

# Tribune Editorials

## Retain High School Dignity

The idea was put forward in last week's Tribune by a high school writer on the Youth page, that it might be a good idea if special smoking rooms or room was set aside at the school. In the opinion of this writer such an idea is definitely out.

In roads are being made on 'dignity' as it should be observed in many of our institutions, and smoking rooms in high schools is one place we draw the line. It's been evident for a long time that all the architectural dignity has gone from our institutions of secondary and primary education, let's not begin now to invade the inside of these schools as well.

If there is one thing that makes us pro British when being compared with our American neighbors, it is this lack of dignity in government, in schools and in courts. The less dignity the less respect.

We are not campaigning against students smoking — this is not our point. But there should be some self-discipline

in smoking, as in drinking. If a student has reached the state where he cannot do without a smoke during the period he is in school, he is sick.

Freedom can be carried too far and allowing smoking in schools and churches is doing just that. Self-discipline is good for a person, most particularly a young person. There is too great a tendency today to latch on to these "away out" ideas, and react against authority. It is neither smart nor healthy but merely widens the cracks of decadence in our society.

The knowledge of this generation is many times that of fifty and a hundred years ago, but let's not go overboard. Let's keep our feet on the ground, not see how many fundamental values and dignities we can abandon.

These words of Bovee sum up the situation for schools — "Dignity of position and surroundings adds to dignity of character. Give us a proud position and we are impelled to act up to it."

## Postoffice Slowing Down

We are making no reference to our local postoffices when we say that post-office workers are slowing down. City postal people have threatened a strike just before Christmas but it is quite evident now that they have already slowed the service to a crawl in some of the larger centres.

Ottawa and Toronto are examples where first-class mail is taking days longer to go from point to point than it should, while second-class mail is lucky to move in a week. Complaints are constantly being received to give

plenty of evidence that the "works are being gummed up."

The general public wonders just how long the government is going to stand around and put up with this flagrant disobedience. At the same time how do the workers expect they are going to receive consideration in their contract negotiations when they break faith and deliver only half a day's work while they are asking for more remuneration. This is a "fine" way to go about getting action.

## Involvement

Lack of involvement by citizens in civic affairs can have serious consequences. Stouffville is a typical example of a modern-day community where a great many people pay their taxes at arm's length. Many are paid through a mortgage company that collects monthly payments from the householder. This way, even taking a trip to the municipal office to pay taxes is avoided.

People have adopted a "silence is

golden" attitude and this can have serious consequences.

Citizens today are ready and able to speak about civic and political affairs on the street corner, at the club meeting, or in any two-way discussion. But such conversations rarely get to the government locally because that would require involvement.

How far will matters go until people quit being passively quiet.

## Cry 'Wolf'

On Friday night, the air raid siren sounded in Stouffville. Shoppers on the street stopped, listened and wondered. They are still wondering and so are we.

It was obviously a false alarm but no one will admit to inadvertently pushing the panic button. In addition to Stouffville, the siren wailed in other centres throughout the County. Still, no explanation.

This is not the first time that such a thing has occurred here and it's not the first time that enquiries have drawn a blank.

Thousands of dollars have been poured into the E.M.O. program. Every year, its purpose is questioned by County Council and the cost is criticized.

We believe that the idea behind the organization is good but the conglomeration of red tape involved, makes the whole plan appear ridiculous.

One of these days, the siren may sound in earnest but the public, who have listened to the 'Cry Wolf' tale before, will laugh it off as just another joke in a continuous comedy of errors.



"and if the cost of living goes up any further, I may have to eat it!"

## SUGAR AND SPICE

### Here Goes Nothing — Who Cares?



By BILL SMILEY

Ever try to think, let alone write, when your nose is dripping like a tap in a tenement, you are barking up chunks of lung, your body is crawling with hot and cold needles, and you could fry an egg on your forehead?

Yep, I've got the flu. Don't worry, I won't go on about it. Every virile, red-blooded Canadian knows all about the flu. But don't expect a sparkling column this week. Along with those symptoms, my brain is about as agile as a basketful of wet klenex.

But, by golly, tonight is the night of the staff party, and I'm going if it kills me. If this space is blank next week, with a black border around it, don't send flowers. Just send the equivalent in cash to my wife. Flowers aren't much use to a good-looking widow with two kids to educate.

And don't grieve or sing sad songs. Just muse, "Well, he went the way he always wanted to go, smelling strong of Dr. Walker's cough syrup and dancing what he thought was the Watusi with the smashing young blonde who just joined the English Department."

But that doesn't solve the problem of writing this column, does it? Well, I'm going to swing in all directions, so, if you aren't a swinger, you can stop reading this and turn to the grocery ads, which are about the most exciting and frustrating reading you can find these days.

Speaking of which, did you ever see such prices? I don't know who is pocketing the loot — farmer, middle-man or retailer — but they won't even let you belly up to the meat counter these days unless you flash a bar of gold bullion.

Wedding anniversaries. I bought 20 yellow roses for my wife on our twentieth anniversary. She squealed with ecstasy. It was very romantic, especially when I told her I'd paid for them with a cheque on our joint account.

But these little romantic gestures really pay off. Three days later, for no better reason than a tap in the bathroom has been dripping for six weeks, she yanked the fading flowers out of the vase, beat me around the face and ears with them, thorns and all, and hurled the rosewater over me. I came up smelling like a yellow rose and she came up to the bathroom, helped me wash off the blood, and fixed the tap herself.

Teenage girls. Somebody sent me a London, Ont., paper for teens. One columnist, obviously a girl, was sounding

off, in disgust with her sisters. This was her pungent observation: "Today's young female goes kookie over something that walks around in high heels, tight pants and long locks of hair hanging to its shoulders. Girls today are robbed of their sex in more ways than one." Ain't she right?

Strikes. I have always been a union man, but I am fed up, right to the ears, with the arrogance, the lawlessness, and the refusal to compromise displayed by many unions this year. How about you?

Leaders. The perennial game called "Dump Dief" is popular again. I think he should have retired, full of years, honours, and malarkey, long since. But I can't help admiring the old wolf as the pack tries to drag him down. He is a fighter, and there aren't many left.

Advertising. I don't agree with the speaker, but I found the following, coming from a big advertising man, the most refreshing statement I've read for many a day:

"The simple truth is that people don't give a damn about advertising. They never have and they never will. . . People don't care about advertising, they care about things."

"They care about things that make them happy or beautiful or fat or sober or drunk or alive or human; things that entertain them, transport them, enrich them, protect them or profit them. But they don't give a tuppenny damn about ads."

A melancholy picture of the human race. Do you agree?

## THIS WEEK & NEXT

### Fighting High Prices

By RAY ARGYLE



The effort of women's groups around the country to win lower food prices by boycotting supermarkets is not likely to have much success.

If responsibility for high food prices belongs to grocery retailers (and I am not convinced it does), most Canadians do not have much choice in the matter because food is not a commodity we can go long without.

And if the responsibility is not at the feet of the retailers, our good ladies are wasting their time.

Better results might be achieved through serious efforts by every housewife to engage in more selective shopping. In this way, the items which are over-priced or unreasonably costly will be left to gather dust on the brightly-lit store shelves. If that happens, the stores will cut back on their orders, the wholesalers will find their sales dropping, and prices will be cut all along the line.

To attempt to combat prices at any one level (and the retail level is of course the most obvious and vulnerable because it's there in front of us), is highly unrealistic in the kind of economy we have in this country today.

Housewives who have organized boycotts should not be criticized for their concern about high prices. But there are so many factors in the price system that to single out any one is not only short-sighted, but also unfair.

As most husbands, I have spent my share of time pushing grocery carts down supermarket aisles. I think I've picked up a few points along the line that I've finally convinced my wife on, and the first is that she should shop alone.

Taking along your husbands, dear ladies, is your first mistake. It can increase your shopping bill up to 25 per cent., depending on how impulsive a beast he may be. Sure, it's nice to have all those gourmet foods on the pantry shelf, but did you really need, want or more important, afford them?

Children, too, can be just as guilty of pushing up the food bill by tagging along behind Mom and insisting she buy this or that. I've seen many ladies cave in to those precocious orders rather than have to endure the embarrassment of cutting junior down to size.

Although I can't vouch for it from personal experience, I'm also told that it's a must to make out a shopping list first, and then LIMIT yourself to what you have on your list.

And one expert says you'll get away cheaper if you make out your list right after dinner. A full stomach will produce a short shopping list, according to this theory.

Finally, of course, food shopping is the housewife's main spending outlet. It's about all the money many dear ladies of my acquaintance ever handle.

While every woman wishes to feed her family the best meals she can, there's no reason why a little belt-tightening would hurt anyone just before Christmas.

Despite the fact that several hundred

thousand housewives across Canada are now organized into boycott groups — ranging from Vancouver's Women Against Soaring Prices to Montreal's Inflation Fighters — the supermarkets claim such efforts have had little effect.

Supermarket operators feel hurt, however, that they have been singled out in the campaign.

Now, the supermarket chains don't need me to defend them. But no supermarket operator would be able to claim unfair treatment if our women's groups emphasized selective shopping, which can be made to work, instead of massive boycotts, which are widely impractical.

In our household, we do not buy butter and we have not had bacon on the table for months. We consider these items, and a number of others, to be overpriced. If Canadian women would concentrate on the specials, and resist over-priced foods, the cost of living index might show a healthy decline between now and Christmas.



[Fall]ing Leaves

Douglas O'Blenes, Maureen O'Blenes and Ronny McDowell find the autumn leaves more interesting than the auction at the Frank Gostick farm, Pickering Twp., Oct. 22. Hidden in the mass of flying leaves are Valerie Gates, Caroline O'Blenes and Sheila McDowell.

# ROAMING AROUND

## A Will To Work

In this day and age of strikes, picket lines and bonus demands, it's nice to know that there are still a few people around who believe in giving an honest day's work for an honest dollar earned.

An example of this kind of employee resides right here in Stouffville. His name is Albert Sweeney. He's the town streetcleaner.

Mr. Sweeney, a native of Nova Scotia, lives on Montreal Street.

He feels he's fortunate to be able to work, for, in December, 1965, he was taken seriously ill and admitted to Usbridge Hospital. One month later, he entered the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto for a period of treatment that lasted four weeks. "I would have been dead by Christmas," he admitted.

On doctor's orders, he wasn't to return to his street-cleaning chores until July but he was back on the job in April. "I became restless," he said.

Mr. Sweeney's day begins at 6 a.m. and he works through until five. He can complete the entire pavement route in ten hours.

"It can be a little discouraging at times. Just when you get one section of roadway nice and clean, a gravel truck goes through leaving a trail of stones and sand." He claims that most motorists are quite co-operative and will move their vehicles if requested. If cars are unoccupied, he sweeps around them.

Mr. Sweeney, 64, is an ardent hunter and hopes to head north into the Parry Sound district in November. "As the saying goes, I was 'ris' in the sticks and I like the bush."

Men of Albert Sweeney's determination are few and far between — a determination to work. He's making Stouffville a cleaner place in which to live.

If Stouffville firemen, Charles Jackson, Jim Rennie and Marvin Betz couldn't quite catch the pastoral sermon on Sunday morning, it was because their cars were still ringing from Saturday night. The three 'volunteers' bore the brunt of the musical bombardment in the new firehall as an estimated 300 Stouffville teenagers wiggled, wobbled, jumped and jerked their way through three hours of live entertainment.

Even the Chief, Walt Smith and his Deputy, Fred Castle, appeared a trifle shell-shocked at curfew time. And no wonder. The noise was deafening but the kids loved it. The 'Dynel's' as the six-boy combo is called, has little in common with the Guy Lombardo. Sammy Kaye renditions of our era but neither does the Model 'T' compare with a Thunderbird. John Meydam is a whiz on the drums. The remaining five drowned out each other including the vocalist, so it would be unfair to judge them individually. The Kinsmen-promoted Santa Claus Parade was the real winner, to the tune of about \$100. The firemen are hoping to hold another dance in their hall in November. Proceeds would go to their pet project — muscular dystrophy, a very worthwhile cause.

On Thursday evening (tonight), music of still another kind will be featured at the Stouffville Sales Barn, Hwy. 47. Entertainment western style will star Ron Myers and his Country Gentlemen. Starting time is 8 p.m. and all proceeds go to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Stouffville has a coin-operated laundromat and a coin car wash. According to town police, there is also need for a coin-operated gas pump. Motorists and bike-riders are continually running out of fuel during the early-morning hours and such an emergency filling station would be both helpful and profitable.

## Postoffice To Get New Symbol

It may take a few years but the familiar royal coat of arms printed on post office trucks and mail bags is going to be replaced by the maple leaf.

A post office department official says it now is policy to use the 11-point maple leaf — the same as the one on the new flag — when the trucks are being relettered or bags being replaced.

In the centre of the maple leaf symbol are "married c's and p's" — the letters are intertwined so they could stand for Canada Post or Postes Canada.

The change hasn't taken place on any post office equipment yet, the official said. And it will take a few years before all of it bears the maple leaf instead of the coat of arms.

"It takes a long time for a mail bag to wear out," the official said. But new bags now on order will bear the new symbol.

The official said the change is in line with other government departments using the maple leaf as a symbol. He mentioned the transport department as an example.

The labor department, too, recently began using the maple leaf on its publication, the Labor Gazette. And new social security cards used by the department will carry the maple leaf instead of the coat of arms.

The 11-point maple leaf can also be seen on new uniforms being supplied to postmen — they appear both on the peaked cap and on the shoulder flash.

No change is required in any legislation to make the change.

## EDITOR'S MAIL

### Placing The Blame

By OUR READERS

To the Editor: The postal workers demand for a 39 per cent wage increase has caused quite a bluster. Let's place the blame where it originated. It all started from a seed-bed tenderly fertilized by the present government, which raised a \$10,000 salary to \$18,000 plus many fringe benefits.

This government is responsible for the leaping costs and prices. This government favored a 30 per cent increase to the dock workers, and now a 39-per cent increase which is an offshot of the greediest salary grab Canada has ever known.

I implore that the postal union 39 per cent increase be changed to 40 per cent because 39 belongs to Jack Benny. No one is indispensable, so let's dismiss the mail carriers, we're getting too fat anyway and could pick up our own mail like 'before, when mail carriers were unknown.

Who is qualified to rightly judge one's worth and to question the mail carrier's intelligence and foresight to limit his family size when the necessities of life are identical in price?

E. S. WINSTON

# The Tribune

Established 1888

C. H. NOLAN, Publisher - JIM THOMAS, Editor - NOEL EDEY, Advertising

Published every Thursday by the Stouffville Tribune Limited at 54 Main St., Stouffville, Ont. Tel. 640-2101. Single copies 10c, subscriptions \$4.00 per year in Canada, \$6.00 elsewhere. Member of Audit Bureau of Circulation, Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association and Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association. Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Dept., Ottawa.