

Weekender

Comment

War game fad must be ended

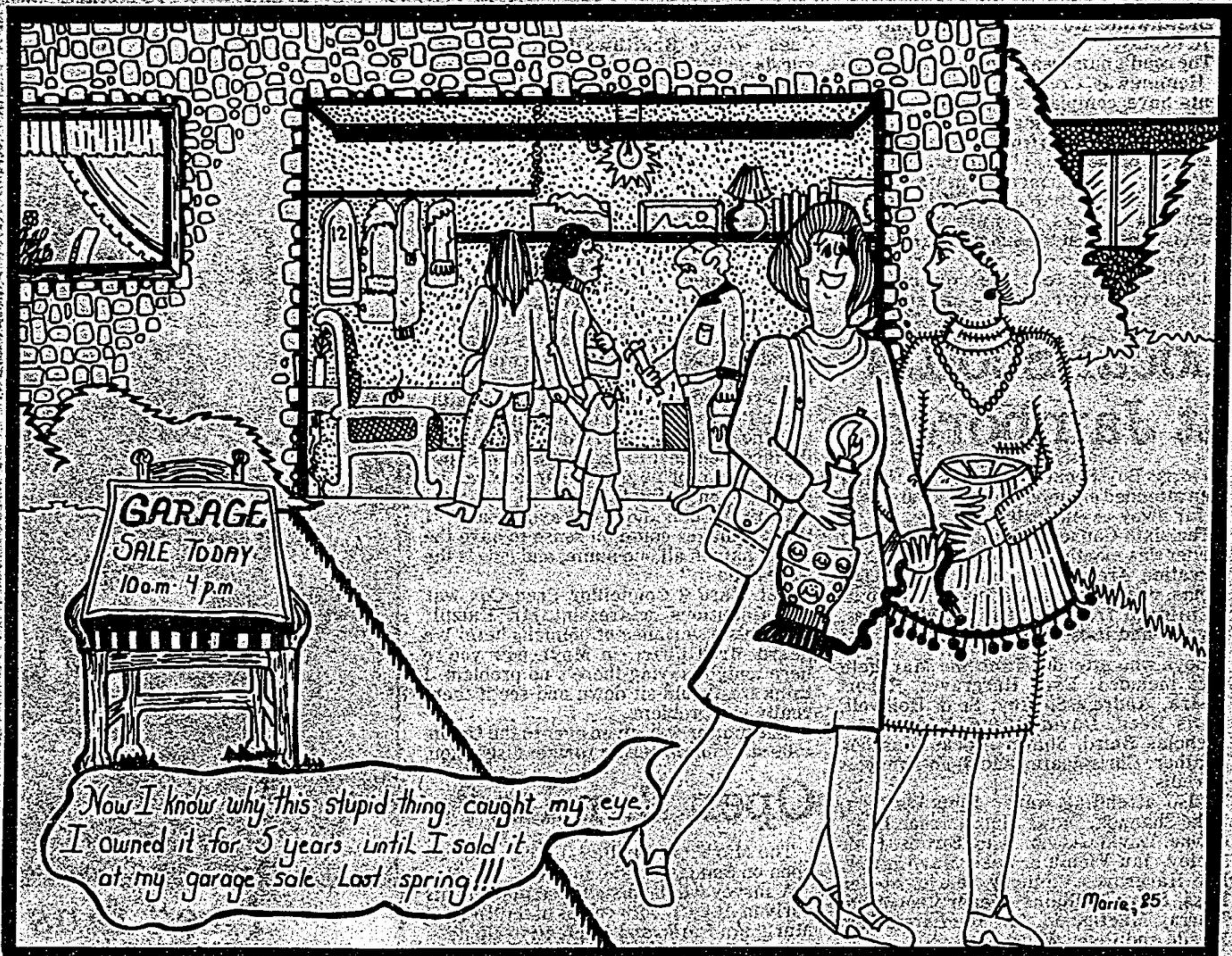
The simulated war game — the current rage that seems to be gaining popularity in Canada — is turning out to be very dangerous game indeed. Ask Peter Rozzini of Markham, who could lose an eye because of a mishap last Sunday.

It seems the plastic pellets that are used can still cause damage — especially if fired at close range. In this case, Peter thought the game was over and had taken off his protective goggles and then was hit accidentally in the eye.

Doctors don't know yet whether he will ever see out of that eye again. Currently, the provincial government is investigating safety at the war games locations that seem to be springing up quickly in rural areas throughout Ontario.

The current fad is disturbing in several respects. Firstly, it condones aggressive, macho behavior — much like the current movie Rambo. And secondly, it appears to be dangerous for the participants — leaving the way open for freak accidents such as the one involving Peter Rozzini.

In our opinion, they should be banned immediately until the current investigation is completed, before more people are badly injured in games that are not the harmless fun their promoters make them out to be.



Speaking Out

Do you think policemen and firemen should have the right to strike? (Asked at Markham Shopping Centre and in front of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library)



Robert Sneek
Markham Student
"I think they have a responsibility to society to protect them. I don't think they should have the right to strike."

Robert Wiebe
Unionville Salesman
"No because they're needed. But they should be able to work with some kind of agreement."

Muriel Mayer
Stouffville Housewife
"It's a matter of personal integrity. They should be content with an average salary. If they aren't getting it, then yes they should be able to strike."

Rosalyn Inley
Stouffville Homemaker
"If the situation is such that they feel they need to, then yes. But I would hope the central services can be maintained."

Weekender Letters

Pro-abortionists not godless, reader says

Dear Sir:
Certain members of this community have concluded that personal and public support of the pro-life movement is a pre-requisite for having faith in God. At least, one of the more vocal leaders of that local movement has made that claim.

The members of the Board of Directors of the Markham-Stouffville Hospital who have no desire to swear allegiance to the tenets of the pro-life movement have been labelled by Father Gignac as being "godless".

Fortunately, other perspectives around the issue of abortion are held within the Church universal. Whether these differences are legitimately recognized depends on one's understanding of authority in the Church.

By plummeting the depths of Scripture, the various traditions of the Church universal and the reflections drawn from human experience, it is possible to find a wide variance in positions taken

by Christians on a number of issues, abortion included.

To specify that a particular stance on an issue is binding under all circumstances and sorts the faithful from the godless is to deny the diversity to be discovered in the unique collection of individuals and peoples drawn together by Almighty God.

To limit who is a member of the family of God by our stances on issues is to arbitrarily limit Almighty God and God's tender love for every member of humankind.

The Church is a family uniquely constituted by God. Like any healthy family, we have different perspectives among ourselves.

Let us recognize that these differences exist as gifts from God. Calling other members of the family "godless" only brings ugliness, pain, and death.

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