



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Bad kids? We think not

According to a front page story in this edition of The Champion, suspensions at regional secondary and elementary schools have gone through the roof over the last decade.

Throughout the past school year there were 1,639 suspensions in Halton's 17 high schools. That number has nearly tripled since the 588 in 1986-87.

Is it time to panic? Should parents and trustees throw their hands in the air and begin to question the education system and the very future of the country? We don't think so.

But the question remains: What's the cause of the increase? Are kids really three times as bad as they were a decade ago? Of course not.

Kids are kids and, although there seems to be a growing lack of respect for authority figures as well as for one another among teens, it seems unlikely this alone would account for a 200 per cent increase.

Instead, we believe the reason for the increase lies largely with a get-tough attitude by school officials. A minor offence, perhaps ignored a decade ago, is now dealt with via suspension. And it's an attitude we support.

If kids hope to one day enter the working world, it's a lesson best learned when they're young that there's a subordination line that can't be crossed in the real world. If it takes a couple of days off school to get that message across, then so be it.

NICE DELIVERY, ADRIENNE!
A JOB WELL DONE!



Nease '99



OUR READERS WRITE

No parking signs going against nature

(The following letter was sent to Mayor Gord Krantz and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

Somebody, somewhere is responsible for depriving us of the simple pleasure of pulling off to the side of the road to take a walk in nature's wonderland.

Who are these people and why is every roadside sacrosanct? Across No. 5 Sideroad between Hwy. 25 and Guelph Line (where the Bruce Trail crosses the road), the 'no parking' signs abound. One day the police were ticketing all those who were simply walking the trail.

Down Guelph Line around Steeles Avenue where some of the loveliest landscape in Ontario exists, those wretched signs are more prolific than dandelions.

First of all, we as taxpayers must have spent a fortune on all of these signs. Have a look for yourself, they're everywhere there's room to plant them. Why?

Secondly, they prevent peaceful enjoyment of our wonderful landscape by law-abiding citizens. Who and where are the people who dictate these rules?

Jack Murphy
Wheelihan Way

Miracles God's work: reader

Dear Editor:

I was truly dismayed by the article in your paper about Lynda McKenzie, the Parkinson's victim. Threaded throughout the article were words like "blessings" and "miracles."

There is nothing that brings more joy to my heart than to hear that someone has experienced a true miracle. Miracles only come from God and when He walked the earth as a man He healed all the sick who came to Him and showed many signs and wonders. I believe in

His mercy and compassion. He loves to heal.

But how can you mix miracles and aborted fetuses in the same sentence?

God created the wonderful miracle of babies. Their lives are just as precious to Him as the life of a Parkinson's victim. Have we lost our senses?

Lynda: God loves you very much and I pray that He will heal you, but I know He would not use unborn babies created by Him to do it.

Anne Jones
Campbellville

Thanks, Milton, for the support

Dear Editor:

Many thanks to the citizens of Milton from the Air Cadets of 820 Blue Thunder Squadron.

Your generosity during our recent tag days will go a long way to ensure the continued

success of this worthwhile program for the youth of our community.

The cadets, officers and parents of 820 thank you for your support.

Michael Ellis,
chairperson
Milton

Letters welcome

The Canadian Champion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit, revise, and reject letters.

Letters must be signed and the address and the telephone number of the writer included.

Mail letters to:
The Canadian Champion
Box 248,
Milton, Ont.,
L9T 4N9,
fax them to 878-4943 or
leave them at our office,
191 Main St. E.



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Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 878-4943

Advertising Fax: 876-2364

Classified: 875-3300

Ian Oliver Publisher
Neil Oliver Associate Publisher
Bill Begin General Manager
Karen Smith Acting Editor
Steve Crozier Circulation Manager
Teri Casas Office Manager
Tim Coles Production Manager

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by Steve Nease