

Stouffville Tribune

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OPINION



Roy Green

Names can be a nightmare for children

I disagree with the guy who wrote in The Star this week that because his neighbours are Irish, it was OK for them to name their daughter Leighseach — an old Irish name that is pronounced Leesha. It's fine for the parents, but think of the nightmare they've created for the child.

She's going to spend the rest of her life correcting people for whom Gaelic might as well be Greek, and who will call her LEE-seach or LEG-seach.

She might as well have the words "It's Leesha" tattooed on her forehead right now.

The same goes for another old Irish name that has resurfaced recently — Siobhan — pronounced sh-VON.

Parents, in fact, are the worst people when it comes to naming their kids. Ask any kid.

The only time it might be OK to name a daughter Leighseach or Siobhan would be if you lived in Ireland or Cape Breton or some other Gaelic/Celtic-type place where strange people and strange names are the norm.

Of course, parents who come up with names like that don't do it for the kids. They do it to impress their friends.

Parents, in fact, are the worst people when it comes to naming their kids. Ask any kid.

If they manage to get the name right, they're just as likely to spell it wrong. That's why, I'm sure, many of the Shawns and Shauns running around today were named by parents who didn't know it was supposed to be spelled Sean.

I'm convinced that all birth names should be registered with a number and the family name. As in Smith Child #1.

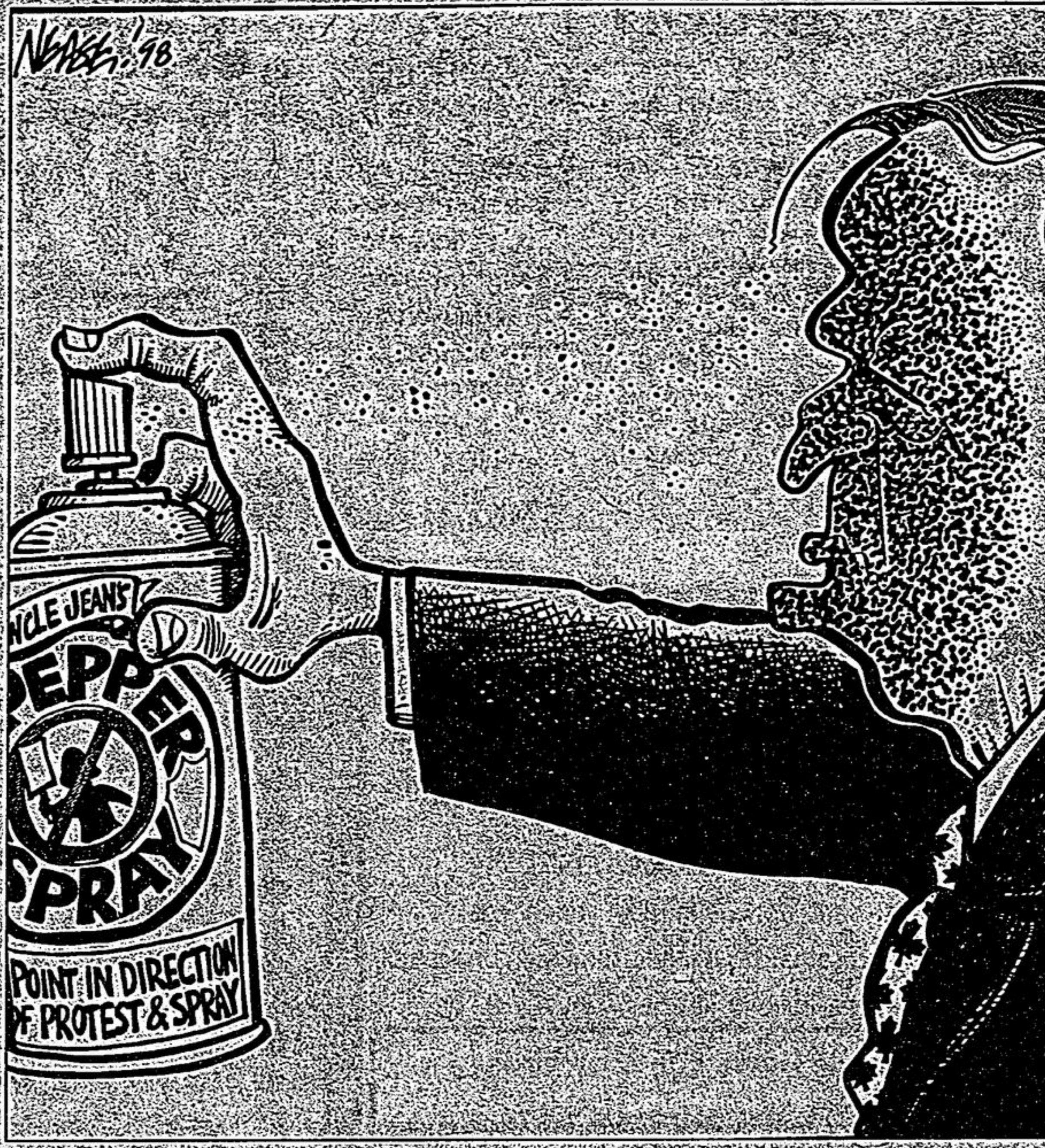
Then, when Smith Child #1 matures, he or she can register the name of his or her choice.

Just a few years ago, I considered a change.

I became intrigued by the fact that NHL goaltender Patrick Roy pronounces his name Ruh-WAH.

I was considering telling everyone I know to start pronouncing my name the same way.

But then I threw my jaw out of joint trying to say Ruh-WAH.



Views ON THE News

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC OPINION

Q: In light of the fact the separate school board strike is ending its third week, and public high school teachers are holding rotating strikes, should teaching be declared an essential service, taking away teachers' right to strike?

I do not think teachers should have the right to strike. The majority of us have to send our children to the public system for education. The only thing making me sadder than I already feel, is the fact that in just two short years we'll probably be going through this again. The politician who can make the right to strike a thing of the past for teachers, will get my vote.

SHARON DINSMORE, STOUFFVILLE

I firmly believe teachers should lose their right to strike on the basis it puts our children's education and therefore their future, at risk. Teachers, like police officers and firefighters, are paid for with my tax dollars. I believe anyone, and everyone, who works on the public payroll should lose their right to strike.

R. GRAEME, STOUFFVILLE

(Teachers should) absolutely not (be allowed to strike). We entrust our most valuable assets to teachers to develop their minds and increase their knowledge, but teachers also influence children's values as well. Our children are too important to be allowed to be held ransom by anyone.

JENNIFER MORITA, MARKHAM

It's a difficult question especially if you see things from both sides. I think it is an essential service, but not compared to policemen. If they go on strike you know something is wrong in one day. Teachers should still have certain privileges but something like compulsory arbitration should be put in place.

WINSTON STEWART, MARKHAM

Yes, they should take it away. I'm an early childhood educator and I can't go on strike.

LORI GATERELL, MARKHAM

They shouldn't take away the right to strike. They are people too! We have four kids in the system and they are affected by the strike, but I think there should be more reason used to solve this problem.

RANDY SMITH, MARKHAM

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Stouffville council heard last week from Georgina officials about its \$1-a-bag trash plan. Georgina says the user-pay system has dramatically reduced waste to the landfill. Would you be in favour of paying \$1 a bag for garbage in Stouffville?

Submit contributions to

Views on the News, fax: (905) 640-5477

E-mail: thetrib@istar.ca

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stouffville applauded for its efforts at Terry Fox Run

The residents and businesses of Stouffville are the best. As a community, we continue to exceed many larger communities when it comes to raising funds for cancer research.

The 18th annual Terry Fox Run held Sept. 20 brought 573 participants and raised more than \$30,000.

We have many to thank: our local business community for promotion and sponsorship; our town for encouragement; our residents, particularly school children who participated (many at their own school event and again at the community event); the many volunteers who give of their time freely; and the hundreds who donate money to bring our total to one that is the envy across the province.

For those participants who are still collecting, please remember, pledges may be paid at any bank until Oct. 17.

Thank you Stouffville. With this collective determination, we will fulfill Terry's dream.

SANDY SCHELL, KENNEDY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Reader invited to spend a week with teacher

Response to Richard Tan's letter entitled "Teachers Ruled by Greed" in the Sept. 15 Tribune.

Teaching, slightly more than four hours per day, I usually arrive to school by 7:45 a.m. and leave around 4:30 p.m. Those four hours in the classroom are preceded and followed by time spent preparing classes, correcting student work, developing tests, setting up and cleaning laboratories, doing paperwork, committee work, tutoring students, running a student activity group, contacting parents, arranging field trips, and photocopying worksheets. Then I also face two to three hours work a night and seven to 10 hours each weekend.

Teachers make \$60,000 a year. This cannot be an average. The majority of teachers have not reached maximum salary.

Those at the maximum have not had an increase in salary in at least six years (we did, however, get a \$200 bonus last year).

Tan said teaching is the easiest job in Canada. This is the comment to which I have the strongest objection.

I will make Tan the offer I have made twice before: spend a week with me. You will soon realize teaching is definitely not the easiest job in any country.

Why would we agree (93.7 a cent) to strike against the York Catholic District School Board twice in the same year?

Why would we be willing to lose salary again? No matter what sort of raise we settle on, we will never make up the money lost.

CHRISTINE GERWLVCH
BROTHER ANDRE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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