Letters to the Editor

Pro Tern, le lundi 19 octobre 1998

Dear Mr. Fabry:

Yet once again it seems like our written paths must cross. It was with great enjoyment that I read your reply to my letter to the editor, at least your reply was more interesting than your original article was.

Just a few points of clarification to your article, if I may:

A) You did not print my article in Pro Tem, and I’m sorry if you think that I had to stoop to name-calling and character-bashing to get my article published.

B) The tone of envy is well prominent in your article, and I must conclude that ENVY was the main reason you replied to it.

C) You went to the movies with friends, oh its good to know you’re otherwise. And I would have thought that now, as an university student, would be mature enough to get away with what you wrote. Envy had nothing to do with it (though I'm sure you’d like to believe otherwise).

D) I do mandate congratulate you, on your apprenticeship of the japanese culture, its not one of the easiest ones to learn, and I do hope that you can say more than thank you very much in japanese.

As for your plan to live in Japan after graduation, once again Mr. Fabry I believe the difference between us, is that I don’t plan to do it, and then (if you’ll pardon the cliche) I have the T-shirt to show for it.

E) To conclude Mr. Fabry, do you not contradict yourself in regards to your statement “there still remain people who have to stoop so low to name calling and character bashing to get an article published...” in your last paragraph when you yourself resort to the use of the same weapons?

Dear Mr. J. Guillaume:

A few points of clarification to your article, if I may:

I wish I didn’t have to keep doing this, it is really tiring and time-consuming. But it seems you just can’t let sleeping dogs lie. So, here we go again.

First off, you continue to character-bash as is apparent by your opening statement. Secondly, it wasn’t my decision to print your article. Believe me, if it was up to me, I would have just crumpled up your original reply and thrown it out (which is actually what I did, at first. Then my code of honour (something else which is foreign to you) kicked in and I realized I couldn’t let you get away with what you wrote. Envy had nothing to do with it (though I’m sure you’d like to believe otherwise).

And I would have thought that now, as an university student, would be mature enough to settle our differences without squabbling and name-calling, like little children. One of us still has to attain a maturity level beyond adolescent status, and it isn’t me.

Oh yes, as a side note to my preceding point, one would believe you would have learned to spell correctly by now. Yes, I know a whole lot more than you thank you very much in Nihongo, but I won’t bother to write it out. I don’t want to waste my time replying to silly immature letters from people who have nothing better to do with their time. I have work to do.

Shitsureeshimasu.

Paul Fabry

P.S. Don’t bother writing to me anymore, I won’t answer.

And as far as your suggestion to take advantage of Air Canada deal, I did. Flight 387 departing to Amsterdam the last week of December returning the first week of January, I’ll be on it. When I come back I plan to tell you ALL about it.

Mr. J. Guillaume

P.S. And by the way Mr. Fabry, as for your poems that a whole new editorial letter.

Prochaine réunion de Pro Tem :

Pro Tem: room 117
Glendon Hall, 487-6736

Thursday, October 22
at 5:30pm.

Deadline for submissions: Tuesday, October 28
at 5:00pm.

Date de Tômbée : mardi 28 octobre
à 17:00.

You have des commentaires. Faites-les nous parvenir par courrier électronique (E-Maill). Notre adresse: protem@delphi.glendon.yorku.ca

Any comments? Send them to us by E-Mail. Our address: protem@delphi.glendon.yorku.ca
Your Cafeteria Exposed

David Clarke

In response to Ishani Gunasekera's investigation of the Restauranics cafeteria operation, and subsequent interview of Lou Salem, Restauranics general manager, let me detail some of the misguided operations of our very own cafeteria.

"I really want to show cooking meals to kids who think they can cook," Lou Salem during his interview. On a recent trip to the grill in the cafeteria, someone in front of me ordered a grilled chicken breast. I was then asked for my order of a hot dog. With both of our orders in tow, the grill operator produced a raw chicken breast from the refrigerator below the counter in her bare hands. After dropping that on the grill, she went directly to the cooler and produced a hot dog, and proceeded to grill it for my lunch. For those of you who don't know, raw chicken is a major source of salmonella, the bacteria responsible for a great deal of food poisonings each year. Anytime that employee touched her hands before washing them is covered in salmonella. The big knife. The cutting board. The bags. What is occurring in our cafeteria is massive cross contamination of salmonella. How many of you have felt queasy after a cafe lunch? Guess what? Salmonella may be behind that upset stomach!

A second note for those of you who like the pizza in the cafe. Go and take at the hot box that the pizza sits in all day. The knob at the top right is set for medium humidity and about 130 degrees Fahrenheit. This is unsafe! Food handling requirements state that the temperature of the food must be kept between 140 and 165 degrees Fahrenheit before the food is ready to be served. It may be saving money to them, but it's you health and mine that they are playing with. I won't stand for it, and I hope you won't either. Remember this when it comes time to renew their contract for next year - food poisoning and unsafe food practices are real. They could make you sick, and they could kill you, and it's happening right in front of our eyes!

Salmonella may be behind that upset stomach!

The nightlife at York's favorite watering holes could soon be coming to a halt. In the past month word has been circulating that York's Liquor license is under review by the L.R.O and the pubs may be closing down. "It could happen as late as April and as early as next week," said Glenn Rigby manager of the Cafe de la Terrasse.

York University holds one license that covers all pubs on campus. Unlike other bars in the province, which have one individual license for every bar they operate, York holds one license that acts the same for "The Underground" as it does for the "Cafe de la Terrasse". The "L.R.O doesn't like this, they would rather have the license holder oversee the day to day operations," said Rigby.

The problem at hand is that the Metro Police have filed a complaint with the L.R.O that forces them to investigate the York bars. A pub manager, who wished his name withheld, told me, "The Police have been driving around campuses at night and York Main already this term. It's not always for violence, but after a certain number of calls, they're getting tired of it."

York has been a battleground over the years during pub nights. "From stabbing, to beatings, they've got a problem on their hands," Rigby said.

York Security, thatpatrolsthe campus nightly, has always been able to keep the problems under control. Unlike security at U of T, who are able to detain people and hold them, York Security has limited powers to charge and detain people, "York security is forced to call the police if any problems happen, it would be as simple as a theft. If any charges are to be laid the police must be called all the time. York was able to deal with the problem and clean the place up," said Rigby.

"I would not believe that the license is being reviewed for violence," said the pub manager. He told me that in the past when York Security has had a problem with a bar, they would deal with it. "Earlier this term the police came in and shut all the pubs down at 2 a.m. This pub also experienced one man who was beat over the head with a bottle. For years, The Underground has had problems every weekend, the cops were being upset stomach!

"...every time I've been to a pub night at the main campus something has happened."

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Board will examine corporate-school partnerships, Marchi says

Source: The Varsity
Andrew Sunstrom

TORONTO (CUP) - The federal government will begin consulting businesses about how the education sector can build ties with industry, the Minister of Trade has announced.

Sergio Marchi unveiled the Education Market Advisory Board at an education summit last week amid delegates who called for a loosening of restrictions around private sector influence in post-secondary education.

"The government is trying to support your initiatives," Marchi said of the advisory board, which will ask businesses for ideas about how to forge links between Canada's schools and corporations. "We also want your advice - for you to tell us how we can help you best," he told the gathering of about 400 business and education leaders at the Toronto Convention Centre.

Marchi says the initiative spells good news for schools and the private sector since Canada's burgeoning education industry has the potential to be profitable. "Not only is it good business - but definitely big business," Marchi said. "There is still work to be done and money to be made. Those companies that ride this wave will enjoy, clearly, the benefits and profits beyond anything we’ve ever seen before," he said.

Promotional material for the conference asked delegates to "continue to explore a $700-billion growth industry for the finance and investment community." Delegates at the conference echoed Marchi's call for more ties between the private and education sectors.

"In the U.S., there is more money and eagerness for installations and partnerships, but Canada tends to take the Kumbaya approach," said Myles McGovern, president and chief executive officer of MC2, a technology-based company that has a partnership with Simon Fraser University.

Margaret Northey, dean of Queen's School of Business, agrees.

The system we have in Canada is very slow in moving to change," said Northey, who spoke at the conference to promote Queen’s executive master’s of business administration program. The two-year degree charges students $60,000 tuition.

We need to link business needs to knowledge and research in a responsive way," said Geraldine Kenny Wallace, managing director and vice chancellor of British Aerospace Engineering University. The university has partnerships with many post-secondary schools in Europe.

But not everyone was pleased with Marchi's endorsement of corporate-school links - or his presence at the meeting. Student and union activists condemned the minister's attendance at the second annual Canadian Conference on Investment in the Education-For-Profit Industry. "His presence gives a kind of authority to this," said David Clipsham, of the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

"I’m horrified by the direction of this conference and specifically by the presence of a federal cabinet minister," the York University English professor said.

Elizabeth Carlyle, national chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, said she too was offended by the fact that Ottawa condensed the conference. "It’s horrible that the federal government is interested in giving education away to the private sector so they can tear it apart and make money out of the pieces," she said told reporters during the conference’s lunch break.

Carlyle says the summit’s lack of concern for accessibility, quality and what constitutes a university is a clear indicator of what is to come.

"The complete lack of consideration of the ethical implications of the conference is really scary for students," she said. Other critics also say the link between education and the private sector will only lead to a lack of diversity in the curriculum of students.

"If education becomes a commodity, there will be a control by those who fund it," said Clipsham, who fears research will soon be geared solely to the interests of the private sector.

The Gala Against Global Greed

Suzanne McCullah

The Gala event was organized by the Council of Canadians and took place at the University of Toronto Auditorium. It was intended to be a celebration of the third citizen’s inquiry into alternatives to the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI).

The purpose of the inquiry was to create alternatives to the present economic situation based on the values of the citizens; that citizens have rights, that the government is responsible to the citizens, and that those corporations are accountable for their actions. The Council of Canadians is planning to present these alternatives, in the form of an initiative report to the government on the 29th of October.

The timing of their report is significant as it comes at the end of the six-month break in negotiations about the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI). The MAI was to have been completed in February of this year but the 29 members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) were unable to agree on the terms.

Within Canada there has been strong opposition to the MAI. Critics say that it would give corporations more power than governments and thus lessen accountability to citizens.

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Folklore Glendonnienn, deuxième partie

Lionel Tona

Après un petit passage à vide, voici de nouvelles histoires de fantômes pour satisfaire vos petits esprits curieux et gourmands de "paranormal". J'ai en effet petites anecdotes qui m'ont semblé tomber à lieu par lequel on peut investir votre corps pour un moment, rendant vaine toute tentative de bouger. Puis tout s'arrête d'un coup et ne revient pas à la norme. La rue est toujours aussi calme et même jour de l'année.

L'exorciste

Il paraîtrait que le campus soit situé sur un lieu fortuit lié aux amérindiens. Plusieurs versions évoquent une terre sacrée, une sépulture, ou encore de feu qui luit de ci de là. Par exemple, la légende raconte que l'âme des défunts, laquelle de ces versions croire, c'est un autre problème. Mais il semblait bien qu'un "chaman" amérindien ait été invité à venir sur les lieux il y a quelques années pour équilibrer les énergies ; c'était sûrement une approximation lixicaire, mais vous voyez l'idée.

Cocoon I & II à 5 jours d'intervalle.

Un étudiant et sa fiancée, alors qu’ils se trouvaient à environ 20 kilomètres du collège, aperçurent des lueurs dans le ciel. Perplexe mais sans plus, le couple prit la voiture pour rentrer au collège, à la résidence Wood. La pression commença à monter : ils eurent la sensation que les lumières les suivait, et ce, jusqu'à Glendon...

Il se rapprocha parfois. C’était la dimanche 16 novembre 1996. Ils rentrèrent dans le bâtiment puis, décidément intrigués, ils firent une excursion nocturne dans le bois derrière la résidence. Ils revirent des lumières qui, lors de déplacements saccadés et rapides, venaient jusqu’à hauteur d’arbres. Ils ne sont pas les seuls à les avoir vus, chacun avançait sa propre théorie pour rationaliser l’affaire, sans réellement se mettre d’accord à la fin. Quelques jours seulement après (jusqu’au 21 novembre 1996), une étudiante prétendit voir dans le ciel quatre lumières qui semblaient y décrire des motifs, se rejoignant par moment au centre.

Psychose

Trèsôt, un matin, à Hilliard, une étudiante entend un cri féminin assez fort paraissant provenir de l’extérieur, sans réellement pouvoir le localiser. Ce qui est étrange, c’est que personne n’a jamais découvert qui avait émis ce cri. Un tel cri n’est habituellement pas laissé sans suites.
Student days of action protest-Toronto

J.J. O’Rourke

Organized by the Canadian Federation of Students, Toronto’s Days of Action protest wound its path through the downtown core last Friday. Following the ‘trail of influence’, students marched in protest of tuition hikes and budget cuts to their post secondary programs. The protest was also joined by a Union Station at approx. 2:30pm and marched north through the city’s financial district.

For the first stage of the rally, they accused members of the private sector of ignoring their responses to the forefront.

Protesters were angry at increased corporate involvement, and control in university and college programs. They all marched in step, mimicking the resounding hand-drum that drifted away endlessly, and stopped at selected buildings along the route.

Intersections and walkways in front of banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions were under heavy pressure as the crowd chanted tirelessly. Lookers from the buildings’ windows, and others along the streets on their smoke breaks were tired and opinionless, gazing with dreamy looks in their eyes and smirks on their faces.

An estimated 700 showed up for the activity, and other groups across the country have had other efforts in progress all week long. Postcard mailing campaigns, and other marches and protests, starting Oct 1 -16, all accuse the federal and provincial governments of outrageous tuition hikes and discrimination of students in recent federal legislation. University tuition has seen an average increase of 53% during the last decade. Programs like Medicine at the University of Toronto, have gone up by 61% in the last five years. Provincial deregulation of fees for certain programs in Ontario now means that tuition at York University has had the same treatment, with a similar hike during the last decade. One program in particular at Sheridan, has gone up 480% in one single year.

The crowds marched on, drum banging away, whistles and megaphones now replacing the usual cacophony of horns and screeching tires that is Friday downtown traffic.

One program in particular at University of Toronto who are parents may fall out of the idea of Erin Doucette, a Women’s Centre member who had a baby last year. Erin is starting the group to provide the opportunity to both pregnant and parenting women on campus. The support group will be run collectively - that is there will not be an “expert” facilitator, but all decisions about the group will be made by the members.

Choosing the intersection of University and College as the site for a sit-in was very apt and it took all of a few minutes for the novelty to wear off. Megaphones were offered up to anyone with a message, and initial speakers encouraged students to continue the action after they returned home, and throughout the year. “That’s how it’s gonna work.”

They revealed plans for a national student strike in February. One tactic would be to reverse any prepayments that they made to the institution, plus deferring any outstanding ones. This would seriously affect operating costs, forcing universities and colleges to either discuss the situation, or close down. Another protest organized for the weekend, in Ottawa, had been dubbed a ‘going away party’ for Mike Harris. It would happen just as the P.C. party geared up for their pre-electoral campaign.

Other soapboxes had their say, in what was quickly changing from a Day of Action protest, to an information session. The crowd was lulled out of their thoughts at one point by a elderly gentleman arguing rather militantly against democracy.

For the first stage of the rally, they accused members of the private sector of ignoring their responses to the forefront.

Some students were surprised at the supportive crowd reaction. One of the final speakers urged us to change our original route, so that we could include high school students who were protesting outside an education building a few blocks away. This time the drums didn’t come.

With a mob of confused ideologies, we played ‘follow the leader’ for another 45 minutes before finally ending up at Queen’s Park. The time was 6pm, well after quitting time for most government workers. Members of the labour movement, the Women’s Action committee and other educational organizations greeted us.

Having started on the right foot, and with everyone feeding off each other’s energy, it was easy to see how a potentially constructive protest was dismantled. Mixed messages, confused politics, and outside influences all contributed to a small demonstration for Toronto students and their cause. Future activities will require organizers to pay more attention to timing, information, and student involvement.

Mom's Support Group at the Women's Centre

Meri Perra

The Women’s Centre is organizing a mother’s support group - open to both pregnant and parenting women on campus. The support group will be run collectively - that is there will not be an "expert" facilitator, but all decisions about the group will be made by the group members.

...they are too old to be "teenage" moms, and too "young" to be having children otherwise...

...women who are leading particularly busy lives an opportunity to spend regular amount of time in a relaxed environment where they are only focusing on themselves. Hopefully, the group will give women the opportunity to have some fun together, too!

A date has been set for a first meeting. A date and time will be set once we have everyone’s availability. The Women’s Centre will try to provide baby-sitting for women who require it, and will be a baby safe environment by the time of the first meeting. The language of the discussion group will be dependent on the women who join.

The Women’s Centre has not run a support group for several years. Old pamphlets from the Centre suggest that we used to run several groups in the same fashion as the mom’s support group, where the women in the group control the dynamics and discussion without the advise of an expert. We are always open to ideas, though, and please contact us if you would like to see another group formed out of the Women’s Centre.

Women who are interested in joining can call the Women’s Centre at: 736-2100 ext. 88917 or visit us at D124 Hilliard. Currently, we are asking for everyone’s availability and determining if we can provide child care to women who require it.

The group is starting because of the tireless efforts of Erin Doucette, a Women’s Centre member who had a baby last year. Erin is starting the group with the opportunity to provide the opportunity for women with children to meet and interact in a supportive environment. This is particularly important since students in university who are parents may fall between the cracks when it comes to services - they are too old to be "teenage" moms, and too "young" parenting, can lead to feelings of isolation, which the support group will hopefully begin to resolve. Also important, the group will offer...
features

We wish you a Merry Easter...er,
Ah, the holidays. 'The time when everyone gets together, has a few sweets, puts on a few pounds, and regrets it the morning after. Ah, the holidays. 'The time when everyone gets together to celebrate this joys occasion. Ah, the holidays. 'The time when everyone gets together to observe this holiest of holy remembrances. Ah, the holidays. Er, which one? All of the aforementioned special remembrances have their origins in Christianity, and all of the aforementioned special remembrances now have become so diluted with commercialization, it's difficult to remember just what exactly it is that we are supposed to celebrate in the first place.

commercial events

I know that many people wouldn't think that Halloween is a Christian celebration. Well, guess again, folks. The original meaning of Halloween has now become so saturated with commercial events, all people can think about nowadays is witches and vampires, ghosts and goblins, spirits and spooks, etc., etc. The original celebration which would become Halloween actually has three versions pertaining to its origin. The first dates back to pre-Christian Scotland and Scandinavia, with a celebration of Celtic priest/drusid's. The Celtic year actually began on November 1st with the festivals of Samhain. On October 31st, the eve of Samhain, many groups of people dressed up in disguises and carved lanterns fashioned from turnips (so that they could have their lights and eat them too), and passed from village to village carrying them. This was a type of harvest festival, though the priests took it one step further and stated that it was actually a festival of the dead. The priest/drusid's believed that it was on that night of nights when the earth came into closest contact with the spirit world, and when the different spirits, ghosts, goblins, and witches were thought to roam the earth, so the people would dress up in disguise and make themselves general nuisances. As these unavailing spirits roamed around, villagers lighted bonfires to drive the spirits away, or to guide them back to the spirit world.

pagan gods

Another religious group has its roots in the Dark Ages. In Central Europe, the Roman-Catholic (Christian) Church destroyed many of the temples of different pagan gods and goddesses (I guess I should say that those gods and goddesses were not worshiped), the temples of Apollo and Diana, for example. This pagan worship was not stamped out entirely, however, and gave life to a new form of worship, that of witchcraft. One of the greatest celebrations in a witch's calendar is that of the Sabbath, and the most important of the Witches' Sabbaths is the Black Sabbath, or Black Sabbath (NOT the heavy metal group of witches, which occurred on October 31st. A lot of the traditional Halloween witchcraft folklore, such as broomsticks, black cats, cauldrons, and spells, are actually derived from the Black Sabbath.

big bang

Version #3 goes way back to the early Roman Catholic Church, which chose certain days to honor the various saints. When they ran out of those days to honor the saints, the Church decided to group them together in one day instead of commemorating all the saints. This big bang was called All Saints' Day. In the 1000s, Pope Gregory II (14th century) extended this grand party to encompass the entire Roman Catholic Church. This event was named All Hallows' Mass, with the celebration the night before called All Hallows' Eve, with 'all hallow' referring to all the hallowed ones. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what the name 'Halloween' came from. As for the custom of trick-or-treating, that too goes back to the pagan times, during the pagan New Year's feast in Ireland. Those spirits who were too stubborn to sheddable back to the land of the dead were treated to a banquet (lucky bastards), at the end of which the villagers would disguise themselves as the souls of the dead, paraded to the outskirts of town, leading the spirits away. This was done to avoid any troubles that the spirits might bring. Another method of exorcism that the villagers used to make the dead happy was to set out bowls of fruit and other goodies for the spirits to munch on, hopefully so that they would eventually amend and leave the villagers in peace. When belief in ghosts and goblins waned, young ones took it upon themselves to dress up as ghosts and threatened to play tricks on those who wouldn't give them any candy, establishing the basis for modern-day trick-or-treating. However, it has now become so trivialized and commercialized, the original meaning of Halloween has become lost and buried under a layer of phony makeup, tacky wigs, and fake fangs. Very few people nowadays celebrate the Black Sabbath or the festival of Samhain. How can they?

get candy

As Michael Ellis, an upper-year student correctly pointed out, "It's no longer a religious holiday. It's just a chance to wear cute costumes, dress up, get lots of candy, and have fun. I'm not going to drink excessively, bright flicking lights, or wear costumes which offend me. I'm just Halloween."

Waldemar Gatuwinski, professor of English at Glendon College, concurred, though he had quite a few other things to say as well on the topic of Halloween. "It's fun for kids. I remember taking my son trick-or-treating. first he was Merlin the famous magic man from King Arthur's court, then Batman, then a Ninja Turtle. I think it's a nice tradition. Mind you, in Poland, the night before is called All Souls' Night, to remember the dead, to pray for them. It's an evening of remembrance. The next day is called All Saints' Day. It's a great thing. I like it now, now that I'm living in a residential area. However, when I was a young man, I think it's a nice tradition. Mind you, in Poland, the night before is called All Souls' Night, to remember the dead, to pray for them. It's an evening of remembrance. The next day is called All Saints' Day. It's a great thing. I like it now, now that I'm living in a residential area. However, when I was a young man, it was actaually a real day, surrounded by a layer of phony makeup, tacky wigs, and fake fangs. Very few people nowadays celebrate the Black Sabbath or the festival of Samhain. How can they?

gemlne witches

With the popularity of Dracula and vampires in general, Frankenstein's monster and the dozens of costumes spawned from gizmos of sources such as 'TV, movies, books, and even radio, it's no wonder that the dark drinks, priests, and gentle witches of days gone by have slipped into the annals of mediocrity and history, especially in this modern day and age.

Next issue: here comes Santa Claus, riding on his high-flying commercialized reindeer sled.
**Handwriting as a form of individuality**

Suzanne McCullagh

Should there be a laptop for every student in public school? This is just one of the many issues up for debate on the public education front.

A growing number of people are adopting the belief that a laptop computer for every student in public schools will increase the ability of students to learn. This belief is based largely on the idea that it is a problem that it takes children a long time to develop writing skills. Laptops would alleviate this “problem.”

If there was a laptop for every student, children would no longer need to develop their writing skills before working with language in a more complex manner or “producing results more quickly.”

Those who oppose the placement of laptops in the classroom argue that it would change the role of teachers from educators to mere facilitators. This is an important issue but not the only one, perhaps not even the main issue.

One of the most important issues surrounding the laptop debate is often ignored; that writing skills are individuality, as is speech. We all have different ways of speaking and different voices to use. The differences between our speaking styles highlights the fact that we are individuals.

Voice, like writing, is an expression of personality. The typed word says nothing about the person who typed, except that they chose that particular word.

If laptops are introduced into classrooms with the purpose of making it unnecessary for children to develop writing skills, they will also take away a major avenue for personal expression.

The typed word is important for entirely different reasons; it allows us to communicate more quickly and more legibly but the written word communicates who we are and sometimes how we are feeling.

Personal identity and emotion are continually overlooked in our society. We are increasingly blinded by progress and its two sidekicks; change and speed. We don’t realize that progress can happen in an infinite number of directions. Instead, we think that we need to implement changes that will enable us to do things faster and that this will bring progress. The fact that this progress is achieved at the cost of individuality is often hardly noticed.

**Perspectives**

Deathly mix can turn phonelines into flatlines

Annamaria Kougias

One dose of driving added to one dose of chatting equals the perfect recipe for more senseless accidents.

We’ve all heard about the potential health hazards of cellphone use... does it really cause cancer? Who knows. While some research has claimed that it doesn’t, I ride a wavy ray of skepticism, because the matter remains: you link up your head to that ‘great operator in the sky’ by holding a metal apparatus to your ear which is used in conjunction with a satellite.

Whatever the case is, there is one issue regarding cellphones and human health that I hold a strong opinion about: cell phones contribute to accidents.

As more and more of us succumb to the pressures of living life in the ‘fast lane’, we avidly purchase the latest in technological devices that allow us to communicate on the go, or while performing other tasks. Pagers and cellphones have congested our skies with close to 300 satellites of which, on a clear night, can be witnessed orbiting our filthy planet. True, it’s amazing that we can talk on the phone practically anywhere...I’m sure you’ve seen people chatting on their little compact phones in just about any place you’ve been. And I’m also sure that you’ve been somewhere when ring ring ring...eight people reach for their bags to find out whose call it is. But there is a downside to this communicative advancement that isn’t so luxurious, and that is, the use of cellphones can be hazardous and even lethal. Car accidents are what I’m referring to. Blah, blah, blah...SMASH!! She was on the phone too busy bitching at her boyfriend to notice that cute, little lady running across the street to catch her bus. Oops...there goes one more Fido customer to the eternal pound of hell.

Think about it, we’ve all experienced a situation in a car that has caused us to nearly dirty our drawers. Like the time you’re driving down the street, freeway, wherever, you’re just driving...and out of nowhere some maniac almost sideswipes you or, keeps straying into your lane. You know the drivers I’m talking about here, the ones who can’t decide which lane to drive in, or, how about the parking lot scene, where buddy keeps reversing despite your attempts at sounding your horn. Does this sound familiar? Well, if it does, then you probably also noticed that the loser who almost crashed into you, speeding or drifting, was yapping on their phone while driving.

It is not my intention to hard-ball any of you who have a cellphone, but I am definitely pointing my finger to you who talk on your phone while driving a car. If you’re one of those people who...please consider what you are doing! Driving takes enough concentration to take you where you want to go safely. Talking on the phone while driving takes away focus from that much needed concentration. There is a time and place for arguing with your girlfriend or for making plans with colleagues/ friends and it’s definitely NOT on the phone while operating a large two-ton vehicle. There is a plethora of crazies out there driving who don’t deserve the privilege of a license in the first place. There are already too many losers who don’t check their blind spots when changing lanes, or, who don’t signal before turning. In other words, there are more than ample things to worry about behind the wheel such as traffic lights, pedestrians, street signs, cyclists, and of course, other wacko drivers. The last thing the roads need now is people busy tied up in the phone lines of space. If you do yap and drive, please carefully consider that there are more important matters at hand than your conversation on the phone.

Humans are out there who may be travelling to visit their dying relatives or, they may be kids playing on the sidewalk, or, those just trying to get to work before their boss freaks out on them for being late. But, most importantly, there’s you, and only one of you. You won’t feel so hot after you’ve rear-ended someone while trying to dial your chum’s number. Trying to accomplish the tasks of driving and talking on the phone just lead to higher chances of misfortune. You’ll total your car, your face (or someone else’s) and, you’ll only end up with one realization...the call could have waited until you were stationary-parked-not moving.

Although this article may be more geared towards drivers out there, I ask all of you to consider the seriousness of this topic because it involves everyone, drivers and pedestrians.

The message here is: driving a vehicle while using a cell phone should be prohibited against the law. Peace.
Croyez-vous qu'il y ait des fantômes à Glendon ?

Loïc Olivier, 1ère année en Études Internationales

Ça m’intrigue beaucoup, c’est vrai qu’il y a beaucoup de rumeurs... mais si j’apprenais que ce n’est pas un sujet qui me préoccupe énormément.

Graciela, 2ème année de Sciences Politiques

Je ne crois pas vraiment aux fantômes... j’ai entendu beaucoup d’histoires sur ceux de Glendon, mais ce n’est pas un sujet qui me préoccupe énormément.

Marie-Claude, employée aux Services des Résidences

Oui, je crois beaucoup aux esprits, j’ai passé des soirées entières parler des fantômes de Glendon avec des amis, au point d’en avoir des problèmes pour m’endormir !

Danaïsa Szwajkowska, 3ème année d’Arts Dramatiques

J’ai dormi une nuit dans la chambre d’invités à Wood (le “Bunk-room”, au rez-de-chaussée). Il y régnait une atmosphère très lourde, inquiétante... oppressante même. Je m’y suis sentie très mal, malgré la taille de la pièce... comme si quelque chose ou quelqu’un y était mort.

Anonyme

J’ai entendu des histoires là-dessus pour ne pas y croire. Une de mes amies habitait dans une chambre qui était si désolée hantée et qui a dû en changer tant elle s’y sentait mal.

Walk this way please

J.J. O’Rourke

STOP IT. STOP IT NOW. ALL OF YOU JUST STOP IT. JUST STOP. NOW. PLEASE JUST STOP IT WITH ALL YOUR FEARS AND JEERS AND BESTS AND JESTS. STOP IT ALL RIGHT NOW. I can’t take it anymore.

Here is another of those annoying little articles on discrimination. We all know that it’s wrong and we’ve been hearing it since we were young, and, we think that the message is clear, that it’s a hit home. We’ve got IT. OK?! But I really don’t think that some of us get IT. -What’s the deal? -What’s the problem? -What can this white boy tell me about discrimination that I haven’t already picked up from a billboard somewhere, or a classroom, or a training seminar at work? Well, I’m not here to preach. This is just as useful as you will be for you.

Discrimination is wrong. Right? We’ve all heard that before. But why is it wrong? Because it’s not nice to demean or belittle people due to their differences, or, to lump them into a stereotype. It doesn’t feel nice. Sure, so far, same old stuff right? Have you ever taken the question a step further? How can being respectful help me? Why is it wrong to make people feel bad?

Why alienate them into a closet where we can’t see them anymore? Why joke about them, whether they’re there or not?

It’s wrong first of all, because you’re in Canada. This is the one nation in the world where people come to feel safe, comfortable, and, different. We’re all immigrants, I don’t care if your family was on the first boat or today’s last flight. They were, and are, all escaping from something. But we’re all here, now. We all live in the same cities and towns. We all elect the same governments. We’ve developed a spirit here that is against discrimination and we agree that it’s against the law. We are all equal. Whenever we have overlooked that equality and paid attention only to our differences, we have run into problems. When nationals overlooked it in Native affairs, we ran into problems. When French culture demanded special treatment, we ran into problems. When we overlooked it with the Chinese, we ran into problems.

The differences among us cause the tension, the ridicule, and, to a greater extent, the wars.

When are people going to understand that no one is better than the other, and, no one is going to win? Religious wars, racial wars, political wars, gender wars...NO ONE IS GOING TO WIN. They’re all losers. But the worst part is, if they lose, so does everyone else.

The problem must be dealt with, not put aside. Whether we all lose, or we get it through our thick skulls that everyone is important to the big picture, and we win together.

What people don’t realize is that the differences separate us are the very things that can bring us together. People, human beings: no one knows why we’re here, but we’re here together, and that’s all we have, each other. No one has all the answers, but we all have parts of them. DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE SAME ANSWER. Equal, equal parts, equal parts of the same damn picture.

Every race, culture, creed, sect, sexual orientation; every cab driver, C.E.O., painter, everyone... everyone has a piece of the puzzle that will see us through to the next step in our evolution. All of our stories, legends, languages, and, customs are here for a reason. We have to use them. These are the modes of communication. These are our modes of education. We can’t isolate ourselves from the knowledge that is here within each other. We as a species can go no further unless we’re connected to one another. The information is there and it needs, beg to be learned and discussed, and, most importantly, passed on. Instead of throwing it away with ridicule, embrace it with an intelligent conversation.

The next time you encounter people who are different, realize that they are your equals and that they are your partners in the master plan. The universe is much too big and diverse for us to be squabbling over such trivialities. So let’s take the next step together, shall we? After you... no, after you...no, after you...
Billy Bishop goes to war

One caveat before we begin. I am probably not the ideal person from whom to get an objective review of Billy Bishop Goes to War. In some ways, I grew up as Billy Bishop, staging the one-man play a cappella for various high schools around Southern Ontario during my OAC year. So, I fully admit that I may be overly critical of another Bishop, having inhabited the character for such a long time.

That said, the current production of Bishop offers plenty to criticize. Let’s start with the choice of Eric Peterson as the anti-hero of the title. Peterson will forever be identified with the role in Canadian theatre circles, for he invented it, along with playwright/pianist John Gray, twenty years ago. Peterson is long past the youthful exuberance of his Bishop of twenty years ago, so he makes the obvious decision to play a middle-aged Bishop, looking back on his glory days in the war. The choice might have worked and might have given a new resonance to the play - had Peterson actually found a character for the older Bishop. But Peterson looked uncomfortable on stage, not really knowing when to renounce as the older Bishop and when to burst with excitement as the cocky Bishop of the First World War. Moreover, it is difficult to become immersed in the story when it is related through a second-hand medium; instead of visualizing Bishop’s remarkable experience. I felt as if I was being told reactionary old war stories at Grandpa’s knee. The immediacy of Bishop’s story was lost, and with that went the satire of British imperialism - the true thrust of the play.

Sue Lepage’s set design had to deal with the problem of making the gaping stage of the Bluma Appel theatre intimate enough to focus the audience’s attention on Peterson. Unfortunately, her set, done up like an old legion hall, didn’t come to grips with the problem. Peterson most often seemed to be floating around, trying to cover the whole set, which ruined the timing of several potentially humorous sequences. However, in one moment near the end of the play, when Bishop delivered a propaganda speech to rows of empty chairs, the set became a poignant symbol of the older Bishop’s irrelevance to the new machine of war.

The staging of the play seemed rough and unrehearsed. Several sequences were awkwardly choreographed, which was especially evident when Peterson tried to give a cloven-hoofed impression of dancing. (All francophones would be aghast at his attempt to impersonate a wartime French lounge singer.) One moment, when Bishop took flight to attack a German aerodrome, seemed so ludicrously contrived that my companion and I had to stifle a laugh.

I still believe that Bishop can be a relevant play for today’s Canada. However, this version seems content to leave it as a museum piece, allowing Billy to grow old but not to adapt to a new context. If this is the best we can do, perhaps it’s now time to ground Bishop permanently.

Eric peterson of Billy Bishop Goes to War.

Billy Bishop Goes to War, one of the chestnuts of Canadian theatre, runs at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts until October 31.

Insomnia

Lionel Toma

C’est l’histoire d’un couple au bord de la rupture. Ils ont une petite fille en bas âge. L’homme souffre d’insomnies chroniques. Sa femme est contrariée du coup car il prend des bains à cinq heures du matin. Le frère de l’homme incarne le monde des corporations corrompues et qui le savent... tout ça concentré dans la magie du simple mot “Disney”.

Sur cette toile de fond, le rêve se mêle à la réalité dans un ballet effréné d’entrées et de sorties de scènes très ingénieuses marquant avec brio des changements de décor subtiles et efficaces. Il semble que la black box du Theatre Centre ait “renversée” pour l’occasion cette précieuse trouvaille au moment de l’arrivée de la pièce, le temps de la Fête des Jeunes.
Hullabaloo in Toronto!

Danusia Szwojkowska
Toulouse-born choreographer Maguy Marin created her company in 1978 and has toured extensively around the globe. The evening consisted of two very different acts.

The opening curtain revealed twelve people sitting on stools at one side of the stage. Six men in suits and six women in tailored, short, sleeveless plaid dresses with chunky high heels. They danced to a cacophony of verbal sounds ranging from laughter and coughing to loud expulsions of sounds like "PAS!", "PEUT!", "ÇÀ!" and "SE!". Witnessing the movements on stage that were at times rigid and mechanical, sometimes fluid and graceful, one got a sense of how society can function: sometimes orderly and controlled, or unexpectedly fresh and smooth. Act two, DAM, was more interesting, perhaps because the dancers were unencumbered by headset microphones. The men no longer wore constrictive suit-jackets and ties: just white shirts with rolled-up sleeves, and the women who had long hair undid the business-like hairdos to match their free-flowing dresses. Some of them played instruments that were lined up at the back of the stage. The balance between strong single and double performances versus well-timed ensemble choreography including all twelve dancers was striking. The focal point on the stage shifted among the players who were equally talented and interesting to watch. Unlike classical ballet, there were many body shapes and sizes represented as well as a mix of ages. One reason the performance was so entertaining was the simple lighting backdrop. It ranged from a red, blue, yellow or white wash to occasional stripes cast across the stage upon which the dancers navigated effectively. In act two alone, there were eight or nine different "scenes" or styles of dance. At one point, seven dancers were letters of the alphabet and a narrator told a linguistic story complete with technical phonological terms. This whole hullabaloo ("ramdam" in French) gave a whimsical perspective on the corporate boredom that dictates so many workers' days. The Movado Dance '98-'99 season continues with Parallel Ports, October 22 - 24.

En ce moment à la galerie Glendon...


Inés Avendaño, lors du vernissage de son exposition.

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Tutoring is also offered on a drop-in basis at the same times.
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John Holmes Memorial Lecture
The tenth annual John Holmes Memorial Lecture will be given by Louise Frechette, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations on "The United Nations in the Next Millennium". Tuesday October 27th at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Reception to follow in Glendon Hall. RSVP 487-6704.

Su-Lan Tenn : Directrice, Conseil pédagogique et liaison Manager, Advising & Liaison (416) 487-6710; courrier électronique/email: stenn@glendon.yorku.ca

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Chaps

Upon my backside sat one cold day
In the quest for a technical job
When burst through the door an irate young Irish
Who addressed me in a manner belittling a jerk:

"The computers don't work and it is all your fault.
And upon your weak body I'll mount an assault.
If you don't fix this problem, this week the first
That has swallowed my homework and caused me distress.

Calmly rose I, and wary I went.
To assist this young Irish, with this exclusion.
To threaten and to the experts, the kings
Of technical matters and other such things.

I strode in with dignity, distinction and grace
In front of the tables, and made a grave face.
To show the endusers that I'm on the job
And the Irish who had called me merely a knap.

The faces of all the downtrodden masses
Attempting their homework and taking their chances
That windows won't carve up their essays or more
Were grey, pale and awful a sign of their chores.

I spied a foul beastie with treacherous thought
Munching some chocolate that he had just bought!
I glared at him with an abhorrence so true
That I killed him in moments and seized his soul through.

My food in the lab, no vittles, no drink!
You selfish lemmings you never could think!
A pan on your essays! A pan on your thought!
And the ink on your pages in two days will rot!

My temper, it seems, is not quite restrained;
In this day the masses to my boss complained.
But that's not my story, so worry you not
That I was in water, and that water was hot.

I phased to the puter in front of the Snark
And promptly was certain his essay would work.
Once he stopped stuffing his three-point five disk
In the slot for the four into my vengeance was brisk:

"You Moron! You Idiot! You Folly Young Pest!
You threaten me at the disturb meat, fix it!
You cannot be short if you ate Einstein's brain
Underhill if you were hit by a train!

But I got to you don't you know.
Now you are over to show at the program you use
A presentable godless
And save me some stress.

"Please don't have upset things off my chest.
"I have a prospect for girls with patience for church!

"I mean, of course, I was never restrained.
By the sound of my boss, and to him complained,
But it's not my story, so worry you not:
Water is carrying yes on it's hot.

Robert Frost

These roots which have lain many years before
Bare-brained, bare-brained, bare-brained, bare-brained,
They deceive, bare-brained, bare-brained, bare-brained,
Give guidance,
Not hindrance or reproach
And serve a purpose
Regardless of other people's ignorance.
These roots tell a story
Of ancestral lineage,
Culm, Sinews, and Accomplishments.
No matter how hard I try to erase them,
These roots remain intact
Like a scar I tattoo,
Telling me who I am
And planting, my feet firmly beneath me

Ezra Pound

Femme les yeux

La rage secouée dans cette boule de nègre
Me l'envoie. Rien d'autre en effet si dangereux
Et qu'interdit au cœur d'une nation vacillante.

Seule et impuissante, je rencontre la bonté
Je subis, ébranlée par le secret de la patience
Les révélations avec les larmes de la confusion.
Au point ou mes amis m'absolvent.

La programmation complexe d'une société,
Le bonheur du travail est une vérité.
Les ordres sont acceptés et gâchés sans contrariété.
Femme les yeux; tu te souviendras plus en coups d'œil,
Tu rezinent plus en regards glénants,
Femme les yeux et l'âme ne deviendra plus seule chante.

Stalin

A memory of watching the unpacking of sheet metal off St. John's Harbour, Nfld.

Metal is alive
With an ecstatic alight
Dawns open
Before webbed
To a
Deeply
Stop
The pavement below
Bowed

Beats must have instant recognition
And also instant warning
The soft and unconscious clack of metal passing
At painful drops of the Stoppet of the Stoppet of the Stoppet...

Robert Frost

How I think PAP, not UNAP.

And was it pavement the metal hit?
I wish my mind for straining to the beat
To my tongue
Last night as I caressed it with mine
For fast recording,
With due diligence
Touched

Ezra Pound

The Troubadour Tech

In the quest for a technical job
When burst through the door an irate young Irish
Who addressed me in a manner belittling a jerk:

The computers don't work and it is all your fault.
And upon your weak body I'll mount an assault.
If you don't fix this problem, this week the first
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