

# Comment & Opinions

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Send your letters  
to the editor  
to the address below

## EDITORIAL

### Familiar issues in York school board teacher negotiations

It may be an endless summer for local high school students this year.

If the York Region Board of Education and the public secondary school teachers union don't get their act together in negotiations for a new contract, high school doors will remain closed come September.

While many students may find the idea of an extended summer holiday appealing, it will certainly cause havoc for parents. And not to mention that senior students applying to university or college could be adversely affected.

At issue is the board's desire to change the collective agreement with the teachers.

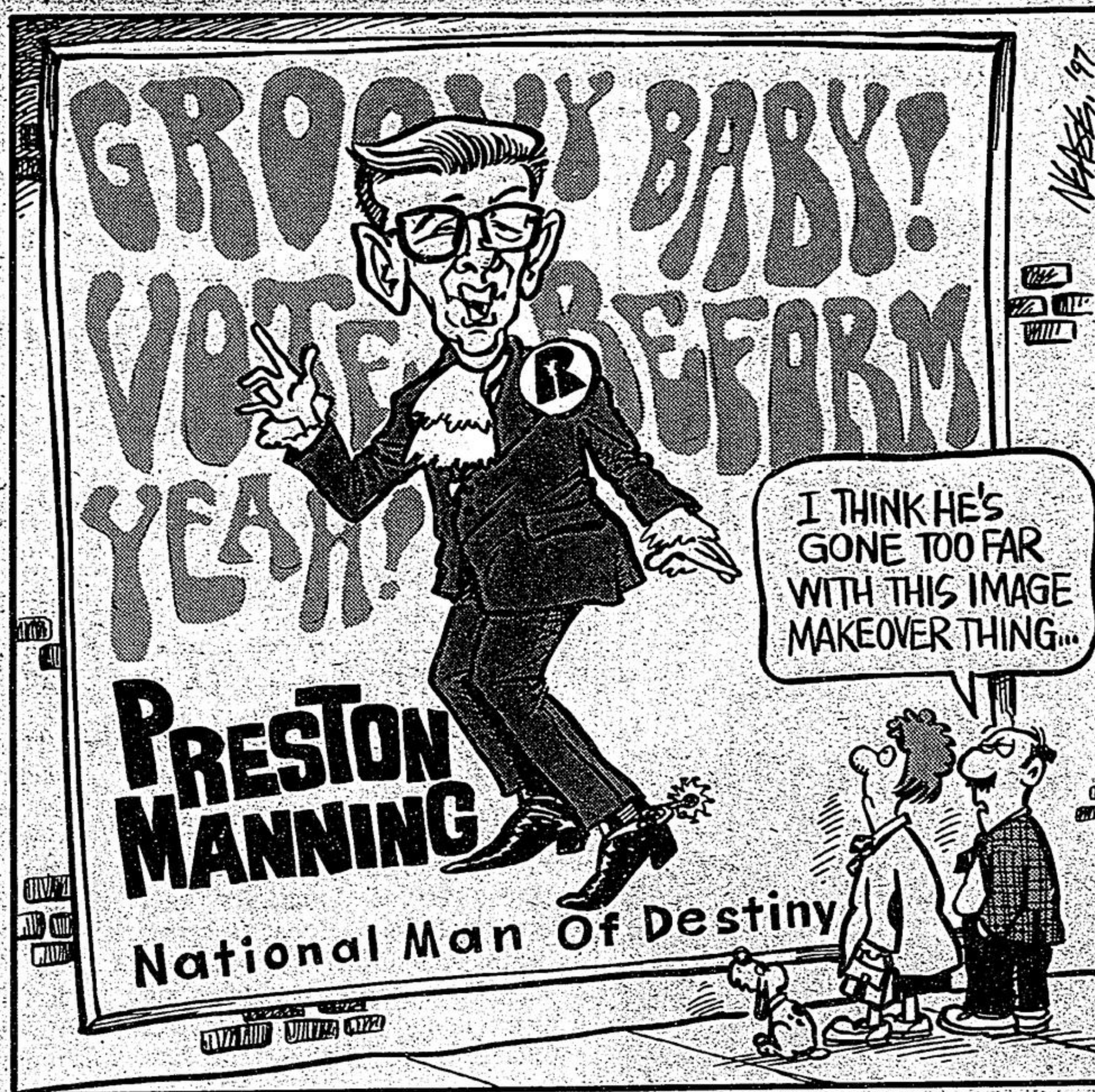
While legal, the union has not surprisingly said it will strike if the board takes such action.

Negotiators for the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation say they have been asked to take \$9 million in concessions.

They say this will lead to a loss of jobs and an increase in class sizes.

These issues seem familiar as the public board and its elementary teachers also took negotiations down to the wire this spring. The issues were also similar in the recent York University strike, which had calamitous effects on the students, who are just this week getting back to classes.

Hopefully, both sides in the York Board-teacher dispute will realize the students are the most important people in these negotiations and a settlement can be reached without a strike.



### Train recalls a great trip

The ol' train whistle will be blowing again this weekend, as the York Durham Heritage Railway gets rolling on its first complete season on the rails between Stouffville and Uxbridge.

There is something about a person's first ride on the rails, and my own was something I don't think I'll ever forget.

Having grown up in the north, my only exposure to train travel was a brief jaunt on the subway while on a trip to Toronto. My first real train trip came in 1969 in Britain, on a cross-country trip to London. I was six, and like most six-year-olds, the scenery held little interest for me, so my brothers and I decided a train would be a great place to play Hide and Seek.

My older brother counted, and while my parents dozed, I scrambled out of the cabin to find a suitable hiding spot. My younger brother was caught quite easily, being a three-year-old, he simply sat where we was beside my mother, and covered his face with his hands, then giggled maniacally when my older brother "found" him.

I, meanwhile, had found a great spot to conceal myself - a steel cabinet in the porter's closet. Oh, I was wickedly clever. They would never find me in here, I thought. This was very nearly true. Apparently, about 45 minutes after I went missing, the entire train set out to find the errant six-year-old who had somehow disappeared off a BritRail train hurtling 100



Minute with Mair

Andrew Mair

kilometres an hour through the English countryside. The panic was heightened by my mother, who had heard on the BBC that morning that a woman in the Punjab had given birth while on the loo. The facilities where "open air," meaning they emptied directly onto the tracks. By some miracle, the baby was found alive, even though three trains had roared over it. My mother, I guess, thought I might have fallen in and was demanding the train be stopped to search the tracks.

I, meantime, had fallen quite asleep in my little hideaway from the rhythmic rocking of the train. Had it not been for a person in the bar car who had made a mess of themselves, requiring the services of the porter and some Spic and Span, I might be there still.

I remember what happened next best - hysterical screaming and wailing with relief has a way of making an impression on you at that age. I hope to be out riding the YDHR soon, and I hope to see you there. Just be sure to go before you leave the house.

### Taming the savage breast

Dear Editor,

Re the ongoing controversy over women having the legal right to be bare-breasted in public in Ontario.

Although I support individuals having the legal right to be completely naked in public, I am disgusted by feminists who whine that women are being unfairly discriminated against because, unlike men's breasts, women's breasts have been naturally preserved in part to be (highly) erogenous - meaning that they are physiologically sexual - and consequently, women - but not men - are legally required to conceal their breasts in public in provinces other than Ontario.

### LETTERS

I openly admit that these feminists' false allegation that C.C.C. Section 173. (1) (a) - which concerns public indecency - acts on a sexist double standard outside of Ontario, and this would not annoy me nearly so much if I did not suffer from "breast envy." As a man, I wish that my breasts were as erogenous (not to be confused with "erotic") as those of the average woman, even if I were legally required to conceal them in public as a result of their being such!

Sheldon Warnock

### Teens could learn from Bible

Dear Editor,

I am responding to a letter published in the April 23 edition in the Opinion section. I am a 15-year-old and a Grade 10 student. I totally agree with what James Pitenis said about the abandonment of the Bible. I notice that kids not only have no respect for elders but no respect for friends, teens and themselves. The only people they seem to respect and admire are people in movies, on TV, who play pro sports, and musicians. You can't tell me that that's a good thing.

Certainly the Bible gave me a higher moral standard when I became more familiar with it.

For example, I don't smoke, I try not to swear, my manners are better and I try to give a person a chance more often than I would have before.

The Bible is relevant whether it is the past, the present or the future. The only reason this is true is because the Author already knows every thing.

Praise the Lord.

Andrew Winegarden

### STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE

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