

Editorial

Joe who?

Prime Minister Paul Martin must surely be giving some serious thought to calling a spring federal election, rather than waiting until fall.

Though his party's popularity has (rightfully) been significantly damaged by the sponsorship scandal—a recent poll had the Liberals garnering 39 per cent support followed by Stephen Harper's Conservative Party of Canada at 29 per cent and Jack Layton's NDP sitting third at 19 per cent—Martin's confidence has got to be buoyed by the recent political bombshell dropped by longtime Conservative opponent Joe Clark.

During an interview on CTV's *Question Period* Clark said he would choose Martin over Conservative Leader Stephen Harper in the next election.

Clark's message that Martin is "the devil we know" while the prospect of Harper leading the country leaves him feeling "extremely worried" is not what Harper and his supporters wanted to hear as they ascended popularity polls.

It's not surprising Clark is still bitter about his beloved Tories' merger with the Canadian Alliance Party last December. For Clark the wounds are still fresh and a strong Harper showing against Martin would be like having rock salt ground into them.

However, Clark's comments should be seen for what they are—the desperate attempt of an obsolete politician to be relevant just once more.

It's strangely ironic that Clark's scathing words could have more influence on this election than any in which he was a candidate.



Letters to the editor...

Obstetrics closure will spark exodus

Dear editor,

Did you hear the one about the local hospital closing its obstetrics ward due to government cut-

backs?

Young families decided to move elsewhere. That's what will happen if the Georgetown Campus of the William Osler Health Centre closes its doors to labouring moms. Perhaps the government hasn't been to Georgetown South lately? Or to the Early Years Centre in town. These places are chock full of young growing families.

Instead of closing this ward in one of the fastest growing communities in Canada, why not fire a few hospital administrators instead? It's this part of the hospital that's top heavy anyway—with average salaries in the \$200,000+ range.

My daughter was born in Brampton last year because our family doctor is there however, while my experience was a positive one, here are a few points to consider:

At the Brampton Campus, labouring Georgetown moms can

forget about that "small town" personal service they may have received here in town. On average 300 babies are born in Brampton each month. Can you say, "assembly line"? Good luck getting an epidural. And if you think it's okay for your husband to pull up a chair and sleep over the first night with you and your new baby, Brampton Campus security will only be too happy to show him the exit.

Got private room coverage? Don't even bother to ask.

Gail Powell, Georgetown

Thanks for the coverage

Dear editor,

The Halton Hills Quilters Guild would like to thank you for your coverage of our quilt show.

Many of the 530 people who attended said that seeing the picture in the paper had made them aware of the show and encouraged them to attend.

Ann Totten, show co-ordinator

Blaming teens is unfair

Dear editor,

In response to the letter published April 23, Teens have lost respect for nature. Does this person have proof that it is the "teens" who have littered? Is she so sure that it had to be teenagers?

She stated that she doesn't think it is adults littering. I sat outside Blockbuster one evening and watched an "adult" throw her candy wrapper twice, not just once, out of her car window on the ground. When I asked if she knew what a garbage can was, she moved her car and left the wrappers on the ground.

Why are we so quick to assume it has to be teenagers? I think it is up to adults to set an example for our youth, and not condemn them based on assumptions or misleading accusations.

My daughter wrote an article for school titled, Teenage Crime or Media Crime. Why is it that youth crimes get more attention when, according to Statistics Canada, 84 per cent of the crime is committed by adults?

We learn by example and our actions are usually a result of the respect or disrespect we receive, whether an adult or youth, whether at home, school or work.

Gini Bourner, 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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