# 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

lot of good people here, but there is obviously a reason why they

press than we already have, as one member of the staff said:

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

organizations "stand up for the cultural values and ideas of the White majority."

diverse cultural make up, the days of a white majority -- if in fact

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

What we need to do is stop looking at individual groups and from, what they believe or what color they are.



### Responding to children from violent homes

Halton Hills This Week became something of a media center following the appearance of a group of Ku

By Jacie B. Palmer

Children in most of our homes will have seen bout 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

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

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

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

dropped off your children at the is more severe on boys than girls. 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

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 vio-

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 vio-How many times have you lence, Jaffe states that the impact Centre or 911.

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

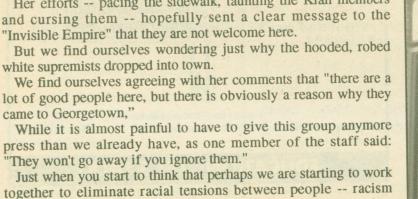
Because mothers tend to spend more time with their children than do dads, it only makes sense that the better the mental health of the mother the better adjusted the children will become.

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



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"

Something that people have to learn is that with Canada's

it still exists -- are limited.

rights of a particular color -- white, black, red, yellow or purple.

start working for people, all people regardless of where they come

#### 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

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** 

## etters 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



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