

# Comment

## Worst fears realized

The primary flaw of Ontario's sex offender registry, which was established three years ago to protect children from pedophiles, has been exposed by the case of Douglas Moore.

The 36-year-old with a history of repeated sex offences involving boys and young men reportedly took his own life while in custody at Milton's Maplehurst Detention Centre. At the time of his death, Moore was a suspect in multiple sex-related offences involving three boys.

Police now say Moore was also considered a suspect in the then missing persons cases of Rene Charlebois and Robert Grewal, both of Mississauga, whose murdered bodies have since been found. And he was also a suspect in the disappearance of Milton's Joe Manchisi.

By definition Moore was an ideal candidate to be placed in the provincial sex offender registry, a database intended to help authorities track the whereabouts of convicted sexual predators.

However, police weren't able to keep tabs on Moore and didn't catch up with him until last month when evidence of new charges

led to an arrest warrant and Moore's apprehension at a Burlington motel.

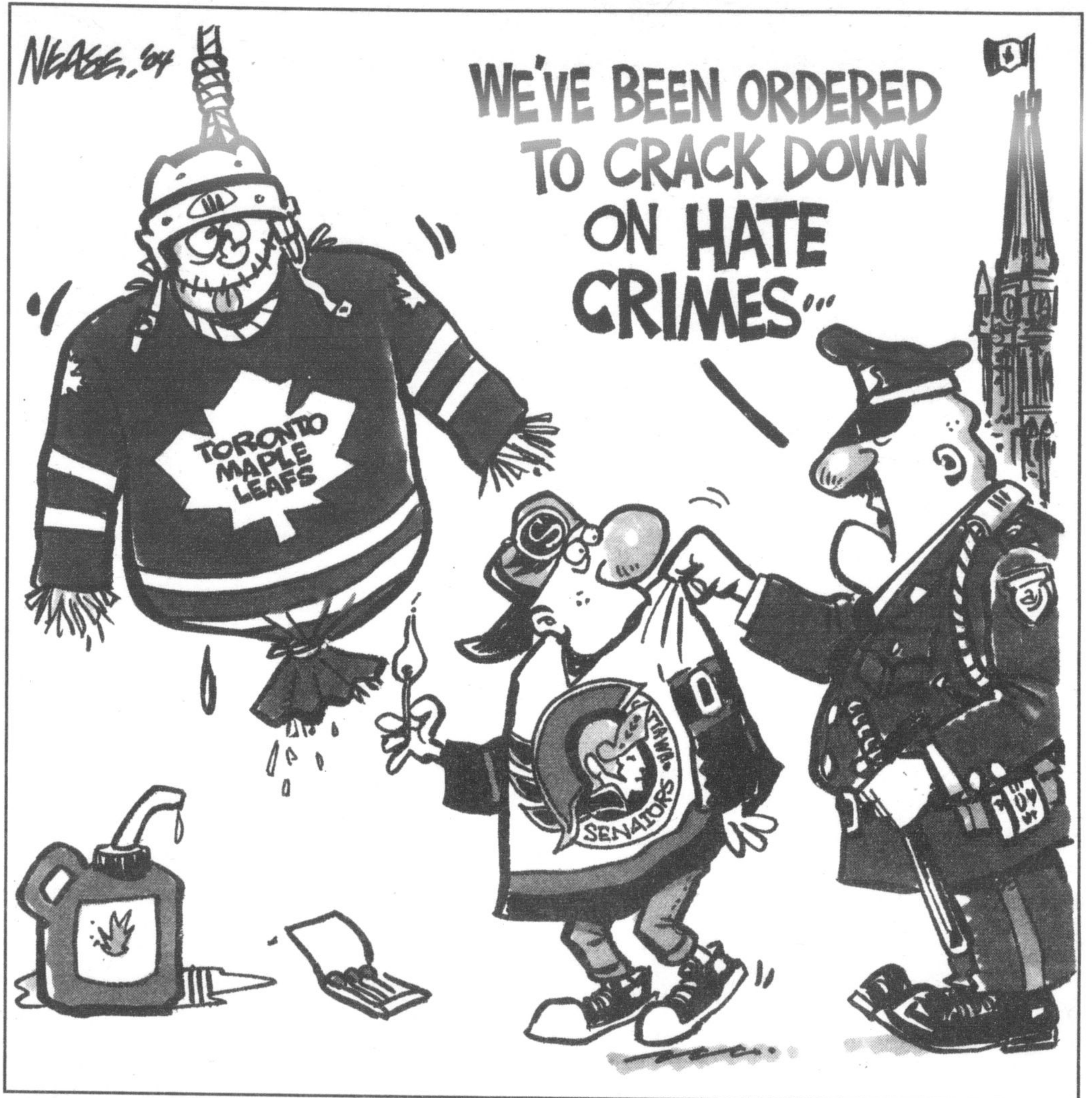
So, why wasn't this known sex offender's name included in the province's registry database? Simply because Moore's history of sexual assaults pre-dated the registry's creation in 2001 and therefore couldn't be included in the system.

That meant he was able to prey on victims without fear police were watching his every move. Such is the gaping loophole of the Ontario sex offender registry.

Ironically, the registry was created in memory of Christopher Stephenson, a Brampton boy who was kidnapped, sexually assaulted and killed by a repeat sex offender who, at the time of the boy's disappearance in 1988, had been misplaced by the parole system.

While the registry was created out of good intentions, Moore's case illustrates that some sex offenders continue to slip through gaping cracks in the system — too often with tragic consequences.

We wonder how many more young people must be violated — and in extreme cases killed — before we find a better way.



## Our Readers Write

### Seminar for women was great, says attendee

Dear Editor:

On April 4 I had the privilege of attending a seminar for women hosted by Elayne Tanner. The day was entitled 'Everything Old Is New Again' and 18 ladies from all walks of life attended.

I must tell you that I'm not usually a person to participate in something like this. Becoming aware of my 'baggage' and issues that impact my present life — oh please. However, I turned out to be one of the last people to leave. The day was an eye opener for me, and I think for all those in attendance as well.

As a result of the work which we began, Elayne has agreed to become

involved in a support group for women. It will help deal with emotional changes, challenges and upheavals in a woman's life.

As far as I know there's nothing like this in the Milton area, and it's about time. The group is going to meet once a month, and the initial commitment is for a six-month term. A small fee will be charged and everyone is welcome.

I would encourage any woman out there who, like me, has undergone some recent upheavals in their life to contact Elayne at (905) 854-0801 and join us.

Lee Miklos  
Milton

### Milton needs arts centre before another hockey arena: stresses member of youth theatre group

Dear Editor:

Earlier this month I had the honour of participating in the first ever Milton Youth Theatre Production play, held at Meadowvale Theatre.

It was wonderful. The cast was awesome. I would like to say a huge thank you to director Kim Belvedere, producer Christine and especially to Darryn de Souza, who allowed me the opportunity to sing solo when I never believed that I could.

You three were so encouraging and understanding. When the last curtain call finished, I stood there listening to the applause of the audience and feeling a little sad that it was over.

For me, it's only over for the year — I will definitely be back.

As I looked around that cool theater, I wondered how long we'll have to wait until Milton has an arts

centre or theatre of its own.

I'm sure there were many members of the Milton community that would have loved to watch our performance — perhaps seniors that didn't want to drive to Mississauga.

It's not that we didn't have a great audience, because we did. It's just that it would have been so cool to perform right in Milton.

The Milton community missed the beauty of Alyssa and Nick's harmony.

It missed the roar of laughter when Beth, Elliot and Matt danced with top hats and canes.

It missed the laughter when Stephanie wiggled and Matthew raised his glass of glublic.

It missed the huge smile on my face when I sang a solo for the first time.

I have nothing against hockey, but do we really need another hock-

ey rink? Brampton, Oakville and Mississauga all have their own arts centre — why not Milton?

If we really aren't going to have an arts centre for at least a few years there will be many more missed opportunities.

Perhaps Milton has a Bernadette Peters or Mike Myers waiting to be discovered.

I'm not trying to push or anything — well maybe I am. I just can't believe that we're going to schedule the building of another hockey rink before an arts centre.

So to Mayor Gord Krantz and town councillors, please give an arts centre some more consideration.

There are more than just hockey players and figure skaters in this town.

Nicki Patafio  
Milton

## The Canadian Champion

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### Pud

by Steve Nease

