

## DEAR MEG



Meg Whitcomb

### Runaway wife has hubby desperate

By Meg Whitcomb

DEAR MEG You've printed many letters from parents of runaway kids, but have you ever heard of a runaway wife?

My wife ran away the day after Easter. She packed her suitcase in the middle of the night and was gone when the alarm clock went off the next morning. I thought she'd gone to a friend's house because we hadn't been getting along too well. But I called everyone we know and none of them knew where she was.

Her mother knows, because she said she had a letter from Gail, but she won't tell me where she is. She never liked me.

Should I go to the police and report Gail as a missing person? I love her and will do anything to get her back. SORRY AND BLUE, ARIZ.

DEAR SORRY If Gail's mother knows where she is, or if they are in contact with each other, Gail is not a

missing person and the police will not help. It's best to wait it out and do some serious thinking about why she ran away.

Runaway wives leave because they feel neglected, unappreciated and angry. Ed Goldfader, president of Tracers Co. of America, the nation's largest private investigative agency, in New York, says, "These women don't want a divorce, they want appreciation. They need to feel they're a viable member of the family."

According to Goldfader, deep down these wives either want to return or be found. But they want some assur-

ance that the problems they ran away from will be resolved.

DEAR MEG - Our grandmother had a dog for 11 years. The dog's name is Sally, and my sisters and I love her a lot. Well, when Grandma died last month, her will said that Sally had to be put to sleep because there wouldn't be anyone to take care of her. We've got her at our house until all the property stuff is taken care of and Mom says we can keep her. But the man at the bank says Sally was Grandma's property so she'll have to be destroyed.

We don't think this is right, but we don't know what to do about it. Please

help. - PAMELA, LYNN, GERRI AND SUSAN, ARK!

DEAR GIRLS - Call the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and ask their advice. Your parents should also talk to a lawyer about the possibility of saving Sally's life. Unfortunately, the law in some states says that a pet is "property," so it is the owner's right to dispose of it as he or she sees fit. I don't think those laws are right and hope it will be changed.

Write to Meg care of this newspaper. Meg can only answer letters that contain a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Questions of general interest will be discussed in future columns. © 1987, NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.

#### ASK YOUR PHARMACIST TEAMWORK ESSENTIAL FOR SAFE DRUG USE

Taking a medication involves more than popping a pill in your mouth and swallowing. When you pick up a prescription or non-prescription drug from your pharmacy, it's only one step in a process involving many players. Let's take a look at the drug protection team members and the roles they play - including yours.

First come federal and provincial government departments and agencies. They enforce the laws and regulations related to the manufacture, distribution and use of drugs.

Next comes the manufacturer, whose efforts in research, development and quality control produce medications for the public.

Doctors and dentists who prescribe drugs and advise you on their proper use are also on the team. So is the pharmacist who fills the prescription.

Then we come to you - the most important member in many ways. You can undo everything other team members have done to provide you with health-giving and life-saving drugs. Only by using medications responsibly can you make the efforts of the rest of the team worthwhile.

Direct contact with government agencies and manufacturers is limited although you can ask for information and statistics. Depend on your neighbourhood doctor and pharmacist for advice on using drugs safely and effectively.

Your pharmacist has been thoroughly trained and educated as an expert on medications. He or she can counsel you on prescription and non-prescription drugs as well as a wide variety of health-related subjects.

So remember: expert advice is as close as your neighbourhood pharmacy. Take advantage of this resource; it's an important part of protecting yourself.

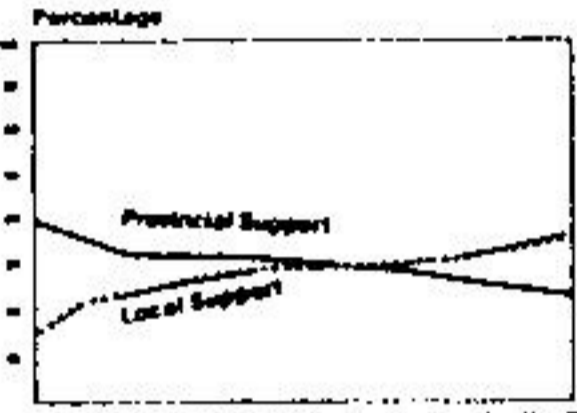
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## The Future of Public Schools: An Election Issue

Public education faces four critical issues in this election:

- 1 The Queen's Park Tax Grab**  
The Macdonald Report recommends a provincial grab of local taxes, known as the "levelling" of tax assessments from industrial and commercial properties.  
Avaling will shift an unfair burden onto householders and apartment dwellers. Avaling will undermine local decision making and cripple the tax base for public education.
- 2 Provincial Underfunding: The Grim Reality:**  
Queen's Park helps pay for local schools. But the provincial share keeps dropping - from 60% in the past to under 45% today.  
The drop in the provincial priority for education puts an unreasonable burden on local property taxpayers.
- 3 Public Funding of Private Schools**  
The Shapiro Report recommends public funding of private schools. This will fragment public education, which is open to all, and siphon provincial grants away from neighbourhood schools.
- 4 Accommodation: A school crisis**  
Overcrowding means students spend years in inadequate portables and too many hours on school buses.  
Many schools need renovation or replacement. The provincial budget for school renewal is the equivalent of \$75 a year for the major upkeep of a typical house.



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