

## EDITORIAL

With Frances Niblock



### Buckle up, Acton!

For the next couple of weeks Halton police will be paying special attention to seat-belt enforcement and I hope they zero in on parents who don't buckle up their children.

It makes me cringe when I see young babes and children sitting on a passenger's lap, standing on the front seat or playing in the back of a van or station wagon. Their parents made a conscience decision not to buckle up for whatever reason, but the children don't know the risks — or the law.

Statistics show that drivers who do buckle up, even if it is to avoid a fine, are more likely to buckle in their children.

With an aggressive combination of public awareness, education and enforcement, police are aiming for a 95 per cent seat-belt use compliance rate by 1995.

For drivers not convinced to buckle up by the potential of a \$90 fine, there are some sobering statistics. Unbelted drivers are 15 times more likely to be killed and five times more likely to be hospitalized than belted drivers in an accident.

There have already been six traffic fatalities in Halton this year and police report that several of the victims would be alive today if they had been wearing their seat belts.

In any given day there are over one million drivers and passengers on Ontario roads who are not buckled up.

Profiles of infrequent seat belt users show they are risk takers — drivers who are more likely to be in collisions, are more likely to drive when impaired and drive frequently or for long durations.

If all the valid arguments for buckling up don't work, maybe getting pulled over and being given a ticket will.

### Time to butt out

Despite irrefutable evidence that tobacco-use diseases are the No. 1 health problem facing Ontario, Town Councillors have watered down a no-smoking bylaw designed for public places.

Although smoking will be banned in retail stores, shopping mall concourses, service lines, reception areas, elevators, bowling alleys and health facilities, Councillors rejected staff recommendations to outlaw smoking in amusement arcades, hairdressers and barbershops.

Smoking will be allowed in restaurants, but the owner will have to set aside a no-smoking section, not 50 per cent of the floor space as recommended by staff.

As a former smoker, I want all the protection I can get against second-hand smoke and this by-law isn't going to give it to me.

#### Great honour

To the Editor,

It was a great honour to receive the 125th Anniversary of Confederation Commemorative Medal earlier this month.

While I have been working day and night to stop the dump, as I went forward to receive that medal I thought about all the people who have supported me in this struggle, and I know that I could not have sustained my effort without their very active support.

There isn't space in the paper to thank all the thousands who have been members of POWER, who have contributed to the garage sale and who have donated time to work on special projects, but I would like to recognize our board members who have met week after week and performed so tirelessly in this fight. Some who have served and left the board for various reasons are John Minns, Nigel Pettipher, Doug Young, Mary Shier, Jean Hilborn, Rita Landry (to form a more proactive group), Ken and Francine McGregor, and Linda Noble.

On our present board we have Paul Hynds (vice president),

Donna Robin (secretary), John Crispin, Jan Ferguson, Rob Barlow, Dee Rockley, Fraser Robin (my right hand) and board members who have been there from the beginning of the battle: Ruth French (past president), Marjorie Kirkwood (treasurer), David Noble and Chris Rumley.

Words cannot describe my gratitude for the thousands of hours that have been donated. Each of you share in the medal that I received. Thank you, POWER people.

*Barbara Halsall  
P.O. Box 274, Acton*

#### Teacher upsets

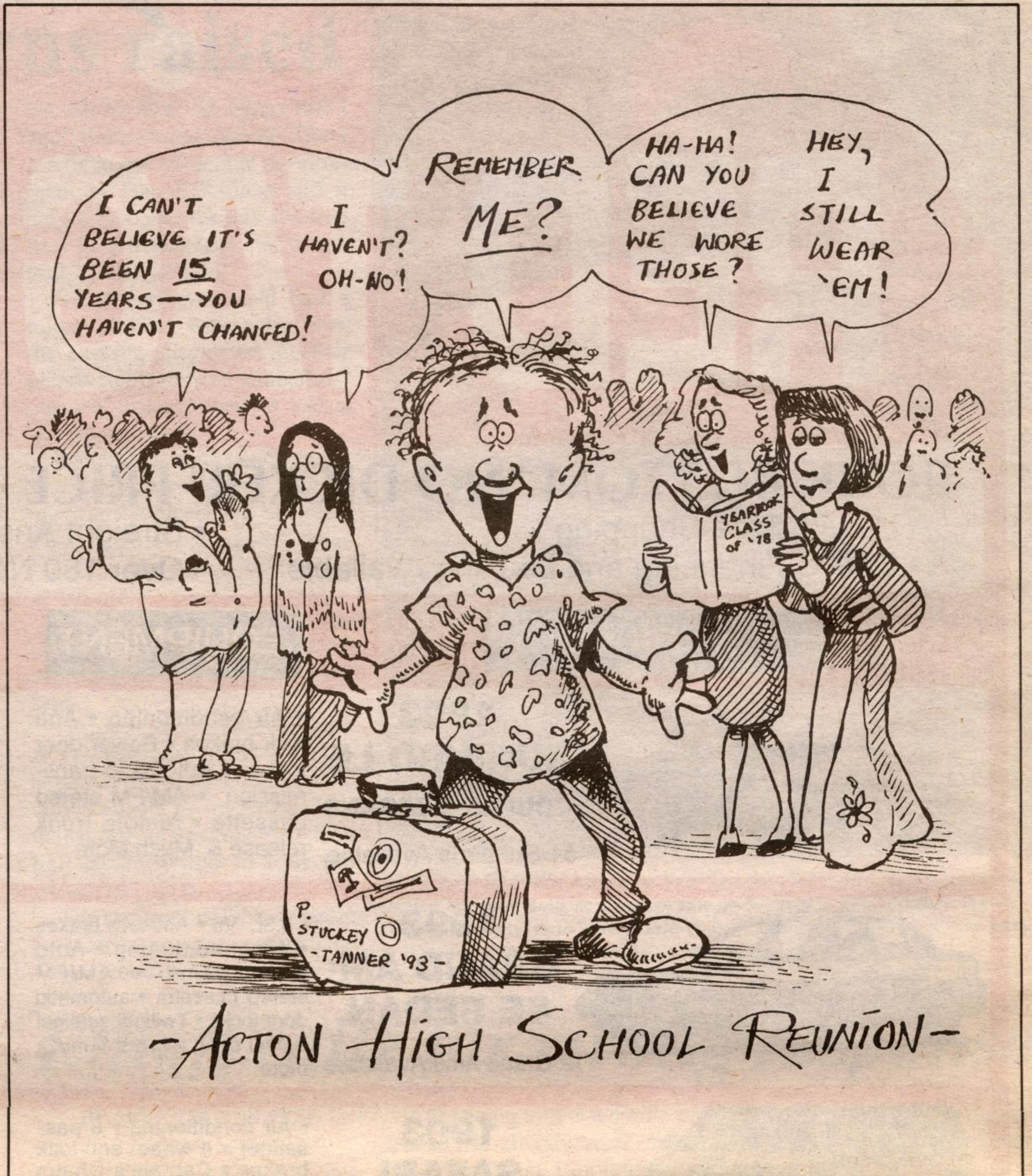
To the Editor,

Can someone please tell me why a school would continually ignore the complaints from parents, regarding a particular teacher.

I know I can't print names and I cannot print mine. But when do we forget the politics, stop and think of the children?

My child is paying for it now. How many more children have to suffer?

*A Concerned Parent  
(Name withheld by request)*



## LETTERS

#### Seventh anniversary

To the Editor,

A day to remember — April 26, 1986. It has been seven years since the explosion of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant rocked the world.

Today more than three million people continue to live in areas contaminated by dangerously high levels of radiation from Chernobyl, and most of the food available for them to eat has been produced on contaminated soil. Today the "Children of Chernobyl" and their families continue to suffer the consequences of the tragedy that began on April 26, 1986.

Following this disaster, the incidence of childhood

hematological and oncological disorders has risen dramatically. Other children exhibit recurring headaches, nosebleeds, hair loss and increased susceptibility to pneumonia and other infections as a result of radiation-reduced immune system response. Doctors in the contaminated areas indicated that the children must leave these zones for six to eight weeks each year if they are to have any hope of avoiding serious illness.

For millions of people — for whole generations in Belarus — April 26, 1986 issued in a new age, an age of Chernobyl grief. It brought irretrievable losses, crushed lives and great pain and suffering. On this, the anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy, find out how you can make a difference. For more information please contact Canadians Concerned For The Children Of Chernobyl, R.R. 1, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2L7.

*Fred Cox  
R.R. 1, Acton*

#### Well done?

To the Editor,

Can Bob Rae continue to raise taxes and spend our money for his pet programs without giving us the impression that he is doing all he can to "reduce the deficit?" Certainly not. His image is already so low, that the voters would now be prepared to turn even to the Liberals, whom they rejected so firmly at the last election.

The Premier of Ontario is now trying to convince us that the deficit for this year will be up to \$17 billion if his government does not take severe measures to cut spending and personnel.

The truth is that his plans, released only six months after the

NDP won the Ontario elections in 1990, were to increase the Provincial debt by over \$9 billion every year.

In the third year of his mandate he continues to stick to his plan to increase government intervention. However, as almost every government discovers, he is forced every year to acknowledge a few hundred million that go through the cracks of the bureaucracy.

In my opinion, the destruction of our province's prosperity and moral fiber is going according to NDP plans. If I shared his socialist ideology I could only say: Well done, Mr. Rae!

*Giuseppe Gori  
R.R. 4, Acton*

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