

# Keep it simple

If the regional excursion into public dialogue on the proposed official plan for Halton is to succeed, then something must be done to communicate with the people properly.

Statements such as "to increase in the region, the range and magnitude of mental health and community related psycho-social support services for special populations" must go.

Certainly if Burlington Coun. Pat McLaughlin, a member of the regional planning committee who raised the question last week can't understand that statement's meaning, it's unlikely the vast majority of taxpayers will understand it either.

A simplistic meaning of the statement may be for increased emphasis on mental health and other social services for those people who are handicapped in some manner. If that's the meaning then it should be stated.

There's no room in local government for misunderstanding, and while the specialists who devised the abovementioned objective to be studied during the regional plan discussions will argue that it is specific, the jargon is not everyday speech with which the average "Joe Citizen" is exposed.

Oakville Coun. Archie Doneghey hit the nail on the head when he said the regional staff should be employing the KISS concept; keep it simple stupid!

Planning committee chairman Mary Munro and planning director Ed Cumming both admitted recently that the success of implementing the

proposed official plan rests with adequate dialogue with the people. Based on previous efforts, especially in Ottawa-Carleton, the more public interest, the easier it is to formulate a policy to plan the future of the municipality.

This is a problem common not only to regional government but also to all levels of government. There seems to be a tendency to confuse, smother or attempt not to offend people by saying what is meant.

Acronyms which are creeping into our language are compounding the situation and leading some people, who are uninformed of their meanings to question what benefit is derived from decisions of elected bodies.

This is especially true in education where teachers and administrators tend to talk on a level above those people who should fully understand the motives and objectives of boards of education.

To a lesser degree the media today is also responsible for making an extension of the problem because it, in some cases, takes at face value statements made by officials without adequate explanation.

So the question remains. What is the meaning of some jargon in the planning report being studied for the regional official plan?

Try this one on for size: "To minimize emphasis on income security measures and program and concentrate on the provision of institutional and social services designed to support the individual's ability to cope in the community!" KISS!

TRY OUR NEW  
JOE CITIZEN  
TYPE  
GAS PUMP  
NOT YOUR AVERAGE PUMP...



## Ye olde philosopher takes an expert look at experts

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH  
This week Viewpoint does "ye old philosophers cap" to examine the age of the expert.

If there is one single misguided piece of phraseology that stands alone in this 21st century is "check with an expert".

Now what constitutes an "expert" is a very debatable thing. We have experts in education - no need to mention what is happening there.

Discipline is a thing of the past, along with a sense of fulfillment that comes with the completion of a task. School days are devoted to "giving our young people every opportunity to examine the many possibilities of varying experiences that are readily available through our glorious educational system."

Unfortunately, it does not include learning the basics - as an experience. Somehow it offers little solace to know that Junior can face the world knowing the intimate sexual behaviour of life in Tibetan monasteries.

Again Junior didn't even pick up that bit of priceless information in the classroom but in the halls where the only real learning experience is going on - probably by some weird cultist of some type or another.

But the experts in education seem to feel that being able to read and write are secondary to the real purpose of school - putting in time. This would appear to be a priority for both teacher and pupil alike.

Next we have our government experts. That's where there is seldom a seat without an "expert" opinion. The political experts insist that nothing is wrong with the system - just the populace who don't use it properly. (Unemployment - outrageous rises in the cost of living - not being able to afford the necessities - mere details, details details. Ask the experts? "Why Canada is enjoying an economy far above the rest of the world." Why have we even developed a study yet of what makes an average Canadian? Everything is just peachy-keen... that's an expert opinion.

How about the marriage experts? Before marriage counselling people seemed to remain married - but at that point in time they didn't realize what their problems were. It took an expert for that and bingo the

marriage counsellor was in business. Which was rapidly followed by the divorce counsellor. Here we have experts that can make your divorce "a piece of cake." Just ask them. Any large daily paper is filled in the personal column with "divorce experts."

Of course we can't overlook the "baby experts." They told us how to be super permissive and of course we listened and we all raised those "special" children who arrived at university and didn't know why they were there. They grew up with complete freedom and without discipline and when they showed us the results loud and clear - we couldn't understand it. After all we had expert opinions.

Can you believe psychiatry for dogs? I kid you not - these experts point out that "Little Poopsie" is suffering from trauma - and of course the masses go in complete confidence - after all the "Doctor" is an expert.

EXPERTED TO DEATH  
We are "experted" to death. The sad part is what the experts seem to have overlooked - the human factor. All rules and customs and platitudes are influenced by the very people who developed them and who have to live by them. The difficulty with expert opinion is that the experts sort through the gauntlet of human emotion and feeling and behaviour and pick and choose according to whatever pet theory is in fashion and seems applicable.

In retaliation to the experts of all sizes, shapes and varieties I once again offer the following quiz. By the by have you ever noticed all the expert opinions we have in quiz's all compiled by psychologists, psychiatrists and shoemakers or whatever. The - are you happy? does he or she really love you? How is your sex life: Are you popular? And on and on they go.

To which I developed the following quiz - take it in good health. Grab a pencil... and... are you ready?

1. Do you do the best you can most of the time? A. yes or B. no
2. Would you find the antics of a baby and a puppy in a mud puddle amusing. A. yes B. no
3. If someone slipped on a banana peel right in front of you - would you A. laugh B. regret the loss of the banana or C. the peel.
4. Does the government and politics confuse you? A. yes B. no C. maybe

## All the law will allow

By granting their administrators the maximum allowable under regulations set by the Anti-Inflation Board, the Perth County Board of Education has set a precedent. Teachers can now rightfully assume that they too will get maximum percentage increases. For the 1976 contract this will be a 10 per cent (eight per cent plus two per cent catch-up) increase over the 1975 contract settlement.

What is unfortunate about the salary settlement between the administrators and the trustees is that we get no information regarding the bargaining. Did the trustees in fact offer a lower settlement and get turned down? We'll never know. It is unfair that teachers negotiations get so much ink and the administrators so little. Its very much the same situation with the dealings of the AIB itself. While decisions regarding wages and salaries are widely reported, those pertaining to business - especially price-setting are kept confidential.

Looking into the whole matter of educational salaries, as long as merit pay is not a consideration, one wonders why the Ministry doesn't follow one policy. As a matter of fact one policy is followed when it comes to honaria for trustees. The amounts are set down by the Education Act. Under the act, the chairman of the Perth County Board of Education receives \$4,800 per year while the 15 other members of the board get \$3,600. Just in case you're considering entering the election ring in December, you might just as well know car mileage is now 15 cents.

And we'd say the trustees from the north end of the county are getting rooked on the mileage. You can't drive a car these days on 15 cents per mile. But the amount is still enough to make it worthwhile for some energetic young men and women to consider the position. No doubt there are some trustees around who would just love not to be requested to let their name stand for acclamation because the township clerk can't find anybody else to run.

Be that as it may, if the Education Act can set salaries for trustees, why can't it set them for teachers, vice-principals, principals and administrators? A province-wide salary schedule would cut out the nonsense of teachers and boards playing one district against another. If special living allowances were required for teachers in remote areas, surely it could be arranged.

Over the past number of years, we have heard both teachers and non-teaching members of the public speak out in favor of a common salary schedule for the province. We wonder what is holding the Ministry back from setting such a law? After all, other contentious decisions such as the move to the county system and the removal of province-wide departmentals for grade eight and grade 13 were made by the Ministry of Education with relative ease on their part. Could it be that the Ministry is more interested in trying to protect its image by letting the teachers and trustees take the brunt of the public's displeasure? (LISTOWEL BANNETT)

## On The Home Front

# Mail order happiness

By SUSAN DEFAECENDIS  
For a while, I believe my husband was quite worried about me. Judging from the cautious looks I was receiving and the way he nonchalantly trailed me around the house, I had the distinct impression he thought this particular bird was about to take a soaring flight over the cuckoo's nest.

It all began when he caught me talking to George one morning, as is my wont, while making up Richard's bed.

Now the fact that George is a pet rock, really shouldn't be taken into consideration. George just happens to be the best conversationalist I know. He does very little talking, an enormous amount of listening and the few things he does say, make a great deal of sense.

He also, as I quickly noticed when he adopted us, has protruding teeth. However, as they do not appear to be ruining his pleasant disposition and even give him a rather saucy appearance, I am not yet investigating the cost of braces and dental check-ups for him. Actually, apart from the somewhat appealing countenance his molars impart, his teeth are in very good condition - rock hard, one might say.

However, my husband was visibly upset over this harmless little conversation. In fact, I think he disbelieved me. It must have been a great exercise, in self-restraint that prevented him from kneeling down and peering underneath the bed to ascertain if I had a man stashed away somewhere.

Suddenly though, thanks to a recent new broadcast, my shaky mental condition has, in his eyes, been restored to normal. He is now convinced that while his wife may be a little 'squirrely', there are a whole lot of people in this world who are completely 'out-a-sight'.

Did you know that for the expenditure of \$6.00, you could buy reproducing sand? Yes, we were informed on the news that, for only \$6.00, you can send away to the States and, in return, receive a test tube filled with female sand, another of male sand - and a 32-page booklet explaining how to get them acquainted with each other.

Now this could revolutionize beaches all over the cottage country. Imagine! You simply introduce the boys and girls to each other in September and by next May you will have acres of sandy beaches. Also, according to the booklet, there is an added bonus in that they reproduce quietly - 'no noises'.

The entire theory however, does tend itself to some interesting speculation. Supposing you received a test tube filled with girls who didn't want to co-operate - liberated grains of sand. Would you suddenly hear in the quiet of the night a shrill: "Don't touch me!" or possibly "I have a headache, go away!"

On the otherhand they could be overly virile. What could you do to stop them producing, once the sand reached the window sill level? Would simply nattering at them: "Now cut that out!" have any effect? - would you have to give them a cold shower with the hose every night, or maybe bring in a family planning expert?

Meanwhile, my husband is counting his blessings. Lulled into a false sense of security by the fact that I have not rushed madly out of the house clutching \$6.00 in my hand, he has stopped following me around. I get my housework done in peace and quiet these days, while he sits in Richard's bedroom talking to George.

## Queen's Park

# 1980's oil picture looks gloomy

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

From report after report and opinion toward the oil picture for Ontario after the mid 80's would look very gloomy. It is freely forecast that western supplies will be shrinking by then and that the province - dependent on them, will be probably not only paying through the nose but probably facing some form of rationing. Not a pleasant picture.

BELL CONSERVES  
However, recently there have been a couple of developments from which at least a bit of reassurance can be taken.

One of them was an announcement by the province's energy conservation group that last year Bell Telephone Co. had managed to save more than a million dollars through wise use of fuel.

This is perhaps not a staggering amount, but substantial. And as there have been indications that other major industry in the province is becoming very energy conscious probably some very worthwhile savings can be looked for in the future from the industrial sector.

## AN ARROW

Then we have had the final lobbyist report, which deals with crude oil supply. And though recognizing the prospect of a mid 80's crisis it just doesn't throw up its hands.

For one thing it contends that supplies of prairies oil could be augmented by expansion of present reserves and improved secondary and tertiary recovery.

But beyond this it would have Ontario look to a source most people don't think of - imported oil.

It proposes that we should start now looking into the possibilities of using imported oil and have a plan drawn up and always standing by.

It infers that such a plan would not only be there for contingencies but that it would be a valuable bargaining tool when we get into negotiations on price for western oil.

Most of us onlookers tend to think of Ontario as more or less at the mercy of the west, and particularly Alberta, on the oil. But lobbyist doesn't take this outlook. He contends that Ontario is such a large customer that it has real bargaining power - and the threat of importing oil could be the arrow in its bow.

## On Parliament Hill

# Restraint program is fascinating

By STEWART MacLEOD  
Ottawa Bureau  
Of The Herald

Returning from a week in the bush, and anxious to know how the government's spending restraints program is getting along, it was fascinating to come across this internal letter on trout fishing in the Ottawa area.

It was fascinating for several reasons. It was only 15 months ago that Prime Minister Trudeau accused former prime minister John Diefenbaker of wasting the taxpayers money during his tenure by stocking Harrington Lake with fish for his "own personal enjoyment." Mr. Trudeau later had to back off when he was informed that the experimental stocking occurred under his Liberal predecessor, Lester Pearson.

Another reason for the fascination was that in times of monetary restraints, it is great to know that the bureaucracy hasn't forgotten the poor fisherman. In fact, the author of the letter describes himself as "an unhappy fly fisherman."

I was also fascinated by the fact that this recommendation for trout fishing in Harrington Lake—the summer home of the prime minister—came from a member of the "urban institutions team" at the department of urban affairs.

I had never regarded trout fishing as a typical urban institution.

NO ESTIMATES  
It would be nice if I could supply some estimated costs for this proposed stocking of Harrington Lake and other waters in the federally-controlled Gatineau Park, but none seem to be available. However, the author of this particular letter—his name is Allan Robbins—refers to an earlier experimental program which Mr. Pearson had been pursuing at "a leisurely pace" when he retired.

This leisurely-paced program included placing the following fish in Harrington Lake during 1967 and 1968: 8,000 speckled trout, 3,000 rainbow trout and 500 Atlantic salmon. The cost must have been considerable. And the program was begun after a series of studies had been undertaken under the direction of Jean-Paul Currier, then chief limnologist at the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Mr. Currier now is director of the advice and support branch of environmental management at Environment Canada.

But, obviously, he is still interested in trout fishing, because Mr. Robbins says both are members of "The Ottawa Fly Fishers, a newly-formed outfit of largely unhappy fly fishermen." Of course, personal interests wouldn't be likely to enter the picture.

In his letter to Marcel Vienneau a research assistant to Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson, Mr. Robbins clearly wants some action on getting trout-fishing established in the area. And since these people presumably know how decisions are made, Mr. Robbins suggestions are, again, fascinating.

RENEW INTEREST  
"What seems to be needed at this stage," writes Mr. Robbins, "is an expression of renewed interest by someone whose opinion matters. I felt that Mr. Danson, being an ardent fisherman and likely to have a lengthy tenure in Ottawa, might be interested. Who better to give the bureaucrats a nudge in the right direction?"

Again I am not sure what Mr. Danson's personal recreational habits and likely political longevity have to do with the problem of getting trout in Harrington Lake. Surely, politicians are not influenced by personal interests.

But Mr. Robbins, in this very official-looking document, also notes that Edgar Gallant, chairman of the National Capital Commission, is also a fisherman. "This may prove helpful," he observes.

Naturally any major stocking program would be preceded by the normal cost-benefit studies. And, without commenting on the benefits, it is clear that costs would be high. Among the proposals included in the file of documents sent to Mr. Vienneau, is suggested artificial aeration in Harrington Lake. "We even envisaged the installation of an artificial spawning bed for trout..."

If Mr. Robbins is correct in assuming that Mr. Danson is the right man to get this project off the ground, and if Mr. Trudeau then approves the stocking of Harrington Lake, I can hardly wait to see what Mr. Diefenbaker might have to say on the subject during these difficult times of restraint.