

BILL SMILEY'S COLUMN

Going back to school could be a traumatic experience, but it isn't. It's sad to see the summer go, and all those things you were going to do not done. But there's a certain excitement as we step into September, surely the finest month of the year in this country.

It is certainly not a sad occasion for mothers of young children. Most of them heave a sigh of relief, right down to their sandals, at the thought of school opening. Children are wonderful creatures. But, like booze, they should be taken in small doses.

In summer, they are constantly wanting to eat, do something dangerous, or fight with their brothers and sisters. A young mother's nerves are tough, but can be stretched only so far.

Even more grateful for our educational system are the parents of all those teenagers who didn't have a job this summer. Most of them, even those who complain bitterly about high education taxes, could kiss the minister of education on both cheeks. For, despite all the wonderful things to do in summer, there is nothing more bored than a teenager of either sex, just hanging around home.

I can't blame them much. I get bored silly myself, just hanging around home. And adolescence makes it even more frustrating, because the body is full of beans, not meant for sitting in a lawnchair, reading a book.

But the pattern goes something like this. Sleep till noon or later. Get up after the lunch dishes are done and make a shambles of the kitchen preparing a messy hamburger. Leave the mess for Mom. Demand why there isn't a clean shirt. Slouch to the streets or the park, or hitchhike to the beach. Sit around and rap with a gang of other bored teenagers.

If dinner is at six, be sure to get home at either five or seven and demand to be fed immediately. Then spend an hour in the bathroom, fancying up, and drift

off to stay out half the night, muttering vaguely that you don't know where you're going or when you'll be home. This, of course, after "borrowing," in plaintive tones, a little something from the old man.

With exceptions, this is how it goes. It's demoralizing for all parties. And it's one reason even teenagers are glad to get back to school and their parents are not glad, but ecstatic.

Then there's the business of clothes for school. Little kids are sent off clean and shining, in fairly conventional apparel. Big kids battle every inch of the way. Big boys aren't so bad, though even they are showing peacock tendencies. It's the big girls who cause the trouble.

After a summer in shorts and jeans, sweatshirt and bare feet, they are exceeding loath to don dresses and skirts and shoes. So they do the next best thing — battle their mothers over every item of attire, and demand something exotic: a buckskin jacket, a prayer shawl, a micro or maxi skirt, a see-through blouse.

However, once they're back at school, the kids enjoy it. For a while. They discuss their summer romances and immediately begin new ones. They brag about the wild times they had. They positively swagger if they've hitchhiked to Vancouver. They swiftly assess new teachers and try to drive them up the wall. They groan with exaggerated dismay when they find out that Old So-and-So will be teaching them again this year.

And how do the teachers feel? Most of them are glad to get back to work. They're broke, or they're sick of muddling around with their families, or they want to see what kind of rotten time-table they have this year, or they just plain love teaching.

I know one who'll be glad to get back, for all the reasons mentioned above.

both of the degree of slack that exists in the economy and the length of time it takes for changes in monetary conditions to have their full effect, it does not wish to sacrifice the significant gains that have been made in reducing the strong inflationary forces in the economy by excessive or premature monetary expansion. So long, however, as care is taken not to ease restraints too rapidly.

As the Governor of the Bank of Canada said in a speech in Toronto last April, there are many possible settings of policy between the extremes of tightness and ease. Some inflection of monetary policy away from the position of extreme tightness has already occurred. Such changes should not be interpreted as indicating that there has been any alteration in the basic objectives of policy, but rather that the balance of other forces operating in the economy warrants some adjustments to the setting of policy in order to attain these objectives in the most desirable way.

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There are also partially programmed machines which permit more washing flexibility for special washing needs.

When you budget for an automatic washer, remember to allow for the charges for installing the necessary plumbing and the 3-prong, 115-120 volt outlet.

It is important to take the time to read fully the guarantee or warranty that comes with the washer. It should be for at least a year, and more for transmission parts. Ask about the guarantee on the whole equipment and on parts. Make sure there is a service centre available to you for the particular model you buy.

Read the manual that comes with your new washer. Reputable manufacturers put a lot of time and money into the manual and the smart customer will read it thoroughly and follow instructions, no matter how simple and obvious they may appear. Longer life for the machine and better washes will be the result.

Automated Bacon Comes to Breakfast Table

Newest electric appliance alongside the toaster and the percolator at the breakfast table, according to Hardware Merchandising magazine, is one designed to make frying bacon as easy as making toast — clean, automatic and done to individual taste. Canadian Westinghouse says its new "Baconer" eliminates splattering or accumulation of hot grease.

BANK RATE - Cont'd from page 5 ...

The easing in credit conditions since early in the year is apparent. Bank loans have expanded again quite considerably since June after almost a year of little growth; long-term interest rates are down somewhat, and short-term rates have fallen considerably.

At the present time the Bank is trying to steer a very narrow course. While it must clearly be mindful
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