

Foreign
Service

Kid's
Column



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARDS ARE DELIGHTED. THE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS ARE NOT

In a dramatic reversal of a 117 year old policy, the Ontario government has decided to fully fund Catholic high schools. Currently, funding is given only up to Grade 10, which forces Grade 11 to 13 students into public or private schools. Annual tuition for Catholic high schools ranges from \$650 to \$1,000.

The funding will be introduced gradually, one year at a time, beginning in 1985. Observers predict an enrolment surge in separate schools at all levels as parents realize their children can receive their whole education in the Catholic system without extra costs. Those students presently in Grades 11 to 13 are more likely to remain where they are, but those in the lower grades will now either go into, or remain in, the Catholic system. This will mean higher enrolment, more teachers, larger school boards, more funding, and ultimately a better education system.

The public school boards, on the other hand, are concerned. Student enrolment will drop, teachers will be laid off, funding will be reduced and the public school system will suffer. (With regard to teacher layoffs, the announcement called for the separate system to hire non-Catholic teachers for 10 years.)

In addition, now that the Catholic schools are receiving funding, the question of funding for private schools comes into play. Parents with their children in private schools argue that they are paying \$200 million in direct and indirect taxes to the province and boards of education without receiving any benefits.

A finance committee is looking into the whole situation at the moment and will present its report in May 1985. It is expected that sweeping changes to the province's grant and tax system will be introduced in January 1985.

What Colour are Big Bird's Legs?

Which Hood stole from the rich and gave to the poor? What are white dwarfs and red supergiants?

These are three of the over 6,000 questions that writers and editors of *Owl* (the award winning Canadian magazine for children) are compiling for a Trivial Pursuit game for the junior set. It will come out in two versions - Canadian and American.

In case you were wondering, the answers to the questions are 1) pink and orange 2) Robin Hood and 3) stars.

Teen Talk

Airhead. Beige. To the max. Grody. Gross me back to the stone age. Bag your face. Gag me with a spoon.

What was your score out of 7? Does that date you somewhat? Teens abroad, best you learn these well before heading home if you want to "communicate" with your peers.

Essential English? a few definitions.

Airhead - someone who is not very intelligent.

Beige - boring.

To the max - the most, completely.

Grody - horrible, the worst.

Gross me back to the stone age - worse than grody, which is as bad as it can get.

Bag your face - get lost, you should be ashamed of yourself.

Gag me with a spoon - that is disgusting
Now throw in the word "like" after every third word, add a few "fer sures", and "you knows", run your sentences all together without seeming to take a breath ... and you're all set to return home.

(Children and teens abroad and at home, we welcome and encourage letters from you. They will be reprinted as space permits and will add greatly to our "Kids Column".)

A NEW CEGEP CAMPUS IN GATINEAU

The opening of a new CEGEP campus in Gatineau may be of interest to foreign service employees residing in that area while in the National Capital Region. Already, for those living in the Outaouais, 2 CEGEP campuses exist: the "Cegep de l'Outaouais" (francophone) and the Heritage Campus (anglophone). The new campus in Gatineau should be able to accommodate 900 students and is expected to open in 1986 at the latest.

It may be useful to note that the Quebec school system is somewhat different than

the Ontario system. There are 6 years of primary schooling and 5 years of secondary followed possibly by CEGEP (Colleges of General and Professional Education).

In CEGEPs there are two possibilities: a three year technological program leading to the job market and a two year pre-university program.

Students having chosen this latter two-year program will, after 13 years of schooling, generally be admitted to 1st year in a Quebec university or to 2nd year in an Ontario university.

DID YOU KNOW?

- that Karl Soucek, a Hamilton motorcycle stuntman, rode Niagara's Horseshoe Falls in a barrel on July 2 and received only a gash in his head that required 7 stitches. Eight people in total including Soucek, have tried to ride the falls by barrel and five have survived. He was the first person to do so in 23 years. Aside from being arrested for performing a stunt in the park without a permit, he will be the object of a 30 minute documentary, so as far as he is concerned it was well worth it.

- that the possessive apostrophe is now on the list of endangered species. It appears that this neat little mark used for differentiating between singular and plural possessive nouns is slowly disappearing from the English language because it "detracts from the clean lines of a signwriter's type style". (So says *Language Monthly* magazine) "Sign writers and type setters apparently dislike the apostrophe because they think it looks fussy and un-modern." Have you ever noticed?