

The Leveller

CAMPUS • COMMUNITY • CULTURE

Nov./Dec. 2011

Naming that-which-should-not-be-named since 1848

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“BANNED ON THE HILL”

Ottawa art exhibit highlights government interference in environmental education



Artist Franke James, Banned From the Hill

photo by Billiam James

Crystel Hajjar

Toronto artist Franke James is displaying environmental artwork on Bank Street in protest of the Canadian government's interference in her 20-city European art show and its decision to revoke \$5,000 in funding intended to help tour the pieces.

The six-poster exhibit, entitled "Banned on the Hill," was funded through crowd funding – a method employed by artists and organizations to finance projects through a collective pooling of resources by supporters, often via the Internet. The exhibit is part of the much larger show "What can one person do?", which was supposed to travel Europe as part of a series of workshops facilitated by James.

Each of the colourful posters are addressed to Stephen Harper with a large "Dear Prime Minister" on top. They are designed to protest the way that the Harper government has blacklisted environmentalists and muzzled scientists who have been outspoken about the pending dangers of climate change.

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XL BATTLE STILL TO BE FOUGHT ON KEYSTONE AND OTHER PIPELINES

Adam Kostrich

On Nov. 10 the Obama Administration decided to postpone any final decision regarding the future of the Keystone XL pipeline project until January 2013.

In an official statement, the US State Department and President Obama cited the need to consider an alternative route for the pipeline as the reason for the delay. The current route is contentious because it crosses the sensitive and important Ogallala Aquifer, which provides fresh water for drinking and irrigation to millions of Americans in the Midwest.

Those who protested increased investment in Alberta's oil sands on environmental grounds see the delay as a victory. However, the battle to minimize big oil's political influence

(called the "tyranny of oil" by Obama during his 2008 election campaign) is still raging fiercely.

INDECISION 2012

Obama's Administration has come under fire from a variety of angles on this issue. Corporate interests, political officials, commentators - even his own supporters - have condemned the delay as an attempt to up the President's environmental credibility ahead of the 2012 election.

It certainly seems as if this is the case; the Administration has made it clear that the contentious issue is the proposed route, not the construction of the pipeline itself. Even Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman and his constituents approve the pipeline so far as it does not cross the Ogallala or threaten

the Nebraskan agricultural industry.

Despite the fact that investing in renewable energy would generate jobs and facilitate American energy independence, the money behind the oil lobby is able to amplify its voice and make the Keystone XL out to be a *deus ex machina* for a nation in hard economic times. These efforts and the high unemployment rate in the US have combined to polarize the electorate to the point where shelving thousands of Keystone-related jobs might eventually cost the President his own. Thus it seems likely the pipeline will be approved no matter who sits in the oval office in January 2013.

THE BATTLE ISN'T OVER YET

Clearly Obama's environmentally oriented sup-

porters feel betrayed by this announcement - they would prefer a "no" on the Keystone XL issue to a "not right now." His opponents feel their President has betrayed America's national interests.

The so-called "policy experts" of big business and the American right-wing have presented Obama as irrational and irresponsible, arguing that he is "choosing politics over cheaper energy." These experts predictably champion the benefits of cheap oil and energy independence from "dangerous" oil-producing countries like Iran and Venezuela.

There is little mention of the human cost of the project on either side of the border. Stephen Harper met with President Obama in Hawaii, saying he was "disappointed" with the

pipeline's delay but has no doubt the Keystone XL will be built "because it makes eminent sense."

Construction of the Keystone XL is also a provincial issue. Newly-elected Alberta Premier Allison Redford denied to the *Globe and Mail* that she visited the American capitol for the purpose of lobbying in favour of the pipeline. Her role as premier of a province "with a certain set of economic interests, social interests and environmental interests," she said, was to promote those interests. Her trip happened shortly after MPs Megan Leslie (Halifax) and Claude Gravelle (Sudbury) - both representing the NDP - went to Washington to lobby against the pipeline.

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Lev·el·ler
noun

1 Historical: During the English Civil War (c. 1649), one who favoured the abolition of all rank and privilege. Originally an insult, but later embraced by radical anti-Royalists.

2 One who tells the truth, as in “I’m going to level with you.”

3 An instrument that knocks down things that are standing up or digs up things that are buried or hidden.

The Leveller is a publication covering campus and off-campus news, current events, and culture in Ottawa and elsewhere. It is intended to provide readers with a lively portrait of their university and community and of the events that give it meaning. It is also intended to be a forum for provocative editorializing and lively debate on issues of concern to students, staff, and faculty as well as Ottawa residents.

The Leveller leans left, meaning that it challenges power and privilege and sides with people over private property. It is also democratic, meaning that it favours open discussion over silencing and secrecy. Within these very general boundaries, The Leveller is primarily interested in being interesting, in saying something worth saying and worth reading about. It doesn't mind getting a few things wrong if it gets that part right.

The Leveller has a very small staff, and is mainly the work of a small group of volunteers. To become a more permanent enterprise and a more truly democratic and representative paper, it will require more volunteers to write, edit, and produce it, to take pictures, and to dig up stories.

The Leveller needs you. It needs you to read it, talk about it, discuss it with your friends, agree with it, disagree with it, write a letter, write a story (or send in a story idea), join in the producing of it, or just denounce it. Ultimately it needs you—or someone like you—to edit it, to guide it towards maturity, to give it financial security and someplace warm and safe to live.

The Leveller is an ambitious little rag. It wants to be simultaneously irreverent and important, to demand responsibility from others while it shakes it off itself, to be a fun-house mirror we can laugh at ourselves in and a map we can use to find ourselves and our city. It wants to be your coolest, most in-the-know friend and your social conscience at the same time. It has its work cut out for it.

The Leveller is published every month or so. It is free.

The Leveller and its editors have no phone or office, but can be contacted with letters of love or hate at editors.the.leveller@gmail.com

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200 STRONG DEMO DENOUNCES CARLETON'S PARTICIPATION IN JNF GALA

Steven Zhou

Some 200 people gathered in the University Centre atrium at Carleton University on Nov. 7 in protest of Carleton President Roseann Runte's participation in Ottawa's annual Negev Gala, which is hosted by the Jewish National Fund (JNF). The gala raises funds for various environmental projects that entail the purchasing of land in Israel for the development of Jewish settlements. The JNF has refused to sell land to non-Jewish people, inciting criticism from Palestinian human rights advocates.

Students and community members participated in the rally, which was organized by the Carleton chapter of Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA). Together they demanded that Runte step down as honorary co-chair of the JNF fundraiser in light of her repeated claims to "neutrality" regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict. Runte co-chaired the controversial JNF fundraiser the following day at the Chateau Laurier hotel in downtown Ottawa.

"We want to make sure that our voices are heard," said Rabita Sharfuddin, a public policy student at Carleton,

and one of the main organizers of the rally. "We don't believe that Carleton should be linked with any organization that practices racially discriminatory policies."

This message was conveyed through a series of chants, including one calling for Runte to resign as president. Participants in the rally also called for the university to divest from businesses that operate in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Established in 1901, the JNF purchases land in the state of Israel and what was British-occupied Palestine prior to 1948. Since 1967, Israel has occupied both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, while consistently building illegal settlements in the latter. Although Israel has formally withdrawn from Gaza, international bodies such as the United Nations and Human Rights Watch still consider Israel to be the occupying power of the Gaza Strip because it controls Gaza's airspace and territorial waters, restricting the movement of people and goods in and out of Gaza by air and sea.

The Fund controls 13 percent of land (approximately 650,000 acres) in Israel, and holds ten seats on the 22-member Israel Land Council.

The Israel Land Council controls 80 percent of land in Israel. Land owned by the JNF is not leased to Arab citizens in Israel-Palestine or Arabs with historical ties to the land. As the Israeli daily *Haaretz* reported, Israel voted against a motion in 2010 which intended to make the equal allocation of land to Israeli Arabs and Jews mandatory. According to the *Jewish Daily Forward*, the vote occurred five years after Israeli Attorney General Menachem Mazuz had ruled that acquiring and reserving land exclusively for Jewish use was "discriminatory and should not continue with state assistance."

The JNF's policy on land ownership has been outlined as part of a wider political project to secure the state of Israel. According to the JNF Canada website, "By purchasing plots of land, they [JNF's founders] hoped to establish the groundwork for the birth of our nation of Israel."

"JNF Canada gave fifteen million dollars to the building of Canada Park, which sits atop the three razed Palestinian villages. As Canadians, we have a symbol of our complicity in the Israeli occupation," said Dax D'Orazio, a member of SAIA. The villages of Im-



Professor Bill Skidmore addresses rally at Carleton University

photo by Steven Zhou

was, Yalu, and Beit Nuba were seized during the 1967 Six-Day War.

Rabbi Chaim Tabasky was one of the few people who attended the rally in order to denounce it. "I'm a rabbi at the school, and I think this whole thing is pathetic, it's pathetic," Chaim said. "What they say about the JNF isn't true, and Israel should remain a Jewish state."

Towards the end of the rally, the crowd marched to Runte's office on the 5th floor of the Tory Building. Security

did not allow the crowd to get close to Runte's office, but protesters occupied the adjacent hallway. Speeches and pointed questions were posed via megaphone as to why Carleton was participating in the Negev Gala, and afterwards, protesters left three dead trees at the entrance to Runte's office hallway.

Each pot was attached to a sign, which was labelled with the name and population of a Palestinian village that was ethnically cleansed in order to build Canada Park. Protest-

ers left a fourth, living tree at the door as well, intended to represent the rejuvenation of these villages and their inhabitants' right of return.

Runte released a statement via email 20 minutes before the rally was to begin. In the statement she argued that the Gala fundraiser for the JNF is simply one in a series of community-building events that comprise her activities throughout the year. "I consider these activities an expression not of politics but of inclusivity," said Runte.

Banned on the Hill

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The tour was to be produced by Nektarina Non Profit, a Croatian non-governmental organization that seeks to educate and inspire people to care about the environment. The NGO applied for \$5,000 in funds from the Canadian Embassy in Croatia under its climate change education program.

Article Six of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change requires that Canada provide funding for climate change education. According to Nektarina Non Profit, the Canadian Embassy verbally indicated that the funding would be granted. They were later told by the government that this would not be the case.

A recent request conducted by James through the Access to Information and Privacy legislation (ATIP) showed that \$5,000 in funding was approved for the show on Apr. 29, 2011.

James' ATIP request also revealed that Jeremy Wallace, deputy director of the Climate Change office at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, advised against funding James' tour. Wallace argued the project is against Canada's interests.

"MDC [the Climate Change office] has concerns that the funding would not be consistent with our interests and approach," said Wallace in an email written May 5 to

Debra Price, the legal counsel at Canada's Embassy in Romania, which he asked not to be shared with the requester. "[It] would in fact run counter to Canada's interest more broadly," the email states.

The ATIP report shows that parts of the emails were blacked out under Section 15(1) because its release could be "injurious" to matters of international affairs and defense.

Representatives from the government had publicly denied that funding was ever guaranteed or withdrawn. The Harper government has not responded as of yet concerning the content of the posters or the results of the ATIP request.

Nektarina Non Profit hoped the tour would positively inspire people to make changes and reduce their environmental impact. They found Canada's decision to withdraw funding surprising and disappointing.

"This was most surprising given Canada's reputation over many decades as a leader in promoting democratic freedoms, the right to free expression and also supporting the international community," said Nektarina Non Profit in a statement.

James told the *Leveller* that "they [the Harper government] continued to interfere behind-the-scenes, eventually causing the show to be can-

celled."

The *Toronto Star* reports that Nektarina Non Profit's private sponsor, whose name remains undisclosed, told the organization that a Canadian official contacted them directly. This led the company to revoke its sponsorship of the workshops.

James' art exhibit seeks to highlight the government's active intervention in the tour.

"I hope to shine a bright light on how the Harper government is trying to silence environmental messengers," said James. "[The posters are] designed to provoke a response, but it certainly does not have any violence and hatred in it; it is asking such common sense questions like 'why don't we make polluters pay?'"

"It is totally shocking that this is what happens in Canada," said James.

"Even if people don't agree with my position, I think that most Canadians would agree that I have the right to speak."

The "Banned on the Hill" display started on Nov. 2 and runs until Nov. 27. It is meant to draw attention to the banned exhibit, raise awareness on climate change and engage the public in a discussion. James' work combines art, photography and writing to produce visual essays that highlight various environmental and social issues.

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INVESTIGATING SABOTAGE BY SYRINGE IN CONFEDERATION PARK



Tent City at Confederation Park

photo by Andy Crosby

Marc Benoit

Amidst a wave of attempts by municipal governments across North America to evict Occupiers in the name of safety and sanitation, Occupy Ottawa protesters were surprised and concerned to find several hundred used hypodermic syringes scattered around the perimeter of Confederation Park on Nov. 10.

Confederation Park has been home to the protesters since the Global Day of Action on Oct. 15.

Reports from protesters indicate that between 350 and 400 used syringes were scattered, placed and even stabbed into the ground along the edges of the downtown Ottawa park. Protesters first found the syringes around 2:00 am and embarked on a seven-hour cooperative clean up. No one was harmed during the ordeal.

When asked how the needles got into the park, Media spokesperson Kurtis Benedetti stated, "We have a bunch of different theories...but we don't have any conclusive evi-

dence of who it was or where they got the needles from."

The volume and quality of the needles in addition to their placement is suspicious. According to protester Kevin Donaghy, very few organizations have access to hypodermic needles in such high quantities.

Many protesters feel that this was a direct attempt to sabotage the integrity of the Occupy Ottawa movement. The unresolved issue coincides with the National Capital Commission's (NCC) con-

cern over the use of the park as Ottawa's annual Winterlude Festival approaches. The festival is held there every year.

The health and safety risks associated with hypodermic needle use could be cause to evict the protesters on the grounds that living conditions in the campsite are no longer safe.

The emphasis on health, safety, and hygiene is being used by North American municipal governments as justification for evicting protesters from Victoria to Vancouver, London to New York, Oakland to Halifax, and elsewhere.

As of Nov. 15, New York City occupiers have been banned from bringing tents and sleeping bags into Zuccotti park because of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's expressed concerns with health and safety.

"From the beginning, I have said that the City had two principal goals: guaranteeing public health and safety, and guaranteeing the protesters' First Amendment rights. But when those two goals clash, the health and safety of the public is our first priority," said Bloomberg in a Nov. 15 press release.

His mayoral counterparts have been less careful in their rationalizations, from focusing on the illegality of pitching a tent in Halifax to the need to not interrupt holiday festivities in Victoria.

Although Occupy Halifax protesters made space so Haligonians could participate in an annual Remembrance Day ceremony in Victoria Park, Mayor Peter Kelly seized the opportunity to distribute eviction notices. Kelly did not even try to articulate a health and safety justification, choosing instead to enforce Municipal Bylaw P-600 that forbids being in a park after hours or pitching a tent without permission from the city.

Protesters were given a few hours to leave and their evictions were violently enforced by the Halifax Police department.

"The mayor ordering a peaceful, democratic protest removed on Remembrance Day, which celebrates the veterans who fought for democratic freedoms in the first place, is absolutely shameful," Kyle Buott told the *Globe and Mail*. Buott organised a 300-protester strong rally de-

manding Kelly's resignation on Nov. 12.

In Ottawa, the physical location of the syringes along the perimeter of the park rather than within it places the issue under the legal jurisdiction of the city of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police. Had they been within the park, it would have been federal jurisdiction and the RCMP.

Confederation park is under the jurisdiction of the NCC, not the city of Ottawa.

Occupiers noted, "We had a tactical squad come in in three unmarked SUVs... the night after the needles were found."

Protesters have expressed concerns regarding the neutrality of the police investigation.

"The RCMP have come twice and threatened to do a drug raid," says Benedetti.

The Ottawa Police told the *Leveller* they are unable to comment since this is an ongoing investigation.

It is clear that protesters are becoming uneasy with the events of last week, as calls have come from municipal governments across the continent to the end the Occupy movement altogether.

CRITICAL THINKING MATTERS TO WORKING PEOPLE.

Postal workers were legislated back to work, losing the right to free collective bargaining, after Canada Post and Conservative politicians claimed that the labour dispute was costing "hundreds of millions of dollars."

But the financial reports show this was a lie.

That's why critical thinking about what you see and hear in the news really matters.

A message from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers

Pipeline Delayed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Political puppets aren’t the only actors in this pipeline drama. To keep up with the recent En-bridge expansions, Trans-Canada is hoping to go ahead with those phases of the Keystone XL which do not cross international borders. This way Trans-Canada can avoid needing the approval of the US State Department.

KOCH BLOCK

According to California Congressman Henry Waxman, the infamous Koch Industries is expected to “benefit most from construction of the Keystone XL” by virtue of the company’s stake in the Alberta oil sands and the oil refinery business internationally.

Koch Industries has invested heavily in the American political process. According to US government watchdog opensecrets.org, Koch Industries has spent \$5.5 million USD on federal lobbies thus far in 2011. These contributions seem to have provided Koch Industries with a certain level of political immunity; earlier this year several prominent Republicans shot down Rep. Waxman’s proposal to assess the Koch connection with the Keystone XL project.

Last month Waxman reasserted the need to investigate Koch Industries’ involvement, though it seems as if his calls for critical analysis will fall silent on money-stuffed ears. The Los Angeles Times reported that the Koch brothers, David and Charles, donated a total of \$279,500 to 22 of the 31 Republican members of the US House Energy and

Commerce Committee and a total of \$32,000 to the five Democratic members. These contributions are problematic considering Koch Industries’ history of disregard for the environment: between 1999-2003, the company paid over \$400 million in fines and penalties, 75 percent of which were attributable to oil spills and leaks in pipelines. To put this amount in perspective, Koch Industries’ revenues totalled \$98 billion in 2008. There is thus little incentive for multinational corporations to act responsibly. Accountability should take the form of government policy.

CONCLUSIONS

Opinion on the Keystone XL remains a matter of perspective. Depending on where you stand the postponement is either a David-and-Goliath story or a case of a besieged President trying to simultaneously salvage credibility and appeal to both sides of a divided electorate. The project would provide a boost to the US economy, but it would be short-lived. If job creation is the government’s top priority, it would be better off investing in developing alternative energy industries.

While pipelines are the greenest form of transporting crude oil, and thus represent a desirable alternative to rail or road transport of fuel, they do little to attack the root of the environmental and political problem - consumption. Loosening big oil’s grip on the political process begins with curbing our own consumption.

CAMPUS

A CRITIQUE OF LOVING THINKING

Ryan Katz-Rosene and Gulden Ozcan

A new pedagogy is sweeping through the University of Calgary; it’s called “loving thinking.” We learned this after stumbling upon a recent TEDxTalk on YouTube by Patrick Finn, a drama instructor at the University of Calgary. Finn’s thesis is that critical thinking “now needs to be thrown into the recycling bin,” and that academia in the 21st century is better suited to “loving thinking”.

Finn claims critical thinking is “a very linear and very violent way to think about ideas.” By introducing a policy of “loving thinking” as opposed to critical thinking, his hope is that creativity and dialogue will be promoted, not stifled: “If you say something from the audience, no bitter SOB is allowed to give you their witty, acidy retort that collapses your argument and leaves nothing for the group.”

While we sympathize with Finn’s concern—nobody wants a “bitter SOB” in their classroom – we believe he is just as guilty as his students of misunderstanding critical thinking. As an educator in the post-secondary setting, it is his role to untangle critical analysis from purposeless faultfinding. Denying the value of critical thinking is a pathway towards complacency, acceptance of the status quo and a conservative world where change and transformation is not sought.

THE VALUE OF CRITICAL THINKING

There are notable thinkers in history who have helped us see the value of critical thinking, such as Karl Marx, Theodor Adorno and Michel Foucault. Marx once argued that, “what we have to accomplish at present [is the] ruthless criticism of all that exists, ruthless both in the sense of not being afraid of the results [our criticism] arrives at and in the sense of being just as little afraid of conflict with the powers that be.” Here Marx was not being the bitter SOB, but (to use another analogy) the well reasoned and witty kid who challenges the schoolyard bully in defense of her/his peers.

In this sense, Finn is right to call critical thinking a kind of “martial art of the mind,” because it aims to fight against the violent nature of ignorant and avaricious thinking.

Critical, dialectical thinking is always pulled into a fight because it challenges power and authority. As Adorno explained, “dialectics mean to achieve something positive by means of negation.” What is presented to us as truth in the classroom (or in society at large) is often a pseudo-reality that hides more than it reveals. By thinking critically, dialectically and even negatively (in the sense of negating what we are told is “the truth”), we can reveal the murky waters that underlie inequality.

Foucault also advocated criticism as a form of trans-

gression by analyzing the limitations of dominant points of view: “[It] is a matter of flushing out on what kinds of assumptions, what kinds of familiar, unchallenged, unconsidered modes of thought the practices that we accept rest... [and then] trying to change it.”

Finn argues critical thinking is linear, yet it is actually based on the idea of dialogue. It is meant to bring something new into existence through the interaction of thesis and antithesis. The goal is synthesis. Critical thinking questions, destabilizes and helps us better understand how the world in which we live has come to be this way. This is the first step in thinking of just alternatives.

THE DANGER IN INSTRUMENTALIST “LOVING THINKING”

Finn claims our universities are all about teaching critical thinking and laments that it has misguided us. Yet in our own experiences we have seen the growing dominance of instrumentalist thinking (the exact opposite of critical thinking), and we believe it’s dangerous. Instrumental reason is based on ends justifying the means; it disregards reason because subjects are expected to follow given procedures. This method of thinking conceals the contradictions that are intrinsic to social relations. More and more, students are cajoled into agreeing, complying, and accepting their

reality and chastised for challenging the way things are.

“Loving thinking” resembles instrumentalist thinking. Loving thinking is responsible for the ever-present assumption that people in power mean well. It presumes that we’re being taken care of and protected by the authorities. It leads one to believe that if our government is invading another country, it must be for a good reason.

The setting of post-secondary education should be one that moves students to question the so-called “truths” they hear every day from the mainstream media, teachers, government, parents and elites. The point is not to tell students what to think, but to demonstrate why critical thinking can be a valuable enterprise and consequently, why instrumentalist thinking can be dangerous.

Let us not forget that totalitarianism has arisen in societies where criticism has been forbidden and instrumentalist reasoning has been encouraged. As Howard Zinn once said, “dissent is the highest form of patriotism.” Along these lines, we believe (dialectical) criticism is the highest form of social engagement. Not only is critical thinking valuable; we believe it is sadly disappearing and badly needed if we have a hope of making the world a better place.

The setting of post-secondary education should be the one that moves students to question the everyday “truths” they hear from mainstream media, teachers, government, parents, and elites.

The point is not to tell students what to think, but to demonstrate why critical thinking can be a valuable enterprise and consequently, why instrumentalist thinking can be dangerous.

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06:00	L'expresso du dimanche	Radio France International	Radio France International	Radio France International	Radio France International	Radio France International	Radio France International				
07:00	Gospel Generation	JAMBO OTTAWA	JAMBO OTTAWA	JAMBO OTTAWA	L'Express country	Transacadienne	Afrique Plus				
08:00											
09:00	Amanecer Ranchero	Perle d'ébène	Afrique plus (rediffusion)	Antenne d'ivoire		Le Lancer du disque	Ici l'Afrique				
10:00	Bosnian Hour	Radio Radio	Rétro radio	Quid Novi		Mouton ou Franco	Afrika Revisited				
11:00	I've Heard That Song Before	Projection sur la durabilité	Les Écrans compacts	Le Poney express		Devant le jukebox	Black on Black				
12:00	In Transition	Gee Gees Hour	Organic Jams	Ivory Antenna	Acoustic Roots	The Lie	Rockers				
13:00		The Full-Time Groove	Peer Review Radio	Now Playing	Radio Radio	Morisset Bass					
14:00	Ethiopian Show		Sound Crimes	Happenstance & Occurences	Apartment 613						
15:00	Ir-Ava Radio	High Beams	Radio Radio	Democracy Now!	World Wide Waves	The BRL Show	Caribbean Flavour				
16:00	Ottawa Chinese Show	Under Where?	Third Wave	East European Beats	World Famous Music	Raiders of the Lost Art	Fréquences Antillaise				
17:00	Men Kontré	Demockery's Demise	Anything But Vanilla	Click Here	5 O'Clock Train	Hop the Fence					
18:00	Bouyon Raisin	Pastiche	Le Macaque chaud	Autour du bloc		La Vallée des diamants	Origenes				
19:00	Apnivani	Jazz et compagnie	En Cas d'urgence	Réflexions actuelles	Au Coeur d'la rue	Tropic FM					
20:00	Somali Show		La Chasse	Le Plaisir de lire	La villa strangiato			El Tren Latino			
21:00	Romagazin	Transmissions After Zero	The Circle	Best in British Music	Tornado Warning	Cypher					
22:00	Sunday Night Jazz	Monday Night Scribes	Mixtape Sessions	Midweek Mayhem	Lefty's Roadhouse			Sur la Piste			
23:00		Sounds of the 613	A Breakdown of Statues	Cream of Beats	Transmigration of Miguel Sanchez	Moonrappin'	Maury's Saturday Night House Party				
00:00	Le vieux mellotron	D'un extrême à l'autre	Metal Canvas	Do You Hear What I Hear?	Nuits d'enfer						
01:00		Radio France International						The Half			
02:00											
03:00	Radio France International			Radio France International		Wednesday Night Hangover		Tekno Turtle			
04:00								Radio France International			
05:00											
LEGEND LÉGENDE		ROCK & POP ELECTIC ÉLECTIQUE	PUNK MÉTAL	FUNK & SOUL HIP HOP	ELECTRONIC ÉLECTRONIQUE	SPOKEN WORD INFORMATIONS & HUMOUR	COUNTRY FOLK	GLOBAL DU MONDE	JAZZ	MORISSET 65 Université Pvt. Room/Local 0038	

LES CONSERVATEURS DÉMONTRENT LEUR MISOGYNIE UNE FOIS DE PLUS

Personnellement, quand j’entends le mot « sniper » je ne pense pas à une bonne fermière qui veut qu’on la laisse tirer ses perdrix en paix. Je pense à James Charles Kopp, l’assassin anti-avortement du Dr Barnett Slepian.

Stéfanie Clermont

Les conservateurs, qui ont déjà tenté à quelques reprises de se débarrasser du registre des armes d’épaule, font une nouvelle tentative. Sous le présent gouvernement majoritaire conservateur, le projet de loi C-19 a toutes les chances d’être adopté. Les mêmes politiciens censés avoir comme priorité de sévir contre le crime ont maintenant l’intention de retirer l’obligation d’enregistrer les armes à feu qui ne sont pas prohibées ou à autorisation restreinte. De plus, les données accumulées à ce jour seront détruites et le gouvernement fédéral refusera de partager les informations avec les provinces qui décideraient de créer leurs propres registres. Les armes d’épaules, qui sont les armes les plus couramment utilisées dans les cas d’homicide conjugal, seront désormais exclues du registre sous prétexte que le registre est inutile, gaspille de l’argent et est une forme de discrimination envers les habitants des régions rurales.

La carabine Ruger Mini-14, utilisée en 1989 par le misogyne Marc Lépine pour tuer 14 étudiantes à l’École polytechnique de Montréal et, cet été, par le tout aussi misogyne Anders Behring Breivik pour tuer près d’une centaine de personnes, dont plusieurs adolescents, en Norvège, sera éliminée du registre. Le fusil de précision (sniper) le sera aussi. Personnellement, quand j’entends le mot « sniper », je ne pense pas à une bonne fermière qui veut qu’on la laisse tirer ses perdrix en paix. Je pense à James Charles Kopp, l’assassin anti-avortement du Dr Barnett Slepian. Je pense à un fusil utilisé au combat pour tuer des êtres humains. Le registre n’a jamais été, comme Harper tente de nous le faire croire, une attaque contre les habitants des régions rurales.

Suite à la tuerie de l’École polytechnique, plusieurs groupes, dont certains se sont unis pour former la Coalition pour le contrôle des armes, ont fait pression sur le gouvernement pour réglementer les armes à feu. Au cours des années 1990, la Co-



Manifestants pro registre des armes à feu sur la colline parlementaire le 22 septembre 2010

photo par Kate Ayalogu

alition pour le contrôle des armes ainsi que les associations de policiers et de chefs policiers ont milité pour des lois plus strictes. En même temps, des groupes de lobbyistes en faveur des armes ont pris de l’ampleur et créé des liens avec des groupes américains. Une loi a été votée en 1995; elle prévoit « la délivrance de permis et l’enregistrement de toutes les armes à feu, l’interdiction de posséder des armes de type militaire semi-automatiques, l’interdiction de posséder certaines armes de poing, ainsi que des peines plus sévères pour les infractions reliées aux armes à feu. »

La National Rifle Association (NRA), l’un des groupes ayant le plus d’influence sur le gouvernement des États-Unis, s’est engagée à aider les groupes canadiens à développer leurs techniques de lobbying, contribuant entre autres à l’établissement, en 1998,

du groupe Canadian Institute for Legislative Action (CILA), dans le but d’abolir le registre et qui parle au nom de la Canadian Shooting Sports Association (CSSA). La NRA a comme mission l’élaboration d’une culture des armes. Il n’est pas uniquement question de chasse, mais de défense du port d’armes. Tony Bernardo, le directeur exécutif de CILA, a affirmé dans un article publié par le Canadian Firearms Digest en 2001 que la NRA, bien qu’elle ne soit pas autorisée à leur donner de l’argent, les soutenait de toutes les autres façons possibles. En l’an 2000, la NRA a dépensé 100 000 \$ pour une campagne publicitaire sur la « situation canadienne » diffusée aux États-Unis sur les ondes du National Network. En 2005, un stratège de la NRA a assisté à un événement organisé par la CSSA dans le but d’offrir une formation sur l’action politique en

vue de l’élection fédérale.

Depuis l’introduction du registre des armes à feu, le nombre de crimes par arme à feu a diminué de quarante pour cent. À la fin du mois d’octobre 2011, Statistique Canada a publié un rapport sur les homicides au Canada en l’an 2010. La dernière fois que le nombre d’homicides avait été aussi bas qu’en 2010 était en 1966. Il y a eu 170 meurtres par arme à feu l’année dernière au Canada. Par comparaison, la même année, plus de neuf mille meurtres ont été commis avec une arme à feu aux États-Unis.

Si le gouvernement conservateur avait vraiment comme priorité de s’attaquer au crime, le registre des armes d’épaules serait considéré comme un outil essentiel. Mais je soupçonne que sa priorité est plutôt d’accumuler de l’argent et du pouvoir en développant des liens étroits avec de puissants lobbyistes et de modi-

fier radicalement le fonctionnement de la société canadienne. Le budget des services correctionnels du Canada a augmenté de cinquante-quatre pour cent depuis que Harper est devenu premier ministre. De nouvelles prisons sont bâties pour accueillir les criminels dont le nombre ne fera qu’augmenter suite aux nouvelles lois anti crimes et à cause de la culture des armes qui est sur le point d’être formalisée. Comme il est dans les habitudes du gouvernement conservateur d’imiter la façon de faire des États-Unis, je m’attends à ce que les prisons deviennent de plus en plus contrôlées par le secteur privé à but lucratif. Pour cette raison, et parce que les armes d’épaules sont utilisées dans cinquante pour cent des « homicides conjugaux » (ce qui, dans quatre-vingts pour cent des cas, signifie qu’un homme abat sa femme), le registre devrait être conservé.



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WINTER CYCLING

Not just for the foolhardy

For more information: <http://ottawa.ca/residents/onthemove/travelwise/cycling/weather>

Samantha McGavin

Ah, November...the days are getting shorter, the air is cooler, you're thinking of putting your bike away. But, maybe not yet – the weather is so up and down – maybe you just pulled it back out again. When should you put it away

for the winter, especially during these warmer-than-ever autumns?

Consider the idea of not putting the bike away at all! Maybe you've always thought of winter cycling as something for reckless die-hards – or maybe you've been tempted, but it seemed like too much

work. With a little orienting, though, you'll see that it's surprisingly easy to extend your days of pedal-powered autonomy until spring. Cycling during winter is a great way to keep exercising to beat any winter blahs, and to be out in the sunshine and crisp air instead of stuck in a bus or car.

FIGURING OUT YOUR COMFORT LEVEL

One thing I often say to people considering winter cycling is: even if they only ride when the pavement is bare, they will be cycling for much of the winter. Precipitation usually comes in bursts here and there, rather than being consistent. There are often several days or even weeks at a stretch where the sun has shone enough, or the temperature has been mild enough, to melt the snow remaining on the pavement after the roads have been cleared. Figure out what feels comfortable to you. Maybe you will only ride on bare pavement; maybe you will ride on a thin coating of snow, but avoid ice; maybe you will ride on any roads, but not during a heavy snowfall. If it's freezing rain or storming, it's safest to leave the bike at home. On any day, if you don't feel like cycling – don't! Even a small amount of winter cycling is more than what you would have been doing otherwise, and you can always build it up each year as you grow more comfortable.

GETTING DRESSED

The key to dressing for winter cycling is layering, so that you can adjust if needed. You'll be much warmer cycling than you would be while walking or taking the bus. If you dress so that you feel a bit cold leaving your house, that will be the right amount of clothing while pedalling. When it's around zero, I wear a thermal top, a close-fitting shell, and a down vest over top; when it's really cold, I wear a ski jacket with pit zips for ventilation. Even with the zips open, it gets so warm that I have to wear a very light shirt underneath—long-sleeved because of sweat. I wear long underwear and cycling pants on my legs. Don't mystify clothing or feel like you can't set off until you've spent a wad on new threads—try cycling with any old gear you have, and experiment until you feel comfortable. Give yourself an extra ten minutes in the morning to get ready and pack your regular clothing in panniers or a backpack (panniers will keep your back cooler).

If you do decide to invest, here are some standard, winter cycling accessories:

LOBSTER-CLAW GLOVES

These allow you to change gears and brake easily, but are warmer than regular gloves.

A CLOSE-FITTING HAT THAT CAN FIT UNDER YOUR HELMET

Face masks help keep your cheeks warm. You can use a scarf instead, (one that is stiff enough so that it won't fall down while cycling) but you'll have to tie it snugly so that it stays up. Using a scarf can lead to some frost formation on the cloth over your mouth, however, whereas face masks have bigger holes to let out your steamy breath.

GOGGLES OR A SKI MASK

It's nice to shelter your eyes and the surrounding skin when it gets well below zero, though even sunglasses will help cut the wind. These are however essential if you wear glasses, as they will shelter your glasses from your breath and keep them from getting fogged up (be sure to get a style with the nose cut out if you get a mask instead of goggles).

FOOTWEAR

Keep your feet warm by wearing wool socks. Some people prefer old grubby runners for a flexible sole, others resign themselves to boots. If you use clipless pedals, you can buy booties that go over your cycling shoes for wind protection.

GETTING YOUR BIKE READY

If you take good care of your bike, it should survive okay, though you will likely end up replacing parts more quickly than you would have otherwise. In general it's a good idea to give your bike more love in the winter that you normally might in warm weather. You should commit to very regular chain-cleanings and oilings (some people would say before every ride), keep an eye out for rusting bolts, and test and maintain your brakes. It's also a good idea to get a tune-up before and after the winter. Bike co-ops – fully equipped shops where volunteers can help you do your own repairs – are a great and affordable way to do this and become more self-sufficient by learning to maintain your own bike. As a winter-cycling bonus, they are less busy in the off-season. Visit Recycles Cycles (473 Bronson Ave., www.recycles.ca) and the University of Ottawa Bike Co-op (200 Lees Ave. A105, www.bikes.fuo.ca). If you start cycling regularly in winter, or have a very expensive bike, consider getting an old, but safe bike just for the winter.

Some items that you may want to consider for your bike are:

FENDERS

There are mixed opinions out there on fenders. Some people say they're essential

in winter to keep the snow and slush from spraying up onto your back; others find that when riding in snow, a thick layer can accumulate under the fenders and slow down their tires. I'm in the first camp.

TIRES

Again there is some debate here, and in the end it comes down to personal preference. Some folks prefer skinny road bike tires, claiming that they cut through snow onto pavement much more easily. Others, myself included, prefer knobby tires (under-inflated a bit for more traction) because they find they grip better with the road surface. You might consider getting studded tires as well. The basic version, which costs about \$65 each, has "studs" which look like screw stems, protruding slightly on either side of the centre bead, that engage when your wheel is angled to give you better grip and thus control while turning. I find they are great for cutting through both black ice and the thin layer of ice that can lie beneath snow. If you decide to invest, but find it prohibitive to buy two, be sure to install the studded tire on the front wheel, as it is the most important wheel for control while turning.

PLENTY OF BIKE LIGHTS

The days are short and you are likely to be riding in low visibility.

CYCLING CONDITIONS AND TECHNIQUES

Most of Ottawa's cycling paths are not maintained in the winter, and are often the first casualty of incomplete snow removal. Some National Capital Commission (NCC) paths are cleared (or kept clear through use), such as the one along the canal. Others however, such as the paths along the Ottawa and Rideau rivers, and through the arboretum, will become impassable until the snow melts. The city has informed me that the segregated Laurier bike path will be maintained in the winter, and that they will also be clearing Laurier between Elgin and the canal (where the sharrow markings are), so as to connect with the NCC canal pathway.

However, you will likely be taking roads more often than you might ordinarily. If you cycle with snow on the ground, you will develop your own preference as to riding on side streets or main roads. Side streets have less traffic, but are snowier; main streets have less snow, but the snow along the curb often becomes bumpy and icy. In situations where you are riding with traffic, occupy the lane if the snow or ice along the curb offers insufficient room for cars to pass you. If there's just been freezing rain and you have to ride, main roads will be safer, as cars will clear most of the lane of ice. Be sure to make wide, slow turns and try to keep your bike as upright as possible. If you're braking and are unsure of whether your tires will grip – say if you're going downhill or on black ice – break only on your back wheel and use your front wheel to steer. Give yourself more stopping distance. At the start of the season, keep an eye out for black ice, especially in the evening when it's hard to see – dew will begin freezing before snow arrives. Ride more slowly and count on lengthening the time of your trip by 25-30 percent. For a detailed discussion of technique, see this local website: <http://icebike.com/Articles/techniques.htm>

With a little preparation, you and your bike can continue your love affair year round.

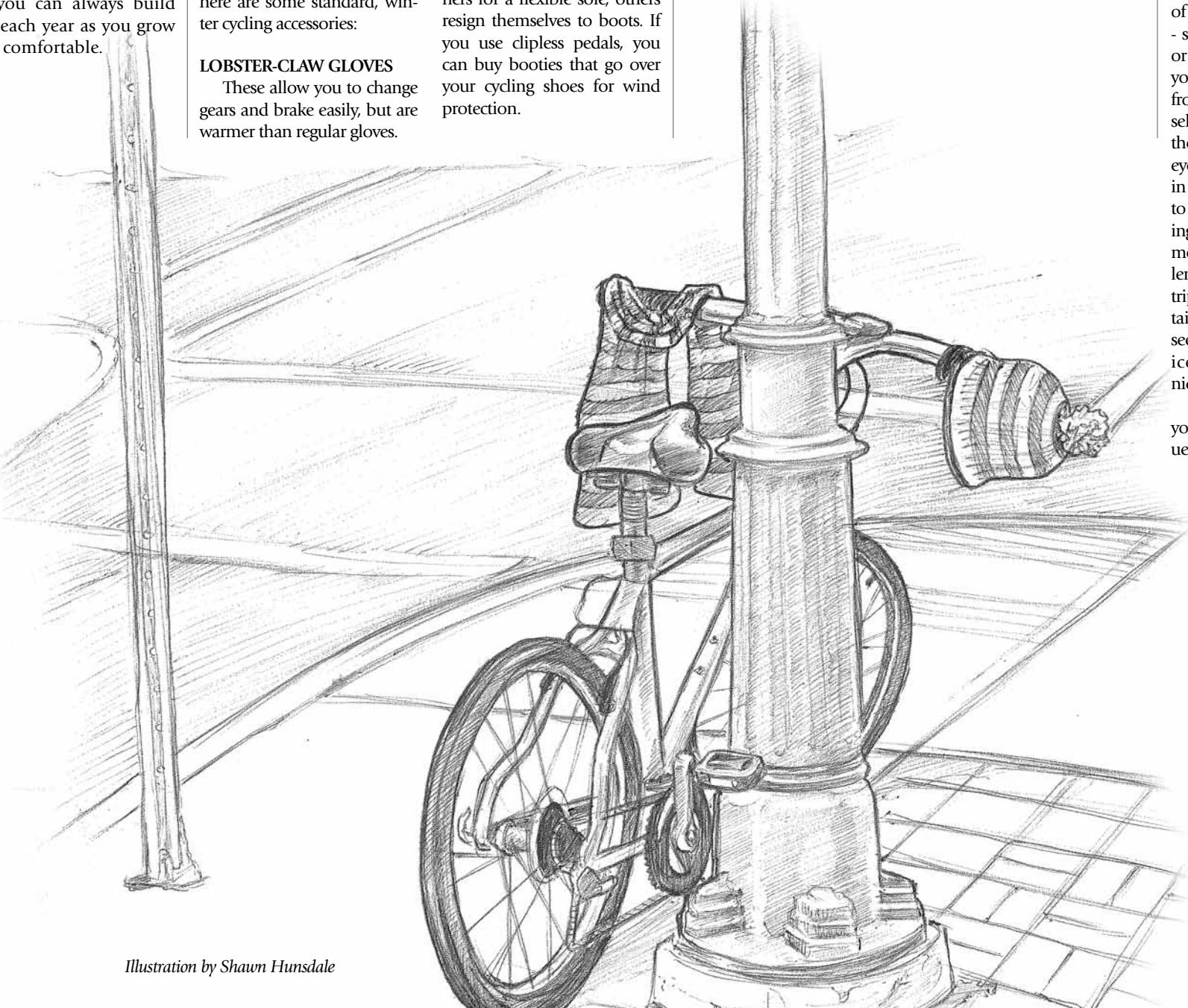


Illustration by Shawn Hunsdale

ON WIZARDS AND WALL STREET

It’s a magical time of turmoil and upheaval.

In an article by Jonathan Braun, the culture section of this edition of the *Leveller* covers a seemingly nonpolitical event: the fifth annual Quidditch World Cup in New York City. A ball game played by fans of the Harry Potter series of novels and films, quidditch is based on fictional equipment and concepts such as magic. For this reason, the sport has been adapted for real-life play on the ground, with players simulating flight by carrying brooms between their legs at all times.

Braun, who was in New York as a member of the University of Ottawa’s Quidditch team, argues that the tournament was comprised of a healthy mix of athleticism, entertainment, and good old-fashioned fun. But to what extent can Harry Potter be seen as a serious political metaphor for resistance to the current economic crisis? Is Potter’s struggle against his arch-nemesis, the evil Lord Voldemort, a worthy symbol for the Occupy Wall Street (OWS) movement and the broader fight by ordinary folk against the inequities of global capitalism?

If Voldemort is a symbol for big business, then Harry Potter’s concern for the humble and oppressed –including the house elves

of the magical world – qualifies him as a fictional hero for the occupation movement.

The witches and wizards in the novels refer to Voldemort as “He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named,” much like the modern economists and politicians dare not speak the word “capitalism,” or place the blame for the current crisis on an economic system predicated on the expectations of profits.

In many respects, the wizards on Wall Street wield their trickery and illusory power by creating credit out of thin air, money out of nothing. The global game of finance appears to be a gruesome magical ritual, where whole pensions may crumble with the misplaced flick of a wand. Their consistent financial incompetence is excused away time and time again as if politicians were under a magical spell not to demand accountability.

In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Voldemort sets up a police state, assembles a large army, and launches an invasion of Hogwarts School. In many respects, Voldemort’s plan to engineer an assault on Hogwarts is similar to the recent attacks on OWS protesters around North America who have chosen to occupy public parks. Occupiers are like the brave rebel witches and wizards who

dared take a stand against the seemingly invincible Lord Voldemort, staving off wave after wave of attack on their small territory. Municipal police forces from New York to Vancouver to Oakland to London laying siege to OWS tent communities are not unlike the dementors who are ordered by Voldemort to destroy Hogwarts.

State violence, under the dark wizardry spell of big business interests, is a lived reality. As state violence swoops into the semi-sovereign spaces of the Occupy encampments throughout North America, it is worth remembering the importance of democratic space, be it in the pages of your favourite rag, the park where you hang out, or the classrooms in which you try to learn. Folks championing critical thought in schools, building democratic spaces in parks, or challenging green-washed state violence domestically and abroad are often mocked or dismissed by society at large. The wizard and witch resisters in the Potter books were also mocked by many for making a big deal out of what was seen to be a non-threat. The consequences of not taking their warnings seriously were dire for the make-believe world of Harry Potter – may we take better care in our own world.

As state violence swoops into the semi-sovereign spaces of the Occupy encampments throughout North America, it is worth remembering the importance of democratic space, be it in the pages of your favourite rag, the park where you hang out, or the classrooms in which you try to learn.

How interesting to discover in the last edition of The *Leveller* (“President Runte to Co-Chair Controversial Charity Event”) that the Office of the President at Carleton would not respond when asked how much the university had contributed as a “proud supporter” of the Jewish National Fund’s (JNF) Negev Dinner. This refusal to provide information contrasts sharply with the expectation exhibited in an email President Runte sent to Carleton’s Provost, the Dean of Public Affairs, and the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences on Oct. 27, 2010: “I have been asked the cost of the debate on Mon – sponsored by several departments – I have also been asked how many dollars went into it. Could you possibly let me know?”

President Runte’s email was in reference to “A Debate on the Boycott of Israel: Path to a Just Peace or War by Other Means?” Although at least a few department chairs were

troubled by the president’s highly unusual request, as such debates are a normal and legitimate university activity, they were nevertheless required to provide the information sought. When it comes to matters of accountability at Carleton regarding but not limited to the Israeli-Palestinian issue, a double-standard is becoming the prevailing standard.

One sign of power being exercised without accountability is when a power-holder boldly makes nonsensical statements that they expect others to believe as true or at least quietly accept. Thus, when presented with overwhelming evidence of the JNF’s deplorable activities, President Runte re-frames the issue by depicting her and Carleton’s involvement with that organization as merely backing a charitable cause. Or, having been informed of its complicity with Israeli war crimes, the president defends Carleton’s support for the JNF in a

statement to the university community that twice makes reference to “peace” in the opening paragraph. And in a case of breathtaking reasoning found in the third paragraph, President Runte claims her participation in the JNF fundraising dinner is an expression of “inclusivity”, even though by its own admission the JNF deliberately discriminates against non-Jews. This is exemplified by its refusal to lease to Palestinians land that was stolen from them in the first place through war and other means.

Now that the Negev Dinner has occurred for this year, is the JNF controversy behind us? No way. Not until Carleton University agrees to no longer support this organization. And not while the accountability double-standard remains in place.

*Bill Skidmore
Instructor
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THE IRRATIONALITY OF “STRATEGIC” VOTING

Many of the politically observant are familiar with the typical criticism of “vote-splitting” parties of various stripes from Reform to Green. The argument asserts that under our first-past-the-post electoral system, the X party has no chance of winning while the less preferable Y party does. Thus, one should vote Y to block the least desired Z party from achieving victory. To put it crudely, rather than rewarding good policy with more power, we should reward flawed policy with more power. This line of reasoning takes the unfair electoral system for granted and can only negatively influence Canada’s political culture.

Those who assume that public support for Y and Z is unchangeable are merely refusing Y and Z partisans

the chance to face reason. The cynical logic actually justifies strategic voting no more than it does refusing to vote at all. For what is the point of voting if we are supposed to believe that our vote does not actually reserve the power for change or lack thereof? Canada is facing a gradual decline in voter turnout, likely encouraged by pessimistic political discourse such as this. Some people these days lament the allegedly uninspiring and elitist character of modern politicians, but can politicians be expected to be otherwise if that is exactly what we “strategically” vote for?

When many people vote strategically, then they reinforce their collective cynicism, and rejecting a party as too politically marginal becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

During last spring’s

election campaign, Stephen Harper asserted that only Conservative votes could create a majority unaccountable to the separatist Bloc Quebecois, while Michael Ignatieff and Gilles Duceppe both insisted that only their parties would be capable of preventing Conservative power. Instead of supporting figures like them in telling us how the masses must be followed, we should think of how to ourselves change the hearts and minds of society towards X values. Then we can have more inspirational political debate than this intellectual bankruptcy.

*Stefan Klietsch
2nd year political science student
UOttawa Greens English Communications
Director (External Media Operations)*

INTRODUCING CAMPUS GRIDS

Campusgrids (campusgrids.com) is a new website for Carleton University students that helps you see events going on at campus. It helps you find clubs and keep up with your favorite clubs’ activities. Students can also view and share event pictures, create study groups and more. Campusgrids is becoming a central place where Carleton clubs can “start a grid” and share their events with subscribers. Students can join as many grids as they want, and by doing so each student starts to create their

own personalized list of clubs and events that they are interested in.

As a student, I wanted to get more involved in the Carleton community. I found myself missing a lot of campus events mainly because I didn’t know where to look. Posters on billboards were okay, but does anyone ever read those? CUSA online (cusaonline.ca) was a good place to start, but it only provided me with a list of clubs. Many did not have links to additional information and all I wanted was to catch some campus events. The idea of having

a central place for learning about various campus events came was apparently an afterthought.

Campusgrids is a great tool because it gives students a list of all the clubs at Carleton as well as important club information like contact info, website URL, a club description, and who runs the club. Students can also use campusgrids for academic reasons like sharing important due dates with their classmates and easily make study sessions with their friends.

Elias Fares

Looking to Israeli Apartheid Week next spring I am glad that Jonathan Braun wrote his excellent critique on the CPCCA's report. Four years under a Harper majority could bring increasing pressure on any group opposing the Conservatives' insane alliance with right-wing Zionism. The CPCCA report is one of the tools that can/will be used to intimidate any criticism of Israel's apartheid and repression. We have to spread the message on the many flaws of the report and show that the concept of the "new anti-Semitism" is undermining our freedom of speech. I have read the analysis by Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East. It is thorough research and very well written.

By the way, I picked up my copy of the *Leveller* at Occupy Ottawa. Keep up the fight, 99%!!

Martina Lauer
Chesterville, Ontario

It was wise for *The Leveller* to publish Mr. Braun's article "Debating the new anti-semitism". There is no doubt that broadening anti-Semitism to include criticism of the state of Israel is simply wrong and potentially dangerous. Shall we equate criticizing child abuse by catholic priests with criticizing Christianity? Shall we consider the anti-apartheid movement anti-white? Have we forgotten that allowing criticism of any government policies is a basic norm in the modern world, and Israel cannot be an exception?

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The Leveller

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CANADIAN YOUTH DELEGATES DEMAND IMMEDIATE CLIMATE ACTION

Crystel Hajjar

The Canadian Youth Climate Coalition is sending 18 delegates to the UN climate summit in Durban, South Africa, which is convening from Nov. 28 to Dec. 9. The Coalition launched "Operation Oil Change," which focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Canada, regardless of the outcome of the summit negotiations. The campaign was initiated to demand immediate action on climate change in response to a recent speech made by Canadian Environment Minister Peter Kent. Kent announced that Canada will not sign a post-Kyoto agreement, "however acute the international pressure," unless all of the other major greenhouse gas emitters do. Instead, the federal government plans to invest \$148.8 million over the next five years in climate change adaptation policies (geared towards minimizing the vulnerability of Canada and its citizens to climate change rather than taking steps towards reducing environmental impact).

This announcement comes after major cuts in Environment Canada's budget last summer, largely from the Climate Change and Clean Air Division.

"While Minister Kent's dulcet tones may lull some into a false sense of security, the CYD's policy hawks are not sold," commented Chris Bisson, a policy researcher with the Canadian Youth Delegation. "This announcement of \$149 million sounds like a grand gesture, until you remember that \$222.2 million was cut from Environment Canada...resulting in a loss of 1,211 full-time jobs and a massive dismantling of our ability to monitor our country's environmental changes."

In comparison, oil and gas companies receive \$1.4 billion in annual subsidies from the federal government, according to a study by the Global Subsidies Initiative – ten times the amount set aside for investment in climate change adaptation measures. The Alberta oil sands industry is the primary beneficiary, receiving almost \$1 billion in subsidies from the Harper government and slightly more from the government of Alberta.

Dedication of public funds to fossil fuels continues despite the International

Energy Agency's warning that a drastic reduction in fossil fuel use is needed by 2015. The expansion of the tar sands will compromise other efforts to mitigate climate change, increase greenhouse gas emissions, and lock Canada into fossil fuel development for decades to come.

Kent's speech did not account for the real cost of government inaction. The devastating consequences of climate change are already becoming apparent in Canada and around the world. Small island states are facing dangerous rises in sea level –the government of the Maldives held a cabinet meeting underwater to draw attention to its dire situation in 2009. Indigenous peoples around the world risk losing their traditional ways of life and sovereignty over their land as climate change continues to alter already stressed ecosystems. Species are going extinct at an alarming rate. Recently, a UN panel found that climate change has been shown to cause extreme weather events, so the frequency and intensity of droughts, floods, and storms are only going to increase.

The expenses facing Canada and the rest of the world are thus far greater than \$148.8 million and must be taken seriously. However, Canada has made consistent efforts to defeat clean energy policies internationally. The European Union is currently revising its Fuel Quality Directive in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The proposed directive would label oil produced from tar sands as one of the 'dirtiest' forms of crude oil. Ottawa is actively asking members of the EU to reject the proposed directive.

"We demand that Canada reduce its dependence on fossil fuels by removing subsidies to the oil and gas industry and reapplying them to the renewable energy sector," said Robin Tress, a delegate. "This way Canada can drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions while becoming a world leader in renewable energy." Members of the Canadian Youth Delegation are delivering a list of five demands to the government.

Firstly, the delegation demands that the government stop subsidizing oil and gas companies and redirect money to alternative energy projects. According to a recent study by Global Subsidies Initiative, these

subsidies almost directly increase fossil fuel production and greenhouse gas emissions.

Secondly, the delegation calls on Canada to end its industrial addiction to fossil fuels by 2040 and reduce the remaining greenhouse gas emissions to near-zero by 2050. Ottawa should impose a moratorium on oil and gas development with an aim to ending it altogether, reducing emission levels to comply with scientific recommendations.

Thirdly, the delegation demands that instead of giving tax breaks and subsidies to oil and gas industries, the government should instead be investing in energy efficiency upgrades and in jobs in the renewable energy sector. This entails greater investments in windmill, solar panel, and geothermal

technologies.

Fourthly, the delegation calls on Canada to end its support for climate change approaches proposed and led by international financial institutions (IFIs). Because IFIs are premised on a model of limitless growth in congruence with a capitalist model of production, solutions aimed at controlling climate change will always fall at the altar of economic concerns. Using a loan-based capitalist financing model to address climate change, such as the approach championed by the World Bank, is a major concern. The result has been increased debt for poor countries without meaningfully changing environmental policies.

Fifth and finally, Canada must cooperate with other countries on reducing greenhouse gas emissions

instead of actively lobbying on behalf of the tar sands industry and promoting dirty oil. The delegates demand that Canada makes an effort to work with other countries in Durban to come to fair and ambitious climate policies and legally binding agreements.

While the delegates are in Durban, the Coalition will be continuing the Operation Oil Change campaign here in Canada. Regardless of the outcome in Durban, pressure must intensify on Ottawa to significantly change its course in environmental policy. The campaign is a call-out for Canadians who are concerned about climate change to join the Domestic Task Force and demand that the government put the needs of people ahead of polluters and "become champions for a just and sustainable future."

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“GEEKY AND ATHLETIC”

The magic of quidditch hits NYC

Jonathon Braun

Manhattan just got magical! On the weekend of Nov. 12-13, thousands of young wizards and witches from all across Canada, the United States, and even one group from Finland apparated to the fifth annual Quidditch World Cup on Randall Island in New York City. The *Harry Potter*-inspired tournament consisted of about one hundred teams, and even attracted Ottawa-area schools. Both Carleton University and the University of Ottawa made the ten-hour trek to put their athleticism, drive, and magical prowess to the test in a hunt towards the coveted trophy and the title of World Champions.

In the end, the reigning champs from Middlebury College in Vermont beat out the University of Florida Gators to win the title for the fifth straight year. The game, which the International Quidditch Association (IQA) described as a “head to head battle between the North and the South,” ended when Middlebury, down by 10 points, managed to grab the Snitch and earn themselves enough points to come out on top.

University of Ottawa lost their chances at the Cup when, during round robin play, they were defeated by SUNY-Geneseo by the margin of a Snitch catch. Carleton University managed to make it a bit further, but their dreams were soon cut short by Middlebury in the first round of sudden death play.

THE RULES OF THE GAME

Middlebury’s continued success with quidditch comes as no surprise, as it was members from that school who several years ago found a way to turn J.K. Rowling’s invention into a living sport that has since gone global.

In the *Harry Potter* books, quidditch is played with flying brooms and enchanted balls. As the art of magic has not yet been perfected in the Muggle (non-wizarding) world, several adaptations have been made to make the sport more suitable in the face of stubborn gravitational forces.

For starters, players do not fly around on brooms but instead hold one between their legs. In official tournaments the brooms are standardized but one can often find quidditch teams practicing with anything broom-like, including mop handles, hockey sticks, or even Swiffers.

Each team consists of three chasers, two beaters, a keeper, and a seeker. Chasers try to throw the quaffle (a volleyball) through one of three hoops in the opposing team’s end of the

field. Each goal scores ten points. The keeper can also score points but has the added task of defending his or her team’s hoops. Except against a keeper with possession of the quaffle in his or her zone, players may use reasonable force to try and remove the quaffle from an opposing player’s grasp.

The beaters try to hit the opposing team’s players with one of three bludgers (dodgeballs). Players who get hit must dismount their brooms and run back to touch one of their hoops before returning to the game. As there are four beaters on the field and only three bludgers, the team in possession of two bludgers usually holds a defensive advantage.

The role of the seeker is to catch the snitch. Unlike in the books, where a tiny golden ball flies around the field, the snitch is played by an impartial person dressed in gold or yellow and, unlike the actual players, is not on a broom. The snitch wears a ball in a sock that is attached by Velcro to the back of his or her shorts. When the ball is removed by a seeker the game is over and that seeker’s team receives thirty points. Typically performed by a tracklete, wrestler, or martial arts expert, the role of the snitch is to evade capture for as long as possible. They often become quite physical in this endeavor.

THE MAGIC OF THE WEEKEND

Although neither Carleton nor U of O won the tournament in New York, the result did not seem to faze team members. When asked how he felt about his time at the World Cup, U of O quidditch member Daniel Stojanovic said, “the World Cup was an experience like no other. I made friends from various opposing teams, grew closer with my own team, and had one of the most memorable weekends of my life.”

Despite the intensity of the sport and the athleticism shown by its players, a lot of the appeal of quidditch seems to happen off of the field. During one break, hundreds of players took to an empty field for a War of 1812-style Canada vs. United States game of dodgeball that, as one player quipped, “quite appropriately ended in a stalemate.” Throughout the weekend, other camp-style games could be seen sprouting up between the teams, as well as dance parties and inter-team cheering sections.

“Geeky and athletic... well it’s definitely a very odd combination,” said Virginia Tech Captain Kitty Schaffernoth. She continued that “from a sport aspect we want to train hard to be a



Carleton University takes on returning champions Middlebury during the first round of sudden death play

photo by Tegan Bridge



A University of Florida Gator attempts to break through the lines of University of Ottawa Chasers

photo by Tegan Bridge

good team, but you have to keep in mind that this is something tied to *Harry Potter*.”

Harry Potter’s influence was not absent from the tournament. Even those less athletically inclined could find themselves wrapped up in the magic of the weekend. Apart from the games themselves, a shop was set up to equip players and fans with their very own wands and brooms. Stars from the YouTube hit “A Very Potter Musical” were on hand to sing wizard songs while other entertainers treated audiences to magic shows and fire eating.

There truly was something for everyone at the Quidditch World Cup, or at least something for everyone who still sits patiently by their mailbox waiting for that elusive letter.



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MARCHING FOR EDUCATION IN MONTREAL

Quebec, student discontent and February 1st

Iain Brannigan

“Students unite, strike strike!” was the rallying cry of 30,000 people in Montreal who marched on Nov. 10 in opposition to the Quebec Liberal government’s proposed 75 per cent tuition fee hike.

In April 2012, the new Quebec budget will come into place, bringing with it a \$1,625 tuition increase per student over the next five years.

And that’s not all. Holly Nazar, vice president external for the Concordia Graduate Students’ Association and member of Free Education Montreal, noted, “The government also has a new plan for funding and governing universities that gets less attention. For instance it will require universities to raise private funding from donations and corporate partnerships and evaluate their fitness to receive funding partly on that basis.”

The Charest government has announced that it will expand the Quebec student loans program, but Nazar argues that “98% of this money will come from the tuition increase itself.”

Following news of the tuition increase, student associations representing over

200,000 students (roughly half of post-secondary students in the province) called for a one-day student strike and march. Provincial student unions – including Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, Table de concertation étudiante du Québec, Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec, and the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec – joined forces to participate.

Some students from outside Quebec attended the march in support. I travelled with a group of students from the University of Ottawa to Concordia University, where we were met by a large group of students holding banners and picket signs and distributing leaflets.

Information booths were set up in one of the building’s lobbies with a sound system and food tent outside. A giant-sized monster-Charest puppet eating \$100 bills loomed over Concordia. Members of Free Education Montreal and representatives of the student unions gave short speeches to energize the crowd.

From Concordia, we marched to the Université du Québec à Montréal. A contingent from Dawson



photo by Sarah Eastwood

College joined, then another from McGill University. As the rally continued down the streets of Montreal, its numbers grew.

“It’s amazing to see that many students unite for a common cause,” said Emily Niles, a volunteer with the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa Campaigns Department.

The march ended in the financial district in front of Charest’s Montreal office. We had marched for hours

in the pouring rain, but barely felt the cold because of the sense of hope and euphoria.

Some students were arrested and others pepper sprayed and tear gassed by police at McGill after occupying the university administration building. This heavy-handed and over-reactive response shows how afraid those in power are of our potential to bring about change. As Mathieu Perron, a student organiz-

er, said, “Quebec students have a proud history of over 40 years of unlimited student strikes. [Today] was a clear sign that this is not going to change. Students are engaged, angry, and ready to fight back against Charest’s attack on accessible education.”

It is now time for Ontario students to show their discontent with the current post-secondary educational framework. The Canadian Federation of Students

has been working with student unions across Canada to mobilize on Feb. 1 for a National Day of Action as part of the Education Is a Right campaign. Students from the University of Ottawa, Carleton University, La Cité collégiale, and Algonquin College will participate. As history shows us, there truly is strength in numbers. On Feb. 1 we must make sure that we mark our position loud and clear in Ottawa.

REPORT BACK ON OCCUPY OAKLAND

Nick McClung

THE BEGINNING

The Oakland occupation started with a 4:00 pm rally at Frank Ogawa Plaza on Oct. 10, under cloudy skies. Four hundred people from around the Bay Area gathered for a general assembly in the amphitheatre of Oscar Grant Plaza, so named in honour of the 22-year-old black man killed by Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) police on Jan. 1, 2009. They used the “people’s mic”, a communication method made popular by the Occupy movement. Rain came shortly before nightfall, but by then 30 tents were set up in the plaza along with a medic station and food tent. A police presence was expected.

Three days later, Occupy Oakland had grown into a unique and thriving village. The occupation had infrastructure for cooking and cleaning, receiving supplies and donations, and creating art. It also contained a bike-powered media tent and a free lending library. An area of the camp was reserved for children and families. Queer People of Color (QPOC), People

of Color (POC), and the Black Panthers had booths, and their influence was central to the developing community at Oscar Grant Plaza.

Workshops addressing camp security, facilitation, future actions, education, and community health issues happened around the clock. General assemblies were held nightly. Care was made to accommodate and include homeless people who were already established at the plaza prior to the encampment.

On Oct. 20, Mayor Jean Quan served an eviction notice on grounds of vandalism of public property and unsanitary conditions. It accused the occupation of inspiring an unsafe and violent atmosphere. Occupiers worked to address the issues raised in the eviction notice by creating a safer space for LGBTQ community members and resolving concerns around drug use in the camp. They also prepared for the eventual militarization of police. A second camp was established at Snow Park. A march on Oct. 24 drew hundreds into the streets, who together blocked freeway entrances,

city streets, and stormed the Chase Bank at Lakeshore.

OCTOBER 25TH

At 3:00 am on Oct. 25, 500 riot police surrounded the plaza, demanded the immediate removal of the camp, and ordered occupiers to disperse. Police threatened to use chemical weapons and physical force. Officers from over 12 counties had been called in to raid the camp. Some occupiers barricaded the plaza entrance with wooden pallets, while others left or helped remove children from the inevitable police assault. Police fired tear gas into the camp and moved in to make arrests. Police destroyed tents and left the camp in ruin. Soon after, 200 police surrounded the second occupation camp at Snow Park and demolished the site. Many occupiers sustained injuries from being hit with batons and bean bag bullets. Two people reportedly had their hands broken. Some 100 occupiers were arrested in the raids and many were held in isolation. Bail was set at upwards of \$10,000.

At 4:00 pm, a general assembly convened at the Main Public Library. Many

had spent the day enraged in front of the police-barricaded plaza and the Glen Dyer Jail. Speakers addressed the crowd of nearly 800 before marching back to the plaza. The march, in true Oakland fashion, was incredibly diverse and its energy brought many to tears. More and more labourers, students, and school faculty were joining the Occupy Oakland movement. People converged at the jail and both occupation sites. Protesters were able to break through police lines but some were maced, clubbed, and arrested. The march continued into the night, growing every hour and peaking at 1,000 plus participants. Protesters made four attempts to retake the plaza. Police used tear gas and concussion grenades to disperse the crowds. Scott Olson, a 24-year-old Marine who served two tours in Iraq, was hit with a tear gas canister that fractured his skull.

The incidents received national attention and police removed themselves from the plaza. That evening, the fence left by police around the plaza was torn down and people re-entered. A general assembly of nearly 1,500 voted to hold

a city-wide general strike on Nov. 2. The mayor appeared at a general assembly hoping to address the crowd and was booed off stage immediately.

NOVEMBER 2ND

The occupation at Oscar Grant plaza was re-established and a new village took shape, despite increased tension between non-violence advocates and militants. Every hour, beginning at 9:00 am, marches left the plaza to shut down banks and corporate businesses. Food not Bombs, in partnership with locally owned businesses and unions, fed thousands throughout the day without charge. A large children’s march added to the empowering atmosphere. Interfaith practitioners and indigenous leaders came out to support the mass day of actions as well. A midday anti-capitalist march flooded the streets, vandalizing countless bank windows and entrances. A grocery store was targeted after they threatened to fire employees who attended the march.

In the late afternoon, an estimated 5,000-7,000 people mobilized to shut down the port of Oakland. Demonstra-

tors blocked numerous port entrances, climbed on top of train cars, scaffolding and trucks. The port shut down around 9:00 pm. During the night, protesters squatted in a building and barricaded 16th Street. Police arrived and again deployed tear gas and concussion grenades. Clashes ensued and arrests were made, yet the occupation at the plaza remained.

NOVEMBER 10-15TH

On Nov. 10, Kayode Ola Foster was fatally shot in front of the plaza. The shooting motivated city officials to ramp up their eviction process, issuing calls for dispersal. On Nov. 14, at 4:00 am, some 500-1,000 police destroyed the camp and city workers watered the grounds to dissuade a re-occupation. That afternoon at 4:00 pm, another convergence was held at the library, drawing some 1,000 supporters to the street. A march was held shortly after, in which the plaza was retaken without incident, though the police presence remained heavy. In support of Occupy Oakland, the city’s legal advisor Dan Siegel and Deputy Mayor Sharon Cornu both resigned on Nov. 14.

“A SPRINKLING OF HUMANITY AMID THE CLAMOUR”

Public art as kindness

Branden Lynch

Of all things that defy mundanity and habituation, the most powerful are the relations we have with others. In the smile of a stranger there is a sudden burst of colour to the grey-scale streets. These fleeting snatches at humanity remind us of the essential qualities that make us alike, that connect us irrespective of the larger looming world that would have us feel otherwise.

The various arts, each through their respective mediums, transmit this same sensation to us. They are powerful reminders of the extremes of human feeling that lend colour to our world. Principally, art embodies the blending of private and public that is integral to society; it retains individuality without discounting the things common to all.

The city is here to stay, along with all its streets, buildings, signs, symbols, and ever-growing population. It is easy to be, as they say, lost in the shuffle. This only heightens our need to

moderate the influence of our larger world, to be arbiters of scale. This need not be an insurmountable task, to be tackled on a systemic scale; it is as simple as kind words to a stranger on a night when the land turns to muck and the streets are clouded in the general haze. Kind deeds, powerful though they are, are limited in scope. One can only be kind to so many people in a day, given the constraints of social interaction—one seldom has the opportunity or resources to help many people at once.

There is, however, an answer to this problem. Few things transmit as much feeling as music, and the simple act of a man on the street corner playing his guitar reaches the ears of many. The sense of humanity I feel as the riffs of Pink Floyd’s “Eclipse” linger in my ears is the same sensation I have when I gaze at a beautiful work of MC Escher, as I read the poetry of Charles Bukowski, and as I share a moment with a friend over a simple cup of coffee. Such things de-

serve a greater presence on our streets and in our lives. A sprinkling of humanity amid the clamour.

Of the many performers and exhibitors I’ve spoken to, Jim strikes me the most. He is a slim, mustachioed man commonly seen on Rideau Street in the afternoon, near Chapters. He displays and sells his watercolour paintings, which in their vibrancy reflect his humanity. The colours pop and dart about the pages, displayed in abstract concentric spirals—cascading flows of DNA through its iterations of generations—and through the gentle weeping of barren trees against the winter landscape. An amalgamation of buildings twist together, each taken from a different place. Such combinations exhibit the central greatness of art: its ability to unite disparate forces.

Despite Jim’s level of skill, he has in fact only been drawing and painting for the last nine years. He has been selling his works for four. Exhibition on the street has its difficulties –



photo by Branden Lynch

winter is coming, and with it a cold dampness that is not kind to paintings. Try and catch Jim before the weather changes, even if you don’t wish to buy anything (though at 20 dollars, the price is good). I’m sure he would be more

than happy to talk to you. All his paintings are done on acid free paper, and the colours will not run or fade. Catch him while you can.

The streets are filled with people like Jim, plying their various arts and abilities,

and each has an interesting story, if only one would slow down enough to see and hear it. I hope next time you see someone busking or painting, you will take a few minutes to appreciate them, whether it be with your money or your words.

National Day of Action
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Audited Financial Statements GSA Carleton Inc.

The Audited Financial Statements for the 2010-2011 fiscal year of GSA Carleton Inc. are now available.

Members of the Graduate Students' Association may view these statements by contacting the GSA Vice-President Finance at vpf@gsacarleton.ca.



JUST SAY NO TO DRAKE

I hate this album not because I hate hip hop but

because I love it so very much. I got into it as a

young punk because I saw it as a continuation of

punk. It spoke to me as a poor, angry teenager.

Darryl Reid

Were you ever duped into smoking parsley or oregano because some friend’s sketchy older brother sold it to you, claiming it was primo weed? And because that sketchy older brother is smarter than you in all weed-related matters, you went along with it, despite some serious doubts in the back of your mind (since when does weed smell like my mom’s spaghetti?). Then you and your friend spent the evening pretending you were stoned out of your minds, because that sketchy older brother is sketchy and because no one wants to state the obvious: that you were ripped off and the older brother is now just a little richer for it. Well it happened to me, and I want my money back.

I kid you not, while listening to Drake’s sophomore album *Be Careful*, this sad tale of adolescent woe came back to me. Someone has ripped us all off. Somehow some marketing genius has convinced the world that Drake is one hell of a great rapper. And the world, or Western pop culture, has swallowed it hook, line and sinker. It’s to the point that as I listened to the album I started questioning my sanity. I felt like Cassandra, who was blessed with the gift of seeing the future but cursed by never having anyone listen to her. I hated this album, but I kept second-guessing my diagnosis.

Why? Because just about every major music magazine is calling this album a borderline masterpiece. I have read the

words “heir to the throne” so many times I thought I was watching “Game of Thrones”. Seemingly everyone is celebrating this album. So why did I hate it so much? Am I crazy? Or am I one of the few who can see through the ruse? Maybe I’m just an old curmudgeon who hates the young kids and all their infernal music. It’s none of those reasons and it’s all of those reasons, but first let’s talk about the album.

I’m not imagining it when I say the industry loves Drake. The man was nominated for a Grammy before his first album was even released. It shot to #1 on the billboard charts and went platinum almost instantly in Canada. Critics fawned over his debut album and are fawning over this one. It isn’t hard to see why he is so well-loved by mainstream music fans: he has boy band good looks and is able to effortlessly convey an easygoing charm. There is nothing controversial about him or his life, in fact he seems to have led a pretty charmed life. He is a perfect, non-threatening pop star.

Many people lament and moan about how there is no originality left in popular culture. Some say that creativity has long been exhausted and mourn for past musical eras that never actually existed. The reality is that the sixties (or whatever era you pine for) had a ton of one hit wonders, covers, and hacks who were put on pedestals and celebrated while truly new and innovative bands struggled in anonymity. From 1979-84 there were a dozen terrible punk bands for every good punk band; that’s just the

way it goes. If a company can make money with safe music they’re gonna push that harder than bands like the Velvet Underground or Iggy and the Stooges. We live in the same world now, but the idea seems to have been pushed to its horrible conclusion because critics have joined in on the self-congratulatory circle jerk. Major magazines, blogs, and newspapers seem to have given up on criticism in general and will celebrate anything that the kids seem to love.

And believe me when I say that Drake’s album is for kids. He is manufactured to appeal to the young-teen-holy-grail of marketing. I guess this is because every major magazine (*Rolling Stone*, *NME*, *Spin*, *Q*, etc.) is owned by umbrella corporations that own the labels manufacturing and selling the music these magazines review. Cross promotion has become the name of the game. Artistic integrity in the realm of pop culture is a myth – it never really existed.

There is an even more incestuous level of cross promotion on the ground level. We see the same artists being featured on each other’s albums, produced by the same producers, sucking the flavour of the month dry until there’s no further use for these artists, at which point they’re discarded. I find Drake’s album sounds exactly like half a dozen other albums released over the past three years; it all sounds safe. Hip hop used to be angry. It used to throw us into a world that was hard, unforgiving, exploitative and violent. It was the oral tradition of those who had been denied a voice for centuries. Drake is celebrated

for not being part of that tradition, for not being a rebel, for not being angry. He is celebrated for being safe.

I hate nothing more than when people of privilege complain about hip hop being about “cars, money, guns and ho’s.” I find this argument is made almost exclusively by privileged classes, and it betrays a certain prejudice by those who make the argument. Yes, hip hop is filled with stereotypes. Yes, it has many issues that are slowly (sometime agonizingly slowly) being overcome. But to dismiss a whole musical tradition and culture because you never understood it is terrible.

To co-opt that tradition to fit your ideals is even worse.

I hate this album not because I hate hip hop but because I love it so very much. I got into it as a young punk because I saw it as a continuation of punk. It spoke to me as a poor, angry teenager. I’m not saying that hip hop is dead. There are enough new acts coming up to prove that it is still very much in full force. Asap Rocky, Danny Brown, Lil’B, Doomtree, Sadistik, King Fantastic, Slaughterhouse and Yelawolf are some great acts that will make you forget all about Drake. The day of *Be Careful*’s release, Childish Gambino released his debut album *Camp*. It is a far superior album in almost every way, yet will most likely be swallowed up by the Drake juggernaut and forgotten. To paraphrase Barbara Bush, just say no to Drake. We all voted with our wallets and the result is a steady diet of watered down gruel. Enjoy your music children.

HOROSCOPES

XL Petite

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) The solution to your astrological desires is within your grasp! But you’d better be fast – U of O’s snitch has it tucked away, so don your Dementor suit to drive away your fellow seekers and chase that snitch down at the next quidditch match. Hurry!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) So I was talking to Capricorn about you, and he said that you and Sagittarius were conspiring to falsify Virgo’s astrological data. That’s a cheap trick Libra. Real cheap trick. I don’t know how you look at yourself in the mirror every day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Scorpio, I know you’ve been looking to up the romantic ante for the last few months. Your last attempt at wooing your special someone by dressing up as 1986 David Bowie from the *Labyrinth*, while slowly spooning molasses along the perimeter of your bed, was admittedly bad advice. I’m positive trying that next Thursday will actually work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your future depends on winning the next archery tournament. Some people say tossing darts at Monday league night at the Carleton Tavern may not be what is conventionally known as “archery”. Those people are haters though. They’ll never understand you and I.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Thanks for the tip off on Libra, Capricorn. I’m really beginning to dislike that guy. As a reward, I have a jar of molasses for you to slowly spoon along the perimeter of your bed. Oh, and by the way, try to avoid Scorpio this month.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) I appreciate your candour this month Aquarius. It takes a lot of nerve to skip along the halls of the Unicentre singing Rebecca Black’s “Friday” every Friday, and occasionally on Thursdays.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) I think your acting career is finally going to take off this month. What you need is a better stage name. How do you feel about changing your sign to “Salmon”? Salmon are tough as nails. Pisces on the other hand reminds me of “pixies” or something. You’ll never land that role opposite Steven Seagal with the name “Pisces”. At best, you’d be his pet fish who swims in a bowl of tears collected by his friends after each of his concerts.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Aries, you have earned a haiku horoscope this month:


*Cilantro slippers
Lavishly tickles the soul
But makes your soles green*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) It’s finally time for you to unveil your new invention! That last one was a serious dud, but your new line of magic cards where Carleton President Roseann Runte and U of O President Allan Rock are pictured as Gandalf and Professor Dumbledore engaged in *Mortal Kombat* is gonna be a hit!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Stop it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) The stars tell me you and you alone have what it takes to get universal consensus at the Occupation. Not Occupy Ottawa, but in fact ALL the Occupations! I’m not even sure how you’d go about trying that, but you’d better get on it!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Hitting the clubs this month pretty heavy, aren’t you Leo? That’s all good, but make sure you heed Johnny Cash’s secret message to wear protection: “Love, is a burning thing. And it makes, a fiery ring. Bound, by wild desire. I fell into a ring of fire... and it burns burns burns, the ring of fire. The ring of fire...”



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LISTINGS

TUES NOV 22

OCCUPY OTTAWA: Ongoing...

RADIO: The Third Wave. CHUO 89.1 FM. 4 - 5pm. Every Tuesday.

TALK: Economics and the Global Financial Crisis. Tory Bldg, Rm 340. Carleton University. 6pm.

PANEL: Investment Panel & Discussion. Agora, UCU. University of Ottawa. 6pm.

FILM: Life on the Reserve. Rooster's, Carleton University. 8pm.

WED NOV 23

JOBS: Employment Ontario Information Session. Main Library, 120 Metcalfe St. 10: 30am.

SING: Just Voices weekly environmental choir rehearsals. Bronson Centre 222. 7 - 9pm. Every Wed.

FILM: Cultures of Resistance. Mackenzie Bldg, Rm 3275. Carleton University. 7pm.

THEATRE: Pursued by the Hounds. Carleton Tavern, 223 Armstrong St. 7pm. Runs until Dec. 3.

THURS NOV 24

WORKSHOP: Cell Phone Contract Workshop. Agora, UCU. University of Ottawa.11:30am.

TALK: La liberté d'expression : un droit limité et menacé. Agora UCU. University of Ottawa. 4pm.

PARTY: Vintage MADness Cocktail Party. Gypsy & Company, 209 Gilmour St. 8pm.

MUSIC: Slim Moore & the Mar-Kays. The Mercury Lounge. 9pm.

FRI NOV 25

BUY NOTHING DAY

FORUM: Women as Peacemakers Conference. St. Paul University. 9am - 5pm.

TALK: Challenging the Myths Surrounding 1492. Routier Community Centre, 172 Guiges Ave. 1pm.

FAIR: Westboro Artisan Fair. 5pm.

FUNDRAISER: Ecology Ottawa. Film screening and dinner. Museum of Nature, 240 McLeod St. 6pm.

FILM & TALK: Indigenous Achuar Leader from Northern Peruvian Amazon. Lamoureux Hall, Rm 122. University of Ottawa. 7pm.

POETRY: Eliminate Violence Against Women Poetry Show. Fenn Lounge, Residence Commons, Carleton University. 7pm.

SAT NOV 26

FAIR: Westboro Artisan Fair. 9am.

CRAFTS: Sugar Plum Fair. The School of Dance, 200 Crichton St. 9:30am - 2pm.

CRAFTS: Hintonburg Artisan Craft Fair. Hintonburg Community Centre, 1064 Weillington St. W. 10am - 5pm.

DEMONSTRATION: Stop Crime Bill C-10. Parliament Hill. 12pm.

WORKSHOP: Frame drum making. Tree Frog Percussion Studio, 1061 Merivale Rd., Suite 3. 12:30am - 6pm.

ART: Odawa's 16th Annual Aboriginal Art Auction. Odawa Native Friendship Centre, 12 Stirling Ave. 4-9pm.

SUPPORT: Fundraising Dinner In Support of Hassan Diab. Carleton Heights Community Center, 1665 Apeldoorn Ave. 6pm.

COMMUNITY: Awakening - Reviving the Spirit of the Somali Youth.Marion Hall, University of Ottawa. 6pm.

MUSIC: Paddy Keenan. First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, 30 Cleary Ave. 7:30pm.

MUSIC: Electric Pow Wow. Museum of Civilization. 9:30pm.

SUN NOV 27

THEATRE: I Hate Hamlet. Ottawa Little Theatre, 400 King Edward Ave. 1:30pm.

CONCERT: Music from the Elysian Fields. Tabaret Hall, Rm 112. University of Ottawa. 2pm.

MUSIC: West African Drumming, Dancing and Singing. Rhythm Café, Baobab Tree Studio, 415C Piccadilly Ave. 2pm.

MON NOV 28

OPERATION OIL CHANGE: Oil Clean-up Crews organize in Canada to coincide with UN climate change conference in Durban, South Africa. Nov. 28 - Dec. 9.

WORKSHOP: The Politics of Resistance Workshop Series. Monday evenings until Dec. 12.

DANCE: Ill-Abilities Crew with Luca "Lazylegz" Patuelli. Agora, UCU. University of Ottawa. 1pm.

LIRE: MOT Dit literary magazine launch. Raw Sugar Cafe, 692 Somerset St. W. 5pm.

TUES NOV 29

MUSIC: Organ Recitals. St. Andrew's Church. 12:10pm. Every Tuesday.

ACCESSIBILITY WEEK: Spread the Word to End the Word. Agora, UCU. University of Ottawa. 11am - 4pm.

YOGA: Good Ideas Café. Carrefour francophone, Rm 026 UCU. University of Ottawa. 5pm.

WED NOV 30

ART: Generation Art. Call-out for youth to submit original artwork to the Michaëlle Jean Foundation & EQ3. Ends Dec. 10.

MARKET: Free Store. Couch Lounge, UCU. University of Ottawa. 9am - 4pm.

WORKSHOP: Developments in Critical Feminist Research. Loeb Bldg, Rm A220, Carleton University. 3:30pm.

CONNECT: Student Networking Cafe. Library and Archives Canada, Salon A. 4:30pm.

FILM: Revenge of the Electric Car. Bytowne Cinema. 7pm.

THURS DEC 1

TALK: Reinventing the Modern Corporation. Marketplace Food Court, Bldg D. Algonquin College. 10am.

ART/MUSIC: Milieux (Kosmic Reinvented). Aberdeen Pavilion, Lansdowne Park. 11am.

DANCE: Propeller Dance Performance. Terminus, UCU. University of Ottawa. 1pm.

ACCESSIBILITY WEEK: (dis) Ability Arts and Culture Night. Pub 1848, University of Ottawa. 7pm.

STORIES: Story Swap. Library and Archives Canada, Rm 156. 8pm.

FILM: The End Of Second Class. Divergence Movie Night. Raw Sugar Cafe. 8pm.

FRI DEC 2

ACCESSIBILITY WEEK: Sustainable Dinner in the Dark. Desmarais Bldg, Rm 12102. University of Ottawa. 6pm.

CONCERT: University of Ottawa Orchestra. Saint Brigid's Centre for the Arts, 310 St. Patrick St. 8pm.

THEATRE: This is our Youth. Sock n' Buskin Theatre Company. Kailash Mital Theatre, Southam Hall, Carleton University. 8pm.

SAT DEC 3

ART: BazArt Holiday Arts Event. Shenkman Arts Centre, 245 Centrum Blvd. 11am - 5pm.

FUN: Byward Market Christmas Programming. Local choirs and free horse drawn carriage rides. Weekends in December. 1 - 4pm.

FILM: 26th EU Film Festival Screening. Library and Archives Canada, Auditorium. 7pm.

TALK: Jaclyn Friedman, The Why. Venus Envy. 7:30pm.

SUN DEC 4

FOOD: Ottawa Farmers' Market. Aberdeen Pavillion, Lansdowne Park. 9am - 3pm.

FOOD: Canadian Organic Growers Ottawa Fest. Sandy Hill Community Centre, 250 Somerset E. 2pm.

TALK: Civil Rights & Liberties, Law Enforcement & Policing. Main Library Auditorium, 120 Metcalfe St. 2pm.

TALK: Jaclyn Friedman, The How. Venus Envy. 7:30pm.

TUES DEC 6

VIGIL: National Day of Remembrance and Action To End Violence Against Women 2011. Minto Park. 6pm.

WED DEC 7

WORKSHOP: Clean Energy Technologies. Travelodge Hotel & Conference Centre. 9am - 4:30pm.

TALK: Science Café discusses Folic Acid. Wild Oat Cafe, 817 Bank St. 6:30pm.

THURS DEC 8

THEATRE: The Three Sisters, by Anton Chekhov. Academic Hall, University of Ottawa. 8pm.

FRI DEC 9

FILM: Jerichow. Saint Paul University Amphitheater. 3:30pm.

SAT DEC 10

FAIR: 2nd Annual Locavore Artisan Food Fair. Crichton Cultural Community Centre, 39 Dufferin Rd. 10am - 4pm.

SILK: Tabitha Foundation Christmas Silk Sales. 416 Mayfair Ave. 10am - 5pm.

READ: Moon Time Prayer book and CD launch. Great Canadian Theatre Company, 1233 Wellington St. W. 12 - 3pm.

TUES DEC 13

POTLUCK: Womyn of Colour Caucus. Location: TBD. 7pm.

FILM: Friendship. German Film Series. Simard Bldg, Rm 226, University of Ottawa. 7:30pm.

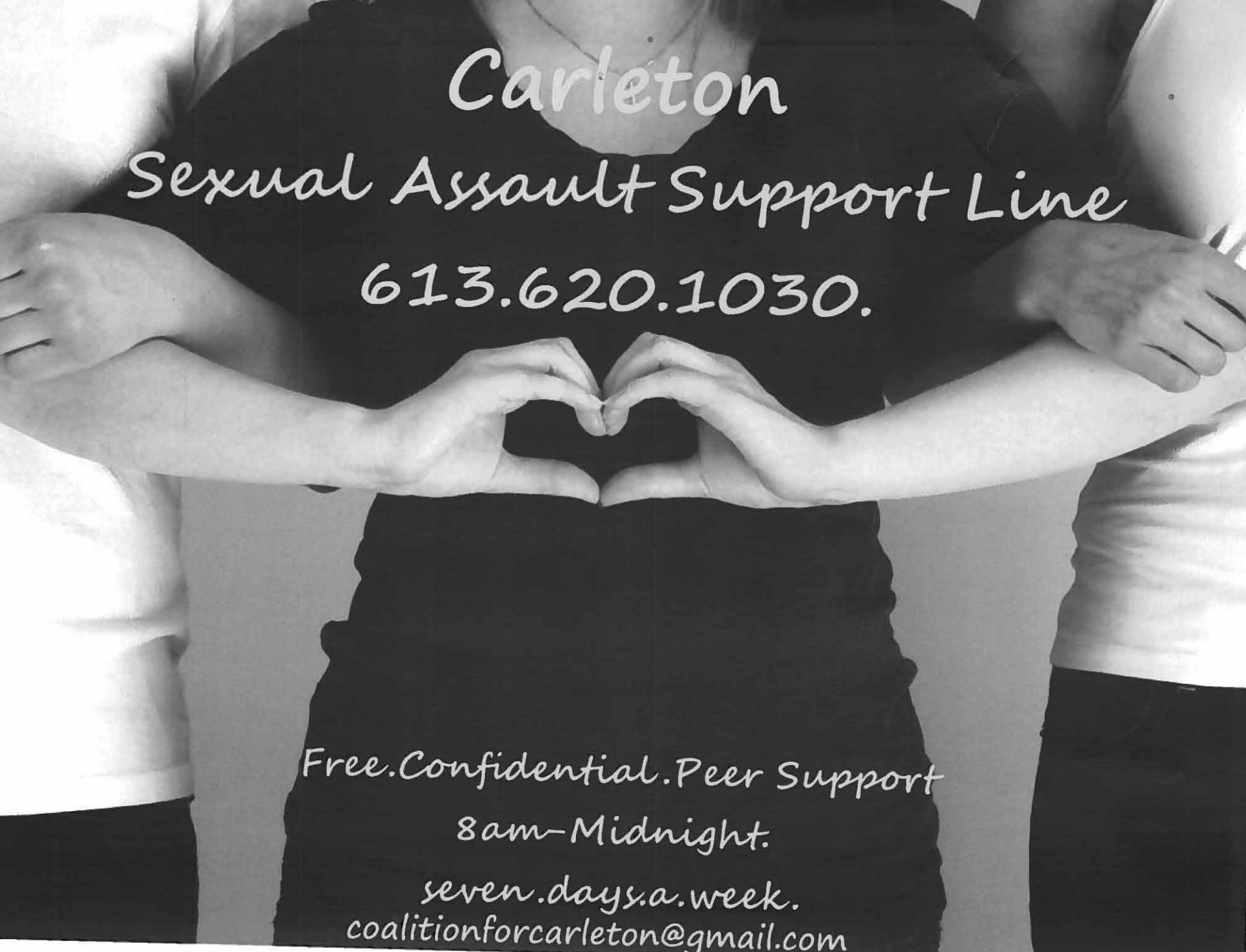
FRI DEC 16

DANCE: Traces, presented by the School of Dance. Arts Court Theatre, 2 Daly Ave. 7:30pm.

SUN DEC 18

FOOD: Ottawa Farmers' Market. Aberdeen Pavillion, Lansdowne Park. 9am - 3pm.

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