

REPORTER TAKES A STAB

Giving blood for first time not so scary

Page 4

COMFORT
Oshawa likes its Impala
Wheels Pullout

[Briefly]

Naturalists go birding

PICKERING — The Pickering Naturalists go birding along the Toronto waterfront Saturday, March 11.

Those interested in attending should meet John Stirrat at 9 a.m. at the southwest corner of the Pickering GO Station parking lot.

Participants are asked to bring binoculars, a scope, bird books, and a bag lunch.

The plan is to drive out to the Humber Bay East Park in Etobicoke and then work back east along the Toronto waterfront. Participants can expect to see many ducks and gulls.

For more information, call 416-284-7724.

Combat crime, help camp

PICKERING — A local support centre is helping to combat crime through a fundraising event March 4.

VV's Adult Support Centre Corporation is holding a Crime Prevention Fundraising Event to raise money for its annual summer day camp program. The vision of that program, and a proposed after-school program, is to prevent crime in the community by engaging youth in activities that develop teamwork skills, academic excellence, career exploration and enjoyment of sports and arts.

The event is Saturday, March 4 at 7 p.m. at the Gathering Place, 1920 Bayly St., in Pickering. It is partly entertainment and partly informational; local artists are going to perform and there will also be church leaders, politicians and local business people.

Anyone interested can support this endeavour by purchasing a ticket for \$20, or by sponsoring one or more young people from low-income families to attend the summer camp.

For more information or tickets, call 905-426-4557.

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Pickering teen plucks friend from frigid water

Boy 'saves friend's life

By Erin Hatfield
Staff Writer

PICKERING — A day off school nearly ended in tragedy for a Pickering youth. But instead he has found renewed friendship and a lifetime of thanks.

David Collins, 11, had the day off from Grade 6 classes at Holy Re-

deemer Catholic School on Feb. 17.

He and a friend of seven years, 13-year-old neighbour Cory MacLean, decided to go skating and have a game of pickup hockey at a local pond off Altona Road and Finch Avenue in Pickering.

"I wasn't too sure about letting him go because the weather was bad, raining then freezing," said David's mother, Carmen Campa.

But David persisted and Ms.

Campa gave in.

The boys went to the pond with an adult and decided to walk on the ice in their shoes before strapping their skates on.

They were walking across the ice when David said he stepped on a soft spot and fell through.

The freezing water surrounded him for what David recalls was about

♦ See Boys, Page 2

Pickering always looking for partnerships; has several big projects on the go

By Keith Gilligan
Staff Writer

DURHAM — Local businesses needing help can turn to Pickering and Ajax.

That was the message this week during the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade's

annual mayors' address.

Pickering Mayor Dave Ryan spoke about the "value of partnerships," noting the City has forged partnerships with the Board of Trade.

Meanwhile, Ajax Mayor Steve Parish noted the Town wants to assist where necessary.

"We value your lobbying and helping us to get where we need to be."

"If there's a problem, a way to grow your business or cut through bureaucracy, we are here to help you," he said.

Held at Annandale Golf and Curling Club on Wednesday, the event attracted about 100 people.

The annual event is a chance for the mayors to highlight achievements in their respective communities and look ahead.

Mayor Ryan pointed to the 500 new jobs created with the opening of the Ontario Power Generation offices at Brock and Clements roads.

Also, 750 jobs were created with the opening of the Harmony Logistics facil-

ity at Church and Bayly streets.

"It's important to me, as mayor, that we create new jobs," he said, noting that means fewer people have to travel into Toronto to work.

"Growth is fundamental to every growing community," said Mayor Ryan.

More importantly, a community needs "sustainable growth," he said.

"Pickering is taking this responsibility very seriously," he said, adding a "bal-

♦ See Seaton, Page 2

Mayors extend their hands to business

See store for details

By Keith Gilligan
Staff Writer

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Seaton could become 'a shining example to the world'

♦ Seaton from page 1

ance of economic, social and environmental" concerns is necessary.

Mayor Ryan also touched on the Seaton lands, which are to be built into a community of up to 70,000 people.

"We have a golden opportunity with the development of Seaton," he said, adding it's important the community isn't developed in a "cookie-cutter" manner.

He noted 1,000 acres have been set aside in the Seaton lands for employment purposes, with the projection of creating 18,000 jobs.

"We want sustainability to be the hallmark of Seaton. If we are successful, Seaton will be a shining example for the world."

Boys 'special friends'

♦ Boys from page 1

20 seconds.

"My friend Cory just reached in and pulled me out," David said. "I have repeatedly thanked him for saving my life because if he wasn't there then I would have died."

Being saved by his friend, David said, has created a unique bond between the pair.

"He is kind of a special friend now," David said.

Likewise, Cory was happy he was there when his friend fell through. But he modestly said saving David's life was just a gut reaction to a friend in need.

"I didn't think anything," said Cory, a New Advertiser carrier. "I just grabbed him and pulled him out."

The boys, however, didn't tell David's mother what had happened.

"He was afraid to tell me because it was one of those things; I had (originally) told him not to go," Ms. Campa said.

David finally told his mother on Saturday evening.

"I think he learned parents say no for a reason, not because they are being mean," she said.

Despite that, Ms. Campa said she owes a world of debt to the young man who saved her son's life.

"I just think it is so important to publicly thank him for what he did," she said.

He said at least one and possibly two 25-storey office towers, with a pedestrian bridge spanning Hwy. 401 to the GO station, could be built at the Pickering Town Centre.

"It will act as a visual landmark," he said. "It will announce where Toronto ends and Pickering and Durham Region begins."

For his part, Mayor Parish said Ajax's success as a community "isn't an accident."

The town has an "exceptional council that works well together," aided by a strong management team. "We're driven to be the best."

Last year, the Town issued "just under 2,000 building permits, almost one-third of the total in Durham Region."

It was the highest in Durham and one of the highest in the country," Mayor Parish said.

The building permits totalled \$432 million, a 77-per cent increase over the \$244 million in 2004.

"That in a nutshell is the scope of growth we experienced," he said.

"We've seen some very good development in our downtown."

"It's a priority of council and our management team to revitalize our downtown."

This year, the introduction of slots at Picov Downs will create about 275 jobs. "It's a major new industry in Ajax."

The Town will receive about \$1.2 million annually from the slots.

"We look forward to good things happening with that facility," he said.

In addition, the 134-room Hilton Garden Inn is opening in April or May, with a 20,000-square foot

convention centre to be built next to it, he said.

"We see it as a benefit to the business community," said Mayor Parish.

Construction should also start on a Loblaws warehouse that in the first phase will see 700,000 sq. ft. and ultimately 1.3 million sq. ft.

Mayor Parish noted the Town is committed to attracting more business. However it needs every acre of its employment lands to do so.

The Town wants to have one job for every two residents.

"Employment lands are a limited resource. Developers will turn east as Toronto reaches build-out," he said.

"It would be a crime for those lands to be converted. Once it's gone, it's gone. They're not making land anymore."

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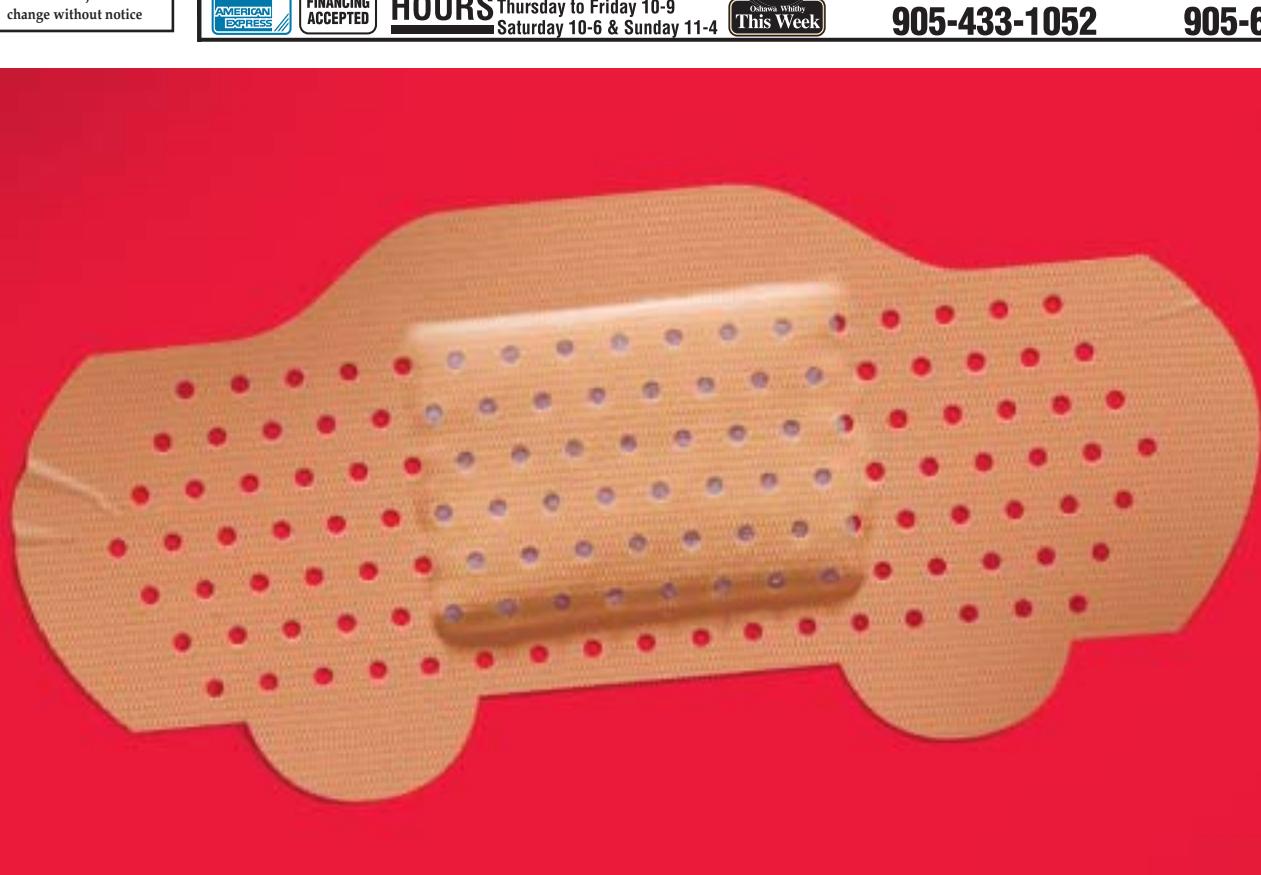
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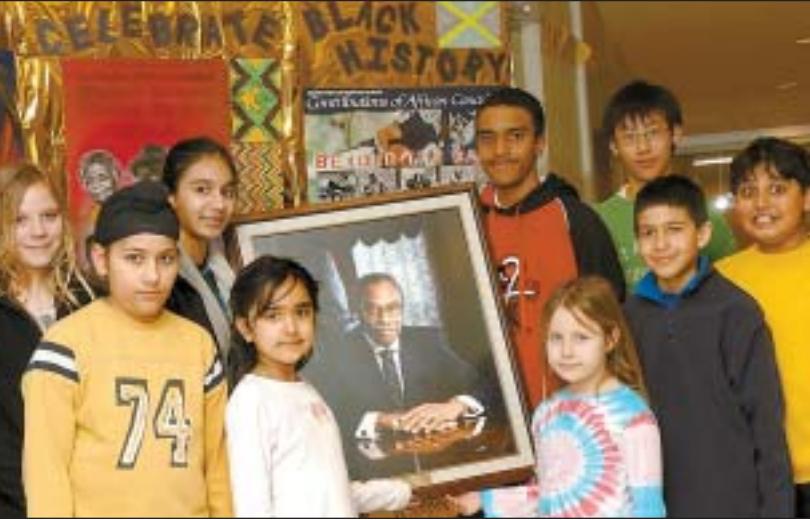
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AJAX — Randi Jensen, Mukat Dhillon, Alzahra Hudani, Simrit Singh, Reny Singh, Avery Pasternak, Derek Leung, Gaurav Jagota and Mustafa Qureshi, were among the students from Lincoln Alexander Public School to be invited by Mr. Alexander to attend a ceremony at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre recently. They were invited to kick off the recent Heritage Week.

Ajax students help launch Heritage Week in Ontario

Lincoln Alexander
has 150 special guests
join him in Toronto

By Erin Hatfield
Staff Writer

AJAX — Last week saw a particularly special kickoff to Heritage Day for students from Lincoln Alexander Public School.

Lincoln Alexander invited 150 students from his namesake school in Ajax to participate in the launch of Heritage Week in Ontario. Mr. Alexander, a former Ontario lieutenant-governor, is chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust Foundation.

Principal Kathryn Brown said the school felt honoured to have been invited.

"He is just a wonderful man and a wonderful role model," she said. "He is a gentleman and he is kind... We have a special connection with him."

The ceremony was at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre in Toronto and amidst current Ontario Lt.-Gov. James Bartleman and Madeleine Meilleur, minister of culture and for

francophone affairs, students enjoyed speeches, announcements, a performance by Umoja and pizza.

Students from Grade 1 through 8 represented the school's diverse population.

"It was the first time, I am sure, for a lot of the kids that they were at a formal theatre," Ms. Brown said. "They were exemplary in their behaviour."

Mr. Alexander was lieutenant-governor from 1985 to 1991, was a member of Parliament from 1968 to 1980, and served as federal minister of labour in 1979.

A Companion of the Order of Canada and a recipient of the Order of Ontario, Mr. Alexander has served on numerous public service boards, including his time as chairman of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. He is currently chancellor at the University of Guelph and was appointed to the heritage foundation board in December 2001.

"It is always such a pleasure to see Mr. Alexander," Ms. Brown said. "He is like everyone's grandfather I guess is the best way to describe him. He exudes warmth and interest in everyone."



Celia Klemenz/ News Advertiser photo

Birds of a feather

PICKERING — Wissam Seaifan, at left, leads Gloria Mendes and Heather Anderson as they rehearse a group dance recently. The Grade 7 Fairport Beach Public School students are 'flocking', a form of interpretive mirror dance, part of their dance and drama class.

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Blood, it's in me to give

Contrary to one of my fundamental beliefs, drinking copious amounts of coffee is not always a good thing.

It certainly isn't the wisest drink of choice in the hours leading up to your inaugural attempt to donate blood, I can tell you that much.

Armed with all the courage I could muster (not much) and more than enough caffeine flowing through my veins (three large cups in the morning, followed by a glass of Coke at lunch to wash down the leftover chili from Super Bowl Sunday), I ventured forth to the Scugog Community Centre last Wednesday afternoon for what I was sure would be an exercise in torture -- at least according to my colleagues in the newsroom who took great pleasure in attempting to instill horrific images of large needles being jabbed higgledy-piggledy into my arm by evil-looking nurses with demonic grins.

Thankfully, it wasn't that bad.

Walking through the door into the community centre, however, my stomach immediately dropped past my knees. My hands were stuffed deep into the pockets of my vest so no one could see them trembling, instinctively clenched tight in fear as I entered and took in the sights

a private corner where, behind the cover of a cardboard divider (think of your trip to the polling station last month when you cast your vote in the federal election), I filled out another questionnaire regarding my general health and where I've travelled to in the past three years.

From there, I met Karen. A delightful blonde woman with nary a sense of humour -- or compassion for us virgin donors -- who continued to pepper me with even more personal questions before taking my blood pressure and sticking a thermometer under my tongue.

It was at that point that I learned perhaps the biggest key factor in donating blood -- you need to drink lots of fluids prior to making a deposit. With my blood pressure racing higher and higher due to anxiety and with the acknowledgement that I had nowhere near enough liquids (apparently, caffeinated drinks such as coffee and cola don't count), Karen abruptly left our private, enclosed cubbie hole and bolted away to grab two more Dixie cups filled to the brim with apple juice to help calm me and increase my fluid levels.

It seems that caffeine acts as a diuretic and may cause excessive loss of fluids, something that may cause my donation experience to be less than ideal I was told.

After answering another long list of questions, followed by more juice and another reading of my blood pressure, came the big question -- "Okay, you're set. Are you sure you want to do this?"

With my mind screaming 'nooooooo!', I quickly mumbled a simple affirmative and was then quickly whisked away to the other side of the room where the ladies with the needles eagerly awaited fresh prey.

(Okay, here's the confession: In case you haven't noticed by now, I hate needles. And blood. Both with equal disdain and fear. Go ahead and call me a chicken.)

I was passed along into the capable hands of Jen, a veteran CBS technician who immediately noticed the first-timer sticker that I reluctantly allowed to be placed on my vest. The first such sticker I applied to the cover of my notepad, which subsequently got me a scolding and a replacement. Jen welcomed me with a smile and immediately went to work dispelling the scary myths of blood donation.

Laying awkwardly in the plastic chaise lounge -- my left arm propping up my head in an effort to see what was going on; my right arm was fitted onto a plastic tray that resembled the flimsy table you're supposed to use to eat your unappetizing airline meals on. My legs were flat and straight "don't cross them!", and used as a desk for the technicians' paperwork, with my feet dangling over the edge, I began to concentrate on the ceiling tiles in the community centre.

The process begins with a quick swab of a disinfecting agent in the crook of my right arm, followed by a minute of waiting. All around me, people of all ages lay donating and they all seemed to be doing okay. While they're not smiling and laughing, they also don't seem to be having one of those 'reactions' that CBS personnel keep telling me about. In some cases, if donors do not have enough fluids flowing through them or are not rested, they may feel faint, light-headed or end up sick to their stomach.

With my arm properly prepped and after more concern over my lack of fluids (I think a sixth Dixie cup, this time orange juice, was presented for me to swig) Jen quietly reappeared at my side. She explained what was coming next, offering assurances that only new, sterile needles are used, and informed me that she would be looking for a "good" vein and that the dreaded jab would be coming soon.

Taking her up on the offer to look the other way at the point of penetration, I waited and waited for the horrendous pain. While I felt a small prick in my arm and a strange feeling make its way up my arm -- where I was continuously flexing my hand into a fist to keep the circulation going -- I didn't (I don't think) flinch or twitch or scream.

While the pain, thankfully, was negligible, the wait was the worst part. It appeared that my blood was shy, hesitant to leave its host. A few quick adjustments of the needle by Jen seemed to be in vain as there appeared to be no quicker way to scare the blood out of me, dripping as slowly as a coffee pot brewing. In total, I laid there on the lounge for a little more than 17 minutes. The average time for donors is eight minutes while some men have been known to dribble out their 450 millilitres (about two cups) in as little as four minutes. After 20 minutes, they remove the needle from your arm, no matter how much of the red stuff you've contributed.

Filling my donor bag to the brim, the needle was quickly removed and I was presented with some gauze and continued to wait another 10 minutes in order to ensure that I wasn't going to drop to the floor. I was then escorted over to the snack table where I was presented with yet more juice and a blood donor lapel pin, courtesy of Bill Henshall.

While I hung around to strike up a conversation with Cheryl Unger, a clinical supervisor overseeing last week's clinic, my blood was packaged up and prepared for its journey to Toronto. After undergoing testing at the CBS lab on College Street in Toronto, the blood is separated into three different satellite bags and dispersed to hospitals across Toronto.

With a lifespan of only five days once they're out of the body, platelets must be used almost immediately; red blood cells expire about a month after they've been donated while plasma can be frozen and used at a later date.

After years of reluctance, reporter Chris Hall takes a stab at donating



and sounds of Canadian Blood Services personnel at work.

At the west end, CBS paper-pushers waited to gather your information and walk you through a stringent interview and screening process; on the other side, women in white scrubs raced around, from volunteer to volunteer, gleefully rubbing their hands together as they plunged needle after needle into donors, extracting their blood and leaving them to wither on plastic chaise lounges that reminded me of my childhood years.

Okay, maybe that's not exactly what those women were doing, but that's what I was led to believe in the hours leading up to my donation courtesy of a couple of wiseguys who will remain nameless.

After briefly looking at my options, I quickly turned left and headed away from the needles and straight towards the nearest lady waiting to take down my personal information. Wrenching my wallet from my tightly-clamped right hand, I handed over my driver's license and quickly recited my name and address for verification. Next, I watched a small sample of my blood -- stolen from the tip of my left middle finger via a pinprick -- descend slowly to the bottom of a small vial filled with copper sulfate, indicating that my iron levels were adequate for a donation.

A few more questions answered and I was off to

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Plans for Picov's also include redeveloped horse racetrack

♦ Plans from page 1

lounge area.

"Ajax council is pleased that this important tourism destination has finally come to fruition," said Mayor Steve Parish in a release.

"The development will provide much needed employment in the community, a wide-variety of new economic activity and a revenue allocation for

Frozen from development, lands not paying for City

♦ Frozen from page 1

years for the City to see any revenue.

"We're not trying to say the sky is falling," he told councillors, adding what staff is trying to do is let them know the situation -- a situation that is different from its neighbours.

"It's unfair for Pickering to be in this position," Mr. Quinn said. "We're the only ones in the Region, the only ones in the Province."

That position comes from having 27,000 acres of land -- nearly half of Pickering -- frozen from development because it was expropriated 34 years ago by the provincial and federal levels of government to build a city and an airport, respectively.

The Province is currently finishing a development plan for Seaton, but the City doesn't know when the land will be released to developers so staff warned against banking on that.

Mayor Dave Ryan agreed.

"I'm not as optimistic as you are councillor that things are going to break free that soon," he said to Coun. Johnson. "Things don't happen as quickly as they could or as one thinks they should... We need to deal with that."

Council meets as the budget committee on March 13 and 14 to discuss the capital and operating budgets; the tax increase and budget will be finalized at the April 3 council meeting.

the Town and local agricultural sector. We welcome this new gaming facility, and look forward to working with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation and Ajax Downs."

The facility has created 273 full- and part-time jobs.

The Slots at Ajax Downs is the 17th such facility opened in Ontario, where slot machines are adjacent to a horse-racing facility.

Picov Downs racetrack will be undergoing a redevelopment in the near future.

Construction of the slots facility, the quarter-horse racing redevelopment and associated infrastructure carries a price tag of about \$52.4 million. Ajax will receive five per cent of the gross revenue for the slots, which works out to between \$1.8 million and \$2 million annually.

Twenty per cent of the gross slots revenue goes to the racetrack and will be used to promote the quarter-horse industry, purses and broader equine programs.

For more information, call the Ajax Slots at 905-619-2690.

McTeague earns critic's role

PICKERING — Pickering-Scarborough East MP Dan McTeague received a shadow cabinet post Feb. 22.

Mr. McTeague was named official opposition critic for consumer affairs.

"I am delighted to be the Liberal critic for consumer affairs in this minority parliament. This is an area I have devoted a considerable amount of work (to) since being elected in 1993. In fact, one of my first issues was the fight to remove negative option billing by cable TV companies," Mr. McTeague said in a release.

His two main priorities, the gasoline pricing policies of major oil companies and working to amend the Patent Act so more affordable generic drugs are made available, also fall into the portfolio.

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Merle Robillard/ News Advertiser photo

Ice save

PICKERING — Guy Higgott, left, rescues Kevin Fitzgerald during an OPP Provincial Emergency Response Team surface ice rescue training exercise on Frenchman's Bay in Pickering Friday. The group was training there because the ice is very dangerous giving it the proper conditions for an ice rescue.

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Theatre-goers can find Orphans on stage

Director Vivian Lee tackles personal favourite story

By Christy Chase

Staff Writer

DURHAM — This month, Vivian Lee is making her directing debut for the Borelians Community Theatre with one of her two favourite plays, *Orphans*, by Lyle Kessler.

"I've seen thousands of plays and this makes it in my top two," said Lee who has worked with the Borelians and other community theatre groups in Durham Region for years.

Lee has spent many years with ACT-CO (Association of Community Theatres - Central Ontario) and Theatre Ontario, serving on the board of the former for 10 years and with the latter for four years. Part of her job was to view plays for the annual competitive festivals.

Orphans is a comedy-drama that tells the story of two brothers, Treat and Phillip, who are orphans, living in Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love. Treat, the older, has been supporting them both, turning to crime to do it. Phillip is a naive young man who won't leave their home, something that suits the older, controlling Treat just fine.

But into their lives comes Harold, a middle-aged man brought home by Treat who intends to rob him. What happens next changes all their lives.

"What appeals to me the most is how real it seems," Lee said. "It's a very believable story and it's a story of transition in people's lives. It's a story that shows how positively people can impact each other's lives and how good can come out of bad. Sometimes bad people do good things and you find that in this story."

Lee, who has produced this play once before for Durham Shoestring Performers, said that what gets her about good productions of this play is seeing through to the hearts of the characters and how their hearts are right there on stage.

"That's why I loved it, the hearts of these people are right there on the stage. I see a softer side of all three characters."

While the play isn't suitable for younger audiences, teenagers will get something out of it, Lee said.

"There are some neat lessons for teenagers to learn. There's somebody somewhere out there if you are feeling lost. You might find them in the strangest places."

Lee is hoping the play will attract people who might not normally attend the theatre.

"For anybody, especially guys, who don't think going to the theatre is something good to do, this is a great time to check it out because it's a guy play, although it's a really good story for women too," she said.

The play stars three Scugog residents. Bill Walker plays Harold.

"Bill has had quite a lot of success with the Borelians," Lee said.

In 2001, he won an ACT-CO award for best drama for his direction of the play *All My Sons*, which also had some success at Theatre Ontario. He has also been singled out by an adjudicator for his work as part of an ensemble cast.

Paul Chiusolo, of Port Perry, plays Treat. He's done a few other plays before this but Treat is probably his biggest role yet, Lee said. Chiusolo is the son of Lorraine Chiusolo, well known in local theatre circles.

"He's inherited his mother's talent," Lee said.

Graeme Powell, also of Port Perry, plays Phillip. A filmmaker, this is his first onstage production since his days at Port Perry High School.

"He's got a passion for acting and is committed to the theatre world," Lee said.

"It has been an absolute joy (working with the three). They are wonderful to work with. They all come to rehearsals with ideas about what they want to do once they hit the stage. They give me something to work with," the director said.

Lee has acted with the Borelians, directed with Scugog Choral Society, Oshawa Little Theatre, DSP and directed the first play for Ajax's StoneCircle Theatre, now in its second year. It staged *Orphans* in the fall.

The stage manager is Nancy Melcher, of Uxbridge, who also worked on the Borelians' production of *Dracula*. *Orphans* is one of three projects she's working on now, Lee said.

Andrew Oxenham is the set designer. He won a Theatre Ontario award for best set design for *All My Sons*. He's also worked with Scugog Choral Society and DSP and has designed and built 35 sets over the years. Andy Williamson is head of set construction.

Carey Nicholson is the producer.

Orphans runs evenings only Feb. 23 to 25 and March 2 to 4 at Town Hall 1873, Queen and Simcoe streets. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$12 students and seniors and are available at Henshaw's Clothiers, 241 Queen St., toll-free at 1-888-808-2006 or online at www.starcketing.com.

For more information on the play or the Borelians, go to www.borelians.org.



Steve Graham/ citizenseye.com photo

Have a laugh

PICKERING — Grant Evans, left, and Daryl Marks are currently on stage at Herongate Barn Theatre in the latest production, 'Do Not Disturb.' It runs until March 25. Visit Herongate online at www.herongate.com.

All Trafalgar Castle is a stage for Durham's Driftwood Theatre Group

DURHAM — Trafalgar Castle comes alive with drama and comedy as Driftwood Theatre Group invades the 19th-century castle for an evening of short plays.

Trafalgar 24 is the third annual festival of new Canadian theatre, with more than 40 playwrights, directors, performers, choreographers and technicians scheduled to create 10 new plays in under 24 hours on March 10.

The audience is split into small groups and can choose several plays to see, plays that will be staged throughout the building, now a girls' school. In past years, plays have been produced

in the pool, basement, washroom, chapel, boiler room, in hallways and on the staircase.

The writers, directors and performers have 24 hours to write, memorize and stage 10 plays at the castle, 401 Reynolds St.

There will also be a silent auction of items and, after the plays, desserts and wine to finish off the evening.

The silent auction and show registration starts at 6 p.m., with the performance beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$45 or \$80 for two and \$35 each for group purchases of 10 or more.

They are available by calling 905-576-2396.

All proceeds from Trafalgar 24 are directed towards the Driftwood Theatre Group's annual summer theatre tour of 18 communities across the province from July 19 to Aug. 20. Since 1995, Driftwood, a registered charity, has performed the works of William Shakespeare with a pay-what-you-can admission fee.



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Trojans cruise past St. Mary



Ron Pietroniro /News Advertiser photo
Pickering High School Trojans' Marcus Wong, right, slashes past St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Monarchs' Yohanan Balay during a Lake Ontario Secondary School Athletics (LOSSA) senior boys' 'AAAA' basketball semifinal at the Ajax school Monday afternoon. Pickering won 65-34 to advance to the final.

But Pickering High coach not entirely pleased with team's performance in LOSSA basketball semis

By Al Rivett
Sports Editor

AJAX — The Pickering High Trojans will have to do more than win a playoff game by 31 points to satisfy head coach Ron Parfitt.

The senior boys' basketball team at the Ajax-based school did as expected and sidelined Pickering's St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Monarchs 65-34 in the Lake Ontario Secondary School Athletics (LOSSA) 'AAAA' semifinal game at Pickering High on Monday afternoon. The Trojans led by 20 points at the half and extended their dominance in the third quarter to a 50-25 advantage.

The Trojans played the Pine Ridge Secondary School Pumas (the Pumas beat the Dunbarton High Spartans 67-49 in the other semifinal Monday) in the LOSSA 'AAAA' championship game at St. Mary Tuesday night, with the result unavailable at press time.

The Trojans (14-0 in LOSSA, 48-6 overall) were never seriously threatened in Monday's semifinal contest against a younger and inexperienced St. Mary team that coughed by the ball numerous times under stifling defensive pressure, leading to a number of uncontested fast-break points.

Despite the dominance of his Trojans, the team's effort didn't sit well with Parfitt, the longtime bench general who's known for his pull-no-punches, calls-'em-as-he-sees-'em style of coaching.

"We shot the ball decently, and the defence was good in the first quarter, but I don't think we played all that great. If they had shot the ball well, it would have been a game."

Furthermore, Parfitt also questioned his team's hustle -- especially

that of his front court -- in the last half of the game, especially the third quarter.

"We came out with no intensity at all," scoffed Parfitt. "We were up by 20 at the half, so we didn't come out with anything... You can't be happy with that. I thought our big guys didn't do a great job. The intensity of our big guys, we needed to do a better job of that."

Parfitt added his team's inconsistency from one quarter to the next in Monday's playoff game is somewhat worrisome because, against stronger competition, a full 32 minutes of play is needed to be successful.

Still, Parfitt gave kudos to starting guard and provincial team player Devoe Joseph, who led all scorers with 20 points, including four three-point field goals.

"I thought Devoe shot the ball well," he conceded.

St. Mary coach Mike Gordensky noted his young Monarchs (8-4 in LOSSA) would need to play a perfect game and the Trojans would have to give a mediocre effort in order to pull off the upset.

"We've lost to them three times by an average of 30 points, so they're definitely the top team in the area. No doubt about it. I said before the start of the season that I couldn't see any team (in LOSSA this year) come within 20 points of them."

Turnovers, says Gordensky, more than anything, killed any chances of his Monarchs staying close. In fact, turnovers early in the game allowed the Trojans to run on the fast break, piling up a decisive 22-5 advantage in the first quarter.

Gordensky was, however, proud of the fact that his team played hard to the end.

"Our kids didn't give up, but they're too deep, too experienced and too well-coached," he says.

Marcus Wong netted 13 points for the Trojans. Andre Tucker was the top scorer for St. Mary with eight.

Sports briefs

MARCH 1, 2006

[Hockey]

Lightning women drop medal game at provincials

DURHAM — The Durham Lightning's goal to capture a provincial championship failed to materialize at the Ontario Women's Hockey Association championships in Mississauga last weekend.

The Lightning -- the most improved team in the National Women's Hockey League this season -- finished out the medals after a 3-2 overtime loss to the Oakville Ice in the bronze-medal game at Mississauga's Iceland Arena last Sunday.

The Lightning earned a bye into the semifinal where they drew the Ottawa Raiders. The Raiders denied the Lightning the chance to compete for gold with a 2-1 win.

In the gold-medal game, the Brampton Thunder scored a 2-1 overtime victory over Ottawa.

In league play, the Durham Lightning not only clinched a playoff berth -- the first in its seven-year history in the league -- but have also clinched first place in the league's Central Division with a sterling 20-6-5-2 mark.

The Lightning played Tuesday night in Toronto against the Toronto Aeros, with the result unavailable at press time. The Lightning finish regular-season play against the Quebec Avalanche at the Ajax Community Centre Saturday night at 7:50 p.m.

The Lightning receive a bye through the quarter-final of the NWHL playoffs, which are expected to get underway next week.

Salming to appear at The Pickering Markets

PICKERING — The first European superstar in the National Hockey League will attend a meet-and-greet and autograph session at The Pickering Markets on Sunday, March 26.

Toronto Maple Leafs' legend Borje Salming is at the Pickering flea market between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. that day. Salming, who joined the Leafs during the 1972-73 season, was a six-time NHL all-star. The hall of fame defenceman was the first European player to receive the honour.

The Pickering Markets is at the corner of Bayly Street and Squires Beach Road.

[Soccer]

Thunder rolls through indoor play

AJAX — The Ajax United Thunder under-11 boys' indoor soccer team downed the Whitby Iroquois 'A' team for the first time during recent indoor soccer action.

Ajax, which had gone through some coaching and player changes prior to the game, put forth a solid team effort to shut down a strong Whitby squad 2-0 at the Durham Indoor Soccer Centre (DISC).

Carson O'Sullivan and Krishna Vasanthakumaran scored. Mac Craig recorded the shutout.

The Ajaxians defeated Oshawa by a 3-1 count in another league contest at the DISC. Josh Trentadue, Dan Frazeck and Cameron Whitehead scored.

The coaching staff of Dave Murphy, Iain Peters and Raffaele Trentadue is looking for experienced players for the 2006 outdoor season. Interested players born in 1995 are invited to call Trentadue at 905-831-2799.

[Baseball]

Pickering signups coming soon

PICKERING — Signups for the Pickering Baseball Association get underway this month.

The PBA will hold open registration at the Pickering Town Centre (just outside of Peoples) on Saturday, March 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and at Don Beer Arena on Sunday, March 26, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Those interested can also register online at www.pickeringbaseball.ca, or call, 905-839-1522.



Golden ice dance pair look for new challenges

Champs look to move into pre-novice division for next season

By Al Rivett

Sports Editor

PICKERING — Newly crowned national champions Jordan Hockley and partner Kelly Oliveira are enjoying their meteoric rise up the skating ranks.

Since forming a partnership in ice dance one-and-a-half years ago, Hockley, 13, of the Pickering Skating Club, and Oliveira, 12, of the Scarborough Skating Club, have surprised even themselves with their steady climb. Next season, the youngsters plan to move into the pre-novice dance category.

The twosome will take a test in May in order to move into the new division, but with their results this year, it should be a mere formality.

Hockley and Oliveira showed they're the best in the country, capturing the gold medal at the Junior National Skating Championships in Moncton, N.B. last month. There, they outdanced 12 other pairs in the juvenile ice dance division.

Hockley notes expectations were high for nationals, but winning gold was not something they thought they could do.

"My partner and I were pretty confident through the whole thing. We didn't think we would do that good, but we did so it's great," says the Grade 8 student at Whitby's Dr. Robert Thornton school.

After placing second in the compulsory dance portion of the competition, they went out and skated a perfect free dance to win the gold.

Hockley says he was almost caught unaware of the first-place marks after the free skate. But, he quickly recovered.

"I was blowing my nose at the time,"



Lisa Gilroy / Perfect Impressions Video photo
Kelly Oliveira and Jordan Hockley enjoy the taste of victory after capturing the juvenile dance title at the junior nationals in Moncton, N.B. recently. The pair will move up into the pre-novice category for next season. Jordan is a member of the Pickering Skating Club.

says Hockley. But, it didn't take long to figure out they had won.

"It made me jump a bit. I was pretty excited. Everyone was crying," he recalls.

The nationals was the last big event of the season for Hockley and Oliveira. To earn a trip to the Canadian junior

showcase, they first competed at the Central Ontario Sectional event in Richmond Hill last November. There, they competed against seven other pairs in juvenile dance and won the right to represent Ontario at nationals.

Hockley says everything fell into place when he joined forces with Oliveira.

"We have to work with each other, so we have to have the same personality traits and the same skating level. We get along well," he says.

Hockley and Oliveira train at the Scarborough club under Jon and Carol Lane, Juris Razjulagevs and Donna Iijima in the Ice Dance Elite program.

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AND OTHERS**

All claims against the Estate of

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Panthers slow out of the gate in dropping two playoff games

Need quick turnaround to stay in second-round series with Markham

By Al Rivett
Sports Editor

PICKERING — The Pickering Panthers must turn things around in a hurry in order to get back in a series against the Markham Waxers that's in danger of slipping away.

The Panthers trail two games to none in the best-of-seven OHA Ontario Provincial Junior 'A' Hockey League's second-round playoff series, with Game 3 played in Markham on Tuesday night, after press time.

Twenty-four hours after dropping Game 1 5-4 in Markham on Friday night, in a contest marked by a game-ending brawl that produced suspensions to Markham forward Daniel Tavares and head coach Rick Cornacchia, the series reverted to the Pickering Recreation Complex for Game 2.

After falling behind 3-0 in the first period, the Panthers battled back to tie the score. A third-period goal by Markham's Connor Treacy, however, stood up as the game winner in another 5-4 loss for the Panthers.

Game 4 is at the Pickering Recreation Complex on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Panthers' head coach John Winder acknowledges his team may be down, but they're definitely not out of the series.

"There's a lot of hockey left," declared Winder. "Obviously, we didn't want to be down 2-0, and now we have to deal with reality. But, two games don't make a series; they have to beat us four games to win this series."

Winder also hopes recent history is on the side of the Panthers. In last year's playoffs, the Panthers trailed Markham 2-0 after the first two games of that opening-round series before rebounding with two successive wins.

But, in order to have any hope of getting back in the series, the Panthers need a full, 60-minute effort — something they were unable to put together in either weekend game.

♦ Panthers' Postscript, game summaries, **Sports 14**

In Saturday's game, the Panthers simply weren't prepared to compete from the opening whistle, as the Waxers reeled off three consecutive goals on Mark Duchesne, who was the sole reason Markham wasn't able to pad its lead beyond three in the opening frame. The Panthers answered with one off the stick of defenceman Kevin Huinink with 14 seconds remaining.

"We just weren't ready," conceded Winder. "It all started in the warmup — they didn't get out there together. It took them longer to get ready than it normally does."

The Panthers' early-game malaise, however, didn't go unchecked as the coaching staff used the first intermission to shake the players out of their collective funk.

"We talked to them and told them this isn't the way we play hockey," says Winder.

The pep talk seemed to work as Brett Connolly scored just 37 seconds into the middle frame to bring Pickering back to within one goal. Chris Jones and Justin Fox scored later in the frame to give Pickering a 4-3 lead. The lead was short-lived, however, as Markham scored a power-play marker with just more than four minutes remaining and Tyler Melancon serving a double minor for high sticking.

A long, lead pass from David Kosuch put Treacy in the clear for the game-winning marker with just more than eight minutes to go. The goal came soon after a Panthers' scoring chance went for naught.

The Panthers' intensity also strayed in Game 1, allowing the Waxers to score three unanswered second-period goals to take a commanding 5-2 lead after two.

Winder was nonetheless proud of the way his charges responded to adversity in both losses.

"That's huge," he says. "We were able to dig down and play the way we can play. It shows the character of the players we have."

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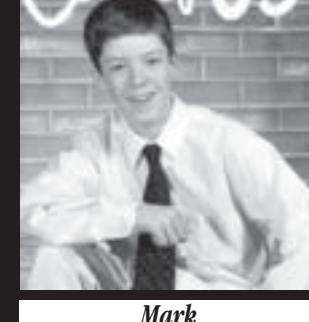
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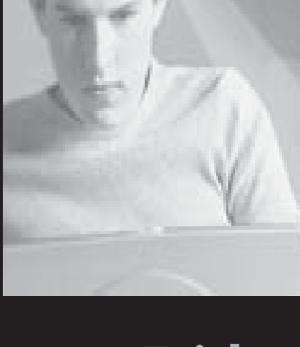
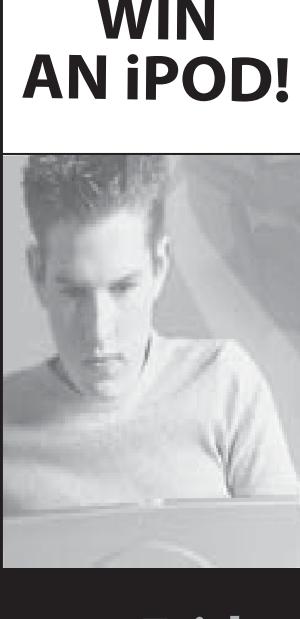
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Panthers' Postscript



Markham Waxers' Daniel Torres received a three-game suspension for leaving the bench near the end of Friday's series opener in Markham... Waxers' head coach **Rick Cornacchia** received a two-game suspension for having one of his players leave the bench... Panthers' defenceman **Ed Snetsinger** played both games in the series to date, despite being doubtful for Game 1 with a 'lower body injury'. Snetsinger, however, received medical clearance to make an earlier-than-expected return to the lineup... Panthers' forward **Greg Riggs** missed Friday's game due to illness. **Josh Domingues** dressed in his place. Riggs, however, was back in the lineup for Saturday's Game 2... The three stars of Saturday's game were Markham captain **Brett Molnar**, Pickering forward **Justin Fox** and Markham forward **Shareef Labreche**... According to Pointstreak.com, Saturday's game drew 450 fans to the Pickering Recreation Complex; 300 attended Game 1 in Markham on Friday... In the other **South Conference** playoff series, the top-seeded **St. Michael's Buzzers** lead the fifth-seeded **Wexford Raiders** two games to one. **St. Mike's** blanked the Raiders 5-0 in Game 3 on Monday night at **St. Michael's Arena**... **Fox** is having an outstanding playoffs thus far, with five goals and seven assists for 12 points in eight games... Former Panther forward **Mark Cornacchia** is also putting together a strong playoff run. He's currently tied for Markham's playoff scoring lead with teammate **David Kostuch** with 11 points (seven goals, four assists)... Pickering goaltender **Mark Duchesne** has appeared in all eight Panthers' playoff games to date and is carrying a 4-4 record, along with a 3.55 goals-against average and a .896 save percentage... **Game 5** in the best-of-seven series, if necessary, is in Markham on Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. **Game 6**, if needed, is in Pickering on Tuesday, March 7 at 8:30 p.m. **Game 7**, if necessary is in Markham on Wednesday, March 8 at 7 p.m... **SCORING SUMMARY**
Waxers at Panthers, Saturday, Feb. 25

Period 1
Markham - Shareef Labreche (Craig Montgomery) 2:56
Markham - Mark Cornacchia (Shareef Labreche, Mick Ralph) 12:37
Markham - Brett Molnar (PP) (Jeremiah Crowe, Connor Treacy) 17:37
Pickering - Kevin Huinink (Justin Fox, AJ Ward) 19:46
Period 2
Pickering - Brett Connolly (Tomek Budziakowski, Richard Schofield) 0:37
Pickering - Chris Jones (Justin Fox, John Soames) 8:19
Pickering - Justin Fox (PP) (Chris Jones, Ryan Annesley) 13:52
Markham - Kyle Begley (PP) (Shareef Labreche, Brett Molnar) 16:34
Period 3
Markham - Connor Treacy (David Kostuch, Brett Molnar) 12:28
POWER PLAYS
Markham: 2-for-4; Pickering: 1-for-3
PENALTY TOTALS
Markham: eight minutes on four infractions; Pickering: 10 minutes on five infractions
SHOTS ON GOAL
Pickering: 35
Markham: 33
SCORING SUMMARY
Panthers at Waxers, Friday, Feb. 24
Period 1
Markham - Kyle Begley (SH) (David Kostuch, Brett Molnar) 13:35
Period 2
Pickering - Chris Jones (AJ Ward, Justin Fox) 1:08
Markham - Daniel Torres (Ryan O'Leary, Mark Cornacchia) 5:14
Pickering - Brett Connolly (Michael Banwell) 8:23
Markham - Blake Pullin (Craig Montgomery, Mark Cornacchia) 11:45
Markham - David Kostuch (Connor Treacy, Daniel Torres) 19:36
Markham - Mark Cornacchia (unassisted) 19:54
Period 3
Pickering - Richard Schofield (Brett Connolly, Ryan Annesley) 6:38
Pickering - John Soames (Todd Hosmer) 7:08
POWER PLAYS
Pickering: 0-for-8; Markham 0-for-7
PENALTY TOTALS
Pickering: 42 minutes on 16 infractions; Markham: 32 minutes on 16 infractions
SHOTS ON GOAL
Pickering: 35
Markham: 35

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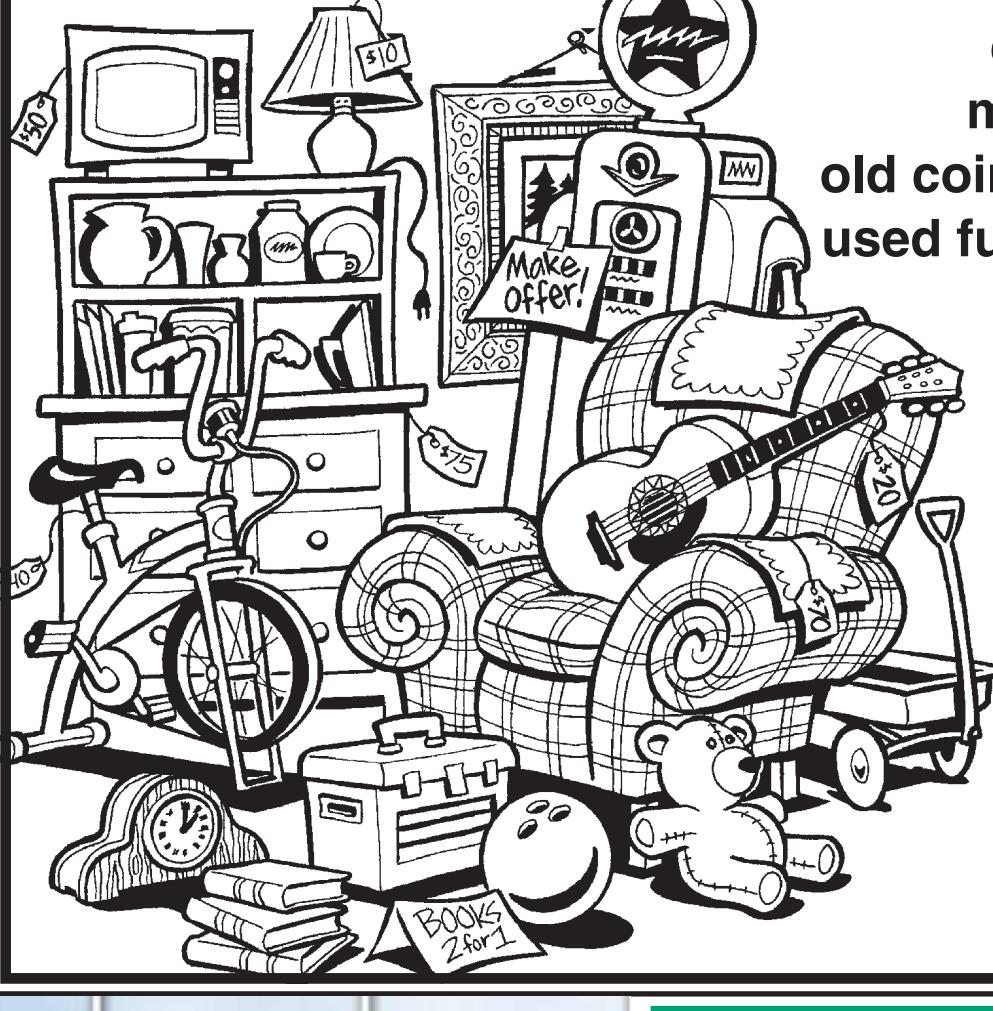
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