

COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Like it or not, searches justified

Random drug searches of students' lockers are an unfortunate necessity in today's society.

While many students may feel that their privacy is violated or that they aren't trusted, they must understand that the problem of drug abuse, which often begins in youth, is a serious matter that requires strong measures to control.

Many youngsters wisely avoid the use of drugs. Others experiment, become dependent and the abuse can lead to harmful effects that take years to reverse, if they are reversed at all.

The recent search at Bishop Reding Secondary School reported elsewhere in this newspaper today can't be compared to a search of a private home.

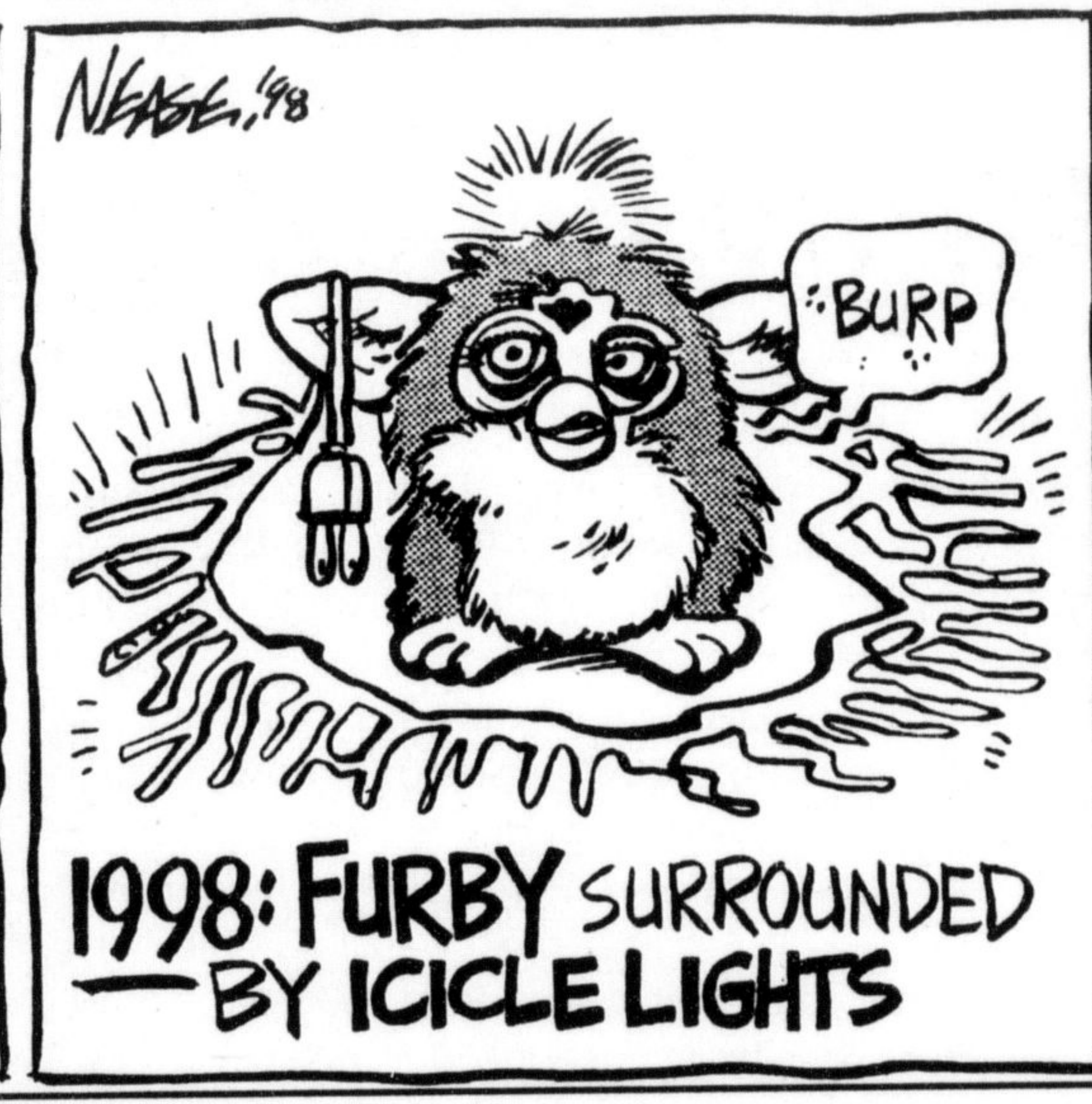
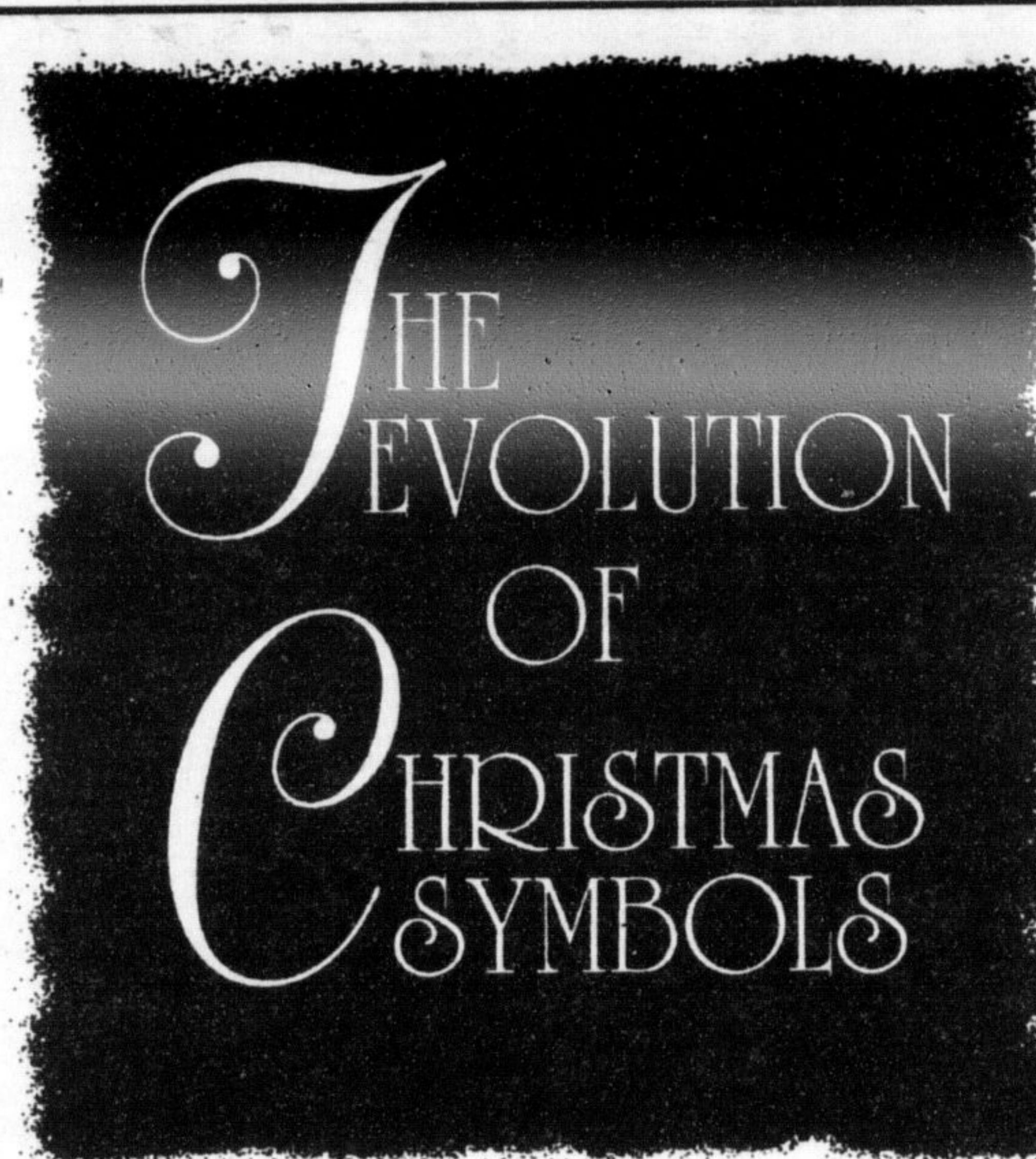
Lockers are school property and the system is funded by taxpayers. The search, which fortunately turned up nothing, was allowed by the school's principal, who is responsible for the wellbeing of students and for keeping his facility safe for everyone.

And considering the number of youths who experiment with drugs these days, his actions were justified.

Searches are reportedly conducted only about once a term. The action hasn't been overdone.

Students who oppose searches should try to think of it from that perspective.

Karen Smith



OUR READERS WRITE

Struck by contrast in the stories

Dear Editor:

Upon reading two stories in The Champion's December 1 edition, I can't help but be struck by the contrast between the two individuals featured in front page photos.

First we had Melissa McTrach, a brave and caring young woman who was willing to undergo the pain of surgery in order to donate bone marrow in an effort to save the life of someone she doesn't even know.

The we had Mike Harris, a callous and uncaring bully, responsible for inflicting pain and suffering on thousands of people. They are the children hurt by cut-

backs to education; the sick hurt by cutbacks to health care; the poor hurt by cutbacks to social services.

And of course all of us are hurt by the erosion of democracy.

Melissa, I am filled with admiration at your courageous, compassionate act. You will inspire more than some friends.

Mr. Harris, I am filled with contempt at your disgraceful, destructive acts. You will only earn more contempt by calling yourself courageous.

Dave Toderick
Milton

They were there for us at the hospital

Dear Editor:

All too often we hear criticisms of our hospital system — how patients get overlooked and how nurses don't have time to do their jobs. The challenges are many and the rewards too few and far between.

But we want to commend the staff at Milton District Hospital for the outstanding care our daughter received in emergency last week when she was admitted with a concussion.

As an athlete, she has had her share of sprains and bruises that were well tended in emergency in the past, but we've never experienced the frightening unknown of a head injury before.

In the course of our overnight stay, our daughter was treated, checked and cared for by several nurses, all of whom were thorough, professional, caring and helpful.

Special thanks to Lois who made sure we, the parents, were also comfortable in our night-long vigil.

Would we have gotten the same level of care in a busy downtown hospital? We don't know. We do know that we were very glad the people at Milton District Hospital were there for us! Thank you. Keep up the good work.

Carol and Bob McDonald
Milton

Wants answers at meeting tomorrow night

Dear Editor:

I am writing about the proposed development of 32 acres of land behind E.C. Drury High School. The plan calls for a senior complex and residential housing that would obliterate the soccer fields and the majority of open space at the rear of the high school.

There are far more people than just those living close to the property who will be adversely affected. Many people use this lovely area for recreation. With all the land around Milton that will soon be developed, why are they going to spoil a lovely oasis in the heart of town?

We will find out why tomorrow. There is a public meeting being held by Town staff to discuss the proposal. I urge anyone who is concerned to attend. The meeting is on Wednesday Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Games Room, Senior Centre, Allendale.

Mel Cutler
Milton

Please fax letters to
878-4943. They must
be signed.

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Pud

by Steve Nease

