators and crocodiles roaming freely. In cages were 50

deadly snakes and hundreds of rats and mice.

The fire inspector had the store's license revoked because the animals presented a threat to the lives of firemen should a fire occur. I can see it all now... "The entire department of Station No. 32 was devoured today by alligators as fire swept through a local pet store." Who said that truth was stranger than fiction?

Off to Washington where the Bolivian government wants to buy 33,000 pounds of rabbit hair. Hope you're ready for this one. The hair will be used to produce hats by the Bolivian hat industry. You know the old hat of a rabbit trick. Ohhhhh!

Our last bit of stuff and nonsense is no nickel and dime matter. It happened in Metro when Laura Coniglio was charged with theft of approximately \$40,000. Forty thousand dollars stolen from parking meters over the past four years. She made a regular deposit of between \$150 and \$250 of rolled coins a week at her local bank. Can you imagine what the net take is from all the meters? Nickels and dimes add up to an unbelievable amount of money. And how did you make your \$10,000 a year?

We will close this week with "words of wisdom" from the Maharshi Sometimes Yogi who will be a new feature of this column. The Maharshi has come to us—no expense spared—to offer words of wisdom on the riddles of life. I'm sure we are all dying to hear what he has to say.

This week he says: "Remember that as the wheel of life keeps turning it is wise not to get one's fingers caught in the spokes." Thankyou Maharshi... Till next week, keep on smiling.

'Thirty days hath...'

Inflation has hit the number of days in a year.

That old saying "Thirty days hath September..." doesn't quite jibe with a pocket calendar put out by the Toronto-Dominion Bank. There in green and white is Saturday, April 31 followed immediately by Saturday, May 1.

One of the Herald's sales reps was trying to fix up some spring holidays using the calendar when he realized, after many an argument over the departure dates, that the calendar was wrong.

We've all heard about those notorious bank holidays, but two on one day?

Queen's Park Commentary

Aggregate industry an important business

BY DON OHEARN
Queen's Park Bureau

TORONTO—To most of us a sand or gravel truck is just a nuisance that we meet along a highway.

Very few of us, even if we major in, would recognize it as one of our best industries in the province.

Yet the fact is that sand and gravel, or "aggregates", rank right up there with the top products in our economy.

Last year more than 100 million tons of sand and gravel were produced in the province. With a delivered value of more than \$400 million this was nearly twice the dollar value of Canada's gold production.

HELD BACK
Like so much else of the economy the aggregate industry is in a bit of trouble these days.

Unlike other industries it is in constant need of expansion.

For it is at the base of all our building program. Without sand and gravel you simply don't build. And though the economy may be lagging the building has been pressing ahead.

This has been a constant demand for more and more aggregate.

And the industry has been strained to provide it, one reason being that it is held back.

DONE MUCH
The hold back comes in that the quarries and pits which provide the aggregate are under municipal development control.

And a good many local planning authorities have been reluctant to authorize new pits.

Operators under provincial direction,

On Parliament Hill Ottawa afire over the Judges Scandal

By Stewart MacLeod
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

OTTAWA - Prime Minister Trudeau may have committed an enormous political blunder in rejecting the resignation of Bud Drury - but opposition parties shouldn't be too quick to predict the pending doom of the Liberal government.

Assuming a general election is two years away, how many voters will still be talking about the so-called "judges affair?"

And with the government holding a solid majority in the Commons, there is little the combined opposition can do to force an earlier vote.

At the moment, Parliament Hill is afire with more excitement than any time since the Rivard scandals of the mid-1960's, and politicians and commentators are busy comparing the current case with the great pipeline debate of 1956. The Liberal government of Louis St. Laurent fell one year after that debate.

But until there is some evidence that Mr. Trudeau's rejection of the Drury resignation will send a wave of indignation across the country, it is difficult to draw any comparisons.

Within the rarefied atmosphere of Ottawa, it is all too easy to mistakenly predict what will be a national issue in the next election.

But until we hear back from fisherman in Come-By-Chance, apple pickers in Penitence and bus drivers in Kirkland Lake, who really knows?

There are not that many voters in official Ottawa.

It was an incredible performance. "I just can't believe it," said one loyal ministerial aide, as he left the Commons and announced he was going on a monumental binge.

The resignation should have been accepted. While few people would question Mr. Drury's basic integrity, and everyone would agree with Mr. Trudeau when he talked of the minister's long and valued service to Canada, the fact is he acted with impropriety in approaching a judge about a case before him.

Can you imagine what might happen to a truck driver if he approached a judge on behalf of a buddy?

No, Mr. Trudeau, there can't be one standard for the influential and another standard for the non-influential, at least not in a just society.

Should Be Issue

This is not to suggest the rejected resignation should not be an issue. Mr. Trudeau even stunned many of his own supporters by arbitrarily deciding that Mr. Drury should stay in the cabinet despite the fact he made representations to a judge on behalf of cabinet colleague Andre Ouellet. Although Mr. Drury did not do anything technically illegal, Chief Justice Jules Deschamps of the Quebec Superior Court referred to the minister's action as "grave."

Mr. Drury took the only course open to him. He stood in the Commons, apologized for what he had done, and announced that he had tendered his resignation. And the personal tributes from opposition leaders were still ringing in his ear when Mr. Trudeau rose and announced he was rejecting the resignation.

Could Be Temporary

The least the prime minister should have done was to accept the resignation and, if he felt it necessary, he could re-appoint Mr. Drury to cabinet at a later date. It will be recalled that Ontario Premier William Davis accepted the resignation of former provincial treasurer Darcy McKeough in 1972 after the minister was questioned about certain land transactions. Mr. McKeough was re-appointed to the cabinet within a year, and there was scarcely an opposition murmur.

The principle had been upheld. But while there appears to be near-unanimous opinion that Mr. Trudeau did not do the right thing, the question remains: what can the opposition do to keep the issue alive until the next election?

It's going to be exceedingly difficult. There can be boycotts, filibusters and general parliamentary obstruction, but only for a matter of weeks. Otherwise, regardless of the issue involved, there will be certain backlash against holding up parliamentary business.

Opposition parties would be placed in the position of having to justify their actions. And without overwhelming public support, filibustering tactics would fizzle.

"I really don't think he (Mr. Trudeau) will be able to slip away from this one," says Conservative Leader Joe Clark.

We'll see, but two years is a long time to maintain an issue.

And if Mr. Drury, now approaching 64, is not a candidate in the next election, how many people will care about his brief resignation? It will be interesting to watch.