



**JOYCE BEATON**

## Teachers are human

My boys are from 11 to 23 years of age. I see nothing but improvement in the school system since the time my eldest entered school 18 years ago. He needed special help at the time and didn't receive it, because the detection of learning disabilities was not as advanced as it is today.

When the 11-year-old entered school six years ago, he had a similar problem and it was detected before he was out of kindergarten. Our son is a better-than-average student and he is able to complete his schooling a year ahead of what used to be the regular schedule. Our other boy is a regular, average student who does not feel pressures to compete within the school system but who progresses at his own speed.

**DOOR STILL OPEN**

The oldest boy left school before completing grade 13, but because of our present easy access to college he feels the door is open to him as a mature student if and when he should decide to return.

Never in my 23 years as a parent have I felt I couldn't approach school teachers and principals with a problem. When I did I was not put down, but given a great deal of help and encouragement.

**HAVE DISAGREED**

I have disagreed with decisions made on the part of some teachers but have never found my child suffered as a result of those differences of opinion. Teachers are people and as such make mistakes, get tired, and have personality problems.

Some teachers are very young and inexperienced, but then - so are some parents. Some teachers are old and set in their ways, but then - so are some parents. Children unfortunately are being raised to live in an imperfect world with imperfect teachers and parents.

I prefer to think that most of us are doing our best with the brains given us. When there is a problem at school with one of my children, I acknowledge the child is capable of doing things wrong and making mistakes. I'll even go as far as to say it may be as a result of something we as parents are doing wrong at home.

When I take this attitude I find teachers bending over backwards to help me correct this situation. I would assume if I took a defensive and belligerent attitude the teacher would be inclined to respond in like fashion.

**WORKING PARENT**

I am a working parent. I can understand the pressures of a job and the frustrations of having to work with some pretty silly rules and within some very confining guidelines. This I accept when I take my paycheck. This doesn't mean I won't try to change things at my place of employment. I'm in sympathy with teachers when they seriously attempt to improve working conditions and upgrade methods.

I have always given more than the job requires. I see teachers also giving more and it is usually to the benefit of my child. When I give more it is usually to the benefit of someone. This is the way a community functions.

**NOT-SO-GOOD PARENTS**

We have good teachers and not-so-good parents. A not-so-good teacher can be fired. Not-so-good parents often turn out children with physical and emotional problems. They become the responsibility of the school system which tries to nurse them into some semblance of an adult with some degree of education.

I think it's one hell of a big order and I have nothing but admiration for most of the people trying to do the job today.



**FLOWER SHOW WINNERS**

Horticultural society flower show winners Susan Paleschuk (first: 163 points) display (left to right) Betty Kallmeyer (third: 34 their favorite entries in Wednesday's show. points) Anne Norton (second: 72 points) and

## Speak up, take part in life, columnist urges women

By LYNN RHODES  
Herald Staff Writer

Journalist Joyce Beaton ingeniously described the transitional state of women today by reliving her experiences at the International Council of Women meeting for Georgetown's Local Council of Women Friday.

While some of the 350 delegates from all over the world were "typical afternoon tea ladies playing conference", others "were not a group of cackling women but intelligent, responsible leaders... lawyers and doctors and business women."

Miss Beaton said many of the professional women from the 70 countries represented were delegates from the developing nations—Israel, Rhodesia, the Arab countries, and South Africa.

"The councils of their countries are vital political organizations and are making social changes and offering a voice for the women of the country," said Miss Beaton, adding that "if one-half of society (women) keep quiet they cannot expect to have their wishes met."

Comparing the Councils of Women in developing countries with their Canadian counterparts, Miss Beaton recommended, "Canadian women need a kick in the rear end."

She pointed out resolutions made by the national Canadian Council of Women to the government are usually filed and ignored. A council member mentioned she read in one of the Toronto newspapers that none of the recommendations made this year were adopted.

"You can't just submit resolutions... you have to follow up on what the government is doing and get informed," advised Miss Beaton.

She urged women to strongly support recommendations made by their groups "unless it goes against your personal grain, in the case of something controversial like the abortion issue."

"I don't think you have to be worried about looking like a bunch of clucking hens if you take a recommendation to town council either," added Miss Beaton, who suggested women should "learn to make presentations and conduct meetings properly."

"Halton Region and things here have to get done, and you have a powerful voice as an organization," she said, satirizing some women's groups as "sitch and chatter clubs which have outlived their usefulness."

As well as advocating that women unite to add credibility to proposed reforms, Miss Beaton believes women as individuals should seek important decision-making offices and political seats.

"Don't support a woman just because she's a woman, but choose a capable one and support her," Miss Beaton urged.

"I know it's tough for any woman to stand out in the forefront today and try to get support," she emphasized using Laura Sabia, the former Status of Women Council chairman, and feminist Germaine Greer as examples.

Even Miss Beaton taught these women were "too strong" at first, she later realized "they speak for our own (women's) issues." These women and politically active women's groups are good role models, she said.

But Miss Beaton feels the local Council of Women should not dwell on the fact that their national organization meets with the Prime Minister annually and has access to the United Nations. Instead she said, they should concentrate on attaining power at the local level.

Being a combination mother-wife-career woman, Miss Beaton cautioned: "Let's not use marriage as an excuse for not doing something with our lives."

She pointed out that men get married and have children, yet still develop themselves professionally and politically.

Challenging the theory that today's problem with youth are caused by the increase of working mothers, Miss Beaton urged women to avoid the "guilt trip" and pursue individual interests instead of being 24 hour-a-day homemakers.

After being "home for thousands of years with millions of kids and hundreds of dirty dishes," Miss Beaton remembers the day she "broke out of the cocoon."

She enjoyed sharing her experiences with a South African woman at the International Council of Women conference who had also become liberated after years of being a housewife.

## ACTON FAIR QUEEN CONTEST

### Behind-the-scenes excitement

There was just as much excitement behind the scenes of the 1976 Miss Acton Fall Fair competition as there was on stage in Acton Arena Friday night.

The 15 entrants gathered in a church hall where the three judges individually interviewed them.

Some giggling excitedly, others nervously subdued, the girls sat in a circle of straight backed chairs awaiting their turns.

The judges were an experienced threesome.

Phil MacKeller, dubbed the "Jazz King" of CKFM radio, has judged "about 10 contests in the past 15 years." Most of them were in Toronto; none of them were in Acton.

Mr. MacKeller observed beauty contests are "getting away from being cattle calls." He believes the women's liberation movement is responsible for the increased emphasis on personality, but added the entrants are "really still exploited."

This was the second consecutive year Valerie Pringle of CFRB radio had a say in choosing Miss Acton Fall Fair.

**CHANGES**

"For people who want to be successful actresses and models and need a name to do so, a beauty title is still the ticket," she said, pointing out that women's liberation has "strongly altered judging".

She illustrated this by referring to Miss Toronto 1976, a law student.

"It would be embarrassing to have a Miss So and So who was beautiful but couldn't talk," Mr. Pringle said.

A first-time judge was Cathy Slaney, a former model and Miss Toronto runner-up who moved to Acton a year and a half ago. Never being a judge before, Mrs. Slaney said, "it feels different to be on the other side of the fence."

"Often girls do not know what the judges want," said Mrs. Slaney, who explained she was looking for "someone naturally poised and pleasant who could cope with different situations without getting flustered."

Yet, empathetically, she said she understands what it is like for a girl to become "panic-stricken on stage."

Mrs. Slaney said that a girl who places in a beauty pageant "can make valuable contacts" and find "career opportunities."

Ironically, not one of the 13 girls entered in the Acton Fall Fair competition told The Herald they would like to be either models or actresses.

The 1976 queen, Charmaine Bigelow of Acton, is 18 and plans to train as a dental hygienist.

Her princess 18-year-old Lorella De Pieri of Acton is studying business administration at Sheridan College. She hopes this will lead to a career in marketing or economics.

Susan Thibodeau of Milton the first runner-up, is 17 and wants to be a legal secretary.

Cathy Upton, a 16-year-old Acton girl, wants to be a psychologist.

A resident of Rockwood, 16-year-old Sandy Kingsbury plans to teach nursery school while Karen Cole, 18, of Acton, wants to be a secretary.

Two fields interest 16-year-old Debbie Glendinning of Rockwood: police work and hairdressing. Her sister Marg Glendinning, also of Rockwood, is 18 and studying to be a fashion designer at Fanshawe College in London. She made the dresses she wore in the pageant.

Seventeen-year-old Penny Kirton of Rockwood intends to be a florist.

Jennifer Lister, 17, of Acton plans to become an engineering lawyer.

Susan Schuupp of Acton, aged 20, aspires to be a lay-out artist.

An 18-year-old from Eden Mills, Debbie Tuffin wants to teach primary school children.

A career in legal secretarial work is the hope of Rockwood resident Laura Milbourne, 16.

Most of the entrants said they competed for the Miss Acton Fall Fair crown for experience, or because of pressures from family and friends.

And the evening was certainly full of pressures for them.

After the judges interviewed and marks awarded for appearance, poise and personality to determine the winner of Miss Acton Fall Fair.

Judging of the competition has changed little agreed former queens Jill Parry, 1975; Val Mitchell, 1972; Brenda Hillier 1967; Ann Luty, 1973; and the co-ordinator of this year's pageant, Maggie Hall, 1966.

Points for the though involved and performance in this skit were combined with marks awarded for appearance, poise and personality to determine the winner of Miss Acton Fall Fair.

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Wearing evening gowns, the girls returned to the stage for what some said was the most difficult part of the competition: impromptu skills.

Master of Ceremonies Vince Mountford pretended he was trying to return good to the five finalists, who posed as department store clerks. The judges evaluated the performances of Susan Thibodeau, Sue Schuupp, Charmaine Bigelow, Laura Milbourne and Lorella De Pieri; as they spontaneously created reasons why Mr. Mountford should keep the absurd items he claimed he had not ordered from the imagined store.

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## Esquering WI fall fair displays finalized

Esquering Women's Institute members held their regular September meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. Godden on Thursday evening with nine members and six visitors attending.

Mrs. Godden welcomed all visitors and introduced Mrs. Alice Beckett, who was a Past President for her local W.I. in Wales.

A very beautiful card was received from Mrs. W. Miller and her mother Mrs. Iris Howell, thanking members for gifts presented to them prior to moving to Cornwall.

Mrs. Miller was branch secretary, and Mrs. Howell was working with the members on a quilt project.

Plans were finalized regarding Fall Fair displays. The President introduced Mrs. Ann Lidbury of Acton who gave an excellent cake decoration demonstration. She explained different utensils essential, as well as numerous items that may be used for decoration.

The hostess served a delicious lunch, including the decorated cake, in honour of Mrs. R. Thoms, who was celebrating her birthday that day.

The meeting closed with members repeating the Lords Prayer.

St. Johns Anglican Church, Stewarttown, held their Annual Remembrance Day Service at the Cemetery on Sunday afternoon with Rev. Duncan MacLean in charge. This was followed by supper at the Church.

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