

EDITOR'S MAIL

"Double Shifting"

Coach's action riles parent

Dear Jim:
As a resident of the community and a parent of boys who play hockey in Stouffville, I feel I must comment on a game played in the Arena, April 7.

It was a Novice class contest involving six, seven and eight year olds. It meant the championship.

The two teams involved ended up in 1st and 3rd places during the regular schedule.

On entering the rink, I noticed the two clubs using only half the ice surface. The other half wasn't being used at all. When I inquired as to why, I was told one of the coaches had refused.

This I found strange as these teams had used the complete ice surface a few Sundays previous in an exhibition game and my son really enjoyed the experience. On looking into the matter further, it was suggested that the first place club had very weak skaters and the coach didn't want to take his players out of their "all year" environment.

The third place coach thought it a good idea to pose the question to the boys themselves. However, the first place coach wouldn't even agree to that. So the game went ahead on half the ice.

It was an exciting contest. With only three minutes to go, the 3rd place team was ahead 4-3. It was then noticed that the first place coach was keeping his two best players (the ones responsible for all their goals) on the ice for more than their regular shift. It's a thing called "double shifting" and in Novice House League competition is frowned upon, because it means some little guy is missing his turn while the "star" goes out to score.

What happened, a goal was scored by one of these two better players, tying the game at 4-4. This made overtime necessary.

with the club scoring first, taking the Title. Again, the same two players were kept out on the ice — three shifts or a total of six minutes and were ready to start a fourth.

The matter was brought to the attention of the referee and the timekeeper and several times, the first place coach was asked to have them removed. But somehow, they stayed.

Naturally, it didn't take the team long to score; game over; the championship to the 1st place team.

It was not the loss that the parents were upset about, but the way we lost. Putting up with such antics and disrespect of the rules is not acceptable.

Is this the kind of thing we should be teaching six to eight year olds? This is not professional hockey; all-star hockey or even competitive hockey. It's house league hockey where every boy should have equal time on the ice. It's not a game to inflate the ego of the parents or coaches; it's for the kids.

On this occasion, I felt proud that my son was a member of the losing team. They were the real champs. They learned from their coach the importance of winning and losing as a team. They shared their losses and their victories together.

When we, as parents, going to put a stop to such unfair action and exploitation of our children? If there are rules, stick by them.

I personally wish to congratulate the losing coach. He taught my son a valuable lesson. The winning coach got exactly what he was after — a title with a two-player team; a bitter victory in my opinion; a thing called character vs. championship.

Signed,
A proud parent,
(Name withheld upon request.)

Conflict of Interest Nonsense!

Dear Jim:
We hear so much talk about "conflict of interest" these days that it is possible to fit anyone into the category if one loses sight of integrity in mousing the statement. Members of municipal councils could approve a works project on their streets, set tax levies, etc. which would also apply to themselves. We perhaps would not consider this to be a "conflict of interest" at this time unless some unscrupulous character wished to make an issue of it. We expect our elected municipal people to represent us and carry on the duties expected of them!!! We trust their integrity! to do all in their power to do the task fairly and without thought of personal gain or prestige. Personal gain would be the experience gained through sincere participation in the democratic process — nothing more!!!

In recent weeks and indeed in the March 29th issue of the Tribune, I recall reading certain "bravings" of our trustee concerning conflict of interest being "bad" for the Board of Education" suggesting that teachers and educators in general should be banned from being members but no thought was given to integrity of purpose!! Personally I would feel more at ease if perhaps it was acknowledged that a teacher on the Board you can see and evaluate but what of the trustee who is not a teacher but who is in effect representing the teachers? Is there a conflict of interest albeit hidden although the trustee is not a teacher? Is it fair that the one should be punished and the other not? A teacher on the Board does not enjoy that immunity! Do citizens and taxpayers feel that this is fair? Should it not be up to the individual citizens to make their own decisions as to who will represent them based upon ability, credibility, and integrity rather than who are the individuals friends and how much influence they can exert? As long as citizens are willing to follow like sheep without thinking things through for themselves, they cannot hope to get the best quality of material to work for them!!! As long as all opposition is removed, any mediocre representation is condoned.

Teachers "have leanings" he suggested, so perhaps the public should be aware of my "leanings" since the trustee and the teachers already have known for several years now. I believe that the welfare and education of each individual student comes first with the means of carrying it out, next!! Strikes are not necessary, in fact, if any disagreeing parties really wanted to negotiate, it could be achieved! The teacher's job is to leave no stone unturned in an effort to help the pupils to acquire knowledge, self-confidence, and a desire to succeed in their respective endeavours.

Let us now go back to the "strike" in York County in 1974. I was the trustee at a closed session of the Board who told Board members to "get their heads out of the sand and face reality". I also told them that if the Salary Committee came in the next time to tell us that negotiations had returned back to "square one" again that I intended to move that the Board accept the teachers' resignations... give them three days to get back to work... then go out and look for more. Thus the Committee knew this when they returned at the next Board meeting so, they, themselves, made the necessary motion that led to Government action to send the teachers back to their jobs. (Bill 100).

For this action the Secondary Teachers' Federation dispatches referred to me as a "hard line trustee" along with others who had supported the action. At least I was not afraid to "stand up and be counted". My only regret is that I did not act sooner and faster if the best interests of the students who I felt deserved better treatment. In your opinion could this be construed as a "conflict of interest" or an "objective decision"? (I believe that our trustee suggests that this is not possible for a teacher.)

It is indeed common knowledge that the familiar yellow campaign signs "Barrett for Board" were stored in the Staff Room at the Stouffville High School for all to see on Commencement Night 1974. It would also be interesting to speculate on the yellow "Bowers for Board" signs that appeared later when it became necessary to fill the vacancy left by the transfer of Mr. Barrett. It would appear that the "pot is calling the kettle black" in this conflict of interest issue. I think that it is obvious that the teacher candidate (the one who is alleged to have a conflict of interest) most certainly was not in any way supported by the teacher group.

One significant point does appear however that perhaps could be noted. There were on the Board simultaneously teachers and others who were certainly sympathetic to the striking teachers and teachers and others who were more sympathetic to the effect upon the students and the education they were entitled to receive who, after all were the top priority of the system.

Thus it is difficult to lay the term "conflict of interest" upon any one group of individuals to prevent them from serving in public office although it is an excellent "out" to get rid of opposition and muzzle the democratic process.

Sincerely,
J.C. McMURRAY,
Elm Road,
Stouffville.

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CAPRI Luncheon Meat	12-OZ. TIN	89¢	
KRAFT, SMOOTH Peanut Butter	375-g JAR	89¢	
IGA Ketchup	32-FL. OZ. BTL.	99¢	
CLOVERLEAF Sockeye Salmon	7 1/4-OZ. TIN	\$1.49	

MFG. 74 OFF LABEL TOASTMASTER Bambi Bread	10-OZ. LOAF	58¢
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Court case report said irresponsible

Dear Sirs:
We acted for William Kenny in Ajax Provincial Court on March 26th, 1979 when charges of assault against him were dismissed.
Our client is most distressed by the irresponsibility of your account of the trial.
He is a livestock dealer and has been in the area for a number of years. He considers himself a part of this community and that he has excellent credit with his suppliers, customers and merchants.

The whole affair with Daniel Barkey was an embarrassment, but the manner of your reporting makes it even more so. The irresponsibility to which we refer is one of the omission of salient facts. It was reported correctly that his "cheque bounced" but not reported that the matter of the cheque was not a matter of dispute between the parties. It was not reported that the cheque had merely been written on a wrong account by Mr. Kenny's wife, nor that the cheque was paid within an hour after the incident leading to the charge against him.
Your source of information could have clarified this matter completely, unfortunately the account as printed led to almost immediate inquiries, not at all about the charge itself, or its dismissal, but predictably about the cheque bouncing.
If this irresponsible report should affect him or his credit adversely, is the Tribune prepared to make amends?
Yours very truly,
BUTTON,
ARMSTRONG & NESS
Per: G.C. Ness

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Highway 48, just north of Bloomington side road	23 Main St. West (opposite I.G.A.)

Support planners
Dear Jim:
As a property owner on Main Street at the westerly approach to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, I was encouraged by the unanimous decision of the Planning Committee for insisting on quality industrial development for this most important entrance to our community.
I would be the last one to keep out such a business as a Ford dealer who wants to come to town but I agree with the Planning Committee that there are more suitable locations than in the middle of a future industrial area.
I hope that the Town will work with this potential business to help the dealer find a suitable location.

RONALD FEMSON
Thorahill, Ont.