

Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1888

PUBLISHER **Ian Proudfoot**

LETTERS to the EDITOR

United Way helps 250,000 people in York Region

United Way of York Region wants donors to know contributions make a significant impact on community programs and services.

A series of investigative articles in The Toronto Star revealed some charities spend as little as 10 cents of each dollar raised on charitable works.

The accepted industry standard for administrative and fundraising costs is 40 per cent.

United Way of York Region invests an impressive 83 cents of every dollar raised in community programs and direct service to those most in need.

In York Region, United Way touches the lives of more than 250,000 people through 124 programs provided by 37 local agencies.

United Way funds local agencies based on clear criteria and priorities. Volunteer citizen review panels approve funding applications after thorough analysis.

Agency outcomes and business practices are also reviewed to ensure donor dollars are well spent.

More than 1,600 people give generously of their time and expertise to help with all facets of United Way's activities — from workplace campaigns to board and committee work and special events across the region.

With approximately just a few weeks left in the campaign, the United Way is at 80 per cent of its goal of \$5.8 million and needs everyone's contribution.

WYN CHIVERS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
UNITED WAY FOR YORK REGION

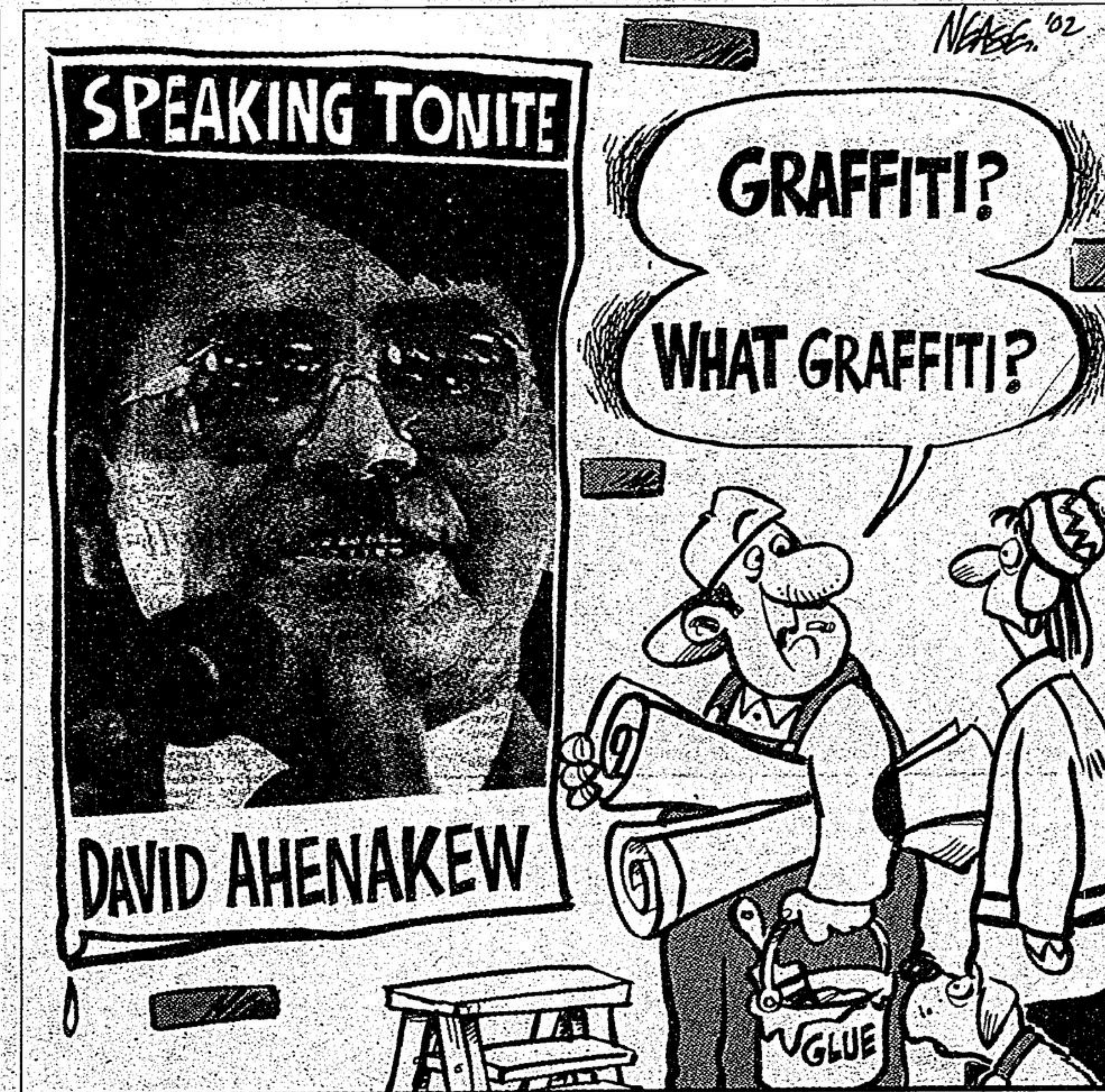
Bush's demand for Iraqi 'regime change' violates laws

Article 2 of the United Nations Charter, as well as the U.S. Army's field manual, prohibits "assassination, proscription, or outlawry of an enemy, or putting a price upon an enemy's head, as well as offering a reward for an enemy dead or alive."

Beginning in 1976, after the CIA was implicated in the death of Chilean president Salvador Allende and at least eight attempts on Fidel Castro, presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan all issued executive orders banning political assassinations.

President Reagan's Executive Order 12333 states, "No person employed by or acting on behalf of the United States government shall engage in, or conspire to engage in, assassination."

That executive order, confirmed by George Bush Sr., Bill Clinton and George W.



Bush, remains the law.

The confirmation of the order by the current president means it stays in place for his term, thereby preventing rescinding.

Unfortunately, the current administration's clear contempt for U.S. and international law may not prevent it from breaking said laws — though it will certainly add to the case against it in subsequent trials for crimes against humanity.

TOM PASHKOV
RICHMOND HILL

A mouse's point of view on night before Christmas

We all know the poem, the story in rhyme About Santa's visit at Christmas time. The human version is not hard to believe But what about someone else's Christmas Eve?

The one who was stirring, while said not to be...

The mouse's point of view of this Christmas story...

"Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house

Seemed a regular night for this cold, hungry mouse.

The humans had long since retired to bed

So I could search freely for crumbs of their bread.

The cat on the sofa was now fast asleep.

The sound of her purr proved her slumber was deep.

And I, with my freshly washed whiskers all twitchin'

Set out on a long, silent trek to the kitchen.

I was almost halfway through the living room

When there came a noise that almost sealed my doom:

"From up on the roof came a 'CLICKETY-CLACK'"

And sure enough, it woke up the cat.

Down to the floor she flew like a flash!

For fear of my life I made a quick dash!

I scurried around seeking some place to hide

But the living room floor is quite open and wide.

When what to my life-saving eyes should appear

But a tree in the midst of the living room here.

Up over the branches to the highest bough!

Dash away! Hide from the kitty somehow!

The tree was decked out with wonderful things

Like baubles and cookies and popcorn on strings.

Once I was safe, I gathered my poise.

But then, as before, came another strange noise.

Down by the fireplace there arose such a

clatter
I peeked 'round a branch to see what was the matter.

From there came a man with a big cloud of soot

Who was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot.

He brought with him gifts for the humans upstairs

And treats for the stockings which were hung in pairs.

He then saw some cookies which sat on a plate

Near a note that said: "Santa, please don't come too late!"

He ate all the cookies, then, licking his thumbs, he brushed off his coat so it was free of crumbs.

He went back up the chimney the same way he came

So now kitty and I could continue our "game".

I peeked out of the tree and I looked around

But all was so peaceful. No cat could be found.

I hopped out of the tree, on to the bookshelf

And I squeaked out loud in spite of myself

For Santa left crumbs from his cookies to eat.

What a nice man! What a nice treat!

He also left fluff from his red suit

He gave me some food and a blanket to boot.

I gathered my presents and took them away, to my hole in the wall.

Now we can truly say:

"'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse."

BRANDY PINKERTON
MARKHAM

Mother's angry comment to child was abuse of power

Christmas shopping is stressful and Christmas shopping with toddlers can be even more so.

But my heart sank at a shopping mall recently when an angry mother deliberately wheeled her toddler in a stroller up to Santa's house and pointed inside yelling, "See, Santa is there and he sees you being bad, so don't do that again!"

The child was cowering and frightened.

This was an intentional threat and an abuse of an adult's power using Santa as the disciplinarian.

It went way beyond the bounds of "you better watch out, you better not cry." I was sickened.

C. A. BRYDON
HOLLAND LANDING

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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.

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