



# COMMENT

## Heart of matter lost in blood donor protest

A cancelled blood donor clinic at E.C. Drury High School and the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf Friday proved that politics and compassion can perch on two different sides of the fence.

The clinic was cancelled due to a policy barring any third person -- including interpreters for the deaf -- from being present during a tough interview portion of the blood-screening process.

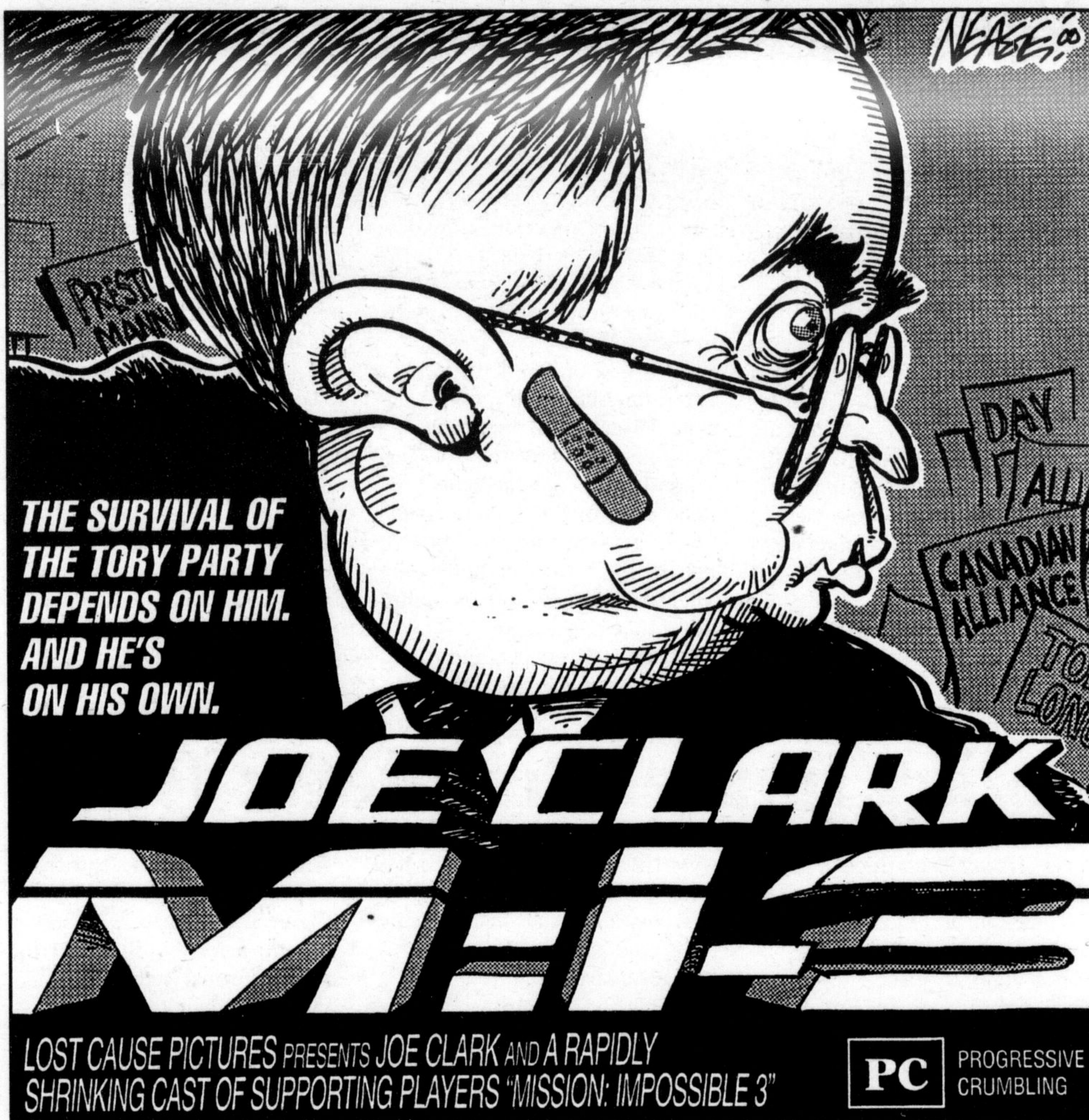
A pen and paper alternative was offered to deaf staff and students. It was rejected for fear that those who primarily speak American Sign Language may not adequately grasp the English questions. And the hearing school also refused to participate out of respect for the deaf student's objective.

The clinic ended up being replaced by a student protest.

To help, Canadian Blood Services is lobbying for the nation-wide removal of the third-party regulation for deaf donors. We support the initiative. But in the meantime, the ones losing out are those whose lives depend on blood.

A higher road could have been taken. Staff and students could have protested the regulation through an information campaign, using the clinic as a forum. Hearing students, and deaf students who felt comfortable with written English questions still could have donated.

Life hangs in the balance here. Compassion could have scored more points.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Milton Hydro the best, says couple

Dear Editor:

A note of gratitude to Milton Hydro. This past Sunday evening (May 21) after midnight I went down to the kitchen fridge for a glass of orange juice. It was dark -- no lights in the fridge or the room. We were without electricity.

My first thought was of our cattle behind electric fences. What hi-jinx would they get up to if they tested their ability to escape?

We noticed none of our neighbours were affected.

It was just our farm without power, so

a phone call was made to Milton Hydro. Kyle Gervais phoned us back twice in a very helpful manner. He and Steve Kucherawy assessed the problem and determined it was a defective power transformer.

Within a two-hour period they had a new transformer installed, the crew departed, and the situation was salvaged.

Thanks so much, Milton Hydro, for great service on a holiday weekend. Milton Hydro you're the best.

**Judy Marsh  
Windrush Farm  
Campbellville**

### Milton owes Dr. Bob Nosal our gratitude

Dear Editor:

I would like the 5,000 or so residents who voted not to chlorinate Milton's drinking water in the last municipal election/referendum to read today's Toronto Star regarding the Walkerton E. coli contamination.

A few years ago, Halton Region's medical officer of health, Dr. Bob Nosal, was insisting Milton's drinking supply receive adequate doses of chlorine to prevent an outbreak of this deadly bacteria.

Many residents felt they should decide how the Town maintains our fresh drinking water supply and scoffed at Dr. Nosal's medical opinions.

I had a letter published by the editor just prior to the election stating that I was putting my faith in science and not public opinion. I'm pleased Halton Region stood firm with the decision to chlorinate and I believe everyone in Milton owes Dr. Nosal a tremendous amount of

gratitude for his leadership.

The Walkerton tragedy was the result of malfunctioning equipment and failure to follow notification procedures to the Public Health Department and the Ministry of the Environment. The underlying message is that without chlorinating a water supply and constantly monitoring test results of samples on a timely basis, bacteria can grow and infect the municipal drinking water in a very short time. Heavy

rainfall this month is also a factor raising the level of bacteria in well water.

Undoubtedly, Milton's reservoirs and underground aquifers will also be affected.

We need the Region to assure residents that adequate sampling has been conducted and ensure a similar outbreak does not happen in Milton.

**Jim LaFontaine  
Lyndsay Court**

### Help for older drivers available

Dear Editor:

We at the War Amps have noted media coverage lately regarding motor vehicle licences for older drivers.

Last year the War Amps instituted the successful Mature Driving Program for our members, wives or widows. It offers tips, an instructional video, material on the written test and refresher training in conjunction with a national dri-

ver education school. If a person fails the course, we recommend they give up their driver's licence.

We make out instructional material available at cost (\$15) to any seniors group. To order, call toll-free 1-800-250-3030 or fax toll-free at 1-800-219-8988 or e-mail communications@waramps.ca.

**Cliff Chadderton, chief  
executive officer  
War Amps**



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### Pud

by Steve Nease

