



CRUNCH GO THE boards under pressure from Peter Keta's foot thrust during a martial arts demonstration at the high school's Mini-School. Kung-Fu expert Ron Day of Kitchener, braces himself. Ron held the boards for Peter. Another person helped Ron keep his ground.



HIGH SCHOOL student Ford Alton goes for an up in the air spin on the Tramp Champs' trampoline during a demonstration at the school's Mini-School last week. It was the first time Ford had been on a tramp, so coach Durango Coy secured a belt around the student's waist for safety. Rick Cleland, right, Ontario Champion, watches the trick with the gym audience.

AHS's mini-school sparks interest

Acton High's Mini-School, a special one day flick of the learning bic, sparked interest in several non-text book topics.

Organizers offered sessions on archaeology, cartooning, fashion, Chinese cooking, dirt bike riding and other interests—35 in all—which most students and many staff members took in last Wednesday.

Ken Ellis and Brian Skerrett, with other teachers' co-operation, packaged Mini-School, which is officially labelled: Alternative Learning Day.

The main target of Mini-School is apathy. "It's for kids who have no out-of-school interests or hobbies," Mr. Ellis said. The one day performances were also to entertain and provide the many students, who have hobbies, with experts who

could add interest.

Impressions
Four classes, from a cross-section of the school, were afterwards asked to write their impressions of Mini-School. The evaluations were not signed.

Generally the responses could be termed positive. A little more depth on this, or less stress on that, were the directions of many comments.

Mini-School is held every other year at AHS with open house used as an alternative. But if one student has his way, Mini-School will be an annual event: "Once a year—the way it was set up".

"FANTASTIC!!" was the word some used for the Tramp Champs, a group of four trampoline athletes who entertained the packed gym.

Learned
About Western horseback

riding: "We learned a lot and had a good time riding."

Many one word answers such as "Good" fitted sky diving, parapsychology, and the police crime lab.

Some exhibitors like Kung Fu expert Ron Day of Kitchener used a student in the display. Juanita Andrews broke an inch thick board with her hand.

Students picked three performances which they wanted to see. The day was split into four periods, each an hour and fifteen minutes long, with a separate lunch. Fourth period was set aside for the Tramp Champs, of Toronto.

For the most part, the day went smoothly, but Mr. Ellis said there were last minute changes, right up to Tuesday night. An astrology expert backed out at 5 p.m. With the help of the yellow pages, Mr.

Ellis found a replacement.

About four months preparation went into this year's Mini-School, Mr. Ellis said. Although the '76 edition has had predecessors, the organizer, who is no longer with the school, left no record of how to go about arranging one.

Mr. Ellis visited a Mini-School at Guelph this spring. He and Mr. Skerrett listed topics kids might be interested in, and then asked for students' ideas. They trimmed a very long list to 35 topics, found out how many students wanted topic "A" instead of topic "B" or "C".

Staff members were brought into the organizing picture. They were needed to co-ordinate particular topics and line up resource people, the experts in hypnotism, First Aid, yoga or whatever.

If asked to take on the task again, Mr. Ellis paused, then said yes, he would help set up another Mini-School.

Another try at lighting fires in student imaginations may reduce the number of evaluations which read like the following: "I did not go to Mini-School, because I thought it would be bor-

ing... but from what I heard from my friends, that they said it was really good... next time we have Mini-School I think I might go. That's if they have any topics that I like."

No fires says chief

Acton fire chief Mick Holmes reports no fires this week.

NOTICE

On June 2/76 the Town is providing a special pick up to the urban areas. This special pick up is to remove articles not normally picked up during regular collections. We would request residents to have the articles placed at the roadside by 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 2/76. Thank You.

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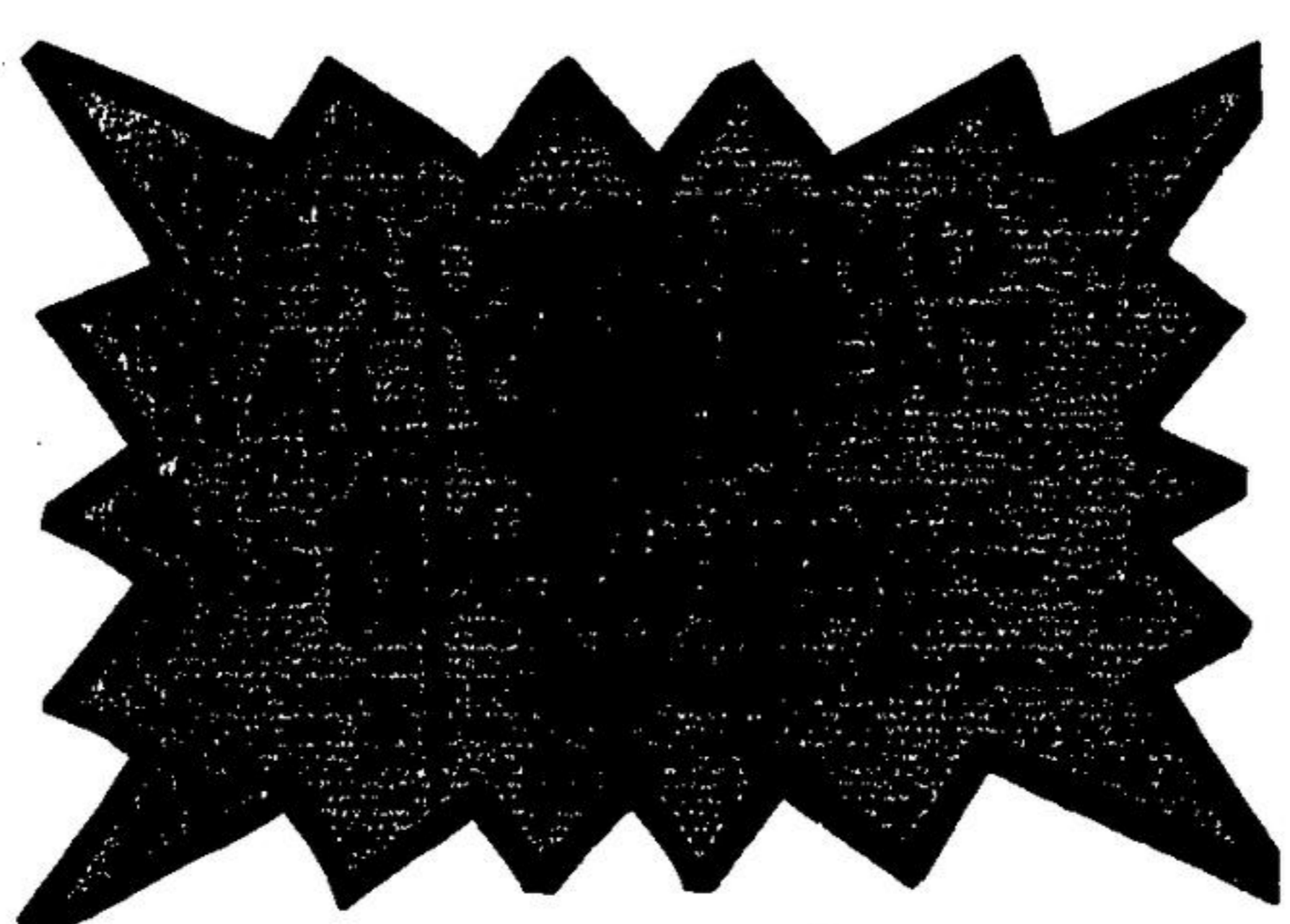
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