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Editorial

Full inquiry into Starr scandal must be launched

Cracks are starting to show on the once-shiny surface of Ontario Premier David Peterson's Liberal government.

The groundswell of support that swept a huge majority of Liberals into Queen's Park in the last election is now openly questioning the integrity of several provincial politicians.

There have even been some federal MPs — including Markham Riding MP Bill Atwell — named as recipients of illegal funds that were allegedly funneled by Patricia Starr, who resigned as the head of Ontario Place after early reports accused her of impropriety.

How could Ms. Starr, who has become the target of several damning stories and editorials, allegedly funnel so much money into various campaigns without discovery of such antics much sooner?

Durham-York MPP Bill Ballinger, the former Uxbridge Mayor who was carried to victory under the Liberal banner, says it's business as usual for MPPs at Queen's Park.

But the scandal that has

befallen Premier Peterson won't go away. And like the Watergate debacle of the early '70s that brought down Richard Nixon, Ontario's government is now fully entangled in its own intriguing scandal.

Did top Peterson aides and other Liberal politicians benefit from illegal donations, or didn't they? Is Elvio DelZotto, president of both Tridel Corp. and the Ontario wing of the federal Liberal party, a key figure in the Patricia Starr scandal, or isn't he?

More recent reports that the Premier's call for a judicial inquiry may be delayed is disappointing.

Such an inquiry — not criminal proceedings against those implicated in the scandal — is the only thing that will either clear the top tier of the Peterson government, or bring it down altogether.

To offer anything less than a far-reaching investigation into the entire affair would be a disservice to the voters who ushered Mr. Peterson into office.

JUST THINK, JOHNNY... IN THE FALL, YOU'LL BE GOING TO SCHOOL RIGHT OVER THERE... AND OVER THERE, AND THERE, AND OVER THERE, AND...



NEWS ITEM: St. Mark's School gets planning approval for two new portables.

The Tribune advertisement with contact information and staff list.



ottawa update

bill attewell, markham riding mp

Answers sought

Students react to China crisis

Canada's policy response towards the terrible events in the People's Republic of China has been sober, measured and responsible.

Economic sanctions against China would not prove very effective, as the country revolves around the largely self-sustaining economy.

Depriving the Chinese people of food by forbidding the sale of Canadian wheat to China would be neither humane nor responsible.

The Carter grain embargo on the Soviet Union, because of the Afghanistan invasion, provided rich earnings for Argentina's military junta, which cheerfully sold wheat to the Kremlin. That mistake should not be repeated.

The Department of External Affairs, led by the Right Hon. Joe Clark, has served Canadians well in its decisive action

during this tragic crisis. Canada has sent a clear and strong message to the Chinese leadership that expresses outrage and disgust with the murderous repression that occurred in Tiananmen Square.

Mr. Clark has assured Canadians that, given the present regime in Beijing, it is "impossible for Canada to contemplate normal relations with China."

Mr. Clark has won much deserved praise for swiftly using the options available to him. Canada was the first, and remains the only, western nation to recall its ambassador in protest of the massacre.

Mr. Clark has called in the Chinese Ambassador Zhang Wenpu three times so far to register Canada's disapproval. After the second visit, Zhang told reporters that Canada should not be meddling in

China's internal affairs. Canadians were efficiently airlifted out of China under extremely adverse conditions. The confusion that reigned during and after the Tiananmen massacre made the evacuation difficult.

Defectors from China's Canadian missions have been assured by the Minister that their cases will be treated "in a most sympathetic way." Chinese students wishing to remain in Canada will not be sent back. Their visas will be extended.

Canadian aid projects in China have been postponed and sales of all military equipment have been suspended.

The federal government has even pulled a \$6.7 million film co-produced by Canada and China from the opening of the Museum of Civilization later this month.

At a meeting with a group of 60 Grade 5 students at Ramer Wood Public School in Markham, my eyes were opened to the devastating effect events like the China massacre have on the minds of young people.

They are simply trying to understand how something so terrible would ever be allowed to occur. I was moved by the serious concerns these young students felt over this tragedy and decided that I would carry the sentiments of the students to the floor of the House of Commons.

The following are excerpts from some of the letters the students wrote, as a class project, to Chinese Ambassador Zhang Wenpu deploring his government's actions in Tiananmen Square:

"What is your government doing ordering your army to attack innocent people? All they want is to discuss democracy with the government." — Christopher Reid.

"The people just wanted a discussion... it wasn't right for him (Mr. Xiaoping) to have them killed." — Ilana Shamoon.

I can't believe that your government said to kill people. The students weren't even armed." — Anthony Latchman.

I hope Mr. Xiaoping will come to his senses." — Renee Pecham.

These young students, although 10 and 11 years of age, have come to realize the democratic system we so freely enjoy here in Canada should not be taken for granted, but cherished and nurtured."

Editor's Mail

Resident questions Fisher suspension by Canada Post

The following is a copy of a letter sent to Canada Post officials by a local resident:

Dear Sir: It has recently come to my attention that our local Postmaster, Gary Fisher, has been suspended from employment for one week because of a decision of the middle management of the post office.

I understand this decision was made because of disrupted deliveries on one route resulting from the departure of contract delivery personnel.

A recent article in our local newspaper, The *Stouffville Tribune*, included an interview with one of these ex-delivery people, who made it clear that his departure was entirely due to insufficient pay; it had nothing to do with the local postmaster, who seemingly is allowed little decision-making power in that area.

The people who know of this situation — a growing number by the way — are, frankly, disgusted by the actions of the post office middle management.

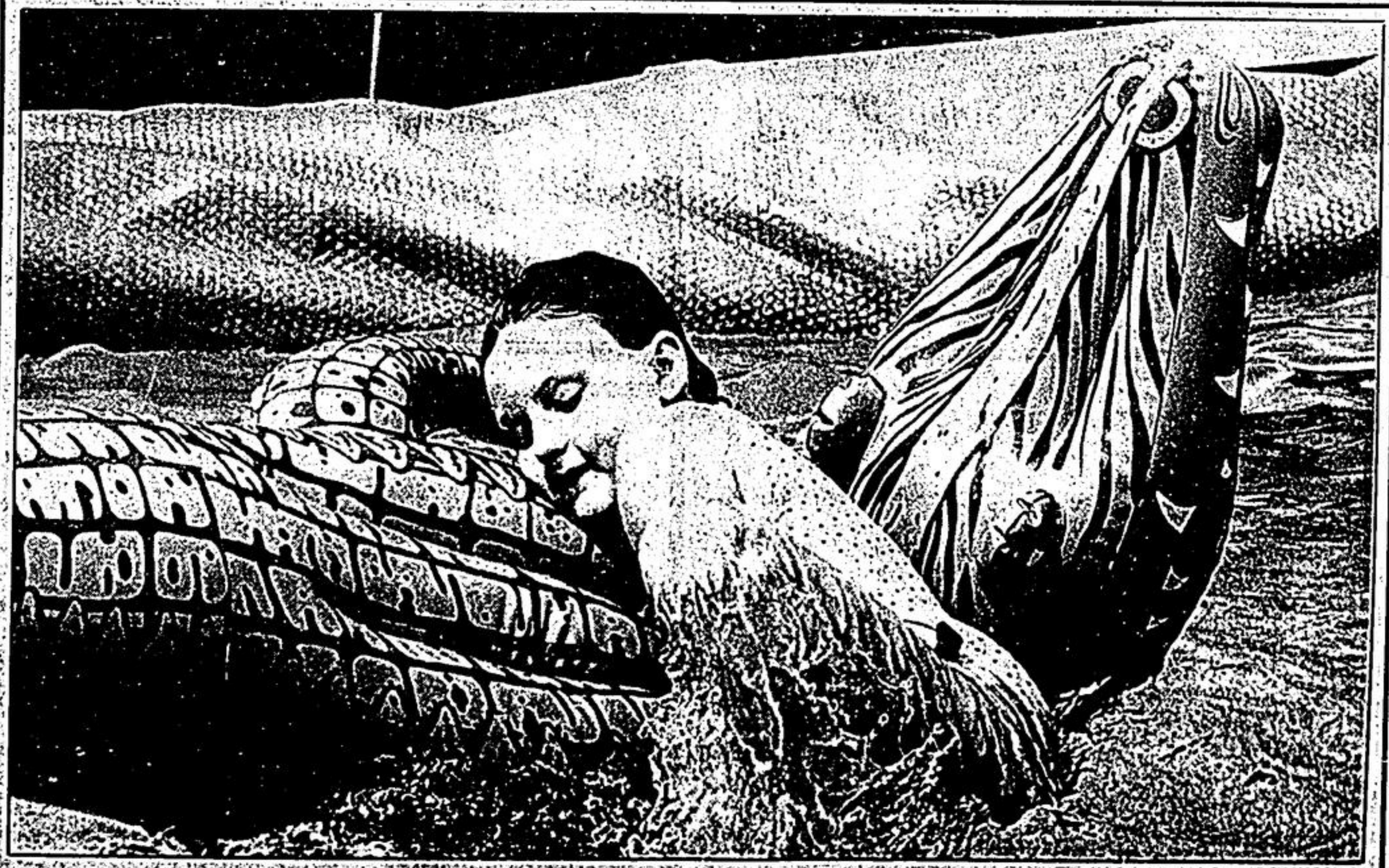
This is surely not the way to instill morale or encourage effort and achievement. Mr. Fisher is well known and liked in the local community and takes an active and valuable part in local events.

He has always been an excellent ambassador for your organization.

I believe you should reconsider your decision regarding the suspension. I would appreciate a response from whoever made this decision on a public service employee so

that we, the tax-paying public, can apprise of the reasons for the apparent lapse in quality management.

Yours truly, J.D. Gilderdale, Stouffville



Pooling resources

Most everyone was feeling the heat last Saturday and Sunday, but some lucky people were able to take a refreshing plunge or two in the swimming pool. Nine-year-old Jennifer Jansen visited friends in Goodwood and took advantage of their above-ground pool. She's seen here struggling to tame an oversized alligator.

Fill our mailbox

The Tribune welcomes letters from readers on current topics. Letters should be 500 words or less and typed or neatly printed. They may be subject to editing for length at the discretion of the editor. They must be submitted by noon Monday to appear in the Wednesday Tribune. Letters may be submitted to the office at 54 Main St. W., Stouffville, P.O. Box 40, L4A 7Z4.