

stouffville comment

This year's Citizen a natural choice

Congratulations to the 1993 Citizen of the Year.

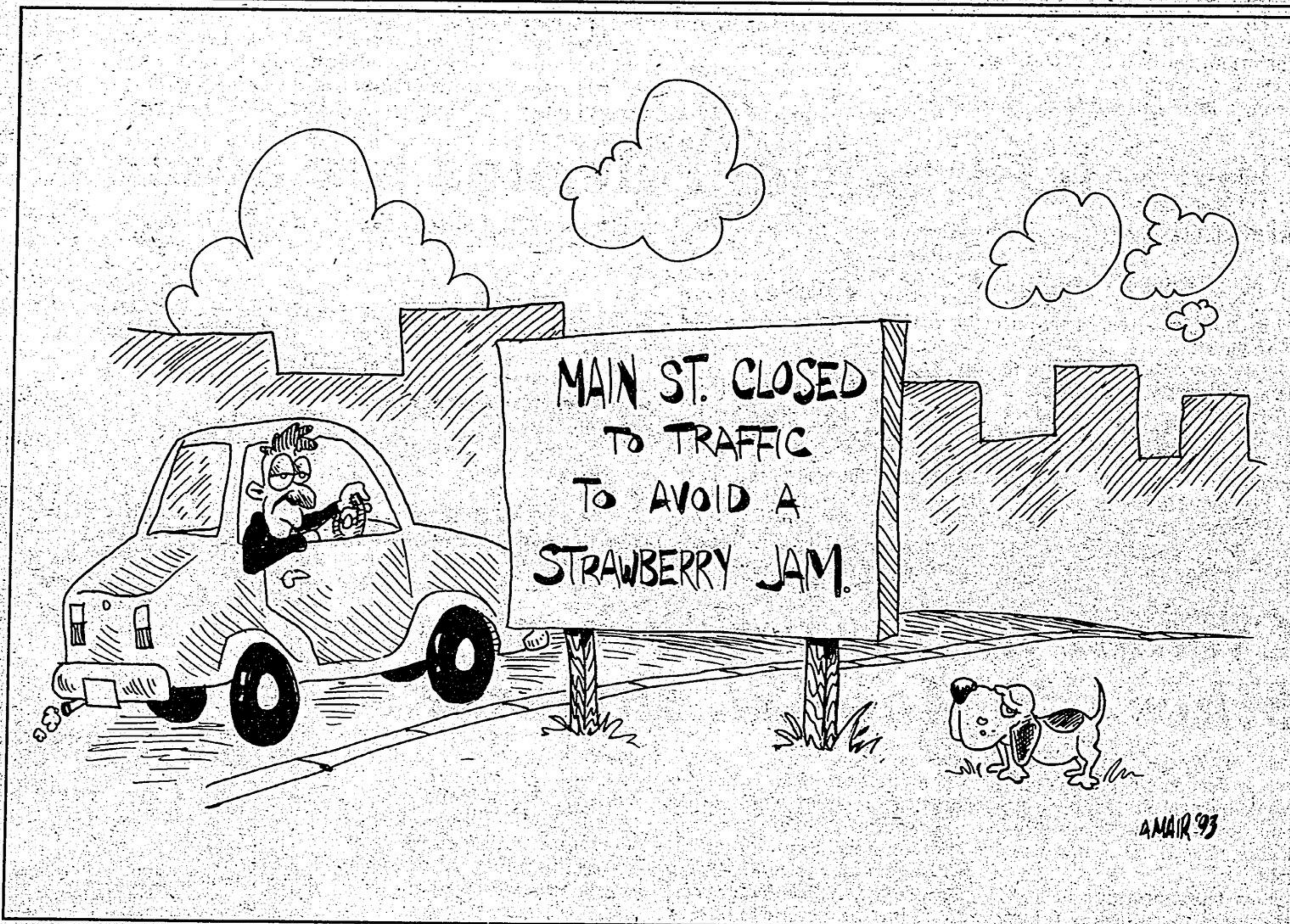
Margaret Britton exemplifies all the traits that first inspired this award, now more than a dozen years old.

In the past, Citizens have been awarded the prize for their volunteerism, a special achievement, and contributions to the town.

In the 1993 recipient, we have all of these qualifications and more.

The response from those who nominated Margaret Britton was quite remarkable. Almost every nomination contained a full list of accomplishments, and each successive entry had a new reason for her selection.

Whether it be her work with Mobility Transit, Multiple Sclerosis, the hospital, hospice, or her community projects in her own backyard, we are truly lucky to have a citizen in our midst like Margaret Britton.



Naming the universe - a BIG task indeed

So you want to be famous. Here's a sure-fire way to achieve the notoriety you think you deserve, and it doesn't cost more than the price of a postage stamp.

No, I'm not talking about winning millions using the Marvin Fine method. This is much more esoteric.

It seems there is a new contest to rename the birth of the universe.

It seems that the old term, the so-called Big Bang, has been deemed too "ugly" and is a "disrespectful name for the universe's genesis."

The contest, sponsored by Sky & Telescope magazine,

offers no prizes, other than the fame that would come from naming the start of it all.

The contest organizers have given nomenclaturists until Aug. 31 to come up with a new name.

That hardly seems appropriate.

Two months to come up with a name for the start of *everything*?

It took four billion years to figure out that something happened at all, and now they are giving us the summer to give it a proper and just handle.

Why, just perusing the thesaurus for appropriately-large words would take the better

MINUTE
WITH
MAIR



andrew mair

part of a weekend.

Around the office, some suggestions were tossed back and forth:

"What The Heck Was That?", "Labor Day", "First Night", and the politically-correct "Premier Self-Generation."

None of these are prize-winners, I am sure, but to name The Start of It All is a goal worth seeking.

The Big Bang was coined in 1950 when Sir Fred Hoyle used the term in a BBC radio interview. It stuck.

Now the astronomers want a new name. But will they change it again in 30 years?

And another thing - how does Hugh Downs, host of ABC's 20/20, rate as a judge? The magazine has hired Hugh, and Carl Sagan to pick the best name.

Shouldn't these tasks be the responsibility of the United Nations or the World Court or the World Bank?

Someone a little more important than Hugh Downs, please.

Like Ronald McDonald maybe, or Bill Cosby.

One more thing - if the genesis of the universe was a Big Bang, but there was no one there to hear it, did it make a noise?

Send your entries to: Big Bang Challenge, Box 9111, Belmont, Mass., 02178.

Guess who's coming to dinner

Last Monday, on my return from yet another vital journalistic assignment, I found a note from my son stuck on the mud room door.

"Dad is bringing home a man (gasp)," it said. "He's staying the night (double gasp)." Chateau Gilderdale, I need hardly add, was in its usual state of post-weekend disarray.

I prayed that the man, whoever he was, had been here before. Otherwise I knew that my husband was liable to give in to his usual compulsion to conduct a house tour which would leave nothing, not even the children's rooms, to blissful imagination.

The old man phoned from the car and confirmed my worst fears. Not only was he bringing home a strange man, but he was within 20 minutes of the little house on Main Street.

For a few fevered moments, I reviewed the various disaster

KATE'S
CORNER



kate gilderdale

areas in a vain effort to decide where I should begin to effect some sort of order out of chaos. Then I gave up.

If Paul (that was our guest's name) were to become a friend, he may as well get used to the mess. If not, he could probably endure one night in the pit before returning to his Montreal sanctuary.

Apart from removing various items of clothing from beneath the futon on which he was to sleep, and divesting his bedside table of several days' worth of pop cans and candy wrappers, I elected to leave the rest of the

mansion au naturel.

"Don't take him upstairs," I warned my husband darkly, even before Paul and I were officially introduced. Naturally, my better half ignored my words of wisdom and took Paul directly into the war zone.

Fortunately our guest was charming, and gamely appeared not to notice the muddle as he made admiring noises about whatever decor was still visible beneath the piles of comics, books and clothes.

Ignoring the dust balls under the settee and the cobwebs on the ceiling, we repaired to the pub for a reviving beer and a delicious meal, and my equilibrium quickly re-asserted itself.

Still, the old man would do well to heed that oft-quoted philosopher, Anon. "Nothing annoys a woman so much as having friends drop in to find her house looking as it usually does."

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