

# Why Bob Dole Lost

BY ALAN LEBLANC

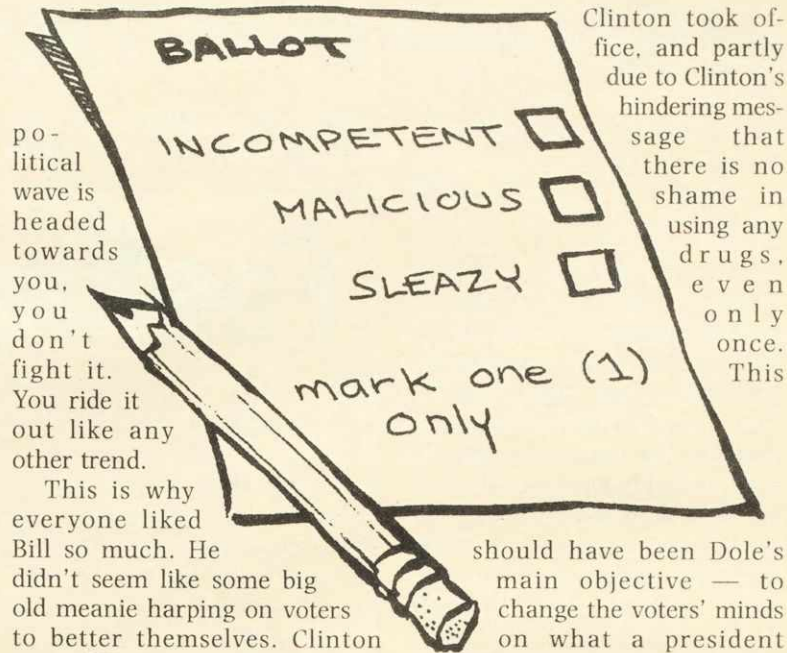
"Where is the outrage? Where is the outrage?"

This is what Bob Dole asked the public days before marginally losing to Bill Clinton two weeks ago. Although having taken a good-natured attitude over his loss, including an appearance on Saturday Night Live, it was definitely a harsh blow to the man. His chances may have seemed slim compared to a slick southerner from Arkansas, but he could have won, and I was just the man to help him.

To attract the major voting group, he needed to appear more sensitive to women's issues. It wasn't a coincidence that American men were split fifty-fifty between the two candidates, but women were seventy-thirty for Clinton. Women don't want to hear talk of anti-abortion and anti-affirmative action laws. Sheesh, that's insane! One thing Dole could have done was associate himself more with his wife. Honestly, who would make a more charismatic lady, Liddy or Hillary?

Bob's idea of a 15 per cent tax cut was also misunderstood. Instead of flashing the magic number every chance he got, he should have professed the rewards after service payments to the deficit were taken care of. He was hoping to try and pull government out of the average American's life.

Ay, there's the rub. People don't mind big government so much it turns out, but what do you expect from such a coddled generation? Politics is only a reflection of the attitude of the electorate. Come on, Bob! When a



political wave is headed towards you, you don't fight it. You ride it out like any other trend.

This is why everyone liked Bill so much. He didn't seem like some big old meanie harping on voters to better themselves. Clinton seemed like he identified with the average Joe or Jane, how he felt their pain and had his own troubles. Heck, Dole was too good to be true. A WW II hero and a clean political record. How could they stand that?

Clinton showed the voters he felt and acted the same way they did. The wife was in financial troubles, dodging the draft, flirting with adultery...wow! This guy is okay. Dole would hold people to standards they couldn't live up to, so let's go with Mr. Easygoing. Clinton even went on MTV and repented that he couldn't finish the whole joint. Wow, the President is cool, man!

Unfortunately, these feel-good tactics do not make for a good leader. Dole should have shamed the President for such a lackadaisical approach to drug control. Cocaine and marijuana use have nearly tripled in the US since

should have been Dole's main objective — to change the voters' minds on what a president should be. Changing his own values would be no good; Bob Dole is who he is.

I wasn't surprised that Clinton won. The US economy is strong, the deficit is way down, and crime is dropping off (although due to tough mayors in major metropolitan areas). The Americans also didn't want a repeat of the Reagan/Bush disaster, where the deficit and size of government exploded. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. This should have been one of Dole's ideologies. I don't think Clinton is a bad president economically, but it is usually the taxpayers and businessmen who determine if an economy is strong. That's why there was a 49 per cent voter turnout. Nobody cared who won. If the economy is okay, so what.

The American people needed Dole. He had something to teach them about integrity.

# Humanism

BY JOHN KALDAS

One of the recurring problems in so called "intellectual" conversations is the notion that everybody's point of view is determined by their race and gender. For example, when discussing certain cases in law courses people often say things like, "Well what do you expect, the judge is a white man." They base their whole analysis, to use the term loosely, upon one superficial piece of information. At other times, people say, "History is racist and sexist because it was all written by European men." There are real problems with such an approach.

To oversimplify people's ideas and to shortcut the examination of an issue by simply hanging one's hat on somebody's race and gender is not a justifiable intellectual process because it demeans all people. The reason we are all demeaned is that this approach takes for granted the absence of imagination, intelligence and compassion in others, and also in oneself. Possibly humanity's three most important characteristics, they allow everyone who will use them to transcend themselves and to act with what I suppose you could call universal wisdom.

A good example of somebody transcending themselves is Roddy Doyle's recent book *The Woman Who Walked Into Doors*. This is a novel which deals with wife abuse; the way it damages families and the way victims cope with it — often by trying to pretend it isn't going on. The author was really concerned that people would say, "What right does a man have to write about wife abuse?" So before it was released he arranged for copies

of it to be distributed in a shelter for battered women. After the battered women read it he went and spoke with them to get their feedback. They all really loved the book and thought it was extremely realistic. They thanked him for writing it and were amazed at how well he was able to capture the experience of being a battered wife.

How was a man able to do this? Naturally, he used his imagination, he used his intelligence, and above all he used his compassion. This isn't rocket science, people have been doing it since before the beginning of civilization. Everyone can transcend their particular circumstances and achieve a higher consciousness, doing so is what makes us human. That's why I think it's so terrible when somebody's thoughts and opinions, even their life's work, are judged and criticized based on the simple fact that he is a "dead white male" or whatever. Nobody is well served when we denigrate humanity to the point where we think that to understand someone, all we need to know about them is the colour of their skin and what they have down their pants.

In an environment such as ours, we are of course well aware of the role race and gender can play in shaping (but not determining) our thoughts and experience; I don't want to deny that. But are we aware of how much else goes into shaping a person? Are we aware of how many joys and hardships are universal? Finally, are we aware of how well the three characteristics mentioned above can bridge the gaps which impair our understanding of one another?

# Oh, Canada!

BY DANIEL CLARK

It is easy to forget who you are when you live next to an identity-sucking monster like the US of A. Maybe Brent Spiner said it best, "I see America as the Borg. No matter where you go in the world there is a MacDonald's or a KFC. Resistance is futile...you will be assimilated."

So I've decided to throw a photon torpedo into the mix. Last week it was announced that Pat Hentgen (a pitcher for the Toronto Blue Jays) had been awarded the Cy Young award.

The Cy Young award is baseball's highest honour for pitchers. It is named after a man who pitched around the turn of the century and collected more than 500 wins.

Hentgen is the first player from a Canadian team to ever win the award. Now the critics are yelling that he's not a Canadian, and that the Blue Jays are just a bunch of Americans who fly Canadian flags.

Wrong! First off the Blue Jays are owned by Belgians, and are for the most part operated by Canadians. Hentgen who was born, and grew up in Detroit is not a Canadian citizen. But he's played his entire career for the Jays. He

learned the craft in the Jays' farm system. He's about as Canadian as he can get.

Last Sunday was the Grey Cup. The CFL's biggest show could be facing its last run after 84 years. The MVP is an American named Doug Flutie, but the first thing he did after winning the game was to acknowledge the great Canadian fans, and say, "43-37, when

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was the last time you saw a Super Bowl with a score like that!"

Flutie and his brother Darren have practically adopted Canada as their own. He could very likely have followed Warren Moon; who played several years in Canada, and then went on to be a star in the US. Doug Flutie has said recently that he has received offers from the NFL, but he's an Argonaut, and he plans to stay an Argonaut.

People have questioned Canadian sprinter Donovan Bailey's

commitment to this country after he was misquoted last summer by Sports Illustrated. SI quoted him as saying, "Canada is as racist as America."

Bailey swears that what he really said in the interview was, "Canada is not as racist as America."

Bailey came to Canada as a young child from Jamaica. Although he maintains ties with Jamaica he has constantly said that his home is in Oakville (Ontario) and he plans to stay there.

In my opinion Canada takes the best from around the world, and makes it its own, but instead of distorting it to fit the status quo we allow it to maintain its identity and its diversity.

In many ways I think this is where our problems with Québec originate. Canada is so used to accepting things as distinct, that Québécois want to be acknowledged as distinct from distinct. This is a situation that is foreign to us.

In the end, though, Canada is all around you, that's how the feeling goes. You just have to look. If you ever feel the urge to start yelling "USA! USA!", stop, think, and realize that there is more to our existence than the Red, White and Blue machine.