

Editorial

**A Tribute To The Past**

In May, students of Stouffville District High School will select their own Centennial Queen of 1967. The event will undoubtedly be the social highlight of the school year.

Young people, we feel, are more accustomed to dealing with matters pertaining to the present and looking forward with optimism to the future. This is as it should be. However, on this one particular occasion, we feel it would be both unique and proper to recognize queens past and issue them personal invitations to attend.

Stouffville's first high school queen was crowned in 1953, fourteen years ago. She was Joanne Bodendistel, now Mrs. Paul Coté of Aylmer and the mother of three. Others who have followed included—Rose Peake; Barbara Hastings; Anna Col; Pat Barry; Carol Skinner; Lois Martin; Elaine Forsyth; Daphne Chewins; Lynda Nolan; Janet Devlin; Bernadine Terwards; Pat Toole and Linda Wright.



Joanne Bodendistel

Perhaps the Student Council of 1966-67 has already discussed the merits of such a plan. If so, then we can only lend the idea our support.

Editorial

**Human Beings Or Tin Soldiers?**

By DIETER SCHNELL — 12B

School is a drag! Probably every student has uttered that remark sometime during his school life. Most people would say, "Well, school is what you make it," or "unless you can think of something better, quit complaining." Well, that is playing the pretending game again. The fact remains that there are problems in the school system as well as in the attitudes of the students under that system. There are no students, that is to say, boys or girls who study, in high schools. They simply memorize; conform to a certain pattern; are marked for what is acceptable and relevant in the eyes of their teachers. They are enslaved by prejudices and standards of society that should only exist in old men's imaginations. The environment in which they exist is artificial. Learning is neither spontaneous nor motivated from within other than of course getting the proper credits to prove that you are society's greatest acceptor. Society feels that the purpose of education is to prepare us for life, to prepare us to perform functions in a monster that threatens to devour us, unless we re-orient our minds. We should contribute to it. That's very nice! What is turned out is a battalion of little factory approved tin soldiers, trained walking depositories of facts, who will fit in quite nicely with what society expects. The real purpose of education should be to produce human beings. A human being is responsive, sensitive, and tolerant. What he has learned: the irony, the paradox, the enigmas, the insights in life should become a part of him. He should be allowed to develop without the artificial sanctions that all institutions impose. He should be free to think as freely as a human being can think, without the prejudices and dogmas of church school, social standards and game rules to fall prisoner to.

But in so doing he is not allowed to venture into Other Areas. Freedom of speech becomes a mockery. Teachers cannot state controversial views without John Q. Public (who probably knows less about such and such a subject) holding a knife over them. The high school student becomes the greatest hypocrite of all because the way he reacts to society contradicts what he is learning about it.

Certain parts of school exist only through tradition. Take morning exercises. We hear a great deal from the Bible, every morning. But do you think we could ever hear Mr. Nietzsche's views or Mr. Kirkegaard's views? Heavens forbid! The pious would be screaming all the way from Africa.

Great changes are being made. Family Life sex education courses, apparently, are major breakthroughs in high schools. What would be a greater breakthrough, however, would be a special course to find out what the real aims and values of education are. John Q. Public seems to know. But who likes tin soldiers, factory approved? John Q. Public, of course.

Editor's Mail

Visited Yorkville And Enjoyed It

February 13, 1967.

Dear Editor:

I have never become angry enough to write a letter to the editor of a paper, but the article on "Yorkville's smelly dens" brought me to the boiling point. I have visited the Village on several occasions, and I have come to know some of the so-called Villagers quite well. Let me tell you, they are some of the most intelligent, friendly and considerate people I have ever met, and I would be proud to call them my friends. The majority of the Villagers are far from dirty. Their clothes may be faded and old, their hair may be long . . . maybe they have nowhere to live. Yet, one boy I talked to told me he had had a bath every day for 3 days, while another was walking around asking everyone, "Can I wash my hair at your place? It's so filthy." "It doesn't look it," I told him, "When did you last wash it?" "Yesterday," he said.

Yorkville "pads" are not "smelly" . . . at least none of the nine or ten I've been in. A Villager seldom lives in the same place for longer than 3 weeks, and before they leave, they are required to clean the "pad". And what is wrong with 3 or 4 teenagers living in the same "pad"? If they want to sleep on the floor, or take turns in the bed, what's it to you? They are breaking no law, and if they're happy like that, why complain?

And in defense of all Villagers, I would like to say that they are not the rude, dirty, lazy, drug-addicts, they are made out to be. You say they are? They have no respect? Well, if you walk up to someone, laugh at him and ask him if he is a boy or a girl, do you expect him to smile and be polite to you? I have sat and talked to many of them, and although most drop four-letter words into every sentence, not one has done anything to even attempt to hurt me. They are surprisingly confidential, and open toward me, even as a complete stranger, and one boy spent nearly 2 hours telling me that his father used to beat him up, and he had never loved anyone in his life. I had never met him before.

Villager boys might exploit young girls financially and sexually? True, but so would any other boys who are given as much opportunity as they are, and almost anyone will try to take advantage of someone else, if he is given the chance.

Last, I would like to tell teenagers that the Village is a wonderful place, and if you have the least bit of common sense, you don't need a bodyguard to visit it. I am not saying that you won't get into trouble, I am saying that you don't have to. And as to your attitude toward Villagers, I think it all depends on how you approach them. Their friendship is quickly won, and lasts long. Go ahead, talk to them; they are not animals and they won't bite you.

Respectfully yours,  
Krissie Moore.  
(age 15)

**Youth Tribune**



Eighteen year old Bonnie O'Neill, Grade 13 student at Stouffville District High School. —Staff Photo.

**Portrait Of A Teenager**

STOUFFVILLE — There's a sprinkling of several nationalities within the student body of Stouffville District High School. Certainly, none is more characteristic of old Ireland than pretty blonde, blue-eyed Bonnie O'Neill, 18, of Grade 13. She's The Tribune's pick this week in the current series, "Portrait of a Typical Teenager".

Bonnie is not Irish born, but her family heritage goes back to the land of the Shamrock, a fact that she points to with pride. She hopes to visit the country some day.

FROM MARKHAM

Bonnie admits that until she was 11, she had done nothing too spectacular except move from Toronto, to Markham, to Stouffville. What was Markham's loss was Stouffville's gain. She became a member at the Community Swimming Pool and earned her Red Cross Badge. She joined the Figure Skating Club and was active in that organization for five years. She now belongs to the school Glee Club and performed in the Oneretta.

Bonnie's father was, without doubt, one of the finest softball pitchers ever, in this area but she can recall little of Papa O'Neill's prowess on the diamond. "I can just remember sitting on someone's knee in the ball park but that's all". Has she ever played the game? Bonnie shook her head and held up two slightly bent fingers. "That's what happened to me," she said. Like most teenage girls, Bonnie likes to dance but due to an after-school job on Friday evenings, she finds it difficult to arrive back in time. She's the friendly waitress in Houston's Coffee Shoppe, a position she will retain during the summer vacation period.

TEACH UP NORTH

Big-city life holds no attraction for Bonnie. She plans to attend Teacher's College and acquire a school in Northern Ontario. She is a member of Christ Church Anglican in Stouffville and attends the Hi-C of the United Church.

During the past few years, Bonnie has enjoyed the pen-pal company of eight friends in countries including Korea, Nigeria, South Africa, Ireland and France, also British Columbia and New Brunswick. Three of them correspond regularly.

Yes, there's a wee bit o' Ireland in Grade 13 this year. She's a blue-eyed 'colleen' named Bonnie O'Neill. And the school is just a wee bit better by her presence.

Editor's Mail

Editorial

**No 'Typical' Student Comment Welcomed Teenagers**

By DIETER SCHNELL

Feb. 6, 1967.

Dear Sir:

I am a 15 year old Grade 11 student of Stouffville District High School. I participated in Grade 9 on the Track and Field Team; volunteered and worked on the Centennial Committee; have had an average between 67 and 70 percent; have had only one detention and have never been late for classes. Why then, am I not a 'typical teenager'?

You have taken it upon yourself to make these choices but you have never attended school with them. You know nothing of their habits except from your interviews.

I know of several teenagers who are very much like myself with the exception they have higher marks.

I don't feel that it is fair for you to choose. Actually, there is no such thing as a 'typical teenager' since everyone is different.

I disagree that you, a stranger, should select from our midst 'The Pick of the Week' while we, who know the students, have no say.

I appreciate the opportunity of allowing me to express my views.

Sincerely,  
Darleen McLean,  
Stouffville, R.R.2.

Editor's Note: The editor of High News is well aware that we will be only too pleased to consider any names that his staff wishes to recommend. There are still twenty weeks to go and we hope to cover at least a cross-section of 'typical teenagers' like yourself during this period.

**School Ski Club**

STOUFFVILLE — The Ski Club has been in operation for four years. This year's executive has Jim Clubine as President, Joanne Stewart, Secretary, and Bob Allen, Treasurer. There are approximately 30 members in the club although at the last meeting, only six attended. Thus far, three ski trips were held and athletes braved cold weather and potential broken bones to travel by bus to Mt. St. Louis, Talsman and Honeypot. The greatest problem has been that of finance, one of the reasons why a planned trip to Collingwood was cancelled. Nonetheless, the Ski Club is one of the more prominent groups in the school and we wish it continuing success in the future.

In addition to providing members of the Stouffville District High School Newspaper Staff with an opportunity to report on events pertaining to school activities, the Youth Section of The Tribune is a media through which the students, as individuals, can express themselves via comments, editorials, suggestions and opinions. Articles may concern the school, the community or general teen topics. However, it seems that many of the same students are expressing their opinions each week. With an enrollment of more than 500, the representation is far from good.

Students should take advantage of the facilities provided and give some thought to activities of interest going on around them. The Youth Section is placed in the hall each week for the purpose of promoting interest and your comments would be appreciated.

It is also hoped that you will give your full cooperation to the weekly feature 'Portrait of a Typical Teenager'. It serves to acquaint the public with students who may not continually share the spotlight of attention common to others. The students are selected without prejudice and the series, in my opinion, is most interesting and acceptable.

On Thursday Night

**Pick Posture Queen At Valentine Dance**

STOUFFVILLE — Stouffville District High School will select its 1967 Posture Queen at the annual Valentine Dance to be held in the auditorium Thursday, February 16.

The winner will receive the coveted Posture Oscar, presented by Stouffville Chiropractor, Jerome DeLaurier. Last year's queen was Grade 9 student, Jane Thomas. Runners-up were Ruth Parsons and Sharon Sinclair.

The Mod Theme will be featured and the auditorium will be decorated to provide this impression with accompanying coffee house. Alan Lee is the chairman of this committee.

A much-publicized Rhythm and Blues group, The Tripp, will provide the music.

Last year, the attendance at this dance was small. An improved turnout is hoped for on Friday. It will be one of the last important social functions prior to Easter Examinations.



Margaret Aida

STOUFFVILLE — Margaret Aida, former student of Stouffville District High School, was chosen Miss Chemical Engineering at the University of Toronto, Jan. 27. She then advanced to the finals for Miss Engineering and placed second. The contest was part of the Engineering 'At Home' Dance held Feb. 3 in the Royal York Hotel, Toronto. Margaret is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tat Aida, Hawthorne Avenue.

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