

**Stouffville**  
**Sun-Tribune**

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# OPINION

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## LETTERS to the EDITOR

### Column venomous, childish

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

At the end of Mr. Csillag's column the tag line indicates he is a writer specializing in religion. After reading the column, the best comparison I can make is to say Ernst Zundel is a writer who specializes in the Holocaust.

It is quite evident by the venomous and childish attack of Mr. Bush and all things American that Mr. Csillag shows himself to be small-minded and, yes, fearful.

His fear is of those like Presidents Bush and Carter, who, by their convictions, stand up for what they believe is right — even if that requires telling the country and the world who controls and directs their lives, while ignoring those who belittle them for it.

Mr. Bush's faith talk rings loud and clear, not hollow as Mr. Csillag suggests. Mr. Bush is a man we should all admire for his refusal to deny his faith. He continues to show he lives it every day.

Contrary to Mr. Csillag's view, Christians like Mr. Bush know Jesus is their comforter because he makes no demands of them. Jesus gave them free will and gives people the gift that is him if they just ask for it.

Mr. Bush, as leader of the most powerful nation on earth, knows how to handle his responsibilities.

He understands misusing that responsibility is not permissible, certainly not sanctified and God will judge his actions accordingly. I could use a Bible verse to illustrate the point, but I will quote a pop icon instead. He said "with great power, comes great responsibility."

HUGO T. KROON  
BETHESDA

### Lobbyist still fighting for Rouge

*Re: Enviro lobbyist quits Rouge Valley group, March 25.*

Thanks to your paper and to reporter Mike Adler for the excellent and ongoing coverage of environmental issues.

I would like to respond to one of your most recent articles with a clarification regarding the role of Glenn De Baeremaeker in our group.

Although the article itself was accurate, the headline has caused confusion among your readers, some of whom have been calling our office.

Mr. De Baeremaeker has not, as the headline suggested, quit our group. In fact, nothing could be farther from the truth.

As the article indicated, Mr. De Baeremaeker did recently, after 14 years of intense volunteer involvement, step off the board of directors, in what we had hoped would be a long overdue transition to a role as paid staff person.



With this arrangement he could dedicate even more time to protecting the Rouge Valley and the Oak Ridges Moraine. Unfortunately, it has become increasingly apparent the funding is not yet in place to pay Glenn.

So he continues to work as hard as ever as a volunteer, leading our group and safeguarding our children's natural heritage.

It is a sad reality while many corporations and governments are happy to fund tree-planting and habitat restoration, there are very few willing to fund the type of work at which Mr. De Baeremaeker is so adept: stopping destruction before it happens.

We encourage anyone wanting more information on our group to visit [www.savetherougevalley.com](http://www.savetherougevalley.com).

IAN GLYNWILLIAMS  
ACTING CHAIRPERSON  
SAVE THE ROUGE VALLEY SYSTEM

### English important for safety

*Re: Too much spent on minorities, letter to the editor by Jan Rogers, March 29.*

I agree with Ms. Rogers. English and French are the official languages in Canada, including Markham.

I believe everyone should have basic English and French skills before they live here, if only for public safety concerns. You cannot relay a distress signal verbally unless

you speak the language. Emergency services staff must be at their wits' end trying to find people in distress situations when they cannot communicate.

Constantly trying to meet the language needs of newcomers is crazy.

In Markham, we have seen invasion, not immigration. I don't believe for one moment the Chinese community has any other intention than to recreate China here.

No doubt the people in that community consider learning English or French not worth the effort.

ROY WELDON  
MARKHAM

### Wong drops ball on minorities

*Re: Minorities not getting help, March 22.* Markham Regional Councillor Tony Wong is well-intentioned, but shows poor problem-solving abilities.

A man seeks help for a family problem. He turns to Mr. Wong. That was the unfortunate man's mistake. He should not have turned to a politician for family assistance.

Mr. Wong should have referred this man to a Chinese-speaking, community-based social agency which, in turn, would help resolve his family problem.

If Mr. Wong claims there is no such Chinese community-based agency in the Markham area then, as a leader, Mr. Wong should launch

such an agency and recruit volunteers.

Regrettably, Mr. Wong uses this poor man's problem as a platform for a complaint against the Town of Markham and its staff.

Mr. Wong's political agenda is revealed to us all at the expense of his council members and town staff.

I am surprised Mr. Wong did not ask for the town's chief administrative officer's resignation over this matter.

Would Mr. Wong please submit proof to the Economist & Sun/Sun-Tribune that he tabled numerous motions before council seeking additional language services for minorities during the many years he has served silently on council?

Mr. Wong's approach is wrong. First, there is no need to use the race/language card as a pretense to obtain media coverage.

Second, it is wrong to criticize the town and its staff in this matter.

Mr. Wong is demonstrating why he was chosen as the provincial Liberal candidate: he is overly sensitive on race/language issues and will freely spend money on a problem that does not require it.

ROBERT VALLEE  
MARKHAM

### Ontario bankrupt without Tories

*Re: Tories have improved province, letter to the editor by D. Delaney, March 27.*

I applaud Mr. Delaney's letter. It is comforting to know there are people like him who can appreciate what the Progressive Conservatives have done for this province.

Without the Tories' tough medicine this province would now be bankrupt.

Let's hope Ontario never falls prey to big spenders like the Liberals or the NDP again.

CLAUDE GANNON  
MARKHAM

### Thanks for help with garbage

I would like to thank the people who pick up my garbage.

I am a senior citizen on my own. I recently fell and hurt my hand and wrist, but am unable to go to the Markham Stouffville Hospital for x-rays because of the SARS outbreak.

On April 4, after a nasty storm of ice pellets and rain I was unable to carry a trash bag down my 20-foot driveway for fear of falling and hurting myself further.

When the garbage truck came by, I was able to wave down the driver. One of the gentlemen came to my door and, after hearing my predicament, took my trash bag and put it in the truck.

There really are nice, helpful people in this town. All I can say is thanks from a Markham resident.

BERYL LEWIS  
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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