



# Champion COMMUNITY Page

## MDHS students shave heads in support of ill-stricken friend, and leukemia research

*Four teens say goodbye to locks in aid of their buddy*

By FANNIE SUNSHINE

The Champion

Sometimes it's the small gestures of support that make a world of difference.

When 17-year-old Craig Mitchell was diagnosed with leukemia in January, his close friends decided to raise money for cancer research.

And shave their heads.

"I raised over \$1,000 in one week," 16-year-old Fraser McGaffin of Milton District High School told The Champion, adding it was his idea for the head shaving. "Everyone knows him (Craig) so we did what we could to help. We wanted to give the money to his family but they wanted to give it to leukemia research."

Fellow student Sean Magee said he would shave his head if he was able to collect over \$1,000 — which he managed to do in just one day.

"I asked neighbours and classmates," the 18-year-old said, adding he collected a total of \$1,100. "I walked around to the different classrooms. Everyone was willing to give something."

### Collective gesture of support

Friday afternoon Mr. Magee, along with Fraser, Colin Mont and Jon Christink sat down before Charlie Graci of Tony's Barber Shop and watched as their locks fell to the floor.

Cheers erupted from the 100 students gathered in the school's cafeteria as Mr. Magee was the first to have his dirty blond hair shaved off, followed by the remaining three.

Craig and his mother Mary made sure to have first row seats for the event.

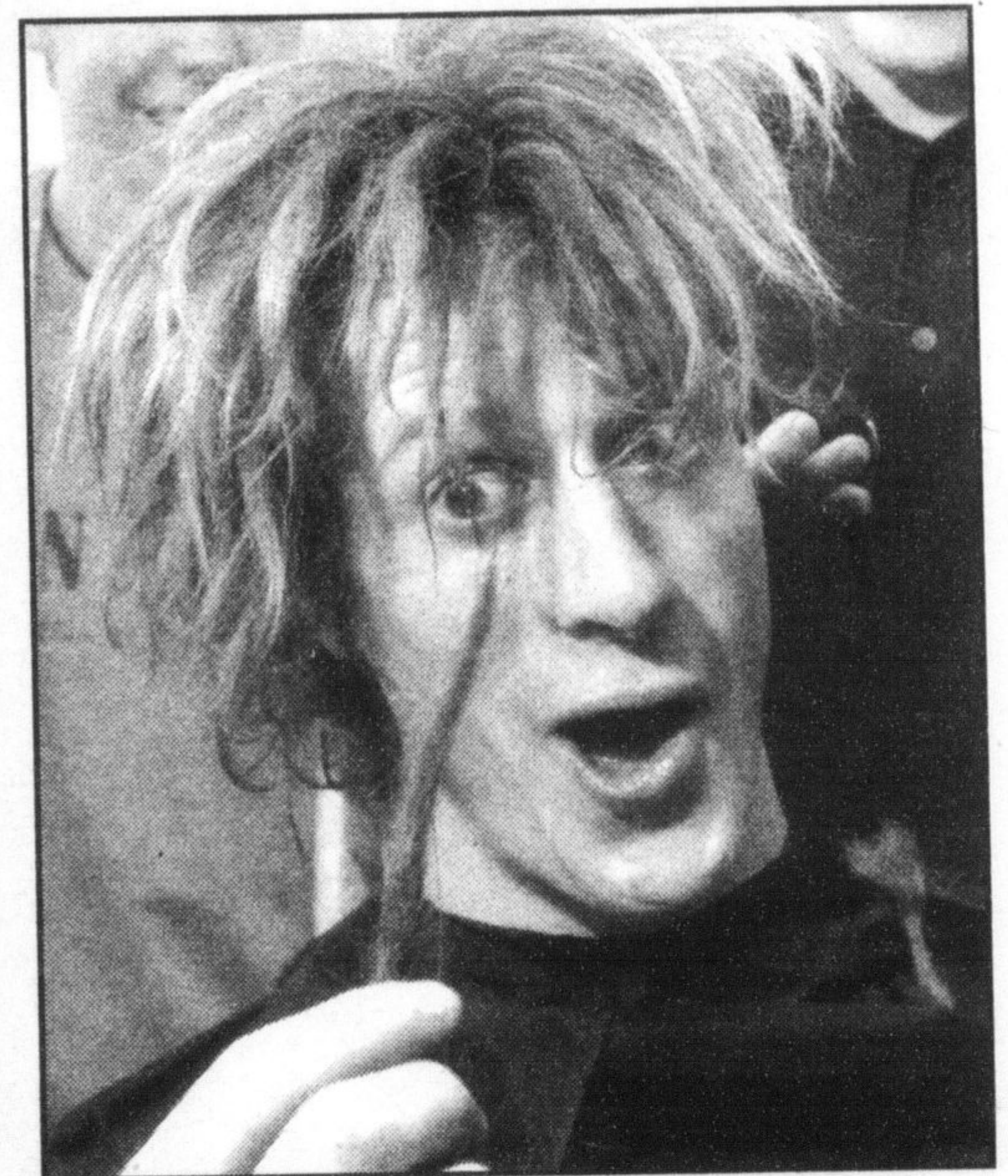
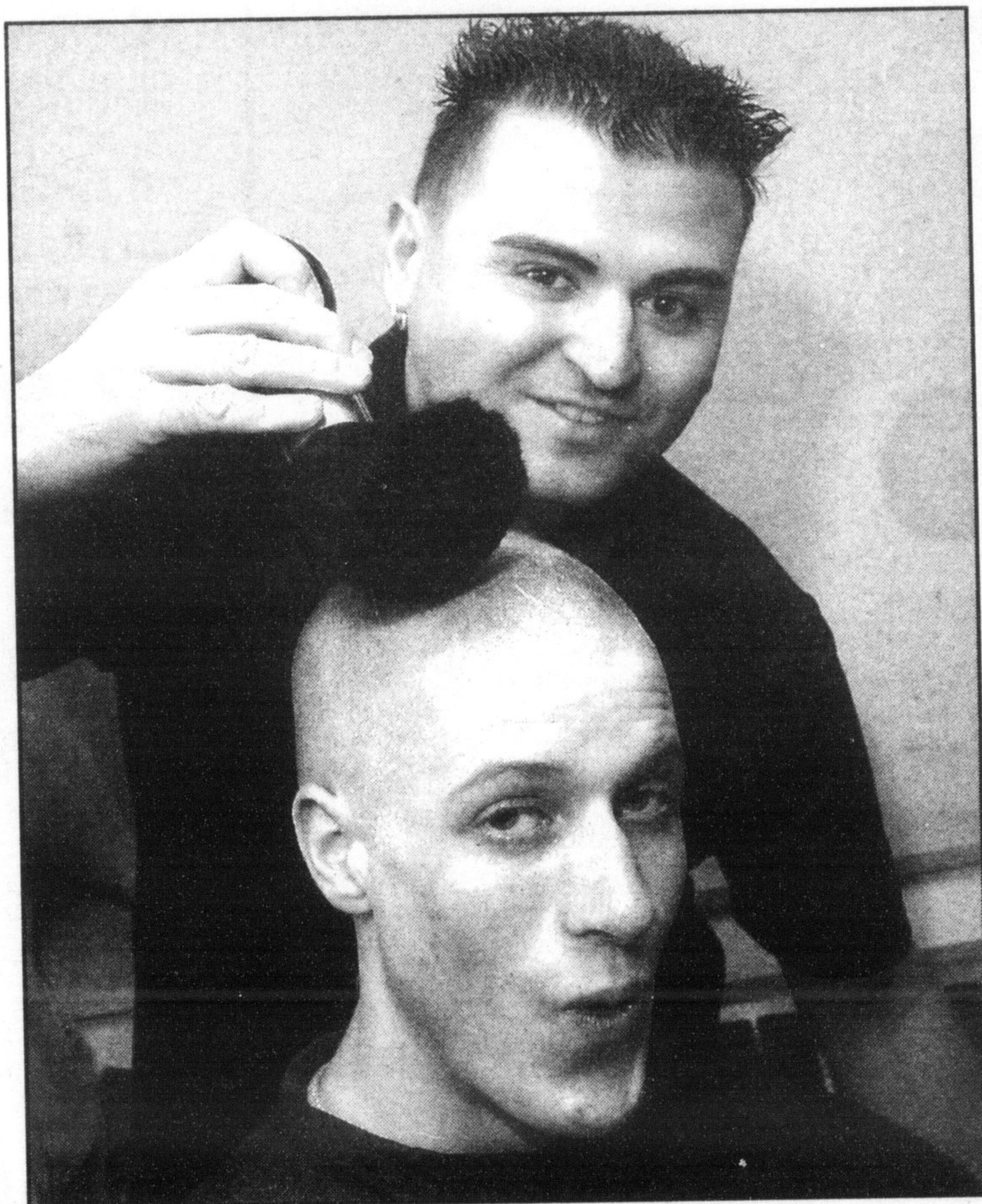
Craig, who's been home schooled for the past three months, receives chemotherapy treatment from McMaster University Medical Centre in Hamilton once a week.

Although his parents keep him indoors most of the time, in fear of infection due to his weakened immune system, Ms Mitchell agreed this event was something she wanted Craig to be part of.

"We're so touched by this," Ms Mitchell told The Champion, as the hair fell from the boy's heads. "We thought it was a good idea. The kids have all rallied around him. You never think it's going to be your kid (diagnosed with cancer) and then you realize how easy it could happen. The kids here are a great group."

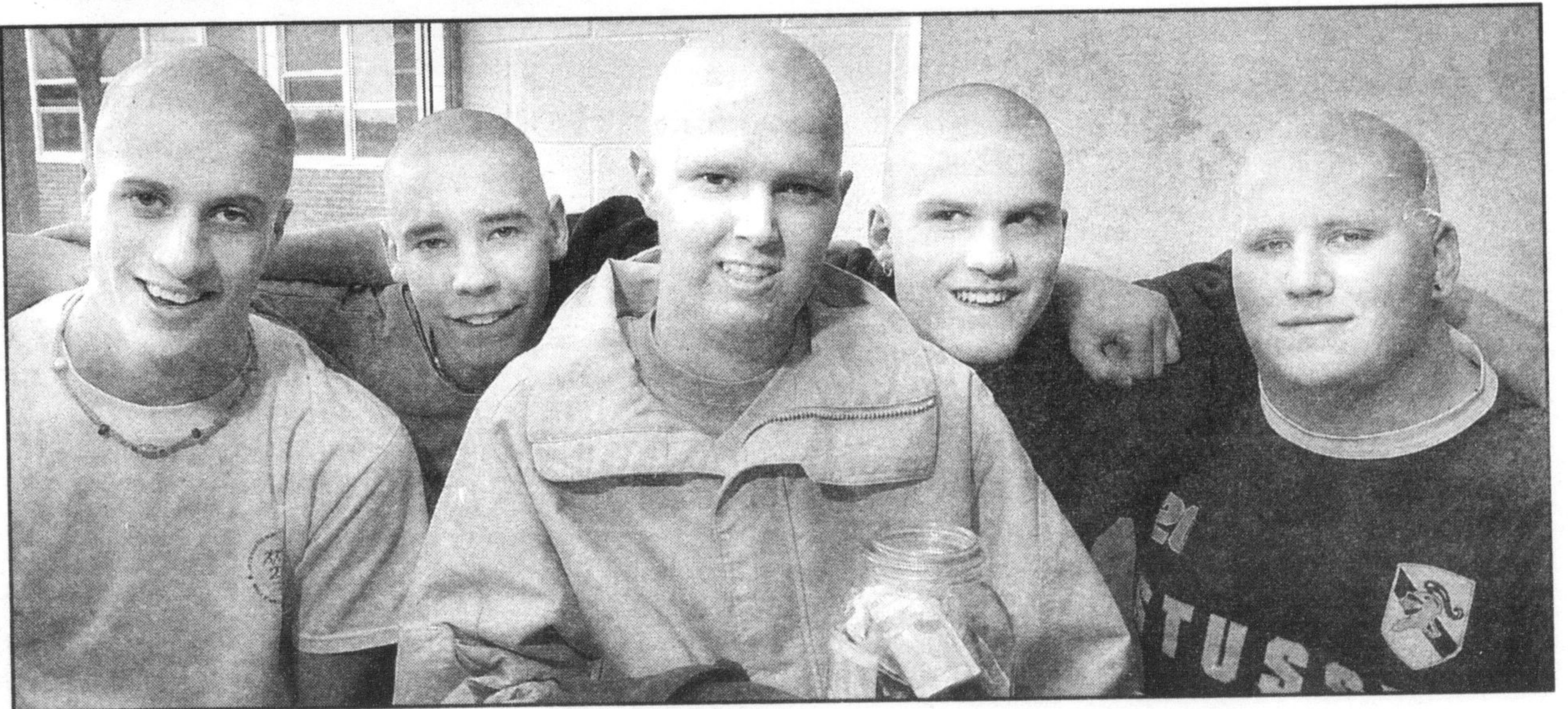
And that's something Craig agrees with.

"I know I have great friends," the somewhat soft-spoken teenager told The Champion. "I was unbelievably surprised at how much they raised. I thought they would raise maybe \$1,000, but it's close to \$3,500 (\$3,513 to be exact). I wanted to come out to see this and show my support. I figure if the shoe was on the other foot I would do the same thing."



Charlie Graci (left) of Tony's Barber Shop finishes off Sean Magee (left and above), who takes one last look at his locks before getting rid of them in support of cancer-stricken friend Craig Mitchell. Below, Craig (centre) is all smiles while surrounded by pals (from left) Sean, Jonathan Christink, Fraser McGaffin and Colin Mont.

Photos by PETER C. McCUSKER



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### COGECO 14 Programming Schedule — April 29th - May 6th, 2002.

Monday, April 29th	Tuesday, April 30th	Wednesday, May 1st	Thursday, May 2nd	Sunday, May 5th	Monday, May 6th
9:00am Plugged In! - Late Week Edition	9:00am Plugged In! - Early Week Edition	9:00am Plugged In! - Early Week Edition	9:00am Plugged In! - Early Week Edition	9am, 10, 11am & 12:30pm Plugged In! - Late Week Edition	9:00am Plugged In! - Late Week Edition
10:00am Sunday Replay	10:00am Monday Replay	10:00am Tuesday Replay	10:00am Wednesday Replay	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Late Week Edition	10:00am Sunday Replay
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Late Week Edition	5:30pm Money Week	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Early Week Edition
5:30pm With Good Taste	5:30pm Seniors Showcase	5:30pm Osler Health Connection	5:30pm Money Week	6:30pm Seniors Showcase	5:30pm With Good Taste
6:30pm Money Week	6:30pm Optimist TV Bingo (Live)	6:30pm Swap Talk (Live)	6:30pm Neighbour to Neighbour	7:00pm The Issue Is...	6-10:30pm 17th Annual Georgetown Kinsmen TV Auction
7:00pm The Issue Is...	8:00pm O.C.P.F.A. Awards	8:00pm Auto Experts (Live)	8:00pm "Sharing the Spirit" HODSB Awards	8:00pm Neighbour to Neighbour	
8:00pm SportZONE Live		9:00pm Milton Council - Apr. 22nd			

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