

THE HALTON HILLS **WEEKEND**

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Review practice

Regardless of whether you approve or disapprove of Dr. J.M. Dunn's actions in falsely billing OHIP to prove a point, he did make his point.

There is a flaw in a system.

How can a system justify the reimbursement of a heart-lung transplant — done by a GP in a home using local anesthetic — just because all the paper work is filled in correctly.

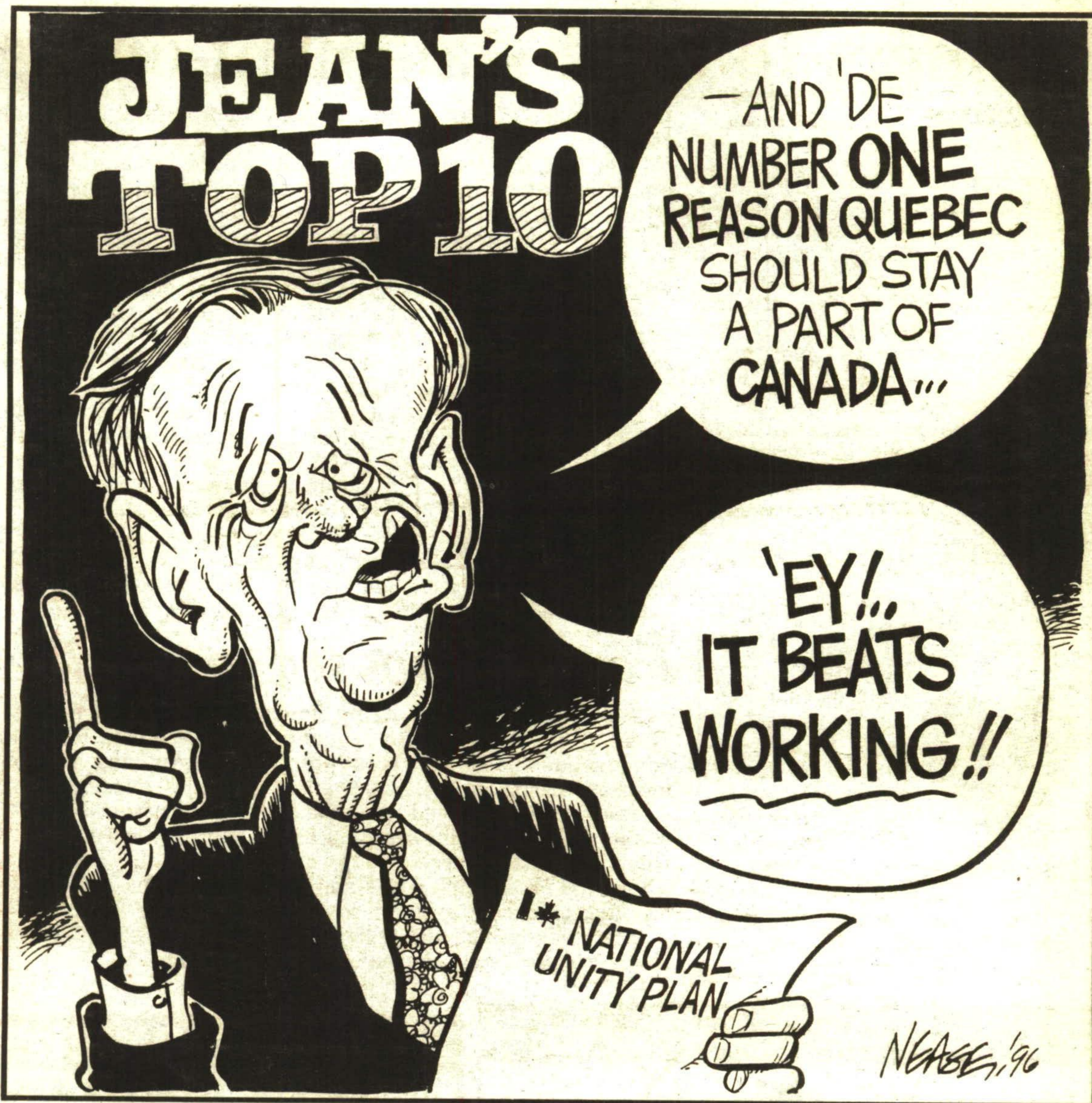
Has OHIP become such a bureaucracy that it routinely rubberstamps all doctors' billings?

A heart-lung transplant is not a common procedure, and that at least should have twigged further scrutiny by OHIP officials, especially when it was not performed at a "major hospital."

While we believe that the vast majority of doctors are ethical and honest in their billing practices, this flawed system obviously provides opportunity for fraud to exist.

However, do not we agree there should increased policing of OHIP billings as the Premier Mike Harris suggests — making the doctors the villains is not the answer. Doctors have been complaining for years about the billing system, and the government should start being more receptive to their concerns.

For now, we recommend that OHIP review its payment procedures immediately so that billings like Dr. Dunn's won't become front page news again.



Our Readers Write

Lung Association closing in on goal

Dear editor:

As volunteer president of the Lung Association — Halton Region, I extend my thanks to all who have contributed to the 1995 Christmas Seal appeal. However, the electronic gremlins have struck again resulting in the computer mailing program sending out additional and in some cases unnecessary requests for donations.

The Lung Association apologizes for this problem, however, these gremlins have given us the opportunity to say thank you to all who have so generously donated to the 1995 Christmas Seal appeal.

In this time of economic stress, this generosity has taken us to within \$25,000 of our target of \$139,000. Much as we are delighted with every donation no matter how large or small, we need to

reach our target to continue with our Lungs are for Life School program, asthma education and Asthma Day Camps.

A sincere thank you again to all who have donated and to those who have not as yet, please help us to reach our goals. Thank you for your consideration because if you can't breathe, nothing else matter.

Dr. John Kirby
volunteer president

The response was great in the community

Dear editor:

Re: 1995 Christmas Hamper and Toy Program

On behalf of the Salvation Army, The Georgetown Kinsmen Club, and the Georgetown Lioness (Good Neighbours) club, I would like to express my thanks to you and your co-workers at *The Independent/Free Press* for your kind contribution of

toys towards our 1995 Christmas Hamper and Toy Program.

Through the collective efforts and generosity of many people and groups, more than 120 needy families in Georgetown received a food hamper, and more than 200 children had new toys and presents to open on Christmas day.

While the need in our community is great, the response has been even greater, proving once again that in working together, there is hope!

Thank you again for your kindness and your support.

David Kennedy
Captain/Pastor
Salvation Army
Georgetown

SIDS is grateful to Charley Fitzwhiskey's

The following letter was filed with this newspaper for publication.

Dear Charley's:

On behalf of the Toronto Chapter of the Canadian Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, I would like to thank Charley Fitzwhiskey's Tap & Eatery for their generous support of our foundation again this year with the annual Breakfast with Santa.

Once again this year their hard work has paid off making this our most successful breakfast, raising our goal of

\$3,000. And if that isn't enough, the smiles on all the children's faces who attended should be.

I would especially like to thank Darlene Moran and Dave Eisen for their commitment to our cause and to all the staff who generously donate their time to help out with the event.

It is our dream at the foundation that researchers will someday find a cause and a cure for this mysterious killer of babies, known to us as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Of every 500 babies born each year, one of them will not make it to their first

birthday. This fact makes SIDS the number one killer of babies between one week and one year, across Canada.

As a chapter, we provide support to the parents and families of SIDS babies and work to provide education, to both lay people and medical and health professionals. Your continued support helps us to reach one step closer to our goal and our dream.

Karen Moore
Fundraising coordinator
Cdn Foundation for the
Study of Infant Deaths,
Toronto Chapter

A TED-BIT will return next weekend

RR2



Here's how you can look years younger ... hang around with very old people.

Did you know?

Agriculture is an important contributor to the economy in Halton with total sales of more than \$130 million for our region alone. Halton has the fourth largest acreage in raspberries in Ontario; is the sixth largest producer of greenhouse flowers in Ontario; Halton ranks eighth in strawberry acreage in Ontario; and is eighth in the number of horses in Ontario. The 43 dairy farms produce enough milk and cheese to satisfy the needs of either the towns of Halton Hills or Milton.

Halton Federation of Agriculture