

Editorial

# Just cause

No one wants a war. No one wants to see people killed, soldiers' lives put in jeopardy and unimaginable destruction.

But no one, except religious fanatics following a flawed, illogical ideal, wanted to see thousands of innocent people killed in suicide attacks Sept. 11.

After weeks of stalling it became clear that Afghanistan's Taliban government, which has harboured and supported terrorist extraordinaire Osama bin Laden for years, was not willing to turn over the mastermind of the attacks on America to proper authorities.

The United States, and its allies, could wait no longer. The time for action had come.

Surprisingly, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, who has come under fire for his lukewarm support for the U.S., wasted no time in committing Canadian armed forces personnel to Operation Enduring Freedom. In fact, Canada has committed twice the amount of military support to this campaign than it did during the Gulf War. The PM did not, as some suggested he should, recall parliament to debate our involvement in this mission. For this we applaud him.

Our place is next to our allies in this war against terrorism and to offer whatever support we can. The time for talking has passed and the time for action is now.

As President George W. Bush has said, "this is not a mission we asked for, but one we will fulfill."

We concur and offer all our support and prayers to our military personnel and those of our allies.



## Letters to the editor....

### Reader's view of Christians was skewed

Dear editor,

You printed a highly amusing, although uninformed, letter Sept. 28. A Georgetown resident wrote: "The

vast majority of Canadians are anything but Christian. Canada has more Protestants, Sikhs, Muslims, Arabs ... than Christians."

I was astounded to learn that I, and millions of other Protestants throughout the world, are no longer considered to be part of the Christian community of faith. The same writer goes on to state that "Catholics crucified their beloved saviour." Since the Christian church did not separate into the Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant communi-

ties for hundreds of years after Christ's death, this can hardly be the case. Jesus died at the hands of the Roman rulers, a puppet king, some Jewish clerics, and a mob made up of people from many ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Before criticizing the people of many faiths who regretted the lack of prayer in the Ottawa memorial service, the writer should assess the wisdom of writing about things of which he knows very little.

Janet Armstrong, Acton

### 'Next time crack open a reference book'

Dear editor, I read with bewildered amusement the profoundly thought-provoking argument put forward in your paper Sept. 28 by Mike Weil.

In just a few short paragraphs he managed to erroneously blame Catholics for the murder of Christ as well as deny, to more than 10 million Canadian Protestants, the status of being "Christian".

Weil's proficiency in history appears to be matched by his mastery

of the science of mathematics. Based on 1991 Census information, Statistics Canada identifies 81.9 per cent of Canadians as being Christian. Unfortunately for Weil, this allows for only 18.1 per cent of the population to make up his "vast majority" of non-Christian Canadian citizens.

Mr. Weil, thanks for your brilliantly researched and valuable contribution to the discussion. Next time crack open a reference book.

Dave Dawkins, Acton

### A traffic-stopping moment

Dear editor,

In response to Steve Radbourn's letter (Oct. 3) about being sickened by adults' lack of respect. I, on the other hand, had a rather uplifting experience after the tragedy of Sept. 11.

On Sept. 14, I was driving into Milton to meet a friend at work on our lunch break. I was travelling on Steeles Ave. at the intersection of Trafalgar Rd. when it was announced on the radio about the moment of silence. I noticed that cars had stopped, some in the middle of the intersection, people were getting out of their vehicles to stand and mourn for our American comrades.

I soon joined them and I noticed that as cars approached us they, too, stopped and got out of their cars as well. Safe to say, my spirit was lifted greatly, and the tears were on the corner of my eyes, as I realized that people all over the world had just demonstrated that we will stand together not just in mourning for those lost in the terrorists' attacks, but in determination against all the indemnities in life as well.

So to Steve, I'm sorry you had that experience, but, as I can attest, not everyone in this world is as thoughtless as those select few who continued on through those three minutes of silence.

Gregory Kwapis, Georgetown

### Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

**Mail or drop off**

Independent & Free Press, 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4B1

**Fax**

(905) 873-0398

**E-mail**

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

**Editorial e-mail addresses**

John McGhie

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

Cynthia Gamble

cgamble@independentfreepress.com

Lisa Tallyn

ltallyn@independentfreepress.com

Herb Garbutt

hgarbutt@independentfreepress.com

Ted Brown

tbrown@independentfreepress.com

# The Independent & Free Press

Mailing Address: 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1  
 Telephone: (905) 873-0301 Fax: (905) 873-0398  
 E-mail: production@independentfreepress.com

Ken Nugent, Publisher

Steve Foreman, Advertising/Production Manager

John McGhie, Managing Editor

Lorne Drury, Editor-in-Chief

Carol Young, Business Manager

Dave Coleman, Director of Distribution

Nancy Geissler, Circulation Manager

News Editor: Cynthia Gamble  
 Staff Writers: Lisa Tallyn, Herb Garbutt  
 Photography: Ted Brown  
 Advertising Sales:

Dianne Fascinato, Cindi Dermo, Alexandra Stabins,  
 Jeanette Cox, Sue Spizziri, Angela Reynolds

Classifieds Manager: Carol Hall  
 Classifieds: Mary Watson, Sharon Pinkney

Accounting: Pat Kentner, Rose Marie Gauthier  
 Production: Mary Lou Foreman, Kevin Powell, Shelli Harrison,  
 Dolores Black, Debbie MacDougall  
 Distribution: Kim McClure

The Independent & Free Press is published every Wednesday and Friday at 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown Ont., L7G 4B1. It is one of the newspapers published by Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd., which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Bancroft This Week, Barry's Bay This Week, Barrie Advance, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Shopping News, Burlington Post, City Parent, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Enniscorthy/Country Routes,

Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Huron Business Times, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penatanguishene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga News, Mississauga Business Times, Napanee Guide, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Oldtimers Hockey News, Orillia Today, Oshawa-

Whitby/Clarington Port Perry This Week, Owen Sound Tribune, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune, Forever Young, City of York Guardian.  
 Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature will not be charged for, but the balance

of the advertisement will be paid for at the acceptable rate.

In the event of typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.

Editorial and advertising content of The Independent & Free Press is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited. Price: Store copies 50¢ each; Subscriptions \$26.00 per year by carrier; \$92.50 per year by mail in Canada; \$130.00 per year in

all other countries. Plus G.S.T. Second Class Mail Registration Number 6869. The Independent & Free Press is a member of The Canadian Community Newspaper Association and The Ontario Community Newspaper Association.

