



COMMENT

Milton has a heart three times its size

Last week's snow has helped it look a lot like Christmas outside. And indoors, local retailers are feeling festive thanks to higher than average seasonal sales.

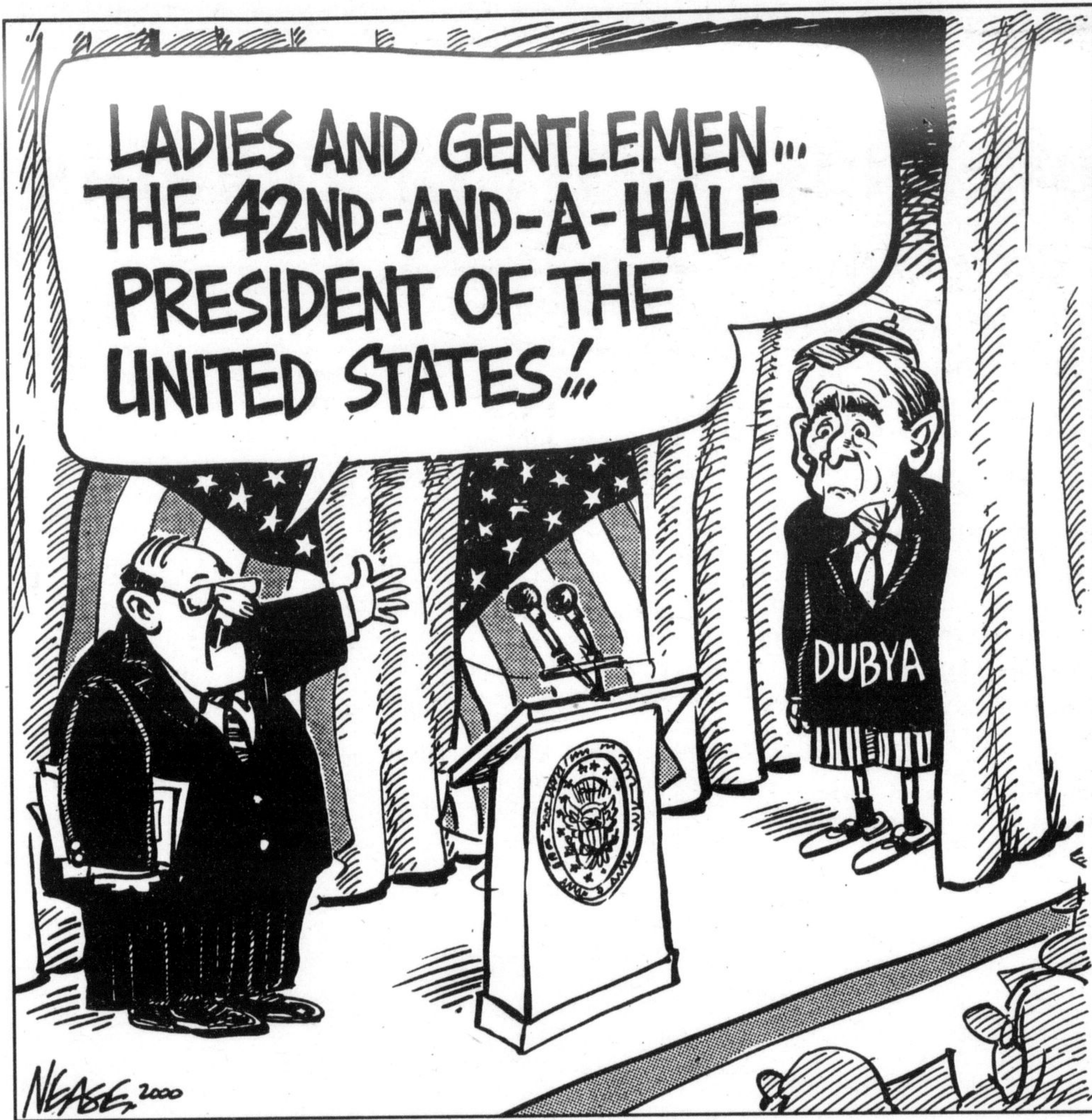
So all that's missing is the generous spirit that has always made this town sparkle like a tinsel Christmas tree during the holiday season.

Despite the crowds that braved wet conditions to see Milton's Santa Claus Parade wend its way along Main Street, organizers report receiving just half its usual amount of donations in 2000.

Since those pay for the following year's parade, a lack of funds could put a real damper on the magical and family-oriented Christmas tradition in 2001.

Also suffering is The Champion's Salvation Army Christmas Bureau Fund, which needs about \$10,000 in order to meet its \$25,000 goal. A business donation or two to shore up the on-going support of many kindly individuals could make all the difference to a needy family as the countdown to Christmas begins in earnest.

It isn't easy to ask for a helping hand when both time and cash are at a premium. But Milton has always proved it has a heart three times its geographical size. And there are just a few days left to prove it again.



OUR READERS WRITE

Thank you for publishing article on Aboriginal event

Dear Editor:

Thank you for publishing the article about a local woman, Barbara Croall, who organized the first annual Aboriginal Music Days activities at the University of Toronto.

It's refreshing, in a news media dominated by war, violence, stock market dips, division into opposing parties and factions, to read of a woman making such a valiant effort to overcome misunderstandings and embrace the reality of the oneness of humankind.

I look forward to reading a report of this event in an upcoming issue.

Grace Guido
Coxe Boulevard

Kilmer's remark shows real stand of many Tories

Dear Editor:

A remark captured on election night was aired by CBC on the program, 'The Contenders', which showcased the riding of Halton during the election period.

The PC candidate, Tom Kilmer, when congratulating the Liberal winner, said: "Hey, bud, we did it. We kept the bastards (from winning)."

Halton was fortunately spared to be represented by a person that uses such language to describe his political opponents.

Apart from being offensive to the supporters of the Canadian Alliance, his remark shows the real stand of many Tories: they see Alliance supporters as the

reason for their demise and they hate them.

When political pundits calculate the number of votes and ridings lost due to a 'right wing split', or when they suggest to 'unite the right', they forget that many Tories would rather join the Liberals. Since most PC policies are similar to the ones of the Alliance, those policies don't affect their decision. The litmus test is provided by social conservative principles. Joe Clark and other 'progressives' would probably join the Liberals. Elsie Wayne and other social conservatives would probably join the Alliance.

If the Alliance members decide to maintain or strengthen social conservative prin-

ciples, then the existing PC party isn't a serious problem for them. PC members are eroding support from both the Alliance and the Liberals. If the Alliance sticks to their principles of freedom and respect for every human being, then support for them will come from the large mass of undecided voters.

People, especially in Ontario, who think that in order to attract a few more Tories the Alliance has to abandon its social conservative principles, forget that a consistent conservative platform is what enticed many more to leave the Tories and form a new party.

The existence of a number of political parties in Canada isn't an impediment, but it's an expression of our diverse society. The difficulty is that we're not adequately represented by just a 'left' and a 'right'.

We need to improve our representation system to give an effective voice in parliament to other popular viewpoints and to disallow majority governments when these have garnered less than half of the popular vote.

Giuseppe Gori
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Mail letters to: The Canadian Champion, Box 248, Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9, or leave them at our office, 191 Main St. E., or fax to 878-4943.

Pud

by Steve Nease

