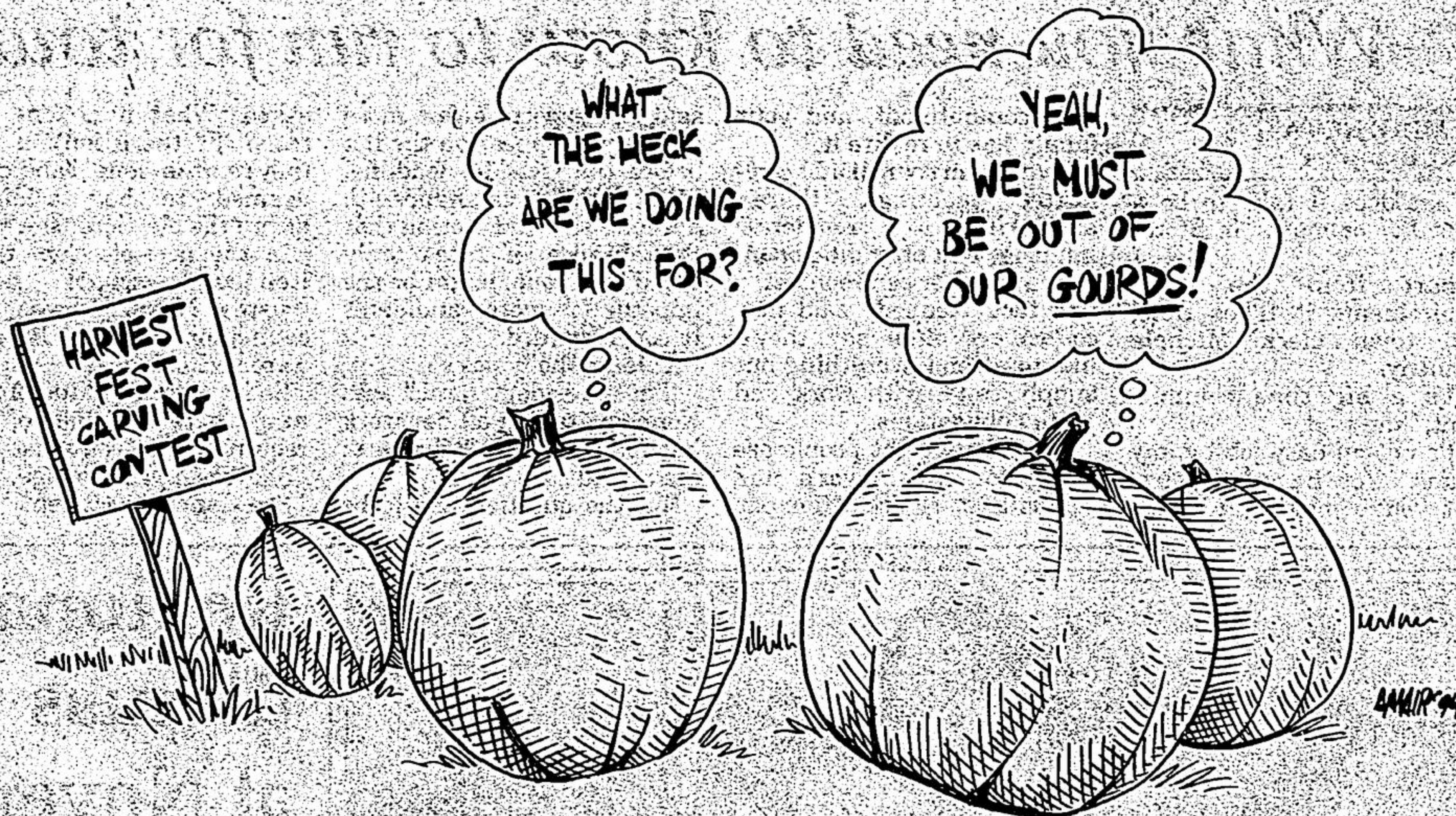


stouffville comment

Harvest Fest should be fantastic

Hearty congratulations to Rob Shannon at the flea market and the rest of the organizing committee of Harvest Fest. This weekend's activities should be great fun for the entire family. Harvest Fest is sponsored by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce who have sought for a couple of years to come up with new and original ideas. With Harvest Fest, the group has succeeded. Shannon, as vice-president of the Chamber and chairman of the Harvest Fest committee has put together an impressive line-up in a very short time.

There is every possibility the fall celebration will soon rival the Strawberry Festival in scope. Help support this worthwhile venture for our town.



Taking a different tack on course curriculum

I heard this week that square dancing is still being taught in the schools. How I remember those days of swinging your partner and bowing to your neighbor.

But then as now, I have to wonder about the true educational value of this and some of the other school courses on the curriculum. The students hate it, and the staff that teach it must feel it to be little more than a necessary diversion from more important studies.

I am not an outspoken critic of the education system, and as both my parents were educators, I would be threatening my direct line to Christmas presents and birthday cards if I was to speak out against a system to which they devoted their entire

adult lives. But with the election for school trustees coming up, and all the hubbub about education reforms, I thought I'd throw in a few ideas of my own for curriculum changes that would better prepare our students for life in the real world:

1. Bed-making 101. Strictly for boys. Most boys are forced to take home economics courses, but they don't teach you how to make a bed. Boys are incapable of making a bed, even after years of marriage. This I know from experience.

2. Elocution 101. Teaches students how to eradicate the word 'like' from their everyday diction. This will come in handy when they get out in the real world, and don't have to say, "Um... like, can I, like, have a



job, or something?" when approaching prospective employers.

3. Fashion Ed. This would teach students that the person who started the trend of wearing pants around the hips so the underwear is visible was not "way cool," but in fact, a rummy who sold his belt for a flagon of ripple.

4. Ed. Ed. This junior level course would offer the students real examples of what happens to you when you go out into the world without an education. People like Erik Estrada, Dan Quayle and that Ziggy woman could be called in to give talks.

5. How to buy a car without getting soaked. The value here speaks for itself. I'd still like to sign up.

6. What to expect from your kids when you get old. Best anti-teen pregnancy message you could ask for.

7. Poli-Sigh. Lectures designed to guide kids through politically correct dating.

8. College Pro, OAC. Not a course for prospective house painters, but rather, a program designed for OAC students that would include Introduction to Toga Parties, Physics of the Beer Bong, History of Spring Break; you know, the stuff they will have to learn at college.

9. So you want to be a Doctor? A history of the big clunky shoe industry.

10. Reading, writing and arithmetic. By far the most radical approach to educating our youngsters, but if introduced early and often enough, who knows, they just might catch on.

Thoughts on a cult of personalities

As if being a judge were not already fraught with perilous pitfalls, especially for privileged white males who make up the vast majority of their number, two recent cases have added a new wrinkle to the beleaguered profession.

"A woman who says she has 10 personalities accused a bus driver of sexual assault but two of her personalities said she agreed to sex," noted a report in Thursday's Toronto Star, referring to a case in Cincinnati.

"Hey, that's America for you, eh? What else would you expect from the nation which spawned Oprah, Geraldo, O.J. Simpson and Gerald Ford? Read on, Macduff."

A few pages later, the following gem appeared: "Assault charges against an Ottawa man were dismissed yesterday after his wife testified they were fabricated by another part of her personality."



"I didn't call the police, Joanne Yantha-Fraser told a stunned courtroom. Mary Lou, the other part of me, called them."

Asked by the crown attorney whether Mary Lou would be good enough to testify, she countered, "The Lord won't let her talk."

The judge dismissed the case, but who knows when Mary Lou will show up to wreak vengeance on a judge who has only listened to half the evidence? On the other hand, such cases could prove a gold mine for those poor lawyers who are scraping by on \$250 an hour. Just think, four clients in a

single body. That would certainly take care of the hydro bill. And there's no doubt that multiple personality does have its appealing side as a defence against unwanted accusations.

Politicians will doubtless embrace it with the enthusiasm they usually reserve for demanding Shelley Martel's resignation.

If the deficit can't be shrugged off as the result of ineptitude on the part of previous governments, the finance minister can simply blame Floyd's alter-ego, Ferdinand, who was running his brain the last time he (they?) presented a budget.

My failure to meet a deadline can henceforth be attributed to my other selves, who find it hard enough to get out of bed in the morning, never mind string together a coherent paragraph or two by lunch time.

And it's nice to know I need never be alone again.

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