

Comment

Selling kids smokes simply not acceptable

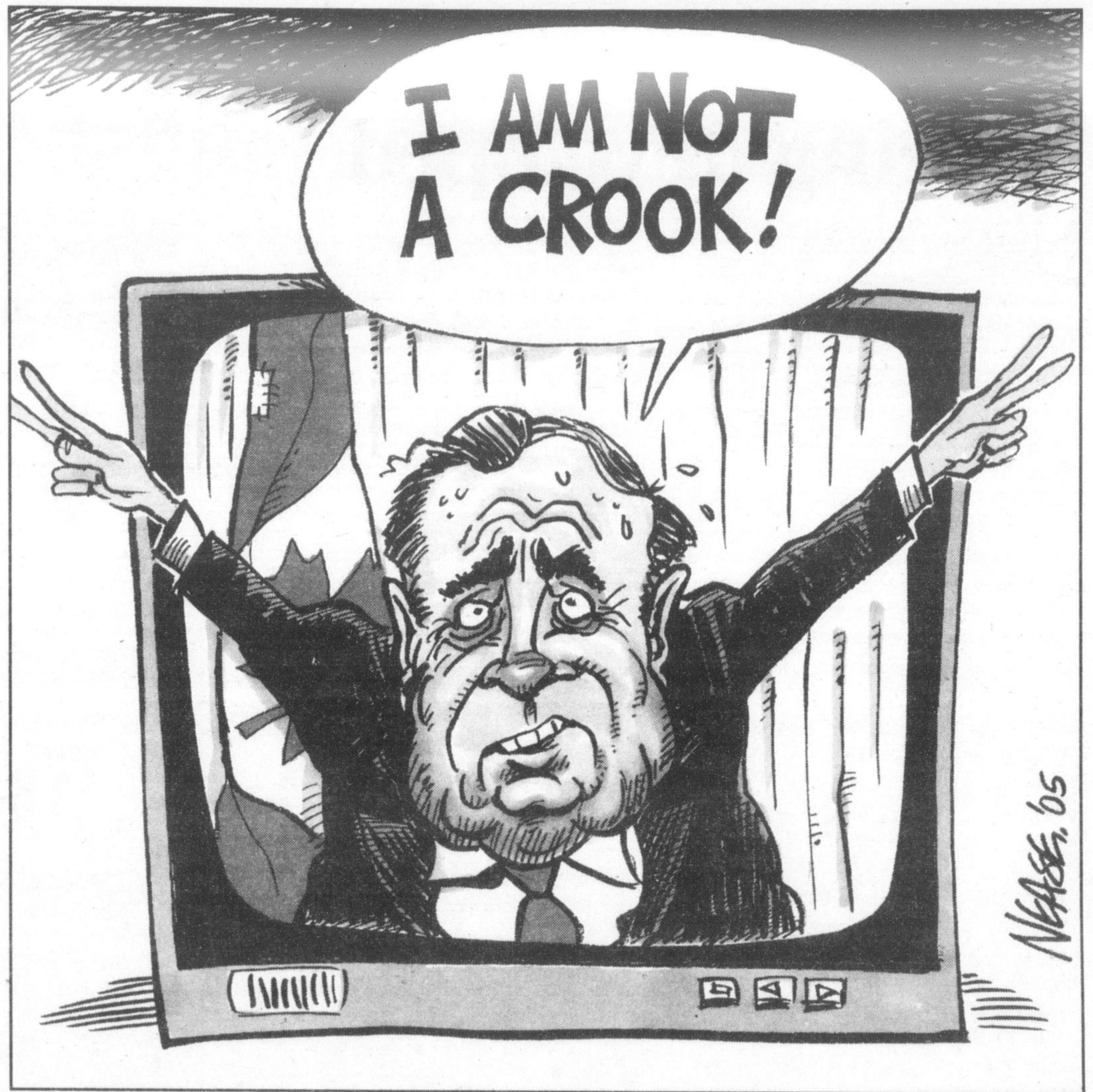
Numbers recently put forward by the Halton Region Health Department indicate it's definitely time to crack down on tobacco retailers willing to sell cigarettes to minors.

More specifically, it seems gas stations and convenience stores throughout Halton are the most willing to contravene the Tobacco Control Act and sell to those under 19.

Last year, 15 per cent of gas bars that were checked for compliance sold tobacco to minors, up from six per cent in 2003. At convenience stores that were checked, 10 per cent were ready to sell cigarettes to youths, while only three per cent fell in this category in 2003.

In a time when awareness of the negative effects of smoking is so high, it's alarming to see more people are willing to put youths' health at risk.

While in previous years, the health department hasn't performed compliance checks on every tobacco-selling establishment, it plans to do so this year. Let's hope the increased presence of test shoppers and inspectors will deliver a strong message to those who work in gas stations and convenience stores — selling tobacco to minors isn't acceptable and is against the law.



Our Readers Write

Upsetting to see people fishing at Mill Pond since season doesn't begin until April 30

Dear Editor:

I was surprised and disappointed to see several people fishing in and around Milton and at the Mill Pond April 17, including a couple of gentlemen who probably should have known better.

As tempting as it may have been during that warm spell, all responsible anglers know that trout season doesn't begin until the last Saturday in April.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is quite clear on this matter, stating: "Poaching is a serious and costly crime. It robs ethical anglers and hunters of

game and fish, and robs all citizens of our valuable wildlife resources. Poaching can be reduced if concerned citizens report the signs of suspected illegal activity."

"A poacher is a criminal — call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. (Cash rewards are available and your anonymity is guaranteed.)"

I urge everyone to respect the law, protect our fisheries and report poachers when you see them.

Adam Smith
Commercial Street

Criticism valid in light of poor planning

Dear Editor:

I'm truly sorry that Barbie Taylor is fed up with the complaints from townspeople about current conditions in town.

I agree with her that Milton is a great place to live, as our family has grown up here as well over the last 20 years.

Unfortunately — in the short term anyway — we're hostages of a nightmarish disaster of planning. In my opinion, our local and regional politicians have shown absolutely no competence whatsoever in dealing with growth. We've added roughly 20,000 people to our town — and a hearty welcome to them — but the only road growth has been widening of Main Street from Thompson Road to James Snow Parkway and a couple of intersection improvements along Derry

Road.

To top it all off, they have made the decision to close a section of road connecting James Snow Parkway to the new subdivision, diverting all the traffic to Thompson Road. This is just asking for trouble.

On my way to work one day last week, as I waited to turn south on Thompson Road from Laurier Avenue, a 40-foot truck came barreling down Thompson Road halfway on to the shoulder because a car was waiting to turn left into the new construction area.

A few minutes later, when I was heading east on Derry Road, I watched a GO bus traveling west swerve onto the shoulder while trying to get around a car waiting to turn south. Neither vehicle showed any sign of slowing down.

Needless to say, an accident is just waiting to happen.

Where are the road improvements? How can you allow 20,000 people to move into an area, and not improve the main arteries of road? Does it take rocket scientists to realize that you can't close a main road without having a viable alternative?

Thompson Road should have been widened to four lanes by now at the very least, especially if it was expected to handle all this detour traffic.

Ms Taylor may not like the complaints, but I think our politicians deserve an earful. Just what is it they're doing?

Edward Brooks
Hayward Crescent

Be sure to include your name and telephone number when submitting a letter to the editor for publication.

Pud

by Steve Nease



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