



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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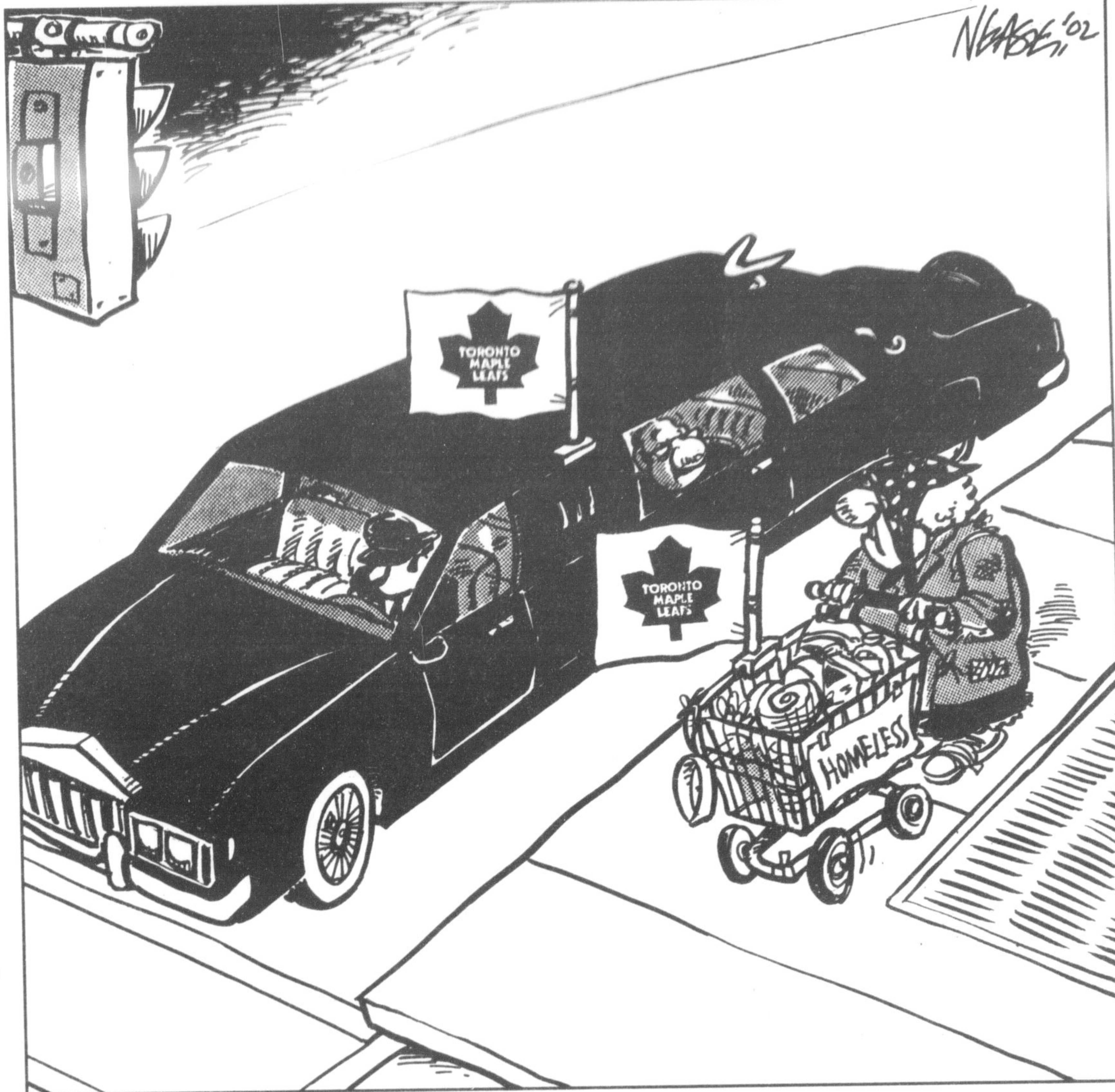
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Some motorists just shouldn't be on road

The OPP's annual Victoria Day crackdown on bad and aggressive drivers resulted in more than 2,000 charges being laid during the four-day blitz.

Among those charges laid were hundreds for speeding, numerous seat belt infractions, a few hundred drivers ticketed for pulling unsafe trailers and a handful of drivers stopped for Liquor Licence Act violations.

While officers laid a variety of charges, a wide assortment of excuses for speeding were also given.

One chap, doing 220 km/h — more than double the posted highway limit — said he was "late for an appointment."

Another driver, who just recently received his licence, admitted he was a bit on the sleepy side and was simply speeding — at a rate of 185 km/h — in an effort to get home before he dozed off.

While the overall number of charges laid indicates there are far too many poor drivers on Ontario highways, individual cases confirm there are some drivers who have no business being on the road at all and that perhaps it's time our lawmakers look at ways of getting these people off the road — permanently.

As OPP Sgt. Cam Woolley said, "There are some people who just shouldn't drive."



OUR READERS WRITE

Milton's new smoking bylaw has brought out many opinionated viewpoints, reader believes

Dear Editor:

I'll probably never experience the self-righteous indignation that many holier-than-thou non-smokers all too often expound.

I know of absolutely no smokers who 'choose' to smoke, nor do I know of any who haven't tried to quit. Some suggest that tobacco is more addictive than cocaine. Who knows?

What has not been mentioned in any letter or editorial that I've read has been the matter of choice.

Only a fool would argue that smoking isn't harming one's health, but then there are many vices in life that affect our well-being and for each and every vice there's some

government-sponsored entity trying to tell you how to live your life.

U.S. groups are approaching state legislatures to put a higher tax on fatty foods using all the same arguments of the non-smokers' alliance.

Anti-alcohol groups would bring back prohibition. The Region is already working on pesticide control for private residences and monitoring of air quality. Geez, why do we even need the feds and the provincial government? Why do we need four levels of government?

Many, if not all, believed that this bylaw was just about restaurants and bars, but it goes much further than that. Any workplace, which could include your residential

office, is now off-limits for smoking if anyone at all is likely to stop by for a visit.

You have now made it a public place and you must comply with a bylaw officer's request to inspect your premises and of course, you must have the appropriate 'No Smoking' sign clearly displayed.

The fine for non-compliance could be as much as \$5,000.

Just like this bylaw, which is a standard Milton council half-assed job, we have too many people both in and out of government who feel the need to tell everyone else how to run their lives.

Patrick Kelly
Milton

I just can't resist the convenience of bank cards

Have I become a victim of convenience?

That question is usually one of a philosophical nature, but it took on a more literal meaning for yours truly during an eventful trip to my bank over the Easter long weekend.

As many of you probably know, Milton was the base of a rather large bank card scam recently involving a gas station cashier — now long gone from these parts, or at least no longer employed there — who allegedly skimmed 300 debit cards on the side and made off with half a million dollars.

While not out any money personally, I was among those affected by the scam. A \$5,000 deposit — no doubt made with an empty envelope — was made into my account before these crafty culprits made three separate withdrawals totalling roughly \$2,000.

Perhaps my entire balance would have been

wiped clean had I not found and reported the situation so quickly after it happened.

As it turned out, all that was stolen from me was about an hour of my time to clear the matter up with two visits to my bank.

So unlike many who discovered fraudulent activity on their cards, I can't exactly consider myself a victim — at least not of anything criminal.

Of convenience, well that's another matter.

It's not like I have any lingering frustration over the matter, and I certainly don't feel like I had it coming.

However, let's be honest here — the widespread introduction of retail debit card machines has definitely heightened the potential for this type of theft.

After all, any time you hand over your card to be swiped there's a chance — however miniscule



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Up
front

it might be — to get ripped off.

And judging by details from the story that appeared in our paper earlier this month, skimming debit cards doesn't seem to take too much effort or know-how.

So is this risk (not to mention the annoying service charge) really worth a little added convenience in our lives — just to avoid a trip to the

bank to get money before shopping? Is it such a hassle to actually go to the bank or make a stop at a bank machine, available in just about every mall or plaza in the western hemisphere?

Apparently yes, because besides gas stations — where, in my opinion, the potential for this type of criminal activity is particularly high — I continue to find myself at the supermarket, convenience store or other retail markets without any cash.

Perhaps I'm making a big deal over nothing, but I find it a little discouraging that I can't make that tiny bit of effort when it comes to something as important as my finances — even after what should have been a learning experience.

On another note, I'd just like to say thanks to the bank employees who straightened out my account in a quick and courteous fashion.

Your help was very much appreciated.