



COMMENT

Motorists just want to get around hassle-free

What a bone-headed idea it was for Toronto to shut down its major highways to accommodate a charitable bike-riding event last weekend.

It goes without saying that fundraisers are a good thing.

But surely Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman realizes that virtually nobody works a straight Monday to Friday week anymore. That means there would have been plenty of 905 residents with hampered access to earning their daily bread.

And with summer temperatures finally starting to heat up, do we really want drivers hot under the collar from being diverted to aching-slow side roads?

In his defence, Mr. Lastman has promised it won't happen again.

But the state of our area highways are bemoaned for good reason. The congestion stinks. So does the smog, which has recently been accused of being a far bigger killer than many realize.

Gridlock is a many-pronged devil that will take years to slay.

In the meantime, let's not look for ways to provoke motorists who just want to get from point A to point B without incident.



OUR READERS WRITE

Check your well water, urges woman

Dear Editor:

I live at 8618 Esquesing Line and was recently informed that my well is extremely contaminated with E. coli and a high level of coliform bacteria. I quickly advised my neighbours to get their water checked only to discover that my neighbour was already informed that he had E. coli contamination in his drinking water.

Random samplings were apparently performed on Esquesing Line by the Halton Region Health Department and while my neighbour was told not to drink the water from his well, I was unaware of the situation and continuing

to consume the water from mine.

The only reason I had the water checked was because I became ill for several days. I'm currently looking into how this situation might have occurred.

Why was I not informed of this potentially-dangerous situation? Since some of us on Esquesing Line draw from the same underground spring, does it not seem appropriate to notify all those who are at risk?

Any person drinking water from a well should get their water checked for their own safety and peace of mind.

Diane Robnik
Esquesing Line

Education needs stability, not Bill 74

Dear Editor:

Re: Mandatory volunteer assignments.

I'm an elementary school teacher employed by the Halton District School Board. I have taught for 19 years and I have worked in Milton for the last nine years.

During my employment with the board I have supervised a variety of extra-curricular activities. I have participated in these activities out of enjoyment and interest. The time I have provided has been voluntary and beyond my teaching assignment.

I'm dismayed by the government's latest legislation, Bill 74. This legislation is aimed at making voluntary activities mandatory for teachers.

This takes the joy out of what was once an opportunity to relate to students in an area of mutual interest.

Bill 74 is so loosely written that teachers are left without a private life of their own. Decision as to

what activities an individual teacher will be involved in and what time commitments are to be made are no longer the right of the teacher.

Young family, ill parents or course work to improve your teaching of the Ontario curriculum are all secondary to the directive of the ministry. The workday never ends under this proposed legislation.

It's clearly stated in the bill that extra-curricular duties can be assigned for any hours of the day or night and during any day of the school year, including days, which are not school days.

Extra-curricular duties can be assigned for activities on school premises or any other location (Bill 74, section 3(2). Education Act, section 170.)

Dave Cooke, the co-chair of the Education Improvement Commission, has repeatedly stated that the education system needs a time of stability to incorporate the

vast changes that have occurred over recent years. Removing teachers' basic rights by mandating extra-curricular activities doesn't seem to be in the spirit of stabilizing the system.

Does anyone really think teachers will be able to perform enthusiastically and effectively when they have no rights to make personal decision about their after-school activities?

I'm a dedicated teacher but I'm not sure if I'll be able to make it to the end of my career. This government has taken the joy out of working with children and every day the symptoms of burnout take a firmer grip.

Please contact your local MPP, Ted Chudleigh, and make it clear that this legislation is not acceptable to you as a resident of Ontario. Mr. Chudleigh can be reached by e-mail ted@tedchudleigh.com, phone 878-1792, or fax 878-5144.

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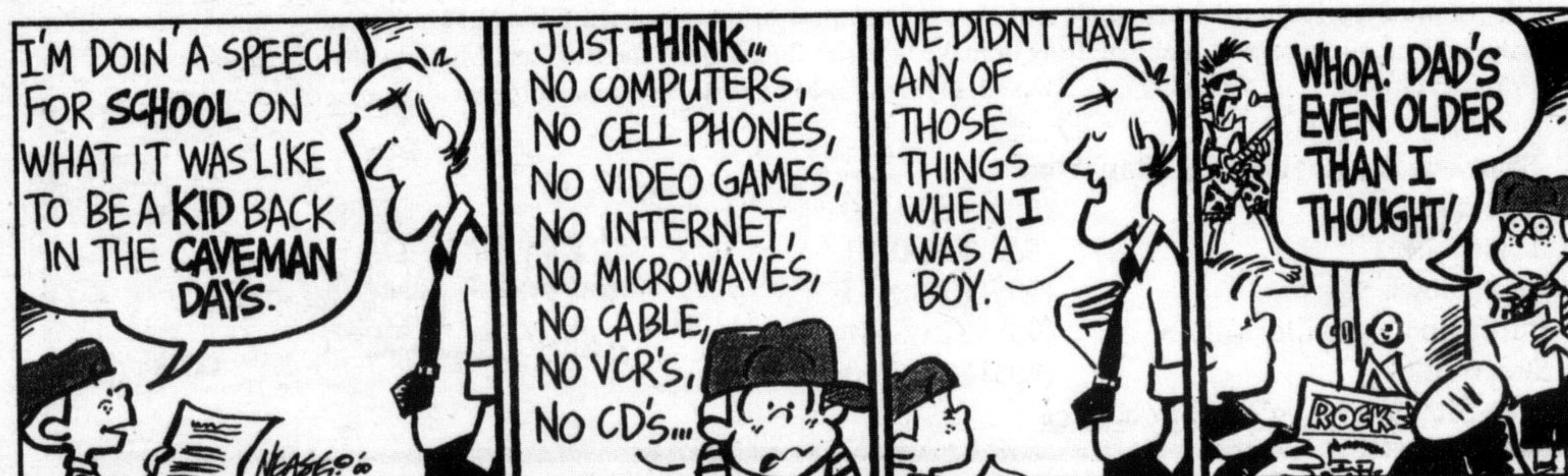
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by Steve Nease