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LETTERS to the EDITOR

Reckless driving sentence a joke

Re: *Reckless driver gets off too easy, mother of victim says, Oct. 30*

What a joke; eight months in jail for killing a mother of two young boys.

In Jeff Mitchell's article, Justice Alfred Stong called the crime "one of the most extreme examples of both a wanton and reckless disregard for the lives and safety of other persons in the operation of a motor vehicle as could possibly be imagined".

Then he dropped the charge of manslaughter.

Then Appeal Court Justice Jean-Marc Labrosse stated Petro Pak To Lam has "a lifetime prohibition on driving".

Let's review this. Mr. Lam was driving a modified Honda. Guess factory specifications just weren't fast enough.

He was exceeding the speed limit for a 400 series highway by 70 per cent.

Eight months for causing a death. If he is caught, what will the penalty be for driving without a licence or while under a lifetime prohibition?

Instead of a fine, maybe the justices will give him a reward.

BILL GOSS
MARKHAM

Signs turn off voters

Re: *Signs necessary election evil, Nov. 1*

Most people accept election signage as a necessary evil in a participatory democracy. Most candidates show at least a modicum of restraint in their placement.

Sadly, there are exceptions to the rule. Between Saturday evening and Sunday morning, workers for a Markham regional council candidate wallpapered Apple Creek Boulevard in Markham.

By my rough count, there were more than 100 signs planted in rows, most barely six feet apart.

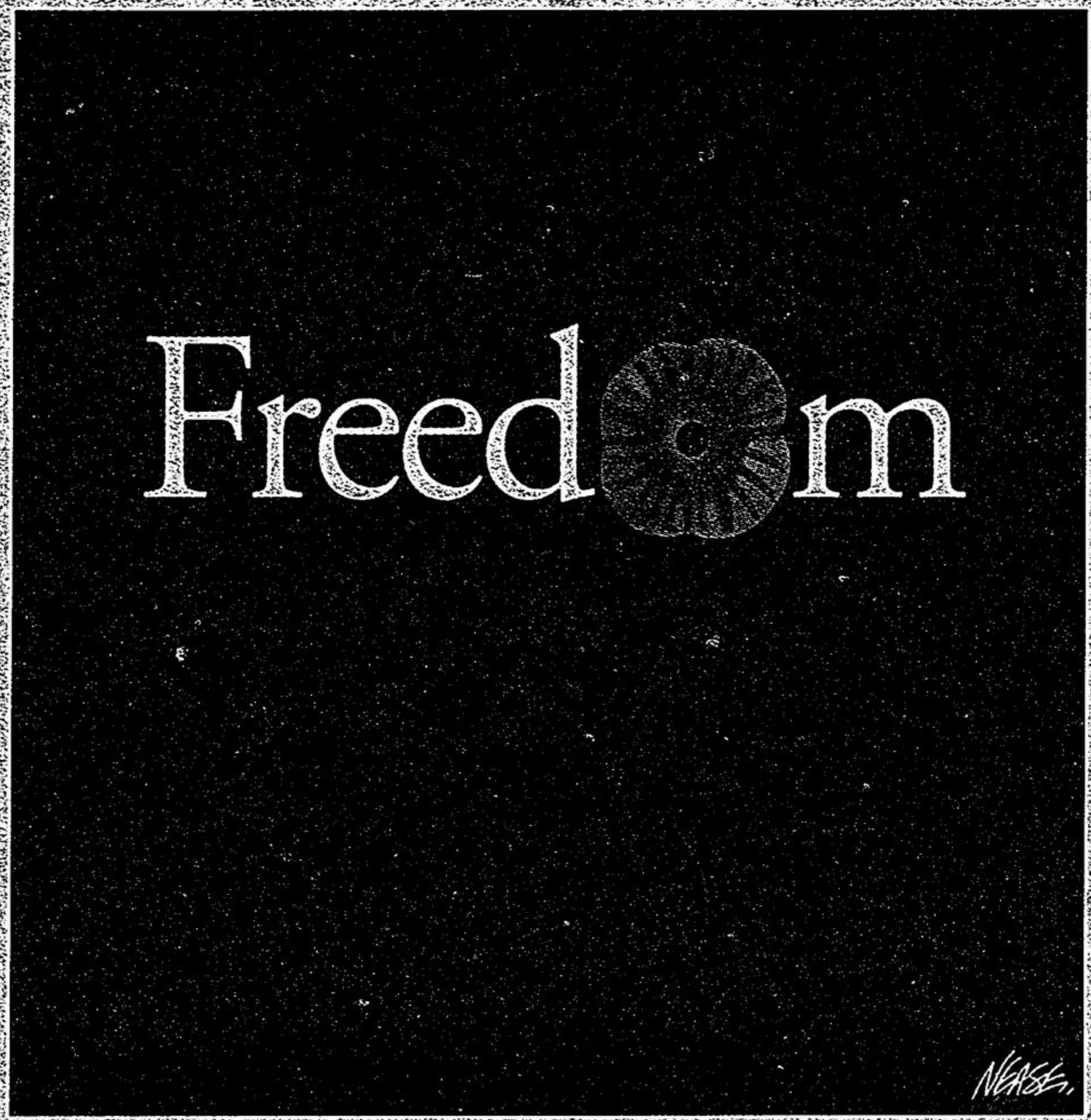
This eyesore stretched from Warden to Woodbine avenues and, I believe, most commuters found it excessive. By Monday morning, they were gone.

My question to the candidate: Why? What was the point? Was it intended as a one-day blitz? If so, why that street and why on a Sunday when traffic is light?

Were they removed in response to complaints?

Either way, this sort of abuse of the process seems to indicate the town needs to institute reasonable restraints on number and placement of signs before the next election.

I must admit, it did serve one useful purpose. It helped my wife and I decide this



candidate won't be receiving our votes. I encourage anyone else who was offended by this display to do likewise.

LARRY ROWE
UNIONVILLE

Former students can help reunion

Planning for Stouffville District Secondary/High School's 50th reunion is well under way for July 2 and 3, 2004.

However, we still require help from people attending the school in 1950s, '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s. We're hoping they can help us find former students' addresses.

This event can only be a success by communicating to all past students and teachers. We would like to see all years well represented and without help, some classes may not be present.

It has come to our attention when the school opened in 1954, there was no yearbook produced, but class pictures were taken.

Therefore, if anyone has any pictures along with names of students who attended that year in grades 9 to 13, would you please let us know as soon as possible?

The reunion is being organized by volunteers. Anyone who wants to help should log on to www.sdssreunited.ca or mail us at Box 1328, 6379 Main St., Stouffville, ON L4A 8A3.

Our next meeting is Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in room 107 at SDSS, 183 Bramble Cres. All are welcome.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE
SDSS 50TH ANNIVERSARY AND REUNION

Youth must be involved in vote

I've decided I'm going to be the voice of many Stouffville teens. We have been talking lately and think we would like to be represented and heard, not only by our ward councillors, but also our mayor.

We are an important group, many of us will remain in the Stouffville area after we have completed our education.

Therefore, the future of the town is close to our hearts. There are several points we are quite concerned about, the first being development. It has to be controlled growth.

We have heard conflicting stories about how quickly the town is supposed to grow. We are concerned by the time we are ready to raise families, the face of Stouffville will be foreign, with endless subdivisions and limited green spaces.

It has been said we need more policing to help control youth petty crime. While this problem can never be eradicated, it would definitely help if there was something for us to do in town. There needs to be more organized youth activities.

We love mayoral candidate Randy Moles' idea about a radio station. It would give us a chance to have a voice, a presence and an identity.

His idea about a youth sports and entertainment facility, complete with an Internet cafe, and the radio station would get us working together as a group.

We really are no different than the generation before us. However, if that generation plans on growing this town as quickly as forecasted without organized youth programs, then youth violence will become a serious problem.

We live on the Oak Ridges Moraine; we have some of the finest farmland in York Region. What will they look like in 10 years?

Will it be difficult to tell where Markham ends and Stouffville starts because, like Markham and Unionville, or Aurora and Newmarket, one runs into the other?

We could lose our identity, our uniqueness, and for what? Developers?

I urge the youth of our town who are eligible to vote to become involved.

Read about the individuals running in your ward who might represent you on council. They all have platforms.

More importantly, read and research qualifications of the mayoral candidates. Do they have your best interests at heart?

As a student group, let's be pro-active, let's get out and vote and let our voices be heard.

You can't complain if you never take a stand. We have been given the privilege to vote, let's take advantage of it.

DAN PFAFF
STOUFFVILLE

Veterans fought for voting freedom

Re: *Sign fines, big ballots and other voting trivia, a column by Jim Thomas, Oct. 30 Sun-Tribune*

I learned a lot from Jim Thomas' column on election trivia. What I found most interesting are the efforts being made to assist seniors in voting, a right we all enjoy but do not exercise.

We have a pathetic turnout record in municipal and other elections. Why?

Why do we complain about our elected officials when so many of us don't vote?

Our veterans paid the ultimate price for this privilege. Isn't it ironic we wear red poppies for Remembrance Day?

Please, please get out and vote on Nov. 10 so you can stand for two minutes of silence Nov. 11 and show true respect for what our veterans did for us.

LORETTA LAVELL
STOUFFVILLE

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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