Student debate an informative session

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Canadian citizens such as capital punishment and abortion. The Reform party wants fiscal/economic reform, and feels Canada should stop spending more than it brings in. According to McDuffee, the Reform party is committed to balancing the budget in three years, and has a plan in the works to reduce taxes. McDuffee said a major overhaul of the criminal justice system is in order. He feels more protection for the victims, rather than the criminals, is necessary

National Party candidate Brian Patriquin, started off his address by stating, "Mulroney graced us with his resigna-

Patriquin feels he works for an open, honest and fair party that "Has the capacity to move into the government unencumbered."

Mark Bianco candidate for the Christian Heritage Party feels a look at moral crises before social and economic crises is necessary for the good of Canadians. He further added he felt the morals Canadians grew up with have been compromised and that the Christian Heritage Party could restore Canada to moral, social and economic

The last candidate to speak

was PC representative Garth Turner.

Turner said the PC's are against high spending Liberals, and wants less government. He also feels Ottawa needs more fighters and as a candidate he will fight hard for Georgetown and especially Canada.

Several questions were asked by both students and fellow candidates concerning their respective addresses

Peterson was asked, since her party was behind in recent polls, how did she view the election? She answered that regardless of what the polls said, she was fighting for the beliefs of her party no matter who was elected.

Another student asked Bianco, "How can a religious party account for multiculturism and different ideas and beliefs?" Bianco responded

by saying The Christian Heritage Party supports multiculturism, but it should be on their own time, with their own money.

Reed asked Patriquin about a \$4 million donation his party had recently.

Patriquin responded irately by saying the offering had been an upfront donation by a man who believed completely in the efforts of the National Party.

Another comment came from McDuffee who said the Liberals had a new tax form that only asked two things. How much did you make last year? And send it in.

While the GDHS students might still have some questions about our upcoming election, at least they've met the local candidates face-to-face and can now put a name to a political policy.

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Veterans Welfare and Donations Wreaths and Poppies

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\$10,225.48 \$1,392.90

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Women ignored

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al funding for these projects, Reed adds special attention will be placed on combating poverty-related illnesses, particularly among women of child-bearing years.

For Georgetown resident Bacani, Donna "Medicare's going down.' As a nurse at an Etobicoke doctor's office, the mother of a six-month old son, has noticed funding of medical care facilities dwindling over the last several years, leaving her little confidence in voting. If she made her decision, Bacani says, her vote would go Liberal. "I'm sick of Mulroney," she adds, holding her baby on her lap after his liquid dinner of infant formu-

Donna Bacani and her husband, an accountant, recently moved into the Halton-Peel riding from Mississauga.

National Revenue Minister Garth Turner is the incumbent and he admits the women's issue platform "has very rarely been brought up by his constituents." But, he admits, "people have been more concerned about social programs, taxes and maintaining social

"The Reform Party (would be cutting pensions) from women pensioners — that I don't agree," Turner says. Turner warns pensioners start to lose pensions as soon as they reach the \$35,000 mark — which is below the poverty line in such high-priced cities as Toronto and Vancouver: "Sixty-five to 70 per cent of all pensioners are women."

Helen Tyler, 79 and Bettyann Wellstaead, "over 60", are both retired Georgetown residents. As a retired homemaker, Tyler says she is "very undecided" about where her vote would go this year. While Tyler says she was a member of the Young Liberals, a youth wing of the Liberal party, during her teens, she remember a time when Liberal government meant Canada-wide prosperity: "I found Canada to be more successful with the federal Liberals, while the Conservatives were more successful in Ontario."

However, the Market Street resident says she does not think the Progressive Conservatives have a prayer in this election, saying "I'm not interested in their policies...I don't think they'll be able to keep their promises."

Wellstaead, a former print journalist, says she is "concerned about jobs and the economy." She is also worried about the number of

female candidates hoping to be elected to the House of Commons, which she says "has fewer women representatives" than in the recent past.

"(NDP Leader) Audrey McLaughlin has a good chance of losing her (Yukon riding) seat," said Wellstaead, a mother of a grown daughter living at home. "This is going to be an upsetting election...there will be a lot of changes taking place after Oct. 25."

Don Dagenais, campaign manager for Halton-Peel Reform candidate Dick MacDuffee, says he is dispelling the widely held notion his party would cut social programs. "It is not the Reform policy," he adds. "But while the economy grows four to five per cent a year, medical costs (rise) 10 to 12 per cent. That (expenditure) we must control."

Dagenais adds women's issues are not strongly discussed within his party's platform, despite recent news reports a Burlington Reform candidate hollered 'hit her" at a Hamilton East NDP candidate

The Libertarian party platform, with party president Hill Cox running in Halton-Peel, would see "not special treatment in a woman's situation in the home." But, if elected, he says while the party "hasn't singled out a stand on violence against women", a juried system in all court cases would better reflect the horror of the situation

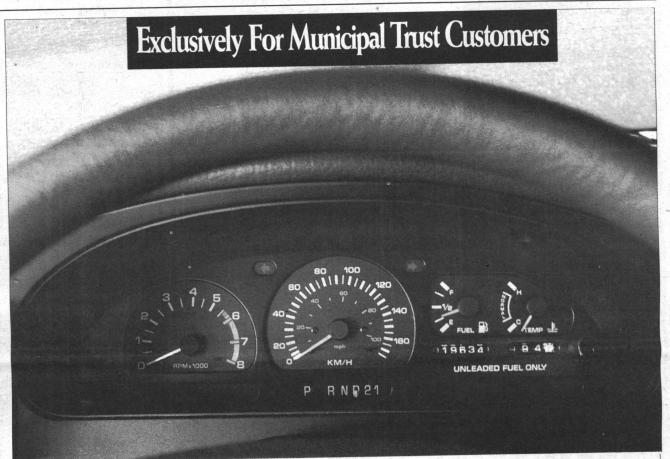
Both the Liberal and Libertarian parties spoke out against affirmative action programs, saying the system "assumes everyone is sexist or racist," says Cox.

"Women are free to choose their personal satisfaction and professions," he says, adding they are not under represented in the work force, but are sometimes not available to maintain employment.

Julian Reed says he has another reason why affirmative action programs are undesirable.

"We (the Liberal party) support equality and not quota," he says. "I feel strongly for the genderless, colorless principle...Just hiring a certain percentage of women goes against women and minorities in the end. The party rejects the idea of special treatment and employment equity won't work in the long run."

Irene Markoja, a recent journalism graduate of Toronto's Ryerson Polytechnic University, is a freelance writer based in Rockwood.



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