

# Students are being "bullied"

To the Editor:

I was upset by Michael O'Leary's insinuation that teachers are responsible for the outburst of "booing" aimed at Mike Harris at the Mandela and the Children gathering at the Skydome on Sept. 25. [Even more mind boggling were some teachers' claims that this was a spontaneous demonstration by the students. Sure, and I believe in the tooth fairy.]

I was at that presentation and it saddened me to see Mr. Harris, clearly embarrassed, being booed in front of such an accomplished statesman as Nelson Mandela. However, despite the dislike I may personally have for the present Government of Ontario and for Mr. Harris, I would never encourage my students to show disrespect for the Premier of our province, or for that matter, anyone. I would never consider fomenting political discontent among my students, that "captive audience" that people like yourself believe teachers have at their disposal. Instead, let's consider the current government's relationship with the students of this province.

For about three years, the students of Ontario have heard nothing but negativity from the Premier. Regularly, he publicly states how they aren't making the grade. Last week, in a speech to business leaders, he continued to attack the intelligence and skill level of Ontario school children, stating that they know very little grammar.

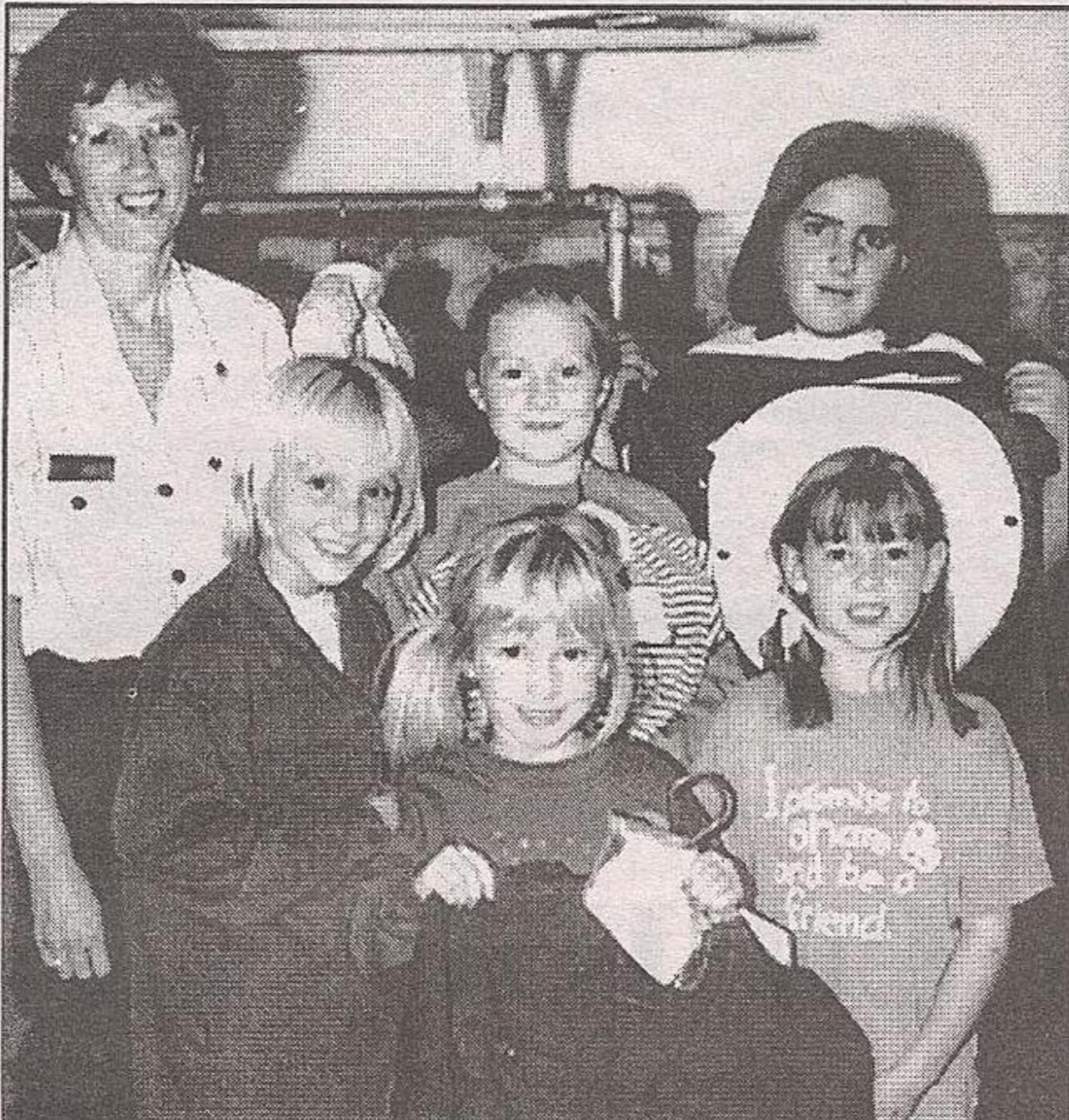
Students are not the stupid individuals that Mr.

Harris constantly implies they are. Nor are they all undisciplined and ill-mannered. They are capable, interesting, and perceptive young people who are tired of being "bullied" by the Premier of Ontario. They are tired of hearing of how they aren't able to do things and how awful their teachers are.

They can remember the happier days before this gov-

ernment "created a crisis" in Ontario. If Mr. Harris had been a "real" teacher, then he would know that belittling students does not yield positive results. Bullies "get it" sooner or later. He has earned their wrath and with it every single boo in the Skydome on that day.

B. Pryslak,  
Acton



**GUIDES GALORE:** The Acton Guiding movement is ready to kick off another season of providing fun and leadership to local girls. As their parents took care of the registration paperwork last Wednesday at St. Alban's Church these Sparks, Brownies and Guides checked out the uniform exchange. Front left: Guide Paige Lewis, Brownie Carleigh Lewis, and Spark Katie Brennan. Back: Co-commissioner Linda Ellis and Guides Trisha Bingeman and Jennifer Grierson. - Frances Niblock photo



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