

PEARSON VISION

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Opinion: Hypocrite High

By BRAD FISHER

Not too long ago, as I recall, they passed an interesting little law about smoking on school property... something about it being, oh, I don't know... ILLEGAL? And yet every day, kids between the ages of fourteen and eighteen stand out back, occasionally bothering to step over the pathetic "border" between school property and public property, smoking their little lungs off.

Now, as you may have heard, the police will apparently be bringing drug-sniffing dogs into the hallowed halls of our fair school any day now. If they are so gung-ho as to nab some more criminals, then why not start with the obvious? No offense, of course, but have you tried looking behind the large red brick building? I hope your patrol car seats a hundred.

I know that they have their reasons for not doing so, and some of them may be good ones. But I can't think of any.

Not enough manpower, you say? You're telling me that of all your



Smokers', as it is known throughout the school, is becoming increasingly congested as more and more high school students take up the addictive habit.

officers, not one of them can spare even ten minutes out of his or her schedule to make an easy pick-up? I wasn't aware that we lived in Los Angeles.

Too small a crime to bother, you say? Well then, when does it become big enough? Is there really any law not worth enforcing? And if so, then what exactly IS your job?

On the brighter side, I have heard that some members of the faculty have done what they can to discourage underage smokers from using school property for their own private ashtray, and for this I commend them. But it just doesn't seem to be enough. On the other hand, when common sense is not enough to stop people from doing

something, then is anything enough?

I guess the answer lies in the human heart - safely nestled between a pair of paper-thin, tar-black lungs.

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What do you think?

Questions and comments about newspaper articles or current events at the school are welcome and will be published if appropriate. Please submit them at the office care of the Pearson Vision newspaper.



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Earth Day

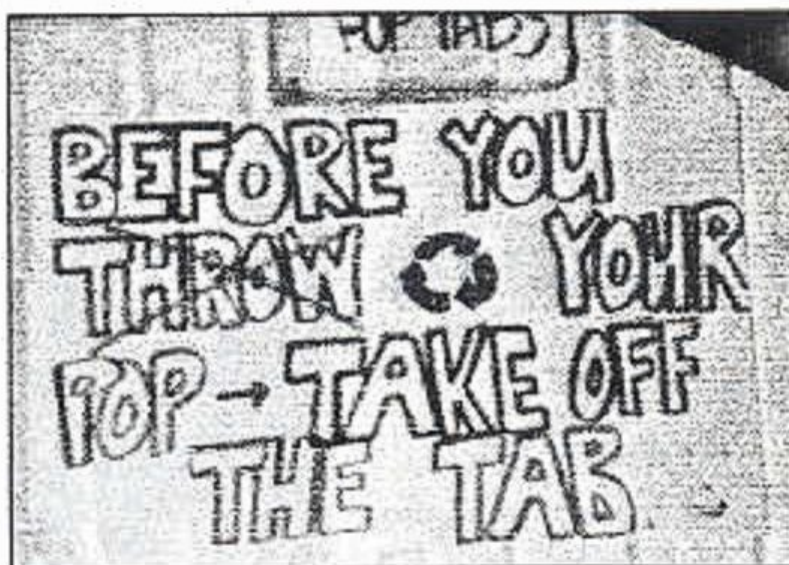
By DAN OLDEN / MELANIE BROOKS

April 22 was Earth Day. It is a time to celebrate the day dedicated to the preservation of our natural environment.

Earth Day is a day to reflect on your habits and how they can affect the environment. Whether it be cosmetics (made from whales) or paper (from trees, as you hopefully know), keep in mind your actions can create ripple effects that can lead to serious consequences, not only today, but in the future as well.

SAFE (Students Acting For the Environment) is an organization within the school that creates activities and initiatives to help preserve our natural environment.

SAFE is currently collecting pop tabs as a way of promoting recycling within the school. The tabs collected will go towards the purchase of a new wheelchair for a needy person. The pop tab drive is a yearly initiative for most of Halton's secondary schools. This is the first year Pearson's environmental group has participated, and it is doing well so far.



SAFE (Students Acting For the Environment) have organized several programs to help the environment.

Yesterday, the members of SAFE made trips to C.H. Norton and Dr. Charles Best public schools. The group took with them 350 tree-growing kits to plant with the children's help. The initiative was designed to help young people in our community to play a more active role in protecting our environment.

Bye Bye Birdie

This year's musical, *Bye Bye Birdie*, is a satirical play about an Elvis-like rock 'n' roll idol who gets drafted. He travels to the small Iowa town of Sweet Apple to give "one last kiss" to his number-one fan.

Songs include *Put on a Happy Face*, *We Love You, Conrad and Kids*.

Bye Bye Birdie will be shown in the Pearson caf from May 7-10.

Tickets can be purchased from the cast, crew or organizers of the musical. Ticket prices will be announced shortly.

Authorized Personnel Only

By MELANIE BROOKS

Teachers with photo i.d. cards clipped to their shirts could soon become commonplace in Halton schools.

A recent string of abduction attempts in Halton public schools has forced the Board of Education to take more extreme measures to ensure the safety of its students.

Beginning later this month, public school teachers will be required to wear picture identification. The initiative was designed to make it more difficult for potential

kidnappers from passing unnoticed within a school. Students and teachers will know at a glance if someone doesn't belong on the premises.

The identification cards are being provided without charge from Lifetouch Canada Inc. as a thank you for all the work the company has received from taking school pictures.

If the program succeeds it may at some point be initiated in Halton Secondary Schools. I.D. Photos of Pearson teachers have already been taken.

Nothing to be afraid of

By ROB CARD

What is everybody afraid of? It is a question that has interested me ever since I heard that the planning for the talent show we were to have stopped. Apparently there were not enough people trying out. Hence my question: what is everybody afraid of?

There is no doubt in my mind that there is talent in this school, people with skills and abilities beyond what others can do. Those people should not be afraid to demonstrate these abilities. This show would only have served to show others what this school can do - in short, to show off. There is nothing wrong with doing so; that is what a talent show is meant for.

As for those of you out there who scoff at the idea, call it childish. Laugh all you want, we now know who doesn't have the talent in this school, or who is at least afraid to show it. There is nothing childish about what each person in this school can do, what

proficiencies are hidden in the minds and bodies of our students.

It is too late now to do anything about the show, but as for those who tried out I congratulate you. For those who thought they might, but then shrugged it off and never did I say trust yourself. You can only go as far as you push yourself, in anything. It was you they needed and wanted, it is people like you who make a show what it is. As for those who mocked the idea of a show, I would hate to imagine where such limited vision would get you in life.

There is one consolation. I hear that in its place the school is planning a battle of the bands. This seems to be much more widely accepted. My question now is, these bands are displaying their talents, aren't they? What's wrong with that?

The answer, of course, is - nothing

Grad '97 Update

Grad '97, to be held June 12 at Carmen's, is now fully underway. Plan to arrive between 5:30-6:30 p.m. Maps to Carmen's will be provided with the tickets, which will be available for pick-up in two-three weeks.

Upon arrival at Carmen's you and a friend/date can have a free photo taken. Each couple will receive two copies of their picture which

will be available for pick-up at the school on exam take-up day. Photos will not be mailed out.

The final payment for grad is April 24. There will be no exceptions as all final payments on glasses and the hall are due April 28.

Due to the lack of interest in the T-shirts, the limo draw will likely not be held.

Strikes are in the air

When teachers are gone is there reason to go to school? McMaster University was the first to come up with the substitute 'Video-VCR' prof and has received many positive responses because of it.

Rumor has it that the Halton Secondary School Teachers' contracts are up soon. Does this jeopardize life at Pearson? The Catholic school teachers were planning on walking out, and York University is now in the midst of a long strike - I deserve another March Break, don't you? It's not that the teachers don't like their students, it just may come down to a dollar figure per student. The rich will get educated and the poor won't.

What about the saying I heard recently: "Engineers ask how, scientists ask why and arts students ask 'would you like fries with that?'" Is this the typical stereotype of our generation? After all, it's not what you know but who you know, right?

If our teachers where to just pick up and leave one day, does it mean that after the required one week of strike the government forces them to go back to work? Is this just a one-sided battle? It's true that our children are our future, but if no one's there to guide them then the system falls apart.

The writer prefers to remain anonymous.



Only for Gods

By BRAD FISHER

Sometimes
I dream
I want to take you in my arms
enfold you
hold you
and sweep you away
through limitless thought
that's lighter than air
to Eden
We could walk on unending
paths
that lead us to nowhere
and everywhere
We could stop and smell the
flowers
and watch the world go by
and not even care
We could feel the unspeakable
joy of union
of joining
of being one with each other
and the world
And we could live forever
always knowing
that the next day
that at any moment
all we need do is embrace
and nothing else would matter
But then I stop dreaming
and I start trying to make it
real
and it all falls apart
Just like every good plan does
and you sigh
and I cry
and inside my hopes die
because heaven isn't made for
mortals.

Labyrinth of Emotions

By LYNDONELLE BACUNGAN

The light of the day turns solid black
As I mourn for the yellowing of the leaves
The cold of the night and the tears in my eyes
That dampens the soil which my soul contains

The light of the sun goes through my puzzled face
And in that light I see a shadow from my past
That engulfed my very spirit with love and compassion
For the past that I had very much forgotten

The light of the sun soon disappeared into dusk
And darkness engulfed my soul.
The coldness and bitterness in my heart
Had stirred and conquered the very essence of my life

The light turns to dusk and the dusk turns to light
Like the very emotions that fleets to my mind
For the body that now belongs to the heart of the earth
And to the soul that was left mourning for the loss he had
suffered.

Watery Steps to Heaven

By ANONYMOUS

Without need of a summons
I am drawn to you.
I make my way unflinching
across your changing void of light and dark,
the presence of you never leaving my consciousness.

I am filled with you, and although
I know you are eternal
I still long for you; long to
reach out for you and keep you
forever mine.

O, if I but knew a fraction of your purity;
For now, at least, I will comfort myself
with the simple knowledge of your existence,
and resign myself
to solitude.

Empty stomachs feed hungry imaginations

By KELLY BECKEN

Today, aliens and UFOs have manifested themselves in pop-culture. The huge success of T.V. shows such as *3rd Rock From the Sun* and *The X-Files* are testament to their growing popularity. Blockbuster movies like *E.T.* and *Independence Day* further prove the public is very much interested in the subject. Now more than ever people believe that life on other planets is very much a possibility and that aliens do exist. Indeed, some of us have even claimed to have seen them.

This steady rise in popularity has helped to fuel funding for space programs in the wealthier western

nations. Billions of dollars each year are injected into such programs. The space station *Muir* and the frequent visits to the station by U.S. astronauts are obvious examples. I admit the thought of life in outerspace is quite thrilling, and I think it would be wonderfully exciting to explore our universe, but something is just not right.

If aliens did indeed visit our planet what would they think? In a world where more than half of the population is struggling for daily survival, money in the western world is being spent frivolously. Of course money spent on space programs is just

the tip of the iceberg. I could go on indefinitely if I were to write of all the money we waste; however, one thing at a time. Perhaps the thought of another life-supporting planet gives a hope of escape from the unpleasant reality that is all-too-real for the impoverished of this planet.

I don't wish to preach. After all, the very fact that I am an active member of western society makes me a hypocrite. However, as an active member of society, I suggest we take a good look at where our money is going.

It's time we dealt with our problems here on planet earth. *E.T.* will simply have to wait.

May 24 Weekend

By T.J. JUTLA

Look out weekend, 'cause here I come - because weekends were made for fun!

Rock 'n Roll, partying all night, getting into clubs underage, drinking, having fun; but what are we celebrating again? The annual fun weekend we all look forward to is actually when we recognize all that Britain has done for Canada. It is also the weekend with the most accidents. Queen Victoria (the reason we all get a day off) must be proud of that. So this Victoria Day weekend,

whether you're thinking about England's guidance to help Canada survive (unlikely) or you're helping a club-land animal overcome a typically happy hangover the next morning, remember: Canadians' use of liquor simply reflects the example laid down for us over the years by the British monarchy.

After all, the royal family demonstrates the ideal morals and values that everyone should share.

Monthly Top Ten

By ROB CARD

Top ten rejected shows by the CBC:

10. When Harry Killed Sally
9. Wheel of Misfortune
8. Star Truck: The First Generation
7. Nowhere Falls Iowa: 60315
6. Yesterday's News Today
5. Haywatch - Tales From the Farm
4. Mad About Someone Else
3. America's Least Wanted
2. Gardening with Conan
1. Acquainta



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Snacking weeth Pierre

By PIERRE LAGROS

Salut, salut mes amis! Eet ees, how you say, très bien to be back! I 'ave been seek for so long now, and finally I can return to you my wonderful knowledge of food. Thees month, Pierre has for you a delectable treat that may remind you of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. I am sure you have tried them, no? Well, they are nothing! Rien! Next to the genius of Pierre, these "candy" companies are mere beggars! Een France, they would be laughed at and spat upon! I am... euh, let us get back to zee recipe, non? Get ready to make "Pierre's No-Bake Peanut-Chocolate Squares"!

You weel need: 1 cup softened margarine, 1 cup peanut butter (zee crunchy kind ees best), 2 1/2 cups icing sugar, 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs, 6-ounces semi-sweet chocolate pieces.

Begin by blending zee margarine and peanut butter een a large bowl. Stir in zee sugar and zee graham cracker crumbs until all are thoroughly mixed. Zen press zee mixture evenly eento a 9x13 eench pan. Melt zee chocolate een zee microwave (about 2 1/2 minutes) until smooth, zen spread quickly over squares. Place een refrigerator and chill until firm. Cut eento small squares.

Well, zat ees eet for now, mes amis. Until next time, remember: zee making is good, but zee eating ees better! Enjoy!

Simpsons Trivia

By DAN OLDEN

1. What is the name of Principal Skinner's mother?
2. What is Homer's middle name?
3. What is Mr. Burns' real first name?
4. How old is Hans Moleman?
5. What is the only practical use for geometry?
6. Who keeps the Metric System down? (exact quote)
7. What animal bit Ted Kennedy and who owned it?
8. What is the name of Homer's brother?
9. Why do the children have a right to laugh at Ralph?
10. What animal did Bart win from a phone-in radio contest? What was his other option?
11. What are the names of the Flanders kids?
12. Who did the PinPals meet in the bowling championship?
13. Who was the channel 6 news anchorman in the 1960s?
14. What is the name of Selma's pet lizard?
15. Who won the diorama exhibit? What did it consist of?

(Answers on page 7)

What?

By ROB CARD

Here are some misspoken statements and figures of speech:

- We have buttered our bread, and now we have to lie in it.
- He's the type to cut your throat behind your back.
- A case of the tail biting the dog.
- We took the thunder out of his sails.
- Pulling out all the punches.
- He pulled the wool right out from under my feet.
- People are dying like hot cakes.
- It was as easy as falling off a pie.
- Up a tree without a paddle.
- Don't kiss a gift horse in the mouth.
- I can barely keep my feet above water.
- I don't want to jump the gun and be left out on a limb.
- And this is only a chip off of the iceberg.
- We'll burn the bridge when we come to it.
- The sparks will hit the fan.

*All entries were taken from More Anguished English by Richard Lederer



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Playback

By DAN OLDEN

CD REVIEW:

Jewel
Pieces of You

Jewel is a hot new rising soft rock/alternative sensation whose debut album is far from lacking. The album, entitled *Pieces of You*, has currently a total of two singles (not to say there aren't any more!), *Who Will Save Your Soul* and *You Were Meant for Me*.

The first time I heard this album I was shocked to find that right in the middle there is a whole stretch of live tunes. Rarely does a debut album display such a blend of talent and originality. Different and cool. A good idea for any collection.

Simpsons Trivia Answers

(from page 6)

1. Agnus
2. James
3. Charles
4. 36
5. Miniature golf
6. "We do!"
7. Llama; Kent Brockman
8. Herbert
9. His parents won't let him use scissors
10. An Elephant; \$10,000
11. Rod and Todd
12. Holy Rollers
13. Kenny Brocklesten
14. Jub-Jub
15. Ralph; Star Wars figures

FOCUS:

Marilyn Manson

"I'm bigger than Satan"
-Marilyn Manson

Making assumptions about people based solely on their music choice would not be just. However, when the members of the band publicly announce their beliefs and tell their fans that by supporting them you're also supporting their beliefs, inferences can be made.

Marilyn Manson is without a doubt the most controversial band around today. Manson has made it known to the public that he supports many things deemed wrong by society. Pro-drug usage, pro-unprotected sex, pro-physical torture, etc. Manson wants the world to be individual, everyone

unique and special in their own way. Yes, I agree with that, and it gave me some respect for him - until a week later when he thanked all his fans for dressing like him and wanting to be just the same as him. Now Manson strove for everyone to be the same, to be like him.

With all this controversy, you have to wonder how Manson's support has grown. Maybe it is because of the odd ideas and portrayal of life, but if it is, I grow disappointed in the human race. I would have figured that we could be smarter than to be sucked in by five guys dressed lavishly and named after serial killers.



The members of Marilyn Manson: their album, *Smells Like Children*, displays the warning "Parental Advisory: Explicit Lyrics" on its cover.

As far as talent goes, I admit they have some - but when their ideology is as whacked out as it is, all respect is lost. Marilyn Manson disgusts me. Those who like Manson and thus hate this article have a right to be offended if they want. After all, everyone is an individual, right?

PATRIOT

PART SIX

