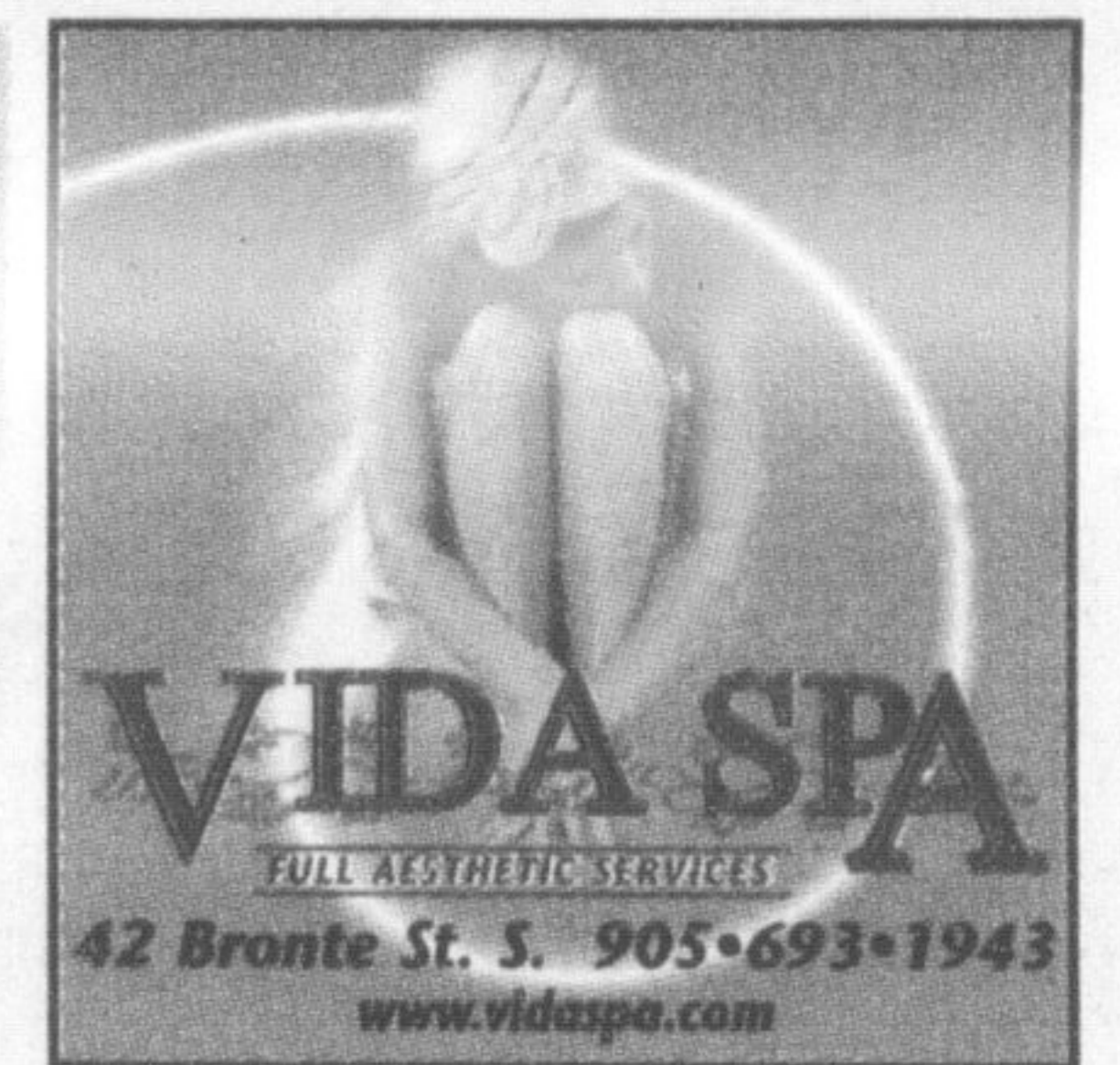


Arts & Entertainment



Seven-year-old plays young Trump in movie

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Seven-year-old Caleb Repchuk of Kilbride is a mature little boy in many respects.

When asked how he landed a role in an upcoming TV movie, he replied simply, "I postulated it," alluding to his Scientology-based beliefs.

But no matter how grown-up he may seem at first, he's still a little boy at heart — one whose most exciting moment during a recent day's work on a movie set came when he realized he had his own trailer. "It was so awesome for him," said his mom, Tracy. "He just loved it. He could've just hung out in the trailer (the whole time)."

Caleb's claim to fame is a short — but pivotal — role in a movie called *Ambition*, a film about the life of Donald Trump, set to air on ABC in September.

"It felt really good being in a movie," was what Caleb had to say.

The opening scene features a six-year-old Donald listening to his dad talk on the phone in his office. In the background stretches the New York skyline. As he listens, the boy builds two towers with letter blocks, one reading 'Donald' and the other 'Trump.'

"Already he's wrapping his head around real estate," Ms Repchuk explained.

Although the scene is just seconds long, it took a nine-hour day of taping to complete — hard work for a seven-year-old.

Never one to be shy, Caleb did fabulously, Ms Repchuk said. Although he's previously starred in a couple of commercials, this was Caleb's first movie role — an exciting event for the Repchuk family, known around Milton for their involvement in the arts community. Ms Repchuk is president of the Canadian Federation of Poets, and her husband, Dave, is president of the Fine Arts Society of Milton.

Getting the kids into acting was fairly easy, Ms Repchuk said. It's the ensuing commitment that hasn't been, particularly since either Mr. or Ms Repchuk has to be with the kids on the set for each audition or day of filming.

The dream of making it big is something both Caleb's sisters share, and the eight- and nine-year-old girls can't help but hope Caleb's big break will rub off on them, Ms Repchuk said, laughing.

The catalyst behind Caleb getting the role in *Ambition* was really his oldest sister, Kennedy. Ms Repchuk said Kennedy decided she wanted to be a famous actress and she, along with her sister, Celeste, joined a drama club. At that point, Caleb had no interest in joining his sisters, his mom said, and decided swimming lessons were more up his alley.

But while tagging along with his sisters at an acting symposium in Burlington, Caleb was noticed.

"As I was signing up the two girls, an agent looks at Caleb and says, 'He's got the look casting agents are going for.'"

The agency took on all three Repchuk kids, and so far they've each done a couple of American commercials.

Caleb's parents are doing everything in their power to make sure their limelight-loving trio makes the most of all the opportunities available to them, Ms Repchuk said.

She's not kidding. In June, the family is set to leave the Milton area, to move to the Beaches district in Toronto where they'll be closer to TV studios for those all-important auditions. Driving back and forth from Kilbride can be draining, Ms Repchuk said, adding she's fortunate to be self-employed so her schedule's flexible.

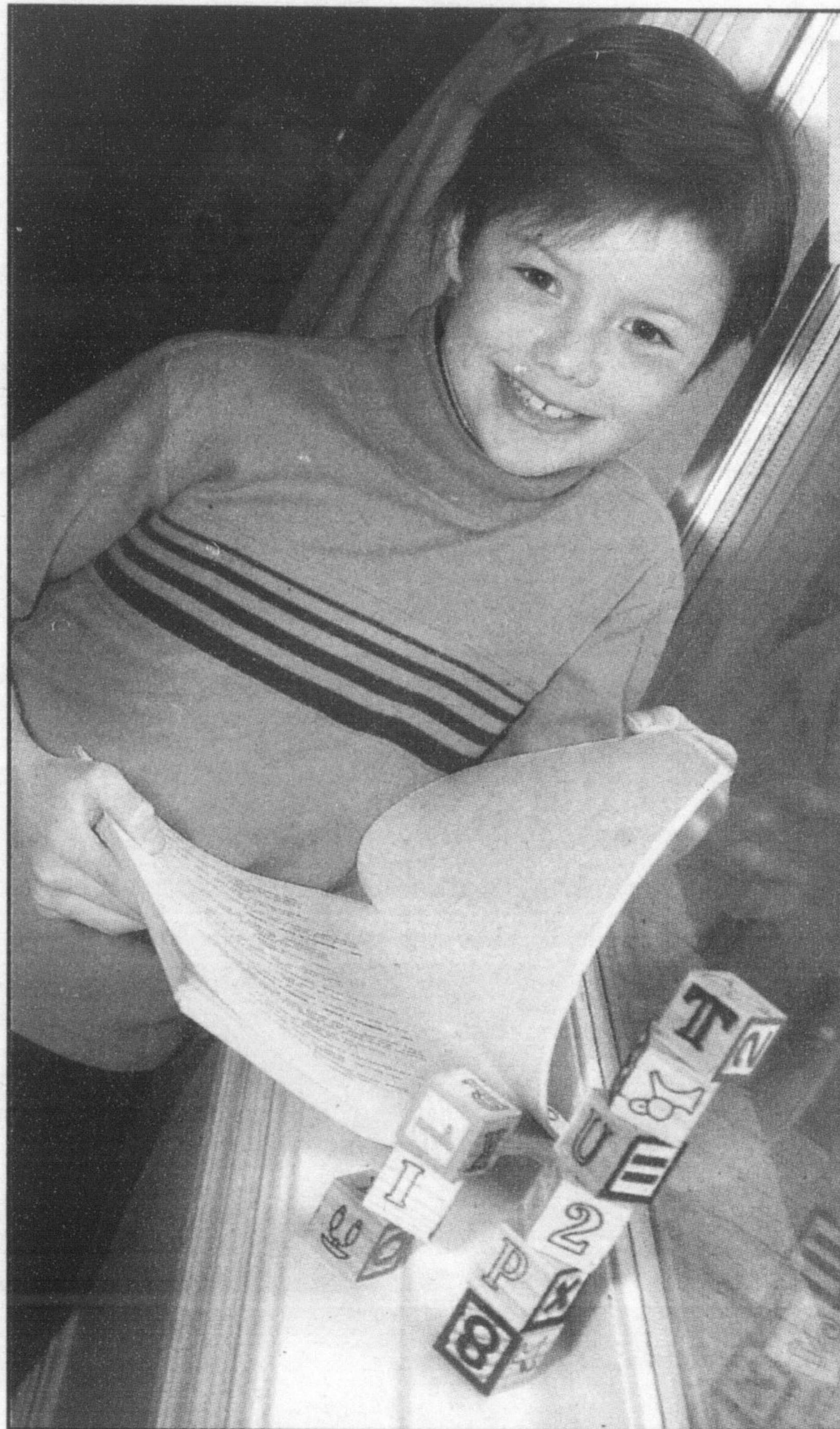
Eventually, Ms Repchuk said, the family will probably re-locate to Los Angeles, the movie hub of North America.

"If you'd have said a year ago that we'd leave our 16-acre home, I'd have said 'No way.' But when they (the kids) started, the opportunities kept coming and we felt it was right to move," she said.

It's going to be hard on the entire family, she said, but it's something they feel they need to do.

"We're done what we needed to do here and it's been wonderful. But all of a sudden we felt that this part of the journey's over, and it's time to move to a different level."

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Caleb Repchuk shows the script and building blocks from a made-for-TV movie about Donald Trump.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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