

Letters

Rene Brunelle hasn't yet looked at seniors' resolutions from June

Dear Mr. Editor:
We see in the Ontario Hansard that MLA Reid of Rainy River was quite surprised when the minister of community and social services denied having received a copy of the USCO (United Senior Citizens of Ontario) resolutions, and so was I.

As a member of the seniors' 1973-74 resolutions committee I feel it is intolerable that matters considered in May and adopted in June at the annual conference at McMaster University, Hamilton, should still be outstanding, seven months later. I contacted the USCO office and was assured copies of the resolutions to be considered were mailed to all members of the legislature for approval and, hopefully, some research.

There is a great dishonesty in quoting percentages. When politicians declare they give old age pensioners a five percent increase, this amounts to \$70.21 annually. But the five percent they give themselves amounts to \$1,800.

Canada's health minister tells us that \$250 per month over and above the old age pension is his objective in the 1980's. What he fails to

say is that only about three out of every 100 pensioners will be eligible for this extra sum. (we quote J. Clare, tax consultant) and more than half, or more than a million pensioners won't receive a penny more than their current allotment.

Let's cite the case of two retirees. One is David Lewis, retired leader of the national NDP. During the next 14 years he will collect \$15,045.12, whereas, a poorer man, whose earnings were only half of the Canada Pension Plan, will receive in the same 14 years some \$7,400 less than Lewis.

Mr. Lewis teaches law at

Taxpayer 'ripping'

Dear Mr. Editor:
Apparently countless governments have fallen into the trap of luring industry into their jurisdictions.

These industries will enjoy a tax break but the taxpayers will be forced to subsidize what amounts to yet another 'ripping'.
WILLIAM RAE,
29 Savarin Street,
Scarboro

nearby York University. Surely he must experience a sense of shame at the inequality of social and economic help available to one class of Canadians but not to others, who certainly deserve better treatment.

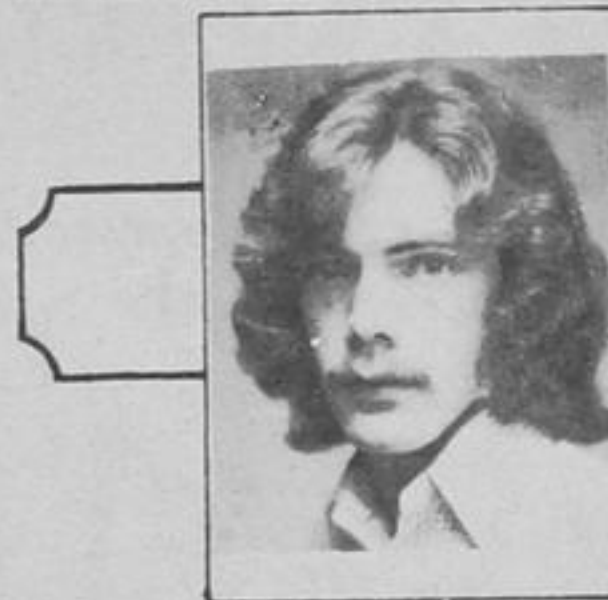
May we suggest Lewis stay at York University, but change his job to that of "Pensioners' Director of Activities" with a salary paid by the federal government and help pensioners learn how to live and become an asset to Canada.

The health minister has said he will be distributing identity cards to all two million pensioners which will enable them to claim discounts from retail merchants who welcome cash customers.

Within 12 months, I believe, half a million of these cards will be lost, stolen or sold and reactivated by non-pensioners, thereby losing their credibility.

Old people don't like to be badgered in public and will back off rather than dispute the point with a suspicious shop clerk. Seems to me someone in Ottawa doesn't know his nose from a hole in the ground.

JOHN FERGUSON,
United Senior Citizens 515,
8253 Islington Avenue,
Woodbridge, Ontario.



rock talk by paul jones

To make any evaluation of British rock music, one must make constant comparisons to North American rock music. Thus this article, dealing with the practical aspects and not with the critical, will probably seem more like a guide to the styles of both British and Canadian - American rock music than that of just British music.

In North America a constant change is occurring in today's rock music. That is, of course, with the exception of heavy rock. Generally speaking last year's rock music is next year's pop music and the following year's contemporary music.

At times, it becomes almost impossible to explain the true concept of rock music because rock has so many different faces: country, blues and folk music.

A better name for general rock music, and one which is used quite often (though differently) in Great Britain, is "pop music". This term has taken in a much larger scope than the term "rock music", for it also includes bubblegum music (better known as commercial music), ballads and all sorts of music which lie somewhere between rock music, contemporary (or popular) music and everyday mood music (more commonly known as muzak).

Unfortunately the term "pop music" has been used so loosely that it has almost defaced the value of modern music in the western world. This has happened to the extent that when a piece of music is referred to as pop, it is taken for granted it is nothing more than a piece of commercial garbage, or packaging that is digestible only to youngsters or to others who have neither the time nor the interest to judge the value of the produce they're listening to.

I believe this term, in the manner just used, is closely connected to that of rock music in Great Britain. It should be noted at this point, that most of the music played by British artists in Great Britain is never heard by Canadians.

Vocational training and job placement assistance are among the services provided by the March of Dimes to physically disabled adults.

British rock (pop) music

Pop music, in the true sense, is any form of music that is accepted by the majority of modern music listeners. Because the majority of modern music listeners in Great Britain and North America lie in different age groups, the music considered "pop" varies in translation.

Probably the most significant reason why pop music in Great Britain and North America is different can be attributed to the airplay given on the radio stations. Only a handful of "pop" radio stations exist in Great Britain and none of these give a steady diet of the various types of rock or pop music available.

Thus the market becomes confined to a certain area. And because "pop" stations in England seem to play only "single" records, the market becomes confined to commercial pop records, directed almost entirely at the younger record buyers.

Albums have less appeal to the younger crowd. Because they get little play on radio stations they sell only on the merit of the recording artist. It's quite interesting to note how the charts in Great Britain and North America also vary in content.

In Great Britain 75 percent of the single records on the charts are by British artists, while only 25 percent are by international artists (mainly Americans, with an odd Canadian here and there). The same holds true in America where 75 percent of the single records are by American artists (with the odd Canadian) and 25 percent are international.

The album charts are indeed different. In Great Britain 85 percent of the albums are by British artists, while in America just 65 percent are by American or Canadian artists. This shows clearly why North America, where artists are given much more airplay, carries a larger variety of artists. It is even more evident after checking out exactly what the content of singles is.

In the "top 20" charts in Great Britain 45 percent can be considered very commercial, while soul music accounts for 20 percent, rock music 20 percent and contemporary music 15 percent. In North America the same charts show a completely different story. Here commercial music accounts for only five percent, while contemporary (including

folk rock) accounts for 45 percent. Soul and rock each account for 25 percent.

The obvious reason for contemporary being the largest seller in North America is that the single record buyers cover a larger age group (10-30), while in Great Britain it is 10-18.

Successful artists in North America are from a greater variety because there are more radio stations, thus better exposure to the public. In the Toronto area alone there are at least three times as many English speaking radio stations on a simple car radio as there are on any radio receiver in Great Britain.

While it was mentioned how the "pop" radio stations in Britain gear their music towards the younger set, the same holds true towards the television networks. Two of the more predominant examples are "Lift Off" and "Top of the Pops".

Even artists of large stature such as Elton John and Paul McCartney will play on "Top of the Pops" for next to nothing. These artists would play on North American TV only if the price was right.

So why do they play here for nothing? It's the exposure they're given. This TV program, even more than the few radio stations available, puts them directly in touch with the record buyers.

What I find amusing about "Top of the Pops" is that the bands performing are doing so with canned music. They just pretend they are playing and mouth the words being sung. But even so the bands, some known worldwide, can be seen every week of the year on nationally televised TV.

Another point is that even though only a few artists from North America actually make it on the stations, their albums can be bought quite easily over here. The successes are quite limited. It seems a lot of teenagers who grow out of the stage of buying singles, buy international material.

Generally speaking, the older teens go through stages of buying heavy or specialized rock music, then many go to soul music, then lastly drift towards contemporary music. And as with my previous analysis and opinions, exceptions can be found easily.

NEXT WEEK — THE BEST OF 1974 (PART 1)

History proves teachers took drastic salary cuts

Dear Mr. Editor:
It is tolerable enough for The Liberal to be reactionary and anti-labor. However, in making its case against employee groups, it should get its facts straight.

It was reported in two articles by Jim Irving (December 18) that the York teachers had requested re-negotiation of the cost of living allowance.

It was also reported the elementary teachers had closed their request with the following statement underlined: "We also feel a positive response from the board would contribute to improved employer-employee relations."

This statement was underlined by the board in the production of its agenda — not by the teachers. I suppose the board did not realize the simplicity of The Liberal reporters.

Jim Irving feels teachers would never accept a decrease in salaries come a recession. But history

proves him wrong. In the 1930's teachers, along with

Parents council to watch school board next 2 years

Dear Mr. Editor:
Some executive members of the Thornhill Parents' Council were present at the inaugural meeting of the York County Board of Education January 8.

The council will be watching closely the actions of the board during the next two years. Most important, the council wants the public to be aware of the board's actions, as they affect us closely.

First, we are concerned as taxpayers and second as parents of children who we hope will be educated to meet the challenges of the future — in strikeless schools.

The council members — some 400 strong — receive notices of board meeting proceedings.

most employee groups, took drastic cuts in salaries. But

Parents council to watch school board next 2 years

P.S. Ross Associates, now studying the administration structure of the board, have met recently with the council for its input.

The Thornhill Parents' Council hopes to meet in the near future with Don Deacon, MLA York Centre. A public meeting with Tom Wells, minister of education, is also hoped for some time in February.

Schools in Thornhill and north of Highway 7 in the new portion of Richmond Hill are represented in the council. For further information regarding the council and its work, call Ed Drenfeld (889-1178) or Ronne Dale (889-6932).

MARIAN HOHENER,
216 Duncan Road,
Thornhill, Ontario

that was obviously before Irving's time.

The Liberal seems to resent the teachers' request for reasonable salaries. But according to the Ministry of Education the number of persons leaving teaching in Ontario because of disillusionment (working conditions, salaries) has doubled to 2000 per year in the last few years.

It would seem then those teachers with the fortitude to stay with the job have a reasonable case for improving salaries and working conditions.

Next year's teacher shortage will push salaries up anyway. But in the meantime, boards of education will be "scraping the bottom of the barrel" to staff our schools.

The Liberal also complains of teachers wanting to change a contract after agreeing to it. However I would point out the teachers were forced to accept their contract under the threat of heavy fines by the provincial government.

A contract signed under duress is hardly the sacred cow that The Liberal makes it out to be.

RALPH BIRCH,
President, YCETAF,
4421 Highway 7,
Unionville, Ontario

YESTER DAYS..

Teachers' \$1,000 a year pay bothered trustees

Education has been of great interest to the people of Richmond Hill since Squire James Miles, using a Bible as a textbook, taught the youngsters of the settlement to read and write in his Sunday school, established in 1867.

The Liberal files of 1888 record that T. H. Redditt had resigned as head master of the high school August 6 and an advertisement was authorized by the school board for applicants for the position at an annual salary of \$1,000. An attempt by three members of the board to have the salary offered reduced to \$800, failed.

Members of the board in that year were Messrs. Brown (chairman), Switzer, Crosby, Trench, Glass, Naughton, Savage, Marsh, Duncan and Dr. Wilson. Three of these trustees also sat on the village council — Crosby, Trench and Wilson. This led to frequent editorial clashes between The Liberal and The Herald, its opposition newspaper in the village, and whose editor had been defeated in a school board election.

A news item in the same issue stated the next entrance examination to high schools and collegiate institutes would be held December 19, 20 and 21 of that year. The first day exams would be in literature and writing, the second day's in arithmetic, drawing, composition and dictation and the third day's in grammar, geography and history.

agriculture would be offered at the July 1889 examinations. But this would be considered an additional subject and any marks obtained on it would be considered a bonus. This would indicate two entrance examinations a year, and probably two dates during the school year when new students would be accepted.

The Liberal editor, a strong temperance advocate, commented that no provision had been made for a paper to be written on scientific temperance, "so it seems that the subject is not placed on an equal footing with the study of agriculture."

The next week a news item reported that of 14 candidates recommended for admission to the local high school, only three passed the examinations. Each candidate was required to pay a \$5 fee to the Department of Education.

Editorially, The Liberal blamed the Minister of Education with using a system of alternating leniency and severity in attempting to control the supply of teachers in the province.

Two weeks later the news columns recorded the fact that the department had authorized headmasters to allow all students who had obtained an aggregate of 600 marks at recent third class examinations to proceed with second class work, even if they failed to obtain the minimum required marks in each subject.

Old minority block now in majority

Dear Mr. Editor:


On Monday, January 6, I attended the inaugural meeting of the new Richmond Hill Town Council. At this time, the letting of a library contract was discussed.

Two councillors wanted the contract to be let to the lowest tenderer, who was some \$16,000 under the next one. The majority of the council voted against this and awarded the contract to the second bidder.

Normally, with all the talk in the immediately past election of the necessity for economy in municipal spending, one has to wonder at this and to further wonder whether the so called "block voting" that was complained of last term is being renewed.

This time, however, the previous minority block is in the majority.

It will be interesting to follow the pattern of council voting in the next two years.
ERIC GEORGE,
413 North Taylor Mills Drive,
Richmond Hill, Ontario.



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