

Harry Potter... evil incarnate?

When I was a kid I couldn't wait to get my hands on the latest copy of Tales of the Crypt or Tales of Suspense.

Zombies eating people. Good guys stabbing vampires in the chest with wooden stakes. It was all good stuff to a 10-year-old.

Along with these horror magazines, I devoured every kind of comic book I could find. My parents made sure I read the required material I brought home from school, but never stopped me from reading whatever struck my fancy.

I guess they figured if I was reading I was learning... and I wasn't getting into trouble. I wish some Durham parents were similarly enlightened.

Last week, the Durham Regional School Board sent home a memo stating that, unless every student in the class receives consent from their parents, teachers will not be allowed to read the wildly popular Harry Potter books.

While the book is not being banned per se, all it would take is for one backward-thinking, politically-correct neanderthal to put an end to Harry in the classroom.

These are the facts: The Harry Potter books offer kids intelligent discussion on everything from friendship, to prejudice, to death, to mourning, to fair play. They offer classic "good triumphing over evil" tales in a way kids love—through magic.

In Texas, South Carolina and other states inhabited by people who think heavy reading is the newest graffiti on the wall of Billy Bob's diner, efforts have been made to have the Potter books banned in schools.

Unbelievably, 25 parents in Durham wanted the books banned because of the sorcery in the novels.

**THIS
'N
THAT**



John McGhie

Shouldn't we laud something that makes kids sit down and read? Isn't improving the intellect of kids a good thing? Don't these parents have faith in their children to be able to determine fact from fiction?

Then again, perhaps the Durham parents who want Harry banned are onto something. Perhaps my parents should have raised hell 30 years ago when my Grade 6 teacher forced us to listen to him read a story every lunch hour about a talking rabbit who got into all kinds of predicaments.

Burn, Uncle Wiggly, burn.

Dis 'n Data

The times they are a'changing: In 1975 people were arrested for watching the porn movie Deep Throat. This past Sunday it was shown in a Toronto theatre with nary a whimper of protest... Memo to Carla Collins: You're not funny or talented. You're very annoying. Please get off my TV... Just when you think you've seen Tiger Woods do the impossible, he outdoes himself. His bunker shot on the 18th hole Sunday at the Canadian Open will go down as part of Canadian sports lore... Speaking of the Open, couldn't we have come up with a better-looking trophy to give Tiger than that piece of junk he was awarded for winning the Triple Crown? We ditched the ugly Eskimo carvings, now this monstrosity has to go.

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FUTURE SHOP CORRECTION NOTICE

In our September 6-19, 2000 flyer, the following error occurred:

- The NO INTEREST OPTION UNTIL 2002 promo on page 4 is incorrect. It should have stated the following: 12 MONTHS NO PAYMENTS & NO INTEREST ON ALL CAR AUDIO AND CAR SECURITY OVER \$299.

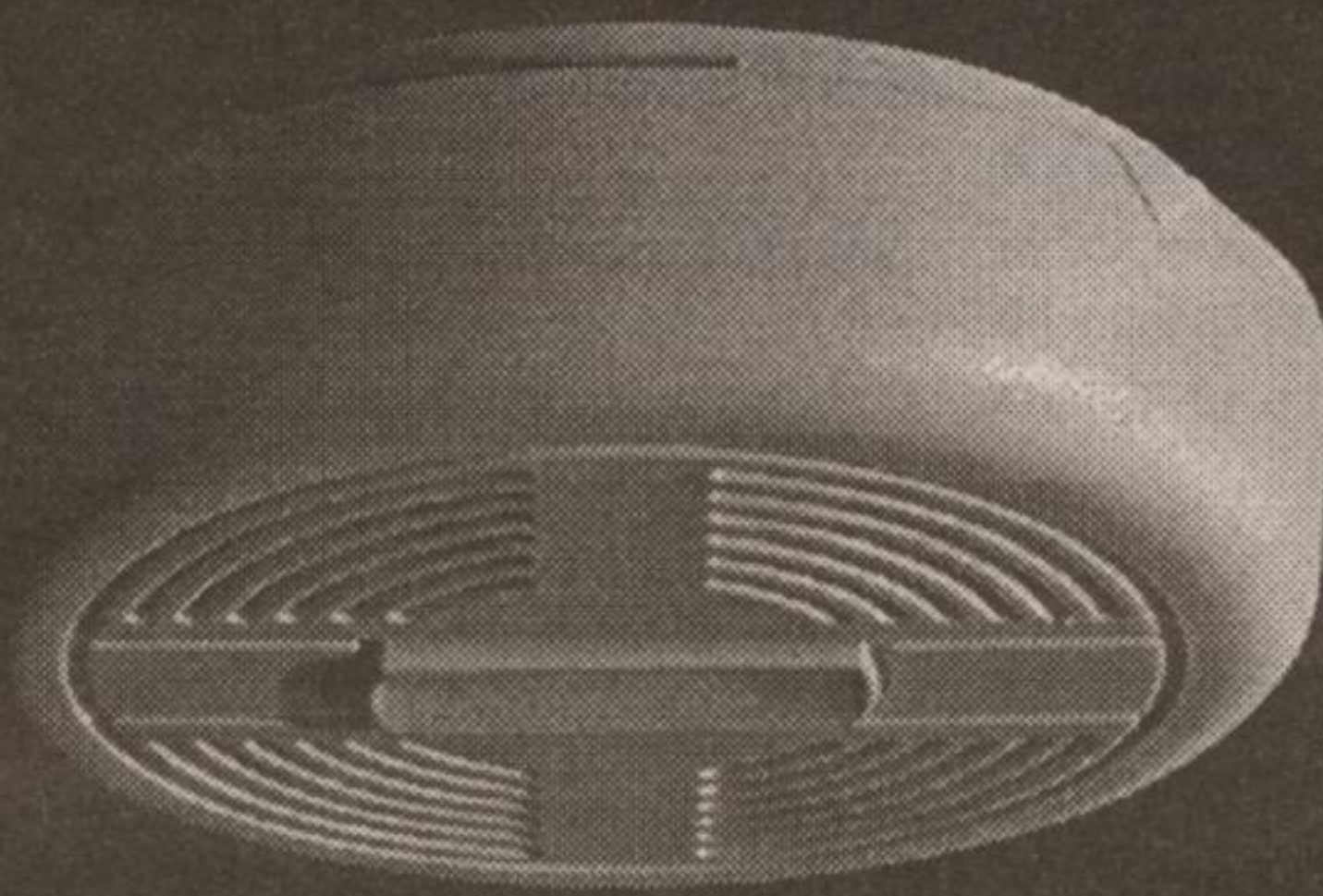
We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.



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For more information, please contact your public health department.

Funding for this program has been provided in part by the Ontario Tobacco Strategy, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. No endorsement by the Ministry is intended or should be inferred.