

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM

# pearson vision

LESTER B. PEARSON HIGH SCHOOL

DECEMBER 1997

ISSUE 2

## ATTENTION FUTURE UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE STUDENTS!!

by Sean Shaw  
OAC Student

Well, well, well. Yet again the provincial government, who claims to be looking out for our futures (that is us, the students) has once again shown its true colours. On Monday, December 15, 1997, Finance Minister Ernie Eves gave Ontario Universities the go ahead to raise their tuition fees by as much as 20%! This announcement is added on to the 30% increase, for a grand total of a 50% hike, that the Tories have already allowed since they have come into power. What this means in dollar figures to you, the future university students, is a potential increase from \$3,234 to \$3,900, almost a \$700 dollar increase over the next two years. This, however, is by no means strictly a problem created by the money hungry Mike Harris regime. These, almost yearly increases in tuition fees, have been occurring over the past two decades. If the tuition fee wasn't bad enough, there are still books, activity fees and transportation costs. For those who choose not to attend a local school there are also accommodation and food costs. These come out to an estimated \$6,600 for staying at home and \$10,000+ for those living on or around the campus (university prices). I personally have decided to work full-time next semester and all

summer, because I intend to stay in residence at Guelph University. The troublesome thing that I have found is that I cannot realistically obtain the over \$10,000 that I need, I also am relying on some supplementation from my family and maybe even the government. To put this in perspective, in the early 1960's the tuition fee was a mere \$600 per year. An average student had to work forty hours a week plus overtime, all summer, to make \$1,000 dollars, enough to also pay for books. In thirty-five years the tuition fee has increased by over 600%. While wages, for students, have only increased by 415%, that is a negative difference of 185%. I won't even try to touch upon the job market after graduation from post-secondary. My question is, when is this going to subside? How much do the universities and government believe that the average student can handle? It seems that this province, that is supposed to be a land of equal opportunity education, is going towards a system based on education for the rich, leaving the majority of students out in the cold, and in the red.

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# ALTERNATE **visions**

**LETTERS TO EDITOR:** Any concerns which you would like to see addressed, as well as comments upon the general content of this newspaper will in the future fill this space. If you have information on, or an idea for, an upcoming story or event that you think we should cover; please do not hesitate to write to us.

## ALL HAIL MIKE

It's about time we all gave Mike Harris a break. I mean, here he is trying to fulfill his mandate and cut out the fat in Ontario's various bureaucracies, and instead of thanking him for his wonderful work, people seem to be going out of their way to make his life more difficult. Consider the uproar created by the teacher's unions over Bill-160: the Education Quality Improvement Act. In a perfect world, the Bill would already be through the legislature and enacted without any fuss, muss or tiresome and pointless debate. Kudos to Mike and company for standing their ground and not caving in to special interests! But the job's not done yet.

Think of all the fat that's still left to cut, all of which can be dealt with in Bill-161: the Government Quality Improvement Act. I mean, really, what's the use of three parties when one would do easily? And with only one party, well, we certainly wouldn't have any need for

elections. There's another waste of time and energy, especially since the vast majority of people who run don't even get elected, so let's just do away with them.

The best way I can think of to make the legislature more efficient is to cut the number of MPPs who I'm certain spent much less time in the House than the national average. The few MPPs that remain can be appointed for a certain geographic area, and by this it will be assured that the most qualified persons run the province.

Mike Harris has made a policy of not bowing to special interests, and Bill-161 fulfils that promise like all his others. We must trust the government to do what's best for us, after all, they must know better, and aren't the voters the biggest special interest group of all? (the writer would prefer to remain anonymous)

**Well, never let it be said that the editor of this paper is unwilling to present views which may differ from his own (or the majority of the**

**staff). Thank you anonymous, perhaps we have been doing just a bit too much Harris-bashing.**

## AXE AL

After reading the first edition of the new Pearson Vision newspaper I was amazed by its high journalistic standards. I was, however, very much dismayed by the inclusion of the "Ask Al" advice column. I'm sorry, but I think that was done in very poor taste. I just hope this was supposed to be a one-time joke.

(the writer wishes to remain anonymous)

**We're truly sorry if "Ask Al" offended anyone's delicate sensibilities. According to its writer, who in keeping with the current trend, wishes to remain anonymous, it was not meant to be taken seriously. And, as for other installments- that doesn't seem likely at the moment.**

Nick Gustafson



## WHAT'S AN ABBR..?

Well, since no one seems to know (or just couldn't be bothered) here are the answers to last month's police abbreviation contest

- |          |                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. OD    | OVERDOSE                          |
| 2. DOB   | DATE OF BIRTH                     |
| 3. PD    | POLICE DEPARTMENT                 |
| 4. B&E   | BREAKING &<br>ENTERING            |
| 5. DAV   | DISABLED VEHICLE                  |
| 6. LC    | LICENCE CANCELLED                 |
| 7. DH    | DETENTION HOME                    |
| 8. SWAT  | SPECIAL WEAPONS &<br>TACTICS TEAM |
| 9. DUI   | DRIVING UNDER<br>INFLUENCE        |
| 10. BOLO | BE ON THE LOOKOUT                 |

Of course we're hoping (unless you happen to go into police work) that none of these abbreviations become part of your regular vocabulary.

**Error**-Apologies for the small glitch in the lead story of the October edition "The Bigger Picture". It seems gremlins got into the computer and altered the font and formatting of "the." The staff regrets that some readers may have taken the writer to be a delusional individual.

## oops!

by Nick Gustafson

Here we are in high school for five years, learning any number of things all the time. Can we really be expected to be exactly right all the time? What follows are a number of indirect excerpts from Richard Lederer's "The Write Way," a compilation of genuine student bloopers in literature.

1. John Milton wrote Paradise Lost. After his wife died, he wrote Paradise Regained.
2. In MacBeth, Lady MacBeth tries to convince MacBeth to kill King Duncan by attacking his manhood.
3. During the banquet scene, Lady MacBeth is afraid MacBeth will expose himself in front of the guests.
4. In one of Shakespeare's famous plays, Hamlet rations out his situation by relieving himself in a long soliloquy. A soliloquy is a conversation between one person.
4. Miguel Cervantes wrote Donkey Hote.
5. After much fighting in the public square, Romeo's last wish is to be laid by Juliet.
6. Homer wrote the Oddity, in which Penelope is the last hardship the Odysseus endures on his journey.
7. One myth says that the mother of Achilles dipped him into the River Styx until he became intolerable.

Naturally. We'd never be so foolish (chuckle, chuckle..)

PEARSON VISION

Vol.2 No.2

December 1997

Published semi-monthly by the Patriot Press Group Ltd. Office of Publication: Lester B. Pearson High School 1433 Headon Road, Burlington, Ontario Canada L7M 1V7

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# I Still Know What You Did

I Know What You Did Last Summer

\*\*\*1/2

by Nick Gustafson  
MOVIE CRITIC

Riding the crest of the horror film popularity that may be said to have begun with 1996's *Scream* (which itself may have owed something to the earlier *Wes Craven's New Nightmare*), *I Know What You Did Last Summer* is a superior outing to the classic cut-em-up teen slasher film that inspired *Scream* and the more recent *Wishmaster*, unfortunately for all its attempts to cash in on current trends (as well as the stars of TV's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Party of Five*), *I Know What You Did Last Summer* never quite makes the mark.

Though slickly directed and well paced, the film's plot was simplistic at best and its characters had little more depth to them than the paper this review is written on. Essentially, it focuses on four small harbour community high school graduates who, before heading out into the world, attend one final party, drink too much, and run over a man who had been walking in the middle of the road. As is necessary for the continuation of the film, a bit of horror movie logic is utilized where by the corpse is tossed into the sea and the responsible parties enter an oath of secrecy never to reveal what happened.

Unfortunately, or predictably, the corpse lives and after a year or so, he decides to wreak his bloody revenge. And then the fun really starts.

## R.W.A. A NIGHT OF FUN

If you are interested in watching cheap, low budget wrestling, then the Renegade Wrestling Association is definitely the thing for you. I had the privilege of high-fiveing L'Artiste, the wrestler from Paris, Ontario. L'Artiste's ring attire is a lab coat with a caricature on the back of it. There are even wrestlers in the R.W.A. that are smaller than me, and I only weigh 135 lbs. My favourite part of the evening, other than watching wrestlers make fools out of themselves by falling off the ropes while doing high risk maneuvers, was all of the heckling that was going on. It's only eight bucks and you get a few laughs out of the lameness, stay tuned for more.

### COMING SOON...

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# FARCICAL IN NATURE?

by Sean Shaw

I found it very interesting to learn that, on the Friday prior to the teachers political protest, a small group of Pearson students decided to engage in a "protest" of their own. No doubt that this was started by a, or a few, students with all the best intentions to show their support for our

teachers. However, history has shown that these good intentions of a few are quickly perceived by the majority to be an excellent opportunity to skip class. That same week in schools clear across Ontario, including Burlington and Hamilton, a

number of these "walkouts" against Bill 160 took place with the same basic results. That being a minority of their student population joining in the protest, but a majority of them ignorant of the reasons that had them standing out in the cold. When the media arrived on the scene to document these events they always seemed to catch that majority standing in the streets, hanging from street posts and

holding up signs that were ill-informed in their content. To top it off the odd times that television stations interviewed some of the participants they always tend to find the stupidest student, who has no idea why or what he/she is doing protesting Bill 160. At least that small minority of Pearson students who decided to skip class were not organized enough, or

petition, communicating with student council, the principal, the teachers or if nothing else a well organized protest, outside of schooltime. To me there is nothing more counterproductive that concerned students could partake in than walking out of school during class time, to protest their education. If you are concerned with the state of

education or the future of education, sacrificing the very thing that you are fighting for is moronic. I cannot understand why students continue to think that this will have any impact on whatever the current issue is, when those who accompany them are mostly the degenerates of the school who are so uninformed that the entire protest becomes farcical in

nature. You would never, ever, find me skipping on even a small amount of my education to protest issues that affect it. This is directed to the leaders of the botched attempt at this walkout and to anyone who is thinking of forming another, write to me, the paper or the editor because we would like to hear your side of the story.



(photo by Joanne Leeson)

ON THE FRONT LINES: (from left to right) Mr. Edwards, Mr. Bloxham, Mr. Parnaby, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Caldarelli, and Mr. Gaul.

intelligent enough to actually make it to a major street. I say this because if they had made it that far their actions would surely have contributed to the public perception of the average student as an immature, uneducated moron. There are numerous other ways that the leaders of this "walkout" could have protested, and still can, the undemocratic nature and ramifications of this Bill. For example the cycling of a



# DOES ANYONE CARE?



WHY ARE THE STANDS EMPTY?

(photo by Joanne Leeson)

by Michael Halbmeier  
OAC Student

Has anyone noticed, or is it just me, that the support of and participation in our school sports has gone down the drain. When I came here in grade nine, sports was the way of the school. Almost everybody either participated as a team member or a spectator. It is true that in recent years our hockey teams have had great success,

but would anybody care to go to a game if they didn't get a day off classes, like we have for various football, and hockey games. The participation and commitment for various teams, has declined, I believe, due to a change of interests (wherever the difference has gone, it hasn't gone to the newspaper). The school spirit and support for our teams is virtually nil. I ask you the readers, help me figure it out, what has happened to Pearson sports?

## IT WON'T HURT YOU TO READ THIS...!

I understand what it must feel like to write for the school newspaper. One word comes in to my mind; lame. I however submit my two-bit articles, while still holding down a job and staying caught up in school. It definitely is not a time issue, it's a want issue. These articles that I write only take me five minutes at the most to write and it improves the paper. If you haven't already noticed this is an urgent cry to you the

reader to submit an article, since the announcements have gone unnoticed. If you are interested talk to either Mr. Henderson or Nick Gustafson, the meetings only last for five minutes and they are after school nearly every Monday in room 120.

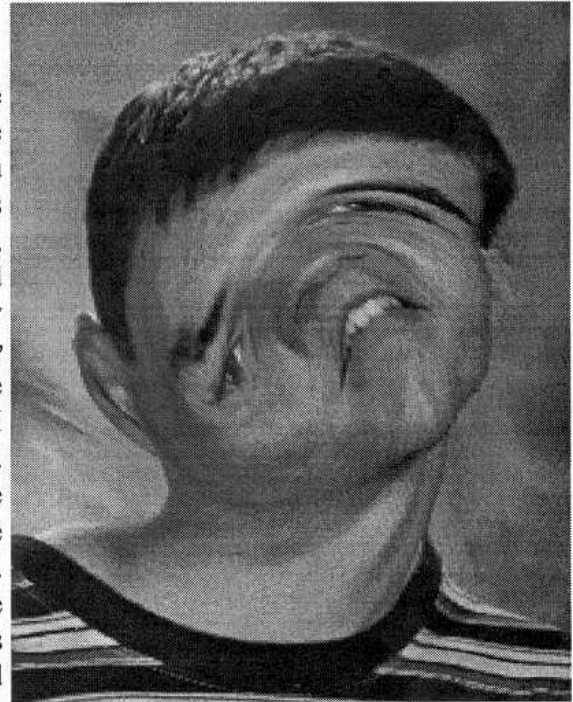
(submitted by a Vision writer)



## Welcome!!

This section will deal with crazy things as you may have guessed. Sometimes you will understand what will be discussed, like today for instance, but on other days, you simple minded fools won't have a clue. Ha Ha Ha!! Today's *Besprechung* will deal with Bill 160 and teaching in general, and then we'll lay this long dead matter of discussion behind us. I don't care that my bias will show through because my intention is not to show you both sides of the story, but the *only* side! Teachers in various classes have tried to persuade students to their side, and have won in most cases, I believe I am one of the few who hold the opposing view in the school. A few topics of interest include class sizes, salaries, and the total number of hours in the classroom. The teachers believe that in order to reduce class size more teachers should be hired. This increases the burden on taxpayers. True teachers are included as taxpayers, but they in turn benefit from the taxes they pay. The government is proposing that the teachers spend more time in the class room. This means not as much preparation time(the poor babies!), they will have to spend more hours teaching instead of sipping coffee in the staff room.

Can you believe what the government's asking!? The teachers will now have to work about half as much as the normal. The government can't do that, it's outrageous!! (If you can't tell, I'm laying the sarcasm on pretty thick.) Teachers have to work 8 months a year, whereas most other people have to work 11 months a year. Who are they kidding? It's plain to see that the teachers did not go on strike for the students. They should have gone on work to rule instead of a strike. Now that would have been funny, the teachers work half a day and then threaten to pull their services afterwards. OH NO, what will I ever do, they provide so much support, after school! (again the sarcasm). Another thing; what's with all the green ribbons. I'm glad that not all the teachers are wearing them, because they symbolize being against Bill 160, and if you haven't guessed I'm 100% for the bill. In my brother's school (which will remain nameless), all the students in grade 8 were given a green ribbon to wear, and they had to wear it, there was no choice in the matter. They told the students that it was something for the Parent Council but gave no further details. I'm outraged at this matter because I don't believe that a thirteen year old has enough information and insight to come to a decision in this matter, and justifiably defend it. I have also seen "Harris Free Zone" stickers, and NDP stickers around our school. This comment is for you people; get real! The NDP and that damned Bob Rae is the reason the Harris Government is having to do what they are doing. Everybody should be cheering Mike Harris, he is the only politician to do what he said that he would do in his election campaign. We can't afford to go spend money the way Bob Rae did. The Harris government may not be elected into office in the next election because it has done all the dirty work the other parties were not willing to do. I also know that not all the teachers agreed with the strike and didn't want to participate, I salute you soldiers, and wish more power to you! You other teachers, NDP supporters, WAKE UP, and GET REAL!! Your strike laid off a lot of workers, bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria personnel, among others. Your strike was not a good example to the millions of students who were out of school. What was the message you were trying to show them? When you can't get something, use force, flex your muscles and try to give someone a black eye to make them reconsider? What a great example! I'm sorry to say I have lost a lot of respect for teachers because of this and I don't now if you can win me back. Crazy Uncle Mankle saluting you, until next time take care!



crazy uncle mankle

a self portrait

**THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CRAZY UNCLE MANKLE DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE PEARSON VISION**



**THE HEART'S FIRE**

by Brad Fisher

When I'm blind, I look inside for answers  
And I feel there  
Melting a thousand rational thoughts  
An intense orb of light  
Burning away at me  
(Once I chained it down, but now it's free)

It is no king, no minuscule mortal  
No cowardly twinkle of fallen stardust  
But a god, an almighty deity in its power  
Maker of no excuses, no explanations  
Taking the weak, the deprived, the empty and bestowing upon them life  
But also taking the strong, the rich, the wise and making of them mad fools  
A raging inferno of emotion  
Striking us down and lifting us up with its golden radiance

I feel that light flow through me  
Embracing, overpowering, crushing and reviving  
Pulsing from within the heart  
(*heartland*)  
Burning through clouds, proclaiming itself to the sky  
Brilliant, brazen, wild  
This light is terrible in its heat  
(*in its ferocity*)  
And yet I cannot look away

Sometimes, I leave my decisions up to that heart  
And wherever it takes me  
I find answers to questions I never thought to ask  
For the heart (*the fire*) is the gate to paradise  
But I am ever fearful of the forces I have unleashed  
For to enter heaven, one must pass through hell  
And I wonder  
Ever unsure  
Whose fire is stronger  
And so I go forth  
Because sometimes, the fire burns so bright that I am eclipsed  
And for awhile, its power is mine.