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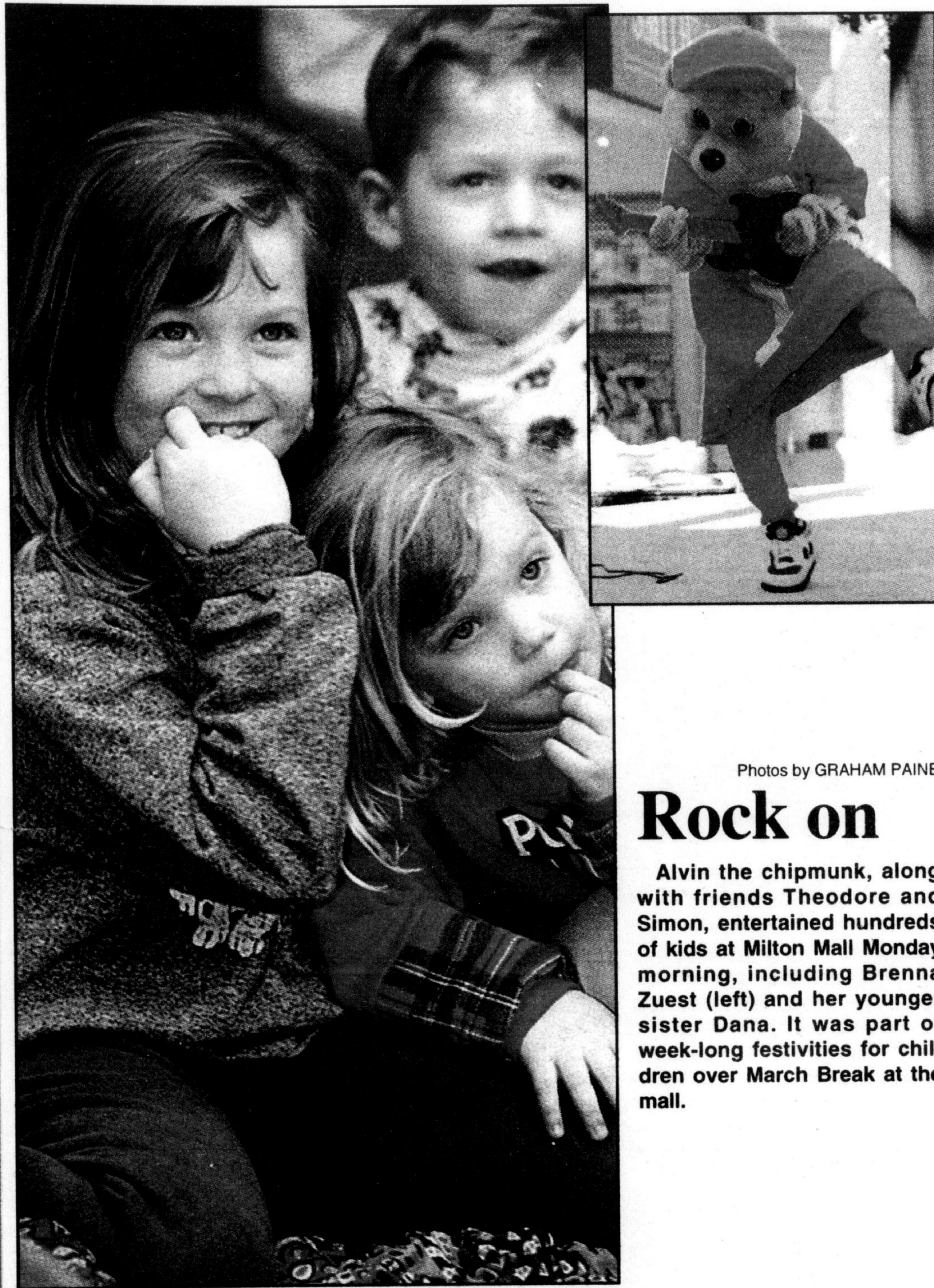
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Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Rock on

Alvin the chipmunk, along with friends Theodore and Simon, entertained hundreds of kids at Milton Mall Monday morning, including Brenna Zuest (left) and her younger sister Dana. It was part of week-long festivities for children over March Break at the mall.

What murder jury did not hear about

Repeated publication bans prevented the media from telling all in Fred Sheppard murder case

By **KAREN SMITH**
The Champion

A police assault and attempted cover-up that a jury never learned about turned the Fred Sheppard murder case into a long and drawn-out three-year affair.

Halton Regional Police's investigation into the shooting death of the 77-year-old Steeles Avenue man was coming along piece by piece, but started to crumble on April 7, 1995.

The prime suspect — Keith Madeley — was twice slapped during a videotaped interrogation on the day he was arrested.

The slaps were eventually shown to the public in open court — even broadcast on the evening news — but Madeley's identity was protected under a court-imposed publication ban to ensure a fair trial.

What the jury that convicted Madeley of first-degree-murder last week didn't know, was that the killer confessed to the murder shortly after he was assaulted and told police where he disposed of the weapon.

Madeley told Det. Murray Drinkwalter the location in the creek where he tossed the rifle and provided a detailed confession.

"We developed a very good rapport in there," Det. Drinkwalter testified at the

pre-trial motions. "He had no reason to fear me at that time."

Detective Doug Ford pleaded guilty to assaulting Madeley in June 1995 and the ordeal had begun to quiet down until a conversation between another police officer and an assistant Crown attorney revealed an attempted cover-up.

In March 1996, Detective John Stonehill, who was involved in the investigation, told assistant Crown attorney Katherine Livingstone-Pickett that officers discussed destroying the taped assault.

Ms Livingstone-Pickett relayed the information to prosecutors Laurie Jago and Amy Stevenson and later to Brian O'Marra, Halton's head Crown attorney.

Mr. O'Marra approached police Chief Peter Campbell and the decision was made to have Peel detectives conduct an independent investigation.

It was discovered that after the assault detectives Drinkwalter, Dale Stanton and Doug McMillan attended a morning meeting with Det. Sgt. Bob Waller, head of the major crime unit, and Inspector Les Graham. They threw around the idea of suppressing or altering the tape to cover-up the assault.

Later that afternoon, Det. Stonehill was invited into Inspector Graham's office and was told he (Insp. Graham) and Det. Sgt. Waller would support Det. Ford.

Det. Stonehill asked about the tape and Insp. Graham tapped the desk, indicating it was safe inside. The detective told the inspector it wouldn't work. Police ended up charging Det. Ford with assault.

As a result of the discussions to destroy the tape, Insp. Graham was charged with

• see **ROCKY** on page 8

Blitz help is needed

Volunteers are needed to help knock on Milton doors during the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal Blitz.

Brian Trussler of the organization asks volunteers to canvass 30 homes in their area on the first Monday in May.

The blitz for donations will be held May 4.

Proceeds will send needy children to camp, help unemployed people learn job skills, provide treatment for alcohol and drug abusers and put the developmentally challenged in a safe, comfortable growth environment, Mr. Trussler said.

To get involved, call 876-2420.

NEWSLINES

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Holli hits Memorial

North Halton rockers HOLLi and Drowning June will reunite for an all-ages show at Memorial Arena on Thompson Road tomorrow (Saturday) night.

They'll ignite the upstairs Lions Hall from 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. during a special athletic fund-raiser. Admission is \$10 per person.

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