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Put vandals on the run

The Herald has taken strong stances in the past in support of unique educational programs that step beyond the mundane and the memorized and work to stimulate young minds to look for their own answers.

Such is the case once again with Centennial School's vandalism survey, an ambitious task that's occupied the minds of Grade 8 students there since early this year. Last week, the youngsters presented their findings and recommendations to town council and, we're pleased to note, our civic leaders weren't too busy or bureaucratic to show genuine interest.

We're not sure whether Mayor Pete Pomeroy was being politically coy when he congratulated the Centennial kids on a report that was "more complete than some of the reports we get in council", but no doubt he was referring, sincerely impressed, to the simplicity of the survey's questions and the thoroughness of the students' analysis.

Challenged to select a topic of concern in their community, the Centennial enrichment students came up with one dangerously close to their own lives and crucial to the town. Coached by teacher Pat Ball, they headed out into their community in pairs and small teams, interviewing homeowners and businessmen with a list of pre-set questions.

The children ended up with far more than a collection of statistics, although their figures are an interesting story in themselves. (The vast majority of those polled, for example, believe vandals are nothing more than bored kids.)

What anyone will find reading their comprehensive report is quite an eye-opening learning experience, especially for young people getting ready for high school. To envision the students finding out first-hand from a store owner that millions of dollars are involved, or to learn from a neighbor about how a prized heirloom was smashed, is a disturbing image.

But in learning the truth in its most realistic, easily-visualized form, the students are discovering things no classroom can teach them. And the proof, as far as this project is concerned, is in the youngsters' recommendations, all based on the general consensus that the best way to beat vandalism is through "fostering community involvement".

As well as encouraging citizens to report all cases of vandalism to the authorities, the students believe education and discipline among young

Time gentlemen, please!

Brew-ha-ha

No matter how you pour it, the Brewer's Retail decision to expand Georgetown's beer store is probably good news. We say "probably" because spokesmen for the government-controlled agency are thus far mum about the details.

We'd hope, however, that the thousand-square foot expansion will entail more customer service space, as opposed to just storage space. Georgetown may not have grown much in the past decade, but there does seem to be ten extra beer drinkers for every extra car travelling up and down Guelph Street, the community's other indicator of progress.

people are critical. They suggest we all take steps to protect our property and to rally some help by launching or joining neighborhood protection groups. Mailmen and cab drivers in other centres help the authorities combat vandals, and programs like the police-endorsed Neighborhood Watch and Operation Identification should be promoted, they say.

In addition, the students took note of a program in Gravenhurst similar to the "I Love Georgetown" campaign conducted here last summer by the Ratepayers Association and Chamber of Commerce. To promote public pride in the community, the students reason, is to shore up individual responsibility to one's community. And in Gravenhurst, the campaign is augmented by much anti-vandalism information and a "Teen Patrol", ideas which the students feel could help here.

Other recommendations are equally commendable, and the overall project earns Centennial top marks for going to the root of a serious problem. Our thanks to the students, Ms. Ball, the school and the Halton board of education for making such learning leeway possible.

Rain, rain, go away

The rain on Main was mainly a pain (again) Friday and Saturday when all anyone really wanted was a little fun in the sun.

Downtown Georgetown merchants and the Halton Hills Arts Council pulled out all the stops for another great Pioneer Days-Summerfest weekend, and ended up bringing down the deluge.

With six consecutive weekends generally ruined by rain now and a nasty report circulating that southern Ontario has seen all of 70 hours of sunshine since Victoria Day, wise citizens should perhaps start planning for the worst.

It may be a volcanic cloud or a Russian shroud, but we can beat it if we put our minds to it. There's a boatworks in Norval, a windsurfing supply shop in the Glen and enough lumber between Beaver and McKenzie's to whip up an ark that would do Noah proud.

First come first served; couples only. Watch The Herald for further details.

And since our consumption of beer has not declined in the face of rising prices, perhaps a reward from Queen's Park is in order. If not beer at the ballpark, how about longer operating hours at the Brewer's and the LCBO to accommodate our increasingly sophisticated tastes? A 6 p.m. closing hour weekdays is no longer justifiable in a town this size.

Regardless, any business expansion in Halton Hills is the kind of news we all crave. Symbols and signs of the recession are all around us, so perhaps there is no better way to lift our sagging spirits than with a boost at the Brewer's.



Reading between the lines of Senator Davey's strategy



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Senator Keith Davey, it seems, is asking fellow Liberals to urge Prime Minister Trudeau to stay around and fight another election. And why, you might well ask, would anyone want that to happen?

Well, the theory goes, the Senator wants this to happen so that his favorite heir apparent, Jim Coultts, can get himself elected to Parliament, gain some ministerial experience in a Trudeau government and ready himself for a leadership convention.

At the moment, Coultts would have virtually no chance of gaining the party leadership, having been humbled in a Toronto Spadina byelection last year by a long-shot New Democratic candidate, Dan Heup. Coultts, who moved from the prime minister's backroom to the Toronto riding so he could gain entry to parliament, is known to have high-ranking ambitions.

and it was obvious that the prime minister was helping him on his way, since he opened the Spadina seat by appointing the sitting member, Peter Stollery, to the Senate so a byelection could be held.

It was all too contrived, and the voters responded accordingly.

KEEPS TRYING

However, the diminutive Coultts doesn't give up easily. He has already succeeded in getting nominated again in Spadina in preparation for the next general election. But in organizing such an early nominating convention he managed to anger a good many members of his own riding association, and it's difficult to know whether this will affect his chances in the next election, which could be several years away.

But it is obviously with a view to Coultts being elected that Senator Davey is urging Trudeau to stay on - at least no one has ever come up with any other reasonable explanation. What other contender but Coultts could possibly gain anything from Trudeau remaining on as leader? It certainly wouldn't do anything for such other leadership hopefuls as John Turner and Donald Macdonald. Nor would it help Jean Chretien or other serving MPs. No, it must be a ploy in aid of Coultts.

And regardless of what Senator Davey may think of Coultts - it's well-known that he holds him in very high regard - it seems to me he is

asking the party, and perhaps the country, to pay a very high price on behalf of his candidate.

NOT HEALTHY

Considering the state of the Liberal Party, particularly in the West, and considering the state of Trudeau's personal popularity, it isn't easy to understand why anyone would be pleading with him to remain around and have another go at the electorate.

First of all, there is no reason to suppose he would win another election. Even if he did, there is even less reason to suppose he would carry any seats in the West. And I have yet to meet anyone who feels this is a healthy situation.

Since it is generally acknowledged that the Liberals will once again become a national party only when there is a change in leadership and with everyone agreeing we desperately need a political realignment to correct regional alienations, it seems almost irresponsible to be urging Trudeau to stick around, particularly when he has already announced his plans to step aside.

If Senator Davey gets his way - which seems unlikely - it's quite probable that the next election would result in a Conservative government, and with Coultts still looking for a way into Parliament. And surely, the Liberal Senator, with his reputation as a brilliant strategist, could offer his party a more encouraging scenario than that.

Inter-faith vigil clogged with social science rhetoric



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

To write about the inter-faith vigil that sat on the Queen's Park lawn for 24 hours in a negative sense is very difficult. But it has to be done.

In theory no one can object to the purpose of the vigil, which was to draw public and political attention to - in the words of one supporter - "needy people not getting the support they so desperately require."

And there is no question that many of those who took part in the vigil are personally and honestly concerned about the plight of those poorer than themselves.

But the vigil organizers relied a lot on emotional cant and little on facts when staging their protest.

Their literature was full of nonsense lines like the following:

"...current social policy is characterized by a callousness Ontario has not experienced in decades."

"...government is creating a class of disposable people who have no public voice."

"...all are challenged to bring social injustice to an end."

"...when social neglect is allowed to prevail...we violate the collective integrity of the community in which we are all members."

MUCH JARGON

This kind of social science high school jargon is good enough for the classroom, but it has nothing to do with reality.

When one cuts through the rhetoric of the vigil we are down to two basic points: 400,000 Ontario citizens live below the "poverty line" and the

denominational leaders want to spend \$1 billion to improve their lot.

That the poor are getting poorer is their theme. They claim government social assistance today provides only 63 per cent - compared to 73 per cent in 1975 - of "poverty line" income.

This sounds terrible, until one asks what the phrase "poverty line" really means.

STATISTICS CANADA
The vigil types used the Statistics Canada definition, which since 1973 has concluded that if a family spends more than 62 per cent of its income on food, clothing, and shelter it is poor.

Now that's a rather wide-ranging interpretation, one which many people (myself included) have fallen under at different times in their lives.

Real poverty is when a person doesn't have food, shelter or clothing at all, a situation almost non-existent in our society.

As best one can judge, government

social assistance programs, while hardly generous, are at the same time far from stingy. An income of 63 per cent of the so-called "poverty line" seems quite adequate.

MAIN POINT

But there is a further point that needs to be made about poverty and being poor, and about the clerical patronizing of people they really don't know very well.

The semi-hysterical drive recorded above from their literature is an example of the modern tendency to see any form of "suffering" or "inequality" as only slightly less horrible than nuclear war.

Some individuals and families do have problems. We have an expensive (\$1.5 billion) Community and Social Services Ministry to help them. And that's good.

What the "poor" don't need are fat cats from the pulpits using them as clubs in what in essence is a political battle.



MISTRESS MOUSY AND FROGGY

"Mr. Frog Goes a-Courtin'" was part of a special dance production put on for parents by members of the Jill Mary Evans School of Dance Saturday morning in Georgetown. These four youngsters, perhaps bound for the National Ballet one of these days, played bridesmaids to Mistress Mousy. The production which delighted its audience, was held at St. John's United Church on Guelph Street. (Photo submitted)



THIRTY YEARS AGO-A second Georgetown candidate for the next federal election has been named. At a meeting in Milton last week, Stan Allen, a member of the town council and president of the union at Smith and Stone was chosen to contest the riding for the CCF party. Sybil Bennett, K.C. has already been chosen as Conservative candidate. At present there is no Liberal candidate to replace MP Hughes Cleaver who has announced his retirement.

TWENTY YEARS AGO-Whether Halton's federal member of parliament is PC Sandy Best or Liberal Dr. Harry Harley remains in doubt until armed services votes are received. In one of the closest elections in county history, sitting member Best emerged with a 61 majority in a recount of Returning Officers' figures Tuesday night in Burlington. An estimated 500 servicemen in Canada and Europe also were eligible to vote and until these results are compiled, the issue will be in doubt. Nationally, the Conservatives are assured of a slim parliamentary majority. Latest figures show 118 PCs, 97 Liberals, 30 Socialists and 19 NDPs elected. The service vote could affect up to a dozen seats including Halton, where a candidate's margin is 100 votes or less.

TEN YEARS AGO-Forty years of teaching will draw to a close at the end of June when Wrigglesworth public school principal William Kinrade retires from the profession. Mr. Kinrade's teaching years started when he graduated from Hamilton normal school, now called teachers college, in 1932 and taught at Kilbride for three years. From there he taught Mohawk Indian children in Brantford for a year, then went to Kirkland Lake for four years. He completed his BA degree at Sir George Williams University and taught next at Preston for six years before coming to Georgetown 20 years ago to become the first and only principal at the newly opened school. Mr. Kinrade was presented with a blank frame on an easel which will be filled by a Frank Black painting chosen by Mr. Kinrade.

ONE YEAR AGO-The Cistercian Monastery of Notre Dame will leave Georgetown for a new site in Mono Township as soon as the place is ready for them, probably in the next year. Father Andre, speaking on behalf of the group, said that property has been purchased 10 kilometres northeast of Orangeville and it is hoped that construction of buildings can begin this fall with a view to moving in late 1982 or early 1983. The monastery is awaiting permission to begin construction from the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Father Andre said the order likes to be in a solitary place and their present site is less than a mile from Georgetown and has no room for expansion.

POET'S CORNER

It's time

Man should wake, he needs a shove
If I had power, it would be love
Present path is hopeless pain
All he dreams is more gain.
To all life, does pass away
He does not think of that day
Has no hopes in heaven gates
Earthly pleasures all he rates.
Can not speak the truth no more
Unless behind some closed door
Or you will some one offend
Who is out, with rules to bend.
It's not the world as meant to be
Will of God is yet to see
Men who weaken left in trust
They deteriorate just like rust
There's a power heavenly bright
Reads your thoughts day and night.

-By Albert Brooks, Halton Hills

Future me

I sit on my bed
staring out the window
as dusk sets in
wondering.....
What will I do,
- or be?
When time runs on and on
....and I am still sitting here.
Wondering if my life will be wild
and exciting
or quiet and reserved?
I'll sit here and wonder
...some more.

-By Kelli Fitzgerald
Acton High School student

Pause

At times
I sit and wonder
who I am,
where I'm going,
where I'll end up,
what I really want,
and the things I don't really
need,
who I will someday be.
If I'll be among the city lights,
or among the birds and trees,
if I'll be rich,
or if I'll be poor,
will I be happy,
or will I be sad.
One day I shall know
the answers
to the questions
unknown.

-By Julie Tyers
Acton High School student