

## Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1888  
A Metroland community newspaper  
9 Heritage Rd., Markham, Ont. L3P 1M3  
PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

### LETTERS to the EDITOR

#### Canadian, American flags — and flagpole — stolen

We have always flown the Canadian flag at our home in Markham and recently we have been flying the Stars and Stripes beside it to show our personal sympathy, love and support to the people of the United States.

Last weekend, someone removed not only the two flags from our home at 35 Captain Rolph Blvd., but also took the flag pole.

We would love to have them back and would appreciate it if the person or people who did this would return them.

VERN & MARY LOU BECHARD  
MARKHAM

#### Muslim leaders should condemn intolerance in Islamic nations

Re: Attacks set back ethnic relations: Muslims, Sept. 5.

The thrust of Mike Adler's article seems to be that negative experiences for Islamic children and families in our area have been minimal. Let us hope that continues.

My comments relate to this statement: "In the aftermath of the terror, several Muslim institutions took a fresh opportunity to express and explain what true Islam is — a religion of peace."

Assuming that is true, I would like to hear more from Islamic leaders unequivocally condemning acts of terrorism and violence, since the "jihad" thinking seems to motivate so many extremists.

Saudi Arabia, being home to Mecca, seems determined to export its own brand of Islam with new mosques in Africa and elsewhere.

Yet, in these circles, one hears far more of bitter hatred than peace. Where are the voices for moderation?

And I would like to hear Islamic leaders here condemning the intolerance that invariably exists in each and every country with an Islamic government. Think of Sudan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and parts of Indonesia.

In these countries Christians experience violent persecution, there is no freedom to promote or practise Christianity — in fact, converts to Christianity may be subject to the death penalty — and daring to teach Christian beliefs results in prison or death.

I would like to hear Islamic leaders here speaking out for the same freedoms for Christians in those countries that they, as Muslims, enjoy — and rightfully so — in Canada.

R. BLAKE TUFFORD  
STOUFFVILLE

### LETTERS POLICY

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

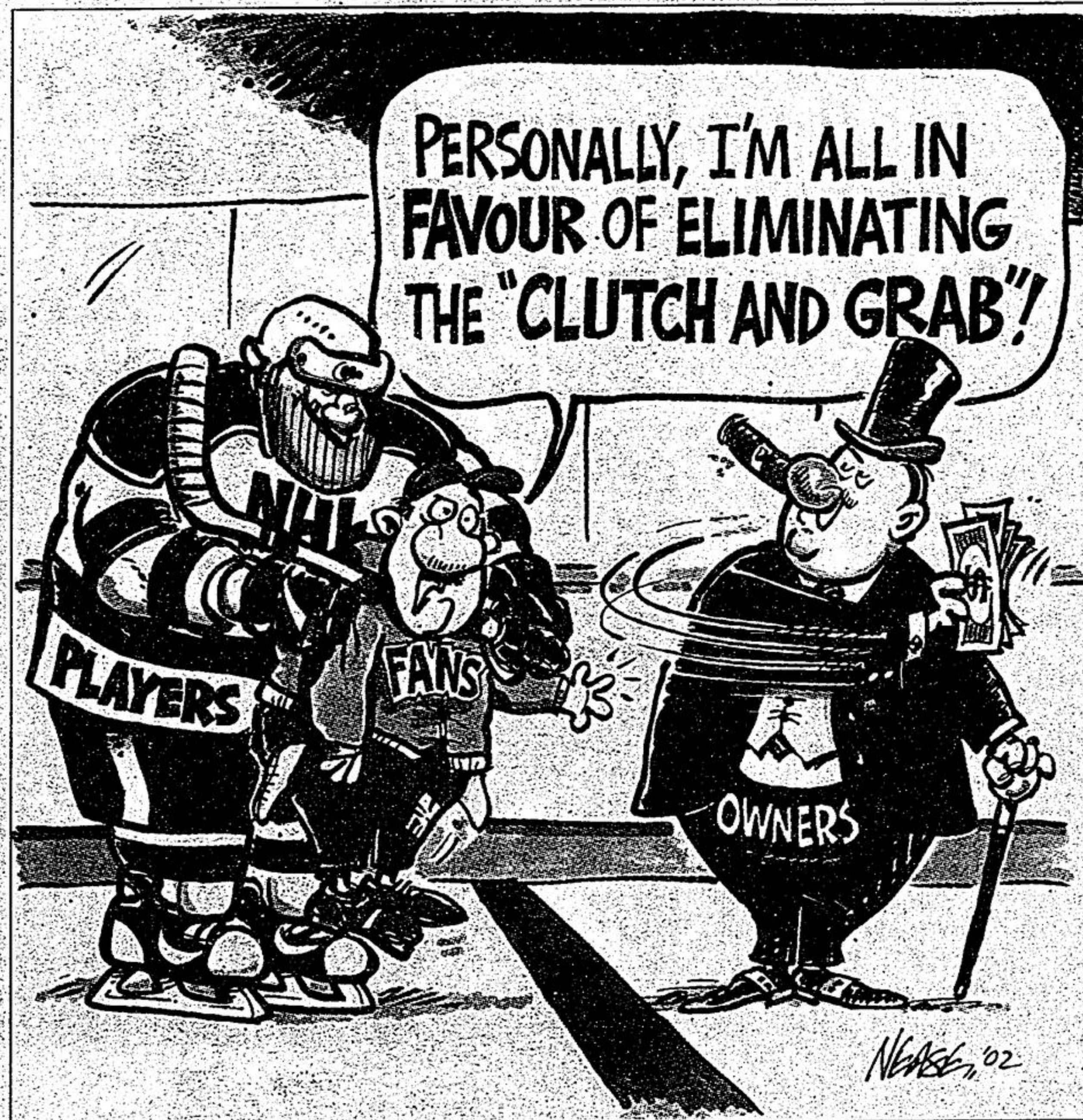
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# OPINION

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#### Critics of teaching profession should try it themselves

Re: What could possibly be tiring out York public board teachers? Letter by J. Shaw, Sept. 7.

J. Shaw, don't you and your friends get tired of bashing teachers? Is your job not fulfilling enough or demanding enough that it allows you plenty of extra time to insult others?

I really don't have much to say about teaching except to try it yourself. Teaching is not for everyone and I suspect you might not be the best role model for children and teenagers. If you're so jealous of the job, as seems evident with your "12 weeks at the cottage" comment, then do it yourself. Nobody is stopping you. And by the way, two summer months is nine weeks, not 12.

E.M. GOLDING  
MARKHAM

#### Courts can waive minimum fine for parking in disabled spot

Re: Big penalty for taking disabled parking spots; Aug. 24.

I would like to applaud both the newspaper and provincial government regarding the increase in the minimum fine for parking in a handicapped space without a permit. This is long overdue.

Unfortunately, the article was in error in

three areas. First, it implies the new \$300 fine is the maximum for this offence.

Secondly, the article gives the impression this fine must be imposed by the trial justice should you be found guilty.

And thirdly, the article fails to state it has been an amendment to the Municipal Act, by means of the Ontarians With Disabilities Act.

It is important for your readers to know that, because a provincial act imposes a minimum fine, but it does not mean the fine must be imposed upon conviction. The Provincial Offences Act says if imposing the minimum fine is "unduly oppressive or otherwise not in the interests of justice, the court may impose a fine that is less than the minimum or suspend the sentence".

Also, given the wording of this new section, when someone takes their parking ticket for this offence to the resolution/hearing officer for the city or municipality, a lower fine can still be negotiated in order to avoid taking the matter to court.

MARK A.J. McDONNELL  
TORONTO

#### Teachers have exhausting schedules; little preparation time

Re: What could possibly be tiring out York public board teachers? Letter by J. Shaw, Sept. 7.  
There is a certain incredulity in the ques-

tion, but I am going to assume that it was asked in good faith.

I chose my career, so you will never hear me complain about it, but I would like to explain why teachers are often tired.

Usually, I arrive at school around 7.30 a.m. to look through my mail, do last-minute photocopying and prepare for my first class at 8.15.

Each of my three classes consists of a 75-minute presentation, the purpose of which is to grab and hold the attention of a diverse group of teenagers, informing, motivating, monitoring, and assisting them to become familiar with and then master the concepts and issues of the course.

Previously, when I worked in the "real world" of business, I would spend up to a week preparing for a one-hour presentation. As a teacher, I do three a day, every day.

Teacher presentations are not as easy as business presentations because not everyone in my classroom audience understands what I am trying to say the first time I say it. But it's my job to help everyone be successful.

Add to the mix student tiredness because of late-night jobs, difficult home situations, increased pressure to "perform", and the often present apathy and childish disobedience.

Don't get me wrong. I love what I do, but it is emotionally and physically taxing. I can only touch upon the two to five hours per night of marking, lesson preparation and general planning I do to do my best to help my students succeed.

Add to that coaching, staff meetings, student requests for academic help or personal counselling, looking for and buying materials for my courses — for which there is often no budget — or just hanging around enjoying some time talking with students, and I go home happy, but definitely tired.

GARY ELLIS  
MARKHAM DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

#### Thanks to all for help at Markhaven Grandma's Run

On behalf of the board of directors of The Markhaven Foundation, I would like to thank the participants, sponsors and volunteers who made our 2nd annual Grandma's Run such a success. We raised \$50,000 for the "new" Markhaven Home for Seniors in Markham and we are very grateful for this support.

So many companies gave us a hand. Support also came from the Markham Fire Department, York Regional Police, Town of Markham employees, the Markham Lions Club, Knights of Columbus (St. Patrick's Church), Markham Centaurs Running Club, Swan Lake residents, Grace Anglican Church and St. Joseph's School.

Markhaven closes its doors this fall to make room for a new facility that will be erected on the same site in 16 to 18 months. It will be home to 96 seniors and will have many features including an Alzheimer wing, chapel and healing garden.

MARY-RUTH FLOOD  
PRESIDENT, THE MARKHAVEN FOUNDATION

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