

Teachers losing students' respect, says parent

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wife teaches elementary school in the Catholic system. "The students are losing their respect for their teachers."

Ian has had to hire a tutor for his son while waiting for a miracle to end the dispute.

He worried that with the union bringing in expensive big guns the board can't afford, that could take some time.

"They've just been outgunned," said Ian.

In response, he is trying on a little fire-power of his own by joining the Parents Action Group, an organization pressing both sides to resolve the dispute.

Though Bishop Reding is now closed for business, Ian said he is in favour of the board's decision to lock school doors.

"It's regrettable that it had to come to this but the board had to force the hand to come to a resolution," he said.

Bishop Reding OAC students Morgan and Chelsea said they feel tossed aside by the board's latest move.

"They knew there was a 50-50 chance that we wouldn't be in school the next day," said Chelsea.

She said the teacher's work to rule man-

date had led to a "chaotic" school environment plagued by low morale.

"I don't want to bash the teachers, but they aren't bending at all," said Chelsea.

Morgan said a tutor can't make up for too many missed days of school.

"We're looking for an end to the situation," she said.

"We're not getting what we need, which is to get back to normal."

The board hasn't turned away from students, insisted Milton Catholic school Trustee Joe Deoni.

Characterizing the teachers as being out of touch with the real world, Mr. Deoni said they are balking at working what

amounts to about 13 extra minutes a day.

"When you and I talk work, we talk hours. They talk minutes," he said.

"I can't believe how far off track they've become."

The lockout occurred after the board decided it couldn't start another semester on a work-to-rule basis, he said.

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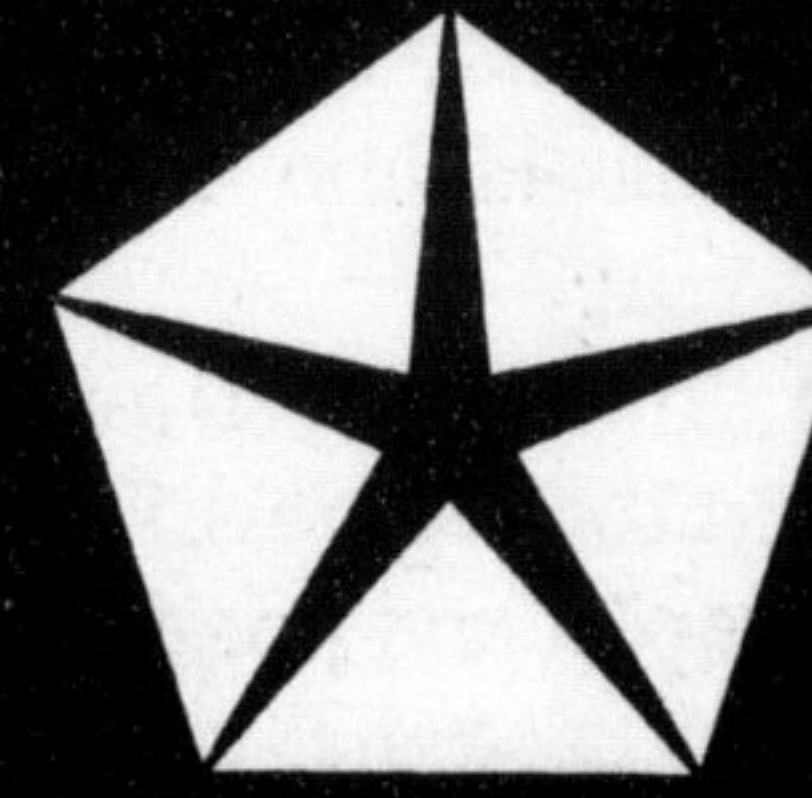
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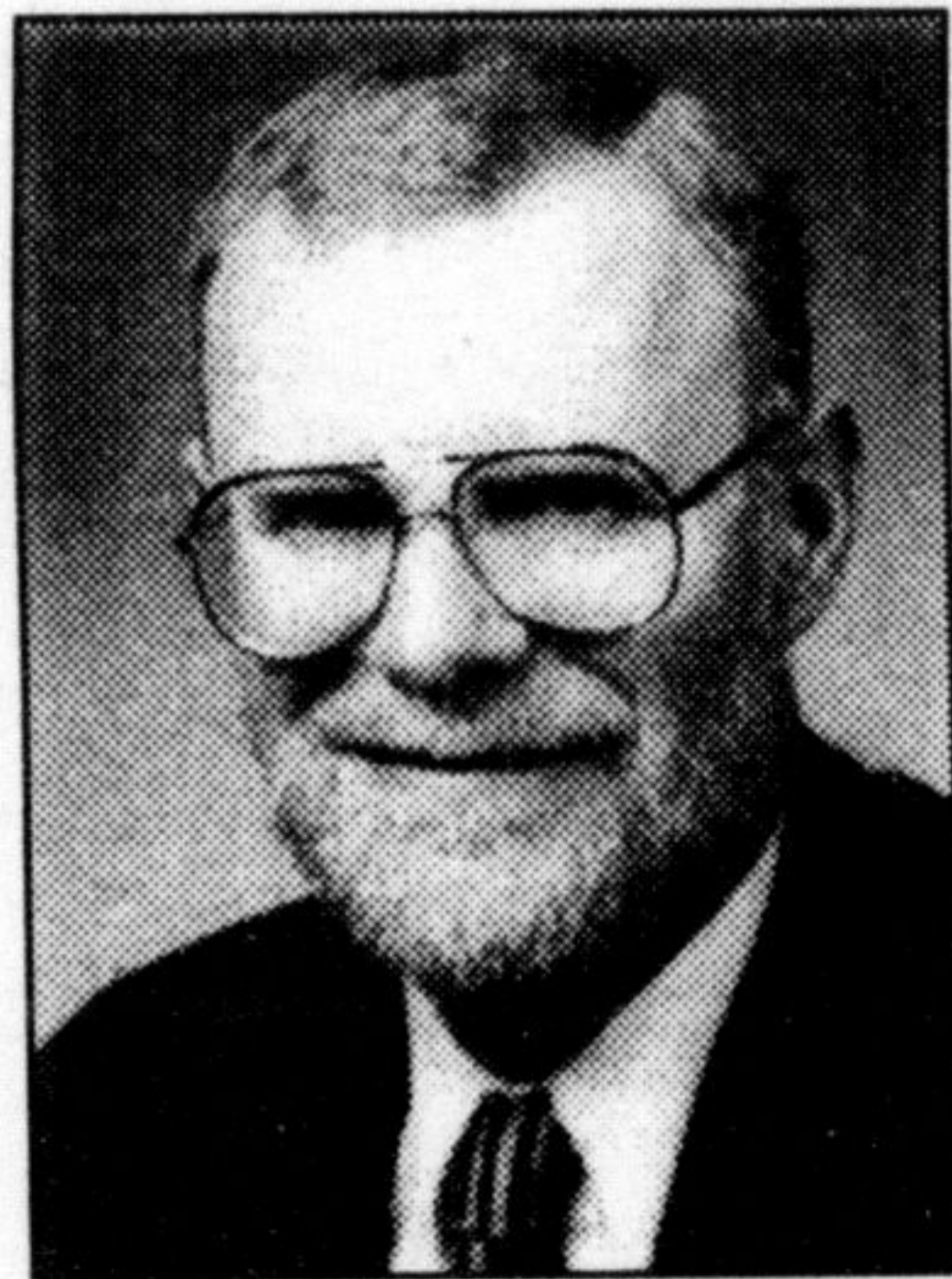
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