

# Letters

## Medicare endangered by the free trade deal

Dear Editor:

A big question in the federal election is: Will our social programs such as medicare be in great danger from this trade deal?

The answer is a definite yes if you believe in logical consequences. The Mulroney trade deal will give us a "level playing field with the Americans." If this deal goes through, the manufacturing and servicing companies that haven't already moved to the U.S. will have to reduce their costs of production to the same level

as the U.S.-based companies they are competing with.

Since U.S. companies do not have to pay taxes for medicare, universal old age pensions and other social services such as public education, costs are lower.

There will be intense pressure on any elected government to reduce our tax level to that of the American system.

The logical consequences of the trade deal will be a reduced tax base and, therefore, reduced social services such as medicare and old age

pensions.

Decent wages and working conditions will also be at risk in order to compete with the Americans.

Those who can set up shop in the U.S. and carry on their business there do not see this trade deal as a threat. Ordinary workers, including farmers, will not be able to move to the U.S. but will have to cope as best as they can.

Great for big business but a disaster for Canada. Stop it while you can.

Richard Austin  
Elmvale



## Through The Lens

by Dave Gravelle

### Media star

There are normal people, abnormal people - and then there are broadcasters.

That may not be a psychiatrist's overview of today's society, but it sure is mine after I attended a reunion of jocks and broadcast journalists on a recent weekend.

Before I joined CKCO-TV two years ago, I was the news director of CJSJ SuperCountry Radio in Estevan, Saskatchewan.

But this story begins before that. The location was London, Ontario. More specifically it was on the campus of Fanshawe College. This is where I entered one of the premiere broadcast journalism programs in Canada to learn how to be a trenchcoat correspondent reporting from places like the Gaza Strip and Nicaragua.

As you know, I ended up in the war-torn area of Penetanguishene and Midland.

In my second year as news-sports director of 6X-FM (CIXX-FM), the learning tool for all broadcasting students, my love for this medium

blossomed. And that's where I became "a broadcaster."

Broadcasters all share the gift of gab. Their questions can be poignant if they are on the news side of the business. Or, if they are spinning discs, they make can you laugh on a whim.

But talk - talk, talk, talk - that's what they do best! Broadcasters wake you up in the morning and put you to bed at night. They work the strangest hours.

As a broadcaster, I have friends in the business. Makes sense! But it's hard to admit at times, because the guys and gals behind the mikes seldom have scruples - or inhibitions, for that matter. They are forever creeping along the line of

good taste, all in the name of entertainment or crucifixion of some political aspirant.

Broadcasters, especially on TV, are sometimes looked at with celebrity status. Just look at Mary Hart or Geraldo Rivera.

But I do have to tell you, they are just like you and me.

My visit to London was to celebrate the 10th anniversary of 6X-FM and catch up on the gossip. Broadcasters from Victoria to Charlottetown were there.

And that was dangerous!

After being thrown out of three hotel parties by London's boys in blue - for eating pizza too loud - I know we kept up the tradition of broadcasters from coast to coast.

## Thanks to Tim

Dear Editor:

The Midland Public Library wishes to gratefully acknowledge the contribution of Tim Horton Donuts, which generously supplied Tim-

bits on a daily basis to us during Ontario Library Week.

Yours truly,  
Mike Saddy  
Chief Librarian,  
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