

the HERALD

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Local downtown at a crossroads

Taking a walk down Main Street in Georgetown over the weekend we were saddened to see seven empty store fronts.

The recent closing of Boughton Jewellers and the announcement that Bi-Way may be re-locating makes you wonder what will happen to downtown Georgetown.

We had candidates running for council state when elected they were going to revitalize the downtown. We have the BIA (Business Improvement Area) stating it will do everything in its power to stop Bi-Way from moving out of the downtown core. We have had citizens say we should put in a Farmer's Market. We have had developers present plans for the re-development of the downtown, which include low rise condominiums and high rise apartments, only to be discouraged.

But, to date nothing has happened.

If nothing else, the developers' plans would allow the downtown core to survive.

Recently it was mentioned to us that possibly a seniors centre and art gallery could together be in the downtown. Why not use the old town building?

This move away from the downtown is not something new. This once vibrant downtown, housed the local movie theatre, liquor store and beer store, is now losing its identity. Even the town financial office moved off Main Street two years ago and still remains vacant.

There appears to be an endless stream of unanswered questions.

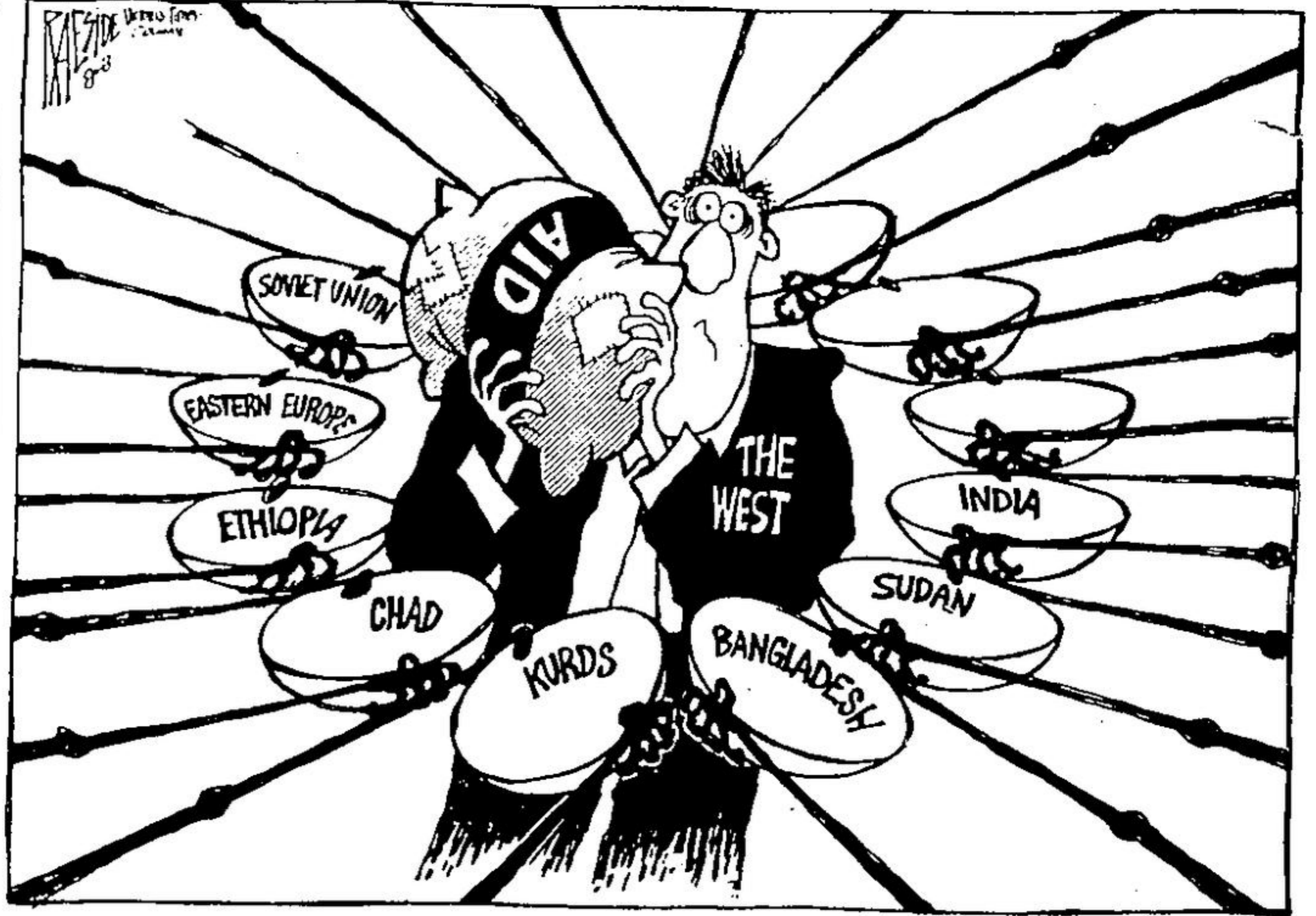
Why hasn't someone done something to stop this decay?

Why can't Georgetown turn its downtown street into another Unionville or St. Jacob? Why can't downtown which has been used for movie sets be turned into a quaint area to attract tourists?

Why couldn't the town make architecture a condition for development? Why hasn't the BIA gone to the town and asked for assistance in saving the downtown's heritage?

What can be done?

Well first, let's stop asking questions and trying to blame others for the problems in the downtown core. The BIA should take a long hard look at the future of the downtown and put together a plan to rejuvenate it. The BIA will not accomplish this task over night, or by themselves. They will need the assistance of town staff, developers and concerned citizens. Today it's not too late. But, if we wait until tomorrow it may never come.



People's Forum

No environment; no reality

Dear Editor
Phew! What a Jolt.
Quote: Environmentalist should get back to reality.

Just about shook the living daylight out of me but forced me to get involved. Reality is the environment and in my opinion (you won't deny me my opinion as an "individual") without this reality there obviously won't be any need for other concerns or, is the environmentalist movement too "way out" into the future to be immediately of concern?

The no no topics used to be politics (Communism...) and religion... do we add environmentalism to the no no no topics. The environmentalist who you referred to as so "imaginative" in the presence of our distinguished Premier Bob Rae should be applauded.

No one is listening any way. Maybe we should call our Globe

Red Cross gives thanks

Dear Editor:
On behalf of the Acton Red Cross Blood Donor Committee I would like to thank all of the people who took the time to give the "Gift of Life" on December 12 at our local Blood Clinic. 126 units of blood were collected. Considering that the flu and cold season are in full swing, this was an excellent turnout. We were especially pleased to see the attendance of 15 Acton High School students who took the time to donate blood.

Thanks again to the volunteers and the sponsor, GlenLea Drug Mart. And a special thanks to Henry Kroes who has been chairing the Acton Committee for many years.

We look forward to seeing you all again at the next clinic in March 1992.

Sincerely,
Sandra L. Moon
Acton Red Cross
Blood Donor Committee

Titanic II. But, then what good will that do for the survivors where will we go.

It doesn't all have to be doom and gloom, if only our governments would get together and listen. Then we could all belong to the one big special interest group.

At least we might grant ourselves another decade or so on our one time beautiful planet.

Yours truly,
Fred Bootle.

P.S. I didn't really have to write about this "obscure" subject but I did and I'm glad.

A new eden for store owners

To the editor,
Premier Bob Rae,
Committed to a common pause day,
Has failed to close the stores.

Thousands of stores in Ontario
Are open 7 days a week year-round.

Is the Premier's much vaunted
Pause day, day of rest
A hoax, a lie...

Ontario's shopping jumble
Has created public ire, confusion.

Sadly, additional obfuscation
will be introduced.
Government would do well
To relinquish hold on stores,
Quit the shopping scene.

In the new Eden,
Government docile, compassionate,
Storekeeper free to determine own modus operandi
According to conscience, belief, preference.
Storekeeper free to retain Sabbath of choice.

Shopping Ontario style.
Convuluted, vexatious,
Unfair, discriminatory.

As for amelioration,
Look for none.
Queen's Park content to provide
A continuing heavy hand.

Joe Hurst
Acton

Fire department thanks Herald

Dear Editor:
Re: Christmas Fire Safety
Regarding the Georgetown Herald's editions of December 18 and 22, 1991, I offer my sincerest appreciation for the exposures given for Christmas fire safety. Being such a busy event and with all the additional activities taking place in celebration, the potential for hazards greatly increase. Your assistance in spreading

our message of "Fire Safety" to our citizens is very much appreciated and I thank you.

I hope we may continue working together in '92 to help keep our citizens and community free from the tragedies of fire.

Yours in Fire Safety
David Ford
Fire Prevention Officer
Halton Hills Fire Department

Community Forum

Opinions on new anthem



SCOTT LANGSTAFF, GEORGETOWN: "I think it's a decent idea to promote the anthem. I support (Halton-Peel MP) Garth Turner in the work he and others have done on the project. But I wonder why the words in our anthem are always being changed."



KIMBERLY PEARCE, GEORGETOWN: "It's a nice thing to do. We certainly need a shot in the arm. We need to be reminded that Canada needs a unifying force."



JANET STILL, GEORGETOWN: "I haven't heard the new version, but if it helps inject something good into the country, then I think it's a good idea. We have a lot to be proud of as Canadians."



ANTHONY BENNETT, GEORGETOWN: "I think it's a good idea because it needs to be a bit more aggressive."