

# Comment & Opinions

Tuesday, November 4, 1997  
Vol. 109, No. 71

Send your letters  
to the editor  
to the address below

EDITORIAL

## Be wary of one-issue candidates, agendas

We have always extolled the virtues of exercising your democratic right of voting. In fact, we think it's the most important thing you can do to serve yourself, your community and your country.

But there are also pitfalls.

One such danger is casting your vote for one-issue candidates. We are not saying that such candidates should not seek office. We are merely suggesting that serving the interests on a single agenda does little for the community as a whole, and more often than not, benefits and individual or single cause.

Candidates often run on single issues to draw attention to them. These candidates, once elected, often find their agendas thwarted by the majority of the body they have been elected to, or, in the case of some, achieve their goals and then maintain little interest in the job we have elected them to do.

For example, if someone runs to, say, get a bylaw passed preventing ice cream trucks from parking in front of his or her house, this person is not likely to be of much benefit to us once that issue has been resolved.

We would urge all to seek out the best candidate for their ward. Be wary of promises that obviously cannot be kept. Be concerned if the candidate seems to be focussing on a personal agenda. And beware of political junkies - those who would be elected for personal gratification.

We want people in office who will serve their community, not their own interests.

NOW THAT YOU'VE SEEN ALL THE MOVIES AND YOU'RE BORED WITH THE MALL... MAYBE YOU COULD START ON THE HOMEWORK YOUR TEACHERS LEFT YOU?



## How can we trust bill to improve education?

Open letter to Stouffville parents,

As a parent of three children ages 9, 5 and 3, have been following the teachers' strike very closely. I'm opposed to the government's Bill 160.

I can not and do not believe these changes will improve my children's education. We have proof of this by all the changes that had to be made two years ago when the government

### LETTERS

then cut a half billion dollars from our children's education.

We experienced class size increases and the cancellation of our Junior Kindergarten program. We lost a full-time librarian and a full-time physical

educator. Our schools are down to the "bare bones". How much more can be cut? My blood runs cold when I hear Mike Harris on the television announcing: "What the teachers are doing is illegal!" What Mr. Harris is doing is morally illegal in forcing us to accept Bill 160.

He denied that the government had a plan to cut funding of over a half

billion dollars over the next two years to our schools. This we now know is a lie. How can he be trusted?

My belief that we live in a democratic society is wavering. We have seen the effects of his cuts by the closing of hospitals and the recent school funding. He is leading us to believe that the teachers are the "bad guys".

They are not asking for salary increases, they are not getting strike pay. They are making a stand by speaking out for our children and their children and the future of our children and their right to the best education available.

This strike belongs to all of us and it is time we lend a hand and show our support by joining the teachers on the picket lines or calling our local MPP Julia Munro at 640-3753 and voicing your opinion.

You can also send it in writing by mail: Julia Munro, Felcher Blvd., Box 9, R.R. 3, Stouffville, Ont. L4A 7X4, Fax: 640-5180.

A concerned parent,  
Carole Averill, Stouffville

## Those who sew in tears, reap in joy

Last Friday evening, Mr. Wallethead and I were covering in the back room, trying to shut out the unworldly sounds emanating from the ghosts and goblins seeking entrance to Chateau Gilderdale.

After an emotional roller coaster of a week, I had somehow neglected to buy my usual bucket o' candy and was attempting to assuage the resulting guilt with a glass or two of vin ordinaire.

Meanwhile Rach, 3, from the soundtrack of 'Shine,' was reaching its zenith in a loud and complex crescendo which was doing spirited battle with the intermittent but jarring noise of the doorbell.

Let me explain about our doorbell. When we first moved to the old home-stead, I was determined not to have one of those polite but boring 'Avon calling' chimes. It had to be an in-your-ear doorbell, the kind it would be impossible to ignore.

Mr. Wallethead installed it, right beside the kitchen door, and the first time it rang I almost flattened the cat with the casserole dish I was in the throes of removing from the oven. It wasn't so much loud as deafening. It



Kate's  
Corner

Kate Gilderdale

could be the reason the overwhelming majority of homeowners prefer 'Avon calling'.

By now I am more or less immune to the effects of its heart-stopping peel, but I have thought seriously about upgrading our liability insurance in the event that one of our guests keels over permanently at its clarion call. But I digress.

As we sat in our haven from Halloween, my mind took me back to the days of yore, when our own darling children were all decked out to go trick or treating. Of the myriad challenges I have faced as a parent, one of the most harrowing has been the requirement to provide costumes for the annual accumulation of candy contest.

The first year or two were okay, because pre-schoolers still think their parents are the centre of the universe. Little children are touchingly grateful

for the eye-patch, bandanna, wellies and jauntily-striped sweatshirt which, together with their awesome imagination, are all it takes to transform them into fearsome pirates.

All too soon, however, they want to be a Ninja Turtle, Power Ranger or some other character currently in vogue, but the sophisticated little consumers of today are rarely satisfied with anything less than a perfect replica.

To a parent who dropped out of Brownies on learning that the acquisition of her next badge was contingent upon the successful completion of a knitting test, this could hardly be construed as tidings of comfort and joy.

Indeed, needlecrafts of any kind are quite beyond the epitome of aging cool. Since handing in my maternal notice was not an option, however, I was obliged to give my extremely-limited talents full reign. Over the next few years, to my amazement, I managed a Princess Leia, Darth Vader, two Superpersons and a black cat, fashioned out of Darth's rather oddly-constructed body suit.

Which only goes to show that those who sew in tears shall reap in joy.

## Stop honking

Dear Editor,  
I live near one of the schools where the teachers are striking. I am requesting that people who wish to show support do so in a less noisy manner. Honking may seem like a good idea to you, but having to listen to this all day is annoying. As the people who were commenting on the noise of the train whistles noted, we do have a noise bylaw.

K. Darby, Stouffville

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A Metroland Community  
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### about us

News  
(905) 640-2100  
Retail sales  
(905) 640-2100  
Classifieds  
(905) 640-2874  
Distribution  
(905) 640-2100  
Fax  
(905) 640-5477  
E-Mail  
theirib@istar.ca  
6244 Main St.,  
Stouffville, Ont.  
L4A 1E2

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