

*Editorial*

# Bon voyage, Jean

Forgive us for not getting all caught up in the Liberal love-in this past weekend as the party bade a not-so-fond farewell to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

We, and we suspect many Liberals, are less inclined to be interested in celebrating Chrétien's past 40 years in Parliament than we are in seeing how his successor Paul Martin performs in the coming months.

While Chrétien may have been a good Parliamentarian, a nice guy and a good representative for his riding, as a prime minister we found him underwhelming.

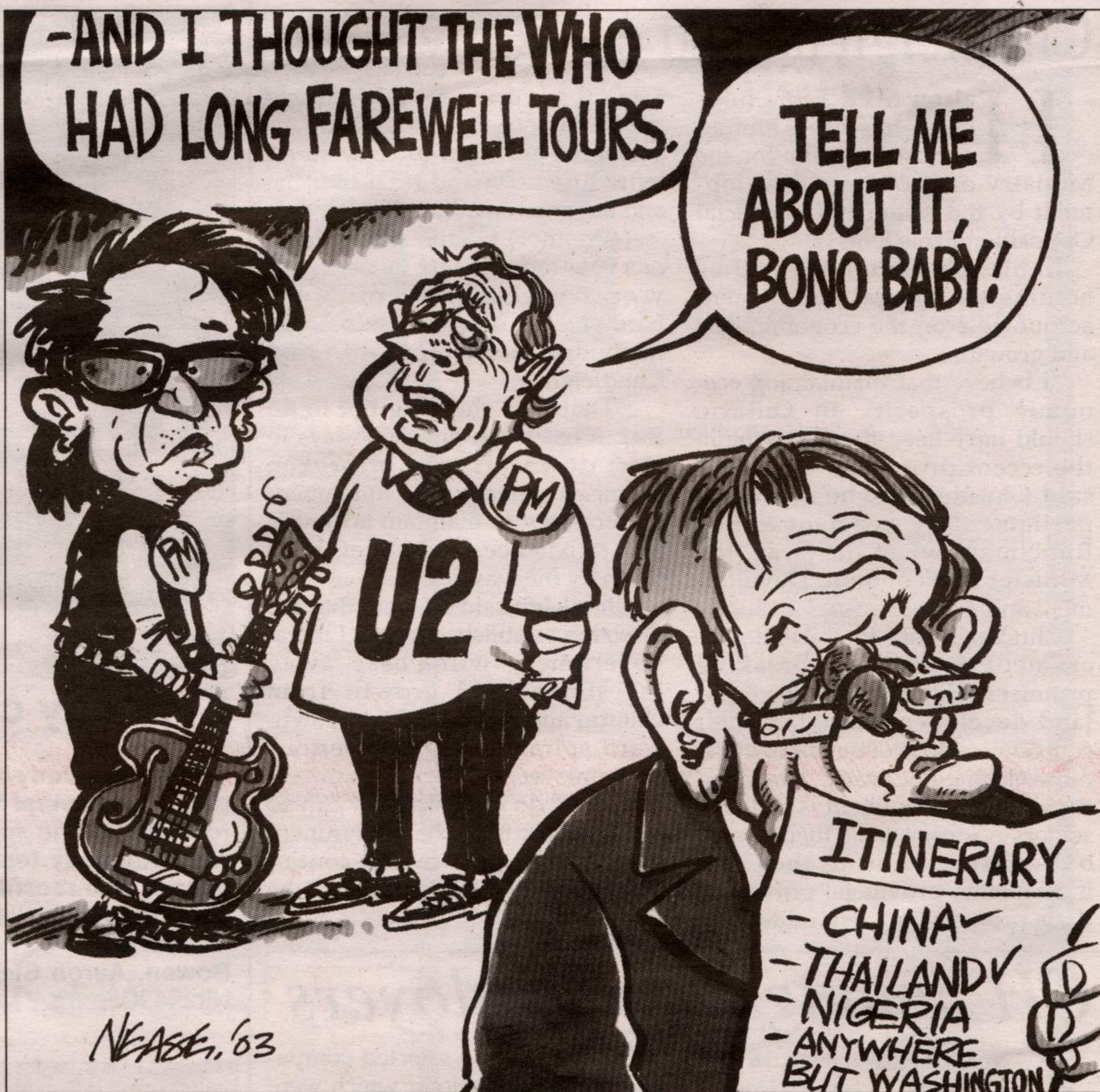
Legacy? What legacy? A recent poll indicated that more than 51 per cent of those surveyed could not list a single notable accomplishment of the "little guy from Shawinigan".

As a leader, Chrétien had a penchant for setting the bar low and exceeding those expectations. He swept to power on a promise of scrapping the GST and revamping free trade and did neither. It was while on his watch as PM the separatists nearly succeeded in winning a referendum and splitting the country. He damaged our relations with the U.S., slashed health care funding to the provinces, watched our military become a laughingstock and spent too much time embroiled in scandals involving everything from the privacy commissioner to lost billions in government grants.

He clearly wore out his welcome even within his own party some time ago, yet, like a petulant child, has hung around simply to annoy his successor.

No other PM had as free a ride as Chrétien, who had the good fortune to lead the country at a time the opposition self-imploded. Yet, despite being virtually unchallenged, Chrétien showed little vision to make this country better. He merely presided over it.

As he himself has said, "The proof is in the proof."



## Letters to the editor....

### Fill out organ donation card, reader urges

Dear editor,

A few weeks ago my friend underwent a double lung transplant. She, like many others in this

world, has a disease that, over time, caused her lungs to fail.

Unfortunately, her disease progressed so rapidly that she needed a transplant or would have died.

Luckily, she was only on the donor list a short time. However, this does not always happen. There are many people, young and old, who die before receiving organs.

I am writing to beg each of you to fill out your donor cards. They are available at your doctor's office. Let your wishes be known clearly to family members or have it stated in a living will. It really is that simple. And think of all the lives you could be saving.

It is sad that many people never really understand the importance of transplants or organ donation until it is thrown at you, usually by some unexpected tragedy.

You and your family need to be prepared. You are not just giving a lung or a heart— but a life. What greater gift is there to give?

I thank the person who gave my friend her lungs. This world would have been a less bright place without her in it. You and your family not only gave her new lungs, but you gave her a chance to live life, get married, have children and hopefully grow old.

I beg each of you reading this: take the few minutes and fill out your donor cards. There are a lot of lives to be saved, and as I said before, what greater gift could someone give?

Tracy Brouwer,  
Acton

### War amps tags work— ask Eric

Dear editor,

Re: Nov. 12 letter, Lost keys returned thanks to war amps tag.

We live across the street from Acton High School. One day my four-year-old came home with a set of keys with war amps tags after riding his bike in the school parking lot. He asked me what we should do with them. The two of us walked to the mailbox and Eric dropped the keys in the box in the hope they would reach the rightful owner.

Wednesday, Nov. 12 I read my son the letter Ms. Marion Hunter took the time to write to *The Independent & Free Press*. He sat there listening and very proud.

Ms. Hunter, Eric wants me to write back, "You're welcome."

Allison and Eric McCallum, Acton

### Caregivers thanked for helping patient

Dear editor,

I would like to thank the doctors, nurses and support staff who gave such wonderful service to Eileen Evans during her long battle with cancer. We should be proud of OHIP.

Assistance from CCAC Halton and the Red Cross ladies allowed us to keep Eileen

at home. They were truly great.

I would also like to thank everyone who sent flowers and made donations to the cancer society.

Phil Evans,  
Georgetown

More letters pgs. 9 and 11

### 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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