

Leadership questioned

OSSTF chief re-elected after severe criticism

Tom Ramautarsingh was re-elected president of Halton Chapter of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation at the Group's annual meeting Wednesday. His victory came only after loud and severe criticism both from one of his opponents for the presidency and several spokesmen from the floor.

Ramautarsingh defeated a White Oaks teacher Dan McLean and a General Wolfe teacher Tom Patience to retain his seat. As a base for his campaign Patience attacked the president as a poor leader.

Poor leader

He said he and others were tired and frustrated with present leadership. He claimed his only reason for running was to replace inept leadership with a unified force.

McLean made no reference to a lack of leadership but felt a pressing need for the federation to become more representative of the teachers and achieve greater liaison with the community. He urged greater involvement by teachers in federation work.

Ramautarsingh reviewed his year in office and explained what he felt were priorities for the coming year. He felt the federation should be looking at use of para-professionals, class size, and other innovations taking place at the Halton County Board of Education.

"If you elect a poor leader you will have a sinking ship and have a smiling board of education," he warned.

Art Walker charged the president spoke from a position of weakness rather than strength and criticized him for having treasurer Henry Rapcewicz speak for him as part of his speech. He said he was stacking the deck. "The more I hear you speak the more concerned I become."

Walker was the first of several who openly showed doubt about the president's capacity as a leader. Principal Ken Foster engaged in a verbal battle with president.

Foster asked if the president felt the executive had operated as a unified body. Ramautarsingh said for the better part yes but added Foster couldn't be included in that yes.

Benefit

Asked by Foster what would be done to make the body more unified the president said he

hoped the principals would send a better representative and noted Foster had missed seven of the 18 meetings.

Foster countered, "I've seen a unified executive and strong federation but not here. I've been involved in federation work for 11 years and know what federation is all about."

In a report circulated to the 300 teachers at the meeting Foster congratulated salary chairman



TOM RAMAUTARSINGH

Stan Hall for the professional manner in which salary negotiations were carried on.

Attack, innuendo

"On the other hand, we often found it difficult to support the posture assumed by the executive. Attack and innuendo were too often engaged in by persons who proved themselves ill-informed and unprepared for the position taken.

After a hot election session votes were counted showing 148 for the president, 82 for McLean and 22 for Patience. Both McLean and Patience were vice presidents last year. For Patience it was his second crack at the president's job.

Both McLean and Patience declined nominations for vice presidents and Harold Pippy of Burlington, Central and Peter Bonfield and Neil Turnbull of Oakville Trafalgar High School won posts as VPs.

A move by McLean to have Ramautarsingh unanimously elected president failed. Alan Eastwood of Acton District High School was named secretary while Grame Barrett of M. H. Robinson will serve as treasurer.

Kim Thetford withdrew from the president's race citing the lack of time to both teach and head the federation. A motion to have the president withdraw from teaching for the year and act as full time president for the year was defeated.

A poll showed that of the four potential candidates only the president was aware that that motion would be put to the membership. Of the three who stood only the president favored the full time position.

Eight students qualify Halton - Peel field meet

By Corie Maxwell

In the Halton County Track and Field Meet, held last Wednesday and Thursday at McMaster University, the Acton Track Team made a good showing with one first, three seconds, three thirds and four sixths.

The first six places in each event go on to the Halton Peel Track Meet, which will be held at press time and will be reported next week.

The following are winners at the McMaster meet.

Grade 12 trip to Toronto

By Antonia Mahar

Last Tuesday, May 10, about 40 grade 12 students, under the supervision of geography teacher Mr. K. Black, went on an excursion to Toronto. A bus tour was the first thing on the agenda. We went through many residential and manufacturing areas where we saw many types and qualities of houses and factories. One house had three olympic size swimming pools.

After the tour, we proceeded to Yonge Street where we were let off the bus to eat our lunches and do our various assignments. We all met at City Hall at 2.30 p.m. and then boarded the bus for home.

All in all, the trip was quite informative and interesting.

The first place winner in junior javelin was Steve Van Fleet with a throw of 159.4 feet. This beat the old Halton County javelin record. Roger McEachern placed second in junior boys' long jump along with 2 sixth place finishes in the 100 and 200 metre runs. Over hurdles and through the water hazard ran Glen McKenzie in the 3,000 metre steeplechase for a third place finish.

Only girl

Maureen Gerth, the only female to qualify for the team, placed second in discus and had a third in shotput.

Rolf Hoyer placed third in midget javelin while Ron Mailoux had a second and Bob Smith a sixth in senior javelin. Dave Tomlinson placed sixth in the junior 400 metre run.

Congratulations to these students and good luck at the Halton and Peel Track Meet! There may not be room for a cheering section to go along but we'll all be rooting for you!

J.F. reunion this weekend

Junior Farmers, both present and former, are heading for Acton Meadows Golf Course this Friday evening, May 28 for their annual reunion dance and smorgasbord. The evening will be a good opportunity to renew acquaintances and organizers are hoping many former members will attend. The event starts at 9 p.m. and The Shaynes will play for dancing until 1 a.m.

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Need farm hosts

Farmers in the North Halton area are urgently needed to help this year's provincially sponsored Urban-Rural Exchange program get off the ground.

Purpose of the program, which is in its second year, is to give urban and rural youths from ages 12 to 15 a chance to observe a way of life slightly different from what they have been accustomed to.

is one week. The exchange program lasts from the beginning of July to the end of August.

Interested farmers who wish to help out should contact Miss Janet Hunter in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Building in Milton, at 878-3214.

Applicants for the program are carefully screened for attitude and character by the school's student authorities and by Miss Hunter. There is no pay or remuneration involved, and the only cost is a \$3 transportation fee for the student.

Norman Robertson retiring soon

Seven retirements in the North Halton school area are listed in the latest edition of Halton Education News.

Norman Robertson is retiring and the school paper comments "A native of the Acton district, he plans to see all those nice parts of Ontario he has missed." Mr. Robertson joined the caretaking staff of the high school in 1964 and has been a relief caretaker in the north area for the past two years.

Mrs. Florence Parsons is leaving after teaching for 27

years in Nassagawaya. She currently teaches a junior special education class. Many of her former pupils taught with her on the same staff.

William Kindrade is retiring as principal of Howard Wrigglesworth public school in Georgetown. Mrs. Olive McEachern is also retiring from Wrigglesworth school; Val Stein as principal of Chapel school, Georgetown, and Wilma Stull from the staff there. George Mills retires as a caretaker in Milton.

Notes from Acton High

By Corie Maxwell

In last Wednesday's soccer game at Purdue High School Acton was defeated 7-0.

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Helping with rehearsals last Wednesday for Theatre Night, which is on June 2, was actress Patricia Collins. She is especially interested in one of the plays "The Death and Life of Shealy Fitch".

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Del Cook, Manager of the Bank of Commerce, visited the grade 12 Home Economics class last week. He spoke to them about credit, bank loans, percentage rates, loans for youth and other associated topics. This is part of the Home Economics course dealing with home management.

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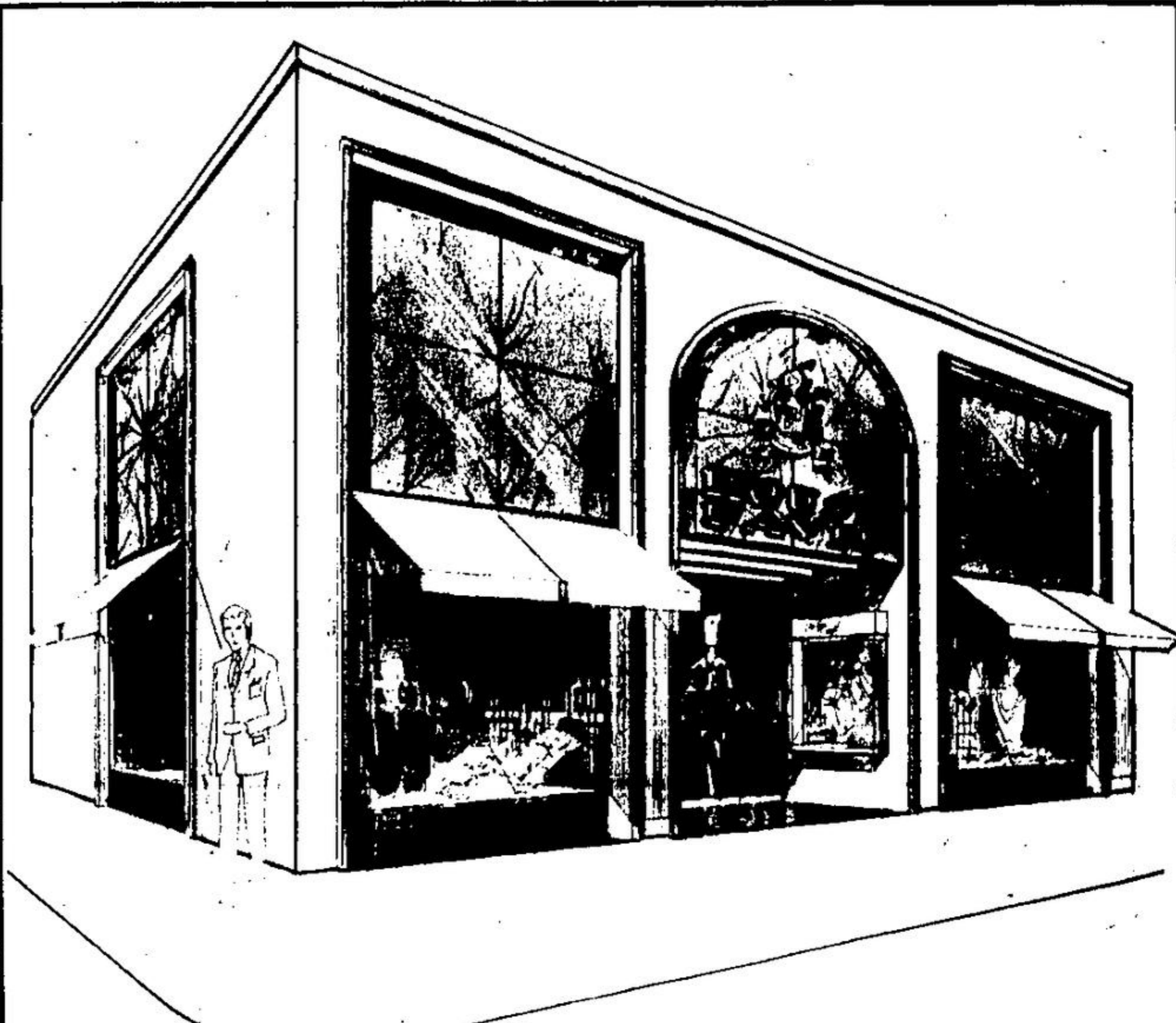
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