

Editorials

Information-honestly, openly and freely shared-
is the hallmark of democracy

Go safely on your snowmobile

Accident statistics for the winter of 1983-84 reveal an increase in the number of snowmobile accidents last winter over previous years.

Alcohol was a factor in most snowmobile fatalities. Of 22 snowmobilers killed in off-highway and on-highway accidents, 15 were described as "ability impaired" or "had been drinking," according to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. Of six persons who drowned last winter while riding on snowmobiles, all had alcohol in their systems.

Last winter, a total of 578 snowmobile accidents were reported, a 61.5 percent increase over the previous winter.

The campaign against drunk driving has this winter season been notably successful in curbing the number of motorists who drink and drive, but it remains to be seen whether it has had an impact on snowmobile operators.

Last winter's statistics are sobering to say the least. Hopefully the accident statistics will be down this winter.

In view of the high percentage of snowmobile fatalities that are alcohol-related, it is useful to remember that impaired snowmobiling can be a deadly sport.

As well, the margin of safety on a fast moving snowmobile is considerably less than in an automobile.

One thing is the same for both though. The drinking and driving laws apply to operators of all motorized conveyances.

Still a mystery

THE GRANGE INQUIRY is over and Mr. Justice Samuel Grange has submitted his report into the death of 36 babies at the Hospital for Sick Children during the period Dec. 23, 1980 to March 6, 1981.

But the mystery continues: how many of the babies were murdered and by whom.

Grange's royal commission report concludes that eight of the babies died from a deliberate overdose of the heart drug digoxin.

The horrific baby deaths put a cloud of suspicion over medical staff (nurses and doctors) assigned to the hospital's cardiac ward where the babies died.

The deaths also tarnished the image of one of Canada's best-known hospitals and left scars that will take years, if not decades, to heal.

Ontario taxpayers are to be asked to pay \$2.8 million for the lengthy inquiry.

Most of the money will be earmarked for what we view are obscene legal fees that range from \$88,880 to \$366,092.

In any event, despite months of vigorous investigation and inquiry, THE question still remains unanswered: who deliberately killed at least eight of the babies?

Light up the moon

JUST THINK FOLKS, when the world's biggest optical telescope is built and is working by 1992 at a cost of \$70 million, astronomers will be able to see a 15-watt light bulb as far away as the moon.

So that's what lights up the moon!

From CKMP to Q.C.

CONGRATULATIONS to Midland lawyer Fred Hacker. As we happily reported last Friday, the 37-year-old solicitor was awarded the title of Queen's Counsel.

The title of Q.C. is an important form of recognition in the legal profession.

Fred Hacker, Q.C. has come a long way since hosting "High Review" programs on CKMP each Saturday morning while attending MSS. Wouldn't you agree?

Well done Fred. We're all very proud of you.



An ugly sight

Dear Editor:

Ex abortionist Dr. Bernard Nathanson of the USA has produced the first Ultrasound film of an actual suction abortion. An ultrasound makes an actual picture of an unborn child out of the sound waves from the womb. The picture was then enlarged so that the images could be seen more clearly. "This," Dr. Nathanson explained, "is the first time an actual abortion will ever be shown from the victim's point of view." He also reminded his viewers that the 10 week old child represented 95 percent of all legal abortions.

At 10 weeks, an unborn human being has everything you and I have and is fully formed with an active brain, has a beating heart, and is sensitive to pain.

"This little girl," Nathanson said, "is very active." We could see her playing and turning around and around and sucking her thumb. We could see her little heart beating away at a normal rate of about 120. But when the first instrument touched the uterine wall, the baby immediately recoiled and her heart rate rose considerably. The baby had not yet been touched by the instrument, but she knew some thing was trying to invade her

sanctuary.

We watched in horror as this innocent human child was literally drawn and quartered. First the spine, then a leg - piece by piece as the child wildly writhed in agony, living through most of the process, thrashing around and trying to escape the menacing instrument. We see with our own eyes her head thrown back and her mouth open in what Dr. Nathanson called "her silent scream." ("Silent" because there is no air in the womb.)

At one point, her heart rate was over 200 and we could see on the screen her tiny heart beating frantically because she was so scared. Lastly we witnessed the ghastly outline of the forceps fishing around to find the head to crush and remove because it is too large to pass through the suction tubing.

The killing process took 12 to 15 minutes. The abortionist who did this particular abortion filmed the ultrasound mainly out of curiosity. When he saw the film he left the abortion clinic and didn't return.

Yours sincerely,

-James H. Cotter
Barrie

Post Christmas thoughts

Dear Editor:

It is the time of year when people in the world turn to rejoicing and remembering the day of Christmas. Once again, the holiday season has come and many will celebrate in a variety of ways with friends and family.

The opportunities for peace and goodwill abound and yet the potential of true happiness and joy is never fully realized. Gifts will be given that will

Bouquets to press

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Midland Horticultural Society I would like to express our thanks for your kind assistance in publishing our coming events in your newspaper during 1984.

We meet regularly on the fourth Monday of the month and your advertising of our meetings helps to remind the people of the district of our activities.

May we extend to you an invitation to attend our annual meeting and pot-luck supper at Calvary Baptist Church on Monday, Jan. 28, 1985 at 6:30 p.m.

Sincerely yours,

Midland Horticultural Society

(Mrs.) Heleena Cheatley, Corresponding Secretary

A stormy night

Dear Editor:

I was wondering if a news item could be in your paper to include the following.

Jan. 18, 1985, will be the 25th year since the Huronia Association for the Mentally Retarded was formed (a storming cold night at the YMCA on Hugel Avenue).

It is a personal pleasant thought to know so many programmes are available for all these friends.

The office for HAMR is at 288 King Street. (526-4253).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Banks

201 Sixth Street, Midland.

bringing joy and happiness to many. Yet words cannot express the sadness of others who must do without. This is the case of many elderly, poor, and handicapped who feel sad and lonely at this time of year.

What are we doing with our material blessings? Commercialism with its blinding influence has let us down and the pleasures of materialism produce no lasting joy. Are we trying to adorn our hearts with love and peace as did the Lord Jesus? Have we decided only to decorate our homes and trees because we can't be bothered to improve what is within us?

What, after all, was the real reason for Christ's birth nearly 2,000 years ago? It was to provide a Saviour to a perishing world. Never has there been a more important time to learn about God! May it be suggested that the best and most enduring gift that can be given is a copy of the Bible?

Family members and close friends should be encouraged to read it carefully in the coming year.

It could be that the greatest of all expectations and hopes is realized in 1985 - the return of Christ. Make 1985 the year to find out why we are here, where we are going, and what God really expects of those who live as part of His creation.

-K. Curry

-P. Wisniowski

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Letters

The Penetanguishene Citizen welcomes Letters to the Editor. They must be legible, signed (by hand), and carry the writer's address and telephone number for verification. Pen names are not allowed and anonymous letters will not be published. Letters published by this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper, its publisher or editor.

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