

the Dalhousie Gazette

Volume 112
Number 17
January 31, 1980

Poll predicts Liberal landslide

by the staffs of the Dal Gazette and King's Watch. Article by Pam Berman, Martin Cohn and Margaret Little.

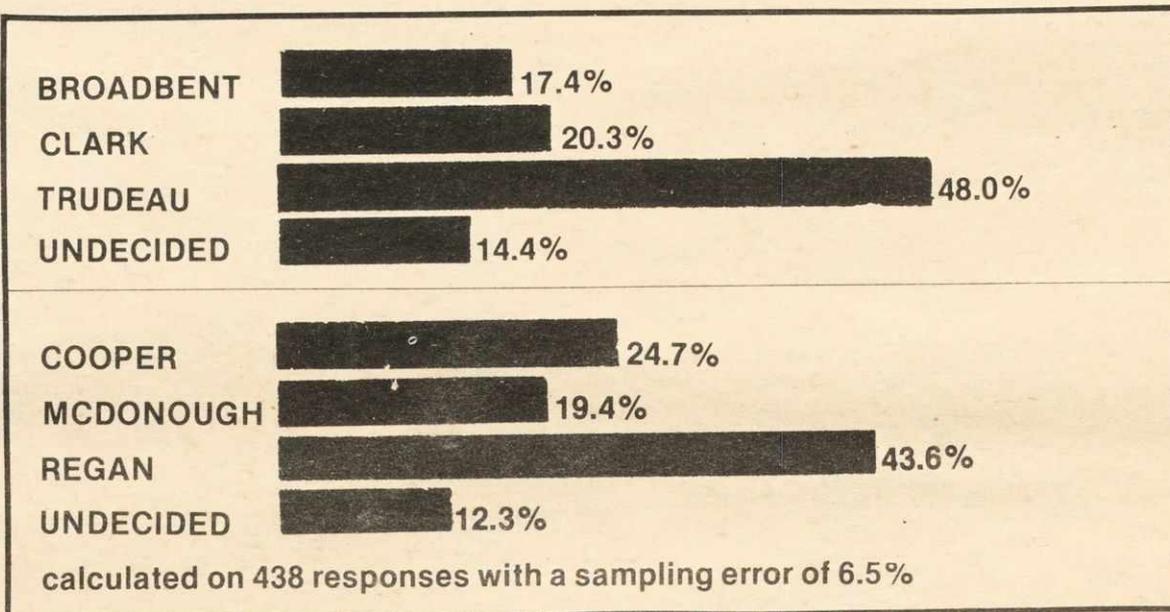
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Halifax Liberal candidate Gerald Regan would win by a margin of 19 percentage points if an election were held today, according to the results of a Dalhousie Gazette—King's Watch poll.

When eligible voters were asked how they would vote if the election were held the next day, 44 per cent said they would vote for Regan, 25 per cent for Conservative incumbent George Cooper, and 19 per cent for NDP candidate Alexa McDonough. Twelve per cent of voters said they were undecided.

On the national front, 48 per cent of voters said they felt Liberal Leader Pierre Trudeau would be the best national leader. Prime Minister Joe Clark polled 20 per cent, and NDP leader Ed Broadbent received 17 per cent, with 14 per cent of voters undecided.

The poll was conducted during the week of January 21-28 in the federal riding of Halifax.



Eligible voters were selected on a random basis according to standard polling procedures. An outside polling expert advised the Gazette on the sampling method.

The poll was designed to have a statistical accuracy of plus or minus 6.5 percentage points. So while Regan's clear lead in the standings would be unaffected by the sampling error, the margin separating Conservative candidate Cooper and NDP candidate

McDonough is not significant enough to permit any firm conclusions to be drawn about the second-place spot.

McDonough's reaction to the poll summed up her optimism about the close results concerning her and Cooper. She said that on the basis of door-to-door canvassing, "my sense on the doorstep is that we have overtaken Cooper."

Regan, obviously pleased with the results, said he intends to continue with the same campaign style he has

followed to date.

Mr. Cooper said the results of the poll did not disturb him.

"If the poll is accurate it only reflects the state of opinion on the day the poll was taken", said Cooper. "I feel the momentum has been swinging towards the government for the last ten days now. And the events of last night (The situation with the Canadian Embassy in Iran) will improve the perception of the party and the leader, because

it has been a problem of perception and not of reality. All I can say is that the only poll that counts is the one on election day."

The Gazette-Watch poll confirms findings of a recent Gallup poll on voters' preference for the national leaders. Results of the Gallup poll gave Trudeau 49 per cent, Clark 28 per cent, and Broadbent 20 per cent. An earlier poll by the CTV television network gave similar results.

The poll was designed to have a 95 per cent confidence level: 95 times out of 100, the sampling error would be within 6.5 per cent. Twenty students from Dalhousie University and King's College conducted phone interviews with 438 eligible voters in the Halifax area who agreed to respond.

They were asked, "If the election was tomorrow who would you vote for in the Halifax riding?"

Regan polled 191 VOTES, Cooper 108, and McDonough 85, with 54 voters undecided.

Voters were also asked: "Who do you feel would be the best national leader?" Trudeau was favored by 210 voters, Clark by 89, and Broadbent by 76, with 63 voters undecided.

CKDU, Council battle over referendum

inside the Gazette

- Tuition on hikes soon p.3
- Unemployed occupation p.7
- Camerata good combination p.21
- Tales of a Road Trip p.27



by Paul Clark

"We would like more honest politics from student council, even if they must make painful decisions", said Mike Wile, director of CKDU, referring to council's decision on Sunday night to table a motion to have a referendum on CKDU's proposal to go FM city-wide and instead have a plebiscite on the issue.

Wile was especially critical of council's decision to table the referendum motion early in the debate, not allowing the subject to be discussed properly.

"They took the attitude that our opinion didn't count a hell of a lot."

The council executive's "vicious" behaviour during the meeting "shocked" Wile and he said the "nastiness" of the affair was expressed in president Dick Matthews and vice-president Graham Wells's challenge of the chair's ruling on the order of presentation of business dealing with CKDU.

Wile said he does not accept the council executive's argument that there is not enough information on the cost of CKDU's proposal. He

said there is agreement the cost would be between \$50,000 and \$75,000, about half of which would have been received if the proposed referendum had gone through. Council could put up the rest of the money. Wile claimed renovations in the SUB cafeteria and the Grawood indicate the money is there.

Tom Ozere, another member of CKDU, said he was angry at the "machinations" of the council executive and their drawing up the plebiscite "10 minutes" before the meeting.

"They seem to be afraid of making decisions and have put stumbling blocks in our way for some time now. It's embarrassing because Dick and Graham ran on a platform of improved student services."

Matthews, on the other hand, charged CKDU tried to sneak their referendum through council.

He said the council executive met with CKDU prior to the council meeting on Sunday and CKDU agreed to the wording of the plebiscite the executive had drawn up. He said consequently he was surprised to see Jim Wentzell

make a motion for a referendum on behalf of CKDU.

Matthews said the CKDU proposal began at Matthews' request after he returned from a National Union of Students' conference in May. He said he did not hear from CKDU again on the matter until the end of November. They attended one council meeting before Christmas and had nothing to present at the January 13 council meeting, saying only that the final figures on the proposal would still be forthcoming.

Treasurer Nancy Tower said CKDU had not put themselves on the council by Friday afternoon and she finally had to contact Martin Sullivan about the matter.

She said council had supported a referendum asking students if they would pay up to six dollars in increased student union fees to pay for CKDU's proposal. She said CKDU did not think students would want to pay that much and asked that they only be requested to pay \$3 per student. Tower said she refused this proposal and that

continued on page 5