

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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Views ON THE News

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC OPINION

Q: Stouffville Council has passed a muzzle bylaw for any dog that has bitten a human or another domestic animal. Should other towns in the region consider such a regulation? Why or why not?

Well, it (muzzles) is a move in the right direction. With all the attention on all these bites and types of dogs that are perhaps more likely to bite, a muzzle just might be the answer.

MIA KISH

Society is now quite paranoid of certain dogs and their owners. Forced muzzling may lessen the fear. If some owners don't take control of their animals and won't stop training them to deliberately scare or even hurt others, then muzzles should definitely be put into law.

MARIA LUTZ

They should also muzzle the stupid, inconsiderate and irresponsible owners of the dogs.

JOHN CARINO

I can think of several dog owners and types of people, particularly people with larger dogs who train them to be aggressive and to scare other people and animals for no other reason than the owner thinks its fun. Although the dogs are not at fault, they should be muzzled. They are trained deliberately to be public menaces. Unfortunately, these aggressive dogs end up being extensions of their owners' aggressive personalities which stem from the owners' lack of esteem.

MARGARET CARRICK

Obviously Stouffville residents are very sensitive to any issue having to do with dogs and humans existing together. It's probably a wise move. But at the same time it's another example of how little freedom we actually have in this society and how what freedoms we have left are gradually being eroded due to a few. This is a reactionary move caused by a few inconsiderate, idiot dog owners. Once again all of society suffers the consequences. What choice do these politicians have other than outlawing dog ownership completely?

RUSSELL WATERS

Anyone with young children will feel a sense of relief.

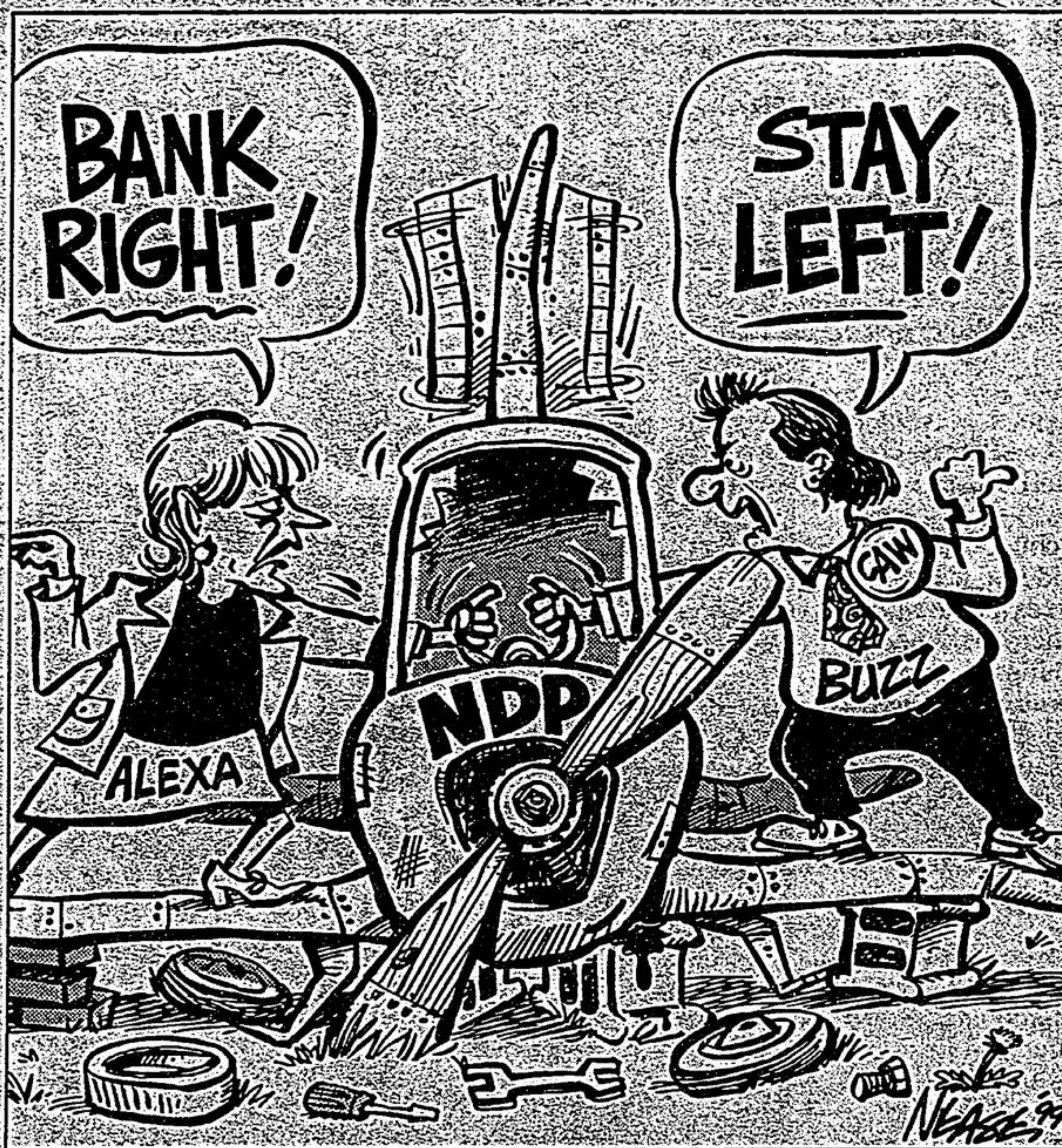
JANICE ENG

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

A town councillor in eastern Ontario is pushing for the return of the Lord's Prayer in public schools across the province. Are you in favour of this? Why or why not?

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

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Computer games can help youngsters learn

Re: Your article, *Software for Young Surfers*, Aug. 28.

It was with great interest that I read this article on the developing educational software industry. In the wake of the Columbine and Taber high school shootings, the entertainment and education software industry has come under a lot of fire.

However, there is another side to this story. I am 23 years old and am in the process of starting my own software company. I learned everything I know about computers from playing games. You see, games have always sat on the harsh side of the technology curve, requiring more resources and better hardware than most all other programs.

I remember back in the days of DOS, when one had to free up as much conventional memory as possible to get games to run. I had to learn how to do this and many other little tweaks to be able to play the newest games. I have since learned networking, hardware, the Windows operating systems and much, much more, and all of it from the pursuit of games as entertainment.

My message to parents is to be concerned about the content of what your kids are playing, be vigilant they stick to games which reinforce positive values.

The software industry markets products to all levels of the population, from the youngest child to the oldest adult, and like books and movies there are some which are inappropriate for younger players. The software industry

has made efforts to assist this by the formation of the ESRB, which has resulted in the posting of ratings on the front of software packaging (from E for everyone to M for mature audiences).

Parents should let children play on the computer for entertainment. It can give them skills which are not easily learned and they will not even know they are doing it. Who knows, if they play enough games they may someday be able to help you when you need help figuring out a computer-related problem.

PAUL MORRISON
UNIONVILLE

Theft of giant stuffed buffalo a cowardly act

Last Sunday, we held a four family garage sale. As an attraction, we placed a very large stuffed buffalo at the end of the driveway to draw potential garage sale shoppers.

What we attracted at the end of the day was a cowardly act by some young men. They stopped their green van, grabbed the buffalo and took off.

We tried to follow, but were unable to catch up to them. If anyone has noticed a very large stuffed buffalo approximately four-feet high and gray in colour, we would appreciate a call. This was not only a valuable item, it had a lot of sentimental value attached to it. This was a depressing ending to an enjoyable day.

If you have any information, call 883-8412.

SCOTT LUCAS
RICHMOND HILL



Dave Teetzel

Scientists busy creating race of super mice

The next time you're skimming through the personal ads section and come across someone describing herself as "blonde, slim, intelligent, faithful, loves to cuddle", be careful.

Your dream date could be a mouse. The old scientific goal of building a better mousetrap is passé.

Today, science is trying to build a better mouse.

First, geneticists transplanted a gene from a prairie vole (the Ward Cleaver of the rodent world) into a common field mouse (the Bill Clinton) and came up with a snuggly, monogamous mouse.

Men were starting to worry whether they would be genetically manipulated to be faithful husbands — and wonder whether any Shakespearean scientist was experimenting with shrews — when a new breakthrough was announced.

By manipulating the genes of chubby, blond mice, scientists could cause rapid and significant weight loss. This is an exciting trend that could lead us to the world's first rodent supermodel — Kate Mouse.

And now the latest bit of petri dish playtime has created highly intelligent mice that can, among other things, recognize a piece of Lego and anticipate when they will get a mild electrical shock.

Those may not seem like Mensa qualifications to you, but a mouse that knows enough not to stick a knife in a toaster or shake hands after rubbing its feet on a carpet has a leg up on me — survival of the fittest wise.

All of these experiments raise issues that force us to ask serious questions.

Should we be messing with the stuff of life itself?

What are the ethical implications of custom-designing humans?

Have these people never seen *Pinky and the Brain*?

Are scientists living such lonely and desperate lives that they have been forced to turn mice into their ideal mates?

OK, so according to the scientists, they are nowhere near being able to duplicate these experiments on humans.

And they say the goal of this research is really to find ways to treat genetic diseases, rather than to create Stepford spouses.

But just the same, you single women should be asking one important question about all the too-good-to-be-true SWMs in the personal ads.

Is he a man, or is he a mouse?

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