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# Simply wrong

Some regional councillors seem to have the feeling Halton may be out of its depth in providing birth control advice and services to children under 16-year-old.

That point was pressed several times during debate last week on a report Dr. Peter Cole filed on the program currently operated by the region.

At the heart of the concerns raised by some of the councillors, particularly Burlington's Rob Forbes, was the feeling the region should have a full fledged legal opinion on the program and the role it taken by local government.

Dr. Cole, a controversial figure on occasion, threatened to resign if the program was cut or if services to underage children were restricted.

There is a strong feeling such services should not be provided to children without the knowledge and consent of their parents—because the parents have the final responsibility for the child.

Of course this is a compelling argument, especially in these days of almost constant assault on the rights and integrity of the family unit.

While the argument for parent rights may be compelling—it is one which can too easily blind the unwary to the greater danger involved here—the danger of unwanted teenage pregnancy and its horrendous social and emotional cost.

Some will certainly find it hard to think of Peter Cole as an anti-abortionist, but he in fact presents the best method of reducing the incidence of

abortion—by preventing pregnancy in the first place.

It has been proven time and time again that no matter how strictly children are raised, or how deeply they appeared to be committed to the values of their parents, they must eventually make their own choices on the question of sex and values and these may not always be the choices their parents would approve of.

If this fact is accepted, then it appears perfectly clear children who choose to become sexually active should do so with all of the required information on venereal disease and pregnancy prevention.

Anything less is a form of Russian roulette with their lives and futures and the lives of innocent children, that is simply unacceptable.

Abortion is a messy and inefficient use of resources. It is wasteful and damaging, not only to the child whose life is snuffed out, but to the mother who must live the rest of her life with thought of what might have been.

It is clearly better to prevent this problem from arising in the first place and the only way to do this is to prevent children from engaging in sexual intercourse until they are married or capable of arranging for their contraception, or to provide them with the skills required to make love safely.

The effective solution is obvious and it would be simply wrong for the region to stop the program it is currently involved in, whatever a lawyer might have to say about future liability in the event of a mistake.

# Manor cut

It is not very often we are treated to the vision of a politician admitting a mistake and trying to change directions on a particular issue—but that's what Dave Whiting is doing.

After helping Halton's health and social services committee cut a special Manor program out of the 1983 budget, Mr. Whiting announced last week he has had a change of heart on the question and will appeal to the administration and finance committee to have the funds restored.

At issue here is the future of a special adjuvant program offered in the extended care portion of the regionally operated home for the aged.

Mr. Whiting's change of heart followed circulation of a letter from a volunteer connected with the program deploring the action and urging to move to save the program.

According to the volunteer, the special activities in the program help to bring the elderly residents out of their shells, especially those who are disoriented. By improving their outlook and their feelings about life it helps them live a little longer.

The philosophy of homes for the aged has certainly changed in recent years and

programs such as this one are certainly changed in recent years and programs such as this one are certainly in the forefront of that change.

Such homes have to become more than simply warehouses for senior citizens waiting to die. We must become concerned not only with the fact of life, but with its quality as well.

Certainly regional councillors are to be commended for their efforts to control the growth of their budget and for the "fine tooth comb" through every program is passed before being extended for another year.

Unfortunately, even with the best of systems, there are occasional errors of omission—a particular plan or program does not get the full consideration it deserves before a hasty decision is made.

Mr. Whiting should be commended for admitting his change of heart and taking the action required to correct the oversight.

The administration and finance committee, and ultimately regional council, would also be wise to listen to the words of a person who has learned all the facts on a particular problem.

**NEWS ITEM:**  
TEACHERS WARN OF DANGERS OF ALLOWING COMPUTERS TO BECOME THE "SLAVES" OF YOUNG STUDENTS.



# viewpoint Shady execs

WITH JANE MULLER



When climbing the ladder to success, sometimes there are rungs missed.

According to research, south of the border, vast numbers of high rolling executives weren't exactly honest when they composed their resumes.

Well actually it seems they turned out some not so little white lies. I guess we can forgive those guys with the \$500 suits and big buck cars and homes, as long as they perform in the way their simulated credentials would warrant.

Of course I'm referring to American research, and it is not any reflection on our native execs, or is it? When one considers the kind of salaries executive types pull in, it would be comforting to know that they are at least qualified.

Just glance through the employment section of the classifieds and note that even the most benign positions require certain qualifications and experience.

Perhaps these pinnacles of corporations began to get caught up in their misleading information when their empires began to crumble in the economic squeeze and they found themselves out of work. Could it be that when they once again submitted their personal fictional fact sheets, they were found out?

I agree that experience often outweighs any certificate or degree, but whatever happened to honesty?

It probably lies somewhere near the bottom of the success ladder, but maybe I'm taking those old words of wisdom that power corrupts, too literally. On the other hand it could be that corruption and corporation sound too much alike.

I really do have to feel sorry for the execs who have been tumbled from their plush offices when the companies they headed have gone down the tubes. The high priced workers are finding themselves where their type have not traditionally been—on the pogy line.

How many ads do you see offering employment opportunities to a 59-year-old manager who specializes in supervising the production of plastic fittings for roller skates?

I suppose I have cast a negative air on the higher echelon of big business, but they are targets, especially when it has been discovered that they have been misleading. To be fair, the practise of submitting deceiving resumes is not confined to execs.

Dishonesty is rampant in this area, but who should really care as long as the applicant can indeed perform the tasks involved in the position he seeks.

Just imagine the implications if some bozo passed himself off as a brain surgeon and he actually got into an operating theatre. That's probably a far fetched notion but I think I made my point.

It is really up to the employer, for the sake of the business and those who receive goods and services from it to check out job applicants to ensure their credentials are indeed truthful.

Jobs are too scarce these days for us to tolerate sloppy hiring practises. There are plenty of "qualified" job seekers who should be getting positions rather than those who pretend to have achieved the same type of education or expertise.

Back to the execs again.

On a positive note, the unemployed in these ranks have some form of compensation available to them.

In reaction to the increase in the fall of corporations brought on by the recession, certain insurance companies are offering job insurance to executives.

This type of insurance might gain even more popularity now that big business, which should include all forms of government a thinning down the ranks of chiefs along with the Indians.

A local example is the Halton board of Education, which is attempting to react to declining enrolment by combing supervisory staff by 25 per cent, which sounds better than the actual figure that it reflects—a cut of one position.

It is comforting to know however that we at the lower end of the job ladder aren't the only ones who should be happy to be employed. In these times the word employed evokes some status.

# between the willows

Do I have a story

WITH DON BYERS



"Scribbler," said the scrawled note I found in my mailbox. "I've a story for you that will make your often lack-lustre column come alive."

Gad, nobody but the Guru of Mount Nemo treats me with such disdain. What's the old buzzard up to now?

If you remember, the last time the skinny scoundrel came to see me, he insisted that I write about him with the rancor he so richly deserves.

He also always wins. So what else? Soon I'm squishing through the rotting leaves in the woods, struggling and slipping up Bear's Gap, finally to stand before the entrance to his cave.

As usual, he knew I was there. This time it was not so surprising. You could have heard my huffing and puffing five miles away.

"Come in, Scribbler."

Oh no, it sounded like: "and... here's Johnnie!" I felt like throwing up.

But, overcome with a writer's terminal disease—curiosity—I succumbed to his come-on and entered his rocky residence.

"This," I said, "had better be good."

"Coffee's on the table, dearie," said Mr. G. "and there's a new batch of my cookies."

(Why, I thought, couldn't you live on somebody else's mountain?)

I have never seen the Guru so turned on. He couldn't sit down. Cup clutched in hand, he paced his space.

"You won't believe," he shouted, "the story I have for you."

"Right," I replied, "I probably won't. It comes with the territory."

"Scribbler, nobody likes a jaded columnist," he snapped.

"Jaded?"

"You've got it."

"Okay. Thanks for the coffee, Mrs. G. It's time for me to go," and I drained my cup and prepared to leave.

"You're copping out on the scoop of your life, Scribbler."

The Guru's words didn't just hang there—they danced dizzily around the cave—and in and out of my mind. As devious as I knew him to be, there was something about the tone of his voice that en-

couraged me to take him seriously.

"Let me freshen up your coffee, dearie."

"Thank you. Now Guru, what the hell is The Big Story?"

"Are you ready for this?"

"Gad! Why do you think I'm here?"

"Calm down, Scribbler."

"You are really pushing my patience."

"As you are aware," he pontificated, "since our marriage I have improved upon our humble abode."

"That you have."

"In the process I have increased the size of our cave."

"Hardly a barn-burner of a story," I said.

"But this is. When carving out our new family room, I broke through a wall of rock and found him!"

"Him?"

"Yes, him—Rip Van Nemo. He's older and wiser than I am."

"Oh no! Not another one!"

"Well Scribbler, is that a story or isn't it?"

We may find out next week.

# pages of the past

## One Year Ago

From the March 24, 1982 issue  
For the first time in almost three weeks, Marlene Williams looked relaxed and she even managed to smile a little. Curled up on a sofa with the family pet dog Missy on her lap, Mrs. Williams admitted it was nice to have a place to call home. One week ago, she and her husband John appealed to the public in an effort to locate a temporary home, following the ruin of their own \$90,000 Bell St. home at the hands of an estimated 100 local teenagers Mar. 6.

Education is going to cost Halton taxpayers up to \$100 more in 1982. That's the bad news following the approval last week of a \$131.9 million budget by Halton Board of Education. With only one dissenting vote, trustees approved the package—which will mean a tax increase of \$91 on an average assessment of \$7,000.

Barring a population explosion, Campbellville Public School will close at the end of the next school year. Halton Board of Education trustees voted last week to close the 55-year-old school in June 1983.

A healthy increase to regional chairman Jack Raftis' car allowance has been approved by Halton council. Councillors recently gave their approval to retroactive increases in the chairman's car allowance that will take the amount from the current \$225 to \$310.

## 20 Years Ago

From the March 21, 1963 issue  
Yesterday (Wednesday) the Town of Milton passed its 1,000th day without a traffic fatality.

Commenting on this fine safety record, Chief of Police Ray Andress noted there were still many accidents—most of them caused by carelessness—but few persons injured in these mishaps.

There will be no open deer season in Halton County, members of County council decided at their meeting Tuesday.

The agriculture and reforestation committee report included a suggestion that an open season be held, providing adjoining Peel and Wentworth also participated. The recommendation was deleted from the committee report.

Milton Council has called in planning consultant Derek Little of Municipal Planning Consultants Ltd., to give his advice on a request from Oakville to service a proposed new industry on the outskirts of Milton.

"This is an important matter," explained councillor Norm Pearce at Monday's council meeting. "Mr. Little is our advisor on annexation and his advice would be invaluable."

## 50 Years Ago

From the March 23, 1933 issue  
The Literary Society of McCurdy's Corners will meet in the school house on Wednesday, March 29th. Everybody welcome.

Mayor Syer and Councillor Irving were in Hamilton yesterday attending a conference on relief matters. Judge Harkness, of Toronto, explained the work of the Relief Board, but could not say how long it would continue.

At Monday evening's meeting of the town council the question of continuing relief was discussed. The time is up on March 31st, and up to noon today no word has been received from the government regarding its continuance after the end of this month.

About 4.30 p.m. on Friday last, while Reginald Teasdale was melting some tar on the stove in his home on Commercial Street here the tar ignited and the flames did \$50 damage to the house before the fire was got under control by the fire brigade. The contents of the house were saved. The loss is covered by insurance.

## 75 Years Ago

From the March 19, 1908 issue  
A Guelph man was fined \$25 for purchasing a bottle of "fire water" for a friend who was on the Indian list.

Major Beattie and D.D. Christie have obtained a promise of better train service at Campbellville from C.P.R.

Jas. Harrison of Burlington has sold out his lumber and planing mill business to M. Brennan and Sons, of Hamilton, who will continue to do it on a large scale.

Chas. McClelland of Belgrave, arrived here on Friday evening from Toronto, where he had been visiting relatives. After calling on a few old friends he left for his old home at Hornby to spend a few days there.

Burlington's medical health officer has had water from residents' wells analysed. Two samples were found to contain disease germs and two wells were ordered to be closed. This leads the Burlington Gazette to urge the speedy establishment of a waterworks system.

Miss Bennington of Oakville is visiting friends in town.