

Weekender

# Comment

## Liquor ban should hold in schools

The public school board should remain firm on its position against alcohol at school functions — even if the application is for an adult alumni group to use the facilities.

Making an exception for one group opens the door for others, and it becomes more and more difficult to set an example for students.

How else can we as a society demonstrate that alcohol is not necessary to have a good time?

Surely in the face of increasing carnage on our roads in alcohol-related accidents and with alcohol abuse one of the nation's most pressing problems, the board's current position is a responsible one.

The alcohol ban is consistent with a smoking ban in schools — passed recently after much deliberation. The board felt a strong example would be set for students since smoking is a proven killer.

Alcohol kills too — surely even a small stand is better than none at all.

— Jo Ann Stevenson

**MARKHAM HYDRO OUTSIDE WORKERS STRIKE!**

J.M. BURTH  
WEEKENDER '87

## Marriages in crisis can still work

For those in the prime of life in the late 20's, it was the great depression. In the 40's it was the Second World War, and in the 50's and 60's, the nuclear arms buildup.


Yes, it seems inevitable that each generation has its crisis, its life-threatening circumstances that rattle the every day routine. It is almost as if we are all meant to endure an enormous trauma in our lives as part of the firing process, making us tougher and more resilient.

But the present generation, lacking any concrete tumult, would seem to have created its own substitute for the externally imposed variety of upheaval faced by past generations. And the resulting personal strife and struggle, particularly on the psychological level, would appear to be every bit as devastating as anything endured by our parents.

For the great battle of our time involves the survival of relationships of the most intimate sort, particularly marriage. The

**From Where I Live**

*Bruce Stapley*



casualty list is growing increasingly longer as the generation that coined the term 'peace and love' discover that those two words are not self-perpetuating.

It seems that we were conditioned in the days of flower power to see love as a quality that was either present in abundance or totally lacking. So that even to day, when the romance disappears from a marriage, we have society's full blessing in abandoning the union.

There are, however, still a few 'dinosaurs' among us, old schoolers who cling to the ancient notion that marriages must be made to work, that they won't just happen.

One such type is Tony Campolo, an evangelical proponent of living life to the fullest, while at the same time honoring all your commitments to God and your fellow men and women.

Campolo's filmed presentations are being shown at several area churches on Sunday evenings these weeks, with his personable humour and boundless energy serving to captivate the congregation.

Campolo maintains that a marriage commitment is a non-negotiable contract. Essentially, what he says is that if you offer the option of back door escape, that it will be taken by most couples in

time of severe marriage crisis. It is essential, he claims, to manufacture love where it appears none exists. Think loving thoughts, pretend that you are in love, imagine what you would do if you did love the person you are drifting away from and, he insists, the results will be fruitful.

What an unpopular suggestion in a secular society such as ours where self-fulfillment means discarding everything and everyone standing between the individual and his or her personal gratification.

The problem is that most people really believe that there is no realistic way of bringing back what once was, so they opt for the escape hatch, not knowing what lies out there for them, but believing it to be preferable to more of the same.

As one who has gone that route, I want to assure you that you don't solve any of the problems that led to the break up of the marriage by heading out on your own. Rather, you simply become more depress-

ed as you come to understand more and more where you went wrong, and how you failed to take corrective measures.

For all whose relationships are allowed to be abandoned, the individuals are forced to endure their own personal 'war zone'. And the price so often paid is every bit as destructive as going through a real war. Perhaps worse. For in a war, should you survive, you get to go home. But once you've pulled the plug on a family, there's no place to go.

I've run into so many people who have opted for 'friendships' with a member of the opposite sex. What if you were to make it more than a friendship, I always inquire. The response is invariably that 'it wouldn't be the same'. What a shame that we are all so afraid of commitment.

In closing, I would only suggest that we as a society start to open our eyes to the permanent destruction brought about by failing to honor a marriage commitment. If it's not already too late.

<p><b>Economist &amp; Sun</b></p> <p><b>SN</b></p>	<p><b>The Tribune</b></p>	<p>9 Heritage Rd., Markham, L3P 1M3</p> <p>294-2200 495-9440 640-2100 649-2292</p>	<p><b>DON BERNARD</b> Editor in Chief</p> <p><b>JIM THOMAS</b> Editor</p> <p>EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT — Managing Editor Jo Ann Stevenson; Reporters: Paula Crowell, Steve Houston, Denise McDonald, Alan Shackleton, Paul Pivato. Photography: Sjoerd Witteveen, Bill Lanning.</p>	<p><b>CHRIS BERTRAM</b> Manager</p> <p>BUSINESS OFFICE — Bobbie Boylan, Irene Cinq-Mars, Doris Easthope, Sheri Handy, Bonnie Hart, Paulanne Wright.</p> <p><b>JENNIFER HUTT</b> Promotions/Distribution Manager</p>
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<p>Published every Saturday by Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing at 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, Ontario L3P 1M3. Tel. 294-2200. Second class mail registration number 1247.</p> <p>The Markham Economist and Sun, published every Wednesday and Saturday at 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Acton Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, Georgetown Independent, Milton Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville Tribune, Topic Newsmagazine, Willowdale Mirror.</p> <p>Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd.</p> <p>NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE — Metroland Corporate Sales, 493-1300.</p>			<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Distribution Dept. 294-8244</b> <b>640-2100</b></p>	