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EDITORIALS by
Stouffville High School Students

The Abolition of Entrance Exams. Why?

Douglas McWhirter

Why has the High School entrance examination been abolished? In past years everyone had to write a departmental examination to graduate from grade eight. Later, a few of the best students were allowed to pass on a recommendation from the teacher. Finally, in 1949 the Department of Education began allowing everyone in grade eight to be recommended. Because of this, in the last two years our high schools have become overcrowded with incompetent students in grades nine and ten. Because of the inability of these students to do the prescribed work in these grades they require more of the teacher's time on each detail. As there is only so much time per week to spend on each subject and the student is incapable of learning the required work in this time the standards must fall.

Another reason why these exams should be continued is the fact that under this new system an entrance certificate is no longer of any value. When a prospective employee tells the employer that he has graduated from grade eight the employer knows that this did not require any examination but only the recommendation of the teacher and he will not, therefore, give much credit for such a certificate.

When a student passes upon the recommendation of a teacher only, he will not have the opportunity of writing a departmental exam until grade thirteen when his Senior Matriculation is written. Having never had any experience with departmentals he cannot possibly do as well as a student who has previously written such an exam.

It is possible for a student, if he can get the required marks, to go all the way through high school without writing a final exam until grade thirteen. This student is obviously at more of a disadvantage when he writes his Senior Matriculation exam than if he had written a departmental entrance exam.

It is true that there is more expense involved by paying teachers to mark these exams, but I think the expenditure would be far outweighed by the good to the student.

Therefore I believe that the High School Entrance examination should never have been abolished and they should be begun again before more students have overburdened our High Schools with their incompetence.

On Editorials

Ed. Murphy

This one word when mentioned will always get a groaning response from any normal-minded student. Why? Well, it means that he or she must rack his or her brain to throw a bunch of words together in the form of several paragraphs. This is easier said than done. The first thought that enters the person's mind is a suitable topic.

One would always like to think up something original to write about, but he always falls back to the old, old, themes of, "The Need of a New High School," "A Community Centre" or "More Sports." (They may gradually impress the public). Once in a while someone will come along with a humorous effort, although most of them are on the serious side.

Then certain editorials are selected for the paper. And then some of their authors can be heard saying in their bashful, innocent way, "Goodness, how'd mine ever get in? It's no good," (Well, maybe it isn't) while deep down they're feeling quite proud of themselves.

The next reaction to take place, is that of the reader, who is supposed to praise all the little geniuses. Perhaps the most interested section of public interest lies in the parents of the school students. They quickly glance over the page to see if their own little monster has produced anything worth reading. Many people find some editorials boring while others grunt their approval and still others start criticizing.

But, most of the students have spent considerable time and thought on their work. These editorials represent the opinions of the teen-agers in general. They express their reasons why this or that should be done and they certainly hope that their ideas will be recognized. And if some of these editorials are taken seriously, maybe some results can be attained.

Activities In A Small Town High School

Ruth Timbers

In September, the doors of Stouffville school are flung wide open as a host of eager students descend the three flights of stairs to the High school floor. Awaiting everyone, there is a cordial welcome from teachers and school-mates.

Before many weeks become history, the Literary Society for the year is elected; hence, they plan the programme for the year. Initiation is one of the first exciting incidents for everyone especially grade niners. Our new comers survive numerous foolish incidents and are then full-fledged high school students.

In the fall, both boys and girls are exerting energy to prepare for field day. We cheer for our friends, and winners are declared. The champions compete with our rival schools, Markham and Agincourt, in the Inter-School Competition, which is being held in the spring. Rugby and hockey games cause much zeal.

Commencement and concert time prove to be worthwhile experiences. As the days dwindle and the big nights approach the choirs are singing more loudly, the girls are dancing with more enthusiasm, the boys are building greater pyramids and the teachers have a look of anxiety. All goes well, thanks to everyone!

As the cold weather approaches, the boys start carrying boards behind the school. Oh, yes, our school rink is beginning to appear from nowhere. This provides us with an ice surface for hockey games and skating parties.

Camera, dramatic and music clubs have various meetings throughout the year. Literary meetings are held every few weeks. Entertainment from each class is provided at the different assemblies. As one looks at the school calendar it is evident that the year has not closed yet. A dance and our school picnic are still in the future.

It would take too long to tell of all our activities here at school. When we have classes we work, but when recreational time comes we enjoy ourselves to the utmost.

Why Was There A Drop In Beef Prices?

Shirley Schell

Many people are listening anxiously to the radio to hear the prices of different commodities. Perhaps we are more interested in the price of meat than in anything else. Why was there a drop in beef prices? Let us look into the matter and see what conclusions we can come to.

In the first place many farmers are becoming disgusted with the milk prices and consequently are selling the dairy cattle for beef. Then, the strict inspection makes it necessary to have the proper milking equipment. Since the expense of such equipment is great many smaller milk shippers are starting to raise beef cattle.

The average family cannot afford to buy beef regularly, therefore there is a surplus of beef on hand. Now that the price of pork is fairly low, people are buying more of it. Since there are many Europeans coming into our country and since they are largely pork eaters, the declining demand for beef affects its price.

Lately the hoof and mouth disease which has stopped all shipments of beef to the United States has been a determining factor in keeping the price of beef down.

The high price of beef in the past has been a challenge to the farmer to raise beef cattle and many of them are doing just that. Prices are based on the supply and demand of a commodity, and since the supply has surpassed the demand, the price of beef has come down.

The Cream of the Crop

Barbara Dixon

Students who enter grade thirteen find themselves facing many problems they have never before or will never face again.

To the younger students you are an ideal; consequently you must constantly remember your position and act accordingly.

Technically you are no longer a youngster and you must assume responsibilities without hesitation. It is your duty to see that the honour of the school is held at a high level. Your attitude is constantly attuned by teachers reminding you that you are at the top and therefore you must do your best to excell the graduating classes of former years.

Most students in the beginning of the year acquire either a complex or a "swelled head." The student either feels he is inferior and cannot accomplish all that is expected of him or he becomes what is normally called a "snob" and tries to dominate the other students.

As the year progresses the personalities of the class become alive and gradually the transformation from adolescent to adult becomes apparent. As soon as the situation is firmly grasped the students accept responsibility. This helps to prepare them for the world into which they will enter in a few years time.

People still fail to understand the student's feeling at this time, but few try to find the reason. The reason is this: students of grade thirteen are under a much greater strain than others realize. They are left with the responsibilities of school activities, but besides these they must face a set of examination papers demanding a greater knowledge of a wider variety of subjects than ever before. If the student fails the fault is wholly his or her own. No one else will be responsible. No one else will know to what extent the activities of the school or activities outside the school are his. The outsider will think only of the fact that the student failed or passed the number of examinations he or she wrote.

Is The Distribution of World Goods Satisfactory?

Glenn R. Thompson

The food in our everyday life certainly does not stand at the top of the list in what we appreciate most. Think of the number of people in the world who are starving. Starving to us is just a word, but to many it is their greatest fear. Thoughtlessly one family in Canada might waste more food in one day than some person in Europe would have to eat in several days. Very few of us have ever had to go without food for even a day. What about the thousands of Chinese who have not eaten for weeks and who eventually fall and are kicked into the gutter? Not a pleasant thought, but you say, "just another Asiatic and besides their countries are over populated." Put yourself in their position, what if Canada had been ravaged by war and had had the percentage population of most European countries, would there be much chance of survival without outside aid?

The possibilities of obtaining decent clothing unless one is an army man is very slight. That makes it very encouraging to enter the Communist armies where there is food and clothing, thus poverty aids Communism. From these observations we see that war brings on Communism and in turn the Communist regime brings on more war.

In Canada and the United States there is plenty of nearly everything. Why could not some of these goods be distributed to European countries in return for their close alignment with our country? Is this not the same as the Communists have done in China? Food was given in return for alliance. We would be much farther ahead by giving aid now instead of having to fight against these distressed countries in the near future, which appears to be the obvious outcome.

If our excess food and clothing were sent to these people as well as missionaries, could they not be just as easily influenced into a worthwhile Christian life instead of the ruin for which they appear destined?

A Scenic Stouffville!

Bill Murphy

Are you satisfied with the appearance of our town? Can't we clean up some of these "eyesores"? Recently a citizen of Vancouver who visited Ontario noticing the impressive modern houses, stated that the landscaping did not do justice to the buildings. Are we to be outdone by a smaller province?

Since this is Stouffville's 75th Anniversary why not start a campaign to help "Beautify Stouffville"? Prizes could be awarded at our celebration for the people who do the most to promote this campaign. As we cannot do this in one year we could make it an annual affair.

The Horticultural Society started beautifying Stouffville when they erected a "Welcome" sign at the west end of town. They could erect another sign at the east end to welcome visitors arriving from eastern places.

Why can't each family do something around their home such as planting flowers and shrubs, cleaning up old broken fences etc.? As was previously mentioned a prize could be awarded to the family who do the most to beautify Stouffville. The Municipal Council could decide the winner and award the prize at our celebration.

The town council should erect better signs for speed limits just outside the town limits so that the motorists could be warned before they reach the town. The population, the name of Stouffville and "Thank You, Call Again" should also be placed on the signs.

Let's all get behind this and try to make Stouffville one of the beauty spots of Ontario.

Music

Ruth Atkinson

Ought all people to like the same kinds of music? At times people tell you that certain pieces of music are very good and that you should learn to enjoy them. Anyone that lives in China, Africa, and India would be expected to enjoy music that is completely different from ours.

Actually there is no absolute or world-wide standard of music, for different people enjoy different music. The standard in music does not always remain the same. In certain countries music once thought good is now considered very uninteresting and frequently the reverse situation is noticed.

It is, however, possible to say that some compositions are enjoyed for a much longer period than others and to a much greater diversity of people. The work of Handel, Bach, Beethoven and many other composers has given pleasure to people everywhere.

People express their feelings in music that they compose and listen to. That explains why there are different types of music. When music is being enjoyed, it usually satisfies some inner longing. People who are bursting with thankfulness for God's beautiful gifts are more than likely to enjoy hymns of praise and gratitude. Many of these wonderful, sacred compositions were composed by Handel, Bach, and Mendelssohn.

Another type of music is the popular music that remains popular for a few weeks or a few months and then perhaps is never heard again. This music serves the purpose of the day, but never satisfies the longing as do the compositions that are hundreds of years old.

The real test of a piece of music is whether it will remain a favourite. Thousands frequently ask for the compositions of Bach, Handel, and Mozart to be repeated, but hardly ever does anyone stand up and ask for a repeat performance of a popular tune. These old compositions, therefore, deserve to be called great.

Let us come to our own decisions on good music and listen to the music that we consider the best.

On Television Antennae

Murray Piphér

When I walk down the street and see the forests of television antennae, which are growing on top of our roofs, I wonder why someone has not thought of utilizing and beautifying them. How, you ask? Well here are a few of my ideas.

If television antennae manufacturers were on their toes, they should have thought of this one. Why not make antennae in the shape of Santa Claus, Easter Bunnies, Shamrocks, Cupids, Whitches, etc. In this way everybody would have to have not one, but at least six, (seasonal) antennae to keep up with the Jones. This would not only sell more antennae, but improve their appearance too. I'm sure you, the public, would pay more to have a beautifully shaped antenna in full colour on your house-top, than a few horizontal bars of gray, or one of those drab ones that look like a pin cushion full of pins.

Another of my ideas is to show your state in life by your antennae. For example, fewlyweds would have one in the shape of a heart with an arrow through it, a bachelor would have a pretty-girl antenna, while long married couples would have one shaped like a rolling pin. This idea, if used properly, would solve many problems of identification.

Another angle is to use television antennae for advertising. Why couldn't antennae be made in the shape of Cadillac cars, Westinghouse washing machines, or even a streamlined bath tub. This little idea should lower costs, as everyone would want HIS product, in the form of an antenna, on YOUR roof. The practical business man could have his antenna made in the shape of his name, and this painted with luminous paint would combine T.V. antennae with neon signs, thus lowering the cost of both.

It is my opinion, that with a little time and thought, these "ugly things" on our roof-tops could be made more beautiful and at the same time more useful.

New Cars

John Stouffer

Today's automobiles are affected by three main defects, size, design, and workmanship.

Perhaps the worst offender is the size which the manufacturers extol as one of the great advantages of their model, as each advertisement says that this model is "bigger and better." As a foundation for these claims the producers add a few inches to the length and width of their cars each year. Huge balloon tires are used to support these masses of chrome and steel. Aside from their smooth riding these tires have a mostly detrimental effect as they are next to useless in mud and snow and they make the car hard to steer. The business man who does most of his driving in the city notices this ungainliness when he tries to fight his way through a traffic jam. With a small, light car he could much more easily worm his way through. To correspond with the increase in size the manufacturers increase the horsepower, usually much more than necessary, making their cars dangerous to drive for any except experienced drivers. Strangely enough, the producers keep on claiming more economy for their new models.

The design is concerned with the external shape and the frills. To give a glamorous shape to their cars the manufacturers use huge fenders which protrude so far that every obstruction seems to hit them. On most makes these fenders are attached way up at the trim strip just under the windows. A smashed front fender is bad, but a mangled back one is almost impossible, or at least very expensive, to fix so you either buy a new car or drive one that looks like a wreck. To break these "glamorous" curves the designers splatter chrome trim on every possible place, and a few others too. That characteristic would not be so bad, but after a few years rust spots appear on the chrome regardless of your care.

Except in the most expensive models the manufacturers fail to keep up their workmanship standards. As a result the trunk and door latches soon fail and occasionally do not work properly from the first. The front end and grillwork suffer too as the grill often separates at the joints causing many mysterious rattles in the bodywork, but troubles do occur in the motor and running gear as my father found when he purchased a new car recently. There were: a faulty carburetor, which caused hard starting and easy stalling, a cracked windshield, and faulty door latches, which are showing up already.

If the present trend continues we shall be buying cars the size of buses before long. Even as it is there are already parking problems and most of the cities are suffering traffic jams. Although these jams are caused by the number, rather than the size of the cars, a reduction in car size would certainly alleviate the situation a certain amount. If some manufacturer would produce a line of small, functional, well-built cars, the average man would have a useful means of transportation which would be more suited to his needs. The old "Model 'A'" Ford was a good car and still would be if it was modified by means of rounded corners, a trunk, and improved braking and suspension.