

The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

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A second look

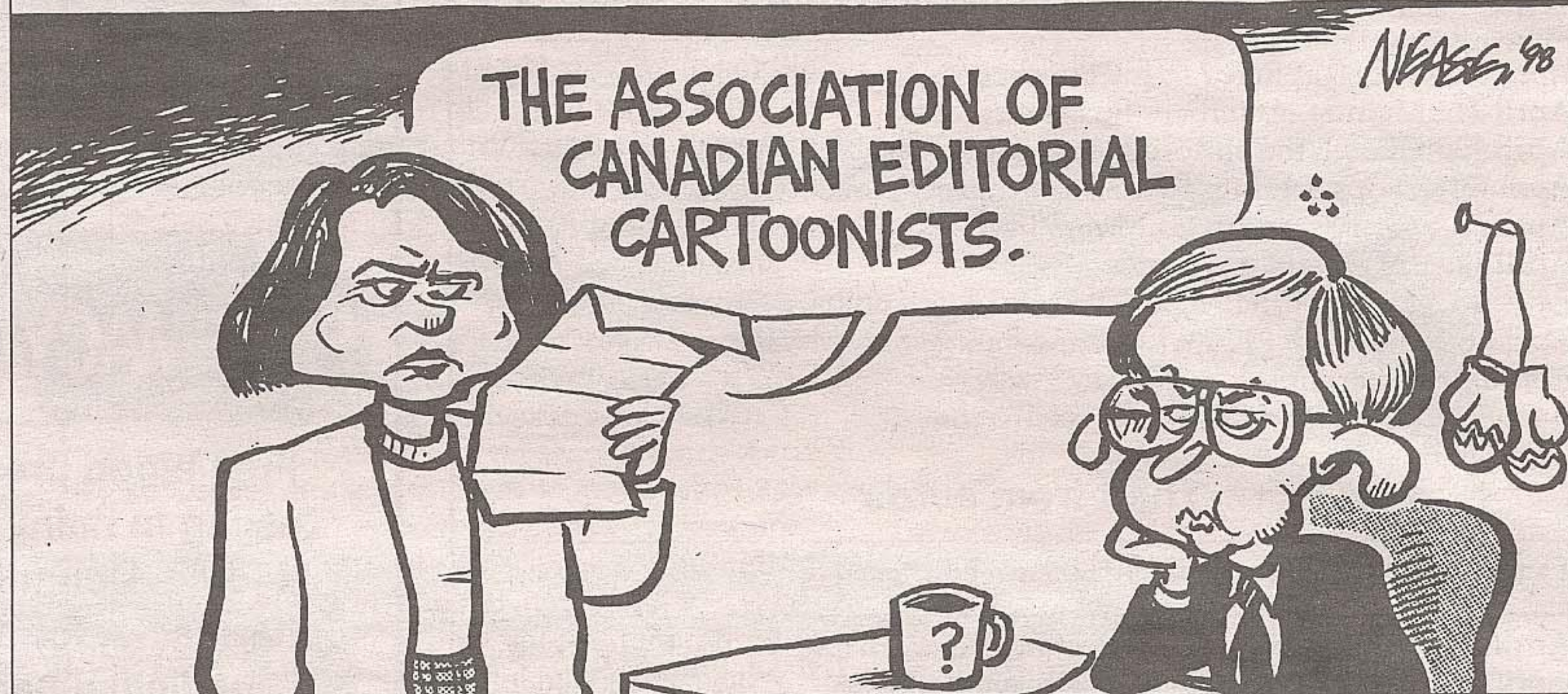
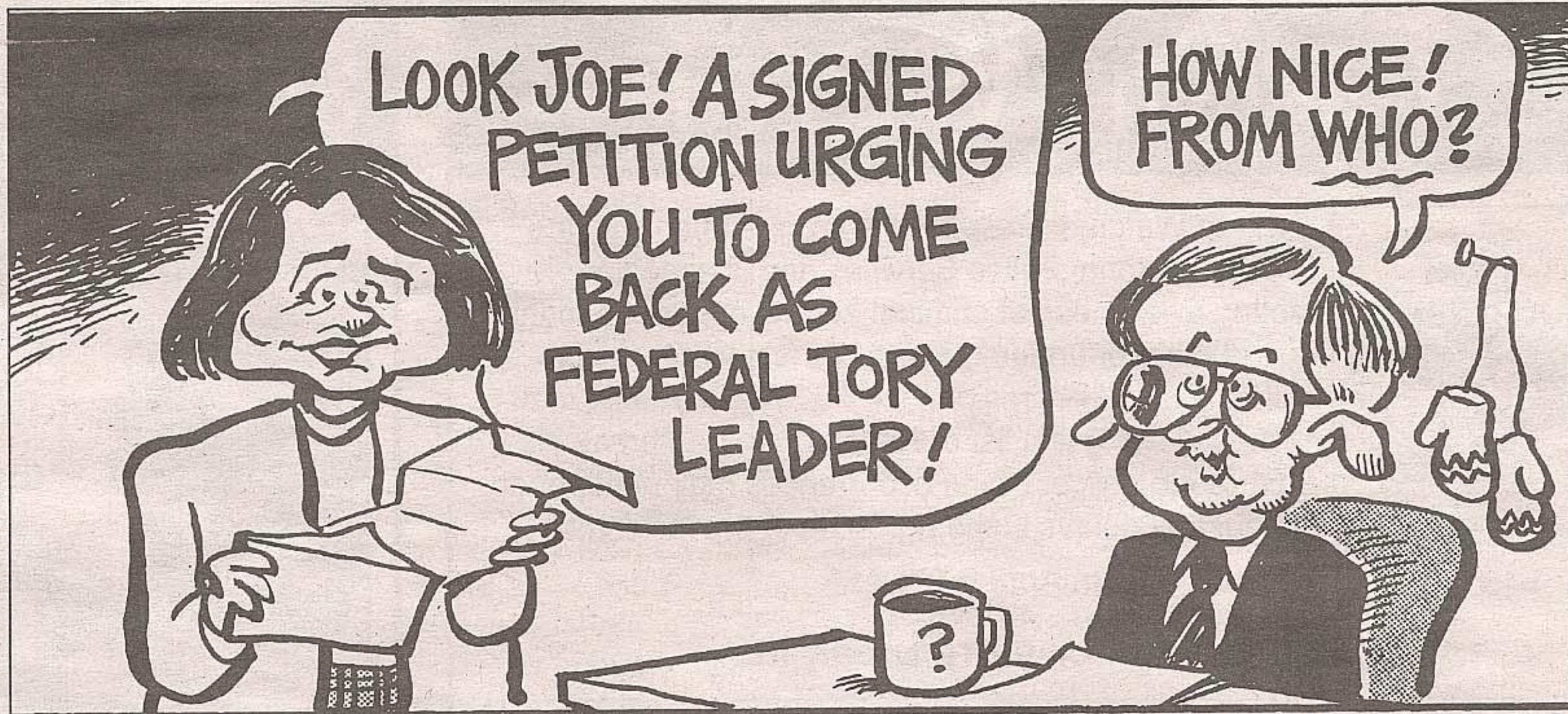
Halton MP Julian Reed who towed the party line and voted yes on the \$1.1 billion hepatitis C compensation package in the House of Commons Tuesday night, called it "by far the most heart-wrenching and difficult problem I have encountered.... I am voting with a heavy heart."

The package was only offered to those 22,000 who contracted hepatitis C between 1986-1990— leaving out about 20,000 who also contracted the virus before that time due to tainted blood. The federal government will pay \$800 million to the victims and the provinces, \$300 million.

However, it looks like Reed's heavy heart may be lifting—the deal between the provinces and the federal government seems to be unravelling and the compensation may be extended to the other victims. That would add about another billion dollars to the pay out.

The Liberals justified limiting the compensation to the years between 1986 and 1990 by saying that's when they knew something was wrong with the blood system—and they didn't do anything about it. So that leaves out the 20,000 innocent people who were contaminated during the time the national blood agency didn't know there was a problem.

However ignorance doesn't justify injustice. The deal deserves a second look—even if it's something as simple as splitting the current \$1.1 billion among all victims.



Food bank grateful

Dear editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students at Georgetown District High School that came together to plan and co-ordinate the food drive that took place on April 18. The drive resulted in approximately 9,200 pounds of non-perishable foods being collected by the students and their friends. This gift will enable the Bread Basket to continue to meet the needs of the less fortunate families in our community. This food drive has helped the food bank to meet its current goals, but the question of feeding the hungry provides a constant difficulty.

Michael Foley
 Georgetown Bread Basket

Sponsors thanked

Dear editor,

The Junior Highs (Grades 608) of Halton Gospel Temple would like to thank all those in the community who sponsored them for their 30-Hour Famine. The 20 kids involved raised \$2,902, all of which will go to feed hungry children through World Vision. Thank you Georgetown for your generous support of our kids.

Andra Tetley and Ryan Visser,
 Junior High leaders

Letters of the day

Trustees need to be turfed

Dear editor,

Re the item, Trustees to get home fax machines and phones and your editorial, Big spender, (in the April 19 issue), I'd like to add that the trustees seem to have lost their senses, especially their sense of proportion.

I remind them they are serving the community and as such they are to give the community of their time, their talent and, yes, their treasure.

Let's hope the Harris government will turf them out soonest. Keep up the good work, Mr. Editor!

H.J. van Goch
 Georgetown

Why not computers instead?

Dear editor,

Re: Trustees to get home fax machines and phones, (in the April 19 issue).

I'm amazed that these folks are interested in purchasing business lines and fax machines to do the job.

These people are in the business of education. I see no mention of computers. The cost of a scaled-down system would be approximately \$1,000 per desktop machine. That machine would be able to transmit and receive faxes as well as answer the phone, send e-mail etc. An Internet connection is less money than a business line.

Annual cost of \$8,224? Not likely.

P.S. I saw no mention of Burlington's (Trustee) Mike Ellis' reason for opposition.

Glen McLeod
 Acton

PUD



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 may be edited for content and length and 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