EDITORIAL

Hatfield victim of personal grudges

Here we are, in the aftermath of a liberal landslide. While staunch conservatives are stumbling around the province trying to salvage what they can from the wreckage, Frank McKenna and his supporters are dancing in the streets.

Although a liberal victory was expected, I don't think that anyone predicted such a crushing defeat for the Hatfield government. All 58 seats in the Legislature were won by the liberals. This is only the second time in Canadian history that a provincial election has resulted in a total opposition shut-out.

A picture of Hatfield in Wednesday's *Telegraph Journal* told the whole story. Dejected and tired, the conservative leader was photographed driving home from the polls. After seventeen years and numerous scandals, the reign of "King Richard" (as he was affectionately dubbed) is definitely over.

Seventeen years! Yet for most New Brunswickers, Richard Hatfield will remain "the playboy Premier". People seem to have confused Hatfield the man with Hatfield the politician. His flamboyant character, not his policies, tended to be the focal point for media attention. Many of the people I spoke to during the run-up to the election had an opinion about Hatfield. "He's a goddamn crook", said one. "At least he's put New Brunswick on the political map", said another. "Who the hell'd vote for a junkie?", said someone else. But no one mentioned his politics.

This may be rather a naive observation, but what disturbs me is the way the media (and voters) went gunning for Hatfield the individual. Whereas McKenna was portrayed as a "squeaky-clean down home farm boy", Hatfield was obviously a distant cousin of Al Capone. For most people, the politics didn't seem that important.

Look what happened to Gary Hart! Although possibly the best Presidential candidate to run for the Whitehouse in years, he was forced to abandon his campaign because he may have had a dirty weekend with his secretary. In the eyes of the American public, his politics weren't an issue.

Apparently, the voters of New Brunswick share the same mentality. One thing was clear: according to the people I spoke to, they were not so much voting for McKenna as voting against Hatfield. The election was a personality battle, not a political one. In fact, many of the students here on campus who voted liberal had little idea what McKenna's election platform was. Neither, I suspect, did McKenna. Somehow he managed to avoid talking politics in the run-up to the election.

By MARK STEVENS

Mugwump Journal

By R. HUTCHINS

We the voters have once again been sacrificed to a futile sort of treadmill. The sweet smell of burning Tory twigs hover in the autumn dew while Liberal doses of hot air bring on Indian Summer. "Wang dang doodle", it's dog eat dog and Frank's brought us a brand new poodle. So it's the Liberals turn to walk the dog. Maybe they will be more careful where they step?

I feel sorry for Richard Hatfield, it reminds me of Nixon and his Watergate finale (remember the man who survived to write books and publish articles). Maybe our former Premier can flourish alongside Dalton Camp as an author and public speaker. Maybe they can write a book together. Something catchy like "58 ways to eat crow".

Enough of the political drivel. Has anyone caught "Uncle Stevie's" Friday Tea Time Show? It's really great. I've often wonder how the son of a scallop fisherman from Grand Manan can attain such a British accent by listening to Monty Python Albums. If we all practice maybe we, too, can bring an international flavour to conversation.

Do you believe the parking police at UNB! I have received my fourth red card already. If they were really concerned about illegal cars maybe they should have command posts at every entrance to campus. Armed guards would be a soft touch. If they want to solve the problem, a simple solution would be to blow up any illegal cars. Seriously, I think that parking is a serious problem and the great administrators should search for a solution.

I found a great new workout video. It's called the "Henry Fonda on Golden Pond 20 Minute Workout." It helps ease stress and tension. You sit in front of the T.V. and drink cold beer for 20 minutes each night. It relieves tension and helps to relax tired and tattered nerves. you may not be fit right away but you'll be happy!

P.S. Eat Turf

CHSR-FM