Sex-ed concerns fail to spark board action

By KATHY YANCHUS Special to The Champion

It's a waiting game for opponents. of the Halton Board of Education's

INSECT CONTROL

tural sources. Plant derivatives such as pyrethrum (from flowers of

Chrysanthemum), rotenone (from roots of legumes), and nicotine have

been used for centuries. Materials such as soap suds, turpentine, petro-

leum, fish oils, lime, sulphur, vinegar, pepper, tobacco and wood ashes

were also used. In the 20th century there have been many changes to

insect control products. New science has replaced some of the older,

more hazardous insecticides. Current products are designed to control

specific insect problems. The new technology often controls insects the

same way as before, however, the products behave in a positive way

with the environment. The bottom line with any insect control product

is using it according to the instructions on the label, the timing of the

Weed Man

application and positive insect identification.

342 Bronte St. S. Milton

Early turf managers borrowed insect control measure from agricul-

grade 9 Healthy Sexuality curricu-

Concerned parents, students, teachers and special interest parties have voiced their reservations about the

explicit nature of some of the material and their feelings that emphasis on abstinence is lacking.

They did so again at last week's board meeting, but as it stands now nothing has changed since a special board meeting on the subject earlier last week, and the curriculum will continue to be taught in grade 9 classrooms this fall. (Two thousand students have already studied the curriculum)

Notices of motion from Burlington trustee Noel Cooper and Oakville trustee Cheryl Reid were submitted requesting revisions and abstinence emphasis, but these can't be voted on until the next board meeting. While the next board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 8, the board might conduct a meeting in August to wrap up unfinished business.

Superintendent of Instructional Services Graeme Barrett said emphatically Saturday night he has no intention of revising the curriculum and that staff certainly would not be available during the summer to do so.

Mr. Cooper's motion specifically requested inclusion of a one-hour segment devoted to the "virtues of abstinence" and elimination of the game board and question section, replacing it with expanded information on the risks of becoming sexual-

The public is not getting the truth. It's is being slanted. It is being bent.

> *************** John Teklenburg

(Cards for the game board include questions such as: Out of every 10 women, how many would you estimate have masturbated either as children or after they were grown up? What do you think is the length of the average man's erect penis? The female has three sets of lips ... which lips are the most sensitive to sexual stimulation?)

"I believe that the issue of a more abstinence-oriented program coupled with the deletion of some of the more explicit areas of this document, will offer a compromise to both sides in this debate while still maintaining an extremely useful and informative course of study for our students," said Mr. Cooper.

Ms Reid's motions called for reviewing and modifying the information on birth control to include possible side effects; eliminating the arousal material in the condom section and withdrawing the reference to the purchase of condoms being simi-

lar to the buying of jeans.

Burlington trustee Anne Barbu's attempt to have the board rules waived and Mr. Cooper's motion voted on immediately was defeated, but by a slim margin which gives CURE (Citizens United for Responsible Education) spokesperson John Teklenburg hope.

"I'm optimistic that the public will, through the trustees, win this issue," said Mr. Teklenburg, who took strong exception to Oakville trustee Penny Siebert's comment that CURE didn't speak for Halton parents.

Mr. Teklenburg, who believes his group is being unfairly labelled fundamentalists or a bunch of Victorian prudes, said he is not against giving students pertinent information on how to protect themselves if they engage in sexual activity. CURE simply wants more emphasis on abstinence as an alternative, he said.

"The public is not getting the truth. It is being slanted. It is being bent,"

In his presentation to the board Thursday night, Mr. Teklenburg waved a copy of the Durham Board of Education's Postponing Sexual Involvement teacher resource, which states that abstinence is a mandatory topic and relevant for discussion by students from grade 7 to grade 12.

Mr. Teklenburg said his group will be "on alert" for the next meeting and "the ones responsible will be held accountable."

Ms Barbu's motion supporting information sessions for parents at every high school prior to the curriculum being taught, was carried.

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