



# OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

## Justice for mentally ill

Dear Editor:

A letter-writing campaign to claim "truth, justice and the American way" for people with mental illnesses, too, is being launched by the National Mental Health Association (NMHA) to protest Superman's approaching death in the comic strips by a "superlunatic" called Doomsday. Superman will die at the hands of an escapee from a "comic insane asylum" when the November issue hits the newsstands.

CMHA, Halton Region is a branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, a similar association to the American NMHA. We are equally concerned about DC Comics' pop cultural undermining of a recent law to eliminate discrimination against people with a mental illness, in the United States.

This is stereotyping at its worst: pitting the ultimate evil against the ultimate good and promising to make life difficult for the mentally ill in the next generation. Clearly, it's time to stop using people with mental illness as the fall guy or the villain.

Stigma, misunderstanding and myths about mental illness are perpetuated through cutting words in the media, in advertising, in books, in movies, in television and in everyday language. Changes will only occur when people learn that these stereotypes of illness are grossly inaccurate and when it is unrewarding for individuals and organizations to perpetuate the myths.

It's too late to stop distribution of the comic book. Let's stop them at sales outlets and show them their myths just don't sell anymore.

Pearl Wolfe  
Executive Director  
Canadian  
Mental Health Association

## Sexual preference has no place in resumes

Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my outrage at a recent classified ad in your newspaper. The portion of the Halton Women's Place ad which read "In keeping with our employment equity goals, applications particularly encouraged from lesbians, racial minorities, aboriginal and francophone women" has caused me great concern.

The problem I have with this statement is the fact that being a single, white, female Canadian who was born and raised in Canada, I feel I no longer have any rights with certain businesses' employment equity goals. I am not a lesbian, racial minority, aboriginal or francophone woman. But what do these things have to do with who will be best suited for a job?

I think the classification that bothers me the most is "lesbians". Personally, I don't know where the connection is between someone's sexual preference and her ability to do the job. Isn't that supposed to be a personal issue? I mean are these people going to announce on their resume that they are competent with Word Perfect 5.1 and that they are gay?

I hope you can see my concern with this issue. Being a recent graduate I have been having a difficult time finding an entry level position in my field. I encourage you to reconsider classified ads which can be found discriminatory. I am not the only person who reacted to this ad in this fashion.

Jennifer L. Roberts  
Milton

## We were merely trying to comply with regulations

Dear Editor:

For your information, all publicly funded organizations have been requested by the Government of Ontario to have inclusive hiring practices. In our recent help wanted advertisement, Halton Women's Place was attempting to comply with this mandate.

However, we want to assure the public and our supporters at large that we are an equal opportunity employer and welcome applications for all positions from all qualified people.

D. Knox,  
President, Halton Women's Place Board

## Reader upset over employment ad

The following article was published in the Burlington Post where an employment ad appeared for Halton Women's Place. The same classified advertisement was published in The Champion, a sister newspaper to the Post and also part of Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing.

By ALEX MATHESON  
Special to The Champion

A Post reader is furious about the content of a help wanted advertisement and has vowed to take the issue further, perhaps as far as Ontario's ombudsman.

In the Sunday, Nov. 8 edition of the Post, Halton Women's Place advertised for a relief and child care worker.

After outlining the basic requirements, the advertisement read: "In keeping with our employment equity goals, applications particularly encouraged from lesbians, racial minorities, aboriginal and Francophone women."

Objecting to this, reader Grace Dawson said, "How did it get through the newspaper? It is the most racial thing I've ever seen. This is totally disgusting."

Ms Dawson said in 18 months looking for a job she has never seen this kind of statement.

"It says just minorities. Nobody else can apply. It should have said all applicants are acceptable with qualifications."

Ms Dawson said the ad is discriminating against all caucasian

people. She said she will take the issue further, possibly to the provincial ombudsman.

\*Teresa Dimock, the Post's classified advertising manager, said the newspaper has a policy of screening ads that might be controversial. In the case of this organization however, she believed they knew what they were doing and were familiar with the guidelines they had to abide by.

Teresa Greer, executive director of Halton Women's Place, said the phrase has been included in ads for the past year and is in line with the province's direction in hiring equity.

She said there are a lot of East Indian, West Indian and Portuguese people in Halton. However, some disagree with that assessment.

One person who complained about the advertisement, Ms Greer said, maintained there are no minorities, Francophones or lesbians in Halton.

Although the characteristics described may be seen as qualifications, these would not be asked about during an interview. "We are looking for the best qualified," Ms Greer said.

Rose Lee, an Ontario Human Rights Commission officer, said there is nothing wrong with the statement "It is an employment equity goal."

"They are not excluding anybody, but encouraging others," she said.

Except in the case of men applying there could be a problem if the ad said they would only hire from a certain group, she added.

# SANTA CLAUS COMES TO MTC!

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22nd at 1:00 pm!

Everyone loves a Parade, especially one that brings Santa Claus to town. At Meadowvale Town Centre this year, Santa will arrive in a beautiful horse-drawn carriage through the mall joined by his many friends. Those included in the celebration and parade will be Tom Bishop, the fabulous Sphere Clown Band, a great big Snowman, Santas playful Elves and of course our very own Meadow Mouse! What a line-up! And oh what excitement! Be sure to get there early (Meadow Mouse will be handing out balloons along the Parade Route).

After the Parade, be one of the first to visit Santa in his Enchanted Forest up until 5:00 pm and let him know what you'd like to see under your Christmas Tree!

### MERRY CHRISTMAS '92 !!!

## Meadowvale Town Centre

Monday to Friday 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM / Saturday 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM / Sunday NOON - 5:00 PM

SOUTH OF 401 ON WINSTON CHURCHILL BETWEEN AQUITAINE & BATTLEFORD

anchored by DOMINION and WOOLCO

Markborough



**G**  
GREYSTONE  
GOLF CLUB  
presents...  
**Christmas Luncheon Buffet**  
featuring...  
Roast Turkey  
Poached Salmon  
Roast Beef  
Seasonal Salads & Vegetables  
Imported Cheeses  
Christmas Pudding  
Join us by the roaring fireplace & enjoy our view of the Bruce Trail.

Served daily 12 - 2:30pm.  
December 1st to 19th  
\$12.95 (plus taxes & grat.)  
By Reservation Only  
875-3808

Limited space still available for private Christmas dinner parties.