

Georgetown high students have "no problem" with explicit AIDS video

By BEN DUMMETT
Herald Staff

Eight Georgetown District High School students say they have no qualms with a new Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome video that explicitly depicts how to properly put on and remove a condom.

The eight Grades 11 and 12 students talked candidly about the new Canadian Public Health Association AIDS video, entitled the "New Facts on Life" and AIDS in general after viewing it in the school's library, Friday morning.

The controversial scene depicts an animated man putting a condom on his erect penis.

When asked their impressions of it, all said it was "no big deal."

"There's no point telling us (teenagers) to use condoms unless we are taught how to use them," one student said. "Besides we've seen this (the proper use of a condom) in our Grade 9 health class," he added.

The names of the students quoted in this article have been withheld at their request.

The Halton Board of Education co-ordinator of Physical and Health Education, Sue Amos, agrees with the student's realistic attitude. Ms. Amos said, "AIDS is a life and death issue and so the video better show how to use a condom properly."

Students valued the video so much they suggested the video should be shown in homeroom so that all students could see it.

The film is presented in a magazine format by students who talk about AIDS statistics, safe sex, and how the disease is transmitted. It was shown as part of the AIDS awareness week Oct. 16-20 by the Halton Regional Health Department, during lunch period in the library last Monday

and Friday.

The group agreed students were too distracted in the library to really pay attention to the film's message. They also said if anyone had any questions there was no one to ask.

The school nurse Ann French, who supervised the film's screening, said the video will probably become part of the Grade 9 health education curriculum which is compulsory for all students.

The students said AIDS is a problem but they said it doesn't have to be if people take the proper precautions.

They estimated between 80 and 90 per cent of the students graduating from Georgetown will have had sexual intercourse at least once. They said most students use condoms and it's only the few "stupid ones" who don't. The students claimed they probably knew more about AIDS than their parents. "The disease didn't exist when they were in high school," they said.

But they think the school should make condoms more readily available. About half wanted to see condom dispensing machines in the school's washrooms. Those who didn't, argued they'd be vandalized.

The other half thought the school nurse should give them out. This way if a student had any questions there would be someone to answer them.

They speculated some students don't buy condoms at the local drug store because they are afraid someone would recognize them. "You never know who knows your parents," one student said rhetorically. Another said it's embarrassing asking a store clerk for them. But one student jumped in and said, "If you're not going to

buy them then you shouldn't be having sex."

The board's director Bob Williams said the issue of condom dispensers in the schools has never been brought up by the board. He said unlike the Toronto board, which has introduced dispensing machines in its schools, "Halton students are not into the same things that some Toronto students are."

Students agreed the abstinence from sexual intercourse is an unreal solution. "It's a fact of life, everyone does it," one student said.

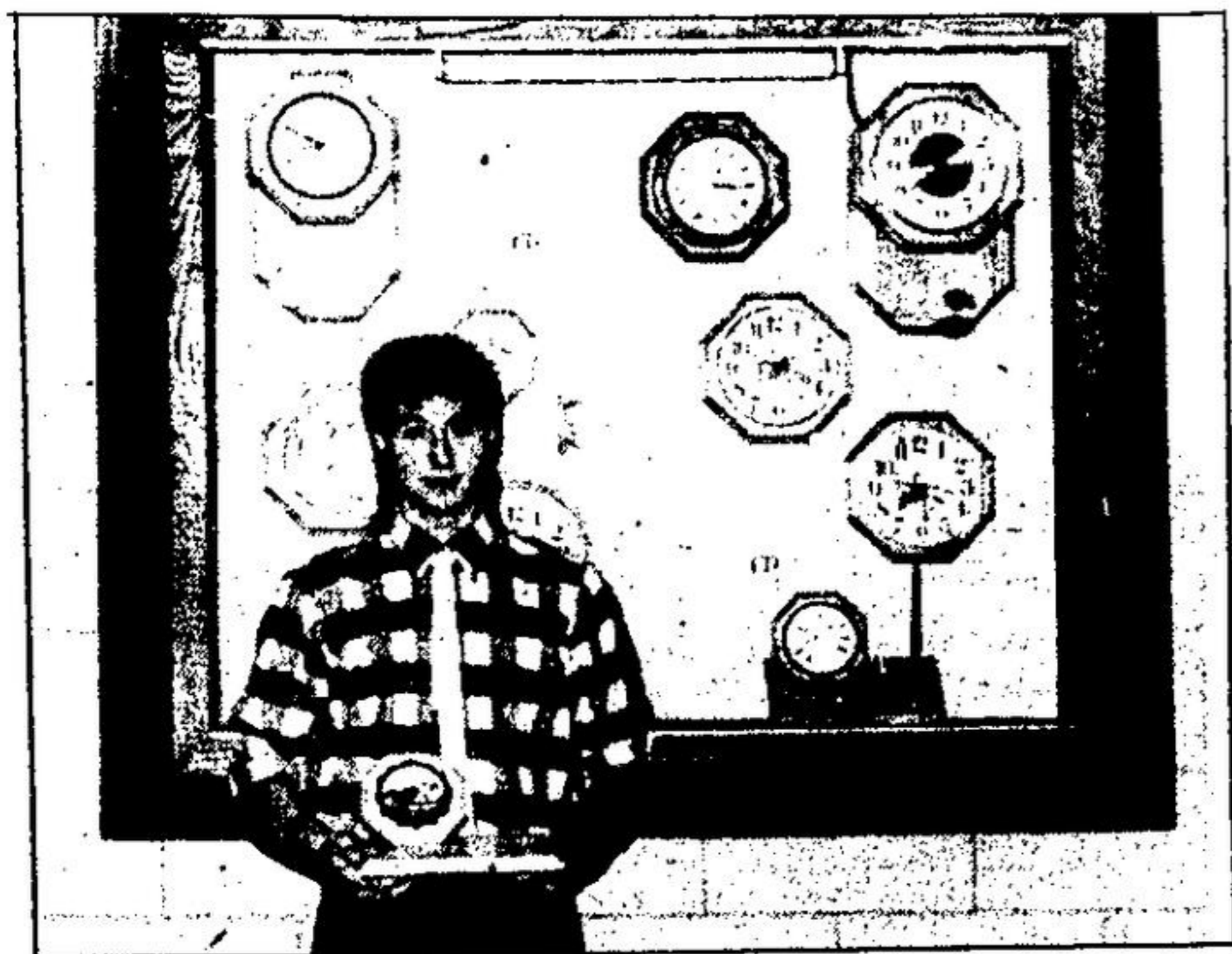
Although none of the students personally know an HIV carrier, most agreed an affected student should be allowed to attend school.

But when asked whether a student should know the student's identity their opinions differed. "We should know because we wouldn't want to get near the person," one student said. But another interjected and said you can't catch AIDS from a drinking fountain.

Another student said, "It's their business, it's an invasion of privacy."

However all seemed to agree with one student who said, "I don't think we can say what our reaction would be because we have never confronted it."

But for all the talk about AIDS students said they worried more about pregnancy.



The young entrepreneur and Georgetown District High School student Steve Ciglen will have his customized clocks on sale at the craft and antique show hosted by the school this weekend. Mr. Ciglen will be one of about a hundred vendors who will be selling their crafts at the show. Proceeds raised from the \$1 admission will go towards the school's student projects. (Herald photo)

Clocks, antiques for sale at GDHS this weekend

Steve Ciglen has no problem being punctual.

The Grade 12 Georgetown District High School student makes customized clocks which he primarily sells out of his home. But Halton Hills residents will have the chance to see the work of this talented young entrepreneur at the craft and antique show at Georgetown high school this weekend from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

Since starting the business a couple of months ago Mr. Ciglen has already made 40 customized clocks. Mr. Ciglen says he works with the individual customer to build a clock that suits that person's personal taste.

The clocks are made with fine woods including pine, maple, mahogany and oak, he says.

Mr. Ciglen has already built clocks with faces ranging from those covered in bezel, to those that share a common theme. There is the kitchen, wildlife, sports daisyface, ship wheel, children, religion, trophy and bird series, he says.

New editions include a series depicting ducks, geese, lambs, bunnies and pandas, he added.

Mr. Ciglen said the types of clock hands and their movement can also be made to the customer's specific requirements.

He acquired his craft as a co-op student at a Georgetown carpentry workshop last year. After only one semester of working in the shop Mr. Ciglen decided he'd set up his own shop. Although relatively new to the business Mr. Ciglen said his interest in carpentry started in elementary school. He said he built his first clock in Grade 8.

Besides clocks Mr. Ciglen also builds small furniture, and bathroom units.

Mr. Ciglen will be one of 100 vendors from in and around the area who will be selling their wares at the craft show. There will be antiques, a variety of copper and brass work, art carving and country folk art.

There will also be demonstrations and raffles during the show.

All proceeds raised from the \$1 admission will go to the school's student projects.

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