

Do we really want to get back to basics

To the editor of The Herald:

In reply to all those articles screaming for the return to the three "R's" in education. Sit down for a minute all you people and try to remember your own school days. Sit down and try to remember the hours, countless hours you spent in the classroom. Enough talk of the good old days. Try to remember the way things really were when you were a child. The way you were bored to death by the lessons you had to memorize in the classroom when all you wanted to do was go outside and play. Don't you even consider that a waste? Sitting bored and frustrated at the age of ten in a classroom? Is it right? Was that really learning? Or are we as adults afraid to really admit to ourselves that our schooling was the boring hell that it really was? What was your favorite class? When was a child that most favorite class of most of the children was art. I wonder why?

The education system in itself is based on a fantasy. That being the object of schools is to teach children to learn. That we have to teach children. Children are born learning. We are not teachers for children but rather guides on a tour. When you are a guide on a tour your job is not to tell people where to look and make them see what you want them to see, but rather point out interesting things to look at along the way. If we treated people on a tourist boat the way children are treated in school, the tourist industry would suffer a rapid decline. Isn't it time our children got the same rights we give each other? Don't you think it's time we stopped bullying our children with the "good old days" and "the three r's" and took a good look at how much a waste of time we thought school was back then, that is to say I thought was back then? Wasn't all that good, now, was it? I mean let's be a little honest for change.

ber it was a case of having the answer the teacher wanted to hear. No opinions. There was right and there was wrong. Any child with any identity of his or her own was in big trouble. If you thought things out a little differently you one way or another became a discipline problem. This was especially true in the younger grades. The teacher always had the right answer. You having the right answer would please the teacher and get you more attention. The teacher was the boss. The object of the game was to be liked by the teacher.

CVCA

ski rentals

Credit Valley parks and recreation advisory board called for quotations on purchasing 100 sets of cross-country ski equipment to rent at Terra Cotta Conservation Area.

CVCA information officer, Joan Rollings said that of four firms questioned, \$60 for skis, boots, poles and bindings were the lowest price.

Mrs. Rollings said there is a need for rentable cross-country ski equipment. "About 90 per cent of our phone calls are from persons asking if ski equipment is available," she said.

Also, she said, staff costs would not increase, since a person rents snowshoes and is working on the weekends anyway.

If you were not, then all kinds of good little things could happen to you, like being ridiculed in the class in front of the other students, being sent to the office, and many, many other little goodies. How many classrooms are still being run like this to-day? And you want a return to that kind of education? I ask you seriously, are you out of your mind?

So the object of the game was to memorize the right answers and please the teacher by being able to produce them on demand. That was learning? I thing everyone has a fit of nostalgia over "the good old days, when learnin' was learnin'" simply because they are the good old days, the "best." Come, come people, isn't it time we all grew up a little and took a good look at the "good old days" and give them what they deserve? How about "thank god that's over" and, "I hope my kids never have to go through that." Isn't that a little closer to the truth? Bury the damned "three r's." To hell with them. Let's stop putting our kids through the same crap we went through just because we went through it. Let's all grow up a little and stop all this talk of child discipline in the schools. How would you like it if your boss came up and boxed your ears because you were talking on the job. You'd probably punch him in the nose. Give your children the same respect.

The three r's, discipline, what's happening to my child? Well you should ask. And the answer? Maybe a small piece of a huge iceberg we all have to look at is all I can answer. The answer will be poor, I guarantee you. This is a big problem. Much too big for one man to describe fully even as well as attempt to solve. All I can say is that some of the most creative minds in the world are in those classrooms. They're bringing you home pictures of people with red faces and purple skin. They paint trees orange and the skies green. Their imaginations are limitless. The greatest imaginations in the world and we are responsible for harnessing and in some cases destroying those imaginations as our was harnessed and sometimes destroyed. Isn't that a little closer to the truth? What the hell does A, B, C. matter to a child who likes to paint orange trees? Or does it even count? What matters to the child? Or does what the parents want count more than what the child wants? Is the object of education to help a child to learn for his or her self, or is it more orientated to please the parents and fulfill social obligations with "reading" and writing? Who is the important one in the school? The teacher? The parent? The child? Is learning getting eight out of ten on a test? Having the right answer for the teacher? This is education? This is exploring something and learning from exploration? Doesn't sound right to me. How about you? Sound right to you? Is that the role of being a child in school? Please the teacher? Pass the tests? Get good check-ups and use Crest and you'll turn out okay? That's life?

That's what we're telling our children. Ah, you say, it can't be that bad. Take a good look. Come down out of the trees and take a good look. Not too good, eh? I didn't think so. Well, sometimes it hurts to face the truth but, you know, we better before we start shooting off our big mouths about the "three r's" and sacrifice another generation to the same stupidity we were sacrificed to. Let's not teach our children to learn but rather watch them learn for themselves and help them when they need it and want it. Let's advise our children instead of order them. Let's be a little more humane with our children and recognize their rights and, who knows, we may just get a little more humane with each other. So to hell with the "three R's" and bring on the green skies.

Bill Clint

Proud grandparents

Eastern Ontario Summer Skating Competitions took place at Ice Centre (Highlands) Scarborough, Ont., Aug. 12, 13, 14.

Local grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hill, 10 McNabb St., are once again proud to say that Brenda Hill, 13, won the silver medal on Saturday going on to the finals Sunday, placing sixth. There were 75

ladies in their particular event - Pre Novice Ladies. Lynda Hill, 11, entered in the Juvenile ladies and received the bronze medal placing third.

Two other friends also from Oakville, Darlene Jitus won silver interpretive and Barbara Butler, made it to the finals in the Pre Novice La-

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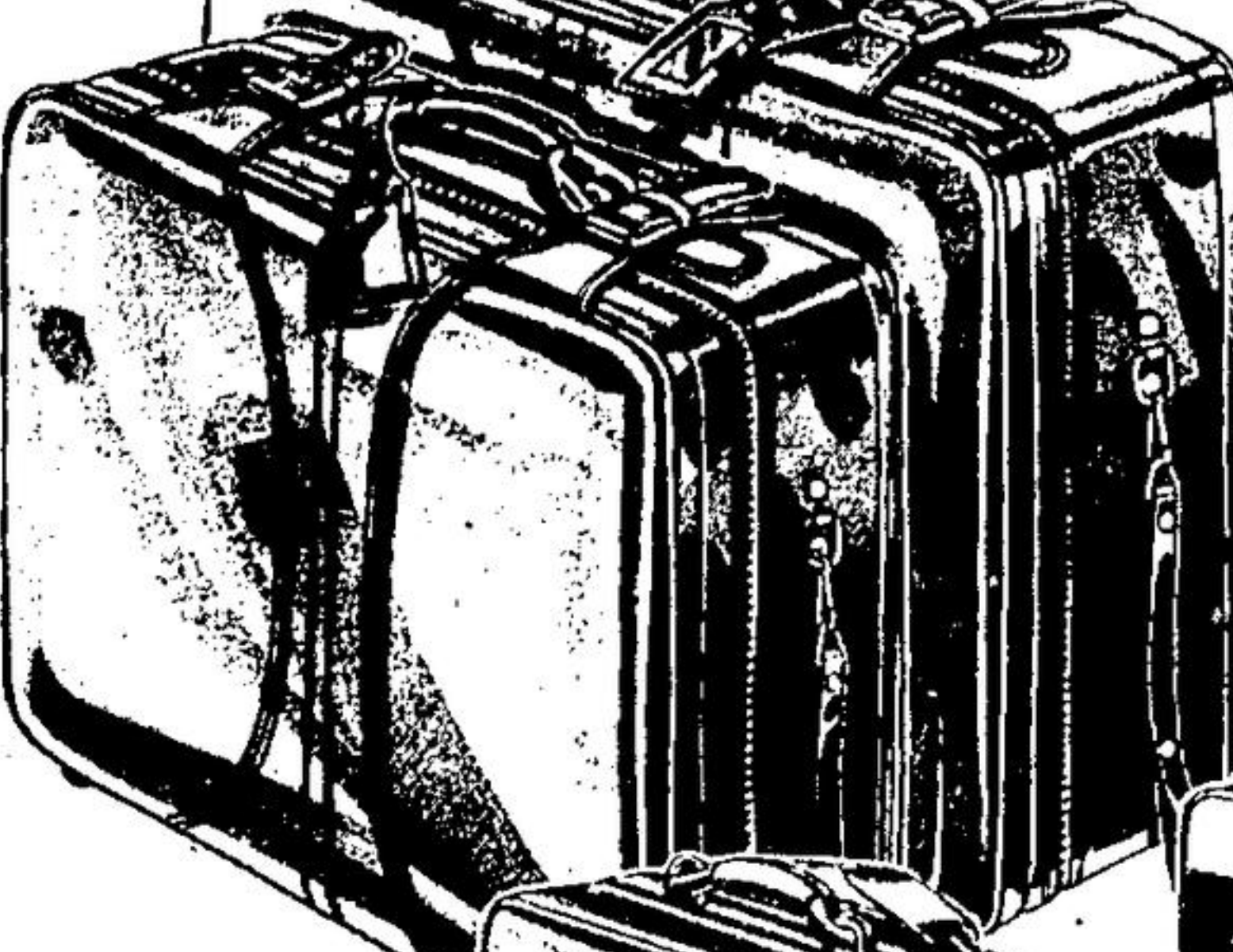
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