



regional viewpoint

By Jim Irving

People keep telling me I shouldn't believe everything I read in the papers—especially most of the stuff I write. But I read an article recently in a Toronto paper that I very much want to believe.

Not just because it backs up some of the timorous beliefs I've held and never fully asserted before, but because it expresses the views of a man who has been all through it himself. And so it stands up all the more.

You probably saw the story. It was in the March 31 issue of The Globe and Mail, and told about one Andrew Spowart, who had been a Grade 7 dropout and a steady drifter for many years

afterwards. Now, at 43, with three university degrees behind him, including a masters in psychology, he is back in school, showing little children they're not so dumb as they thought they were.

Simple drills

And one of the ways he's clearing up that fear is by teaching them the technique of handwriting by means of simple drills, which, he says, help them increase their reading ability as well.

The relationship between the two, he says, has been "underemphasized and overlooked."

Another important thing he's doing in the process, I feel, is discarding the labels that

Be careful of labels

were formerly attached to these children. Handy tags, such as "slow learners," or worst of all, "perceptually handicapped."

Because the latter term puts whatever's ailing the child into such a neat, little category, something in the manner of chicken pox, measles and mumps. And just as with those ailments, the child now has a bona fide reason to stay behind the rest.

The reason this child can't learn, the learned people in charge say, is because he (or she) is "perceptually handicapped."

Kills incentive

"Ah," say their equally-learned conferees, "then he (or she)

will be put in a special class, where we know how to deal with such things, that is, ah, people."

So right away the child is set apart from the others, and right away he feels he is not too bright, and right away he has a handy tag to back him up in his belief, and right away he's got a good reason not to try—then, or for the rest of his life, because that's the easiest way.

Labelling children learning disabled, or slow learners, "is nonsense," says Mr. Spowart, who failed in both Grades 3 and 7. Placing them in special programs is an attempt to get them "out of the teacher's hair," and a sign to the child that he has somehow failed. He says, also, that

giving intelligence tests to young children is "the most immoral thing we ever put into the school system."

Remember?

Reflecting on it all, you still remember when you first heard the term "perceptually handicapped" some 15 years ago. It was applied to a young niece and it baffled you.

What did they mean she was perceptually handicapped? She was bright, warm, responsive and laughed at her uncle's jokes. What were they talking about? What did they mean? She didn't learn easily, they said. You remember then that dark day way back in Grade 1 when you stood

there alone at the side blackboard trying to get the gist of long division, while your teacher harped at you in the background.

Had one of those handy labels been around then, they no doubt would have applied it to you—you'd already applied one yourself. But luckily a classmate whispered the magic formula to you, just as you thought your mind had closed for ever, and it all suddenly clicked into place.

Wonderful

So it is wonderful now to see this early "perceptually handicapped" man, who failed five RCAF entrance exams in a row, before finally managing to squeeze in on the sixth, is around to strip off the labels.

Sometimes it seems, you have to fail a few times yourself, and undergo some of the frustration and humiliation that the text books never deal with, before you can really understand how gratuitous must labels are.

Just as are most research projects, such

as the ones deemed so necessary to the salvation of mankind by the educationists. They are only too willing to abandon honest instincts, common sense, intelligence and care in favor of lengthy surveys in an effort to find out why the student spends all day gazing out the window, or at the girl across the aisle.

Last week, York County board of education made parental approval mandatory for all research projects dealing with children under 18, causing one member to lament: "I think this policy cuts off all research in York County."

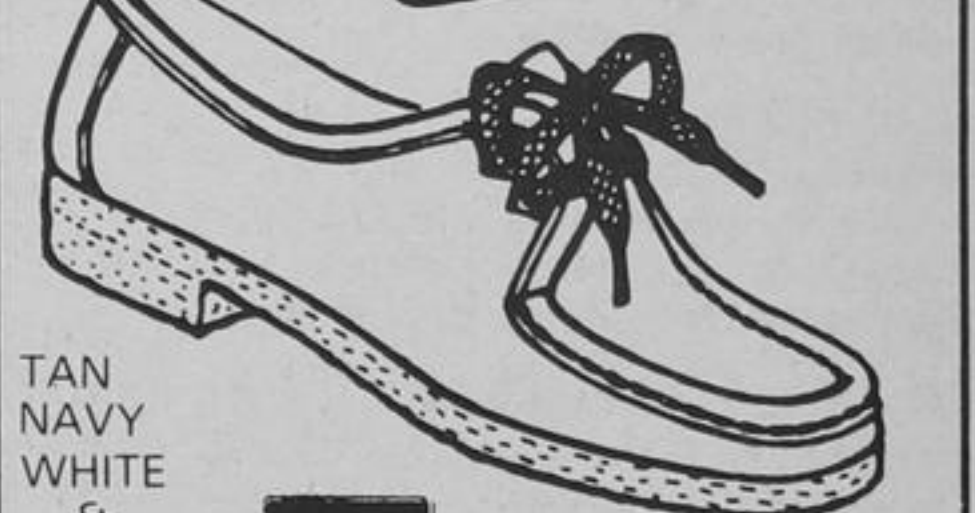
But he needn't worry. Having elected the board they did, the people of York don't deserve that kind of break.

COME JOIN US YORK CENTRE

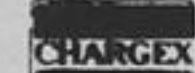
PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

YOU MUST HAVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY APRIL 11TH TO VOTE AT NOMINATION MEETING APRIL 19TH AT THORNHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE. FOR MEMBERSHIP CARDS PHONE RICHMOND HILL-884-6822 884-1247 884-4047 THORNHILL-889-6239 881-3888 OAK RIDGES-773-4664

LOGROLLERS by Clarks



TAN
NAVY
WHITE
&
BONE



shields
FOOTWEAR LTD.

SOUTH BLOCK
RICHMOND HEIGHTS CENTRE
884-5341 RICHMOND HILL

Call York and save!
AUTO, HOUSE & LIFE INSURANCE
Get an immediate quote, personal attention, prompt decisions.
Our tradition of service guarantees professional advice and satisfaction whenever you call.
CALL 869-8902
Or just walk into our office
YORK FIRE AND CASUALTY
7699 YONGE ST THORNHILL
Life underwritten by Crown Life



sharon's sunshine

By Sharon Brain

THORNHILL — That knock on the door tells me winter is over.

No, he won't come in. He waits in the driveway.

I watch him rotate his arms and stretch the knees of the new jogging suit he got for Christmas.

My husband runs out to join him. They stand there in silence, bending and twisting.

"Gotta ball?"

"Yeah."

They put on their baseball gloves. Spring Training has begun.

I watch from the kitchen window.

"Where're you playing?"

"Don't know. Jerry says he's not coming back."

Same old story

This is mere Spring Training Ritual. These two have played on the same team for 10 years.

Jerry is never coming back. He always waits till the last moment to show up.

He can afford theatrics. He's a pitcher.

But those two in the driveway are just infielders. They have to get the winter chill out of their muscles and the winter beer out of their systems so they'll look snappy at the first practice.

You see, rumor has it that there may be a few hot shot kids moving up this year, and that could mean the outfield, maybe even the bench.

That's pressure.

Greater attraction

He talks things over with all his friends. Sooner or later they all drop by to take him away from the painting or pruning or digging to throw the ball around.

When the fourth arrives they're off to the park for a game of pepper, not to be seen until dark and thirst brings them home.

I start to think I am living out one of those beer commercials in

which "Joe and the boys have been getting together for years to throw the ball around."

I like that ad in winter. I hate it come spring.

He looks vague over breakfast because he's trying to perfect his bunt.

He spends his lunch hour in sports stores.

He tries out bats and finds the one he feels right attached to.

He buys it for the team. They now have 15 new bats.

The coach is unimpressed. He's seen it all before.

Missing star

The only thing that worries him is Jerry. He still hasn't shown up.

Someone has heard he is trying out for a team in the Beaches. He won't come to the telephone.

His wife says she doesn't know what he's doing.

She doesn't.

The last practice of the season, Jerry arrives. He

Spring ball fever has hit husbands

hasn't brought a bat. Everyone shakes his hand, or puts a hand on his shoulders.

Enthusiasm builds

Everyone gets happy. They feel a warmth based not only on affection, but also on need.

They head to the pub after practice.

"This is the year."

"The tournament's in London this year. Better apply now."

"Sure, with the talent we've got? We're going all the way."

They are going

nowhere. But right now, they don't know it.

In Spring Training, all things are possible.

"TAHITI"
FILM PRESENTATION
WITH
AIR NEW ZEALAND
RICHMOND HILL LIBRARY
WEDNESDAY-APRIL 13TH-8 PM
EVERYONE WELCOME
SPONSORED BY:
WADDELL'S TRAVEL SERVICE LTD.
GLOBE TRAVEL SERVICE

AQUA ENVIRONMENTAL
304-24 Pinehill Cres.
Toronto, Ont. M6M 2B6
(416) 762-3076
A complete service in fisheries and wildlife management and consultation for the private landowner. Specialists in pond, lake and stream management and assessment of aquatic habitat suitability for fishes.

The Kinette Club of Richmond Hill
MONTE CARLO
SAT., APRIL 23 - 8 p.m. - 1 a.m.
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, OHIO RD., RICHMOND HILL
• Funny munny • Dance
• Games of chance • Prizes
• Auction • Refreshments
Tickets at the door or call 884-2535
Admission: \$1.50 per person
Persons 18 years and over only
Lottery No. L5

**RICHVALE MINOR
HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**
GENERAL MEETING
April 12th, 1977
8 P.M.
HILLCREST MALL (UPSTAIRS)

**EASTER
Flowers**
for a More Beautiful Easter

FLOWERS WIRED ANYWHERE
We deliver to Toronto & surrounding districts

884-1812 889-1812
RICE'S FLOWERS
RICHMOND HEIGHTS CENTRE, RICHMOND HILL

RADIATOR TROUBLE?
Avoid costly engine or transmission repairs!
**FOR FAST SERVICE TO ALL MAKES
...CALL THE PROFESSIONALS**

- Free Diagnosis
- Drive-in service
- Low prices

10 POINT SYSTEM

1. DIAGNOSE PROBLEM
2. REMOVE RADIATOR
3. CLEAN WATER PASSAGES
4. PRESSURE TEST FOR LEAKS
5. REPAIR AS NECESSARY
6. APPLY PROTECTIVE PAINT
7. TEST THERMOSTAT & CAP
8. INSPECT ALL HOSES
9. RE-INSTALL RADIATOR
10. REPLACE COOLANT

375 OHIO ROAD
RICHMOND HILL
884-9245 or 773-4227

8 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M. DAILY; 8 a.m. to NOON SAT.
CENTRES IN WILLOWDALE, SCARBOROUGH & WEST HILL

20 YEARS CONTINUOUS SERVICE
Ring Rad SERVICE CENTRES
THE COOLING SYSTEM PROFESSIONALS

REMODELLING?
We specialize in all types of
WINDOW CONVERSIONS

Treat your home to a THERMOSEAL window, engineered to replace any type of window.
Sealed units 1-1/8" thick, giving absolute insulation with five year guarantee.
•All operating units removable from inside home.
•Available in white, cream or brown permanent finish.
•Installation in one day.

Call right now for FREE ESTIMATES
669-4240
OR DROP IN AND SEE OUR WINDOWS BEING MANUFACTURED

THERMOSEAL INDUSTRIES LTD.
114 BOWES RD., UNIT 8, CONCORD

BEAUTIFY YOUR - LAWN
\$20⁰⁰ PER TREATMENT
(OR LESS)

START-THIS-SPRING
(WITH A TWO-TREATMENT PROGRAMME)
1st TREATMENT — FERTILIZATION
2nd TREATMENT — WEED — DANDELION CRABGRASS CONTROL
PRICE BASED ON AN AVERAGE LAWN SIZE OF 2,000 SQ. FT. AT 1¢ PER SQ. FT.

TO BEAUTIFY AND PROTECT YOUR

- DRIVE WAYS
- PARKING LOTS
- TENNIS COURTS
- PATIOS — WALKS
- RECREATION AREAS

- LIQUID CONCRETE AND ASPHALT SEALER
- BLACK
- GREEN
- RED (Estimates on request)

PHONE (416) 1-722-5015
OR
PHONE TOLL FREE (416) 1-800-261-0500

YORK CONTRACTORS
YORK REGION
TORONTO
RICHMOND HILL
NEWMARKET

GIVE OPERATOR
(1) Our Pager Number 2892
(2) Your Message
(We will return your call in minutes)

SHOP'N SAVE AT IGA

FRESH GRADE "A" LARGE EGGS 1 DOZEN **79¢**

FANCY IGA TOMATO JUICE 48 OZ. TIN **49¢**

CHUNKS OR SLICES DOLE PINEAPPLE 19 OZ. TIN **49¢**

CHICKEN, LIVER OR BEEF PEP DOG FOOD 25 OZ. TIN **3^FOR^R \$1**

DECAFFEINATED BRIM COFFEE 2 OZ. JAR **98¢**

CARNATION COFFEE MATE 16 OZ. JAR **\$1.09**

AVAILABLE ONLY AT
ALLEN COURT IGA
Bayview & Markham Rd., Richmond Hill
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES.

Become an
RIA management accountant

Consider these facts:
It's a fact that 2/3 of all professional accountants are part of the exciting field of management accounting, working in business and government as controllers, management consultants, general managers or public service professionals.
It's a fact that only the RIA education program is exclusively concerned with preparing you for a career in management accounting.
It's a fact that while you're studying, you're a member of a professional accounting organization, entitled to the benefits of membership in The Society of Industrial Accountants.
It's a fact that the course of study is available through evening lectures at 50 universities or colleges, and through correspondence study.
Get all the facts! Find out how you can become an RIA by evening lecture or correspondence study.
Be at the centre of the action where the big decisions are made.

Act now. Courses start immediately.

Information is available locally by telephoning:
A. McLeod, R.I.A. 889-8066(evgs.)
A. Knevel, R.I.A., 889-7691(days) 635-9405(evgs.)

Or by writing:
Mr. S. L. Hall, The Registrar,
The Society of Industrial Accountants,
154 Main Street E., Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3C3
Telephone (416) 363-8191 or (416) 525-4100.

move up
in business and government