

Valuable lesson in student's visit with club

Message in the fortune cookie said it all: 'Be thankful for being able to be thankful'

By DARYL JOHNSON
AHS Student

I had the pleasure Dec. 7 to present a cheque on behalf of the students and staff of Acton High School to the community group "Friends in Need". The money was collected by the Student Association through various fund raising activities which have been taking place since last December. The money will be going towards the purchase of a wheelchair for one of FID's members. As I walked into the crowded living room filled with the radiant faces

of the members, I suddenly felt at ease and very relaxed with the people around me.

I was led to the centre of the room and knew then that my time had come. It was different though; I didn't feel my cheeks flush or my ears start to burn. My voice didn't squeak, and I didn't feel embarrassed. Instead I was enveloped in these people's warmth, love and compassion.

I began to speak and was soon drawn into the friendly, beaming faces of those elderly people. "On behalf of the stud-

ents and staff of Acton District High School, I would like to present to you this cheque for \$400 in the hopes of making someone's Christmas a little merrier. Thank-you." I immediately heard the exclamations of "Oh, that's lovely," "How nice" and "Thank you, so very much."

I was filled with a fleeting sense of pride, the type that's not felt often enough. I was proud of myself for being given the chance to be there. I was proud of my school for showing such generosity and kindness, and

most of all I was proud of these people sitting around me, for although they're a very happy group, there is one thing holding them back from enjoying all of life's benefits.

They're handicapped, although you'd never be able to tell from listening to them. The entire time I was there, I never heard one complaint. I hear more complaints from myself when I have a cold. Just imagine spending your life in a wheelchair, or having one leg shorter than the other, or missing a limb. Not much

fun, huh?

After dinner the fortune cookies were passed around, which is only natural after a Chinese feast. The woman next to me delicately opened hers and asked me to read it aloud to her, as she could not see well without her glasses. Gladly I obliged, and picked it up.

It read: "Be thankful for being able to be thankful".

I sat and thought for a moment. That silly little cookie quote really made a lot of sense to me. "I agree with that," I said as

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THE WORLD IS MINE

Today upon a bus I saw, a lovely maid with golden hair;
I envied her - she seemed so gay,
And oh I wished I were so fair;
When suddenly she rose to leave,
I saw her hobble down the aisle,
She had one foot and wore a crutch,
But as she passed a smile,
Oh God forgive me when I whine -
I have two feet the world is mine.

And when I stopped to buy some sweets,
The lad who served me had such charm,
He seemed to radiate good cheer,
His manner was so kind and warm,
I said, "It's nice to deal with you,
Such courtesy I seldom find."
He turned and said, "Oh thank you sir",
And then I saw that he was blind.

Oh God forgive me when I whine -
I have two eyes, the world is mine.

And then while walking down the street,
I saw a child with eyes of blue,
He stood and watched the others play,
It seemed he knew not what to do.
I stopped a moment, then I said,
"Why don't you join the others dear?"
He looked ahead without a word and then I knew,
He could not hear.
Oh God forgive me when I whine -
I have two ears, the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go -
With eyes to see the sunset's glow -
With ears to hear what I would know -
I'm blessed indeed -
The world is mine -
Oh God forgive me when I whine,

-ANONYMOUS

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ABOUT THE HILLS

Budget boss stepping down

Veteran town budget chief Harry Levy is going to step aside this year, turning the job of steering the annual budget-making process over to Acton local Coun. Ross Knechtel. Coun. Levy told reporters after Monday night's council meeting that Knechtel had expressed a desire to head the town's most important committee. While no longer its leader, a position he's held since 1978, Coun. Levy said he remains on the committee, joining councillors Russ Miller and Phil Carney. Praising Coun. Levy's work on previous municipal budgets, Mayor Pete Pomeroy who made the appointment apologized for one oversight: Coun. Levy only found out about the change of leadership when the formal notice of the committee's membership this year was handed to councillors along with their agendas last week.

High speed chase

Halton regional police have laid a charge of dangerous driving and failing to stop when signalled to do so by police against an Acton man after a 15.1 kilometer high speed chase ended unevenly last Tuesday afternoon. The chase began at 2:08 p.m. at the Fourth Line and Highway Seven east of Acton and ended at 2:16 p.m., a mile north of the Erin-Halton Hills boundary on Trafalgar Road. Speeds of up to 120 kilometers per hour were clocked during the chase. Wayne Kurtz, 20, of Churchill Road South will appear in Milton provincial court on the charges Jan. 24.

Pitchfork threat?

An Acton man has been charged with possession of weapon dangerous to the public peace after an unidentified woman was threatened by a man wielding a pitchfork. The woman was trying to visit a friend in an upper apartment on Church Street at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 4 when the incident occurred. The woman was uninjured. George Barac, 68, was charged.

Baby rescued

Halton Hills firefighters used their resuscitation equipment Sunday on a call to a Cobblehill Road residence in Acton. A baby was having trouble breathing, and was transferred to Guelph Hospital.

Inspiring film

An inspiring message awaits viewers of the film "Reflections of His Love" this Saturday night at the Acton Baptist Church. The screening takes place at 7:30 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

Acton centre paid

Halton region will pay the Acton social services information centre on Mill Street \$5,106 for the use of some office space by regional employees, including health and social services and Children's Aid Society staff. Payment was approved by council last week.

New council reviews its position on controversial charges

Second thoughts on new lot levies



Like Toronto's Martha and the Muffins before them, Burlington's Spoons found that a trip to the hallowed recording studios and concert halls of England works wonders for their popularity back home. The electropop quartet, featuring keyboard player Rob Preuss and guitarist Gordon Deppe, as well as Sandy Horne and Derek Ross, performed Friday night for what was probably Georgetown District High School's largest audience ever; more than 400 fans attended the Student Council presentation, evidence of the Spoons' widespread fame since their return from the U.K. and the release of their debut album, "Arias and Symphonies", which has already produced two hit singles. Band members expressed pleasure at the fans' response to the show. (Herald photo by Harald Branch)

A little ice goes a long way as police attend to 15 accidents

Icy wet roads made for traffic snarls Monday morning as Halton Hills drivers kept police hopping with over 15 accidents.

Halton police staff sergeant Roy Smith reported a six-car pile-up on Side-road 22 just east of Highway 7. Nobody was injured,

but there was substantial damage, he said. Drivers applied their brakes as they hit the icy grade, but they lost control on the slippery surface and slid off the road into the ditch, one into the other.

Town staff, called by police, sanded the icy road.

Icy road surface was

also responsible for a three car collision on Sideroad 17 west of Trafalgar Road. Staff Sgt. Smith said there was substantial damage in the early morning pile-up, but no injuries.

An Erin man went to Georgetown Memorial Hospital for a bump on his head following an 8:30

a.m. accident Monday at Trafalgar Road and Ballinacree Regional Road 42.

David Martin Wilson, 23, lost control of his vehicle after he passed another car. The rear end of his car whipped out after he'd entered the Ballinacree four corners, and he ended up in the ditch. There was \$5,000

damage to the car and he was treated and released from hospital.

Is council chamber safe guide asks

A person can almost set his watch by the pall of smoke which settles in the town's council chamber a half hour after Monday night proceedings get underway.

And that must have prompted one question from a visiting group of Pineview Girl Guides.

Nicole Dupuis wondered how thoroughly the council chamber had been checked for fire code violations, noting that there are no exit signs in the room.

While amused and surprised by the observation, Mayor Pete Pomeroy promised to look into the matter.

The mayor was also asked how taxes are spent, who some of the councillors are for various areas and why the Pineview school bus routes are so long (a board of education matter, the enquirer was told).

Mayor Pomeroy was even asked if he liked his job.

"Yes," the mayor replied. "It's lots of fun on nights like tonight when young people come around. It's a pleasure to help people out."

Dying echo Jesus' plea: watch with me

No one wants to die alone, palliative care advocate points out

One of the world's leading advocates of palliative care - professional care for the dying and their families - will visit Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown this Sunday (Jan. 16) for a 7:30 p.m. discussion of "death, dying and bereavement".

Dr. John Fraser Scott, a medical doctor and an ordained minister, has served in Canadian, English and American hospitals, authoring many papers on care of the terminally ill. At age 33, he is currently acting clinical director of palliative care at Grace Hospital in Toronto.

The trend toward establishing palliative care programs in medical facilities around the world stems from the acknowledgement that the "pain of dying" involves



Something of a worldwide hero at age 33, Dr. John Scott of Toronto's Grace Hospital has become a leading authority on palliative care - the care of the dying. He'll discuss the need for more palliative care programs in our hospitals during a visit to Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown this Sunday. Everyone is welcome to the free, 7:30 p.m. talk. (Photo submitted)

much more than physical stress. Emotional turmoil, social problems and philosophical and spiritual questions contribute to the suffering of a patient and his family.

As well as assisting the patient through love, listening and prayer, palliative care must help his family in the painful process of grief and reintegration, especially if the patient is young.

According to palliative care advocates, one of the deepest fears of a dying person is the fear of abandonment - the fear of dying alone. Most of us want someone beside us, yet most terminally ill patients still die alone in a dark hospital room with the voices of strangers in the distance.

According to the Bible, Jesus asked his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane to stay with

him as he faced his own death - to participate in his struggle. Each time we encounter a dying patient, we hear the same invitation: watch with me.

"Watch with me" will be the theme of Dr. Scott's discussion at Knox Presbyterian Church. He wants to turn around the trend, statistically established, that nurses answer the call-bells of terminally ill patients more slowly than they answer those of patients with a good prognosis, and that doctors visit dying patients less and less frequently for shorter and shorter periods.

Everyone is welcome to hear Dr. Scott. There will be no admission charge; a free will offering will be sought. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the church hall.



NOT OFF THE HOOK YET

Beware, area politicians! Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the public eye, The Herald turns out to be as menacing as ever. Our elected officials may have been breathing sighs of relief upon hearing that Herald editorial cartoonist Greg Lemay has packed up his drawing board and ridden off into the sunset, but look what's in store for them now! Georgetown freelance cartoonist Brian Lemay was unsure himself how well he could draw caricatures when he agreed to replace Greg, but a few quick lines here and there convinced all concerned that our councillors and members of parliament remain in mortal jeopardy, every mole and wrinkle a potential springboard for Brian's dangerous vision. In case you can't readily identify our "test vicims", they're (left to right) MPP Julian Reed, Ward 4 Coun. Harry Levy and Mayor Pete Pomeroy. Look for Brian's work every week on our editorial page - A4. And on page A10 of today's issue, a fond farewell to Greg, a warm hello to Brian.