

MONEY, MONEY

Using things for money

By Jim Forney

You probably know a penny, a nickel, or a quarter when you see one but don't think you can always tell that something is money just by looking at it.

For instance, elephants, cattle and fish hooks once served as money. Romans used to pay their soldiers in salt. Indians used wampum and shells. For a while, playing cards were used as money in Quebec.

How could people have used all that stuff?

Actually, just about anything can serve as money as long as people promise to accept it and trust each other to keep their promises. But money does have to have other characteristics as well.

First, you have to be able to move it easily. Those elephants were tough to get moving, but once they got started, there was no stopping them! You have to be able to accept it in trade for goods or services, otherwise, why use it? Finally, you have to be able to save it for later. Maybe you don't want to buy an item right away but will need your money to buy it later on.

Whenever enough people living in an area got used to exchanging something as money, that thing became money. But problems developed when people started traveling far and wide, selling goods to outsiders. People who used stones for money just wouldn't accept bits of metal. That's when state governments and later, national

governments, began making their own money.

The new government money gradually replaced the local stuff because most people felt safer trusting the government to stand behind the money. Nowadays, most money looks pretty much the same. Most money — even money from other countries — comes in the form of paper and coins.

One last historical point. Video games were not invented until long after metal coins were widely accepted as money. It's a good thing, too, since it would have been rather hard to get elephants down those coin slots.



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blasting your teammate out of the water, work together. Isn't that what team spirit is all about? Maybe you could learn something from his game. Keep an eye on him, and maybe you'll pick up some pointers.

Question: My sister always pulls my hair. I feel like pulling her hair, but my father is always there. What should I do?

Carolyn says: Your sister started this, but we are going to end it. Tell your sister, once and for all, that if she pulls your hair just one more time you are going to rip every strand of hair out of her little head. Then if she ever pulls your hair again, pull hers, very quickly, but hard.

Mom says: I couldn't disagree more! Come on! Is that any way to deal with this? Let me ask you one question. What are YOU doing to your sister to make her want to pull your hair? Maybe if you stop — she will, too.

*Answer please

What's happening

October 8 — National Kraut Sandwich Week. During this week you are supposed to try sauerkraut in a sandwich.

October 9 — Leif Erikson Day. Celebrates the discovery of North America in the year 1000 by the Viking explorer.

October 11 — National School Lunch Week. Try something new for lunch this week. (Maybe sauerkraut?)

October 12 — Columbus Day. Celebrates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in America in 1492.

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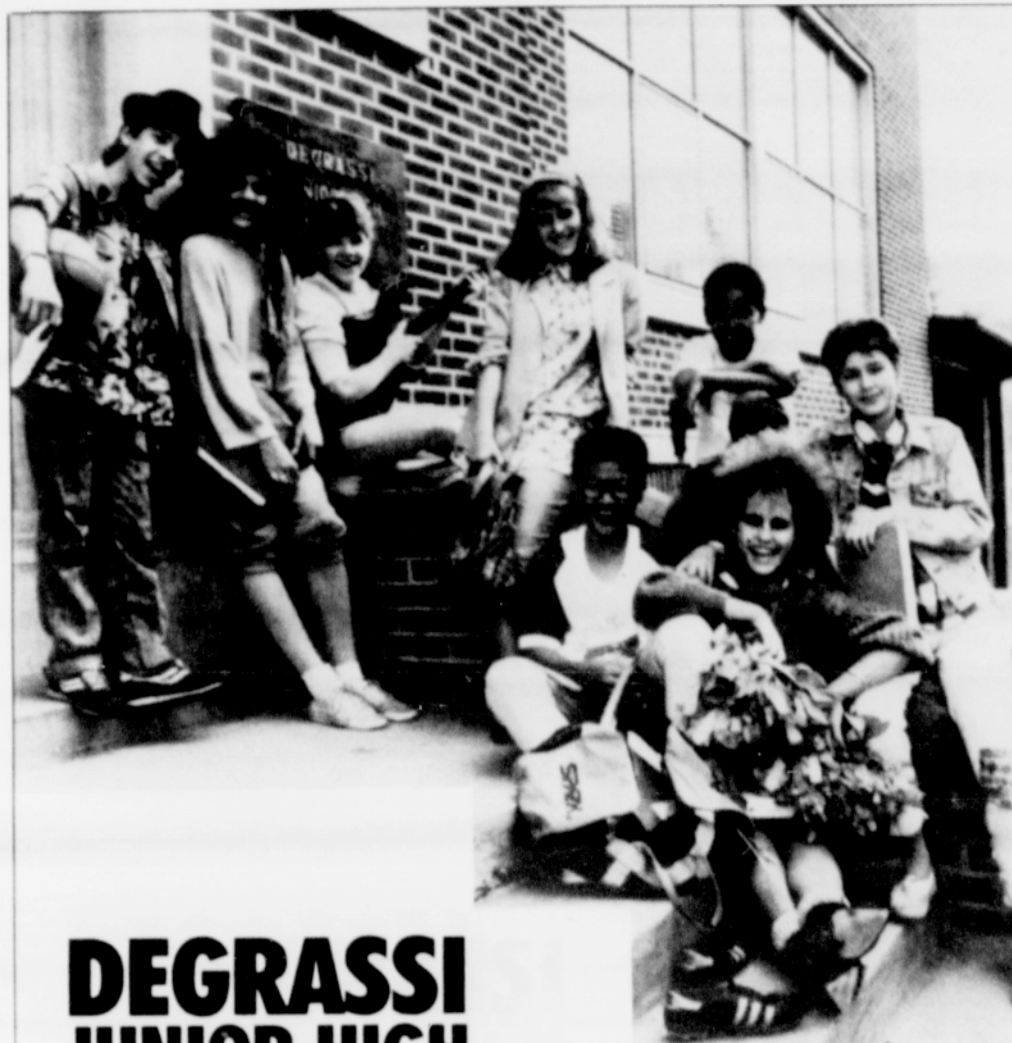
**Sunday, October 25
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