

Teachers may strike in the fall

The Halton Secondary Catholic Teachers have voted 93 per cent in favour of a strike in the fall, according to a spokesperson at the union office.

Although contract negotiations are still in progress, the vote was taken to put the teachers in a striking position when their contract expires at the end of August.

If the appointed conciliator, requested by the union, is unable to help the teachers and the Halton Catholic District School Board come to an agreement, the teachers have given their union a mandate to call a strike.

So far the two sides seem to be arguing over the interpretation of Bill 160.

According to Fred Sweeney, director of education for the Catholic board, the board is only implementing the new law, removing clauses in the collective agreement that are now covered through legislation.

"We're not doing anything more than what's in the legislation," he said.

Before his official retirement as president of the Halton Secondary Catholic Teachers, Joe Diubaldo said those items were being removed unilaterally, due to the board's interpretation of the legislation.

However, he added, the collective agreement should only be changed at the negotiating table.

Both sides are hoping a negotiated agreement can be reached during the summer break and a strike or lockout will not be necessary.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Wheels in motion

Members of Spike's Bar and Grill team enjoy themselves as they coast down the hill Saturday during the Heart and Stroke Foundation Big Bike Event.

Citizens celebrate

• from BIRTHDAY on page 1
"We're hoping it's going to become a Canada Day tradition for Milton," Mr. Scherer said.

Live entertainment, refreshments and children's activities highlighted the day-long family event.

Among the most popular youth activities, Mr. Scherer said, was a skateboard area set up at the Rotary Park tennis courts. It was packed all day.

"All in all, it went really well. We got nothing but positive comments," he said.

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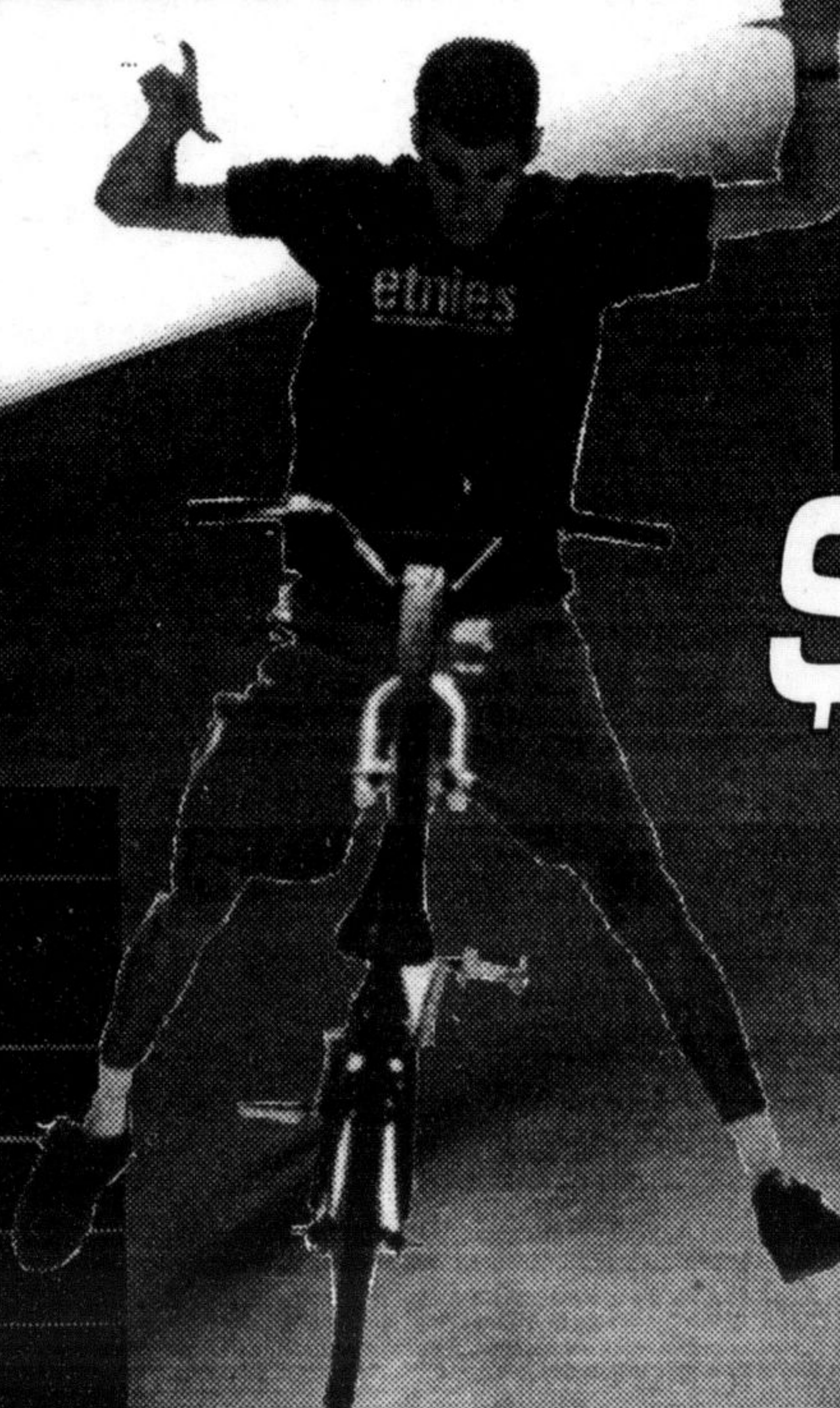
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