

the HERALD

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EDITORIAL -

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Young drivers need restrictions

There is an old saying that suggests it is not the nut in the wheel that causes car accidents, but the nut behind the wheel. Unfortunately, in many instances this holds too true.

But what about the young adult driver, who has grown up in an auto-oriented society - where so-called mature adults drive their cars half-a-block to the local convenience store to pick up some cream for their morning coffee - who wants to get behind the wheel and tool around (and perhaps die) in an automobile?

Without suggesting draconian measures, brakes must be applied to young, inexperienced drivers in the form of restrictions - for their own good - until the proper experience is gained to operate a motor vehicle properly, and of utmost importance, safety.

The Traffic Injury Research Foundation of Canada presents some frightening statistics in terms of the leading causes of death for 15-19 year-olds, in Canada.

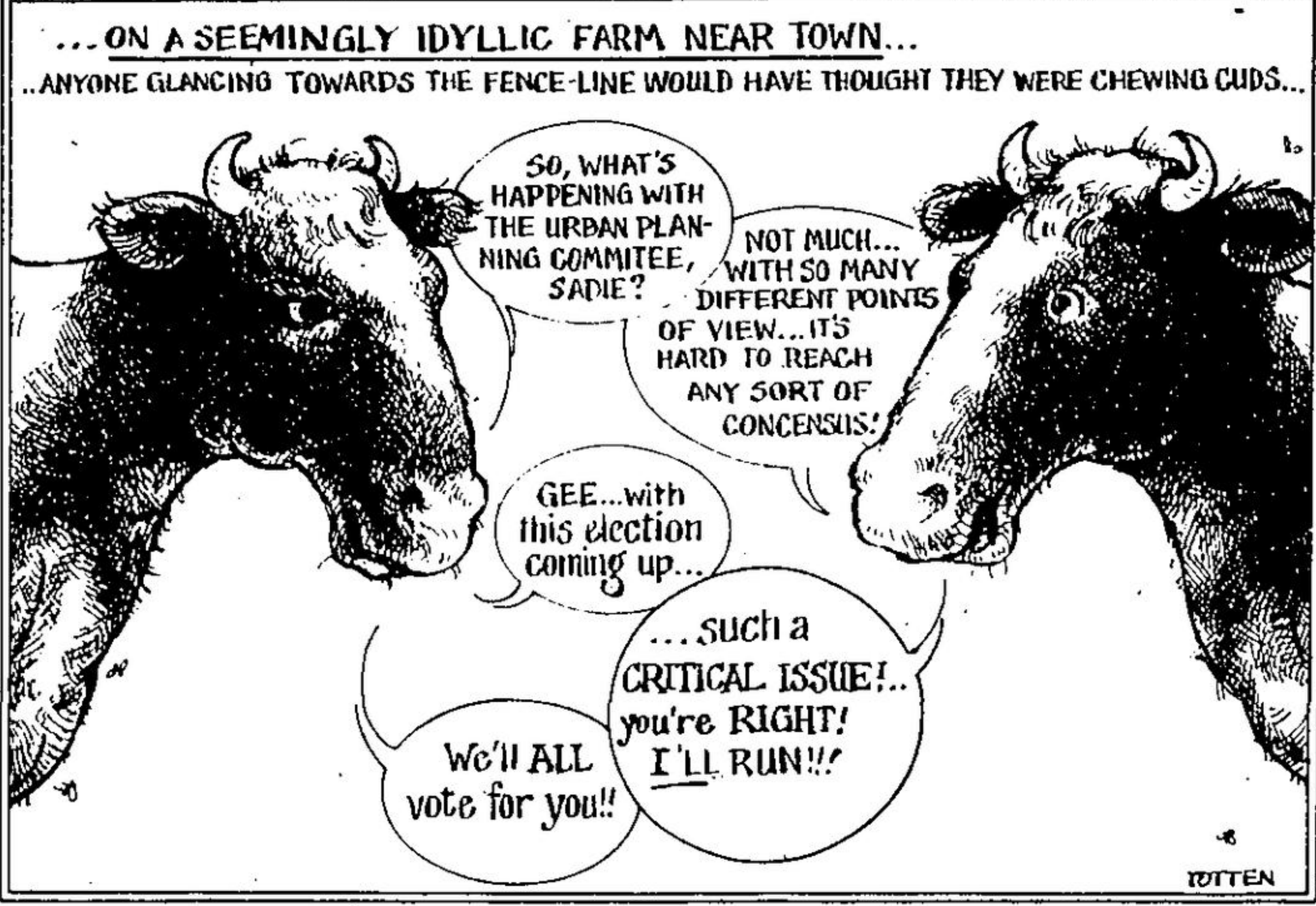
The statistics were released several years ago, per 100,000, and it was noted that the leading cause of death for youths in that age group was motor vehicle accidents, at 32 per cent. Other accidents accounted for 12.9 per cent of the youth deaths; suicides accounted for 12.8 per cent of youth deaths while cancer accounted for 5.9 per cent of youth deaths.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada released a report last week recommending a graduated system of restrictions for newly-licensed drivers which noted, in reference to young, inexperienced drivers, "...not only are they inexperienced, but there is the thrill-seeking and risk-taking that adds further to their chances of being in a crash."

To date this year in Halton Region, there have been eight fatal motor vehicle accidents and three of the fatal accidents involved young, new drivers.

Ontario Premier Bob Rae, through Transportation Minister Gilles Pouliot, is looking at introducing a graduated licensing system for young drivers and it has been reported that parents and victims' support groups also agree with greater curbs on young and novice drivers.

It is an issue that demands serious and immediate attention.



Peoples Forum

Exceptions taken to article

Dear Sir:
Re: Female assault has no place in modern Canadian society

While I wholeheartedly agree with the heading of this article that appeared in your newspaper on August 7th, 1991, I take exception to some of Ms. Palmer's statements.

In the specific assault referred to, a criminal charge was laid against the accused. I believe it

irresponsible to suggest the case will be given little priority. Police and the Courts must operate within the law, having consideration for the rights and privileges of all people. Guidelines from the Ministry of the Solicitor General are quite clear and specific in their direction to lay criminal charges where evidence exists.

The article is rife with assumptions and generalities based more on subjective personal opinion than fact. Police do not prefer to deal with assaults where injuries are multiple and severe, and Ms.

Palmer's remark is almost as ludicrous as the one stating "some police believe women deserve to be abused."

Domestic violence is a social problem and a challenge for all of us, individually and collectively, to eliminate. Any successes realized will only be hampered by irresponsible, inaccurate and biased reporting.

Yours very truly,
Staff Inspector Richard Kivell
#1 District Commander
Halton Regional Police Service
Halton Hills.

Hurray for Hewitt

Dear Editor:
May I express my personal opinion on your article regarding Mr. Joe Hewitt's attendance rate to Council meetings.

As some of you may recall, I had serious problems building my house. Problems concerning the Building Inspector and the township. These problems and circumstances at one point reached the front page of the Toronto Sun.

I cannot recall the number of telephone calls, messages and letters I forwarded to Council and the Mayor, yet not one reply did I receive - not one.

When Mr. Hewitt was elected, I approached him with my problem. Mr. Hewitt not only listened, he acted. He promised nothing, only that he would try. From his knowledge of the rules and the law, he was able to remove a very heavy burden for which I am forever grateful.

Being a member of several of the Regions Councils, it would be much more time consuming for Mr. Hewitt, than it would be for members of just one Council. Also I believe it is much more important what you actually achieve for your taxpayers than the odd meeting you may unavoidably miss.

Mr. Hewitt gets my vote, not only as a Councillor, but as a caring human being.

Yours truly,
H. Barrack,
Georgetown, Ontario

United Church clarification

To the Editor:
For the past several years the Reverend K.D. McKibbin's letters-to-the-editor have appeared regularly in many community newspapers across Canada.

In a recent letter (May, 1991), Mr. McKibbin addresses the subject of harassment of clergy in the United Church of Canada. He quotes from a memorandum issued by the United Church's General Secretary, Dr. Howard Mills.

Unfortunately, the context for the memorandum from which Mr. McKibbin quotes has been lost in the editing process.

In the interests of accuracy, I would ask that you reprint the complete paragraph of the memorandum from which Mr. McKibbin quotes. I have highlighted by underlining those words that were originally included in Mr. McKibbin's letter. The paragraph reads:

"What is not appropriate in

relation to issuing a complaint with regard to feeling harassed or in relation to what one believes is inappropriate behavior or belief of another is:

- to talk about it on the basis of rumors

- to write about it in letters, newsletters, or other non-confidential places if one has not exhausted the provisions of the church for dealing with such matters

- to speak about it publicly from the pulpit, in non-church meetings or even in a Session of Presbytery meeting if one does not intend to use the church's provisions for settling disputes or seeking justice

- to speak to the media about it without having sought the remedies provided by the church."

Sincerely,
Mary-Frances Denis
Publicist/Media
Relations Officer
The United Church
of Canada.

Community Forum

Opinions on multiculturalism



Ron Wilson, Glen Williams: "I agree with multiculturalism because everybody should maintain their own heritage, but not have the right to force it on everybody else."



Karen Ferguson, Glen Williams: "I support it because it gives us a sense of belonging to the world and teaches us that we are not isolated beings."



Barb Wilson, Glen Williams: "I think it (multiculturalism) is important because everybody has something to offer and you can always learn from someone else, as long as you don't lose your own culture."



Terry Kirk, Georgetown: "I'm from the southern part of Africa so I've grown up in a multicultural world most of my life. I think it is a good thing especially for a country that accepts immigrants. I think people should take pride in their roots. It doesn't take over from being Canadian."

Write us a letter!

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make, send us a letter or drop by the office. Our address is 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6.

All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification.

The Herald reserves the right to edit letters due to space limitations.