

# Comment

## The Canadian Champion

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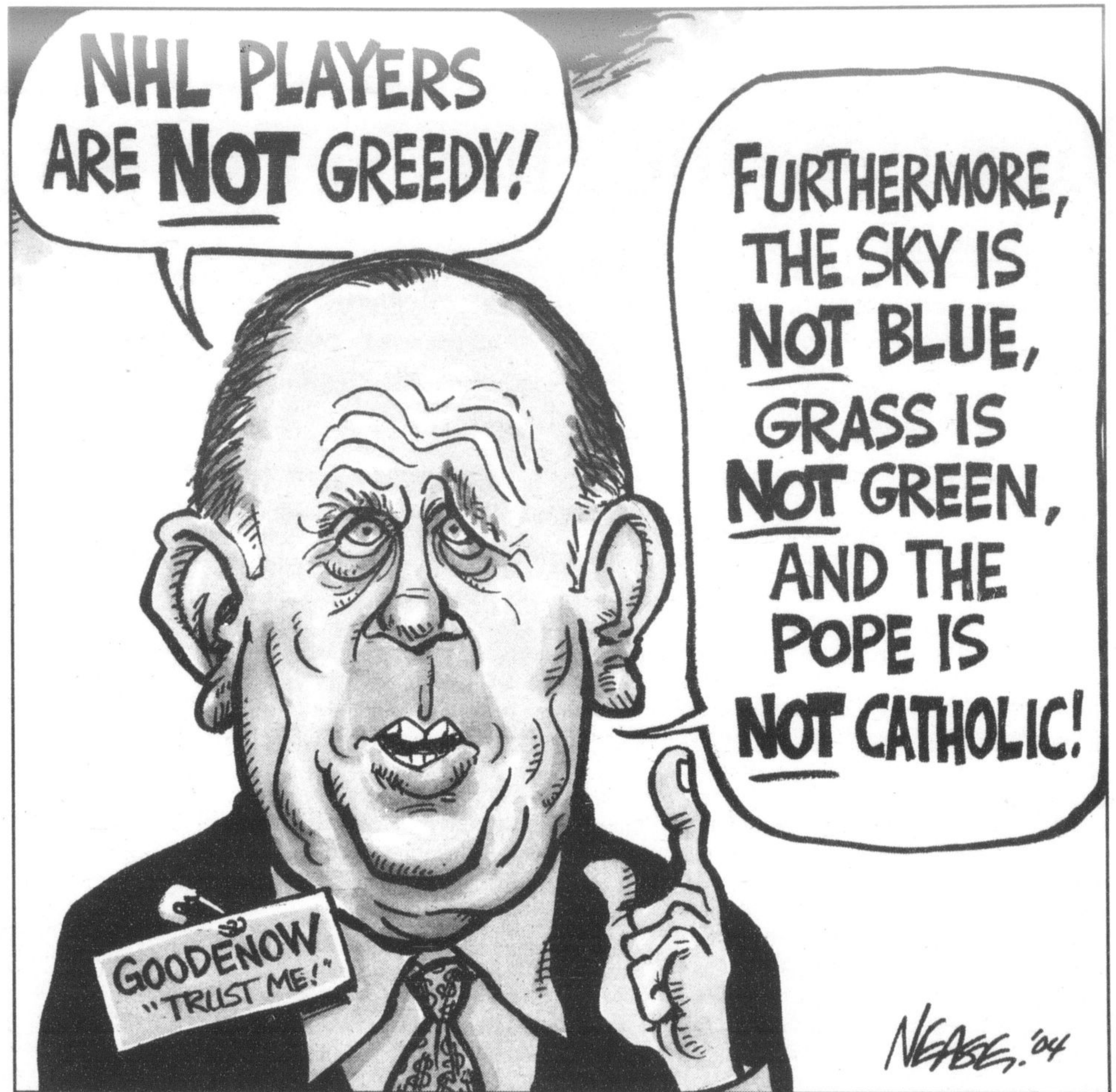
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## Send fugitive home

Once again, Canada is being played for a fool in the case of an international outcast seeking refuge in our country.

This time it's convicted death-squad leader Anibal dos Santos who's trying to work our system in order to escape serving a lengthy prison sentence in his native Mozambique.

What crime did he commit? He only led a hit squad that murdered a leading investigative journalist in that country. He then broke out of the high-security prison where he was supposed to be held for the next 28 years.

After gaining his freedom — as a fugitive — he headed for Toronto, where he was arrested at Pearson International Airport. In a desperate attempt to stay here, he has reportedly filed for refugee status on the basis that he was wrongfully convicted of his crime.

Understandably, Canadians with ties to Mozambique are outraged at what they see as a travesty of justice.

Perhaps it's time more Canadians felt likewise.

For all the praise our country receives internationally for its humanitarian approach to world issues, we also seem to

be an easy target for international terrorists, murderers and other undesirables.

Dos Santos' case isn't the first, nor is it likely to be the last time Canada's soft-sided national security policies have been exposed for all to see.

It was just last spring that the Khadr family made a mockery of our nation's embarrassingly easy re-entry process.

A family whose members were suspected in embassy bombings, boasted about ties to al Qaeda, were linked to Osama bin Laden and whose matriarch believes Americans deserved what they got on 9/11, was welcomed back with open arms despite its extremist views and connection to mass murdering terrorist factions.

Canadian citizenship — don't get caught terrorizing abroad without it.

We said back then that Canada's perceived inaction only strengthens our nation's reputation among extremists as an easy country to enter, and remain.

Dos Santos' being present on Canadian soil is proof of that.

While he remains under arrest in Canada, there's little doubt that he's enjoying a more comfortable stay than the outlook he faced in his homeland.

## Our Readers Write

### There's no easy access to Milton's new Wal-Mart for either pedestrians or cyclists

Dear Editor:

I read The Champion's article about Wal-Mart's grand opening and I'd like to say that although I'm happy that Wal-Mart is here, someone forgot to include some basic infrastructure.

There's no easy access to the store — no bike path or sidewalks

— to get to Wal-Mart if you're a pedestrian or cyclist.

And as far as I know there's no date set for when Wal-Mart will be added to our town's bus route. And even when it does, our buses don't run on the weekends.

It would be nice to have at least one way to get to Wal-Mart if

you're cycling or walking. Not everybody in town owns a car.

So until an access for cyclists and pedestrians is put in place, I'll be one of the customers who can't get to the new Wal-Mart.

Flavia Tarzwell  
Milton

### Whitlock's world record run deserves recognition

Dear Editor:

Sunday morning Ed Whitlock ran in the Toronto Scotiabank Waterfront Marathon and came across the finish line in an incredible 2:54.49 — breaking his own world marathon record in the 70 to 74-year-old division.

To run 26.2 miles is an amazing accomplishment for

anyone, but at the age of 73 Ed is truly an inspiration to us younger runners.

He's an incredible athlete and Miltonians should be very proud to have him living in our hometown.

Congratulations, Ed.

Joanne Sellors  
Conway Court

## Share the wealth of the Milton Community Fund

How much is too much of a good thing?

This was the question of the hour at town council Monday night, where the majority of the meeting was spent debating a \$100,000 grant the Conservation Halton Foundation received from the Milton Community Fund, as seen elsewhere in this paper.

For those unfamiliar with the fund, it was created so that local residents or groups can apply for money the Town receives from Slots at Mohawk.

The approval of this large amount leaves only about \$158,000 in the fund for the remainder of the year, and I have to agree with Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau that this may not be enough money to adequately help those deserving it.

Recommendations on funding amounts are passed down from the community services advisory committee (CSAC), which follows 'guidelines' for funding levels. Since the foundation wants to use the money for expanding and renovating the Discovery Centre at Mountsberg Conservation Area, it was deemed to be in the project grants category, which has a guideline maximum amount of \$40,000.

Now, there's nothing wrong with the foundation aiming high and asking for more than double the guideline amount.

But, I believe the fact that the deadline for the fall round of community fund grants is Monday should have played into CSAC's decision.

The committee is not obligated to approve the exact amount that's applied for. It has the discretion to dish out less. Such was the case for two local lawn bowlers, who asked for a combined \$3,275 to cover part of their hotel costs, food, sundries and compensation for lost wages when



### The view from here

with MELANIE HENNESSEY

they travelled to a recent competition. CSAC recommended that they be awarded \$360 each, while the guideline maximum for individual grants is \$1,500.

It would be unfortunate if local organizations that meet all criteria and apply by the Monday deadline are turned down simply because there wasn't enough money left to go around.

For some groups, a small amount, even a donation of a couple hundred dollars, can mean the success or failure of that organization.

A dangerous precedent has been set that could quickly drain the community fund in years to come. As Ward 4 Councillor John Challinor alluded to, this is only the tip of the iceberg. Soon many other funding requests of this magnitude will most likely begin pouring in.

And, if they're all great ideas that will benefit Milton and its residents, CSAC will be faced with some hard decisions.

Later this fall, Town staff will be seeking input from CSAC and council to further clarify the fund guidelines for 2005.

The Town should consider turning the guideline amounts into actual maximum funding limits and create a level playing field for everyone who applies to the community fund.