

# PROF FEARS DEAL WILL BRING STANDARDIZED EDUCATION

OTTAWA (CUP) - The Canada-U.S. free trade agreement signed October 3 means university education in the two countries will eventually become standardized, says an opponent to the deal.

University of Ottawa political science professor and Council of Canadians Policy Chair John Trent said that since the agreement helps more Canadian professionals enter the U.S. service industry, the result will be a trend toward the "harmonization" of qualification examinations, potentially resulting in a common education system.

Trent said a recent agreement between the Royal Architecture Society in Canada and its American counterpart that standardizes professional requirements in the two countries will likely be echoed in other fields, like medicine and engineering.

And while he admits it has some fine architects, Trent said with its small population relative to the U.S., Canada will not be the one that determines the standards.

One of the few sectors in which the U.S. has a trade surplus is the service industry and Canada is a prime target for expansion, Trent said.

Once the merging of Canadian and U.S. professional is complete, he said it won't be long before the two countries share labour unions and, eventually, crime rates.

"The danger we face is the Americanization of Canada," Trent said. "We're opening the door to the importation of American standards and culture."

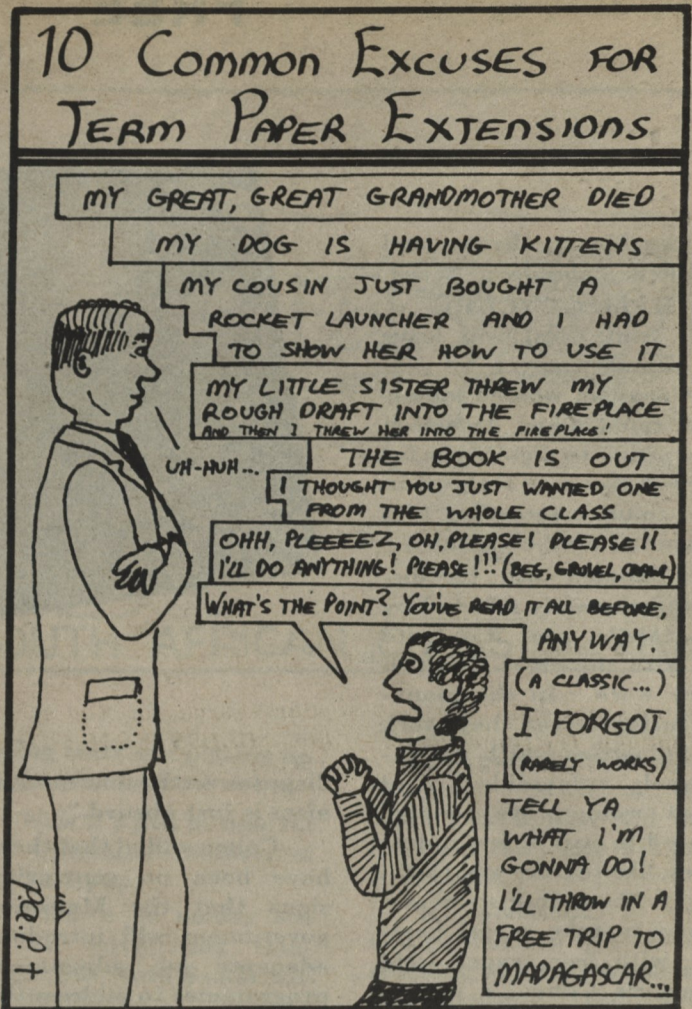
Trent is a spokesperson for the Pro-Canada Network, an umbrella group of opponents to free trade

started last March, which claims a total membership of 10 million.

It comprises 15 trade organizations, including the Assembly of First Nations, the Canadian Labour Congress, the Church Coalition for Economic Justice, the Canadian Teachers' Federation and the National Farmers' Union.

The goal of Pro-Canada Network, Trent said, is to turn Canadian public opinion against the free trade deal, which it believes will mean the large-scale loss of Canadian jobs and sovereignty.

Funded by a \$1.5 million grant from the Canadian Labour Congress, the organization holds debates and advertizes in the media to get its message across to the public.



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