

was then Stratton Lucas. She found herself down the hall from Catherine Fraser, now Alberta's Chief Justice. And nowadays it's Justice Stratton of the Alberta Court of Appeal.

After her admission to the bar, Johnstone joined the firm. She ran into a nasty case of gender-bias early on. Stratton had sent her to the reception area to meet with a client. "This fellow started screaming at me at the top of his lungs," she recalls. "I will not deal with a woman. How can I deal with a woman?"

Stratton told the client he'd have to talk to Johnstone or take his business

elsewhere. "She's the best we have, and you have a choice," he said. The man stayed.

Stratton is clearly proud of his protégée. "On the basis of one to ten, I'd give her a ten. She's always had that tremendous quality of relating to clients and to people generally, as well as a real respect for, and competence in, law."

He has no qualms about her coping with the gender-equality issue. "She will accept it as a real challenge and she will handle it with her usual diplomacy and confidence."

Johnstone has put just about every-

thing on hold as she digs into her workload. She is divorced, but now has a "commuting relationship" with a Calgary criminal lawyer. Johnstone, who has no children, sometimes has second thoughts about letting her career and heavy community involvement drive so much of her life.

Going flat out as she does without family ties, she is full of admiration for women who juggle legal careers and domestic responsibilities.

"If I were organized, I'd be dangerous."

Penny Caster is an Edmonton writer.



MARYKA OMATSU

THE APPOINTMENT IN 1993 of Torontonians Maryka Omatsu as Canada's first female East Asian Provincial Court judge, and the first Japanese Canadian woman to be appointed to the Canadian judiciary, caps a remarkable 16-year career for a lawyer whose parents were denied their civil rights from 1941 until 1949.

"Within the legal profession, the naming of a lawyer to the Provincial Court bench is not worth more than a brief mention," says the human rights advocate and writer. "However, for visible minority communities, such appointments are breakthroughs that have been won through struggle — struggle by the individual and the community."

In the field of human rights, Omatsu's most meaningful experience was

winning redress for her community in 1988 in what was the largest civil rights award in Canada's history. She was part of the negotiating team that helped guide the National Association of Japanese Canadians to individual compensation and to an official apology from the federal government for the forcible confinement of Canadians of Japanese ancestry in internment camps in the B.C. interior and in Northern Ontario after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941.

"It was a victory that regained my community's honour and created better safeguards for the rights of other minorities in this country," says Omatsu.

Inspired by her parents, she wrote *Bittersweet Passage: Redress and the Japanese Canadian Experience*.

Throughout this moving and personal story, she skilfully interweaves her experiences negotiating the redress settlement to ensure better safeguards for other minorities, with memories of her parents' uprooting and of the racism she endured growing up as a visible minority in a predominantly white society. Her book was published in 1992 and won the Prime Minister's award for "Best Manuscript in Translation." It was written in English and later translated into Japanese.

As an undergraduate at the University of Toronto, Omatsu belonged to a crowd that included Bob Rae and writer Michael Ignatieff. In between essay assignments, Omatsu made an award-winning film and supported herself by being a stringer for the *Toronto Star* and the *Telegram*, and had her sights set on landing a job with CBC. She graduated with a masters in sociology and then

travelled around the world, visiting places such as Vietnam, during the war, and India. When she got back to Canada, she went to Osgoode Hall Law School and was called to the bar in 1977. She articulated with Charles Roach, a distinguished African-Canadian criminal lawyer and anti-racism activist.

Omatsu was one of the criminal lawyers on the famous Jamaican nannies' defence team. In the late 1970s, she helped strike down the guest worker system, which allowed immigrants to enter Canada to work but refused them citizenship. The case had the slogan, "Good enough to work, good enough to stay," and went all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. The case involved seven women who had been allowed into Canada as nannies on condition they didn't have any children. Once the women became established as nannies, they tried to bring in their children.

Expanding her interest in human rights, Omatsu was chair of the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal and legal counsel to aboriginal groups in environmental hearings before Ontario Hydro. When she was offered a judicial appointment, she says, she was greatly honoured, but making the decision to accept was not easy. "My biggest concern was that if I accepted the position, I would no longer be able to voice my opinion publicly on social issues."

But in the speeches she continues to give to various social activism groups in her new role as judge, Omatsu can continue to talk about sexism, racism, rights and equality. "As one who has benefited from the success of the movement for equality and inclusion, I will try not to let you down," she said in a recent address. "By doing my best, I hope to make it easier for the women and minorities who follow me."

Kathlyn Horibe is a Montreal writer.

NEW FACES

Presidential Powerhouse; Pioneer Appointee; Breaking New Ground

CECILIA JOHNSTONE

CECILIA JOHNSTONE KNOWS that she faces the fight of her life convincing a profession mired in the past that it needs to shake itself up.

"Change is very difficult for all of us — particularly for lawyers, who are so entrenched in precedent," says Johnstone, president of the Canadian Bar Association. She adds that long-standing practices and attitudes established by old boys' networks have to be re-examined as more women enter the legal field.

"I think it's time for us to be critical of where we are now and determine how we can improve. Obviously there is a problem. Some very tough decisions and changes need to be made."

It's a bright, nippy winter's day and Johnstone, 42, is briefly back on home turf in her 12th-floor office at Lucas Bowker & White, in one of Edmonton's ritziest downtown towers.

Johnstone, a wills and estate planning lawyer there, and a partner, has been on leave since stepping into the 37,000-member legal group's top job last August. Only the second woman in the post, she is following in the footsteps of people like R.B. Bennett and Louis St. Laurent, who both went on to become prime ministers. But Johnstone has inherited a hefty briefcase of hot issues that the former pair never dreamed of.

Sizzling at the top of the pile is the association's two-year, \$400,000-study on gender bias in the legal system. It was turned in at the CBA's annual meeting last August by former Supreme Court Justice Bertha Wilson.

Wilson's investigators found that more than twice as many women as men are quitting the profession, because it's simply not "environmentally friendly" to the female sex. The report also said that the obstacles faced by women lawyers are "staggering" and equality will be achieved only when the system loses its "maleness." It recommends measures like on-site day care, sexual harassment policies, flexible hours, job-sharing and parental leaves to stem the flow.

Johnstone says that putting these measures into practice means hurdling financial and philosophical barriers.

Gender equality is only one ingredient in a stew of challenges on Johnstone's presidential plate. Others include polishing the tarnished image of lawyers, cutting court delays, instituting plain language in legal practice and settling more disputes without going to court.

A strong believer in women's rights, Johnstone brings a solid track record of self-sufficiency and achievement to her tasks.

The silver spoons were in short supply when she was born in Edmonton in 1951. When she was eleven and her brother just seven, her father died. There were no jobs to be had for Johnstone's mother, Anne, who found herself raising two children on her husband's \$49-a-month veteran's pension. Thanks to mortgage insurance they kept the roof over their heads.

Johnstone learned to pull her weight early. Throughout high school she worked at everything from dishing out hot dogs to rowdy football fans to handing doughnuts to drowsy paper boys at the *Edmonton Journal* cafeteria at 6 in the morning.

She is still an early riser. A former marathon competitor, she often heads into Edmonton's river valley for a run with friends before sunrise. This very day, barely 24 hours since arriving home from representing the CBA in France, she awoke at 4 a.m. and actually thought about hauling herself out of bed and hitting the trail.

"Then I rolled over."

It was a rare indulgence for a woman who is routinely in her office chair, sleeves rolled up, by 6 a.m.

Since taking over the CBA helm, Johnstone has flown thousands of miles representing the organization in the U.K., Australia, New Zealand, France and across Canada.

Johnstone counts her sense of humour as one of her strong suits, along with



tenacity. "I have stick-to-it-ness," says Johnstone.

That quality helped her win several scholarships as she worked her way through an arts degree then law school, both at the University of Alberta. Only 11 percent of the students in her law class were women. Today, almost 50 percent of law students nationwide are female. The smaller, less-threatening number Johnstone was part of in the 1970s may explain why she didn't encounter any discrimination in school.

"It was only when we were looking for articling positions that we realized there was a problem. 'Can you type? Why should we hire you? You're only going to get pregnant.'"

Johnstone laughs as she recalls her naivety. Referring to her sex, one crusty character barked at her, "How did you get in here?"

"I said, 'I walked through the door.'"

She still impressed the curmudgeon enough to get a second interview, but wasn't hired. She landed on her feet, anyway, when Joe Stratton gave her an articling job. He was senior partner at what

SELL SIBERIA?

To solve its economic problems, Russia should sell Siberia to the United States for \$3-trillion (U.S.), suggests the World Policy Institute.

— Social Studies, this page

FACTS & ARGUMENTS

Friday, April 30, 1993

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MULTICULTURAL VOICES / A Japanese Canadian says her parents assimilated so well into Canadian society that she feels about as Westernized as you can possibly be. But the sad thing is that she can't talk to her grandmother because of the language barrier

Burnt bridges and a generation gap

BY SHARON OMURA



LINDA NAKAJIMA

THE grandfather spoke slowly and carefully to his grandson. His grandson responded with a grunt. Again the grandfather spoke, choosing his words carefully. His grandson again responded with a grunt, followed by a blank stare. More words followed, again with a grunt and a blank stare as response. Finally growing impatient with this tiresome routine, the grandfather shouted out in one of the few English phrases he knew: "What's the matter? You stupid!"

This was the story my friend chose to tell at his grandfather's funeral. Earlier, my friend confessed that he didn't really know much about his grandfather. What he did know was that they had difficulty communicating. His grandfather spoke only Japanese and he spoke only English. Their common ground was the grunt-and-stare routine that he described so well.

I laughed at my friend's story, but it saddened me because of what it told me about the relationships between my generation and the generation of my grandparents. I too have difficulty communicating with my grandmother. For as long as I can remember, my grandmother and I have used exaggerated gestures and body language to communicate with each other. We point, use facial expressions, speak louder, slower or say simple things like "Hello," "How are you?" and "Goodbye." We have never had very sophisticated conversations.

Because of language barriers, my generation is unable to relate to our grandparents and learn of their thoughts, personal histories and experiences. After my grandmother's death, I will not have another chance to know her, just as my friend will not have another chance to know his grandfather. What happened in her life? What did she believe in? Dream of? Think of? There would be so many questions left unanswered.

I am a third-generation Japanese Canadian. My parents were born in Canada, as was I. My grandparents arrived in Canada when they were in their late teens and very early twenties. I am probably as Westernized and as assimilated as anyone in my generation could possibly become.

When I was growing up there wasn't much time or use for learning Japanese. Like a sponge, my family completely absorbed the mainstream culture in Can-

ada. English was the only language my family spoke at home. We ate lots of Westernized foods and hardly ever used chopsticks. We went on family camping trips and had barbecues with our neighbors. We joined community hockey, soccer and baseball teams. We were Scouts and Girl Guides. We belonged to the Anglican Church. We lived in well-kept middle-class neighbourhoods. Our friends were all English-speaking, non-Japanese Canadians.

SOME people point to the Japanese-Canadian community as an example of a great success story. The community is an example of an ethnic group that has integrated very successfully into Canadian life. They are a group of people who lost everything: their homes, means of livelihood, property and social standing after being interned during the Second World War, then rose above these losses to become well respected, successful contributors in their work and local communities. Pushing beyond the war experience, they escaped the psychological

trap of being seen as victims, as poor, as the underclass.

But in putting the past behind them and fitting into the dominant culture it was necessary, or perhaps inevitable, that Japanese Canadians would lose their connection to things Japanese, including speaking Japanese.

Speaking English fluently without a trace of a foreign accent helped in being accepted by others. Over the telephone it was impossible for someone to detect that a Japanese Canadian was a person from a visible minority. Similarly, losing Japanese behaviour, manners, customs and ways of thinking helped in relating to others.

Now the children of my parent's generation think, act, speak and believe in step with the dominant English-speaking, Western culture. This has had its benefits. Now language and cultural barriers do not stand in the way of our acceptance, although other barriers may still exist. My parents' generation has passed on to its children the material gains and privileges that became theirs through assimilation.

But for this price has been paid. The relationships between my generation and our grandparents have suffered. Not only this, we have lost the opportunity to understand the world from the perspective of our grandparents, who have a different history, culture and language.

I hope that we are living in a more tolerant society today than existed when my parents were struggling to raise their children. My parents' generation felt that they and their children should assimilate as much as possible to live a secure and decent life in Canada.

I hope that refugees and immigrants arriving in Canada and their children will not find it so necessary to completely assimilate, to abandon their values and language so they can feel accepted, safe and secure.

Unfortunately, a language and cultural barrier will probably always stand between my grandmother and me, and for this I feel a profound sense of sadness.

Sharon Omura is a Toronto lawyer.

FIFTH COLUMN

EDUCATION

Andrew Nikiforuk talks to an educator leading the fight against 'academic child abuse'

FEW North American educators have as solid a reputation for straight talk on schooling as Barbara Bateman. For more than a quarter-century the 60-year-old advocate and professor of special education at the University of Oregon has led the good fight against untested educational fads and the general drift toward aimlessness in North American schools.

She is also one of the continent's leading authorities on what she has called "academic child abuse" — using untested methods that engender failure rather than success.

This particularly hot topic will bring her to Toronto next week, where she will give the keynote address to a conference on school issues organized by the Coalition for Education Reform (CER), a populist umbrella group representing parents, teachers and trustees.

Unlike many of her peers, the outspoken Dr. Bateman believes that "education as a discipline is still in a pre-science state, as was medicine in the 16th century." The professor's general abhorrence of good scientific research on what works means that the discipline "spins around in faddish, emotion-driven circles."

Dr. Bateman maintains that good science, particularly a growing body of evidence on what's effective in the classroom, should be the basis of phonetic instruction) could improve our schools if implemented by educational administrators. But administrators, being administrators, often don't even know what good research is, says Dr. Bateman.

Consider, for example, the current educational trend toward ungraded, multi-age classrooms where children proceed at their own pace and in their own style. "We have a lot of literature and opinion pieces in journals such as Psi Delta Kappa and Educational Leadership where John Doe asserts that this must be a good thing," says Dr. Bateman. But opinion, anecdote and fuzzy rhetoric about schools imitating the extended family do not make a reliable research base. "If someone asked me if we had a significant data base to justify the disruption of an entire educational system by switching to multi-age, I'd say 'No. Not for a moment.'"

Although Dr. Bateman feels that multi-age may well prove to be advantageous for some classrooms, she takes a grim view of pedagogical experiments without proper controls. Advises the educator: "I'd wait for the research to know what the advantages and disadvantages will be. I want some

similar concerns about de-streaming 'tracking' in the United States) or "the poor children according to their level." She says the research on this decidedly mixed, and then notes that "off or bowing group students according can actually do, not according to correct thinking." "If I wanted to learn line goes Dr. Bateman, "I would go to a cop, not an advanced one."

if de-streaming had poses another use research on the benefits of versus heterogeneous grouping in the unaided. It compared fairly minimal between groups of students as opposed to sides that Ontario's badly organized program now creates, where students math skills work beside peers with ill. "The old research doesn't shed any kind of extreme heterogeneous

concerns of Dr. Bateman's is integration, placing disabled children into regular. As a former teacher, she favours the idea it is exercised prudently and allows of alternative educational settings that are appropriate. "I'd be opposed to "full inclusion," the slogan for dumping all disabled children in classrooms regardless of the social or consequences. "It just doesn't make any sense," she says.

people have falsely applied the lessons of education to the segregation of the disabled, understand that skin colour has never rational variable, whereas a disability different kinds of teaching." nan will present her case against child abuse during the two-day conference, June 11-12 at the University of Oregon. For the 21st Century (May 7-8) is CER. Other distinguished speakers will include America's premier reading expert, Dr. Adams; Alberta school reformer Dr. van der Pijl; and George Radwanski, the author of Ontario school report that has been New Brunswick but not at home. For more information call: (416) 477-5397.

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PHOTO: LINDA NAKAJIMA

MEDIA / A Canadian writer and a U.S. writer look at the dangers faced by journalists around the planet, and say there are particular reasons why people should be concerned about the fate of those gathering the news

The world's reporters in the line of fire . . .

BY JOHN MILLER

IN 1981, a Dutch television technician working in El Salvador wrote to his fiancée a moving reminder of why journalists do what they do.

"Today we filmed the suffering of the people," Hans ter Laag said. "Women who have lost their husbands . . . mothers whose sons have disappeared, and photos of missing boys next to photos of tortured young men. I can't describe it. It is terrible what is happening."

"Think of the people here. It is the duty of all of us. Think of these people." A few days later, he and the other three members of his crew were shot through the backs of their heads by soldiers while on assignment. Ron Crocker, a CBC producer who was there at the time, recalls that not much was made of the deaths in the news media, perhaps because reporters were "wary of excessive navel-gazing in a setting as tragic as Salvador."

Such restraint does not occur today. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has declared May 3 to be Press Freedom Day around the world, in recognition of the fact that attacks on journalists are signs that basic human rights are under siege in too many countries.

Although no journalists were killed last year in El Salvador, where a peace treaty finally ended more than a decade of bloody civil war, as many as 60 were killed in other world trouble spots. Such is the fragile nature of the right "to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers," which is guaranteed to everyone by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In a small office in Toronto, Nick Fillmore of the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists manages an international computer bulletin board which now records every known violation of Article 19. Funded by UNESCO, various foundations, Canadian media organizations and individual journalists, the clearing-house disseminates information by electronic mail and fax to member organizations in more than 15 countries.

When there is a serious threat to journalists, an "action alert" is issued, allowing member organizations to mount publicity and diplomatic campaigns from their own regions. Since it began last September, the network has had to send out 275 such alerts.

"It is much more difficult for governments to justify their actions when human-rights groups around the world, as well as the international press, condemn a given action," says Frances D'Souza, director of London-based human-rights group Article 19 and an advisory board member of the clearing-house.

Their collective action so far — perhaps the largest action ever taken by the

freedom-of-expression community — was "A Day of Action on Turkey" last September. Fifteen journalists have been killed there since the beginning of 1992, and more than 100 publications have been seized, largely because they attempt to document government human-rights abuses in a seven-year war against Kurdish separatism. Several journalists shot down in public streets have been referred to as "terrorists" by government officials.

A mission was sent to Ankara to meet with local journalists and Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, and the "Action Alert" network used the information to mobilize groups in 14 countries to protest at Turkish diplomatic missions and issue press releases.

Several other missions have been sent to Turkey since, and a group of international writers, including Canada's Pierre Berton and Margaret Atwood, has circulated an open letter calling on the Turkish government to stop the killing of journalists.

Journalists have always faced danger from crossfire and intimidation from authoritarian governments. What is new is even more worrisome and unpredictable: targeting by rival factions in the ethnic and racial tensions unleashed by the breakup of countries such as Yugoslavia. The war between Serbs, Croats and Muslims is so dan-

gerous that the U.S. Committee to Protect Journalists is collecting ballpoint pens from police departments and distributing them to local and foreign journalists covering the conflict. The Canadian committee is soliciting donations of media equipment, bulletproof vests and children's television material to send to Sarajevo television station RT BH, whose staff of Serbs, Croats and Muslims still manages, against all odds, to broadcast uncensored news.

THE public should care about the plight of journalists, says Nick Fillmore, because "if the press is under attack, other rights in society are under attack." Many countries in Eastern Europe and Central America are making the difficult transition from authoritarian rule to democracy, "and you can't have free elections until people can freely express ideas. Freedom of speech, and the right to publish, those are really the first freedoms."

Not are conflicts like the breakup of Yugoslavia so far removed from us. Last year, a leader of Toronto's Croatian community was so upset by what he called the slanted coverage appearing in a local daily newspaper that he had a press release prepared calling for a boycott of the paper and naming its offending correspondent.

He showed it to me in passing, perhaps because he knew I had contacts at the paper. He said a copy of the release would be sent to officials and the media in Croatia. That stopped me.

"If you do that, you may be signing that reporter's death warrant. You've named him. How do you know someone won't go hunting for him over there?" I advised him to seek a meeting with the editor of the paper before doing anything.

A week or two went by. When I saw him again, he was smiling. I asked about the meeting and the boycott. "No boycott," he said. Then, with a wink, he added: "I don't know what you did, but the coverage is much better now."

I, of course, had done nothing. The reporter, like all good reporters in a war zone, had merely switched his attention from Serbian-controlled areas to Croatian ones to get a more balanced perspective.

The incident still makes me shudder for the fragile safety of men and women whose job is to chronicle "the suffering of the people."

John Miller, a member of the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists, is chairman of the School of Journalism at Ryerson Polytechnical Institution in Toronto.

HEAD TAX / *The Chinese Exclusion Act (1923-1947) and the head tax (1885-1923) are not ancient history, the writer says. 'Redress for our elderly pioneers and for our community will define us as Canadians'*

The legacy of a racist law

BY GARY YEE

IMAGINE coming to Canada as a young man, leaving your newswife behind. It is 1917. You arrive in a land known as Gold Mountain, seeking a better life.

However, treating you unlike other immigrants, Canada charges you a "head tax" of \$500 to enter — a sum that is worth two years wages at the time.

Imagine living a tough, lonely life here, unable to save enough money to pay another head tax for your wife to immigrate. Indeed, in 1923, our Parliament passes a law to prevent further immigration by Chinese. You return to China to visit your wife in 1924. While there, you father a son. But in order to be allowed back to Canada, you must return within a year. You leave your wife and baby behind.

Imagine waiting another 10 years for the exclusion law to be abolished, but nothing happens. In 1934, you return to China again. This time, you father two daughters before having to return to Canada. Once again, you leave your wife and children behind in order to preserve your chance to eventually establish a new life for your family in Canada. Imagine waiting many more years, inhumanly separated from your family by a racist law treating Chinese Canadians differently from all other Canadians.

Finally, in 1947, the Chinese Exclusion Act is repealed. It is 1952 before you are finally able to get your wife to Canada. It is not until 1964, 47 years after you first came to Canada, that your remaining daughter is reunited with the family in Toronto. This daughter brings her husband and children.

ONE of those children is me. My grandfather was a head-tax payer. He was a first-generation Canadian who came to this country in 1917. But I am not a third-generation Canadian. I am also an immigrant. The Chinese Canadian community is still very much a new immigrant community despite our presence here since 1858.

Our nation has a past which continues to reach into the present. There were more than 2,000 head-tax payers surviving when the Chinese Canadian National Council began a redress campaign for claimants in 1984. That was also the year in which the Progressive Conservative Party promised to resolve the issue if elected. Now, nine years later, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney is about to leave office. There are only several hundred head-tax payers left. My own grandfather passed away in 1989.



ON behalf of the more than 3,500 claimants registered with the Chinese Canadian National Council, we are seeking an all-party parliamentary resolution and return of at least a symbolic \$23-million to individuals and the community (for education and for our seniors). This is the sum the government collected in head taxes, a mere fraction of what it would be worth in current dollars — over \$1-billion.

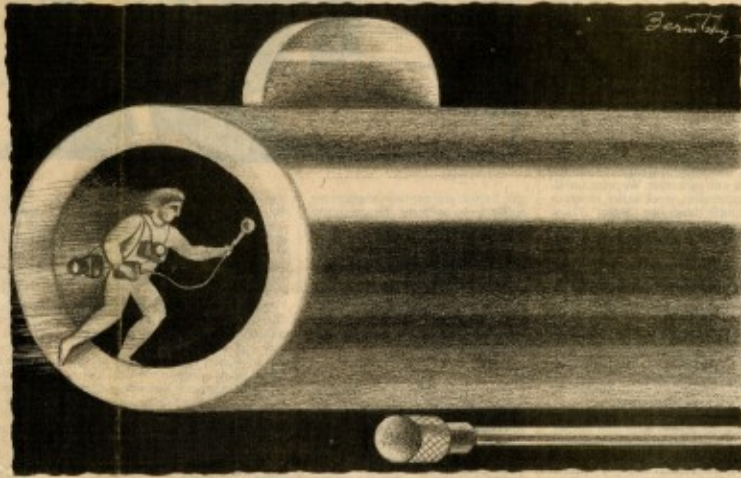
The Chinese Exclusion Act (1923-1947) and the head tax (1885-1923) are not ancient history. This issue is about recognition of the unique history and contribution of Chinese Canadians. Redress for our elderly pioneers and for our community will define us as Canadians, not as Chinese immigrants or foreigners.

Redress will enable our community to leap confidently into a new era as full citizens in an inclusive Canada. Redress will provide justice to our seniors. Redress will help demonstrate that our government should not profit from racism.

July 1, 1923, was the first day of the Chinese Exclusion Act, and July 1 has been seen by some Chinese Canadians as Humiliation Day, not as a day of celebration. Prime Minister Mulroney must ensure that he does not leave on a July 1 still known as Humiliation Day. Justice demands action.

Gary Yee is chairman of the national redress committee of the Chinese Canadian National Council.

Writers who submit articles to the Commentary or Facts and Arguments pages will be contacted within two weeks if their work is accepted for publication. Writers who have not been contacted within that period can assume that their work will not be published. Articles will be returned only if they are accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.



. . . both as bystanders and as specific targets

Even good news has produced bad news and it hard to adjust to the new climate of . . . mentalities have launched vicious attacks

Weekend Observer



JIM COYLE
Citizen Staff

QUEEN'S PARK

Grandview survivors win support

Judi Harris, a survivor of Grandview training school for girls, is mixed up about a lot of things.

"It's hard to find my emotions because they swirl. I get angry, I get sad. There's no point in really looking back and being mad because they ignored it. As long as they don't ignore it now."

Of this much Harris is sure. There was systematic sexual abuse of girls at the Cambridge, Ont., institution when she was there 20 years ago. A lot of people in authority must have known about it. For two decades, the Ontario government did nothing.

"That final complaint, at least, has changed. This week, the province approved a reported \$70,000 for counselling and support for Grandview survivors. It would seem the least these women deserve."

Under investigation

Through to wish of her own, Harris, now 33, has become the highest profile of 30 women who allege sexual and physical abuse at the hands of former Grandview guards and staff. Her claim that former Energy Minister Will Ferguson, then a summer counsellor, helped her escape in 1975 and had sex with her at his apartment prompted denials from the Kitchener MPP and his resignation from cabinet.

Harris has nothing to say about Ferguson while the case is under investigation by police and the former minister endeavors to clear his name.

But she and Karen Handy-Schmidt, 36, another former Grandview inmate, told a news conference this week what it was like there and what they hope to achieve by having those who endured similar experiences join their group.

"Do you know what death is like?" asked Handy-Schmidt. "That's how it was."

"I believe everybody knew," Harris said. "It happened to me and I can't believe that they didn't see it. Like, they had to have seen it, they would have had to be blind. Because it was there, it was in plain sight."

"Like we'd be moved upstairs and guards would be going up and down, so would girls. Short of being blind they couldn't miss it."

Handy-Schmidt, who says she remembers daily calls from her inmates, was sent to Grandview in 1963 at age 15 and stayed three years.

Harris was sent by the courts at 12. Her life, since Grandview, has included repeated jail terms and an abiding anger she fights to control.

"I am angry, but I try not to dwell on it," says Harris. "I can't change it so I just want to get it over with and get on with my life."

The school housed girls 12 to 17 until it closed in 1976. Aside from the horrors they say were endured there, the women said Grandview provided little in the way of education or skills here to straighten out troubled youngsters.

"It was a farce, we just joked around and did our own thing really," Harris said. "I can't remember too many subjects. I remember hair dressing."

Handy-Schmidt said it's time the province accepted responsibility for "the serious harm done to many girls while at this training school."

"We believe that by joining together we can help each other deal with the pain associated with our memories."

Alleged outrages
Even in the current investigation by Waterloo Regional Police there are alleged outrages. One police officer, who is accused of questioning a woman about the size of a girl's penis, has been removed from the investigation.

The OPP has also been asked to investigate the possibility of a government covering up sexual relationships at the school in the late 1960s to mid-1970s.

"I think it's scary to society to face the fact that it happened and we weren't believed," says Harris.

One thing is certain. The province is now moving with alacrity on this file.

The request for help produced funding approval for counselling from the Ministry of Community and Social Services in a matter of days.

The self-help support group for Grandview survivors is to hold its first meeting Sunday in Toronto. Handy-Schmidt can be reached at 1-516-825-5639.

Jim Coyle's Queen's Park column appears Tuesday through Saturday.

► Japanese-Canadians wave goodbye as they leave Tashme evacuation camp in 1946 for a ship in Vancouver Harbor and the journey to Japan. About 4,000, some born in Canada, were voluntarily repatriated.



— University of British Columbia Archives

SECURITY OR RACISM?

Lest we forget Canada's crime against Japanese-Canadians in 1942

By Steve Merrill
The Canadian Press

Standing in the living room of his tiny house, HOPE, B.C., John Nisei looks as startled and ancient as the little bonsai trees he cultivates. He draws a visitor's attention to a framed black-and-white photograph on a table.

It is of Nisei's son, Alfred, who rose to the rank of major in Canada's air force before dying of leukemia in 1971 at age 30.

Nisei, who turns 90 in May, says nothing. But his pride is obvious as he gazes at the earnest young man in uniform who was born in Canada — and branded an enemy by his first birthday.

After spending half his life as a fisherman, Hirose, 68, now manages a commercial fishing supply store in Steveston, a block from where his father's cobbler's shop stood before the Second World War.

Almost everything the Hiroses owned — the shop, a farm plot, furniture — was sold for less than \$1,000 after the family was sent to Alberta to become farm laborers.

They were among about 22,000 Japanese-Canadians uprooted from the coast of British Columbia in 1942 because of concern they might somehow help an invading Japanese army.

After Japan bombed the war with the December 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor, thousands of Japanese-Canadians, half of them born in Canada, were branded potential traitors because of their race.

Four years ago, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney apologized in the House of Commons. He announced compensation — \$21,600 for each of the roughly 12,000 survivors of the camps, plus \$12 million for a community fund — and he acknowledged that racism played a part in the 1942 decision.

But he also said that decision was taken "in the crisis of wartime."

Roy Miki sees cold political arithmetic in the 1942 action.

Racist policy
Miki, a Simon Fraser University professor, believes the federal government's actions were less a matter of Japanese-Canadians for political peace in British Columbia.

B.C. politicians and business leaders used invasion hysteria as a pretext to rid the province of a growing, increasingly prosperous non-white segment of society, says Miki.

"These were people that were political opportunists who saw the crisis as a means of undermining the economic base of Japanese-Canadians."

Racism was public policy in British Columbia in the first half of this century.

For the Japanese, that included restricted entry into business and professions, immigration quotas, tough naturalization requirements and no right to vote — not even for Nisei, the second-generation Japanese born in Canada.

Some elements of the Japanese-Canadian community did favor Japan's wartime policies, but there was no evidence of subversion.

But there was a growing outcry against the Japanese-Canadian community. A number of B.C. politicians led demands for expulsion.

Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King doubted Japanese-Canadians presented a threat, but for his heir that was a side issue in Canada's larger war problems.

For advice, he relied largely on Pensance Minister Ian Mackenzie — a Vancouver MP and

22,000 sent to camps

March marks the 50th anniversary of the mass evacuation of 22,000 Japanese-Canadians from coastal British Columbia. Some important dates:

■ **Dec. 7, 1941:** Japan attacks Pearl Harbor.

■ **Feb. 24, 1942:** A federal order-in-council bans all people of Japanese racial origin from a 160-kilometre-wide protected zone along the West Coast. The RCMP gets wide powers of search and seizure under War Measures Act.

■ **March 4, 1942:** Lands and goods of Japanese-Canadians are given "in trust" to Custodian of Enemy Property.

■ **March 25, 1942:** Hundreds of Nisei — Canadian-born people of Japanese descent — are ordered to internment camp in Ontario. Many are arrested and sent to prisoner-of-war camps in Ontario, along with about 700 Japanese citizens.

■ **November, 1942:** Evacuation from protected zone complete. About 12,000 people in camps in B.C. interior, most others on Prairie farms as laborers.

■ **April, 1949:** Almost four years after war ended, government allows Japanese-Canadians to return to West Coast.

the only B.C. member of King's cabinet — who shared the anti-Asian sentiments of the B.C. establishment.

Mackenzie chaired a conference in Ottawa on "Japanese problems" a month after Pearl Harbor. The B.C. representatives overwhelmed officials from the RCMP, Defence and External Affairs departments with demands for internment of all males of Japanese descent.

"They spoke of the Japanese-Canadians in a way that the Nazis would have spoken about Jewish Germans,"

Essex Reid, an External Affairs bureaucrat, would recall later. "When they spoke, I felt in that committee room the physical presence of evil."

The government compromised, ordering male Japanese-

tionals removed from a newly declared security zone stretching the length of the B.C. coast and extending 100 kilometres inland — but exempting Canadian born or naturalized citizens. The government dragged its feet on implementation and tension grew.

On Feb. 24, 1942, the federal cabinet passed order-in-council PC 1486. Announced two days later, it authorized the removal of all ethnic Japanese from the security zone.

A madried exodus began in March and lasted until autumn.

Some Japanese-Canadians were sent on dreary rail trips to decaying mining towns in the B.C. interior, like Greenwood, Sicamous and New Denver.

Others went to dusty Prairie farms as laborers. A lucky few made it to Japanese-owned farms in the interior.

Evacuees were allowed to take only what they could carry. Other goods were sold at fire-sale prices, looted by neighbors or put "in trust" with the Custodian of Enemy Property.

A year later, the custodian was given permission to sell all property, including farms, boats and businesses. The paltry proceeds were credited to the evacuees' accounts, with deductions for their living expenses.

After the war, many embittered residents of the camp were ready to accept the government's offer of "voluntary repatriation" to Japan.

Hirose returned to Steveston in 1961 and creased on fishboats until he could buy his own. The fish company helped with an interest-free loan because, he says, even before the war Japanese workers were respected.

"We're hard-working people, and honest," says Hirose.

◀ **John Nisei.** His son Alfred rose to the rank of major in Canada's air force before dying of leukemia in 1971 at age 31



▲ Thousands of Japanese-Canadians, half of them born in Canada, were branded potential traitors after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor

'No Japs from the Rockies to the sea' was election slogan in B.C.

The Canadian Press

Margaret Hayward arrived at the internment camp known as Tashme in August 1943, the month atomic mushroom clouds loomed over a sudden end to the war with Japan.

Tashme remained open until late 1946, becoming a staging area for the "voluntary" deportation of thousands of ethnic Japanese — half of them born in Canada.

Hayward was 24 when she accepted a job as a social worker at Tashme, in 1942 near Hope, B.C., 150 kilometres east of Vancouver. She was one of 20 whites administering to about 2,400 Japanese-Canadians.

Studying at the University of British Columbia before the war, Hayward had got to know Japanese-Canadian students, so she had no fears or prejudices.

She had her doubts when the federal government, pressured by B.C. politicians, labelled the entire 22,000-member Japanese-Canadian community a security risk and uprooted it from the coast of British Columbia in 1942. The people cooped up at Tashme for three years were clearly no threat, she says.

"We had people who came into the camp on stretchers and left on stretchers," she says. "Now, what in the world were they going to do against Canada?"

In March 1943, the federal government presented 12,000 Japanese-Canadians living in B.C. camps with a choice: permanent dispersal east of the Rocky Mountains, where thousands had already gone, or "repatriation" to Japan after the war ended.

Those in the camps had lost all their prewar possessions, sold by the government's Custodian of Enemy Property.

Roy Miki, a Simon Fraser University professor involved in the campaign that led to Ottawa's official apology and compensation in 1988, says the property sales were part of a plan to ensure Japanese-Canadians never returned to the coast.

For instance, before the sale, Japanese berry farmers were prevented from leasing their land to neighboring farmers.

"The government did not want them to license these farms to whites because then they (the Japanese) would come back," says Miki.

The policy's advocates did nothing to hide their goal. "Let our slogan be for British Columbia: 'No Japs from the Rockies to the sea,'" Ian Mackenzie, a Liberal cabinet minister from Vancouver, told his resignation meeting for the 1944 election. He was re-elected.

The choice between going to Japan or east of the Rockies divided the occupants of the internment camps.

Many later — first-generation immigrants — were embittered by their treatment or believed Japanese propaganda broadcasts picked up on hammed shortwave radios. They signed up for repatriation.

Yoshio and adult Nisei — second generation, born in Canada, with no emotional ties to Japan — wanted to stay.

By mid-August, almost half of Canada's ethnic Japanese population had signed for repatriation.

But when the war ended, thousands renounced their signatures. Backed by civic and church organizations, finally speaking out against the federal government's policy, most won their fight to remain.

About 4,000, including 2,000 Canadian-born Japanese, did sail to Japan in five ships starting in May 1946.

"Who can say how many of those sleeping in the village (Tashme) were born and raised in Canada?" Hayward wrote in her scrapbook in October 1945. "And yet we are sending them back to the land of their forefathers."

"Are we protecting our democracy or are we breaking down what it stands for?"



◀ John Nisei. His son Alfred rose to the rank of major in Canada's air force before dying of leukemia in 1971 at age 31

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THE WEEKEND
Observer

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Violence
IN SCHOOLS

■ **A SPARK:** Mark Williams, 15, says he was nudged in the hallway by a white student at Rideau High School and called a "nigger." The two met later at a bus stop and continued the confrontation with their fists.

■ **THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM:** Youth officers say their biggest concern is how to curtail incidents involving young children, some even in kindergarten.

Steel bars, knives and guns

Student violence sometimes related to racial intolerance

By ALANA KAINZ
CITIZEN STAFF WRITER

Mark Williams' fingers look like they've been scoured against a kitchen grater. But they are a bloody testament to the mounting violence among area school children.

Police forces and school boards have been grappling with record numbers of violent acts occurring before, after and during classes. Despite the growing reports of clashes and weapons, students at schools around the area say they still feel safe when they go to class.

But, they add, violent incidents seem to be unsettling their studies and feelings of security more and more. With reason: Ottawa police have seized more than 100 weapons from school-aged children since September.

Ottawa youths have been charged with 35 per cent of total crimes — that's up 15 per cent since 1980. At the Carleton Board of Education, violent incidents are estimated to be up 10 to 15 per cent over last year.

Williams, 15, says he was nudged in the hallway by a white student at Rideau High School and called a "nigger." The two met later at a bus stop off school property and continued the confrontation with their fists.

Now, Williams and a friend, Mike Blanchard, have formed Teenagers Against Racism.

Last week, they distributed leaflets that read in part: "Until the philosophy which holds one race superior and the other inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned... there will always be a war."

But Rideau's vice principal, Peter Clark, says the boys were asked to stop distributing leaflets that read in part: "Until the philosophy which holds one race superior and the other inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned... there will always be a war."

The message itself may be good... but we have a multi-racial school here and we wanted to settle back to the way it was two weeks ago."

The acquittal last week of a Somali boy, charged with assault and a weapons offence after a brawl at Rideau High School, stirred up some hostility among students. The defence successfully argued that the boy had repeatedly been a target because of his race.

"Two guys read the paper and said, 'Yeah he got off, way to go,'" says Mike Clairoux, a 17-year-old student at Rideau. "They started laughing, which of course, is going to get people mad." Clairoux says a friend of his was bitten in the chest during the battle that began over a soccer ball.

'We're trying to stamp out racism'
Blanchard defends the pamphlets, saying "We're trying to stamp out racism." Blanchard says he is often called a traitor for befriending blacks. "We're trying to be sympathetic to the issue, but we're being told we'll be kicked out if we keep doing it."

While Blanchard and Williams discuss their leaflets with a reporter and photographer, Clairoux yells at them: "Someone could get hurt for telling one side of the story. After a brief exchange and advice to Clairoux to "read it man," Williams walks away, apparently to avoid a physical confrontation.

Clairoux says he was hit in the head with a hollow bar with a ball on the end of it during a fight at the Rideau Centre earlier this month. The fight was between two groups of people, many of whom go to Rideau High School.

"They call it racism. But there were blacks and whites on one side and just blacks on the other."

Many students say their schools are just a microcosm of society, with feeble undercurrents of bigotry and tiny pockets of unlawful and intolerant people.

But even doing something innocuous, like throwing snow around, can make you a victim.

Keith Loiselle, 17, was outside Woodroffe High School a month ago while a friend, whom he knows only as Scott, picked up snow and threw it at him. "One (person) drove a snow blower and threw it at those two... guys stop the car and come out swinging their fists. Scott took off inside."

A little later the two... guys come in the school's cafeteria with crowbars and start swinging at him. One hit him in the face."

The school's vice-principal defused the situation and police were called.

The vice-principal, John Scobie, stresses the car was from Toronto and the youths were not students at the school.

But Loiselle says: "I know people with steel bars or



Bandaged: Mark Williams, left, with Mike Blanchard, says he injured hand in a fight

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Students: Have you experienced violence? What do you think should be done to combat violence in schools?
If you'd like to express your opinion, write to:
Student feedback, The Ottawa Citizen, 1101 Banker Rd., Box 5030, Ottawa, Ont., K2C 3M4, or FAX 726-1198.
Or record your views up to Tuesday at 6 p.m. by calling 721-1500 and pressing code 8565 on your touch-tone phone.



crowbars in their locker, just in case. About two weeks ago there was this fight. I didn't see it, but all I saw blood all over the (school) door and in the snow."

Police aren't strangers to elementary schools either. Youth officers say this is their biggest concern — how to curtail incidents that are teaching young children, some even in kindergarten.

A five-year-old Orleans girl is being kept home by her parents until something is done about a 10-year-old boy who, they say, has threatened her with a knife and slapped her.

"We never thought she'd be exposed to something like this at this level, maybe high school," says her father, Robert St. Aubin.

The school principal says the boy was given the 37-millimetre folding knife by an aunt and he was only showing off the gift to his friends.

Students say fights in and out of schools seem to be common, with skirmishes breaking out over anything

from simply not liking the way someone looks to outright racial discrimination.

"I think you have to watch what you say. You look at a person the wrong way and you could be toast," says Valerie Pugliese, a 16-year-old at Woodroffe High School.

"I know of one girl who was just sitting in the caf minding her own business and this other tough girl comes along. She accused her of staring at her and started pounding on her and made her bleed. There's always fights going on. I think it gets worse and worse."

Students say a small but growing portion of their peers feel the need to arm themselves.

Nick Hamilton, 17, in Grade 12 at Ashbury College, a private school in Rockcliffe, says he knows of a teenager who carries a knife-like weapon.

"It's trying to project this image of himself and we all know there's nothing behind it. It's like he's saying, 'I'm cool. I have a knife.'"

Brass knuckles with a blade
The weapon is a set of brass knuckles with a blade that pops out from the middle finger, Hamilton says.

"A guy I know carries this knife all the time," says Alexia Vallee, 34, who goes to De La Salle High School. "He's got this holster attached to his pocket. He's never been in a fight, never used the knife. He's one of those types of guys that has a Mohawk haircut."

David Martin, a 19-year-old student at the Adult High School on Rochester Street, says that "if there are problems, no one hears about them unless they happen right in front of the principal's office. People fear the backlash."

"The problem is everywhere and it's growing. I know of a couple (of students) who carry guns... 300, real ones, but they've never pulled them on anyone. I once saw one guy pull one out on the first floor of the Rideau Centre."

Cory, a 17-year-old at Cairine Wilson in Orleans, says she once carried a knife for protection. "People don't like the way I dress and would say things to me. Flashing a knife shuts them up."

Wiseman says the report will include a weapons policy designed to standardize punitive measures.

Wiseman says the average age of teachers in the OBE is 48, which gives him an added challenge in helping them cope.

"Our teachers are tired... Young teachers want to get in there and roll up their sleeves," he says. But "some just can't absorb it. So what do you do? You pull in, dem it, block it out."

Both the OBE and CBE hope to train teachers and perhaps change the curriculum to address the problem of violence.

At the Carleton Separate School Board, a report on safe schools is set to go to a committee in March.

SOME RECENT INCIDENTS FROM ACROSS THE REGION:

The following are snapshots of incidents reported by schools, police and students across the region.

(School and police officials would not reveal locations in all cases, saying the problem has seeped into every school. They say they don't want to unfairly taint any school's reputation.)

► Ottawa police have investigated five assaults on teachers this school year. In one case, a male teacher was punched several times and knocked off his feet. He was treated at hospital for bruises.

► During the first week of school, four elementary students, all under 12, kidnapped, gagged and physically assaulted a seven-year-old. When he was found two hours later, says a board official, the bandage around his mouth was so tight that if he had allergies, a cold or had rolled over on his nose, he would have been found dead.

► A pellet gun modified to look like a sawed-off shotgun was found in an Ottawa school. "To my way of thinking there is only one reason why someone would bring it in: to intimidate, to be a big tough guy," said Dan Wiseman, the Ottawa Board of Education's director of social services.

► In September, two elementary students took a bus to Hull to get someone to buy them two pellet guns that cannot be legally sold in Ottawa. The 11- and 12-year-old went back to a Carleton elementary school where a 10-year-old was shot in the arm and the leg.

► A student was found smuggling out of the school a pointed piece of metal he apparently sharpened in shop class. He told the teacher he was making a wall ornament.

► Four months ago, a crowd of 35 people gathered outside a high school as one student attempted to assault another with a lead pipe.

► A student was hit in the head with a bike seat at a high school. He needed 46 stitches.

► Police continually receive information that while supremacists are recruiting in high schools.

► A machete was found under a car in the parking lot of an Ottawa high school where police learned there was going to be a fight.

► A serious rumble was brewing in front of Nepean High School following an incident at a party supervised by parents two months ago.

Principal Gary Smith called the police. "It was like something out of a Western movie," he said. "The police officer in the cruiser literally headed them with the cruiser... between Broadview (school) and Nepean, through the back campus of Broadview, and onto Dowcourt (Avenue)."

► Police were called early in the school year when a man in a high school hallway waved a knife at his former girlfriend and threatened to stab her. The man did not attend the school.

► A baseball bat, cut down to fit inside a jacket, was found on an elementary student. "Punkster" was written on the bat.

► Early this month, Nepean police charged two teenagers with weapons offences after a brawl at St. Paul High School. Three boys argued inside the school and then went outside for a fight. Later, off the school grounds, one of the boys swung a knife at another. A baseball bat and two knives were seized.

► Two pellet guns were found at the homes of two boys after a fight at an Overbrook school. They so closely resemble real guns that police fear the consequences should one be pulled on an officer.

Area school boards formulating strategies against violence

By ANGELA MANGIACASALE
AND ALANA KAINZ
CITIZEN STAFF WRITERS

Those on the front line — the teachers — have been raising warning flags about the violence that is increasingly part of their work day.

The behavior crisis is so widespread the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation has set up a task force on safety in schools. It plans to begin a poster campaign this year that equates violence with anti-social behavior.

"We've always had violence in schools. Part of the teacher's role has always been the arbitrator," says Stuart Aul, the Toronto man who heads the task force.

The difference is there might be a weapon today. As soon as you enter that dynamic in the fray, all traditional ap-

proaches to school discipline go out the window."

A survey done last year by the Ontario Catholic Teachers' Association showed the province's separate school teachers were the victims of at least 70 assaults a year.

"Reports of assaults, violent occurrences and serious property damage have come across both our desks with alarming frequency," representatives of elementary and secondary teachers wrote to the Carleton Board of Education in November.

The warnings are not falling on deaf ears. Area boards want to act now, before they are forced to turn their schools into fortresses patrolled by security guards — as is the case in some large American cities.

► The Carleton Board has taken the advice of its teachers and established a sub-committee on safe schools.

"The mood in schools is tense than it's

"We've always had violence in schools. Part of the teacher's role has always been the arbitrator," says Stuart Aul, the Toronto man who heads the provincial task force on safety in schools. "The difference is there might be a weapon today."

ever been," says John Beatty, the CBE's superintendent of school operations. He estimates reports of violent incidents this year are up 10 to 15 per cent over last year.

► Ottawa Board of Education trustees will be presented in the next few weeks with a safe schools report by a committee headed by Dan Wiseman, head of the board's social services department.

against violence. In Ottawa, in September, eight officers were assigned high schools they go into for 16 hours a week. They all wear masks for quick response to anything from locker thefts to suspicious people.

One key is to convince kids not to accept being bullied into participating in or tolerating violent behavior.

"The big thing is peer pressure," says Ontario Provincial Police Staff Sgt. Brian Carty, of the Rockland detachment. "We have to educate kids that it's not right that you allow these people to go out and push other citizens around, or go 'swarming' — which should really be called robbery because that's what it is — because that's not allowed in society."

He says it's also important that parents be alerted.

"If the kid comes home with a new Chicago Bulls windbreaker on their back, maybe they should ask where the kid got it."