

Residents concerned by library cuts

JANET BAINE

Staff writer

A group of citizens worried about the future of the Halton Hills libraries will be airing their concerns at council Monday evening.

The library was recently forced to restrict its hours of operation, making it less accessible to the public and that has a group of local residents very upset.

"We're very concerned. We're trying to reach out to as many library users in the community as

we can," working mom Betty Williams said. "In this economic climate, I can accept cutbacks, but I think the library is essential."

Library hours were cut in February to a mere 44 hours per week. In May, they will be reduced yet again, closing on Sundays. Currently, the Georgetown and Acton libraries have the same hours of operation: closed all day Monday as well as Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday mornings. Instead of opening until 9 p.m. through the week, the library now



Williams' daughters were preschoolers, and she used to make a trek to the library with them some mornings. Now the children's programs for the morning have been changed to the afternoon,

closes at 8 p.m. Williams noted that after getting supper cleaned up, there is no time left to go to the library.

It was not so long ago that when many preschoolers have an afternoon nap, according to Williams.

"It's very important for moms at home. If they're not working, they don't have money for nursery school," and going to the library is an inexpensive option for enriching children, she said.

There's no longer a children's desk at the library—it has been combined with the reference desk as a money saving measure, she said.

Eileen Evans, the training co-

ordinator of the North Halton Literacy Guild, said her organization is affected by the changes and will be making a presentation at Monday's meeting. There are 50 pairs of tutors and learners in north Halton, and many of them use the libraries on a regular basis. Seven tutors use the library to meet with the learners each week.

The citizens want to make their presentations Monday night, before the 1992 budget puts a stamp of approval on the cut in hours and services at the libraries.

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WEEKEND

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News

Digest

Citizen search

Time is running out to file your nomination for Acton's Citizen of the Year.

The Acton Lions Club is looking for that special person who has given unselfishly to the community for this year's honors. But, they can only do that with your help.

The deadline for nominations is March 30.

The winner will be announced early next month and a dinner will be held at the Acton Legion on April 24 in the recipient's honor. The public, of course, is invited to join in on the festivities.

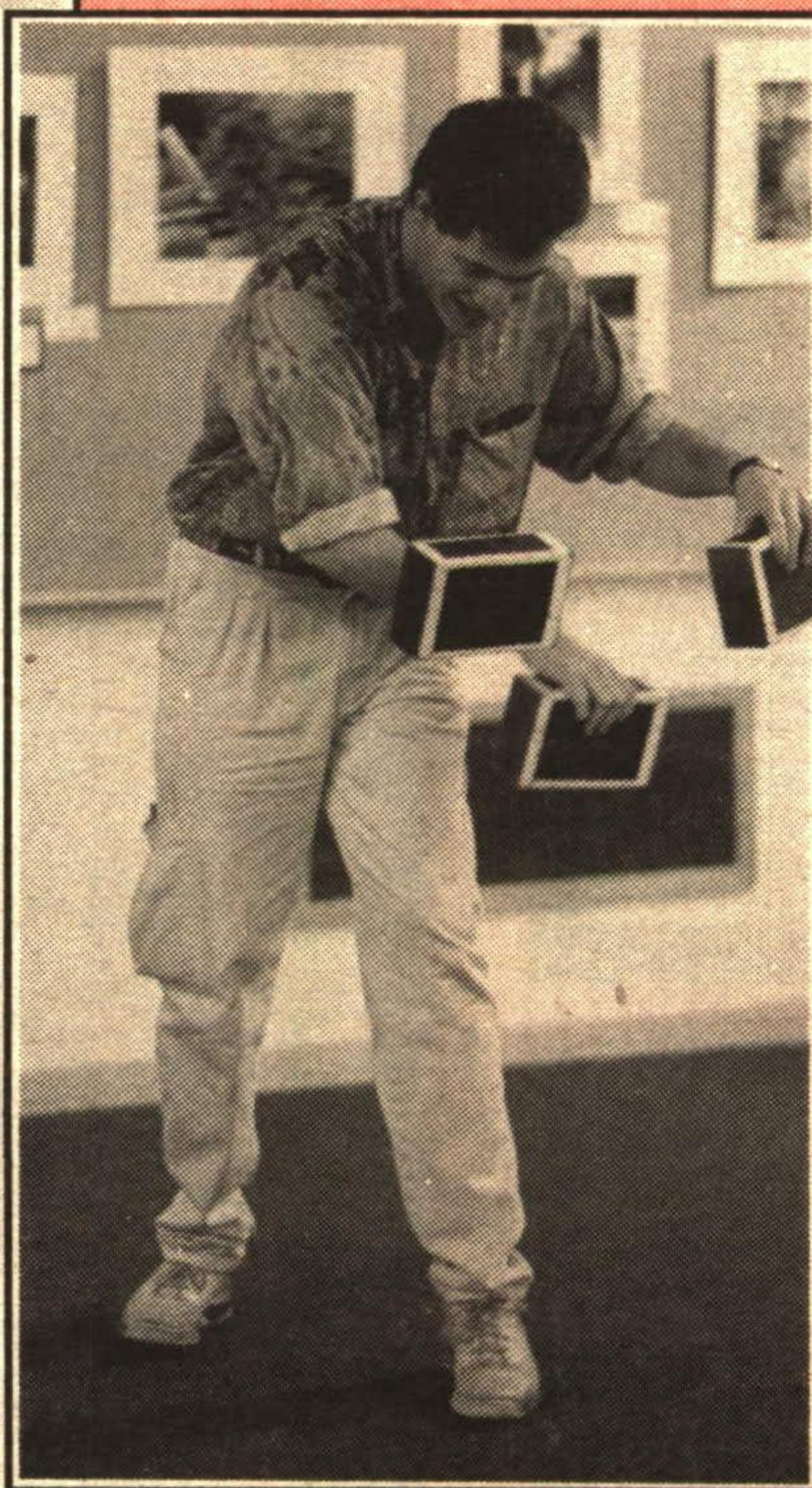
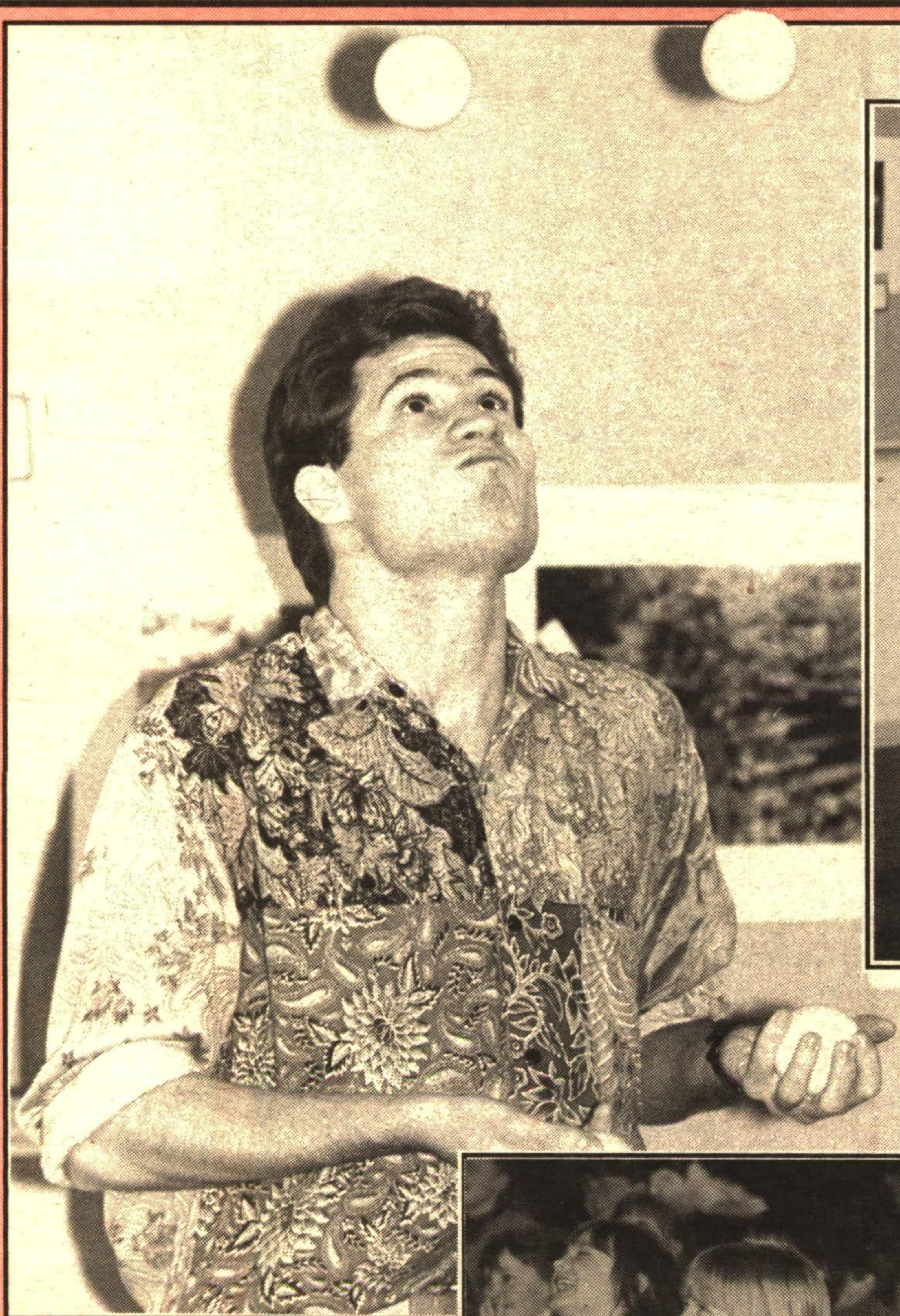
POWER of sale

POWER is holding its annual Giant Garage Sale on Saturday, May 2 at the Town of Halton Hills Public Works Department on Trafalgar Rd.

You can drop off your goods before the sale, at Georgetown Terminal Warehouse, 34 Armstrong Ave., anytime between 9 to 4:30 weekdays or any Saturday in April from 8 to noon.

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March Break magic



Halton Hills libraries were the scene of lots of oohs and ahhs as Craig Douglas juggled up a storm for them, during his two shows Tuesday afternoon. The London, Ontario, native thrilled the kids with feats of magic and juggled several objects, including bowling balls, during his March Break shows.

TED BROWN/Halton Hills Weekend

Gas bar closed

JANET BAINE
Staff writer

An independent Acton gas bar was one of 15 shut down by the Ontario Fuel Safety Branch because it sold a mixture of two chemicals, naphtha and toluene, to motorists instead of gasoline.

Acton Discount Gas on Hwy. 7 between Georgetown and Acton, had just recently opened for business but has been shut down indefinitely.

So far, 15 gas stations in Toronto and vicinity have been closed because they sold the chemical mixture, but no gas station operators have been charged. Stations closed include six in Scarborough, four in Toronto, one in each of Pickering, Hamilton, Orangeville, Brampton and Acton.

"We have reason to believe that some of the (gas station owners) might have known what they were purchasing, but others are innocent victims," Michael Phillip, director of the Fuel Safety Branch said in an interview. The number of gas stations found to be selling the mixture is growing each day.

Seven people involved with distributing the mixture have been charged with five fraud-related offences each, and warrants have been issued for the arrest of three other people. None of the people live in Halton Hills.

Prolonged use of the toluene and naphtha mixture in vehicles will likely cause rubber components in the fuel system to perish, such as those in fuel pumps and carburetors. It may also cause fuel injectors to become clogged.

Phillip advises people who think they may have some of the mixture in their gas tank to top it up with gas.

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