

*Editorial*

# They just don't get it

If politicians, at any level, wonder why the general public often looks at them with a dubious eye, they need look no further than current poster bad boys Lawrence MacAulay and John Snobelen.

MacAulay, a federal Liberal who was the solicitor-general until three days ago, resigned his cabinet post amid allegations he obtained federal grants for family and friends in Prince Edward Island.

While a suspect \$100,000 contract to an accounting firm (in which one partner was MacAulay's official agent in the 2000 election) was hanging over MacAulay's head, it was actually his lobbying for a \$6.5 million grant for a university run by his brother that brought down the ex-sol-gen.

Amazingly, despite ethics counsellor Howard Wilson's ruling that MacAulay broke conflict rules, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien was still prepared to keep MacAulay on. Why, we ask, does Chrétien even bother with an ethics counsellor (one that reports to the PM and not parliament, we might add) if he chooses to ignore a ruling that goes against one of his ministers?

Then we have the unrepentant John Snobelen, a provincial Tory who, it's discovered, spends more time riding his horse on his Oklahoma farm than tending to the business of representing his Mississauga riding.

A disaster as education minister, Snobelen in recent interviews appears disinterested in his job and is simply biding his time until the next election (which hopefully he'll take a pass on).

Has accountability (and credibility) in their elected officials become too much for the electorate to ask for?



## Letters to the editor....

### School uniforms take away individuality

Dear editor,

Re: Melissabeth Harveys' letter (October 4).

#### 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 Unsigned letters will not be published.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**

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Implying a school uniform doesn't take away individuality is ignorant. If you look like everyone else, how does that show individuality?

You can't compare working dress codes with school uniforms. You have to conform to a certain type of attire depending on your job, but you still get to pick it out. You still have a choice. And that is what is important—a choice. With school uniforms, there is no choice. And taking away someone's choice takes away their individuality.

Stating the way students at Georgetown District High School dress shows a lack of respect for themselves and others is also an ignorant and offensive statement.

I have seen girls in school uniforms whose skirts are so short they have to hold it down when walking up stairs so the people behind them couldn't see up it.

How does that show morals and respect?

Most of the shirts kids wear aren't offensive, only a limited few, and shirts with vulgarity aren't allowed to be worn inside GDHS.

You generalized teenagers. I assure you there are just as many immoral and disrespectful students at Christ the King as there are at GDHS. The only difference is you like to brush it under the rug instead of actually dealing with the problem.

Who cares what the differences are between the two schools? People are so caught up with what's right for the children they never stop to ask them.

I don't judge anyone for where they go to school. It is their choice, and their choice is what is important.

Matthew Hardstaff,  
Georgetown

### Sept. 11 ceremony attracted 100 residents

Dear editor,

On the evening of September 11, 2002, one year after the fatal events of September 11, 2001, more than 100 residents of Georgetown and surrounding area gathered together for a time of reflection and prayer.

The Gathering, a church that is just starting in Georgetown, organized this 9-11 memorial service. Many of those who attended this service also contributed money in support of Afghan internally-displaced refugees, to help them in their time of transition, insecurity and continued fear.

The offering collected was given to World Vision for use in its Afghan Relief Fund, and specifically to support women, men and children who continue to live in fear and are also victims of 9-11.

World Vision wished to express thanks to the people of Georgetown for their support to this ongoing initiative in Afghanistan.

Sylvia East,  
Customer Service Division,  
World Vision Canada

# The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

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