



CASSANDRA'S LILACS:
Adoucir la
condition

Page 18



WAJSMAN ONE ON ONE:
Canada and
Julie Couillard

Pages 4-5



MALOUF:
Pouvoir de
nuisance

Page 3

Ensemble et libres Together and free

THE MÉTROPOLITAIN

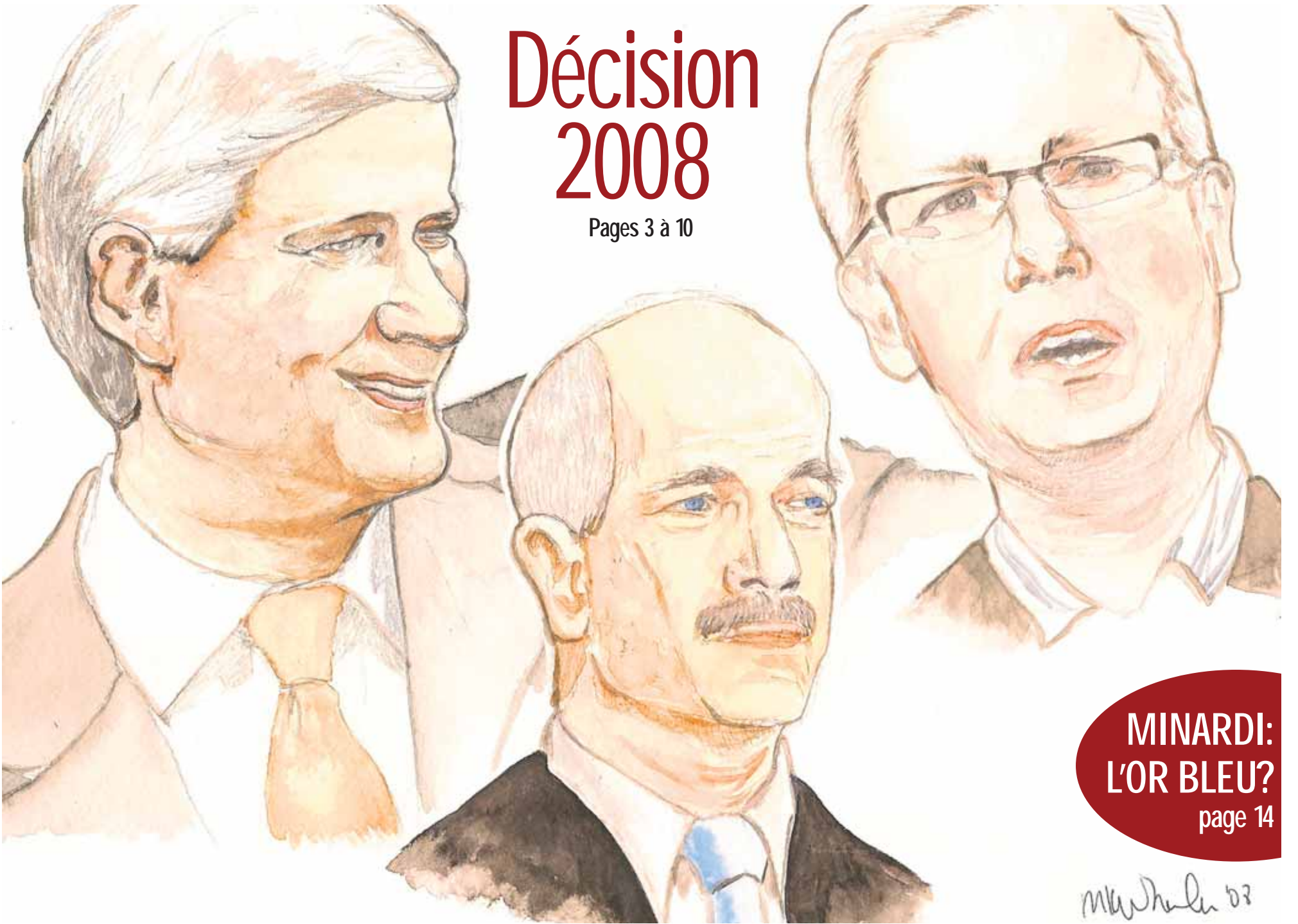
16 OCTOBER 2008 • VOL. I, NO 12

THE BILINGUAL JOURNAL OF REFLECTION, OPINION AND THE ARTS • LE JOURNAL BILINGUE DE RÉFLEXION, OPINIONS ET LES ARTS

WWW.THEMETROPOLITAIN.CA

Décision 2008

Pages 3 à 10



MINARDI:
L'OR BLEU?
page 14

Cet automne, redécouvrez
une perle pendant
notre Festival **Coquillages
&
Crustacés**



thursdaysbar.com

514.281.5320

1449 Crescent



Beryl Wajzman

Rédacteur en chef et Éditeur

**I REMEMBER
JE ME SOUVIENS**

WWW.THEMETROPOLITAIN.CA

Therefore choose courage!

A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON MEMORY AND WITNESS

My father died this past Monday. At a time when so much of the currency of our public discourse is spent on meaningless façade, political correctness and false piety, I wanted to share this article I wrote last Remembrance Day about him. Our political elites could take a few lessons from a member of the “greatest generation”. - BW

“The condition upon which man hath received liberty is eternal vigilance; which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime and the punishment of his guilt.”

— John Philpot Curran

Veterans Week this year, culminating in Remembrance Day on Sunday, has a special resonance. Canada lost more of its bravest and boldest in foreign fields than it has in a long time. As we remember and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, we need to reflect on exactly what that sacrifice was for. What is at stake when a horrible evil is loose in the world and must be subdued. How our fate is tied up with others around the globe fighting the same fight. Too often in our smug comfort we think the world beyond our borders has little to do with us. We don't feel it viscerally.

I want to try to make you feel it with this personal reflection on memory and witness.

This past spring my father called me and with a tear-strained croak in his voice said “Today is the 9th of May. This was the happiest and saddest day of my life.”

It was not the first time he said these words to me on that day. He did not have to go into a long explanation. His sentiments were shared by many of his generation. Veterans understand that these emotions go hand in hand.

On that day, 62 years ago the Nazis surrendered. But amidst that victory, the world discovered the true depths of destruction and devastation to which mankind had sunk. Still in uniform, my father made his way to his hometown and came face to face with a shattered world. Physical ruin, unmarked graves and foreigners occupying the homes of friends and family and claiming they had lived there for decades. How does one get over seeing strangers at your mother's table with her crisp, white linen laid out before them? The sense of violation had all the intensity of rape. The feeling of despair, all the futility of a silent cry. The searing pain in one's heart, the weight of the rock of Camus' Sisyphus as he fell from the mountaintop once again.

What my father and his friends were forced to confront was confirmation of an era in which we still live to a great extent. An era characterized by the failure of faith, the retreat of reason and the humiliation of hope. An era where all the civilized



Author's father Misha Wajzman in uniform, second from left, with fellow veterans after having raised a monument to thousands killed by the Nazis.

doctrines mankind swore allegiance to through millennia of struggle crawling out of the jungles of barbarism were betrayed. An era that, with rare exceptions, is permeated with the odious odours of justice compromised by timidity, honour cheapened by expediency and promise mortgaged by avarice. It has always been a source of awe to me that my father, and his contemporaries, not only survived, but re-engaged in this world. Even in those pain-filled days after victory.

In the scorched earth of their hometown they discovered trenches holding the butchered remains of tens of thousands who had been their friends and families. They did not just mourn. They acted. They understood the importance of memory and witness. But then that too is part of the soldier's creed. So often they are the first to glimpse a preview of hell. And after the tears, and after the mourning, comes the awesome realization that despite the numbing questions of “Why did I survive?” and “What can I believe?” we must strive forward. But that can only begin with remembrance.

For what is often rent asunder by the evil our soldiers fight are not just the sinews of our flesh, but the very fabrics of our souls. The depraved indulgences in orgies of blood by murderers and madmen put the lie to mankind's claims of moral progress if left unchallenged. The sacrifices of our veterans permit us all a degree of moral redemption. Without their courage we would just be mute witnesses as all the hallmarks of decency are swept

away in bloody swirls of red.

We must never cease speaking these truths clearly and candidly. It is important to tell it straight. For in an ungracious age filled with inelegant self-absorption, it is more important to be hard and relentless than genteel and obtrusive.

My father was part of the ‘greatest generation’ that looked into the abyss and, in the words of Aeschylus, were seared by “pain which falls drop by drop upon the heart until through the awful grace of God we attain wisdom.” But they attained one other virtue in addition to wisdom. They attained courage. That is the lesson for the ages.

When Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that “this nation answers to a higher destiny,” that destiny, and our maturity, was not forged from the compromises of public trust bred behind the closed doors of government committees and corporate boardrooms. Nor by the prejudices of social orthodoxy that dominate polls and focus groups that seek to dictate the common weal.

This nation, conceived in economic enterprise by European monarchs of centuries past, came to maturity, and kept its rendezvous with destiny, overwhelming the bloody trenches of Vimy Ridge; scaling the harrowing cliffs of Dieppe; conquering the sands of Normandy; commanding the stormy seas of the Atlantic; suffering the bitter winters of Korea; and surviving the scorching sun of the Sinai. And too, with courage and conscience, in the corpse-filled jungles of Rwanda and on the muddied fields of the Balkans.

Our best progress as a people has always been realized when we shouldered our fair share of the burden in mankind's continuing quests to realize transcendent yearnings for redemptive change. It has always been a struggle, tempered by service and sacrifice, to assure the survival and success of liberty. Our proudest boast was that we were ready to meet the challenges of the open sea and were not content to rest smugly at harbor. If we fail to recognize those challenges from abroad today, we will inevitably face the consequences of that failure at home.

We must never allow our proud legacy of victory over tyranny, symbolized in these days of drums, to be compromised by the abandonment of national will so cavalierly and so often rationalized in our public discourse today by the low limitations of moral relativism and political equivalency.

Edmund Burke's admonition that “all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing,” is as true today as when he wrote these immortal words so long ago. It has been said that as each new day dawns we always have two choices. We can live from fear or we can live from courage. Therefore, choose courage. For our courage can truly change the world, and redeem our lives.

THE MÉTROPOLITAIN

Ensemble et Libres ~ Together and Free

Édifice Hermès, Tour A, Suite 155, 1470 rue Peel,
Montréal, QC, Canada, H3A 1T1

Tel: 514-759-8541

Fax: 514-759-8544

e-mail: info@themetropolitain.ca

Rédacteur en chef et Éditeur
Beryl P. Wajzman

Managing Editor and Deputy Publisher
Anthony Philbin

Rédacteur-adjoint principal
Daniel Laprés

Contributing Editor
Brigitte B. Garceau

Coordonnateur, Affaires internationales
Leonard Dykler (Paris)

Copy Editor
Ray Doucet

Photojournaliste
Robert J. Galbraith

Editorial Artwork
Roy Piperberg, Melissa K. Wheeler

Ventes et Marketing
Joseph Mardini, Genevieve Maclean

IT Director
Valeri Prudnikov

Webmestre
François Charbonneau

Editorial staff

Alidor Aucoin, Daniel K. Bartlett, Michel-Wilbrod Bujold,
Chris Bumbay, Dan Delmar, Guillaume Durou,
Vincent Geloso, Louise V. Labrecque, Pierre K. Malouf,
Jessica Murphy, Isaac J. Olson, Robert Presser, Peter Sauvé,
P.A. Sevigny, David Simard, Sharmar Yarnell

Editorial contributors

Rouba Al-Fattal, Alain-Michel Ayache, Germain Belzile,
Jean-Charles Chebat, Duff Conacher, Esther Delsile,
Graham Dodds, Daniel Dufort, Robert Elman, Fred Eytan,
Patrick C. Gagnon, Julius Grey, Rudyard Griffiths, Nancy
Hinton, George Jonas, David T. Jones, Barbara Kay,
David Kilgour, Rémi Landry, Marc Lebus, Lewis W. Mackenzie,
Timothy Mak, Annette Paquet, John Parisella, Andrei
Piontkovsky, Daniel Romano, Michael Ross, David Solway,
Francis Tourigny, Thomas R. Volk, Hubert Villeneuve,
Albert A. Zbily

Strategic Counsel

Charles S. Coffey

Letters and Submissions

The Metropolitain encourages letters and submissions from our readers in both official languages. SVP envoyer vos textes à: submissions@themetropolitain.ca

Disclaimer

All materials accepted for publication may be subject to editing. *The Metropolitain* aims to meet the need for original and unconventional thought and opinion on local, national and international affairs. The opinions and views expressed by the contributors to *The Metropolitain* are strictly their own and do not necessarily represent those of the ownership, its advisors, members or editors. *The Metropolitain* does not accept responsibility for the views expressed in any letter, article or comment that appears in these pages. It does accept responsibility for giving these submissions the chance to appear. No reproduction is permitted without prior written permission from the Publisher or Deputy Publisher. Any and all reproductions must clearly credit the specific issue, article and author as they originally appeared in *The Metropolitain*.

Maison Joseph Battat

the
metrontario
group



PIERRE K. MALOUF

« Brasse-camarade »

malouf@themetropolitain.ca

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

Pouvoir de nuisance

Le Québec vient d'aggraver son handicap, c'est-à-dire son éloignement du pouvoir par bloquistes interposés. Nous aurons donc un gouvernement minoritaire. Le troisième en quatre ans.

Cela ne s'était pas produit depuis les années soixante. Du 27 août 1962 au 23 avril 1968, soit pendant 1804 jours, le Canada fut en effet dirigé par trois gouvernements qui ne disposaient pas de la majorité en chambre. Nous en sommes maintenant rendus, avec ceux de Paul Martin et de Stephen Harper, à 1309 jours. À moins que les conservateurs soient renversés dans les dix-sept prochains mois, un record peu enviable sera bientôt battu.

Misère ! Il faudra bien qu'un jour nous élisions un gouvernement capable de gouverner. Pas n'importe lequel, bien sûr. Car nous pourrions avoir pire que les conservateurs minoritaires. Rappelons-nous que la situation s'était dénouée à l'époque par l'arrivée d'un certain Pierre Elliott Trudeau à la tête du parti libéral. Je frémis à l'idée que le fils aîné du susdit ne saisisse un jour les rennes du parti que PET domina pendant tant d'années et que nous ne voyions surgir dans le paysage une version caricaturale de la trudeumanie d'antan. Quelle catastrophe ce serait ! Heureusement, nous n'en sommes pas encore là.

« Le vote nous permet de choisir ce qui nous plaît, pas forcément ce dont nous avons besoin ⁽¹⁾ ». Prenons acte aujourd'hui que c'est d'abord et avant tout le pouvoir de nuisance du Bloc québécois (dont je ne remets en cause ni la pertinence ni la légitimité, car en démocratie le peuple a toujours raison de se tromper), qui est la principale cause du cul-de-sac dans lequel nous nous sommes enfermés. La propagande manichéenne du Bloc québécois, qui visait à diaboliser Stephen Harper (qui voudrait soi-disant détruire la culture québécoise), a fonctionné à merveille, sauf dans DIX comtés-mystère qu'il faudra bien rééduquer avant les prochaines élections (je propose de confier cette mission au clown Pierre Falardeau).

Ce discours opposant la gentillesse de la gauche à la

méchanceté de la droite a convaincu de nombreux fédéralistes. Il y avait en effet quelque raison de s'inquiéter des intentions cachées des conservateurs, dont la base réformiste a des visées rétrogrades. Pourtant, ce qui m'a davantage frappé dans la propagande bloquiste, c'est son caractère chauvin. Tous ont entendu et réentendu ce message où parmi une kyrielle de crimes commis contre le Québec, M. Harper était accusé de « maltraiter notre langue ». La belle affaire !

Le portrait de Harper en croquemitaine aurait dû porter au pouvoir les libéraux, seule alternative crédible aux conservateurs. Le parti libéral ne s'est pas relevé de ses malheureuses divisions internes. Affaibli presque partout au Canada, il n'est pas à la veille de pouvoir remplacer les conservateurs. C'est dommage.

La principale raison de mes regrets est cependant d'un tout autre ordre. Comme il eut été comique en effet d'entendre M. Duceppe répéter le 15 octobre ses tirades contre Stephen Harper en substituant simplement au nom de ce dernier celui de Stéphane Dion, qui, aux yeux des nationalistes, est l'homme de la Loi sur la clarté, c'est-à-dire un pire ennemi de la Nation que le chef conservateur.

Ce retour à la case départ, dont Stephen Harper est le premier responsable par ses maladresses tout au long de la campagne, ne nous mènera nulle part, sinon à d'autres élections fédérales dans une couple d'années. Stéphane Dion aura alors été remplacé à la tête du parti libéral. J'ose espérer que ce ne sera point par qui vous savez. Au Québec, le parti libéral de Jean Charest formera depuis quelque mois un gouvernement majoritaire. Bien installé au gouvernail, M. Charest aura cessé de flirter avec le Bloc et de cajoler les nationalistes. Dégoûtés par la stagnation du PQ, ces derniers nourriront des mêmes sempiternelles récriminations le seul instrument qui leur restera disponible : le pouvoir de nuisance du Bloc québécois. Incapables de réaliser le pays rêvé, ils continueront de saboter le pays réel.

⁽¹⁾ Jean-François Revel *Fin du siècle des ombres*, p. 264.



ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

Le Groupe
ParlementaireThe
Parliamentary
Group

Deb Grey



Val Meredith



John Nunziata



Lorne Nystrom



Patrick Gagnon

The Parliamentary Group

400-200 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Canada K2P 1L5
613.860.0043

www.parliamentarygroup.com

The Parliamentary Group assists with regulatory, governmental and legislative advocacy issues. Our pan-Canadian government relations and lobbying firm helps clients navigate the often confusing corridors of government with a comprehensive range of services.



Beryl Wajzman

Rédacteur en chef et Éditeur

WWW.THEMETROPOLITAIN.CA

“What ever happened over just one night?”

ONE ON ONE WITH JULIE COUILLARD

She was never charged with any crime. She was never the object of any complaint. She's lived her life openly and transparently. But in the public life of this country, anyone can be targeted if they can be abused for political gain to get at someone else. The math in politics is simple. Add two plus two and make sure it equals five. And if you can't make the numbers dance, get the media to help you. That's very much the message that Julie Couillard makes clear in how she became a pawn in the chess game of politics.

We met last week in the offices of her French-language publisher in Montreal. The Suburban is the first non-daily paper to be accorded an interview with Ms. Couillard following the publication of her book *My Story* (published by McClelland and Stewart in English) and *Mon Histoire* (published by l'Éditions de l'Homme in French).

Looking in command in a tailored pantsuit with a French-cuffed dress shirt, Julie Couillard took a direct, no nonsense approach to the “tsunami”, as she put it, that has taken over her life. As much as she is bewildered and angry at former boyfriend, and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maxime Bernier's almost non-existent defence of her after Bloc leader Gilles Duceppe's “revelations” in the House about her past, she is just as angry at the media for being complicit in this storm. “What ever happened over just one night?” she asked rhetorically.

She referred to the fact that for seven months, accompanying Bernier, she had been friendly and talkative with journalists. They knew her history. They knew of the marriage



to one former biker and her affair with another. This was not news. And it was in the past. How is it, she wants to know, that as soon as Duceppe began to talk, these very same journalists reverted to false piety and claimed shock and surprise? The lurid headlines were just to sell newspapers?

She also insists that Bernier knew of her past, and cannot understand why for days after this story broke he would not take her calls. She said that one of the reasons she went on television was that she felt very much alone and abandoned and was fed up

with the portrayals of herself as a “biker chick” or a “Mata Hari”. She needed to get her story out.

One of the most interesting, and almost innocent, parts of the book is of course the story of how Bernier left sensitive documents in her home. He had come over and was cleaning out his briefcase. He asked her to put some papers in the garbage among which were the documents. The garbage pick-up on her street was not for a day or two after that weekend. So they stayed in her home. By the beginning of that week Duceppe had brought

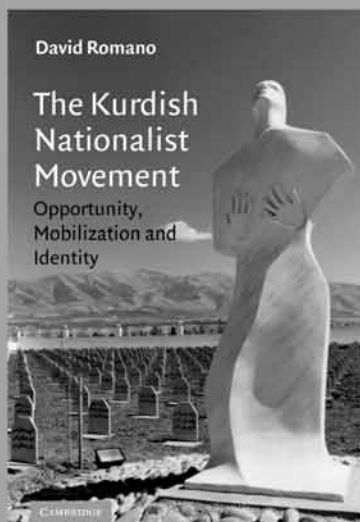
in the storm clouds.

She vigorously denies that she wrote the book and did all the interviews for revenge. She states emphatically that it was just to establish the facts. There was never any bad blood between her and Bernier even after this past January when the intimacy in their relationship ended but she still accompanied him to official functions through April. She says that though many have described her as “enraged” at Bernier's failure to come to her defence, she is as much “disappointed” as anything else.

Couillard actually gives us much to think about in her book. Including the very important point that when politicians cheapen themselves to make political capital on the bones of innocent taxpayers it is a “mark of profound duplicity and shallowness” in our public life and exhibits a “total lack of decency”.

There is one other issue that Julie Couillard wants us to think about. The dress! Yes, you know, that dress. She wants us all to ask ourselves if it is really conceivable that with all the noise “that dress” made a year ago; with all the attention she got and with the admission from the RCMP that they knew her name years ago because of her ex-husband's past, is it really believable that no one — including Bernier — knew anything about her past until Duceppe started to talk? Or was it just a convenient time to twist the truth because some politicians saw a way to gain some points as we got closer to an election? And reporters found an easy story to sell more papers, the truth be damned.

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.

 **CAMBRIDGE**
UNIVERSITY PRESS

www.cambridge.org/us

Canada and Couillard

My interview with Julie Couillard caused me to reflect on some issues in her story that really are message and metaphor for some sad realities in the public life - political and journalistic - of this country. I wanted to share them with you particularly on election week.

One comes away from an interview with Julie Couillard wanting to make apologies. Apologies for what Andrew Cohen has called Canada's "tall poppy syndrome", always wanting to cut down those who stand out. Apologies for Couillard's good looks. Apologies for her having a social life. Apologies that some may not have liked her choice of men. But hey, Canada, here's a newsflash. It's really nobody's business!

And as for her being a security threat, an accusation like that coming from Gilles Duceppe who started this whole storm is rich. Think about it, who's the likelier security threat? An alpha female capitalist businesswoman or a former radical union leader now dedicated to the break-up of this country?

What amazes us is that this country debates to no end the privacy rights of pedophiles, for example, who have served their sentences and come back into society. But a citizen who has never committed a crime is fair game to have her life ripped apart; her private credit records reprinted in a national newspaper and to be hounded from her home by photographers. The press has reported that she faced threats from gangs? She's lived at the same address for 12 years with her number publicly listed. No one has ever bothered her until "legitimate" elements took an interest.

The fact is sex still sells. There are far too many people in this country who really need to get a life. In France, President Sarkozy's new wife Carla Bruni poses nude and there is hardly a peep! In a perverse way she should be complimented.

George Clooney's movie on the battles between broadcaster Edward R. Murrow and Sen. Joseph McCarthy entitled *Good Night and Good Luck* comes to mind through all this. The film reminds us of what can happen when the instruments of the state are used to destroy a person's character through innuendo,

rumour and hearsay. And we've seen Murrow won his battle with it before in our recent history. McCarthy. But the troubling



ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

question of what protections can be given ordinary citizens against the destruction of their rights if they do not have access to a public platform persists. That's why the treatment of Julie Couillard has broader implications for us all.

What in the end is Julie Couillard looking for? One thinks back again to the McCarthy era. McCarthy used the power of his committee and national television to score political points. Many things brought him down. Including Murrow's reporting. But the final nail in his coffin was hammered in by a simple sentence from Boston attorney Joseph Welch who had had enough. He asked of McCarthy, "Senator, have you no shame. Have you no decency left?" Well, Julie Couillard has had enough, and as she said in our interview she asks Canadians — particularly in the media and political class in Ottawa — "Have you no

shame? Have you no decency?" Decency folks. Its an easy concept. We all learned it at our mothers' knees.

American Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter once wrote. "If we have to live our lives weighing every action, every communication, every human contact, wondering what agents of the state might find out about them, how they would analyze them, judge them, tamper with them, and somehow use them against us, we are not really free." Think about that. Ours is very much an Alice-in-Wonderland culture. Black is white. White is black. "Sentence first, trial after," said the Mad Hatter. Remember, today the victim was her. Tomorrow it could be you. If we all don't smarten up then the fault, to paraphrase Shakespeare's Caesar, "... won't lie in the stars but in ourselves...". ~BW

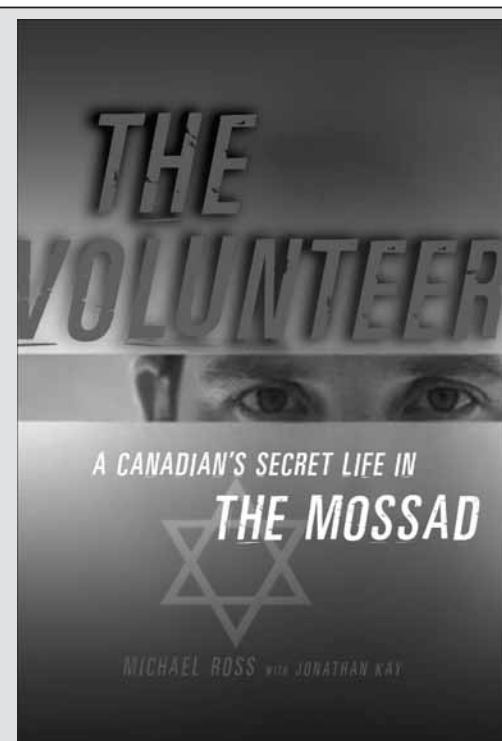
a citizen who has never committed a crime is fair game to have her life ripped apart

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.





Dan Delmar

WWW.THEMETROPOLITAIN.CA

ELECTION REVIEW OF SELECTED RIDINGS SERVED BY THE MÉTROPOLITAIN

Dhavernas: I'll be back

LIBERALS NEARLY TAKE BACK OUTREMONT

It came down to the wire during Tuesday night's federal election in the Outremont riding; rookie Liberal candidate Sébastien Dhavernas nearly unseated the NDP's Thomas Mulcair.

Dhavernas held a slim lead over Mulcair, who won the riding last year during a by-election, before the NDP candidate pulled ahead shortly before midnight, finally winning by just over 2,000 votes.

"I will continue to be a militant for the Liberal Party," Dhavernas told *The Métropolitain*. "We'll have to see if the electors in Outremont will want me as a candidate once again."

Dhavernas, 58, is an actor who recently portrayed former Premier Robert Bourassa in the TV miniseries. Working in his favour was concern in Outremont's Hassidic Jewish community over Mulcair's support of fellow NDP candidate Samira Laouni, who placed fourth in the east end riding of Bourassa.

Laouni, a practicing Muslim who wears the traditional headscarf, told *The Métropolitain* that she supports a form of Sharia Law, that she has no opinion of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization and that she has never met an Islamist.

On his end, Dhavernas seems to have caught the political

bug and is optimistic about his chances next time around. Roughly 30 supporters nervously watched the results come in at his Côte-des-Neiges Rd. office; one organizer saying that a serious lack of resources from the party cost Liberals the riding. Dhavernas admits that it could have just as easily gone their way.

"The party sent me the resources they had at their disposal once they saw I had a chance," he said, adding that he couldn't say whether a lack of financing or motivation at the party level was a factor. "But it's certain that this was a winnable riding."

Redemption for ex-Astronaut

LIBERALS' GARNEAU BEATS NDP'S DOWSON 2-1

Liberal Marc Garneau was not light years ahead of his closest rival but did win in his home riding of Westmount-Ville-Marie by a comfortable margin.

NDP candidate Anne Lagacé Dowson, a former CBC radio announcer, finished on Tuesday night with nearly 9,000 votes to Garneau's 18,000-plus. Results for the Liberals turned out more or less the same in the riding since Lucienne Robillard won in 2006, while the NDP improved significantly, leaping over the Conservatives for second place and gaining about 2,500 votes.

Conservative Guy Dufort finished in third with 15 per cent while the Green Party's Deputy Leader, Claude William Genest, finished a disappointing fifth, close behind a



Westmount Ville-Marie Liberal Association president Brigitte Garceau is all smiles at Marc Garneau's campaign headquarters Tuesday night.

young political science student put up by the Bloc Québécois.

It was a particularly long and exhausting campaign for all candidates since Westmount-

Ville-Marie was slated for a by-election just before the general election was called. This gave riding hopefuls 82 days to get their messages out. The Liberal party focused particular attention on this riding, sending stars like Bob Rae, Michael Ignatieff, Ken Dryden and others to help Garneau's campaign.

An excited Garneau told *The Métropolitain* he was happy to redeem himself after a 2006 loss as a candidate in Vaudreuil-Soulanges. He admitted to having a few nervous moments when the NDP said their internal polls showed a neck-in-neck race, but "in the end," Garneau said, "I knew Westmount-Ville-Marie was an area where people have strong Liberal values."

Jennings untouchable

NDG-LACHINE COULDN'T BE SAFER FOR LIBERALS

It was a tight three-way race in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine on Tuesday night, but not for first place which went to Liberal incumbent Marlene Jennings.

She ended the evening nearly 30 percentage points ahead of her closest rivals, winning the riding for the fifth consecutive election. The real battle was to become the runner up: Conservative rookie Carmine Pontillo earned that title with just over 16 per cent of the vote. Closely behind was Bloc Québécois candidate Eric Taillefer with just under 16 per cent and the NDP's Peter Deslauriers with about 15 per cent.

Jennings was obviously pleased with the result in her riding, but also tried to put a positive spin on the outcome nationally for the Liberals.

"I'm delighted that Mr. Harper's objectives in this election have all been squashed," she said. "People are really pleased that he will not form a majority government."



NDG-Lachine MP Marlene Jennings thanks volunteers on election night

ROBERT J. GALBRAITH



Trudeau takes north end riding

Justin Trudeau learns fast. He waited till all the votes were in and counted before thanking his wife, his friends, his campaign workers and especially the people of his riding for their faith, their trust and their votes. It was long past midnight and reporters were complaining about their deadlines when Trudeau finally walked into his crowded St. Denis Street campaign office. While it wasn't Trudeau-mania as some knew it, Trudeau's own smile was enough to set off a round of cheers and applause as women began to scream "Justin, Justin." With his wife by his side, Trudeau gave a short but eloquent speech thanking all those who had been by his side over long months of hard work. The crowd was especially happy to hear how his thoughts were above all for them and all they had done for his victory.

"I discovered I shared the same dreams as do the people of this riding," he said. "I share their dreams of social justice and I'm ready to join them to fight for it."

After a hard fight against former north-end municipal councillor Mary Deros, he won his party's nomination even while the Liberal Party was being torn to pieces due to a acrimonious leadership race and the simmering feud between Paul Martin's troops and those still loyal to former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. After months of hard work, long days on the street and thousands of conversations with anybody and everybody who cared to stop and talk, Trudeau's victory was one of the few high points in what was to be a dismal evening for Canada's Liberals. When asked as to what his father would have thought of his victory, Trudeau paused before telling the crowd how his father would have been very happy to see him get elected.

"...and he would have been even more pleased to see I did it my way."

As both his grand-father, former fisheries minister James Sinclair and his father, former Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau served their country in its House of Commons,

Justin Trudeau will be the third of his family to take a place in the nation's parliament. While many believe his father's time in Ottawa may cast a shadow over his own career, Trudeau was quick to answer as to how he too is now a father and how Xavier's (his new son) future is just as important as his experience or that of his father. When asked as to whom he would turn to if he needed political advice, he demonstrated some of the political smarts defined by his family's rich political heritage.

"That's easy," he said. "I would turn to the people who live in my riding."



ROBERT J. GALBRAITH



When only the best is good enough, trust Levinoff

BOUCHERIE
Levinoff

Premium Red Brand Meats. Delivered Directly To Your Home!

8610 8th Ave., St-Michel
(514) 725-2405



2021 Frontenac, Montreal
(514) 526-6500

www.levinoff.com



Dan Delmar

WWW.THEMETROPOLITAIN.CA

« S'il y avait la Sharia du temps du Prophète, que la paix et le salut soit sur lui, là je vous dirais que le monde entier existerait en paix. » - Samira Laouni

Dévoilée

Le Métropolitain s'est entretenu récemment avec une candidate néo-démocrate des plus controversées, Samira Laouni. La musulmane pratiquante s'est vu répondre à nos questions concernant ses croyances religieuses, sa vision pour la circonscription de Bourassa (où elle s'est classée quatrième Mardi) et ses impressions sur la politique internationale.

Laouni, 47 ans, est d'origine marocaine et a complété des études en économie à la Sorbonne. Mère de trois enfants, elle s'auto-déclare féministe, porte le foulard islamique traditionnel et a récemment fait les couvertures à la suite de sa présence à l'émission de Benoît Dutrizac lors de laquelle elle a affirmé ne jamais avoir été en présence d'un islamiste. Elle a mené une délégation de femmes musulmanes à Hérouxville dans l'optique de promouvoir la tolérance et le rapprochement en ce moment de grande tension que fut l'émergence du débat sur les accommodements raisonnables.

Dan Delmar: Pourquoi avoir choisi le Nouveau Parti Démocratique?

Samira Laouni: Parce que c'est un parti social-démocrate progressiste. C'est le seul parti qui promet l'équité sociale et l'égalité entre toutes les

communautés, toutes les ethnies, toutes les religions.

DD: Que souhaitez-vous changer dans Bourassa?

SL: Il y a trois choses. D'abord, il faudrait amener les jeunes à avoir un petit plus de participation citoyenne. Pour les aînés, bien sur leur fournir plus d'appui parce que là aussi il y a un manque énorme. Et, en ce qui concerne les femmes, on sait que les plus hauts taux de familles monoparentales sont concentrés ici à Montréal-Nord. Donc, leur donner une plus grande facilité d'accès aux garderies. Une femme monoparentale avec des bébés ne peut pas aller chercher du travail actuellement.

DD: Avez-vous été victime de racisme lorsque vous avez fait du porte-à-porte?

SL: Non, je n'ai pas eu de réactions racistes. Sur l'ensemble des portes auxquelles j'ai dû cogner, j'ai eu quatre personnes qui ont dit qu'ils ne voteraient pas pour une femme qui porte le foulard et sur les quatre personnes, j'ai pu en convaincre une de changer d'avis.

DD: Pourquoi portez-vous le voile?

SL: Le foulard, pas le voile.

DD: Je suis désolé, le foulard.

SL: C'est important de le mentionner parce que les gens imaginent un voile qui cache tout le visage. C'est mon éthique vestimentaire. C'est ma façon de respecter ma religion et c'est privé, à moi.

DD: Est-ce qu'une femme voilée peut être féministe?

SL: Tout à fait, et je le suis.

DD: Que pensez-vous qu'il se produira lorsque vous mourrez?

SL: C'est une croyance. Moi, je sais que j'ai un au-delà et que je vais répondre de mes actes.

DD: Que pensez-vous qu'il se produira quand je mourrai?

SL: Je ne sais pas. Je ne peux pas vous juger.

DD: Qu'y a-t-il de plus important à vos yeux : la foi ou la politique?

SL: Les deux sont très importantes. Avoir la foi, c'est croire sans voir. Pour moi, ces deux choses font un bon ménage ensemble parce qu'on fait de la politique pour aider, pour donner aux gens, pour améliorer la situation des citoyens et des citoyennes. En politique, on met des actions en place...mais on ne sait jamais vraiment quel en sera le résultat. Donc, là on y croit sans le voir...mais si on y met l'énergie nécessaire...on parvient à la réussite.

DD: Donc, vous ne faites pas de



distinction entre vos croyances et vos politiques?

SL: Je sépare ma foi personnelle de ce que je fais politiquement. Je suis d'abord la citoyenne, en suite la politicienne et, en même temps, je suis la musulmane. Il y a des moments où il ne faut pas du tout penser à ça [la religion] et il y a d'autres moments où, de toutes manières, ça fait parti...

DD: Si vous parvenez à la Chambre des Communes, votre foi

affectera-t-elle la manière dont vous voterez?

SL: Elle peut l'affecter dans le sens où je vais être très honnête avec moi-même. Ma foi, elle m'indique d'être très sincère et de ne jamais mentir aux gens, et de ne jamais faire de promesses que je ne tiendrai pas. Si c'est ça ne pas dissocier la foi de la politique, j'en suis très heureuse et je suis très fière de ça.

DD: Voteriez-vous pour un

Suite à la page 9

“You will find *true*
SUCCESS in those *efforts*
 that captivate your
heart and soul.
 Belief fuels **PASSION**
 and *passion rarely* fails.”



2000 Peel, Suite 900
 Montréal, Qc H3A 2W5
 (514) 842-8636
 www.canderel.com

MUSLIMS SPEAK OUT AGAINST ISLAMISM

“We are a testament to their failures”

Three Canadian Muslims took a stand earlier this month against the extremist branches of their religion and appealed for Quebecers to stand up for their secular values.

Speakers Tarek Fatah, Raheel Raza and Salim Mansur all share the dubious distinction of being the subject of a Fatwah, an Islamist bounty on their heads, for having spoken out against extremists. What they also have in common is their fearlessness, their perseverance and their willingness to wear the Fatwah as a badge of honour.

“Islam seeks to intimidate or eliminate any Muslim who seeks to oppose Islamist inquisition,” said Mansur, a political science professor at the University of Western Ontario. “I am Muslim, as are my colleagues on this panel, but I am a Canadian. Islam is my faith, my pride my conscience...but it doesn’t take precedence over my duties and obligations as a citizen of a free society.”

Mansur helped make the crucial distinction between those who practice Islam and Islamists: The former are law-abiding citizens who

hold personal religious beliefs and the latter, loosely defined, are extremists who transform those religious beliefs into a political ideology they hope to impose on Infidels, non-believers.

The conference, organized by anti-Islamist group Point de Bascule, comes before a federal election where a Muslim woman, who wears a headscarf and supports a form of Sharia Law, is running for the New Democratic Party in the east end riding of Bourassa. Samira Laouni told The Suburban that “if there was Sharia from the era of the Prophet - may peace and salvation be upon him - then I would say that the entire world would exist in peace.”

“She is playing the victim,” said Fatah, author of *Chasing a Mirage: The Tragic Illusion of an Islamic State*. “She doesn’t represent the face of diversity. She represents the face of oppression.”

Before The Métropolitain’s interview with Laouni, she spoke with radio talk-show host Benoît Dutrizac and told him that she had never met an Islamist, despite having worked for the Canadian Islamic

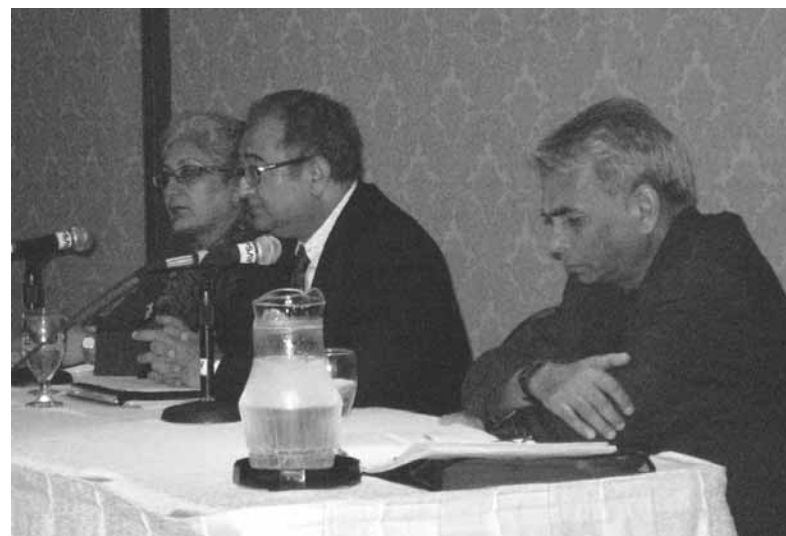
Congress; an organization that has been known to give radical Muslims a platform. After asking some tough questions about her beliefs, complaints of racism poured into the 98.5 fm studios, most notably from the Canada-Arab Federation and the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

A Muslim woman who said she supported both Laouni and Hezbollah sparked a tense debate at the conference and faced Fatah’s wrath.

“We fought for civil rights and for equality, not to push women to the back (of the Mosque),” he said. “They are second-class citizens. You (the Muslim woman in the audience) are causing a problem for the Muslim community. You are the reason why there is so-called ‘Islamophobia.’”

On Elections Canada allowing veiled Muslim women to vote without revealing their faces, Raza asked, “are we now living in the Islamic Republic of Canada, where women can wear masks?”

Author of *Their Jihad...Not My Jihad*, Raza is a feminist and a



Raheel Raza (left), Tarek Fatah and Salim Mansur are all Muslims who have been the subject of a Fatwah for speaking out.

“proud recipient of a Fatwah” for having the gall to leading mixed-gender prayers in Toronto. She said an Islamist website has her ranked as they fifth most hated Muslim on earth and “my aim is to become number one.”

Though the three speakers put on an air of bravery, audience members were openly fearful of the perceived Islamist threat to Canadian democracy. Most were middle-aged,

white Francophones and some said they struggled with the delicate balance between defending secular values and not being labelled a racist.

“I want to live in a place where the melting pot works,” said Pierre Trudel. “What can we do to avoid this threat?”

Mansur’s response to the question was that, in the immediate future, to ensure that Laouni is not elected. ~DD

Laouni de la page 8

candidat néo-démocrate membre de l’Opus Dei?

SL: C’est vraiment problématique. Si l’individu travaille objectivement, personnellement, ça ne me dérange pas. Nous sommes dans un pays démocratique. On a l’égalité sociale. Il est insensé de dire “ça, je ne peux pas l’accepter et ça je peux l’accepter”. L’important, pour moi, ce n’est pas la vie privée. Ce que je dois savoir, c’est ce que vous êtes. L’important, ce sont les projets collectifs que nous sommes en train de réaliser.

DD: Est-ce que le Canada devrait se retirer immédiatement d’Afghanistan?

SL: Oui. Le Canada était le leader dans tout qui était diplomatique...un leader mondial pour la démocratie, la paix. Donc, là on se lance dans la guerre. On tue des enfants, des femmes, des hommes...des fois, on dit que c’est des dommages collatéraux, mais on ne voit pas ce qu’on est en train de

faire comme destruction humaine. Avant de balayer chez les autres, il faut balayer chez soi.

DD: Croyez-vous au droit à l’avortement?

SL: Oui. Pour moi, et c’est ce que je revendique le plus, ça répond du libre choix. Je ne peux pas être incohérente avec moi-même...c’est ma première revendication en tant que féministe. Le libre choix est quelque chose de primordial et ça ne se négocie pas.

DD: Êtes-vous pour le mariage entre même sexes et pour les droits égaux des homosexuels?

SL: Ce problème là...ce sujet là, il existe au Canada. Ça a été voté à la Chambre des Communes à la majorité et ça fait partie de nos lois. Je suis régie par les lois...Par ailleurs, je ne vais pas la promouvoir, personnellement. Ceci dit, je n’ai rien contre.

DD: Alors, s’il y avait un autre vote à ce sujet au Parlement, vous voteriez contre?

SL: Non. C’est le libre choix.

DD: Croyez-vous que l’État d’Israël a sa raison d’être?

SL: Israël existe déjà. Je ne vois pas pourquoi Israël n’existerait pas. J’espère qu’elle restera tout en reconnaissant le droit des Palestiniens d’exister et à rester aussi. Ce que je veux, c’est que la paix règne dans cette partie là du monde.

DD: Votre ancien collègue, président du Conseil islamique du Canada, Mohamed Elmasry, avait déclaré que chaque adulte juif d’Israël était la cible légitime d’un meurtre. Partagez-vous son opinion?

SL: Dr. Elmasry est toujours là apparemment, donc il faudrait revoir avec lui ce qu’il a dit. Non, moi, je déplore la violence, de quelque nature qu’elle soit.

DD: Croyez-vous que le Hezbollah est une organisation terroriste?

SL: Je pense qu’il y a des organismes gouvernementaux, des responsables qui sont là, comme la

GRC par exemple, pour statuer qui doit être sur la liste et qui ne doit pas l’être. Non, ce n’est pas à moi de juger. Je n’ai aucune opinion à ce sujet. Il n’est pas de mes capacités, de mes habilités de juger.

DD: Croyez-vous que les musulmans canadiens devraient avoir le droit de régler leurs conflits à l’aide de la Sharia?

SL: C’était un problème qui a été soumis et je pense que là aussi il y a avait une mauvaise interprétation...ce que je réponds toujours c’est que la Sharia...ce qui était demandé, en fait, c’était des modérateurs pour les conflits conjugaux. Je pense que ça facilite l’accès, l’approche et le dialogue. Des modérateurs seraient une bonne chose. La vraie Sharia, elle n’existe pas actuellement. S’il y avait la Sharia du temps du Prophète, que la paix et le salut soit sur lui, là je vous dirais que le monde entier existerait en paix. Comme elle n’existe plus, cette vraie Sharia, et que ce sont des

hommes qui interprètent aujourd’hui à tort et à travers, je pense que tout est à revoir. Je lance un appel à toutes les femmes : réapproprions-nous les textes et réinterprétons-les avec un petit peu plus de sagesse que les hommes l’ont fait.

DD: Quelle est la différence entre un musulman et un islamiste?

SL: Toujours la meme question! C’est tannant cette question-là! Une bonne musulmane, c’est ce que je suis. Une bonne musulmane, c’est une femme intègre qui se soucie de ses proches, des siens et qui s’implique positivement dans une société qui veut bien lui donner la chance de s’impliquer.

DD: Et un islamiste, qu’est-ce que c’est exactement?

SL: Comme j’ai répondu à un autre journaliste, je n’en connais pas et j’en ai jamais eu dans mon entourage, alors je ne peux pas définir cette femme-là. Je n’en ai connais pas.

Avec la collaboration de Lara Limoges.



Alain-Michel Ayache

M. Ayache est un spécialiste du Proche et Moyen-Orient
Département de Science politique Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

ÉLECTIONS FÉDÉRALES 2008

Trois Aspects !

Au moment où j'écris ces mots, le résultat des élections fédérales demeure encore inconnu bien que la plupart des sondages penche du côté des Conservateurs pour un second mandat minoritaire.

Toutefois, le présent article n'est pas pour commenter le résultat encore moins l'analyser, mais plus pour souligner quelques aspects particuliers de ces élections, notamment en ce qui a trait au Québec et au Canada. En effet, tout au long de cette campagne, les médias n'ont pas cessé de décrire le Québec comme le principal terrain de 'bataille' entre les Conservateurs, les Libéraux et les Blocquistes et pour cause : Que ce soit Harper, Dion ou même Duceppe, l'enjeu tournait autour de la notion de la « Nation » québécoise et de la place du Québec au sein du Canada ou même au sein du gouvernement, et donc, une sorte d'un accès au pouvoir, un peu peut-être à l'image du Conseil de Sécurité! Enfin, presque!

Un débat qui limite les perspectives...

Ce qui me conduit à ma première question : Si le débat actuel se limite toujours à celui de la nation québécoise versus le Canada anglais, qu'en est-il des autres francophones à travers le Canada? N'ont-ils pas droit au chapitre de la décision de leur avenir également ou tout simplement de leur appartenance ou non à cette « Nation »? Que ce soit les Acadiens ou les Franco-Ontariens ou ceux qui habitent les autres provinces et territoires du Canada, la décision de souscrire à la définition du Premier Ministre sortant (entrant), celle de considérer le Québec comme étant une nation au sein du Canada, n'est pas nécessairement approuvée par l'ensemble de la population francophone, d'autant plus que si l'on parle du principe que le Canada ait été fondé par les deux nations européennes, française et britannique et les Autochtones qui y habitaient les territoires, les descendants de ces populations qui se seraient dispersées à travers le Canada actuel détiennent théoriquement toujours le droit de réclamer leur appartenance à ces peuples fondateurs et donc prétendraient que la nation « canadienne » est également francophone. En d'autres termes, pourquoi pénaliser les autres francophones du Canada pour satisfaire uniquement une partie même majoritaire en limitant l'appartenance de la nation francophone à la seule notion québécoise?

Et les autres?

À cela s'ajoute également les autres « Québécois » et « Franco-Canadiens » dont en fait, l'immigration au Canada est très récente. Ces derniers, n'étant pas nécessairement de descendances européennes, mais proviennent d'anciennes colonies ou protectorats français et chérissent, si non plus, la langue de Molière que les Québécois eux-mêmes! D'ailleurs, s'ils ont

choisi le Canada et le Québec surtout, c'est principalement à cause du fait français. Alors, que dire d'eux? Ont-ils droit au chapitre du choix entre la notion de la « Nation » et son identité « québécoise » ou « canadienne »?

Ce qui est pour le moins stressant pour ces populations, notamment en temps d'élections, c'est que les politiciens leur font appel et les qualifient de 'Québécois' ou de 'Canadiens' à part entière, alors qu'en réalité, la majorité d'entre eux a du mal à se faire accepter en tant qu'égal des « Québécois de souche » ou même des autres citoyens du pays! Ce ne sont pas les exemples qui manquent... notamment en

... on se demande après tout si les candidats choisis par les différents partis politiques et qui proviennent de communautés culturelles sont véritablement représentatives de la volonté des leurs!

matière d'intégration au travail!

Ce qui m'emmène à ma seconde question : Quelles sont leurs orientations politiques et Comment voteraient-ils durant les élections?

Le choix des « immigrants »!

C'est sans doute la question principale que les chefs des partis politiques se sont posés ces derniers jours... et pour cause, le vote ethnique, aussi étrange que cela puisse paraître, est d'une importance majeure, malgré le fait que les politiciens ne semblent – du moins pour la plupart – intéressés par le prendre au sérieux. À part l'équipe Harper et le NPD, les autres chefs des partis semblent avoir pris pour acquis le vote ethnique, chacun à travers sa vision de l'importance à accorder ou non à telle ou telle communauté. Le problème, c'est que généralement, les communautés culturelles et notamment celles dont la majorité est constituée de personnes de la première génération, c'est-à-dire des personnes qui sont nées à l'étranger et se sont établies par la suite au Canada, examinent avant tout la politique étrangère du gouvernement avant de décider pour qui voter. C'est le cas du moins des communautés issues du Proche et

Moyen-Orient, où le vote est traditionnellement orienté du côté des Libéraux. Ces dernières se sont – du moins selon les rumeurs qui circulent – détachées des slogans libéraux pour aller voter pour Harper – pour celles parmi elles qui ont vu en la politique étrangère du présent gouvernement un salut pour leur cause, notamment les Chrétiens du Proche et Moyen-Orient et une bonne partie des communauté juives, notamment les Sépharades – et pour le NPD de Layton pour celles qui ne croyaient plus au message des Libéraux pour qui elles votaient traditionnellement – principalement les communautés musulmanes moyen-orientales et

nord-africaines.

Ainsi, l'on se demande après tout si les candidats choisis par les différents partis politiques et qui proviennent de communautés culturelles sont véritablement représentatives de la volonté des leurs! Un examen des résultats donnerait à priori un début de réponse à cette question. Ce qui nous pousse à croire qu'une étude scientifique est sérieusement nécessaire pour comprendre l'apport de ces communautés dans une prochaine élection, fédérale soit-elle ou provinciale, d'autant plus que selon les chiffres à notre disposition, un Montréalais sur quatre est né à l'étranger. Un pourcentage qui avoisine les 40% en Ontario et les 60% à Vancouver!

Ce qui me pousse à poser ma dernière question pour cet article : Pourquoi les élections tournent autour du seul chef comme si les autres candidats n'existaient pas?

Au-delà du charisme du seul « Chef »...

En effet, toute la campagne électorale était principalement basée sur le « Chef », comme si les autres candidats n'existaient qu'en complément! Même le programme du (des) parti (s) en tant que tel était étroitement lié à la vision du

Chef. Or, nous l'avons vu, lorsque Stéphane Dion est sorti de son rôle d'unique acteur, pour permettre aux autres « chefs » du PLC de passer à l'action, le résultat n'était que plus positif. D'ailleurs, c'est grâce à l'intervention des ténors du parti libéral que les sondages sont remontés pour le PLC. Alors, faut-il vraiment baser les campagnes électorales sur la performance du chef uniquement? Qu'en est-il de ces autres candidats, pas nécessairement les ténors ou les aspirant à la chefferie, mais celles et ceux qui, malgré tout, ont ou peuvent avoir également leur mot à dire dans ce genre de campagnes, voire réussir quelquefois là où leurs chefs ont échoué, notamment lorsqu'il s'agit de rallier certaines communautés à leurs programmes... Ce qui me ramène à ma précédente question, pourquoi ne pas permettre pleinement par exemple, aux candidats issues des communautés culturelles de mener leurs propres campagnes sur des thèmes propres à leurs communautés lorsqu'il s'agit de mobiliser ces dernières pour aller voter pour le parti de leur choix? Pourquoi ne pas leur permettre d'avoir leur propre message de campagne, quelque chose qui puisse avoir un sens pour les siens au lieu d'un message copié-collé sur celui du « Chef »? D'aucuns diront que cela ne pourrait se faire car le candidat est avant tout pour toute la population de la circonscription pour laquelle il se présente. Cela est théoriquement vrai, mais qu'en est-il alors de sa communauté dont le nombre justifie une démarche particulière afin de dire enfin que ces communautés font véritablement partie de la « Nation » canadienne était-elle ou québécoise! Au moins personnaliser le message qui leur est destiné!

L'interaction, un chemin obligatoire

Aujourd'hui, et plus que jamais, l'interaction entre les différentes communautés qui constituent le Québec et le Canada est importante afin d'éviter des événements qui toucheraient à la sécurité du pays... Éviter le modèle de la banlieue parisienne (ou même celui de Montréal Nord) et bâtir le citoyen au vrai sens du terme devrait être une priorité du prochain gouvernement fédéral avec l'appui de toutes les provinces et les territoires. Le modèle « Trudeauiste » du multiculturalisme doit être revu et corrigé pour une meilleure harmonie entre les différentes communautés et pour qu'il y ait une appartenance pleine et entière à la notion de citoyenneté canadienne. Le second choix serait alors l'appartenance linguistique, où la notion de la « nation » serait répartie entre le Canada anglophone et le Canada francophone incluant le Québec. D'où ma dernière question à laquelle je vous demande de répondre : À quand un parti fédéral francophone dédié uniquement à la défense des intérêts des francophones à travers le Canada.



Excited delirium

The concept of 'excited delirium' is igniting the debate on stun gun use by police forces across Canada.

Defenders of the term call it an unrecognized health and policing crisis while critics fear it could be used to whitewash police brutality.

The term 'excited delirium' was coined in 1985 by an American forensic pathologist to describe a series of behaviours sometimes seen in people under the influence of drugs or suffering from severe psychiatric illness.

It is not officially recognized by any reputable medical organization but it became linked to police activity in the 1980s, paralleling

increasing use of cocaine by drug users.

Excited delirium is described as a state of extreme mental and physiological excitement characterized by extreme agitation, hyperthermia, hostility and exceptional strength.

Unexpected deaths during police activity relating to people suffering from excited delirium have been linked to pepper spray, certain police restraint methods, and most recently, stun guns.

Before the introduction of stun guns - commonly known as Tasers - there were between 10 and 20 sudden deaths in Canada each year linked to police restraint methods.

Over 20 deaths have been linked to stun guns in Canada since 2001 but in none of the incidents have the weapon being cited as a direct cause of death.

"My concern is that we had deaths in the 80s, the 90s, the turn of the millennium, and it was 1999 that the first Canadian (police) department picked Tasers up," said Chris Lawrence.

"We had deaths involving the same story before we had access to Tasers. We've blamed neck restraints, we've blamed pepper spray, we've blamed Tasers, but it's the same story. Step back and ask if it's the event or the restraint."

Lawrence is a former police officer and a technical advisor with the Force Science Research Institute at Minnesota State University. He hopes ongoing research into excited delirium will save lives.

Part of the problem, Lawrence admits, is the research data captures only those who die in custody and that creates for researchers a limited view of the problem.

"Until very recently, nobody was tracking these deaths," he said.

"The window that we've got is essentially a window through a police car."

Deborah Mash is a professor of neurology at the University of Miami and has been studying excited delirium for two decades.

"It's a brain disease," she explained.

"An extreme psychiatric disturbance triggered by the use of psycho-stimulants."

Research suggests it's a problem with how the brain regulates the autonomic nervous system, which in turn regulates the cardiovascular system.

"That's why they die suddenly," said Mash.

"Tasers have nothing to do with it."

Two recent deaths in Quebec have been linked to stun guns and both victims were reportedly in either an intoxicated or agitated state.

Quilem Registre, 39, died in Montreal, and Claudio Castagnetta, 32, died in Quebec City both after being stunned by police in 2007.

They were both hit with multiple shots.

Excited delirium has also come up in two other prominent in-custody deaths of psychiatric patients in the province - that of Brian Bedard in 2001 and that of Justin St-Aubin in 2007.

Ottawa criminologist John Kiedrowski, who authored an independent review of the use of stun guns by the RCMP, fears excited delirium may be used as a "a handy device to explain away deaths in custody."

His research suggests there has been an increase in the use of the term along with an increase of the use of stun guns and seldom with other types of force used by police.

While his report ultimately does not negate the existence of excited delirium, it highlights the crux of the controversy: excited delirium can be used as spin.

Kiedrowski's report notes it can be a "phenomenon of deflecting the attribution of responsibility for death away from police intervention and towards a medical condition" and ultimately recommends the term be removed from RCMP training manuals.

"Let the medical people debate it among medical professionals," he said in an interview.

Taser International sends out information to medical examiners across the United States and - to a limited extent- across Canada.

They admit their weapons cannot be ethically tested on people with psychiatric illness or under the influence.

Lawrence, meanwhile, is pushing to get a medical instead of a repression response in instances where someone causing a disturbance may be suffering from excited delirium.

Still, emergency services can rarely approach the individual unless he - they are male in almost all instances - are either calmed or restrained.

Research into stun guns and excited delirium is ongoing within Canada. One major report on the weapons will be subjected to an independent peer review and released in 2009 with a longer-term study due in 2010.

Stun guns are used by eight police forces in Quebec. The Montreal force has been using stun guns since 2000 and have about 15 of the weapons in their arsenal. They have a policy of administering immediate medical aid after its use while most other police forces in the province do not.

Lawrence is glad of the increased discussion surrounding excited delirium in the media and in medical circles.

"We have a social concern, that's clear," he said.

"It occurs with surprising consistency and it continues to occur. Whatever we can do to reduce the incidents, let's do it. If we can't, let's at least understand it."

\$10,000.



Wanted. Alive.

OPERATION: LAST CHANCE is a campaign to bring remaining Nazi war criminals to justice by offering financial rewards for information leading to their arrest, conviction and punishment. This initiative has been launched in Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Romania, Austria, Croatia, Hungary and now Canada.

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

www.operationlastchance.org



www.fswc.ca

GLOBAL VILLAGE



Robert Borosage

Robert L. Borosage is the president of the Institute for America's Future and co-director of its sister organization, the Campaign for America's Future. Mr. Borosage writes widely on political, economic and national security issues for a range of publications including *The Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. He is a Contributing Editor at *The Nation* magazine, and a regular contributor to *The American Prospect* magazine.

WWW.THEMETROPOLITAIN.CA

A BETTER BAILOUT

Why the U.S. credit crisis should never have happened

How did it come to this? The bankers issue a threat: hand over \$700 billion in taxpayers' money—on top of the \$600 billion already forked over—or we'll take down the global economy.

There will be a lot of obfuscation—fingers pointing every which way—but the story is very clear.

The immediate cause is the inflating and busting of the housing bubble. Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan will be remembered for stoking a bubble economy. Coming out of bursting of the dot.com bubble, Greenspan lowered interest rates and kept them there. With his war and tax cuts, President Bush racked up record deficits. Struggling with stagnant incomes, Americans took on record debts. Foreign creditors, like Chinese central bankers happy to loan us money to buy their goods, flooded the U.S. with dough. With mortgage rates low, housing prices rose. An unregulated shadow banking system

began marketing exotic mortgage-backed securities across the globe. As the housing bubble grew, brokers hawked shakier and shakier Alt-A and subprime mortgages. Ninja loans—no income, no jobs, no assets—became the rage.

Since the brokers sold off the mortgages immediately, they had a stake in making the loan, not whether the loan would be repaid. The banks and investment houses sliced and diced the loans into ever more exotic securities, which got prime ratings, although no one really knew what was in them. European banks and others bought more and more of the stuff. To escape capital limits, they invented credit default swaps in which companies like AIG guaranteed the loans in case of default. That totally unregulated over-the-counter market soared to \$60 trillion. Banks set up off-balance-sheet entities to evade capital limits. Investment houses like Bear Sterns and Lehman Brothers borrowed at 30 times their

capital to speculate in these markets. Wall Street's executives were pocketing tens of millions from the take.

The regulators turned their heads. Greenspan not only fueled the cheap money; he cheered on the exotic mortgages, even while refusing to acknowledge, much less limit, the housing bubble. The Securities and Exchange Commission exempted five major investment houses from their normal capital requirements. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's executives profited personally as their enterprises started buying Alt-A mortgages.

Everything was great so long as housing prices went up. When they topped out, the bottom fell out. Defaults and foreclosures soared. Suddenly, no one knew what the value of the securities they held was, much less what was in the balance sheets of other banks. Much of the exotic paper turned toxic; no one wanted to buy it. As the banks slowly were forced to write down its value, they had to raise capital. With everyone trying to sell at the same time, the values went through the floor. Bear Sterns, Lehman Brothers, and Merrill Lynch collapsed into bankruptcy or fire-sale mergers. The insurance giant AIG and Fannie and Freddie were taken over by the federal government.

And now, Washington is gearing up for the largest bailout in history, throwing an estimated \$700 billion (for now) more to buy up the toxic paper from the banks to keep the entire financial system from collapsing.

This catastrophe was the direct result of conservative misrule. In the Great Depression, our grandfathers learned a simple lesson: Finance is too important to be left to bankers. So President Franklin D. Roosevelt saved the banks, but in exchange put them in a regulatory straitjacket. Currencies, interest rates, capital requirements, limits on leverage and on financial instruments—all were regulated to create a banking system that could provide financing needed by businesses and homeowners without debilitating speculative excesses.

In the 1970s, with the country experiencing stagflation, oil shocks

and the Vietnam War, and with President Nixon moving to floating currencies, banks started pushing hard for deregulation. Wall Street money in Washington paved the way. With the election of Ronald Reagan, true believers—those whom George Soros calls “market fundamentalists”—took over Washington. Government was the problem, not the solution. Deregulation was the order of the day.

Conservatives argue now that the problem was poor regulation, not unbridled markets. But conservatives trumpeted that markets were self-correcting, and so systematically set out to weaken the regulatory agencies—not simply repealing laws, but appointing regulators who scorned the very responsibilities they were given.

Republicans led this charge, naturally, but Democrats also imbibed the conservative Kool-Aid. Deregulation became a bipartisan enterprise; Democrats began trumpeting their dedication to markets, and pocketing contributions from Wall Street. The deregulation of the savings and loans in the first months of the Reagan administration was a bipartisan effort. That disaster, which allowed S&Ls essentially to gamble with government guarantees, ending up costing taxpayers about \$150 billion. We didn't learn the lesson.

Led by such zealots as Republican Phil Gramm, Congress freed the banking system from its New Deal restraints. With the support of Bill Clinton and his Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, the Glass-Steagall Act was repealed, ending the divide between commercial and investment banks. Commodity exchanges were exempted from regulation, leading to the over-the-counter credit swap trading that Warren Buffett warns is a financial weapon of mass destruction. The SEC exempted five investment houses—Goldman Sachs, Bear Sterns, Merrill Lynch, JPMorgan and Lehman Brothers—from capital requirements. Three of them are now gone. Questions about the survival of the other two triggered the current frenzied bailout. With the cop on the financial beat disarmed, the casino opened for

business.

So once more we pay dearly to learn the lesson. Finance cannot be left to bankers. Banks can get too big to fail; unregulated financial systems tend to speculative frenzies because the speculators can profit greatly by taking very large bets—and now have good reason to believe that the government may cover their losses.

We need new and strict regulation on the entire financial system—no more shadow entities operating on the side. That regulation should include strict capital requirements, limits on leverage, transparency, and policing of instruments allowed and compensation schemes. We've got to rearm the cop on the financial beat—and elect leaders and appoint regulators who do not scorn the government they lead.

This won't be easy. The bailout is designed to forestall a global depression. A depression would be destructive, but in the destruction the most irresponsible firms would be liquidated, the wastrels would be ruined, and the public would demand that government crack down on Wall Street.

Even with the bailout, getting Wall Street back under control won't be easy. Wall Street is using the crisis that they've created to demand immediate action. Regulation, their lobbyists argue, can come later. Forget about a stimulus for the economy. Don't complicate the bailout with requirements for renegotiating the mortgages or keeping people in their homes.

Wall Street has received the rescue without the regulation. The wastrels will have their losses covered. Wall Street money will bribe Congress to leave them alone. The public is more relieved than angry. The market fundamentalists are already blaming the crisis on government, not on the bankers on the make.

The reality, however, is clear. Finance cannot be left to bankers. Citizens have to get into this argument. We've got to demand conditions on any bailout. And we've got to reject the market fundamentalism, the scorn for government and cynicism about the common good that has led us directly into this debacle.

riosud
Vêtements mode pour la femme d'aujourd'hui

Alma • Amos • Beloeil • Chicoutimi • Dolbeau • Gatineau • Joliette • La Sarre • Mont-Laurier
Montréal (Lasalle) • Québec • Rimouski • Rouyn • Shawinigan • Sherbrooke • Sorel
Ste-Marie • St-Jérôme • Terrebonne • Trois-Rivières • Val d'Or • Valleyfield

Le Nouveau **riosud** • COHOES VÊTEMENTS • Super Magasin • MEUBLES • DÉCOR

MONTRÉAL 4908, Jean-Talon O. GREENFIELD PARK 4980, Taschereau E. LAVAL 1799, St-Martin O. MONTRÉAL-NORD 6000, Henri-Bourassa E.

SIÈGE SOCIAL 4810, Jean-Talon O., Suite 203, Montréal (Québec) H4P 2N5 info@riosud.com
www.riosud.com

Seven principles that U.S. citizens should have insisted were included with 2008's multiple bailout proposals

Taxpayer money; taxpayer accountability

The Treasury now has unlimited authority to spend \$700 billion in a revolving fund with no rules beyond its own discretion. We can't trust the most spectacularly corrupt administration in memory to decide how they'll cut the deals with the banks. We'd get fleeced. Instead, the law must be amended to require an independent entity, with consumers and workers having a majority of the seats on a board with authority to create rules that will prohibit gaming of the bailout. And the Congress—itsself sadly compromised by Wall Street money—should be empowered to name independent monitors and to approve all board members.

Taxpayers share in the upside

Under the bill as-is, the Treasury would buy the bad paper of firms without taking any equity in the firm. That's an invitation to larceny. If a firm decides to auction off its toxic paper to the U.S. agency, taxpayers should get equity in that firm, in proportion to the assets we buy. That will deter profitable firms from using the agency as a dump for their toxic paper. And it will insure that if the bailout works and the firms become profitable, taxpayers, not simply bankers, benefit from the upside.

Shut down the casino

No bailout of the predators should go forward without new regulation for the entire financial system—capital requirements, leverage limits, bans on exotic instruments, transparency, limits on compensation schemes. The shadow banking system—hedge funds, private equity firms—must be brought under the glare of regulators. Some details should be written into the law; the Treasury can be mandated to issue

regulations on the rest by a date certain. Any promise to do the bailout now and the regulation later is simply a lie. If the banks are too big to fail, they are too big to play on the Street alone.

Curb excessive CEO pay

Wall Street fat cats shouldn't be pocketing millions taxpayers are forced to bail them out. Any firm that applies for relief must agree to limit the compensation of any executive—pay, bonuses and perks—to no more than the highest pay offered a senior federal official. Future compensation should be linked to profitability.

Invest in the real economy

Ending the bankers strike is not sufficient to avoid a serious recession, as consumers tighten their belts. A major public investment agenda—\$250 billion or more—for launching new energy and conservation projects, rebuilding schools and infrastructure, extending unemployment and food stamps, and helping states avoid crippling cuts in police and health services, is vital to getting the real economy moving and putting people back to work. If we don't do this, the coming recession will raise the cost of the Wall Street bailout dramatically, as credit card, auto and home loan defaults rise.

Aid the victims, not just the predators

No bailout of the banks can take place without a freeze on foreclosures and a renegotiation of bad mortgages. Bankers as well as homeowners both made foolish bets that home prices would keep rising. Many homeowners were misled by predatory lenders into taking mortgages that they didn't understand and couldn't afford. It would be simply obscene to help the predators and not those that they preyed on.

Curb the political corruption

Paid lobbyists of Wall Street firms should be banned from the Beltway. Any meeting with representatives of Wall Street—and many will be needed to understand what is happening—should be posted immediately by legislators in a central place on the Internet. Senators and representatives on the relevant oversight committees should forswear any contributions from Wall Street employees. All those employed over the past five years by troubled firms seeking relief should be prohibited from profiting from the bailout. Without this ban, legions of executives from Bear Sterns or Lehman Brothers will create consulting firms to profit from cleaning up the mess that they made.

~ RB

Penn Central Railroad	●	\$3.2 billion - 1970
Lockheed	●	\$1.4 billion - 1971
Franklin National Bank	●	\$7.7 billion - 1974
New York City	●	\$9.4 billion - 1975
Chrysler	●	\$3.9 billion - 1979
Continental Illinois	●	\$9.5 billion - 1984

Savings & Loan scandal

\$294 billion
1989

Airline Industry

\$18.6 billion - 2001

Sub-prime
Mortgage fleecing

\$1.3 trillion
2008



If we build it, they will come.

Magil Construction prides itself on its reputation for excellence. Its expertise has been perfected on projects of every conceivable size and complexity. Delivering a project on-time and on-budget has been fundamental to Magil's success.

Founded in 1953 by architect Louis B. Magil, the company specialized in residential construction. It has since expanded into commercial, industrial and institutional construction valued in billions of dollars.

MAGIL

www.magil.com

ÉCONOMIE



Jean-François Minardi

Analyste sénior de politiques publiques à l'Institut Fraser

WWW.THEMETROPOLITAIN.CA

À qui appartient l'or bleu ?

La Commission des transports et de l'environnement de l'Assemblée Nationale du Québec vient de tenir des auditions publiques sur le projet de loi 92. Déposé au mois de juin dernier, ce projet de loi déclare, entre autres choses, que « ... l'eau de surface et l'eau souterraine, dans leur état naturel, sont des ressources qui font partie du patrimoine commun de la nation québécoise et qui ne peuvent être appropriées, sauf dans les conditions définies par la loi, dont le Code civil. »

Le problème est que, non seulement la notion de « patrimoine commun de la nation québécoise » est juridiquement floue, mais elle constitue une violation claire du droit de propriété privée au Québec. Pour madame Line Beauchamp, la ministre du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, l'essence du projet de loi est de clarifier le statut de l'eau au Québec. Le Code civil du Québec énonce que l'eau, qu'elle soit de surface ou souterraine, est une chose commune, sous réserve des droits d'utilisation ou des droits limités d'appropriation qui peuvent être reconnus. Pourtant, si les juristes s'entendent sur le fait que l'État est le gardien des eaux de surface, comme toutes les ressources naturelles, la propriété des eaux

Le problème est que, non seulement la notion de « patrimoine commun de la nation québécoise » est juridiquement floue, mais elle constitue une violation claire du droit de propriété privée au Québec.

souterraines n'est pas jusqu'à présent clairement établie. Ainsi, la jurisprudence a jusqu'à présent accordé un droit de propriété aux propriétaires fonciers sur l'eau tirée de la nappe phréatique, même si cette nappe n'est souvent pas confinée à un seul terrain ou à une seule terre.

Or ce droit de propriété privée sera supprimé si le projet de loi est adopté. Cela ne signifie pas que l'eau souterraine deviendra la propriété de l'État. Il ne s'agit donc pas d'une nationalisation de l'eau mais, dans la mesure où elle devient une ressource collective, le gouvernement en devient le « gardien au nom des intérêts de la nation québécoise ». L'exploitation de l'eau de surface ou souterraine par le secteur privé sera donc encore possible au Québec si la loi 92 est adoptée mais son activité s'exercera dorénavant sous le contrôle étroit et le pouvoir arbitraire de l'État.

Le pouvoir de réglementation et le

régime d'autorisations qui lui est associé pour les prélèvements d'eau de 75 000 litres ou plus par jour, soit l'équivalent de deux piscines hors terre, pourrait aisément amener à une dérive bureaucratique. Ainsi le projet de loi donne-t-il au ministre le pouvoir de : « ...refuser la délivrance ou le renouvellement d'une autorisation de prélèvement, ou en modifier les conditions de sa propre initiative, s'il est d'avis que ce refus ou cette modification sert l'intérêt public. » Dans ses commentaires concernant le Projet de loi 92, le Barreau du Québec souligne le fait que : « Le pouvoir discrétionnaire attribué par l'article 31.79 est exagéré et difficilement compatible avec le principe de l'égalité de tous devant la loi... »

En outre, le ministre ou le gouvernement peuvent révoquer un droit de prélèvement de l'eau de façon temporaire ou permanente sans indemnité de la part de l'État. Ce pouvoir discrétionnaire accordé au

ministre repose sur le principe de précaution selon lequel il est préférable d'éviter le risque, concept nébuleux par excellence, notamment pour des raisons environnementales ou de santé publique. Le problème serait de définir le risque de manière abusive et ainsi d'interdire inutilement de nombreux comportements parfaitement légitimes. Le Barreau du Québec considère d'ailleurs que : « ...ce pouvoir extraordinaire ne devrait pas être exercé sans que le titulaire d'une autorisation révoquée soit indemnisé. En effet, nous sommes en présence d'un titulaire qui n'a commis aucun acte illégal qui se voit dépossédé d'un droit de prélèvement de l'eau qu'il a obtenu de bonne foi, en toute légalité, avec l'autorisation du ministre. »

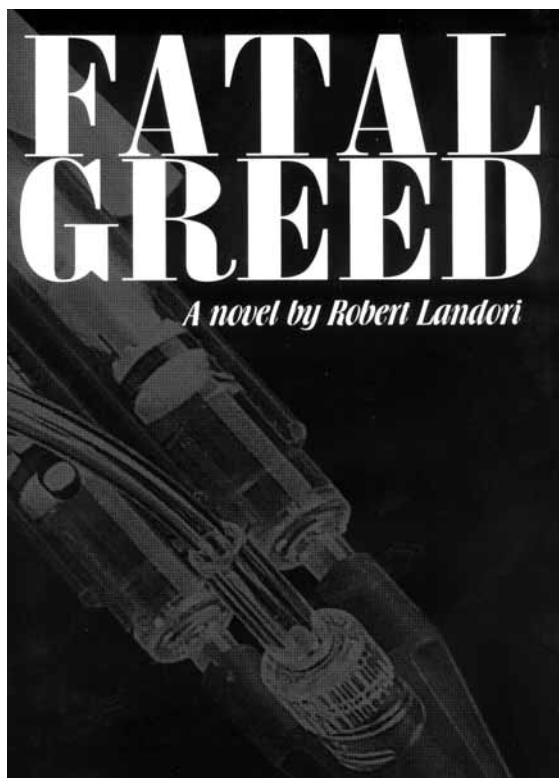
Pour résumer, ce projet de loi permettra à l'État de s'arroger le contrôle de l'eau au nom de l'intérêt général au lieu de protéger le droit de propriété. Cette évolution est

dommageable dans la mesure où la protection du droit de propriété est non seulement nécessaire pour le dynamisme de l'économie mais également pour la protection de l'environnement.

Autant d'éléments qui sont susceptibles de limiter considérablement les activités du secteur privé dans la commercialisation de l'eau au Québec ainsi que dans son utilisation dans l'industrie ou l'agriculture. Ceci est d'autant plus vrai que le projet de loi démontre clairement que le gouvernement du Québec entend favoriser une approche environnementale plutôt que commerciale, ce qui risque de pénaliser les entrepreneurs.

À terme, nous serons pourtant tous confrontés à une vérité simple qui est que seules les forces du marché nous permettront de connaître le « vrai » prix de l'eau. Et c'est uniquement ce « vrai » prix qui nous permettra d'éviter le gaspillage et de savoir s'il existe une demande solvable pour nos exportations d'eau en vrac. Voilà pourquoi l'État devrait garantir le droit de propriété au lieu de l'affaiblir.

L'Institut Fraser effectue actuellement un projet de recherche sur la question de la gestion de l'eau au Québec.



Mutant Mad Cow Disease in Toronto. Murder in Palm Beach.

The arcana of Bermuda offshore banking. Ex-CIA and Mossad men desperate to seize a weapon of mass destruction from Al-Qaeda, off the Caymans, on the morning of 9/11. *Oh, and love.* What more could you ask for in this hard-cover thriller by Robert Landori. Get it at Chapters/Indigo, or order an author-signed copy from the publisher.

Dear Studio 9, please rush me _____ author-signed copies of Fatal Greed at \$39.00 each (including tax and postage). My cheque is enclosed.

Or, I choose to pay by Visa Mastercard Amex (please circle one)

Mail or fax to: 514-937-8765

Card number exp / /

Name

Address

City/Postal Code/Prov.-State

Studio 9, 9 Parkside Place, Montreal, QC, Canada H3H 1A7 Phone orders: 514-934-5433



Saving the bubble...with inflation!

Those readers old enough to remember the oil shock of the early 1970's and the resulting surge in inflation across most of the world's economies will greet with skepticism the notion of inflation as a solution to the international economic crisis. In reality, we are already well on our way to inflation with the injection of trillions of dollars worldwide into the banking system to prevent it from seizing up – every dollar created by central banks to cover massive financial losses on the banks' balance sheets debases the value of the issuing currency, and that's the road we're on.

According to Reuters News Service, since late September the US Federal Reserve has injected over \$630 billion in new liquidity into the financial system to get the banks lending again – and this is NOT the \$700 billion mortgage bailout package approved by the US Congress. Every dollar issued by a central bank that is not backed by a hard asset (like the old Bretton Woods Gold Standard, abandoned by the US in 1973) reduces the value of the currency in circulation. Holding the currency of a country is a confidence game, and eventually the market figures out that too many US Dollars floating around means that its purchasing power is reduced, and inflation takes hold of the economy as sellers begin demanding more of these dollars in exchange for goods and services.

Why should the US welcome inflation?

So why is inflation a savior in this case? The alternative to inflation is deflation, which is much worse in the long run for consumers and governments alike. Deflation is defined as falling prices, the practical result of which is that consumers hold on to their dollars in anticipation that the trend will continue – there is no incentive to purchase, and that goes for hard assets as well, like housing. As one mergers and acquisitions expert summed up deflation; “hey, if the price is lower tomorrow, then I'm not buying today!” Ben Bernanke, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, is an expert on the deflationary spiral of the Great Depression as well as the 1990s in Japan - the “Lost Decade.”

Japan's own banking crisis of the late 1980s resulted in a deflationary vortex that decimated real estate values and consumer confidence in that country. Bernanke wants to stop falling house prices as soon as possible because housing is the US consumer's piggy bank. For the last 10 years, US consumers have refinanced their houses to purchase cars, take vacations, pay off credit card debt and send their children to college; all this was possible because home values were rising. If home values fall in a deflationary economy, then consumers will never be able to use the equity in their homes to finance other economic activity because the banks will not know where the pricing floor will be. Without rising home prices, the US could face its own decade of economic stagnation.

George Jonas wrote in the National Post last weekend that there is evidence that US consumers are starting to buy houses again, benefiting from drastically lower prices in many markets. The long-term key to wealth creation for these new buyers will be increasing home prices, which is what happened after the inflationary period of the 1970s. Consumers dumped their dollars, which were falling in value, and purchased houses, whose values were keeping pace with or exceeding the US inflation rate. The same was true in Canada. The typical home today is worth 4-5 times, if not more, than what it was worth in the 1970s; just look at the old deeds of sale you received from the notary if you are a current homeowner.

Astute readers will notice that the US dollar has strengthened against the Canadian and other currencies over the past week, rather than the reverse. This is only true in the short run, as the major European governments posted delayed reactions to their own banking crises that motivated currency traders to sell the Euro and the British Pound. The amount of money “printed” by the European and UK central banks was proportionately far less than the US cash infusion and in the long run does less damage to the intrinsic value of those currencies.

Inflation: Managing the Beast

The US has to make sure that they

do not create a hyperinflationary environment the likes of which was experienced by the German Weimar Republic between the world wars, or more recently some South American economies. The challenge will be to allow inflation to rise to a controlled rate in the 6-7% range for a decade or so, in place of the 3% target that most first-world economies had set for themselves over the past 15 years. Not only would this reflate real estate prices, it would also debase the value of the accumulated US federal debt, now at \$10 billion in 2008 dollars. Ten years of US inflation at 7% would cut the “real” value of that debt in half – the debtholders would be the losers in this equation. If the US government can bring its budget into balance over this period and stop the debt growth, the result would be that the debt would be much more manageable because government revenues would also swell along with the inflation rate. Wage and price increases would result, but, frankly, the economy would get used to it. There are many economists who argue that the real US inflation rate is already at least 6% once you

consider the price effects of oil and food, but the US government keeps playing with the way inflation is calculated in order to hide the magnitude of the problem.

Can Canada avoid the inflation contagion?

Canada entered the current financial crisis in a much stronger position than the United States. Our banking system is much more solidly capitalized, we had high employment and a growing natural resource sector for which the world is our market. Falling commodity prices are a short-term phenomenon – growth will return to India and China, and higher oil, potash and precious metal prices will result. Indeed, the Canadian currency will face pressures to increase in value relative to the US and other currencies due to our solid economic fundamentals and the need to pay us for our natural resource products. Canada's inflation rate will be lower due to our stronger currency – but Canadian manufacturing will be decimated if the Bank of Canada allows the Canadian Dollar to sustain \$1.10 or more for an extended period of time. Indeed, one economist

predicted that the Canadian Dollar could rise to \$1.50 US over the next few years due to rising commodity prices. While this pressure has been temporarily interrupted, long term bull market trends in commodities are still intact and the upward pressure on the Canadian Dollar is scheduled to resume.

Conclusion: Choose your poison

Inflation and deflation are both undesirable economic phenomena, each with their own potential to do long term damage to any economy. However, given the current problems in the US, its massive federal debt and dysfunctional housing and credit markets, inflation is the preferable poison. If managed correctly, inflation can resolve the equity crisis facing the US consumer, reflate home values and entice then to spend anew. Given that consumer spending is responsible for two thirds of US and Canadian economic activity, we must all collectively hope that the trillions of dollars injected into world credit markets over the past several months begin to work their magic very, very soon.

RETRO HEAT

Old Cast Iron Radiators



Shafter Bros. Inc
Since 1927

259 Van Horne Avenue
Montreal, Quebec Canada
H2V 1H9
Tel: 514.274.8347
Fax: 514.274.7652
Toll Free: 1.800.361.1778

www.oldcastironradiators.com
www.steamexperts.com





Proud to be Canadian?

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

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

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

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

Make Democracy a Guiding Principle

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

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

Canadian
Coalition
for **Democracies**

PO Box 72602 - 345 Bloor Street East, Toronto, ON, M4W 3J0, Canada
Tel: 416-963-8998 • Fax: 425-944-3546 • www.CanadianCoalition.com

Avortement : les principes obscurs de l'idéologie des conservateurs

Déjà à sa deuxième lecture en mars 2008, le projet de loi C-484, Loi sur les enfants non encore nés victimes d'actes criminels modifiant le Code criminel a fait des remous à la Chambre des Communes. Soutenue par Stephen Harper lui-même et par d'autres députés, le projet s'affiche comme fondamentalement contrariant. Après l'élection du 14 octobre, il y a lieu de s'inquiéter de nouveau. À l'aube de la formation d'un nouveau gouvernement, ce n'est pas tant le parti conservateur qui dérange le plus, mais son idéologie. L'urgence l'exigeant, revenons sur les principes obscurs de cette dernière.

C'est par la lecture des *Éléments métaphysiques de la doctrine du droit* de Kant que j'ai constaté, comme Michel Onfray l'avait fait bien avant dans sa pièce *Le Songe d'Eichmann*, la puissance juridictionnelle née de la pensée des Lumières et principalement chez Emmanuel Kant. À vrai dire, pour être trivial, Kant exprime que tant qu'un État est construit sous l'architecture juridique et par des lois

civiles, les individus qui ne sont pas représentés juridiquement n'existent pas. Autrement dit, si comme l'exemple que donne lui-même le philosophe, un enfant bâtard – issu en dehors du mariage – n'est pas selon la doctrine du droit «juridiquement reconnu», conformément à cette logique, il n'existerait tout simplement pas. Puisque l'enfant adultérin est né «hors de la loi», il est aussi né en dehors de sa protection. Kant pousse la logique plus loin : s'il y'a infanticidium maternel dit-il, l'enfant n'est pas mort puisqu'il n'existait pas juridiquement : l'État peut ainsi ignorer son existence ainsi que l'acte qui l'a emporté. Autre temps, autres mœurs. Kant n'avait réfléchi que sur ces cas délicats où la mort morale et légale était plausible.

Si on avance de plus de deux siècles maintenant, nous constatons aisément que la pensée kantienne s'est épurée, elle n'est plus en partie d'actualité. La partie qui incite à la réflexion est celle qui entend reconnaître ce que devrait être une entité juridique de ce qui ne

devrait pas l'être. Or, le projet de loi canadien, si fameux qu'il puisse être, entend modifier profondément le statut juridique de ce qui n'est pas encore un humain. En fait, il n'y pas là une modification, mais à proprement parler une construction juridique d'un être qui est toujours en gestation. La réflexion s'exige d'elle-même, et le débat éthique est loin d'être terminé, même si Stephen Harper

affirme le dossier clos.

Dans *La doctrine du Droit*, Emmanuel Kant établit un système de mœurs selon lequel le droit prévaut, de sorte que l'individu puisse protéger toute appropriation par le droit positif – tout ce qui extérieur à lui peut devenir mien et non tien, explique-t-il. Pour cela, il a fallu construire ce qu'il nomme une personnalité juridique, un être sensible qui s'interpose de ses

droits. Bien évidemment, cette conception est valable dans le cadre juridique que circonscrit l'État, et pas en dehors. Or, dans ce contexte c'est «l'État» qui demande par ce projet de loi modifiant le Code criminel de reconnaître une nouvelle nature juridique, et de l'intégrer au corps étatique du droit. Quelles sont ainsi

Suite à la page 20



GESTION DE STATIONNEMENT
PARKING MANAGEMENT



Lorenzo LoPresti
V.P. Operations
5325 Jean Talon est, suite 202
St. Léonard Qc. H1S 1L4
Tél.: (450) 449-5515
Fax: (514) 721-3851

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

- George F. Lengvari, Sr.





Beryl Wajzman

Rédacteur en chef et Éditeur

Cassandra's Lilacs succeeds in "gentling the condition"

"This story shall the good man teach his son; We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; This day shall gentle the condition;" ~ Henry V

Some 600 people came to the Théâtre St-Denis Thursday, October 2 and took part in a unique celebration of community activism and community solutions. It was the Garceau Foundation's first major benefit called Cassandra's Lilacs, The "Gentle the Condition" Concert. Put on in co-operation with the Institute for Public Affairs of Montreal, the concert was a rare multi-artist and multi-charity event. Beaconsfielder Brigitte Garceau, an attorney with Robinson, Sheppard, Shapiro and well-known community activist, conceived the Foundation as a way of channeling professional, organizational and fund-raising expertise to charitable organizations working in the frontlines for better healthcare, against hunger and retraining the homeless. The beneficiaries of this premiere event were three remarkable groups. Dr. Nicholas Steinmetz' and Dr. Gilles Julien's Fondation pour la promotion de la pédiatrie sociale tackles the health needs of poor children. Helping thousands in Montreal's Côte des Neiges and Hochelaga- Maisonneuve districts, the Fondation cares for the physical, psychological and educational needs of children who are products of

underprivileged homes. It not only provides immediate help, but follows the children through years of schooling to ensure that the work is having an effect.

It takes a totally holistic approach to childhood development.

La Maison du Partage d'Youville is a community kitchen and food bank that for 25 years has served Pointe St. Charles, Verdun and Little Burgundy. La Maison meets the food needs of hundreds of people every week. It is desperately short of space and resources. It must move to more efficient and affordable space in order to continue doing its essential work. De la Rue... à la Réussite, takes homeless men and women and provides them with the necessary tools and employment opportunities to reintegrate into the workforce. This remarkable organization, founded by the indefatigable Sue McDougall and her late husband Jean-Pierre Chartrand, doesn't just get people on their feet, it gets them back into life. It understands that it's about more than just getting people a paycheque; it's about giving them back their purpose.

The concert was inspired by a real life Cassandra, Garceau's 10-year-old daughter. The Grade 5 student had been involved in class fundraisers at her school, Collège Charlemagne, where she took part in a drive to send school supplies

and clothing to children in Africa. In November, while attending an AIDS benefit concert featuring Sarah McLachlan, Avril Lavigne and John Mayer at the Bell Centre, Cassandra wondered why a fundraising concert for Montreal's underprivileged couldn't be held. The rest, as they say, is history.

But the concert was not only about entertainment. It was half policy conference as well. The evening began with an emotive keynote from Andrée Ruffo, among the most compelling voices for the vulnerable in this country. MC Dennis Trudeau brought his trademark intelligence and authenticity weaving a thread of continuity through all the speakers and artists. Brian Morel produced incisive and touching videos of the charities involved. The audience not only met the people behind these groups but also met some of the people they had helped and heard their inspiring stories. One of the most striking aspects of those gathered was that leaders of industry stood shoulder to shoulder with labour presidents and streetfront community activists.

But the music was outstanding. Headliner Raneé Lee sizzled with her hallmark cool. Texan Meredith Marshall wowed the crowd with incredible song stylings. Legendary bluesman Slim Williams not only accompanied Marshall, but stirred the hall with his own composition

"Victorious" from his new CD. Montrealer Sandra Brandone was white heat singing from her newly released debut CD Nothing Feels as Good. Thirteen-year-old sensation Sara Diamond belted it out to everyone's glee in a voice that belied her tender years. Gospel singer Kiralina was a delight as she performed with two virtuoso dancers. And finally, but not least, the Imani Family and Full Gospel Church Children's Choir stole everybody's heart.

The music, the words and the images of the concert pierced everyone's souls. In their own words, the organizers wanted participants to come away from the evening with a greater ability "to see the world through the eyes of its victims". And to understand, intuitively, that "the less educated are not less intelligent and that the less affluent are not any less human." In short, to be moved to "gentle the condition". From the looks on all the faces, that is exactly what the Cassandra's Lilacs concert did.

Anyone wanting to make a donation to the Garceau Foundation can e-mail brigittegarceau@sympatico.ca, call 514-393-4022 or send contributions to the Garceau Foundation, c/o Brigitte Garceau, Robinson, Sheppard, Shapiro, 800 Place Victoria, suite 4600, Montreal H4Z 1H6.



Cassandra



Brigitte Garceau



Andrée Ruffo



Beryl Wajzman and Dennis Trudeau



Raneé Lee



Slim Williams



Meredith Marshall



Part of the Imani Family and Full Gospel Church children's choir.



Kiralina



Sandra Brandone



Sara Diamond

One of North America's largest and most dependable suppliers of steel foundation products.

Pipe and Piling Supplies' high quality stocks include:

- Wide-flange Beams
- Spiral Pipe
- Bearing Pile Beams
- Piling Pipe
- Sheet Piling
- Concrete Piles



Pipe & Piling offers competitive pricing and quality pre- and post-sale expertise.

It's twelve sales and stocking facilities are available to serve you across North America in:

Vancouver 604-942-6311	Edmonton 780-955-0501	Calgary 403-236-1332	Toronto 416-201-8189	Montreal 514-879-9008	Halifax 902-835-6158
Washington 253-939-4700	Nebraska 402-896-9611	Kansas 1-800-874-3720	Illinois 1-800-874-3720	Michigan 1-800-874-3720	Pennsylvania 1-800-874-3720

Pipe & Piling Supplies Ltd.



www.pipe-piling.com

Guillaume Durou de la page 17

les limites de la définition d'un «être sensible» qui fait l'expérience du droit ? Si ce n'est qu'à travers la mère que l'être est conformément existant, à quoi bon le séparer d'elle pour ainsi le doter d'un droit ? Pour porter en soi un droit, il faut faire l'expérience sensible de ce qui est extérieur à soit, de ce qui ne nous appartient pas par nature et le confronter aux autres, disait Kant, de sorte que l'État puisse par ailleurs, de son plein gré, aménager l'espace juridique.

Si un fœtus acquiert une personnalité juridique ou plutôt s'articule comme une entité juridique propre, celui-ci, parfaitement circonscrit sous l'égide de la loi, se voit être saisi indépendamment de quiconque, et cela va de soi pour la «procréatrice» elle-même. C'est délier le fœtus de sa relation avec sa mère qui s'intégrait comme unique caractère juridique,

Cette loi entend donner en droit pouvoir à l'être en gestation qui, déjà, est considéré comme être, à travers la mère.

celui de la gestante.

Cette loi entend donner en droit pouvoir à l'être en gestation qui, déjà, est considéré comme être, à travers la mère. J'entends de loin les tenants de ce projet affirmer que si l'on concède à une entité naturelle le nom d'«être», il se doit ainsi nanti de droit pour incorporer l'espace civil. Est-il dans ce cas nécessaire de réellement séparer le caractère juridique de la mère de son futur enfant en construisant celui d'un être qui n'est pas

encore humain ? Voilà l'idée qui en laisse plusieurs perplexes. Il ne s'agit pas de savoir si le fœtus est humain ou non ; la loi considère plutôt d'interpréter l'embryon indépendamment de la gestante. La personnalité de la mère ou encore de la femme en général demeure indiscutable. Quant à celle du fœtus, bien évidemment, elle ne l'est pas. Ceci remet en cause la liberté de la femme, dans la mesure où elle se voit «juridiquement» séparée de son enfant futur, elle ne

peut contrevenir à la condition du petit être. N'est-ce pas là une atteinte à l'intégrité de la femme ?

Encore faut-il savoir à partir de quand, dans l'évolution de l'embryon, cette loi est imposable et applicable sur ce que l'on considère comme un fœtus, un être judiciairement interprétable.

Le danger ? Alors que la notion d'entité juridique relève en quelque sorte d'un arbitraire de la loi, comment est-il possible de consid-

érer la pleine effectivité de la loi alors qu'elle se doit, comme toutes les autres, d'être interprétée, traduite et exemplifiée ? Le meurtrier d'une femme enceinte aurait commis deux meurtres plutôt qu'un. Voilà la pierre d'achoppement du projet. Or cette intention est loin d'être immunisée des interprétations ultérieures qu'on en fera si elle se voit reconnue.

Ce projet de loi n'a peut-être plus lieu d'être, mais il laisse transparaître un danger, celui d'une idéologie. Même si l'on considère qu'il mourra au feuillet non tant par son impopularité que par son illogisme flagrant et par son subterfuge cousu de fil blanc, cette démarche législative renvoie à une évolution juridique à rebours. Qui a dit qu'il n'y avait pas de danger à voter des lois ? Tenons-nous ici à rappeler le danger, celui de l'idée et du dogme.

The System is the Scandal!

"The ability of powerful corporations to influence politicians is one of the ongoing challenges to democracy. And organizations such as Democracy Watch play a critical role as monitors and whistle blowers, especially when all of the major Canadian media organizations are enmeshed with government." — Hugh Winsor, Columnist, *The Globe and Mail*

I want to become a supporter of Democracy Watch by making an Automatic Monthly Deduction. By choosing to make an Automatic Monthly Donation, I am authorizing Democracy Watch to automatically withdraw the following amount from my chequing account or my credit card every month. I understand that I can stop the monthly donation at any time simply by calling Democracy Watch at: (613) 241-5179

Please circle the amount of your Automatic Monthly Donation:

\$5 \$15 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1000 OTHER: _____

I cannot become a sustaining donor at this time, but enclosed is my donation.

Payment Options:

OPTION #1—Chequing Account: Send this form and a cheque marked "VOID" to:
Democracy Watch, P.O. Box 821, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1P 5P9

OPTION #2—Credit Card:

VISA MasterCard Expiry Date

Card Number

Name: _____

Tel: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

YES — Please add me to the Democracy Watch Email List so I can receive updates on key issues facing Democracy in Canada!

Signature: _____

www.dwatch.ca

Democracy Watch, P.O. Box 821, Station B, Ottawa, Canada K1P 5P9 • Tel: 613-241-5179 - Fax: 613-241-4758 • Email: dwatch@web.net

David Jones is a former senior counselor at the American Embassy in Ottawa. He is a well-known columnist contributing frequently to many publications including *The Hill Times*. He writes from his home in Arlington, Virginia and is co-author with the Hon. David Kilgour of *Uneasy Neighbours*.

David T. Jones



Kirpans and Political Correctness

A kirpan is a kirpan is ... a knife.

A kirpan wrapped up and under the clothing of the owner is ... a concealed weapon.

And that is the essential problem. A society cannot countenance one set of laws for one group of people and another set of laws for another. It certainly cannot do so when public facilities: schools; transportation; courts; libraries; etc are involved. Bluntly, to take this approach is reverse bigotry by providing special privileges for a minority while increasing risk for the majority.

A threat of force can be explicit, re an armed soldier or a police officer. Or it can be implicit for the vulnerable (old, weak, unarmed) who know that those they will encounter are armed and not constrained by law. The legal judgments that permit Sikhs to carry kirpans when and where other Canadians cannot carry a weapon subject them to implicit threat.

The hypocrisy of judges banning kirpans in courtrooms while permitting them in schools is almost a parody of juridical insensitivity. Protect yourselves while ignoring public safety. Indeed, one wonders when a judge making such a ruling was last on a school playground? "Miss Manners" is not widely read; Marquis of Queensbury rules are unknown. Canadian schools are not "black board jungles," but no school is immune from violence.

And while Gurbaj Singh Multani, the original benefactor of the ruling, might have been the epitome of gentlemanly behavior, the 13 year old who threatened another student with a kirpan outside a Montreal school was not. The rationale that the threat was not made on school property reminds a cynic of Bill

Clinton's definitional exercise that "it depends on what the meaning of 'is' is" when testifying regarding his sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

Frankly, it would be beyond known human nature, even under the most civilized of circumstances, that no young Sikh would employ his kirpan for other than religious purposes. The kirpan reportedly can range from three inches to over three feet, although the standard blade length is approximately 3.5 inches, which is quite sufficient to inflict lethal injury. (The kirpan used by Multani reportedly was eight inches long.) And while the observing Sikh is enjoined not to use his kirpan aggressively, it can be used in self defense or "to protect a person in need"—certainly categories subject to considerable interpretation.

Canadians have also seen that the Human Rights Commission has permitted another Sikh to wear a kirpan while riding Canada Rail—overriding existing national rail policy prohibiting weapons without exception. Given recent bloody instances of knife assaults during travel by bus, passengers may be less sanguine over the presence of kirpan-bearing Sikhs on public transportation.

And this is not the end. Has this issue been tested for travel on Air Canada? Will security concerns override religious rights for Sikhs in Canada? Or are the memories of 9/11, when the terrorists used "box cutter" knives of kirpan dimensions (although not kirpans), the determining factor?

And while the rulings ostensibly apply only to Sikhs, who determines the "Sikh-ness," so

to speak, of an individual? Is there a Canadian religious litmus test to identify who is a Sikh? Can any individual simply profess to be a Sikh and, thereby, be exempted from weapons restrictions—at least so far as concealed carry in schools and trains is concerned?

Would you happily fly with a half dozen young males carrying kirpans?

Let us play "just suppose." Let us suppose that the local motorcycle gang declares itself as the "Church of Harley" with apostles including Jimmy Dean and Marlon Brando. And they declare that their religious practice includes carrying machetes at all times.

Or let us suppose that a new "Christian" order begins teaching. Their most prominent outward symbol is wearing a "crucifix" that has a sharpened point and edges. You might call it a sword.

Are Canadians prepared to go down this road?

To be sure, these are exaggerations—but not beyond the realm of the legally possible if religious freedom is extrapolated along the lines Canadians have already seen.

Comparable religious beliefs conflict with U.S. security concerns. However, regarding air passengers, there is one rule; no weapons are permitted. Reportedly, in some California jurisdictions, schools require kirpans to be blunted and riveted into their sheaths; such an approach retains the religious symbolism but is impossible to use as a weapon.

The balance between freedom and security is always in play; Canadians should re-examine security before a fatal, "I told you so" event occurs.

A Passionate Call for Change.



"Tasha Kheiriddin and Adam Daifallah's analysis is bold, provocative and invigorating."

—Mark Steyn

A provocative and timely call to action for civic-minded Canadians yearning for a more competitive political system and better government.

 **WILEY**
Now you know.
wiley.ca

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

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

Citoyens Anti Gouvernement Envahissant

CAGE

Citizens Against Government Encroachment

www.cagecanada.ca

ARTS & STYLE



Sharman Yarnell

WWW.THEMETROPOLITAIN.CA

Yeah, Yeah, Yeah

The year was 1964. The date was February 9. It was Sunday night and everyone between the ages of 5 and 85 was glued to the old black and white television set, waiting for the phenomenon that had arrived in New York to appear on The Ed Sullivan Show. It was the start of the British invasion, a parent's nightmare: long haired, nasal sounding boys in boots, who in the end, made Liverpool proud.

Word has it that North America experienced a huge surge in electrical usage on that Sunday evening. In the States alone 75 million tuned in to catch the new Liverpool sound and more than 50,000.00 fans lined up to get into The Ed Sullivan Theatre that could only accommodate 728 people. Indeed, the population of North America had tuned in to hear the magic:

John, Paul, George and Ringo.

The Beatles had arrived in North America and, though all these years later two of them have died, George Harrison and John Lennon, they've never really left. The power of their presence, especially through their music, is still with us - There are Beatle movies, Beatle documentaries, Beatle Doodles (The Openhouse Gallery in Soho is featuring 'Imagine', art work by John Lennon) and Beatle collaborations (like the one between Cirque de Soleil and the remaining Beatles and their families).

The Beatles came to Montreal only once, played two shows at The Forum and left right after the show (by-passing a stay at The Queen Elizabeth Hotel because death threats had been made against Ringo). Nothing, not even then

popular DJ Dave Boxer's visit to England the following year, petition in hand, to persuade the group to include Montreal in their 1965 North American tour, could convince them to return as a group.

For those who have no idea how magical the time was, for those who want to relive the era, for those who want to introduce their children and grandchildren (yikes!) to the boys from Liverpool, you can do just that at The Corona Theatre on Notre Dame Street. Beatles Story is back by popular demand, starring Replay, playing on various evenings throughout October.

A better tribute to The Fab Four you will never find.

The visual slideshow included in Beatles Story is produced and narrated by none other than Marc 'Mais Oui' Denis, who knows what

he's talking about. A treasure trove of information on The Beatles and the era, Denis takes you back to a Montreal seeped in the pop-culture of the era, a Montreal riding a high in a world of fashion with Twiggy and Twiggy wannabes, and a multitude of other bands and solo acts of the time. It shows a Montreal of mini-skirts, go-go boots and flower-power. A Montreal getting ready to host the world with Expo 67.

Replay consists of John Oriettas as Paul, Ricardo Branchini as John, Jean-Francois Cyr as George and Ted Doyle as Ringo. Doyle, oddly enough, was the last to join the group, just as Ringo was in the real Beatles - although under more pleasant circumstances in his case. While they all at one time or another played with various tribute

groups to The Beatles, this is a solid melding, true to the original band's look and sound. It doesn't get much more authentic than Replay.

Call the evening a "rockumentary", what with all the historical facts in a multi-media show with live performances of Replay, wearing costumes like those worn by The Beatles in their concerts and movies over the years. Feel free to get up and 'groove' to 34 of the songs that have become the most recognized sound of the sixties and seventies.

Call it what you will, Beatles Story will transport you back to one of the most exciting times in the world of music.

Beatles Story - it's the closest experience you'll ever have to enjoying the original group.



Alidor Aucoin

Scorching hot

The hottest theatre ticket in town these days is Scorched. Toronto's Tarragon Theatre Company brought its stark, fluent staging of Wajdi Mouawad's chilling family drama, to the Centaur Friday. As translated from its original French-version, *Incendies*, into English by Linda Gaboriou, directed by Richard Rose and designed by Graham S. Thompson, *Scorched* is pure, unadulterated theatre.

At the emotional core of the play is the attempt by a photojournalist named Nawal, an immigrant from a blood-stained Arab country - take your pick - to come to terms with the generational cycle of "anger to anger, grief to grief, murder to murder, back to the beginning of time."

Five years before Nawal dies she stops speaking. After her death in Montreal the dead woman's last will and testament instructs her twins, Simon, (Sergio DiZio) and Janine (Sophie Goulet) to deliver two letters, one to their father, whom they thought was dead, and the other to their brother, Nihad (Alex Poch-Goldin) whom they didn't know existed.

In a series of swirling rhythms, the back story gathers more force with each round. Whenever the script blazes into nightmare, the tension is relieved by Nawal's comically whiny lawyer, Alphone Lebel, (Alon Nashman), who is given to comic anecdotes and delicious malapropisms, such as "Rome wasn't built in the middle of the day," or refers to a client who "shows



up like a fly in the appointment."

Much of the pain derives from the extraordinary performances of three women who play Nawal at various stages in her life: Janick Hébert, Sarah Orenstein, and Nicola Lipman. In addition to the three women who play the lead, other members of the cast are at the top of their game. Jerry Franken disappears into multiple roles as The Man, a kind of Everyman on stage who serves as a thread to hold the pieces together.

Sergio DiZio is terrific as the angry, sullen son, Simon and Sophie Goulet is forceful as his calculating mathematician sister Janine. Valerie Buhagiar gives an impressive performance as Nawal's gravel-voiced, freedom-fighting sister-in-arms, Sawda. But it is Alex Poch-Goldin, as Nawal's maniacal lost son, Nihad who delivers the most horror-seared moment. Poch-Goldin is at once a mischievous adolescent and a depraved terrorist to whom blood sport is entertainment - for him, killing people is as much fun as playing an air guitar.

Teresa Przybtski's costumes Todd Charlton's sound and Graham S. Thompson's arid, desert setting, complete with sand dunes, are flawless.

They contribute to the cinematic staging of an undeniably powerful work that pushes Canadian theatre a significant step forward.

Scorched is at the Centaur Theatre until Nov 2.



SCREENINGS GALORE

The 37th Festival Nouveau Cinema offers quality and quantity

Film festivals can be a double-edged sword. They're great for industry to make business and creative connections, and the general buzz is welcome. But for people who just like to see good films, they can be a bit of a nightmare. You can't just go to see a movie: you must spend a significant chunk of time with the program to make sure you're seeing the best the fest has to offer.

The 37th edition of the Festival Nouveau Cinema unfortunately falls into the more-is-less trap. The festival is screening 250 films from 60 countries, plus talks and workshops. Flat out, it's too many films and too many activities—although at \$10 a film for a single ticket they are properly priced. Thumbs down, however, go to the \$5.50 or so in service charges you pay when you buy on-line.

While we can only hope that the organizers trim the screenings for next year, many of these films are worth your time. We at the Metropolitain wanted you to make the most of the few days left of the program, so here are our picks (and flicks to avoid) for the weekend.



Michelle Williams stars as Wendy, a young woman driving with her dog Lucy to Alaska in search of work. The film spans about four days of Wendy's life, but in that time we get a hard look at youth, poverty and self-sufficiency. It's a slow-moving film, but the pace is necessary to best convey Wendy's situation. She is a rich character, and if you watch with patience you will be rewarded.



Filth and Wisdom
Madonna
5:00pm on Saturday October 18th at Cinema Impereal

This film is a charming glimpse into the unstable lives of three roommates in London. The film has a simple and somewhat weak plot (all three are chasing dreams and doing other questionable work in order to fulfill those dreams), but it wins you over because the characters are likeable and quirky. The highlight is actor Eugene Hutz, who plays A.K., a guy who works as an S'n'M master in order to fund his band's ambitions. While the film isn't particularly intellectual in spite of A.K.'s narrative musings on, appropriately filth and wisdom, it is a worthwhile cinematic escape.



The Tiger's Tail
John Boorman
7pm Saturday October 18th at Ex Centris Fellini

A refreshingly original mystery about a wealthy businessman whose perfect life is revealed as the mess it truly is when his Doppelgänger appears. Continual plot twists help the characters get deeper, enriching the film with more substance than your classic thriller/mystery.

Wendy and Lucy
Kelly Reichardt, EU
7:30 pm Saturday October 18th Cinema Du Parc

La Memoire des Anges
Luc Bourdon, Quebec
9:20pm Sunday October 19th, at Parallele Ex Centris

A largely black-and-white video montage of Montreal from the 50s and 60s culled from NFB stock footage. It is long and not always compelling, using few links between the images shown. This is

one to skip.

Detroit Metal City
Toshio Lee, Japan
7pm Sunday October 19th at Cinema du Parc

Detroit Metal City is a quirky story of a young man who wants to be loved for his "trendy" songs.

Problem is, everyone hates his songs. To thicken the plot, he's taken a job as the front man of a death metal band that everyone loves—but he himself hates. This film is quickly becoming a cult hit due to its flat, manga characters and fluid story telling. Look a little deeper and you'll see a meditation on capitalism, peer pressure and the power of conforming.

SKALA SKALA HOMEWARE PRODUCTS INC.
L'ART DE LA SALLE DE BAIN

5375 Paré ave., suite 140 Montréal, Québec H4P-1P7 T:514.735.5888 F:514.735.1378

le château



ladieswear . menswear . footwear . accessories