

Letters

Government has polarized province over health care

Dear Editor,
 "Don't go to hospital alone, MDs warn." This is a headline in the Toronto Sunday Star, dated January 29 by Leslie Papp. If what Papp says is true, and we must assume that it is, it means that any person who has to stay in the hospital must bring a relative or friend to work shifts to see that the person gets reasonable care. If you have read

Papp's article, you should be ashamed of the state our much-vaunted health care system has become. This puts health care on par with some third world countries. I wonder what would happen if Mike Harris required hospital care; would he bring along relatives or friends to make sure he got adequate care, gets his sheets changed, help him to the washroom and even

maybe feed him? While admitting some of the measures his government have taken needed attention, he has slashed the most necessary of all services beyond the bone and if nothing is done to relieve the situation, I can see a complete breakdown of our health care system. Soon after his government was elected, Mike Harris started to rule by decree,

ignoring the usual custom of debate. Just lately the government decided to push through legislation making Toronto one big city without any reference to the wishes of the inhabitants, even stating that they would push it through without argument. Another example of this government's arrogance. In Mike Harris' democracy you don't allow opposition.

During my 40 years in Canada, I have never experienced a government that has polarized a province so completely as this one. The gap between the "haves" and "have-nots" is forever widening.

One could argue that the majority of the people still support this government, but who are the majority? In the main they are industry, business and people who gain by the policies of the government. His "carrot" of income tax cuts doesn't really "fly." According to a recent report a person who has a taxable income of \$10,000 would benefit by 98 cents a week, a total of \$54.88 per year. How would this amount help rejuvenate industry and provide more jobs? Jobs have been lost through industry downsizing, takeovers and amalgamations, not forgetting the record number of bankruptcies. There is no real need for industry to downsize but of course, one must remember that their shareholders have to be kept happy by increased dividends.

Our health care system is the most important of them all and by these enormous cuts hospital care is being brought down to unacceptable levels. I hate to think what will happen to this province if we have to endure more years of Harris' "democratic dictatorship."

Adam Johnstone
 Stouffville

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

JULIE ANDERSON

Julie Anderson and her Unionville Curling Club rink foursome of vice Christy Anderson, second Stacey Smith and lead Katrina Sale came away \$1,000 richer this past weekend.

Entered in a \$1,000 cash bonspiel against some of the top teams in the province, Anderson's rink captured the main event by downing current provincial champion Alison Goring's Bayview Curling Club's foursome at the Unionville Curling Club on Saturday. A former student at Markville Secondary School, the 21-year-old Anderson is presently a third-year student at Trent University.

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