

# Comment

## Grits do a tap dance

Barely six months into its mandate, the Ontario government has taken promise-breaking to a new level. Last week it showcased a new ability — spin doctoring.

In a matter of only a few hours, the Grits managed to refuse to fund a Toronto project to track sex offenders (at the measly cost of \$700,000), changed their minds when the criticism began to build, then somehow managed to blame the former Tory government for the whole thing.

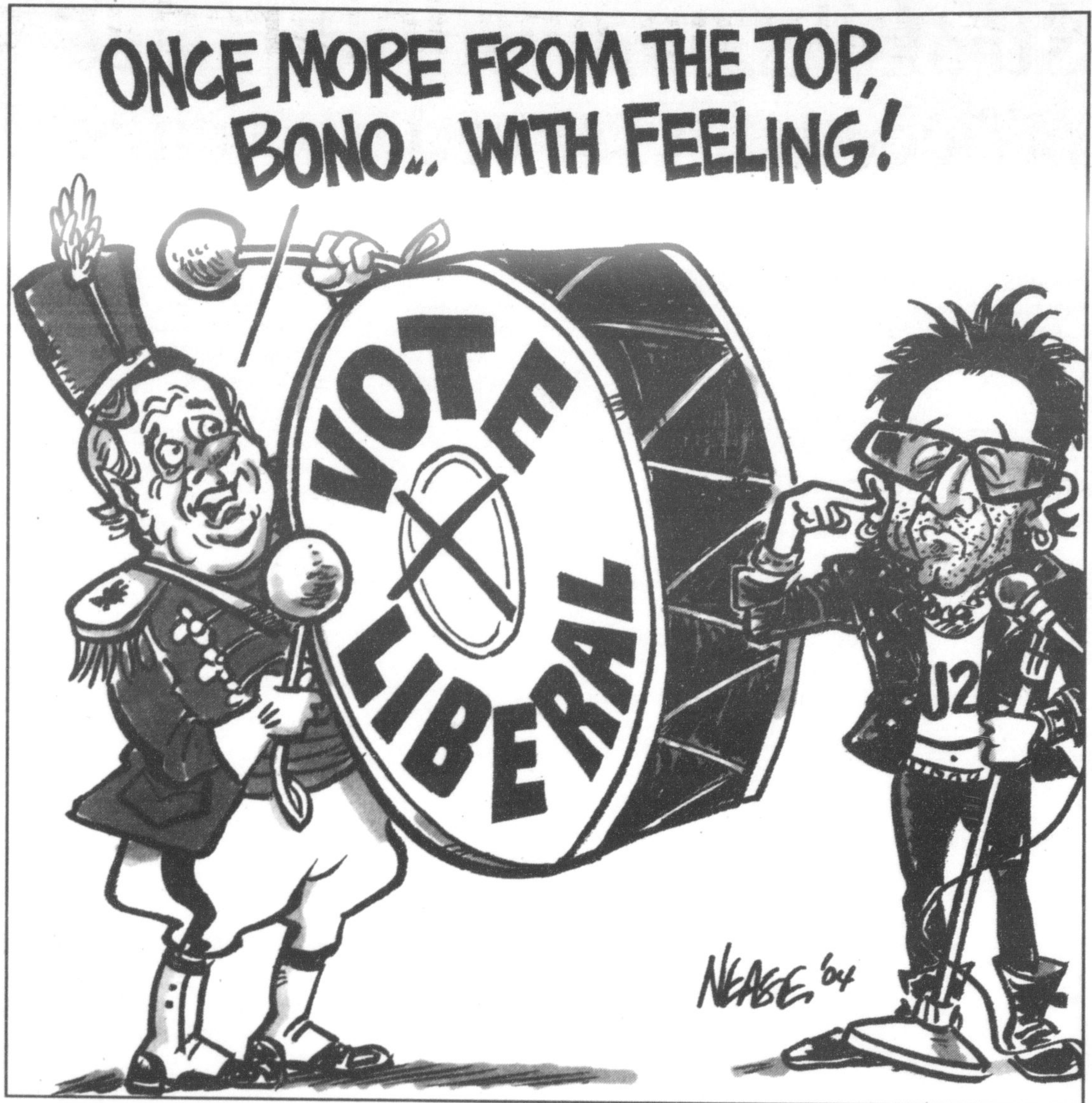
Amazing. In what could only be described as an incredibly insensitive move, considering it happened on the one-year anniversary of the murder of Toronto youngster Holly Jones, Attorney-General Michael Bryant and Community Safety Minister Monte Kwinter made it clear Wednesday the Liberals wouldn't fund the Tory project.

Bryant indicated the Liberals were more eager to play a part in the proposed national sex registry while Kwinter said Toronto already had a good record in tracking sex offenders.

However, after Kwinter met with Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino, and news reports began to surface about the Grits' decision not to fund the project, the Liberals performed an about-face and announced financial support for the project.

To top it off they blamed the Tories for not implementing it sooner — even though former public safety and security minister Bob Runciman only announced the plan three months before last fall's election.

With this tap-dancing act, the Liberals sent a clear message to the public — saving children is less important than saving face.



## Our Readers Write

### Miltonians can make a difference about the future of their town, stresses reader

Dear Editor:

Can the residents of Milton actually make a difference by sharing their views on what the future of Milton and of Halton should be? The answer, in my opinion, is yes.

I believe that if left unchecked, current political players will cause our taxes to dramatically rise over the next few years in order to pay for development that clearly will benefit the developer, not the taxpayer.

There are public meetings planned for tomorrow evening and Thursday, both at

7 p.m. at Regional Council Chambers in Oakville, regarding the Official Plan. In a nutshell, this plan says our future will have large tax increases in store for us.

Miltonians can make a difference by attending, asking questions and sharing their views at these meetings.

They can also speak with their specific councillor to ensure their thoughts on Milton's and Halton's future are truly captured in the equation.

It's our future too.

**Bob Beyette**  
Milton

### Funeral goer says service touched her and dignified Donny Smiley's memory

Dear Editor:

Many of us experienced touching remembrances on the weekend of Mother's Day.

However, a remembrance was celebrated that Sunday and Monday at the funeral of Donny Smiley that bears sharing, I feel.

Donny Smiley was a young sergeant at Maplehurst Correctional Centre 18 years ago when he was stricken by an aneurysm.

He laid paralyzed for the remain-

der of his life — the last 14 years in chronic care at Milton District Hospital. Donny's parents and his family's devotion and loyalty were continuously evident as they visited him daily.

However, to experience the guard of honour of the Ministry of Correctional Services stand watch and participate and dignify the ritual of his funeral and burial touched me deeply.

I had never seen the guard of hon-

our before, although I have a long association with corrections facilities. Theirs was a remembrance and an honour that was appreciated and very much deserved.

Donny and the Smileys were not forgotten, and their long experience was dignified.

There are soft hearts beating in our prisons. Honour and dignity are still alive here.

**E. Kiddle**  
Milton

### Woman says Milton is truly a wonderful place to live

Dear Editor:

I've read with interest the pros and cons of living in Milton. I felt I should express my feelings.

I lived in Toronto for many years. After several moves to the west I finally settled in the rural area close to Milton. I like to come to Milton.

Everyone in the stores where I shop are extremely friendly.

The ladies at the library are most pleasant and go to great lengths to give me information when I need it. I really enjoy dealing with TD Canada Trust. Everyone there is friendly, helpful and knowledgeable.

I also enjoy reading The Champion twice a week.

**Ann Paul**  
Rockwood

E-mail all your letters to the editor to [miltomed@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltomed@haltonsearch.com).

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## Pud

by Steve Nease

