

Typewriter just fine, thanks, says Bruce's mom

Dear Editor:

In Saturday's edition my son Bruce laments the ever-increasing reliance on electronics for almost everything in today's world, which in his words "catapult a fossil like myself kicking and screaming into the 21st century."

But for all his protests, not even the writer in him has prevented him from being seduced by the latest in computers.

Well, he can buckle under as much as he chooses, but here it one, even older fossil who refuses to be ruled by high technology, no matter how much my fellow scribblers embrace it. (I've already turned down his offer of that old beat-up computer). You see, I think I can claim in all modesty that over the years, whatever its vintage at the time, my trusty typewriter has been responsible for a lot of darn good written and published material.

Whether or not my son decides to stay with the start-up icon crowd is up to him, but his book-loving old mother can tell him that as a more than merely good writer he is in the company of immortals who balked at the intrusion on their muse by new methods of inscribing their words.

It was ever thus with yarn-spinners. Shakespeare would have suffered from a severe case of writer's block on hearing the term "word processor."

Even after the Industrial Revolution dedicated writers scorned such innovations as the typewriter as a means of furthering their creative output. As far as they were concerned, it was strictly for business matters.

In a 1917 play J.M. Barrie (who wrote an abundance of much heavier import than Peter Pan, by the way) has one of his characters enter with a "typewriting machine."

By way of explaining her presence to her former husband she says, "I was sent here in the ordinary way of business." To which

he replies wittingly, "Is this what you have fallen to — a typist?"

Nuff said. Although I'm not as loath to adopt new devices as were Barrie and his contemporaries, the typewriter is as far as I want to go in the way of writing aids, thank you.

I've been clicking away on one of them since my introduction to their usage in a high school commercial course when I was thirteen. If Bruce thought his 1980's "small Underwood" was a "clunker", he should have tried a late 1930's model. Humungus

and unwieldy doesn't begin to describe them.

The dual seriocomic part of all this is that after grandly aspiring to private secretary to some high-falutin' VIP upon graduation, when that time came WW2 was in progress and I had to settle for a stint in electronics of a sort — making radio tubes for ships and aircraft.

How's that for irony? However, once I made my escape from that electronic threat I resumed my affair with the typewriter, only trading in a standard for an electric for conve-

nience sake, and have never looked back.

Even though I hopefully still have many years ahead of me in the field of creative endeavour, when it comes to writing aids, this is it. Period.

I don't want my life turned upside-down like my son's by task bars and other nonsensical functions. I'm as much for progress as anybody, but not if it results in our already too mechanical world becoming one vast push-button instrument.

Margaret Stapley
Stouffville

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