



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

War reminds us to value our freedom of speech

The opinions expressed in today's stories surrounding the war in Yugoslavia may anger some people.

A Milton couple native to Belgrade say they believe all reports of Kosovar Albanians being forced from their homes in a massive government-ordered, violent deportation by Serbian police are false. They say NATO bombings are actually what's driving them out.

However, we believe most of the news reports they disagree with are accurate and what's happening is genocide ordered by a ruthless Yugoslavian president leading the Serbs down the wrong path. No matter what the history between Serbs and Albanians dictates, these actions are unacceptable.

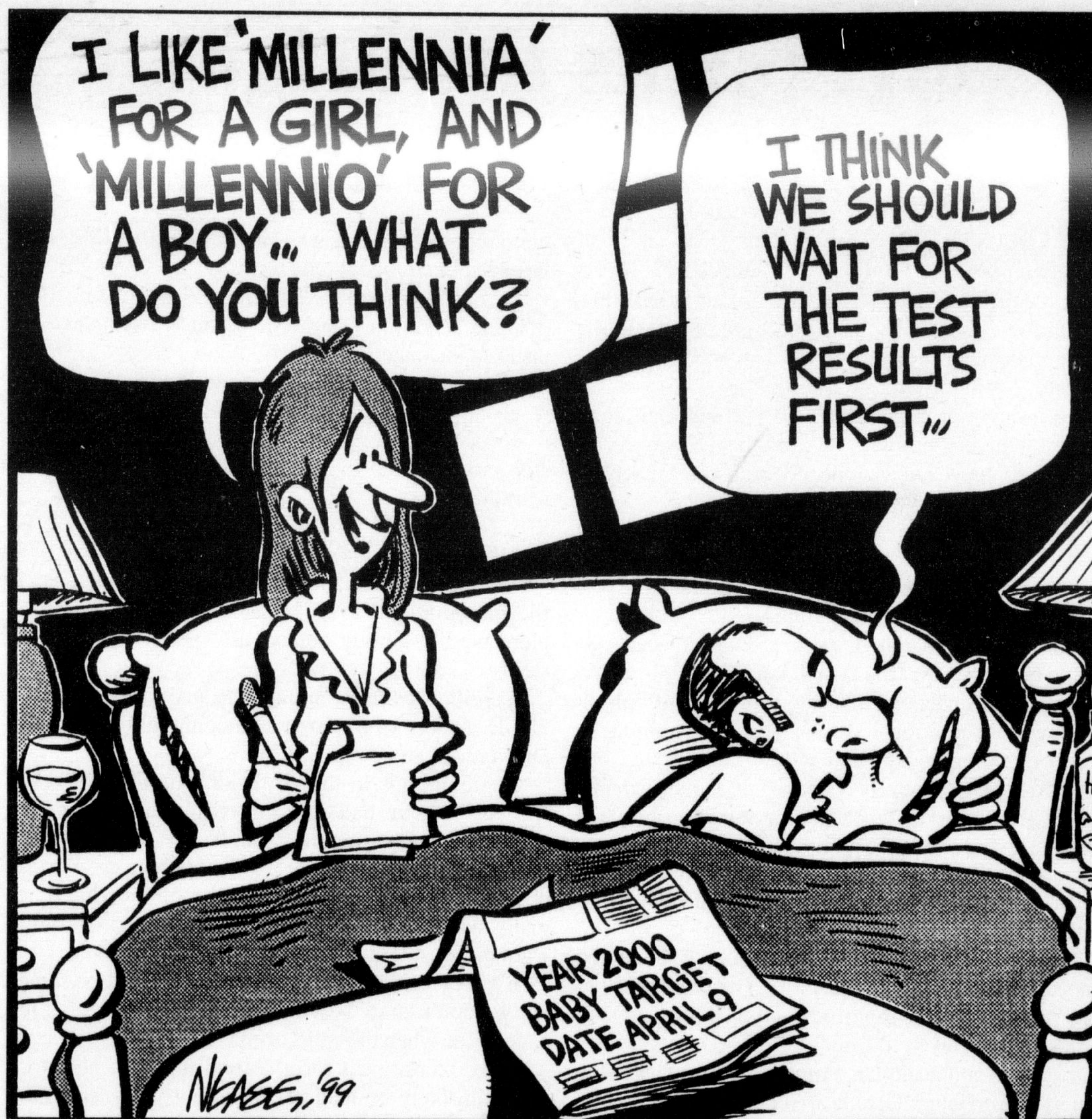
Though we strongly disagree with the opinions of this couple, we defend their right to voice them without persecution -- a freedom thousands of Canadians fought for and secured.

This couple's views are interesting. Despite the fact that there are consistent reports of Serb crimes against Albanians and the bombing campaign is backed by 19 countries, the couple stands behind faith in their people and seems willing to risk life and limb with them.

We would also like to hear from any area residents of Albanian descent and the families of any Canadian military service people involved in the conflict.

As this war continues with no end in sight, and as ground troops may soon become part of the equation, many more people than Albanians, Serbs and Americans could be adversely affected.

Karen Smith



OUR READERS WRITE

Our best natural resource -- volunteers

Dear Editor:

National Volunteer Week will be from April 18 to 24.

Communities across Canada will celebrate. The week is set aside to thank and honour our community's unsung heroes -- the people who donate time and energy to help their fellow citizens and the causes they believe in.

Every day, volunteers take time from their work, leisure and home life to volunteer their talents and energies to solve problems in their communities.

As we approach a new century, we are confronted by many challenges that strain our capabilities as citizens and test

our character as communities.

Without our volunteer spirit, Canada would never have grown to nationhood.

Without the concern of individuals for others in need, we would not have the innumerable public and private programs devoted to making a difference.

In observation of National Volunteer Week I encourage everyone to join with our thousands of volunteer community groups in celebrating volunteers -- our greatest natural resource.

Inky Mark, M.P.

Chief opposition critic,
Canadian Heritage

WatchDog editor calls for firing of senators

Dear Editor:

A few weeks ago a federal court in Saskatchewan convicted Senator Eric Berntson of criminal fraud, for diverting \$42,000 from legislature expenses to his private company. He was sentenced to serve one year in jail and to repay the \$42,000. He is currently out on bail.

This conviction increases the number of convicted criminals in the Senate from one to two. Last year, Senator Michel Cogger was found guilty of accepting a \$218,000 bribe to influence the federal government to purchase \$45 million in computer-assisted translation services. Both convicted politicians were appointed by then Prime Minister Brian Mulroney as Progressive Conservative senators.

Both Berntson and Cogger intend to remain in the Senate until all judicial appeals have been heard. They have the support of the Senate leadership and Progressive Conservative Party Leader Joe Clark to do so. Yet both senators still earn their \$75,000-a-year

salaries as convicted criminals. We think the Senate should quickly dismiss the two senators. That such people in our Upper Chamber can still work and draw high salaries speaks little for the way politics operate in Ottawa.

We are asking Canadians to write letters of protest to Joe Clark and the Senate leadership to have the two senators fired. For more information about this protest campaign, please write to us at WatchDog Newsletter, 247 Leeds Drive, Frederickton, N.B., E3B 4S7 (or e-mail us at dmurrell@unb.ca).

David Murrell, editor
WatchDog Newsletter

Organ donation has its rewards

Dear Editor:

October 28, 1996 is a day that will never be forgotten. That's the day our son Chris became an organ donor.

Chris, the grandson of Myrtle and Elwood Gullis of Milton, was

hit by a car while crossing the street in York, Pennsylvania and suffered a serious head injury and was now brain dead.

There is no greater sorrow than losing a child, however we were able to turn our tragedy into triumph by donating Chris' organs and helping others in need.

Since that time we have received letters from four of the five recipients and it has brought us great joy and comfort to know that these people are now healthy and truly enjoying a second chance at life.

The real reward is knowing that a part of our son Chris will live on.

April 18 to 25 is Organ Donor Awareness Week and as a volunteer, I urge everyone to take a few moments and discuss organ donation with your family.

Sign a donor card. You never know when you or someone close to you may need help.

For more information, call 1-800-263-2833.

Maurice and Dianne Dalton
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Pud

by Steve Nease

