

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Herald columnist remarks unfair, teachers deserve better: principal

To the editor of The Herald: I feel obliged to respond to the item "G.D.H.S. coaches lax in reports", which appeared in this week's issue under Colin Gibson's name.

Before I get to the main point of my letter, I would like to understand that on one at this school has complained about the lack of coverage of school activities by your newspaper.

By and large, school functions of all kinds have been well covered in your pages. However, Mr. Gibson's column makes some comments about laxity on the part of our coaches which cannot go unchallenged.

I am sure that if Mr. Gibson wishes to come to the school, we can establish procedures for reporting our activities, which are acceptable to coaches and Mr. Gibson. This should eliminate comments about laxity by both Mr. Gibson and by the coaches.

Mr. Gibson has his responsibilities as a reporter and an editor. The teachers have responsibilities to their students most of all; reporting school functions is not a high priority with most teachers.

Editor shouldn't slough his job

To the editor of The Herald: It would seem that your Sports Editor, Colin Gibson, is having trouble fulfilling his job as a sports reporter, never mind a sports editor.

In his Sports Comment of November 3rd, he lashes out at the coaches of Georgetown District High School teams for not reporting to him. Are these individuals who teach full-time take on their own time the responsibility of coaching, now also to become sports reporters for Mr. Gibson? It looks very much like your Editor is trying to excuse himself from giving poor coverage to GDHS sports. The Independent doesn't seem to have the communication problem. Perhaps their sports staff are a little more keen or if not, at least a little more understanding and co-operative. They have on an average SIX articles per week about sports at GDHS. The Herald on the other hand has had an average of THREE or less articles per week—except of course for the November 3rd edition when Mr. Gibson placed seven articles in the sports section—hardly suspicious! One can therefore assume from the aforementioned that fault does not lie entirely with GDHS coaches.

coached at GDHS last year. NOT ONE was she contacted by message, by "Mr. Telephone" or by Mr. Gibson himself during the course of a three month season. I would say that there definitely is "a certain amount of laxness" but not on this particular coaches part!

In conclusion—if Mr. Gibson really thinks that the athletes are suffering from "relative anonymity" (as if that's what high school sports or even community sports are about anyway!) perhaps he should do something about it HIMSELF. That's HIS JOB!

Sincerely
Meredith Smye

Last year, I was able to identify some 37 coaching functions which were carried on by various teachers. That number does not include covering intramural activities, and a great many other non-athletic activities such as drama, music, dances, and a variety of student clubs. Considerable time and effort is required.

All of this involvement is done voluntarily by the teachers concerned. But most of them do not automatically accept the role of reporter along with the coaching duties, nor would I expect them to do so.

I have talked to many of those concerned on the staff, and I believe they have made reasonable efforts to cooperate with the press. But many of them have been disappointed and frustrated in their efforts at communication with Mr. Gibson.

Site F handling shows real government face

To the editor of The Herald:

It seems we are seeing the real results of regional government in the handling of the Site F garbage dump case. The fears of a few are being realized, when a paid employee of the regional level feels he has the power to ride rough-shod over elected officials.

Just look at the record of the past few weeks. Two honest, hard-working, and reasonable members of the council insulted and jeered at, for daring to suggest that there could be a better way, and for wanting more information. The name they were called, the Hobbsey Twins, shows very well just how far out of date Mr. Haftis' thinking really is. The deliberate ignoring of the express wishes of one of the Mayors on the Council, in ramming through Site F drilling orders in her absence, is a slap in the face of all Milton. Would he have dared do such a thing to the Mayor of Burlington or Oakville? It makes one wonder what the future holds for Milton, yoked to two much larger communities. Do all the plums go to them, and all the pits get dumped in Milton? It's too bad when one department of

the region seems to have acquired so much power - it's worse than bad, it's dangerous. I urge all Miltonians who care, to make their views known, loudly and often. Elections are coming soon.

Eleanor Hadfield

We erred

An error in last week's Herald omitted the names of the full executive of the Optimists Club who recently were inducted.

The club executive are Al Axford, president; Al McQueen, vice-president; Norm Guthrie, vice-president; John Horning, secretary; treasurer; and directors Ray Martin, Gerry Getty, Duncan Stacey, Clarence Baker and Buster Wood. Larry Ciglen is past president.

I am extremely proud of the involvement of our teachers with our students. They deserve much better than such poorly based criticism as Mr. Gibson offers.

Yours truly,
M.J. Furlong,
Principal.

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Candidate missed meeting

To the editor of The Herald: I am sorry that I missed the All Candidates Meeting sponsored by Donmar Management and the Halton Hills Council. I would have shown up but I wasn't invited.

William A Johnson
NDP
Candidate
Halton-Burlington

Mr. Gibson replies

I would like to thank both Mr. Furlong and Miss Smye for their comments. Any time they would like to discuss the matter with me privately they are welcome to do so. The whole essence of news gathering, be it news or sports, is co-operation with those people we deal with. Many of the coaches, managers and sports people in Georgetown are my only link with what's going on.

Colin Gibson
Sports Editor

Candidate upset at invite

Halton-Burlington NDP candidate William Johnson has expressed disappointment that he was excluded from an "all candidates meeting" of council and officials of Donmar last week.

Mr. Johnson was remarking in a letter to the editor on the invitation extended to George Gray, president of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, and also Progressive Conservative candidate, Julian Reed, Liberal MPP for Halton-Burlington attended the meeting also.

"I have no argument with Julian being there, he should be," Mr. Johnson said, "but there was nothing in the council motion saying Mr. Gray was to attend. He was invited by a member of council."

The invitation was extended by Coun. Harry Levy who chaired the meeting. Mr. Levy said he extended the invitation because of Mr. Gray's Chamber position and there was no intent in slighting Mr. Johnson.



M—M—M GOOD

WOW... a young customer eyes the baked goods displayed at Park school during their white elephant bake sale Friday.

Hospital objects to dump

Milton hospital has voiced opposition to the selection of Site F as a regional landfill site on the basis of health care for its patients.

Administrator Brian Brady said the hospital board is concerned over the establishment of "a 2,500 acre landfill site" bordering on the hospital.

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