

**Sun-Tribune**

A Metroland community newspaper  
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# OPINION

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## LETTERS to the EDITOR

### Most don't support Iraq war

An open letter to United States Ambassador Paul Cellucci:

Your recent attack on Canada for not endorsing your government's war in Iraq is troubling. And, I'm concerned my freedom of speech is not threatened as much as is my freedom of conscience.

Even though 85 per cent of our trade is with the U.S., I'm pleased the federal government didn't behave as a loyal employee of the U.S. The same goes for your historic allies, Turkey and Mexico. Both could have used the money being informally promised had they joined in the war.

Can the majority of the world populace that doesn't share your war plans be wrong? Is the support of the prime ministers of Spain, Portugal and England (but not that of their people) acceptable? Can the United Nations security council be wrong? Can democracy be so very wrong?

I congratulate those Americans who support their president in this war. I would have joined them had:

- The decision been made by the UN;
- The U.S. not withdrawn from agreements such as the International Criminal Court (that could have tried Saddam Hussein for war crimes);
- Mr. Bush enforced the UN resolutions Israel continues to defy.

No matter how distracted we become from our real war on terror, the deep wound in the Middle East remains the half-century plight of the Palestinians. The sooner this is recognized and honestly tackled, the safer the world will be.

Relations between the U.S. and Canada are strained, and the world is more divided and less safe than ever. I look forward to seeing how President Bush is going to make things right.

Some 15 years ago, I had the opportunity to emigrate to the U.S. or Canada. With all due respect, I couldn't be happier that I'm writing you from Canada.

MOUNIR SAHYOUN  
UNIONVILLE

### Bill would limit religious freedom

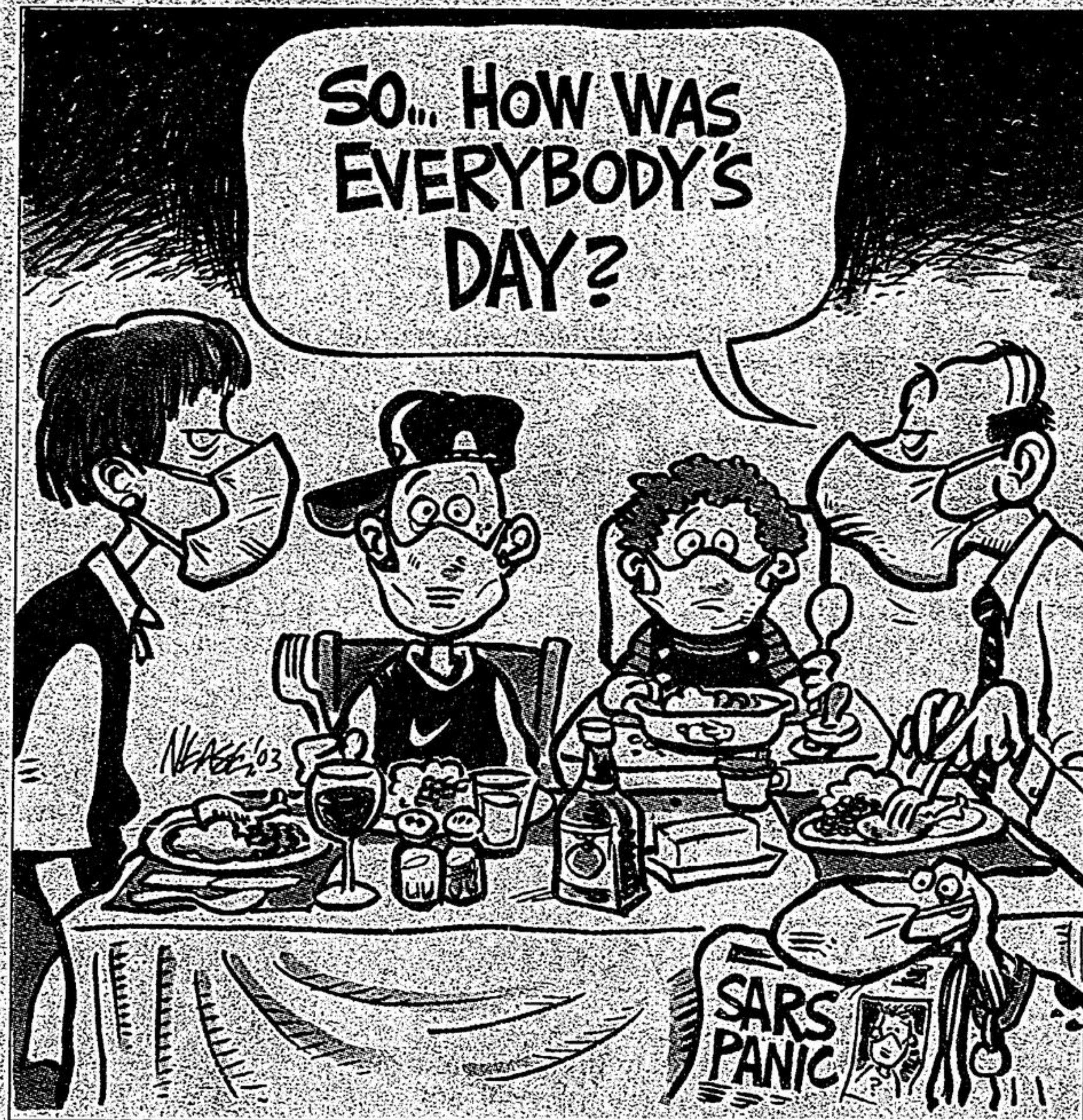
Are readers aware the Canadian Parliament is currently considering Bill C-250, sponsored by MP Svend Robinson?

Under the proposed law, any person who publicly expresses a moral view on homosexual activity could be accused of promoting hatred.

This bill, if passed, would fundamentally limit religious freedom.

Many Canadian Christians and churches could be charged with a hate crime for simply stating or standing behind their beliefs.

If you, like we do, believe God's great



design for marriage is the union of a man and women, then we urge you to write area MPs Bryon Wilfert and John McCallum to express your opposition to this bill.

MARK & MARY LUCAS  
STOUFFVILLE

### Mayor leaves positive legacy

As I left Stouffville's Lebovic Leisure Centre today with my five year old grandson, I was overwhelmed at how fortunate we are to have a facility like this.

The parking lot is often full and people of all ages and stages are benefiting from the pool, library and gym. We have 180 seniors at Eastern Gate, and many use the programs available there. As a result, we believe they will be healthier and happier.

Then I realized Mayor Wayne Emmerson deserved much of the credit. Had he been influenced by the opinion of the vocal minority who opposed this, we would still be waiting for a pool. It is a rare to find a leader of this calibre.

I think I speak for hundreds, if not thousands, of residents when I say Wayne's legacy will be that he made Stouffville a better place to live and raise families.

PAUL & CATHY HOPE  
STOUFFVILLE

### Community rallied after death

I knew when my son Jorge Martinez died after being hit by a vehicle in the Markham community of Raymerville last November, I would eventually write this as a sign of responsibility for him and as a sign of gratitude to a community stood by us in the face of tragedy.

Telling people what the pain is like would not do any good. We know God did not promise us a pain-free life, without disappointment and suffering. Yet, in our pain, he provides the courage to survive life's adversities and unfairness.

The God I knew before is not the God I know now. I am now able to recognize our limitations and no longer hold him responsible for life's calamities.

God opposes suffering as much as we do and I no longer blame him for it. Misfortunes are not part of his design, nor are they punishments for misconduct.

Fate is an inevitable consequence of our mortal nature, often a product of regrettable circumstances and irresponsible actions.

Yet, in the midst of tragedy, God manifests his language through people, people who help others hurt by life, family and friends who come forth to ease the burden and fill the emptiness of those in pain.

When I look back to Jorge's death, I see him as a source of inspiration for the goodness we all have witnessed. I am convinced

Jorge served God's purposes, not by dying, but by revealing the best of us in the reflection of the compassion God feels when he sees suffering.

Life is not fair. Yet, what makes people respond to tragedy with such generosity and compassion if not God?

In essence, I no longer love God for being perfect or for keeping me protected from harm and evil or fear of him.

I love God because he is our creator and father, the source of our hope and strength and because he is the best part of ourselves and our world, he is our promise of eternity.

I think of Jorge often and recognize how much I lost and how much I gained through his loss. I have learned my love for him and God is now much greater than before.

MARIA MARTINEZ  
MARKHAM

### War column showed liberal bias

Re: President Bush can't enlist God in U.S. army, column by Ron Csillag, March 29.

This is a typical liberal rant. Liberals dislike conservatives and they hate evangelicals. This author knows nothing about the conversion of George W. Bush and, like communism, thinks religion is the opiate of the people.

Mr. Bush's life-changing transformation didn't just help him to conquer the addiction of alcohol, it gave his life meaning and purpose and it bore fruit.

Mr. Csillag loses all credibility when he attempts to compare the president's moral and spiritual convictions with those of the terrorists.

It is an affront to intelligence and doesn't even warrant the dignity of a response.

I have followed the president's private and public activities since he became a candidate for president and, therefore, I wonder if Mr. Csillag is talking about the same person or if he is even on the same planet for that matter.

As a Christian and a conservative, I found his article bigotted and offensive and hope other readers could see through it also.

RICHARD VAN SETERS  
MARKHAM

### Nurses, doctors deserve applause

As everyone is in a panic about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and trying to avoid contacting people in public areas (especially places where Asians used to gather, whether restaurants or shopping malls), a large number of caregivers are risking their health to serve and to help the sick.

These people, our Florence Nightingales by the bedside, should not be left unmentioned. They deserve our applause because of their efforts on the frontlines of medical care.

Their work against viruses and disease is like the soldiers now battling on the frontier of Iraq. We should be grateful for their contributions and devotions.

BYSSHE CHUNG  
MARKHAM

## 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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