

The "police system" not at fault

Letters to the Editor

One hour's notice after 22 years

Wants a reply from Rev. Campbell to earlier letters of objection

To the Editor of the Herald: I read with amazement and then, I must confess, amusement your editorial on Wednesday, March 17 "Police chases: A gamble with our lives" in which you seek to put the blame for the fatal accident which cost the lives of seven young people, upon the "police system".

In the first place, contrary to what you suggest no police system exists which states that a police officer pursuing a young man at 100 mph is a proper method to preserve and protect our lives and property. Therefore the whole point of your article is founded upon no fact at all.

What the "police system" does tell its officers, is that they are to, wherever possible, recover property which has been stolen and return it to its rightful owner, at all times bearing in mind "The primary objective of an efficient police" as laid down by Sir Richard Mayne in London, England in 1829, i.e., the "Protection of Life".

Your next point, in which you seek to compromise, by saying that chases should be only used in extreme cases such as armed robbery or murder, and then only if a senior officer is directing operations by radio, is not only misinformed but really bordering on the stupid.

Does the fact that the driver of the wanted vehicle has committed a murder, lessen the danger to innocent road users? Of course not and then how can a man, senior officer or not, behind a radio speaker in some office judge the conditions being met at high speed by an officer on the street.

If you think carefully about it, you will realize that only the man on the spot can make a high speed decision. If he were to relay the details by radio and then wait for someone else to make the decisions I suggest that whatever hazard was anticipated would either have occurred or passed by.

Next your article dealt with the individual who is being pursued. You say "He may be driving a stolen vehicle." I noted with interest that nowhere in your article did you refer to him as a "thief". Of course, if the "police system" is the real culprit, as you wish to make us believe, then I can understand your reticence. It is better just to gloss over that part of the story and concentrate on the more important issue of the police guilt.

The fact is, that if a man is driving a stolen car, or if he is drunk or stoned and he refuses to stop when directed to do so by a police officer then it is he who is responsible for any consequences of his failure to comply with the law.

People should not steal cars. People should not drive when they are drunk, and people should stop when police officers signal them to do so.

So perhaps, you, as a responsible newspaper, might consider it your duty to bring pressure to bear upon the thieves and drunks on our roads, rather than upon the police who, it seems to me, are under enough pressure in one way or another.

Let us now consider the case which led to all this. The case of a young man who allegedly stole a car and drove it away. The case of six innocent young people travelling home, and the case of a police officer who spotted the thief driving the stolen car.

From what we hear, in bits and pieces, of the Ontario Provincial Police report, perhaps when the facts are known we will discover that there really was no high speed chase at all. That the traffic accident occurred so soon after the police officer spotted the car that high speed chase was just the assumption of certain so-called responsible people who were not in the possession of the true facts.

We do not know yet what happened. What we can assume with some certainty is that police officer saw a car which he knew was stolen and which he believed was being driven by the thief. His duty told him that, if possible, he should apprehend the thief and restore the stolen car to its rightful owner. That is what the "police system" as you call it, requires him to do.

In this case the incident ended tragically. Six innocent young people were killed and one other young person, the person who was driving the stolen car.

I believe I speak for many reasoning people when I say let us not forget who was really responsible for this tragic accident. Certainly the police officer is not to blame, nor the police system, nor the six occupants of the other car, nor even the owner of the stolen car, as some have tried to suggest, but the person who broke the law in the first place when he allegedly committed the offence of theft and, for a second time, when he failed to stop for the police officer, and a third time when he drove the car at such high speeds in a restricted area.

Compassion for the untimely death of seven young people we must have, but while we feel this compassion let us keep our heads clear of emotion and not, as so many weak people in the past have done, try to place the blame where it does not belong.

David Richards, Mountainview Road S., Georgetown.

Following is a copy of a letter sent to Rev. Ken Campbell a copy of which has been filed with this paper.

Rev. K. Campbell, c/o Campbell-Hesse Crusades, Milton, Ontario.

Before we left for Florida, I wrote several letters objecting very strenuously to your attacks on the Halton Board of Education. The copies of these letters are enclosed.

My letter of Jan. 8, I asked you publicly to answer to the Church community of Halton collectively, how you justify such attacks with the teaching of the Apostle Paul in 2nd Cor. chapter 6, verses 3&4, where he argues against making no defense of the Gospel Ministry not to bring it into disrepute.

Further, you will note I suggested that you were creating a "stumbling-block" in accordance with the Pauline teaching of 1st Cor. Chpt. 8, verse 9... and finally to Jesus' own teaching of not making a public scene of ourselves as Christians - Matt. Chapter 6, verse 2.

You chose to ignore a public response to this letter which I still contend you should answer if you truly desire to have the Halton Church Community to understand and appreciate your viewpoint.

My letter of Jan 28 asked you to do some fence-mending with the clergy of the Church Community of Halton after you took a strip off the Rev. Huggies because he did not quite see your viewpoint... I feel you owe the Renaissance Committee an apology for such an attack on your fellow brother in Christ, as well as clergy.

I am astonished, Rev. Campbell that you still have the gall to go after the Halton Board of Education when you were taught, or at least I was taught, that in the last days people will not listen to the Christian Gospel, but will turn away... I hope you have read the writings of Peter, 1st, 2nd, 3rd John as well as the Book of Revelation, then the attitudes of the Halton Board of Education should not be quite such a shock to your system.

Finally, before we leave to begin our term of interim pastorate, I shall charge you that if you wish your crusades to be a God-honoring success in Halton or anywhere else... remember Peter's charge "Do not be Lords, but examples of the flock which is God's heritage"... Sir, I suggest most strongly that your outbursts are anything but that!!!! I further charge you with the words of Paul to young Timothy "Endure as a good soldier, endure all things for the Church's sake, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus" (2nd Tim. 2 verse 3 and verse 10). If you want to be an

To the Editor of the Herald: I've muttered long enough under my breath, so now this letter is going to help me ease my mind.

This is about my mother, Mrs. Madeline Pries. I fight off you're going to say I'm prejudiced because I'm family, but there are several

who can verify my story. For those who have never patronized the old arena Mom has been tending the canteen there for 22 years. (Dad

managed the arena at the time of his death in 1960). This was to be her last year. Unfortunately it was shortened due to the arena's sudden closure. (She was only given one hour's notice!)

It was mainly family who worked for Mom because up until this year she worked on commission and had to pay her part-time help out of her own wages! (She couldn't always afford to pay minimum wages.)

retirement. We love you. Fred, Merle, Steve, Janet, Brenda and Craig Lawrence; Carl, Elaine, Larry and Jane Peterson; Wayne, Judy Kim, Jacqueline and Mark Pries; Keith, Gail, Tim and Adam Bennett.

This is why I find myself fuming. After all those years of dedication she was offered only eight hours a week at the new arena. She decided she was better off on unemployment. This is degrading for Mom because she's never been out of work.

Also, in 20 years she had only one raise in that commission! The old arena board and the new recreation department knew a soft touch when they saw one.

(Editor's Note: After receiving this letter we contacted Pat Sheehan, facilities superintendent of Halton Hills, who told us that he would gladly look further into Mrs. Pries' case. "We don't treat our people like that," he commented while paying tribute to Mrs. Pries for her many years of excellent service to the town.)

Only eight hours after years of putting in seven days a week! Doug Vivian asked on her behalf at the recreation department about severance pay but the girl he talked to said she'd never heard of it. No more has been done about it.

Mom will tell you she has enjoyed her work. She met many friendly people and was respected by the teenagers. She tried to please all. She served what she felt to be the best-tasting hotdogs, coffee and hot chocolate. Many will agree.



The special section in the Herald about the Bantam Tournament featured just about everyone except Mom and the girls (mostly family) in the canteen who started at 7 a.m. and stayed till 11 or 13 at night. Try putting up with that and smoke for a whole week.

Mom will be at the Gordon Alcott arena to help out during the Bantam Tournament, then she can say goodbye for good. All you coaches, players, refs, figure skaters and parents, won't you say hello?

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this letter publicly in the Herald and thereby, hopefully find that the Church Community has had a satisfactory explanation and is willing to help your viewpoint... you are as much aware as I, that the renewal of society begins with

and ends with the Church; and historical fact that cannot be overlooked! Yours in the ministry of Christ our Master, George Allin, RR4 Georgetown

Philbrook not representing Halton on capital punishment

To the Editor of the Herald: I am a grade ten student at Georgetown High School. In Canadian studies we are presently discussing Canada's government and their laws.

capital punishment. The vote showed that 60 percent were for it, but since Dr. Philbrook wasn't for it he didn't feel he could vote against it! I'd say that's tough! If he can't speak for the people then let him resign.

We are interested in the topic of capital punishment and our MP Dr. Philbrook.

I myself feel that capital punishment should be brought back. How would you feel if someone murdered your wife, kids or parents? Would it be okay? Just let the murderer go

Shovel sidewalks

To the Editor of the Herald: I would appreciate having this letter put in your paper. This is a situation that concerns all residents and I hope something will be done to get our sidewalks in use all year round, not just eight or nine months of the year.

fatal accident. However this is a major problem and I'm sure it concerns many parents. Being a driver I realize how hazardous it is with children walking on the roads. Why aren't the main sidewalks kept free of ice and snow? Example: Guelph, Delrex and Mountainview?

To the Mayor: A few days ago my son was knocked down by a man on Guelph Street. Fortunately the vehicle was going slow and the driver was very much alert, otherwise it could have been a

too costly for the town's budget why not hire students (who, I'm sure, could use the extra money) and have them do the job? Or welfare recipients? Why wait until people become statistics before we do something about the situation? I was under the impression that the town has a sidewalk snow remover. Where is it? Hopefully we, as parents, won't have to take a petition before something is done to alleviate this hazardous condition.

UCW urges council to make complex a high priority

To the Editor of the Herald: Concerned regarding the lack of a properly designed facility suitable for cultural events in Georgetown the University Women's Club of Georgetown has submitted the following resolution to the Halton Hills Council:

aspects of recreation and some, such as hockey, skating, tennis and swimming, have recently been accommodated, while others such as music appreciation and drama have not and "Whereas our present library facilities are inadequate for our population and future population, "Therefore, be it resolved

\$50,000 grant for Day Care

The province has paid an additional \$50,000 to aid in establishing the Region Day Care Centre in Georgetown. The ministry of community and social services is providing 100 percent of the costs of the project.

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