

## Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper  
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# OPINION

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## LETTERS

### Good Samaritans from Ballantrae helped motorist after accident

On the morning of Sunday, March 12 (before 6 a.m.), I was going to Oshawa General Hospital for a day shift (from Newmarket). It had been snowing since the night before and the roads were completely covered in snow.

On Hwy 47 near the hamlet of Goodwood, I lost control of my vehicle and ended up in the ditch upside down. While I was shaken up, I was not physically hurt. While I was waiting for Durham Regional Police, a couple stopped their mini-van and were a great deal of help to me. They let me sit in their van while waiting for the police to show up.

In the short time that I spent with them, I learned their names were Larry and Karen (I'm not sure of the spelling of Karen's name as the pronunciation was like Car-in). They are both teachers; Larry is near retirement and Karen is in visual arts. They had three boys (I didn't get their names) and were starting their March break by driving to Quebec for skiing. Additionally, I remember they had mentioned they were from Ballantrae. I did not get their names upon leaving, since I wasn't really thinking straight.

Since I knew of the area they lived I thought a letter to a local newspaper would be a good way to say a big thank you. I wanted to convey how grateful I was that they stopped. They did a great job at calming me down and warming me up.

The kindness is probably the thing I'll remember most about my accident. I'm glad there are people like them out there.

MIKA NONOYAMA  
NEWMARKET

### Veterinarian says dogs running free are at risk of injury

As a veterinarian, I thought that your readers might appreciate my thoughts in regards to a story entitled *Unleashed dogs a problem for fitness buffs* in *The Economist & Sun*, March 14.

Although I am an owner of two retired greyhounds and love to watch them run off leash, as an avid runner and father of two young

boys, I recognize the need to keep all parks safe and happy.

Dogs do require a lot of exercise. They enjoy it tremendously and it helps to maintain their healthy weight and to lower the risk of cancer, diabetes, heart disease and arthritis.

Dogs that are loose, however, can frighten and/or injure children and adults, and even the friendliest of animals can do so accidentally while playing.

Dogs that run free are also at risk of getting lost, cutting themselves on sharp objects or crossing streets and being hit by cars.

All towns and cities would benefit by having fenced-in leash-free zones but until then, if you do let your dog off the leash, be sure that he/she is well trained/behaved, fully vaccinated and microchipped.

If an unforeseen accident does occur, please be co-operative and stay calm. You will be surprised how understanding others are if you prove how responsible a dog owner you are.

DR. CLIFF REDFORD  
MARKHAM

### Joggers almost run down those of us who like to take a stroll

Re: *Unleashed dog a problem for fitness buffs*, March 14.

How many Michael Siegels are around complaining they can't jog in peace?

I have another problem. Every time my

friends, family and neighbours want to take a nice stroll, we are nearly run down by joggers panting toward us — some so confused that they often do a dance around us to avoid us. This is jogging on the sidewalks, in our parks, you name it.

One day, I was walking down the street and a jogger came up behind me with no intention of slowing down. Luckily, I moved. Had I not, an accident would have happened for sure.

Talking of accidents, what about joggers on the road? How many times have we had to swerve to avoid these fitness buffs. From my experience and others — many. Why can't these joggers go to the many institutions that provide tracks for their type of thing?

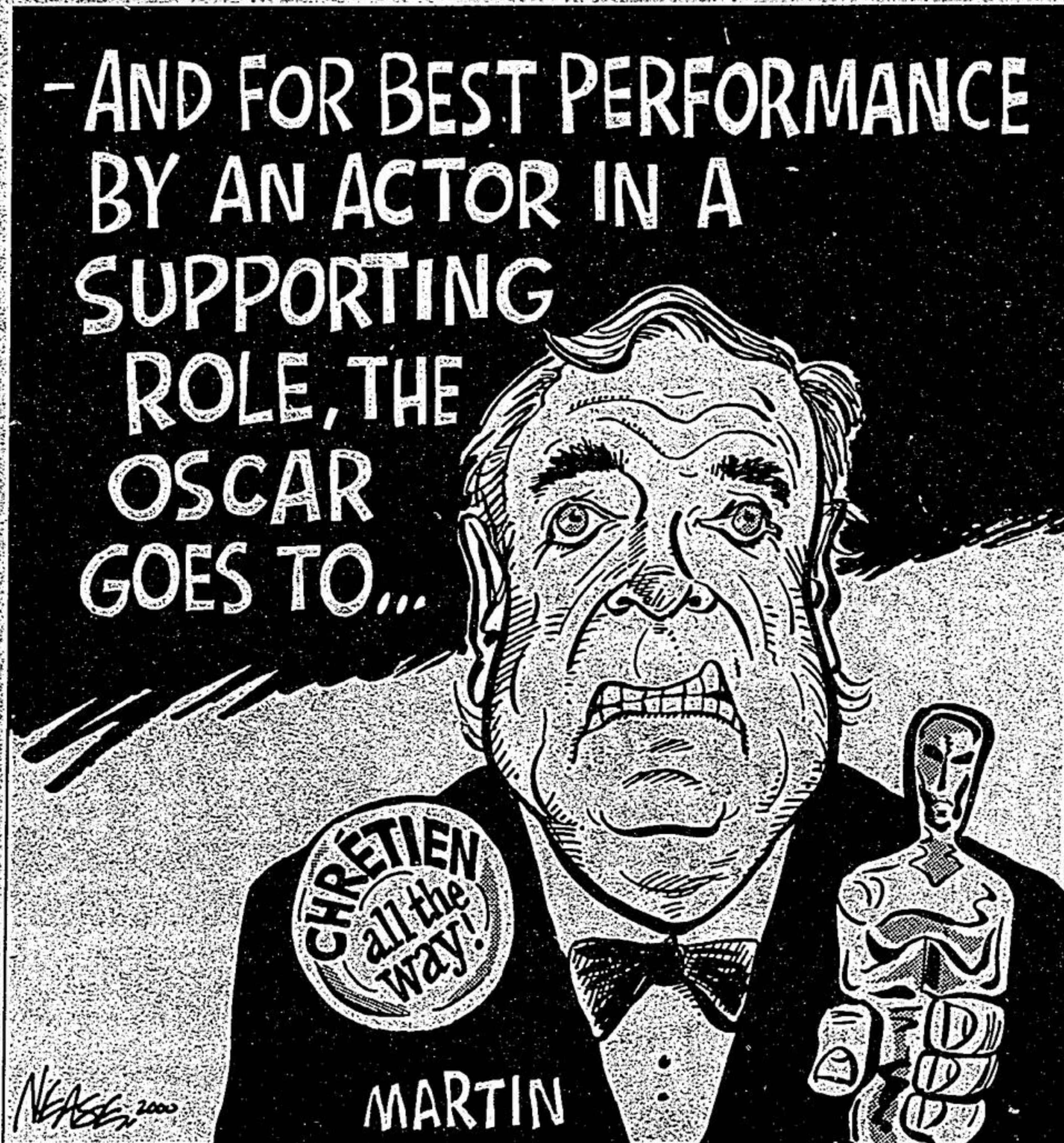
Now, to get to the dog issue. Dogs need to be allowed to run free. They need their exercise just as we do. It is a natural thing for most dogs to run after something moving quickly, i.e. a car in some cases, and, in this case, joggers. If a dog senses fear from the jogger sometimes they get excited and bite.

I'm not saying this is right, but why do these joggers put themselves in such a position when there are other places to run?

Leash-free parks are successful in many American cities, why can't we have them, too? York Region should try this wonderful concept.

This is being kind to those who cannot speak for themselves and the fitness buffs out to jog away their frustrations.

MARY EUSTACE  
MARKHAM



Tracy Kibble

### Province will legislate the behaviour we haven't been teaching

It looks like our poor parenting skills are spilling into the classroom.

Apparently, we've been doing such a lousy job, the government will have to legislate manners into school boards across Ontario.

Bad behaviour in our schools is becoming such a problem our children's safety and learning abilities are at stake, Premier Mike Harris said this week.

His solution: a strict code of conduct that will put bad kids, or thugs, in their place.

Should parents consider this a failing grade of our disciplinary skills or should we be downright insulted that the Ministry of Education feels it needs to step up efforts where we have failed?

Parents need to find a balance when it comes to discipline but, as we all know, it is easier said than done.

Some believe the more rules they set, the more well-behaved and protected their children will be.

Others prefer to over-indulge their kids, inadvertently teaching them to be self-absorbed, disrespectful brats.

Methods haven't changed much since I was a kid and I feel lucky that my parents took the middle road. They set certain basic standards that my brothers and I tried to follow.

Use your manners, clean up your room, be responsible, treat people well and try hard in school.

We respected our parents and they, in turn, allowed us some leeway as we got older.

My parents were not considered overly strict by any means. We were allowed to attend parties, go to the drive-in and hang out with friends.

And, for the most part, we knew our limits and the difference between right and wrong. We liked our parents and they respected our feelings.

Through the years, I met kids who grew up in strict homes.

There was no music, no parties, no dancing and endless lectures about smoking and drinking.

Some girls were subjected to morning clothing inspections and had their bags checked for makeup and cigarettes.

Ironically, a good many of these kids were the worst behaved when out of the grasp of their parents' watchful eye.

The girls who couldn't wear makeup plastered it on twice as thick. Most of them got drunk at parties and smoked their brains out.

I knew other kids who had absolutely no discipline and did whatever the heck they pleased.

Somewhere along the line, our kids have lost the message.

In the province's eyes, parents have just had an interim report. Our grade: F.

## LETTERS POLICY

Stouffville Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The newspaper reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space.  
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## Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1888



Canadian Circulations Audit Board Member



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Classified:

1-800-743-3353

Distribution

(905) 294-8244

Stouffville Tribune, 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/Penitangushene 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.