

Letters to the Editor

Correction for scrambled story

Dear Mr. Bernard:

I am very pleased that the Tribune issue of Sept. 12 gave over so many columns to a discussion of human values (moral) education in the schools. Moral development of the young is, by common consent, vital, but intelligent and sincere adults may honestly disagree about ends and means of human values education.

In order that the much-needed dialogue not be confounded by some typographical errors in the article "Morals confined to special course," could you carry these corrections of a quotation attributed to me, but scrambled in the article?

"I believe that the universal ethical principles most likely to be chosen by people of the highest moral development will resemble the basic values of most religions — justice, love, equality of rights, and the sacredness of life."

Subsequently, the other scrambled sentence would read:

"The teacher should help children to walk around a problem, while generally not inculcating specifically Christian or any other kinds of values."

In addition, as your report points out, values education wouldn't necessarily be a single course, but would be a dimension added to every course, a programmatic fusion of "valuing" to the subject content of courses. Hence the article title might better read "Morals NOT confined to a special course."

The article reports that the York County Board has set aside \$2,500 for the 1974 activities of a Human Values Education Advisory Committee. You might wish to note that the Ministry of Education has made a grant of \$25,500 to support moral education research activities by the York County Board over the next two years.

Brian Burnham,
Research Coordinator

Editors Note: The Tribune apologizes for the error which created a wrong impression. Mr. Burnham has effectively set the record straight.



Brian Burnham

Recycling depot and other things

Dear Sir:

Hopefully, everyone in Whitchurch-Stouffville is already saving up tin cans, glass jars and bottles, and newspapers in anticipation of the re-cycling depot that local people are hoping to start soon in Stouffville. It takes a long time to accumulate enough flattened cans to fill a box, or enough glass to fill a bushel basket, or enough newspapers to fill the basement.

There are many people bothered by the throwing away of valuable recyclable materials, knowing that the world's resources are not limitless. It should be made a lot easier for people to do their bit to help fight environmental pollution. I would like to see the municipality take the initiative and provide a building for the volunteer-run depot.

And to lessen the load on recycling depots we can also urge the Ontario government to ban non-returnable bottles and those awful flip-top cans.

Ann Griffiths
RR 3, Stouffville.

Stevens attacks government

YORK-SIMCOE — "Canadian investors have lost nearly 40 per cent of their investment in the last six years as a result of inflation," claimed Sinclair Stevens, Progressive Conservative corporate affairs critic, today.

Commenting on the latest Consumer Price Index figures showing a 10.8 per cent increase in prices since August 1973, and 40 per cent since September 1968, Mr. Stevens, M.P. for York-Simcoe said that the current

rate of inflation is intolerable and attacked the Trudeau Government for its inaction.

"Let us say," said Mr. Stevens, "that a man invested \$1,000 in September, 1968, in stocks similar to those which make up the Toronto Stock Exchange Industrial Index. By September, 1974 the value of his investment has decreased to \$879. In addition, inflation has cut the purchasing power of his \$879.00 to \$624, a total reduction of more than 37 per cent.

"Some of my best friends are cows, and how I helped some very nice people without realizing it."

BY WALLY CROUTER



I get some very funny and very moving responses to my radio show.

One time I had a guy write me a letter from out Brampton way.

He said, "You know, I have one of the best producing dairy farms around here, and I have to give you a lot of credit for that, because I have your show on when I'm milking."

"Whenever you're not there, the cows don't let the milk down."

He said, "I'm serious about that, because they get used to a familiar voice and a familiar

hand. But if all of a sudden there's a strange voice in the barn, you get a bad reaction from the cows."

I say a little bull in the barn never hurt anything.

Some of the stories really move me, like when people have accepted me as part of their family. One particular story I remember, a little on the morbid side, but this woman said that she and her husband always listened to the snow and they had been married for years and years. They accepted me as a friend even though we had never met.

Now her husband was an invalid and one morning she went down to make him tea and when she came back up I was still talking but he was dead. So I was the last voice he heard.

She said, "I don't know what this means to you, but having you there then seemed natural to me, you were very close to both of us."

Another story was about this man and woman whose only son was killed in a car accident.

It was such an emotional upset to the wife that the husband had to quit work. He had to take a leave of absence, and they had to visit a psychiatrist.

This was their only son, so the doctor said that there obviously had to be some kind of substitute in the woman's life.

One morning they're sitting listening to the radio and

the husband says, "Well, why don't we adopt Wally Crouter as our son? Could you be content with that, that all of a sudden he's taking the place of our son? In that way you're not alone. If I do go back to work, you'll have somebody with you all the time."

So they adopted me as their son. I didn't know anything about it until they came to see me three or four years later.

I was making a personal appearance and a very nice looking couple came up and explained everything. Now, of course, the woman was back to normal and they had come to release me back to myself again.

The husband said, "You're released, you don't have to be our son anymore. You didn't know, but you were. We still listen to you, but we've adjusted ourselves to our problem. But you filled such an important part at that time, we felt we just had to let you know."

That sort of story kind of makes you humble because although you tend to look on the radio show as just a job, I think you do perform a service in people's lives.

*Respectfully yours
Wally Crouter*

CFRB 1010

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