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THE TRIBUNE Comment & Opinions

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EDITORIAL

Police need public's support

Police officers have a very tough job. This week, members of the public will have a chance to say thanks to their police force. May 11 to 16 is Police Week, and the theme for this year is Working Together As A Community.

Police will be holding numerous events over the week to make themselves more accessible to the public.

Residents can also take part in a blue ribbon campaign to show support for the work of police officers.

It's a good opportunity to remember that it is police officers who are the first line of defence when it comes to keeping our communities and homes safe places to be.

Police work is often a thankless task. The good that police officers do is usually shrugged off by saying it's "their job". The police can't work in a vacuum, though.

They need not only the help but the support of the public, which is why Working Together As A Community is such an excellent theme.

Crime and criminals flourish in communities in which people don't care. Locking the door and drawing the curtains doesn't make crime go away; it makes it worse.

Communities in which neighbours look out for each other, and are working with the police to combat crime instead of making the job tougher for officers are safe places to live.

Something to remember as we recognize Police Week.



Intelligent owners keep dogs on leash

Dear Editor:
The boorishness of society has reached new heights. When did it become proper to allow dogs to roam free?

The following are a few of my unwilling experiences. I have named the owners appropriately.

Three German shepherds came bounding towards myself and my husband. The owner made no attempt to call them off. When asked

this pillar of society said, "for C's sake, they won't hurt you." Three shepherds hurtling towards a person is intimidating.

My husband and I were quietly looking at a group of newborn geese last year.

This woman allowed her unleashed dog to run down the hill, scattering the terrified geese.

When she was asked to call her dog she ignored the request and loudly

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said to her child, "What is the problem!!" The problem woman, is that you interrupted our quiet enjoyment. PS: Keep up the great parenting skills.

"Barbie" was jogging in her spandex pants. Hold the thoughts gentlemen. This was not a pretty sight. Her

unleashed dog had obviously been playing in the mud.

He joyfully jumped up on my new casual outfit. When the spandex queen was confronted, she sarcastically said to send her the bill. I would have presented her the bill, but when she was asked her name, she swore and continued on her way. All this while continuing to jog. She clearly did need the exercise. PS: She probably works in customer relations.

Evita a slight revision of history

Last week two friends and I rented the video of Evita.

The Lloyd Webber musical, starring Madonna, is one of those stacy, blockbuster productions that work far better in the theatre than on the screen. For a start, the complete lack of dialogue has a tendency to make serious bits of the story inadvertently hilarious.

It's hard not to guffaw as several perfectly proportioned young men stand in the shower, scrubbing their armpits and singing lustily about politics, while modestly clad in what looks like a cross between a loim cloth and a sarong. Meanwhile, tough-looking workers croon merrily as explosions destroy buildings and vehicles, and soldiers march grim-faced, with military precision, to the accompaniment of the two or three melodies which make up the score.

Evita - the musical is a perfect example of History Lite, a movie which lets viewers figure out the story for themselves without worrying too much about boring, old historical accuracy. According to this version, Eva Peron is a charismatic woman with a penchant for expensive jewellery, who claws her



Kate's Corner
Kate Gilderdale

way out of the gutter, so that she can stand on balconies in designer gowns and warble on about how she'll take care of the workers because she is one of them.

Husband Juan, played with facial expressions of perpetual, if understandable, embarrassment by Jonathan Pryce, looks as if he can't wait until the credits finally roll. He seems a pleasant enough fellow, if a tad ineffectual, hardly the sort to submit his recalcitrant subjects to a bracing spot of torture.

Every now and then the director succumbs entirely to the rock video format with close-ups of Madonna's ruby red lips and a scene in which she dances with Che (Antonio Banderas). It is his misfortune to serve as the production's narrator; the pained look on his face attesting to the often silly lyrics

and his difficulty in hitting the high notes. You know that the end is mercifully nigh when our heroine sits wanly in a wheelchair, unadorned by even a smidgen of lipstick. Juan carries her upstairs, her stiletto heels dangling disconsolately from her feet, and lays her tenderly on the bed. Despite her rapidly declining health, however, she is still well enough to sing, albeit tremulously.

Watching this slight revision of history, I thought it might be fun to create my own musical version of the Christine Lamont and David Spencer saga. Tentative titles include: Christine and David Do Brazil and Proletariats on Parade.

By making it a musical comedy, I hope to add an audience-pleasing, light touch, glossing over glaring holes in the couple's original testimony, and transforming them into naive, but well-meaning, Canadian heroes. Virtual history is so much easier to digest and package than reality, and poetic licence means that every story can have a sappy, if not happy, ending.

You've read the papers, you've watched the newscasts. Now see the musical.

During a leisurely bike ride just outside of Stouffville, we encountered bike chasing dogs. My husband tried to send the pets back home.

The female owner witnessed the event and did not assist in any way. Calling the dogs was obviously a task beyond her capabilities. We had gone a little way further down the road and had pulled well over to the left shoulder to enjoy the view.

This angel drove down the road in her car, and should have been on the right. She swerved to our side and narrowly missed us.

Was this attempted murder or an example of her exemplary driving skills? (Special note to any feminists: Your car insurance rates will soon reflect your new aggression and demand for equality.)

My request to society is simple: Keep your dogs on a leash. The above are only a few examples of your abuse. You diminish yourselves. You make fools of yourselves. You are breaking the law. You potentially put your pets and humans at risk.

But alas, this piece of prose is all for not. A human with the intelligence to read would have the intelligence to keep their pet on a leash.

P. Diaz
Stouffville

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