

Youth

Tribune

Students criticize critic of high school program

STOUFFVILLE — The Tribune is in receipt of several letters from students and parents of students, criticizing the critic's report on a recent high school program "A Day of Television in the Evening." Some of the letters are published here. Several others carried no signatures.

Editor's Mail

Dear Editor:
I have heard via the student grapevine that you are to be bombarded with letters, criticizing your critic's report of the show held at the Stouffville High School March 15. I am the mother of a teenager and I try to be as understanding as possible of a teenager's likes and dislikes when it comes to music. However, I thought the "noise" numbers as you termed them, completely out of place for such an event. Even my own daughter admitted that it was "pretty loud." The soloists, particularly Anne Duxbury, Beverley Bell and Donna Wright did wonderfully well and each should have been accorded an encore. I thought you might be interested in hearing from at least one adult who is also a parent.

Sincerely
(Mrs.) June Ireson

Dear Sir:
We wish to comment on your article concerning the variety show presented by the students of Stouffville Dist. Secondary School.

Your summary of the evening's entertainment was a rather gross and uninformed generalization extended from a thin discussion of the two extreme, but equally enjoyable ends of the spectrum of entertainment presented by the students.

Perhaps if you had learned to appreciate each type of music presented, on its own terms, you would have been able to make a more just evaluation of the entertainment offered.

Criticism is always valuable, but only if based on an intelligent and non-partisan assessment of facts. This, we feel, is lacking in your review.

Yours truly,
Lynn Sherwood (GI II)
Maryann Proctor (GI II)
Glenview College,
York University

Dear Mr. Thomas:
I am writing in regard to the article that appeared in last week's Tribune about the Show Club's production of "A Day of Television in the Evening." I feel that article was extremely critical of every phase of the entire program.

This club was formed for one purpose; to put

on a show. It tried very hard to please everyone in the audience from students to adults, and in my opinion it was very good. It brought forward the talents of over 150 students, whether it was singing, acting, playing an instrument, painting scenery, lighting or any of the necessary tasks that go into a production of that size.

I also feel that you missed the whole idea of the show. It was a performance put on by the Show Club, formed instead of the old "Glee Club" which was disbanded, the Drama Club and many individual personalities. The main theme was the title, "A Day of Television in the Evening," and the addition of "a few sacred numbers" would have seemed entirely out of place.

In the remark about "the program SHOULD be limited to ONLY music. Comedy without comedians is not funny." I presume you are referring to the play put on by the S.D.S.S. Drama Club. The impression I received from your article was that you did not like it, but does that mean that everyone didn't like it?

I also feel that just because you do not appreciate the type of music popular with today's teens that you have to express your opinion throughout your article. I'm sure that if you had seen all the work that went into the show you might have said at least one kind word. As the old saying goes "if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all."

Sincerely,
David Borland

Ed's Note — I expressed my opinion because I wrote the article under my name. If you take the time to re-check the story I'm sure that you'll see that I did enjoy a large part of the program. However, to say that I enjoyed all aspects of the show would be dishonest of me and unfair to you.

The Misunderstood
We try to show
Then we are destroyed
The way that we feel
Because it does not fit
It does not fit into the little minds
That cannot see us
So we try to give them eyes
By presenting our minds to them
But they do not want to see
They do not want to use the eyes we give them
If only
If only they would look
For with this release
They could see our minds
To expand their minds
Instead of this
We are understood
By thoughtless minds
Who sit in their little worlds
The little men
Who are all knowing.
Because they do not see

us
Do not want to see us
We do not want them
They can all remain as they are
And imagine us
As monsters
With hairy teeth
Thirty vertebrae
Misshapen heads
But we are like them
And forty ribs.
On the outside,
Inside
We are grown and developed.
While they are sterile and dead.
Are you one of them?
Jim Lewis 12B

The Tribune:
A great deal of unrest has been witnessed at the high school about Mr. Thomas' article about the show Club Night. Many feel he was not justified to give it such a bad review and that he had several misconceptions. Some of the opinions about it are as follows:
"Mr. Thomas is evidently unaware that a school variety show is supposed to be an expression of school spirit and youthful creativity, not a parent-oriented show. He should be informed as well that at no time in planning or production was it ever intended as a "music night". From the beginning it was intended as a variety show."
"Not only did Mr. Thomas insult the students but he also insulted every person, adult or child who came to the show and enjoyed it."
"The S.D.S.S. variety show was an immense pleasure to watch and act in. The problem that confronted the organizers of the show was to blend music and drama into a recognizable format that could be presented to the public. It is a credit to the producer Ted Topping that he succeeded in doing this."
"A lot of work was put into the show. It doesn't seem right that such a column should be written and damage the spirit of the school. Many younger students who took part were on stage for the first time. An editorial such as that which was written did such to discourage them from performing again."
"A variety show such as presented was done by the students. It gives 'all' a chance to participate. Some who will never act again get the feeling of accomplishing something after it is done. It was not for the ones who already star in their field but for all."
"Youth is a time of energy, vitality and life. To stifle this would be to create a sterile, lifeless society. Mr. Thomas did his very best to stifle us. In general his report was unfair, narrow-minded and ambiguous. Anyone who saw the show would leave it with positive feelings, not negative ones."

ings, not negative ones."
"I feel Mr. Thomas' opinions of the show was rather uncomprehensive. A critical review should include the major topics of the show and also the positive qualities it had. The thirty minute play wasn't even mentioned and the fact that the audience applauded as it did indicated a good point, which Mr. Thomas didn't even mention."
Throughout the year people have been noticing what they thought was a drop in the school spirit. This may have been caused by the expansion or by a loss of some of the more enthusiastic elements in the school. It may even have been caused by lack of concern. This drop was witnessed at the attendance of the home games in sports and in the actual clubs. There just wasn't much coming from the school in the way of Student Sponsored activities. Then the magic revival came. Ted Topping and others got together and started to organize a night of entertainment. The school buzzed with activity as preparations went on. Finally just in time the show was ready. All the students participating put their utmost energies into it. The show was put on and by audience reaction was a success. There were a few minor difficulties but with all else that went on it made them seem very small indeed. School spirit which had seemed to disappear had suddenly come into the open again at its success. Then an article written by Mr. Thomas threw a wet blanket on the whole thing. I am sure if he looked not too hard, he could find many good points about the show. I think the only thing accomplished by his article was to show us how unfair he was.
Teresa Mowat 12B

Mrs. Robert Stapley has returned from a three-week holiday in the Caribbean. She was accompanied by Miss Marion Jack of Toronto.



A Grade 2 teacher's cast becomes class register

Mrs. Lola Humphry, Grade 2 teacher on the staff of Stouffville's Orchard Park School, has returned to her classroom in spite of a heavy cast on her right leg. She suffered the injury in a skiing accident, three months ago. Lynn Roberts, 7 and Steven Hammond, 8, add their names to the lengthening list of student signatures. —Staff Photo

Interim school committee

STOUFFVILLE — Representatives from twenty-one elementary and secondary school boards have been named to a York County Interim School Organization Committee that held its first meeting at Aurora. The chairman is Mr. J. J. MacKay of Markham TSA 1. The vice chairman is Murray Binions, Aurora.
Committee members from this area include: Harry A. Maynard, Markham Dist. High School; Eldred King, Markham TSA 2; Mrs. Merna Colbourne, Markham Village School; John C. McMur-

ray, Stouffville Public School; Gordon Ratcliff, Stouffville Dist. Secondary School; Michael Ogden, Whitchurch TSA; Jack MacKay, Markham TSA 1. Mr. Ogden and Mr. Mc-

Murray will serve on the administration committee; Mrs. Colbourne and Mr. Maynard on curriculum; Mr. King on finance and Mr. Ratcliff and Mr. MacKay on property.

Newlyweds honored

By MILDRED PUCKRIN
AUDLEY — Friends of Andy and Joy Czaj gathered at the church to present them with a toaster, tea kettle and purse containing money, in honor of their recent marriage.
Miss Gladys Hamilton, on leave from missionary work in India, spoke at the church.

The community club enjoyed a skating party at the Brooklin Arena and later gathered at the home of Bert and Mrs. Guthrie.
The Hi-C group visited the Royal Ontario Museum returning to the home of Arthur Puckrin

Maternity leaves for teacher-mother

Reporting to the Board of Directors of the Federation of Women Teachers' Association of Ontario at a four-day meeting in Toronto, Dorothy Martin, Executive Secretary, recommended that a committee of young married members of the Federation be named to study the leave for married women problem of maternity teachers. Noting that two-thirds of the membership of FWTAO are married, and about 40 per cent are less than 25 years of age, Miss Martin said that "inquiries of the members of the Federation indicate that maternity leaves do not meet the needs of today's young teaching mother."
"Canada," she said, "is far behind other countries in its attitude toward the pregnant teacher, and this Federation has a duty to try to correct this situation."
Noting that the Federation is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, Miss Martin said that "the Federation celebrates a great achievement — fifty years of growth and accomplishment." She said, "The fact of a women teachers' group not merely surviving half a century, but also gaining in stature, is in itself a miracle." But she stressed that "much remains to be done before women teachers can claim to be completely profes-

sional." Mis Martin said that in the future all elementary teachers will require a university education.
During the four-day meeting the directors of Federation received and discussed committee reports on topics ranging from Teacher Education and Certification, Teachers' College Liaison, Awards and Scholarships to Indian Affairs, Legislation and Superannuation.
The Indian Affairs Committee reported that the FWTAO continues to assist Indian students. The Federation has provided grants averaging \$200 to 20 high school Indian students, and additional special grants including \$1,000 to an Indian girl to enable her to attend Teachers' College, a gift of \$100 for library supplies in a northern school, and a grant for the purchase of skates for five elementary Indian school children.

The Federation directors also heard a report on the status of the organization's brief to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. This brief will deal with the position of women in general, but with particular attention to women in education. The Federation has a membership of 29,000, and is the largest affiliate in the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

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