

Editor's Mail

Concerned

Dear Editor:
I'm writing to express my disappointment and concern over the item "local machines in spotlight" appearing in the Feb. 18 edition of The Tribune.

That you should feature the Pickering Custom Car and Bike Show is commendable. Your newspaper is known for its comprehensive coverage of a wide variety of local events. However, the vehicles photographed appear to be little more than a pretense for a degrading metaphor evident in both picture and print.

The message that women are ornaments to be crowned and titled for "winning" body parts is not new to the mass media. But that a family publication propagate this harmful myth is inexcusable.

Chris Shanahan's caption, "Frank Gordon boasts a show-stopping hood ORNAMENT in the PERSON of Joanne Della Vella, MISS LEGS of Canada, 1987", is a contradiction of terms that cries out for redress.

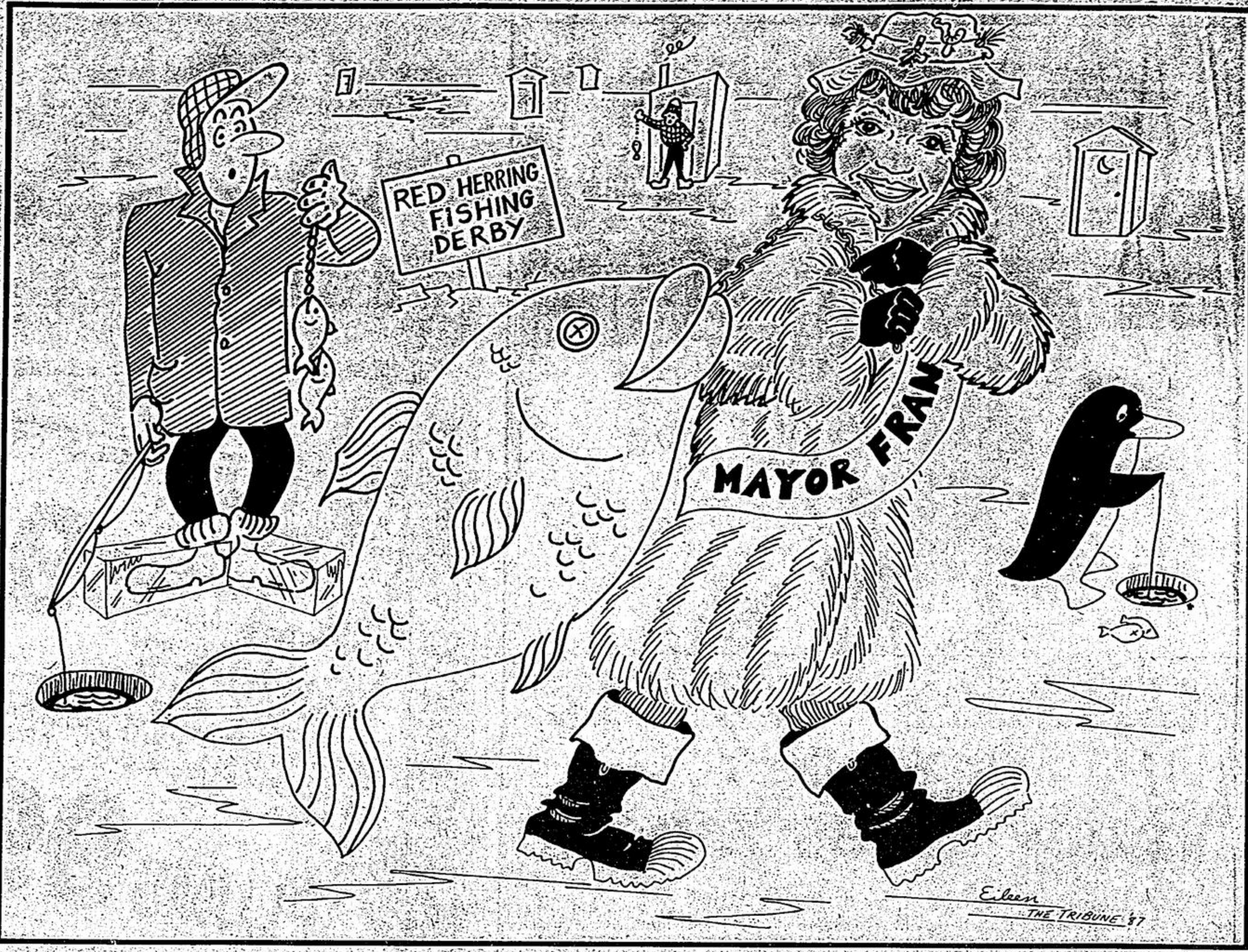
Clearly, an apology to subscribers is in order. This reader knows that DECORATIVE LIMBS HAVE NOTHING AT ALL TO DO WITH THE PERSONHOOD OF WOMEN.

Sincerely,
Dale Grose,
R.R. 3, Mount Albert

Thanks

Dear Editor:
On behalf of The Friends of the Museum I wish to thank The Tribune for coverage of our Victorian Tea Party held back in December. Attendance at this event was almost double that of last year. The music, the crafts, the baked goods and most of all the 'tea' were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Sincerely,
Mary T. Hopkins, Curator,
Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum



The Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1888

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PERSPECTIVES

Elvis' legend never dies



BY CHRIS SHANAHAN

News that The King of Rock and Roll's self-proclaimed illegitimate son is headed this way is probably old hat to anyone familiar with the post-Elvis legend.

Even though the one and only Elvis Presley has been dead and gone for more than a decade, a disturbed element of North American society refuses to let the poor guy rest in peace.

Let's face it, old Elvis was a huge star (literally in his latter days) who obviously had more than his share of personal problems. But does this justify his dirty laundry still being aired in public years after his tragic demise?

The infamous legion of slick Tabloid publications (I won't call them newspapers) continue to have a field day writing about Elvis' ghost doing this and Elvis' clone doing that.

According to a recent exclusive in the Florida-based Sun, a Memphis taxi driver took The King's ghost for an enjoyable motor cruise before dropping the pale-faced performer at his Graceland gates.

Now the Elvis legend is about to touch down locally.

In recent weeks, York Region idea man Gord Hamilton has been flooding the local press with news of the impending arrival of Elvis Aaron Presley Jr.

This latest Elvis saga may or may not be legit, but at least it's being handled with a little more dignity than most other matters pertaining to the late Mr. Presley.

Elvis Jr. will appear at the Markham Theatre for the Performing Arts Saturday, March 7, as part of a concert schedule promoted by Mr. Hamilton.

As the much-told tale goes, Elvis Jr. (he changed his name three years ago) was born in Las Vegas Dec. 24, 1961 — three years before the singer's marriage — after a brief fling between Elvis Sr. and a showgirl named Doty.

His mother gave him up and he was taken in by a Yugoslavian circus family which didn't speak English. The youngster soon became a clown in their act and also developed skills as a magician and animal trainer.

The 25-year-old singer was told at age 21 that this Vegas showgirl had said to his parents, "Take care of this child; he comes from Elvis."

Evidence since gathered to support the story includes hand-writing analysis and a blood test — his type is the same as Elvis' was.

Mr. Hamilton is well known to residents in the Musselman's Lake district as the operator of an alternative energy showplace, and as the proponent of an ill-fated film studio for the same lake property.

He's now producing a TV documentary (The Son, The Story) on young Elvis through his own production company. Sequences for that film will be taped during Elvis Junior's Markham show.

Gord appears to be a natural for his latest posting as Elvis Junior's marketing director. The Richmond Hill-based entrepreneur is a super fan of the original Elvis who even sports a '50ish hairstyle reminiscent of his beloved singing idol.

And if anyone can pull off this new

Elvis promotion, it's Gord Hamilton, a multi-faceted individual who even hosts his own Classicom Cable 10 television program. Elvis Jr. will be featured on his 21st Century Lifestyles show at 10:30 p.m. every day during the first week of March.

A limited number of tickets for the March 7 concert, a cost of \$20 each, are available at the Markham theatre or by calling 731-3305.

Stand up and fight

An asphalt paving plant on the east side of Woodbine Avenue in the hamlet of Gormley?

No way!
After studying the proposal and checking out the site we've concluded this is not the proper location for an industry of this kind. In fact, we feel it's one of the worst sites (from a planning point of view) that could possibly have been selected.

We care not in what grandiose terms the company describes its plans. The fact of the matter is an asphalt paving plant is just that, a potentially ugly scar on the south-westerly entrance to this municipality and visible to several home-owners in the area.

These people are more than upset. They're angry. And for good reason. With a scrapyard located directly across the road, (they've been extremely patient on this score), and now a proposed asphalt plant a stones-throw to the south, we say they've suffered enough.

The Town seems to feel it's landing a plum. And perhaps, in terms of assessment and taxes, it is. But at whose expense? A handful of bylaw-abiding

citizens who claim planners are being brain-washed by big business. And we agree.

If there were no other locations available, we could more readily appreciate the municipality's concern. But there are, industrial sites not too far distant from this property, sites that would create no hardship whatsoever.

That's the place it should be.

In all fairness, to this small group of people, it's high time the Gormley community as a whole, (within the boundaries of Whitchurch-Stouffville), established a ratepayers' association and joined the fight.

There's strength in numbers.

No, we don't ordinarily support pressure groups. In this case, pressure is a last resort; all the residents have left.

So flex your muscles, Gormley. Don't become part of the pavement.

Let's get together

Friday, March 6 is The World's Day of Prayer.

It's the 100th anniversary of an event that has grown to involve millions of people in 170 countries around the world.

We fully support this program. We find it depressing, however, that in a community the size of Stouffville, not one but two prayer services are necessary—at the same time, on the same date, but in two separate churches.

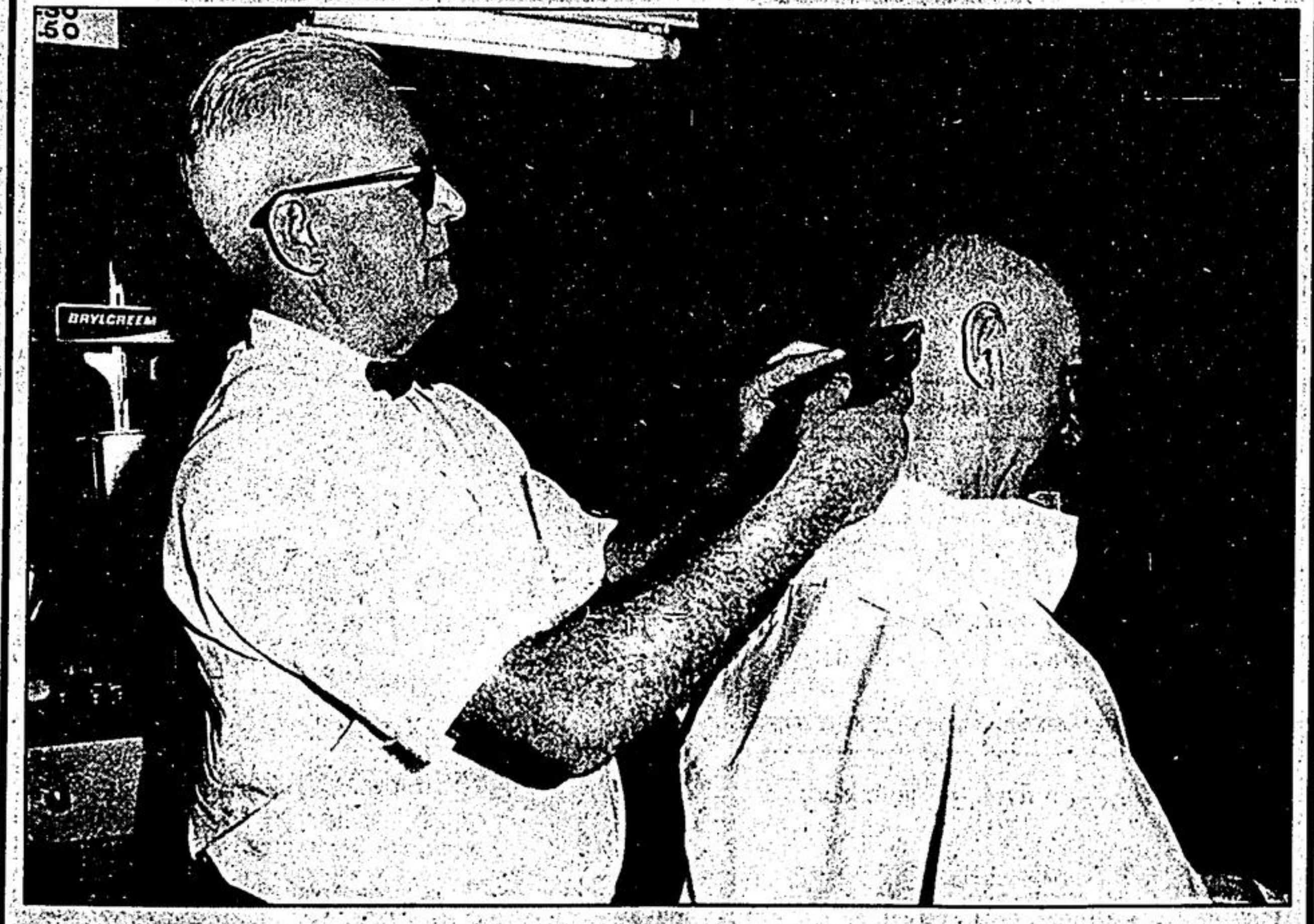
And it's not because one sanctuary isn't adequate to accommodate the crowd. At St. Mark's Catholic Church, for example, there'll be space to spare; possibly at Ringwood Christian Church also.

It seems there's a difference of opinion on what form the service should take.

Surely, if people in 170 nations can unite for a common purpose, we in a community of 7,000 can do the same.

The choice of location doesn't matter, nor does the format of worship. But unity does. For one day out of 365, let us bury our ideological differences and do something together.

The Stouffville church community has been down this road before. And we've taken issue with it before. But nothing's changed. It's still two services, in two churches for (presumably) the same reason. It boggles the mind.



The village barbership, where news and views were exchanged

For many years, Bob Snowball's Barbershop in Stouffville was a village meeting place. News and views were exchanged as urban and rural folks met to talk over events of the day and the week. The location of the shop where this

photo was taken, was near the entrance to the present Public Library across from O'Brien Avenue. Maybe someone can identify his customer.

—Jim Thomas

Editor's Mail

Sympathy

Dear Editor:

I write this letter in support of Brian Tinker and Ann Belanger whose recent letters appeared in The Tribune. I also voice support for Mrs. Gardner and neighboring residents of Gormley.

Let us not confine our concerns solely to 'spot' residential development but also to 'spot' industrial development. I refer specifically to the proposed Miller Paving plant at Gormley and the proposed industrial development at Woodbine Avenue and the Bloomington Road.

I strongly urge and recommend that members of Council and/or Planning Committee drive east on Sheppard Avenue, towards the Town of Pickering, slow down east of Morningside Avenue, in fact, pull off on the shoulder of Sheppard and take a good look at two paving plants on the north side.

After doing so, answer these questions:

(1) Would you want to look out your living room window onto this collection of industrial buildings and black silos?

(2) Can you, in good conscience, wish this upon residents in the quiet hamlet of Gormley?

If Council does indeed listen to the opinions of the public, the Miller Paving proposal would have been rejected.

A half-mile north of Gormley on Woodbine Avenue is an Industrial Park. It has been zoned industrial for close to 15 years. To the north and east of Vandorf, bordering the railroad right-of-way, is land zoned for heavy industry and outside storage. Each area has excellent access to Hwy. 404.

These are the areas where industries wishing to locate in rural Whitchurch-Stouffville should and must be directed.

Why establish Industrial Parks in an Official Plan?

Why have an Official Plan?
I note Mayor Sainsbury's remarks that the Miller Paving site will be fronted by a protective berm and will be treed. So said Jesperson-Kay, the original developers of the property at Bethesda Road and Hwy. 48—fifteen years ago. The artist's conceptual site plan was beautiful, quite different from what appears on this site.

I'm not personally affected by these proposed developments, but I have tremendous sympathy for the residents who will be affected.

Sincerely,
Ruth E. Warden,
R.R. 1, Gormley