

Editorial

Crime Stoppers in schools?

If we are, as the saying goes, 'Our brother's keeper', does it then not follow that we are the watchdog of our 'brother' and in turn required to sit in judgement of individuals within our society?

One hopes not, in the same sense that Orwell's novel, 1984, is disquieting in describing the total control a state has over an individual.

It goes without question that a society must be protected from individual acts of lawlessness. In the same vein, however, to maintain an individual's uniqueness, that individual must be protected from overbearing dominance by a society.

But where does one draw the line between protecting society and abusing an individual's rights? And when does a society admit to having failed its members, thereby making the social contract null and void?

Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive School, in Selkirk, Manitoba, has introduced a Crime Stoppers program at the school and its introduction begs answers to the aforementioned questions.

Corporal Tom Crowter of the RCMP, in charge of Manitoba's rural Crime Stoppers program, had been looking for a school to use the program as a pilot crime prevention project.

School Vice-principal, Russ Gourluck, jumped at the opportunity and the program has been in operation since last February.

Students are urged to report any crimes or vandalism they see happening on school property and rewards, up to \$100, are offered.

The reward money is paid by Manitoba Crime Stoppers but the school Crime Stoppers program - including the amount of a reward - is determined by a 13-member student board of directors.

Students who call in with a tip are assigned numbers they can use to claim rewards and anonymity is stressed.

In explaining why his school got involved with the program, Vice-principal Gourluck was quoted as saying, "When you have 1,400-plus students together in one school, you're bound to have some problems."

Students have basically accepted the program, but it seems the monetary reward, rather than school spirit, is the main reason it is working.

Grade 12 student, Leanne Wazny was quoted as saying, "As long as it didn't get out that I did it, I'd sure report something. I wouldn't mind a few extra bucks ... A lot of us need some money."

According to a published report on the program, some students on the program's board of directors are taking some heat because of their duties.

"A few of my friends called me a narc," Grant Vialoux, a member of the student board of directors is quoted as saying.

School vandalism and crimes committed on school property are serious matters. Problems that taxpayers have to bear when school board budgets are presented.

But must Crime Stoppers programs be introduced into schools as a solution?

And what about a student's rights when a malicious rumor is spread as a result of a personal vendetta?

Attending school is part of the growing up process.

Must it also reflect the increasing paranoia of a confused society?

Writer is objecting to road widening

Editor's Note: The following letter was released to the Halton Hills Herald for publication.

Mayor Russ Miller
Halton Hills Civic Centre
1 Halton Hills Drive
P.O. Box 128
Halton Hills, Ont. L7G 5G2
Sir,

I object to the widening of the 8th Line and Main Street for many reasons:

The environment and ecology of the creek valleys will be damaged severely. As well, loss of wildlife which now frequent the valley will be irreversible. Georgetown has something unique with its beautiful ravines and waterways, which are enjoyed by both young and old alike. What a shame if we destroy this beauty for future generations. The majority of residents moved to Georgetown because of the "close to the country" at-

mosphere. We don't want to end up being another Brampton.

Truck traffic will increase, which in turn will increase road maintenance costs and higher taxes - already too high! And what about the increase in traffic? The number of trucks on Maple Avenue are bad enough now.

There is concern the disturbing of old landfills may be dangerous. This is a risk too great to take.

The character of the area will be changed forever, including the heritage aspect of old Main Street.

Surely there are alternatives! And if the road may not be built for "ten or fifteen years, if ever", why is so much of our tax money being spent on consulting fees and design services now?

For your consideration,

Sincerely,
M. McGregor,
Georgetown.

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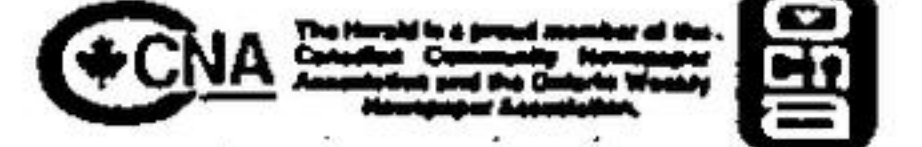
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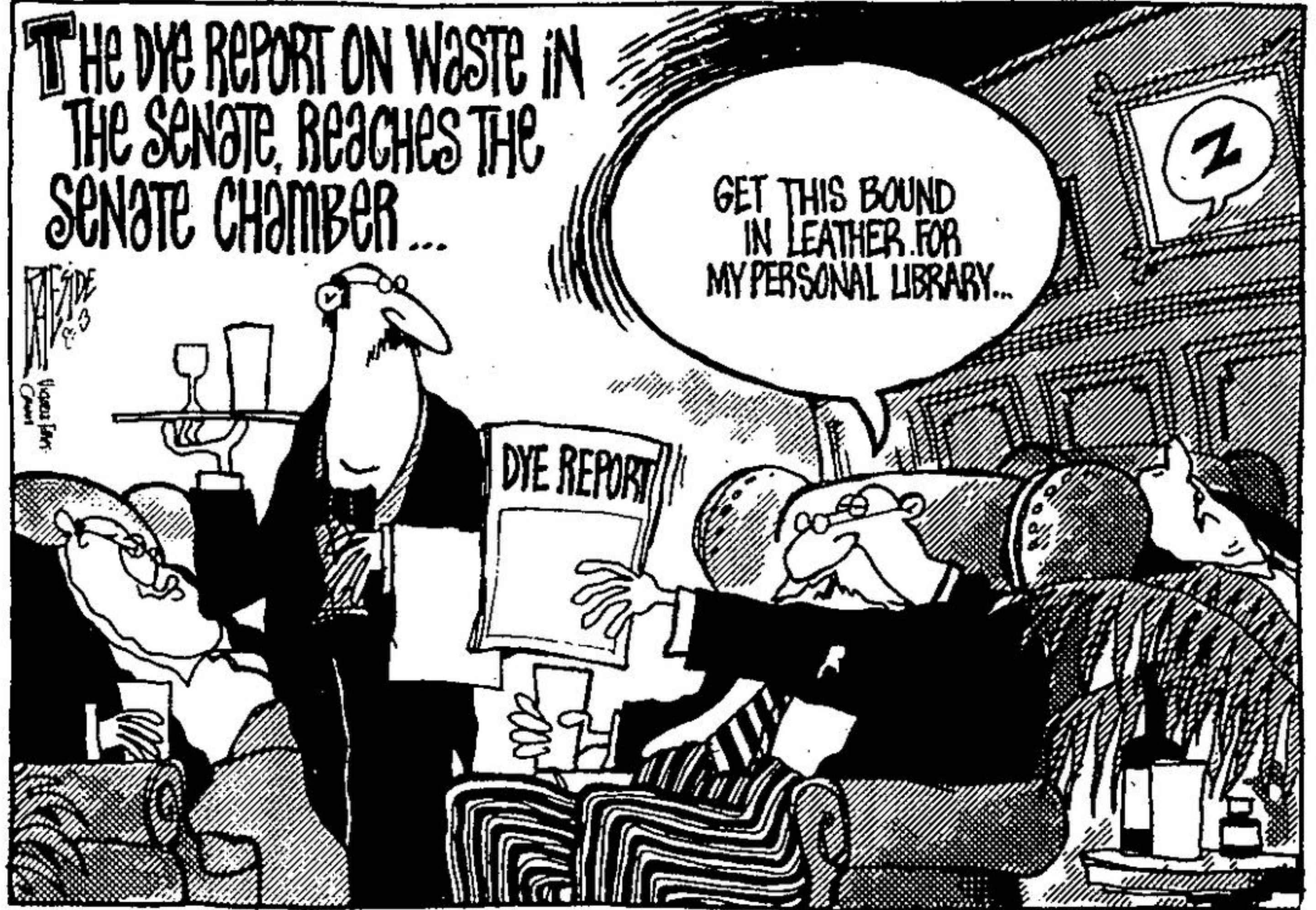
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People's Forum

Food bank being abused

Dear Whomever:

My family and I give to the Food Bank at Christmas and Easter. At Christmas we were able to give quite a bit.

Easter was another story. We were only able to give one little bag. I am unemployed and my husband's pay cheque only goes so far.

I decided to take my little bag to the Acton Food Share. I guess that was a big mistake, because of what I saw, and later told my husband, we will never give to any food bank again.

As I was driving in, a couple were walking out, they must have had 10 bags of groceries. They were having a hard time carrying everything.

School reunion

To the Editor:
Norwell District Secondary School in Palmerston, Ontario, will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary during the weekend of May 24-26. There are many activities and events planned for this weekend.

We are attempting to contact and inform as many former staff and students as possible. Through this letter we wish to issue an invitation to all of these people to assist us in celebrating Norwell's Anniversary.

Further information on the celebration can be obtained by contacting the school at (519) 343-3107.

Yours truly,
Douglas Morrell.

There are four people in my household and I don't even buy that many groceries in a week.

When I entered the building I saw another woman, child and a man walking around pushing a grocery buggy, it was full.

At this point I wanted to turn back, but I had come this far so I decided I might as well go the rest of the way.

The woman pushing the buggy was dressed very nicely and had a hat on that I could never afford to buy.

I really do not think that these people should be allowed to take so many groceries at once.

It made me sick and angered my husband, because I can't afford to buy groceries every week, but, yet we were able to give a little. These people were doing their shopping at my and many other people's expense.

I am sorry, but this is one person who will keep the extras we have until the way these things are handed out is changed.

Name and address withheld by request.

Berry's World



"Is it too late to go back to being yuppies?"