

# Opinion

## Specifics will come

The lack of specifics in Tuesday's Speech from the Throne has drawn a lot of criticism on Bob Rae's New Democratic Party (NDP) government. Indeed, the Throne Speech didn't differ much from what the other two parties, Liberals and Progressive Conservatives, have delivered in the past.

However, the New Democrats have only been in power for six weeks. Surely it is too much to expect they were going to solve all Ontario's problems by waving the magic wand of socialism over them.

Rather than specifics, the new government has used the Speech from the Throne as an outline of what they propose to do providing the funds and the opportunities are there.

There are exceptions. The wide-ranging agenda included \$700 million to create jobs in public works such as maintaining roads and public buildings, a new publicly owned auto insurance system to be introduced in the spring, and a freeze on new nuclear power development.

Most of the agenda reflected policies the NDP gave in pre-election promises but they were far from being as specific. As Premier Rae said, it reflects the realities of governing, rather than sitting in opposition carping about the government's policies.

Of course, neither Liberal leader Bob Nixon nor PC leader Mike Harris thought much of the new government's plans. Nixon says the Throne Speech "provides no direction" with its vague apple pie promises.

Harris said there was nothing new or different in the Speech. "It's a typical Throne Speech written by a typical politician promising a better world, with no details as to how we would build it."

Naturally, one wouldn't expect either the Liberals or the Conservatives to praise the agenda but perhaps their expectations were as great as some who expected miracles to happen.

We are in a recession and it would have been irresponsible of the New Democrats to proceed holus bolus with all the promises they made in Rae's Agenda for People, a blueprint for action issued before the Sept. 6 election. Rae must prove his government is fiscally responsible if it hopes to get the confidence of the people.

Instead of looking at Throne Speeches under a microscope, surely a better assessment of the new government will come when they issue their first budget in the spring. They should have a handle on how to govern this province by then. —H.C.

## Proceeds used well

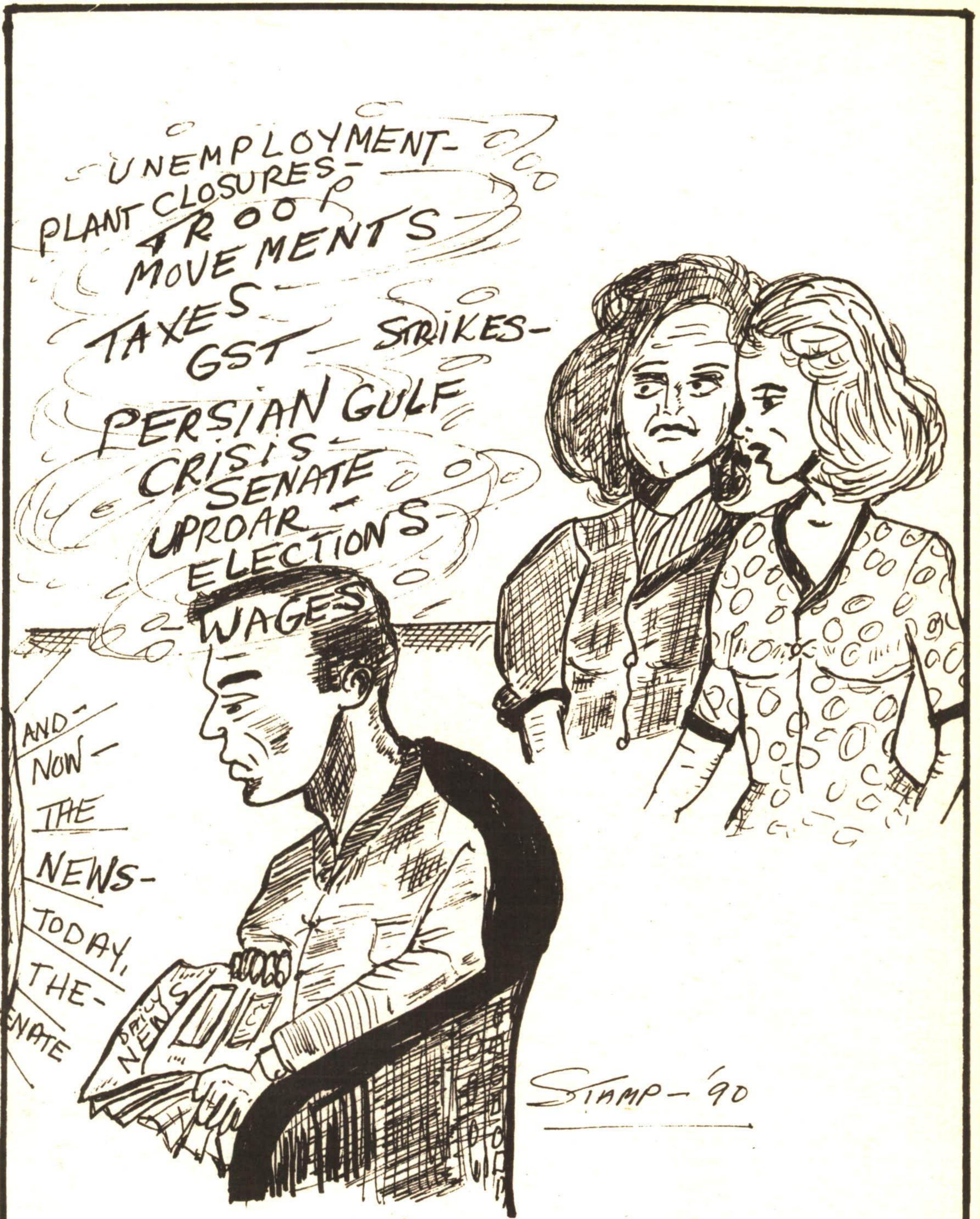
Most of us probably think proceeds from the Ontario Lottery Corporation's weekly draws disappear down some enormous hole. But the after-prize money proceeds go to assist the promotion and development of amateur sports, recreational and cultural activities, charitable organizations, hospital operating costs and environmental projects.

For instance, the Trillium Foundation funded by lottery proceeds, recently assisted these charities:

- Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (\$291,300).
- Arthritis Society, Ontario Division (\$836,000).
- Canadian Hearing Society (\$1,428,300).
- Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario (\$1,428,300).
- Ontario Literacy Coalition (\$554,500).
- St. John Ambulance Ontario Council (\$374,000).

To date, lotteries have raised more than \$3.5 billion for distribution by the Ontario government to many projects. Many of these organizations could never raise this kind of funding on their own.

Indeed, lotteries are a form of gambling and some people frown on them but even they, surely, would agree the proceeds are being put to good use. —H.C.



"MOM, WHY DOES DAD LOOK SO DEPRESSED AND WORRIED LATELY?"

## Our readers write

### Planning Dept. not 'negligent' or irresponsible,' writer says

Dear editor,

Please refer to Stuart Johnson's article headlined "Planning Department called irresponsible," that appeared on the front page of the November 21, 1990 issue of the Independent. Both the headline and the opening paragraph contain the words "irresponsible" and "negligent" with reference to the Town's Planning Department.

These words should not have been attributed to me because I did not "accuse the Planning Department of being negligent and irresponsible," as the

article states. The arguments I put to general committee were that I feel that it doesn't make sense to consider proposed land uses without also considering the impact of that land use on water resources, especially where the land use will probably use a lot of water, such as a golf course.

The Planning Department was certainly not negligent or irresponsible because, it is my understanding that this responsibility lies with the Regional Government.

Yours truly,  
Gord Vandevalk

THE GEORGETOWN INDEPENDENT /  
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# WEEKEND

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