



**STORM COALITION INC.**  
Save The Oak Ridges Moraine



# Seasonal Storms

Winter 1997/98

## **Oak Ridges Moraine Published!**

The long-awaited book about the Oak Ridges Moraine was released this past summer from Boston Mills Press. It has received excellent reviews from various newspapers across the Moraine and in the Big Smoke to the south of us. The Toronto Star calls it a book of "environmental propaganda" which is truly a compliment. The book is being sold in independent bookstores in the Moraine environs as well as Chapters and Book Shelf in Guelph. Aimed at a broad readership but with abundant factual material in text and sidebars, the book contains more than 100 colour photographs, plus numer-

ous maps and drawings.

"This is a collective work and a voluntary work," says David McQueen, chair of the STORM book committee. "Nearly 40 different authors, photographers and artists, from birders to hydrogeologists, contributed freely their specialized knowledge and expertise. And I think that the overall result of their unpaid labour sufficiently impressed Boston Mills that their people put extra effort into making this a truly beautiful publication."

It is expected that the heaviest readership will be drawn from

people living on or near the Moraine, however others will be interested too. With a first run of 5,000 the book is selling beyond all expectations. It is hoped that the very appearance of a book about the Oak Ridges Moraine will send a strong signal to politicians and others that the environmental movement in Ontario and Canada is decidedly alive and kicking.

By prior decision of STORM's membership, all royalties from the sale of the book will be recycled back into educational and other environmentally-related initiatives.

### **Inside: How To Order Through Your Organization**

## **Moraine Watch Initiated**

In 1990 the government of the day expressed a provincial interest in the ORM within the GTA area. This came about through the work of various agencies and organizations as it became clear that there weren't comprehensive planning mechanisms in place at the local levels for protecting the water, natural heritage, tourism potential, agriculture and social and cultural well-being of the Moraine. This was echoed by Ron Kanter, Liberal MPP and Commissioner David Crombie in their respective reports.

It was acknowledged that the Moraine is a provincially significant landform feature, that the

existing land use planning and approval processes were inadequate to protect the Moraine in the face of development pressures and that "integration of protective strategies for the ORM into municipal planning documents should be mandatory."<sup>1</sup>

The NDP government not only supported this initiative, it instituted a three-year planning study which culminated in a progressive long-term strategy for the protection and management of the ORM. While the study was being undertaken, interim planning guidelines were implemented for land use changes. These guidelines were to be

rescinded upon the adoption of the strategy and the appropriate implementation option developed.

It is 1997, seven years after the Liberals first expressed interest in the Moraine. The interim guidelines are still the only way in which the provincial interest is expressed. On one hand they have been useful in that the wording and intent of the guidelines are proactive. They have been recognized at the Ontario Municipal Board and several case studies should be heralded. However, with the Ministry of Natural Resource budget and

**cont'd page 4**

**STORM Coalition Inc.  
Executive 1997**

**Co-Chairs**

Joseph O'Neill (416) 928-0838

Anna Tilman (905) 841-0095

**Past-co-chair**

Dorothy Izzard (905) 833-5816

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Lois Brown (416) 288-0640

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(i) **Education Committee**

Debbe Crandall (905) 880-3465

(ii) **Advocacy Committee**

David McQueen (905) 649-5276

(iii) **Finance/Fundraising**

James Vermeulen (905) 479-5836

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(i) **Newsletter**

Debbe Crandall (905) 880-4804

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Bill Kilburn (416) 932-0408

**Seasonal Storms**

Volume X Number I January 1998

STORM Coalition  
Box 2209, Station B  
Richmond Hill, ON L4E 1A4

**STORM Coalition Inc.  
Mandate**

STORM is a coalition of citizen groups and individuals whose focus of concern includes preserving the environmental integrity of the Oak Ridges Moraine. The participating groups have been formed on the basis of ratepayer concerns, environmental issues or academic associations. STORM is an action group.

Our major goal is to obtain legislated environmental protection for the Oak Ridges Moraine. One aspect of this overall plan is seen as providing public access to the Moraine in the form of passive recreation. Closely related to our major goal is the urgent need for integrated provincial land-use planning.

Since so many rivers, creeks and streams have their source in the Moraine, our active concern extends into the watershed areas on both sides of the height of land.

In the process of working cooperatively we will be able to support each other in our local concerns and efforts along the entire length of the Moraine.

STORM Coalition will provide this mutual support as we work towards our objectives of Education and Advocacy. Through a network of communication it is the intent of STORM Coalition to participate in environmental planning and policy issues, and furthermore to safeguard the Moraine from development issues which would have profound, cumulative and irreversible impacts. We are concerned with maintaining our natural and cultural heritage.

Business meetings are held the second Saturday of every month **unless otherwise noted** at 9:30 am. Join us after lunch for a walk or hike on one of the many local trails. For info on monthly hikes call Jeff Farrell 905 857-3393

**Announcements & Coming Events**

**Annual General Meeting**

Saturday, February 21. Location shown on insert.

This year we're inviting members of our affiliate and sister organizations to share with us all their stories - a meeting of reflection and communication. This is to be an informal 'circle' process so no PowerPoint presentations please. We will have refreshments and nibbles. For more information please call Joseph O'Neill at 416 928-0838 Δ

**Caledon Becomes a Green Community**

A Green Community is being formed in Caledon in conjunction

with an aggressive water conservation programme in Bolton. Bolton has been mining its aquifer (Oak Ridges Moraine Aquifer Complex) for several years now - drawing water in unsustainable yields. While an Environmental Assessment Study on water supply is being undertaken, the Caledon Green Community (CGC) initiative hopes to raise levels of awareness of water conservation and sustainable living.

Green Communities are locally-run, non-profit businesses whose goals are water and energy efficiency and waste reduction.

The next CGC meeting is January

22, 7:00 pm, Caledon Community Services, Courtyards of Caledon in Bolton. For info, contact Debbe Crandall 905 880-3465 Δ.

**Order Moraine Book Through Organization**

Your organization can receive a discounted price of \$22.44 + \$2.90 shipping per book if you order 10 or more books. The warehouse is located at 1800 Steeles at Dufferin if you wish to save on shipping fee. Order through **General Distribution Services**. Tel. 1 800 387 0141 or fax 416 445-5967. For details on discount protocol call David McQueen at 905 649-5276 Δ

## News From Across the Moraine

### Needed: A New Star in the East

While, like everybody who knows her, we wish Niva Rowan the very best in her new west coast home, we of STORM Coalition are painfully aware of what a gap her departure has left in STORM, SAGA and other environmental organizations along the eastern reaches of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Niva was both a strong and effective activist and a vital communications link between the many groups monitoring and caring for these Moraine lands. A faithful attendant at our monthly meetings, she kept us informed about what was going on in the Ganaraska, Otonabee

and other eastern watersheds.

In turn, she was able to bring STORM's presence to bear on Ontario Municipal Board hearings and other developments along the east part of the Moraine. And she did many other things as well, such as co-author one of the Ganaraska chapters in our newly-issued book, *Oak Ridges Moraine*.

We desperately need someone to fill Niva's post. The basic chore is to attend our monthly business meetings, held every second Saturday morning in an office off Woodbine Avenue near the junction of Highways 7 and 404 (location map on insert) This is

an important part of STORM's business, to network and support what other groups and individuals are doing. This helps greatly to beat that feeling on the part of the local, grass-roots groups that they are battling alone against heavy odds and hardly anyone seems to care. We care very much; however to be effective, we need timely and reliable information from the various fronts.

Could you possibly be our new star in the east? Or perhaps you know someone who could be. In either case, please contact David McQueen at 905 649-5276.

### OEN Holds its Annual General Meeting

The major theme was, Natural Allies: the Environment-Labour Link. Many of those attending were representatives of unions, including notably, the Canadian Auto Workers.

Summing up, it could be said that environmentalists and unionists left the meeting with a significantly improved understanding of where each was coming from. Much common ground and potential for coordinated action was mapped out. For example, there was general agreement on opposition to environmental deregulation and to the proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment, which many fear will be highly destructive of national action to protect the environment.

Nobody of course expected that the interests of the labour and

environmental movements would be perfectly aligned everywhere. For example, it was only realistic to expect that for the time being at least, organized workers in nuclear plants would take a different view of the "nuke" than would nuclear awareness groups.

Also, the labour people present took care to remind us that they were environmental advocates *within* their own unions. Consequently, despite their best missionary efforts, they tended to be somewhat in advance of their troops on environmental matters.

With regard to the non-listening proclivities of the Harris government, much stress was laid by various speakers on the importance of building support locally, in communities, neighbourhoods and workplaces.

It came as a pleasant surprise that despite drastic governmental defunding, the Healthy Communities and Green Communities movements were still active in some localities.

This reporter was very impressed by a session on workplace health, with particular emphasis on female workers. Some truly hair-raising accounts of corporate and governmental responsibility-dodging were related. This is an area where the goals of the two movements coincide just about perfectly.

It was announced that a new edition of OEN's *Environmental Resource Book* would be coming out in early 1998. This is an indispensable networking resource for all environmental groups - better communication leads to better action.

## News From Across The Moraine

### Moraine Watch cont'd from page 1

staff cuts and with local OP and OPA approvals being devolved to upper-tier municipalities, it is difficult to know if the guidelines are being adhered to in all cases.

The biggest failing of the current planning environment on the Moraine is the lack of a mechanism to understand and monitor cumulative impacts of land use changes. The Planning Study commissioned two background reports dealing with cumulative effects assessment and long term monitoring, recognizing, among other things, that municipalities would need assistance in setting clear targets for maintaining and enhancing the ecosystem.

Again, it is difficult to know whether this has been done at the municipal level.

If one makes the argument that the 15 background studies that comprise the technical backbone of the strategy constitute a large-scale 'state of the environment', the danger is that this information will soon become obsolete. There has been no coordinated monitoring system to track development and the impacts they have had on the natural and water-based heritage.

### Basically, the ship is heading into the unknown with nobody at the helm.

Until such a time as there is a protection strategy in place for the Moraine, one in which some central body will be appointed to coordinate planning and implement cumulative impact assessment and long-term monitoring, it is essential that, at a minimum,

we know what is happening on the various fronts. And a lot has been happening. For instance, STORM has been active via monitoring or participating in the following:

- in **King Township** there is a **development proposal** to build a condominium complex at King Valley Golf Course. This has recently been referred to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). **Contact: D. Izzard 905 833-5816**

- **York Region** recently approved an OPA that would **extend the York Durham sewage pipe** to King City. **Contact: Jane Underhill 905 833-5678**

- **Seneca College** recently appealed to the OMB (November 26) the decision of King Township's Committee of Adjustment to refuse a **request for a severance for "mortgage purposes only"** for building of student residences. **Contact: Dickie Glerum 905 833-5519**

- in **Richmond Hill** there is a proposal that would see a 1,200-unit development near Phillips Lake in the **last green corridor spanning Yonge Street**. Prior to an OPA or zoning change, the Town is considering commissioning a Corridor Study. **Contact: Anna Tilman 905 841-0095**

- in **Uxbridge**, there is a request for a Durham Regional OPA that would allow **development of a 770-unit retirement condominium complex**, a new 10-ha site for Durham College's Uxbridge Campus and a museum and arts centre on significant Moraine lands south of urban Uxbridge. **Contact: Dave Martin 905 842-3044**

- the **Clarington OP aggregate policies** are before the Board. One of the main issues is that of opening up the Ganaraska Forest area to aggregate extraction, 50 years after it was first saved. **Contact: Kathy Guselle 905 725-4520**

Development applications are at a record high, particularly for golf courses, retirement communities, aggregate operations and 'pushing' the edge of the urban envelope.

Piecemeal attack on a site-by-site basis is not the preferred way to promote good environmental ethics and sustainability, however it is a necessary part of an overall strategy. STORM Coalition has through the years gained credibility, expertise and a sound networking system that has proved effective in fighting the good fight. The Coalition is there to offer support, lend a hand, connect people and help take the fight to City Hall.

Please contact STORM with any news of development applications in your watershed. Better yet, come to our monthly meetings. (see New Star story page 3) If you have any news, please contact one of the members of the executive, call our contact number or send a fax or e-mail.

Tel: 905 833-5816

Fax: 905 880-3466

E-Mail: debbeday@interlog.com  
dmcq@web.net

<sup>1</sup> Watershed Interim Report August 1990, Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront.

### **Aggregate Resources Working Group Update**

The Aggregate Resources Working Group (ARWG) meetings were back on track after a several month lapse last year.

And then, last July, the Aggregate Producers Association of Ontario (APAO) dropped a bombshell in the form of a letter to ARWG chair Ray Pichette announcing the suspension of their membership at the table. Their reasons for dropping out:

- Concern that the initial focus of the ARWG had been subverted from that of looking at long-term supply problems facing the province as a whole to that of GTA-oriented planning and local political issues;

- Concern that several principles contained within the strategy did not generate consensus and had been 'word-smithed' resulting in loss of original intent; and thirdly;

- Concern that members of the ARWG be allowed to review Bill 52 (an amendment to the *Aggregate Resources Act*) and its attendant regulations document. The letter cited concerns about fundamental differences in the philosophical approach of the ARWG membership to legislative issues.

Needless to say, there was mixed reaction to this letter. However, consensus was reached to continue.

APAO returned to the table in December having had several meetings with Chris Hodgson, Minister of Natural Resources whose ministry manages non-renewable resources (including aggregates) in Ontario.

The first meeting with APAO in attendance saw some big guns being fired at two of the strategy's principles, namely: "*Provincially significant land uses, natural or cultural features and functions shall take precedence over new aggregate extraction*" and, "*Other significant land uses, natural or cultural features and functions may take precedence over extraction in specific instances.*"

Despite heroic attempts from various members to explain about trails, community values, scenic landscapes and forests, new APAO participant, Ian McNaughton, accompanying delegate Rob Cook, set the clock back several years in his attempt to understand what 'natural, social and cultural features and functions are in *practical terms*'. After much discussion it became clear that the bottom line for the NGOs is the retention of these principles in the strategy. The principles were put into a temporary 'parking lot' for that meeting.

APAO started off the January meeting by 'walking on' a rewritten version of the strategy with the expectations that it would form the basis of further discussion. This wasn't the case, however, the focus of the agenda was diverted from the ongoing work of refining the collective document (that developed through collaborative decision-making and consensus building - by all members, including APAO.) The neutrality of a chair who would allow a unilateral move by one member group to dominate the agenda comes

into question.

Another 'parking lot' issue revived by SAGA delegate Niva Rowan is that of supply and demand of Ontario aggregate. In light of APAO's purely self-assumed philanthropic role of meeting 'society's need' for aggregate, it is fair and highly appropriate to ask "How much GTA-produced aggregate is exported to markets outside the boundaries of Ontario?" A simple question oft asked, but not yet answered by either APAO or the Ministry of Natural Resources. Δ

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#### **Terminology Time-Out**

**ARWG** - Aggregate Resources Working Group

**ARA** - *Aggregate Resources Act* (Provincial legislation that governs the aggregate industry, it replaced the *Pits and Quarries Act* and has itself been amended by Bill 52)

**APAO** - Aggregate Producers Association of Ontario (Of the ~ 2700 current operating licences in Ontario, ~ 1000 are members of the APAO)

**Parking Lot** - an idea or suggestion that doesn't 'fit' or doesn't inspire consensus at that time is put into the *parking lot* for future discussion.

### Region of Peel Forced to Modify OP Aggregate Policies

Modifications to the Mineral Aggregate Resources section of the Peel Regional Official Plan (ROP) were adopted by Regional Council at their October meeting, and forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. It is the Province's position that this section does not conform to the Mineral Aggregate section of the Provincial Policy Statement.

Consequently, on October 22, 1996, the Minister modified the ROP to include a Schedule designating High Potential Mineral Aggregate Resource Areas \* with the pertinent policies reworded.

A puzzling decision, given that the Minister was fully aware of the initiation of the Caledon Community Resource Study (CCRS) and the support it receives from both the Region and the Town.

The preferred position of Peel and Caledon is that there be no modifications to the ROP until the completion of the community study. The rationale is that the study Terms of Reference specifically directs the process to:

1. Prepare an optimum Aggregate Management Strategy which balances the environmental, social and economic objectives of the Town with the aggregate industry's ability to meet market requirements;
2. Prepare a Rehabilitation Master Plan;
3. Prepare an Implementation Plan outlining mechanisms to carry out the Management Strategy; and

4. Recommend policies for the Regional and Caledon Official Plans with respect to the above goals.

With the Province modifying the ROP, it could be said that the work of the CCRS has been preempted. However, the big and really important difference is that the CCRS intends to fully involve the public throughout the process. One component of the study has residents, aggregate producers and operators, politicians and staff sitting at a round table - acting as full partners and participants.

With this decision by the province, old antagonisms over aggregate extraction have flared with the result that people are gearing up for a good old-fashioned fight at the Ontario Municipal Board.

On top of this is the uncertainty as to the implications of this decision on local planning and zoning by-laws. As quoted from *The Caledon Weekly* (January 15, 1997): "A recent report by Caledon planning director, Bryan Manning, stated some modifications protect "new extraction operations from the effects of other land uses, but there is no protection for other landowners from the effects of aggregate operations."

It seems incongruous that these are the same politicians who passed legislation empowering local land use planning decisions and which nixed the "shall be consistent with" in favour of "shall have regard to" provincial policy statements.

A local Caledon citizens' group

has been formed which plans to challenge the Province on its last-minute changes to the ROP aggregate policies. Among other things, they are planning to investigate the legality of these actions of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. As well, the Region of Peel and the Town of Caledon have appealed the decision.

The first pre-hearing of the ROP Board hearing is March 25. For details on location and time, please contact Kathy Bladen, Region of Peel Planning Department at (905) 791-7800. Δ

\* For reference, High Potential Mineral Aggregate Resource Areas include primary and secondary aggregate resource and bedrock resource **excluding** the Core Areas of the Regional Greenlands System, Niagara Escarpment Natural and Protected Areas of the NE Plan, class 1 - 3 wetlands, habitat of endangered and threatened species and approved settlement areas. These areas constitute 22,624 acres within the Town - 52% of the total primary and secondary sand and gravel and bedrock.

## York Region Entering Uncharted Waters with its Long-Term Project

Actually, privatization of water utilities is not totally uncharted - at least in the international arena. Seven years ago England sold off its public water utilities to the private sector and the picture coming across the Atlantic is not a pretty sight.

Despite the cautionary tales from the U.K., York Region has entered a partnership with Consumers Utilities (a joint venture of Consumers Gas and North West Water Canada Ltd.) whose goal is to ensure a long-term water supply for York Region into the year 2031.

Nine options had been proposed for getting large quantities of water to the urban centres of Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Newmarket and Aurora. On December 19, Regional Council opted for the Durham West option which involves a series of stages up to the year 2031. In a nutshell, these stages are:

1. 1997-2004: Utilize and expand the current Metro West delivery system to pump an average 57 million gallons per day (MIGD) with the capacity to go to 97 MIGD.
2. 1997: Implement water-use efficiency measures that would 'save' 4 MIGD (a mere 2% of total maximum water supply).
3. Date unknown: Build a new Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Georgina Township to treat both Lake Simcoe water and Moraine water while taking the Sutton WTP off-line. Possibility of second new WTP be built. This

would 'add' 20 MIGD into the equation.

4. By 2031: A new WTP (including all new water supply infrastructure) would be built on the Durham waterfront to bring up 80 MIGD to the urban centres of York Region.

All these figures add up to a water supply by 2031 of 210 MIGD.

### Is York Region like the Proverbial Fish Out of ...?

For sure, York Region should be praised for its long-term planning. It is, after all, implementing policies and directions laid out in the Official Plan. However, have staff and politicians determined the probable outcome of privatization or are they taking a big leap of faith because they've convinced themselves they have no other choice?

**First question: Is privatization of an 'ancient essential' service the only route to go?**

In the U.K. it would be safe to say that the jury's out on the issue of privatization. Mr Neil Fishpool, chairman of U.K.'s *National Campaign for Water Justice*, spoke recently at CELA's annual meeting in Toronto and was featured on CBC's *the fifth estate*. He gave us a very different story from that contained in York Region's glossy public relations package.

- There are 10 major water companies supplying water

throughout England and Wales. Huge increases in water charges, metering out of control, low-income households ringing up huge water debts resulting in loss of subscription services, leakage from water mains endemic (despite assurances that investment into and renewal of the infrastructure was paramount) and ... huge profits being garnered by private utility administrators.

**Second question: What safeguards for the public have been built into this privatization model?**

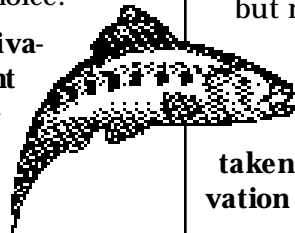
- York Region has gone into partnership with a subsidiary of North West Water - one of the U.K. companies recently cited as an example of how the privatization of water utilities is very profitable to a few individuals but not so to a majority of its customers.

**Third question? Why hasn't York Region**

**taken aggressive water conservation measures?**

- York Region formulated its decision to go this public/private and alternative distribution venture prior to investigating or implementing water conservation measures. In fact, their brochure and reports largely understate the significance that water conservation has on water saving:

*"York's growth will outstrip any possible savings through conservation measures. Water conservation typically reduces water demand by*  
**continued next page**



## STORM Membership

A few changes to look for.

On the envelope address label, you will see the date of your last renewal. If, after this mailing, those who have not renewed since 1994 and who do not renew for 1997 using the enclosed renewal form, we will assume, (God forbid) that you no longer wish to be on our mailing list. Whatever your decision, we thank you very much for your support in past years and wish you the best in all future endeavors.

We've included an e-mail address space on the membership form. If you're on-line, please let us know - it may be helpful in the future for quick communications.

**Conservation from page 7 up to 10% over the mid- to long-term.** "

And yet a report from *Environment Canada* (Water Conservation Every Drop Counts) says: "*And it's easy. With a little change to the way we do things, or the equipment we use, we can reduce water consumption in the home, and in the business by 40% or more.*"

**Another question: Why are the long-term plans so unclear and vague?**

- The report (*York Region Long-Term Water Project, December 1996: Selection of Preferred Option*) supporting the Durham West option has very little substance. There is a marked absence of any technical information and broad

### Gotta Keep Moving

STORM Coalition continues to be a significant force through the efforts of many dedicated citizens and volunteers. Much has been accomplished in the way of increased awareness of the Oak Ridges Moraine and protection of significant features and functions. STORM is, first and foremost, a coalition of organizations and individuals whose focus of concern includes the preservation of the environmental integrity of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

As most of us are aware, provincial attitudes have changed towards environmental regulation and legislation. It seems at times as though we were back to advocating 'first principles', i.e., *good planning is good, everything is*

assumptions about population growth, changing technologies, water use patterns are made with no critical analysis as to how changes over the next 30 years will affect supply and demand.

**And last question: How informed are the residents of York and Ontario of the outcome of privatization?**

Three public meetings were held and a four-page questionnaire circulated. Of the 169 people who attended the meetings, 59 completed the survey. This turnout could be, but must not, be construed as apathy. The questionnaire was confusing and obtuse and notice of meetings spotty. The December 19 Coun-

*connected to everything else, a healthy environment begets a healthy economy* etc. I find myself referencing copies of *Watershed* and *Regeneration* and early conservation authority and STORM papers. Like that silly movie says "Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water ...".

Now is the time to redouble our efforts to ensure that gains made through the whole ORM Planning Study are not lost and that the Implementation Guidelines not only continue to be enforced, but are respected and adhered to at all levels of land use decision-making. And it is especially important to keep alive the vision of legislated protection for the whole of the Moraine. Δ

Debbe Crandall

cil meeting (at which the preferred option was selected) was advertised as *in camera* before the meeting only to then be later described as a public meeting.

All in all, the process to date has not inspired much public confidence.

The last word on this subject goes, appropriately enough, to Neil Fishpool, verbatim from *the fifth estate*: "*The public in Canada have a chance to put their foot down and say no, we don't want this. We never got that chance. I would sincerely like to see Canadians have that chance, put their feelings towards the governments and elected people and say, no, we're not having this, whatever you say.*" Δ