

Who Needs Change? – Continued from page 5

People say, “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks.” Maybe that’s right, but it may be that this old dog doesn’t want to learn new tricks. He likes things the way they are. There’s no denying I am an old dog, but old dogs like to have fun too, and there seems to be a shortage of fun nowadays. Gordon Burghardt, a psychology professor at the University of Tennessee, defined “play” as, “A repeated behaviour that is incompletely functional in the context or at an age in which it is performed and is initiated voluntarily when the animal or person is in a relaxed or low stress setting.” I’m wondering if old Gordon ever has any fun. He makes it so complicated.

Taking pictures can be fun. A Dell computer ad for a camera trumpets a “Canon EOS Rebel Tli 15.1 MP CMOS Digital SLR Camera Bundle with EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS Lens and Kingston 8GB SD Card.” I feel like it wouldn’t be much fun operating that thing. I’m not a total Luddite. I think digital cameras are neat because you can keep on taking pictures until you get it almost right. No fillum to worry about. But the camera advertised above? You have to study the manual for hours before you master the basics. Not fun.

So a part of change seems to be to make things, even simple things, more complex. I like to barbeque. Remember the Hibachi? A little one by two foot cast metal rectangle in which you dumped charcoal, lit it, and cooked meat. Now we have stainless steel monsters that run on propane with side warming burners, things that twirl chickens, and electric start. I have one. I know. Did you know there are recipes for making brownies on a BBQ? Who would do that? The really fun thing is the necessity to have liquid refreshment in your hand when barbequing. In fact, Barb Proctor, perhaps your top priority as our member of the new council ought to be to propose a bylaw that makes it mandatory to drink when barbequing. Boy, sometimes my ideas are so good they just stagger me.

- George Underhill

NOTICE

We, the Integration Committee as formed by the Board, are going to have a ballot/suggestion for the naming of the new integrated school. All members of the community can make a suggestion for naming the school. We would like to have all the suggestions made in December, and then a short list will be created, from which we will have a vote by students, parents and community members in the new year.

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