

The Tribune

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Editorials

Do-gooders---at what cost?

The great protectors of public morality are at it again; spending your money and mine on the preparation of a licensing bylaw that will, they hope, rid this Town (the hamlet of Ballantrae), of what some councillors consider to be lewd and indecent shows.

How any member can comment intelligently on something he or she hasn't seen, goes beyond our understanding. Whitchurch-Stouffville's political do-gooders undoubtedly consider it an immortal sin to frequent the place in question although the mayor, to his credit, did check out the premises one evening last week.

So have we and so, we understand, have the police.

Knowing Chief Crawford as we do, the axe would have fallen long ago if anything offensive had been discovered. Obviously, he didn't and neither did we.

Admittedly, there's a thin line between what's acceptable in public performances and what is not. In our opinion, a partially clothed woman is much more sensuous than one with no clothes on at all. Yet no one seems particularly shocked at what he or she might see at Musselman's Lake, Island Lake, Lazy Lake or even Bruce's Mill Conservation Area any warm Sunday during the summer.

Isn't it strange how we tend to 'use' the law or the law-enforcers, to protect people against themselves?

Council, it seems, already has its hands full combatting a pin-ball operation here. If that's not enough, they're embarking on prohibition of another enterprise after-the-fact. And using taxpayers' money to finance their self-righteous causes. It's time to call a halt.

A nudi show at Ballantrae? Who cares? We say and the people must be saying there are other more important issues to occupy Council's time.

Move pedestrian cross-over

It is the intent of Council to limit parking at the approaches to several intersections along Stouffville's Main Street. This is a good move, one that's been advocated here before.

However, in doing so, members must keep in mind the problems that can result. There are those who complain that parking's at a premium now without making it worse.

While planning this move, members would be wise to re-locate the present downtown traffic lights. They should be moved to the intersection of Mill, Market and Main.

The signalized cross-over was never correctly located in the first place. It should have been established at a corner to convenience motorists as well as pedestrians.

Now, when a study of the parking situation is underway, the two problems should be considered as one. Moving the lights a short distance west would provide for an improved traffic flow and free up parking spaces where they're needed most.

Police Chief aids-

United Way campaign

York Regional Police Chief Bruce Crawford has joined the United Way volunteer team as Chairman of "Say Yes for York Days" it was announced this week by Barney Danson, General Chairman of the United Way of York Region campaign for funds.

"SAY YES FOR YORK DAYS" is the three day blitz in which the public can make donations to the United Way campaign at any bank branch or trust company office throughout York Region on November 1, 2 and 3.

"I have volunteered to help because I believe the residents of York Region should have every opportunity to benefit from and to support the United Way and it's 18 member agencies", said Chief Crawford.

"As a resident of the Region and as Chief of Police I know the value and importance of the services provided by United Way agencies like the CNIB, the Associations for the Mentally Retarded, the Red Cross and the Family Y. I also appreciate the importance of building Regional spirit and identity. That's why I am helping to organize the hundreds of volunteers who will be manning desks in every bank branch and trust company office throughout the Region on November 1, 2 and 3 to receive public contributions."

Chief Crawford noted that contributors during "Say Yes Days" will receive a receipt for their donations and a United Way lapel tag. "It's the kind of tag I really enjoy handing out. I hope every resident will be wearing one" added the Chief.



York Regional Police Chief Bruce Crawford (left), is welcomed aboard the United Way of York Region volunteer team by campaign chairman Barney Danson. A

three-day blitz is planned for Nov. 1, 2 and 3 with donations being accepted by all banks and trust companies across the region.



Sugar and Spice

"Catchy" companion appeals

By Bill Smiley



Some people, much too refined to indulge in pornographic books or blue movies, get their voyeuristic kicks from reading the "Personal" columns of the newspapers.

Not me. I ain't refined. By the time I've skimmed the front page, been bored by the pompous editorials, I'm through with the paper. It is strictly for wrapping garbage in. Never do I read the classified ads, selling everything from houses and cars to bodies. I haven't time. And besides, they're all the same. Whether it's a car, a house, or a body, it's the greatest buy of the century. Many of them carry the same message: "Must be seen."

Well, I strayed. Yes, I wandered. The other day, looking through the ads for teachers in the hope that I could find my daughter's address in Moosonee (she hasn't written us in over three weeks and I have a piercing picture of her and the grandboys stumbling around the tundra looking for the place), I staggered, by some mischance, onto the "Personal" column.

No wonder those warpies read it, the people who leave the room, nose in air, when someone mentions sex, or tells a funny, slightly off-color joke. It's a kaleidoscope of sex, sin, silliness and sickness to warm the heart of any pecker through others' windows.

I read with at first amusement, then amazement, and then a bit of shock, though I am fairly unshockable.

This appeared in "Canada's National Newspaper", which maintains a lofty moral tone on most of its other pages.

It was like looking under the rug in a highly moral dowager's house, while she is out getting tea, and finding a lot of dirt under it.

First under suspicion are the items under "Massage". Some of them are innocuous enough, but what about this one: "No appointment needed. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 7 days a week." With a woman's name and phone number.

Maybe she's just a hard worker, who doesn't get up too early, and doesn't like days off, but I doubt it.

Then you come to the section headed: "Readers, Palmistry, Horoscopes." Again, some of them are legit, as legit as a fortuneteller can be. But there are some intriguing ones: "Mrs. Selma will help you in all problems of life. No problem so small that she cannot solve. (How about big ones?) One visit will convince you." Hanky-panky? Sure sounds like it.

But that is kid stuff, only mildly titillating, compared with the sick, arrogant, lonely, blunt, no-holds barred medicine that comes under the heading: Companions Wanted. This is where the real meat of the "Personal Column" is, and I imagine an inveterate reader skips the masseuses and the fortune tellers quickly, and gets down to peering into private lives.

When I was in the weekly newspaper business, there was the occasional pathetic guy who would come in to the office and place an ad: "Successful young farmer, good farm, stock, house, seeks partner interested in matrimony. Write Box 220B."

It was pathetic because we knew him. He was 63, and ugly. His farm was sixty acres, mostly second-second-growth bush and pasture. His "stock" consisted of two pigs, four chickens, and three mangy cows. His "house" was a shack without plumbing, heated by a pot-bellied stove. He never received an answer, but would come in once a week for two months, asking for the mail from Box 220B.

But these city slickers are a lot more subtle and tough. I'll give you a few examples that curdled me a bit. The egos are fantastic.

"Professional man, married, mid-thirties, seeks married woman for afternoon or evening meetings." How would you like to be his wife?

"Gentleman, 48, business owner, lives in new apt. seeks charming, attractive lady to share his life with." No mention of marriage.

"Middle-aged business man seeks younger male companion." Well.

"Sophisticated gentleman, creative type, seeks the pleasure of sensuous woman 30-45. If an exciting affair with an appreciative male is your style, send snapshot and phone no. to ... He could be 80.

But it's not all men. "Lady, 55, R.C., wishes to meet gent up to 60." If you're sixty-one you're out, but you could be twenty-one.

"One wild and crazy guy wishes to meet one wild and crazy gal who loves dancing and camping and would like to share a serious relationship." On a dance floor? In a tent?

"I am a lovely, loving female, 33, divorced and a writer, who is also tolerant, perceptive, idealistic, off-beat, romantic, cerebral and a Cancer, looking for an honest, stable relationship. I am looking for a man ... (and a list of adjectives like hers) Someone with a calm exterior, but brimming with hidden fires and worlds to explore. Under 50 and over five feet seven inches." That's what gets me. After the great build-up, the blunt facts. If you were fifty-one and five-six, you'd miss out on this fantastic woman.

"Intriguing. Blonde young lady seeks wealthy man for daytime affair." That's the shortest and most honest of the bunch. She probably works nights.

I'm afraid the only one that tempted me was: "Russian lady Beautiful. (That's nice, nothing against beautiful Russian ladies.) Seeks gentleman over 40. (O.K. I qualify.) Lives in Sao Paulo, Brazil. (Great climate there.) For marriage purposes." Always the stonedead clincher at the end. I'd have to ask my wife.

Editor's Mail

Guardians of our morals

Dear Sir:

Town Council is busying itself these days, worrying about the floor shows at The King's Inn, Ballantrae.

They obviously want to stop a harmless form of entertainment that's bothering no one.

If guys get their kicks out of watching a girl perform in the nude, that's okay by me. If Whitchurch-Stouffville's do-gooders are offended by it, let them stay away.

The complaint that women and children might be caught unawares by these performances, is a lot of bunk. If they sit at tables near the rear of the room, they can see little of what's going on anyway. And even if they do, there's nothing suggestive about it that's going to corrupt their characters.

Excluding the money it's costing the Town (me and you) to draw up this bylaw, I strongly resent the municipality's attempt to 'guard' my morals. I'll see what I want to see, if not in my own community, then somewhere else.

Take the blinders off councillors. This is 1979 not 1799.

PAUL THOMSON,
Stouffville, RR 3.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I want to thank you for bringing a

ridiculous situation to the attention of the public, that is the policy of erecting traffic lights at busy intersections long after the improvement has been completed.

Any sensible thinking person knows (or should know) that eventually signals will have to be installed. So why wait till someone is killed?

I agree with your editorial — do the two jobs at one time and save a lot of suffering.

SHIRLEY JENKINS
Stouffville, RR 4.

P.S. - Whoever designed the east-west approach to the 7th Concession on the Stouffville-Gormley Road, must have acquired his engineer's papers from a popcorn box.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Your Page 1 story (Oct. 18) re the actions of a father and son in the apprehension of a purse-snatcher in Stouffville was the best "good news" item I've read in The Tribune in weeks.

I wonder how many of us would have reacted as Mr. Rehill and his boy did? If I know human nature, most of us would have turned our backs on the incident "so as not to become involved".

Mr. Rehill and son are deserving of the

citation. Their response may stir others to act in a similar manner.

I commend them both and I also commend your newspaper for giving the matter the publicity it deserved.

PETER GILHAM,
Stouffville, RR 3.

Less force

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Hallowe'en is only a few days ahead. For some unknown reason, Stouffville seems to be one of York Region's troublespots on this occasion each year. Why is this?

The police, it seems, move in here in force, attempting to stop rowdiness before it starts. However, in my opinion, the tactic has an opposite effect. It spurs the kids to more rowdiness.

I feel the law-enforcers should maintain a low profile so young people wouldn't be intimidated. Just a thought.

RICK FIELDHOUSE,
Main Street
Stouffville