

the HERALD

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DAVID A. BEATTIE, Publisher
and General Manager

BRIAN MacLEOD
Editor

DAN TAYLOR
Advertising Manager

Phone 877-2201

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Editorial

S.T.E.P. up

Sometime in the next few weeks you may be surprised by the sudden appearance of a police cruiser with its lights flashing, directing you to pull over.

You may feel angry at receiving that ticket for doing just 10 kilometres over the speed limit, or for not wearing your seatbelt, but it's a necessary albeit unpopular move.

Halton Regional Police statistics show that 13 people have been killed on the Region's roads so far this year. That compares with just six fatalities on Halton's roads at this time last year.

The only bright light in those statistics is that fatalities attributed to alcohol consumption are down 12 per cent to 38 per cent.

But police say speeding is a big factor in the increase in traffic deaths. Most of the people killed on Halton's roads were involved in accidents where the speed limits were set at 80 kilometres an hour.

The police's success at keeping traffic deaths involving alcohol down is being undermined by speeders. So, Halton Regional Police will be enforcing the new STEP program. The acronym stands for Safety Traffic Enforcement Program and it means no one will be let off with minor traffic violations during the next two months.

The program should help to remind motorists that summer isn't a time to tear around the streets of Halton, mindless of anything in their path. The STEP program will likely serve as a pointed reminder of what can happen if you forget even the minor rules of the road.

No "shots"



Editor's Notebook

Brian MacLeod
Herald Editor

I can't help but be disappointed in some of the comments made by our Member of Parliament, Garth Turner in his column this week. (See page 11) Shortly after announcing his town hall meetings, Mr. Turner goes on to say: "I'll tell you, sometimes it's frustrating as hell being a politician. In my former life, I was a newspaperman and a critic and that was easy. Taking shots is nothing compared with receiving them."

Garth doesn't speak for those of us who are still in journalism.

As a business columnist for the Toronto Sun, Mr. Turner certainly took full advantage of his position to "take shots" at the government. Now, suddenly, after a few short months in power we rarely see that maverick who was known for marching up the steps of government offices bearing petitions. Suddenly, Mr. Turner seems to have seen the light, and that such criticisms were a wee bit harsh. Balderdash!

Good journalists do not "take shots." You can offer criticisms and opinions but they are a far cry

from "taking shots" just for the sake of criticisms.

And as a critic of the government for so long, Mr. Turner must have had his eyes closed if he wasn't aware of the type of life a politician faces. It's really a demanding life and you have to develop a thick skin.

Something like the life of a good journalist.

We've seen that most of you don't want to foot the bill for a package of new cable television channels including Yough Television, a political channel, an all-weather station a religious station and an all-news channel. But as television viewers, Canadians sure haven't turned their back on cable. Over 6.3 million households in Canada are hooked up to cable television, a Statistics Canada report shows. And Pay TV channels, such as movies and sports stations enter the homes of more than 1.1 million Canadians bringing in an extra \$176 million on top of the \$870 million cable system operators earned in 1987, the latest year for which Statistics Canada has data.

There are over 1,000 cable systems in operation in Canada and there are still over a million households within reach of cable systems but are yet to hook up to cable.

"Uncertified" teachers not "unqualified"



Queen's Park

Derek Nelson
Thomson News Service

The recent curffle over the presence of 2,500 uncertified teachers in the Ontario educational system has its ironic side.

It would be nice if as much fuss was made over what is being taught as over who is teaching.

That's particularly true since there isn't the slightest evidence that uncertified teachers are any better or worse than those with official teacher certificates.

Frankly, it was strictly shabby journalism that headlined that these uncertified teachers were "unqualified."

A certificate hardly determines whether one person is better than another at imparting information and, more importantly, values to their students. Who, after all, gave Socrates or Jesus Christ a diploma?

In fact, far more worrisome than the kind of paper certificates teachers carry is the kind of values they impart to their captive audiences.

Some will do so by example - the "values are caught, not taught" theory of how we decide on what qualities and principles of life are important.

But these qualities and principles, or values, can also be implicit in everything taught or undertaken at school.

That's why it is useful to note what the education ministry considers the "foundation" of values education in Ontario. (The following examples are taken from the Values, Influences and Peers curriculum guide for teachers.)

Honestly, tolerance, compassion and justice head the list of societal values, while personal values seem to centre around the concept of respect: for self, for life, for the environment and for others.

What might be called traditional values are totally absent from the guide.

These include honor, duty, patriotism, service, excellence, heroism, obedience, humility, perseverance, love and fear of God. Instead, we get peace, patience, sensitivity and co-operation.

There is a not-so-subtle message here.

Take a value the ministry approves of, like compassion, and compare it to charity, which isn't mentioned. Compassion is an abstract concept, a passive reaction to events around one, simply feeling. It requires no action. Charity is personal, doing something for someone, literally personally participating.

Such action-oriented values aren't much in evidence in ministry thinking.

Except for courtesy, for in-

stance, personal habits like cleanliness, neatness, punctuality, civility and politeness are missing. These are all attributes that might fall under the heading of good manners or standards - something schools used to insist upon.

Warren Clarnette, writing in the Australian magazine IPA Review about values education Down Under, said it in words that could apply to Ontario just as well:

"Today's educational values reflect and reinforce the vision of a society in which personal fulfillment, including the capacity for happiness, is paramount.

"This is to be achieved in a society which enjoys the maximum degree of community harmony while becoming increasingly diverse in both ethnic composition and moral and ethical standards."

Clarnette then adds the kicker: "Toleration of diverse beliefs suggests breadth and humanity of spirits; it may also mask the inability to affirm that some beliefs are right and others wrong."

He could be right.

For example, while the Ontario curriculum guide lists honesty as a desirable value, it also suggests the "child who lies may be avoiding something, covering up something, or deliberately escaping into a contrived world. Such a child requires support and encouragement so that his or her feelings of self-confidence may be strengthened."

Meanwhile, the media worry about uncertified teachers....

CANADA POSTS NEW SLIDING SCALE OF RATES & COURIER SERVICES...

CANADA \$1.95	OVERNIGHT DELIVERY IN THE SAME CITY... GUARANTEED.	CANADA \$3.45	NEXT DAY DELIVERY TO A NEIGHBORING CITY... GUARANTEED.
CANADA \$1.50	FOR DELIVERY TO THE RIGHT ADDRESS THE SECOND TIME... GUARANTEED. (SORT OF)	CANADA \$1.00	FOR NOT MUTILATING THE LETTER. (NO GUARANTEE)
CANADA \$2.50	FOR DELIVERING TO THE RIGHT ADDRESS THE FIRST TIME. (NOT REALLY GUARANTEED)	CANADA 38	GOOD LUCK.

Is Mulroney out of touch?



Ottawa

Stewart MacLeod
Thomson News Service

It would be comforting to think that Prime Minister Brian Mulroney knows exactly what he's talking about so far as the mood of Canada is concerned. But there are some compelling reasons to question his conclusions.

And those reasons can be found by simply talking to people. It's very difficult to travel anywhere in Canada these days without getting a clear impression that the tolerance level among English-Canadians toward Quebec has dropped dramatically.

Liberal Leader John Turner, one of the few political leaders to comment on the situation, says he is deeply concerned by the growing antagonism. The opinion polls tell us that 27 per cent of English-Canadians and 36 per cent of French-Canadians would like to see Quebec become an independent country - the highest support for separatism since the question was first asked 20 years ago.

MPs who return from their constituencies say their conversations with voters support these findings.

And from Dalton Camp, who recently stepped down as special adviser to the federal cabinet to return to column-writing, we get this assessment: "There is a palpable and growing fatalism among many Canadians, heretofore willing supporters of all federal initiatives, including bilingualism, which were designed to reassure Quebec in the interests of national unity. Some feel today their trust has been betrayed. Others are simply saying: 'to hell with it!'"

DOESN'T AGREE
But, despite what appears to be overwhelming evidence in support of these views, there is one powerful voice of dissent - from the prime minister of Canada.

"The heart beat of the nation is strong," says Mr. Mulroney. "It's vigorous and it's resolved to even greater unity."

He goes on to describe the mood of the country as healthy and serene. As a matter of fact, if the prime minister sees even the smallest cloud on the horizon, he chooses to ignore it. Even for someone known for the odd bout of overstatement and rhetoric, he is unusually upbeat about the state of

the country.

It would be nice to think the prime minister of the country knows whereof he speaks when he says the mood is so strong, "I am not concerned about it in the slightest."

The fact that the CBC recently devoted its Sunday radio program Cross-Canada Check-up to the question of whether the country will survive is proof of that. And a majority of those who phoned in to the program were not optimistic.

There can be no question that Quebec's use of the "notwithstanding" clause to ban the use of English on outdoor signs has affected our national thinking. So has the Meech Lake accord, which would give Quebec constitutional authority to "promote" its distinct society.

Columnist Greta Chambers writes in the Montreal Gazette that "the touchstone of discontent now seems to be the recognition of Quebec as a 'distinct society'."

"A resentment has grown up against Quebec for wanting to be recognized as different. It is as though that difference would of itself harm Canadian federalism."

Looking across Canada, she wrote that "from coast to coast, the consensus was that Canadians were in a sour mood."