

pearson vision

LESTER B. PEARSON HIGH SCHOOL

OCTOBER 1997

ISSUE 1

(Certainly the biggest issue facing the school even as rush the first issue to the presses is the looming threat of a work stoppage by Ontario's teachers union over proposed government legislation. The following represents the views of two of our writers....

THE BIGGER PICTURE

by Sean Shaw
OAC Student

For the longest time the teaching profession has been viewed as an easy ride for those who chose it as a career. Heck they get summers off, March and Winter breaks, seven hour days with a lunch and a spare, good pay and plenty of personal time outside of the school. No wonder why they have become the scorn of bitter nine to fivers.

With their new Bill-160, the so called "reforms" that will make education better, the government is intent on using this public persona of teachers against them to further their power grabbing agenda. Our *former* Minister of Education, the dishonourable Mr. Snobelen, couldn't help but tear into this meaty subject, to divert attention away from the damaging implications of his Bill. The Bill itself was intended to divide and conquer the teachers, along elementary and secondary lines, by hitting secondary teachers the hardest. However, this only strengthened the resolve of teachers to not back down from the Tory government, and spelled an end to Mr. Snobelen. Hopefully Mr. Johnson will be a little more *educated*.

The threat of striking, and subsequently closing every school across the province does place us, the students, in a tight space. With this

TO STRIKE OR NOT TO STRIKE? A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Pamela Vlasic
OAC Student

"What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul."

-Joesph Addison

..And a school without teachers is students without education. Thoughts like that leave me feeling vacant and scared; school is my life and has been for the last thirteen years. Here I sit typing, in my final year, my OAC year, and I try to swallow this sour pill.

To young elementary minds, the thought of no teachers, and consequently no school, is their wildest dream come true. To pure democratic thinkers, teachers must strike for it is their fundamental right, despite the lingering consequences. And to the teachers, for whom I am truly sympathetic: when push come to shove, to strike is the only option.

I am not an expert on the subject, nor will I try to be one; but I am a student with a voice and an opinion. I have gotten to where I am by my own determination, my own will, and because of my teachers. I am aware of the tricks the Minister of Education is trying to pull; I know of the

⇒ **BIGGER** continued from page 1

threat some argue that our education isn't to be used as ransom in any situation. But I say, what else are the teachers to do in the face of such war mongering government?. Our teachers only need to look at the Toronto Megacity Bill, which was implemented even with the dissent of over four million voters, to understand what they are up against in their battle for the heart of our education.

I am currently in my OAC year and a strike of any kind could seriously hurt my chances of going to university next year. Therefore, I should be against the strike because, hey, it won't affect me next year when I'm no longer in the public system. However, I see this bill as a deeper issue than its effects on public education. I see it as having the power to change our entire future. We are next in line to inherit this province, but if we aren't educated properly, due to the cutting of teachers and our already low funding; Ontario will not be in very capable hands.

The time has come to look in the mirror, and realize what your education means to you. What Bill-160 really comes down to for us, right now, strike or no strike, is who do we want dictating our education, our future? Teachers; the ones qualified and in the trenches, or our government perched in Queen's Park? I for one, regardless of any damage done to my immediate education, am behind my teachers, 100%.

⇒ **A STUDENT'S** continued from page 1

majority of changes to the teachers' contracts; but this cannot happen; not now.

Society has made it through worse situations than this. Life today is about cut-backs. Down-sizing, single parents, budget cuts, pay cuts. It happens all around us, everywhere. The fact of the matter is that these are our teachers and if they go on strike, they take our education with them. Does anyone have a plan for the weeks students all over Ontario will be missing? And if school must be extended to make up for it, who will reimburse me for my university savings I will lose? Who will help me, an OAC student, when it comes to suffering my cutbacks?

Now is the most important time in our lives, when we make or break our futures. I have a plan I have been following for the past thirteen years, and now at the most crucial point, the teachers want to change my blueprints. Well, what about my contract, my right to an education, *my right to my own future*? Sometimes you have to rob Peter to pay Paul, but I don't want to be that Peter. Maybe that is selfish, but I want what is rightfully mine, and deserved by every student in Ontario.

If every doctor said that tomorrow they were going on strike, what would you think? Absurd, right? People rely on doctors for life and everyday cures we take for granted. Well, education is my medicine, and without teachers I am lost and virtually hopeless.

LETTERS TO EDITOR:

c/o Nick Gustafson, 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.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

by Nick Gustafson
Editor-in-Chief

As I go in and around this community, it never fails that I feel a great dismay at what I see. Everywhere I go, I am constantly bombarded with wrappers, cans, bottles, papers and all varieties of miscellaneous junk that some idiot has left in his or her wake. Once, every so often, I might pick up some of this crap and dispose of it in a nearby garbage can or perhaps move it so it is longer so obtrusive; but more often than not I do nothing because I am so overwhelmed by its sheer enormity that I realize even picking up a bit of refuse does little to improve the picturesque landscape.

So why? Why do I see so much garbage? How can people so casually discard something when it becomes burdensome? There have been instances when I, accidentally, may have lost such a bit of packaging; but I have always gone back for it. In grades past (due to a lack of educational activity perhaps, but that's an editorial for another time) we were clued into what a shoddy condition the planet was in, and my class would actually take time to pick up the unsightly goodies that others had thrown about the school yard.

If I have an aluminum can, I'll recycle it. Even if there is no receptacle when I'm drinking it, I'll hold on to it because I'm certain that there will be one somewhere. A few grams of metal is hardly a burden. If I happened to have a glass bottle, I'd recycle that too, not break it like some wonderfully mature individuals for no purpose whatsoever.

I am very conscious of such things and cannot imagine why anyone would not be, especially when so little effort is really required to dispose of it properly.

And its not just outside. I cannot count the number of times that I've been '*pleasantly*' surprised by finding wrappers, gum, sunflower seeds and even half-eaten food awaiting me as I slide my books into a desk. Is this funny? No.

Are people just too damned lazy? Yes, I think they probably are.

(and now on a lighter note...)

ASK AL

Dear Al,

I have thus problem with drinking at lunch... Its funnie. I fel that alckohal is the wwwwwwway to suxcess in life, but no on we elsee agrees. What shoud I do?

Concerned

**Dear Concerned,
My first recommendation**

will be to use spell-check before you type a letter next time and then I would recommend you to try the cold turkey method. Drinking before class is no way to make friends or get good marks.

Dear Al,

I have this really bad problem with gas what should I do?

Dear S.G.,

Al feels for you man. In fact I too have a really bad problem with gas. My advice is to let it fly and then blame the guy next to you accordingly.

Al

Al (*Attention correspondents: if you want Al to help you with your problems please address your letters to:*

Ask Al

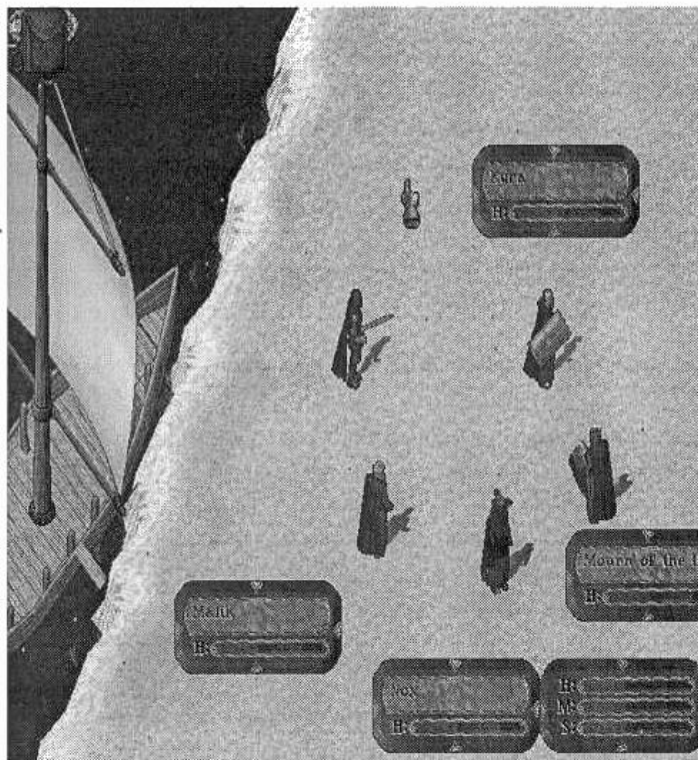
S.G. *c/o The Pearson Vision*

GAME REVIEW

ULTIMA ONLINE

by Matthew Seymour

One of the most anticipated games of the year, Ultima Online has finally arrived. Heralded as the first true interactive CRPG, (computer role playing game) Ultima Online features a constantly evolving world in which thousands of players interact to create everything from small huts to mighty fortresses. When you first log on you'll be surprised by the actual freedom that Ultima Online offers. There are twelve huge cities and almost 15,000 square feet of wilderness to explore. As a character you can be anything from a carpenter to a evil warlord. The world features roving bands of orcs, dragons guarding hordes of treasures and dark necromantic towers hidden deep in the mountains. . Most importantly everything done is in interaction with others. At all times thousands of other players are logged on playing alongside you. You can explore with bands of your friends or create an army of players to combat the foul orcs. The game has only two flaws, but they are major ones. The first of these is the horrible lag. At times the game can freeze, for up to 15 seconds, and lag kills are common experiences. The only other flaw is the incredibly steep learning curve. In the first week that you play you'll see yourself killed over and over again. The first day I played I was killed by a rabbit (and no, it wasn't the Monty Python sort), a cow and a really mean chipmunk. At times the game can be ridiculous like this, but after a while you learn how to show those chipmunks who's boss. If the staff of Ultima Online can fix these problems then the game will be one of the best ever created, but until they do this game will only remain in the mediocre category.



ULTIMA ONLINE: Fighting as a group member against the loathsome monsters of Britannia is but one of the nice features.

Verdict: 80%

Highs: A constantly evolving world in which you can literally do anything

Lows: Horrible lag, steep learning curve

Overall : Will be an excellent game when all the bugs are ironed out and more servers installed

Retail : \$89.99

PEARSON VISION

Vol.2 No.1

October 1997

Published monthly by the Patriot Press Group Ltd. Office of Publication: Lester B. Pearson High School 1433 Headon Road, Burlington, Ontario Canada L7M 1V7 The Patriot is the property of Nick Comics (used by permission)

For advertising information call (905) 335-8720

THE MIND'S EYE

by Brad Fisher

At night, I look to the sky for answers
And I see there
Dwarfing a thousand distant celestial forges
A great silver eye
Staring back at me
(Once it looked away, and I saw behind it)

It is no king, no master of the night sky
No bearer of hubris and bringer of wrath
But a prince in its own right
Taking borrowed light and making of it
silver magic
Quiet, contemplative
Shining its wisdom down onto the world in
enigmatic silence

I watch as that light dances
Flitting like thought over sky and landscape
(*mindscape*)
Alighting on clouds, and limning their edges
in white
Pale, pure, ghostly
This light is cold in its beauty
Like the light that comes from my eyes

Sometimes, I ask my questions of that eye
And when it stares into my soul
I find the answers therein
For the eyes are the windows to the soul
And I am ever searching
Ever wondering
Whose soul will be revealed when this great
eye turns away (will it be mine?)
And so I watch
Because I know that one day, it will shift
again
And this time, I will be ready.

NOTICE:

Any aspiring writers of poetry or short fiction are encouraged to submit their work to the Pearson Vision for consideration of publication. Listen to announcements for details.

THINGS I'D RATHER BE DOING THAN MATH

by Brad Fisher

Walking on hot coals
Lying on a bed of nails
Listening to Michael Bolton music
Playing tag on the freeway
Taste-testing for the home-ec classes
Operating on myself
Enduring Chinese water torture
Carbon-dating things in a museum
 Dating carbon-based things from a museum
 Donating my grandparents to a museum

IT'S NOT TRIVIAL ANYMORE

Greetings, future burger flippers and pump-jockeys. I am, for your information, Doctor Albert Nollj, but *you* shall address me as The Professor. In an effort to get your peanut-sized brains into some semblance of thinking, the administrators of Lester B. Pearson have told me, in a rare moment of brilliance, to challenge you. *That* shouldn't be too difficult. Now, if you chattel can drag your minds out of the gutter for a few seconds, make an attempt to answer these questions. The first person to show Mr. Henderson all the correct answers will win a "freezie."

Here are my queries:

1. What is said to have been the cause of the Great Chicago Fire?
2. State Coulomb's Law concerning the forces between charged bodies.
3. What is the approximate distance from the inner edge of Saturn's outermost ring to its surface (in miles)?
4. What appendage would a creature of Phylum Protozoa, Class Mastigophora use for locomotion?

Oh, and the people at Pearson insisted I put in some questions of theirs:

1. Spell "schizophrenia". (Looking it up is considered cheating)
2. How old is Mick Jagger, the lead singer of the Rolling Stones? (Hint; it's under 100)
3. If you are in a log cabin which has a lantern, a fireplace, and a stove, and you possess only one match, what do you light first?
4. How old is Pearson? (The school, not the man)

DUH

Things you should already know
By Brad Fisher

· Ontario's former Minister of Education, **John Snobelen**, possesses no less than a Grade 10 education! The sheer brilliance of the man amazes all of us. Also, **Mike Harris**, our current Premier, went one better and got through Grade 12! Congratulations, guys! You really earned those government positions!

· Recently, Snobelen and Harris attempted to add 2-3 weeks to the school year! They were shot down, however, by many of Harris' rural constituents, who needed their children to aid in the workload with harvesting. However, the danger is not over. The plan will still continue, only the extra weeks may be added on to the end of the year. This is not a joke! This could actually happen!

· The possibility of a teacher's strike still exists. However, there are rumours flying around that, if it does happen, many high schools will not invoke their rights to dock pay and hire non-union employees, because they don't want to take the fall for the provincial government's mistake.

· The province intends to siphon at least \$3 billion dollars out of education by the year 2000. Recent drafts show that approximately \$500 million is to be taken out of the Metro area alone. Meanwhile, Education Minister **John Snobelen** claims that the cuts "won't leave student or boards short of money". Most educators in Ontario have had their salaries frozen since 1993, and now they will probably be forced to take pay cuts. Students will also suffer, from substandard equipment, less time for each individual's problems, inefficient programs, and maybe even substandard teachers.

IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH?

By Sean Shaw
OAC Student

It's hard to believe in this time of multimedia outlets, radio, television, newsprint and internet, that the majority of Pearson's student populace is so uneducated about the real world. By this I mean what is going on around us, politically, socially and economically, locally, nationally and worldwide. We are surrounded daily by this wealth of information yet most people can't seem to take the time, ten minutes to watch the top news stories on television or thirty minutes to read the newspaper.

The funny thing is that I never realized this, in my two plus years here, until this whole Bill-160 fiasco began. To illustrate my point I have chosen an episode that occurred very recently. One day our Principal came over the P.A. to remind teachers of their meetings after school dealing with Bill-160. Immediately after that a group of students began to become excited over the prospect that there would surely "be a strike tomorrow". The intriguing part to this story is that these were not grade nines but OAC students! This is what motivated me to write this article.

I can accept the fact that the majority of grade nines and tens are out of touch with reality, because I myself didn't become involved in current issues until my grade eleven year. However, I personally find it inexcusable for senior students, eleven's, twelve's and especially OAC students, not to be informed of what is going on outside of Pearson. Most senior classes, Law, Geography, History, English and even Sciences, require some basic knowledge of current events within their curriculum. This general lack of knowledge leaves teachers to force feed their students what they could easily learn themselves, outside of Pearson. This in turns slows down the pace of class and makes it boring for those students who are connected to the outside world.

I feel that it is the duty of us, the students, to become involved with current issues, not just as homework for school but for our own self improvement and knowledge. Once people enter the real world, college, university or the work-force, this knowledge is required for survival. Where will the future of our country be if its inheritors are IGNORANT of the world around them?

So I challenge you, the Pearson students who are not yet informing yourselves, to pick up a paper, watch the news, browse the web or pick up a news magazine, and become involved. Prove that my article is wrong. To all those who already are doing the above, good for you and keep it up.

WHAT'S AN ABBR. ? TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE .

by Bill Waddell
OAC student

This article will be testing your knowledge of everyday police abbreviations

- 1) OD
- 2) DOB
- 3) PD
- 4) B&E
- 5) DAV
- 6) LC
- 7) DH
- 8) SWAT
- 9) DUI
- 10) BOLO

Try to find the correct answer to all of these abbreviations and you will get a prize. Please send your answers to Mr. Henderson any time before OCTOBER

COMING NEXT MONTH!

CRAZY UNCLE MANKLE'S CORNER
OF LUNACY.
WATCH FOR IT!

CD REVIEW

by Lyndonelle Bacungan
OAC Student

My Bestfriend's Wedding Soundtrack

Artist(s): various

Rating: ***

Snore factor: ****1/2



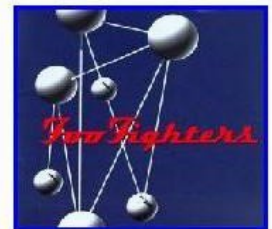
Over-all this CD is good, except for carrying some utterly boring tunes. Diana King's contribution "Say a Little Prayer" is a powerful single and topped the US charts, though it was ignored here. Canadian nightingales Jann Arden and Amanda Marshall contributed their equally strong songs "You Don't Know Me" and "I'll be Okay". But aside from these, the CD is a total snore, due to the disgustingly mellow tunes like Annie Di Franco's "Wishin' and Hopin'" and Nicky Holland's "I Don't Know What To Do With Myself." I recommend this CD to any insomniacs reading this, it will surely lull you to sleep.

The Colour and the Shape

Artist(s): Foo Fighters

Rating: ****

Snore Factor: *



This second Foo Fighters' offering is actually better than their first. Though unlike their last CD, it tended to lean towards hard alternative (noisy and extremely loud) rather than their usual medium and tolerable tunes. Among the great tunes on this CD is their first hit single "Monkey Wrench" which was the no.1 single in Canada a few months ago. It was really quite surprising how it actually had some boring and depressing tracks like "Walking After You" and "Hey Johnny Park". I also found it quite interesting to see how they mixed both hard and soft alternative in a song, specifically in "My Poor Brain" which begins as a mellow tune and then becomes a deafening screamfest. Overall this CD does not disappoint, especially if you're a diehard Foo Fighters' fan.

PATRIOT

PART SEVEN

