

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



Storm was my fault

I thought I was so smart.

Two years ago, I waited too long to put up the outdoor Christmas lights and ended up doing it on the coldest day of the year. My fingers froze, those plastic clips snapped off, I nearly blew off the ladder — it was misery.

Last year we had a string of mild weekends — perfect for putting up lights. I was about a quarter of the way into the job when it started to rain. I convinced myself it was only drizzle and carried on. Halfway into it I changed my mind ... it really was raining, but I had gone too far to turn back.

This year would be different!

I wish I had followed my neighbour's example and put up lights after the Santa Claus parade. I wish I'd taken advantage of the thaw two weeks later and got the job done then.

Trouble is, there's hockey and shopping and birthdays and the flu. You know how it goes: before you know it, the weather turns and you end up putting up the lights on the coldest day of the year.

But here's the smart part. I didn't wait for the coldest day of the year. Saturday was grey and overcast, but mild. So I hauled out the ladder and the lights and got to work.

I had bought some new lights a while back, to replace the burned-out and peeling ones I already had. I took the trouble to arrange the lights in a regular pattern instead of the willy-nilly arrangement I had last year.

I took the trouble to plug in the lights to make sure they all worked. Then I climbed the ladder.

I discovered that if you open out a paper clip and twist it around the cord, it makes an adequate hook to replace those broken plastic clips. I also discovered that my kids had strung all my paper clips together into one long chain.

My elaborate plans, to put lights around all the windows and to cover every tree on my property, began to diminish as the day drew darker and the wind picked up. When the clouds started rolling in, I decided lights along the eaves would be good enough.

When I finally finished and plugged in the lights, only half of them worked. I'm not that fond of heights anyway, and here I was, back up the ladder, fiddling with these tiny coloured light bulbs.

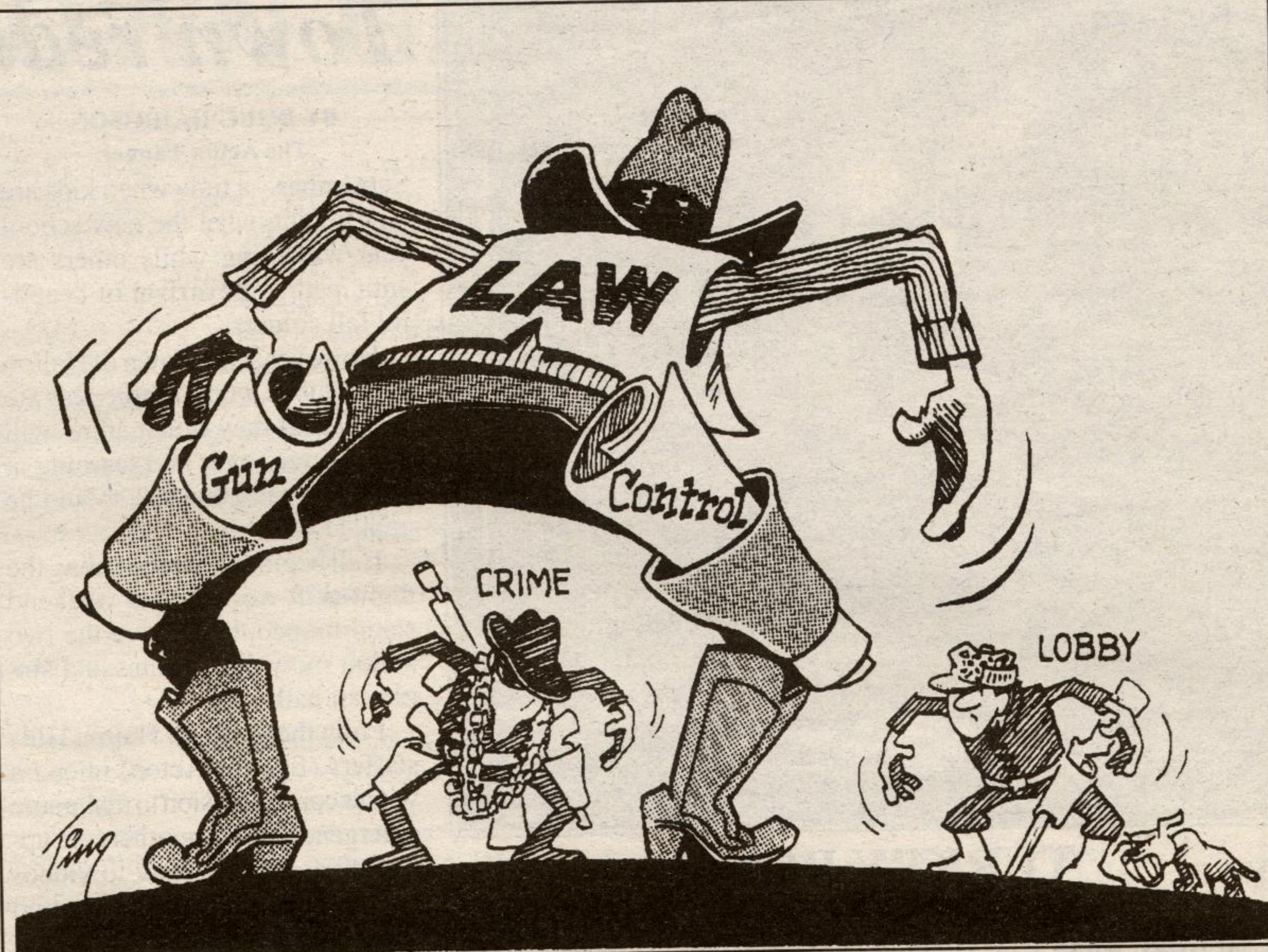
People with a sick and twisted sense of humour must design Christmas lights — for every bulb I got working, three or four went out. My lovely pattern now includes red, green, yellow, blue, dud.

I didn't even have the ladder away when the snow started. If you were caught in the storm late Saturday afternoon, I apologize.

My father says it's some genetic disorder — the Xmas-chromosome. He always put his Christmas lights up in a storm as well.

All I know is, just as washing the car brings rain, putting up the Christmas lights brings bad weather.

Sorry for the storm, folks!



LETTERS

Our government promotes racism

To the Editor,

Recently I had an experience that I am sure, if confronted with, would not only astound most people, but would likely sicken them as well.

While on a shopping trip to Brampton, I parked my car, got out and locked the door as I usually do. Upon starting for the mall entrance, I heard a voice behind me state, "You didn't have to lock it — I wouldn't have stolen it."

I turned around to find a middle-aged black woman angrily staring me in the face. I said, "Pardon me," at which time she stated that it was people just like me who caused the stereotyping of black people as thieves by locking up everything we own in the presence of blacks.

I explained to her that it was common practice for me to lock my car whenever I leave it and that I do so in my own driveway. Besides, I didn't see her walking up behind me, so how could she assume she was a factor in my locking my car.

She proceeded to call me racist and a bigot. I politely excused myself by saying I had things to do in the mall and had to get to them. I left with her still ranting and

raving behind me.

Arnold Minors, Bob Rae's only black appointee to the S.I.U., the police special investigation's unit, is currently preaching to all who will listen that the only racism and bigotry in Canada is by whites against blacks and natives.

I would say my experience proves quite well that no one race has a monopoly on racism and bigotry.

This woman ranted and raved at me for what? Because I locked my car door! I am considered a racist and bigot for this? Come on now — I would say that more than just the white race is racist and bigoted, wouldn't you?

Congratulations Bob Rae and Stephen Lewis — you are succeeding in creating conflict between the races you appear to be striving so hard to eliminate.

I ask you, what would Bob Rae and his NDP government have to gain by creating an atmosphere of anarchy among the races? Indeed, what would any government in the country have to gain?

Could it be that with a state of total anarchy, Canada and its provinces can declare marshal law, turning the country and its provinces into police states, giving complete control of everything to the politicians?

Think about it? What better way is there for politicians to finish picking our pockets clean, in order that they may try to fix up the financial fiasco that they have created.

John D. McConnell
Greenore Crescent

Skate sharpening at arena is removed

The following letter, recently sent to the municipality, was submitted to *The Tanner* for publication.

The Acton Minor Hockey Association would like to express our concern over Halton Hills' decision to close the pro shop in the Acton arena.

M & M Sports shop has supplied the Acton arena with a quality skate sharpening service for a number of years. The outstanding service provided by M & M Sports will cause a great deal of inconvenience to the residents of Acton, who have come to rely on the pro

shop services. There is no other comparable skate sharpening facility in town.

The reason, I am told, that the pro shop was asked to leave the arena, is to provide storage space for our senior citizens. Surely there must be other space available for storage. If not, I would like to suggest the pro shop be relocated to its former location inside the main lobby.

This service has to be offered to the hockey players and pleasure skaters in Acton.

I await your response to this very important matter.

Steve Prentice, First V.P.
Acton Minor Hockey Assn.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

A Weekly Round-Up of Coming Events in Acton & Area

Dec. 13, Tuesday – 7:30 pm: Acton A.D.D. Parent Support Group will hold its monthly meeting. Share concerns, obtain information, and network with others. M.Z. Bennett school. For further info call Wanda, 853-3803.

Dec. 18, Sunday – 6:30 pm: The Salvation Army, Acton Corps, is presenting "Three Wise Men and a Baby," an event for the whole family to enjoy. All are welcome to attend this children's Christmas musical at 114 Mill St. E.

Dec. 18, Sunday – 6:30 pm & Monday at 7:30: "Hark, the Herald Angel," a children's musical drama is presented at Evangel Pentecostal church. The entire community is invited and there is no admission charge.

Dec. 22, Thursday – 5 to 8:30 pm: Acton's quarterly Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic at the Acton Legion. Baby-sitting is available. Please bring your donor card or your photo ID. Eligible donors are between the ages of 17 and 71. Joe (853-4686) or Julia (853-4896) can give you more details.

THE ACTON Tanner

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THE ACTON TANNER is published weekly on Wednesdays by Wicklow Hills Publishing Co. Inc. at 12 Church St., E., Acton, Ontario, L7J 1K4. Mailing address: P.O. Box 150, Acton, Ont., L7J 2M3. Telephone: 519-853-5100. Fax: 853-5040. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. Ideas expressed herein are those of the author only.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Rates are: \$28.80 for one year (52 issues for price of 48) and \$4.80 for two months (eight issues).

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