

THE HALTON HILLS **WEEKEND**

**KEN NUGENT**  
Publisher

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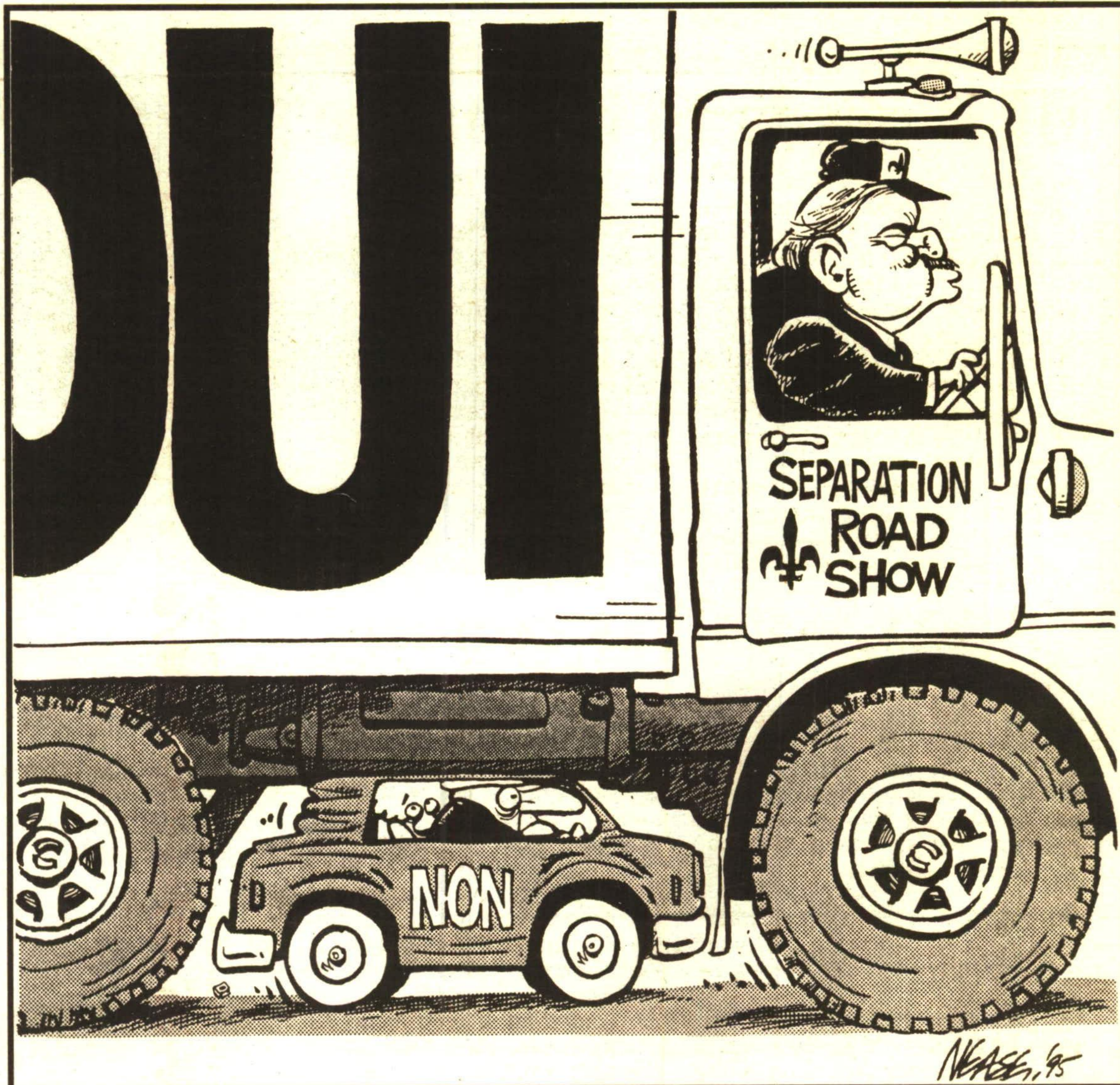
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# Sue me, sue you

So Premier Bob Rae is being sued — what else is new? Everyone's suing everyone these days.

It's quickly becoming the great Canadian pastime. It used to be a Canadian joke, "never kid an American with 'So sue me,' because he will."

Now Canadians are making regular treks to the courts. In a recent report to Halton regional council, legal services commissioner Mark Meneray says the public at large is more willing to bring legal action against the region — in the last three to four years, the litigation caseload is up 40 per cent. About half of that 40 per cent he says is nuisance related — "it's a look at how deep our pockets are."

This new attitude requires some readjustments by politicians. They must learn to be a little more circumspect in their decision making and in talking to their constituents.

At the same time, businessmen must show less compunction to put any stock in "assurances" make by one politician or civil servant. We question why any businessperson would invest so much money on the promises of one person.

In this sue me, sue you society, the only true assurance is following the rules of procedure — the way it is supposed to work.

# This baseball fan hollers 'foul' over current dispute

So Bill with the big bat has asked the reluctant Newt to play ball, to get the boys of summer back onto the field.

In other words, U.S. President Bill Clinton is as fed up with the baseball strike as every other fan and figures he might as well use his clout for something.

Well bravo! It's about time that fans with some clout begin to start throwing curveballs at the major leaguers (and I use that term loosely). It seems that the little fan, like you and me, doesn't have any influence on their whining ways.

Both sides in the dispute feel they have legitimate beefs, and each have that right not to settle. But, unless the players decide they never want to play baseball again, or the owners decide they want to permanently recreate the league with Sunday-afternoon-at-the-park players, the two sides are going to have to come to an agreement sometime.

Why not now — before spring training starts? Why go through this ridiculous rigmarole of replacement players?

Will I want to watch replacement players? Will I pay to see them play? Absolutely not!

Have you seen some of the television footage of these so-called players that have already made the team rosters? If I want to see that calibre of baseball this summer, I will watch my 14-year-old nephew's team — I'll get a better game.

The whole dispute is so stupid — they're whining about ridiculous sums of money that the average guy won't make in his whole lifetime, let alone just for six months playing a game.

The players rejected the latest offer (Tuesday) because it included a 50 per cent tax on payrolls above \$40 million. Let me repeat that ... on payrolls above \$40 million. Now my math hasn't been the greatest lately, but that still works out to \$20 million in paid salaries — 24 players per

of their profits back into the community to support children's recreation programs.

My sister Brenda, a Florida resident, points out that in cash-starved communities in the U.S., children's programs have fared badly. On the list of cost cutting they are usually the first to go and tax propositions to support the children have been repeatedly turned down by voters.

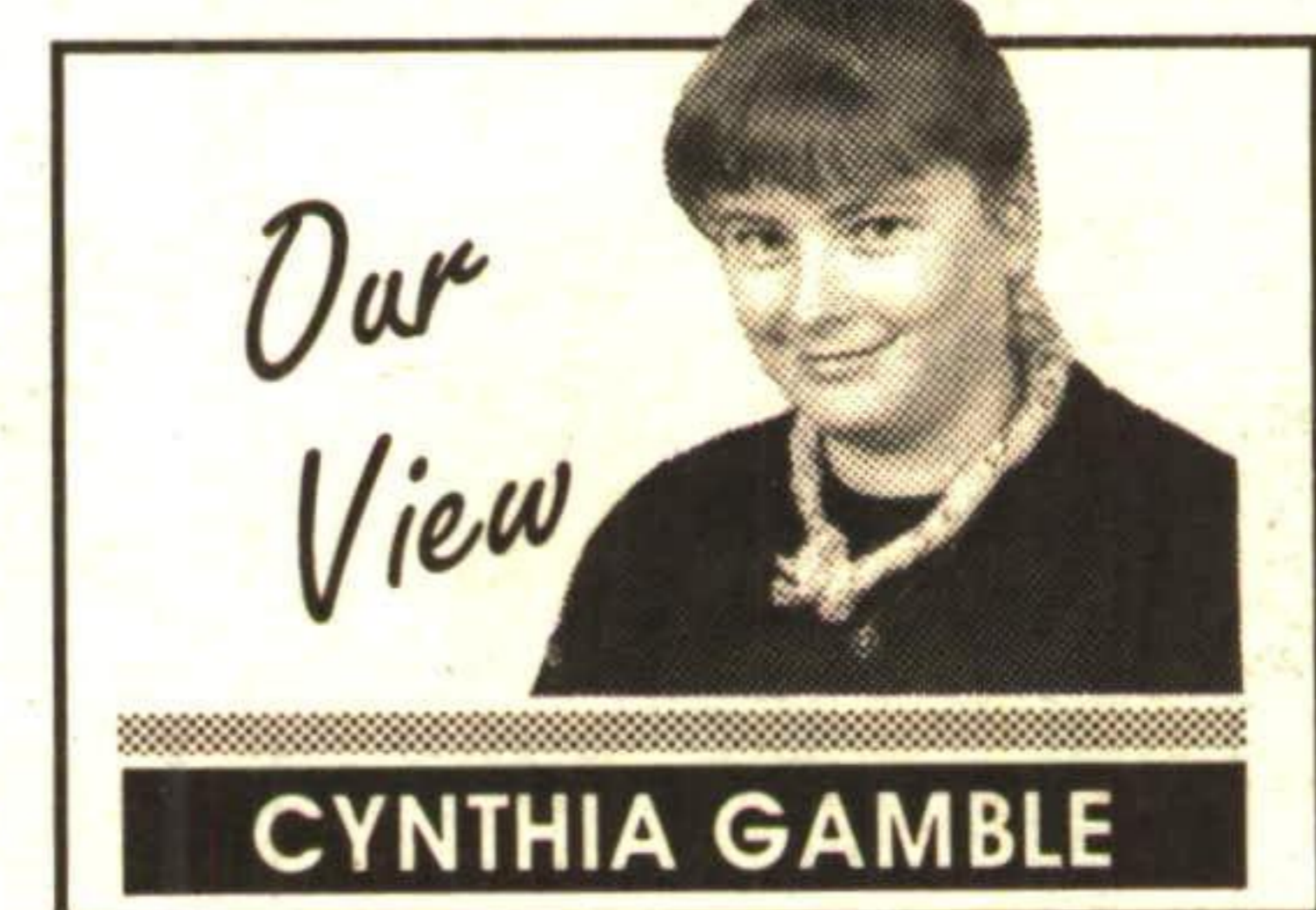
Brenda, who at various times has served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, School PTA, Rotary Club and other groups focused on helping kids, is frustrated by this lack of support for children. She says Americans are quick to complain about troublemaking kids, but won't provide the resources to build parks, playgrounds, or recreation programs.

Team owners, she says, are willing to exploit the talents of these children as adults, but are unwilling to support them in their childhood. That has to change she says.

But a fundamental attitude shift needs to occur before that will happen, and both owners and players are too busy counting their stacks of gold to care.

Meanwhile baseball fans must make a choice — watch the replacement players or boycott the games. I choose the latter — this is one baseball fan that is not going to play ball with either side.

I'm watching golf this summer.



team ... hmm that's about \$833,000 per player. I'd settle for that.

I have always believed in free enterprise, and a person's right to earn as much money as he or she can — but come'on, the money flying around for baseball players is close to obscene. It's totally out of proportion for what they do.

More and more I'm beginning to agree with my sister's proposal: every player earns a base salary of \$250,000 — rookies and veterans, stars and bench warmers — everyone has an equal stake in the game.

The owners will be required to return 50 per cent

RR2



Give yourself a valentine surprise!!!  
Lend someone your credit card.

## Did you know...

Dairy cows will chew between 50,000 and 70,000 times per day. To achieve this remarkable number of jaw movements the cow must spend between 12-16 hours per day chewing. That means a 10-year old dairy cow will have chewed for about six straight years or about 20 million chews. Over this time she will also have consumed about 70,000 kg of feed and produced about 60,000 litres of milk.

Agriculture Canada