

Bill Pickells does the job



By TONY PANACCI
Herald sports editor

A few minutes before he is about to go to work Bill Pickells is a little worried. He can clearly see that he can use another brick and he's also a little apprehensive about doing part of the job.

Bill Pickells has a right to be worried. His job this night is not going to be your run of the mill nine to five. For the next half an hour he is going to walk all over smashed glass until he crushes it with his feet, stick a bicycle spoke through his arm, brave two bricks smashed by a sledge hammer with his hand caught in between them, slice a watermelon in half with a sword while the melon is lying on one of his student's stomach. Pickells is blindfolded while slicing the melon. And then to complete the job he is going to lie on the crushed glass and another brick is going to be smashed by the same sledge hammer. If things go wrong Pickells could be lying in a pool of his own blood and be up for manslaughter.

A sando-masochist you say. Well maybe, but for crowds at a Toronto Mall for three shows over the weekend Bill Pickells was a very entertaining fellow and he survived the performances without so much as having to be taken to hospital for observation. Oh yes, the student is still in one piece too.

Pickells is the same karate champion whose exploits in many tournaments have been recorded in this newspaper. However, before he does his performances at the mall he tells the people present that what he is about to do has nothing whatsoever to do with the martial arts. "It is a show," Pickells tells the audience, "and is not connected with the martial arts."

This reporter witnessed Pickell's performance on Friday night. The reason he is nervous before hand is because the part of his act in which he sticks the spoke through his arm is new and he's not sure he's ready to do it. He also is short one brick and because of that is going to have to change the act around.

However, in the tradition of all good performer, no matter

the adversities, the show must go on.

Pickells begins the performances by smashing 24 empty beer bottles and then laying the particles on the stage. For the next five minutes or so he walks on the broken glass until he leaves it behind him crushed.

Then with the help of an aid Pickells jams a sterilized bicycle spoke through his forearm. A spectator during one of the performances fainted during this part of the act. After Pickells sticks the spoke in his arm he walks through the crowd to let them have a closeup of it.

With the spoke still in his arm Pickells puts his hand between two bricks. His aid on stage then uses all his force and strength to break the bricks and possibly Pickells' hand. However, after the bricks are smashed Pickells' hand emerges and seemingly

still in tact and not a trickle of blood on his arm.

For the next part of the act Pickells brings John Burt, one of his karate students, on stage. Burt is stretched out across two chairs and a melon is placed on his stomach.

Pickells then blindfolds himself. After a few warmups he proceeds to slice the melon in half with a sword. Not a mark is left on Burt's stomach.

Pickells finishes the show by

lying on the crushed glass and having one of the bricks placed on his stomach. The stage aid then uses the sledge hammer to destroy the brick and conceivably Pickells. However, after it is over Pickells again emerges unscathed.

"I don't know how I do it," Pickells says after the performance. "I can't put into words how I walk all over the glass and stick the spoke over in my arm without bleeding. . . I just do it."

Pickells, aside from being into karate, is also into meditation. The performance is certainly a perfect example of mind of matter. Before the performance Pickells has to convince himself that the bricks, hammer, spoke and glass cannot hurt him. He has done the performance many

times and has come out the victory on each occasion.

After the performance Pickells says, "What I did on stage really has nothing to do with everyday life, but it does prove that if one's mind is put on a task, no matter how difficult, it can be done." That statement does a good job of answering the question why.



No one can say that John Burt isn't a gutsy performer. Here he calmly awaits as Bill Pickells prepares to slice a watermelon in half while blindfolded. Pickells split the melon completely in half and Burt walked away with not even a slight mark.



Bill Pickells seems to be looking to the heavens for help as he grinds broken glass with his feet. Pickells walked all over the glass for approximately 10 minutes and when he was through there weren't any marks on his feet. The lower photograph is a closeup of the grinding action.

Eighteen teams will be in Hornby ball tourney

The Hornby Softball Tournament is set to go this weekend and almost any of the 18 entries is capable of winning the championship.

Play gets underway 7 p.m. Friday. There will be two games the first night, games all day Saturday and Sunday with the championship contest going 6 p.m. on Sunday.

There will not be a consolation section in tournament. Once a team loses two games they are eliminated. That means if one of the teams going into the championship game is undefeated there could be two games Sunday night to declare a winner.

Glen Williams has a team entered and with Morris Curtis and Jeff Haines doing the pitching they could go a long way in the tournament.

Last year's winner Shane Construction Juniors from Toronto are again entered and should be tough to beat. Runners-up last year Piper's Contractors are also in the tourney again.

Other teams entered are Streetsville, Port Elgin, Port Colborne, two teams from the Oshawa Industrial League, three from Milton and several

other strong entries from leagues from Toronto.

This is the biggest Hornby tournament so far with the 18 teams entered and the competition should be fierce.

The prize money is also bigger this year. The prize money is paid for the expenses. First prize will be \$900, second \$500 and the third and

House league baseball results

TYKE
Dairy Queen 11 - Harley's Shell 0

Steve McCarthy pitched a shutout for Dairy Queen. It was the first game of the best of three semi-final.

Guy Hillock and Jeff Curtis helped the cause by belting doubles. Brent Falcone scored the game's first run and it proved to be all Dairy Queen needed.

Hillock and Sherry Fiebig played a strong game for the winners and Shert Gardiner was strong for Harley.

fourth place teams will both receive \$100.

There will also be three trophies handed out for individual performances. They are donated by Hornby Greenhouse Ltd., J and T Sports in Acton and Man's World Hairstyling.

There will be excellent softball in Hornby and quite a few barn burners before a winner of the Hornby Trophy is declared.

Dairy Queen 20 - Harley's Shell 2

Dairy Queen rapped up the series with this rout. The final will be on September 10.

McCarthy again pitched a strong game in allowing just two runs. Blair Smith and Jim Wallace carried the big bats and each had a home run. Hillock, Blair Smith and Jim Wallace helped the cause as each had a double.

Gardiner was again the best Harley player on the field.

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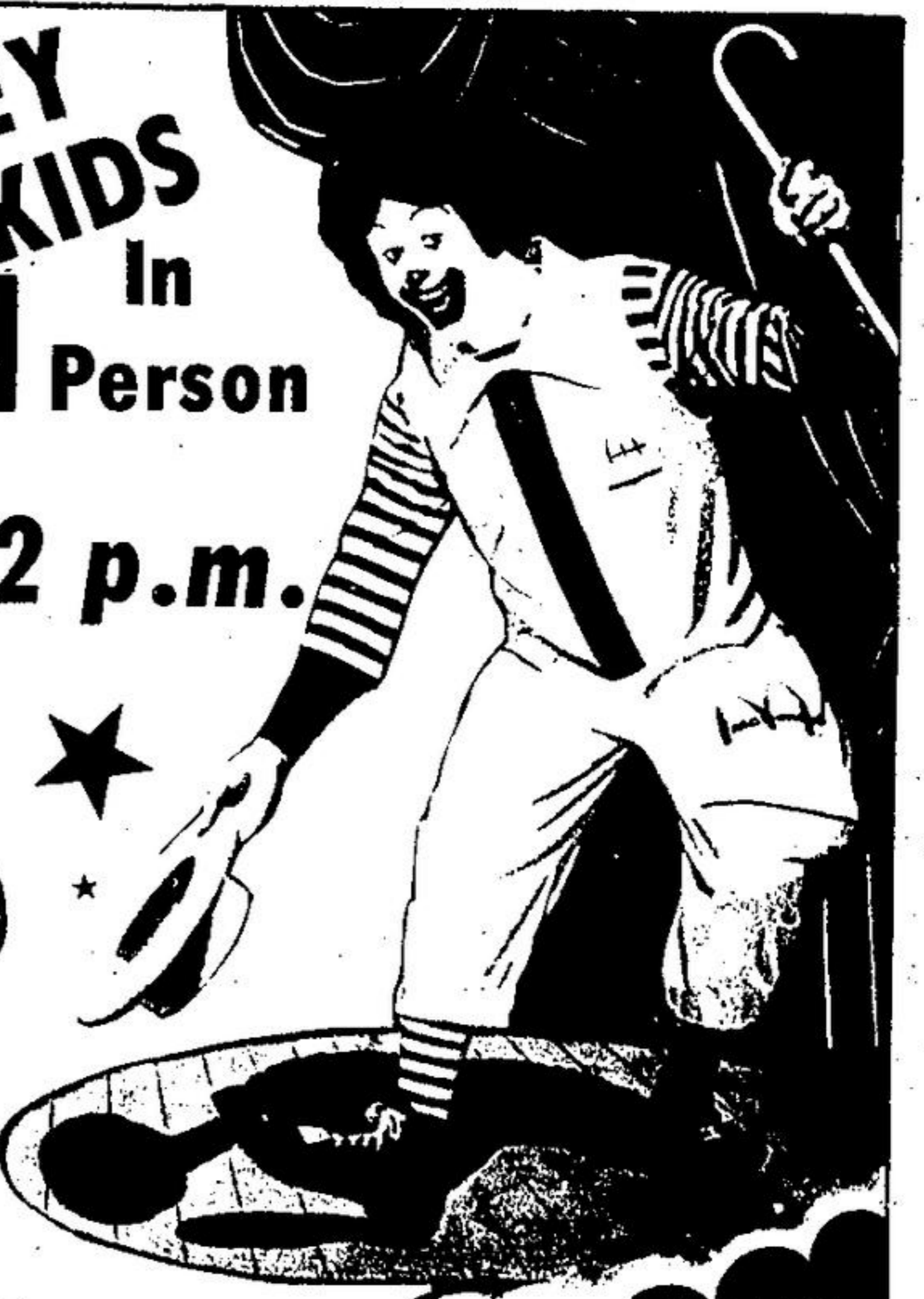
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