



COMMENT

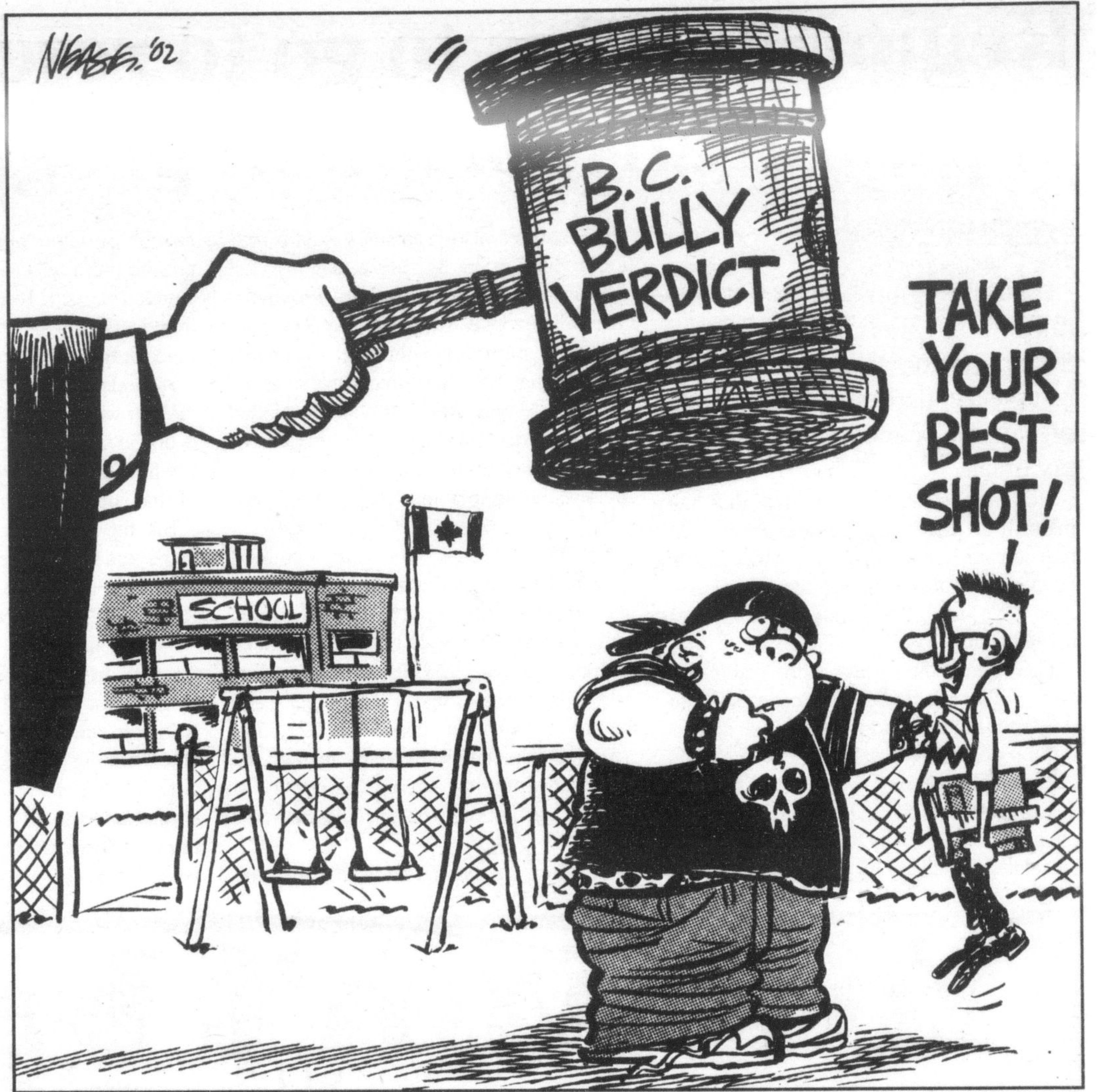
Child pornography has no artistic merit

Child pornography — in any form — should be against the law to possess or distribute. Period. We don't think the vast majority of Canadians would disagree with that sentiment.

But, according to a ruling by a British Columbia Supreme Court justice, material describing sado-masochistic violence and sex involving men and boys aged 12 years and younger may be "morally repugnant," but has "some artistic merit." We disagree. There's no place in a right-thinking society for children to be used and viewed as sex objects.

John Robin Sharpe, the owner of the above-mentioned material, has managed to spark a national debate over what power the state should have when it comes to someone's private thoughts and material, no matter how distasteful.

While Sharpe was found guilty of possessing 400 photos of boys in the nude in various sex acts, he was unfortunately acquitted of the more serious charge of distributing child pornography due to his artistic merit defense. Therefore, it's up to Canada's MPs to quickly enshrine new legislation to close this loophole and put people like Sharpe where they belong — behind bars.



OUR READERS WRITE

Halton MP Julian Reed questioned about his stand on proposed intermodal terminal

(The following letter was addressed to Halton-Peel MP Julian Reed and a copy was filed with *The Champion*.)

Dear Editor:

At a meeting organized by CN where the railway announced the proposed intermodal terminal for Milton, you gave your support for the increased use of railways stating that it would reduce truck traffic and pollution.

I will accept your position although the facts don't bear out your claim.

If you feel that rail transport is the answer, how will you work with the

Town of Milton, the Region of Halton and Residents Affected by Intermodal Lines (RAIL) to have CN locate its proposed intermodal yard in the right place — on the industrial lands north of the town?

You also espouse the position of an environmentalist.

What will you do to save all the green-space and agricultural lands that CN plans to remove from that shrinking resource?

John Gent
Tremaine Road

How was demolition allowed?, asks reader

Dear Editor:

I attended the Town's planning and development committee meeting March 18 to try to find out exactly how the renovation of 200 Main St. E. turned into a demolition.

The meeting wasn't especially informative although several suggestions were made by the representative from the Milton Historical Society as to how this sort of fiasco might be avoided in the future. While these remedies would facilitate communication between the Town, the Milton Historical Society and other organizations with an interest in preserving historical buildings, they didn't address what to my mind is the central issue here — how was this allowed to happen in the first place?

When a renovation of this magnitude is carried out, whether on an old building or a new one, plans are submitted, zoning issues are addressed and a building inspector is sent out to monitor the proceed-

ings at certain key points in the process.

What I would like to know is, where was the building inspector in the months between the time the rear wall of the building was demolished and February 5, when the order to assess the stability of the structure was issued? Why was the building allowed to stand open to the elements over the entire winter?

And who was it that decided that tearing out two exterior walls of a 100 plus year-old brick building was a good idea to begin with? The Milton Historical Society insists that the front facade of the building could still have been saved even after the damage was done, but one would have hoped that procedures were in place to prevent this sort of damage in the first place.

If not, then this is where the real problem lies.

I had a rather disturbing conversation with a member of the Milton Bible Church congregation recent-

ly. He said he didn't think anyone outside of the Milton Historical Society even cared whether this building was torn down or not. I sincerely hope he's wrong, because if he's right then all of our worst fears about the fate of our town during this time of rapid growth will surely come to pass.

Thousands of people will be driving through our downtown area over the next few years, deciding whether or not they want to make Milton their home. The question is, what kind of people do we want to attract? Do we want people who are looking for a small-town community or a suburb?

Do we want people who will be attracted by places like Delacourt's and Bergsma's and the Sweet Water Grill, or people who would rather go to Wal-Mart?

Do we want people who care about some old building being torn down, or people who don't?

Jennifer Smith
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by Steve Nease

