

Northern Insights

A new look at education

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 round holes. That's his explanation of why so many kids are dropping out of school early, and why literacy rates are so low.

"I start my book with a quotation from Plato in *The Republic*, in which he states that 'knowledge acquired under compulsion has no hold on the mind.' And if there's anything that should be required of people, we could compel them to write that a thousand times and commit it to memory."

Nelsen says if we adopt his suggested changes, especially the abolition of compulsory school attendance, we'd have a much healthier society. As an example of this, in one chapter he documents the case of Don McAlpine, the MNR forester from Nipigon who was fired by the former Tory

minister of Natural Resources, Allan Popé. McAlpine stuck to his principles and insisted that there wasn't as much wood to cut on the Black Bay Peninsula as his political friend of the Tory government, Buchanan Forest Products. McAlpine had to fight with the help of his union for over a year and a half to get his job back. For Nelsen, McAlpine is an example of the kind of student our education system should be producing - independently minded, and not willing to cow-tow to the bureaucracy, if a principle is at stake.

Nelsen's ideas will no doubt be ignored or rejected by those who want to keep the status quo, or who have a vested interest in keeping schools the way they are now. He says "It's basically a book about my hopes for social

change, and the fact that the school basically is an institution which acts to control people. Schools are social control mechanisms. So if you like the prevailing arrangements, if you like what's happening in our society, if you like rampant individualism, consumerism, Nintendo addicts, not taking care of homeless people, no sense of community, lack of co-operation, most of the wealth in the hands of a few - if you like all those things, then this book probably doesn't have much to say to you. But if you see a lot of serious problems - not just social problems that can be papered over - but problems which are symptoms a more thorough-going disease in the body politic-then you're the kind of person who might want to read this book."



K.Schmiedchen, member of U.P.I.U. Local 665, presents Ian Fummerton, president of the Schreiber Minor Hockey Association with a cheque for \$800 on behalf of the union. The money will help pay for ice time, travel and equipment.

All the World's aCircus

Movies everywhere

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 and instead the focus is on the reception Canadian people give to the returning hero. Some grammatically bad language is heard in "THE BIG CHILL".

In this season's comic/monster/thriller/murder/mystery genre, ordinary people are driven to violent limits beyond their control. He terrorized them, he robbed them, he raped them fiscally and taxed them to torment. That's why the plain folk rose as one to "THROW MICHEAL WILSON FROM THE TRAIN".

Part 1. First of a two part double bill, this two-hour movie depicts a story of hope and promise as a leaderless nation first flirts with and then embraces a little known labor lawyer as prime minister in "FATAL ATTRACTION".

Part II The second film in this series depicts true love lost in a painful portrayal of betrayal and secret agendas. She's a once-beautiful and once-wealthy woman, now bitter and abused, broken apart her riches squandered in bad deals. He's the smooth-talking salesman-sadist who won't give her a divorce. She's the country of Canada he's the Prime Minister of Canada and they're locked in "MISERY".

Thunder Bay to host Cross Country Ski Canadian Masters

For the first time ever, Thunder Bay will host the Canadian Masters Cross Country Ski Championships on March 5 to 10, 1991. Two hundred veteran skiers from Quebec to British Columbia will compete in various classes.

The Lappe Ski Centre will host the races. The facilities at Lappe, already ranking with the best in the country, have undergone further upgrading, including a vastly improved stadium area for viewing races.

At least one former world champion, Eero Vaisiainen from Finland, has confirmed plans to compete. Several local racers- Esko Pesonen, Brian Berry and Gregg Cancade - are expected to be contenders in their classes.

Environment Ontario issues Director's Order to Matachewan Consolidated Mines

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment recently issued a Director's Order to Matachewan Consolidated Mines Ltd. under Section 16/17 of the Environmental Protection Act.

The order follows the discharge of 130,000 cubic metres of mine tailings from the company's property near Matachewan, into Davidson Creek and then into the Montreal River system on October 17, 1990.

The order requires that several studies be undertaken by the company, leading to remedial measures to prevent future discharges of tailings from Davidson Creek and its delta to the Montreal River.

The remedial measures must be completed by April 1, 1991.

Other remedial measures include a study outlining short-term and potential long-term effects on aquatic life in Davidson Creek and the Montreal River. The study must be completed by November 1991, and indicate remedial measures that may be required of the company.

The company must provide a report indicating how the permanent potable water supplies of the municipalities and individual private supplies affected will be restored, or how alternate supplies will be provided.

The order also instructs the company to conduct routine water sampling of Davidson Creek and the Montreal River throughout the winter season.

Sampling frequency will be increased during any winter thaw period and during the spring runoff period.

Residents and communities drawing water directly from the Montreal River are currently being supplied by the Ministry of the Environment with drinking water and filtration units to reduce turbidity.

"Further company discharges of tailings from Davidson Creek must be prevented, and it is absolutely essential to restore normal water supplies to affected communities and individuals as soon as possible," said Environment Minister Ruth Grier.

Economic task force

The federal Northern Ontario Liberal Caucus will conduct a series of eight public meetings throughout Northern Ontario as part of a Liberal task force on the Northern Ontario economy, said Robert Nault, chairman of the caucus, in a recent announcement.

The federal Northern Ontario MPs have also invited their provincial counterparts to sit on the task force.

The task force will seek public input on such issues as unemployment, regional development, economic diversification, impact of the G.S.T. and the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Deal, poverty and the resource sector.

These meetings will provide the caucus with an opportunity to hear the views of municipal, First Nations, labour, business and community leaders as well as the public on matters relating to the Northern Ontario economy.

The task force will want to receive input on the status of the economy and suggestions concerning the future direction of federal government policy as it impacts on the Northern Ontario economy.

"If we are to prosper as a region it is absolutely essential that all future policies be developed by those who know best - Northern Ontarians. In other words, policies developed by and for Northerners", said Mr. Nault, who is M.P. for Kenora-Rainy River.

Persons or groups wishing to make a presentation at any of the hearings or to submit a brief should contact the chairman's office in Ottawa at (613) 996-1161 or one of the MPs on the panel.

IMAGINE'S New Year's Resolution 1103

I'm going to hug my kids more often - and help them learn what it means to embrace community causes, too.

**Ladies Auxiliary
 Royal Canadian
 Legion Br. #223
 General
 Meeting**
 on Monday, January
 28, 1991 at 8:00 p.m.
 Memberships are due
 and all members are
 urged to attend this
 meeting.

Thank You
 I would like to extend my thanks to Dr. Wilkes and all the nurses and staff of McCausland Hospital for their excellent care during my recent illness. I also thank all those who expressed their caring and concern during my stay in the hospital and now through my on going recovery at home, with their cards and visits. Special thanks to Mo Stark for his daily visits and Marius Papineau for the help.
Emil Hamann & Family
 Thank you for Caring.

The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs
 Reminds you to stick to the Trail
 Every year, in Ontario, people are hurt and killed because they snowmobile on unsafe ice or ride on highways.
 The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs urges you to
STICK TO THE TRAIL
 and have an enjoyable and safe snowmobiling season

DANGER
 Helicopters land on The McCausland Hospital Heliport at irregular times on a regular basis. Snow machines have hampered landings on more than one occasion.
FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY - IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT SNOW MACHINES AVOID THE HOSPITAL PARKING LOT AND THE HELIPORT AREA.
 Thank you for your co-operation.