

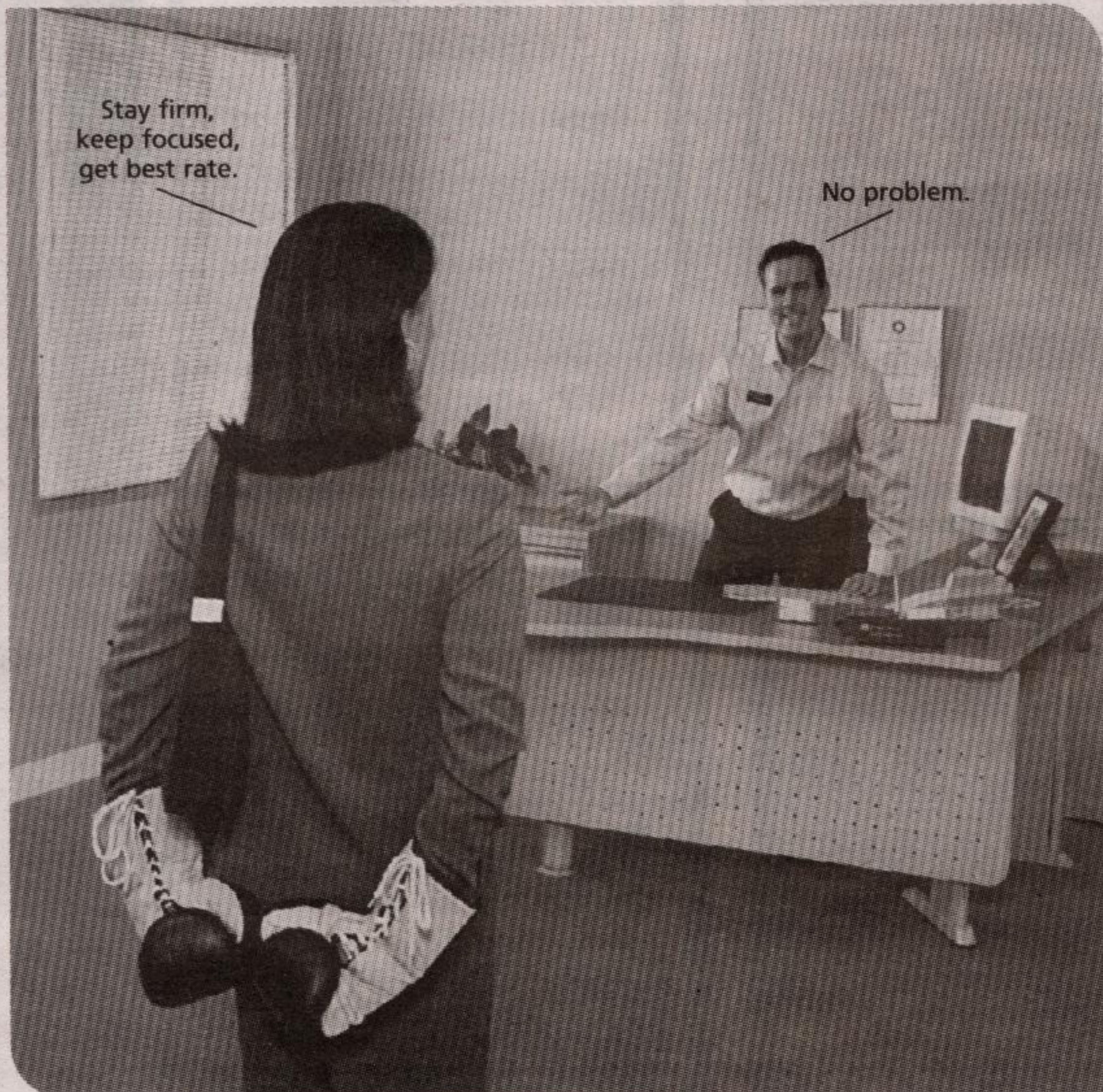
# Business

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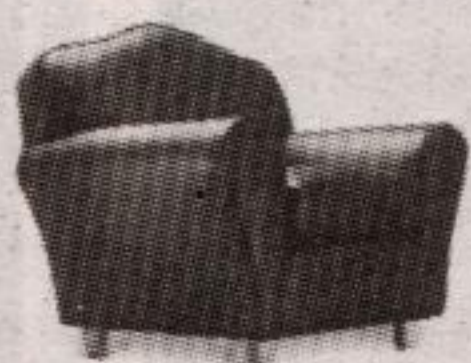
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## Norval firm has big expansion plans

Riding a wave of consumer anxiety over obesity, pesticides and genetic modification, a little-known Norval company is poised to capitalize on the growing market for natural and organic food alternatives.

Stake Technology Ltd. recently announced plans to raise \$49 million (U.S.) through a share offering in Canada and the United States to finance a series of acquisitions in the highly fragmented health food industry.

"It's the single biggest amount we've raised so far," said Steve Bromley, executive vice-president and chief financial officer of the Norval-based firm. Already the North American leader in soymilk concentrate and the world's largest supplier of oat fibre, Stake has seen its share price double in the last year as its sales and profit soared.

"They're quickly emerging as one of the leaders among the five or six publicly traded companies in the natural and organic food sec-

tor," said Chris Krueger, analyst with Miller Johnson Steichen Kinnard Investments Inc., in Minneapolis, where Stake first entered the organic food business through its purchase of Sunrich Inc. in 1999.

Sales of organic foods now account for 80 per cent of Stake's revenues, which are expected to reach \$175 million this year. Its share offering came just five days after the company announced record sales and earnings for the quarter ending June 30. Sales jumped 68 per cent to \$53 million, while profit rose 41 per cent to \$2.4 million. The firm also plans to change its name to SunOpta Inc. by year's end to more accurately reflect the shift in its business. Stake pioneered the sale of organic milk in Canadian supermarkets under the brand name Mu. The firm was founded in the 1970s to exploit an environmentally friendly technology that creates pulp from non-woody fibres, such as corn and straw.

—Torstar News Service



## Business of the month

Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Business of the Month for August is Thrifty Car Rental, located at 164 Guelph Street, Georgetown. On hand for the presentation of the honours were (from left) Thrifty customer service rep Lynda Reynolds, Georgetown location manager Rudy Tilstra, Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce president Norm Paget, and Chamber director Travis Allinott.

Photo by Ted Brown

## Tooth Chatter



by  
**ALEX TRENTON**  
DENTURIST

### ADJUSTING TO NEW DENTURES FEEL

At first your new dentures might feel very large in your mouth. You may even experience a gag reaction. This is normal in the beginning. In time, with a little patience and practice, you will adjust naturally to this initial fullness and barely notice it in your mouth.

### SPEECH

Many new denture wearers have difficulty at first with their speech. Words containing "S" sounds can be a problem. Practicing speech aloud with your new dentures in place will help restore your normal speaking quality. Try reading aloud from a book or magazine in front of the mirror. This will help you to get used to the new speaking position of your tongue and new denture. This will also give you more confidence. Also, before you speak, it is helpful to first bite and swallow. This will "set" the dentures in position and improve clarity.

### EXCESS SALIVA

When you first receive your new dentures, you will probably notice an increase in the flow of saliva in your mouth. This is a normal response to the unfamiliar new denture. On the average, most people swallow about 600 times a day. For the first few days after receiving your new teeth, you should try to swallow more frequently. After a few days have passed, your mouth will become used to the denture, and saliva flow will return to normal.

You do not need a referral; simply call our office direct.

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Alexander Trenton, D.D., F.C.A.D. (A)  
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