

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Acton committee chairman replies to resignation call

To the editor of The Herald: Not being an individual who evades a challenge I would like the opportunity of replying to your editorial of January 25. I should thank you first of all since it is something of an honor in Acton to be "licked off" by the Georgetown Herald. You have bestowed upon me a certain distinction. Now let me reply to your editorial.

It has been stated the letter addressed to Council with my signature was an expression of "one man's opinion". It is true I wrote the first draft of the letter. It was then considered a sentence at a time by the Restoration Committee and some changes were suggested

and incorporated. I pointed out to the Committee the final sentence was a fairly strong statement and asked if they wished it included. The Committee voted unanimously to retain it. The letter to Council was therefore an expression of the feelings of the whole Restoration Committee over the signature of its Chairman.

If you read the letter carefully, and I commend this practice to journalists, you will note it did not state the Halton Hills Council was insensitive and dictatorial. The reference was to regional government in general with Halton Hills being only one expression of it. It is a fact some people in Acton do

perceive of regional government in this way. Denying the feeling exists is unrealistic. The letter merely suggested that if the Restoration Committee secured a reasonable pledged sum in Acton then a donation by Council in support of the restoration would prove to such people that at least Halton Hills government is not insensitive and dictatorial. I think this is a quite reasonable statement of the facts as they are. It is strong, unpalatable perhaps, but undoubtedly true.

In any case perhaps there is some justification for the statement in the letter. The Committee did request an informal meeting of some Councilors, Firefighters, architects, etc. to discuss how plans might be worked together for the Town Hall restoration and the Fire Hall addition and was told no such meeting would be set up. Where I come from that is insensitive. Before regional government such a meeting would not be at all unusual in Acton. In their refusal Council ignored concerns and work of a Committee of their own creation set up to investigate a problem, and, without a hearing proceeded to take certain actions. That might be construed as dictatorial by some.

As for suggesting I step down from Chairmanship of the Committee, that was kind of you. The campaign to save Acton Town Hall was not one I originally wanted to become directly involved in. A sense of responsibility to Acton prompted me to take the job and it has cut considerably into the small stock of spare time I have. If the people of Acton wish me to step down I will gladly do so. In view of the setbacks we have had the burden of fighting what increasingly seems to be a losing battle is not a comfortable one. If they wish me to remain as Chairman I feel duty bound to do so until every last resource has been explored in an attempt to preserve Acton's Town Hall.

George Elliott
Chairman, Acton Town Hall
Restoration Committee

YOUR WEEK AHEAD By DAMIS

- ARIES** Mar. 21-Apr. 19 A bit of domestic friction this week is best handled by being sympathetic to others shortcomings.
- TAURUS** Apr. 20-May 20 An increase in spending—in fact you may be rather extravagant—upsets the budget.
- GEMINI** May 21-June 20 You make a terrific impression on one you've admired. Put forth your ideas.
- MOONCHILD** June 21-July 22 A problem arises regarding a confidential matter. Don't magnify it into something more than it is.
- LEO** July 23-Aug. 22 Social activities keep you constantly on the go. Save time for loved ones.
- VIRGO** Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You may find by now you are in the limelight and called on for a few words. Put forth your views.
- LIBRA** Sept. 23-Oct. 22 Think big in shaping up travel plans. It's a chance to enhance your skills.
- SCORPIO** Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Information concerning tax matters or handling other people's property should be weighed carefully.
- SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 22-Dec. 21 It looks like a temporary change of scenery this week. Cooperation with partner brings rewards.
- CAPRICORN** Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You seem to have just the right answers on the job. Beware of antagonizing a superior.
- AQUARIUS** Jan. 20-Feb. 18 The comforts of home and family are especially attractive. Put your creative skills to good use.
- PISCES** Feb. 19-Mar. 20 A problem at home resolves itself. Have some friends in. It looks like a good week for entertainment.

Personality Profile: For your Sun Sign Analysis, send the day, month, year and place of birth plus \$1.00 for postage and handling to Dr. Damis Staff, P.O. Box 526, Pinellas Park, Florida 33559.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 June celebrities
- 5 Teresa of song
- 11 Start of a Soho toast
- 12 Gully
- 13 Departed
- 14 Ten per-centers
- 15 Friend, in France
- 16 Make haste
- 17 502, at Caesar's palace
- 18 Chinese boat
- 20 Insects, as a dog
- 21 Some
- 22 Hold a session
- 23 Zest
- 25 Where the Vikings landed
- 26 Sharkie
- 27 Medit. island (abbr.)
- 28 "Essays of..."
- 29 Beginning; wholly
- 34 Director Janet, to friends
- 35 Actress MacGraw
- 36 He's a suited artisan
- 38 Roman poet
- 39 Snub

DOWN

- 1 French impressionist painter
- 2 Redolence
- 3 Material for overalls
- 4 Opposite of NNW
- 5 No dumb-bell
- 6 Freney
- 7 Night before
- 8 More gusty
- 9 Lures
- 10 Stand fast
- 16 Suspend
- 19 Tibetan animal
- 20 Ser-5 Down
- 23 Cultivation of land
- 24 Type of dye
- 25 "Come into the garden," as
- 26 Varnishes (2 wds.)
- 27 Party
- 30 Taste
- 31 Choice
- 32 Kind of wave
- 34 Kind of spot
- 37 Cut-off, branches
- 38 Spanish gold

Student achievement ratio increases with new concept

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer

Use of the Mastery Learning technique can bring very high levels of achievement for the majority of the students in every class in every subject area says Fred Johnston, of Queen's University.

Addressing teachers at a professional development day program in Georgetown High school on Monday, Mr. Johnston said that aptitude is not a guide to how well a student can learn a particular subject matter. It is rather a guide to how quickly he can learn it. Thus increasing the amount of time available for learning the required material gives the student with less aptitude for it the opportunity to achieve the same level of knowledge as his faster classmate.

will satisfy a teacher as being the best he can expect of his students.

Mastery level should be the level of top students who are reaching the level teachers wish all students could reach even though they are allowing others to pass with much lower marks because they aren't as good at a particular subject.

This would probably be somewhere in the 80 per cent range, he said.

Although mastery learning takes slightly longer than the present system, Mr. Johnston says, it tends to produce students who are more capable of working on their own with each successive step.

He admits that both the very quick and the very lazy students tend to waste a lot of time when they are first introduced to the system. However, once they get into it and begin to experience success the experience has such an exhilarating effect upon the students that they tend to gradually

speed up in their work. Students should always know how much time is available to complete a specific portion of work.

Asked what to do with students who completed courses early and then had time on their hands, Mr. Johnston recommended that these students either be given the opportunity to do further study in a related topic or be encouraged to help with the teaching of slower classmates. Failing to show interest in either area such students could be allowed to be absent the remaining class time, he suggested.

Mr. Johnston warned the teachers that setting up the mastery learning system takes a great deal of work and planning in the beginning. It saves class time in the end, however, because all the pre-planning means the teacher is very well organized when he walks into the classroom to begin teaching.

Testing of some type must be

included in the system in order to know which students have achieved a mastery level in a topic and are thus ready to proceed with the next unit of work, he said.

Some sort of remedial teaching system or alternate approach to the work must also be available so that those who fail in their first attempt at mastering a unit of work can try it again in another form.

Stan Hall, a Georgetown district high school department head who uses the system, told the group that he also feels the material set down in a course of study must also be carefully evaluated as to its importance.

Mr. Hall said that while his students must all reach mastery level not all of them will complete the entire course and thus those who learn half the course to mastery level are more accurately deserving of a mark of 50 per cent than those who only learned half of the course of study.

Limehouse news

By Mrs. A. W. BENTON
Herald correspondent

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Patterson have returned from a month holiday in Florida where they visited relatives and friends. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Patterson, Lakeland; Mr. and Mrs. Herb Sinclair, Tarpon Springs; Mr. and Mrs. Neil Gordon of Sarasota and Mr. and Mrs. Alton Breckon of South Venice.

They enjoyed the drive down the Gulf coast, across through the Everglades to Miami and up the east coast. The weather was quite cool except for the odd warm day.

On the way home they ran into snow in Tennessee and Kentucky.

The annual congregation

meeting of Limehouse Presbyterian Church was held on Wednesday evening. Owing to weather and road conditions there was a small crowd but a good meeting.

School was cancelled on Thursday and Friday due to the very severe storm.

Decision deferred

Planning board deferred a decision on Al Pilutti's application to build 34 single family dwellings on a 9.5 acre site on Hall Road until such time as the developer notifies it of his intention.

Ward 4 Coun. Mike Armstrong told the board it was his understanding that Mr. Pilutti didn't want to proceed with the project.

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HAPPY DAYS

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WHERE ARE YOU?

The home you want may be looking for you. It could be this 3 bedroom Brick and Alum ranch bungalow. Living room, dining room with walkout to large cedar deck, beautiful finished rec room with broadloom and wall to wall brick fireplace, double garage. Everything in excellent condition. The price \$5,500. Call to-day 877-0173.

DELIGHTFUL EYEFULL

This 3 bedroom brick and alum side split will surely catch your eye with large living room and dining room, family room, 2 baths, ravine lot, paved drive, garage. Home spic and span throughout. Broadloom in living room, dining room and halls \$72,900. Call now 877-0173.

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