

Editorial

Down and dirty

With the unveiling of a new series of television ads attacking Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty, the provincial Conservatives aren't giving us much of a reason to vote Oct. 2.

While the overriding message of two blatantly aggressive ads are that McGuinty isn't "up to the job," they do little to explain why Eves is the better choice.

Meanwhile, the return volley of daily media faxes out of McGuinty's campaign headquarters are no less damning of Eves as Ontario's next leader.

"PC ads full of the same old cynical slippery stuff," reads a Liberal response to this week's launch of the new Tory TV ad campaign.

"If you thought Walkerton was a disaster...just wait for Pickering," another release warns regarding Eves' alleged plans to privatize the inspections of nuclear facilities.

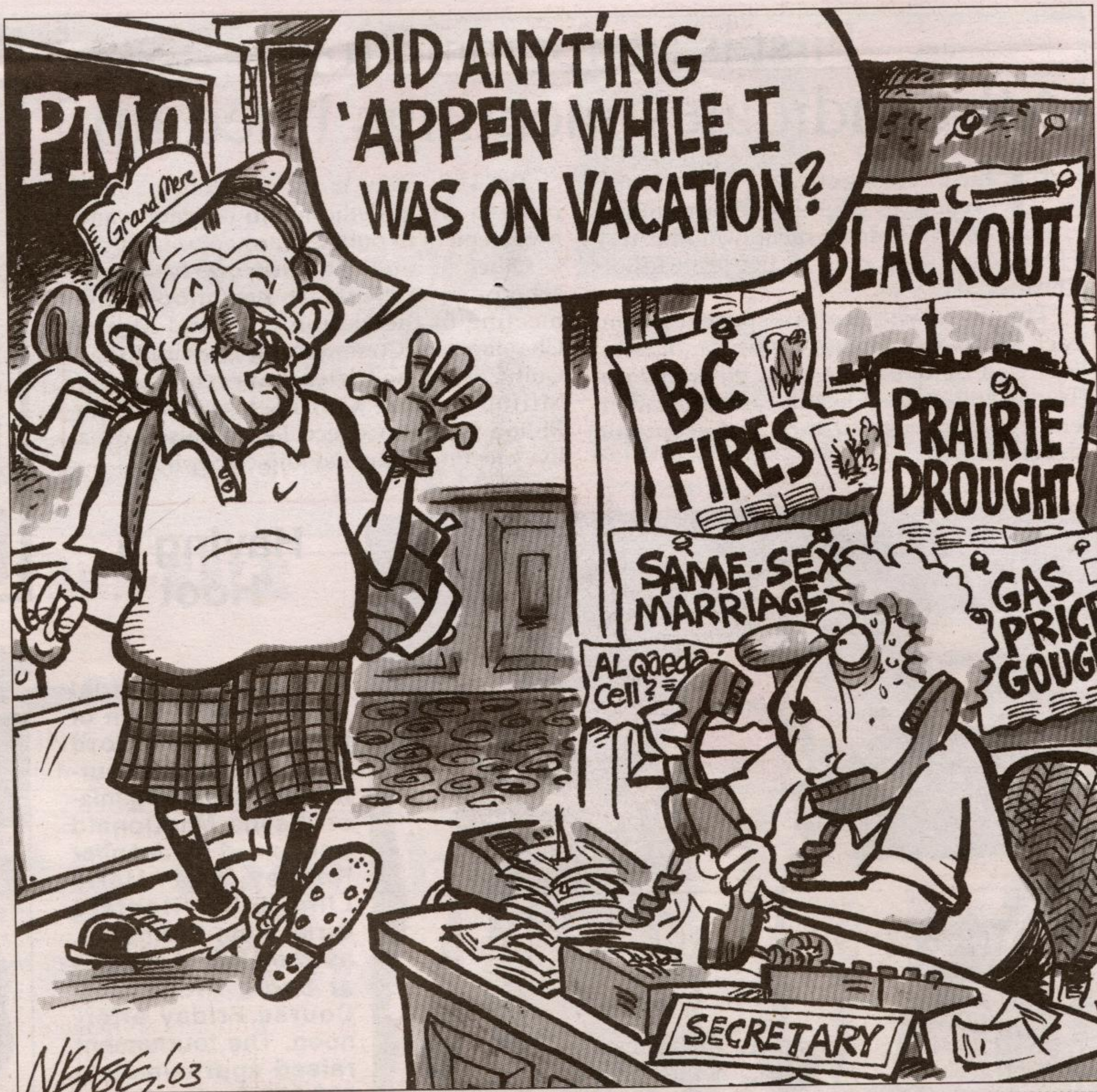
What both these approaches share is a down and dirty method where ripping apart your most dangerous foe takes precedence over providing the voting public with a thoughtful, logical party platform.

Attack ads and news releases insult voters' intelligence by sending the message the election is nothing more than a popularity contest. Even more galling, the approach seems to work.

The Conservatives' first foray into the realm of ad assaults on an opponent's ability to do the job came in the last provincial election—and we all know how that one turned out.

However, if our provincial politicians insist on adopting the mud-slinging approach that saturates political campaigns south of the Canada/U.S. border, don't be surprised if the 'low-road' approach sends voter apathy to an all-time high.

The same 1999 election in which the Tories first unleashed attack ads on TV also saw the lowest voter turnout percentage in nearly two decades. Only 58 per cent of the nearly 7.6 million Ontarians eligible to vote bothered to cast a ballot that year. As voters, if we permit such openly arrogant campaign tactics to influence where we mark an 'X', we better be prepared to relinquish the right to complain later about the government we get.



Letters to the editor...

Triumphant pipe band appreciates support

Dear editor,

Recently the Georgetown Pipe Band entered its second P&PBSO (Pipers & Pipe Band Society of

Ontario)-sponsored competition of 2003 which took place in Sarnia. After many years of not competing, it was gratifying to all our members to come away from this competition with first place in our grade. We would not have achieved this success with the support and encouragement of many people to whom we are grateful.

On behalf of the band, I wish to thank the Georgetown Lions Club for their continuing support of our group. They have been our biggest booster for many years now and without their help we could not have survived. The Lions Club has a long and glorious history of community service and their contributions to our town deserve recognition.

Our thanks also to the people of Georgetown who have cheered us on over the years and made us feel appreciated. Special thanks must go to all those within earshot of the Lions Club parking

lot on Mill Street who have listened to us playing the same set of tunes over and over again as we practised for competition. Again, many people raised our spirits by applauding our efforts, giving us a needed boost.

Our thanks also to Tom Anderson and James Agnew, our piping and drumming instructors, whose expert guidance has spurred us to improve as a group.

**Ron McJury,
Georgetown Pipe Band**

Ball tournament 'special'

Dear editor,

Re: First annual Stevie Marshall Ball Tournament. The memories of a great wife, mother, daughter shared on June 7-8 brightened our hearts.

Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills was the grateful recipient of \$5,025 as a result of many friends and family getting together for two fun days playing ball in Glen Williams.

We had hoped through our loss we might be able to help others and we were delighted for the support and kindness to make this special event successful.

Thanks to the many sponsors and participants and an extra special thanks to Stevie's parents Roy and Doreen Poloz.

Rob, Ryan and Taylor Marshall, Georgetown

Smokers are having their rights taken away

Dear editor,

I think something is terribly wrong in this country. We are known as a land of equal rights. I don't think so.

We allow same-sex marriage, but we don't allow smokers to smoke in a restaurant or other businesses that have been renovated to take away the smoke.

The business owners have spent a lot of money to accommodate the smokers as well

as non-smokers, now they are not allowed to use these areas for smoking. As a result, their business is suffering. Where are their rights?

Smokers in the workplace have to go outside, even in winter. Where are their rights?

If the government doesn't want people to smoke, then quit making cigarettes and quit collecting the taxes on them.

Vince Micallef, Georgetown

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

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