

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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Tracy Kibble

Body-slammed by the excitement of wrestling theatre

Everyone warned me to stay away.

You're crazy to condone — let alone buy tickets to see — the World Wrestling Federation live at the SkyDome, people scolded.

And to take your innocent, first-born child to such a dirty display of violent behaviour was repulsive, they warned.

There's vile behaviour, swearing, degradation of women and, most of all, violence, they said.

So, when my 8-1/2-year-old son Kody and I ventured to Toronto Friday, I was fully prepared to take my lumps. I was thinking the worst: What kind of mother am I, to allow my son to walk into Satan's temple?

When we took our seats, I expected to be sitting among the roughest, toughest, beer-swilling, foul-mouthed riffraff this city could possibly bring together.

What I actually saw surprised me. I saw moms, dads, four-year-old boys and girls, boyfriends, girlfriends, husbands, wives, seniors and groups of teens. Just people.

At the stroke of 7, the lights went out and the crowd roared.

A rush of excitement pulsed through my body and I'm still not sure why. Maybe because I knew Kody was bouncing off the ropes as his fantasy world of wrestling heroes turned into a real-life experience.

It turned out this would be one of the most exciting, action-packed, worth-your-money shows of my life.

As each wrestler (and the ones who come to mind are Christian, Test, Triple H, the Hardy Boys and Too Cool) walked toward the ring, the fans erupted in cheers. These men practised some of the most dynamic flips, flops, back-springs and jumps I've ever seen.

Kody assured me it was all "fake" and carefully "staged" — two words I didn't want to hear right now, thank you very much. Poor Y2J was, after all, lying on the floor while some jerk continued to stomp on his head.

"Don't worry, mom, it's all part of the act. He's not really hurt. Sheesh, get with it."

I didn't care. I was too busy yelling "loser", along with the other 30,000 fans.

I mean, didn't anyone care that a 420-pound bully, who just finished dissing Canada, was now grabbing the long, flowing hair of Toronto-born Christian?

After seeing the WWF in action for myself, I believe there is nothing wrong with a nine-year-old boy modelling himself after these heroes. It's good fun.

More violence is played out in the school yard or during a hockey game (does Marty McSorley ring a bell?).

And, hey, I'm not one to turn down a sport where I can view rugged men with rippling muscles, dressed in tight pants and sporting Fabio hair, sweat it out in a ring. Now, that would be crazy.

Bring it on.



LETTERS

Coroner's inquests are frustrating, hurtful for victims' families

Re: *The Lisa Shore inquest*

As the mother of a very loved and cherished little girl who was senselessly and brutally killed, I am frustrated and angry at our system and the entire coroner's inquest process.

Having recently been through a coroner's inquest for my daughter, eight-year-old Courtney Trempe, who was viciously and fatally attacked by a dog, it is exceptionally painful for me to read about the Shore family going through this dreadful process.

Throughout a coroner's inquest, the onus seems to fall on the parents to uncover the truth and prove the facts relating to the death of their child. It appears that it is acceptable for witnesses on the stand, under oath, to fabricate the events leading up to and causing the child's death. The entire process only creates more questions and certainly provides little, if any, closure for the bereaved family. It is a frustrating waste of taxpayers' money, particularly when witnesses are only worried about their own reputations.

In both instances, the Shore family tragedy and our own, it is obvious from inquest testimony that there are individuals responsible for making incorrect, stupid or misinformed decisions that ultimately resulted in the death of a child.

In both cases, there is only one decision that a coroner's jury can make as to the cause of death — homicide. The definition of homicide according to the Criminal Code is, "A person commits homicide when, directly or indirectly, by any means, he causes the death of a human being." The definition does not specify intent.

In both our cases, these were not instances of an accident, but homicide, and, in my opinion, criminal charges should have been laid.

My heart goes out to the Shore family. I know what it feels like to have to endure this horrific process. No one can ever replace our little girls, but the system must provide the answers to our questions, place blame where necessary, and institute procedures so that another precious child is not lost in the same manner. Maybe then, the extremely difficult procedure of a coroner's inquest will prove worthwhile and become bearable for a bereaved family.

DONNA TREMPE
STOUFFVILLE

Government shouldn't waste our cash on military expenditures

I am getting a little weary of the whining and hollering in Ottawa recently over the billion or so dollars that went missing from Human Resources Development Canada.

Nobody asks questions about the billions of dollars spent on the Canadian military every year. And what does the government do with its billions of taxpayers' dollars?

Well, for one thing, it participated in the NATO bombing of Belgrade recently, when at least 500 civilians died, plus thousands were made homeless.

And, of course, the Somalia fiasco must not be forgotten.

I agree with the theory that every battleship and bomber that we build is, in effect, a theft from the poor. Can there be anything quite so loathsome as stealing from the poor?

Sometimes, I think Jesus had it right when he told the crowd that they strain at gnats and swallow camels.

JOHN REESOR
STOUFFVILLE

CBC budget cuts threaten corporation's unique status

The government has introduced a plan to essentially limit the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's profound impact on society.

This is being accomplished through extreme budget cuts and limitations on grants

to the CBC.

It appears the government is trying to make the corporation vulnerable so it can turn the CBC over to the private sector.

The CBC is essential as it provides programming that is unique to the Canadian experience in that the programming represents Canadian ideals, issues and perspectives; thus it fulfills a mandate to place the public good higher than anything else.

It is imperative that CBC television continues to have a proper budget, otherwise the future of Canadian culture is at stake.

In the CBC's programming, Canadian culture is conserved and promoted in two ways: it transmits historical memory and traditions of the Canadian persona and it instills Canadian ideals and perspectives, thus allowing for a personal experience.

With this agenda, the people can separate and identify themselves in a society. Canadians don't want their hard-won identity to be lost.

The CBC allows the people to have a national culture through its historically regulated and mandated programming, while the private sector does nothing for the Canadian culture.

But what can the common person do? Just as I have with this article, get the word across through any means necessary; otherwise Canada will remain an unidentifiable society whose claims to fame are the Mountie and Celine Dion.

MIKE FEGELMAN
THORNHILL

LETTERS POLICY

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Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1888



Canadian Circulations
Audit Board Member



Ontario Press Council

Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement #1403419

Subscription rates by mail: \$69.55 (Tuesdays only)

Markham Economist & Sun, published every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing Ltd. group of newspapers, which includes the Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Barrie Advance, Barry's Bay This Week, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Shopping News, Burlington Post, City Parent, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Georgetown Independent/Action Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga News, Newmarket-Aurora, Georgina Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington/Port Perry This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville Tribune, Today's Seniors, Uxbridge Tribune and City of York Guardian.

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