

Editorial

A massive yawn

Ontarians - and indeed, Canadians - can be forgiven for reacting with a massive yawn at the news out of Ottawa this past weekend that Prime Minister Brian Mulroney had initiated a major cabinet shuffle.

You didn't need a program to identify the players as only one newcomer was ushered into the federal cabinet, Pauline Browes, the MP for Toronto's Scarborough Centre.

Ms. Bowes, first elected in 1984, was named the new junior environment minister.

As for the other changes, it was simply a case of political musical chairs, with the same off-key musicians remaining in the band.

Federal Liberal Opposition Leader, John Chretien, put the federal cabinet shuffle in its proper perspective by comparing it to moving around deck chairs on the ill-fated Titanic. "The iceberg is still in sight," he noted.

Chretien is no stranger to the troubled waters of politics as he went down with the ship of state when the federal government helm was being handled - mishandled? - by Pierre Trudeau.

The cabinet shuffle is just another example of Brian Mulroney indulging in gambling again - this time, it is the old shell game. Now you see it, now you don't - being played with the same old political hacks.

The Prime Minister is purportedly gearing up for the fight to save Canada, the fight he initiated with the botched Meech Lake Accord. Remember the "roll the dice" ploy he used?

Once again, the Prime Minister is showing himself to be out of touch and out of tune with Canadians.

The economy is what needs fixing and if proper repairs are made, it will do wonders to heal the wounds currently being inflicted on the body of Canada.

Give people jobs and a sense of job security and allow them to properly feed and take care of their families and then let them turn their attention to the Quebec problem, the Bloc Quebecois problem, the western Canada-based Reform Party problem.

But no, Mr. Mulroney still insists of playing party politics to the detriment of the country.

He now wants to be viewed as the savior of Canada. Is it mere coincidence that his mandate to govern runs out in approximately two years? Is it mere coincidence that for the federal Progressive Conservative party to survive it must regain the popularity of the people? Not likely.

Mr. Mulroney will now wrap himself in the Canadian flag and tour the country as the epitome of Johnny Canuck.

Meanwhile, jobs are lost and people are going hungry.

Will the new Finance Minister, Don Mazankowski, do anything different from the now-departed and not lamented Michael Wilson? Not according to published reports.

"When you've got sound policy, you don't have to worry about being different," he is quoted as saying. Very comforting.

So what did the cabinet shuffle accomplish? Absolutely nothing. Just as Mr. Mulroney will accomplish nothing with his pathetic posturing.

Outstanding service

To the Editor:

Our house is situated in a low lying area on the 8th Line, North of Georgetown, with a natural spring in an adjoining field.

Due to the wet spring, this has now flooded over onto our lawn and driveway, so on Saturday we rented a pump and hoses from Georgetown Rent-All, an electrical 2".

This was not powerful enough to stem the flow and on Sunday morning to water was continuing to rise and rapidly approaching the house.

I remembered the name of an

employee, Mr. Dave Cooke, at Georgetown Rent-All, found his phone number and phoned his house on Sunday morning, explaining the situation.

Within the hour he arrived with a 3" pump and hoses and spent the next couple of hours getting wet with us while helping to set up the pump, roll out the hoses and collecting up all the 2" stuff.

This sort of service will certainly keep bringing us back to Georgetown Rent-All.

Thank you,
Maureen Bailey,
Georgetown.

Thanks for support

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Georgetown Beaver Lumber Major Novice 'AA' hockey club, I would like to thank you for your support by publishing our hockey reports on a timely basis over the past season.

The kids appreciate it, the sponsor appreciates it, and

hopefully your readers enjoyed sharing our triumphs and our defeats.

We had a great year and your newspaper contributed to it's success.

Many thanks,
Gary Carter,
The Club Reporter.

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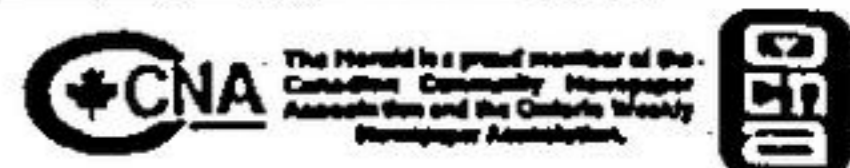
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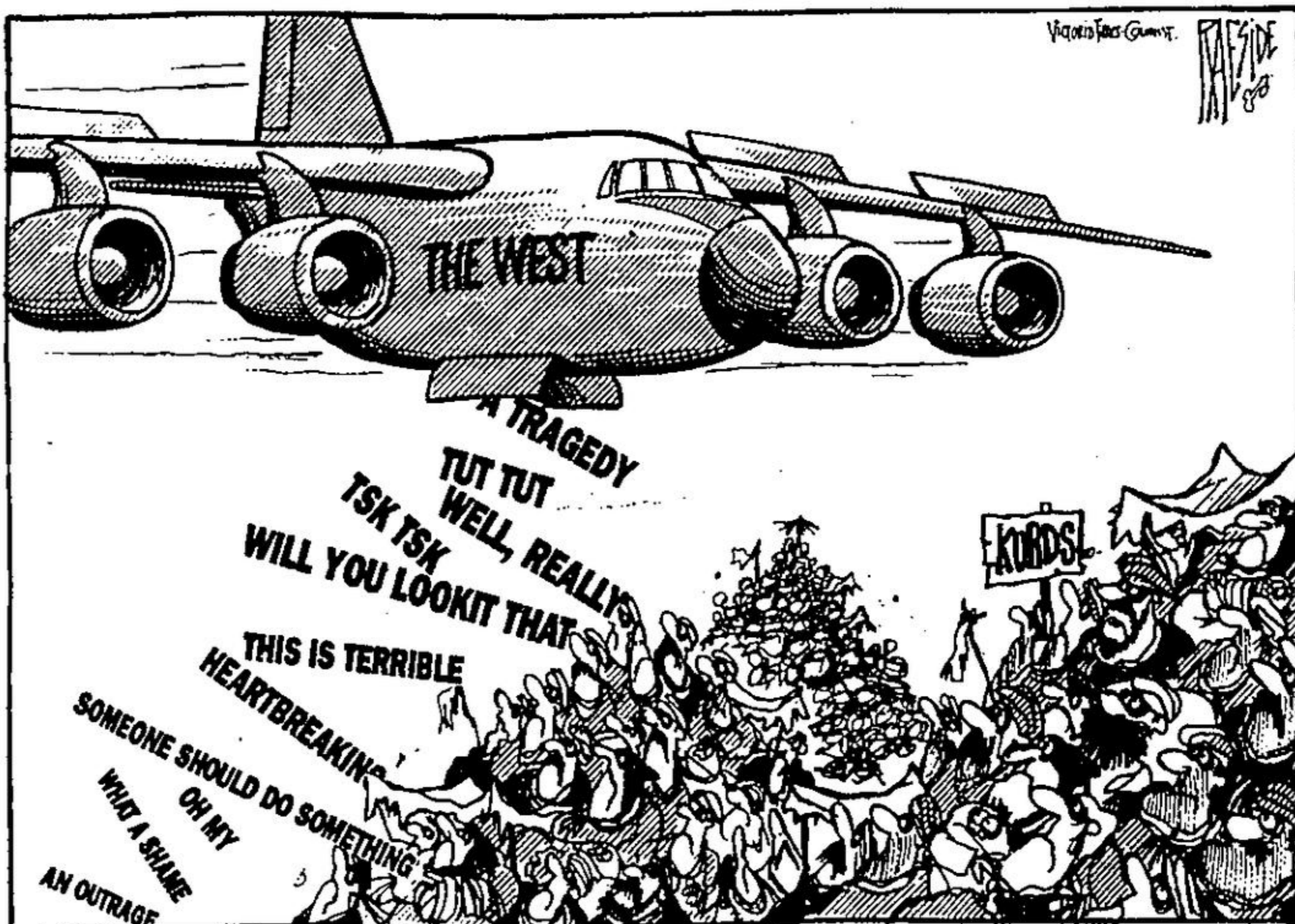
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Democratic process abused

Dear Sir,
Re: Oakville Trafalgar
High School
Ontario Municipal
Board Hearing

As residents who have supported relocation of OTHS and have been actively involved in the democratic process in over three years of public debate on this issue, we are outraged that a small group of individuals who oppose this project have not only caused a delay in the start of construction of our new school but have committed the Halton Board of Education, and subsequently the Halton taxpayer, to an additional expense of approximately \$150,000 in Ontario Municipal Board hearing expenses.

Any delay beyond the new expiry date of May 15, 1991, which the Board has negotiated for the existing tender, will result in at least \$1,000,000 in additional construction costs because of winter construction. Due mainly to the current recession, the actual cost of this project is \$4,000,000 under budget. A lengthy delay because of the OMB hearing could result in the loss of this important benefit to the taxpayer. Halton Board Chairman, Bill Harrison, stated in a press release dated April 11, 1991, that "Costs are going to escalate at a rapid rate and every week we delay means a significant financial penalty for our taxpayers."

We cannot allow a small group of individuals with agendas of their own to make a mockery of our democratic system. We are absolutely confident that the outcome of the hearing will confirm that the Halton Board of Education acted with full propriety and carried out its obligations as mandated. However, that will not

save the Halton taxpayer from the burden of the extra costs incurred by the Halton Board of Education during the process of this unnecessary hearing.

We understand that it is the role of the OMB to ensure that the Board does not debenture beyond an allowable maximum percentage of its operating budget. We strongly support this role of the OMB. However, it appears that because of the vagueness of various sections of the OMB Act, the current system allows special

interest groups to misuse the OMB process by simply demanding a hearing under these sections of the Act. It appears that the OMB is then obligated to approve the request for a hearing. This policy must change so that special interest groups cannot abuse the OMB process and waste incredible amounts of tax dollars.

Yours very truly,
Anne R. Jones, Chairman
Committee to Relocate Oakville
Trafalgar High School
Oakville, Ontario.

Plant a tree

To the Editor:

To give citizens the added incentive to plant a tree for Earth Day, P.O.W.E.R. has arranged a 15% discount on shade trees at Tuitman's Nursery on Highway 25. Look in the weekend papers for the ad paid for by P.O.W.E.R. Clip that ad and bring it in to Tuitman's.

Here's your chance to "Think

globally and Act locally" to save our planet.

P.O.W.E.R. hopes to see you on Saturday at the town works garage in Georgetown as we recycle your castaways at our Giant Garage Sale and generate funds to Stop the Dump.

Yours truly,
Barbara Halsall,
President of P.O.W.E.R.

A huge thank you

Dear Editor,

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make "LIFESTYLES OF HALTON HILLS" such a success on April 6th at the GDHS.

to the more than 85 exhibitor groups, to the 1,500 visitors who came to view, the many volunteers, the demonstrations groups and all the local businesses who so kindly donated prizes for the Health Safari and door prizes, Name The Dog Contest and the Coloring Contests.

A tremendous effort by all con-

cerned.

Thank you from,
The Cooperative Program
Planning Halton Hills.

Write us a letter!

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make, send us a letter or drop by the office. Our address is 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6.

All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification.

The Herald reserves the right to edit letters due to space limitations.