



COMMENT

Air pollution crisis isn't just blowing in

It's ironic somehow that Earth Week followed on the heels of a frightening Halton health department report that suggested air pollution is the sixth biggest killer in the region.

The sixth biggest killer, and what are we doing about it?

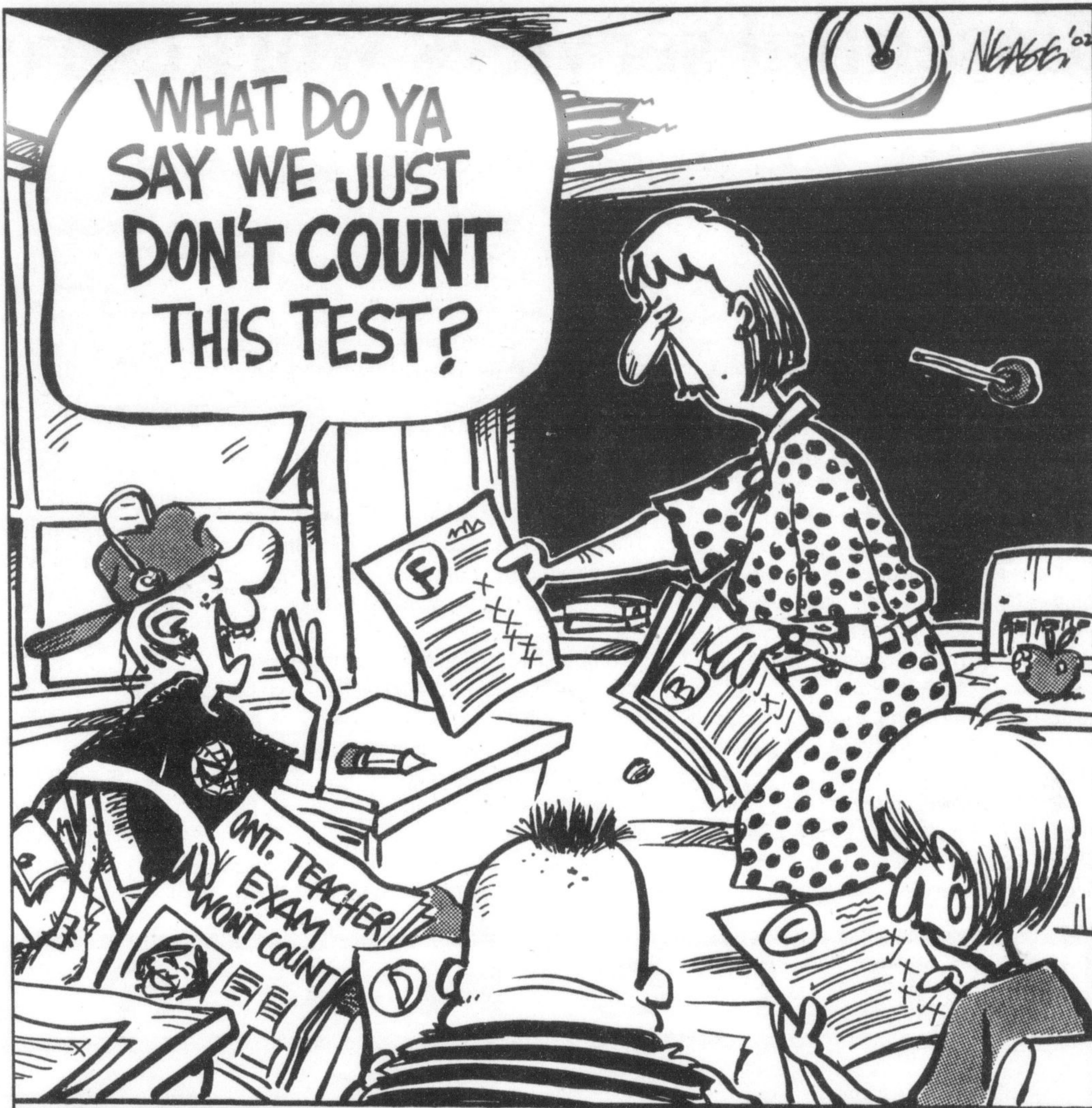
We hope all levels of government will get involved sooner rather than later, and we don't mean placating the public with lip service. We demand and deserve action.

Roughly half of Halton's air pollution comes from the United States, 30 per cent from vehicle emissions, 7 per cent from industry and remaining pollutants from households.

Yes, we can do our bit in keeping the air clean. Not letting our cars' engines idle and keeping our vehicles in top running condition are a couple of very easy ways to cut back on air pollution.

But it's the large U.S. polluters and the bigger, home-grown culprits that our provincial and federal governments must address.

This is not a new issue. The warning signs have been there for years. And we are not sure how many more reports must be written to spell out to politicians that the crisis is here — now.



OUR READERS WRITE

Couple opposed to local adult video store

(The following letter was addressed to Mayor Gord Krantz and a copy was filed with *The Champion*)

Dear Editor:

We're writing to voice our strong opposition to the new adult video store that was opened in our town.

The corruption and sin that comes from such an establishment will poison our community. It's worth any fight to close it down.

It's not just pornography that's so upsetting, but also what we think extends from it. We think violence against women, violence against teenage girls by teenage boys, sexual assault, child

pornography and teen pregnancies will all increase if this is allowed to continue. Do you want your children, grandchildren or your wife to be a statistic in any of the above crimes?

There's not one positive thing that a store like this can add to our community. Some might argue that what people do in private is their own business, but sickness like this never remains private.

It corrupts people's thoughts about what love is and how to show it.

Please do all you can to rid our town of such disgust.

**Bill and Gwen Holroyd
Milton**

Reader feels Councillor Malboeuf comes across in his letter as frustrated ex-smoker

Dear Editor:

I'm responding to Councillor Rick Malboeuf's letter in the April 23 edition of *The Champion*.

Mr. Malboeuf comes across as a frustrated reformed smoker and a political hypocrite.

My main observation to the smoking bylaw is that it's more government interference in my daily life.

As it is with television, movies or bars, I have a choice whether to watch the programming or enter the bar.

I want that choice left to me, not to some hypocritical do-gooder politician.

Why do the employees and

patrons of casinos, bingo halls and Royal Canadian Legion branches need less protection than I do from second-hand smoke?

It's quite obvious it's about money and power.

Mr. Malboeuf and his band of merry men and women don't want to lose the revenues these venues generate, nor has he the guts to take on the provincial government and the Royal Canadian Legion branches to enforce his will on them.

He speaks of how he let the bars and restaurants retain their patio areas as smoking areas — but if he were to make the farmers' market, town parks, the Milton Fall Fair and other similar functions non-smok-

ing, how would he enforce these laws?

This would be the only fair and equitable thing to do under those circumstances.

In closing, I wish to point out that I'm a patron of local restaurants and bars, a reformed smoker and a friend of Roger Mason of *The Dickens*.

However, I think Mr. Malboeuf's two-tiered smoking bylaw is unfair.

I hope that somewhere down the road he's not sitting on a committee deciding on where and when I can drink a beer or eat chicken wings, as they're also bad for me.

**Fred Bakes
Milton**



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Do you have an opinion on a community issue? If so, please e-mail us your letters at miltioned@haltonsearch.com, fax them to (905) 878-4943, or drop them off at our office, 191 Main St.

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by Steve Nease

