

Comment

Time to have your say

With a federal election campaign in full swing, it's hard not to be overwhelmed by all the opinions being offered.

Attack ads tell us why we shouldn't vote for one party, but don't always make a case for an alternative. Other ads feature almost robotic deliveries of the party line, as if being read directly from campaign material candidates hand out as they canvass door-to-door. Election campaigns are invariably awash with promises designed to attract just the right amount of support.

Each day Paul Martin, Stephen Harper, Jack Layton and Gilles Duceppe fight to be included in television's nightly news snippets, radio sound bites and in the next morning's newspaper headlines.

Somewhere in back rooms, away from the bright lights of the television cameras and media scrums, small armies of election strategists wage a war fought with spindocoring, fear mongering and the speech writer's ability to demolish the opposition's election platform.

Television viewers find themselves under siege by attack ads one minute and surrounded by testimonials by 'ordinary Canadians' the next. With candidates arriv-

ing at our doorsteps offering promises that sound too good to be true, there's hardly time for the voter to absorb all the information.

Meanwhile, the media wades through all the political posturing, attempts to make sense of it all, and passes the information on to the electorate.

With all the mud-slinging and promises, Canadian voters can't be blamed for feeling confused and skeptical.

One very important viewpoint is missing from the lead up to election day — yours. That's why The Champion is inviting readers to stand up and speak out during this federal election. We are inviting you to tell us what issues matter to you. (Please keep your comments to federal issues only.) The Champion will publish some of the more interesting responses prior to Jan. 23.

To have your view considered for publication, e-mail your name, address and a daytime phone number, accompanied by 40 words or less about election issues as you see them. Submissions should be e-mailed to miltone@haltonsearch.com.

The Champion reserves the right to edit submissions for libel and length.



Our Readers Write

Recent editorial cartoon not amusing

Dear Editor:

It was just the night after Christmas and all through the house and The Champion's cartoonist was nestled all snug in his bed, dreaming of what unkind or thoughtless thing could be said.

For shame to the person or persons at The Champion who decided that the cartoon of Mary and baby Jesus returning frankincense and myrrh deserved printing in the December 26 issue.

On that same page, the editorial regarding The Champion's Salvation Army Christmas Bureau Fund was entitled, "Let's hold our heads up high and

be proud." Right next to this is what I found to be a very upsetting cartoon.

I'd be surprised if the Salvation Army staff found this amusing.

Maybe if the cartoonist took some time to learn about the 'Child' and 'Mother' of Christmas and the special gifts they were given, he may think differently when Christmas cartoon time comes around again.

This would be a good idea, if not for himself, than at least for the Christians in Milton who read The Champion.

**Lynda Vermaas
Kingsleigh Court**

MP's opinion on his government's debt inheritance doesn't tell the whole story

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to Halton MP Gary Carr's letter to the editor in the January 4 Champion regarding, in part, the deficit his party inherited.

Mr. Carr states that Paul Martin, as minister of finance, had to clean up the \$42-billion deficit left by the Conservatives. This view, although widespread and trumpeted by the Liberals, is totally incorrect.

The fact of this extremely important issue is that Brian Mulroney's Conservative government inherited a massive deficit left by Pierre

Trudeau's Liberals. What the Conservative government did was to, for the first time in over a decade, establish an operating surplus, meaning that there was less money being spent than being garnered in tax revenues (exclusive of interest payments).

Unfortunately for the country — and Mr. Mulroney — during this time interest rates skyrocketed to double digits and the cost of supporting the inherited deficit also skyrocketed, greatly outstripping this new surplus.

Had there been no inherited

deficit, Canada would have been putting money in the bank, improving social services or lowering taxes.

However, we were and still are paying for the Trudeau years.

When the Chrétien Liberals took power, all they needed to do was have interest rates fall to historic lows (beyond their control) and let the Conservative measures take hold, while Mr. Mulroney was vilified instead of being credited for saving the fiscal soul of the country.

**Mike Rank
Laurier Avenue**

Unfortunately, Liberals seem like only viable option

Dear Editor:

As a new resident to the riding of Halton, and although not involved in the production of agriculture, I attended Wednesday night's all-candidates meeting at the Campbellville Lions Hall.

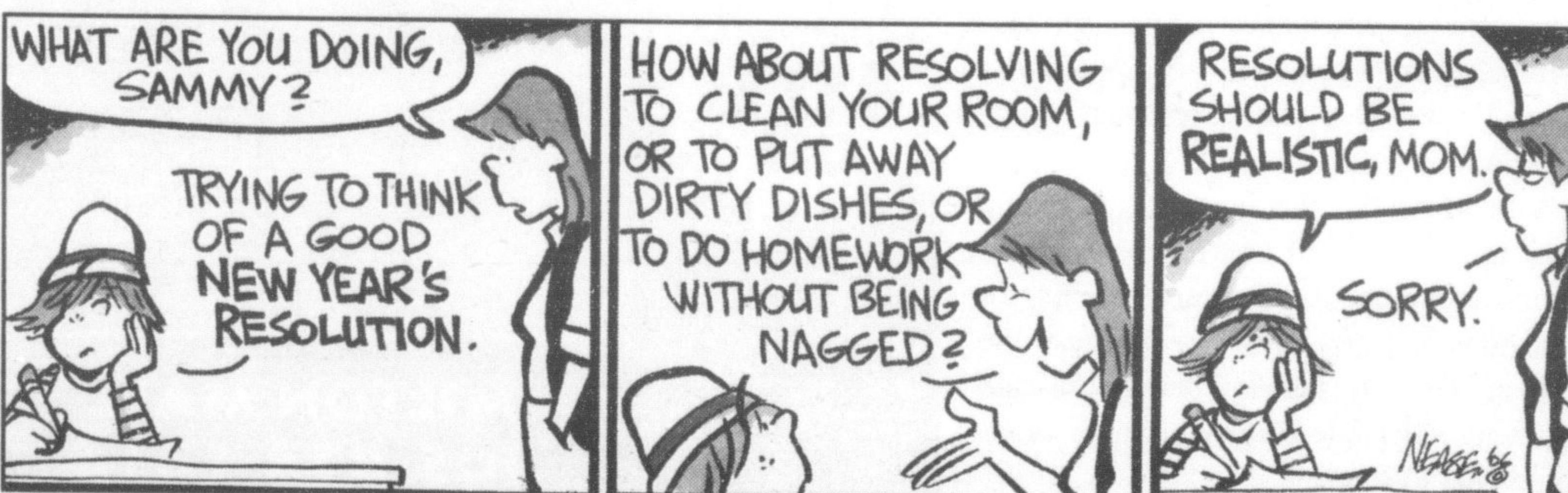
Although I was really impressed with the Green Party candidate's ability to articulate his party's position and the NDP candidate had the audience laughing

several times, I believe that I will have to hold my nose and vote Liberal. Even though I don't agree with Liberal MP Gary Carr's position on the equality of all Canadians, I don't think I can stomach what I believe to be a right-wing, American-style party like Conservative leader Stephen Harper proposes.

**Fred Pritchard
Campbellville**

Pud

by Steve Nease



The Canadian Champion

Box 248, 875 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 3Z3

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943
Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364
Classified: 905-875-3300
Circulation: 905-878-5947

Ian Oliver Publisher
Neil Oliver Associate Publisher
Wendy McNab Advertising Director
Karen Smith Managing Editor
Tim Coles Production Manager
Charlene Hall Circulation Manager
Teri Casas Office Manager

The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Friday at 875 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 3Z3 (Box 248), is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. community newspapers.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

CCAB Audited

RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE BY

OCNA Ontario Community Newspapers Association, CNA Canadian Community Newspapers Association, SNV Suburban Newspapers of America

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION IS A PROUD MEDIA SPONSOR FOR:

