

CURE optimistic over board's response to sex-ed concerns

By KATHY YANCHUS
Special to The Champion

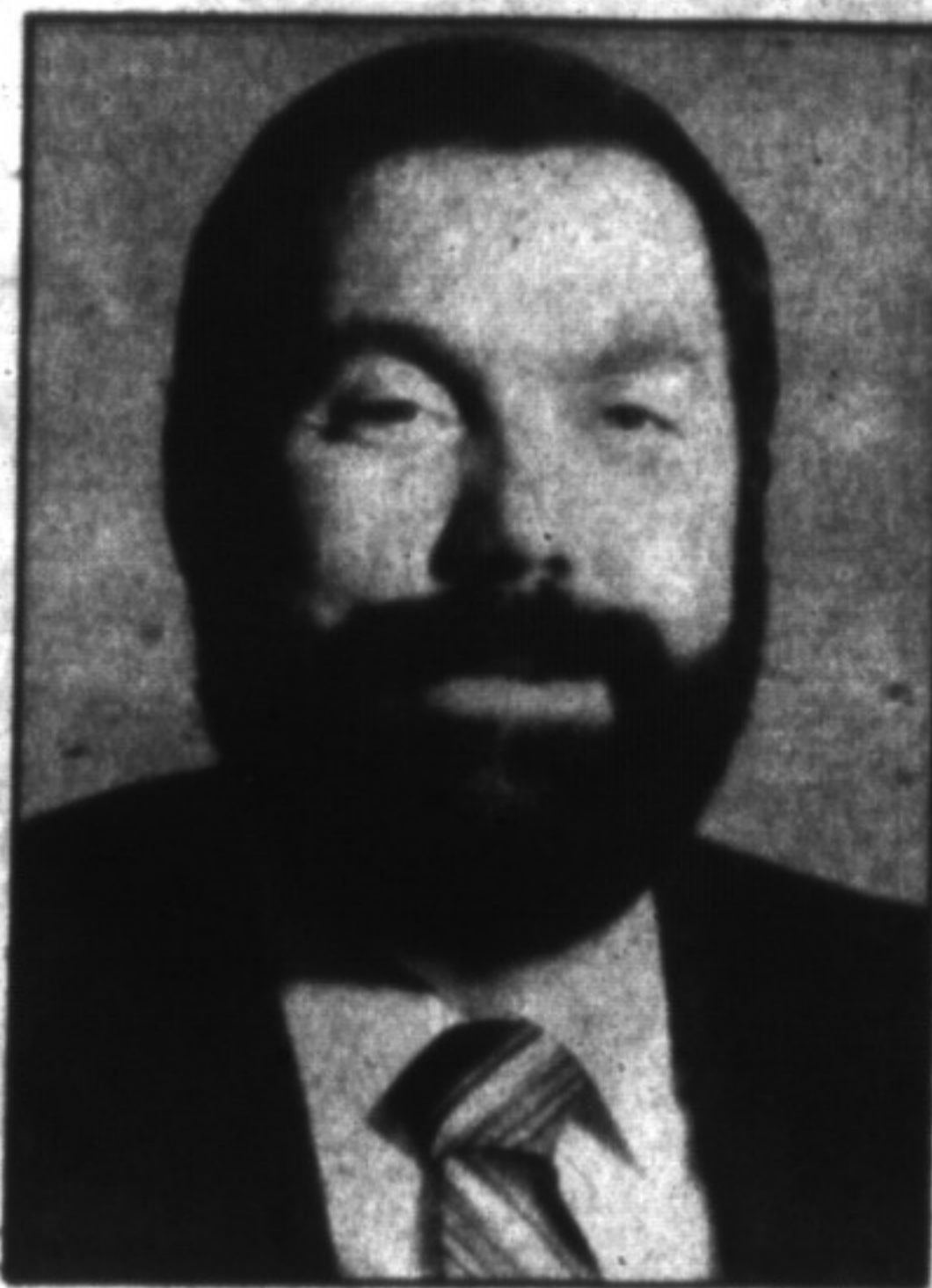
There is "a little open door" believes Ilse Folkens.

Ms Folkens, spokesperson for CURE Halton (Citizens United for Responsible Education), was pleased the Halton Board of Education listened to concerns expressed by the group at a public forum recently concerning a proposed new human sexuality curriculum. Wanting to keep the lines of communication open, CURE sent a letter to the board outlining their hope the two sides could iron out their differences.

"We don't want to be this nasty, aggressive group," said Ms Folkens.

In response to CURE's letter, board chair Dave Whiting issued a release at a recent board meeting which stated that staff would "review all public input, make recommendations for appropriate curriculum modifications to the writing team and provide trustees, CURE Halton and other interested parents with a summary of our response as a result of the input received, by February 28."

The board administration decided to review the curriculum after the public forum, at which a standing-room-only group of parents voiced their concern that Halton's human sexuality curriculum was moving



Dave Whiting

towards Toronto's — which teaches an awareness of homosexuality as a lifestyle choice.

They have agreed there are a couple of points they can "re-visit" and "re-do", said Mr. Whiting, such as isolating the teacher material from the student material for the parents' benefit. Teacher material, which includes more in-depth information giving them the ability to answer questions that arise, was previously intermingled with student material, explained Mr. Whiting.

Mr. Whiting also said staff agreed they could make chastity a stronger

alternative, something Ms Folkens would like to see.

"It's not a perfect curriculum and that's why it's always being revised," added Mr. Whiting. The bottom line, he said, is any parent not pleased with the curriculum can withdraw their child from the class.

As a parent himself, Mr. Whiting said he wants his children to receive the information because no matter what the home guidelines are, once kids "get outside" they are open to peer pressure.

Mr. Whiting said staff requested some time to make modifications and he did not want parents to think their concerns were being ignored.

Anyone wanting to contact CURE can do so by calling Ms Folkens at 335-0072 or writing: CURE Halton, P.O. Box 85323, Brant Plaza Postal Outlet, Burlington L7R 4K4.

Correction

Incorrect information was supplied to *The Champion* regarding the screening of local history films at Hugh Foster Hall.

In an article published Friday, Feb. 11 it was indicated the films would be shown on Thursday, Feb. 24. In reality, Friends of the Halton Region Museum presented the films in January. The group regrets the error.

Eating disorders among women

from EATING on page 4
more suffer related symptoms.

While 95 per cent of those with eating disorders are women, more men are developing the problem, Ms Fodor says, due to increased emphasis in the media on a thin and muscular male body.

Through her Campbellville-based Wellness Centre, Ms Fodor promotes size acceptance and encourages people to get beyond appearance, putting their energies into more empowering alternatives.

The counsellor is a former victim

of eating disorders herself and has developed a program to help people overcome them. She knows they won't go away without experienced help.

If you need help, contact the National Eating Disorder Information Centre at (416) 340-4156 or the Wellness Centre at (905) 854-2390.

February 1-7 was National Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

Rain forest puppet show

Travel to a tropical rain forest as the Join Hands Puppeteers present "The Magic Drum" on Sunday, Feb. 27 thanks to the efforts of Milton Performing Arts for Children.

You will meet a collection of strange animals such as the sloth, toucan and squirrel-monkey.

The performance is at Milton Baptist Church at 2:30 p.m. A few tickets are still available by calling Pam Smith at 878-3146.

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