

The Leveller

CAMPUS • COMMUNITY • CULTURE

September 2010

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VOL. 3, NO. 0

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September 8, 2010

Dear Carleton students,

We're going to let you get back to reading the *Leveller*, but first we wanted to say thank you for supporting our ongoing crusade to save independent media with your very generous levy.

In case you didn't know, all Carleton graduate students pay \$1.50 per semester of full-time tuition to fund the *Leveller*.

We think of this issue of the paper as a kind of love letter from us to you – an impersonal love letter, and a very public one, but a love letter nonetheless. You know you deserve our love, because you bought it.

We hope you appreciate all the attention, because after this issue we'll go back to our usual practice of kind of taking you for granted, producing our unique brand of dilettantish editorializing for your enjoyment – or otherwise.

Yours in solidarity,

The Editors

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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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UNIVERSAL BUS FUSS

The student fight for a city-wide bus pass in Ottawa

by Johanna Hove

Ottawa students have been tenaciously lobbying for a U-Pass for over a decade and have finally achieved a major success. This fall, full-time students at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University will have access to the first U-Pass in Ottawa.

The fight for a universal bus pass for university students in Ottawa is a collective story, and the recent success experienced by Ottawa students is testament to the collective and unrelenting efforts of many students and their advocates.

The universal bus pass, or U-Pass, is ubiquitous at universities across Canada, and has been for some time. Students at Queen’s University were the first to benefit from the U-Pass in 1973, and many more (at least 22 at last count) have followed suit over the years, including London (1998), Victoria (1999), Vancouver (2003), Edmonton (2007), Saskatchewan (2007), Waterloo (2007), and Halifax (2006).

Because the U-Pass in Ottawa is a pilot project, students must dig deep and find a bit of fight left in them.

The History

The student movement to acquire a U-Pass in Ottawa began in 1995. Over the years, the biggest challenges for Carleton students have been an unsupportive senior administration along with a City Council unwilling to invest in the combined social, environmental, and economic program of the U-Pass. For instance, in a 1996 referendum, undergraduate students at Carleton approved a U-Pass at \$110 per academic year; however, the Board of Governors rejected the results and refused to collect the U-Pass levy.

In 1999, the Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) and Carleton Undergraduate Students’ Association (CUSA) took up the fight once more, and along with OC Transpo, pursued a U-Pass program at \$165 per academic year. The construction of the O-Train would finally give Carleton students access to the Transitway, and the U-Pass program would work to ensure increased ridership. Again, Carleton administration quashed the effort, stating that regardless of any referendum outcome, they would not support the U-Pass.

In 2003, after students put the U-Pass back on the agenda, senior administra-

tion at Carleton University finally demonstrated their support for the program. They understood that improved public transit would help the university recruit students and compete with the University of Ottawa, which at this point had better public transit access.

With the administration on board, the next largest barrier students faced was the proposed cost. City staff and many councillors insisted that the U-Pass be “revenue neutral.” The city then conducted a survey at each post-secondary institution in order to determine ridership levels among students and the revenue-neutral price for the U-Pass. Using this data, OC Transpo indicated that the cost per academic year would be around \$338. Clearly this price would be too high for all students to pay, since it was only \$8 less per month than monthly student passes.

In 2009, undergraduate students at the University of Ottawa passed a referendum calling for a U-Pass at \$125 per term, while the GSA continued negotiations with OC Transpo. Again, OC Transpo did not support the price being proposed. Using the same data from its 2003 survey, city staff concluded in 2008 that students should pay \$49.50 per month or \$198 per semester.

However, the methodology and results of the 2003 survey were disputed and the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa (SFUO) conducted its own survey of ridership on campus, which provided the sound basis for advocating a U-pass at \$125 per semester.

Siding with students, the Transit Committee recommended to City Council to implement in September 2009 a pilot U-pass project for full-time, undergraduate University of Ottawa students at \$125 per semester. It appeared that finally the stars had aligned, and students, the university administration, and the majority of councillors agreed on the pilot project.

Nevertheless, Mayor Larry O’Brien decreed that no new information was being provided to City Council this time around. Students provided new information regarding the effects of the transit strike, declining student ridership, and OC Transpo profits; however, the required 75% of council did not go to bat for students.

Success – finally

As a result of strong lobbying efforts, and support from the Pedestrian Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC), a proposal was put forward for a one-year pilot program at a cost of \$145 per term. Students organized themselves with renewed energy, lobbying city councillors through e-mails and in person.

During the 2009-2010 winter semester, the GSA created a website where students could directly e-mail councillors. Leading up to the city budget delegations, graduate students at Carleton coordinated their efforts and attended ward budget consultations in order to speak directly to councillors and reach those who needed most to recognize the benefits of the U-pass for their own constituents. During the city budget delegations in January, a number of Carleton and University of Ottawa students presented very persuasively, along with non-student supporters like University of Ottawa’s president, Allan Rock.

Councillors were reminded that the premise of the U-Pass, like universal health care or student athletic fees, is that a large group of people, in this case students, pool their resources in order to substantially reduce the cost of a service. In addition, councillors had not initially taken into account the city-wide benefits of the U-Pass program, such as life-long ridership, reduced car usage and therefore reduced gas emissions and road wear, and an improved relationship with students.

Added to this, students were one of the groups hardest hit by the continued transit fare increases and the bus strike in 2009. Transit fares have increased 7.5% each year over the last 3 years and will increase another 5% next year.

In January 2010, City Council finally voted in favour of a U-Pass pilot project at \$145 per semester for Carleton University and University of Ottawa students. At Carleton University, the students’ associations received assurances from senior administration that they would not interfere if students democratically voted in support of the project. During the schools’ spring elections, referenda were held and passed easily among the student populations – 72% of undergraduate students and 72.3% of graduate students voted yes to the U-Pass at Carleton.



PHOTO BY CHRIS BISSON

Referenda at the University of Ottawa also passed just as smoothly.

The fight continues

While student supporters rejoiced at the recent victory, and rightfully so, there is still work to be done. Most recently, student unions at Carleton have been shut out of the project. Over the course of the spring and summer of 2010, the students’ associations, universities, and OC Transpo negotiated intensely over the details of the program.

In early negotiations, it was agreed that using the ISIC card at both the University of Ottawa and Carleton would make the most sense – all students would use the same card, making it easier for bus drivers to identify it, and the ISIC card is already administered by the student unions, which would save on costs. And instead of having OC Transpo administer the student bus pass to thousands of students at kiosks across the city, student unions would take on this responsibility.

The Carleton administration later violated this agreement, negotiating with OC Transpo separately, instead of working collaboratively with student unions. It also created its own card instead of using the ISIC card.

In contrast, students at the University of Ottawa re-

ceived strong support from their university administration and their student unions are administering the U-Pass through the ISIC card. As mentioned, the president of the University of Ottawa spoke during the 2010 Budget Delegations at City Hall in favour of the U-Pass, and the administration even fronted securities for the SFUO.

Overall this is a huge win for Ottawa students. Of course, the fight is not over. This is a pilot project, and students need to work to ensure that the new City Council continues this initiative and makes it a permanent one for all Ottawa university students.

Take Action

The story of the fight for a U-Pass is also a reminder that students can organize themselves, take action, and make positive change. City Council listened to students who opposed the age cap proposed for student bus passes, and reversed this potential regressive policy, and they listened again regarding the gigantic city-wide benefits of implementing the U-Pass. With the municipal election fast approaching on October 25, students must remember to get active and exercise their democratic rights. Do not let the new council off the hook.

**THE CARLETON
ADMINISTRATION
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WORKING
COLLABORATIVELY
WITH STUDENT
UNIONS.**

THE DIRTY MONEY

The student campaign for divestment in Israeli apartheid

by Sam Brimble and Aidan Macdonald

Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA) launched a divestment campaign in January 2010, calling for Carleton University to stop profiting from war crimes and establish a socially responsible investment (SRI) policy.

Currently Carleton does not have an SRI policy, and there is no prohibition on investing in and profiting from war, ecological devastation,

and violations of international law.

The Carleton University Pension Fund is invested in some 550 companies, and its only mandate is to maximize profit.

In regards to Israel and Palestine, the Pension Fund is invested in five companies – BAE Systems, L-3 Communications, Motorola, Northrop Grumman, and Tesco – that are complicit in human rights abuses and violations of international law.

Each of these companies has reaped profits by strengthening the infrastructure of Israeli apartheid, which has been imposed on the Palestinian people by the Israeli state and accords differential rights and freedoms to the Palestinians and Israelis.

Since the inception of the state of Israel, Palestinians have had their lands seized, have been displaced from their homes, and have been killed in the thousands by Israeli soldiers. Today, illegal Israeli settlements encroach on Palestinian territories and force innocent civilians out of their homes.

The actions of the five companies in question contribute to the ongoing occupation and colonization of

Palestinian lands and livelihoods.

For example, Motorola, BAE, and Northrop Grumman supplied Israel with military equipment and munitions in the 2008-2009 bombardment of Gaza. The Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict – known as the Goldstone report – was released in September 2009 and found evidence that Israel committed war crimes and possibly crimes against humanity during the assault on Gaza.

In the occupied West Bank, Motorola and Tesco facilitate the maintenance and development of Jewish-only settlements that are in violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which states that an occupying power may not change the demographic composition of the occupied territory and must not interfere, in an arbitrary manner, in the lives of the occupied civilian population. This means Motorola and Tesco Israel are complicit with violations of the Geneva convention.

The activities of Motorola and L-3 Communications are in contravention of the International Court of Justice.

In 2004, the court ruled that Israel's Apartheid Wall, which cuts deep within occupied Palestinian territory, was illegal and declared that no aid or assistance should be given to its construction. In violation of the court decision, Motorola and L-3 Communications provide equipment to fortify the wall and the hundreds of Israeli military checkpoints that control the West Bank.

The companies' actions conflict with Carleton's legal responsibility to adhere to the principles of international law, as stipulated by Nuremberg Principles I and II. Thus, by investing in and profiting from the companies in spite of their crimes, the university itself becomes complicit in violations of international law.

In 2005, Palestinian civil society put out a call for a global campaign of boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with its obligations under international law. This call came after decades of futile peace talks and discussions. Resolutions from the United Nations have been similarly ineffective.

SAIA and students took up that call in 2008 and have

since been pushing forward the BDS movement on campus, in an effort to make Carleton part of the solution to ending apartheid.

Hundreds of organizations around the world have now turned to BDS, an effective movement that helped to end the similar injustice of South African apartheid.

BDS activism is especially strong on university campuses, as student mobilization has brought about several concrete successes worldwide. The most notable victory came at Hampshire College, where in February 2009, the administration gave in to massive student pressure to divest from six companies complicit in the Israeli occupation. Additional successes have come in the United Kingdom, where several universities have agreed to divest from BAE Systems and other companies involved in Israeli crimes.

Currently SAIA is focusing on the divestment aspect of BDS, pushing for Carleton to take its money – students' tuition money – out of Israeli apartheid. SAIA is also pushing the administration to adopt an SRI policy and invest its money in ethical companies, following the strate-

gies that helped Carleton to divest from South Africa in the late 1980s.

The argument for divesting from apartheid and adopting an SRI policy is fairly simple: it is a rejection of the idea that the university should be investing in and profiting from human rights abuses and violations of international law. An SRI policy will mean not just divesting from companies complicit in Israeli war crimes, but also from any companies involved in unethical and illegal activities around the world.

A petition has been circulated calling for an SRI policy, and the campaign has been endorsed by a number of groups on campus, including the Graduate Students' Association.

This campaign provides Carleton with an opportunity to become a more ethical and socially responsible institution. Left to its own devices, it is unlikely that the administration will act to take advantage of these opportunities. As students, then, it is our collective responsibility to build an active campus community and convince the administration to remove our university's money from occupation, apartheid, and injustice.

LEFT TO ITS OWN DEVICES, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL ACT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES.

THE G-SPOT CELEBRATES EIGHT DELICIOUS YEARS

by Ashton Starr

The G-Spot may be hard to find, but it's worth the effort. Officially known as the Garden Spot, the G-Spot is Carleton's volunteer-run, vegan community kitchen. Located at 426H Unicentre, right around the corner from the Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA) office, the G-Spot is a hub of campus resistance to Aramark, the university's monopoly for-profit food provider, which runs most on-campus food outlets, including the food court and residence cafeteria.

All undergraduate and graduate students at Carleton pay a \$2 levy to the Carleton Food Collective, which runs the off-campus G-Spot kitchen and brings meals to campus. The G-Spot offers healthy food at a pay-what-you-can cost.

According to collective member Shaun Turney, the G-Spot's philosophy is that "every person on campus should have access to healthy food, regardless of their financial situation or the busyness of their schedule."

It is environmentally sustainable, composting all

its vegetable scraps and purchasing organic food when possible. Volunteers learn and share skills and new techniques in the kitchen and within the organization.

"Cooks, cleaners, and servers are always necessary," says Turney. "We also need eaters, because what's the point of all this cooking, cleaning, and serving, if there aren't any people eating the food?"

The G-Spot's origins go back to the establishment of an Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) food issues working group in 2001. The group incorporated as the Carleton Food Collective in 2002 while serving free lunches sporadically around the Carleton campus to hungry students.

The university administration has consistently expressed concern that the G-Spot would violate Carleton's monopoly contracts with for-profit food service companies. In 2002, Vice-President of Finance and Administration Duncan Watt took issue with the idea of a permanent G-Spot.

A January 24, 2002, article in the Charlantan quoted Watt

as saying, "If the Garden Spot is to continue forever, it contravenes the contract with Chartwells [the contract food provider before Aramark]. I have no concern with it as an interim project."

Watt also didn't like the look of the G-Spot. "The way it is being operated, it is an eyesore."

One of the means the administration used to try to shut down the G-Spot was to kick it out of various locations on campus. For example, in 2003, as the G-Spot was serving out of Dunton Tower, the university administration insisted the group obtain an expensive insurance policy. The G-Spot responded by getting the appropriate insurance.

When students voted to grant the G-Spot a levy, the Board of Governors blocked it, saying there wasn't space on Carleton's campus. This restriction of student democracy forced students to mobilize with petitions, letter-writing campaigns, and off-campus community outreach.

With continued efforts from students over the years and further referenda, the G-Spot won its levy and started

renting serving space from CUSA.

Securing kitchen space on campus has been a priority of the collective for years. An on-campus kitchen with serving space would make the organization more visible and accessible, build its volunteer base, improve meal offerings, and guarantee stable serving times.

When collective members spoke to Carleton President Roseann Runte in 2008 about the possibility of an on-campus kitchen space, she replied that there was no room. During the same year, Tim Hortons expanded into Residence Commons and a Starbucks took over student space in the Unicentre Atrium, under the terms of the contract with Aramark.

Students recognize that the G-Spot is the most accessible and environmentally sustainable place to eat on campus, and many rely solely on G-Spot meals for their breakfasts and lunches. Rejecting the compulsory commercialism of the for-profit feeding machine, students have found a place of their own, where food is pleasure: the G-Spot.

The Leveller
wants
your
Letters

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SERVING UP SOLIDARITY

Food service workers at Carleton cooking up union



PHOTO BY BRENDON MROZ

by Erin Seatter

After years of non-unionized employment, food service workers at Carleton University are organizing a union. Food service workers, including students and full-time workers, are the largest group of non-unionized employees on campus. Currently they are employed by the transnational corporation Aramark, which manages food service at Carleton University under the name Carleton University Dining Services. A contract between Aramark and the university gives Aramark a monopoly on food services and the university a cut of the prof-

its. With the exception of a few student-run food outlets – including Oliver’s, Rooster’s, Mike’s Place, the G-Spot, and Leonardo’s Lounge – all food services on campus fall under Aramark. This includes all on-campus catering, as well as the food court with the Subway and Pizza Pizza outlets in the Unicentre, the residence cafeteria, Loeb cafeteria, Oasis, Page Break, Baker’s Grill, Tim Hortons, and Starbucks. Last spring workers started speaking publicly of their efforts to organize a union with the Hospitality and Services Trade Union (HSTU) Local 261, an affiliate of the international union UNITE HERE, expressing concern

that Aramark was inhibiting their freedom of speech and freedom to form a union by circulating intimidating letters that suggested workers would be fired for attempting to unionize. In response, students, faculty, and workers on campus pulled together in a show of support for food service workers and their right to freely decide for themselves whether or not they wanted a union. For four weeks starting in May, students and workers handed out stickers that stated, “Aramark let your workers speak free from fear.” The stickers were a visible presence on campus, as students, faculty, and workers wore

them on their shirts and backpacks, and stuck them on laptops and notebooks, in recognition of the rights of food service workers. Cheyenne Fleet, a student involved in the campaign, explains that “some workers have asked if I’m ‘with the union,’ which has given me the opportunity to explain that I’m simply a student who is incredibly concerned about what has occurred on our campus.” Following the sticker campaign a petition in support of the union drive circulated and thousands of signatures were gathered from across campus. The petition notes that many Aramark food service

workers at Carleton are long-time workers in cafeterias or registered students of the university and as such are an integral part of the Carleton community. The petition also calls on Carleton University and Aramark to negotiate a fair process for the unionization of food service workers with UNITE HERE HSTU Local 261. A letter written by Campus United, a coalition of unions on campus, to Carleton President Roseann Runte echoes the petition in calling for a fair process of unionization and for Carleton and Aramark to remain neutral throughout the union drive. Member of Parliament Olivia Chow, the Citizenship and Immigration critic for the New Democratic Party, even visited campus to meet with students and workers to discuss in particular the right of international students to organize and participate in a union. In August, students began handing out paper flowers to food service workers, particularly those in the residence cafeteria and the food court. These flowers were accompanied by a leaflet that affirmed workers’ “right to be treated with dignity and respect and to work in a safe environment.” It also said that together the community could “make Aramark a

better place to work.” Manabu Natori, who works in the residence cafeteria, says that workers have now been “talking about the union more freely in the workplace.” In addition to individual students, many groups on campus have made clear their support for food service workers. Carleton’s student unions have recognized not only the right of workers to freely form a union, but also that many students depend on employment at Aramark to finance their studies. Alex Sirois, president of the Carleton University Students’ Association (CUSA), has called “on Carleton University, President Runte, and Aramark Carleton to ensure that Carleton is a place where people can speak free from fear.” Kimalee Phillip, president of the Graduate Students’ Association (GSA), says, “The GSA continues to stand in solidarity with workers on campus, recognizing that students are workers too. All students, including international students, have the right to unionize and should be able to exercise that right.” Natori says that his co-workers are excited about what’s happening. “They say things like, ‘I can’t wait until the union wins!’”





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FROM KIDS’ TABLE TO NERD JUNTA

The Carleton Academic Student Government in a nutshell

by Steffanie Pinch and Doug Nesbitt

The Carleton Academic Student Government (CASG) is a mysterious and anomalous feature of the Carleton University landscape. While the CASG has tried to position itself as the voice of students, and has often been in conflict with the independent student organizations - the Carleton University Students’ Association (CUSA) and the Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) - it has not made a deep impression on the student body.

CASG is composed of student representatives and claims to act as a bridge between undergraduate students, academic departments, and the administration.

But as an arm of the university administration, it operates under the constraints and control of the university Senate, the supreme authority for academic decisions. In a stranger twist, Brian Mortimer, the Clerk of Senate, actually sits with students on the CASG.

The kids’ table

CASG grew out of the New University Government (NUG), a student offshoot of Senate created in 1969.

While other universities were responding to calls for democratization by including students on Senate, Carleton pushed through a different model that offered students separate representation on a body of their own, which would report to Senate.

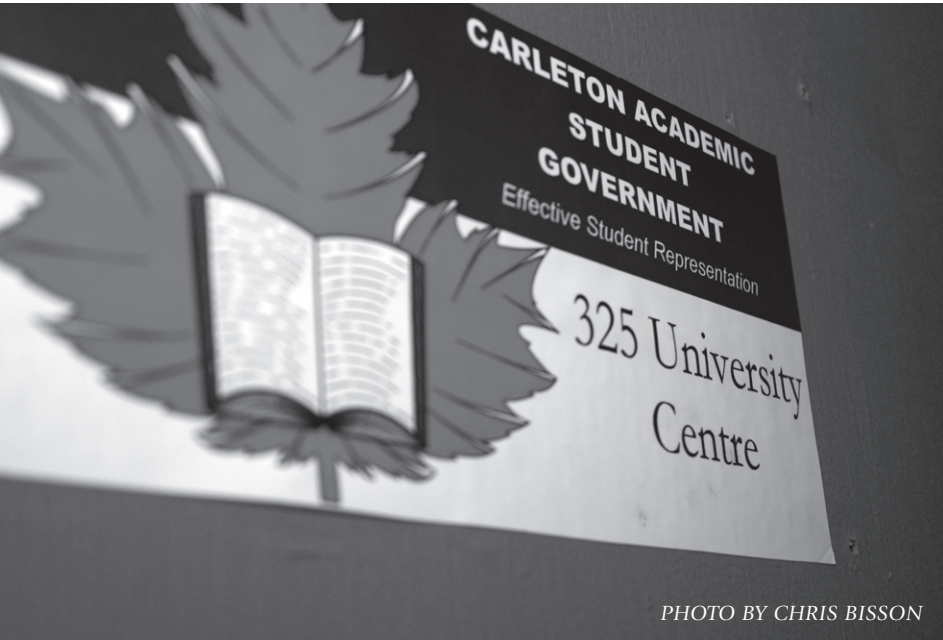
As one student council member said, a “plan for student participation in university government has been foisted upon us without any student participation... ‘Sell-out’ appropriately defines the main contours of this plan. NUG is no foot in the door for student participation. It is a foot in the screen door. The door is still locked, and admittance is by invitation only.”

The nerd junta

A few years ago, NUG emerged in alternate form as the Carleton Student Government, later the CASG, after an amalgam of appren-

ticing right-wing ideologues took it over through dubious electoral methods. CASG’s key personnel have been involved in a series of efforts at undermining CUSA and the GSA through setting up Conservative Party front groups (see the *Leveller’s* exposé in Vol.1 Issue 4 at *Leveller.ca*), interfering in the efforts of campus labour unions to inform their members on collective bargaining issues, erroneously claiming to represent graduate students, and trying to convince Carleton’s students that they’re better off without a national student union like the Canadian Federation of Students.

As of last year, the CASG saga has taken another bizarre twist. The student body no longer has a say in the election of CASG’s highest ranks, as a motion was passed stipulating that councillors who represent individual academic departments are in charge of choosing the executive. CASG justified this decision by saying that the president’s only responsibilities were to maintain leadership and set an example. Mortimer also said that



taking the vote away from students would increase voter turnout to 100%.

The smoking waste basket

The CASG experienced further brief controversy last year when Vice President Academic and Finance Brandon Wallingford had his contract cut short. He was accused of 13 breaches of his original contract and voted out of CASG. Some of the violations detailed in an open letter still on the

CASG website include lending his office to CUSA elections staff, storing alcohol, and not emptying his office waste basket.

Wallingford blamed his termination on personal issues between himself and the president at the time, James Splinter. Wallingford ran for the presidency for the 2010-2011 academic year, but it was won by Heather Page. Hopefully Page will live up to the colourful reputation of the CASG.

ADMIN BLOCKS SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE

Sexual assault support phone line launched by coalition

by Julie S. Lalonde

Last spring, Carleton University students created the university’s first sexual assault support line. Run by students and funded by the community, the support line is the culmination of three years of student activism in the face of Carleton’s opposition to a university-funded feminist response to violence against women on campus.

The issue of safety at Carleton has been burning since the fall of 2007, when a high-profile sexual assault on campus sent shockwaves through the Carleton community and put the university in the national media.

While the university administration attempted to downplay the issue, a group of students formed the Coalition for a Carleton Sexual Assault Centre and embarked on the creation of a student-run, university-funded sexual assault centre on Carleton’s campus, inspired by similar centres on campuses such as the University of Alberta.

In a 2008 referendum, 80% of voters were in favour of a Carleton Sexual Assault Centre. Armed with the referendum results and numerous student testimonials about their experiences and needs,

the coalition began lobbying the university administration for the space and funding needed to create a centre.

The proposed centre would have one full-time coordinator and at least two part-time positions housed in an accessible space on campus. Unlike existing services on campus, the proposed centre would offer survivor-centred peer support and provide a space for ongoing dialogue around sexual assault, with a specific focus on preventative, education-based initiatives.

Carleton’s administration has opposed the creation of a sexual assault centre publicly and in private meetings with members of the coalition. A myriad of excuses have been given for their opposition, none of which hold water.

“Carleton has come up with many reasons not to create a centre, but we’ve refuted every single one of them,” says coalition executive member Michelle Blackburn. “We’ve proven that there’s the resources, space, and funding for such a centre and yet the administration is still opposed. It’s obvious to us that they are opposed for ideological reasons that have far more to do with public image than student safety.”

Meanwhile, events at Carleton, and the actions of the administration, continue to demonstrate the need for a centre. In December 2008, when the survivor of the 2007 assault sued the university for damages, the university’s legal defence statement argued that Jane Doe “failed to take appropriate or any action for her own safety.” The Carleton administration did not take accountability for its lack of adequate services or even place blame for the assault on the assailant, who has yet to be caught.

Instead, Carleton took the archaic position that the woman was responsible for her own assault, embarrassing the university and silencing survivors by putting into legal writing the victim-blaming that feminists and anti-violence advocates have spent years trying to undo.

The Carleton community fought back, protesting outside President Runte’s office and demanding an apology and the creation of a dedicated space on campus for a sexual assault centre. Then, in March 2010, the coalition took matters in its own hands and created a student-run, community-funded sexual assault support line.



The line is operated by trained peer support workers who use an anti-oppression, feminist framework. It is a direct challenge to existing services that rely on the medical model, which labels and diagnoses survivors of sexual assault. Carleton’s support line focuses on listening to and supporting callers, while trusting that survivors are the

experts on their own lives.

It is also one of the few support lines in the city that offers support to anyone regardless of gender, sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, citizenship, ability, age, mother tongue, or student status. Unlike existing services on campus, the support line also operates outside usual

business hours, including weekends.

It’s obvious that students are the ones who are truly concerned about safety on campus. Whether the university administration will ever take responsibility for its role remains uncertain. What is certain is that students will carry on and demand answers.

A WORKING LAND

Visualizing a campus united in self-repr



Represents part-time employees of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), Carleton University Students' Union (CUSA), Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG)-Carleton, and CKCU Radio Carleton.



Represents full-time staff at the Carleton University Students' Union (CUSA).



Represents stationary engineers in the Central Heating Plant, who ensure Carleton's campus is heated in the winter. CUPE 3778's contract expires March 31, 2011.



The United Steelworkers of America represents residence security staff. USWA's contract expires on April 30, 2011.



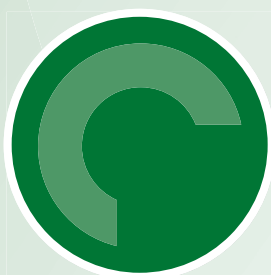
CUASA

The Carleton University Academic Staff Association represents faculty, professional librarians, lecturer (instructor) employees, and Non-Credit Language Teachers. CUASA's contract expired on April 30, 2010.



CUPE 910

Represents skilled trades and maintenance staff, including electricians, carpenters, and plumbers in Physical Plant. These workers maintain the facilities on campus. The contract between Carleton University and CUPE 910, known on campus as the "blue shirts," expires on December 31, 2010.



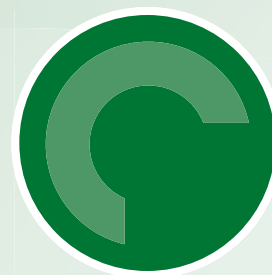
CUPE 4600

The largest CUPE local on campus, representing undergraduate and graduate TAs (Unit 1) and contract instructors (Unit 2). CUPE 4600's contract expired on August 31, 2010.



GSA

The Graduate Students' Association represents graduate students.



CUPE 2424

Represents clerical, technical, library, and administrative workers. CUPE 2424's contract expired on June 30, 2010.



CAMPUS UNITED

Campus United is a coalition of the Carleton community, including the worker and student unions, together campus community, and the recognition that in the administration from the Carleton great, there is no organized front.



CUPE 2424

The Carleton University Students' Union represents undergraduate students.

LANDSCAPE

Representation and social justice

What appears to be a tangle of meaningless acronyms is actually a landscape of power, a bureaucratic battlefield on which the university administration struggles for control against an array of unions representing students and workers. The unions together form Campus United, an alliance of students, faculty, and staff that works for the betterment of the Carleton community. Carleton University's cleaning and food services are outsourced to for-profit companies - Unicco and Aramark - whose workers are currently not unionized.

24

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CAMPUS UNITED

Coalition comprising the Carleton community, including students, faculty, and staff unions. It brings community members in order to prevent the loss of what makes Carleton what it is. Needs to be a united,

USA

Carleton University Students' Association represents undergraduate students.



A student representative body reporting to Senate, the CASG has lately styled itself as the official voice of the students, despite its direct ties to the university administration

The administration, under the leadership of Roseann Runte, is charged by the Board of Governors with overseeing the day-to-day academic, physical, and financial operations of the university.



ARAMARK WORKERS

Food service workers on campus are employed by the transnational corporation Aramark, which has a monopoly contract on food service with Carleton University. Food service workers are the largest non-unionized group on campus. After years without the protections and benefits of a union, workers are now in the midst of organizing a union.



UNICCO WORKERS

Until this year, cleaning workers were unionized. Formerly they were employed by Sodexo under a contract with Carleton University, but recently the university switched to Unicco. After a period of confusion, it became clear that the union had been effectively busted.

A LITTLE LEVY GOES A LONG WAY

“I come to conquer.”
– Bob Marley

You may have noticed that this issue of the *Leveller* is pretty heavy on Carleton stuff. Normally we try to balance our coverage of Carleton news with coverage of what is going on elsewhere in Ottawa, at the University of Ottawa, or off campus. Just this once we decided to skip all that and make it all about Carleton

Why? Because we are so grateful to Carleton graduate students for voting to give us a small levy last spring. (Of course, we haven’t got the money yet. We’re assuming you are sorting this out.)

That’s right: starting this year, all graduate students pay \$1.50 each semester to the *Leveller*. Did we mention that we’re grateful?

Running for a levy was an interesting twist for us; it wasn’t a natural or inevitable step. We’ve always prized our status as institutional outsiders, as a rare example at Carleton (and in Ottawa for that matter) of a group that didn’t get money from anyone, and therefore didn’t answer to anyone.

We also knew that we hadn’t necessarily made it easy on ourselves, popularity-wise. We knew that a lot of people found us annoying, petulant, unprofessional, or just plain wrong, and we kind of liked that. So we knew there would be people who thought we should never, by any means, be granted the legitimacy of a student levy.

As we predicted, it was not an easy win. The vote was quite tight, in fact. We came close to losing. But we came even closer to winning.

The levy, and the new possibilities and responsibilities that go with it, comes close to being the dawning of a new era, or at least the dawning of a dawning.

For now, the levy buys us

the labour of one part-time employee, who will be running business operations, managing our non-existent office, and keeping track of money coming in and going out. It also pays small honoraria to people most directly involved in putting the paper together.

But this is really just the organizational yeast for a new growth of the *Leveller*’s institutional power and political reach. In the long run, the most recent levy is step one of many.

We plan to use our existing levy as leverage into other sources of funding, better access to resources, more opportunities for training and knowledge sharing, and a deepened capability to engage creative and committed people in producing feisty, independent media – and maybe even paying them.

We’ve never had any ethical objection to paying people to do things. We’ve just never had any money. We knew we could get enough money to print, and that we had enough skills and time on our hands to put a paper together, so we did. We became a volunteer venture, and still are to a lesser extent, because there was no immediately available alternative.

Almost immediately, we started to see the advantages of being unfunded. We never had to answer for anything. No one had given us anything, and we had never promised anything, so we could do what we wanted. Unlike university papers that were funded by student levies, we didn’t have a contract with the student body to produce a particular kind of product, to embody somebody else’s notion of what campus journalism should be, or to represent the university as someone else saw it.

We could, and did, exist in a largely symbiotic relationship with our nominal competitor, the *Charlatan*, in which they used the significant staffing and organizational resources their levy supported to do what they did, while we used the political independence our non-funded status gave us to do what we did.

The decision to run for the levy was, in a sense, a decision to forfeit some of our political independence, our renegade freedom, for a little bit more responsibility and security. But it is not our intention to build upon our small levy by making it a big levy, making us more

responsible to Carleton students. Our ambitions lean elsewhere.

We will be using our new levy in part, in fact, to diversify our funding base, to solicit sustained off-campus advertising, seek out other sources of funding and labour, and ultimately to solidify our organizational security without becoming too deeply beholden to one particular funder.

When we started the *Leveller*, we wanted it to contribute as much to enriching the media landscape of the city as of the university. Our aim wasn’t just to push campus media to the left, but to stretch it, so that it covers the city as a whole.

The *Leveller*’s new tagline, Campus – Community – Culture, sums up this ambition. For us, the goal is to be the newspaper of all of those things in Ottawa, rather than just be the left newspaper at one particular university.

From the beginning we have balanced coverage of Carleton news with a shifting mix of municipal, national, and international news, and have given coverage to arts and culture in Ottawa, in reflection of this wider ambition.

Last year the *Leveller* increased its coverage of news and expanded its volunteer base at the University of Ottawa, which was the primary inspiration for dropping Carleton from our tagline and replacing it with campus. Building on that expansion will be an explicit goal of our editorial and organizational work this publication year.

Ultimately we want the universities to be sources of organizational and financial support, but we also want the *Leveller* to live above and beyond the campuses, like a treehouse suspended on various stilts throughout the city.

The goal, in short, is to produce an independent newspaper in Ottawa, full stop. The goal is to create a newspaper that people at Carleton want to read, whether or not they agree with its content, and everybody else too.

The levy is the first step in our ambitious next phase of organizational conquest. It opens up doors, which we will proceed to remove from their hinges.

And you say, All of this for just \$1.50 per semester? And we say, Yes. And you say, Wow! What a bargain! And we say You’re welcome. And, um, thanks.

THE WHAT’S WHAT

“I asked you where to begin, and you led me into a labyrinth.”
– Henri Ronse

If there’s one thing you need to know to understand Carleton University, it’s that it’s hard to understand. So, if you’re new here and feeling a little like you don’t really have a feel for the place, don’t worry: that’s exactly how everyone else feels.

It’s hard to get your head around Carleton. It’s not entirely clear why. It’s big, but not that big. Not big enough, at any rate, to define itself by its bigness or importance; it’s just big enough to be hard to understand.

But that’s only part of it. The university seems to have no sense of itself and its identity. There is no Carleton myth that everyone’s aware of and can measure against the reality of their experience. There is no historical consciousness, no shared culture of memory, and no sense that one is missing.

Those who started the *Leveller* hoped in some way to fill this gap, to construct a useful mirror for the university to see itself in. This gall is arguably what has most endeared us to our fans and enraged our foes. The sheer novelty of suggesting Carleton should have a sense of itself, and of suggesting what that sense might be, has been our most original contribution to campus life.

It’s not as if Carleton doesn’t have a history. Like all institutions, it was born at a particular time and designed for a particular purpose, and those conditions have shaped what kind of school it has become.

Carleton is a war-time school, founded in 1942. Like all universities in Ontario, it expanded dramatically in the late 1960s to accommodate the baby boom, but it was originally intended to produce educated employees for the civil service.

This heritage of adult education, of mid-career retraining, is reflected in both the number of first-generation scholars and in the extensive array of professional and practical programs the university offers. It’s also reflected in the fact that Carleton is, and always has been, a commuter school, a place that students enroll in and attend but never really make their own.

It’s also reflected in the odd political culture of the place, in which the administration, acting on behalf of the Board of Governors, jealously protects its considerable power over the campus, and expects and allows no independent power to exist unmolested.

The central political fact

of Carleton University is the administration’s obsessive need for political control. Because the faculty on the whole have no inclination to challenge the administration’s authority, the battle over who rules the school is between the students and the administration.

The pattern is well reflected in the current issue of the *Leveller*, in which virtually every story features egregious and unjustified attempts – successful or otherwise – to block, destroy, or eliminate student initiatives.

Some of these are more predictable than others. The Garden Spot, which is a direct challenge to the corporate branded monopoly of food service corporations such as Aramark, has had a rough ride, having been kicked around campus at least in part to protect the contract food service providers from annoyance and competition.

And labour unions that bargain collectively with the university do so in an inherently adversarial capacity. It’s no surprise that the administration is keen to take away hard-won concessions from their employees – like tuition fee protection for graduate teaching assistants, which was lost in the last bargaining round – and eager to pounce upon and benefit from any sign of weakness and lack of resolve.

But the administration’s implacable hostility to student initiatives on other fronts is often baffling. Why, for instance, did the Carleton University administration oppose so fiercely the adoption of a universal bus pass for its students, when the University of Ottawa supported it for theirs? And why, when the project succeeded despite their obstruction, did they insist on running it themselves?

What convincing explanation lies behind this level of intransigence – on an issue that has virtually no impact on the interests of the administration and the Board of Governors?

A similar but more offensive example is the administration’s lack of support for the campaign for a sexual assault centre, another student initiative for which there is broad support and a demonstrated need, but which the administration has done everything in its considerable power to snuff out.

The fact that students have themselves created a support line for survivors of sexual assault is excellent; the fact that students had to

overcome the active opposition of the university administration to do so is both more impressive and more disturbing. Again, the opposition to an important and beneficial student initiative is baffling and insulting.

Is the administration simply opposed to any sign of life from its students, no matter how benign the activity in question? Clearly the answer is no, because they have actively colluded with the Carleton Academic Student Government’s deceitful posing as the voice of students. That is ‘student power’ they can get behind – and, in a sense, already are.

As offensive as it is to anyone with a modicum of respect for academic self-governance, as deeply inhospitable as it is to any notion of an academic community, as fatally poisonous as it is to cultivating an atmosphere of mutual respect, this pathological insistence on complete control at least serves one positive purpose.

It is the one thing to which we can point as the ‘story’ of Carleton University. It serves, for better or for worse, as our myth culture. It is what all the otherwise nihilistic phenomena of university life add up to: a ceaseless struggle for control.

It is also a reminder that sense has to be made of the university, as it does of any political landscape. Knowing what’s what is never a passive exercise. Assimilating the chaos of an unfamiliar environment into a fathomable fiction – a what’s what – is the premiere political act and primary role of a newspaper like the *Leveller*.

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WHERE’S HAITI’S MONEY?

by Isabel Macdonald

In the wake of the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010 that killed upwards of 250,000 people in Haiti, international donors pledged to provide 5.3 billion dollars for Haiti’s reconstruction in 2010-2011. Yet nine months after the earthquake, only three countries – Brazil, Australia, and Estonia – have met their pledges to the Haiti Reconstruction Fund, according to the pledge page on the fund’s website.

On August 16, 2010, dozens of leading academics, authors, and activists from around the world proposed a bold solution to this desperate financial shortfall. Why not reimburse Haiti for the illegitimate “independence debt” it paid France?

In an open letter to French President Nicolas Sarkozy published in the French newspaper *Libération*, 90 leading academics, authors, journalists, and

human rights activists from around the world urged the French government to pay Haiti back for the 90 million gold francs Haitians were forced to pay as a price for their independence.

There are “powerful arguments in favour of the restitution of the French debt,” Harvard medical professor Paul Farmer, who was recently appointed deputy United Nations special envoy to Haiti, pointed out in his testimony in the 2003 hearings in France on Haiti’s independence debt. This historic payment was patently illegitimate, and, on several different scores, it was also illegal, according to a 2009 paper produced by the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti.

Prior to independence, St Dominique – the country that is now Haiti – was France’s most profitable colony, thanks in no small part to its particularly brutal system of slavery. In 1791, the slaves revolted, and in 1804, after defeating Napoleon’s armies, they founded the world’s first Black republic.

Following Haiti’s independence, former French slave owners submitted detailed tabulations of their losses to the French government, with line items for each of “their” slaves that had been “lost” with Haitian independence. In 1825, the French king, Charles X, demanded that Haiti pay an “independence debt” to compensate former colonists for the slaves who had won their freedom in the Haitian Revolution. With warships stationed along the French demand, France insisted that Haiti pay its former colonizer 150 million gold francs – ten times the fledgling Black nation’s total annual revenues.

Under threat of a French military invasion aimed at the re-enslavement of the population, the Haitian government had little choice but to agree to pay. Haiti’s government was also forced to finance the debt through loans from a single French bank, which capitalized on its monopoly by gauging Haiti with exorbitant interest rates and fees.

The original sum of the indemnity was subsequently reduced, but Haiti still disbursed 90 million gold francs to France. This second price the French exacted for the independence Haitians had won in battle was, even in 1825, not lawful. When the original indemnity was imposed by the French king,

the slave trade was technically illegal; such a transaction – exchanging cash for human lives valued as slave labour – represented a gross violation of both French and international laws. And Haiti was still paying off this “independence debt” in 1947 – 140 years after the abolition of the slave trade and 85 years after the emancipation proclamation.

A lawsuit launched by the Haitian government to recuperate these extorted funds was aborted prematurely in 2004, with the French-backed overthrow of the government that had had the temerity to point out that France “extorted this money from Haiti by force and... should give it back to us so that we can build primary schools, primary healthcare, water systems and roads”.

The French government was similarly quick to suppress a Yes Men-style prank announcement last Bastille Day pledging that France would repay Haiti. On July 15, the day after the hoax, a spokesperson for the French ministry spokesperson told Agence France Presse that the French government was pursuing possible legal action against the pranksters.

With 1.6 million people – over a sixth of Haiti’s population – still homeless after the earthquake, justice would surely be better served if the French government instead devoted these public resources into starting to pay Haiti back.

Given the current economic crisis in France, restitution of the Haitian independence debt would be no easy task. When the indemnity money that Haiti paid France is adjusted for inflation and a minimal interest rate, its value is well over €7 billion. (In fact, in an interview on France 24, Ottawa-based activist Jean Saint-Vil put the current figure at \$40 billion.)

Yet it is a demand that many would agree is morally, economically, and legally unassailable. But heck, don’t take it from me. Instead, why not ask MIT professor Noam Chomsky, author Naomi Klein, Princeton professor Cornel West, Uruguayan author Eduardo Galeano, French philosophers Alain Badiou, Etienne Balibar, and Jacques Ranciere, and several members of parliament in Quebec, Europe, France, and the Philippines who signed onto the August 16 open letter. In their view, President Sarkozy is bound to make restitution to Haiti for France’s ill-gotten gain.

WELCOMING, NOT DEMONIZING, THE TAMIL REFUGEES

by Sam Ponting

Fear mongering has taken on new meaning in the post-9/11 context. Applying the word ‘terrorism’ to a current issue appears to be a golden ticket to public disillusionment.

We’ve seen government officials use this strategy to justify the imperialist wars of Iraq and Afghanistan. It’s now proven to be an effective method of alienating the public from those with no perceived connections to Al-Qaeda, Islamic fundamentalism, or even the Middle East.

Yes, xenophobia in Canada has taken on a new level as the Canadian government and various media outlets sensationalize the arrival of Tamil migrants on the MV Sun Sea ship. The 492 migrants that arrived on the MV Sun Sea have been ordered to remain in detention centres, facing weekly detention review hearings.

In a public address given on August 13, 2010, Public Safety Minister Vic Toews suggested that the ship may contain criminals, human smugglers, and others who could pose a threat to national security. Yet the government has not released any details to support these suppositions.

The rhetoric used by Toews and others has been used largely to mask the racist policies that define Canada’s current immigration system.

Editorialists across the country have accused the Tamil migrants of ‘jumping the queue,’ claiming they lack respect for the ‘due process’ put in place to manage refugee claims. The false suggestion that refugees normally form a queue makes it easier for the Canadian government to violate the human rights of the passengers, as exemplified by the current period of detention.

As so aptly noted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, “The association of irregular migration with criminality promotes the stigmatization of migrants and encourages a climate of xenophobia and hostility against them.” According to the 1951 United Nations Convention on Refugees to which Canada is a party, there should be no penalties for refugees who arrive irregularly or without pre-authorization.

Refugees fleeing immediate violence can’t safely endure the long and treacherous Canadian refugee

claimant process. Why has the phony threat to national security trumped the real human security threat faced by the Tamil people in Sri Lanka?

The humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka has garnered international scrutiny amid significant evidence of widespread human rights violations. Amnesty International reports that the Sri Lankan government has carried out enforced disappearances and has arrested and detained increasing numbers of Tamils without charge. This has occurred alongside mass displacement.

Should the MV Sun Sea ship be forced to return to Sri Lanka, precarious humanitarian conditions would pose a serious threat to the passengers.

These tragic facts don’t appear to have crossed the minds of most of those working in the mainstream media, including the media team at the *Ottawa Sun*, which published a highly offensive and dehumanizing cover reading “Boot’em!” on August 20, 2010, suggesting that the MV Sun Sea passengers should all be sent back to Sri Lanka.

The newspaper has suggested in a number of articles that Tamil migrants are taking advantage of Canadians, and “playing us for fools,” by seeking status here.

This is of particular concern considering that Quebecor Media Inc., of which Sun Media Corporation is a subsidiary, is Canada’s largest newspaper publisher. The Canadian corporate media seem to have forgotten how exactly their white ancestors arrived in Canada - by boat.

Perhaps the most notable differences between early European settlers and the Tamil migrants is that one group carried out a process of violent colonization, whereas the other group is seeking refuge from current forms of violent domination. Canada’s current immigration controls ultimately make people more vulnerable to violence, while acting as a tool to maintain the very structures established through colonialism.

In our reactions to the arrival of the MV Sun Sea, we should learn from our country’s past racist policies. In 1914, the Komagata Maru arrived in Canada carrying 376 passengers from India, all holding British citizenship. The Canadian government forced their return, ultimately resulting in the death of 20 passengers,

who were killed by colonial British police following the interception of the boat outside Calcutta. This was among the many repercussions of Canada’s exclusionary laws of the early 20th Century, which aimed to keep Asian immigrants from entering Canada.

In 1939, the MS St. Louis, carrying 937 people, predominately Jewish, departed from Hamburg, Germany, seeking refuge in Cuba. When the majority of passengers were denied entry, the ship unsuccessfully sought asylum in the United States and Canada. It returned to continental Europe, where many of the Jewish passengers faced persecution in Nazi-occupied territories.

With this history or racialized exclusion in mind, nearly 60 protestors gathered outside Citizenship and Immigration Canada August 23 to call on the government to immediately release all Tamil asylum seekers and end its restrictive and exploitative immigration policies. Let us echo the sentiments of this protest and affirm to the Tamil migrants, We welcome you and we support you.

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LANKA?

Your Health Benefits

2010|2011

OPT-IN DEADLINES

Fall Term: Thursday, October 7, 2010
Winter Term: Friday, February 18, 2011

OPT-OUT DEADLINE

Thursday, October 7, 2010
www.studentplans.ca



NO MEANS NO Week

Ending gender based violence
September 20-24

IT'S ABOUT RESPECT

We are looking for volunteers for this event.
Email: womynscentre@cusaonline.com

For more information, please contact your students' union Health Plan Administrator:
Carleton University Students' Association • 401 Unicentre Building
613-520-6688 • admin@cusaonline.com



FOOT PATROL

Foot Fetish?

Volunteer Training Days:

Monday Sept 13 @ 1pm

Tuesday Sept 14 @ 4pm

Wednesday Sept 15 @ 7pm

Come walk with us and help to make Carleton a safer community.

Volunteer 5, 3-hour shifts with us to receive a free long sleeve shirt, and 15 shifts by the end of the year to get a free hoodie.
Email: footpatrol@cusaonline.com



Help Carleton become a bottled water free campus

CARLETON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Thanks to a joint initiative of OC Transpo, CUSA, GSA and Carleton, all full-time students will now be receiving a Universal Bus Pass.

Beginning September 1, all full-time undergraduate and graduate students will receive a Universal Bus Pass. The U-Pass allows you full access to all bus and O-Train routes, 7 days a week.

Make sure to pick up your U-Pass from Porter Hall, 2nd floor Unicentre Building, August 26th to September 24th, or the Campus Card Office after September 25th. You must bring your Student ID or government issued ID to pick up your U-Pass.

There are a few exemptions for students for students registered with the Canadian Institute for the Blind, students with Community Bus Passes, students living in the Gatineau region, those on exchange or studying outside of Ottawa. Co-op students that wish to add the U-Pass to their fees may do so.

For more information visit: www.cusaonline.com or www.gsacarleton.ca



Get your U-Pass



THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE UNIVERSITY?

Student Resistance to Administration Power at Carleton 2004-2007

by Doug Nesbitt

Student struggles at Carleton have a long and largely forgotten history. Early in the 21st century, in the twilight of Richard Van Loon's presidency and through the blink-or-you'll-miss-it tenure of David Atkinson, student space was taken over and labour rights were targeted by a university administration keen to establish complete control of the campus political agenda. The current university environment is a product of those struggles.

Evict Admin!

On backpacks, in bathroom stalls, and countless classroom doors you could find the stickered slogan "Evict Admin" in 2004. And it all began when the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG)-Carleton was broken into. Its computers were stolen and, as a consequence, OPIRG-Carleton lost its insurance plan. Some months later a letter came from Carleton's Vice-President of Finance and Administration, Duncan Watt. Without insurance, it read, OPIRG-Carleton was to be evicted from its office in the Unicentre.

With a healthy mix of anger, righteousness, and irreverence, the "Evict Admin" campaign was born. Recovering from the depressing hangover of the Iraq anti-war movement, Carleton students rallied around the campaign to defend student space, forcing an extension of the deadline, and ultimately saving OPIRG-Car-

leton. Shortly thereafter, the new networks of activism spilled over into organizing a 15,000-strong welcoming committee for George W. Bush on November 30.

Those two campaigns in the fall of 2004, involving long hours of tabling, leafleting, and heated arguments bordering on spontaneous mass meetings, were organized in Baker's Lounge, a student-controlled space on the fourth floor of the Unicentre. These days, Baker's Lounge has been largely annexed by the Atrium, the administration-controlled space that replaced the always-cramped walkway connecting the Unicentre with Tory. Little did Carleton students know as they shouted "Bush out of Baghdad! Bush out of Ottawa!" in Baker's Lounge that November, that it would be the twilight of an era.

In early 2005, as several hundred students occupied Rideau and Sussex on the second anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, it became known that the administration had its sights set on more student space, including Baker's Lounge and the International Students' Centre. The administration also wanted to move its dungeon-like bookstore on the bottom floor of Southam Hall to a more profitable location, namely Oliver's Pub, whose large, popular outdoor patio opened up towards the O-Train.

With no interest in negotiations, the landlord set about to evict the student union tenants. Over a hundred students packed the April 2005 Board of Governors meeting. Carleton President Richard Van Loon and Vice-President of Finance Duncan Watt violated board procedures to prevent student representatives from speaking. The students disrupted the meeting in response, forcing its immediate dissolution.

Van Loon was on his way out with a half million dollars in retirement, but he couldn't leave without a parting gift. As April exams neared their end and most students went home to find work, bulldozers were set upon Oliver's patio. Students quickly occupied the patio remnants and for ten days, a 24-hour occupation held firm. The police were sent in and arrested fourteen students (charges were



PHOTO BY CHRIS BISSON

never laid), ending the occupation. Carleton student unions responded with a lawsuit against the university.

The student space that wasn't

As Oliver's was sliced apart to make room for the new bookstore (which was now threatened by the establishment of Haven Books), and Baker's Lounge was transformed into the Atrium on the promise of expanding "student space," Richard Van Loon's successor, David Atkinson, arrived. Van Loon's poisonous attitude towards students and their organizations allowed Atkinson to play the "nice guy."

Atkinson's conciliatory approach earned him friends in some places, including the *Charlatan*, which ran an editorial opposing the student unions' lawsuit. But the honeymoon had a broader effect, resulting in the withdrawal of the student unions' lawsuit in exchange for a promise from the administration, documented in a memorandum of understanding, to support a student-owned building on campus as a permanent resolution to the student space question. In retrospect, Carleton's student unions let go when they should have squeezed.

As the inevitable election period rolled around in early 2006, a referendum question about funding the new student building was posed to Carleton students.

However, the referendum campaign was a mess. The funding formula, which was tied to the Consumer Price Index, seemed unnecessarily complicated, and the plans for the student building were not drawn up in a highly publicized, participatory manner. The referendum was defeated 1630 to 1052.

The administration promptly pulled its support for a student-owned building. Atkinson explained rather unconvincingly, "We have enough on our agenda right now," while other administrators suggested that students had rejected a student-owned building, neatly conflating the referendum question on a funding formula with support for a student-owned building. Carleton students were left without a student building, their biggest pub sliced in half and closed for construction, and the administration in firm control of the new Atrium.

The labour question

With student space dramatically reduced for a bookstore, Starbucks, and cell phone displays, the "labour question" moved to the top of the administration's agenda.

Shortly after the referendum, the faculty, represented by the Carleton University Academic Staff Association (CUASA), and the teaching assistants (TAs) and contract faculty, represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 4600,

made the opening overtures for negotiations as contracts were set to expire. After dragging their heels through the summer, the administration promptly filed for conciliation in the week before the new fall semester.

Raising the stakes by pushing any serious negotiations into the dead of winter, the administration demanded concessions from full-time faculty and teaching assistants. CUASA secured an incredible 96% strike vote and contract instructors and TAs followed with an equally impressive 85% strike vote in response to concessions demanded on "tuition increase protection." TAs were determined to protect this mechanism, which prevented tuition fee increases from outpacing wage increases. The concerns were all the more relevant given Dalton McGuinty's speech at Carleton in September 2006 announcing an end to his promised tuition fee freeze.

The administration settled with the faculty shortly before the strike deadline. As some TAs observed, the administration hoped to isolate the TAs from the faculty and push for a strike over the winter exam period. This strategy, only made possible through an unwillingness to negotiate during the summer, was designed to pit undergrads against TAs during exams, in the worst possible picket line weather, and over the holidays.

However, Atkinson blink-

ed. We'll likely never know the exact details, but various accounts describe the university president intervening only hours before the strike deadline, resulting in the administration's capitulation and the preservation of tuition increase protection. Days later Atkinson resigned for undisclosed reasons. As a Board of Governors' statement explained, his departure after some 20 months was "in the best interests of the university."

Some years later, after tuition increase protection was gutted for CUPE 4600 in early 2009, resulting in pay cuts, those undisclosed "best interests" have become increasingly clear, as well as odious.

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THAWING THE WAGE FREEZE

CUPE 4600 enters bargaining in chilly climate

by Mat Nelson

The bargaining committees for both the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 4600 and the Carleton administration are set to meet and exchange proposals for the first time on

September 8. The contract for CUPE 4600, which represents teaching assistants (TAs) and contract instructors at Carleton University, expired on August 31.

In the wake of the Ontario government's recent call for a two-year wage freeze for public sector workers, Carleton's TAs and contract instructors are gearing up for a tough round of collective bargaining this fall.

The McGuinty government has indicated in its recent budget that it will not fund negotiated wage increases for unionized workers for the next two years. The March 25 Ontario budget contained legislation that will immediately freeze the wages of all non-unionized employees working for the Ontario government.

The Public Service Compensation Act does not affect unionized public sector workers, but last month Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan called on representatives to participate in "consultation sessions" for the next six weeks.

Duncan wants unions and employers to suspend any current collective bargaining and negotiate minimum two-year agreements with 0% wage increases.

The proposed freeze would impact more than 1 million workers in the province.

The initial round of the government's consultation sessions broke down after representatives from the Canadian Autoworkers (CAW), the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) walked out on talks. As the *Toronto Star* reported earlier this week, CAW president Ken Lewenza warned that Ontario could see work stoppages if plans for the wage freeze go through. "We're just going to bargain as we normally do," said Lewenza. "Just let the bargaining process play itself out."

At a time when the government is cutting corporate taxes by \$4.6 billion, the province is arguing that unions need to share re-

sponsibility for the economic crisis and citing the \$35-billion deficit as the reason behind its request. Union leaders, on the other hand, argue that wage restraints don't work. Along with the introduction of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), a wage freeze will further increase the burden on workers in Ontario.

Meanwhile, the 2010 spring budget also calls for increasing enrolment in Ontario colleges and universities. With tuition fees increasing by another 10% over two years, this effectively means a cut in real wages for students employed in the university sector.

Phase two of the talks is currently underway and involves representatives from CUPE, the Ontario Nurses' Association, the Ontario Medical Association, and the United Steelworkers. A third phase will take place on Sept. 20 and Oct. 3 involving teachers' unions, the Power Workers' Union, GO Transit workers, and the Amalgamated Transit Union. After talks on

August 20, CUPE Ontario president Fred Hahn was more cautious about future labour unrest, telling the *Star*, "We're interested in engaging the government in real discussion.... We're not interested in walking away."

CUPE representatives from public sectors across Canada, including university workers, met at an emergency meeting on August 25-26 to flesh out the details of their coordinated strategy to fight the government's proposal. This included delegates from CUPE 4600 and CUPE 2424, which represents support staff at Carleton. CUPE 4600 is set to begin bargaining, while both CUPE 2424 and the faculty association, the Carleton University Academic Staff Association (CUASA), have already entered into negotiations with the university administration.

In response to government consultations, some Ontario locals have received requests from their employers to 'pause' bar-

gaining, including CUPE 4600 and CUPE 2424. Both locals did not agree. CUPE 4600 co-president James Meades told the *Charlatan* this week that he felt the administration was purposely delaying talks and that he was disappointed and "hurt" that he was not notified directly that Carleton had finalized their bargaining committee and was ready to negotiate.

A mass email to students Carleton on August 31 by human resources assistant vice-president Lise Labine said that "Carleton has also established a bargaining team for its negotiations with CUPE 4600 and is ready to offer dates for [sic] begin formal discussions. While we have not yet met with CUPE 4600, they have requested conciliation and we look forward to the start of our discussions."

CUPE 2424 has also filed for conciliation and with CUPE 4600 set to meet later this month, the union and Carleton are both looking forward to the start of their discussions.

**ALONG WITH THE
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WAGE FREEZE WILL
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NOT *THAT* OTTAWA

Local Politics in the National Capital

by Karen Foster

Just a few steps away from the national Ottawa – the one whose business is done on Parliament Hill – there is a local Ottawa, with its own municipal political landscape. To the uninitiated, the city’s political scene is a mess of acronyms and allusions to people, places, and their problems.

Especially now, as Ottawa ramps up to a municipal election, it can be hard to figure out what everyone’s so worked up about. This brief introduction to today’s hot-button issues will give newcomers (and newly interested Ottawans) a foothold in the municipal mess.

It starts with City Council. Ottawa is a gigantic city that includes rural, urban, and suburban wards, which only came together under the amalgamated city of Ottawa in 1999. A lot of people were really excited when it happened. It was supposed to save money, eliminate redundancies,

and bring all kinds of city services under the purview of one united council. The problem is that rural, urban, and suburban issues are different.

City Council has been all but paralyzed by the imperative to balance competing perspectives, and it doesn’t look like anyone has saved any money. Ideas for reforming the city structure abound, but some folks have a hard time swallowing the idea of undoing the last decade’s “progress,” even if we’re worse off now than we were before.

Currently, council is ostensibly “led” by Mayor Larry O’Brien. He was supposed to be a breath of fresh air when he was elected, because he was a businessman, not a politician. He was accused of influence peddling, went to trial for it, and was acquitted in 2009.

O’Brien drew flack for cancelling the previous council’s light rail plan, which would have run north-south and con-

nected communities as far away as Barrhaven to the city centre. Cancelling it cost the city \$36.7 million in an out-of-court settlement with the company contracted to build it, and only days later, the city had another, costlier, east-west plan. That plan is still on the agenda, although it’s progressing slowly.

The city’s transit system in general is a point of contention. A seven-week bus strike – mainly over the bus drivers’ fight against concessions on scheduling – brought transit to a standstill in 2008-2009. The wounds from that battle are still fresh. This year, the city announced it was spending \$12 million on automatic stop-calling technology, among other upgrades, in response to a Canadian Transportation Authority directive that stops should be called along transit routes.

The city’s transit system pales in comparison to those of comparable Canadian cities, but online comment boards ignite

with every dollar spent on transit infrastructure such as the stop-calling technology. In contrast, very few speak out against the millions of dollars spent annually on improving and building roads in the city.

The Glebe’s Lansdowne Park is the star of another city council blunder. In spite of surface appearances, it’s an architectural jewel – behind the behemoth open air stadium looming over Bank Street is the beautiful Aberdeen Pavillion, a Victorian heritage building and National Heritage site – and a community hub (just stop by on a Saturday morning and see the Farmer’s Market).

In 2007, news that the site’s Frank Clair Stadium was collapsing spurred a long-overdue acknowledgment that the park was in serious need of revitalization. Thus began the public Design Lansdowne competition, which was subsequently halted when two groups of millionaires

approached the city with unsolicited, competing proposals for redevelopment of the site.

Despite considerable protest from the public, significant flaws in the agreement identified by financial experts, and opposition from some people on city council, the city went ahead and made a private deal with one of the groups. The protest and the deal are ongoing.

All of these issues are at the heart of the upcoming municipal election. Larry O’Brien is in the running again, as is his progressive adversary, Clive Doucet. Another familiar face in Ottawa politics has returned to the city to run for mayor: Jim Watson, who abandoned his position as mayor of Ottawa the first time around (for a job at the Canadian Tourism Commission), has apparently decided to give it another try.

At last count, there were twelve more candidates vying for the city’s top spot, each of whom will have

to make a considerable splash to be viewed as top contenders. Whoever gets in is going to have their work cut out for them.

CITY COUNCIL HAS BEEN ALL BUT PARALYZED BY THE IMPERATIVE TO BALANCE COMPETING PERSPECTIVES, AND IT DOESN’T LOOK LIKE ANYONE HAS SAVED ANY MONEY.

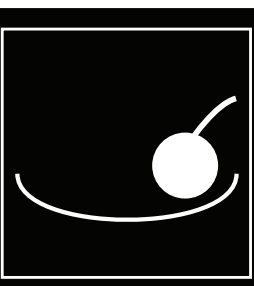
Mike's Place Regularly Scheduled Events

Monday Games Night
7pm

Trivia Night
Wednesday
8pm

Karaoke
Tuesdays
9pm

Open Mike
1st Friday
of the month
8pm



MIKE'S PLACE
SECOND LEVEL UNICENTRE

*email mikesplace@gsacarleton.ca to display your artwork in Mike's and to sign up for Open Mike Night

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LISTINGS

WED SEPT 8

BREAKING NEWS: Release of Volume 3 of the Leveller!!

GSA WELCOME WEEK: International graduate student orientation, Carleton U, 342 Tory Building. 8:30am

GSA WELCOME WEEK: International students reception, Carleton U, Grad Lounge (6th floor University Centre). 12:30pm

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Poor No More. Carleton U, Grad Lounge (6th floor University Centre). 8pm

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Trivia night. Carleton U, Mike's Place (2nd floor University Centre). 9pm.

THURS SEPT 9

GSA WELCOME WEEK: National Art Gallery, Sussex Drive at St. Patrick. 5pm

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Earl of Sussex pub. 431 Sussex Drive. 8pm

MEETING: Green Drinks Ottawa. An open invitation to anyone interested/working/studying all things environmental. Come and join us for interesting, and inspiring conversation. We're an informal, self-organizing network and meet every second Thursday of the month. Fox and Feather Pub & Grill, 283 Elgin Street. 5:30pm.

WORKSHOP: Discussion on rape culture. 129 Louis Pasteur, room 285. 4pm-6:30.

SLAM POETRY: Bill Brown's 2nd Anniversary 1-2-3 Head-to-Head Fundraiser Slam. Members of the Capital Slam, Urban Legends and Lanark County slam teams, along with 2010 National Slammaster Rusty Priske, will go head-to-head. Cajun Attic, 349 Dalhousie Street (2nd floor, beside Dunn's)

in the Byward Market. 7:30pm

FRI SEPT 10

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Land. Movie at the Mayfair Theatre. 1074 Bank Street, Bank & Sunny-side. 7pm

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Georgetown Pub. 1159 Bank Street. 9pm.

ART: Flash Back! A Photo Exhibit of Ottawa's Hip Hop History. Canteen. 238 Dalhousie, 7pm.

SAT SEPT 11

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Ottawa Bus Tour. Meet outside of the University Bookstore (Unicentre main entrance) at 9:45am. Bus departs at 10am SHARP. Seating is limited so get there early.

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Enjoy a fun night of bowling with other grads at McArthur Lanes (175 McArthur). 9pm.

TOUR: Discovery Tour of North Gower/Kars. Feed your soul while discovering the treasures of rural Ottawa; explore the area and enjoy a delicious lunch. Visit the studios of local artists and artisans, a market garden, alpaca farm and learn a bit of local history. This year's tour has 31 participants at 14 stops all within an 8 km radius of North Gower, just 30 minutes south of downtown Ottawa. Admission is free. Demos at many stops. Door prizes. The Tour supports the North Gower and Area Food Bank -you can too. 10am-5pm.

WALK: Join Parkinson Society Ottawa for the 15th Annual Super-Walk. Enjoy a picturesque 7km or 2km walk with family and friends followed by a BBQ lunch celebration and entertainment. Support the over 8,000 people in Eastern Ontario affected by Parkinson's.

Andrew Hayden Park. Registration start time: 9am. Walk start time: 10:30am.

FESTIVAL: Take the Plunge! This two-day outdoor festival (rain or shine) will raise money for eight local animal rescue organizations and features 1000 Islands Dock Dogs, vendors, silent auctions, games and animal related demos throughout the weekend. Rideau Carleton Raceway. 9am-6pm.

SUN SEPT 12

CATWALK: Centretown Art Tour. A group of downtown Ottawa artists invite the curious to prowl through their homes and studios during the fourth annual Centretown Art Tour (CAT). This one-day only self-guided tour is free and artwork will be for sale. 10am-5pm.

WORKSHOP: Decolonial Study Group - Indigenous Solidarity 101 Workshop. Discussion will deepen understanding of solidarity, colonialism/decolonialism, oppression/anti-oppression, as well as looking at specific instances of working in solidarity with diverse struggles for justice for Indigenous peoples. University of Ottawa - SMD building code (just SE from corner of Laurier and Waller). 12-2pm.

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FUNDRAISER: The 'Guide Dog Run' Motorcycle Ride. All bikers are welcome to join in the ride. It's a rain or shine, 200-km ride through Eastern Ontario to raise funds towards the training of guide dogs. Registration is from 9:30-10:30, during which you can enjoy free Tim Horton's coffee & Timbits. Then, depart for the ride, which is followed by a barbecue and prizes after the ride. Also tour the kennels of Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind and meet some of the dogs. Cost is \$15 per rider. The ride starts from the National Training Centre of Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind at 4120 Rideau Valley Drive North, Manotick.

MON SEPT 13

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Yoga on the Canal. Meet outside of Prescott Residence. 1-2pm.

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Cross Campus Tour. Free inter-university shuttle bus service between Carleton University and the University of Ottawa. Meet at 3:15pm in front of the Minto Case Building.

FILM: Mexican Films of Independence and Revolution. "El compadre Mendoza" (1934). Auditorium, 375 Wellington. 7:30pm.

TUES SEPT 14

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Wine 'n Cheese with the Deans. The Deans of the Faculty of Graduate and Post Doctoral Affairs and the

GSA are hosting a Wine 'n Cheese event. The Deans look forward to meeting students who will be providing the research and ideas unique to Carleton University. This event is also a great opportunity for meeting people across all graduate disciplines. Art Gallery, St. Patrick's Building. 5-8pm.

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Karaoke @ Mike's Place. 9pm.

FILM: Crossing. Taken from a number of true stories of North Korean refugees, Crossing is the first film to accurately depict the trials and hardships faced everyday by the North Korean people. North Korean refugees who now live in Canada will talk about their struggles. Reception to follow film and Q&A. Auditorium, 395 Wellington. Admission: \$20. 7pm.

WED SEPT 15

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Grad Library Tour. MacOdrum Library, Room 102. 1-2pm.

GSA WELCOME WEEK: State of Post-Secondary Education in Canada. A discussion on the rise of tuition fees in relation to the quality of education in Canada and the need for a National Post-Secondary Education Act. The talk will also address a number of issues including access, affordability, international student fees, and what the GSA is doing to help in the fight for lower tuition fees for everyone. Location TBA. 2-3pm.

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Trivia Night @ Mike's Place. 8pm.

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Comedy Night. Meet at Heart & Crown on Preston (347 Preston) at 6:15pm to head over to Absolute Comedy at 7pm sharp. Tickets will be available in the GSA Office soon.

FUNDRAISER: Pedalling to Parliament - "Pedal for the Planet" Rally. Come join us in pedal for the planet. From noon until 1pm we will rally on Parliament Hill. Join the rally to call for action on climate change. Then at 1pm the climate cycling tour starts on Parliament Hill. Join the search for Canada's missing climate action plan. The ride is a virtual world tour from embassy to embassy, searching for clues for climate action. We will relay our findings to members of the Environment Committee who are debating Bill C-311, the Copenhagen climate bill. Pedal for the Planet Celebration with Marabou at the Rainbow Bistro, 76 Murray Street (doors open at 6:30 pm). 12-8pm.

THURS SEPT 16

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Getting Grad Funding Workshop. Pizza will be served. Location TBA. 1-2:30pm.

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Athletics Tour. Alumni Hall, Athletics, general information desk. 3-4pm.

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Karaoke @ Shanghai. Hosted by Ottawa's famous China Doll, this event is a new take on our annual GLBTQ night event during Grad Welcome Weeks and is open to all! Shanghai Restaurant, 651 Somerset St. 9pm.

FILM: Mexican Films of Independence and Revolution. "La escondida" (1956). Auditorium, 395 Wellington. 7:30pm.

FILM: The Village presents its third annual film screening and outdoor street party. Priscilla, Queen of the Desert is this year's film. Gilmour Street (between Bank and O'Connor Streets). 8pm.

FRI SEPT 17

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Open Mic @ Mike's Place. Get ready for your 15 mins of fame. If you have a song or skill you'd like to share bring your instruments and inspiration to Mike's Place to showcase your talent. 8pm.

MUSIC: Subhumans (Canadian) w/ Four-Stroke. Mavericks. \$13.

SAT SEPT 18

FREE MARKET: Full circles Ottawa, a freecycling community. Full Circles Ottawa a Freecycling community would like to invite the public to the first ever RRFM (Really Really Free Market). Come to get perfectly usable goods for free. Drop off any unwanted usable items for free. We also invite you to make a food donation to the Ottawa Food bank and help the Country Cat Sanctuary with donations of sponsorship for their unadoptable feral colony. We are also recycling computers and electronics - all for free. The corner of Deschamps and Hannah - one block North of Montreal road, behind Burger King. 10-4pm.

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Ottawa Boat Cruise. Shuttles will be leaving from Parking Lot 2 on Carleton University campus (outside of the bookstore in the University Centre) beginning at 5:00pm. Alternatively, you can meet us at 895 Jacques Cartier in Gatineau at Ottawa Boat Cruise at 6:00pm. The boat leaves at 6:30pm, if you have not signed your waiver form and are not on the boat before 6:30pm, your ship has sailed! Tickets must be purchased in advance and will be available for at the GSA office (date to be announced).

GSA WELCOME WEEK: Post-Cruise Party. After an evening on the boat cruise, join us for a night out in the market. If you don't end up going on the boat cruise, come join us later in the evening! Tickets to bypass the line with free cover will be available at the GSA Office during Welcome Week but must be used before 11pm. The Drink (130 George Street). 10pm.

SUN SEPT 19

WORKSHOP: Green Sacred Spaces 101. Members of all Ottawa Faith Communities are invited to this FREE interactive workshop introducing the Greening Sacred Spaces program of Faith & the Common Good and sharing information about how to incorporate caring for the earth into your religious tradition. The 4-hour workshop consists of several interactive modules. Hear from religious leaders about why Greening our Sacred Spaces is important, hear first-hand accounts from local communities who have already started, learn about energy audits and green audits. Light refreshments will be provided. Ottawa Baha'i Centre, 211 McArthur Ave. 1-5PM.

WALK: Walk to raise money and awareness for Polycystic Kidney Disease. Vankleek Hill Fairgrounds 92 Main St. West, Vankleek Hill (only 1 hour east of Ottawa). Registration starts at 1pm, walk starts at 2pm.

MON SEPT 20

WORKSHOP: Cultural Appropriation Workshop with Jessica Yee, a self-described Indigenous feminist reproductive justice freedom fighter. Location TBA. 6 - 9pm.

FILM: Mexican Films of Independence and Revolution. "Reed, México Insurgente" (1973). Auditorium, 395 Wellington. 7:30pm.

TUES SEPT 21

Who could hang a name on you?

WED SEPT 22

PUBLIC LECTURE: Is This Our Canada? by Cindy Blackstock. How racial discrimination in children's services undermines the potential of this generation of First Nations children and what you can do to help. Alumni Theatre, Jock Turcot University Centre, University of Ottawa, Algonquin Territory. Free admission (donation appreciated). 7 pm.

THURS SEPT 23

MARCH: Take Back The Night. Every year, women in Ottawa come together to take back the night, a collective effort to assert safety for women in the streets of Ottawa and a call to end violence against women. Call (613)230-6700 for more info. 5:30 pm - Rally at Parliament Hill (Famous Five Monument); 6:15 pm - march through the Market; 7:15 - 9:00 pm - Info Fair- City Hall (110 Laurier West).

GALA: Festival X Opening Gala. The 3rd edition of Festival X will kick off with the Opening Gala: an evening of food, drinks, music and entertainment. There will be art happenings as well live music. Festival X promotes photography and local and international photographic artists. Room A, 395 Wellington. Free admission. 7pm.

COMEDY: Norm MacDonald. Bronson Centre Theatre. \$40. 7pm.

FRI SEPT 24

FILM: Divergence Movie Night Relaunch! Mix and mingle, and vote on this year's film schedule. Viewing of short films. Dance party to follow. Raw Sugar Cafe, 692 Somerset. 8pm.

SAT SEPT 25

TALK: "From Colonial Canton to Pioneer Ontario by Naomi Ridout". Shearman Godfrey Bird and Amoui Chun Bird's story gives a fascinating glimpse into colonial Chinese history and the social mores of China, England and Canada in the mid-nineteenth century. Discovering the "Chinese identity" of Amoui, one of the very first Chinese women to settle in Canada, has become somewhat of an obsession. The talk will draw on letters, diaries, Amoui's Chinese clothing and jewellery, census records of the UK and Canada. Auditorium, 395 Wellington. Free admission. 10am.

CONCERT: Music For Life Fundraising Concert in support of cancer research. This year's causes are Melanoma and Leukemia. Proceeds from this event will be donated to the Queensway Carleton Hospital Foundation and the Kemptville District Hospital Foundation for cancer patient care and needed equipment. Tickets: \$10. Greenfield's Pub & Eatery.

WALK: Walk for Smiles. Proceeds from the event will help bring Wishes, Great Escapes and Hospital Happenings programs to seriously ill children and their families in Ottawa. Dow's Lake.

SUN SEPT 26

HIKE: CPAWS-OV guided hike. Please join us for a guided hike along the Jack Pine Trail, Beaver Pond Trail, and Lime Kiln Trail in the Stony Swamp Conservation Area of the NCC Greenbelt. We will hike through some interesting wetlands, mature forests, and an alvar. There are also remains of a 19th century lime kiln! Come

out to see these interesting areas and to hear about CPAWS-OV's efforts to protect the beautiful, and ecologically significant, NCC Greenbelt. Meet in the Beaver Pond Trail parking lot near the intersection of Moodie Drive and West Hunt Club. 10am.

FUNDRAISER: 2010 Cycle for Autism. The Cycle brings friends, family, supporters, and cyclists together for a fun event to raise funds for the supports and services offered through Autism Ontario in Ottawa. The starting point is the Ron Kolbus Centre/ Lakeside Gardens in Britannia Park, Ottawa.

FUNDRAISER: CEREC 4th Annual Pink Ribbon Ride. Come out for a day of trail riding in the beautiful Larose Forest, in support of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. The cost of registration is \$10 (includes a BBQ lunch).

MUNICIPAL DEBATE: Mayoral Debate on Environmental Issues. St. Paul's University, Auditorium, 223 Main Street. 7pm.

MON SEPT 27

I wish it was Sunday.

TUES SEPT 28

MEETING: Team Diabetes Meeting. Canadian Diabetes Association. Team Diabetes is the national activity fundraising program for the Canadian Diabetes Association which promotes healthy active living while raising funds and awareness for the Association. Meet with other participants, learn about international events, get fitness and fundraising tips, and start the experience of a lifetime. Meeting is free to attend, light refreshments are served. 45 Montreal Rd. 6-8pm.

WED SEPT 29

FUNDRAISER: ON TRACK in support of The Ottawa Hospital and United Way Ottawa. Spend the day driving on a world-class race track and learn safe, advanced driving techniques from experienced instructors. The event is for all cars and drivers - no special vehicle or experience required! Calabogie Motorsports Park. 8am-4pm.

THURS SEPT 30

TALK: Department of Sociology & Anthropology Colloquium. "John Porter: Life, Times and Scholarship: An Overview of Measuring the Mosaic." A720 Loeb Bldg, Carleton University. 3:30-5:30pm.

CONFERENCE: Accessing Democracy. The Faculty of Public Affairs has agreed to partner with the Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada (OIC) to host a full-day conference dealing with access to information issues during the annual Right to Know Week in 2010 (Sept 27-Oct 1st). Senate Room, Robertson Hall, Carleton University. All day.

ARTS: A juried art show of photography, painting, sculpture and mixed media created by members of AOE Arts Council. 7-9pm.

The Leveller
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