

NARDWUAR THE HUMAN SERVIETTE VS. CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER PAUL MARTIN, NDP LEADER JACK LAYTON, AND CONSERVATIVE LEADER STEPHEN HARPER!

THE HIP FLIP. I have been obsessed by this crazy 1960s Parker Brothers party game ever since I was presented it by the Student Council President of my high school, Charlie Stone. He said the Hip Flip might come in handy one day. To my amazement it actually did! Twice! First in 1988, I used it as the title of the a gig I put on featuring my all time favourite band, The Gruesomes. And now sixteen years later, for some unexplained reason, I decided to bring back the magic Hip Flip as part of my attempt to document the Great Canadian Election of 2004. How would the leaders of the three major parties in Canada respond to my request to do the Hip Flip with them? Well, flip back your hip and find out right here....



Nardwuar vs. NDP Leader Jack Layton! NDP Campaign Office, Edmonds Street, Burnaby BC, Canada Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Nardwuar: Hey Mr. Layton, how far would you be willing to go to get the youth vote? Would you be willing to do the Hip Flip?



Jack Layton: Well, we're doing lots of parties, we're having a great time-

Nardwuar: 'Cuz I have- Jack Layton: [Looking at the Hip Flip instructions Nardwuar is holding] let me take the flyer about the Hip Flip-
Nardwuar: Well I have the Hip Flip right here. [Nardwuar shows Layton a part of the Hip Flip]



And I was just wondering if you

would want to do this? Jack Layton: You know something, it's not something we ever practiced. Are you going to actually attempt to teach me?
Nardwuar: Yes, I will. I'll try to teach you. [Nardwuar then tries to assembly the Hip Flip, haphazardly pulling parts of it out of his bag] Jack Layton: I tell you what. Next time I come here I will have practiced and perhaps we will be able to pull it off.
Nardwuar: [With the crazy Hip Flip bell ringing, Nardwuar is

still trying to get the Hip Flip assembled] Jack Layton: What I am going to ask you to do is give us a copy [of the instructions] we can take with us. I will practice on the bus-
Nardwuar: You promise. You promise- Jack Layton: I'll practice on that bus. And if I can pull it off maybe we will be doing it together.
Nardwuar: Thank you Mr. Layton! Jack Layton: [Laughs] All right.
Nardwuar: Thank you.

Nardwuar vs. Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin! Floata Seafood Restaurant, Keefer Street, Vancouver BC, Canada Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Nardwuar: Prime Minister Martin, Prime Minister Martin, will you do the Hip Flip? [Martin walks right by Nardwuar through the lobby of the restaurant towards his bus. Nardwuar starts to run after him]
Nardwuar: Mr Martin! Mr. Martin! [Nardwuar is having a hard time keeping up to Martin and his security staff]
Nardwuar: Prime Minister Martin! [Nardwuar is still chasing the Prime Minister]
Nardwuar: Prime Minister Martin! [Nardwuar is now running as quickly as he can after the Prime Minister]
Nardwuar: [Yelling] Hey Prime Minister Martin is it okay for

you to do the Hip Flip? [Nardwuar gets stuck in the doors to the restaurant as Prime Minister Martin's security team hustle Martin onto his bus. Nardwuar now can't see the Prime Minister.]
Nardwuar: [Frantically] Prime Minister Martin! Prime Minister Martin! Prime Minister Martin! Martin Security Staff: Woah, easy, easy, easy, easy!
Nardwuar: [To Martin Security Staff member] Would it be ok, Sir, if we came on the bus and did a Hip Flip with Prime Minister Martin?



Martin Security Staff: No [laughs]
Nardwuar: Are you sure? Martin Security Staff: Positive.
Nardwuar: So no means no? Martin Security Staff: No means no.
Nardwuar: Ok. We will give up [Nardwuar walks away but then spots another one of Martin's Security Staff] Would it be ok to go on the bus and

do the Hip Flip with Prime Minister Martin? Martin Security Staff: He's going to come out and talk to you now.
Nardwuar: [In disbelief] He really will? Oh! Thank you very much! [A few minutes later Martin steps off his bus]
Prime Minister Martin: How are you? Nardwuar: Mr. Martin, thank you for the time! Prime Minister Martin: My time is yours.
Nardwuar: We wanted to ask you about the youth vote, and



I guess I was wondering, would you do the Hip Flip with me?

Prime Minister Martin: All right, sure. You're going to have to show me how.

Nardwuar: It's quite easy, you just [Nardwuar sets up the Hip Flip between himself and

Martin] and you-

[Nardwuar and Martin attempt to rotate the 'flipper.' After eight attempts, they do it!]

[Cheers then arise from the crowd of people around Martin's bus]

Nardwuar: Yeah!

All right! Thank you Mr. Martin! I

just want to ask you one quick thing, how wild were you as a youth? Is it true you

once chucked rocks at the Soviet Embassy?

Prime Minister Martin: [Laughs] It's true! It's true! Yes it is!

Nardwuar: Because that was in your Dad's memoirs.

Prime Minister Martin: I did. I did.

Nardwuar: Now did you ever tell the Soviets that?

Prime Minister Martin: [Laughs] Actually I did. I told Mr. Putin.

Nardwuar: Well thanks very much Mr. Martin. Keep on rockin' in the free world and doot doola doot doo...

Prime Minister Martin: Doot doola doot ...

and I want to do that again!

[points to the Hip Flip]

Nardwuar: Almost. Doot doola doot doo...

Prime Minister Martin: ...Doot doo!

his bus]

Nardwuar: Please

Mr.

Harper! Please Mr. Harper!

[Nardwuar is then pushed aside by Harper's Security Staff]

Nardwuar: [To Harper's Security Staff]

What did you think about the Hip Flip? Did you guys like the Hip Flip?

Harper's Security Staff: [Silence]
Nardwuar: [To Harper's Security Staff] **Did anyone see me playing the Hip Flip video?**

Harper's Security Staff: [Silence]
[Nardwuar is still trying to get on the bus, but is getting bounced around by Harper's Security Staff like a kid on a trampoline]

Nardwuar: [To Harper's Security Staff] **Will you verify I played it (the tape of Martin Hip Flipping)?**

Harper's Security Staff: [Silence]

Nardwuar: [Looking through the windows of Stephen Harper's bus] **Paul Martin did the Hip Flip, Jack Layton, Jack**

Layton, did not do the Hip Flip [Nardwuar is now grabbed by Harper's Security Staff and being led out the parking lot] This is your big chance to do the Hip Flip!

[Harper's bus pulls away]

Nardwuar: [To Harper's Security Staff] **We're just trying to get Stephen Harper to do the Hip Flip.**

Harper's Security Staff: [Silence]

[As Nardwuar is

getting carried out of the parking lot he decides to lift his legs and enjoy the ride Harper's Security Staff is giving him. They are not amused.]

Nardwuar: [Now released by Harper's

Security Staff and standing on the outskirts of the parking

lot] I guess we've found out, well, Jack Layton maybe will do the Hip Flip, Paul Martin will do the

Hip Flip, but Stephen Harper definitely will not do the Hip Flip!

[Nardwuar then heads to A&W in Coquitlam, BC for a Chubby Chicken Burger]

Nardwuar vs. Conservative Leader Stephen Harper! Sheraton Guildford Hotel, Surrey BC, Canada Saturday, June 26, 2004

[Nardwuar is waiting outside of Stephen Harper's bus showing everyone (ie: Harper's Security Staff, including his chief press officer), a video of

Jack Layton refusing to do the Hip Flip and of Paul Martin doing the Hip Flip. It is hoped that this video might influence

them to get Mr. Harper to do the Hip Flip. But they don't seem to care.]

[After a short while Mr. Harper appears.]

Nardwuar: Mr. Harper, Mr. Harper, would it be okay for you to do the Hip Flip?

[Without stopping Mr. Harper glances at Nardwuar, shakes his head, and walks onto



Chris Nelson, host and videographer of MuchMusic's "Going Coastal," filmed all three of the Hip Flip "encounters" you have been reading about here. The following is his insight into what happened:



After five years of recording all of Nardwuar's interviews, I've learned to expect that a) we could get beaten up, b) arrested, or c) both. I certainly thought a beatdown was coming at the Layton encounter...not from the Mounties guarding Layton, mind you, but the uptight political reporters assigned to follow him around like lemmings. They treated Nardwuar like an obnoxious relative who drinks too much at weddings, and that kind of treatment just isn't cool.

People at the Martin encounter, however, were very cool, especially "Lady with Hair" (Nardwuar's pet name for the Liberal press secretary who let him Hip Flip the PM). We spent hours waiting for our

chance, and neither Nardwuar nor I thought anything would happen. As soon as he saw Martin, though, Nardwuar was like a dog with a bone, fighting crowds and Mounties all the way to the campaign bus. Nardwuar did not let up, and I think LWH recognized his valiant efforts (as well as the fact they'd look like assholes for not giving MuchMusic the time of day).

Stephen Harper, on the other hand, was unafraid to look like an asshole. He could've breezed past Nardwuar without so much as a glance, but the guy actually took the time to look at the Serviette and shake his head dismissively (no doubt a look he gives to homeless people on the street when they ask for change). I don't know if the Conservatives told the cops to throw Nardwuar out or not, but I do remember that plain-clothed Mountie who had to carry Nardwuar off the premises. He was PISSED!

Call me crazy, but I suspect there's something to be said for the predictive abilities of the Hip Flip (the winner DID it; the loser did NOT). Perhaps the next time there's a federal election, the leaders will have the good sense to limber up and give Nardwuar his props.

