

COMMUNITY: Trivia challenge not so trivial for Stouffville woman

Doctor turns to Twitter in AIDS fight

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Some people like to challenge their bodies with endurance events like mountain climbing and marathon running to raise money and awareness for charities and organizations.

For people who prefer a cerebral challenge, there is an event taking place Dec. 1 — GLINT.

The Give A Day Live International Not-so Trivial challenge is a one-hour Twitter-based trivia contest on the topic of HIV and the people and places most affected by it.

The event is organized by Give A Day volunteers.

"It's a bit of an experiment. I don't know if anybody's tried to do this before," said Stouffville resident Dr. Jane Philpott, founder of the Give A Day organization.

Between noon and 1 p.m. eastern time, 200 questions relating to HIV will be tweeted out by GLINT.

The first five participants to correctly tweet their responses each receives a point.

The person or team with the

most points wins and gets to donate to the organization of their choice that is associated with HIV.

"We always like to put a different spin on things. The prize is you get to be a giver," said Dr. Philpott, chief of family medicine at Markham Stouffville Hospital.

The number of trivia questions, 200, was not chosen at random. It represents the number of people who die each hour around the world of HIV.

200 QUESTIONS

Questions to be asked during GLINT will be along the lines of: "What's the longest river in Africa?" "Which famous NBA player announced he was HIV positive?" and "What year did India report its first AIDS case?"

"It'll get people talking and maybe surprise people with some of the stats," Dr. Philpott said.

Participants, whether they be individuals or teams, can find the correct answers any way they want, including using multiple computers and smart phones.

GLINT is a part of the Give A Day to World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, in which people donate one day's pay to an organization that will use the money in the fight against HIV.

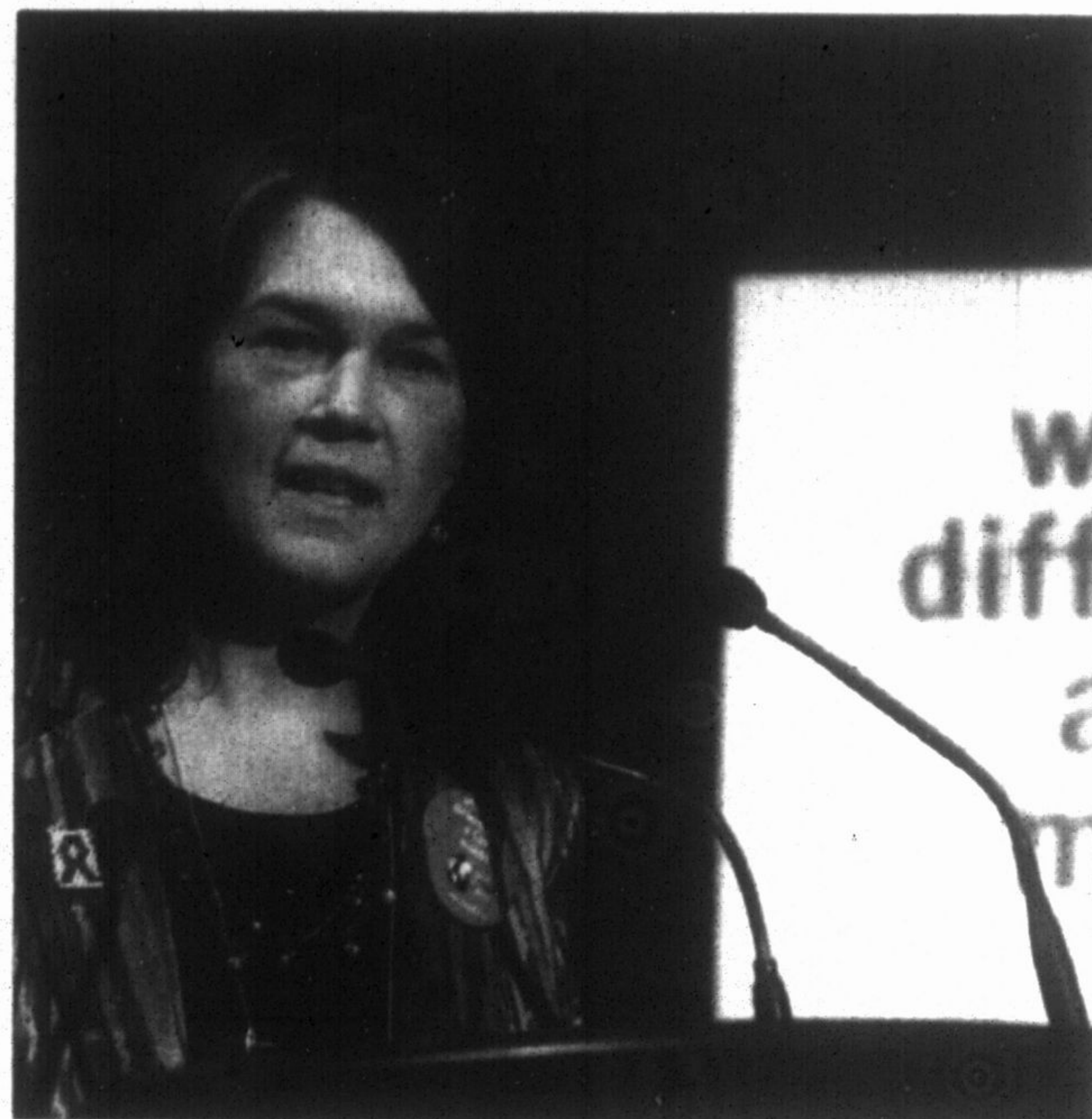
Two organizations Give A Day recommends are the Stephen Lewis Foundation and Dignitas International, which use the donations to fund community-based projects such as orphan care, family services, treatment programs and transport to and from those treatments, as well as micro enterprises for economic support, according to Dr. Philpott.

Since its inception in 2004, Give A Day has raised just over \$3 million, according to Dr. Philpott.

She noted the countries most affected by HIV, which are in southern Africa, have serious public infrastructure problems, including one doctor per 40,000 people in Ethiopia.

There is one doctor for every 450 people in Canada, she said.

For more information, go to <http://giveaday.ca/get-involved/glint-challenge/>



FILE PHOTO

Dr. Jane Philpott's Twitter event will help raise money, awareness about AIDS next month. The Stouffville MD founded the Give A Day organization.

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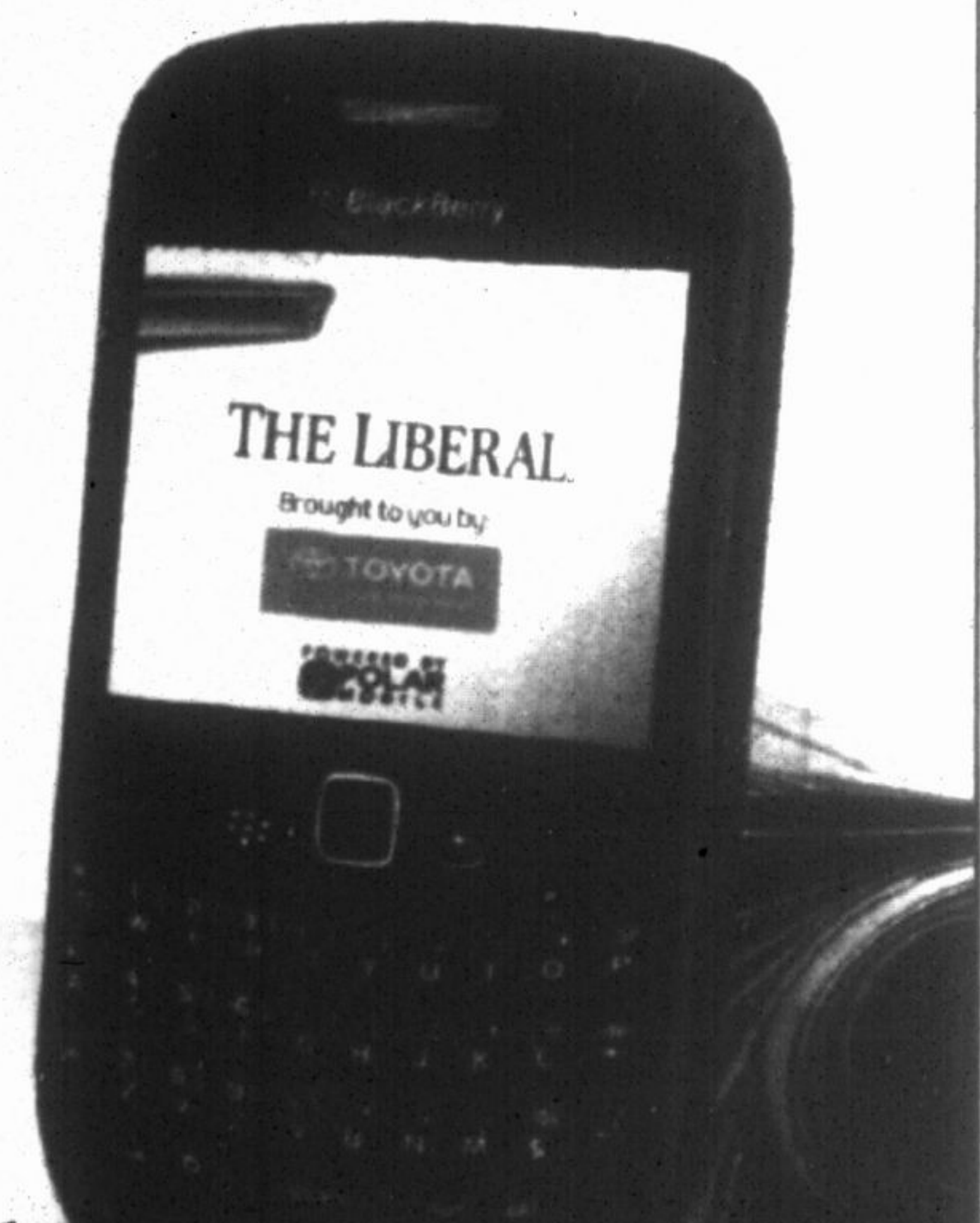
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