Student's speech on 'toast' wins first: speaking contest

By FANNIE SUNSHINE

The Champion

Public speaking is something Sarah Selmayer enjoys.

So it's no wonder the grade 8 student at Our Lady of Victory School won the Halton Catholic District School Board Regional Public Speaking Competition (North Division) earlier this month.

"I thought I had a chance (to win) as well as anyone else," she said. "I was representing my school and trying to do my best."

Sarah did her award-winning speech on toast, after remembering a reference a teacher had made to public speaking the previous year.

"She said it didn't matter what your topic was — it could even be toast — as long as it was interesting. I thought of what she said and decided to do it on that."

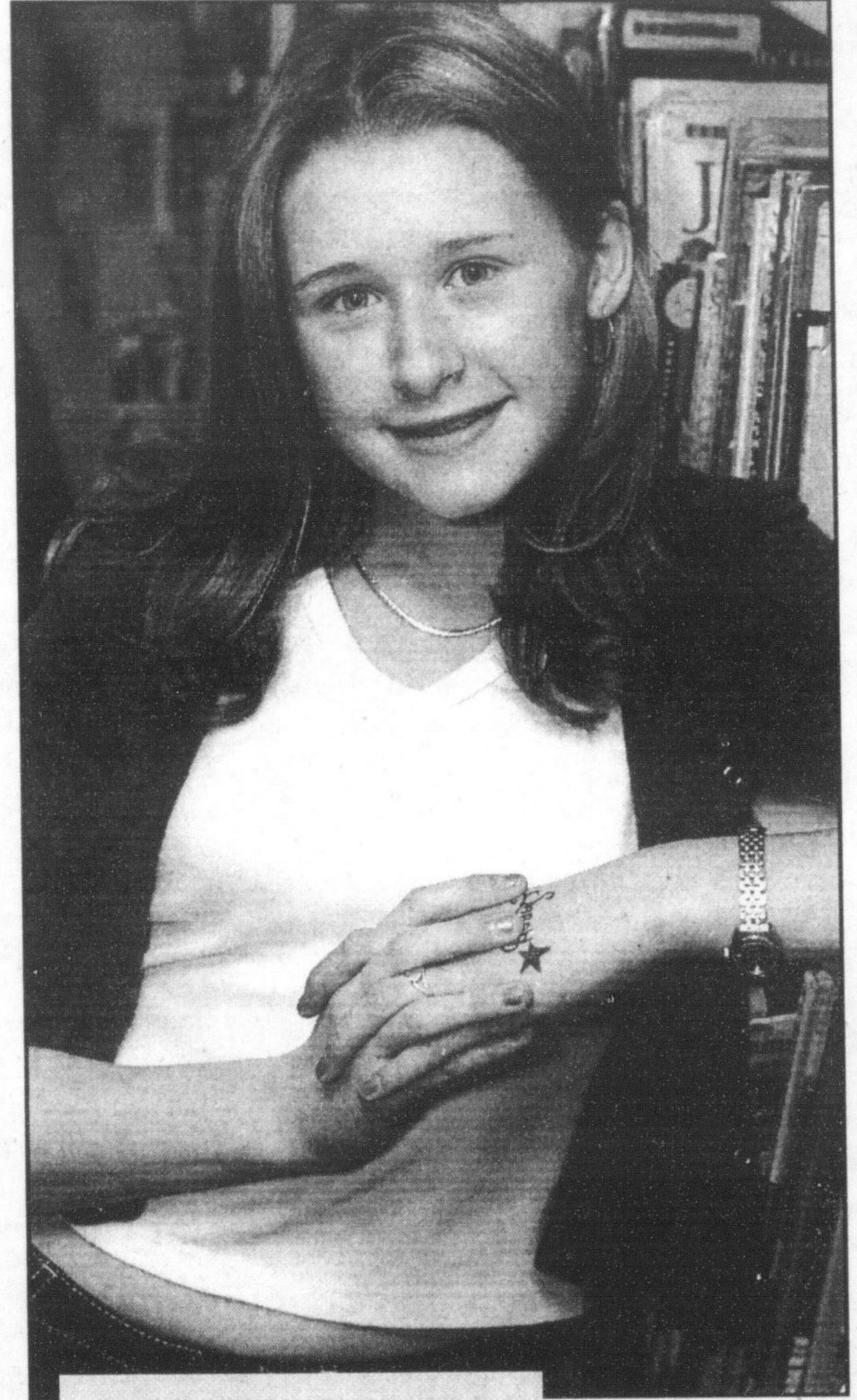
Throughout February, she researched her topic by Internet and encyclopedia and included in her speech the history of toast, the degrees to toast bread properly and the consequences of burnt toast.

"It's a humorous speech," said Sarah, admitting to feeling "a little shaky" toward the end of her speech. "I was really surprised a speech on toast could win. A lot of people did really good speeches."

Sonia Bien, principal Our Lady of Victory School, said she was pleased with the outcome of the competition.

"Last year a student from our school won as well," she said. "The speeches are part of the curriculum, the oral aspect of our communications study. Sarah has very good communication and articulation skills. I wasn't 100 per cent sure she would win but I knew she had a good chance."

Public speaking contests are held at the school and the top speakers from each grade 4 to grade 8 class compete against each other. The overall winner goes on to the regional public speaking competition.



Sarah Selmayer thought she could win the Halton Catholic District School Board's public speaking contest, and she was right.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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