

Opinion

Aid to Manitoba flood victims a top priority

The harshness of the world has been softened somewhat by the obvious outpouring of sympathy and aid for the people of southern Manitoba.

Rallying around the down-trodden is something Canadians are known for, especially when they are our own people in crisis. As with the hands extended in aid for the people of Chicoutimi last year, all across the nation, people are reaching out to flood-stricken Manitoba.

One senior sent Premier Gary Filman a \$100 bill tacked to a note asking him to do what he could with the money. This, on the same day he received a cheque



Viewpoint

Andrew Mair

from the Liberal government for \$25 million.

But the aid comes in more forms than just cash and cheques. People all across the country have been sending everything from long distance cards to sleeping bags, baby food to rubber boots. As the waters crested on the Red River Thursday, the residents of southern Manitoba were claiming a

victory of sorts over the flood waters. The dykes built to hold back the converging waters of the Red and Assiniboine in Winnipeg were fulfilling their role admirably. Now, residents will be shoring up the walls as the river recedes and the 1,000-square-kilometre lake sinks into the spring earth. And they will be praying for the rains to hold off.

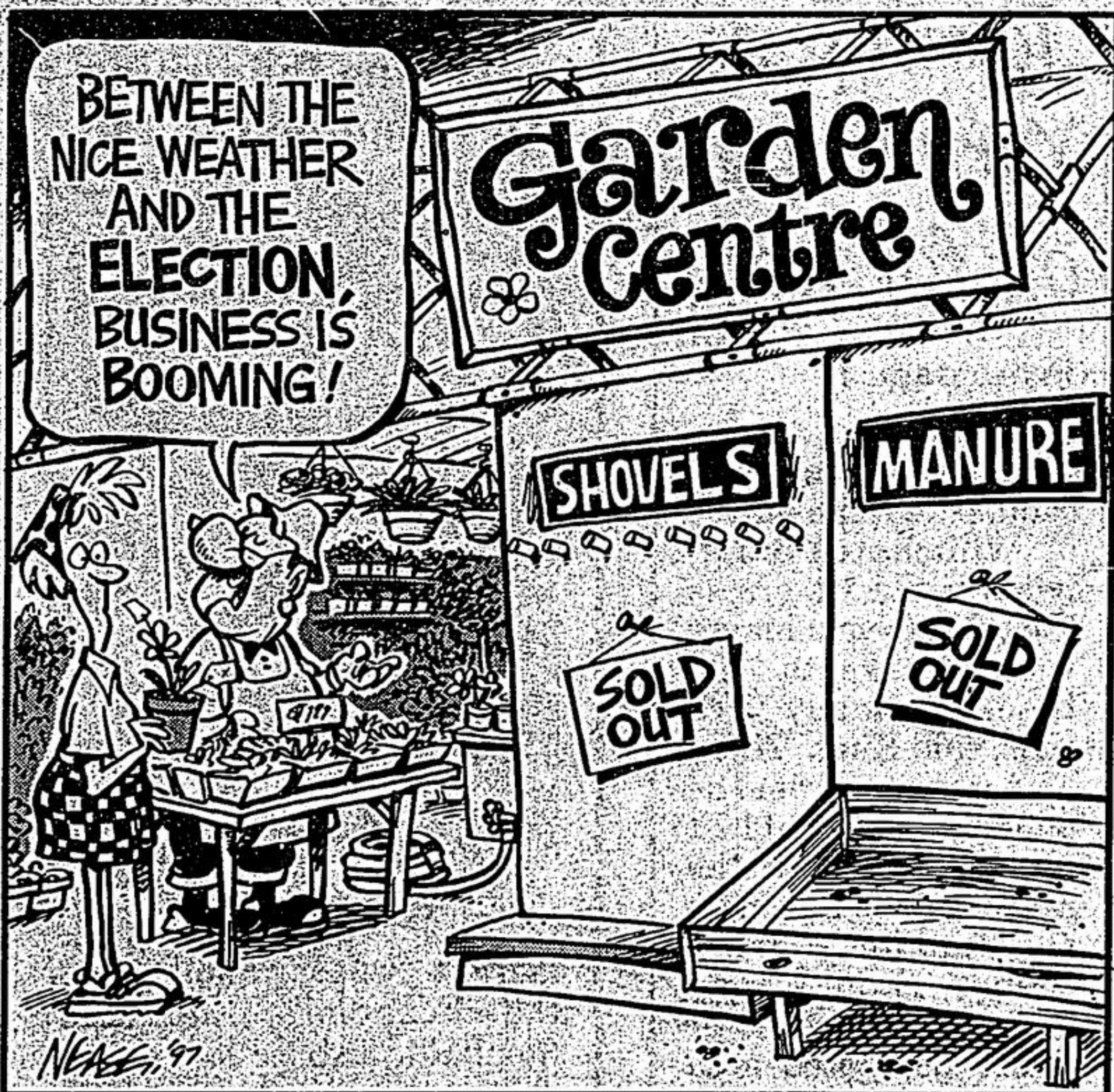
As they wait, Canadians are coming to Manitobans' rescue in a heart-felt gesture to relieve what we in the east can only imagine. Canadian Tire dealers must be commended for supplying trucks to transport the tons of goods being shipped to the shelters and aid agencies in the stricken province. And

as always, our fire departments are more than willing to open their doors for donations. Your local CIBC branch is also accepting cash donations.

This newspaper will also accept any supplies you wish to donate to the flood relief. We will see the goods are shipped to the Canadian Tire depots for shipment to Manitoba. Drop off your donations at any of our offices in Markham, Stouffville or Uxbridge or at the local fire hall.

Bring cash donations to the CIBC.

The outpouring of support from the rest of the country demonstrates once again the strength of the nation, when we act as neighbors.



The Brits do too have a sex life

The British? They don't have sex lives. They have hot water bottles.

Milos Foreman Ah, it's a hardy stereotype — the frigid Brits. Nightclub comedians know they can always score a cheap guffaw by making fun of passionless limeys and their prissy, stiff-upper-lippish ways.

Anglo-Saxon sang-froid is universally acknowledged, universally disparaged and as an Englishman himself might say, a load of utter rubbish.

The British aren't passionless, they just have better manners (soccer louts excluded) than the rest of us.

As for lacking a sex drive, you've got to be wondering what bushel basket Milos Foreman has been living under for the past quarter of a century. Did he miss the Profumo Scan-

dal? Fergie, Duchess of Toes? Prince Charles and Lady Tampon? The veritable daisy chain of British Members of Parliament who get caught — at a rate of about once a fortnight — with their Oxfords under the wrong beds?

Near as I can tell, the British are about as randy a lot as this hormonally overcharged planet has ever spawned. Consider the news from Exeter College at Oxford University, where undergraduates have voted to ban heavy petting.

In the dining room. They also voted in favour of splitting the junior common room into two areas: one for heavy petting and one for light petting.

Oh yes, and they also supported a motion that banned intercourse in the library between 3 a.m. and 8 a.m. One has to assume that for the other 19 hours of the day, boffing in the books enjoys the Exeter College Seal of Approval.

Doesn't sound like a sex-drive-challenged nation to me.

The Norwegians — there's another group that gets held up to ridicule in the Sexier Than Thou Department. The Norse are cold, the cliché goes. Distant. Aloof. They got no rhythm.

Well, you couldn't prove it by the story that's rocking Norway right now. Norwegian media are busy chronicling the ongoing public quarrel between two women over just exactly whose breasts appeared in a Norwegian magazine recently.

Seems an enterprising photographer snapped a picture of a Norwegian lass strolling along a Canary Island beach with only the bottom part of her bikini performing its function.

When the photo appeared in a weekly magazine back home, a distraught woman named Aud Stos sued the publisher for 150,000 kroner, claiming she was the woman who belonged to

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Basic Black

Arthur Black

those breasts, and the publication of the photo had subjected her to ridicule in her rural home town.

Whereupon a second Norse nymph by the name of Inger Marie Maylam surfaced to say that hers, not Ms. Stos, were the breasts that graced the photo in question. Ms. Maylam also said "the breasts are mine and they are for free. It is wrong for somebody else to try to make 150,000 kroner on them."

Sounds pretty sexually well-adjusted to me.

Nope, if you want to see sexual uptightness in action, you don't have to leave home.

Pecksniffian prudery is alive and well here in the Great White North.

Just last month, some upright citizens in Toronto tried to have a woman arrested for breastfeeding her child in public.

What is the problem here? Why is it I can turn on my TV and see severed heads, full-frontal NHL punch-ups and bullet-riddled bodies on channel after channel, but something as beautiful, unthreatening and utterly healthy as human female breasts instantly tighten the sphincters of Canada's self-appointed censors?

Maybe it's not the breasts at all — maybe it's the idea of breast milk that offends them.

Dunno why we are talking literally about the staff of life here.

Besides, human breast milk enjoys one advantage that the stuff our dairies sell us will never be able to equal.

Outstanding packaging.

Editor's mail

Children need systemic change

To the Editor,

In response to the editorial "The Children's Aid Society (CAS) can't do the job of child protection alone."

Much of my adult life I have spent on the CAS boards as well as the board of the Ontario Association of CAS. During this time many children have been helped, but unfortunately a few have died from abuse, one is too many.

Changes Required

That all persons who know of, or have reason to suspect child abuse, will be held liable if they do not report this to the CAS.

That every CAS have available to them a highly skilled physician in the field of child abuse as well as a radiologist familiar with all forms of imagery and particularly skilled in child injuries.

That child injuries, where abuse is suspected must appear in court before any signs of the injuries have diminished.

That any child that dies from an injury must be examined by a qualified child abuse

physician, a radiologist experienced in child abuse and any autopsy by an experienced child injury pathologist.

A child is a person, and must be afforded all the rights of any other human being, even though this might come in conflict with an adult.

A great deal of emphasis is presently placed on the family and the rights of the adults involved. There are dysfunctional families where the rights of the child does not have a chance.

Where child abuse ends up in death, the finger is all too often pointed at the Children's Aid Society, and when the CAS intervenes, when abuse has occurred, they are characterized as child snatchers. We certainly agree to give support to the family, but we also agree that we as a society must support the rights of the child. Our present system too often fails the child.

Sam Bowman
Markham