

# CONCEPT

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LAKE OF TWO MOUNTAINS HIGH SCHOOL

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## Garbage plagues school

By MARGE DUNHAM

Cheesies smeared on everything; chairs overturned; chip bags, pie boxes, and milk sponged up with half-eaten sandwiches; styrofoam soup-bowls filled with chicken soup — their contents slopped onto broken tables. Where is this horrible, stomach-turning scene? At a garbage dump, or maybe a scene from the slums? No, wrong — it happens to be seen every lunch hour or recess at Lake of Two Mountains High School's cafeteria.

### Why?

There is something wrong somewhere. Who would have thought that a group of civilized human-beings eating together would make such a mess? It's hard to decide just what is the cause of this erratic behaviour. "A lack of concern for others, and a lack of cleanliness," is Principal Stan Alexander's conclusion. He said he feels that cleanliness also, he states is a part of education. If this is so, then are the students of LTMHS failing this subject?

Vice-principal Mike Kornecook seems to think that the littering is "contagious, and pretty well part of human nature."

Exactly who can do this "defacing" of the school, you may ask? Well, on being asked what particular grade levels were most responsible, Mr. Alexander judged that a large number of juniors were to blame: "Seniors tend to feel more personal attachment, or pride, since they've attended LTMHS for three or four years. While juniors have to have time to develop pride in their school."

Mr. Kornecook didn't pin-point any specific grade level, "Everyone is to blame." The ladies in the cafeteria are of the same opinion as Mr. Kornecook.

### Survey Results

Aside from administration, opinions of 100 students were taken during lunch hour recently. They were chosen at random from all grade levels. General response to the question: "Who do you feel is most responsible for littering LTMHS?" was:

- 46%—Everyone.
- 53%—The Juniors.
- 7%—The Seniors.

Two other questions were also asked of these students: 1) Had they ever littered in the school; and 2) Had they ever tried to stop someone from littering in the school. The response to the first question explains, partly, the mess in LTMHS:

- 68%—Have littered.
- 32%—Have not.

The response to the second question:

- 69%—Have reprimanded someone.
- 31%—Have not.

When describing LTMHS as being messy, one must also consider other schools in the district such as Rosemere, Chomedey, and Western Laval. Although he has never personally inspected other schools, Mr. Alexander says he has been told that LTMHS is regarded as being one of the cleanest schools in this area. One now wonders what other schools must be like, if LTMHS is the cleanest. "Up until the arrival of the cafete-

ria, LTMHS was extremely clean, he stated in the interview. "When the students used to eat in their homerooms they didn't seem to want to shoot garbage around."

So now, why are students throwing garbage around in the cafeteria?

Mr. Alexander takes this destruction very seriously. In fact, one could say it is a personal hurt to him. "I've put twelve years of my life into LTMHS and to see kids defacing it for no reason..."

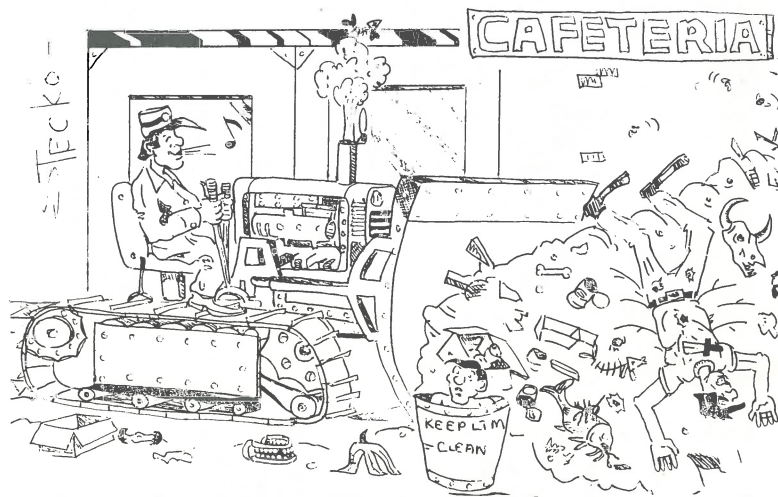
### Improvements?

Suggestions to aid the situation? There have been many — and many failures. It's impossible to help any situation without cooperation and assistance. The "Prefect System" — developed last year, did not do too much in the way of stopping littering. "Some of the Prefects were ineffective, and regarded their authority as a time to 'throw their weight around'," Mr. Alexander said.

A few other ideas have been thought of to help. These include more garbage cans around the school, and also forty more tables, to make the eating area roomier and seem more like a cafeteria.

Eating lunch in the cafeteria is not a pleasant experience, neither for the staff, nor those students who simply want to eat quietly, clean up, and leave. It has been described as a mad rush, a noisy commotion, inhuman, and downright sickening.

How can all this be changed? To make changes, participation is needed. But that is scarce — the juniors blame the seniors; the seniors blame the juniors; yet no one blames themselves.



## Activity Day depends on student response

By MARY MCCAUGHEY

LTMHS is expected to launch its first Activity Day by the end of October or the beginning of November. Mr. Wall, assistant supervisor of Continuing Education and part-time teacher is the head of this project.

He says the success of Activity Day depends on "student response and experienced volunteers who can run it."

Activity Day is tentatively set for Wednesdays. The activities will probably be held during two periods (90 minutes) but classes will be rotated so that the same two classes won't be missed every week. For example, if on the first Activity Day, students miss periods 3 and 4, on the second week, classes would start with period 2, so that the students would miss periods 1 and 7.

Some of the activities offered include sports such as badminton, archery, and horseback riding. Crafts such as leather and crocheting are on the program. Also there will be some clubs such as the drama, and creative writing which are now offered after school but would take place during the day. New organizations such as photography, yoga, karate and career clubs will be introduced.

The Activity Day program will be divided into three semesters and students who would like to switch from one activity to another could do so between semesters.

One field trip per semester will be offered on Activity Days.

Mr. Wall said he needs a group of students to help out with typing, filing, informing students, and running activities.

Activity Day used to be a dream but now it's soon to be under way.

## Board extinguishes smoking room idea

By DEBBI MACLEOD

The smoking students of LTMHS will not get a smoking room. There are many reasons. First of all it is against the policy of the North Island Regional School Board.

In a memo from the school board sent to principal Stan Alexander on February 22, 1972, it is stated: "We will continue with our present policy of not permitting students to smoke within the school walls, discouraging students from using 'habit forming drugs', such as tobacco."

It was also mentioned that there should be some respect for the feelings of non-smoking students and the general welfare of students.

Mr. Alexander has his own reasons for not giving the students a smoking room. One is that this room would have to be controlled by the administration, who couldn't lawfully allow students under 16 years of age to smoke in the school. The reason is, whether or not it is enforced, there is a law

that says persons under 16, are not permitted to buy or smoke cigarettes.

Mr. Alexander also commented on the parents reaction. Can you imagine the parents who don't allow their kids to smoke — they would be constantly calling the school to let the administration know that their little Jimmy better not go in that smoking room or the board would hear about it.

Mr. Alexander also feels that the school should be discouraging kids from smoking — not encouraging them.

He also mentioned that there are fire regulations to obey.

When confronted with the fact that teachers can smoke in the comfort of the staff room while the students must go outside, he said, "We are not here to educate the teachers as they are adults, and it is up to them if they want to smoke."

He said students are here to learn and because they are not adults, "they should be regarded in a different light."

Mr. Alexander mentioned several Education Committee Meetings where the subject of a smoking room was brought up. The answer was always no.

He does not consider smoking a fire hazard but more a health hazard.

If students ever wondered why smoking is allowed during dances, the school board says that at after-school, non-compulsory activities students will be allowed to smoke within the school walls.

Mr. Mike Kornecook, vice-principal, doesn't think the students should have a smoking room. On the contrary, he thinks the teachers and administration should do their very best to educate the students not to smoke. However while Mr. Kornecook was saying this he was smoking — he said he thought he was being very hypocritical!

He said he feels there are many reasons why students are not getting a smoking room. They are very similar as to what Mr. Alexander said, except he mentioned there

was no available room.

The punishment for a student who is found smoking within school walls is suspension. Mr. Kornecook doesn't agree with this course of punishment. He would rather have, "a sound anti-smoking program."

Mr. Kornecook doesn't consider a student smoking a fire hazard — in his words, "could be just as much a fire hazard as staff room smoking or smoking in the home. It's just a matter of simple carelessness."

Mr. Kornecook hopes that in the future there will be no smoking in the school by anyone — teachers and administration included.

Mr. Ray Mills, Two Mountains firechief, made it clear that he is not concerned with the moralistic aspects of smoking. Nor does he care about the personal health hazard of smoking. He thinks whether a person smokes or not is up to the individual. What he is interested in is whether smoking can cause a fire. In this school smoking could be a

fire hazard because: first there are many combustibles, like all the paper and the new wooden part of the school could easily catch fire.

The second reason is if the students are permitted to smoke in one specific place such as a smoking room, they might decide they can smoke elsewhere in the school, "But this endangers other people."

Mr. Mills also commented that students are rushed and could very easily get careless.

The third reason is a person may try to hide the fact that he is smoking — from a kid sister or brother. So he may hide the cigarette behind his back or in his pocket and catch fire to himself.

Although students aren't getting a smoking room, at least it isn't as bad as in B.C. If students smoke in the school there (even outside) the principal can be charged with contributing to juvenile delinquency, according to Mr. Alexander.