

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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OPINION



Roy Green

Remote wars a battle of the sexes

I've come across yet another story about men controlling the TV remote control, thus driving women nuts.

A University of Oregon sociologist has published a study condemning men for "grazing" (zipping through the channels), "zapping" (switching channels to avoid commercials), and "zipping" (fast forwarding during a taped show).

The sociologist, Alexis Walker, calls it "unnegotiated channel switching" and claims it is a classic power struggle between the sexes.

It's time someone cleared the air about grazing, zipping and zapping. Men have been getting a bad rap about this for too long.

Instead of griping and whining about our remote-control control, women should be thanking men for taking on a dirty job and making the best of it.

Women, despite what Alexis Walker and other whiners say, really don't want the remote control.

Once in a while, women will zap through the channels, but their hearts aren't in it

Let's face it, on those rare occasions when men allow women to control the remote control, they will often sit there while two or three commercials occur. In fact, I think women — some of them, anyway — actually watch the commercials.

Once in a while, women will zap through the channels, but you can tell their hearts aren't in it. They linger forever — up to eight or nine seconds! — on one station before slowly moving on.

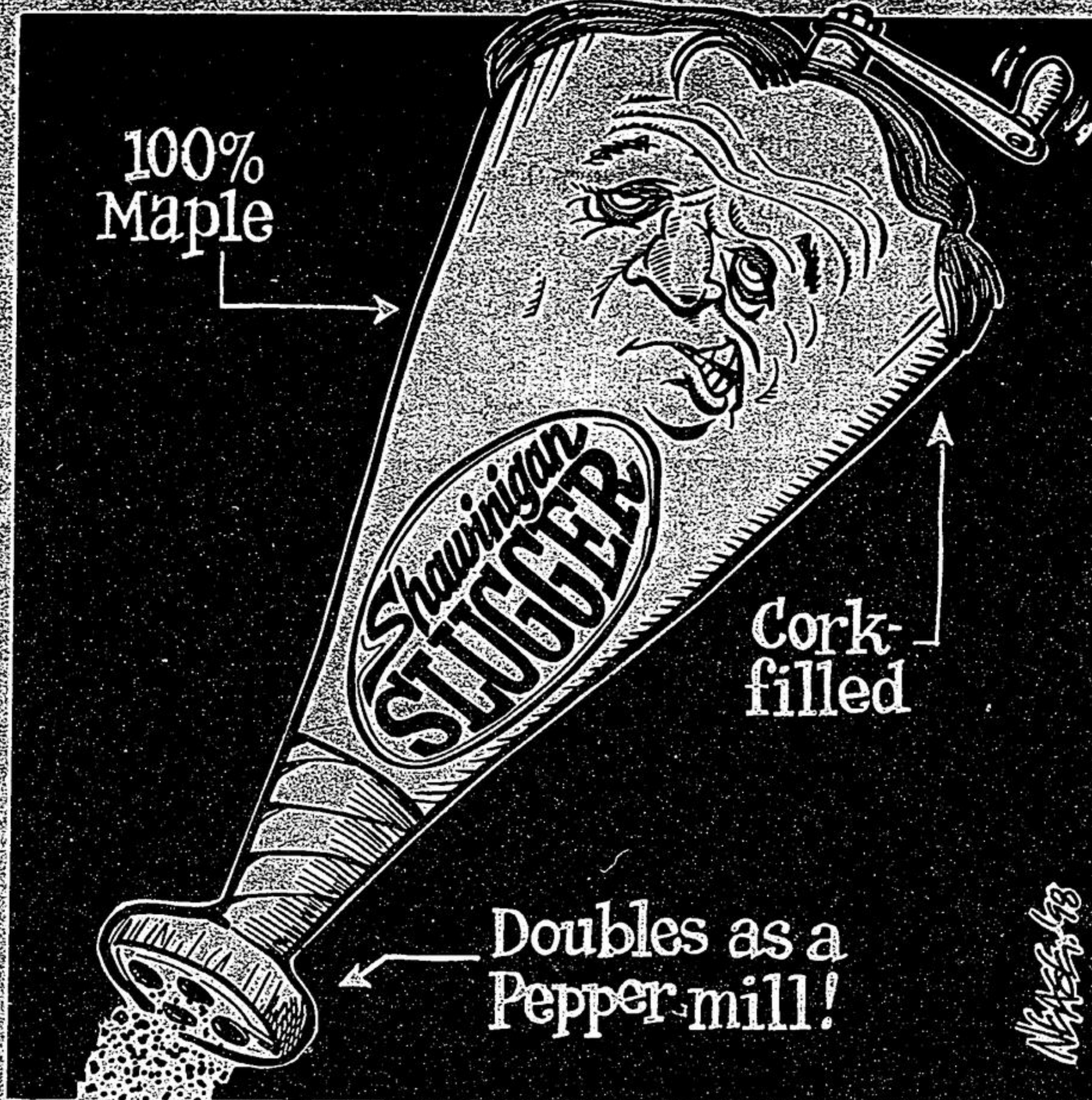
The possibility that there might be another channel not running a commercial at that second never seems to occur to a woman.

Also, women don't seem to be able to grasp the concept of watching nine different football games at the same time.

At the threat of being branded a sexist, I have to say it — women are just too patient for the rough-and-tumble world of graze, zip and zap.

And there's another reason women can't compete with men when it comes to remote-control control.

Women know there's nothing worthwhile on television. Ever. Men will never admit that.



Views ON THE News

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC OPINION

Q: York Region's population is expected to swell to more than one million by 2020. Do you think your lifestyle will change and how?

If it's downtown it's okay, but here, no, although my business might grow.

ALINTOM

I'm lucky if I am still here in 2020. Yes, it will change. There will be more traffic problems, multi-culturalism like we never had it before. And with a bigger population comes more crime. And police forces in the area right now don't have the financial wherewithal to fight crime.

JOHN ADDISON

I won't be here then. I'd like to be. It won't be much different. Everybody would have the same concerns as now.

THELMA HAMILTON

Lifestyle has already changed in this area. More traffic, more people. I've been here since 1964 and Markham has changed an awful lot. A lot more violence, not as safe, another Toronto. It won't be long before I am moving out of here and into the woods. I'm going up north.

DOUG PAGE

Absolutely. It'll take me two hours to get to work.

PATTI WILMAN

Oh, definitely. Traffic congestion, more schools, more taxes for sure. It'll be more like living in Toronto. It's more small town now. That's why we moved here.

ROSA JOHNSTON

Lifestyle will change for sure. In health and government matters you will have to wait longer and longer for your turn because there are more people. Because they want to cut budgets, services will not keep pace with the growth in population.

BARRY LAI

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

On Thursday, former prime minister Brian Mulroney received the Order of Canada, our country's highest honour. Do you think he deserves this award, and why?

Submit contributions to:

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

E-mail: thetrib@istar.ca

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All handicaps aren't visible

I parked my car at Markville Shopping Centre on Monday, Oct. 19, in a handicapped space near Sears. I put my handicapped sign in the window of my car.

The reason I have a handicapped sign is because I have heart and lung problems which make it difficult for me to walk far without resting.

When I came out of the mall there was a note on my windshield. The note was from a "Concerned Citizen" who said they couldn't help, but notice that I was not handicapped, but took that space anyway. They noted that I might do this one day when someone may really need the space.

This hurt me a great deal and I wish the person had confronted me instead of leaving an unsigned note. There is pain enough in having a handicap, without people being cruel. I guess I don't look as if I have a disability, and maybe I shouldn't try so hard to look healthy.

If you come across a situation like this, and you really feel the person should not be parking in a handicapped space, take down the serial number on the sign on the dashboard as well as the licence plate number, call the police and make a complaint. They will check into it.

Please, Concerned Citizen, next time you are tempted to do this, remember not all handicaps are visible.

JUNE MILLER
STOUFFVILLE

Town needs police outpost

I believe the response time of police puts Stouffville residents and businesses at risk.

A police outpost should be set up so that there is a police unit available at all times for immediate response, not 20 to 40 minutes later.

I witnessed a car accident on Main Street, east of 10th Line, in the wee hours of the morning one night. A car had gone into the ditch. I called police. It took 35 minutes for them to get there and then there were five cruisers. Good thing nobody was seriously hurt.

Citizens of Stouffville be careful not to get into serious trouble here, because they surely cannot count on a police person to be available to help.

Thieves and vandals have it made here in Stouffville; by the time the police show the criminals are long gone. The shelter in the park, the train station, ransacking of business and God knows what personal property damage is done to residents who have not reported crimes.

If the town cannot protect the businesses — how can we expect to have a decent business base?

What will it take for council to take action to protect the community, a serious personal injury or death? It's about time we demanded reasonable protection and if that means having a police cruiser available at all times, then let's do it.

LAURIE VANZEELAND
STOUFFVILLE

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