Mystery surrounds vinyl plant 'job transitions'

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

A spokesperson for an Acton vinyl siding plant would neither confirm nor deny a rumort that several employees were fired on Friday following an investigation into drug use.

"There have been some employment changes and transitions last week – less than 13 people – and these changes were in line with our corporate values, our policies and our very strong focus on employee safety at all times," said Mary Cohn, Louisiana Pacific Canada's corporate communication manager, in a telephone interview from Portland, Oregon on Monday.

"I can't talk about any individual situations," Cohn said when asked if there was an investigation into on-the-job drug use at the unionized plant, that makes siding for the North

American market.

"We have a firm commitment to safety in the workplace and I can not, I can't get into specifics of situations. Our commitment to safety in the workplace includes not being impaired in any way on the job at any time," Cohn said, adding employee safety is their number one priority.

When asked if the employees involved were fired, Cohn said the term to use would be "employee transi-

tions," and refused to say more on the ground she was protecting the privacy of the individuals involved, members of the United Steel Workers Union, Local 603L.

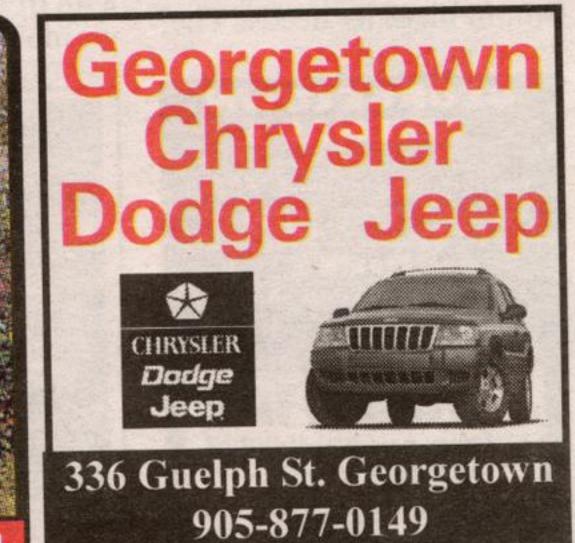
At press time, a Union spokesperson was unavailable for comment.

Louisiana Pacific employees 260 people at the Acton plant, which it purchased from ABT Building Products in 1999.



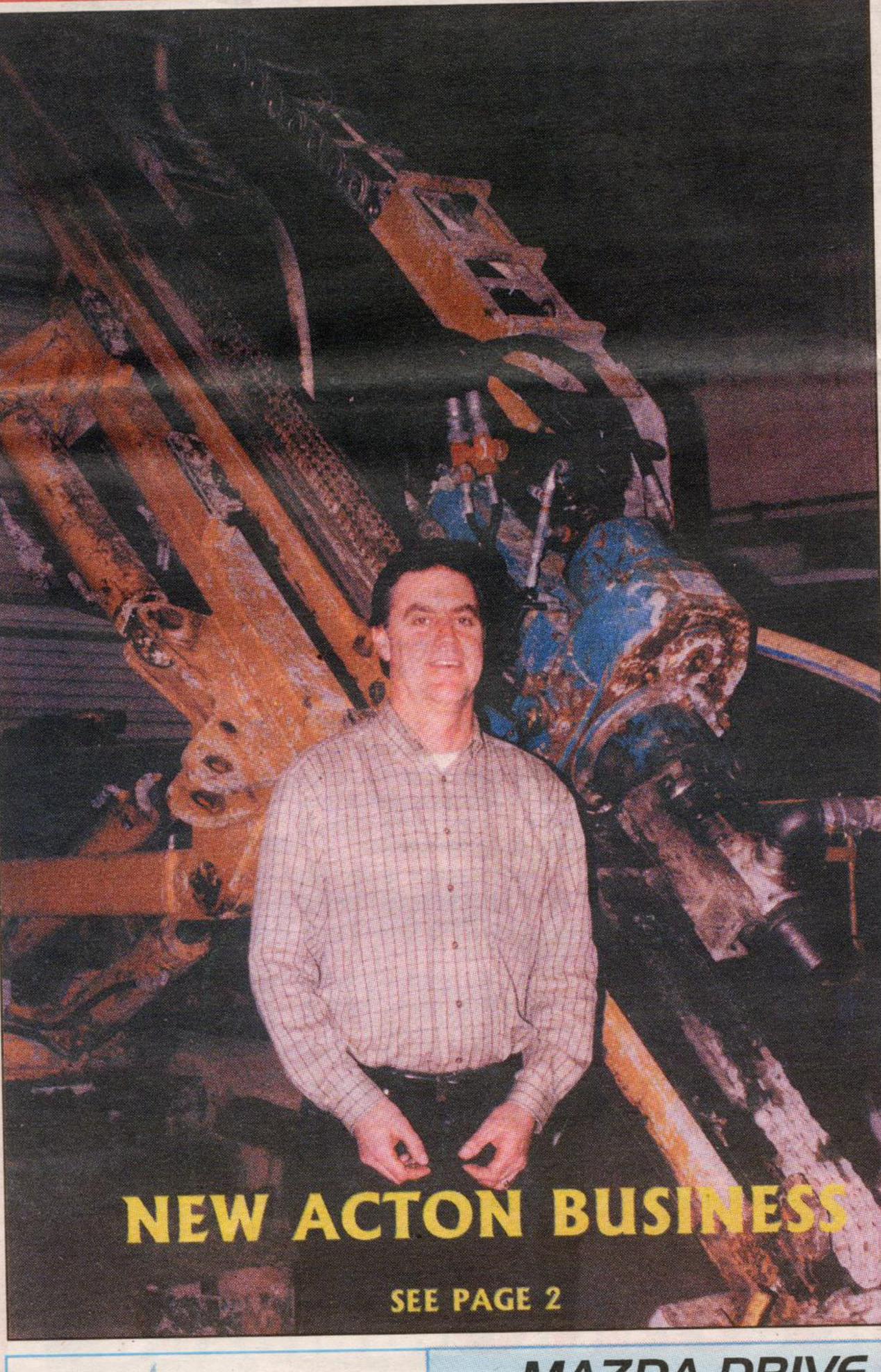
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