

Administration, board at odds over 'time-out booth'

We believe some Halton Board of Education trustees are correct in reprimanding the Toronto Sun for its blatantly heavy-handed report on the use of a "time-out booth" at George Kennedy Public School in Georgetown.

But the Sun report is every bit as distasteful for its sensationalism as comments from the board and Wards 3-4 trustee Barry Shepherd are for their casualness. Indeed, what was presented by the Sun as some kind of POW camp "sweatbox" is in fact a small room (about the size of a walk-in closet) where already hyperactive youngsters are enclosed long enough to simply "cool down".

Once claim or once 10 minutes have passed - whichever comes first - the child is returned to his special education class for youngsters who have behavioral problems.

Mr. Shepherd, for his part acknowledged the room's presence noted there has never been a complaint about its use and agreed that it is perhaps too small. The sudden controversy stirred up by news reports of its use he optimistically said would at least have the effect of getting the room improved, possibly with "padding," "soothing colors" and a "window of shatterproof glass".

Time-out booths like Kennedy's have been in use for two years - longer than Mr. Shepherd has been the area's trustee. Despite the representative's apparently "cool" perspective on the matter, this teaching "device" is a classic example of internal, administrative bad judgement working against board of education tunnel vision.

The truth in this matter we perceive lies somewhere between the board's casual attitude ("Okay, okay we'll make it bigger") and the angrily negative outburst

from education critics like the Sun and Ken Campbell, founder and chairman of the Halton Renaissance Committee.

In a letter to the Sun last week Rev. Campbell - an evangelist and perpetual thorn in the board's side - called Halton's director of education, Em Lavender, an arrogant know-it-all who (believes he is) never wrong.

We don't often agree with Renaissance proposals and critiques and frankly find Mr. Campbell's latest diatribe opportunistic and self-serving, especially since his letter deals more with past battles between Renaissance and the board than it does with the matter at hand.

Together, though, both Rev. Campbell and the Sun have fairly recognized the "time-out booth" as another example of the board's failure to properly accommodate its "special" students.

Once expanded as planned, the "booth" would become a separate room where the pupil in mid-trantrum could presumably thrash about until his violent energy is expended. Such situations, it seems to us require more appropriate facilities than those offered at Kennedy school; clearly, a "padded cell" is not the answer, nor any other kind of restraining facility.

If the board's long-term goal of integrating these children into regular classes is to be realized, however, changes must be made that don't involve such sweeping behavior modification techniques ones that are separated from severe disciplinary measures by just a fine line.

We're not psychologists, but we're more than repulsed by the concept of forced confinement within this elementary school context.



Clark's extraordinary solution - a new assembly of 'thinkers'



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

If Conservative Leader Joe Clark wasn't such an earnest young fellow I would have thought he was having us on - perhaps like a prisoner of war trying to cheer up his buddies with some gallows humor.

But, by golly, the man was serious. The Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition was proposing, with astonishing articulation, that we need a brand new assembly, consisting of 110 souls, to draft a new Canadian constitution.

The 41-year-old former prime minister didn't crack a smile once. He clearly meant it.

What makes his proposal even more remarkable is the fact that his party, which was vacuously vague on constitutional reform throughout the Quebec referendum, has now devoted four full days to considering its approach to renewed federalism. And, considering all the time the MPs had to think about the subject beforehand, one would have reasonably expected

some rather constructive proposals. At least that's what I thought.

COULDN'T GUESS
And if I were to guess what would emerge from the Tory think tank, about the last idea that would cross my mind would be another assembly of thinkers.

What Joe Clark and his caucus members don't seem to realize is that there are too many thinkers already involved. They are not only thinking about existing problems but inventing new ones - i.e., is Canada composed of "five distinctive regions", "10 economic units" or a "free union of provinces".

And these questions hadn't even arisen before the current constitutional talks got under way with a minimum cast. Can you imagine what new questions would arise with Clark's 110-member assembly.

What the Tory leader envisages is a convention comprised of 50 federal MPs, 48 provincial members, two territorial representatives and 10 others. These 10, he says, would be "outstanding and qualified Canadians".

This group, he added, would be expected to produce a constitution "reflecting our modern reality" - this phrase alone should keep the assembly in a definition - hunt for at least a month - and then the provincial legislatures within a fixed period of time.

Then, presumably, the whole business would start over again in 11 different assemblies.

The new convention would also recommend ways in which the new constitution would be approved, ratified and proclaimed, including a referendum, if necessary. In other words, it would re-start the whole process, only this time with a full cast.

To put it in musical terms, since the quartet can't learn the music, let's try it with the entire symphony.

MIND-BOGGLING
If Justice Minister Jean Chretien seems to be having difficulties reaching agreement with his 10 provincial counterparts, or if Prime Minister Trudeau and the provincial premiers seem to be constantly stranded over semantics, can you imagine what might happen with 110?

And that's assuming that the group would even get down to constitutional discussions. The way I figure it, they would spend the first year fighting over the selection of 10 "outstanding and qualified Canadians". To make the selection in the best Canadian tradition, it would be necessary to ensure that the 10 properly represented every ethnic minority, women, unions, management, East Coast fishermen, British Columbia loggers, striking government translators and private broadcasters. And since former Senator Eugene Forsey is an automatic choice, there would be only nine spots available.

"Obviously what we are proposing here today after long consideration is an extraordinary solution to an extraordinary situation," says Clark. It sure is.



Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

Junior miss-fortune?

A letter to the editor on page A5 of this week's Herald isn't the first "challenge" posed to me concerning the Junior Miss Halton Hills pageant proposed for Oct. 4. Readers on both sides of the issue have asked whether The Herald will take an editorial stand on the matter and, if so, when?

First, let me differentiate between what you are now reading - Letter from the Editor - and what you see directly above in bold type: for those who don't understand, there is indeed a significant difference.

"Editorials" like the one above concerning Kennedy school's time-out booth are written by staff members, usually myself, and represent the opinion of the newspaper as a whole; they are policy statements to which all staff members here "officially" subscribe. Unofficially, individual staff members may, of course, have differing viewpoints.

The Letter from the Editor is a personal viewpoint which can reflect my own biases and influences; it is an individualized commentary on both local and global matters. For now, this column is as far as I want to take the matter.

By its very nature, the Junior Miss Pageant challenges all citizens to take a stand and decide whether the exploitation inherent in such contests is serious enough to necessitate the contests' cancellation or even a public boycott of the Georgetown Fall Fair. As this newspaper's chief editorial writer, I have struggled with the complicated issue since its initial revelation, trying to form a policy opinion that is fair to all concerned and can adequately guide those who remain undecided.

I use the word "complicated" because, as far as I'm concerned, there is much more involved here than simply another instance of child exploitation, as cited by the United Nations during the Year of the Child.

The Junior Miss pageant is, in the final analysis, gross exploitation which cannot help but influence the way participants regard other young children and themselves. In some cases, the contest's effects will be positive; in others, I fear, they could be negative.

All those "con" letters writers are quite correct when they call the pageant a step backward in the long struggle to make future generations aware that their individual appearance should have nothing to do with the way they live and the successes they enjoy.

But complicating the matter is the sincere and highly valuable goodwill and sense of community spirit displayed by contest organizers Jim and Rita Barrett. To me, quite frankly, their dynamic altruism and willingness to do something special for the fair board and the town are more important and worth saving.

I would predict substantial success for the Junior Miss contest this year, but I also predict this year will be its last. The fair board should make the wise choice following this year's event by banning any future competitions based on appearance and re-directing the energy of the Barretts and other commendable volunteers like them toward new and equally entertaining events for future fairs.

Georgetown, we're onto something here, thanks to Jim and Rita Barrett. Let's not sacrifice that potential because of a universal principle being applied in the most constricting fashion. With pure deeds and pure thoughts, there can be no wrong.

Parrott plays Gary Cooper to Inco's acid rain bad guys



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Gary Cooper in the movie High Noon had nothing on Environment Minister Harry Parrott at the press conference here this week where he reaffirmed new emission limits on Inco's Sudbury operation.

Because he is a reasonable man who actually listens to both sides of an argument, Parrott doesn't normally get to play the tough guy sheriff with environmental polluters.

This time, thanks to a little help from a balking Inco, he did. Asked about Inco's opposition to meeting the ministry's 1983 deadline for a reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions to 1,950 tons, Parrott responded with shrugs and lines like "that's their problem" and "I don't care."

Now that kind of rigidity is just not what one expects of Ontario environment ministers, who have the image of always juggling jobs and costs versus pollution to the detriment of the environment.

The normal approach the ministry has taken to Inco is to accept the company's basic contention that what is not economically feasible is also not technically feasible.

Inco has improved its performance over the years, to where it can now hold emissions to 3,600 tons per day

even if operating at 100 per cent capacity.

Because of slow world demand for nickel it is at the moment only pumping 2,500 tons per day right now through its Sudbury Superstack. The ministry order restricts Inco to that limit until the end of 1982.

What upsets the company, however, is that emissions will have to drop further, to 1,950 tons in 1983. The goal is technically feasible. (In fact a floater leaked to Nickel Belt NDP MPP Floyd Laughren indicated Inco could reach 1,500 tons a day if it were willing to spend the money. But there would be no market for the resulting sulphuric acid.)

It is the economics that Inco disagrees with.

DIFFERENT VIEW
Assuming existing technology, the current 2,500 ton limit holds production to 280 million pounds of nickel per year as opposed to the theoretical capacity of 340 million pounds (which would produce 3,600 tons).

Parrott's 1,950 figure is based on the success of a new (pyrrhotite separation) process now under development.

It would allow continued production of 280 million pounds with reduced emissions of 1,950 tons. That's assuming it works. If not production would have to fall to 230 million pounds.

Parrott appears quite confident the process will work, hence his hard-line stand on the 1,950 figure.

NEW APPROACH
More important, however, is the implications that derive from that figure. Inco will not be able to return to full production until the day it installs technology to reduce emissions even further.

Inco is quite open about its objection to the 1,950-ton figure. "It is expected that demand for nickel will

increase in the future, and our concern is that we will not be able to respond to improved market conditions by increasing production at Sudbury," its brief says.

Parrott doesn't deny it. In fact he makes the claim that the new standards are a significant advance in the ministry approach to the acid rain question.

For the first time, production limits (and the resulting loss of jobs and revenue) have a role to play in the determination of allowable levels of pollution, especially by a corporation as symbolic as Inco.

Acton

Fall Fair

all this

weekend

Prospect Park

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO - A General Electric television set valued at \$339 was won by Allan Teeter, an employee of Smith and Stone Ltd. when his ticket was drawn at the fair on Saturday. Allan was a double winner. A prize of \$50 was given for the person selling the winning ticket and the lucky number was one which he had sold to himself, so he also pocketed this prize.

Georgetown will continue on Daylight Saving Time until November 26. The town resolution establishes fast time here for a period similar to Toronto. Announcement was made today that Toronto Council, on the request of the Ontario Hydro Commission, would keep daylight saving time for another two months as a hydro conservation measure, and Georgetown will automatically follow suit.

The sum of \$131 was collected by Georgetown Recreation Commission in a tag day which they operated last Saturday in town and at the fair. Prizes were given by the GRC to Ross Hillier, Lorna Klingbell and Myra Breen.

With a total enrolment of 435, Georgetown Public School has 53 new students listed in the kindergarten primary classes this year, which are taught by Mrs. Joseph Dwyer. Included are twins Larry and Linda Saunders, children of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Saunders.

TWENTY YEARS AGO - A fire of unknown origin which gutted an old barn near Charles St. Sunday was the most serious of three blazes which kept firemen busy this week. The barn, on the property of G.R. Huitt, contained only a few books and papers which were being stored there and the loss was not a financially great one. Aided by a stiff breeze, the flames gained a good foothold before firemen arrived.

No longer will the clip-clop of horses' hooves awaken the local citizenry. As the photograph shows, the last two equine milkmen have retired from active service. In the five years they have been here, the two horses have walked ten miles a day five days a week, for a total of 13,000 miles.

The Planter's Peanut man is coming to Georgetown on Friday afternoon to help Delzer Market Centre merchants celebrate their first anniversary. Genial Mr. Peanuts will hand out one or more bags of choice peanuts to each person who visits the centre on Friday afternoon or evening.

North Halton OPP has another new constable to its ranks to replace Ray Andrew who will take over as Milton's police chief this month Joseph George Feldcamp, 28, joined the OPP last week immediately after he retired from army life.

From the Herald's classified columns: "\$2,600 cash to one mortgage on fenced landscaped lot complete with aluminum storms and screens. Family-sized 18-foot kitchen with dining area. Spacious 18-foot living room. Three master bedrooms, four-piece bath, full high basement. \$9 monthly which includes interest, principal and taxes.

Hurricane Donna which raked the Florida coast on the weekend caused concern for a number of local people who have relatives and property there. The most serious loss was suffered by Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Cook of RRI, Glen Williams, whose property 20 miles south of Miami took a pounding from the heavy winds and water.

TEN YEARS AGO - A 36-bed hospital addition estimated to cost \$2,097,000, is in the planning stage by the hospital board. And on Monday town and township councils were asked to contribute \$350,000 and \$156,000 respectively. The rest would come from the province - \$1,998,000 - and Halton County - \$198,000.

Residents' eyebrows shot up recently when they discovered their mailman wasn't a man at all, but Wendy Crocker of 21 Water Street. Wendy joined the ranks of the mail carriers a couple of weeks back, proving not even delivery of the mail is beyond the reach of the ambitious female if she has the physical strength to lug the mail bag over the hilly routes that Georgetown posties have to contend with.

A major Canadian department store wants to locate in Georgetown. Zeller's has made an agreement with Focal Properties, owner of Georgetown Market Centre to lease a 67,000 square foot store which the firm would build for them.

Halton County has the dubious distinction of having nearly every species of weed found in the entire province. And a lot of those weeds are found in vacant fields, detracting from the beauty of the countryside. Farmers are not too happy about the weeds because, besides spoiling the view, their seeds tend to be blown by the wind on to their weedless fields.

The length of students' hair is no concern of the Halton board of education, chairman Douglas Wood said this week. Asked to comment on the action of the principal of General Brock High School in Burlington in sending home some 60 long-haired students, the chairman said that a matter of this kind was left to the principal to decide.

Georgetown Juveniles, the Cinderella team, made the fairy tale come true when they edged Port Hope in a close game 5-4 on Saturday to become Ontario champions for 1970.

ONE YEAR AGO - Local sponsors continue to work hard making arrangements for the impending arrival of at least 11 families of Asian refugees, even though precious little information about the refugees is available thus far from immigration officials.

Because of the overall cost of developing the McNally apartment complex in Georgetown, the price of rental units there will be "in direct competition" with those of townhouse units at the new River Run subdivision near Glen Williams, according to a spokesman from Canada Mortgage, formerly Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

After enduring months of dust and construction noises and losing an ornamental mail box, a stone wall, the temporary use of his once-satisfactory driveway and finally his patience, Louw Broadfield of Georgetown likely has few kind words about Halton Hills and Halton region. The 11-year resident of Main Street South found only three supporters on town council Monday night when he presented a lengthy list of complaints about the nearly completed reconstruction project which he said he never requested.

Only two candidates have tossed their hats in the ring as nominations closed Monday for the October 10 by-election set to fill the Ward 1 council seat left vacant since the death of Councillor Les Duby. Real estate agent Dave Whiting, an unsuccessful candidate in last November's voting, and Terry Grubbe, director of the Acton Community Services Centre, will battle it out.

An annual report on housing and population in Halton Hills compiled by Halton regional staff has been denounced by Mayor Pete Pomeroy and other town planning board members as a misleading and largely useless waste of tax dollars. Motivated in part by the mayor's criticism, the board voted last Tuesday night to simply receive the comprehensive report rather than adopt it as recommended by its regional authors. Some members would have preferred to return the report to the region with the suggestion that its authors shouldn't bother revising it again next year as planned.

the HERALD

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