

The Independent Weekend Edition & Free Press

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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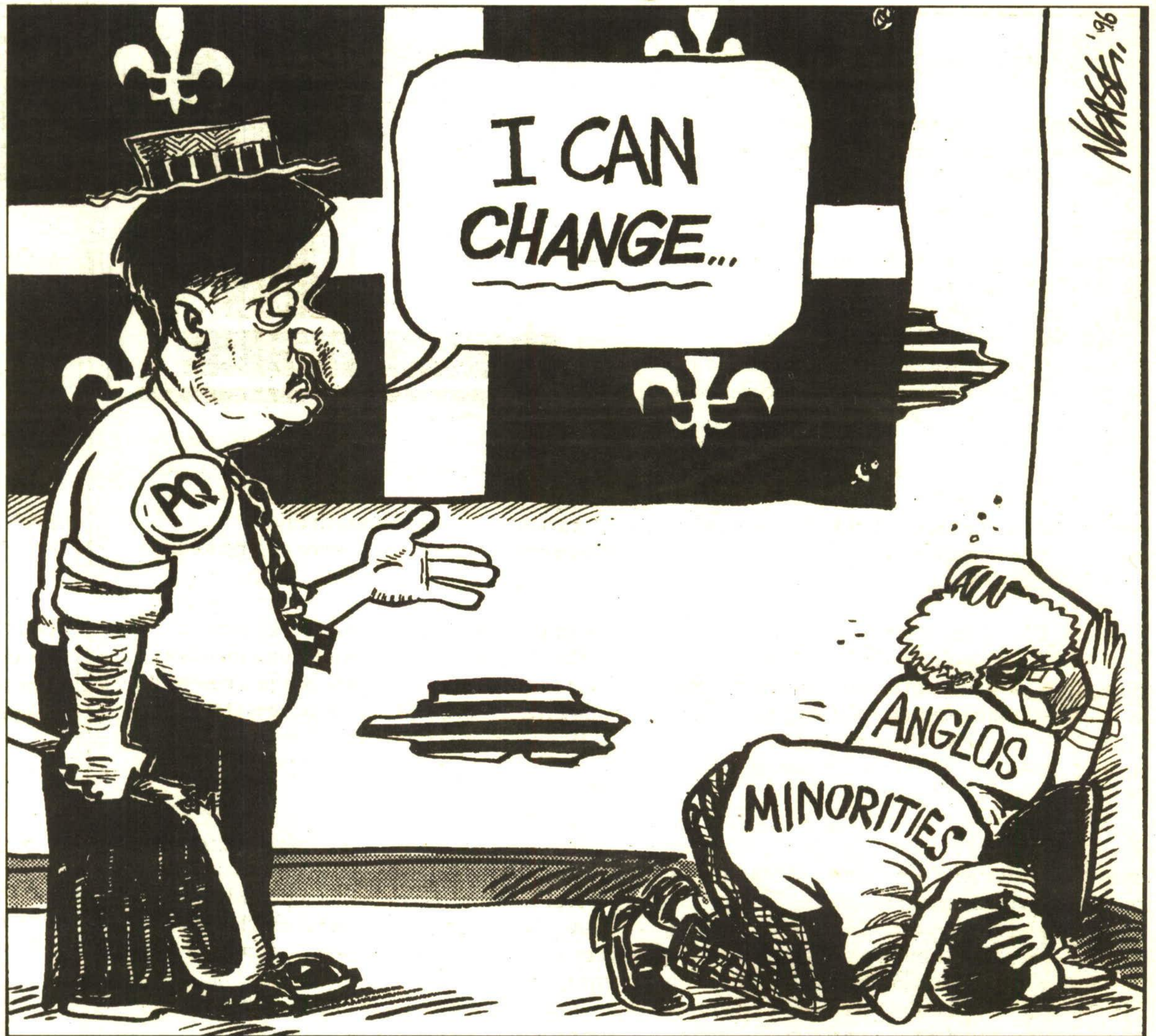
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A step forward

Any move to penalize drunk drivers is a move forward, and that includes the new legislation brought in by the Tory government last week.

The legislation, which allows police officers to issue automatic 90-day licence suspensions to drivers who blow over the legal alcohol limit or refuse a breathalyzer test, is another small step towards freeing our roads of ticking timebombs.

Every year thousands of lives are lost in this country as a result of drinking and driving. While programs such as RIDE have managed to put fear into some people who think nothing of drinking to excess then getting behind the wheel, there is a small minority of people who still take that risk.

This legislation is just another deterrent and one that was long overdue.

When it comes to drinking and driving there can be no half-hearted penalties. This legislation sends the message that if you are foolish enough to put yourself—and more importantly, others—at risk, then you must pay the price.

So, before you leave that party or that bar after having a couple of drinks ask yourself how you will make do without a vehicle for 90 days. How will you get to work? Who will take the kids to swimming lessons? How will you get the groceries?

Then ask yourself, is it worth taking the risk?

PUD



Ex-resident offers thanks for support

Dear editor,

May I, through your newspaper, on behalf of my family and myself, make a heartfelt thank you to all our friends who have extended their condolences to us on the recent death of my wife Betty.

Betty, myself and the children arrived in Georgetown in 1958 when the population was 6,100. We felt that over the years we had all had a little hand in the growth of this beautiful town... before the shopping malls, before the renewed Main St., before the stabilized theatrical endeavors (I could write a story), even before The Independent.

Due to work relocation, we had to move and after an absence of 20 years, it has been very heartwarming to know that our friendships are still alive. We all most sincerely thank each and every one of you for your support at this time.

Chris Fisher,
Creemore

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Letter of the day

Tories are two-faced

Dear editor,

In September, in a speech to British investors, Mike Harris said that the quality of our provincial education system is a major reason why Ontario is attractive to business investors from around the world, yet his sidekick, John Snobelen, says the education system is broken and needs to be fixed. Two-faced or what?

What are the Tories doing? They said in their soon-to-be infamous Common Sense Revolution that the classroom would not be affected. I would think that if fewer teachers are teaching the same or even more students, then the classroom is being affected.

They took \$400 million out of the system in 1996 and they are planning to remove \$1 billion in 1997. How in the world can this not affect the classroom? Simply put, these short-sighted manipulators of the truth are heading us towards destruction. Is this all for a tax cut?

It appears that they may even want to remove physical education from children's lives. In the long run, our out-of-shape public will have to use hospital services even more. The health care system is being revamped (torn apart) too, so it could possibly cost us much more in the long run to take care of our people. They obviously don't know that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Then again, John Snobelen may not have learned that in high school because he dropped out of high school. He's the minister of education? Only in Canada they say, pity.

John Hansen, Georgetown

Dear editor,

Thank you for your efforts and kindness in helping us promote the Week of the Child events for 1996.

Your contribution has added to the success of this year's celebration.

Cat rin Arsenault,
ECE chair

Help was appreciated

Our Readers Write

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters can be mailed, delivered to our office address at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4X5, faxed to us at (905) 873-0398 or e-mailed to: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com