

# The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

**KEN NUGENT**  
Publisher

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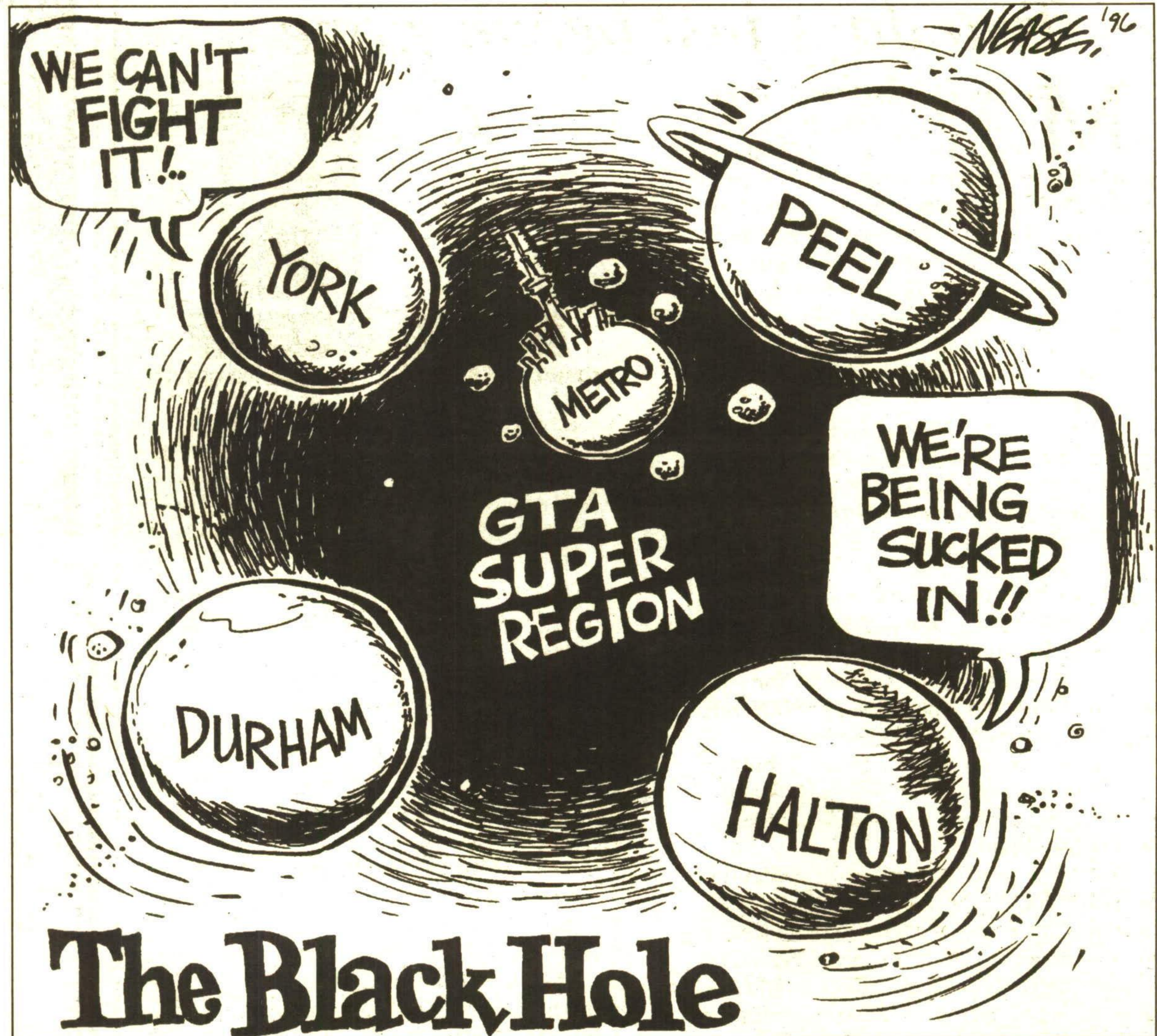
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## Bustin' loose

To go topless or not to go topless: that is the question. When the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled last week that women who choose to go topless (except those doing so for commercial purposes) can no longer be charged with a criminal offence, it created a lot of talk around water coolers.

Frankly, it's a very divisive issue.

On the one hand, is it fair that men are allowed to bare their chests on a sweltering day while women must remain covered? Absolutely not. Should a woman face a criminal charge simply because she wishes to get a better tan? Again, no.

However, there is also the matter of community standards to consider. Would you be upset if your young child was exposed (pardon the pun) to a group of topless women in a park? Some may answer yes. Will allowing women the freedom to go topless increase the chances of assault from men? Possibly.

It's a difficult issue to be sure. The law as it stood was certainly unjust, but changing it may create other problems.

Women should enjoy the same freedom as men when it comes to dropping their tops, but this ruling doesn't mean we want a country of nudists.

We trust that women who do feel the need to go topless will do so in the proper place and will no longer be made to feel like criminals. If that's the case, then this ruling is something we should all be able to live with.

### PUD



## Society drivers 'wonderful'

Dear editor,

Through your pages, the Georgetown branch of the Canadian Cancer Society would like to celebrate the dedication and commitment shown by our volunteer drivers.

This band of wonderful people give their time and energy to drive cancer patients to their treatments, often in Toronto or Hamilton. They are without exception helpful and kind to patients, many of whom are under a good deal of stress caused by their illness and treatment. Without the selfless caring commitment of these volunteers, many Halton Hills cancer patients would face very difficult journeys.

I have heard these drivers referred to by patients or their families as "angels from heaven" and indeed they are.

On behalf of all the patients who use our services we would like to say a great big thank you to all of you who volunteer your time so willingly.

Jenny Tuffen,  
Transport convener (CCS)  
and Eileen Evans,  
patient services chair (CCS)

## Letter of the day

### Halton's finest in action

Dear editor,

Halton Regional Police officer Wendy Moore stopped by our Georgetown home the evening of Nov. 29.

Officer Moore was canvassing our area in an effort to piece together the details of a car striking a pole—a fail to remain collision.

This type of "minor" collision (metres from a children's playground) could easily be overlooked as police respond to a variety of more serious calls.

It was reassuring to see that officer Moore had a real appreciation for the potential danger to pedestrians who could have been in the area when the collision took place. The officer had the welfare of the neighborhood youngsters in mind as she investigated this incident and her efforts were appreciated.

B. Paterson,  
Georgetown

## Thanks for supporting food drive

Dear editor,

On behalf of the scouts and guides of North Halton, I would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to all the companies, parents and friends that joined with us in making the 1996 food drive a success.

15,300 pounds of food, which was delivered to the Georgetown Bread Basket food bank at 257 Armstrong Ave.

Mike Foley,  
food drive co-ordinator  
Georgetown

See page 10  
for more letters

Through the efforts of the scouts, guides and giving spirit of the community, we were able to collect in excess of

## 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