

Police not pleased with car seat spot check results

A3 • Tuesday, May 4, 2010 MILTON CHAMPION • www.miltoncanadianchampion.com



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Halton Regional Police auxiliary officer Tauqeer Hassan shows Becky Tougas how snug the car seat restraints should be on daughter Keziah, 3.

The results are in from Halton police's first car seat spot check of the year, and they aren't good.

Police said 53 per cent of the child seats they inspected — or 96 out of 186 — failed.

"This was better than last year's failure rate of 79 per cent, but still not acceptable," said Sgt. Meg Williams.

Fifteen drivers had to leave the inspection area to obtain new seats at home or purchase one at a store.

Problems found included seats installed incorrectly, children not being in the proper seats, tether straps being used as the only connection to the vehicle and shoulder straps so loose the child could be dislodged in a crash.

The spot check was held April 24 at the

Milton GO station and was organized by Halton Regional Police with representatives from Halton Partners for Car Seat Safety, which includes health services, Halton EMS, Milton Fire Department and the OPP, as well as volunteers from the Communities on Phone Patrol.

Vehicles were selected to enter the spot check program if they had a child in a car seat. Inspectors performed six-point checks on the car seats, and if parents received a perfect score they were on their way. If one component of the inspection received a failing grade, a full inspection was done.

The Optimist Club of Milton supported the event by hosting a barbecue, with proceeds going to purchase new child car seats for needy families.

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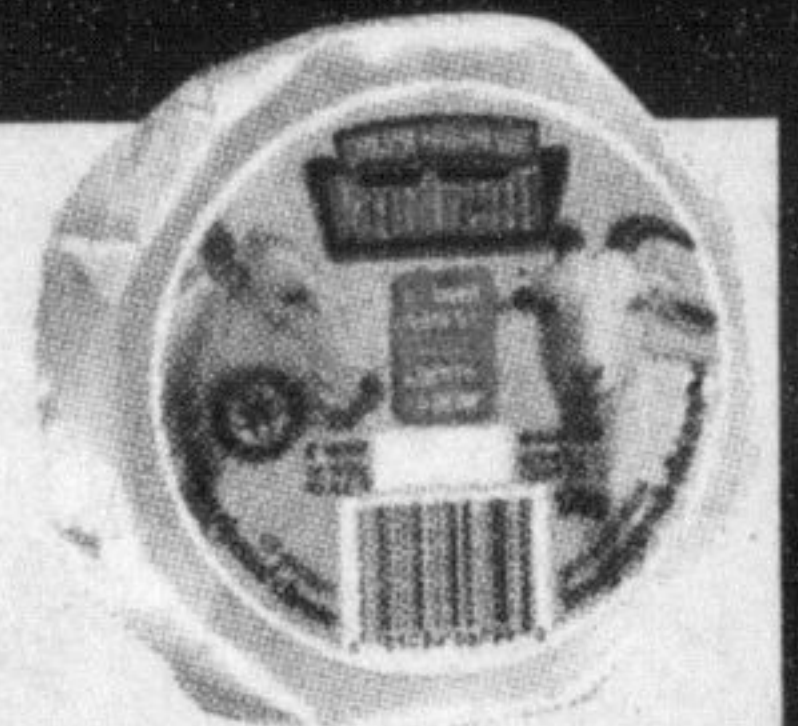
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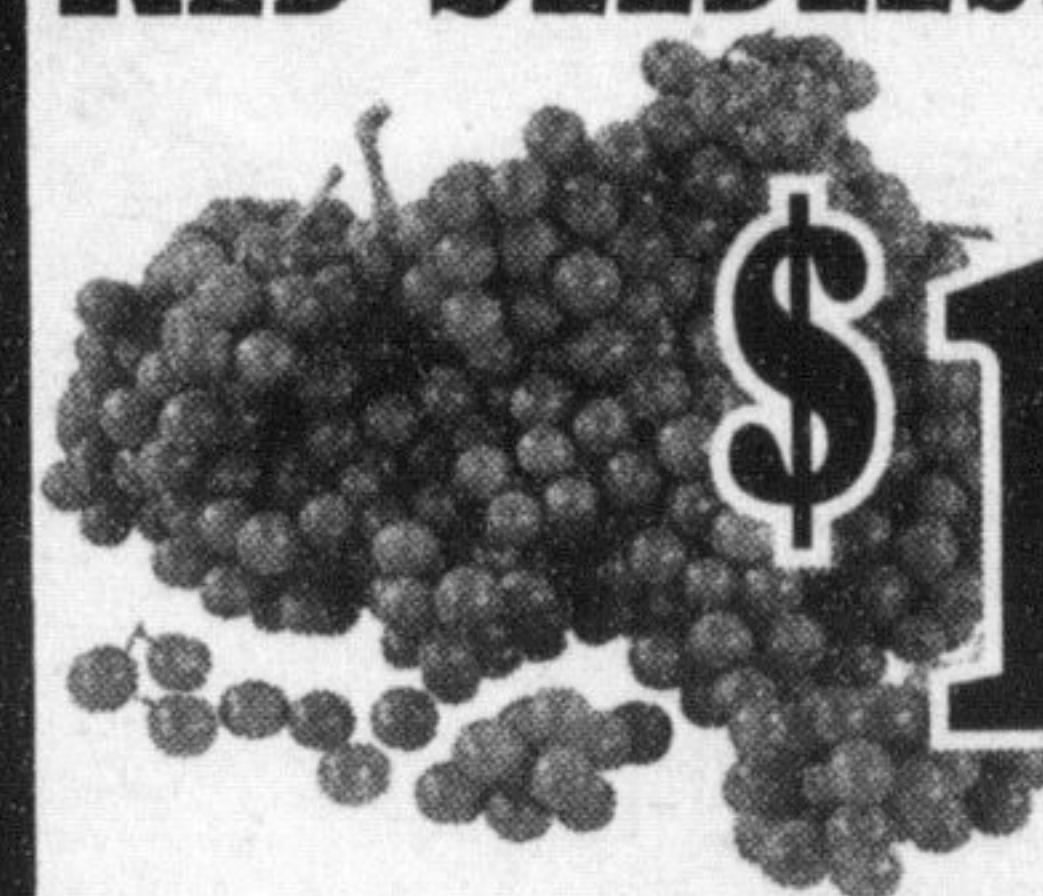
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