

S/U

Arts York students deprived of transportation deserved

Dear Editor:

Kate Gilderdale's recent column under the heading 'Student Majority Must Be Served' raises some interesting points.

First, I should declare my bias as Mrs. Gilderdale has done. I'm an Arts York parent, whose children attend Unionville High School.

I am supposedly economically advantaged in that, regardless of any Board busing decision, I, through car pools, will somehow get my children to school.

Arts York supportive but not elitist the Arts York Program, embracing theatre, music, dance and visual art, is now in its third year serving the entire Region of York. Close to 300 students attend.

The Arts York Advisory Committee, in its presentation to the Board of Education on busing of Arts York students, asked not for door-to-door service but for trustees to study the feasibility of adding Arts York students to existing bus routes, (ie French Immersion that will be bused at the high school level this fall.

Other proposals were for the Board to direct some co-ordination of existing transportation schedules and services and, in this context, determine what additional cost would be placed on the Board.

Contrary to Wilf Morley's crystal ball \$100,000 estimate, no investigation or co-ordination of

Arts York students to existing bus routes has begun. Undoubtedly, there will be some cost and Mr. Morley's figure may be high or low, which raises the final question: What priority and where should our transportation dollars for education go?

Currently, the Board, on behalf of all of us, is willing to spend on transportation For Excellence in Sports and Athletics. For the Special Needs of the Gifted and the Trainable Retarded; For Linguistic Harmony and Understanding on French Immersion.

Is this where we should bolt the barn door?

Why should we spend one dollar more on Arts?

Christopher Newton, Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival, recently wrote this letter to the York Region Board of Education. I quote:

"In the fall, I was privileged to

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The Whitchurch-Stouffville Newcomers Club is hosting two afternoons of free skating at the Town Rec. Centre.

The March break dates are Friday, March 17 and Monday, March 27 from 1 to 3 p.m.

spent some time with the Arts students of Unionville High School. These young people were aware, knowledgeable and reflected great credit on their school and their teachers. My only hope is that the Arts York Program can be extended to as many students as possible in York Region. Even if a particular student does not ultimately become a professional artist, he or she will bring a committed understanding to the Arts in

Canada and by extension to the world around them. The perceptive observer, it seems to me, is our greatest need as a society. The Arts York Program addresses the need from the subtlest and most powerful of social platforms — the arts of our country.

Sincerely,

Robin Brock,
Duchess Street,
Stouffville

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S.D.S.S. talent praised

The curtain's come down on Stouffville Dist. Secondary School's Variety Show '89, and the general consensus is it was one of the best.

"Was it worth all the effort? There's no doubt in producer Mark Gornik's mind.

"I feel so good," he said happily, "there were a couple of things that really pleased me. One is that this year we set a record high on ticket sales with approximately \$4,100, and the second highest was about \$3,600. The other is that people have been saying to me they thought it was one of the best variety shows."

However, he admits confidence was in short supply on opening night.

"Thursday night I was a bag of nerves; I felt really tense. At the last Sunday practice I didn't think the show was ready."

Despite the nail-biting suspense, he's going to miss his involvement.

"It feels like stepping back into normal life or coming back from a holiday. For a while I felt like I was in Hollywood. The whole thing from September is just really good memories."

"It was a wonderful experience, he says, but now "it's almost like a dream."

Mark enjoyed working with director Kevin Harmer, who is a friend "outside all this." With Kevin's more serious approach and "his own "crazy attitude" they turned out to be an excellent team.

"A lot of people had doubts about us at the beginning, about whether I could really tell people to get to work."

They were motivated by the fact they had so many ideas, "that's why we wanted to do it."

His stint as producer convinced him there's a lot of talent at SDSS, and although he'd love to be involved next year, he's not sure he'll have the time.

"Next year I'm taking all grade 13 subjects. That's why I'm glad I did it this year."

In the meantime, he's got a lot of catching up to do for this year.

"If I could have my teachers go easy on me at school next year, I wouldn't hesitate to do it again," he concluded wistfully.

Editor's Mail

Dear Editor:
Another Persechini Run-Walkathon Easter Seal event has come and gone. We consider our second Glass Tiger Benefit Concert a success.

Each success we enjoy generally relates to two things — strong volunteer support from the people in their communities and a generous reflection of their work and ours in the local media.

For your part in the latter, a brief word of appreciation on my part and on behalf of the Easter Seal Society.

May 1989 be a good year for you — a year in which our association continues to grow.

Sincerely,

Joe Persechini,
Davis Drive,
Newmarket

S a E & W



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