

Editorial Page

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Parents have valid concern over bussing

Two parents living on Lakeshore Road find themselves in an unenviable position. After the Lake Superior Board of Education cancelled the bus service that picked up their children in front of their home for the past two years, the Keatings are now forced to have their children walk 3.4 km one way to catch the bus to school.

During this walk, the children face fast moving traffic on the highway's passing lane, transports gathering speed to make it up the hill, more transports hurtling downhill, cold and darkness.

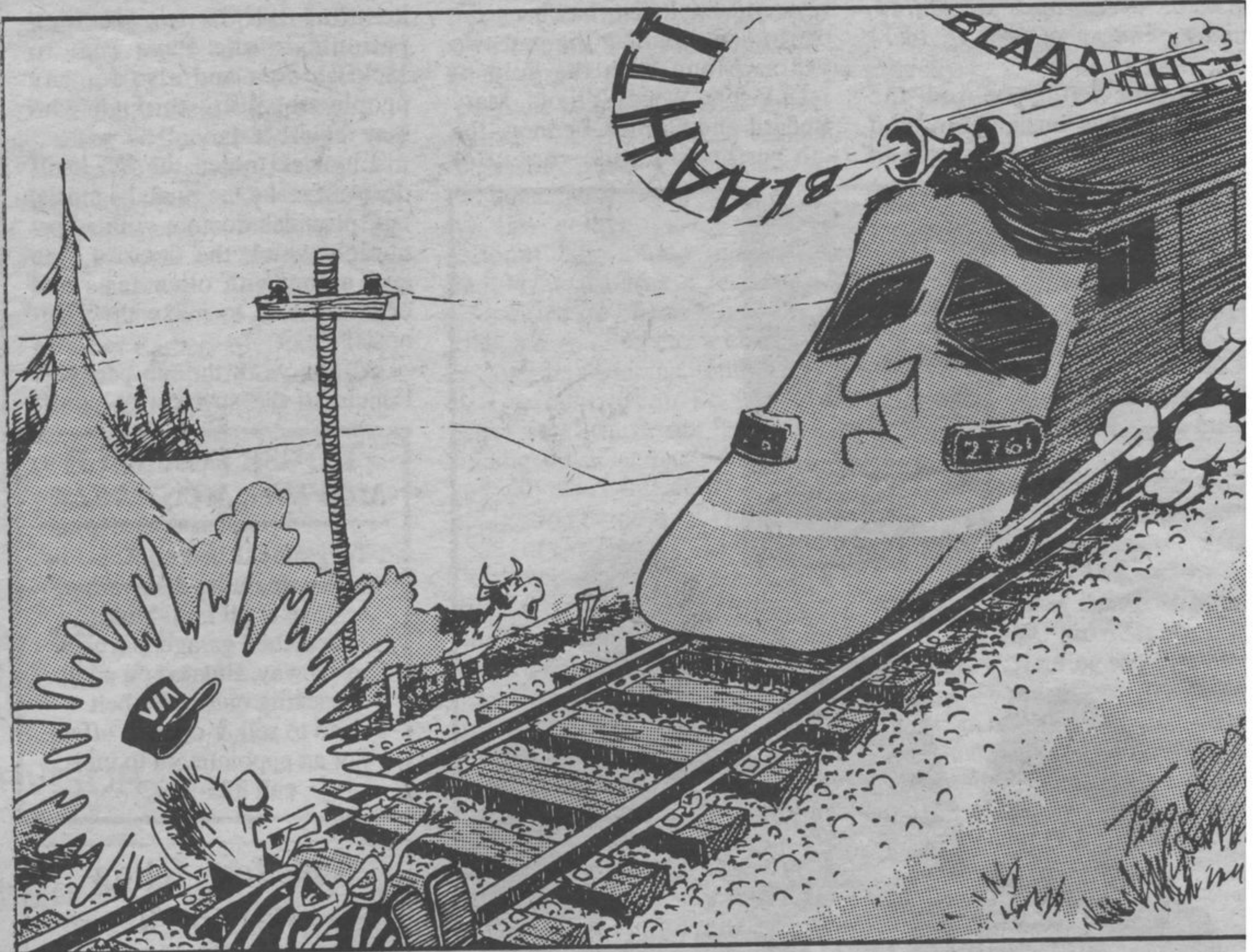
For a three and six-year-old this seems a bit much just to make it to school. Granted, they are the only children on Lakeshore Road attending school, but the hazards they must face daily are out of proportion to whatever the problems the LSBE faces in providing bus service along the Keating's road.

And their children are not the only ones which face increased risk. Those children sitting on the stopped bus along the highway are also exposed to additional danger. Consider the number of transports, fast moving cars and snowplows that travel the stretch of highway by Rosspoint Provincial Campground and you'll understand what I mean.

Sure, the bus has flashing lights, but how fast do you think a transport can stop, especially in conditions such as snowfall or fog.

The LSBE may have some problems in providing bus service along Lakeshore Road, but these are insignificant compared to the ones which could easily arise should there be a serious traffic accident involving the bus along the highway.

Come on board members, ask yourself this question. If those were your children that had to walk along the highway day in and day out, wouldn't you be doing everything you could to change that situation?



Unhappy with VIA

Dear Editor:

I am thoroughly disgusted with the rail service out of Schreiber and Terrace Bay and for Rosspoint as passenger service was discontinued from here.

I am a senior citizen with bad health problems and have been advised not to travel by plane. That pleases me as I am terrified of that mode of travel.

I come from a railroad family

of a father, brothers and uncles, so I am accustomed or familiar with travelling by rail.

I can recall when the passenger trains were painted the same color as the box cars and sometimes double headed with steam locomotives and the coaches washrooms and dining cars spotlessly clean.

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The News welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Feel free to express comments, opinions or anything of public interest. There is no charge for this service. Write to: Editor Terrace Bay/Schreiber News Box 579 Terrace Bay, Ont. P0T 2W0 So we may verify authorship please sign your letters.

Ban lawn darts not firearms: Americans

"With all the violence and murder and killings we've had in the United States, I think you will agree that we must keep firearms from people who have no business with them."

Ah, yes. Was there ever a phenomenon quite as bizarre as America's on-going love affair with personal firearms? Year in, year out, hundreds of thousands of Americans find themselves staring at the business end of a handgun. 22,000 die from the encounter annually. A huge percentage of the remainder are crippled and scarred for life. Doctors, nurses, even law enforcement officers look at the daily carnage and shake their heads in disbelief. Occasionally, some braver-than-average American like the one quoted above will clear his throat and ask if it isn't about time the USA joined the rest of the civilized world in restricting access to firearms. Whereupon America, like some punch-drunk barroom brawler, shakes its head, lifts its face out of the sawdust and growls "Whut? Take away our

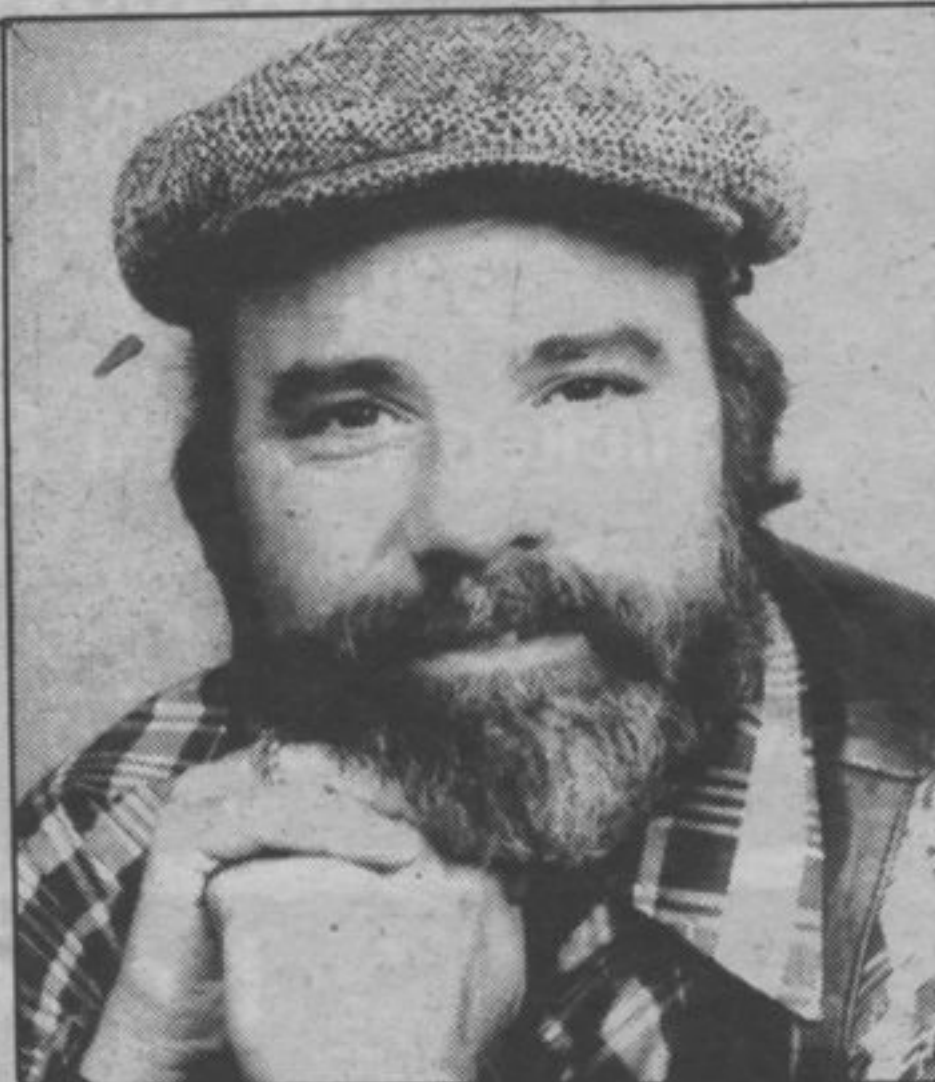
constitooshunul right tuh bear arms? No way, Hoss!"

And that's it! No more discussion. Nobody wants to hear how there are more gun homicides in the city of Washington in one month than there are in Great Britain in one year. Don't try to tell them that more of their countrymen have been shot by each other than were gunned down by all the German, North Korean and Viet Cong soldiers put together. Americans just flat out love their shootin' irons.

It's a love that gets expressed in odd ways. Designer handguns for the little lady, for instance. Smith and Wesson has just launched a petite pistol called "The Ladysmith" It comes in tasteful frosted blue steel with its own colour-coordinated clutch bag carrying case. Last spring, Miami hosted the Bing Bang Boom gun show -- a fashion show on how to wear concealed weapons. "We're trying to show the contemporary woman that she can carry a concealed weapon

and still look good" said a spokesman.

Of course it doesn't really matter how you look if you happen to be strolling by Lindbergh Junior High School in Long Beach, California -- the kids inside won't be able to



Arthur Black

see you anyway. That's because of the new, nine-foot high, concrete wall that runs between the school and a nearby housing project. Purpose of the wall: to stop bullets. Gunfire from drug dealers and other assorted street scum in the nearby project has

threatened the lives of kids and teachers at the school. Not long ago a student playing basketball in the schoolyard was shot in the chest and nearby died. That's when they decided to turn Lindbergh Junior High into a Fort.

"It's really sad that something like this has to be done, says principal Max Fraley, "but it's needed in today's society."

Maybe in your society, Max, but not in mine.

Americans who try to change their insane gun control laws find themselves staring down the well-oiled muzzle of the National Rifle Association. The NRA cranks out a steady stream of advertisements that play up every American's "patriotic right" to own a lethal weapon. The Association also lavishes megabucks on key Washington lobbyists to snarl and suffocate any impending gun control legislation.

America's gunhappiness doesn't have much to do with logic. Recent history has seen the near-shooting of President

Ford, the wounding of President Reagan and the murder of President Kennedy. You'd think that kind of bloodstained legacy would make the Presidency very keen on gun control, right? Not on your snub-nose. President Bush (a card-carrying member of the NRA himself) recently refused to ban the sale of semi-automatic weapons.

Mind you, the U.S. did come down hard on lawn darts. Over the past 10 years, three people have been killed by errant lawn darts. In the same decade nearly a quarter of a million Americans have been killed by guns. Lawn darts are banned, semi-automatic weapons are swell.

Make any sense to you?

Oh, that fellow I quoted at the beginning of this column? He made that speech just five days before his rendezvous with a scruffy drifter in a Los Angeles hotel kitchen. The drifter was carrying an 8-shot, .22 caliber Iver Johnson in a brown paper lunchbag.

The other guys name was Bobby Kennedy.