

A JOURNAL OF EVENTS AND OPINION

HOW TO TAKE A BITE OUT OF EDUCATION TAXES



[OR HOW TO TAKE
A BITE OUT OF
EDUCATION?]

HOW LOCAL
CONSERVATIVES
WILL VOTE
AT THE
PC
LEADERSHIP
CONVENTION

"TUITION TAX CREDITS? NO WAY—THAT WOULD DESTROY PUBLIC EDUCATION AS WE KNOW IT!"

IN A SPECIAL REPORT ON LONDON'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, YOU'LL FIND OUT THE UPCOMING SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND HOW THEY WILL AFFECT YOU. See PAGE

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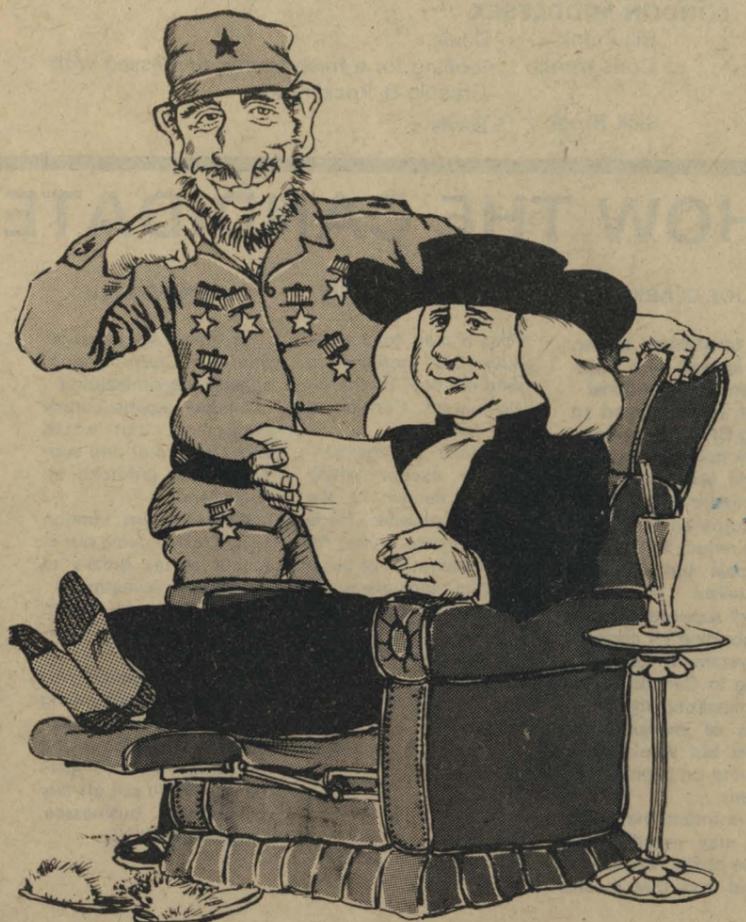
AN INNOCENT ABROAD

THE EDITOR & FAMILY SEEK A NEW FRONTIER BELOW THE 49TH PARALLEL AND INSTEAD FIND AMERICANS AND DISNEYWORLD

BLINDED BY SCIENCE!
LONDON STUDENTS SHOW US
WHAT THEY CAN DO

WE GIVE YOU ANOTHER CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES
IN THE MetroBULLETIN's TRIVIA QUIZ

WE GET TOUGH WITH THE
ANTI-NUKE PEACENIKS



"Let's see, hand grenades for fishing, automatic rifles for small game, rocket launchers for religious festivals... Looks like a fairly standard aid package. You're quite sure your group doesn't need any extra bibles?"

WHO ARE THE LONDON DELEGATES FAVOURING FOR THE CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP BID?

On June 11, Conservative delegates to the leadership convention will pick the successor to the Party, and likely the next Prime Minister.

Those entitled to go to Ottawa as delegates are:

- any and all Conservative MPs and 1980 candidates
- any and all Conservative MPP's in Canada (largely Albertan, Saskatchewan, and Ontarian MPP'S
- 50 delegates at-large- from each province
- 2 delegates from Youth wing of each of the 272 federal ridings
- 4 elected at large at riding general meeting, at least one must be a woman, from each of the 272 ridings.

This formula will allow about 3,000 delegates to participate in voting for the leadership candidates, so the magic number on the ballot is probably 1500 to win.

Balloting procedures require the last candidate on each balloting be withdrawn, although it is not expected there will be more than 4 ballots.

If Bill Davis enters, it is expected this will draw almost all support from David Crombie, Michael Wilson and a good chunk from Joe Clark on the second ballot, if not the first.

This split could favour the Mulroney-Pocklington-Gamble groups who will likely swing to Mulroney to head off the left-wing patriarch from Brampton.

Though we prefer Pocklington, our bet is Mulroney on the second ballot if Davis enters, the third if he doesn't.

Premier Peter Lougheed has threatened if Davis runs, he will pull rank and have all 76 Alberta MPP's and most of the 50 delegates at large vote for the strongest candidate *against* Davis. This will neutralize much of the 67 Ontario MPPs and delegates at large who could be expected to vote for Davis.

(Whatever happened to issues, you say? *Man, this is politics!*)

HOW THEY RATE

In assessing local strength of the PC leadership candidates, including the as-yet-unannounced candidacy of Bill Davis, we gave 2 points for 'definite support', one point for 'serious consideration', 'leaning to' or otherwise strongly impressed.

BRIAN MULRONEY	19
JOE CLARK	9
JOHN CROSBIE	4
PETER POCKLINGTON	7
BILL DAVIS	8
DAVID CROMBIE	2
MICHAEL WILSON	0
JOHN GAMBLE	0

left-moderate non- Clark (includes Davis, Crombie)	10
Total left-moderate points	19
Total right-wing points:	27
Uncommitted but not Clark:	4

The choice indicated by the delegates themselves are in standard type. If no commitment was given, the rumoured choice or preference of the delegate is in *italics*.

LONDON-MIDDLESEX

Bill Frank	Davis
Doris Harris	looking for a fresh leader, impressed with Crombie & Pocklington
Rick Brock	Davis

Stan Wyatt - liked Clark, and yet to be impressed by anyone else, still uncommitted.

Paul Tomlinson - John Crosbie or Brian Mulroney

Bill Millar - Peter Pocklington

Betty Coneybeare - uncommitted, *thought to be favouring Clark*

LONDON WEST

David Nash - working for David Crombie

Robert Wood - Davis would be an attractive candidate, and impressed with Crosbie or Mulroney.

John Kime - 'enormous respect for Clark' but plans to canvass riding Conservatives to see what the feeling is. Uncommitted.

Libby Fowler - out of country at press time but in speech to delegates said she would be looking for a 'new leader'.

Tom Hockin - *understood to be supporting Clark*

Doug Greenhow - looking for new leader with more conservative outlook

John Levstik - Brian Mulroney

LONDON EAST

Bob Howard - Pocklington or Mulroney

Betty Howard - Pocklington or Mulroney

Vic Graat - Pocklington

Jock Shields - Mulroney or Davis

Ken Cossoy - Mulroney

Grant Hopcroft - leaning strongly to Clark

Russ Harrington - Mulroney

U.W.O. CAMPUS

Bruce Levitt - Mulroney

Adam Waterous - Mulroney

Andrew Barnicky - Mulroney

Delegate-at-Large and Conservative MPP

Don McDougall - vigorously supportive of Joe Clark

Gordon Walker, MPP - *understood to be supportive of Davis candidacy*

THE METROBULLETIN LEADERSHIP POOL

To make this a sporting leadership convention, the MetroBulletin is offering a \$100 PRIZE TO THE PERSON WHO CORRECTLY IDENTIFIES THE WINNER OF THE LEADERSHIP CONVENTION, ON WHAT BALLOT, AND WHO IS SECOND AT THE FINAL BALLOT.

Should there be more than one winner, the prize will be split amongst them. Entries must be postmarked no later than June 1st. One entry per person. Mail to: MetroBulletin PC Pool, P.O. Box 2214, STN. A, London, Ont., N6A 4E3. Write name, address, phone number on separate sheet.

WINNER

ON WHAT BALLOT (first, second, third, etc.)

Second place finisher

HOW THE CANDIDATES STAND ON A FEW ISSUES

JOE CLARK

As opposition leader, Clark agreed with Trudeau on Constitutional accord, but disagreed on buying BP for PetroCan.

Clark however, has not said he will divest any government businesses if he returns as P.M., nor will he reduce foreign aid, or repeal the enforced bilingualism.

Clark supports the current abortion by committee system, is for cruise testing in Canada, is for decriminalizing the possession of marijuana, is against but would allow free vote on capital punishment.

Clark insists the Tories must stay maudlin and middle-of-the road to get elected and that means him.

But is that what this country needs?

DAVID CROMBIE

Not a man to discuss issues but more of a 'good-old-boy' of the intellectual set. Considered a left-wing Tory.

Crombie is against abortion except where rape or danger to the mother is possible. He is for testing the cruise, for decriminalization of possession of marijuana, partly for capital punishment (if a cop or guard is killed) and supports enforced bilingualism.

JOHN CROSBIE

Crosbie is against abortion, for Cruise testing, against decriminalizing marijuana, against capital punishment (but would allow free vote) and supports state enforced bilingualism.

At his recent London visit, Crosbie came out in favour of tax breaks to encourage investment from all over, a consistent tax policy and slight relaxation of FIRA.

Crosbie however, was in favour of continuing generous foreign aid, could not see balancing the budget within 5 years nor would he sell off any government businesses, (except the CIDC).

JOHN GAMBLE

Gamble has been the issue-maker for the convention, galvanizing the 'old right' and drawing the attention of the delegates and the media towards their issues, though not towards Gamble as a candidate.

Gamble is against all foreign aid, wants to sell off Petro-Can, Air Canada, CBC, for starters.

Gamble is completely opposed to abortion, for Cruise testing, against decriminalizing marijuana, for capital punishment, and *against* any compulsory language legislation.

Although having no chance of winning, Gamble has greatly succeeded in determining the direction of the party.

BRIAN MULRONEY

A good speaker but difficult to pin down on specifics.

Mulroney has remained uncommitted to selling off gov't owned companies but did say they shouldn't expand any further. Would cut back on foreign aid.

Mulroney is completely opposed to abortion, for Cruise testing, opposed to legalizing marijuana, against the death penalty and for state enforced bilingualism.

PETER POCKLINGTON

Pocklington has over 60 stated views this campaign, most well thought out, including a \$12,000 deductible on income tax with a flat 20% above that. Believes in selling off government lands and companies to pay national debt, is for legalizing marijuana, is for open policy on abortion, for Cruise testing, for death penalty, against compulsory bilingualism and is against government health programs; these are a few of his positions.

Peter's problem is that he is an Ayn Rand libertarian trying to veil it a bit so he can sell his candidacy to 'old right' Tories of the Gamble-Mulroney colour, consequently, his answers are couched in a moderate's terminology when he's dying to say flat out he is against any and all gov't activities except defence and the courts-police system.

MICHAEL WILSON

Wilson is in favour of selling off a number of crown corporations, and putting the lid on all others.

Wilson is for an open policy on abortion, for cruise testing, legalizing possession of marijuana, for the death penalty, and is for compulsory state bilingualism.

The FIRING LINE

SHOULD PARENTS BE PERMITTED TO DIRECT THEIR EDUCATION TAXES TO A SCHOOL OF THEIR CHOICE?

Refuting this premise is ALAN WHEABLE, Chairman of the Board of Education, and Trustee from Ward 5.

Public education in Ontario is not funded on a user-pay basis. This seems to be more objectionable to persons who choose not to send their children to public schools than to those who do not have the option.

Almost all major government services have developed from a user pay origin, whether it was the fire brigades of Crassus in Ancient Rome or the toll bridges of recent Ontario. It is now clear some services require universal support.

Canadian society cannot revert to a day when police protection was largely provided by thief-takers who relied largely on a reward system and, in a spirit of free enterprise, turned a blind eye on the criminal who could outbid the victim. Nor can we accept a system of justice which is financially dependent on findings of guilt.

While the danger of a neighbour's illiteracy may not be as apparent as the danger of his house being on fire, it is just as real. We depend in everyday life for our safety and our standard of living on a system which would collapse without an educated citizenry.

We have a complex, fast-changing, and fragile economy. A very small percentage of our population actually produces things. Vast energies go into the specialized services that distribute goods and support production and consumption. We are dependent on our population to be productive and only with education is this possible.

The technological society we live in demands a population that is capable of many new employment roles in the course of a lifetime - even in the same job. The most serious economic problem we face arises out of our failure to match skills with needs as new industries replace obsolescent ones.

There are three methods we could rely on. Private enterprise alone, a mixture of state and private enterprise, and state monopoly.

The virtues of free enterprise - variety and selectivity - are also its vices for this purpose.

A mixture of private enterprise and state schooling can do the job only inadequately.

American experience demonstrates the dangers of a truly mixed system. It encourages segregation. It has lowered the general support for the public school system, and has financially starved it in too many places. It has resulted in second class education for too many of its citizens.

Financial disincentives in Ontario assure that private education will be small while maintaining the freedom to dissent.

The track record of our primarily state run system speaks for itself. It is far from perfect. But as Ontarians, we can feel confident that our children and those of our neighbours will receive an education that has significant standards of excellence, that encourages equality of opportunity subject to differences in skills and inclinations, and one that has significant ability to hold its students.

Where there are more education systems, they are each more expensive and more difficult to plan for.

Public education is a primary need of society. The failure to meet a primary need can have vital and pervasive effects on the entire society. A modern society dares not risk failing to meet this need if it is to survive.

Defending this position is H.K. Vandezande, President of the Board of Directors of the Ontario Association of Alternative and Independent Schools (OASIS).

In Ontario, parents can choose among a diversity of places to live and to worship. Food, furnishings, clothing, recreation and many other necessities, are freely guided by parents' concerns as to how their children will grow up to take their place in society. Should schooling be an exception?

Many parents have followed the dictates of their conscience and have opted to pay for ever-increasing tuition fees to independent schools. This is *in addition* to their share of school taxes, which is estimated at approximately \$200 million per year by Ontario parents who otherwise enroll their children in independent schools. Why are they willing to pay education taxes twice? Because these parents believe the primary purpose of education is to prepare the students for life. Most educators will readily admit that education projects a life style, that it is a view of life the students will take with them. Such a view is influenced by the curriculum of the school and the teachers' view of life. It is impossible for education to be neutral!

Why then, does the government of Ontario continue to insist on imposing ONE lifestyle (or one view of life) on its citizenry? Surely, the government recognizes that *parents* are most familiar with their child's abilities and education needs! Parents are uniquely qualified to make the basic selection of a school environment; not only as to the style of teaching, but also in the values and goals parents want their children to carry into an adult life of service.

That is why Canada and the Provinces formally support the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which says, "*Parents* have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their child."

Family choice education is provided, in whole or in part, in sixty-five of sixty-seven free world nations. In Canada: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island provide financial recognition for alternative independent schools.

Newfoundland's denominational schools are fully tax supported. Tax support in these provinces has not resulted in an exodus from the public system. Statistics Canada (July 1982) reports that during the past 10 years the greatest growth has been in New Brunswick (144% increase) and Ontario (80% increase) --- the two provinces that provide *no* tax support.

In Ontario only the public, secondary, Catholic (to grade 10 only) and francophone schools are publicly supported by tax money. But these are not the only schools that exist. There are now 80,000 children enrolled in *alternative and independent schools* in the province of Ontario. The majority of these schools have religious affiliation or espouse a particular educational philosophy. In addition, there are a number of schools that serve children with special needs and certain linguistic interests.

Family choice education should not impose a financial or other special hardship on those who exercise that choice. The right to equitable and fair treatment is not a request for special privilege; it is a demand for simple justice and equity.

Many people think the *provincial per-pupil grant* should follow the child to any bona-fide school that benefits the child, the family and the community. If you think family choice education is everyone's right and responsibility, you too will encourage choice in education. The quality of your life in your own home may well be affected by your view of this important public issue.

Rebuttal

Rebuttal to arguments expressed by Dr. Gail Hutchinson BY ROBERT METZ.

The comments expressed by Dr. Gail Hutchinson during our debate on CFPL's March 18 *Wayne McLean show* exhibited symptoms of a philosophy whose basis is found more in fear than reason.

Claiming that "We are not against portrayal of consensual sexuality," Dr. Hutchinson nonetheless went on to reveal a philosophical contradiction by arguing for censorship against what she must see instead as some act of "consensual violence": she said: "We feel that censorship should be there should be there for violence *and* sex; for women being depicted brutalized, raped, murdered, and *liking* it."

When I asked if this meant "that violence *without* sex is acceptable but violence *with* sex is not," her delayed response again revealed not a genuine concern with the level of violence in society per se, but a *fear* that this violence could be directed against *women*: "Well, my major concern is with what's happening now and that most of the violence done *in film and on television* is against *women*, and increasingly, children."

"I would like all men to be responsible for what's happening," continued Dr. Hutchinson.

Why *all men*?

Because "much of what happens in this culture that is violent happens because *men* do it --- that is the truth." And so it is. But even if you excluded all the wars waged *between governments* throughout history, it would still *also* be true that most of the violence done in the real world is done by *men against men*.

Clinging to a dogma dependent upon the existence of a "sexist culture" that is promoted by a "seven billion dollar (pornographic) propoganda machine," (and a new billion dollars is added every few months to their rhetoric), Dr. Hutchinson and the groups she represents seem to have fallen victim to their own tunnel-visioned rhetoric.

Aside from failing to produce any objective grounds on which to base a casual relationship between pornography and violence in society, these groups have totally rejected any possible relationship between pornography and aspects of human *sexuality*. Instead, they have resorted to the championing of a hollow crusade against *child* pornography (*already* illegal and censored for reasons of *non-consensual* abuse of a minor) as if that could somehow morally justify the rest of their objectives.

Well, it doesn't. And any declaration that *all men* should be responsible for the actions of a few is quite the most blatant example of sexism that I have seen displayed in quite some time.

rebuttal to arguments expressed in last issue by Robert Metz BY DR. GAIL HUTCHINSON of the UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO.

It was very interesting to note the lengthy description of the Holocaust contained in the last issue of the MetroBulletin. The article began with the statements 'German people of the Nazi era exclaim 'We never knew'...' a huge number of Canadians make a choice not to see or act on what they know to be true'.

The article is important because the lessons to be learned from this chapter in history bear repeating. The horror of the Holocaust emphasizes that we must not close our eyes and deny the existence of atrocities no matter how painful the knowledge might be. It also teaches us about the power of propoganda --- how the proliferation of hate literature and lies about a particular people can result in a disastrous changes in attitude and behaviour.

When we have in North America a \$5 billion pornography industry --- the largest growing segment of which portrays women being bound, beaten and raped and as desiring and indeed achieving sexual pleasure from these deeds, we submit that we have a serious problem.

I personally find it appalling that the editor who works so hard to show us the Nazi horror, chooses to make light of the horrors of wife battering and rape, and to intimate we make much ado about nothing. If the editor truly wants to learn from history perhaps he should open his eyes to what is happening today. There are vast amounts of research and literature to which he could refer instead of showing us how much energy he can put into ridiculing those who do confront these realities.

Both the editor and Robert Metz would have us believe materials that condone rape, battering and mutilation of women and indeed give detailed instructions on how to accomplish them have no effect on attitudes and behavior. Such statements completely defy logic and show a willingness to ignore what history has taught us and what research continues to show us.

We want our laws to deal with the proliferation of violent pornography. The type of pornography that is not violent but *is* sexist and *does* ridicule women is also dangerous --- albeit not in the same way. We want these publications to be recognized for what they are --- that they do not promote sexual liberation but promote the repression of women and seriously interfere with our ability to be treated equally and with dignity. Lastly we hope that men and women can work to trade in the pornography for true erotica that is enhancing to both sexes.

London MetroBulletin EDITORIAL

LONG LIVE THE CRUISE!

Nuclear weapons powerful enough to wipe out 80% of life from this planet have existed in the arsenals of the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. for at least 17 years.

The protestors today say the total nuclear warheads can kill us all 8,000 times over. Does that make it any different from 1966? Killed once is enough, and that capability was reached in the mid-sixties.

No, the anti-nuke demonstrators had the Vietnam War to criticize (rightly so), so they ignored the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, the massive build-up of Soviet nuclear weapons, the Soviet support for the Ethiopian genocide going on for the last 10 years (est. 3 million dead through 3 wars and resulting famines), the Soviet support for the occupation of Laos, Cambodia, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and particularly the Soviet deployment throughout all of eastern Europe in 1976-1977 Soviet SS-20 continental missiles (the Russian equivalent to the Cruise).

Only when the Americans propose to deploy Cruise missiles in Europe (or test them in Canada), do anti-nukes parade the evil of nuclear weapons. Suddenly, they have been struck by this born-again peace-through-disarmament movement *only* because "our" side is making a marginal attempt to shore up the trend of latter day world politics, *that is, the slow takeover of all the worlds' people by totalitarian doctrines.*

Ironically, it is the 16 free countries in the world (210 are semi-totalitarian or totalitarian) that are allowing its people the opportunity to encourage de-facto capitulation to a tyrannical doctrine of world-wide slavery.

Canada (our whole northern frontier) and the U.S. (Alaska) are the only countries on the Soviet border that have not been invaded or occupied by the Soviet Union. All other Soviet neighbours have: Poland (1939, 1944 to present), Finland (1939), Hungary (1946, 1956 to present), Czechoslovakia (1945, 1968, present), Rumania (1939, 1944 to present), Afghanistan (1980 to present), Mongolia (1935 to present), China (1925, 1937, skirmishes to present), Korea (1950), Latvia (1939 to present), Lithuania (1939 to present), Estonia (1939 to present), Iran (1920 - 1923, 1946), the Ukraine (1919 to present), not to mention the other eastern Europeans under Soviet rule or the Soviets African-West Indian client states.

Check your maps, we're one of the few left to go.

The anti-nuke demonstrators exploit the virtues of a free society to destroy that freedom. Their protests get publicity because our media is privately owned, not (yet completely) state controlled. The protestors congregate & demonstrate because only the free world (free thanks to the U.S.) allows it.

And most evidently, they do not fear a Soviet-Communist takeover of North America because, quite frankly, these left-wing types see the Soviet-Chinese ideal as closer to their socialist, state-domination utopia than our current semi-free system of democracy (which they worriedly notice is becoming increasingly impatient with socialistic failures). Fortunately, it is the same people who, on one day, protest the Cruise missile, then the next day, they are in the vanguard of 'feminists awareness' marches, and the next day protesting for more 'job creation programs and larger deficits', etcetra. A small core making much noise.

Left-wing dogma in Canadian society would be funny except much of our Liberal gov't (and PC provincial) structure sympathizes with this sentiment and the NDP blatantly sponsors it.

The Americans are not in any country by force. They will deploy their Cruise missiles with the consent of the host government. The Soviets do not do this. The Americans have no soldiers anywhere they aren't invited (eg. NATO countries), although the capitulationists always manage to cite 60 U.S. advisors in El Salvador. Somehow this towers above 100,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan, 300,000 in Eastern Europe, 5,000 in Ethiopia, 10,000 Cubans in Ethiopia, 10,000 Cubans in Angola, etc.

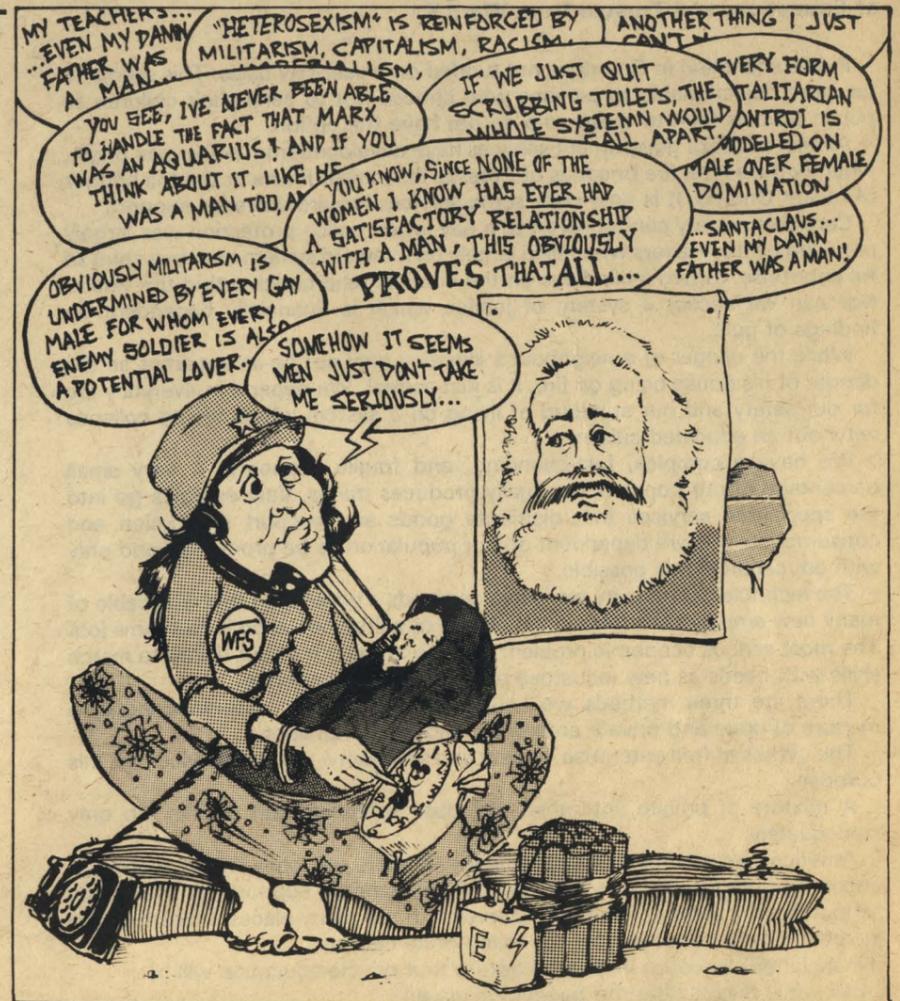
Despite all the socialism in North America we are still a nation well worth defending. *How* it should be defended is a worthy debate, even how it should be financed and manned. But whether to give the proven enemy a fatal edge can only have one conclusion.

Any government that has no respect for any kind of freedom of its citizens will certainly not respect the freedom of its neighbours.

Any nation like the Soviet Union that fuels its ideology by the plunder and murder of its citizens *and* neighbours, by enforcing hard-labour and isolation (or death) on its opinionated citizens, by confiscating the property of all its peoples, and by the murder of over 32*000,000 civilians since 1917, has no scruples at all and will stop at nothing to loot from others whatever it sees as its immediate political objective.

300,000 members of the Communist Party run the Soviet Union. They may be totally immoral, but even they want to live. They have it *too* good (at the expense of the proletariat) to risk offending an enemy that can and will defend itself. So far, the Soviets have only taken over the weak, destabilized, and vulnerable nations of the world.

Only the arsenal of the United States reminds *der Kommissars* of the value they put on their own personal skin, even if they place no value on the lives of their citizens.



POOR NO MORE?

According to the National Anti-Poverty Organization, **we read in** an article in the Free Press April 7, between 2 and 3 million Canadians are living below the poverty line (spending 58% or more of total income on food, shelter and clothing.)

That's poverty? If so, 10% of Canada is impoverished, and thus 10% of London is 'impoverished'. I trust they are talking *economic* poverty, although this group is evidence of *intellectual* poverty, saying such nonsense as this.

But, not to mind us. The federal government obviously believes them.

Government spending this year of \$86 **BILLION** (where is Carl Sagan when we really need him - "*Billions and billions poured into a vast black hole, lost for time and eternity...*") will apportion 32.5% to Health & Welfare, which is the largest federal dept. in terms of spending. (The interest on public debt will consume 21.7%).

If all of the money spent by the Health and Welfare Dept., whose job includes looking after the needs of people who 'can't help themselves' (double edged phrase, that one), were actually given to the 2 to 3 million 'poor' Canadians, each of them would have an annual income of \$9,000 - \$14,000 (depending on where between 2 and 3 million they draw that poverty line).

That's \$36,000 - \$54,000 for a family of four. So how come we still have poor people?

NOTES

Education is probably the dullest subject in politics. It's little understood, will not appear at the PC leadership convention as an issue, gets marginal coverage in the daily paper. And most people don't pay much attention anyway.

But though that is, the increase in education taxes (14.4%) brought it to everyone's attention. And there is much to be said about education in London and its implications. Most interestingly, you local education taxes have dropped by 23% *per capita* in real dollars since 1969, but the bureaucracy has increased 6 times since 1958, whereas teachers have only tripled since 1958.

Inevitably, schools will be closed. Read our detailed analysis of those to get the axe in our EDUCATION special report on pages 10 to 15.

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the MetroBulletin welcomes inquiries for articles, stories, research pieces, photo essays, etc. about Londoners, London politics, the local environment or political commentary.
We even pay reasonably well.

Circulation last issue: 3,000 copies, all distributed & picked up.

LABOUR VS LABOUR

THE ANATOMY OF THE LABOUR MOVEMENT



ROBERT METZ

There is a certain term ascribed to a political effort whose *success* in achieving its goals will prove to be the undoing of its base of support. That term is known as the "labour movement."

Operating under the guise of 'organized labour', the labour movement is realistically not a *movement* of labour at all; labour has come to a virtual standstill in this country. With 1.5 million Canadians currently unemployed, even those still fortunate enough to have a job are discovering they have suffered a serious erosion of their job security and bargaining power.

Because they have not been seen in their true philosophical light, unions have been popularly and falsely credited with being the primary cause behind the over-all improved working conditions, wages, and standard of living that the common worker has become accustomed to over the past half century. But given our current unemployment rate, just where do you suppose "organized labour" will stop in claiming credit for the social status of workers in this country?

Will they admit their 'success' at attaining premium rates of wages and benefits for their members is a significant factor in contributing to the unemployment rate? Will they admit unemployment is an inevitable result of forcing wage rates above their free market level?

As if to add insult to injury, there is now a 'movement' afoot to locally organize and form a union for, believe it or not, the *unemployed*. You may wonder what can be accomplished by organizing the unemployed -- after all, a desire (to have a job) does not appear to be a protectable interest.

But make no mistake about it, there *is* something being protected: namely, the *reputation* and *credibility* of the labour movement.

Founded by local representatives of "organized labour", the union for the unemployed has claimed its main strategy would simply be 'to win jobs', despite any concrete way of accomplishing this task. I can think of no better way for organized labour to deflect attention away from its *own* role in contributing to unemployment.

Using their own public meetings to blame government and big business for the problems of the unemployed, it is a clever attempt on the part of organized

labour to prevent the unemployed from realizing the labour monopolies established by unions are a major obstacle to the unemployed ever becoming employed again.

There is no point in continuing to pretend "organized labour" is a pro-labour movement at all -- it is, in fact, an *anti-labour* movement. Built upon an *artificial* set of self-proclaimed "rights", the labour movement can only be defined as a *philosophical movement designed to morally justify the use of coercion as a tool for maintaining its labour monopolies*. That's why the *movement* is active even when 'labour' isn't. And the justification of any form of coercion *always* entails the destruction of legitimate individual rights.

For example, central to the philosophy of "organized labour" is the concept of 'job security', a concept that has come to be regarded by the labour movement as an employee *right*. But any right that imposes an obligation upon someone else (IE... an *employer*) cannot by definition be a "right". Freedom of association also includes the right *not* to associate.

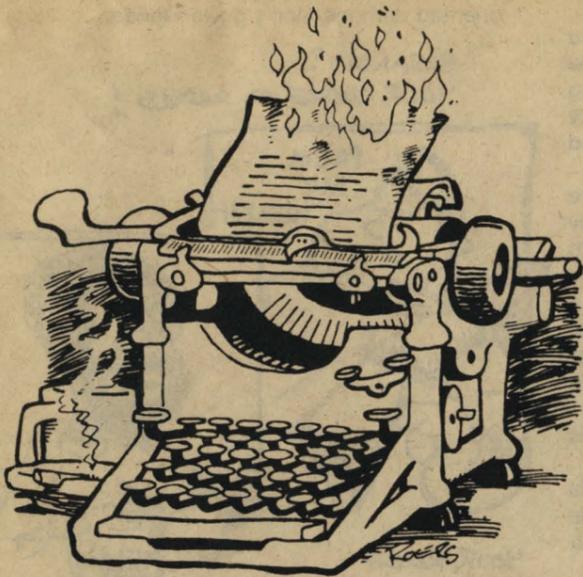
Let's face it, whenever a union declares a 'legal' strike, it is granted (by government) a labour monopoly existing specifically to destroy the rights of others. It destroys the right of an employer to hire persons willing to work subject to his conditions, and it destroys the right of the *unemployed* and non-union labour to enter into an employment contract with that employer. Any benefits won by a union for its members are won *at the expense* of those not fortunate enough to belong to its labour monopoly.

Any 'successes' achieved by a labour monopoly at negotiations will come at the expense of the consumer (who will pay for it), the unemployed (who become further outside the field of 'legal' labour as wage rates rise) or the employer (who might just move out of the country one day). The only legitimate wage increase is one associated with *increased* productivity and there has been damn little of that.

Until the term "voluntary association" is re-instated as the basis of labour movements, mass unemployment will be here to stay. It is just one of the many consequences of the continued erosion of individual rights.

fireside chats

By Herman Goodden



Life is over-rated,
life is complicated
must alleviate this
complicated life

-Raymond Davies [the Kinks]

THE TRUE BELIEVER RUN AMOK

In the same book a feminist actually dares to say, "I'm not surprised in the least by what happened at Jonestown. It had nothing to do with radicalism gone wrong. In my opinion it's the obvious result of patriarchy. Jonestown was no more than an unconscious projection of the male-dominated nuclear family. I don't know if you're aware that there's a definite link between sexist toilet-training practices and Nazism."

These are two of the more extremely assinine examples put forth in the book - examples of the desperate lengths people will go to in trying to defend or promote their ideology in the face of some threatening incident of which they understand zilch. No one *originally* takes on this kind of ideology in order to become a tedious moron - *au contraire* - they take it on originally because it seems to answer a lot of important questions and brings a new sense of purpose to their thinking.

For a while this is exhilarating so they push it *and* they push it. And eventually they take this set of ideas and attitudes which might pertain to politics or sociology or psychology, and by identifying with it more and more strongly they transform it into their religion which then must become answerable to anything that life may throw their way.

And *that's* when the tedium sets in and you find yourself talking to dull-eyed robots who are programmed by one thoroughly fixed idea.

The tell-tale sign of this kind of fixation is the marked lack of a sense of humour. The street corner fundamentalist grimly picketing a screening of 'The Life of Brian'; the dour feminist who carefully enunciates here 'personhood's' and her 'personkinds' like some punctilious school marm out to correct the world's bad grammar; the scientist who has seen no flame more spiritual than his bunsen burner denouncing the existence of the supernatural & spiritual; none of them can afford to let go of their idea for a minute, to allow a doubt, a different perspective, to throw up their arms and howl, "What a crock!"

In an ironic way it turns out the Jonestown dead and their smug commentators are both victims of the overwhelming need to believe something. Or failing that, believing anything at all. As long as they think they *know* the answer.

And in this over-ridingly scientific century of ours, most people demand their belief be synonymous with certainty - cold, absolute, all-encompassing certainty.

In a complicated, frightening world where so much seems to simultaneously be going wrong, when we all must skate faster to keep ahead of the cracked and collapsing ice, reaching out for almost any system or belief is both easier and less painful than attempting to sort through the accumulating mountains of bad news in search of some kind of answer.

But the overwhelming tragedy of those thousand corpses bloating and exploding in the tropical sun, shows us that some beliefs are even more dangerous, more unspeakably degrading, than just staring God and the world in the face and and saying, "Lookit, I just don't know."

In Shiva Naipaul's study of the Jonestown massacre, 'Journey To Nowhere', an American communist puts forth his theory that no one took their own life in Guyana but that the CIA moved in under the cover of night and gassed everybody to death in an attempt to thwart the spread of communism throughout the free world.

Contrary to all evidence, this man believed things were going along quite well in Jonestown; the communal experiment in the jungle with a thousand poor and black expatriates from the American ghettos had broken the back of capitalist oppression by giving these disadvantaged folks the chance to live better and more fruitful lives communistically.

In his opinion, the success of the Jonestown experiment rankled the CIA who then moved in for the kill. He knew this for certain when he saw the neatly stacked bodies of the victims; a sure sign of the American espionage's bureaucratic fetish for neatness and order.

Reading this man's extravagantly paranoid conspiracy theory, I realized that in some odd way he obviously found it reassuring to believe - it helped him sleep at night. Because of his fervent commitment to communist ideology, it was less painful for him to believe any absurd thing about the American government, then to face the endlessly repeated fact of communism's lamentable tendency to turn overnight into fascism and tyranny.



DAYS IN AMERICA

ON MY SPRING BREAK

[or We Do the Canadian Thing and Go to Florida]

Ten days in Florida tells you a lot about Americans and America. In ten days you'll run into at least one American from every state (especially at Disney-World).

One thing you notice immediately is that everything is cheaper, even more than I had heard.

Gas was 95 cents to \$1.05 for a U.S. gallon. In Canadian gallons and money this is \$1.29 to \$1.50 (29 to 33 cents a litre). As any driver knows, the standard price in London is 44 to 47 cents a litre (regular) or \$2.25 a gallon, altho' these wild price wars lately have made this comparison a little irrelevant. In the U.S. the prices are more stable though, and the lower price is because total taxes on a U.S. gallon are 45 cents, total taxes here are \$1.40 a gallon (even if it retails for less than that.)

Cigarettes in the Tampa area (where we were) retailed at 80 cents a pack U.S. (95 cents), compared to \$1.70 for an equivalent package here. Many Canadians notice the harsh taste of American tobacco, but Benson & Hedges Ultra Lights were found to be identical to Canadian Matinee cigarettes. (Canadian cigarette smokers abroad take note.)

Guess not all American smokes taste like Camels after all.

Vic 20 home computers were on sale for \$159 in Bradenton (\$194), and they normally run for \$399 here (or with some freebies included, making the net price \$359). Duty on computers imported from the U.S. is a) Canadian dollar equivalent times 5.1% duty and 3% federal sales tax. So that \$159 U.S. computer would cost you \$218.58 Canadian total, a saving of \$140. Commodore 64 was \$499 U.S., so calculated the same way, it would cost in total \$687.35 Canadian, \$212 cheaper (after all duty!) than buying it here.

Outdoor gas barbecues in Tampa (a year round item, I'm sure) were on sale at \$99 (\$120), while on sale here at Keane's for \$159.

Chicken was really cheap, whole chickens almost half of what they are here. Fruit, oddly, was only about 20 - 25% cheaper.

The gap between Canadian and U.S. prices is curious because Florida minimum wage is \$3.50 an hour (same as it is here), and the average U.S. industrial wage is only 5% less, but prices are 20-30% less.

THE THINGS THAT MONEY CAN BUY!



Every store you went into, whether drug store, grocery store, variety store, department store (and possibly toy stores, I didn't check); you saw beer. And not humble, discreet 6 packs hidden in some corner, but 6-7 foot high stacks that occupied the major chunk of floor space in any given 7 & 11 (grocery stores), variety stores and particularly gas stations. You get the impression everything else in the place is a loss leader, the *real* money is in beer, wine & liquor.

Even here, competition was such that beer 6-packs were \$1.49 (less than half of Ontario price), and no deposit bottles of Michelob were on sale for \$1.39 (6-pack). 38 oz. Bacardi was \$8.49, its \$18.70 here.

The priority Americans seem to put on ready access (24 hours a day) to alcohol was summed up by the marquee (in big, red, truck stop style lettering) on all "L'il General" grocery stores

One discovery was the absence of any pornography in 90% of the variety stores in the whole Bradenton-Sarasota area. Even in Tampa-St. Petersburg, over 50% of variety stores declined to sell even Playboy.

In Bradenton, a city of 60,000, you had to ask for Playboy or Penthouse, and if they had it, they were out of view behind the counter. Hustler magazine was never available, and when I asked if they had it, two proprietors grimaced in disgust. It isn't illegal, in fact a variety store could sell hard-core explicit sex magazines if they wanted to.

I explained to them, that in London, Canada, the average variety store retailer made only 10 to 15 cents on the sale of three quarts of milk, but 80 to \$1.50 on the sale of a copy of Hustler (and you don't have to refrigerate Hustler magazine).



One variety store owner gave me the answer:

"I've been to Canada. Toronto, Canada. Do you know anyone there? (Why do they always ask this?). You don't sell liquor. If you sold liquor you wouldn't need to sell porno. Even women drink, but we really get hell if we put out dirty magazines. And the retired don't like it."

It occurred to me the anti-porn feminists should perhaps lobby Queen's Park to legalize the competitive sale of beer, wine & liquor; hitting two birds with one stone; taking some of the profit motive out of porn and breaking the gov't monopoly on booze.

(What was I doing looking for all this porn, you ask? Well, whenever you go to the U.S., don't you ask your friends if they want you to bring anything back for them? I guess I associate with a pretty depraved crowd. They want their raunch uncensored I guess.)

Americans seem to take their freedoms more seriously. Consequently they are simultaneously more tolerant of others habits and more prone to accepting the risks of negative results by an abusive minority. Jerry Falwell and the Moral Majority have a good following in Florida, but as a reaction to the extreme degree of freedom still in Florida. Much of what the Moral Majority wants already exists in Ontario (censorship, gov't sale of liquor, etc)

The only area where Americans seem intolerant is toward blacks.

In Florida, you'll see rednecks (called Florida 'crackers') driving their pick-ups with their double barrelled shot-guns strapped on the wall behind their head in the truck cab.

There were no letters to the editor or protests to complain about the 10 hour a day hard-core Playboy (Pay) Network.

There were 26 Pay networks operating in Florida, 22 of them available in the Tampa area, and there are more to come as the gov't places no restrictions on content or number of stations; there are channels and shows for anyone willing to plunk down an Abraham Lincoln \$10 (Why don't they colour that money!). Most Pay stations are \$10 to \$12.

There is a Disney channel, a Playboy channel, a Christian channel, a Country & Western channel, a Music Video Channel, an all news channel, three movie channels (HBO, Showtime, and The Movie Channel), a Sports Channel, an old movie channel, a ballet & theatre channel, a Cuban-Hispanic channel, a channel for everything with more coming.

Americans are always friendly. But they are often not efficient. At least half of the waitresses were careless or forgetful. When you corrected them, they'd be super apologetic & friendly, fix up that problem and go right back ignoring you. (Except when you first sit down, within 3 seconds theres a cup of coffee in front of you. And if of course you make the mistake of asking for 'tea', be prepared for cold tea with ice which tastes awful. The only good ice tea is the Nestle stuff thats all chemicals).

Americans are not healthy. They are all overweight. *All of them.* And obviously so.

Maybe I'm spoiled. I have always regarded London as a Shangri-La as regards lithe, trim women, (and to

a lesser extent, I am told, men also.) I don't think I saw two trim women in my whole 10 days in Florida. (Were they *all* in Ft. Lauderdale?). And the men -yikes! Have you ever seen those cartoons where the part of the leg between the knee and the ankle looked like a smoked ham? (The Herman cartoon in the Free Press captures this.) Well, it lives in Florida! The only healthy people turn out to be Canadians.

Maybe, due to the heat, Floridans wear T-shirts and shorts, showing all the paunch and cellulite. Maybe winter forces us to use necessary physical exertion to combat the snow, ice & cold. Maybe the constantly changing weather keeps us alert.

Then again, maybe they eat bad.

One of the disturbing things about my personal experience in America, this time in Georgia & Florida, but it happens when I visit any white community in Michigan, is the benign racism that is so contagious.

If I walked into a bar, tavern or restaurant here in London that had any number of blacks, I'd like to *think* it wouldn't make even a second's impression on me. Maybe because here in London, *my* skin colour is still the majority -so I don't feel threatened. Anyway, I never thought about it before.

But after just 5 days in America you pick up the racial phobia of fellow whites. We found ourselves avoiding places that had all or for the most part black patrons, even if it was a Howard Johnsons restaurant. White, middle class Floridans invariably say 'niggers' (and then recognizing our family is from a liberal, sort of Scandinavian type northern country -Canada-) then correct themselves. Or as one Georgia redneck said "Excuse my french ma'am (to my wife) I guess you'd say blacks."

It was one of the few times I felt an inexplicable sense of fear & guilt at the same time.

If you feel that you're worn down, over-burdened by anxiety, exhausted by tension from your job, then Florida is an ideal place to go. *Because* there is nothing for your mind there. It's all healthy sun, lots of biking, fishing, boating, tennis, etc. Despite Floridans being unhealthy in appearance, it is certainly a place to *relax*.

But unless you need to be exorcised of this stress-oriented demons, don't go to Florida.



Florida is like one big suburb, where everybody has been put out to pasture. There's nothing to *do* in Florida but *be leisurely*.

Within days you're mind is turning to mush. 7 days is about all you can take if you've got any kind of lifestyle at home worth looking forward to.

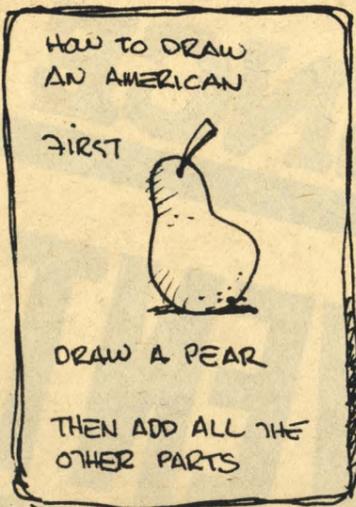
Next time its New York City.

Every parent I mentioned our family's planned trip to Florida emphasized "you *have* to go to DisneyWorld".

We had the benefit of everybody's hindsight (and every person with children seemed to have gone), which days were best, which attractions were most interesting, what time was best to be there.

So we went on a Monday morning (the day we were told the crowds were 'lightest'.)

Nevertheless, we left Bradenton at 7.00 in the morning, and arrived 4 miles outside Disneyworld at 8.30 a.m. Unfortunately, these people lined up to the horizon must have had neighbours that told them 'Monday was a light day for crowds' also. Oh well. We waited 2 hours on the highway, crawling 2 or 3 miles until we hit cruise speed into the Disneyworld parking lot at 10.30. Disneyworld opens at 9 a.m., and the line-up starts at 6.30 to 7.00 during any of the 4 break-weeks in March-April, at 8 A.M. in non-spring break periods.



The weather was a breezy, dry, sunny day and the kids were napping, so it was not uncomfortable waiting, it's just that the Magic Kingdom is not worth the wait.

Once we had parked, we had to wait in line 50 minutes to buy tickets to get in (10.30 to 11.20).

Price of admission, which now covers all rides & exhibits in the Magic Kingdom is \$15 for adults, \$12 for children; a family of four like ours paid \$54 to get in.

Disneyworld is divided into EPCOT Centre (Experimental City of Tomorrow) and the Magic Kingdom, the part where most people take their children.

In the line-up, which moved deliberately slow to stagger the crowds waiting at the monorail to get into the Magic Kingdom, we met a couple from Indiana that had travelled 2 days with their 7 year child just to see Disneyworld. They had come 5 or 6 years earlier with their eldest son (now age 13), and they enjoyed it so much they were bringing their other son. I marvelled that these people would drive 1*200 over 2 days, and drive back 1,200 miles, wait in traffic a couple of hours, wait in line until noon, spend \$70 a night on a Disneyworld hotel, etc. all for this.

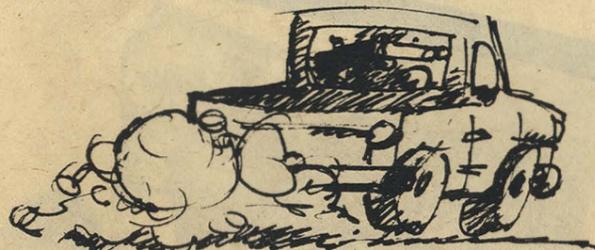
After buying our admission to the Magic Kingdom, you can enter the facility by futuristic monorail or riverboat. The wait for the Riverboat was 45 minutes, the wait for the monorail was 20 minutes. Monorail it was.

The electric monorail is a sleek, glossy, rapid transit commuter train that comfortably gets you into the Magic Kingdom in 5 minutes; on the way you get an impressive aerial view of Disneyworld which heightens your expectations. I mean, anything that is important enough to have its own futuristic transit system to take you into their facility has got to be something, right?

We were dropped off at 'Main Street' at about noon. The Magic Kingdom at last.

Main Street is a turn-of-the-century style area that contains silent movie houses, old arcades, horse drawn cars, a double decker bus, a separate theatre showing a film 'The Walt Disney Story'.

But while there are 8 attractions, (and compared with other parts of the Magic Kingdom, quite minor), there are 7 restaurants and 18 shops! The restaurants and shops are housed in nice architectural structures, but inside was either junk (House of Magic), outrageous pricing (a Polaroid pavillion where film was twice to three times the normal retail price) and fast food places where food was bland and not so cheap. What is more irritating is that a family is not allowed to bring in a picnic, ours was refused admittance at the ticket sales entrance, so you are compelled to buy food there.



Main Street was very crowded in the first 3 hours after opening so we headed for Tomorrowland at the perimeter of the Magic Kingdom, where we thought it would be less crowded. In Tomorrowland, there are 10 exhibits-rides(although the SKYWAY was closed) and 7 shops.

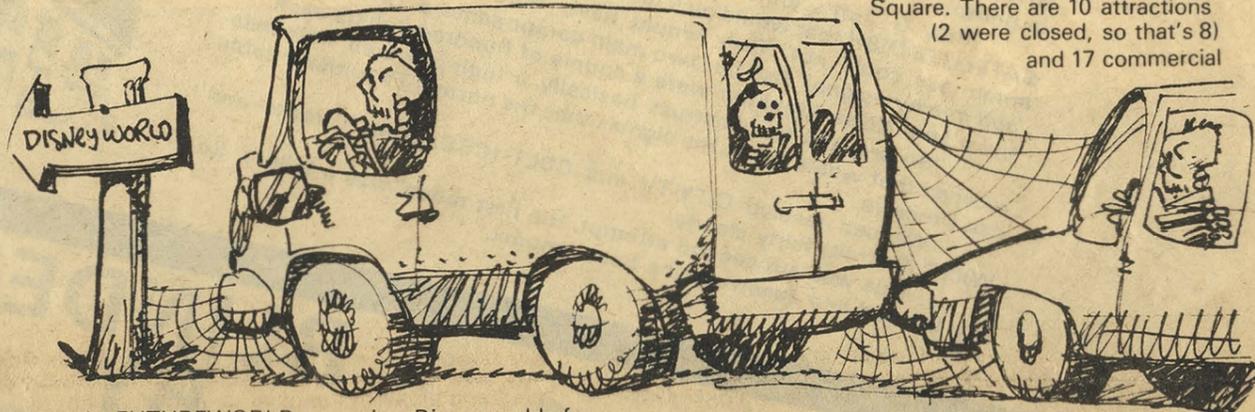
Space Mountain, billed as a 'soaring Race through Space' is really a standard roller coaster ride in the dark with images of the Solar system whizzing by you. Fun, but hardly special, and our kids (7 & 8) didn't remember seeing much of the 'solar system' for all the ups and downs of the ride. And a wait of 30 minutes for a 4 minute ride. Annoying too is when entering and leaving Space Mountain, you are bombarded with RCA back-lit advertising, showing virtually every product they make. Considering the admission price, this is really tacky to have to endure 5 minutes of advertising (and the 30 minute shuffle line-up) for a 4 minute ride.

Circle-Vision 360 is unique. It is a septagonal-walled room with 7 cinema sized screens all around

you. Hundreds of people stand in the centre and you are shown an innocuous travelogue-type film ('Disney's Magic Carpet'). Your vision in the audience is as though you were really on location, able to see ahead, behind, and all the angles beside. Its enjoyable and worth the 20 minute wait, but the technology is a little dull really. After Cinesphere at Ontario Place, the kids weren't that impressed. For those who haven't seen Cinesphere, the screen is 6 times larger than normal, seats are teared so you are totally immersed in the screen ahead, and you walk out amazed, exhilarated or dizzy, especially since they have been showing Star Wars, Superman, the Black Stallion, etc. in recent months.

Carousel of Progress is a ride on an electrical powered 6 unit open air skyway, somewhat like a junior monorail that takes you through various exhibits on the future possibilities of electricity. This not-so-subtle corporate advertising is brought to you by General Electric and other electric companies and is really very dull and should have many more special effects, holographs, computer effects and a purpose. The display appears as though it hasn't been updated since DisneyWorld opened 10 years ago, and in today's rapidly advancing technological world, this display should be significantly different every 6 months.

With RCA sponsoring Space Mountain, General Electric sponsoring this, McDonnell-Douglas sponsoring an exhibit called **Mission To Mars**, and Goodyear sponsoring the miniature race car speedway, it's clear Disneyworld is to a great degree a showcase for Corporate America. The more I experienced Disneyworld's aura of polish, efficiency, and yet very simple amusement park reality, the more it reminded me in *philosophy* of the films Westworld



and FUTUREWORLD, movie Disneyworlds-for-adults. Far removed from any passionate human experience and replaced by the ultra-clean, lifeless illusion of "entertainment". Even the kids were getting bored with the lack of challenge to the brain.

Other rides in Tomorrowland were miniature race cars (presented by, natch, Goodyear Corp.) which the kids really liked (worth the 20 minutes wait) and Starjets, an average amusement park ride that wasn't worth the 30 minute wait and is far too primitive an amusement ride to still be in 'Futureworld', er, Tomorrowland.

Gradually, you realize the most exhausting part of the Magic Kingdom to both you & the kids is the "waiting". Magic Kingdom processes people quickly and efficiently, but they receive an average of 45,000 people a day, 75,000 on busy days. Of course those waits make you hungry and thirsty, and since Disney owns all concessions, you are compelled to buy the food & drink from them.

Remarkably, you'll never see any litter. Ever. The place is kept spotless. And if you attempt to take off your shoes or shirt (college kids near us tried), you'll be reprimanded by the staff immediately.

Cinderella's Castle at the centre of the Magic Kingdom (In Fantasyland) that is on all the programs, advertising and is the castle on the credits of the TV Disney program on Sunday, represents both the best and worst of Disneyworld. From the outside it looks spectacular, a marvellous looking recreation of gothic architecture combined with the whimsical Peter Pan magic of Disney. A castle that's sort of been 'cartooned' at the edges.

But it doesn't do anything. It just looks nice. There is not one exhibit or attraction in it, just two restaurants and some shops in the lower level. Yet its the one thing are kids were dying to see, "Let's go inside! Let's go inside!"

It's really only useful for taking family snapshots and having it as a backdrop.

Fantasyland (the Magic Kingdom is divided into roughly 5 'lands') has 14 shops and restaurants, only 10 attractions, 3 of which are fairly standard rides oriented around Disney characters. **20,000 Leagues Under the Sea** (a simulated submarine ride attraction) was reputed to be something, but the wait was 1 hour, 15 minutes. Snow White's Adventures was closed, leaving only the **Mad Hatter's** and **Mr. Toad's Wild Ride** as particularly exciting rides (wait time: 40 minutes).

Frontierland has a number of ride-attractions, including a cleverly decorated roller-coaster ride simulating a wild mining train out of control

(**Thunder Mountain Railroad**). The area the runaway train weaves through is a mesa-like mining district where cute outdoor cabins are wading in a flood with an animated miner bailing water out of his cabin. By this time it was 6 p.m., so the wait was only 15 minutes. It's fun, as was the Country Bear Jamboree (a bunch of wilderness bears in a funny 'hoedown'). We also went on a steam powered riverboat which was leisurely enough (a little too laid back really, but short enough so you don't quite get bored).

Our favorite and that of almost everyone we talked to is the **Haunted Mansion**; a brilliant technical achievement that is hilarious and exciting. There are 999 convincing goblins, ghosts, moving graveyards, frightfully believable apparitions all organized on multi-levelled planes (there are scenarios below, above, beside and in front of you). You are put on a moving conveyor belt of chairs that carry you through the Haunted Mansion. There are holograph images (perfectly real looking three dimensional images made by light on glass) that recreate ghostly dinner scenes with spirits flying about the room; apparitions that, if you listen, seem to be talking to you, and a marvellous achievement is just as you approach the end, the humourously ominous 'host' says over the sound system: "and are you sure its just the two of you leaving? Ha Ha Ha..." and you look into a mirror ahead of you and between the two of you in the chair is a green ghost that moves! (And moves from mirror to mirror as you do). This was the only attraction where the kids said (pleadingly), "Let's do it again!" If it weren't for the half hour wait, we'd have done it.

One of the recurring things I've gringed about in this report surfaced again at Frontierland-Liberty Square. There are 10 attractions (2 were closed, so that's 8) and 17 commercial

enterprises. And there's never any line-ups to buy any food or expensive film or junk; there were always enough shops to handle any crowds!

The kids remarked 'there weren't any Mickey Mouses walking around' - which there weren't. Not one costumed fantasy creature passed us or was seen our whole time there. Yet you see this in the promotional material all the time.

We were told not to miss the 'Electric Parade', but this is shown only on Saturday evenings. We were only able to catch half of the 3 p.m. daily parade and it was OK, but again, not stunning.

Why am I pointing all this out? Should I be disappointed?

It seems every Canadian family I ever heard of goes to Florida for a holiday at some time or another, and one of the major lures (besides the sun) is Disneyworld. I guess you can't psyche the family up, drive all the way to Florida, spend \$54 in admission, \$30 in food, \$20 in paraphernalia, \$70 on hotel, \$10 - \$15 on gas (or about \$200 on Disneyworld - net cost), and then come home and say it was just *ok*, nothing special.

After you see the Haunted Mansion, it makes you ask, 'why couldn't all the attractions have been that intelligent, technically brilliant and exciting?' Indeed, that is the question. *Why not?* Obviously the money is there, the technology is there.

In a world when three dimensional television will be introduced later this year (3-D images containing depth perception without glasses), computers are getting as common as cereal box giveaways and public school kids are making their own dish antennae (see page 8 - 9), most of Disneyworld is behind the times.

I think Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan is more touchy-feely, more educational, and equally entertaining. It costs \$4 to get in, and you can see old style glass bottle making, old newspapers coming off a hand press (you can get a bottle and paper free), Thomas Edison's original laboratory and equipment, old American houses you can tour, a little railroad that takes you around, etc. There are no line-ups and only one commercial building selling good quality material relevant to what you've seen, not useless rot that plagues amusement parks everywhere (where it is ritual to spoil every child on the worst possible kind of excess). But I guess going to Michigan is nobody's idea of a holiday. Too bad. Disneyland & Greenfield Village represent the best and worst of American ingenuity and culture, and the wrong one outdraws the other 100 to 1.



BILLY ROW (in photo) of 20 Crampsting Cr. & JEFF GILL of 542 Avedon These two Riverside Public School students won 1st place Group Technological (Junior) Exhibit as well as contributing to Riverside winning best contribution from elementary school. (Trophies in photo).

Billy & Jeff's joint venture was the making of an effective SATELLITE DISH that would pick up some signals that conventional TV antennae could not. They would have liked to make a full-scale 'pull-in-every-signal' dish but two main components, a 'Down Converter' and a Low Noise Amplifier were a couple of hundred dollars each.

"So we had to construct basically a high-powered antennae-receiver that would catch the signals that the normal TV without cable can't receive. We can receive CITY-TV and CBLT (CBC) from Toronto and WXYZ (Detroit) fairly clearly. This was our second attempt, the first model was a failure. So we learned and constructed a better model."

SCIENCE

INVENTOR!

FACTS

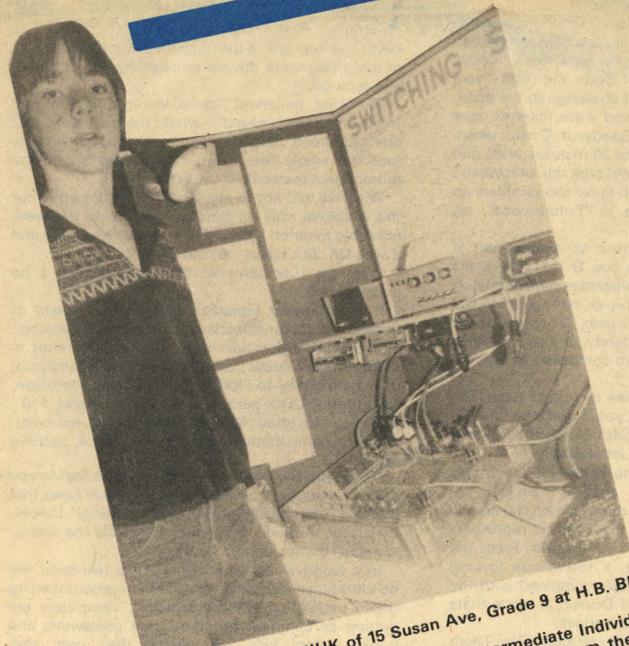
PATENTS INVENTORS SCIENCE

BLINDED BY SCIENCE!

ERIC BARR, of 193 Beech St. in Lucan

Eric entered this demonstration in the INDIVIDUAL TECHNOLOGICAL (Junior Division), demonstrating very effectively how hydraulics work in machinery. The 4 syringes contain fluid which, when pushed in or withdrawn creates pressure or a vacuum which forces plungers to act. In his demonstration Eric was able to lift coins off the table and accurately deposit them in a piggy bank. The 'crane' had complete up-down, left-right movement.

Although this shows how fluid hydraulics can make cranes and shovels work, Eric explained "I was influenced when I saw the Canadian Arm used on the space shuttle. I thought it might have operated by hydraulics, so we went to the library to check. We didn't find out convincingly if the Canadian arm was hydraulically operated, but that's how we got started."



MICHAEL WORONIUK of 15 Susan Ave, Grade 9 at H.B. BEAL S.S. Michael took second place in the Intermediate Individual Technological category and won a cash award of \$75 from the Institute of Electrical & Electronic Engineering.

His demonstration was a practical application of "Switching Systems". Michael made his own amplifier (seen in glass case) which is hooked into loud rock n' roll system. The problem was however, when the music is loud, you can't hear the phone. He explains: "...So when the phone rings, it trips a circuit which cuts power to the amplification system. When the phone call is completed and the phone replaced on the receiver, the amplification of the music resumes."

Also included were night lights and a clock radio to show the various possibilities, although this principle could be used for automating household & industrial inconveniences.



MICHELE & NICOLE BELAIR of 63 Archer Cr. of St. Mary's School This delicate and artfully designed SOAPMAKING DISPLAY won 1st Prize London Regional Children's Museum Award.

The two sisters demonstrated how soap is made (from lye flakes, water, beef fat, incidentally). There were samples of soap made 3 weeks ago (cured), raw soap made the night before, plus charts & implements used in various stages of manufacture. Michele & Nicole also made some tasty toothpaste from baking soda, glycerine and peppermint but the let the cat out of the bag by sheepishly admitting they like the commercial tube variety better. (Treason!)

The London District SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR on April 10 was a real upper to experience. The exhibition of students from the London area were featured at Clarke Side Road; the finalists from possibilities our youth have.

The various projects, contraptions, demonstrations and inventions featured at this weekend affair re-affirms that this generation has some exciting potential. It was actually unnerving seeing so many (over 100) exhibits that showed such understanding of the world around us. The remarkable thing is that you learn something new at every display. To the armchair know-it-all like some editor we all know and love, this was quite a come-uppance.

There is often a tendency to dismiss such excellence as 'a collaborative effort' between an ambitious parent and their eager to please child. But these kids knew the stuff and could give you the spiel in proper scientific terms at the drop of a question. The worst part is when I didn't understand what they were talking about, it was too deep (see Shi Sherebrin, grade 8 student's project), but you can't let on. You just keep taking notes and going "Uh huh, but of course..." I mean, what would they think of us? "Is that what it's like to be 25 and educated? You don't know about photons, Van Der Graaf generators and the photo-voltaic effect? You're kidding?" I can see their disillusionment now if they could have seen the sincere bewilderment in my questions that posed as proper journalistic inquiries.

All this stuff that makes the world go round and I didn't know any of it. But I felt great once I did. A really good feeling and a fun time. If you are thinking of a good investment in the future, hope some of these students get into business after graduation. Every parent wanting a day that will inspire both your children and yourself shouldn't miss this next year.

The entrants were from grade 6 to grade 13, each selected from earlier competitions held on a regional basis throughout the area. Our profiles are chosen at random out of the 100 really fine displays.



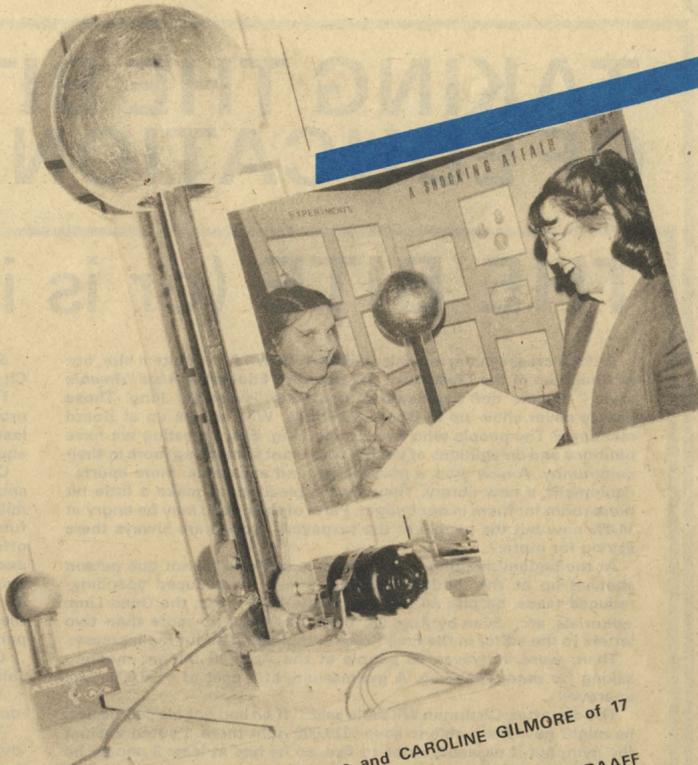
BLINDED BY SCIENCE!



SHI SHEREBRIN of 229 Bernard, Grade 8 at Ryerson Public School Shi is shown here demonstrating the photo-electric effect giving rise to modern physics. Sound to easy? Here's part of what he told me: "A shower of photons hits the surface of a metal which emits A COATED RAY OF ELECTRONS...THEY ARE SENT TO YOUR TV RECEIVER and when they hit the phosphor (of your TV tube) they appear as images." [those dots indicate a lot more explanation in between].

Used in automatic supermarket doors, burglar alarms, his project proved this phenomenon in a series of tests, the charts demonstrating this frame his exhibit. Shi also submitted with this practical demonstration a 22-page computer processed report.

Winning the first prize for INDIVIDUAL PHYSICAL SCIENCE [Junior division] this year, Shi also won the same prize last year for his project demonstrating the physical principles on Inertia. (At least we know the principles of political inertia, we have a 24 hour demonstration at three levels to watch.)



ELEANOR BOYLE of 1493 Glenora and CAROLINE GILMORE of 17 Meridene Eleanor and Caroline demonstrated how their VAN DER GRAAFF Generator worked and what its importance was, which is essentially "a demonstration of the theory applied to splitting atoms for nuclear science."

You say you've seen a radioactive glow near Lucas? Hmmm. These two Lucas students tied in the Group Intermediate Physical Science.

TAKING THE BITE OUT OF EDUCATION TAXES

THE BITE (or is it?)

A 14.4 increase in the municipal EDUCATION TAX is quite a bite, but as Chairman of the Trustees of the Board of Education *Alan Wheable* says: "People don't remember money-tax issues for long. Those people never show up at Board meetings. Who shows up at Board meetings? The people who *want* something. Every meeting we have petitions and delegations of people who want something more in their community. A new gym, a new playground apparatus, more sports equipment, a new library. They always plead us to make a little bit more room for them in our budget. Parts of the public may be angry at 14.4% now but the people at the taxpayers' trough are always there asking for more."

At the budget meeting of the Trustees on April 10, not one person showed up at this budget session to ask for reduced spending-reduced taxes, despite all the fuss in the Free Press, the Open Line, editorials, etc. Even by April 28, there has been no more than two letters to the editor in the Free Press complaining about the increase.

There were, however, 65 people at the April 10 budget meeting asking for *more* spending. A gymnasium, at a cost of \$120,000, was approved.

The day after, Chairman Wheable said: "If *he* had got his people out, he might have been able to save \$120,000 right there. I voted against the gym, but it passed 9 votes to five, so he had at least 9 people he could have tried to convince."

That "he" was Harry Baker, a 70 year old pensioner on Bond St., an angry taxpayer trying to motivate a grass-roots revolt (or "rollback" to 6%, as he calls it) by having as many people call the provincial gov't (toll free) at these numbers 679-9881 or 679-9732 (direct lines to Queen's Park). Receiving large coverage in the Free Press for about a week, Mr. Baker was asking everyone who called him, to call the executive assistant to Bette Stephenson and demand "some action".

What action could the provincial gov't give?, we asked him. He wasn't sure, and in any case he didn't seem very interested in specifics. Although Mr. Baker did mention getting rid of Circle R Ranch (a savings of about \$82,000 a year) and cancellation of the Board move to Sir Adam Beck as the Education Centre, he was more interested in raising hell than actually understanding where it was possible to save money.

The press secretary, to Bette Stephenson was "not sure" if there was anything the province could do, but the law is quite clear, there is *nothing* the province can do to "rollback" municipal taxes.

Mr. Baker's direction was all wrong. Although the frustration of the taxpayer is understandable and warranted, the "origin" of the problem is little understood by any of the media and public in London. This problem of increasing *local* taxes with declining enrollment is a long time coming, but it *is not* the fault of local trustees.

When Mr. Baker encouraged sincere callers to call Bette Stephenson's office, all their concern and anger was going to waste. The province has already done the largest part of the damage and forwarded the public repercussions onto the local Boards.

When looking at some of the things Mr. Baker feels should be cut, we find that Circle R Ranch, once cancelled, would save \$97,000 in 1985, but two years notice must be given by the Board for cancellation (so no tax saving in 1983). The pay increase to Trustees should be "rolled back" says Mr. Baker, but this was only 5% for 1983, and would amount to about a savings of 3 cents on your 1983 tax bill. Cancelling the move to Beck would save nothing on this year's tax bill because the move is not scheduled until next year. And they are obligated to spend almost the same amounts on either location.

Said Mr. Baker "They knew a long time ago that cutbacks would be coming, why weren't the Trustees prepared for this drop in provincial money?"

All throughout April, a smug City Council chastised the Board of Education for the Board's high spending ways, one suspects more to remind the voters of their own relatively minor tax-hike. The facts are, however, Education spending *is up only 7.8%*, while City Council spending is *up 8%*.

OR **HOW TO
TAKE A BITE
OUT OF
EDUCATION?**

So why are *local* taxes up 14.4% for Education, and only 6.06% for City Council?

The Board of Ed receives, like the City, much of its budget from the province. In 1982, the provinces net increase to the Board was 1.94%, leaving the Board of Ed. no alternative to raise local taxes 14.4% to equal an over-all spending increase of 7.8%.

City Council, on the other hand, received a 17% hike in provincial subsidies to welfare (the City's largest spending increase), it spent \$2 million less on snow removal, borrowed more money from its reserve funds, etc. The City also has great latitude in raising money to offset increases in costs, leverage the Board does not have. For example, parking meter rate increases will raise an additional \$600,000 over the next few years, the City has dozens of licencing fees ranging from \$2 to \$75 (bingo licences net the City \$50,000 a year alone), and in the last few years, they have all risen in price. Building permits, sign permits, etc. have all risen sharply.

Capital levies and development charges (increased in 1982), will raise an additional \$4 million in 1983.

We are all for user fees, but it is only fair to point out the Board of Ed does not have this diverse and easy access to "fundraising".

The City Council has not been more prudent in spending, in fact, over-all spending by the City is higher and so would your taxes if you weren't being bitten by the municipality in other forms. Fact is, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET IS MORE RESPONSIBLE THAN THE CITY COUNCIL'S, but provincial formulas and the City's ability to raise money elsewhere have distorted this.

For your reference, here is how the percentage of your tax bill has shifted over the last 14 years, the percentage in brackets shows the portion of the tax bill each one (City and Ed.) represents. The increase in education taxes over the year before is noted.

YEAR	CITY PORTION	EDUCATION PORTION	ED. TAX CHANGE
1969	23,547,368 (54%)	19,874,950 (46%)	
1970	25,836,432 (55%)	20,916,871 (45%)	5%
1971	29,025,516 (61%)	18,346,885 (39%)	-12%
1972	32,271,705 (63%)	18,739,808 (37%)	3%
1973	28,970,948 (59%)	19,860,078 (41%)	5%
1974	32,449,561 (62%)	19,889,212 (38%)	0%
1975	34,505,400 (60%)	22,661,936 (40%)	12%
1976	37,192,947 (55%)	30,036,379 (45%)	32.6%
1977	41,581,685 (55%)	33,778,214	12.4%
1978	45,553,212 (55%)	36,706,830 (45%)	8.6%
1979	49,023,016 (55%)	39,635,552 (45%)	8%
1980	54,035,800 (55%)	43,322,000 (44.5%)	9.5%
1981	60,047,322 (56.4%)	46,291,000 (43.6%)	6.8%
1982	66,625,100 (56%)	52,336,000 (44%)	13%
1983	71,272,000 (54.2)	60,103,000 (45.8)	14.4%

As we point out on page 11, your actual municipal education taxes *have dropped 23%* in constant dollars since 1969. As we will show, it is the *province & federal gov't* that have been the *profligate spenders*.

Note that, though it has had its ups and downs, the education tax takes up roughly the same percentage of the total tax bill in 1983 as it did in 1969.

But there is a very real problem. These increases in taxation at *any* level cannot continue. Our opinion is that in order to have local Ed taxes go back to 6%, we would have to increase provincial grants, which would only require more provincial taxes. It would lower your property taxes, but not your over-all taxes paid (which is, ultimately, the only relevant statistic).

And if 14.4% bothers you, bear in mind this is only a \$38 a year increase (above 6%) for the average home, whereas the \$31 BILLION Federal debt this year (and the other \$96 billion accumulated since, interestingly, 1968) will represent \$1,800 (20% of all your federal taxes) of the average working person's federal taxes, (so double that if both spouses work).

Which is more relevant? Which is receiving more criticism?

Still, there are a number of options for reducing costs and/or improving the system at the local level. None of them are easy. All require a fairly radical change, and in the long run, some for better, some for worse.

The over-all answer to cutting the costs of education must be directed at the provincial and, to a lesser degree, the federal gov't.

It may not seem so, but relatively speaking, our Board of Education has done a good job of keeping spending very reasonable.

It's that 14.4% increase that creates the impression of mismanagement.

For example, the Board is committed to providing many expensive, and one might say unnecessary, programs that local trustees might otherwise cancel or reduce in scope. Some of these are Special Education (local cost in 1983-1984 will \$3.5 million), French immersion, French language, etc.

77% of the Board's budget is for salaries of the 3,145 personnel of the Board, 2,065 teachers, 1,080 others (consultants, custodians, principals, etc).

This year's tax bill rise of 14.4% reflects the 1.96% increase in provincial grants. It is not because spending is high.

Teachers salaries in 1982-1983 are arbitrarily set at 9%, as part of the provinces 9 & 5 program. The 5% restraint year starts for the teachers in Sept. as the 1983-1984 year gets under way. Even if provincial grants stay at 2%, your taxes next year will only go up 6-9%. It's after the 9 & 5 program ends in mid-1984 that you'll have to worry, as teachers play catch-up to all the money they will perceive they have lost.

In fact, elementary teachers are supposed to be receiving annual increases of about 12%, secondary teachers about 11.5%. If the provinces 9 & 5 program hadn't been put in place your education taxes would be about 20% above last years.

Unfortunately for the local taxpayer, only the province has the right to arbitrarily set pay limits on education salaries. Your local Board does not. For them to make the same point would invite a lengthy strike. Unless the provinces extends its "restraint" program indefinitely, then higher local taxes are inevitable.

Actually education spending for 1983-1984 will increase 10% at the elementary level, 6% at the secondary level.

But the province's portion was a net increase of only 1.96% (1982 - \$56,708,403, 1983 - \$57,819,977). Since the Board must react to whatever amount the province gives (The Board cannot have a deficit), they really haven't any choice but to pass on the cost to you.

What could the trustees do? Now? In 1984? Later?

There are 4 possible alternatives that can be examined if you want to understand what is possible and what it takes to achieve spending & tax control.

One word of note: if you think *you* have it rough at property tax time, bear in mind businesses pay a higher 'commercial rate' of tax, about 20% higher than normal, and receive *nothing* for it. So the average homeowner is being further insulated by this massive penalty on businesses in the City.

Our Options:

1. Freeze teachers and administrators salaries at 5% for at least 3 years once the Provincial gov't restraint program is over.
2. Close 10 to 15 schools and lay-off a proportionate number of teachers and admin.-custodial staff, increasing the teacher-pupil ratio by one extra pupil per teacher.
3. Make selective cuts in the current system (the band-aid approach, but...)
4. Replace the whole government system with a voucher system of education credits to be directed by parents to a school of their choice.

ALTERNATIVE ONE

A 5% FREEZE AFTER THE GOV'T RESTRAINT PROGRAM

Although the Provincial government can do it with a stroke of the pen, a 5% - annual increase freeze has far reaching implications at the local level.

To consider this for the years 1984 to 1987 would require a great deal of nerve by the trustees and the electorate.

One of the anomalies of this recent criticism of the 14.4% tax increase is that the complaints are coming largely from senior citizens who have no children in the school system.

For seniors on a fixed (6%) income, paying education taxes from the age of 20 to the age of 70 or 75 (50-55 years) for what was, in their day, a 10 year stretch of schooling, certainly is punitive.

Yet the lack of serious criticism from parents with children in the system is the soft-underbelly of the whole issue.

The 5% freeze that goes into place next year as a result of the provincial program will save about \$6,000,000 from what was committed by the Board under contract to the teachers. This translates to about \$42 savings on your 1984 property tax bill. By maintaining the freeze another 3 years (by local means) would save taxpayers an aggregate total of about \$20,000,000 over the Sept. 1984 to Sept. 1987 period, or \$145 - \$150 a home.

But the disappointing truth is if the trustees held firm on a 5% freeze, there most certainly would be a teachers' strike, *a long strike!*

The public can point to a declining inflation rate (currently 7%) which makes annual 5% increases more reasonable, and the teachers at the secondary level can point out that they are the lowest paid of any secondary teachers in any public system in Ontario, *which is true.*

However, the average teacher at the elementary school level earns \$32,000 a year, the average secondary school teacher earns \$35,000 a year, which is not bad at all.

Whether teachers in other centres are paid more or less is relative only for comparisons. It has nothing to do with whether we are getting value for the money spent based on market conditions. Just because other centres known for their excessive waste (Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, Ottawa) have the collective spines of jellyfish is no reason for us to accept their weakness as a standard of merit in wage discussion.

The real factors that must be assessed are:

1. Demand for teachers versus supply
2. Demand for teaching services in light of declining enrollment *with* an expanding population
3. The ability of an economically debilitated business & homeowner community to pay
4. The declining percentage of taxpayers contributing to the system who also have children benefitting from it
5. The monopoly protection teachers enjoy (It's no-risk employment. Ever heard of a teacher getting fired? Are they all *that* good?)

FIRST POINT: Teacher demand peaked in 1975-1976, since then most graduates of teachers colleges have not yet been absorbed to anywhere near the number of graduates available. The only increased opportunity in the government school system is in the minority-special interest program that the province invents to placate special interest groups while absorbing some of the excess teachers at the same time.

The price of teachers should drop relative to the supply, at least a little, so that schools can afford a lower student pupil ratio (a 10% cut in salary say in exchange for 10% more teachers). Only the arbitrary power of collective bargaining has kept up this inequitable market distortion.

SECOND POINT: Declining enrollment means the *real* demand (point one looked at supply-demand) for teachers is dropping in the gov't system. Some facts:

- The number of students in 1968 was 45,000
- The number of students in 1972 was 47,900
- The number of students in 1983 is 40,250 (down 16% since '72)
- The number of teachers in 1968 was 1,989
- The number of teachers in 1983 is 2,072
- The population of London in 1968 was 206,044
- The population in 1983 is 271,000
- In 1968, 26.5% of Londoners were in the school system
- In 1983 only 20% of Londoners were in the school system

FACT SHEET

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM ONLY

Number of elementary Pupils (1968) 30,500 (1972) 30,500 (1976) 27,500 (1983) 24,700

Number of Secondary pupils (1968) 14,500 (1972) 17,400 (1976) 18,000 (1983) 15,750

Number of all pupils (1968) 45,000 (1972) 47,900 (1976) 45,500 (1983) 40,250

Total Percentage of School Age Children in London population (1968) -26.5% (1983) - 20%

Total number of schools 1958) 26 (1969) -79 (1983) -79

Total number of teachers in system (1968) 1,989 (1983) 2,060

Average Salary of Teachers in London
elementary-\$32,000 secondary - \$35,000

City population (1958) 102,310 (1968) 206,000 (1983) 271,000 (up 31%)

Total local property taxes paid to education:
1968 \$97.08 per capita
1983 \$221.40 per capita

Inflation (CPI) since 1969 is 277% of 1969, (or 177% above 1969)

Local Education Taxes are 302% of (or increase of 202%) of what they were in 1969, but on a per capita basis, taxes are up only 129%.

Inflation in the same period was 277% of (or an increase of 177%). In consequence, local ed. taxes are down *per capita* BY 23% since 1969.

Percentage of Working Person's Income going to Taxes (1968) 33% (1983) 49.5%

Difference between a 6% & 14.4% education tax hike - \$38

Total amount of each person's federal taxes (average) going to pay the federal debt in 1983 - \$1,350

Expected increase in all teachers' salaries in London for 1983-1984 year: -5% only due to provincial restraint law-

Anticipated tax increases for 1984: Education (7%), City Hall (9.5%)

Secondary school teachers in London rank as lowest paid of any secondary system in Ontario, while elementary teachers are paid in a middle-range compared to other centres.

Number of non-teaching personal (including dental, medical, custodial secretarial, consultants, administrators, etc.) (1958) 173 (1983) 1,075

London is still lowest cost per pupil system of 5 major cities:

Cost per student (secondary) - Windsor 11% higher
Hamilton 7% higher
Ottawa 10% higher
Toronto 16% higher

Cost per student (elementary)

Windsor -33% higher
Hamilton - 16% higher
Ottawa -51% higher
Toronto - 42% higher

The most important trend is that while population is increasing at about 1.8 - 2% a year, school age population is consistently dropping (since 1975) by 2-3% a year. If we look at our population and growth charts, (page 13-14), we see several areas in the city

have seen a significant drop (5% to 20%) in population, and an even greater drop in school age children. Conversely, there are only about 4 areas in the city where growth is expected to include *any* increase in school age children; ie. Westmount & any expanded area around it, White-Oaks & expanded

area, Whitehills & any expanded area and Masonville and expanded areas around it.

Over the next 20 years it is obvious much of London's older areas (developed before 1960) will see a some changes in their schools. It's inevitable.

POINT THREE: The ability of the public to keep paying endless tax hikes is certainly nearing an apocalypse. In 1968, Canadians surrendered 33% of all their income to taxes of one kind or another. In 1983, this has risen to 49.5% in Ontario (53% in Newfoundland).

The amount of real taxes going to pay for education has increased 21% (*after inflation!*) at the federal & provincial levels (including the gov't debt incurred for education programs).

While it is negligible in over-all money spent on education by government, it is important to note that the municipal education tax has recorded a *net drop of 23%* (after inflation). So of all the people to blame, the municipality's trustees should be last.

Here's how you calculate that drop of 23%:

Taxes collected locally for education are up 302% over 14 years, and the population is up 31% since 1969

So the cost paid *per capita* is thus:
(1968) \$19,874,950 divide by 206,000 equals \$96.40

(1983) \$60,000,000 divided by 271,000 equals \$221.40
this represents an increase over 14 years of 129%.

The cost of living however, if measured at 100 units of value in 1969 is now worth 277 units of value. Your local taxes have only increased *per capita* 76% of the rate of inflation, a *net drop of 23-24%* in *real dollar terms*.

The guilty ones are the Provincial government, where spending for education in the late '60s and early '70s zoomed out of site. Grants to the Cities were so large that some years London Board of Ed did not have to raise taxes at all (eg. 1971 to 1974). Of course all that spending was costly and now the chickens have come home to roost at Queen's Park (deficit last year of \$2 billion). Consequently, the provincial gov't, pretending it doesn't know how this happened, cuts back dramatically on its grants. Then you, the local taxpayer, wake up and notice that something is not right.

And while grants to the City Boards are cut back, the programs initiated in the easy money days have not been cutback. And now Bill Davis wants

francophone education for any french-Canadian anywhere in Ontario, no matter how few the numbers.

Although teachers' salaries have kept even with most every one else since 1972, teachers salaries have increased 2.1. times (in real dollars) since 1952. (Actually, salaries are 12 times higher, but *after* inflation, it works out to 2.1 times higher).

Spending on students is up 3 times in real spending (after inflation) since 1952, due to mammoth increase in bureaucrats, consultants, counsellors, technical equipment, modern gynasium facilities, busing, salaries, etc.

The decline in class size from 28.5 students per teacher in 1951 to the current 21-22 students per teacher is also to blame.

On the opposite side of this we have evidence in a number of tests that show capabilities of secondary graduates are seriously down in fundamental language, logic and calculatory skills.

'LONG TERM GAIN - SHORT TERM PAIN

POINT FOUR: illustrates the growing number of Londoners with no children in the system and who perceive few benefits from increased taxation.

An example - of London's 271,000 people, 37,000 are over the age of 60. Additionally, family sizes have decreased dramatically since 1968.

Only 20% of the people in London are of school age (ages 5 to 19), while 26.5% in 1968 were.

POINT FIVE, the teachers' protected, no-risk monopoly position; if teachers were hired by parent-controlled Boards of Directors, such salary and bureaucratic encumbrances would never get out of hand since such over-runs would be socked back to the parents with their children in that particular school.

In the monolithic gov't school system, the excesses are spread over all taxpayers, and the excesses themselves are often difficult to pinpoint and because jurisdictions overlap, often impossible to solve anyway.

Because teachers in the gov't monopoly have "collective bargaining", all taxpayers are held ransom by a legal system which assures teachers and politicians control circumstances to increase *their* relative power and security in this "relationship".

A community of independently run schools with varying owners and types of ownership (see Voucher system) would never have collective bargaining for any more than one school under any agreement, and most would be individual contracts without any collective negotiation at all.

In reflecting on the current gov't system, teachers have all the economic advantages and no risk. Conversely, the parents sending their children to school have no rights at all in assuring quality of education and its costs.

Although these points may convince you a 5% freeze on salary increases is warranted, it will be difficult to convince the various teachers' unions of this position. They would surely strike.

A strike would invariably occur one to two weeks after the school year was under way. It is difficult to say whether it would be just the elementary teachers, secondary teachers or both. For our purposes, let us say both.

(It is, at present, useless to speculate whether the teachers "right" to collective bargaining should be eliminated. Of course it should, but were that worth even contemplating, we wouldn't even be in this mess in the first place.)

A strike is always a battle of attrition. Our resolve versus theirs. The potential rewards for the parents-taxpayers if they win are:

-tightly controlled education tax increases over several years

-a severe warning of taxpayer determination to all public sector workers that all increases (if any) will be modest

- a warning to teachers across the province that the parents-taxpayers can line-up to oppose endless education cost run-ups. In the end, such a victory would have a dramatic effect on provincial resolve and ultimately save Londoners money in provincial taxes and local ones.

You'd be fighting for long term gain.

Unfortunately, the disadvantages are extreme short term pain. (Sound familiar?)

The obvious problem will be that all elementary school kids will be at home, causing an economic catastrophe for working parents. For babysitters, tutors, independent schools, whatever, if the strike lasts 6 months to a year, it's going to cost these working parents \$1,500. If this were the only possible result, the taxpayers would be crazy to even consider a confrontation.

And what does happen is described by one trustee:

"In the first week, you'll get hundreds of positive, encouraging calls saying: 'Right on! Don't give the teachers a cent more! Let them starve!'

Everybody supports the Trustees in the first week.

In the second week, people are more laid back, encouraging both sides to come to a mutually responsible agreement, saying 'are you near an agreement yet?'

The kids are at home driving the parents bananas or now they're paying babysitters or fees to have their children in some sort of care."

"By the fourth week, parents are getting desperate and are telling trustees to settle, more or less, at any price, because its inconveniencing them and costing money right away, more than they'll save in taxes. Meanwhile the teachers have a cushion for 4 to 8 weeks in the bank and aren't hurting yet. They are also measuring their losses by balancing it against future gains which by now will be imminent."

Most importantly, the child's educational development will be interrupted and the whole year impaired. If the province were to arbitrate, the teachers would come out ahead because of their status as *statistically* lower paid teachers. So arbitration would be no answer.

All this would seem like a futile exercise and lead to inevitable parent-taxpayer capitulation.

The Trustees are very aware of this. After all, they are elected to assure some sort of "reasonable" education. As Chairman Wheable said 'people don't remember money issues,' -but they'll remember having their kids home for 2 - 4 months because of a strike.

The teachers would probably enjoy a 2 - 6 week strike just to remind parents how much for granted they have taken the school system as their child's babysitter.

The teachers could then come back to work with parents breathing a sigh of relief and vowing 'never to do that again'.

And because they will be ranked near the bottom still, look out for contract jumps of 9 to 15% each year, and for corresponding leaps in local education taxes (since provincial grants will stay low). This will become pronounced when the provinces '9 & 5' programs end and teachers attempt to make up for lost ground.

Unfortunately for the taxpayer, all monopoly sectors (all gov't controlled, we may add), like doctors, hospital staff, airplane mechanics, postal workers, police, etc. have this same devastating advantage. (And you wonder why Canada is so 'unproductive' and your taxes so high?)

But in the case of a strike, a few factors still remain in the favour of the parents:

- The Board of Ed will have 70% of its budget money available to provide 'honorariums'
- Secretaries, custodians, principals will cross picket lines and continue to do their job
- Parents will certainly cross picket lines

What would be required is:

- All children *continue* to attend school
- Custodians, principals, librarians, non-teaching staff continue as per normal
- All schools open as usual

The only thing missing of course, are the teachers. Well, watch a classroom sometime and see how much they actually demonstrate their particular knowledge.

Much of the curriculae is pre-determined & the textbooks clearly indicate the direction of the course over a several month period.

Our challenge is to adequately substitute (temporarily) 2,060 teachers with adults, who, if nothing else, can keep discipline (which is more than some teachers can do), understand the subject to a limited degree and review homework assignments.

A lot of guidance material exists on the teaching of specific subjects at certain levels.

Since the majority of vocal tax-hike critics seem to be seniors, now would be the time for them to demonstrate their experience and knowledge to students -as well as their commitment to keeping taxation at reasonable levels.

The number of retired people in London (including some teachers) in good health is well over 20,000.

Our potential pool of volunteers could include homemakers, university grads in languages & humanities who have yet to find a job, laid-off tradespeople, and even grade 12 & 13 students can assist in teaching the grade 9 & 10 students.

Some items in the curriculae would have to be altered, particularly auto mechanics, welding, etc. where certain health and safety factors would have to be guaranteed before proceeding.

The principals would act as co-ordinators of these volunteers and within a few weeks a fairly workable system of rudimentary 'teaching' would be going on.

The Trustees, having all this money available that isn't being use, cannot go and simply re-hire replacements for striking teachers. This is illegal.

Money would have to be given out as honorariums or 'gifts of appreciation' so these could not be identified as salaries.

The plan rests on the enthusiasm of the Trustees, the willingness of volunteers to come forth and the extent to which teachers ask for salary hikes in 1984 and 1985, after the gov't '9 & 5' program ends. This is when it is expected that London teachers will ask for a substantial increase.

Another way to save serious money, but like the above proposed 5% freeze, would have to wait until a new contract to negotiate.

Currently, teachers at the secondary level are only required to work 6 periods out of 8.

If teachers had to work all 8 periods (or a full day from 9.00 to 3.20, with 45 minutes for lunch), 15% of the total secondary school salaries budget could be saved (decreased staff, consequently). At a very conservative 15% savings, this would mean a savings per taxpayer of about \$40.

It would also make future salary increases easier to absorb with fewer teachers.

To the teacher's credit, they will say they take a great deal of work home with them, and they do, but given that they will have to do 100 minutes a night of work at home still means that they work an 8-hour day. (6 hours, 20 minutes at school, plus 100 minutes at home). Currently, they are only obligated to teach for 6 periods -4 hours.

The teachers still have the benefit of paid holidays, summers, sabbaticals, etc., so asking them to work a full 8 hour day is not unreasonable.

CLOSE SCHOOLS

THE METROBULLETIN'S second scenario is one the Trustees are now openly considering, the closing of a number of elementary & secondary schools.

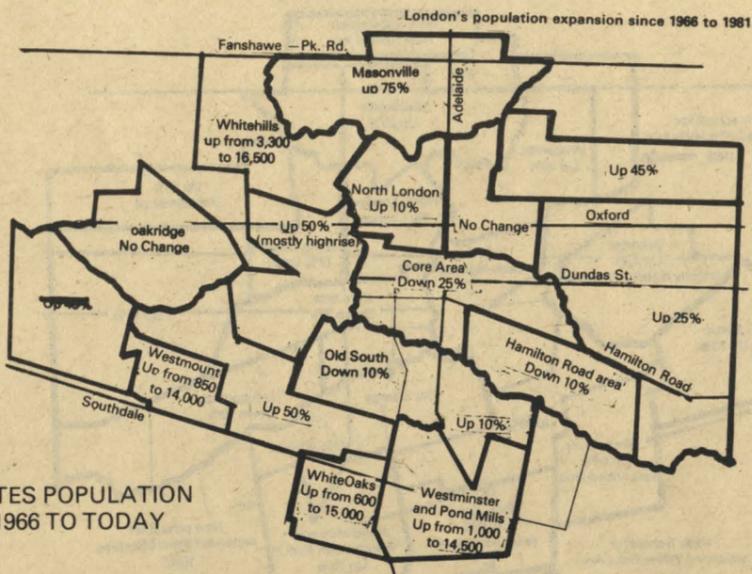
Currently elementary schools are under-used by 20%, secondary schools by 25%.

However, the proposal by the Trustees would only close schools *and* transfer teachers and students to other schools.

Our proposal would be to close schools *but* increase the student-teacher ratio by 5% (or one extra pupil per teacher) and lay-off a number of teaching & custodial staff in the transition.

Determining a criteria on an unemotional basis with only limited access to information makes *perfect* scientific suggestions by the MetroBulletin impossible. However, our conclusions are based on fairly significant criteria and our anticipated (in a sense, recommended) projections are very likely and will give Londoners an idea how likely it is they will experience a school closing in their neighbourhood.

MAP ABOVE INDICATES POPULATION CHANGES SINCE 1966 TO TODAY



Our criteria for examining school closures is:

1. The number of students in school
2. The likely family growth in that area
3. Age & quality of condition of building
4. Access to other schools
5. size & cost of maintaining school
6. Duplication of service to other schools nearby
7. Percentage of school currently in use

The Trustees view these economic advantages in closing schools but KEEPING the teachers and transferring them elsewhere:

1. Sale value of vacated property
2. Energy & utilities saved
3. Elimination of custodial staff & principal
4. Cancellation of proposed repairs
5. Possible salary savings if school was under-used but required a slightly greater than average number of teachers

Strictly applied, 12 elementary schools fall within these guidelines (so do two secondary schools, chart not provided).

Those schools that fail to meet guidelines have a dash before the pupil total.

THOSE SCHOOLS UNDERLINED HOWEVER ARE ONES WE CONCLUDE WILL SEE CLOSURE OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS, (EXPLANATION ON FOLLOWING PAGE). Other schools affected by these changes are indicated with a dot (•) before the school.

Points 2 to 6 represent only about \$100,000 saving per school-closed at best. Even if 10 schools are closed, this only represents an annual saving of about \$1 million, or about \$8 on a homeowners tax bill. Is this worth it? The inconvenience a number of parents might have to bear will probably be worth more than \$8.

The liquidation of property has varying values, ranging from approx. \$120,000 (C.C. Carrothers) to Oxford Park (\$1,500,000). Custodial cost savings are not realized until the school is sold. Price received is dependent upon rezoning, as well.

One plus from the sale of at least ten vacated public schools and possibly two secondary schools is that the proceeds will pay for at least 2, possibly 3, new schools in the 3 areas of growth in the City where at least 3 schools are required (White-Oaks, Pond Mills & Whitehills).

These benefits are acknowledged in our proposal, but in order to provide substantial savings; the teachers, custodial staff and a comparative number of administrators-consultants should be cut as each school is closed.

Since most of the displacement will come from schools that have few students, the burden will be insignificant in the whole system. It would increase the teacher ratio in the elementary and secondary schools by only one extra student per teacher.

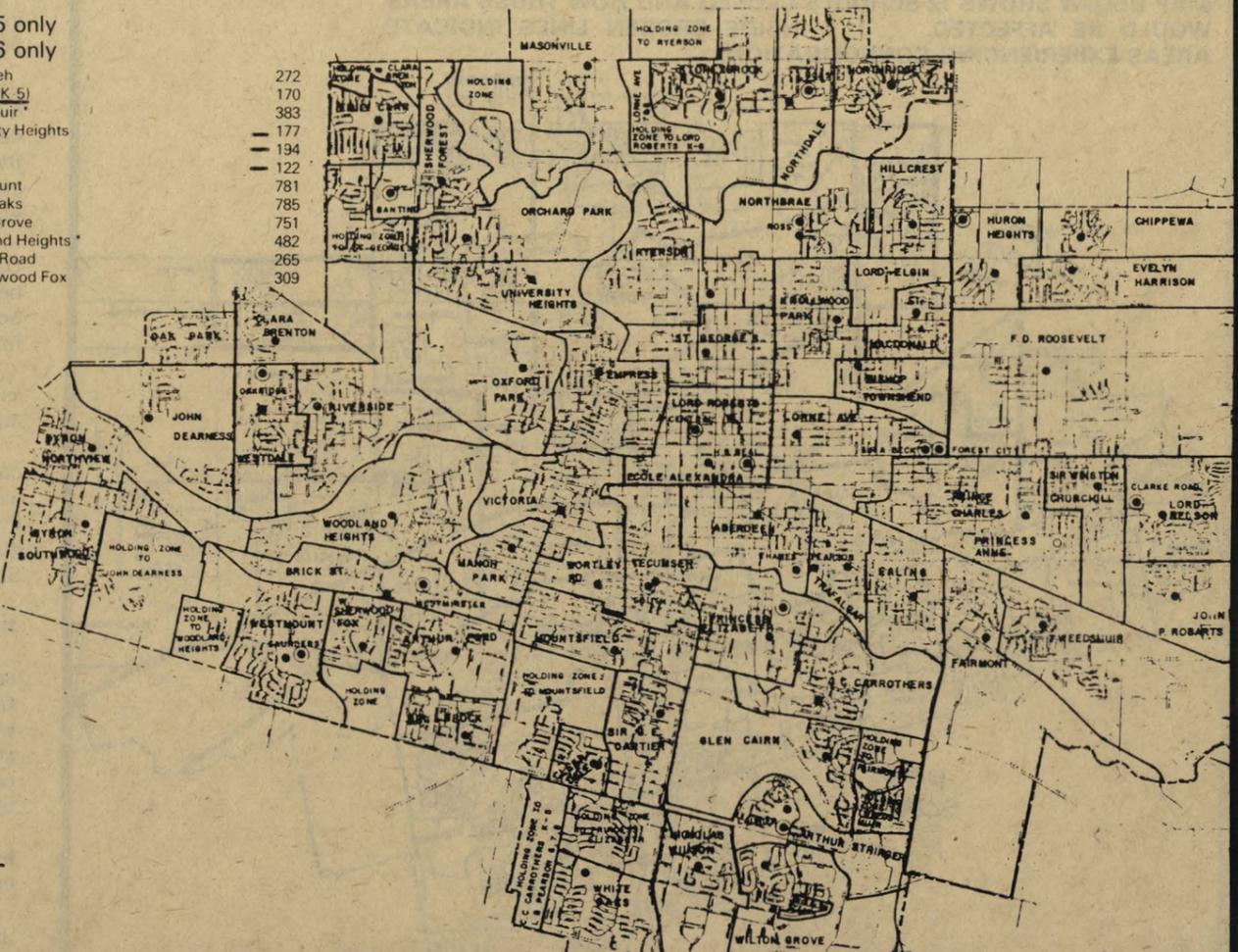
Politically, this school closing business is a volatile thing. When school closings are discussed school by school, the ward trustees are compelled to vote against it, and neighbouring ward trustees can feel the heat too.

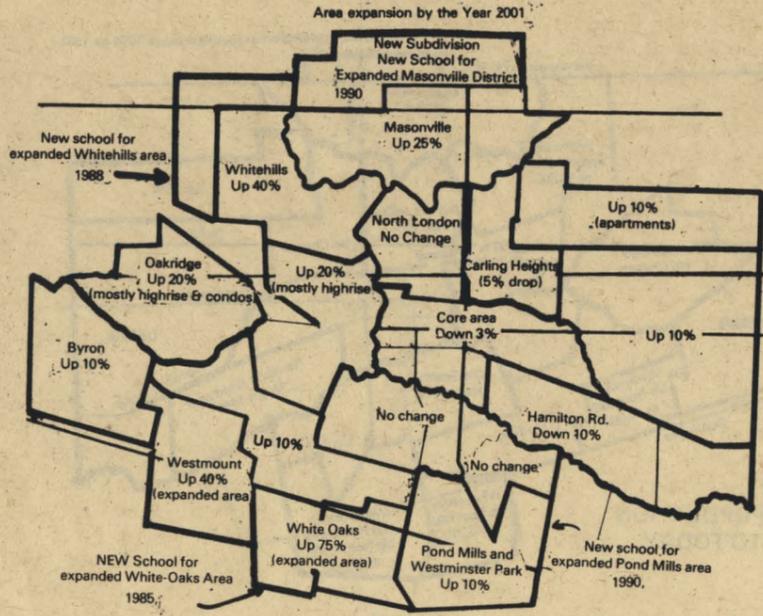
Homeowners in the area are naturally sensitive to declining property values as a result of no

MAP BELOW INDICATES SCHOOLS CURRENTLY IN USE

Key
 * means part of school pupils based in from other areas.
 K - 5 means kindergarted to gr. 5 only
 K - 6 means kindergarten to gr. 6 only

• Aberdeen (K 5)	156	Tecumseh	272
• arthur Ford	425	• Trafalgar (K 5)	170
• Arthur Stringer	423	• Tweedsmuir *	383
• Bishop Townsend	181	• University Heights	177
• Brick St. (K 5)	160	• Victoria	194
• Byron Northview	361	• Westdale	122
• Byron Southview	516	• Westmount	781
• C. C. Carrothers (K 6)	185	• White-Oaks	785
• Chippewa	253	• Wilton Grove	751
• Clara Brenton	349	• Woodland Heights *	482
• Cleardale	470	• Wortley Road	265
• Ealing (K 5)	183	• W. Sherwood Fox	309
• Ecole Alexandral (french lang., Oak Park P.S.)	346		
• Emily Carr	475		
• Evelyn Harrison	306		
• Fairmount *	275		
• F.D. Roosevelt	432		
• Glen Cairn	226		
• Hillcrest	238		
• Huron Heights	148		
• John Dearness *	215		
• John P. Roberts	267		
• Knollwood Park	330		
• Lester Pearson (Gr. 6-8)	258		
• Lord Elgin	272		
• Lord Nelson	685		
• Lord Roberts (K 6)	75		
• Lorne Avenue	489		
• Manor & Highland Park	145		
• Masonville	195		
• Mountsfield *	315		
• Nicholas Wilson	488		
• Northbrae	306		
• Northdale (K 6)	107		
• Northridge	478		
• Orchard Park	293		
• Oxford Park	171		
• Prince Charles	499		
• Princess Elizabeth *	732		
• Riverside	267		
• Ryerson	334		
• St. George's *	422		
• Sherwood Forest (K 6)	97		
• Sir G.E. Cartier	308		
• Sir Isaac Brock	237		
• Sir J.A. McDonald	382		
• Sir Winston Churchill	262		
• Stoneybrook	496		





ABOVE MAP INDICATES WHERE GROWTH IS EXPECTED BY YEAR 2001. REMEMBER THAT SUCH GROWTH CONTAINS LESS THAN 20% SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN. NO GROWTH IS REALLY A NET LOSS OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN (central areas).

neighbourhood school, an abandoned school lot, increased busing of students, etc.

The cavalcade of Woodfield area residents (Princess-Colborne area) protesting the imminent closing of Lord Roberts Public School is indicative. Lord Roberts english language school enrollment has dropped from 492 pupils in 1969 to 75 pupils in 1983, yet over 300 residents (4 times the number of parents with children attending English language classes) complained. Yet historical information shows that english language enrollment at Lord Roberts will continue to decline, given its present jurisdiction.

In response to this large group of Ward 2 protesters, the 4 trustees from Ward 2 (John Townsend, Mary Gee, David Cunningham & Peter Jaffe) voted to keep it open.

At this rate, very few schools would ever close.

The provincial guidelines suggest a school be considered for closing if it has less than:

- 225 pupils for kindergarten to gr. 8
- 175 pupils for kindergarten to gr. 6
- 150 pupils for kindergarten to gr. 5

EXPLANATIONS

Aberdeen - absorbs half of the pupils from Trafalgar, which should be closed. Aberdeen would have 220 - 240 students, a more stable and justifiable amount.

Bishop Townsend - will absorb about 30% of Lorne Avenue students after Lorne Ave. is designated the only French language-French immersion school.

C.C. Carrothers - unstable environment due to high turnover of kids from gov't housing. A large percentage currently bused in from White-Oaks will go to new school in White Oaks. Remaining students could be accommodated at Princess Elizabeth which will have much more room available after busing from White-Oaks to Princess Elizabeth stops.

Chippewa - will add area on north side of Huron, between Highbury and Cheyenne Village, as Huron Heights School should close.

Clara Brenton - will absorb some of Westdale pupils after it is closed

Ealing - was a toss up between Ealing or Trafalgar to close, but Ealing is better located to absorb half of Trafalgar while Aberdeen takes other half. Ealing building is older however so this could change by Trustees. A toss-up.

Ecole Alexandria French language at Oak Park school - closed and French language school moved to Lorne Ave. Lorne Ave is more centrally located and most of the French language students come from the central areas of the City.

Lorne Ave. is large enough to be the French language school and the French immersion school. either Lorne Ave. or centrally located St. George's would be best choices. It'll be one of these two for sure.

Emily Carr - loses southern part of its jurisdiction to new Whitehills school. Gains northern Whitehills pupils who are now being bused to Clara Brenton.

Empress - will absorb the entire Oxford Park pupils. If too much to handle, part of Empress eastern area can go to Lord Roberts.

Evelyn Harrison - absorbs all of Huron Heights P.S. pupils south of Huron St.

Fairmount - closed with half its area going to Tweedsmuir, the other half to Ealing. Declining neighbourhood population.

Huron Heights - consistently declining pupil population. Area has peaked as far as families with elementary age children is concerned. Evelyn Harrison large enough to absorb any future surge.

Lord Roberts - area expanded greatly to include half of Lorne Avenue students, 15% of St. George students and possibly some of Empress' students nearest core area.

French immersion at Lord Roberts transferred to Lorne Ave.

Lorne Ave. - no longer services English language classes. Large building size makes it ideal for total French language instruction.

Manor & Highland Park - Can't be justified. Pupils all transferred to Victoria to stabilize one solid school in neighbourhood.

Northdale - an old township school. Easily absorbed by Northridge.

Orchard Park - absorb about 65 of the 95 Sherwood Forest pupils

Oxford Park - valuable property. Could be sold at good price. Low numbers can't justify school. 80% absorbed by Empress, 20% by University Heights.

St. George's - this one is a toss-up for all sorts of possibilities. We chose to close it because its pupil population is half bused in from Whitehills, which will be rendered unnecessary once a new school there is built. The other 220 pupils can be fitted into Lord Roberts and Ryerson fairly comfortably.

Princess Elizabeth - a large school, but a good chunk of the students are bused in from White Oaks, a situation that will not be once White Oaks gets a second school. The gap will be filled by the closing of C.C. Carrothers.

Riverside - absorb 80% of Westdale public school

Ryerson - will absorb about 150 pupils from St. George. If room is unavailable, there is large available space at Lord Roberts nearby.

St. George's - could be the French language-french immersion school in the future. Otherwise it will be closed down and carved up between Ryerson & Lord Roberts, since students wouldn't have far to go (see map). Half of St. George's pupils are bused in from Whitehills, a situation that will end with new school out there.

Sherwood Forest - an old township school. Closed, and most students absorbed by Orchard Park and a few by new Whitehills school.

Trafalgar - situated right between Aberdeen & Ealing, declining enrollment. No doubt one of the three have to go and this is the one.

Tweedsmuir - a toss-up between Fairmount and Tweedsmuir as to which one gets the axe. Fairmount was chosen because its pupils had better access to Ealing & Tweedsmuir, the two schools that will absorb Fairmount. Area pupil pop. is declining.

Victoria - although Victoria needs repairs, it was simply better located to absorb Manor & Highland Park. However, lack of recreation area could mean Victoria will close and another stay afloat.

Westdale - numbers make this school unjustifiable in view of the number of schools available to absorb pupils. Most will go to Riverside.

In secondary schools we can't see any way of avoiding the closing of Central Secondary School, despite its reputation as the best academic school in the public system. Numbers can't justify it and alot of students come from some distance to go there. This will be an emotional one, so look out.

Another on the chopping block will be either Oakridge or Banting. Banting has a nice property, beautiful building and better potential for growth, both in pupil numbers and renovations for the future. Look for a battle on this one.

Montcalm would normally be on the endangered list, but Central's closing will boost that school about 150 - 200 students.

Westminster is the third possibility. It's students can be dispersed to South and Saunders 50-50, and all 3 are the same kinds of school. South, however, is in an area of declining secondary school pupil numbers so it's a toss-up between Westminster or South.

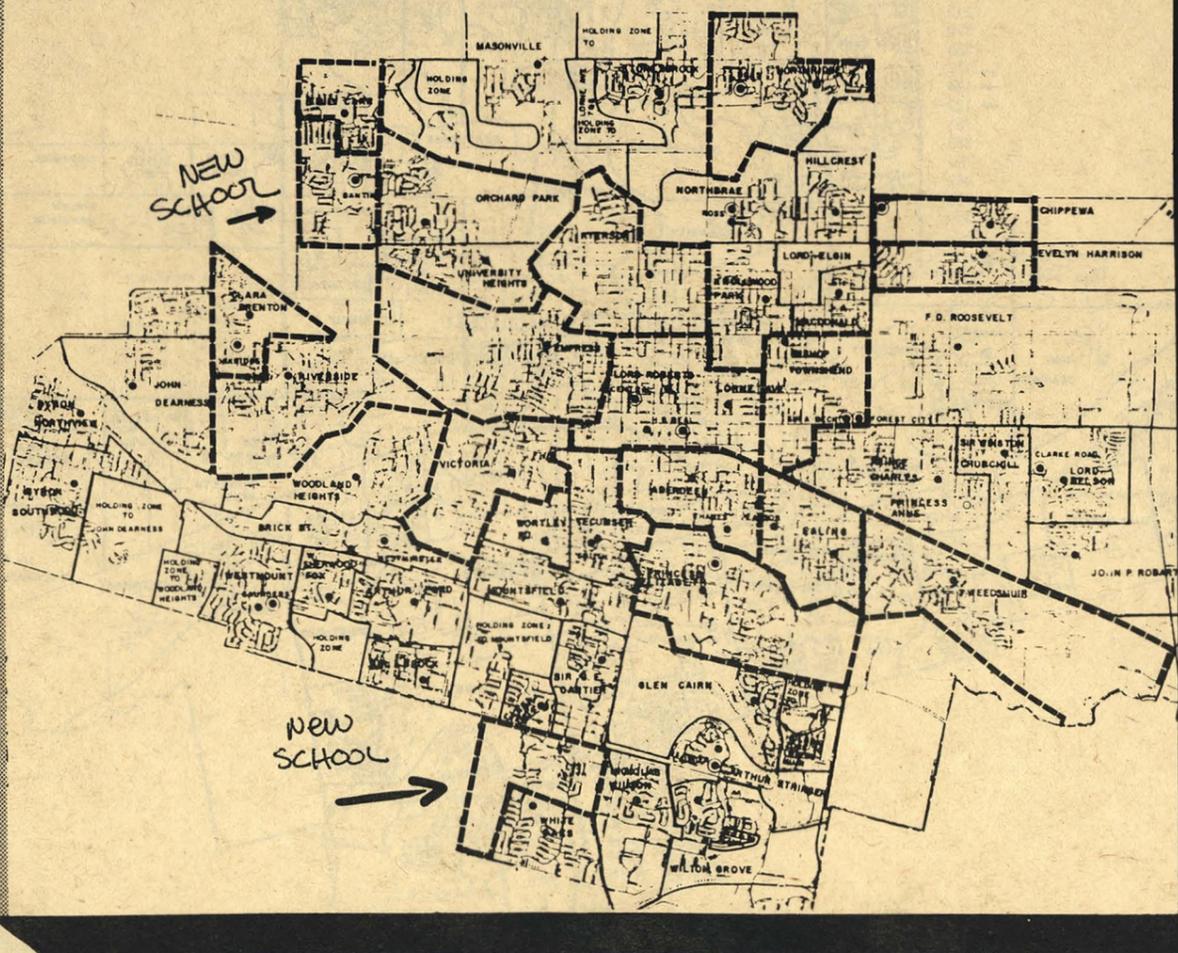
The advantages to be gained from closing the twelve schools indicated are more than economic.

Approximately \$1,500,000 in 1984 dollars would be saved annually if the twelve schools were closed. One of the considerations in examining school closings was the prevention of student busing for students whose previous school was closed. Busing costs in the Board have risen from \$1 million in 1978 to \$3 in 1983.

Schools that were selected to be closed required minimum or no busing of students to another school in the district.

One of the important long term reasons for closing underused, older or small schools is because they will continue to see less and less use over the next 20 years and it would be better to close them now and

MAP BELOW SHOWS 12 SCHOOLS CLOSED AND HOW THOSE AREAS WOULD BE AFFECTED. INSIDE BROKEN LINES INDICATE AREAS EXPERIENCING CONSOLIDATION.



consolidate the other remaining schools in the district.

New schools will be required in the White-Oaks & Whitehills district, and eventually one in the Pond Mills and Masonville districts if suburbs emerge there in the next 20 years.

As our maps indicate, population in the whole central area, Hamilton Rd. area, old South will see little growth if any, and this growth is likely to be high-rise, senior citizen apts., rooming houses,

duplexes for students, etc. and less likely to contain families.

The Hamilton Road and Glen Cairn areas have a heavily ethnic population which most often chooses to attend the Separate school system in that area. Should the area become more predominantly ethnic, this could further affect school closings.

New family housing growth is most likely along the Masonville, Whitehills, Westmount, White-Oaks perimeters.

If our original scenario of increasing the student-teacher ratio by one student per teacher, this would allow the Board to cut up to 100 teachers, although the number would more likely be around 65 teachers. At an average of \$32,000 per annum for elementary teachers (\$35,000 for secondary), this could save \$2,000,000 a year. Combined with the \$1,500,000 gained annually by closing schools, this represents a return to taxpayers of at least \$40 a year.

GENERAL SURGERY ON THE PATIENT

General Spending Reductions

If no radical surgery is performed on the system in the form of school cuts or salary reductions, here is a brief list of things worth considering for small cuts.

1. Buses and equipment for inter-school (competitive league) sports should be paid for entirely by fund-raising, sponsors and user fees. A lot of costs are already covered by sponsors now.

2. Thermostats are currently set at 68 degrees F. WITH 250 - 400 bodies in the elementary schools giving off heat, the thermostat can be set at 65

degrees with little discomfort. (Get those sweaters out, boys and girls). Could save up to \$50,000 a winter, possibly \$100,000.

3. Too much sports equipment is destroyed, stolen, etc. due to bad supervision

4. A lid should be put on requisitions-equipment budgets. One of the things that happens is that the Board gives every dept. an increase according to inflation, regardless of whether that need is genuine or warranted. This is why some schools are technologically rich with tape recorders, A-V equipment, etc. There is no advantage to being fiscally tight. An incentive program should be in place to reward depts. coming in under budgets.

5. Schools should ask people in their community for their collections of National Geographic, Life, childrens books, relatively current encyclopedia sets, etc. rather than buying them at retail price for the library.

6. There are too many administrators, consultants, custodians, etc. in the system and they

are all being paid too much. There are approx. 2,060 teachers and 1,085 others. One non-teaching person for every two teachers is bureaucratic excess! Secretaries, custodians, administrators receive more here than they do in the private sector.

7. Busing. The Board spent \$1 million on busing students from neighbourhoods with no available class space to inner city schools with available space. In 1983 THIS AMOUNT IS \$3 million.

With fuel prices so unpredictable, should we not reconsider the healthiness of walking? Or at least juggle the system (re: our proposals in school closings) so the amount of busing is reduced?

8. Circle R Ranch - Two years notice must be given, but by the time 1985 rolls around, the cost per year will be \$97,000. (The lease the Board has is a 10 year one requiring two years notice of cancellation. Price each year rises with Consumer Price Index). Things like this should come out the pockets of parents for those wishing to go.

VOUCHER SYSTEM

The Voucher System is a popular idea growing throughout North America as a complete alternative to the dominance and inflexibility of the gov't in the managing, directing and monopolization of the education system.

The Voucher system basically allows any parent to send their child(ren) to any independent school of their choice with the tax money they pay. This is particularly advantageous to poor, middle income families who cannot otherwise with the current tax system send their children to non-gov't schools.

It works like this:

You pay your taxes and receive a voucher for each school age child and then this can be applied as a basic admission value (say, \$2,500) to the school of your choice.

When we refer to school of your choice, this means any school: gov't school, independently owned Montessori, Christian, Waldorf, Progressive, etc., whether owned by parents' co-operative or whatever. The gov't would eventually (over 5 years) phase out its participation in education except as tax collector. The gov't would not, at its conclusion, provide any kind of education at the elementary or secondary level. All teachers, staff and new buildings would be the responsibility of the school itself and the people immediately running it.

This offers two remarkable advantages that the gov't school system, for all the tinkering it may attempt, do.

1. It allows the parents to determine the philosophy of schooling of their child and it allows them flexibility and the mobility of changing schools & type of education if unsatisfied.

2. Since schools will be either independently owned, co-operatives or extensions of religious institutions; teachers, support staff, etc. will not be involved in collective bargaining, reducing salaries by 20%-25%. The degree of bureaucracy will be substantially cut as the province and municipality cease their administrative roles.

In point number one, some social commentators have remarked there would be no guarantee of standards in a system unregulated by gov't. Although it is true in a Voucher System there would be no gov't standards on education, the independent schools operating already have higher standards now, and each teaching method (Montessori, Waldorf, Christian, academic) has its own licencing agencies and training institutions.

Ultimately, the arbiters of quality are the parents.

The Voucher System is simply a parentally controlled system as opposed to a gov't controlled system. It depends on if you trust the majority of parents to do what's right or whether you believe the State can better determine this for everyone (the same people who brought you the Post Office, remember).

Once the opportunity for parents to determine the recipients of their voucher, expect full-level independent schools to emerge quickly over a 3 to 4 year period (it would take time to get qualified teachers). If the gov't did decide to operate schools, it would at least have to respond to the increased competition in educational standards. But if the government system was operating at any level, it would be difficult to stop the waste that goes on now.

In a voucher system, all children are still compelled to go to a school, and the voucher covers a basic flat price. Some extras, like sports, trips, etc. will require additional money from the parents who wish to send their children to these schools.

Because the gov't, after 5 years, would act only as tax collector and not as a Ministry of Education, their costs of keeping a bureaucracy *should* disappear, reducing over-all costs by 25-30%, which *should* be reflected in your income tax, sales tax, and property taxes.

Certainly with rising youth crime, rising youth unemployment, youth drug and alcohol abuse, declining academic and language literacy, a declining value system; it is not just for economic reasons that an independent educational system is vital.

Since Roman Catholics can send their children to a school of limited choice, a certain precedent has already been set. If Roman Catholic parents have this choice, why shouldn't all parents?

Teachers have much to gain by a more personal relationship with the school philosophy, the school directors who are no longer burdened by monolithic gov't directives; taxes will be lower, the teachers' salary compensatory to more relevant reasons like experience, performance, parental admiration, etc. The teachers would spend less time adapting to provincial guidelines and more to the needs of their students.

Teachers would be hired by the school, and since schools would not necessarily be affiliated, there would be no collective bargaining, consequently there would never be threats of strike. Teachers would likely be hired on 2,3, or 5 year *individual* contracts.

Because this is the best system for children and parents by no means assures us the province & teachers' federations will rollover and acquiesce to any of this. The province, being a political entity, rarely surrenders any power & authority. Health and Education ministries' are the two largest gov't bureaucracies and the lifeblood of any political entity is growth of empire.

Still, the voucher system is well worth pursuing. It is the most efficient and democratic of all possible worlds. If offers the only permanent solution to escalating total costs and declining standards. Since education is evolving with the expensive technology of computers & electronics, it is imperative that these changes be allowed to progress at a rate by which parents and small unencumbered schools could determine.

In a fast advancing, *expensive* technological world, a big brother making massive decisions affecting thousands of schools at once will escalate costs, make corrections impossible and guarantee the bureaucratic control of the gov't educational system.

this Gallup poll just off the wire...

Gallup poll

"Do you think children today are being better educated or worse than you were?"					
		Better	Worse	The same	Can't say
National:	1983	41%	41%	10%	5%
	1982	52	31	12	6
	1981	47	38	9	6
	1976	49	33	13	5
	1971	63	20	12	5
	1948	74	12	10	4
By Region:					
Atlantic	1983	48	37	7	8
	1982	67	17	12	4
Quebec	1983	25	55	17	4
	1982	45	33	17	4
Ontario	1983	45	36	12	6
	1982	52	34	8	6
Prairies	1983	50	29	18	2
	1982	60	26	11	3
British Columbia	1983	45	46	5	5
	1982	42	32	13	14

NOTE: Percentages may not add across 100 due to rounding.

Confidence in education system declining, Gallup poll indicates

Canadians have less confidence in our education system than they did a year ago, a Gallup poll released today indicates.

The poll, which asked adult Canadians whether they believe children are being better educated than they had been, shows only 41 per cent think today's education is better than their own. That compares with 52 per cent a year ago.

Another 41 per cent said the system was worse, compared with 31 per cent a year ago.

Quebecers were the most critical, with only 25 per cent saying

children receive better education than they did.

In Ontario, 45 per cent — compared to 52 per cent last year — gave their vote of confidence to the education system. British Columbia was the only province where those polled are more optimistic than one year ago. There, 45 per cent say education today is better than their own. Last year B.C.'s percentage was 42 per cent.

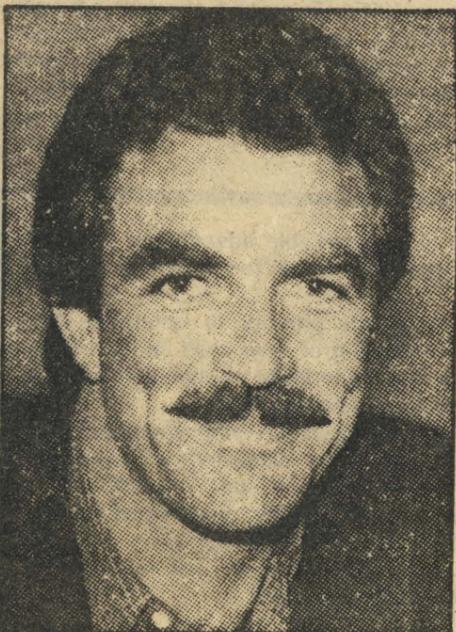
Results of the poll are based on 1,063 interviews with adults. A sample of this size is accurate within four percentage points, 19 in 20 times.

CITY LIGHTS BOOKSHOP FATTY PATTY'S PINBALL PALACE BETWEEN THE BREAD present MetroBulletin Trivia Quiz

1. Who were the first flyers to fly over the Atlantic Ocean by airplane? (Last names only).

What year?

2. What is the dangerous carcinogenic chemical in 'Agent Orange'? (it's general name is OK)



3. Who is this man?

4. What is the one nation in Africa still 'completely free' (as rated by FREEDOM HOUSE FEB. 1983).

(Clue: It is a fairly large nation that you never hear mentioned in the media. Get out your maps).

5. Name 2 predominantly art deco buildings in London.

(Clue, there are two downtown, one a gov't building, the other a financial institution).

6. Who said:

"I know not what course others may take,
but as for me,
Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death!"

7. In the film "Some Like It Hot", Tony Curtis parodies a famous Screen actor.

(eg. on the beach, Marilyn Monroe's character approaches fake-millionaire Curtis. In response to her inquiry, Curtis imitates the famous actor with the lines " I suppose *some like it hot*, I prefer classical myself.")

Who is Curtis imitating?

8. What American filmmaker has won more academy awards than any other winner of the academy award?

(Clue: first award one by this filmmaker was in 1932 for Best short subject.)

9. What were the second and third last provinces to enter confederation?

10. What aviation superstar disappeared in 1937 in a trip around the world?

What ocean was she lost over?

PRIZES

IF you get all 10 answers correct, you can choose from any of the following prizes from downtown stores. Just fill out the answer form and take it to CITY LIGHTS BOOKSHOP to be validated and a prize will be awarded.

Contest void if results a published in any other publication. One prize per person.

ANSWER FORM

Take to City Lights Bookshop
356 Richmond, downtown
on Richmond between King & York

1. Who
When?

2. What is it called?

3. Who?

4. What country?

5. 2 Art Deco buildings?

6. Who said it?

7. Who is Curtis imitating?

8. Who has won the most academy awards?

9. Who were the second & third last to join confederation?

10. Who?

What ocean?

Answers to last issue's trivia quiz (and the highest score was only 21 out of 30, not so good!)

1. WWI, Crimean War, and U.S. Civil War
2. Human Cyborg Relations
3. Wizard of Oz (actually first full-length feature film to include colour)
4. 1917
5. Dr. Jonas Salk
6. Chippendale
7. Knight's Fork
8. Herman Wouk, Frederick Forsyth, Tom Wolfe, Luke
9. Gibson - Mad Max, Road Warrior, Gallipoli
10. Tennessee Williams
11. \$800
12. zero or less
13. WWI, WW2
14. Boer War, Korean War
15. Alec Guinness
16. Both written by Pierre Boulle
17. Abortive CIA invasion of Cuba after Castro
18. The Mayor or any Justice of the Peace
19. Gin, Whisky(or scotch)
20. lighter than air(nitrogen)
21. incandescent
22. Clint Eastwood, Margaret Thatcher and Sylvester Stallone
23. Twilight Zone
24. Mary Quant
25. Toldeo, Ohio
26. The Beagle Boys
27. Katherine Hepburn
28. Henry Fonda
29. Judy Garland
30. Laurence Olivier

We agree, the photos could have been reproduced better, we won't let it happen again.)

A DELICIOUS
LUNCH
AT
BETWEEN THE BREAD
RESTAURANT
(sandwich, desert
and beverage)

A
DELICIOUS
FATTY PATTY'S
BURGER, FRIES
and Drink
(Value \$4.60)

A \$5
CERTIFICATE
GOOD FOR ANYTHING
AT CITY LIGHTS
BOOKSHOP

\$5
video games
at any PALACE
VIDEO ARCADE
(Crystal, Video
or Pinball Palace)