

# Comment & Opinions

Send your letters to the editor to the address below

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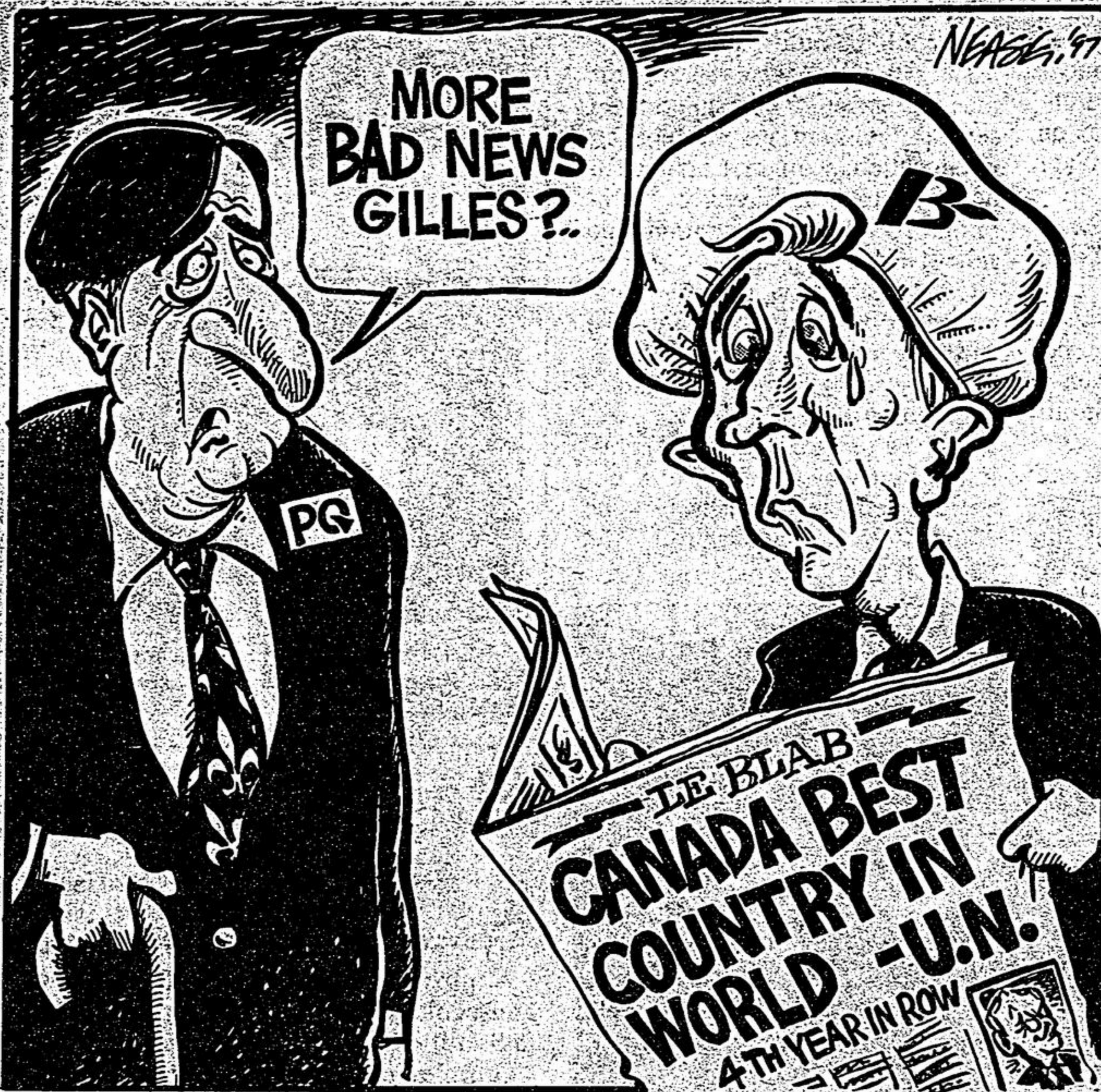
EDITORIAL

## Don't blame teens for hanging out

Police are keeping an eye on local youth hangouts. There seems to be a problem with "five percent of the teens" in town, while the other 95 per cent are "fantastic," says the cop on the beat who appeared before town council recently.

But beefing up security around the local hangouts is not going to solve the problem, and police presence is not the answer. It is the same old story - there is nothing in town for kids to do. Teens like to be around their friends. They don't want organized activities, and they want to be in a place that is teen-friendly. That is why the youth centre at the Rec Centre is not working. When The Tribune initiated the drive for a youth centre in 1991, a needs study was conducted of teens: What they wanted was a place of their own, operating with their own input, run the way they wanted it run. Let's face it, the room above the arena is not teen-friendly.

Places are cited by the police like Java Junction and Success Square as common teen hangouts. That's because these locations have what teens are after, a place to meet, drink coffee and just "hang." They are what the youth centre was supposed to be, but council refused to grant them that mandate. If the municipality is worried about groups of teens gathering, they should issue a curfew. If parents don't want their children hanging out, they should keep them at home. But don't blame the teens. Kids, after all, will be kids.



## Being positive pays off, readers explain

Dear Editor,  
More than a year ago we met a man who was confined to a wheelchair at a coffee shop we would frequent. His name is Jimmy Huddleston. That day he came up to us and introduced himself

and told us the story of his accident and how he came to be in a wheelchair. He also informed us that he WOULD walk again.

Since that time we have come to know Jimmy as a friend with a large heart, a

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huge smile and full of optimism. On a regular basis he sends us notes to keep us informed of his progress, which we

have kept with care in what we call the "Jimmy Files."

A few months back we were sitting having our coffee when we saw Jimmy and his sister pull up in the parking lot. We could never have imagined what would happen next. We watched as Jimmy got out of his van and walked two or three steps. As we witnessed this great man do exactly what he said he would do our eyes filled with tears as our hearts swelled with pride.

In the past months our lives have gotten a little busier and a little more complicated and we have not seen our friend, but our hearts are still with him as are our thoughts. As a motivational speaker he taught others to be positive, he has not only taught the three of us the meaning of the word positive but has shown us as well. Thank you for the gift Jimmy!  
Karyn Pickering-Armitage  
Trina Field

## Our rescue crews are wonderful

Dear Editor,  
I wanted all of Stouffville and Uxbridge to know what a wonderful rescue unit we have in our surrounding area. My husband, two children, and friend were recently involved in that car accident on Durham Rd. 30 on Sunday, June 8.

Not only do we have a quick and caring rescue unit but also it's nice to know we still have a lot of caring people to whom I'd like to thank those who helped out. I'd especially would like to thank Mr. Art Jones and his wife whom rescued my three year old son and five year old

daughter that were trapped in the back of the car luckily with minor injuries.

As for the firemen and ambulance attendants, another huge thank you to you for your very quick response, caring of the two trapped men in the car, and also for the attention that was given to my children. My children are still having a tough time sleeping at night, but hug the teddy bears which were given to them that evening, by either the fire dept. or the ambulance attendants.

Jennifer Bell  
Stouffville

## Law treating sexes differently not sexist

Dear Editor,  
Re the ongoing controversy over the fact that women's publicly exposing their breasts for certain reasons is no longer a legally indecent act in Ontario.

The national community - as distinguished from the feminist community - regards physiology (i.e. biology), not personal intent (i.e. volition), as being the determinant of whether or not a body part is sexual.

The average woman's breasts are significantly more erogenous than

the average man's breasts, due to neurological differences between them involving tactile corpuscles (a type of peripheral termination of nerves), as well as connections between certain autonomic neural plexuses. (The erogency of breasts is primarily a product of neurology, not culture.) Unlike men's breasts, women's breasts have been naturally preserved in part to perform the function of arousing sexual desire, when stimulated, in the individuals whose bodies they are a part of (i.e. nature "intends" them to perform

this function); hence from a physiological perspective, they are sexual.

An indecency law that requires men and women to publicly conceal whatever is, for their respective genders, physiologically a sexual body part acts on a single standard.

Furthermore, the fact that such a law treats men and women differently at the level of concretes (i.e.: the perceptual level) does not make it sexist; likewise, neither does the fact that the physiological identities of the genders are of consequence to it.

Sheldon Warnock

## Topless issue should not be a priority: Reader

Dear Editor,  
Re: Topless in Toronto is not a priority. Had the advocates of going topless in Toronto channelled their energies

towards child poverty or women abuse or the Canadian unity issue or equality at the work place, our country would have been even a better place to live in

Perhaps such advocates decided to resolve their unemployment syndrome by going topless!

Mounir Sahyoun

## Auction was a hit

Dear Editor,  
On behalf of York Durham Heritage Railway we would like to thank everyone who donated items and supported our auction on May 23.

Gary Hill gave his expertise free of charge and the Phoenix Auction Barn allowed us to use their facilities at no cost.

We YDHR members appreciate all the support and help the community has given us in our endeavour to get the train rolling.

Thelma McDonald  
Stouffville  
Russ Gould  
Uxbridge

### STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE

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