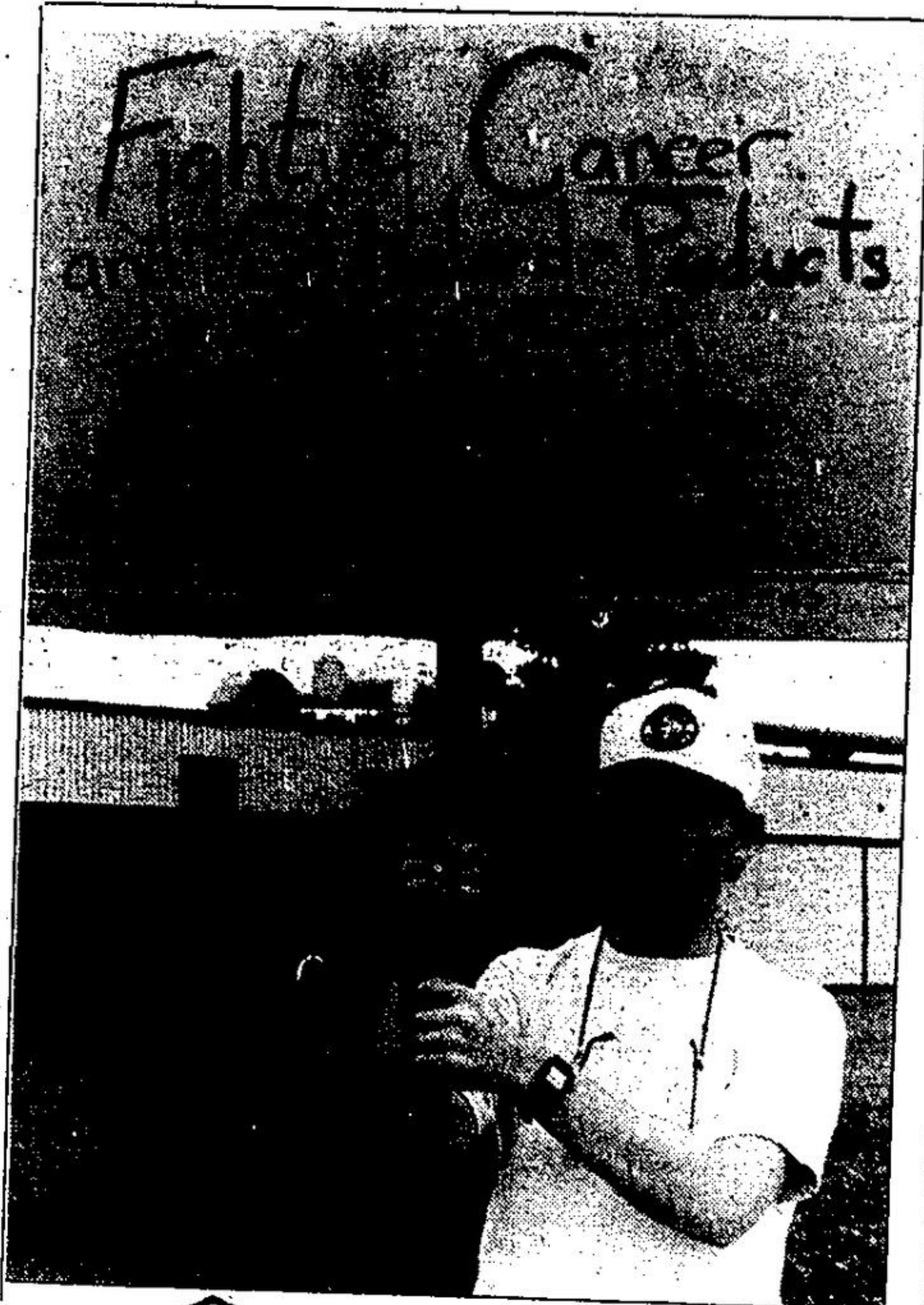


Protester wants his old job back

Stores may open on Sundays



Brian Kress wants to go back to work.

He's the former Standard Products worker Georgetown motorists have seen pacing the sidewalk outside the manufacturing firm on Guelph Street in recent days.

The sign he carries says, "Fighting Cancer and Standard Products for my job."

Mr. Kress, who has worked at Standard Products since early 1985, was diagnosed as having a brain tumor in August, 1988. A subsequent operation left him with frequent seizures resulting in dizziness and twitching. But Mr. Kress says his seizures have all but subsided and he has not had a seizure since November, 1989.

He wants to go back to work operating a machine at Standard Products. The job entails starting a machine and feeding rubber into a storage area for the machine, says Mr. Kress.

He has obtained two letters from doctors, one family physician and a doctor at Princess Margaret Hospital, which states he is fit to return to work.

The doctors' letters acknowledge that Mr. Kress' seizure condition is unoperable, but they say he is fit to return to work.

They were obtained in August, 1989.

In March of this year, after trying to get back into work at Standard Products for almost eight months, Standard Products said they would allow him back to work, says Mr. Kress. But he wants back pay. Mr. Kress says he's been able to return to work since August. He feels Standard Products wouldn't

let him return to work. Once the back pay was mentioned the company ordered him to get more documentation of his fitness for a position, according to Mr. Kress.

He has applied for an arbitration hearing. An arbitrator has been appointed to the case but the hearing won't be held until sometime in 1991.

Mr. Kress doesn't want to wait that long.

Standard Products Human Resources Manager Juanita Harren said Monday the hearing date was set in 1991 because arbitrators are very busy. But she would offer no further comment on the case.

On Friday, as Mr. Kress was walking the sidewalk carrying the protest sign outside Standard Products, he said he is willing to return to work and solve the issue of back pay later, during the arbitration hearing.

"Now I know what not to do," he says.

In reaction to the Supreme Court of Ontario decision on Friday striking down the Retail Business Holidays Act as unconstitutional, a survey of Halton Hills grocery stores reveals that some could be opened Sunday, July 8 but not before then on a Sunday.

The A and P grocery store in Georgetown will likely be opened July 8, said the chain's executive vice-president, Wayne Luedtke. But a final decision won't be made until early next week, he added. The chain plans to open some stores located in high-density tourist areas this Sunday. And if the demand is there more stores will be opened the following Sunday, he said.

The IGA managers at the Georgetown and Acton stores aren't making a decision until they know what action the other grocery stores take.

The Loblaws manager in Georgetown, Ron McEachern, couldn't say either way until hearing from head office.

Brian Kress has been pacing the sidewalk outside Standard Products recently. He was diagnosed with a brain tumor but he wants his job back. (Herald photo)

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