

# How about prisons for stupid people?

The criminal mind has long been a favorite subject of psychologists and psychiatrists.

What would possess someone to blatantly break the law and risk arrest and possible incarceration? Is it greed? Pure evil? A disease of the mind? Boredom?

The more serious criminals are easier to figure out. Your everyday bank robber wants money and, rather than pumping gas to make a living like a normal person, figures to take the easy way out and hold up an unsuspecting teller.

Your garden variety murderer usually kills out of revenge, anger or mental illness. None of which is a good enough reason in my book.

However, there is a type of criminal out there who defies all logic and reason. I call them the "stupid".

These are the dimwits who break the law for seemingly no reason or gain.

For instance, earlier this month in Acton some moron used two rocks to break the glass on the front door of a restaurant. The thief went inside and stole... wait for it...four brownies and some butter tarts.

A few months ago, local police reported someone broke into a home and swiped a few boxes of frozen hamburger patties.

In Brampton recently, someone



THIS 'N THAT

John McGhie

stole a pair of jeans at a rec centre.

Why?

Is the risk of going to jail and having a police record for life worth a few brownies or pair of used pants?

I suggest we start building a few "stupid" prisons where we can lock up these not-so-hardened criminals. Obviously they don't belong in regular jails with molesters, rapists and murderers, so why not give them a place of their own where they can associate with other idiots?

These jails should be strictly for the dumbbells who swipe brownies and hand bank tellers hold-up notes with their name and address on it (Honest, it happened in California last year).

These criminals should be forced to watch Jeopardy each day and pay the government (re: the taxpayers) for their incarceration instead of the other way around.

Of course, they should also be

required to wear "Kick me, I'm stupid" signs on their backs.

*Them's fighting words...*

Readers of the April 20 edition might have noticed columnist/photographer Ted Brown's not-so-subtle attack on my favorite pastime—golf.

To quote Mr. Brown, "There's nothing worse than a golf fanatic".

Now, Ted is certainly entitled to his opinion (inaccurate as it may be) but his criticism of this fine sport is way off base.

Golf is no less boring than say... softball, which just happens to be Mr. Brown's sport of choice. In fact, I would venture that softball, a sport I also play, is far more senses-dulling.

Think about it. On virtually every play more than half the players on the field have no involvement. They watch others run and throw and catch. What is exciting about that? Golf, at least, involves ample participation, and if you're bad as I am, you get to participate quite a bit.

As for Mr. Brown's claim that I am fanatical about golf, I must agree. But, he is no less fanatical about softball.

You see, he showed me his schedule (and that of his three softball-playing daughters), for this summer and there are fewer than 20 days between May and August when he won't be on a ball diamond.

Now that's crazy.

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### For More Information

\*Information packages/factsheets are available at any of the locations (note brackets) where the program is offered:

- (TRC) – Trafalgar Road Campus, 1430 Trafalgar Rd., Oakville
- (STC) – Skills Training Centre, 407 Iroquois Shore Rd., Oakville
- (DAV) – Davis Campus, Steeles Ave. and McLaughlin Rd., Brampton
- (ALC) – Adult Learning Centre, 2350 Trafalgar Rd., Oakville
- (JFC) – Locations include: Skills Training Centre (STC – see above), 499 Ray Lawson Blvd., Brampton, and 90 Dundas St. W., Mississauga
- (ETC) – English Testing Centre, 100 Elm Drive W., Mississauga.

\*The above programs are funded by Human Resources Development Canada. No cost to you if you qualify for sponsored training. Requirements include: A Canadian Citizen or permanent resident; at least 17 years of age, and out of the regular school system for 12 consecutive months since turning 16 years of age; Unemployed, currently receiving Employment Insurance (formerly UI benefits) or those who received EI/UI benefits within the last three years (five years in the case of maternity or parental leave).

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