

La patrie

Les nonos cocasses

La Fête nationale est censée être la fête de tous les Québécois y compris ceux qui, par intérêt, aveuglement ou manque d'intelligence, votent libéral. p. 6

Global village

Procrustean history

The crisis in which the West now finds itself is largely one of its own making—rooted primarily in the false relation it has entered into with history. p. 12

L'économie

Rich province poor province

At the recent Council of the Federation meeting in Quebec City, the elephant in the room was the growing regional disparities in the national economy. p. 16

Society

Doctors without blinkers

The prime movers in a remarkable Montreal paediatric success story set their sites on healing our broader policy approaches to child welfare. p. 20

Arts & style

Tempests abounding

Repercussion Theatre's latest offering has a little too much in common with our weather this summer, but that doesn't stop it from being a great show. p. 23

Ensemble et libres Together and free

THE METROPOLITAIN

7 AUGUST 2008 • VOL. 1, NO 7

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

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ALAIN-MICHEL AYACHE

Israël et Hezbollah: échange de prisonniers

L'humanitaire versus « le terrorisme »!

Deux ans après, presque jour pour jour, le Hezbollah remet les corps des deux soldats israéliens qu'il avait kidnappés lors de son attaque par delà la ligne bleue, en territoire israélien. Une attaque qui avait été à l'origine de la « seconde guerre du Liban » de juillet 2006.

Aujourd'hui, les tractations entre le Hezbollah et Israël à travers la médiation allemande, a permis aux Israéliens de rapatrier enfin ces deux corps, en échange d'un grand gain pour le Hezbollah.

La « victoire » du Hezbollah

Pour la rue arabe en général et pour les Libanais en particulier, notamment les prosyriens, cet

échange représente la plus grande victoire jusqu'à là achevée par une « résistance musulmane ». Et pour cause. Lors des 33 jours de combats entre le Hezbollah et Tsahal, Jerusalem cherchait à maintenir son image de force de dissuasion pour l'ensemble de ses ennemis. Or, voilà qu'une milice chiite, forte de quelques milliers de combattants, réussit à résister au mythe de l'armée la plus forte de la région, voire l'une des meilleures au monde.

Bien que le prix ait été lourd du côté du Hezbollah, même si officiellement ses chefs nient la perte de plusieurs centaines des leurs parmi les 1200 Libanais tués durant ces affrontement de 2006, et malgré que

Suite à la page 14



JESSICA MURPHY

Mixed-message marginalization

The troubles with Turcot

The provincial government has agreed that it will pick up the tab for the new Turcot Interchange. But it's Montrealers who may end up paying the highest price.

Transport Quebec's plan for the project—though still in preliminary stages—has been criticized by local politicians, environmentalists and residents, all who say it falls short environmentally, ecologically and

socially as well.

Last year, the government announced the \$1.5 billion reconstruction and modernization project of the Turcot Interchange that will include work on the de la Verendrye, Angrignon and Montreal West exchanges, as well as Highway 20. It's expected to be completed by 2015.

The modernization plans

Continued on page 8

The Met does Broadway

Some of the hits and misses to watch for this season

Broadway bound this summer?

Consider: A late night walk along Broadway with the neon lights glowing along the streets from 42 Street to Times Square screaming at you, beckoning for you to turn onto them and take in one of the greatest celebrations of the human spirit – the Broadway play.

I get caught up in the magic of Broadway every time I immerse myself in my yearly marathon. Four plays in three days this time - it's a necessary tonic for this theatre addict.

This year, Broadway is serving up another cornucopia of musicals. I headed first for The St James Theatre to a revival of the first musical I ever saw. I sat, fourth row center, waiting for the overture of some of the best



SHARMAN YARNELL

Broadway Notebook

pieces of work ever created by Stephen Sondheim – 'Everything's Coming Up Roses', 'I Had a Dream' and 'Let Me Entertain You'. It's the music that introduced me to the land of Nirvana when I was a kid watching Angela Lansbury in the London production of 'Gypsy'!

A few minutes before the curtain, a voice came over the loudspeakers with the cursory message in all cinemas and theatres now, asking the audience to turn off all cell phones and to please open any candy

Continued on page 22

LES MILLE MOTS

THE THOUSAND WORDS

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CLEAR SKIES OVER BEIJING?



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The Thousand Words is made possible
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LA PATRIE

PRESS CONFERENCE AND DEMONSTRATION IN OTTAWA AUG. 7TH

Holding China accountable

Several weeks ago Nazanin Afshin-Jam, the international human rights campaigner, called me up with an idea. She said that though a boycott rally of the Beijing Olympics was fruitless, she thought it was important to make some kind of demonstration for human rights in China on the eve of the Games' opening.

When she became the first Canadian to ever reach first runner-up status in the Miss World competition, the event took place in Beijing. The timing and the place resonated with her. She had called on some of her fellow contestants from that year to see if they would come with her to Beijing to stage a protest. She called me to see what I thought.

I had worked closely with Nazanin on several of her campaigns through my Institute for Public Affairs of Montreal. Through her fight to free Nazanin Fatehi from Tehran's infamous Evin prison to her worldwide campaign against child executions. Nazanin was also a speaker and eloquent spokesperson at several of the Institute's conferences, most recently last August's on Darfur that you can see reported in at www.iapm.ca

My initial reaction was to applaud her courage, but cautioned against the risk of staging something like this in China. I told her I would make some calls and see what we could organize. My first outreach was to former Justice Minister Irwin Cotler and former Secretary of State for Asia/Pacific David Kilgour.

Kilgour, with Winnipeg attorney David Matas, had authored the seminal study of Chinese human rights abuses, persecution of the Falun Gong and the human tragedy of organ harvesting. Cotler had just

finished a 12-point program for holding China accountable to international human rights standards. Both thought the idea was great. But that it should not be held in Beijing.

After some initial study of the feasibility of a demonstration in Lausanne, where the International Olympic Committee sits, or Geneva, where the UN Human Rights Council is headquartered, it was determined that there would not be enough attention in either city where so many of the bureaucrats and press were either out-of-session or in Beijing.

Cotler then suggested having an event in Ottawa. Kilgour found out that several groups in the nation's capital were trying to stage a demonstration in front of the Chinese Embassy. He brought us in contact with one of the driving forces, the Canada-Tibet Committee.

What has taken shape is a two-stage demonstration. Today, August 7th, a day before the official opening of the Games, we are holding a press conference on Parliament Hill in the Charles Lynch Room in the Centre Bloc. After the conference we proceed to meet the main body of demonstrators at the Chinese Embassy on St. Patrick Street. We will gather across the street from the main door of the Embassy. Nazanin will be the spokesperson for the rally.

Much work has been put into this day by the Canada-Tibet Committee. My Institute committed to funding the transportation for the protest, and what was supposed to be one bus has now turned into two thanks to the CTC and its executive director Dermot Travis.

Cotler said that "what we are witnessing today in China is a persistent and pervasive assault on

human rights – a betrayal of the Olympic Charter and China's pledge to respect it – and, most important, a betrayal of the rights and hopes of its own citizens – and those of the international community."

Aside from Cotler, Kilgour, Nazanin and myself, other speakers will include MP Scott Reid, Sam Samdup from the Canada-Tibet Committee, Canadian Friends of Burma's Kevin McLeod, Lucy Zhou and Pamela McLennan speaking on behalf of persecuted Falun Gong, Reporters Sans Frontiers' Katherine Borlongan, and Franics Yel from the South Sudan-Canada Association.

It is important to bear memory and witness at this time. To stand up and say that it is not just about bread and circuses. For when people ask in the future "Where were you when?" you can answer that you stood with conscience and courage.

Sport does not take place in a vacuum. It is part of our everyday fabric. It is informed by events around us and is often used as a tool of propaganda. That is reality. The images we see on our screens and in our newspapers have very real overt and subliminal effects. Our reactions to those images, what we teach young people to value, have very real repercussions around the world.

If the Olympics are just games, then it belies what the Olympic movement itself says. It believes it is propagating universal values. But if those values are hijacked by tyrants, then what do we have left? The message that brute force is everything and can bend all to its will? That this alone constitutes "winning"? That there is nothing worth standing up for?

Sport is not a moral resort area where we can afford not to take a stand. ♦



Métropolitain Editor and Publisher Beryl Wajzman's Institute for Public Affairs of Montreal along with Nazanin Afshin-Jam, the international human rights campaigner will participate in a rally in Ottawa on Aug. 7.

Cotler said that "what we are witnessing today in China is a persistent and pervasive assault on human rights—a betrayal of the Olympic Charter and China's pledge to respect it—and, most important, a betrayal of the rights and hopes of its own citizens—and those of the international community."

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

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

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Jessica Murphy

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LES RESEAUX RENVOIT LA BALLE!

The 'killing' of Justin St-Aubin

Justin Scott St-Aubin was 25 when he died of a heart attack in the Rivieres des Prairies detention centre in Nov. 2007. The young Montrealer had been held in isolation for five days, never receiving the emergency psychiatric care recommended by two doctors.

and two physicians, hoping to pressure authorities into finally reforming a broken system.

On Nov. 23, St-Aubin was brought to Rosemont-Maisonnette Hospital by police following an altercation with his mother. A doctor in the emergency ward requested he receive an

resources within the criminal justice system, the inadequate medical care in the system, and the political inertia involved in implementing necessary changes.

After the report on the Bedard incident, an inter-ministerial committee was put in charge of

That's where the problem is."

Bernard Cote is the director of PECH, a Quebec City organization offering on-call services for police to help in interventions involving people with mental health disorders. PECH assisted police in 1,500 interventions last year. In 85 per cent of the cases,

office and the Surete du Quebec.

There have been small improvements. Dionne's report notes a genuine effort on the part of the public security ministry to improve the situation (they are currently not commenting on the case). Montreal set up a municipal mental health



St-Aubin's case highlights the ongoing failures of the public safety, health and justice systems in dealing with the mentally ill. These failures include a lack of training and resources within the criminal justice system, the inadequate medical care in the system, and the political inertia involved in implementing necessary changes.

St-Aubin's case echoes that of Brian Bedard, a Montrealer suffering from schizophrenia who died of a heart attack in the same institution under similar circumstances in 2000. His case launched a public inquiry and promises of reforms from the Parti-Quebecois government of the time. There have been at least seven other deaths of psychiatric patients in Quebec detention centres since.

In a coroner's report on the St-Aubin incident, Dr. Paul Dionne concluded that his death was a preventable accident. "If the recommendations in (the 2001 Bedard) report had been put in place," wrote Dionne, "Mr. St-Aubin would probably not have died."

St-Aubin's family has since launched a \$445,000 lawsuit against Quebec's attorney general, the Philippe Pinel Psychiatric Institute,

emergency psychiatric evaluation. Instead, he was held for five days in isolation at the RDP detention centre. He was physically restrained and given anti-anxiety and anti-psychotic drugs prescribed over the phone by the jail's doctors without ever seeing him. On the 27th, St-Aubin was seen by a doctor from Pinel who recommended an emergency transfer to the Institute.

It was never done.

He died the next day during a period of severe agitation and struggling with eight guards. He was in the midst of an 'excited delirium'—a psychiatric condition seen in schizophrenic and bipolar patients that can lead to cardiac arrest.

His case highlights the ongoing failures of the public safety, health and justice systems in dealing with the mentally ill. These failures include a lack of training and

implementing the recommendations put forth by the coroner. "Les ministres se disent convaincus que la mise en place des recommandations contenues dans ce rapport contribuera à améliorer de façon significative la situation des contrevenants présentant des troubles de santé mentale au Québec," said the 2001 government press release.

No recommendations were implemented.

"It's always the same thing," said Dionne in a phone interview. "The people change, the government changes, there's no clear leadership. Do I sound pessimistic? I've been doing this job for 21 years. I realize things never really change unless there's public pressure. If you read between the lines of my report, I think the big crunch is where I recommend the three ministers show some leadership.

the person was not jailed.

"Sadly, there's too many stories that end badly," he said. "Too many people with mental health problems end up in jail. It's a failure of the front-line mental health services."

Jail is a dumping ground for the mentally ill because "les réseaux renvoie la balle," Cote said. "It's like ping-pong, people give away responsibility."

Once in jail, they often spend five to eight days in detention before receiving even an initial psychiatric exam. Further, "the increased stress (of jail) worsens the situation. It's a horror," he said. "We create the crisis, or increase it, worsen it."

Quebec City is dealing with its own incident, a 2007 case involving a bipolar man who died of self-inflicted wounds while in police custody. It's under investigation by the coroner's

court this spring. A committee made up of provincial and municipal bodies is looking at short-term changes to improve the system.

However, the system still lacks psychiatrists and space (the caseload at Pinel increased from 600 to 1000 in five years) and training remains inadequate for police and correctional officers. "They don't have the training, they don't have the support, they don't have all the necessary organization," said Dionne.

Dionne also noted that the Ministry of Health and Social Services did not seem willing to implement the changes recommended in its own mental health plan. "It's a complex subject, (but) essentially, we take too long to do things and we use excessive criminal interventions," said Cote.

"People go into the system alive. They come out dead." ♦

Vincent Geloso

Vincent Geloso est l'auteur du blogue www.vincent-geloso.blogspot.com
« Le 8ème blog le plus influent au Québec. Fait sur mesure pour le brassage d'idées » - *Le Journal de Montréal*



LA CONTRIBUTION DES ANGLOPHONES

Occulter des absurdités

L'été est normalement une saison politique assez calme. Les députés sont rentrés chez eux, les ministres n'annoncent pas de grand projets et le premier ministre fait quelques petites visites ici et là, mais rien de plus. C'est une saison du silence qu'on peut apprécier. Néanmoins, ce vide permet à des absurdités d'attirer l'attention des médias qui ne désirent que remplir leurs pages de journaux ou leurs temps d'antenne. Un exemple de ces absurdités est le cas de Paul McCartney.

Les ténors nationalistes avec Pierre Curzi, le député péquiste de Borduas, ont clamé que la présence de McCartney contribue à dénaturer l'histoire du Québec pendant qu'on fête le 400^{ème} anniversaire de la ville de Québec. Tout cela parce que c'est un anglophone. Normalement, le déchirement de chemises n'aurait fait qu'un article dans une page perdue des journaux. Mais puisque c'est l'été, ce fut le grand sujet. L'absurdité de ces affirmations, qui auraient normalement été mise aux oubliettes, doit être démontrée et je me porte volontaire pour le faire.

Si on fête cette année la fondation de la ville de Québec, on fête aussi la présence française en Amérique du Nord ainsi que l'histoire du Québec. C'est quelque chose qu'on peut célébrer avec fierté. Néanmoins, il y a un univers entre cela et qualifier la présence d'un anglophone aux festivités comme un geste de « colonisé qui rend sa pitance à la métropole ». Oui, plusieurs anglophones méprisaient ouvertement les francophones et certains ont tout fait pour retarder

l'émancipation de ceux-ci. Mais avant de cracher sur les anglophones, il serait plus juste de regarder l'histoire que les nationalistes aiment tant idolâtrer pour questionner quelle part du blâme il faut allouer. La promotion d'une vision idyllique de la terre ainsi qu'une mentalité centrée autour de l'agriculture n'est probablement pas l'une des actions les plus brillantes des nationalistes. Les francophones qui vivaient en région et qui vivaient de l'agriculture étaient systématiquement à la traîne des anglophones qui constituaient des vastes entreprises. On exhortait les francophones à ne pas aller vers les villes, ce que bon nombre firent. Il fallait rester dans les campagnes puisque les villes étaient un lieu de perdition pour l'âme humaine. Aujourd'hui, on renie les emplois dans les manufactures – ce qu'on trouvait dans les villes – mais la science économique nous enseigne que c'est le premier échelon de la croissance et de la prospérité.

Non seulement faut-il arrêter de tout blâmer sur les anglais pour notre condition jusqu'au début des années 1960, mais il faut considérer l'idée que les anglais ont mis en place bon nombre des infrastructures économiques nécessaires à l'investissement au Québec.

Maurice Duplessis avait invité massivement les investisseurs Américains et anglophones à venir investir leur capital au Québec. Même si on ne peut pas fermer les yeux sur sa néfaste politique à l'égard des agriculteurs (sans oublier la corruption), c'est tout de même son ouverture au capital étranger



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(lire : anglophone) qui a permis le développement d'une multitude d'infrastructures économiques. Et que dire des Irlandais et des Écossais qui sont venus massivement au Québec au 19^{ème} siècle et qui se sont assez bien intégrés. Je ne cherche pas à dire que tout fut parfait et joli, je cherche à montrer qu'on néglige la contribution économique des anglophones.

Dénigrez les anglophones tant que vous voulez, mais vous ne réalisez pas qu'ils ont malgré tout contribué à l'histoire du Québec d'une manière positive. On fête le 400^{ème} anniversaire de la première grande ville francophone ainsi que la capitale du Québec et vous trouvez qu'on occulter notre histoire? Vous ne comprenez juste pas l'histoire du Québec ou bien vous faites chercher de quoi vous chamailler. ♣

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LE NATIONALISME BÉBÊTE DE LOCO LOCASS

Les nonos cocasses

Loco Locass a causé un certain émoi au dernier spectacle de la Saint-Jean en interprétant, devant un public en délire, *Libérez-nous des libéraux*, la toune qui constitue à ce jour son plus grand succès. Les patriotes avinés qui assistèrent à cette performance hurlèrent de joie, mais d'autres ressentirent un certain malaise.

La Fête nationale est censée être la fête de tous les Québécois (faites-moi rire !), y compris ceux qui, par intérêt, aveuglement ou manque d'intelligence, votent libéral. Un citoyen scandalisé s'est même fendu d'une lettre à La Presse intitulée *Délivrez-nous de Loco Locass*.

Je crois que ces réactions sont exagérées. Bien sûr, quiconque ne fait pas partie de la coterie nationaleuse a toute raison de se sentir insulté quand nos nonos cocasses hurlent dans les micros ces vers sublimes : « Prêt pas prêt, la charrue Charest, charcute en charpie la charpente / De la maison qu'on a mis 40 ans à bâtir [...] Patapouf étouffe la foule et légifère à tombeau ouvert [...] « À hauteur de gnome » (hauteur de braguette) / Sucrer debout, c'est ça se tenir drette... [...] On est loin de « Maître chez Nous » / Maintenant comme jamais, y'a un traître chez nous ». Ouais ! On est loin de Gaston Miron ou de Roland Giguère...

Tout le monde a compris que le traître, c'est Jean Charest. L'accusation est odieuse et dégage un parfum

franchement facho, mais croyez-vous que nos trois cocasses aient jamais convaincu qui que ce soit de ne pas voter libéral ? Pensez-vous que nos trois nonos aient persuadé ne fut-ce que la moitié d'un citoyen qu'il faut faire l'indépendance ? Allons donc ! Ces cocos-là sont du même acabit que Pierre Falardeau : il n'existe pas de meilleur repoussoir. Si Falardeau

contre la séparation.

Un conseil : écoutez attentivement les autres tounes de l'ineffable trio, vous constaterez aussitôt que les trois nonos cultivent la sottise sur bien d'autres terrains que celui la politique partisane. Voici quelques échantillons :

Dans *Résistance* : « C'est l'Intifada d'la faconde qui fronde au Canada

passes et te répands comme une épidémie / T'as pas d'bon sens, le con / Tu penses comme une contagion / Tu mets des légions dans toutes les régions / Ça fait des lésions, des sécrétions d'matière première pour TA réplétion, des États en état de sujétion et d'indigence / Ou d'autres dans le sillon de Sion qui, malgré leur apparence d'indé-

trois cocasses voudraient apparemment voir disparaître.

Dans *La censure pour l'échafaud* : « Tandis qu'on dit à Normand Lester de s'taire / On se sert des délétères thèses d'Esther Delisle / Pis des délires de Mordecai Richler / Pour nous garder des dérives totalitaires / Nous n'osons même plus nous nommer nous-mêmes / Nous nous nions ».

L'art de parler d'Esther Delisle à travers son chapeau. Les trois nonos ne savent pas de quoi ils parlent. Ils n'ont jamais lu la moindre ligne de celle qu'ils vilipendent. Toujours dans *La censure pour l'échafaud*, l'ineptie suivante, qui suffit pour faire la preuve que nos trois rappeurs sont des incultes finis : « Pendant que l'Axe inondait le monde de bombes H / Sache / Que le père de mon père, etc. »

L'Axe, comme chacun sait, ce fut d'abord une alliance formée par l'Allemagne et l'Italie en 1936. Les puissances de l'Axe, c'est l'ensemble formé par l'Allemagne, l'Italie et leurs alliés (principalement le Japon) pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Les trois cocasses auraient dû se renseigner. La première bombe H à être testée était américaine. Elle a explosé sur l'atoll d'Eniwetok, dans les îles Marshall, le 1er novembre 1952. La guerre était alors finie depuis sept ans.

Si Loco Locass n'existait pas, la vie serait moins drôle. ♣

Les trois cocasses auraient dû se renseigner. La première bombe H à être testée était américaine. Elle a explosé sur l'atoll d'Eniwetok, dans les îles Marshall, le 1er novembre 1952. La guerre était alors finie depuis sept ans. Si Loco Locass n'existait pas, la vie serait moins drôle.

n'existait pas, il faudrait l'inventer, même chose pour nos trois cocasses, qu'il faut protéger contre toute forme de censure. Lançons une souscription ! Tant que Loco Locass existera, le Québec demeurera au sein du Canada. Loco Locass est une assurance

/Arrogant régent s'ingérant dans nos affaires / Vaguement totalitaire ». J'attire votre attention sur le mot « *vaguement* » Ils sont nuancés, les trois cocos.

Dans *Antiaméricanisme primaire* : « Et pis d'amis t'as pas parce que tu

pendance, te doivent leur existence contre nature qui nourrit les frictions ».

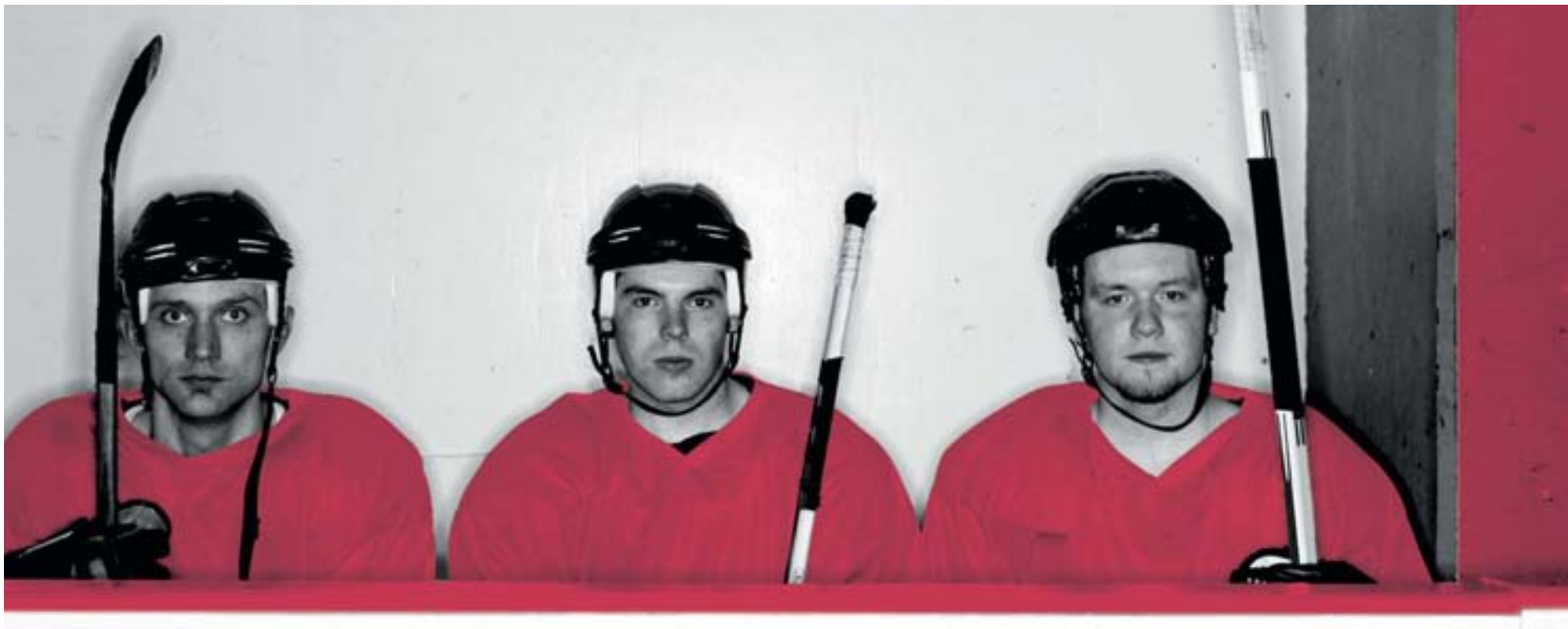
Les États-Unis répandent partout leurs légions, mais ils ont oublié d'envahir leur voisin immédiat... À propos d'Israël, le message est clair, c'est un État contre nature... que les

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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.

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Jessica Murphy

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ST. HENRI QUALITY OF LIFE STILL BEING SACRIFICED TO SUBURBAN TRAFFIC CONVENIENCE - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

originated in 2003, when an SNC Lavalin report for the government showed the structure was cracking.

So far, the loudest critics of the plan are those who stand to bear the brunt of the new construction. Residents of the Villages des Tanneries, a tiny district in St. Henri, face expropriation, years of construction, and a highway moving into their backyard.

"The more we looked into it, the more concerned we were," said Jody Negley. She's a member of Mobilisation Turcot, a group of local organizations and residents fighting the current plan. The group cites health, expropriation, loss of quality of life, and a poor consultation process as their concerns.

"What we're trying to do is put into question what we're being told:

that this is urgent and there are no alternatives," said Negley. "Why not at this time come up with something a little more visionary? We don't need to accept things the way they are."

Mobilisation Turcot isn't alone in their critique of the project.

Councilors in the Sud-Ouest borough have also come out against the current plan. Opposition councilors Line Hamel, Ronald Bossy, and Jean-Yves Cartier stated in a summer press release that they felt the project didn't take into account the quality of life of the residents.

Pierre Frechette, also a Sud-Ouest councilor but with Gerald Tremblay's MICU party—which supports of the project—has been even more outspoken.

He said he's fighting for "the best

project possible for those people."

"I don't like the word consultation because they were telling us what they were going to do," said Frechette. "When you're talking to the ministry, it's like you're talking to the wall. We're not the one expropriating people. They're the ones."

Among the most controversial aspects of Transport Quebec's plan is the expropriation of 160 residences.

"They're decapitating the Villages des Tanneries," said resident Marc-Olivier Rainville. "They're cutting off its head."

The razing of the buildings will indeed have a serious impact on the four-block wide neighbourhood on St. Henri's western edge.

The loss of low-cost apartments raises concerns for the re-housing of current tenants. The ministry is



"When you're talking to the ministry, it's like you're talking to the wall. We're not the ones expropriating people. They're the ones."

offering the minimum compensation allowed by law: three months rent and moving costs. However, rents in the Sud-Ouest have increased 30 per cent since 2001—five per cent more than the Montreal average. Vacancy rates are also below average and skewed towards more expensive apartments. The area is among the poorest sections of St. Henri, with household incomes \$20,000 below the Montreal average.

"It's the minimum by law," said Manuel Johnson, community organizer with POPIR, a neighbourhood housing committee. "If they're going to demolish those units, we're asking for everyone who will be relocated to be re-housed and every rental unit we lose should be replaced."

The second concern for residents is the potential health impacts of the new highway. A portion of the Ville-Marie will be rebuilt lower (from 20 to 30 metres high to between six and eight) and a few meters south, bringing an estimated 280,000 vehicles daily closer to residents. Transport Quebec has also confirmed a three per cent increase in air pollution.

Studies by the Montreal public health department show that living within 200 metres of a highway can

have a significant impact on health, especially for youth and the elderly. The government's current plan will move the highway to within 200 metres of homes, a school, and residences for the elderly. But Transport Quebec defends its project, saying it will liberate a large portion of the Turcot Yards for development, be cheaper to maintain, and better integrate local infrastructure. They also say that the health and security of residents in the area are paramount.

Many questions remain un-answered, however. An environmental impact study will only be released in the fall, there are rumours that Montreal may have to pay for certain peripheral costs, and the government still isn't decided whether Turcot will be rebuilt with a public-private partnership or with conventional public financing. There's also another round of public hearings by the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement scheduled before any plans are made official. What the public really wants is to be heard.

"The Turcot Interchange has to be redone, there's no doubt" said Frechette. "But we're in 2008 and I think the government needs to think of more than just replacing it." ♦

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UNE ÉNIGME IDENTITAIRE RÉSOUE

Je suis Canadien-Québécois !

Je n'ai jamais éprouvé de malaise identitaire. Mais je jongle depuis longtemps avec la nature complexe de mon identité. Mes ancêtres viennent de France. Une fois parvenus ici, ils ont voulu former une société distincte : ils étaient fiers de s'appeler les Canadiens. Je suis toujours canadien. Après l'arrivée des Anglais, deuxième peuple colonisateur et fondateur de ce pays, et comptant pour la troisième nation, les miens se sont au fil du temps définis ou ont été définis comme Canadiens-Français.

C'est à partir d'ici qu'il y a de quoi jongler. Mis à part son étymologie autochtone, le terme Canadien n'est-il pas déjà en français ? N'y a-t-il pas là répétition inutile ? Canadiens-Français par rapport aux Canadiens-Anglais ? Qui a jamais entendu parler des *English-Canadians* ? Qui a jamais parlé à des *English-Canadians*, lesquels ne se sont peut-être jamais nommés comme tels ?

En tout cas, de notre côté, est apparu le nom de Québécois. Peut-être une traduction de Quebecers... Mettons, plus sérieusement, par besoin de clarté référentielle : il y a les Canadiens du Québec, les Québécois, et il y a *the Canadians from Quebec*, the Quebecers. Une sorte de *quiet evolution*... Bien sûr, en tant qu'habitant d'origine canadienne, je peux aussi me dire uniquement Québécois, étant bien entendu que le Québec est à l'intérieur du Canada, tout comme le Canada est à l'intérieur du Québec. Tout comme je peux encore me dire tout simplement Canadien. Mais je préfère Canadien-Québécois. Une sorte d'appellation contrôlée, une marque distinctive. Bref, un Canadien de couleur nationale québécoise...

J'aime cette double identité qui, à proprement parler, est unique, comme j'aime dialoguer avec mes concitoyens canadiens du Québec et ceux de partout à travers le Canada.

Je peux alors m'exprimer dans ma langue canadienne-québécoise et écouter mes compatriotes s'exprimer dans l'autre version de notre langue canadienne. C'est dire que je ne parle jamais en *canadian* avec un *Canadian* du Québec ou d'ailleurs au pays. En somme, j'aime notre langue canadienne bilingue. De fait, jamais je n'accepte aussi de converser avec un *Canadian* qui s'exprime en canadien ou en français de France... Suis-je une sorte de puriste ou de puritain ? Peut-être bien. Mais je continue de croire quand même en mon bilinguisme que certains pourraient caractériser d'à sens unique et que je perçois comme un bilinguisme de sens, unique, un bilinguisme complémentaire. Un bilinguisme d'avenir pour mon pays.

Malgré cette certitude, je l'avoue, j'ai des craintes. Quand j'entends un concitoyen *Canadian* me parler en canadien, j'ai l'impression de perdre de vue la source originale de notre double identité nationale. Cela me

fait un peu *Harpeur*... Si je peux me permettre, cette fois, de m'exprimer en *full* canadien...

Vous voyez bien, depuis les premières lignes de ce texte, que je tiens à me situer au niveau des réalités identitaires anglo... je veux dire englobantes. Comme le fait que nous, Canadiens-Canadiens, nous sommes tous des Américains du Nord. Ce qui nous distingue, et en même temps, nous apparente aux autres Nord-Américains qui ont choisi de s'appeler *Americans*. Nous, Américains et *Americans* du Nord, nous n'oublions pas que nous avons du sang de la première nation ou des premières nations, comme ils le préfèrent, qui coule dans nos veines. Ce qui fait de nous des blancs Amérindiens d'Amérique. Comme l'un d'entre nous a pu l'écrire, dans un sens apparemmment plus restrictif, que nous étions des Nègres blancs d'Amérique. Alors qu'aujourd'hui, dans un sens plus large, et pour tout dire, inclusif, nous pourrions nous

affirmer aussi comme des Blancs-nègres d'Amérique...

Ou, tout simplement, en tant que Canadiens-Québécois, comme des AmériQuébécois, pour prendre un terme métissé serré...

Soit dit en passant, je suis également d'origine acadienne de Gaspésie. Ce qui fait demoï un ACAnaDIEN-Gaspésien...

Enfin, qu'il soit bien compris que, bien que né à Montréal, je ne fais pas partie des Canadiens de Montréal, lesquels n'ont jamais existé et existent de moins en moins... Vous aurez compris, chers compatriotes hockeyphiles, qu'il s'agit plutôt des *Montreal Canadians* de la *National Hockey League*, eux qui fêteront leur centième anniversaire dans l'année qui vient. Quant à moi, je dirais plutôt qu'il s'agit de leur Xe anniversaire, si on tient compte de la retraite de Maurice Richard en 1960, ou de leur Xe anniversaire si on prend note du départ de Guy Lafleur en 1980, notre dernier *Flying Frenchmen* à jouer tête nue. La disparition de *Flower* marquant la fin de ce club légendaire qui survit artificiellement...

Mais peu importe la vision historique de chacun. Nul doute que notre melleux Stephen, *Captain CanadUSA*, ne manquera pas de s'associer à un tel coup de marketing privé-public. Et j'aurais une petite suggestion à lui faire pour une si grande occasion : faire de nouveau généreusement appel à notre générosité, via notre Ministère de la Dépense nationale et à ses opérations *d'invasion fiscale*, pour faire construire un amphithéâtre de glace à Kandahar. Ce qui permettrait à nos jeunes gladiateurs d'affronter à armes égales les Talibans dans une nouvelle Série du Siècle, celle du Nouveau Millénaire. Au moment où les Russes sont en voie d'organiser une Ligue qui fera bientôt concurrence au monopole de la NHL, les Talibans seraient sûrement intéressés, *training* intensif aidant, à battre de nouveau les Russes et les forces de la présumée Coalition sur leur propre terrain glissant... Belle célébration en vue, et autant de vies sauvées du pays des sables bitumineux à celui des sables bituminés. Une confrontation historique au chant de l'hymne international de :

Guantanamo-o, O He's a Guantanamo-o, Guantanamo-o, O He's a Guantanamo-ooooo... ♣



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David T. Jones

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.



MISPLACED LOYALTIES

Omar Khadr and the straining of Canadian virtue

So Omar Khadr cried. And he wanted his mommy according to much publicized, recently released interrogation transcripts.

And mommy is interviewed by the fawning media, featuring a soulful photograph lamenting that she cannot help her poor child. Adding to the carnival is the good Senator Romeo Dallaire, the hero of Rwanda, who harrumphs that Mr. Khadr has been "traumatized," and that it is "outright unfair and unacceptable."

Poor little boy; my heart strings are tugged; my cup of mercy overfloweth.

Well, to be honest, not really.

Do you know for whom I cry? The widow of Sgt. 1st Class Christopher J. Speer and her two fatherless children: Mrs. Tabitha Speer and her now 9 year old daughter and 6 year old son. On August 6, it will be six years since their husband and father was killed in Afghanistan. These are three Americans who go unmentioned in the sob stories agonizing over the "tortures" suffered by Mr. Khadr. These are three individuals whose lives are immeasurably more harmed and damaged than that of Mr Khadr.

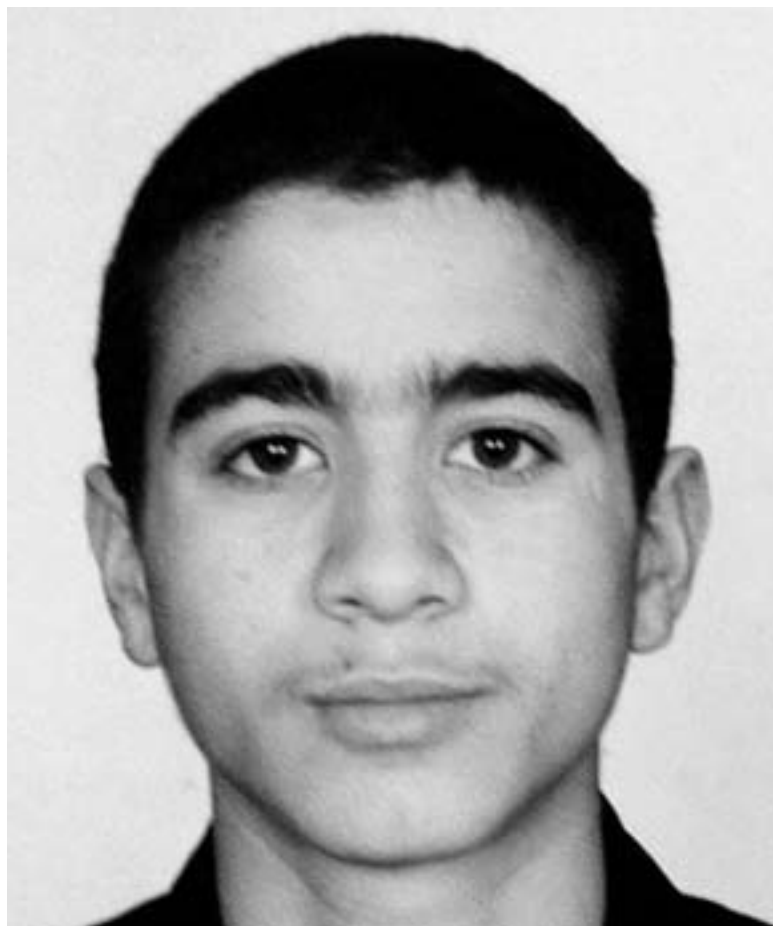
Or what about the even less mentioned soldier, Sgt. Layne

Morris, who lost an eye to the same grenade that killed Sgt. Speer. He lost his military career due to the injury—and with only one eye can do less crying than Mr Khadr.

In truth, Mr. Khadr was the luckiest teenager in the world. How many enemy combatants fatally wound a military unit's medic and live to tell the tale? How many are then accorded first world medical assistance and emergency trauma treatment at the same level as U.S. soldiers? Historically, such individuals are shot out of hand, and it is only the consequence of unprecedented humanitarian action that Mr Khadr survived to whine for his mommy.

In comparison, reflect for a moment on the number of U.S. military or contractor personnel who have survived being captured by Iraqi al-Qaeda. Answer? None. Their dead bodies, often found tortured and mutilated, are all that remain.

But to return to Mr. Khadr, his proponents contend that he was a "child soldier" because he was 15 when captured in Afghanistan. Leaving aside the fact that he was not a "soldier" since he was not in any uniform or regular military formation, he was certainly doing his level best to kill those who called upon him and his companions to surrender. He was



Omar Khadr. Recently released evidence indicates that Mr. Khadr may not, in fact have been guilty of the deaths of any American soldiers, but the intentions and legal structures now governing these types of trials in the United States make it difficult to ascertain credibility on either side of the accusations.

no more a soldier than your local Toronto gangbanger gunning down rivals over drug turf is a soldier. Do Canadians doubt that he stopped trying to kill U.S. soldiers only when he was incapacitated? Do Canadians somehow conclude that they can wander the world trying to kill Americans and get a free pass to do so as long as they are under age 18?

Now we have Mr Khadr's defense lawyers attempting to argue that "friendly fire" killed Sgt. Speer. I suppose it is the norm and the form that a defense lawyer will grasp at any straw; next I expect to hear the claim that Sgt. Speer actually committed suicide and that Mr Khadr was being held against his will by his rude companions after attempting to return to continue Koranic studies in Toronto.

I suppose that is par for a society that constantly needs to feel virtuous.

But if Canadians would like to search out a bit of perspective to their normal media reading, they might access the "Honor the Fallen" site for Sgt. Speer at:

<http://www.fallenheroesmemorial.com/oe/profiles/speerchristopherj.html>

Scroll down the page a bit and you will find the tribute by his wife Tabitha. Ask yourself again, who really deserves your sympathy. ♠

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GLOBAL VILLAGE



David Solway

David Solway is arguably Canada's leading poet. His recent works have included "Franklin's Passage" and "The Big Lie". He is the 2007 laureate in poetry of the Quebec Writers Federation having received the A.M. Klein Prize.

IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY, PROCRUSTES WAS A HIGHWAY ROBBER WHO TIED TRAVELLERS TO HIS BED AND MADE THEM FIT; IF THEIR LEGS WERE TOO SHORT, HE STRETCHED THEM; IF THEY WERE TOO LONG, HE CUT THEM OFF.

Procrustean History

The crisis in which the West now finds itself is largely one of its own making and is rooted primarily in the false relation it has entered into with history. Its response to the tangled exigencies of the contemporary world is grounded in a willful and Procrustean tendency to reconfigure the past in such a way as to decomplexify or distort the issues which confront and surround us. In effect, we lay the past upon the iron bed of our received assumptions and preconceptions and then proceed to adjust it to the bed's dimensions. The past is consequently made to conform to the mold of the West's majority prejudices while at the same time appearing to offer an explanation for the complexities of the present—which for this reason remain unamenable to our best efforts at understanding and amelioration. The process by which we manipulate the historical annals is twofold, involving on the one hand a selective bracketing of episodes and periods in the life of a nation and on the other a deliberate rewriting of the dynamics at work in the life of a people, that is, history is either politically truncated or mythologically stretched beyond the lineaments of the actual—the Procrustean options of the simplifying sensibility. And this double process has proven highly effective in creating a climate of obscurity and misapprehension from which, barring a crucial change of mind and heart, it seems unlikely

we will emerge.

There is no doubt that the United States is reaping the harvest of its sullied past. Many Americans who came of age in the revolutionary 60s still see their country *sub species Vietnami*, refusing to allow that its foreign policy and its projection of power may have changed in the intervening span of time. Other countries persist in exacting revenge for America's past sins. Greece, for instance, still cannot forgive the United States for its misguided support of the military Junta between 1968 and 1974 and the Iranian Ayatollahs continue to link the Great Satan with the long-deposed Shah. The list of grievances cherished by the Muslim nations, whether justified or not, is so extensive only the past is large enough to contain it and the future to nurture it. Europe as a whole has conveniently forgotten that it owes its liberation and economic recovery to the very country it condemns for the continental deprivations of Manifest Destiny. Under the ideological leadership of pre-Sarko France—and with some backing from current pseudo-scholarship—the United States it chooses to remember is that of a renegade British colony that ruthlessly suppressed the indigenous populations in the territory it aggressively claimed as its own. That such means of colonization are common to the entire "civilized" world, including America's most persistent critics, is of course never

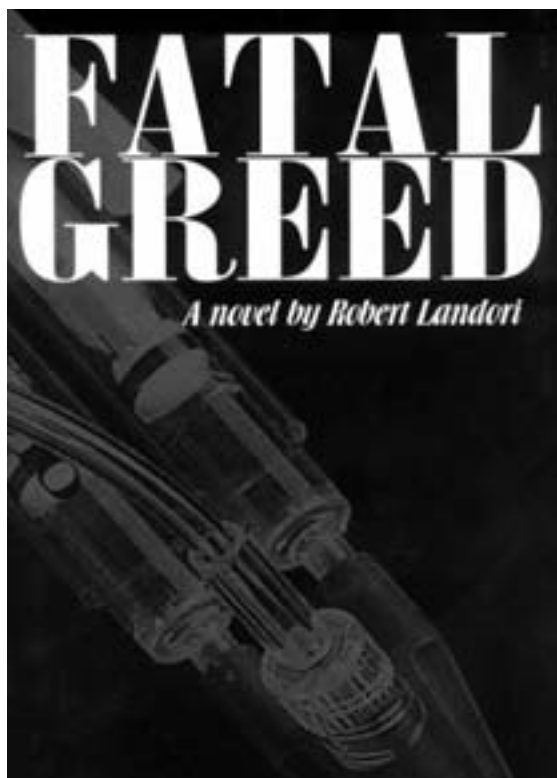
taken into consideration.

Times change as do official government policies, yet America gets no credit for ending the despotic regime of a mass murderer like Saddam Hussein, attacking the Taliban in Afghanistan and scrubbing out the al-Qaeda bases and training camps which threatened an entire world, or

for coming to the defence of Muslim populations in Kuwait, Bosnia and Kosovo. That the United States is the largest contributor to the budget of the United Nations and shouldered the lion's share of the relief efforts in tsunami-stricken Thailand does not absolve it from universal disdain. In restricting America to one or another

given period in its evolution as a nation and so assigning it a fixed narrative identity, the so-called "enlightened" free world cannot accept that America has opened a new era in global strategy, making its interests approximately identical with its values, and that it now represents the free world's only hope of survival

As Albert Camus insisted with respect to France and its brutal and shortsighted campaign in Algeria: "Problems must be seen in relation to the future, without endlessly going back over the errors of the past."



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in a war to the finish with a theocratic antagonist that will use any and every means at its disposal to ensure victory, including the deployment of chemical and radiological weapons and the deliberate targeting of blameless civilians.

The fact is that America is needed and relied upon by nation after nation, yet it is ubiquitously condemned for whatever sins it may have committed in the past. As Albert Camus insisted with respect to France and its brutal and shortsighted campaign in Algeria,

“Problems must be seen in relation to the future, without endlessly going back over the errors of the past.” What he calls a “policy of expiation” is, in his view, utterly pointless. But this is a world so mortgaged to its singular and preferential view of the past that it cannot envisage the future which is rapidly foreclosing—and for which America is held responsible. As Mark Twain quipped, “To my mind, this is irregular. It is un-English. It is un-American. It is French.” Only, in today’s political milieu, it is also quite English and,

for that matter, quite American Left. And very, very mainstream Canada.

That which has no existence on the historical plane has come to assume a central place in the collective imagination of mankind as a veridical record of hypothetical events, substituting what we may call a homiletic allegory of evil for a factual account of what actually occurred. So ingrained has this mutilation of reality become that even what actually *did* occur is often dismissed as a partisan illusion: for example, the Holocaust

never happened.

This is where we find ourselves today, plying between two ideologically forged conceptions of the historical archive, two systematic forms of mnemonic self-deception. There is the *limited past* which one is not permitted to escape or transcend even though the present may have little in common with it. And there is the *fabricated past* to which America in particular, and the West in general, has been consigned, leading to the uniform misrepresentation of the present. It is these two strictly

contrived versions of the past, one operating as a specific constraint and the other as a widespread counterfeit, which have deformed the present and compromised the future, to the cost of all of us. This is how either *selective* memory or *artificial* memory deprives us of the ability to make authentic sense of the contemporary world. The exemplary abridgement and the precedent fiction always serve as the condition of the current subterfuge. Whether as cause or effect, bad history walks hand in hand with bad faith. ♣

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ECHANGE DE PRISONNIERS - SUITE DE LA PAGE 1

le Hezbollah n'ait pas réussi durant ces affrontements à interdire l'accès de Tsahal au territoire libanais comme il l'avait à maintes reprises annoncé à ses fidèles, il n'en demeure pas moins qu'Israël a échoué d'atteindre ses objectifs dont le premier, celui de libérer les deux soldats kidnappés. Quant aux armements du Hezbollah, il s'est reconstitué d'une manière encore plus rapide et plus efficace, et ce, même avec la présence de la FINUL censée l'interdire!

Nasrallah, « le héros de l'Islam »

En soi, le fait d'avoir réussi à bloquer les plans d'Israël, mais également à détruire un nombre considérable de ses chars d'assaut qui faisaient la terreur des pays arabes, était une grande victoire pour le Hezbollah au niveau de la rue arabe. De plus, l'image de marque de l'armée indestructible d'Israël avait fini par succomber à la détermination suicidaire des combattants du « Parti de Dieu ».

Cela avait largement contribué à la popularité du Hezbollah et de son Secrétaire général Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. On a vu en lui, le « sauveur » et le « véritable héros » que les leaders arabes n'avaient pas réussi depuis 60 ans à se donner ! Par ailleurs, fort d'une confiance en ses capacités et ses hommes, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah cherchait à prouver au monde entier et au monde arabe et musulman en particulier, qu'il était un homme de parole. Il leur avait promis la libération des « otages » libanais en Israël, ces prisonniers de guerre qu'Israël avait capturés durant les actions terroristes contre son territoire ou lors de la « Seconde guerre du Liban ». Aujourd'hui, il vient de prouver qu'il respectait sa parole et qu'il agissait en conséquence, ce qui lui vaut du coup une image encore plus solide d'« l'homme intègre » et de « l'héros de l'Islam »...

« Chose promise, chose due ! »

Le fait d'avoir réussi à obliger en quelque sorte Israël à libérer l'ensemble des détenus libanais et de rendre les corps de plusieurs dizaines de combattants arabes et libanais

tués durant les nombreux affrontements que vit cette région du monde, est considéré comme un autre coup de massue contre Olmert ! Car, Nasrallah avait à maintes reprises déclaré que sa milice resterait armée jusqu'à ce que le dernier otage libanais soit libéré des prisons israéliennes, mais également que les Fermes de Chebaa le soient de même.

En d'autres termes, cela voudrait dire que les armes du Hezbollah demeureront présentes tant et aussi longtemps que ces fermes n'auront pas été remises au Liban, alors qu'officiellement, selon les Nations Unies, la résolution du Conseil de Sécurité 425 qui concernait le retrait de l'occupation du territoire libanais par Tsahal avait été accompli en mai 2000 lors du retrait officiel du dernier soldat israélien. Ce que le Hezbollah refuse de reconnaître tant que ces fermes sont encore occupées, alors qu'en réalité elles l'ont été par Israël durant la guerre de 67 après avoir chassé l'armée syrienne qui s'y trouvait!

Le geste d'Israël et ses répercussions

Pour de nombreux observateurs, Israël ne pouvait plus ignorer son opinion publique et notamment les appels des familles de ces deux soldats. Pour un pays démocratique comme Israël, le gouvernement n'avait plus le choix que d'accepter les demandes des familles et de s'incliner en quelque sorte devant l'humanitaire, en mettant de côté le militaire.

Or, ce geste, s'il est considéré par la majorité de la population comme étant noble et une continuité dans la tradition juive israélienne de ne point laisser derrière, des corps des siens ou des prisonniers de guerre, il n'en demeure pas moins que cela est interprété comme un précédent dangereux par plusieurs. En effet, le fait qu'Israël s'incline devant les demandes du Hezbollah constitue une première car un message erroné serait envoyé du coup à l'ensemble des ennemis de l'État hébreu pour les encourager à entreprendre des actions similaires sachant qu'Israël finira par privilégier l'humanitaire sur le militaire! Cela pourrait affecter



Un avant-poste Israélien après la deuxième campagne contre Hezbollah sur la frontière nord d'Israël.

Or, ce geste, s'il est considéré par la majorité de la population comme étant noble et une continuité dans la tradition juive israélienne de ne point laisser derrière, des corps des siens ou des prisonniers de guerre, il n'en demeure pas moins que cela est interprété comme un précédent dangereux par plusieurs.

la libération du soldat Guilad Shalit actuellement détenu par le Hamas depuis également 2006, juste avant la Seconde guerre du Liban. L'échange ne pourrait être qu'encourageant pour le Hamas et l'inciter à monter les enchères encore plus, dans l'espoir d'augmenter ses gains à l'instar du Hezbollah...

Ainsi, la libération a sans aucun doute apporté un prestige sans précédent au Hezbollah, ce qui consolide encore plus son pouvoir au

Liban, notamment après son succès militaro-politique face au gouvernement pro-occidental...

La question principale sera alors celle de savoir si l'Occident et Israël se voient désormais forcés d'adopter une Realpolitik vis-à-vis du Hezbollah, de la Syrie et de l'Iran faute d'alternatives viables, et ce, pour éviter toute escalade militaire dans la région sur un fond de crise économique sans précédent aux États-Unis! ♣

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The Hon. David Kilgour is Canada's former Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific and for Central & Eastern Europe and the Middle East. He is a tireless international human rights campaigner and has co-authored, with David Matas, the seminal study on the tragedy of organ harvesting in China.

The Hon. David Kilgour



TOWARDS DIGNITY FOR IRANIANS

Iran | Time to support existing opposition to Mullah tyranny

The international community appears to be increasingly aware that Iran's theocracy constitutes one of the world's most oppressive governments. It continues to persecute minorities (Arabs, Azeri's, Kurds, Turks, Baha'is, Jews and Christians) and women in a species of gender apartheid (The life of a woman is worth half that of a man in Iran). It jails, tortures and executes political prisoners, including Canadian photo-journalist Zahra Kazemi, who was flogged and murdered in a Tehran prison after being arrested for taking photos of a student protest in 2003.

The misogyny practised by the ayatollahs includes the "right" to execute girls as young as nine (Boys are not deemed adults until 15.). According to the 'Stop Child Executions' organization (www.stopchildexecutions.com), there are more than 150 minors of both sexes on death row across Iran today. Eight were executed in 2007 and two already this year. Mona Mahmudnizhad was hanged in the 1980s as a minor for teaching Bahai children in a period when they could not attend regular classes.

Iran's regime is also a growing threat to Middle Eastern and ultimately world peace. Having captured the democratic revolution against shah Pahlavi in 1979, its clerics have since created a country where many Iranians live in poverty, while increasing amounts of growing national oil revenues are directed towards international terrorism and development of nuclear bombs.

The regime uses negotiations with UN agencies and other governments to conceal programs to make nuclear weapons. In 2002, the opposition coalition, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), revealed the existence of two hidden nuclear facilities being built in violation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. If successful, President Ahmadinejad would be in a position to fulfill his wish to annihilate neighbouring states and to engage in other state-sponsored nuclear terrorism.

What can Canada do to encourage regional peace, dignity for Iranians and a non-violent transition to better governance? A good first step would be to cease appeasing Iran's dictatorship by encouraging, instead of continuing to undermine, an important democratic opponent: the Mujahedeen-e Khalq (MEK) (In English, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI). The PMOI is a major part of the NCRI.

Presumably following the earlier leads of the United Kingdom, the European Union and the United States, Paul Martin as prime minister declared the PMOI a terrorist organization in Canada in 2005. Jack Straw, who as the UK Home Secretary banned the organization there in 2001, admitted to the BBC five years afterwards that he did so to accommodate Tehran's ayatollahs. Both the EU and the US appear to have done so for the same reason, although the Bush administration went further when American aircraft bombed PMOI settlements in Iraq

during its invasion of the country in 2003. The PMOI had renounced violence in 2001.

A motion passed by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe earlier this year concluded the continent was "no longer following the rule of law" when its Council of Ministers chose

stressed: "Neither in the open material nor in the closed material was there any reliable evidence that PMOI is concerned in terrorism or has an intention to resort to terrorist activities in the future."

The leader of the British committee, Robin Corbett, noted after the ban was lifted, "The real terrorists

a range of political factions, subsequently elected her to be the interim president of Iran in a transitional government to run the country until a national election supervised by the UN can be held within six months of the final day of the mullahs' regime.

Since becoming head of the NCRI,

What can Canada do to encourage regional peace, dignity for Iranians and a non-violent transition to better governance? A good first step would be to cease appeasing Iran's dictatorship by encouraging, instead of continuing to undermine, an important democratic opponent: the Mujahedeen-e Khalq (MEK) (In English, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI). The PMOI is a major part of the NCRI.

to ignore the decision of the EU Court of First Instance, which invalidated the terrorist listing of the PMOI.

Following a seven-year campaign by the British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom, comprising more than one hundred MPs and peers from across the political spectrum, an order was recently passed by both houses of Parliament, which removed the ban on the PMOI in Britain. The UK Court of Appeal had earlier ordered the government of Gordon Brown to de-proscribe the PMOI, upholding the ruling by the Proscribed Organizations Appeal Commission that the government decision to maintain the ban was "flawed" and "perverse".

The judgement of the appeal court

are in Tehran. They make the roadside bombs, and pay and then train those who use them to kill British and coalition troops in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Maryam Rajavi, president-elect of the NCRI, joined the anti-shah movement as a university student in the 1970s. His regime executed one of her sisters; the mullahs caused another to die under torture. In Iran's 1980 election, Rajavi received more than 250,000 votes as a candidate for Parliament. In June, 1981, she helped organize a peaceful march of half a million Mojahedin supporters in Tehran, but was forced to flee the country later when Khomeini unleashed his reign of terror.

NCRI members living outside Iran, as a parliament in exile representing

Rajavi has led an international campaign to expose the ayatollahs' violations of human dignity, continuing export of terrorism, and ongoing quest to build nuclear weapons. She and the NCRI stand for a peaceful transition to democracy, a nuclear-weapons free Iran, an end to the death penalty, separation of church and state, cultural and religious pluralism, multi-party democracy, gender equality, freedom of speech, the rule of law and independence of judges, private property and a market economy.

It is time to encourage a non-violent transition for Iran by recognizing the coalition of Iranians inside and outside their country who seek a democratic nation by quickly de-proscribing the PMOI. ♦

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Dr. Roger Gibbins

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THE CHALLENGES FACING CANADA'S PREMIERS

Economic disparity: the elephant in the room

The provincial and territorial leaders chose a festive location for their recent Council of the Federation meeting as Quebec City celebrates its 400th anniversary.

Unfortunately, there was nothing festive about the unrelenting bad economic news that confronted the premiers as stocks fell, inflation rose, and the American slump deepened.

formal agenda, you can be sure they came up as the leaders met over dinner and drinks.

Although we are not yet facing a crisis in terms of the economic management of the federation, storm warnings are all around. The question premiers face is whether today's economic developments are transitory or indicative of enduring structural

changes. However, things could turn around.

The resilient American economy could rebound more quickly than we expect, and the Asian economies could cool. In short, the underlying strengths of the Ontario economy could survive the current rough patch, and prosperity

Although we are not yet facing a crisis in terms of the economic management of the federation, storm warnings are all around. The question premiers face is whether today's economic developments are transitory or indicative of enduring structural changes in the national economy.

As the premiers grappled with increasing economic uncertainty, the elephant in the room was the growing regional disparities in the national economy.

While neither the resource boom in Western Canada nor the weakening of the Ontario economy was on the

change in the national economy.

If it is the latter, then next year the premiers will need more than a stiff drink as they grapple with some very difficult issues.

Let's consider the transitory scenario for the moment.

It is true the Ontario economy has

could return to the traditional core of the Canadian economy.

High resource prices in the West could also prove to be transitory, as they have in the past, and thus we could return to a more balanced national economy.

Unfortunately, the more likely



The Alberta oil sands project: questions concerning the national allocation of natural resources and the revenues from same, be it Alberta oil or Quebec hydro, go to the heart of questions about whether Canada is, in fact, a real country.

scenario is that today's imbalance is structural and will persist. In this scenario, the Ontario economy continues to be knocked about by the American recession and growing protectionist pressure, and by increasing global economic competition. In this case, the ballast that Ontario's prosperity has provided for generations to the Canadian economy could be lost.

The fact that Ontario has for so long been Canada's largest and most affluent province has made all sorts of equalization programs work. If the Ontario economy loses that pride of place, then we have a problem, particularly if the economic growth in western Canada also reflects structural change rather than a temporary surge in resource prices.

It is hard for most of us to choose between these two scenarios, but the odds seem to favour structural change rather than temporary dislocation.

Manufacturing across North American is likely to face increasing rather than decreasing global competition, and in the face of that competition protectionism is likely to become more entrenched in the United States. At the same time, global demand for western Canadian resources is likely to grow.

If both predictions turn out to be correct, then we could face large and growing regional disparities. We know from the international experience that soaring energy prices have the capacity to generate large pools of wealth, and we worry about the effects of concentrated wealth on the international system. What, then, are the implications for Canada? The

central question is how much disparity can the national political system tolerate? In the past we used equalization programs to level up, programs that were supported by the large and affluent Ontario tax base. However, the West as a whole, and Alberta in particular, simply do not have the population base to be the new Ontario.

Here it is important to stress that the problem is not one of envy or greed.

It is a very real challenge of national economic management. How do we handle growing regional disparities without dampening the one part of the national economy that is doing well? How do we handle regional disparities in resource wealth when natural resources fall under the constitutional umbrella of provincial governments? More generally, how do we move forward as a nation into a very uncertain global environment when different parts of the Canadian economy are moving not only at different speeds but in different directions?

The premiers were wise to duck such big questions this time around because there is too much uncertainty, uncertainty that is likely to persist at least until the next president takes office in the United States. However, when they gather next year, and if conditions do not change dramatically, the discussion of regional disparities in wealth will not be the topic of casual conversations over after-dinner drinks. It will be at the very core of the country's agenda, and it will be very tough as the elephant in the room comes out to dance. ♣

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THE MÉTROPOLITAIN

Publish or perish

Most people I know want to write a book, and almost every one never gets around to it, unable to even write down the opening sentence, constrained by time, work and the brick walls set up by the publishing industry—a self-contained commercial sector that does not abide outsiders or the uninvited.

However, with the advance of modern techniques, there is a slightly bumpy road to publication that is fast, painless and free, or almost.

The now booming industry of Self-Publishing has been growing so fast over the last few years that the staid, old publishing houses are beginning

to have a finger in the book publishing industry, refuse to even look at a self-published book, and even annual award committees refuse to consider such low-class endeavours, and that includes the so-called prestigious Governor-general's Award and the Giller Prize.

Self-publishing is a guarantee to get your manuscript in book form, a sort of prize for your coffee table and a chance to do a bit of bragging among family and friends. But getting it to the market place where book stores are also in the hands of corporate media moguls is a tough task. Self-publishing becomes

There are more rejection slips from publishing houses than there are pebbles on a beach, with such notable "rejects" as Ernest Hemmingway, J. K. Rowling whose well-marketed Harry Potter work was rejected on nine occasions, and among many more our own Mordecai Richler whose first attempt sat on a shelf for two years before it finally broke through the marketplace and even Ian Fleming of the James Bond series who wrote three novels with little success then hit the big time with a screenplay on *Casino Royal*.

Putative writers are like any

I am one of those who became fed up with the rejection slips from publishing houses, and worse the non-responses from so-called respectable and respected publishing firm, most grant recipients from the public trough.

"We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts," is their favourite line, and the writer asks: "How in heck can I be solicited if no one ever gets to know who I am?"

So, three years ago I took a desperate step and decided to test self-publishing houses.

It seemed that the toughest part was getting the manuscript started

U.S of A. I sent in a manuscript for a novel entitled **BULLY BOY**, a 210-page yarn about a bully born in Little Burgundy during the Second World War who literally terrorized family, friends, co-workers and anyone else who got in his way for the next seventy years, his rants affecting not only those in his direct line of fire, but others who then came in touch with those he had vilified, like the ripples caused by a stone cast over a calm lake.

Publication costs were nil and the novel available through Amazon.com.

However, once I purchased some twenty copies for myself, the entire

There are more rejection slips from publishing houses than there are pebbles on a beach, with such notable "rejects" as Ernest Hemmingway, J. K. Rowling (whose well-marketed Harry Potter work was rejected on nine occasions), and among many more our own Mordecai Richler (whose first attempt sat on a shelf for two years before it finally broke through the marketplace) and even Ian Fleming, of the James Bond series, who wrote three novels with little success then hit the big time with a screenplay on *Casino Royal*.

to panic as writers from all sorts of fields—poets, novelists, self-help advice, family historians—are coming out of the woodwork. So tightly knit are the publishing houses and the mainstream media that reviewers at our local newspapers and radio/TV stations who almost all

somewhat of self-flagellation, or worse, an exercise in intellectual masturbation and it is akin to your home-made wine—family and friends will drink it and those who like it tell, and those who don't make no comment and may even stop visiting.

other league of struggling professionals, whether baseball, soccer or hockey players, or musicians who struggle in the family garage, or painters and poets who live in anonymity—they are subject to chance and great marketing. Many are culled, few chosen.

and then pushed to the finish line. But, it turns out that finding a publisher—one who would even give you the time of day—was the greatest hurdle of all.

I accidentally hit on Publish America, a self-publishing firm from the Baltimore region in the good old

marketing strategy was left to me, meaning all book signings, air fares, hotels, etc. where on my personal tab. Yikes! Too expensive and the book sold less than four hundred copies. I now was among the world of publication paupers. I had also made a beginner's sin. I let the family read

Cambridge Middle East Studies



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

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



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the book too early and was chastised for writing about facts “too close to home.” Almost all figments of my imagination—but apparently just too darn realistic for the family who saw themselves in every darkened doorway of the novel.

My next attempt was to get a published version of a political fiction, *USEFUL LIES*, a 381-page novel about political deceit, intrigue and murder centered on the intrigues between Canada and the United States over control of Canadian power resources, particularly nuclear and hydro-electric. I went to Outskirts Press, of Denver, Colorado,

since my first publisher was unimpressed with my feeble marketing attempts with *BULLY BOY*.

The result was publication of a rather attractive book and one I could proudly show off to any person or promoter with a certain degree of confidence. This self-publishing firm required payments along the way, from selecting a cover to final printing. My total costs were about \$800. That book has also sold less than five hundred copies due to a lack of marketing, although there is a Marketing Coach provided who helps authors navigate through the open market via the Internet, with the

book also available, along with tons of others, at Amazon.com. I did not recuperate my initial investment, but I can show off a darn nice product.

I then spent three years working in the High Arctic as an Airport Radio Guidance Operator (ARGO) and once back to Montreal, wrote a manuscript entitled *KABLOONA, Betrayal In The High Arctic*, a 320-page documentary/fictional tale of murder, sex, and political intrigue as several countries compete over sovereignty rights while seeking unfettered access to The Northwest Passage, as the Inuit themselves attempt to comprehend disconcerting

warming weather patterns.

I offered that manuscript to I-PROCLAIM PRESS of Pittsburgh, PA, where no money was asked, but the writer must basically format most of the computer machinations. With the help of my computer-savvy son Danny, we managed to get all the writing and photographs in order, pressed the “Publish” button, ordered a dozen copies (at a mere \$12 each) and within two weeks had a beautiful book in hand.

It was easy, but again the final and seemingly most crucial step was the marketing.

In the meantime, I had the unmiti-

gated gall to send copies to Montreal-area media and no one took a second to read any of the books, and I went further and sought applications to various book prizes, but there is a line in each of the application forms—self-published books are not eligible for membership in this exclusive, self-absorbed club.

So much for fame and fortune, but my folks still like me.

There is an ancient adage that says: *If you want success, increase your failures.*

How many more novels must I write to get some action? ♡



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LA FONDATION POUR LA PROMOTION DE LA PÉDIATRIE SOCIALE

It really does take a village

After years of work spent on the cutting edge of the city's paediatric medicine field, Dr. Gilles Julien and Dr. Nicholas Steinmetz aren't ready to give up on the children.

As the Founder/President and Director respectively of La Fondation pour la promotion de la pédiatrie sociale that helps thousands of underprivileged kids in Côte des Neiges and Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, they not only want to help lead the battle against childhood poverty and social neglect, they want to lead the fight for the rights for all Canadian children to a normal life.

"Not only must we mobilize the community to respect every child's right for a decent life," Julien said, "but this is how the community can learn to reconsider its own priorities."

"Early childhood poverty causes disease and an early death. It's that simple," Steinmetz added.

Using evidence gathered over 30 years of applied clinical research,

they used a power-point presentation to display disturbing results which he believes will result in a social catastrophe implicating fully one third of the city's population.

"It all begins with the pregnancy," Steinmetz said. "When a mother is stressed, the brain reacts with a typical 'fight or flight' reflex, but the mother is trapped so there's no getting out of it. Bad living conditions, abusive relationships, a lack of money, and bad nutrition, (sometimes compounded by a persistent substance abuse habit including cigarettes) do not make a healthy baby and that's the beginning of a slip-

pery slope.

"Stress is toxic," he said. Mothers under perpetual stress produce cortisone, a cortisone derivative which makes its way through the placenta and into the baby. It kills brain cells, eliminates future synapse development and destroys potential neuron connections. Steinmetz used comparative Magnetic Resonance Images (MRI) to point out the difference between a healthy child's brain and that of a neglected child. If a single picture is worth a thousand words, the image of a neglected child's brain is all the proof Steinmetz requires to prove his point. At three years old, the affected child's brain is significantly smaller than average and displays abnormal development of cortical, limbic and midbrain structures. At this point, the brain's structural changes lead to altered cognitive and emotional



development.

"People have to know about this," said Steinmetz. "People have got to know what's happening to these children."

By the time the child is three years old, all the groundwork is laid out for its potential education and its future social development. If the child was neglected from birth, it will probably display delays in various language, social and motor skills along with a reduced attention span and abnormal activity levels. This will result in isolation and exclusion from social peer groups, which lead to an inevitable isolation and a poor self-image.

Once the pattern is established, violent and anti-social behaviour inevitably leads to the usual substance abuse problems and sometimes prostitution for both genders. Arizona predicts its future prison requirements by analysing its present third grade failure rates. Recent statistics demonstrate how more than 42 percent of the poorest and most vulnerable children in the city are not prepared to start school at the normal age, which will inevitably lead to failing grades in later years.

Another disturbing statistic demonstrates how a child born in Montreal's poorer east-end districts can expect to live for barely 59 years

as opposed to a child born in the west end where one can expect to live until they're at least 77 years old. That is to say children born in Montreal's West Island, only 20 kilometres down the road, can expect to live more than 20 percent longer than the child born in the Hochelaga-Maisonneuve district.

"This is unacceptable," the doctors state emphatically. They believe the economic status quo is condemning a serious percentage of children to a dull and mostly desperate life of poverty and imminent physical decrepitude. They advocate that the government should consider the Convention of the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations in 1989. Julien and Steinmetz point out how respect for the rights of a child as defined by the United Nations closely resembles the minimum conditions required for what paediatric specialists consider being a healthy child.

"Once everybody begins to understand this situation," they said, "the sooner we can get around to doing something about it."

The foundation is planning to take concrete steps to address the problems caused by the poverty and neglect among Canada's children. In the short term, children who are

victims of both neglect and abuse must first be rescued. Within the context of the constant failure and the exclusion created and caused by poverty, they propose an inclusive social paediatrics model that includes all the services required by children in need. Partners within the city's entire social infrastructure must participate, but local community organizations should be considered the key participants in the process along with the city's universities. The second half of the solution relies on prevention and the recognition of what it takes to raise a healthy child in a healthy society.

"Education must no longer be elitist and become popular knowledge," Steinmetz said.

He believes coherent leadership and mass participation at the local level may help alleviate some of the damage poverty does to children. "Knowledge has to be linked to values, then emotion because it's not reason that moves us to action," he said. "It's emotion."

The Fondation has had many remarkable successes including a very interesting recent one. Public and private partnerships (PPP) took on a whole new dimension as two city neighborhoods decided to do what they could for children. The

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ADAM DAIFALLAH TASHA KHEIRIDDIN

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Dr. Nicholas Steinmetz

Julien and Steinmetz believe the economic status quo is condemning a serious percentage of children to a dull and mostly desperate life of poverty and imminent physical decrepitude. They advocate that the government should consider the Convention of the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations in 1989. Julien and Steinmetz point out how respect for the rights of a child as defined by the United Nations closely resembles the minimum conditions required for what paediatric specialists consider being a healthy child.



Dr. Gilles Julien started Fondation pour la promotion de la pédiatrie sociale in 2005

central city along with the CDN/NDG borough council agreed to set up a new summer parks project for the borough's kids. A number of the borough's community organizations are also working on the children's park project while both the central city and the borough are going to pay for it.

"It's all about providing an accessible and stimulating environment for children within the heart of their own communities," said Dr. Julien.

"We're very happy to see the community mobilized around this project."

Two teams of child-care workers will organize a summer-long series of events in two CDN parks. Activities in both the Kent as well as

the Darlington Place Park will include theatre, assorted games, road trips and other initiatives as a means to create a pro-active and community-based environment for local children as proposed by the Fondation. Julien said the province's social services would have to change its priorities if it wants to get serious about solving serious problems affecting many of the province's children, "especially poor children." Julien believes an ounce of social prevention at every level of a child's young life is worth a pound of whatever society considers the cure whenever its welfare is concerned.

"By the time the DPJ (Département de Protection de Jeunesse) get called in, it's often too late," said the doctor. "The damage is done."

His ideas about social pediatrics arose out of decades on the front lines of pediatric medicine in the poorer quarters of Montreal. He is convinced that a child's welfare should be the community's responsi-

bility and not just that of its parents or worse — its single mother.

Julien also believes the United Nations' declaration of the rights of the child is a good place to start if one is looking for solutions to what is to be done about children's poverty in Canada. The Fondation encourages local community organizations to work with assorted city universities and local political organizations to help provide suitable environments for children. As a working example, it has already managed to get the city's school commissions to open summer sessions for children who were already having problems with school work. The Fondation's new park programs are an extension of his thinking as to how both schools and the community's environment can be integrated into a child's life and home environment.

Both he and the province's DPJ are discussing recent judicial decisions as related to children and their

immediate family relationships, and the doctor thinks people will have to reconsider traditional family relationships if anything is to be done about the problems faced by single parents and especially single mothers. When asked about the enduring problem of absent fathers, Julien believes the problem was more a reflection of a bigger problem that society must deal with if it is to care for its children as it should. After years of taking care of the city's children, the

doctor has seen more than enough blame passed around when a child's life is ruined, but not enough responsibility to have made sure the child wasn't harmed in the first place.

"The people who make up a community have to take back the responsibility for the welfare of its children. It's not the government's job," said Dr. Julien. "This should be considered a challenge, not a burden."

For Julien and Steinmetz, it really does take a village. ♣

THE VOLUNTEER

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

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

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



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ARTS & STYLE



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BROADWAY NOTEBOOK - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Lupone's Tony Award for her performance of the mother living her dreams through her children, no matter what the cost, is not to be missed. You expect no less from the great Patti Lupone. She brought something to the performance that I had not seen before. Along with the frenetic, maniacal impulse to get what she wants from life, this Mama Rose was played with a raw sensuality, with true gusto.

wrapped in cellophane. Then - horror of horrors - "Miss Lupone has hurt her foot"! A great intake of breath could be heard throughout the theatre. And then: "Miss Lupone will be performing in *Isotoners*". Breath released. *Isotoners* never had it so good!

Patti Lupone may have hurt her foot but that didn't hold her back from putting in a powerful, electric performance. In what is arguably one of the most demanding female roles in musical theatre, she marches down the centre aisle, sweeps onto the stage and takes control of the audition taking place, crying out those famous lines, "Sing out Louise". From there on in she holds the audience in a stranglehold as Mama Rose in *Gypsy*.

Lupone's Tony Award for her performance of the mother living her dreams through her children, no matter what the cost, is not to be missed. You expect no less from the great Patti Lupone. She brought something to the performance that I had not seen before. Along with the frenetic, maniacal impulse to get what she wants from life, this Mama Rose was played with a raw sensuality, with true gusto. She played the relationship between herself and Herbie (Boyd Gaynes, who also won

the Tony for Best Performance for a Featured Actor in a musical) as if she were plucking the taught strings on a violin. She teases the audience. Which makes sense when you think of the artistry and sophistication that her daughter brought to stripping. (She had to learn it somewhere.)

"In *The Heights*" moved on to Broadway, into The Richard Rogers Theatre, after an extended run off-Broadway last year and walked off with this year's Tony for Best Musical. Well deserved. It's based on life in Washington Heights, conceived and written by Lin-Manuel Miranda during his sophomore year at Wesleyan University. But the show has a minor limitation. If you aren't accustomed to the syntax and street language of the Latino, then a lot of what is said goes over the head. This is not the lyrical music of the "West Side Story" of Leonard Bernstein. This is *Now*. It's still a production for the traditional and non-traditional theatregoer. Much of the production is artfully performed in rap, hip-hop and salsa and the dance sequences are high voltage. Choreographers Andy Blankenbuehler and Andy Kail have worked an energetic, hot masterpiece turning the streets

around the bridge into a pulsating mass of colour. The dancers are driven to deliver. The focus demanded of the audience leaves you absolutely exhausted. The set is brilliantly designed by Anna Louizo and transports you to the vibrant area of life around the Washington Bridge. There is no major plot line here, but rather collages of plots that don't necessarily connect, so at times the stories get a bit murky. Whilst this is a tight-knit ensemble cast, there are three performances that are outstanding. Creator and lead performer Lin-Manuel Miranda as 'Usnavi'. His sidekick, 'Sonny', played by Robin de Jesus, who also provides some great comedy. And, last but not least, Olga Merediz as 'Abuela' who is the spine of the community and a focal point of the show. And what a powerhouse of a voice she has!

My one disappointment was "A Catered Affair", a musical based on the movie of the same name. Bette Davis played the lead in the movie. Lesley Kritzer plays a lethargic, boring Janey in the Broadway production, adapted for the stage by Harvey Fierstein who also has a role in the play along with Faith Prince and Tom Wopat (*The Dukes of*

Hazzard). The show is worth seeing for Wopat's performance alone. He is absolutely riveting – and was nominated for a Tony. It tells the story of a working class Bronx family in 1953 that's faced with a simple decision, whether to spend their life's savings on a family business or their daughter's wedding. The performance I saw was flat and uninspiring with no energy, except from Fierstein and Wopat. (Probably a cast reaction to the early closure of the play on July 27.) "A Catered Affair" was not an affair to remember.

Don't confuse my enthusiasm for the musicals with my sadness at seeing so few dramas available on Broadway!

The only drama I caught was "August: Osage County", written by Tracy Letts, this year's Pulitzer Prize winner and Tony Award winner for Best Drama. If any play has totally captured the dysfunctional family for the stage, this is it! Presently starring Estelle Parsons as the drug addicted matriarch of the family, August will drag you down into the depths of despair, have you laughing hysterically and, in some cases, relating to the action, all in one short moment on stage. And the play is made up of

many such moments. That's why it gets away with a three hour sitting with two ten minute intermissions. It's a thought provoking ride through a densely woven plot of drug addiction, incest, suicide, racism, aging, and pedophilia – all in one family, would you believe!

It is incredibly well acted by all involved, a true ensemble cast. Of note, Estelle Parsons has beautifully and frighteningly defined a harridan, a nasty, acid-tongued woman whose nurturing qualities of motherhood have shriveled up and turned into dried prunes. Amy Morton puts in an equally strong performance as the controlling eldest daughter who is coming to the realization that she is the embodiment of her parents. And that is a horrifying realization! The set designed by Todd Rosenthal is stunning, made up of a three story house with an open front allowing the audience to see what's happening in every room at any time during the play.

August leaves you exhausted emotionally but stimulated spiritually. We have seen the truly American family as it often presents itself, one way or another. Yet we leave this theatre so much richer for it.

Thank you Broadway. ♣

Local Theatre

Alidor Aucoin

REPERCUSSION'S THEATRE IN THE PARK 2008 SEASON

La tempête a rainswept "Tempest"

Mother nature provided a thrilling opening at the end of July to the Repercussion Theatre Company's English language production of *The Tempest* on Bonsecours Island in the Old Port.

"The sky it seemed would pour down stinking pitch," wrote Shakespeare, and it did. The company carried on in spite of the rain, and driving music from the *Les Roi de l'Afrique* circus tent nearby added to the Caribbean imagery.

The *Tempest* marks Repercussion's 20th anniversary, and is on tour in English and in French in a number of island parks until August 17. Each location provides a different ambiance which inevitably alters the texture of each performance.

It's perhaps unfair to review the play on the basis of its rain sogged opening. Still, this production owes as much to *Pirates of the Caribbean* as it does to Shakespeare. The fish like creatures and pasty faced characters brought to life by Prospero's magic spells are truly bizarre.

Rain in several venues did not prevent Prospero, the exiled Duke of Milan, from working his magic on his cast of players shipwrecked on an island somewhere "in the still vexed Bermudas." Any production of this heady political romance hinges on Prospero and his two servants—the half-beast, Caliban (Amelia Sargisson) who represents the carnal, and Ariel (Aurélie Morgane), the spiritual.

Sargisson is a squirming, squealing Caliban; Morgane, an earthy rather than an ethereal Ariel.

Greg Kramer is an effective, if heavy handed Prospero in English; François Trudel's interpretation of the wizard in French is much more mercurial.

Emily Skahan is alluring as Prospero's wide-eyed daughter, Miranda and Jean-Philippe Baril Guérard cuts a dashing figure as her love struck suitor, Ferdinand. The rest of the bilingual cast alternate their respective roles in both languages.

Propsero's island is peopled with



Repercussion's 'La Tempete'. Pictured here are Emily Skahan as Miranda, Greg Kramer as Prospero & Jean-Philippe B. Guérard as Ferdinand. Photo: SPG / spg@esselab.com

some strange fish. Antoine Yared doubles nicely as Sebastian the drunken Stephano. His scenes with Danielle Desormeaux, who doubles as Alonza, the queen (instead of the king) of Naples, as well as the clown, Trincula, are hilarious.

Pierre-Yves Cardinal-David is a fine villain as Propsero's treacherous brother, Antonio and Jean -Jacques

Simon brings a noble sense of duty to the role of Gonzalo.

Nick Carptener's musical direction contributes to the fantasy, and James Lavoie's set is serviceable.

It is a splendid troupe of players to be congratulated above all for their endurance under the most difficult circumstances. So far, they have had to compete with the rain on five of

seven performances.

The *Tempest* plays Cabot Square in front of the AMC Forum August 9th in English at 7:30 PM, and *La Tempête*, in French, is at the same time and location on August 10th. The tour continues until August 17th.

For other locations please visit www.repercussiontheatre.com.

Aucoin

Two by Blue

"Being Frank", Ricky Blue's 70 minute musical cabaret about a Frank Sinatra wannabe running at Théâtre Lac Brome until July 27, is a breezy, beguiling salute to ol' blue eyes.

The Frank in this case (Neil Napier) is a hapless Sinatra buff who runs something called the Monday Night Frank Sinatra Music and Philosophy Club out of a down and out Montreal bar. The wisecracking bartender (Gregory Prest) and

Frank's sounding board who "sets 'em up" is appropriately called Joe.

Frank's quirky hangers-on include Sarah, psychic goth in fishnet stockings, (Laura Teasdale) who works a little witchcraft of her own, and Ashley, a hooker with a heart of gold, (Paula Costain) who, incidentally, has stardust in her eyes for Joe.

Both women have faith in Frank's talent and bolster his ability in his act to become an impersonator by sending him off to an audition. The

next thing you know, Napier is channeling his inner crooner, delivering a string of Sinatra standards with a company of performers that makes the most of the familiar melodies. The plot is held together by one-liners and the songs drive the evening as a show within a show. Teasdale delivers a disarming performance, Costain is winning, and Prest is terrific as Joe. Napier grows as the evening progresses, from a tentative Sinatra to a

confident Chairman of the Board, at the end delivering a rousing rendition of *You Make Me Feel So Young* that would make the real Francis Albert Sinatra proud.

Nicholas Pynes, who is also the intimate theatre's artistic director, provides deft piano accompaniment and is also credited with creating an economical set out of vintage Montreal tourist posters from the 1940's and 50s, when Sinatra played the Forum with Tommy Dorsey's orchestra, and appeared at *Chez Patee*.

Its all goes down so nice'n'easy, a wonderfully embraceable evening.

Given that Blue has made a career out writing topical satire with his sidekick, George Bowser, its hard to fathom what went wrong with his other play, *Campbell's Sutra*, that had its premiere at the Hudson Village Theatre the first week of July.

Blue manfully takes full credit for this bitter black comedy, and to be fair, he began with a promising idea: Zack (Bill Croft) the owner of a comedy club, facing a mid-life crisis, fakes his own death after learning that his partner and best buddy, Campbell (Vlasta Vrana), has slept with his wife, Linda (Susan

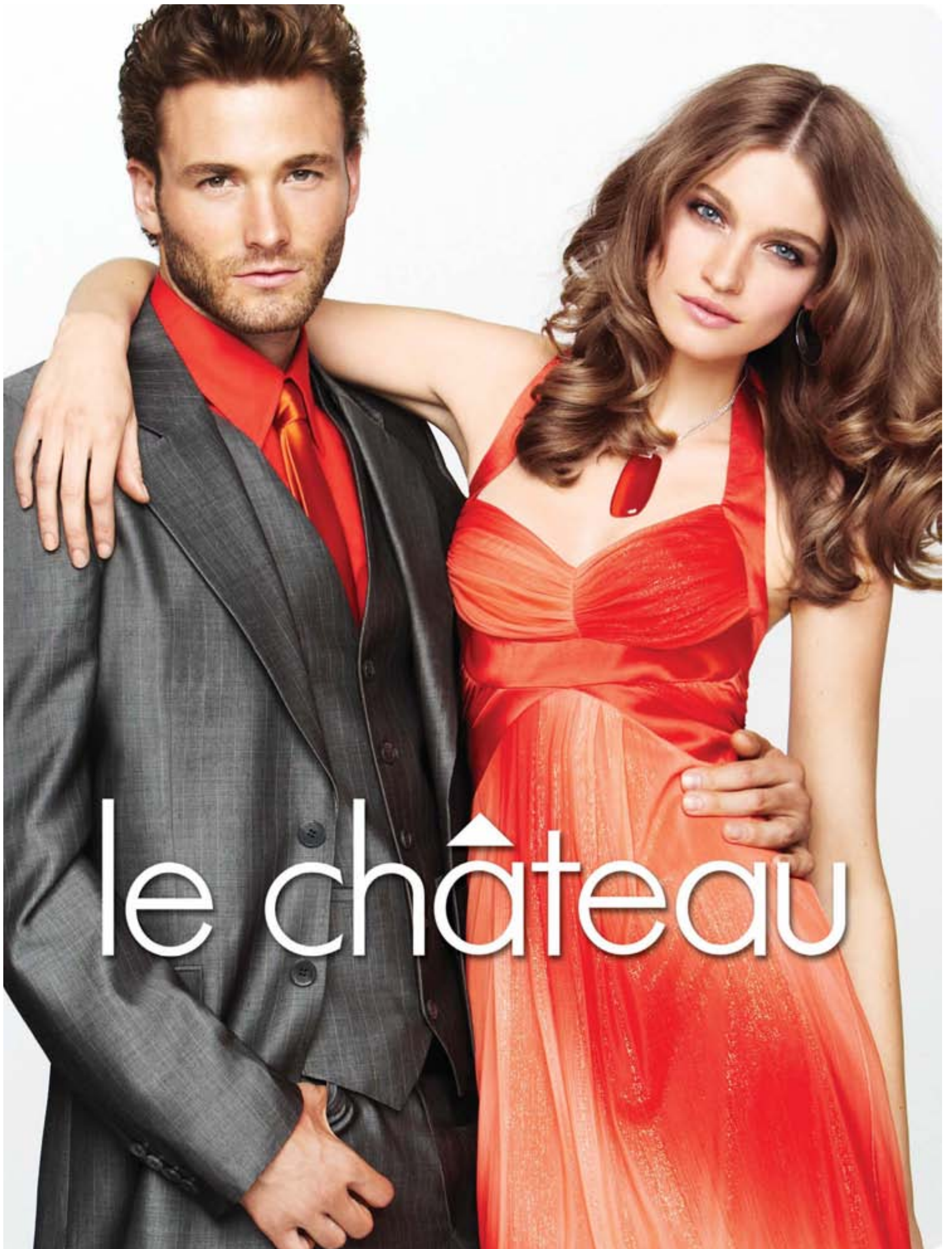
Bain), then returns as a ghost to wreak revenge on his tormenters.

Blue has a cynical perspective on the human condition but his weird characters, including a couple of Buddhist nudists, Betty (Melanie Doerr) and Mark (Charles Raywood)—who bare all on stage—are more creepy than funny.

The cast is uniformly competent, but that's not saying much. *Campbell* turns out to be a drunken leech who thinks nothing of propositioning Zack's teen-aged daughter, Amanda (Jennifer Miller). "Could I interest you in breaking up my marriage?" he asks her.

Blue of all people should know that comedy requires a set up, timing, delivery, and a punch line. *Campbell's Sutra* has the set up, but by twists and turns becomes intermittently silly and persistently strange. The audience keeps waiting for punch lines that rarely come.

Just as you suspend credibility and accept as real the seemingly ghostly (and evidently ghostly) goings on, the script takes a depressing turn that brings you down. As much as you want to, its hard to accept the unlikelihood of all of this. ♠



le château