Teachers' ideals worn down by bureaucracy

By LISA RUTLEDGE The Herald

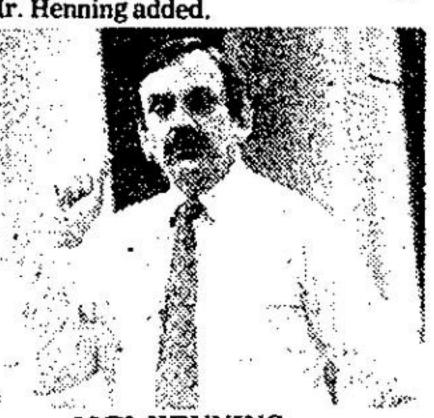
Halton school teachers, not unlike teachers across North America, are the subjects of bureaucracy which eventually wears down their ideals, says an international institution consultant.

Joel Henning, known for his work in consulting with public and private institutions on leadership, spoke to Halton Board of Education teachers, administration and trustees at the Challenges of Change conference at the Burlington Holiday Inn Wednesday.

Mr. Henning said school boards are organized to promote predictability, consistency and control. This type of management provides a safe and cautious environment in which restraints keep teachers from self-expression leaving only silence when it comes to change, he explained.

Relying on consistency and control is not enough anymore and trying harder with the system just doesn't do the job, Mr. Henning said to approximately 400 people. When there is enormous pressure to comply, teachers can't be creative and use new methods, he said. "Rather than being preoccupied with control, be preoccupied with innovation."

The school system has to change so that every individual is responsible for themselves and not only responsible to others at the top, Mr. Henning added,



JOEL HENNING

Education is undergoing a revolution which demands that training and education create more than future additions to the bureaucracy, said Mr. Henning. "We're talking about changing the fundamental beliefs which define the relationship between teachers and students," he said.

Recognizing these changes in education will require administrators to identify what it is they want to pursue, become their own leaders, make commitments and work toward those commitments, Mr. Henning told the conference members.

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"It requires individuals to make painful changes," he said. "Move towards self-management. Stop waiting for those above you and take a position," Mr. Henning encouraged. Many education institution members adopt a tied-hands approach and just want to make a living, he explained. But "survival is in your own hands," he added. Surviving means knowing what each person's purpose and not the purpose of the bureaucracy. "Find a purpose of your own and articulate it," Mr. Henning said. No one else can instill a purpose in another person if there is to be heart in an organization, he continued.

Individuals in the education system are fearful their jobs will be in jeopardy if they take a position, Mr. Henning said, adding that they don't want to get hit by the bullet. "The truth is that the bullet is already on the way. The only

thing you have control of is what position you are in when it hits you."

you."

It is not easy for people in the school system to be authentic, he said. That is when people begin thinking about dress for success routines and what the ideal Halton

teacher is, if there is one, Mr. Hen-

ning continued.

If individuals in the education system care about what they're doing, they have to know what they want to pursue and follow through with those ideals, he maintains. "You have to move toward self-management. You have to act," he said.

As an examiner of the educator's role in society, Mr. Henning said teachers have to set innovative examples using creativity. Teachers can't teach anything better than by living it, said Mr. Henning.

He maintains that if school administrators submit to the patriarchal control, deny self-expression, continually sacrifice and just want to make a living students will endorse this attitude. Students will begin to believe school is just something everyone must endure. "Does it offer any promise for the future?" he asked.

Ontario population grows

From the Ottawa Bureau of Thomson News Service

OTTAWA - Ontario's population continued to grow during the first half of the year and is now estimated to be 9,731,200, Statistics Canada reports.

In a mid-year review of populations for the country, provinces and territories, the agency said Ontario now has 152,500 more residents than last year and 300,000 more than in 1988.

Ontario is still home to more than a third of the country's total population which reached 26,584,000 at June 1. Quebec, with 6,762,200, was the second most populated province. With 3,131,700 residents, British Columbia was third.

Prince Edward Island remained the least populated province with just 130,400 residents.

All provinces reported increases in their populations except Saskatchewan, where the number of residents slipped from 1,007,300 last year to 1,000,300 at June 1.



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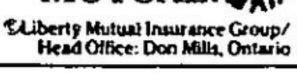
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