

Editorial

Small business feeling pinch

A new era purportedly was unleashed yesterday (Tuesday) with the delivering of the throne speech at Queen's Park encompassing the hopes and aspirations of the recently-elected New Democratic Party - the first social democratic party ever elected in the trillium province of Ontario.

Throne speeches are like toasts given at a wedding - and should be treated as such. They have about as much basis in reality as the toast offered the newly-wed couple by that long lost - and never lamented - Uncle Fred.

There is a reality and a disaster looming in Ontario, however, that the new provincial NDP government must address, and soon.

It is the plight of small business and this sector, more than any other determines the health and well-being of communities such as Halton Hills.

Several reports issued last week indicate if this issue isn't addressed - properly and soon - communities throughout Ontario, including Halton Hills - will suffer.

A report released by the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses, penned by economist Pierre Cleroux, stated Ontario's present tax structure discriminates against small business, putting it at a disadvantage with U.S. firms under free trade.

The report also stated, "Unrelated to profitability, (Ontario) taxes automatically favor large profitable, capital-intensive firms and penalize small and medium-sized firms.

The report contended taxes favor large firms because they are not related to profit and loss and economies of scale tend to make the real cost of these taxes lighter on bigger companies.

The report recommended payroll-tax exemptions for firms with annual payrolls under \$6,000,000 and urges municipal governments to roll back local taxes for small businesses.

Another report released by Statistics Canada noted that firms with fewer than 20 employees, accounted for 60 per cent of lost jobs in the first half of this year.

According to Catherine Swift, vice-president for research and chief economist of the Canadian Federation of Independent businesses, the worst is yet to come for Ontario.

According to the Federal Business Development Bank, 80 per cent of all additional new jobs created in Canada over the past several years have come from the small-business sector.

Communities like Halton Hills exist because of small businesses and firms operating as satellites outside of the dense manufacturing zone of Metropolitan Toronto.

They provide much-needed jobs, job security, the opportunity for residents to remain in their hometowns for employment and an almost guaranteed tax-base for the communities they serve.

The alarm has been sounded. Hopefully, those in power will respond to the alarm before the emergency gets even more out of control.

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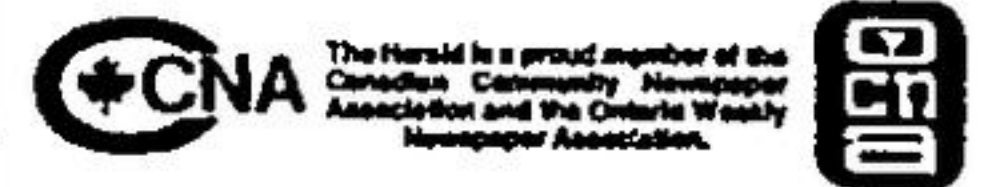
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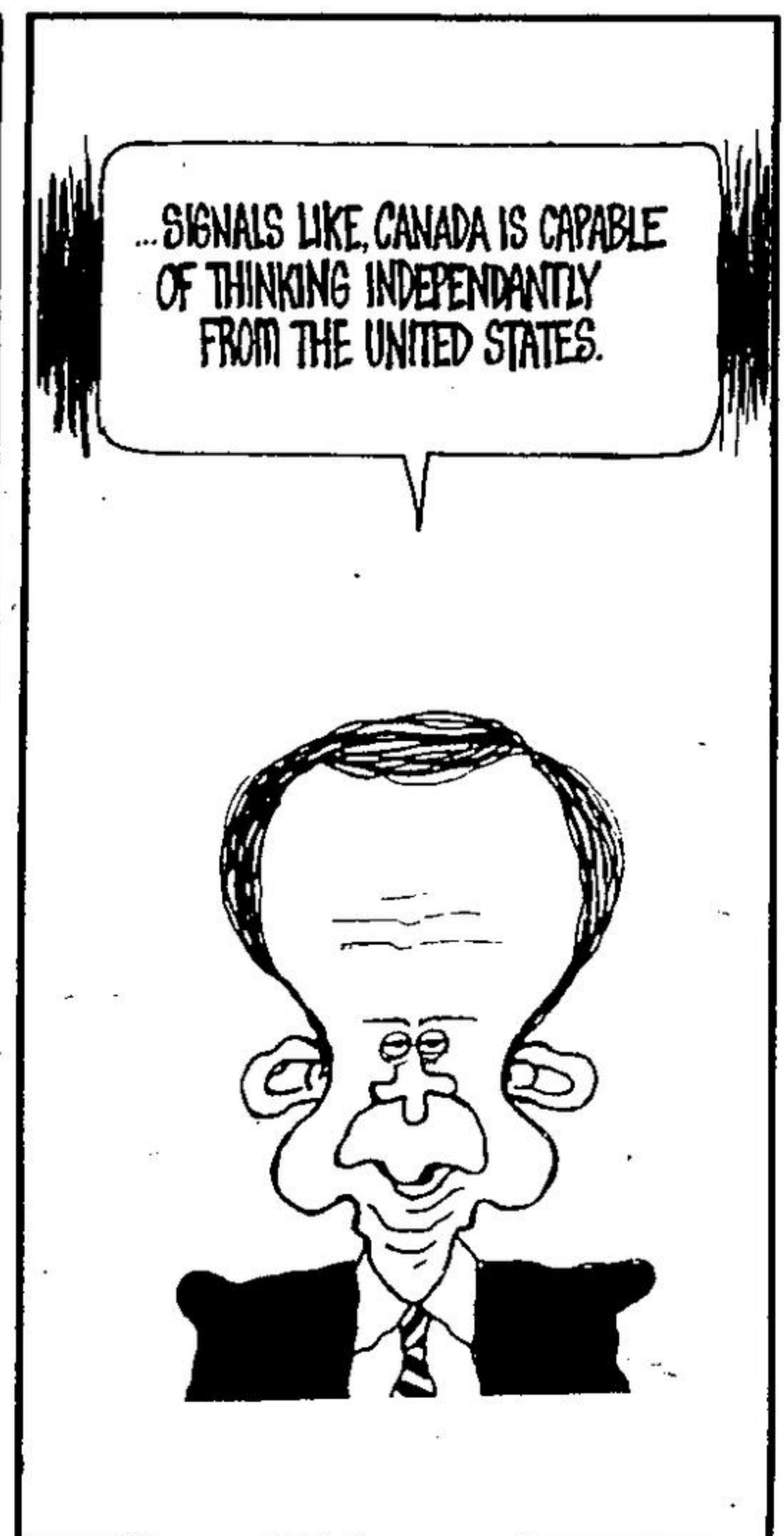
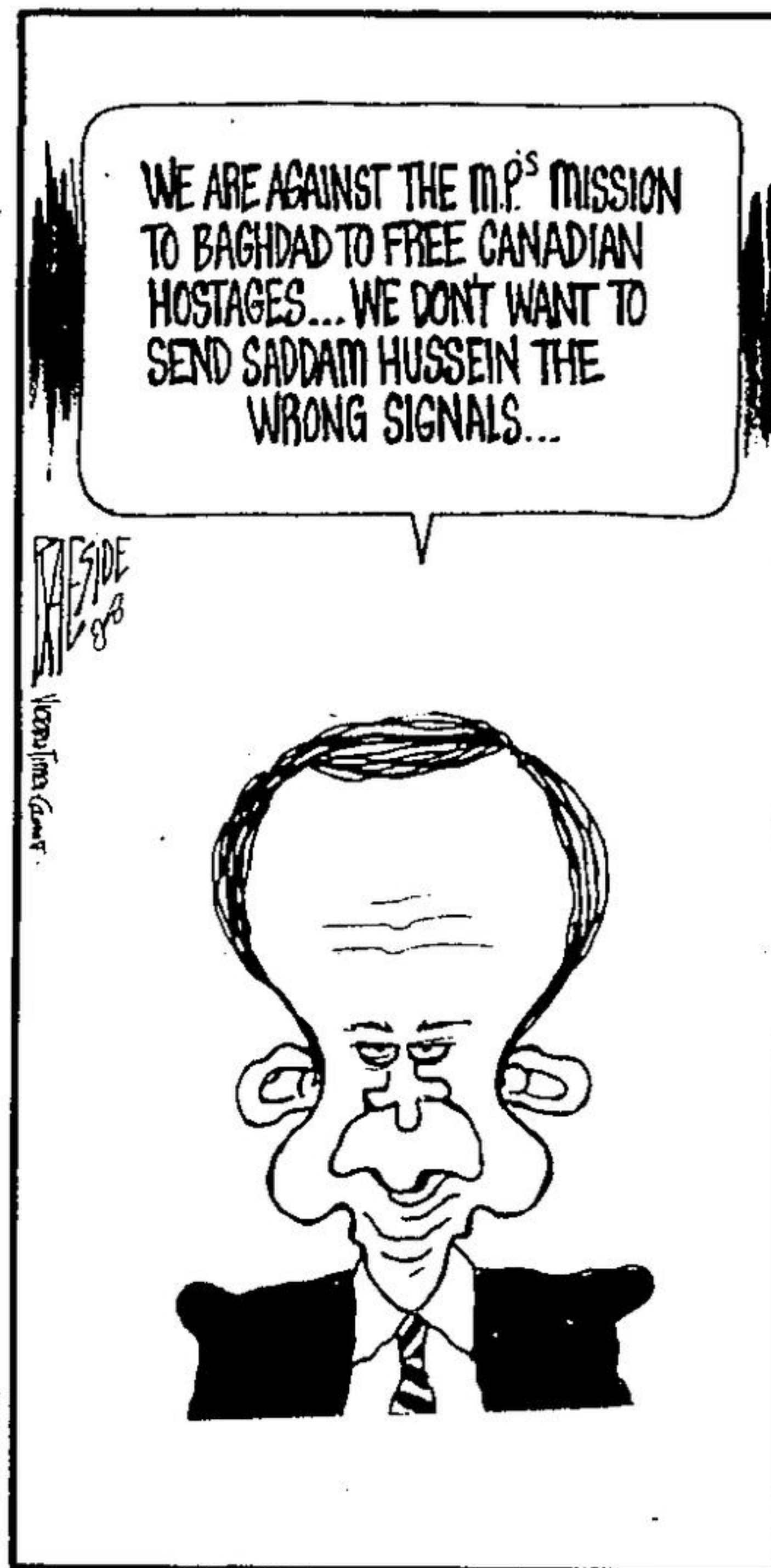
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Peoples Forum

Letter of the Week

A big black hole

Dear Editor:

Canada - great country - fabulous riches - good people. A summation of a recent visitor from Europe. An accurate view with which most of us agree.

Yet, the temper of the times is forboding, without the touches of gentle reassurance.

The progressive sector in Quebec is resolutely moving towards "liberty, equality, fraternity." No Meech Lake monster nor the planting of captains in commerce, finance and industry at the head of the movement will alter it's direction or slow it's pace.

The Mohawks have spoken with clarity, amplifying their voices by actions that were heard from coast to coast. They do not accept the view that the land thievery that was conducted in the name of the Royal Houses of Europe is etched in stone.

The land ownership issue is unresolved in our time.

Rampant western alienation is circling it's wagons around the empty rethoric of Preston Mann-

ing and the reform movement.

These developments are of grave concern to many of us because the future of our country is at stake. The declining economy will give a further edge to the temper of the times to become more nasty and dangerous.

Our local MP - Garth Turner - prefaced one of his recent fulminations, "what are these clowns in Ottawa up to?" A good question, to which many citizens would like an answer. Let's hear it, what is Mulroney and his band of clowns up to?

Ottawa, our national capital should be bubbling with sparkling ideas that bind this nation closer together from coast to coast. Instead it does not matter from which region of the country you look, Ottawa seems to be a big black hole into which tax dollars disappear faster than you can shout "hold it."

Yours truly,
Albert A. Tuche
Georgetown.

Professor disputes students claims

To the Editor:

A reply to Garry J. Murdock, "Adjusting to university life," The Herald, Wednesday, November 14, 1990.

All may be well that ends well, but I think that you have done some damage along the way. Your conclusions are positive, but...

Professors do give a damn: they can and they do. But about getting your homework done? Surely that is a matter for the student, and not the professor.

Usually there are very good reasons for test and assignment dates (for example, Ryerson has policies which rule out major tests during the last two weeks of a semester). When some students ask for an extension of a deadline, they might consider the effect on those students who, given the same number of hours in a day, have planned their time carefully in order to complete the assignment to meet the due date.

Isn't it interesting that your university life could be summed up by one incident in first semester? Are you stereotyping? Have you had one bad experience

and blamed an entire group? Can you conclude that because one professor on one occasion threw garbage into a desk that all Ryerson professors throw garbage into desks on a regular basis and that they don't care what students think of them? Has no professor, in your three years at Ryerson, done anything to exhibit a positive role model? And by the way, I find it difficult to believe that, on the other hand, no high school teacher has ever, on any occasion, thrown garbage in an inappropriate place, and that, therefore, all high school teachers care what students think of them.

"He just teaches the lessons and goes back to this office or goes home." Some Ryerson professors are women. Men or women: do you know what they do when they go back to an office or go home? Do you know the number of hours that must be spent preparing for a lesson? How many lessons are taught in a week? How many hours are spent evaluating and reporting students' progress? How much

time is spent on administrative activities within each department? I could go on, but you may feel that you are not qualified to make such statements without adequate research.

Because of cutbacks in educational spending, I teach about 160 students in a semester (up from about 100 in previous years). I know them by name, not by number, but it's not easy. I consider their different backgrounds and characteristics; I have never thought in terms of "Kevins, Alices, Andrews."

You say that you don't mean to give a negative image of university. I suggest to you that you have indeed given a very negative view of university professors and that you have failed to give a "basic understanding" of university students.

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