

Teen Outlook

Politics more than a game of words

By CHARLIE GIBBS
Herald Special

Politics is more than a game of words, and it took a full day of experience for about 100 high school students from Halton County to realize it.

April 10, the students were involved in the first Model Parliament in Halton County since the anti-establishment movement of the 60's hit our area about 1972. Organized by three students, the Parliament took over the gymnasium of Lester B. Pearson High School in Burlington for one full day.

The students, self-divided into three political parties, were confronted with the challenge of passing one of three proposed bills: the reinstatement of Capital Punishment, an increase in immigration levels, and the withdrawal from NATO. For many, the challenge proved more difficult than expected.

The National Party, the party with the most members and therefore the Government party, was the only successful one to sway enough members of the other side to vote for its proposed bill. With the support of the Cooperative Party, they were able to obtain a majority vote in favor, while the Loyal Opposition, the Dominion Party, could not stop the passage of the bill.

As in real life, the National Party, when confronted with a minority government, found it necessary to encompass some of the restriction of the third party. The immigration bill only passed in the House of Commons after an increase in actual numbers and the elimination of certain restrictions.

Even so, the National Party found it hard to reach party solidarity during the preparation caucus meeting. Divided opinions and ideas warranted several compromises within the party. In short, the students were beginning to learn what politics is all about.

The second largest party, and therefore the Official Opposition party, tried its hand at legislation by introducing a bill to reinstate Capital Punishment into the Canadian legal system. Though the party appeared reasonably unified on the issue, it could not obtain the support of either of the other two parties. With the Cooperatives solidly against, and the Nationals split on the issue, the Capital Punishment bill ended up being defeated in the House. Ladies and gentlemen, lesson number two.

The third and final bill being proposed in this House of Commons was a bid for Canada to withdraw from the Western alliance treaty, NATO. With the Cooperatives behind the bill, they survived through a rigorous debate from all sides, and ended up having the bill easily defeated.

It is interesting to look at the results of this Model Parliament, and apply them to the real-life scene. Both the right-wing Dominion party and the left-wing Cooperatives lost their bills because they were too radical; too extreme. The only successful party, the Nationals, won their bill not because they had the most people, but because they were able to manipulate the vote of the opponents, and therefore, come up with a winning bill. In this House, centre-of-the-road ended up the best policy.

Furthermore, the content of the bills were remarkably contrasting. Both the NATO and the Capital Punishment bills were clear-cut and well-defined. There were no gray areas: it was a case of being "in" or "out". But with immigration, the bill had a number of loopholes and compromises. All sides were satisfied with some parts of the bill, making the bill in its entirety an acceptable piece of legislation. During this session of Parliament, the students learned how important give-and-take really is.

Student Parliaments are excellent ways of training the youth of Canada to deal with problems in a democratic scene. Like the "real world", we must remember to think about the "other guy" and learn to live with his opinions.

Wild and weird at spirit assembly

Last Thursday morning at GDHS a Spirit Assembly was held to introduce all the members of the various sports teams to the student body.

The swim team strutted out wearing bathing suits, carrying beach

balls and floats. They also fired waterguns at the audience and threw buckets of water at the first few rows of students.

The gymnastics team demonstrated tumblers and flips while the soccer team sang "We

will, we will kick you", and threw soccer balls at the students. The most unforgettable performance was made by the boys' rugby team who were covered from head to toe in mud. Other teams included wrestling, basketball, hockey, skiing, volleyball and track and field.

The Halton Open Badminton tournament was held at Acton High School also Thursday. Lisa Mason and Tara Burroughs competed in the Ladies doubles and gave a fine performance against their experienced opponents. Mike Hurley also played well and advanced to the semi-finals in the men's singles while Chris Harris and Lloyd Newman placed 2nd in the mixed doubles. Congratulations.

April 10, the Jeff MacLaren Memorial Dance was held at GDHS from 7:30 to 11:30. The dance was organized by Tina Dine with the help of some of her friends. Approximately 225 people attended the dance and \$765 was raised for the Jeff MacLaren Memorial Award.

"The Jeff MacLaren fund is for Grade 12 students taking English media, music or dramatic arts," said Tina Dine. "The award is based on interest and participation not marks."

Applications will be taken next week at Student Services, for the bursary which will be over \$300.

"I would like to thank all the people who volunteered their time to help with the dance, said Tina, especially to everyone who supported the fund by attending."

April 13, an assembly was held at GDHS to kick off the annual Magazine Campaign. This is a fundraising drive, where students sell renewal subscriptions to magazines. The money raised goes into a general fund used to subsidize extra curricular activities such as sports, clubs and musicals. On behalf of the students at GDHS a charitable con-



GDHS report

By JOANNA McTAGGART



On April 9, members of the Spirit Assembly were introduced. Some of the athletes on stage performed various antics to the crowd. (Photo by Joanna McTaggart)

tribution will also be made to the Hospital for Sick Children.

This year, the school's goal is \$40,000. Their slogan is "You can do it". Students selling renewals and subscriptions will be eligible to win prizes such as stuffed toys, sunglasses, stereos, bikes and much more.

With a focus on the GDHS Centennial Celebration the magazine campaign will be offering a special prize to any student who sells three subscriptions or more. April 21 during first period all students will assemble on the football field where they will be arranged to spell out the words: "GDHS, 100 years, 1887-1987".


A plane will then be flying overhead to take a picture which will be blown up to a poster, and given to these lucky students. Everyone is asked to wear red, white and blue (the school's colours) on that day.

As an added bonus Ziggy Lorenc from City T.V.'s Toronto Rocks, will be coming with a film crew to cover this exciting event, to be aired on Toronto Rocks at a later date.

Young offenders escape custody

Two young offenders escaped from the Golden Eagle Group Home in Acton April 8. The two were found walking along Hwy 25 at approximately 12:45 p.m. Bail hearing was held the following day.

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HOUSES NEEDED. Call Mike for a personal inspection of your home. (Not interested in a sale, but looking for a good house to buy.)