

GREAT CHANGES ARE ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE IN ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOLS...

AND GREAT CONCERNS ARE BEING EXPRESSED

As of September 1984, grades 7, 8 and 9 students will start on a program that will lead to only one diploma — an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. (Currently they can graduate either from grade 12 or grade 13.) Each year one higher grade will be added so that by 1988 the new system will apply to all secondary students.

To obtain this diploma the student must accumulate 30 credits in either four or five years. (It is this time frame that is causing most of the concern.) Fourteen of the credits are optional and 16 are compulsory (only nine are now). The compulsory credits include:

5 in English — 2 in mathematics — 2 in science — 1 in French — 1 in Canadian history — 1 in social science — 1 in Canadian geography — 1 in physical education — 1 in art — 1 in business or technological studies.

For francophone students, the five credits in English will be replaced by French and the single credit in French, by English.

Needless to say, great doubts and reservations are being expressed by parents and students alike, questions such as: Will there then be too much pressure on the students to complete the diploma in four years? Will they feel they are failing if they require five years? Will the load be so heavy that there will be more drop-outs? How will this change affect university entrance requirements?

For people like us who are rotational, this major change in the education of our children is something that we must consider carefully when deciding about taking a posting or returning home. Should you have concerns or questions contact the Educational Counsellor at the Posting Briefing Center.

CITY-WIDE EXAMS FOR OBE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Students in grades 9 and 12, in Ottawa Board of Education schools, will write city-wide examinations next year. Grades 10 and 13 students will do so in 1985-86 and Grade 11 students, the following year. That was the decision made by the OBE education committee on March 27, 1984. The students will be tested in three subjects — English or French, mathematics and science. The exact nature of the tests, how much influence they will have on the students' overall assessment and the time of year when they will be written; haven't as yet been decided. Concerns are being expressed as to whether the curriculum will be standardized enough and the students well enough prepared, to alleviate panic and fear.

HOW BIG IS YOUR HOME MEDICAL FILE NOW?

How many immunization booklets, from how many different countries, have you collected over the years? Wouldn't it be nice to have it all neatly organized into one concise, functional book?

This is now possible. The FSCA (Foreign Service Community Association) and the Department of Health and Welfare have designed a booklet specifically for us. (What other health record would have space for listing 14 previous residences?) Attractively bound in a bright yellow cover with informational charts in pink and blue, it contains everything you could possibly need to know and record about the health of your children.

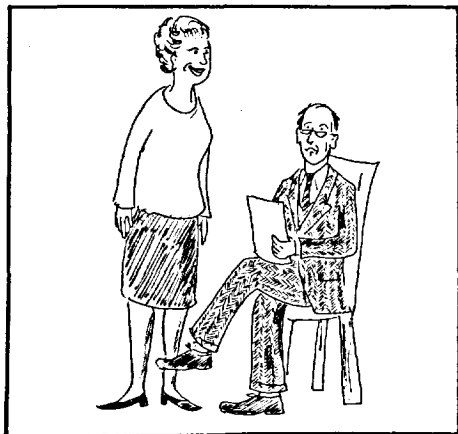
On October 24, 1983, all rotational personnel from the Department received a request form for these *Child Health Record* booklets. If you did not receive it and have children born after 1967, please write to the Posting Briefing Center (ADTB).

Something Everybody Should read — **A Short Story about Four People**

This is the story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody blamed Somebody. Somebody accused Everybody... but Nobody did it. Consequently, it never was done.

VIC LOTTO — CARTOONIST... *(Alias — Director General of the Export Marketing Bureau)*



Excellency... this is Ottawa, remember... garbage to go out, cars to wash, basements to clean...

A man with a quick wit and a quicker pen. Over the past 23 years of foreign service life, few heads of post have escaped his doodling pen. (Some for sure, will recognize themselves in the cartoons that will appear regularly in this newsletter.)

Vic's cartooning years go back to his university days when he contributed to the University of Toronto *Varsity* Magazine. Later, upon joining the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, his creations appeared in *Intercom* Magazine.

More recently, while on posting to São Paulo, an information officer discovered his "secret" talent and together they

started a course in animation for graphic artists. It was so well received that it was taken over by the São Paulo Department of Culture and has now become an annual event complete with diplomas given out to the successful candidates.

Vic does not consider cartooning to be his field however. He is a painter. In fact, he says, he really should be famous by now...his works are on display all over the world. (His friends always receive original "Lotto creations" as going away gifts.)

Fortunately, we too will be receiving his creations. Watch this column regularly. You may even see yourself.