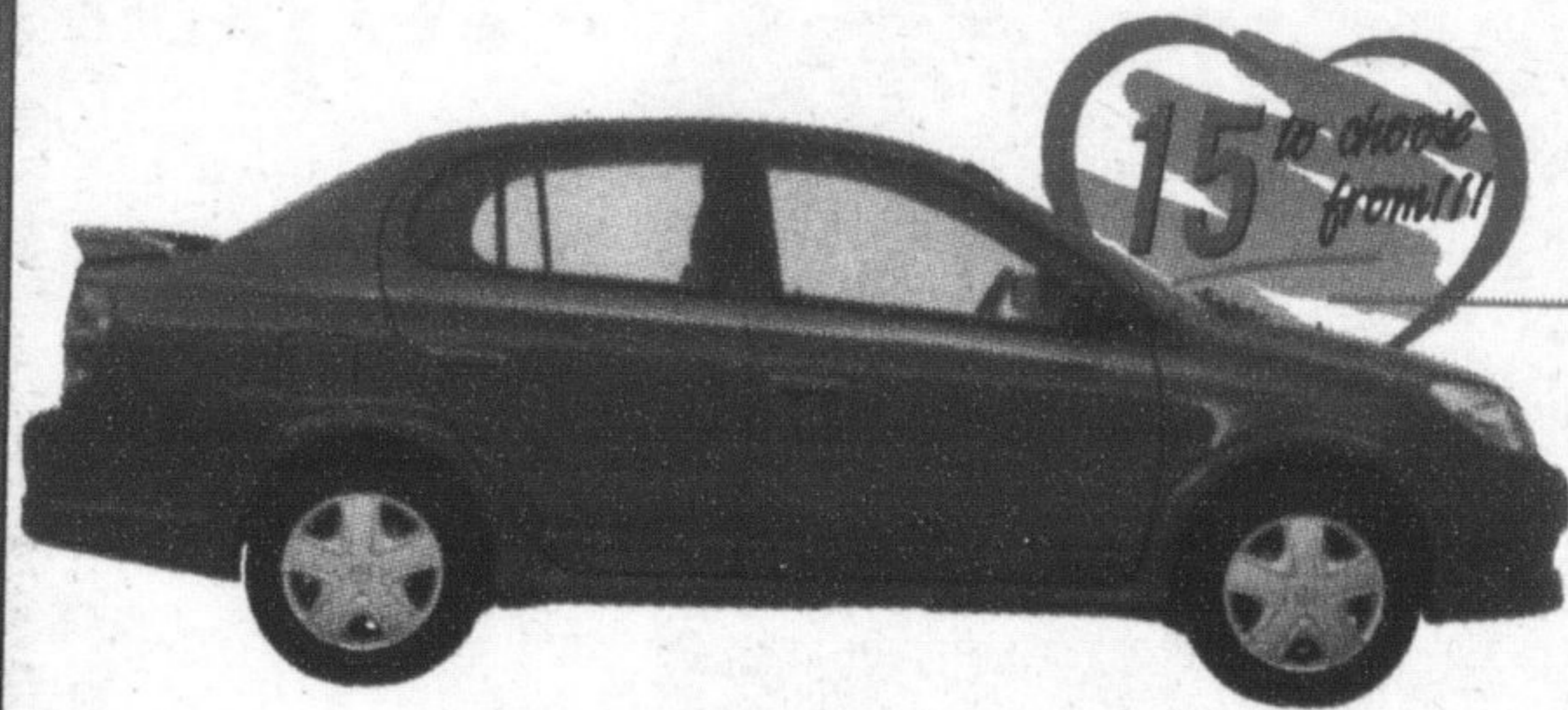


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Teachers launch job action

The Halton District School Board's 1,200 full and part-time secondary teachers began work-to-rule sanctions yesterday morning.

Joe Harwood, president of Halton district of the Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers' Federation, said the sanctions include teachers not attending staff and department meetings, as well as not filling out cumbersome report cards, which includes putting information into computer databases.

Extracurricular activities are not affected by the sanctions, he stressed.

"We're supporting extracurricular activities and encouraging our members to participate in extracurricular activities," Mr. Harwood said. "We're not removing communication from the students. (Teachers) are focusing on the classroom."

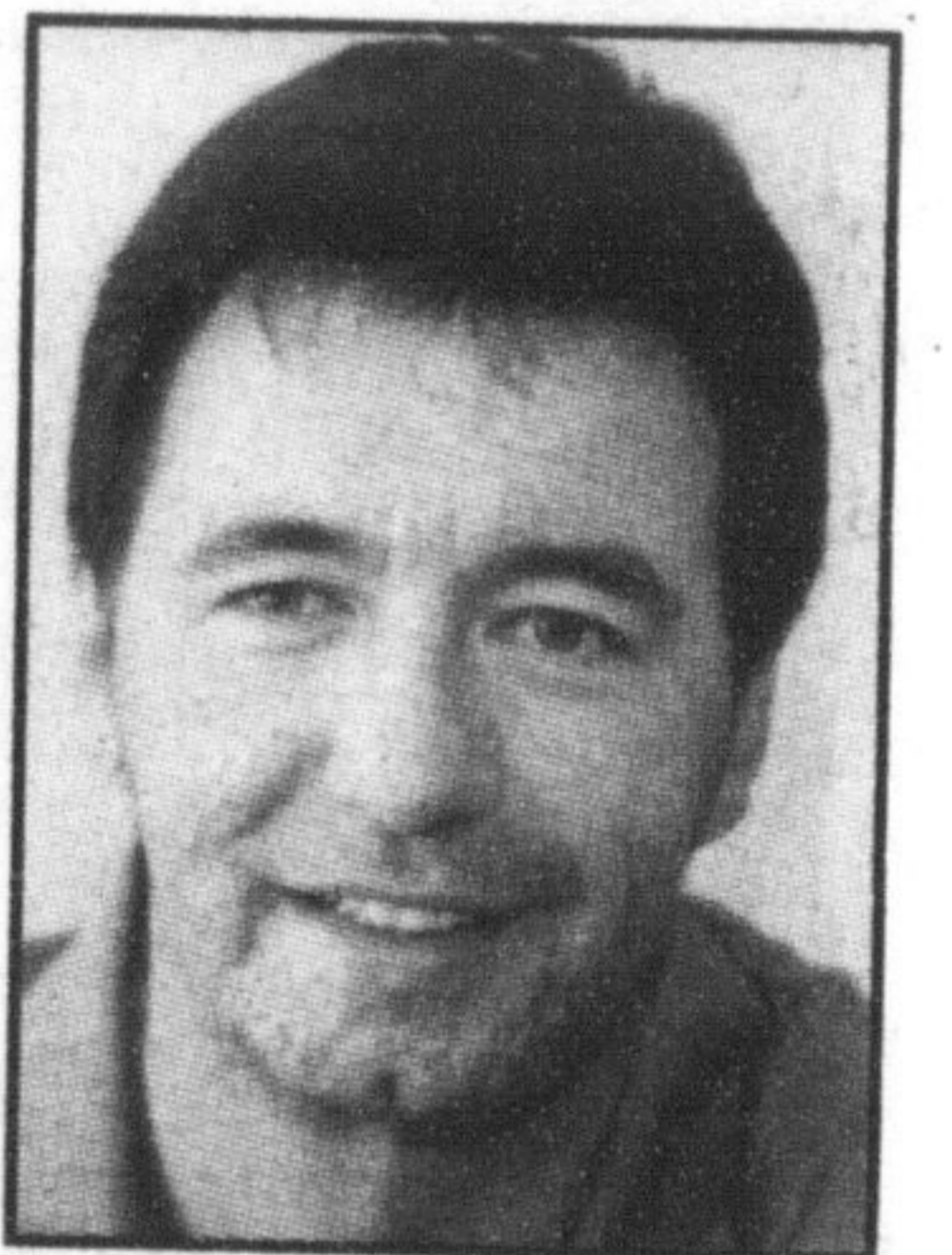
The Halton board's teachers have been in a legal strike position since Monday. They have been without a contract since August 31.

A variety of issues are on the table, including salaries and working conditions, Mr. Harwood said.

Union and board negotiators met last week but little was accomplished. It's not clear when both sides will meet again.

Champion wins two awards

For the past 10 years, you've met him at your special events and seen his pictures in The Champion.



Graham Paine

Now, for the second year in a row, Champion photographer Graham Paine has been nominated for Photographer of the Year in the Ontario Community Newspaper Association's 2002 Better Newspapers Competition.

Mr. Paine is competing for the Ontario title with two other photographers, from the Burlington Post and Peterborough This Week. He won second last year.

Mr. Paine will find out this year's results — whether he finishes first, second or third — at a gala awards banquet in Toronto in April.

"There's no question Graham is one of the best newspaper photographers in Ontario," said Champion Editor Karen Smith. "We're all cheering for him."

Also, The Champion received a third-place finish in the General Excellence category among Ontario community newspapers with a circulation of 12,500 to 24,999.

"This award is significant particularly because due to circulation increases, we're now competing in a higher class with bigger newspapers," Ms Smith said.

Last year, the newspaper won second for General Excellence in the circulation class of 6,500 to 12,499.

The Champion's circulation is now 16,000.