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# THE MÉTROPOLITAIN

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## Is the \$64 billion party over?

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It's been four years since Mayor Gérald Tremblay first sketched out his ambitious \$64-billion plan to transform the face of Montreal.

Armed with flow charts, maps and architectural renderings of "dream schemes," Tremblay spoke to the Montreal Real Estate Board about the "Tremendous potential ahead." He was going to tear up the Bonaventure Expressway, reclaim the waterfront, and in a partnership with private enterprise, develop 557,000 square metres of vacant lots downtown. At the time, the city was running a \$400-million surplus and the Dominion Bond Rating Service assigned the city an A-Rating for its "spending prudence."

That was then; this is now.

The long list of mega projects that Tremblay envisioned four years ago have now either been scaled back, cancelled or delayed. The most spectacular, a billion dollar downtown casino and Cirque du Soleil complex never got beyond the hype. But because this is an election year, proposals for a number of other grandiose building schemes continue to fly off the drawing boards. Public hearings are about to be held on a proposed 34-storey skyscraper for the corner of Mackay St. and Rene Levesque Blvd, and for another tower at the foot of Beaver Hall Hill that would soar high above St. Patrick's Basilica.

The 100-million Seville Theatre Project near the old Forum appears to be a go, but the most visible construction activity is the \$120-million overhaul of the entertainment district near Place des Arts, a Quartier des Spectacles being developed by Societe immobiliere du Quebec.



The public square at the heart of the district is nearing completion and expected to be open for the Jazz festival. But that's about it. Contracts still have to be signed for the long awaited \$270-million Symphony Hall. French architect Paul Andreu, better known for designing

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## Les femmes trahies

**Djemila Benhabib**

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Fortement épaulée par des représentantes du Conseil islamique canadien et de Présence musulmane, la Fédération des femmes du Québec (FFQ) a adopté une résolution banalisant le port du voile islamique dans les institutions publiques québécoises, lors d'une assemblée générale spéciale qui s'est déroulée à l'université Laval, le 9 mai dernier, et à laquelle j'ai assisté en qualité d'observatrice. Il y a des alliances et des prises de position qui minent les principes.

La crédibilité de la FFQ est sérieusement entachée : pour une poignée de militantes islamistes, la FFQ a sacrifié des millions de femmes musulmanes qui, ici comme ailleurs dans le monde, se battent au péril de leur vie. Aujourd'hui, il n'y a qu'un verbe qui tourne en boucle dans ma tête : j'accuse!

J'accuse la FFQ de trahir la lutte historique des femmes d'ici pour se débarrasser de l'hégémonie de l'Église catholique.

J'accuse la FFQ de mettre un bâillon, (encore un !), sur la bouche de toutes celles qui, dans le monde, subissent dans leur chair la barbarie des régimes oppressifs musulmans qui les obligent à porter ce linceul de la mort qu'est le voile islamique.

J'accuse la FFQ de compromission avec des mouvements politiques les plus rétrogrades comme que le Conseil islamique canadien, qui a mené une campagne acharnée pour l'instauration des tribunaux islamiques en Ontario, ou encore Présence musulmane, qui fait la promotion des thèses de Tariq Ramadan, qui prône un « moratoire » sur la lapidation des femmes adultères, un châtiment préconisé par la charia islamique. Un moratoire...!/?

Le 28 février 1994, Katia Bengana, une jeune lycéenne de 17 ans, fut sauvagement assassinée par le Groupe islamique armée (GIA) qui avait imposé aux femmes de mon pays, l'Algérie, l'obligation de porter le voile islamique. Katia était de cette trempe de femmes qui ne courbent pas l'échine et c'était en connaissance de cause qu'elle était sortie de chez elle la tête nue. Ce jour-là, j'ai compris qu'être femme avait un prix. J'avais 21 ans. Alors qu'à cet âge on rêve généralement à mille et une fantaisies, je ne rêvais pour ma part qu'à sauver ma peau. Ce jour-là, j'ai compris aussi que le combat

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## The New Lilliputians — Prohibit now, discuss never

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Washington, DC - There are basic needs for human beings: the obvious are food; shelter; sex. And then it becomes complicated for societies where the basics are "givens," and needs become more abstract. Are the freedoms enumerated in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (and the U.S. Constitution) "freedoms"—or limitations on the actions that a citizen might take otherwise?

Freedom of speech—but at what point does it become slander?

Freedom of the press—but what are the parameters of libel, let alone "hate" when making such speech?

Freedom of religion—but to practice polygamy, let alone human sacrifice?

Every freedom comes with its own thorn hedge of rules, regulations, and restrictions. But what these also demonstrate is that there is a human lust as great as that for food, shelter, or sex—and that is the lust to control others. The lust to tell others what to do and the power to assure that they do it. It used to be said about U.S. Puritans that they lay awake at night angry that somewhere

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## LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

# Montreal: time for a new agenda

When we crawled out of the mists of the jungles of history to create communities – villages, the origin of cities – it was not out of what today's politically correct zeitgeist would consider a noble purpose. It was done out of selfishness. As it happens, one of mankind's more creative instincts if husbanded properly.

We realized we could protect ourselves better against the wolves of the forests if we acted together. Defense was the primary motivation for the organization of the community. The word for that organization in Greek is polis. The origin of our modern day "politics" and "policing". But it was not the sort of policing we have come to suffer through today.

It was not the imposition of some collective will over individual conscience. Nor the brute force that demonizes citizens merely to collect money through the enforcement of prohibition and nullification. It was organization – policing – so that through common defense we could have more time for the fullest flowering of our individual possibilities. The fullest flowering of our individual passions and poeties.

Though those first social contracts demanded cessions of some of our treasure for the provision of the service of defense, they did not demand abdication of our individual prerogatives. The village – the city – did not dictate our passions and poeties. It did not dictate our behavior insofar as it concerned our personal domains. It did not seek to protect us from ourselves. City governance was about the provision of services. As simple as that.

Indeed, the city-state, the precursor to the nation-state, may have been the highest and best form of social organization. Even today our personal identity is most closely tied to the city we live in. We are Montrealers or New Yorkers or Torontonians. From the time of the renaissance, it was the liberal cauldron of the cities that produced our greatest art, music, philosophy and literature. The spirit of man was forged in the crucible of the cities. From ancient Athens and Rome, to the Florentine renaissance, to turn of the century Vienna to modern day New York, London and Paris.

Sadly today, our city, the jewel of the St. Lawrence, has lost sight of all this. The power of its officials is used as much for the oppression and impoverishment of its citizens as for the provision of any services. And as Edward R. Murrow once wrote, it's always the small story that tells us so much about the big picture.

Recently the story was about Bela Kosoian. Bela is a 38 year old mother of two studying international law at UQAM. In speaking with her she told



Bela Kosoian

me that she had come out of the former Soviet Union to live free. That was in her thoughts all weekend. Bela had entered the Montmorency metro station in Laval. She was on the escalator when a transit guard told her to hold onto the handrail. She replied that she didn't have three hands as she was searching for something in her handbag. The guard persisted. She asked to be left alone. The guard called over a police officer. He asked her for identification. She refused. He handcuffed her and took her to a holding room where she was not allowed to call a lawyer. After twenty minutes she was released with a \$100 ticket for not holding the handrail and a \$320 fine for obstructing justice. Nothing we could add here would be a more eloquent indictment of the state of our city than the bare facts. As Bela said, "Stalin may be dead, but Stalinism lives on."

Montrealers are tired of this. Tired of students being fined \$500 for sitting with their feet on the wrong side of a concrete enclosure in Emile-Gamelin Park. Tired of garbage inspectors opening our refuse bags to find our address to send a fine because we put them out too early. Tired of merchants on Park Ave. being fined for not cutting weeds on city sidewalks as they are now obliged to do. Tired of landlords being fined because their restaurant or bar tenants do not have "official" ashtrays screwed in next to their entrances. Tired of fines that criminalize the homeless. Tired of increases in parking rates at the same time that the city is hiding record profits. Ça suffit! Enough Alice in Wonderland!

Montrealers are already the highest taxed urban citizens in North America.

Our taxes are supposed to go for the basics. Garbage collection, snow removal, public security, public transit and water. It should not be up to the citizens to pay additional costs to manage what they have already paid for.

Too many politicians today squander public

monies on pork barrel vote grabbing schemes, then complain that they have to fine and tax more just to deal with the basics. An example of that at the municipal level is some \$13 million spent on skateboarding rinks in the west and east ends, and needless bike paths destroying commuter arteries and city streets downtown.

The job of elected officials is not to engage in social engineering. To impose fines for citizens doing what is the city's work, or making choices about personal risk is criminal. One of the latest examples in nanny-statism are the fines levied at storekeepers in town who don't clean the public sidewalks in front of their establishments. That should not be their responsibility. Their taxes pay for the city to do that.

For municipal politicians to offset these responsibilities on citizens is an admission that they can't do their jobs.

Before the next municipal elections, perhaps we should demand that those running for office outline specific plans for rectifying the problems in the five core areas we mentioned above. If they have no ideas, then maybe they should be disqualified from running. Before we allow municipal leaders to engage in harebrained schemes of bike paths and tramways in a city with six months of winter, we need to know that they can handle the basics.

Montreal didn't need the cleanliness fines; or the garbage fines or the non-regulation ashtray fines. This city is about as clean as an urban centre can get. The only reason that officials engage in demonizing the public is that it deflects from their inability to get things right. And that inability stems not only from a lack of imagination but also from a lack of resolve guts in dealing with city employees to get the kind of quality and quantity of work every big city needs.

Perhaps it is time for all of us to demonstrate a bit of civil, and civic, disobedience. Perhaps it is time for a tax revolt. After all, it seems the more you pay the more fines and extra rates are levied. So maybe we should all stop paying until the pols get real. And if they don't, then as the saying goes "throw the bums out!"

And for those who think that all laws, even unjust ones, need to be obeyed. Reflect on what Gandhi once said. "We are a society of laws and not of men. But when bad men make bad laws, and when unprincipled officials compromise good ones, then citizens have a responsibility to protect their rights and exercise responsible agitation to keep governments from staggering drunkenly from wrong to wrong merely to preserve their own immortality." Words to build on if we care about the state of the city.

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

LA PATRIE

# Les héritiers de Mgr Desranleau

A mir Khadir et Françoise David prétendent, après bien d'autres, nous faire dépasser le capitalisme. Le dépasser pour aller nous écraser contre un platane ? Qu'appellent-ils « capitalisme » ? Les fautes reprochées au capitalisme, comme la pollution, ne sont-elles pas présentes dans toutes les sociétés industrielles, y compris les sociétés socialistes ? Méfiant, je n'ai pas oublié que les solutions proposées et pratiquées depuis un siècle par les ennemis du capitalisme ont toutes échoué.

Curieux, je découvre dans la revue *Argument* une définition tirée d'un ouvrage de Samuel Bowles. Le régime capitaliste est « un régime où la forme prédominante de l'organisation économique est l'entreprise, organisation dans laquelle les propriétaires privés de certains moyens de production contractent avec les propriétaires des autres intrants (y compris le travail) pour produire des biens et services dans le but de les vendre avec profit, prennent la responsabilité pour les opérations, exercent leur droit à encaisser le profit ou à subir la perte qui peut s'ensuivre.(1) » Capitalisme, économie de marché, libéralisme économique, voire néolibéralisme, c'est la même chose et c'est ça qu'il faudrait dépasser. Impression de déjà-vu.

Quel que soit le nom qu'on lui donne, ce n'est pas d'aujourd'hui que le capitalisme est dénoncé. À l'occasion du krach de la Bourse de New York et de ses suites « le libéralisme fut remis en question par des groupes qui voyaient dans la crise économique la faillite du système capitaliste. Socialistes, communistes, fascistes fustigèrent tour à tour l'idéologie libérale. Au Québec en particulier, compte tenu de la forte identification du libéralisme aux anglophones qui contrôlaient une part importante de l'économie, le corporatisme

Qui a dit ? : « C'est ce capitalisme [dénoncé par L'Osservatore Romano comme aussi mauvais que les péchés contre nature] qui est la cause de toutes nos misères. Nous devons travailler contre, non pas pour le transformer, il est intransformable

inspiré de l'Église a trouvé un terrain fertile (2). »

Qui a écrit que « le communisme comme formule de production économique et d'organisation sociale, contient un élément de générosité qui manque au capitalisme » ? Je vous le donne en mille : Gérard Filion, le 16 juillet 1949 dans *Le Devoir*. Gérard Filion, qui deviendra plus tard directeur général de la SGF ! M. Filion a de nombreux petits amis chez Québec solidaire.

Qui a dit ? : « C'est ce capitalisme [dénoncé par L'Osservatore Romano comme aussi mauvais que les péchés contre nature] qui est

la cause de toutes nos misères. Nous devons travailler contre, non pas pour le transformer, il est intransformable ; non pas pour le corriger, il est incorrigible [sic], mais pour le remplacer. » Réponse : Mgr Philippe-Servule Desranleau, archevêque de Sherbrooke, devant un auditoire syndical lors de la Fête du Travail en 1949. Ne croirait-on pas entendre le tandem Khadir-David ?

Les plaisantins qui annoncent, souhaitent ou préparent la sortie du « capitalisme », rejettent la pensée et la société libérales. Leurs tirades contre l'individualisme dégagent d'ailleurs un parfum délétère fleurant le totalitarisme.

Obnubilés par les ratés du système financier, passant sous silence les leçons du passé, ces bonnes âmes nieront vouloir en arriver aux mêmes résultats désastreux que provoquèrent il n'y a pas si longtemps les expériences fascistes, socialistes, ou communistes. Grossière illusion : « Précisément parce qu'il n'existe pas de société économique pure, toute organisation scientifique de l'économie porte en soi l'affirmation d'une mystique — c'est-à-dire un credo d'État qui heurte aussi la vie intérieure, et de même que l'organisateur doit éliminer toute hétérodoxie économique, de même il devra éliminer toutes les hétérodoxies intérieures. La société tout entière contrôlée économiquement et tout entière libre spirituellement, est une contradiction (3). »

Cette réflexion datée du 24 février 1940 conserve toute sa valeur soixante-neuf ans après avoir été écrite. Aujourd'hui encore, la menace est réelle : Québec solidaire ne propose-t-il pas que « le Québec s'engage dans la voie d'une redéfinition des rapports entre les êtres humains (4) » ? On a beau savoir que Khadir et David sont les héritiers de l'inoffensif Mgr Desranleau, qu'ils n'ont absolument aucune chance d'exercer un jour le pouvoir, que leur manifeste est pur délire d'interprétation débouchant sur quelques voeux pieux, voilà qui donne quand même froid dans le dos!

(À suivre...)

(1) Gilles Paquet, « *Le capitalisme : ni fatalité, ni réalité... fata morgana peut-être ?* », *Argument*, Vol 11, No 2, printemps-été 2009, p. 50.

(2) Claude Couture, *Le mythe de la modernisation du Québec*, Montréal, Éditions du Méridien, 1991, p. 10-11.

(3) Cesare Pavese, *Le métier de vivre*, Paris, Gallimard, 1958.

(4) *Manifeste de Québec solidaire*, p. 9.

...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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# Battle lines drawn on Turcot

The battle lines have been drawn over the Turcot Interchange redevelopment project between a government that wants a new highway and Montrealers who seek a cleaner, greener version of their city.

Residents turning out for the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement hearings on the Turcot Interchange redevelopment plan. For the most part, they agreed something must be done for the decades-old structure crumbling under the weight of hundreds of thousands of vehicles each week.

But they don't believe a few trees make a project green.

"They're constantly dreaming in Technicolor. These guys are in the 50s," said Avrom Shtern, director of the Green Coalition Montreal.

"You shouldn't call it the Ministry of Transport, you should call it the Ministry of Highways and just be honest."

Transport Quebec is selling its current proposal as ecological. It says the new smaller structure will be better integrated into the environment, will free up land for development, include pathways for bicycles, pedestrians, and public transit, and reduce noise and air pollution.

Still, more nuanced information from BAPE suggests that the residents closest to the new structure would see an increase in air pollution, a fact brushed off with the note: "These increases, in most cases, will be barely perceptible."

Since nearby buildings include schools, old age homes and

community centres, residents have raised a collective skeptical eyebrow and have begun sporting green felt patches marking their opposition.

Mobilization Turcot - the core group of residents opposing the plan whose homes squat in the structure's shadow and who may face expropriation - organized a 500-strong demonstration against the project and have garnered a number of political allies on the municipal, provincial and federal level, support from southwest community groups and environmental organizations who are sympathetic to their concerns.

Councillors in the Sud-Ouest borough have also come out against the plan.

Opposition councillors Line Hamel, Ronald Bossy, and Jean-

Yves Cartier stated in a press release last year that they felt the project didn't take into account the quality of life of the residents.

Pierre Frechette, also a Sud-Ouest councillor but with Gerald Tremblay's MICU party - which silently supports of the project - has been even more outspoken, maligning the lack a sympathetic ear at Transport Quebec and Thierry St-Cyr, the Bloc Quebecois MP for the riding, called the current proposal a mistake from the 1960s that was being repeated.

"We can do better," he said. "Something focused on sustainable development. They'll have to change it completely, not just stick up a few trees. It doesn't correspond to our era."

He cites - along with fellow

adversaries - successful highway removal projects that have been implemented elsewhere. Replacing highways with more human scale boulevards has become a popular alternative to repairing or rebuilding existing expressways that critics say cut swaths across cities and decimate neighborhoods. It's been attempted as close to home as Toronto and as far away as Seoul and sold as a more ecological and human scale alternative to the status quo.

"(Cars) are a problem all over the world but they decided to look at different ways of dealing with it," said St-Cyr. "We could have a more ambitious, visionary project."

It's one alternative that has not, publicly at least, been considered by Transport Quebec. They've put forward only two proposals: continuing to repair the current structure as needed and the controversial plan to rebuild.

It makes people question whether, for an estimated \$1.5 billion, we're getting our money's worth.

The reconstruction project of the Turcot Interchange will include work on the de la Verendrye, Angrignon and Montreal West exchanges and Highway 20. The PPP project is expected to be completed by 2015 and is so far on schedule. Work is slated to begin sometime this summer or fall.

Still, the public consultation may be lengthy if opposition remains strong. The initial consultation period lasts six weeks and BAPE has up to four months to complete its report before handing it over to the ministry. Transport Quebec can't begin the reconstruction work until after the environmental assessment process is complete and government authorizations are received.

And so far, Montrealers are giving the project two thumbs down.

"We've been fixing Turcot for years," commented Todd Spurrell on the Spacing Montreal blog. "It's beyond fixing and it's ugly. Tear it down and replace it with something sensible."



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# Citizen demonization continues

## Woman detained, fined for poor escalator etiquette

Having spent her formative years in the former Soviet republic of Georgia, Bela Kosoian knows what it's like for government to encroach on personal liberties. The manner in which she says she was treated inside a Laval Metro station would make even the most hardened Stalinist blush.

Two weeks ago, the Université du Québec à Montreal international law student, a 38-year-old mother of two, was making her way down to the platform of the Montmorency station and heading to an evening class. She was riding down the escalator, rifling through her purse, looking for fare, when she was interrupted by a security officer. She was asked to hold the handrail but declined because her hands were full at the time. The situation quickly degenerated as the officer insisted she hold the rail.



Kosoian told The Métropolitain that she was then asked to show identification, and unaware she had broken any law, she refused and argued her point with the officer. She was then handcuffed, taken to a holding room inside the station and fined \$420; \$100 for disobeying STM safety regulations and \$320 for obstruction.

It is believed to be the first time that any STM client has been fined for not holding on to a handrail on an escalator. Regulations state that anyone who does not follow safety guidelines illustrated with pictograms posted on the escalators is subject to a fine. Setting aside the merits of a banister-holding rule, Kosoian said the pictogram wasn't even clear and she thought it applied only to women with children, since that is what is depicted.

"My dignity was destroyed. I

can't imagine that this would happen in this country," said Kosoian. "People have to know that this is an abuse of power. Normally, police are there to protect citizens."

The treatment she received from Laval police deeply upset her; she said an officer stepped on her foot and left abrasions on her arms. After being taken to the small holding room, she said she was not permitted to use her cell phone to reach her husband or a lawyer. Unable to get the full story from his wife who was late for class, Richard Church only spoke to her briefly and, hearing the panic in her voice, worried that she was in distress. He called Laval police that evening and could not get an answer on what had transpired at the Montmorency station just after 5 p.m.

"I was thinking, 'what if she was kidnapped and it was a fake arrest,'" Church said. "I couldn't get

a police officer to tell me what happened. They told me nothing happened. Later that evening, my wife came home with two tickets."

Well-versed in matters of law, Kosoian said she knows her rights were violated and is anxiously awaiting her day in court. A Laval police spokesperson said the tickets were justified because Kosoian did break a regulation and subsequently yelled at officers, refusing to show identification. Kosoian doesn't deny being argumentative but said her motivation for not holding the rail had more to do with protecting her own health in an H1N1 era than taunting the long arm of the law.

The rail was "filthy and disgusting," she said. "People have the right to protect themselves from sickness. What did I do wrong? I wanted to scream, but nobody was there."

## LES FEMMES TRAHIES

par Djemila Benhabib  
suite de la page 1

pour la liberté et l'émancipation des femmes était l'un des plus périlleux qui puisse être. Cependant, j'étais loin encore de m'imaginer que cet engagement, aussi ardu soit-il, allait devenir aussi solitaire.

Le 9 mai dernier, lorsque j'ai rappelé devant l'assemblée de la FFQ l'assassinat de Katia et celui, à Toronto le 11 décembre 2007, de Aqsa Parvez, cette jeune fille de 16 ans assassinée par son père parce qu'elle refusait le port du voile islamique, on me signifia que mon combat était « émotif ». Certaines participantes m'ont même accusée d'être venue m'y faire du capital politique. C'est bien étrange, mais personne ne fit la même remarque à des participantes du NPD et de Québec solidaire, qui avaient été candidates aux dernières élections. Personne ne trouva rien à redire quant à la participation de Présence musulmane ni à celle du Congrès islamique canadien. Bref, personne n'était là pour des raisons politiques...sauf moi !

À ma grande surprise, très peu de temps a été consacré durant cette même assemblée de la FFQ pour débattre de questions de

fond comme la portée et la signification du voile islamique, la laïcité, les droits et les devoirs des commis de l'État et la situation des femmes dans le monde. À ce chapitre, heureusement que trois femmes iraniennes ont rappelé le cauchemar que vivent leurs compatriotes depuis l'imposition du voile islamique par Khomeiny et sa révolution islamique en 1979. Bien qu'il ait été beaucoup question des femmes arabomusulmanes lors de cette rencontre, seule la propagande des femmes islamistes dominait. Quel bel exemple de diversité et de pluralité ! C'est à croire que la pensée unique est devenue la norme à la FFQ. Quelle tristesse...

Combien de Aqsa Parvez faudra-t-il encore pour qu'enfin la FFQ comprenne que la bataille pour la liberté se déroule aussi ici même dans notre pays, au sein de nombreuses familles musulmanes ? Que vaut le sang de ces jeunes filles et de ces femmes ? Pour la FFQ, certainement pas grand chose...

*Djemila Benhabib est auteure de Ma vie à contre-Coran, éditions VLB, 2009.*

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# SPVM denies ticket quotas

## Every traffic cop must write up 18 daily, Brotherhood says

Upset over budget cuts, the Montreal Police Brotherhood took a shot at the SPVM recently by acknowledging the existence of daily traffic ticket quotas; a system the department's brass continues to insist does not exist.

Yves Francoeur, head of the *Fraternité des policiers et des policières de Montréal* (FPPM), told *The Métropolitain* that the most the SPVM will admit to is a daily "average," maybe even an objective – but not a fixed quota. He said they're getting caught up in semantics and aren't being up front about the quota system.

"It's clear: In the traffic department, there's a quota of 18 tickets per day," Francoeur said. "If they're out patrolling and doing their job, they have to give 18 tickets."

As head of the union representing Montreal police officers, Francoeur said his information comes from reliable sources. The commander of one traffic division in the city told him that the daily quota could reach as high as 28 tickets. Officers who didn't bring in the desired take, the commander told Francoeur, would be at risk of being demoted.

No senior SPVM officials were available for comment, but one commander who does not



deal directly with traffic squads told *The Métropolitain* that the department's stance continues to be that no quota systems exist. Claude Dauphin, the Montreal executive committee member in charge of public security, could not confirm Francoeur's statements about the quotas, nor could he categorically deny their existence either.

"The information I have from the police department is that there are no quotas," Dauphin said. "At the end of the year, they do an average and that average last year was 18

per day."

Dauphin said his information comes from the office of SPVM Chief Yvan Delorme. Dauphin's role as an elected representative, he explained, is to provide the department with general guidelines and not to get involved in day-to-day operational decisions.

"It's true that we're issuing more tickets. If I said we weren't, nobody would believe me," Dauphin said. "It's not a tax grab. It's a way of improving public safety."

The traffic squad was abolished in 1997 and

brought back by the Tremblay administration in 2006. In the last three years, they have proven to be valuable to the city both in terms of added revenue and, Dauphin said, in helping to make streets safer. From 2007 to 2008, recently-released SPVM statistics show there were 40 per cent less road injuries and 13 per cent fewer deaths. The data collected so far this year purportedly paints an even rosier picture.

In light of the department's recent successes, Francoeur is puzzled as to why nearly \$14 million must be slashed from their budget. That means fewer resources for expensive policing, like investigations, and potentially a greater emphasis on revenue-generating operations like the traffic squad. The cuts are once again creating friction between the union and the city, just as pressure tactics, like the wearing of pastel-coloured camouflage pants by officers, were done away in the spirit of cooperation. In arbitration, the two sides agreed to sign a collective agreement by year's end.

"It will be absolutely impossible to give the same level of security," Francoeur said. "We don't want City Hall ordering the police department to bring in more revenue."

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

- George F. Lengvari, Sr.



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GERALD TREMBLAY - THE 64 BILLION DOLLAR QUESTION, continued from page 1

airports than cultural centres, was recruited to help design the entertainment district, but so far all he has produced is a disappointing maquette for a rather conventional building at the crossroads of the city.

A much talked about \$30-million Jewish Cultural Museum proposed for the vacant lot at the St. Laurent Metro station has been scrapped in favour of a four-to-six screen cinema arthouse to be built by the Angus Development Corporation. Similarly, the site of the Spectrum is now a gaping hole, and plans by Societe Immobiliere SIDEV to develop that property appear to have stalled. Since the economy tanked last year, there hasn't been much action.

Nothing illustrates the problem better than what has happened to the much ballyhooed Griffintown development. In November 2006, Devimco announced it would spend \$1.3-billion to replace warehoused and run down tenements with condos, hotels and retail malls. On the heels of that announcement came the news of a \$400-million scheme to convert the Viger Station into a 250-room hotel and two office towers would rise at the edge of Old Montreal, one 17-storeys, the other 23. The development group included Homberg Investment of Halifax, Telemedia Enterprises Inc. of Montreal with

major backing from SNS property finance of Holland. Devimco has postponed the start of construction and is now "rejigging its plans" for Griffintown and SNS Property is reconsidering its participation in the Viger Square endeavour. Monit Investment and Hilton Hotels have yet to break ground for a \$200-million Waldorf Astoria tower below Sherbrooke St., but insist construction will begin "as soon as the economy turns." Even as new towers are planned for Victoria Square, we are still waiting for the 30-story Westcliff project which was announced ten years ago to get off the ground at the corner of Beaver Hall Hill and St. Antoine St. A new Planetarium is on the drawing boards, but no one knows what's going to happen to the old one.

Even for developers who might still have a line of credit, the question is why they would want to invest in a city that is no longer the economic engine that is driving Quebec. Quebec City has replaced Montreal as the city that is breathing life into the flagging economy. In a speech last week organized by the Montreal Board of Trade Tremblay went on the offensive. "I'm fed up with hearing that we're doing nothing in Montreal," he said. "Too many people look at the 64-billion dollar price tag as an expenditure instead of seeing it

as an investment with unlimited returns." He also chastised the city's business community and its developers for not collectively supporting his vision. "We only or almost only hear from people who are against something. We rarely hear from those in favour," he said. For its part, the administration has no intention of scaling back its Drapeau-like ambitions. In an interview, Tremblay says his grand scheme remains part of the city's long term design for Montreal. "Everything we said was going to happen is going to happen," Tremblay says. "Some projects have been delayed, some are looking for lead tenants, but the plan is still intact. In spite of growing dissatisfaction with Tremblay, the most recent La Presse poll suggests the mayor still might win a third term this fall. But the recession all but guarantees that most of the grand designs will never see the light of day, and that we could be headed for a decade of stagnation. What had been seen as spectacular mega-projects are now regarded as piece meal, commonplace ventures. That, in fact might work to Tremblay's advantage. Only 6 per cent of the respondents to the Angus Reid-La Presse poll consider creating new projects an important priority.

*With files from Jessica Murphy*



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## Sébastien Dhavernas

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Sébastien Dhavernas est né à Montréal de parents immigrants Français. Il est comédien, metteur en scène, producteur et entrepreneur artistique de renom. Il a également été président de l'Association des producteurs de théâtre privé du Québec, président de la Commission du Doublage de la Sodec, membre du conseil d'administration de l'Union des artistes, et président et chef de la direction du Tribunal Canadien des Relations Professionnelles Artistes Producteurs. Sébastien Dhavernas a fait son entrée en politique active lors de l'élection fédérale de 2008, où il a été candidat libéral dans la circonscription d'Outremont. Il est présentement membre de la commission politique de l'aile québécoise du parti libéral du Canada.

# AnGLAID !?! ET SI C'ÉTAIT FrenchSHIT ?

Depuis quelques semaines, on a pu apercevoir dans les rues de Montréal, et même sur le pont Jacques Cartier, des publicités qui attirent notre attention : « ANGLAID ». Cette publicité fait référence à un livre, récemment paru et écrit par Michel Brûlé. La prémisse de ce livre est que la structure de la langue anglaise aurait un lien direct avec les abus des peuples anglo-saxons. Ma critique ne porte pas sur le livre comme tel, ni sur les événements du passé, mais plutôt sur la propagation d'une intolérance banalisée et véhiculée par ces affiches, et que je tiens à dénoncer.

Nous, Québécois, voulons former une société de tolérance, ouverte sur toutes les cultures du monde, et dans l'ensemble nous le sommes. Cependant il y a une culture qu'on ne se gêne pas pour écorcher et attaquer : la culture anglo-saxonne. Les exemples ne manquent pas et ce livre en est un de plus. Cet essai insulte toute la culture anglo-saxonne (américaine, britannique, canadienne, australienne, etc.) et, malgré tout, ce message semble être toléré.

Cette discrimination à l'endroit des Anglo-Saxons se fait dans la plus grande indifférence, et parfois avec une certaine complaisance, sous prétexte que « c'est moins grave parce qu'ils le méritent. » Imaginez que Michel Brûlé ait traité de la sorte la culture arabe, juive ou chinoise : quel scandale cela aurait fait, et avec raison.

Pire encore, imaginez qu'un Torontois publie un livre intitulé « FRENCHSHIT ». Et que, comble du

Cette discrimination à l'endroit des Anglo-Saxons se fait dans la plus grande indifférence, et parfois avec une certaine complaisance, sous prétexte que « c'est moins grave parce qu'ils le méritent. » Imaginez que Michel Brûlé ait traité de la sorte la culture arabe, juive ou chinoise : quel scandale cela aurait fait, et avec raison.

comble, une publicité grand format sur une artère principale de la Ville Reine affiche en gros caractères « FRENCHSHIT », comme c'est le cas avec le livre « ANGLAID » au pied du pont Jacques Cartier. J'entends déjà l'immense tollé que cela provoquerait !

Le passé anglo-saxon n'est certes pas sans reproche, mais il en va de même du passé de tous les peuples. C'est une culture riche et qui nous a apporté, entre autres, l'habeas corpus, la démocratie moderne, le parlementarisme, le développement économique et, par conséquent, tout ce qui en découle : la culture scientifique (Charles Darwin et la théorie de l'évolution pour ne citer que cela.), ainsi que l'artistique où les exemples abondent. Cette culture tant méprisée par ces affiches publicitaires nous a donc beaucoup donné à nous aussi.

Au cours de mes quarante ans de militantisme pour la protection et la promotion du français, j'ai acquis la certitude que la défense d'une langue et d'une culture ne peut se faire par l'abaissement d'une autre langue ou culture. Depuis le début de notre histoire en Amérique du Nord, nous, francophones, luttons pour le respect. Mais nous ne pourrions pas obtenir celui-ci sans respecter ceux qui nous entourent.

Or, faire comme si de rien n'était devant le massage d'intolérance véhiculé par ces affiches, c'est manquer de respect non seulement envers les anglophones, mais aussi envers nous-mêmes.

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



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# The Dziekanski Taser Tragedy: Baseless finger-pointing

A year and a half later and Robert Dziekanski's calamitous death is still making headlines. There's no such thing as too much coverage when someone dies tragically, but the notion being perpetuated that the officers who responded to Dziekanski's still unexplained fit of violence are in any way to blame for his death must be laid to rest.

Some experts have testified at the Braidwood inquiry that Dziekanski was perfectly "coherent" and "responding normally" when he was "unjustly" Tasered by overzealous officers. The implication is that the RCMP is staffed with bullies who habitually set out to inflict harm on innocent people.

Missing from the coverage of this story is Dziekanski's own role in his demise. Even before the oft-aired video came out my only thought was: "An international airport is a bad place to throw a hissy fit."

Evidently some of the "experts" testifying against the RCMP missed the first half of the video in which we see an enraged man wielding a wooden table which he tries to smash a plate-glass window with. Dziekanski then grabs a computer which he smashes onto the floor. He yells and behaves in a threatening manner which causes onlookers to swear in disbelief.

Too many in the media have stated inaccurately that Dziekanski "dropped the computer," as if he merely had a case of "butter fingers." Please. He threw it, just as he had thrown the table. And, whether or not the officers saw him do this, they could plainly see the results strewn on the floor when they arrived. And that was Dziekanski's first big mistake.

After the vandalism, the video shows a man unwilling to communicate with officers of the law. How is it relevant that Dziekanski didn't speak English? If you were in a foreign land and four policemen approached you, not with weapons drawn, but holding out a hand with an obvious desire to communicate, would you turn and flee? Well, Dziekanski did. He tried to escape. Second big mistake.

It hardly matters that he was in a poor mental state. The RCMP's job isn't to discern the history of an event rapidly unfolding before them; their job is to protect the public, and to

Missing from the coverage of this story is Dziekanski's own role in his demise. Even before the oft-aired video came out my only thought was: "An international airport is a bad place to throw a hissy fit."

do so with minimal risk to themselves.

The Taser officer asks, "Can I Taser him?" Some in the media claim this demonstrates that the officer entered the situation with a prejudice to Taser someone that night. But the officer's reaction upon entering the scene is better described as quick thinking. Indeed, Canadians should feel reassured that our RCMP don't go off half-cocked, even in the heat of the moment. Instead they ask for permission to use force.

The officer waits, many say not long enough, but he waits nonetheless, until Dziekanski tries to flee. Then the Taser is deployed.

Should the officer have waited for Dziekanski to throw something else, or to actually harm someone before using the Taser? Let's face it, some would have the officer wait until Dziekanski had a good head start down a hallway or out of the building through an emergency exit. But hesitation simply has no place in effective law-enforcement.

To imply that there are bullies, or worse, murderers, in the RCMP, is appalling. And raising it to the political level is disingenuous opportunism, plain and simple.

In fact, Liberal MP Ujjal Dosanjh's surprise visit to the inquiry two weeks ago, and his accusation that lawyers defending the RCMP are not "acting in the public interest," should've been reported as political interference in a court case. Instead, Dosanjh – the man who introduced the Taser in Canada – is portrayed in the media as a sort of hero of the little man.

God rest Dziekanski. Pray for his poor mother in her time of mourning, but leave out the baseless finger-pointing. All of the officers involved deserve the best defence money can buy.

If any of the officers did not follow procedures, if the procedures for using a Taser need to be changed, or if the Taser itself is found to be a faulty piece of equipment, then the appropriate action needs to be taken. But surely anyone who watches the video can see that Dziekanski made the drastic mistakes, not the officers, and that his death was an accident.

The witch hunt against the officers and the RCMP is counter-productive and meaningless. It ignores at least 50 per cent of the facts.



**Ideas before identities.  
Justice before orthodoxy.**

**THE MÉTROPOLITAIN**

## GLOBAL VILLAGE



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

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# Principles needed in Canada-China engagement

While in Shanghai recently, Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon correctly noted that Canada can keep its "principled position" on human dignity while pursuing trade with China. Principles and reality, however, should have kept him from saying that his hosts "had made progress" on human rights. He ought to know that basic rights for the most vulnerable among the Chinese people are worsening today.

A year after the Sichuan earthquake, Amnesty International called on the government of China to stop harassing parents mourning children killed in the tragedy. Authorities arrested and detained relatives of some of the more than 5,000 child victims for trying to get answers about how they died. Even an eight-year-old was detained.

In anticipation of the anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre, pressure is intensifying. "If anything, the crackdown on human rights activists is escalating as we approach the 20th anniversary of the 1989 Beijing pro-democracy protests," said Roseann Rife, Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific Deputy Director. "Most worrying is the complete disregard for national laws and the obstructions thrown in front of lawyers trying to do their jobs."

Reporters without Borders says China is still the country which jails the largest number of journalists, cyber-dissidents, Internet-users and freedom of expression advocates. With much of the world watching the Olympics last August, about one hundred Chinese journalists, Internet users and bloggers languished in prisons. Human Rights Watch reported that workers building the 'Bird's Nest' and dozens of other Olympic Games facilities were exploited, from child labour on

assembly lines to deadly working conditions on construction sites.

When Mao's army took control of Tibet and forced its government into exile fifty years ago, tens of thousands of Tibetans were killed and even more imprisoned. Over 6,000 monasteries, nunneries and temples have been pillaged. Thousands more Tibetans were imprisoned over the past year.

In early 2009, Beijing police abducted Gao Zhizheng, a Nobel Peace Prize-nominated human rights lawyer. Gao was named one of China's top ten lawyers until he defended Falun Gong practitioners. He has since been repeatedly arrested and tortured. His family, including his four-year-old son and 14-year-old daughter, were harassed and attacked by police until their escape recently to the United States.

Such practices speak clearly about the party-state's intransigence against calls by the international community to improve its human rights. They are consistent with Beijing's rejection of the recommendations advanced by a number of governments, including Canada's, in a recent Universal Periodic Review by the UN Human Rights Commission.

Among the rejected recommendations: ending all forms of arbitrary detention, including labour camps; guaranteeing freedom of belief and the right to worship in private; implementing the recommendations of the UN Committee Against Torture, which included references to the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners and organ pillaging from them; and ensuring that lawyers can defend their clients without fear or harassment.

Although trade is a vital part of Canada's economy, commerce with China, where no freedom of media exists, has

been a costly proposition for many. In the words of Phelim Kine who pinpointed the consequence of the unfree media: "The truths of corruption, public health scandals, environmental crises and abusive local authorities may be inconvenient... (but to) smother the reporting of these truths has contributed measurably to other global debacles, including recall of tainted food and toys."

Two Montreal residents, for example, Guizhi Chen and Lian Yao, recently described making a range of consumer products for export as forced labourers in China. This and other violations of fair trading practices no doubt contributed to Canada's trade deficit rising from \$3.9 billion in 1997 to \$26.8 billion in 2006 in China's favour, while costing many jobs across Canada.

Forced labour as a consequence of human trafficking is all too common today, but only the party-state of China defends the practice and has operated a vast network of labour camps since the 1950s. In the estimated 340 camps across China as of 2005, up to 300,000 "workers" toil in inhuman conditions for up to sixteen hours daily without any pay, producing a wide range of consumer products, mostly for export, in violation of World Trade Organization rules.

On the eve of the 20th anniversary of Beijing's June 4 bloody crackdown of the student-led democratic movement, it is obvious that there has been little progress on human rights. Mr. Cannon's remarks are misguided at best and a serious departure from principles at worst.

The Canadian government should stand with the Chinese people, not the party state, and call for human dignity and respect of all.



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David Jones, co-author of *Uneasy Neighbo(u)rs: Canada, the USA and the Dynamics of State, Industry and Culture*, is a former U.S. diplomat who served in Ottawa. He now lives in Arlington, Virginia.

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THE NEW LILLAPUTIANS – PROHIBIT NOW, DISCUSS NEVER, continued from page 1

## In Canada and the United States, we are unlikely to lose our liberties in one fell swoop; rather be alert to the thousand spider-like strands that ensnared Gulliver.

someone might be having fun. But even more invidious have been the 20th century ideologies that demand not just the adherence of your body, but the commitment of your mind (and soul if you believe in such) to the leader, the Party, the State.

Fortunately, we have escaped entrapment in a society equivalent to Mao Tse-tung's "blue ants" or the more topical North Korean society where regimentation has become an art form. But perhaps while avoiding such gruesome societies where conformity is assured by state-sanctioned terror, we have substituted a Gulliver and the Lilliputians regime in which hundreds, if not thousands, of restrictions tie you down "for your own good." Or for the "good" of your children, your community, your country—imposed with or without your consent to this "good."

Thus you are punished for the use of tobacco with heavy taxes. And punished further with increasing restrictions over where, when, and how you can practice this expensive right. Having limited smoking in virtually every public place, you now are restricted from smoking privately (such as in an automobile) when minors/children are present. You cannot advertise the product—but must "advertise" various perils associated with its use on individual packages.

You are punished for the use of alcohol with heavy taxes. Any operation of a motor vehicle after having consumed alcohol in any significant amount can result in severe legal and financial penalties. Your park your vehicle? Labyrinthine hours in tow away zones leave you victim to predatory tow trucks and gasp-inducing ransom fees.

You decide to ride a bicycle instead or driving? You must wear a helmet to mitigate the damage from a prospective accident.

You elect to walk and/or take public transportation. Better traverse the street at cross walks, obeying the signals. And in the Metro hold onto that handrail—and don't "dis" the Metro policeman who chides you for lacking a third hand to hold on when other two are occupied (it just cost Ms Kosoian a pretty expensive penny for her insouciant manners.)

You wish to own a firearm. As a Canadian, you have no innate Second Amendment right to do so. Consequently, by the time you have negotiated the complex and expensive hoops and hurdles of permission forms, permits, training, waiting periods, and instruction for safely storing the firearm, an outside observer would judge you to be an obsessed fanatic—and thus exactly the type of person who should be prohibited

from owning a weapon of individual destruction.

It snows (no surprise, it's Canada). Now you must clear your sidewalk to specified dimensions within a given period of time. Too physically restricted? Away for the winter? Tough on you.

And should you be blessed/cursed with a child, restrictions are daunting. You must educate the child; if you choose the

school system for which you have paid with taxes, you have closely prescribed rules on what your child must learn. If your child is ill, you must accept state prescribed treatment regimes—your religious prohibitions regarding such treatment be damned so far as the state is concerned. And don't decorate your child's body with politically incorrect symbols (today a swastika; tomorrow a star of

David?); swat that obstreperous child in public (or admit to doing so in private); or let "puppy fat" become societal defined obesity. No "nanny" state here; looks more like "Big Bertha" for parents caught in her toils.

In Canada and the United States, we are unlikely to lose our liberties in one fell swoop; rather be alert to the thousand spider-like strands that ensnared Gulliver.

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# Another incomprehensible ban

It is beyond comprehension to see that Health Canada is calling for a ban on the sale and distribution of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) in this country.

This decision is totally counterproductive to the efforts of Health Canada, who have long been in the vanguard internationally in the reduction of tobacco consumption. While the results of Canada's sustained efforts through educational campaigns have generally been positive in reducing smoking prevalence right up to and including the year 2004, the decreasing trend has halted and smoking rates in Canada have remained the same ever since draconian smoking bans were instituted in many provinces. As history has taught us, coercive methods have never yielded positive results.

Apart from the public reacting negatively to coercion, another likely reason why the remaining citizens who smoke may be reluctant to quit their habit is the lack of realistic alternatives to the act of smoking itself. Public health authorities tend to see smoking as a function of addiction to nicotine, and pharmaceutical companies have cashed in on that perception by marketing various nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) devices. These products, in the form of variously flavored chewing gum in colorful packaging, or lozenges, patches, or even inhalers, are advertised extensively in all media. No doubt NRT sales are high and profitable, but the long term success rate of quitting smoking by use of NRT products as they are marketed now is a dismal 1.6%.

Electronic cigarettes are seen by many as a more attractive alternative to the NRT products available from the pharmaceuti-

cal industry and a viable alternative to those who wish to continue profiting from the benefits of nicotine. The use of the e-cigarette simulates the physical acts and sensations characteristic of smoking, including holding a cigarette-shaped device, inhaling nicotine vapor from it, and exhaling propylene glycol vapor. This vapor is a relatively inert gas which is odorless and does not linger in the air around the e-smoker. There is no environmental smoke produced by e-cigarettes therefore there is no annoyance to by-standers.

The popularity of the e-cigarette has spread virally through means such as word of mouth and internet forums. Large numbers of people around the world claim that use of e-cigarettes has helped them quit or cut down on their smoking and that it provides a degree of comfort, satisfaction, and convenience to those who do not wish to give up nicotine intake for various reasons.

In light of all of this, it is beyond disappointing to see that Health Canada is calling for a ban on the sale and distribution of electronic cigarettes in this country. It is absurd that Health Canada would keep it legal to smoke tobacco and ban the marketing of e-cigarettes, which offer an effective alternative and we are not alone to feel this way.

Contrary to conventional cigarettes emissions, E-cigarette vapor only contains two chemicals: nicotine and glycol propylene. Nicotine is generally accepted as relatively harmless by authorities, and is an approved legal substance. After all, NRT products, some of which are inhaled nicotine, are allowed to be freely marketed over the counter with no legal age for

purchase and Health Canada has either authorized or is in the process of authorizing clinical trials of such nicotine products on pregnant women (5). Propylene glycol is approved as an additive for various foods, is used as a preservative substance to maintain moisture in products, and has been animal tested (including on simians, not just laboratory rats) as relatively harmless when inhaled. =

The electronic cigarette is in essence a nicotine delivery device in the same mould as pharmaceutical NRT products. What is it in the combination of nicotine and propylene glycol that has Health Canada thinking that e-cigarettes are more hazardous than tobacco and NRT products such as inhalers? Surely e-cigarettes, which are neither tobacco products nor pharmaceutical products, should be permitted to be marketed and distributed freely providing they are not advertised as therapeutic devices.

Unable to comprehend what motivated Health Canada to ban e-cigarettes while keeping tobacco and pharmaceutical nicotine replacement therapy as well as the dangerous drug Chantix legal, I can only conclude that the only parties worthy of protection from Health Canada are the pharmaceutical and tobacco industries whose profits are threatened with the advent of this smart invention that had the potential of reestablishing harmony between smoking and non-smoking citizens and bringing much needed business back in our hospitality sector.

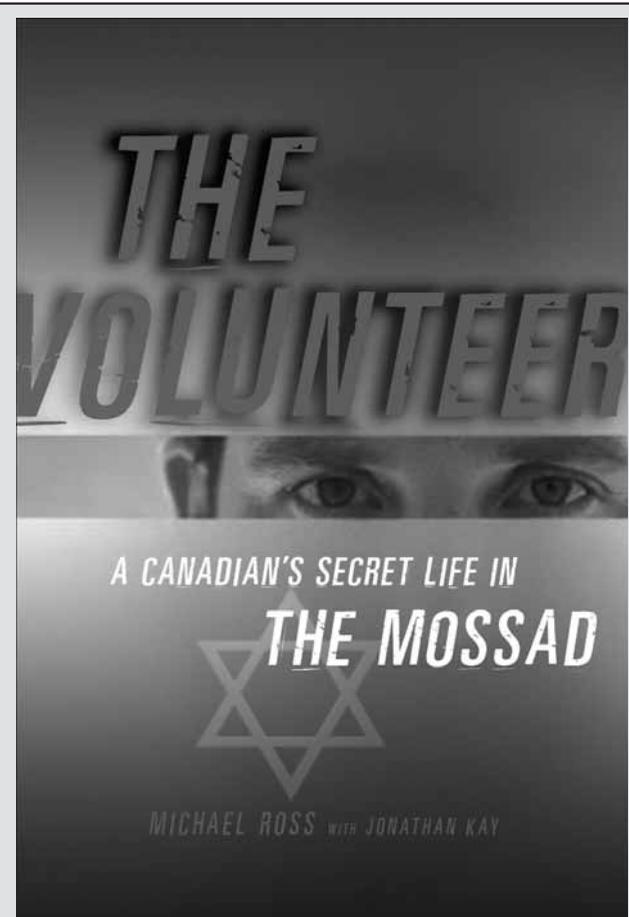
Health Canada should rethink its e-cigarette policy immediately, in the interest of the people they represent as opposed to the financial interests of powerful corporate lobbies.

## THE VOLUNTEER

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

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

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



## Teresa Seminara

info@themetropolitain.ca

# What do Concordians have to say about staying in school?

As I was walking to school one Monday morning, from Guy-Concordia metro station to the SGW Campus, I could not help but wonder what students' motivations are to be in University and whether the recession plays a decisive factor in their pursuit of earning a higher education. Above all, the thought that lingered in my mind as I passed my fellow Concordians was whether they are in University because of what other people want or expect from them or because they simply consider education an investment in themselves.

For many of us, the process of indoctrinating the importance of education commenced from a very early age. It may have started with our parents' encouragement to go to school and implied further by our teachers and academic counsellors as we grew older. However, motivations vary from person to person and my curiosity has led me to go around campus asking Concordia students to unravel what truly makes them stay in school.

"An education is about enriching one's self by pursuing areas of personal interest to greater depth, networking, and to learn ways of improving future prospects" says Christopher Kohan, 23, SCPA &

History major. He also believes that the recession is a motivator since the job market is in decline thus generating pressure among viable candidates.

On the other hand, Francesca Vardaro, 21, Language major, says that the recession has not affected her personally and that education remains a means of personal advancement. Nixie Kaufmann, 25, B.A in Political Science, reveals that education is important for it can provide one with the self-esteem required in the job-market. As for Emilie Salvi, 19, English Literature major, "school is a stimulating and vitalizing place and a great venue to interact with other intellectuals." She also mentions that an education provides students with the opportunity to develop new innovations that can lead them to explore the alternatives to our broken-down system.

My "love affair with school" is enthused by the desire of broadening my horizons and allowing myself to make sense of the world's complexities. The recession is a motivational factor for me to stay in school. After all, the job market has reached remarkable levels of competitiveness and in today's society a higher education is critical for it not only increases one's value as an individual, but as an employee to a company as

well.

As I began making my way back to the Guy-Concordia metro that evening I came to the realization that most of my interviewees admitted to

being in school to attain personal goals. Moreover, as I pondered about the correlation between recessions and education I realized that although a recession may not be bullet-proof,

an education is. On that note, I cannot help but share one of BB King's most inspirational quotes, "The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."

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

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# The real, earnest life of Arnold Steinberg

## 18th Chancellor of McGill University

“Life is real, life is earnest, and the grave is not the goal,” reads the caption in the 1954 McGill University Yearbook under Arnold Steinberg’s graduation photograph. Whatever life’s goal, as a commerce student at McGill five decades ago Steinberg never imagined that one day he would become the university’s 18th chancellor.

In Jewish culture, 18 is considered a lucky number - representing as it does the numeric value of the word, Chai, which means Life and is also the 18th letter in the Hebrew alphabet. The irony that he will be sworn in as McGill’s 18th chancellor in November is not lost on Mr. Steinberg. “On the day of the announcement I hadn’t even thought of it, to be perfectly honest,” he said in an interview. “Jews have figured so prominently at McGill in the last number of years, they almost go unseen,” he says. “Obviously, it wasn’t done intentionally. The principal, the chair and the chancellor are now all Jewish. But a number of people have phoned to point out the irony - and being number 18, I have to say, is both humbling and gratifying.” The senior partner of the Clemen, Ludmer, Steinberg, an investment holding company, Mr. Steinberg’s association with the university is long and distinguished. He became involved with the Montreal Children’s Hospital, and in 1976 was one of the founders of Canadians for Health Research and served as its Chairman for 19 years, and over the years has made major contributions to medical health research, including the establishment of the McGill Medical Stimulation Centre.

“I’m a closet hypochondriac,” he jokes. But, Steinberg’s interest in medical science began because one of his children suffered from allergies and he discovered that the Montreal Children’s Hospital wasn’t doing significant research into allergic reactions.

“It was a question of circumstance. All of that sort of coalesced.



We felt we could advance both the academic and clinical side of the area,” he says.

Steinberg then supported the program set up by Dr. Charles Scriver, one of the Canada’s leading geneticists, to have vitamin D added to milk sold in Quebec. “There was

great joy in supporting leading edge science in that it was so different from anything I had been exposed to. It added a whole new dimension to my life, and it never, ever ceases to be fascinating.”

Steinberg’s grandmother, Ida, founded what was once Quebec’s

largest chain of grocery stores. He enrolled at McGill but wasn’t interested in becoming an accountant. “I took the minimum number of courses,” he says, and was captain of the university’s water-polo team. He took a course in economic history from Cyril James and Eric Kierans,

who went on to become Quebec’s Revenue Minister was one of his teachers. “He was unusual in that he was the only professor I had who had any business experience,” says Steinberg.

Being Jewish on the McGill campus in the 1950s still carried a bit of a smudge, but Steinberg says he personally never encountered any anti-semitism. “It is part of McGill’s history, it has been well documented, and McGill has not tried to hide the fact,” he points out. “Clearly major changes have taken place over the years, I don’t recall in anyway feeling any sense of discrimination. Certainly, in medical school and in Engineering societies there were still some restrictions in the 1950s, but by the time I went, there was a fairly high percentage of Jewish students at the graduate level, and most of my friends were Jewish, people like Leonard Cohen and the Shapiro brothers.”

Steinberg took his MBA at Harvard, and went on to become the chief financial officer of both the grocery chain and its real-estate division, Ivanhoe Inc. When the food stores were sold 20 years ago, he became senior officer of an investment holding company. He has been a member of McGill’s board of governors and Chair of Health Infoway an independent organization established by the federal and provincial governments to promote electronic health information services.

Steinberg has a discriminating eye for contemporary art and has assembled one of the Canada’s largest private collections of modern art. He also enjoys chamber music and is involved with Marlborough College Concert Society, which promotes the advancement of chamber music.

He was recognized for his philanthropy with an order of Canada in 1993.

His wife, Blema, teaches political science at McGill.

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Irwin Cotler is special counsel on human rights and international justice to the Liberal party and is the MP for Mount Royal. He is a former minister of justice and attorney general of Canada and is a professor of law (on leave) at McGill University. David Grossman is special assistant to Mr. Cotler.

The Hon. Irwin Cotler and David Grossman  
info@themetropolitain.ca

# In Defence of Anti-Discrimination Laws

Tom Flanagan, the former Conservative campaign manager and university professor, went on the offensive last week arguing that anti-discrimination legislation should rightly target only government – but not private individuals’ – action. This thesis is as provocative as it is dangerous. Far from demonstrating the uselessness of the law, Mr. Flanagan’s comments instead remind us of how vital a role it plays.

The idea behind Mr. Flanagan’s suggestion – that the market is the proper regulator for moral as well as economic behaviour – is not a new one. Long before our provincial (and later federal) governments started prohibiting discrimination, the country’s courts were declaring that a business-owner was maître chez lui—that he had total freedom to decide how to run his establishment. Mr. Flanagan simply ignores the entire human rights revolution – and the law’s role in that revolution – that followed.

The simple reason for prohibiting discrimination in private contracts and the like still resonates today: Treating some members of society as sub-human is not just morally wrong and not just economically unwise—it is contrary to the basic principles upon which we want to govern our society.

Accordingly, we chose not only to make discrimination illegal, but also to create human rights commissions—both to help victims of discrimination seek compensation and to promote human rights and anti-discrimination principles more generally. There is a reason why we made this choice rather than having

...anti-discrimination laws are about more than regulating the market. They are about people – victims – and the statement that our Canadian society will not acquiesce in their suffering, even if such suffering could eventually be “corrected” by the market in the long run.

“broken contract commissions” or “negligence commissions”—discrimination against individuals in our society scars our society itself, in ways that broken contracts and negligence do not.

And thus we decided to do more than formally protect victims of discrimination in law. We decided that we had to take on the responsibility of ensuring these disproportionately poorer and less powerful members of society – with lesser means to access justice – were able to fight back against those who practice prejudice against them.

So the first point against Mr. Flanagan’s thesis is that anti-discrimination laws are about more than regulating the market. They are about people – victims – and the statement that our Canadian society will not acquiesce in their suffering, even if such suffering could eventually be “corrected” by the market in the long run.

Which brings us to our second point: that while the market may work things out in the long run, as John Maynard Keynes put it, “in the long run, we are all dead.”

In theory, the market could solve a lot of our problems. Manufacturers with lax safety standards would, over the years, get a bad reputation from all the injuries and deaths they caused and, eventually, would be forced to go out of business (or, more likely, continue business under a different name until caught again). But we are not willing to sacrifice our children’s lives in the meantime for the market to engage in this weeding out process, and we should not be willing to sacrifice our minorities’ lives in the meantime while the market corrects discriminatory practices either.

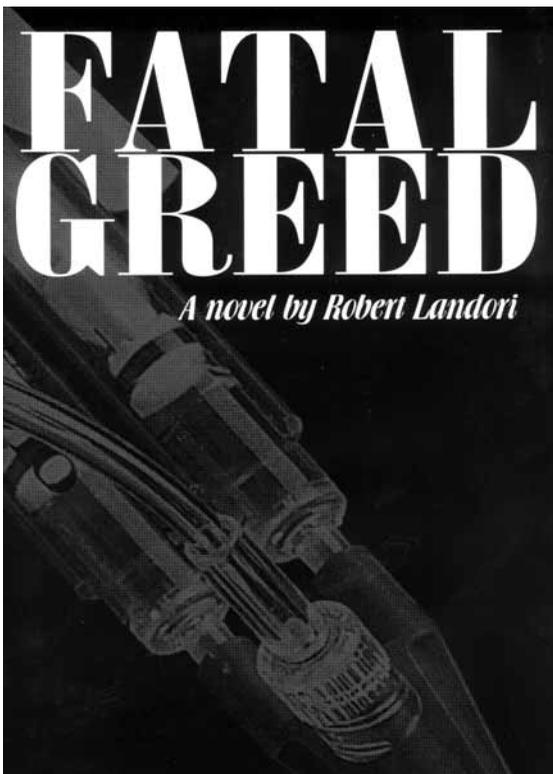
Indeed, Mr. Flanagan has stated his goals very conservatively: that discrimination may not be “abolished” by markets, but at least would be “eroded”; and that while this effect

may not be immediate, it will happen “over time.” Our third point is that, even expressed as such – and we doubt most Canadians would embrace so modest an anti-discrimination policy – Mr. Flanagan’s theory is still far from convincing.

For one thing, it is far from clear that economics alone would necessarily force discriminators to change their ways. Targeted and covert discrimination may not always lead to failure, even “over time.” Is a restaurant-owner who quietly hires only white hands to make his sandwiches really at so much of a competitive disadvantage that his business becomes unviable?

Moreover, even if discrimination was always “costly to the discriminator” in economic terms, the idea that this cost outweighs its benefits for the discriminator does not necessarily follow. Discriminators are motivated by many things, and chief among them has never been economic efficiency. The prototypical black man denied a room at a hotel was not always followed by a line-up of white men willing to take his place and pay the same. We cannot count on discriminators acting in an economically rational manner.

From a practical point of view, the market is bound to fail to address and redress discrimination in a satisfactory manner. But from a moral and social point of view, the idea of repealing our anti-discrimination laws in the private sphere is simply repugnant. Discrimination must be seen as an open wound for all Canadian society. And this wound cannot be healed by an invisible hand.



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# “It’s been fifteen years...”

Michael Manning

As of two weeks ago, it’s been fifteen years since Michael Manning heard his daughter Tara’s alarm clock go off while he was making an egg sandwich for breakfast. When nobody turned it off, he went to her room to wake her up for school.

“I still remember how the cover was drawn up to her chin,” he said as the tears flowed down his face. “I still recall how I thought she was sleeping until I touched her....and when I pulled the cover off, that’s when I knew my baby was dead.”

During an exclusive interview, Manning told *The Métropolitain* how he often thinks Tara’s killer, Gregory Bromby, took two lives after he raped and killed his daughter.

“It’s been fifteen years since that bastard killed my daughter and it’s been fifteen years since I’ve had more than two to three hours of sleep per night.”

While he still mourns Tara’s death as much as he did on the day she was buried, the National Parole Board recently informed him that Bromby was to be granted supervised day parole and would soon be living in a half-way house located in the Blainville suburb north of the city.

“It doesn’t really matter,” he said. “I’m here, he’s there and Tara’s still in her grave.”

Many believe Manning is wrong. It matters just as much as it did in the few short weeks after his daughter was killed as it does now and in every future Canadian murder investigation. Michael Manning is a Canadian hero. Michael Manning is the man who convinced Canada’s parliament to pass a law giving police the right to test every suspect’s DNA upon arrest for a capital crime.

“DNA tests changed homicide investigations forever,” said retired SPVM homicide detective Steve Roberts. “It’s the biggest development since fingerprints.”

Police all over the country agree. Compulsory DNA tests helped police solve dozens of cold cases, get convictions in dozens of recent cases and best of all, DNA tests often provide the innocent with their ‘Get out of jail free’ card.

After Tara was murdered, it’s difficult to imagine what life was like for the entire Manning family. Not only did sloppy police work lead the authorities to treat Manning, his son and a family friend as their main suspects in the case but Manning also had to carry the additional guilt of knowing he was passed out on the sofa only a few feet from Tara’s bedroom door after having put away a few beers while watching the evening’s hockey game. After voluntary DNA tests finally absolved the family from any suspicion, there were no breaks in the case until five weeks later when another girl was raped and told she would be killed if she went to the police. Because she already knew him, she let the boy into her Mountain Street apartment after he told her he had no place to go for the night. Later, after going to bed, he woke her up, showed her his knife before pushing her back on her bed.

“I’m crazy, I’m nuts,” he said as he kept stabbing her mattress and pillow while raping her. After he finished, he



told it was too bad but he was going to kill her but he really didn’t want her to go to the police. “I’ve already killed another girl,” he said, “...so as far as I’m concerned, it’s not a problem.”

The girl bargained for her life and promised him she wouldn’t tell the cops because she was too scared of what he would do to her if she did go tell on him. Once he was gone, she called the police to tell them about the rape and the boy who threatened to kill her. His name was Gregory Bromby.

Once police arrested Bromby, someone recalled how the Manning family provided the police with a list of everybody who recently spent time in their house. Bromby’s name was on the list. Police already had a sample of the killer’s DNA because he didn’t wear a condom when he raped Tara Manning. Due to the fact he used a condom when he raped the girl in the Mountain street apartment; police were forced to ask Bromby to provide some DNA but the boy refused so police authorities were forced to go to court for a warrant to get their sample. After saliva and a few swabs were taken from the inside of his mouth, the Bromby’s DNA provided a perfect match with the killer’s sample. Now police knew Gregory Bromby was the man who raped and smothered Tara Manning with her pillow after which he stabbed her 51 times in the chest and upper body.

Only weeks after Bromby was indicted, the crown informed Manning their case against him was in trouble. Under section 7 and 8 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, police required the suspect’s consent before they could take a DNA sample. Without the DNA, there was little proof he killed Tara and Bromby could use the loophole to walk away from the court a free man.

This was too much for Manning. After local Liberal MP Clifford Lincoln organized a meeting with Federal Justice Minister Allen Rock, the minister told Manning he too had a 10 year-old daughter so he didn’t need to be convinced about the justice of Manning’s case.

“Mister Manning, show me the Canadian people want this law,” he said.

Manning did just that. Friends and neighbors began to circulate a petition after which he met Micheline Bouchard, one of Montreal’s better known business women. Once Manning told Bouchard how Tara’s killer could be set free to kill again, it took her only a few days to put together an impressive support group to organize Michael Manning’s project. Four of the best PR (Public Relations) firms in the city got to work on the project and within weeks, Michael Manning’s DNA project was front-page news across the country. Manning still recalls how one PR professional told him “...it’s one vote per two pounds of paper in a petition but it’s 500 votes for every personal letter you send to your federal MP.” Manning’s petition was soon transformed into a letter campaign after which every office in Parliament Hill was flooded with letters demanding compulsory DNA tests for any suspect accused of committing a capital crime. Preston

Compulsory DNA tests helped police solve dozens of cold cases, get convictions in dozens of recent cases and best of all, DNA tests often provide the innocent with their ‘Get out of jail free’ card.

Manning's Reform Party supported the initiative after which Lucien Bouchard personally asked to see Manning in his Ottawa office.

"He was wonderful," said Manning. "...very courteous and very polite. When I told him about Tara's murder and the possibility her killer could walk, he said he understood and would do everything he could to help push the law through in time for the trial. He was still recovering from his illness and I had to help him out of his chair. That's when I knew this man knows what it is to suffer."

On the final day before the session was lifted for summer recess, reform MPs used the question period to ask Justice Minister Allen Rock if the Liberals would consider joining the BQ (Bloc Québécois) and the Reform to approve Bill C-104 which called for compulsory DNA tests for capital crime

suspects. While Canada's Hansard demonstrates how Rock tried to evade the question, a second question asked the Justice Minister if he would personally assume the responsibility for any more crimes committed by Bromby and others who would be free to walk the streets if the government refused to pass the bill. Manning still has tears in his eyes when he describes how Rock slowly stood up at his desk looked over at the opposition and clearly said the Liberals would support C-104 if both the BQ and Reform agreed to support the bill.

"That was the day Allen Rock stood up," said Manning. "That was the day the man stood up and was counted."

Only a few months after his 15 year-old daughter was brutally raped and killed in her own bed, Canada's Parliament unanimously accepted Bill C-104 after which compulsory DNA tests for accused suspects in a capital crime became the

law of the land. In the name of his family and of his murdered daughter, Michael Manning thanked Parliament from the visitors' gallery. When the speaker rose to accept Manning's thanks, the speaker inferred Manning was recognized and as of that time, he is still the only visitor to Parliament to have ever been officially recognized by its Speaker. Following the Speaker's cue, the rest of parliament rose to applaud the man and his efforts.

Fifteen years later, Michael Manning is living in a basement apartment in Montreal's west-end. He is overweight, he smokes too much and he was visibly hung-over. While looking at Tara's picture, he lit another cigarette and told *The Métropolitain* he still regrets not kissing his daughter good night that night before she went to bed.

"I miss her," he said. "Dear God, I miss her so much."

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## ARTS &amp; STYLE



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# ART DECO REVIVAL

## 10 WORLD CONGRESS opens in Montreal

Montreal isn't the first city that comes to mind when you think of Art Deco, so Peter Sheridan, wasn't sure what to expect when he arrived here from Australia for the 10th World Congress on Art Deco. Sheridan, a Sydney, Australia, dentist who collects art deco radios is one of about 200 enthusiasts from 30 Art Deco societies around the world attending the week-long convention that opened Sunday. The get together was organized by Sandra Cohen-Rose, who 15 years ago wrote a book on the subject, *Northern Deco: Art Deco in Montreal*. ArtDeco refers to the elegant sleek architectural design that surfaced in the 1920s which is distinguished by understated geometrical shapes and sophisticated, shiny decorative elements. Sheridan wasn't disappointed with what he found here. "Every city has some element of Art Deco, but the interesting thing about Montreal is the combination of the French and North American influence," he said. "The French Art deco was for the artisan, who created something unique for the individual, whereas the American style was for the consumer, created for a mass market. The style, however, is eternal. You can see elements of it in every hotel, because what you get is an amazing functional style. It works for buildings, trains, automobiles, and domestic appliances."

Some of the best of examples of Art Deco buildings in Montreal were built and designed by Ernest Cormier, including the handsome Court of Appeal building on Notre Dame St. and the Université de Montreal tower which punctuates the city skyline like an exclamation point. There is also the superb Aldred Building on Place D'Armes that went up in 1929 faced entirely in limestone except for decorative aluminum spandrels. It's design was influenced by New York's zoning bylaws which required the higher floors of a highrise to be set back from the street like a wedding cake. The finest and most important examples of art deco in the city are the 9th floor restaurant in the old Eaton department store, and former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau's house on Pine Avenue. It was once Cormier's home and is now owned by Trudeau's son, Alexandre. Ironically, both are off limits to convention delegates. "We would dearly have loved to get into both, but unfortunately, we can't get into either," Said Cohen Rose. "But there are so many other outstanding examples to see in and around Montreal, I don't think visitors will go away disappointed."

The swank party with a retro vibe was appropriately held Sunday at City Hall in the Hall of Honour - the city's first example of an art deco interior which was added when

city hall was rebuilt after the fire in 1922. The room was featured as 1930's night club in the recent movie, *The Aviator*.

New York of course is considered the capital of art deco. Polly Guerin, a member of the Art Deco Society of New York, and the host of *Pollytalk* from New York on the Big Apple New Network, is among the delegates. Guerin grew up in Montreal and remembers dining at Eaton's 9 floor restaurant as a child. She has remained enthusiastic about the style ever since. "It is a way of living, it is so advanced for its time," she says. "You can live with it today and feel like you are a modern person. It's a minimalist kind of way of living with beautiful furnishings and surroundings."

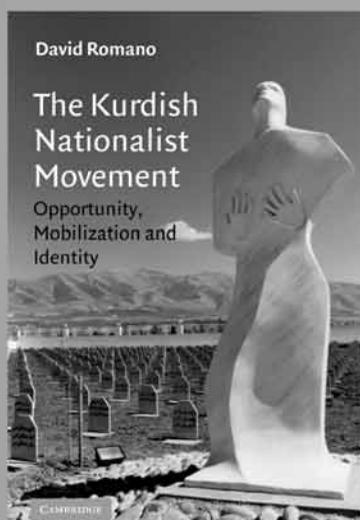
Art Deco design preservationist, Matti Herrera Bower, today the first Hispanic mayor of Miami Beach, was the co-chair of the first Art-Deco Congress in 1991. The city has its own art deco district which was declared a historic site in 1979. She says the international meetings are designed to promote and preserve the style. "We have grown, and gone from place to place spreading the word, she said. "All over the world they have this type of architecture, and we should celebrate it, and bring the world together to appreciate this universal form of art."

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ON ART DECO

## 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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# Devenir mozartien, un art aussi simple que l'amour

Émile Ortenberg, *De l'art de devenir mozartien*, Paris, éditions DDB Lethielleux, 176 p.

En vue de l'écriture de cet essai, Émile Ortenberg semble n'avoir eu pour seule ambition que de vivre un message de lumière. On constate à sa lecture que son propos se résume à merveille par cette seule idée, car c'est bel et bien dans cette optique que l'auteur rend compte de la lucidité, de l'amour et du bonheur que comporte la musique mozartienne, une musique à laquelle, d'ailleurs, de plus en plus de mélomanes accordent un statut tout à fait spécial.

Avec Mozart, c'est en effet une autre forme d'identification musicale qui se

conçoit, comme si celui qui écoute était obligé d'aller plus loin dans sa perception, dans sa vision de la réalité. Ainsi Émile Ortenberg, à partir de son vécu personnel, nous invite à dépasser le premier degré de l'écoute pour entrer de plein pied dans l'émotion, afin de toucher « la révélation » de ce qu'il appelle un « message de lumière ». Cela dit, qu'on ne se méprenne pas : nous avons ici affaire non pas à une espèce de divagation ésotérique à la con, mais plutôt à un ouvrage solide, qui invite à la fois à l'émotion et à la raison, à la réflexion à l'action, tout en alliant le pouvoir des mots à la concrétude des faits.

Ainsi, la quête d'équilibre inhérente à cet essai nous renvoie à la vie concrète, tout autant qu'elle touche,

instruit, informe et donne au lecteur le goût d'aller plus loin dans la recherche et l'étude mozartienne. Dans ce livre dont le ton et l'élan n'ont absolument rien de prétentieux ni de professoral, tout est bien assumé, dosé avec justesse, et se divise en trois sections : l'écoute, l'expérience et l'analyse. Ce travail rigoureux et fondé sur l'expérience, tout en étant d'une lecture parfaitement accessible voire agréable, est non seulement une preuve d'amour, mais aussi celle d'un réel engagement que l'auteur a pris à l'égard de Mozart et de tous les mozartiens. C'est aussi le choix de l'exigence musicale et de la poésie.

L'auteur fouille à fond la traversée des siècles que les œuvres de Mozart auront connue, en plus de nous fournir

certaines repères bibliographiques des plus judicieux. La vie de Mozart est également passée au peigne fin, et l'on se surprend à y découvrir des détails anecdotiques d'une richesse insoupçonnée, dont l'auteur rend compte par des passages qui se révèlent aussi doux, gracieux et intenses que peut l'être la musique de Mozart elle-même.

Il est impossible de ne pas tomber sous le charme de ce livre. Émile Ortenberg, tout en humanité, livre le bon combat, sourire en coin sans doute, d'un ton qui est tout sauf moralisateur. Il est simplement emballé par Mozart, tellement qu'il en arrive à faire vibrer l'espace, comme les acteurs arrivent parfois à le faire, lors de l'entracte. De plus, par la



subtilité de sa démarche, l'auteur ajoute une nouvelle couleur à la palette déjà riche de l'étude de la musique de Mozart. Une couleur assez chatoyante, une voix qu'on aime entendre parce que vraie, sans complaisance ni morgue prétendument savante. Une voix qui ne parle pas pour rien dire, en quelque sorte. On a ici affaire à un auteur intègre, qui a écrit un livre sur Mozart tout simplement parce qu'il aime sa musique. D'ailleurs, à la fin de son ouvrage, l'auteur prend le temps de remercier ses lecteurs, en exprimant une ouverture au dialogue, voire au partage, qui est aussi rare que chaleureuse.

En somme, il y a chez Émile Ortenberg une fierté que le vaniteux pourrait prendre pour de la prétention, de même qu'un bon sens que l'universitaire pourrait prendre pour de l'intelligence. Ce livre est tout simplement brillant, captivant, incontournable. On referme ces pages en se sentant tout simplement heureux d'avoir passé des moments de lecture agréables, tout en se retrouvant encore mieux aspiré vers la musique de Mozart, vers cette musique qui, comme le propos de son amoureux Émile Ortenberg, n'est jamais opaque, et dont les notes sont toujours transparentes, tout en exprimant une réelle force de vérité. C'est donc ainsi que l'on comprend que l'art de devenir mozartien se gagne, à n'en point douter, lorsqu'on se met, tout simplement mais avec l'attention requise à tout amour, à aimer Mozart !

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