

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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Views ON THE News

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC OPINION

Q: Now that Premier Mike Harris and the Tories are back in power, and York Region residents voted in a Conservative slate of MPPs, what do you think should be at the top of their agenda, and why?

Mending some fences with education and hospitals. They should show some flexibility. Obviously, more people voted against him than for.

CAROLINE REESOR

There's education, hospitals and taking care of seniors. And a strong economy is very important. And peaceful politics.

ELIA KARTEV

There's only one thing that should be on their agenda; health care.

BUCKWILSON

Hospital care and definitely education. Fix that Bill 160 and all the cutbacks. I have three kids and they are all still in school. We voted for him and we are hoping for some changes.

DIANE ROLLAND

I voted for them and they are doing all right. The deficit was getting out of hand and you can't keep on borrowing against the future. What they promised, they did, and that's what you have to do.

JOE CZAKO

They should keep cutting taxes and keep going after people on welfare and those on workers' compensation. I'm not involved in politics too much, but Mike Harris should have been in power for years before.

TONY LEZIL

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

With an apparent peace deal having been reached in Kosovo, do you think the bombing of the area by NATO forces was the right strategy, or could a resolution have been reached by other means?

Submit contributions to

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

E-mail: thetrib@istar.ca

OPINION



Roy Green

Smoking a rite of passage for many young people

Smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics.

Fletcher Knebel

The latest survey of the week on smoking (there's a new one every day) revealed that peer pressure was the reason most Canadian smokers took up the dirty habit.

The poll, which interviewed 1,500 people across Canada, was conducted by Environics for Health Canada, and asked the 28 per cent of adult Canadians who smoke why they started smoking in the first place.

Most attributed it to social and/or peer pressure.

The second answer was, "Smoking was the cool thing to do."

Frankly, I think the two amount to the same thing but, hey, it's not my survey of the week.

The third-most popular answer was youth, as in being too young to know any better. As in, duhhh.

Which moved one anti-smoking type, Scott McDonald of the British Columbia Council on Smoking and Health, to remark, "It's a rite of passage (for young people). It looks ridiculous but they look in the mirror and they see James Dean."

Which is, when you think about it, a very apt comment.

How many young people, looking in the mirror today, would even know who James Dean was.

On one hand, you have young men being influenced by the dashing young Hollywood anti-hero, star of *Rebel Without A Cause* and, incidentally, a smoker.

On the other hand ... you have five fingers.

No, seriously. On the other hand, you have that same James Dean who, like many smokers, has been dead for many years.

Thus, young smokers can look in the mirror and see all that is both good and bad about smoking.

And another thing — how many young people looking in the mirror today, would even know who James Dean is or was, alive or dead?

And, looking at some of the young people today, I wonder how many bother to look in the mirror at all.

But that's another subject for another column. On another day.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Verdict in dog attack death of Trempe a disgrace

Re: *Inquest verdict an injustice*, May 29

I agree 100 per cent with letter writer Evelyn Tobias.

I, too, feel a great injustice has been done to the Trempe family by the inquest verdict in the tragic death of their beloved daughter Courtney.

It was not an accident. The coroner's jury which handed down the verdict was irresponsible.

One might ask, how much is a human life worth in a so-called civilized society which allows such a tragedy to occur and then tries to pretend it was an accident?

The verdict was a disgrace

MICHAEL PREISS
STOUFFVILLE

Fairness should be the greatest virtue of a paper

I would like to comment on the headline of Roy Green's opinion column, *Endorsements are the paper's duty*, May 29

The headline should have read, *Endorsements are a journalist's duty*.

In keeping with this new theme, I

have no quarrel with any journalist who chooses to write an opinion column.

Most newspapers which publish partisan articles, however, also attach the author's name, so that he or she can be held accountable for his or her words.

Journalism, like teaching, is a profession which has the power to convince and persuade.

Its representatives must realize that their small demographic does not represent the community as a whole, and that even-handedness is their greatest virtue.

For example, consider the tidal wave of hostility which arose when Ontario teachers were accused of bringing their anti-Tory biases into the classrooms.

Likewise, the partisan writings of any newspaper that unabashedly supports a particular political party or agenda constitutes propaganda. The provincial election is over, and I am sure that your Opinion Page will have convinced hundreds of casual voters to vote for the Progressive Conservatives.

In the future, please allow our candidates to be judged, not upon the standards and biases of a minority of journalists, but on their merits as community leaders.

But, of course, that's just my opinion.

CHRIS DANTON
MARKHAM

OUR LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be no longer than 400 words and must include the writer's full name, address and a daytime telephone number so authorship can be confirmed. Anonymous letters will not be

published. Letters will be edited for clarity and space limitations.

Send them to Letters to the Editor, Stouffville Tribune, 37 Sandiford Dr., Suite 306, Stouffville, Ont. L4A 7X5

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