

Capital punishment not a deterrent: Philbrook

To the Editor of the Herald: I was delighted to find a keen and concerned letter in the March 29 Herald from a grade ten student, Janet Ollivier, whatever her views, I would like to assure her that I respect them, even if I do not agree with them.

I have commented freely and fully on the large and complex subject of capital punishment, both before and after being elected, from the public platform, in letters, in interviews, in newsletters, and on radio and T.V. and by every means at my disposal. It should be well known by now to my constituents that I stand for abolition, as long as everything possible is being done to make the rest of our law and order system as effective as possible, and to protect and reassure the public.

Our Government is attempting to do just this, at the urging of private MP's such as myself.

Some people have suggested

that MP should do what his constituents want, including voting. The process is simply not that simple as Janet or anyone else will learn if they ever become seriously involved in the political processes of this country. The elected official wants to keep in touch with his constituents as one of a number of important elements which contribute to the decision-making process, and to keep constituents informed about what is happening.

As part of our British parliamentary tradition, the Member is expected to assume an active, knowledgeable leadership role rather than a passive one. He has a duty to make his position on issues known as thoroughly as possible before elections, to act on those, unless conditions warrant change, and to keep his riding informed of the progress of those issues during a term of Parliament.

Many subjects, especially these days, are too big and

complex for most people to follow. Elected people sometimes have more time to avail themselves, and beyond their own study have access to the views of expert specialists.

Even if our system did operate by constituency consensus, there are practical difficulties. National polls are notoriously unreliable. The opinion of many individuals is either uncertain or very changeable with the incidence of trouble or the impact of the mass media. As have other MP's, I tried my own riding questionnaire (as Janet says, 60-70 percent voted for capital punishment) and as easy as we made it to reply, only 10 percent were interested enough to do so. Furthermore, we know from experience that the results on an emotional issue are skewed. Those who feel most strongly, such as retentionists, are more likely to reply.

Many people have inquired about having a referendum. That is not a part of our

political process aside from an election every four to five years, and if it were that it all would have time to do.

I insist that according to our system, I am representing Halton to the best of my ability because I am trying my best to help find the best answers for our society by considering every source of information. Besides the expert opinions of specialists, many important groups such as churches, editorialists, lawyers and judges, and now even police associations are prepared to support elimination of the death penalty as long as the rest of the system is lightened up.

The desired emotional bias is sought by asking, as did Janet, "How would you feel if someone murdered your wife, kids or parents?" For fair balance, the same people should ask seriously "How would you feel if your wife, kids or parents did the murdering and faced the hangman's rope?" Especially if it

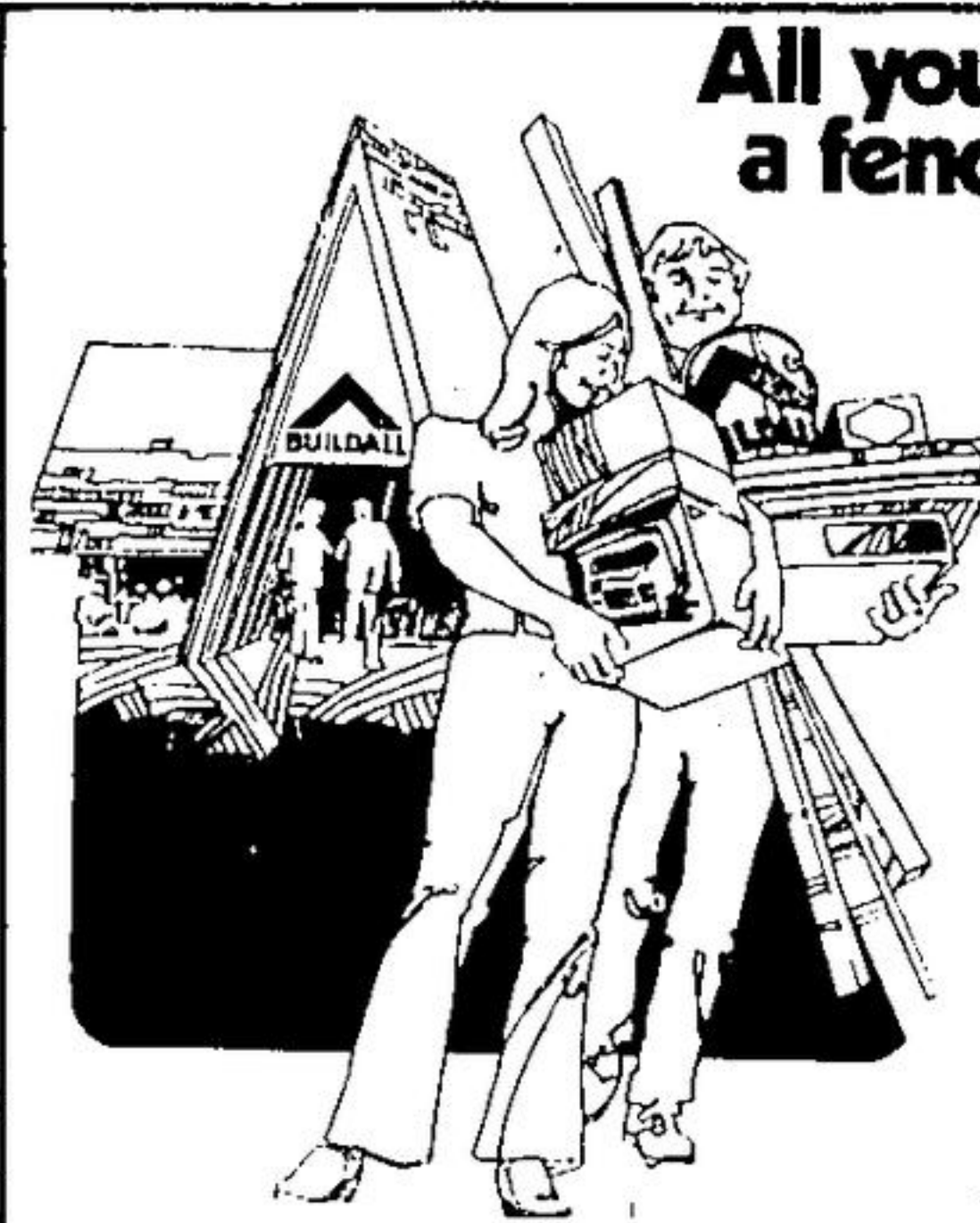
were proven later that they were innocent.

Nor should society forget how it closes its eyes to the horrible conditions in which some innocent children are raised until their minds are criminally distorted. Only eliminating the causes of anti-social conflict and behaviour will help to eliminate crime, not wrong vengeful punishment answers, however seemingly simple. Volumes have been written on the subject.

Capital punishment is not a proven deterrent to violence and murder but could polarize society and even have the opposite effect.

I am always pleased to exchange views, and especially to receive invitation to do this in person with schools or any other groups. Again I congratulate Janet on her letter.

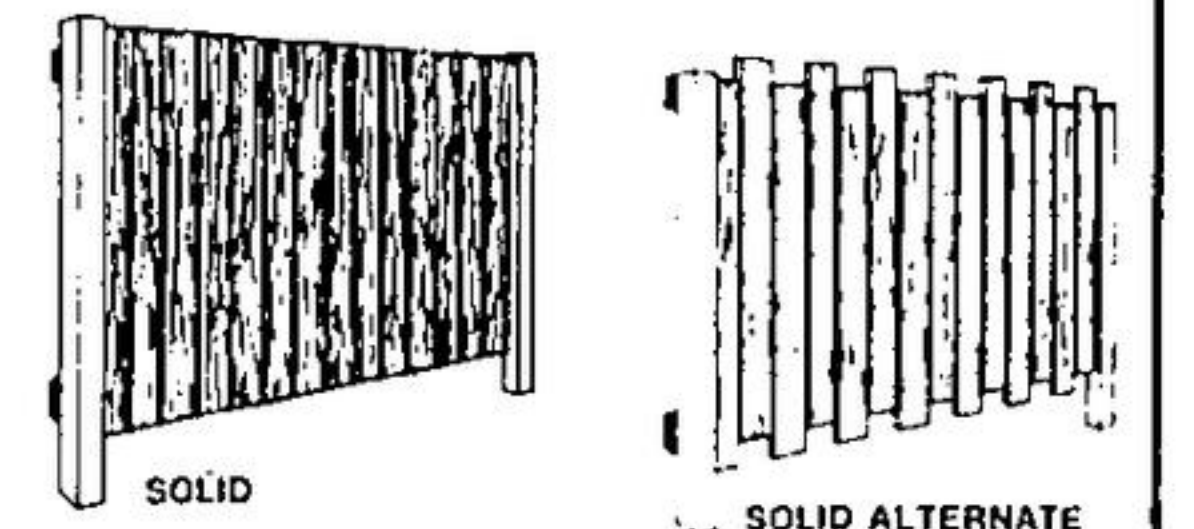
Yours sincerely,
Dr. Frank A. Philbrook,
Member of Parliament
Halton.



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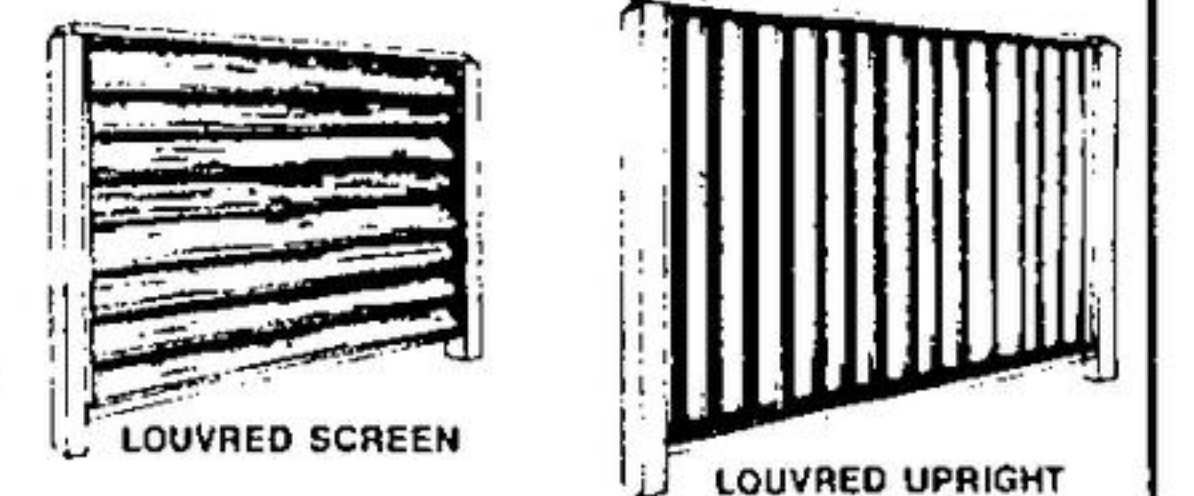
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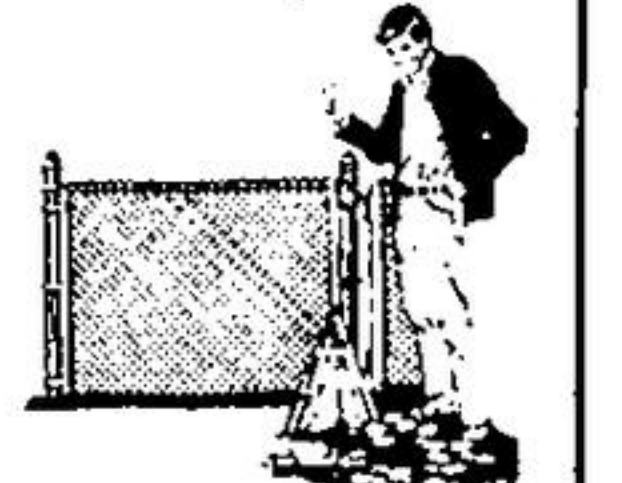
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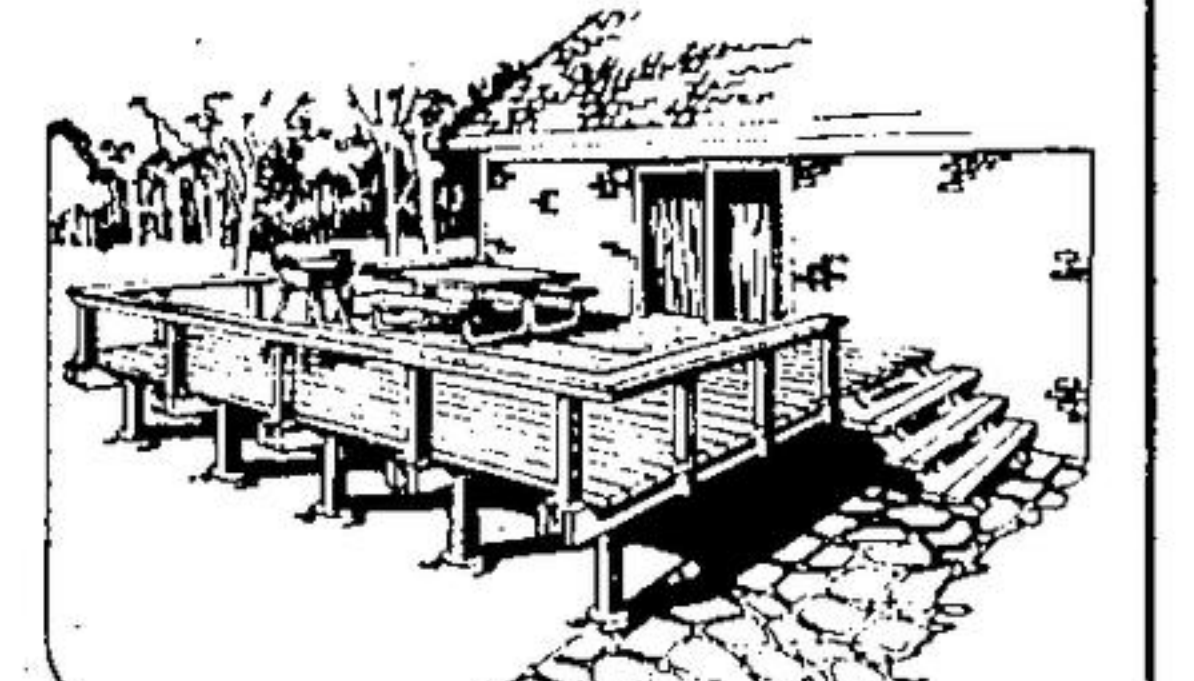
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Letters to the Editor

Bantams spread town's name far and wide

To the Editor of the Herald: We are observing with keen interest council's flip-flopping around the "Issue" of the cost of providing ice time for the Georgetown International Bantam Tournament.

"We" are Georgetown taxpayers, Georgetown Residents, Georgetown Parents, Georgetown Hockey Fans. We are two guys who have worked long and hard at providing hockey for Georgetown kids, so we think more as participants than spectators.

Frankly, what prompted this letter was one Councillor's suggestion to move Georgetown Bantam Tournament around from town to town. This Councillor is being WASTED - if, without really trying, he can come up with ideas as hare-brained as that one. Hare-brained Pierre could doubtless find a spot for him in the hare-brained Federal Cabinet.

We suggest that Councillor take two trips - one to Detroit, Michigan, and one to LeVack, Ontario. He should ask the

townfolk when he arrives, "What do you know about Georgetown, Ontario?"

He will get one of two answers:

1. "Absolutely Nothing" or;
2. "That's the town that started organized hockey for kids. They have an International Hockey Tournament there every year."

Georgetown is known across Canada (and in parts of the U.S.) for its hockey and its fine young hockey players.

The town should donate the ice time, free of charge, for the tournament. That's a very reasonable price to pay for our town's main claim to fame.

Thank God we have men in this town like Harry Levy, Red Asseltine and the Kinsmen. They understand and appreciate the value of a traditional institution like the Bantam Tournament.

Thank God also, that we don't have more "Johnny-Come-Lately" Councillors who measure everything in dollars and cents.

Itan Dixon
Bill Love

UFO Centre established

To the Editor of the Herald: We would like to inform you and your readers that a Centre to investigate and study the phenomenon of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) has recently been established in Toronto.

An independent private Canadian group, the UFO Research Centre, Ontario will seriously and scientifically study the complex and controversial UFO enigma. The Centre will operate as a standing committee of the Toronto Society for Psychological Research, set up in 1970 as a federally registered, not-for-profit institution. Its address is PO Box 427, Station F, Toronto.

The Centre aims to be a place to which individuals can report UFO sightings or experiences without fear of ridicule, and with assurance that their reports will receive serious attention and be treated in strict confidence. We aim to pursue a scientific study of such reports, to become a source of in-

formation and undertake public education programs about UFOs, and to co-operate with other serious groups and individuals in the field. Also, we would like to secure the voluntary services of people such as astronomers, teachers, journalists and psychologists who have special

technical knowledge-skills or facilities relevant to UFO research.

If you would like further information about the Centre please contact us at the above address.

Iris Owen (Mrs.)
Honorary Secretary

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(Following is a copy of a letter sent to Harry Levy, chairman of the Georgetown International Bantam Hockey Tournament.)

Dear Mr. Levy: On behalf of the Aylmer Bantam Hockey Team that was in your tournament during the Easter Break, I would like to extend our thanks for the

wonderful time and the good quality of hockey which you provided us with.

Please add us to your list of teams for next year and I am almost positive that one of our teams would like attend again!

Yours truly,
Aylmer Bantam All-Stars,
Kim Black,
Manager.

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