



SEVEN STORIES CAST: The Grade 12 drama class presented "7 Stories" by Morris Panych at Acton High School's Spring Arts Festival on Wednesday, May 26. The cast included Chris Teggart, Liz Lewis, Cat Wilkinson, Cat Hynds, Jeanine Stumpe, Beth Clayton, Rena Dunne and Ben Ingles. - Ted Tyler photo

Chudleigh blames Liberals for closing hospital units

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh said cancelling any services at Georgetown Hospital is outrageous given that prior to amalgamation under the William Osler banner, Georgetown Hospital operated within its budget.

"It is particularly heinous that young mothers, families and the youngest of children in Georgetown are being sold but by Mr. Bell and the William Osler Board of Directors - none of whom are Georgetown residents," said Chudleigh, who added that Georgetown was described to him as a "cash cow" when the hospitals amalgamated several years ago.

William Osler Health Centre recently announced the

closure of the obstetrics unit at Georgetown Hospital forcing expectant mothers to travel at least 35 minutes to Brampton to deliver their babies.

"I asked Mr. Bell what services at Etobicoke Hospital or at Brampton Memorial had been cancelled and he was unable to point out any service reductions at those hospitals," said Chudleigh.

"With the reduction of health care services announced by the Liberal government in the recent Ontario budget, and the closure of Georgetown's obstetrics unit, it is evident the Liberal government now supports two tiers of health services in Ontario." He said. "Only

the rich can get physiotherapy, eye exams or chiropractic adjustments and only those living in big cities have reasonable access to necessary medical services."

"My Party was accused for eight and a half years of favouring two tiered health care while all that time we fought to improve access and maintain medically responsible services. It took six months for Dalton's Liberal government to trash our single tier health service," Chudleigh said.

Chudleigh was also annoyed that the Osler CEO had refused to provide him with a copy of a Ministry of Health directive to cut services.

Topic bullying

School can't police town, parents told at workshop

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

Although it may be beneficial for the school to know about bullying incidents outside its jurisdiction, the school can't be expected to police the community, parents were told at a recent presentation on bullying.

At a recent presentation at McKenzie-Smith Bennett Middle School, Al Grayson, north area superintendent of education for the Halton Board of Education, disagreed that parents should always inform the school of bullying incidents involving their children outside of school hours.

While it might be important for the school to know why a child is having a problem that could show up in his school work, that doesn't mean the school should be expected to resolve incidents that happen at the mall or via the computer, for instance, he said.

If the parents are good at problem solving with other parents, then the victim's parents should try to resolve the issue between the families.

"But if you're so angry you're only going to inflame the situation, then don't go to the other parents," he said.

Grayson's comment rebutted advice from Halton Regional Health Nurse Florence Bonyun that parents should inform the school if their child was being bullied off school property.

Bonyun stressed the need for parents to model the family values they want their children to develop and use in their dealings with others. Parents are children's primary teachers and they tend to follow the example the parents set rather than what they are told, she said.

She reminded parents that children are different and parenting styles may need to be adjusted according to the temperament of the child being disciplined. Explaining the reason for a parental decision is important if the child is to learn how to make his/her own decisions later in life.

She also advised parents to avoid making invitations to a child's party via the school where it's difficult to conceal who didn't get invited.

Bonyun's partner, Health Nurse Lynn Franklin said teasing is the most common form of bullying. Statistics show 70 per cent of bullying is verbal and only 30 per cent involves physical violence like slapping, hitting, choking, kicking, poking or punching. Relational bullying where the victim is ignored, shunned, excluded, isolated or alienated from his peers is the most dif-

icult form of bullying to detect.

Franklin said research shows that more than half the time bullying stops within 10 seconds of any peer intervention in an incident.

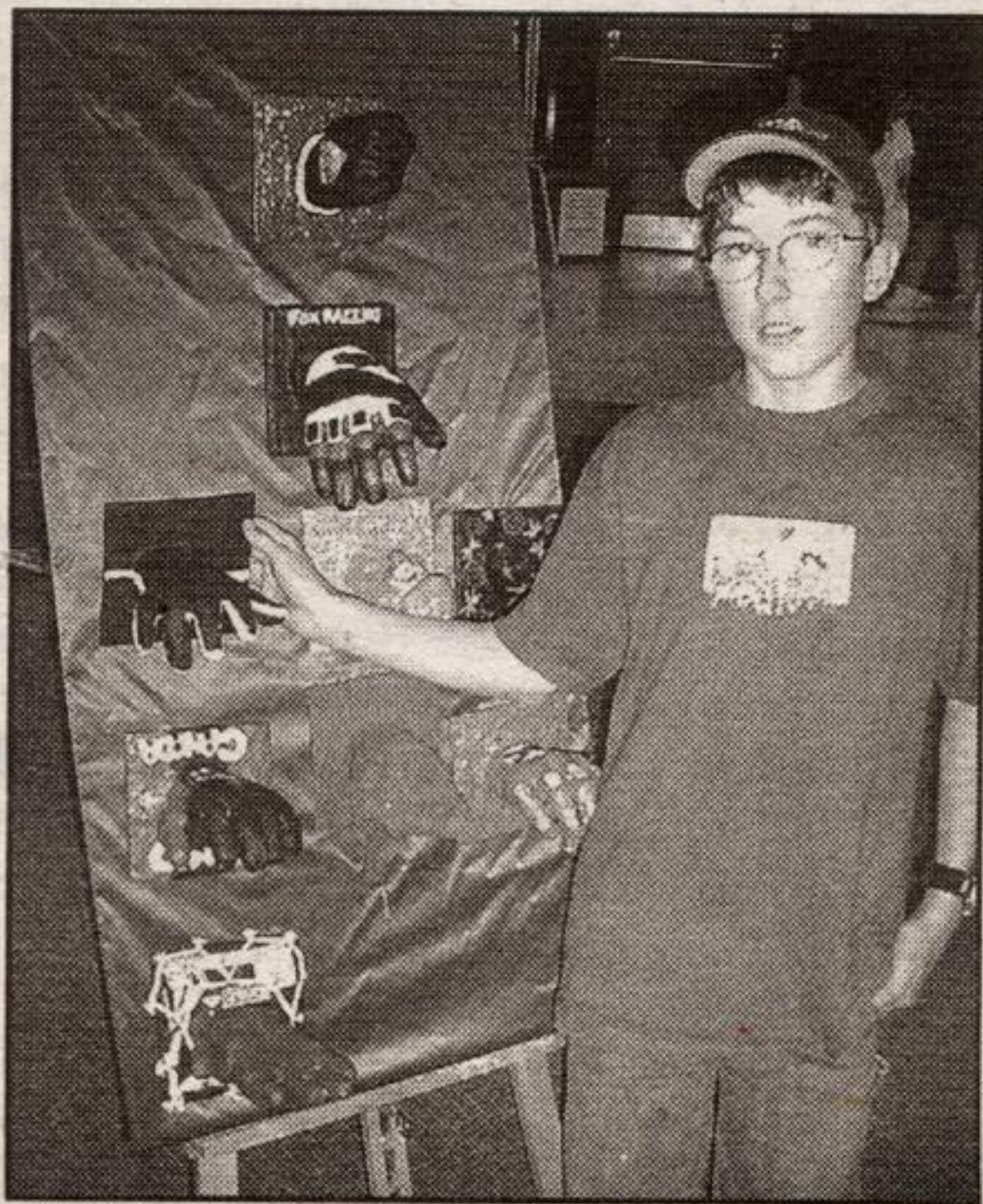
While there is usually not much difference in size between the bully and his/her victim, girls are as likely to bully as boys. Boys tend to use violence more than girls, but girls verbally abuse their victims.

Evidence also shows that the danger of physical harm rises with the age of the bully and a high percentage of people in jails were bullies in their youth.

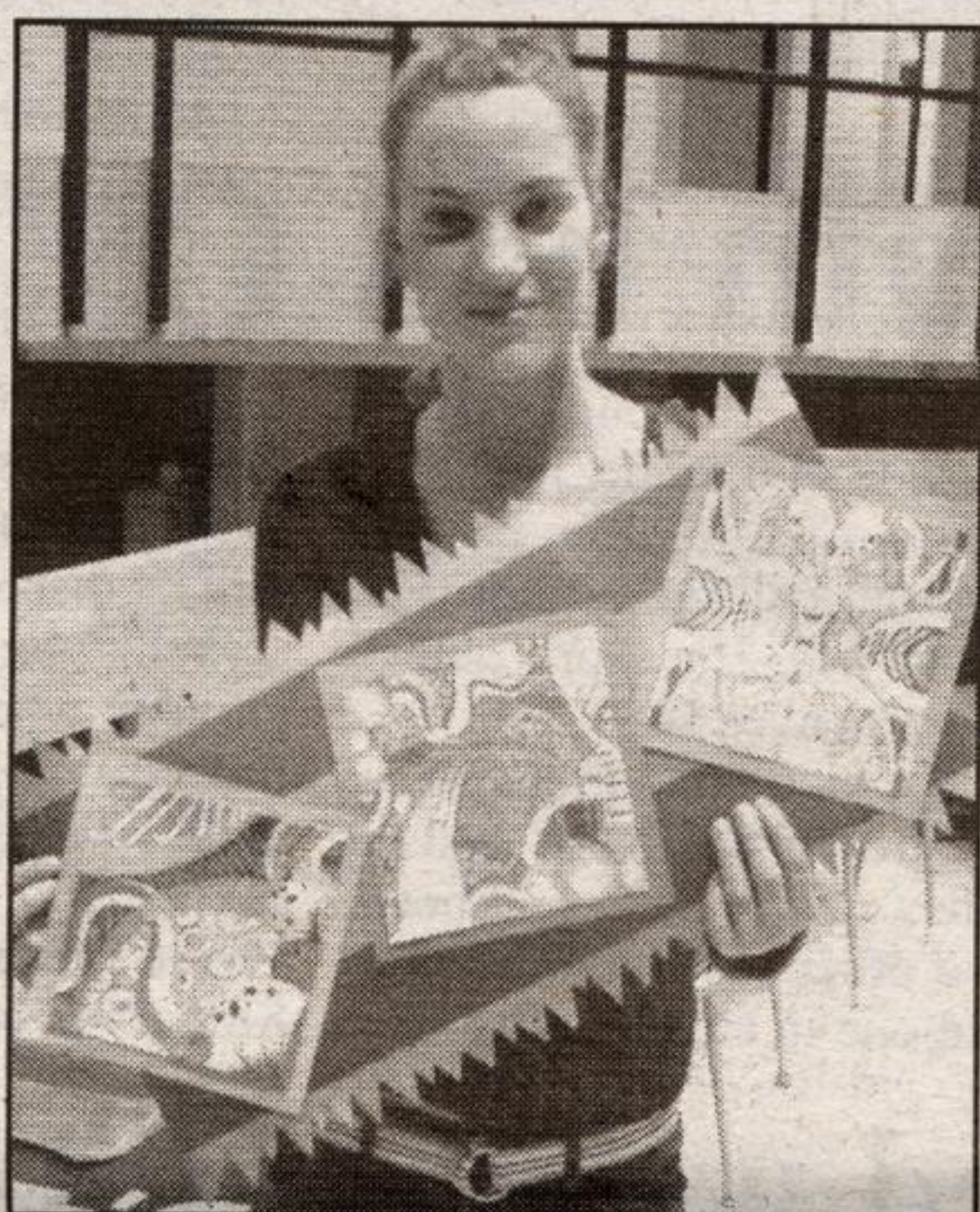
Franklin said bullying is defined as an imbalance of power, the intention to cause emotional and/or physical pain and a threat of further aggression. It's not about anger or conflict. It's about contempt.

Bonyun pointed out that bullying usually gets the bully what he/she wants thus reinforcing the behavior. Over time that can become relational (spousal) abuse, workplace bullying or harassment, and even elder abuse.

Programs to combat bullying usually take about three years to produce the desired results, Franklin said.



James Wilkinson's unusual art, showing hands of skateboarders was part of the Arts Festival.



Beth Clayton shows her abstract art at AHS's Spring Arts Festival

Impressed by MSB School

To the Editor,

Almost one year ago our family moved in Acton from Etobicoke. As parents and as an educator too, I would like to share with you my reflections, thoughts and feelings about the friendly environment we met at MSB School.

Everybody agrees that the school should be an integrated dynamic environment that plays a fundamental role shaping the personal future for our kids and society. We are happy that our kids are growing up, and learning with professional

Letters

teachers and administrators at MSB School.

When I noted professional teachers, I mean teachers that not only serve as subject matter specialists but also they partner with students, helping them to see relations across disciplines, how to respect nature and how to design their future.

When I noted friendly environment, I meant the whole climate and culture in the

school incorporates a humanist perspective into teaching by promoting values that contribute to creating an emotional and intellectual learning experience.

Students are treated with respect and are given an opportunity to explore issues that are important such as self-esteem, self-efficiency, self-confidence and love.

Lidra Remacka,
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TABLE TALK: Georgetown sisters Rachel, 3, and Nicole, 1 1/2 Vieira settled in nicely at a new table their parents bought for them at the Mom to Mom sale at St. Alban's Church on Saturday. The sale was a great success and will be repeated this fall. - Frances Niblock photo