

## WORD'S WORTH

With Eric Balkind



### Will the real men please stand?

How many white ribbons have you seen walking around town these last few days? How many male friends or acquaintances are wearing one? Are you wearing one? Do you know what the ribbons mean?

The white ribbons commemorate 14 young women gunned down in Montreal, just two years ago, by a deranged maniac who somehow conceived the bizarre notion that the way to solve his problems was by violence. These little white symbols focus attention on us men and they ask of us two big questions:

Do you really see/acknowledge how much violence is being dished out to women (and children) in our "law-abiding" society? What are you prepared to do to help put an end to violence towards women?

When I wore the white ribbon last year I was amazed at the defensive reactions of some of the guys.

"You're only drawing attention to the problems and that'll make them worse."

"I don't punch women around (or anyone else) so it's not my problem."

"You're nothing but a feminist."

"What can I do about it anyway?"

Well men, aside from the fact that, yes, I am a feminist, the questions above simply don't cut the mustard.

If you don't believe that the problem is huge, go ask the ladies who run Halton Womens' Place. Take a look at daily newspaper reports which detail a never-ending list of assaults against women. Take a look at the violence on TV which is passed off as entertainment (and while you're at it don't forget the NHL).

Consider the trifling jail terms which are still being handed out by some judges to violent offenders.

Ponder the fact that, in some jurisdictions, the police are still loathe to lay charges against men who use brute strength against women.

And don't forget the fact that violence takes many insidious forms. Just one example will suffice: a recent study shows that women serving time in Kingston prison were given heavier sentences than men convicted of the same offences. How come?

Seems obvious that, if we want changes we are going to have to get involved. A good way to start is by wearing the white ribbon to let others know that you/we/they are all in this together. And, by the way, I've heard all the arguments about being privately supportive but not wanting to be showy — forget them. When you wear the ribbon you identify yourself as being committed and being committed means taking action. And make no mistake about it, those ribbons will be noticed again and again, by others who haven't stopped to think much about their actions. They need to know that real men use brains rather than brawn when it comes to problem-solving. They have a crucial lesson still to learn in life and it is the simple fact that might is not always right.

There are still three days left in this year's campaign so — go get your ribbon today. *Together, we will make a difference.*

## Wit & Wisdom

What is the meaning of life? That's a question the sages have been trying to answer for some time. Herewith, a selection of musings which might help you on your way towards a greater understanding. On second thought, you might be better off to figure it all out for yourself.

"I like life. It's something to do."

— Ronnie Shakes

"Life being what it is, one dreams of revenge."

— Paul Gauguin

"My life shows a clear pattern of total unpredictability."

— Ashleigh Brilliant

"Life is divided into the horrible and the miserable."

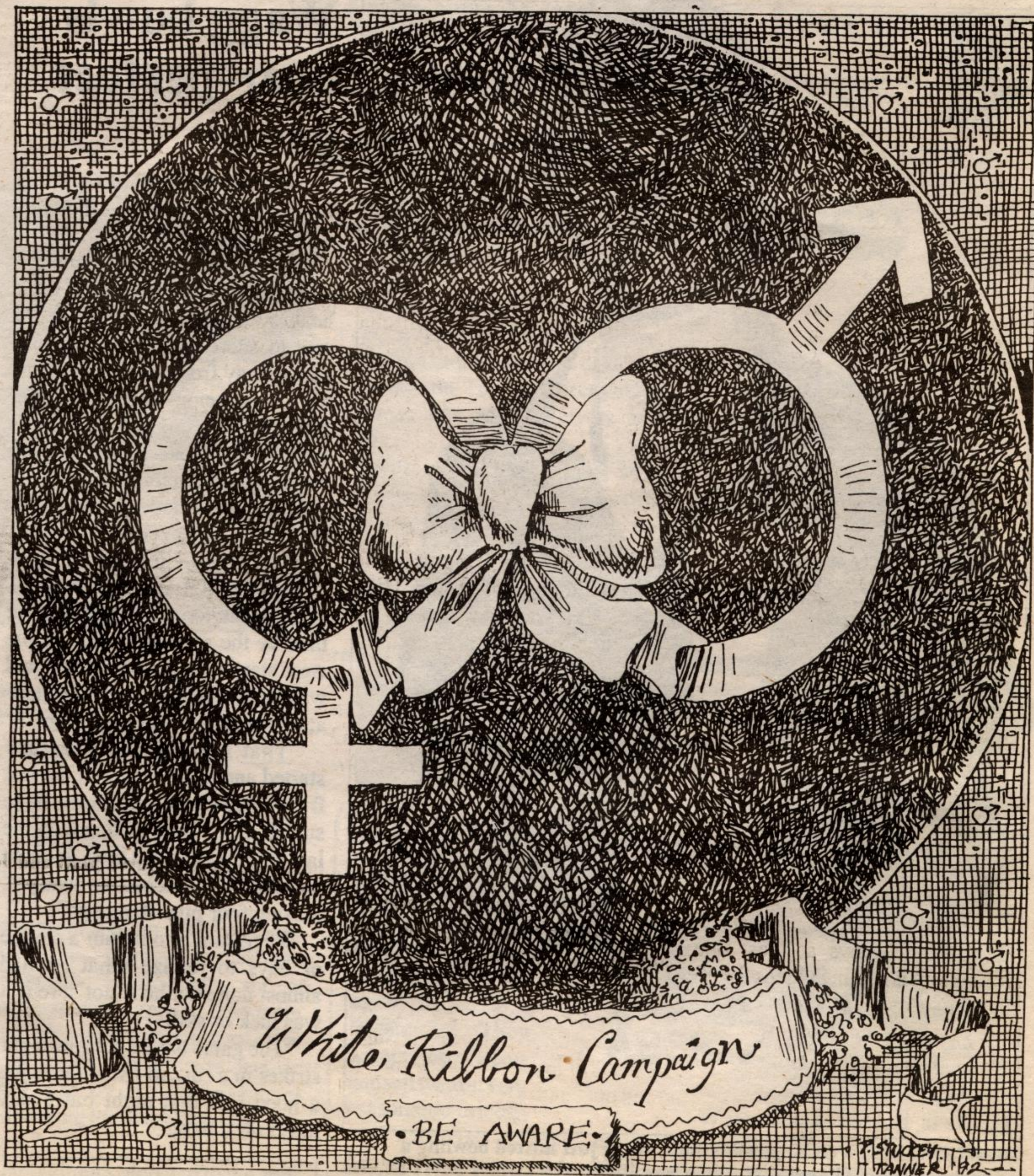
— Woody Allen

"If I had my life to live over, I'd live over a delicatessen."

— Unknown

"Man cannot live by apples alone, sometimes he's gotta have pie."

— The Apple Factory, Norval



## LETTERS

### Merry Christmas to all!

To the editor,

I would like to express my appreciation to all those who worked together to put on the supper for the Acton Seniors last Wednesday.

The hall was so nicely decorated and the tables looked attractive with poinsettia and red and green serviettes. The meal was delicious, a

real Christmas dinner of turkey, stuffing, cranberries. The works! All served by courteous, friendly gentlemen. Who could ask for anything more?

The entertainment was lovely and enjoyable and dear old (?) Santa came for a visit and went from table to table to greet everyone personally.

Many seniors were driven to the Legion by volunteers and that was much appreciated too.

It really was a feast and a night to remember.

Many, many thanks and Merry Christmas to you all.

An Acton Senior

### Soccer Club Roster

To the editor,

The second attempt of the Acton Soccer Club's General Meeting was a success on Nov. 23 with a noteworthy turnout. A warm thank you is extended to all who attended, and especially to the following who have assumed the roles critical to operation for the 1993 season:

Anne Stewart-Treasurer, Delores Gallagher-Secretary, Mike Petkoff-2nd Vice President, Pat Graham-1st Vice President, Paul Chumley-President, Ann LaBelle-Registrar, Graham Guy-Discipline Chairperson, Jeremy Adema-Tournament Chairperson, Leah Youngblut-Fund Raising Chairperson, Shelagh Baily-Public Relations Chairperson, David Colvin-Equipment Manager, Len Tuitman-Sponsor Liason, Kim Bowen-Banquet Chairperson, Marc Vandenakker-Referee Liason, Rick Boychuk-Mini Squirt Convenor, Randy Gerrow-Squirt Convenor, Fran Van Helvoort-Atom Convenor, Shelagh Bailey-Mosquito Convenor, Rosemary Muggridge-

PeeWee Convenor, Don Seads-Picture Day/Trophy Chairperson, Bert Pursoo-Field Scheduler, Linda Martin-Newsletter Contributor, Mary Bailey-Director-at-large, Tom Ford-Director-at-large.

For those not returning to the board for the 1993 season: the soccer club is sorry to see you go, but thanks you for your support. Congratulations to all new board members, and welcome to the Club!

Attention to all readers! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to write to the Acton Soccer Club at Post Office Box 248, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M4. All mail will be received and dealt with as deemed necessary.

Shelagh Bailey,  
Acton Soccer Club

Does Someone You Know  
Deserve A Pat On The Back?  
Write a letter to the editor!

How About A Slap On The  
Wrist?

Hot it down and send it in ...

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Fax: 519-853-5040