



The Tribune

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CHARLES H. NOLAN, Publisher

JAMES THOMAS, Associate Publisher and Editor

ROBERT McCausland, Advertising Director

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# Editorials

## Protecting our interest

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and the Town of Markham will have their 'innings' before the Airport Inquiry Commission, Monday, April 8.

The location is the auditorium of Pickering Dist. High School, Church Street North, Pickering, beginning at 6 p.m.

The Council of Whitchurch-Stouffville has authorized the spending of \$9,000 to complete an in-depth study dealing with this Town's greatest concern — noise.

Cost to Markham is estimated at over \$6,000.

This is taxpayers' money and in our opinion, money well spent. For no Council, regardless of member's personal feelings could, in the interest of the municipality, afford to stand idly by and do nothing, particularly in the face of so much conflicting

evidence. Admittedly, none of us are professionals in this field.

The Dept. of Transport has its 'experts' who, apparently, have looked into the matter closely.

Andrew S. Harris, a consultant with the firm of Bolt, Beranek and Newman Incorporated, is also an 'expert'. Yet, their decisions vary greatly. Who is right?

Regardless, the ones who have the most to lose (or gain) from this project, are the people, you and I.

That is why we would urge all residents to take a personal interest in the proceedings and if possible, attend the Inquiry in Pickering. There's strength in numbers and no one is more cognascente of this fact than the politician.

## Police roadside 'service'

Police 'spot checks' are routine during the holiday period surrounding Christmas and New Year's.

They've been conducted for some time in Metro, and more recently in York.

But why on such a temporary basis? Why not fifty-two weeks instead of two?

Who is to say there are no drinking drivers on a given night in June or October?

We have often wondered about this, and written about it.

Obviously, Police Chief Bruce Crawford,

head of the regional force has been wondering too; and responded, with considerable success. To date this year in York, not a single fatal motor vehicle collision has occurred, a welcomed relief from the 'slaughter' of '73 when fifty-three persons died.

Unfortunately, not all motorists agree with this type of campaign. They consider it a kind of 'persecution', an infringement on the rights of a free society.

We do not, rather, we welcome it. It's a roadside 'service' we all should appreciate and support.

## Editor's Mail

### Transit involves people

Dear Jim,  
The Whitchurch-Stouffville Council has recently received a report on a proposed Regional Transit System. This report provides an excellent opportunity for Council to involve our community in planning our future, and getting some direct benefit from the York Region.

Apparently, this is a 30 page report, which has been in the 'works' at the Regional level for some time. Hopefully, Council will try to give the widest possible circulation, and promote discussion on its implications. Before any decisions are made, or positions established, the citizens of Whitchurch-Stouffville should become thoroughly aware of what the report means and just how it has been developed. This is Council's responsibility, to involve the people in the issues in a meaningful way, to listen carefully, decide, then to explain what they have decided and why. A first step could be to put several copies in the Public Library.

Transportation, especially mass transportation, is of the utmost importance to all of us. Let's discuss it so we will all know what we may be getting into, or staying out of.

JIM SANDERS  
O'Brien Avenue,  
Stouffville

Ministry of Transport planners who have a vested interest in the completion of the planned second airport.

The Inquiry has been set up to consider the whole plan for airports in the Toronto region. The terms of reference are that the commission will accept briefs on either new evidence that has arisen since Jan. 30-73 or "Evidence not in the mind of the Government at that time." No examination of reports or evidence that was or was not compiled at the time the decision to site the airport in Pickering-Markham-Uxbridge was made in 1972, will be allowed. The Inquiry deems that this decision was right and beyond challenge, however it will consider any input from private citizens who have the ability to read the mind of the Government.

Let the Buyer Beware... this whole thing is an attempt to sell an airport under the guise of citizen participation. The cost of running this con game is staggering, and you and I are paying the bill!

ALLEN R. GRAHAM  
Claremont, Ont.

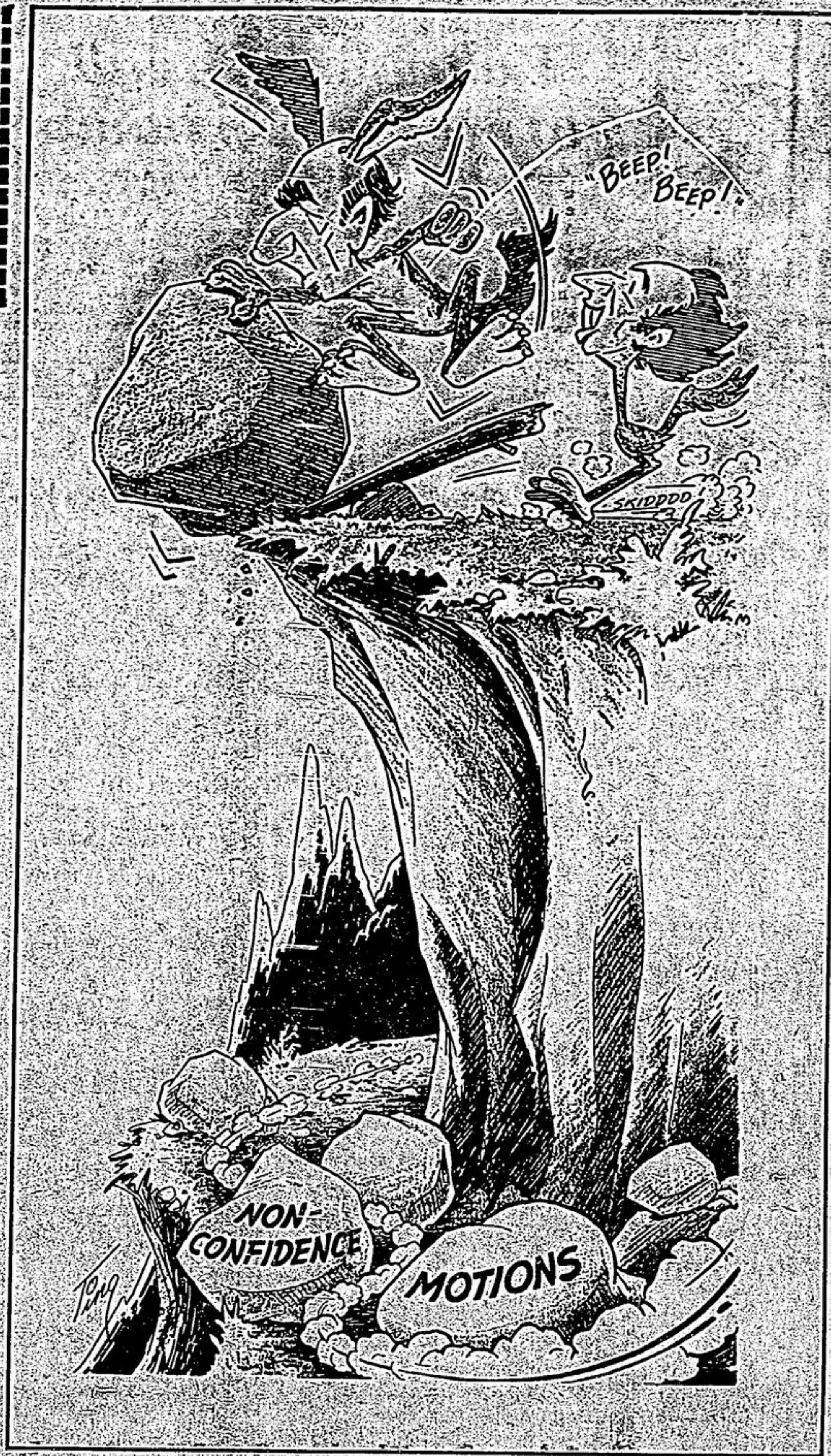
Dear Editor

I was pleased to see that your newspaper took editorial issue with Town Council over its handling of the mobile home display in the Stouffville Plaza.

I, and I'm sure, dozens more like me, wondered what was going on. First, they were trucked in; set up; then locked up; and later trucked out; it didn't make sense.

And neither did Council's reasoning for acting as it did. In my opinion, they made themselves look pretty foolish.

EDWIN MYER  
R.R. 2, Stouffville



## Status of the Catholic teacher much improved

As President of the Ontario Separate School Trustees' Association, I wish to dissociate separate school trustees and their electors from the intemperate remarks of Bob Cooney, President of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association as reported recently in the press.

To state flatly that the Conservative Government "has never been a friend to Catholic educators" is unfair. "Friendly" or not, the Foundation Plan, introduced by Prime Minister Robarts, some ten years ago, with the support of all parties, has made it possible for separate boards as a rule to bring salaries of Catholic teachers up to practical equality with those of public school teachers.

(The policy of equal grant for equal need and effort is not perfect but it has improved the financial viability of separate schools and is being constantly refined.) As the major beneficiaries of this improvement, Catholic teachers have little cause for complaint today as compared to their dedicated predecessors of a decade ago. Most of them, I am sure, appreciate this progress in their status as well as our patient appeal to the good will of our fellow-citizens that brought it about.

Unlike Mr. Cooney we do not fear that Catholic education will "go" unless the Conservative government goes. Our school system is rooted in faith, in the most fundamental statutes of this country and in more than a century of survival and growth, regardless of political parties. No party can do more for separate schools than the majority of the population feel just and fair. Violent diatribes, especially by persons in Mr. Cooney's position do no good.

Political decisions do, it is true, affect education.

Teachers as well as trustees may, as individuals, feel one party or the other to be more favourable to separate schools. As members of boards, however, our trustees will continue about their business, including patient, nonpartisan dialogue with government. Within our schools, we count on our teachers to care for and teach our children, by word and example, also without partisan spirit. Most of them, we are sure, prefer the wisdom of this attitude.

We still have much progress to achieve and we can understand Mr. Cooney's outburst. But we cannot approve it!

B. J. NOLAN,  
President.

## SUGAR AND SPICE

### Who fails, the student or the teacher?

By BILL SMILEY



This is going to be a shot-gun column, instead of the usual coherent, unified, lucid examination of a single topic.

I'm going to aim in all directions at once and pull both triggers. Reason is I've got to get ready to go to Germany on Sunday and have a lot to do. Like shine my shoes, and change \$12 into rubles or whatever they use, and get my wife to iron some shirts, and, uh, get her to pack my bag, and, uh, well, a lot of important things.

First of all, I've rediscovered a maxim that was already ancient when Moses looked out over the promised land: women are not only unpredictable, but unreasonable.

My wife had known for about a month that I might be going to Germany on the winter break. She thought it was great for me. "It'll be a nice change for you. And it'll do you good to get away from me for a few days. You must get sick of me."

I lied politely, as usual. Told her I didn't need a change; that I could scarcely bear the thought of being separated; and that the very idea of being 'sick' of her was nauseating.

Then I came home one day and told her it was all set, but that she couldn't go. "When?" she queried, knowing it would be several months off, and that there might be an earthquake or a flood or something in the meantime.

"Oh, I guess Sunday night!" I responded casually, serene in the knowledge that she was in favour of the trip. She burst into tears.

My next topic also deals with the family, and with an aqueous event. Aside from a rainstorm, have you ever been soaked from a great height? I have. Last Sunday.

I was thoroughly enjoying playing with my grandson. He's old enough now to be played with, without fear that he'll break. I had him under the armpits and was holding him in the air, making those ridiculous sounds that would make grandfather blush crimson if they ever heard them on tape.

A look of pure glee passed across the kid's face, and I thought, "By golly, he knows me, and he's enjoying his grandad." Next second, I was soaked from shoulder to knee. It was warm, and at first I thought I'd burst a painless blood vessel. But it was the wrong colour.

It's not unpleasant at first. Rather like taking a warm, salt bath with your clothes on. It's when it begins to cool.

There's not much more to be developed there, so I'll turn to topic three: exams, which we have just gone through a session of. Nothing is more depressing than starting to mark a set of exam papers, and finding that the first five you mark are failures. You are filled with self-doubt. "Have I not taught them

anything? I'm a failure as a teacher. I should go back to the shoe factory. If everybody fails, I'll be fired, because in this system, if you're teaching failures, you're a failure as a teacher, regardless of any other factors."

Then you pick up a paper and the student has understood what you've taught, and applied it, and used some brains of its own, and it's a ninety percent. Hallelujah! And you're hooked for another year.

There is only one thing worse than marking exam papers. That is supervising the writing of them. The quaint old word for this function is "invigilating." It sounds kind of dirty, but it isn't. Just utterly boring.

You are figuratively locked in a room for two hours with about 35 teenagers. That alone is a fate worse than death, for some people. Personally, I'd rather be locked in with 35 students than with 35 balloons.

Then begins two hours of hell. The kids are supposed to be tense, nervous, straining every brain cell to do well. They're about as tense as a hibernating bear. Susie takes off her shoes, assumes a yoga position, and looks out the window. Jack's crutch, a relic of skiing and a broken leg, falls on the floor, and you jump a foot, while the victims snicker.

You resort, after the first hour, to such things as counting greasy hair versus washed hair, bras versus braless, big clumsy boots versus sneakers.

You look up at the picture on the wall of the Queen, on whom somebody has drawn a moustache. You fill in, with your imagination, sideburns, and realize the Queen would have been pretty dashing in 1580.

You look out the window at the dirty snow-banks and dream of a beach or a trout stream. You whip around, aware you were drifting, to see if anyone is cheating. Nobody is. Except Joe, who has given up after half an hour of tongue and pen working together, and is sound asleep, head on arms. An early fly buzzen.

Warned, you think this would be a shotgun column. But I think I've covered everything on the home front.

Next despatch will be from Germany. I promise it will be loaded with 'fraulein, gemutlichkeit, blutwurst, putsches and other Teutonic goodies.

Let's see now, if I remember my Deutsch. "Was maken sie hier? Wie vil hur ist es? Nich rauchen bevor der zug halte. Ich bin ein kriegesgefangener. Wo bist die scheisshaus? Reckon I'll get along."

## Innocent til proven guilty

Dear Mr. Thomas,

Every week we read in your newspaper crime stories supposedly committed by young people of our community. Two things about this practice have worried us for a long time.

1) You base the report on police charges.

2) You use names. We all know that the police lay whatever charges they wish, the larger the better, but it is only a possibility that they may be correct. In fact, the crown prosecutor, disagrees with many of the charges and often withdraws them altogether before going to the judge. Thus the police charge is totally irrelevant, and to print it, as one side of the story is to turn a preliminary charge into police propaganda suggesting more crime than we have, and the need for more police than we have. To use a name in this context is to slander.

What right do you have to assume the responsibility of advance public judge and jury by publicizing uncontested police statements? What right do you have to defame the names of youths and families in our community without certain knowledge?

Young people to-day have a credible concern for justice and truth and we must do everything in our power to uphold this concern. Courts decide the nature of the crime if any, and judges decide what penalty with inherent deterrent shall be. This is what the public should hear, if indeed hearing anything at all really acts as a deterrent.

Our son's name appeared erroneously in your paper weeks ago, instead of another youth's. Although you have promised to print a retraction, who knows what damage has been done by such a libellous mistake? Surely the danger of such errors and the resultant anguish to innocent youths and families can never be corrected by a retraction appearing weeks later.

You say that you print these stories as a deterrent. In what possible way can a name, possibly incorrect add to your purpose? Other enlightened local papers like the Aurora Banner have ceased to use names of people charged by police. We strongly urge that you do the same.

Mr. and Mrs. K.W. HORTON  
R.R. 4 Stouffville

## Remember-it's our money

By C. H. Nolan

It seems necessary that there should be a reminder to our every once in a while to all governments, from the municipal level up, to school boards and the thousands of civil servants that the money they are spending is supplied by the people. In turn this means everyone from the youngster who pays sales tax on his treats to the more affluent who has a big worry right now over a large income tax payment.

Up against all the family budget problems of today as well as inflation, the taxpayer has every right to be angry at government spending and its ever-lasting bribing of people with their own money. Why is it always called government

money, instead of 'people's money'.

Government budgets as well as family budgets are all paid from the same pocket and taxpayers today become furious at the casual way in which government does out millions for one thing and another.

Government likes to blame the entire situation on inflation but this is just not good enough and not true as well. The engaging of more civil servants goes on and on, and these thousands definitely add to inflation as they are non-producers. The many funds and grants such as LIP, drag off millions of taxpayers' hard-earned dollars which these people can certainly ill-afford to have frittered away in this manner.