

Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1888

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Thanks to all for help after daughter's lawn mower accident

What an amazing community we live in. Until recently, we had a small circle of friends and acquaintances, but we realized very quickly how that circle grew to encompass all the residents of Stouffville and Markham.

We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support we have received since August, when our daughter Rebecca lost part of her right foot in a lawn mower accident.

Markham and Stouffville were there with us and helped us more than they could know.

So this letter is written with profound thanks to: friends George, Flossie and Beth Wilson; Richards Case International and Brandon Motors for announcing trust fund information on your pixel boards; the staff and students at Summitview Public School for making Rebecca's transition to school positive; our church family at Wideman Mennonite Church for prayers and support; all the people who came to the farm and helped with the harvest; Jim Thomas and Frank Busato for organizing a concert of Thanksgiving in Rebecca's honour; Jim Mason of The Economist & Sun/Tribune/Stouffville Sun and Rogers Cable for covering our story with class and respect; York Regional Police and York Region Paramedic Services for your quick response and initial care of Rebecca; the staff at A&P for placing collection boxes at your cash checkouts; and the residents of Stouffville, for spare change, gifts and donations.

PAUL, JANE, REBECCA
& HANNAH RAMER
MARKHAM

Irate adult gives gentle teen lesson in intolerance

During last Friday's Festival of Lights on Markham Main Street, a young man was speaking about the love of God for all people of all nations.

As an observer passing by, I was quite touched at his emphasis on the inclusiveness of God's love. I noticed there were others interested in listening as well.

However, a very irate lady approached this young man and chewed him out in front of everyone. He responded graciously and lovingly, giving credence to his message.

I spoke with him after the lady left and asked what had happened. He said she identified herself as part of the festival committee and told him he was not to speak of God or Jesus or she would call the police.

The young man asked about Christmas carols that were being sung by various choirs on the street. Apparently, her response was that he could sing about Jesus but not speak of him.

LETTERS POLICY

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

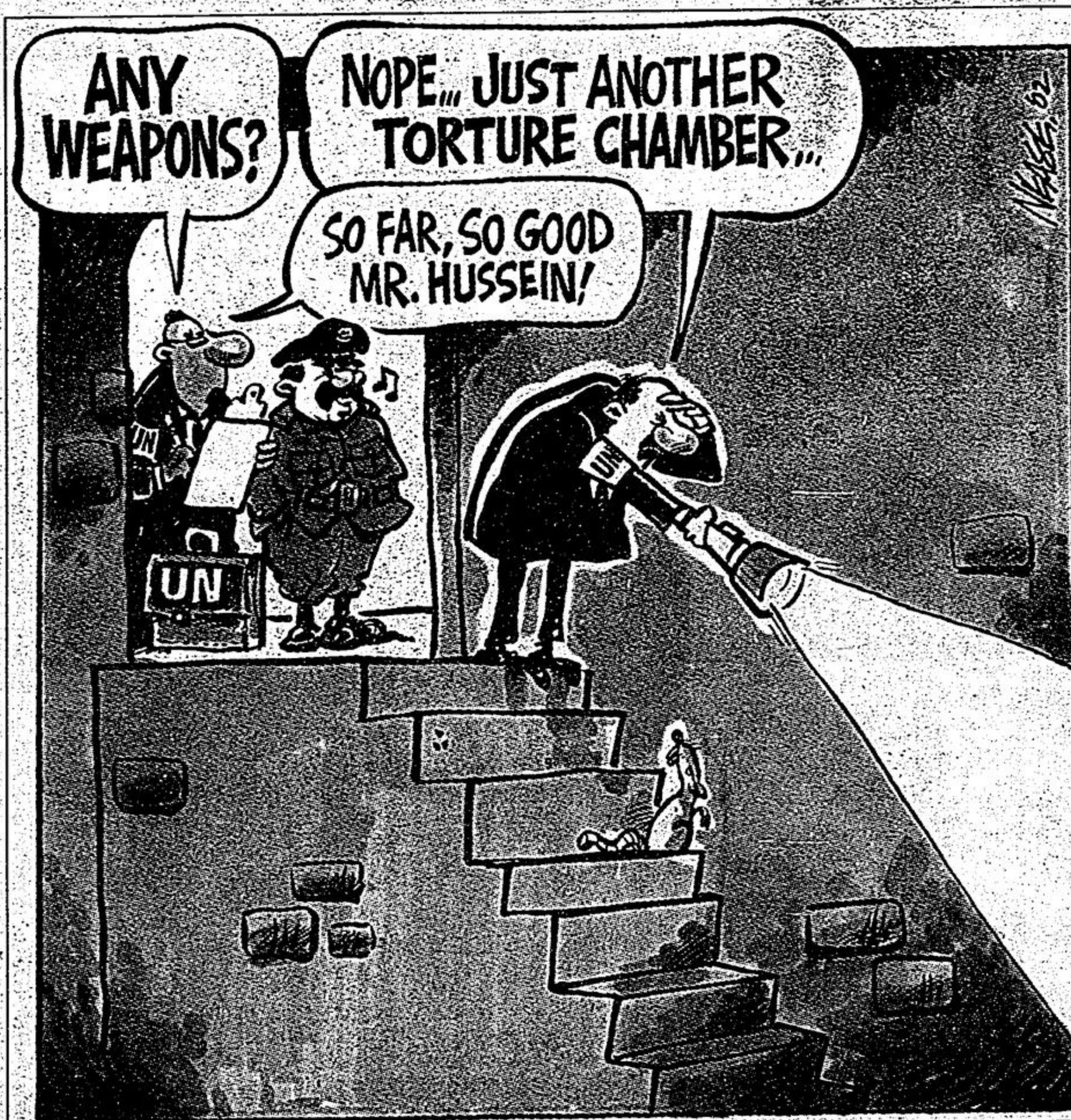
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OPINION

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Such intolerance was in direct contrast to this young man's message. One wonders if a Muslim speaking about Mohammed would be treated with the same indignity.

As a citizen of Markham, I am deeply troubled anyone would take such authority upon themselves as to suspend freedom of religion and speech under threat of police action.

If, indeed, that was the case, may I respectfully suggest this woman — rather than the sincere and gentle young man — was in violation of the law. Perhaps an apology is due him?

GARY WEEKS
MARKHAM

Romanow report proves Harris right on health-care funding

Thank goodness for the Romanow report on the possible cures for our ailing health-care system. If none of his recommendations are implemented, the report, at least, gives credibility to the rants from Ontario premier Mike Harris.

For seven years, Mr. Harris asked the federal government for more health-care money for Ontario. But each time he requested more of our taxes be returned to Queen's Park, Mr. Harris was treated much like Oliver by the liberal media; "How dare he ask for more."

Mr. Harris was even accused of picking

fighters with the federal government every time he said Ottawa was not paying its fair share of health funding.

Mr. Harris was supposed to remain silent like a good boy and not embarrass the Liberals for the sorry state of our health-care system.

Well, the cock has come home to roost, as we knew it would. Thank you, Mr. Romanow.

Was the report worth its \$15 million cost? Yes, if only to prove Mr. Harris right and Prime Minister Jean Chretien and his health ministers wrong.

J. SHAW
MARKHAM

Adults often a good example of how not to behave

Recently, I've read a lot of complaints in the newspapers about the teens of Stouffville. Most mention our rude habits and carelessness. One letter even stated, "We can't live with them, we can't live without them."

Well, I am sorry, but residents only see what they want to see. Sure, you can blame these things on some teens, but not all of us as a group.

Plus, I have seen a lot of adults who are the same, if not worse, than some of the teens.

Furthermore, I find it very disappointing the words "teens" and "youth" have become

so derogatory. It is almost shameful to be called a teenager.

There are always going to be a few people who are considered a nuisance to the town, but not all of them are teens. If residents would just open their eyes, they would notice a lot of us are working very hard to succeed.

In a way, I guess we can be thankful to you, the adults, because you give us the drive to get out of here as fast as we possibly can.

Also, those teens who are causing damage most likely learn from example.

If I were an adult, I would appreciate the young people and help them shape their futures.

I don't know when or how this fight began between the adults and children, but it is very immature and doesn't teach respect, one thing people should remember anytime they open their mouths.

SHAUNESSY JOYCE
GRADE 11

STOUFFVILLE DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL

Residents must persuade council to make Raymerville roads safer

Re: Council denies Raymerville pleas, Nov. 28.

Since the accident that killed 14-year-old Jorge Martinez, residents in the Raymerville area of Markham noticed 50 per cent of drivers on Raymerville Road were slowing down.

Now everyone has forgotten the tragedy and started to speed up once again. Many residents, including myself, are upset about the fact members of council have not acted firmly to solve this problem.

We cannot tolerate more accidents like this. One incident is already too much.

I suggest we make more speed humps, stop signs, pedestrian crossings and, if necessary, even traffic lights.

Residents are making efforts to convince council to resolve the problem. If we don't act, there will be more traffic tragedies.

WEI-JEN LEE
MARKVILLE SECONDARY SCHOOL

School programs another way to remember war dead

Re: Poor attendance a shame, letter to the editor by David Rice, Nov. 16.

Most parents of school children were in attendance at school-run Remembrance Day services.

Many were brought to tears at Summitview School in Stouffville; the service there was very well done.

Some people attended church services the day before, which were on the theme of remembrance.

So the public can remember our war dead in more than one way.

PATRICIA WELCH
STOUFFVILLE

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