

Bland lean and cheap

Letters

We're hungry, and we're bitter. We have been transcribing the ramblings of politicians for days, and the whole process has acted as a catalyst for a new form of anger and cynicism rarely found in our genus.

If you have got the attention span or lust for politics to carry you through our 3-page Rhetoric Supplement, it's not too hard to realize these candidates are serving up the same bland, lean and cheap meal. The only difference is the method of cooking.

Ed Kinley seems to be hiding his party's dreadful track-record in the kitchen behind filler side-dishes. The Liberals dropped a charred, \$80-million nugget on the health care fire, but they haven't even checked the cold-storage to see if there is any wood left to keep the embers glowing.

Do Liberal spin doctors think the electorate is so stupid that they can't identify band-aid remedies for a health care system that their party decimated in 1993? It's embarrassing to sit and watch a man with a history in medicine scramble to fix a problem like that just to get votes.

Kinley was bent on

identifying with students through his stance on the environment. He talks about his party's decisions always having an underlying environmental check and balance. What about the Sydney Tar Ponds? Festering PCB sores on Cape

federal election in 1993. He wanted to retain Canada's social safety net while slashing the deficit. Chretien realized that you can't have your cake and eat it too, and should New Democrats form the government of Nova Scotia, Chisholm will as well. Because of the public affection for balanced budgets and fiscal responsibility, and because of the NDP's yearnings to become a legitimate political force, the NDP will lose its left-wing stance pretty quickly.

PC candidate Tara Erskine has yet to spend the obligatory twenty-eight day waiting period hanging in the political meat locker. She's still raw, and her toeing of the party line shows that she's not ready to get adventurous or out-spoken with politics. Erskine feels she is the obvious choice for student voters because she is young and has student loans hanging over her head. Erskine will only have a chance if she realizes that students don't want rhetoric. They want straight talk and someone who doesn't sound like a puppet for their party's elite.

When you get right down to it, Nova Scotia is stuck with one party in three different packages. Their menus are about as diverse as that hot dog vendor outside the Dome on Saturday nights.

We shouldn't be so mean. We do get a kick out of listening to each party's platforms. But when March 25 rolls around, it will be obvious that election hype and talk amounts to very little. All three candidates are greasing us up with promises, but we all know they're going to chuck us back in the oven for another five years.

JOHN CULLEN
AND GREG MCFARLANE

Breton's face kind of blows that stance out of the water.

Peter Delefos, our NDP candidate, offers a whole lot in the way of a tasty feast, but he doesn't really tell us what's in Colonel Chisholm's secret recipe. He promises that we'll get nothing more than what we can pay for. So, given Nova Scotia's economic state, it looks like meat and potatoes.

Because NDP leader Robert Chisholm has never seen a ledger in his life, he has the luxury of making vague promises about tuition freezes and increased social spending. But he adds a caveat: he "won't add one red cent to the operating deficit of Nova Scotia".

We're glad we can see through this sham. Chisholm sounds an awful lot like Jean Chretien did before he won the

Editorial

Students with disabilities seek equal as Advisor

To the editor,

I am a physically challenged student who has attended Dalhousie since 1993. My heart leapt for joy when I read the headline on page eight of the Dalhousie News, "Kolmer, Shokry receive new appointments".

I prematurely jumped to the conclusion that Ms. Shokry, Dalhousie's "able-bodied" Advisor to Students with Disabilities, had transferred out of the university. Unfortunately, my assumption was too good to be true, as the article went on to explain.

Meanwhile, I intend to keep the faith that some day a person with a disability will be appointed to this position at Dalhousie.

MARY MACDONALD
IDS Program

The Liberals — the lesser of two evils

To the editor,

This letter is in regards to Daniel Clark's March 12 political commentary on Russell MacLellan's silence during the provincial debate. Well, everyone is wondering why Russell MacLellan was caught silent after being asked if he would resign if the budget isn't balanced.

Premier MacLellan was stunned by the question; he was stunned by the complete lack of understanding of the political system from the leader of the opposition, Dr. Hamm, who asked the question. Dr. Hamm's question is equivalent to that of a child on a swing set saying to another, "If you don't spin so high, you have to get off".

After the debate, Mr. MacLellan said that he knew both underdogs would take cheap shots all night. That's all they could do. What do you expect? There exists a party that doesn't want to deal with big business and another that expects people to vote for them because they're going to give them \$50 a year for heating costs! That's less than a dollar a week, something that will collectively make the government lose \$14-million. The PCs might as well be handing out liquor as you go to the voting booths.

I'm not defending the Liberal party's cuts over the last couple of years. There were many which had to be done, and someone had to do it. Basically, when you're voting, you have to look at who is doing the lesser of the evils. I believe that the Liberals need our continued support because what are the PCs going to do?

HUGHIE FRASER

No vote for Kinley

To the editor,

The good Dr. Kinley thinks that the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) should refrain from striking until after the term has been completed, so as not to disrupt life at Dalhousie. How is an undistruptive strike going to be a useful bargaining tool?

The good doctor, an MLA for Halifax-Citadel, must think that the

students of Dalhousie University are brain-dead if he thinks he can score votes with such a stand against his own union. I will be graduating this year, but I support the DFA, and if my graduation has to be postponed in order that the quality of education for future students is not further impaired, so be it. Dr. Kinley, you will never have my vote.

ORIANE LANDRY

Kinley concerned for Dal students in event of a strike

To the editor,

Last week I wrote to express my concerns about the pending faculty strike at Dalhousie. Once again, I urge both sides to settle their differences, or wait until the end of the academic year before taking strike action. There will be no winners if the students lose their year at Dalhousie.

Over the past week I have received phone calls from constituents alarmed about NDP literature blaming Liberals "for dumping on students". This is not true. The Liberal Party instituted the social programs we cherish, such as universal health care and high quality education.

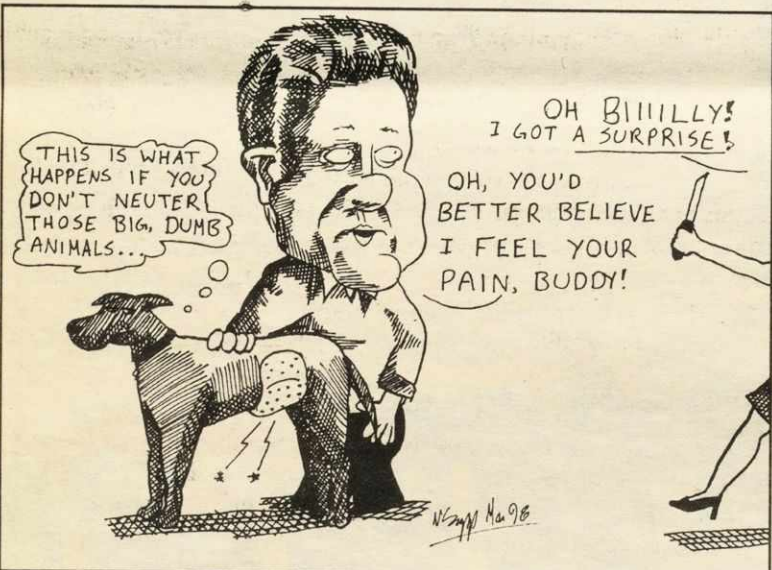
We eliminated the deficit to prevent Nova Scotia from going bankrupt. We did this to protect the future of the health and education system. Any suggestion that we do not care about social programs is false, NDP rhetoric. Instead of being negative, I stress the bright future ahead for Nova Scotia. We are on the brink of an economic boom in this province.

The provincial government will be receiving new revenue from the 30,000 new jobs created in the last four years. The Nova Scotia Government can now re-invest in social programs. For example, last week I pledged my support behind the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education's recommendation to inject \$23-million in university funding.

I feel this funding is necessary to keep tuition costs at their current levels and to help each university provide a higher quality of education. At Dalhousie this means the Board of Governors will have more money to improve faculty salaries, without raising tuition.

University education and health care are important issues to me. I have spent my life as a teacher, a researcher, and a heart surgeon at the Dalhousie Medical School. I have dedicated my life to these endeavours and I will do everything I can to make them better. I ask you to help me accomplish this by voting Liberal on March 24.

ED KINLEY
Liberal candidate, Halifax-Citadel



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Vol. 130 No. 23

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Founded in 1869 at Dalhousie College, the Gazette is Canada's oldest student newspaper. With a circulation of 10,000, the Gazette is published every Thursday by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society, of which all students of Dalhousie University are members. The Gazette exercises full editorial autonomy and reserves the right to refuse or edit any material submitted. All editorial decisions are made collectively by the staff. To become voting staff members, individuals must contribute to three issues. Views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the editors or the collective staff. Unless otherwise noted, all text © 1998 the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society. ISSN 0011-5819

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