

More Mail

Reader refuses to be 'second-class'

Dear Editor:

As one of the second class citizens whom the Mulroney Government has blessed with a "supermailbox" I must take exception to some of the comments made in the letters written by Mitchell Smith and J. Douglas Hoyes in the October 31st issue of the Weekender.

In his glorification of the "supermailbox", Mr. Smith asks what could be more convenient than having the parcels delivered, rather than getting a card and having to stand in those ridiculous lines at the Post Office.

What Mr. Smith fails to mention is that for each group of "supermailboxes", there are only two boxes set aside for the delivery of parcels. Should there be more than two parcels slated for delivery to a group of "supermailboxes", two lucky individuals are accorded the "convenience" of walking from their homes to their "supermailboxes" to pick up their parcels while the rest must wait till the following day at which time they must stand in one of those ridiculous lines at the Post Office.

Should a supermailbox holder be the recipient of a registered letter, they are given no choice but to stand in line at the Post Office and pick up their letter.

The answer to Mr. Smith's question as to what could be more convenient than having a parcel delivered to a "supermailbox" is simple — having a parcel delivered to your home as it is done for the first-class citizens of this country.

In his letter, Mr. Hoyes supports the proposal by Canada Post to open retail postal franchises. If the farming out of services to the Sub-Post Office located in the local drug store is any indication of how these franchises would operate, I for one am dead set against it.

Instead of having to stand in one of those ridiculous lines at the Post Office along with all the other supermailbox patrons, I must now join my fellow supermailbox holders in even longer lines at the local drug store along with the store's regular customers.

Mr. Hoyes is also mistaken when he states that Canada Post is prohibited by law from offering other services to increase their revenue.

A few years ago, Canada Post entered into an experiment known as consumer post. During this experiment, Canada Post customers were able to order items from the Consumers Distributing catalogue and have them

delivered to their local Post Office.

This experiment was hugely successful but was abandoned by Canada Post as a result of pressure from big business. Endeavours such as this and other money-making ventures should be used by Canada Post to help reduce their deficit rather than cutting back basic services to part of the population.

Contrary to what Mr. Smith may think I do not feel that my attitude is one of "somebody else gets something that I don't, now I want it to!" I feel that through my tax dollars and my investments in stamps and other Canada Post products, I am paying for a service and expect that this service be equitable for all Canadians.

I would ask the Mitchell Smiths and J. Douglas Hoyes of this country if they think it is right that a certain segment of the population must pay the price in order that the rest may enjoy the full benefits of the Canadian Postal System?

Where is the fairness when a person spends the extra money to send me a Special Delivery letter which is supposed to receive prompt and efficient handling, only to have it lie around in a "supermailbox" waiting to be picked up?

Surely in this case, Canada Post is guilty of fraud by charging for a service that is not provided.

Hopefully, the pressures of RAM and other such groups will convince our politicians to take another look at the discriminatory practices of Canada Post and force them to treat us all as first-class citizens.

Pat Procenko
Markham

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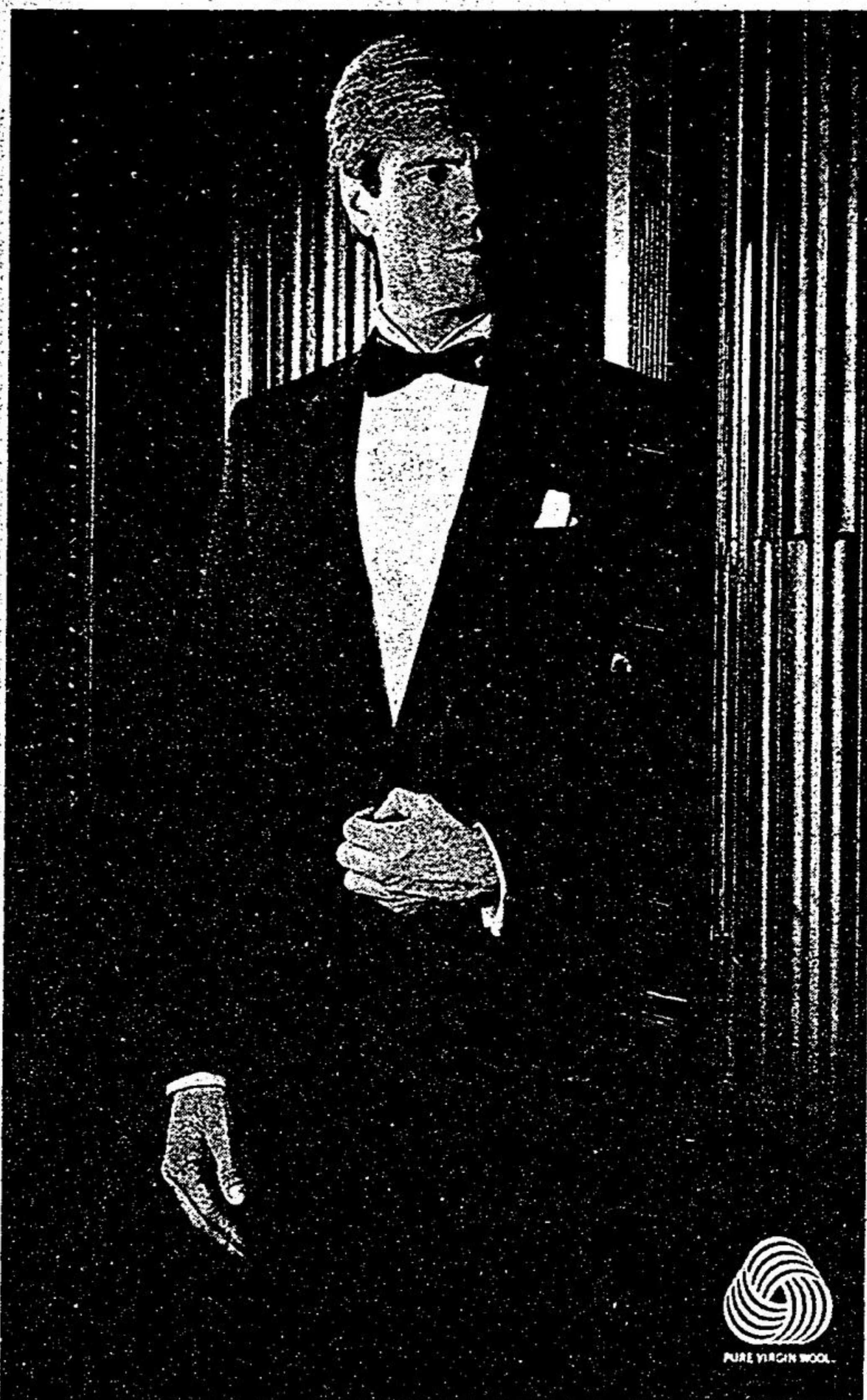
If you have a beef or want to pat someone on the back, sit down and write a letter to the Weekender.

Deadline is noon Thursday prior to publication. Names may be withheld on request at the discretion of the editor. Under no circumstances will anonymous letters be published.

The editor also reserves the right, due to space requirements and in the interest of conciseness, to edit letters.

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