

1994: Where were you when...?

by Richard Lim

Hey kids! The year of 1994 is rapidly fading from the memory, joining every single scrap of information your first-term professors put on the blackboard/overhead in that black hole of knowledge better known as the collective semi-consciousness. Before 1994 is lost forever, see how many of these questions you can answer correctly in this nasty-as-all-hell quiz!

1. Jean Chretien:

- (a) is the Prime Minister of Canada.
- (b) intends to fulfill his electoral mandate by radically retooling the military, the social welfare net and the budget using a number of unpopular but necessary measures which he will implement by delegating those duties to his cabinet members.
- (c) maintained an unprecedented level of popular support in the various opinion polls throughout the past year by doing nothing.
- (d) Don't you wish Mulroney had done the same?

2. Lucien Bouchard:

- (a) is the leader of the Bloc Quebecois and a devout Quebec nationalist.
- (b) is married to a Californian who has raised their two children to point to the American flag when asked to what country they belong.
- (c) along with the other PQ members of Parliament, took an oath of loyalty to the Queen of England and to Canada when he was sworn in as an MP.
- (d) could become the president of a nation, if Quebec votes to separate, and if Jacques Parizeau decides he doesn't want it.

3. Preston Manning:

- (a) is the leader of the Reform Party, which holds the third-most seats in the

Canadian Parliament.

(b) leads a party based in western Canada which extols the virtues of the nuclear family, and the need for fiscal restraint culminating in the elimination of the federal deficit.

(c) has been criticized by other Reformers for turning away from the values held by the grassroots party faithful, namely: gun racks, string ties and unilingual cereal boxes.

(d) Everybody who wants his party to sit out the upcoming Quebec referendum campaign, raise your hand.

4. Kim Campbell:

- (a) Who?
- (b) Who?
- (c) Who?
- (d) Oh, yeah! She was the actress who played Billy Crystal's girlfriend in, "Throw Momma from the Train", right?

5. Jacques Parizeau:

- (a) is the premier of Quebec.
- (b) could become the president of a nation, if Quebec votes to separate, and if Lucien Bouchard decides he doesn't want it.
- (c) has said that all he needs is a few Ontarians to step on a *fleur-de-lis* on television, and a separatist victory will be assured.
- (d) Land-grabber? Denial of the land rights of the natives? Disregard for a country's laws and the needs and desires of its citizenry? Isn't that just Saddam Hussein with less hair?

6. Bill Clinton:

- (a) is the President of the United States, and therefore the most powerful entity in the entire world.
- (b) Except for his wife Hillary, the U.S. Congress and Senate, the opinion polls, the media, Japan, the European Union,

Michael Eisner, Rogers Communication and Tim Allen.

(c) fired his surgeon-general, Jocelyn Elders, for stating that masturbation should "perhaps" be taught in schools, and that if it were, the homework would "probably" be difficult to grade.

(d) Wonder why?

7. Newt Gingrich:

(a) is the Republican House majority leader, and therefore third in line for the presidency, after Vice-President Al Gore.

(b) is probably the reason for 7(d).

(c) claims that last year's Republican victories demonstrate the public's overwhelming support for his party's "Contract with America", a document which proposes that children of welfare families should be put in orphanages, despite the fact that less than one-third of those who voted Republican had ever heard of it.

(d) rhymes with, "cute thin-bitch", which is what he thinks of Hillary Rodham Clinton. Great, how I have to apologize to his mommy.

8. Casinos:

(a) Advocates of these legalized gambling facilities claim that the two casinos planned for Halifax and Sydney will increase tourism and raise revenues which can be used to fund social programs.

(b) A casino on Cape Breton Island, one of the most economically-depressed regions in Canada. Good thinking!

(c) Opponents of the casinos claim that they (the casinos, not the opponents) will attract organized crime and prostitution while accruing the majority of their revenues from the pockets of lower-income individuals who may become addicted to gambling.

(d) After all, if you play the slots, you *must* have to pay for sex. And maybe

people shouldn't be allowed to use lawnmowers, either. Hell, you could run over your own foot operating those damn things!

9. Rogers Communications:

(a) in the year's biggest corporate takeover, took control of Maclean-Hunter and thus, 31% of the nation's cable TV subscribers.

(b) is headed by Ted Rogers, not to be confused with that singing cowboy who used to have his own TV show.

(c) has come under fire for introducing new channels to subscribers by using "negative option" marketing *and* by linking the new stations to existing ones, so that if you refuse the new channels you will lose some of the ones you already have.

(d) Hey, c'mon, Ted's Porsche collection needed a new paint job!

10. TSN:

(a) is better known as The Sports Network, a TV station which broadcasts sports events 24 hours a day.

(b) has seen its revenues drop by nearly 70% due to the baseball and hockey strikes.

(c) has resorted to showing darts and bowling during the prime time hours. (No joke.)

(d) Interesting how the "T" stands for "The". The only other station with a similar acronym is TNN, The Nashville Network, which broadcasts a lot of line-dancing. Is there a correlation between TSN and TNN? Discuss.

11. "Dumb and Dumber":

(a) released late last year, it is Jim Carrey's third hit movie in a row, after "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective" and "The Mask".

(b) is mostly excerpts from "Contract with America".

(c) What will they (the movie producers, not the Republicans) call the sequel?

(d) could be used to describe the endless succession of un/authorized biographies outlining the secret and sordid lives of Nicole and/or O.J. Simpson.

12. "Pulp Fiction":

(a) the winner of the Cannes Film Festival's Golden Palm, this was the most violent, vulgar, hilarious and brilliant movie of 1994.

(b) was written and directed by Quentin Tarantino, whose previous writing credits include "Natural Born Killers", "True Romance" and "Reservoir Dogs".

(c) has single-handedly revived the careers of John Travolta and Bruce Willis. Is this a good thing? Discuss.

(d) could be used to describe the endless succession of un/authorized biographies outlining the secret and sordid lives of Nicole and/or O.J. Simpson.

13. The O.J. Simpson story:

(a) was the biggest newsmaker of the year.

(b) single-handedly inspired the creation of three more insipid daytime talk shows hosted by well-dressed, ill-informed know-nothing nobodies.

(c) The media sensationalism and public fascination surrounding the grisly murder case dramatically underscores the ethical and intellectual decline of the North American culture.

(d) Were you one of the 500 million people watching his "getaway" on CNN? Wasn't that great?

SCORING:

Give yourself one (1) point for every question that you actually read in its entirety. Next, write the following sentence on a postcard: "Those who can't read, read the Gazette." Rest assured this sentiment does not apply to you specifically, but rather, you *and your friends*. Deliver this postcard to the Gazette office on the third floor of the SUB.

