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Editorial

Let parents work

Some of the attitudes expressed by Regional councillors last week on the issue of day care are cause for worry.

Although a report commissioned by Halton said "the time is right" to beef up the Region's day-care assistance program, Oakville Coun. Fred Oliver said day care "started in the home and that's where it should remain."

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz said he doesn't want child care on a property tax base.

However, we must assume that the Region does favor operating some day-care spaces because it runs a facility right here in Halton Hills.

Costs for day care can run up to \$40 a day and statistics show that there are now over 19,000 children in Halton using day-care facilities now. That figure is expected to increase by at least 30 per cent by 1993.

The attitudes of some councillors seem to indicate they haven't yet realized the full implications of their favorable stances towards growth. With growth will come more people, more jobs and a much higher demand to find some sort of service to look after children while one or both parents work.

With apartment prices running as high as a .01-vacancy-rate will allow in Halton Hills, and with affordable housing in town virtually non-existent, there are people who must live on or below the poverty line simply because they cannot afford day care for their children.

These are people who want to work, who want to contribute to society and who want to pay taxes. It's important they get the chance to do just that.

How to catch that flying foul



Editor's Notebook

Brian MacLeod
Herald Editor

Sitting in row five, behind the third base line at Exhibition Stadium can be a thoughtful experience. Thoughtful, because the game between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Oakland Athletics last Wednesday was a pitchers' duel. The game, in which the good guys ended up on the right side of a 2-0 score, provided many a blase moment.

It was during one of those blase moments that watching foul balls bounce around in the stands seemed to take on an air of importance.

There must have been 30 foul balls hit. Maybe three or four were caught cleanly by spectators. Think of all those kids who went home and said, "Wow! I almost caught a foul ball. It just skimmed off my hands."

It dawned on me that many Toronto spectators haven't yet learned the expertise behind catching a foul ball.

This just won't do. So I'm offering you some tips on how to rake in one of those balls, free of charge. (Oh, who are you to

tell me how to catch a foul ball? you ask. Well, I'm a seasoned veteran of two foul balls caught at Exhibition Stadium).

Here's how it's done.

When you hear the crack of the bat, immediately leap to your feet, knocking over your neighbor's beer, so he's distracted from the ball. Drop your hot dog under the seat so it's far enough back that you won't land on it when you leap into the air. (Yes, if you want that ball, you must leap).

Once everyone's got a beat on the ball they'll all brace - hands stretched - for the inevitable pain.

There is none. Not if it's done right.

At the last moment, you must leap up to meet the ball. If you don't you'll just be one of the 14 pairs of hands the ball skimmed off. No one else will leap up to catch the ball - I assure you.

Next, you must close both hands firmly around the ball and squeeze tight (it will be spinning, that's why it went foul), just like George Bell did in the victory over the Yankees to give the Jays the pennant in 1986. Remember?

Then, once you've got ball firmly in hand, duck quickly back down under the mob to avoid a wrestling match.

Presto, the ball's yours.

A footnote: make sure you then hold the ball high so the radio announcers will see what a spectacular catch you made and mention you on the air.

White, English males shunned



Queen's Park

Derek Nelson
Thomson News Service

Why have able-bodied, white-skinned, English-speaking males been reduced to second-class citizenship by the Ontario government?

Dark skins, French accents and the female sex are preferred.

The government's intern program tells the story.

Established four years ago, the intern project gives a head start to college and university graduates who want to make a career in government service.

The government describes it this way: "Through the two-year, on-the-job training program, interns will gain valuable, hands-on experience, which will improve their ability to compete successfully for positions in the Ontario Public Service (OPS)."

And how do you get to be an intern?

You apply. This summer, there are 100 positions available; starting salary, \$28,300.

All 100 places are reserved for what the government calls "five designated groups."

First, are aborigines: Inuit, Indian and Metis.

Second, are so-called racial minorities, who are subdivided into Blacks, East Asians, South Asians, Southeast Asians, and

West Asians/Arabs.

Exactly how these categories are arrived at, and what proof you must produce to show you belong to a particular group, isn't detailed. (The categories are explicitly racial, if a little weird, in that white-skinned Latin Americans are unworthy of designated status but white-skinned Arabs are).

Third, are francophones, defined as those for whom French was one of the first languages learned in childhood and still understood.

Then there are those who are mentally or physically disabled.

And, of course, women - of any type and color - form the fifth group.

What category you fit into must be indicated on resumes or covering letters. (One suspects that a person who did this with the intention of giving preference to hiring white males would be up before the Human Rights Commission in 30 seconds flat - as well as being subjected to moralistic lectures from Queen's Park politicians).

CAN APPLY

True, healthy anglophone white males, whom the government euphemistically calls "non-designated group members" - can apply for these intern posts.

But they will only receive "due consideration if positions cannot be filled with qualified designated group members."

The chances of that are nil, however, since the government and its paid publicists continually point out that qualified non-whites/women exist in great numbers, held back only by the evils of white male racism/sexism.

The Liberal government's

reasoning for discriminating against anglophone white males is that "recent studies in the composition of the OPS indicate that imbalances exist in the representation of some groups in certain occupational areas and salary levels."

But that begs more questions than it answers.

For example, francophones make up three to five per cent of the Ontario population (depending on how you define them), but six per cent of the OPS (as of two years ago).

Thanks to the French-languages services bill (what some call "the jobs for francophones bill"), that figure, by the government's own estimate, will rise to 10 per cent. In practice, it will probably be higher.

In short, on a straight percentage basis, francophones are already over-represented. What this internship program will do is give them an even greater stranglehold on government jobs in a province where 89 per cent of the population can't speak French.

The disabled are another interesting category. About six per cent of provincial jobs are already occupied by the disabled.

So-called racial minorities pose another question. Three (East Asians, South Asians and West Asians/Arabs) of the five sub-groups the government is going to put on the fast track already earn on average - considerably more than their white OPS co-workers, according to government statistics. About 12 per cent of the OPS is non-white.

And this government says it opposes racism and sexism.



Nuclear industry to pay millions for government regulations

By RENNIE MacKENZIE

Ottawa Bureau
Thomson News Service

The Atomic Energy Control Board will be ready within a year to whack the nuclear industry with a multimillion-dollar bill to recover the cost of its regulatory operations.

The AECB is assessing cautious responses from more than 1,000 companies and interest groups to the cost-recovery plan ordered three years ago by the federal Treasury Board. About 2,700 questionnaires were sent out by the regulatory agency to measure public and industry reaction.

Based on responses that have been received, Tom Viglasky, who directs the activities of the board's cost-recovery group, said there is a general feeling of acceptance but a concern with the size of some of the proposed fees. The fees, calculated to cover most of the AECB's \$24 million annual operating cost, will add millions to the construction cost of a nuclear generating station.

Viglasky's group is certain cost

recovery will not have a noticeable effect on consumers. Initial studies concluded the fees would tack a maximum of 0.2 per cent onto the current charge per kilowatt hour for combined hydro, thermal and nuclear power.

The nuclear industry and heavy users though will pay special fees - reaching into the millions of dollars.

Universities and hospitals fear services may be cut back if their provincial governments are required to pay for the licensing and inspection of the institutions' research reactors and accelerators. Uranium and thorium mining companies say another \$1 million in fees on top of start-up costs for a new mine and mill could affect their competitiveness in the international market.

Viglasky agreed that even a small change in the price of a pound of uranium could affect a company's bid. He said the uranium market is soft, "really cutthroat right now."

"A few cents a pound can mean the loss of a major contract."

Industry, which uses radioisotopes for the production of such items as smoke detectors, high-tech lab equipment and devices to measure the thickness of eggshells, wants assurances that the fees will be applied equally.

FAIRLY MILD

It's the utilities, however, that have Viglasky worried. He described the comments from Ontario Hydro, which could end up paying about \$10 million in AECB fees annually, as "fairly mild."

If Ontario Hydro gets approval to proceed with development of another nuclear generating station, it could end up paying an additional \$10 million for all the site, construction and operating certificates.

The utility expressed concerns with the equitable distribution of the fees and the impact they may have on research in a "very nice" two-page letter.

"That's the one that really bothers me. I'm sure the other shoe will be coming (at us) from somewhere," Viglasky said.