



a taste of HONEY

Who said it was going to be a gloomy holiday season? It wasn't me! Well, not consciously ... oh, maybe just a little bit.

Could be that I'd started believing all the Labour Party propaganda that we wouldn't be able to survive without them in charge.

Well I'm sorry if I was just a tiny bit cynical. Think I'll make a belated New Year's resolution to never, ever, be cynical again ... and I'll always speak with a honeyed tongue from now on.

Not that I'm actually a cynic, of course. There's a fine line between a true cynic's constant expectation of the worst happening (hardly ever accepting any other possibility, even when confronted with evidence) and my way.

I simply anticipate the worst, because the results are usually better than what I imagined them to be (and I do know a good thing when I see it). I've tried it the other way round, but by anticipating the best I've almost always been disappointed.

Isn't the new mood in politics wonderful? What happened?

I'm not complaining, but all the niceness has been a bit of a shock to the system. It all started with Obama, spread to McCain, and has just exploded in John Key. It must be contagious; even Helen's got it.

And it looks real!

A New Year's resolution from honey-tongued LAURENCE CLARK

True cynics would have us believe it's just a huge deception that will all turn to custard soon (like jumping out of the fire into the frying pan). They'd say the nicer and more reasonable a politician seems, the bigger the deception. Crikey, if it's a colossal deception, we could all be blissfully happy for a whole second term, a third term, or even longer before we find out. Hmmm!

But who really knows what's in store for the new year? Can common sense win the day or does it all depend on the world economy?

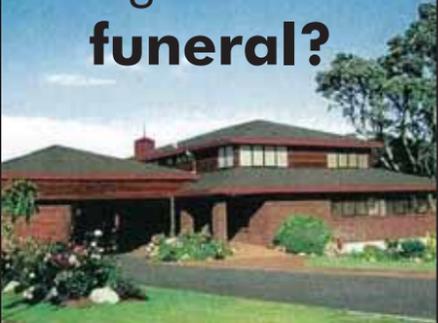
The only thing I feel comfortable about predicting is that, when Jeanette Fitzsimons retires, the new Green Party co-leader will be Sue Bradford. The Greens will then fall so low in the polls that she'll step down and join the Labour Party, where she really belongs.

I'm hoping this will lead to a new era for the Greens. They'll drop their silly social policies and concentrate on the environment. They might even join up with John Key's great coalition.

Labour will be the only party left out and have no other choice but to follow suit. They'll all forget about spiteful and wasteful party politics and actually run the country properly.

Another three years of Labour was too much for most of us. It's not that they made a lot of mistakes, just one big one that they kept repeating. Or as an earlier historical American president might once have said:

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"You can boss all of the people around some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you can't boss all of the people around all of the time."

Talking about repeat performances and silly seasons, once again our Christmas dinner table conversation revolved around the pleasure of eating and drinking shamelessly. The topic of cultivating earthworms for food came up.

I guess it's not out of the question; anything tastes good deep-fried in batter. Eventually we'd acquire a taste for them, they'd be like whitebait or shrimps. I can just see a franchise of Worm 'n' Chips shops opening up.

The conversation moved on to eating insects. We discussed gourmet condiments like moth relish, sandfly sauce and a hot, spicy, flying-ant dip for the grilled cicadas.

We could eat insects *au naturel*. All we'd ever have to do would be to keep our mouths open and have a little honey on our tongues. ■



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