

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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OPINION



Roy Green

Upspeak making its way to radio — we're doomed?

It's official — upspeak is now, sadly, an accepted part of our language. Upspeak, also known as uptalk, is that annoying habit of ending declarative statements with rising intonations. Make that rising intonations?

There is a morning news reader on a Toronto radio station who leads almost every item on his newscast with invisible question marks — "Those financial problems at Eaton's..." and "That earthquake in Turkey..."

It's one thing when people talk in upspeak unconsciously, but quite another thing when it's done on purpose. On radio. We're doomed.

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Now, like everybody's doing it. Although it seems to be a recent phenomenon, upspeak has been around for a long time.

An article in the *Globe & Mail* a few years ago carried a report of a teachers meeting in Ontario where the matter of "the rising inflection evil" was discussed. That meeting was held in 1901.

Now, like everybody's doing it.

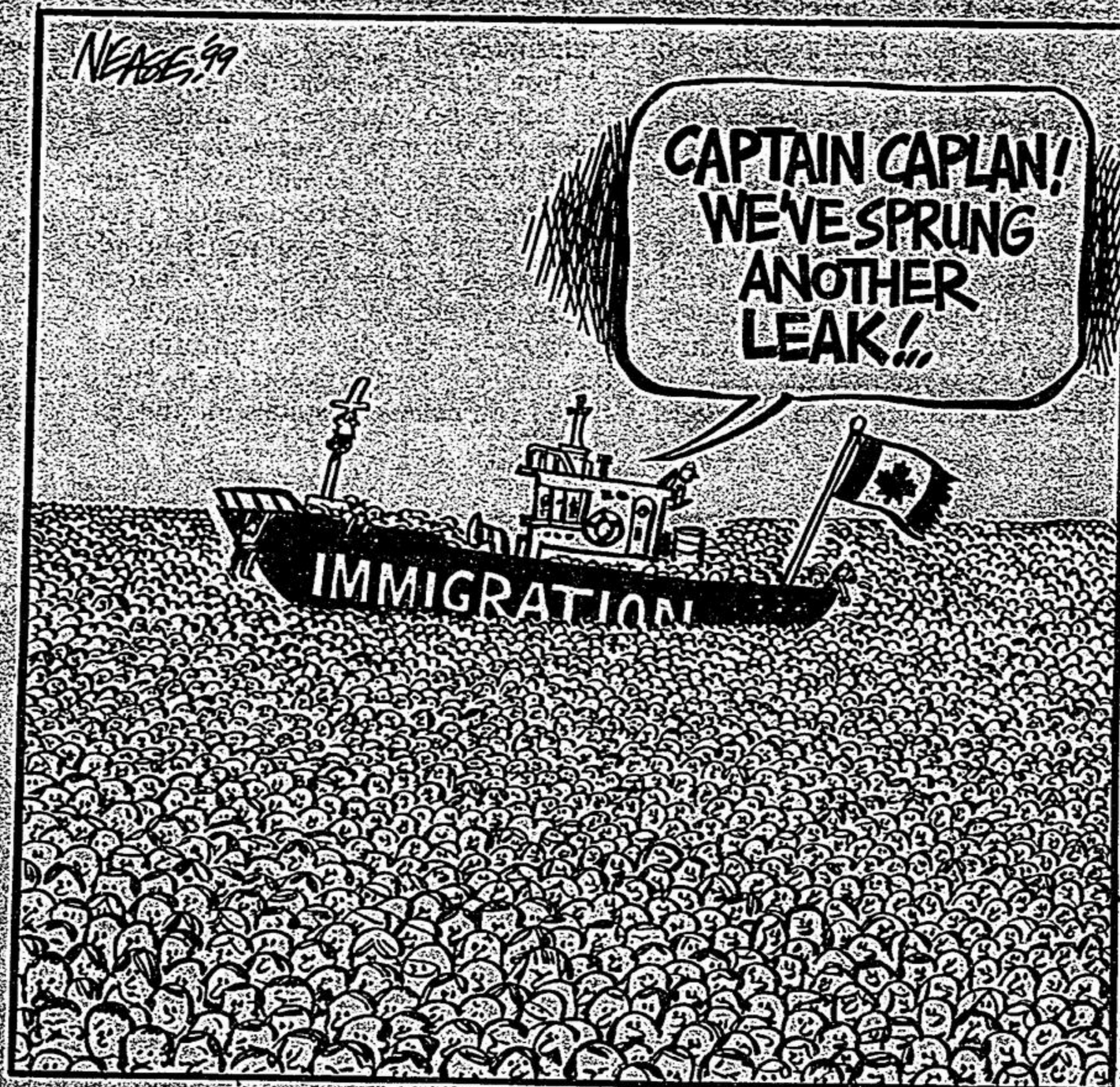
And, for all we know, it goes back much further.

After all, there were no tape recorders around in 1775 when American statesman Patrick Henry talked about liberty or death.

Maybe his famous quote went like this: "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death...?"

And maybe Karl Marx was merely questioning various options when he said, "Workers of the world, unite...?"

And what about all those so-called sophisticates who love to quote Nietzsche? Maybe what he really said was, "God is dead...?"



Views ON THE News

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC OPINION

Q: In the past month, two ships with illegal immigrants from China have been discovered off the west coast of Canada. What should Canada do for these people who have attempted to enter the country?

The government should help them as much as they can. They're not animals. They are human beings and they should not just send them back. Even if they are not all real refugees they should still welcome them.

VINCENT MANSERRA

They should not allow them to come. If they apply legally, it's OK, but this way, no. I don't think they are refugees and they should not be considered as such.

C. CHOW

Send them back. I feel they break the laws. If we don't send them back it means we encourage other people to do the same.

STEVE MAK

We have to show compassion. Think of what they went through to get here. This whole situation challenges us to come up with a better way to deal with them.

CAROLE MOORE

Arrest them, because it's illegal. We have to pay to come to this country, and why shouldn't they?

ANITA HO

I think the government shouldn't accept them so easily. They should prove they have a professional skill or an acceptable background. There are people in Africa who deserve to come here more than they because they are real refugees from famine and war.

RAYMOND LAU

Don't accept them. Now a boat-load of suspected Chinese criminals are on their way to the East Coast. This just proves our policies are a joke. Citizenship and Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan's comment on considering their human rights is ludicrous. They don't have any rights in Canada.

IAN ROGERS

I feel very sorry for the plight of these people. They have endured very risky travel conditions and have probably had to pay their life's savings to purchase their way here. Canada should take a very hard stand against the people who sailed them here by imprisoning them for a minimum of 10 years, impounding the boat they came in and any other assets these pirates have and use the proceeds to reimburse these poor victims.

BILL KINNEY

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Never mind tax cuts; should the federal government help fund a universally available child-care policy and what form should it take?

Submit contributions to Views on the News, fax: (905) 640-5477
E-mail: thetrib@istar.ca

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Regional commuters need transit without borders

As a citizen of York Region for more than 30 years, I am writing this letter to voice my concern on the transportation issue.

I am concerned about the congestion on our regional roadways that has come as a direct result from rapid regional growth and development. Roadway construction and public transportation has not kept pace with the rapid regional development.

Public transit service must be improved in order to entice drivers to become transit users.

Toronto and 905 politicians need to put their differences aside and work together for a transit solution that is best for our economic future. If politicians do not begin to seek immediate solutions to this transportation mess, we will find ourselves in a transportation gridlock.

The time has come for the citizens of York Region to have a regional transit system, or to create the GTTC (Greater Toronto Transit Commission).

The GTTC would integrate the current Toronto Transit System with the 905 municipal transit systems. Imagine, one transit system for Toronto and the 905 area, transit without borders.

ANGELA GRELLA
VAUGHAN

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.

Please send your letters to: Letters to the Editor, Stouffville Tribune, 37 Sandford Dr., Suite 306, Stouffville, Ont. L4A 7X5

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