



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Wobbling won't work

There is a saying in Zen: "Walk or stand still. But don't wobble."

It seems Halton Regional Police Chief Ean Algar is wobbling.

Chief Algar is being critical of the media at present for what he sees as somewhat unprofessional coverage of the latest development in the Fred Sheppard murder case.

A prison inmate named Roy Hopkins went public with a confession, saying it was he who had murdered the Milton senior citizen with a rifle several years ago, not Keith Madeley, who was convicted of the crime.

The OPP finds Hopkins' confession without merit, and has charged him to that effect. The matter will, of course, eventually come before the courts.

The problem is, Chief Algar is not being very specific about what was done wrong, and who he sees as responsible for such wrongdoing in coverage of the Hopkins story.

That's unfortunate. Chief Algar urges whoever to do the requisite "homework" when researching such a story. But really, what good is such broad and shapeless criticism, and how is it to be answered? Who shall answer?

The media makes many mistakes in both fact and judgement. But little is resolved through the stance adopted by Chief Algar, save perhaps for a slight morale boost for some of his employees.

ONTARIO #2 POLLUTER IN NORTH AMERICA

-ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT



OUR READERS WRITE

Townsend's movie taste questionable

Dear Editor:

I'm glad columnist Murray Townsend recognizes the fact that he would make a lousy movie reviewer, although I'm not sure he should be bragging about his somewhat questionable taste in movies.

Still, it's good to know that he finds movies like Dumb and Dumber so entertaining. It has kept me up some nights wondering just who the heck watches these things. Now I know.

The only thing that really bothered me about his column was that he seemed to mistake his personal dislikes for some flaw in the movies he watched.

Spike Lee's movies are not "horren-

dously bad." Mr. Townsend just doesn't happen to like them (although I think even he might like He Got Fame if he ever decided to risk renting it).

Similarly, his statement that he's "never seen a good Canadian movie" is like saying he's never had good caviar, but that doesn't mean there's anything wrong with it.

Personally, I can't remember the last time I saw a bad Canadian movie. I think it's time he gave them another chance.

But that's just my opinion.

Jennifer Smith
Milton

Is such a millennium dream really possible?

Dear Editor:

Canadian Dream 2000 — This is a dream about Canada and about Canada Day, 2000. It's possibly an impossible dream, since it would require more than three billion Canadians working in harmony to make it come true, but we are going to give it a try.

A friend of mine came from Quebec a few years ago and settled in British Columbia. The mountains got under his skin and he decided to stay here, but he often talks about Quebec. The other night we were talking about Canadian unity and about what we should do for Canada Day, 2000. We pictured an event that blew us away and we want to share it.

We saw noon, Canada Day, 2000. We saw an endless chain of Canadians holding hands, reaching from the Pacific Ocean in British Columbia to the Atlantic Ocean in the Maritimes — a warm, living, human Canadian chain unbroken from coast to coast stretching for

more than 5,000 kms.

From B.C.'s mountains over the Prairies through Ontario and Quebec and into the Maritimes, it would be a chain of people from every province and from every walk of life.

We saw helicopters overhead, recording the greatest human event in the history of Earth. More than three million people were together for one event.

We saw the whole world look at TV coverage of our Canadian chain and marvel at a country that could organize and bring together that many people for the greatest national celebration ever.

We saw into the future when our children and grandchildren for generations to come learn of our moment in the sun, and see the pictures and feel the pride of the one day in our history when the eyes of the world were upon us. For one brief magic moment, Canada was truly united.

If you want to help organize our

celebration, please write box 189, New Hazelton, B.C. V0J 2J0 or email canlink@bly.net or fax 250-842-4147.

Peter Weeber and Raynald Huot

No time to wait in child porn ruling

Dear Editor:

This past June 30, the British Columbia Supreme Court ruled in the John Robin Sharpe case that a person has the right to own child pornography.

The court based this decision on the freedom-of-expression clause in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Despite the ruling, Justice Minister Anne McLellan has stated that the federal government will wait until the Supreme Court of Canada rules on the case, before deciding what is to be done. It's possible that the Supreme Court of Canada may support the BC ruling.

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by Steve Nease