

The Independent

Weekend Edition & Free Press

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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No place for hate

We hope with the sentencing of Georgetown resident Craig Harrison to two-years less a day in a correctional institute that this sorry chapter in Georgetown's history can come to a close.

Harrison, 30, pleaded guilty in July to the assault against Michael Wong, as well as another assault against Joseph Kirley at the Town of Halton Hills Animal Control Clinic and uttering death threats against his father.

Wednesday, Judge Douglas Latimer in issuing his sentence on Harrison, called the attack on Wong, a black Georgetown shopkeeper, brutal, unprovoked and racially motivated, and that this "type of conduct will not be tolerated in our multicultural society."

While we feel a 3-4 year penitentiary term for Harrison, as the Crown had asked for, would have been more appropriate, we trust that Latimer's sentence will send a message to others who feel that a person's race is reason enough to assault them.

While any type of physical attack on another person is uncalled for, this blatantly racist and unprovoked ambush was as despicable a deed as they come.

Obviously people such as Harrison make up a small minority of our community. But the message must be made clear to them: change your way of thinking and keep your anger to yourself.

If you can't, get the hell out of our community.

Arts Alive appreciative of support from sponsors

Dear editor,

Arts Alive would like to thank the generous sponsors of our recent Bending the Bows concert.

We had a wonderful celebration of the 15th anniversary of our cultural centre and enjoyed bringing well-deserved recognition to the Arts Award winners. It was a magical evening.

We couldn't have enjoyed this success without generous donations from Roos Travel, D.D.H. Distribution Services, Elliott Custom Brokers and Ambrosia Chocolates. A lovely reception was provided through the kind generosity of Alcatel.

It is very heartening for our group of volunteers to receive such support from the business community. The Arts truly are Alive in Halton Hills.

Lois Fraser,
President, Arts Alive

Letter of the day

Tory misinformation

Dear editor,

The provincial government is threatening the future of our children and society by instituting massive cuts to education. In an attempt to deliver a \$4 billion tax cut, they are in the process of hacking away at the best investment a government can make to strengthen our financial future.

But, how do you sell the public on something so short-sighted? You do it by having John Snobelen, minister of education, feed the media some very creative data about how "broken" the system is. That's why MPP Ted Chudleigh's "How to fix the education system" column (Oct. 9 Independent & Free Press) deserves a closer look. He repeats Snobelen's claim that "we spend more per student on education than any other province". False. StatsCan says Ontario ranks sixth behind four provinces and two territories.

"Our student still rank below average in national testing results." What national testing? The closest proximity is data generated from SAIT research, which is not structured for comparing provinces.

"Our system is too expensive for the results it produces." Why should we believe this? Is your conclusion based on the above data?

"There are too many boards and administrative costs." Are there? For fiscal year 1995, boards spent a range of 1.8-4 per cent of their budget on all administrative costs. Is this excessive?

"Our goals are (to) increase the quality of education (and)...increase the amount of money we spend on classroom education." How? By cutting \$400 million last year, \$600 million this year and setting your sights on an additional \$1 billion?

We should never stop asking how we can improve the system, even when it's one of the best in the world. But voters have the right to form an opinion on this government's plan based on the facts— not a self-serving fabrication. Now, only a massive public response to Mr. Chudleigh, Mr. Snobelen and Mr. Harris stand between us and their ongoing destruction of our education system.

Vicki Robbins, Georgetown

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Our Readers Write

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters can be mailed, delivered to our office address at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4X5, faxed to us at (905) 873-0398 or e-mailed to: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com