

NEWS SHORTS

Gas thieves leave burned tank

Thieves drove through a fence into the outside storage area of T.G.C. Materials on the Fifth Side Road sometime between Dec. 31 and Jan. 4 and stole fuel and hauling equipment, before taking off and leaving a burned-out 300 litre gas tank. The total value of goods stolen was placed at \$695 and included 105 litres of gas, 457 litres of diesel fuel and eight tie-down straps. Police have no suspects at present.

Car damaged in hit-and-run

A local resident parked in front of a Mill Street convenience store last Tuesday, returned to find someone had banged into his car and had taken-off without leaving any information. Apparently a car had reversed into the victim's car and knocked off the front grill, leaving approximately \$200 damage. Police presently have no suspects for the accident which was reported as a hit-and-run.

Police car hit by truck

Just before Christmas, a police car parked in front of Acton's Mill Street station was hit by a truck which didn't bother to stop. The eastbound truck drove past the squad car and sheered off the side mirror on the driver's side. The driver of the truck continued on without stopping. Police have identified the vehicle but there has been no word if charges have been laid.

Business of the Year dinner

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce will honour Acton's Halton Flour Milling as the 1993 business of the year at a dinner at Georgetown's North Halton Golf Club on Feb. 24. Tickets are \$40 each and can be reserved by calling 877-7119.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I cannot begin to explain what a difference the van has made. I don't know how I'd get along without it."

— Matthew Fleet, Page 4

DID YOU KNOW?

Marilyn Monroe's body was used as the model for the creation of Peter Pan's friend, Tinker Bell.

Computer composition at music studio

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

Composer Bob Daigneault and his wife Valerie Nichol, a Conservatory piano teacher, might put Acton on the map — musically.

The couple have run the Acton Music Studio from their Bower Avenue home for the last 10 years.

With the purchase of a sound module, a keyboard and a new printer, Daigneault and Nichol recently introduced computer composition to their 30 students.

Computer composition is less time-consuming than the traditional written format. It allows someone to hear their score and correct it quickly without the hassle of re-designing a rough draft.

"One thing I want to point out is there are no gimmicks or tricks to computer composition. The students write their own music. If they want it to sound the right way, they have to make it that way," stresses Daigneault, 42. He has studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music and has been a composer-in-residence at the Toronto Dance Theatre for five years.

Daigneault writes source material for his students, who then take his suggestions and write either chords or scales from it.

"So far, we have 142 student compositions written by people

age 6 and up. Some of the kids write things that would blow your mind," reveals Daigneault, who also teaches keyboard and theory. "I thought I would make the material rock and roll, but they don't want it. They like jazz and are hardly interested in pop tunes."

He adds that adults often have a pre-conceived idea of composition being hard, but points out that if the students are told it's easy to learn, they'll do it.

Nichol has used composition to her advantage when teaching Conservatory piano. The artist, pianist, organist and choir director has her students perform duets with the digital keyboard. She says the kids enjoy the social contact.

Nichol's and Daigneault's expertise in their respective fields has rubbed off on former students. One has won the Music Teacher's scholarship in the Halton Hills Music Festival. Many others have won firsts, seconds and thirds.

Several former students have played in the Stars of the Festival Concert for outstanding perform-



BOB DAIGNEAULT

ances with marks over 80. One even won the highest mark for composition.

In the near future, the Acton couple would like to form an Acton Youth Keyboard Ensemble. Further, the possibility of combining music composed by their students with original dance performed by the students of the Acton School of Ballet and Dance will be discussed.

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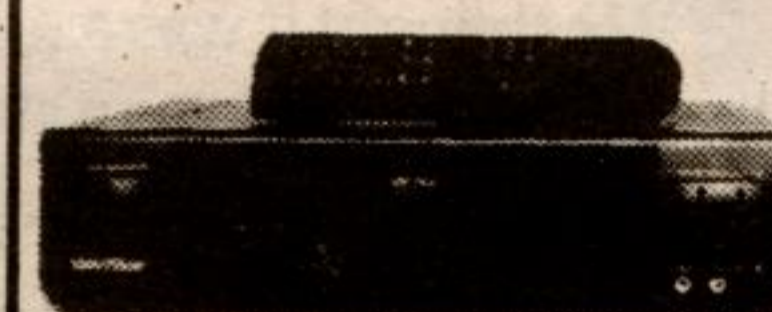
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