

All GDHS students write exams this year

# Show you know your stuff

By ANI PEDERIAN  
Herald Staff Writer

The sweat is on for students at Georgetown District High School (GDHS). Exams started yesterday (Tuesday).

After ten years of being exempt from writing exams, students in Grades 9 to 12 are joining senior students in writing exams this year.

Principal Don Baker told The Herald the change came about as a result of evaluations made by former GDHS students of how well prepared they found themselves for university and college after graduation from high school.

"Most of them said exams threw them and that learning to study for them isn't something they could learn in just one year," he said.

In the past ten years, only Grade 13 students had to write formal, end-of-term exams.

Exams help students learn to organize their thoughts and the material covered in a course, Mr. Baker said. Having students look at all the material studied in a semester helps them make sense out of the whole course, and get a total view of it, he said.

**GREAT DEAL**  
Counting a great deal for the

students' final marks, the exams last up to two hours. Mr. Baker said 90 per cent of



the teaching staff were in favor of having formal exams for all grades at the school.

Lasting until Jan. 26, the exams will be followed by a three-day break for the students, while teachers mark exams, complete report cards for the semester and have promotion meetings to pass students onto the next level.

As students can only take up to four courses a semester, they can only be writing a maximum of four exams. In many cases, they will only be writing two or three exams, since certain subjects don't lend themselves to formal examinations.

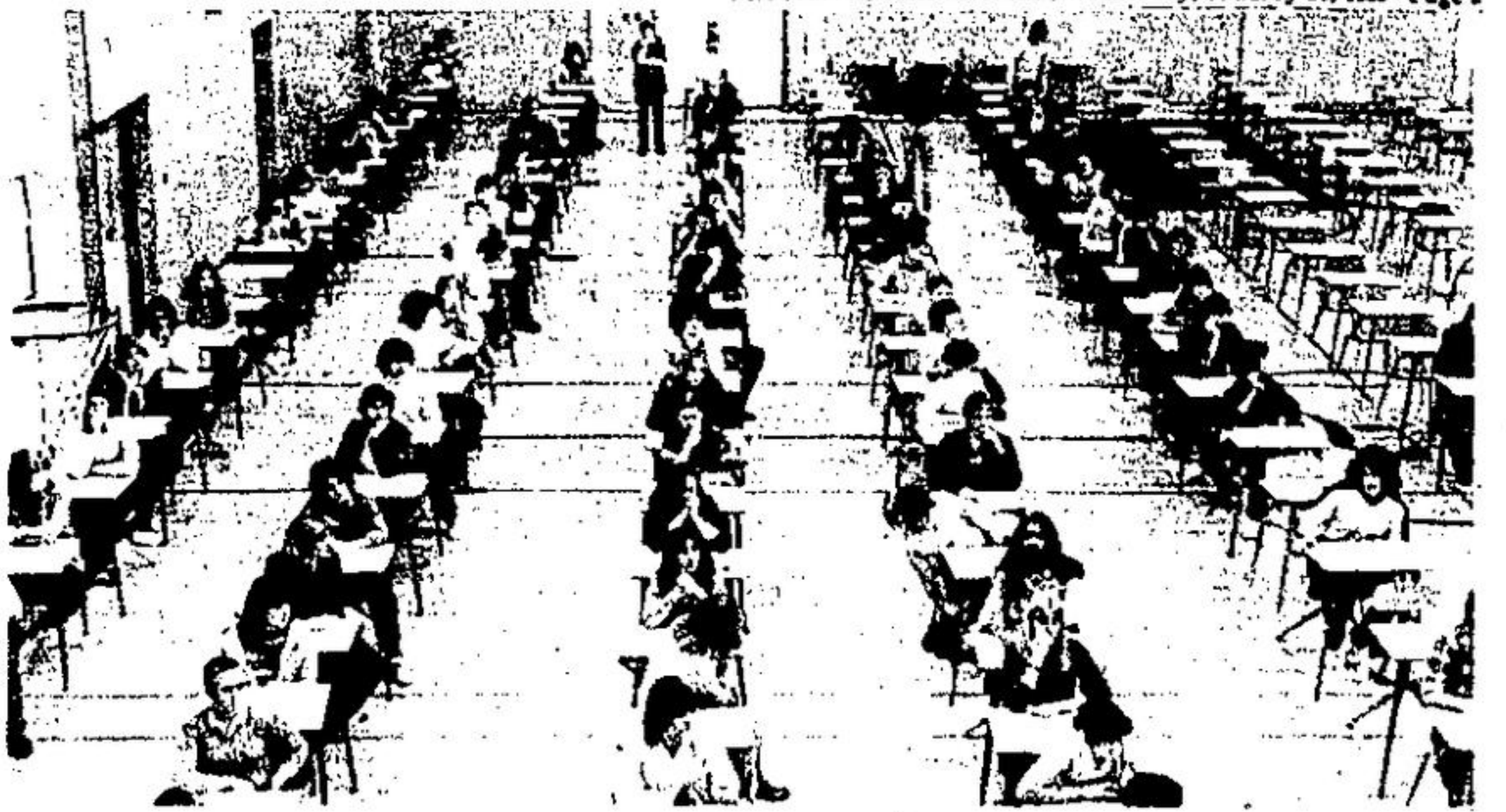
For subjects like business education, technical courses and physical education, students are evaluated on their term work and class projects instead, Mr. Baker said.

**LAST TERM**  
Heather MacEachern, 18, is finishing up her last semester of high school this January.

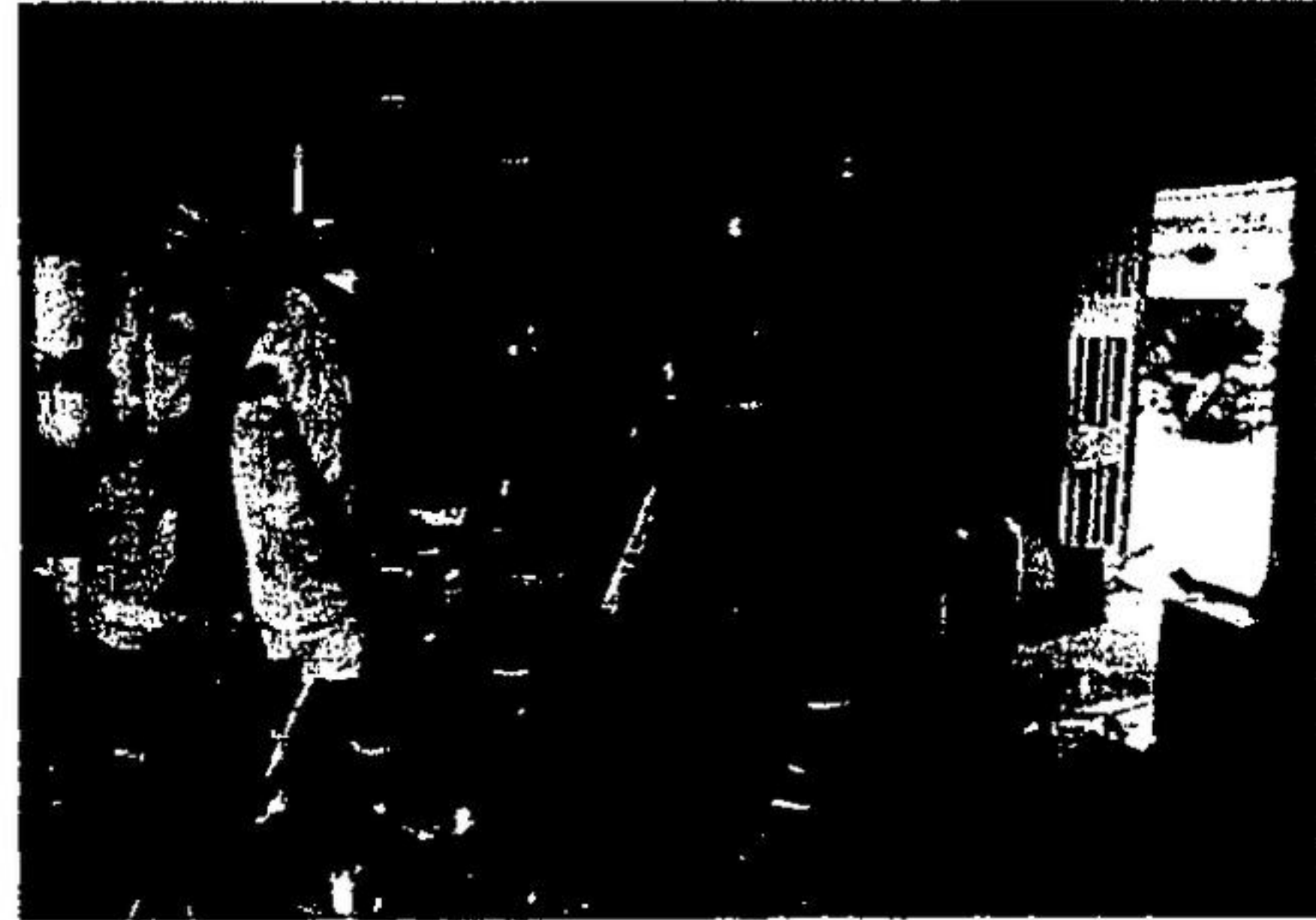
With four exams to write, Heather has been making point form briefs from her classroom notes for studying purposes.

"Compared to mid-terms, exams mean more cramming," she said. "Some teachers have spent time telling us to be relaxed for them and to know our work."

Heather will be writing all but one of her exams in the gym. Students have been told to wear non-scaffing shoes and not to bring books and papers into the gym, where neat rows of desks are set up.



It's noon to the grindstone time at Georgetown and District High School this week as students knuckle down to end-of-term exams. It's the first time in about ten years that students in Grades 9 to 12 have joined their senior scholars to write exams. School officials hope that by writing exams in their junior years, students will be better prepared for university studying regimes and, in the meantime, will help students grasp a more complete view of their courses. (Herald photo by Harald Bransch)



## IN THE HEAT OF WINTER

Cleaning out fireplace embers that had appeared cooled into a cardboard box Friday morning caused \$40,000 worth of damage to an Elizabeth Street home in Georgetown. Out until the afternoon, Gloria Marcel returned to discover the fire. About 20 firefighters rushed to the scene after she placed a call from a neighbor's home, and put out the fire started in the basement family room within two hours. There was extensive heat and smoke damage to the main floor of the home with fire damage primarily in the basement area. Nobody was hurt.

(Herald photo)



A blackened basement sofa was pulled out of the Marcel residence on Elizabeth Street Friday as firefighters fought the blaze. Pulled out through the side door of the home, which opens onto the garage, the sofa was given a good hose-down on the driveway. Burned clothing was also carried out of the home and watered on a snowbank edging the driveway.

(Herald photo)

## Inspection required for pinball parlor

**Herald Special**  
Committee of adjustment has deferred a decision on an application to licence a pinball parlor on the eastern outskirts of Acton pending a site inspection of the premises and advice from the town's bylaw enforcement officer.

Owners want to sell gasoline and use the interior of the former service station site as an entertainment facility.

McKenzie-Smith middle school principal John Simpson and representatives of the school's parents groups both made representations to the committee Jan. 6 suggesting that the hours of operation be altered or restriction be placed on the age of youngsters playing the machines.

Mr. Simpson said neither the school nor the parents are out to close the place down. They just want controls to help prevent students from being late because they're at the pinball parlor.

Mr. Simpson said there has been a problem at noon hour with pupils getting home late for lunch or in returning to school.

As a result of talks with one of the owners of the operation, some pupils have been banned from the premises, Mr. Simpson said.

The owner has also promised to ensure pupils are out of the facility in time to return to classes, he added.

"They're trying to cooperate," Mr. Simpson said, "and we're not trying to close the place down. We just don't want attendance problems to continue because the place is there."

Mr. Simpson said the entertainment place, opened in November, has about 30

machines in operation and is trying to get a proper licence.

"They apparently didn't know the building was zoned for a garage and had to be zoned differently for amusement," Mr. Simpson said.

"When they found out they applied for the change and they can't be penalized for trying to correct their mistake."

The machines are in the bay area of what was once a garage on Highway 7, just east of Churchill Road.

The gasoline pumps are still in place and committee of adjustment secretary Cathy Bouskill said she understands there is a plan to sell gasoline as well as run the pinball machines but that's for the future.

## In the Schools

"I've no secret hints for studying, but if anybody else does, they can pass them on to me," Heather smiled.

Todd Collins is a Grade 10 student also having his first encounter with exams this January.

"I'm sort of nervous," he said. "I haven't studied a whole lot. My Canadian studies and biology exams are bugging me."

Not worried about his French or math exams, Todd said he doesn't usually study for tests, but he's going to

## Interest in microcomputers booms as interest in crafts on the wane

A course in microcomputers has attracted so many registrants that the continuing education department of the Halton public school board has formed two classes.

Other night school courses haven't fared as well.

Director of continuing education Willard Price said the cold weather had kept registration slightly down this year. However, he's expecting more registrations this week as classes begin.

Already, almost 300 adults have subscribed for eleven of 25 courses being offered at Georgetown District High School (GDHS) and three at Acton High School.

Courses like bookkeeping, cake decorating, fitness and swimming, French, photography, typing, welding and metal work, woodworking, and microcomputers are offered at GDHS. Acton High is offering classes in ballroom dancing, woodworking and microcomputers.

"We had to cancel a Chinese cooking class because the teacher didn't want to travel to Toronto for supplies in the

winter, although we had enough people registered for the course," Mr. Price said. "So we're looking for a Chinese chef now."

A patchwork quilting course was also cancelled, as was a course called "Fun with Food".

"I don't know what's happened around here. Everywhere else everybody is feeling hungry," Mr. Price said. "But here, we need another eight people to keep the course open."

Craft classes that were so popular before Christmas

aren't doing very well now. Mr. Price said they had attracted people getting ready for Christmas then. And typing and bookkeeping classes were cancelled at Acton High.

"It's too cold for people's fingers to type, I guess," he laughed.

There were 200 registrations at GDHS and 90 at Acton High, and more are still welcome.

Mr. Price said if Halton Hills residents have ideas for classes they would like to attend in April they should contact him at the Halton Board of Education.

## Draw Saturday - not Jan. 24 - for GHS band

The Georgetown District High School band will hold its after-Christmas draw Saturday at the Georgetown Chrysler Raider hockey game instead of Jan. 24, says band spokesman Greg Cazabon.

Although tickets are printed with the draw date of Jan. 24, there is no hockey game at the

arena that night and band members want their draw made in a public place.

Tickets are still available from band members. Proceeds go toward an exchange trip to British Columbia. First prize for the draw will be \$200, while second prize features a gold bracelet. A total of six prizes will be given away to ticket holders with the right numbers drawn.

## Remand for Kellar

Eric Howard Kellar, 31, charged with the first degree murder of Acton's Colleen Gates, 22, appeared in Milton provincial court Monday and was remanded until next Monday, at which time a preliminary hearing date will be set.

Mr. Kellar was arrested Oct. 28 at a Pickering warehouse where he once worked and returned to Halton region where he was charged with first degree murder.

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