

Comment

Caught in the Net

We know we're stating the obvious in saying the Internet has made doing business in the modern age much easier.

Information, that once took days or weeks to gather, is available — literally — at the touch of a button.

However, there are always those few bad apples in almost every workplace who abuse the Internet, spending valuable company time whiling away the hours on the Net.

Last week six Ontario civil servants — employees of the Ministry of Natural Resources — were given their jobs back after being fired three years ago when it was discovered they were swapping pornographic e-mails over the Internet.

In 2001, 83 ministry employees, including some managers, were disciplined for violating the workplace discrimination and harassment prevention policy and their punishments ranged from reprimand to dismissal.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union filed 27 grievances

and the six firings were handled first.

At first glance it seems ridiculous these government employees — paid by you, the taxpayer — should get their jobs back. However, it's clear from the ruling these employees' superiors didn't treat the matter with the seriousness it deserved and, in fact, some took part in the shenanigans.

While we fully understand Natural Resources Minister David Ramsay's anger at having to take these workers back (and they may yet receive three years' back pay) this case stands as a strong reminder for all businesses to have proper rules and guidelines in place when it comes to employee use of the Internet. Apparently common sense or common decency doesn't mean anything in cases such as this.

It's important that managers deal with any breach of company rules quickly and decisively — otherwise they could wind up taking back employees they don't want.



Our Readers Write

Strawberry Fair was another big success

Dear Editor:

I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make our annual Strawberry Fair June 26 such a tremendous success.

Special thanks goes out to all the people and their families who came out and supported us, as well as to all the business merchants, service clubs, hospital staff and auxiliary members who helped to make this day the great success that it

was.

I would also like to thank and welcome all the newcomers to Milton who came out and supported this worthy cause.

All the money made at this event is used to purchase much-needed equipment for our hospital.

Thanks again.

**Rita Ward, president
Milton District Hospital Auxiliary**

Have your say with a letter to the editor. Fax letters to (905) 878-4943, or e-mail them to miltomed@haltonsearch.com.

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Column on rock climbing doesn't tell whole story

Dear Editor:

I thought that journalists did research prior to writing articles. In my opinion, it's apparent that Champion editor Karen Smith did none before her July 2 column on rock climbing.

The climber whom she refers to fell while being involved in the most challenging aspect of the sport, and according to the report in The Champion had a piece of rock fall off.

Should we even consider banning this activity because of what Ms Smith suggests are annual accidents? Do we ban driving, flying or the consumption of alcohol because of the destruction of prop-

erty and loss of life involved?

But no one needs to climb rocks, right? Yes, many of us do, and if you have to have it explained to you you'll never understand. Sir Edmund Hillary said it best — "I climb because it's there."

If Ms Smith had done some research, she would have realized that on any given weekend day, 150 climbers safely enjoy this exhilarating activity. They may choose a less risky way to pursue this activity than the individual that had the accident, but that fact escaped Ms Smith.

She also talked about how the fire department was engaged in the rescue of this particular climber for

two hours, implying that firefighters' time could have been better spent.

However, those same skills used to rescue this climber can be used to rescue a child that has fallen into a well or a construction worker that has fallen into a hard-to-get-to area. These skills saved a life at Rattlesnake Point, and will no doubt save others in the future.

Please, before writing columns that sway public opinion, do some research. Those of us that treasure every stimulating moment at Rattlesnake Point would appreciate it.

**Dave Moore
Ridge Drive**

Return of angel to garden would be much appreciated

Dear Editor:

I've been a Milton resident since 1960, when I married my husband. I've lived in the same home for 42 years and raised all three of my children here.

Last September my dear husband

passed away suddenly of a heart attack.

Recently I took a boy angel to his grave and replaced it with a girl angel in my garden. I've since discovered that the girl angel has disappeared from my garden.

It meant so much to me.

Shame on whoever took it. What is Milton becoming?

Please return the angel. There'll be no questions asked. Thank you.

**Betty Sine
Highside Drive**

Pud

