

Weekender

Comment

Day-care centre may move

Statistics say — single parents are on the increase and two-parent families with both parents working are also on the rise.

Both categories of families are creating a well documented need for day care. Governments have been slow on every level to recognize this need, but recently provincial funding has been flowing. Corporate on site day-care facilities are becoming more commonplace. Those who can pay, do pay.

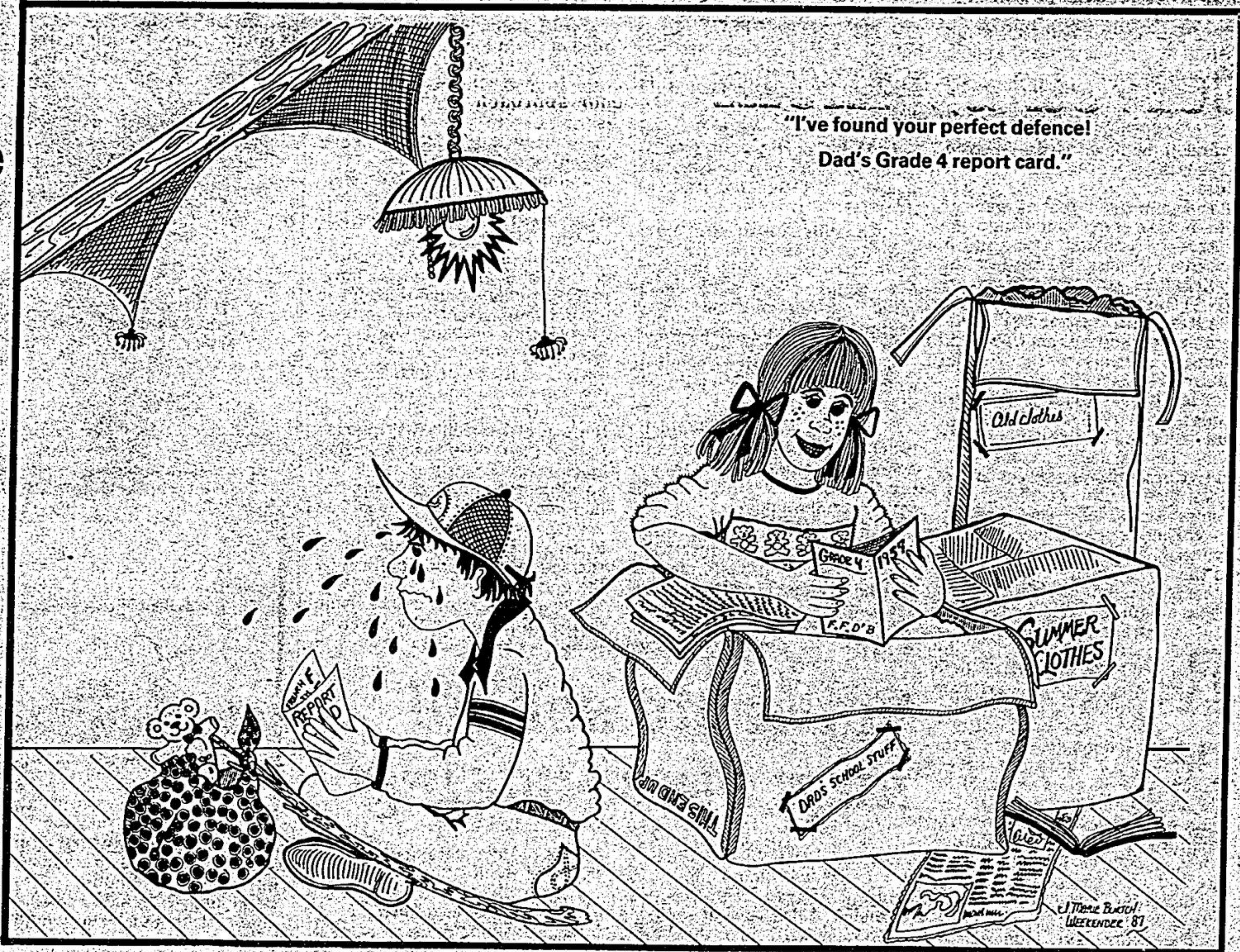
Against this atmosphere of cooperation, we have Markham council pitted against a well established private day-care facility which operates in the former Womens' Institute adjacent to council chambers.

Parking is at a premium — the main complaint against the operation — yet so is alternative space for a day-care centre in the area.

One councillor suggested the institute may be used as a community centre for Buttonville, which would presumably not create daytime parking problems. Why then couldn't it remain day care by day?

Let's get our priorities straight. Is it cars or kids?

— Jo Ann Stevenson



Creative alternatives are needed

I may never have to go shopping again.

For during the past month or two, I have had a steady procession of juvenile peddlars at my door, offering just about anything a guy could possibly need for survival, entertainment, and Christmas gift giving.

Why in one week, I found myself the proud owner of a Sunday newspaper subscription, chocolate covered almonds, garbage bags, two jars of honey, and a Christmas tree ornament.

And they were all purchased from eager little hucksters sent out by their various private schools to raise funds for school advancement and survival.

Being a parent who has both kids enrolled in schools that are solely dependent on private funding, I guess I'm a sucker for a kid with a toothless smile and an energetic sales pitch.

From Where I Live

Bruce Stapley



And they're on to me by now. Just the other day I had the brother of a neighbor's child at the door trying to con me into buying the same unneeded commodity I had reluctantly agreed to buy only days before from his sister. Enough's enough, I thought.

I'm sure that others in the area have noticed the onslaught as well. A day spent as a driver for a couple of kids from my son's school, as a part of their 'honey sale', exposed me to every conceivable excuse a person could

concoct for not buying.

You see, it's hard to tell a kid outright that you don't want what he's pushing. So you hear things like "The rent's due in a week and I'm rolling pennies."

The kids never fail to notice the Jaguar in the driveway of those houses. Others are allergic to the stuff, have a friend in the business, or are still trying to use up the supply they bought last year.

And some cautious types are quick to scan the words on the school jackets to determine whether the school is a non-

offensive religious affiliation.

You find yourself wanting to say to the prospective customer, "Look, this kid doesn't enjoy selling this stuff any more than you are chomping at the bit to buy it. Why don't you just give him a break and relieve him of a jar or two. You can stick them in someone's stocking at Christmas."

After all, it is a tough grind for the kids. Sure, it builds character and teaches them how to handle rejection.

I've always found in my business endeavors that it's a lot more satisfying selling something you've had a part in producing.

I wonder if we wouldn't be contributing more to a child's overall growth if we were able to come up with fund raising projects that taught that goods or services are invariably appreciated more when they are purchased from the hard working laborers responsi-

ble for their production.

We are so over retailed in our society that I really think we're pushing it a little sending our kids door-to-door, where they are just another nuisance to be contended with by the resident.

There is a tendency for some, and rightfully so, to lump the school kids in the scammers who take advantage of kids in door-to-door sales campaigns.

I think it's time we considered some more creative projects that offer a more labor-intensive product.

Like a car wash, a leaf-raking blitz. Or even the making of crafts and holding a big sale where they are bought by those who can appreciate the work that went into them.

Parents would have to become involved with this sort of thing, but it would be a positive experience to have the kids working along with the parents.

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