#### Robert Bateman

## 'Honesty may offend, but he's a darling'

By LOIS CRAWFORD Special to The Champion

Robert Bateman did his best to try to offend his audience this week. But it didn't work. He is still the unchallenged 'darling' of the Burlington art world.

Mr. Bateman warned his audience at the Burlington Cultural Centre Monday night that "I'll pro-bably offend everyone here tonight," and that he looked "forward to give and take" after his present-

Instead he was only gently reprimanded by one for using European and American artists as his examples. And another queried the reproduction of his paintings as perhaps "vulgarizing" his work.

In answer to the latter, he responded that as long as it makes people happy to be able to own a reproduction of his work, then there is nothing wrong with it. As for signing the prints, it is simply for marketing purposes, as he signs the 1,000 copies of each picture.

At last count, 80 pictures of his have been reproduced, each one putting 950 into the market Spread out over the world, that is not really a great

Questionable statements that might have been challenged were: - Abstract art is finished; it was only a historical

phenomenom which never touched the public."; - "We've seen the end of progress in art. The best music was written 100 years ago. Could the

same be said about art?" - Women should paint ladies standing outside the church-something they know about." (Women also love nature, know flowers, and experience emotion

in a variety of settings!) Mr. Bateman also threw in a few caustic remarks about public galleries: "I used to be able to go down to the (then) Toronto Art Gallery and see what my contemporaries were doing-work by the Academy

painters for instance. Not any more.' He criticized what he called "pot-boiler" art and "kitsch". That's the stuff you see at the Burlington

Volunteers

Volunteers-what would we do without

Since this is Volunteer Recognition Week, I

would like to devote my column to the vol-

unteers who serve the Children's Aid Society so

well. Our volunteers bring an added dimension

to our work that would be extremely difficult, if

not impossible, for the Society's staff to duplic-

community, and the extended family that so

many of them have lost, and are often able to

break through the defensiveness and resist-

ance that can sometimes exist between clients

reduce our clients isolation by providing friend-

ship and support; often teaching them life

of other services to the Society, and the quant-

ity of the service that they provide us is

skills or child management skills.

tutors to client children.

our drivers will exceed 12,000.

For instance, our case aides are able to help

In addition, our volunteers provide a variety

In an average month, 105 of our 135 vol-

unteers will work in 165 client centered assign-

ments, plus doing 250 drives. This represents

approximately 2,000 hours of work, which

would take at least 14 full time staff people to

Most of our volunteers wear more than one

Beside the tasks already mentioned, our vol-

unteers do work with mothers' and Children's

groups, home studies for both the adoption and

foster care departments, community educ-

ation, parental relief, and driving our clients to

hat; for example, many of our case aides also

work as volunteer brothers or sisters, or as

To our clients, the volunteers represent the

Your

Child

and social workers.

tremendous

As for the idea of "the hand of the artist" being involved in art, Mr. Bateman told the 200-odd people that international artists such as Vasarely and Dali and Warhol have all created art without even seeing

He said Vasarely sits in his high-rise office in Paris, picks up his phone, calls down to his technicians on another floor, tells the exact dimensions for a print, the number of cubes, the placement, the

#### Mountain Union W.I. Quilt blocks

On March 24, 1982, Mrs. Don Taylor welcomed the members of Mountain Union WI to their beautiful rural estate. The president, Marjorie Powys, thanked Hazel Bundy, Edna Waldie and Helen Jones for the attractive quilt blocks with their fine stitching. Reminders were given to Winnie Harbottle, Laura Dixon, Lillian Farlow, Anne Drew and Marjorie Powys attending the workshops on Home Repairs. Mrs. Anne Drew presented an inspiring motto.

Mrs. Anne Drew, reporting on citizenship and world affairs, discussed the unemployment situation in Canada and the importing of skilled trades. Mrs. Cora Wrigglesworth, education convenor, commented on the proposed closing of Campbellville School and the advantages and desirability of young children in the early grades attending community school. Ruth Taylor warned about the bank inspector scam which continues. Winnie Harbottle reported on safety and the unemployment commission and Marjorie Powys on the highlights of the district board meeting. A letter and donation from Velma Kennedy were received and her continuing loyalty much appreciated.

Mrs. May Bell, volunteer from Halton Women's Place told how the planning began in 1970 and the hostel opened in 1980. Since that time, it has been used by 195 women not counting almost 400 children. She explained that violence is learned-most men who abuse their wives and children grew up in a and abusive atmosphere. Helen Jones graciously thanked the speaker and presented her with a booklet of Laura Dixon's poems. Two of these same booklets are going to the Canadian Federated Women's Institutes meeting in Fredericton this

Edna Waldie and Marjorie served refreshments. The annual meeting will be held the evening of April



A recently completed introductory course on the Baha'i faith (held at Milton Public Library, March 17/24/31) attracted a good number of interested in-

dividuals each evening. The first evening Terry Spratt, a recent high school teacher and instructor on comparative religions, gave the audience an interesting look at the Baha'i faith's teachings and their relevance to today's world. Douglas Martin spoke the second evening on the dramatic history of this relatively new world faith (in its 137th year). The last evening hosted Dr. David Smith, who spoke about the very positive forces leading mankind to world unity. Tapes are available on all three talks on request from the spiritual assembly of the Baha is of Milton.

color-code number, etcetera; and the print is run. It was discovered that Dali has signed thousands of blank papers so that after his death more copies could be made of his work.

And of course, we all know that Reubens loved to attend parties while his stable of apprentices did the actual painting. Reubens signed his name when it

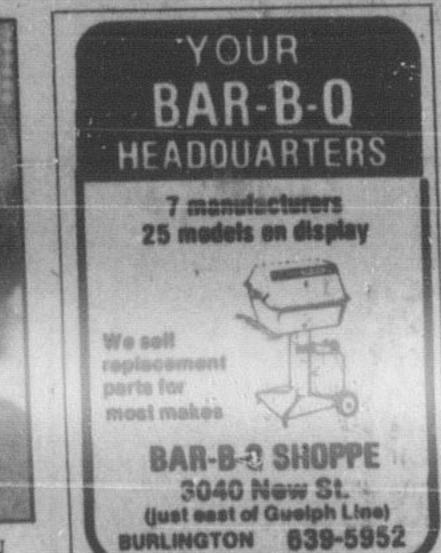
Warhol effected the ultimate in "hands-off" art,

when, as Mr. Bateman tells it, the artist ordered cartons of a certain size from a container company. He then had pictures of Brillo pads blown up to fit the oversized cartons, instructed them to be put on the boxes and shipped directly to the gallery in New York where the show was to be. He never saw them

first! A true story? Could be. The point he was making was that as long as it is the artist's idea, it doesn't matter.



ROBERT BATEMAN





It's still handy

Barry Stanley, second from left, of King St., Milton was the winner of a \$500 snow blower. The machine was the first prize in a contest sponsored by the Halton-Burlington Provincial Liberal Association recently. From left to right, Don Heath, director of finance, Mr. Stanley, Julian Reed, Halton MPP and Al Wilson, president of the association.

#### Tender changed

Regional councillors have taken away a tender award given to an Oakville auto dealer. last week approved awarding tender for a propanepowered pick-up truck to Georgetown Chrysler than McCallum-Wilson recommended by the administration finance committee.



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\$129 (twin acc.)

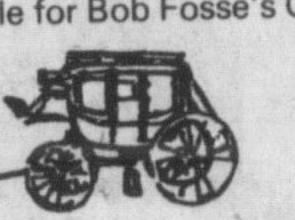
 return deluxe coach • tour of Hyland Park

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#### HELP SUPPORT TREES FOR CANADA

(MILTON BOY SCOUTS)

When a Scout, Cub or Venturer calls, give him your pledge. Your contribution will sponsor him on tree-planting day on May 1. At Sixteen Valley Conservation Area. About 6,000 young trees will be planted on your behalf to improve and conserve the ecology of our community and the future resources of our country. Each boy plants approximately 50

Notice: The Trees for Canada project is in addition to the Scouts' monthly paper drive, held the third Saturday morning of each month. please care enough to support us We care about our ecology . . . generously. Thank you.

#### Truckload Savings April 17 12 noon - 4 p.m.

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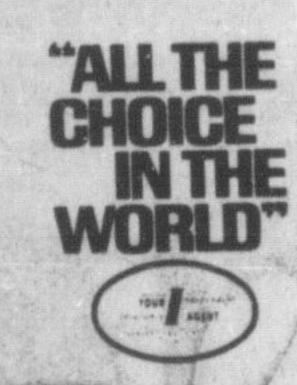
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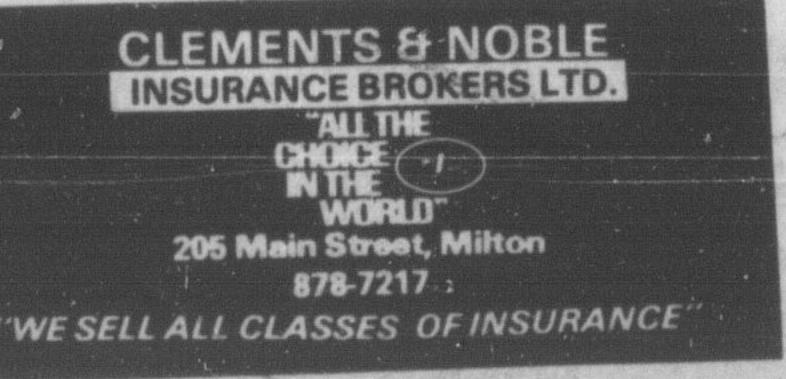
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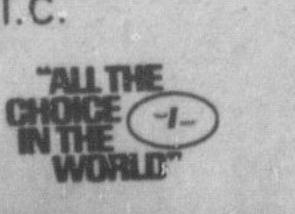
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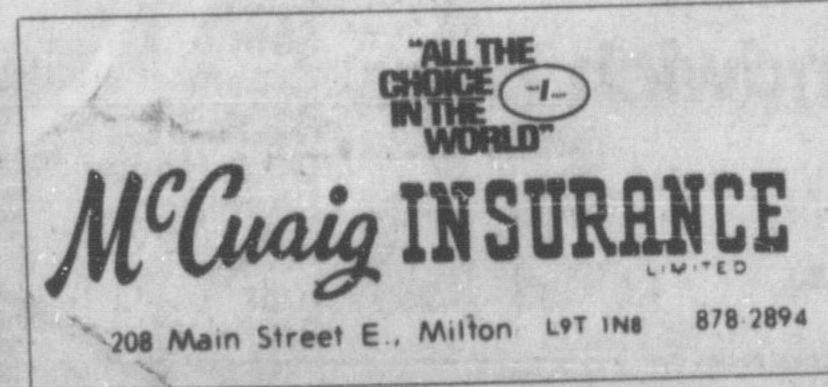




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