

OUR READERS WRITE

Writers must avoid libellous statements

Dear readers:

The Free Press has received a letter agreeing with the thoughts Mrs. Jones expressed on recreation the previous week and adding a few others. Unfortunately, the letter was signed only "An interested citizen of this town."

It is this newspaper's policy to publish only letters which are signed by the writer, although it is possible to use a pen name in the paper. If the writer will furnish us with his or her signature we will be glad to publish her thoughts on recreation in Acton.

The Free Press has also received a letter from a rural family deploring the "bureaucratic clique" which allegedly is operating in a school in a nearby town, which was signed and met all the qualifications except that of libel.

It is not often understood that libellous or defamatory statements which disparage a man in the eyes of his fellow practitioners could be liable to court action, not only for the writer but for the newspaper or other media which assists in propagating the statement.

The law of libel proceeds on the theory that every person has a legal right not to have his reputation wrongly injured. That is to say the law recognizes reputation as a

property interest just as much as one's home or one's automobile. So, broadly speaking, any untrue statement which is injurious to reputation is actionable in the courts.

The classic definition of what constitutes a defamatory statement is: "Any printed words, picture, cartoon or caricature which tends to lower a person in the estimation of right-thinking men, or cause him to be shunned or avoided, or expose him to hatred, contempt or ridicule, or disparage him in his office, trade or calling, constitute a libel."

Of course, a true statement of fact is not actionable, but unfortunately in our law, the onus is on a defendant in a libel action to prove that the statement of fact is true.

There are exceptions, of course, where questions of privilege such as fair comment on matters of public interest can influence the picture but we have neither the time nor space to outline them here.

So we would ask writers to avoid defamatory statements when they submit a letter for publication. By all means express your views on all matters but avoid disparagement of personalities.

And keep those letters coming.

—The Editor.



MR. AND MRS. RUD WHITING
Honored Saturday

Coles' Slaw . . .
(Continued from Page 4)
half the fun out of winter.

Besides that, there is a mind-expanding influence to wearing someone else's rubbers if you believe the old Indian proverb about not criticizing another's actions until you've walked in their moccasins for a day.

Before the winter is finished I should have picked up a lot of opinions about many people if you just substitute the word rubber for moccasin.

Homemaking clubs formed

By Mrs. Doreen Bannister

New 4-H Homemaking Clubs are now being organized in Halton County for the project, "Being Well Dressed and Well Groomed". Leaders and assistant leaders representing 16 clubs attended a workshop at Ligny Hall recently, to receive supplies and become familiar with the new unit.

Loungewear Mrs. D. Bannister, County Home Economist, outlined the topics to be discussed at club meetings. She stated that each member will be required to make an article of loungewear for herself. She must also keep a record book which will include personal grooming plans, itemized cost of loungewear made, and a sample of patching. Girls must have birthdates no later than March 1, 1969 in order to join.

With help from Mrs. Joan Rix of Stroud, Mrs. Bannister reviewed sewing techniques for woven fabrics, and then showed how methods differ for knitted fabrics.

Achievement Days are planned for May 13 and May 27, 1972.



SEE AL
FOR THIS GEM

1968 CHEVROLET 1/2 Ton PICKUP. Low mileage, excellent condition. Lic. 58372B.

Andrew Murray
Motors Limited
45 Mountainview Road
Georgetown, Ontario
Your Chev-Olds Dealer.
877-6944 — 853-0286

appreciation of your excellent paper. We are as you know most interested in the Commercial & Industrial standards set in Acton, and we feel that your continuous placement in the top weekly newspapers in Ontario brings honour to the town.

It is reassuring that in today's society of the 'Big City' standards of excellence can still be set by a small town.

Yours truly,
Betty Eastwood, Secretary,
on behalf of the Executive,
Chamber of Commerce Acton.

We never should act human,
A model we must be,
Our leaders make a reference,
To "Our Just Society".

And so, we go on lying,
About everything we do,
Our "Income tax" our outside tracks,
Are examples of a few.

When we meet the Grand Creator,
At the end of all our strife,
How can we be rewarded?
For having lived a lying life.

Victor Smith,
R.R. 2, Rockwood.

Society trains us to be liars . . .

THE TRAINED LIARS

We're taught and trained as liars,
Our society trained us thus,
We dare not tell the things we do,
For fear of all the fings.

Sometimes a member will be caught,
That's broke these golden rules,
They did not get good training,
In their social lying schools.

The ones that never have been caught,
Have learned their lessons well,
They make a great impression,
No one can even tell.

Wintertime drama in garden

188 Churchill Rd. S.,
Acton, Ont.
March 1, 1972.

To all Bird Lovers.

I had a very interesting experience this morning, and I wonder if anybody else in Acton has ever had a similar one.

For some weeks now the beautiful Evening Grosbeaks have been very frequent visitors to our bird feeder. They are the birds with yellow underneath and the very distinct white "V" shaped marking on their backs. The females are not quite so colorful, but very beautiful never-the-less. I had been watching them feed this morning, on the sunflower seeds I had just put out for them, when something disturbed them and they flew off in all directions, and I heard a dull thud on my sitting room window. I looked out to see what had happened. A couple of tiny feathers were clinging to the window, and on the ground in the deep snow one of the female Grosbeaks was lying, very still, and I was afraid very dead.

However, I put on a jacket and my rubber boots, went downstairs to find a box, and made my way through the deep snow towards the bird. I walked very carefully, talking softly to the bird all the time. It moved its head towards me, and I very carefully picked it up and put it in the box. Much to my delight it was still alive, and did not struggle at all to get out of my hand. I put some sunflower seed and a small container of water in the box, then put the whole thing on the bird feeder, well out of the way of any cats who might be around, and who would be quick to take advantage of

a bird that was already injured. Then I went inside the house and prepared to keep watch to see what would happen.

In a very short time the air seemed to be full of birds, all Grosbeaks, flying around over the feeder, sitting on the hydro wires which run along this side of Churchill Road south, sitting in the tree on the opposite side of the road, and then eventually in the trees in our garden. Then some of them landed on the feeder, some of them even perched on the edges of the box in which I had placed the injured bird. They were talking to it in the way birds have, kept flying over the box, then they proceeded to feed on the sunflower seed. This went on for about half an hour, then, as some of the other birds flew over to the tree on the other side of the road, the bird flew out of the box and joined them, and after a short time they all flew away together, a happy ending to what might have been a very sad little story, and I was filled with relief and happiness for them.

We have had very many different varieties of birds this year, some of the more uncommon ones being the American Goldfinch, and Redpolls, also the odd Bluejay, with his harsh shout and rather quarrelsome nature, and his specially beautiful plumage. They give me a great deal of pleasure, and I am sure the tenants in the apartments next door to us enjoy them too. I notice the children watching them as they go by to school. They certainly help to make the winter pass more quickly, and I hope they will stay with us through the spring.

Margaret E. Wright.

Appreciation night

Honors Rud Whiting

There was a "Sold Out" sign posted early in the week when the Acton Liberal Association tendered Halton's M.P. Rud Whiting an appreciation night and dance at the legion hall Saturday night.

The popular Liberal Member of Parliament and his wife Anne were the target for many tributes, and gifts presented by local Liberal president Aldo Bralda and Mrs. John Krapek in between dancing to the music of Acton's swinging Shaynes. Guests were present from other areas of the riding to heap superlatives on the man whom Mayor Les Dudy said was "always willing to listen and talk over problems".

Always helpful

The mayor said Actonians generally were appreciative of the way Rud Whiting looks after the town and speaking as mayor he found him unfailingly helpful. Speaking on behalf of himself and the Liberal Association Aldo Bralda paid a special tribute to Mr. Whiting, saying he had the

key requisites of a good politician, making himself a good listener, is readily available and works hard and long to get things done.

He recalled the bleak unemployment picture when Mason Knit closed its doors last year and the efforts the Halton M.P. made to assist in any way he could. Then when all efforts to save the company were futile, he cleared the decks for prompt unemployment assistance by having a local agent appointed to assist with filling out forms.

Liberal executive member Lou Bonnette also paid special tribute to the M.P. he has a high regard for as a result of the "tremendous work" he has achieved.

Touched by all the tributes Mr. Whiting said he saw his role as part of a participatory democracy, listening to problems and doing his best to solve them at home and in Ottawa. He told the intent audience of dancers and well-wishers they were fortunate to have a group of people in town with the town's

interests at heart. "They keep me informed of things and I do my best to act on them."

Personal friend

The Halton M.P. was especially appreciative of the tribute from Mayor Les Dudy whom he spoke of fondly as a personal friend. His wife Anne, in her turn on the podium, thanked all who made the evening possible, remarking that the Whitings "always feel at home here."

Dancers hoofed to the rollicking rhythms of the Shaynes until 1 a.m. while local and visiting Liberals introduced themselves around. Among visitors were Halton East provincial candidate Bob Blake from Oakville and Norm McGuinness from Burlington, the Liberal candidate who unseated incumbent John Morrison in Halton-Wentworth last week.

ONE of the two Toronto police detectives shot and killed in Don Mills, Douglas Sinclair, was co-owner of the Georgetown restaurant The Highland.

1967 FORD

MUSTANG - RALLY

Equipped — Green
Black interior
289 V-8
Standard Transmission

Excellent Condition

NOW ONLY \$1,575.


878-2355 Lic. No. 777118

MILTON MOTOR SALES LTD.

388 MAIN ST. MILTON

A-B SUPERMARKET

9 MILL ST. ACTON 853-0650

MEAT DEPARTMENT SPECIALS	
— RED BRAND BEEF —	
ROUND STEAK	\$1.19/lb.
Round Steak Roast	\$1.19/lb.
Sirloin Tip Roast	\$1.29/lb.
Boneless Rump Roast	\$1.29/lb.
Schneider's 1 lb. pkg.	RED HOTS 65¢
Schneider's 1 lb. pkg.	MINI SIZZLERS 69¢
Town Club 1 lb. pkg.	SIDE BACON 69¢
PROCTER & GAMBLE	
	
KING SIZE	
(Save 34c)	
\$1.69	
Christie's 1 lb. pkg.	PREMIUM CRACKERS 39¢
Plain or Salted	
York 16 oz. Jar —	(Save 29c)
PEANUT BUTTER 2 for 89¢	
Christie's 24 oz. Loaf —	(Save 24c)
BIG ONE BUTTERCRUST BREAD	3 for 81¢
Tulip 12 oz. Tins —	
LUNCHEON MEAT	(Save 23c) 3 for \$1
Treesweet 48 oz. Tins	
GRAPEFRUIT JUICE	49¢
ORANGE JUICE	45¢
Salada Prior Park — Pkg of 100 (Save 20c)	
TEA BAGS	69¢
Rosedale 14 oz. Tins — (Save 50c)	
PEAS or CREAM STYLE CORN	6 for \$1
Catelli Family Size — (Save 35c)	
MACARONI DINNERS	5 for \$1
Delmonte 19 oz. Tins — (Save 29c)	
FRUIT COCKTAIL	3 for \$1
FRESH PRODUCE DAILY	
U.S. No. 1 — Large Heads	LETTUCE 2 for 49¢
U.S. No. 1 — Honey	TANGERINES Doz. 49¢
Ont. No. 1 3 lb. Bag	Cooking Onions 25¢
PRICES EFFECTIVE MARCH 8-9-10-11	
Sunbrite 1 lb. Pkg. — (Save 18c)	MARGARINE 4 for \$1
Parchment Wrap	