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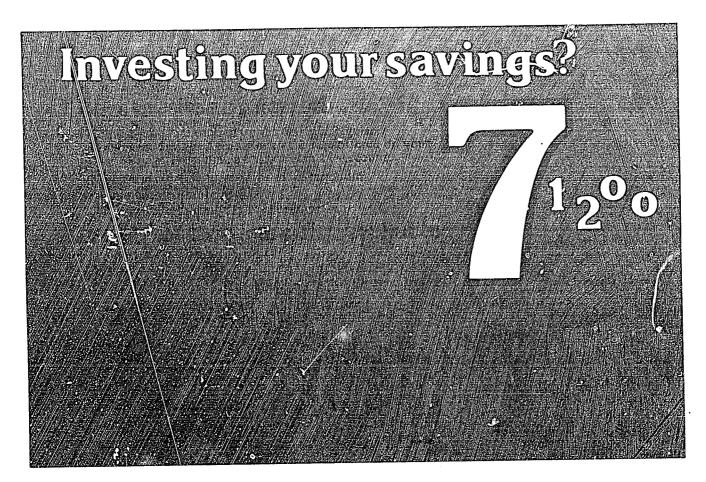


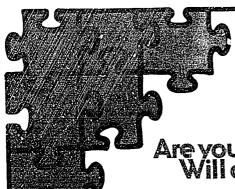


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Volume 57, Number 4 March-April 1978



128 From our Readers

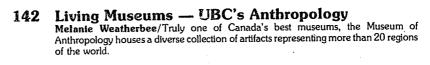
Try Parachuting in the Gym! Jan Harris/Parachuting doesn't have to be a letdown. In fact, it can give your phys ed program a real lift.

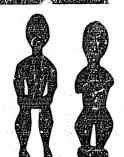
135 Julie Margo Foote/A five-year-old is transformed by play therapy from a youngster who doesn't respond to anyone or anything into a delightfully normal chatterbox.



Will Open Area Schools Survive?
William Gray, Robert Blount, Marino Middleton/Open area teaching has fallen

into disrepute. All is not lost, however, if steps are taken to help open area teaching realize its potential.





Sex Education Without any Hassle William Marble/A Burnaby school has successfully implemented a sex education program — without a public outcry.

They're Talking About . . .

A new feature — we hope it will be a regular one — about people in education. 158

#### Let's Not be too Quick to Jump on the Middle School Bandwagon Arthur Olson/Middle schools developed from a special set of social conditions in the

U.S.A. Let's look before we leap to adopt them here.

#### **PHOTO CREDITS**

Cover — Jim Casselman; p. 125 — (top) Barbara Macfarlane, (middle) supplied by Jan Harris, (bottom) Melanie Weatherbee; pp. 131, 132, 133 — supplied by the author; pp. 138, 139, 140 — BCTF files; pp. 144, 145 — Melanie Weatherbee; p. 146 — Barbara Macfarlane; p. 158 — supplied by Ed and Pat Day; p. 159 — (top left) Frank Shufletoski, (top 16th) Delta Optimist. (bottom) supplied by Emily Sunter.

#### **COVER STORY**

Looking for something different that will interest your phys ed students and promote their fitness? Parachute play is suitable for either elementary or secondary classes, is worth while, and is really enjoyable. It even enhances music awareness.

EDITOR AND BUSINESS MANAGER KENNETH M. AITCHISON

**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT** PATRICIA W. DENHOFF

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THE B.C. TEACHER, MARCH-APRIL, 1978

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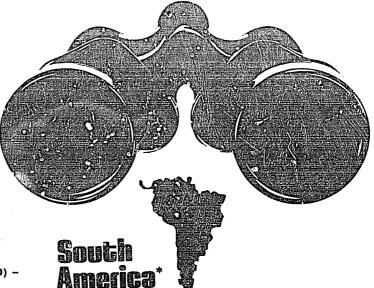
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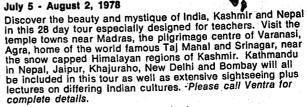
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#### **WELL USED ISSUE**

Congratulations on your November/ December 1977 issue! The issue has been so well used in this library that we would like to buy two more copies.

Mary Lu Brennan Librarian The Board of Education Borough of Scarborough Ontario

Teaching is the most important of all the professions as it involves the whole child. Therefore it troubled me when I read such a poor heading in the November-December issue as 'most people don't even know whom they can go to for help . . .'

It would have been much more grammatical, and a better example, to have written 'most people don't even know to whom they can go . . .'

One expects 'the best' from professional people.

Mrs. E. E. Revel Enderby, B.C.

#### LANGUAGE ARTS ISSUE GOOD

It takes much discipline on my part to read an educational journal after working on school work for 10 hours a day. Here is what happened to your January-February issue.

Pat Denhoff's 'Language Arts' introduction I tore out and placed on my classroom wall near my desk. A well-written and comforting article.

Betty Lynrı Davies' 'Are Your Students Language Paupers?' — I chuckled and laughed all through the article. I will re-read it. Excellent.

Marjorie Lemmen's 'Day Six' — I read this four times, and it is now on its way to my sister who teaches in Indian Head, Saskatchewan, and who works with a split Grade 6 and 7 class.

Heather Glebe's 'From the Inside Out' moved me to write her a letter and ask for more details on encouraging journal writing in a Grade 1 classroom. (I do plenty of creative writing in my room.) A previous article by Heather appeared in the May-June, 1977 issue. Inever keep past issues of

The B.C. Teacher. Something told me, however, that I had kept that particular issue, and, sure enough, Ilooked and found it. Both articles were of high calibre and by someone who is a warm-hearted individual.

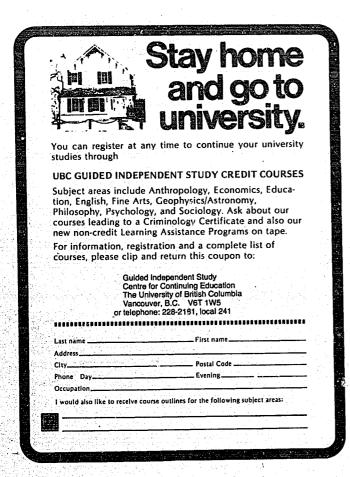
That leaves three articles and I definitely intend to read them.

Two or three years ago a school principal informed your office that his staff of 25 weren't too excited about *The B.C Teacher*. The day the copies arrived, he would find at least half the issues in the basket before the final bell was rung.

I wonder how many copies of the January-February issue hit the basket? To me this copy was as good as a language arts workshop. Sorrento is situated between Salmon Arm and Kamloops, and we usually have very good workshops!

Betty Harper Sorrento, B.C.

With regard to the article 'From the Inside Out' (Jan.-Feb.), I feel considerable sympathy with the motives and methods of Continued on page 57



#### WINNING IDEAS IN THE SOCIAL STUDIES

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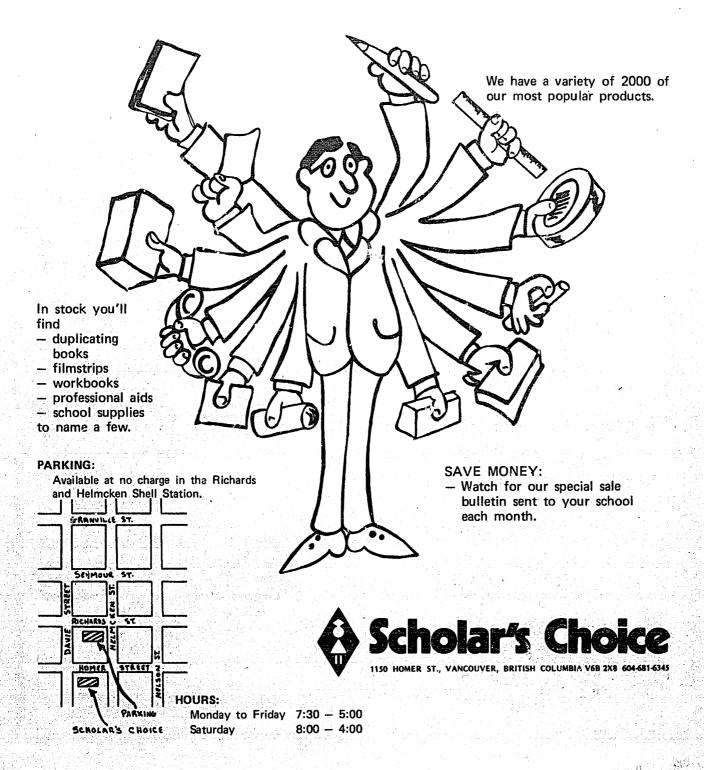
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THE B.C. TEACHER, MARCH-APRIL, 1978

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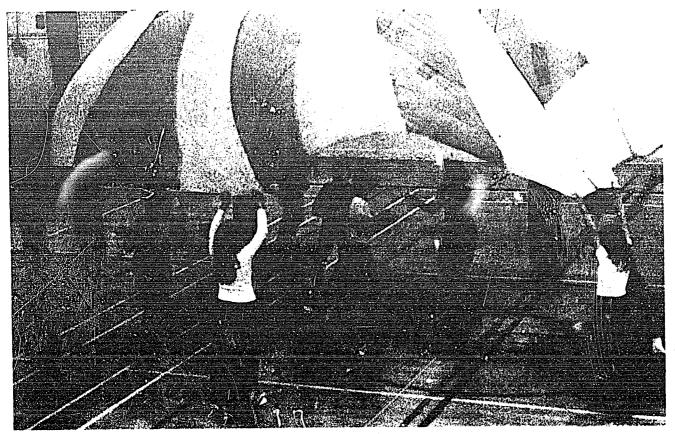
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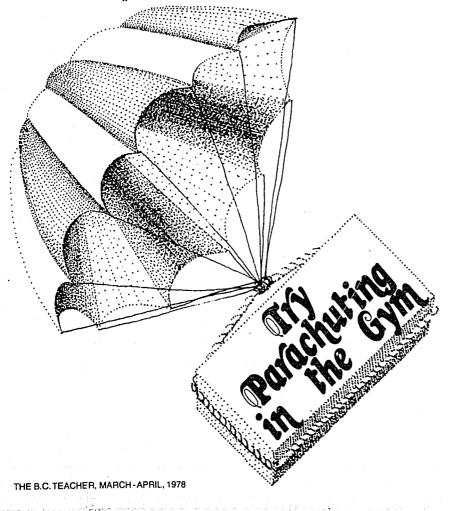
YOUNG OLYMPIANS OF CANADA

WRITE TO
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THE B.C. TEACHER, MARCH-APRIL, 1978



These students number off in twos, and on their turn, run under the 'umbrella.



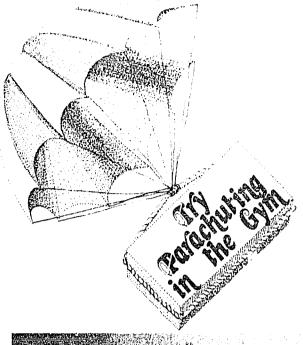
Parachuting dcesn't have to be a letdown. In fact, it can give your phys ed program a real lift.

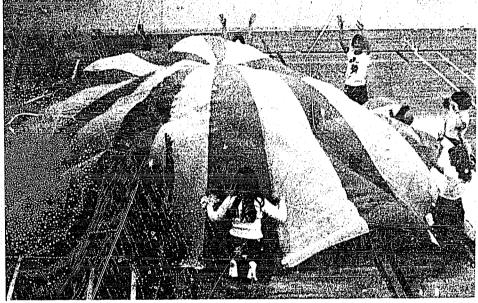
#### JAN HARRIS

GIf your physical education classes lack

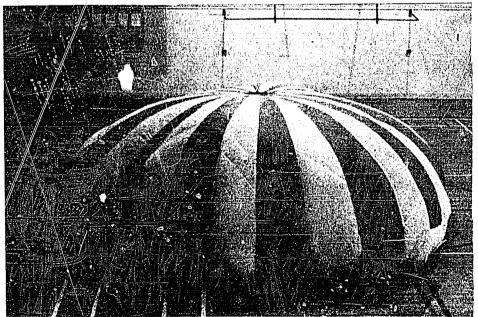
participation, try parachuting in the gym!
Parachute play is becoming a great
rhythmical activity for boys and girls from
pre-school to university age. It is a new, fun
form of dynamic exercise that stimulates
physical fitness and develops the upper body. Chuting inspires group participation and enhances music awareness as well as listening skills.

Up to 40 students, depending on the size of canopy, can run with the parachute in a circle, hold onto it and perform various dance movements. Students can do the 'hump' while holding onto the chute, form a





The students execute an 'umbrella', pull it down and kneel on it to make a 'mountain.'



The students go 'inside the mountain.'

'mountain' and pull it down around themselves forming a sphere, in addition to doing many other exercises to music. They can also play such lead-up games as 'call ball' and 'chute soccer.'

Parachuting, as a part of your physical education program, develops group participation in that the students must work in unison to inflate the chute. The canopy activities contribute to four specific areas of physical fitness.

Isotonics is stressed because the natural air resistance necessitates continued exertion of muscle tension. A chuting example would be the lifting of the parachute to make an umbrella or mountain shape.

Isometrics is the constant muscle tension to hold the chute in a static position. This is exemplified by the ripples, waves and movement activities that occur with the student holding the parachute at waist level.

The running activities of parachute play develop a brief period of strain on the cardio-vascular system and allow time to recover. This is called 'anaerobics'. Students can run clockwise, stop, ripple the chute in place and repeat 'e sequence counter-clockwise.

The chuting activities can also strain the cardio-vascular system to maximum workout. This is known as 'aerobics'. Starting clockwise, the students can begin with a slow walk, working up to skipping and running still holding the chute at waist level. The locomotor movements are then used in reverse direction.

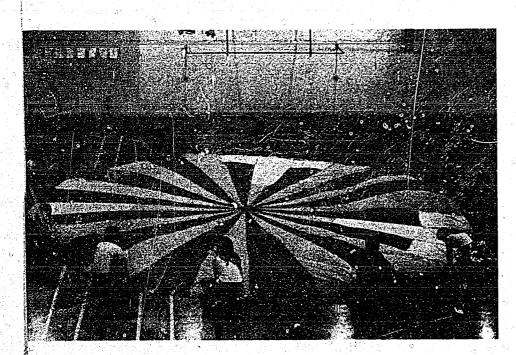
Many elementary records are being produced with basic instructions for the physical education teacher. Dr. Billy Gover created a two record album, 'Chute the Works,' for advanced parachute play. His album includes narration and is divided into two areas:

- (1) Manipulative activities, which include lead-up games to 'enhance the students' capabilities in handling objects.' Examples include call ball, the chase, the weave, chute ball and the hustle.
- (2) Body management activities, which develop awareness of the body in motion, include the parachute twist, pass through, grapevine, bump, shake and roll.

The use of the parachute is an exciting, innovative program for fitness. It can also be used for demonstrations in public displays and rhythmical gymnastic programs.

So, if you need a lift in your physical education program — chute for fitness! O

Janette Fiarris teaches physical education at J. L. Jackson Junior Secondary School in Salmon Arm. Reference on request.



A 20-foot parachute has room for 30 students, one at each panel.

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olt's late October the honeymoom is ending in the kindergarten room. Some kids are emerging as 'problems'. Their warm-hearted teacher approaches me as I wander about visiting the kids:

'Margo, will you take a look at Julie? I'm really worried about her.'

'What seems to be the trouble, Glnny?' 'I don't know for suré. She just doesn't respond. To anything! She even looks kind of Mongoloid to me.

You're afraid she might be retarded?

'Yeah. I can't think what else it could be It's that dull look in her eyes. It scares me! Like there's nothing there. You know, I'll speak to her, help her with her work, and she doesn't seem to hear what I say or maybe she doesn't understand me - l just don't know. And when we play games she never participates; just stands there with that blank look on her face."

'Even when you try to reach her, make face to face contact, you can't. That must feel pretty weird!"

'Yeah, she seems so weird, so different I've never seen her smile or play with others. Even when a kid asks her if she wants to play with him, she doesn't so much as look at him. I've tried everything. Some times I think she can't hear; mostly I think there's something mentally wrong with her.'

'Makes you feel like giving up.

'And I don't want to! The only time she shows any life is when her mum brings her to school. She cries and clutches on to her and won't let go. I've tried coaxing, ignoring, giving her something to do. Nothing works. We go through this same scene every day and eventually her mother gets her to sit on the mat with the others.

'That's a great start to the day!"

'Yeah, and then she just sits like a zombie, never getting involved in anything. Her mum says she's pretty quiet at home but will talk when she feels like it. Says she's pretty stubbom, too.'

'Sounds like a real problem, all right Ginny. What would you like me to do?'

'I'd really like her tested to see if she is mentally deficient. And maybe you could talk with her mother?"

Okay, I'll see her mother. But before planning any testing, how about having her join our kindergarten play therapy group for a few sessions and assess her there?

Anything you think will help, Margo. I just don't know what to do anymore.

On my way out of the room, I linger to observe Julie. She's the picture of noninvolvement! Not a flicker of response registers during the 10 minutes I'm watching her. And there are traces of a Mongoloid cast to her features. But mostly, as Ginny says, it's her eyes; so totally flat and empty.

As preamanged, Julie arrives at the play therapy door shortly after the group has begun. I go out to greet her. Or try to.

She's crying so loudly I'm sure she can't hear me. Her flustered mother is trying to pry her daughter's fingers loose and coax her into the room



I bend over and quietly say, 'Julie, you're going to spend the next hour with us in the play room. Now you have two choices: you can either walk into the room by yourself, or I'll carry you in. Which do you want to do?"

Her crying, which had slackened off during my little speech, now resumes its full volume. I wait a few seconds, reassure the mother, pry Julie's fingers off her mother's legs, grab her around the walst, and bear her protesting body into the play room.

The door thuds shut behind us — the crying immediately wanes to a whimper. Julie stands a dejected, forlorn figure, finger in her mouth and staring at her feet, while I explain what this strange new room is all about:

'You'll be coming here twice a week for an hour like the rest of these kids, Julie. You're free to do whatever you want, as long as you don't hurt yourself or others, and you can use any of the toys that you see

Silence. Her eyes are still fastened on the

'Pretty scarey at first, isn't it?

More silence and a sniffle.

'You don't really know what to do

Silence

I stay crouched beside her for a few more minutes.

'I'm going to go play now, Julie. You can join us when you're ready.

For the next 20 minutes, she remains by the door, but you can see the tension ebbing. First the sniffling stops, then out comes the finger. Soon her eyes are following the children at play. One of the kids approaches, attempting to engage her in play. No response:

上(高 so slowly, in stop-and-go fashion, she edges her way into the middle of the room, plunks down, and continues her watching.

, I fetch one of the group's favorite toys, a



dollhouse, and place it on the floor about six feet away from her. She pays no attention. Later I sneak a peek and catch her bumping her bottom along the floor toward the collhouse, all the while staring in the opposite direction. In another few minutes, after carefully checking to right and left to see if anyone's watching, she opens the dollhouse and begins fingering the items inside.

(Hey, hey! She's at least reaching out to contact her environment! It's as if she lost the struggle to resist involvement. I keep away, not wishing to frighten her back inside herself.)

For the next two sessions, Julie constantly follows me about. I seem to be her security blanket. She grunts occasional one word responses when I speak to her, but doesn't initiate any contact. So I walk off and become involved elsewhere. She sidles over while I'm role-playing a family scene with three girls.

'Do you want to be the baby in our family, Julie? I ask

She responds by sllently clambering up onto my lap. She still displays no reaction when the other family members direct comments toward her.

(Well, it's small, but at least she made some response this time!)

Julie plops down beside me while I'm taking a breather. I smile at her and continue watching the kids. She mumbles something.

'Eh?'

'I can fix my tooth.'

'You can! How?'

'My mum does!'

'How does she do it?'

'She got these clippers

'Uh huh

'And clips my tooth out!'

'She clips your tooth out! Let's see!'

Julie displays her mouth.

'Does it hurt?'

'No.'

'Your mum sounds as if she's pretty smart!'

'Yeah!'

We explode into hearty laughter, then sit contentedly leaning against each other, watching the others play.

(Aha! She initiated a conversation with me! She can talk! She does want involvement!)



Julie moves off to hang at the edge of a group playing catch with a balloon. Her body is in constant motion, her face animated, as she intently watches. Gradually she edges her way into the center of the group, while the game continues on about her. No invitation to join is issued, nor does she ask. As the kids tire of the game they move off to other activities. Julie remains, her previously animated face now an non-registering blank.

(She's aching to get actively involved!)

Julie comes up to me with the rubber dog pull toy in her hand:

dog pull toy in her hard "What is this, Margo?"

'It's a dog pull, Julie, and you put one end in your mouth like this, and the other end in the other person's mouth, and then you both pull hard?

Julie grabs onto one end with her teeth and we drop to the floor on all fours, growling and pulling with all our strength. She's really into it!

'Are you ever strong, Julie!'

She laughs delightedly and runs off.

(Another first She initiated an activity with me! Not only that, she had fun!)

The rest of the kids are playing a favorite game: pushing each other around in the big wooden toy boxes, which move easily on their casters. Julie informs me that she

would like a ride, so I oblige. When I stop, she jumps out and says, 'Now it's your turn.'

It takes all her strength, but she does manage to get the box in sluggish motion. Other kids run over to help her. Julie's smile widens to a full beam and her eyes are fairly dancing!

I speak to her through a puppet I've found in the toy box: 'Boy, what a fine ride I'm having! And Julie's sure having fun, too, with all these other kids helping push! I can tell by her smile.' The beam grows even wider.

(Oh boy! Her first active involvement with the other kids!)

Julie approaches me towing an empty toy box.

'Now what are you going to do, Julie?'
'Push you!'

'You're going to push me? How are you going to get me in there?'

Julie looks down, swinging one foot

I need to know what you want. What would you like me to do?

Julie looks up with a shy smile: 'Push me!'

'You'd really like me to push you!'

'Uh huh!'
'Okay, you gave me a nice ride already.'
She climbs in with a smile.

'Ready?'

'Uh huh!'

'Want a fast one or a slow one?'

'A fast one! I want a fast one!'

And off we go! Her sparkling eyes and big smile broadcasting her pleasure.



(Aha again! She's readily responding verbally and learning to articulate what she wants!

While Edith is busy drawing with John (my colleague), Julie approaches, paper in

hand and stands expectantly looking at her. Edith invites her to sit at the table; Julie smiles her acceptance. John leaves and the two draw quietly for several minutes, occasionally chatting. John rejoins them, crouching down to address Julie:

'What's your picture about, Julie?'

'It's me at Rock harbor!'

'Rock harbor! Did you use to live there?' 'In the summer.'

'You have a place there that you visit every summer?'

'Uh huh. I can swim - see (pointing to picture), that's me!

'That's you swimming all by yourself! you must be a good swimmer.'

'Yeah!' (big smile).

Edith interjects, 'Gee, Julie, I'd be scared to go in the ocean by myself!'

'I'm, not.'

'It feels good to be strong and not afraid to swim in the ocean by yourself.'

'Yeah.'

Julie sits back, a contented proud smile lighting her face.

(Another big step! Moving away from dependence on me and seeking involvement with others. She's even verbally responding to them!).

The cupboard doors open. Julie's beaming face emerges. John notices, exclaiming with mock surprise, 'What are you doing?

'Hiding!!' And the doors slam shut! John (just loud enough for all to hear) 'Wonder where Julie is?'

Margo: 'Where is she?'

The rest of the kids join in the game, chirping: "Julie!" 'Where's Julie?'

Cindy runs up, saying, 'I knowl' and opens the doors to reveal an impish Julie reclining inside. She and Cindy giggle mer-

Will you close the doors again, Cindy? requests Julie.

Cindy complies and then responds to the other kids' shouts of, 'Hey Cindy, shut me in, too! as they dive into other available cupboards.

Julie's doors open again and she shouts out, 'Hey, Cindy! Do you want to come in with me!

"Okay!" Cindy cagerly responds

As she scrambles inside the cupboard, I comment 'You're really feeling pleased Julie asked you to join her?'.

Yeah!

Broad smiles all round.

John shuts the doors for them and we're left with a room empty of children but full of giggles.

(Yippee! Giant strides! She's really blossoming!)

John is giving three kids a ride in a toy box. Julie runs up, a nursing bottle in one

One of the riders notices her: 'Hey, Julie!' 'Let's get Julie in here!' exclaims another. 'Stop, John!'

'You want to come in?' asks the first kid. 'Yeah, okay,' graciously consents our heroine.

The three move around to make room for her. Julie climbs in, smiles contentedly, and tucks the nursing bottle in her mouth.

Kid number two counts, 'Hey, 1, 2, 3, 4 of us! That's a lot! But we fit in here just

And the happy foursome lie back to enjoy their ride.



(I smile fondly, feeling very maternal and proud. My girl's right in there now. Just one of the kids!)

Julie's نفسو a long way in only two months! From a position of almost total ron-response, and in turn beng tuned out by the kids, she's now become an accepted, fully participating group member. She can initiate involvement when she wants it, or she can choose to play on her own. The strength once expressed through her stubborn refusal to respond, now finds expression in her firm direct manner of articulating and filling her needs.

Even more gratifying is the feedback from the jubilant parents and the relieved teacher. What pleases them most is that Julie seems like such a normal, happy kid now. No longer does she create any fuss about coming to school. She prefers to come unescorted by mother, usually arriving a half hour early.

She participates in all class activities and to the teacher's secret delight, receives the occasional reprimand for chattering too much during work periods! Although behind in her kindergarten learning skills, she is fast catching up.

Somehow, Julie had learned to indirectly (and inadequately) fill her needs by tuning out her environment and the people in it. Early in life, she had discovered that by simply failing to react she could frequently avoid what she wanted to avoid and get what she wanted to get.

With time and practice, this nonresponding stance evolved into an effective means of passively manipulating others, for It got them to pay attention to her, coax her, do things for her. By the time her behavior became viewed as a 'problem', she was unwilling to give up the payoffs that not responding afforded her, even though she missed out on pleasures she could see other children obtaining — friends, fun and learn-

As the parents and other significant adults in her life placed increased performance demands on Julie, she fought back by relying more heavily on her best weapon, not responding. The harder the adults tried for response, the less Julie gave. And the less she gave, the more they tried. A deadening, downward spiral.

Placing Julie in a group play therapy situation, where her failure to respond didn't produce the expected payoffs, forced her to explore other healthier ways to get the desired attention. In the process, she learned the social skills she needed to create rewarding relationships with others.

My elation about the dramatic changes in Julie is tempered by horrendous visions of what too easily, could have been her fate. Without early intervention, her behavioral style would have become increasingly habituated and resistant to change. She could have ended up in a special school or class for the retarded or, at best, limped along as a slow learner passively occupying space in a regular classroom.

Probably she would have received special learning assistance. But this would not be treating the basic problem and so would meet with limited success. She would be turned off school, turned off people, and end up even turned off herself. A sad, lonely, devitalized victim of inept good intentions.

Maybe my dire predictions wouldn't have come true. Maybe, if left alone, something might have happened to jolt her from her non-responding limbo. Maybe.

I just hate to take that chance. O

nerly a special counsellor for the Victoria school district, Margo Foote is now devoting her energies to 'cabin building, land clearing, gardening, gathering food, watching sunsets and moonrises, and writing' on Homby Island: This article is an excerpt from a book or play therapy she is writing in collab Domer, also a special counsellor in Victoria.

# OPENAREA OSCHOOLS SURVIVE?

WILLIAM A. GRAY ROBERT G. BLOUNT MARINO A. MIDDLETON

A variety of open area designs — some new, some modifications of existing buildings — were presented during the last 10 years, along with a plethora of philosophic and economic reasons for building them. But little was written about how to teach in them.



What is the future of the open education and open area school concepts in B.C. at a time when many parents and educators support a more traditional 'back to the basics' approach in public education?

Can these two educational innovations of the late 1960s still provide valid alternatives in the late 1970s to more traditional modes of education?

Will the present conservative backlash finally provide the impetus for identifying through research the variables associated with operating a successful open area and a successful open education program?

To obtain some answers to such questions as these, we undertook a survey of B.C. teachers in 1976. Before presenting our findings, let's review briefly the concepts of the two innovations to see how the practices fell into disrepute and how their potential can still be realized.

#### **UNQUESTIONED OPTIMISM**

B.C.'s first open area school, MacCorkindale, opened in 1967 in Vancouver. According to Ian Allen's survey, Open Area Schools in British Columbia, by September 1971 some 300 open area schools were in or-iration or under construction in B.C.

Was this sudden proliferation of open area schools just another example of jumping on the latest educational bandwagon? In retrospect, the answer appears to be 'yes'. A critical reading of the literature of the early 1970s gives one the impression that these modern-looking facilities would provide a panacea for improving education, and would also reduce construction costs. A variety of imaginative open area designs were presented, along with a plethora of philosophic and economic reasons for building them.

Little was written about how to teach in them, although it was generally assumed that a 'more open' kind of teaching should take place in them. Even less was written about whether open areas should or should not be built in the first place during this initial period of unquestioned optimism.

The concept of open education, although not as apparently widespread or as visible as open area schools, also began to capture the fancy of many B.C. educators around the early 1970s. (The co-emergence of these two innovations might explain why they were often confused as being synonymous.) Again, the literature pro-

vided many philosophic reasons for 'going open' as a way of improving the quality of education without really indicating how to do this in practice.

During this early period of unquestioned optimism, 'open' was presumed to be 'better'

Open education was presumed to produce better learning results than traditional education and open areas were presumed to be better places for promoting children's academic learning and overall development than self-contained classrooms.

With so much optimism so widespread, there was little concern for investigating the actual efficacy of these two concepts in practice — that is, not until critical observers began to suspect and then to question the benefits originally claimed for them.

Unfortunately, all but a few of the research studies from 1970 to the present have attempted to answer such simplistic questions as: 'Are open areas better for children than self-contained classrooms?' and 'Does open education produce better learning results than traditional education?'

In most of these investigations, sample sizes were typically small (often comparing only one school or classroom with another) and the data were frequently collected at the end of only one year of operation of an open area or an open education program. The specific type of open area being investigated was usually not considered important (i.e., a total open area school, an open



Will an open area classroom benefit him more thar a traditional one? Not if traditional teaching methods are continued in the 'open' environmen'

area classroom addition, or a conversion of adjacent self-contained classrooms into an open area).

The particular physical features of open areas and self-contained classrooms that supposedly produced particular effects upon children were not clearly identified.

(The Metropolitan Toronto School Board's study of educational facilities is one of the few studies systematically investigating the effects upon children and teachers of particular physical features of open areas and self-contained classrooms.)

Perhaps the gravest research error of all was that of assuming that open areas have 'more open' programs operating in them than do self-contained classrooms, and that open education was taking place just because classroom teachers said it was. Because of such assumptions, researchers did not really bother to find out what it was about a particular open area (or a so-called open education program) that was responsible for producing the obtained effects on pupils.

Because of these inadequacies in most research studies, the findings regarding the efficacy of both open areas and open education have been conflicting and therefore inconclusive.

The most accurate statement that can be made in 1978 regarding open areas and open education is that neither innovation has unequivocally been shown to be more beneficial or detrimental to pupils or teachers than traditional approaches.

Both innovations have the potential for becoming valid alternatives to more traditional modes of education — but, only if each concept is better understood, better supported, and more properly applied in practice. To do this requires a different view of these two innovations accompanied by a different approach to conducting research on them.

Instead of comparing them with more traditional methods of education in the futile attempt to prove one is better than the other, we should investigate such questions as: 'What type of child (and teacher) would find an open area a more suitable learning environment and open education a more suitable educational program?' and 'What variables are related to the successful operation of an open area facility and an open education program?'

It was the latter question that formed the basis of our 1976 research study of B.C. teachers who were attempting to implement more open educational practices in open areas and in self-contained classrooms.

#### **DESIGNING OUR STUDY**

From previous research studies that attempted to identify the variables associated with the successful operation of an open (vs. raditional) education program and the successful operation of an open area facility, we chose questionnaire items to construct a survey having the following 10 dimensions: teacher background characteristics; adequacy of educational facility;

adequacy of support (from parents, colleagues, principal, district office); teaming satisfaction and requirements; job satisfaction; progressiveness of teacher attitudes; adequacy of pre-service training; adequacy of in-service training; teacher opinions about their pupils; openness of program (a 50-item teacher self-report questionnaire that had been carefully validated and used in a number of investigations to differentiate open and traditional programs).

We sent this 10-dimension survey to 450 B.C. educators who had attended at least one of two recent conferences intended to help them learn how to implement more open educational programs and practices. From the 130 usable surveys returned, a final sample of 37 teachers was classified as operating an open program (14 of them in self-contained classrooms, 23 in open areas) and 33 teachers as operating a traditional program (21 of them in self-contained classrooms, 12 in open areas).

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Teachers were classified as operating an 'open' or 'traditional program' according to whether they scored in the top 27% or bottom 27% on the 50-item questionnaire measuring openness of program. Then every teacher's responses to variables in each of the first nine dimensions were correlated with his/her score on openness of program via a series of multiple discriminant analyses.

#### **OUR FINDINGS**

Teacher background characteristics (i.e., age, sex, years teaching, type of pre-service training) was the only dimension containing no variables that were associated with operating an open (vs. traditional) program.

On the adequacy of facility dimension, few of the 21 aspects surveyed were rated as functionally 'adequate'. However, those open areas and self-contained classrooms accommodating an open program were rated as more functionally adequate than those accommodating a traditional program. The least adequate aspects of open areas were the availability of enclosed 'auxiliary rooms' and audio-visual equipment.

On the adequacy of support dimension. open program teachers reported their programs to be better accepted and supported by parents because the parents were more actively involved in such things as planning the programs and placing their children in them. These teachers also reported receiving more adequate support at the local school level (from teaching colleagues and from the principal) than at the district level.

Both open and traditional program teachers rated as 'less than adequate' the extent to which the secondary schools build on what the elementary schools have done and the availability of special consultants to help teachers develop their programs. The support provided by the school principal was consistently given the highest rating.

The most significant findings for the teaming dimension was that open area teachers operating an open program spend at least 15-25 hours planning their programs together the year before actually implementing them. Failure to do this resulted in a traditional program being implemented in the open area facility.

Harmonious and co-operative teaming was found to be related to a low turnover rate among the teachers and to the implementation of a well-co-ordinated open program in an open area facility.

Successful teaming and team planning were rated as more important to operating a successful open program in an open area facility than were large inputs of additional resources.

Findings on the importance of harmonious teaming support those obtained by Molnar in 1972. These indicated that when teachers are on a team characterized by equal or balanced participation

This child differs from every other one. 'Open area' education may not be the best kind for her.



among its members, each member is more likely to feel successful in having an influence on team decision-making, while at the same time retaining a high level of personal autonomy within the team structure to develop his/her own teaching styles.

Findings on the job satisfaction dimension indicated that open program teachers are more satisfied than traditional program teachers because of the greater respect they get from parents and from their teaching colleagues for the job they are doing. Also, being a member of open area teaching teams provides opportunities for them to assume leadership for aspects of their program within the teaming arrangement.

The open area teachers reported a higher job satisfaction than did their self-contained classroom counterparts. Being a member of a harmonious teaching team, having more adequate resource support and principal support, and having more parental involvement in the planning of open area programs and the placement of their children in them all contributed to higher job satisfaction of open area teachers.

Both open and traditional program

teachers rated their salaries as the least satisfactory item, because it was viewed as insufficient in terms of amount of time they spend planning and preparing for teaching. Open program teachers were slightly more satisfied with their salaries because of the greater satisfaction they received from other sources.

With regard to the teacher attitude dimension, the open program teachers rated their overall teaching style as more liberal or progressive. They also reported a more liberal or progressive approach to discipline.

On the adequacy of pre-service training dimension, Table 1 shows that teachers tended to rate all 17 content-related aspects of pre-service training being investigated as 'less than adequate' or 'no preservice training received'. Open program teachers reported receiving 'more adequate' pre-service training in humanistic discipline techniques than did traditional program teachers. (This emphasis is one of the fundamental characteristics of the open education and humanistic education movements, both of which emphasize humanistic teacher-student interactions.)

How can more adequate pre-service preparation be provided? Teachers in our study said they would have been better prepared if they had participated in a specially designed and co-ordinated preservice program of 15 to 18 units of coursework that focused on teaching in an open way, accompanied by eight to 11 weeks of student teaching in an open program.

These teachers believed that less adequate preparation would result from either a special course of 1-3 units (without an accompanying practicum) or from 4-12 weeks of student teaching in an open program (without any accompanying or related coursework).

These findings clearly indicate that the learnings gained from coursework must be applied in practical situations if each is to complement the other. This would enable teachers to learn both why and how to implement open programs.

On the 'adequacy of in-service training dimension,' both open and traditional program teachers reported they received 'little' or 'no in-service training' in the same 17 content-related areas investigated for pre-service training. More open program teachers had received in-service training in flexible grouping techniques and in classroom management. Open program teachers teaching in self-contained classrooms had more in-service training in flexible grouping techniques, more frequently participated in encounter groups or sensitivity training sessions, and want more in-service training in small group techniques than their traditional program counterparts.

Generally, open program teachers teaching in either open areas or in self-contained classrooms had participated in more in-service training than their traditional program counterparts, yet they wanted even more in-service training in order to help do a better job of implementing an open program.

Of 11 types of in-service training activities investigated, doing systematic reading on one's own was rated as the most satisfactory. Open program teachers did significantly more of this than traditional program teachers. Special courses, workshops, conferences, visits to other schools, and even regular staff meetings were all rated as 'less than satisfactory' as inservice training activities. Open program teachers indicated a greater desire to participate in a diploma or masters level program focusing on how to teach in a more open manner.

The findings pertaining to 'Teacher's Opinions About Their Pupils' indicate that open program teachers perceive them-

Continued on page 146

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## UBC's logy Anthropology

#### . MELANIE WEATHERBEE

Anthropology opened its 'Ksan doors to the public in June 1976, nearly 200,000 people have passed through its Great Hall to view one of the most impressive ethnology collections in Canada.

The museum's pour home was a smaller.

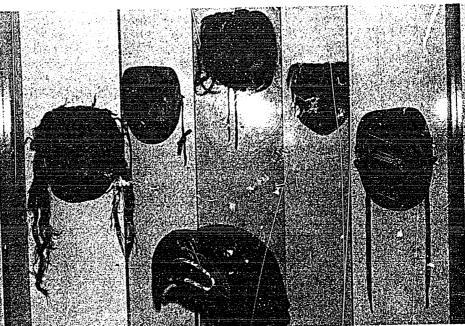
The museum's new home was expertly designed to accommodate one of the most diverse collections of artifacts in the province, representing more than 20 regions of the world.

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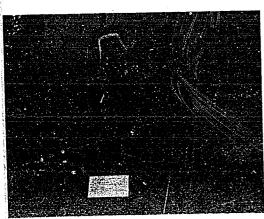
In keeping with its 'living museum' philosophy the anthropology museum presents its artifacts of the past in the context of evolving cultural traditions of today.

The 'Ksan doors marking the entrance to the building are carried on both sides to

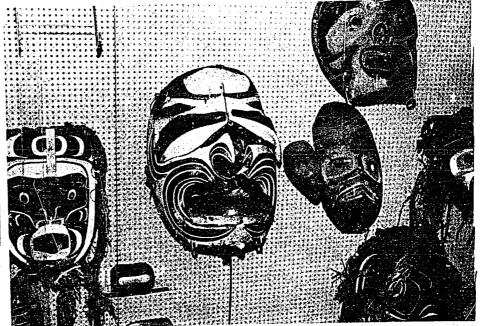
The 'Ksan doors marking the entrance to the building are carved on both sides to form a rectangular structure representative of the Northwest Coast Indian's traditional Kerfed box, symbolic of culture as the container of the meaning of human life.



Masks done by Nisgha carver Norman Tait.



Above, left, a bear carving by William Reid, in the Great Hall alcove. Right, Kwakiutl masks, the largest one representing an earthquake.



The legend carved into the western red cedar tells of the joining of heaven and earth, or the divine and human, in the creation of the first Gitksan people.

It took a team of four carvers, with the help of many other skilled artisans, four months to design and complete the carvings.

The two doors are each 10 feet six inches high and six feet wide, with four-foot-wide side panels.

Inside the great carved doors, a ramp featuring Northwest Coast Indian carvings leads down into the Great Hall, the focal point of the building.

The hall is surrounded by 45-foot high windows and contains scores of massive totem poles and other native sculptures.

One of the most innovative structural features of the new building is the use of visible storage areas. Artifacts not on special exhibition in the galleries, which would

normally be relegated to a back room, are placed in specially constructed storage bays open to public view.

These storage areas, as well as being a unique display medium, give the museum the right to claim a 'first' — no other major museum in the country has opened its back room storage areas to the public.

While most museums artfully exhibit their 'good' pieces and store some of the less glamourous in back rooms, at the UBC museum the most humble artifact is displayed for all to see. Collections are arranged according to cultural usage, rather than artistic merit.

Anything from priceless masterpieces to small items of trivia can be found rubbing shoulders behind a glass partition.

Visible storage areas also contain documentation centers equipped with computer print-out data sheets on each artifact shown in a particular section. Data

sheets are linked by computer to the National Museum's 'national inventory of collections.'

The computer link-up system provides the museum with two more 'firsts': it is the first anthropology museum to link into the national inventory and possibly the first museum anywhere to make all of its collections and the available data on them accessible to the public.

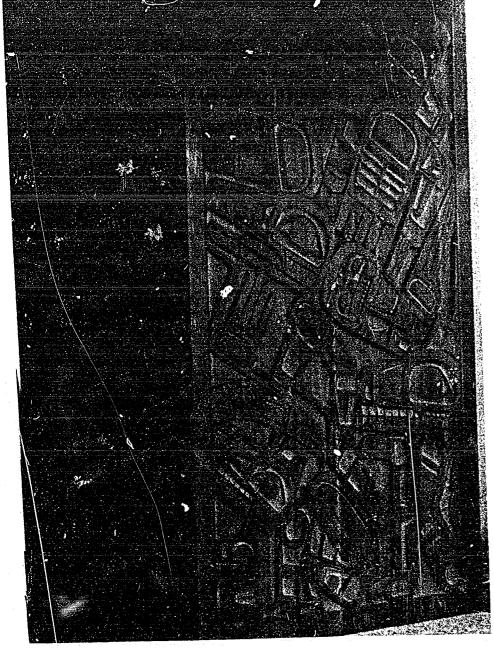
Documentation centers also provide interpretive essays written by students and staff explaining the cultural background and significance of the collections.

Names of donors who have contributed artifacts to the museum are also listed in the data books.

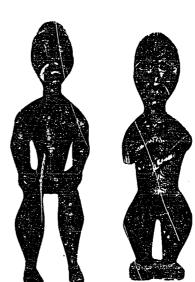
One of the museum's most prized exhibits is its Northwest Coast Indian collection, which gained national fame during a two-year stay at Man and His World in Montreal.

The remainder of the building's 35,337 square feet of display space is occupied by a diverse selection of artifacts, including the Walter and Marianne Koerner Masterpiece Collection, artifacts from the great Asian and ancient Mediterranean civilizations and an international collection of textiles.

The museum also features large and significant collections from Arctic and sub-Arctic areas, the South Pacific, Japan and Africa, as well as teaching collections representing China, Tibet, Korea, India, Indonesia, Mainland Southeast Asia, Western Asia and the classical world.



Left, the entrance to the Museum of Anthropology. The cedar doors were done by a group of carvers at 'Ksan, a reconstructed Gitksan village in Hazelton. The doors depict the creation story of the Gitksan people.



These two coast Salish grave figures are located in the entrance ramp.

Since the building's completion nearly two years ago, museum personnel have been able to group and display collections to their best advantage without space limitations.

Prior to 1976 the museum's collections were housed in the bacament of the UBC library, where most were inaccessible to the public.

The Museum of Anthropology was officially established in 1947 when Dr. Harry B. Hawthorn, the first anthropologist appointed to the University faculty, was named director, but it acquired its first collection of artifacts as early as 1927.

Audrey Hawthorn became the museum's first curator in 1948.

It now has a staff of 14, including three part-time professors who divide their time between teaching duties at the university and work within the museum itself.

The museum has no formal education department, but the staff does invite and encourage student tours. Museum personnel are available to assist with information and to provide resource help.

Madeline Bronsdon Rowan, Curator of Ethnology and Instructor of Anthropology, has been working to develop a comprehensive school program since the museum's facilities were expanded to enable public tours.

'Unformately, we can't offer structured programs to teachers right now, but we can provide an exciting opportunity for them to develop activities that focus on the museum collections relating to the curriculum they teach in the classroom.

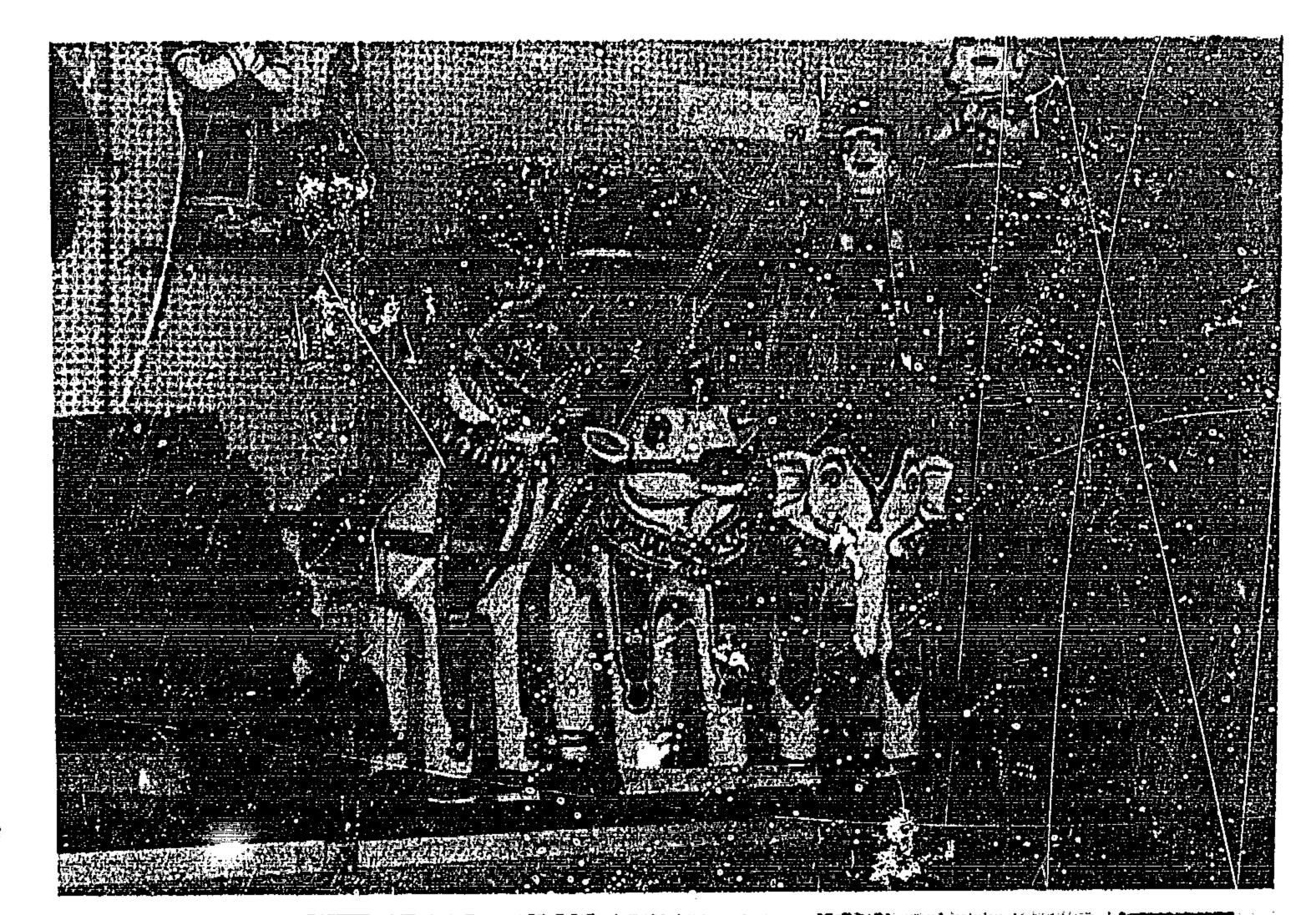
'The responsibility is on teachers to "do their own thing" and some teachers have developed very exciting programs on their own, she adds.

Although teachers are pretty much on their own once they and their students actually begin their tour of the museum's collections, they are given every possible assistance in preparing for their visit.

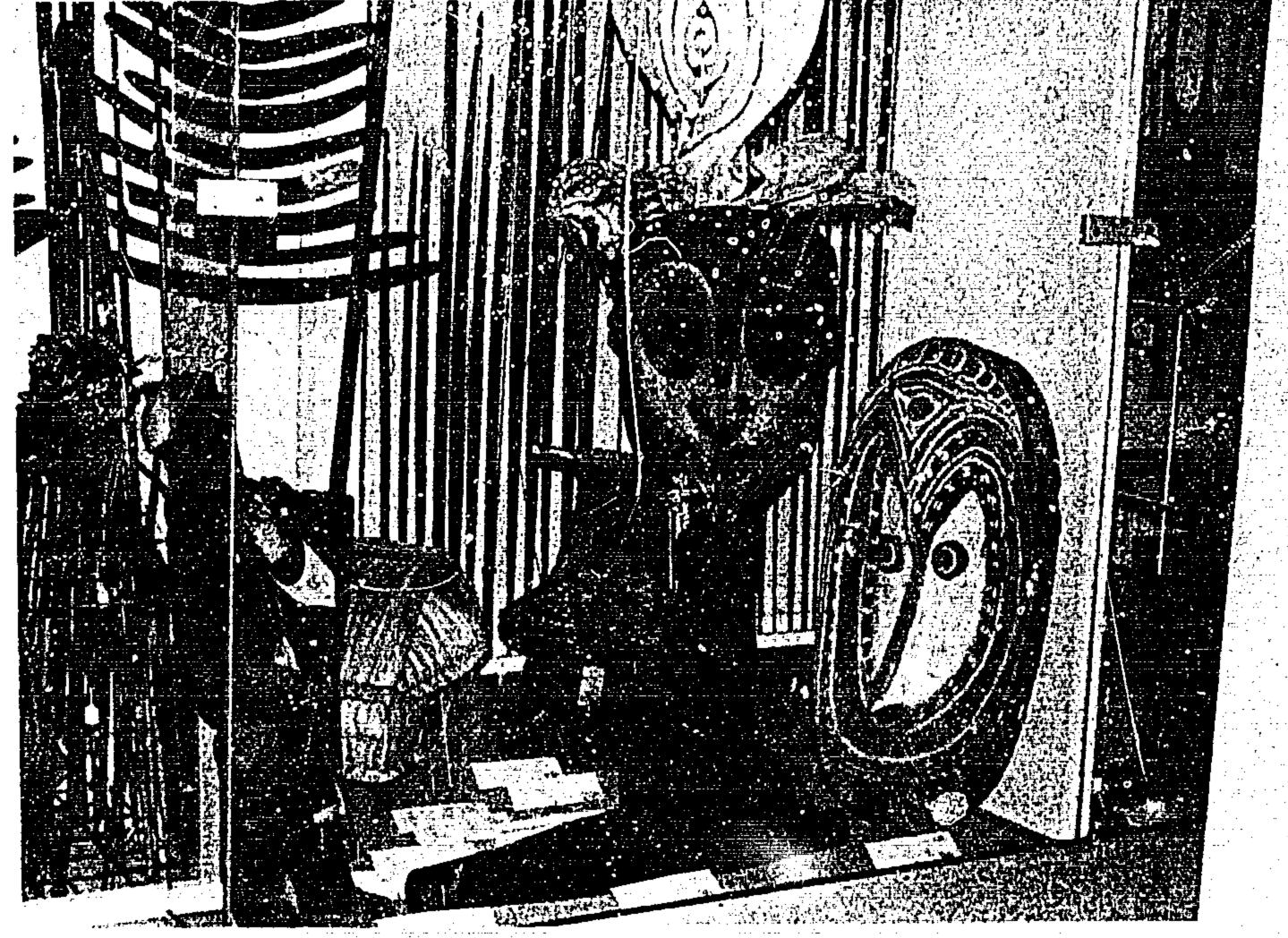
After a teacher has booked a date to view the museum, he or she is sent an orientation package along with a letter of confirmation.

The orientation sheet consists of a map of the visible storage areas showing the locations of the collections from different culture areas of the world, a short bibliography relating to the museum's Northwest Coast Indian Collection; and a list of back-up material for sale in the gift shop.

'We encourage teachers to preview the museum if they are planning to bring a group of students here,' advises Mrs. Bronsdon Rowan. 'We offer orientation workshops on the museum as a place and as a resource facility, that teachers can



These clay ritual figures are used as votive offerings in village temples of Tamiinadu State, South India.



These materials are from the South Pacific area. The two large pieces are from New Guinea. attend to familiarize themselves with what we have to offer."

The workshops, held during each semester of the school year, are divided into elementary and secondary areas of interest. When a teacher arrives at the 'Ksan doors

with a group of students, he/she is met by a volunteer museum associate who gives as much initial assistance as the teacher needs and remains on call to answer any further questions.

Two slide-tape presentations are available for viewing at the beginning of a tour. The first explains the visible storage area and its use, and the second gives background information on the carving depicting the Raven and the First People now being done by Indian carver Bill Reid.

At the end of the visit, museum personnel collect the project outlines used by teachers and the latter are later contacted for feedback on the tour.

Teachers are asked how successful they feel their tour was, whether their students found it helpful and if they need any further information from the museum.

Getting feedback and ideas from teachers who have taken their classes through the museum will help us develop a better program of our own for the future. says Mrs. Bronsdon Rowan.

Tours can be as structured or unstructured as the teacher wants.

The range of activities teachers can conduct in the museum varies with the age level, interest of the children and subject matter.

Younger children can find comparing similar items from different cultures intriguing. Some teachers have even brought their kindergarten classes in on sketching tours.

We do recommend a small teacher/pupil

ratio, however. We have found that a ratio

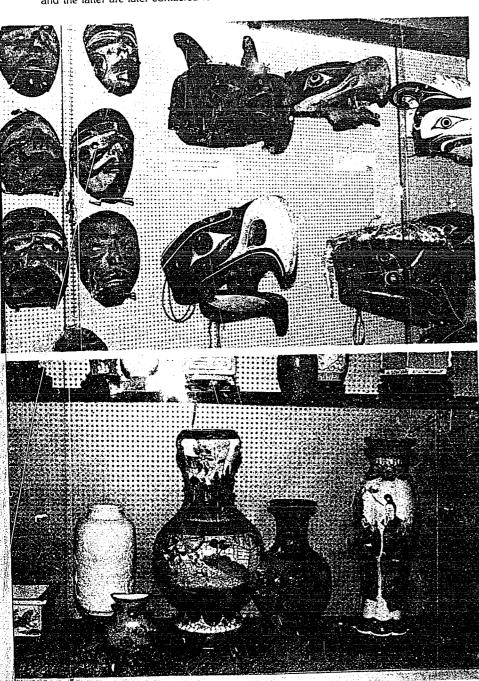
of one-to-five or one-to-eight works best.'
The museum is open for school groups Wednesday through Sunday and bookings must be made in advance.

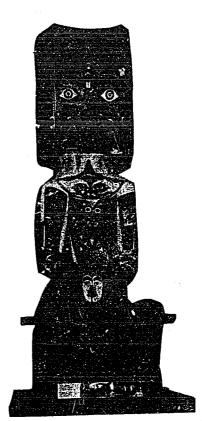
Bookings may be made by calling 228-5087 between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. week-

Mrs. Bronsdon Rowan is currently developing a program of teacher workshops on Northwest Coast Indian collections that

she hopes will be implemented this spring.
Plans are also underway for experimental
exhibits for visually impaired children.

Melanie Weatherbee was formerly an editorial assistant in the BCTF's Division of Communications





Left top, Kwakiutl masks. The two large ones, left center, are (above) a thunderbird mask and (below) an eagle mask. Left bottom, some of the beautiful vases in the collection of Chinese materials. Above, a human figure with a killer whale on its chest and coppers on its arms. The platform is supported by slaves.

#### Continued from page 141

selves as having more opportunity to work with individual students, and they allow their students more independent study time. Moreover, the multi-grade arrangement characteristic of most open programs was reported to be more satisfactory than the single grade level characteristic of most traditional programs.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

What is the future of open area schools

and open education? Will they cease to exist, having fallen into disrepute as two more educational fads that were tried but didn't work? Or will they become better understood, better supported, and better applied in practice as valid, successful alternatives within public education?

Our research findings suggest eight recommendations for enabling proponents of open education and open area schools to help them achieve their potential.

- The overall 'less than adequate' ratings given to educational facilities suggest that architects should involve teachers in planning more functionally adequate facilities. Then the adequacy of the facility should be evaluated so that inadequacies are not duplicated in the future.
- Support for an open program and for open areas seems generally adequate within the school and from the parents, but not at the district level. Therefore, school system-wide attention should be given to providing consultative support for these innovations and to providing for better continuity between the elementary and secondary school programs.
- Teachers especially a team of teachers—should be provided with adequate time (i.e., 15.25 hours minimum) to plan an open program before actually implementing it. An open program is too complex to be implemented without sufficient early planning.
- Teachers should be hired who admit to having moderate to progressive teachling styles and who take a moderate o-progressive approach toward discipline. Teachers, who implement a traditional program, admit having a more traditional teaching style and a more traditional approach to discipline.
- Being a member of a harmonious teaching team largely determines how well satisfied an open area teacher will be

- and how well co-ordinated his/her program will be. Therefore, teachers who cannot work together harmoniously should not be on the same team.
- All content-related areas of pre-service training should be modified to provide more adequate preparation for teaching in more open ways, both in open area and in self-contained classroom facilities. A co-ordinated pre-service program consisting of coursework related to student teaching in an open manner was strongly recommended by respondents in this study.
- In-service training should be encouraged by means of systematic readings on one's own and participation in a specially designed diploma or masters program focusing on open ways of feaching and promoting learning. Other in-service activities (visiting other schools, conferences, special courses and consultants, staff meetings) were rated so inadequate that their usefulness is suspect unless they are modified drastically to become more purposeful.
- To bring about an open program, teachers should arrange to interact more with individual students and arrange for them to have more independent study time in other words, the teacher's role must chance from sage on the stage to guide at the side. Also a multi-age range is more destrable for enabling students to teach one another.



Neither open area nor open education has been shown to be more beneficial or detrimental to pupils or teachers than traditional methods.

Proponents must view these two innovations as alternatives to (not replacements for) more traditional modes of education and must identify those children and teachers for whom each approach is most suitable and desirable.

It is also necessary to stop viewing these two innovations as simply being learning-oriented without also being teaching-oriented, as being only child-centred without the need for teacher-centred direction, and as being unstructured rather than structured in more subtle ways.

It would be typical but tragic if the requirements and benefits of open area schools and open education were identified at the same time as these two innovations were given up as not working.

Typical, because this seems to happen to so many educational innovations.

Tragic, because these two educational innovations will cease to provide an alternative method of education for those teachers and children who prefer them and can benefit from them. O

William Gray is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Education, UBC. Professor Gray previously has written for us. His co-authors are Robert G. Blount and Marino A. Middleton. Mr. Blount is a teacher at Lloyd George School in Vancouver and Mr. Middleton is with the B.C. Ministry of Education.

## SEX EDUCATION WITHOUT ANY HASSLE

A Burnaby school has successfully implemented a sex education program — without a public outcry.

#### WILLIAM O. MARBLE

Can a school come up with a solution for sex education?

Some do. Some don't. Burnaby Heights
Junior Secondary is one school that 'does'
— and with measurable success.

Teachers of that widely debated program, Sex Education, may recall the furor when it was first introduced in the early 50s, under the ambivalent title Effective Living.

Since then, the project has see-sawed between supportive school boards and reluctant and/or antagonistic parents. There are valid arguments on both sides.

The BCTF has taken a firm stand on the issue. BCTF policy statement 11.13 reads: 'The BCTF believes that family life education and sex education should be an integral part of the school curriculum.'

Programs dealing with the subject of human reproduction have been developed in a number of school districts. For several years such programs have been under attack by a number of parents' groups.

Their concerns rest mainly in three areas:

- that the attitudes and moral standards of the parents may be subjected to close scrutiny and perhaps even ridicule;
- Sthat knowledge about sexual matters encourages experimentation;
- ●that the attitudes and morals of more permissive classmates or instructors may pressure many students into following those examples a development undesirable from a parental viewpoint.

The first and last concerns are matters of classroom management. Techniques for dealing with many strong-attitude areas have been used successfully in guidance classes and group discussions for years. There is no empirical evidence to support the second concern that knowledge encourages experimentation. There is even some evidence that readily available information about human sexuality encourages sexual responsibility rather than sexual experimentation.

However, as a result of pressures on school boards, many districts have either banned sex education programs completely or severely limited them. Even those districts that have resisted the pressures have made some token changes. Some have changed the course names from Sex Education to Family Life to Human Growth and Development.

Continued on page 152

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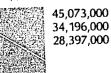
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simply call or write ERIBC. You can specify categories of interest as they are listed in the brochure or simply describe the kinds of activities of interest to you.

#### To contribute information to RIPE

send a one-page description of an educational practice you are implementing. "Collector forms" are available from ERIBC for your convenience in providing a description of your activity.

#### Who should contribute to RIPE?

Anyone who either a) is trying an educational activity or approach that is different for them or different for their school or community; or b) has developed an educational practice (an activity, strategy, or set of materials) to such a level of effectiveness that other people should know about it

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Is it possible to introduce a sex education program without causing an uproar in the school community? Yes! This article outlines a program developed in a school by teachers, with parental support, that we believe has been successful.

From the beginning, our program operated under an established district policy that remained in effect for the three years the program was being developed. The policy for programs of this nature is that:

• parents as well as staff are to be involved in developing the program;

Othe program must be initiated at the school level but approved in principle by the superintendent;

Othe participation by students must be voluntary and subject to parental approval.

Following these guidelines, staff members at our school decided three years ago to develop a short program at the junior secondary level with emphasis on Grade 10.

Our interested staff, most of whom had attended workshops on human sexuality, met and developed a guiding philosophy for the program. A successful program, we felt, should contribute to a better understanding by students of their growth and development. It should result in more satisfying relationships with their parents and peers.

## The program should include the social, moral, physical and emotional aspects of human sexuality.

The program should, at the appropriate time, deal in considerable detail with preparation for marriage and parenthood. Since human sexuality is so intimately involved in many relationships, we felt the program should include the social and moral aspects of human sexuality as well as the physical and emotional ones.

In keeping with the concerns of many parents, we agreed that the school should not attempt to replace the parental influence but rather supplement the efforts of parents. We had to translate these lofty goals into concrete proposals for discussion with the parents involved.

A program for a series of parent meetings was drawn up, the goal being to develop suitable content for the program. Our meetings drew more than 100 people to some of the sessions. It was interesting to note that many of the people attending did not have children enrolled in the school but represented groups opposed to any programs of this type. Community-based experts used audio-visual materials to help clarify our intentions.

### The school should not attempt to replace the parental influence.

At times the meetings resembled debates rather than parent-teacher workshops. Eventually, parental approval for a two-week course for Grade 10 students was given. Parent-teacher meetings were held in subsequent years, and the number of parents requesting information on the program shrank to 12 in the second year and none in the third.

There are many good arguments for starting a program at a lower level, possibly Grade 8, but parental reservations about content made Grade 10 the best choice. The classes met during their regular science periods (these are co-educational, whereas guidance classes in our school are not).

The program originally lasted nine hours spread over two weeks. It was subsequently reduced to seven hours by eliminating ineffective films and increasing the pace of some of the community-based presentations.

The program in its present form consists of four sections:

- 1. Physiology of sex and reproduction. In this initial stage of the course we want students to know the major parts of the male and female reproductive systems and their functions. We also want them to understand how sexual intercourse leads to conception and a general understanding of mbryonic development from conception to birth
- 2. Venereal disease. Here we are concerned with the description, method of transmission, symptoms. treatment, and prevention of syphilis and gonorrhea.
- 3. Birth control. This section includes the nature, methods, and effectiveness of the more common contraceptive methods.
- 4. Responsibilities in relationships. Finally, we want to deal with sexual responsibilities between married and unmarried couples and the requirements and responsibilities demanded by single parenthood.

The instruction in the course is provided by a number of school personnel and community-based specialists. The majority of the school staff have taken some inservice training provided by the district or the BCTF. The staff consists of the school nurse, science teachers, and counsellors.

Community-based specialists provided the needed expertise in the more technical areas of the program. They were drawn from the Burnaby VD Clinic, The Planned Parenthood Federation, and the Municipal Health Department. Attempts were made to develop a roster of community-based personnel who related well with the students.

Audio-visual materials play an important part in the program because of their effectiveness. Obtaining suitable materials has always been a problem. Films seem to be either too juvenile or over-zealous in their attempts to be 'with it' to be acceptable to parents. All films, charts, and other AV materials are obtained through the local resources center or the nearby community colleges.

In accordance with one of the conditions set by the school board, parental permission is required to permit students to attend the program.

Letters explaining the scope of the program are taken home and a tear-off at the bottom of the letter is returned indicating approval or disapproval. All students must return this portion indicating whether or not their parents wish them to take the program.

Our exemption rate from the course has never exceeded 13% and many of these were students who did not return the tear off by the deadline. Students who do not take the program are provided with an alternative and precautions are taken to spare them any possible embarrassment by their peers.

#### Parental permission is required for all students attending the program.

This year we attempted to examine the program's effectiveness. We administered a test before and after the program that surveyed the following areas: names of reproductive parts; functions of reproductive parts; an understanding of human sexuality; contraception; venereal disease; attitudes toward sexuality.

The boys' and girls' pre-test and post test scores were compared to see if any significant changes in attitudes had taken place.

No shifts in attitudes were found, although there was some tendency, particularly with boys, to strengthen the resolve with which an attitude was held. The most effective area of learning was in knowledge of names and functions of reproductive organs, with girls making somewhat greater gains than the boys.

Interestingly, in the area of contraception neither boys nor girls improved their understanding, which was only modest at the start.

The girls made significant gains in their understanding of venereal disease but the

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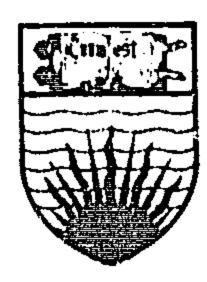
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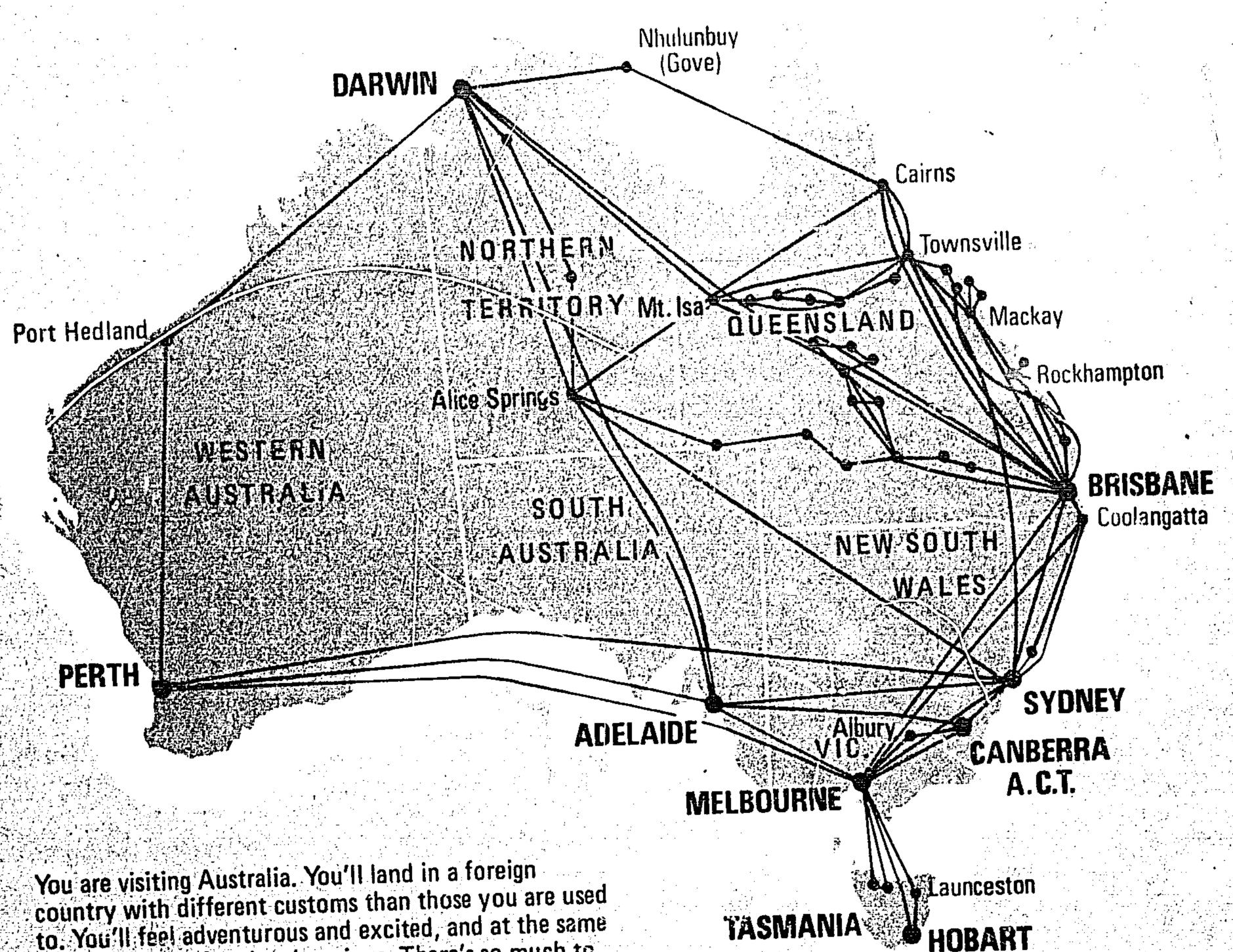
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Continued from page 152

boys showed no change. The program had no effect on helping students to talk freely about sexual matters with their parents.

## The girls benefited more than the boys in understanding.

The students were also asked to evaluate the various components of the program. In general, they rated all sections as acceptable but the session on venereal disease stimulated the greatest interest. The students generally approved of the films and other media presentations, with the reservation that some tended to be a little superficial in their treatment of the particular subject.

It appears from the data we have gathered that the section on birth control needs to be examined. Perhaps it is a simple case of a difference in what a group of adults think students should know and what the students themselves see as important.

One might question whether a program such as ours can be thoroughly assessed for

effectiveness. The test used to gather the preceding information lacked the sophistication to answer all our questions.

On assessment, it does appear that a short, intensive course is capable of conveying a considerable quantity of factual information about human reproduction to a large group of adults.

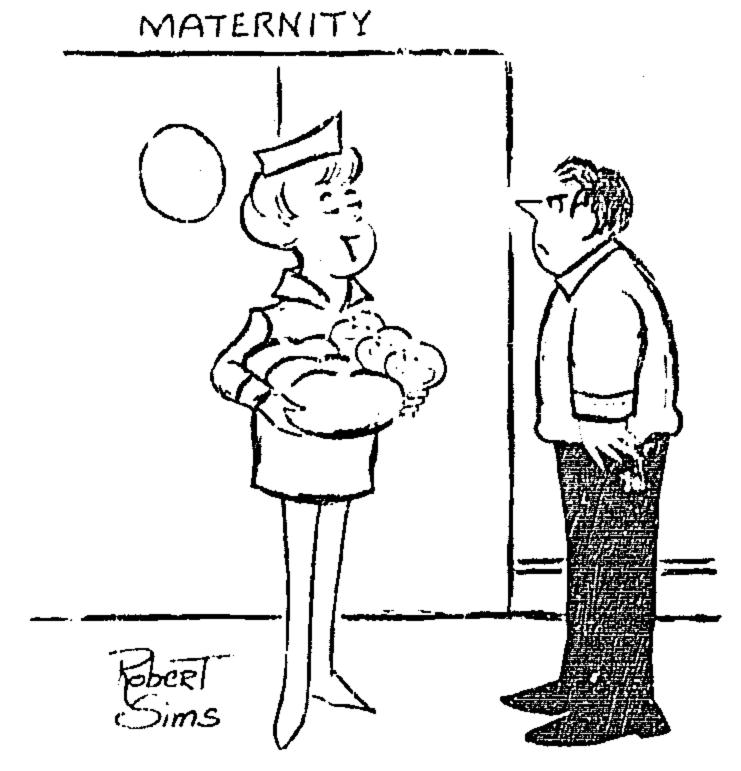
It is plain that more sophisticated understanding of human sexuality would require a longer program with a heavier emphasis on group discussion.

It appears with our program that the girls benefited more than the boys in understanding. Perhaps this is not unexpected

## The ability of students to talk freely with their parents about sexual matters was not improved.

considering that the bulk of the social and health responsibilities still rests with women.

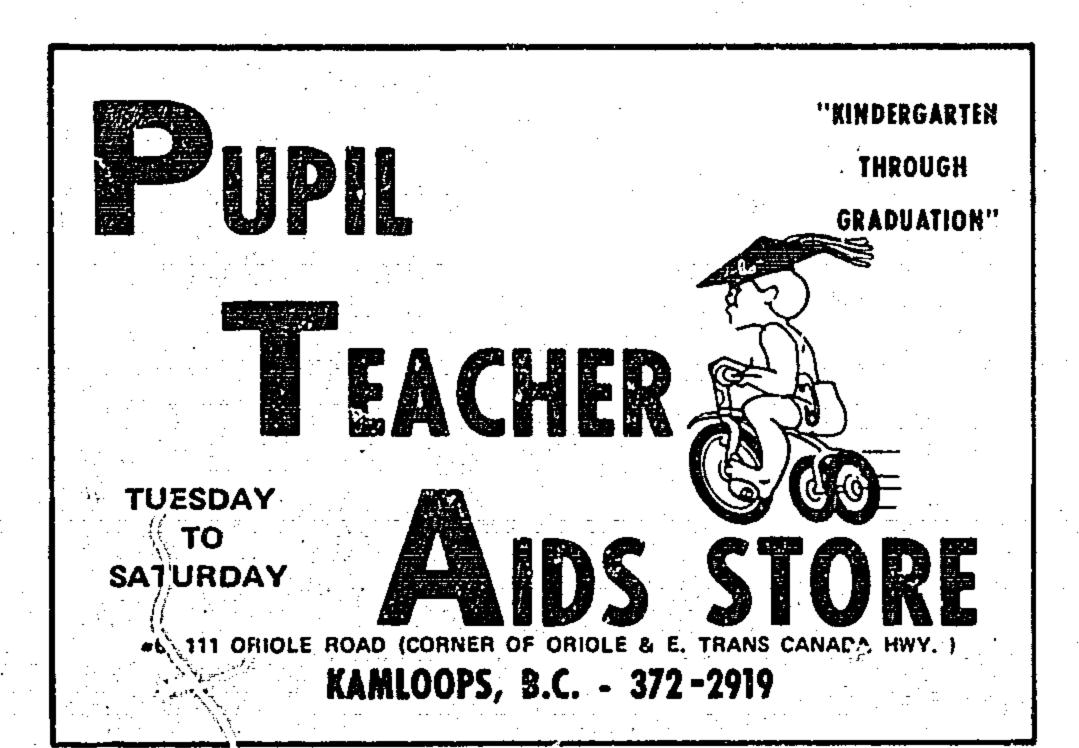
Despite the obvious shortcomings, the staff and students involved feel the program is worth while in terms of class and preparation time. Our results show that parents and

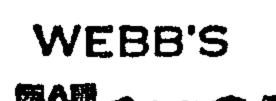


'Was your wife kidding when she said you teach sex ed?'
©Innovations Unlimited 1972

teachers involved together in a curriculum project in a controversial area need not necessarily produce a watered down product that is a compromise unsatisfactory to all parties. O

William Marble is now head teacher at Rosser Elementary School in Burnaby. When he wrote this article he was head of the science department at Burnaby Heights Secondary School.



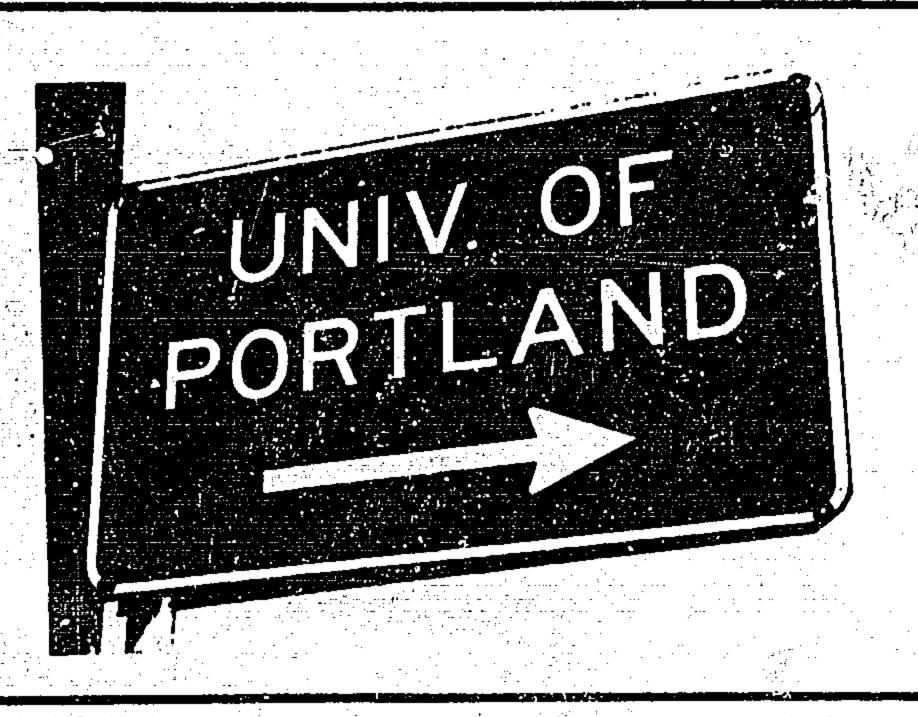


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THE B.C. TEACHER, MARCH-APRIL, 1978

Continued from page 128

Heather Glebe and her journal-keeping children. However, a rejoinder is called for on one aspect of this activity that seems to me questionable.

Any perceptive teacher learns a good deal about the students seen daily. Younger children, particularly, reveal things about their backgrounds and homes. Even as late as Grade 12, however, there is inadvertent betrayal of personal, family detail, some of which the child's parents would not wish to be made known. The paradox is, as Ms. Glebe points out, that such betrayals help the teacher to act more effectively.

Even though the net effect is favorable, a point of professional ethics must be invoked to protect the child. No more than a doctor or lawyer, may the teacher betray in turn what he/she has learned in this way. The school administration may at times need to know, or professional colleagues involved with the child, but no one else. This is why the statement made on p. 98 appalled me: 'This was a golden opportunity to use parental help, and we found that most

mothers enjoyed the experience.' I bet they did! For every mother who would be discreet, I can imagine another mining a rich vein of gossip about her neighbors' homes.

Parental opposition, often from somewhat reactionary groups, has tended to criticize the teaching profession at times for activities parents perceive as threatening to the integrity of the home. Opposition to sex education comes under this heading. So does opposition to any of the techniques of group therapy (sensitivity, encounter, consciousness-raising, etc.). There has been a considerable degree of anger over teachers 'snooping' into the part of the child's life that is lived at home. I do not believe that any of these used under adequate safeguards by properly trained teachers are harmful (and may be beneficial) to the child. In some districts these approaches have been limited by public and board action already. I would not like to see such a positive activity as journalkeeping become a source of public query also, but I can envisage the possibility under present methods.

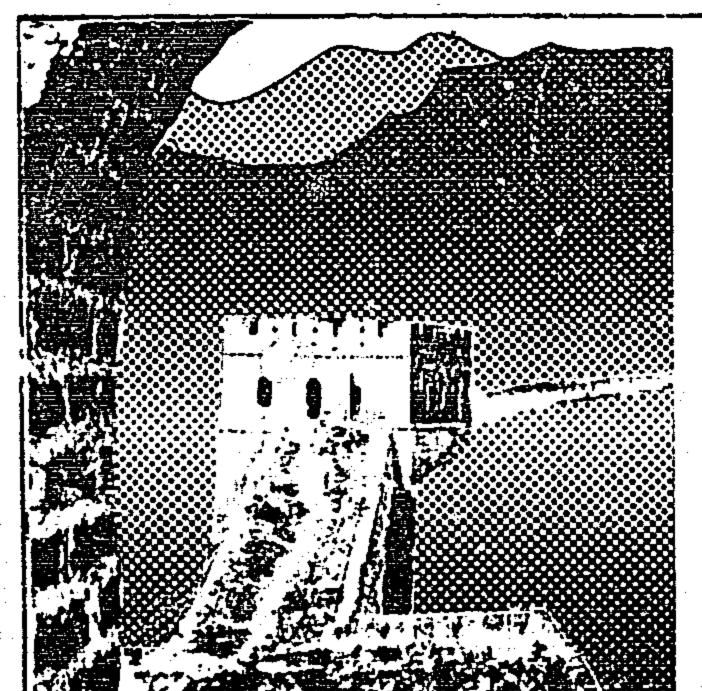
The innocent nakedness of the journal entries quoted by Mrs. Glebe is sometimes endearing, amusing or heartbreaking, but should not be public. The teacher should use such information for the good of the child, and then *forget it*. (I don't, of course, object to anonymous quotes such as these in a professional magazine.)

Mothers are not professionals. They cannot be relied upon not to pass on juicy bits of news. School children, as well as their parents, should have the right to privacy. A family's sins and sorrows are its own.

Louise Mackenzie Surrey

My quick survey of 'Some Recommended Books With B.C. Settings' in the Jan.-Feb. issue may be of interest to many of your readers, especially those dedicated to equalization of opportunity, and of personal worth in human terms.

Of 32 titles, four are Folk Tale/Indian Legend type, so may be assumed to address the human condition in general. Of Continued on page 160



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#### They're talking about...

Robert Taylor, superintendent for School District 29, Lillooet, who told the Joint Board of Teacher Education hearings in Kamloops that teachers still have to be models for the community. 'If you want to kick up your heels for a week-end you should go to Vancouver.' he advises.

West Vancouver psychiatrist **Dr. T. P. Miller,** whose speeches and commentaries of late are aimed squarely at education. Miller claims the quality of education has fallen sharply and recommends teachers stick to instruction in the three 'Rs' and skip the teaching of values. The New Education, he says, is 'a reel of film, a pocket calculator, and a barrel full of educator-selected values.'

Fifty-nine of the 72 school districts in B.C that offer French at the elementary level and the present shortage of French teachers in the province that will increase sharply unless immediate steps are taken to train a greater number of elementary school teachers to teach French, according to **Floyd Celli**, elementary French coordinator for School District 24, Kamloops.

A Racoon In My Parka written by former B.C. teacher Lyn Hancock. This latest book by the former Vancouver and Victoria English teacher was a Christmas best seller. Lyn's best known for her best seller There's A Seal In My Sleeping Bag.



Ed and Pat Day

Valemount teachers **Pat and Ed Day**, the ski champs who teach in that community and add an extra dimension to the lives of their students. Pat is a P.E. and art teacher at Valemount Secondary. Ed teaches Grade 7 at Valemount Elementary.

Both these ski champs are involved with several extra-curricular activities including coaching gymnastics, volleyball, crosscountry running and cross-country skiing.

Both have impressive backgrounds that are well known to the community well as the students. Ed's skiing career officially started in 1966 and by 1975 he won the Canadian Racing Championship and competed in the pre-Olympics at Seefeld, Austria. In 1976 he competed in the Olympics in the 15 km, 30 km, 50 km, and relays and subsequently retired from active racing

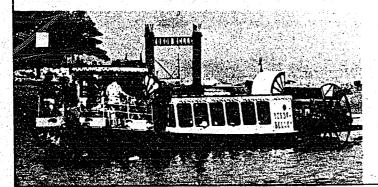
From 1968 to 1973 Pat Day competed as a member of the UBC ski team. In 1975 she skied on the B.C. team at the Canada Winter Games. In 1976 she placed 6th overall at the Canadian Olympic Trials. She has qualified as a Canadian Alpine Instructor and Nordic coach.

The series of articles entitled 'Working for Better Education' appearing last fall in the 100 Mile House Free Press. In this series, the Cariboo-Chilcotin Teachers' Association advocated a change in 'the traditional relationship between teachers and the public represented by the school board in regards to learning and teaching conditions.' Specifically they asked for the development of standards and procedures which both parties accept as binding in order to ensure that teaching and learning can be carried out effectively.

Elementary school principal **Jack Loucks** who replaces **Tom Reid** as mayor of North Vancouver. The 50-year-old Loucks attributes his successs to friends and career: 'I've worked here for 31 years as a teacher and a principal, so I guess I'm known by a lot of people.' he says.

A guide to the **Berger** report entitled 'Learning from the North.' It is designed for use in secondary classrooms and may be obtained by writing James K. Lorimer and Co., Egerton Ryerson Memorial Bldg., 35 Britain Street, Toronto, M5A 1R7.

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Wendy Robertson, practising what she preaches

Bill Burnett, a new teacher-trustee

Wendy Robertson, Kelowna PE teacher who has been appointed Fitness and Recreation Director for the province. She's the PE teacher who spiraled into prominence about a year ago when Premier Bennett asked her to present to Cabinet a brief on an aerobic approach to a Sports for a Lifetime PE program for B.C. Schools.

Nanaimo teacher **Emily Sunter** who has been working on a language coding system for about 10 years and according to University of Victoria professor **Dr**: **John Downing** is ahead of the Russians in this field. She is considered a forerunner in the field of



Emily Sunter, a leader in coding language.

THE B.C. TEACHER, MARCH-APRIL, 1978

developing a new look at how languages may be taught at any level from K-12. British Columbia teachers who have accepted community responsibility by running for public office in the late fall. Among those elected were Doug Drummond as alderman in Burnaby. He teaches at Dr. George M. Weir elementary school in Vancouver; Perry Long, teacher at L. V. Rogers Senior Secondary, elected alderman in Nelson; former active BCTF member Joan Wilson, elected to the Southern Okanagan School District School Board; Bill Burnett, special counseller in Surrey, elected to the Delta School Board; Karl Moser, social studies teacher at Burnsview Junior Secondary, elected to the Delta Municipal Council; Muriel Tanner, retired teacher, re-elected to the Delta School Board; Sigrid-Ann Thors, teacher at West Vernon Elementary, elected alderwoman for the city of Vernon; Harold Steves of Quilchena Elementary and Ernie Novakowski of McNair Senior Secondary both elected aldermen on the Richmond Municipal Council; Harry Almond, a former teacher in the Okanagan, retiring in 1976, elected trustee on the district school board; and finally Nelson Allen of Cedar Junior Secondary remains an alderman in Nanaimo — a position he has held since November, 1976; Wes Janzen, principal of Cedar Hill School, who was re-elected chairman of the New Westminster School Board. There were others of course, and the list continues to grow each year.

#### Educational Memorabilia Wanted

If you have educational items from bygone days and would be willing to donate them to the B.C. Teachers' Federation's archives, they would be appreciated. It is hoped that at some point in the future they could be put on display. We are looking for old photographs (identified), minute books, slates, school bells, ink wells, etc. Things used in the past might be deemed useless by some and be collecting dust and be eventually thrown out. Please consider donating them to the BCTF. Kindly direct any donations or inquiries to: Mrs. Joy Towers at the B.C. Teachers' Federation, 2235 Burrard St., Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3H9.



Continued from page 157

the remaining 28, three feature females (girls) in the titles or main roles and one features a mouse-woman — grandmother (female?).

Of 24 remaining, two are about children, unspecified. Four are about children, boy and girl or brother and sister.

Not being familiar with all these stories, I do not know what role each character portrays. Therefore I assume egalitarianism in them. The same assumption serves to eliminate a further two from the count: two girls solve problems, for a grandfather, and for a father.

That leaves 16 of the 32 of which 15 tell of a boy who: is also an Indian (6); is involved with an older male relative (3); travels with or in search of a friend (5); is searching for something (7); is searching for his manhood (3).

My purpose is to be critical neither of the list nor of the contents of the books. The many of them I have read stand up well in comparison with stories from other locales and with writings for juveniles in general. But I think we should be aware of discriminatory practices, whether intentional or not, and of the subtle 'putting down' by which many female students are gently

persuaded to not try to develop fully their talents and abilities. I believe that when this happens, as it so often does, it is a great loss to the woman-she-will-become and to all of us as a society.

Nowhere in any of these stories is a mother featured as an exciting or adventuring or interesting person, living a life to be admired or aspired to. Yet this is every girl's prospect, n'est ce pas?

Oh yes, the 16th story (for those who count) is about a family in the Cariboo, which is adopted by a wolf, a He-Wolf.

Dorcas H. Blair Bowser

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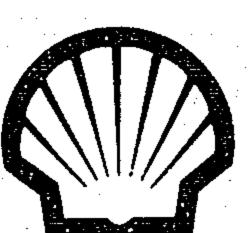
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THE B.C. TEACHER, MARCH-APRIL, 1978

## UBC Spring ~ Summer 78

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Summer Session credit courses normally run Monday through Friday, two hours daily, 8 am — 4 pm, July 4 to August 11. Non-B.C. residents new to UBC must apply for admission by April 17; B.C. residents new to UBC must apply by May 15. Deadline for course registration (without a late fee) is June 1.

Courses are available in the faculties of Arts, Commerce and Business Administration, Education, Science and Graduate Studies and in the Schools of Home Economics, Librarianship, and Physical Education.

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ATTRACTIVE, SPACIOUS. Furn. 1 bedroom apartment — available July 1 - Aug. 30. Kits area — Vancouver. Close to beach, downtown and UBC (10 min.), \$250.00 per month. Contact: J. Radke, 309 - 2330 Maple St., Van. Voj. 316. Phone 738-0086.

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COMFORTABLE, ATTRACTIVE. 6 room house in Pt. Grey available for summer session. 5 mins. to UBC. Adults only, no pets. References, please. \$450 plus utilities. 4055 W. 14th Ave., Van. VóR 2X3. 224-2523.

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COQUITLAM SUMMER RENTAL. Mod. 4 bdrm. split level, levely park-like yard in quiet area. 5 min. to bus, shops, parks & pool, 15 min. to SFU. Avail. Jul. 1 - Aug. 15. \$100/wk. incl. W&D, D.W. util. & loc. ph. Phone: 464-0062 or write G. Longstoff, 2947 Surf Cr., Coq. V3C 3S7.

COTTAGE FOR RENT — JULY — VASEUX LAKE. Swimming, fishing, boating on beautiful Vaseux Lake. Bird sanctuary — no motorboats. Two bedroom furnished cottage, full plumbing and electric stove. Wharf and safe boat. \$120/week. Write — W. Sparke, 132 Mitchell Place. Penticton V2A 4E3.

**DELUXE WATERFRONT** suite on seashore. Long Hbr., Sallspring Is. for July & August rental. Dishwasher, covered pool boat, dock. \$125 per week. Over 2 people extra. Cunningham 537-2308, R.R.3, Ganges.

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FOR RENT. July 3rd — August 16th. 5-bedroom house in Sunny Richmond; 30 minutes UBC; 45 from SFU; low rent in exchange for feeding cat. Children welcome. 8180 Fairlane Road, Richmond, V7C 1Y4.

FOR RENT. July, Aug. — 3 bedroom Shaughnessey home, spacious grounds, beautifully furnished — \$495 per month, all found — 738-6481.

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VANCOUVER SUMMER RENTAL. Lovely 2-bedroom apt on the beach in Vancouver's West End. Fireplace, dishwasher, close to bus. No children or pets. Available July 1 - Sept. 1. Cost \$525.00 per month. Includes utilities and parking. Phone 669-9066.

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ACCOMMODATION WANTED. Mature teacher and son (10), both responsible people, will take excellent care of your home or apt. (plants, garden, pets, etc.) in return for small rent. UBC area pref. — not essential. Use of plano if pos. — but not essential. For (June) July and August. Impeccable refs. E. Frallck, c/o D.J. Smith, 12 Belle Ayre Blvd., Toronto M4S 2P7.

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WANTED. Furnished accommodation for summer school in Victoria from July 2 through August 17th. Have a small house dog. Contact R. Summers, 1341 Alexa Cres., Prince George, B.C.

WANTED TO RENT. Furnished house near UVIc for graduate student and family for summer school session. References available. Contact D. Wagg, 6041 Hyacinth Place, Dungan, B.C. V9L 3Y8. 748-3973.

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Continued on page 165

The Northern School Board operates schools in twenty-six communities in northern Saskatchewan. These vary from small isolated settlements to larger more urbanized communities such as La Ronge. The Board is looking for experienced, open-minded, flexible teachers who are willing to become an integral part of a northern community. Teachers with some experience in a cross cultural setting will be given preference.

Our schools are modern, well-equipped and designed for community use. Successful candidates must be willing to further the community-school concept promoted by the Board.

Apply to: Marusia Gryba, Administrative Assistant, Northern School Board, 300 Twelfth Bldg., 48 - 12th St. East, Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 1B2.

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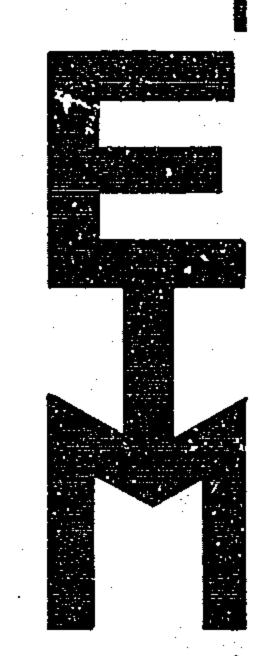
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Mary Helen Richards and staff of the

Richards Institute of Music Education and Research 149 CORTE MADERA, PORTOLA VALLEY, CA. 94025 Middle schools developed from a special set of social conditions to the U.S.A. Let's look before we leap to adopt such schools here.

# Let's not be too quick to jump on the middle school bandwagon

#### ARTHUR OLSON

● The United States has witnessed a major reorganization of the educational structure for students in the middle school years. The number of middle schools has grown from fewer than 500 in 1963 to more than 2,500 in 1977

Studies done on the middle school indicate a trend away from the 6-3-3 pattern to the newer 4-4-4 organization.

This phenomenal change in such a short period of time must be based on overwhelming evidence. The junior high school has failed to accomplish the goals set for itself in meeting the interests, needs and concerns of the adolescent. It has typically become a miniature senior high school with departmentalization, rigid scheduling and concerns about maintaining standards as opposed to meeting the needs of students with varying abilities.

As originally perceived, the junior high school was a bridge between the opposing philosophies and resultant curriculums of the elementary and the senior high school. One cannot help noting the similarities in the rationale for the middle school and the

concepts attributed to the junior high school movement. A look at the statements of rationale of several exponents for the movement suggests three justifications:

- 1. To provide programs uniquely adapted to the wide range of individual differences and special needs of the age
- 2. To provide a sequence of school experiences that promote continuity of education through the grades.
- 3. To provide through a new organizational structure the impetus for innovations in curriculum and instruction.

If the program for the junior high school had achieved its goals, there would be no need for change except to reorganize by years to compensate for the changes in earlier maturation of students.

The initial junior high school movement was not founded on educational concerns, but was an attempt to adjust the overcrowding conditions caused by the post World War I baby boom. The hastily constructed pattern — the junior high — inherited the schedule, departmentalization, activities, philosophy and, of course, the Carnegie

unit requirements. It became staffed mostly by teachers prepared for teaching in the senior high school and so quickly adopted all of the senior school's characteristics.

If the junior high school movement had considerations other than educational ones for its development, can we raise similar concerns about the middle school movement? Bernard Gross found that the five-through-eight unit is more common in urban areas, where, in addition to pursuing its educational objectives, it is being used as a device to foster integration. Gross's conclusion was supported by the David Kurtzman plan for desegregating the schools of Philadelphia, one that incorporated the use of middle schools.

The report recommended that the district's 21 school planning areas be combined into a smaller number of educational service areas to expedite desegregation of the schools, and that the school buildings in each area be organized on a kindergartento-four, five-to-eight, and nine-to-twelve basis.

It also recommended that locations for conversions to each grade span be planned Continued on page 166

#### Simon Fraser University Credit Courses Summer Semester 1978

The following courses are av.: lable by DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY:

Introduction to Fiction
ENGL 102-3
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GEOG 344-3
Modern Industrial Societies
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G.S. 106-3 Introduction to Opera HIST 484-5 History of Women in North America, 1830 to the Present KIN. 100-3 Introduction to Human Structure and Function KIN. 110-3
Current Topics
in Human Nutrition
POL. 131-3
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PSYC 340-3
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S.A. 250-4
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Sociological Theory

Persons seeking admission or re-admission to the University must apply prior to March 31, 1978. For further information or application forms, contact: DISC PROGRAM, Continuing Studies, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, V5A 1S6. Telephone: 291-4565.



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November 10, 1977 December 24, 1977 December 16, 1977 December 7, 1977 December 18, 1977 May 2, 1977 December 4, 1977 December 12, 1977

December 7, 1977 December 25, 1977 December 28, 1977 December 25, 1977 January 6, 1978 December 6, 1977 November 30, 1977

November 11, 1977

CLASSIFIED, continued from page 163

Eleanor (McLean) Truscott

FOR RENT. Portreath, Cornwall. Spend your summer in this beautiful part of England. Modern townhouse, Georgian style, available from June 1st to Sept. 1st. situated in seaside village 200 yards from surfing beach. 2 bdrm, fully equipped. \$500.00/mth or \$1200/ three months. Phone after 5 — 228-0888. Will consider an exchange.

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#### MISCELLANEOUS

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HISTORIAN making study of B.C. local aducational history and of BCTF 1917 - present would like to obtain any or all of the following: (1) J.H. Putman and G.M. Welr. Survey of the School System. Victoria, 1925; (2) H.B. King. School Finance in British Columbia. Victoria, 1935; (3) M.A. Cameron. Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Educational Finance. Victorio, 1946; (4) B.C. Teacher. 1921-1939 (any); (5) B.C. School Trustee, any; (6) Department of Education, Annual Report, 1919-1939 (any). Please write: W.A. Bruneau, Faculty of Education, UBC, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5.

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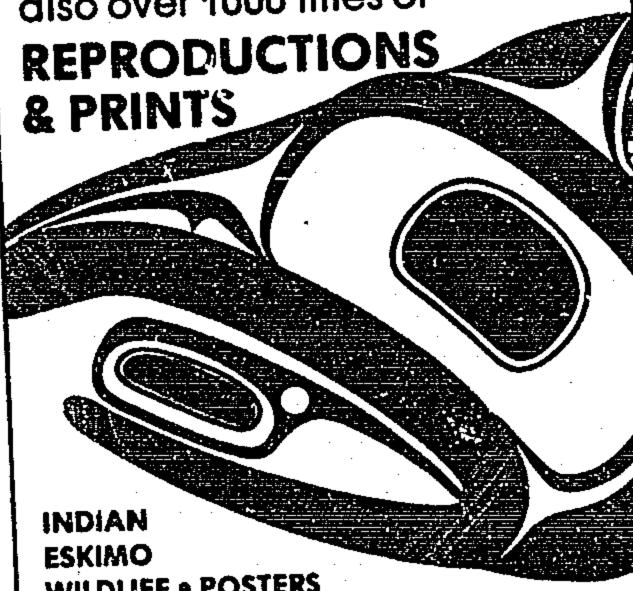
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THE B.C. TEACHER, MARCH-APRIL, 1978

Continued from page 164

to bring about the maximum racial balance possible. It is understandable that we can gain public support for changes in school structure, but we should not become victims of our own propaganda.

If the middle school is to emerge as more than a gigantic disaster it must serve the needs of the learner, and its curriculum should include certain characteristics.

- The program of the school must not rely on organized knowledge as the focal point of the curriculum. A variety of learning experiences should be provided to foster the personal development areas and continuous, planned activities must be organized to ensure continued learning skill progress.
- Some form of continuous progress should be maintained to allow the individual to progress at his/her own rate of development along with an evaluation system that assures optimum progress in learning. Continuity must become an integral part of the curriculum.
- •Flexibility must be a key concept in organizing subject areas, schedules, learning resources and teaching-learning methods.
- Emphasis should be placed on the learner, to provide for the wide range of individual differences.

Let's not be too quick to jump on the middle school bandwagon

A survey done of the middle schools indicated that a small fraction had curriculums that differed significantly from that of the junior high. Several findings from the survey testify to the discrepancies between theory and practice:

- 1. The most common reason given for establishing the middle school was over-crowding.
- 2. The activities did not differ from those of the junior high school in cumicular offerings or departmental organization.
- 3. Over half the schools including Grade 5 retained the typical self-contained class-room. Grades 7 and 8 used the junior high school's departmental organization.
- 4. Exploratory electives were minimal for Grades 7-8 and nonexistent for Grades 5-6.
- 5. Only a few schools used more innovative teaching organizational structures, such as team teaching, modular scheduling and cross-grade grouping.
- 6. Over 70% scheduled five to seven daily periods of uniform length.

- 7. Sharing of faculty and programs was nonexistent either within schools or between schools.
- 8. Almost 90% of the schools used the traditional A-E system for evaluating achievement.

The weight of the evidence concerning the expansion of the middle school should encourage us all to stop to re-evaluate our general purposes and goals. Canadian educators should be aware that the growth of the middle school movement in the United States has received its impetus from the social conditions unique to its social structure. Before we embrace the middle school concept, we should be very clear about its projected goals, and plan sufficiently to ensure that it is correcting the educational ills that make it worth considering.

Any change in the established pattern offers the opportunity to make fundamental improvements. In considering the middle school, we must be sure it can meet its goals, so that it does not become another development in education that failed to live up to its promise. O

References on request

Arthur Olson is a professor in the Faculty of Education, University of Victoria.

#### teachers

The Government of Yukon seeks applications from qualified teachers for the 1978/79 school year.

It is anticipated that positions will be available at all grade levels and in various subject areas throughout the Yukon school system.

Prospective candidates must have a minimum of two years education beyond Grade 12, including one year protessional teacher training. Candidates must also hold or be eligible to obtain a valid teaching certificate from one of the Canadian provinces.

The following is the salary schedule which concluded on August 31, 1977 — (An arbitration decision for a 12% increase has been submitted to the Anti-inflation Board.)

Class II Class III Class IV Class V Class VI \$11,681 \$13,555 \$16,151 \$17,449 \$18,458 Max. \$17,291 \$20,188 \$24,511 \$26,095 \$27,310

Interviews will be held in major Western Canadian cities during the latter part of March and/or the first part of April. Candidates will be required to attend interviews at their own expense.

Applications should include coples of university transcripts, teaching certificate and most recent reports on teaching performance.

Apply to:

Teacher Recruitment Officer, Public Service Commission, Government of Yukon, P.O. Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

# The story of wheat

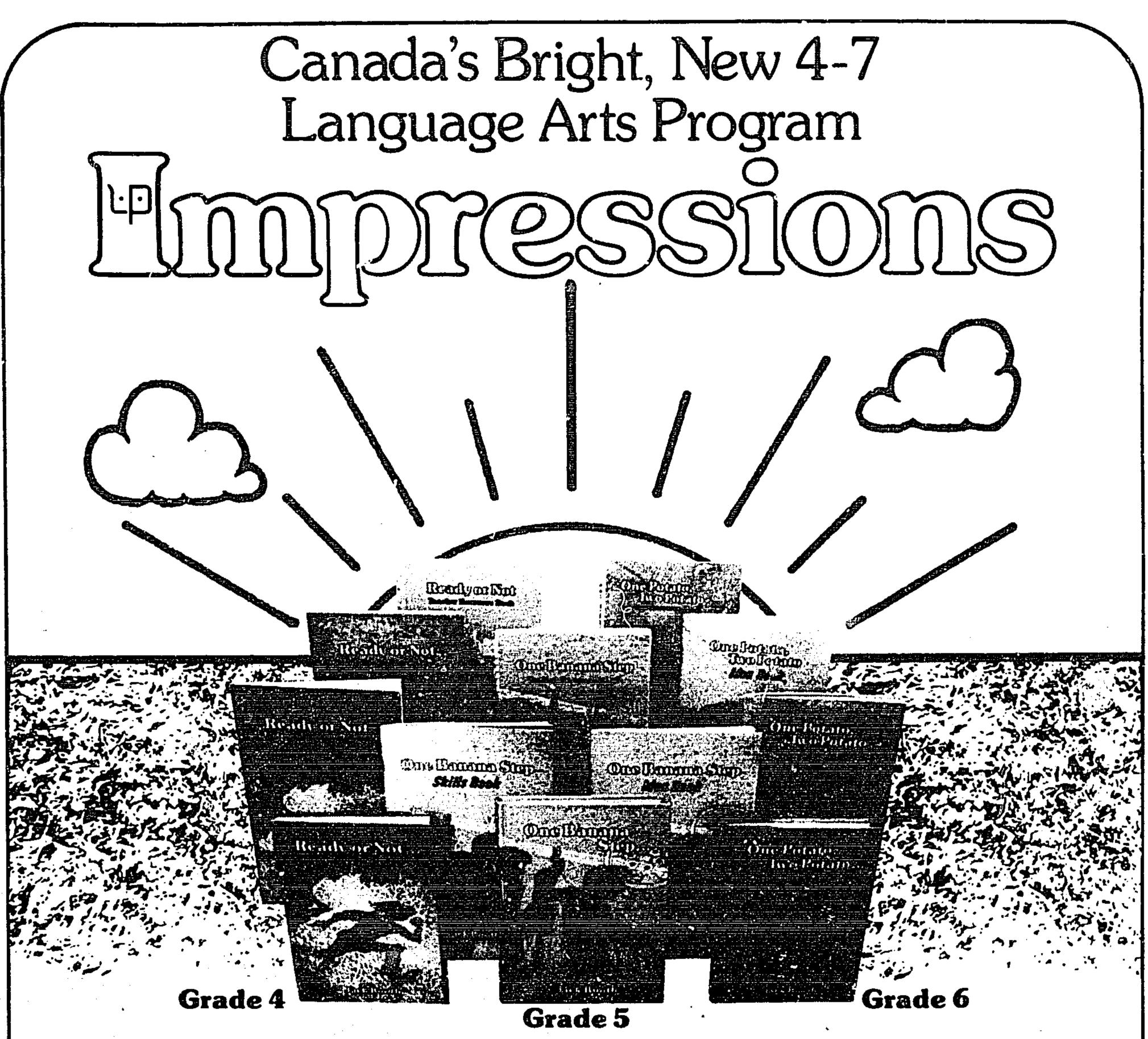
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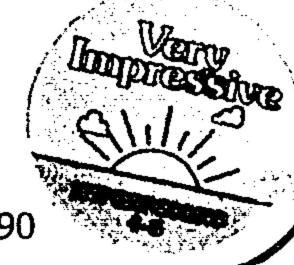
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