

SAFE INJECTION SITE POPS UP IN LOWERTOWN

Baneet Braich

A new “pop-up” safe injection site in Lowertown is intervening in the current opioid crisis, working to save drug users from overdoses.

The site is currently operating without governmental permission, but local community activists stress the urgency in saving lives now.

“In mid-August, a few of us who were directly impacted with losing loved ones to overdose decided we couldn’t stand by while those we loved died, and that we would act instead of talk,” Stan Kupferschmidt, an organizer and volunteer with Overdose Prevention Ottawa, explained to the *Leveller*. “A week after our first meeting, we opened Ottawa’s first overdose prevention site (on unceded Algonquin territory) to save lives.”

Since the pop-up site opened on Aug. 25, drug user can inject drugs in a supervised and safe way at its location in Raphael Brunet Park in Lowertown. Operated by volunteers for 3 hours per day, the service was accessed 575 times in its first 19 days of operation.

“We are a collective that refuses to wait for action or permission or direction from the very people who are most disconnected from those who face the realities of prohibition and the drug war” said Kupferschmidt. “We would not have been able to do this without the inspiration from organizers in Vancouver and Toronto who inspired and supported us.”

The unsanctioned pop-up site challenges prejudices and objections to drug use occurring next to public places. Some people have even tried to physically prevent the site from operating. On Sept. 8

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Volunteers at the pop-up safe injection site in Lowertown, Ottawa.

Photo: Overdose Prevention Ottawa

CARLETON APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT

Summerlee oversaw Guelph cuts to Women’s Studies and other programs

Jenna Amirault

Students, faculty and staff returned to Carleton University in September to find that its former President, Roseann Runte, is no more and in her place stands an Interim President, Alastair Summerlee. Summerlee is former President of the University of Guelph. For her part, Runte is now President and

CEO of the Canada Foundation for Innovation, a federal government-funded body that invests in research infrastructure projects at Canadian universities in partnership with institutions, private companies and provincial governments.

Summerlee’s appointment via the Carleton Board of Governors Executive Board in May took Carleton’s student associations

and unions by surprise. His track record at Guelph from 2003 to 2014 points to Carleton senior management’s continued commitment to the privatization and corporatization of the university.

Under Summerlee, the University of Guelph introduced a Program Prioritization Process (PPP) in fall 2012 under the guise of eliminating a \$32 million budget shortfall. Summer-

lee appointed a 21-member Task Force of “community members” to review and rank all academic and non-academic programs and departments and hired U.S. consulting firm Academic Strategy Partners (ASP) Inc. to guide the process.

ASP provided the criteria for evaluating programs and campus services. Faculty members on the Task Force were pitted against one another

to ensure their departments and programs were not on the chopping block. Academic programs were compared to non-educational services such as parking and food services in a competition for funds.

Student activists at Guelph referred to Summerlee’s PPP as “rank and yank.” The Guelph Central Student Association argued that the process resulted in “programs being valued strictly by their revenue generating abilities or the amount of money that could be saved through their downsizing or elimination.”

By the final year of Summerlee’s term, Guelph’s Women’s Studies program was eliminated while Environmental Studies, Organic Agriculture, Italian, Math and other programs faced cuts. In November 2014, Guelph students held a “funeral for education” and marched against program cuts. A math student at the rally told the Guelph Mercury that he could no longer complete his degree due to so many courses being cut or blended.

Ontario government’s neo-liberal program for post-secondary education

In Ontario and other provinces, this program prioritization is also referred to as “differentiation.” The Ontario government defines this as building on and focusing “the well-established strengths of institutions.” By virtue of that, those that were not “well-established strengths” had to be discarded.

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University of Guelph students hold “funeral for education” rally against Summerlee’s program cuts, November, 2014

Photo: Joanne Shuttleworth



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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 news, current events, and culture at Carleton University, the University of Ottawa, the Ottawa/Gatineau region and, to a lesser extent, the wider world. It is intended to provide readers with a lively portrait of their campuses and communities and of the events that give them 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 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.

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. 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. Ultimately it needs you to become a more truly democratic and representative paper.

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 in. It wants to be your coolest, most in-the-know friend and your social conscience at the same time. It continues to have its work cut out for it.

The *Leveller* is published every month during the school year. 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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EDITORIAL
TEN YEARS ON...

Much to the chagrin of our detractors, the *Leveller* has just reached its 10th Volume. I doubt the original Leveller founders ever envisioned that we would get this far. But here we are and we aren’t going away anytime soon.

Given that the first issue of the *Leveller* was published in February 2009, and it is still only 2017, we still have no idea how this is our 10th anniversary Volume. Math was never our strong suit. Sometimes writing and editing isn’t our strong suit either, but somehow we’ve managed to make it work, printing consistently since the very beginning.

While putting together this issue, we decided to revisit the masthead – the column describing the newspaper’s purpose and mandate on page two (glance to the left). Ten years on, we hope that we have lived up to the expectations exhibited by the founders who poured not only their scholarship money but also their precious time into this publication instead, of their degree programs.

If this is your first time picking up a copy of the *Leveller*, have a look at that masthead. Yes, it has been slightly revised (we omitted the line that said we “don’t mind getting a few things wrong if it gets that part – being interesting and saying something worth saying and worth reading about – right”). However, our core values and driving principles remain unchanged. We do receive less hate mail than in the past. Maybe we aren’t pissing off our detractors as much as we should be.

Our previous Managing Editor does not like that line, seeing it as a nonchalant admission to getting things wrong. We do try our damndest to make everything perfect. But alas we do not live in a perfect world. There will al-

ways be errors, but we try to limit them. Our focus instead is reporting from a perspective that challenges power and privilege, that goes against the grain of conventional journalistic hubris that purports a strict non-bias, a non-existent neutrality. Nothing is neutral. Nothing is without bias. Our personal and cultural biases inform how we interpret the world and how we write and edit. By being honest about our perspective, we help readers make up their own minds.

We describe this newspaper as “left-leaning,” which may seem a bit too soft for some of the radicals involved in producing it. And although we have to clarify this at every turn, “radical” refers to the root – to getting to the root cause. In this sense, we like to think the *Leveller* is radical. We’re not about analyzing things in terms of individual “bad apples” like the mainstream media does, but in terms of systemic issues like colonialism, capitalism and racism.

So, we now have a new Managing Editor and a new team of eager and enthusiastic editors. We hope they all find a warm home within our pages and carry the torch towards for another ten years.

However, as our founding Editors wrote for the masthead a decade ago, the *Leveller* continues to have its work cut out for it.

CHALLENGING FASCISM 2.0

Why do we continue to be relevant? We are perhaps more relevant now than at any time. The need for cultural production that challenges power has never been greater. And that means we need you more than ever.

The far right is emboldened, and right wing hate media continues to gain a strong foothold. Of course the



so-called alt-right is backed by institutional resources and political power that we on the radical left do not enjoy nor desire.

For years now, the radical right has become enormously successful in the field of cultural production and reproduction. The right has everything from slick corporate outlets like Fox News, down to repellent individual alt-right trolls posting online — and everything in between (Breitbart, you news site for trolls, we’re looking at you). It has everything from Hollywood blockbusters that glorify a hyper-individualist saving the world through vigilante violence, down to obscure black metal bands spewing out misanthropically racist lyrics. They’ve got their bases covered.

Meanwhile the alt-right has appropriated the leftist rhetoric of rebellion and resistance, of counterculture and alternatives, and deployed these emotionally powerful tropes in the service of oppression and aggression.

But events in Charlottesville have unmasked the rising alt-right for what it is: fascism 2.0.

It’s time to honestly face our situation. We’re in a culture war — just like we’ve always been. It’s a battle against oppression, hate and violence — with words and images as our weapons.

Here at the *Leveller*, we’re humbly re-enlisting and re-committing to this struggle. We want to challenge power, dismantle orthodoxy and open the floodgates of diversity.

We want to analyze and counter dominant narratives, but with more style and substance than the corporate media can ever muster. We want to sound playful and provocative and professional. We want

to be better than professional. We want to be the punk rock band of newspapers — raw around the edges, and better for it, better than that bland mainstream pabulum. Like the best DIY production, we want our audience to walk away from us saying “that was fucking awesome!” and “I could do that!”

We might not have the resources of the elite right, but we have a better story to tell. It’s a story of resistance and liberation, solidarity and freedom, not fear and hatred.

(It’s even a story of love! Yes, you heard us right. What else but true love could keep us staring at computer screens through bleary eyes, clicking and tapping away when we could be sleeping, finishing schoolwork, working our jobs, playing with loved ones or just relaxing over a tasty beverage with friends?)

In any case, to tell these stories of love, resistance, liberation we need you.

So in this, the first issue of our 10th volume, we are re-newing our call-out.

Calling all word warriors, photo-bombers, web wizards, and distribution maniacs. Calling all social media socialists, anarchist artists, and cunning creatives. We need you.

Are there any fangirls and boys who want to level up to snotty reviewers out there? Any writers who want to trade the glory of a byline for the rewarding drudgery of anonymous editing? Calling do-gooders of all stripes, unashamed social justice warriors, and every wild-eyed cynic with monkey-wrenching fantasies.

Come one, come all. Step right up to the *Leveller* liberation circus — there is plenty of beautiful, fun and hard work for everyone.

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THE LEVELLER NEEDS

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- Journalists - from amateur to professional

Whether you’re looking to add your accent to our voice of dissent or if you’re interested in learning what it takes to get a grassroots media project up off the ground, contact editors.the.leveller@gmail.com to find out how you can get involved.

The *Leveller* is experimenting with paying our contributors, recognizing that your time is valuable and without you, the *Leveller* would cease to print.

- \$100 - Investigative pieces
- \$50 - Feature spread
- \$25 - Most others - campus, news, magazine, culture, comics
- \$15 - Columns
- \$10 - Comment/Opinion

To facilitate paying our contributors, the *Leveller* has created an Investigative Journalism Fund, so that we can sustain this payment model as well as fund larger investigative research projects, or perhaps even add a journalist to the payroll someday...

Contact operations.the.leveller@gmail.com to contribute any amount.

The *Leveller* acknowledges that Ottawa is on unceded Algonquin territory.

The Leveller

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THE FUTURE IS FEMINIST

Slutwalk, 2017

Meral Jamal

On Sept. 9, around 200 people gathered outside the Human Rights monument in downtown Ottawa for the 2017 SlutWalk.

The SlutWalk is an annual protest that began in Toronto as a stand against rape culture and sexual violence. The first walk took place in 2011, after a police officer suggested that to prevent sexual assault, “women should avoid dressing like sluts.”

Seven years later, it has spread nationally to cities like Vancouver, Montreal and Winnipeg, as well as internationally to countries throughout Europe, Asia and Latin America. The event has seen as many as 2500 participants in some cities and had an upwards of 200 this year in Ottawa alone.

Two of this year’s organizers, Carleton University students Fae Johnstone and Muna Mohamed, opened the event. The introduction was followed by speeches and poetry by Leila Moumouni-Tchouassi, Summer Harmony Twenish, Elaine Marilyse and Lukayo Estrella, all of whom are prominent figures in the local literary and political scene. They addressed topics such as rape, race, sexuality, disability, patriarchy and intersectionality.

Once roads were cleared and security in place, the march began. The marchers walked through the streets and past Parliament Hill, with loud voices and loving hearts. Chants like “The future is feminist,” “Protect black rights,” “Protect black trans rights,” and “Hey! Ho! Rape culture has got to go!”

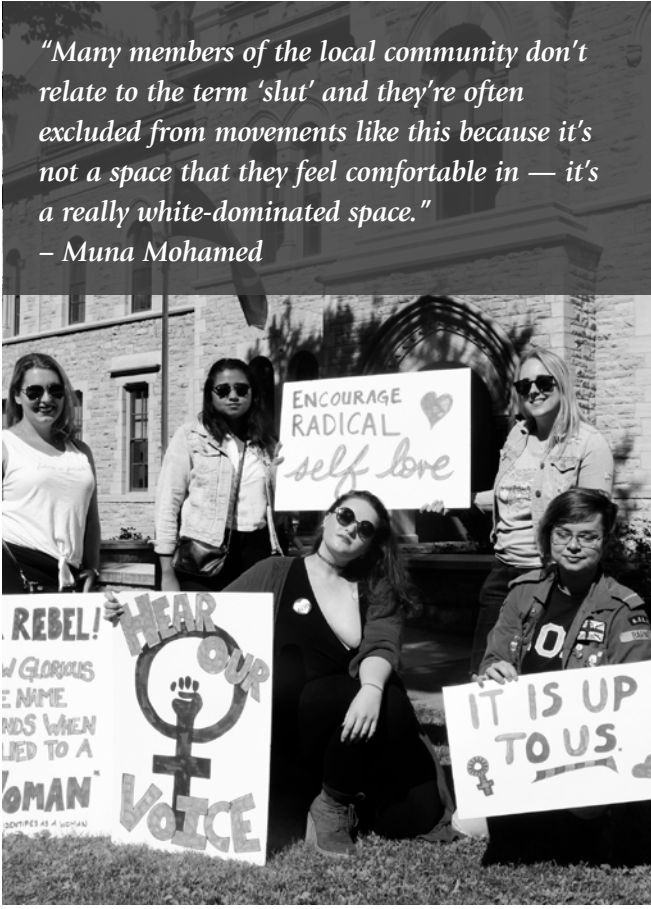
had the attendees involved and included. Posters called for the protection of victims of sexual abuse, irrespective of their gender and sexuality and stood up for equality and justice with messages like “Blame the system, not the victim.”

The march organizers were aware of the controversy and alienation attempts to reclaim the word “slut” can generate. “Many members of the local community don’t relate to the term ‘slut’ and they’re often excluded from movements like this because it’s not a space that they feel comfortable in — it’s a really white-dominated space,” organizer Muna Mohamed explained to the *Leveller*.

“It’s something we didn’t want to shy away from this year, so we really tried to have diverse speakers,” she said. “We tried to show that intersectionality is not just a word you can throw around.”

McKenna Madigan, an English major at Carleton and one of the attendees said she has “never felt so accepted and included and powerful.” When asked if the future is feminist, Madigan said “it’s up to us. We can’t just hope things get better, we have to take action — real, genuine, forceful action.”

Another first year undergraduate student at Carleton, Sam Porta, was at her first protest during her first weekend in the nation’s capital. “It was an absolutely incredible experience to see so many people rally together for a cause that is so prevalent in our society,” Porta said. “Rape is one of the most severely under-reported crimes in North America. To give you a feel of how dark the



A casual sunny Saturday in the Nation’s Capital — Carleton students Emma Rae, Mallory Wright, McKenna Madigan and Shristi Radhakrishnan wait for the start of Slutwalk. Photo: Meral Jamal

statistics are, of every 100 incidents only 6 are reported.”

While the protest saw a lot of diversity, it was still lacking the presence and involvement of many cisgender, white men. When asked how she thinks more men can get involved in the movement, Mohamed said, “The first step would really just be to show up. And follow the rules of ally-ship — call people out when you know that they’re wrong.”

When asked what her hopes are for the event next year, Mohamed said, “To just do better. We did a good job of bringing in diverse speakers but I don’t think the au-

dience was [very diverse]. I think we had a very predominantly white group and that was something I tried super-hard to have not happen. I’m struggling with it but I want more black women and women of colour to reclaim this space as their own because rape culture is a conversation that can’t happen without us.”

While more remains to be done, the attendees of SlutWalk 2017, marched with love, acceptance and respect, right down to the last step. The marchers moved forward with tear-stained eyes and hope for a better, brighter feminist world.

INJECTION SITES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

supporters of the site rallied in a non-confrontation and peaceful manner against some residents who are hostile to the site, ensuring that there was no disruption in service.

Some neighbours argue these sites promote drug use, take up too much space and are illegal. Meanwhile, supporters assert that the pop-up injection sites save lives by preventing overdoses. Drug users say these sites are providing a safe and respectful environment to use drugs, in contrast to consuming drugs unsafely elsewhere. According to Overdose Prevention Ottawa, this support service aims to support marginalized communities and offer a process for healing.

For five years, the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre has been fighting to open a safe injection site; it finally received permission from Health Canada in July and funding from the Ontario government on Sept. 14. But the site requires significant renovation and will probably not open for another ten weeks.

However, Ottawa’s medical health officer is pushing for a temporary site to be opened in September. Dr. Isra Levy stressed the “urgent and immediate need” to respond to the crisis in a memo to the mayor, council and board of health on Sept. 12. The interim supervised injection site would operate indoors for 120 days at 179 Clarence Street and would be operated by the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre.

“To date in 2017, we are seeing an average of nearly 120 emergency room visits for suspected opioid overdose each month in Ottawa, compared with fewer than 100 per month in 2016,” he wrote in the memo. “There has also been a 22-per-cent increase in suspected opioid overdose-re-

“We couldn’t stand by while those we loved died.”

— Stan Kupferschmidt

lated emergency department (ED) visits during June, July and August, compared with January through May.”

The pop-up initiative challenges notions of how communities should respond to the opioid crisis, pushing the city to step up its response to overdoses. Mayor Jim Watson, one of safe injection sites strongest opponents, has tacitly accepted the need for them by suggesting the pop-up site move to Sandy Hill.

As Ottawa’s opioid crisis escalates, supervised injection sites and pop-up services are changing the game, bringing awareness and prevention to those who need it most.

Support is essential for overdose prevention and Overdose Prevention Ottawa is seeking further help. Options for donations are posted to their GoFundMe account at: <https://www.gofundme.com/OverdosePreventionOttawa>

The Leveller

You may have received this newspaper in your mailbox or picked it up somewhere downtown. The *Leveller* is a free monthly publication covering campus and community issues from a progressive and critical perspective.

What do you think? Were you happy to come across it or does it make you cringe?

Please email us at operations.the.leveller@gmail.com with your comments and/or concerns.

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GOVERNMENT GREEN

Queen’s Park to corporatize cannabis with new legalization framework

Lauren Scott

On Sept. 8, Ontario became the first province in the country to announce a framework to legalize cannabis, as the feds plan for legalization by July 2018.

According to a press release by the Ontario government, the province will become the sole-provider of cannabis in Ontario, with plans to open up 150 stand-alone stores by 2020. The online sale of cannabis is set to open next July.

A subsidiary of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) will oversee all cannabis sales to residents 19 and over, both in store and online. These sales will take place in separate locations from where the LCBO’s currently sells alcohol, necessitating the creation of a new network of stores.

In Ontario, the path to legalization is leading towards a marijuana monopoly. The activists, growers and sellers who helped create the pres-

sure for legalization are now being pushed out of the industry they worked hard to legitimize.

But now that there is legitimate money to be made, budding marijuana production corporations are being licensed by the federal government, while small businesses are left to burn out.

The press release states that existing dispensaries, “are not and will not be legal retailers.” As raids continue across the province, Queen’s Park says it will be ramping up enforcement with help from municipal and federal governments, as well as local police and OPP.

Both the federal and provincial are approaching legalization with a law enforcement and “harm reduction” lens, aiming to protect vulnerable populations from the potential negative effects of cannabis use.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale announced Sept. 8 that the federal government is spending \$274

million to increase law enforcement efforts around marijuana legalization.

“We are working closely with our partners to ensure law enforcement is well trained, to build capacity across the country and at our border,” Goodale said in a statement.

However, prominent cannabis activists — and even former Liberal cabinet ministers — say that the proposed framework will not eliminate that black market.

“We’re not naïve; we’re not suggesting that you’re ever going to reach nirvana in terms of that there won’t be any illegal sales,” Anne McLellan, former Minister of Justice and leader of the federal task force on marijuana, told MPs at a meeting on Sept. 11.

In fact, some pot activists have told MPs bluntly they will persist despite legal crackdowns, especially with a growing market for edibles.

“If the government is not going to allow edibles and extracts, we’re going to con-



tinue to sell them through dispensaries, through the black market.” B.C. activist Dana Larsen told MPs in the House of Commons Sept. 15.

Cannabis activist Jodie Emery spoke with CTV’s *Power Play* following Ontario’s announcement. She says that the current network of dispensaries doesn’t need to be uprooted in favour of government-regulated green.

“They’re going to spend hundreds of millions of tax dollars setting up a massive bureaucracy to try and reinvent a wheel that’s already rolling and spinning quite fine,” Jodie Emery told *Power Play*. “It’s insane.”

NEW CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY STILL TRAUMATIZING SURVIVORS

Caroline Rodriguez

It's the beginning of a new academic year, and new government-mandated policies have been implemented to keep students safe from sexual assault and to protect survivors. But, will the new policies make a difference?

Carleton University law student, Brittany Galler, 19, said she was sexually assaulted by a student in the dorm right next door to hers back in June.

"I woke up the next morning and I knew something was wrong. I was laying in my bed without my clothing. That's not how I went to bed. I felt really dis-

gusting," said Galler, in an interview with the CBC.

The university did not move quickly enough to provide the support that she required — to be immediately separated from the alleged offender and to permit her to complete a course online while she was too traumatized to continue with her usual routine.

Galler's experience is not an anomaly. More than one in every four women has been affected by sexual assault in Canadian universities, according to a study performed by *BMC Women's Health*, and many of those who do report their assaults are not pleased with the

procedures.

A team led by Carleton Legal Studies professor Dawn Moore published a scathing report for the Ontario government in June titled, *The Response to Sexual Violence at Ontario University Campuses*. The report calls for a "massive change" in how schools are currently dealing with sexual violence.

In an interview with CBC Radio's *Ottawa Morning*, Moore said that Galler's experience with accessing services in the aftermath of the sexual assault was unfortunately a very common experience for survivors at Carleton.

Moore said that "there's

a real cleavage between understanding what survivors need in the aftermath of sexual assault and the fetishization of reporting." Moore's research shows that reporting is at the bottom of survivors' list of needs, while easy accommodation is at the top. This includes not being bounced around from one service to another on campus, as was the case with Galler.

Survivors need one point person to go to, to take care of all of their needs.

Moore also stressed the need for prevention and education to "change the climate of sexual violence on campus."

SUMMERLEE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The University of Guelph was the first Ontario campus to go through significant cuts and restructuring along the lines of differentiation. At a town hall meeting in October 2013, Summerlee noted that the Ontario government was "taking an interest in what we are doing."

Driven by decades of austerity from the federal and provincial governments, initiatives mimicking the PPP have now cropped up at Ontario universities such as Brock and Laurier, and at York where ASP Inc. was also hired to oversee "program prioritization."

Every three years, the Ontario government releases a new Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) that acts as a blueprint for university funding. The 2014 SMA tied funding for each institution to enrollment levels and progress in differentiation. To guide differentiation, the government works with universities to identify their specific "strengths" and fund them accordingly.

The 2014-2017 SMA between the Ontario government and Carleton University shows the concern of both Carleton and the province to have the university serve private business interests. The first "area of strength" for Carleton is defined as "jobs,

innovation and economic development" and "serving the needs of the economy and labour market."

Among the achievements cited by Carleton senior management and the Ontario government are the university "spawning" 185 companies; the offering of minors and concentrations in "entrepreneurship;" matching students in the Faculty of Engineering and Design with "industry partners;" offering a program for "students with startup ideas to bring them into being;" the Sprott School of Business launching a "venture accelerator called Carleton Entrepreneurs;" and "1125@Carleton," which is supposed to be an "innovation and collaboration facility that brings researchers together with the community and public and private partners to implement solutions to real-world challenges."

Carleton is set to sign a new 2017-2020 SMA with the Ontario government this month but students and faculty know little about what the document will contain. Biology professor Root Gorelick in a June blog post noted that even Carleton's Senate, ostensibly its academic decision-making body "is foreclosed by the president's office from having any meaningful role in drafting [SMAs] with the province of Ontario."

✉ LETTER

CARLETON'S SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY FAILS SURVIVORS

The author of this letter wishes to remain anonymous in order to protect their safety, stating "I think it is important for people to know that survivors often cannot speak out about this issue or the violence that they have faced without facing additional institutional violence."

Dear Levellers,

Students and workers at Carleton University deserve to live a life free of violence. Yet the University and the Liberal provincial government have failed to adequately address the issue of sexual violence on university campuses.

The Galler case [where a student was sexually assaulted in her dorm by a student in the room next door], clearly demonstrates the downfall of Carleton's new sexual violence policy. Unfortunately, these types of cases have been seen time and time again, and we will continue to see them until Carleton takes real action to address sexual violence. This case clearly shows that the University has failed survivors. The university administration created this policy because they had to by law, and senior administrators used it as a veil to hide their previous mistreatment of survivors/victims on campus — and to try and present a picture to new students, their parents, and especially donors that they cared about the issue of sexual violence.

This policy reflects Carleton University senior management's tired and old attitudes regarding sexual violence. This policy continues to ignore the reality of sexual violence and the experience of survivors, and continues to put the onus on survivors to

"just deal with it."

The Carleton Sexual Violence Policy fails survivors. The voices of union and student activists and survivors were consistently ignored during the process of designing the policy. Senior management were warned that the way in which this policy was created harmed survivors and ignored our experiences. Furthermore, they were warned that without attending to the problems in the first few drafts of the policy, this sexual violence policy would undoubtedly harm more survivors. Senior management including the Board of Governors refused to listen and they should be ashamed of themselves.

The comments from Carleton's new president clearly demonstrate that he lacks the historical knowledge of the issue at Carleton. If this president truly cared about survivors and not the reputation of the University, he would immediately amend this policy with the help of student representatives, unions and survivors. He has failed to acknowledge the harm caused by the policy and by how the policy was created — this clearly demonstrates that he is both unfit to address the issue and frankly unfit to be a President of a university. How many survivors need to tell our stories publicly before the management of this University will listen?

We don't need another President who ignores survivors. It is absolutely disgusting that a University President cannot acknowledge the ways in which this new policy continues to (re)traumatize survivors.

I challenge this new president to meet with willing sur-

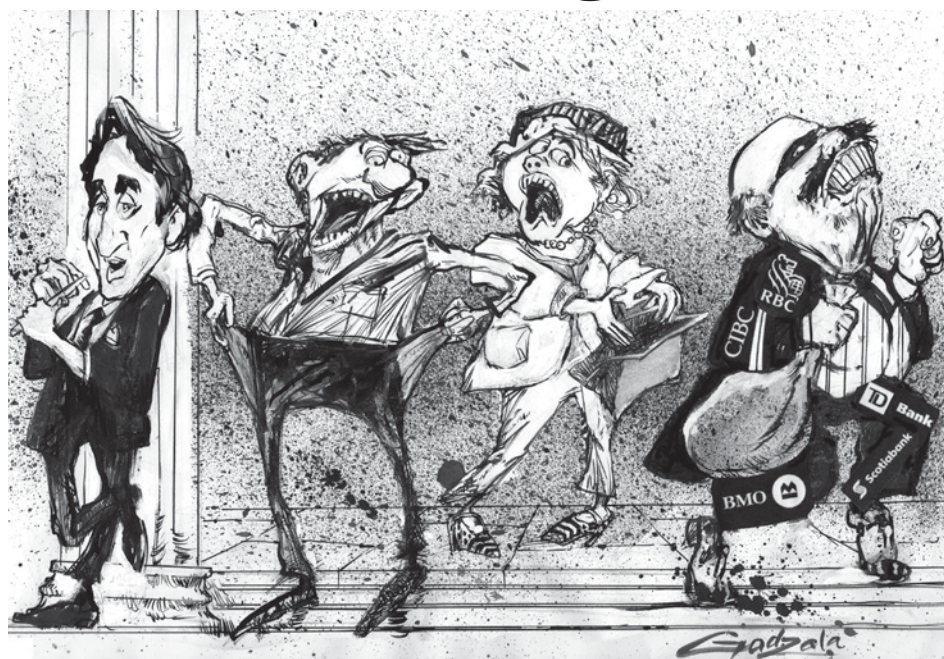
vivors and listen to their entire stories. We do not deserve rights and protection simply because we are someone's daughter, sister, friend, lover, brother, father etc. We deserve rights and protection because the University has a duty to protect us and we are human beings. Survivors are everywhere on campus — we are teachers, teaching assistants, tutors, baristas and we should be valued by our community. This policy does not demonstrate that the university cares about survivors well-being or that we are valued.

The government of Ontario required universities to create these policies yet failed to provide any type of oversight for the creation of these policies. Now the policies lack clarity and are inconsistent across the province. Furthermore, it is clear that these policies are not helping survivors or adequately addressing root causes of violence. The Liberal government has failed, and this failure has trapped us within ongoing cycles of violence.

The Liberal party used this issue in order to appear progressive and to help them in their future elections. If the government truly cared about this issue rather than saying that they are "empowering institutions to develop their own policies, apply their own policies, it's closer to where those students are," they would take responsibility for the shortcomings of their legislation and begin to provide direct oversight of the creation and operation of these stand-alone sexual violence policies. Until they do, it is clear that addressing sexual violence was nothing more than a political pawn in their re-election plan.



Whom will the Liberals stick up for: the People or the Big Banks?



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So Mr. Trudeau: Which side are you on?

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ACTIVISTS GETTING ORGANIZED AS FASCISTS PLAN AN OTTAWA RALLY

New Campus Anti-fascist Network Coming To Carleton

Brian McDougall

Mere weeks after the fascist violence in Charlottesville, a coalition of fascist and alt-right organizations — including Storm Alliance, La Meute, and the Canadian Coalition of Concerned Citizens — are planning a public rally on Parliament Hill.

In response to that event, scheduled for 11a.m. on Sept. 30, members of Ottawa Against Fascism (OAF), a local Antifa group, are organizing a 10a.m. counter-rally, also on Parliament Hill. Other trade unions and community groups are encouraged to follow OAF's example and organize contingents to protest the fascist presence in Ottawa on Sept. 30.

RECENT MOBILIZATIONS

Current efforts to mobilize Ottawa residents against fascism follow local actions after the fascist rampage in Charlottesville. The day after anti-fascist protester Heather Heyer was murdered in August, OAF attracted about 100 people to a vigil at the Human Rights monument on Elgin Street.

Ten days later, angered by Donald Trump's failed "condemnation" of white supremacists, individuals from local religious and activist groups hosted a crowd of 700 people at the American embassy for a more liberal "protest against racism."

SCAPEGOATING

Trump's election energized previously peripheral racist and fascist organizations. Feeding off his approval, they have set out to build organizations that can terrorize many segments of society.

Like Trump, fascists are scapegoating immigrants, racialized groups, feminists, leftists and others for the economic insecurity created by capitalism. And Canada is not immune from this kind of reaction. According to Statistics Canada, hate crimes against Muslims rose by more than 60 per cent between 2015 and 2016.

Fascists believe public displays of force can win recruits for a campaign to smash the organizations their victims use to defend against poverty, racism, vicious policing and other forms of oppression. But their gatherings also represent an opportunity for an anti-fascist shut-down. For example, in Boston and Berkeley, mass mobilizations by opponents of fascism (40,000 people and 5,000 respectively) have forced fascists to cancel planned events.

Closer to home, La Meute organized a rally in Quebec City on Aug. 20. The far-right anti-immigration and anti-Islam group gathered in a parking garage, but were confronted and blocked in by hundreds of anti-racist

and anti-fascist demonstrators. Riot police declared the counter-demonstration illegal and clashed with Antifa militants, enabling La Meute to carry out their march.

UNIVERSITIES

In the U.S., the fascist offensive is centered as much on the campuses as it is in the streets. Fascists use bogus arguments about 'free speech' to win recruits and advocate terror, hoping to intimidate faculty and students organizing against scapegoating.

At some American universities, outspoken anti-racist and anti-fascist faculty members have been harassed, disciplined or fired by university administrators.

At Dartmouth College in the U.S., Professor Mark Bray, author of the recently published *Anti-Fascist Handbook*, has been publicly vilified and harassed for his anti-fascist scholarship and activism.

Other academics have been targeted by death threats. For example, Professor Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, an outspoken critic of Trump and author of *From Black Lives Matter to Black Liberation*, says she has "received emails that promised I would be lynched, shot and raped" — forcing her employer, Princeton University, to take special measures to protect her safety.

At Carleton, the Canadian chapter of anti-immigration group Generation Identity, which organizes around "re-instilling traditional western values," put up posters on Sept. 11. The posters were torn down and a joint statement condemning them was issued by the undergraduate



Anti-fascist rally in 1932 Germany.

Photo: Wikimedia

and graduate student unions.

"The Graduate Students' Association recognizes that campuses are not immune to racism and xenophobia," said Jenna Amirault, vice-president external of the GSA. "But Carleton students have a long history of standing up against hate on-campus. We encourage students to get involved with their students' union and take action against racism and other forms of oppression."

CAMPUS-BASED INITIATIVES

All this action explains the growing interest among Carleton activists in a new Campus Anti-Fascist Network (CAN). CAN which started in the U.S. but is now expanding into Canada. CAN differs from existing Ottawa anti-fascist groups in at least two ways. First, it is campus-based,

seeking to build a broad alliance between faculty, students and staff to mobilize against fascist intimidation (whether on or off campus).

Second, CAN encourages activists to go beyond periodic mass mobilizations against fascism to conduct ongoing public education about the nature of fascism — and the

social and economic conditions that make scapegoating possible.

Significantly, CAN has produced a syllabus on the history and nature of fascism for campus activists to use in organizing teach-ins, reading groups, workshops and strategy sessions. The goal is to build understanding about

the history and nature of fascism as well as strategies to end its threat.

Anti-racist activists are already planning to create a campus-based anti-fascist group, perhaps based on the CAN model. In the meantime, you can learn more about CAN at <http://campusantifascistnetwork.com/>

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CARLETON STUDENT ARRESTED FOR PROTECTING INDIGENOUS LANDS

Blockade targeted Junex Inc. oil well in eastern Québec

Andy Crosby, with files from Andrew Froud

Freddy Stoneypoint, a Carleton undergraduate student from the Sagamok Anishinabewk First Nation, was arrested on Aug. 14 for protecting the lands and water of the Mi'kmaq people from oil company Junex Inc. Stoneypoint participated in a blockade set up by Indigenous and non-Indigenous land defenders 20 kilometres outside the city of Gaspé, Québec, on Gesgapegiag territory.

Stoneypoint told the *Leveller* that after his role in the Reoccupation events on Parliament Hill during the Canada 150 celebrations, he was asked through anonymous networks if he wanted to engage in a land defence intervention.

"At the time, details about the action were unclear, but quite strangely, I felt deeply connected, spiritually and emotionally, to the offer to help," he said.

Six days after the blockade was established, Stoneypoint was arrested in a raid by Québec provincial police that dismantled the blockade. He faces serious charges.

The heavy-handed criminalization of Indigenous Peoples defending their lands from resource development is a

common occurrence — as also experienced in Canada by the Algonquins of Barrière Lake, the Ardoch Algonquins, Grassy Narrows First Nation, the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and others in recent years.

Stoneypoint explained the charges to the *Leveller*: "I am facing eight charges — Trespass to Property in a Non-Dwelling Area or House, Mischief over \$5000, Conspiracy to Commit Offences, Stealing Equipment or Machinery over \$5000, and four counts of Setting Traps or Devices to Cause Bodily Harm or Death. Seven of these are eligible for a mandatory sentence of ten years."

Stoneypoint's charges are over the top and meant to send a clear message that interfering with Canada's oil and gas industry (referred to in counter-terrorism vernacular as "critical infrastructure") will be punished to the fullest extent of settler colonial law.

After his arrest, Stoneypoint spent four nights in the Centre de détention de New Carlisle in the Gaspé District in medium security. "If I have to serve time in Québec for helping to protect the mountain from fracking, it will most likely be in this prison."

The blockade and raid garnered a lot of local me-

dia attention so Stoneypoint was well-known and admired upon entering the prison. "Spending most of my time with general population, all of the inmates on the range were largely supportive of my involvement in the action. One of them, upon hearing my events, said to the rest of them, 'No. He should not be in here. That is bullshit. You should not be here.' They all nodded and agreed."

Stoneypoint attributes the wide support for his actions as indicative of a broad consensus in the region. "People from all walks of life in the Gaspé judicial district understand the dangers that fracking has on the lands and are largely opposed to the project."

The blockade received support as well from the hereditary Mi'kmaq chiefs.

"We support the blockade and I think a lot of our people support it too," said Gary Metallic Sr., the District Chief of the Gespegawagi Overseers Tribal Council, in an interview with Ni Québec, ni Canada, an anti-colonial collective.

"We don't want oil and fracking exploration or extraction being done on our territory because it's going to hurt the environment — water, wildlife and so forth," he said.

The Mi'kmaq assert that



A view of the Junex Inc. blockade.

Credit: Ni Québec, ni Canada

Junex are trespassing on their territory, of which they are the original title holders. They are prepared to take that fight to the courts.

Stoneypoint released a statement on Aug. 17, a day before his bail hearing stating, "as a representative of the Bawating water protectors, my only wish is to activate my ceremonial being in defence of land and waters through peaceful means. I am not an activist, I am an Anishinaabe man looking to protect the lands for future generations. I thank all of my supporters

working towards same future for all on Turtle Island."

At the hearing, the Crown objected to his release, claiming he posed a risk to public safety.

Stoneypoint is hopeful that his brave actions will inspire others and empower young people from his reserve to think more broadly beyond our community and to connect to something greater.

"If I can normalize the work of helping to protect land and water, I think this kind of work has great appeal for youth unsure of their place

in colonial society," he said.

Stoneypoint's hopes are the Canadian government's fears, which is why the Crown considers him a "risk to public safety."

Stoneypoint noted that a new camp has been set up at the base of the mountain — Camp de la rivière-Galt-Junex — in the aftermath of the police raid. "As long as Junex remains illegally at the site, they will remain," he said.

A benefit concert to help with Stoneypoint's legal and education fees will take place in Ottawa on Oct. 16.

AFTER A LONG CAMPAIGN BY WORKERS, ONTARIO'S LIBERAL GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED BILL 148, THE *FAIR WORKPLACES, BETTER JOBS ACT*, WHICH WILL RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE TO \$15/HOUR BY JANUARY 2019, AND MAKE OTHER POSITIVE CHANGES TO LABOUR LAW IN THE PROVINCE.

UNSURPRISINGLY, THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES UNDER PATRICK BROWN AS WELL AS THE BUSINESS LOBBY ARE VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED TO THESE CHANGES. BUT WE MUST ABSOLUTELY ENSURE THAT BILL 148 PASSES INTO LAW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT ANY AMENDMENTS MADE ALONG THE WAY STRENGTHEN THE BILL RATHER THAN WEAKEN IT.

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO TELL YOUR MPP TO STRENGTHEN AND PASS BILL 148 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE USING THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR ONLINE ACTION TOOL AT:

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Des entreprises canadiennes menacent la Sierra Norte de Puebla

Les risques de l’implantation des minières canadiennes au Mexique sont grands. La population, surtout autochtone, organise la résistance

Émile Duchesne

Cet article est paru sur *ricochet.media* le 31 août 2017

Un complexe de projets extractifs menace le mode de vie des autochtones de la Sierra Norte de Puebla au Mexique. Qu’ont en commun ces projets de mines, de barrages hydroélectriques, de fracturation hydraulique et d’oléoduc ? Ils sont tous mis en œuvre par des entreprises canadiennes.

Pour les Nahuas, les Totonagues et les Otomis, les ethnies majoritaires de la région, la culture du maïs et du café est l’activité économique dominante : la pollution et le manque d’accès à l’eau qu’entraîneraient ces projets affaibliraient les possibilités économiques de l’agriculture, en plus d’avoir des impacts significatifs sur la santé. Pou- vant compter sur des organisations fortes et ancrées dans la réalité de la région, les Autochtones de la Sierra Norte organisent la résistance.

DES PROJETS HYDROÉLEC- TRIQUES POUR ALIMENTER L’INDUSTRIE EXTRACTIVE

Lors de sa dernière visite au Canada en 2016, le premier ministre mexicain Enrique Peña Nieto annonçait avec Philippe Couillard la mise en œuvre de plusieurs projets de barrages hydroélectriques, dont l’un, Puebla 1, qui se- rait réalisé en collaboration avec l’entreprise québécoise

Innergex et l’entreprise mexic- aine Comexhidro dans la Siera Norte de Puebla. L’annonce du projet a été l’occasion pour les deux chefs d’État de se positionner en leaders de la lutte aux changements climatiques et de vanter les collaborations commerciales entre le Québec et le Mexique. Mais le projet d’Innergex dans la Sierra Norte de Puebla servirait principalement à fournir l’énergie aux projets de mines et de fracturation hydraulique en haute montagne, dont la tech- nologie « à ciel ouvert » est particulièrement gourmande en énergie. En tout, ce sont 14 projets de barrages qui ont été autorisés dans la Sierra.

Peu après cette visite, les communautés autochtones de la Sierra Norte écrivaient une lettre publique à Innergex dans laquelle elles som- maient l’entreprise de se retirer du projet : «Nous exigeons du gouvernement mexicain qu’il respecte son obligation de protéger et de garantir nos droits, et qu’il annule le projet hydroélectrique Puebla 1 et les autres mégaprojets dans la Sierra Norte de Puebla, que nous qualifions de “projets de mort” car ils signifient la fin de nos peuples» écrivent-ils dans leur lettre.

Du côté minier, c’est la compagnie canadienne Al- madén Minerals qui mène les travaux d’exploration dans la Sierra Norte de Puebla. En 2010, cette compagnie junior a «découvert» le gisement Ix- tacamaxtitlan qui contient de

l’or et de l’argent. Dans l’univ- ers minier, les compagnies ju- niors sont celles qui préparent le terrain pour les compagnies d’exploitation : ces compa- gnies cherchent les gisements, s’assurent que la ressource soit suffisante et «mettent la table» auprès des autorités lo- cales avant de vendre le claim à une plus grosse compagnie.

Un rapport cosigné par quatre organisations de la so- ciété civile de l’État de Puebla évalue plusieurs niveaux de risques environnementaux et de santé publique en rapport au projet du gisement de Ixta- camaxtitlan.

LA RUÉE VERS LE PÉTROLE EXTRÊME

Le pétrole obtenu par frac- turation hydraulique fait partie de l’une des dernières ré- serves de pétrole du Mexique. Les pressions pour que son exploitation aille de l’avant sont énormes. Dans les bass- es terres au nord de la Sierra Norte de Puebla, le projet de Poza Rica-Altamira exploite déjà depuis 2013 du pétrole par fracturation hydraulique. Un autre projet – Tampi- co-Misantla – est également en phase d’exploration. L’en- treprise mexicaine Pemex, so- ciété d’État, est la principale instigatrice de ces projets.

Une autre compagnie ca- nadienne est présente dans la région. En effet, TransCanada a obtenu le contrat de con- struction du gazoduc Tux- pan-Tula, qui traversera la

partie nord de la Sierra Norte de Puebla, en territoire Oto- mi. Ce gazoduc permettra d’acheminer le gaz de schiste des États-Unis, sur la côte de Veracruz, puis vers le cen- tre du pays en traversant les montagnes dans l’État d’Hi- dalgo. Malgré des menaces des autorités, les Otomis ont fait savoir leur opposition et ont affirmé ne pas avoir été consultés sur le projet. Ces derniers considèrent que le gazoduc menace l’environne- ment et plus particulièrement la biodiversité : le territoire Otomi, même s’il ne compte que pour 1 % du territoire mexicain, contient 10 % des espèces fauniques et florales du Mexique.

LA TOSEPAN TITANISKE : ACTEUR DE LA RÉSISTANCE

La Tosepan Titaniske – qui signifie «Ensemble nous vaincrons» en nahuas – est une coopérative de petits pro- ducteurs agricoles de la Sierra Norte de Puebla. La Tosepan est un acteur incontournable du mouvement autochtone mexicain. Fondée en 1980, la coopérative compte au- jourd’hui environ 35 000 petits producteurs agricoles, artisans, et travailleurs. Bien implanté dans la Sierra, la Tosepan a travaillé à la mise en marché des produits agri- coles des petits producteurs, mais aussi à rendre accessi- ble des denrées de base en provenance de l’extérieur. Avec le temps, la Tosepan à



Logo de la Tosepan

Photo: Émile Duchesne

mis sur pied sa propre caisse d’épargne ainsi qu’une école, un projet de construction de maisons salubres, etc.

Aujourd’hui, la Tosepan monte au front pour empêch- er la mise en œuvre des pro- jets extractifs qui menacent la Sierra Norte de Puebla : «À la Tosepan, on est au service des communautés : ça veut donc dire qu’on est là pour faire en sorte que ces mégapro- jets n’aboutissent pas» lance d’emblée un porte-parole de la coopérative, qui souhaite rester anonyme pour des rai- sons de sécurité. «Les com- munautés sont en résistance : ils s’informent et se mobil- isent» ajoute-t-il. En effet, des demandes d’injonctions ont été déposées contre Almadén Minerals et Comexhidro : la requête contre Almadén est toujours devant les tribunaux, mais une injonction a été obtenue sur cinq projets de barrages sur la rivière Apulco. Des blocages ont aussi eu lieu pour empêcher la machinerie d’Almadén de pénétrer sur les

sites d’exploration. Plusieurs opposants ont été l’objet de poursuites judiciaires. Pour défendre leurs terres ance- strales menacées, les autoch- tones nahuas ont formé Al- tepe Tajpianij («les Gardiens du Territoire»). Leurs voisins totonagues et métis se sont aussi unis pour défendre les rivières contre les projets de barrages : tous sont main- tenant regroupés dans l’or- ganisation Tiyat Tlali, «notre terre».

Les autochtones de la Si- erra souhaitent interpeler le public canadien : «Les Ca- nadiens et les Canadiennes doivent savoir ce qui se passe ici. En ce moment, le Canada est la plus grande menace à la vie dans la Sierra Norte de Puebla. Par contre, les gens d’ici comprennent que les citoyens canadiens n’y sont pour rien : ils savent que ce sont les entreprises qui sont prédatrices. Avant tout, on cherche la solidarité des peuples du Canada» explique le porte-parole de la Tosepan.

Entrevue avec Michel Goulet (alias Jaggi Singh)

Marc-André Cyr

Cette entrevue est paru sur *ricochet.media* le 6 septembre 2017

Jaggi Singh est un militant anarchiste fort connu des mé- dias. Suite aux manifestations et contre-manifestations du 20 août dernier à Québec, il a beaucoup fait parler de lui. Ac- cusé d’avoir usurpé la person- nalité de l’ancien joueur des Nordiques, Michel Goulet*, il a été dénoncé par l’ensemble des faiseurs d’opinions.

Son audience préliminaire a débuté le 6 septembre. Afin de voir plus clair dans toute cette brume délirante, nous l’avons questionné à propos de ces événements, histoire d’avoir accès à son récit des événements.

La journée du 20 août a été ponctuée par plusieurs accro-

chages avec des membres de l’extrême droite. Les militants antiracistes, par leur présence devant la porte d’un garage où s’étaient donné rendez-vous les membres de La Meute, ont réussi à les empêcher de pren- dre la rue. Le blocage a duré plusieurs heures. Quelques gros mots et coups de poing ont été échangés, mais des périodes d’accalmie ont quand même permis aux esprits festifs de s’exprimer dans la joie.

Selon Jaggi, et contrairement aux images qui ont circulé, l’ambiance n’était pas toujours tendue.

«Avant mon arrestation, j’ai vécu plusieurs moments très amusants et puissants. Des camarades musulmans dansaient avec moi. Il était gratifiant d’exprimer sa dissi- dence par la danse et la mu- sique tout en sachant que

c’était elles qui bloquaient le chemin des racistes», dit-il.

Jaggi a été mis en état d’ar- restation lorsque l’escouade antiémeute a chargé la man- ifestation antiraciste, histoire d’aider La Meute à prendre la rue. Mais il a été relâché sans accusation. C’est plus tard que les choses se sont com- pliquées. Au lendemain de la manifestation, l’élégant maire Labeaume le traitait de «cré- tin» en onde, en plus d’ajouter : «La Meute, la gang à Singh, allez-vous faire voir ailleurs» (La Presse, 21 août). Cinq jours plus tard, la police de Québec l’accusait désormais d’«entrave et de supposition de personne» Michel Goulet, ailier gauche des Nordiques. Yves Boisvert, chroniqueur à La Presse qu’on ne peut sus- pecter d’être un gauchiste, affirme que le maire Labeau-

me est derrière son arresta- tion. Être accusé d’une chose aussi stupide peut sembler comique. Seulement, du point de vue des autorités, c’est très sérieux. La ligne dure semble avoir été adoptée. Jaggi Singh n’a pas reçu de promesse de comparaître, ce qui aurait été normal étant donné que les accusations sont très mi- neures, mais a été directement mis en état d’arrestation.

Comment ça s’est passé? «Deux policiers hauts gradés de la ville de Québec en civil m’ont pris une em- buscade dans un restaurant du centre-ville près de mon lieu de travail, où j’essayais de prendre le petit déjeuner. Ils m’ont arrêté et conduit à Qué- bec, menotté, comme si j’étais une sorte de trophée (avec des médias qui attendaient au poste de police pour saisir le moment). Comme pour me provoquer, la police a fait jouer Radio X dans la voiture (et, de façon surprenante, la radio raciste se moquait de moi)», explique le militant.

Après une journée et une nuit à croupir en prison, l’audience a finalement lieu le lendemain matin. Mais surprise : on s’oppose à sa libération, comme si les ac- cusations de «supposition de personne» (un ailier gauche des Nordiques, le numéro 16, rappelons-le) et d’«entrave»

faisaient de lui une personne dangereuse.

Quels ont été les argu- ments mis de l’avant?

«Me Marie-Hélène Guille- mette s’est vraiment opposée à ma libération, quelque chose d’inouï pour des ac- cusations mineures. L’avocat de la Couronne et le sergent-dé- tective ont essentiellement répété en audience les fausses remarques du maire à mon sujet. Étonnamment, l’avocat de la Couronne a exigé une condition de libération qui inclut l’interdiction de la zone de Québec, exactement ce que le maire avait demandé dans ses commentaires plus d’une semaine auparavant», raconte Jaggi Singh.

Finalement, il a été libéré sous conditions, mais le procès aura bel et bien lieu. À quoi peut-on s’attendre pour la suite?

«Je demanderai toute la vidéo et l’audio de la police, toute la correspondance entre les flics et La Meute, toutes les communications de la police à partir du 20 août, toutes les communications entre les flics et le maire. Je conteste les conditions actuelles de la cour. Je veux changer l’em- placement du procès: j’envis- age sérieusement de faire une motion pour faire le procès à Montréal parce qu’avec les commentaires du maire et

la complicité des juges, des procureurs et des policiers lo- caux, il est très peu probable que je puisse être traité équi- tablement. Je vais aussi exiger une vérification de tous les employés de la police et de la municipalité, par un tiers, afin de m’assurer de l’absence de lien entre les employés et l’extrême droite. La ville de Québec n’est pas sûre pour les minorités racialisées, et le maire et les flics ont contribué à un climat d’impunité pour les racistes. Je refuserai toute collaboration avec les flics (y compris la divulgation de mon adresse) si je ne peux pas avoir de confirmation qu’aucun lien n’existe entre les employés de la ville, les flics et l’extrême droite. L’ex- trême droite utilise réguliè- rement ces connexions», confie l’amateur de hockey.

Pour le moment, Jaggi peut finalement aller à Qué- bec comme bon lui semble. L’audience préliminaire suit son cours.

Michel Goulet, par contre, ne jouera plus jamais pour les Nordiques.

Le 20 août, alors que les policiers lui demandent de s’identifier, Jaggi Singh leur répond à la blague, «Michel Goulet, ancien ailier gauche pour les Nordiques; adres- se: le Colisée!»(Jaggi Singh, Facebook)

Les Sans-Culottes

Les Sans-culottes étaient les révolutionnaires radicaux pendant la Révolution française (vers 1789). Leur nom émanait des pantalons qu’ils portaient au lieu de la culotte courte et des bas, portés par les nobles et les bourgeois.

Le Leveller étend ses branches!

Nous acceptons actuellement des articles en français pour la prochaine édition du *Leveller*.

Envoyez vos articles à editors.the.leveller@gmail.com



THE LEVELLERS AND THE ENGLISH REVOLUTION

BRIAN MC

During this newspaper's ten-year history, every issue has carried a masthead defining a Leveller as "someone who favours the abolition of all rank and privilege." But who exactly were the Levellers?

"Leveller" was a term first used by the opponents of a radical English group from the 1640s, who stood accused of secretly favoring "social levelling." It was a name the Levellers happily embraced, just like we have embraced it here and now in the 21st century. In a world where the power and wealth of the 1% grows continually, social levelling has never been needed more.

With the Trump-era threat that capitalism will further diminish democracy and deepen inequality, today's anti-capitalists can well wonder what they might learn from the experience of the Levellers and the other radicals of the English revolution of 1640-1660.

LEARNING ABOUT THE LEVELLERS

Fortunately, a comprehensive new book on the Levellers has recently come out, John Rees' *The Leveller Revolution*. Rees' book is based on his PhD research, but he is no ivory-tower academic — he is a British political activist who has played a prominent role in the Stop the War Coalition, the People's Assembly Against Austerity, and the Socialist Workers Party.

As Rees explains, Levellers campaigned to extend the vote beyond wealthy landowners to those with little or no property. Their efforts helped spur debates about the democratization of wealth itself.

Most historians have focused on Leveller *ideas* rather than their practical political activity. Rees corrects that imbalance, demonstrating that Leveller ideas had an impact on the revolutionary process because networked activists debated the significance of events, refined their arguments and then took action using petitions, demonstrations and other forms of agitation. In short, the refinement of Leveller ideas depended heavily upon their organizational effectiveness.

EQUALITY VERSUS PROPERTY

No single book can do justice to the complexity of a twenty-year revolutionary process. Still, with his focus on the Levellers' organizational efforts, Rees gives readers a window on key moments of the revolution, like the 1647 Putney debates over how the country should be governed.

Held before an audience of elected soldier delegates, the debate featured senior military leaders in the "New Model Army" — aligned with parliamentary opponents of the king — against the more radical and Leveller-influenced junior officers and soldiers.

Speaking for the radicals, Colonel Rainsborough told the generals "I think that the poorest he that is in England hath a life to live as the greatest he; and therefore...it's clear, that every man that is to live under a government ought first by his own consent to put himself under that government." In other words, all men (but not yet women) should have the right to vote.

Countering for the more moderate parliamentary reformers, General Ireton responded that democracy should be limited to large property holders, "for the persons in whom all land lies and those in corporations in whom all trading lies."

WHO SHOULD RULE?

The revolution was triggered by the efforts of King Charles I to strengthen his power over other segments of the ruling class. During the 1630s, he imposed new taxes, suppressed protests and refused to call Parliament, a body comprised primarily of wealthy landowners and merchants. After losing a war with Scotland, the king was finally forced to call a parliament in 1640, triggering a political crisis, as a section of the gentry — the large landowners who dominated Parliament — sought to curb regal power. The crisis deepened in 1642, when the king declared war on Parliament.

That split in England's ruling class opened the door for the lower orders to campaign for greater liberty and equality. From 1642 through 1649, the revolution revolved around which classes would control the creation and distribution of wealth. Would it be the king and his allies among the gentry and newly emerging capitalist class? Or would it be the reform-minded capitalists and members of the gentry who wanted parliamentary supremacy?

THE LEVELLERS

Leveller agitation created a third possibility that was backed by many small property-owners, craftsmen, soldiers and the propertyless: a democratic republic with more liberty, a greatly expanded franchise and limitations on the power of the wealthy. While some of the more radical Levellers toyed with the idea of democratizing property, most refrained from making this leap.

At the time, most of the Levellers were excluded from Parliament by property restrictions on the right to vote and hold office. The very limited nature of English democracy forced them to build an extra-parliamentary movement.

Popular support for Leveller objectives grew because of the nature of their organization. The Levellers were skilled at gathering information through their network of activists — and they consistently put it to good use. They analyzed every political twist and turn, crafting arguments on the next steps for radical democrats. Those arguments gained significant social force as Leveller activists distributed pamphlets, news sheets and speeches, conducted petition campaigns and organized demonstrations — pioneering activities radicals still use today.

By 1646, the Levellers had jelled into a coherent political movement with dues-paying members, a recognized leadership, a political platform, publications, meetings and various types of campaigns.

KEY PLAYERS IN THE ENGLISH REVOLUTION

CHARLES I: the English king who launched two civil wars against Parliament, leading to his execution in 1649.

PARLIAMENTARY ROYALISTS: the gentry (large landowners) and capitalists who supported the king.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORMERS: the gentry and capitalists who supported parliamentary supremacy over the king.

LEVELLERS: the radical political group representing lesser property owners, skilled craftsman and other lower classes in the struggle for greater democracy.

DIGGERS: a small political current of "communalists" who advocated collective ownership and cultivation of the land.

KEY MOMENTS IN THE ENGLISH REVOLUTION

1640: King Charles I calls a parliament, discovering a large faction of its members wanted to greatly reduce his power.

1647: The Parliament's New Model Army captures the king.

1648: As Parliamentary reformers seek compromise with the king, Charles is able to escape from their control and initiate a second civil war.

1649: Parliamentary reformers execute the king and his soldiers.

1642: Charles launches a civil war against parliamentary reformers.

1647: The army disputes the future course of the revolution at the Putney Debates, without resolving the underlying issues.

1648-49: The king is captured and executed, while the royalists are purged from parliament.

AND THE UTION

DOUGALL

Lessons for radicals in the Trump era

The effectiveness of their organization was demonstrated many times. For example, during the 1648 “Large Petition” campaign, the Levellers collected 40,000 signatures supporting demands for more radical democratization and punishment of the king.

Leveller activity contributed enormously to the democratization of the parliamentary army, with soldiers electing the “agitators” who represented them at Putney and elsewhere. Leveller intervention had the effect of harnessing soldiers’ anger over miserable living conditions and lack of pay, and directing it at the political timidity of senior officers — and their moderate parliamentary allies — rather than feeding resurgent royalism.

REFORM AGAINST REVOLUTION

Leveller initiatives drove key developments during the most radical phase of the revolution (1647-49). After a second civil war led to the king’s defeat, Leveller mobilizations of the lower classes pushed parliamentary reformers (led by Oliver Cromwell) to execute the king and purge his supporters from parliament.

With the royalist threat neutralized, parliamentary reformers turned on the Levellers, hoping to halt the revolution. Anti-monarchist landowners and capitalists could only consolidate their power by crushing the growing threat of social revolution emanating from the empowered Leveller base.

In the spring of 1649, key Leveller leaders — John Lilburne, Richard Overton and William Walwyn — were arrested. Soon after, soldiers sympathetic to the Levellers mutinied. Troops loyal to Cromwell arrested and executed the ringleaders in front of the rebel soldiers, effectively ending the Leveller challenge to the limited democratization of the parliamentary reformers.

With the revolutionary movement crushed, the parliamentary reformers sought greater power and wealth through wars in Ireland and Scotland. By 1653, Cromwell had become “Lord Protector,” a dictatorial leader who ensured stability for the regime. With his death in 1658, political turmoil soon led to the restoration of the monarchy (1660).

DIGGERS

The revolution and the example of the Levellers also inspired more radical groups. Calling themselves the “The True Levellers,” a group later known as the Diggers advocated the abolition of private property and communal cultivation of the land. However, their short-lived agrarian communes were destroyed in 1650. Despite the revolution-

ary vision of their leader, Gerard Winstanley, the Diggers’ strategy was predicated on withdrawal from mainstream society. This left them vulnerable to attack from the political and economic elite; Digger communities were picked off one-by-one by local lords, courts, and mobs.

RELEVANCE TODAY

Before drawing lessons for today from the experience of the English radicals, we need to remember that history does not repeat itself. Present-day radicals should not read books like this seeking universally applicable models for political organizing — whether derived from Leveller, Jacobin or Bolshevik experience. There is no magical formula that will solve the problems in building radical movements today. Good history gives us potentially useful analogies, not detailed blueprints.

With that caveat, at least two things stand out from Leveller experience. First, it highlights the importance of building networks and organizations of radicals capable of learning collectively — through internal debate — from the experience of activists rooted in many different social milieus. That is essential to develop the long-term goals (strategy) and day-to-day plans (tactics) necessary to move a societal-wide political and social struggle forward.

Second, the broad pluralistic character of Leveller organization, focused on the objective of greater political democratization, was both a strength and weakness. While it gave their organization broad appeal during the early years of the revolution (1640-47), by the time of their final confrontations with the reformers (in 1649), it had become a liability.

Limited to a vision of greater political democracy for small property owners, the Levellers were unable to adopt the more radical goal of democratizing property, a political objective that would have enabled them to better anticipate and counter the repression Cromwell and his allies would launch against them.

That said, democratizing private property without challenging the political and economic power of elites and capitalists was not enough, as the example of the Diggers show.

Although Leveller experience cannot tell us how to best resist in the era of Trump, it does suggest that a narrow fo-

cus on political rights is not enough — changing our economic system is just as important.

We owe Rees our gratitude for making the practical experience of English radicals more accessible to us today. *The Leveller Revolution* may not be the best introduction to anti-capitalist resistance, but knowing its history can help us to think more critically as we build organizations and movements struggling for true social change.

(1640-1660)

Parliamentary
ers imprison
r leaders and
d radical
who mutiny..

1658: Cromwell dies.

1653: Cromwell’s
Proctectorate, a
dictatorship, begins.

1660: The monarchy is restored under Charles II, but with more limited royal power. Those restrictions make it easier for later generations of anti-capitalists to extend political democracy. But, a radical democratization of both property and politics still remains the goal of anti-capitalists today.



“THOSE SOUNDS I HEARD WERE BODIES IMPACTING THE CAR”

Charlottesville, Through the Eyes of a Street Medic



Counter-protesters wield “Fascist Scum” sign.

Photo: Anthony Crider



Members of the ‘alt-right’ march through the streets of Charlottesville.

Photo: Anthony Crider



Police block site of fatal, intentional crash

Photo: Evan Nesterak

Hanna Milne

WARNING: Disturbing content.

The forecast for that fateful, fatal day, in Charlottesville, Virginia, predicted warm, sunny weather. Unpredictable, however, was the stinging cold and impossibly dark feelings that would be floating around the town by the end of the day. August 12th, 2017, was a day marked by fear, hatred, and the killing of a woman who, among many others, was trying to stand against white supremacy and fascism.

In order to understand what happened at Charlottesville, the world must turn their eyes to those who were in attendance — particularly those who are often dismissed with the milquetoast phrase “violence on both sides.” For this story, I had the opportunity of interviewing a protest medic — one of the many who chose to work against fascism, bigotry and white supremacy on August 12th.

“Bee Grimm”, as he prefers to be known publicly, attended Charlottesville acting as a street medic and felt it was important to share what he saw that day.

Hanna Milne: So, Charlottesville was your first experience as a protest medic? Have you been involved in other social movements in the past?

Bee Grimm: “Charlottesville was my first serious action, though I take part in the local Food Not Bombs (an anti-war collective working to aid the hungry) and other community-oriented actions based out of the Hampton Roads region of Virginia.”

HM: What is your medical background?

BG: “My background as a medic is primarily military-based. I’ve been trained in advanced first aid, as well as combat first aid when I did some time as a member of a ship’s Visit, Board, Search and Seizure team.”

HM: What was it like, seeing alt-rightists and Neo-Nazis marching around in broad

daylight?

BG: “Horrific; not in like a run away and hide sense but in a visceral, holy-sh*t-they’re-real sense. Up until the 12th of August, my experience with fascists, honest-to-god white supremacists and Neo-Nazis had all been through the news and internet, so seeing them in person was alarming, to say the least.”

HM: Were there other groups there as well, besides the well-known supremacists like the KKK and the National Socialist movement?

BG: “They showed up under different banners — League of the South, the Vanguard, Proud Boys, Identity Europa, many armed with poles and shields and OC (pepper) spray.”

HM: If you’re comfortable with it, would you be able to tell me what happened that day?

BG: “For sure. A comrade and I arrived hours before the rally but there was still a substantial fascist presence at the park. They started showing up in waves I think, right on time around 12 or 1pm. Several attempts were made by anti-fascists to block their access to the park but the skirmishes would kind of dissipate and the fascists would inevitably overwhelm them. The f*cking cops just stood by and watched. While this was all going on, my comrade and I would run interference and do some scouting to see where they were all coming from, as well as treating people who had been exposed to [pepper] spray. The alt-right eventually had their permit revoked due to all the chaos and cops began to move everyone out of the area. There was eventually a lull in the action as we gathered intel on the fascists’ movement.”

“We caught word that they were going to be marching on a low-income, primarily POC neighbourhood. We got ourselves organized and moved out of McGuffey Park. It was truly beautiful. We marched down 2nd Street and the sun was out and we were doing call and answer song and chants. I’ve hard-

ly felt so uplifted in all my life. There were locals cheering us on and cars pulled over to take pictures and root for us.”

HM: But this didn’t last.

BG: “No. I hadn’t made it six feet into the narrow street before I heard what I thought were flashbangs or concussion grenades go off ahead of us. But it didn’t take long before a gray/silver Dodge Charger appeared out of f*cking nowhere right in front of me. It turns out those sounds I heard were bodies impacting the car.”

“There was a woman who skidded across the asphalt and landed against the curb just feet away from me, her eyes unblinking and distant. She had massive blunt force trauma to the leg. Her thigh was just OPEN.”

HM: Did you find out who she was?

BG: “The lady who landed in front of me was Heather [Heyer]. I tried to help with her but there were already a lot of medics with her.”

HM: When you pieced together what happened, how did you feel?

BG: “Angry — I threw the only thing I had in my hand — a f*cking water bottle - and started grabbing people and pulling them out of the street as they scrambled. When it [the vehicle] backed up, I wanted so goddamn bad to go after it but reminded myself about the people around me.”

HM: What did you do next?

BG: “I helped a guy I’d met that day onto the curb and checked him over. He was in shock and bleeding from the head - likely concussed — but otherwise okay. I kept looking at Heather, asking if she needed a tourniquet... Those medics were pretty preoccupied, so I moved on. I helped a girl who’d gotten some road rash but luckily was alright. There was a guy hobbling out of the street who was screaming about his leg being broken and needing to find his fiancée. I didn’t have anything remotely resembling a splint and sat him down and told him to stay put while I found her. Luckily

it didn’t take long. She was so goddamn grateful, I’ll never forget them. It turns out she was friends with Heather...”

“Anyhow, I just kept trying to help how and where I could before the cops showed up. There wasn’t much I could do because they wouldn’t let me off the sidewalk or down the street and most of the victims were already being treated. Mostly, I kept the media out of the faces of the victims and the medics.”

HM: The fact that you helped so many people is incredible. What made you go to Charlottesville that day?

BG: “The sheer gravity of the situation. Real life Nazis marching in the streets terrorizing folks. I felt almost obligated to go. I couldn’t stand by anymore. That and I have the training that I do and felt the need to put it to good use.”

HM: What do you think when people make the argu-

ment that there was “violence on both sides,” referring to white supremacists and anti-fascist counter-protesters?

BG: “Don’t get me started. It’s completely and utterly false, sort of. The violence coming from white supremacy stems from their position as oppressors. While antifascists use violence, it is purely in defense of self and others, even if it appears ‘preemptive.’ The mere existence of white supremacists, nazis, whatever you want to call them, is violent. Oppression is violence.”

HM: Finally, what is the one thing that people should take away from the Charlottesville protests?

BG: “That fascism is real and it’s not just coming to a town near you — it’s already there. It’s time to get some skin in the game. You don’t have to physically fight fascists to fight fascism. You can provide other forms of support, from food and shelter at actions, to legal

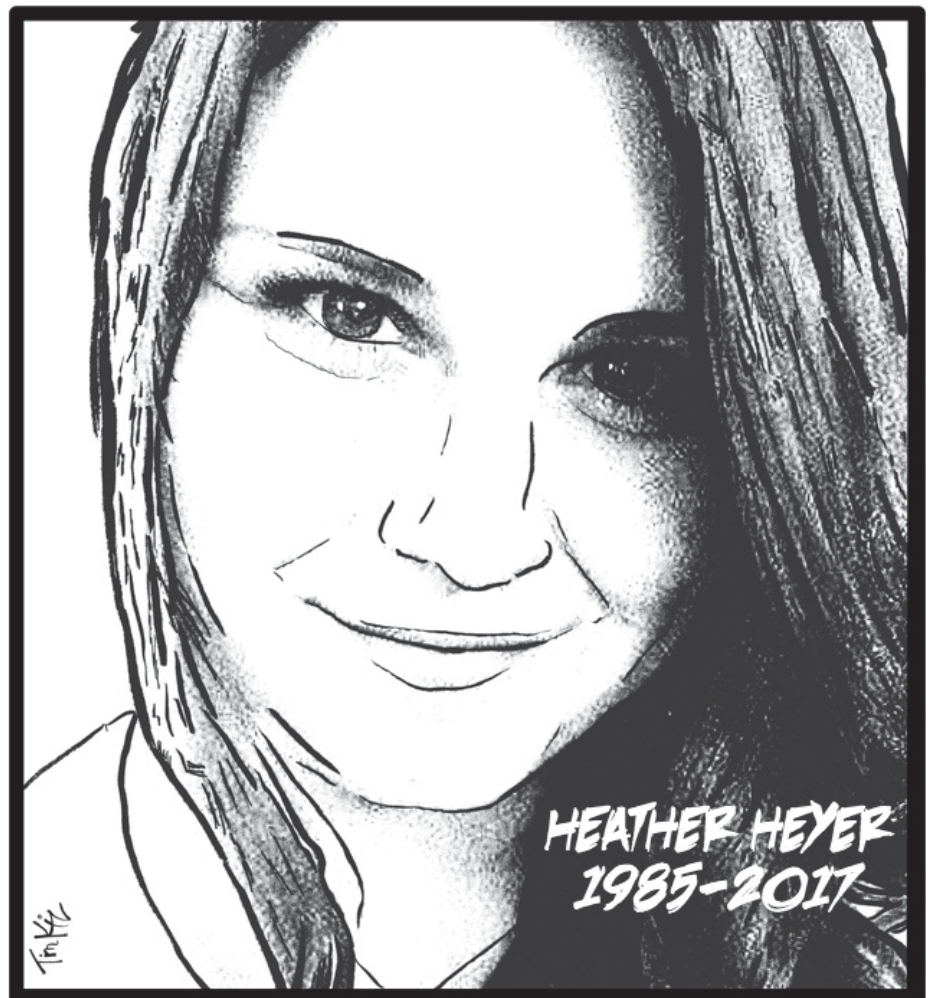
and psychological assistance post-action. And if you’re not anti-fascist, you might just be a fascist yourself.”

HM: Thank you, Mr. Grimm. It’s been a pleasure.

While August 12th was a day of tragedy, it should also serve as a reminder about why those opposed to fascism need to continue to resist fascists, Neo-Nazis and white supremacists. Heather Heyer and Bee Grimm are just two of the many scores of people rising up against white supremacy and fascism, and while they are heroes, it is important to remember that they are also ordinary civilians like you and I.

Readers can get involved with the new Campus Anti-Fascist Network initiative, also featured in this volume. Author and college lecturer Mark Bray, author of *The Antifascist Handbook*, will also be visiting Ottawa on October 19th with details to be announced.

SYMMETRY’S OVERRATED



AS LONG AS WE RESIST, WE KEEP HOPE ALIVE

RECLAIMING PRIDE

One group's journey to making pride radical again



The crowd sits filed down Bank Street, waving their rainbow flags as the Pride parade marches on.

"These businesses won't hire queer people, won't donate to LGBT+ foundations, they don't give free food during the Pride protests. They just benefit from seeming LGBT-friendly."

- Keyah Prempeh

Photo: Wikimedia

Tiffany Isesele

Every year the LGBTQ+ community in Ottawa comes together to celebrate Pride: a week of events that end with a bang at the Sunday parade.

Reclaiming Pride, a new community-based protest group, does not like the way Capital Pride organizers have been running Pride Week and took to the streets this year to voice their concerns.

The protesters stopped the parade at Bank and Gladstone and set out a list of demands for the Capital Pride organizers. From the erasure of two-spirit people, to the inaccessibility of the pride parade for people with disabilities, Reclaiming Pride had a lot to talk about with the organizers of Capital Pride. The *Leveller* sat down with an organizer of Reclaiming Pride, Keyah Prempeh, about two weeks after the protest to find

out what Reclaiming Pride was really about.

Tiffany Isesele: Why do you think having this protest was important?

Keyah Prempeh: I think this protest was important because as a queer, trans and racialized person in Ottawa, I've seen the lack of resources available to queer people in Ottawa. I've seen a lot of people struggling and because of my background in social work, I'm aware of the systemic oppression queer and trans folks face. And historically, Pride has been about challenging these oppressive structures that erase our identities. And there was talk about police officers being in the parade with their uniforms; we knew we had to speak up because of the foundations of policing. Policing as an institution has been used as a structure to subjugate anyone who exists outside the centre of approved

identities, e.g., queer [folks], people with disabilities, racialized people, etc. And we also wanted to reclaim Pride as not only a celebration but as a movement for queer and trans liberation.

Ti: What exactly did you hope to achieve with this protest?

KP: We wanted to start a public dialogue about what Pride is, how queer and trans people in Ottawa are living their lives and challenge members of the community that have certain advantages in society to think more critically about the things they do. We also had a list of demands for Capital Pride, like smudging communities for two-spirit folks, funding for Black and racialized queer youth, banning of transphobic and homophobic assemblies alongside the parade route, etc.

Ti: The name of your group is Reclaiming Pride and in most political spheres when we

talk about reclaiming things, we talk about decolonization. And I know that decolonization is a big part of your protest. Can you expand on that a little bit more for me?

KP: I think that as a settler, it's really important for me and others to acknowledge the long-lasting effects of colonization. Because Ottawa hasn't always looked like this, Canada hasn't always looked like this and to ignore the violent history of colonization is a huge disservice to our two-spirit, queer and trans family. If we can't acknowledge the ways anti-Indigenous sentiments and the effects of residential schools and the 60s scoop and the millennial scoop, etc., then why are we celebrating?

Ti: Since the protest at the parade, what is the future looking like for Reclaiming Pride?

KP: We are in contact with the Capital Pride organizers right

now and we're hoping to set up a meeting with them. We want to put a lot of public pressure on the organizers so that we can make some wide-sweeping changes. I'm very interested in maintaining that relationship and holding Capital Pride accountable for the things they do and the steps they take to include community within their celebration. And changing the dynamic from this fun capitalist party to also focus on queer trans liberation.

Ti: You just said something about capitalism, would you mind talking about capitalism and Pride?

KP: Seeing Pride intertwined with capitalism makes me sick. Especially because the parade is held on Bank street, which is this tourist spot in Ottawa, meaning that the Bank Street Business Association has a huge monopoly on Pride money. It makes me sick because whenever it's Pride week, their storefronts

turn colourful and they have promotions for Pride — but outside of Pride week, they don't care for queer people. They get a lot of money from pink-washing and pretending to be allies but the reality is that they don't care. These businesses won't hire queer people, won't donate to LGBT+ foundations, they don't give free food during the Pride protests. They just benefit from seeming LGBT-friendly.

Ti: What was the response to your protest?

KP: I thought everyone was going to be mad and there were some hecklers and there were some people who thought we were Black Lives Matter. I also read a lot of articles of people who were offended by our presence. But we were surprised by the overwhelming support from the community, from the organizing to the march. There were people volunteering to help with different things, there were people who cheered with us, chanting with us and it was great. I feel like people who are further from lines of marginalization are less likely to understand why we protest.

Ti: What is something important you want people to know about this protest?

KP: We want Capital Pride organizers to use their power to better the LGBTQ+ community. Because as queer and trans people, we face a lot of problems in society. We have to deal with familial problems, financial problems, addictions, etc. Queer people don't have enough funding in Ottawa, we don't have a lot of safe spaces and this needs to be spoken about, this needs to be talked about. We're not saying that Capital Pride should build transitional homes for queer people but we want them to use their voices. The chairperson of Capital Pride is part of the Bank Street Business Association, they had Justin Trudeau march in the parade, they have power and they can use it to affect real change. Even if it's just by speaking up. We're not saying turn every section of Pride into this serious affair with no fun but we need to address these issues that face queer and trans people all over Ottawa. Because when we get comfortable, when we keep quiet, that's when we lose our power.

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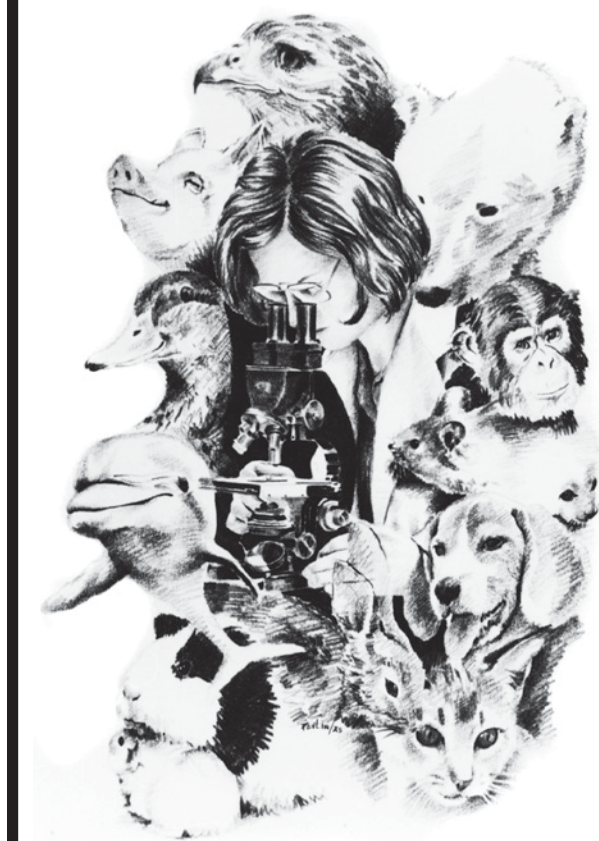
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OPIRG COMEDY SHOW THROWS SHADE AT TOKENISM

A night celebrating women of colour in comedy



Toronto comic Anasimone George captivates the crowd with her jokes about white men intrigued by her ethnicity.

Gowlene Selvavijayan

“White people like camping so much because they like sleeping on land that isn’t theirs.” This was one of many jokes host Anasimone George told the cracking-up crowd at Black Squirrel Books on Friday Sept. 8. Four other women of colour took the stage with her in an effort to reclaim space, break taboos and question stereotypes through comedy. To start off the school year,

the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) at Carleton University organized the comedy show to gather students who are interested in supporting their efforts to research, educate and provide action on social and environmental justice. The OPIRG show featured the work of three comics in SHADE, a live stand-up comedy collective from Toronto priding itself on showcasing and celebrating marginalized voices in the city’s comedy scene.

George, a Toronto comic, created SHADE eight months ago after three years of feeling subordinated in a white-, male-dominated scene. “I wanted to make a space that I felt welcomed in. My own space where I wouldn’t have to feel small — where we could all feel appreciated,” George said. According to George, virtually all SHADE shows have sold out since it began. Samiha Rayeda, the volunteer, outreach, and pro-

Photo: Gowlene Selvavijayan

gramming coordinator at OPIRG Carleton, heard about SHADE’s desire to reach out to schools with a varsity tour and thought it would be a perfect fit to start the year. “I knew it would be funny, a little political, but very relatable to the crowd of people who come to OPIRG events,” Rayeda said, adding her expectations were exceeded. Rayeda affirmed that women of colour, queer and racialized individuals oftentimes have no one to look up to or relate to in the Canadian comedy scene because “there isn’t a big space for [them].” According to George, the audience at comedy clubs are mostly made up of people who can relate to the material and the comics. In a white-, male-dominated scene, the crowd looks much the same. “People who don’t normally go to comedy shows come to see SHADE,” George said. Rather than making space within the pre-existing comedy scene, SHADE created an entirely new space to eliminate the norm as a whole, she said. Earlier this year, a white, male comic was shouted down from an Ottawa ven-

“I wanted to make a space that I felt welcomed in. My own space where I wouldn’t have to feel small — where we could all feel appreciated,”
- Anasimone George

ue for telling jokes at the expense of Black women. George says these tasteless jokes are not uncommon in a scene where not enough racialized and queer people are given the platform to “speak their truth,” from their own experience. Ottawa comic Shelina Merani, who was also invited to perform at the OPIRG event, describes the Ottawa scene as “white, male and very cliquey.” “It doesn’t seem as though a lot of thought goes into promoting diversity in the comedy scene. But recently, more people are becoming more aware of it,” Merani said. Merani, who has been a comedian for four years alongside her day job at the Public Service Alliance of Canada, stumbled upon comedy unintentionally. Since then, she has taken comedy more seriously, and has performed at interfaith events and an event featuring American activist Angela Davis. Earlier this year, she was invited to audition for America’s Got Talent. “People want to hear what I have to say as a Muslim woman,” Merani said. Merani says through her comedy she intends to address taboos around Muslim women that people are thinking but not necessarily vocalizing. At the event, she cracked jokes about questions she usually gets when wearing

a hijab, her modesty and even what airports think about terrorism. “I guess what I’m trying to do is humanize Muslims,” she said. “Many Muslim girls came up to me saying that they were very happy to see a Muslim woman on stage, speaking to their experience.” Rayeda said many audience members said they enjoyed spending their Friday night listening to comedy they related to. This included a few first years who said they were happy they skipped the frosh concert to come to the show. “It is so important to support women of colour, queer and racialized folks because they are always the groups under-supported by mainstream organizations,” Rayeda said. Merani said she was happy to hear the diversity of voices and overwhelmed by the response at the event. “Diversity is really important, especially for the Ottawa scene. And I think people need to be a bit more cognizant of that — that there are a lot of different voices, and ask, how do we bring those voices out if they’re not coming? How do we reach out to get those voices into the mainstream, into comedy clubs?” Merani said. “And that’s important to consider, whether it is for the audience or the comedians who are doing the shows.”



CANADA ABSTAINS FROM TREATY BANNING NUKES

Canada looks the other way while 122 Nations vote to ban nuclear weapons

Tim Kitz, with files from
Yasmine Ghania

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was passed by the UN General Assembly on July 7, 2017. Canada did not bother to vote. The treaty is a legally binding agreement with the eventual goal of completely eliminating nuclear weapons. In order to come into effect, 50 countries need to sign and approve it. Though 122 nations (every African, Latin American and Caribbean nation – as well as many Asian and some European nations) have supported the treaty, no nuclear-armed nation or member of NATO has joined them. Despite the rejection of the treaty by these countries, activists like Ray Acheson of the

disarmament advocacy group Reaching Critical Will hope it will stigmatize nuclear weapons. Canada’s history with nuclear weapons is mixed. By providing uranium and plutonium to the Manhattan Project, Canada directly contributed to the development of nuclear weapons. But by 1965, Canada decided to stop exporting uranium for weapons and use all nuclear materials for peaceful purposes. “Canada was the first country with significant nuclear capability to reject nuclear weapons,” as the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission proudly proclaims on its website. In 1970, Canada — along with 189 other nations, including the U.S. and most of the nuclear powers — signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The NPT commits all signatories to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament.” NATO’s refusal of the current Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons seems to renege on this commitment. In this Canada and the rest of NATO seem to be following the lead of the U.S. Before the vote to hold negotiations was held, the U.S. issued a letter to its NATO allies saying “we feel efforts to negotiate an immediate ban on nuclear weapons or to delegitimize nuclear deterrence are fundamentally at odds with NATO’s basic policies on deterrence and our shared security interests.” The Canadian government

cites its attempts to prevent the sale of components for nuclear weapons — through a stalled treaty process from 1993 — as proof it is working for nuclear security. Meanwhile it dismisses the treaty banning nuclear weapons. Global Affairs Canada spokesperson Austin Jean told the *Globe and Mail*, “The negotiation of a nuclear-weapon ban without the participation of states that possess nuclear weapons is certain to be ineffective and will not eliminate any nuclear weapons. If anything, it may make disarmament more difficult.” This kind of logic has been called “utterly outrageous” by one former Canadian ambassador for disarmament, Peggy Mason, and “pathetic” by Paul Meyer, another former ambassador for disarmament.

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DISPOSABLE DIVERSITY

Black trans model’s termination exposes the limits of corporate diversity

Tiffany Isesele

In 2015, Sudanese model Nykhor Paul posted heavily on social media about how she had to bring her own make-up to fashion shows when white makeup artists failed to provide makeup for darker skinned women like her.

Paul is not the only Black person to have a problem in her field. From fashion to makeup, to hair and television, white-dominated industries have failed to cater to people of colour since

their inception. Diversity has been an afterthought at best. But now that has suddenly changed.

A lot of these white-dominated industries have come under fire from celebrities like Lupita Nyong’o, Gina Rodriguez, Chad Boseman, Laz Alonso, Leomie Anderson, Ava DuVernay, Naomi Campbell, etc. These celebrities are not afraid to call out these industries for their erasure of non-white people and the way they use gender stereotypes and racialization as a

double-edged sword. Coupled with the callout nature of social media, which has led to hashtags like #Oscars-SoWhite, #RealDiversityNumbers, #StarringJohnCho and #NotYourAsianSidekick, these industries have responded to the backlash by becoming “more diverse.”

Suddenly there are shampoo ads targeted at Black women, makeup lines with wider shade ranges, movies with more Black actors, and runways filled with people from all backgrounds.

But is that enough? Are these industries really interested in diversity or are they just trying to make money and avoid negative press?

Look at the example of L’Oréal. The French make-up powerhouse recently released a number of campaigns championing diversity — their diversity — with images showing a racial rainbow of models using their products.

Earlier this month one of these models — Munroe Bergdorf, a Black trans model — was fired from L’Oréal. This came after Bergdorf went on Facebook to rant about the systematic racism that Black people experience in the face of white supremacy. In her post, she said “all white people are racist”. This was caught by the *Daily Mail* and posted on their website. Shortly after L’Oréal released a statement terminating her contract.

It is ironic that L’Oréal, who have branded themselves as inclusive champions of diversity, would terminate Munroe’s contract after she used her voice to speak out against a history of white violence and erasure.

The truth is, a lot of industry players do not mean anything by the word “diversity.” To these companies, diversity and inclusivity are these sparkly, quirky ideas they can use to make more money — a shiny new wrapper for the same old product.

L’Oréal isn’t the only

Real diversity is more than just slapping the face of a Black woman or an Asian man on your shampoo line.

brand that has dropped people for speaking up — nor is it the only industry to respond heavy-handedly to outspoken criticisms of white supremacy. Denver Broncos linebacker Brandon Marshall has had two major endorsements terminated after he decided to speak against institutional racism in America. And many brands will follow in the footsteps of these companies and drop people who are political if it offends their white leaders and consumer base.

What happens at the end of the day, when the brands are done collecting their coins from people who have never seen themselves represented before and are just happy to get some representation? What happens to the models and celebrities that lose jobs and sponsorships because

they’re outspoken and refuse to back down in the face of white hegemony? What happens when diversity and inclusivity stop being cool?

If companies and brands want to be truly diverse, then it’s time for them to take a step back and think about the meaning of diversity. Real diversity is more than just slapping the face of a Black woman or an Asian man on your shampoo line or movie poster. Real diversity is about creating spaces for people to speak their mind on issues that affect them, and supporting them beyond the moments when it is convenient. It is time for these companies to rethink the way they treat non-white bodies. It is high time that they stopped catering to every cry from the white community.



Holding hands does not make us diverse. Corporations are increasingly deploying bland images like this to rebrand.

WHODUNIT?

A. “Cage the People, Free the Money. The only thing that is allowed to move freely — unimpeded — around the world today is money...capital.”

B. “Where will I go? I will be with you until my term ends. Even when my term ends, I will remain an ANC member. Even if you poison me, I will not go anywhere.”

C. “With the whole sharing economy, and because of social media, everyone is a voice, everyone is media, everyone is a brand now — and everyone is able to monetize.”

D. “Trump is the symptom, not the disease.”

E. “[Trump] speaks like real men spoke. Real men speak like, ‘Man, she had a fat a—. You see her a-? I had to squeeze her a-. I had to grab that fat a-.’”

F. “To discredit John A. MacDonald is to marginalize us all morally; if our founder was illegitimate, we all are.”

G. “Trade your status card for a Canadian citizenship, with a fair and negotiated payout to each Indigenous man, woman and child in Canada, to settle all the outstanding land claims and treaties, and move forward together just like the leaders already do in Ottawa.”

H. “And then there’s a category most white people don’t even realize they fall into which is called the ‘unintentional racist’. And that’s the white girl who dresses up as a sexy Pocahontas for Halloween.”

I. “Donald Trump is a white supremacist who has largely surrounded himself w/ other white supremacists.”

J. “I think poverty to a large extent is a state of mind.”

1. Jemele Hill, sports journalist and ESPN host

2. Chelsea Handler, comedian

3. Miranda Tan, founder of social media company Robin8

4. Lynn Beyak, Conservative senator

5. Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa

6. Conrad Black, columnist and founder of the National Post

7. Ben Carson, U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

8. Arundhati Roy, author and activist

9. Floyd Mayweather, former professional boxer

10. Chris Hedges, journalist and author

VENUS ENVY ADVISORY: SEXUAL HEALTH & PLEASURE ALERT



Q:

DEAR VE,

I am a survivor of sexual abuse and have found maintaining meaningful, healthy sexual relationships difficult. It seems that every time I put myself out there, I keep falling into the same routine and find myself pulling away too soon in order to protect myself. What advice would you give someone who has survived sexual abuse yet cannot seem to navigate the tricky waters of dating in Ottawa?

– Lost at Sea in Little Italy

A:

DEAR LOST AT SEA IN LITTLE ITALY,

I so badly want to give you a 10-step plan to dating as a survivor. I want to tell you about therapists and yoga and crisis lines and books, and load you up with all sorts of groups and activities to quiet your mind and mend your heart. And some of these things will genuinely help, and have been lifelines for so many survivors.

But the bare, honest, truth is that healing from deep trauma is one part skills, one part time, and three parts jumping off a cliff, over and over again (emotionally-speaking, of course). It sounds like you have a pattern you want to break, which means that you have to practice a new way of showing up in the world. That kind of deep change is as courageous as it is terrifying. There are a million people who will tell you about time and teach you about skills, and those are big important parts of healing. But the hardest to find will be people who hold your hand through it, who let go when it's time and who don't try to jump in after you.

So first things first, find those people. Maybe it is a great therapist or maybe it's a collection of empathetic friends, or maybe a peer-support group at a sexual assault support centre. I'd recommend some combination of the above. You want

people in your support network who can help you figure out why you're pulling away and what you'd rather do instead. Be extremely wary of anyone trying to sell you the easy fix. That kind of knock-off hope is one of the most damaging things people promise to each other and yet you will find entire self-help aisles built on gimmicks and emotional band-aids. Do not trust your pain with people who are afraid to acknowledge its depth.

Second, go to work making a net to catch yourself, so that you can easily find the things that ground you and bring you back. Think about the times you've felt most un-self-consciously you, and think about the things you could do to get to that feeling. Maybe you feel that way when playing the trumpet or baking a cake or blasting Bohemian Rhapsody and singing along to the entire song. Make a list of everything you can think of. Then, think about anything that makes you feel soothed and comforted, and make a list of those things too. If it helps, print out quotes and music and lines of poetry and glue them to an actual net. Healing isn't linear, and you'll inevitably have ups and downs in the process. Having these self-care tools at the front of your mind will be invaluable on the down days.

Third, give yourself permission to take as much time as you need. That might mean taking a break from dating or sex to figure things out, without the pressure of someone else's potential disappointment. Or it might mean dating but letting people know that you want to keep things casual. Just make sure to tease out the difference between "should" and "need" for yourself – "should" will almost always bring you in the wrong direction.

When you do know what you need (and want!) from a relationship, don't be afraid to share this with your potential partners. Having even our smallest boundaries respected can go a long way in building trust, and trust is usually crucial in helping us move toward connection.

– Sam Whittle, Sex Educator and Owner of Venus Envy

"THE ROAD FORWARD"

Indigenous Doc Opens One World Film Festival



A scene from Marie Clements' documentary The Road Forward.

Brooklyn Connolly

The 28th annual One World Film Festival kicked off on Sept. 7 with a launch of "The Road Forward" at Bytowne Cinema. One World is Ottawa's longest running film festival.

Marie Clements' musical documentary connects the emergence of "Indian nationalism" in the 1930s to the current waves of First Nations activism confronting the injustices of Canadian colonialism.

Clements incorporated into the film Indigenous music rooted in social justice which created a strong and lasting effect. Indigenous artist Brad Henry attended the film and explained how featured artists such as Red-Bone have influenced social thought. "It's informative in a lot of ways," he said. Hearing the pain, hardship and all of the fight in the artists' voices while watching that history unfold through cinema was incredibly eye-opening.

Henry also explained the importance of Indigenous people telling their own sto-

ries. "When you're teaching the people in general about Aboriginal people it has to be from our perspective. It can't be a book review, it can't be somebody's opinion on what they've seen in the media, that is all secondary," he said. "We speak from our ancestors."

"The Road Forward" does just that. Clements has created a masterpiece of Indigenous justice cinema, allowing Indigenous artists to share the history of their people, from their own perspective and from their own hearts.

At the launch, Festival Coordinator Zoe Mallett told the audience that the 2017 lineup, "features over 17 Canadian and International documentaries highlighting a range of thought-provoking topics, including climate change, migration, refugees, Indigenous rights and perspectives, and solutions to some of the greatest challenges of our times."

Mallett emphasized that over 50 per cent of the documentaries were directed or produced by women.

Mallett told the *Level-*

ler that, "the purpose of the One World Film Festival is to raise awareness about human rights, social justice, environmental sustainability and other global issues, and connect people with opportunities for tackling those issues, by linking them with the people and organizations that are taking action to make change happen where it's most needed."

The One World Film Festival runs from Sept. 28 to Oct. 1 at Saint Paul University.

As part of the festival on Oct. 1, One World will co-present a series of docs — Through the Lens of Refugees Immigrants and Newcomers — with Refugee 613 and Ox-fam Canada.

"Through this project we're providing participants from Ottawa's diverse refugee, immigrant and newcomer populations with the tools and training to create short documentaries," said Mallett.

If you're looking to be inspired, to have your heart touched, to learn something new, to cry, or to be thrown into a passion, the festival is the place to be.

LISTINGS

WED SEPT 20

WORKSHOP: SAMH Brain Frosh + OPIRG: Mental Health and Anti Oppression Workshop. TBD. 4pm.

RAD FROSH: REC Hall + OPIRG: Privilege Walk. Carleton Atrium.

BOOK LAUNCH: Manufacturing Urgency with Corinne Mason and Inter Pares. 25One Community, 251 Bank St. 7pm.

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

THURSDAY SEPT 21

MEET & GREET: Centre-town Harm Reduction. Dundonald Park. 1-3pm.

ORGANIZING MEETING: Fight for \$15 & Fairness Ottawa. 251 Bank St. 6:30pm.

FRIDAY SEPT 22

WORKSHOP: SAMH Brain Frosh + OPIRG: Mental Health Literacy. Location TBD. 1pm.

SAT SEPT 23

PUBLIC MEETING: Ottawa Against Fascism Public Meeting. 161 Laurier Ave E. 1-4pm.

MONDAY SEPT 25

OPIRG-CARLETON WORKING GROUP FAIR: Carleton Atrium. 10am-4pm.

TUESDAY SEPT 26

MEETING: Ottawa Quakers - Largely silent mtg for worship, 91A Fourth Ave. Newcomers welcome!. 10:30am. Every Sun.

RALLY: Ayotzinapa 43: 3 Years Later No Justice! Canadian Tribute to Human Rights .5pm.

TALK: On Building a Social Movement with John S. Saul. Life of Pie Bakery & Café. 1134 Bank St. 7pm.

TALK: C-51 two years later: Will C-59 restore human rights? 25OneCommunity. 251 Bank St. 7:30pm.

WED SEPT 27

ORGANIZING MEETING: Organizing for the future of the youth climate justice movement. 25OneCommunity. 251 Bank St. 1-4pm.

BOOK LAUNCH: Cuba-U.S. Relations, Obama and Beyond with Arnold August. 25OneCommunity. 251 Bank St. 7pm.

TALK: Energy Policy and Innovation: Current Steps to Future Impact. 103 Steacie, Carleton, 6pm.

FREE SCREENING: Mistissini Healing. Mayfair Theatre. 6pm.

THURSDAY SEPT 28

FILM FESTIVAL: 28th Annual One World Film Festival. Sept 28-Oct 1. oneworldfilmfestival.ca

SAT SEPT 30

FLEA MARKET: PunkOttawa. Makerspace North, 250 City Centre Ave Bay 216. 11am-5pm.

Circle of All Nations 19th Fall Peace Event: 233 Gilmour St. Sept 30-Oct 1.

MONDAY OCT 2

RADIO: Femme Fatale. 12pm. Every Monday.

RADIO: Under Where? CHUO 89.1 FM. 4pm. Every Monday.

TUESDAY OCT 3

THE TAKE-OVER: CKCU 93.1 FM. 11am. Every 2nd Tuesday.

OPIRG CARLETON ROOTS RADIO: CKCU 93.1 FM. 12pm. Every Tuesday. www.ckcufm.com.

WED OCT 4

Families of Sisters In Spirit Vigil 2017: Parliament Hill. 11am-3pm.

BOOK LAUNCH: The Patch with Bestselling Author Chris Turner. Clocktower Brewpub Elgin St. 5pm.

TALK: Energy Policy and Innovation: Current Steps to Future Impact. 103 Steacie, Carleton, 6pm.

WED OCT 11

BOOK LAUNCH: The Unravelling with Award-Winning Writer Clem Martini Octopus Books. 7pm.

WED OCT 18

BOOK LAUNCH: Explanation of the Night with Award Winning Author, Edem Awumey. Octopus Books. 7pm.

Upcoming Workshops at
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Up Yours! The Anal Sex Workshop
October 17 6:30pm

Going Down: The Guide to Fellatio
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For more information or to register, visit www.venusenvy.ca

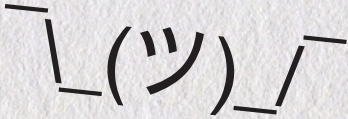


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✉ LETTER

WELCOME TO UNIVERSITY



Dear Levellers,

As an old man in my thirties, I can't help but cringe in disdain everytime I step foot on a university campus. What is it?! What is the point of it? Who does it even serve? I was recently "on campus" and took some time to sit and look around. Lucky for me, it was frosh week, a seemingly pointless series of non-sensical activities to give the fresh meat a hearty welcome to pseudo-adulthood and a pat on the back for being accepted into this "fine" institution. "Fuck this!" my mind yells to itself but I stay to watch.

Someone yells into a megaphone something intelligible that rhymes. A group all wearing the same t-shirt carry a lot of cardboard away for unknown but definitely useless purposes. A professor shuffles by. About 70% of people in my field of view have a coffee cup in their hand. All this happening to the sweet sounds of the top 20 being "mixed" at a volume meant for the hard-of-hearing or soon-to-be.

The spectacle was made even more jarring by the unfinished glassy modern building still in the works in the background and the giant-screen TV stuck to the side of a truck looping a video of people having a good time, almost like an instructional video just in case anyone present forgot how it's done.

"Who the fuck pays for all this shit?!" my mind asks rhetorically, because, actually, we all know. This place is an amusement park for new adults. It's a zoo where people can pay a lot of money to be put in a room with a well read person. It's a museum where the exhibits teach you all manner of interesting tidbits of knowledge.

Across from me I see a student talking to an older person and I imagine their conversation:

"Did you know a blue whale can fit its own weight in water in its mouth? Isn't that amazing?!"

"Wow! Let me write that down."

"Yes, it's true! Now here's a piece of paper saying you know that fact."

"Cool! So I guess I can show other people this paper?"

"Yes! That's the whole point of this place. And because you learned that here, people will be even more impressed than if you learned the exact same thing from some other place."

"Well, that's good to know. Don't want to spend money on a crappy piece of paper."

"Exactly! Now go out into the world, show people your piece of paper and get a job."

"Really? That's all it takes?"

"Oh yes. No one expects you to have skills nowadays."

I don't last much longer. In fact, my attention is quickly diverted by two people running into each other, because walking is hard when you're staring at your phone.

How have we let learning become such a charade? How much further do we need to fall down this rabbit hole of branded hoodies, pointless sports teams, oversized administrations, pandering social events, immature residence life, bountiful cafeterias, jacked workout rooms and fancifully named coffee before we realize that too much of a university has nothing to do with learning? Is this amusement park really the best we can do to educate and improve society? Welcome to university.

Regards, Adam Gibbard



HOROSCOPES

XL Petite

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Well Virgo, you made it through another rotation. New academic year, new birth year. This year remember to wear a disguise if you're planning on a naked birthday unicycle ride through the market — that way you won't get banned from that part of town again!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
Libra, the time is now for you to start that anarcho-vegan potluck group you've been thinking about. Everyone is giddy with enthusiasm, so you gotta nurture that before winter crushes the hope from life itself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
Have you seen this rad video about Sisterhood, collaboratively produced over a year and a half by more than 70 women? They're looking for talented women to cover the song and post to their website! Check it out here: goo.gl/XZ7afj

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Be sure to take a few minutes to set some intentions for this year Saggi. Everyone treats January as the new year, but that's totally arbitrary. I think you need to aim higher than sorting your recycling, but lower than bringing about the revolution. How about pieing Andrew Scheer as a happy compromise?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
S'up brah. It was good seeing you at that party the other night. Listen, you shouldn't take my advice as literally as you do — horoscopes are meant to be interpreted, know what I mean? When I said "shoot for the stars" I didn't mean that you should literally pull a side arm and start shooting the sky. Kind of killed the party...

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
Ya, so, I might have slightly misled you in that last horoscope Aquarius, sorry about that. The issue is that I was looking at the stars upside down, which, as you know, alters one perspective of up and down, right and wrong. They'll grow back though.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Here's a tune for all the teachers, profs, and TAs heading back to classrooms this September: goo.gl/ANJM7W

ARIES (March 21 - April 19)
Haikuroscope for you Aries: Water flows through us Our dearest of relations Stand up for our soul

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)
Taurus, we live in a period where people's freedom to hate is being protected more than people's right not to be hated. Don't let all this alleged "free speech" diversion cloud your judgement.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)
Well, Senator Bayek chose to open her mouth again. Apparently it's still perfectly ok in the Conservative caucus to call for the erasure of Indigenous identity and their envelopment into colonial Canada.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22)
This month, I call on you Cancer, to join forces with Sagittarius, Virgo, and Libra to start up the Ottawa Branch of the Biotic Baking Brigade!

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
So I guess we need to address the whole nuclear missile thing. I think Professor George Carlin's intervention is what's needed: goo.gl/6NMgzN

POEM
BY
TIM
BUCK

WORKING
FOR THE TIPS

The waitress
Tipped off
That the table's gratuity
Would be miserly,
Turned to the hostess
With tone soft
Warm and cheery

Eat the rich.

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Peace and Environment News

DO NOT PANIC!

The Listings have not disappeared, but they have been moved to page 14. Have a look inside. Do you value our community and campus listings? They are on the verge of becoming extinct. We need somebody to put them together, so that they continue to have a home here at the Leveller. Somebody like you!

Contact operations.the.leveller@gmail.com to learn more and get involved.

The Leveller



RESEARCH, EDUCATION, TAKE ACTION AT OPIRG CARLETON

OPIRG Carleton is your social justice resource centre at Carleton University! We are student-run, student-led and student funded and exist to help broaden and expand your university experience! If you're into social justice and you want to be a part of a change-making community, check us out!

Events

OPIRG puts on workshops, talks and events during the year related to different social justice issues and campaigns - local and international. Some events we have planned for this year are:

- Anti Oppression workshops
- Social Justice
- Film Festival
- Monthly Wings Nights
- Surviving Capitalism Workshop Series

Resources

In addition to all our events being free and open to all, we also offer resources to make University more accessible. We offer:

Bursaries for international, Indigenous, graduate & undergrad students
Study space & free printing
Organizational donations and support for your events
Accessibility Fund
Free pizza during exam time and snacks in our office all the time

Find Us

OPIRG Carleton
326 University Centre
Carleton University
(above the Multi Faith centre)

613-520-2757
www.opirgcarleton.org
opirg@carleton.ca



OPIRG Carleton
Research, Education, Action