

# OPINION

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**Sun-Tribune**

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## World is witness to events in Israel, Palestine

As an impassioned observer of the Gaza pullout, returning confiscated land was the right thing to do.

It was purely a matter of economics — the cost of protecting 8,000 settlers in a sea of impoverished Palestinians was unsustainable.

The world is watching and waiting for a complete withdrawal from all occupied lands and that includes the more strategic West Bank.

It was a win-win for the Israeli government.

After holding on to occupied land for 40 years, they got paid to give it back.

I hope it leads to goodwill and the foundation of a lasting peace.

JACK CARDOZO  
THORNHILL

## Caution while canning

Re: *Painless preserving*, Aug. 28.

Liberal readers should note some of the recipe suggestions described in this feature could not only be painful, but fatal.

The article suggests preserving peppers in oil, or canning pesto with tuna, and sealing the jars at room temperature.

Any informed and experienced seasoned home food canner will tell you this approach to canning is extremely dangerous and could lead to botulism, a nasty, painful, and frequently fatal form of food poisoning.

According to the United States Center for Disease Control, more than half the cases of botulism in the U.S. come from improper home canning of food.

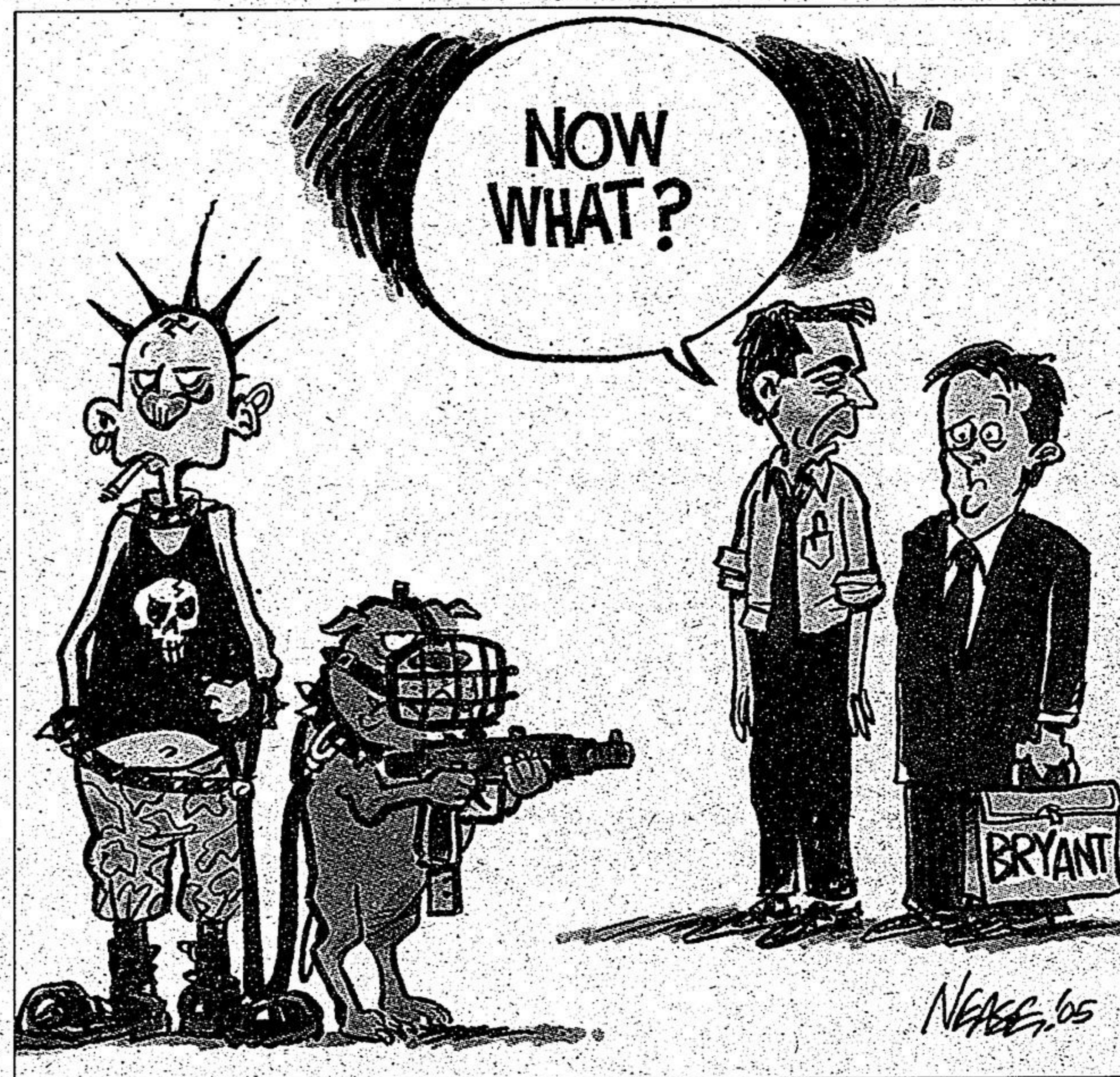
Any low-acid food (including peppers) must be prepared according to tested recipes and packing techniques and processed for a prescribed period of time in a pressure canner.

Fish and seafood, such as tuna, require particularly careful preparation and extended processing times.

Home canning is a wonderful way of preserving summer's bounty, but if done improperly can kill.

I would implore any readers contemplating taking up the hobby to educate themselves on the best and safest techniques. Buy a good modern cookbook on canning.

CHRIS C. THOMPSON  
NEWMARKET



# Measurements lost in translation

End-of-summer notes, as the Silly Season ends and the Serious Season begins.

Motorists crossing into New York State from Montreal on I87 are greeted by a large sign announcing: Speed Limit 100 (Metric) 60 (English).

Does anyone else long for the days when all our measurements were in "English"?

An approaching Hurricane Katrina was reported in Canadian media to have wind speeds of, variously, 257 or 273.5 km/h — depending on whether American meteorologists estimated its winds at 160 or 170 mph.

Our media are vigilant and assiduous in converting all English measurements into metric. Attacked by a bear that stood 10 feet tall? In your daily newspaper, it becomes a "3.048m" beast. Fell off a 30-foot cliff? You plummeted 9.144 metres. Yet the same newspaper's sports section will religiously insert the notation "(all figures US)" every time an athlete signs a contract.

Is it somehow easier to convert figures into metric than it is to

convert currency into Canadian dollars?

If this is just a plot to annoy cranky old readers, I can testify that it's working.

But as Hank pointed out last year on Corner Gas — that exemplar of Canadian culture not produced by the CBC — ask a young woman how tall she is and she'll answer in feet and inches.

Not "164.6 centimetres".

(Ask her how much she weighs and you'll get no answer in either language.)

### TOLDYOU SO NO. 1:

Mere weeks ago, this space argued that the Corpse is irrelevant to the vast majority of Canadians, beloved only of Liberals and other leftists, and an anachronistic waste of a billion tax dollars annually.

Thoughtfully, CBC has since locked out its staff to emphatically prove my points.

This week comes a poll showing 61 per cent of Canadians couldn't care less that the CBC "talent" are not working.

Only 10 per cent said it's a "major inconvenience".



Bruce Annan

And, according to CP, "those who said they were most inconvenienced ... tended to be Liberal and NDP voters..."

Rest assured, gentle Grits, when Parliament reconvenes, it will soon have the CBC back to work, to fire up the propaganda machine. The best entertainment during the lockout has been print columnists bemoaning the loss of commentators during CBC football broadcasts — and then admitting that ratings went up without the designated talkers. As my friend says, the average potato is also a commentator.

York Region's own Greg Sorbara set a new world record this sum-

mer for rejecting his own research.

After commissioning a \$600,000 report into privatization options for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, he ruled out its recommendations without even reading them.

### TOLDYOU SO NO. 2

This column predicted in March the province wouldn't make any changes to its booze monopoly and wouldn't even threaten to do so in bargaining with its union.

Sure enough, the cushy jobs continue at even higher rates and we're overpaying for our liquor by a billion bucks a year.

Soon after, Vincor — Canada's largest wine-making company — saw its profits drop because of a glut on the market of red wines.

So have you noticed any sale pricing at LCBO? Not in the Nanny State of Ontario.

### TOLDYOU SO NO. 3

This space declared in January our health care mess could only be resolved through the introduction of a parallel private system.

In June, the Supreme Court of

Canada agreed. Last month, the Canadian Medical Association agreed.

It's humbling to consider the impact of an occasional column in a York Region newspaper.

• ToldYouSo No. 4: In February, your scribe derided Canada's signature on the Kyoto Accord, predicting the federal government's cost estimate of \$3.7 billion was too low.

A month later, the official number had risen to \$10 billion.

Fortunately, the feds have gone all quiet on the issue, as growing numbers of scientists now agree with the rest of that column: global warming may or may not be happening; if it is, it may or may not be a bad thing; if it is a bad thing, there's no proof it's man-made; if it's man-made, the Kyoto Accord would do zilch to stop it anyway.

Bring on the Serious Season. Feel free to borrow future opinions in this space and you can say "I told you so", too.

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## LETTERS POLICY

The Sun-Tribune welcomes your letters. Submissions must be less than 400 words and include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The Sun-Tribune reserves the right to publish or not publish and edit for clarity and space.

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