



COMMENT

Not very nice way to treat volunteers

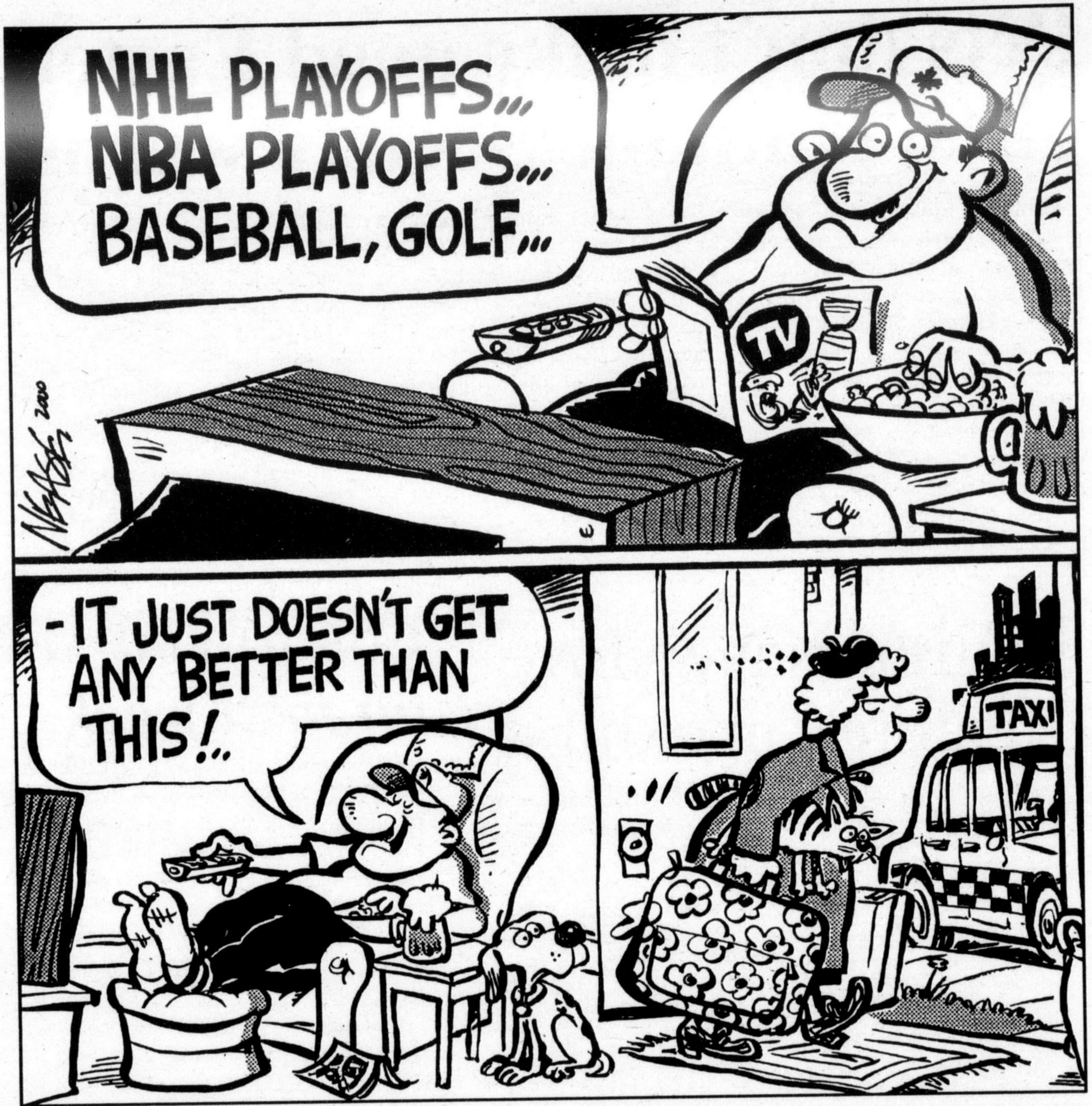
At first blush, it seems drastic to fire a team of dedicated volunteers to accommodate a change in corporate direction.

So it's no wonder at least some former members of the Conservation Halton (CH) Foundation are reeling from being unceremoniously dumped following an in-camera debate by the CH board of directors late last month.

It seems the authority is set to focus on big buck corporate fundraising and the Foundation, used to raising money through community events, couldn't keep up. According to one former member, the Foundation has finessed words more often than fundraising at recent meetings. And with government funding slipping away like sand through an hourglass, maybe something had to give.

But did the situation have to be dealt with this way? Wasn't there some other appropriate avenue through which to address these problems? All former Foundation members are apparently welcome to reapply for their old positions, but the whiplash quick dismissal of those who graciously donated their time and energy smacks of an ambush.

At first blush, the action appeared drastic. After further scrutiny, unconscionable seems to be just as apt a description.



OUR READERS WRITE

'Right' way is wrong way for future of the world, says concerned reader

Dear Editor:

I'm writing regarding the contention by the Business Council on National Issues that the Canadian standard of living is falling relative to the rest of the world.

Considering that a higher standard of living requires a higher consumption level of an obviously-finite world, isn't it possible that Canadians deserve praise for doing with less, if they did?

How long can the world emulate the North American lifestyle before the dif-

ference between rich and poor nations and citizens gets unbearable and we're back to the old problem-solving methods like war and dictatorship?

Keeping six billion people in 2006 fed and housed doesn't allow for a super-rich class or even a very rich class.

Let's hope that our 'left-leaning people' don't quit trying to make a more equal world. If mankind is to have any future the 'right' way is the wrong way!

Rene Moreau
Toronto

Hunter's Guide shouldn't be in school: citizen

Dear Editor:

The Ministry of Natural Resources has published a guide that includes a section called the 'Fundamentals of Handgun Shooting'. The publication called the 'Hunter's Guide' has been sent to high school libraries throughout Ontario.

These guides arrived at the school boards for distribution when Premier Mike Harris was telling Ontarians that students who take weapons into Ontario schools would be expelled. This long-promised provincial rule strikes at the motherhood issue of safe schools. It seems to be somewhat of a moot point (to Premier Harris) that school boards across the province have been very definite policies that address these issues.

One cannot argue against the need for safe schools so Premier Harris' star will certainly not be tarnished by this stand. On the other hand, this government-produced guide has sections within 'Fundamentals of Handgun

Shooting' that include shooting position, grip, sighting and aiming, trigger control, breath control, following through and loading a handgun. Included under each of these headings are descriptions and illustrations describing the "how to" of handgun shooting.

The strange thing is that the first paragraph of this section begins, "The use of handguns for hunting is legal in some areas of the United States. In Canada, you are not permitted to use a handgun for hunting." So what's the purpose of this information in the Hunter's Guide?

I don't think many Ontarians believe that making this handgun information widely available to students is wise. I also believe that if a student should be caught with a handgun in a high school, that expelling that student is somewhat irrelevant.

One would make the assumption that students bearing handguns in schools are breaking several laws. It seems likely the handgun would be unregistered and a restricted

weapon. Such offenders would be charged and placed in police custody, effectively removing the student from the school system.

Premier Harris has brought forward the issue of the Tories creating safer schools through policy implementation. As mentioned before, who can argue against a policy that it is claimed will enhance the safety of our children?

This popular Harris policy rhetoric displaces attention on real education issues that stem from failed Tory education reform. This government continually brings forward one-size-fits-all policies such as funding formulas that fail to fit any school board's needs adequately.

It's obvious. Weapons policies should be substantially different for schools in the GTA, verses schools in the northern hinterlands of Ontario. Let the individual board's elected trustees make the necessary policies for their regions.

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