



OPINION

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Legacy of bitterness will haunt RC system

The dispute that separates parties in Catholic high school bargaining is threatening to leave lasting, perhaps indelible, marks.

Students are fed up, and so are parents, who have formed a citizen's group with the express purpose of ending the bargaining impasse. The organization apparently has no political affiliation.

Now we hear administrators within the Catholic system are worried that parents and students will vote with their feet, and bolt the Catholic educational system.

How unfortunate it has come to this.

In the face of an unblinking standoff, Catholic education in Halton may be severely compromised as the best and the brightest leave it. They would do this to make certain that they receive at least the same quality of education as their competitors -- the other students seeking places in universities and colleges across the province.

Because the two warring parties in this dispute, the local Catholic board and its teachers, have been unable to resolve their differences, lasting structural damage may be done to Catholic education.

Even now, there is evidence that the scant goodwill remaining among parents and students is rapidly evaporating, as is their patience.

If the issue is resolved soon, relief will be tempered by lasting resentment over opportunity and time lost. That is what the prevailing rancor has caused, and bitterness will be its legacy.

One can only hope both parties are able to live comfortably with that, secure in the knowledge that they tried their best to avoid what has become a sad, ugly situation.

I might as well bring in a dozen or so cats

Pheeeeew. Stinks in my office. Like a litter of incontinent cats camped out for a month. So I am told. This from a woman who loves cats.

You know the type. Has cat calendars and cat doo-dads on her desk. Overall animal lover, but kitties top list.

Don't much care about cats one way or the other myself. Never had a cat calendar. Do have one with scantily clad women holding construction tools at building sites. Husband of lady who works here gives me new copy every year. He is in the concrete business.

Women in photos are not really in construction. Otherwise I would be in it too, instead of sitting around in the kitty-musk rarefied air of my now compromised office.

Decided to take pseudo construction women calendar home. Politically incorrect for office, much like current occupant. However, too expensive for parent corporation to get rid of latter. Ditching former makes latter look more sensitive. Appearance is everything, especially when lying.

Have strange bugs in office too. They set up household in the wall, apparently. One just landed on my arm. Big brown things with red stripes on wings. Only come out as weather warms up. Welcome infestation during January. Freak thaw is here. Supposed to be 9 Celsius by Saturday. Bugs will be positively sunbathing in office, if they can stand the smell.

Reason office stinks is because rug got soaked in successive floods over last week or so. Now it's mouldy. Eavestroughs froze, snow piled up on roof, water deluged into basement, where Politically Incorrect resides. Similar stories all over town.

Somewhat unnerving, though. Electrical panel and hydro meter are behind false wall in same office. Water dripping in from that area. No danger at this time, says friendly visiting electrician contacted by paranoid editor.

Hired crew of guys to clean off roof Tuesday. Rather, pestered people in Oakville head office to do that. Contractor charged a bit more than \$800 to get rid of snow and ice. Took a couple

TOBACCO COMPANIES FIGHT BACK

Smoking causes
impotence

Health Canada



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Reader applauds work of Kelly, Scherer

Dear Editor:

I do not promote gambling. I love our small town newspaper and enjoy our local politics, municipal and regional.

I am a member of several orders and service clubs in this regional municipality and cannot give all my time to each at one time.

I have read of a certain foul odour in the air that I find the norm. Politics will always have it.

Groups like the Milton Ratepayers Association (of which I'm a non-active member) are made up of the local taxpayers. I applaud Pat Kelly and Paul Scherer for their efforts to keep this community up to date on what I refer to as the 'snake in the grass' issues.

The federal government has just again done it to us, with the increase in employment taxes that wasn't

properly announced. Provincial, regional and municipal governments are not exempt. That is the whole purpose of these small local associations, even if they are supported by a lot of non-active members on a shoestring budget.

Government has in the past few years and will into the next millennium feel the sting of the taxpayers' whip. Accountability for actions and words are paid for at election time.

Even that has not always proven successful for the taxpayer. If governing councils did more decision-making in view and earshot of the public and not behind closed doors, the public would be better served.

Walter A. Trafford
Milton



Rob
Kelly

of hours with five men. Contractor could easily bill \$2,000 a day if busy. Roofing may be good fallback position for chiropractors and commodities traders if things get slow.

Another woman reporter who works here came in office when carpet was soaked. Did a little dance, stamping feet to make water splash. Like Shania Twain in that video.

Ever-alert editor said, "You look like Shania Twain in that video."

"That's an insult," replied miffed visitor. She is big country music follower, but of the harder edge. Committed fan of Steve Earle, ex-heroin

junkie, Dylanesque, dark side bluesy composer. Thinks Shania Twain is a bimbo.

Personally, would not kick Shania Twain out of construction calendar photo shoot. Don't mind seeing her splash around during music video, either. Better than watching Steve Earle mope through a song any day, no matter how talented people says he is.

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Quick notes of thanks: To Anne and John Courtney, who sent me a battery operated lock de-icer after that last column, which mentioned something about frozen car doors amid a jumble of other rambling.

To colleagues in Oakville and Milton, who actually worked quickly in attempts to stem the local flooding problem, and paid significantly to do that.

To the person who returned my misplaced headphones at the gym recently. Now I can watch certain women gyrate around on the Country Music Channel while putting in treadmill miles — and at least pretend to be listening.