

United Way sets goal

Page 5



Classifieds inside

Pages 16-18



Cross-country results

Page 14

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GEORGETOWN MARKETPLACE MALL (BY THE FOOD COURT)

NEWS AT A GLANCE

Firebug sought

Halton Police are looking for the man responsible for setting small fires at Georgetown Marketplace early Wednesday morning.

Halton Hills firefighters were called to the mall shortly after midnight to extinguish fires in two garbage bins and in a clothing drop box.

Police are looking for man aged 35-45, 5'6", average weight, with brown hair, a moustache and beard in connection with the incidents. He was wearing blue jeans, jean jacket and a baseball cap. Anyone with information should call police at 878-5511 ext. 2419.

A Lotto cash

Bruce Caves of Georgetown and four of his co-workers won second prize in last Saturday's Lotto/649 draw and will split \$95,814.90.

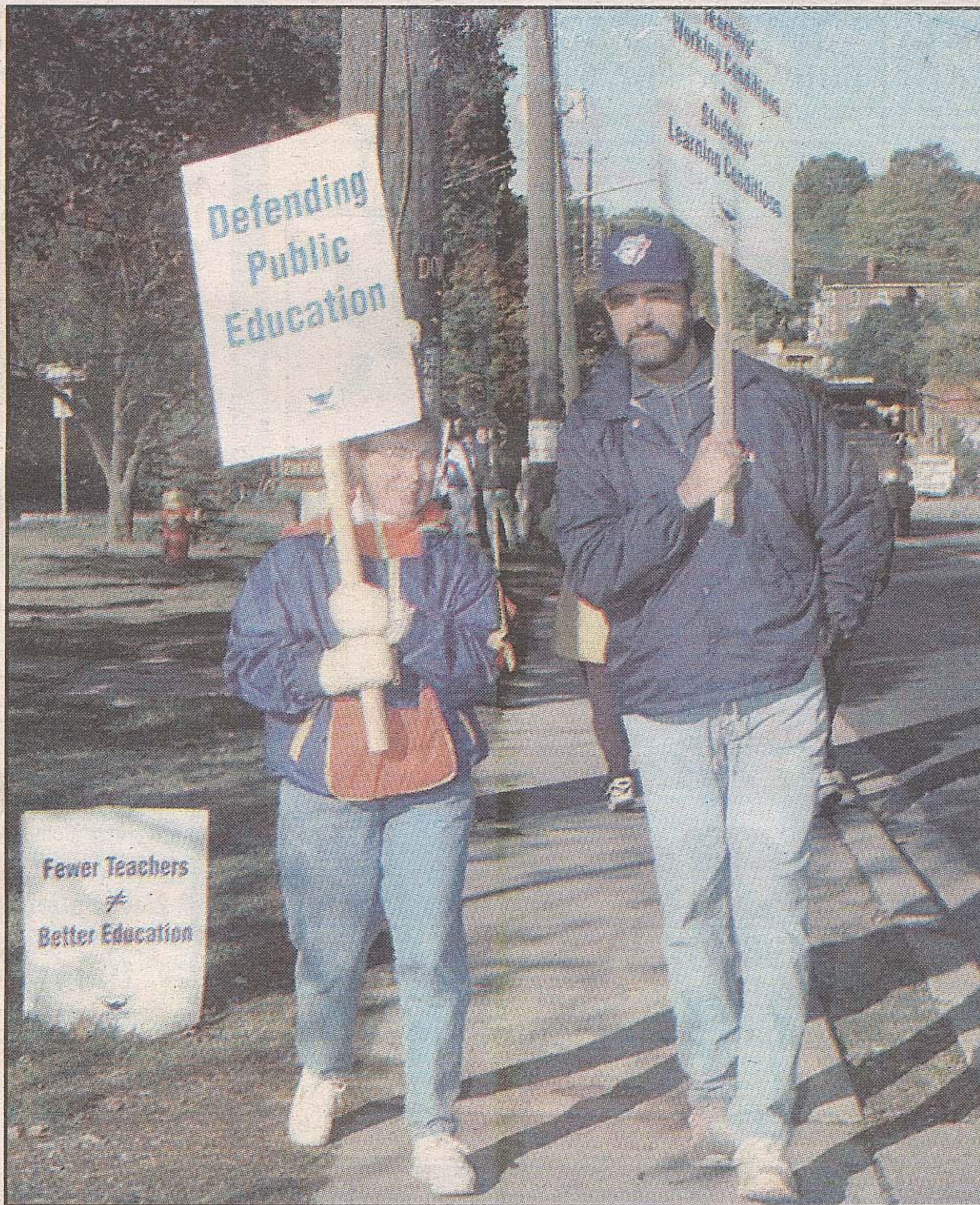
Caves and four other Mississauga firefighters, won on a Quick-Pik ticket they bought in Mississauga.

"We only play when the jackpot gets to \$10 million," said Caves. "Our reaction varied from astonishment to disbelief."

INSIDE

Editorial.....6
A Ted Bit.....7
Comm. Calendar.....11
Entertainment.....13
Sports.....14, 15

Teachers strike 'as a last resort'



Georgetown District High School teachers Marg Bentley and Brian Crossley were among the many teachers who took to the streets to picket Thursday as Halton's public high school teachers closed 17 high schools in Halton Region by taking part in a one-day strike.

Photo by Ted Brown

Halton secondary schools were shut down Thursday as teachers staged a one-day strike to protest stalled contract negotiations and the implications of Bill 160 on teaching time.

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) informed the Halton District School Board of the strike Tuesday afternoon and letters were sent home with students Wednesday.

"We're hopeful that with this action today, there will be more opportunity to talk with the board," said Georgetown District High School teacher Dave Laidlaw. "We've done this as a last resort. We could have withdrawn fully, as some boards have, but the students' education is the primary importance."

Teachers walked the picket line for about four hours Thursday then took their protest to local MPPs' offices and went door-to-door distributing leaflets.

Debbie Marklew, an Oakville trustee and the chair of the board's negotiating committee, said the strike itself will have no impact on negotiations.

"We knew there were going to rotating strikes throughout the province and today is Halton's day. We expected this day to come."

However, she was distressed by some of the literature being circulated by the OSSTF.

"They've gone public with the issues of negotiation in the middle of negotiations," said Marklew. "It makes me wonder, are they prepared to negotiate or are they digging in their heels?"

Colin Bain, a history teacher at Acton High School, said settlements by the Wellington and Waterloo boards provided some optimism for reaching an agreement but wondered if the board was doing all it could.

See EXTRA, pg. 4

How did local students react? See page 4

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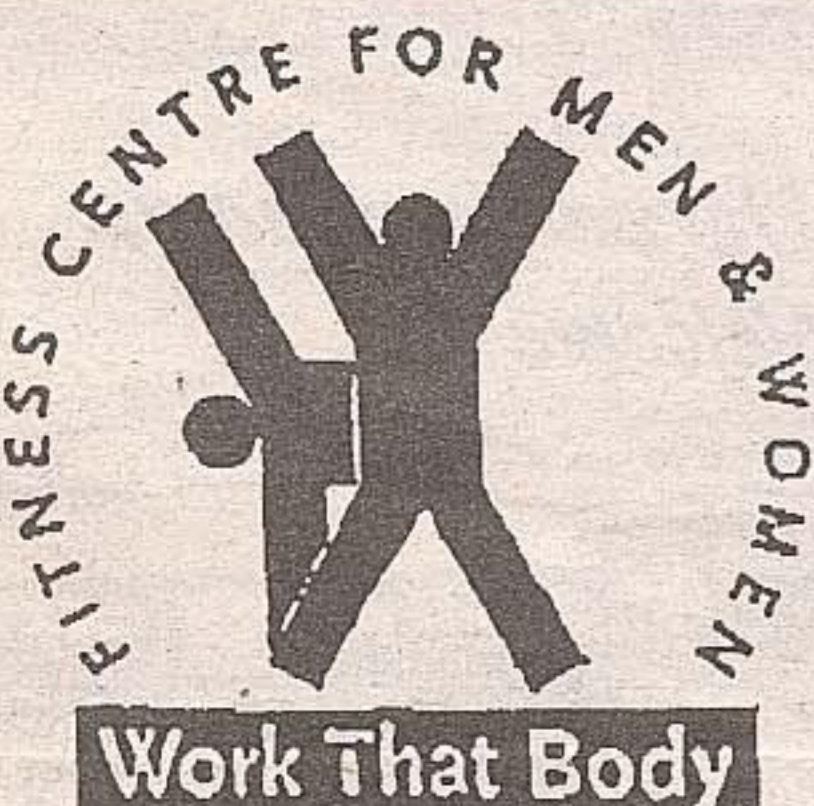
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