



# COMMENT

## Let's stick to the issue

A rally to protest the potential privatization of Ontario jails by the Province was held at Maplehurst Correctional Complex Tuesday.

The hour-long demonstration had correctional workers coming out in droves to express their concern that running jails for profit could endanger lives.

Since front-line workers are more than qualified to have their say in the debate, that concern should be both heard and addressed.

But the kind of rhetoric spewed by NDP corrections critic Peter Kormos at the event did nothing to further the discussion.

Instead, he stooped to shameful accusations about Premier Mike Harris and Corrections Minister Rob Sampson.

For example, in a cynical use of another's pain to further a cause, the tragedy that left six people dead in Walkerton, Ont. was exploited.

This comment and other even more personal ones were judged unfit for publication in *The Champion*, but were heard by all in attendance at the rally.

Prison privatization may very well be a bad thing. If it is, the arguments against it will stand on their own.

But personally attacking Mr. Harris and Mr. Sampson simply diminishes the message. It's both uncalled for and unhelpful.

If Mr. Kormos wants people to listen, he should stop yelling so loudly that he deafens them.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Please don't drink alcohol if you're pregnant or believe you might be

Dear Editor:

Through the medium of this newspaper I would like to thank all those who helped make FASday a success September 9 — the Town of Milton for issuing a proclamation for International FASday in the town of Milton, the friends who made donations to the Fetal Alcohol Support Network (Toronto and Peel), those who came to Toronto on Saturday for the event held there, and those who have supported our family along our journey with fetal alcohol syn-

drome. Thank you also to this newspaper, which printed an article highlighting the dangers of alcohol during pregnancy.

My final message this year is that if you're pregnant, or there's a possibility you're pregnant, please don't drink alcohol. If you think you may already be living with a child or adult with FAS, please call 853-3265 or e-mail shionaw@stn.net.

**Shiona Watson  
Acton**

### Thanks, Mrs. Coulson, for all you taught me

Dear Editor:

This is in response to Liz Coulson's letter published September 12.

Thank you, Mrs. Coulson. I can't remember if I ever got to say that to you when I was in your class. I had Liz Coulson for my last semester of high school. She was one of the greatest teachers that I ever had the pleasure of sitting in her classroom (although most of the time we weren't sitting).

She would bring in costumes for the books we were reading. Forgive me, but I can't remember the name of the book, but she would give us all characters. No one was ever left out. We would have boys play women, girls play men, and we would all laugh. She taught us to put passion into our work — to care about what we were reading, or writing.

I bumped into her outside of my office not so long ago, but it had been almost two years since I had sat in her classroom. She walked

right up to me and said, "Hi Kate. How are you?" Then she asked if I still wrote that "beautiful poetry." I was astonished to find out she remembered my name and I was extremely overwhelmed that she remembered my poetry. She still cared, and I still cared. She made class fun and interesting; made the kids want to go to English class.

I had a few teachers like her. There was Mr. Martin, whom I ran into outside my building as well. He needed a little mind jog but remembered me from his grade 5 class. That was almost 10 years ago.

Then there was Ms Stickle, whom I had for my grade 6 home-room. She left the school at the end of my 7th grade, but promised to be back for our class grade 8 graduation. She came and got a standing ovation. There are so many teachers that have touched my life whether they were fun and interesting, or strict and boring, but they all cared.

When your teachers lean on you, it isn't because they hate you and want you to fail it's because they want you to pass and succeed. When do you feel great? When you don't try and get an 'F' or someone else gets promoted over you at your job. No, it's when you try your hardest, get that first 'A' or especially that raise and a new title.

I want to say thank you to Mr. Martin, Ms Stickle, Mr. Johnson, Ms Kramer (you know we'll always call you that), Mrs. Wilson, and Mr. Balch. You all touched my life somehow. You may have been strict sometimes, but you always cared and always made me succeed.

I hope that with this letter I can make some people realize how wonderful our teachers are and how much they mean to students. Teachers should never be taken for granted. They give us a very powerful tool for life... knowledge.

**Kate Reid  
Frobisher Boulevard**



## THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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  
**Karen Smith** Editor  
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### Pud



by Steve Nease