

Dr. Morgentaler should be freed

Regardless of the merits of the present law on abortion and regardless of the 'pros and cons' of the abortion issue, Dr. Henry Morgentaler should be freed from the Quebec prison he entered last week as a convicted abortionist.

Federal Justice Minister Otto Lang made a mistake when he refused to recommend Cabinet clemency for the doctor after only a small majority of the Supreme Court upheld the conviction.

Morgentaler was found innocent by a jury of his peers.

The Quebec Court of Appeals

overturned that decision on a point of law.

Such an overturning of a jury decision was unprecedented in our history, unprecedented since the time when star chamber injustice was overdone.

That precedent must be struck down, at peril.

The right of a jury to refuse to convict a citizen, regardless of the technicalities of the law, has long been a supreme bastion of our freedom.

Justice Minister Lang should free Morgentaler, until and unless, the doctor is convicted by a jury.

Public strike authority now

Strikes in essential public services are not in the public interest.

Right now such strikes are in the interest of those working in essential public services.

There must be devised an alternative which will serve the interest of the essential public services worker, without strikes.

The alternative should be a public authority to which unfairly paid essential services employees can turn to get an order for a fair working income.

That public authority should also have the power to punish by way of fines such workers and working organizations in essential services who strike after the authority has rendered fair judgment.

There should not be cases like last year when Toronto Transit Commission employees had to strike to get a pay level high enough to attract enough drivers to adequately man the system's buses.

Neither should there be cases where an exchange newspaper arrives at this office from an adjacent municipality two months after it was mailed, as occurred last week.

Nor should there be cases such as that recently where a Southwestern Ontario garden supply firm reported losing half a million dollars due to perishable shipments being delayed by a postal service strike.

There shouldn't be teacher strikes like the one now in Ottawa or the recent one here in York Region. But that is the only way teachers have hitherto had available to get fair pay.

Good citizenship at Lake Wilcox

We pay tribute to the public-spirited citizens of the Lake Wilcox area for their offers of assistance in providing material and labor to make the neighborhood centre to be built there this year a reality.

The Town of Richmond Hill sought and obtained permission to issue debentures to the value of \$50,000 to build the hall. But in the meantime inflation had seen the estimated cost balloon to \$93,000.

With the help of the people of the area the town staff expects to be able to erect the building for the money available.

It will replace a hall on the same site on Woodland Avenue which had been purchased and maintained for a number of years through the same spirit of community concern.

Unfortunately, that building, although it was filling a great need in the area was found to be unsafe and had to be torn down.

It was the same spirit of community involvement which resulted in the gift to the town of the site for the Bond Lake Arena and Ozark Park which will become an active recreation facility as funds become available.

Nor has this spirit of helping the municipality to provide needed facilities been confined to the northern part of town.

The Lions Hall on Centre Street East was made possible through public subscriptions, as was the first artificial

ice surface in the old arena and the first lights for the ball diamond in the central Town Park.

The southern area of town can also point with pride to similar accomplishments.

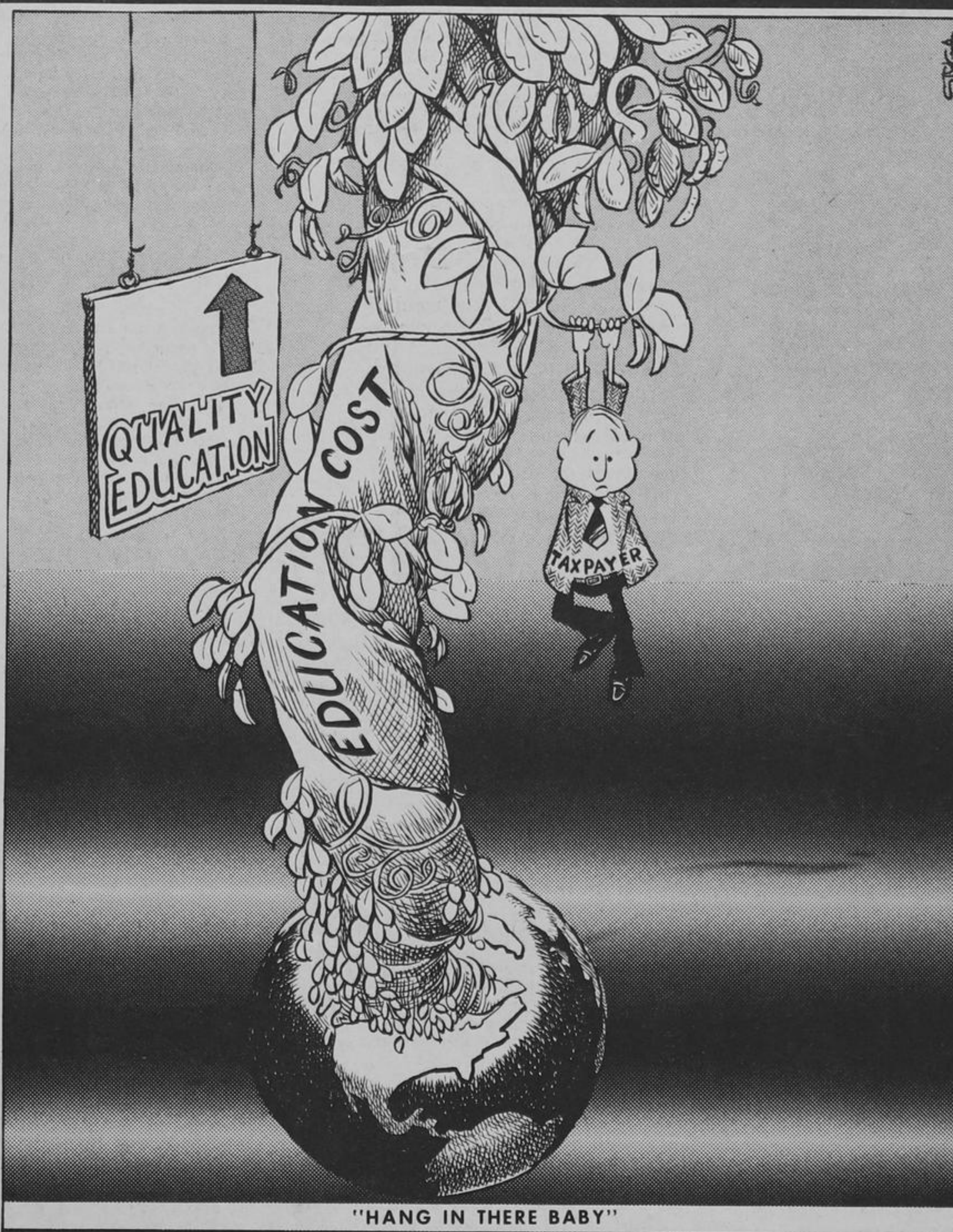
What is now the Richvale Lions Hall was first built a quarter of a century ago through public donations of money, material and labor.

More recently, in fact just last November, fathers in the neighborhood of a park area in the BAIF subdivision donated their labor to the town in erecting playground equipment so the developers' monetary contribution went twice as far.

This is the spirit exhibited by groups of individuals who use town-provided equipment each winter to flood and maintain an ice surface on outdoor rinks, so they and their neighbors and their families will have a place to pleasure skate and indulge in the odd game of shinny.

And this is the spirit which will mold into one community this rather unwieldy parcel of land, known as Richmond Hill, whose boundaries were arbitrarily set by the provincial government.

With the good of the whole of paramount importance to every citizen, and with their help the municipal coffers can be stretched to provide much-needed recreation facilities over a much-shorter period of time.



Viewpoint from the regional desk



BY JIM IRVING

I don't know if it's because I'm doing this column, or if I'm just getting older and meaner, or both.

But I seem to find more and more to criticize every time I go to a meeting, where any of our elected representatives are holding forth, when I start to write about it afterwards. Things I might not have reflected on too much at the time, other than experiencing a momentary irritation, easily gain momentum once I sit down at the typewriter.

But as E.M. Forster said: "How do I know what I think until I see what I say?"

So you see I really don't know I think all these bad things until I start to punch away. Now don't say you haven't been warned.

For example, I find all sorts of thoughts starting to form as I recall the earnest efforts of York County Board of Education last week to decide just what kind of jobs they should provide for students when the students are let loose this summer.

Should they paint playground equipment? Build playgrounds, or do library work and research projects? These were some of the choices open to them under the Ontario government sponsored summer employment program for youth called "Experience '75".

The latter is the kind of terminology the bureaucrats and other politicians love, for it gives them the feeling they're right up there with God and TV producers as moulders of our destinies.

No person, apparently, should just grab his lunch bucket in the morning and go off to work wheeling bricks, or piling lumber.

For that, according to the Solomons of the school board, doesn't provide a "learning experience".

Such work, says Trustee William Laird of Georgina Township — a sound thinking man most of the time — provides only "menial labor".

And because of that, he would vote against it. "I fail to see any learning experience in clearing rocks," Mr. Laird said. "I don't see kids responding".

This business of a "learning experience" was also uppermost in the arguments of Vice-chairman Craig Cribar of Newmarket and Gary Adamson of Markham.

Both seemed to tremble at the idea any student should take up a pick and shovel, without receiving some sort of acknowledgment of his spiritual and academic progress, well recorded on his pay cheque at the end of the week, along with those other deductions for unemployment and income tax.

In the same breath, I wonder if the trustees constant preoccupation with their honorariums could be considered under the heading "Earning Experience".

What a handy expression "learning experience" is. What an easy phrase to latch on to show you've really pinpointed what education is all about.

That and "creative", another popular word with educators.

All students must be "creative" now, or the whole educational system is considered a bust.

By the time a kid is 12 years old, if he hasn't picked up from the playground — and/or from the copies of the male and female skin magazines lying around the house — that he should by virtue of these same extreme years, be the world's greatest lover — when everyone knows it takes until you're at least 15 — he gets it from the school system that he is somewhat remiss if he isn't functioning in the manner of one of the so-called creative giants for this same reason.

Or maybe it's just the parents who get worked up about that kind of talk; perhaps they're a bit too humble about their own "creative" skills.

It's too bad if they are. Because they shouldn't feel any differently from anyone else where "creativity" is concerned.

For only God is creative. The rest of us, in varying degrees, are only imitative.

School board's 'real gone man'

manifest themselves so overtly and feel that other world is completely removed from their orbit.

Not that possessing a good chunk of this so-called creative stuff, doesn't sometimes help to do strange things to its owners, causing all kinds of hangups and frustrations, at times.

But it's bad enough to have these things happen naturally, without some youngster having additional burdens thrust upon him because some well meaning, but often misguided group, gives him the impression he is lacking somewhere along the line because he doesn't appear concerned about the "creative" end of things.

Well, that "creative" urge will asset itself soon enough — often before a person is really able to handle it — without pressing from all sides to seek it in everything you do.

In the meantime, let the student work outdoors in the summer as a laborer, without obligations to write a symphony when the building is finally put up, or the ditch finally dug.

Or let her work as a waitress and worry about the kind of tips she will get, and observe how people treat her in this "menial role," without feeling she should have spent the summer explaining "War and Peace" to some children's class at the school library.

The "learning experience" they acquire will often outstrip that of the textbook ones so valued by the educators. And it will be done without pressure, or effort, or realization that it's happening.

Until one day these same people sit down to deal with a situation that by all standards should be strange to them, only to find that they've known it all from some place before.

And the experience they draw from will most likely come from those long ago days when they worked at some "menial" task mixing mortar alongside some strange man with a funny hat and a funnier tongue.

Or else ran around refilling coffee cups for people who laughed too much, or drew diagrams on the table cloth.

And they'll be a little surprised they were able to cope with the situation so handsily.

But they shouldn't be. Because it will all stem from having kept their eyes and ears open at all times.

Not just when they were reading, attending a lecture, or listening to a piece of music.

But also on those days when they were sitting at home brooding because none of the jobs available to them offered a "learning experience".

Don Deacon says



MLA, YORK CENTRE

Tom Wells' strong reaction to the demands indicated by Toronto and Ottawa teachers is not unexpected.

I am sure a poll would indicate an overwhelming identical reaction by the public.

A 40 percent increase in salary is several times the increase in cost of living.

Last year the Toronto teachers settled for a 13.2 percent increase which compares with the increase in the cost of living of under 12 percent in the same period.

If boards of education were experiencing a persistent shortage in high turnover rates, a major increase in salaries might be justified.

This is the situation which existed last year when hospital workers and TTC drivers demanded and were awarded unusually large increases.

However, at current scales there are plenty of

Youths feel unfairly treated at tournament

Dear Editor:

This complaint should be going to the Legion but it would probably get no further than the garbage can.

Tuesday (March 25) two of us went to the Midget Hockey Tournament, purchased tickets and had our right hands stamped by an elderly gent at 1 pm.

Then we proceeded past the ticket booth where we were checked for our stamp and ticket by Jack Craig, a Legion member.

At three pm a friend arrived at the front door and one of us went out to talk to him.

When he tried to return he was stopped by the same man (and refused admission) who claimed the stamp was on the wrong hand, even though our tickets stated the purchasing date was Tuesday.

We remained at the door trying to get somebody to listen to us when the head of security arrived and proceeded to evict us from the premises.

He did this without listening to our explanation and becoming rather belligerent and foul-mouthed, which caused us to retaliate in kind.

All was in vain due to the immense proportions and lack of communication of the security head.

We feel the same situation would not have occurred had we been older.

This is just one example. We wonder how many other people have been subjected to this type of treatment.

It seems to us that unless someone speaks up about this injustice it will continue unchecked until someone gets hurt.

Therefore we three youths are writing this as an appeal for better supervision at what is supposed to be one of Canada's largest midget tournaments.

BOB HILL,
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TOM MacRAE,
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BILL VENNARD,
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Richmond Hill, Ont.

Happiness is poetry for carnival committee

Dear Editor:

During the weekend of February 8 and 9, the Richmond Hill Winter Carnival was held.

It was the opinion of the carnival committee most people enjoyed themselves, as we have received no adverse comments or criticism.

It is not too often people take the time to let it be known that a good time was had by all.

However, at our last committee meeting, the following poem was presented to us:

There once was a carnival,
So jolly it was
With races and rides
And a touch of love.

Skating and sculpturing
Did it all
With help from Oopki
And children small.

There was hockey, broom ball
And curling too,
But the game with McConaghy
Pleasantville blew.

Bringing the people together is quite a feat,
The carnival's way is really neat.
Laughter and friendship is the way it's done
Providing everyone with joy and fun.

A perfect way
To end it all
As the sky divers land
Amidst us all.

Mike Barnett

We spent many hours of planning and working over the carnival weekend.

I am sure you will agree, that a few words such as the aforementioned from a 12-year-old boy, make it all worthwhile.

BILL RUTTLE,
47 Laverock Drive,
Richmond Hill, Ont.

Raps housing situation

Ontario Opposition Leader Robert Nixon was critical of the government's housing efforts in the recent Throne Speech debate. Said Nixon:

"We are faced with the incredible fact the province with 'the highest credit rating possible', as the Throne Speech put it, has the third worst performance record in Canada for housing starts in 1974.

"Two provinces — Newfoundland and Saskatchewan — actually increased their housing starts over 1973, but not the province (Ontario) with the 'triple A' rating.

"Here housing starts dropped 22.6 percent — one-third worse than the national average setback of 17 percent.

"For the past two fiscal years this province has underspent — underspent — its housing budget. In fiscal 1973, they underspent by \$54 million and in fiscal 1974 by \$49 million — a total of \$103 million of hoarded housing funds in just two years.

"This past fiscal year the rental housing budget alone was underspent by \$20 million.

"The amount of money spent on home ownership programs has actually dropped since the advent of the new ministry of housing — by 12 percent from \$110 million in fiscal 1973 to less than \$97 million in fiscal 1974.

Teacher heads out of skulls

qualified teachers applying for most openings.

Surely that is an indication current salary levels are not seriously out of line.

The leaders of the teachers federations will give Premier William Davis the issue he is looking for to save his teetering government if they persist in current impossible demands.

Hopefully, they will follow the path of the civil servants a few months ago who obviously realized the lack of public support for their 60 percent wage increase demands.

Teachers have plenty of justifiable complaints which need to be solved.

However, the current confrontation on the issue of a 40 percent salary increase can only do irreparable damage to their cause.

It is to be hoped their elected leaders will recognize this.