

Story turns spotlight on autism treatment

Dear Editor,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for shedding light on the very important issue of autism treatment.

Hopefully, the Herald's feature story last month will influence the way autism treatment is currently being handled in B.C. (which is very poorly to say the least).

As parents of a young boy who is in a Lovaas-type ABA program, we also have encountered nothing but arrogance and ignorance from our government. But fortunately, we are financially able (not without struggle) to continue our son's treatment program with or without assistance from the government. Those who cannot afford the "luxury" of medical treatment for their autistic child must broken-heartedly watch their child deteriorate.

So, we thank you for making people aware. Most British Columbians would certainly disapprove of the government treating people this way, if only they knew. Most British Columbians (like us, before our son was born) console themselves when they pay high taxes with the thought "Our tax money is helping people who need it." Most would certainly feel that the Rodrigues family and little Jeremy are worthy of medical treatment. But most are in the dark about autism.

Your article has reminded our family of the importance of the media. It is important to report government injustice. It is important for the government to be accountable. It is important that the Penticton Herald has played a role in helping Jeremy and his family because, you see, the government would like this family to go away. It would like for nobody to

know how this family has been treated. It feels Jeremy is unimportant/unworthy of medical treatment. It has made this family beg for help, promised it and then decided not to give help.

Thank you for recognizing how very important this little boy is. Thank you for giving Jeremy a louder, more powerful voice that just maybe — be it from shame or social pressure — the government will finally listen to.

*Frank and Christina Jirik,
Vancouver*

Proposed casino blocks view of lake

Dear Editor,

I believe that I may be one of those referred to by Neil Jamieson in his recent letter to the editor entitled Casino Information Not Hard to Find.

With due respect to your correspondent, I do not believe the families of those employed by the hotel are in a position to say other than he has anticipated. Likewise, it does not wash with me that the family involved is risking \$5 million of its own money on the future of Penticton. Before the casino was even thought about, there were countless needs to be met in Penticton where this money could have been used. Most of them are still with us, as they would not yield so high a profit.

I repeat: I believe the citizens of Penticton have a right to have before them, in detail, the design proposals submitted to council in the first instance to receive its endorsement before being forwarded to the provincial government. Now the Penticton Lakeside Resort has decided (in addition to the parking problem) to relocate the proposed casino onto the tennis court area, thus en-

croaching further on the magnificent view of Okanagan Lake.

If the Lakeside Resort cannot now deliver as originally proposed, it's just too bad. The only option the hotel is left with is to withdraw gracefully in favour of the Penticton Indian Band's proposal.

Perhaps someone will enlighten me. Is there or is there not a law which stipulates that all development proposals which affect a neighbourhood should be published in full on a notice board on the site in question? If this law does not exist in our city, we now have perfect proof of the necessity for one — out in the open where citizens can see, thus providing them with an opportunity to approve, disapprove or ignore at their will.

I, for one, would not approve of the proposed casino obstructing further the magnificent backdrop of Okanagan Lake.

*Joseph D. Parker,
Penticton*

Vote for casino not site-specific

Dear Editor,

Regarding Dave Tod's letter in last Thursday's Herald, I voted in the casino citizens' referendum but certainly did not think my vote was approval of the Penticton Lakeside Resort's bid. It was not! I voted thinking that the actual location was "up for bids."

I am disappointed that the hotel's site was chosen over others in the city, when the parking is non-existent.

The Penticton Indian Band is much better able to cope with parking, but I am not in favour of two locations for this area. That is "overkill."

*Monique Games,
Penticton*