



# OPINION

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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## Chopper is a lame idea

Is it really wise for Halton Regional Police, in concert with other nearby forces, to push for a helicopter? Probably not. It's a glamorous toy, and the money could likely be better spent on front-line officers.

The thinking among police brass appears to be that the aircraft will cut down on the number of police pursuits.

Well, maybe. But will the public really be any safer?

When one watches television tapes made from helicopters in other jurisdictions, fleeing criminals seem to pose just as much hazard to law-abiding motorists.

They careen along highways, smashing into other people's vehicles, cutting people off, in often vain attempts to elude the helicopter.

Criminals generally aren't known for their intelligence, and they're usually desperate, and they often don't care who they hurt. So they aren't about to roll over and surrender just because a helicopter is hovering nearby.

Besides the fact the roads won't be appreciably safer, there is this to consider: How effective will a helicopter be as a crime fighting tool if it is shared among three jurisdictions -- in this case Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth and Peel?

Who is to say it will be available when needed?

The provincial government is throwing money at this test project, but that hardly means it's especially worthwhile. The provincial government is throwing money around all over the place in a crass pre-election campaign. The Tories just want to latch onto a high-profile law and order issue to bolster their position for the upcoming trip to the ballot box.

*Rob Kelly*

## It's harder and harder to get good advice these days

I like listening to those radio psychology shows. It can be entertaining hearing other people's problems. The real problem, as I see it, however, is that often you and I could have dispensed with better advice.

A lot of the time I think they just don't get it. They don't listen, which is a funny thing for a psychologist not to do.

The only show I actually like, besides Frazier, is Dr. Joy Brown. She's good, and I don't feel like yelling at her to smarten up after every call. She seems like a regular person, and I actually learn something by listening to her. She asks questions, gives callers a chance to explain themselves, and gives advice that a regular person could actually use. In other words, she actually helps people.

One other female radio psychologist is so out to lunch, in my opinion, that I think she could actually use some help herself. Her advice is often ridiculous.

The other day, a divorced man with children wanted to know how to help his girlfriend's children better accept him, as well as his own children better accept her. The doctor said that chil-

dren have a difficult time with such a thing and that if he and his girlfriend were most worried about the children they should each go back to their spouses. Duh. Not only a stupid suggestion, but the guy's ex-wife had already remarried.

Another radio advice person dispenses sex advice, but I just wouldn't know whether it's good advice or not.

Television psychologists, or would-be psychologists, are all nuts, and I've never learned a single thing from them, except maybe that violence on TV is very entertaining. And so believable, too. We've just seen an hour of hair-pulling, chair-throwing, name-calling, and clothes-ripping.

The host solemnly dispenses his advice at the end of the show, often revealing to us that violence isn't the answer to our problems. Thank you very much, oh wise one.

The two most popular newspaper advice columnists make me so mad, I can't read them anymore. Two sisters, too. I think they had one heck of a messed up family. Frank discussions with the person they're complaining about probably work, but if we could all do that we



## OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

### Harris' so-called new money is really old hat

Dear Editor:

Recently I had to take my two-year-old son to emergency at Milton District Hospital. Due to the unknown nature of his illness, I then had to take him to Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital because Milton no longer has a pediatrician on call.

The 40-minute trip to Oakville was stressful and this was then compounded by the fact that the hospital has only one pediatrician on call. It took an hour-and-a-half before he was finally seen by the doctor there.

Some of the equipment wasn't working properly, members of the nursing unit were trying to be in two or more places at the same time and one doctor was trying to help a steadily increasing number of young patients. The treatment and concern my child received at both facilities was tremendous and those nurses and

doctors demonstrated great compassion under very trying circumstances.

My point? We keep seeing in the media how much money is being poured into the "improved" health system in this province.

We are bombarded daily by announcements of new funding. Don't forget that all this "new" money is just refilling the huge holes created by the Harris government's more massive cuts over the past two years. What is being put back into the system now is still less than what was there in the first place.

If you want to see the results of this "new" money, spend a few hours in an emergency waiting room. The money is nowhere in sight. I know, I was there.

*Syd Read  
Moffat*



### On the loose

with MURRAY TOWNSEND

wouldn't be writing for advice. And anybody could write an advice column where they suggest the person should seek therapy at the end of each letter.

The funniest thing to me on television talk-help shows are those where enormous women sit and cry because their husband doesn't pay attention to them anymore. They were 120 pounds when first married and have ballooned to 300 pounds. They want some sympathy, and they get it. Then the tears flow like a river when they reveal to an outraged audience that their husband calls them 'Tubbo'.

The best advice I could give those women is to

eat less, and spend less time feeling sorry for themselves.

Recently, a woman called the Dr. Joy Brown show and told how her marriage had deteriorated into nothing ever since their child had developed a serious illness.

The doctor explained how it happened, why it happened, and what to try and do about it. The woman, who had been crying, hung up with a plan and some hope.

Springer would have brought out his secret lover; the newspaper advice ladies would have suggested a frank discussion with her husband, followed by therapy; and the other radio psychologist would have told them both to quit their jobs so they could spend more time with the child.

I think I could have an advice column that helps people because I have the single best solution to any problem. They key is not to think about it, so then it can't worry you. This took me a long time to discover, so don't take it lightly. It actually works. Well, at least as well as most of the free advice we hear.