



Tasha and Arda Froese

Board gets PIE in face

Mother battles schools over their 'mind games'

By JOHN STEWART
Times staff writer

The scene is a lifeboat. The boat is filled with 10 people, but if all are to survive, three must be pushed overboard.

You are given the cast of characters: a 70-year-old rabbi, a pregnant woman and her husband, an Indian doctor, a dancer, a famous writer, an athlete, a policeman and a female student. You are asked to decide who will be expelled from the boat.

This is not an old Alfred Hitchcock film but an exercise in which children at Riverside Public School took part for their guidance course.

Arda Froese says it is exactly the kind of "Mickey Mouse mind game" she fought in Vancouver four years ago. That fight, sparked by a test given to her daughter Tasha, led Froese to found Parents Interested in Education (PIE).

When she moved to Mississauga last November Froese took her 12-year-old daughter to enrol at Riverside. She wrote a

note on her daughter's enrolment application stating that she did not want Tasha given any psychological test without her mother's permission. When she found out about the test Tasha was given, Froese took the matter up with the guidance teacher and the school.

She says she plans to present a brief to the Peel Board of Education outlining her viewpoint that the school system is venturing into potentially damaging experimental territory which has nothing to do with education.

"The socialization of children should not be the prime concern of the educational system," contends Froese. "It's not their purpose or mandate, but it's precisely what is happening. Nowadays when little Johnny leaves the house, he goes to a socialization machine."

Behavior modification programs should be provided "for those children who need it, but only with informed parental consent," she says. In the United States, amendments to education legislation have now made it mandatory to ask for a parent's permission before a child is tested, psychoanalyzed or counselled.

The school system is trying to take over many duties which rightfully belong to the parent, Froese says.

"I don't want my 12-year-old daughter taught about euthanasia," she says in reference to the lifeboat quiz.

"What happens to the kid in the class who's been taught by her parents that God makes the decision about who lives or dies?"

"The school system is supposed to complement the family situation, not fragment it."

"The school system has been turned into a mental health clinic."

PIE is in the process of documenting cases in which it believes the school system has damaged a child's development. It is presenting its findings to provincial legislators. It is also supporting a law suit in British Columbia against a school system.

The "psycho-educational monster" as Froese calls it which has been created in the school system in the last 15 years hasn't worked, she says, children aren't any better equipped to deal with the world than they were previously.

Christian school still not approved

The Ministry of Education has not officially listed the Mississauga

Christian Academy as a private school, but the school says it will provide

the information the Ministry needs for the approval.

Negotiations have been continuing between the Christian Academy, operated by the Meadowvale Bible Baptist Church, and the Education Ministry since the school opened in September. It has 120 students, including about 10 students of

elementary school age.

The Ministry wanted the school to provide confirmation from the fire department, the Medical Officer of Health and the building department that proper approvals had been received.

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