

## OPINION

# Fitting conclusion to sad episode

The shock, the hurt and the anger that many felt when downtown shopkeeper Michael Wong was viciously attacked last May has finally come to a fitting conclusion. Last Wednesday, in a Milton court room, Judge Douglas Latimer pronounced sentence on 30-year-old Craig Harrison, sentencing him to two years less a day in reformatory.

No doubt, Georgetown is an admittedly WASP town, though the face of the populace has begun to change over recent years; a more true reflection of Canadian society.

It is a sad fact that the Harrison incident is not an isolated incident in Georgetown in recent years. It was only a few years ago that the Ku Klux Klan surfaced at the corner of Mill Street and Main Street, recruiting with their particular brand of venom – hate for all things that don't reflect their own narrow point of view.

Indeed, it was read into the court record last Wednesday that Harrison was found by Halton Regional Police constables burning a cross, Klan-style, in his front yard in 1989. At the time he was said to have been shouting racial epithets, claiming that racism was his religion.

The sad irony is that many of those targeted by Harrison are of different religions than his warped sense of true Christian faith. By the logic of his argument, Harrison was free to practise his aggressive religion of hatred against those whose beliefs differed from his own. To justify his actions in the name of God, or in the name of free speech is a sacrilege to anyone of any faith.

In this business, we often have to deal with what some would call the lunatic fringe. In such cases, far too often, we have to resort to the tenet of, "if you give an idiot enough rope, he will eventually hang himself." Not to be taken literally, of course, but under our system of democracy, everyone is entitled to an opinion, no matter how odious. By his actions, Craig Harrison has shown himself to be beyond the envelope of acceptable behaviour.

In less than two weeks we will be honouring the veterans who gave all to fights for certain rights we consider to be so precious, that they are worth dying for. One of those rights, perhaps the most precious, is a right to live your life without being harmed by those who would do so to serve their own selfish needs. Michael Wong's rights were violated in a most grievous manner. Fortunately the judiciary saw fit to punish one who put his rights ahead of another.

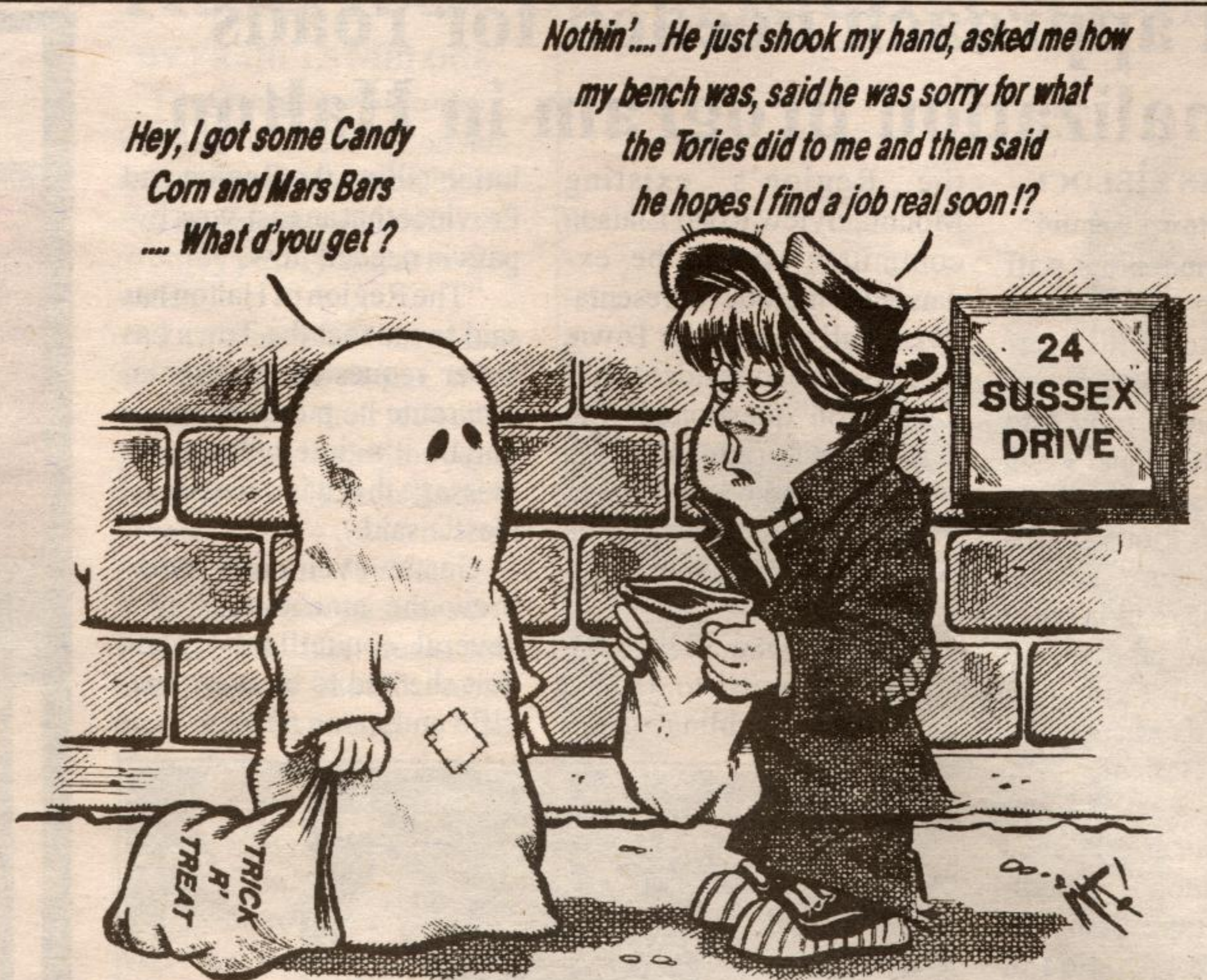
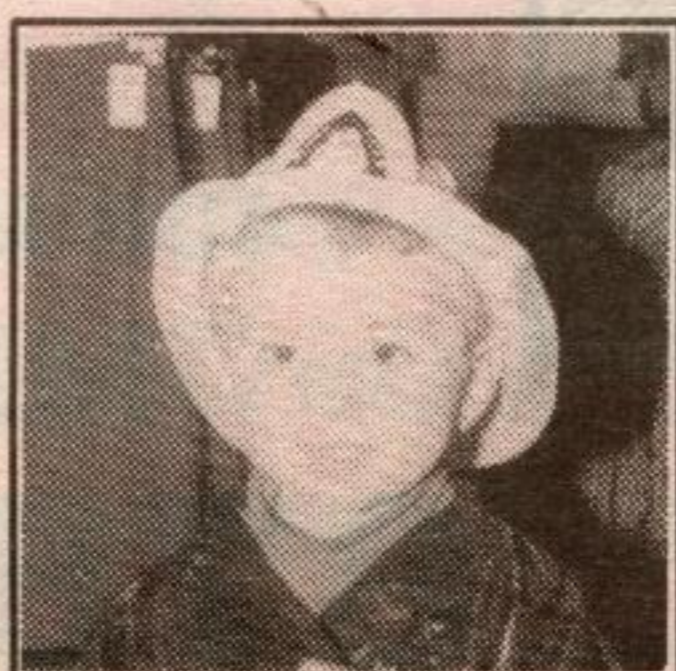
# HEY!

*What are you going out as for Halloween?*



"Probably a vampire – I'm handing out candy to little kids."  
**Lisa Laing,**  
RR 1, Georgetown

"I'm going as a fireman, with boots, and my firehat, ax and jacket."  
**David Haynes,**  
Georgetown



## Your LETTERS

### Fair trial or will vigilantism prevail?

To The Editor,  
A question arises (on reading the Wilson accident report in Wednesday's paper (The Gemini, Oct. 23, Pages 1 and 3)) — no, a few questions arise.

Will both Mr. Ogden and Mr. Ambroziewicz expect and receive full legal protection and counsel? A fair and public trial?

Will both of these men expect

and receive full civil liberties considerations and all human and constitutional rights?

Will these men be free to assume they are protected from physical and mental abuse and torture? Harassment? Swarming? Degradation? Public humiliation?

Or will they suffer the new vigilante justice that Georgetown and Halton-Peel have not only so delightfully accepted and condoned, but wholeheartedly participated in?

I don't think so ... Ontario's radical experiment needs a psychopath to administer and control the terrorism and sadism, and hopefully neither Mr. Ogden or Mr. Ambroziewicz have some one in their lives with that much hate!

**Heather Marchment,**  
Charles Street

### An apple a day...

To the Editor,  
Community spirit and support is alive and well in Halton Hills!

Recently, North Halton Scouts, Cubs and Beavers offered apples to the citizenry of Halton Hills in the annual "Scout Apple Day."

In spite of wet, chilly and dreary weather conditions, the turnout of Scouting youth and adult assistants for this "thank you to the community" autumnal event was heartwarming.

The people of Halton Hills were very appreciative of the offer of a polished, locally grown apple by

well-groomed, enthusiastic, uniformed Scouting youth and they responded by contributing generously into the collection jars. The funds raised on "Scout Apple Day" are turned wholly back into the various groups in our community allowing them to purchase camp gear, badges and supplies.

To the citizens of Halton Hills, your North Halton District Council of Scouts Canada, on behalf of its youth and adult volunteer members, truly appreciates your generosity and continued support!

**Steven Norman, secretary**  
Scouts Canada – North Halton District Council

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Letters should be short and to the point.

The editorial staff of *The Georgetown Gemini* reserve the right to edit for slander, style, libel, and length, and accuracy.

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