

# Parents question Young Offenders Act

By Oksana Buhel

Last Wednesday evening, a group of parents gathered at Acton High School to discuss concerns about the Young Offenders Act. Theresa Dompierre and Dennis Kunze, both local probation officers, answered questions.

The meeting was hosted by Acton Parent-Aid, a group which helps parents understand the complexities of teenage children.

"There is no doubt that with respect to the YOA, people are confused. Kunze listed the factors of the act which he considers superior to the previous Juvenile Delinquent Act. Whereas the old act sentenced offenders until they were considered reformed, this act makes youths more accountable for their actions by linking a specific sentence to a specific offense. Kunze mentioned that the YOA also considers the role of the parents.

Some listeners were not convinced. One lady recounted an episode when she appeared in court with her delinquent child and was completely ignored by the lawyer, who preferred to deal with the Children's Aid worker.

Kunze sympathized and offered

## Legion Lines Executive elections

By Harry Archer

Nominations for your 1993 Executive for Branch 120 will be accepted at the monthly general meeting Friday. Please try to attend this very important meeting.

Election day for those nominated will be Sunday at 2 pm. Reminder that every vote counts and it is essential that we elect a strong executive for 1993.

We would like to extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Jimmy Doucette who passed away this past week. A large contingent of Jim's friends and family attended a funeral tea at the branch, after the funeral last Saturday.

Friday night euchre results: 1st Bert Snell, 2nd Ray Bramham, 3rd Phil Landry. Most lone hands Glad Inglis.

Winners on Saturday meatdraw. Brenda Archer, Neil Duignan, D. Ember, Nancy Yates, Keith Tost, D. McNeilly, J. Jeffries, Jean Cowan, Lucille Ryall, D. Chamberlain, J. Lennon, A.B. Ford, K. Copeland, Lauraine Jack, W. Reid, K. Wilson, B. Weir, Marie Doucette, Jean Cowan, and Ron Doucette from branch 102 in Calgary.

this advice - "Never set foot in a courtroom without a lawyer," he said.

One woman complained about open custody homes, which she did not consider effective. Her daughter had left an open custody home unsupervised several times in the past few months. "This (open custody homes) is not a punishment," she insisted.

Dompierre explained that offenders are not put in homes to be punished, but to be rehabilitated. "Well I don't think the rehabilitation is working very well either," the same lady stated.

Kunze admitted that circumstances become less clear the more personal a situation is. "The longer I'm in this, the harder I find it to tell people how to be parents," he said.

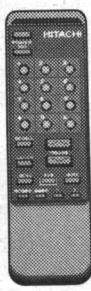
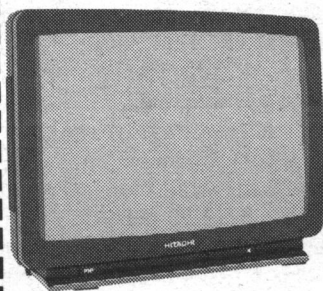
By the end of the meeting, parents were a little more enlightened, and much more relieved, knowing that other individuals were sharing their concerns. "Tonight I've learned that I have to turn off my emotions and just keep plugging away (at keeping communication ties open about and with my child)," one woman said. "I've learned not to expect immediate results."

"What I'd like to see is a toughening up of discipline in our schools," stated Dave Whiting, vice chair of the Halton Board of Education, who was present at the meeting. "I want to protect the rights of teachers and the student body from the acts of individual students."

One parent summed up the mood of the meeting in her response. "Hallelujah," she exclaimed.

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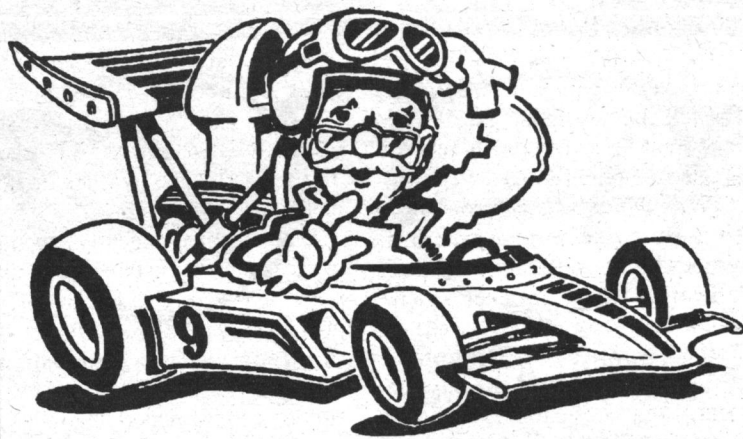


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