

GRAPE VINE

money managers agree on a refinancing plan, clean-up will begin on the old Little Motors site. Glenlea pharmacist Gary Barton and partners want to build a 5,000 square foot pharmacy on the site. Initial plans for an expanded plaza, in conjunction with the new drug store, are on hold until Acton's water-related growth problems are solved.

Cab quest

Acton may have regular taxi service before too much longer.

Since Reliable Taxi closed three weeks ago, at least two people have expressed interest in operating a taxi business in town.

Town licensing staff say officials with Milton Taxi, and a private citizen, have enquired about servicing the town.

Bill Wilkenson of Halton Hills Taxi, which provides taxis for Halton Board of Education students in Acton, says he can offer service between 8 and 9 am and from 3 to 4 pm but hasn't the manpower or the vehicles to answer calls at other times.

Reliable closed recently, stranding many seniors, and others who don't have cars.

Staff at Acton Social Services and Information Centre (ASSIC) report an increase in calls from people needing rides since Reliable closed.

In some cases ASSIC can provide transportation and is working with both medical centres in town to co-ordinate medical appointments for people who need rides.

Dollar delays

Refinancing is the medicine needed to restore health to plans for a new Glenlea Pharmacy in Acton east.

Word has it that as soon as the

Auction

Although a lot of people got great deals, disabled children in Acton will be the big winners following the Acton Rotary Club's highly successful annual action on Friday.

A crowd of over 150 people wine and dined and bid at the gala event which raised over \$10,000.

Some of the money will be used by the Easter Seals Society to help crippled children in Acton, to sponsor hockey teams and the 1st Acton Beavers, Scouts and Cubs.

Rotarian Jake Kuiken said response from the local business community to donate auction items and door prizes was "unbelievable."

Cango no go

With no fanfare or advance notice Cango Petroleum closed its Acton gas station on Tuesday.

Manager Ed Wyse said his rep. came in, took down the Cango-Pioneer signs, siphoned the gas from the tanks and locked the doors — all without explanation.

Wyse said he heard that there was a problem with the lease.

The closures mean Wyse and five part-time employees are out of work.



NEW EXECUTIVES: The St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League unveiled its new executive team at the church last Tuesday. Back row, left to right are, Julie Conroy, organization and membership; Pat South, spiritual development; Father Valeriote and Edna LeBlanc, hospitality. Front row, left to right, Helen Fowler, secretary; Arline Coultrup, president; Veronica Lampkin, past-president and communications and Marg Aitken, family Christian life. Absent are, Helen Rowe, treasurer; Peggy DeBruyn, community life and Theresa Matheson, hospitality. (Doug Harrison photo)

To test but — how to test?

If nation-wide testing is to play a useful role in raising educational standards in our schools we will need to ensure, first and foremost, that children develop a positive mindset towards tests. As well, teachers will need to be sensitive to the limitations inherent in the testing situation. Equally important, the public will need to understand how easily testing results may be used, misused and even misinterpreted.

In a given situation, tests may show just how and how much the children are learning. They may also tell us what and how well the teacher is teaching. As the result, allowances may then be made for individual students and teaching strategies can be adjusted. The overall goals which should be kept in mind are to ensure that the children attain essential skills and develop a positive mindset toward life-long learning.

We cannot guarantee that tests will always deliver the answers we want but we can say that, when used with sensitivity and applied within reason, the results should benefit many children. Even so, we will need to bear in mind that

given the current state of testing, the fact is, we will never be accurate in either assessing or predicting what is best for each and every child. *Children are not pieces of standard, factory-produced machinery and they will resist being classified in that way; so too will good teachers.*

The public would be well-advised to take with a spoonful of salt any claim by either politician or political party that national, standardized testing is the panacea for our educational woes because, as the great Paul Robeson sang so long ago, "It ain't necessarily so." As a matter of fact, most studies show that a well-constructed teacher's test will be every bit as accurate and often more useful than more-encompassing, larger-scale testing devices.

While we continue to work away at the improving of the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic we might also consider the essential advice given to us by Albert Einstein — the greatest mind of the 20th Century when he said: "The imagination is everything."

Our children are born with the capacity for vivid imagination but, over the years, we adults manage to squelch most of it until that sad, inevitable day arrives when the kids can think only like us. Let us be deluded into thinking that we have done the children a service, we had better take a look around us. An honest evaluation would surely lead us to conclude that with all our skills and with all our knowledge we haven't done so well for either ourselves or Mother Earth.

WORD'S WORTH

With Eric Balkind



HEY! Seen any good movies lately?



"Witches of Eastwick. I thought it was good — there was good acting, it was artistic and colourful. I had nothing better to do on a Sunday afternoon so I rented three movies for \$5. But I like Susan Sarandon, so I also got it because of her."

Nancy Ridler, Kingham Road

"Edward Scissorhands. I liked it because Edward Scissorhands has a great hairdo and he gets lots of scars on his face from fighting."

Bobby Periea, Greenore Crescent



"Indecent Proposal. I thought it was really good. It keeps you on the edge of your seat and doesn't have you continuously looking at your watch wondering what time it is. The actors are really good and overall it's an excellent movie."

Michelle Perry, Elmore Drive

"Under Siege. I liked it because it has a lot of action and I like the actor Steven Seagal. My friends told me about it so I wanted to see it."

Brian McIntyre, Jeffrey Avenue

