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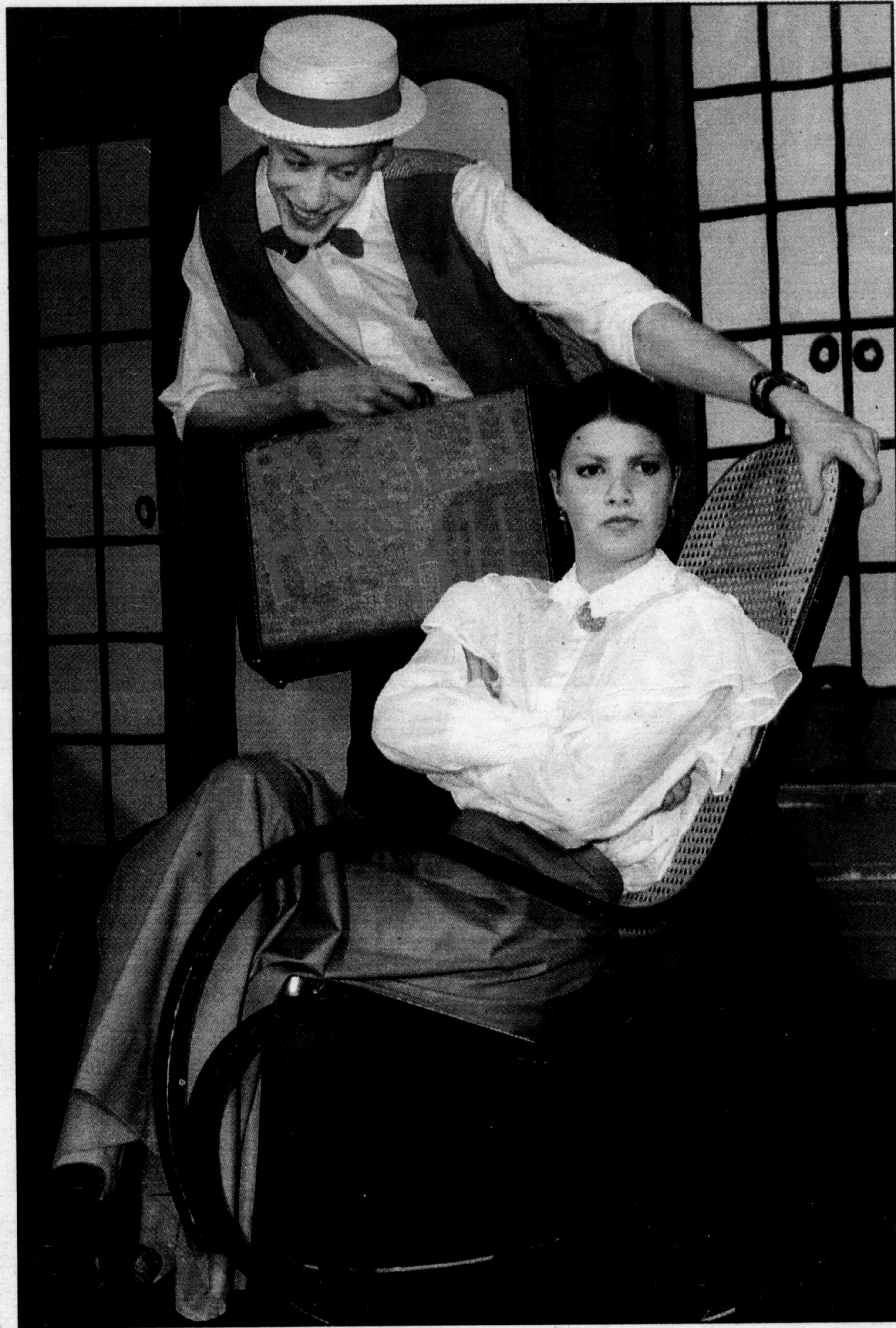


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

No sale

Sales/con man Harold Hill, played by Alex Douglas (left), finds it hard to impress his current victim in the Milton District High School production of the Music Man. His target is town librarian Marian Paroo, played by Katie Short. The play will be staged May 4 to 6 in the school theatre.

No truth to rumours about gaming tables

Despite daily newspaper reports, casino legislation hasn't changed, says MPP

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

Rumours have been flying faster than the horses at Mohawk Raceway lately.

But there has been no significant change to legislation governing the addition of gaming tables to race tracks currently housing slot machines.

Today, about 18 Ontario race tracks offer one-armed bandits.

Social assistance

Halton pays more than its share

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

Poverty has increased across Canada, according to a recently-released report by the Canadian Council on Social Development.

But though much of Halton was ranked the most prosperous of 47 studied Canadian municipalities, it's still paying its fair share of social assistance costs, said Halton Chair Joyce Savoline.

Aside from spending \$10 million annually to address Halton's social needs, another \$23 million is shipped out of the Region to aid the needy in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), she said.

"We recognize that poverty is an issue that affects us and our neighbours," said Ms Savoline. "For every dollar we spend on social services in Halton, we give more than \$2 to the GTA."

Locally-driven initiatives provided by the Region include child care subsidies, subsidized housing and emergency shelter support. It also helps supply special service costs such as dental, optical, funeral, travel and transportation costs, as well as

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And providing the community agrees to it through a referendum, there has always been an opportunity to expand them into full casinos.

A council resolution and business plan are also required.

The only difference is an administrative item amalgamating the Ontario Lottery Corporation and Casino Ontario into the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLGC).

In other words, it's largely a housekeeping issue.

"It doesn't change anything materially," said Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh.

Whispers of alterations to the legislation have reached Mayor Gord Krantz, but he has had trouble attaching any substance to them.

"I don't know if anything has changed," he said. "I don't think it has."

Under current regulations, a casino referendum can be initiated by either the OLGC or the Town.

And since the referendum must be tied to municipal elections, Milton voters could find the issue on their ballot as early as November.

So far, there hasn't been an effort to take that extra step. But if there were, Mr.

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