

* OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Overall, the candidates all touted their standard lines, says reader

Dear Editor:

I attended the all-candidates meeting November 15 and the following outlines my thoughts on the meeting.

Overall, the candidates all touted their standard lines.

The Liberals stressed their balanced approach to issues and their dedication to preserving the universal health care. The trouble with the Liberals is, however, that they're too balanced. The right wing hand is always fighting with the left wing hand, and they end up hitting themselves in the

The Canadian Alliance fellow stressed his party's commitment to lowering taxes and reducing the size of government. Seems the Alliance approach is to shirk as much responsibility to the private sector as "they know best."

I always thought the role of the government was to set the rules by which most of us "play the game," and was there to ensure the "public good" was not harmed. Maybe I'm wrong.

The NDP emphasized that it's the party of the "regular working guy," and is the only party ready to re-invest in the social programs that have been eroding over the years.

While her ideals are noble, greed beats nobility anytime. The person behind me emphasized this. She kept yelling "yah!" each time the Alliance candidate mentioned tax cuts. Or maybe this person was the candidate's mother — who knows?

The PC candidate kept complaining about how his microphone wasn't working, but this mattered little as most of what he had to say was either sarcastic or muddled.

He spent more time criticizing the others instead of presenting his own ideas. In fairness, I think his platform is comparable to the Liberal's (i.e. middle of the road) with a little more accountability added into the equation.

The Green Party candidate made the most sense to me although it seemed he didn't gain the respect of the other candidates. His platform of eliminating taxes on things that are good for society, and taxing things that are bad for society seems logical in that it drives proper behaviour and

economic development.

For example, stumpage taxes (\$ for cutting trees) could be offset by tax credits for planting trees. Income shouldn't be taxed, but taxes should be levied on polluters. Instead of spending madly on health care, try to eliminate the items that are making people sick, etc.

He was also the best at outlining how his policies wouldn't only be good for the country but for the local community. All this makes perfect sense and I don't think any rationale person would argue other-

This election will probably go like previous ones because people see the world from their own established perspective. Try getting an accountant to see the value of the burning coal at a generating station. His only consideration is the retail price of the coal. He fails to consider the health and ecological costs of mining and burning the

It's difficult for people to get the big picture of the workings of the world because we all view it through our own little box of reality. The trouble is that the world is a complicated place (a big ball with complex inter-relationships) and we have, up until now, only viewed it from a limited perspective (a small sized economic box).

Viewing issues in this manner guarantees new ideas are automatically dismissed. This is why an alliance member will never agree with an NDPer, or vice

It's also why the candidate that makes the most sense (Green Party candidate) will probably receive the fewest votes. Perhaps people, like the Liberals, like to keep hitting themselves in the head. Maybe it's time we try thinking "out of the box" and start using our heads instead of hitting it.

When I tell my friends I'll be voting for the Green Party, they usually say, "Why? They'll never get in."

Wouldn't it be strange if everyone agreed with the Green Party's views, but didn't vote for them for this strange, selfdefeating reason?

> Jim Ferguson Lyons Court

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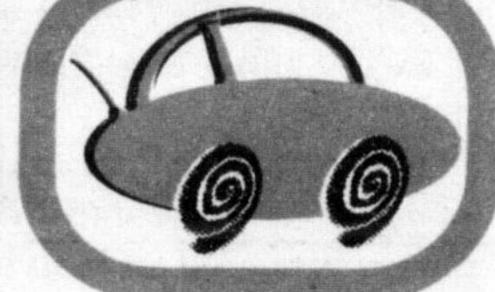
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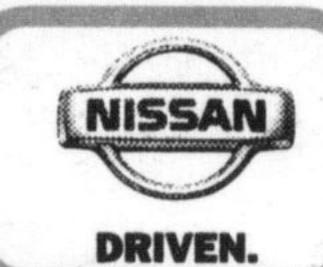


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