

Champion Editorial Page

Man vs. computer

This country has degenerated to a sorry state when the computers take over and start running things. Just ask the man from Dundas whose social security card was stolen.

After his wallet was stolen four years ago, someone started using this man's identity. The other person has been given several traffic tickets, was caught passing bad cheques and was given a 12-month suspended sentence for car theft—all in the Dundas man's name. And the revenue department now wants to know why he has not declared income on jobs he obviously never held.

A computer science graduate, his work requires bonding but investigations usually turn up evidence of the other man's criminal record.

Halton-Wentworth MP Bill Kempling has stepped in to try to help the poor fellow, but he's running up against the same brick walls and bureaucratic red tape the

Dundas man has been facing for the past four years. You only get one social insurance number in this country, it turns out, and the government cannot reprogram its computers to change his social insurance number.

Kempling reports the chief of the Unemployment Insurance Commission's central index branch suggests it would be easier for the man to change his name, than try to get a new social insurance number. But the MP says that's ridiculous. "No citizen should be manipulated by a computer," he charges.

A man is born with his name, while the social insurance number is a gift of our government. The man obviously has a unique problem and the government should be doing its best to alleviate that problem—not throwing more roadblocks in his way.

It's this kind of incident that makes us worry all the more about this computer age in which we live.



THE LAST DAYS of the Sixteen Mile Creek are slowly ticking away. Now a natural stream flowing through the fresh snow, next year it will be a cement trough wedging through the core of town. (Photo by D. Pink)

Strong-arm the builders

The provincial government is considering tightening its controls on commercial developments such as new shopping centres, to avoid builders and developers thwarting local by-laws by erecting plazas in townships just outside town boundaries.

It has been happening regularly lately. If a town doesn't allow a plaza in its by-laws or if there is a shortage of development land in the town, developers find a site just outside the boundaries and steer their approvals through the neighboring township council. The township is happy, of course, to have the commercial assessment and doesn't need to worry about services—they would naturally have to come from the nearby town.

Now the province is considering legislation to thwart such plans. "That breed of developer doesn't care that his new shopping centre will distort the orderly growth and pervert the well-made plans of the town where his potential customers live," says Ontario Treasurer John White. "The township doesn't care what his cluster of stores will do to the neighboring urban com-

munity." He suggested in some cases these developments are permitted by "short-sighted people who cannot or will not see that they are creating a pattern of waste and chaos that may plague the whole community for generations to come."

Our own Milton Plaza is an example of what happens, although in this case it has worked out to the town's advantage. The plaza was developed in the days when the land was in Trafalgar Township, right on Milton's outskirts. As a matter of fact the stores were built in Trafalgar and the parking lot was in Milton. Fortunately Milton's growth has been to the east of the "old" town and the plaza is now quite central to many homeowners. The plaza property has since been annexed to the town. But for many years the plaza paid its taxes to the township, not Milton and the town's only profit was from the sale of sewer and water services.

It's happening, too, in many neighboring towns. It's encouraging to see the province considering strong-arm action to help the local municipalities overcome this problem.

Commenting briefly

Milton Boy Scouts are collecting old newspapers and cardboard for recycling once a month and raising money with their project. But they tell us they are only able to collect a small portion of the newspaper that must be available—too many people are putting their newspapers out with the garbage and it ends up buried in the landfill site. Perhaps it's time more homeowners and business firms started getting serious about this waste of both newsprint and dumping space, and started saving their old papers for the Scouts' monthly collections.

Brampton recently had a newspaper recycling project and collected an average of 14 tons of waste paper a week—yet that was an estimated 40 per cent of the paper that should have been available. It cost the town a little more to collect and recycle a ton of newspapers than it does to truck garbage to the dump site, but the town is saving that much space in the landfill area and helping ease the newsprint shortage at the same time.

Whatever happened to the free rabies clinic that was proposed for Halton, back in the winter when rabies cases were fairly prevalent?

Inflation is affecting just about everything these days. We see the Boy Scouts have postponed their apple day campaign until the fall, because "apples are not available at a price that will give us our usual good return."

The maple syrup demonstration at Mountsberg is an excellent

family outing. It's inexpensive, too. For \$1 a carload you can enjoy a horse-drawn wagon ride through the sugar bush, walk the Tomahawk Trail to learn how the sap is collected, and watch old, newer and newest styles of boiling the sap into maple syrup. Then if you're hungry, for \$1 you can buy a plateful of pancakes cooked on an open grill and smothered in butter and syrup. Mountsberg also has horses, birds, poultry, cattalo, goats, sheep, rabbits and guinea pigs on display in the barn all year round, plus nature exhibits and film shows that are all included in the \$1 per car admission price.

How a child learns

- If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
- If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
- If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.
- If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.
- If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.
- If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.
- If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.
- If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.
- If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.
- If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.
- If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.

—Contributed.



Sugar and Spice
by bill smiley

Canadians, weary of winter, are taking advantage of the school winter break in ever-increasing numbers to get away from the true north, strong and freezing.

Colleagues casually mention that they're off to the Caribbean or Mexico or the Canary Islands or some such exotica. It's considered passe these days to go merely to Florida.

Students will be descending in throngs on places like Athens, Rome, Paris, London.

Chief reason is that air travel is no longer for the rich only. Package deals and charter flights put a mid-winter break within reach of us ordinary Joes.

A friend of mine, for example, is going with his wife for a week in the Channel Islands, those tiny bits between England and France. Air fare is only \$209 each, return. And do you know what they're paying for a hotel room with bath, and three meals a day? Twenty-eight lousy pounds a week, because it's the off season. That is about 60 bucks. They couldn't stay home for much less.

Well, I'm not one for skulking off to the south and leaving other Canadians to suffer. I had a choice. I could go over to see Grandad, or fly to Germany for a few days. Free. It's not that I don't respect and admire my father-in-law, but for some reason I chose Germany.

I hope I get a better reception than I did last time I visited that country.

Last time I ventured into Germany was almost 30 years ago. There was a fairly large and assorted company in the group I travelled with: privates, corporals, sergeants and one Flying Officer — me.

We had no trouble getting into Germany, even though we had no passports. Perhaps it was because of the efficiency of our tour guides. There were eight of them, and they were extremely attentive. They would even accompany one when one had to relieve oneself.

The guides were tastefully arrayed in field-gray, and had similar accessories — guns.

I can't kick, however. I'll bet I was the only P.O.W. who rode across the German border on a bicycle. I couldn't walk because

of a well-aimed kick on the kneecap, and they were sure as hell not going to carry me, so they let me ride one of their bikes.

I'll never forget the first place we stayed at, in Germany. It was my first taste of that old-world charm. It lacked a few of the amenities we spoiled North Americans are accustomed to, but it had a quaintness all its own. It was a barn. There was nobody there but us chickens, the cattle, and the tour guides.

At that, it was practically cosy after a couple of weeks living in a box-car, in Holland. It was a mite chilly, being November, but we paired off and curled up in the hay, like so many sets of spoons. I drew a big, ugly Canadian private from St. Catharines with a bullet wound in his neck which stank a bit. But he was warm.

One of our next stops was the delightful old city of Brunswick, where we spent an enchanting three hours in the air raid shelter, during a raid. It was worth it. The German equivalent of Red Cross ladies gave us coffee, ersatz but hot, the first hot drink we'd had for days.

Some other highlights of my visit were: the interrogation centre and "solitary" near Frankfurt; rolling on a train through a night attack on Leipzig; windows shattering, flares and bombs falling; a look from a train at the appalling rubble of Hamburg; hitch-hiking back from deep inside the Russian lines to Rostock; a visit to the concentration camp at Celle.

This visit couldn't be more interesting, but it should be more comfortable. I'm not going by bicycle, but by jet. And my kid brother, the Colonel, is over there. He didn't know enough to get out of the air force, and has nothing to look forward to but a big, fat pension any day now. But he'd better have the band out, the red carpet down, and the liebräunlich laid on, or he's in deep trouble.

Philosobits
By Edith Sharpe
The value you place on health or wealth depends on which one you have.

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree, the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.

Fairy tales today start with "When I'm elected," not "Once upon a time."

Our readers write

SUPPORTS PARENTAL VOICE IN EDUCATION SYSTEM

Dear Sir:

As many, I have supported the views of Ken Campbell, a neighbor, friend and fine gentleman in his campaign to better our educational system. Many good learning situations are overshadowed by some which have no business in our schools. How many of us will speak up when we see something we dislike? Mr. Campbell unselfishly voiced his objections not because his own children were involved, but because many children were involved. I say "children" because the average age would be 17 and very easily influenced.

We are told the pupils had the option of leaving this particular class. How many would? Not one would want to be singled out as "the one not able to cope." Also everyone is inquisitive. If not, would there be such a rise in the use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs at this age? A little later in life the influence would be minimal.

How much of our children's valuable classroom time is being wasted on such lectures? One Hamilton official recently stated the five years of secondary school could quite easily be completed in four years by omitting unnecessary spares. Are we accepting a lower standard?

It infuriates me when students sign a petition stating they do not want interference from outsiders as was done at M. M. Robinson. Just who are these "outsiders" but the people who pay the bills!

If our educators are really concerned with educating our youth in bodily functions, perhaps they would re-introduce physical education as a compulsory subject rather than an option. This seems rather fitting with the Olympics coming to Canada.

Discipline seems to be lost in today's education. I recall something about discipline in schools being administered as that of a kind, loving parent. It is this kind of discipline which fosters self-discipline and respect. More of these two virtues are needed in a truly compatible marriage.

It seems unreal that censoring books would violate the freedom of press when our own Bible is not allowed to be read. The atomic theory of creation presented in school texts would leave this writer void.

Ken has designed a way for "us outsiders" to have a greater voice in our educational system. If we do not support him, we had better stop complaining. Officials should not fear concerned involvement by parents and taxpayers if they truly wish to be representatives."

Yours truly,
Mrs. Roy Bousfield,
R.R. 2, Milton.

(More letters on Page B3)

Pages of the Past
From Champion Files

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Champion March 25, 1954

Halton's junior farmers last week held their annual banquet and dance in Trafalgar Memorial Hall, colorfully decorated in a St. Patrick's Day motif for the event. The newly-elected executive are president Don Matthews of Acton, treasurer Wilma Sinclair, and secretary Jean Peterson.

Milton appointed the Oakville and District Humane Society to care for animals in the town, paying \$1 an hour for the supervisor with 10 cents a mile for travel. Only calls from municipal officials and police are to be accepted by the Society.

Cement footings are being poured at the new Lowville School this week with about half the footings in and framework in place for the balance of the foundation. The \$164,000 graded school is being constructed about half a mile from the centre of Lowville, south on the Guelph Road. The Rolmac Construction Co. of Hamilton is doing the general contracting work.

Grades seven and eight of all the schools in Nassagaweya Township took a bus trip to Toronto on Tuesday to the museum and parliament buildings.

Milton Regents, entered in the Ontario Rural Hockey League, started the playoffs with Port Robinson in Welland Monday with a final score of 5-5. Goals count in the round. The teams play in Milton Thursday, winners continuing to Blenheim Saturday. Team members are: A. McDuffe, B. Hood, Rusty Serafini, Jack Scott, J. Patterson, B. Price, B. Hutt, W. Wilson, C. Allan, L. Timbers, J. Sales, D. Mills, I. Arbie, and Red Gervais. Coach is D. Irwin.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Champion March 27, 1924

Up to today few motor cars have been seen on the streets here. They could not travel on the roads outside on account of large drifts still remaining. For a couple of days gangs of men have been at work with shovels on the drifts between Milton and Palermo and cars can get through to Bronte after today.

Every Halton breeder of livestock who can do so should visit The Better Live Stock Train of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, which will be at Guelph Junction, C.P.R. tomorrow forenoon and at Milton station for the afternoon. There will be exhibits of thoroughbred live stock. The train will be in charge of competent men who will deliver interesting lectures, give instructive demonstrations and will be ready to give information to all who ask for it. Everybody, farmers and others, will be welcome.

The annual meeting of the Milton Golf and Country Club held in the library room of the town hall on Monday evening was largely attended. The treasurer's report showed the finances of the club to be in good shape and a large membership for the year is already assured. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Hon. President, Dr. R. K. Anderson MP; President, J. McCannell; Vice-President F. R. Robinson; 2nd Vice-President Miss L. Campbell; Treasurer M. F. Pantone; Secretary R. W. Wheeler; Assistant Secretary Miss A. Martin; Captain of Club A. S. Willmott.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Champion March 26, 1874

The foot bridge on Main street broke down on Friday evening. Nobody hurt.

We learn from a letter from M. Sweetmar, P.O. Inspector, by a gentleman in Milton, that arrangements are being made to have the Milton mails reach Georgetown earlier, in order to make connection with the train for Toronto.

On Friday morning as Mr. Smiley was working about the steam saw mill his hand slipped and the saw cut his thumb nearly off. We understand however that he will not be likely to lose it.

Day before yesterday a valuable team of horses, belonging to Lawrence & Co., of Palermo, broke through the ice while crossing Burlington Bay and one was drowned. The driver and the wagon were saved from plunging in along with the horses. This accident, though an unfortunate loss to Lawrence & Co., is a salutary lesson to others who might be tempted to venture upon the Bay with teams at this season when the ice is so very treacherous.

The proverb Mad as a March Hare is said to have originated in the fact that the animal referred to usually has the good sense to keep within his burrow during this month, and that his venturing out far enough to be seen is conclusive evidence of insanity.

The "Restless" Base Ball Club has been re-organized and the following officers elected: President J. R. Barber, Vice President W. McLeod, Treasurer R. Hickey, Secretary T. Glazier.

Must be some growth

In a recent speech before the Ontario Plowmen's Association, Halton East M.P.P. Jim Snow, Minister of Government Services, said that "society and government have come to recognize that growth simply for its own sake can no longer be considered good and necessary," an attitude with which few would disagree.

Mr. Snow emphasized that we must institute ways and means of keeping prime agricultural land in agricultural production. "To do this we must take every step possible to encourage future residential and industrial development to locate on other than our best agricultural land in southern Ontario," he emphasized.

The Government, he noted had passed three new pieces of provincial land use planning legislation and will in the near future be doing a complete review of the existing Planning Act. In this way they hope to create enough safeguards to prevent use of farm

land for development, but big Jim says the public can also play a useful role in this process, since much of the legislation has steps that require public participation.

"I think it is very important to note at this point that one section of the Act makes it very clear that any so called development plan is nothing more than a proposal until it is approved by the Cabinet. Cabinet approval can be obtained only after a considerable amount of public participation."

Mr. Snow also notes that copies of any proposed plan must be furnished to all municipalities in the planning area and to the advisory committees established for that area. The Government is also required to publish a notice in the local press, advising residents of the proposed plan and inviting their comments on it.

Mr. Snow makes a good case for safeguards set up by the province to preserve farm land for production. However, we wonder

whether this is not also going to make it tougher to get land for housing, an urgent need in Ontario at this time with prices skyrocketing well beyond the means of the average wage earner.

We agree, good farm land must be protected and used for agricultural production but the matter of housing is taking more priority as the years go on. As land becomes scarcer, prices escalate to the point where housing is now only for the affluent.

The Government has introduced some programs to alleviate this but it is still a problem every young family must face. As each day passes the Canadian dream of a house for every family floats further from reality.

Growth for its own sake is no longer considered good and necessary but growth there must be or the country will stagnate. Families, backbone of any nation, will find it impossible to live.

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION
published by DILLS PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO. LTD.
191 Main St. East
Milton, Ontario
Phone 878-2341

Jim Dills, Publisher
Roy E. Downs, Editor
Paul Belanger, Advertising Manager

Published every Wednesday at 191 Main St., Milton, Ontario. Member of the Canadian Newspaper Association and the Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association. Subscription rates payable in advance, \$6.00 in Canada; Carrier Delivery in Milton, 15 cents per week; \$9.00 in all countries other than Canada.

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 applicable rate.

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

Second class mail Registration Number 0913.