

Editorial

Don't stop here

Was the "riot" at the Georgetown Fall Fair last September an accident waiting to happen or simply a spur-of-the-moment violent outburst that escalated out of control?

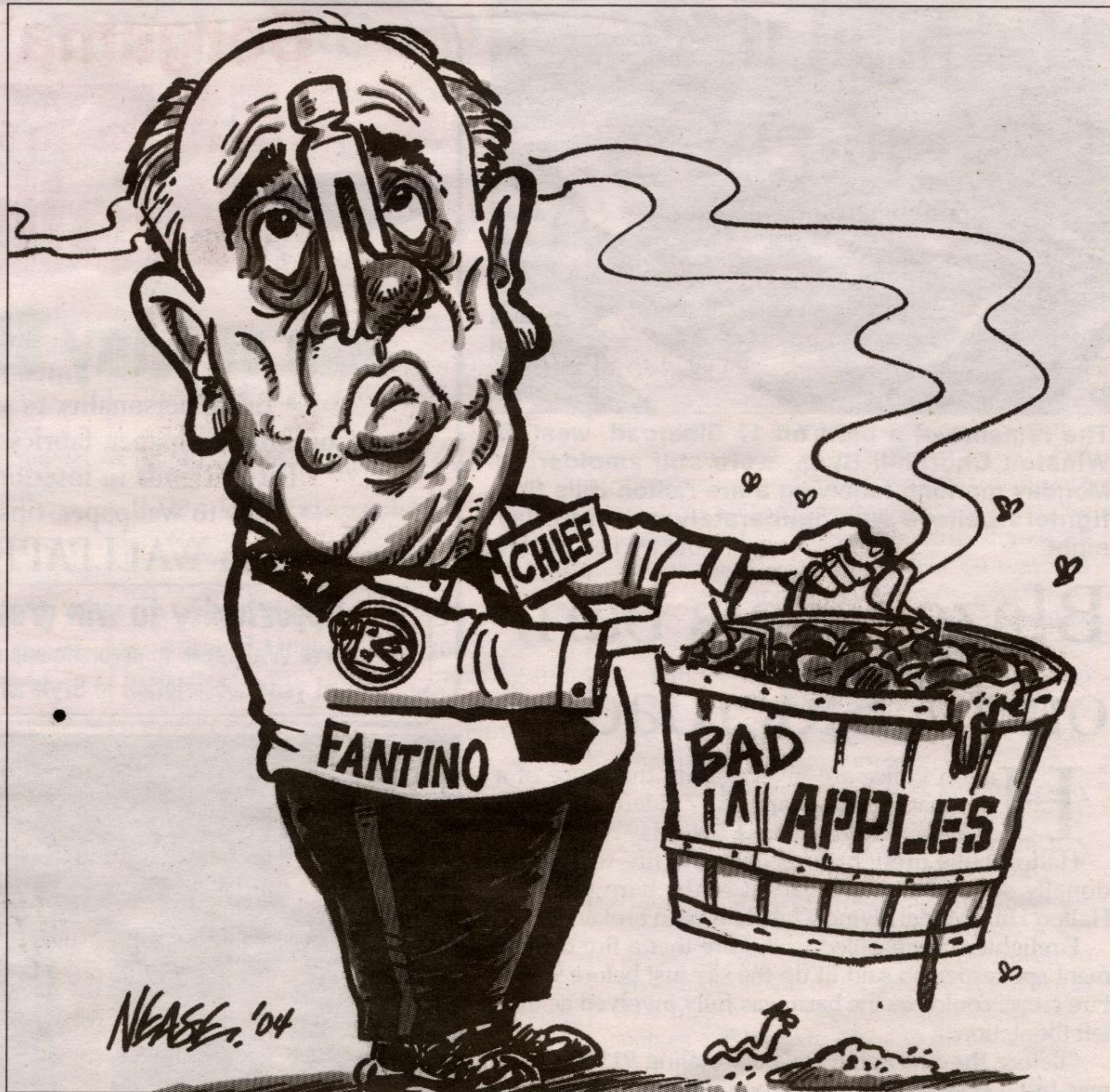
We probably won't ever know. However, civic officials are taking steps to ensure such an outburst does not occur again.

To that end, Halton Regional Police Services officers, community leaders, politicians, youths and other residents gathered Saturday to discuss the events surrounding the confrontation between young people and police. The forum's focus was not to lay blame in the incident, which saw police fire rubber bullets and use pepper spray on a crowd of up to 500, some of whom were chanting "Kill the police", but rather discuss ways to prevent a reoccurrence.

A number of reasons ranging from intoxication, to teen boredom to overzealousness by police officers have been mentioned as reasons for the riot.

Forum participants managed to come up with a total of 34 recommendations ranging from barring admission to anyone appearing intoxicated to closing the fair earlier in the evening. Several ideas involved getting youths more involved in the fair, organizing events geared towards young people and improving police-youth relationships.

We fully support these initiatives to develop a closer link between our youth and police officers and hope this forum is only a first step.



Letters to the editor...

Al Qaeda family has a right to be angry

Dear editor,

Re: Editorial (Apr. 14), Welcome back, Khadr.

It is inconceivable for westerners to even begin to understand the

hearts and minds of the families linked to Al Qaeda. But imagine this: A superpower of aliens descends on Halton Hills, destroying the infrastructure of the entire area. All of your husbands, wives, children, uncles, cousins, friends, neighbours are injured, maimed or killed. How would you react?

The degree of desperation in the hearts of the people willing to commit such acts speaks of an outrage of consciousness which none of us

should even dare to comment on if we haven't walked in their shoes. I'm sure any of us could be driven to such madness when we have nothing else to lose.

Mrs. Khadr has the right to say whatever she feels and is entitled to her bitterness, resentment, anger and to her opinions. She is also entitled to proper medical care for her injured son. It is not an abuse, it is a right! She is a Canadian citizen.

Polly Anne Papa, Acton

Daffodil sale support in Acton appreciated

Dear editor,

The Acton community once again supported our annual daffodil sale and helped to raise more than \$6,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Thanks to all the volunteers who visited local businesses to take orders and to those who packed the orders and sold daffodils to the public.

The Royal Canadian Legion is very much appreciated for once again allowing us to store our daf-

fodils at their facility and we are grateful to Sobey's for giving us the opportunity to sell our daffodils at their store. *The New Tanner* and *The Independent & Free Press* promoted our sale and our annual residential campaign and we certainly appreciate your ongoing support.

Thanks so much to all those who supported the Canadian Cancer Society by purchasing daffodils!

Cathy Gerrow, Acton Branch
Daffodil Co-ordinator,
Canadian Cancer Society

Fund supporters thanked

Dear editor,

On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to sincerely thank the many, many fine businesses and outstanding individuals who made Danielle Blair and the Terra Cotta Inn's fund-raiser for us so successful.

Almost two months ago, my family's home was destroyed by a fire but out of every difficulty comes kindness, and no one shows compassion and support like the people of Georgetown.

We would also like to thank the many students from Gary Allen High School who came to help that night.

I'm a teacher at Gary Allen High School at the old Wigglesworth school, where Danielle Blair is a student. (The school has been more commonly known as the Secondary Teen Education Program or STEP until its recent name change.) Gary Allen was a Halton teacher whose motto was "whatever it takes". Danielle is an exemplar of the spirit and initiative Gary Allen demonstrated; he would have been proud, as we all are.

And again, many, many thanks to Georgetown and its tremendous community, once again proving that a small town has the biggest heart!

Brenda Ginn,
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.

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