

**The Tribune**  
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# Editorials

## Paralysis at York Region

York Region continued last week in its aimless and somewhat ambiguous approach to the Pickering Airport. While the project has been cancelled, it is not necessarily dead.

Earlier this year, regional council rejected a proposal by anti-airport people to ask the government for a two-year delay in the project. That motion showed a major split at the council level. The motion was defeated.

However a decision last week leaves the council's stand unclear: A recommendation from the engineering committee asking the government to reconsider the project came up for debate at the council level.

This time the vote was overwhelmingly against the recommendation. The only person to speak for the airport was Richmond Hill Councillor Gord Rowe, (who by the way is chairman of the region's engineering committee).

By defeating the recommendation, council has firmly refused again to take a stand on the Pickering airport. Up to this time no assessment has been made of the social and economic impact of the airport on the region despite the fact that large areas of Markham are included in the provincial government's land freeze. That area lies inside the noise zone for the airport.

Possible dislocation due to the airport and road and servicing from the west have never been examined. Added to this vacuum of hard, technical data, is the failure of council to take united stand on the matter.

Unfortunately, the airport issue is only one of many that council has failed to deal with, with what could be called anything like a region-wide "consensus." It points up the weakness in regional government that is hard to overlook.

If hopes were high that regional government would overcome narrow parochial interests, recent decisions have demonstrated that this is not the case. These interests have simply paralyzed regional council, preventing any regional perspectives from being formulated.

## Mob scene shows film show need

Librarian Lynn Robbins could hardly believe her eyes on one recent Wednesday afternoon, when 300 children showed up for a film show at the library. Only 40 spaces were available.

Mrs. Robbins, sensing the need, made arrangement to have the films shown at Latham Hall, where 240 can be accommodated. She certainly deserves credit for making arrangement for the films.

But isn't it disturbing that 300 youngsters in a town the size of Stouffville are starved for something to do. Surely, there must be other activities for them to take part in.

However, outside of organized clubs or groups, there is nothing like a children's film show in town. Obviously, the need is there. It is our hope that when the new plaza is built in the east end, that the theatre planned as part of the complex should provide children's films.

## Attend candidates meeting

The election of trustee, slated for Nov. 10, should be interesting for a number of reasons. Firstly, it is very unusual to have an election in an off-year.

The unusual circumstances of Colin Barrett's resignation made that necessary. However, with only the school board to focus on, the electorate can have a closer look at school board candidates than in other years.

It is a sad fact that trustee elections run a poor second to elections for municipal council. The general apathy connected with last year's municipal elections (where four members of council won by acclamation), brought lower turnout for trustee elections.

This year, with the school election on its own, the result could be more disastrous, but it could also be greater. The campaign is focused on the school board (for once) and that could mean greater involvement.

To aid in that, The Tribune is sponsoring an all-candidates meeting tonight (Oct. 30) at 8 p.m. at Latham Hall. The three hopefuls will be there. A good public turnout could make it a profitable evening, where local school related issues (and there are a number of them) will be fully discussed and analyzed.

That is our hope at least.

## Lake bus service is badly needed

While we welcome the announced GO Transit service that is to start next month linking Stouffville with the Toronto Transit Commission subway, there are some glaring omissions.

Musselman's Lake and Ballantrae have been completely ignored. Councillor Becky Wedley pointed out rightly that people in Musselman's Lake need bus service. Many have no transportation otherwise.

The other group is senior citizens, who are stranded in such places. Often they must depend on the goodwill of people with cars to take jaunts to the city. This could be alleviated by an extended GO Transit service through Musselman's Lake and Ballantrae.

We hope that the powers that be at the provincial level take heed.



## More 'inspired' writing needed

BY TED WILCOX

A column is a different kind of writing because it generally requires "being inspired."

But if you don't have it, you don't have it.

On a typical day, hundreds of harried newsmen sit down at typewriters and frantically search their brains for some speck of originality: some thought that hasn't already been clinched and hackneyed into oblivion.

But, more often than not, nothing comes.

The reason for this is not always because the writer in question is stupid and — or uncreative.

It goes beyond that. In fact, I have developed a theory on the subject which I would like to formally present at this time.

The theory covers all of the "mass media" — all the forms of communication that try to please all the people all of the time, or at least the vast majority of the people the vast majority of the time.

This includes commercial television, along with publications like this one, The Toronto Star and Reader's Digest.

What happens is this: in sitting down to write something, the writer is constantly worrying about those thousands of readers he is likely to offend if he takes this tack and the other thousands of readers he'll alienate if he takes another tack.

Therefore, nine times out of ten, he takes the safe route. He doesn't say what's really on his mind. He doesn't "open up" to you, so to speak.

What is written may be clever, readable, interesting or entertaining, but it seldom gets to the heart of things.

Now, that theory isn't entirely my own: I've read snatches of similar ideas elsewhere, and they seem to jive with my own observations.

The acid test for determining if something falls under what I'm talking about, is what I will call the "Who cares?" test.

At the end of a TV show, can you stare at the tube and say WHO CARES? and mean it? Can you rhetorically ask, "How many people would be seriously harmed — and how many would actually be benefited — if that pap had never been set down in script form to begin with?"

If so, what you have just viewed probably would qualify for the title of what we call in the vernacular, "Class A Tripe."

Deviations from the norm of pap, tripe and what has also been called "gibberish" are rare in the mass media, and should be noted.

I was recently confronted with one of these cases when I was lent the book "Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail" by Hunter S. Thompson, a man who once ran for sheriff of Aspen, Colorado on the "Freak Power" ticket.

He is also a journalist, and covered the 1972 U. S. presidential campaign for Rolling Stone magazine. The book is a compilation of reports he filed and sent in weekly for publication.

It could be understood, to begin with, that Hunter S. Thompson is a nut. He's crazy.

He is also raunchy, blunt and mildly obscene.

But the book makes fairly "good" in a limited sense of the word, reading because in it Hunter S. Thompson is being totally himself. You know all about his hang-ups, his habits, his attitudes and his biases.

In one way I find his book depressing because, in my view, he has little of a positive nature to offer the reader. But in another, it's a nice change. You know exactly where the man stands: just exactly how evil he really is, "where he's at" at every moment of the day.

He also does a lot of genuine reporting of the political events around him, but it is always abundantly clear that they are the events as seen by that drunken maniac, Hunter S. Thompson.

The problem is that the journalism trade contains quite a number of other drunken maniacs, along with shy egomaniacs and sullen anarchists. But hardly any of them would admit it to the readers.

The reason they don't, usually, is that they would lose their jobs if they began their copy with leads like this: "My head is not quite straight this morning. These brutal Tuesday nights are ruining my health..." (a quote from Thompson)

Hunter S. Thompson believes in levelling with the readers. He gave this analysis of Hubert H. Humphrey, for example: "...Humphrey is a treacherous, gutless old ward-heeler who should be put in a (bleep) bottle and sent out with the Japanese current."

The problem with Thompson probably was that he went a bit too far in the other direction. He put few restraints on himself, sometimes forgetting that his jaundiced view of a topic might have been due to having stayed up the night before, or some other such endeavor.

Still, there is something about Thompson's (and others like him) style of writing that deserves to be studied, and to some small degree, emulated.

One thing I agree with Thompson about is his understanding of the impossibility of obliterating oneself and somehow "being objective" in reporting. "With the possible exception of things like box scores, race results, and stock market tabulations," he wrote, "there is no such thing as Objective Journalism. The phrase itself is a pompous contradiction in terms."

This is not to say that a journalist shouldn't try to be fair, or that he should consciously distort the truth.

But if more members of the mass media don't begin being "up front" with their values, and let the chips fall where they may, I fear we may all be in danger of dying of boredom.

## TODAY'S HEALTH

### Hypertension is high blood pressure

By DAVID WOODS

Many people believe that hypertension has something to do with nervousness or anxiety. It doesn't. It simply means high blood pressure.

It's estimated that about 15 per cent of the adult population has high blood pressure. And that means somewhere around half a million people in Ontario alone. Contrary to popular opinion, these hypertensives are not all high-powered executives under stress; nor are they people who shout and scream and throw things. You can have a low profile and still have a high blood pressure.

The important thing about hypertension is that it's an invisible disease, and not only is it unseen, it's unfelt: the person with an elevated pressure usually is unaware of the fact.

The only way to find out is from your doctor. That band he puts around your arm is connected to a dial that records the pressure in a blood vessel. This allows measurement of two pressures, the systolic pressure which represents the pressure developed in the arteries when the heart contracts, and the diastolic pressure which represents the pressure remaining in the arteries when the heart relaxes. A normal reading for a 35-year old man might show something close to 120-80.

Despite the fact that untreated hypertension can lead to severe damage to such "target" organs as the heart, the brain and the kidneys, people are mighty casual about it.

One Hamilton physician, specializing in preventive medicine, estimates that half the people with hypertension don't know they have it; of the half that do know, only half are being treated for it; and of these, only half again are taking the treatment consistently and properly. In other words, here we have an easily identifiable, easily controllable health

problem, but it's being taken care of adequately in only one eighth of the cases.

Possibly because the disease is invisible people tend to be too casual about it. The same physician says that less than six months after medication is started to control hypertension, only about 50 per cent of the patients are taking enough of it to do any good.

In about 90 per cent of cases, high blood pressure has no known cause. We do know, however, that overweight people are somewhat more prone to it than are those of normal weight; we also know that the individual's blood pressure will vary from time

to time as a result of strenuous exercise, or fear, or some traumatic experience.

Also, blood pressure increases during the normal aging process; so that a reading of 140-90 might be normal for some in their 60s, but high for a 20-year-old.

In summary, hypertension is common, easily detected and treatable. Untreated high blood pressure can shorten a lifespan by an estimated 16 years. This is one area where you can exert a truly positive effect on your own health: have your pressure checked, if you're one of the three in 20 people with a high reading, seek treatment. And follow your doctor's advice about it faithfully.

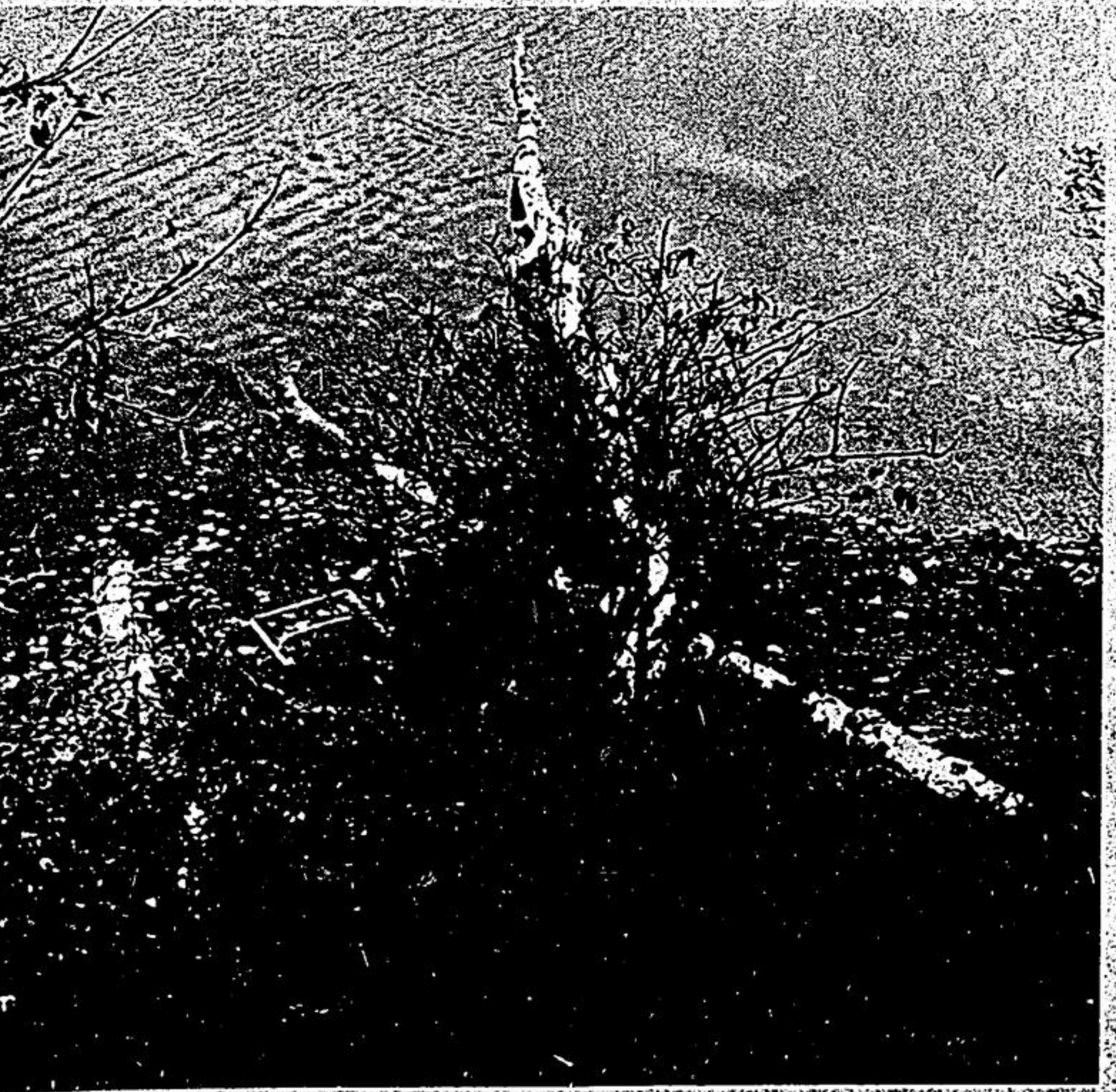
## Thirty years ago this week

Excerpts from The Tribune from Nov. 1, 1945.

**Auctioneer's woes**  
 Protesting the low price of 25 cents for a full sized wooden bedstead, the ancient piece of furniture was knocked down by the auctioneer at a sale in Ballantrae on Monday, giving as the excuse for such a miserable price that folks are determined these days to take no rest, and too many of them are satisfied to sleep on their feet. As a last resort, to raise the bid, the fluent orator declared that the old bedstead was worth more than 25 cents for kindling wood. Despite all that could be said, the article was turned over to the 25 cent bidder.

The reporter looked from the corner of his eye to see if folks were shaking their heads, but no one breathed any heavier for having missed the opportunity of buying a bedstead, all wood and four feet wide, for 25 cents for that would have been enough to wrench it from the buyer.

**Striking resemblance**  
 "I don't like those photos at all," said a customer in Bill Sanders gallery, a few weeks ago. "Why," he continued, "I look like an ape." The photographer, we are told used his best wit and said, "Well, you should have thought of that before you had them taken."



These birch logs rest peacefully at the side of the lake, as a few fall leaves float nearby on the placid water. Various odds and ends that come in to the shore seem to gather near the logs. It is a scene that man could not recreate. — Don Bernard