

## Editor's Mail Classic?

Dear Editor:  
Does the editor of The Tribune really consider a nude ice sculpture as "classic"?

I see nothing "classic" about it, any more than if the model was for real.

Why is a woman, (snow, ice or in the flesh) so intriguing minus her clothes? Would your paper have published a similar photo if the sculpture had been a man? I doubt it.

Women are no longer considered the sex objects they once were. This change in attitude has been long overdue.

Sincerely,  
Helen Palmer,  
R.R. 3, Stouffville.

## Personal

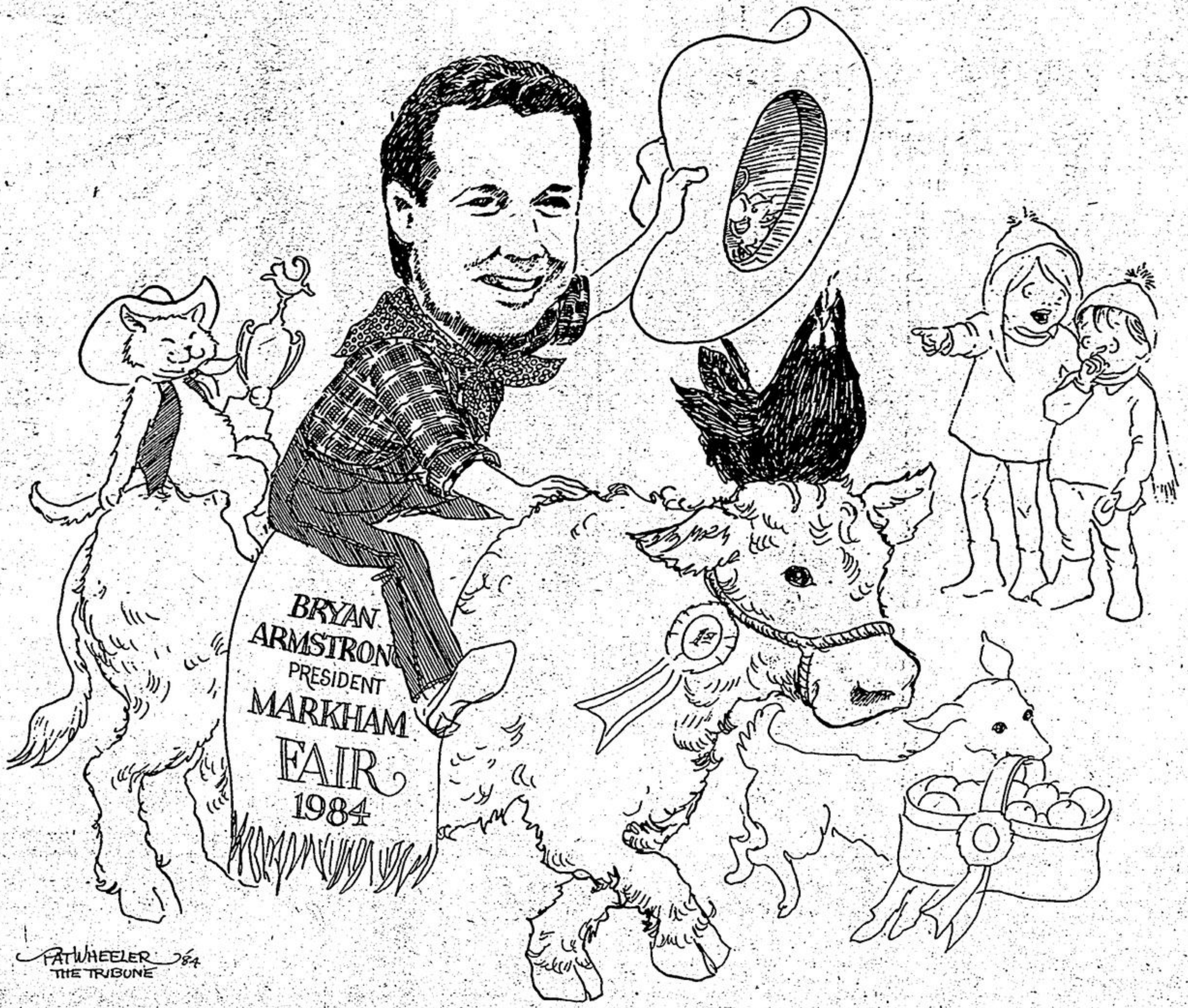
Dear Mr Thomas:  
Please allow me to make a personal observation with regard to a subject I see often in The Tribune—obituaries.

I've often wondered how many 'unrelated' readers take the time to check through such stories.

I personally find them very interesting because most of the deceased or members of their families are known to me. However, it's the personal approach adopted by your paper that interests me most. Even the persons I don't know are 'brought to life' through your write-ups. I'm sure this means a great deal to the next-of-kin.

Some newspapers I know, (including weeklies), shun obituaries as "dead" news. I'm glad this policy hasn't been adopted by The Tribune. Each one, in a lifetime, contributes something to his or her community that's worthy of editorial comment.

Sincerely,  
Isobelle Carter,  
Albert Street,  
Stouffville.



## The Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1888

JAMES THOMAS  
Editor

BRUCE ANNAN  
Publisher

JOE ANDERSON  
Advertising Manager

EDITORIAL DEPT: Jim Holt, Audrey Green  
DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEPT: Bryan Armstrong, Terri Bernhardt  
REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Joan Marshman  
CIRCULATION MANAGER: Doreen Deacon  
NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Metroland Corporate Sales 493-1300

Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing at 54 Main St. Stouffville, Ont. tel. 640-2100. Single copies 40¢, subscriptions \$16.50 per year in Canada, \$45.00 elsewhere. Member of Canadian Community Newspapers Association, Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association, Ontario Press Council and Suburban Newspaper of America, Second class mail registration number 0896.

The Stouffville Tribune is one of the Metroland group of Suburban newspapers which includes: The Action Free Press, The Aurora Banner, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, The Bolton Enterprise, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Burlington Weekend Post, The Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, The Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, The North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Friday Beaver, Oshawa This Week, Oshawa This Weekend, Richmond Hill Liberal, Thornhill Liberal, The Scarborough Mirror, The Stouffville Tribune, and Woodbridge Liberal. Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Limited.

640-2100



640-2101

## ROAMING AROUND



### A film meant to shock

BY JIM THOMAS

Everyone, even weekly newspaper editors, deserve a night-off—one night out of seven.

Friday evening's my choice, Saturday too, if I can work it. However, with Sports Editor Jim Holt absent on an seven-day vacation, (he's back now), it's been necessary to perform a few additional duties down at the Arena, and elsewhere, so the Town's kept informed on our athletic endeavors.

Last Friday, I had to do double duty. First, the Stouffville-Markham Chapter of Christian Action Council had scheduled a meeting at Emmanuel International for 7:30 p.m. And at nine, our Midget All-Stars were taking on the 'Classic' Oldtimers of the Amateur Hockey League. If the first didn't run too late and the second didn't start too early, I felt I could put in an appearance at both.

One of the subjects up for discussion at the Christian Action Council meeting was the setting up of a Crisis Pregnancy Centre somewhere in the Stouffville-Markham area. While the need for such a facility is far from humorous, the question of "Don't tell me!" or "You're Not!" undoubtedly flashed through my wife's mind when I announced my reason for attending. For I noticed a

strange smile on her face, as I headed down the hall and out the door.

Yes, to establish a Crisis Pregnancy Centre was high on the evening's agenda, but it was only part of, or a hoped-for solution to, a much more important issue, that of "Abortion".

I honestly admit that, as a layman, I would never sit in on such of discussion. In my opinion, men have had far too much to say on the topic already. What do they know? However, as an editor, I felt it my duty to attend and to inform. That was my only reason for being there.

Two things struck me as I entered the hall: First, the size of the crowd. Most seats were filled. And second, the age of the crowd: Many in their teens and twenties.

Each of us has, or should have, a personal opinion on this highly controversial issue. I favor "freedom of choice", not that my opinion should count. For I'll never face the trauma of having to make that decision. However, thousands of North Americans do—every day. The seriousness of the situation cannot be ignored.

Where do you stand?  
No one, man or woman, can honestly answer this question until after they see the film that was shown at Emmanuel.

Friday night. It's entitled "Assignment Life" and, putting it mildly, it's a shocker.

Sure, it was produced in the United States and certainly the purpose was meant "to shock", but for first-time viewers, (myself included), it was a shock beyond belief.

No, I'm not doubting the film's authenticity. It's just that, when it involves lives of other people, particularly the unborn, we can become very blasé about it all. We have a way of turning our minds off those things that seemingly don't concern us. This film doesn't permit this, even though, with respect to certain scenes, some in the audience, (myself included), preferred not to look.

What stand has the church community taken on this matter? Mine, Presbyterian, (and I'll be sternly corrected if I'm wrong), says abortions are permissible when the life of the mother is in jeopardy or the baby is known to be malformed. Some will say this is too liberal? Some will say it's not liberal enough.

Certainly, "freedom of choice" violates the thinking of many, many of the same who will never have to make that choice.

Those who must, should first see the film I saw, Friday. It's guaranteed to make you think—twice.

## Editorials

### Uxbridge Twp. plant was public knowledge

Bill Ballinger, Mayor of Uxbridge, vented his wrath on the editorial department of this newspaper, last week, concerning what he described as the "premature release" of a news story related to a Japanese firm establishing a plant in the Lazy Lake area of Uxbridge Township.

Mayor Ballinger said he informed The Tribune's Audrey Green that something big was in the wind but asked her to keep it quiet until the transaction was signed and sealed. By publishing the story, under the heading "Japanese firm coming", he claims she betrayed his confidence.

This newspaper, however, claims Mayor Ballinger's confidential "tip", (that we respected at the time), lost its confidentiality when the Planning and Development Committee hosted a gathering of 23 residents at an "in camera" discussion on the night of Jan. 9. That same week, an advertisement was published by The Region of Durham, telling of a Public Meeting in the Council Chambers at Whitby on Jan. 18. Purpose of the meeting, the ad read "to permit industrial uses in a recreational environment". A map, clearly indicating the site, was included.

Further, above the names of Regional Chairman Gary Herrema and Regional Clerk C.W. Lundy, the advertisement read: "Information related to this application is available in the office of the

Planning Department". Admittedly, a casual observer might not twig to anything important going on. However, it was certainly the intent of the Region, (and we trust, the Township), for interested residents to find out and indeed, learn more. If not, then why advertise the fact that "more information is available"?

The fact The Tribune's Audrey Green broke the story first, is due not to a betrayal of confidence but to investigative journalism on her part that involved many hours' work and many long-distance phone calls.

The fact Mr Ballinger refused comment after all the spade work had been done, was his decision. He was given the opportunity. Others, contacted by this newspaper, spoke freely, including the Regional Chairman.

How the mayor and council of Uxbridge-Township wish to make information available to the public is their business. How The Tribune wishes to make information available to its readers is our business. This newspaper only published something that was already known to 23 people. This newspaper only published something that had already been made public through a paid advertisement. This newspaper only published the facts, facts the people had a right to know. In plain truth, we were only doing our job. And for that, we offer no apologies.

### Reason camouflaged

Will it never end? Will the landfill blight that has plagued Whitchurch-Stouffville more than fifteen years, never be forgotten? It would seem not.

At the last meeting of Planning Committee, (Jan. 3), this scourge was resurrected once again, this time as a means of blocking, or at least postponing approval of a ten-lot estate subdivision in the area of Kennedy Road, (Conc. 6) and the Aurora Road.

The possibility that effluent from the landfill site, could permeate this property, was given as a reason, even though the location is 1 1/2 miles away.

The speaker, a former councillor, went even further: He suggested residential build-up should be restricted as far north as St. John's Sideroad; as far south as the Bethesda Road and as far east as the Uxbridge Townline.

If the subdivision opponent is serious, then he must also be serious concerning the health and welfare of residents now living in this area. Is he advising they all should move out or that simply no one should move in?

To us; it all smells like another case of "I'm in, you're out, so stay out!"

## WINDOW ON WILDLIFE

### The tip is in the bill

BY ART BRIGGS-JUDE



These blustery days with the winter bird population more or less stabilized in the vicinity of backyard food sources, it gives us a good chance to observe, first hand, the makeup of some of our feathered visitors. The neighborhood leafless trees, coupled with the white background, quickly discloses the various wintering species as they appear. By now too, most feeding shelves are a hive of avian activity that provide many interesting observations.

Though what birds are seen to eat is important, what they eat it with, is even more so. The beaks and bills of birds are really tips to their ways of life. Look carefully at this feature of your feathered guests and you will see what we mean.

The cardinal, for example, like all the other members of the grosbeak family has a stout bill for cracking the larger seeds.

And while the cardinals come singly or in scattered pairs their king-sized cousins, the black and yellow evening grosbeaks, descend by the dozens on sunflower seed hands.

Similarly shaped, but much smaller in comparison, are the beaks of the sparrow family (buntings, finches, and wild canaries). They too are partial to sunflower seeds, but dine a lot on other small weed seeds as well.

Some winters, flocks of crossbills make their appearance, and these parrot-like actors arrive with a pair of built-in pruning shears. Actually, the speed with which they husk the scales off pine cone and other such seeds is fascinating and makes the domestic budgie look like a minor leaguer in this respect.

Occasionally a brown creeper arrives. It's usually seen working upwards on the tree trunks using its sickle-shaped bill to deftly glean dormant insect larvae and eggs from the bark crevices.

The woodpeckers go one step further. Note their pointed beaks. With these sharp chisels they're able to cut through the bark, allowing their flexible tongues to follow the wood borers to the very ends of their tunnels.

Another sharp-billed bird is the nuthatch. It's pick-like beak prys hibernating insects from bark crevices, opens acorns, or separates the seeds from dried fruits. Around feeding stations they apply this instrument to good use on sunflower seeds, peanuts, or chunks of raw suet.

Looking at the boisterous blue jay, we notice a strong bill for opening nuts, or when the opportunity arises, tearing flesh. I once noticed a jay eating dead minnows left on the ice near a fishing hole, and on another occasion was sur-

prised to see one of these big blue rascals fly off my feeder at Gormley, carrying a house sparrow.

Although berry-eaters like the cedar waxwing seem to possess a relatively strong bill, they prefer fruit, which incidentally they seem to rool around in their bills before devouring. In fact, the slight hook in their beak seems particularly suited to this manoeuvre. If you have a tree or shrub nearby with winter persistent fruit such as mountain ash or high-bush cranberry, you will get a good chance to see these handsome crested birds in action.

Of course, the concentration of small birds around a feeding station sometimes attracts less desirable species such as a shrike. Often called the butcher-bird, these small flying predators, really carry the tools of their trade. One only has to get a close look at their heavy notched bill to realize it's a death-dealing weapon to say the least. And it's with this same hooked armament that the shrike carries its victim aloft, often to impale it later on a sharp thorn or strand of barbed wire.

Start this winter then to give your feathered friends a little closer look. For often there's a tip in the bill as to the bird's character, habits, and feeding preferences.