

Current events testing them

Ethics instruction is crucial for youngsters today

The notion that we enjoy life in a country where the rights of the individual are cherished and where justice prevails and protects all citizens has recently taken a considerable beating.

To begin with, the Marshall Commission report in Nova Scotia has demonstrated how an entire system including the police, court officials, judges and politicians connived to protect its own interests, even when such actions resulted in a gross injustice which came very close to destroying an innocent individual.

Can we understand the agony of Donald Marshall in being jailed for 11 years for a crime which he did not commit? Does anyone really believe that Donald Marshall is not scarred for life as the result of his treatment by the Nova Scotia establishment?

The ordeal Mr. Marshall underwent is the logical and inescapable result of a political system which has consistently ignored the intent of treaties signed long ago in Nova Scotia between representatives of the Crown and the native peoples.

A recent Toronto newspaper report identified the one treaty which was supported by the Nova Scotia legislature. Known as

Words' Worth

with ERIC BALKIND



Mascarene's Treaty, it was signed in 1725. Curiously, it apparently spelled out the Indians' obligations but said nothing about their rights — a remarkably convenient state of affairs for the colonists.

However, in 1984 a document which is apparently a missing part of the original showed up in the archives. Known as Mascarene's Promises, it very clearly spelled out the rights of the original peoples to fish and hunt.

Given the prevailing climate even when Donald Marshall was convicted you can guess what happened to Mascarene's Promises; they had been blatantly disregarded.

The current inquiry into abuse at the Mount Cashel home for boys in Newfoundland has shown us more of the same. It is another twisted tale of deceit and blatant disregard for decency with just about every-

one involved manoeuvring to lay the blame on anyone within reach. In fact, with an insensitivity which boggles the mind, the local bishop tried to blame the little boys themselves by implying that they could have said "No" to the improper advances of their caregivers.

Can you imagine the agony of the boys who reported that they were being beaten and molested and their fear when they realised that nothing was going to be done about it? Does anyone honestly believe that the victims of Mount Cashel will emerge unscathed from their ordeals at the hands of (some of) the Christian Brothers?

All of which brings us back to the critical question. How do we help our children create a society which will not tolerate injustice and abuse? The only answer I know has to do with awareness and involvement, but that is a considerable challenge.

Parents have to become active by showing children that the only way to ensure changes is to work for them. Kids have to learn that it isn't enough to shake one's head and say "Too bad but what can I do?" It means being prepared to discuss issues at the level of the

children and taking the time to explain in ways which they can understand.

Some matters will be controversial and not easy to talk about, but talk we must, because it is through our involvement and example that children will learn it is the right and the responsibility of citizens to speak up. The words of Junius (c.1769) may be helpful in explaining why we must act:

"The subject who is truly loyal to the Chief Magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures."

There are many issues which deserve discussion and action and the best thing to do is simply to choose one and get going. Children should learn that it isn't necessary to be an expert but it is essential to care enough to become involved.

Many teachers, to their credit, do use current events in the attempt to help young people learn how to make informed, responsible decisions. Let's give them the support and understanding they deserve as they guide kids towards a more just and decent society. Better still, let's provide the ultimate support by showing our kids what it means to be "the subject who is truly loyal."

Make Radio Shack your phone store!



SAVE \$70

Phone answerer
SAVE \$70 on this dual cassette answerer. With call screening, 16 function remote and personal access code. A reliable performer. 43-8390.

16995
~~239.95~~



SAVE \$70

Cordless phone
SAVE \$40 and get cordless convenience. With 30 number memory security code. 43-557

13995
~~179.95~~



Take a message
SAVE \$70 on a handy message taker — the TAD-410 dual-cassette answerer. With handy battery backup. 43-398

9995
~~169.95~~



SAVE \$40

Stylish telephone
SAVE \$40. An attractive phone for around the home. Features: 20-number memory, flash/hold buttons, keypad that lights when handset is lifted. 43-8806

4995
~~99.95~~



SAVE \$30

Go cordless!
And you'll be able to take calls anywhere in or around your home. Has tone/pulse dialing and one-button redial of last number called. 43-8301

6995
~~99.95~~



SAVE \$20

Desktop phone
SAVE \$20 on this wall or desk phone. Includes lighted keypad. Comes in two colours: almond/coffee (43-8804), white/charcoal (43-8905).

2995
~~49.95~~

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| Modular handset cord
Get 25' of extra cord. White. 279-301. 895 | Duplex wall jack
Fits 2 modular devices into 1 jack. 279-357. 495 | Modular-to-modular
25 foot coiled modular cord. 279-356. 695 | Modular line plug
Modular plug to spade lugs. 279-8100. 595 | 14-ft. modular plug
Modular plug ext. cord. 279-8373. Reg. 5.95. 297 |
| Modular handset cord
Same as above, except in almond. 279-302. 895 | Modular jack
Handy surface-mount jack. 279-353. 595 | Modular-to-modular
12 foot coiled modular cord. 279-374. 595 | 25-ft. modular jack
Modular jack to plug. 279-8363. Reg. 6.95. 347 | Duplex wall jack
Fits 2 modular devices into one jack. 279-357. 595 |

Radio Shack

DIVISION INTERTECH CANADA LTD.

Sale ends April 30, 1990
Batteries not included unless specified. We reserve the right to correct typographical errors. Rain Checks will be issued if an item is sold out.

Check the white pages for the Radio Shack store or participating dealer nearest you

Milton routes most popular for disabled transit line

By NORMAN NELSON

A transit system for Halton Region's disabled initiated two years ago will likely be extended for another three years by regional council at its meeting today.

The most popular routes that have emerged "are North Halton to Milton and Milton to Burlington", said Bonnie Ewart, the Region's social services commissioner.

The majority of the trips, she added, involve the disabled attending therapy or day programs in Milton and Burlington.

Known as Pegasus, the program passed its trial period last year when regional council declared it an ongoing service.

The only question that remained was whether Halton Region should continue to contract the service out or run it internally. Staff are recommending contracting it out — at least for the present.

"In view of its newness, the additional costs associated with a regionally operated service and the uncertainties which surround transit issues in general in Halton, it seems premature for the Region to establish a regionally operated system at this time," said Ms Ewart.

One change to be welcomed by clients is a pre-booking system. Previously, a client had to book each appointment, even a regularly occurring one.

"The advantage of a formal pre-booking system is that it saves user and staff time in placing and receiving calls to confirm regular trip bookings," said Ms Ewart. "Under this system, only cancellations need to be called in."

Last year, Pegasus provided a total of 2,735 rides, and that is expected to increase by six per cent this year.

COUNTRY LANE

COUNTRY VIDEO & GAMES

COUNTRY RANGE & PUTT

COUNTRY FROZEN YOGURT

COUNTRY LOBSTER

COUNTRY X-MAS & CRAFTS

COUNTRY BAKERY

ENJOY A DRIVE IN THE COUNTRY
Corner of 10th Line & River Rd.
Arlene from Georgetown Golf Course,
Georgetown, Ont. - Open Daily 7:00
Call for Out-of-Town Directions 877-2254