

*Editorial*

# Enough talk

With another school year now officially upon us, it is our fervent hope that it can be concluded without the rancor that is now apparent and schools can return to what they were meant to be—a place for young people to learn and grow.

Unfortunately, for the past several years too much attention has been focused outside the classroom. Too much bickering has gone on between the teachers and provincial government, too much gamesmanship has resulted between school boards and the province over what is an appropriate funding level and too much attention has been taken away from what really matters—the students and their learning environment.

We have heard all sides mouth the appropriate words—“we must do what’s best for the students”—but in many ways the province, trustees and teachers have all, at one time or another, failed Ontario’s youth, be it through inadequate funding, poor spending or job action.

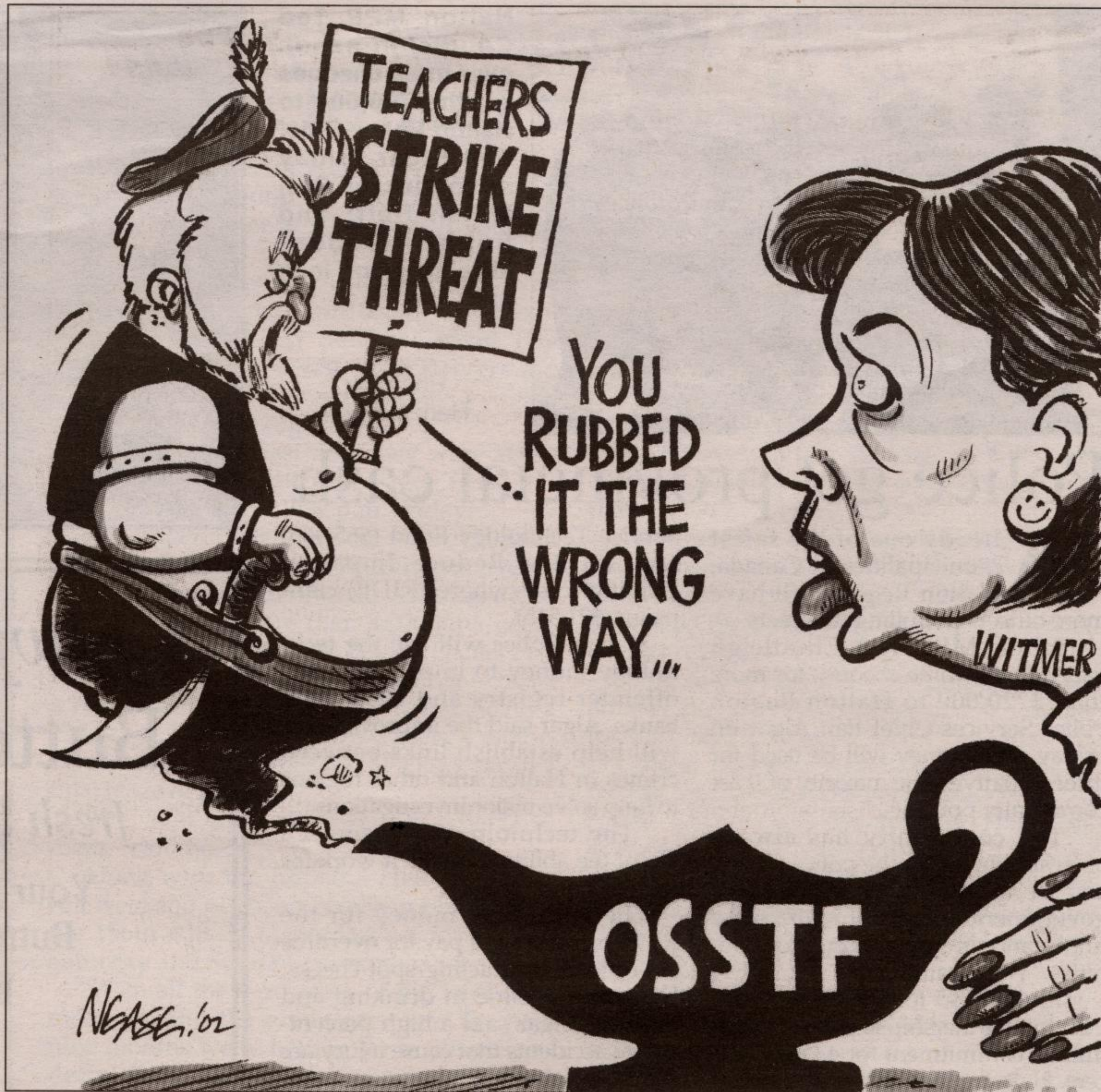
For its part, the government has recognized its funding formula may be flawed and that formula is currently under review with the final report due in November. The education ministry must realize that what is good for the Toronto school board may not be good for Halton’s and that each school board is unique.

With the double cohort, or two graduating classes (the old five-year program and new four-year program) added to the mix this school year, it is imperative the province look at ways of easing the tuition burdens many students find too onerous.

School boards will also be faced with the task of dealing with secondary school teachers’ threats to walk out in mid-year to back contract demands. We seriously hope the teachers rethink this sabre-rattling and that common ground can be found.

Students in the past few years have, at times, had to do without extra-curricular activities, “make-do” with inadequate learning materials, and play the role of pawns in an adults’ chess game.

Enough. It is time all concerned with education back up their talk of “doing what’s best for the students” and stop acting like children. No, come to think of it, children manage to settle their differences.



## Letters to the editor...

### Plenty of differences between high schools

Dear editor,

With the opening of our new secondary school, I would like to

provide an entertaining commentary.

Imagine the contrast between Christ the King Secondary and Georgetown High. The Georgetown High student body could wear a patchwork of various fashions chosen to reflect personal style while walking down Guelph Street and looking over at the streams of uniforms filing out of yellow buses into the Christ the King parking lot.

At sports events, the Georgetown High fans could cheer “Let’s go, Rebels, let’s go,” but how will Christ the King fans cheer for their team? “Let’s go, Messiahs, let’s go”?

At least they will be aware of the origin of their team name and insignia. I wonder if Georgetown High students are aware of the origin of their team name and insignia, the Rebels, draped in the colours of the Confederate flag.

Perhaps, Christ the King

Secondary will display a gleaming white cross at the peak of its crown while Georgetown High’s cross is burning. Maybe, I’m just whistling Dixie.

Michael Xanthios,  
Georgetown

### Injured cyclist’s family offers thanks to those who helped

Dear editor,

We just wanted to say thank you to all the people who cared enough to stop what they were doing to make sure our son was safe and to the people who tried to comfort him after he was hit by a truck Monday afternoon.

Our biggest thank you goes out to the police and ambulance attendants who assisted us at Georgetown hospital and the hospital staff.

You’re all great.  
Derek’s family, Georgetown

### Furrow Queen appreciative

Dear editor,

I would like to comment on how great the Halton Plowman’s Association competition was August 23. Many people from all over came out to support the event on Steeles Ave. near the James Snow Parkway.

President Ian Brake, secretary/treasurer Dwight May and all the directors put on a fabulous plow match and the Queen of the Furrows competition.

I would also like to introduce myself. My name is Sheena Butler and I was lucky enough to compete in the Queen of the Furrows competition and was successfully crowned. I would like to congratulate the other competitor, who did a fantastic job at the competition and made the judges’ decision very difficult.

I would also like to thank all the judges for their support. But, most of all, I would like to thank the Plowman’s Association and Carrie Roberts for hosting the competition and helping throughout the day.

I am very happy for winning and I plan to do as much as possible for the Halton Plowman’s Association in my term this year. I am looking forward to a great year.

Sheena Butler,  
2002 Queen of the Furrows

#### Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

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