



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

7—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, March 20, 1996

School teacher won't apologize

Dear Editor:

I realize this letter is fairly long, but there is a lot that needs to be said.

I am an elementary teacher in Oakville who has been teaching for four years. I have earned my way into a profession which is challenging, intensive and virtually thankless. The ignorance about my profession displayed in recent newspaper articles, letters to the editor, and television reports disgusts me. It implies that teachers should feel guilty about their "generous" salaries and "outrageous" benefits.

Well I am not sorry.

I will not apologize for setting goals early in life and striving to reach them through planning and forethought.

I will not apologize for not dropping out of school.

I will not apologize for having the determination, the intelligence, and the desire to do well in high school, get a university degree, do volunteer work, and to work part time to get enough experience to give me a chance at getting into teacher's college.

I will not apologize for being one of the 8.3 per cent of applicants who were actually accepted into the Bachelor of Education programme at York University the year I attended.

I will not apologize for proving myself within the profession during my training and for demonstrating that I would make an excellent teacher.

I will not apologize for being part of only 16 per cent of my graduating class hired right out of teacher's college.

Now that I'm an elementary teacher:

I will not apologize for having 160 minutes of planning time built into my "working hours" when in reality I spend an average 1,100 minutes outside of those "working hours" each week doing work that is necessary if I am to be the type of teacher that I am.

I will not apologize for being entitled to 20 sick days per year should I need them. The media would have you believe I take four weeks off sick every year, when in reality I have averaged four days a year since my career started.

I will not apologize for looking forward to a retirement gratuity of half of one year's salary 28 years down the road, which would be the equivalent of total Christmas bonuses, profit sharing, etc... (take your pick) of \$2,200 throughout my entire career.

Let me use Tim Horton's to illustrate my point. Every employee there just received \$1,000 per year of service to that company in celebration of Tim Horton's 1,000th store opening. Let's take a look: Had I been there for four years instead of teaching, I would have received a bonus of \$4,000. Invested in an average mutual fund in a RRSP for 28 years returning an average 10 per cent per year, that would provide me with \$57,600. But then again, I would have worked there for the six years I was getting my post-secondary education. That would have been 10 years total. Hmm... That works out to \$144,200.

And I will definitely not apologize for my absolute contempt and disgust for those who dare tell me that I do not work hard and that I make too much money.

I can only attribute the current assault on teachers by the public as jealousy.

You could have chosen to attempt this profession. Why didn't you?

Brent Phillips
Oakville

Scholtz family asks for co-operation

Dear Editor:

The Deidre Scholtz Fund seems to have taken on a life of its own.

While we do not wish or want the spontaneity to stop, we would ask you to inform the committee or the Scholtz family so that there is some form of controlled madness. If too many events are planned on conflicting dates a lot of hard and honest work will be for naught.

We also have one more request. Please do not place advertisements or print thank-you messages for donation and work efforts. While it is wonderful, too many merchants, organizations, people and volunteers were left off the last one. We received numerous calls at our home concerning this.

Due to the personal nature of our involvement we will, at an appropriate time, find a way to express our heartfelt thanks for the outpouring of help and support that can only come from the heart of this wonderful and caring community.

Liz and Clem Scholtz
Milton

Editor's note: Phone numbers of the co-ordinating committee are 878-2401 and 878-3401.

Hospital staff deserves high marks

Dear Editor:

Recently, I had the pleasure of being a patient at Milton District Hospital. I say pleasure because of the manner in which I was treated during my stay.

The surgeons, Dr. Hobart and Dr. Punnen, who operated on me, were outstanding and gentlemen in the first degree. After talking with them my fears disappeared, and I knew these were the people I wanted to operate on me. The other attending doctors were such likeable and caring people as well that I knew I was in good hands. Nothing was too much for these wonderful caregivers.

The nursing staff were beautiful people. They were not just needle jabbers or pill pushers, they felt for you and were there to help and comfort you. It was as though you were part of their own family. The two student nurses from Sheridan College were professionals. They were young in years but old in experience. Sheridan College should be very proud of their students. The students like their senior RNs were very competent and practised all of their nursing skills with tender loving care. I would like to thank all of the caregivers who attended to me and all of the other patients under their care. Your job is not an easy

one. It requires a great deal of patience and dedication. Milton is very lucky to have such wonderful people staffing its hospital.

Leslie Parkinson

Sick of problems in front of school

Dear Editor:

I have just come back from one of my daily journeys on Ontario Street, past the picketers at E.C. Drury. Once again, traffic on the highway was snarled, and backed up in both lanes, due to the inconsiderate actions of the strikers.

With the volume of traffic on Highway 25, including large trucks, school buses, drivers in their own personal morning fog, and parents attempting to drop their children off at the school, an accident at this site is a constant concern.

Should an accident happen, the blame will rest not on Mike Harris, nor even on Leah Casselman, but on the people causing the tie-up, the strikers. Any sympathy we might have had for them has vanished.

I hope an accident doesn't happen, but if it does, the people on the picket lines should be charged and prosecuted — for they and they alone will be entirely responsible.

K. Powell, Milton

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Sale in effect 'til March 23/96. Most items available in most stores. Look for the red sale tags. No special orders. Please Note: the term 'our regular Price' refers to Fabricland's regular chain-store price.

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