

COMMENT

Minority would have brought accountability

Last night, Jean Chretien and his party painted the country red for the third time running, perhaps taking even more seats than it had before it called this expensive and unnecessary election.

This is despite the anger aroused at the snap 36-day campaign. It's despite clear signals from the electorate that people are angry at the Chretien government. They're distrustful of its promises and bemused by its boondoggles.

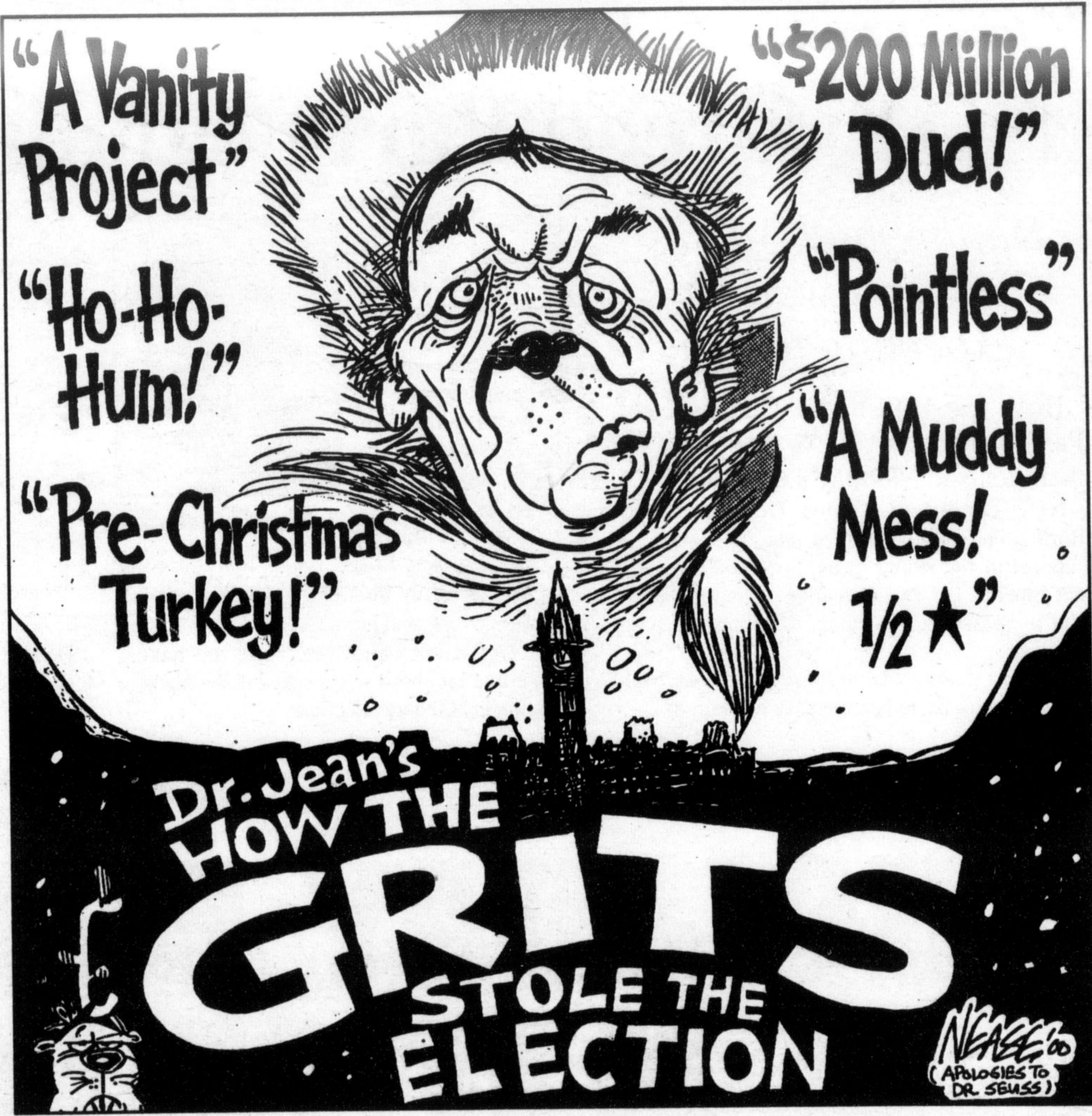
But not, obviously, enough to disembark from the Liberal express.

The word on the street hinted at a desire for a Liberal minority. That could have brought some welcome accountability to parliament, which has had a free run for too long.

But in spite of ardent campaigning, the Canadian Alliance failed to make its predicted breakthrough in this province. It'll continue to nag the Liberals in its capacity as the official opposition, but it's tough to act as an effective conscience without the numbers in place.

So it seems another prime minister has rolled the dice, and this time he won.

Let's hope that in four years — heck, even today — the voters think they did, too.



OUR READERS WRITE

Today's youth aren't nearly all bad

Dear Editor:

As a disabled man who depends on getting to both E.C. Drury High School for a computer class and Allendale long-term-care facility for my volunteer job, I travel along Laurier Avenue and Ontario Street.

I'm usually out there the same time as the high school students. I ride on the sidewalk to avoid traffic and in doing so, I encounter several teenagers who are walking to school.

I find the students to be very courteous. They allow me the right of way without question and always greet me in

a very pleasant manner.

They're great at the crossings by pushing the walk signs, and opening doors when I reach my destination.

And quite often they will see me across the road or secure when I reach where I'm going.

I feel we're in good hands with these fine, young people poised to lead our country.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the youngsters who I have encountered.

Don Fendley
Milton

For safe of growth, let's make town inviting

Dear Editor:

A number of people were in attendance to review the proposed Thompson Road/Main Street improvements presented by the Town and the engineering company UMA November 14 at the Milton Leisure Centre.

After a quick scan of the charts, diagrams and study reports, it became painfully obvious that an overkill solution was being proposed — four to five lanes of roadway, trees being removed and no overpass/underpass for the level-grade train track on Thompson Road.

How many times was it repeated by town council and reported in The Champion that council didn't want Milton to have the same appearance of both Brampton and Mississauga, fearing that these two centres share a common undesirable look.

The four or five-lane roadway, as proposed for Thompson Road, would be sterile and utilitarian in

appearance (sans flanked by 'Berlin Walls' as in Mississauga). I agree — to push as many vehicles through a corridor to get people where they're going, nothing beats a roadway with many lanes. But, I argue this because Thompson Road is residential. Building a roadway with plenty of lanes encourages speeding and extra traffic. If the engineers are concerned with traffic flow, then the most important 'flow' issue has been ignored: An overpass/underpass for Thompson Road at the railroad track. Wouldn't this solution go a long way in eliminating a flow issue?

I recall from a couple of years ago when the Town proposed redesigning Martin Street from Steeles Avenue to Main Street. There, tress would be eliminated, four lanes installed and the character of the area destroyed.

Deja vu! I feel there's a prime opportunity for the Town to develop a solution that meets or exceeds the current needs of those travel-

ling on Thompson Road and that it can be done with character.

Build both right and left-hand turn lanes where needed and one straight-through lane. Build some distance between the road and the property lines of the homeowners. Do this now before development consumes everything.

Plant plenty of trees and install pathways and a berm. You only need to look at the south-end of Thompson Road for inspiration. Someone had the foresight when that part of town was being developed. In a residential area, aesthetics count for something.

I believe the Town has an opportunity to ready itself for the population increase and present itself with concern for all residents, regardless of their property values. Roadways can either be inviting or dissuading.

Let's hope for the sake of growth, Milton becomes inviting.

Dean Meier
Cabot Trail

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Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 878-4943

Advertising Fax: 876-2364

Classified: 875-3300

Ian Oliver *Publisher*

Neil Oliver *Associate Publisher*

Wendy McNab *Advertising Manager*

Karen Smith *Editor*

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by Steve Nease

