

**Editor's Mail**

**Merit pay**

Dear Editor:

The mayor's approval of merit pay for staff employees with exceptional responsibilities, brings to light an interesting issue related to the modern-day work force.

Mayor King, (according to The Tribune), didn't stop with the words "exceptional responsibilities" but also included the words "exceptional job". The latter is more important than the former.

Perhaps it's on the basis of "exceptional job" that all pay increases should hinge. It might tend to upgrade the level of efficiency among Canadians.

I have long felt that a "plus effort" is not a common practice with we "natives". Most do only what they have to do and some a lot less than is required. If each was paid according to what he (she) produces, the true worth of an employee would be maintained.

Sincerely,  
Paul Cormier,  
R.R. 4, Stouffville.

**Thank you**

Dear Mr Thomas:

I wish to express my appreciation for the complimentary human interest story published in The Tribune issue of March 16.

Your column has publicized our local M. S. Chapter and has prompted enquiries from readers.

Thank you on behalf of myself and others with Multiple Sclerosis in this area.

Sincerely,  
Helen Leach,  
Booth Drive,  
Stouffville.



**The Tribune**  
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Window on Wildlife  
**Blame it on the weather**  
By Art Briggs-Jude

Nature sure is full of surprises. Why just about the time you think you've got all the makings of a real early spring, along comes old man winter with one of his famous last minute, three point kicks. Gee, we soon forgot all those balmy breezes of early March, in our headlong dash to dig out the mitts and galoshes again. And I'll bet there were more people than just my neighbor who took off their snow tires, thinking the old cold fella with the big white blanket, had gone away and left us until sometime next December.

Of course, all the surprises weren't confined to us and the weather. Unfortunately, some of the songbirds that headed our way on the crest of that prolonged warm front, must have been shocked right up to their feathered knees. Our resident red-winged blackbirds were a good example. Since their arrival on March 6, they have been "oke-er-la"ing all up and down the valley, swinging and swaying on the old cattails over the water. Then the weather did an about-face. The temperature dipped, the pond froze over again, and the snow piled up. A day or so later, I looked out and the redwings were up in the lane, feeding in the bare patch with the tree sparrows and bluejays. Then later that same morning, I went down for the mail and passed a small flock sitting in the big oak. They were there, all turned facing into that biting wind, uttering only an occasional "oke" sound. It seemed the sudden cold spell had taken the "er-la" right out of them.

Yet while we felt some sympathy for these shoulder-patched swamp singers, again it was the early arriving bluebirds that caused our greatest concern. Unlike the hardy blackbirds that can subsist on weed seeds and grain, and will visit feed-

ing stations in time of need, the bluebird is a wild fruit and bug eater. In emergencies such as these frigid temperatures, they must rely on old rose hips, haw apples, highbush cranberry, and other winter persistent fruit, to tide them over. And unfortunately they will not visit man-made feeders with any degree of consistency.

From the almost weekly inventory of the various natural foods that grow in our immediate area, we knew there were scattered patches of sumac that the browsing deer had missed. And luckily the rocky slopes have a good incidence of ground juniper or squat red cedar as it is sometimes called.

These low brushy clumps provide the bluebirds and other songsters like the cedar waxwings, with an ample source of small blue fruit. Then too, a few of the

beaver ponds and boggy places still had sprinkling growths of red winterberry, a distant relative to the holly plant. And when the sun was out around mid-day, there were even a few flies and wood moths climbing about on the rocks and sheltered stumps.

It appeared then, from our observations, that there would indeed be ample food for these traditional harbingers of spring. But what was the penetrating cold of those long windy nights doing to the bluebirds? We didn't know, and for the present could just hope and keep our fingers crossed for their well-being. Only later in the spring when they usually take up their various territories around the farm, will we know whether our dozen bluebird pairs used the boxes we provided for shelter, earlier in the season.

**Editorials**  
**Anti-missile meeting a pro-Russian rally**

Communist rallies are uncommon in the boondocks. Meeting organizers lean more towards the cities with their higher concentration of people. Out of close to two million, they're at least assured a corporal's guard with a percentage of weirdos and misfits thrown in to help swell the turnout. But a Communist rally in Uxbridge? No, never!

That's what we would have replied also prior to attending a Cruise Missile meeting in the High School, Thursday night.

While the Durham York N.D.P. Riding Association undoubtedly had the best interests of the public in mind when they agreed to sponsor the discussion, not one person in the audience even mildly challenged the speaker's praise of the Soviet Union and condemnation of the United States. Even worse, most appeared to agree with his statements. We couldn't believe our ears.

Just who is the enemy anyway? Certainly not the U.S.A. The United States is the best friend Canada will ever have, and we'd better believe it.

Co-operation with our southern neighbors is vital; for many reasons. Defense is one. So when the Pentagon requested use of Canadian air-space for testing of the Cruise, Ottawa (more or less) agreed. The Government really had no alternative.

This doesn't make the testing program right, but it's necessary.

We don't believe the Soviets want war. We don't believe the Americans do either. However, until there's mutual trust, one with the other, the U.S.A. must keep the Kremlin honest. And they do this by "being prepared".

What irritated us most at the Uxbridge meeting was the blatant way in which the speaker kept insisting that the United States are indeed "the bad guys" in this arms-race affair. He used words like "strong arm tactics" to describe the

Reagan Administration and "protection of its own borders" to portray Soviet policy. Each anti-American comment produced a host of nodding heads. Then, he concluded: "There isn't really a big fear from the Russian bear".

The entire address, so prejudiced in its statements and so successful in its response, made us sick. And adding further insult to the mission's campaign was the recommendation that anti-Cruise demonstrators concentrate their efforts in such areas as--our high schools.

May our principals have the intestinal fortitude to lock them out.

**Editor's Mail**  
**Some news tragic**

Dear Editor:

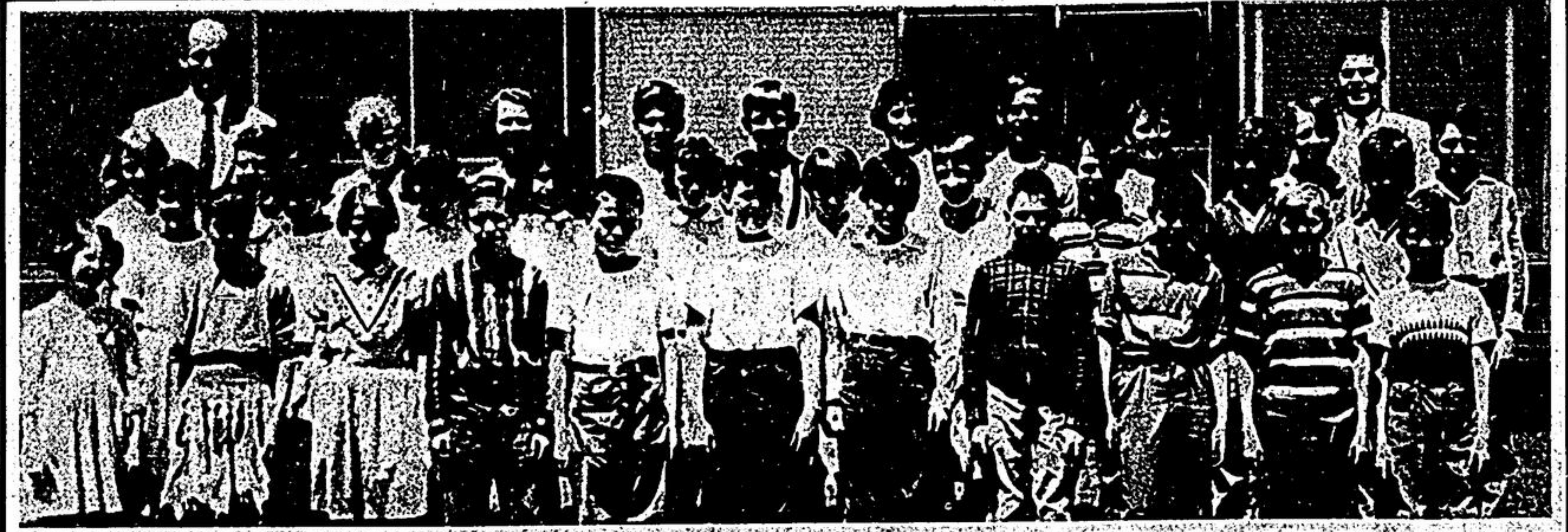
I read with interest the letter in The Tribune's April 6 edition above the signature of one Sue Wilson, Lloyd Avenue, Stouffville, in which she criticized the fact you used a fatal accident (plus four people being injured) as a Front Page lead story.

Personally, as a Tribune subscriber, I would have been more surprised if the news item had NOT been published--not disappointed, but certainly surprised. While no one enjoys hearing of such

things, I feel you as an editor would be negligent if you refused to recognize these kinds of occurrences in the community. You don't create the news but merely print the news that's created. That's what journalism's all about.

Admittedly, some newspapers dwell almost entirely on the misfortunes of others. I don't place The Tribune in this category.

Sincerely,  
Rodger Colman,  
R.R. 3, Stouffville.



**First graduating class at Orchard Park Public School—1958-59**

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the opening of Stouffville's Orchard Park Public School. To mark the occasion, a reunion of former staff teachers and students is planned. Pictured here are students in the graduating class of 1958-59. They are: Front Row (left to right)—Winnie Skinner, Linda Smith, Betty Brown, Paul Middleton, Raymond Rioux, Donald Smith, Clare Byer, Kevin McWhinnie, Bruce Stride, Keith Betz, Eldon Smith. Middle Row (left to right)—Ruby Mallett, Darlene Watson, Gail Hallman, Jane Rioux, Donna Knox, Linda Plaskitt, Virginia Foord, Paul Stover, Rick Spang, Paul Lomas. Rear Row (left to right)—Gary S. Grundy, Karen Hamilton, Nancy Stover, Astred Osterdahl, Marilyn Corrigan, Roddy McInnes, Paul Otter, Carol Hoover, Ronald Lomas, Jim Daniels, Erle Grove, Jim Ferguson and W.K. Sutherland, Principal.