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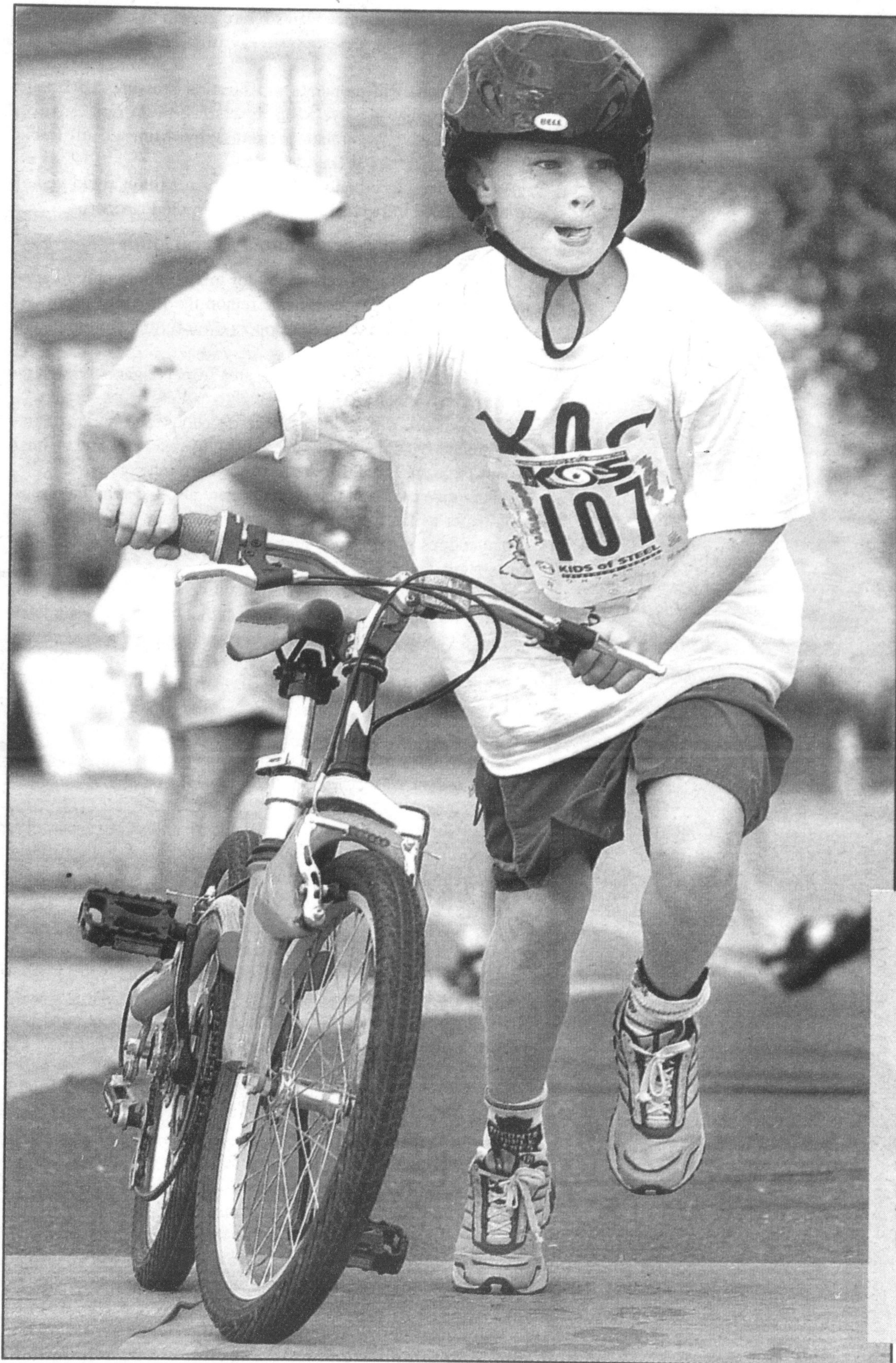
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44 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



Community mourns death of local dentist

Dr. David Dumencu murdered in Orillia

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Milton is mourning the loss of a much-loved dentist, hockey coach and family man as police hunt for his killer.

Dr. David Dumencu, 42, was found lying unconscious in the parking lot of an Orillia-area tavern at about 2 a.m. Friday, said Sgt. Dave Lee of the OPP's Orillia detachment.

He had serious head injuries and was taken by ambulance to a hospital in Orillia before being transferred to Toronto Western Hospital where he died early Sunday morning.

"We are calling it a murder," Sgt. Lee said. "First we were calling it a suspicious death, but now it's a homicide."

Sgt. Lee said it was an employee of the Atherley Arms Tavern — which Mr. Dumencu had visited earlier that night — who called 911 after finding him.

The tavern is located in Ramara Township, a rural area a stone's throw from

Orillia.

Police wouldn't say much about the circumstances surrounding Dr. Dumencu's death, including how the head injuries were inflicted and how long he had been in the parking lot before emergency services arrived.

Dr. Dumencu leaves behind a wife and three children.

A post mortem was performed yesterday in Toronto to determine the exact cause of death. At press time, the results hadn't yet been released.

In keeping with Dr. Dumencu's wishes, his organs will be donated to help others, police said.

His family declined commenting, requesting privacy during this difficult time, as did employees at the dental office he shared with Dr. David Johnson.

Dr. Dumencu, known as Dr. Dave to his patients, practiced at Southview Dental Clinic, 550 Ontario St. S.

A patient of Dr. Dumencu — who didn't want to give her name — gasped yesterday morning when she heard the news.

• see **DUMENCU** on page 2

Kid of steel

Nine-year-old Connor Brodie of Milton heads into the transition area after finishing the bike leg of the Kids of Steel triathlon Saturday morning. See more photos and results of the event on page 23.

Photo by **GRAHAM PAINE**

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