

International Year of the Child

By ROBERT STRANACH

During this International Year of the Child we've been asked to reflect upon the United Nations' Declaration of the Rights of the Child. In *THE BRUNSWICKAN* over the past several weeks there have been a number of articles doing this. Among those rights considered has been the child's right to adequate nutrition and medical care, to education, to a name and nationality, to recreation. Today we conclude these reflections by looking at the primary Right of the Child, the right from which all the others flow. That's the right to affection, love and understanding.

That a child needs love and understanding is so obvious that it could go without saying. It's good, though, to be reminded of it from time to time, because often we tend to withhold that love, offering shallow substitutes for it instead. Some parents are insulted if you ask them if they love their child. "Of course! Look what we've given the child: a warm house, the best foods, clean clothes, a good school, toys, a colour T.V. What else does a kid need?"

* Parents are usually an extremely hard-working group of people, dedicated to providing a comfortable life for their children. Sometimes, though, in their busyness, they schedule little or no time to play or talk with their kids. So while attending to the

material needs of the child, they neglect the more important emotional need, the need for love and understanding.

To paraphrase St. Paul, if we have given children everything required for material happiness, so that all children are healthy and educated, knowing their identity and having recreational and occupational opportunities, and have not given them love, then we have done nothing at all.

Families are usually the best environments for children to receive love, assuming that parents care enough to take the time for their children. But what about children who don't have families what can be done for them? Social agencies can provide food, clothing and shelter for them, but the love children need is not so simple to provide. Therefore what are needed are generous people to make homes available for orphans and foster children. Students of course, are not usually in a position to do this, but even students have something to offer though the Big Brother/Big Sister programs, just to give one example. It just takes a little time, if you're willing to give that.

In these thoughts on giving to our children, we shouldn't overlook how much in turn we receive from them. Anyone who has ever known a child will recall how natural, spontaneous and generous they are in giving love. What else can they give us?

Children can't feed us, clothe us or shelter us. They can't offer us money and don't run government agencies. But they can still share their love with us, which is by far the better gift. There's a lesson here for adults, if we're willing to grow. Children can help us regain that ability to love which most of us lost when we left childhood behind.

We hear a lot of talk these days about the need to invest in resource development if our society's going to have a comfortable future. Let's not

forget that the primary resource we must invest in is our children. Their development and our shared future depends mainly on the quality of the love relationships

we have with them now.

In this International Year of the Child, and every year to come, it is imperative that we make our children our primary concern and consideration. And, in our nuclear-industrial society, we should remember too that what we do with our world today, our children will have to deal with tomorrow.

Summer at sea

A rare opportunity for university students who want to get a taste of what shipboard life at sea is really like has now become available. The 'Queen of Sheba', a 84' schooner operating in the Virgin Islands is recruiting university students for summer cruises. Normally the vessel is engaged in charter service among the islands, catering to people

who want to hire a boat and crew for a sailing holiday during the cold northern winters so familiar to us. But last summer Captain Mike Kuick discovered during a voyage to Norway that a fair number of college students with little sea experience were anxious to learn about life on the briny main.

This year he plans two cruises. The first (July 9-28) is from Tortola in the British Virgin Islands to

Bermuda, with stop-overs in Martinique, Antigua and Saba en route. The second cruise (Aug. 13-31) is from Bermuda to Martinique, with stop-overs in St. Martin, Saba, and Ile de Saintes. These cruises are working-learning trips with classes in seamanship, piloting and navigation conducted en route, times ashore to experience Caribbean island life, and lots of watch-keeping at sea.

What's it like? In these southern latitudes there was shoal after shoal of tiny silver flying fish that sounded like rain drops on the water as they burst out of the sea to flee from the ship. We sighted a humpback calf and its mother, but she kept us away. At last we found a small whale which let us come right alongside. He hovered under the surface and the water wrapped him in a liquid coat of

green-gold-blue-black hues. could have reached out and touched him but he became frightened, and with a thrashing thrust of his tail, dived under us and disappeared. How magnificent are these mammals of unparalleled quiet dignity and what an awesome experience to be near them! The tonnage of even a 20' humpback whale far exceeds that of the Queen of Sheba' (Ship's Journal).

Total number of working passengers is eight to ten. Three private cabins for two (\$575. per person) and four single berths (\$475. per person) are available. For more information contact:

Maritime Bareboat Charter Limited
P.O. Box 99
Grand Bay, N.B. EOG 1W0
(506) 454-3525

Election Aid

OTTAWA: Progressive Conservative Youth Federation President Mark Stein today encouraged students to protect their right to vote.

He announced that Election Service Centres are being set up on campuses across the country by the P.C.Y.F. to ensure that post-secondary students can vote in the federal election called this week. "The timing of this election is the worst possible for students now writing exams and moving between school and home", said Stein. "It is consistent with the Prime Minister's contempt for student problems", he said.

The Election Service Centres, located in universities and colleges, will be staffed by volunteer workers from the P.C. Youth Federation. Its membership exceeds 12,000.

Provisions of the Canada Elections Act affecting enumeration, revisions, proxy voting and advance polls are being explained to students whose right to vote

could be lost in the process of moving.

"The first step for most students", said Stein, "should be to ensure their parents register them in the regular enumeration this week, if they plan to return home for the summer".

The 400,000 students in Canada are an important part of the under-30 vote, which represents 31.2 percent of the potential voter turnout nationally, and which ranges as high as 40 percent in some urban ridings.

The Election Service programme will be implemented in the following locations: Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, St. Catharines, Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, Guelph, London, Thunder Bay, Ottawa, Peterborough, Waterloo, Montreal, Quebec, Fredericton, Sackville, St. John, Moncton, Edmundston, Halifax, Wolfville, Antigonish, Charlottetown, St. John's.

Sharpens Pencils

What A Job!

Senator Daniel Inouye (Pron: In-oo-h-way) (a Hawaii Democrat) says he's not very happy about some of the salaries offered by the Inter-American Development Bank.

The Senator recently learned of one unidentified employee who

earns 73-thousand dollars a year sharpening pencils and filling water pitchers at meetings of the Bank's top-ranking officials.

The Inter-American Development Bank is funded, in part, by U.S. taxpayers. (Newsprint)

Protest at Dal

By LINDA HALSEY

Over 3,000 students from Nova Scotia universities met at Dalhousie University on March 21 to march upon Halifax's Provincial House in a protest against the raise in tuition fees.

Beginning at noon, the march started at Dalhousie and followed along two of Halifax's busiest streets. City police had been made aware of the march and closed off one traffic lane of each street en route to the Province House to allow students more space and safety.

According to student council president Michael Power, the march itself went very well. "We had surprisingly excellent co-oper-

ation from such a large crowd."

The Premier of Nova Scotia spoke with the students on the steps of the Province House, but Power said he was disappointed at the results: "He came out and gave us a few words about summer job creation and a student aid programme none of which amounted to much."

The Premier was presented at this time with a petition signed by 5,200 students which demanded the immediate freeze of tuition fees, funding to maintain the present quality of education level and an end to differential fees.

Gerry Regan, leader of the opposition, also spoke to the students concerning government support of education. He said

"things weren't rosy" under his administration, but he had "never seen the government's support for education so low."

Regan also expressed his opposition to differential fees, calling them "racist and unnecessary."

Dalhousie SRC president agreed with Regan and said that differential fees were a "barrier" for Third world countries who have no institutions of their own. Power felt that the government was using the differential fees to "Cut down on the amount of students". He suggested that a quota system would be a better means of reducing the number, by only allowing a certain amount of students from each country.

