



Concentrated moves

Louis Archanbault of Georgetown makes his move while taking on Bryan Wood of Barrie in Sunday's chess tournament at Georgetown District High School.

Photo by HERB GARBUTT

Mediator appointed

A provincial mediator will take part in negotiations, in a bid to avoid strike action by Halton Catholic high school teachers. Mediated talks are to be held Thursday, Feb. 9.

The estimated 360 teachers, including those at Bishop Reding Secondary School which serves Acton and Georgetown students, last month voted strongly in favor of giving the bargaining unit a mandate to take strike action, after the last contract offer by Halton Roman Catholic School Board was rejected.

Steve Balogh, a board negotiating committee member, said the board was disappointed the teachers turned down what was felt to be a fair offer, but he is hoping for a settlement. He declined to discuss the contents of the final offer.

MP's office flooded with tax protests

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

Thousands of people have written to MP Julian Reed urging no new taxes or changes to RRSPs.

"I believe I've answered over 1,000 letters about taxation of dental plans and pushing 1,000 letters on RRSPs," Reed said. In addition, hundreds of people have called in or written asking for no new taxes.

Reform leader Preston Manning is staging a "tax revolt" and a radio station host on 640 AM is urging listeners to call their MP and ask for no new taxes. Reed said he has had some calls inspired by the radio station, as has this newspaper.

"I've been getting a lot of mail about no new taxes. That mail has been coming in for some months, but it has increased in intensity," Reed said. He said he appreciates the support and has taken the

message to Minister of Finance Paul Martin.

While Reed won't know exactly what is in the budget until it is announced by Martin on budget day, expected to be Feb. 28, he believes the government is taking these considerations to heart. The bad news is for civil servants, since about 30,000 could lose their jobs as a result of the coming budget, Reed said.

"We need the government to try to do as much by attrition and early retirements as possible," he said.

"We're sticking by (the election promise of slowly eliminating the deficit) 100 per cent. You can't slash and burn. You have to stage the



MP REED

withdrawal, otherwise what you would do is create a recession worse than the last one... We have support now that we didn't have then."

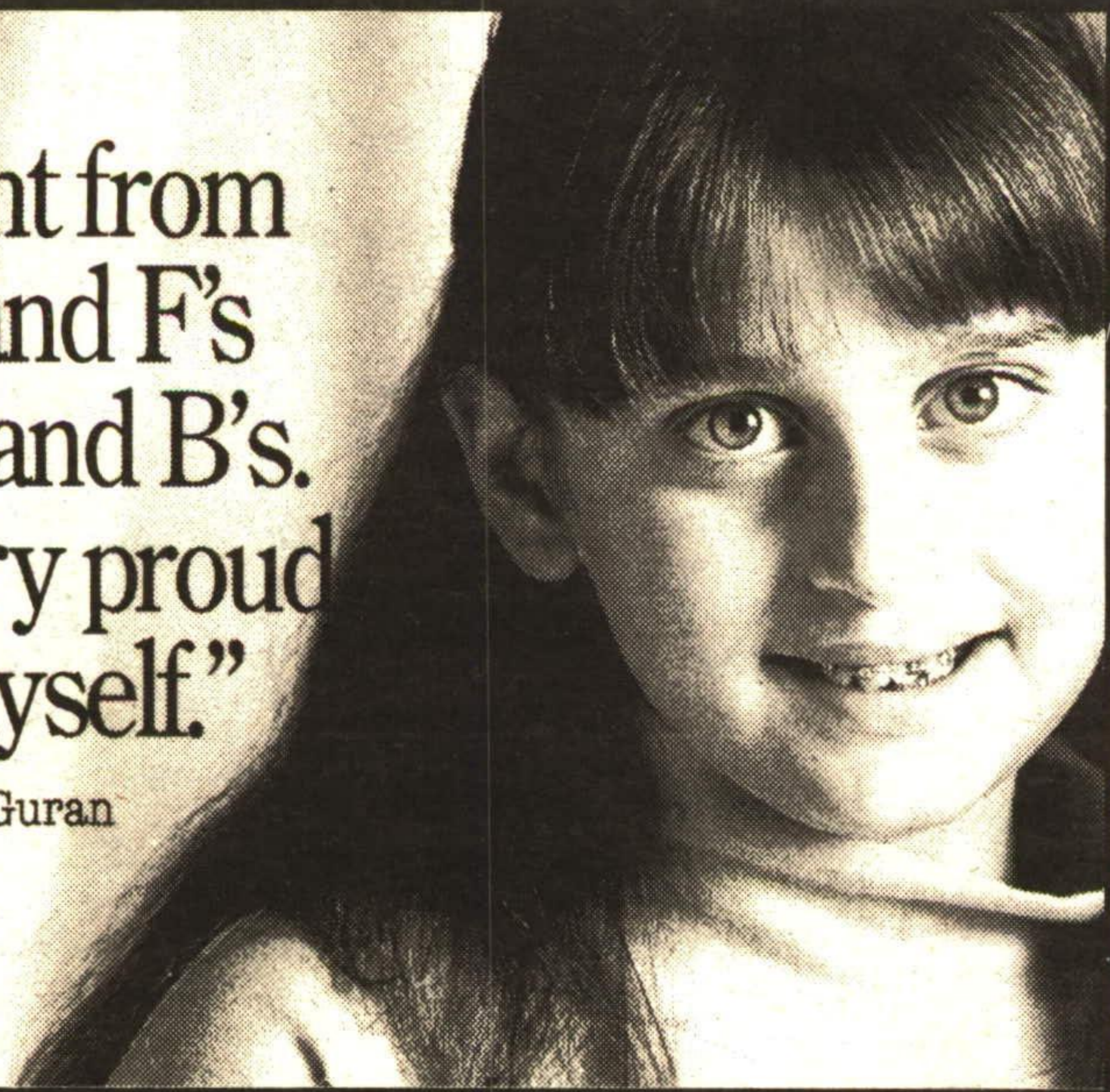
The Liberal's goal was to decrease the deficit over three years to 3 per cent of the gross domestic product, from 6.1 per cent. He said it was 5.6 per cent in June, 1994 and he believes they are on track to meet their goal.

The dental association has spent \$1 million in a campaign to sway the government away from taxing dental benefits. Posters have been put up in dental offices, letters are ready for patients to sign and a TV ad campaign is in full swing. Reed said he is worried that a new dental tax would stop people from contributing to their plans.

In addition, people are very concerned about possible taxation of Registered Retirement Savings Plans.

"I went from D's and F's to A's and B's. I'm very proud of myself."

- Molly Guran



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