



# OPINION

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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## They have to just say 'no'

It would probably be better if Milton council refrained from putting ads in service club magazines, no matter how worthy the cause. It would just save trouble in the long run, as was clear following the controversy Monday night.

Mayor Gord Krantz broke a 5-4 tie in favour of putting a \$250 ad in the national Kinsmen magazine.

The club is active in Milton on a number of fronts, and its members contribute meaningfully for charitable causes. They ask for much less from the Town of Milton than they offer.

Still, council must be sensitive to establishing a precedent. Why is it fair to give the Kinsmen a \$250 ad, yet turn down some other deserving service club?

After all, there is no shortage of people asking for municipal funding. Beyond club activities, there are elite athletes seeking help in trip financing to attend championships. There are students going abroad to study or work in non-profit ventures, to name but a couple of instances.

Rarely does a less than deserving person appear before council searching for money. The question is then; how can they all be fairly treated? The answer of course is to treat them all the same way. Property tax money was not meant for such purposes.

On top of that, political animosities can easily and needlessly surface, as they did Monday because Councillor Rick Malboeuf is a Kinsmen member.

Councillor John Challinor hinted of a conflict of interest when Mr. Malboeuf voted to pay for the ad. Councillor Malboeuf shot back angrily that there was no conflict. It's a lot of needless tension over \$250 and a token gesture. The policy should be to turn down all such groups.



## OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

*Denver massacre*

### Clinton hypocritical, says FCP leader

Dear Editor:

The culture of death is evoked in America by violent and pornographic shows and videos.

The atrocity of partial birth abortion (specifically wanted by U.S. President Bill Clinton) and the use of violence and war sanctioned by the state has again manifested its ugly face in a tragedy in a "normal" neighbourhood near Denver.

I would like to point out the hypocrisy of Mr. Clinton in quoting St. Paul and asking people to pray for the victims of the massacre.

It is him that denies children the right to recite Christian prayers in schools. It is him who leads the

attack on morals and family values, the only safety net that helps prevent teenage violence.

How long will he continue to use the media and fool the people?

*Giuseppe Gori*

*Leader, Family Coalition Part of Ontario*

Letters must be signed and the address and the telephone number of the writer included. Mail letters to: The Canadian Champion, Box 248, Milton, L9T 4N9, or leave them at our office, 191 Main St. E.

## I'd pay for those kids not to wash my window

I've been seeing a lot of those Squeegee Kids recently in downtown Toronto. I have a good view of them because my windshield is always clean. Not because of them, mind you, but because of this thing they've built into cars they call a windshield washer. It even comes with a button or lever.

These Squeegee Kids annoy me — not just because they're providing an unnecessary service, or that they are intimidating to people, but also because of their lack of entrepreneurial initiative.

I don't find them intimidating, personally, but I can see where people would.

In fact, they're very respectful most of the time, and generally pleasant. All you have to do is wave them off and they'll move on to the next car.

Only once has a desperate Squeegee Kid slung her squeegee on my window after I declined the offer, an obvious ploy that probably works frequently.

I shook my head again and waved my arms

and she washed the whole window and didn't come looking for money. I wouldn't have given her any, anyway.

The other night it was pouring rain and they're running around from car to car with their squeegees. That's dumb enough in itself, but even dumber were the people who were actually giving them money for washing their windows in the rain.

I have a difficult time thinking of them as hard-working industrious kids who need financial help. I think they're lazy, opportunistic, extortionists, who intimidate suckers into giving them money for nothing.

Washing your windows in the rain? Don't tell me they have any pride in working for their money. Their only pride is in duping enough idiots to pay them for nothing. In fact, even if they washed the side windows or the back window, where we don't have built-in washers, it would make a little more sense.

If they spent some of their non-taxable profits on Windex instead of getting free dirty water, it



with MURRAY TOWNSEND

### On the loose

might even be more acceptable. I bet most of us would pay them NOT to wash our windshields. I would.

I'd give them money if they walked around with a box at the stoplight with a sign saying: 'Will not Wash your Windshield'. At least it would show some originality. They're not even enterprising enough to find a way to increase business or to provide a useful service.

If it were me, I'd have some squeegee pals pouring muddy water down from an overpass at an intersection or two before — or do something

of value, even something as simple as selling flowers or newspapers.

The city should ban them. They're an eyesore, and I'm not talking about their physical appearance. That's unimportant.

The city spends zillions of dollars trying to beautify itself and to encourage tourists. Then they allow these pests to make going to downtown Toronto unpleasant. They spend ridiculous amount of money on equally ridiculous sculptures.

Have the Squeegee Kids do some sculptures; most of us wouldn't know the difference. I wonder if the politicians in Toronto who argue their case would like it if every day some kids came to their front yard, raked leaves for 12 seconds, and then came to the door with their hand out. Even in the winter.

Come to think of it, that may not be such a bad idea. Look for me on your front lawn sometime soon.

And get your money ready.