

Sun-Tribune

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LETTERS to the EDITOR

Abandoning high school debates black mark for Tsubouchi

"A strong voice for Markham." This is Markham MPP David Tsubouchi's election campaign slogan, but where is that voice when we need it?

When asked to participate in a series of all candidates meetings at local high schools to discuss education issues, he refused and would not send a representative.

Even worse, he wouldn't sign a release to allow the debates to go ahead without him. Predictably, the true blue York Region District School Board then decreed without him, there would be no debates.

At a time when people across the political spectrum are expressing concern over the diminishing participation of young voters in the electoral process, it is discouraging to put it politely that Mr. Tsubouchi would undermine this admirable plan to bring candidates to the schools to interact with students.

It seems the Tories' education policy of "putting kids first" is limited to vilifying their teachers.

The only time Mr. Tsubouchi's strong voice can be heard is when he is telling welfare recipients to buy discounted tuna.

GORD BELLMORE
UNIONVILLE

Elect leaders who support keeping families strong

In Canada, there has been alarming negative changes in the fundamental building block of the Canadian society.

The family unit is under attack and we need to open the eyes of the youth, adults and, more importantly, citizens who may be confused by a biased media.

Citizens should look for leaders who care about the future.

We only have future through our children and the children of our children.

Why is a basic, ancient and natural principle of human life on Earth is being distorted by a small group of homosexuals? Homosexuals cannot form families.

On the contrary, they threaten the continuation of the human species.

Without the preservation of the family as a building block of our society, we are simply lost.

Citizens, take action based on principles and save your country.

Support the family unit and the natural definition of marriage.

CARLOS MANJARRES
NEWMARKET



Wasteful Governor General's trip insult to Canadian taxpayers

Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson and her husband, John (Ralston) Saul, are leading a procession of leftist ideologues on a three-week diplomatic mission to Finland, Iceland and Russia.

Taxpayers are paying for this opulent, affluent yet superfluous trip, coined "The Modern North".

Fifty-nine outstanding and exceptional Canadians accompanied our de facto head of state, including neo-socialist Maurice Strong, former NDP premier Bob Rae and Mark Starowicz from the CBC.

In actuality, before Clarkson became the monarchy's representative she was a mediocre writer and a rather unexceptional television host and producer for the CBC.

It seems most of her chosen careers have been financed by Canadian taxpayers.

This European vacation epitomizes patronage and influence in the most grotesque fashion.

This is yet another example of the misemployed existence of this appointed official.

The position of governor general was created to not to be persuasive or alluring. It must adhere itself firmly to neutrality.

Such a trip demonstrates how out of touch the Governor General is with Canadians.

What is the motivation behind this trip? What do Canadians really have in common with Finland, Iceland and Russia except for climate? Canada is geographically northern, yet philosophically and economically western.

Could it be coincidence Ms Clarkson and her elitist group are visiting countries inundated with strong socialist histories?

The role of the governor general is to encourage national unity and moral leadership.

The institution's responsibility is to represent the Crown while celebrating the excellence of all Canadians.

Ms Clarkson and Mr. Saul have used the office for propaganda and promotion. Canadians must question if the position has become nothing more than a burden on taxpayers, dysfunctional by nature and symbolically obsolete.

If Ms Clarkson had been elected, her actions would have clearly been held accountable.

Such an unavailing, valueless and ineffectual expedition would not have been undertaken.

KIRK SUTHERLAND
MARKHAM



David Suzuki

Mixed messages obscure action

Watching the news, it seems there's a new environmental crisis occurring almost daily: global warming, pollution, habitat destruction, species depletion and extinction and much more.

The bad news is plentiful and painful. But then, on a fairly regular basis, a nice-looking man pops up and says: everything you are seeing is an exaggeration. The environment is fine.

Everything's fine. Go buy a new SUV. It's OK. Such a nice-looking man.

To the average person, it must be quite confusing. Are the stories on environmental calamity really an exaggeration?

The quick answer is no. On a global basis, the environment we depend on for our lives is in trouble.

Natural services that provide us with essentials like a stable climate, clean water, fertile soils and others are being depleted.

We are heading in the wrong direction if we want to leave the next generation with the quality of life and opportunities my generation took for granted.

So, why the mixed messages? Well, part of the problem lies in the way the media present news stories. First, they are presented as episodic, focusing on single events rather than issues and analysis. Second, media stories are driven by conflict, so reporters are always encouraged to find someone to contradict prevailing opinion, turning complex problems into a simplified, false "he says, she says" dichotomy.

And third, there are well-financed interests at work who have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo.

Scientists have a duty to warn society of any potential environmental problems.

But because of the incremental nature of science, not all predictions made come to pass. When that happens, it enables critics to say there never really was a problem in the first place and environmental scientists are merely Chicken Littles.

It would be easy to listen to the nice lobbyists who tell us everything is fine, but waiting to take action will only make the good news less frequent and the bad news much worse.

Take the Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org

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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