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New radio station XM105 put on a free country music festival at Rotary Park. Recording artists and local talent combined to entertain the crowd of 1,500.

ROYAL LEPAGE



WHITECOURT Advisor

OCTOBER 2006 — VOL. 4 NO. 10 — CIRCULATION 5,250

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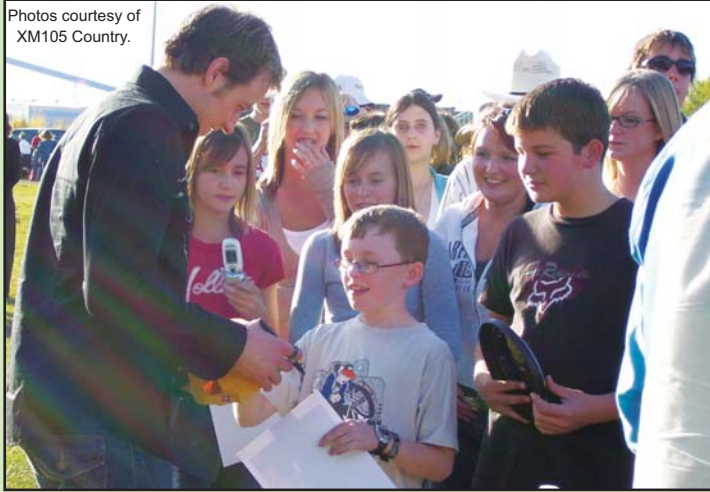
Taking on the trappings of a city

One more sign that Whitecourt is on its way to city status was the Sunday Music Festival at Rotary Park on September 24. The turnout was estimated at over 1,500 people.

Legally, an Alberta town
(Continued page 5)



Photos courtesy of XM105 Country.



Autograph seekers line up for recording artist Aaron Lines.

Sagitiwa to Whitecourt - Part Three

By Jerry Graham
(Ed - the following is a fair use, first hand account of early days in Whitecourt)

What, the reader may well ask, contributed to the economy of Whitecourt, and what justified the establish-

(Cont. page 18)

Monthly Quiz

What am I?

A man wanted to enter an exclusive club but did not know the password that was required. He waited by the door and listened. A club member knocked on the door and the doorman said,

(Continued page 5)



Inside the shade of the bandstand, local 10-year-old Trina Parker, winner of her age group for North Country Idol, performs with the pros.

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Vandalism and Systems Thinking - Part One

Compiled by Dan Parker

Introduction

Vandalism is a growing hot topic in Whitecourt and in Western Society. Isolating vandalism from youth crime and crime in general constrains the focus so that it is difficult to discern possible root causes and solutions for the problem. This article will take a wider approach, looking at both overall crime and its relation to society, before focusing in on youth crime and on vandalism in particular.

A concept known as 'systems-thinking' is behind this policy, which has been a facet of many Advisor pieces. For example, our last

feature story spanned topics from Keynes's comments regarding post WWII economics, to the monetary reform



efforts of Whitecourt pioneer J.W. Leedy to, the current troubles in the Middle East.

What follows is a brief overview regarding the systemic approach to problem solving.

Backgrounder on Systems-thinking

Critically thinking about numerous interrelated variables is sometimes described as the hardest work of all. This leads to a temptation and tendency to fall back on simple explanations and solutions. Such solutions can span the ideological gamut from the so-called 'right wing' to the so-called 'left wing'. Regardless of labels, what is usually prescribed is an over-simplified approach that often ignores underlying causes. This is particularly

(Continued on page 11)



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"Oh, is that so? Tell me..." replies God.

"Well," says the scientist, "we can take dirt and form it into the likeness of you and breathe life into it, thus creating man."

"Well, that's interesting...show Me."

So the scientist bends down to the earth and starts to mold the soil.

"No, no, no..." interrupts God, "Get your own dirt."

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Bad joke contest continues

A highway walks into a pub one day. He goes up to the bar and orders himself a drink. He just sits down when in walks a strip of tarmac.

The highway sees the tarmac and starts to panic so he jumps over the bar and ducks down so it won't see him.

The barman looks down at him and says, "What's the matter with you? Why are you hiding? You've got six lanes and two hard shoulders. Why are you frightened of a piece of tarmac?"

The motorway replies, "You don't know him like I do. He's a cyclepath."

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House Broken

A man went to the Police Station wishing to speak with the burglar who had broken into his house the night before.

"You'll get your chance in court." said the Desk Sergeant.

"No, no no!" said the man. "I want to know how he got into the house without waking my wife. I've been trying to do that for years!"



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Whitecourt Oldtimer's Contest. How many can you name? Answers on page 12. Thank you to Bob Walker for the photo.

Bad Day at Work

A police officer pulls a guy over for speeding and has the following exchange:

Officer: May I see your driver's license?

Driver: I don't have one. I had it suspended when I got my 5th impaired.

Officer: May I see the registration for this vehicle?

Driver: It's not my car. I stole it.

Officer: The car is stolen?

Driver: That's right. But come to think of it, I think I saw the registration in the glove box when I was putting my gun in there.

Officer: There's a gun in the glove box?

Driver: Yes sir. That's where I put it after I shot and killed the woman who owns this car and stuffed her in the trunk.

Officer: There's a BODY in the TRUNK?!?!?

Driver: Yes, sir.

Hearing this, the officer immediately called his captain. The car was quickly surrounded by police with guns drawn, and

the captain approached the driver to handle the tense situation:

Captain: Sir, can I see your license?

Driver: Sure. Here it is.

It was valid.

Captain: Who's car is this?

Driver: It's mine, officer. Here's the registration.

Captain: Could you slowly open your glove box so I can see if there's a gun in it?

Driver: Yes, sir, but there's no gun in it.

Sure enough, there was nothing in the glove box.

Captain: Would you mind opening your trunk? I was told you said there's a body in it.

Driver: No problem.

Trunk is opened; no body.

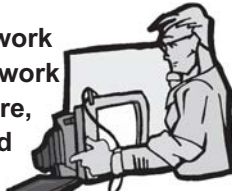
Captain: I don't understand it. The officer who stopped you said you told him you didn't have a license, stole the car, had a gun in the glovebox, and that there was a dead body in the trunk.

Driver: Yeah, I'll bet he told you I was speeding, too.

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(Continued from page 1)
can apply for city status once the population reaches 10,000. In 2004, the census showed 8,747 souls in Whitecourt. With the significant growth over the last two years, Whitecourt may be over the 9,000 mark. Add the transient workers, and it is no wonder that traffic is starting to look like that found in a small city. There are advantages and disadvantages to obtaining city status.

(Quiz from page 1)
"twelve." The member replied, "six" and was let in. A second member came to the door and the doorman said, "six." The member replied, "three" and was let in. The man thought he had heard enough and walked up to the door. The doorman said, "ten" and the man replied, "five." But he was not let in. What should have he said?
Answer on page 30

Premier Klein to speak at Chamber Event

The Whitecourt Chamber of Commerce will be helping celebrate Small Business Week from October 15th to 21st with speakers and seminars.

There will also be a general meeting on October 11th that will include the Annual Board of Directors Elections. It starts at 11:45 a.m. and is at the Travelodge Hotel.

This will be followed by a President's Ball and Awards Gala on October 21st. Cocktails are at 5:00 p.m. Ralph Klein will be the special guest speaker. Dress is business formal and tickets are \$60.00. Music is by Twilight Music. For more information, contact the Chamber of office at 778-5363.



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Helicopters arriving by air and otherwise are another facet of Whitecourt's booming resource industry. This rig is parked by the curb of the Alaska Hotel. All that's needed are more apartments and people to help fill the labour shortage.

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Town Council in Review

TOWN PRESS RELEASE RECAP September 2006 - Whitecourt Town Council Update First reading was approved for a Bylaw that will prohibit smoking in all portions of buildings open to the public. Whitecourt Town Council passed the motion at its September 11 Regular Meeting, and also discussed an implementation schedule for the Bylaw. Council has decided to exclude outdoor patios and private workplace areas not accessible to the public from this Bylaw's jurisdiction. Changes were prompted after receiving overwhelming support (1,215 votes – 71.6%) when Town Council asked for the community's opinion at the August 14th Public Vote. The Smoking Bylaw will return to Council for final approval in the near future. If approved, the Town of Whitecourt will develop and distribute information throughout the community prior to implementation to ensure the public is appropriately educated on the changes.

A Public Hearing was held to hear comments from residents regarding a proposed service industrial development in west Whitecourt. The proposed outline plan and corresponding Land Use Bylaw amendment would permit service industrial development in the area adjacent to the Westview Mobile Home Park. Town Council approved the proposed plan and land district amendment request, with the intent to impose specific development requirements to reduce effects caused by noise and traffic.

Enhancements and improvements are underway at the Whitecourt Twin Arenas. Town Council previously approved a number of projects to modernize the facility, and recently awarded a contract for the purchase of a new hot water heating system. Future enhancement projects are scheduled at the facility throughout the next few months.

Fund raising initiatives will begin shortly for the Whitecourt Woodlands Multi-Use Facility. At its September 25 Regular Meeting, Town Council approved a Corporate Sponsorship/Fund Raising Plan presented by a committee consisting of Council and Community Services Advisory Board representatives. The approved plan includes a variety of naming right opportunities (including the facility, ameni-

(Continued on page 8)

Krome in Town

Seeing this band in the intimate setting of The Office Lounge is something rock music fans won't want to miss. Formed in 2004 in Vancouver, BC KROME is four guys who live Rock-n-roll, thriving on live performances. The band in the past two years have toured Canada coast to coast 4 times, had a successful independent CD release selling over 5000 copies (Neglected), a song in the top 50 (Acknowledge), and secured an army of loyal and devoted fans.

In December of 2005 KROME penned a deal with Shoreline/Universal Records and released on that label their self titled CD in the spring of 2006.

KROME has received rave reviews and the mainstream support of the press, commercial radio and Much Loud. Quebec praises Krome's hard work by printing: "an English band from the West pierces Quebec, wow now that's surrealism!" (Quebec LeSoleil), to Edmonton See Magazine stating; "Vancouver seems to be producing a new breed of bands, and Alberta seems to be appreciating them. Krome.....is a mix of tightly structured harmonies, deep guitars, and dark, often brooding melodies that interchange with bright, ethereal chorus hooks." The video for Krome's single "Acknowledge" was added "out of the box" and into regular rotation on the Much Loud TV channel. The same song can be heard on the Feature Film "La Peau Blanche".

For the record, Krome consists of 4 guys who have



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the uncanny ability to write songs that are commercially accessible while maintaining an uncompromising rock edge. The band is the brain-child & vision of Shawn Meehan, (singer/guitar play-

er) who assembled a line-up of solid players, including Vancouver bassist Rick "The Butcher" Williams, Drummer Rod Senft and guitarist/vocalist Randy Robertson, who together have developed

the sonic attack that make up Krome's live show.

They plan to do what comes natural with the release of their self titled CD by embarking once again across Canada.

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(Town Press Release Recap from page 6)

ties, features, meeting rooms, etc.) to assist with reaching the Town's minimum fund raising goal of \$500,000.

Whitecourt Town Council has provided its support to Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation for the installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Highway 43 and Hospital Road. The provincial department recently completed a review of Highway 43 through Whitecourt, and a safety assessment of the Highway 43 and Hospital Road intersection. It concluded that the installation of a traffic control signal would improve traffic and pedestrian safety in the area. Installation of the traffic signal will be managed by Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, and installation is expected to begin as soon as possible.

The Whitecourt & Area Transit Society, Sagitawah Multi 4-H and Amigo Relief have been awarded fund raising projects under the Town's Community Clean Up Program. The program offers non-profit organizations the opportunity to receive financial assistance in exchange for roadside and public area litter pick up. To date, thirteen non-profit organizations have been awarded projects and received \$1,000 each in funding assistance from the Town.

Residents can swim for free at the RCMP Century Swimming Pool on Sunday evenings during Family Swim time courtesy of the Whitecourt Rotary Club. The Town of Whitecourt appreciates the Clubs generous support, and commends its community contributions.



Our apologies for missing two supporters in our previous thank-you . The Rotary Club of Whitecourt wishes to acknowledge the support of the following for the 4th Annual Lobster Fest in 2006.

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Fighting poverty

UN reform to top General Assembly agenda, says new president

GNA – As the General Assembly opened its 61st session today, the body’s new president promised to focus on alleviating extreme poverty and advancing the process of UN reform undertaken during the previous session. “The General Assembly has to continue to evolve and strive to deliver sustainable solutions to the major challenges of our time,” Sheikha Haya Rashid Al Khalifa told delegates this morning. “Reform is a process rather than an event.”

She noted that several recommendations of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document have yet to be fully realized, such as disarmament and non-proliferation, Security Council reform, mandate review and system-wide coherence.

The UN also had a crucial role in promoting peace and security, she said. “Today, man-made conflicts are destroying lives and displacing people on a scale that sometimes exceeds the destructive effects of nature – floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and tsunamis.”

A pressing issue was combating international terrorism, which required the adoption of both preventive and defensive measures, she said. Later briefing reporters, she expressed the hope that after last week’s adoption of a resolution on a global counter-terrorism strategy, the current Assembly session would reach agreement on a comprehensive definition of terrorism.

She also said that it was important to consolidate the reforms that had been achieved in the past year, notably by ensuring that the new Peacebuilding Commission and Human Rights Council have a real impact on large numbers of people.

Improving the situation of women is also one of her top goals. The fact that half the world’s population typically have less access to health care, employment, decision-making and property ownership needed to be addressed, she told Assembly delegates.

Sheikha Haya is the first female General Assembly President since 1969 and the first Muslim woman to hold the post. “It does not matter that I am a Muslim or a Christian or Jewish,” she told reporters. “We are human beings

and we have the same worries and we have the same problems.”

Good News Agency

For more see: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=19809&Cr=general&Cr1=assembly>

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Through the Service Canada Network, Canadians can receive the help they need when they want, where they want and how they want. These services are just a click, call or visit away online at servicecanada.gc.ca, at 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232), or in person. The Web site has a complete listing of where all the Service Canada points of service are located. - *News Canada*

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(Continued from page 2)

true when variables touch on what has been termed “unmentionables” by some system-thinkers. An ‘unmentionable’ in our current society is the subject of how money is created from nothing, as debt at compound interest, by private institutions.

Overly simplified solutions lead to situations whereby billions of dollars and extensive human resources are thrown at some problems, only to see them grow worse. This would include the war on some drugs, the fight against cancer and the threat of terrorism in Iraq and elsewhere. We certainly have the technology to at least improve the aforementioned situations, yet they grow in spite of tremendous efforts. For the most part, this

is because there are unintended consequences, many of which come about from not defining the problem clearly enough.

A main reason for this is that we tend to break apart problems to make complex tasks more manageable. In very complex systems, such as social institutions, the hidden price of this is that we can lose sight of the consequences of our actions. Moreover, it is futile to try to reassemble the fragments to see the big picture in such cases. This is because the elements cannot be dealt with in isolation, due to the dynamic interrelationships between them. The idea

“One saying in systems theory problem solving is that “the easy way out, usually leads back in”.”

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is that one has to engage in ‘systems-thinking’ to see past the illusion that the world is created of separate, unrelated forces. As well, ‘unmentionables’ that do not enter a discussion or dialogue, function as blind spots in an organization, whether it be a company, a community or society at large.

Systems theory, or cybernetics, is the description of a methodology used to more effectively deal with the complexity in social problems and elsewhere. For those interested, ‘systems theory’ is more directed at structure, whereas ‘cybernetics’ tends towards process. However since form follows function,

and function follows form in the cycle, there is really no significant difference in the terminology.

One saying in systems-thinking problem solving is that “the easy way out, usually leads back in”. Another dynamic, called ‘the principle of least resistance’ leads to people pushing for easy, albeit deeply flawed, solutions; rather than truly considering the complexity of the problem. Systems-thinking can appear to be difficult work, particularly when there is sometimes no immediate, clear-cut result to consider as feedback or reinforcement for a particular course of action; but it is far easier than repeatedly trying processes that don’t work, or even make the problem worse.

(Continued on page 14)

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Not-So-Famous Sports Quotes

Steve Spurrier, Florida football coach, telling Gator fans that a fire at Auburn's football dorm had destroyed 20 books: "But the real tragedy was that 15 hadn't been colored yet."



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor;

I very much enjoyed The Advisor's comments regarding the multi-use center debate. (See: Making Lemons Into Lemonade, Sept. 2006.) In the article, the Advisor combined some gentle criticism with a timely reminder. To wit: while our local issues are not as important as we think they are against the background of wider concerns, it is still vital to become involved because these issues are important to us, right where we live, now and into the future.

Like in the Advisor article, I am optimistic that the lessons learned will be applied the next time an important issue arises; I can think of several concerns which will need to be addressed soon in addition to the increasing pressures of long-term care for an aging population that the article mentions.

(1) Housing is scarce- apartment space particularly so. (2) It will not be long before both the public and separate high schools will need to be expanded if the population continues to grow the way it has in the last year. (3) The hospital, too, will soon need to be made larger- and a 24 hr. walk-in non-emergency clinic is actually needed right now. (Perhaps staffed by nurse-practitioners or student doctors under the supervision of a practicing MD) (4) In addition, there is the laudable attempt to bring some form of public transport to the physically disabled in town, and (5) recreationally speaking, I know of many kids who would benefit from an improved (dare I say real?) skateboard park.

I am confident that the citizens of both town and county will approach these issues with the same passion as was shown during the multi-use debate- minus the bad behaviour, of course.

Sincerely,
 Lori Hausauer, Whitecourt.

Answer from page 4. Left to right front row: RW John Berget, C Sam Hoey, LW Kevin Cartwright, G Jack Gainer, G Ken Jocksch, RW Nelson Bayford, LD Barry Gregory, RW George McIntosh. Left to right back row: Manager Ron Ashmore, C Ray Cartwright, C Lee Braithwaite, LW Albert Jocksch, RD Dave Newbury, LW Larry Duncan, LW Jim Cartwright, RD Dave Ashmore, LD Len Cartwright, Coach Walter Warchola. 10 or more right and you are a certified Whitecourt Oldtimer.

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(Continued from page 11)

Systems-thinking sometimes receives a bum rap in that whenever the solution calls for significant change on the part of powerful structures, the failure of those power structures to change is spun so that the finger is pointed back at those advocating the change. Alternatively, systems-thinkers who might rock the boat are not asked for their opinions in the first place, which effectively leaves only pseudo system-thinkers on board. An inability to discuss 'unmentionables' was a key drawback regarding early systems-thinking experiments in the United States in the 1950's. An important work from this period was *The Human Use of Human Beings, Cybernetics and Society*, by Norbert Wiener.

In 1989 there was a resurgence of sorts for cybernetics or systems theory. It started with a best-selling business book on thinking critically about entire systems, rather than just a few relatively simple aspects of a problem. It was entitled *The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of the Learning Organization* by management consultant

Peter Senge. A key issue of this work was that the author found that private businesses are more able to adapt to managing complex environments than governments. This came from the personal experience of author Senge, who first worked within government bureaucracies to try and improve social situations, and then worked with private businesses to do the same. In hindsight, the failure of communism makes Senge's observation obvious.

A central element emphasized by Senge is that it is not possible for one person to 'figure it out' from the top in a complex environment, where there are many fast-changing, interrelated variables. He calls for 'new and expansive patterns of thinking'. To do this, Senge advocates starting with five disciplines. They are: building shared vision to foster long term commitment; keeping an open

mind to challenge our mental models or paradigms; using team learning to both deal with complexity and to see the larger picture that lies beyond our individual perspective; personal mastery to

continually learn how our own actions affect our world; and systems-thinking, which is the fifth discipline that integrates the other four.

Since Peter Senge's breakout book, there has been much more written on business and systems-thinking. Many organizations have formed around the concept. One advocate, Edward Simon, who was president of a multinational office design firm called Herman Miller, went so far as to say "business is the only institution that has a chance to fundamentally improve injustice in the world".

It is hardly surprising that government is given

such short shift, in that it is a monopoly and monopolies are inherently inefficient and ineffective. Yet it is only government policy that can bring the various efforts together to solve the degradation of civility in our society. On the face of it, it seems like the classic 'catch-22' situation; until one realizes that communications technology makes such advances in democratic structures possible as to truly spur competitive pressures in governing organizations. An important consideration here is the powerful governing forces outside of the media spotlight; beyond our elected representatives. These influences are sometimes lumped under the heading of the 'permanent government' and includes private financial institutions.

Another important consideration is to realize that "because something is good, it does not always mean more is better". Citizens can benefit significantly by having government significantly involved in services which are necessary for the basics of life, or which suffer greatly from duplication of effort. Most importantly, govern-

(Continued on page 23)

“A central element emphasized by Senge is that it is not possible for one person to ‘figure it out’ from the top in a complex environment, where there are many fast-changing, interrelated variables.”

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Fall Initiatives

OTTAWA – September 18, 2006 marked the first day back for the second sitting of the 39th Parliament. Members of Parliament gathered in the Chamber to mark their first day back after a busy summer. It was almost like the first day of school – everyone was excited and ready to go.

The Conservative Government has another busy agenda for the fall and I am excited for the additional priorities. We have four initiatives that we will be introducing and implementing this fall. The pillars include: Accountability and Democratic Reform, Economic Management and Value for Money, Environment and Personal Health, and finally, Crime and National Security.

Canada’s New Government will continue to focus on cleaning up the federal government and implementing the Federal Accountability Act. We will also move forward with Senate Reform by limiting the term of Senator’s, eventually moving toward an elected Senate. Finally, we will keep the pressure on the opposition to accept fixed election dates.

We will also develop better economic management and value for money. This will bring in measures to ensure a strong economy for the long haul including value for money expenditure review. The Conservative Government values your hard earned tax dollars and we will ensure that it is used effectively and efficiently. This will strengthen Canada’s economy and ensure that the government’s spending is controlled and focused.

Environment Minister, Rona Ambrose, in collaboration with other Ministers, will be introducing a new environment package by rolling out a series of practical measures to clean up the environment, including a new Clean Air Act. These measures will affect all Canadians and will help lead to a cleaner environment through stricter environmental standards and proper enforcement.

Canada’s New Government is also committed to keeping communities safe by continuing to get tough on crime. The government will tackle crime by: combating illegal drugs, implementing tougher laws and protecting youth from sexual predators by making it easier to label dangerous offenders. We will have more police on the streets and continue to enhance our border security.

I am excited for the fall session and all that it entails for the people of Yellowhead. The government is committed to its priorities and I will do all that I can to ensure that I deliver these promises to you and all Canadians.

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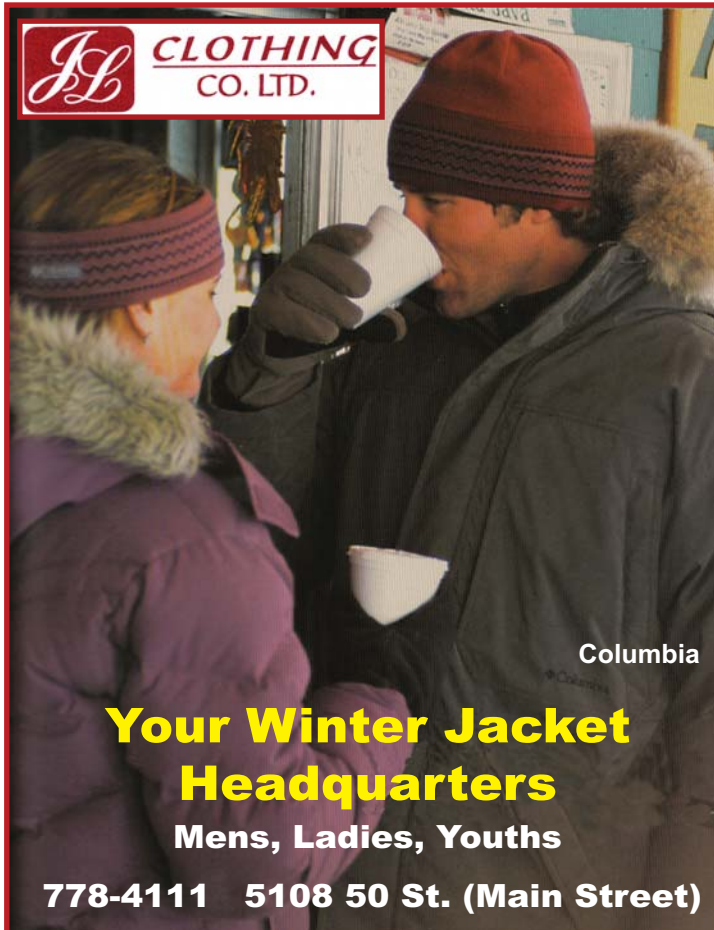
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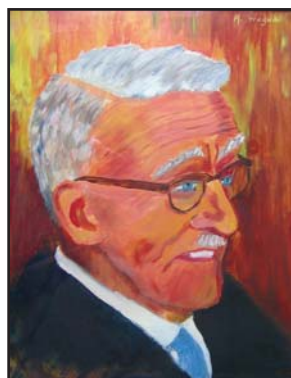
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(Continued from page 1)

ing of even a hamlet at that period? Candidly it would be difficult to say. True, there was some farming, cattle and hog raising on a limited scale as remoteness from markets dictated, trapping of fur bearing animals on a fairly large scale, the area being regarded of sufficient importance in this field to warrant the establishment of a Hudson's Bay Post at one time. The Post had been abandoned however a number of years before the author's arrival. Another factor was no doubt that ever present optimism that consistently compels Western Canadians to face the future in the firm belief that this is a "great next year's country".

The Capitol Lumber Company Ltd. (Harry O'Hanlon, Senator Harmer, Jean Etter, etal) had during the winter of 1919-1920 begun operations north of the Athabasca River, and had a dam piled full of logs down Beaver Creek. With the realization that probably they were much too far ahead of the railroad this undertaking ground to a halt. Shipping facilities were vital to continued operation, and trucks

(Continued on page 19)



Jerry Graham as painted by local R. Wagner.

John F. (Jerry) Graham was born in the village of Blairgowrie, Scotland on April 21, 1895. He immigrated to Canada in 1913, and was employed by the Imperial Bank of Canada in the Province of Ontario. The following year he was transferred to Saskatchewan.

In 1915, he enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps, (the forerunner of the Royal Canadian Airforce). At war's end he returned to Saskatchewan, still in the employ of the Imperial Bank. A year and a half later, he was instructed to proceed to Whitecourt, Alberta to establish a branch of the bank here, arriving on March 6, 1920.

He was to spend the next sixty-five years here. He married Wilma (Dolly) Torgerson, daughter of one of the early pioneers. They had one son, John.

Jerry Graham was "many things to many people"; Banker, Land Agent, Postmaster and Magistrate. He was also a World class traveller and an accomplished poet.

His manuscript, "Sagitiwa to Whitecourt" grows out of an experience both varied and rich. In a sense it is a reminiscence - a narration of the incidents and events within the range of his personal knowledge. It gives us a first hand knowledge of the early days of Whitecourt.

by Victor Young Postmaster (Retired)

Ed - It is hoped that Jerry Graham's work, Sagitawa to Whitecourt, - A Salute to the Pioneers, can be compiled into a small illustrated book for the Whitecourt and District Heritage Society.



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(Continued from page 18)
 in the logging industry were more or less unknown at that time. Had they been known, the trail leading in and out of Whitecourt would have been very unsuited to their operation. When Model T Fords appeared on the local scene a few years later, it is interesting to note that a one way trip to Edmonton consumed seven hours, and as one member of the R.C.M.P. so aptly put it, "Edmonton was seven hours and many tears away".

However, the area between here and losegun Lake (it was known as Hash Lake then and is now called Fox Creek) supplied an abundance of fur, and Indians

with dog teams were a fairly common sight. Tom Neassis, with his dogs tied to the hitch rack in front of the store, while he sold his furs and purchased supplies, never failed to arouse the interest of the young folks.

The band of Indians known as McLeod Lake Indians (Evan Cardinal, Ben Bisma, Pete Pennystone, Eli and Michel Paul, Louis Moostas to mention just a few) also supplied furs as well as the most delicious white fish in Alberta. And lest the reader may conclude that this is something of an extravagant statement, let him rest assured that same is not that of the author, but the



Nels Lyons is in the middle row, left hand side. The rest of this 1920's team is : Back row: John Torgerson, Slim Storms, Woods. Middle Row: Nels, Curly Moore, Hamilton Griffith. Front Row: Jim Loban, de la Gravelle, Fred Smith.

studied opinion of a qualified gentleman who acted in the capacity of Fishery Inspector at that time. He attributed the large size and excellent quality to the abundance of feed in the lake.

While no one actually tried to deposit fur with the Bank, a muskrat skin was, to quote Gus Chaisson, "legal tender".

Having more or less covered the hamlet, except for the fact that mention should be made of another building in course of construction, which later would become a butcher shop operated by one, Nelson Lyons. We know

that the expression "Wheeler Dealer" originated in Texas, but will still cling to the opinion that Nels was the original in this line. The manner in which he could manipulate the big deals to his benefit was really amazing. He was also possessed of a highly developed sense of humor, and his establishment became a regular hang-out for all, craving amusement.

To give some indication of this man's ready wit, the following incident is worth repeating. While having a meal at Olson's one day, the liveryman, Jim Hammond, had the misfortune to find
(Continued on page 20)



Trapper's cabin built in the 1920's. This one belonged to Otto Schmidt who trapped this area since 1920.

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(Continued from page 19) something hard and akin to a bone in one of the sausages he was working on most diligently. Knowing that Nels had supplied the sausages, and for Nels' special benefit, he extracted the offending bone from behind his molars and threw it down on his plate with quite a 'ping'. Nels momentarily looked somewhat dumfounded and then slowly stated, "You know, I could have sworn I took the shoes off that horse before I put it through the machine". Never a dull moment with Nels, and if one was lucky he might possibly break even, but

chances of coming out ahead were even less than those of Las Vegas!

Now, let us take a trip down 'The Flat' as the area in the Athabasca Valley to the east of town is known, even to this day. The school which operated during the summer months was a one room, log structure, situated very close to where 52nd. Avenue enters Millar

“The school which operated during the summer months was a one room, log structure, situated very close to where 52nd. Avenue enters Millar Road.”

Road. A succession of teachers (mostly local) would include the names of Jennie Ward, Mrs. Asa Stuckey, Hazel White, Isa Grindley Jackson, Mrs. Reay and Mr. McDonald. No mention of school affairs would be complete however if one failed to mention the name of Mrs. Paul Linehan, the energetic secretary. Her efforts in promoting the school activities were indefatigable, and when one

considers that the school levied its own taxes, — and tried to collect them — the magnitude of the job becomes apparent.

Fortunately for all, the schools in those days operated on a much smaller budget than they do now. Mrs. Jackson, one of the teachers mentioned in the foregoing list, was a poetess of note and regularly contributed to many Canadian and American magazines. She even made the Saturday Evening Post, which in the days to which we refer was indeed the ultimate.



Whitecourt School as it was when Jerry Graham described it in 1921.

Leaving the school and its affairs, let us travel north along what is now known as Millar Road. First farm on the right belonged to one, Dan Lamey, but was at present operated by Frank Chaisson, considered the leading farmer at that time. He was a man of abundant energy, a worker without question, somewhat inclined to take off in all directions at once. He had, a few years previously, sold his homestead to the Townsite Company and had invested heavily in cattle.

The farm where Graham
 (Continued on page 21)

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(Continued from page 20)

Acres Golf & Country Club holds forth was that of Cappy Gibbs, an American from the Central States, not entirely dependent on the revenue the farm might produce, and with a great love for the wide open spaces. A very tall man, something of a character, who delighted in spending his summers in Whitecourt.

As we continue we pass the home of Johnnie Goodwin who had married one of the Ward girls, and who had also disposed of his holdings to the Townsite Company. Next quarter belonged to Jack McCoy, and this farm was regarded at that time as the finest piece of land around. For that matter it very probably still is. Across the way, John Hinckelman farmed the quarter adjoining the Golf Course. His brother Ernest, occupied the quarter next to the McCoy holding, while J.W. Leedy and Walter White (Mr. Leedy's son-in-law) resided immediately opposite.

Some years previously, Mr. Leedy had been Governor of the State of Kansas, and had resided in Alaska for some time, before coming to Whitecourt. With his wife, two daughters, and his

son-in-law, the Leedy place, as we called it, had an atmosphere of refinement one would hardly expect to find in such an out of the way place. Mr. Leedy was a highly intelligent man with an



J.W. Leedy from his time as governor. The portraits of other governors are reflected in his portrait in this photograph.

extremely ready wit, and had been a lawyer of note in his native state. Mrs. Leedy, always a most gracious hostess, had that happy knack of making visitors feel at ease, the earmark of all successful hostesses.

The daughters, Mrs.

White (Alice) and Clara gave freely of their talents, and they had many, to make guests feel at home and indeed most welcome. Clara had been a concert pianist at one time, and still enthralled

in the State Capital of Kansas, was nevertheless a far cry from what homesteaders were accustomed to, but no homesteader felt out of place or ill at ease there.

It would be wrong to pass the Leedy household without relating an incident showing the ready wit of Mr. Leedy and his ability to fend for himself in any verbal battle. He was a man of considerable girth, and with others usually gathered in the store for discussions which went on there almost continually. A favorite gathering place, where the cracker barrel and peanut sack were open to all. While so engaged one day, Mr. Leedy was approached by one, Hughie Germaine, who had had considerable potent beverage. Approaching Mr. Leedy, the man patted him on the vest and declared, "That's what I'd like to have". With barely a pause in the conversation, Mr. Leedy replied, "My boy, it's not that you need, it's brains! He had diagnosed the case quickly and perfectly.

Walter White (the son-in-law) attended to the carrying of the mail between Whitecourt and Greencourt.

(Continued on page 22)

the local gatherings with her playing. Mrs. White, a very pleasant woman had a ready smile, and was much at ease in almost any situation. The atmosphere prevailing at the Leedy home, while possibly on a somewhat lower plane that might have prevailed at the Governor's Mansion

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(Continued from page 21)
At the time this service was instituted for this point, the mail was picked up at the Baly Store in Greencourt, and a deal of speculation exists as to just how the name 'Whitecourt' was acquired.

In Greencourt the Post Office occupied a space in the premises of Mr. Baly, who was assisted by his son, Hamilton. Mr. Baly was a man of considerable means, and he had established a trading post very close to where Greencourt is to-day. Before coming to Canada he had been identified with a boys school in England, the son, Hamilton being one of the masters there. The name Greencourt, as far as can be determined, was taken from

one of the playing areas at the school. Having already named Greencourt, it is quite conceivable Whitecourt may have been derived from this source. Rumor has it that our name came from there.

Also, there has been considerable speculation that the name 'Whitecourt' may have been derived from the name of the mail carrier, but nothing as far as is known has ever been produced to support either claim.

Still another theory would have it that it was Mr. Baly's intention to establish a chain of supply depots, or "courts" as he called them, in the territory to the west. Having already named Greencourt and in the belief that

he might be choosing his name from colors, he coined 'Whitecourt'. He could rest assured of being right for six or seven months of the year anyway.

Lacking proof in any form, one can only speculate and choose which of the probable stories has the greatest appeal. Lacking official confirmation, we can only hope that one or the other is correct.

We do know however, that the name 'Whitecourt' did not meet with universal approval, and that some time later a movement, sponsored by Frank Chaisson and others, was set in motion with a view to reverting back to 'Sagitiwa.' A meeting was

called and after a deal of talk and argument a vote of the people present indicated that they favored 'Whitecourt'. So Whitecourt it remains.

Next month Jerry Graham continues his coverage of the colourful Whitecourt pioneers living out on "the flats" The full title of Mr. Graham's work is Sagitawa to Whitecourt - A Salute to the Pioneers.

A man was applying for a job as a prison guard. The warden said, "Now these are real tough guys in here." Do you think you can handle it?"
"No problem," the applicant replied, "If they don't behave, out they go!"



Greencourt, which at one time was bigger than Whitecourt, probably influenced the naming of Whitecourt to a large degree.

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(Continued from page 14)

ment has a role to play in preventing private monopolies, which are generally worse for the common good than government monopoly. That said, there are still a lot of areas where private business should enact government policy, particularly at the federal level.

Skimming the Surface

There is a claim by some that the problem of vandalism and crime in general is largely a media phenomenon, with the issue being a constant ongoing problem through the ages. According to those holding this view only the media spotlight has raised the level of concern. This argument was advanced by one academic who did a study to show that the percentage of newspaper space devoted to crime stories has risen dramatically over the decades. However, the academic failed to mention that a rise in actual criminal incidents would naturally lead to such an increase in coverage.

There is also the additional problem of what crimes are reported to police in the first place. One the one hand, some say that many crimes go unreported simply

because the victims see little use in pursuing justice, ergo the crime rate is much higher than that presented in official data. On the other hand, there is the claim that such things as schoolyard fights are more likely to be reported as crimes now than in the past, therefore artificially inflating crime figures.

The one crime that rarely goes unreported is homicide. In the U.S. this rate is stable. However, the prison population has quadrupled since 1980, with over 1.4 million Americans behind bars and millions more on parole. If jailing more and more of the population is the only solution to keep high crime rates stable or in decline in a society, then that society is headed for disaster.

Canada's incarceration rate has been falling, particularly for youth, due to the introduction of the Youth Criminal Justice Act in 2003. However, it is still higher than most countries in Western Europe. The reported violent crime rate in Canada in 2004 was 10% lower than a decade earlier, but still 35% higher than 20 years ago. Canada's homicide rate rose 12% in 2004 after hitting a 36-year low the year before.

(Continued on page 25)



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(NC)-With winter just around the corner, some of us are more prepared than others.

Some folks have had their cord wood stacked for months, their snow blower tuned and their snow tires switched over, but still aren't fully protected where they need to be most: under the hood of their car or truck.

Some people mistakenly believe that they can simply "top off" the antifreeze/coolant in their vehicle with water or antifreeze/coolant concentrate alone. This can be a recipe for disaster if not done as recommended in a vehicle's owner manual. Regularly scheduled cooling system maintenance, which may include "flush and fills" and should include checking antifreeze/coolant level/concentration for required top offs, is a typical minimal requirement for all car and truck preparation for winter season. Regrettably, some people fail to take the proper precautions to protect their vehicles, and winter's extreme temperatures can cause them to pay dearly for their oversight.

Ethylene glycol based antifreeze and good quality soft water, the major component of the coolant, keep cooling system components protected from freezing at very low temperatures, prevent boil-over during hot summer months, and guard from rust and corrosion year round. If people wait

too long to change their antifreeze/coolant, the used coolant could harm their cooling system components and compromise freezing, boiling and corrosion protection. Similar to having a pipe freeze in your home, the cooling system components in your car, including hoses, heater core, water pump radiator, and even the engine itself, can burst or break, leading to expensive, but preventable repairs, or in some cases engine replacement.

"The antifreeze in people's cars is something most people forget until disaster strikes," according to Megan Currie, Prestone product manager. "The good news is that it's easier than ever to get it done and get it done right with our "All Makes, All Models" antifreeze/coolant, which is available as a concentrate or premixed for top-off convenience."

The proliferation of new products has given more choices to consumers, but at the same time has confused many people who aren't sure if what they find at their local store is appropriate for their vehicle. Prestone takes the uncertainty out of the buying process by introducing an "All Makes, All Models" antifreeze/coolant that is compatible and works with antifreeze/coolants in virtually all cars and trucks on the road.

Prestone also sells an antifreeze/coolant tester that is easy to use, and helps drivers determine the concentration and quality (visual) of their antifreeze/coolant.

More antifreeze tips are available online at www.Prestone.com.

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(Continued from page 23)

So while there are bright spots in reported crime, there is still statistical evidence of a society in decline from that of 20 years ago.

In the cacophony of competing opinions and suspect statistics on overall crime, it is worthwhile to look to personal experience. This writer remembers growing up in a city of 20,000 in the 1960's. People rarely locked their houses or cars, and with good reason. I can't remember anyone mentioning something stolen out of their house or car although it must, of course, have happened. When a rock was thrown through the window of my school, the incident was a major event. It was the only such event in all my years at educational institutions. Conversations with others confirmed that my experience with youth crime and crime in general during this time period was not an unusual one in Canada.

Nowadays, with cars and houses locked up as a matter of course, it is quite common to hear of thefts. Broken windows, at school, downtown and elsewhere are hardly worthy of mention, they are so frequent. Regardless of academic arguments, it seems that our society is heading backwards in some regards.

Vandalism and Youth

Vandalism is a crime in which youth predominate. It is important to point out here that what is being talked about is a significant increase in such behaviour, not that a majority of youth today are involved in such activity. It is the troubling trend that is of concern here.


Unfairly, today's youth are sometimes held up to epitomize the decline in civility. Even when the mirror is turned back on society in general, the finger-pointing basically boils down to a belief that it is a lack of heavy punishment of young offenders, and adults as well, that is behind the fall in community standards. However, while there can be some credence to this view, things are not nearly so simple.

What this approach fails to consider is that many individuals, and indeed entire cultures, have been raised in an atmosphere without the threat of a heavy hand on the part of parents or society. Such individuals have gone on to respect their societies in ways far beyond that which is commonly found in Western society. There are also societies with extensive corporal punishments that have experienced a lot of criminal behaviour.

Why do some youth respect their cultures, even without little or no threat of sanction, while others rebel



(Continued on page 28)

“This writer remembers growing up in a city of 20,000 in the 1960's. People rarely locked their houses or cars, and with good reason.”



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Yolking Around

A wife was making a breakfast of fried eggs for her husband. Suddenly, her husband burst into the kitchen.

“Careful,” he said, “CAREFUL! Put in some more butter! Oh my GOD! You’re cooking too many at once. TOO MANY! Turn them! TURN THEM NOW! We need more butter. Oh my GOD! WHERE are we going to get MORE BUTTER? They’re going to STICK! Careful .. CAREFUL! I said be CAREFUL!

You NEVER listen to me when you’re cooking! Never! Turn them! Hurry up! Are you CRAZY?

Have you LOST your mind? Don’t forget to salt them. You know you always forget to salt them. Use the salt. USE THE SALT! THE SALT!”

The wife stared at him. “What in the world is wrong with you? You think I don’t know how to fry a couple of eggs?”

The husband calmly replied, “I just wanted to show you what it feels like when I’m driving.”



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Burgers Galore

Gary Dunville of Majestic Frames, Dave Dunville of M & M Meatshops and Jim Ward of Revolution Boards, at back, serve up some burgers to two customers for the Whitecourt and District Skateboard Society.

With all the talk about youth vandalism today, it’s time Whitecourt joined the many small communities around Alberta that are setting up good facilities for skateboards and sport biking.

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An Hour Of Time

Tim was disappointed that his father didn't attend the last soccer game of the season, but he wasn't surprised. Tim was a mature 10-year old and he understood that lots of clients depended on his dad, a lawyer, who had to work most nights and weekends. Still, it made him sad, especially since this year he won the league's most valuable player award.

One evening Tim got up the nerve to interrupt his father's work at home to ask him how much lawyers make per hour. His father was annoyed and gruffly answered, "They pay me \$300 an hour."

Tim gulped and said, "Wow, that's a lot. Would you lend me \$100?"

"Of course not," his father barked. "Please, let me work."

Later, the father felt guilty and went to Tim's room where he found him sobbing. "Son," he said, "I'm sorry. If you need some money, of course I'll lend it to you. But can I ask why?"

Tim said, "Daddy, I know your time is really worth a lot and with the \$200 I've already saved, I'll have enough. Can I buy an hour so you can come to the awards banquet on Friday?"

It hit his father like a punch to the heart. He realized his son needed him more than his clients did. He needed to be there for his son more than he needed money or career accolades. He hugged him and said, "I'm so proud of you, nothing could keep me away."

Lots of parents are stretched to their limit trying to balance business demands and family needs. It's always a matter of priorities. But if we don't arrange our lives to be there for our children, they will regret it - and after it's too late, so will we.

This story is from the Internet. The original source is unknown. See Michael Josephson at www.charactercounts.org

Each evening a bird lover, Tom, stood in his backyard, hooting like an owl. One night an owl called back to him. For a year, Tom and his feathered friend hooted back and forth. He even kept a log of the "conversation." Just as he thought he was on the verge of a breakthrough in inter-species communication, his wife had a chat with her neighbor.

"My husband spends his nights calling out to owls," she said.

"That's odd," the neighbor replied, "so does mine."

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(Continued from page 25)
and reject theirs, even when threatened severely?

In extreme cases, death can be the penalty imposed for counter-culture youth, yet they persist. One such example would be Argentina during the 1976 to 1983 dictatorship, where thousands of youth ‘disappeared’ for resisting the establishment. Another was The White Rose Society in Nazi Germany. The young people in the aforementioned extreme examples were executed for politically inspired graffiti and other subversive activity whereas the vandalism today largely appears to be that of senseless destruction. However, there is the same underlying theme of opposition to the establishment.

As will be seen, the very term ‘vandalism’ was coined centuries ago to describe a ‘fight against culture’. Concomitant with applying sanctions for criminal behaviour, a successful society must examine its own institutions to see what part they play in a degradation of civility. As in most complex issues, it is not a case of either/or. It is a matter of looking at both a lack of adequate account-

ability for individual actions and serious social ills, on a case by case basis. Bringing “unmentionables” into the discussion and dialogue on this is necessary for success.

Vandalism as Counter-Culture

Vandal was originally an ethnic slur referring to the Vandals, who sacked Rome in 455. The term vandalism was coined in January 1794 during the French Revolution, where a bishop used the word Vandalisme to describe some behaviour on the part of the republican army. Philosopher Nietzsche considered vandalism as the “fight against culture”, taking as example the intentional burning of the Tuileries Palace on May 23, 1871. French writer Pierre Klossowski (1905–2001), who referenced Nietzsche, followed up on this by stating: “The criminal fight against culture is only the reverse side of a criminal culture”. Not surprisingly,

“*Why do some youth respect their cultures, even without little or no threat of sanction, while others rebel and reject theirs, even when threatened severely?*”

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Nietzsche is one philosopher whose prognostications have not withstood the test of time. The Taliban, in defacing two giant statues of Buddha, were one group to use this aberrant sort of reasoning.

Where vandalism occurs it is generally innocent individuals that suffer, either directly through the act, such as the damaging of uninsured or irreplaceable items, or through higher insurance costs. Another cost is that society often does without certain amenities, because of vandalism. For example, both the older ski hill in town and a

newer one on the mountain have been closed down due to acts of vandalism. Building a new culture to subsume the old one is a far more effective method of both protest and positive action than a scattergun approach to destroying the old. As in the civil rights marches of the 1960’s, a peaceful refusal to participate in culturally suspect phenomenon is a good way forward.

Vandalism and Systems-thinking

Some of the causes of vandalism put forward are: solutions that put all the blame on society, without a concomitant emphasis on personal accountability; excessive materialism and a lack of spiritualism; irresponsible media glorification of destruction and violence; a lack of a parent’s time or guidance due to overwork; law enforcement being handcuffed by excessive paperwork and poorly thought out youth laws; and last but not least the degree of corruption and hypocrisy within establishment institutions.

Again, a true systems-thinker would not preclude examining powerful social institutions in looking at the interrelationships between the possible causes of vandalism. For example, where money is issued as debt, at compound interest, there will be great pressure for parents to spend more time at work, in order to try to pay their bills. Additionally, students can be put in a pressure cooker situation, trying to finance their higher education. Flaws in the Youth Criminal

(Continued on page 30)

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Fun & Fitness Square Dancing

Whitecourt Square Dancing Club is offering lessons for new dancers. Families welcome (ages 10+).

Classes begin *Friday, October 13* at 7:30pm at the Whitecourt Seniors Circle.

Cost is \$4.00 per person.

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What Every Babysitter Should Know

Saturday, October 14

Registration Deadline: October 6

Held at the Firehall 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Min/Max: 8/10 \$40.00

For those 11 years of age or older, this St. John Ambulance course provides participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to provide proper babysitting services.

Participants learn:

- How to care for infants, toddlers and older kids,
- What questions to ask parents,
- What to do in an emergency,
- How to give treatment to burns, poisoning, wounds and bleeding. Participants who successfully complete this course will receive a certificate from St. John Ambulance.

Whitecourt Grant Workshop

Monday, October 16

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Forest Interpretive Centre

Contact Name/Number: Community Services Department 778-6610

Event Description: The Town of Whitecourt is hosting a FREE Grant Workshop. Come and learn about grants that are available for non-profit recreation groups, youth groups, services clubs and more.

Premier Klein at Chamber Event

Saturday, October 12

Call the Chamber of Commerce at 778-5363

Halloween Spook Swim

Friday, October 27

Saturday, October 28

Time: 6:00 - 8:30 PM

Location: RCMP Century Swimming Pool

Cost: \$3.00 for advanced tickets or \$5.00 at door.

Contact Name/Number: Community Services at 778-6300 or the RCMP Century Swimming Pool at 778-3501

Event Description: Get your advanced tickets at the pool beginning October 1st for this very popular event. Come and enjoy goodie bags, haunted house and public swimming.

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(Continued from page 28)
 Justice Act (which replaced the Young Offenders Act) could be the result of the federal state attempting to shut parents out of the process of raising their children. Another interrelationship would be excessive police paperwork hampering the personal accountability of young offenders. These observations are of course but the tip of the iceberg of what a systems study of vandalism would entail.

There is recognition of the complexity of the causes of vandalism by officialdom, but no concerted systems-thinking applied to the issue to date. Canadian principal Jim Cooze is one of those who is starting to state the real problem. He did a study on vandalism and concluded "the typical school vandal does not exist."

However, rather than look for interrelationships between the various vandalism incidents, he followed standard procedure and categorized his observations. Writing in *Education Canada*, Cooze described various categories of vandals as: 1. Vindictive kids who carry a grudge against a teacher or other staff member; 2. Ma-

licious kids who thrive on causing trouble; 3. Ideological kids who want to call attention to a particular problem or cause; 4. Bored kids who combine destruction with theft to fulfill a need for excitement; and 5. Frustrated kids who are filled with rage and feel school (and society) are indifferent and hostile. If one looks at the key words of vindictive, malicious, ideological, bored and frustrated, it is likely there is a lot of common casual ground between the five categories put forward.

In an article entitled *The Roots of Vandalism* appearing in the American School Board Journal author Susan Black wrote "the reasons behind school vandalism baffle many criminologists, sociologists, and psychologists." The article goes on to state that "in the *Daily Record*, Kent State University sociologist Susan Roxburgh theorized that angry students who feel "oppressed by the social hierarchy" are likely to vandalize. Kids who have little or no connection to school

life — who don't participate in extracurricular activities, for instance — sometimes fill their inner void by damaging property. But Roxburgh also acknowledged that some young people vandalize just for the thrill of it.

Russ Skiba, director of the Institute for Child Study at Indiana University links vandalism to lack of adequate counseling for angry or depressed students. He called it a "covert method of acting out" that allows troubled students to vent deep-seated frustrations. Skiba also noted that many schools tolerate minor vandalism problems, leading to bigger acts of vandalism.

While there is some recognition of the cultural roots of vandalism, there is again no concerted effort to clearly define the problem in terms of interrelationships between the various observations. The key question to ask is why some societies, without threat of punishment, have raised young people who rarely disrespect elders and almost

"Canadian principal Jim Cooze did a study on vandalism and concluded "the typical school vandal does not exist." ,,

without exception aspire to become working members of social institutions; while in others a significant percentage of youth have to have heavy sanctions applied against them before they become grudging members of an establishment. Next month, part two of this article will look at possible short and long solutions to vandalism. Short term solutions include increased surveillance, by both citizens in general and by electronic means, more accountability for offenders, less time spent by police on bureaucratic procedures and so on. However, unless the goal is to build a police state, as in the now defunct state of East Germany, deeper societal issues will have to be dealt with as well. These are necessary for any sustainable solution.

Answer from page 3
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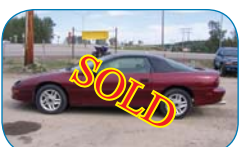
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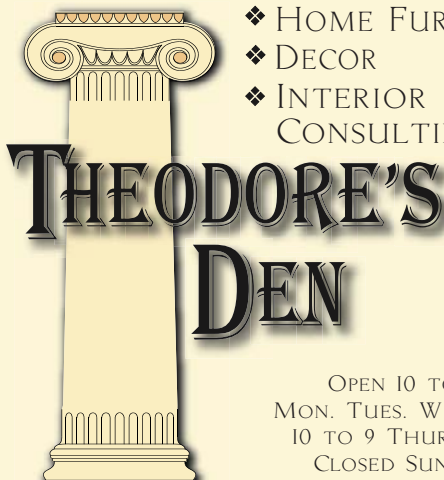


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