

PATTERNS REPLACE LETTERS ON CHARTS

Experimenters testing infants' eyesight

HAMILTON (CP) — What does your baby see when he looks at you and gurgles?

Does he have any visual disorders he can't tell you about?

Those are questions that worry all parents, but until now they haven't been

answered until children are old enough to read an eye chart.

And by that time, it's too late to do anything about many disorders.

If a child doesn't use both eyes from infancy — if one eye is weaker and he comes to rely on his stronger eye — then the vision in the less used eye is usually permanently lost, experts say.

But research being done at McMaster University may soon give parents those answers while their children are still young enough to receive corrective treatment.

Dr. Terri Lewis, director of the research program, and Dr. Daphne Maurer, principal investigator, are attempting to find out what constitutes normal vision in children who are too young to read eye charts or even to say what they are seeing.

They have spent 18 months testing more than 100 children aged 1, 2 and 3 and plan to test even younger babies.

Home and family

The test is based on a phenomenon first described in the 1960s — that babies tend to prefer stripes to solid-colored objects.

Lewis and Maurer strengthen that preference in their young subjects by playing a little game with them before the testing starts.

The infants are shown two rectangles at the same time, one with black and white stripes and the other a solid grey. If they look at the

striped rectangle, they are rewarded.

Only when the researchers are sure that children know the game do they move on to the test, which consists of showing their young subjects progressively narrower stripes.

The narrowest stripe they can successfully discern from the grey rectangle is a measure of the sharpness of their vision. At a certain point of narrowness, it becomes hard for even an adult to distinguish whether the object is striped.

The research was inspired by a request for a re-

liable infant eye test from doctors at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto who treat babies who have cataracts.

However, Lewis and Maurer say the test will be able to be used on babies suffering from other, commoner disorders.

Babies who have a condition called strabismus — cross eyes in layman's

terms — can be tested regularly to check whether their turned eyes are deteriorating.

Similarly, babies who have refractive errors — either near or farsightedness — and whose eyes differ in the degree of error will also benefit from the test, said Maurer.

The pair has also observed two people with Down's syndrome and found their subjects were able to catch on to the test quickly, which gives them hope that it may one day be used to test mentally retarded people of all ages who aren't able to read the standard eye chart.

5,000 in Milk Run

About 5,000 Prince George people are expected to run, walk or jog in the fourth B.C. School Sports Milk Run April 28.

The Milk Run, sponsored by B.C. Dairy Foundation, involves B.C. secondary schools and is considered the largest fitness-nutrition event of its kind in Canada.

The three-kilometre, non-competitive event acknowledges Canada School Sports Week, the importance of fitness and nutrition in school and allows students to work with communities in a positive way.

B.C. Lions Society for Crippled Children and Variety Club of B.C. will benefit from cash donations by participants.

Last year Prince George raised \$2,000 for handicapped children. The provincial total was \$27,000.

Local organizer Paul Chu from Duchess Park Senior Secondary School said seven participating schools will be connected by a sound system, allowing "all to hear the start signal given by Mayor Elmer Mercier at the same time . . . 11:30 a.m. precisely."

COMING EVENTS

FAMILY PLANNING: A free, confidential family planning clinic will be held from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday at Northern Interior Health District Centre, 1444 Edmonton St. An appointment is necessary. For further information phone 563-1631.

REBEKAH: Northern Rebekah Lodge 34 holds a regular monthly meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Odd Fellows Hall, 1360 - 5th Ave. Out-of-town visiting Rebekahs are invited to attend. For more information call 564-4217.

ARTISTS: Stewart Fairley's spring oils and acrylic class starts 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Thursday at Studio 2880 artists workshop studio. Cost is 10 sessions for \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members. Students can carry on with unfinished paintings or bring photos and pictures to start new paintings. There is room for a few more students. For more information phone 563-8392. Come early for registration.

NEW SONG: A group of 16 young men and women called New Song present an evening of Christian music at 7:30 p.m. April 30 at Central Fellowship Baptist Church, 2840 Clapperton St.

CHILD HEALTH

Public health nurses from Northern Interior Health District Centre will conduct child health clinics Thursday at Christ Our Savior Church from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Gladstone school from 3 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. and Salmon Valley at the home of Holly Bateson from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For further information about these clinics or the dates of those in your area phone 563-1631.

14th FORT GEORGE SCOUTS

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PHONE 563-7538

THERAPEUTIC FOSTER HOME REQUIRED

A home is urgently required for a 13-year-old boy with serious emotional/behaviour problems. He requires a stable, two-parent family who can (a) provide structure and discipline in a caring, positive manner (b) accept that the boy will act-out and (c) accept that the child will continue to have parental contact.

A childless home or a home with teenage children is preferred. A special foster home rate will be negotiated. If you feel that you could accept this challenge and make a commitment to this boy please contact:

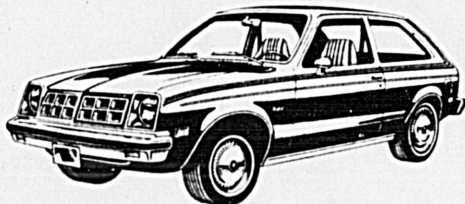
Mike Clarke
Ministry of Human Resources
562-7371

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Is urgently required for a 13 year old boy with severe behavioral and emotional problems.
We are seeking a two parent home with no children. The applicants should have some child care experience, determination and patience. They should be prepared to work extensively with other professionals and child care support staff.
We envisage this to be a full time commitment over a lengthy period. Relief time would be available. Rates are negotiable.
Call or send the resume to:
Cyril Rogers
Ministry of Human Resources
4184-15th Ave. Prince George, V2M 1V8
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FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE



Bob and Gwen Worden of Midnapore, Alberta are happy to announce the forthcoming marriage of their second daughter Ruth Lorraine to Dane Anthony Joy, eldest son of Alfred and Gail Hansford of Prince George B.C. The wedding will take place at St. Michael's Anglican Church in Prince George on July 2/82.



Attention All NON PRACTISING HAIRDRESSERS

REFRESHER HAIRDRESSING will be offered at the Shardon Beauty school September 13th to December 11, 1982

This program is designed for those previously licenced who have been out of work force for 3 years or more and wish to return to the hairdressing profession. Applicants will be invited to one of two information sessions to be held the last week of May 1982 and 4th week of June 1982.

Contact registrar to complete the application documents.

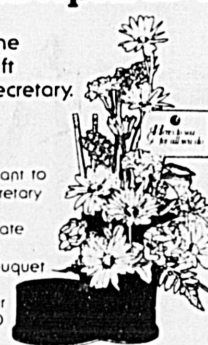
SHARDON BEAUTY SCHOOL

450 Ospika Blvd. Phone 564-8080
Prince George, B.C. V2M 3R3

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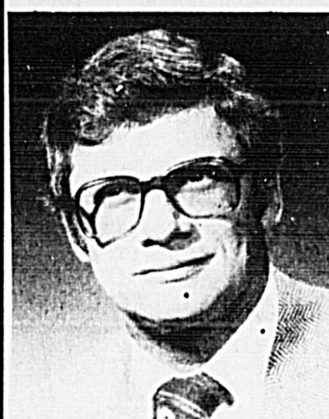
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Forthcoming Marriage

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Nelson of Powell River, B.C. are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their only daughter, Brenda-Lee to Timothy John Gottfried only son of Mr. and Mrs. John Gottfried of Prince George. The wedding will take place on Sat. May 8/82 in Summerland, B.C.



M.L.A. JACK HEINRICH, M.L.A.
PRINCE GEORGE NORTH
MINISTER OF LABOUR

My sincere congratulations to all new Canadians and best wishes to those who have come to make their home in this area. Few of us have such a keen sense of what it means to be a Canadian as those who have just had their day in Citizenship Court. Citizenship means belonging; it also means commitment and a willingness to make a contribution to the local community and the nation as a whole. And it brings rights, privileges, benefits and security in return.

Should there be any assistance you require or clarification of Provincial Government services or policies, please contact my office.

Jack Heinrich
JACK HEINRICH, M.L.A.
(Prince George North)

Coping with being Single again.

A series of seminars and workshops for people going through separation and divorce.

Beginning April 23 and 24 and continuing Wednesday evenings through June 16.

The weekend workshop will deal with such areas as emotions, self-acceptance, the ex., new relationships, setting goals and other issues as they arise.

Wednesday evening sessions covering specific topics are scheduled as follows:

April 28 - Assertiveness	May 26 - Community Support Systems
May 5 - Self Esteem	June 2 - Budgeting
May 12 - Legal Issues	June 9 - Children
May 19 - Depression	June 16 - Dating & Sexuality

All sessions will take place at: St. Andrews Church 3555-5th Ave.
CHILD CARE SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED ON REQUEST

Session times are 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
except Saturday, April 24th which runs from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Pre-registration, especially on the weekend (April 23 & 24) workshop is requested.

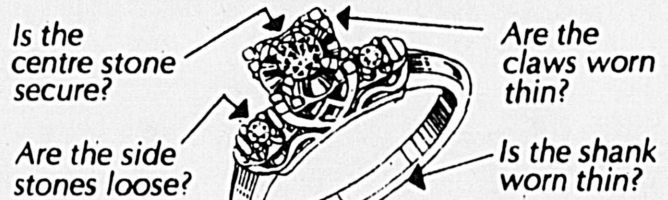
Fees which cover coffee and child care costs are \$5.00 for the weekend workshop and \$1.00 for an evening session.

For further information contact:
SUSAN HUNTER 563-9167 (9:00 a.m.-noon)

Co-sponsored by the One Parent Families of Canada, Evergreen Chapter and St. Andrews Family Life Committee.

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