

OPINION

It's time to give

We're now well into December and the unofficial start of the season of giving.

It's a time to offer assistance to those who would have little to celebrate without the generosity of others. Keep your eyes open as you go about your daily business to find out how to give.

The Christmas Kettle Campaign of the Salvation Army is as familiar at Christmas as Santa Claus and mistletoe.

As you Christmas shop, offer what cash you can to the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign locations. One is at Milton Mall.

There are lots of ways to donate. Many, many local businesses are collecting for various charities.

The Champion operates

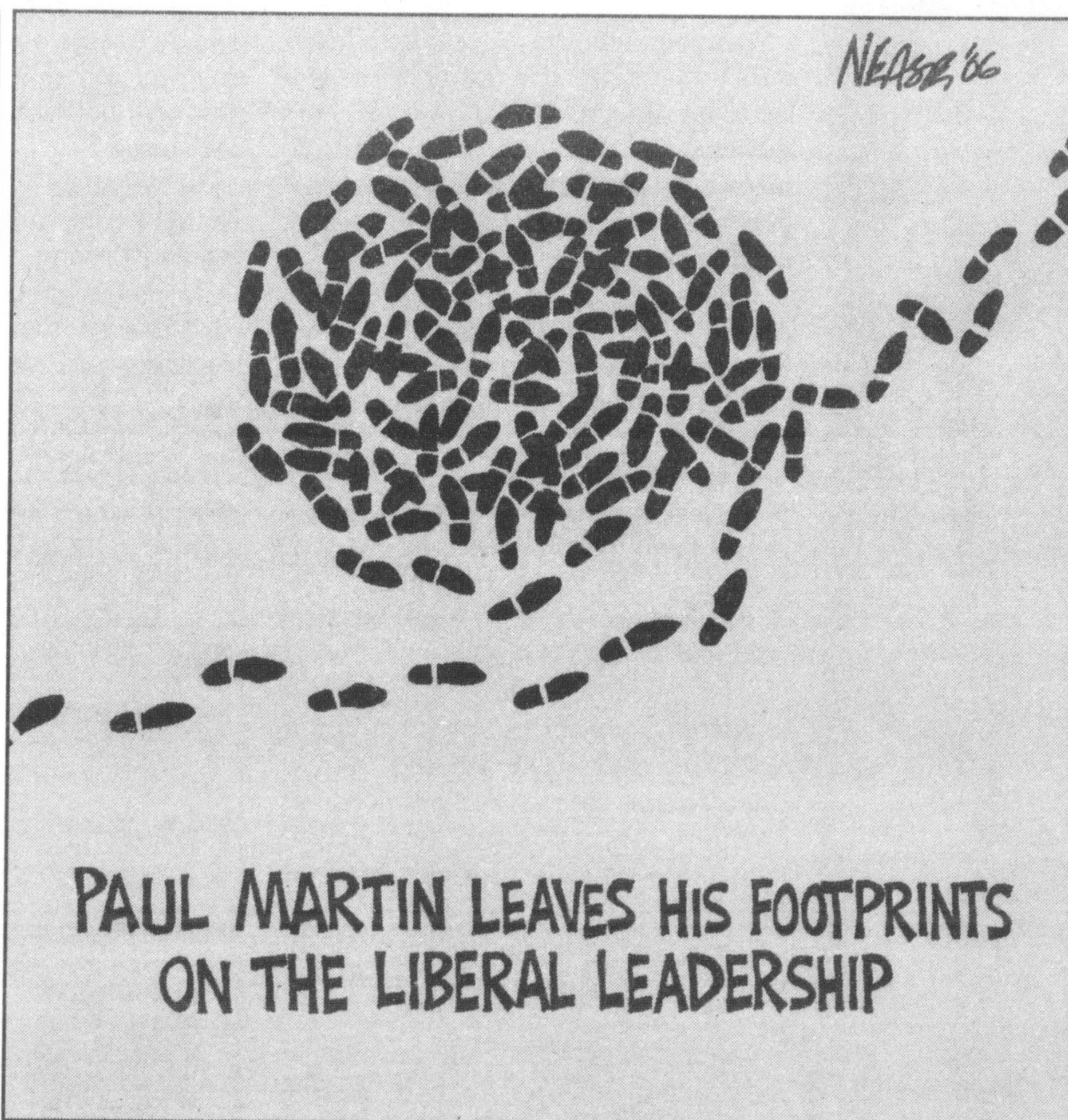
the Christmas Bureau Fund through which it collects funds for the Salvation Army.

Other excellent holiday donation programs include Toys For Tots — by Halton Regional Police, Canadian Tire and the Salvation Army — and the Be a Santa to a Senior program by Home Instead Senior Care. For information call (905) 847-8433.

Schools and churches are also busy collecting for the less fortunate.

In a town of plenty we should never forget those who have very little.

And don't forget about giving the most precious gift — the gift of life. To find a local blood donor clinic call 1-888-236-6283 or visit www.bloodservices.ca.



ReadersWrite

Send your letters to miltone@haltonsearch.com or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

Student survey inappropriate

DEAR EDITOR:

I'm addressing this letter to all parents and/or guardians who have students in grade 7 and/or grade 10 within the Halton District School Board or the Halton District Catholic School Board.

This is to inform you of the Halton Youth Survey that was recently conducted of the students via the Internet through the schools.

I'm not denying that the boards conduct a survey, but am extremely disappointed in its means of doing so — without full parental disclosure of the majority of the questions.

We, as parents/guardians are always warning our children to never disclose any personal information via the Internet. Students were first asked to provide their postal code.

The survey has a number of negative leading questions contained within it. Not only does the survey ask about suicide, but just in case you don't know what that is, they define it. After completing this survey some sensitive students may not know how to deal with some of the questions and may question their response.

I think the boards are asking questions that are more likely to lead our young people astray than help those that truly need help.

Most of the students that were targeted in this survey are still in the process of trying to figure out their emotions and dealing with puberty, so

asking them if they have been "bullied for being gay, lesbian or bisexual" is highly inappropriate.

We don't send our children to school to find out which "prescription drugs" can be "used to get high" and ask if they have changed their weight and body shape (i.e. "using vomiting/laxatives, using steroids, diet pills.") Why does the board provide this information to the students? I don't send my child to school to learn this. There must be a better way of putting our tax dollars to work.

Through the board's supposed "secure board site," we accessed the survey with our child and were able to go through it. This was a better forum to conduct the survey, in our opinion, as it gave us a chance to openly talk with our child.

I urge parents to contact the Halton District School Board (Director of Education Wayne Joudrie or Heather Gataveckas: gataveckas@hdsb.ca) or the Halton District Catholic Board (Director of Education Lou Piovesan or Erica van Roosmalen: vanroosmalen@hcdsb.org) to obtain a copy of the survey so you are able to openly dialogue with your child, if you would like more information on the survey and to have your opinion voiced.

DIANNE GORA
BURLINGTON

Roundabouts are indeed a good solution

DEAR EDITOR:

We wholeheartedly agree with Patricia Brown's promotion of roundabouts for Milton.

Our only addition to her letter would be that the concept of roundabouts be considered not only locally, but nationally.

We traveled to France this past summer and encountered dozens of roundabouts on our tour. Well designed and well sign-posted, they kept

traffic flowing smoothly. The North American drivers' claim that roundabouts — or traffic circles — would be horror stories is unfounded.

We agree with Brown that future road development should incorporate roundabouts as a solution to traffic gridlock and excessive automobile pollution.

DOUG AND MARY MOHUN
SARAH STREET

Hal's tribute well deserved

DEAR EDITOR:

What a fine tribute to Hal Gies by Steve LeBlanc in the November 24 Champion.

I'm a former Miltonian now living in Burlington, but part of me remains in Milton. I'm a former team manager and timekeeper/announcer with the Steamers back in the 1980s, and had known Hal from my involvement in minor hockey.

You could always rely on Hal to be there no matter what the weather, and never had to tell him what to do.

I moved from Milton to Calgary in 1991 and then to Burlington in 1998. On occasion, I have run into Hal during those years, and he always asks how my family is doing and likes to chat about some of the old coaching staff and management. He does have a rock solid memory.

When the Merchants were heading to the nationals eight years ago, I approached several hockey-related friends in Milton and collectively and for the most part anonymously, we were able to assist Hal in obtaining appropriate attire for that trip.

I was really pleased to hear of his honour. Had I been home I would have tried to get to the game. However, I was in Chicago at the time. What a nice positive story to see in The Champion.

JOHN BAIN
FORMER MILTONIAN

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875 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 3Z3

905-878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943
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Publisher
Neil Oliver

Advertising Director
Wendy McNab

Managing Editor
Karen Miceli

Production Manager
Tim Coles

Circulation Manager
Charlene Hall

Office Manager
Teri Casas

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