

Liberals shouldn't get too excited yet

by Amber-Leigh Golding

By all accounts Vince MacLean is the media's man of the moment and the province's happiest fella. But one can't help but wonder if the Liberal leader's bountiful enthusiasm about the party's

gains in the legislature may not be overstating the reality of his situation. The problem is that things may not be as rosy for our friend from Cape Breton as the media, Mr. MacLean and the public at large seem to think they are.

I'm not one to go about eagerly

Vince's big win due not to his leadership but to his family ties and the lack of strong Tory candidates.

bursting a man's bubble but neither am I willing to ignore certain basic truths. The fact of the matter is that what the Liberals managed to gain in the election was, to a substantial degree, handed to them on a silver platter by none other than the Conservative party of Nova Scotia.

It is interesting to note that seven of the new Liberal seats are in ridings where former seat-holders decided not to run again. That meant that voters simply picked the familiar Liberal face from the last election instead of a new unknown PC candidate. Most of the incumbent Conservatives who failed to reoffer were in Cape Breton, the Liberal leader's

natural support base. This combination of factors had a nasty effect on the island's Tory showings. Unfortunately for Vince MacLean, when a politician's chief support base is in Cape Breton, he can not logically expect to form a provincial government.

On the mainland of Nova Scotia, Vince MacLean's Liberals are on very shaky ground. True, five ridings were flying red banners since 1984 but Mr. MacLean can hardly take credit for those as they hail back to his predecessor's term of office. Of the remaining, three belonged to that aforementioned group which lacked their PC incumbents as the candidates in

Cape Bretoners:
PREPARE TO MEET THY DOOM!



Mavis and John wave goodbye to Cape Breton votes. And Capers can kiss future road repairs goodbye, too. Photo courtesy Frank magazine.

September. The other mainland seats captured by the Grits this time around could hardly be described as landslide victories. Of this group most were close calls that could have gone either way, and moreover have the very real potential to result one way or

another in the next election. The way the figures read, Vince MacLean doesn't have all that much to smile about. If he is not careful John Buchanan might very well win back the ridings that strayed from the Conservative flock in '88. He might well

start in MacLean's own backyard. He could run Rita MacNeil in MacLean's riding — after all, she's always talking about Cape Breton and singing about it. Here would be her chance to govern a piece of it. She'll sing a different tune!

Address discrimination, no priority in courses New registration system looks flawed

by James Hamilton

Registration has always been a tense time for most students. It's that time of year that students are pitted against one another in hope of getting into their desired classes. One is reminded of a pack of wild dogs surrounding the Registrar in hope that they'll be thrown the class of their choice. Amongst all the chaos, one can only arrive at one conclusion: that the registration system doesn't work and that the situation isn't getting any better.

Last year, students were forced to spend a night in a line-up in

order to ensure a place in some classes. This year, the Registrar has implemented a new system in which students register by mail and classes are handed out on a first come, first serve basis. Although the new system has eliminated twelve hour line-ups, it has failed to take the headache out of registration. Students are still unable to get into the classes of their choice. And they are still confused as to which classes are available and which are full. One of the inequities in the new system is that it related to where students live.

The new system discriminates

against students who live further away from the university because the mail takes longer to be delivered to out-of-town addresses. This time lag affects the ability of these students to enrol in popular courses, such as certain psychology labs and required English courses. Space in classes now appears to be handed out not on a first come, first serve basis, but rather on a how-far-you-live-from-the-university basis.

The people affected most by this new system are the international and out-of-province students. At the open forum on the new registration system this

spring, this issue of "address discrimination" was put to the registrar, Gudrun Curri. Curri responded by saying that international students comprise only 3% of the student body. She emphasized that the system is effective for the other fortunate 97%. Apparently Curri doesn't feel that the small number of foreign students merit equal treatment. But she seems to have forgotten that it's not just the international students who are slighted by this mail system - it also hurts the many out-of-province students at Dalhousie.

This kind of treatment is prom-

oting one international student organization to consider establishing a fake local clearing house to receive registration material for international students. Registration forms will be completed in one day and mailed back. And all with a Halifax post mark.

Another problem which affects all students is the lack of a process to prioritize courses. Some students are required to take certain courses in order to fulfill their departmental regulations. In the new system, these students are given no priority over other stu-

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