

The Independent Weekend Edition & Free Press

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Photography: Ted Brown

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Mailing Address: 211 ARMSTRONG AVE. GEORGETOWN, ONT. L7G 4X5
Telephone: 905-873-0301 Fax: 905-873-0398
e-mail: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com



Big spenders

We can forgive David Bird for the proposal he brought before the Halton District School Board last week, asking the board to pick up the cost of providing all 10 trustees with two dedicated phones (one for a fax), voice mail, call display, special phones and fax machines.

After all, Bird is one of the many newcomers to the board and perhaps he doesn't realize that, while the first year cost of \$10,900, along with an \$8,200 annual cost thereafter, is not substantial, it does send a puzzling message.

It was only two weeks ago the board laid off 57 teachers. Now, days later, trustees declare they have had thousands of dollars to throw around on phones.

Trustees should be doing everything they can to find ways to save money, not waste it on frivolous items like this. Why not spring for 10 answering machines? That would only run the board about \$500.

Even more disturbing than Bird's initial proposal is the ease in which trustees passed his motion. Barely a whimper of opposition was heard.

We can't help wonder how many books, or computers could have been purchased for schools with the money wasted on these phones?

In the big picture these phones aren't going to break the board's budget, but it sure gives taxpayers an indication of the mindset of our new board when they quickly okay nearly \$11,000 so trustees can have call display while at the same time moan about lack of funds for the classroom.

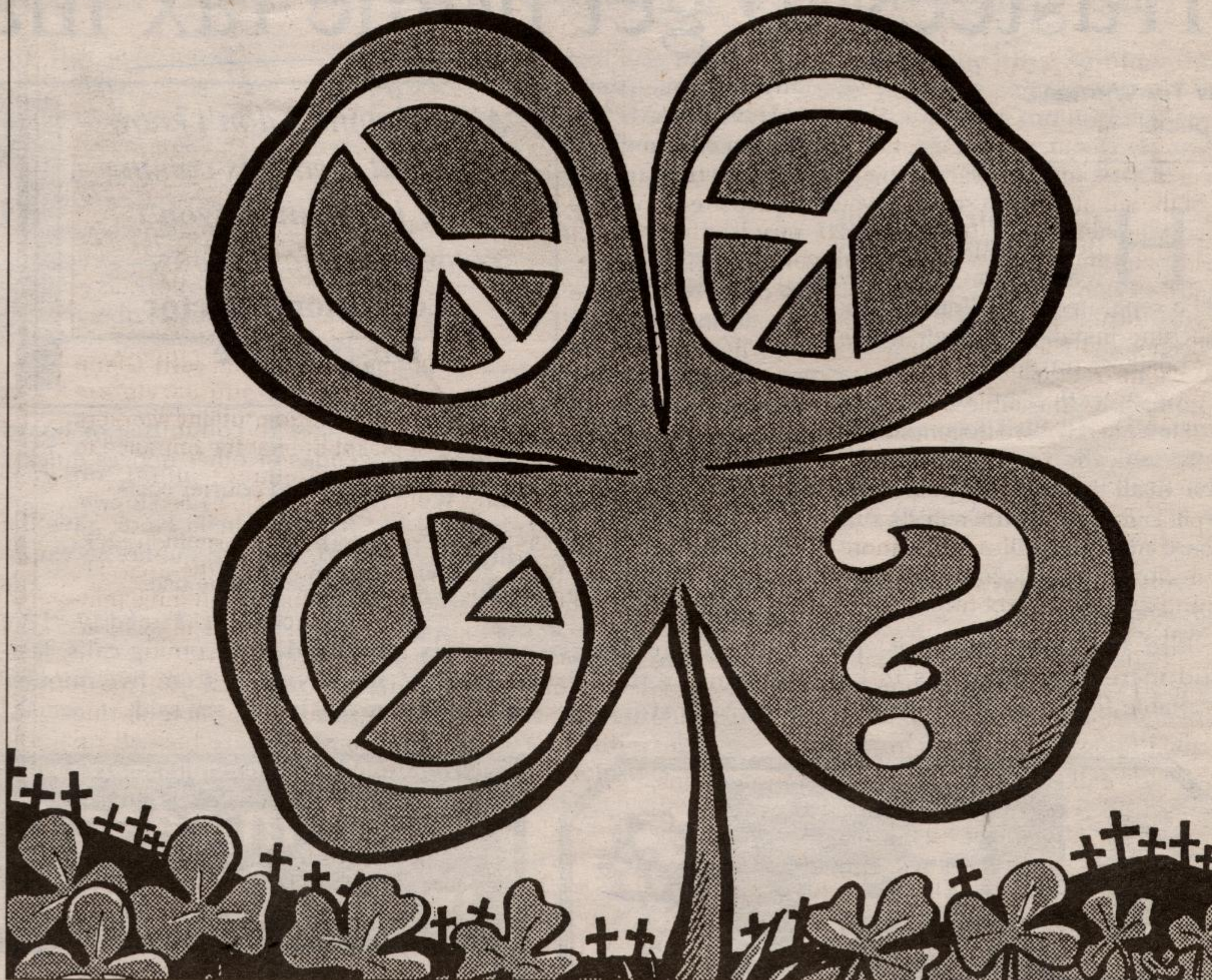
It's a mindset we had hoped had disappeared.

PUD



LUCK OF THE IRISH

NEASE, '98



Tories should practise what they preach

Dear editor,

I would like to comment on Ted Chudleigh's recent newspaper column regarding what his government is currently doing.

In the first paragraph, he mentions that we "will see classroom spending increase while administrative waste will be reduced".

This government truly concerns and worries me. I am unsure of their overall direction and it appears they are too. They are attempting to reduce administrative waste in the classroom.

I would like to ask that they practise what they preach. I recently received in the mail, in less than one week, three identical "report cards" from this Tory government asking me what I felt about the new education funding system, etc. What a waste!

I truly hope that my household was the only one in which this took place.

John Hansen,
Acton

Letter of the day

Teen drivers a danger

Dear editor,

On the evening of Thursday, March 26, a dark-colored Ford, possibly a Tempo or Topaz, lost control going around the corner of Barber Drive onto McKinnon Ave. and went up onto the sidewalk.

The vehicle hit a tree, then a cable box and finally came to a stop in front of my home on the sidewalk. I ran outside with the phone to call the police but before I could hang up the teenage girls driving the car jumped out, switched drivers and drove off.

So, if there is a parent or parents out there whose car came home damaged March 26 and it was missing a hub cap you now know how it happened.

And to the girls driving the vehicle, you are very lucky someone didn't get killed, because just a half hour earlier there were dozens of children out playing on the sidewalk.

For your sake I would seriously consider not driving until you are mature enough to handle the responsibility.

Mrs. D. Peddie,
Georgetown

Wrestlers' sponsors thanked

Dear editor,

On behalf of Jenny Culbert, Heather Pollock, Andrea Pollock and Adam Densmore, I would like to thank J.V. Clothing, the Kinsmen Club of Georgetown and Curwood Packaging for their generous support.

Without these organizations

and businesses, these four wrestlers would not have had the opportunity to compete for a national title at the Canadian Juvenile/Junior Wrestling Championships in Edmonton.

Jim Hal,
Georgetown District
High School

Our Readers Write

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