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THE METROPOLITAIN

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Citizen Obama

He started by testing the waters. That was what his campaign was all about at the start. Barack Obama burned with ideas and ideals, but he knew as a junior Senator with relatively little national exposure, that his 2008 campaign would probably be all about positioning. Positioning for the next time. But then something happened. Iowa.

An urban liberal of color ignited a rural conservative

Continued on page 12

Les défis

Il y a encore quelques mois, l'idée d'avoir un homme de race noire comme président des États-Unis était en soi un défi, d'autant plus que dans l'imaginaire populaire de l'Occident, l'Amérique était encore une entité où le racisme était plus vivace qu'en Europe. Or, voilà qu'aujourd'hui, les États-Unis d'Amérique prouvent encore une fois la grandeur de ce pays et la force de sa démocratie; de quoi constituer une leçon

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It matters

Yes, it matters. Just because you've seen one president, doesn't mean you've seen them all. If you got the president you always wanted for a neighbour, don't yet heave a sigh of relief. If you got the one you always feared, don't yet despair. Knowing who the president is doesn't tell you everything, or even half of it. Presidents aren't free to be what they are. A candidate may be his own person. But a President is his office.

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LES MILLES MOTS

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Soldier caring for injured civilian in Afghanistan.

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

LES ÉLECTIONS PROVINCIALES DU 8 DÉCEMBRE PROCHAIN

Des élections ? Pour quoi faire ?

Que les prophètes de tout acabit se le tiennent pour dit : il n'existe pas plus sûr moyen de se fourvoyer que de prédire l'avenir. Une prédiction qui se réalise prouve que le voyant a eu de la chance ; une prédiction qui ne se réalise pas fait la preuve de son ineptie. Votre humble serviteur n'échappe pas à la règle : dans ma chronique du 16 octobre dernier je prévoyais le résultat de la prochaine élection provinciale, hallucination dont je me repens humblement.

Présument que de nouvelles élections fédérales auraient lieu en 2010 (je m'avançais déjà beaucoup), j'écrivais qu'au Québec, le parti libéral de Jean Charest formerait alors depuis quelques mois un gouvernement majoritaire. « Depuis quelques mois », ça voulait dire, dans ma petite tête d'apprenti sorcier, depuis le printemps ou l'automne 2009, soit plus de deux ans après les élections du 26 mars 2007, qui ont donné les résultats que vous savez : un gouvernement libéral minoritaire, Mario Dumont chef de l'Opposition, le PQ tassé dans un coin.

Mon raisonnement était fragile, je n'en livrais que la conclusion, qui l'était plus encore. Persuadé qu'après deux ans ou deux ans et demi de cohabitation chicanière, la population du Québec aurait compris qu'il fallait retourner aux urnes, soit que les libéraux eussent été renversés par les deux partis d'opposition, soit que le premier ministre Charest eût pris acte qu'il ne pouvait plus gouverner efficacement dans ces conditions, conclusion qui aurait été partagée par une bonne majorité de la population, je prévoyais donc le triomphe des libéraux. Je crois toujours en la justesse de mon raisonnement, sauf que... le déclenchement des élections dès cet automne par un Jean Charest trop pressé d'en découdre ravale ma prophétie au rang des élucubrations.

Revenant donc sur mes affirmations présomptueuses du 16 octobre, j'affirme aujourd'hui qu'en déclenchant dès



maintenant, sous prétexte que l'économie va mal, des élections que personne ou presque ne souhaitait, les libéraux viennent de « swinger dans l'beurre », ou, pour employer une autre métaphore à saveur sportive, qu'ils viennent de mériter un carton jaune. Si jamais il s'avère avant le jour du scrutin que le Vérificateur général a raison de prétendre que nous sommes d'ores et déjà en déficit (aux dernières nouvelles, ce ne serait pas le cas), c'est la disqualification qui attend les troupes de Jean Charest. Quoi qu'il en soit, il est fort possible que le PQ, qui ne brandit plus la menace d'un référendum suicidaire,

obtienne une majorité de sièges et forme le prochain gouvernement. M. Charest n'aura que lui-même à blâmer pour sa déconfiture. À l'heure actuelle, ce qu'il peut espérer de mieux, c'est de former de nouveau un gouvernement minoritaire, ainsi qu'il est arrivé à Stephen Harper.

Ces élections paraissent à ce point prématurées, voire inutiles, que la plupart des commentateurs laissent entendre que les électeurs baseront leur choix sur la mine des candidats, aucun des trois grands partis n'ayant rien à proposer qui puisse inciter quiconque à changer d'allégeance. Les plans de relance proposés au début de la campagne par le parti libéral et par le PQ vous ont d'ailleurs de ces airs de famille ! « Elles se ressemblent et se complètent, à un tel point, écrit Robert Sansfaçon, qu'elles auraient pu faire partie du même programme, voire d'un même budget [...] »⁽¹⁾. Alain Dubuc opine dans le même sens : « Ce qui frappe d'abord, ce sont les similitudes entre les deux approches. »⁽²⁾ Quant à la première proposition de l'ADQ, qui est de vendre sur le marché 7,5 % des actions d'Hydro-Québec, elle a le mérite d'une certaine originalité, mais suscite déjà des levées de boucliers auxquelles il fallait s'attendre dans un Québec où le mot « privé » est synonyme de « péché mortel ». La proposition de l'ADQ, certes discutable, ne sera pas discutée, mais plutôt condamnée du haut de la chaire par des curés de toutes les confessions, les plus virulents se présentant comme les plus progressistes. Chez nous, plus on est à gauche, plus on est conservateur.

À condition de fixer leur attention sur ce qui se passe à Washington, les Québécois vont pouvoir continuer de se passionner pour la politique bien au-delà de l'échéance du 8 décembre 2008.

(1) *Le Devoir*, 7 novembre.

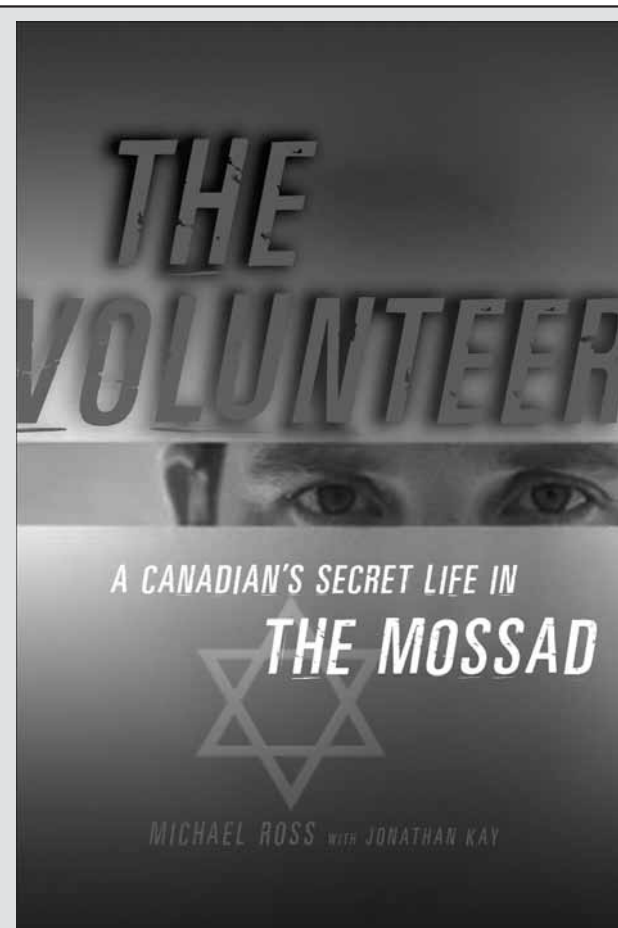
(2) *La Presse*, 7 novembre

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.





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PLATEAU MONT-ROYAL

Decision Quebec: riding round-up

MERCIER:

This predominantly Francophone riding was won by the PQ's Daniel Turp in 2007 and 2003. It straddles Mile-End and the Plateau and has a history of swinging between electing Liberal and PQ candidates.

Turp is a former law professor who holds a diploma from U.K.'s Cambridge University and has taught in France, Greece, and the U.S. He should expect tough competition from the left. Mercier voters, despite a history of electing one of the two major Quebec parties, almost gave the riding to Quebec Solidaire's Amir Khadir in the last general elections. Khadir lost by only 1,000 votes.

Khadir is a doctor specializing in micro-biology and a peace activist who ran for the Bloc Québécois in 2000. He is also spokesman for QS.

Catherine Émond, currently the political attaché for the Minister of Education, Michelle Courchesne, is running for the Liberals. She has a background in finance with a focus on foreign investments and has worked with not-for-profit health technology group Montreal InVivo. Émond also has experience in communications having done PR work for organizations like Radio-Canada.

NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRACE

This election should be a cakewalk for

Liberal Kathleen Weil, who is hoping to replace Russell Copeman in this riding. Copeman proved immensely popular with NDG voters, garnering over 60 per cent of the vote in 2007 - leaps-and-bounds in front of any other candidates. He was consistently re-elected starting in 1994.

Weil is a lawyer and community activist who served as president of the administrative board of Régie régionale des services de santé et services sociaux de Montréal from 1998 to 2002. Her background in health service administration will serve her well if elected, as the new MUHC superhospital is a major issue in the riding.

NDG covers some trendy middle-

class parts of Montreal along with working class neighbourhoods like St. Raymond's and is half Anglophone and a quarter Francophone and Allophone. The Green Party candidate is community activist Peter McQueen, who also ran in 2007.

Neophyte Fabrice Martel is the PQ candidate in NDG. The ADQ and the SQ hadn't announced candidates by press time.

OUTREMONT:

Outremont is a true melting pot that includes the wealthy French neighbourhood that gave the riding its name along with a section of multi-ethnic, working-class Cote-des-Neiges. The Quebec Liberals have kept a tight grip on the riding since 1973. Raymond Bachand, Quebec's minister of economic development is running for re-election. He won with over 47 per cent of the vote in 2007 and has held the riding since winning a 2005 by-election. Bachand has a union background as well as being a lawyer with a Harvard degree in administration. He's been involved in a number of charitable organizations including Oxfam. Sophie Frechette is running for the PQ in Outremont and May Chiu for Quebec Solidaire. No other party has announced candidates by press time.

ST-HENRI-STE-ANNE

Incumbent Liberal Marguerite Blais is running again in this south-central, working class, traditionally Liberal riding. Blais won with 38 per cent of the vote in 2007.

She is the current provincial minister overseeing the elderly and is also a celebrated author and former journalist. She's won a number of awards for her writing and community work and was raised in the neighbouring Pointe St. Charles district. Frederic Isaya is running for the PQ in the riding. No other party has announced candidates by press time.

SAINTE-MARIE-SAINT-JACQUES

Voters in Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques have been electing the PQ for almost 30 years. Almost 75 per cent Francophone, the riding also includes the Habitat 67 and Tropic Nord highrises, most of old Montreal, the gay village, and part of Chinatown. The PQ's Martin Lemay has

represented the riding in the national assembly since 2006, though Montrealers may recognize Lemay from his years as a municipal politician. He was elected as a city councillor in 1994 and served as Opposition leader and mayor of Ville-Marie before jumping into provincial politics in 2005. He has a background in history and labour law.

Eric Prud'homme, who is running for the Liberals in Ste-Marie. His background is in marketing and he has served on a number of boards including the Outgames, Quebec's gay chamber of commerce, and le Chainon, a women's shelter. Manon Masse is the QS candidate in Ste-Marie-St-Jacques.

The ADQ and the Green Party have yet to announce candidates in the riding.

VERDUN

Verdun has been voting Liberal - with one exception - since 1970. Incumbent Liberal Henri-Francois Gauthier won with 40 per cent of the vote and has held the riding since 1994. He is a trained physicist and a former professor at l'Université de Montreal and served as minister of government services from 2006 to 2007.

Michel Langlais is the PQ candidate in Verdun. Chantale Michaud is carrying the QS colours. No other party has announced candidates by press time.

WESTMOUNT-SAINT-LOUIS

Popular Liberal incumbent Jacques Chagnon is running again in the Westmount-Saint-Louis, a riding that straddles parts of the Plateau, Westmount, and downtown. Chagnon won with 60 per cent of the vote in 2007 and has been re-elected in the riding in its various incarnations since 1985. Chagnon has served as minister of education, minister responsible for administration of professional laws, and minister responsible for administration of the French Language Charter. He has a background in political science.

Daniella Johnson-Meneghini is running for the PQ and Nadia Alexan for QS.

No other party has announced candidates by press time.

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ALPINE Bluetooth clarion Pioneer XENON KIT

Martin Collacott is a Senior Fellow of the Fraser Institute and former Canadian ambassador in Asia and the Middle East.

Amb. Martin Collacott



Quebec's declaration of values

The decision by the Quebec government to require immigrants to that province to declare that they accept the basic common values of Quebecers makes good sense.

Critics of this initiative have raised various objections. One of the most obvious is that to take such action represents a kind of cultural imperialism because it involves the imposition of the values of the host community on newcomers and in doing so would be in conflict with the principles of multiculturalism and pluralism.

The fact is however that, while Quebec in particular and Canada in general are among the most tolerant and inclusive places on earth, we also have our own identities and cultures and want these to remain strong and vibrant.

We often hear the refrain that we are a "country of immigrants" as if to suggest that our very existence revolves around a constant influx of newcomers and the cultures they bring with them. The fact is, however, that we are not a country of immigrants. We are rather a country of settlers.

The settlers from France and Britain who began the project that evolved into Canada set up colonies based on the societies and cultures of their original homelands. Immigrants came later and, with a wider range of backgrounds, have had to adapt to the mores and values already established here.

And so it is today. Quebec's decision to provide greater clarification to newcomers with regard to what they can expect and what is expected of them when they arrive here can only be of benefit to all concerned. The impression that has been created in the minds of some immigrants that they can enjoy all the benefits of living Quebec or other parts of Canada – economic opportunities, a peaceful, democratic society under the rule of law, etc. – and at the same time exist in a cultural cocoon as though they were still in their original homelands is clearly unrealistic.

Such expectations have been encouraged to some extent by the concepts of hard-core multiculturalism and have led to frustration and resentment on the part of immigrants as well as

negative reactions by members of the host society who find the demands of some newcomers unreasonable.

Critics of the Quebec government's plans have also raised objections on the basis that what they involve is already covered by the province's Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. Such an interpretation, however, misses the point. The Charter summarizes the rights that apply to all Quebecers including newcomers. The declaration announced last week, on the other hand, describes commitments the latter must make if they wish to become members of this society.

Most immigrants will in all likelihood be more than happy to accept this responsibility as it confers give greater value to the status they seek to acquire. For those who have a problem with such an undertaking, the probability is that they find it difficult to accept some of the basic values we ascribe to and, in the circumstances, it would be better for them to find out sooner rather than later that they would be well advised to select another country as their destination.

In announcing the requirement for such a declaration, Quebec has set an example that other Canadians should seriously consider emulating. There is just as great a need in the rest of Canada as there is in Quebec for clarification as to what newcomers can reasonably expect when they come here.

Were the government of Canada to follow Quebec's lead and ask immigration applicants in general to declare their commitment to Canadian values, there could also be dividends in terms of reassuring Quebecers that their national identity is secure within a united Canada. As things now stand many people in the province would no doubt be quite happy to remain proud Canadians if they could be assured that their identity as Quebecers were not at risk.

As long as the federal authorities promote principles of multiculturalism and the concept of the cultural mosaic, however, Quebecers may well be concerned that federal policies could eventually lead to a downgrading of their distinct identity. A clear statement by the Canadian government of what it expects of immigrants would therefore help to reassure Quebecers that the federal government has a clear picture of what it means to be a Canadian and also, by implication a Quebecer.

Quebec has set an example that other Canadians should seriously consider emulating. There is just as great a need in the rest of Canada as there is in Quebec for clarification as to what newcomers can reasonably expect when they come here.



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Boroughs gone bonkers

"I don't judge the rules," says borough bureaucrat

Last September, The Metropolitan reported on merchants along Parc Ave being hit with a number of fines under Montreal's cleanliness bylaws. At the time, property owner Bill Vasilios Karidogiannis complained that the street was in disrepair despite merchants pressuring the borough to contribute to its upkeep. So when the borough sent a team of workers to clean the streets a couple of weeks later, he was overjoyed.

What he didn't realize was that he would have to foot the bill. Soon after the cleaning blitz, 194 merchants on Parc Ave between Mont-Royal and Van Horne Avenues received bills for \$17.77 from the borough charging them for the work done that day. Four of them attended November's Plateau-Mont-Royal borough council meeting to ask why they were billed for work done by blue-collar workers on public property.

While none of the officials at the meeting could give them an answer, borough mayor Helen Fotopoulos noted \$17 was a negligible amount and told them: "If you feel you've been unduly taxed, you can contest it."

Steve Giannakakis, who's on the Parc Ave. Merchants' Association, left the meeting concerned about what he would tell merchants who asked him why they were billed.

"If the city doesn't have the budget for it, they should say so," he said. "I don't want to be targeted, I don't want to embarrass them either - I just want to know (why we're being billed). There's so many rules and responsibilities even they don't know."

Chris Karidogiannis was not as conciliatory.

"At what point do you take responsibility for your work?" he asked. "It's shameful - they're completely lost. It seems like the head doesn't know what the tail is doing."

He may have been partially right: since the meeting, the borough canceled all but 26 of the bills. According to borough spokesman Michel Tanguay, the Plateau could only bill those who had already received fines under the cleanliness bylaws.

So why not just keep fining the merchants who were not complying with the regulations?

"Because even after some of the merchants received fines, the cleanliness left something to be desired," Tanguay explained. "So the borough did a blitz to clean all the tree bases."

Since 2005, Montreal boroughs adopted bylaws requiring property owners to maintain the public property in front of their buildings up to the sidewalk. They're now a uniform series of regulations across the city.

"People know they could get a fine if they didn't clean and we were getting complaints from residents about cleanliness," Tanguay said. "It's not the responsibility of the city. They were billed because we would not have had to do this if the citizen took care of public property." He added that it was the first time the borough went to these lengths but wouldn't comment on the policy itself.

"I don't judge the rules," he said. "Once it's adopted employees are there to assure it's respected." Meanwhile, Nicolas Karambinieris is left wondering why he pays taxes - taxes that shot up 30 per cent in five years - if not to receive municipal services in return.

Côte des Neiges-NDG

"It is forbidden to sully pavement," borough by-law

Côte des Neiges-NDG borough councillors passed some far-reaching cleanliness rules last week. Among them are the possible fining of tenants who rent homes located on messy properties, dog-owners who tie their pets to trees and possibly even those who toss cold coffee onto the street.

The new and improved cleanliness bylaw is aimed at ensuring tidiness reigns on private property in the borough as well as on public land. It was adopted unanimously by all five councillors with two - Marvin Rotrand and Warren Allmand - registering objections to particular aspects.

The pair said they are concerned that an "occupant" of an apartment building could, in theory, be fined if there is garbage left on the building's front lawn. Previously, only the owner would be

subjected to those penalties.

"The owner or the occupant of building must maintain the private land on which the building is situated, the establishment or the home that is occupied," reads the new bylaw. That includes keeping the property - and the sidewalks or other public land adjacent to it - free of "unclean materials" (except on garbage days) and making sure weeds don't grow over 20 cm in height.

"It's very broad and could be abused," said Rotrand, who nonetheless voted in favour of the cleanliness bylaw as a whole. "Tenants could be asked that they clean up a property if a landlord doesn't. It's a worrisome provision."

Mayor Michael Applebaum, along with councillors Marcel Tremblay, Francine Sénécal and Saulie Zajdel remained unworried, supporting the fining of tenants who inspectors deem to be insalubrious. Although acting borough director Pierre Jobin said inspectors will make decisions on a case-by-case basis, Rotrand feared that the administration is "going to have a fight with every tenants' group in the borough."

Other passages in the bylaw are equally nebulous: "It is forbidden to sully pavement," reads one stand-alone line. As is "spilling a liquid on public domain, except for washing a property or a vehicle..."

It is not made clear in the document exactly what liquids the rule refers to, be it cold coffee or toxic waste, or under what circumstances a citizen could be fined. Special attention is also paid to "urban furniture" like park benches and picnic tables. No one is permitted to move them an inch and don't even think about "gluing, nailing, stapling or otherwise attaching anything on the urban furniture" - that's a fine too. One can not take a child for a dip in a public fountain, if the law is to be interpreted literally. And also worth noting: It is illegal to lock a bicycle or tie a dog's leash around a tree in Côte des Neiges-NDG.

The borough has handed out roughly 160 fines for cleanliness violations so far this year, up from about 100 last year, according to Tremblay, who is the centre-city's neat freak, in charge of the *OpérationMontreal.net* brigade. He said

It's unclear how much money is spent enforcing the bylaws, but each borough has its own team of cleanliness inspectors whose duties include measuring the height of weeds and inspecting garbage. CDN-NDG has a team of eight, the Plateau has four, and Ville-Marie has 10 multi-purpose inspectors who oversee a number of borough by-laws.

In comparison, CDN-NDG has ten housing inspectors, the Plateau has nine, and Ville-Marie has 10. There are also five new inspectors at the city level due to the persistent problems with delinquent landlords dating back decades. Housing inspectors crack down on slum landlords and ensure the safety and security of housing stock in the city.

the "objective is to make Montreal cleaner," and noted that other boroughs like Ville-Marie and the Plateau-Mont-Royal have more severe regulations.

"Taking a sledgehammer approach will not result in a cleaner borough," Rotrand said. "This bylaw has to be used with wisdom."

Hochelaga-Maisonneuve

"To have nudity, it's illegal in and of itself."

The Princesses d'Hochelaga, a 'serveuse sexy' restaurant in Montreal's east-end, has lost its liquor license for illegally exploiting eroticism.

There are only a few types of liquor licenses available in the province: restaurant liquor licenses like the one formerly held by Les Princesses, standard bar licenses, bar licenses that allow for shows - like dance, music, or film - and bar licenses that allow for erotic shows.

"It's impossible to have a (nudity) option for a restaurant. To have nudity, it's illegal in and of itself," explained Rejean Theriault, spokesman for Quebec's *regie des alcools, course, et des jeux*. "Society made these laws and legislators agreed that we could only accept nudity in certain bars."

In fact, it was only in 1997 that Quebec's liquor license laws distinguished between erotic and non-erotic shows, Theriault said. Prior to that, bar owners could only apply for a cabaret license that encompassed everything from folk performances to burlesque and strip shows.

Splitting the licenses allows residents to block strip clubs from opening near their homes or businesses, explained Theriault, because when someone

applies for a liquor license, a notice is automatically placed in a local paper and residents have a better idea of what kind of shows the bar owners plan on hosting.

"If someone wants to start a bar with singers, people may not object. But it could be different if it was a (strip) bar," he said.

Gaetan Thomas, co-owner of the area's only 'serveuse sexy' establishment said he felt unfairly targeted by police. (Montreal police visited the restaurant nine times over three years). But Regie records show that police gave the owners repeated warnings for breaking the license agreements.

Police say they were repeatedly offered alcohol without food - illegal under a restaurant liquor license - or with a token \$1 spaghetti. The waitresses were naked except for a see-through, six-inch miniskirt, and porn was shown on the restaurant's TVs. For two months, the owners tried to comply with the morality laws by having the waitresses wear g-strings and cover their breasts, but business dropped by 25 per cent.

Clients only frequent his restaurant because the waitresses are naked, Thomas told the Regie.

The owners also made repeated request to the City for an exemption to the laws that would allow them to have nude waitresses but were always refused.

Theriault noted that the morality laws could shift with time. "It wasn't long ago stores were closed on Sundays and we had fish on Fridays," he said. "It's all relative, it goes with social values."

~ with files from Dan Delmar



“..Some things are worth fighting for!”

Last Sunday, Montreal's St. James United Church held its annual Remembrance Day service to honor all who served and died for this nation during all of its wars.

Tears could be seen on a woman's face as she sat alone in her pew while the St. James choir sang its final hymn.

Weep for the dead. Let tears and silence tell

Of blood and battle, horror and renown.

*The years diminish, but do not dispel
The pain of lives destroyed and life laid down.*

During World War I, over 300 members of this church left their homes and families to go to fight the first of this century's great wars.. To the right as you walk into the church, the sun lights up the stained-glass window raised to those members of the church who served, and especially those who died in Europe. The window is a triptych where a common soldier, armed with rifle and bayonet, stands ready for battle. With the four virtues by his side and comrades to watch his back, the window is a splendid piece of evocative artwork. Eighty odd years after its creation, it still evokes the terrible beauties of the pain and sacrifice borne by soldiers and their loved ones as they fought for this nation. Just as the window evokes the memory of those who fought and died in the bloody bogs of Northern France ninety years ago, its congregation is praying for Canadians who are now fighting, bleeding and sometimes dying in the dry and dusty hills of southern Afghanistan.

Silent the dead. Remembering we stand

Silent as they, for words cannot esteem

*Causes of war, the love of native land,
All that they were, and all they might have been.*

Since 1924, over 116 000 Canadians have died in combat all over the world. Some of their graves can be found in 74 different countries around the world and some, as one can read on their gravestones, are “..only known to God.”

They include Pilot Officer Andrew Mynarsky out of Winnipeg who died trying to free his bomber's tail gunner. Mynarsky won the Victoria Cross for Valor. Private Etienne Bernier joined the army because he was cold and he

needed a job. He was a woodsman from the Gaspé and he was the regiment's ‘scrounger’ who loved to fish. Bernier was shot and killed by a sniper while trying to catch some fish during a break in the fighting near Caen in Normandy. Captain Charlie Gagnon was a commando who died when his glider crashed and burned after being shot up by a machine gun during the battle of Arnheim. In Hong Kong on Christmas Day, Sgt. John Robert Osborne fought hard against the Japanese all day against impossible odds until a grenade fell into the midst of his platoon. Shouting a warning, he jumped on the bomb and was killed when it exploded. Just before leaving his homestead in Northern Alberta, Chipman Kerr left a note tacked to the door.

“War may be hell,” it read “ but

what's homesteading?

During a hard fight against a determined enemy, he lost his fingers but saved his regiment as he held a trench by himself after everybody else was killed.

Summoned by love that leaves no room for pride,

*We pray that every continent and isle,
Wounded by war, war's hate may lay aside,*

And find a way to heal and reconcile.

Sixty years after some of the hardest fighting of the war, Captain Pierre Sévigny still mourned the man he killed during the Battle of the Falaise Gap.

While fishing on a lake in Northern Québec, he said he knew things could have been different but he still thought of the dead man's parents, of grieving wives and lovers, of fathers losing their

children and children losing their fathers. After sixty years, he honestly thought he was the only one left who mourned for the dead German Lieutenant. On May 17, 2006, Captain Nichola Goddard was a forward observation officer who would be the first female Canadian soldier to be killed in action since World War II. After being informed of the situation, Prime Minister Stephen Harper released a statement on the death of Capt. Goddard.

“On behalf of all Canadians, I wish to express our profound regret and sadness at news of the death of Captain Nichola Goddard.

“Captain Goddard died while helping to bring peace, stability and democracy to a troubled region of the world. She, and the other men and women who serve in Afghanistan, are

involved in a difficult and dangerous mission. They are serving our country and its people with distinction. Our nation will not forget their sacrifice...Our thoughts and prayers are with them and with the families and loved ones of all those serving in Afghanistan.”

Captain Goddard is buried among her brothers and sisters in arms in the military section of the National Cemetery in Ottawa.

Weep for the dead, from all the ills of the earth.

Stand by the cross that bids all hatred cease.

March to the drums of dignity and worth.

Salute the King of Love, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.



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GLOBAL VILLAGE



The Hon. David Kilgour

The Hon. David Kilgour is Canada's former Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific and for Central & Eastern Europe and the Middle East. He is a tireless international human rights campaigner and has co-authored, with David Matas, the seminal study on the tragedy of organ harvesting in China. He is the co-author with David T. Jones of *Uneasy Neighbours*.

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Kristallnacht: Seventy years later

It is a challenge to address the stark issues posed by the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht. One difficulty is that too many in my own spiritual community (Christian) stood by during the worst catastrophe in all of recorded history. There were exceptions—some famous, some virtually unknown—but most Christians in Europe and elsewhere, including Canada, did not do enough to love and care for our Jewish neighbours as ourselves. Another is drawing two effective lessons from the Holocaust of practical use today in Canada and elsewhere.

Kristallnacht (“night of broken glass”) was about much more than glass. Seventy years ago agents of Adolf Hitler murdered 92 Jewish Germans and arrested more than 25,000 others for deportation to concentration camps. The spark had been struck two days earlier when a 17-year-old Jewish boy, enraged by his family’s expulsion from Germany, entered the German embassy in Paris and wounded one of its diplomats. When the man died two days later, a carefully-planned campaign of violence against Jewish Germans was unleashed. It included the destruction of more than 200 synagogues and the looting of tens of thousands of their homes and businesses. It served as the prelude to the Holocaust. The systematic eradication of a people who could trace their ancestry in Germany to Roman times.

Lucy Dawidowicz writes in *The War Against The Jews, 1933-1945*: “It has been my view—now widely shared—that hatred of the Jews was Hitler’s central and most compelling belief and that it dominated his thoughts and his actions all his life...It became his fixed idea, one to which he remained steadfast all his life...”

In *Mein Kampf*, written in 1923-24 in prison, Hitler provides much of our knowledge about his demented world view. He was a confirmed anti-Semite as early as 1904 when he was only fifteen, at least partly, it appears, because of the influence of anti-Semitic teachers at his junior and senior schools. For him, Judaism was racial, not a religion. In *Mein Kampf*, he blames Jews for every social ill.

By 1920, his National Socialist

party was afloat on the country’s sea of various kinds of woes and he was giving speeches—unfortunately gathering large crowds—on the causes of Germany’s defeat in the First World War, blaming of course Jews. He dismissed democracy and Jews together thus: “...only the Jew can praise an institution which is as dirty and false as he himself.” Overall, his views seemed indistinguishable from the anti-Semitism of the Middle Ages.

Dawidowicz notes: “All his life, Hitler was seized by this obsession with the Jews. Even after he had murdered (them), he had still not exorcised his Jewish demons...The last day of his life in the Berlin bunker, he finished dictating his political testament. His last words to the German people were: ‘Above all, I charge the leaders of the nation and those under them to scrupulous observance of the laws of race and to merciless opposition to the universal poisoner of all peoples, international Jewry.’”

A question many have asked since is how such a deranged individual could become Chancellor of Germany, whose people and culture ranked highly among world civilisations? Did it have something to do with generations of German anti-Semitism? What responsibility do German and other Christians across Europe bear for not resisting Hitler effectively?

We know that German nationalism emerged from defeat in the Napoleonic wars. Modern anti-Semites thrived in Germany when nationalism grew. There is the often applicable quote about nationalism in many lands by Zlatko Dizdarevic in *Sarajevo: A War Journal* (1993), which reads: “Because somebody somewhere decided that the bestial concept of a herd, composed of only one colour, all speaking the same language, all thinking along similar lines, all believing in the same god, must wipe out everything else.”

The world must keep always in mind what Hitler’s lunacies had caused by the time of his suicide in 1945. According to Dawidowicz, the estimated number of Jews Hitler and his followers murdered across Europe were as follows:

Poland: 3,000,000 (90% of the estimated pre-‘Final Solution’ population)

Baltic countries: 228,000 (90%)
Germany/Austria: 210,000(90%)
Slovakia: 75,000 (83%)
Greece: 54,000(77%)
The Netherlands: 140,000(75%)
Hungary: 450,000(70%)
SSR White Russia: 245,000 (65%),
SSR Ukraine: 900,000 (60%)
Belgium: 40,000 (60%)
Yugoslavia: 26,000 (60%)
Rumania: 300,000 (50%)
Norway: 900 (50%)
France: 90,000 (26%)
Bulgaria: 14,000 (22%)
Italy: 8,000 (20%)
Luxembourg: 1,000 (20%)
Russia (RSFSR-Germans did not occupy all of this republic):107,000 (11%)
Denmark: none
Finland: none
TOTAL:5,933,900 (67%)

It is evident from these figures that the patterns were different in Denmark, Finland and Bulgaria. I understand that the citizens in these three countries strongly resisted all Nazi efforts to get them to deport Jews to concentration camps. In occupied Denmark, for example, the king and large number of Danes wore yellow stars to show support for their Jewish neighbours. Many Danes risked their lives smuggling a large number of Jewish Danes to neutral Sweden. Finland and Bulgaria simply refused Nazi demands to hand over their Jewish nationals.

Until World War Two, as David Matas of Winnipeg and other scholars have reminded us, non-Jews were mostly left untouched by history’s anti-Semites. Hitler’s regime sought to murder Jews everywhere, thereby launching, continuing and prolonging his war—even in Asia—for all affected by it. The Jewish community lost about one third of its world population. The total estimated deaths during the war were sixty two million (37 million civilians and 25 million military). Thirty one million non-Jewish civilians died in what Dawidowicz concludes was a war to cover the planned murder of Jews everywhere by Hitler. “Hatred of Jews dragged the whole world down”, concludes Matas—and all of us must agree.

In an understandable effort to keep Germany on side for the Cold War, the work of the Nuremberg Tribunal was stopped in 1948 with only half

the cases finished and no doubt many thousands of war criminals not yet even identified. Did the immunity in effect provided for Nazi war criminals everywhere after 1948 somehow help to provide a licence for ensuing genocides in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Sudan? ‘Never again’ became ‘again and again’.

Two lessons for 2008

There are many lessons still applicable from the Hitler years, and we all know that the Holocaust deniers and anti-Semites are not disappearing.

Anti-Semitism and hatred voiced against any other religion or culture must be actively denounced by civil society, community leaders, role models and governments at all levels while they are still in the shadows. Human dignity is ultimately indivisible today. As in the case of European countries in the early twentieth century, people of good will can be silent too long and social toxins can overcome reason.

No-one anywhere should be permitted to incite hatred against any religion or culture. Indeed, several years ago Edmonton police officers wanted to charge two diplomats from a foreign government for encouraging contempt of an identifiable community in Alberta’s capital under the “inciting hatred” provisions of our Criminal Code. In my view, the banning of incitement to hatred of identifiable religious, racial and cultural communities by Canada’s Parliament is sound public policy. “Bloody words”, in David Matas’ phrase, can be as dangerous as shouting “fire” in a crowded theatre.

On the international level, consider the case of Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. In October 2005, he called for Israel to be wiped off the map (“Our dear Iman (Khomeini) ordered that the occupying regime in Al-Qods (Jerusalem) be wiped off the face of the earth. This was a very wise statement.”). The Holocaust, the president says, “is a myth that has been used for 60 years by Zionists to blackmail other countries and justify their crimes in occupied territories.” No-one anywhere should take lightly such outrageous statements.

Hopefully, the mere 36 votes Iran received in the UN General Assembly on its government’s bid

for election to the Security Council is an indication of mounting world concern about the voiced views of its president. The Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, however, noting that Ahmadinejad was allowed again to speak at the UN General Assembly this fall, observed: “Ten years ago, and less, the ruler of a country that announced its aspiration for Israel to be wiped off the map would not have dared appear and speak on the UN’s podium.”

Many governments in my view still misunderstand both Iranians and Ahmadinejad, thinking that there are only two policy options available to the world: continued ineffective appeasement of the regime—often for commercial reasons—and suppression of Iranian opposition groups as directed by the ayatollahs in Tehran or bombing strikes against Iran’s nuclear facilities. An attack on Iran is the one thing that would unite seventy million Iranians behind their president and should be avoided at all costs. A third and peaceful option is to begin working with all Iranian opposition groups to bring the rule-of-law, peaceful intentions towards all neighbours and democracy to Iran.

I’ll end with a true story about the Holocaust told by Truda Rosenberg of Ottawa. Her family perished in the 1930s. Her mother’s last words to Truda were, “Don’t let anything destroy your Jewish soul”. Her then 13-year-old daughter survived only because she was small enough that she could be pushed out a hole in the wall of the train cattle car that was taking the family and many others to the death camps.

By 1951, Truda had managed to escape to Britain, pretending she was a Catholic girl from Poland, and had become a nurse and mid-wife there. No-one at the hospital where she worked knew about her background. One day, she was having tea with nurse colleagues, when one of them began to criticize Jews. “Why?” asked Truda. “Well”, the other replied, “they are high income doctors, but would never be a poorly-paid nurse.” Truda was silent for a moment and then said, “I am a nurse and I’m Jewish.” Today, in her 80s, Truda still goes to work in the city.

SOUVIENS

CANADA REMEMBERS – 90 YEARS AFTER



900 chandelles illuminent le Champ d'honneur près de la croix du Sacrifice au cimetière Notre-Dame-des-Neiges lors d'une cérémonie commémorative. Cet événement a eu lieu dans le cadre de la Semaine des anciens combattants 2008 qui se déroulera du 5 au 11 novembre. Plus d'une centaine d'activités sont organisées partout au Québec par Anciens Combattants Canada et ses différents partenaires. Cette semaine vise à commémorer l'ensemble des anciens combattants et vétérans des Forces canadiennes, de la Première guerre mondiale aux opérations de paix et opérations militaires actuelles.

Photos: Caporal Marie-Louise Bourassa, Forces Canadiennes

Everlasting debt

In Memory of Gunner William Guy Rosenthal OBM

By Lawrence Rosenthal

A Candle Lit with torn heart,
bent fingers and worn hands.
A shining light, a beacon of memory,
of warm thoughts, and, everlasting love.

Cold stone cannot be the monument for the short life...
Life serving family, country and friends.
Spilt blood is sacrifice so great to pay
as blood still stains a family web.

Everlasting debt so great
so many tears shed for one so loved.
"O L-rd" May he rest in peace...
And may his memory not be forgotten.

He gave so much...he gave himself
oh what a price he paid.
So many died, so many mourn
and continue to yearn for the flesh of their flesh.

They went away so much before their time
So we can stay free.
The bent fingers, worn hands, and torn heart
grew weaker every day and
nights, oh yes, long nights followed by longer nights.

We make this day of remembrance
our surety that it was not in vain.
Our acts of witness
affirm that the price paid was for just cause.

Therefore love...
choose life...
live free...
he would have wanted us to.

L.G.R. 1974.



William Rosenthal (left) with his friend, Max Lerner, who later married William's sister Ruthye.



Letter from William Rosenthal to his parents on the occasion of their wedding anniversary. Letter donated to CJCCC National Archives by his brother, Larry Rosenthal.



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IT MATTERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



As a leader, he no longer belongs to himself. The Chinese might call him the creature of the three Ps: His people, his place and his period. A leader is a follower by definition.

Leaders create the illusion of acting but what they do is react to the commands of their era and position. Like figures on a chess board, they have a range of permissible moves. Who moves them? Those who believe in historic determinism hold that it isn't the leaders' own ideas, friendships or interests as much as the spirit of the times. The current is too swift for anyone to swim against. The strongest will or highest self-regard isn't enough.

One classic exponent of this view is Leo Tolstoy in *War And Peace*. If all his life Napoleon wanted to give one order, Tolstoy suggested, that had ran counter to the spirit of his times, ordering it would have been useless. He would have commanded an impossibility and it wouldn't have been obeyed.

Campaigning, like Barack

Obama, on a program of "change" is meaningless even if the candidate means it. Change is simply not his to bring about. It's not in his hands. Running on a program of "no change" would have been meaningless, too: Changes occur because of historic trends, and leaders can do little to induce or prevent them. The clock is the clock. You can neither turn it back nor speed it up.

There's an opposing school of thought, though. It holds that individuals make all the difference. This school believes the history of nations, the history of the world, is essentially the story of individuals. We talk about the Napoleonic period or the Elizabethan era for a reason. Everything turns on the ideas, foibles, character and nature of these pivotal figures, including their love lives -- even their health issues. A famous literary expression of this view is British playwright John Osborne's 1961 stage play *Luther*, which all but attributes the Reformation to Martin Luther's trouble with his digestive system.



These interpretations go in and out of academic or literary fashion. For centuries, the individual hero-theory held sway among historians, tempered (or aggravated) by assumptions of divine interference. History was supposedly made by leader-heroes or anti-heroes, assisted first by the various gods of antiquity, and later by the lone gods of the monotheistic faiths that replaced them.

By the 19th century, social, economic and technological forces eclipsed the importance of individuals and divinities in the study of human events. Did General Wolfe and the Marquis de Montcalm sacrifice their lives at the Plains of Abraham to market forces? Some modern historians would attribute the Seven Years War to little else, yet on that fateful September morning in 1759, the two generals

probably didn't think that's what they were dying for. In the deterministic view, if you could rent a time machine and ship President-elect Obama back into the 18th century, it would make a difference only to Joe Biden. The world would be the same. Britain, France, Prussia, Russia, Austria, Sweden and Spain would be at each other's throats under leaders borrowed from the 21st century no less than they were under Frederick the Great or the Duke of Marlborough.

In the last 50 years or so, the pendulum has started swinging back. Some historians and other students of past events have begun to feel that individual leaders do influence what happens in the world far more than a deterministic view would give them credit for. There is considerable leeway for individuals. By mailing Obama back to the

18th century we could determine, for instance, whether Americans spoke English or French today.

Or Spanish? Now there's a thought. It isn't even so far fetched.

My own view bridges (straddles?) both schools. I suspect the bigger deal is the zeitgeist. Bucking historic trends is difficult -- that's why most leaders govern from the middle in Western-style democracies. I think America's new president will, too.

Yet individuals and their ideas do weigh in the scales. People don't create history only in retrospect by writing and teaching it, but also prospectively by helping to make it. Leaders can deliver change, just as Obama promises to do. Especially change for the worse.

But let's end on an optimistic note. Sometimes they deliver change for the better.

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If you have important information to share, in confidence, contact: 416-864-9735 or ole@fswc.ca

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Alain-Michel Ayache

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PRÉSIDENT OBAMA, SUITE DE LA PAGE 1



d'ouverture au monde entier.

Mais qu'en est-il exactement?

À priori, l'élection de Barack Obama représente un ras-le-bol des citoyens de ce pays de la politique du président sortant Georges W. Bush, dont les sondages ont souligné durant les élections la dégringolade sans précédent de sa popularité. Or, bien que Bush soit pointé du doigt pour ce que nombreux désignent comme son incompetence à gérer une crise, il n'en demeure pas moins que l'élection d'Obama n'a pas rassemblé pour autant une majorité absolue des Américains. Ces derniers demeurent divisés entre supporters d'une Amérique chrétienne conservatrice et républicaine et une autre progressiste et démocrate. De même, l'arrivée d'Obama au pouvoir ne signifie aucunement que le camp progressiste et démocrate ait obtenu l'aval de toute la population pour mener ce « changement » tellement surligné durant la campagne dans la direction souhaitée. D'ailleurs, implanter un changement drastique sur fond de grave récession économique ne peut se faire sans des politiques internes impliquant une nouvelle manière d'imposition en faveur des masses et au détriment des capitaux!

Les défis d'Obama

D'où le premier des défis majeurs d'Obama, celui de convaincre la société américaine de changer de cap dans sa façon de penser le sociétal versus l'économique. Ainsi, d'une nation basée sur le libéralisme économique, ou pour certain, le capitalisme sauvage, Obama semble vouloir instaurer une sorte d'un pont vers un libéralisme participatif, menant à terme vers une sorte de socialisation de la société américaine. De quoi apporté un plus pour les plus démunis – certains diront également pour la classe moyenne – au détriment des plus nantis. L'intervention étatique entamée par Bush pour sauver de la faillite de grandes institutions

financières et d'assurances de renom serait parmi les prémices d'une telle politique qu'Obama voudrait mener encore plus loin...

Le second des défis se situe au niveau de la politique internationale des États-Unis et de l'image que projetera Obama de son Administration. Or, là, plusieurs problèmes se pointent déjà à l'horizon avant même qu'il n'entre à la Maison Blanche.

Le premier problème n'est autre que le calendrier de retrait des troupes américaines d'Irak. Or, la difficulté d'une telle décision ne réside pas dans le retrait en soi, mais plus dans le message convié à travers un retrait hâtif et rapide des troupes, même si pour Obama, ce retrait sera compensé par un redéploiement en Afghanistan. Car, ce qu'il faut comprendre c'est que les pays largement responsable de l'instabilité en Irak, la Syrie et l'Iran, feront tout pour se le répartir en zones d'influences, ce qui risque d'affecter la stabilité régionale et l'économie pétrolière.

En effet, Damas encourage les insurgés sunnites dont les Frères musulmans et certains membres d'Al-Qaeda à continuer les opérations-suicides contre les Marines, alors que Téhéran soutient et arme les Chiites irakiens pour maintenir l'Irak sous leur hégémonie maintenant que le pouvoir appartient à la majorité chiite!

Le second problème pour l'Administration Obama n'est autre que l'éternel conflit au Proche-Orient entre Israéliens et Palestiniens. Or, tout au long de la campagne, Obama avait donné des signes positifs pour un dialogue d'ouverture avec « l'ennemi », iranien était-il ou syrien. Son ouverture sur l'autre avait créé un espoir chez les Arabes de voir une politique « plus équilibrée » d'autant plus que pour beaucoup de Musulmans, Obama était considéré comme l'un des leurs de par les origines de son père! Sauf qu'avec son choix de Rahm Emanuel

L'arrivée à la Maison Blanche de Barack Obama représente en soi un grand défi aussi bien à la personne du Président élu, mais surtout au peuple États-Uniens.

comme Secrétaire général de la Maison Blanche, Obama a involontairement renversé les attentes du monde arabe! En effet, les origines israéliennes de « Rahmbo » comme surnommé, sont suffisantes pour provoquer l'ire des Arabes et une animosité contre le personnage du président. Ce qui ne manque pas d'aggraver la haine anti-américaine, accouchant par le fait même d'une quasi « fatwa » des islamistes les plus radicaux contre la personne du président élu et pour cause : pour les plus intégristes, le fait qu'il soit de père musulman, fait de lui obligatoirement un musulman. Mais, le fait qu'il ait choisi la religion chrétienne fait de lui de facto un apostat et donc le tuer serait un devoir!

Le troisième problème pour Obama sera celui de rassembler les Américains que les sondages prouvent divisés plus que jamais. Or, sa tâche ne sera pas facile d'autant plus que dans les régions Sud traditionnellement conservatrices, il est inacceptable d'avoir un noir à la présidence du pays. Cela ne manquera sans doute pas de soulever la colère des plus radicaux dont les « Red Necks » parmi les Américains du Sud dont les ancêtres pratiquaient l'esclavage. À cela

s'ajoute les groupuscules racistes comme les KKK et les néo-nazis qui seront sans aucun doute tentés d'attenter à la vie du président élu.

Ainsi, l'arrivée à la Maison Blanche de Barack Obama représente en soi un grand défi aussi bien à la personne du Président élu, mais surtout au peuple États-Uniens. Ce qu'il faut au nouveau président, c'est avant tout la chance de prouver que son idée de changement peut être bénéfique à toute l'Amérique et non seulement à une partie de la société aussi majoritaire soit-elle. Or, dans un monde où l'argent contrôle les destinées des peuples, l'on est en droit de se questionner si à l'instar de JFK, Obama représenterait une nouvelle Amérique! Une Amérique dont le rêve vient de se concrétiser après tant d'années d'espoir! Mais la question demeure : pourrions-nous enfin passer outre nos différences raciale et ethnique pour pousser de l'avant l'humanité vers de nouveaux horizons, là où le pouvoir de l'argent servira plus l'Homme plutôt que l'inverse? La réponse officielle d'Obama est « YES WE CAN! » Reste à savoir si la réalité et le destin lui donneraient raison.

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CITIZEN OBAMA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



overwhelmingly white state and stopped the vaunted Clinton machine in its tracks. What was this connection that turned into a juggernaut? Well, he gave people hope. At a time of crisis he gave hope in the only way that really matters. He made people feel better about themselves and more confident in the surety of their own possibilities. He opened up a generosity of spirit. And that is no small matter.

In fact, amidst the criticisms of inexperience, it is important to remember that the marshalling of national resolve has been the hallmark of many great Presidents. At times of despair that may very well be the defining characteristic of leadership. In an era of bean-counters, poetry may be just the tonic we need. And it is about that too.

Tone and temperament. Yes, Obama will be judged on whether he is tough enough to defend the free against an existential threat. He will have to prove that his solutions to the current systemic economic challenges are more creative than tax and spend liberalism. He will have to demonstrate the savvy to push through his agenda to help the vulnerable through congressional snakepits. And he will finally have to account for some very troubling alliances. But if he succeeds, one of his greatest weapons will have been his tone. Call it Obama cool.

A brilliant tactician and inspiring orator, Barack Obama has been a master at leveraging good into better. But he has not pandered

Obama keeps things in check. Not only his own emotions, but those of his followers. Even in Grant Park on the night of his election, you could feel him reigning in the crowd with his rhetoric. Obama's is a cool of substance not just of style. A temperament of disciplined tenacity.

to one group or another that has tried to appropriate him. When the anti-war left pushed, he pushed back by making it clear that though he opposes Iraq, he will ratchet up Afghanistan. When black militancy demanded obedience, he responded that being black was part of what he was but it did not define who he is. When the unempowered and disenfranchised tried to pour their understandable rage into the vessel of his persona, he reminded them that with rights came responsibilities and that even from them the nation would demand sacrifice. Obama keeps things in check. Not only his own emotions, but those of his followers. Even in Grant Park on the night of his election, you could feel him reigning in the

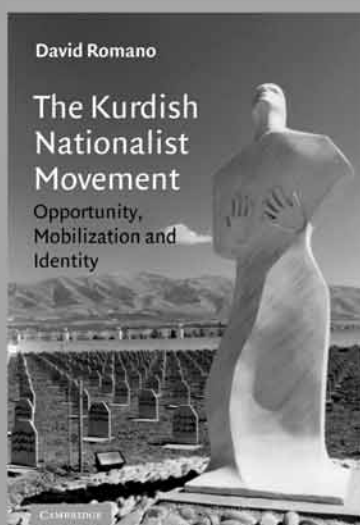
crowd with his rhetoric. Obama's is a cool of substance not just of style. A temperament of disciplined tenacity.

He is neither the messiah that some have hailed nor the devil that others have denounced. He is a leader who inspires courage through gentle passions at a time of so many harsh policies. A post civil rights era product of change who has not been formed from what Dr. King called "the redemption of unearned suffering", yet is empathetic to the victims of that suffering. He understands, intuitively, that the vulnerable are no less human, and the poor no less worthy of our compassion. As the Rolling Stones sang so many years ago "You can't always get what

you want, but if you try sometimes you'll find you've got what you need." Obama satisfies no one totally, but that may be just what we need.

As Anthony Philbin has written, "It is a small leap from race to creed, and from creed to nation, and if we're lucky we'll all live to see those false differentiations fall to the wayside like the hollow and meaningless relics they are." The choice of a national population to elevate a member of a minority race to a nation's leadership is no small feat. The fact that it has occurred in the most powerful country in the world is that much more relevant still. We could learn that lesson here in Quebec.

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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Rêve est réalité.

Ma couverture de cette campagne a commencé d'un drôle de manière. Nous (la délégation) étudiante du CIPUF avons eu droit à une escale forcée au bureau des douaniers au poste frontalier de Champlain. Le douanier en charge de l'inspection n'a pas apprécié que parmi la vingtaine d'étudiants de la délégation, certains avaient des passeports provenant de la France et de la Belgique.

Arrivé à l'intérieur du poste frontalier, nous avons dû nous enregistrer au comptoir pour subir l'interrogation de base. Nom ?, âge? , lieu de résidence?, pourquoi venez-vous aux États-Unis ?

Bref, des questions sans conséquences. Il y avait donc des réponses sans conséquences. Toutefois, mon attention a été retenue sur la conversation entre mon collègue et une des douanières au comptoir.

-Pourquoi êtes-vous venu voir les élections ?

-C'est un événement historique.

- Je ne vois pas ce qu'il y a pas d'historique la dedans, lui répond t-

elle sèchement

Mon collègue reste abasourdi. Comment l'élection du premier président noir, du plus vieux président ou de la première femme vice-présidente ne serait pas historique ?

Dans tous les cas, cette élection allait changer le cours de l'histoire. Plus encore, elle poursuivi en disant : Je ne vois pas ce qu'il y a de spécial à cet élection. Nous allons voter dans l'isoloir et ensuite nous couchons.

J'étais sidérée et estomaqué de cette réplique. Était-ce si banal que ça ? Après 200 ans de lutte, des guerres et d'autodétermination, était-ce là l'aboutissement du vote ? Quoi dire de No taxation without representation ?

Bref, les américains, me fascinaient encore une fois de plus. Le pays de l'Oncle Sam était rempli de paradoxes, de contradictions et de relation haine-mépris. Après toutes ces campagnes publicitaires, ses messages et ses personnalités publiques votant l'exercice électoral, serait possible qu'un faible noyau de la population soit encore pris dans un défaitisme absolu ?

Mais, finalement, le 4 novembre nous avons assisté à une page d'histoire importante. Pour la première fois, les électeurs américains, ont choisi de faire confiance à un afro-américain pour diriger le pays.

L'un des éléments clés de la victoire d'Obama est qu'il a su s'adressé aux américains en soulignant qu'il fait aussi parti de cette nation. Dans la plupart des débats, des discours ou moments forts de la campagne, Barack a su montrer ce sentiment patriotique nouveau. Il refuse de se catégoriser par le conflit culturel d'être noir ou blanc. Il s'identifie comme un américain d'abord et avant tout. Cela est un geste plutôt ordinaire à première vue. Cependant, dans un contexte actuel où l'anti américanisme est profond, cela représente une volonté de redorer l'image de ce qu'est l'Amérique aux yeux du monde.

Aujourd'hui l'américain n'est plus cette image d'un homme blanc protestant (WASP). C'est plus que cela. Aujourd'hui, être américain, c'est être de descendance dominicaine à Harlem

Dans tous les cas, cette élection allait changer le cours de l'histoire.

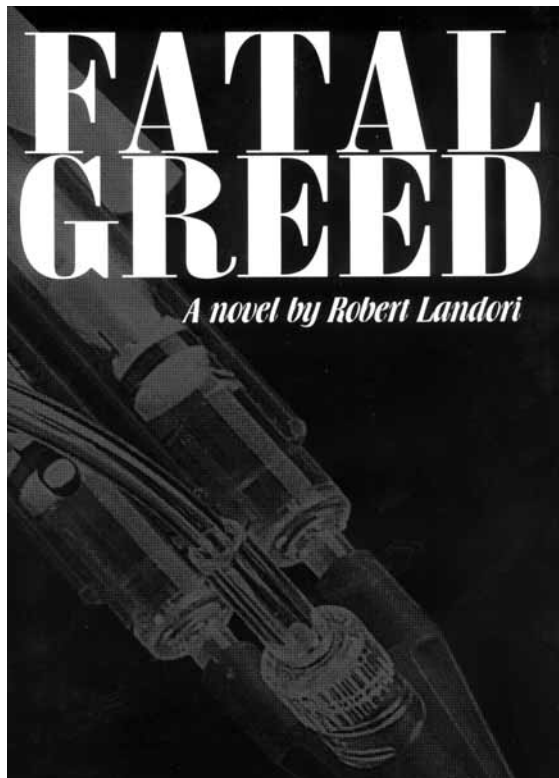
ou résider à Portland. Il est asiatique de deuxième ou troisième génération et vit à Philadelphie. Bref, l'Amérique est une des nations les plus inclusives qui soient sur la surface de la planète. Cela se voit, se vit et s'imprègne dans la mentalité commune des américains.

À New York, ce fut la frénésie la plus totale. De Time Square à Harlem, les New Yorkais de tout âge se rassemblent dans des bars, des cafés ou sur des grandes places publiques pour manifester leur joie. Certains pleurent de joie alors que d'autres trinquent à la santé du nouveau président élu. De toutes les classes, cultures, milieux et origines, des américains ordinaires ont réalisé qu'il était enfin possible de choisir une personne pour ce qu'il est et

non pas pour ce qu'il n'est pas.

Times Square et Harlem sont à des kilomètres l'un de l'autre. Pourtant, ces deux points de célébrations vivaient un événement commun. Celui de la victoire d'un américain qui a une vision de changement. Une vision de redonner confiance aux américains blasés par le système. Une vision de redonner à une nation ses lettres de noblesse.

Cette victoire d'Obama semble être le début d'un temps nouveau. Pour beaucoup d'américains, ceci est la concrétisation du mythe que le rêve américain est toujours possible. Aujourd'hui, le célèbre discours de Martin Luther King a pris tout son sens. Son rêve est devenu réalité.



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“The glass ceiling has been shattered”

Black community rejoices after Obama win

The stakes were high on Nov. 4 for American Democrats, but also for members of Montreal's Black community who expect to see the election of Barack Obama as a positive development for black youth in this country as well.

At the Imani Family and Full Gospel Church in South-West Montreal, a “watch party” was held and parishioners were on the edge of their seats as results that favoured Obama came in state-by-state. The atmosphere was especially jubilant when CNN would project the democrats winning large states with double-digit Electoral College votes. Jubilation turned to near-ecstasy

when, at precisely 11 p.m., Obama was declared the president-elect. Watching the news coverage on a big screen was the Church's outspoken Reverend, Darryl Gray, who wore an Obama t-shirt as he held his young grandson Isaiah.

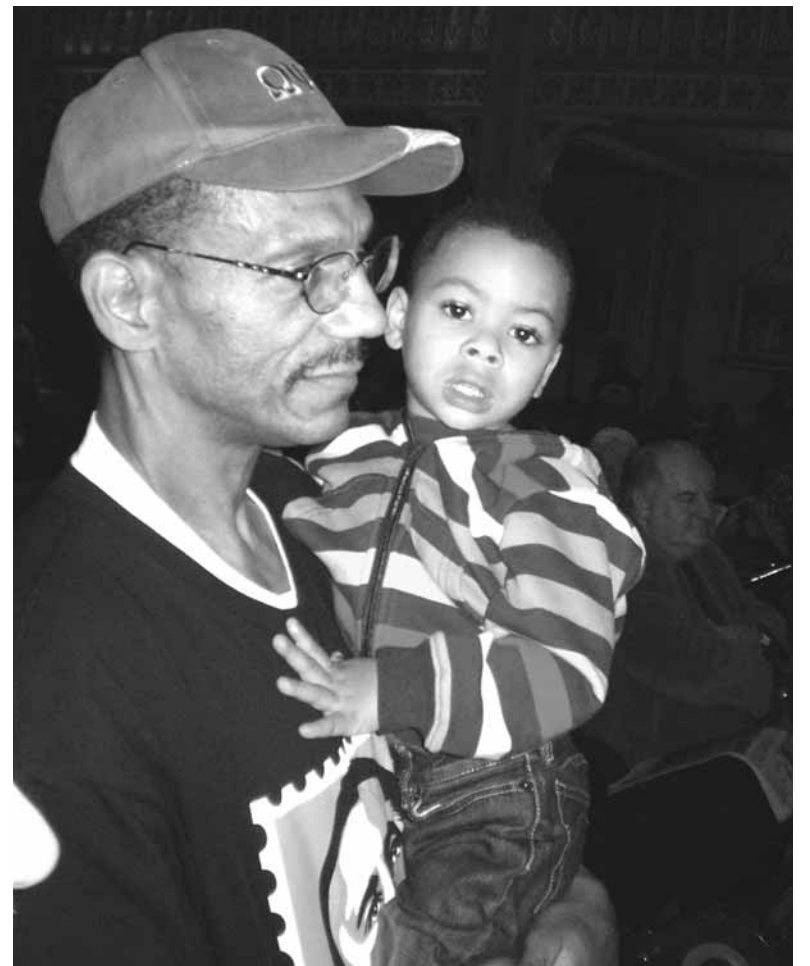
“The glass ceiling has been shattered,” Grey told the boy. “You can be Prime Minister now.”

Parishioner Asker Jones was sitting quietly in the rear pews, far away from the crowd. He said he couldn't watch the event unfold on television at home; he had to be somewhere, around people.

“I'm here because of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream,” said Jones,

a native of Trinidad and Tobago. With Obama's victory, “Dr. King's dreams have been fulfilled. Black people all over the world are supposed to band together and now none of us have an excuse to hold back.”

Jones is optimistic for the future of his American relatives. He has nieces and nephews who volunteered for both Obama and Democratic rival Hillary Clinton, and they sent him the Obama t-shirt he wore proudly last week. Also cheering on Obama at the Church was Commander Jean-Ernest Celestin, head of police station 15. In command since the beginning of the year, he said Black



Rev. Darryl Gray with grandson Isaiah.

youth in Montreal have been sent a clear message that, with hard work and good citizenry, anything is possible.

“He's not just a role model, but an inspiration,” said Celestin, a Haitian-Montrealer who is himself a success story. “It will have a huge impact (on Montreal's Black community). We can identify with him; his colour, his values, his family...People will say, ‘hey, he looks like me!’”

Across town, the Black Coalition of Quebec was having a smaller get-together. Project coordinator Jacques-Gérard Dorzin called the

night an important milestone in the process to heal wounds suffered by Blacks in America over centuries.

“It's a rare moment that we are witnessing tonight,” Dorzin said. “It's turning a very sad page in history onto a glorious one.”

Dorzin helps Black youth in Montreal find work and said Obama's success shatters some stone-age stereotypes about the work ethic of people of colour.

“We always thought that Blacks were dumb or limited in their ability to get certain jobs,” he said. “This has created a new standard.”

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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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Government's misguided attempt to end the economic cycle

Late last week, General Motors and Ford announced a combined third quarter loss of \$7.2 billion US. In other years, this would be considered catastrophic as an annual loss figure, but in the current economic context it was expected since new car purchasing in the US has fallen to a 25 year low with no sign of immediate recovery. GM has put its potential acquisition of Chrysler on hold and now all three major US automakers are appealing to the US government for \$25 billion in low interest loans on top of the \$25 billion handout they were previously offered for retooling their product lines. The automakers are burning through their cash at such an accelerated rate that they are projected to be out of money by mid-2009. Should any of the big three fail, the viability of second and third tier auto parts and subassembly suppliers would be threatened, implying a wider collapse of the auto industry that would affect all auto manufacturers operating in North America.

Yes, the situation is dire – but should the big three be saved? If support is offered to the domestic auto manufacturers, then why not to Honda, Toyota, Nissan and others who operate North American plants and contribute to the economy as well? This is the problem with government handouts and bailouts – once one industry or firm(s) within it are offered support, where should the support stop? The Japanese automakers are right to complain that they are being unfairly treated since they did everything right while the domestic automakers were losing market share to them – the Japanese produced better designed products with higher initial quality ratings that allowed them to gain an ever increasing share of the market. The US manufacturers had been bleeding cash for years for a variety of reasons, the most important of which is that for a long time they produced inferior products and took their consumers for granted. A free-market economist would argue that we should allow the US manufacturers to declare bankruptcy, shed unproductive plants and product lines, extract concessions from their workers to make the remaining plants more competitive, and in the case of GM, restructure their massive legacy health care costs.

Unfortunately, the free-market economic case is going to lose to political expediency. With an incoming US Congress dominated by Democrats, there is no way that the new Obama administration is going to allow a major US automaker to fail in their first year in office. Even a Chapter 11 style workout for GM will be considered unacceptable, because the stigma of a major automaker declaring bankruptcy would further erode the sagging consumer confidence levels now being recorded. Ironically, if GM is bailed out with billions in cash without undergoing the painful restructuring that a Chapter 11 filing would allow, then the high legacy costs that got GM in trouble in the first place will all remain intact.

GM has been struggling for decades with high healthcare costs for its tens of thousands of current workers and retirees. If GM were to go bankrupt at the same time that the Obama administration was to present comprehensive health care reform there would be an opportunity to broker a deal to transfer the future health care liabilities away from a restructured GM and into the hands of a revamped public health care sector. Instead, saving GM today with a cash infusion will only prolong the demise of this once proud automaker, as well as create lasting distortions in the marketplace between domestic and foreign-controlled firms in the sector.

The grand attempt to thwart the economic cycle

Ever since the dawn of modern capitalist theory under Adam Smith, there has been an economic cycle of expansion and contraction. In tough times, firms that did not plan properly, were uncompetitive or simply offering obsolete products fell by the wayside, freeing up labour and capital for the healthy firms that remained to grow and prosper under the next period of expansion. The liberation of the capital trapped in these firms was characterized as “creative destruction” by early 20th century economist Joseph Schumpeter. Schumpeter argued that if uncompetitive firms are prevented from dying and releasing their intellectual and capital assets into the marketplace then the future growth of the firms destined to replace them will be compromised and the creation

of new wealth will be hampered. Imagine if governments had intervened to save the horse and buggy industry at the dawn of the automotive age – would we have seen the growth of the auto industry in the 20th century, or it have been stunted and its growth retarded, resulting in a history very different than the one we know today?

Schumpeter would be very disappointed in the current behavior of our first world governments. At the moment, we are saving the auto companies – the auto parts sector has also lined up for cash, notably in Canada where they are asking for \$1 billion in loans from the Canadian government. The question becomes, who's next? If our governments buy the argument that the auto sector is strategic and too big to fail, then what about the airline industry, the aircraft manufacturers, the pulp and paper industry, natural resource firms and the drug companies? The list goes on and on. In an attempt to thwart the economic cycle and hold off the current period of contraction, governments are going to spend hundreds of billions of dollars that we do not have to save firms that may not warrant saving. Governments are traditionally very bad at picking winners, and that goes for whole economic sectors as well as individual firms. It would be heresy to propose that GM be allowed to fail and that its assets should be sold to the Japanese automakers, which stand a chance of managing them to produce better products more competitively. While this may make good policy, it makes very bad politics and would never happen.

Conservative and progressive economists will tell you that governments should try to run surpluses in good times in order to have the financial strength to invest in the economy in bad times, be that through infrastructure investment or financial incentives to consumers. The problem with the current economic contraction is that the financial strength of the US and many European economies has already been weakened via the banking bailouts, expected to total in the trillions of dollars worldwide. If governments go to market to sell more debt to finance multiple industry bailouts, they risk crowding healthy firms out of the market which will end

up being unable to raise capital. The result may be that healthy firms in relatively strong industries will starve for capital and die while troubled firms in weaker industries are saved by governments, all because they were better lobbyists in the corridors of power. We will all be poorer if this happens, and evidence is that we are already on that path.

Save the consumer first!

It is popular to say that there is only one taxpayer; the corollary to that statement is that there is only one consumer. Consumer spending represents over two-thirds of all North American economic activity and without renewed spending on their part it is not worth saving the firms that supply them with goods and services. Another \$25 billion for the auto industry is wasted money if demand for cars does not pick up; therefore, something must FIRST be done to restore consumer confidence and spending, which ultimately will lift the economic tide for all industries and begin the next cycle of expansion.

The most important bank for US consumers is not an institution – it is their houses! The increased housing values over the past 10 years allowed consumers to refinance their credit card debt when they renewed their mortgages and also provided security to finance big-ticket items like cars, appliances, home improvement and even vacations. John McCain was right when he proposed a plan for a direct intervention in the mortgage market to buy up mortgages in default and begin a work-out and refinancing process. He repeatedly stated that unless home values stabilized and started to rise again then there was no hope to re-ignite economic growth. We have seen that the bailout package for the banks allowed them to rebuild their capitalization but that the extra money has not flowed into the lending market fast enough to prevent further deterioration in home prices and consumer sentiment. What's worse is that the sub-prime mortgage rate resets are not over – there is another round of interest rate hikes coming this winter and into early 2009. Unless a better program is created to help consumers, then industry specific bailouts will not produce economic traction since buyer's wallets will

remain closed. If Obama is smart, he will take McCain's plan and make it part of his economic stimulus package to be presented after he assumes office in January and he will recruit McCain to assist its passage through Congress to produce a truly bipartisan effort.

The great Canadian deficit debate

Canada is in the best shape of the G7 nations, but it is too small to engage in economic engineering to isolate itself from the turmoil in other nations, most importantly in the US. Canada's government is probably headed for a small deficit in fiscal 2009 of between 5 to 10 billion dollars, a pittance in relative terms since that would be the equivalent of a maximum \$100 million deficit in the US, which is actually looking at a \$1 trillion deficit for the same period. Canada has also been paying down its debt and now has the lowest debt to GDP ratio in the developed world. Therefore, Canada has the balance sheet to support one or two years of deficits to temper the effects of the international economic storm on our economy. The question is twofold – first, will the Conservative government have the political will to admit that a deficit is coming, and secondly will they use the deficit spending prudently to protect consumers and industry from the harshest effects of the downturn?

Finance Minister Flaherty repeated that a deficit was a non-starter during the recent election campaign, but has recently softened his discourse and allowed the possibility that a deficit may result, even if it was not planned for. The government is missing important revenue from its two percent reduction in the GST, and is having difficulty making revenue projections since our resource industry, the star of the last 10 years, is currently in trouble with declining prices. There is going to be a political strip-tease over the next several months as the debate rages around the cabinet table over which direction to take – either cuts to spending to maintain a zero deficit, or selective initiatives to maintain economic activity. Readers are invited to pore over statements made by the Prime Minister and his Finance Minister very carefully for clues as to which philosophy will win out. Stay tuned, your pocketbook is in play!

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Academia Nuts

As we survey the intellectual scene today, what appears perhaps most disconcerting is the modern western University. With its mimosa administrations, Jacobin unions and an energetic left wing professoriate, it has become the new industrial farm for the production of ideological madness and intellectual obscurantism. “Those reverend Bedlams, colleges and schools,” in the words of the Earl of Rochester from his famous A Satire Against Mankind, are filled “with frantic crowds of thinking fools.” The academic defunding of critical reason is as pronounced today as it presumably was in Rochester’s day and probably far more so.

There is nothing sacrosanct per se about the University which, like any human institution, can profane its founding principles and grow corrupt and oppressive. The German universities of the 1930s, for example, despite their long tradition of rigorous scholarship, were by no means citadels of informed thought and genuine research but outright propaganda factories, preparing students’ minds for the absurd theories of National Socialism, the restriction of free expression and the absorption of false doctrines. The University may as easily become an engine of indoctrination as a generator of intellectual vitality or a transmitter of knowledge. Here we must remain skeptical of slogans and professed ideals, for the principle of “academic freedom” can be misused as a cover for illiberal thought and slavish conformity to a ruling ideology.

While avoiding the diabolical extreme of the German paradigm, this is more or less what is happening today in many of our erstwhile seats of learning. “The defenders of what now passes for academic freedom,” writes Manfred Gerstenfeld, “should largely be seen as an elitist interest group that tries to protect acquired privileges...enabl[ing] universities to present the current, ostensible academic freedom as a moral value, whereas actually it is an expression of extreme corporatism.” The pedagogical bias which it fosters “includes elements such as political correctness, the promotion of ideology, the distortion of knowledge, and the protection of the hate promoters and falsifiers of knowledge as well as other malfunctions of campus administrations”.

In his new book *The War of Ideas: Jihad against Democracy*, Walid Phares speaks of the pressing need to clean up “the

Contemporary academics and intellectuals (or anti-intellectuals), by and large, strike me as the Mr. Beans of the vaudeville clerisy, epitomes of conceptual ineptitude.

diseducating process that [has] blurred the intellectual vision of a whole generation.” Dennis Prager concurs. Taking his cue from the Earl of Rochester, he writes in an online article: “Our universities are run by fools who are breeding a generation of fools.” The exceptions, he continues, “have little impact on the deconstruction of civilization and the breeding of anti-intellectuals taking place at our universities.” Edward Bernard Glick, author of *Soldiers, scholars and society*, trains his sights on the American university in particular. “American universities,” he writes, “have been transformed into the most Marxist, postmodernist, know-nothing, anti-American, anti-military and anti-capitalist institution in our society. It is now a bastion of situational ethics and moral relativism...American academia is now a very intolerant place.” Former Muslim and founder of the *ArabsForIsrael* website Nonie Darwish would surely concur: sorting through the hate mail she receives, she finds that “the worst comes from University professors” (*FrontPageMagazine.com*, October 6, 2008). No longer disseminators of truth and centers of impartial scholarly research, American universities—and Canadian and European universities as well—have become strongholds of a left-wing cultural anthropology.

Contemporary academics and intellectuals (or anti-intellectuals), by and large, strike me as the Mr. Beans of the

vaudeville clerisy, epitomes of conceptual ineptitude. But they seem no less retarded than their immediate precursors, re-processing the ineffable Bertrand Russell who in a 1937 speech declared that “Britain should disarm, and if Hitler marched his troops into this country when we were undefended, they should be welcomed like tourists and greeted in a friendly way.” According to an article in the *International Herald Tribune* for April 1987, entitled “50 Years Ago,” “If the British government stopped arming and turned pacifist, this country would not be invaded and would be as safe as Denmark...As a step toward world peace, [Russell] proposed dismemberment of the British Empire.”

In *The Flight from Truth*, where this material is discussed at length, Jean-François Revel comments on Russell’s incredible foray into the domain of public policy: “Bertrand Russell may have been an eminent philosopher in his speciality—symbolic logic—but he was nonetheless an imbecile on the subject dealt with in those sentences.” Revel deplores those intellectuals who “have employed their talents to justify falsehood...even foolishness.” Plus ça change! It is surely time to act through a public campaign to disseminate information and purse-string vigilance to address this monumental aberration.

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Call it 'The Sandwich Generation'

Last Sunday, a new resource group called The Professionals Network for Caregivers, (Réseau des Professionnels pour les Proches Aidants) held their annual resource fair at the Centre Mont-Royal in the downtown core.

In association with its new partner, the Uniprix pharmacies group, the PNC joined forces with their corporate partner to respond and promote resources required by growing numbers of caregivers throughout the city. Marjorie

Silverman, who works at the CSSS (Cavendish) Caregiver Support Centre in Côte Saint Luke, said the resource fair was an important initiative because it managed to rally all the resources required by both public and private caregivers under one roof. Margerite Blais, the provincial minister in charge of senior citizens, stopped by and gave a brief and sincere speech as to how important the caregiver's mission was and how the government appreciated all the work being done by both private and



"They're a generation caught between caring for their aging parents while many of them still have kids at home," she said.

professional caregivers.

"She's right," said one of the fair's organizers. "We save the province a lot of money because a lot of this work is being done out of love because there's no money to pay for this kind of thing."

She described aging baby-boomers as 'the sandwich generation'.

"They're a generation caught between caring for their aging parents while many of them still have kids at home," she said.

While an aging population will continue to require more and more help, the resource fair maintained its focus upon the needs and requirements of those who manage and offer that help. Numerous support groups were there as were assorted organizations who offered coherent referrals and information for caregivers dealing with a specific disease. The Baluchon group offers trained home care for those who need a break from the endless care required by a patient with Alzheimer's disease. The ECCOM group (English Coalition of Caregivers of Montreal) offers referrals, support and information for all of the city's Anglophone caregivers. Robert Morin, spokesman for the Canadian Multiple Sclerosis Society, said his

organization had information, referrals and support networks for everybody who needs it.

"Information is power," he said. "Once you know what you're dealing with, that's half the battle."

Hélène Normandin, speaking for the Uniprix group, said senior citizens should recognize their pharmacy as their first line of defense against the perils of old age.

"People need professional help and advice," she said. "There are lots of tools and medication out there to help them live a full life. All they have to do is ask for it."

While social service networks were doing their best to offer all the services to the city's caregivers, Silverman said the province the provincial CLSCs were gearing up for the demographic challenges posed by the aging baby-boomer generation.

"Every one of the CLSCs responds to the immediate needs of their district," she said. "They're the ones people will turn to when they have to learn how to navigate through the system. Each and every one of them have their own strength and qualities and that's always a good place to start when people need help but don't know who they can turn to."

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La Fonderie Darling: un espace de création unique

*Notre vrai moi n'est pas tout entier en nous.
~ Jean-Jacques Rousseau.*

« Il n'y a pas plus québécois qu'un Québécois ! » Voici une maxime résumant à elle seule un type de québécity bête à pleurer, un complexe en somme. De ce genre de cliché, de préjugé, de formule toute faite, impossible de ne pas faire matière à réflexion lorsque l'on visite la Fonderie Darling, nichée au cœur du Faubourg des Récollets, dans le « Quartier Éphémère ». Par sa mission, cet endroit étonnant oblige à sortir de soi et des sentiers battus, pour entrer de tout son long dans l'Autre, dans ses différences et complexités.

La Fonderie Darling est presque une entité en soi et rassemble des artistes de partout : c'est un espace de création vivant, qui respire, qui porte aussi à la réflexion et à la recherche. En route vers la découverte, pénétrer l'intérieur de ce bâtiment est une expérience en soi. C'est la lumière qui touche tout d'abord, ensuite le silence, puis la diversité des formes visuelles de l'art contemporain. En effet, la Fonderie Darling « parle » au travers de chacune de ses œuvres, comme si l'artiste était en train de lui souffler ses mots dans une tentative d'atteindre la réalité d'une époque urbaine. En ce sens, la Fonderie Darling visite et revisite nos lieux de mémoire, et s'intéresse tout particulièrement aux projets exploratoires, lesquels sont parfois à haute teneur technologique ou à facteur de risque important.

La sensation et la réflexion suscitées par le lieu ou par les objets, indépendamment de leur provenance culturelle, nous amènent à créer des parallèles avec d'autres sociétés, d'autres artistes et d'autres réalités urbaines. En effet, choisir l'art

contemporain, c'est s'ouvrir à un autre regard, à une autre temporalité. De toute évidence, les artistes cherchent à rassembler le public autour de préoccupations communes, tel le patrimoine, la mémoire, l'architecture. Certains n'hésitent pas à faire « jaser leurs mondes », dans lesquels, pour notre plus grand bonheur, des existences croisées coexistent.

L'humain est fondamentalement individualiste. Il le demeure parfois toute sa vie. Certains le sont tellement qu'ils en deviennent renfrognés, quasi muets. Les artistes de la Fonderie Darling partent à la recherche de signes pouvant traduire fidèlement cet état de fait, mais dans une vision unique, avant-gardiste. Ainsi, sur 3500 mètres carrés, et dans un souci de précision photographique, on réalise que l'individualisme possède également ses contradictions.

Ainsi, je ne peux m'empêcher, suite à la visite de la Fonderie Darling, de porter moi aussi, le même regard « photographique » sur ma ville, mes lieux de mémoire et ma société. En effet, les artistes, pour la plupart en résidence, font corps avec la ville, emboîtent le pas des passants, s'arrêtent devant les parcs, les grands magasins, dans les stations de métro, les pharmacies, les salons de thé. Parfois, je suis choquée, voire outrée, mais ce n'est pas l'artiste qui parle, ce sont ses œuvres, lesquelles évoluent dans des lieux, des hasards et des rendez-vous. D'ailleurs, ce sont souvent des œuvres simples, lesquelles ne se doutent pas, un seul instant, qu'elles possèdent une partie de l'histoire de la ville entre leurs formes.

Aussi, démontrer l'apport économique indéniable de la culture est dans ce cas-ci un stimulant qui vaut le détour. Je

recommande tout particulièrement la visite de ce lieu à Stephen Harper. En effet, sa programmation internationale, ses résidences d'artistes étrangers à Montréal et canadiens en France, permettent au « Quartier Éphémère » de susciter des échanges enrichissants entre les artistes en arts visuels et leurs publics, dans un bouillonnant partage d'idées et de dialogue. J'aime à imaginer les artistes se promenant en long et en large dans la ville, scrutant la montréalité au travers des lieux et des gens qui croisent leur route et qu'ils ne reverront probablement jamais. D'autres fois, ils peuvent être touchés personnellement, en retrouvant des gestes universels, comme le baiser des amoureux, ou même, qui sait, un visage familier, dans une femme attendant au supermarché, par exemple. C'est donc au dehors que les artistes de la Fonderie Darling déposent leurs existences passées, lucidement, sachant bien qu'eux-mêmes se trouvent au cœur de la foule, dans les rues de la ville, porteurs de la vie des autres.

Bref, j'invite tout le monde à visiter cet espace de création exceptionnel, ce lieu d'innovation, avec ses deux salles de diffusion, sa galerie, son café au rez-de-chaussée (lequel accueille 500 clients par semaine), ses résidences, ses ateliers de production, le tout formant un dynamique assemblage d'art visuel, dont le rayonnement au Québec, au Canada et partout dans le monde témoigne de son formidable apport de vie.

Fonderie Darling
745 rue Ottawa
Montréal
tél: 514-392-1554
www.fonderiedarling.org

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

- George F. Lengvari, Sr.





Titanic sails again

A touring exhibition of artifacts from the Titanic opened this week in the old fourth floor cinema in the Eaton Centre in downtown Montreal, where they will remain until April.

Titanic: the Artifact Exhibition features 281 artifacts recovered from the wreck of the ship that went down in the North Atlantic on its maiden voyage in 1912.

A series of galleries trace the life of the doomed luxury liner from its design and construction to its discovery and conservation.

The exhibition has toured around the world since 1991, and this is its first Quebec.

Its the same show that was seen in Toronto in 1999, but is geared to a french-speaking visitors, and includes artifacts recovered from expeditions since then.

About 30 Montrealers were aboard Titanic, and the show devotes

material to some of them, including a popular Montreal hockey player who died in the sinking.

La vraie histoire d'amour entre un hockeyeur montréalais et son amoureuse belge, passagers sur le Titanic, est tout aussi romantique que celle de Jack et Rose, les amants fictifs du film de James Cameron.

Quigg Baxter, qui jouait pour les Shamrocks de Montréal, revenait au Canada sur le Titanic avec Berthe Mayné, une chanteuse de cabaret de 24 ans, rencontrée à Paris.

Malgré leur nom irlandais, les Baxter étaient une riche famille francophone de Montréal, propriétaire de l'édifice Baxter, toujours sur le boulevard Saint-Laurent.

Il voyageait en première classe avec sa mère, Hélène Chaput-Lanaudière, et sa sœur, 'Zette Douglas. Ils occupaient la suite à côté de celle de Rose deWitt Bukater (Kate Winslet) et Cal Hockley (Billy Zane) dans le film de James Cameron, appartenant en réalité à Bruce Ismay, directeur général du

À l'origine, James Cameron voulait que le protagoniste masculin voyage en première classe et qu'il tombe amoureux d'une passagère de troisième classe mais les rôles furent inversés lors de l'écriture du scénario.



Titanic. Après que le Titanic eut heurté l'iceberg, Quigg fut probablement le premier passager à savoir que le bateau allait couler. En sortant

Quigg Baxter

de sa cabine, il avait rencontré le capitaine, qui discutait de l'accident avec M. Ismay, qui lui dit que l'accident était grave et qu'il devait faire monter sa mère et sa sœur dans un canot de sauvetage dès que possible. Quigg n'avait dit à personne que son amie voyageait sur le Titanic et ce n'est qu'en l'installant dans le canot qu'il la présenta à sa mère.

« Quigg ne semblait pas s'en faire. Il nous a bravement dit adieu », déclarait sa sœur dans une entrevue au Montreal Standard. Dans une autre entrevue, elle dit qu'en la dirigeant vers le canot, il sortit une fiole de brandy en argent et la donna à sa mère en disant : « Tenez, cela vous gardera au chaud sur l'eau. Êtes-vous bien, maman? » lui demanda-t-il en reculant et en lui envoyant la main. « Au revoir, bon espoir vous autres, » furent ses derniers mots.

À l'origine, James Cameron voulait que le protagoniste masculin voyage en première classe et qu'il tombe amoureux d'une passagère de troisième classe mais les rôles furent inversés lors de l'écriture du scénario. Ce n'est qu'après la sortie du film que James Cameron apprit, à sa grande surprise, les parallèles entre la vraie histoire et son film.

Les deux histoires d'amour finissent de la même façon : Baxter, comme Jack, meurt dans le naufrage et Berthe Mayné, comme Rose, a une longue vie mais n'oublie jamais l'homme qu'elle a aimé.

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Sleek Cat without claws

Barry Flatman as Big Daddy, the dying patriarch of a decaying Southern family is alone worth the price of admission to the uneven production of the Tennessee Williams Classic, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at the Segal Centre for the Performing Arts at the Saidye.

Flatman blows the roof off of the show.

The play is fuelled by passion, rage and impotence. It's about family relationships where kinship is built on mendacity - a house of lies that not only damage the psyche but cripple any real chance of love or affection. Flatman roars through the role like a wounded beast trying to escape a steamy swamp as he attempts to address the demons that have led his favourite son, his golden boy, Brick, (Todd Sandomirsky) to become a wasted alcoholic.

In an unusual take on the story, director Greg Kramer makes the father-son confrontation the focus of the play. Brick's troubled marriage to Maggie (Severn Thompson) that normally drives the plot is peripheral in this production. That may be because Sandomirsky doesn't do much with the role.

He limps around the stage on crutches mourning the death of his football buddy.

He is not the crippled Alpha male that the script calls for, a "superior creature," and a godlike being," - rather, he's just another, bored and boring passive drunk.

Thompson, as Maggie, is good as far as

she goes. She has the "smile of a beggar and the claws of a cat," that Williams describes. She yearns beautifully as she prattles on and on in the first act. Her Maggie is one cool cat, a detached feline who can take care of herself.

Since Sandomirsky doesn't always pull his weight, there is no spark between the two of them. Maggie seems resigned to the fact that her husband is exactly as Williams described his character in a letter to film maker Elia Kazan, "a homosexual with heterosexual adjustment, ... one of those people who are undersexed and prefer pet racoons or sports or something else to sex with either gender."

Sharon Baker's Big Mamma pulls off some of the best lines of the play, but she's not quite as refined as Big Mamma should be.

Bill Bill Croft and Paula Jean Hixon, as the parents of five "no-necked," obnoxious children do an efficient job of portraying repulsive red-necks.

The children in the show are all inevitable scene stealers.

John Dinning's set evokes a decaying Southern Plantation, but it's too busy, and its distracting multi-levels leave an audience confused trying to imagine where all the walls in the mansion are - and aren't. Its a set that doesn't serve the production very well.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof runs until November 16.



Todd Sandomirsky as Brick and Barry Flatman as Big Daddy.

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