

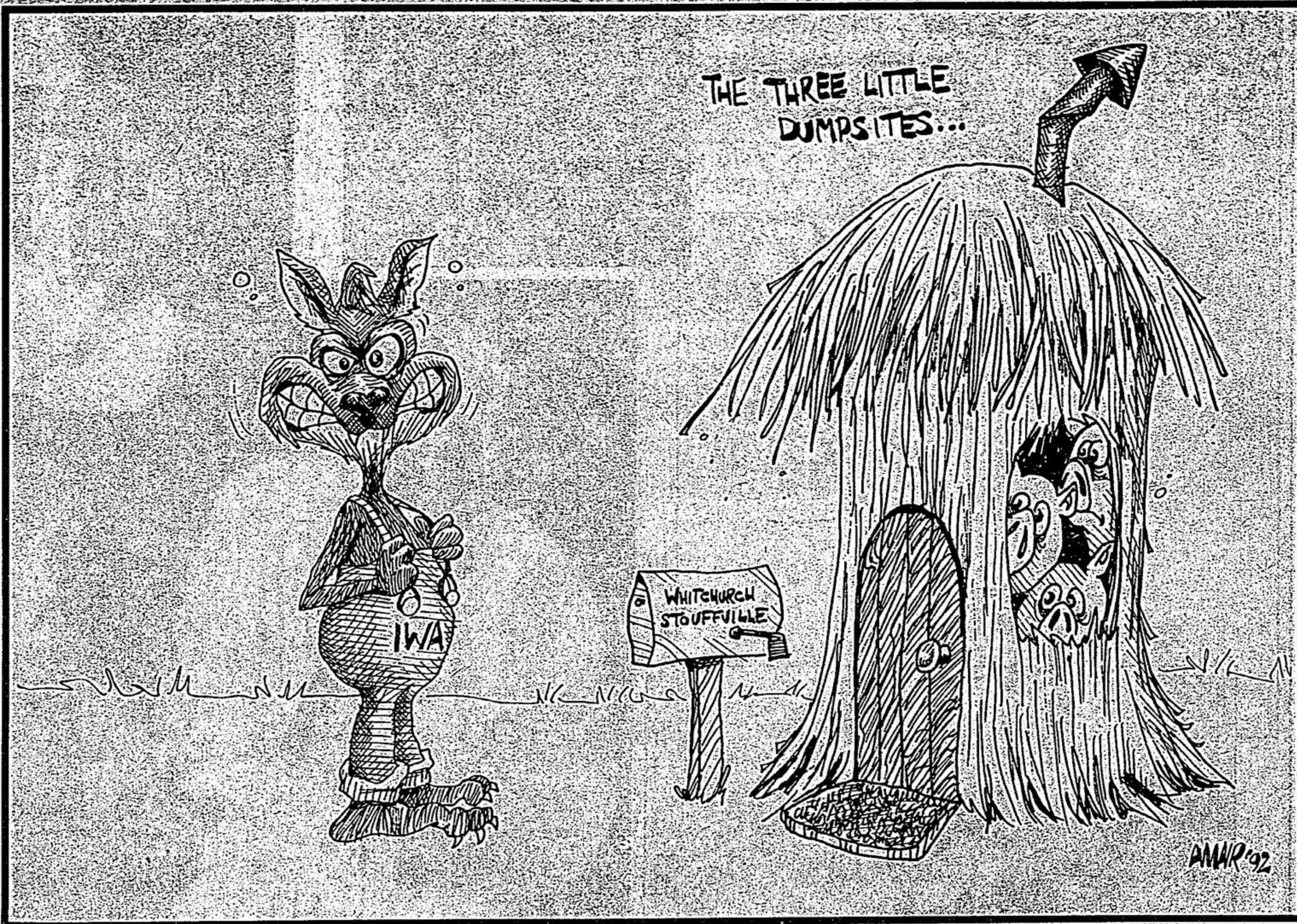
stouffville comment

Dump issue affects all in the GTA

It will come down to three. The long list of 57 dump sites proposed by the Interim Waste Authority encompass the entire span of Greater Toronto Area, but be assured there are sites in this area being examined closely. Three will be chosen. The most likely site for the 600-acre dump is at Whitevale, but Stouffville, Brock Township, Scugog, and even Markham are not out of the picture entirely. Only Uxbridge Township was left unscathed by the selection process. No one in this area should be complacent, however.

We must all stand up and be counted on this issue.

There is a community in northern Ontario screaming for the money Metro's garbage would bring. But the Minister of the Environment refuses to ship the trash there; no garbage will be transported to other municipalities, she said. What are we, chopped liver? It would appear so.



Political correctness leaves me voice-disadvantaged

I have been called a number of things in my day, but it seems the good folks who would propose we alter our language to suit the new trend toward "political correctness" have added a whole host of new labels.

I am "hair-disadvantaged", "optically-challenged", "melanin-impooverished" and by some accounts I am "possessing an alternative body image". In other words, I am losing my hair, wear glasses on occasion, am white and could stand to lose a few pounds.

These days it seems political correctness pervades every

aspect of our lives. To ensure I stay on top of these changing trends, the staff at *The Tribune* presented me with a new book, the "Official Politically Correct Dictionary and Handbook" for my birthday recently.

It is both humorous and a tad disturbing.

Disturbing in that there are actually people out there who advocate changing such common terms as "dog" and "ugly" and "waitress" to "nonhuman companion", "cosmetically different" and "waitron", respectively.

While much of the book is



tongue-in-cheek, there are actual entries that have been suggested by various professors, fringe groups and radicals in the last few years.

After going over a dozen pages or so, I began to realize that the book really only scratches the surface.

If these people wanted to, they could really go to town.

Some examples:

- "Car" could become "human conveyance receptacle."
- First names like "Samantha" and "Carmen", and last names like "Johnson", "Thomson", and "Manson" would have to be changed to better reflect modern society, like "Safemtha", "Carfem", "Johnron", "Thomron" and "Ronron", respectively.
- Places like "Manitoba", "Indiana", and "Blackstock" would need new names like

- "Personitoba", "Nativeiana" and "Person of Colorstock".

Okay, I'm being a little glib, but the whole political correctness thing seems silly.

We have enough to worry about without having to gauge every word we utter for fear we are not being politically correct.

If these people had their way, we would have to change *The Tribune* to "Roman Magistrate Chosen by the People to Champion their Rights".

They already call newspapers "processed tree carcasses".

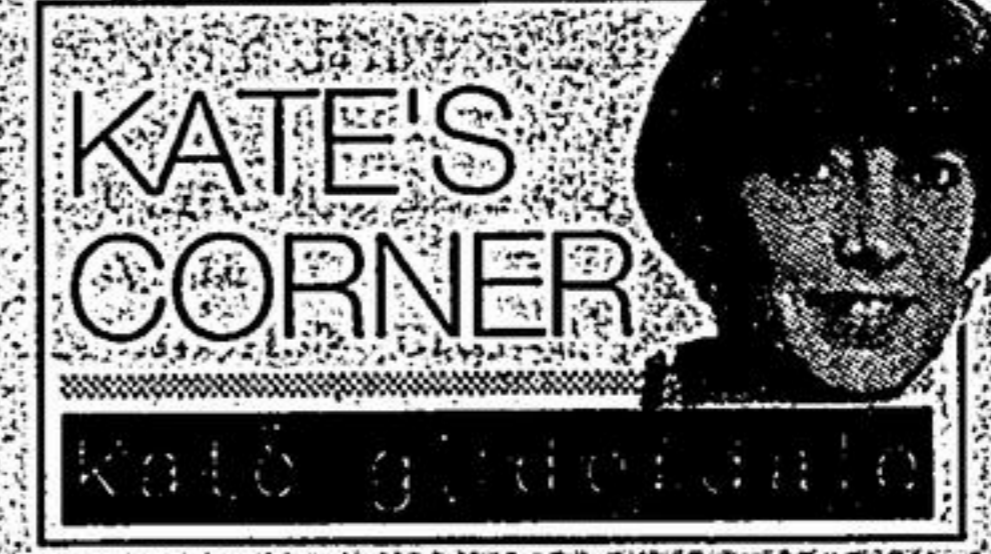
I'm all wet on new water guns

If you've been living in a hole in the ground or haven't enjoyed recent access to a young person between the ages of five and 15, you probably haven't heard of the Super Soaker.

Super Soakers are politically incorrect mutant water guns which shoot great jets of water for 50 yards or, in the case of the posher, costlier model for the youngster who has everything, 200 yards.

They are among a whole arsenal of essential weapons, the lack of which can create long term damage in the tender psyche of a volatile young consumer. Or so my son informs me.

While I admit to being an illiterate in these matters, I'm advised by the family expert that one can either scrape by with the regular pump model which he owns, or opt for the version which requires batteries.



Batteries, as all world-weary, downtrodden parents know, are seldom included in the price of anything, and need replacing more often than John McEnroe's tennis racquet.

I shared this insight with my son as he blasted away at the far end of the garden, inadvertently dousing the cat who has not been seen since. What I wanted to know (but not passionately), was the point of putting batteries in a water gun?

He sighed, indicating that it would be obvious to most people, and explained that battery-powered guns were great at firing in

static bursts, just like a machine gun. Naturally his best friend has the battery-operated model, but he acknowledged that his was pretty good too. Considering I could, however, detect a dangerous consumerist glint in his eye. All right, so he had agreed to keep his babysitting money in his bank account for the summer holidays. But surely one little purchase couldn't make that much difference? And surely, he'd be offered lots of jobs before we went away?

It was my turn to sigh wearily. Not only would I be subjected to an endless litany of the pros and cons of every water gun known to humanity, I would also lose all visiting rights to my telephone as he spent the next day or two exhaustively researching the topic. I can only hope this latest fad will soon be water under the bridge.

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