

# Comment & Opinions

(905) 640-2100  
fax - (905) 640-5477  
e-mail - thetrib@istar.ca

Saturday, May 9, 1998  
Vol. 14, No. 19

The Tribune is a member of the  
Ontario Press Council

## EDITORIAL

### Mothers deserve their special salute

This isn't going to come across as earth-shattering, and we're not taking a radical stance here, but we think mothers are just a little bit of alright.

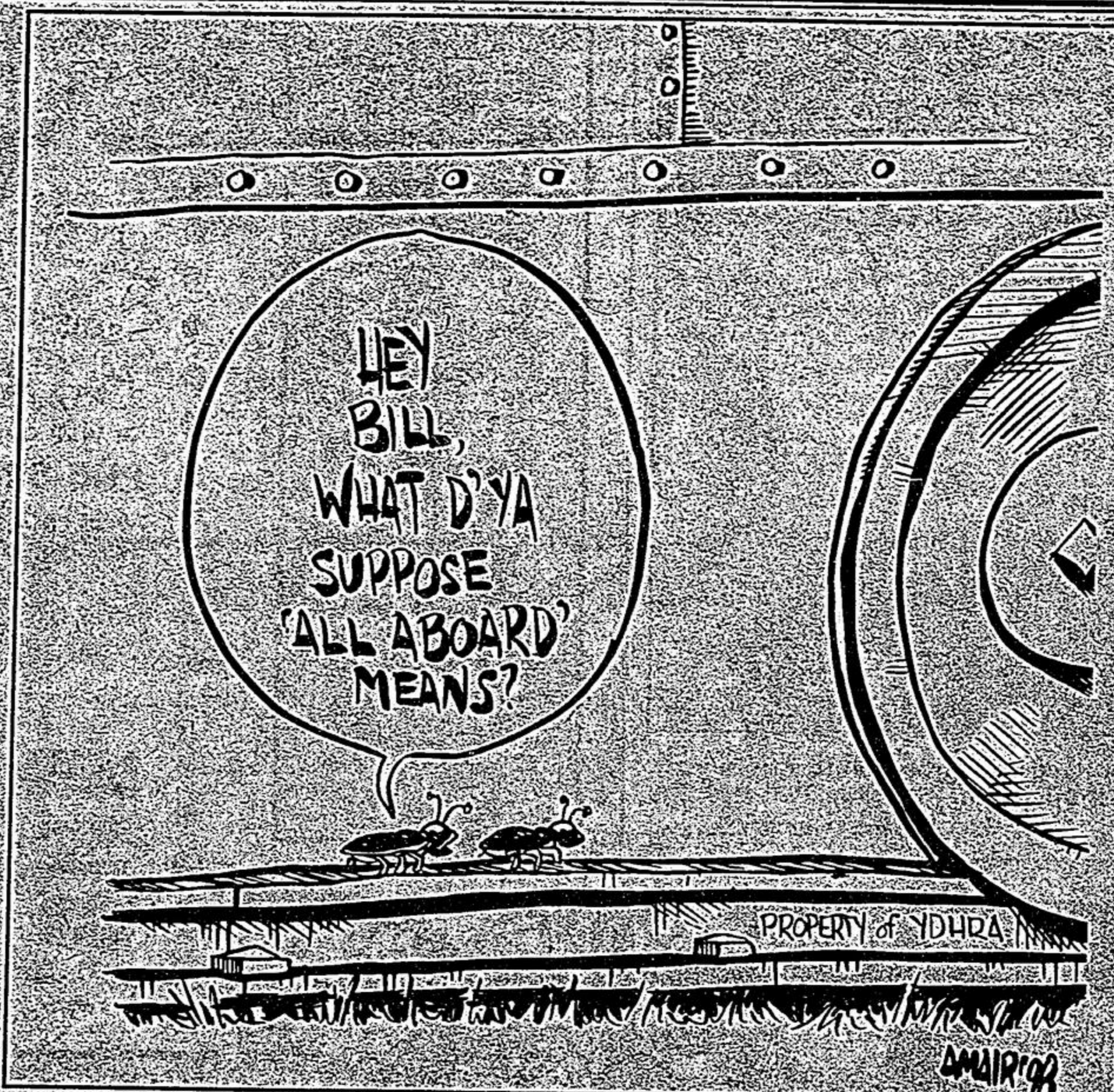
Especially in these times of the reduced nuclear family, of two-income families, of day care and commuting, the annual salute to mothers that began as one woman's dream, then picked up as a greeting card promotion holds more and more meaning with each passing year. Today's mom is faced with obstacles and challenges their own mothers would have never dreamed. In newsreels from the 1950s and '60s, the mother of the new millennium was predicted to be a stay-at-home mom with a thousand gadgets to make her life care-free and easy.

Today, we are certainly surrounded by technology, but by no means is life getting easier. It is constantly changing, but not easier.

Mother's Day was originally designed to relieve the drudgery of domestic duties for a day and for the family to offer thanks for the untold thousands of tasks mothers perform each year.

Today, it should celebrate not just what moms do for their families, but also the indomitable spirit of motherhood, which in this confusing and rapid-fire-paced world, has overcome and will continue to overcome, all we have managed to throw at it.

Happy Mother's Day to one and all!



## Cigars make Madison Avenue makeover

I guess folks will buy just about anything, as long as some ad agency guy dreams up a way to convince them they need it. Take cigars. Please.

There was a time, not so very long ago, when cigars were recognized for what they are: stinky cylinders of a foul herb that pollute the air, soil the drapes and burn holes in one's lungs and lapels with impartial abandon.

But cigars have had a Madison Avenue makeover. They've become chic, trendy, cool.

Visit a newsstand these days and you see the likes of Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone, Peter Falk (not to mention Goldy Hawn, Demi Moore and

Sharon Stone) — grimacing back at you, their capped teeth clenched around a stogie the size of a Rottweiler's hind leg.

Cigar Afficionado is the pretentious moniker of one of the rags. Another one bills itself as The Smoker. Perhaps the least pompous is one called simply Cigar.

The trouble is, these publications are devoted to one thing and one thing only: to the notion that sticking a large tube of weed in your mouth and sucking on one end, while you ignite the other will make you a more attractive person. And we're not talking El Cheapo cigars here. The readers who fall for the cigars are cool; line will be paying big bucks for the priv-



### Basic Black

Arthur Black

ilege of courting lip cancer and smelling like a pool room.

Nowadays, Trendoids don't bat an eye at the prospect of paying 25 or 30 bucks for a pleasure that will last approximately as long as it takes to drink a cup of coffee.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, recently found himself in aqua caliente as a result of his passion for Davidoff RRs.

Davidoff RRs sound like anti-ballistic missiles — and indeed, they're not too far off, size and shape wise. But actually, they are extremely rare and expensive hand-rolled cigars. Davidoffs cost the equivalent of \$43 Cdn.

Since he took office two years ago, Prime Minister Netanyahu has been handing out Davidoff RRs to visiting bigwigs like kiss candies at Halloween.

He's also managed to puff his way through an incredible \$114,000 worth of the things.

The problem is, Netanyahu has been putting those cigars on his tab, as long as he's been in office. Israeli taxpayers have just learned that they've been paying the bills for Netanyahu's habit all along.

At a Christie's auction held in Bern, Switzerland recently, an anonymous oil tycoon from Saudi Arabia eagerly shelled out the Canadian equivalent of \$25,000 for 25 — that's 25 — cigars.

Now, it's true that these were creme de la creme cigars that are almost impossible to find these days — rare, "Trinidad" cigars, hand-made in Cuba by master craftsmen. Still, anyway you slice it, that guy is laying out an incredible \$1,000 for every after-dinner stogie he smokes.

Mind you, the Christies' brochure points out that the prized products came packed in their original cedar box.

Somewhat smaller, one assumes, than the wooden box, the purchaser will be packed in if he continues to smoke cigars.

## The Tribune really blew it

Dear Editor,  
Whatever possessed you to print a picture like that? I don't even think I need to tell you what picture I mean. As if the Trempe's have not had to cope with enough. The loss of their dear, sweet angel, as they refer to Courtney, in the obituaries, the masses of press coverage that has been focused on this tragic event and now you have the audacity to print that picture.

Up until that point the coverage of this event had been as positive as it

could possibly be, and I do commend you for that. However, you blew it.

I think the only possible course of action is a front page apology in the Thursday Tribune.

I hope that even half of the people that I have spoken to will sit down and write a similar letter. No one that I know of thinks the picture was necessary or appropriate. Unless of course you are trying to position the Tribune as a supermarket tabloid.

Airlie Brown

## Readers horrified by front page picture

Dear Editor,  
The Trempe family and the community of Stouffville suffered a terrible tragedy in the loss of Courtney Trempe.

While the events of that fateful day needed to be published, the picture on the front page of May 5 did not.

The photograph of Donna and John Trempe at a time of complete devastation was offensive and, at the very least, an invasion of privacy.

Shame on you.

Karen Hord

Dear Editor,  
Your picture of the family members of Courtney Trempe on the front page of May 5 edition of The

## LETTERS

Tribune was ghoulish and in very poor taste. It was bad enough that the last few editions of the paper have been filled with articles concerning this unfortunate incident.

We have recently moved to Stouffville and we enjoy reading all about the goings on in your paper.

We were very disappointed to see that big city paper sensationalism had found its way into The Tribune.

Please return to the level of reporting that Stouffville citizens enjoy and expect from The Tribune.

Helen & John Wilson

### STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE WEEKENDER

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Ian Proudfoot  
Publisher

Alvin Brouwer  
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Andrew Mair  
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Tracy Kibble  
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Debra Weller  
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Pamela Nichols  
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### about us

News (905) 640-2100  
Retail sales (905) 640-2100  
Classifieds 1-800-743-3353  
Distribution (905) 640-2100

Fax (905) 640-5477  
E-Mail thetrib@istar.ca

6244 Main St.,  
Stouffville, Ont.  
L4A 1E2

The Stouffville Tribune published every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distribution group of community newspapers, which includes: Acton, Aurora, Barrie, Brantford, Burlington, Cambridge, Chatham, Collingwood, Elmira, Hamilton, Kitchener, London, Mississauga, Niagara Falls, North York, Oakville, Peterborough, Port Hope, Simcoe, Stouffville, Sudbury, Thornhill, Toronto, Windsor, and Woodstock. The Stouffville Tribune is published weekly, except during the winter months. The Stouffville Tribune is a member of the Ontario Press Council. The Stouffville Tribune is not responsible for the content of advertisements. The Stouffville Tribune is not responsible for the content of letters to the editor. The Stouffville Tribune is not responsible for the content of classifieds. The Stouffville Tribune is not responsible for the content of the news section. The Stouffville Tribune is not responsible for the content of the sports section. 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### Letters Policy

The Tribune welcomes your letters to the editor. Please keep letters to no more than 300 words. Note that letters may be edited for space, libel, spelling, grammar.

While we endeavor to print as many letters as possible, we regret that not all letters may be printed.