

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Observe Holy Week

This week Christians here and around the world are observing Holy Week which began on Palm Sunday (last Sunday) commemorating the time almost 2,000 years ago when the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus Christ into their city, waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna to the son of David," a welcome fit for a king. In a few days the same people who had so warmly welcomed Him were among the same throngs who participated in His crucifixion.

Hundreds of millions of people around the globe will remember these events with the sorrow of Good Friday this week before they celebrate the glorious feast of Easter on Sunday when the Scriptures tell us Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to His people. The empty tomb, the vacant cross have become symbols of a faith that has transformed the world despite difficulties that continue in this present day.

"Easter" itself is an Anglo-Saxon word from the Teutonic "Eastre", an ancient German goddess of light, which has no connection with the Christian Easter outside of being only the time of the year signifying the arrival of the Spring equinox. Easter is called a moveable feast because the date can change from year to year. Easter Sunday always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the 21st of March among western Christians. For Orthodox Christians and those who still follow the old Julian calendar, it arrives two weeks later.

A controversy about the right time to celebrate Easter has been recorded by Eusebius, an early Christian writer in the year 190 A.D. Diversity already existed as early as 70 years before the Jewish Passover, and the Pope and the bishops of the Church, who wanted it on Sunday, the day Christ rose from the dead, the reason incidentally why we keep Sunday as a holiday (holy day).

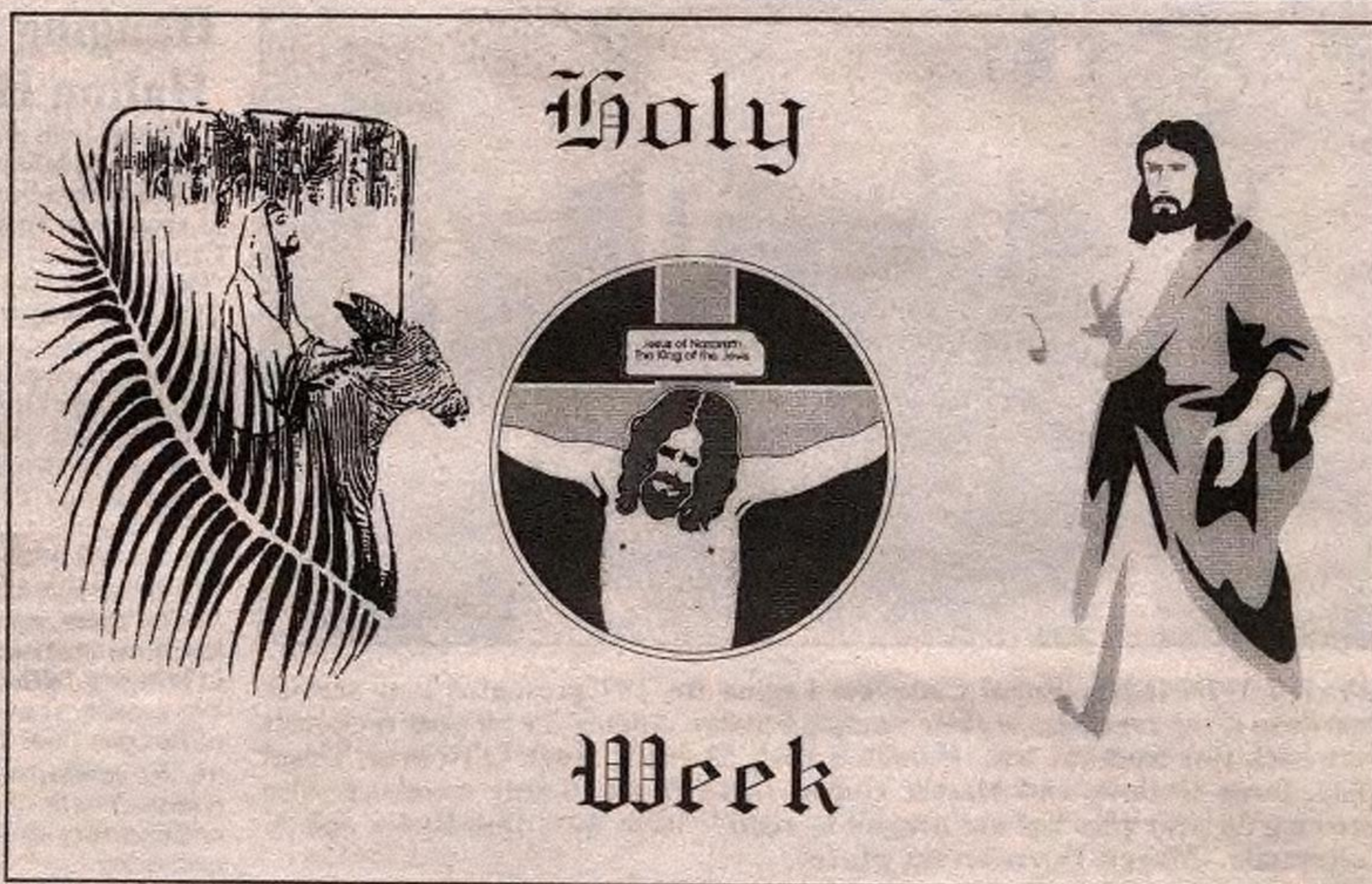
Today those controversies about the date of Easter, once fervently argued by people of faith, are not so important in the public domain. Easter, in the secular view, is a time for feasting and honouring the Easter Bunny. Good Friday is just another holiday, with no thought of its original meaning.

There are other symbols, such as the use of eggs, which symbolize germinating new life, hot cross buns which represent the fruits of the earth, but they are far from the true meaning of Easter.

When Christians around the world crowd into churches during Holy Week and Easter they are not celebrating the arrival of the Easter Bunny, nor the rites of Spring. They are celebrating the central belief of Christianity, that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. Even the Christmas and Easter Christians attach importance to it beyond the cultural and family traditions.

This central belief of Christianity has been a stumbling block for many who seek the truth, not just in this skeptical age, but through the centuries. As a matter of fact the secular daily press often gives much publicity to those who deny the physical resurrection of Jesus and scant heed to those who defend it. Yet belief in the actual resurrection was certainly essential to the early Christians, those who knew Christ. It was certainly essential to Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, who wrote: "If there is no resurrection from the dead then even Christ did not rise; and if Christ did not rise, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith also is in vain."

Have a happy and holy Easter with your loved ones.



LETTERS

Terrible social injustice to ban non-residents from hockey

Dear Editor,

Your article "Non-residents could be banned from hockey here" in the March 11, 1999 edition of the *Tanner* has raised unnecessarily the anxiety concerns of many parents and kids, especially in Rockwood and the other communities surrounding Acton. Hockey players from these areas have been an integral part of the tradition and heritage of minor hockey in Acton since as early as the 1930s. To ban these kids now after such a long history with this community would not only be a terrible social injustice, but would totally ignore the realities of the current ice allocation situation in Halton Hills.

No kid from Halton Hills has ever been turned away by either the house league or rep association in Acton. George Hunak, President of Acton House League hockey, confirmed this week to Paul Stover, the Town's Manager of Facilities, that they have ample room to take any overflow from Georgetown and "will register any kid that comes knocking at their door." Steve Prentice, President of the Acton Tanners Rep Association, has expressed a similar accommodation. "We would welcome any kid from Georgetown who lives in a right of choice area and thinks he's good enough to play rep hockey in Acton. Have him come try out."

Your article also states that "the Town needs an additional 71 hours of ice time next year." What time frame does this apply to? The hockey season runs from September to March (i.e. seven months); over this time period, an additional 71 hours is less than a half hour per week. We appreciate from the initial ice users meeting that only six hours per week additional ice time is required in order for all the interest groups to ad-

equately run their programs. That's only two hours per week for each of the three arenas in Halton Hills. Last year the Tanners instituted early morning weekday practices as a way to alleviate the demand on prime time ice. This has been a success.

Ban on non-Halton Hills kids from playing hockey in Acton would also adversely impact the economic benefits that town businesses enjoy from the many dollars spent by people from the adjoining communities while in town to watch their sons and daughters play hockey at the Acton arena. This point has been punctuated in two recent edition of the *New Tanner*: by Bob Collins, vice-president of the Acton Tanners in the article referred to above and by Scott Legge in the "exclusion not the way to go" article in the March 25, 1999 edition of the *New Tanner*. Why would the town want these benefits to go to Guelph, Georgetown and Milton? Why not ask management

of the local town businesses what they think?

Given the multitude of empty coffee cups and other retail paraphernalia in the Acton arena each day, it would be hard to imagine that they wouldn't have a keen interest in not changing the status quo. And what about the *New Tanner*? Don't you have a vested interest in ensuring that those residents in Rockwood and the neighbouring townships who consider the *Tanner* their paper keep thinking so?

The town staff's position that the non-Halton Hills kids don't contribute any tax money to help pay to run the facilities is also specious. Many people from the adjoining communities were big contributors, both in terms of fundraising monies and volunteer time to help make the new rink in Acton a reality. And they continue to play valuable roles in donating their time to the important community-based programs that kids in this area enjoy. Moreover, the kids from outlying areas pay registration fees, just like the town kids, to cover the costs of their ice time over the course of the season. If more dollars are needed, town staff could look at a possible surcharge for non-residents; but they should also look at higher ice rental costs for those organizations using Halton Hills facilities on a "for profit" basis. Also what about the men's leagues in Georgetown that take up valuable prime time ice for recreation and have non-residents playing. Shouldn't the kids be given priority? That's what the men's leagues in Acton have done.

Lastly, the town staff suggested that the hockey groups in Acton and Georgetown amalgamate. Not one of the associations has an interest in

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