

# Letters to the Editor Red Cross 'correction'

To the editor of the Herald:  
It was reported in your paper of October 17, 1979 that the Georgetown and District Red Cross Branch fell short of its 1979 fund raising goal by \$5,000.  
There must have been a misunderstanding on some-

one's part as the branch was \$1,279 short of the target set of \$16,500.  
It was reported elsewhere that the total raised amounted to \$15,231, and this was the campaign total for 1979. In general donations given in the area were above those given in 1978.

The Red Cross expenses, like every other organization, increase every year, so it is obviously necessary to increase our campaign target each year.  
We are certainly looking towards our commuters to Toronto when they give to United Way to specify that their Red Cross contribution

be forwarded to Georgetown or Acton, so that we can reflect a true response to the Red Cross in this area.  
Yours truly,  
John Wickens,  
Campaign Chairman,  
Georgetown District Red Cross Branch



**Michael Hollett**  
Herald editor

## Boat People deserve help

I got a disturbing phone call this week, and I've had others like it before.  
No, I'm not talking about an obscene phone call, at least in the classical sense, although I found the views expressed by my caller obscene.  
My caller is of the opinion that we should be helping Canadians first before we help those Boat People. She also maintained Boat People steal Canadian jobs. The topper was when she explained to me that Vietnamese, like all black and yellow, breed like rabbits and will soon overrun Canada.  
As editor, I get plenty of crank calls and usually I deal with them by listening to the caller and then suggesting they write the Herald a letter which we'll gladly publish and even run with their name withheld if they wish.  
But I was too angry to simply say that to this caller. I've had calls like this before, who squeal the Boat People are going to come here and somehow make their lives a little less pleasant. In fact, I'm told members of the Halton Hills Boat People support groups, who have bravely had their phone numbers printed in the local newspapers, seeking assistance, have been subject to anonymous, abusive phone calls.

### Won't write

Each time I have been contacted by people ranting about the Boat People, the offer to print a letter stating the anti-Boat People view has been made. I've even volunteered to not publish the letter writer's name, in fact, I'd run the letters without receiving any name if I could but it simply is not the practice of any newspaper in this country to do so because of the legal ramifications of running completely anonymous letters.  
But despite these offers, not a word against the Boat People has appeared in the letters columns. These same callers accuse the Herald of being one-sided on the issue yet when the forum for them to express their views is offered, they cringe.  
Personally, I'd love it if these people would have the guts to articulate their views. I think it is important these views are publicized if they exist. Rather than have them simmering and festering beneath the surface, I would like to see some kind of forum with people debating and possibly enlightening one another.  
Not wanting to sound too self-righteous, I'm also convinced that when forced to articulate their views, at least

some anti-Boat People callers might have to face the fact of where some of their opinions come from.  
My caller this week insisted she wasn't a racist, yet as we spoke, her comments became more and more revealing. Finally she admitted it "bugged her" to see somebody walking around wearing a turban and speaking a different language. Then she got into "their alleged breeding habits".  
I called these opinions racist and while she certainly didn't agree I hope she at least thought about the possibility.  
My caller's comments became all the more ironic when she told me Canada was going to go down the drain, just like England, where she comes from.

### All immigrants

"So you're an immigrant too," I reminded her. She stumbled at this thought but mentioned something about other "real Canadians".  
I reminded her that a little over 100 years ago this country didn't even exist and we're all the sons and daughters of immigrants somewhere down the line. A good many Canadians ended up here when their parents were Boat People of sorts too. In fact, this country has a long history of embracing the unwanted from other lands to create a new, multi-cultural country.  
Of course the European immigrants who settled here did have one thing going for them in the eyes of people like my callers, they weren't yellow or black.  
I'd like the anti-Boat People group to seriously consider what their opinion would be if the refugees now turning to Canada in desperate need were from, say Australia, or New Zealand. I suspect they'd be getting a much warmer welcome.  
Canada's black and yellow immigrants are obviously a very visible minority. And in a country that for a long time had mostly European immigration, the relatively recent increase in the number of black and yellow citizens in this country is very apparent. Many of these immigrants arrived during the same time as this country's, along with the rest of the western world's, economy went on the rocks, so it's too easy to blame our problems on our highly visible immigrants.  
But if people are angry about the economy, they should be blaming the corporations and governments that run Canada, not a desperate group of refugees fighting to stay alive.

## Georgetown Little Theatre apologizes for lack of seats

To the editor of the Herald:  
I would be most grateful if you would pass on our regrets to those readers who recently attended Georgetown Little Theatre's production of "There Goes The Bride".  
We were delighted but overwhelmed by the audience turnout on the final Friday and Saturday of the play, but unfortunately were unable to find seats for all our patrons.  
We realize that faced with a sell-out situation we must improve our efficiency to avoid a repetition of the problem. We would like to assure our supporters that the matter will be given attention prior to our next production.  
The large and enthusiastic audiences for this comedy, however, do serve to point out the need for fixed-seat auditorium where seats are numbered and patrons are guaranteed a seat for every ticket.  
Thank you,  
Sincerely,  
Pat Joynes,  
President



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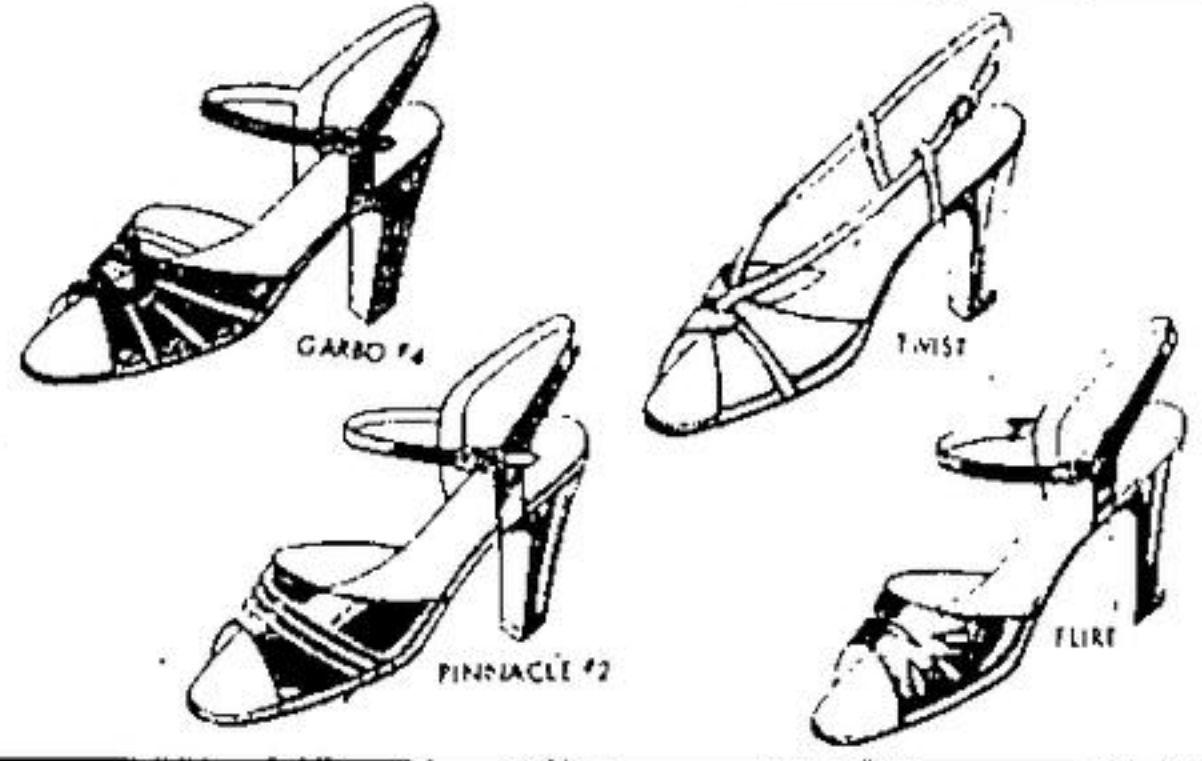
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## VIEWPOINT

## Columnist is fed up with news

By GERRY LANDSBOUGH  
Herald columnist

I have my moments when I'm so fed up with the garbage that appears in the news, and is constantly blasting away at us from the communications media.  
At least when you read the news or a magazine you can act as your own editor and omit anything you really don't want to look at - but TV and the radio however give you only two choices, listen or shut it off.  
Stories such as the torture of little children reported in the dossier by Amnesty International, an organization that campaigns for prisoners of conscience. One woman writes "my three year old daughter was undressed and whipped with a leather whip and then put in a barrel of ice water till she almost drowned." That statement was from the wife of a Chilean trade unionist who refused to tell her husband's whereabouts to the Chilean military.  
This is just one of 35 cases of child torture and murder by various political groups throughout the world. Mentioned in the Amnesty report entitled "Children". So much for the Year of the Child.

guided soul wrote a letter to the Star telling of the joys of grass and how "my poor little marijuana plant who gives only comfort and support has been a criminal since birth." How sad for him and his weed. Marijuana is not harmless. Dr. D.H. Powelson chief of psychiatry at the University of California is just one of the many who advocated legalization of marijuana only five years ago, and has since admitted recent findings have completely changed his mind. Pot, according to Mr. William Moore of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine "will cause irreversible brain damage if smoked regularly for three years."  
LUNG DAMAGE  
Recent findings show lung damage, a weakened immunity system and changes in personality all from this "harmless" little plant. It is most unfortunate that those who push for the legalization of marijuana are already a few

bricks short of a lead and the poor misguided fools can't think their muddled thinking straight which by the way is another side effect of this harmless little weed.  
We have an energy problem right? Right! So naturally when the local municipalities cut down trees, dead or otherwise, they are all hauled off to local dumps to be burned. Meanwhile all the folks who are energy conscience or oil or gas short rush out to 'buy' firewood for their fireplaces. Here's a thought - why not use the wood cut down each year by the parks and roads people and supply it "free" to local residents? The answer is - don't be foolish. We are a nation of conservationists and the time it takes to figure and set up such an elaborate scheme takes time, our most valuable asset. Just drop it off at the dump and burn it - that's the way we've always handled it, besides it helps to keep the economy adjusted by keeping

the rabble broke so they have to use alcohol and other mind boggling which keep them from thinking and of course this keeps everything and everyone quiet and peaceful in "Happy Valley".  
Back to the Year of the Child. Papers are flooded recently with grim pictures of children starving in Cambodia. Here in North America we diet because we're too fat. We eat too much. Irony isn't it? Why not set up a diet workshop to save a child's life by sending the funds saved from cutting chunky bunks' meals in half. The fat get skinny and the skinny keep from dying - sounds like a fair trade to me. Somehow the world's system of haves and have nots is completely out of wack.  
We do make progress as humans, but I tend to believe that it isn't a drop in the bucket to what we could accomplish if we could only get together on a few fundamentals.  
Food for thought?

## Christiane's CUT-A-THON FOR CANCER

Sunday Oct. 28. Beginning 10 a.m.

All income from style cutting goes to the Cancer Society. You need no appointment, but if you wish make an appointment with your special choice of stylist. Normal charges apply on Men's, Women's and children's styling. The entire amount going to boost the fight against Cancer. We're donating our time, you donate your hair! Coffee served while you wait, and a continuous fashion show will entertain. Please come and show your support for the Cancer Society.

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SHOPLIFTERS  
Have you seen the anti-shoplifting ads showing three juvenile boys about to steal a toy with the caption "the gang is about to rip you off". Cute - but unfortunately untrue. The majority of shoplifting is done by adults and quite often the very same adults who work in the stores. Shoplifters are a cross section of humanity and to point the finger just at kids is a crime in itself.  
One lady recently told me how she could get me something for Christmas that she and everyone else was lifting from the plant, her reasoning was, why not take it and compensate for the low wage her employer was paying her. It may not be right but it is a very common viewpoint. To center out kids as "the" shoplifters is very unfair, another blow for the Year of the Child. Here's some more garbage on marijuana. Some poor mis-