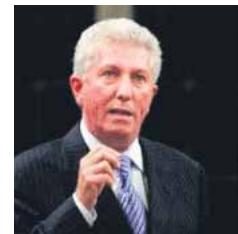


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Ensemble et libres Together and free

# THE MÉTROPOLITAIN

30 OCTOBER 2008 • VOL. I, NO 13

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

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**POST MORTEM**  
**De quel malaise  
souffre le parti  
Libéral?**



**BERNARD AMYOT**  
info@themetropolitain.ca

## Le poids du mépris

Dans La Presse du 19 octobre dernier, le « chroniqueur » Patrick Lagacé a su décocher tout son fiel dans une charge tout à fait gratuite et sans fondement contre Stéphane Dion, et cela au moment où celui-ci était plus blessé et vulnérable que jamais auparavant, soit à la toute veille de l'annonce de sa

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## Did Liberals give 110%?



**DAN DELMAR**  
delmar@themetropolitain.ca

Just 14 of 75 seats in Quebec: The search for answers and the finger-pointing has begun inside Liberal Party ranks. Was it a one-off, attributable to an unpopular leader and a convoluted carbon tax scheme? Could more have been done to win battleground ridings like Outremont or Jeanne-Le Ber? Was this just an accident or was it...murder?

With the party in such a delicate state, no Liberal thus far has gone on the record to say that some, essentially, threw in the

towel. The worst kept secret within the party is that the 2006 leadership race never really ended and the Bob Rae and Michael Ignatieff camps – although publicly supportive of outgoing leader Stéphane Dion – have been eyeing the 2009 contest before, during and after this month's federal election. The most they are willing to admit is that more of an effort could have been made, swing ridings could have swung in their favour and more party stalwarts have to be pushed aside in favour of new blood.

A major figure in the party's old-guard was not-so-subtly asked to step aside earlier this week. Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette, Dion's Quebec Lieutenant, was on the losing end of a 16-12 vote by the party's Quebec executive, who recommended

Continued on page 6



**GEORGE JONAS**  
jonas@themetropolitain.ca

## Outflanking on the left fails Liberals

There's no confusion about the election results in Canada, only about who won. Some say, well, the winner is whoever forms the government, and that's Stephen Harper. Not so, others counter. Mr. Harper called an election to get a majority;

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Canada geese get a glimpse of winter to come during this week's snow storm.

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

LA PATRIE

# La nation ne s'est pas prononcée

Gilles Duceppe déclarait récemment que c'est la nation québécoise qui s'est prononcée le 14 octobre en élisant 50 députés du Bloc. Aucun commentateur n'a jugé bon jusqu'à maintenant de relever l'énormité des prétentions de M. Duceppe. Alain Dubuc grattait les bords de la plaie dans sa chronique du 26 octobre, mais ne mettait pas le doigt sur le bobo. Je serai donc le premier à le faire.

Les libéraux faisaient élire au Québec, sous Trudeau, 74 députés sur 75. Était-ce alors la nation qui se prononçait pour la vision trudeauiste du fédéralisme ? Qui soutiendrait une thèse aussi absurde ? Seul un dictateur peut prétendre agir au nom de la nation. En démocratie, celui qui obtient plus de votes que ses adversaires, voire une majorité absolue des suffrages (50 % plus un), possède toute la légitimité nécessaire pour exercer le pouvoir, voter des lois, voire déclarer la guerre. Son pouvoir ne va pas plus loin.

La nation ne parlait pas par la bouche de Trudeau, elle ne parlait par celle de Duplessis,

de Lesage, de Bourassa ou de Lévesque. Au temps de sa plus grande popularité, le parti de René Lévesque n'a jamais obtenu plus de 49 % des suffrages populaires (41,4 % en 76). Bourassa avait fait beaucoup mieux en 85, avec 56 %. Pourtant, ni Lévesque ni Bourassa ne prétendaient gouverner au nom de la nation. M. Duceppe ne dispose au Parlement que d'un légitime et modeste pouvoir de nuisance ; Trudeau, fort de son écrasante majorité, a exercé légitimement le pouvoir. Au moment de la Crise d'octobre, une majorité de la population (je ne dis pas de la nation) approuvait les mesures de guerre. Il demeure que Trudeau n'avait pas, que Duceppe n'a pas le soutien de la nation.

Le cas de Trudeau est dramatique, celui de Duceppe est hilarant. Rappelons à ce dernier, pour le ramener à la plate réalité, que 62 % des électeurs n'ont pas voté pour lui. Ce qui ne me fera pourtant pas dire que la nation québécoise s'oppose à M. Duceppe. La nation ne s'est prononcée le 14 octobre ni pour ni contre le Bloc. À moins de prétendre, version Duceppe, que seuls font partie de la nation ceux qui ont voté pour lui, ou au contraire, version de ses adversaires, que seuls en font partie



ceux qui n'ont pas voté pour lui. Les deux thèses sont aussi farfelues l'une que l'autre.

Les Canadiens français formaient jadis une nation dispersée. Les Québécois forment aujourd'hui une nation divisée. Tant mieux ! « Une Nation divisée est une Nation saine », écrivait je ne me souviens plus quel philosophe des Lumières. Non, il ne s'agit ni de Lionel Groulx ni de Pierre Falardeau, qui sont des polygraphes obscurantistes.

L'ouvrière d'origine tunisienne qui ne va pas voter, le prof d'université né à Turin qui vote NPD, le chauffeur de taxi né à Port-au-Prince qui vote pour le Bloc, la vieille Mrs Smith, de Pierrefonds, qui vote libéral, Euclide Vézina de St-Georges-de-

Beauce qui vote conservateur, et puis les Tremblay, les Gagnon, les O'Neil, les Chartrand, les Roberge, les Arsenault, les Cloutier, les Turcotte, qui votent pour qui ils veulent, font tous partie de la nation québécoise. Il y en a que ça dérange. Que, par exemple, les Québécois juifs du West Island votent en grande majorité pour le parti libéral, il n'y a rien là de

scandaleux. Dans certains villages, 80 % de la population vote pour le Bloc.

Oui, il est permis de constater l'existence de ce que Parizeau appelait maladroitement des « votes ethniques ». Mais le grossier personnage qui revendique le droit de les analyser est un hypocrite. Ce qu'il appelle de toutes ses injures, c'est à un «

## Les Canadiens français formaient jadis une nation dispersée. Les Québécois forment aujourd'hui une nation divisée.

vote ethnique » de plus, celui des Québécois « de souche », le seul qui à ses yeux ne serait pas condamnable. L'énergumène n'a pas fini de vomir sa bile.

La nation ne s'est pas prononcée le 14 octobre. Les citoyens l'ont fait. Du moins un certain pourcentage d'entre eux. Moins de 60 % si je ne m'abuse. Le droit au silence est un droit fondamental. La nation est aussi composée de gens qui préfèrent se tenir à l'écart. Que les crypto-fascistes se le tiennent pour dit !



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## George Jonas

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OUTFLANKING ON THE LEFT FAILS LIBERALS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he was denied one, so he lost. Even worse, look at his opponent. Anyone who can't knock out Stéphane Dion has no business claiming the belt.

True, beating a one-armed contender on points won't make you a boxing legend. Mr. Dion wasn't very competitive. His main hope had to be that his English might mask his platform, because he could hardly expect support from people who understood him. Making a tree-hugging tax his centrepiece at a time when voters were worrying about their jobs was hardly the yellow brick road to victory.

But Mr. Harper had his own handicap. An economic crisis invariably hurts the incumbent. The captain's chair is the wrong place to be when the ship of state crashes into an iceberg.

Regardless of fault, the middle of a collision isn't the recommended time to seek a renewal of one's contract as a skipper.

I doubt if Mr. Harper would have called an election had he known that an economic iceberg was about to hit Canada. A calamity that can be associated with ideas the governing party espouses — as in the case of conservatism and capitalism — usually has dire electoral results. Going to the polls during bad times would be inadvisable for any government, but a market meltdown would definitely stand out on a Conservative prime minister's top ten list of when not to call elections.

Considering that there could hardly have been a more inauspicious time for an incumbent Tory government to seek an enlarged mandate, just to retain the number of seats Conservatives had going into the election should be considered a win for Mr. Harper. Gaining 17 seats is nothing short of a bloody triumph, I think, whether he achieved the majority he originally set out to achieve or not.

Under the circumstances, the Tory-initiated election became the Grits' election to lose -- and lose it they did, most obligingly. It wasn't all their fault. The kind of vote splintering that used to plague the Right -- or what passes for the Right in Canada -- is now plaguing the Left. If the Right found it difficult to sustain two parties, the Left is having trouble sustaining three -- or four, if we include the Bloc Québécois.

Mr. Dion's English may have played a tiny role in the Liberal debacle -- call it a "speaking part" -- but not nearly as

# Mr. Dion's English may have played a tiny role in the Liberal debacle -- call it a "speaking part" -- but not nearly as big as his carbon tax. Other things mattered more.

big as his carbon tax. Other things mattered more.

While nearly two out of three Canadians (of the roughly two out of three who bother to vote) are left-of-centre on most issues, the emphasis isn't so much on "left of" as it is on "centre." Canadians are so centrist they're almost inert. They've an aversion to people who foam at the mouth, even when they've sympathy for what they're foaming about. At the same time they've a soft spot for anyone who can pass for a slab of frozen fish.

Nobody passes more convincingly than Mr. Harper. There's more to him than that, but there is that. Some think it's a minus. I think it's a plus.

The mistake Mr. Dion & Co. made was trying to outflank Mr. Harper on the left. In doing so, they let him lure them further and further away from the centre where the votes are. During the five-way French and English-language debates the Tory leader's opponents, smelling blood, ganged up on him, modeling themselves on a pack of howling, circling coyotes. Mr. Harper, smelling votes, huddled like a porcupine, casting sideways glances at them. It was Canadian nature art, something to be framed and hung on the wall. I went out on a limb and called for a Harper-majority despite the polls.

Close, but no cigar.

In the end it was Gilles Duceppe's Bloc that denied the Tories a majority -- some say in response to the Tories' doctri-

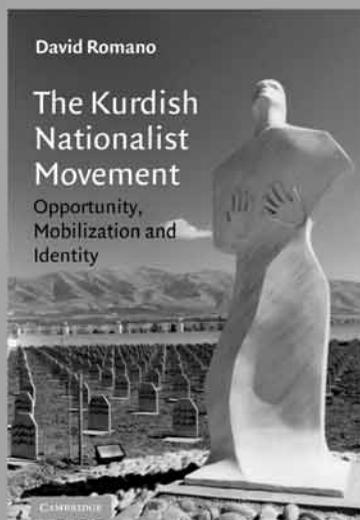
naire insistence on funding too many measures against young offenders and not enough in support of the arts. I doubt it. Arts-tails rarely wag electoral dogs in Canada. Some Quebec friends say it was reflexive insularity. When times are tough, Quebec pulls into its shell. This sounds more likely.

If Mr. Harper could have foreseen on Sept. 7th that sub-prime mortgages were about to bring down leading financial institutions on Wall Street precipitating a global crisis, presumably he wouldn't have called an election. In that case he wouldn't have been Stephen Harper, though, but Harry Potter. And where would that have got him? Not having called an election, he would now be governing Canada with 127 seats in Parliament instead of 143. It's wiser not to be a wizard.

The world works more or less as described in Ecclesiastes 9:11. "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise. Time and chance happens to them all."

*George Jonas is a world-renowned writer, columnist for the National Post, and Canada's leading societal commentator. A true renaissance man, he has been one of Canadian television's greatest innovators. He is the author of "Vengeance", among other works. His latest work is the memoir "Beethoven's Mask". This article is published by special arrangement with the author.*

## 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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démission comme chef du parti libéral du Canada.

Lagacé, qui n'est ni journaliste ni analyste, s'arroge tout de même le droit de faire la morale à tout le monde, sans toutefois qu'il daigne s'imposer à lui-même, d'une manière mesurée et rationnelle, la rigueur nécessaire au débat d'idées. Couvert de son titre de « chroniqueur » d'un important journal quotidien, Lagacé s'offre donc le loisir de livrer des jugements qui lui sont purement personnels, sachant qu'il jouit pour ce faire d'une complète impunité : il n'a en effet aucun compte à rendre à qui que ce soit, puisque personne n'exige de lui que ses propos s'élèvent plus haut que les clichés les plus éculés.

Qu'importe au fond le moment choisi par Lagacé pour cracher son venin sur Stéphane Dion à grands coups d'attaques purement personnelles. Ce qui est le plus stérnissant dans son propos, c'est plutôt le reproche totalement injustifié et injuste qu'il fait à M. Dion en l'accusant de « mépris » envers les Québécois. En effet, Lagacé a choisi de « révéler » sa haine de l'homme en prétendant que « tous » le détestaient à cause de sa « mesquinerie » et de sa « condescendance » pour avoir « imposé » sa Loi sur la clarté aux Québécois.

Or, on ne trouve dans le propos de Lagacé aucun argument, aucune idée, ni la moindre once de plaidoyer qui pourrait être susceptible de soutenir un jugement aussi gratuit. On peut certes deviner que les arguments avancés par M. Dion en 2000 aient profondément déplu au « chroniqueur » Lagacé, mais nous restons stupéfaits devant le silence absolu de ce dernier sur les raisons qui pourraient militer à l'appui de son évidente frustration. Serait-ce que Stéphane Dion aurait, lui, gagné le débat des idées ?

En effet, M. Dion a toujours choisi d'élever le débat au niveau des idées, jamais au niveau des personnalités. Je mets d'ailleurs M. Lagacé au défi de relever un seul exemple contraire. On sait

qu'il n'y parviendra jamais. Ce sont les adversaires de la clarté, c'est-à-dire les ténors indépendantistes (avec leur orchestre constitué de « journalistes » comme Patrick Lagacé) qui, à défaut de pouvoir combattre les idées des Stéphane Dion dans le cadre d'un débat civilisé et rationnel, ont plutôt choisi de diaboliser l'individu. Et ils ne s'en sont certes pas privés, puisque chacun sait que l'ostracisme permet de détruire l'individu qui tient un discours qu'on ne peut réfuter... sans avoir à réfuter ses idées. En somme, dites qu'un chien a la rage... et vous savez la suite. Ceci dit, Galilée a été condamné... mais pourtant, elle tourne !

Mais revenons aux idées qui rebutent tellement M. Lagacé. La Loi sur la clarté référendaire reconnaît nommément la possibilité pour les Québécois de faire sécession. Allez demander aux Français et aux Américains ce que leur Constitution prévoit à ce sujet : leur république est juridiquement « une et indivisible ». Alors, on peut dire à M. Lagacé qu'en fait d'« oppression antidémocratique », on repassera...

De plus, la Loi de Stéphane Dion reprend l'essentiel des conclusions énoncées par la Cour suprême du Canada dans son Renvoi sur la sécession de 1998, à savoir notamment qu'une déclaration unilatérale d'indépendance est illégale dans un état de droit comme le Canada, qui est doté d'une Constitution qui prévoit déjà la possibilité d'être amendée dans certaines conditions. De même, il est tout à fait légitime d'exiger une réponse par une majorité claire de Québécois à une question claire comme condition sine qua non à la négociation à tenir avant de démanteler un pays.

Même René Lévesque, dans son célèbre Option Québec de 1968, texte fondateur du Mouvement Souveraineté-Association puis du Parti Québécois, a nommément reconnu (à la page 47) l'importance, avant de pouvoir réaliser son projet, d'obtenir et

d'atteindre une adhésion sans équivoque en faveur de la thèse indépendantiste :

« Notre hypothèse ne se réalise que dans le moyen terme qu'on a le temps de voir venir et de préparer. Au moment où une nette majorité sera apparue, aura pesé et voulu la direction nouvelle du Québec, et aura à sa tête un gouvernement qui l'incarnera parfaitement là-dessus » (souligné par nous).

En dépit des innombrables efforts déployés au Québec par les tenants de la pensée unique pour provoquer un ressac contre la Loi sur la clarté en criant à l'« humiliation » et à l'« atteinte aux droits démocratiques », les Québécois en général n'ont jamais suivi le mot d'ordre qui leur était lancé. L'élection fédérale du 27 novembre 2000 a d'ailleurs confirmé ce fait alors que les Québécois avaient donné la pluralité de leurs voix et 36 députés au parti libéral du Canada, alors dirigé par Jean Chrétien. Le départ précipité de Lucien Bouchard, incapable de son propre aveu d'attiser une telle indignation (et au milieu d'un concert cacophonique d'intolérance de la part de certains leaders influents du mouvement indépendantiste), en fut une preuve additionnelle.

N'en déplaise à Patrick Lagacé, non seulement les Québécois trouvent-ils tout à fait raisonnable l'impératif de clarté en ces matières, mais, surtout, ils respectent l'autorité indéniable de la Cour suprême du Canada, organe ultime de l'expression de la primauté du droit dans un pays démocratique comme le nôtre.

De plus, contrairement aux prétentions de certains « chroniqueurs » plus démagogues qu'autre chose, les Québécois savent aussi pertinemment qu'ils sont loin, vraiment très loin, de constituer un peuple « opprimé ».

*N.B. : La Presse a refusé de publier une première version, plus courte, de ce texte.*

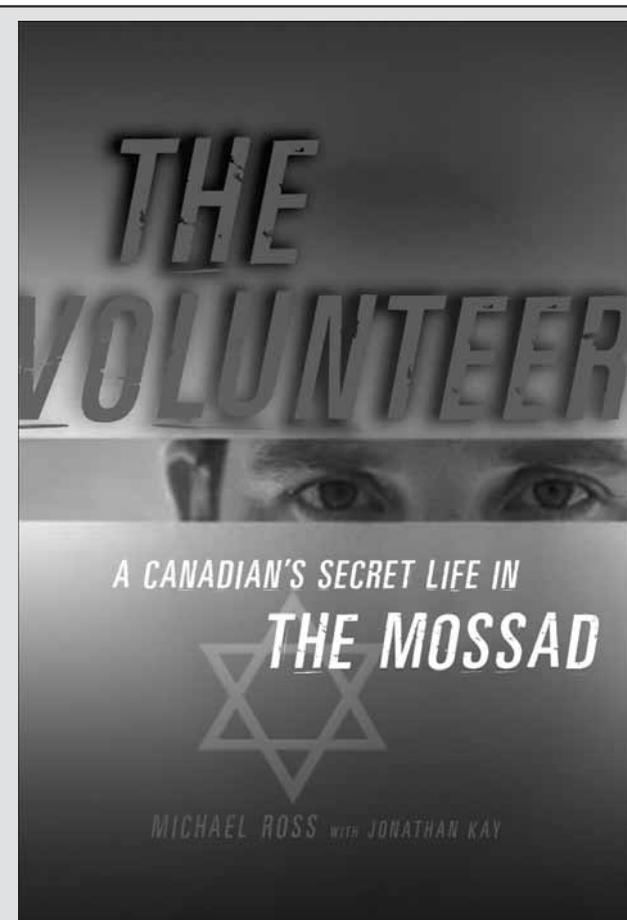
*L'auteur est avocat.*

# THE VOLUNTEER

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

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





## Dan Delmar

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DID LIBERALS GIVE 110%? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that Dion suspend the duties of Quebec lieutenant and operate with an observer working with the executive. If Dion is in agreement, they will go without a Lieutenant until a new party leader is chosen. Earlier the same day, in a move unrelated to the executive's vote, Hervieux-Payette was replaced as opposition leader in the Senate by James Cowan of Nova Scotia.

The motion to remove Hervieux-Payette was introduced by Quebec wing president Robert Fragasso and seconded by Mark Bruneau, the head of the finance committee.

She lost the confidence of the party's executive "because of the dismal result of the campaign; the poor organization, the last-minute nominations," explained Bruneau, who himself lost the party's nomination in Jeanne-Le Ber to Christian Feuillette, who went on to lose to the Bloc Québécois candidate on Oct. 14. "There were plenty of high-calibre candidates, myself among them, like Liza Frulla who she dismissed, double-crossed and pushed away."

Bruneau was heavily favoured to win the nomination until, he

claims, his opponents called up the new party members his team recruited and told them they weren't permitted to vote. He ended up losing by nine votes. One of his campaign staffers, who asked not to be identified, said Dion unwisely opted for an open vote instead of the party itself choosing who would best represent them – and who could pull off a win.

"Stéphane Dion voulait mettre ses valeurs démocratiques au premier plan," the staffer told *The Métropolitain*. "Une course à l'investiture était l'option la plus juste à ses yeux, malgré la popularité et les appuis de taille de Mark Bruneau."

"She called me a faggot," he said. "I chose to be a Liberal because it is a tolerant party and that is unacceptable."

Bruneau said he has numerous sources who would "testify to that fact." Hervieux-Payette's office did not return *The Métropolitain's* phone calls as of press time.

Although he questions Hervieux-Payette's competence as an organizer, when asked if Rae and Ignatieff supporters could have tried a bit harder to help Dion win the election, all he

would say is that he is "not going to go there."

"Did everyone show up for work? No. Did everyone make an effort? No," said an organizer for the losing candidate in Outremont, Sébastien Dhavernas. The organizer added that the Outremont team, among others, suffered from financial problems, only having roughly half of the \$45,000 needed to run a decent campaign. Dhavernas himself admits that it could have just as easily gone their way.

"The party sent me the resources they had at their disposal once they saw I had a chance," Dhavernas said on election night as he watched the NDP's Thomas Mulcair beat him by only 2,000 votes. "But it's certain that this was a winnable riding."

"Nobody goes into a campaign to lose," Bruneau said. "Dion could have been Prime Minister had he communicated better, had the Green Shift been better received and had there been a Quebec Lieutenant who wasn't incompetent and negligent. I want to put an end to the museum that is the Liberal Party (Quebec) that Céline Hervieux-Payette was curator of."



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# Justice for Anas?

Bizarre circumstances surround the shooting death by police of Mohamed Anas Bennis on Dec. 1, 2005.

This summer, the family, who has been fighting for almost three years against government stonewalling, thought they would finally learn the facts about that day in Cote-des-Neiges.

Last June, Quebec's chief coroner, Louise Nolet, ordered an inquest into the shooting to be presided over by coroner Catherine Rudel-Tessier, which was supposed to begin on September 29, 2008.

But in August, the Montreal police brotherhood filed a legal motion against Rudel-Tessier and the Bennis family to prevent the inquest from taking place, alleging that all of the answers to the family's questions had already been made available.

The Bennis family disagrees.

Three years ago, Benis, 25 and a devout Muslim, was walking home from morning prayers at his mosque near his home.

Simultaneously, the Montreal police and the Surete du Quebec were involved in a joint operation in the neighbourhood targeting a network of alleged scam artists with possible ties to international terrorism. At the corner of Côte-des-Neiges Road and Kent Avenue, two police officers from Montreal's Station 25 were patrolling the security parameter set up for the operation.

That much is known.

But what happened next left Bennis dead, an officer injured, and a string of questions.

Police allege that Anas Benis attacked one of the officers with no provocation, stabbing him in the neck and the leg and causing Constable Yannick Bernier to fatally shoot Benis twice in self-defense.

As with every police shooting in the province, the investigation was taken over by a separate police force - in this case, the Quebec City police.

The family waited 11 months for answers, but instead got a press release from the crown prosecutor announcing that no criminal charges would be laid.

The full report was never made public and the family has been asking since why Anas Benis, who



was unknown to police, had no history of violence, and no known mental health problems, suddenly attack police?

Or simply, as Anas' father stated in 2005: "Anas left the Mosque at 6:30am, and was killed at 7:20am. But nobody has been able to tell me what happened in those fifty minutes. Everything else comes after this. So the truth remains to be seen."

Quebec's public security ministry refused to let the family see the final report, citing article 101 de la Loi sur la recherche des causes et des circonstances des décès, which allows the ministry to withhold a report in its entirety in the interests of protecting the officers of the peace involved.

So the Bennis family took the case to the police ethics commission who initially rejected their complaint in April but reopened the case this August to further investigate whether the use of a firearm, instead of a so-called intermediate weapons, was appropriate.

The community and a number of community organizations have rallied around the family. They say the case highlights the inherently flawed system for investigating the police in the province.

Montreal police have been involved in just over 40 deaths in 20 years. Since the start of 2005, 53 civilians have died in police operations across the province and

another 29 people have been wounded. Police are also regularly killed in the line of duty, 12 in Montreal since 1985.

But those are tallies that say nothing about guilt or innocence - policing will inherently involve violence.

What Quebecers need is a system for investigating police shootings that they can trust.

"It's the same each time a police operation creates a tragedy like the one seen (this summer) in Montreal North," said Philippe Robert de Massy, a lawyer with Quebec's human rights league, referring to the shooting death by Montreal police of Fredy Villanueva.

"We have to find a new way of investigating that guarantees objectivity and transparency."

The Bennis family is demanding the immediate release of all reports, evidence and information to them and the public, a full, public, independent inquiry into Bennis' death, and ambitiously, an end to police brutality and impunity.

But now the Brotherhood is moving to block the coroner's public inquest.

("There's no reason to suspend the inquest," said coroner Rudel-Tessier.

"I think it's necessary, personally.")

The brotherhood recently filed a similar motion to prevent an inquest into the in-custody death of Michel Berniquez, who died from a heart

of the force and describes the enormous difficulty encountered by three officers charged with investigating the bungled drug case that sparked the commission. The report says they were confronted by an unwritten law of silence and police solidarity.

A protest held last week by the Justice for Anas committee in front of the police union building near Laurier metro demonstrated how police rallied when threatened. They blocked off a two streets around the building, brought out 50 police, and re-routed buses to keep the roughly 10 protesters away from their headquarters.

"It's a sign of their hubris," noted protester Carl Olson.

The brotherhood's legal motion will make its way through the courts. Meanwhile, fallout from the Villanueva incident, Montreal's latest fatal police shooting, will continue to dog the force and the Bennis family will keep pressing for answers.

"We should be happy we have this family willing to fight for these changes," said de Massy.

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## The Hon. David Kilgour

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

# Catastrophe looms for Ashraf refugees

The 3500 refugees in Camp Ashraf, located in Iraq about an hour's drive from both Baghdad and the Iranian border, are at serious risk. They are members and supporters of the main opposition in Iran, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), formed in the 1960s in opposition to the Shah's absolute monarchy. It became the largest democratic political party in the country following the 1979 revolution. The party soon found itself in opposition to Ayatollah Khomeini's religious tyranny as well; its members were persecuted mercilessly by him and his Revolutionary Guard after June, 1981. An estimated 120,000 PMOI supporters, including children, have been murdered by the regime within and outside Iran in the intervening years.

Approximately five million Iranians of varying political views have fled the systematic terror and human rights abuses of the ayatollahs across Iran since 1979. Several thousand sought safety in France. In 1986, however, the French government, seeking better commercial and political relations with Tehran, expelled most of them as "undesirable aliens". They ended up in various camps within Iraq, including Ashraf.

In 2001, the PMOI renounced violence as a means of restoring Iran's government to its people as a whole. Its members in Iraq thus declared their neutrality and took no part in the 2003 war between the multinational coalition forces and Saddam Hussein. Unfortunately, dozens of residents of Ashraf were killed by coalition aircraft bombs.

Later that year, the PMOI agreed to consolidate all of its supporters within Iraq at Ashraf. Following a 16-month investigation by seven US government departments, every resident of Ashraf was cleared of any violation of American laws and all were recognized as "protected persons" by the multinational force-Iraq (MNF-I) under the Fourth Geneva Convention. Ashraf has since 2003 been protected by 500 American soldiers from the MNF-I.

Recent assaults on Ashraf by Iran's regime have included bombing its water supply station (Feb 2008) and a missile attack (May 2008), which luckily caused no deaths. In mid-June of this year more than three million Iraqi Shiites signed a petition condemning the meddling by the Iranian regime in Iraq and declared support for the PMOI and Ashraf. This recognized the positive role of Ashraf as a good neighbour assisting with the rebuilding and support of surrounding Iraqi communities.

Matters have not gone so well diplomatically. In 1997, the Clinton administration added the PMOI to its list of terrorist organizations. In 2002, at the request of the UK government, the European Union included it on its list. In 2005, the Martin government did so in Canada. Fortunately the Court of First Instance of the European Court of Justice ruled it was wrongly listed. The Proscribed Organizations Appeal Commission (POAC), a branch of the UK High Court, ruled in late 2007 that the listing in the UK was unlawful, null and void.

The UK Court of Appeal later agreed with POAC, noting that neither the security classified nor unclassified evidence provided a basis for terrorist activity or intent by the PMOI since 2001 and described the UK government's decision to keep it on the list as "perverse". Both houses of the UK Parliament accordingly de-proscribed the PMOI in May 2008. In mid-July, however, the EU Council of Ministers, claiming unspecified new evidence revealed to the Council but not made public by the Sarkozy government, left the PMOI on its terrorist list.

The Tehran regime relies on the continuing terrorist labeling of the PMOI in the EU, US, Iraq and Canada to insist that its supporters in Ashraf and elsewhere around the world be harassed by governments. This includes pressuring the outgoing Bush administration to turn the 'protection' of

Ashraf over to the government of Nuri al-Maliki in Baghdad, whose ministers' comments have created no confidence in their willingness to provide continuing adequate protection.

On June 17th this year, for example, the secretariat of Maliki's council of ministers issued a statement saying that the PMOI "will come under the full control of the Iraqi government until it is expelled from Iraq." The Interior Minister declared recently that the present joint patrols by American and Iraqi forces indicate that "Iraqi forces have taken control of Ashraf and that its residents have a six-month deadline to leave the country." During a visit to Iran, the Justice Minister added: "If it were not for the presence of coalition forces at Ashraf, you would have seen that the people of Iraq would have attacked and destroyed Ashraf."

A legal opinion by Eric David, professor and president of the Centre on International Law at the Free University of Brussels, concluded that under both The Hague and the Fourth Geneva Conventions the US must ensure the protection of the refugees at Ashraf. He added that there is no other authority in Iraq except the American government which has the capability to protect them.

The International Committee of Jurists in Defence of Ashraf, representing many concerned lawyers in Europe, the US and Canada, wrote earlier this month to the then Commanding General of the Multi-national Force-Iraq, stressing that "the transfer of the protection of Ashraf by the US forces to Iraq would pose major risks to the safety and security of the residents there. We are gravely concerned about a wholesale slaughter of the residents of Ashraf."

There are terrible examples in recent years of what can happen when the international community fails to protect vulnerable communities, including Rwanda, Bosnia (Srebrenica), Kosovo and Darfur. The residents of Ashraf must not be added to this 'list of shame'.

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

David T. Jones



# Butt Out

U.S. observers of the Canadian scene are well aware of the almost obsessive attention Canadians pay to the United States.

It is almost as if you don't have a life of your own.

Or that you only see value in your lives by criticizing ours.

So in the midst of your national election, you waste your time on criticizing our politics and politicians as if the USA should be taking direction and inspiration from our northern neighbor (who has such a depth of knowledge and experience that it condescends to inform us of our best interests--when it should be figuring out what is best for itself).

We are well aware that your national preference in our presidential race is for "any Democrat" and that you would probably vote (as you would have voted in 2004) at least 60 percent for the Democratic candidate. But you may not be aware that it would be a kiss of death for any Democrat to advertise your preference.

It seems to pass you by that while U.S. citizens appreciate Canadian citizens as international security allies, economic and trade partners, and generally good neighbor(s), we don't care for interference in our domestic affairs.

Thus for the past 8 years, we have been enduring commentary that ranged from the malicious to the simply stupid. For example, then Ambassador Chretien's expressed preference for VP Gore in 2000; PM Chretien's press secretary's commented that President Bush was a "moron;" MP Carolyn Parrish called Americans "bastards" and leaped up and down on a Bush doll; and Frank McKenna (still another former Canadian ambassador) described our Congress as akin to 535 Carolyn Parrishes and declared the U.S. to be a theocratic state; and PM Paul Martin suggested the U.S. lacked a global conscience for not endorsing the Kyoto Treaty (when the U.S. record regarding green house gas emissions was better than Canada's).

And in every recent election the Liberals and others have flailed against "U.S. style" this, that, or the other instead of logically refuting the ideas of political competitors. In the absence of personal attributes of their own, they accuse their opponents of being crypto-Americans with "hidden agendas."

Perhaps then it was only normal extrapolation for Heather Mallick's pathetically puerile rant against Republicans, males, and Sarah Palin on CBCNews.ca. In language acceptable only when directed against U.S. citizens who are not supporting Senator Obama, Mallick hit the wall. She was adjudged to be so out-of-control that CBC executives, their gonads in a vice, attempted to extract themselves from her cesspool with a "Who knew that excess would become wretched excess?" type of response. Part of their mea culpa was a commitment to more balanced opinion. Yes, and palm trees soon will line the streets of Montreal.

Perhaps Canadians should spend a little time reviewing the beams in their eyes rather than critiquing the motes in the eyes of others. Thus a history including

-- a founding father who was a functioning alcoholic;

-- a World War II prime minister who spent time communing with his dead mother and was so despised by Canadian Forces that they defeated him with write in votes in his own riding;

-- a prime minister who motorcycled about Montreal with a German helmet and suggested that he hadn't really understood World War II until it was over, but is touted for a sexual rapaciousness that made JFK appear a prude;

-- a feckless prime minister who lost his luggage while traveling and his government because he counted parliamen-

## Perhaps Canadians should spend a little time reviewing the beams in their eyes rather than critiquing the motes in the eyes of others.



tary votes more poorly than a high school student; and

-- a prime minister who attempted to strangle a demonstrator (imagine the calls for psychiatric intervention had a U.S. president so acted).

Canadians are charged with forgetting their history. Given the foregoing, one can understand why.

Or your recent campaign in which

-- one candidate wishes to terminate Canada--and is treated seriously rather than medically;

-- another candidate was so inarticulately strangled in both official languages that he makes George Bush sound like Pericles;

-- a third candidate emphasizes a foreign policy initiative to abrogate Canada's UN/NATO commitment in Afghanistan immediately (a new type of "trust buster" to be sure); and

-- an assortment of parliamentary candidates who have been defenestrated or have withdrawn "for personal reasons" after offenses including video taped marijuana use while driving, sexually explicit exposure to teenage girls, previous criminal convictions, 9/11 denial, and politically incorrect comments.

Neither of our societies is short of glass houses. So why not do your stone throwing domestically--and just butt out of our election.



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## Rouba al-Fattal

Rouba al-Fattal is a Montreal writer pursuing graduate studies in Europe. Her poetry has been nominated for the UNESCO Women's Poetry Prize.

### VISA TO PARADISE

I stood for inspection at the gates of heaven  
'Passport and visa please', a full armed angel demanded  
He looked at me suspiciously, unconvinced  
By the little amount of blood on my hands

I had nothing to declare but my hate squeezed in my suitcase  
And I want nothing, except for my promised spot in paradise  
In the long line we started squirming as usual in contempt  
O Creator, you did not tell us we need a visa to heaven

In the security office, I boasted how many  
I have killed in vain in his name  
My heart flapped within my shackled spirit  
They did not believe me, I had no paper work!!  
They needed to extract the truth out of my teeth  
Because heaven bears no innocent men

In the torture room, it was a déjà-vu  
All torture rooms have the same cold smell  
The sweat of fear mingled with the sent of rage  
I screamed I am not innocent, guilty, trust me  
With frozen tears cutting like sharp glass my hard face  
I yelled, I killed civilians intentionally  
I am a murderer, a martyr; please allow my entry

O Master, I swear I have never loved  
Never laughed, sang or dreamt of peace  
And not once washed my dark soul with poetry  
If it is not I who killed your children then who did?  
If it is not I who terrorized the birds then who did?  
If it is not I who strangled the butterflies then who did?  
If it is not I who burned the jasmine fields then who did?

I am neither a communist nor a capitalist, I swear  
I am a terrorist. . .so where is my promised virgin bosoms  
In the blue harbor of her eyes I detonated my bomb  
In the luscious green of her palm trees, I lit the fire  
And in your name O Lord I stopped her joyous moments  
The blood of my sea, exceeded the water of your seas  
My passion for you exceed my love for her child's laughter

O God, if heaven is no more a part of my geography  
And I am nothing but a tangle of revulsion,  
Lacking a valid visa to your light  
Where then shall this tired warrior rest at last?



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# The Cascading Crisis of Confidence

There is not enough money in the world to give everyone who is suffering through hard times some kind of bailout. Be they individuals, small businesses or corporations, some will have to be allowed to fail. The remains of their capital will have to be freed from their hands to be invested anew in more promising ventures to build the foundation for the next economic expansion. Throughout economic history, risk either begets reward, or failure. This rule must ring true in this economic cycle if the free markets of financial and intellectual capital will flourish again.

The problem is, you wouldn't know it by looking at the initiatives taken by governments all around the world. The risk has been removed from the market and assumed by governments. Governments are offering bailouts and guarantees to banks, companies and even individuals (through mortgage workouts) to keep the economy from tanking further. So, why don't we feel better about our future prospects? Why are corporations curtailing their projects and employment rosters, and consumers their spending? The answer is that we don't believe that what is being done is enough, nor can it ever be enough to circumvent the classic economic cycles of contraction and expansion.

## It all started with Lehman Brothers

The US government was doing a decent job of managing the crisis and consumer expectations until it made the arbitrary decision to allow Lehman Brothers to fail. The White House, Treasury Department and Federal Reserve needed to make an example of one of the investment banks to send a message to Wall Street that "someone had to pay" for the excesses of the past decade. That arbitrary choice, one that had survived the US Civil War and two world wars, was Lehman. The government figured that the assets would be sold off, and other investment banking institutions would seek capital injection from the markets or team up with deposit-taking institutions to ensure their survival.

The government failed to understand the psychological impact of letting Lehman fail; the markets came to believe that if an institution like Lehman was not safe, then no one was safe. The fragile sense that the banking system could work its way out of the mess with the assistance of government was broken. If Lehman could be allowed to fail, then why not Goldman Sachs, or Merrill Lynch, or Morgan Stanley? Extending that logic of vulnerability, then certainly any regional bank like Fleet Financial or Key Bank would be allowed to collapse as well. The market lost all confidence that the banking system could or would be saved. The US government was forced into a far more drastic rescue package involving direct capital injection into the banks as well as guaranteeing interbank lending and expanding the coverage of individual deposit accounts in order to restore confidence. Had Lehman been saved, the message to the markets would have been much different and ultimately the rescue package committed to by the US government would have been a lot less extensive and expensive.

## The European Circus

As bad as the US process was, the European bailout was a calamity of errors. When the Euro was created, along with a Central European Bank, the expectation was that the governments involved would act in unison in any crisis. Instead, they behaved like the old collection of closet nationalists they used



## The White House, Treasury Department and Federal Reserve needed to make an example of one of the investment banks to send a message to Wall Street

to be and began acting to protect their own peoples without considering the effect on the whole inter-related system. First, on October 2nd, the Irish government announced a plan to guarantee all retail bank deposits. Fearing a flight of capital to the emerald isle, the Germans announced their own retail deposit guarantee plan a few days later. What a bunch of amateurs! These two nations basically sent the entire EU scrambling to put together a similar guarantee plan in order to prevent the massive transfer of retail deposits to two jurisdictions. It fell to the UK's Gordon Brown, not a Euro member state but intertwined with the economics of the continents nonetheless, to propose a plan of direct capital investment in the banks that ultimately stabilized the European financial network. If the EU nations and the UK had come forward

with a unified plan at the end of September, the panic would have been minimized and the intervention required less expensive as well, just like in the US.

## Canada: To catch a falling star

Canada is the best positioned nation among the G8 to weather the current economic crisis. Our government has been in surplus for almost 10 years and has been reducing the federal debt, giving us greater fiscal room to maneuver than other developed nations. Our unemployment level was at a 30 year low and our inflation rate was under control. Historically high commodity prices ensured long term development



## Anthony Philbin

Managing Editor, Deputy Publisher

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# Bailout robbery

U.S. Treasury Secretary Paulson hasn't clearly explained why the U.S. needs to bail out the Wall Street millionaires, and he has even gone on record saying that the \$700 billion figure in the bailout package is completely arbitrary. He has further admitted that the \$700 billion number is "not based on any particular data point". In other words he doesn't have a clue.

In an era when election promises in the billions or tens of billions face scrutiny by panels of accountants and politicians trying to figure out "Where all this new money is going to come from", the now trillions that have been devoted to the sub-prime "crisis" are being agreed and forwarded with only minimal accountability requirements and no clear mandate for its use or preparations for the effect it might have on U.S. inflation.

I place the word crisis above in quotes because over a year ago Wall Street insiders were already tracing what was then only a looming sub-prime catastrophe to the doorstep of one of the clear winners in this process—Goldman-Sachs. The role of this symbol of global financial aristocracy in designing and legitimizing the investment products that have been the primary cause of the U.S.'s financial cess pool was clearly outlined in a NY Times piece by Ben Stein on December 7, 2007 ("The Long and the Short of it at Goldman Sachs"). In the piece Stein notes that:

"My pal, colleague and alter ego, the financial manager Phil DeMuth, culled data from a financial Web site, ABAlert.com (for "asset-backed alert"), that Goldman Sachs was one of the top 10 sellers of CMO's for the last two and a half years. From the evidence I see, Goldman was doing this for years. It might have sold very roughly \$100 billion of the stuff in that period, according to ABAlert. Goldman was doing it on a scale of billions even when Henry M. Paulson Jr., the current Treasury secretary, led the firm."

Stein goes on to underline a very important point:

"Should Henry M. Paulson Jr., who formerly ran a firm that engaged in this kind of conduct, be serving as Treasury secretary? Should there not be some inquiry into what the invisible government of Goldman (and the rest of Wall Street) did to create this disaster, which has caught up with some Wall Street firms but not the nimble Goldman?"

When the Depression got under way, the government created the Temporary National Economic Committee to study just what had happened on the Street to get the tragedy going. Maybe it's time for an investigation of just what Wall Street and Goldman did to make money as they pumped this mortgage mess into the economic system, and sometimes were seemingly on both sides of

the deal."

Of course no such committee is planned or would ever find anything to trace back to the Kings of Wall Street. That this piece could appear in the Times over a year ago and still have no effect whatsoever on the media in general's approach to Paulson's credibility is further testament to the extent that Goldman and others in big finance control so much of the public information space. More recently the Times reported that Lloyd C. Blankfein, Goldman Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, was also the main advisor to Paulson and Bernanke on the AIG bailout—a company Goldman has a \$20 billion stake in. One wonders just who that AIG bailout will really be benefiting.

Paulson therefore has been instrumental in overseeing and ensuring that his former firm has remained profitable throughout this "crisis". You can be sure as well that one of the great unanswered questions about this whole thieving mess—namely how these very questionable investment products managed to garner AAA ratings from the world's credit

agencies in the first place—was also largely on the basis of them having come from Goldman, Sachs and likely with commensurate backroom pressure for stellar ratings assignments.

In the event that you're questioning whether or not Goldman has come out smelling so rosy after all that's gone on in the past 24-months, look no further than Warren Buffet's recent purchase of \$5 billion in Goldman stock. Buffett is simultaneously advising Obama to support the deal while he himself is investing in the company that stands to make the most off the deal.

Note too that we are not spared the "Goldman touch" in Canada either. Mark Carney, Canada's new and beloved head of the Bank of Canada, also spent 13 years climbing the ladders of the financial aristocracy in Goldman's gilded halls, and you can be sure where his primary loyalties lie as he describes how Canada should be reacting to this crisis.

And as all this plays out, where are Obama the Change Agent and McCain the Maverick? After the initial bailout defeat they quickly

jumped in to tow the bankers' line and tell the public to rest assured that they support the bailout. Obviously this is because they know that in the short term it will stave off the unrest and uncertainty that neither has any interest in inheriting as a legacy of their Presidency.

What McCain might do, however, is potentially try to tap into the groundswell of populist anti-bailout sentiment that has emerged from main street America by reversing his position. It would run against his 26-year history of supporting the financial sector deregulation that facilitated the investor abuse leading to this crisis, but it could also help him outflank the disappointing Obama.

For Obama the Profound, and Obama the Man of Real Change, this is a telling remark on his true courage and true allegiances, despite any rhetoric to the contrary about how he stands up for "ordinary Americans" and "substantive change". Like most public leaders he has his own destiny and his own legacy front and center and is not in any way demonstrating himself to be a man who will bring anything new to Washington.

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The Obama campaign's top spokesman pushing this deal is none other than Roger Altman, who Bloomberg News reports is simultaneously "advising a group of investors who are trying to prevent their shares from being diluted in the U.S. takeover of American International Group Inc."—that is, who have a direct financial interest in the current iteration of the bailout. There's nothing like this type of crisis to lay bare a man like Obama's true colours, and more than anything this has exposed him as a man of the system—just another big finance lackey.

Good luck therefore developing decent healthcare programs or buttressing your social security system, our friends down south. Your futures and your children's futures have just been stolen by the furtive few who run your country and most others as well, and who have mastered the funnelling of public dollars into private hands and social management through obfuscation and untruth.

In the event that there are some of you believing what some members of the financial community have been claiming about all of this being caused by Democrats forcing



banks to lend to the poor who couldn't really afford it, remember that this so-called "collapse" was triggered by the massive defaulting

and foreclosures going on with people's home mortgages, and that the number one cause of people declaring bankruptcy in the U.S. is

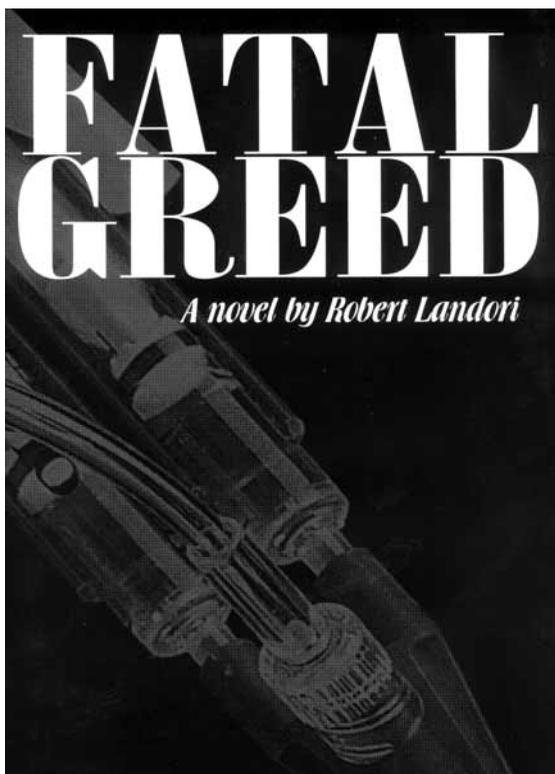
still medical bills.

Remember also that the banks spend billions each year marketing credit cards and other forms of debt

to already over-loaded U.S. (and Canadian) consumers. Canadians are now debt leveraged far more than average citizens in the UK but only just below where the U.S. levels now stand.

Ordinary people everywhere, not just in the U.S., need to stand up and take notice of what has transpired these past weeks and months. If ever there was a threat to our freedom and our livelihoods, if ever there was a need for vigilance and courage in the face of injustice, the events surrounding bank bailouts demand to be held up for the true thefts that they are and the Wall Street scions responsible for them sent to the trenches where they belong.

We all need to question how it can be that the people and their political leaders in what is supposed to be the most powerful nation in the world can be exposed to be so powerless in the face of global financial interests. It will be telling to witness if U.S. lawmakers have the courage to regulate the financial sector post-crisis so that it cannot use this as an excuse to raise interest rates beyond reasonability in order to maintain their shareholder dividends at everyone else's expense.



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# Proud to be Canadian?

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

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

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

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

## Make Democracy a Guiding Principle

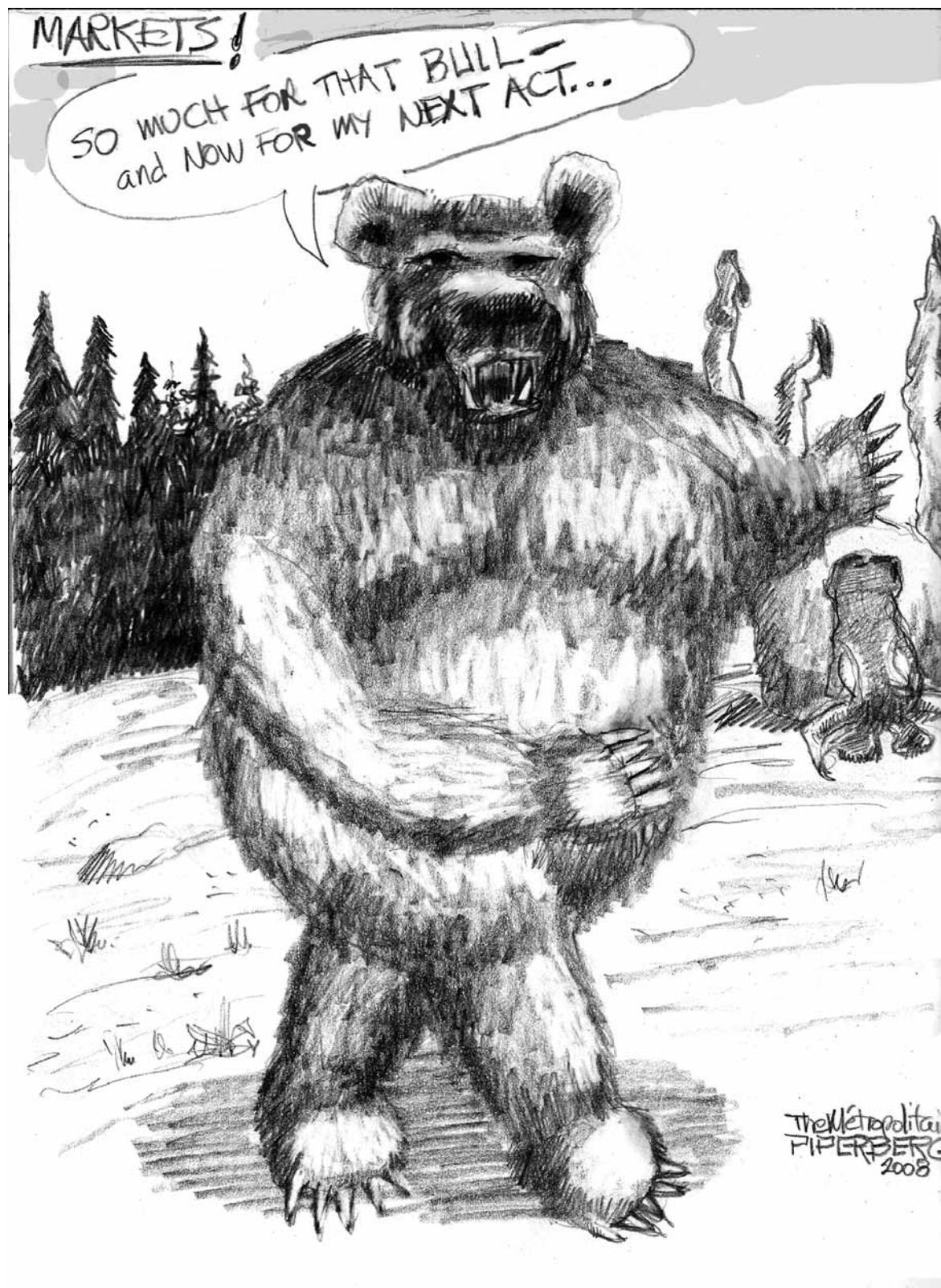
Canada's foreign policy is centred around three Ds (Defense, Development and Diplomacy). CCD believes that our policies should be guided by a 4th D, Democracy. Canada must make ending corruption, respect for the rule of law, and open, accountable and transparent governments key foreign policy priorities.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

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

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# PIPERBERG'S WORLD



...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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# Concordia's Place Norman Bethune finally taking shape

After years of discussion, assorted arguments, endless urban planning and a lot of construction, a statue raised to honor the memory of Dr. Norman Bethune, a hero of the Chinese revolution, will be located at the heart of one of the city's more successful urban design projects.

After the statue was cleaned and restored to its former glory, the city moved its stele to its new location near the northern edge of the square where it was recently unveiled. The brief ceremony included Canada's former Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson, His Excellency Lan Li Jun, China's ambassador to Canada, Concordia vice-rector Judith Woodsworth and Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay.

"As a doctor, a scientist, an inventor and a tireless fighter for social justice, Doctor Norman Bethune defined his life and times with his innovative spirit and his devotion to the poorest of the poor," said Tremblay.

Historians agree how Bethune's work among the city's poor during the depression had much to do with Bethune's sympathy for the poor and his socialist politics. During the 1930's, when the struggle between fascists and everybody else dominated the history of the western world, Bethune made his way to Spain where he began working as a doctor on the front lines with Spanish Loyalists during the Spanish Civil War. After their defeat at the hands of Franco's fascists, he left for China where he joined the Chinese Communists to help fight the Japanese. After living and working through horribly rough conditions for months, he cut a finger during a routine operation. The wound



turned septic and the infection soon killed Bethune.

The statue was originally a gift to the city from the People's Republic of China. As a civic monument, it is a classic example of socialist realism which defines the traditional aesthetic realities of a socialist state in the twentieth century. While many considered the statue's original significance to have been lost due to its previous place in the middle of a tiny park located near one of the city's busiest traffic intersections, a new generation of urban planners understood the importance of civic architecture and the statue is now at the heart of one of our more important civic initiatives.

City officials consider its working relationship with Concordia University to be one of the stellar examples of what can be achieved when both public and private interests collaborate on a common goal. As Place Norman Bethune is being developed as a PPP (Private and Public Partnership) between the city and Concordia University, the city is investing a total of \$3 Million to refurbish the square which includes the \$30 000 paid to the Centre de Conservation du Québec to restore the Bethune statue. Traffic will continue to be hampered until 2009 when work on the southern part of the square is scheduled to be finished along with the square's new sidewalks. The entire project, which includes Concordia's John Molson School of Business, is scheduled to be finished by 2010 and the square, now known as Place Norman Bethune, will be considered as the centerpiece of what the city now defines as the downtown core's Quartier Concordia.

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

- George F. Lengvari, Sr.





# Robert Latimer, prisonnier politique

Après deux procès, deux appels et un dernier appel devant la Cour suprême, après sept années d'incarcération, Robert Latimer reste convaincu que ses derniers juges l'ont injustement condamné. Il réclame un nouveau procès. Il soutient toujours avoir agi pour soulager les douleurs de sa fille, dont l'état ne cessait d'empirer sans qu'il soit possible de lui administrer une médication anti-douleurs.

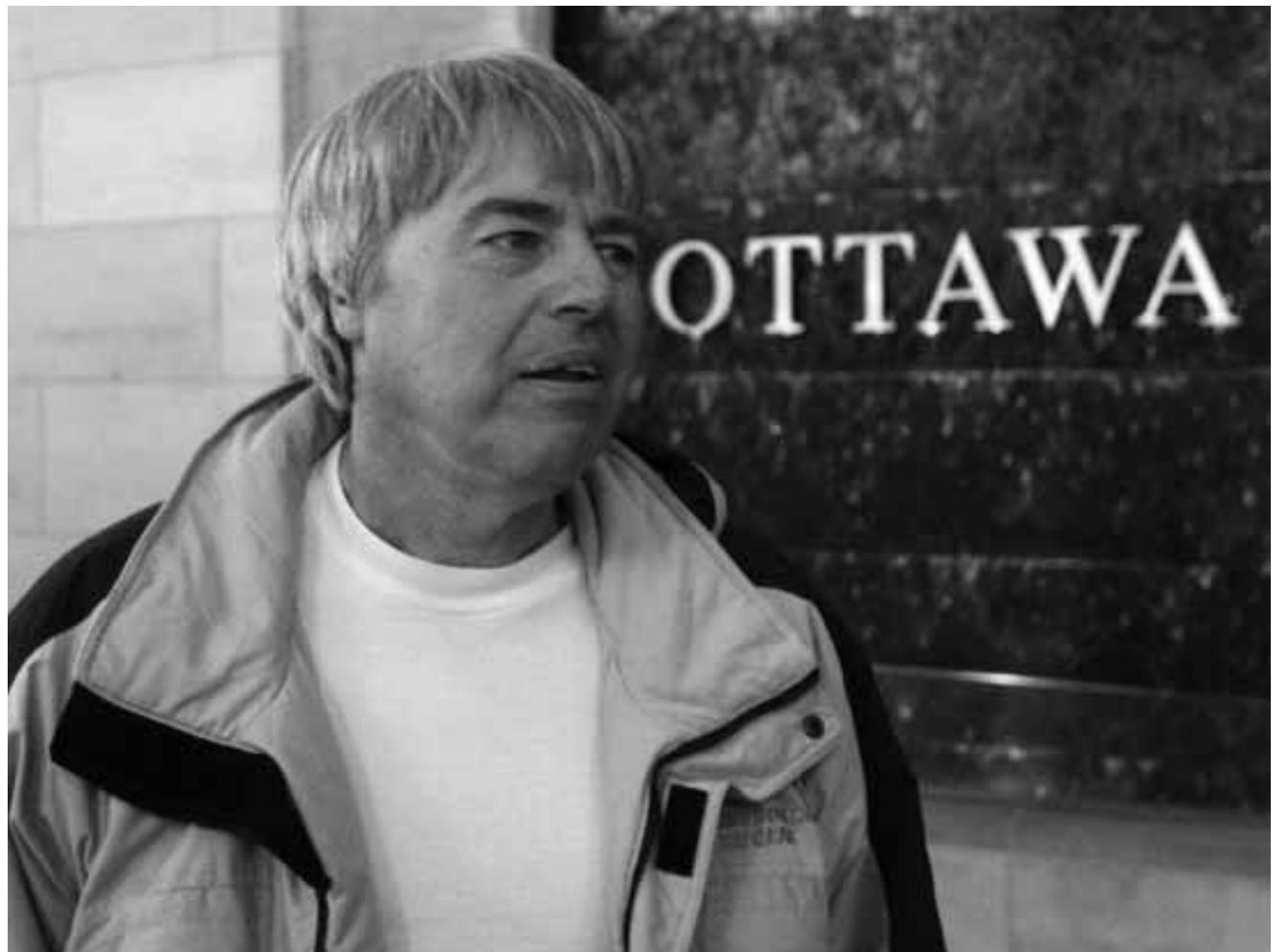
Or, Robert Latimer a été condamné au nom même de cette possibilité de médication qui n'existait pas ! Depuis 2001, il écrit aux juges pour qu'ils lui disent qu'elle était cette fameuse médication qui aurait pu soulager les douleurs de sa fille soumise à des interventions chirurgicales qui n'allaient nulle part et qui ne servaient qu'à prolonger sa vie et, du même coup, ses douleurs. Mais aux yeux des juges, Tracy était sous contrôle médical dans le cadre d'un «pain management», une notion aussi complexe qu'incertaine. Par manque de formation en la matière, les juges s'en sont plutôt remis à la prétendue expertise d'une coalition d'activistes des droits des personnes-avec-handicaps, qui leur ont fourni un argumentaire charriant de la désinformation médicale et colportant la thèse du caractère intouchable des douleurs des personnes handicapées.

Voici comment ces militants ont formulé leur point de vue : «This case rises significant issues about the rights of people with disabilities and it's outcome could have LIFE THREATENING CONSEQUENCES.» Voici maintenant comment les juges de la Cour suprême ont rédigé leur jugement : «Killing a person - in order to relieve the suffering produced by a medically manageable physical or mental condition - is not a proportionate response to the harm represented by THE NON-LIFE THREATENING SUFFERING RESULTING FROM THAT CONDITION.» De ce consensus phraséologique se dégage une même vision fondamentaliste : c'était « La Vie » qu'il fallait maintenir en vie, au prix de celle de Tracy ...

Quant à Latimer, depuis son dernier appel jusqu'à son audition devant la Commission des libérations conditionnelles où on a tenté de lui faire renier son geste de compassion, il a répété avoir fait ce qu'il devait faire, et que personne d'autre que lui ne pouvait faire, une question de responsabilité-tenu des circonstances. De fait, son épouse et lui ont pensé qu'après douze ans de soins indéfectibles comme parents, le statut artificiel de personne handicapée de Tracy la mettait moins à l'abri des abus qu'elle ne l'exposait à un sort cruel, celui d'avoir à souffrir davantage au nom de ses handicaps et au nom de LA CAUSE à laquelle elle aurait dû être sacrifiée et à laquelle ses parents ont été sacrifiés : les droits des Pro-Vie-Handicaps à la faveur de l'intrication des articles 7 et 15(1) de la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés.

Tout s'est passé dans cette Affaire comme si Tracy Latimer avait été kidnappée au nom d'une cause, certes légitime, mais extérieure à sa condition médicale, pour se servir d'elle et la dépouiller, posthumément, de ses droits et procéder au lynchage constitutionnel de toute la famille. Le caractère sacré de la Vie, et celui tout aussi sacré de la Vie-avec-Handicaps, détournant la justice du sort «cruel et inusité» de toute la famille, qui aurait dû être protégée par l'article 12 de la même Charte.

Au deuxième procès de Latimer, le juge Ted Noble, reconnaissant le caractère «compassionnel» de ce drame, avait trouvé un compromis en accordant une exemption constitutionnelle à Latimer en vertu de l'article en question. CETTE EXEMPTION AURAIT DÛ ÉGALEMENT ÊTRE VALABLE POUR TRACY. C'est à partir de là, essentielle-



Tout s'est passé dans cette Affaire comme si Tracy Latimer avait été kidnappée au nom d'une cause, certes légitime, mais extérieure à sa condition médicale, pour se servir d'elle et la dépouiller, posthumément, de ses droits et procéder au lynchage constitutionnel de toute la famille.

ment une question de discrimination, qu'il faudra un jour reprendre le procès de Latimer, s'il se trouve dans la salle un autre juriste qui soit aussi un être humain.

Et pourquoi pas Louise Arbour, notre championne des droits humains et ex-juge de la Cour suprême, qui pourrait profiter de son « retour à la maison » pour remettre en question sa participation à ce jugement unanime, qui constitue un crime contre l'Humanité des Latimer, une famille déjà éprouvée à la naissance de Tracy et qui a été trahie par ceux-là même qui auraient dû les comprendre, dont un certain Grant G. Mitchell, avocat-activiste et père d'une fille gravement

handicapée. Une trahison acharnée qui a été sanctionnée au bout d'un harcèlement juridique, lequel a eu pour résultat de faire condamner sous les apparences du meurtrier un père qui est intervenu pour sa fille dans un réflexe de légitime défense

En fin de compte, «en l'espèce», les juges se sont lavés les mains du drame des Latimer en suggérant aux élus d'accorder la prérogative royale de clémence. Mais nos législateurs n'ont jamais su quoi penser d'un jugement qui équivaut à la fabrication d'un criminel. Et aussi, Robert Latimer, coupable d'être innocent, reste le prisonnier de son opinion.



## ROBERT PRESSER

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THE CASCADING CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

projects that were capital intensive and were long-term job creators. Finally, our financial institutions were well-capitalized and considered the stars of the developed world.

By all accounts, there should have been a rush to invest in Canada, just as world money was flooding into the US following their banking workout plan announced by the US Treasury. Instead, the Canadian Dollar has been pummeled lower by over 10 cents this month alone, the worst result in almost sixty years. What happened? World investors have been dumping Canadian investments, along with our dollar, leaving our currency to track the international price of oil on the way down just as it appreciated along with oil over the past six years. Canada is so much more than an oil producer, and our dollar should not be relegated to the status of a petrodollar, yet that is exactly what we are living with.

Harper's six-point plan to manage the Canadian angle of the international financial crisis was not convincing. Basically, he promised to talk to everyone in government and finance

around the country and the world, watch government spending and adjust if necessary. This is not an overly compelling initiative to restore consumer confidence, and it rings hollow for most Canadians. Its impact in international financial circles was equally muted. As a result, our dollar was slammed along with most other currencies in the flight to safety.

Canada failed to sell itself effectively as a diversified, vibrant, innovative and competitive home for international capital. Our government must do a better job in the future, because we already don't deserve the treatment we are receiving when we're in better shape than our international competitors. Imagine what kind of investment treatment Canada would receive if we were actually in a weaker macroeconomic state than our trading partners!

### Watch the ultimate confidence indicator: gold!

The price of gold has undergone wild swings over the past

several months, settling below its all-time high above \$1000 US at \$730 US. Earlier in the month, gold has soared to over \$900 before the flight to the USD began in earnest.

Investors have traditionally turned to gold when they have lost confidence in international currencies. As I have written in previous articles, the massive trillions of dollars injected into world economies to sustain the markets debases the value of the currencies and eventually leads to a flight to hard assets. Gold is universally attractive because it has a worldwide following, it is portable, and has many uses. If the confidence game played by governments ultimately fails, then the price of gold will soar as a result. Eventually the ability of governments to bail out successive industries will be exhausted and those with liquid investments left will seek safety in the yellow metal. If you want to know when the confidence game has run its course, follow the price of gold; when it spikes over \$1000 USD and stays there, you will know when the next phase of the financial crisis is ready to begin.

# The System is the Scandal!

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

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HAUT LES CŒURS!

## Un peu de dignité SVP !

C'était un soir d'automne, un jeudi soir qui aurait pu être banal. Je marchais en direction du théâtre St-Denis. J'étais en avance au rendez-vous, un concert-bénéfice de la Fondation Garceau fondée par Brigitte Garceau et l'Institut des affaires publiques de Beryl Wajzman, venant en aide aux démunis, notamment des enfants. Je décidai d'entrer dans un café, et là, près de la fenêtre, je bus un allongé, en regardant la rue et les gens. La misère est palpable, parfois criante, parfois discrète. Il y avait une bande de jeunes assis par terre, des marginaux, diraient certains. Il y avait des vagabonds, des itinérants. Il y avait aussi des regards vides, des visages hébétés, comme ceux de l'immigrant, du divorcé, de la femme battue. Est-ce parce que je me rendais au concert « Les lilas de Cassandra », que je remarquai avec plus d'acuité cette détresse urbaine ? Quoi qu'il en soit, je fus frappée de plein fouet par la misère de la rue, ce soir-là.

Ayant passé jusqu'à présent l'essentiel de sa vie à aider les autres, que ce soit au travers de son travail d'avocate, et aussi par ses multiples activités et implications communautaires,

Brigitte Garceau, par sa fondation, œuvre à venir en aide aux démunis, notamment les enfants. L'amour, pensons-nous, sauvera le monde. Cet espoir, à lui seul, permet « d'adoucir les conditions » et de donner du courage. Justement, par le biais du spectacle « les Lilas de Cassandra », Brigitte Garceau ouvre une fenêtre sur l'espoir, pour faire en sorte que le passé horrible de certaines personnes puisse se reconstruire, fleurir et refleurir.

Cette ouverture sur le possible, sur la construction d'un monde meilleur, permet aux démunis de garder la tête haute et ouvre la question : « Qui peut dire à quoi ressemblera notre avenir ? » Ayant vu la mobilisation de toute la communauté et de tous les gens présents à ce spectacle, je suis persuadée que les choses peuvent changer. En effet, certains spectacles nous touchent plus que d'autres, justement parce qu'ils véhiculent non seulement un message universel, mais également une voix, une inspiration, s'adressant directement au cœur humain. « Les lilas de Cassandra » est un de ceux-là. « Le lilas, comme un enfant, est une belle fleur, mais fragile », expliquait Brigitte

Garceau, dans son discours d'introduction. Il y a quelque chose de si vibrant et de si exaltant dans ce simple message, qu'il faut juste franchir le pas pour libérer en nous la compassion humaine nécessaire à un peu de lumière, cette parcelle de lumière apte à chasser la haine, la peur, et à adoucir les conditions des plus démunis.

De plus, « Les lilas de Cassandra » possède une signification authentique, en portant le prénom de la fille de Mme Garceau, qui s'inscrit tout naturellement dans la mémoire et porte le message en toute simplicité et en toute beauté. Sous la présidence d'honneur de la juge Andrée Ruffo, cette voix éclairante, nous sommes en phase avec ces valeurs de partage, de solidarité et d'aide aux autres, qui appellent chacun et chacune de nous à sortir de l'indifférence, face à la misère que l'on croise partout dans la rue, notamment face à la cruauté dont sont victimes de trop nombreux enfants. L'importance de reconsidérer ses propres valeurs demeure donc un déterminant important dans l'actuel combat visant à résoudre les problèmes

Suite à la page 21



Isaac Olson

## Local youth learn about global responsibility

Hundreds of young voices became one, filling the air with hope and dreams of change: "We can make a difference," they chanted. "We have a global responsibility! We can make a difference!"

The chanting, led by a former child soldier turned Canadian citizen, was part of a global responsibility conference that attracted an estimated 600-strong crowd comprised of both community members and more than a dozen local schools. They all gathered under one roof on Oct. 2 to hear dedicated altruists discuss global issues like poverty, war and disease while learning what ordinary people, young and old, can do to make a difference in an ailing world.

Held at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom and hosted by the Selwyn House School (SHS), the four-hour conference, called "Educating Youth for Global Responsibility," opened students' eyes to humankind's uncertain future and the desperate need for philanthropic action. The event was one of the final components of SHS's yearlong centennial celebration that recognizes the school's Nov. 26, 1908 founding.

"We want our graduates go out into the world as responsible, independent learners," said SHS Headmaster William Mitchell, noting the school donated \$500 to each presenter's cause. "Our focus is to prepare kids for the world they are going to inherit. It's all about exposing students to community service and worthwhile projects that give back to the community and the larger world."

Teaching students about the seriousness of global issues while inspiring them to take an active role in bettering the world through community service has long been apart of SHS's educational goals and, with the centennial year in mind, the school has, over the past year, invested in globally-themed events to accent altruistic ideals and inspire understanding of

what humanity is going through as the human population skyrockets, resources dry up and pollution plagues the environment.

At the conference, there were two panels of humanitarians. The first panel included David Danylewich (Director of Field Operations at Right to Play), Patrick Duplat (advocate at Refugees International), Emily Bass (Program Director of AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition) and Alexandre Trudeau (documentary producer and former director of Canada World Youth).

"You are embarking on a period that is really one of the great turning points in history," Trudeau said. "The last two to three centuries of western dominance of the planet is coming to an end. Our might is now being challenged. We are now living in a world where global resources are limited more so now than ever before ... We, in western countries, have to decide what our legacy is going to be and how we are going to share global resources. There is no way that we can sustain the level of comfort that we have."

Since Alusine Bah's arrival in Montreal, he has dedicated himself to raising funds to build schools and a community well in his hometown of Yengema in West Africa's Sierra Leone. Bah, who was rescued from soldiering at age 16, spoke of being separated from his family in the early 1990s and of the two years he spent as a teenage militant. He also spoke about his transition from life in Africa to life here in Canada.

"I was trained to use weapons like the AK-47," said Bah, a Canadian citizen since January. "I had to do what I was told or I would have been shot and killed. I have seen things impossible for you to imagine ... Now I live in a country where, when I walk down the street in downtown Montreal, I don't have to constantly look to my back. I now live in a country where I don't



From left: Dario Iezzoni, Joelle Berdugo Adler and Jennifer Heil.

have to worry that someone will knock at my door and kill me. But we have to understand that what we have in this country, other parts of the world do not. Where we can turn on our taps and let the water run for hours, there are people in some places that struggle for just one cup."

After four SHS graduates spoke of their charitable work around the globe, a second panel was introduced. The panel included Jennifer Heil (an Olympic gold medallist dedicated to the community), Dario Iezzoni (Vice President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Montreal) and Joelle Berdugo Adler (founder of ONEXONE).

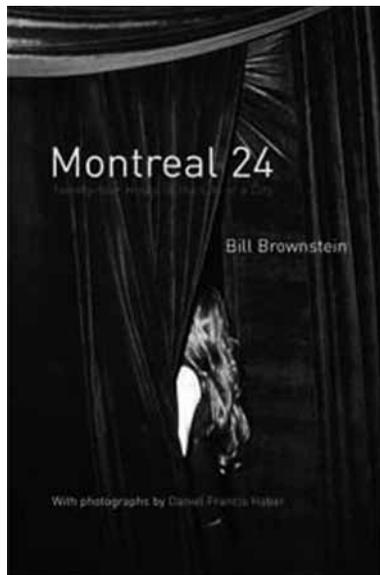
"We have the power to make profound change," Adler said. "Let's park our egos at the door and get out there and do it. The circle of poverty is the greatest proponent of violence. As long as we don't erase poverty in the world, we will be supporting the global rise of war and terrorism."



# Bill Brownstein's 24 Hours

Bill Brownstein never walked into a saloon he didn't like. The Gazette's man about town has compiled a loving tribute to Montreal's night spots in *24: Twenty Four Hours in the Life of a City*. His interlocking chapters convey the mood of the city through the owners, employees, trend setters, and bar flies that he's interviewed in 24 different locations around town.

It's the kind of thing Sunday Times reporter Nicholas Tomlin did so effectively with London - chart the happenings at various places around town over the course of a single day. Brownstein begins at the hip Garde Manger restaurant in Old Montreal, drops into Grumpy's for some bluegrass music at 1 a.m., and continues his bar hopping marathon, stopping for lunch at Mas des Oliviers, taking high tea at the Hôtel St. James, (which boasts about the



highest prices of any hotel in Canada), has dinner at Holder's, visits Café Cherrier, "that practically perfect bistro" on St. Denis, then

goes slumming with the Dead Doll Dancers at Café Cleopatre on The Main.

Brownstein plays it safe: the places he chooses to explore are with one or two exceptions, are all worthwhile, but all mainstream. No startling underground discoveries or cutting edge revelations here. What sets this book apart from the usual guide book format are the intimate portraits Brownstein skillfully draws of the colourful individuals who have made Montreal home.

"Montreal has a style that can't be explained in a few sentences," Brownstein writes. "For a city that many gave up for dead not that long ago, Montreal offers a life like few other metropolises on the planet."

The names that fly through the pages define the city's cosmopolitan charm: We cross paths with people like Old Montreal developer,

Dimitri Antonopoulos, Imad Smaidi, "the ever beaming beanpole proprietor of Boustan," Raja Thamthura and Lowie Magdaluyo, "on the bagel beat," actress Elise Varo, "mother and bartender" at Mas des Oliviers, Nick Tedeschi, who "nurses culture," in a St. Henri coffee house, and Johnny Zoumboulakis, a strip club owner "who spends evenings working as a boy scout leader."

Like everyone he writes about, Brownstein makes sure his customers, - his readers - are entertained. Taken together, the cast of characters he befriends reveal the heart and the soul of the Øhood without being overblown about it.

Simon Finn, a musician who arrived from London in 1972 and never left perhaps sums it up best when he describes Montreal as "one of the last great romantic cities of

the world where you have the oddest collection of characters, from artists to philosophers, to brick layers, from deadbeat journalists to used up musicians. What makes it so special is the way everyone interacts so effortlessly, be it talking politics, playing pool or just meeting women."

The cheeky dedication is to de Maisonneuve, who founded Montreal in 1642 and "paved the way for generations of party animals to keep rediscovering the city."

Unfortunately, the cover design, which depicts a long-haired woman disappearing behind some velvet drapes, suggests sleaze rather than sophistication, and some fine evocative photographs by Daniel Francis Haber appear to be included as an afterthought.

Published by Vehicule Press, the book is \$18.95.

de pauvreté. Chacun, chacune, attend de l'avenir des conditions meilleures, qui lui permettront, enfin, d'atteindre le bonheur.

Cette conviction, cette attente, ou le combat que l'être humain mène pour ce bonheur futur, nous amène à ne pas capitonner nos vies au point d'oublier la détresse concrète des autres qui, de près ou de loin, sont autour de nous. En effet, pour certaines personnes, la vie quotidienne est un défi. Face à cela, pour les gens plus privilégiés, la vie devient un devoir. Un devoir qui demande à être accompli : nous ne pouvons pas demeurer indifférents devant la multitude des problèmes sociaux et la détresse humaine.

Le concert « Les lilas de Cassandra » donne les moyens d'aller de l'avant, de convaincre les autres, et finalement d'affronter la vérité, la réalité, de ces trop nombreux démunis. Par exemple, le docteur Gilles Julien, par l'entremise d'une présentation vidéo, expliquait la nécessité de respecter la Déclaration des droits de l'enfant, telle que rédigée par l'Organisation des Nations Unies, si on veut réellement faire quelque chose pour contrer la pauvreté chez les enfants du monde. En effet, avant qu'il ne soit trop tard, c'est-à-dire avant que le mal ne soit déjà fait, il faut absolument s'activer,

surtout dans certains quartiers de Montréal, pour dépister les sources potentielles de problématiques sociales susceptibles d'aggraver les conditions des plus démunis, et desquelles il devient ensuite très difficile de sortir. En somme, il faut comprendre les signes avant-coureurs, pour mieux agir et réagir face à la détresse grandissante des enfants. Parce que « dès qu'on appelle la DPJ, explique le docteur Gilles Julien, il est trop souvent trop tard, dit-il. Le dommage est fait. »

Donc, c'est ainsi, au travers d'un spectacle haut en couleur, où les tours de chant ont côtoyé la présence vidéo du docteur Julien, que nous prenons conscience qu'il est du devoir de toute la communauté de prendre la responsabilité du bien-être de tous les enfants. Cela devrait être un véritable « devoir citoyen », réellement, et ne pas relever seulement d'une prise en charge par les gouvernements. Si tout le monde, concrètement, se mobilise, nous pouvons apprendre à reconsidérer certaines valeurs, pour faire notre possible dans le but d'accorder un peu de dignité à ceux qui souffrent et sont en difficulté.

L'amour est une arme, l'amour est sans limite, d'une puissance inégalée, c'est le summum de la vie. C'est l'attribut des braves, en fait, c'est ce qui les définit tout entier.

Ce sentiment n'est pas à la portée des lâches, il n'est pas dogmatique, désincarné, rigide. C'est, au contraire, une force donnant la vie à son tour : c'est l'attribut du cœur. C'est en allant au plus profond de nous-mêmes, et en acceptant de donner généreusement, que nous avons le plus de chances de rencontrer les autres et d'atteindre la victoire. Le vrai courage appartient à ceux qui aiment. Et c'est souvent au milieu de la détresse humaine que l'on trouve la confirmation d'amour dans cette vie. En effet, différents organismes font un travail remarquable, telle la « Maison du Partage d'Youville », qui œuvre depuis 25 ans en tant que cuisine communautaire. Aussi « De la rue... à la Réussite », qui aide de nombreux hommes et femmes à réintégrer la société active et à reprendre leur vie en main. Finalement, la fondation du Docteur Nicolas Steinmetz et du Docteur Gilles Julien œuvre à la promotion de la pédiatrie sociale.

En fait, tous les organismes sociaux forment une sorte de noyau, réunissant en un tout l'espoir permettant aux gens démunis de connaître une petite victoire quotidienne, pour contrer l'angoisse et le désespoir. En effet, il existe un chagrin qui dépasse l'expérience que nous en avons. Il existe un

courage dont nous avons du mal à saisir tout le sens : celui des gens qui connaissent des conditions de vie extrêmes. Mais ils tiennent bon. Et

ils chantent.

À nous donc de les aider, pour qu'eux et leurs enfants puissent entretenir la flamme de l'espoir.

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## MCA's Sympathy for the Devil

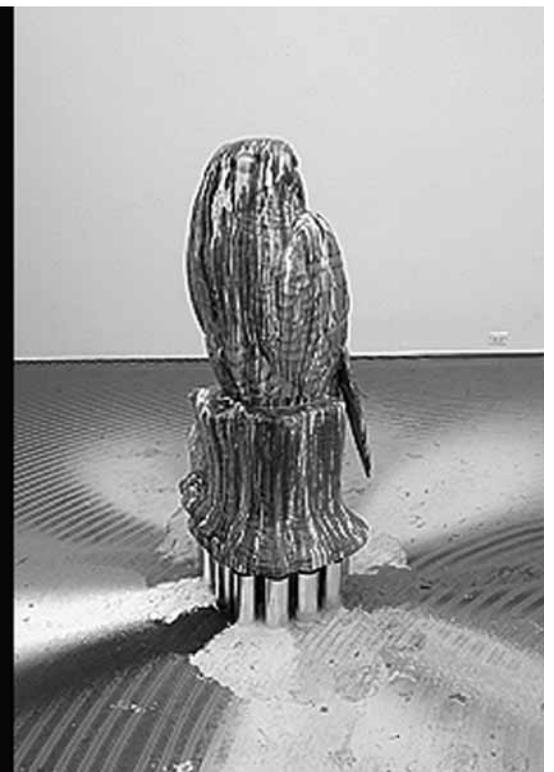
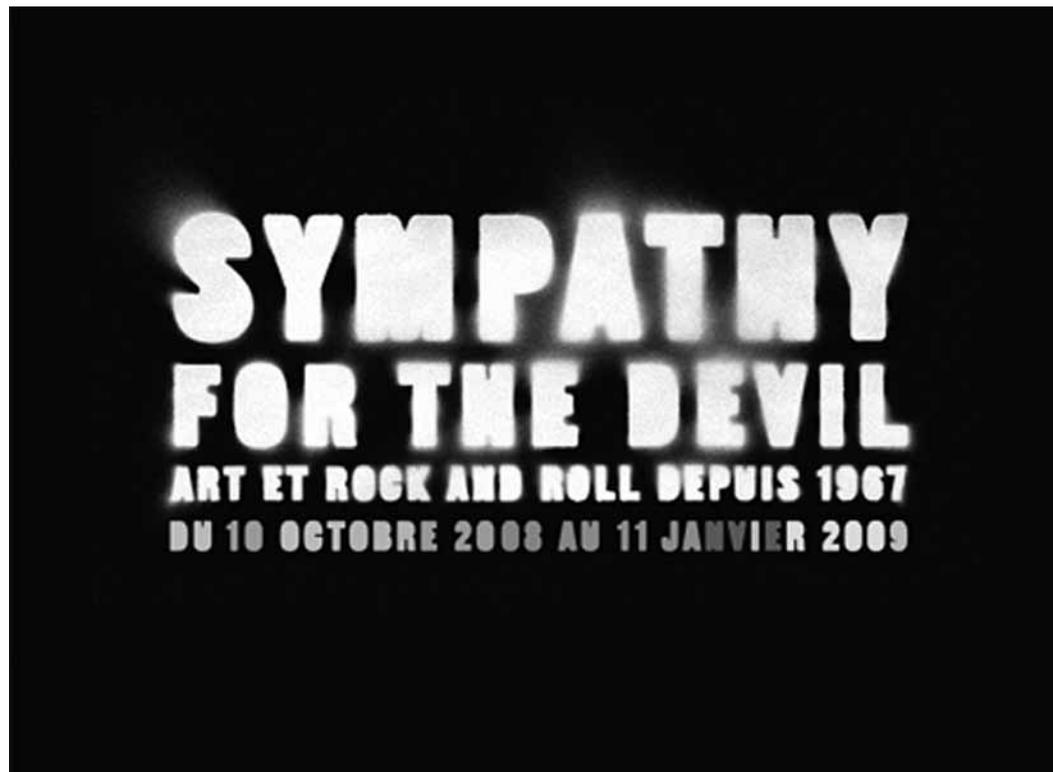
On the heels of the show at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts which examines music and dance in Andy Warhol's work, the Museum of Contemporary Art has opened a similar exhibition of its own: *Sympathy for the Devil: Art and Rock and Roll since 1967*.

The two shows are complimentary. Both examine how contemporary art and rock music have converged over the past 40 years. If you like one show, you'll like the other. The advantage to the MAC's equally sophisticated offering, however, is that it's a bit more interactive than the Warhol show.

You can actually step into a life-size recording studio and cut a demo tape. There is also a floor made up of 1,476 vinyl albums, and a newspaper collage put together by Richard Hamilton, called "Swinging London," which documents the drug-related episodes of the Rolling Stones.

Curator Dominic Molon says the show was influenced by The Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band and the Jimi Hendrix Experience, which both were released in 1967. That's the year, curator Dominic Molon believes, that everything changed, when rock music became "an art form to be taken seriously."

"I wanted to make the exhibition about rock music simply because I



rock is the most oriented of the pop-musical genres," he said. "I honestly find too much recent hip hop obsessed with bling, and what appears to be an egotistical cult of the self that runs contrary to making challenging new music or breaking new visual ground."

*Sympathy for the Devil* is broken down into six sections - the New York scene, West Coast happenings, the Midwest, the British pop music scene, New Wave/punk, and Worldbeat. While

the show explores the historical connection between art and rock, it also shows how rock continues to inspire artists today. One example is *Sound Digressions in Seven Colours*, a seven-channel video installation of seven different loops of musicians improvising. Then there's photographer Melanie Schiff's tribute to Neil Young, a photograph meant to be a meditation on the relationship people have with music and the people who make it.

An instructive exhibit shows how artist Peter Saville came up with the idea for the album cover for New Order's *Power*, using a 19th century still life painting that translates the name of the band, and its tunes into coloured squares.

Another installation, Mark Leckey's *Fiorucci Made me Hardcore*, is footage of people from different time periods dancing. But editing the footage, and slowing down the frames, group frenzy

becomes a personal statement as seen by each individual. There's also bootleg concert footage from the punk band, The Cramps, The Smiths and of course, The Rolling Stones.

One of the most ingenious works, David Muller's *I Want it Louder*, is a mural in which rock artists are depicted like roots growing from a tree.

*Sympathy for the Devil* is at the Montreal Museum of Contemporary Art until January 11.



Jesse Samuels

## Dance for the World

Combine your love of music and dance to help developing nations all over the world on Sunday November 2nd at the "Dance for the World" event. The "Dance" in conjunction with CUSO and VSO form Canada's Volunteer Partnership Fund. They use the funds raised to send volunteers all over the world to aid in international development, support local projects such as human rights campaigns, environmental sustainability and fight against poverty.

"We are going to have an awesome time guys and it's all for charity," said Melissa De Oliveira, 20, who will be attending the event on Sunday

night and knows Jon Vegas one of the DJ's.

Montréal DJ's like Vegas, Shiver & Niko, DJ nV and Jester (who performs at Redlite after hours club) will perform at the House night club and have all agreed to spin tracks free of charge, all night long, to help raise money for the charity.

DJ Shiver & Niko and DJ nV will battle between 11:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. for prizes sponsored by D-Lo Recording Studios and tickets can be purchased in advance for ten dollars a piece by logging onto [www.dancefortheworld.ca](http://www.dancefortheworld.ca) or at the door on the night of November 2nd.

"If we sell over 300 tickets in advance we can have the second floor of the club opened up for us, which will give us a lot more room and...ya know...it isn't that many considering it's for a good cause," said Jon Vegas, who also helped to organize the event.

Dance for the World will hold events in seven major cities in Canada, including Calgary, Toronto, Vancouver, Ottawa and Halifax during October and November to raise money for the volunteers abroad. Anyone who wants more information on how to get involved with the charity can log onto [www.cuso.org](http://www.cuso.org).





# Plummer shines "In spite of himself"

Christopher Plummer is Montreal's greatest gift to the theatre, Canada's own swashbuckling John Barrymore.

His 650-page memoir, *In Spite of Myself*, which hit the bookstores last week, is like the actor himself: audacious, romantic, incorrigible, hugely entertaining, occasionally precious and condescending and driven with vanity to burn.

Plummer was born in Toronto, but his parents split when he was one, and he was raised by "a stoic, forthright regiment of women," in a Senneville mansion, Bois Briant, built in the 1880s on an 18 acre estate by his great-great grandfather Prime Minister John Abbott. A private island in Vaudreuil Bay which disappeared when the Trans Canada Highway was built, was also an important childhood retreat. "Rags to riches could never be my road," he declares, rather the reverse, with a strong leaning to the gutter. In the beginning, I had no struggle; I didn't know what it meant. Not exactly coming from the streets there was no urgent need to improve."

At 14 he read Gene Fowler's biography of John Barrymore, the self destructive American matinee idol. "It was," he writes, "the book that decided me on my future." At 16 he spent an evening with Barrymore's troubled daughter Diana. "The rebel in her appealed to me divinely," he states. A spoiled brat, Plummer started frequenting Montreal's legendary nightspots and drinking when he was still an underage teen. He was

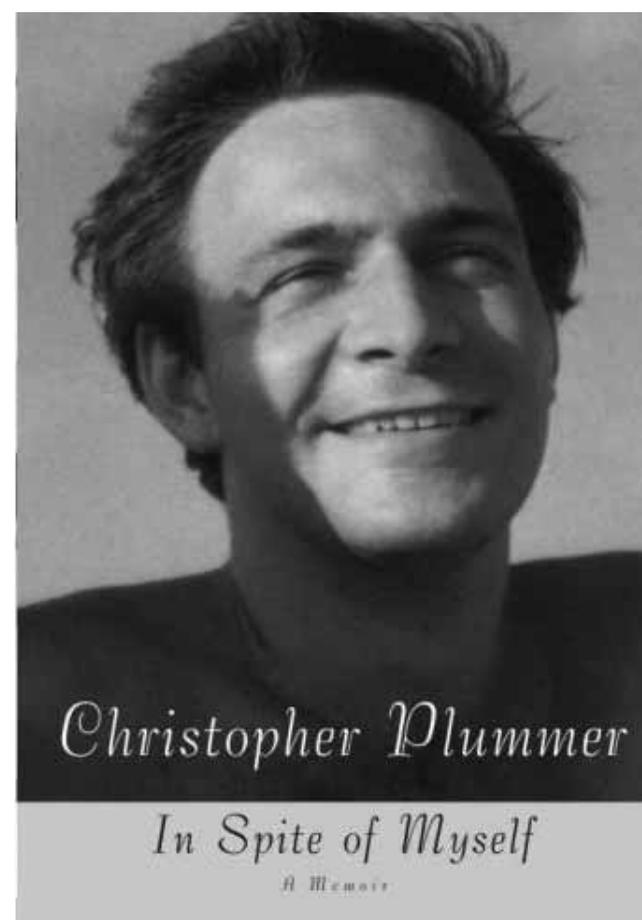
discovered playing Darcy by *The Gazette* theatre critic, Herbie Whittaker in a high school production of *Pride and the Prejudice* and at 18 made his professional stage debut with the Montreal Repertory Theatre. Plummer then appeared with future Canadian Senator John Lynch Staunton in a production of *As You Like It* at the Mountain Playhouse, where he was director Norma Springford's darling. He cut his teeth doing radio plays then sailed off to Bermuda to do summer stock. He was sexually precocious, and boasts about his first affair with a married woman, with whom he did "It," everywhere - "in dressing rooms, backstage, in public conveniences, at the back of cinemas and cars, even at parties. One night, at one of those large dress-up soireés, she was on my lap and I was inside her, her evening dress spread over us for concealment, when her husband walked in," he boasts. "We stayed exactly where we were, having the pleasantest of chats, the three of us, he none the wiser.

Early in his career Plummer was not an especially good actor, rather a stage presence. Off stage he was a character, a hard-drinking, obnoxious hedonist. Although Plummer lives in

Early in his career Plummer was not an especially good actor, rather a stage presence. Off stage he was a character, a hard-drinking, obnoxious hedonist.

Connecticut, Montreal remains his spiritual home, in his mind's eye, "Cosmopolitan, stylish, sophisticated and fast!" He describes it as "my welcoming city of sin - where it was always cocktail hour, where I could find at least some madness and laughter, the serum I craved." Montreal could not contain his ambition, however. He made his New York stage in *The Star Cross Story*, a show that opened and closed the same night, but went on a successful stage career in England and Stratford, Ont. Plummer made his screen debut in *Stage Struck*, and went on to do hundreds of "money pics." He hated making movies, and his chapters on shooting *The Sound of Music*, (which he calls the Sound of Mucus and shot under duress, and the "Battle of Batty Poo" (Waterloo) which he shot in Uzhgorod, Ukraine - "snake city" he calls it, are alone worth the \$37 price of the book.

He writes about the women in his life, Tammy Grimes, who at 30 he moved to London, where he met Trish Lewis, an entertainment writer that he married only after a car accident in



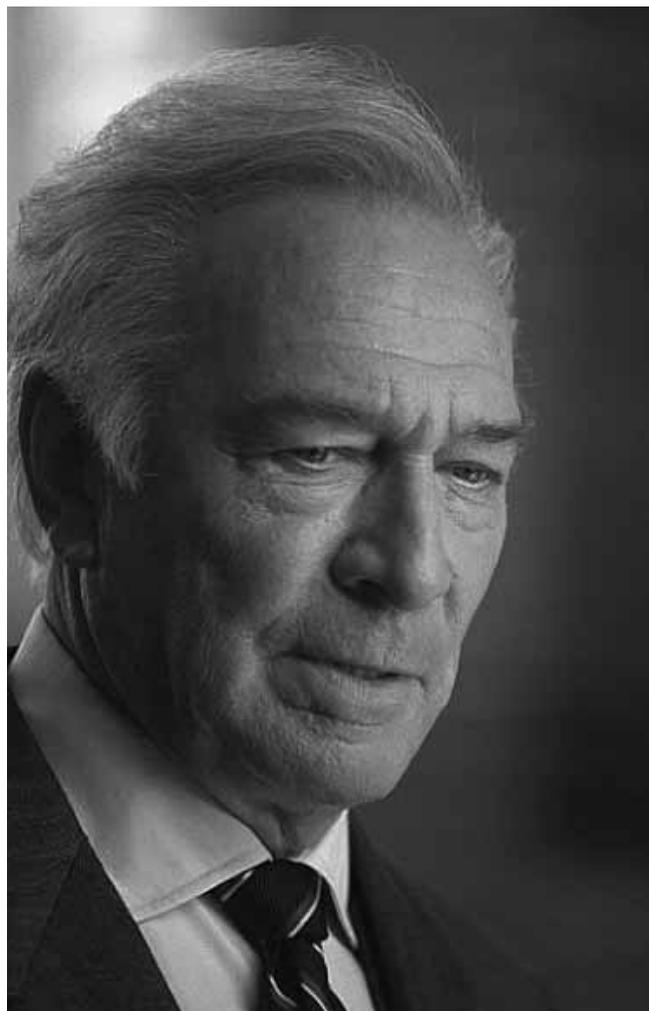
front of Buckingham Palace left her badly injured an unconscious for three days. His first two marriages were careless affairs; he neglected both wives, and his daughter, Amanda. It was his third wife, Elaine, who tamed him and cured the ham in Plummer.

Plummer is clearly passionate about the theatre: "When all the effects and robots and holograms have been exhausted and we poor thespians have been

replaced by clones and digitalized out of existence, there will still be an empty stage somewhere waiting for some one to make an entrance."

Although he plays fast and loose with the facts, the story he tells is so engaging, it somehow doesn't matter. For example, he claims to have snuck into Chez Paree to hear Sinatra sing. Perhaps. But Sinatra played there only once, in 1953, when Plummer tells us he was in Bermuda. At any rate, by then he was certainly no underage drinker. He was 23, and didn't have to sneak into a nightclub. Eddie Asselin was never Montreal's police commissioner, but Chairman of the Executive Council, Pierre Trudeau did not defeat John Diefenbaker in any election. The book could have also used an eagle-eyed editor - a lesbian, for instance, is a dyke, not a dike. Given the incredible cast of characters and supporting players that appear in the book, - Franchot Tone, Tyrone Power, Peter O'Toole, Nathalie Wood, Jason Robards, Zoe Caldwell, Jean Gascon, etc. the absence of an index is inexcusable.

It's like attending a play without a program.



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