

# EDITORIAL

Editorial -- n. 1. an article in a newspaper presenting the opinion of the editor or editorial staff.

## An issue of color

We salute Sherilyn Kirkpatrick for her seemingly single-handed effort at running a group of Ku Klux Klan members out of town Saturday.

Her efforts -- pacing the sidewalk, taunting the Klan members and cursing them -- hopefully sent a clear message to the "Invisible Empire" that they are not welcome here.

But we find ourselves wondering just why the hooded, robed white supremacists dropped into town.

We find ourselves agreeing with her comments that "there are a lot of good people here, but there is obviously a reason why they came to Georgetown."

While it is almost painful to have to give this group anymore press than we already have, as one member of the staff said: "They won't go away if you ignore them."

Just when you start to think that perhaps we are starting to work together to eliminate racial tensions between people -- racism rears its ugly head.

The KKK claims that it is no longer the cross-burning, lynch mobbing group it once was.

According to the literature Klan members were handing out Saturday the group is "unapologetically committed to the interests, ideas and cultural values of the White majority."

Some people may agree with the Klan's opinion that "not many" organizations "stand up for the cultural values and ideas of the White majority."

Something that people have to learn is that with Canada's diverse cultural make up, the days of a white majority -- if in fact it still exists -- are limited.

We not only wonder why the Klan came to town, we also wonder why is it always so important to stand up and fight for the rights of a particular color -- white, black, red, yellow or purple.

What we need to do is stop looking at individual groups and start working for people, all people regardless of where they come from, what they believe or what color they are.



Halton Hills This Week became something of a media center following the appearance of a group of Ku Klux Klan members in downtown Georgetown Saturday. CFTO reporter Pat Foran and cameraman Peter LeClair left the paper's office on Mountainview Rd. after conducting interviews with a couple of staff members. Photo by Laura Salverda

## Pride displaced with humiliation

Dear Editor:  
Re: Editorial Jan. 13, 1993

I was bitterly disappointed in the recent editorial in your paper in regards to the Awards Ceremonies held on Sunday, January 10, 1993. As a recipient of one of the medals I was very proud to have been nominated for this award, however this pride was displaced with humiliation upon reading the paper.

The general impression that the reader would get from reading this article was that in your opinion, only two people were worthy of receiving this honor while the rest were suspect. To then go on and name some persons who you thought were given this award strictly for their political activities does not take into consideration other things they might have done.

When any organization, be it the Lions Club and the Citizen of the Year, the Chamber of Commerce

and the Annual Business Award or the Hockey Heritage Award bestows their honor, there are always many others who would also qualify, this does not imply that the winner is not worthy. I cannot help but think that your paper would not criticize the choice of any of the above organizations but as Mr. Turner is a politician, it is fair game.

Certainly some of the recipients do have connections with the Conservative Party but for the most part, they do not. I think that your paper should apologize to all those who received this honor as this article implies they are not worthy and that is not the case.

In closing, I am very proud that Garth Turner placed my name forward and I shall cherish this award for many years to come.

Yours truly,  
Doug Penrice

## Letters Welcomed

Halton Hills This Week welcomes your letters. Letters must be signed and include your full name and address. Names will be withheld on request.

Halton Hills This Week reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any letters on the basis of factual

errors, punctuation, spelling errors or as a result of space limitations.

Send your letter to:

The Editor  
Halton Hills This Week  
232 Guelph St., Unit 9  
Georgetown, ON  
L7G 4B1

## Family Violence

### Responding to children from violent homes

By Jacie B. Palmer

Children in most of our homes will have seen about 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence prior to reaching grade 9.

There is little doubt that violence is accepted, tolerated and condoned by our society. Even in my own home I have trouble with determining which videos are acceptable and which television viewing is OK.

In the end I often just trust that I've instilled the right values in my children.

We have become desensitized to the needs of victims and the needs of our community at large. I remember once speaking with a pastor's wife.

She'd lost a child very suddenly and had been confronted with the same feelings in herself that she'd sensed in others as she'd comforted them during her years in the ministry.

She stated that she never really totally understood until it had happened to her. That experience will forever change her level of compassion toward others sharing a similar situation.

Today, we need to be concerned about the passive parenting that goes on everywhere. How many times have you taken your family to McDonalds and found numerous children there for dinner on their own?

I seldom frequent the establishment but I can remember my shock the first time I saw a dozen or so children having dinner alone - mid-week.

How many times have you

dropped off your children at the movies or mall? Sure, they need their space just as we do but where is the cut-off point where you are becoming a passive and unconcerned parent?

What about teachers? Are they concerned with the well-being of their students or are they just getting by, one day at a time, hoping for as few hassles as possible?

We all trust they are concerned and dedicated individuals who care for their charges but do we take the time to really find out?

According to U.S. statistics, in 1991, 2.1 million women were injured seriously enough by a partner to require medical care.

In a study completed by Jaffe, 80 - 85% of 250 kids interviewed in the London, Chatham, Woodstock, Cambridge area knew the exact details of the violent occurrences in their homes. Yet their parents often believed their children had no knowledge of the events.

These children are victims, too, yet if the parents don't recognize the problem, how will the kids ever get proper treatment? Most of these kids will believe they are to blame for a portion of the violence.

Jaffe also states that 3-5 kids per class are dealing with the aftermath of violence in their homes.

This has to have a tremendous impact on other children in school. Do your children's schools and teachers recognize the violence which surrounds them?

Of children who witness violence, Jaffe states that the impact

is more severe on boys than girls. He believes that is because girls talk about their feelings while boys tend to hide their feelings. As well, girls tend to have a better support network than boys.

Sounds like our adult social system, doesn't it?

Four out of five kids in therapy for domestic violence are boys while the adult spectrum shows four out of five women in therapy. And the one male that is in therapy is often dragged - kicking and screaming - denying his need of help.

Because mothers tend to spend more time with their children than do dads, it only makes sense that the better the mental health of the mother the better adjusted the children will become.

If you know a family who is in need of help, reach out, befriend them and support them.

Take an interest in your children, their friends, the school and your neighborhood and you will be helping to end the violence in our community.

Feel free to contact Jacie in confidence by directing letters to her attention at Halton Hills This Week. All correspondence will remain confidential.

Jacie can be reached in person through the Distress Centre at 877-1211. Leave a message and Jacie will get back to you. If you are in crisis, call the Distress Centre or 911.

Halton Hills **THIS WEEK**

Halton Hills This Week is published every Wednesday at 232 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1, and is printed in Oakville by Q.E. Web Printing.  
In the event of typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.  
PUBLISHER: Ken Bellamy  
EDITOR: Scott Kline  
CIRCULATION MANAGER: Marie Shadbolt  
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Kathleen Topolsek  
HALTON HILLS THIS WEEK IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED.  
PHONE: 873-2254 FAX: 873-3918