

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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Publisher— Ian Proudfoot
General Manager— Alvin Brouwer

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Views ON THE News

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC OPINION

Q: People are having a difficult time with teens using replica guns — fakes which look so real it takes a close inspection to determine they are fake. These replicas are legal to purchase. Should merchants be allowed to sell these fake weapons?

I don't think so. I've seen them on the news. In certain situations you don't know whether they are real or not when they point them at you.

MICHAEL DAWE

I would allow merchants to sell them. Just because of a few idiots in town use them inappropriately, you shouldn't shut down the merchants or the manufacturers.

SALIM AJANI

Oh no, no. I've got grandchildren coming to the age where this is the thing to do. I think it is very upsetting to see this in the news.

HAZEL FLEMING

I don't think they should. It's causing the police too much trouble, when they could be using their forces elsewhere and look after better things.

JAMIE MORRIS-POCOCK

No, I don't think they should be allowed because it is too difficult to determine what is real. If you eliminate them off the street, they are less of a threat.

VELMA BEESLEY

It's a yes and no question, really. Yes, they should be allowed to sell, as they don't harm anyone. I don't think police should shoot a person if they see one.

SYLVIA RAZA

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

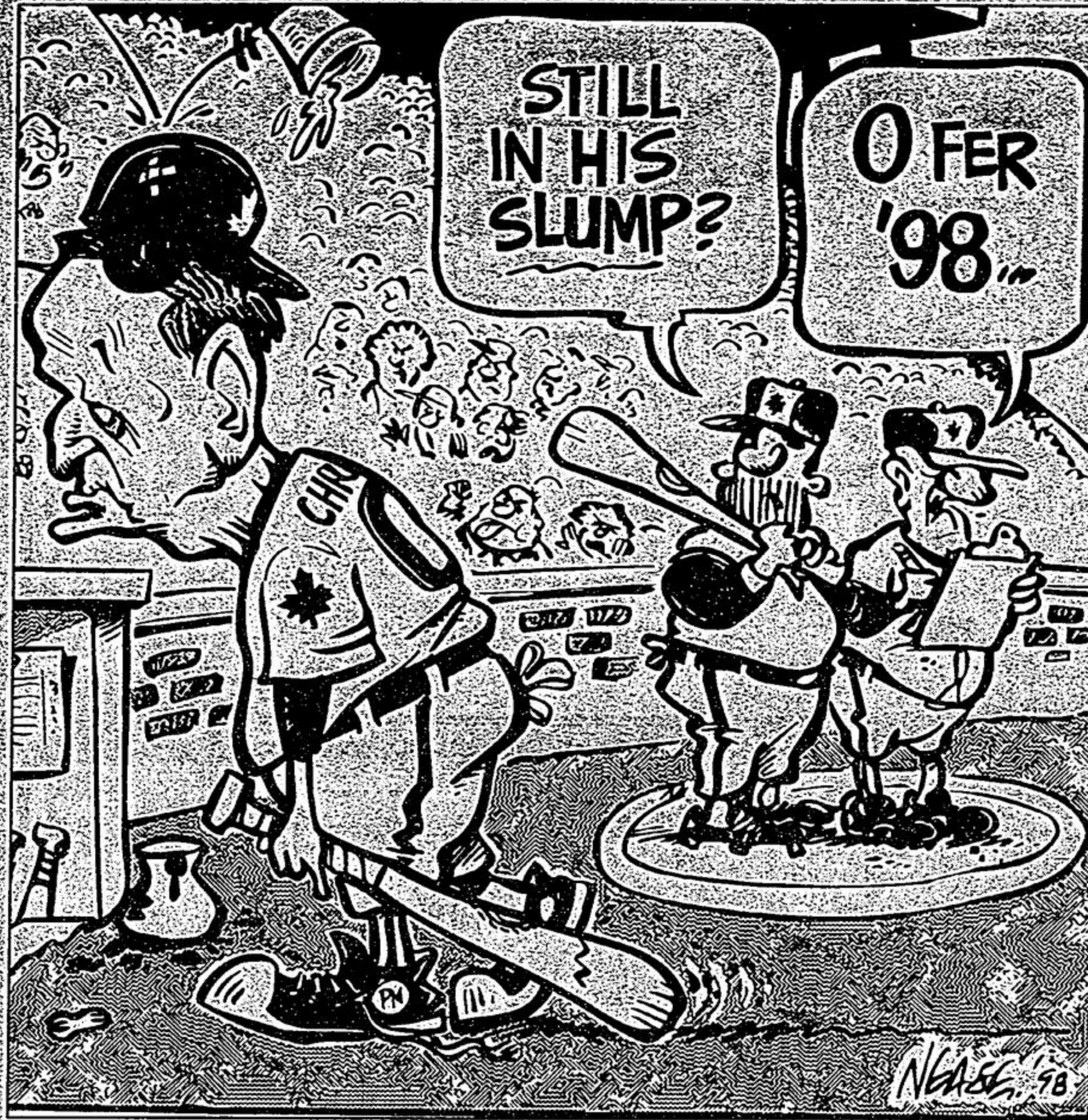
Two high schools in the York Region separate school board have hired security guards to provide lunchtime supervision of students as part of a pilot project, are you in favour of private companies providing security services at schools?

Submit contributions to

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

E-mail: thetrib@istar.ca

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VON nurses provide magnificent service

I was saddened to read the recent wage settlement and other clauses in a new agreement with the Victorian Order of Nurses was considered by the Ontario Nurses Association to be demeaning for community nurses.

After practicing family medicine for almost 50 years, I want to publicly state my deep admiration and gratitude to the nurses of the VON.

The ones I have known have been of the highest calibre. Their work has been hard, but they have shown great loyalty to their patients, providing genuine comfort and support.

I salute the VON for the high road they have taken in these difficult days of fiscal restraint and cutbacks. Whether we want to believe it or not, reduction in funds assigned to many areas occurred because of necessity. We all realize it is unavoidable, until it affects us personally. Then we go on strike and complain.

Would that other professionals who are also paid from the public purse would take this same high road, accepting the reductions that are necessary to keep our province fiscally responsible.

No one, the province included, can continue to spend far more than is received in income. What the VON has done is not demeaning. It reflects their integrity and commitment.

Thank you, nurses of the VON, for magnificent service.

PAUL W. ROBERTS, M.D. RETIRED
MARKHAM

Tories lost a voter

Open letter to Premier Mike Harris

My 11-year-old son fell out of a tree. My wife and I were faced with the decision of either spending six hours waiting for care at Markham Stouffville Hospital or to self-diagnose, apply ice and hope his foot wasn't broken.

Although insignificant to you, this has proven to be a culminating event in my decision not to vote Progressive Conservative for the first time in my 38 years of life.

I am then further incensed to discover that your solution to this situation, emergency funding, amounts to an allocation of a mere \$146,000 for Markham Stouffville Hospital. I then read of the required on-going reporting necessary to support funding applications.

In the same breath, however, you say this problem is rooted in bureaucracy.

Over the past few years, I've witnessed your dealings with the province's doctors, its various unions and its teachers. I've watched you alienate each faction through an arrogant, mean-spirited approach where intimidation and decree seem to be the only negotiation strategy. Then, only when public opinion illustrates you've somehow crossed the line, we see some form of retraction. Well I've had it.

I now live in a province where I can no longer rely on the medical system, the education system, the infrastructure, or the institution of government.

JAMES G. MILLWARD
MARKHAM



Roy Green

Send your cigarettes to terrorists

Some Saturday morning musings to take your mind off more important issues:

- The economy, no matter what you hear, can't be in very bad shape when the roads are chock full of cars carrying personalized licence plates at \$150 apiece. How can anyone cry poor when he or she is driving around with BOO HOO on the back of the car?

- A recent study claimed that one out of every five Canadians is suffering from some form of mental illness. Think of your four best friends — If they're OK, then it's you.

- I've gotten used to seeing CAO and CEO in news stories about chief administrative officers and chief executive officers, but The Sun went too far recently when it turned a chief operating officer into a COO.

- If cigarettes are so deadly, why don't we just ship hundreds of thousands of cartons to terrorists all over the world and wait for them to smoke themselves to death?

What's the opposite of paranoia — the outrageous belief that you are not being persecuted?

- Every time I hear someone saying something about getting more public input on some subject, I immediately think of the bozos I see on CityTV's Speaker's Corner.

- So, what's the opposite of paranoia — the outrageous belief that you are not being persecuted?

- With the arrival of The National Post, and now the battle between The Sun and The Star, I'm reminded of the words of author Garrison Keillor: "A good newspaper is never quite good enough but a lousy newspaper is a joy forever."

- The next time you're debating the wisdom of Academy Award voters, remember this bit of wisdom by an anonymous Hollywood writer: "Mel Gibson and Kevin Costner have won Oscars for best director. Alfred Hitchcock and Martin Scorsese have not."

- One of the ironies of this so-called information age is that it has given respectability to much more uninformed opinion.

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Phone: (905) 640-2100
Fax: (905) 640-5477

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