

# AVENUE

Arts, Culture & Society

## What they're *really* saying

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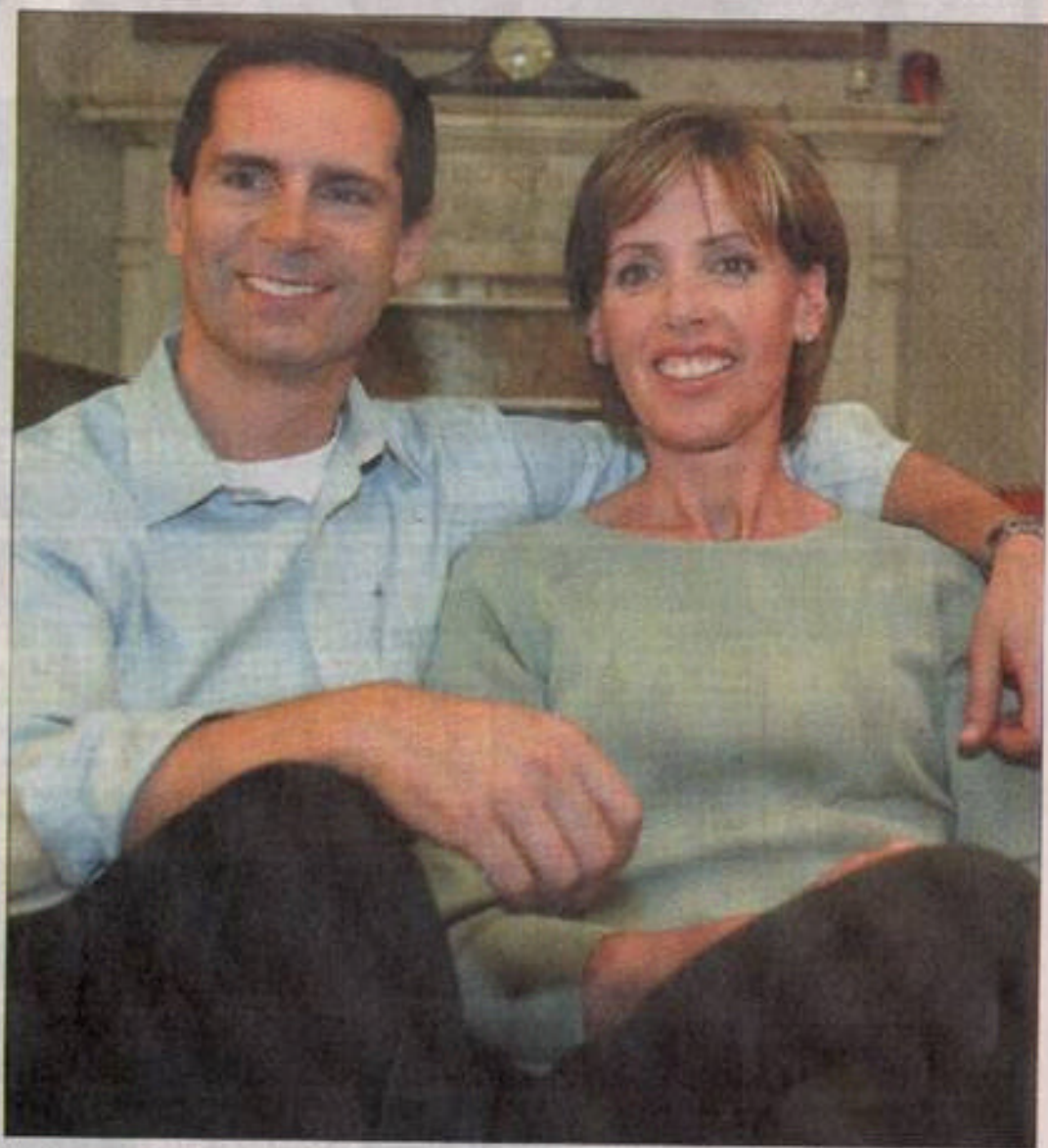
**B**ody language expert Patti Wood has made a name for herself reading the physical cues of the rich and famous — notably predicting the demise of Jennifer Lopez's marriage to Chris Judd after assessing their wedding photos (though, well, so did everyone else).

And now she says there are no wedding bells in the future for J Lo and Ben Affleck (though, well, so has everyone else).

In Toronto on a promotional trip for Vaniline Intensive Care Lotion, we asked her to decipher the hidden secrets buried within the groping and posing of several notable couples. Bad news: Britney and Madonna aren't meant to be. Good news: Our next prime minister is a warm and loving man.



**Britney and Madonna** The whole non-verbal image here is exposure — a need for attention. It's less about that act being anything about affection or any relationship between them. It's just another level of what can they do to shock and and get attention. They both have their bodies away from each other. There's a lot of space in between. Madonna's heart is oriented towards the audience. There's no touching, I always look at the amount of effort the person is making to create the posture. There is a lot of resistance and pulling back in Britney. Madonna is much more aggressive.



**Dalton and Terri McGuinty** I like that they're both looking in fairly close to the same direction. They both have a little stiffness around their mouths. There's tension in the folds around the mouth. There's effort to smile. One of the things I really like is that he has his arm around her. It's relaxed and supportive around the back. They're doing what I call merging, which means that their bodies overlap, which shows them as a unit. I like to see that particular posture in a couple. They're doing it to say "We're a unit. And we exclude out. We are a unit protected and away from whatever comes in."