

More editor's mail

Reader responds to letter condemning 'gay column'

Dear Editor,
I read with interest Judy Phipps' letter in your paper recently commenting on a column by Tracy Kibble regarding Gay Pride Day.

I have spent a lot of time trying to analyze what it is about her letter that was so disturbing. There are a couple of confusing paragraphs that deal with sexual deprivation and the fact that the heterosexual community is involved in the abuses that result.

Is she saying that most kinds of destructive deviancy are somehow caused by heterosexual control imposed on homosexuals, child molesters, etc., or that these deviancies are in fact disorders associated with the heterosexual community, therefore suggesting that homosexuals, by contrast, are better adjusted members of society?

In either case, I find what she is suggesting is not only wrong but harmful. I cannot sit back and read this without getting concerned about the extent to which foggy thinking and generalizing are used to perpetuate a backwards perception of reality.

I strongly object to Ms. Phipps' statements that it is our lack of tolerance of the gay world which has resulted in the vile catalogue of child molestation, rape, sexism and pornography.

Tolerance is an easy flag to wave around these days. I would like to point out, however, that tolerance on its own has no intrinsic value.

In a moral world, we are all responsible to form judgments and endeavor to live by them. If we call shrinking back from this responsibility tolerance, we are deceiving ourselves.

It is important to realize that ignorance and tolerance are not opposites. The presence of one does not mean the absence of the other.

I am not ignorant of the real and heartbreaking issues confronting people who find themselves inordinately attracted to those of the same sex.

But there are plenty of other moral issues which honest people throughout history have had to address by recognizing and upholding certain standards.

What the Bible calls sodomy, an offense against God and his creation, is not allowed. The fact is, civilization cannot continue to develop without certain restraints and regulations.

To suggest that the only solution to willful transgressions of God's law is that we become tolerant of it is a disastrous mistake.

We must understand too that who people are, and what they choose to do, are two different things.

The problem with extolling the virtues of tolerance and sexual liberation is that, ironically, you develop a kind of harmful narrow-mindedness.

But in certain situations the mind, like a parachute, works properly when it is not all unfolded and hanging out. It is called resolve, determination, temperance, restraint and conviction.

Let's be open and closed at the right times for the right reasons.

John Shaw-Rimmington
Uxbridge

Sincerely,
Marion Wells, Volunteer

Local family says to 'shop in Stouffville'

Dear Editor,
Over the years, we have been encouraged to shop in Stouffville and our family has always felt that we should support our local businessmen whenever possible.

Recently, we experienced the benefits of this decision.

A relatively new businessman, Scott Rowntree, of Rowntree Pontiac Buick, is one of those benefits.

Due to a problem we were experiencing we found ourselves in his office.

He stated that his goal was to

serve us, his customers, and left no stone unturned as he went about solving it to our mutual satisfaction.

His commitment to customer satisfaction and his personal integrity will certainly be a tremendous asset to Stouffville's people.

And I want people to know that we can be proud of the businesses that serve our community.

Before you buy, think Stouffville.

Yours truly,
Paul and Cathy Hope

Hospital is special

Dear Editor,
A special thanks to the Markham-Stouffville Hospital Board Members, staff and volunteers on behalf of all the families, friends and folks who took the opportunity and privilege to tour the "Hospital's Open House." The keen interest, glowing enthusiasm and overwhelming response were very apparent from the main lobby, "The Birth Place", Mother-Baby to continuing care units.

The posted cost of some of the "state-of-the-art" equipment particularly in the "Surgical Suite" and Diagnostic Imaging was certainly a revelation as to the high price of our sophisticated technology.

How fortunate we are to have such a marvellous facility in our midst. Great projects like this just don't happen they are the result of dedicated men and women who shared a vision for our community and set out on a course of action that led to this moment in time.

The 500 volunteers will add a dimension of support and strength to the professional team of caregivers.

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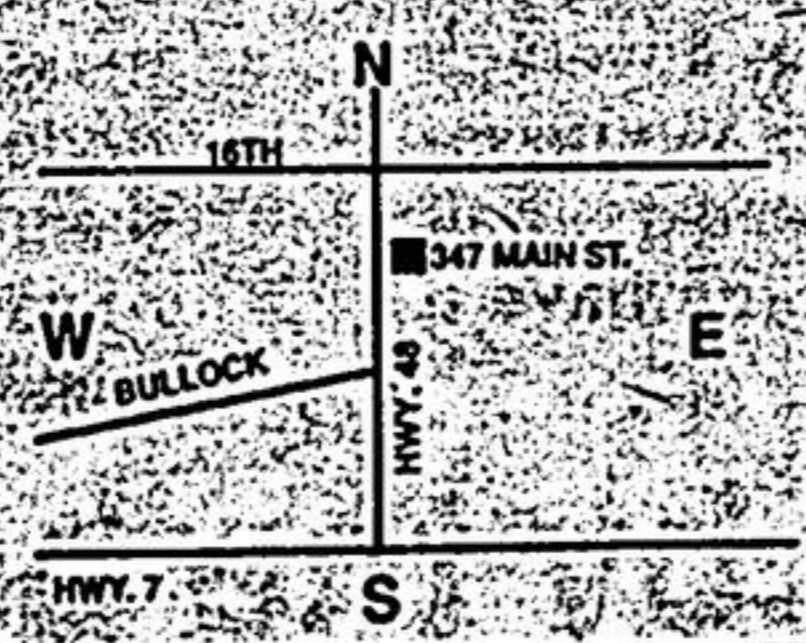
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