

Munro bodychecked in Bill 160 game

What if you went to an information meeting on Bill 160 and a hockey game broke out?

Or was it a hockey brawl interrupted by an angry barrage of questions aimed at an overmatched MPP Julia Munro?

Laying in bed last Thursday night after covering a

rather one-sided town hall-style debate, followed by a hockey game which concluded with an old-fashioned small town arena punch-out, I was having trouble sorting out the two.

The crowds attending the two events showed similar traits. I detected the same hissing, jeering and taunting

sounds afforded the opposition at both. It left me to wonder if the folks gathered in the church basement to take on besieged Tory MPP Julia Munro over their government's controversial education legislation had followed me across town to the arena afterwards.

After 10 years covering

public meetings and hockey games, I've come to the conclusion that they have much in common. Public meetings often involve a highly contentious issue, with a resolute gathering of the local citizenry taking on someone sitting up on the dais trying to defend the position set forth by the authorities - the

municipal, provincial or federal government of the day.

Like most hockey games, these meetings start with each side gingerly feeling the other out. But at both, it's usually just a matter of time before someone takes exception to a ploy used by an opponent, and the elbows begin to fly. Like the home crowd at a hockey game, the audience at a meeting becomes collectively more brazen as individual after individual raises both the stakes and his or her voice in attacking the outnumbered opposition.

At the hockey game, the embattled visitors at least have the support of 18 or so team mates. So even if they lose the game, they'll try to win a few battles in the trenches along the way. Consequently, the gloves are dropped, and two by two, the players begin to exchange pleasantries and punches. The fans sometimes enter into the fray upon the conclusion of the game, as they did last Thursday night, ushering the defeated enemy hordes off the ice with catcalls and chants. That's exactly how Julia Munro had been sent on her way an hour or so earlier.

For Munro, sitting unprotected and utterly alone while enduring her school yard beating, there was no recourse at times but to simply pull in her head and turtle. Always an advocate of the underdog, both at hock-



From Where I Live

Bruce Stapley

ey games or public meetings, I couldn't help but feel sorry for the woman. Try as she might to explain that the bill in question was the end result of years of studies and consultations by various governments, all that mattered to those in the audience was that it has been wrapped in packaging best defined as early Don Jail.

One woman carried overkill to new extremes by conjuring up images of Nazi storm troopers and concentration camps! I've never heard that one even at the most brutal of hockey games.

Sure, the moderator of the meeting came to Munro's rescue on occasion, like a good referee, reminding those gathered in so many words that this was an exchange of ideas, not a lynching.

Meanwhile, over at the arena, game officials were doing their best as the local heroes and the Aurora Tigers exchanged salvos both verbal and physical.

And as I finally drifted off to sleep after this most boisterous evening, I had a vision of Dave Johnson, Mike Harris and Julia Munro out there at centre ice facing off against Eileen Lennon, Earl Manners and Marshall Jarvis amid a thunderous crowd din.

Instead of the insignia of the home team, the puck was emblazoned with 'Bill 160'.

It was then that I knew I'd had far too much excitement for one night.

ADVERTISING CORRECTION

In our Christmas Magic Book, included in this newspaper this week. Please note: Page 40: Casual Connection, rib chenille tunic sweater is not available in brown colour shown, all other colours available as advertised. Page 158/159: Lego, Duplo and Free Style buckets, copy is reversed.

We sincerely apologize to our valued customers and regret any inconvenience or confusion this may have caused.

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Gary Unitas
Public School Board
Trustee Elect Area 2
Wards 3&6
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REGION OF YORK SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PLAN FOR POSTAL DISRUPTION

General Welfare/Ontario works Cheque Pick-Up

December benefit cheques dated for December 1, 1997, will be available to be picked up at the local office serving your residential area. The following locations with times and dates for pick-up are below:

OFFICE	CLIENTS WITH LAST NAME STARTING WITH	PICK-UP DATES	TIME
Georgina Office 23324 Woodbine Ave. Keswick	A-F	November 26/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
	G-L	November 27/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
	M-R	November 28/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
	S-Z	December 1/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Newmarket Office 62 Bayview Parkway Newmarket	A-F	November 26/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
	G-L	November 27/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
	M-R	November 28/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
	S-Z	December 1/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Markham Office 625 Cochrane Drive Suite 400 Markham	A-F	November 26/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
	G-L	November 27/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
	M-R	November 28/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
	S-Z	December 1/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Vaughan Office 3901 Highway #7 Suite 501 Woodbridge	A-F	November 26/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
	G-L	November 27/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
	M-R	November 28/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
	S-Z	December 1/97	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Clients must provide proper identification when picking up their cheque.

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