

Editorial

A bad joke

Our esteemed Prime Minister's latest attempt at gaining entry into the realm of credibility should be accepted for what it really is - a bad joke.

The Prime Minister announced the establishment of a 12-member citizens' forum to tour the land and listen to ordinary Canadians who will be urged to speak their minds on the future shape and style of Canada.

Prime Minister Mulroney has gone on record as stating, in his address to the House of Commons when he introduced the task force, "The government will not control the forum or dictate its findings. But I intend to state my own views from time to time."

Mr. Mulroney is attempting to make amends for past mistakes; is dredging up the ghosts of Meech Lake past and is attempting a public relations coup which will put both him and his party in the good graces of Canadians as the federal Progressive Conservatives enter the final two years of their five year mandate to govern.

Before the first official meeting of the 'national forum', (scheduled to take place within the next 30 days), Mr. Mulroney fired a salvo at Quebecers last weekend that will no doubt ricochet and end up scuttling the 'national ship of salvation' before it has even left the harbor.

The head of the forum is Keith Spicer, who took a leave of absence from his appointed position as chairman of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission.

Spicer once referred to English-speaking Quebecers as "Westmount Rhodesians"; supported the Meech Lake accord when he was editor of the Ottawa Citizen and similarly free trade with the United States, and in 1988 urged his readers to vote for the Progressive Conservative Party.

Another member of the forum is Robert Normand who just six weeks ago, in addressing the America's Society in New York City, offered that Quebec should think seriously about independence and was quoted as saying, "It's better than remaining a kept woman, especially if the pimp no longer cares."

One supposes both these gentlemen are going to have an open mind when they get an all-expenses paid trip across Canada - at the taxpayers expense.

The ultimate joke being perpetrated upon Canadians is that what is needed right now is a forum on the economy, not constitutional or philosophical jibber-jabber.

When people are out of jobs, when their children are hungry, when their self-esteem is at an all-time low, they think from hour to hour, day to day. Not about some political grandstanding that can wait for another time. Some joke.

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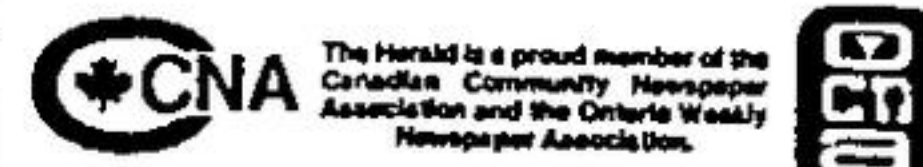
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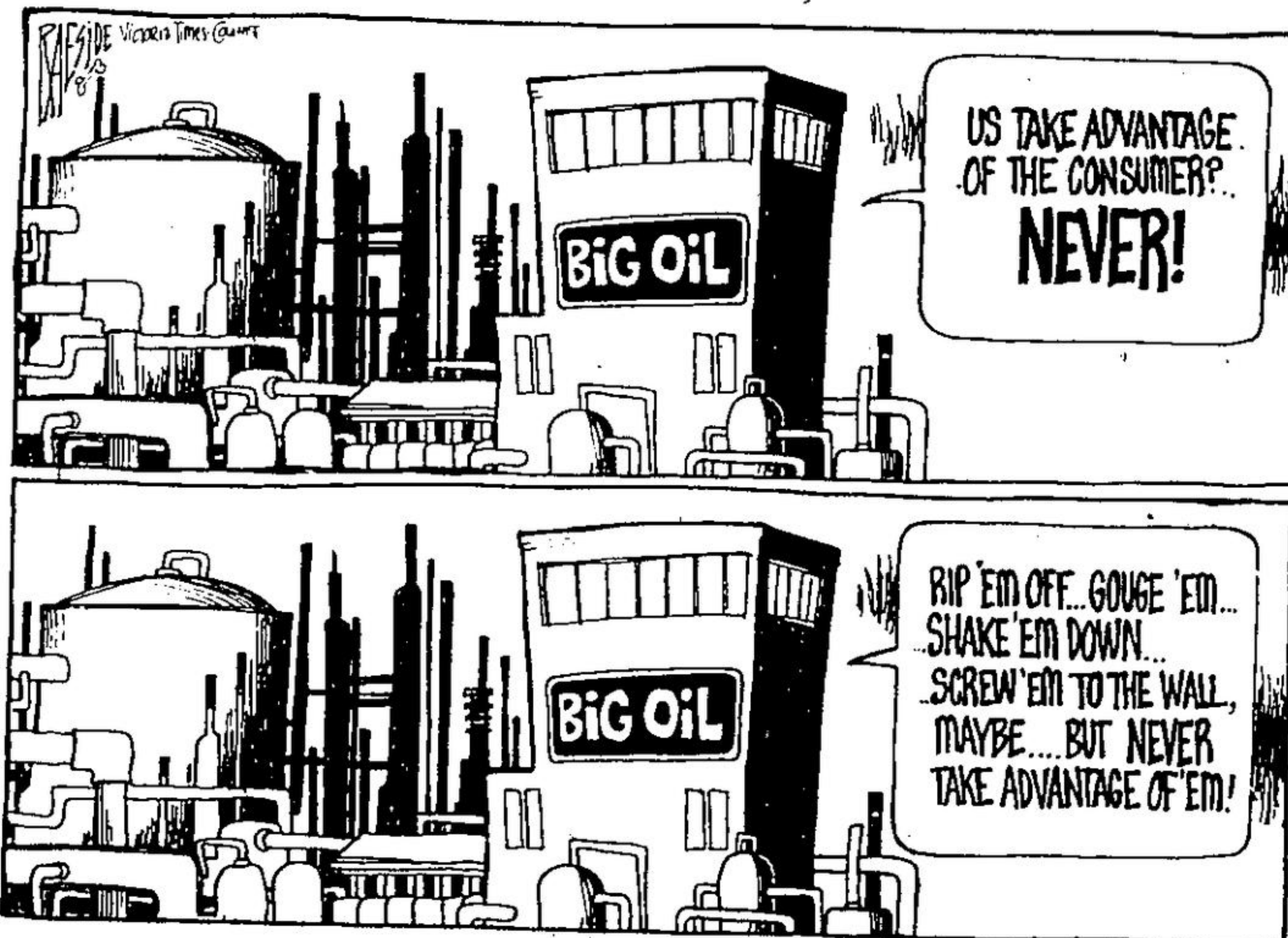
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Letters

Keep dogs on leashes

To the Editor:
Dog owners helping heart victims - You may wonder how these relate. It is my intention to explain the connection. I think the best way to help you understand is by example.

My dad suffered a heart attack in May, 1989. After a full year of doctors offices, hospitals, stress tests and angiograms it was decided a triple by-pass was in order. That was successfully performed at Toronto Western Hospital in May, 1990.

Now six months later we are still working very hard to build his strength and encourage his spirits. He attends both Toronto Rehabilitation Centre for heart victims and Heart-to-Heart, a program offered by Peel Memorial Hospital to assist with the coping and provide a better understanding of how you and your families lives are affected by such a drastic condition.

Through all of the doctors advice of quitting smoking, limited alcohol, low-fat diet, and salt restrictions it has always been most highly stressed that walking two miles for five out of the seven days of the week is vitally important. He has developed a commitment to himself to perform this.

Last Friday after working a full day he came home and decided he should go for his walk. On his way home a man came out of

his house with a dog accompanying him, but unfortunately not on a leash. Having a fear of dogs he was just about scared to death when it came after him. The man who owned the dog couldn't gain control of it and dad's only defense was his fists as the dog attacked him three times. Finally after standing behind the owner so that he was between dad and the dog the owner managed to grab him by the collar.

It is through this experience that I make my plea to the citizens of Halton Hills. Please keep your dogs on leashes or tied up outside. I'm sure there are many good and kind dog owners who give faithfully to the Heart and Stroke Foundation feeling they are doing their part to help others. I am also sure that the majority do not understand the damage they may be afflicting on

those by letting their dogs run loose.

We all know the old saying "A dog is a man's best friend". My only argument is that I don't expect my best friend to become yours while walking down the street.

We have suffered enough worry in the past eighteen months to last a lifetime, and now even watching him do one of the most important things he can do for his health still creates worry and stress for both him and his family.

I hope no one reads this and feels I am condemning them or their dogs. I am just a very concerned daughter looking out for someone I love very much and want to keep around for a while.

Thankyou,
D.L. Kane,
Georgetown.

Letter of the week

Kudos for Acton

Dear Editor,
I would like to take this opportunity to publicly recognize and thank the people, businesses and organizations of Acton for their kind and generous support of the Acton Food Share.

It is indeed heartwarming to see the care and concern of this community for a growing problem that is affecting many areas of Canada today.

Since opening day on Oct. 9, 1990 we have observed an increase from 10 to 17 families per week needing help - usually a result of the high unemployment rate, high rents and single mothers lacking adequate means to support their children.

It has come to our attention that warm blankets, quilts, sleep-

ing bags, etc. will also be needed this winter as well as crib sheets and blankets for small children. We would be happy to place them where needed if anyone would like to contribute them. We have plenty of storage area thanks to the kindness of Canada Packers and their concern for our Community.

Your continued support and help is necessary so please watch for the announcement of a food drive at the Firemen's Santa Claus Parade on November 17. Your help is important and sincerely appreciated.

Joan Waldie
Coordinator
Acton Food Share
Ph: 853-0457 or
853-3758

Thanks for Cloud "9"

To The Herald:

On behalf of the Association of Early Childhood Educators, Halton Branch, I would like to thank you very much for your donation for the Eighth Annual Kids on Cloud "9".

The event was held in Georgetown on Sunday, October 21, 1990 and approximately 1,000-1,500 children enjoyed the fun-filled day.

Most of the activities were free to all the children of Halton as the Association is a non-profit organization.

Again, thank you for your support, without you a community event like this would not be possible.

Sincerely,
Maria Tassone,
Kids on Cloud "9"
Coordinator

Write us a letter!

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make, send us a letter or drop by the office. Our address is 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 3Z6.

All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification. The Herald reserves the right to edit letters due to space limitations or libel.