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Friday, December 11, 1981

Board of Ed. teaser

Let's figure this one out

An unusual move Thursday night in which one motion nominated three people for the position of chairman of the Halton board of education had trustees puzzling over their rule books.

The procedure was repeated later in the election of a vice-chairman. Oakville trustee Jim Clelland nominated trustees Betty Fisher, Florence Meares and Helen Howard-Lock in one motion. The board picked Mrs. Meares.

If the unprecedented nomination motions which dumbfounded trustees that night were found to be improper, new chairman Len Auger and vice-chairman Florence Meares would have to stand election again, much sooner than they or anyone else would have anticipated.

The board follows procedure set out by Bourinot's Rules and their own bylaws. Oakville trustee Anne Fairfield looked up the rules concerning elections and found the board bylaw was literally interpreted and agreed with Bourinot's procedure.

The bylaw states that "nominations for a chairman of the board shall be made orally by any member and seconded by another".



AT THE POST

Hope no one missed the "Grand Opening" of Santa's Mailbag in Wednesday's Herald. Our second batch of letters to Santa, along with his replies, is inside today's Weekend Extra. Look for more from the Mailbag in every issue from now until Dec. 24.

May change Valente appeal court date

Halton Crown Attorney James Treleven, who initiated an appeal in the case of a Burlington man who killed three women, one an Acton resident, July 3, 1980, said the appeal, scheduled for Dec. 17, will likely be adjourned.

He said he had received a letter from the lawyer for Walter Valente this week, requesting an adjournment, because the lawyer is new on the case. The decision to adjourn the case to a later date will be made by a Milton Provincial Court judge.

Mr. Valente was fined \$200 and had his driver's licence suspended for 12 months in August when he pleaded guilty to a charge of careless driving in connection with an accident in which three women riding bicycles were killed and two others injured.

Mr. Treleven has said he feels the sentence Mr. Valente received was far too light. He had urged a jail term at the time Mr. Valente was sentenced.

Lorraine Robertson, mother of three and Acton resident for eight years, was killed in the car-bicycle collision.



NOT JUST PILLOW TALK

Mike Hoogaars, son of Peter Hoogaars, who along with Bernard Michlisch has opened Georgetown Waterbeds in the Mountainview Plaza, seems to be enjoying the rather unique business venture himself. The store has waterbeds in a variety of sizes and styles, and readers might be surprised to learn they aren't as much of a luxury item as commonly believed. In fact, for just a few dollars more than you pay for a complete bed with box frame and mattress, you could purchase a waterbed, frame, pedestal, liner, mattress and heater. The store also has a line of bed linen for sale to complement the waterbed purchase. See story page 4.

Father loses mothers' allowance bid

Georgetown single parent Barry Bryant finally received a letter Friday confirming his worst expectations.

Mr. Bryant appealed Oct. 7 to Halton region's social assistance review board in an effort to overturn an earlier decision by the ministry of community and social services that denied him mother's allowance benefits.

He learned this week that his appeal has been rejected. He said his next move is to "create a big stink". Mr. Bryant said he's going to conduct an opinion poll in Halton Hills to see if he has public support.

Breast cancer study

A national breast screening study is being held at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto to determine if screening by mammography can reduce deaths from breast cancer in women 40 and over. If you are a woman between 40 and 50 years of age; if you have not had a mammogram in the past year; if you have not had breast cancer; if you're not pregnant, then you can help by participating in this screening. Call 877-1124 and the Halton Hills Unit of the Cancer Society will arrange your appointment.

Boric acid in Japanese futons

Fire-proofing law concerns Acton man

By ANI PEDERIAN
 Herald Staff Writer

An Acton businessman has entered the fray concerning a new federal law concerning the use of boric acid as a fire retardant in mattresses.

Bob Lewis, 33, isn't taking it lying down. He's complaining about the regulation which comes into effect in January, because he says it will affect his business success. The legislation requires that the inside of mattresses be impregnated with boric acid.

Mr. Lewis got into the business of retailing cotton futons, a traditional Japanese sleeping mat, last month. Called Tamarack Enterprises, his business is a part-time one based in his Bower Avenue home.

Futons sold by Mr. Lewis are about six inches thick and made of several layers of cotton felling, which is raw, unprocessed cotton which hasn't been combed or spun. Four or five layers of cotton felling are encased in strong, unbleached cotton fabric to make a mattress. Just like a traditional mattress and box-spring, the futon is protected by bed sheets which can be taken off and washed.

"This legislation applies to all mattresses," Mr. Lewis said. "We're trying to get exemptions for futons."

PURE COTTON

He said people should have a choice. A lot of people suffer from allergies and choose the pure cotton mattress for their comfort. By insisting all mattresses must have the fire retardant powder, many allergy sufferers will have no alternative, Mr. Lewis said.

As well, many are concerned with environmental pollution and choose to sleep on a futon because it is made of 100 per cent cotton and contains no synthetic material, he said. The cotton "breathes" and allows air flow so any moisture can be dispersed. In summer, the cotton keeps you cool and in winter, warm.

In a letter to the ministry of

consumer and corporate affairs, J. G. MacLennan, a physician in Dundas, wrote to ask whether any research had been carried out with boric acid before the legislation was considered. He mentioned the urea-foam formaldehyde insulation fiasco in which thousands of homes were insulated through government grants and for which no preparatory research studies were performed with disastrous results for homeowners.

"Many adults in the community show evidence of chronic illness based on a hypersensitivity reaction to such environmental exposures as air pollution, tobacco smoke, perfumes, auto exhaust, home heating fuel by-products, the various chemicals used in the production and manufacture of foods, as well as meats, poultry and fish, vegetables and fruit," Dr. MacLennan wrote.

Molture on the skin which is found in children as well as adults who perspire freely would enhance the danger of the chemically sensitive individual experiencing an adverse reaction to the boric acid, he warned.

BORIC ACIDS

Mr. Lewis pointed out that the new legislation contradicts the Hazardous Products Act which prohibits toys, equipment and other products for use by a child in learning or play that contain boric acid or salts of boric acid "where the substance can, under reasonably foreseeable circumstances" become accessible to a child or where it is used as filling that may be released upon breakage or leakage.

Borate is a powdery substance which could be breathed through the outer cover by anyone sleeping on the mattress surface, or it can be propelled through to adhere to the sleeping individual's skin, Mr. Lewis said.

That is where he sees the danger. Physical ailments like gastro-enteritis and dermatitis can result from chronic absorption in small amounts of

chemical, he said.

"It's ten or 15 years down the road, when people get allergic reactions to things and nobody really quite knows why that's where I'm looking ahead to," Mr. Lewis said.

BUILDS UP

He fears the boric acid may have an accumulative effect in the body. There are no studies to show whether the body can easily expel the chemical, or whether it just builds up in body tissues.

Another supplier of the cotton futons, Creative Response of Toronto, also wrote the minister of consumer and corporate affairs.

"At present I and the other futon makers in Canada represent a major source for non-allergenic mattresses," wrote president Martin Stock.

Noting that we spend up to one third of our lives in bed, Mr. Stock wrote that this level of exposure "could precipitate many marginally allergic people into severe allergies that will incapacitate them for the rest of their lives."

RAISE COST

Fire-proofing the futons will raise the cost per mattress and is another reason firms dealing in the product are reluctant to comply with the new legislation.

Mr. Stock estimates that fireproofing will raise his material cost by 37 per cent or



Comfy on his futon, a Japanese style mattress, Bob Lewis of Acton talked with The Herald about the federal government's legislation requiring the addition of boric acid to the materials composing the mattress. The legislation requiring the fire retardant in all mattresses goes into effect in January, and those dealing in futons are objecting. New to the marketing of the futons, Mr. Lewis says adding boric acid will reduce the choices consumers have and can cause allergies among individuals susceptible to the chemical.

(Herald photo)



BEST BABYSITTERS IN THE BUSINESS

For years the Georgetown YM-YWCA and the Ontario Lung Association have regularly churned out some of the town's best-trained babysitters, young people who parents can confidently count on when they have to go out for the evening or the afternoon. This year's graduates are Cindy English, Wendy Colton, Helen Bird, Amy Little, Michelle Rooth, Barb Savage, Stacey Bell, Kim and Gail Freuchs, Daphne Campbell, Colleen Magwood, Lyn Mavell, Pam Murray, Shelley Powell, Jane Campbell, Marlana Petrusma and Kerri Dryden. If you're interested in taking part in the program, which runs for eight weeks on Monday nights, call the Y office at 877-6163.

(Herald photo)

Atlantic crossing in Globe production

Anything Goes on 'sail'

By REG SWAIN
 Globe Publicist

Tickets for the February musical of Georgetown Globe Productions went on sale this week.

It's a funny musical, with the cast having a good time during rehearsals. Bev Nicholas, a Georgetown resident is directing a cast of 32, as well as producing the show.

"Anything Goes" takes place on an Atlantic crossing to England in the 1930s. As usual, there are many unusual passengers on this voyage. One cast member who is onstage many times during the show, but whose contribution is only one word of dialogue, put together some verse about the producer-director: When Bev says, "Be there!" I would linger not, or he will vent his spleen, When he says "Eight!", you come on time don't mess with inbetween,

Hell hath no fury as when he's vexed, if late, best stay in bed, if Globe had happened in dark ages past,

you might have lost your head, Cease babbling chatter, uncontrolled mirth, A Chorus must listen not rush, For heaven's sake, you must then, please obey Bev's order to "Shush!" Hurray for Bev, his mind's made up.

Continued on page 3

Swallow stage fright just for 'Our Town'

By MARG EGGLETON
 GLT publicist

Have you ever wanted to be on stage but lacked the courage? Then here's just the play for which you've been waiting.

Next February, Georgetown Little Theatre will present the Thornton Wilder classic "Our Town", and will need a large number of townspeople in the cast, most of whom do not have to speak a single word, just

look what they are — ordinary folks.

The play is set in the small New Hampshire town of Grover's Corners and covers the period 1901 to 1913. But "Our Town" could be anywhere — Milton, Acton or even Georgetown. It follows the lives of many of the town's characters, in particular the two leading families, the Webbs and the Gibbs, and depicts the life of any town, of any human, from the cradle to the grave.

Auditions for "Our Town" will be held next Monday (Dec. 14) and Thursday (Dec. 17) at Sacre Coeur Hall starting at 8 p.m. Of course, if you would like to audition for a speaking role, GLT will be pleased to welcome you. Make a note of the dates and come out and be a part of "Our Town".

Any questions? Please call producer Dorothy Hunt at 877-2321.