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Comment Editorial

Tue, August 23, 2005

Turning a blind eye



ARGGGGGHHHHH!!!! Okay, we've got that out of our system.

But what else can we say as we survey the political landscape as it is today? Canadian voters are a perplexed bunch, and who can blame them? They look at our prime minister and see a man who has trouble sticking to the truth, doesn't have a firm grasp on how to run the country and has considerable difficulty keeping his public and private lives separate.

And yet should another election be called anytime soon, they'd be willing to turn a blind eye to all the shortcomings mentioned above. It's better, apparently, in their minds to vote for the blundering opportunist you know than to take a chance on the alternative.

Close to half of those taking part in an SES-Sun Media poll felt that Prime Minister Paul Martin needed to shape up, with 15.5% of them questioning his honesty and accountability. (Only 2.1% said they'd change nothing about the PM.)

But none of his shortcomings appears to be enough to put voters in the mood to boot Martin and his Liberals out of office. The most recent polling numbers showed the Grits at 39% support, the Tories at 25% and the NDP at 19%.

That's astounding, considering Martin and his government have been mired in one of the biggest scandals ever to hit Canadian politics, have blown billions of dollars of

YOUR TURN

Does Karla Homolka have the right to carry on her new life in Montreal away from the glare of media attention?

- ☐ Leave her alone already, she's paid her debt to society.
☐ It's a legitimate story, and the media have the right to cover it.
☐ After what she's done, she has no right to privacy.

Results



our money while stubbornly refusing to give us tax breaks, worsened relations with the U.S., shocked us with backroom dealing and failed miserably to deliver on promises to fix health care.

Mind you, Tory Leader Stephen Harper has done far too little to get his own house in order and convince Canadians to turf out Martin and his band of scoundrels and give the Tories a chance.

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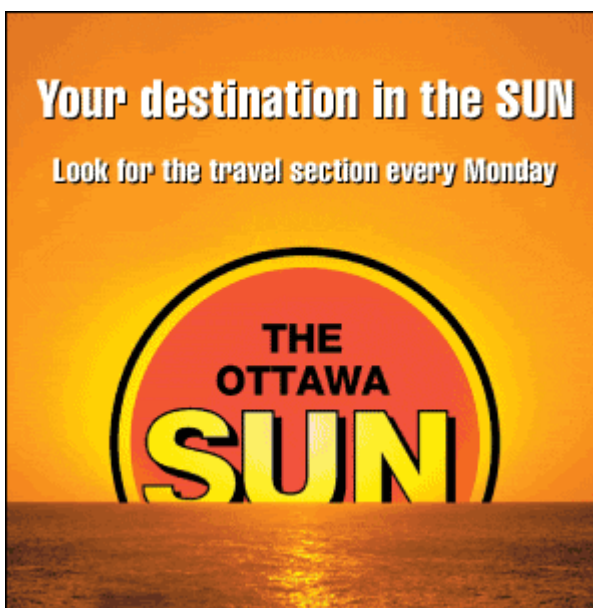
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Canadians can't afford another term of Liberal government and as a country we deserve better than an administration that has pulled every desperate trick in the books to cling to power.

In a country clearly starved for leadership it's time for Harper to quit the barbecue circuit and show us some political sizzle so we can snuff out the Martin era and give Canada a break.

And another thing

Here's some math that will give you a headache. Last April NDP Leader Jack Layton agreed to prop up the minority Liberal government in return for an extra \$4.6 billion in federal spending.

Now, almost four months to the day later, Layton says the alliance is finished. By our calculation that works out to \$39.3 million a day. Keep that in mind when the next election is called.

Next story: [Docs' healthy dissent](#)

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