

# The Independent & Free Press

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## Lunatic fringe

It is obvious that in his four years as premier, Mike Harris has made a lot of enemies. That, apparently, is the price for making tough decisions.

However, we hope that in the remaining three weeks of this election campaign that voters get to hear what the party leaders have to say and that the lunatic fringe out there curb their appetite for the media spotlight.

Specifically, we refer to the protesters who are dogging the Harris entourage.

Certainly, in a democratic society protest is highly treasured and we are not suggesting for a minute that Harris be given a free ride during this campaign. He has, as premier and leader of the provincial government, a lot to answer for during his party's four-year reign.

But, let's not confuse reasoned, rational discourse with abuse and nonsensical rhetoric.

On the day Harris called the election from a Newmarket back yard, a teacher climbed a fruit tree in a neighboring yard and attempted to drown out the premier.

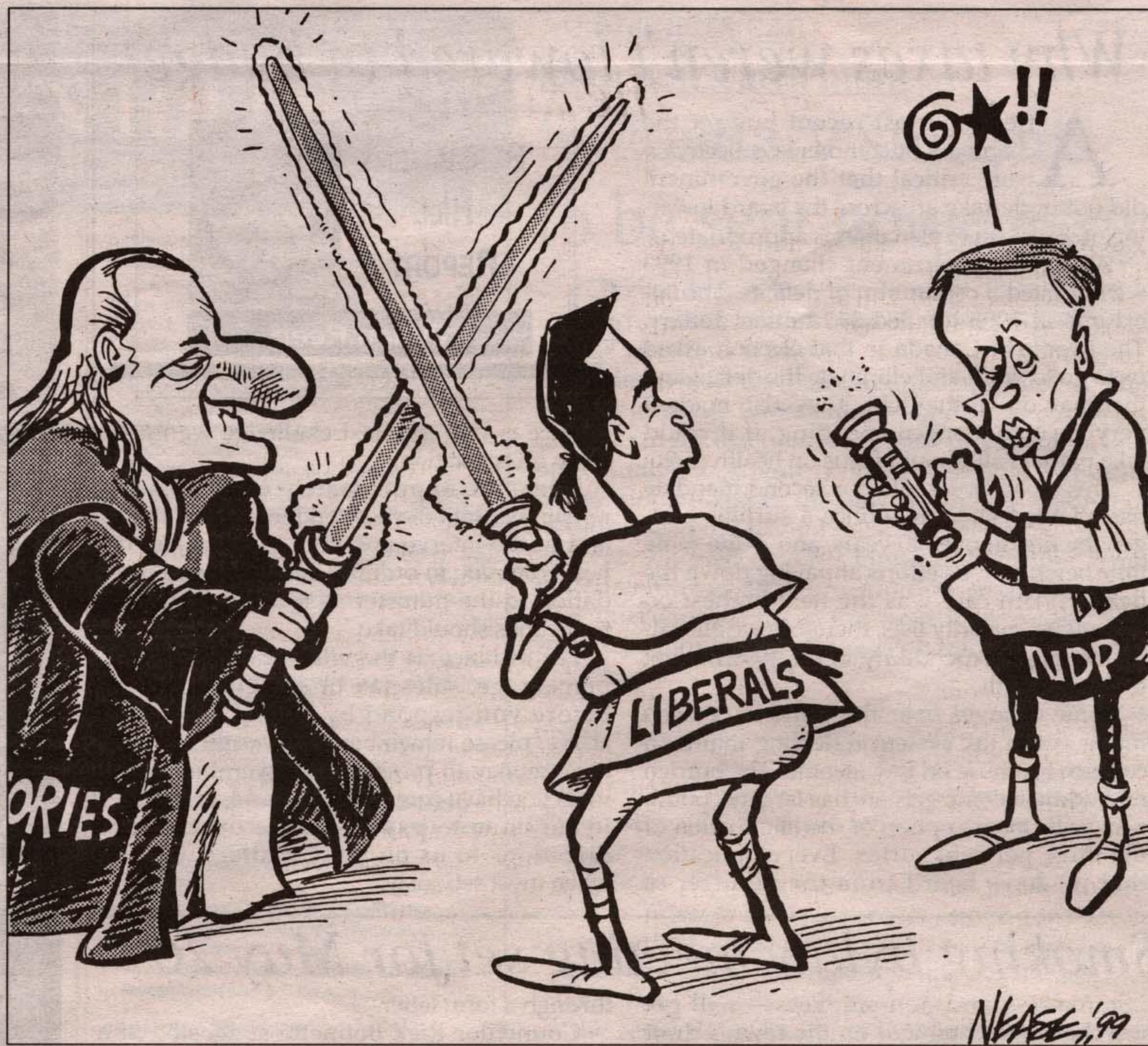
Last week a union leader was arrested for allegedly trespassing (by climbing a couple walls) at a Tory event. Monday, in Baden, the premier and his wife were physically jostled by a group of 50 "out-of-town" protesters which included a NDP candidate.

Later in the day a handful of Guelph University students were arrested for laying down in the path of Harris' campaign bus. Sorry kids, but this is not China and Tiananmen Square and your idiotic stunt only tarnishes the memory of that protest.

The anti-Harris protests were all nice photo ops, but lacked originality and practicality.

Frankly, we believe the electorate is greatly unimpressed by these juvenile shenanigans and such stunts actually will work in Harris' favor.

We would also think these protesters, who seem to have all kinds of free time, could come up with something more constructive.



## Harris compared to Gen. Mandible

Dear editor,

My family and I recently viewed the movie Antz. It was quite enjoyable. I couldn't help thinking, throughout the show, that I was watching Premier Mike Harris, as General Mandible, the villain.

They are quite similar. Both are opportunists. They are manipulative and two-faced. Both are anti-union and show little or no compassion for the little people. Unions are a necessary evil, and yes, in some cases, have gone too far, but without them, the worker is completely vulnerable to cost-cutting governments and to corporations. Mike is 100 per cent pro-business and we know what big business' bottom line is; profit, at whatever the cost.

Hospitals are currently hiring nurses back who had recently been laid off/paid off in the downsizing debacle, and now Harris, and his near-sighted Tories, are making it appear as if the government is creating new jobs and spending new money. What a farce! It's easy to make numbers say what you want them to say. Manipulators are excellent at this. Harris made you think he was doing you a favor, when he scooped \$800,000 for his own pension fund. Are you a sucker or what?

He was recently asked if he had ever been arrested as a teen. He gave a non-committal "No, not that I recall." How about an honest answer, Mike? The Tories blatantly lied when they stated that

## Letter of the day

### Local volunteers lauded

Dear editor,

I am writing this letter in acknowledgment of the wonderful community we live in and the people who give us reason to want to call it home.

The week of April 18-24 was National Volunteer Week. As secretary of the North Halton Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society, I have the good fortune to work with some of the most caring, loving and humble volunteers that any community has to offer.

Without the human resources volunteers provide, we would not be able to offer our services. The Cancer Society is a national community-based organization of volunteers. The work that Society volunteers do within their communities reflect the achievements we obtain nationally. The value of our volunteers is immeasurable. North Halton alone has about 1,100 volunteers.

At the Canadian Cancer Society volunteers come in many forms. Volunteers are found working as drivers, canvassers, council members, fund-raisers, office workers, peer support workers, leadership positions and the list goes on.

I consider myself fortunate to have the opportunity to be part of a community in which neighbors care about neighbors. To all volunteers, please accept my sincere gratitude.

Sheila Smith, Unit Secretary, Georgetown

they were not removing a large amount of money from education. Then, they said that they did remove it. Wake up people! How can we trust or

respect this? I feel sorry for the good Tories in this party, but Mike's the leader and he is not a good man.

John Hansen, Acton

## 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 or 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