



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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So near, and yet so far

Preston Manning, like Joe Clark, makes a far better impression in person than when viewed through media filters, such as television or even print journalism.

Evidence abounded during Mr. Manning's recent visit to Milton that, whatever preconceptions people had regarding him, they wanted to hear his message up close, personally. Hundreds turned out for a breakfast speech.

The sad irony of the situation is that while the Reform leader may have captured a large segment of the vote, especially in the west, by sensing, even leading, the public mood, the chances of him making federal policy are slim.

In his Milton address, the Reform leader made an important point: Giving responsible people more money to spend as they will is better than channeling funds through some government program or other.

That is why Mr. Manning advocates tax (read debt) relief rather than enhanced social programs to benefit Canadians.

By way of illustration, the Reform leader detailed efforts made by his party on behalf of a working family. If Reform tax-cutting policies were adopted, the family would glean \$3,000 per year in additional income.

The Reform leader's point was that most people — in fact all responsible people — would use such funds to augment family security and well-being, in all probability far more efficiently and effectively than would be the case through any social program.

As well, of course, the family pride would remain intact, since they were not depending on anyone for a handout. They were just getting to keep more of the money they had earned anyway.

It makes a lot of sense.

Mr. Manning is not advocating policies that would see Canada's social safety net hacked apart or medicare compromised. He is simply preaching enlightened self interest and a less intrusive and burdensome government at all levels.

Still, mired amid and compromised by forces beyond his control, the Reform leader, indeed the Reform movement, plays out like some sort of Greek tragedy.

If everybody who wanted what Mr. Manning desires voted for Reform, the party would become the government. But they never will, in all probability, because half the people who empathize with Mr. Manning vote Progressive Conservative instead.

On top of that, there are those startled and nervous about backing Reform given the perceived fringe politicians within it who are seen as callous, unpredictable and prejudiced.

Mr. Manning has forged the national opposition party from a ragtag movement — and dethroned the separatists in the House of Commons. He has accomplished a great deal. In fact, he can see the political promised land from where he stands. But he will probably never get there.

Rob Kelly



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Sport promotes values and leadership, not violence

Dear Editor:

In response to the letter from Elizabeth Kiddle regarding wrestling photos being too violent, I would like to give you a wrestler's point of view.

I have been a member of the E.C. Drury High School Spartan wrestling team for the past four years. Wrestling provides a place for students to go after school. It is a place to build skills that you might not get in the regular school program. For instance, my teammates and I have learned a great deal about responsibility, leadership and citizenship.

Our coach, Larry Jaroslowski, devotes many long hours of his own time to help develop these many skills in his wrestlers and has been a mentor to many members of the team.

As a team we contribute to fundraising activities for both the team and community groups (for example the Salvation Army), help to run tournaments, coach younger team members and youths in the community through the Dynamo Wrestling group.

Physical fitness is another important skill we practice on our team. Wrestling involves specific moves and techniques that require a great deal of practice to learn. These moves are strategic and use the physics of angle and leverage. If the moves are used properly, no one should get hurt.

However, as in any sport people are sometimes injured. Referees supervise to insure that wrestlers do not use ille-

gal moves or foster an intent to injure.

Having our pictures appear in the paper is recognition for our long hours of practice and all our hard work.

Violence can be seen on the evening news and we often hear about it in our society; but it has no place in the sport of wrestling. Being a member of the Spartan wrestling team has been an important part of my personal growth and development and has contributed a lot to my years at high school.

Jeremy Brown
Milton

Good show, says reader

Dear Editor:

Re: Brad Reaume's editorial of Tuesday, Jan. 13; "One school board means fair system for everyone".

Bravo Brad! That's a nail I've been hammering for many years and you hit it right on the head.

In this day and age we have to be practical. How can Ontario graduates compete with educational systems outside of the province, and outside of the nation, who only have to fund one school board? How can we produce open minded, non-prejudiced human beings when we tell our children, from day one, you must go to separate schools?

Our society is divided in so many ways and divided we shall fall in education. Kudos to you for having the guts to put it in black and white.

Linda Webster
Halton Hills

Pud

by Steve Nease

