



JOYCE
BEATON

First day of school

The first day of school each September means either a new experience or an old memory revived. My only remembrance is being dressed in a navy tunic and white blouse and walking through a field holding onto my mother's hand. My first teacher's name was Miss Comfort which seems now to be an appropriate name for someone who must deal with frightened, homesick children during that period of adjustment.

My mother still recalls vividly her feelings of utter abandonment and terror as she watched her father's back disappear down the school hallway. She had never before been away from home or apart from her parents and when she turned from catching the last glimpse of her father she caught the first view of her teacher. Miss Tindale had her rear end sticking out from the supply cupboard. She also recalls having trouble with Miss Tindale's name, the first day she told her mother it was Miss Tintack and the second day it was Miss Tintail, a little closer but not quite right.

NOT SO BRAVE

My father wasn't nearly as brave. He barely stayed long enough to watch his mother disappear before he did his own disappearing act. By the time she got home he was already inside the house. Apparently, as he remembers it, this went on for a good part of the year.

As a parent, and particularly a mother, I was surprised and slightly embarrassed at my reaction to my first child beginning school. I heard all kinds of stories of mothers with tears in their eyes when leaving their little ones. My only feeling was one of great relief and I remember sitting in the warm September sun that morning with a cup of coffee, feeling smug. It seemed like my graduation day.

My child, obviously overdressed for the warm day, arrived home in his grey flannels and blazer (the next day he insisted on being dressed like the rest of the kids). No sooner had he shown me his drawings than I received a phone call from a well-meaning friend. She thought I should know she saw him smoking on his way home from school. "Oh," I insisted, "he's only five years old, it must have been someone else." Well, apparently it wasn't and he felt very grown up when an older boy offered him a cigarette and he lit it up. Shades of things to come!

GROWN-UP FEELINGS

Most people have some vague recollection of their first day at school. Some still carry the mortification of "having an accident" if not knowing how to properly ask to be excused from the room, or of an unfeeling teacher refusing permission. Others remember feeling extremely grown up to be able to ride that big yellow bus they had watched their brothers and sisters ride over the years.

For many children it means owning a lunch pail for the first time in their lives. For many it's the good feeling of new clothes being worn finally, after having hung in the cupboard a week or so. How many of us can still feel the blisters the new shoes made?

It's a day of mixed emotions. Of feeling very grown up until you hear that familiar sing-song "kindergarten baby, wash your face in gray." The strangeness of learning to stand in a straight line, of being part of a group. If the child is the eldest in the family it's often an opportunity to play teacher for hours on end with his younger brothers and sisters. A chance to boss them around and to use the same "official tone" he hears from the teachers.

As a mother can you remember the slight twinge of jealousy when the child informs you "Miss Brown says so and she knows." You've been temporarily replaced by a higher power. I've often felt this is one of the reasons the parent-teacher interview was invented. Both have an opportunity to "meet the higher power."

BECOME MONSTERS

Most children adjust to the new experience without too much trauma. Some seem to change miraculously into civilized human beings and others seem to change from nice little kids to monsters. And some seize upon the opportunity to change their name. While registering my youngest son for kindergarten the teacher asked his name. "Lorne Beaton," he replied without so much as a flicker of an eyelash. This came as quite a surprise to me, he had been named Lawrence Matthews and had been called Laurie for five years. The teacher noticed my double-take and asked how we wanted it spelled. I filled her in on the fact that it was the first I had heard the name. Our five-year-old was quick to explain that Laurie was a girl's name and he would have no part of it.

On the way home I assured him I had nothing against the name Lorne and that if he was changing his name to anything, I was proud of his choice. And then came the punch line. "Heally Mom, I told that lady the wrong name," he said earnestly. "I wanted to be called Wolfgang."

Feminism, socialism the same, Rosemary Brown declares

"Feminism and socialism are the same," Rosemary Brown, founding member of the Status of Women Council and former British Columbia NDP party leader told 200 people at Sheridan College's Oakville Campus Tuesday.

CAS trains volunteers

Ten volunteers with Halton Children's Aid Society will be trained as para-professionals in a unique upgrading program which begins at Sheridan College in Oakville on November 9th.

The volunteers will participate in 10 two-hour sessions conducted by Social Work Consultant Dean Darnell studying everything from empathy training and listening skills to family dynamics and child development.

Mrs. Joan Lee, Executive Assistant with the agency, said the C.A.S. has recognized that there are some very talented volunteers in the community and we are about to train them as para-professionals.

The concept is a relatively new one in the social work field and is one means by which the agency hopes to meet the budgetary limitations which have been imposed on it by the Province.

Ultimately, graduate volunteers from the 10 week program will hook up with social workers and professional students in a three-man team approach to families who are clients of the agency.

Each team will be assigned to a family who has been in touch with the agency over a period of years and hopefully they will be able to provide the family with consistent care.

Within the family, the volunteer might teach life skills or offer parent relief.

They will be used within the agency in any area where they show a particular skill and talent.

Mrs. Marilyn Hare, Volunteer Co-ordinator, said that agency volunteers have been "crying out for good training in the area of personal growth."

Although the agency has more than 90 volunteers, the 10 are being selected on the basis that they already had some training in case-aid work within the agency. (Case-aid volunteers who work on a one-to-one basis with clients guided by a social worker.)

The group also includes some relatively new volunteers who have a background of experience in working with people in need. Some are nurses, others have grown families and have successfully raised their own children.

The volunteer will not be paid for work with the agency and will be expected to give a full commitment to the job which could extend up to four hours of volunteer service a week.

The reward for the volunteer, in addition to the training, will be the knowledge that she is making a para-professional service contribution and working hand-in-hand with a social worker.

"The agency is making a very serious commitment to volunteer training," said Mrs. Lee.

plaining the philosophy of equality is common to both socialism and feminism.

Mrs. Brown urged women to get involved in politics to work toward the long range goals of eliminating the isolation, exploitation and poverty of women and other minorities.

"We need to restructure society in such a way that poverty will not exist, and many women are poor, so if you fight for the poor you fight for women," she continued.

"Also, many men are poor and exploited, so by changing society everyone benefits."

This is Mrs. Brown's political long range objective, which she believes should be given priority over "band-aid" projects, such as the transition houses and day care centres established in British Columbia while she was in the legislature.

When the Social Credit overtook the NDP party in B.C. last year, Mrs. Brown said the "band-aid" projects were quickly dissolved due to termination of government funding, therefore hardly worth all the time and effort.

"We cannot beat the government over the head to do things right...we have to go in there and be the government and do things right," she said.

Women who do not enter politics because it entails sacrificing personal freedom, fighting red tape for slow reforms, many dull speeches and boring meetings, "are really accepting chattel laws," believes Mrs. Brown.

"You do not have to stay in office until you drop dead and have a state funeral," she explained, "just go in, do your tour of duty, and get out."

By replacing the traditional competitive party politics with co-operative politics, Mrs. Brown said, "there is no dependence on one person to carry the baton or sword or spear...that's not good."

Aylmer camp-out marks Thanksgiving for Hobos

Livingstone took 3rd prize in one of the games in the afternoon.

A most enjoyable Thanksgiving dinner was served to everyone on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Grigg, Mr. and Mrs. N. McVittie and Mr. and Mrs. J. Livingstone accompanied Mr. and Mrs. D. Livingstone, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hall and Mr. and Mrs. Keith Arthurton, members of the Hungry Hobos camp group to Aylmer last weekend to attend the Thames Trolls annual Thanksgiving campout.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Woods and daughter Debbie of Eaglehart (left), were visitors there with Mrs. Woods' sister Mrs. Ray Hall.

Door prizes were won by Mr. and Mrs. D. Livingstone, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hall and Mr. and Mrs. Keith Arthurton, David

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YM-YWCA needs \$14,000 residential canvass set

The Georgetown YM-YWCA may have to cut back programs if its upcoming campaign does not yield about \$14,000 to balance their budget president Doreen Burt says.

At least 400 volunteers will participate Monday, Nov. 8 in the residential fundraising blitz, in conjunction with the round-up of the industrial campaign.

"Innovative" is how Mrs. Burt describes the YM-YWCA. "If the need arises or there is enough interest, we can start a new program without a lot of red tape...but we cannot do any more innovating without more help," she said.

As well as appreciated monetary donations, Mrs. Burt emphasized "occasional volunteers are needed to do a bit of typing, telephone work, or help run a project, to relieve the increasing strain on 'Y' staff."

"Everyone benefits from having the 'Y' in the community," she added, explaining that programs are provided for people of all ages and interests.

Mrs. Burt said she hopes public participation and generosity will enable the 'Y' to "continue operating at the level we're at now."

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