

GRAPE VINE

"Rats"

Waging war on polluters is the theme of "Rats," the St. Joseph's Separate School environmental concert, now in rehearsal.

The seven-scene musical features rats who declare environmental war against humans over pollution.

Over 100 Grades 4 to 8 students auditioned for the 30 parts.

Tickets for the Wednesday, May 5 and Tuesday, May 6 presentations of "Rats" are \$1 and are available at St. Joseph's.

SUBstantial donations

Sunday's Food for Food campaign at Acton's Subway was an overwhelming success with over 300 people donating a can of food to the local food bank, in exchange for a submarine.

Subway owner Gus was astounded by the response, and says at one point there was a line of people, two and three deep, stretching across the IGA plaza.

In all, at least 350 cans — over 600 pounds of food — was donated to help feed our town's hungry. Acton's community spirit continues to make us all proud!

Waste war

Members of M.Z. Bennett's Green Club are waging war on waste with an envelope collection drive.

Students hope to collect 100,000 envelopes by June 15 — envelopes that are now being recycled or thrown away.

Parents are being encouraged to educate their children about "inconspicuous wasteful consumption," by donating any unused bill payment envelopes to the environmental drive.

Organizers say one-third of all residential bill payments are made without the use of the return envelope provided.

In Halton that means over 100,000 envelopes per month end up in the landfill or the Blue Box, without ever being used.

Town helps garden plots

Gardeners at Acton's new community garden will be sitting pretty, and their crops will be protected from hungry marauders, thanks to Town Council.

Councillors have agreed to supply the group with a couple of picnic tables and snow fencing to surround their donated garden plots on Wallace Street.

For \$10, you can rent a plot and grow your own vegetables, thanks to the group, which includes members of FoodShare, local churches and the Horticultural Society.

No Metro mounts

A lack of space has silenced talk of bringing the Metro Toronto Police Mounted Unit's musical ride to the Fall Fair in September.

Seems the Metro ride, accompanied by a Pipe and Drum band, needs a lot of room to perform and the horse rings at Prospect Park would have to be re-designed to accommodate it.

Fair prez George Henderson says the ride would be a "super attraction" and raised the possibility of bringing it to town, some time other than during the Fair.



STATION OF THE YEAR: Acton Esso, located on Mill Street East, was recently named the company's top full-service station in the Toronto Automotive Division for 1992. Station Manager Wendy Durno (front row, middle) and her staff of seven were given the award for demonstrating an outstanding level of commitment to high standards of service to their customers. The Esso team is comprised of, back row, left to right, Eric Heagle, Allen Widish, Craig Wainwright, Chris Cuthbertson and Chris Dornl. Front row, from left is Durno's daughter Tammy Anderson, Durno and Brian Parker. (Doug Harrison photo)

Young Offenders Act worthy of attention

Appalling to note that Canada incarcerates more people per capita than almost any other nation in the world. Did you hear that, folks — that's THE WORLD. Either we're a really wild bunch of you-know-whats or else our laws must be out of touch with reality.

Makes you wonder how we ever got into such a mess and, more particularly — how we are ever going to get out!

At last week's meeting of Parent-Aid, held in the staff room at Acton High, participants received a briefing on the Young Offenders Act (which has actually been in force since 1984) and its enforcement here in Halton. Among the more enlightening facts which emerged:

1) The local judge is interested in dealing only with cases which involve property or the public. In other words, all cases where kids are acting out because of family dysfunctions must be handled outside of the court. Looks like an attempt to make families take the initiative in finding out how to deal more effectively with the lively dynamics of day-to-day liv-

ing with teens; it could work well, providing we have alternate resources available to help families which are having difficulties.

2) The YOA is a much fairer approach than the previous Juvenile Delinquents Act because it treats each offender and case more on individual merits. However, the legislation can be difficult to understand, and where youngsters are involved with serious matters, the best advice is to obtain a competent lawyer.

3) The YOA does keep parents informed as to criminal charges against their children, whereas the previous act did not do so.

4) A young offender's record is supposed to be erased automatically at age 18 or after being pardoned (whichever comes first) but in actual fact it is reported that the

police sometimes hold onto the file for another five years or more. In this respect apparently, the Ontario Police Commission establishes standards but does not really enforce them.

It is surely in our best interests to have available resources to help families cope which will effectively keep youngsters out of the court system; what we need to be aware of is that Provincial budget constraints are beginning to limit available support programs run by agencies such as the Children's Aid (CAS) and the Children's Assessment and Treatment Centre (CATC).

Parents seeking help should call our own Acton Social Services and Information Centre for assistance and direction. (With files from Gill Reynolds)



WORD'S WORTH

With Eric Balkind

HEY!

Have you caught spring fever yet?



"Yes I have. It's been a great spring so far; I like to see the warm weather set in and it's good for getting around. It's hard to beat the warm weather and I don't want another year like last summer."

Roy Thompson, Main Street

"Yes I have. It's time for raking and digging out the spring clothes. I'm one of those people who's deprived of sun. I'm just glad there's no more snow."

Brenda McDonald, Kingham Road



"Yes, I'm looking forward to having some fun. I'm looking more optimistically into the future and hoping to get a job soon. It's been a long, cold winter. My way of thinking is, it'll be a hot and short summer."

John Vos, Secord Lane

"Yes I have. I'm looking forward to the sun. I hope the weather isn't as bad as last year. I'm looking forward to being outside more and horseback riding."

Laurie Crawford, R.R. 2, Rockwood

