

Hearing into how murder occurred Oct. 20

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next, as the defence and crown didn't agree, said defense lawyer Michael DelGobbo.

What was agreed on was that the knife used in the stabbing — brought later to police by Mr. Stokes and his family — belonged to Mr. Parrott.

The autopsy on Mr. Parrott, performed by Dr. Chitra Rao, found the cause of death to be from

stab wounds to his heart and neck, and blunt force injury. "It was a shower of blows in a short period, one after another," Ms Jago told court.

A hearing to delve into the events leading up to Mr. Parrott's slaying will begin October 20 at Milton court.

"I'll be asking the court to consider the accused's version that the victim pulled the knife

out and the accused went way overboard," Mr. DelGobbo said.

Second-degree murder automatically carries a lifetime sentence, although eligibility for parole times differ. Mr. DelGobbo said he plans to ask for eligibility for parole in 10 to 12 years.

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Teachers, board reach a deal

BY TIM WHITNELL
Special to The Champion

A marathon mediation session has resulted in a tentative agreement between the Halton District School Board and its elementary teachers.

Last week, negotiators for both parties worked from 10:30 a.m. Monday until 4:30 a.m. Tuesday to reach the settlement.

Halton is the last public elementary teachers panel in the province without a contract.

Maureen Weinberger, president of the Halton chapter of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, wouldn't reveal many details of the collective agreement as the pact still has to be ratified by teachers and the school board.

Ms Weinberger did say though that it's a two-year retroactive deal that would run from September 1, 2002 to August 31, 2004.

"We'll be starting it (negotiating) all over again soon," she said. "It's mandated that all collective agreements around the province come due in 2004."

Teachers and school board trustees are expected to vote on the settlement this week.

Ms Weinberger noted union sanctions like teachers not attending staff meetings will remain in place until a deal is ratified.

Dawn Beckett-Morton, the chief negotiator for the Halton public board, characterized the latest mediation session between the two sides as long but fruitful.

"I think we both were tired. It was a long haul but it was worth it," she said. "I think we're pleased. The bottom line is you never get everything you hope to achieve, but I think we made our best effort and the union did, too."

Ms Weinberger described contract negotiations generally as "a tough process. You do the best you can for as many people as you can."

She said there was never really any point during the extended meeting Monday and Tuesday where the talks appeared ready to break off.

As for the prime areas of concern that are addressed in the tentative deal, Ms Weinberger said the three main issues for teachers all along have been financial compensation, part-year salary grid considerations for some teachers and working conditions.

"You have to give a little to get a little," she said.

The head of the 1,600 teacher-union has stated previously demands for wage parity with their secondary school teaching counterparts in Halton.


The Halton public board now has only one employee group working without a new contract.

The Halton District Educational Assistants Association has had three mediation talks with the board but the sides are still at an impasse.

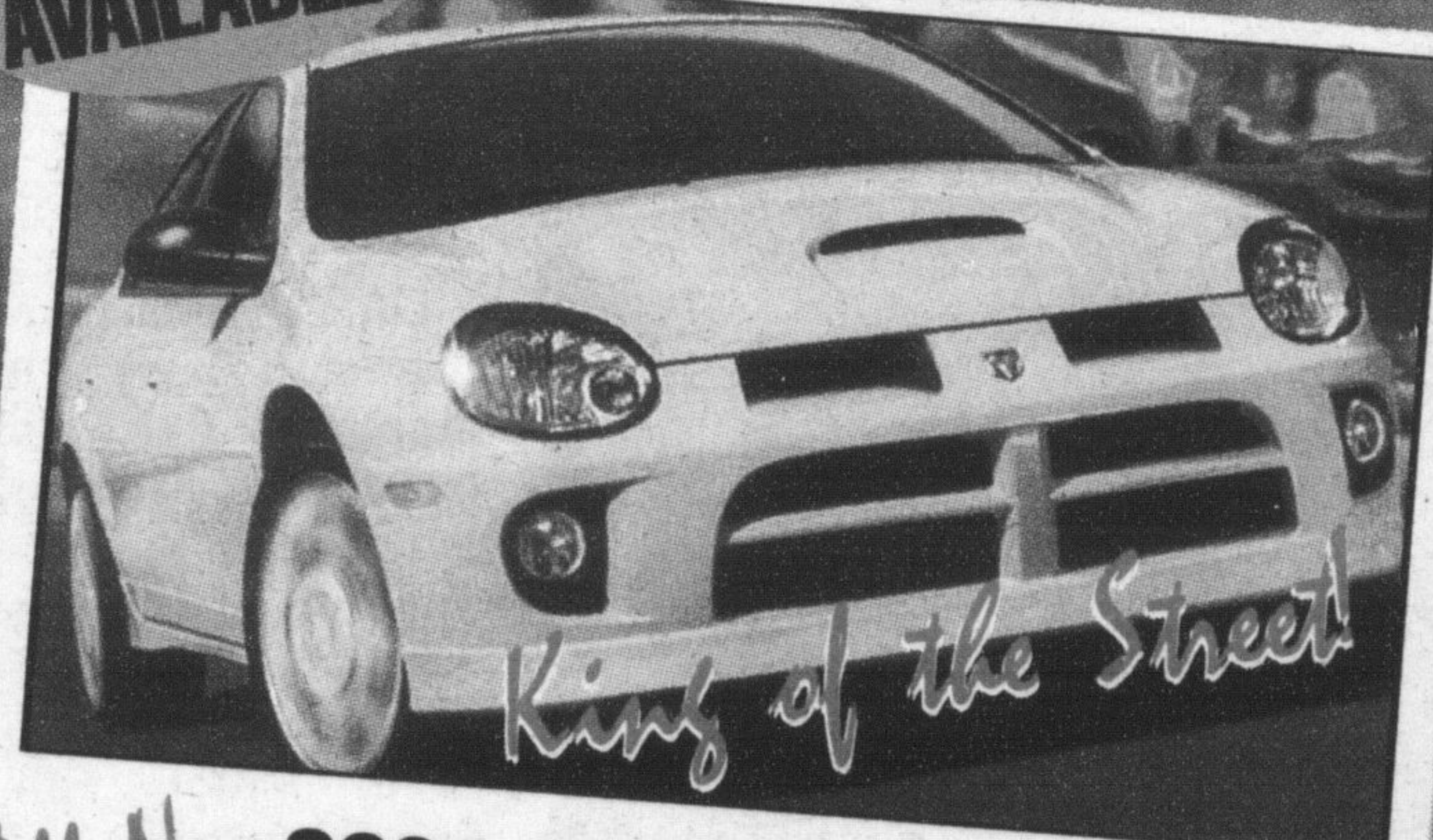
EAs consists of about 400 permanent and term-specific workers as well as about 120 casual and supply personnel who work in special education.

EAs have been working to rule since the group announced it was putting 13 sanctions in place effective September 2.

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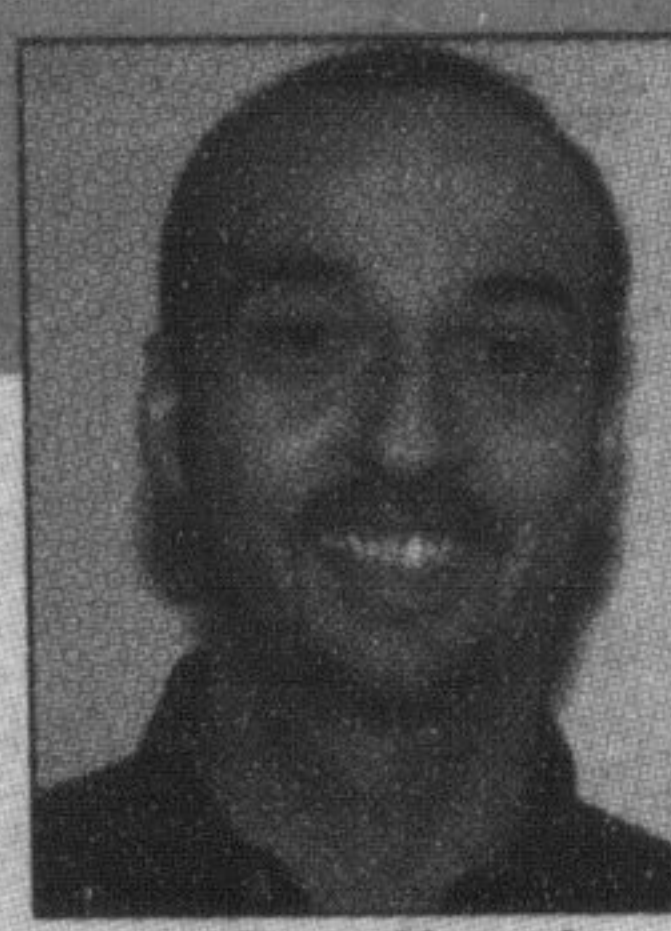
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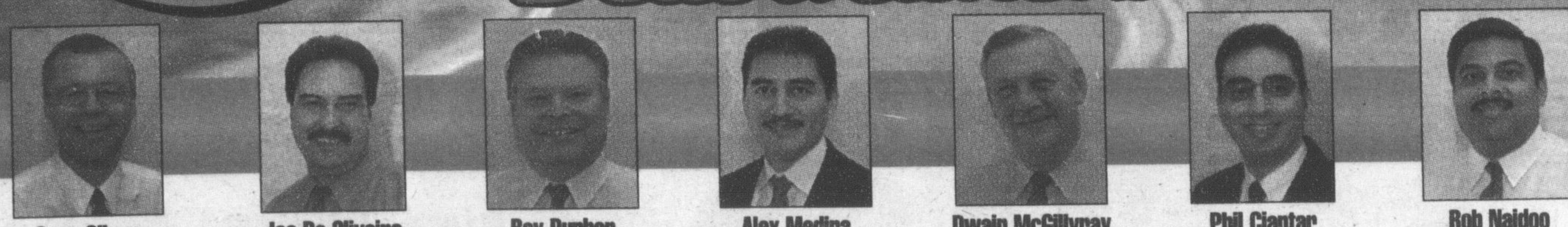


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