

## Shows deep concern

Halton Renaissance Committee's campaign for changes in the educational system has struck a responsive note with many parents in Halton. The group's first rally in Milton Thursday showed a deep, growing concern on the part of the parents, over many current trends in education.

It started simply enough. Four homosexuals visited a grade 12 health education class at a Burlington school and one parent, Milton evangelist Kenneth Campbell kicked up a storm of protest. He cited the incident as an example of moral decay in education and announced his plan to withhold the educational portion of his municipal tax bill, until the system was cleaned up to his satisfaction.

The campaign roused the sympathies of other parents. Many who disagree with modern educational trends joined the campaign, hopeful that a group protest would carry more weight than an individual complaint. Thursday's rally wasn't 100 per cent behind Mr. Campbell and his crusade, but the majority of the 600 in attendance appeared to be

sympathetic and willing to work together to cure the ills they see in the system.

It's not just a declining moral standard that upsets the parents. Opposition was expressed to some of the methods of education, too—open concept, fewer exams, fewer mandatory subjects, methods of teaching the three basic Rs, the new math, the continuing experimentation and the difficulties graduates have in basic subjects after graduation.

The renaissance group plans further rallies and expects to formulate a major brief for the board of education. We hope the board will recognize this protest as a reflection of the valid concerns many have. The board HAS sought public input over the years but trustees, usually defended by a solid wall of administrators, have been hard to reach.

Thursday's rally reflects more than just a moral concern, it reflects an extensive disenchantment with education in general. It's interesting to see such widespread disillusionment brought into the open.



GATHERING TO PROTEST declining moral standards and other alleged problems in the educational system, a crowd of over 600 met at Milton District High School Thursday to give the Halton Renaissance Committee a

big start on its campaign. Most of those in the audience supported the committee but a few hecklers were evident.

(Photo by D. Pink)

## Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley



This is going to be a shot-gun column, instead of the usual coherent, unified lucid examination of a single topic.

I'm going to aim in all directions at once and pull both triggers. Reason is I've got to get ready to go to Germany on Sunday and have a lot to do. Like shine my shoes, and change \$12 into rubles or whatever they use, and get my wife to iron some shirts, and, uh, get her to pack my bag, and, uh, well, a lot of important things.

First of all, I've rediscovered a maxim that was already ancient when Moses looked out over the promised land: women are not only unpredictable, but unreasonable.

My wife had known for about a month that I might be going to Germany on the winter break. She thought it was great for me. "It'll be a nice change for you. And it'll do you good to get away from me for a few days. You must get sick of me."

I lied politely, as usual. Told her I didn't need a change, that I could scarcely bear the thought of being separated, and that the very idea of being sick of her was nauseating.

Then I came home one day and told her it was all set, but that she couldn't go. "When?", she queried, knowing it would be several months off, and that there might be an earthquake or a flood or something in the meantime.

"Oh, I guess Sunday night," I responded casually, serene in the knowledge that she was in favor of the trip. She burst into tears.

My next topic also deals with the family, and with an aqueous event. Aside from a rainstorm, have you ever been soaked from a great height? I have. Last Sunday.

I was thoroughly enjoying playing with my grandson. He's old enough now to be played with, without fear that he'll break. I had him under the armpits and was hoisting

him in the air, making those ridiculous sounds that would make grandfathers blush crimson if they ever heard them on tape.

A look of pure glee passed across the kid's face, and I thought, "By golly, he knows me, and he's enjoying his granddaddy." Next second, I was soaked from shoulder to knee. It was warm, and at first I thought I'd burst a painless blood vessel. But it was the wrong colour.

It's not unpleasant at first. Rather like taking a warm, salt bath, with your clothes on. It's when it begins to cool...

There's not much more to be developed there, so I'll turn to topic three: exams, which we have just gone through a session of.

Nothing is more depressing than starting to mark a set of exam papers, and finding that the first five you mark are failures. You are filled with self-doubt. "Have I not taught them anything? I'm a failure as a teacher. I should go back to the shoe factory. If everybody fails, I'll be fired, because in this system, if you're teaching failures, you're a failure as a teacher, regardless of any other factors."

Then you pick up a paper and the student has understood what you've taught, and applied it, and used some brains of its own, and it's a ninety percent. Hallelujah! And you're hooked for another year.

There is only one thing worse than marking exam papers. That is supervising the writing of them. The quaint old word for this function is "invigilating." It sounds

kind of dirty, but it isn't. Just utterly boring.

You are figuratively locked in a room for two hours with about 35 teenagers. That alone is a fate worse than death, for some people. Personally, I'd rather be locked in with 35 students than with 35 balloons.

Then begins two hours of hell. The kids are supposed to be tense, nervous, straining every brain cell to do well. They're about as tense as a hibernating bear. Susie takes off her shoes, assumes a yoga position, and looks out the window. Jack's crutch, a relic of skiing and a broken leg, falls on the floor, and you jump a foot, while the victims snicker.

You resort, after the first hour, to such things as counting greasy hair versus washed hair, bras versus braless, big clumsy boots versus sneakers.

You look up at the picture on the wall of the Queen, on whom somebody has drawn a moustache. You fill in, with your imagination, sideburns and realize the Queen would have been pretty dashing in 1580.

You look out the window at the dirty snow-banks and dream of a beach or a trout stream. You whip around, aware you were drifting, to see if anyone is cheating. Nobody is. Except Joe, who has given up after half an hour of tongue and pen working together, and is sound asleep, head on arms. An early fly buzzes.

Warned you this would be a shotgun column. But I think I've covered everything on the home front.

Next despatch will be from Germany. I promise it will be loaded with fraulein, gemutlichkeit, blutwurst, putshes and other Teutonic goodies.

Let's see now, if I remember my Deutsch. "Was maken sie heir? Wie vil hur ist es? Nieh rauchen bevor der zug halte. Ich bin ein krieggefanger. Wo bist die schesshaus?" Reckon I'll get along.

the Rev. Bruce McLeod, Moderator of the United Church, as expressed in the press, were mentioned. Mr. Campbell countered that these particular views of the Moderator were "totally irresponsible." Evidently Mr. Campbell has a special meaning for some of his words. I can only conclude that with Mr. Campbell there is no room for honest disagreement or difference of opinion.

John K. Graham, Superintendent of Academic Operations.

## DON'T MAKE CAT OWNERS PAY FOR DOGS' DAMAGE

Dear Editor: In reply to the ridiculous letter of A.R. Kelly on March 27, regarding licence fees for cats, I would like to reply.

I have never been rushed and bitten by a cat, nor had one rip open my garbage, deposit large loads on my lawn; (right in the middle, I might add) dig large holes in the vegetable garden, christen each and every bush and hedge in turn, bark all day (or night as the case may be) and awaken the children; or chase a dog up a tree. A cat is generally an unassuming and home-abiding animal. They are also small and very independent, not banding together destroying and maiming livestock and wildlife, especially in rural or semi-rural areas.

These are many of the main reasons dogs should be and are licensed and required to be penned or kept on a leash. If a few irresponsible dog owners ruin it for all dog owners, cat owners should not be made to pick up the tab for the damage that dogs do. Let us not forget that dogs bite and present a great deal more danger to children; whereas a cat will simply run away.

To enforce licencing of cats is similar to licencing canaries, and just as ridiculous. I admire dogs and their service in many aspects of the community, so long as they are kept for the sheer pleasure of their owners only.

(Mrs.) R. Rosiello, 586 Lord Simcoe Ct., Milton Ont.

(More letters on Page C5)

20 years ago

Taken from the Issue of The Champion, April 1, 1954.

Milton's hockey champs won the 1954 title last Friday night. They are B. Parsons, D. Dredge, J. McLean, G. Bell, G. Hassel-feldt, C. Rose, L. Thomson, K. Marsh, H. Zimmerman, L. Hilson, D. Irving and M. Rasberry. Coach is B. Coulson. Winners of the hockey draw were Harry Marsh, \$100 bond, and John Robertson, \$50 bond.

New postal rates become effective today. Local letters now take four cents, out-of-town letters need five cents, and post cards require four cents.

Tenders for the construction of the new six room Milton Public School are being called today. A resolution was approved by the Board authorizing the issuing of a cheque for \$2,400 to purchase the seven acre site on Thomas Street.

It will be welcome news for many who are planning construction of a home this spring that the banks are now in the mortgage business on house loans. A recent announcement by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation places 10 of 11 chartered banks in the field. The one bank not in the business is the small Dutch-owned Mercantile Bank of Canada. Under the act the down payment on a \$10,000 house is reduced to \$1,400. Mortgages will run from 25 to 30 years at a maximum interest rate of 5½ per cent.

Clarence Riddell of Milton is president of the Ontario Baseball Association for 1954. Pete McMullen of Milton was elected to the executive council.

With considerable development including several projected housing developments and one under way, the population of Milton is now 3,000, including the annexation area.

50 years ago

Taken from the Issue of The Champion, April 3, 1924.

Burlington is numbering the buildings on its streets.

Early last Thursday morning Mr. and Mrs. John Rush and their children narrowly escaped suffocation by coal gas from a defective furnace in their house on Court Street.

Last Saturday the fire alarm sounded and the brigade turned out, as did many citizens, but no sign of a fire could be seen though the alarm continued to sound. Pulling the lever failed to stop it. It was found that it had been set going by a shutter which the high wind had blown against it.

Motorists will be glad to learn that they can reach Milton this summer by a gravel road all the way from Brampton. It was formerly necessary to go around by Norval to get a good road all the way, but now it is possible to go from Brampton, and through the improvement of roads in the west of the county, reach the county town of Halton much more quickly and on a good road. -- from Brampton Herald.

On Saturday the Milton soccer players reorganized, electing officers as follows: Chairman, John Jackson; secretary, G. Elliott; manager, J. Warby. Fourteen players registered. Messrs. Jackson and Elliott will welcome proposals for matches with other clubs.

The Ontario Better Livestock Train was visited by a great many people from the town as well as the townships at the CPR station last Friday. A splendid lot of cattle, pigs and sheep were seen and much useful information was given by the train staff of lecturers and demonstrators.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Champion, April 2, 1874.

The Milton Town Council met at the usual hour. His Worship, the Mayor, was in the chair. Present: Joseph Martin, Joseph Brothers, Charles Niehaus, D. Dewar, S. F. Taylor, W. D. Lyon, James Lindsay, Mr. F. Barclay took the necessary declaration of office and took his seat. Communications from Rev. J. E. John Eadie, James Gray and George Brown, received and read.

An exchange has heard — and who has not heard? — frequent complaints about the lack of promptitude in the starting of funeral processions. On a cold day it is not agreeable to have to sit out in a carriage for an hour. Funerals should start at the hour announced.

Why can't we have a Building Society in this town, which will erect houses and sell or rent them on liberal terms and conditions? As it is now, the house accommodation is far beneath in value the prices asked for it, and there are no houses to be had. It almost makes one want to go to Toronto where house-room is furnished as quickly as needed.

## Commenting briefly

It's official. The County Administration Building has now been sold and the deed registered with the province as the new owners. Regional headquarters will now soon be located in Burlington and the geographic centrality which has persisted for over 100 years has been lost. We suspect it will take some minor miracles to ever have regional headquarters returned to the centre of the region.

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Milton Bus Lines has gained a little municipal attention lately over reports and such, but we think maybe it's a good time to recognize that the quiet day by day service is growing and gaining acceptance. The operators are providing a worthwhile service and we think those, particularly but not exclusively in the outlying areas must appreciate the fact the service exists. We haven't heard many complaints and we assume the Lewises' must be operating well to avoid them.

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Roy Core's presence in the local post office will be missed. Retiring after 17 years, 11 of them as assistant postmaster, Roy will be changing routines. At The Champion we always found Roy helpful in assisting with occasional newspaper delivery problems and in sorting out the forms we had to file to cover our mailings. We wish him well in whatever he undertakes as a sequel to his post office work.

est was high but involvement was low and attempts to develop a co-ordinated attack on Main St. improvements seemed to die when dollars and cents were discussed.

In each case when discussions were initiated they inevitably bogged down on parking, etc. Now the municipality has cleared those major hurdles. The Main St. has been reconstructed, Mary St. will have been reconstructed, parking off-street provided and it is now up to the merchants and property owners to undertake their renovations on their own property. Since the co-ordinated effort was not successful, presumably each individual owner is on his own. We hope though that some general approach can be taken to the Mary St. face, back of the Main St. stores. It can so easily be attractive or the opposite.

With municipal work completed in the core area it will be up to the commercial property owners to provide the second phase impact on the streets.

One hundred years ago this week, The Champion editorially called for a town-wide spring clean-up. Although the "animal and vegetable matter" referred to in 1874 has been replaced by litter and junk in 1974, the message is still appropriate. Here's what was said about the town's condition a century ago:

"Now that the cold snap is nearly over, we think the most stringent measures should be taken to get the whole town thoroughly cleaned and disinfected at once. The amount of accumulated animal and vegetable matter in the various back yards, lanes and side streets is enough to send half the town into eternity when once decomposition thoroughly sets in."

We have an answer to last week's editorial question, "what-ever happened to the free rabies clinic that was proposed for Halton back in the winter when rabies cases were fairly prevalent?" Dr. R. Keller of the Health of Animals Branch in Brampton, which handles rabies investigations for this area, reports he was waiting a directive from the Halton Regional Council, which he now has. Local clinics are tentatively scheduled for Halton in the latter part of April, he says.

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The magnitude of the construction project at Maplehurst on Milton's northern edge is difficult to convey. Last week we tried to tell the story. Consider the fact there are seven separate buildings and the project cost is \$13,500,000.

## Philosobits

By Edith Sharpe

Do we always hear what people truly say? The art of hearing is enhanced by an understanding and compassionate heart. Often behind idle chatter is a plea for love or friendship, a need for concern and respect. This would apply not only between wives and husbands, but to teenagers and elderly people.

When you labor for love's sake, every day is payday.

Wouldn't it be nice if two weeks of vacationing went as slowly as two weeks of dieting?

It's important that people should know what you stand for and it's equally important that they know what you won't stand for.

To make mistakes is better than trying to escape them by never moving on.

## Letters welcome

Yes, your letters to the editor on topical subjects are welcome. Please be brief and be sure to sign your own name and address to permit us to confirm by telephone.

A pen name is permissible but it reduces the effectiveness of your message. We don't recommend it.

The Champion reserves the right to reject letters it considers libellous or slanderous and to shorten lengthy letters.

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