

Tory Chudleigh opts to skip candidate meetings at schools

Four out of five might not be bad for dental surveys, but surely isn't great for all-candidates meetings.

The organizers behind what turned out to be a 'some-candidates' meeting at Martin Street School in Milton on Monday night were disappointed that Progressive Conservative MPP and Halton candidate Ted Chudleigh opted not to attend.

"It isn't that he couldn't come, but that he wouldn't come," said Colin Best, who helped organize the meeting, which focused on education issues.

Best said he was told by Chudleigh's office that the candidate would attend only two meetings in each community in the riding. In Milton, he was to attend the meetings organized by the Chamber of Commerce and the Jaycees.

But Terry Jackson, a campaign spokesperson for Chudleigh, denied that and said the Tory candidate was busy with a fund-raising event on Monday night.

"We did regret that we were not able to be there," she said. "We've done all the events he's been able to accommodate with his busy schedule."

In addition to the Martin Street School meeting, Chudleigh also failed to appear for an all-candidates meeting at an Oakville high school earlier in the day on Monday.

Organizers weren't the only ones disappointed that Chudleigh was a no-show.

Several of the about 50 people who showed up for the debate said they had specifically wished to question Chudleigh about Tory educational policies.

"I'm personally insulted that (Chudleigh) is not here," said one man, in frustration.

The evening, organized by the school's parent council, allowed candidates an opportunity to outline their party platforms in the area of education.

Liberal candidate Barbara Sullivan told the audience that her party would spend an additional \$1.6 billion on education, cut class sizes for young children, raise the drop-out age to 18 years and improve relations with Ontario teachers.

"You can't take \$2 billion out of the education budget and expect that we will have a system that will work and produce the highly educated young people that we need in our society," said Sullivan, in criticism of Tory policy.

Jay Jackson, the NDP candidate for Halton, said his party would spend an additional \$2.1 billion on education, introduce full-day Junior and Senior Kindergarten, reduce waiting lists for special education and cut post-secondary tuition fees by 10 per cent.

Family Coalition Party candidate Giuseppe Gori told the audience that his party would spend less money on both education and health care, but improve the quality of service.

Matt Smith, who represents the Green Party, said he believes Ontario's education system is currently in disarray.

"I think everybody agrees that the Progressive Conservatives have been destroying our educational system," he said.

—By Kim Arnott, special

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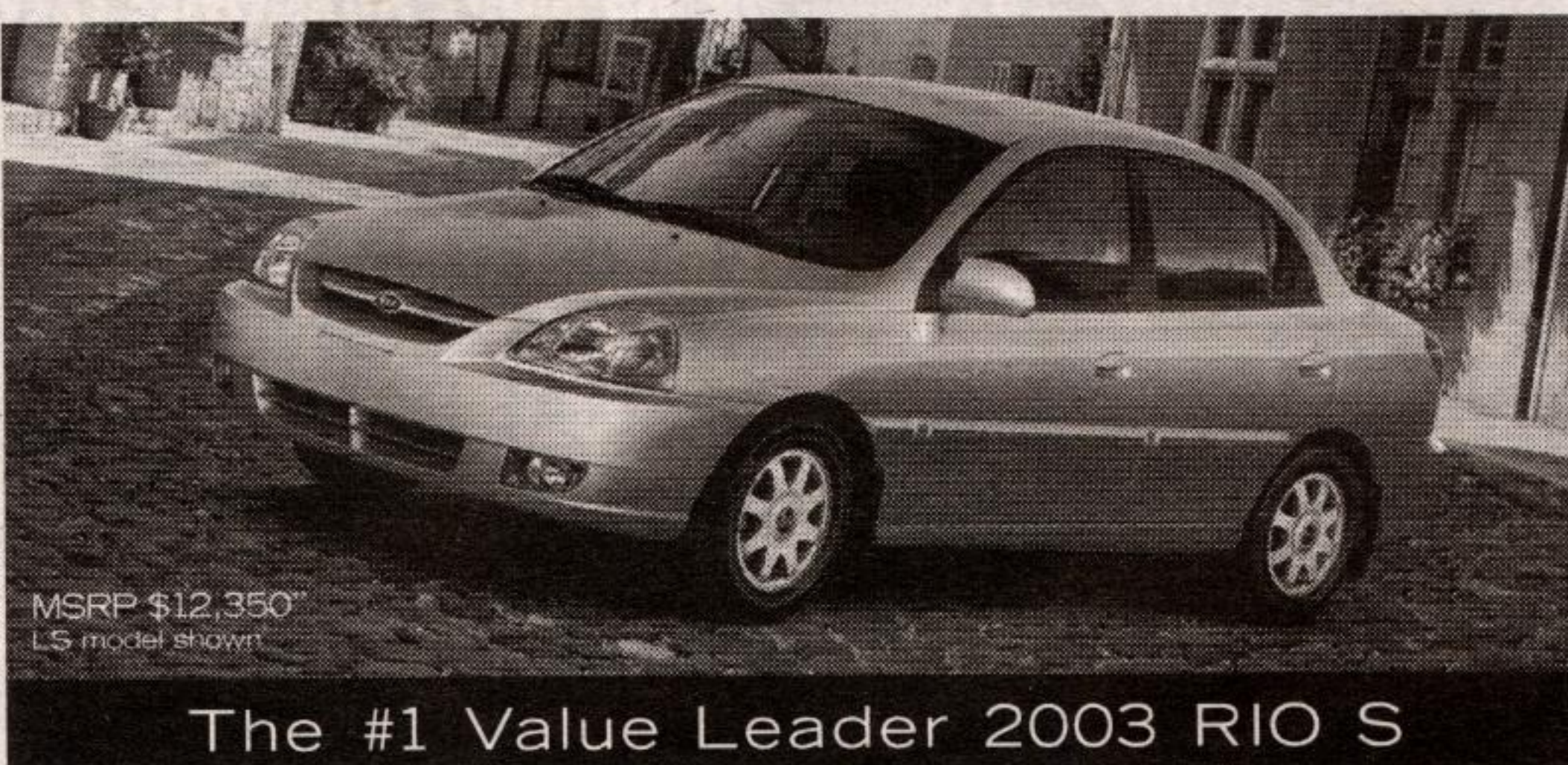


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A: The occasional cold or flu is a normal occurrence for a young person. A growing body and immune system needs to be exposed to a variety of bacteria and viruses to fully develop. Without exposure the immune system cannot create the antibodies it requires to become "mature". It is relatively common for a school age child to be sick once or twice during the school year (especially in the first few years of school). However, if your child is missing school frequently or requiring antibiotics every school year, you may want to consider consulting a Naturopath. Naturopathic doctors are interested in why your child is getting sick so frequently. Is there a trigger in the diet? For some children this is excessive sugar, for others it may be a lack of protein or a sensitivity to dairy or wheat products. Is there something in the child's lifestyle that is causing an increased susceptibility? For instance not enough sleep or interrupted sleep, environmental allergies, exposure to other sick children, etc. Have repetitive antibiotics weakened the child's digestive tract resulting in nausea or diarrhea? Is there a chronic infection that is not being completely cleared? Or is the child managing a chronic condition such as asthma that is causing them to "catch" every bug that is going around. These are just a few examples of why a child could be frequently ill. If you are concerned about your child, consult your Naturopath or call our office to see if we can help.

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