



**Students van-go**

Thanks to the efforts of teacher William O'Reilly and the generosity of Park Lincoln Mercury owner Walt Dixon, co-op students at Georgetown District High School have "wheels". Transportation was required by some students to get to their co-op work placements. Mr. Dix-

on offered a Ford Aerostar van to the pupils so they could be dropped off and picked up. Here, Walt Dixon hands over the keys to one of the student drivers while beside him is Principal Barb Singleton and Trustee Dick Howitt. Surrounding them are co-op students in the program. (Herald photo)

**Christmas Seals goal \$145,000**

It is interesting that, while smoking in general has declined significantly in recent years, the number of women who smoke is increasing at an alarming rate.

Recent statistics reveal that over 20.3 per cent of the teenage population, males and females from 15 to 19 years of age are regular smokers. In the 20 to 24 age group statistics increase to over 37 per cent.

"Cigarette smoking is a major cause of lung cancer, emphysema and chronic bronchitis," says Dr. R.W.T. Haddon of The Lung Association, Halton. "Smoking constricts your blood vessels, increases your blood pressure and damages your heart. Even one cigarette upsets the flow of blood and air in your body."

In addition to the damage to the lungs caused by smoking, a real concern is the damage being done to countless unborn babies. Smoking deprives each unborn baby of the oxygen and food so important for healthy development and growth. It is a fact that babies born to mothers who smoke during pregnancy are more likely to be born undersized.

The Lung Association has campaigned for a smoke-free society for many years. One of the most ambitious programs undertaken by the organization is The Lungs Are For Life School Program. "We know

that good and bad habits are formed in the early years," states Mary Campbell, President. "The program we have developed is tailored to age groups from Kindergarten to Grade 13. Lung Association teachers talk to the groups about a healthy lifestyle and how important it is to make the decision to be a non-smoker. It is our hope that future mothers-to-be will all be non-smokers."

Money given to the Christmas Seal campaign also supports the medical research projects of world-renowned Canadian researchers.

"The community's support for this year's Christmas Seal Campaign is crucial," states Mrs. Campbell. The goal in Halton is \$145,000. Receipts to date total \$88,546. Please give generously.



**Planes, trains, autos**

By DIAHANN NADEAU  
Herald Special

I hope you weren't holding your breath in happy anticipation of another John Candy or Steve Martin movie. Unless you like slow-moving scripts, silly plots and not very funny dialogue; then this is the movie for you. Planes, Trains, and Automobiles is pretty stupid and hardly funny. Planes needs Brains.

I confess that I do not like the genre I call "comedic disaster films". By this I mean that we know things are going to go from bad to worse in a short period of time, but we know all will end well, or not too badly. This movie starts out with the ominous phrase "Forty eight hours ago". This means the audience has to sit through two days and two nights of torture, giving one the feeling of continuous dread until the last afternoon draws to a close.

Steve Martin is upper-middle class businessman Neil Page, on his way home from New York to Chicago for Thanksgiving. He came to NYC for an unproductive meeting and nearly misses his plane home because the meeting lasts forever. Ah, but he makes it. But not without an infuriating encounter with Del Griffith, who turns out to be his seat-mate on the ever so crowded flight. John Candy is the repulsive Griffith, a shower-curtain ring salesman with dyed and permed brown hair and a silly moustache. His girth is amaz-

ing - Candy has really put on weight since his SCTV days.

Well, because of weather problems the plane finally lands in Kansas City. Now we get to spend the rest of the film following the Odd Couple through their supposedly funny misadventures on their way to Chicago. However, it is only occasionally amusing and is mostly just plain aggravating. Why, I ask myself, why did anyone pay to put this script on film? Who knows.

Let's you think that I didn't laugh for the whole 48 hours I must say that there are some very funny moments. The scene where the two have rented a car and John Candy decides to dance as he is driving is hilarious. This leads to a near fatal encounter with two eighteen-wheelers and a car bonfire while the duo are picking up luggage off the freeway. Undaunted, they drive the black, charred remains up to a motel and check in for the night. This was a very funny scene, but not worth the wait or the price of admission, at least for me.

Neither Candy nor Martin are outstandingly funny. They have both been funnier on TV. The plot is full of sentimental moments where one is supposed to feel sorry for Candy, so that Martin and the audience can find a reason to put up with him. I dislike pathos as comedic manipulation. Let the idiots be idiots without merit or excuses. A sad home life is not a funny plot twist. And Planes, Trains, and Automobiles is not a funny movie. Maybe John Hughes is getting too prolific for his own good.

**Christmas concert**

On Dec. 20, at 6:30 p.m., Maple Avenue Baptist Church will present its Christmas Concert. Children, young people and adults from all levels of the Sunday School will participate in a pageant entitled "Christmas in Light of the Cross". All visitors are welcome to view this presentation of the Christmas story in its relevance to today.

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