

Contest's supporters 'missed the point'

An open letter to Jim Barrett, Ellen Napier and other interested parties:
I am truly dismayed at and angered by the falsehoods, accusations, innuendo, misinterpretation and fallacious gossip contained in your letter and that of Ellen Napier (Sept. 3) to The Herald.
Indeed, it seems to me that you and others have completely missed the point of the letters which appeared in the newspapers of August 27 in that you ally exploitation with money, when all the letters I have read made it abundantly clear that judging babies and little girls in contests is an offence against their very being (both physical and intellectual). What in the name of heaven has that got to do with toy companies? Or that service clubs sponsoring the child charge no fee? Or that you are receiving no remuneration?

you have recently moved) from Brampton and Toronto (our local newspapers must be truly rejoicing to think they are so widely read!) from your neighbor Ellen Napier, making a fallacious statement to which you alluded. It sounds to me like the pot calling the kettle black!
And let it be clear to both you and Ellen Napier that at no time was I ever entered in nor did I win a baby contest (my parents exercised better judgement in their child-rearing) nor was either one of our daughters a contestant in a pageant. We love and respect our children. We do not use or misuse their physical or mental attributes for our own gain. Please exercise discretion the next time you put pen to paper. There is a law against what you have done!
And finally, I am amazed

that you as a newcomer to town, and other letter writers, have the audacity to counsel all who wrote or telephoned you to "expend our energy doing something for the community." Among the signatures, I recognize many who have selflessly given countless hours of time and energy to making Georgetown the vibrant, interesting, pleasant community it is. The false innuendo in which you indulge serves only to lessen the impact of their continuing contribution and service. Personally, I was one of the founders of the Block Parent Association, I co-founded and am a leader of an organization dedicated to the optimum physical and mental growth of our children. I am involved in helping senior citizens, in 1978 I helped to organize a

programme outlining the need for a Nursing Home (as one reader suggested). I am actively involved in many aspects of our church life etc. etc. Know where of you speak if you intend to condemn or otherwise malign!
In conclusion, do not misunderstand that I for one am unappreciative that newcomers like youngsters are anxious to become involved in our community's life. You are to be commended for that and I sincerely hope that your involvement will continue. But please, no more children's contests! Why not a dress-up parade (non-competitive), a games day, an arts and crafts in the park afternoon, a live theatre day etc. There are dozens of possibilities. Please consider them!
Sincerely,
Patricia Stuart-Hagge

Letters to the Editor

Dentist is seeking sponsors in \$1,000 run for Terry

To the editor of The Herald:
A few years ago, I started running. I began this activity only because I realized that I needed the exercise. It means much more than that to me now, however. It is a time to forget my daily routine. A time to be alone, but foremost, a time to enjoy life.
This past April, while I was training for the Ottawa Marathon, I sprained my ankle. At the time, I felt a great remorse and disappointment. To think that all the months of training had



Brian Markham

gone for nothing and that I would not have a chance to compete. Fortunately, the ankle recovered quickly and I lost only a few days of training time.
Looking back, I realize that the disappointment I felt was only a fraction of that which must have been felt by Terry Fox last week when he discovered that he had developed secondary cancer in his lungs and would have to postpone his run.
At this moment, watching the television, I feel ashamed to think that I was upset over such a materialistic thing as a race.
My running has always been very personal to me and since I am involved with a service club and several charities in town I have always said that I would never run for money.
I must however change my mind. Being a runner I guess I felt a certain kinship with Terry Fox.
On Friday night I went to McDonald's to pick up my pledge sheet so that I too could "run for Terry". For those who don't know, the idea is to log your mileage

for the week ending Sunday, September 14. Several of my friends and relatives have already signed my sheet with pledges ranging from one cent to \$1 per mile run.
I am hoping to run 100 miles this week. I realize that this distance is only a small percentage of Terry's 3,339 miles to date, but I guess every bit will help cancer research and specifically Terry's morale. So far, I have pledges of approximately \$200. My goal is \$1,000.
Therefore, I am asking for your help - help that will find a cure for cancer. I would like to see pledges from other health professionals, from my friends, from other service clubs, from businesses in Georgetown but most importantly from those who care.
If you wish to sponsor me in this endeavor, please phone my office at 877-0209 and help.
I have to "run" now, thanking you for your support, I remain
Dr. Brian Markham
232 A Guelph St.
Georgetown

'Exploitation is focal point of opposition to the contest'

An open letter in reply to Jim Barrett and Ellen Napier:
Mr. Barrett, you are unfortunately oblivious to the focal point of my letter and the other protest letters I have read in the local newspapers. I wish to reply to your statements as reported in The Herald September 3.
Firstly: Sexism is not only a male mental malfunction, it is very much a malfunction of the female mind, too. A female is just as capable of presenting an insane sexist idea as is a male.
Secondly: How can you conceivably label the idea of a "Junior Miss pageant" as "innovative" when, as reported by Patrick Watson on T.V. Ontario (September 2) such pageants are "big business" in North America, and as stated in the programme, at the very great mental and physical expense of the children involved. Any contest that places considerable and needless stress on vulnerable little human beings can hardly be termed "a little fun contest." The United Nations has labelled such pageants "exploitation".
Thirdly: I must again stress that the crux of the opposition to the contest is the exploitation of children - both male and female. A "Mr. Junior Halton Hills" contest is equally unacceptable. Unfortunately, you have completely misunderstood the meaning of the exploitative element of this whole controversy. From not one letter, including my own did I interpret exploitation to equal money as you do. The point people are making is that little girls (or boys) and babies are being used by adults for their own pleasure and benefit,

but money has nothing to do with it.
Fourthly: Letters expressing a certain viewpoint from a common concern will naturally appear similar. Personally, I am impressed by the diversity of expressions in the letters. The English language is truly an amazing one!
Fifthly: It takes a mature adult to lose with "grace and dignity". One can hardly expect such a degree of maturity from three to five year old children or babies!
Sixthly: Indiscriminate buying of toys from toy companies are actions of unthinking parents. The wise purchasing of educational toys can hardly be negatively criticized.
Seventhly: Public display of children in big time television (CHCH and CKCO) should not be justification for our town to follow their path. Surely Georgetown need not attach itself to the "apron strings" of big city ideas.
Lastly Mr. Barrett, I will not "keep my thoughts to myself" when something happens in my town that I see is potentially damaging to any sector of my community. It is my right as a citizen of my country to express my opinions. Please, sir, do not suggest that I am entitled to my thoughts and opinions so long as I keep them to myself!
As an active participant in the community (an executive member of a service club, a member of an energy task force, an active member of my church, to name but a few) as are many others whose signatures I recognize, I decry your judgemental statements against them.
Mr. Barrett, though I oppose your proposal of a beauty

contest, I feel that your original idea has merit, namely, to involve children in the activities of the fall fair. Instead of a beauty contest, which severely limits children's participation at the fair, I propose that you invite all children of Georgetown to display any work or talent they see fit in which ever medium they choose (printing, painting, carving, groomed animals, etc.) This will allow all children (not just a minority) to be a part of the fair. Imagine the immense pride a child would feel to see his/her efforts displayed at his/her town's fair. Give prizes to none but ribbons of recognition to all.
I am flattered, Mrs. Napier, that you recognize my enlightenment via the "Women's

Liberation Movement". Indeed I regret that you appear not to have derived the many benefits of the efforts of men and women throughout the world, to gain recognition and respect for the individual. Freedom of thought is a valuable asset and one which necessarily precludes pre-programmed values.
Mr. Barrett, I am impressed by your eagerness to devote your time and energy to the community. I hope you will not be discouraged by the opposition to the beauty and baby contests. But in the future, would it not be better to propose events that will truly be open to all regardless of age, sex, race, color or physical or mental endowment?
Joseph F.S. Hagge

Reader withdraws support from Georgetown Fall Fair

Dear Editor:
Further to my letter published in your paper August 27, 1980, I feel I must make some additional comments.
1) On Tuesday evening (Sept. 2), I was watching Channel 19 at 9 p.m. The program was "Promises to Keep" with Patrick Watson narrating. It was a follow-up to the Year of the Child to examine the continued exploitation of children in spite of the United Nations declaration of children's rights. Do you know what the first

segment of the show concerned? If you guessed children's beauty pageants, you are right.
Does it then follow that the United Nations, which deplores the exploitation of young girls in beauty pageants, is "small-minded" along with the "small-minded" people of Georgetown, who by their own experience with education, concern in or just plain interest in children have determined for themselves that beauty pageants are

exploitative of our young girls?
2) A sexist is one who assigns specific roles to the sexes. This is known as sexual stereotyping, not as sexual stereotyping, not as Mr. Barrett infers, something dirty or lewd.
3) I am sorry to see that people who are for the beauty pageant got down to some serious muckraking and name-calling. It should have been left as an issue and not become involved in personalities.
4) I did not like the comment that the letter writers should turn their energies "to some constructive improvement of the quality of community life". Just a little investigation would have found this statement unwarranted and without fact.

I am committed to two groups, all I can manage at this time with five children to care for. The letter writers I know are extremely involved in their community. Don't let your passions control you. Think and investigate before you write.
5) Since the Fall Fair board is going ahead with this contest, I feel I must withdraw my support of the Fall Fair by not entering the Women's exhibit as I have done in the past three years since coming to Georgetown. I and my family will not be attending the Fall Fair.
6) Thanks to The Herald and The Independent for being the forum for this debate.
Sincerely,
Margaret Peyton
Delrex Blvd.

Father 'disgusted' at coach's attitude

To the editor of The Herald:
In the eyes of my children, at 36 years old I am an old man, but I'm not that old to have a memory blank of what minor league sports is all about.
When we as young boys played any sport, be it baseball, hockey, lacrosse, soccer or whatever, the main object was to have fun, learn sportsmanship and learn to play as a team WIN, LOSE OR DRAW. It seems that with this ball club which my son paid his hard-earned money to join to play ball, the object of the narrow-minded coach and manager is to win and win only.
The best nine players play and the balance of the team "or boys who are supposed to make up the TEAM" sit and keep the bench clean of dust for the best nine. I find this very hard to digest and explain to my son, why two grown individuals who took the job to teach my son and the other boys how to play ball as a team don't play him or the other bench warmers unless they are winning by an unbeatable number of runs or is one of the best nine gets hurt or is sick or whatever.
I am very disgusted with this performance and would suggest that if these two grown individuals want to win so bad that only the best nine play, maybe the Blue Jays or one of the professional clubs would very likely be interested in their type of operation.
It does not impress me or my son.
John Godley
R.R. 1
Georgetown

'No such thing as a loser' at preliminary competition

To the editor of The Herald:
As the proud parents of our little daughter, selected as a second prize winner or runner-up in the Elks preliminary to the Miss Halton Hills Beauty Pageant, we are writing in response to all the narrow-minded views from

people who sent letters in to The Herald opposed to the pageant.
First of all, we'd like to emphasize that "Kids are people, too". Most of the beauty lay in what our young Halton Hills children had to say about life. With the proper way the event was

conducted, it instilled self-confidence and made every little girl feel special. There was no such thing as a loser. All of the little ladies were classed as 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners.
Thank you to the many people who suggested this

event and donated such nice gifts. Our special thanks to Bill Oates, who emceed this affair. Also to Jim and Rita Barrett who organized the wonderful pageant.
Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. A. Burns
77 Bower Street
Acton, Ontario



BEAUTIES ALL

The appreciative applause from an audience of at least 75 people proved a little distracting for the 13 contestants in the Elks Lodge's preliminary competition Sunday who gathered around emcee Bill Oates for a photo. True to expectations, the young ladies vying for the Miss Junior Halton Hills title responded to Mr. Oates' Art Linkletter impersonation by saying some of the darndest things.
(Herald photo)


Dear Terry...

Continued from page A4

Yes, a place to stop and rest awhile to gather strength anew. A time to look back at the cheers and smiles and the love that follows you. If faith can move the mountains then love can bridge the streams so let us carry you along the road that leads you to your dreams. You have given us inspiration and proof that there is love, the disease that plagues our nation we will surely rise above. You've taken the first step Terry... let us go on from there with every step we bring you love and with every tear, a prayer. May the road rise up to meet you until the task is done. May God hold you in the palm of His hand. Run Terry Run.

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