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Brainwash Barbie

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Letter to the Editor
Re: “Walk this way” article, Oct 19 1998 issue of Pro Tem. I would like to express my concerns regarding J.J. O'Rourke’s article “Walk this Way” in the October 19 issue of Pro Tem. First, I would like to say that I agree with O'Rourke in that discrimination is wrong. Like O'Rourke, I have been learning that “discrimination is wrong” for my entire life. And while I was learning this, my elementary, high school and several university courses ignored issues regarding people of colour, women or the queer movement in the curriculum. While my school board ran a campaign about “celebrating diversity” I only saw white, able bodied, straight (and mostly) men in any real position of power. And, finally, while my school board run a campaign on sexual harassment, I learnt at an after school job that sometimes the only way to avoid discrimination in the workplace is to quit. Of course, depending on your education, your family, your religion, where you live (“even” in Ontario - O'Rourke?) you may not learn that discrimination is wrong. You may learn that your way is the only way that is right. (In Catholic school, my girlfriend learnt that all other religions were wrong. She is 24 and from New Market.) But myself, like O'Rourke, learnt that discrimination is wrong. I also learnt that what I saw and experienced, was not discrimination but “how things were”, to be left un-challenged.

That aside, O'Rourke’s article is disturbing for its simplistic neo-liberal stance on the issue of discrimination. O'Rourke describes discrimination as an individualistic phenomena, and not as a systemic form of oppression. If people are nice to each other, O’Rourke believes that discrimination will end. While certain individuals are responsible for discriminating events, the act of discrimination is able to continue because of inequalities within society. Discrimination is systemic, kept in place by hegemonic laws and policies that exist within all levels of government, within institutions, within academia, and within religion. In order to end discrimination all of these systems of power need to be re-defined.

Further, O’Rourke’s article develops a nationalistic stance in his description of Canada as the “one nation in the world where people come to feel safe, comfortable, and different.” But Canada is a country founded on the extremely violent discrimination that destroyed the culture of the Native people. And Canada’s immigration and refugee policies discriminate against all kinds of people, depending on where they are from, their education, their sexual orientation, their age and their health. Being queer in a country where it is horribly dangerous to be so does not grant an individual refugee status - this is discrimination. And once immigrants or refugees are able to enter Canada, they enter into a country that continues to be racist and de-value their educational systems and ways of knowing. This is discrimination.

And what about Glendon? (Glendon is in Canada.) Just one area where Glendon is discriminatory is our grossly inaccessible campus. Solving this issue is not a matter of developing good relations between able bodied and non-able bodied individuals on campus. It’s a matter of cutting through the enormous red tape within the administration and fighting very hard - for students with disabilities to end just that one form of discrimination on campus. Ignoring all other issues, Glendon by nature of its architecture is a discriminatory institution.

Lastly, O’Rourke is very victim blaming in his article, which is by far the most disturbing aspect of his article. Victim blaming is done when the group or individual without power is blamed as opposed to the oppressor. O’Rourke does this in several statements such as: “When French culture demanded special treatment, we ran into problems.” French culture demanded equal treatment in response to the historical and current discrimination French people in Canada faced. Parliament was English only, and parents lost the right to educate their children in French. There were many problems before the Revolution Tranquille and the Constitution - the “problems” that “we” are experiencing now is the fault of the Anglophone oppression of francophones - not the fault of francophones “demanding special treatment”.

In conclusion, I will say that I do not mean to bash J.J. O’Rourke. He has taken an important first step in recognizing discrimination. What bothers me is that O’Rourke felt he knew enough about discrimination to take up space in Pro Tem. White boys can discuss discrimination, but before doing so they must address the privilege they receive because they are white men. O’Rourke may experience other forms of privilege or discrimination, which need to be addressed as well. I therefore encourage O’Rourke to educate himself on these issues - protest and lobby against discriminatory laws and actions, donate your labour to a women’s group, read, attend Women’s Centre workshops on anti-racism, on what men can do about violence against women. If you are able bodied, don’t use the few services for people with disabilities that we have on campus. (Automatic door openers are battery run, and should only be used by those who need them.) Or attend a drag show and celebrate queer space and plays on gender. If O’Rourke cares enough about discrimination to write about it, I expect he’ll also care enough to learn more about it, and subsequently, to do something about it.

Meri Perr

Dear reader,

Thank you for your letter. I applaud you for some of the points you have made, although I believe I am forced to make certain clarifications on a few points. I was trying to get the point across that people feel helpless when confronted with a major problem such as the one that we have with discrimination. You seem to have mistaken “discrimination as an individualistic phenomena”, for a grassroots, individualistic approach to curing the problem. As for being victim blaming, as I’ve already stated, we’re all victims in the long run. But to acknowledge your concerns, I would like to confirm that it was in fact the government I was targeting in my arguments about our history, and the blame ranges from elements of absurdity, to outright atrocity.

However, I welcome any further correspondence, and encourage others to join in on the subject. I don’t believe that it’s discussed enough.

Jason John O’Rourke

Pro Tem, le lundi 2 novembre 1998
Un ancien de Glendon à l’honneur

Isabelle Desroches

Ancien étudiant de Glendon, Vittorio Frigerio a remporté une mention spéciale du Grand Prix du sixième Salon du livre de Toronto pour son premier roman La Dernière Ligne droite (publié au Gref). Ce prix lui a été décerné par le gouvernement du Québec le 15 octobre dernier.


Véritable puzzle qui vous entraîne d’un micro-recit à un autre, La Dernière Ligne droite est un heureux mélange d’aventures, de meurtre, de fantaisie et d’humour.

Depuis sa publication, le roman connaît un grand succès. En Suisse, Scenes magazine a attribué à « ce texte étonnant, et souvent jubilatoire », « une finesse de style qu’on trouve rarement dans un roman contemporain » ; on lui reconnaît les qualités de Au bout de la rue (Ed. du Vent d’Ouest, 1995), recueil de nouvelles qui avait déjà valu à l’auteur le Prix de la ville de Chaux-de-Fonds et de la revue [vwa]. La mention spéciale du Grand Prix du Salon du livre 1998 ne fait que confirmer les talents de Vittorio Frigerio qui ne manquera certainement pas de nous surprendre dans les années à venir.


Former student attacks professor

Suzanne McCullagh

On Wednesday, October 14, a former Glendon student assaulted a male professor with a pair of scissors. Charges were laid and the Metro Police arrested the suspect.

Glendon security will not disclose any details concerning the motive for the attack at this point because the matter is before the courts.

A Glendon resident says: “I was told that the cops had been seen taking away a girl in handcuffs and that she had allegedly stabbed a third or fourth year economics professor.”

Deputy Secretary-General speaks at Glendon.

Ishani Gunasekera.

On Tuesday October 27th Madame Louise Frechette, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, spoke at the Glendon cafeteria on the “United Nations in the Next Millennium.” Madame Frechette’s speech was in aid of the John Holmes Memorial Lecture. It was organized by the Canadian Institute of International Affairs (CIIA) and the International Studies Department of Glendon College. The CIIA has recently moved its office from The University of Toronto to Glendon.

Madame Frechette spoke about the changing role of the United Nations, the many problems it is facing but also about the important part it plays in the world today. She stressed the importance of each individual to play a part in improving global relations and dealing with global issues.

There were about 200 people at the lecture most of whom were people from outside Glendon. Most of the questions posed were intelligent and pertinent. The lecture and the reception that followed were well organized and enlightening.
TORONTO (CUP) _ Canadian youth are affected drastically by the growing gap between this country’s rich and poor, and rising tuition fees only make the problem worse, a left-wing think tank says.

"We are a society that super­values the people at the top and treats the rest of the population as disposable," said Armine Yalnizyan. The National Anti-Poverty Organization says the findings confirm the findings of other preliminary studies conducted by students and anti-poverty groups.

"Corporate profits are going up, and at the same time, layoffs are occurring, and younger workers are the ones getting laid off," said Laurie Rektor, spokeswoman for the Ottawa-based lobby group.

"As well, the labour force is now viewed as temporary, expendable, replaceable, especially young workers," she added.

Rektor says that while Ottawa has implemented some youth­employment programs, they aren’t enough to tackle the problem as a whole.

But a spokesman for federal Finance Minister Paul Martin says new initiatives like the Millennium Scholarship Fund and the grant for students with dependants compensate for the $2.3-billion Originally the student seats were to be filled by volunteers. However, on information from GCSU president Christy Biggs, during a full council meeting, “no one came forward” and members chose from themselves.

When it was found out that one of the appointees was not a student, but actually an alumnus, the Faculty Council stepped in. They ordered the removal of the member and asked the GCSU to organize a vote to fill the vacated position.

There has been some dissent from within the student body regarding the handling of the vote by the GCSU. Students are concerned by what seems to be a lack of publicity on the issue by its Union.

In a report released last week, the Centre for Social Justice says the gap between the richest and poorest families in Canada is growing at an alarming rate, with workers ages 15 to 24 making an average $8,199, or 20 per cent, less than they did in 1990.

And changes in education funding are making it harder for youth from low-income families to attend post-secondary institutions, the Toronto-based group says.

"Tuition increases are part of the growing gap," said John Anderson, co-chair of the centre.

The 107-page report, funded by the Atkinson Foundation and prepared by labour economist Armine Yalnizyan also points out the growing necessity of a university or college education in today’s job market.

Referring to Statistics Canada figures, the report says in 1996 the average high-income Canadian family earned 314 times as much as the average low-income family up from about 14 times as much in 1973.

A matter of principals

...no one came forward

J.J. O’Rourke

GLENDON-Faculty Council has begun its initiative in Glendon’s search for a new principal. The position will be vacated at the end of the school year, and a committee is being formed for the selection process.

The committee will be comprised of a collection of students, faculty and administration. Most of the selection is being handled by the Council itself, or handed down to a policy and planning committee. All the positions are appointed, with the exception of one student seat that was won by a vote.

The vote was organized by the GCSU, and was publicized via posters and postings across campus, as well as spots on Radio Glendon.

The current makeup of the committee has four faculty members, 1 staff member, and three student representatives. The remaining vacant seats are to be appointed by President Lorna Marsden before reconvening on Nov. 20th.

Originally, the student seats were to be filled by volunteers. However, on information from GCSU president Christy Biggs, during a full council meeting, “no one came forward” and members chose from themselves.

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THE TOILET MEN WITH A JOB...
CUPE votes to strike
Ishani Gunasekera

On Thursday, October 29, the final voting for the strike took place and the members of CUPE 3903 voted in favor of striking. The implication of this vote is that the union is now in a position to call a strike if also compromise is not met between itself and the administration of York University.

CUPE 3903 represents two units: the first is the Teaching Assistants and the second is the Contract Faculty. Together they make up a considerable part of the teaching staff at York. The results of the vote were Unit 1, 76% in favor of striking and Unit 2, 56% in favor of striking. This vote puts CUPE 3903 in a position to strike from as early as Monday 2nd October. However, it is more probable that they will keep negotiating till the end of the week and most probably strike towards Thursday if necessary.

If a strike were to occur, most (if not all) of the courses and tutorials which are taught by members of CUPE 3903 will be disrupted or cancelled. Assignments and tests that were scheduled during the period of the strike will be postponed till after the strike. If the strike is short, all classes missed will also be rescheduled so the students don’t lose out from the strike. Students don’t however, receive any reimbursement of fees as compensation for the disruption of classes.

Students who choose not to cross the picket line have the right to do so and will not be penalized for their actions. If you decide to support CUPE 3903 and do not attend class, you will not lose marks for assignments not handed in or tests not taken, they will be rescheduled and you will be required to do them after the strike is over. Students may also choose to cross the picket lines. No one has the right to prevent you from attending class if you choose to. The picketers may stop you to talk to you and ask you for your support but eventually will have to let you pass.

On Wednesday 28th October the YFS voted to support CUPE 3903 if they decided to strike. This would include “but not [be] limited to information on the strike, and we’re expected to go in search for it ourselves...it seems as if York is the only University that’s always on strike.” says Jennifer, Glendon student.

At the moment it is difficult to tell whether or not the strike will take place. Both the University administration and CUPE 3903 have expressed their commitment to come to some sort of equitable solution. A circular sent out by the administration has stated “The University is committed to reaching agreements with all unions that will advance our ability to provide the highest quality of learning experience for all of our students, ...and support for excellence in the work of faculty, librarians, contract faculty, teaching assistants and staff. Negotiations continue and we remain hopeful a fair and reasonable settlement can be reached.”

For the moment however all that students can do is wait until the administration and CUPE 3903 decide what will happen. If a strike were to occur, most (if not all) of the courses and tutorials which are taught by members of CUPE 3903 will be disrupted or cancelled.

Drama Collective
La première réunion du Club Théâtre a eu lieu le jeudi 29 octobre...après un échauffement jeux d’improvisation L’horaire de la prochaine réunion sera affiché sur le panneau d’affichage du théâtre à Glendon, situé entre l’entrée de la caf’ et le QCSU/ECG.

Bravo à Hilliwood !
Le dimanche 18 octobre à la caf’, il y avait les jeux de HILLIWOOD (résidence contre résidence). À l’instar de Hollywood Squares, les dons de chaque maison avaient été “mis en case” pour que Ed Gillis leur pose des questions en public. Les représentants de chaque maison devaient confirmer ou infirmer leur réponse et avoir raison pour marquer le point. L’animation sonore était assurée par George Cummings, Sven Walker et Frank Sinatra.

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Galerie Glendon
Exposition à venir à la galerie d’art de Glendon :
Soyez tous et toutes bienvenus au vernissage de l’exposition, le jeudi 19 novembre, de 19h à 21 h. L’artiste sera présente pour entendre vos questions et répondre à vos questions.

Théâtre Glendon
Agnes of God: 16 novembre - 21 novembre
Les étudiants du cours de théâtre moderne (2530), offert par le département d’études d’art dramatique, produiront une pièce pour Glendon au premier semestre. Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec le département d’études d’art dramatique ou le théâtre Glendon.

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À l’origine de cet événement : le Service des Résidences, avec pour but de renforcer l’esprit de résidence à Glendon.

C’est Hilliard qui remporta le chèque de 500 dollars généreusement mis en jeu par le Service des Résidences, qui fut partagé entre ses 5 maisons et dont l’usage est entièrement laissé à la discrétion des occupants.

Le score était néanmoins très serré : 4 pour Hilliard contre 3 pour Wood !

Pub d'Halloween’en
Jeudi 26 octobre, la maison A de Hilliard a organisé une soirée au Café de la Terrasse avec pour thème la fête des revenants. Un grand succès, sans aucun doute : forte participation, costumes imaginatifs et très variés (du gogo-dancer à la danseuse sortie tout droit des contes des Mille et une Nuits). De l’exotisme à haute dose pour les étudiants étrangers qui ont pu découvrir et s’amuser à cette fête typiquement nord-américaine ! Merci à vous Hilliard A pour la campagne d’affichage sans précédent durant cette année scolaire !

Enjoying the chance to be someone else at the Halloween pub night.
STOP THIEF!

features
features

"Procrastination is the thief of time"

Actually, procrastination has its roots in Latin. "[L, procrastinatus, pp. of procrastinare, fr. pro-forward, crasis, of tomorrow, fr. cras tomorrow] vt. (1588): to put off intentionally and habitually —vi: to put off intentionally the doing of something that should be done."

Thank you Miriam Webster for that rather apt and succinct definition. I owe you one. But what does procrastination really mean, especially to a student? Well, borrowing from one of the pamphlets from the Counselling Centre, it "technically refers to the avoidance of a specific task or work which needs to be accomplished", i.e., studying for tests and/or exams (like I'm doing right now by writing this feature), doing research for and actually writing essays, and even going to classes. The times that I've wanted to sleep in and not get up for class are innumerable, especially when I have early-morning classes. Okay. So now we know what procrastination is. Let's discuss the reasons why people procrastinate. The reasons are wide and varied (why do I get the feeling I'm about to open a Pandora's Box here?). The foremost reason is that we're lazy and just don't want to do any work, preferring instead to indulge ourselves in other, less academically and intellectually taxing forms of entertainment. These range from watching T.V. or going to a movie, to talking on the telephone for hours on end, to playing video games (this one is a real killer, especially for those who have such games on their computers, and alternate between studying and playing). Other reasons can include exercising, cleaning up, going out, in other words, any old thing to avoid doing work. Poor time management is also a major culprit. The official Counselling Center pamphlet explanation of procrastination goes something like this: Lack of relevance: if something isn't relevant or meaningful to you personally, it may be hard to get motivated even to begin. Acceptance of another's goals: If a project has been imposed or assigned to you and is not consistent with your own interests, you may not want to spend the necessary time to see it through. Perfectionism: Having unreachable standards will discourage you from pursuing a task. Remember that perfection is unattainable. Evaluation anxiety: Since others' responses to your work are not under your direct control, placing too much value to these responses can create the kind of anxiety that will interfere with your work getting done. Ambiguity: If you're not sure of what is expected of you, it may be difficult to get started. Fear of the unknown: If you're starting something new, you don't have any way of knowing how well you'll do. Such an uncertain outcome might inhibit your desire to even start. Inability to handle the task: If through lack of training, skill, or ability you feel that you don't have the personal resources to do the job, you may avoid it completely. Whoa. Heavy. Do any of these describe you? Here are some more detailed examples:

1) Do you act as though if leave your work, it will go away? The midterm exam(s) in your class(es) is are not likely to disappear, no matter how much you ignore it/them. 2) Do you not attach enough importance to the work involved in your task, or place too much faith in your own abilities and resources in relationship to the task? Do you try to convince yourself that you understand the concepts so easily that you need to spend only a minimal amount of time on them (e.g. one hour of studying when six hours are really needed)? 3) Do you fool yourself into believing that a mediocre performance or lower standards are acceptable? For instance, if you deceive yourself that a 3.4 GPA will get you into the law school of your choice, you may be avoiding the decision to work harder to get your grade point average up, forcing you to change your career plans. This form of avoidance can prevent you from consciously making choices about important goals in your life. 4) Do you fool yourself by switching one seemingly important goal for another? Let's say for example that you clean your dorm room or apartment instead of studying or writing an important essay. Valuing a clean living space is okay, but if that value only becomes apparent when that test or exam is rapidly approaching, or that important paper is due the next day, you are procrastinating. 5) Do you think that constant "minor" delays are harmless? For example, putting off writing your paper so that you can watch a few minutes of T.V. If you don't get back to your paper soon, you may stay hooked to the boob tube for the rest of the evening, getting no work done. 6) Do you over-exaggerate a commitment to a task instead of actually doing it? An example is taking your books and study materials on vacation, but never actually looking at them, or even declining invitations to social events, but still not getting the work done, and not even getting the rest that you went on vacation for in the first place. As such, you stay in a constant state of unproductive readiness to work, without ever actually getting any work done. 7) Do you stick to only one part of your work instead of concentrating on the whole? An example would be writing and rewriting the introductory paragraph of a paper but not dealing with the body and the conclusion. The introductory paragraph is vital, but not at the expense of the entire work. 8) Are you becoming paralyzed with decisions between alternate choices? An example would be spending too much time deciding between two term paper topics that you don't have enough time to actually write the paper. Let's see how different people view procrastination:

Melanie Tschuprak, 1st year student, procrastinates because I just don't feel like doing my homework, and because there are much more exciting things to do, like washing dishes, sleeping, going to the gym, seeing friends, watching T.V., anything but homework." Amy Dolson, 2nd year student, procrastinates for similar reasons: "I procrastinate because there are so many better things to do. I'm lazy, I hate doing work, so I clean, or I go to the gym, I go swimming when I have homework, and even when I'm supposed to clean, I make myself be not in my room." Miriam John, 4th year student, procrastinates for slightly different reasons: "...if I procrastinate for a certain subject, it's because I don't enjoy it. I'm not really passionate about it. I also procrastinate because I feel like I have so many things to do, I'm overwhelmed. I'd rather shoot myself in the head." Even ProTem's own photography editor, Jennifer Westcott, isn't immune to procrastination's evil clutches, as she explains rather eloquently: "I was sick." As one can see, procrastination is a disease, a cancerous canker, which has taken over almost every university student population. The only way to wipe out this vicious scourge is to arm ourselves with the appropriate literature, such as the Counselling Centre's various pamphlets and seminars on how to deal with overcoming procrastination, and hope a cure can be found.
A study released this week announced that a liberal arts education isn’t a waste of time after all.

The study, commissioned by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, allegedly gives evidence for the claim that students who obtain a liberal arts education actually find employment and not just any employment. Liberal arts graduates are mostly employed in professional or managerial jobs.

This evidence was created using census data, surveys and other data.

These findings are not a surprise to all but they are a major surprise to a majority of the public. Why?

Where has the public been getting their information? Who told them that liberal arts students don’t find employment? The answer is everyone. The mass media seems to refuse to carry anything related to the social sciences and the humanities. They have chosen the high tech, efficient and supposedly scientifically accurate way of looking at almost everything.

Communications theorist Neil Postman, in his book Technopoly, defines a technopoly as a form of cultural AIDS–Anti Information Deficiency Syndrome. He states that “This is why it is possible to say almost anything without contradiction provided you begin your utterance with the words “A study has shown...” or “Scientists now tell us that...”” He says that in a technopoly, like the one we’re in, there can be no transcendental sense of meaning or cultural coherence.

What makes us give these studies so much authority? I hope it’s not that we are afraid of being without authority so we give it to whatever can feign it best.

So to the point about the liberal arts study, I find it trivial and meaningless. I don’t care if most liberal arts students work full time and make a more that adequate sum of money. I want to know what they are doing, or perhaps better phrased, how they are contributing to the socio-cultural elements of society. I am little impressed by the fact that they are contributing to the economy. If the economy is the only thing this society can muster up a sense of community over I think we’re pathetic and boring. In fact, I would and will go as far as to say that I think as a species we are regressing. This is obvious when you look at how we treat Art and artists.

Furthermore, I know some people who’ve graduated and they have jobs. They make a fair sum of money now with probable salary increases in the future. They answer phones. They serve ‘clients’. They enter data into a computer. I even had one friend who babysat printers at a bank. When the printers were out of paper they would send a distress signal to his computer and he would replace their paper. There are lots of jobs out there like these for liberal arts graduates. The reason being that they are adaptable and learn new skills quickly.

I don’t find these jobs very interesting or very important. Just because you get a business card does not mean that you are not in the service industry. I would prefer serving beer at a tavern to any of the above listed jobs.

Perhaps society doesn’t accept the value of a liberal arts education because they think that it doesn’t apply to the ‘real’ world. This is a common view of the education we here at Glendon are receiving, one I’ve held myself at one time. I realized however that it depends on what you think is important. I would like to suggest that we judge the value of the things we do based upon what we think is important to humanity. What does it mean to you to be a human?

Nothing ever really gets accomplished.
Advertisements have become such an important part of media today, that, they are in some cases, more interesting and popular than the medium they have infiltrated. I’m sure you know what I’m referring to...some commercials have received a lot hype and interest in our visually dependent way of life.

I’m sure you’ve also noticed how the standard criteria of television commercials today include abnormally high volumes and trendy deliveries of how images and messages are paced throughout the thirty-second time slot. Whatever the style of commercial (i.e. bright flashing images presented with loud music, or saturated black and white images presented with next to near silence), it’s all an attempt to catch our attention in this world that demands so much on visual and acoustic stimulation. Does it seem that everyone has succumbed to some form of ADD-attention deficit disorder, or, is it just the industry’s style of advertising?

creativity-distraction?

As more and more ads seem to grow more creative in their approach to content and delivery, and through the use of today’s technology, one must contemplate that perhaps this very creativity steers viewers away from the actual intent of the ad. Maybe we are distracted from the process of analyzing what the message really is or what it depicts. Maybe we have just become ignorant and non-responsive to many ads, including those that are uplifting and those that are oppressive. Many of us don’t pay attention to them; in fact, some of us are annoyed by them. I don’t normally watch T.V. or listen to the radio mainly for that matter alone- commercials to me are bothersome. But even if we don’t consciously pay attention to them, advertisements surround us everywhere in our environment of consumption. I’d like to stop and think of ads seriously and ask you kindly to focus just a few moments of your time on this complex issue, in the hopes of stimulating your own analysis, even if it lasts only for a short duration (around thirty seconds???).

You could probably pick out any ad on T.V. and point out that the folks in the commercial are not quite realistic depictions of everyday people. Even though the trend of many commercials is to be based on ‘normal’ people in order to sell a product, there is an underlying message that many of us are not as ‘normal’ as we think we are. Let’s just look at a few ads and the people in these ads, in regards to the focus here, which is, the accurate portrayal of...us. I have randomly picked my examples, but even through this random method, you’ll notice that you can take almost any commercial and its product, and find that there really isn’t much realism in many of today’s ads. (And if you don’t agree, then please accept my acknowledgement and appreciation of those ad campaigns that are out there that have attempted to make realistic images of life.) Here, we look at one specific advertisement and find, in itself, one factor contributing to the perpetuation of negatively distorted images in the media; one factor which portrays an ideal, not an actuality. Consider the commercial for that bar of soap where the father and son happily splashing water together from a shared bath. The sympathetic mother catches this bonding-cleansing experience that her husband and son share. Awww...that’s so cute. The question is whether this situation portrayed in the commercial is realistic. Let’s replace it with a mother who takes the remaining sliver of a bar of soap, sticks it on to a brand new bar, and then hollers at her kid to go take a bath. The child goes, spending his entire bath time trying to keep that tiny little piece of soap out of the bigger one, because nothing gets thrown out on the family’s tight budget. Mom is downstairs preparing dinner for two because the father is working evening shifts. She’s tired, the kid hasn’t spent much time with dad, etc. Would this alternative example sell the product? There are various beer commercials that portray young adults who sometimes seem a little too happy and carefree at their parties, don’t you think? Come on, not everyone at parties is ‘model-material’, an not everyone can hold their alcohol. What about a commercial with people stumbling over their own steps while attempting to squeeze their way through a smoky, sweaty, bar trying to find the john so they can puke up their last pint? Now that sounds pretty, non?! But not as pretty as the people in the middle of a mountainous natural park, camping with their boyfriends and girlfriends while drinking beer.

How many of you have relationships revolved around a chocolate bar? You know what I’m talking about here...you lure your loved one into the bedroom through false pretenses of sex in order to lock them up so you can get your hands on the candy bar that fuels you’re passion. I know you all do what the girl in the commercial does. You con your loved one into a deceit driven predicament so you can savour the bar that tastes so good, that you have to rid yourself of all people in order to eat it all for yourself. That chocolate bar is portrayed to be better than sex. Sure it is buyers. Don’t you consumers know that a ninety cent package of sugar is much more satisfying than spending an intimate session with your man/woman??

Now here’s a really accurate portrayal of a young woman quitting smoking...she sits among three adult smokers, sipping beer. She’s wearing an evening gown that covers her picture perfect sitting posture and as she starts to crave, she slyly reaches in to her tiny little purse, and pulls out the gum that’s going to take care of her obvious nic-fit. She’s so neat and controlled during this tense poker match. I wonder how she does it. What happened to the person who sweats out the craving for a couple of minutes and then gives in only to light up in the struggle to quit? It’s not always a glamorous winning hand is it?

distorted images?

Too often, we are subjected to images that show us how it ‘ought’ to be, but not how it actually is. (Flip through any page of Adbusters and you’ll see some really cool pictures and articles of how things ‘ought’ to be in ads.) I am not saying that there aren’t any accurate commercials out there; there are many. However, if you scan commercials for what they actually are you will discover (if you haven’t already), that they are just another way of propagating distorted images of what people are actually like. Because there are numerous areas to study regarding advertising, a full blown analytical article would require novel scale volume-a pretty thick book about how screwed up advertisements can really be. Instead, I just focused on one topic that came to mind about advertising, which is, the depiction of persons in ads, and, the question of accuracy of their portrayal. Realism, baby, it’s all about being real.
Lounge music still hip-happenin'

The epitomy of lounge music, with a groove.

Combustible Edison (at the Horseshoe Tavern on Queen Street West, October 29):

Four men, Nicholas Cudahy on bass, Mr. Peter Dixon on the keyboard, The Millionaire on guitar, and Aaron Oppenheimer on Vibraphone and Trap Drums were dressed in white turtlenecks with suit jackets decorated in paisly. Their diva, Miss Lily Banquette (chanteuse, melodica, drums and provocative percussion), dressed in a long navy gown, had the crowd dancing for most of their two sets Thursday night.

Their second last album "I, Swinger" is subtitled "sensual and exciting sounds; suave and sardonic". They provide a swanky drink recipe on the back, too! You may have heard their song "Spy vs. Spy" on the soundtrack for Leaving Las Vegas starring Johnny Depp.

Combustible Edison's sound is relaxing, cool and funky. The one difference from their recorded CD that I noticed live was a more prominent electric guitar. I felt I was a jet-setter hearing lyrics like "Join in the ranks of the young and exotic, following the millionaire. With a glass and a shaker, our host is a real scene-maker."

The two sets I caught were well worth the $10 cover. The show was indeed "an ungodly tour through a dozen stations of Fabulousness-from La Dolce Vita to the luxuriant darkness of the human heart to savage dawn in the far-flung archipelagos of Hypnotica." (From liner notes of I, Swinger)

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Everest

The footage from the summit is breathtaking, literally.

On October 22, 1998, the new Imax epic Everest made its debut in Toronto at the Ontario Science Centre. The Praise received from the audience assured this new Omnimax presentation would be a hit.

The footage from the summit is breathtaking, literally. Because of the altitude, the climbers could barely function. However this problem was put on by the makers of Mountain Hard Wear, one of the team of climbers battling to reach Everest. This was a spectacular show. Everest on its own was a spectacular show.

The climb begins in May of 1996, along with more than a dozen of other expeditions with the same goal in mind. The leader of the Everest expedition was Ed Viesturs, who was attempting his fourth ascent of the mountain, this time without supplemental oxygen. Jamling Tenzing Norgay was trying for his first ascent, while following in the footsteps of his late father, the first person to climb Mt Everest. Together with Araceli Segarra, the first woman from Spain to climb Mt Everest, they set out for the top of the world.

Shortly after beginning their ascent, a storm moved in, trapping many of the climbers that were attempting to reach the summit that day. Though none of the Everest team were caught in the storm, by May 11, 8 people from other expeditions were dead. The director handles this tragedy extremely well. It is only briefly mentioned in the movie officially opened on October 23, 1998 and there is no set date as to when it will end. Everest is a powerful movie that is definitely worth seeing.
Within ten seconds of witnessing José Navas on stage, my entire body covered in goose bumps. This Venezuelan-born Montrealer got his big break at his first audition in New York City before he even learned to speak English. Along with only one other dancer, Navas was picked from five hundred hopefuls. His dancing was, and remains over ten years later, impeccable.

Sterile Fields, the first part of the show, was intensely visual. The theatre was silent but for Navas' bare feet on the stage. A white, filmy, gauzy blouse and loose pants contrasted sharply with his hard, taut olive-skinned body and dark hair. When the music came on it was as though someone was flipping through radio stations, stopping to listen to one piece for a minute or so before moving on. We heard classical music, techno, and a voice saying, “In the future we will be able to wake up as our favourite instrument.”

The dance had five parts, each section involving slow, precise movements highlighting his flexibility and technical brilliance. Although Navas didn’t begin dancing until the age of 18 (see, it’s never too late!), he came across as having been born moving in perfect balance and rhythm.

A fascinating technique used throughout the programme was self-referentiality. He was lit by a single white spotlight on the black stage, stepping outside the circle of light and looking in on it. This reminds the audience that we’re watching a performance, and allows us to step back from what we’re observing to link it to the reality of our personal lives.

Part two, Bosquejo, started in the dark. We heard what seemed to be pieces of wood jangling against each other, with sharp intakes of breath and thunderous booms echoing and resonating throughout our bodies and the space. As a narrow golden spotlight shone on Navas from the left side of the stage, cutting across it, we saw him in a fantastic gold costume. His head was covered in curly metal “locks” that matched hanging wooden and metal cylinders attached to a gladiator-like girdle. A short chainmail shirt completed the costume. He could have been an Amazonian King or Earth Goddess.

The presentation was refreshingly gender-neutral. Holding a lit flashlight in each hand added an interesting element to the theatricality of the dance.

One Night Only 3/5, the final segment in Navas’ performance began with a spectacular, mesmerizing lighting plot by Axel Morgenthaler. The stage was covered in feathers about 15cm deep, and fluid circular shapes dappled in and out of intensity all over the surface like ghosts. Dark purple, royal blue and red were the predominant colours.

After this animalistic display, one dancer stood facing the audience, staring at us. There were two large spotlight s on us. We were no longer voyeurs/observers but being watched. She stripped naked and continued to stare at us. This is how a bird in a cage must feel - singled out and objectified.

It’s possible to see Navas on film in a A Village Trilogy by Laura Taler, Dances for a Small Screen directed by Moze Mossenen and others. José Navas’ controlled grace and beauty is still dancing in my mind, and in others that saw him as well, based on the applause that brought the dancers out for three bows.

The Harbourfront Centre is also presenting Holly Small and Mitch Kirsh (seen above) October 29 to 31.

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poetry & fiction

FISHERMAN

The terror at hand is real, and he feels it. But he has built a career, a life, a goddamn legacy out of controlling emotions. From the window of his suite, he can see the truest enemy of mankind, and realize that he is in the middle. Everest has long suspected that it exists. He has sifted through the minds of the world's greatest thinkers, doctors and artists, alive and dead. Never has he uncovered so much as an inkling of a thought that would lead to this conclusion.

But the boy, that martyr, was the way in. He knew that they would surface eventually; he didn't know where, or how. Shit, I guess this place is as good as any. Now that he knew though, now that they were uncovered, what the hell could he do about it. He was just one man, what a man to be, but still just one vehicle. They, on the other hand, have been running the show for god knows how long, hell, they might as well be gods. How do you beat them, when they know tricks and shortcuts that we haven't even thought of yet. Maybe it could be something they forgot, but do they even forget anything? Where is that manager, I got to get him up here?

J.S. O'Roarke

Coatings
Lio

hope is a black wintercoat.
It says: 'I'll take you through the frightening seasons.
The colder the weather, the warmer the inside.'
The more illusions, the fluffier and comfier it gets.
But when, under the force of the freezing actuality,
The gilded threads spread loose and everywhere they slide,
CRACK! it loosens, CRACK!
They open, CRACKED!
Goes the dream
AWAY flies HOPE
Then the FROST bites IN
AGAIN - while the icecoat congeals to cover it all up.
And it hurts like boiling salty water poured on an fresh break on the dry-cold skin,
Melting the cracked expectations away in a noisome slush.

hope is a fake fur-coat
and its deceptive masks
now lie under the thick, black snow.

... could use
a blanket

MUSEUM (A song)
Rae Perigo

Sit down, please listen to this song,
For I know you won't be here long -
Off to some future
Archaeology of denial.
You think the world will never tire,
Of the Babylonian bricks you fire.
And once those bricks are stacked
Our hero-myth remains intact.

(Chorus)
Pardon me for my ignorance
But I fail to see
Why it is you insist on
Making monuments out of me.
You know I won't be here forever
Waves of time will raze my bones.
And this clutching desperation
Gives all life a brittle tone

Please don't think I'd deign
To tell you your work's spent in vain;
We all need a place
To help us spit in time's mocking face.
But why do you have to propound
Those who are already in the ground?
Corpses offer no surprise;
They're paragraphically summarized.

Terra Punguis

This fatty earth
with its greasenugget
building and swollen pigdog
businessfolk,
is bursting at the seams.

"...bottled that El Nino"
they say
because some talking
head
made chaos into tea
in order to soothe the nation.

I see two horses in the north,
and two horses in the south,
running towards impact
with the horizon on their backs.

(there was a time when the earth stood still.)

Renee Jackson