

Not all of the citizens of Burlington proved to be child-haters. Pleas were made by conscientious and responsible groups and individuals in an effort to convince the voters of the importance of the impending referendum. The pleas fell on deaf ears.

A majority of those voting against the measure stated that they did not think they could afford the small increase in taxes. This seems a reasonable answer, at first. It does not seem so plausible, however, when you walk into almost any downtown Burlington store and see the throngs of shoppers buying lavish gifts for friends and family. How then, I ask, can these people, the same ones who could not afford a small tax increase a few short weeks ago, afford to buy such nice gifts now? The money spent on one expensive gift or a couple of bottles of "Christmas Cheer" could have bought the most precious gift of all—a decent education.

Those who voted against the tax measure will say that an education will still be provided for the children of Burlington. This is true, as far as it goes, but what will be the quality of education in Burlington in the future? The teachers who will not leave now because of their ties with the area will not live forever. When they go, it will become increasingly harder to find trained people who would accept such low wage offerings.