

Politics: Money Talks

By Jim-beau Liyeah
STAFF GONZO

It is March 7th today. To most Canadians it is another day closer to Spring. To Americans, it is Super Tuesday. Unlike Fat Tuesday, today is when the smack gets laid down in US politics.

There are 13 Republican primaries and 15 Democratic primaries (which assign delegates to the nominees who will then vote for them in the final convention). These will decide on the two political heavyweights vying for the greatest

crown of all: President of the US, caretaker of the Free World. Four are in contention for this millionaires campaign: John McCain, Senator from Arizona (and Vietnam vet) and George W. Bush (former President George Bush's son), Governor of Texas, are slugging it out for the Republican

crown (the Conservative wing of the US political spectrum); Vice President Al Gore and Bill Bradley, former New Jersey Senator (and NBA great) are slugging it out for the left of centre Democratic party. Now is when the orgy of political advertisements will begin as seen on TV, radio, and newspaper. Baby Bush had an estimated \$70 million campaign war chest when things began in January but

seems to have blown it the same way he blew money in university. Mr. Anti Drugs in Texas had quite the time in the 70's (which he subsequently got treatment for) and evidently blew his long term memory as well. He seems to be the front runner but McCain shook things up with his surprising campaign (reminiscent of the run Jean Charest gave Kim Campbell in 1992). Both were pitted against the establishments "crowned" choice. If McCain doesn't show

ture, the Liberals used the budget announcement to take the wind out of his sails. Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin announced a series of tax cuts which were intended to pacify the right. He also announced new spending initiatives designed to appease the left. Anytime one tries to satisfy the 180 degrees of the political spectrum, no one is satisfied... until this year. The best indication of this was the day after the budget, the opposition returned to their daily BBQ of Jane

taking on the Democrats. On that side it looks tight as well but Al Gore will prevail. Regardless of his showing tomorrow, which will probably be good, Gore will be leading the Democrats. That is good if you are an environmentalist among other social causes he advocates. If Gore takes on Bush, expect the Democrats to prevail.

Budget

With Preston Manning touring the country hustling support for his CCRAP ven-

ditionally it is a time to critique the government. And criticize they could have, especially considering most measures were spread over the next 5 years. But the Liberals managed to keep their campaign promise of a 50/50 split between tax cuts/debt reduction and new spending. With a revised 5 year estimated surplus of \$115 billion, \$58 billion will go to tax cuts and debt reduction with the rest in new spending. Here is how Martin managed to shut the opposition up...

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