

Editorial

# Pornographic ruling

Child pornography—in any form—should be against the law to possess or distribute. Period. We don't think the vast majority of Canadians would disagree this sentiment.

But, according to a ruling by a British Columbia Supreme Court Justice, while he finds material describing sado-masochistic violence and sex involving men and boys aged 12 and younger is "morally repugnant" it still has "some artistic merit".

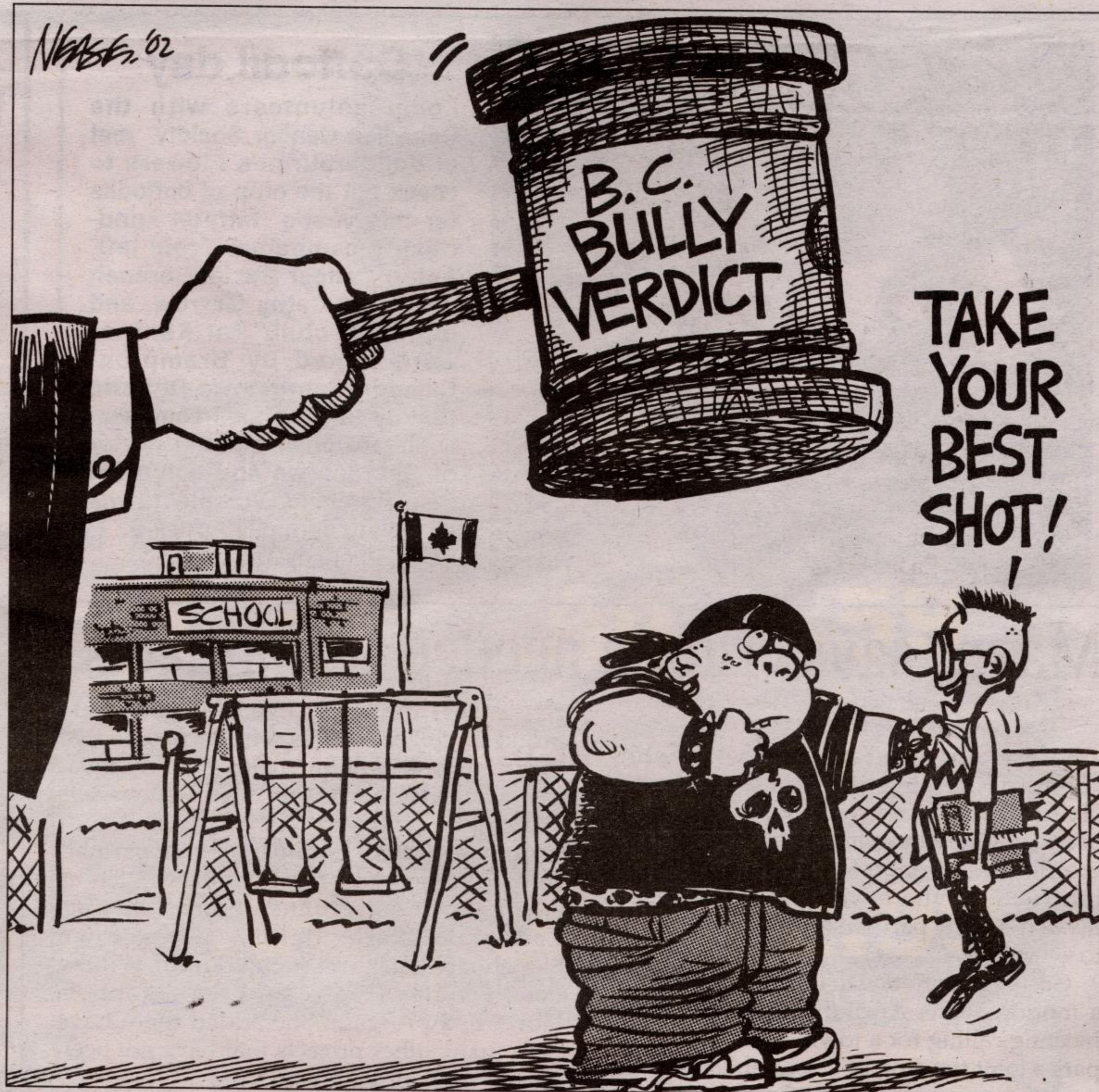
We disagree. There is no place in a right-thinking society for children to be used and viewed as sex objects.

John Robin Sharpe, the owner of the above-mentioned material, has managed to spark a national debate over what power the state should have when it comes someone's private thoughts and material, no matter how distasteful.

While Sharpe was found guilty of possessing 400 photos of boys in the nude in various sex acts, he was acquitted of the more serious charge of distributing child pornography.

Sharpe has cleverly found a loophole in Canadian law through his "artistic merit defence" and is manipulating the court system.

Therefore it is up to Canada's MPs to quickly enshrine new legislation to close this loophole and put people like Sharpe where they belong—behind bars.



## Letters to the editor....

### Hwy. 7 widening not needed, say trail fans

Dear editor,

We are life members of the Bruce Trail Association. On several occasions we have used the GO bus to

access the Bruce Trail where the trail and Highway 7 intersect north of Georgetown (in more than one place).

It has come to our attention that Hwy. 7 is slated to be widened (from two lanes to four or five lanes) between Georgetown and Acton. Construction is scheduled for May.

We have written to Ted Chudleigh, "Progressive" Conservative MPP for Halton. We ask what rationale could there possibly be for widening roads, when we know that the private automobile is the primary agent of air pollution, climate disruption, loss of farmland, gridlock and death.

Why, too, has the provincial transportation ministry absolved itself of any responsibility for public transportation in Ontario? Specifically excluded from MTO's mandate is the option of train service, for example, from Kitchener-Waterloo through Guelph-Acton to Toronto. This could be achieved simply by twinning existing tracks.

MTO should be called MCT—Ministry of Cars and Trucks.

Assuming that this ill-conceived widening will proceed, no provisions have been made for pedestrian tunnels for Bruce Trail hikers seeking to cross Highway 7. Without such safety features, they will be subjected to the deadly scenario of having to cross four or five lanes of car and truck traffic.

Our "Ontario tax dollars at work" is a bottomless pit of public money unabashedly allocated for road-widening and highway construction. Car drivers are lavishly provided for by tax subsidies gleaned from motorists and non-motorists alike. Why are there no comparable investments for public transit users, bike commuters and pedestrians? Scandinavia, with a population density, climate and topography like Canada's, makes our transportation policies look absolutely paleolithic.

Anne Hansen, Toronto  
and Henry Kock, Guelph

### Cancer Society 'forgot us'

Dear editor,

In the March 20 issue of *The Independent & Free Press*, you reported the Canadian Cancer Society is hoping to rebuild its community support and raise money from the citizens of Georgetown.

I have to ask why the CCS is once again interested in our community? Could it be, perhaps, because of the generosity of Halton Hills?

Mr. Pelot, himself, admits that an apology is necessary. Why is this statement coming along with a request for donations? As was reported in the article, "the last time the daffodil campaign was run in Georgetown the community generated \$200,000". This wonderful community raises additional large sums of money throughout the year for use in our town. I can only assume that the CCS forgot just how generous we have been, not only with dollars, but also with our time.

As a former cancer patient and a volunteer driver, I, for one, will give my support to the organization (Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills) which has supported our community from within the community when the CCS effectively pulled out of town.

Karen Gibson,  
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

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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

Distribution e-mail: distribution@independentfreepress.com

News Editor: Cynthia Gamble

Staff Writers: Lisa Tallyn, Herb Garbutt

Photography: Ted Brown

Advertising Sales:

Dianne Fascinato, Cindi Kerklaan, Alexandra Stabins,

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Classified 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

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