

Editor's Mail Burned now wary

Dear Editor:
I'm a student at York University.
Today, a friend handed me a copy of your March 2 newspaper. I read with interest a column by Jim Thomas under the heading 'City Cyc lists in Town'.
It related to two female cyclists and their stop-off in Stouffville during a Sunday outing.
The writer implied that girls are wary of strangers who, out of the blue, strike up conversations with girls in local eateries, (or anywhere else for that matter).
How right he is!
While Stouffville may be far removed from Toronto and ninety-nine percent of the 'interlopers' may be sincere, it's that one percent that turns friendly visitors into imperious icebergs.
I speak from experience.
Like Brigitte and Maureen in Mr. Thomas's column, I too enjoy cycling on sunny Sunday afternoons.
On one occasion, I stopped at a restaurant in a small town not unlike Stouffville. There, I was approached by a stranger who, on the surface, seemed like a gentleman. Regardless, I played it safe, limiting the conversation to only a few words. Unfortunately, (for me), he wasn't satisfied with 'only a few words'. When I left, he followed. If it hadn't been for the timely intervention of two bystanders, I'm not sure what might have happened.
I'd like you to inform your columnist that we 'city girls' don't mean to be 'frigid'. We've been taught 'to take no chances'.
Once burned, twice wary!
Sincerely,
Joanne Kingstone,
1006 Eglinton Avenue West,
Toronto, Ont.



**FALSE
ALARM
BILL,
IT'S ONLY
COUNCIL
ON A
SMOKE
BREAK!**

Eileen THE TRIBUNE '88

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1888

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ROAMING AROUND



Dividends with pay TV

BY JIM THOMAS

I seldom watch television. The reason? I'm seldom home. Even when I do go through the transformation from a working journalist to a 'couch potato', it does me no good. For I can't stay awake. TV has a way of lulling me to sleep.

On occasions, I prop my eyelids open with toothpicks if the program's really special. Even then, it's a battle between stupidity and commonsense. Fortunately, commonsense, (deep sleep), usually wins out.

Despite the fact we have three TV sets in our house, (two black and whites and one color), all are constantly in use. For each has his/her favorites. And we be-tide the person who tries to intercede.

Recently, sons Paul and Neil came up with a solution: They invested in Pay TV. I'm the beneficiary.

It's quite amazing. With the purchase of a \$10 descrambler, (plus \$20 a month), seven additional channels are available at the flick of a switch. These 'extras' are round-the-clock, extremely convenient for a night hawk like myself. When everyone else has succumbed to sleep, I spring to action, a home entertainment format at my fingertips.

So what do I watch? I cannot tell a lie. First Choice Super Channel, (No. 24), is close to the top of my my priority list — the blue movie scene.

Shame, shame you say. But wait a minute. Don't knock it if you haven't seen it. And even if you have, don't throw out the baby with the bath water. Some of these shows are tremendous; superb stories and excellent acting. I sit glued to my seat.

Ever since Pay TV came into being, blue movies have been the centre of controversy. I can't understand why.

For one thing, they don't begin till well past midnight, long after most adolescents, (and sensible folk) are tucked under the covers. And should a particular film offend, it's simple to turn it off or switch to something else. Certainly there are plenty from which to choose.

How blue is blue? How violent is violence? The few I've seen include a bit of both. One must establish personal guidelines. When scenes go beyond the bounds of personal propriety, flick the switch.

Psycho III for example. That's no fare for the weak-stomached viewer munching on a toasted western (with ketchup).

The Bedside Dentist is supposed to be funny. I doubt Dr. Boadway would consider it so. Me either.

But to each his own. Sickies aside, Pay TV, is geared to folks like me. I can watch everything from Madonna on 23 to Roy Rogers on 25; from Wayne Gretzky on 26 to Dow Jones on 29. And at three o'clock in the morning!

But patience is a virtue. The lights go out and Pay TV comes on only after David Letterman has done his thing. Son Barry sees to that. I'm not sure which is worse, Letterman or Psycho.

Editor's Mail

Soft life showed in Olympic competition

Now that the hoopla is over and self-congratulatory remarks have been made concerning the success of the Calgary Olympics, an inquest is being held into the failure of our athletes to make a real impression on the medal count.

Calgary was certainly put on the map from an administrative and organizational standpoint. It was indeed a magnificent achievement, an event that won't soon be forgotten.

Unfortunately, our active participants did not come up to the expectations of the Canadian media, reporters and coaches.

It was a great pity the false build-up by these people put extra pressure on them; asking them to achieve what they could not do.

When you heard commentators describing a 20th place in a particular event as "spectacular", you wondered what the descriptive would have been had someone received a gold.

The fact the Games were held on our home grounds, put even greater pressure on the participants to do well.

In the early stages, a Canadian cross-country skier inferred that his poor showing was due to suspected blood doping by the Russians who placed first and second.

How about the East Germans, the Swiss, the Finns, the Swedes and the Dutch who received medals? Did they have doped blood too?

Canada has all the materials and man-made facilities an athlete could want — a five-month winter, the Rockies, the Laurentians, ski clubs, etc., as well as good coaches and sufficient funds. So what's the problem?

Personally, I feel the missing requirement is stamina. This showed in long distance events and in speed skating.

If lack of stamina is one of the reasons for our low placing, it would have to do with the life style of we North Americans. The U.S.A. was displeased with its results also.

The North and Central European people have a different outlook, a different philosophy with regard to sports and personal fitness. This begins at an early age.

Daily exercise is a must. They don't use vehicles to get to and from stores, not if they can walk.

Most children walk to school. Here, home owners, even those with small lots, have sit-on machines on which to cut their grass.

Young and middle-aged golfers travel the course in battery-powered carts. All this dependency on machines tends to make people physically lazy.

This may all be the result of the affluent society in which the North Americans live. His East European counterpart does not always have the means that enables him to enjoy such luxuries. He must depend on physical stamina. This makes him a healthier person.

In many instances, only seconds separate a first from a tenth. But medal winners are consistently in the top positions, not just a flash in the pan.

Adam Johnston,
R.R. 1, Stouffville

Editorials

Employees co-operate

We're fooled!
We anticipated Council's decision to ban smoking in various Town-owned buildings would result in vociferous protest or worse — anarchy.

We doubted municipal employees were ready for this kind of across-the-board legislation. Nor did we think Council would enact it.

To the politicians' credit, they did and to the employees' credit, they'll co-operate.

If there's opposition to the butt-out decree, (and we're sure there is), we failed to detect it in a cross-section sampling, Thursday. Everyone we talked to, in fact, applauded the decision.

Last on our check-out list was the fire hall. For some strange reason, many firefighters are pack-a-day smokers.

Surprise again! Volunteers will raise no objections either, that is if Chief Bill Brown and Deputy Chief Murray Emmerson speak for the majority.

Both officers agree it's a good idea and plan to cut back, perhaps quit entirely. While Chief Brown said he hadn't yet discussed the issue with his men, he foresees no problems. Out of all the questionnaires circulated, less than half a dozen were returned, he said.

Acceptance of the ruling by most municipal employees adds strength to our contention a total smoking ban is in order — everywhere, the great outdoors excluded.

Toronto may not be ready but Whitchurch-Stouffville is.

Take the legislation one step further, councillors. Our time has come!

Take a bow

We attended two high school productions last week, both entirely different.

The one, 'Anne of Green Gables', was performed at Uxbridge Secondary School.

The other, Variety Show '88, was staged at Stouffville High.

While the format of each varied greatly, the presentations had two things in common — student commitment and talent excellence.

Yes, there was teacher assistance in the wings, but the talent and the enthusiasm belonged to the students themselves. And it came across in fine style.

Productions of such magnitude take a great deal of time — student time. At SDSS, these young people spent Saturdays, Sundays, lunch periods and spares putting their performance together. The same was undoubtedly true at Uxbridge — total dedication.

The success of their efforts showed on stage. Audience appreciation made it all worthwhile.

A school's standard of excellence is often judged by diplomas received and scholarships won at Commencements. This is fine. However, academic excellence is only part of the learning process.

Education today comes in many forms. Talent like we witnessed at USS, Friday, and SDSS, Saturday, should not be downplayed or overlooked, but rather encouraged. For when Commencement accolades have all been forgotten, extra-curricular activities like 'Anne of Green Gables' and 'Variety Show '88' will live on.

This is true not only of the participants but of the participants' parents as well.

It's a thing called 'community outreach' for which Stouffville, and Uxbridge Secondary Schools, are so well known.



Gormley area pond was scene of many church baptisms

Many present members within the congregation of Heisey on the Doner family farm, Leslie Street, R.R. 71, Gormley Hill Church will recall scenes similar to the one above. This picture was taken during such a dedication about 25 years ago. Back in the '60's, water baptismal services were common.

— Jim Thomas