


The Tribune
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Is stopwatch radar ethical?

Click! That's the sound of the latest radar mechanism that will be incorporated by York Regional Police, immediately, to clock speeding motorists throughout the region. But it's not an electronic apparatus. No, it's a stopwatch.

Chief Bruce Crawford reported his decision to the board of police commissioners recently, and only two commission members bitterly opposed the use of stopwatches, indicating it was "sneaky". Although the chief assured Ray Twinney that officers would be in full view of passing motorists, the angry commissioner charged that police would hide behind trees to catch speeders.

And who's to say that officers would stand

at the side of the road? Is Chief Crawford going to patrol the entire region to satisfy his own assurance?

According to the chief, this method of clocking speeders has been used by other forces for at least 28 years and it is the chief's contention that it is his responsibility to "enforce the law and use every legal means to do it." Legal, perhaps. But, ethical?

As it is now, patrol officers park their yellow cruisers well in off the highway and it's difficult for a motorist to detect them until it's too late.

And as Mr. Twinney put it, the stopwatch device was used as far back as 28 years. "It's a step backward."

Let's not go overboard

Are we going overboard when it comes to protecting the environment, saving energy and protesting? Back in the fifties we all faced the prospect of being blown to bits as the result of a nuclear bomb scare. A few even built shelters and others started going to church. All we have now is the odd warning siren to remind us of this period.

In the sixties, the environment peril was all the rage with the same youngsters who tossed pop bottles on your boulevard telling you that adults had ruined the world.

Now in the seventies we have the great energy crisis. It would appear however that if we are willing to pay more money for the energy, the scarcity diminishes.

Added to these problems we have the

protest fad. It's so bad that it's almost possible today to generate a protest before the problem even occurs.

True, there is, or was, some foundation for each of these crises. The bomb scare has cooled out. The environment problem is slowly coming under control so far as water and air is concerned through a clamp-down on major offenders. The average man is becoming a sceptic when it comes to protests, partly because the fashion is becoming so tedious.

There's a universal tendency to "holler wolf" and carry these problems to such extremes that as many people are being "turned off" as "turned on," when it comes to lending a hand.

Hangings are down, murders are up

To say that the death penalty is no deterrent to murder has a pretty hollow ring when everyone knows that there has not been a hanging for years. To say there is no connection between the rising number of murders and the almost total abolition of the death penalty is to bury one's head in the sand.

These violent individuals scarcely have to worry about getting caught, let alone put to death. Our society under what is believed to be great liberal enlightenment, cannot bring itself to take a human life regardless of how

dastardly the crime committed.

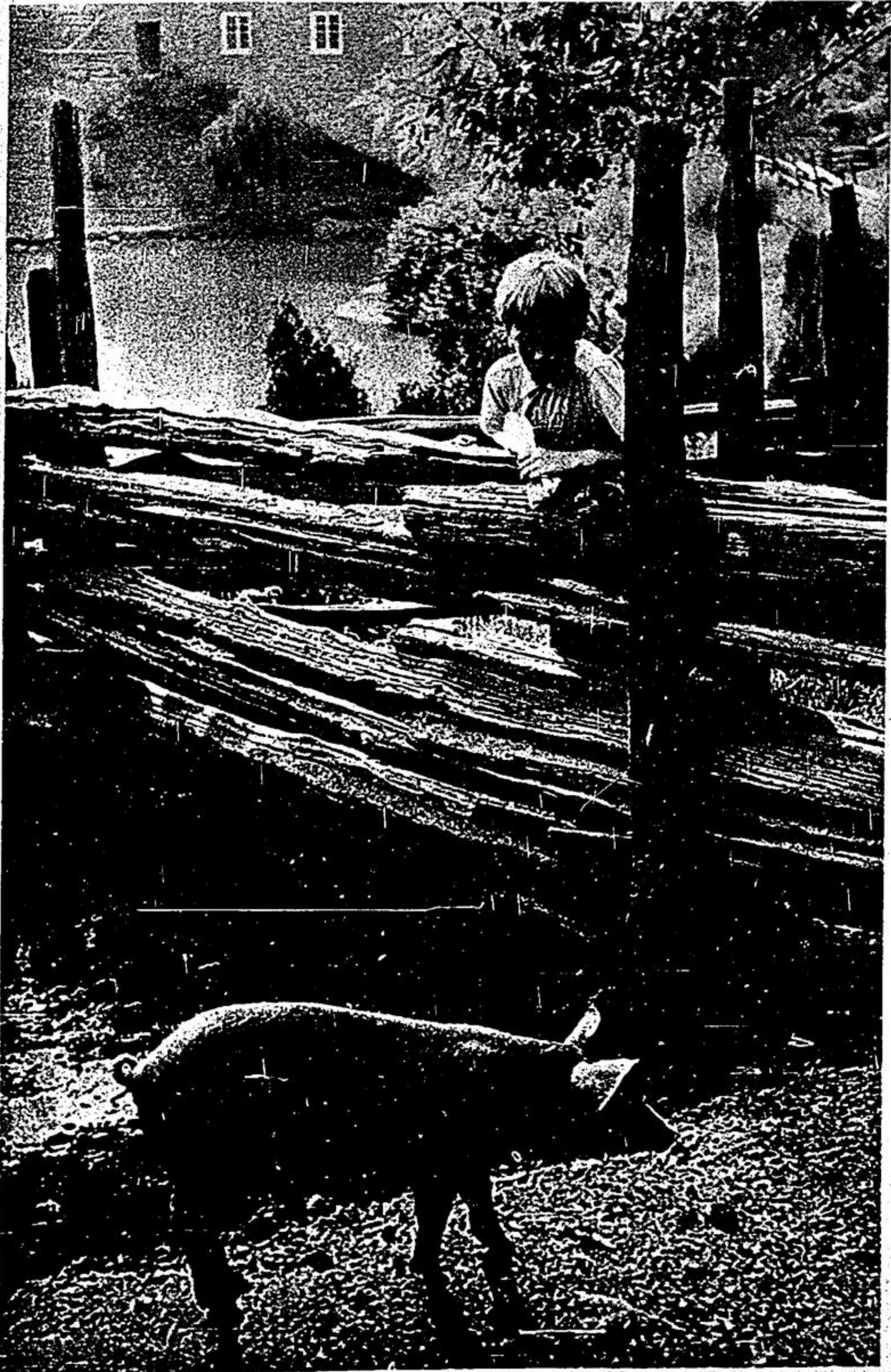
True there are crimes of passion and derangement but a many of the murders today appear to be little more than the settling of scores with the law tipped in favor of the an with the gun or bob against peaceful citizens whose laws no longer seem to protect them.

We appear to be losing our grip and the government has neither the heart nor the stomach to fight back anymore. Little by little everything is being permitted, and once this happens, nothing really matters.

Travellers beware

Friends who have just returned from a trip to Australia and New Zealand, tell us that they were offered as low as 74 cents for American dollars, Canadian, British, Swiss and German money fared much better.

People who are contemplating a trip, particularly 'down under', and who usually load up with supposedly good U.S. currency might take heed.



SUGAR AND SPICE

How we've ruined schools

By BILL SMILEY

There appears to be a general and growing concern about the quality of education these days. Not only are teachers concerned, and they are, but students and parents are beginning to feel that they are being short-changed.

A couple of letters to the editors of two daily papers recently were revealing.

In one, a university student stated that he had read a 2,000-word essay written by a friend, who was an honour student. In the essay, there was one (1) sentence which did not have a spelling or grammar error. And

that was the sentence in which he repeated the professor's topic.

In the other letter, a girl who dropped out of school three years ago because of the rigidity of the system, was flaming mad. She returned to Grade 12 this year and discovered, a she put it "that education had disappeared in the interim."

This young lady said flatly that while teachers used to teach for the average in the class, they are now teaching toward the poorest students, with the keen and bright ones left to fend for themselves. In her opinion, standards had dropped drastically in in three years.

There are few teachers who would not agree with her on the last point. Administrators and "educationists", whatever they are, right up to the minister, blandly assure the public, via the media, that standards have not been lowered.

Perhaps they should take off their rose-coloured glasses and take a good, clear look at reality. But they have managed to wrap themselves in such a fog of educational jargon that they wouldn't know reality unless it came up and bit them.

What's happened? Maybe I'm prejudiced, but I don't think the fault lies with the teachers. To my definite knowledge, they are working harder than ever, under steadily worsening conditions.

They are teaching as many as two more classes a day than they were three years ago. They are doing more of the unpleasant and uneducational chores than they did. Such a one is "trough patrol" as some teachers call cafeteria supervision. The name is not inaccurate.

A few years ago, supervising a students' dance was an extra chore, but few teachers really minded it. One chatted with the students; deplored their taste in music, but felt that a good time was being had by all.

Everybody was dressed up and happy. The lights in the gym were turned down but not out. There might be the odd case of a kid smoking pot or slightly under the influence but they were rarities. A regular Sunday school picnic.

Nowadays it's more like Saturday night in Dodge City: A darkened gym except for the stage where four or five baboons caper and scream incomprehensibly to the accompaniment of a volume of sound that would make a boiler factory sound like a cemetery.

Someone has thrown up again in the boys' washroom. Two grim-faced cops stand by the entrance. A teenage girl is caught running not one, but six mickeys of rye.

In the good-old days, years ago, a young buck could wear his own mickey in his hip pocket, covered by his jacket. Today, his pants are so tight he couldn't get anything in that pocket so he has some little girl take it in for him. But six!

I'm drifting away from my topic, but not entirely. The defiance of rules, the demand for new "rights" is all part of the school scene today. It's a curious mixture of apathy and mindless defiance.

I sound as though I'm blaming the kids. I'm not. They're human. They'll take what they can get and demand more. They're a pretty decent lot, on the whole. But what girl won't wear hip-huggers if she's allowed to wear jeans, or a blouse slit to the navel if she doesn't have to wear a bra? What young man of sixteen wouldn't like to have a crack at growing a beard?

No, the real culprit is neither teachers nor kids. It is the little empire-builders in the system. They are so far away from the classroom, and the taxpayers, they have acquired a god-complex.

They've never been in a classroom, or not for years. And if they are to preserve

Editor's Mail

Dear Sir:

As a Mobile Home Owner who would very much like to locate near the Metro area, I am writing to express my views on Mobile Park living, both as an advantage to the Town and the owner.

Mobile Home Living is now becoming a way of life for many people, both retired and people who are still actively engaged in the country's work force. The Mobile Homes of today are beautiful inside and out and are comparable to the better class apartments in the city. At the same time they offer reasonable living. However, everyone does not want to live in the City and Mobile Home living in a rural setting is what many people prefer. These people, I have found are for the most part "salt of the earth" types, who take pride in their lovely mobile and the property surrounding them.

It would be an advantage to any Town granting the right to a developer to build a Mobile Park, in my opinion, since the Town would collect not only taxes from the Park Owner but also from each and every Mobile Home owner in the Park. Also the owner and operator of the Park has the right to screen all applicants who wish space within his park, thereby assuring a class of people who would be a credit to the Park and the Community.

A beautiful new Mobile Home Park in the Town could only spell - Progress!

W. Mervyn Soules
R.R. 4,
Cobourg.

Dear Mr. Editor,

It would seem that the Stouffville downtown merchants are missing a bet by not properly surfacing the parking lot at the United Church and encouraging people to park there.

While it is church property, the town has all but taken it over for weekday use and if this is so it seems that it would be only fair if they would put hard-top on it and encourage shoppers to use it.

Since their lot is being used by the public anyhow, it is unlikely that the church would object to having it put in proper order.

FAIR PLAY

A young visitor tries to strike up an acquaintance with one of the permanent residents at Black Creek Pioneer Village. The photograph, a first prize black and white entry in the annual Black Creek photo contest, was snapped by amateur photographer Glen Bove of Agincourt. The pioneer village is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the Toronto area.

ROAMING AROUND

Sure we're better off

By Jim Thomas

Certainly it's true — as a country we've never had it so good. That's what government surveys mean when they say that average earnings have risen much more than retail prices in the last ten years.

As we head deeper into the 70's, most people are richer. But are they happier? Are they more content? Since the war what really has got better and what really has got worse?

We know we are better off medically. No argument about that. No one actually goes hungry or without shoes except in a very exceptional case where they have fallen through the welfare net.

People are more aware of the need to preserve beautiful buildings and the countryside, which is good. However this new awareness is being provoked by the worldwide scourge of vandalism, which is bad.

Long distance travel is quicker and easier but far away places are sometimes less interesting when you get there since they're so full of tourists. Short trips tend to be more difficult.

Trains and stations, where they still exist, are less cosy and less romantic than they used to be. Ready-made clothes fit better but the materials and workmanship are inferior. Ball-point pens are useful, but only a few people write letters.

TV and radio are scientific marvels, but whether the programs are equally marvellous or what the social effect is, are debatable questions.

Architecture is worse. Painting and novel-writing is worse. Craftsmanship everywhere, has deteriorated.

There is more and nastier crime. There is less drunkenness but more drug use. Families seem to be less close-knit, less affectionate.

The churches are in disarray and educational standards have fallen alarmingly. More can read but not if the words are too long, and fewer can add and multiply figures.

Pride of service, enthusiasm for doing a good job, the willingness to try seem to have vanished. Personal service of any kind is almost impossible to obtain. Try and find a porter to carry your luggage, someone to cut your lawn, a serviceman who will deliver.

Everyone complains about the price of everything, but when one stops to take an honest look, it is really the high cost of living we should be complaining about or the cost of high living.

and expand their empires, they must appear to be doing something. So they scratch each others backs, come up with revolutionary ideas that were stale forty years ago, and hide behind a squid-like emission of gobbledegook such as "input", "feedback", "communications", "concepts" and "individual needs."

These are the barnacles on the good ship Education, and unless she is careened and they are scraped off, ruthlessly, they're likely to sink her.