

WORD'S WORTH

With Eric Balkind



Parents and teachers form powerful team, together

On the morning of the first day of school, when children are hurrying to get out of the door to renew classroom friendships, many parents are quietly concerned. They want the best for their youngsters but they are not quite sure what the new year will bring. There are new teachers do deal with, new grades to face and in addition, schools — just like any other institution, sometimes appear intimidating. Here are a few guidelines which should help bridge the gap between home and school.

Get to know your child's teacher as soon as possible; a close, working relationship between parent and teacher can work wonders. Be aware that both parents and teachers have unique viewpoints. Parents see children over a period of years and in relation to other family members; teachers see the child in relation to 25 others in the same room. Bring these views together and you come up with a more complete "picture" of the child. Learn to use that picture to help your student to achieve to his/her potential.

Keep the teacher updated on significant physical or emotional problems which your youngster may be facing. Schools are most helpful when they are "in the know." Similarly, expect that the teacher will keep you informed whenever problems arise.

See that your child gets a good night's sleep. Remember that children (especially those in junior schools) cannot stay up midweek to see the hockey game and still expect to be wide-awake learners the next morning. Compromise by letting them see games on Friday or Saturday nights instead.

Ensure that the child starts the day off with a decent, relaxed breakfast. Just five, peaceful minutes together will start the day out on a positive note. Refuse to buy into those TV ads featuring instant, wholesome brekkies on the run.

Take time to go over a child's work when it comes home. The youngsters efforts are important to him/her and the few minutes you spend sharing together will often work miracles. Keep things on a positive tack, say: "Terrific, I see you got seven out of ten right" rather than "How come these three are wrong?" Like that great old song says: "Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative."

Show your child plenty of affection. Kids (and the rest of us) were surely made to be hugged and your touch can mean so much. Of course, with teens you may need to make a game out of it but most of them will love it — and so will you!

Set high expectations but let the child develop at his/her own rate. We are all different; just as we run at different speeds so also do we learn at different rates. Every child is unique and so long as a genuine effort is being made it is not necessary academically to "keep up with the Joneses."

Enjoy your child and remember that childhood is indeed fleeting.

Wit & Wisdom

Here are a few more daffy definitions for your consideration. Only difference is that, this time round, we've included a few for you to try for yourself. Give it a shot and drop bring them into the Tanner office. We'll print a selection of the most original efforts.

Honesty — The biggest handicap in golf.

Luxury — Something you don't really need and can't do without.

Mystery — How the Joneses do it on that salary.

Perfection — An alarm clock that doesn't ring.

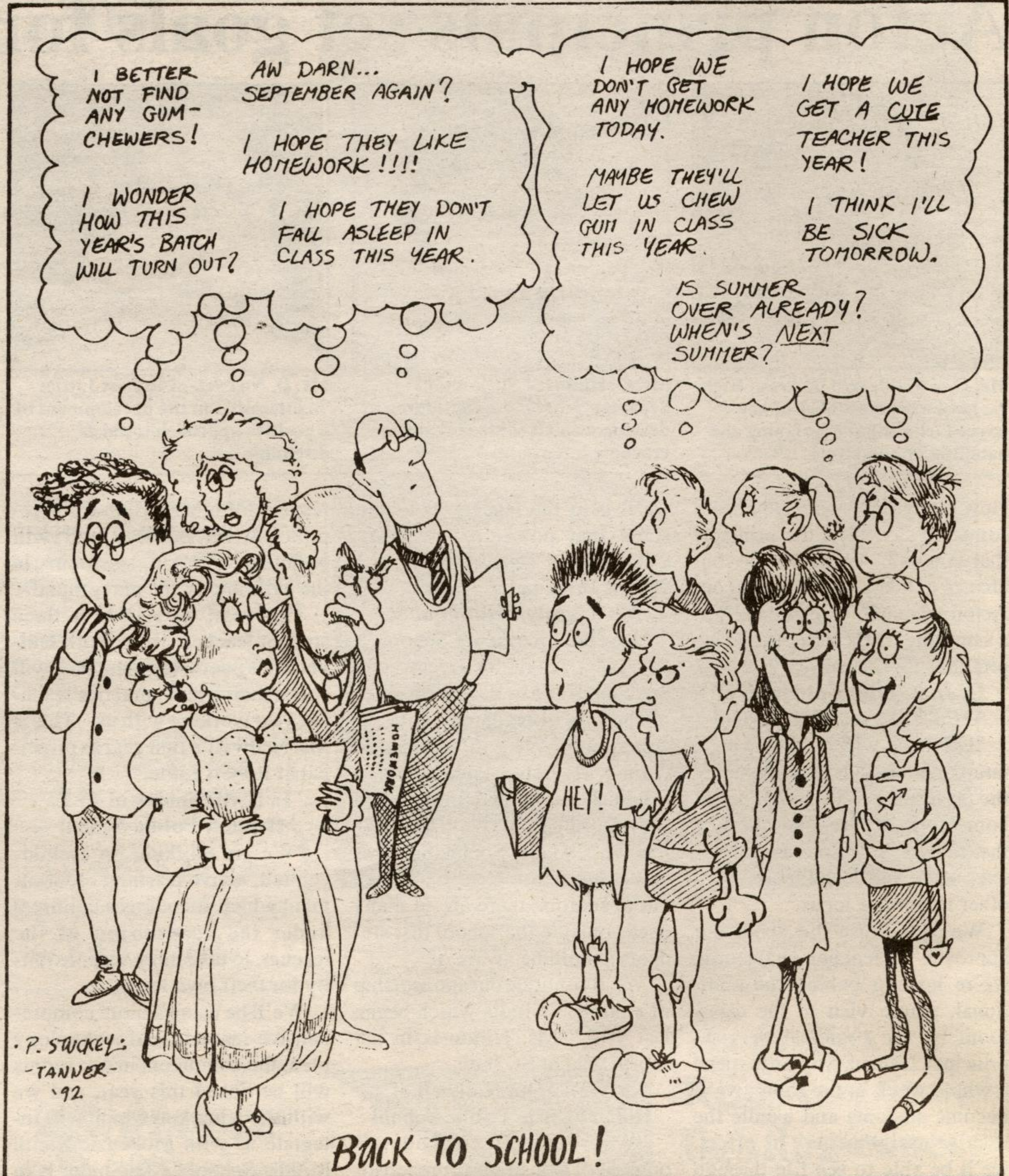
Profanity — A way of escape for the man who runs out of ideas.

Small town — A place where everybody knows whose cheque is good.

★★★

"Define" the following:

Bus driver, crooked dough, diplomat, Dutch treat, floating debt, middle age.



P. STUCKEY
-TANNER-
'92

BACK TO SCHOOL!

LETTERS

Nor any drop to drink?

I wish to comment on the statements made by Mr. Vince Suffolletta, manager of Technical Services for the Region of Halton regarding contaminated water in Acton. (Tanner, Sept. 1, 92.) In one sentence Mr. Suffolletta states that "rusty water contaminated by Iron and Manganese got into the system" and in another sentence states that "there never was any health risk." When did Mr. Suffolletta appoint himself Medical Officer of Health for Halton?

Mr. Suffolletta's statements raise serious concerns regarding the reliability of Acton's water

system. The water that was contaminated did pose a health risk and, as a result, the Region of Halton were advising residents that were affected to flush all piping. Further, the staff of the Region were flushing 15—20 hydrants in an attempt to clean the system of contamination. It has become quite obvious that Mr. Suffolletta did not witness the quality of the water that residents were exposed to that evening.

My final concern is the statement that staff were working on the purification unit on the Monday prior to the problem and when the system was reactivated a valve failed and the water was contaminated. My question is simply, why didn't the staff replace the faulty valve during the maintenance of the purification unit? I was told they were on a water break.

David Quinn
Cobblehill Road

Shades of Orwell?

Dear Editor,

After implementing "pay equity" in Ontario, which in fact was initiated by the provincial Liberals, the NDP is starting an "employment equity" program.

"Pay equity" was devised as a master plan for centralized wage control. Through this legislation the government can intervene in the private sector to determine the "value" of each job and accordingly impose a certain wage.

To complete the Orwellian scenario, the government needs to control "who" gets a job and "where" the job is needed. What the government calls "employment equity" will serve this purpose.

May the good Lord save us from political philosophers such as those governing Albania, Cuba

and Ontario, who did not learn from history and do not perceive that centralized control of the work force can only lead to economic and social disaster!

Guiseppe Gori, Deputy Leader
Family Coalition Party
R.R. #4, Acton

A letter from who?

As somewhat of a newcomer to Acton, I am delighted to be so close to the ...

Recognise the few words above? They were a part of a very good letter we received recently; trouble is, the letter was not properly signed.

Kindly note that our policy is that ALL LETTERS MUST BE SIGNED if they are to be considered for publication.

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