

BELL CANADA (Cont'd from page 2)

The Bell manager said subscribers should consult the wealth of information in the introductory pages. These include emergency numbers for police, fire department and ambulance services, long distance area codes, discount times for long distance calls and the company's repair, directory assistance and the business office serving the exchange area.

DEAR CONCERNED CITIZEN:

I read your article in last week's Terrace Bay News with great interest, as did many others. You raised some stimulating points and were the topic of every conversation for most of the week. After doing a great deal of listening, I began to realize that many people, young and old alike may have missed your point.

The most valuable product that Terrace Bay exports is not pulp and paper, it is youth. I agree with you that most parents in this town do not spend enough time with or show enough care or interest in their young people.

I work with the young people in the games room in the Recreation Centre and I, for one, really care about them. They are not children and not quite adults, so I don't expect them to act like either. I don't hold it against them because they are young but neither will I make excuses for them.

When a young person gets in trouble in Terrace Bay, be it drugs, alcohol or vandalism, the parents first concern seems to be what other people will think or how much it will cost.

Yes, the young people in this town get into trouble but they are never made to take responsibility for their actions. In a few instances, the situation gets out of hand and the only recourse is a penal institution. If they were made to be responsible for their actions instead of having their parents bail them out of trouble, they might consider some of their actions more seriously.

As for the lack of respect you mentioned in your article, I can only say that respect is a two way street. Too many people tend to write youth off as a group, as a temporary illness that can only be cured by time. That attitude is so wrong. Treat them as individuals and judge them that way. Respect them and you'll find that respect returned.

I deal with the young people of this town every day and I don't dread it. I enjoy every minute of it. They are intelligent, interesting and exciting individuals and they have most certainly earned my respect for their maturity and individuality.

Continued page 8



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