

Specific issues concern Birchwood staff

The non-management employees of Birchwood Terrace seniors' home are frustrated with the continued stonewalling on the part of the management regarding discussions on the method of recent cutbacks at the home.

The position of the employees, as reported in the News last week, was stated in a press release issued by Gregg Cancade, a lawyer representing the employees.

Michael Yakamovich, administrator of Thunder Bay District Homes for the Aged, had no comment to make regarding the press release when contacted by the News this week.

A declining number of residents at Birchwood has forced administration to make cuts in staffing effective, May 18.

The employees have several issues they would like to discuss at a meeting of the Labor-Management Committee concerning the reorganization caused by the cutbacks.

As of press time the management have refused the employees request to convene this committee.

Some of the concerns of Birchwood staff, as outlined in the press release, are:

* Positions with as little as two hours a week and 5.5 hours a week have been awarded to some staff. Birchwood employees have said these individuals were told if they did not accept these positions it would be reported to the Unemployment Insurance Commission that these workers refused work.

The employees understood this to mean their right to unemployment insurance benefits would somehow be jeopardized.

* Drastic changes in job descriptions have occurred, especially in the housekeeping department. Housekeepers are now classified as cleaners which is not the position for which they were hired. They will now be expected to shovel snow, sweep the parking lot and perform other maintenance duties.

* Seniority is based on hours worked, not on date of hire. In this way it is possible for someone with 10 years experience to accumulate more seniority than a person with 15 years of service.

* Employees with more seniority and no qualifications have been allowed to bump others and train in another department. However, as the

employees understand it, in the future they would have to be qualified to do this.

Staff members are very confused by conflicting statements from administrative staff.

One staff member was told by an administrator she could not bump into another position because her hours had not been affected by the cuts.

Another administrator later told her she could have bumped into that position but the deadline had passed.

Another staff member was told by an administrator that her position was fairly secure because someone else would have to have her qualifications in order to bump her.

Another administrator later stated the position in question was open for bumping as long as the person who wanted the job had more seniority

*After the cutbacks are implemented, the boiler system will be unattended for several hours each day with only one Registered Nursing Assistant and one cook on duty in the building.

The employees are concerned that these changes will effect the safety and welfare of the residents of Birchwood Terrace.

Carolyn's Critique



Repossessed: Starring Linda Blair & Leslie Nielson
Rating : 0 poor.....10 excellent

Do you remember Airplane or Naked Gun? Well here's another chance to watch a spoof movie. This time the joke's on possession movies (and especially on "The Exorcist"). As with all great spoof movies, sight gags and gross jokes abound.

Linda Blair is back as Nancy Aglet. She was possessed by the devil 1973. Father Mayii (Leslie Neilson) drove the demon out. Now it is 17 years later and Satan is making a return performance.

Nancy learns another meaning of "the power of television" when the devil leaps out of the T.V. and into her. She quickly realizes what is wrong. After all, it's not every day that you twist your head around backwards and vomit on your family. She goes to see her doctor, but he can't help her.

In desperation, Nancy goes to a church called "Our Lady of the Evening" and leaves a note to see the priest. Father Brophy (Anthony Starrke) is young, inexperienced, and doubting his faith. He doesn't believe her, but sees her in full demonic possession and realizes he can't help her, so he goes to see Father Mayii at the retirement home to beg for his help. The old priest has a weak heart and doesn't believe he is up to the task. He convinces Father Brophy that he can do it alone.

Father Brophy goes to the Church Council for help. They let Ernest (Ned Beatty) and Fanny (Lanna Schwab) Weller, a pair of overdressed, phony as a 2 dollar bill, T.V. Evangelists, talk them into televising the exorcism.

What happens next is a howl. The devil thinks it's all a great joke and plays the game until he hears that the show has the largest viewing audience in history. This is what he's been waiting for. He wants to possess everyone through their T.V.s.

The poor world. What can Father Brophy do? Will everyone succumb to the power of Satan? The answers to these and other powerful questions can be found in the movie.

The best part of the movie, for me, are the sight gags. I've always been a sucker for these because they are fast and in the background. If you get it and like it - great! If not - that's fine too because that won't take away from the movie.

I'll give you an example. When Nancy goes to see Dr. Hackett he tells her she probably has the flu. He just got 2 cases in that day. Meanwhile, in the background, you see a delivery boy carrying 2 big boxes marked FLU. Get it - 2 new cases?

I totally enjoyed this movie (except for the vomit part) and give it a 10. The only note of concern is to not let very young children see it as they may be frightened.

MINNOVA Inc.



Minnova Employee Recognized by Peers

Ken Benoit, Mill Operator at Winston Lake since 1988, was recently nominated by his friends and co-workers for an Employee Recognition Award. Ken was recognized for his achievements in the category of Safety/Health and Environment.

Ken Benoit has proven himself to be an excellent Mill Operator/Relief Operating Supervisor and has willingly taken on the responsibilities of Surface Fire Brigade Chief. In this capacity he has exerted much time and effort to develop and establish a fire prevention program. Ken has also conducted emergency response training for surface employees. Without Ken's hard work and dedication, Minnova would not have the sound footing in fire safety it now does.

Ken was presented with his award by First Aid/Security Attendant Wendy Friedrich on March 26th at Minnova's Total Team Meeting held in the Schreiber Legion Hall.

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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TERRACE BAY

SPRING CLEAN-UP 1991

The week of May 6 to 10, 1991 will be "SPRING CLEAN-UP WEEK" in Terrace Bay.

- Residents are asked to place their rubbish close to the roadside, in proper containers where possible, to permit easy access for loading.
- Owners of old cars on residential property who wish to dispose of same should contact the Public Works Department at:

825-9016
R.Mikkonen
Township Engineer