

Tuesday, February 3, 1998  
Vol. 110, No. 9

The Tribune is a member of the Ontario Press Council

THE TRIBUNE

# Comment & Opinions

Send your letters to the editor to the address below

## EDITORIAL

### Region's action plan has potential

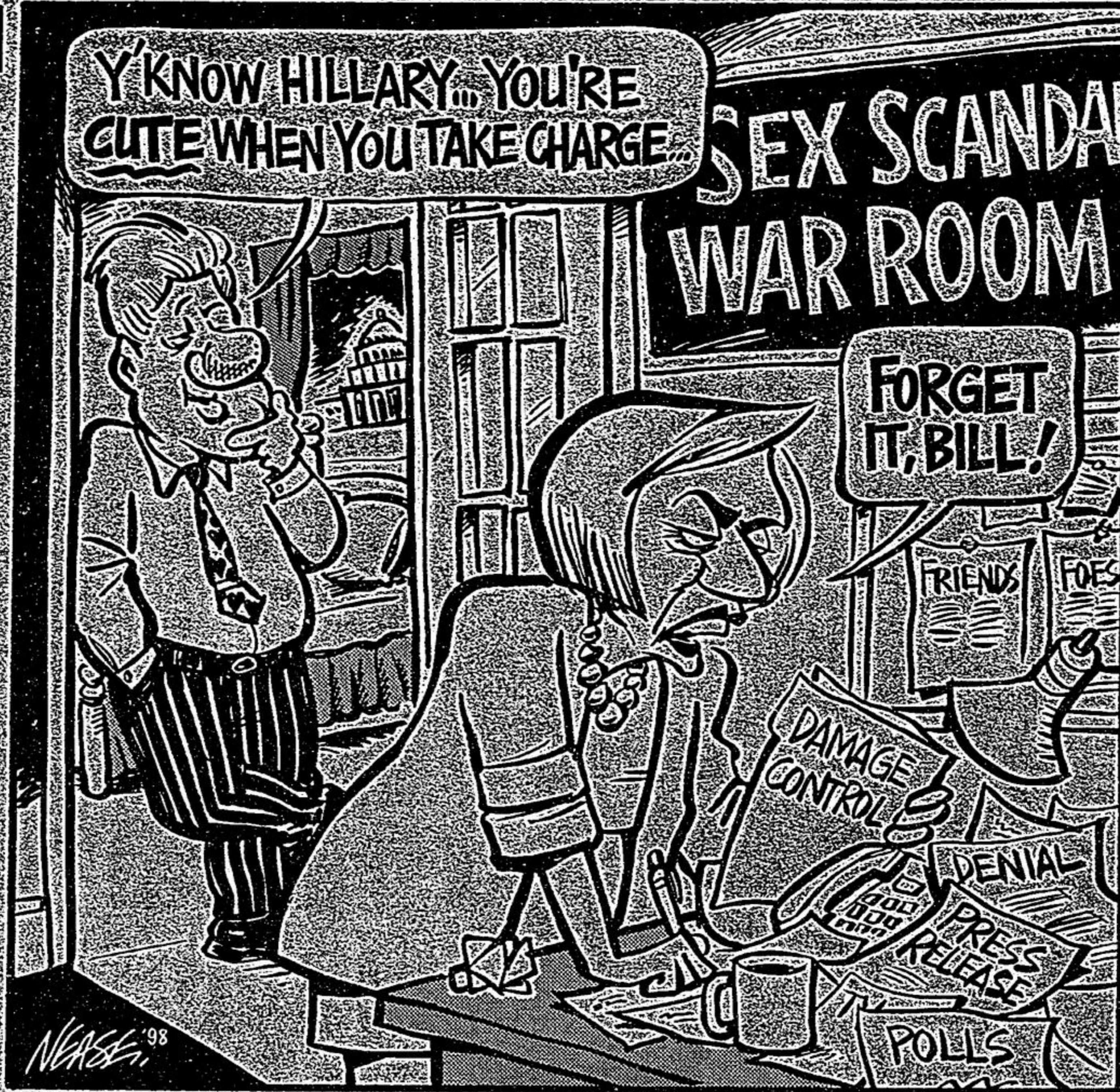
On the surface, York Regional Council's call to look into amalgamating its fire, transit and sewage services seems to make sense. The region announced its action plans for 1998 after a conference in Georgina last week, and they appear to be steps towards more efficiency.

However, things are not always as simple as they may appear. Of course, the idea of avoiding duplication and saving taxpayers' money is a good idea. These savings, though, must not be realized at the expense of public safety.

This is particularly true in the case of the fire departments. The thought of stations being closed down for strictly economic reasons is simply unacceptable. A municipality that has worked hard to build its own first-rate fire department shouldn't be forced to compromise service to its residents to facilitate amalgamation.

There is also a danger that departments which rely on volunteers, such as Stouffville's, will get hung out to dry. Another major concern is the potential for confusion that would stem from one central dispatch system trying to serve different municipalities with similar street names.

A better co-ordinated and region-wide transit system sounds like it has great potential. It's certainly needed. With five different municipal transit systems, not to mention the TTC and GO which also run routes in York Region, public transportation in the region is a dog's breakfast. Any improvement would be much appreciated by the region's growing number of transit users.



## Quit complaining and run for council

Dear Editor,

Re: The letter from Margaret May on the retirement party.

First of all she should feel honoured to have received an invitation to Barb Smith's retirement party. I am one of the "us" who did not

### LETTERS

Although I have known Barb through the years from going to the library, and I'm sure her invitation is

the same content and not personal. I can't believe the letter writer put in print why one person should receive a better party than another from the library (with fewer years service).

Why does she care how many invitations were sent (as long as she got

one) or who made the list?

Barb made the list herself. As to a gift, I don't believe she was asked for any money in this invitation to buy a gift from "us" so why is she so concerned? By receiving an invitation, all she is asked is to be there (her choice), have a good time, enjoy the goodies and wish Barb a happy retirement.

I am sick of seeing this woman's letters in the papers. Obviously she has nothing better to do than sit and write complaining letters about everything. If she is not happy about the way the town spends (our) money, then perhaps she should for office on the next council.

Kathy Pashby  
Bell Canada

Isobel Hoover,  
Stouffville

## Call to cheer on your Olympic favourites

Dear Editor,

The 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano are just around the corner and people in communities across Ontario are eagerly looking for ways to get involved in the spirit of the Games.

People in your community can

enhance their Olympic experience without leaving home. The Bell Olympic Connections Line offers people an opportunity to directly share in the emotions of the Olympics. By calling 1-888-439-TEAM (8326), Olympic well-wishers can leave messages of encouragement

for their favourite Canadian athletes in Nagano. Messages will be transcribed and sent via the Internet to special e-mail addresses created for athletes and accessed at the Olympic Village.

## Hell's Musak will play only 'The Best of Rap'

As the RRSP deadline draws ever closer, Mr. Wallethead and I are both deeply involved in forward planning.

While my practical spouse works on our investment portfolio to ensure that whoever survives longest has sufficient funds to live on, I am putting together a program of events for my wake.

He has a file in the computer which tells us exactly where we stand financially; I have a file which lists the music I would like to accompany my shuffle off this mortal coil.

The eclectic repertoire includes 'Girls Just Want to Have Fun' by Cyndi Lauper, 'No Need to Argue' by The Cranberries, 'Bring Me the Wine and the Dice' from Aspects of Love — the only Lloyd Webber musical I didn't get tired of hearing



### Kate's Corner

Kate Gilderdale

after half an hour, and Elgar's 'Lux Aeterna' sung by the Choir of New College, Oxford.

I'd also like them to play Jerome Kern's 'The Way You Look Tonight' for no reason other than I love it, and 'You'll Never Walk Alone' by Gerry and The Pacemakers, because that's the song that saw me through the bad times after my father died. Of course, I'm not planning to quit this life anytime soon, but you can't take anything for granted and I'd hate someone to choose the wrong swan songs for my final curtain.

Imagine sitting helplessly on your cloud plucking at your harp and watching your nearest and dearest send you on the ultimate journey to the strains of, say, Billy Ray Cyrus's 'Achy Breaky Heart', Meatloaf's 'Life is a Lemon' and 'I want my Money Back', or 'I Write the Songs' by Barry Manilow. You may be in heaven, or that other place, but here on earth, your image will linger on embarrassingly in the sound of Musak.

If hell is my destination, I have a hunch that a compilation entitled 'The Best of Rap' will reverberate in my ears for all eternity, that it will be February for 12 months of the year and that I will spend my time emptying the mailbox, which will be stuffed with an organic pile of RRSP mailings, mutual fund newsletters, fitness club member-

ship specials and flyers for gated adult lifestyle condominiums.

When I'm not thus employed, I will be elected to participate in an endless round of committee meetings, where I will take minutes which I cannot for the life of me read back. The pubs will serve only soft drinks, Ted Rogers will be prime minister and the only channels available on basic television will be devoted to financial planning, sports and 24-hour coverage of Bill Hillary and Monica. Sponsorship for the latter will be provided by manufacturers of extra-firm hold hair gel and purveyors of cosmetic dentistry.

As for my epitaph, I have decided to follow the lead of the late British comedian, Eric Morecombe, who when asked by his sidekick Ernie Wise what he would like to see inscribed on his tombstone, plumped for the short and simple: 'Back in five minutes.'

STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE

A Metroland Community Newspaper

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The Stouffville Tribune, published every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distribution group of community newspapers, which includes: Ayr Herald, Newmarket Advertiser, Alliston Herald-Courier, Barrie Advance, Brantford Guardian, Burlington Post, City Parent, Collingwood/Wasaga Beach Connection, East York Mirror, Etobicoke Guardian, Georgetown Independent/Adlon, Pelee Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist, Sun Midland/Ontario Pulse, Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket/Aurora Era Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Orillia Today, Oshawa Weekly, Scarborough Post, This Week, Peterborough Post, West Richmond Hill/Bramall/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, and Uxbridge Tribune Today. Senior's Contents cannot be reprinted without written permission from the publisher. Permit #1247. The publisher reserves the right to refuse or clarify any advertisement. Credit for advertising is limited to space the error occupied.



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