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# In the Spotlight



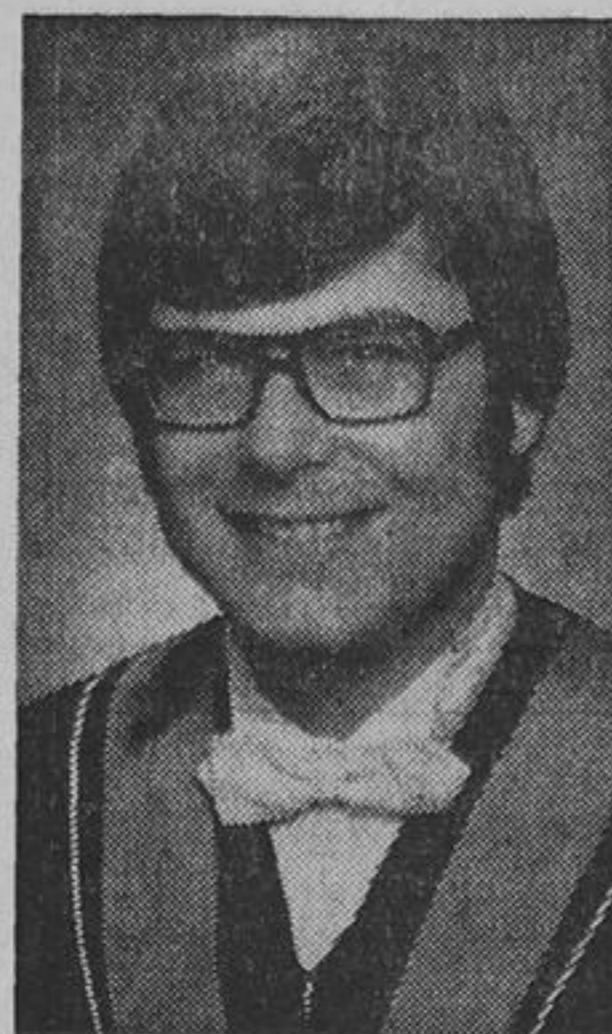
By MONA A. ROBERTSON

## They Have Eyes To See . . .

"No child should be denied a complete 'visual assessment' — between the ages of two and three years — and again before starting kindergarten", Dr. Peter Martinello told me, on a recent visit to his Thornhill office to discuss with him his work among our Northern Indian children.

"This is the stage when visual components (in the eyes) are developing", he explained. "Of course, such things as crossed eyes, or deviation, or eye disease, should cause parents to take a child to an ophthalmologist as early in life as possible", he advised.

I had gone to Dr. Martinello's office to hear about his recent trip among the Ontario Indians, in the outposts north of the Sioux Lookout. Only to learn that during the past two summers Dr. Martinello had also visited outposts north of Moose Factory and James and Thunder Bay areas too.



Dr. Peter Martinello

In the winter of 1971, through the auspices of the Department of National Health and Welfare, Dr. N. E. Woodruff (University of Waterloo — where Dr. Martinello was a former student), instituted a two week program for eye care of our Indian children and their parents. The first program was held during the Christmas break from university classes.

That same summer, Peter Martinello, along with a group of six other student optometrists and two supervisors, took part in an extension of the original program.

During their stay, they managed to see and test 1,500 patients. They returned to classes in the fall, vowing it was "a marvelous and satisfying experience, all round."

This year, following graduation in May, Dr. Martinello returned as a supervisor, accompanied by one student. They left this area June 1, returning at the end of that month. Again the program had been re-organized and they saw approximately 450 patients. Mostly school children.

"Between 40 and 50 per cent of those tested for eye problems required a prescription", he told this amazed listener.

He also told me the only problem with the program, as he sees it, is the time lapse (at present) in re-checking of the patients. He believes eye examinations should be made more frequently than every six months or even once a year. But he added he is hopeful this fault may be rectified in the future.

(Statistics on the various clinics are being compiled now for release at a future date.)

In answer to our question as to why more frequent checkups are needed, Dr. Martinello explained that due to the high degrees of astigmatism-problems found in these Indian children, changes in prescriptions should be available at more frequent intervals.

To remedy the situation — at present — Dr. Martinello said, "We cannot subscribe the whole amount (of correction) with the first visit. Maybe we give them about half the prescription needed, and when the next test is done, six months or even a year later, we increase to the full amount of correction needed. This is the most common error in the present program", he told me.

Answering our query as to the co-operation of the adults and children, he said, "They are all apprehensive at first. However when the children realize we are not there to give 'needles', they react very cheerfully!"

"Some of the Indians, such as a mother from Round Lake, are very health-orientated", he explained; for this mother had brought her seven-month-old child to him for examination.

Four hundred miles northwest of Thunder Bay (the doctor and his companion had to be flown to the outpost), they met with Objibway Indians. They also visited Kenora and Sioux Lookout. In Moose Factory area they met communities of Cree Indians.

Since the clinics were often held in the schools we were interested to hear that teachers come from all over the world to work with Indian students.

"And the school principals helped make our program (Continued on Page 14)

# Letters to the Editors

## HONEST PEACE WITH THEIR CONSCIENCES

Dear Mr. Editor:

Concern that a grade 13 examination paper should fall into the hands of some York County High school students prior to the writing of this important examination should not be restricted to educators, but shared by all citizens.

After 13 years of training and guidance a graduation class has accepted the easy, unethical way of passing from high school by using a circumvention of honesty.

By their actions these students must give up such words as honorable, fair, right, just, equitable, square, above-board, and a host of like descriptions when assessing their personalities.

If the purpose of our educational system is to prepare our young folk for the cold cruel world of business where to take any advantage for personal gain is accepted, then this particular group of students have learned their lessons well.

I write this letter not to upset our educators, or the par-

ents, but in the hope that a good many of the offending students will reassess their moral convictions and make an honest peace with their consciences.

ROBERT THOMPSON  
173 Traybourn Drive,  
Richmond Hill.

## Village's Pioneer Look Will Be Kept

Full consideration will be given to maintaining the pioneer character of Kennedy Road in Unionville in any future development, it was agreed at the July 13 meeting of the Region of York Council in Newmarket, following a report of its engineering committee chaired by Mayor Anthony Roman of Markham.

In its report the committee said that residents of the village had been concerned about any future plans for the road, especially in the Main Street area of the village.

This concern of the people has been recently magnified by rumors of construction to four lanes through the area," the report said.

Council was informed that increasing traffic on Kennedy Road South, possible change in traffic patterns due to the proposed airport and development in the Unionville section would no doubt mean additional arteries in the area.

However, further study, both on an economic and ecological basis, as well as technical basis, will be necessary before any definite recommendations can be made.

Council agreed to inform Markham Town Council that no commitment had been made by the Regional Corporation on the future of the road, but it would be kept fully advised of any upcoming plans.

## Consider Political Clubs York Schools

York County Board of Education has agreed to draft a policy regarding the formation of political clubs in the secondary schools, providing they have a staff sponsor.

The motion was put forward by Trustee John Honsberger of Markham at the July meeting, following discussion of a letter from John Roberts MP, York Simcoe, asking if there were any regulations against the clubs, and the board's new policy will be circulated to schools and other interested groups for discussion before coming back for decision.

## Old Fashioned Words

(Wall Street Journal)

When slugging First Baseman Orlando Cepeda was traded to the Oakland A's recently by the Atlanta Braves, he refused to criticize his former employers or fans.

"Things just didn't work out in Atlanta," he explained simply. "I don't want to be like some other players who knock the club when they leave. They were good to me. They took care of me last year when my knee had to be operated on."

Then there is the case of Tucker Frederickson, New York Giant running back who recently announced his retirement at age 29.

The injury-prone Mr. Frederickson, long publicized by bad knees, said that he was retiring because he can't play the way he would like. "I leave with fantastic memories and the friendship of a lot of great people, including the Maras (who own the football Giants) who are super," he said. "Many fine things happened to me as the result of my association with the Giants and I'm thankful, believe me."

In recent years a trade or retirement was usually the signal for another book explaining how athletes are little more than exploited chattels. And the more seamy the charges and revelations about one's former teammates or owners, the greater the chance of the book's success, frequently opening the door to new careers as TV commentators, social critics, even political pundits.

In an age when athletes and ex-politicians are falling all over themselves to detail everything that ever went on behind the scenes, and when every scullery maid who ever peeled a potato in the White House is bursting to give us the inside story of the Presidency, it sounds strange to be reminded of loyalty. It also sounds strange to hear star athletes blame their fortunes not on unlightened management and a corrupt system, but on their own luck and circumstance.

But, strange as it sounds, it also sounds pleasant to the ear — just as it sounds pleasant to the ear to hear again such old-fashioned words as "gratitude," "thanks," and "friendship."

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# The Scottish World Festival

Aug 17-20 at the CNE

This year, the Canadian National Exhibition is staging the greatest Highland happening in North American history with a four-day event that gathers pipers, drummers, dancers and clan members from around the world. Festival highlights will include:

- Aug. 17—a rousing **Parade of Massed Bands** through Toronto, with over 2,000 pipers taking part.
  - Aug. 18—**Trooping of the Colours** by the Toronto Scottish Regiment at the CNE Grandstand.
  - Aug. 19 & 20—**The Inter-Continental Pipe Band and Drum Major Championships** (first time held outside the U.K.) when 600 of Scotland's best pipers and drummers will compete with bandsmen from North America and countries such as New Zealand and Australia.
  - Aug. 19 & 20—**The Inter-Continental Highland Dancing Championships** featuring over 700 international dancers in 11 classes of competition.
  - Aug. 17 through 20—**A Giant Military Tattoo** every evening at the CNE Grandstand, bringing each fantastic day to a fitting climax. Taking the salute will be: Thur. Aug. 17—His Grace the Duke of Argyll, Clan Campbell Chief; Fri. Aug. 18—General Sir Gordon H. A. MacMillan, KCB, KCVO, Clan MacMillan Chief; Sat. Aug. 19—William MacPherson of Cluny, Clan MacPherson Chief; Sun. Aug. 20—Rt. Hon. Lord Macdonald, Clan Macdonald Chief.
- Also, free on the Bandshell, the world-famous **Band of the Scots Guards** and a **Scottish Variety Show**. Just one more attraction of the world's largest annual exhibition, visited by over 3 million people every year. Here's excitement, entertainment and fun for the whole family. **Start planning now to be a part of the Scottish World Festival.**

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## Canadian National Exhibition

Aug 16-Sept 4 Toronto•Open Sundays  
Admission to Grounds: Adults \$1.50, Students \$1.00, Children .50

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# Property Tax Needs Reform Not Abolition According To Nader

Property owners in Ontario are not alone in their fight to have the burden of education costs removed from the municipal taxpayer. Their fight has been quite successful over a matter of many years, so that now the provincial government picks up an overall average of 60% of the costs.

The amount of grant varies from area to area, those that "have not" receiving a larger percentage (up to 80%) and those that "have" receiving less, which goes a long way to providing equality of education opportunity throughout the province.

Of course in Canada, education is the responsibility of the provinces, and no grants are forthcoming from the federal government. In France, the national government contributes 93%, Eng-

land's 19%, Sweden's 60% and Denmark's 65%.

In the United States 52% of the money collected for running the schools comes from local property taxes. The rest is divided 41% from state sources and 7% from the federal government.

In that country also, the California State Supreme Court has ruled that reliance on the local property tax to finance education is unconstitutional because "it makes the quality of a child's education dependent on the wealth of parents and neighbors. To allot more educational dollars to the children of one district than to those of another merely because of the fortuitous presence of such property is to make the quality of education dependent on the location of private, commercial and industrial establishments. Surely this is to rely upon the most irrelevant factors as the basis of education. . . affluent districts can have their cake and eat it, too. They can provide a high quality education for their children while paying lower taxes. Poor districts, by contrast, have no cake at all." (This decision along with similar ones is at present under review by the U.S. Supreme Court.)

The National Educational Association with 1.1 million members has gone on record as supporting a proposal for one-third federal financing of education to provide poorer states with the means to raise their per-pupil expenditures which range from a high of \$1,468 in New York to \$543 in Alabama.

The NEA Executive Secretary Sam Lambert advocates transfer of the cost of education from the local property tax to the federal income tax. Then he would make financial support for the defense department dependent on the property tax—which in 47 states is subject to voter approval. "The results," he predicted, "will be less war and more education."

President Nixon has also proposed to relieve property taxes by imposing a national value-added sales tax.

But, according to Albert Shanker, president of the United Federation of Teachers, writing recently in the New York Times, people are beginning to realize that the attack on the property tax has gone too far—"that it is not the property tax as such which is the problem, but the balkanized local property tax." He notes that local income taxes would have the same balkanizing effect as local property taxes. Funk & Wagnell says that balkanizing means separating into small, dissenting political units.

Mr. Shanker notes that this point was argued by Dr. Mason Gaffney, in his paper, "The Property Tax Is A Progressive Tax," presented last September at the annual conference of the National Tax Association. "A local income tax similarly lets tax havens attract the rich by low rates." He then claimed that whether a property tax is regressive or progressive depends on its administration. "But all taxes are applied regressively and

income tax may be the most administered of the lot."

Dr. Gaffney maintains that "to own property is to be rich in the measure that one owns, and to tax the quality of richness should not be presumed to burden the poor more than the rich."

"A common argument for sales and income taxes over property taxes," according to Dr. Gaffney, "is their broad base, discouraging the poor from voting for public extravagance."

"If the property tax were really regressive, one would expect the wealthy to prefer it; instead they have pressed for sales taxes," Dr. Gaffney pointed out. "It is the rich who have second homes, hobby farms, summer resorts, tax shelters, ski houses, Caribbean hideaways." (Continued on Page 14)