

Advise to the Anonymous



By Tracy Teeple

I used to study together with the Lone Ranger at a Toronto law school. Back then, he was still known as Harry Hornblower. I bumped into my old pal the other day on Yonge Street - although it wasn't until after I had asked my wife, "Who was that masked man?" that I realized who it was - and I got to wondering: how did old Harry ever become known as The Lone Ranger?

Puzzled.

Dear Puzzled:

I suspect you may be confused. The Lone Ranger did not study at a Toronto law school, but at a Tonto Law School, one of a chain of drive-in legal institutions specializing in writs of habeus corpus and kemo sabay and fully licensed by the LLBO.

Your question is a good one. Many people were puzzled by the name The Lone Ranger, since he always took his sidekick with him when he ranged. Actually, Harry Hornblower had his name changed legally in 1962 to I.O. Silver. Later he became known as The Lone Ranger for the following reason: unlike Robin Hood, who robbed from the rich and gave to the poor, The Lone Ranger robbed from the rich and lent to the poor, thus earning him the nickname of "The Loan Arranger".

Later, a typographical error resulted in his better-known title being adopted.

Dear Advisor:

Is it true that the dreaded pirate Blackbeard used to be an opera singer?

Curious

Dear Curious:

Yes. He was originally known as "The Terror Of The High C's".

Dear Mr. Teeple:

I am four foot four inches tall. I weigh eight hundred pounds. I can't go on like this. Oh, please, please find me a diet that really works!

Chubby

Dear Chub:

You came to the right place. I have a foolproof diet that never fails to work. From now on, you must eat nothing but footballs. Footballs for breakfast, footballs for lunch and footballs for supper. You will be slim in no time.

Of course if it doesn't work, you can always kick the habit.

Mature students at York a much neglected minority

Dotted throughout York are representatives of a much ignored minority: *mature students*.

Personally I resent the word "mature" since it instantly conjures up visions of grey hair. It will be several decades before that's a serious concern of mine.

Technically, we are all over twenty-one, but that is where the similarity ends. We range in age from just passed youth to the grandparents. Johnny Carson recently had a woman on his show who was just starting her second degree at the age of 95 years. Why not?

The group includes homemakers who want more out of life than their family, secretaries who want to become bosses or, a recent byproduct of the recession, professionals in search of a new career. Several simply prefer academic pursuits as a continuing hobby.

Returning to school after a long absence is not a simple procedure. Making the choice is difficult, I grant you, but comparable to facing the academic unknown, it is a drop in the bucket.

- Kids fresh out of secondary school have the feel of university to contend with. We have a whole new environment to interpret.

Most people don't realize that one generation is only two years. Anyone who has attended a school that has later educated a brother, will be quick to notice the changes that have occurred in that small span of time. Consider then someone who has several decades to bridge.

The business world has a very different face. The contrast exists mostly in the competitive attitude of anyone involved in making a living. The office life and the home is rarely

synonymous for this reason. It is an education itself. Thus you can understand how the casual approach to school can be a little frightening.

However, my worst fears have been quite basic. Can I write a literate essay? Will I be able to pass an exam? Is it possible to maintain the work load, my home and my friends? Am I totally naive to be here at all?

Of course my wardrobe is obsolete. I bought my first pair of blue jeans in several years and they look embarrassingly new.

But when you reach the bottom line, I am enroled because it is important to me to be here. It is this belief that will pad my way through first term.

Cynthia Rantoul

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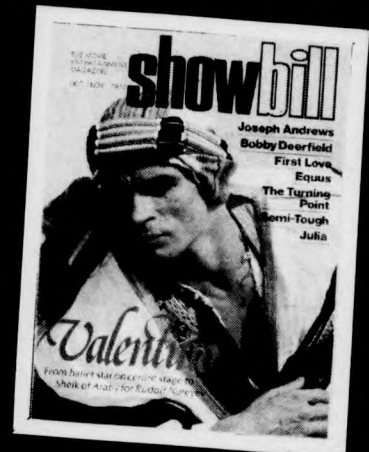
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