

Stouffville Tribune

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PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Veneer of equality, justice no reason to let gays raise kids

Re: Many ways to conceive children, letter to the editor by Diane and Bill Dodds, Sept. 12.

It is interesting to see how some people seem to think the 21st century is some sort of utopian culture to which we should all ascribe praise.

I congratulate the Dodds for their long marriage, but I cannot agree with their underlying premise of 21st century trends as the medium from which we should live our lives.

From this faulty premise, they build their case against "conventional" families, offering the Bernardos as a pattern who they seem to think are representative of a traditional nuclear family.

In reality, the Bernardos represent the decadence and evil that the last century — and this one — have progressed to since society rejected the time-honoured and treasured values that made our nation great.

As a society, we should not coalesce with the trends of this century, which has experienced more bloodshed than all other centuries combined, but turn back to those moral and idealistic truths that bring dignity and worth to an individual.

It should be said that I would not want to see children raised by gay couples under the veneer of equality and justice.

Children cannot grow as functionally responsible citizens unless they grow under the guidance of a man and a woman who realize the incredible responsibility that marriage demands.

CARMELO TROPIANO
UNIONVILLE

Patient, polite boys bring smile to Markham mother's face

I live in Markham with my husband and 18-month-old son. Our home is near Centennial Park, where I bring Christopher to play on a regular basis.

Last Sunday, I was delighted by four young boys who were between six and eight years old.

Christopher hasn't learned to share yet or be patient and these boys were wonderful around him. They played their games on the jungle gym, but let Christopher through as long as I gave the secret password.

They were polite and if Christopher fell, they made sure he was OK.

There were no other parents around, so I couldn't thank them directly. I don't know their names, but in a world of pushy, uptight people, it was so very nice to see some young people who were polite and very nice to be around.

As long as we can keep the younger generation confident, strong and polite, the world

OPINION



may turn out to be a nice place.

I thank those boys for putting a smile on my face.

TAMMI JAMISON
MARKHAM

Bible supports traditional families, not gay parents

Re: Many ways to conceive children, letter to the editor from Diane and Bill Dodds, Sept. 12.

When my wife and I were married 22 years ago, we were married in a Baptist church, by a Baptist pastor and, like the Dodds, our vows did not mention children. I would hazard a guess that in most Christian weddings this is the case.

The reason is because the traditional vows are based on the Scriptures, which are claimed to be the word of God.

I will attempt not to sermonize, so the Dodds and other interested parties can research the rest of the points in the Bible as their hearts might lead them.

The priority throughout the Bible is the husband and wife relationship; this is the foundation of the family.

It is a relationship that consists of a man and woman; there are no deviations from this in the Bible, even the Anglican one. If we sit down and think rationally about it, male and

female balance each other and fill in the weak areas that each possesses.

For the Dodds to suggest some of us should be dragged into the 21st century insults all those who believe in objective truth and it insults the claims of Scripture. Why is it that we should be dragged into the future, as if to suggest that force be used?

Seems to me that a man named Jesus had a similar experience. So why is it that children are absent from the marriage vows? Because children are not always part of a married couple's future, but love and commitment are.

If and when children do come along, they thrive in a family where they observe mommy and daddy love each other like crazy. I think most of us with children will admit we are not perfect parents.

It's amazing how a healthy loving relationship in our marriages can in our children's eyes make up for many of our other shortcomings.

As for my wife and I, we would not wish a dysfunctional parenting union on any child and only pray more moms and dads would learn to love each other like crazy so their children will grow up in happy homes and become well-adjusted, empathetic adults.

As for the wrong choices we all make at times throughout our lives — following our human desires and selfish lusts rather than what's right — the Scriptures have an answer for that, too.

For those who wish to discover it as their

hearts might lead them, see John 3:16. But now I'm sermonizing again, aren't I?

BARRY FARNDON
UNIONVILLE

Sponsors, volunteers made Grandma's Run special event

With all the demands on our time and energy in today's society it was great to see this community's support for Markham's Grandma's Run Sept. 7.

It's no easy task to undertake a move from the current facility to make way for the much-needed roomier home. The transition is tough on both staff and residents. Progress is not always easy.

I commend all those involved in making Grandma's Run most enjoyable.

Our every need was anticipated and provided for. All we had to do was go for our usual walk/run with company and have fun along the way.

Country Style Donuts provided breakfast/dessert (depending on your arrival time) and was gracious in its service, as were all the sponsors and volunteers.

DOREEN LAWSON
MARKHAM

Smokers have no constitutional right to pollute air of others

As a non-smoker, I think the no-smoking bylaw is a great idea and it is way past due.

What gives a smoker the right to light up a smoke a few tables away from a non-smoker? Is it that the smoker has the constitutional right to decide to smoke?

Well, how about my constitutional right to live a healthy lifestyle and not pollute my body with the deadly toxins and chemicals found in a cigarette?

There is no argument that can give smokers the right to decrease my life expectancy and that is exactly what you are doing to your children and loved ones every time you light up around them.

As a smoker, you have made the choice to engage in an act that will kill you and you have no right to force that act on me in the way of second-hand smoke because I have made the decision not to engage in the act of smoking.

As young advocates of non-smoking, it is essential we get our message across to local governments throughout the province so they will spearhead this issue.

I follow the leadership of mentors such as Vaughan Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio, who has made the difficult but right decision to implement the no-smoking bylaw.

Her leadership will benefit the residents of Vaughan and our future.

STEPHEN LECCE
WOODBRIDGE

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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