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Volunteers present a strong message to strikers

We've become almost accustomed to the chanting and shouting we hear as we pass by the various gatherings of Ontario public service employees in their picket lines.

Passions have erupted from both sides of the issues, where a main concern is money.

Meanwhile, in many of the same communities where union workers are striking, volunteers are busily working to help raise money for those less fortunate — the sick.

**FRONT
PAGE**

WITH KAREN WETMORE



These people aren't clocking the number of hours they're putting in — they're doing what they can to help out someone else.

One such group of those people willing to help are Canadian fire-

fighters. Since 1954, thousands have supported the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada, raising \$35 million over the years.

Locally, both the Eramosa Township fire department and the Acton Firefighters' Association have helped to raise funds for this neuromuscular disease.

The Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society are selling bunches of daffodils this week to raise money for cancer research.

At \$3 a bunch, it's a bargain and knowing it's helping others should give sales that extra incentive. Many volunteers are putting in their time to sell these flowers as well as canvass for donations door-to-door during April.

Now, I'm not saying OPSEU workers are greedy, selfish people who are only concerned about their own situations. But I'm sure many people in the province are getting tired of hearing about the striker's

demands in the news. Maybe the unionists should take a look around them and see how effective volunteers, including the firefighters and the Cancer Society, are in raising money and getting their messages across.

Then maybe some of this shouting and screaming would finally stop and some kind of agreement could be made — calmly, rationally and most importantly of all, quickly.



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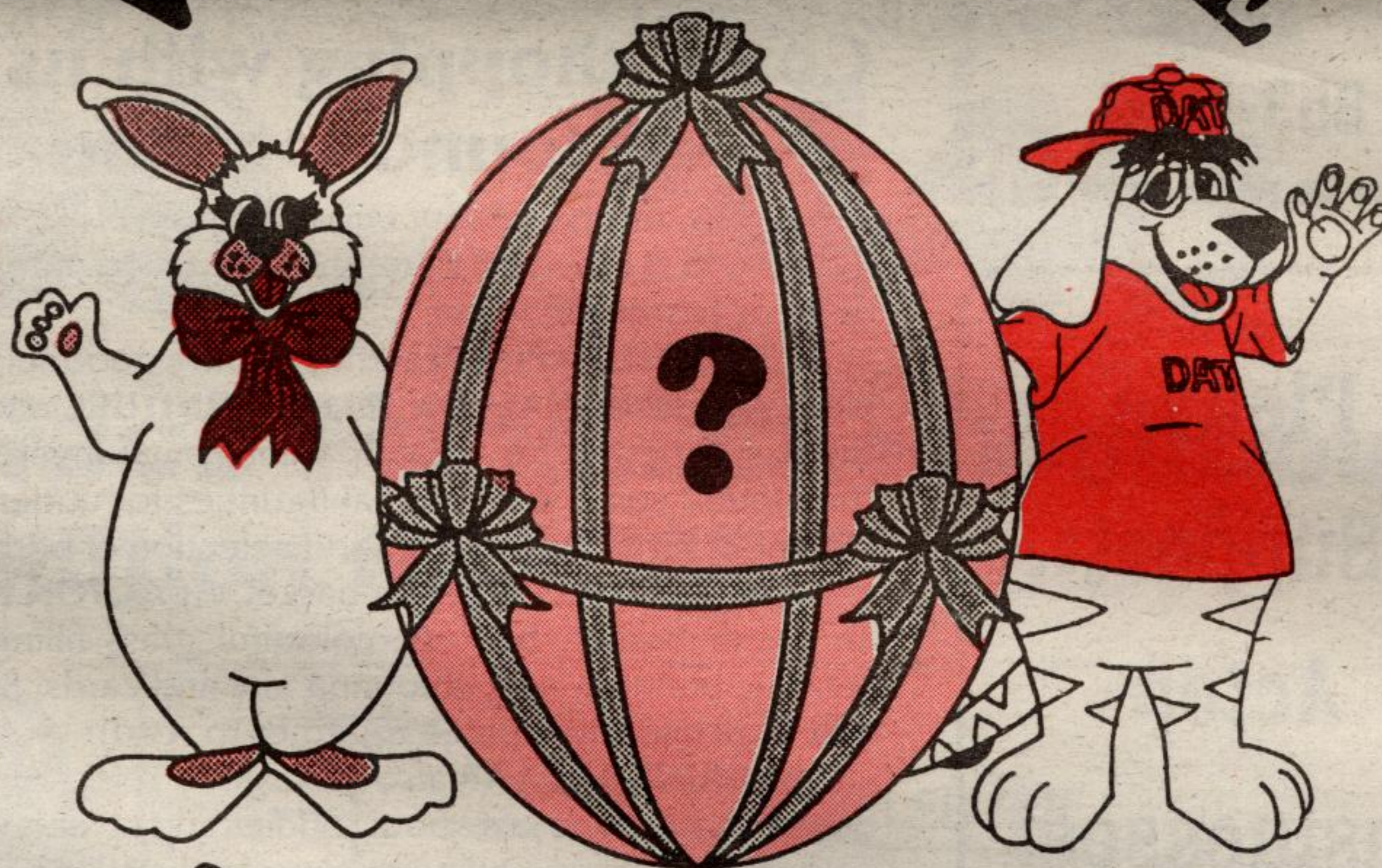
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