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PHOTOS ROBERT J. GALBRAITH



A campaign of chaotic vanity

« ...le public est ennuyé par les politiques de la grande ville... »

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Gerald Tremblay is on the ropes. The momentum is with his nemesis Louise Harel. What is shaping up is a municipal election campaign of chaotic vanity. In the past few weeks so many candidates have been jockeying for position that you need a program to know who they are and what they stand for.

Des sondages ont suggéré que deux mandats ont été suffisants et qu'il est temps d'élire un nouveau maire. Pris dans des scandales, le maire Tremblay et son administration semblent errer sans but, sans objectif et sans direction. Sa seule réponse à tout cela a été de dire qu'il ne veut pas installer d'affiches de campagnes parce qu'elles ne sont pas écologiques. Ses tactiques

politiques ont été de tergiverser, de retarder et d'attendre pour prendre des décisions. Comme Henry Aubin le mentionnait dans un article de janvier dernier, « Le maire Tremblay ne peut s'enorgueillir de beaucoup d'accomplissements majeurs. Il est en place davantage parce que le public est ennuyé par les politiques de la grande ville, qu'il jouit une machine politique bien rodée, qu'il est omniprésent aux événements publics et que les médias sont généralement inattentifs et dociles. Le manque d'opposition efficace signifie aussi qu'il fait face à très peu de pression. »

Aujourd'hui, au moment où monte la tension politique et que des affiches de campagne commencent à apparaître, cela ne fait que rappeler son incompétence aux électeurs. Il est facile d'identifier le moment où ses problèmes ont commencé : le 17 septembre 2007, le jour où un de ses candidats vedettes, Bernard Labonté, l'ancien président du Bureau de commerce du

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..Gerald and Louise Take a Tram Ride

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Since Montreal is apparently flush with cash to undertake new infrastructure projects, a study by engineering consortium Genivar-Systra was commissioned to demonstrate the viability of a 12 kilometre tramway network for Montreal. The cost is estimated at \$500-\$750 million dollars, depending on the scope of secondary infrastructure work that is included in the study. But what would a trip on a Montreal tramway really look like? Imagine if we could take a ride on the Guy Street to Jean Talon line?

Here's the scenario: simulator manufacturer CAE sets up a

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EMK: "And the last shall be first..."

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When John Kennedy was elected President he gave his youngest brother a silver cigarette case with the scriptural verse from the Gospels of Matthew and Mark "...and the last shall be first..." engraved within. Whether they were intended as words of aspiration or inspira-

tion, Edward Moore Kennedy – overcoming so many personal demons – rose to their hope and to their promise. His legislative legacy, more than anyone in the post-war era, became the first line of defence for hundreds of millions of the vulnerable whose concerns are too often last in the minds of lawmakers in their ivory towers. In every day and in every way, the work of Teddy Kennedy helped everyone battle their own personal dragons. But his record of over 500 laws addressing the needs of the poor, the sick, the hungry and the marginalized, is not the most compelling reason for commem-

orating the passing of the last of the first generation of this remarkable family. His heart is. Teddy was all heart.

It has been said that John Kennedy was moved by his intellect. If you wanted to convince him of something, put it in writing and make it eloquent. Robert Kennedy was moved by his spirit. After his brother's assassination he lived in a deeper and darker place. A place described in the words of RFK's favorite poet, Aeschylus, that he quoted so often. "In our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the

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MILLES MOTS • THOUSAND WORDS



PHOTO ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

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Ex-dramaturge, romancier persévérant, essayiste et poète à ses heures, Pierre K. Malouf fréquente des fédéralistes et des indépendantistes, des gens de gauche et des gens de droite, des jeunes et des vieux, des écrivains et des ingénieurs. Gentil comme tout, il ne dit pas toujours tout ce qu'il pense, mais pense toujours ce qu'il écrit.

LA PATRIE

LA GAUCHE ET LA DROITE DANS LE PAYSAGE QUÉBÉCOIS

Un sujet sans importance

La question n'a aucune importance, mais elle est souvent posée de diverses manières qui se ressemblent toutes : quelle différence y a-t-il entre la droite et la gauche ? Telle mesure proposée par tel parti, par tel groupe de pression, tel penseur, doit-elle être classée à droite ou à gauche ? De quel bord de l'éventail situer, par exemple, le manifeste des Lucides, la réplique des Solidaires, le rapport Monmarquette, Bouchard-Taylor ? Hors le sexe de l'individu concerné, comment distinguer un homme de droite d'une femme de gauche, une femme de droite d'un homme de gauche ? Toujours la même question stérile, que quelques événements récents ont ramenée sur tapis. Vous me pardonnerez de la traiter ici avec quelque légèreté.

Ainsi nous pouvons nous demander si l'Action démocratique du Québec s'éloignera de la droite pour se rapprocher du centre après le départ de Mario Dumont ; si François Legault représentait vraiment la droite du Parti québécois ; si le PQ renouera après son départ avec une soi-disant tradition social-démocrate — qui n'a d'ailleurs jamais existé sous nos cieux cléments (1) ; si le parti libéral de Jean Charest bifurque vers la gauche en renonçant à une « réingénierie » de l'État qu'il avait inscrite à son programme il y a quelques années ; si les jeunes libéraux, qui viennent de proposer des hausses de tarifs destinées à contrer les déficits budgétaires de l'État, entraînent leur parti vers la gauche ou vers la droite.

À toutes ces questions complètement idiotes le lecteur sensé répondra que la seule chose qui compte lorsqu'un problème se pose, c'est que la mesure adoptée soit de nature à améliorer la situation. Que les solutions viennent de la gauche ou de la droite, d'en haut ou d'en bas, on s'en balance, pourvu que ça marche ! Tout à fait d'accord, mais je vous trouve bien sérieux.

Il en va avec les opinions générales, avec les goûts musicaux, avec les choix vestimentaires, avec l'orientation sexuelle, comme il en va avec la religion, la philosophie, l'idéologie, la politique. Il est impossible d'occuper en ces domaines quelque position que ce soit sans que quelque importun ne vienne vous caser à droite ou à gauche. Ainsi, on vous dira de gauche si vous trouvez normal d'attendre pendant des mois une consultation avec un médecin spécialiste, de droite si vous êtes prêt à déboursier pour subir une échographie

de l'épaule dans des délais raisonnables (j'ai vécu l'expérience). Si vous allez à la messe, vous êtes de droite ; si vous crachez sur le pape, vous êtes de gauche. À droite les lecteurs de La Presse, à gauche les lecteurs du Devoir. Si vous mangez de la viande, vous êtes de droite ; si vous êtes animaliste, vous êtes de gauche — mais Hitler était végétarien, Staline carnivore. Si vous vous enduisez de deet pour vous protéger des moustiques, vous êtes décidément à droite ; si vous utilisez plutôt de la citronnelle, vous êtes clairement à gauche. Si par ailleurs vous n'utilisez aucun de ces deux produits, il y

maussades ; mais à droite le Mossad, à gauche le Hamas. J'en conviens, ma boussole est complètement dérégulée.

Plus cocasse encore, bien des gens sont à la fois de droite et de gauche. La plupart des pro-vie sont pour la peine de mort, la plupart des pro-choix sont contre. Mais il y a des exceptions. Je connais un hurluberlu qui est à la fois contre l'avortement et contre la peine de mort, un autre qui est pour l'avortement et pour la peine de mort. J'ai rencontré un étudiant en génie qui ne connaît ni Bach, ni Mozart, ni Beethoven. Aucun rapport ? Détrompez-vous ! Le même

... nous pouvons nous demander si l'Action démocratique du Québec s'éloignera de la droite pour se rapprocher du centre après le départ de Mario Dumont ; si François Legault représentait vraiment la droite du Parti québécois ; si le PQ renouera après son départ avec une soi-disant tradition social-démocrate

a de fortes chances que vous soyez un extrémiste (de gauche ou de droite, peu importe). Par voie de conséquence, le tueur-mouche est de droite ; le moustiquaire déchiré, de gauche. De gauche qui utilise de la crème solaire, de droite qui attrape un coup de soleil. De droite qui conduit une BMW, de gauche qui roule à vélo ou prend l'autobus. À droite la cravate, à gauche le col roulé. À droite les boute-en-train, à gauche les

énergumène est en faveur d'un meilleur financement des universités mais rue dans les brancards quand quelqu'un ose proposer une augmentation des frais de scolarité.

(1) Je l'écrivais il y a un peu plus d'un an dans mon premier Brasse-camarade : il n'y a jamais eu au Québec, ni en théorie ni en pratique, de social-démocratie. L'État-providence et la social-démocratie, ce n'est pas la même chose.

...si le Gouvernement nous protège de tout,
qui donc nous protège du gouvernement ?

...if the Government protects us from everything
else, then who protects us from the government?

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A CAMPAIGN OF CHAOTIC VANITY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PHOTOS ROBERT J. GALBRAITH



Montréal métropolitain et maire de l'arrondissement Ville-Marie, du centre-ville, a remis en question les capacités de leadership du maire et s'est séparé de lui et de son parti Union Montréal pour siéger comme candidat indépendant. Depuis lors, le maire Tremblay a eu à faire face aux indiscretions de deux de ses principaux associés, Frank Zampino et Robert Marcil, qui ont accepté des voyages de la part d'entreprises qui transigent avec la ville; il a ensuite dû faire face à la trahison d'autres collègues, y compris celle la présidente de son parti, Brenda Paris, qui est passée au camp de Vision Montréal avec Louise Harel où elle se présentera dans Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

Tremblay gained a significant ally last week in former PQ minister Diane Lemieux who will run as a Union candidate in Ahunistic. On the other hand Harel, a former Parti Québécois minister, has enlisted two star candidates: Pierre Lampron, former SODEC and Québecor media executive and former Liberal MNA Nathalie Rochefort. Lampron will be her candidate in Rosemont-Petit Patrie, Rochefort will run in the Plateau. In the meantime, Richard Bergeron, is letting former judge John Gomery, considered biased by a Federal Court for the way he handled aspects of his inquiry, be the poster boy for his Project Montreal Party. Since Gomery has a daughter running for Bergeron his motives seem clear, but backing a man who questions 9/11 seems a bit surreal. But so is this campaign.

Everyone, it seems wants to run the city but no one can tell voters how. It is occasionally useful for a politician to have bold and decisive ideas. But so far, none of the candidates inspires the extraordinary confidence you might expect in a chief magistrate. In one recent free-wheeling interview, Tremblay took the quiet approach. He claimed that he and his team have become "victims of their own integrity." Unfortunately, once you claim victim status, it's pretty much game over. After eight years in office, Tremblay, a Harvard educated corporate lawyer, seems dispirited. Not all of it is Tremblay's fault, - Harel was the Minister who pushed through our three levels of unworkable duplicating municipal governance - but the city's per capita municipal debt is now the highest in the country, Montreal's infrastructure is deteriorating and its public services declining.

With the campaign officially set to begin this week who could have imagined that so many political non-entities would make a bigger media splash than the candidates running for public office. John Gomery, for example, enjoyed his 15 minutes of fame five years ago when he presided over a commission of inquiry into the sponsorship scandal. If you choose to remember, Gomery reached conclusions that didn't stand up in a court of law. Earlier this month he came out of retirement to support his daughter, Cym, Project Montreal's candidate in NDG. Incredibly, even though Project Montreal can't win, the news that Gomery was on side was worth a full page spread in the Globe & Mail and La Presse.

And a lot of ink has also been spilled because human rights lawyer Julius Gray supports Louise Harel for mayor. As the apparent collapse of Tremblay's Union Montreal approaches, Harel is pitching changes to the municipal charter, and her own unified vision of Montreal that includes a political agenda beyond the borders of the city's 19 boroughs. A complete about-face from her days as the Minister who helped create this mess.

In this election, the alternatives seem worse than the status quo.





GERALD AND LOUISE TAKE A TRAM RIDE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

room with an exact replica of what a ride over the mountain from downtown to TMR would look like, but takes a very realistic approach based on Montreal's lack of experience with modern trams and the inevitable design and construction problems and compromises we always face in this city. CAE then invites mayoral candidates Gerald Tremblay (GT) and Louise Harel (LH) to experience the most realistic ride that technology can provide using a mock-up of a Bombardier tramcar at their Cote de Liesse location. The following is an extract of their conversation as their voyage unfolds:

LH (boarding the tram): Wow Gerald, this is a really swanky ride! (Louise has been taking lessons in English slang) But it doesn't look like the trams I've seen anywhere else in the world. Wasn't there a design that we could have used?

GT (wearing a Bombardier Rail Group dress shirt): Not really, Louise, since we were planning some routes like this one that had drastic elevation changes which required us to adapt a chassis design based on Swiss mountain-climbing trains. I didn't want to tunnel through the mountain because I felt that the tourists should appreciate Mount Royal in all its magnificence, now that we cancelled all kinds of revenue-generating real-estate projects in order to preserve its beauty! So, only Bombardier was able to license the technology and build a prototype that matched our specifications. It only cost us an extra \$150 million for the rolling stock, but it was well worth it!

LH: Well, I'm all for supporting local industry, even if the collective has to pay more for the privilege. Where are all the trains being maintained?

GT: It's really too bad that we sold off all the land at the bottom of Peel Street for real estate development years ago, since that was the most logical place to have a rail yard to service the downtown and Old Montreal loops. Instead, we had to locate the yard way out in the east end and contract with CN and CP to use an old spur to get to and from the maintenance facility. We forgot to think about this infrastructure in the study – oops, my bad!

(The trip is now over the mountain and has passed through the intersection of Cote des Neiges and Queen Mary Road.)

GT: Wasn't that trip beautiful! Try not to pay attention to the residents of the Trafalgar and Gleneagles apartment buildings who looked so unhappy in their windows. You see, we were not able to estimate the noise levels that the mountain-climbing tram design would produce as it engaged to make it up the hill. They're suing the city, but don't worry, it will take them years to get their day in court.

LH: Why is there so much congestion on Cote des Neiges? We're barely moving! I thought that the tram was supposed to provide faster service than the old 165 bus route.

GT: In order to make space for two parallel tracks along Cote des Neiges we had to reduce car traffic to one lane in each



direction and eliminate parking altogether between Queen Mary and Edouard Montpetit. Yes, the merchants are suing us as well and it can take 20 minutes or more to go six blocks at rush hour, but this should be a message to those commuters married to their cars that Montreal no longer favours them. Besides, even if they were to make it downtown, there's nowhere left to park anyways – the 24 street parking spots left in the city core are reserved for hybrid or electric vehicles now. Montreal is truly a green city!

LH: In my former political life, I always preferred to support the needs of Laval and the South Shore over Montreal in any case, so I guess I should ask how our new tram system helps the off-island communities, since we need those workers to come to Montreal for their jobs and entertainment, we benefit from the tax revenue.

GT: If previous Montreal mega-projects are any indication, the tram system will probably end up costing 1.5 billion once a full-cost model is employed, so there will be no money to improve metro access to Laval and the South shore like those pesky suburban mayors proposed to Charest. We will get all the money instead, arguing that "Quebec's economic engine" should come first. We have to make a pact Louise, that no matter who wins we will push this project forward, to give Montreal the romantic transportation system it deserves.

LH: I'm with you on that one, Gerald, since my party did not comment on the Genivar-Systra report when it came out, you can take our silence as sublime acquiescence. As a potential mayor of Montreal, I have to think of my relationship with the on-island suburbs as well. Is there anything for them in this project?

GT: Not really – our tram system runs within the boundaries of the city of Montreal. There are a few proposals on the table that make sense for the suburbs, like a commuter train to the West Island linked with Trudeau airport, but so far we can't

extension of the metro's Blue Line to their territory, since the tunnel already extends a kilometre west under Queen Mary Road and creating a station in Hampstead, for example, would probably only cost \$200 million or so, a mere pittance by Montreal standards. Let them keep focusing on the Cavendish extension; I'll stall them on that one forever.

(The tram arrives at the Jean Talon metro station and our candidates prepare to disembark.)

LH: Gerald, that was a pretty expensive trip. The full cost of the Guy to Jean Talon route could be \$500 million on its own, it took as long as the bus, you can take a metro to cover the same ground in less time and the infrastructure is already paid for. Shouldn't we just move ahead with replacing our aging metro cars and extend the Blue Line? We could probably do it for the same \$1.5 billion and pick up another 80,000 commuters in the process. Those would be NEW riders, Gerald, not just people that we took off the old bus routes. Wouldn't that be a better deal for all Montrealers?

GT: No comment.

even decide on a final route. The mayors of Hampstead, Cote St. Luc and Montreal West missed an opportunity to lobby for an

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Vision sets its sights on Ville-Marie

With less than a month left to go before the start of Montreal's municipal election campaign, Louise Harel's team is already up to speed with 10 more weeks to go before next November's election. While Harel's charm offensive is winning converts all over the city, she's still letting everyone know she won't back down from a fight-any fight.

"I promise you I will ask Premier Charest's government to amend the city's charter," she said. "The citizens of Ville-Marie have the right to elect their own representatives like everyone else in this city and the government must stop treating them like second class citizens."

Harel was talking about yet another Tremblay-Zampino initiative which occurred after future municipal opposition leader Benoit Labonté left the Tremblay administration but kept his position as the mayor of Montreal's Ville Marie Borough. As a result of Labonté's defection, Tremblay asked the Charest government to pass Bill 22 to alter the city's charter in such a manner as to eliminate any possible opposition to the city mayor in the city's most important borough. As a result of the new law, the city's next Mayor-Elect will automatically become the new mayor of the Ville-Marie borough with the power to appoint three more elected councilors to the borough's council to offset any possible opposition from the borough's elected councilors.

"It's profoundly un-democratic," said Harel, "...and we must do something about it."

For a man who only months ago was staring at the smoking train wreck of his own political ambitions, Benoit Labonté is quickly learning how to make his way in the back-alley brawl which often defines politics in Montreal's city hall. As a result of his new alliance with Louise Harel, he won't have too much trouble winning the borough's Ste. Marie district which means he will be the president of the city's executive committee as promised if Harel wins the next election. While Labonté admits politics takes up a lot of his time, he did take the time to remind his audience why he took up the challenge of public life.

"I have two passions," he said. "...public service and the city of Montreal."

Citing all the social, economic and cultural issues that cross his desk every day, Labonté reminded his audience how both the richest and the poorest of Canada's people live in the same borough.

"You know there's a lot of work to be done when 46% of the borough's population lives below Canada's poverty line."

Entertainment lawyer and former federal Liberal candidate Denise Dussault will face off against veteran city politician Sammy Forcillo, Tremblay's executive committee member in charge of finances in the Peter McGill district's three way race. Labonté's friend and former colleague, Concordia communications executive Karim Boulos will be the district's third candidate. In a classic election

scenario, both Dussault and Forcillo could cancel each other's votes out which could provide Boulos with a seat on city council.

Former Hydro-Québec executive Francois Robillard will be facing Tremblay loyalist and executive committee member Catherine Sévigny in the borough's St. Jacques district. As Sévigny is one of the few people close to Tremblay who managed to avoid the mud bath of recent months, many observers believe she might keep her seat even if she may be forced to move out of her executive committee office after the city's November elections.

During a short but impassioned speech, Harel kept scoring points with her audience as she continued to offer her audience a credible alternative to four more years with Gérald Tremblay as the mayor of Montreal. Wearing her trademark bright yellow jacket, Harel made a determined effort to speak more than a few token words in English as she repeated how she hoped all of the city's different communities would set aside their usual animosities and help build a new and united city. While she admits many people have a problem with her separatist politics, she also told her audience she wanted to become the city's new mayor because she believes in the city and she believes in its people.

"You must understand this election is not about Québec's future," she said in bold and broken English. "It's about the future of Montreal."

"You can get anything you want in life if you help others get what they want."

- George F. Lengvari, Sr.



LENGVARI & ASSOCIATES INC.



Closing Peel Street bad idea

"This looks bad, very bad." No independent engineer hired by city or province

Last July, the entire section of Peel Street between Sherbrooke St. and De Maisonneuve Blvd. was closed after a decorative slab of concrete weighing 135 kilos fell out of its 18th floor casement, killing Léa Guilbeault, 33 and permanently injuring her husband Hani Beitinjaneh. After Guilbeault's body was taken away, city fire and security officials immediately closed the street as a security precaution against further incidents and possible injuries. Six weeks later, Peel Street is still closed and local business people wonder why the Tremblay administration can't do anything about it.

"I don't want flowers," said local business owner Marie-Hélène Chartray. "I want them [the city] to reopen the street."

Weeks after the accident, Chartray said it's bad for business and there's no relief in sight. As the owner-manager of Bleu comme le ciel, a jewellery store located only a few feet north of the city's fence, Chartray says her business has been reduced by at least 30% since the July tragedy.

"Just look at what happened to the kitchen store on De Maisonneuve after the city tore up the street," she said. "They're

bankrupt."

Antoine Brun, the manager of Peel Street's up-scale Entrecôte St. Jean, said the restaurant business is always a struggle but this was "...truly too much." After telling us how the city's parking policies already made it difficult to run a high end restaurant in the city's downtown core, he added that the restaurant lost another 30% when the city closed the street as a "temporary measure" after the accident.

"We lost a lot of business over the past six weeks," said Brun. "...and as far as we're concerned, it's all because the street was closed to traffic."

Six weeks later, Peel street is still closed and despite city mayor Gérald Tremblay's assurance he would try to get things moving, Ville-Marie Borough spokesman Jean-Francois Saulnier said nothing can be done until officials at the RBQ (Régie du Bâtiment du Québec) Québec's building inspection agency, are satisfied the building will no longer pose a threat to the passing public.

As a matter of policy, spokesman Martin Girard said the street

will remain closed until the RBQ receives an engineer's report which can attest to the building's structural integrity and its future safety. But both the city and province are, inexplicably, waiting for the report to be produced by the building's owners instead of hiring their own independent engineer. Until then, he said it was a question of public security and the street would remain closed. While Girard did say OZRE, the building's owners, have already hired an engineering firm, both city and RBQ officials were still waiting for the report and nobody knows when the street can once again be opened for business.

"That's not good enough," said Evelyn Lau, the owner and manager of Peel Street's high end Orchidée en Chine. "If the street is closed, it won't be long before people begin to think the restaurant is closed."

When Chartray and other business people saw borough workers begin to place flower pots along the length of the fence facing De Maisonneuve, they all knew the street would probably be closed for at least a few more weeks.

"This looks bad," said Chartray. "This looks very bad."



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Le libéralisme face à l'homophobie islamofasciste

Le dimanche 16 août dernier, au moins 100 000 spectateurs assistaient au défilé de la Fierté gaie de Montréal. Le parti libéral du Canada a profité de l'occasion pour rappeler que c'est un gouvernement libéral qui, il y a 40 ans, avait légalisé l'homosexualité au Canada. Accompagnés de quelques dizaines de militants libéraux, cinq députés libéraux ont participé au défilé en arborant fièrement des affiches dont le slogan ne manquait ni d'originalité ni de saveur : « 69 une position libérale ». Il fallait effectivement y penser...

Étant moi-même un membre en règle – assez peu docile, je l'avoue – du parti libéral du Canada, j'ai d'abord été amusé par ce jeu de mots qui, dans les circonstances, me paraissait plutôt brillant. Mais j'ai assez vite ressenti un certain malaise, qui depuis ne s'est pas atténué, bien au contraire.

L'émergence d'une idéologie homophobe et haineuse

C'est que, même si les libéraux sont tout à fait justifiés d'être fiers de tout ce que leur parti a accompli pour établir au Canada les droits et libertés des gais et des lesbiennes, ils doivent néanmoins s'interroger face à l'émergence, de plus en plus évidente dans notre société, d'une idéologie qui répand activement la haine homophobe. À la lumière de certains faits, je me sens bien désolé d'admettre en tant que libéral que non seulement les libéraux font jusqu'à présent preuve d'un silence assourdissant face à la propagation chez nous de cette idéologie haineuse, mais également que plusieurs dirigeants du parti révèlent une complaisance indécente pour ces semeurs de haine en les courtisant activement pour s'attirer les faveurs purement électorales d'une clientèle dont pourtant les valeurs sont radicalement opposées au libéralisme.

De quoi diable je parle donc ? Eh bien, voici : que diriez-vous du fait qu'à Montréal, un personnage influent auprès d'une certaine communauté a produit ces dernières années un livre qui circule sur le Web et dans lequel on peut lire que :

L'homosexualité est une « perversité » ;

Les homosexuels « sèment le désordre sur la terre » ;

Les homosexuels et les lesbiennes méritent d'être « anéantis dans cette vie » ;

« Les homosexuels qu'on trouve en train de faire la sodomie, on coupe la tête de celui qui le fait et de celui qui le subit ».

Vous avez bien lu : non seulement il s'agit d'une incitation à la haine des homosexuels, mais aussi d'un appel à les anéantir physiquement.

Des semeurs de haine tolérés et protégés

Le fait est qu'une telle incitation à la haine et leur auteur sont pleinement tolérés, sinon protégés dans notre pays. En effet, la Commission canadienne des droits de la personne, une instance gouvernementale formée de zélotes multiculturalistes non-élus, rejetait du revers de la main, en décembre dernier, une plainte déposée par un citoyen contre l'auteur de ces propos haineux.

Pourquoi donc la Commission des droits de la personne a-t-elle agi ainsi ? Parce qu'il s'agit de religion et qu'en cette matière tout est devenu permis, relativisme culturel oblige. On peut donc répandre en toute impunité des appels à l'anéantissement de certaines catégories humaines, à condition seulement de couvrir du mot de « religion » ce qui en réalité constitue essentiellement une idéologie haineuse.

Les propos en question proviennent d'un livre, intitulé « L'Islam ou l'Intégrisme ? À la lumière du Qor'an et de la Sounnah, (2006/2007), 3ième édition corrigée »¹. Son auteur est l'imam Abou Hammaad Sulaiman Dameus Al-Hayiti, dirigeant de la mosquée de l'Association Musulmane de Montréal Est, 3661, rue Jean-Talon Est. Précisons que le livre



révèle que l'imam Al-Hayiti n'est pas uniquement violemment homophobe : il est aussi clairement antisémite, épouvantablement misogyne, grossièrement méprisant, sinon carrément raciste à l'égard des « infidèles » que sont tous les Canadiens et Canadiennes non-musulmans.

Les libéraux et leur raison d'être

Bref, l'imam Al-Hayiti prône une idéologie totalitaire et inhumaine qu'à juste titre on appelle l'islamofascisme. Il s'agit non seulement d'une idéologie pour laquelle les libéraux canadiens ne devraient jamais montrer quelque complaisance que ce soit, fût-ce au prix de la perte de quelques votes, mais qu'ils doivent également combattre ouvertement et résolument.

Devant la montée de la haine islamofasciste, il faut d'urgence que les libéraux se secouent et s'attachent à mettre leurs actes en cohérence avec les valeurs qu'ils proclament. Un bon moyen pour ce faire serait de manifester devant les mosquées où l'islamofascisme est prêché tout en déployant les mêmes affiches portant le slogan « 69 une position libérale » qu'ils portaient si admirablement lors du récent défilé de la fierté gaie. Il est vrai que, par un tel acte, le parti ne s'attirerait guère les sympathies des islamofascistes, mais il y gagnerait très fortement en estime et en crédibilité auprès de nos concitoyens, y compris ceux de religion musulmane qui, ayant rejeté l'idéologie islamofasciste dans leurs pays d'origine, ont choisi de s'établir sur cette terre de liberté qu'est le Canada.

Justin Trudeau peut montrer la voie

Il s'adonne, figurez-vous, que le comté de Papineau est pourvu de certaines mosquées où l'islamofascisme est véhiculé,

y compris celle que dirige l'imam homophobe Al-Hayiti ! Et par bonheur, Papineau est représenté au parlement canadien par Justin Trudeau, celui-là même dont la notoriété et la fougue démonstrative ont contribué à rendre très visible le message libéral durant le dernier défilé de la fierté gaie.

Le député de Papineau dispose donc d'une opportunité unique de mettre sa notoriété au service de la défense des libertés partout au Canada, et aussi de rappeler aux libéraux leur devoir de combattre toute forme d'idéologie haineuse. M. Trudeau, qui apprécie sans doute être perçu comme un politicien dynamique et audacieux, serait certainement en mesure d'organiser en un rien de temps une manifestation paisible devant les mosquées de son comté où l'homophobie fait loi, et au cours de laquelle seraient brandies les fameuses affiches « 69 une position libérale ». De cette manière non-équivoque, non seulement M. Trudeau montrerait aux adeptes d'une idéologie homophobe quelles sont les vraies couleurs du parti libéral en matière de défense des droits des gais et lesbiennes, mais il leur ferait également savoir tout aussi clairement que quiconque cherche à semer chez nous la haine et l'intolérance trouvera un ennemi résolu en le parti libéral.

Mais pour que ça puisse arriver, il faudra faire preuve d'un minimum de courage et de leadership moral. Ce courage et ce leadership, les libéraux le trouveront en se rappelant que leur parti émane précisément du difficile et héroïque combat qui a été mené par leurs prédécesseurs historiques pour l'établissement du règne des libertés et des droits humains au Canada.

1 On peut lire le contenu du livre sur : http://www.pointdebasculecanada.ca/img/pdf/L_Islam_ou_l_Integrisme_3ieme_edition.pdf



Ending homophobia

Too many people are still scandalized by the mere idea that youth discovering their gay orientation could be given the same liberties and possibilities as straight ones. Whereas the discovery of heterosexual desire is celebrated as the sign that "he's becoming a man" and therefore largely encouraged, without anyone seeing any sort of proselytizing in it, it's a completely different story when it's homosexual desire that's surfacing. Everything happens as if gays and bisexuals under 18 didn't exist, or at least shouldn't exist.

~ Dr. Michel Dorais, *Mort ou fif*

Quebec's wide-ranging, inter-ministerial action plan against homophobia, years in the making, is expected to be tabled this fall.

The action plan uses as its framework the recommendations put forward by the Quebec human rights commission's 2007 report into homophobia in the province.

While the gay and lesbian community is championing the new plan, resistance to change is expected in some of the province's more conservative schools.

The report, commissioned two years earlier by former provincial Justice Minister Yvon Marcoux, found discrimination to be widespread in Quebec's schools and homophobia to be a burden carried disproportionately by homosexual and bisexual youth: government statistics suggest they're six to sixteen times more likely to consider or attempt suicide.

Gai Ecoute President Laurent McCutcheon says they've been among last ones to benefit from our increasingly liberal society.

Each year, the helpline asks each school in the province to list their number in the establishment's phone book. "There are 40 per cent of schools that refuse, or don't answer," McCutcheon said. "None say they don't want to, but they just don't give us an answer. No one refuses officially." A school's progressiveness relies on many factors - the school board, its commissioners, administration, teachers, counselors and pupils - and McCutcheon hopes government action will



create a standard for them to follow. "It'll set the tone," he said. "Before, we couldn't even talk about homophobia in schools."

Research indicates that the social stigma that surrounds lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender teens leads to a variety of health risks such as substance use, risky sexual behaviors, eating disorders, suicidal tendencies, and victimization. Youth who face verbal and physical abuse due to their perceived sexuality miss more school days and have higher dropout rates.

The rights commission report notes that unease and prejudice surrounding homosexuality stops isolated youth from turning to adults for guidance.

(The problem isn't relegated to the students. It's also extremely rare for a teacher to come out of the closet.) The report suggests close-mindedness on the part of parents, school personnel and religious authorities and the lack of tools and training for staff are hurdles in the fight to eradicate this type of discrimination.

The recent case of 14-year-old David Fortin, missing from his Alma, Que., home since last February and believed to have

run away after constant bullying over his perceived homosexuality, highlights the suffering kids undergo.

His story struck a chord with 22-year-old Gengis Grenier. Growing up in Baie Comeau in Quebec's Cote-Nord region, he says he was a victim of constant violence and harassment in high school, recalling how his peers once tried to drown him during gym class swimming lessons.

But his pleas for help were ignored. "I don't understand why my principal wouldn't help me," he said. "There's a lot of work to be done, many cases that are being buried."

In May, his petition for government action was delivered to Justice Minister Kathleen Weil, who's at the forefront of Quebec's new plan.

Grenier would like to see school staff trained to on how deal with the subject that remains taboo, especially outside the confines of Montreal- with its wealth of advocacy groups - and in cultural and religious communities.

In Quebec's regions "organizations like those aren't allowed in," he said.

"It's a new thing that people are talking about it. I've met teachers who've tried to help but have met resistance." GRIS Montreal's Marie Houzeau says she's nonetheless seen significant change in attitudes over the years. "It's better, we see things that wouldn't have happened 10, 20 years ago," she said, noting she's seen cases of students coming out while still in school.

"But there's still stigmatization - it's a very fragile thing." But Weil expects her action plan to change things.

While she's not ready to discuss its details, she says the government will deliver not just promises but "real actions - what we'll do and how we'll do it differently."

"Minorities are often confronted with obstacles, obstacles that stop them from reaching their full potential as human beings," she said.

"Society can't afford that, can't afford to lose these great people."



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Comfort and dependency

I will never forget the surprise and disappointment I felt as a child when I first discovered that the word used to describe opponents of Quebec sovereignty was “federalist”. Even at the tender age of ten, I was dismayed that as Canada teetered on the brink of dissolution, this dry, wishy-washy term was the best its principal defenders could do. “Federalist”? Nothing more stirring, such as perhaps “loyalist”? Not even merely “unionist”? “Federalist”?

What poor ammunition this made for the NO forces in the near-death experience that was the 1995 referendum! Against the YES campaign’s appeals to Quebecers’ fierce pride in their identity and heritage, against the onslaught of Lucien Bouchard’s embittered yet seductive demagoguery, against stirring separatist slogans like “solidarity” and “independence”, Canadian unity revolved around a bloodless geopolitical abstraction like “federalism”. What kind of cause was that, I asked myself. Where was the passion there? Where was the pride? Where was the patriotism?

I eventually learned with great chagrin the reason for this flaccid anti-separatism: that Canadian patriotism per se is lost on most francophone Quebecers. Several years ago, pollster Maurice Pinard found that only about 12% of Quebec francophones self-identify as “Canadians”. Approximately 30% identify as French Canadians specifi-

cally; more than half of the rest call themselves “Québécois” and nothing else. This rings a bell; my Québécois acquaintances’ attitudes towards Canada generally range from shrugging indifference to outright hostility. Whatever patriotic fervor they feel is reserved strictly for Quebec. I cannot but agree with journalist Richard Gwyn that culturally and emotionally, most of Quebec effectively separated from Canada long ago.

Hence the age-old federalist focus on Canada’s capacity to accommodate Quebec’s autonomy, while noting that one can be both a proud Quebecer and a proud Canadian. Since so little passion for Canada beats in the average Québécois breast, the federalist case of the past three decades has also included a less high-minded dimension. I refer to the essentially mercenary argument against sovereignty—that it would endanger Quebecers’ access to unemployment insurance, family allowances, old-age pensions and all the other strands of Canada’s bounteous social safety net. “You may not love Canada exactly,” the federalists tell Quebecers, “but you know where your bread is buttered.”

Sovereignists have spent three decades bemoaning the effectiveness of this cynical federalist pitch. Denis Arcand’s 1981 cinematic polemic *Comfort and Indifference*, for instance, blamed Quebecers’ bourgeois comforts for their

reluctance to fly the Canadian coop. I used to dismiss this lament as so many sour grapes from separatist sore losers. Arcand’s footage of interviews with ordinary Quebecers during the 1980 referendum campaign made me think twice. A former Radio-Canada employee asked PQ minister Claude Morin what would happen to 5,000 CBC jobs in Quebec. A taxi driver worried that the price of gasoline might double after a Yes vote. A group of retirees fretted over the fate of their old-age pensions, and a middle-aged homemaker wondered whether the loonie’s value might plummet. “Do you bite the hand that feeds you?” asked an elderly film librarian. All of this reminded me of the dire predictions I heard as a child during the 1995 referendum campaign—e.g. then-Finance Minister Paul Martin’s warning that separation would jeopardize up to a million Quebec jobs.

Though they helped avert the separatist threat, these fears troubled me deeply. These fine folks did not resist the Péquistes’ blandishments out of love for Canada; they were simply afraid that their province could not hack it on its own. Was there no way to keep Quebec in Canada without exploiting its dependence on the Canadian social-welfare crutch? Was Canada worth preserving if the task required such Machiavellian tactics?

This cold-blooded realpolitik has elicited justifiable accusations of

fearmongering from sovereignists for decades. Yet the separatists deserve little sympathy, for they have brought this on themselves. They have wrapped Quebecers in the embrace of a welfare state so generous that Quebec could never finance it alone without raising its already onerous tax burden—even now the heaviest in North America. This leaves Quebec City heavily dependent on equalization payments from Toronto, Edmonton and Victoria, relayed by the very Ottawa the separatists so despise. Small wonder, then, that Quebecers have twice balked at the sovereignist offer. Indeed, they know where their bread is buttered—with a maple leaf-engraved knife.

Given its strident insistence that Quebec can handle its own business, the Parti Québécois’ history of relying on Canada’s largesse to shower Quebecers with social programs is downright hypocritical. The Péquistes actually have more reason than anyone to try to wean Quebec off of its dependence on Ottawa’s fiscal charity. Quebec would likely suffer a punishing fiscal crisis in the aftermath of secession due to the loss of transfer payments from Ottawa—one of the main fears impeding Quebecers from taking the sovereignist plunge. To rectify this, the Péquistes must either persuade Quebecers of the need to be less dependent on government to prop them up (what a tall order!), or prepare Quebecers for the even

higher taxes the province would need to finance its lavish nanny state by itself.

Otherwise put, the sovereignists have a vested interest in nudging Quebecers towards greater self-reliance, either individual or collective. Either course would require great sacrifice on Quebecers’ part; but to reject both would perpetuate their fear of striking out on their own. Many Quebecers find sovereignty appealing, in the abstract at least. They have yet to seize it because too few of them prize independence highly enough to be willing to pay a price for it. To break that logjam, the sovereignists will have to tackle the very culture of entitlement they have nurtured in this province for generations—the mentality that holds that Canada owes Quebec a living.

When the Péquistes eventually return to power, with or without the “winning conditions” for another referendum, they will be wise to begin building the substance of true independence—the willingness and ability to provide for oneself—if only to prepare Quebec for eventually acquiring its trappings.

In *Comfort and Indifference*, a succession of YES voters lamented the trepidation that led almost six of every ten Quebecers to reject sovereignty in 1980. A voluble carpenter from Daveluyville diagnosed the malady thus: “You want to know who screwed us? We were screwed by Quebecers—by people who don’t take their responsibilities!” Another artisan from Saint-Jérusalem lamented Quebecers’ bourgeois insecurities: “When the time comes for us to stand up and be counted, the first thing people say is, ‘What’ll it cost us? It’s too expensive!’” Retired boxer Réginald Chartrand, after soundly thrashing his federalist opponent in an exposition bout, proclaimed, “I wanted to show Quebecers that they must take risks. Nothing has ever been given to us for free.” He went on to say, “The only path in life is the difficult path. The easy path is for imbeciles. We Quebecers don’t have the right to choose the easy path, sitting in our slippers, waiting...”

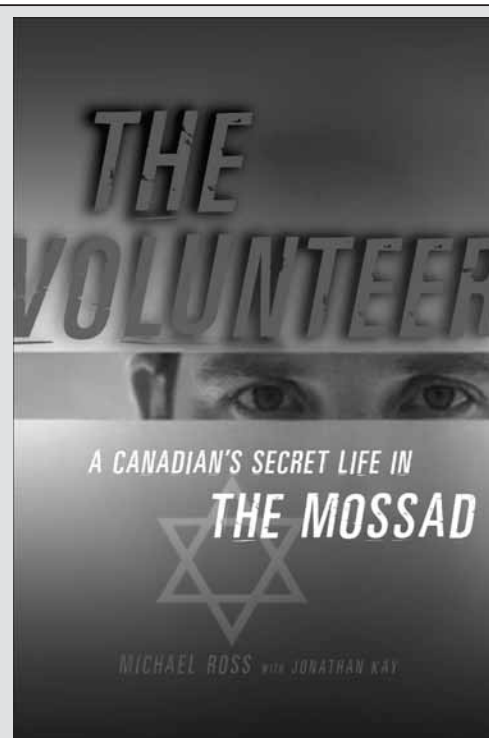
If only the Parti Québécois were as hardy as these fearless militants!

THE VOLUNTEER

The riveting story of a Canadian who served as a senior officer in Israel’s legendary Mossad.

For seven-and-a-half years, Ross worked as an undercover agent — a classic spy. In *The Volunteer*, he describes his role in missions to foil attempts by Syria, Libya, and Iran to acquire advanced weapons technology. He tells of his part in the capture of three senior al Qaeda operatives who masterminded the 1998 attacks on American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania; a joint Mossad-FBI operation that uncovered a senior Hezbollah terrorist based in the United States; and a mission to South Africa in which he intercepted Iranian agents seeking to expand their country’s military arsenal; and two-and-a-half years as Mossad’s Counterterrorism Liaison Officer to the CIA and FBI.

Many of the operations Ross describes have never before been revealed to the public.





Cotler invites government to adopt anti-genocide Iran Accountability Act

Also outlines comprehensive international community strategy

In a press conference held in his riding of Mount Royal, MP Irwin Cotler made two significant announcements related to his Iran Accountability Act (IAA). The first was an invitation to the government to adopt the Act as its own legislation thereby assuring passage of the already broadly supported measure. The second was a plan for a comprehensive international community strategy.

The IAA calls for the use of diplomatic, political and economic leverage to hold Iran to account. Canada would divest from Iranian investments; refuse to contract with those who do business with Iran in certain industries; and would use its bilateral and multilateral relationships to bring increasing pressure on Iran to cease its human rights violations. The Act seeks to focus Canadian — and international — attention not only on Iran's nuclear program, but also on its domestic repression and genocidal incitement.

The foundational principle of the legislation is that the enduring lesson of the Holocaust, and that of the genocides that followed, is that they occurred not simply because of the machinery of death, but because of state-sanctioned incitement to hatred. International tribunals and indeed Canada's own Supreme Court have recognized that the Holocaust did not begin in the gas chambers; it began with words, Cotler reminded the journalists.

Cotler drove home the point that in Iran the state incites against Israelis and the Jewish people as "filthy bacteria," "a cancerous tumour" and "blood-thirsty barbarians" who established their country "in order to swallow up the entire region." The Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, proclaims that "There is only one solution to the Middle East problem, namely the annihilation and destruction of the Jewish state." And former president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani declared that "even one atomic bomb inside Israel will wipe it off the face of the Earth."

Incitement to genocide is a crime under international law, he said. The prohibition against genocidal incitement dates back over 60 years and is an international obligation. The former Justice Minister stated that as a

signatory to the Genocide Convention, Canada has the responsibility both to prevent genocide and to punish incitement to genocide.

U.S. President Barack Obama has himself expressed his support for measures such as the IAA and has encouraged their development in the international community. There currently exist two bills — one in the House of Representatives and one in the Senate — that would implement such a strategy in the United States. These American initiatives enjoy broad bipartisan support.

It is that bipartisan — multipartisan in Canada — foreign policy approach toward Iran that Cotler hopes to encourage through his invitation to the government. Cotler said, "Canada has the moral standing in the international

community to take a leadership role in advancing these principled policies. We can and should be sending a message from Ottawa similar to the one emerging from Washington: that inaction in the face of Iran's crimes is acquiescence. The Iran Accountability Act is the right place to start."

At the press briefing, Cotler expanded on a parallel comprehensive international community strategy that would complement the IAA. Among other aspects it would directly target refined petroleum imports. Iran imports approximately 40 percent of its domestic gasoline consumption and this is a particular area of vulnerability. Cotler said measures should not only be implemented directly against those who export petroleum to Iran, but also those who facilitate such export — i.e.,

the shipping and insurance industries.

The 10-point plan also includes provisions to curb energy investment in Iran, prohibit foreign companies from investing in Iran's energy infrastructure, and incentivize them not to do so. On this point as well, related industries — such as shipping, insurance, and even construction companies — should be included, Cotler said.

Additionally he would like to see a concentration on the Iranian banking industry — including the Central Bank of Iran. While measures have already been applied to other banks, the central bank has so far absorbed the impact. Cotler noted that targeting the central bank in particular could go so far as to bring finances to a standstill in Iran.

The Mount Royal MP also stated

that international financial institutions need to be extremely vigilant so as not to support — even unintentionally — money laundering operations, or indeed any illicit activity involving Iran. He reminded us that the Financial Action Task Force warned earlier this year, banks should be using "enhanced due diligence" when dealing with Iran.

Cotler's proposals would also sanction companies that enable Iranian domestic repression; target the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and those who do business with them; deny landing permission to the Iranian transportation industry; use international law to call Iran to account; use domestic law to target individual Iranians; and strengthen enforcement of existing embargoes of technology and arms transfers.



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EMK: "AND THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST:" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

heart until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God." Teddy was moved by his heart.

It was a heart that learned through pain. Part of that pain came from the most tragic events of his life, the violent deaths of his brothers. But, as he said, those events were governed by external factors. The pain that made Teddy's heart so empathetic to everyone, was the pain that came from his own inner demons. Teddy understood everyman because his own demons were so personal to everyman. And it was in his overcoming of them, that his heart gave him the courage to be the tribune for everyone.

Teddy's heart was very much an Irish heart. The following exchange in the White House on the day of JFK's assassination best explains it. The writer Mary McGrory said on that day that "...we shall never smile again." Then presidential assistant Daniel Patrick Moynihan answered "No Mary, we will smile again, but we'll never be young again. You can't be Irish without knowing that the world will break your heart." Well, Teddy may have lost his youth over and over, but he miraculously grew stronger each time. And, in very concrete terms, he realized the words he spoke in tribute to his brother Robert. "He saw wrong and tried to right it, saw suffering and tried to heal it..."

The Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Teddy's beloved south Boston celebrated a High Mass of the Resurrection for him. That was fitting. For Edward Kennedy's life was a



life of redemption, renewal and rebirth. The hope and courage that John and Robert inspired was incomparable. Had they lived, perhaps the body of their work would have matched Teddy's. But it was Teddy, constantly renewing, who picked up the fallen standard and, in so many ways, kept that hope alive and realized so many of their dreams.

So many today find it fashionable to question the value of the Kennedy family legacy. Others, members of the salon liberal set Teddy

Kennedy so disdained, relish condemning him because of his pragmatism. But that was the point of all the brothers. They hated false piety. And Teddy didn't endorse litmus tests of purity in politics. His bottom line was who could help him meet the needs of the people. That endeavour, and that endeavour alone, was the redemptive crusade of public life for him.

Ted Kennedy brought not only courage but clarity to public life. He dared to care. He sailed into the storms. He challenged us to

vigorous service and sacrifice in our daily lives. He demanded that all remember the words his brother John liked to quote from Corinthians that, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be demanded." Most of all, he dared us to never give in, never give in.

Perhaps that is the greatest quality of leadership. To make people bolder, braver, better than they ever thought possible. And he did it by giving people the audacity to hope. While some today talk of change but are in fact merely the products of change, Edward Kennedy was a true agent of change.

Jackie Kennedy once wrote him a note that said in part, "There have been 17 children besides your own - Bobby's, Pat's, Jack's and mine, for whom you have always been there. On you, the carefree youngest brother, fell a burden a hero would beg to be spared. Sick parents, lost children, desolate wives. You are a hero. Everyone is going to make it, because you are always there." That was the private Teddy. The same could be said of the public one. So many are making it because he was there.

Our greatest tribute to him, and his most important lesson to us, can be found in his bold words from the 1980 Democratic Convention. "The work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die." Ahh Teddy, they hardly knew ye!

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L'équivalence morale, ou l'hypocrisie occidentale

Il est coutumier, en Occident, dans les médias, chez les universitaires s'affichant experts et dans la classe politique, de pratiquer, à l'égard du conflit israélo-arabe, ce qu'on peut appeler l'«imposture de l'équivalence morale». Un exemple récent: l'opinion d'un ancien Premier ministre du Québec, Bernard Landry, dans sa chronique publiée par la revue La Semaine.

Concrètement, l'équivalence morale signifie une culpabilité également partagée, une mauvaise foi également répartie, une intransigeance également intraitable. Vous voyez le topo: Israéliens et Palestiniens, tous dans le même sac! Ils sont tous fautifs, pleins de haine. C'est là, reconnaissez-le, une posture facile et combien rassurante puisque ça vous dispense de prendre parti. C'est cependant une attitude parfaitement odieuse et méprisante.

Négociations

De plus, Bernard Landry se félicite de la «providentielle élection d'Obama». Le nouveau Président, il en est convaincu, va offrir en cadeau la paix au Moyen-Orient. Voilà un optimisme qui confine à l'angélisme. Parce qu'aucune paix ne saurait surgir de l'équivalence morale. Or, le Président américain a justement fondé sa politique sur l'équivalence morale entre Juifs et Palestiniens.

Convenons, toutefois, que la pratique de l'équivalence morale n'est pas un phénomène récent. Il est sans cesse présent dans l'Histoire. En 1938, à Munich, la France et l'Angleterre se sont déshonorées en mettant justement sur le même pied, d'une part, le régime nazi, raciste, totalitaire, militariste, fourbe et, d'autre part, les États démocratiques. On sait fort bien ce qu'il advint: la Tchécoslovaquie fut avalée

par le Reich et la Paix rata son rendez-vous.

Obama, lui, n'hésite pas, pour asseoir son équivalence morale, à dénaturer l'Histoire en adhérant au mensonge arabe sur Israël. Pour les Arabes, Israël est, en quelque sorte, le fruit de l'Holocauste. L'Occident, se sentant coupable du génocide de 6 millions de Juifs, aurait cherché l'apaisement de sa conscience en créant l'État d'Israël. Les Juifs n'auraient donc aucun droit sur la terre d'Israël du point de vue légal, historique et moral. Obama, dans son discours du Caire (une inconvenante et fantaisiste louange de l'islam) légitime cette mystification comme, d'ailleurs, tous les antisionistes et antisémites occidentaux.

Foyer national juif

Pourtant, comme l'écrit Caroline Glick, la «communauté internationale a reconnu les droits légaux, historiques et moraux, du peuple juif bien avant que quiconque n'ait jamais entendu parler d'Adolf Hitler. En 1922, la Société des Nations avait mandaté la «reconstruction» et non la création du foyer national juif sur la terre d'Israël dans ses frontières historiques.»

L'autre volet de l'équivalence morale consiste à se focaliser, de façon quasi exclusive, sur la question des implantations juives en Judée-Samarie tout en occultant pudiquement le refus systématique, depuis 60 ans, des Palestiniens de reconnaître à Israël le droit à une existence légitime.

Enfin, les adeptes de l'équivalence morale mettent sur le même pied les actions et les opérations de défense d'une population agressée et le terrorisme aveugle et barbare des phalanges islamistes. Pire, écrit Caroline Glick, «de façon odieuse et mensongère, Obama a allègrement comparé la

manière dont Israël traite les Palestiniens à celle dont les esclavagistes blancs en Amérique traitaient leurs esclaves noirs. De façon plus ignoble encore, en utilisant le terme de «résistance», euphémisme arabe pour désigner le terrorisme palestinien, Obama a conféré à celui-ci la grandeur morale des révoltes des esclaves et du mouvement des Droits civiques.»

Spectateur euphorique

Face à ce triste spectacle, quelle est, pensez-vous, la stratégie de Mahmoud Abbas, le chef du Fatah et président de l'Autorité palestinienne? Ne pas bouger! Se mettre en attente! Ne rien donner. Se faire spectateur euphorique de la manoeuvre du Président américain installant Israël, comme l'écrit Guy Millière, «en position de bouc-émissaire, puis de victime expiatoire». Inutile de vous dire qu'une telle politique est vouée, dès le départ, à l'échec. À moins que l'État hébreu soit devenu subitement suicidaire...

Ceux qui, tel Obama (et Bernard Landry), adoptent la posture de l'équivalence morale dans le conflit israélo-palestinien sont convaincus de choisir la sagesse, la neutralité, l'équité. En fait, ils prennent parti pour les Palestiniens; ils inversent les rôles, l'agressé devenant l'agresseur.

L'écrivain Pierre Jourde a sans doute raison d'écrire qu'au fond, trop d'Occidentaux perçoivent comme un scandale insupportable le fait qu'«une poignée de Juifs transforment un désert en pays prospère et démocratique au milieu d'un océan de dictatures arabes sanglantes, de misère, d'islamisme et de corruption». C'est trop contraire à la reconfortante équivalence moral.

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Learning from “Teachable Moments”

This summer for Americans has seen the return of the “teachable moment.” That is, in my rough definition of such, a circumstance or development from which a lesson about life, society, politics, etc can be drawn.

Our interlock in this instance, has been the interaction between Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates (an African American), Cambridge police sergeant James

Crowley (a Caucasian), and U.S. President Barack Obama. Although the outlines of this event are relatively well known, they deserve recounting.

Professor Gates had returned from a trip. Unable to open the door to his home, he and his driver struggled to force it open. These efforts were observed by a neighbor who, believing it to be an attempted break in (there had been incidents in the

area), called 911. Sergeant Crowley responded to the alarm and, finding Gates inside the house, attempted to determine his identity. Gates did so and confirmed his right to be in the home—but the situation deteriorated from there with Crowley (and back up officers) requesting Gates step onto the porch for further discussion and Gates reportedly losing his composure and screaming various epithets (including reference to

Crowley’s “mama”). The consequence was Gates being arrested for disorderly conduct, handcuffed, and taken to jail. He was quickly released and the charges dropped.

Problem over. Well, no; indeed, it had just begun.

In an ensuing press conference, President Obama, who knew Gates personally, declared that the police “acted stupidly” (i.e., that Crowley was stupid) and that racial profiling was a historical problem for African Americans. The president, a Harvard law school graduate, had made a classic mistake: speaking on a legal issue without significant background.

And, unfortunately, he also revealed a level of racial profiling apparently inherent in his own character. For the president demonstrated that he racially profiled “blue” people, that is, those wearing police uniforms. And that instinctively he believed an African American was unlikely to be treated fairly by a policeman.

Moreover, Professor Gates, despite his iconic status in academia, clearly demonstrated his prejudices—against white policemen. He was a Harvard professor demanding that he be treated as a very important person, e.g., akin to a diplomat professing his immunity to arrest. But tenure is not beatification regardless of the desires of Harvard professors for the status of sainthood before death. Moreover, his reported reference to Crowley’s “mama” is one of those ultimate insults between males. It implies that the individual engages in incestuous carnal activity with his mother, a comment not usually amusing to any son.

But, as was quickly revealed, Sergeant Crowley was as far from being the bigoted race- profiling Irish cop of the president’s imagination as Mother Theresa is from a streetwalker. Indeed, Crowley is the epitome of the post-racial policeman vintage 2009. With a flawless record—and the instructor in a racial sensitivity class for police over the past five years (a position to which he was appointed by an African

American police commissioner), Crowley was no storm trooper. Indeed, his personal probity was so unquestioned, that his colleagues leaped to his defense. No “blue wall” exercise this, but rather a visceral reaction that Crowley was being unjustly criticized by the liberal media in general and the president in particular. Most dramatic was a televised statement by a female African American officer who defended Crowley, stated that she had supported/voted for Obama—but would no longer do so.

No fool he, the president, having found himself on the politically unpopular side of the issue, spun like a whirling dervish. Rather than an immensely embarrassing faux pas, the president declared it to be a “teachable moment” and invited Gates and Crowley to have a beer with him at the White House. This “suds summit” took place on July 30; any teaching points developed remain unknown. However, there were no apologies by either Sergeant Crowley or Professor Gates.


But what Americans can take away from the incident is instructive. We are not in a post-racial society. African Americans at every level believe themselves subject to police suspicion at best; brutality at worst. Caucasians outside the precincts of Harvard Yard are both cynical and skeptical about African American charges of racial profiling and the “reverse discrimination” of compensatory hiring (notably within police and fire departments) and university admissions.

Nevertheless, times have changed. A generation ago an exchange between a lippy, confrontational citizen of any racial/ethnic group and a police officer would likely have ended with violence. Perhaps both Professor Gates and President Obama could spend a moment appreciating that 2009 Cambridge is not 1968 Democratic Convention Chicago.


Presumably, Sergeant Crowley just hopes that his career and life will not forever be a footnote connected to an evening in July 2009.

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Kip

I've often said that the word vacation doesn't exist in my life. I feel privileged to be able to do advocacy and journalism. You get used to not having normal routines. Perhaps I never wanted them in the first place. So you live your life out there – on the edge – available, attackable, accessible. And you get used to pretty much all sorts of tragic stories and appeals. But every now and then there is one that not only ignites a fury that propels you to act, but also floods you with sadness that moves you to reflect.

This paper goes off regular schedule for about a week every July and I was going to use that time for some personal catch-up. But that was not to be. The calls came in a flood several weeks ago, just twenty-four hours after we had put several editions to bed. Messages at the office. Messages on my cell. Messages at home.

The voice was tiny and tinny. But eloquent and formal. He always said my full name with a Mr. in advance. In calm measured tones the man simply asked that I call him at the hospital he was in to "save his life." Some of the messages ended in fragile sobs. But the author of those tears never lost his composure. Let us call him Kip.

I will not name anyone, nor any institution, in this space. I believe we are now working toward a resolution of his problems. There is no need to blame individuals. But the story is so universal in its tragedy of a single life marginalized in a system that values process over people that it bears telling. All of you should read it as a warning. Hopefully some of our governors will read it as a plea.

When I arrived in the hospital ward I almost missed Kip. I asked one of the other patients if he was in the room. The woman said yes, "He's right there!" I still didn't quite have my bearings and she repeated "There!". Kip had arranged himself in a chair at the foot of his bed and wrapped the hospital curtain divider around him. The only side that was open was the one facing the window!

Kip is five foot nothing if that. Very thin. Sitting there in his hospital gown staring pensively out the window, he literally managed to make himself disappear from the surroundings he so loathed. Despite his size he has a large head and bright, piercing eyes. They miss nothing. When I introduced myself he was profuse in his thanks that I came. Then he began his tale of woe.

Kip is in his early eighties. He lives alone and has no family here. Originally from Bombay he has university degrees and worked as a government inspector before his retire-



Kip is of such sharp mind that he has managed to collect all the documents about him including a photocopy of the file. In reading it, there was another item in the psychiatric evaluation that stunned me. The doctor had written that Kip had moderate Alzheimer's. I have spent hours with this man and he remembers everything from the 1930s to the minute before. In detail. He identifies people with their middle names! Kip is fragile, but Alzheimer's?

ment. He is spry and very alert. But in May something happened.

Kip was found in his apartment unconscious. He had been there for at least a day and a half and neighbours complained of a bad smell. Kip had soiled himself and was lying in his own waste.

He was taken to one of our large hospitals and his wounds were treated. He had lesions, cuts and bruises on his right leg. He was treated for his physical injuries and put into a room to recover. His care from the medical doctors was superb and they are all satisfied with his recovery. But the psychiatric evaluation is what has kept him there so long.

Kip you see is a pack rat. Not an uncommon condition, but one that upsets our sanitized

society's state of mind. He likes to keep books and newspapers. They are neatly stacked everywhere. Kip claims that his falling unconscious was the result of an attempted burglary by two people who knew he had rare books. He claims they hit him repeatedly and that was why he passed out. But since he passed out, there is no record of the alleged incident with police.

The psychiatrist and social worker who examined Kip believe that he fell and injured himself. There is nothing in the medical reports to indicate that he might have suffered a stroke or indeed that he has any medical condition whatever which he asserts he does not. But because there is no record of a break-in, the psychiatrist and social worker felt he could not

be left to live alone as he wants to.

They then did three things as recorded in his file. They sent a letter to Kip's landlord advising him that his lease is to be terminated. They told Kip he no longer had an apartment and that his things were in storage. And they recommended that he be placed under the public curator. But Kip surprised them. He sprung into action.

The first thing he did was to call his landlord whom he had known for thirty years. The landlord said that he was not cancelling his lease. He knew the dangers of curatorship. The landlord confirmed that Kip's belongings were still there. And he said he could come back anytime as long as he first brought someone to clean out his apartment.

Kip then called the hospital's ombudsman. He did not just want to walk out because he was afraid that with what the psychiatrist had written in his file, police might be sent to take him into psychiatric detention. Kip also started to talk. To anyone and everyone. He was looking for someone to call who could organize some help to clear his file and get him out. A patient he spoke to suggested he call me. That's how my summer vacation didn't happen.

Kip is of such sharp mind that he has managed to collect all the documents about him including a photocopy of the file. In reading it, there was another item in the psychiatric evaluation that stunned me. The doctor had written that Kip had moderate Alzheimer's. I have spent hours with this man and he remembers everything from the 1930s to the minute before. In detail. He identifies people with their middle names! Kip is fragile, but Alzheimer's?

I decided immediately to help this man. I first went to see his landlord and confirmed that Kip was welcome back on condition that he throw out a lot of his stuff. Kip agreed. The landlord was most sympathetic, didn't mind the late rent since Kip's hospitalization, and was acutely aware of the problems of curatorship. He had even read about the cases we tackled and wrote about in this paper freeing people from curatorship. Particularly the stories about Laszlo Guttman and Erna Dietrich. And he had read about our stories on the work of Ura Greenbaum, founder of the Association for the protection of citizens from curatorship. He said he would help in any way he could.

Meanwhile, the psychiatrist and social worker were trying to get Kip to see an evaluator from the curator's office. Kip stubbornly,

KIP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

and rightly, refused. I continued to shake the institutional tree. I called everyone. The doctors, the hospital chairman, the medical director and the head of professional services. I also brought Ura into the file. Kip understood the condition under which he could go home again, and also agreed to supervision from a CLSC nurse. Ura is now organizing that.

After some ten days I finally got a call from the hospital's public affairs director. The doctors had been instructed not to speak with me. That I was to deal through him. He is an intelli-

gent and seemingly compassionate fellow. He conceded that perhaps the initial mental workup had been too severe. New evaluations are now ongoing. The CLSC is being contacted and we are trying to find some workers to help Kip clear his place.

Every time we give Kip some good news his eyes fill with tears and his gratitude is overwhelming. You can almost see him pulling himself into the lifeboat. The sad thing is thinking about all the people who can't reach a Ura Greenbaum, or someone like myself, and who have no access to compassionate authority.

As in the Guttman and Dietrich cases, and in so many others, the default position of mental health professionals seems to be "curator first."

My message to professionals and bureaucrats: there is no need for that. A little more work, a few more forms, and an individual can maintain the dignity that we are all entitled to. It is so easy to eliminate the pain that falls drop by drop upon the heart. Unless it is an extraordinary case, don't open the draconian faucet of curatorship to begin with. Dare to care.

The System is the Scandal!

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On the morality of bottled water

"We spend money on things we used to get for free. Do you know how many people on earth are dying of thirst? How many people walk 10 and 20 miles to get some fresh water? You know what it means when you only buy bottled water? It means you only use tap water on your ass! And you wonder why people want to blow us the fuck up. We got ass water, that's why!"

~ Chris Rock, *Kill the Messenger*

Journalists are often invited to all kinds of launch parties, cinq à sept, premieres; it's one of the perks of the job. Most are fairly unremarkable and formulaic: Wine, women, tapas and, "hey, are you going to mention how revolutionary 'Product A' or 'Politician B' is in your article?" Not likely, no. But thanks for the chicken skewers.

A couple of years ago, I attended one such party at Holt's Café, which often tends to be the venue of choice for introducing more BS into the economic ether. There was booze, models, sushi...and water. Plenty of water. What was being sold to us was a repackaged, over-marketed, pricier version of the same H2O that Naya bottles in Mirabel; the same stuff that comes out of the tap at my country home.

I won't mention the brand or the name of the distributor; a young, creative entrepreneur who is just trying to make a buck. I can respect that. The problems that arise from the bottling of water need to be addressed at a higher level. Environmentalist David Suzuki says it's time to look at a Canada-wide ban. I say it's time to discuss the morality of allowing corporations to pilfer a natural resource which belongs to all citizens of a nation, only to sell it to those same citizens in non-biodegradable plastic bottles, at a price higher than gasoline and, in some cases, at a price higher than wine.

Canadians drink, on average, 60 litres of bottled water every year. Not all bottled water is the same, you know. Like wine, experts say, taste varies from bottle to bottle. In fact, water sommeliers are now popping up in finer hotels and restaurants in some North American cities. At the Ritz-Carleton in New York, water sommelier Filip Wretman helps diners match the right bottle of H2O with their meals.

"I'd say it's a little bit oily," Wretman told a journalist with *The Record*, a New Jersey newspaper who put his palate to the test. "It's not bad. It's sort of medium-soft. It's more on the soft side but still leaves a little mineral aspect on the teeth. It has a bit of an aftertaste..."

Does Wretman really know what he's talking about or is he a part of the marketing



machine that is the \$35-billion bottled water industry? Take one of the more prestigious brands coveted by some Hollywood celebrities and the equally self-absorbed: Bling H2O. Bling comes in a 750 ml. frosted glass bottle, encrusted with Swarovski crystals. The premium bottles are even corked! At the time of the Holt's launch party, the young distributor told me, to my astonishment, that these bottles retailed for \$75; cases for \$900. It appears as though the price has since been heavily discounted. According to the Bling website, that same bottle now costs a mere \$40. A bargain!

One would think they would bottle Bling H2O at a distant corner of the globe, tapped from an ancient spring that can only be reached by the most seasoned Sherpa. But in fact, it comes from a quaint, working-class town called Dandridge, Tennessee. Bling H2O is bottled by English Mountain Spring Water and is sold locally under its substantially less glamorous house-brand. I called the Rightway Foodmart, a Dandridge dépanneur, shortly after the fancy water party and Ronnie the cashier told me that the water there retails for \$1.59 a gallon.

The water industry has created an even more offensive product: Ice Rocks. They are tiny, hermetically-sealed packets of water that are ready to freeze. The obsession with "clean," "pure," water of the highest quality has gone so far that, it seems, there is now a demand for pre-packaged ice cubes. I was given a package of Ice Rocks inside a swag bag at the water party (I used them in a glass of tap water – how uncouth!). The empty package is now stapled to a bulletin board over my desk as a symbol of the dangers of capitalism run amok.

The makers of Ice Rocks would like you to believe that Canadian tap water is so contaminated that it can't even be used for ice. Of

course, it isn't and there's no evidence to suggest otherwise. But that doesn't prevent the water industry from crying Walkerton every time it is pressed on the merits of bottled water over tap. What the makers of some of the more popular brands like Dasani and Aquafina don't want you to know is that their products, along with 40 per cent of all bottled water, comes straight from the tap (written, in fine print, on those bottles in the U.S. is the acronym 'P.W.S.', which signifies that it comes from a 'public water source'). Anyone with a faucet and a filter can have the same water they buy at the grocery store, for free.

And the 60 per cent of water that comes from ancient springs, glaciers, caves and the tears of virgins? Are the imported brands any better than filtered water that comes from our taps? Think of the waste that is created not only by the process of manufacturing bottling water (for every litre of water, two more are used in its production), but by transporting it

worldwide. If Canadians think water from France is best; if the French prefer Canadian water; if Asians fancy American water; if Americans buy Norwegian...who is right? Who best combines two hydrogen atoms with one of oxygen?

While the West wastes water while bottling water, those in developing nations look at our excess and frivolity with disgust and disappointment. Maybe the Canadian government should look at the feasibility of a country-wide bottled water ban. At the very least, it's high time consumers started to take a critical look at what they are being sold. What is the next thing we will take from nature and sell back at a premium? Air?

Sadly, we've already sunk that low. Commercialized air is the domain of the oxygen bar. You can sell blood and semen; in some slightly less civilized countries, organs. It won't happen in the next quarter, or the one after that, but what will the corporation do when there is nothing left to sell?

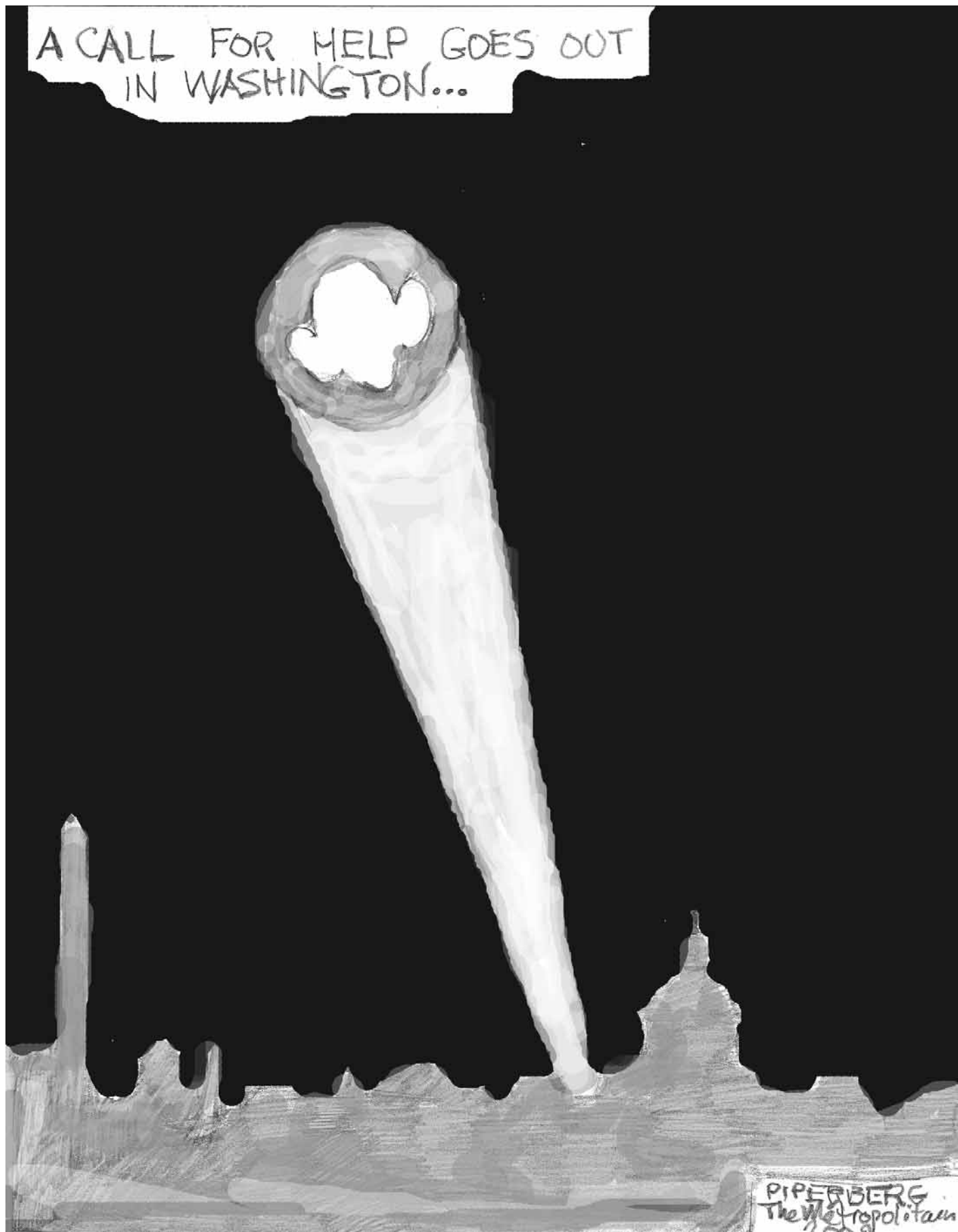
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An older society does not mean a poorer one!

Economists, pundits and public policy makers have been trying to convince us for sometime now that the economy will soon face a very difficult challenge: that of an aging population. The concern is two-fold. As Canada's new grey-haired population retires, the labour force will shrink thus slowing down economic growth. A recent study by the Caisses Desjardins in Quebec declared that the "growth of potential GDP (the economy's long-term average growth rate) would drop substantially by 2021". The problems is that the rising share of Canadians above 65 years old who consume services will rise from 13.7% in 2006 to 23.4% in 2031 according to Statistics Canada. Some provinces like Quebec could get close to 30%. Thus there will be more elders for every worker left. *Globe & Mail* columnist Jeffrey Simpson concluded from similar studies that "government finances will weaken: few tax revenues, more spending, chronic deficits, more debt. Health-care and education budgets will be squeezed".

It is not true to say that economic growth will surely grind to a halt or might even slow down. Several factors could play in to ease a transition.

Labour force changes and sustaining productivity growth

As our elder (I am part of the young folks) retire, the labour force will indeed shrink and this will push wages up. A more expensive workforce will force businesses to adapt. They will find ways to retain and hire older workers or innovative methods of using their skills to maintain and improve their profitability. For instance, they could easily create new work arrangements like more flexible hours, job sharing, mentoring as to transfer knowledge to younger workers and inciting individuals to work at home. As of now, this seems to be starting. The employment rate of the group of workers about 65 years old has gone from 5.9% in 2001 to 9.8% in 2008. There is every reason to believe that this figure will go up even more. Businesses could also try to be more family-friendly by offering some form of family care program in order to attract

more mothers and married women. If the employment rate of males is at 68% in 2008, that rate is at 59.3% for female. True, that rate is up from a decade earlier when it stood at 53.7%, but if businesses can find ways of getting mothers back to work in one form or another, that might provide a boost. According to a 2008 paper by Vodopivec and Dolenc, the increase of workforce participation rates for old workers (we can also add female and probably even immigrant workers) would be a countervailing factor that could possibly assure that economic growth won't slow down.

Furthermore, we must remember that the output of an economy is the result of how that economy combines labour,

that both rates are consistently similar (see graph 1). Therefore, sustaining a steady productivity growth rate over time should be the focus, not the size of the workforce. If we do sustain a fast and steady rate of productivity growth, we will have a bigger wealth base to tax to meet growing expenditures. The number university degrees, diplomas and certificates granted by educational institutions each year has increased by 33.77% between 1992 and 2008. This increase in the formation of human capital should encourage us about prospects of higher productivity growth.

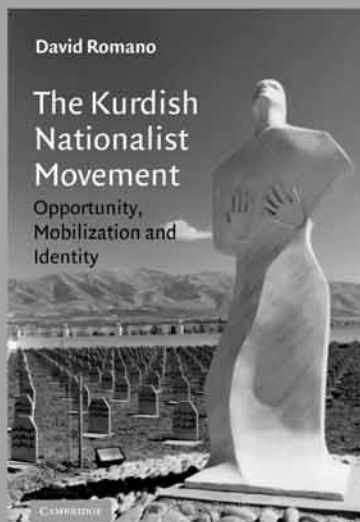
However, there is a strong underlying hypothesis to the case I have laid out above: free factors markets. The aging population

We must remember that the output of an economy is the result of how that economy combines labour, capital and technology.

capital and technology. Economies can be more labour-intensive than others found ways to increase output per unit of labour (labour productivity) by ingenious combinations of capital and technology. As wages rise because of the smaller labour supply, businesses will find ways of substituting relatively cheaper capital to replace more expensive labour. That may mean increased mechanization of industries and the rise of capital-intensive industries. What matters when we talk about the wealth of a nation is its productivity, or output per worker. When we look at the growth of GDP per capita for Canada since 1960 and multifactor productivity growth, we see

will only become a problem if the government suffocates the economy and its attempts to adapt. In their paper, Vodopivec and Dolenc say that "restrictive employment protection legislation (...) may create disincentives for employment of old workers" and that in order to induce employers to hire old workers, they suggest "removing the obstacles imposed by restrictive labour market institutions". A heavier taxation of capital could also stifle the adaptation process. Thus, if governments want to avoid a slower economic growth, they could aim to shift their tax systems away from capital and income and more towards consumption and user fees for public services.

Cambridge Middle East Studies



David Romano focuses on the Kurdish case to generally try and make sense of ethnic nationalist resurgence. In a world rent by a growing number of such conflicts, the questions posed about why, how and when such challenges to the state arise are becoming increasingly urgent.

Throughout the author analyzes these questions through the lens of social movement theory, considering in particular politico-social structures, resource mobilization strategies and cultural identity. His conclusions offer some thought-provoking insights into Kurdish nationalism, as well as into the strengths and weaknesses of various social movement theories.

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Grand symphonic gala celebrates 75 glorious years

Montreal's beloved symphony orchestra recently staged its 11th annual ball at Windsor Station and proved to be this year's premier sensory-pleasing fundraiser. A symphony of incredibly tantalizing delights for the eyes, palates and ears, the benefit soirée pulled out all the proverbial stops, as some 500 guests fêted their local orchestral treasure.

The evening commenced with a dazzling champagne cocktail reception, which featured French Kiss --- a duo comprising white-clad, electric harpist Marie- Michèle Beausoleil and keyboardist Louis-Philippe Quesnel -- - who seemed to emerge from nebulae in an all-white stage motif. Charming emcee Sophie Faucher welcomed guests and introduced honorary gala co-chairs Stephen Rosenhek, managing partner with RSM Richter Chamberland and Stéphane Boisvert, Bell Canada Enterprise Group president. They immediately imparted that a net sum of \$550,000 had been raised. Ball partner and Caisse de dépôt et placement chairman Robert Tessier along with innumerable MSO supporters were genuinely awed by such munificence amidst the global financial meltdown. Attendees also reveled in the knowledge that Montreal's new concert



Maestro Kent Nagano conducting MSO musicians at the 11th annual ball.

hall would be delivered by 2011.

Evening highlights abounded. They included stellar interpretations of Tchaikovsky and Strauss masterpieces (among others) under the batons of conductor-in-residence Jean-François Rivest, and virtuoso maestro Kent Nagano. Arthur

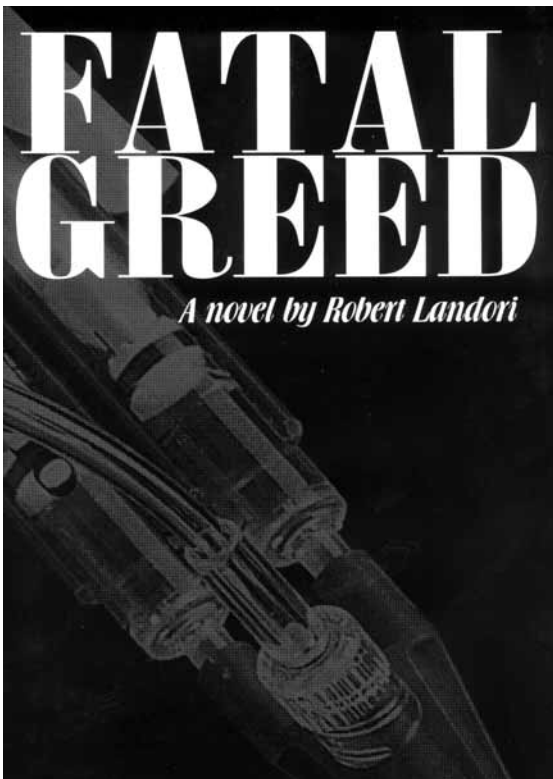
Murray dance pros paired up with local luminaries such as MSO CEO Madeleine Careau, Mayor Gérald Tremblay, Suzanne Tailleur Tremblay and Paul Desmarais Jr. Diners were then transported to gastronomic heaven, via Armando Arruda's sumptuous four-course Fairmont Queen

Elizabeth repast. Societe des alcools du Quebec supplied succulent choices of wines and spirits, which perfectly complemented the superbly orchestrated menu. An eye-popping array of raffle prizes were drawn and partygoers boogeyed until the final cadence after midnight. Departing guests were lavished with lovely loot and all agreed the charity ball 'exhilaration bar' had been raised immeasurably.

Corporate sponsors included: Bell Canada, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, Le Groupe Aldo, BMO Financial Group, Hydro-Québec, Loto-Québec, Mouvement des Caisses Desjardins, Power Corporation, RBC Royal Bank, RSM Richter Chamberland, SAQ, SNC-Lavalin and TD Financial Group.

Music lovers can soon savor a 76th year of virtuoso performances. The MSO's upcoming season features Beethoven's Herculean opus, the 9th symphony, in addition to a polyphony of pre-eminent works by Mahler, Mozart, Prokofiev, Debussy, Berlioz and others. Virtuosi soloists such as Menahem Pressler and Branford Marsalis will thrill audiences in 2009-2010. To access the full schedule and purchase individual or season tickets, simply consult www.osm.ca or call 514-842-9951.

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Canada provides hundreds of million of dollars in aid to dictators, tyrants, and corrupt governments around the world.

Of the 25 countries named in the new International Policy Statement as key recipients of Canadian aid, only 6 are deemed by Freedom House to be free, while 19 are unfree or dictatorships. All 25 are identified as having corruption as a major problem, combined with weak parliaments, a lack of transparency and little respect for the rule of law.

Instead of working to bring about positive change, Canadian aid allows these dysfunctional and sometimes tyrannical regimes to remain intact while we apply band-aids to the symptoms.

Canada consistently fails to support democracies around the world such as India, Taiwan, America and Israel. In many cases, we actively work against them. And with the exception of Ukraine, Canada refuses to take measurable action to support the billions of people aspiring for democracy, freedom and accountable governments around the world.

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Canada's foreign policy is centred around three Ds (Defense, Development and Diplomacy). CCD believes that our policies should be guided by a 4th D, Democracy. Canada must make ending corruption, respect for the rule of law, and open, accountable and transparent governments key foreign policy priorities. If you agree, become a member of the CCD.

Founded in 2003, the Canadian Coalition for Democracies (CCD) is an organization of concerned Canadians dedicated to the protection and promotion of democracy at home and abroad. CCD will influence the Canadian political process and public opinion to achieve a more pro-democracy foreign policy.

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« ... et j'ai signé : Étoile »

Nous vivons une époque exceptionnelle de l'histoire de l'humanité. En effet, nous sommes enfin sortis des mythes anciens qui décrivaient, d'une manière ou d'une autre, la création de l'Univers. En somme, nous voilà sortis d'une vision du monde qui traçait invariablement une frontière entre le Ciel et la Terre, le Bien et le Mal. Ces mythes plaçaient la Terre au centre de l'Univers, tel un nombril originel, et la religion était, de ce fait, profondément imprégnée des idées d'Aristote. Toutefois, lorsque Galilée découvrit des détails astronomiques dans le Ciel divin, nous étions déjà passés de l'autre côté du miroir. Et nous savons aujourd'hui l'impact que ses observations eurent sur l'avenir de la

civilisation en général et sur la recherche scientifique en particulier.

Par contre, l'ambiguïté persistera encore longtemps dans la tête des gens. Ainsi les astronautes, ayant fait le tour de la Lune à bord des missions Apollo, ont dû répondre à la question : « Avez-vous rencontré Dieu derrière la Lune ? ». Dieu ne s'y trouvait pas. En revanche, l'une des surprises du 20^e siècle aura été de découvrir que les étoiles, dont le Soleil, se comportent comme de véritables instruments de musique, émettant des sons, par des vibrations internes, semblables à des caisses de résonance, et détectables par des instruments analysant la lumière des vibrations stellaires. Ainsi, à défaut d'être audibles, la « musique des étoiles » est visible ! Il existe plus de 200 milliards d'étoiles dans notre

Galaxie, dont beaucoup sont entourées de planètes... je vous laisse imaginer la symphonie !

Pour chaque étoile, compte tenu de sa luminosité et de sa température, on peut définir une « zone habitable ». C'est ainsi que « la pluralité des mondes possibles » a fait son entrée dans la recherche scientifique contemporaine. C'est notamment pour cette raison que, tout en prenant conscience de l'étendue des connaissances et des découvertes scientifiques, c'est avec humilité que l'on parcourt le livre de Sylvie Vauclair. En effet, nous sommes loin, très loin, de l'antique image de la Terre, centre du monde et entourée de quelques planètes. Cela nous oblige à entrevoir la possibilité d'autres mondes : plusieurs « Super Terre » ont été

découvertes à ce jour, ainsi que plusieurs « objets célestes », tellement nombreux qu'il serait trop long de les énumérer ici.

L'être humain n'étant plus le centre de l'Univers, il lui faut encore s'y habituer. L'évolution des connaissances en astrophysique est telle qu'elle oblige à la réflexion, voire à une forme de méditation. Nous avons tous un destin cosmique. Nous venons du cosmos et nous retournerons au cosmos. Il devient donc important de se situer personnellement et de trouver sa raison d'être dans ce contexte qui est bel et bien nôtre.

Je vous invite avec un grand enthousiasme à lire ce livre, écrit par Sylvie Vauclair, agnostique et ancienne élève d'Hubert Reeves, lequel signe d'ailleurs la préface.

Sylvie Vauclair
Préface d'Hubert Reeves

La Terre, l'espace et au-delà



Albin Michel
Bibliothèque Sciences

C'est un livre percutant, passionnant, vulgarisé avec intelligence et qui fait le tour de la planète Terre, cette planète océane, en passant par le système solaire, la naissance des mondes, leur fin, sans oublier la pluralité des mondes possibles, pour se terminer avec un épilogue fascinant. La pensée humaine évolue et il est devenu impossible de penser à notre époque comme l'on pensait au 20^e siècle. L'importance des progrès scientifiques est telle que l'être humain doit se responsabiliser par rapport à ces recherches et découvertes extraordinaires. La dignité humaine est à ce prix.

Astrophysicienne et professeur à l'Université Paul Sabatier de Toulouse, Sylvie Vauclair a publié plus de deux cent articles de recherche scientifique et de nombreux ouvrages sur les thèmes de l'astronomie et de la planétologie, dont *La symphonie des étoiles* (1997), et *La Chanson du Soleil* (2002). Elle a entrepris depuis des années un remarquable travail de vulgarisation en mettant à la portée du grand public d'innombrables découvertes scientifiques en matière d'astrophysique et d'astronomie. À la manière d'une étoile, Sylvie Vauclair diffuse démocratiquement des informations importantes pour notre avenir à tous. De son travail fusent des questionnements et des réflexions essentiels à la pensée humaine, voire à notre vie tout court.

Merci de partager si bellement vos lumières avec nous, madame Vauclair.

Sylvie Vauclair, *La Terre, l'espace et au-delà*, Paris, édition Albin Michel, 2009, 161 p.

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