

OPINION

Just plain wrong

There are some things in life that are just plain wrong no matter how anyone tries to justify them.

One is Ontario MPPs giving themselves a 25 per cent wage hike two weeks before Christmas.

Not only was it bad enough that Dalton McGuinty's government introduced surprise legislation last Tuesday that would see MPPs' salaries soar from \$88,771 to \$110,775 a year, McGuinty did so after earlier saying he wasn't looking at pay increases for MPPs.

Another broken McGuinty pledge.

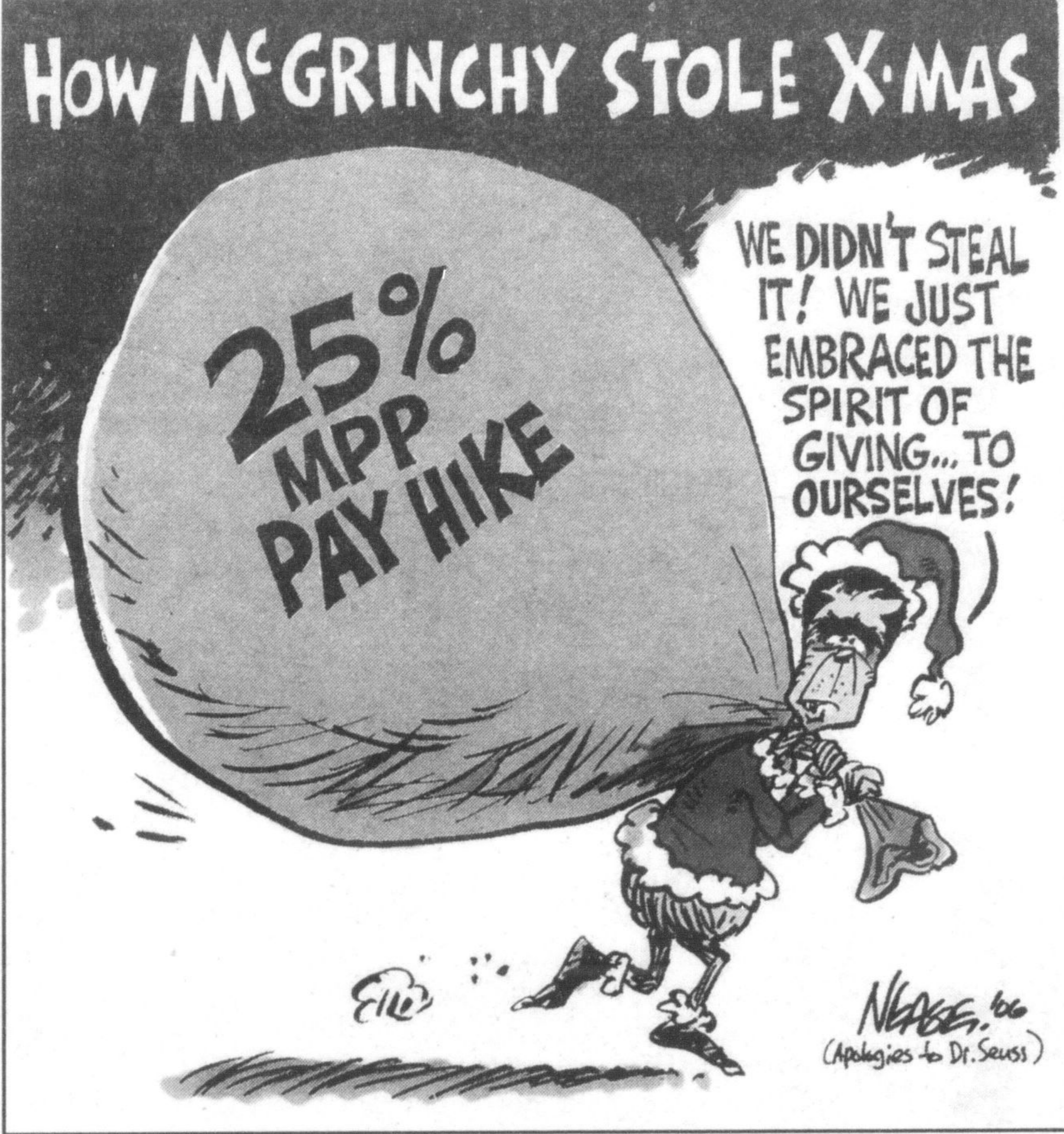
To top it off McGuinty told Conservative Leader John Tory (a longtime proponent of higher pay for MPPs) of his change of heart on the Monday before, but then sandbagged NDP

Leader Howard Hampton (who opposes the hikes) with news of the legislation only minutes before the bill was introduced.

In an 18-page report, Integrity Commissioner Coulter Osbourne suggested MPPs are underpaid compared to their federal and municipal counterparts and provided the impetus for last week's legislation.

If MPPs so desperately wanted to bring their pay in line with that of their municipal or federal counterparts, raises should have been phased in over several years.

Doing so in one fell swoop — when the Province faces a huge deficit and funding shortfalls in education, health and other areas — only makes MPPs look greedy.



ReadersWrite

Send your letters to miltomed@haltonsearch.com or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

Is Malboeuf running again?

DEAR EDITOR:

Rick Malboeuf must be running for something again.

The perennial candidate showed up at one of my Town Hall meetings, doing what I believe must be research for a coming bid to be the Conservative candidate for Halton MP.

Malboeuf says Halton isn't getting federal infrastructure money because I sit as an independent MP. As I told him in person, the days of government pork-barreling to support their own members are not only gone, they're illegal.

Anyway, he's wrong. Milton has received federal money while I've been MP, and will doubtlessly be getting more. I'm certainly fighting for it.

Malboeuf also strongly defended Parliament's action to grant 'nation' status to the people of Quebec. I voted

against that move since we live in one country that we federal politicians ought to be supporting — not carving up. I'm also very suspicious of voting for anything the separatists want, and they loved this particular move.

I may be an MP who has stirred the pot in Ottawa, and I may believe this prime minister has made a few bad moves, but I will never agree to what I believe the Rick Malboeufs of this world want, which is to put a political party ahead of the voters.

Seems to me we have far too much partisanship these days and not enough common sense. I work for the people who elected me, not the prime minister. If people in Halton want it otherwise, well they know who to vote for next time.

**GARTH TURNER
HALTON MP**

Customer's honesty much appreciated

DEAR EDITOR:

I'd like to extend a most gracious thank-you to the good Samaritan who renewed my faith in people recently.

After a long day at work, traffic and with a lot on my mind, I went through the self check-out lane at the new A&P on Thompson Road. At the last minute I decided to take out money using the cash back option, something I don't normally do.

I proceeded with my check-out and left the store. Reaching home and putting away my groceries, I looked at my bill and noticed I hadn't taken my cash out of the slot in the machine.

I called A&P, hoping they would be able to help, and the friendly staff did just that. I was so fortunate that an honest person turned in my cash to the cashier and I was able to claim my money. It wasn't a lot of money by most people's standards, but for me it was, and losing it would have been heart-breaking — both financially and emotionally.

I want to sincerely thank that special person for their honesty and allowing me to believe in the good in people again.

**GINETTE GIBSON
MILTON**

Sensitivity to certain scents a real concern

DEAR EDITOR:

I would like to address a health issue in the community involving the adverse reactions to fragrances such as perfume, cologne and scented products.

We can thank God that we live in a free country and have many privileges, one of which is the freedom to attend any gathering of our choice on any given day. Unfortunately, not everyone can freely attend these gatherings due to the increasing intensity of personal fragrances used in enclosed public areas.

The use of strong scents can create serious breathing problems for people with asthma, allergies or other breathing problems.

Such reactions involve breathing difficulties, a runny or stuffy nose and watery eyes. In some cases, these scents can contribute to asthmatic attacks, skin reactions, severe headaches and nausea. Many of those who suffer do so in silence.

Halton Healthcare Services have made our hospitals scent free, as are our nursing homes. Employees who refuse to comply can be dismissed from their jobs.

Obviously such strong deterrents can't be as easily enforced in public gatherings such as Sunday Mass or church service. But I would politely ask people who do use scents of any variety to show restraint in their use. When you ready yourselves for a Sunday gathering, I beg you, please think of the physical harm you may inadvertently inflict on others by choosing to wear scented products.

If you or someone you know suffers from this health problem, please speak up so people will know and understand this very serious health issue. And please, if you do use perfumes, remember that your scents can and do affect others.

**JOAN RONCATO
MILTON**

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