

# ACTON HIGH

By Mary Ann Freuler

Mirth and excited talk of the Mediterranean has ceased to flow in the hall of Acton District High School since the students left for their long-awaited trip last Thursday. Geography teacher, Keith Black was the only staff member from our school to leave, too.

While these students are walking the streets of Rome or shopping in the famous Paris boutiques, the remainder are tucking off the days until the beginning of mid-winter vacation.

Famed for jokes

Last Friday, Mr. Paul Martindale attended school to teach Mr. Black's classes. Mr. Martindale had formerly taught here and has gained fame throughout the school for his jokes. It was a pleasure to see his

face again and I'm sure he enjoyed teaching his former students.

Sales of this year's Oracle have been out-standing this year. For the small price of only \$2.75 one could purchase their yearbook during any of the lunch periods. As of Monday, there were only 34 of the original 300 yearbooks left for selling. The Oracle staff is very pleased with the interest shown by the students.

Will see Hamlet

The English department has been fortunate in obtaining tickets for Hamlet at the Shakespearean Festival in Stratford. The play will not take place until next school term.

As I said before, this Friday is the last day of school for the period of one week to enable the students to have a mid-winter break.

Most of the kids deserve it!

## Sit in on classes

An innovation at the Robert Little School during Education Week was an invitation to parents to come Thursday afternoon to watch classes at work. Those who accepted the invitation slipped into the back of rooms and watched lessons in progress, finding it very interesting.

Aside from small waves to mummy, the youngsters worked diligently while the family observers watched.

In the evening, groups of students were back at the school during Open House, but principal G. W. McKenzie felt the afternoon program had been especially successful.

As parents toured the rooms they were able to see girls at sewing machines and some baking cookies, in the home economics room, stop and have a chat and a cup of coffee and sample the cookies.

The art room was beautifully decorated and slides were shown of art done by Grade 8 pupils, accompanied by a recording. In another room Grade 8's were showing a film that the students took themselves of Acton which will be shown at Ontario Place. The gym was the scene of bustling activity as students gave demonstrations of their abilities.

## Simulation game of ghetto useful

By Jim May

Mr. May is a teacher of History and Geography at the high school and has had practical experience with simulation games as teaching tools.

On Thursday afternoon, February 25 the staff of Acton District High School became residents of a big city ghetto and as such found themselves confronted with the problems of ghetto occupants.

Brian Skerrett found that the headaches of a guidance counsellor are small in comparison to the problems of a high school drop-out forced to resort to crime as a method of survival.

Wally Rowley came up against the hard cold fact that fellow ghetto residents may be callously unsympathetic to attempts to "clean up" their environment. Female staff members had to wrestle with the problems of large families with very low incomes, and various other ghetto situations.

The transformation from teaching position to ghetto resident was accomplished by playing the simulation game entitled "Ghetto" and was all part of a simulation workshop organized by principal Dave Katz.

The workshop was conducted by Ian Downie, vice-principal at Burlington Central High School. Mr. Downie has had considerable experience in the use of

simulation games at the high school level. Assisting Mr. Downie were George Munro, Social Science Co-ordinator, Phil Kettle, Social Science Consultant and Don Thomas, area superintendent.

Learning experience

The idea of simulating a real life situation within the classroom and thereby learning from it is undoubtedly not a new idea. I am sure many teachers have used the technique in years past. On the other hand, however, it appears that the use of simulation games as a learning experience is becoming increasingly sophisticated as more teachers and students delve into this particular teaching-learning technique. Perhaps the most obvious advantage in using simulation games is the fact that the situations are simulated. The student can learn to make and implement decisions without suffering the consequence in reality. Suffering or prospering in simulation games is hopefully a useful test-flight for the decisions and reactions of real life.

The simulation game in its present form is basically a new teaching device at Acton District High School. A few staff members have implemented different simulations with varying degrees of success and more attempts are, no doubt, in the offing. Simulation games are certainly not the panacea for classroom education but they are a highly useful addition to the teaching profession.



PAUL PERELL

## Student turned teacher

By Stephanie Merrin  
While Mr. Black is on the Mediterranean cruise, geography students are being taught by Mr. Paul Perell, a third-year Honors English major at the University of Toronto. He was invited by Mr. Katz to spend the week at Acton High. He plans to enter law or teaching after graduation.

Mr. Perell's first experience with teaching was enlightening, if surprising. "I thought that teaching would be much easier but a tremendous amount of work is involved."

Many more hours  
He finds adjusting to the change from his usual 12 hours of classes a week to 30 hours here difficult. Although it is unusual for Acton pupils to be instructed by a student, Mr. Perell feels that it is important for a teacher to never stop being a student.

Among his interests are music, photography and swimming. His home is a farm in Dundas, a town near Hamilton. Acton High reminds Mr. Perell of his old school. "There is something attractive about small towns", he says, "for people are individuals rather than numbers."

## Curds and Why

13 members arrived at the Kuiken home for the third meeting. The previous time they had decided on the Bannockburn Curds and Why as the name. The meeting opened with the 4-H pledge which was followed by the roll-call and minutes.

At 12 we ate lunch prepared by four of the girls. They made peanutbutter custard and cottage potato salad. Last week's menu was corn chowder and yogurt Thousand Island Dressing.

## Councillors give selves pay boost

Halton County councillors voted themselves and Warden F.G. Oakes raises at Halton County Council's March meeting held yesterday (Tuesday) in Milton.

The warden's salary will be raised to \$10,000 from \$6,500 and councillors will receive a salary of \$3,000 a year. Councillors have previously been paid \$30 a meeting. Last year's salaries for councillors ranged from \$90 to \$3,300 for the year. Councillors will still receive \$30 per diem for attending conventions on top of other convention expenses.

An amendment to have councillors docket \$30 for each meeting they missed, with a grace of three meetings was defeated. At the same meeting council defeated a recommendation from the finance committee urging a \$1,000 cut in costs the Warden's dinner,

bringing it from \$1,500 to \$500. Georgetown reeve Rick Morrow said he had gone along with the salary idea but felt members not attending shouldn't be paid and he did not want to be accused of taking advantage of the system. He explained he had to be absent at times because of work and felt he and others in that position should not be paid.

## Store not for sale

Rumors that the Foodland Store in Acton is for sale were refuted by store manager Raymond LaChapelle this week. He told the Free Press that management is pleased with the response from shoppers in Acton and area and are looking forward to seeing customers for many years to come.

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