

Does old age start at 65?

By JANET DUVAL

Prince Otto von Bismarck of Prussia decided so, when he introduced pensions to the world a century ago as rewards for his aging soldiers. 65-year old pensioners were no drain on his public treasury, however; the average lifespan back then was 40 years.

Today, it's a different ball game. The average person lives to nearly twice that age. (Women several years longer than men), and pensions and health care for seniors cost significant sums of public money.

One of the great trends affecting society in this century will be the aging of the Baby Boomers, now in their 40s. Whether you see them as greedy and pretentious, or as a diverse force bringing great and positive social changes since the 60s, it is they who will call the shots on into the next century, and the searchlights of society will swivel to follow them.

How will they be different from "the elderly" of the past? They'll be fitter and healthier for longer. They'll spend lots of money on travel, recreation,

and personal care. And eventually, they'll be the beneficiaries of dramatic changes in our health care system.

The Halton District Health Council's new plan for services to 2000 and beyond recognizes all of this. It calls for preventive, community-based health care that keeps more people out of hospitals and in their homes, supported by a network of community services, and all at less cost than a hospital bed. It aims to put "more life in our years," not just years in our life.

So who's old? Surely not Raquel Welch, voted Sexiest Woman in America at age 50. And not Paul Newman, still a pleasure to watch at age 65, nor Robert Bateman, who's nearly as old as Newman.

It will be exciting to watch the changes as Canada's aging population becomes a force to reckon with, from sheer numbers alone. One change we're sure to see, for example, is larger print on pill bottles, as aging Boomers, used to getting what they want, demand it.

"Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be."

'Big Brother' watching at police headquarters

Big brother will be watching you at the new Halton police headquarters.

And the police commission has decided to spend the extra money so that you'll be seen on the best equipment available, as part of a \$129,000 videotape system.

The Burle Colour System, which will include 32 cameras, five monitors and two recording VCRs, will be installed when the new headquarters is completed next summer.

The new system allows station duty clerks to watch several sites

in the police building, which includes eight cells, a booking room, a security garage and numerous corridors within the detention area.

Commissioners voted to purchase a system with a few state-of-the-art extras, including simultaneous recording capabilities for up to 16 separate locations using one VCR, and color monitors that can be subdivided into 16 separate pictures.

Prior to making the recommendation to buy the system, three Halton staffers visited the Burle Industries assembly plant in Lancaster, Pennsylvania last August.

At the October 25th meeting, police commissioners approved the purchase of the Burle system, although it cost \$26,000 more than another system that met the original police specifications. However, the cheaper system hadn't offered the same simultaneous viewing and recording capabilities.

Overheated light

Firefighters responded to a Main St. business in Georgetown Wednesday afternoon after a florescent light fixture overheated and blew a fuse. No fire damage occurred, but a small amount of smoke was generated, according to the fire department.



Students from Park Public School visited Andrew's Scenic Acres recently for a mini-pumpkin tour. There the kids also visited with "Farmer Brown" — actually Joel Brown — and his animals. Lindsay Craig had a chance to feed a goat.



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