

## regional viewpoint

Is it pre-junior kindergarten next?

By Jim Irving

Remember that old story about the girl who spoke 12 languages and couldn't say "no" in any of them?

I don't know how many languages the members of York County board of education speak, but if their English is any indication, "no" wouldn't be on the tip of their other linguistic tongues.

"No," you see, is too simple, too direct; it means just what it says: "no." Much more politic to say "maybe," or,

as in the case of the board, "staff will prepare a study."

That way the members can put off whatever they want for a month or two and pretend they're doing something about the matter, but are hamstrung until they get the report.

Right now the board is trying to drum up the resolve to tell a group of Thornhill mothers they have no intention of heeding their plea to establish a junior kindergarten in the county-region to the rest of the area.

When the ladies first came before them, the board more or less gave them the bum's rush. But not having the courage of their evictions, they hurried to re-open the topic as soon as the first flak started to fly.

### Public misled

They've been discussing it ever since. A few trustees, such as Dorothy Zajac and Margaret Coburn of King-not always that

resolute in such matters-and Norm Weller of Aurora, and Harry Bowes of Whitchurch-Stouffville, have told them several times they can neither afford the studies nor the schools. They were, in fact, in Mrs. Zajac's phrase: "misleading the public.'

Still the studies go on. So far there have been enough varied studies over the years, individual reports and letters to the editor to show no six people have the same view as to the worth of junior kindergartens.

Therefore, even the board members, with their limited perceptual powers, should be able to see they could vote junior kindergartens out, without causing the kind of demonstrations experienced last week at the seal hunt in Newfoundland.

## Mother power

But if they really want any more studies, perhaps they should ask those anxious mothers to prepare them. Get them to work out the cost, availability of space, format, and teacher qualifications. They could also throw in a few testimonials from satisfied kids, telling how much easier that heady adjustment from climbing trees to kindergarten was because of their previous experience.

Something such as: "Believe me, I never could have grasped the fundamentals-let alone the crayons-in coloring class without junior kindergarten."

Or: "Before I started junior kindergarten, I couldn't make out with the girls at all. I still can't make out with them, but at least I don't let them beat me up anymore.'

Of course, it's possible none of the parents remember when they were small. How being confined to home on a rainy day was regimentation enough. Starting school later on and sitting at your desk half the day like mourners at a Presbyterian wake was not-and never will be-something to set the blood racing.

### Money issue

So veto all your studies, trustees, and vote out junior kindergartens, if for no other reason than you can't afford such

If you keep pussyfooting around the subject long enough, you'll soon have no alternative but to vote them in.

Then a little later, you can conduct a study on pre-junior kindergartens to appease the latest generation of restless

With the success of that, the next logical step will be to have courses in which the embryos in pregnant mothers are lectured to by some method of mental telepathy, still to be perfected.

Then you'd really see restlessness. And the first words to form in the child's mind, would not likely be "Da-da, "Mama, but, "Teacher, may I leave the



## sharon's sunshine

## By Sharon Brain

weather we had a while out. ago to make me realize how many pessimists there were around.

day" to people. They kept door is bringing dinner, finish last this year? "Won't last."

next snowstorm that much worse." Hogwash, I say, questions.

Optimists of the world, unite. You have nothing to with a winning baseball other. lose but a lot of crabby club someday? And will For example, if on the friends. Pessimists believe if the ball park?

without checking twice on start this spring? the iron, the house will

if it does, the insurance three months? will pay for a better one.

and expect them to grow marked "Free gift infive feet in the first year. side", will there be one? Pessimists believe It's no wonder optimistic nor Dutch Elm Disease is pessimists think oponly the thin edge of the timists are fuzzy for a raise last month, it wedge. thinkers.

## Pessimist cat

My cat is a pessimist. trary, she believes every questions. meal is her last, we are Do you know where the typing fingers.

the morning, no one is It took that great open the door to let her come home before it's too write to him and tell him expect you won't.

Or in. optimists. They believe cold short summer? grouching back with the sunshine they are Will a new car rust out sleeping in will never before the radial tires are "Who cares? It's here fade, and every car is paid for? "Yeah? It'll make the straight to doggie heaven, pessimists crave gloom

> Will Toronto come up person really is one or the they let us drink beer in way to a party, you worry

you leave the house Will your lawn mower fall into the punch bowl. When the sign says pessimist.

burn down while you're "Sale - Half Price", will You may have merely they mean that dress fallen into a lot of punch Optimists believe even you've been looking at for bowls in your time. When the mail man /m neither

Optimists plant trees brings an envelope

## Pessimist yes

Pessimists will answer derestimating

never going to get up in nearest fallout shelter is? And just because I'm

## Weather brings out those pessimists Have you begged all telling you this doesn't timistic.

I kept saying "Nice everyone who opens the Are the Argo's going to wonderful columns.

offering them a ride Optimists say

Optimists would an- and doom. swer yes to the following Sometimes a situation makes it hard to tell if a

> about whether you might you are not necessarily a

I myself am neither pessimistic. When I asked never occurred to me I wouldn't get one, but that

wasn't optimism. That All evidence to the con- yes to the following pessimism of the boss about the value of my

ever going to come and your friends in Quebec to mean I'm hoping you will But then again, I don't what a good job I'm Is our long hard winter doing, and how much I Most dogs I know are about to be followed by a deserve a raise so I can go on pounding out these

That would be pessimistic. Instead, I'll just keep

typing. That would be op- That's realistic.

# **PROGRESSIVE**

YORK

**Federal Riding Founding Meeting** 

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30th 8:00 P.M.

**DON HEAD SCHOOL** MAJOR MACKENZIE DR. **RICHMOND HILL** 



Left to right around Betty Kennedy (centre right) are just a few of Betty's friends who have been on her show.

The Honourable Pauline McGibbon – Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. Actress Kate Reid. Stuart Smith – Leader of Ontario Liberal Party.

The Honourable Bill Davis – Premier of Ontario: Stephen Lewis – Leader of Ontario New Democratic Party and Writer Margaret Alwood.

## Betty Kennedy & friends

Every weekday 3:05 pm to 4:00 pm, Betty Kennedy exchanges views and ideas with the personalities that are drawing public attention today.

Betty's own wide range of interests helps her as she brings out the interesting. witty and provocative sides of her guests. In her own informal way, Betty interviews artists,

politicians, authors, educators, celebrities, cab drivers...whoever is in the public limelight.

Part of understanding people is understanding their combination that makes environment. And Betty jumps right in. She's flown with the Blue Angels, climbed down into the mines of Northern Manitoba and experienced, firsthand, a bombing in Belfast.

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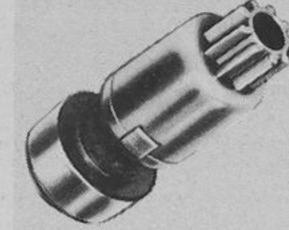
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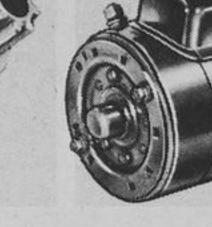
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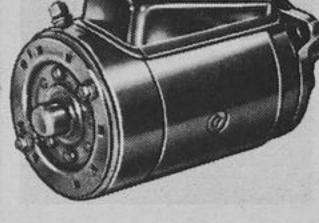
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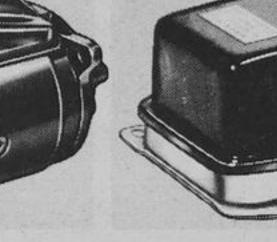
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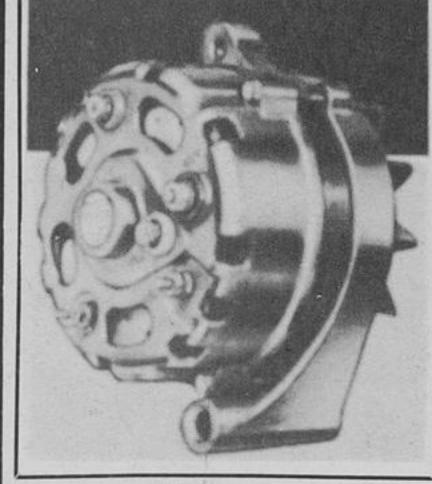
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