

SCHOOL DAZE



By John MacRae

Will I Make A Good Teacher?

"I like children and have worked for two years in summer camps. Before I spend a year at Teachers' College are there some tests I could take to determine whether or not I will make a good teacher?"

T. C. — Richmond Hill

Thank you for submitting such a sensible question. For the last few years there has been a surplus of teachers and the competition at the colleges is nearly vicious. Many are counselled out as they proceed through the year. It is unfortunate that they weren't told before they'd sacrificed a year that they wouldn't make good teachers. The examining board at the colleges will not help you make this decision ahead of time. Since the colleges are publicly financed it is not politic for them to refuse admission to a particular student. I remember once they tried to remove a student. When pressed for a reason they admitted that they felt he was overweight. A very fat M.P. brought it to their attention that obesity was not a very valid criteria for determining future success or failure.

The student was reinstated, passed and hired (mainly because of the meat). Usually, then, if you're warm, breathing and not plagued with social diseases you'll be admitted to a Teachers' College.

Unfortunately, liking children is no guarantee either that you'll be successful. Was it W. C. Fields who said, "Anyone who hates dogs and kids can't be all bad"? Wanting to become a teacher because you love kids is similar to a person wanting to become a furniture salesman because he likes wood.

Answer these questions honestly. Are you a good scholar? Even in kindergarten they can ask the most penetrating questions. Technical answers aren't required but you can't afford to mislead or misinform. You should have a wide background in all disciplines so that future teachers don't have to "unlearn."

Are you ambitious and hard-working? In my view, a good teacher has to do a tremendous amount of thinking and planning before she ever sets foot in the classroom. Your aims and objectives have to be so well internalized that no matter what vehicle the children wish to use the teacher will see that skills and concepts are fully developed.

Are you emotionally secure? Success in many professions is easily measured. Does the surgeon lose his patients? Does the mechanic fix the car? But in education there is no product. They used to measure a teacher's success by the percentage of honor papers of her grade 13 students. We finally came to realize that what was happening to the student WHILE he learned was, sometimes more important than WHAT he learned. Your usually dull, listless English class has finally caught fire in discussion, you've finally got them involved to the place where they'll talk excitedly about Shakespeare and the inspector says, "They are very noisy." Will you be secure enough to smile and say, "I'm so pleased to see them this way for a change."

Will you treat students as if they were people? Will you have as much patience with them, as much empathy for them, kindergarten or grade 13 as if they were your own? If you've pushed and tugged at size 12 rubbers trying to get them over size 14 shoes (losing some finger nails in the process) and hear him say, "They're not mine", what will you do? Will you peel them off again with a smile? And when he informs you "They're my sister's but my mom makes me wear them," what will you do? Will you remember how painful growing up is sometimes without a lot of love and understanding?

Being a good teacher demands great mental, physical and emotional strength. If you're prepared to give it then good luck.



(Photo by Photique Studio)

They're Not Olympic Skiers But....

They're not likely to make Canada's Olympic ski team — not for a while anyway — but the above Thornhill Public School youngsters are probably having more fun as they take lessons from Instructor Pierre Thevanez at the Honey Pot Ski Valley on Dufferin Street. The ski school is a winter program carried out by Stan Finch of 26 Arnold Avenue under the auspices of the Thornhill Area Recreation Committee.

Seen above (left to right) are Instructor Thevanez; Ernie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walker, 187 Arnold Avenue; Lisa, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Bate, 37 Thornbank Road; Ross, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Marks, 44 Thornridge Drive; and Anna, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walker.

Prize Winners At Hill's Annual Winter Carnival

(Continued from Page 1)

Victoria & Grey Trophy for victor ball and Dave Bryant and Martin Tidswell won the snowshoe race.

SNOW SCULPTURE AWARDS

Richmond Hill High won most of the snow sculpture awards, the Guaranty Trust Trophy for grade 9 snow sculpture with a mouse. The Fisher Plaque for grade 10 with bleep crest and the Toronto Dominion Bank Plaque for grade 11 with a sculptured grandfather. Bayview Secondary won the Bank of Nova Scotia Plaque for grade 12 with a girl on a snail and the Dynces Plaque for grade 13 large dog.

Walter Scott, with its "Hands Holding the World," won the Taylor Jewellers Plaque for elementary schools. The Skinner Family of 397 Kerrybrook Drive won the award in the private section of the snow sculpture contest with its "happy face." Runners-up were Toby Hatch of 208 Yonge Street South and Susan Hambrook of 96 Arnold Crescent with a carnival wine bottle.

Costume prize winners were Barbara Miller, June McNally, Kelley Duffin, Julia Brazill, Sue Robson, and Ann Sikorski with Mr. and Mrs. John Langman getting the award for best skaters.

SKATING WINNERS

In the skating races, winners were: three-year-old boys, Jeff Marrin; three-year-old girls, Julia Brazill, Sherri Miller, Tonja Walsh; four-year-old boys, Peter Bullock, Bruce Winstone; four-year-old girls, Angela Court, Kathleen Twine, Joan Beck; five-year-old boys (two heats), Kevin McInnis, Stephen Twine, Chris Kristensen — Kenneth Nobes; five-year-old girls, Heather McLean, Sheila Flett, Katherine Thompson; 6-7 year boys, Stephen Kinnari, Derick Baker, Gordon Cornish; 6-7

girls, Karen Wells, Kelly McKenzie, Sue Robson; 8-9 boys, Danny Henderson, Doug McLean, Ben Howe; 8-9 girls, Melissa Tennant, Diane Axelsson and Sandy Simpson; 10-11 boys, Stephen Madden, Neil Putnam, Jeff Joslin; 10-11 girls, Lynn Whittingham, Lorie Stockall, Wendy Monroe; 12-13 boys, Peter Halliday, Jim Sullivan, Jim Barber; 12-13 girls, Leslie McQueen, Heather Brooks, Lori Stockall; 14-15 boys, Norm Stunden, Ray Roberts, Mark Girdler; 14-15 girls, Lori Stockall, Leslie McQueen and Sherr West.

SNOWMOBILE WINNERS

Sunday afternoon brought snowmobile races in the field west of Pleasantville School with a total of 12 thrilling events. Winners were: 0-280 cc stock, Ray Stickland, Calvin Cunningham; 0-300 cc stock, Larry Van Dyke, Peter Van Hoof, Ray Stickland; 0-300 cc modified, Harold Van Dyke; 0-340 cc stock, Grant Watt, Harold Van Dyke; 0-380 cc modified, Dave Mumford, Larry Van Dyke, Earl Herron; 0-400 cc stock, Grant Watt, Dave Harris, Doug Herron; 0-300 cc stock, up to 12 years of age, Tom Cook, Calvin Cunningham, Shayne Bell; 0-340 cc stock, up to 16 years of age, Larry Van Dyke, Dave Jones, Tom Cook; 0-440 cc stock, boys and girls, Earl Lumley, Don McLean, Larry Fredrickson; 0-340 cc stock, powder puff, Barbara Lloyd, Bonnie Van Dyke, Karen Cook; 0-800 cc stock, Dave Brome, Larry Fredrickson; 0-800 cc modified, Dave Mumford, Doug Herron and Harold Van Dyke.

At Monday night's meeting of town council, Councillor Shaun Beggs described the annual event as "a tremendous three days." He paid tribute to the countless citizens who co-operated in making it successful. "It was a great effort by everyone."

Mayor William Lazenby quoted customers at his pharmacy as reporting to him about the "great time out at the carnival. You should see the crowds. It is fantastic the way it is being handled," he said.

You Can Buy Dog Tag By Richmond Hill Mail

Dog owners in Richmond Hill may obtain their dog tags by mail, Councillor David Schiller assured members of town council at its meeting February 7. He was referring to a recent "Letter to the Editor" in "The Liberal" which pointed out the difficulty for some residents of purchasing dog tags only during office hours.

"I have talked to Bylaw Enforcement Officer George Clayton and he assures me that if residents will send the money for the dog licences in by mail, he will return the tag by mail," said Schiller.

Until this year dog licences were issued by the local police, but since January the regional police have not been acting as a collection agency for parking tickets, bicycle licenses, dog tags, etc. it was explained.

"I was more concerned about the runaround in the office," said Councillor Lois Hancey. "We hope to overcome that when we carry out the remodeling of the ground floor working space," replied Mayor William Lazenby.

COMING EVENTS

Richvale Lionettes Valentines Ball. Come out and dance to Peter Garner from the music of Jack Maryfield SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 9:00 - 1:00, 31 Spruce St., Richvale \$12. A couple includes bar and buffet. Everyone welcome. Limited supply of tickets. 889-5566 or 889-3780 for tickets. c2w32

FEBRUARY 11—Friday, 8 - 1. Richmond Hill Kinette's Valentine Dance, Richvale Lions Hall, 31 Spruce Avenue. \$5 couple includes box lunch. Phone 884-4145 daytime or 884-5128 after 6. Proceeds service work. clw33

TUESDAY, February 15 — King City Lions Annual Oyster Supper, Anglican Church, starting 4:30 pm. ***** clw33

SENIOR CITIZENS

We are happy to announce the opening of the York Manor Drop-In Centre which is available for the use of all senior citizens in the regional municipality of York. Visit us from 9 am to 9 pm and join in all our activities at York Manor, Yonge at Eagle St., Newmarket. Why not have lunch or dinner at the nominal cost of 50¢ per meal. For further information call Mr. Barrie Smith, Administrator, 895-5181. clw33

Langstaff Secondary Two-Day Free School Charge Bradford Man With Indecent Assault

A two-day free school was organized by students of Langstaff Secondary last week and was summed up by Susan Glass when she said: "If things like this can happen, then our educational system can't be all that bad." The three student organizers were Susan, Michael Whittaker, president of the student council and Noel Young. All are grade 13 students.

Another indication that the sessions were successful was the fact that a higher than average school attendance was recorded during the two days.

Included in the program were seminars on ecology, the Jesus freaks, mysticism, judo, yoga, arts and crafts, Ontario's prisons, candle-making, gourmet cooking, hockey, psychology, wine-making and a laser demonstration.

RAPS WOMEN'S "LIB"

About 70 persons, students, teachers and a couple of parents, attended the seminar on abortion conducted by Mrs. Gwen Landolt, a Richmond Hill lawyer, mother and chairman of the Right to Life Committee. She told students that women's liberationists who cry about the right to control their own bodies are saying that they should have the right to destroy life rather than put up with an inconvenience.

Her contention was that "the basic qualities of the child are wrapped up at the moment of conception" and that abortion is "the death of a human life." She backed up her argument with colored slides of actual fetuses which had been aborted.

Mrs. Landolt said, "Some people might say this is in bad taste showing pictures like this. I'm sorry — but if you want to talk about abortion, you should see what you're talking about. This is not some abstract ideal. Today there is rarely an instance where an abortion is necessary because the pregnancy is a danger to the mother, so it is a matter of balancing the life of a child against an inconvenience to the mother."

In the question period which followed, some of the young female students challenged her arguments, but others indicated agreement.

NEWMARKET: Art's Variety Novice All-Stars won all three games to take the Silver Stick Championship in Sarnia last week. They were treated to a victory parade on their return home.

York Regional Police have charged a 48-year-old Bradford man with indecently assaulting four young girls. Police said the offenses were alleged to have been committed against two eight year old and two nine year old girls.

NEWMARKET: Cambridge Leaseholds Limited is the fourth entry into the competition for council approval of a second major shopping centre here. S. C. H. e. d. a. n. z. Developments Limited, Community Malls Incorporated and Corporate Properties Limited are the other entrants, all on different sites. The planning committee has asked all developers to prepare marketing studies to justify the need for their proposals.

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