

# Comment Page

## Let public decide on shopping

Local retail stores have set the pace for 1990 and indeed for the whole decade which we have now entered.

Stores opened on Sunday in defiance of the Retail and Holiday Business Act.

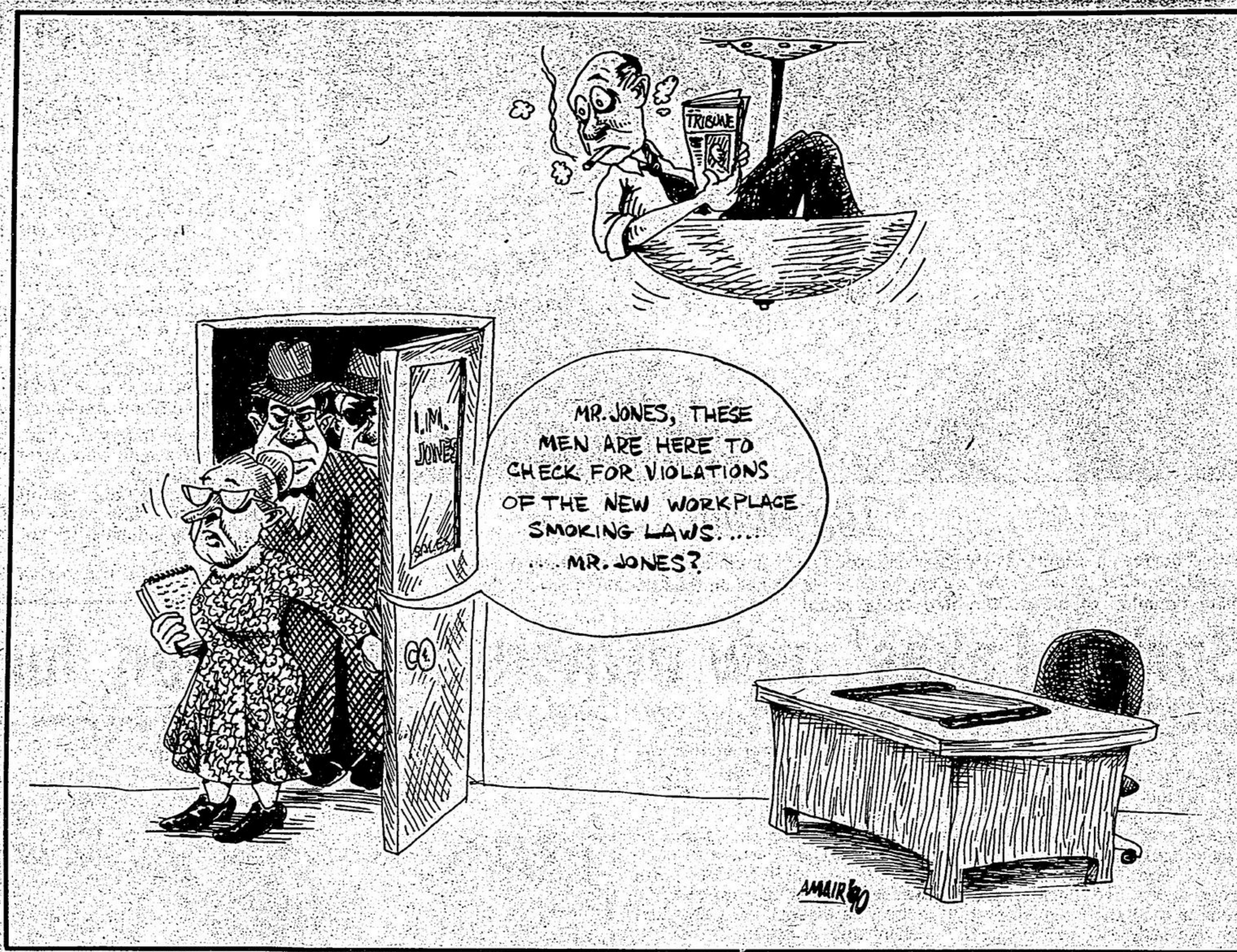
There is pressure from retail business to either firm up the law or, better yet, throw it out. There is pressure from churches to preserve Sunday as a day for family by keeping stores closed.

But why should the government keep stores closed just so families have time together? Should not each individual family decide when to put aside time for togetherness?

Would we be so accepting if government decided to shut down fast food outlets because the deep-fried, well-salted fare served in such establishments is bad for health?

In this age, people work in a variety of occupations, many of which require that they work on Sundays. For many families Saturday or a weeknight is the time set aside for shared pursuits.

The regional government should distribute a referendum to residents and let us decide to shop or not to shop.



## Take time for kids while they're interested

I hope we're going to come up with some unexpected ways of entertaining the under-15s in the '90s because video games, VCRs, and all that other sophisticated gadgetry just isn't enough to get parents off the hook any more.

This was brought home to me with some force when, during a visit from three friends and their assorted offspring, one eight-year-old child wandered disconsolately into the kitchen and uttered the words every parent dreads: "I'm bored. There's nothing to do."

"What about playing a video game?" I asked.

"I'm fed up with them."



*kate's corner*  
kate gilderdale

"How about watching one of the movies?"

"I hate movies," wailed the little darling. "I always have to watch movies and it's so boring."

This child, like so many of his generation, has a TV in his bedroom which is hooked up to his personal game system; he also has constant access to a VCR and an enviable library of movies

in the family basement.

Alas, as with every other new toy, the novelty eventually wears off — a fact that parents, who are still marvelling that they can have a movie theatre in their own living room, find it hard to grasp.

To children, this miracle is a fact of life, something that's been there as long as they can remember. And movies and video games are no substitute for human and, I dare say, parental interaction.

My son is an avid video game enthusiast, but he needs other outlets for his energies. Apart from physical activities, one of our children's favorite pastimes is playing board games and card games with us at the end of the day.

I'd be the first to admit that I'm not always filled with enthusiasm when, having just sat down with an engrossing book, I'm nudged out of my comfortable chair with a demand for a game of Scrabble, particularly as my son is starting to win more and more often.

Because we can't have meals together as often as we'd like, this isn't just a time for games, it also provides an excellent opportunity for family discussions, not to mention an object lesson in how to lose gracefully, something which can be hard for children to accept.

Although I get irritated when my children sulk, I was probably

one of the worst losers of all time in my youth, so I must admit they come by their unsporting attitude honestly.

When we do go to the movie store, we try to select something we can all watch together without cringing. Last week, we rented Dr. Zhivago, which was a great nostalgia trip for us as adults and an enthralling film for the children.

It was also unique in recent movie experience; in the entire three hours and 20 minutes not one expletive was uttered.

It's incredible how fast kids move from Snap to Trivial Pursuit and from family-centred activities to their own lives. Losing at Scrabble is a small price to pay for being together while they still prefer our company to that of the all-pervasive video screen.

## Great success for '89 UNICEF fundraiser

Dear Editor,  
Another successful UNICEF campaign was concluded in December with total sales of more than \$5,500, exceeding last year's total.

I appreciate the advertising your paper gave to our campaign which, no doubt, had an effect on the number of sales.

The merchants of Whitchurch-Stouffville who displayed posters in their windows also aided in this process.

A special thanks to the library staff and, in particular, Mrs. Sheila McLeod, for their assistance when UNICEF was sold at the Whitchurch-Stouffville library.

Thanks to George Perez-Salvio of The Mount Lighting and Lina Visconti of Monaco Florists for arranging for the sale of UNICEF at Stouffville Place Mall.

The volunteers who sold UNICEF were very willing and dedicated. It was gratifying to receive a number of phone calls from individuals wishing to help in answer to an appeal for volunteers.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped this year.

And because of all the people who purchased cards and gift items, many children of Third World countries will receive fresh water, will be inoculated and will receive proper attention to their development.

One dollar can buy vaccines against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus for 50 children. This means that the sales in Whitchurch-Stouffville can buy vaccines for 275,000 children!

Since each dollar earned by the sale of UNICEF is matched by the Canadian International Development Agency and the host country, this figure greatly increases. That's a truly wonderful contribution from our town. Thank you, all.

Yours truly,  
Bonnie Heidema  
UNICEF Volunteer, Consignee

### Stouffville / Uxbridge Tribune

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