



# COMMENT

## Panic selling could result in more losses

It had to happen sometime.

Friday's colossal crumbling of the high-tech Nasdaq stock market, which helped cost investors at least \$1 trillion U.S., should be historic. Only so far, nothing about it has followed a traditional path.

Instead, lured by the siren song of technology, investment in dot-com stock has been elevated to dizzying heights in the recent past without regard to the actual value of the companies behind it.

In other words, investors have been running with their hearts and gambling on the sheer imagined potential of high technology, instead of the dollars and cents that usually rule the day.

Now the warning shot has been fired, plunging the Nasdaq earthward from its heady former heights. But it's tough to judge what it really means since the Nasdaq has been racing through uncharted waters all along.

Early indications are the market is more prone to stumble than soar right now, and panic selling could result in more devastating losses.

Even if it doesn't, the unreserved optimism in high-tech stock has likely come to an end.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Constituent disillusioned over waste of taxpayers' money, and gas prices

(The following letter was sent to Halton MP Julian Reed and a copy filed with *The Champion*.)

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your last Parliamentary Report.

Up until now, my family and I have agreed with most of the decisions your government has made.

However, the recent scandal about the waste of our tax dollars by the H.R.D.C. department is so disgusting that I will not dwell on it any further because it

upsets me too much.

As for the high gas prices, this could have been partly solved if the federal government would take a lead and cut some tax on gas and ask the provinces to do the same.

With best regards, your unhappy constituent.

(Believe me, there are many more people unhappy.)

John Goba  
Holly Avenue

### Smokers really don't want these laws

Dear Editor:

A smoke free Halton? Has it occurred to anyone that smokers don't want laws against smoking? This seems so obvious, yet these idiotic laws being proposed only really apply to people who smoke.

A person needs to be of legal age to smoke. This means we are not children. We never asked for laws to protect us from our own bad habits.

But what about second-hand smoke? I've noticed something

very interesting at Coffee Time, where I'm a frequent customer. On a busy night, it will be less than half full, the smoking section packed and the gigantic non-smoking section almost completely devoid of anyone.

The same phenomenon is observable at most establishments serving coffee or beer. Shouldn't it be up to the owners of restaurants to decide how much of their precious space should be devoted to non-smokers, based on the desires

of their clientele?

Non-smokers can protest with their feet, just as I did to Tim Hortons and the late Coffee, Tea or Me when they went non-smoking. Of course, that makes too much sense.

Everyone, smokers included, knows that smoking is deadly. Yes, we are killing ourselves. Is it too much to ask that we be left the dignity to do it over a cup of coffee?

Sam Cooper  
Milton

### Milton has helped make a difference

Dear Editor:

It's with sincere and heartfelt gratitude that I would like to thank you, the members of our community, who opened their doors to Ontario March of Dimes canvassers during this year's successful door-to-door campaign in January.

The results are in and congratulations are in order. We were able to

raise almost \$7,000 in Milton alone. This money funds important services and programs that assist people with disabilities to be more self-sufficient — providing assistant devices, recreation opportunities, attendant services and house-keeping support, employment training and placement support.

The result — providing someone living with a disability more inde-

pendence, which is priceless.

I would also like to thank the canvassers and captains who gave their time and helped Ontario March of Dimes achieve these results.

See you next year, as Ontario March of Dimes celebrates 50 years of 'Building on Ability'.

Pearl Wolfe, regional director  
Ontario March of Dimes



## THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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### Pud



by Steve Nease