

Says CAS director:

# Child abusers expect too much of the child

Though great attention has been focused on child abuse and battered children in recent years, few people have been made aware of its causes, in the opinion of Dr. Gordon Askwith, Executive Director of the Halton Children's Aid Society.

"By understanding the causes," he said, "we may be

able to prevent parents from battering their children. It is very difficult for the average parent to understand how a mother or a father can punish a child so badly that he is handicapped for life or killed, especially when most of the children are below the age of three. Studies of these parents show that they have various attitudes and characteristics in common. In many cases, they can be corrected so that they can become good parents."

Often the cause of baby-battering is the parents' unreal expectation of how the baby should behave. Some think a baby should be toilet trained at six months, for example, and that the child, however young, should give instant obedience, well beyond his level of maturity. Such parents become enraged when their own efforts fail and take out their frustration by hitting the child. A baby with colic, who cries constantly, can drive such parents to brutal measures.

It was also found that abusive parents feel they have no one to turn to for help in child rearing, whereas other parents will be able to name some other person. They literally do not know what to do when a baby cries. "These studies of abusive parents give us clues to prevention," said the Director. "We would like to see parenting taught as a subject in High School so that young people will know something about child development and early childhood needs long before they become parents. We, in the community, must put in what their own parents were unable to give."

Another preventive measure has been the Parents Anonymous Association for

parents who are concerned about their care of children. This is a very active group available to parents in the Burlington-Hamilton area. These were families who, in many cases, had small children who exhibited one of more unmanageable behaviours, such as temper tantrums. The children were attention-seeking or punitive or both, because their mothers gave

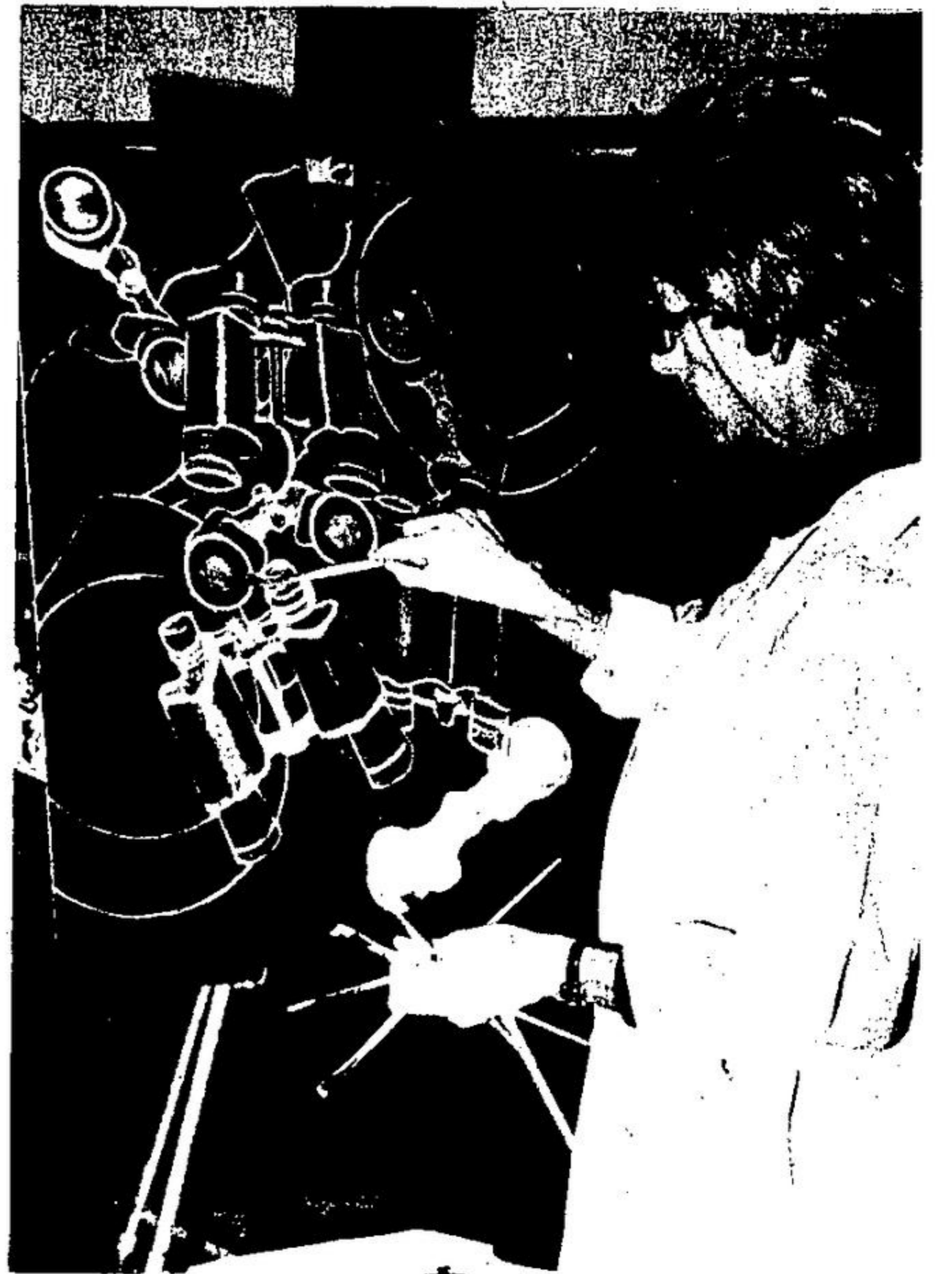
attention to this kind of behaviour, tended to ignore appropriate behaviour and sometimes "gave in." There was very little praise, hugs or chatting and a great deal of shouting, scolding and spanking. This created a spiral of mutual anger, fear, hostility and punishment followed by worse behaviour on the part of both parent and child.

In the program, the parents were taught how to reinforce positive behaviour in their small children and even how to play with the child. Relationships improved dramatically. This type of approach is used with parents who are potential child abusers or even with parents who are just concerned about the care of their children. The Children's Aid Society is

eager to have volunteers, parents, teachers, nurses, and other interested people in the community, help to launch such programs of education for parenting in this County. Interested persons are invited to call the Society and take out membership. You will be informed of developments and will be asked to help the Society get these projects under way.



CHECKING OUT the electrical system of her own vehicle, Theatre Arts teacher, Michele Mole is beginning to understand what makes the ol' bus run. She figures it will save time and money when she goes to the garage with an ailment.



MRS. GUY MELTON one of the art students enrolled in night school says she can get lost in her painting. She has been painting for two years, just for a hobby. She has also taken furniture refinishing and yoga adult education courses to fill in time now that her son is grownup and married.

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## Early Christmas shoplift

A person or group of persons are getting their Christmas shopping done early this year. Halton Hills police report several stores in downtown Georgetown have been hit by a rash of minor thefts. An unknown person removed

a man's gold wrist watch from a counter top jewellery box at John Boughton Jewellers. A youth walked into Henry's Clothing Store, took a leather coat from the rack and left the store. North Halton Sports report the disappearance of a night deposit bag containing \$1,257 in cash, \$283.27 in cheques. Two juveniles admitted to stealing two model road racing cars from the Georgetown hobby shop.

Another unknown person did all his shopping in one store, removing a stereo, speaker, "9" Sony TV, AM-FM radio, "Mossport" 22 calibre rifle and a BB gun. Someone removed a 1970 Barracuda from Bob Phillips Used car lot after getting the keys from the office.

To make it a truly merry Christmas thieves borrowed a few bottles of liquor from the bar at Sacred Heart Parish Hall. Five bottles of rye, two gin, one scotch, one vodka, one rum, two bottles of orange juice, and three cases of Molsen's.

Elsewhere thieves made off with two bicycles, cash from KNR Durastone Ltd., a wallet from the business office at Georgetown High and a youth was charged with attempted robbery of a McIntyre Crescent woman.

Another prime target for

vandals last week was parked cars. Batteries were removed from two cars, one in the arena parking lot, the other in front of a home. An attaché case, removed from a car in Holy Cross Church parking lot was found later in the woods with the contents missing; also taken were a prismatic compass, draftsman pencil, a book of 10 Go-train tickets, and an umbrella. Four hub caps were removed from a vehicle parked in the Curwood Packaging parking lot. Police say the hub caps will only fit Buick

vehicles. Sand and gravel was poured into the carburetor of a vehicle parked outside the arena. Windows were broken at Gage Stationery. Yoder Equipment, Georgetown High School and a coin box was smashed at Stein's Car Wash on Guelph St.

Two youths were charged with possession of drugs, and liquor charges included five for illegal possession of liquor, four of intoxication in a public place, and three cases of impaired driving.

LEARNING the guitar for pleasure and relaxation at GDHS's night school are Lawrence Peck, Maurine Boxer, Jackie Wright, Kevin Fisher, Bill Robbins and Mark

Buttery. Centre back is mathematics teacher and guitar instructor, John Moore.

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LAYAWAY FOR XMAS NOW

Women get their brooms busy

Let the men have their fun, the ladies are serious about this game.

Last Monday afternoon the Competitive Ladies Curling League began in earnest. Their opening day was somewhat marred by ice problems but the ladies pressed on and played a full draw of ten end games.

The victorious rinks were

skipped by Peggy Fischer, Bette Bromhead, Fay Braithwaite, Vivian Kruger and June Magnuson.

**\$500 a home**

From the Ottawa Bureau Of The Herald

OTTAWA—During the next 12 months, first-time buyers of new homes in Georgetown and area will be eligible for a \$500 federal grant if the price of the homes does not exceed \$31,500.

The new program—a Liberal election promise—was outlined Friday in the House of Commons by urban affairs minister, Barney Danson.

It applies to those who buy and occupy their first home between last Friday and Nov. 1, 1975. Payments will be made as soon as parliament approves the legislation.

The new home must be a principal residence of permanent type which conforms to local bylaws and building standards, the minister noted.

There is a sliding scale for home prices across the nation, based on the new national housing act loan limits in each region, but higher priced houses and non-residential buildings do not qualify for the \$500 grant.

While \$31,500 is considered the maximum allowable for a moderately-priced home, \$34,914 is permissible in Guelph and \$44,195 in Toronto.

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