

Ten years service

BALLANTRAE—Ten years! That's how long the Ballantrae and District Lions Club's been serving the community. To celebrate this decade of service, members are organizing a Charter Night and Dance, Sat., April 16 at Cedar Beach, Musselman's Lake. For tickets, (\$30 a couple), call Al Saunders at 640-6206.

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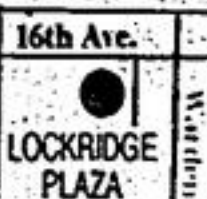
STUFFVILLE — It was only a baby, and a small one. Just a 2-year-old, but it was mine. I had a special place for it in my heart. I had a special place for it in my home. I had a special place for it in my life. I had a special place for it in my soul. I had a special place for it in my heart. I had a special place for it in my home. I had a special place for it in my life. I had a special place for it in my soul. I had a special place for it in my heart. I had a special place for it in my home. I had a special place for it in my life. I had a special place for it in my soul.

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Editor's Mail

Homosexual ministers?

Dear Editor:

Until I read your recent editorial on the proposed ordination of gays and lesbians by the United Church of Canada, I thought I'd heard all the reasons why these people should not be ordained.

I give you points for ingenuity for your reason.

You state that a homosexual minister could not give marital counselling to a couple from the congregation because homosexuals could not counsel heterosexuals.

I do not consider myself an expert on counselling as my training and expertise is limited. However, I do know some of the requirements for a successful counsellor.

She or he must be able to show empathy; be an 'active' listener; have a sincere liking for people and be non-judgmental; (which does not mean you need alter your own values or morals).

To my knowledge, no text book mentions one's sex or sexual preference as having any bearing on the above requirements.

In marriage counselling, the counsellor needs to have a clear understanding of what constitutes a meaningful relationship. Gays and heterosexuals can equally have or not have this knowledge.

Marriage counselling often centres around improving com-

munication within the couple's relationship. Improving the technical of communication is often crucial as well in family counselling. One's sexuality does not enter into this aspect of counselling.

As for counselling concerning the 'mechanics' of sex, I believe few ministers, (or physicians for that matter), are well qualified in this specialized area. Any good counsellor will seek a referral for his client(s) if he feels unqualified in specific areas.

Catholic priests take a vow of celibacy. Some protestant ministers, male and female, are single. Should they too be barred from ordination because they have not had any personal experience in marriage or marital sex, (and might never have).

Another individual ordinarant may be the world's worst business person. He does he counsel those who come for help to sort out their financial mess?

Each individual has his/her weak areas in counselling.

Who counsels the gays and lesbians in a congregation led by the typical heterosexual minister?

Is it also true that a heterosexual cannot counsel a homosexual?

A congregation that says "we have no gays" is either naive or the atmosphere within the congregation is such that any prospective member seeks a more receptive church.

We heterosexuals have been great in saying we are liberal towards an individual's sexuality "but do not teach my children live in my apartment building; sit in my Parliament; serve in my army, police force or my church."

I've had the privilege the past few years of knowing a man who is one of the most understanding, compassionate, individuals I've ever met. He has devoted his life to counselling, both in the field and as an instructor. He happens to be gay. If I needed counselling to-morrow, I know whose number I'd be dialing.

Sincerely,
Don Hope,
R.R. 3, Claremont

Last chance

STOUFFVILLE — The final registration date for 1988 Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club registration is Saturday, April 16 at the Rec. Centre.

Registration times are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The House League is for boys and girls born in 1982 or before.

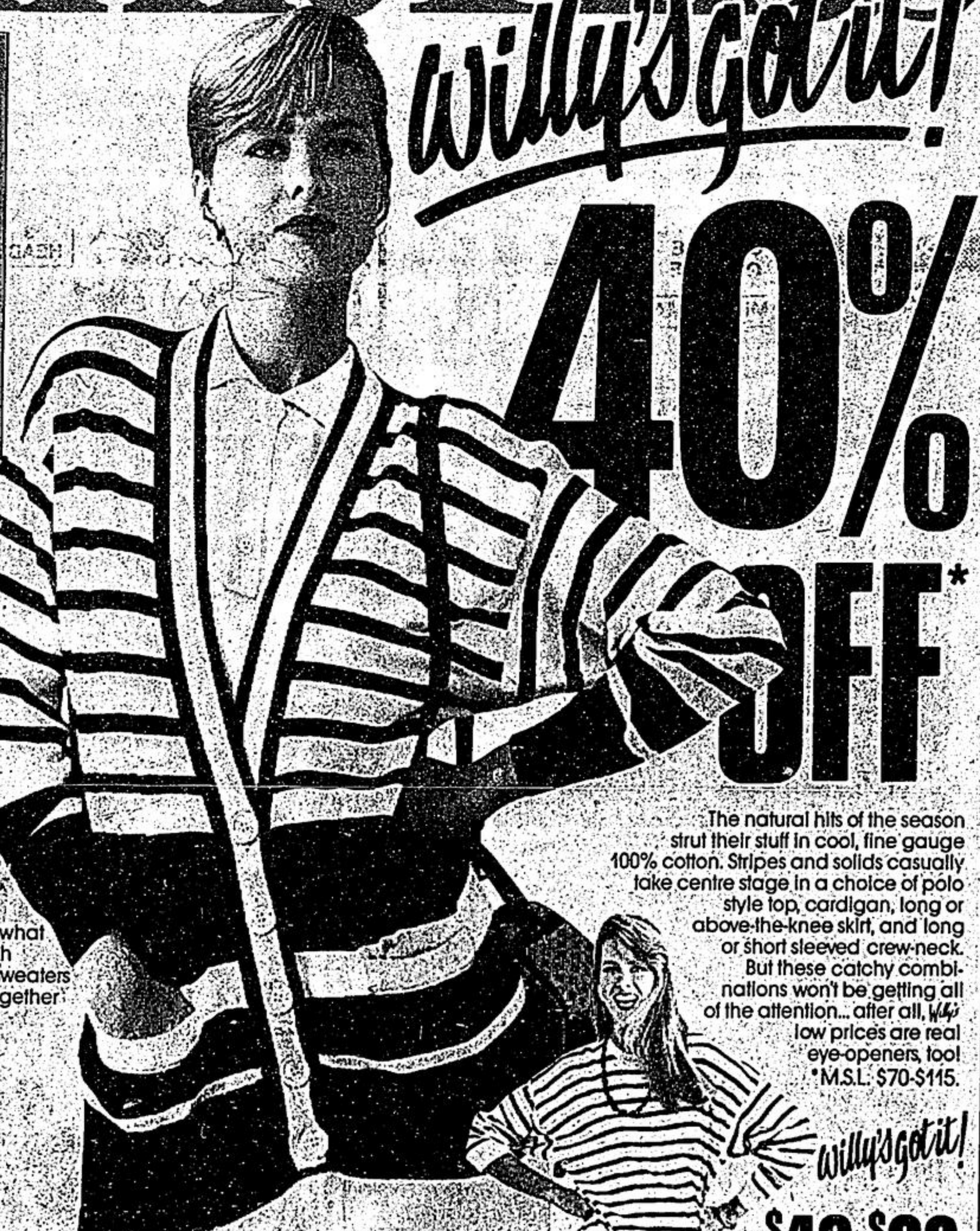
Loses sister

Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Tat Aida, Parkview Village, Stouffville, in the passing of her sister, Mrs. Nan Lyon at Victoria, British Columbia.

Mrs. Aida was pleased to visit her sister during a trip West last summer.

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