



# COMMENT

## Life in prison a steep price for just \$50,000

How cheap is life?

Is it worth \$5,000? Five million? How about \$50,000, as in the sum former Milton resident David Fiorino pocketed through the 1996 killing of Barrie resident Stephen Andreopoulos in a Milton field?

Now Mr. Fiorino will begin paying his own fee—a life sentence without parole for first degree murder.

The trial took place in Milton to the notice of almost no one. But people are affected. Three children, for example, will be raised without biological fathers. All for a bungled contraband liquor deal and \$50,000.

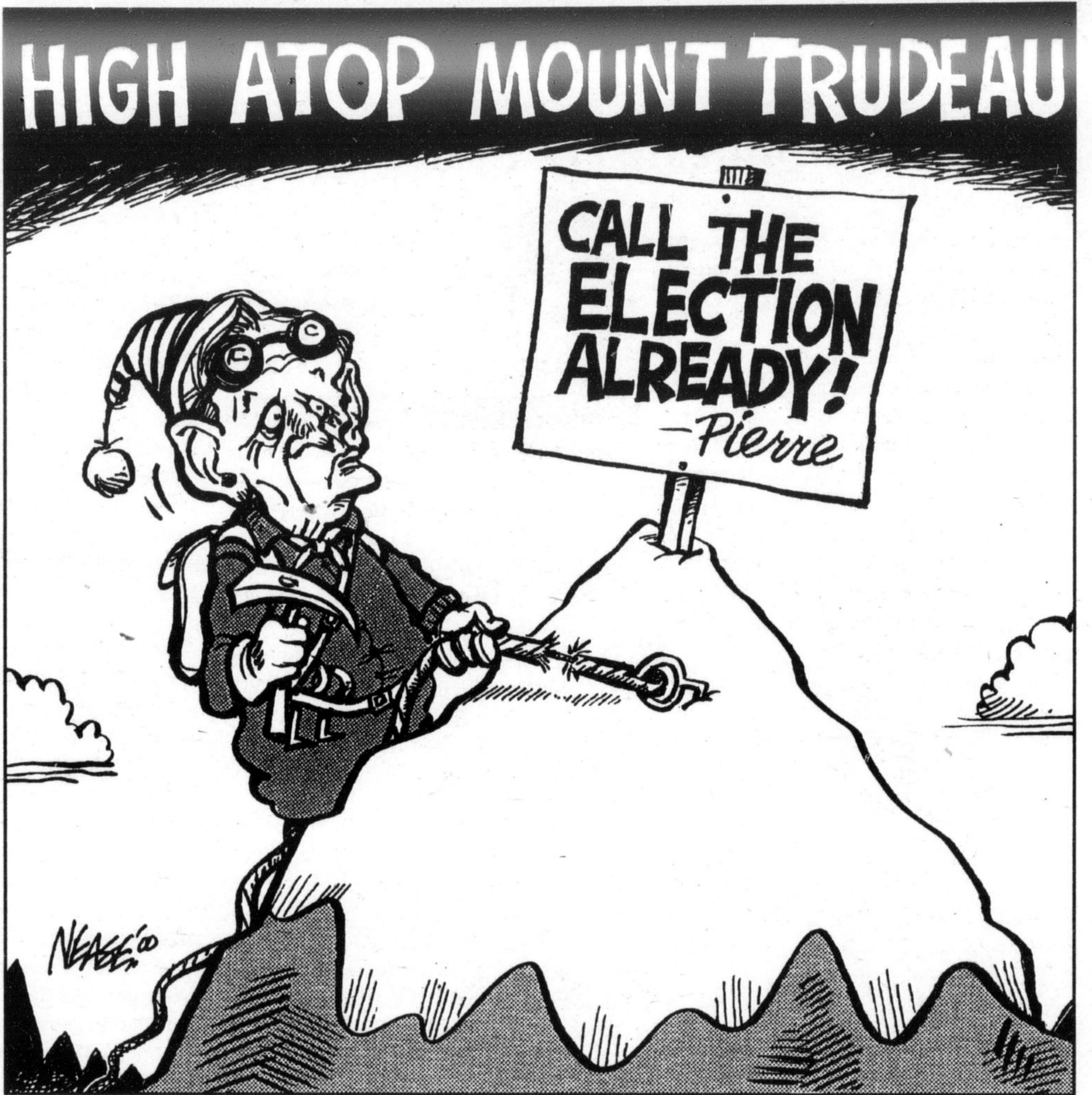
But those crimes are secondary. The first took place years before through the slow and steady assassination of values.

The debacle that took one life and imprisoned another was no theft of bread to feed starving mouths. This could have been avoided.

But it's so tempting to strive for an easy buck. It's easy to equate self-worth with monetary gain. Commonplace to believe that if it doesn't hurt someone, it isn't really a crime.

But striving for what we can get away with instead of what we can give hurts everyone. Most people used to know this.

That it's so consistently forgotten now is the real crime.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Milton should do more to support our youth

Dear Editor

Lately, it seems that every time I open The Champion there's a letter to the editor complaining about the youth in Milton. People are having rocks thrown at their property or having cars broken into. It seems we as a community are fed up with these young "vandals" and are ready to do something about it.

Then imagine my surprise upon seeing the young cadets standing outside of stores last week having little success in obtaining support. I saw adults

walk by these kids, ignoring their request for a donation.

Being a new mother, this attitude alarms me. On one hand, we complain about a lack of supervision and facilities for children. On the other hand, we refuse to support the kids who are participating in constructive activities. This begs the question: when do we stop complaining about our youth and start supporting and guiding them towards a responsible future?

Wendy Grant  
Milton

### Coverage on hydro issues wanted: reader

Dear Editor;

I recently saw an ad in your paper asking people to call in with news items. I called and left a message a week ago and have not as yet been called for my news. As a long-term reader of your paper, I can see no reason for this ad, as you do not keep your readers informed of local news as should be your job as our local community newspaper.

I refer to your reporting of local happenings at Milton Hydro and their takeover by the Town of Milton. We as citizens of Milton have monthly expenses, such as house payments, car payments, insurance, taxes and hydro is a major one. I would like to be kept informed of happenings at Council and Hydro Meetings.

At one time we had a local Hydro Commission elected at municipal elections, as are our

councillors. Although, these commissioners met and discussed expenditures in the millions of dollars of our money, I have yet to see a report in your paper covering any hydro commission meetings in the 25 years I have lived here.

The Harris Government, in their common sense revolution, has recently phased out our hydro commissions. This is a hydro system that has evolved over a period of 60 or more years and has served the people of Ontario reasonably well. Perhaps not as well as it should have with too many political appointments to the Ontario Hydro Board.

This old boys club has led to many bad decisions, a dangerous Nuclear Energy Generating System, a polluting Coal Fired System, plus \$37 billion of debt.

The Harris Government with

Mr. Harris' fearless common sense revolution wished to eliminate 37 billion dollar debt, which, the Province was responsible for, what better way than to pass it off to the municipalities. As with our road system, this is now being done with little fanfare or news coverage.

The Harrassment government continues to collect the taxes on gas and is either handing over highway maintenance to the municipality or selling them to private interests, and we have to pay to travel on them and continue to pay gas taxes.

This stupid sense revolution is also happening to our local Hydro and 90% of us are unaware or uninformed.

Recently in Mississauga the Hydro Commission applied for a rate increase. Petro Canada filed

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### Pud

by Steve Nease

