

Comment

The Canadian Champion

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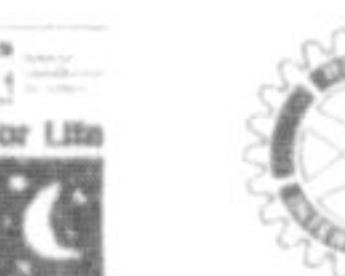


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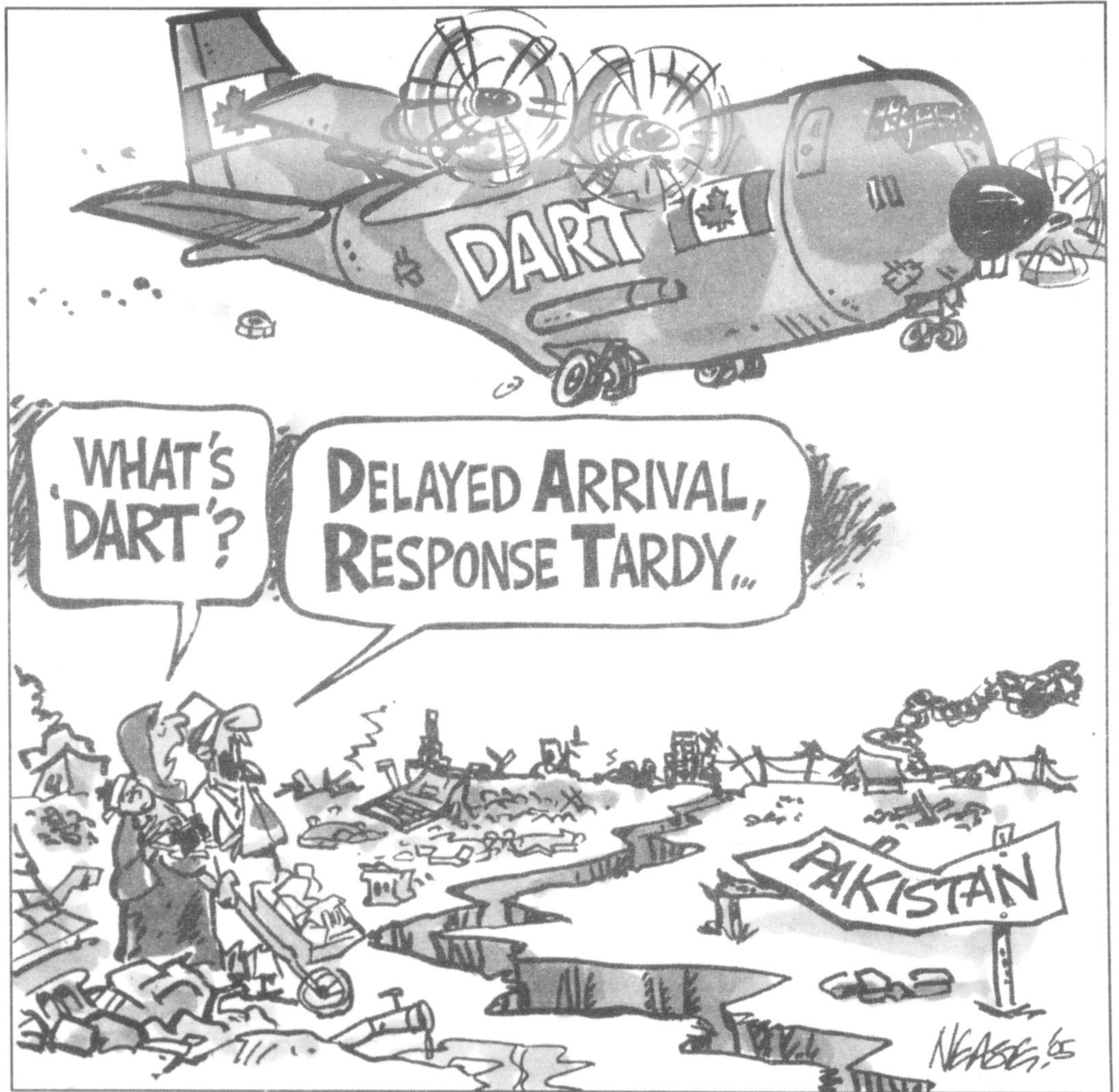
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Give them shelter

That tent you used to go camping in Algonquin Park last summer may be the difference between life or death for literally millions of earthquake survivors in South Asia.

Two weeks after a killer tremor literally shook the foundations of their existence, millions of people in Pakistan, India and Afghanistan have no way of sheltering themselves as winter approaches. While the estimated death toll from the massive earthquake jumped to 54,000 last weekend, it's a frantic race against time to ensure that thousands more don't perish due to exposure to cold weather.

Without a roof over their heads, the region's earthquake survivors desperately need 200,000 tents if they hope to have a fighting chance.

Already the skies over the Himalayan region where three million earthquake survivors cling to life have been brutally unkind.

Torrential rain and some early hail and snow storms have hampered helicopter-based relief efforts and soaked what little food and clothing survivors have been able to salvage since the earthquake struck 11

days ago. South Asian authorities have issued repeated pleas for tents to help temporarily house the masses that have been left without even the most basic shelter.

Canada boosted its assistance to the region last Friday when Ottawa announced it would match all earthquake relief donations made to Canadian charities over the next two weeks.

Also last Friday, the much-maligned Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) deployed a 24-member advance team to help determine Pakistan's specific needs.

By Saturday a Canadian transport plane filled with approximately 75 tonnes of equipment and supplies was on its way to Pakistan. On Sunday evening the remainder of DART's 200-plus contingent was on its way. What can the rest of us do?

Relief agencies say the most effective method of helping the homeless half a world away is through cash donations.

To donate to earthquake relief, consider contacting the Canadian Red Cross at 1-800-418-1111 (www.redcross.ca) or World Vision Canada at 1-800-268-5528 (www.worldvision.ca).

Our Readers Write

Manchisi murder accomplice's short prison sentence is absolutely ridiculous

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to The Champion's October 7 front-page story about the six-month prison sentence given to a teen who helped a murderer dispose of two bodies, including Miltonian Joseph Manchisi.

The article paints a bleak picture indeed, when perpetrators of the most heinous crimes known to mankind can go virtually unpunished by Ontario's justice system.

Justice Minoo Khoorshed awarded the youthful offender, who

helped wash body parts and bury them in various areas of Montreal, four months in jail with two years probation.

This is obviously not taken much more seriously by the courts than the handing out of a traffic citation. Certainly the judge gave more weight to the youth being under the evil spell of an adult — as if these were medieval times — and further focused on his supposed ADHD and post-traumatic stress problems.

The youth couldn't even be forced to reveal where the parts are buried.

The father has to travel to Montreal in order to try and find the various parts himself. How absurd is this picture?

Where is the public outcry against Mr. Manchisi's murder and subsequent mutilation and against the person who did this whatever his age?

My strong sentiments for a hopeful closure go out to father Joe Manchisi in his time of need.

Jon J. Komow
Ontario Street

Want to have your say on a local issue? E-mail letters to miltone@haltonsearch.com. Include your full name and address.

I'm just sitting on Thompson Road, wasting time

Four minutes sure is a short drive to work.

That's how long I thought it would take me to get to and from my place of employment when The Champion moved its offices from its long-time downtown location to east Main Street earlier this year.

But the route has turned out to be much longer due to the traffic congestion on Thompson Road and further aggravation due to the passing of trains.

That's why the comments from the mayor in The Champion's feature on traffic congestion bothered me.

In the story published Tuesday, Mayor Krantz called Milton's traffic problems minimal congestion.

I ask Mr. Krantz to drive from south of Derry Road or east or west of Thompson Road to Hwy. 401 during rush hour on a weekday morning.

And do it five days a week.

It's not pretty.

I ask, at this point can anything be done to speed up the roadwork or slow down construction? Probably not. For whatever reason — bad planning, lack of funds up front — we now find ourselves with major traffic problems in south-east Milton.

But please, Mr. Krantz, like Ward 1 Councillor Rick Day did in his interview with The Champion, at least acknowledge the brutal situation there for commuters during morning and evening rush hours. Admit it's ridiculous.

One day I was in the southbound lane of Thompson Road. Traffic was backed up to Main Street. Cars couldn't come through the intersection on a green light because there was nowhere for them to go.

My car sat idling as a train moved slowly



From the
editor's desk

with KAREN SMITH

across the track. In fact it seemed if it was going any slower, it would have been going backward.

Meanwhile, the song 'Dock of the Bay' by Otis Redding came on the radio, and to amuse myself I changed the lyrics to, "Sitting on Thompson Road, wasting time." Then the song continued, "Looks like nothing's going change. Everything remains the same."

Well, to be fair, I think this road congestion problem will change one day. While the intersections of Derry and Thompson roads and Main and Thompson roads will always be busy, traffic flow should eventually improve with the upcoming road widenings, underpass construction and extension of James Snow Parkway.

However, getting there will be a long and agonizing experience. Every day the ground is breaking for new house construction and people will be moving in long before the road projects are complete.

So hold on. It's going to get a lot worse before it gets better.

Unfortunately, all we can do is try to be patient, and most of all, be careful.

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