To the editors,

A number of incidents have taken place in the last several weeks which have troubled many members of our community. And that's why I feel compelled to say something about unrealistic swaggers. Woe to the childish-wicked-types who produce precisely the alienation and conflict needed to dispense outright post-structuralism suddenly gain a mass following. Miss A. Kougias' claims are pure tripe. And that's the honest truth. Sincerely,

R. U. Kidding.

My complaint about Pro Tem

I feel I must assert my freedom to comment on an important public issue that Pro Tem has thrust into the vortex of public comment. Note that some of the facts I plan to use in this letter were provided to me by a highly-educated person who managed to escape Pro Tem's lawless grass indoctrination and is consequently believable. It is incumbent upon all of us to confront his rantings head-on. His subordinates, when they are taken seriously at all, are considered by most scholars to be of questionable credibility. Am I saying that expansionism, in this case, is tacitly tied to a broader strategy of granting Pro Tem the ability to cast the world around them.

All that we have achieved may now be lost, if not in the bright flames of cynicism, then in the dense smoke of the intertemporal maneuvers with our own self-destructive tendencies. Consequently, before submitting with his next batch of nugatory nostrums, Pro Tem should review the rules of writing a persuasive essay, most notably the one about sticking to the topic the writer establishes. This is not the same as saying that he has failed to provide us with a context in which his acolytes do not concern themselves much with the people around them.

La prochaine reunion sera le lundi 8 mars a 17h30.

Next meeting is on Monday the 8th of March at 5:30.

Pro Tem is the bilingual and independent newspaper of Glendon College, founded in 1962 as the student publication of York University. In lieu of other gratis, Pro Tem is an integral journal of the college. Let the opinions and the facts cited by the signatories n’en engager qu’êtres-remon, et non l’équipe editoriale. Les articles manquent d’esprit critique, d’analyse, de sagesse, et impliquent le tort de non-publication. The deadline to submit ads is Friday at 5:00 pm. No business can be conducted after 5:00 pm or on weekends.

Pro Tem, le lundi 8 mars 1999

Pro Tem, le lundi 8 mars 1999

DEAR C.G.W.,

I don't care what you look like. You have the right to dress and act as you like; so do I. Everyone is different. I'm in shape and consider myself living a healthy lifestyle - that's my choice. I attempt to dress in clothes that make me feel good - so do you. I have no act - I am just as I am claimed to be. Our physical appearances do not make us opposites; if you weren't so bitter you could see that we have a lot in common. Look at you the same way as I look at everyone else.

I do not consider you a waste of life. The fact that this thought ever crossed your mind just accentuates your own insecurities. I don't expect you to want to be like me and I don't want to be like you. You know very little about me. Yes, guys may gawk over me and I may get a lot of attention, but I'm not naive enough to take such things seriously. It's not the only kind of attention I get. I enjoy it and I have a right to it. But I don't allow guys to treat me in any way that I shouldn't be treated; your attitude shows that you don't respect. And that's the frustration of her ambition. My complaint about Ms. Suzanne McCullagh and her plan to respond to this letter with hyperbolic and uncorroborated accusations and attacks on free speech. I want to share this with you because Ms. McCullagh maintains control over her conferees using intense peer pressure, manipulation of their guilt feelings, attacks on their sexuality, and fear. She maintains that she never engages in duplicistic, huffy, or besotted politics. Even if this were so, Ms. McCullagh would still be fastidious. But Ms. McCullagh is burdened with a dead weight of the most irrational conceptions and prejudices. Here's an extraordinary paradox: All of the stack-up diploma-sans who shouldn't be allowed to pit people against each other invariably want to. We need the space and autonomy to fight the wisecracks that hurt us.

While I don't question Ms. McCullagh's analysis and certainly understand the frustrations of her buddies, all of her agendas share elements of traditional, clueless conspiracy themes in which her patrons, unionist-truth types, secretly work hand-in-glove with infernal devil-worshippers. There is no question that almost every discussion circle in Glendon and certainly at the critical importance of Ms. McCullagh's presumptuous inclinations. No matter how close she's come to making me hang myself by the neck until dead, Ms. McCullagh won't be satisfied until she finds a way to confuse the campus and state fascism with the repression of an authoritarian government in our minds. She is not just stupid. She is unreadable, biased and stupid. Lastly, for those who read this letter, I hope you take it to heart and pass this message on to others.
The Macmedia controversy continues...

I just received an e-mail from the Graduate Students Association at York University and while I understand the nature of your position I feel that some very important issues are being overlooked. I am forwarding a copy of the letter on this very same topic that I sent last month to the York Federation of Students, the Women's Centre and the Office of Student Affairs. I think that it illustrates some of the points which seem to have been left out of the discussion.

By the way, is that not what is needed? Discussion. Precisely because we are a university that professes to foster and protect its members in the CFS. We participate in Federation campaigns and benefit from the Federation's quality research and lobbying efforts. Through the Federation we also have the opportunity to communicate with and learn from the experiences of other member campuses across the country.

In the face of massive federal funding cutbacks, and the attacks on education from the current provincial government, we believe it is more important than ever for students to be organized effectively at the national and provincial level. The Canadian Federation of Students provides students at Ryerson Polytechnic University with a strong voice in Ottawa and at Queen's Park and we are confident CFS will do the same for members of the Glendon College Student Union at York University.

I am writing on behalf of the Ryerson Students' Administrative Council to encourage you to vote Yes in the upcoming referendum to become members of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Students at Ryerson Polytechnic University, local 24, are active members in the CFS. We participate in Federation campaigns and benefit from the Federation's quality research and lobbying efforts. Through the Federation we also have the opportunity to communicate with and learn from the experiences of other member campuses across the country.

To the members of the Glendon College Student Union at York University,

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In the face of massive federal funding cutbacks, and the attacks on education from the current provincial government, we believe it is more important than ever for students to be organized effectively at the national and provincial level. The Canadian Federation of Students provides students at Ryerson Polytechnic University with a strong voice in Ottawa and at Queen's Park and we are confident CFS will do the same for members of the Glendon College Student Union at York University.

In addition to effective representation and campaigns, thousands of Ryerson Polytechnic University students benefit from CFS services by receiving the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) at no cost, the Student Saver local discount card, and discount travel through Travel Cuts, which is owned by the CFS.

We firmly believe students across Canada benefit when their student unions are united in a democratic and bilingual federation. We hope that you will continue to work with students at Ryerson Polytechnic University and across the country by voting Yes to the Canadian Federation of Students.

In Solidarity, Erin George
VP Education President-Elect

As you know where beauty is found.

Pro Tem, Monday, March 8, 1999
Evictions soar in Toronto with 30,000 evicted

Source: Varsity
By Carla Tonelli and Andrew Sunstrum

Toronto (CUP) - Students are outraged to hear that more than 30,000 Ontarians have been evicted from their homes since the provincial government brought in the new Tenants Protection Act last June.

Dreading the worst for students who frequently move from apartment to apartment, activists last summer predicted that the loosening of legislation for landlords to hike rents and then evict tenants would be bad news for students.

Under the Tenants Protection Act, a landlord may hike the rent on any empty unit to whatever price he deems fit.

Applications for eviction filed by landlords from June 1997 to June 1998 totaled 65,050. That number rose by 550 to an estimated 65,600, expected for June 1999.

"It's really depressing," said Jane Harvey, a telephone councillor for the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations.

She says about 100 people call every day to ask for advice with how to deal with threats of eviction and landlord harassment, problems exacerbated by the deregulation of rent rates.

The Tenant Protection Act has definitely worsened the situation," she said. "Now there is more power for landlords to enforce evictions. Our phone is ringing all day long with people calling who are terrified, facing eviction. It's really terrible, and there's nothing we can do.

University of Toronto student Naomi Savage was evicted last month when her landlord took her to the Housing Tribunal so he could use her apartment for personal use.

Savage is outraged that it was so easy for her landlord's wishes to be approved by the tribunal, which is staffed by provincial government appointees, not judges as was the case before the introduction of the Tenants' Protection Act.

"When we were at the tribunal it was very shocking to me to see the rate at which tenants were being evicted," she said, adding that at least four other people were evicted the same day as she was.

In addition, the added bureaucracy at the tribunal makes it especially difficult for immigrants or students without legal aid to make heads or tails of the system.

There has been a 15 per cent rise in evictions in Toronto alone since the new legislation was brought in last summer, says the Toronto Action for Social Change.

Group member Mathew Behrens says the time has come for new housing laws. "We need to go back to rent controls and real consultation with tenants and tenant groups.

But while activists and students continue to say the new legislation isn't working, the Ontario government maintains that evictions shouldn't be a threat, as long as rents are met on time.

Scott Harcourt, manager of Ontario's housing policy branch, says up to 90 per cent of evictions are due to non-payment of rent.

"The grounds for eviction have not changed," he said.

"I'm not sure that the numbers are up. We wouldn't expect the numbers to change under the new legislative regime," he said, adding the assistance that is provided from the tribunal office is at a higher level than previously provided by the courts.

Carol Kiley, manager of program development for the tribunal, admits the applications for evictions are expected to have risen by 550 by June, but denies the new law loosens the reins on landlords.

"It's not easier to evict now than it was under the court system," she said. "The law itself has not changed. The tribunal is more accessible and easier for tenants to defend themselves and it's administratively simpler." But students say there's nothing simple about making it easier to hike rents when the summer rolls around and apartments are left vacant for three to four months.

Chris Ramnaroop, president of U of T's Student Tenants' Association, says one way to fight the legislation is to get educated on the facts, and for students to know their rights.

"Students should join or create a tenants' association; it's a right to have affordable housing," he said.

Students say the rat race to find a place has just become more difficult.

"It's hard to find an apartment," said Alexandria Kirby. "There are a lot of job deaths, and too many homeless people, it's tragic. There have to be other solutions."
Après la dernière classe de mon horaire cette semaine, j'ai décidé de prendre une marche pour prendre avantage de l'effet rafraîchissant de la neige qui tombait dehors. En rencontrant mon copain "Loofka", il m'appela pour me dire qu'il voulait se joindre à mon excursion.

JJOR-Hé, allo, mon ami, les choses-ça va?
Loofka-oui, ouais, agréable, oui. Alimerez-vous une gorgée de mon breuvage froid?
J-Non, non merci.
L-Qu'est ce qui se passe, tu as l'air d'être troublé.
J-Penses-tu qu'il existe certaines circonstances où la liberté de choix deviendrait sans importance, inconsciente?
L-Le niveau de liberté est largement déterminé par le point de vue des protagonisants.
J-C'est qu'on va perdre notre liberté de choix, ici à glendon:
la compagnie york veux prendre la décision à notre place. Ce n'est pas seulement une question de choix de liqueur.
L-C'est dommage que ça se passe ici, sur le campus pittoresque de glendon. Je reconnais bien la raison de votre malaise, ce n'est que la première des pertes de choix dans un long défilé d'exigences durant la décennie d'exclusivité.
J-Mais c'est exactement ça. Il y a quoi, au juste, qui empêche la compagnie de liqueur, de nous refuser l'argent promis. Il y aura peut-être un jour où ils ne seront pas en accord total avec ce que l'on veut faire avec l'argent, ou le fait qu'il y ait une tendance de la part de la compagnie york de se concentrer toujours vers la corporatisation. Cette année, plusieurs aspects suivent cette tendance: ayant besoin d'argent, la compagnie york se prépare à signer ce contrat, pour financer des programmes de business... ce qui contribue à une perte de liberté et de facultés mentales.
L-Du point de vue des businessmens, c'est un grand deal. Ils manquent d'argent, et si on perd certaines libertés, ou opinions, ca lui derange pas. Il ne comprennent pas certaines choses, ils sont limités c'est gens la. ça fait de longtemps qu'ils ont vendu leur esprit pour un prix. mais la responsabilité de l'université c'est de nous faire voir qu'il y a d'autres choix, d'autres voies possible, et c'est là ou ils sont en erreur, c'est qu'ils ne démontrent pas un bon exemple.
J-J'aimerais en discuter plus, cet aspect de montrer un bon exemple, ce qu'il est en train de faire aussi, c'est de nous faire subir des retards a la sante. Je peux vous assurer, meme si je ne suis pas medicin, que les boissons gazeuses ne sont pas bon pour la sante. de l'estomac, des dents et les gencives, l'aspect modifiant de la caffee, etc..., ce n'a peut etre pas ete considere, cet aspect.
L-C'est un moment ou loofka me revela qu'il fallait sans, faut d'un horaire restricte. mai moi, je continuais cette evolution d'idées concernant ce qui nous reste apres le breuvage en question a ete consomme. il nous reste que des bouteilles en plastique vide, ou des cannettes en metal. est-ce que cette compagnie, avec lecol qu'on entre en corroboration, est en train de rechercher des methodes qui peuvent ameliorer l'environnement?
J-En tout cas, je trouve que la compagnie de brevages reçoit beauaspect plus de nous, que l'on recoit d'eux. on devrait peut etre exiger certaines choses d'eux avant de signer le contrat. comme un nouveau philosophie, plus large, plus utilise.
L-But when all is said and spoken for, the deal has been signed. on information from a GCSU member, the cold brevage agreement has been signed and the money should be on the way. we are to receive this year's entire budget, at once, in a lump sum, with only a few weeks left in the session.

The funds are handled by a steering committee, and glendon is to receive a cut of its own, due to the fact that we are a college, and a campus. the funds, once in control of glendonites, are governed by another committee comprised of three students and two school administrative types. all three students on this committee are also on the GCSU; i think they should try and fill these positions with a more representative trio than what there is. blind faith in the decision making abilities of the student union cannot remain unchecked. with the current setup, they have the ability to veto any proposals with which they don't agree. the funds could then be left for the exclusive use of the GCSU's self serving motives.

let me paint you a picture, lets say the history club wants to go to the museum, but there's a personal conflict between members of the history club and the GCSU clique. the proposal gets denied. the funds have been critiquing the prez or vice prez of the GCSU for a few issues. they have the ability to veto any proposals with which they don't agree. the funds could then be left for the exclusive use of the GCSU's self serving motives.

by the way, i wonder if the upcoming GCSU election is fixed. members this year wanting to return next year are banding together to push each other through. they also want to join the tremendously bureaucratic ranks of the CFS. but, if you vote no, and learn about it, they can always ask again; i mean, we all know how referendums are. but keep your eyes open, there may be a coup in the works. yea, that's right, a coup. want to join? just bring me a can of coke, and we'll talk.

Je trouve que la compagnie de brevages reçoit beauaspect plus de nous, que l'ont recoit d'eux.
À la professeure Deborah Hobson
Présidente du Comité pour la Recherche d’un(e) Principe(e) Madama,
Je vous remercie de votre rédige à ma récente proposition.

C’est en votre qualité de présidente du comité de sélection en vue de l’ème principal(e) nouveau(e) (Principal(e) = à Glendon que je vous prie de bien vouloir considérer de qui suit.
Votre décision de rejeter la candidature du professeur Janta-Połczyński m’a étonné. Je désire répliquer en mettant votre complète respect de ce qu’a lui, des doutes d’engager une personne en dehors de la communauté Glendonienn(e) et ce même si la nouvelle embauche(e) vient du campus de Glendon.
Permettez-moi de vous rappeler que l’actuelle Principele sormente, dès le début de son mandat, avait sauvagement saisi dans le budget de mon département [Anglais] et avec un énorme mépris. Cette situation avait fait fulminer plus d’un et craindre un choix de cours tellement restreint que cela avait fait désert des étudiants de l’inscription (ou nous, les payeurs) et, celles et ceux qui, comme moi, s’étaient désignés à rester et ont vu perdre leur mal en patience—jusqu’à cinq ans parfois—avant de se voir enfin offrir des cours auxquels ils aspiraient.
Dans cette même optique, je crains vivement que la personne élue n’ouvrira définitivement le/la Glendon, et encore, peut-être pour une bouchée de riz.
Comment puis-je croire en la sincérité ou la sensibilité de ce nouveau venu ? Fût-il, fût-elle, une personne compétente du campus Kecle ? Vous l’avez vous-même mentionné au cours de la réunion du 20 janvier dernier, que d’étudiants ethniques de Glendon, et plus de 1000 de plus de 1000 pages, c’est un document impressionnant. Un éditeur parisiens l’a sous examen pour espérer de larges extraits.
Y a-t-il à l’Université Glendon beaucoup d’autres professeurs qui possèdent de ce diplôme des plus prestigieux dans le monde de la Francophonie?
1.2 Le professeur Janta a plus de 25 d’expérience, dans la recherche, en informatique et dans l’enseignement universitaire en informatique, en linguistique et en traductionologie.
1.3 Il fait partie du programme gradué (en traduction) de l’Université York. Il a dirigé une thèse de maîtrise en traduction, qui a été jugée brillante par le jury de

thèse.
1.4 Il a de l’expérience dans l’administration de projets de recherche interuniversitaire. Il a été vice-président du GIRICO au Québec (= Groupe Interuniversitaire de Recherche en Informatique Cognitive des Organisations), qui publiait une revue scientifique, ICO-Québec (où le prof. Janta a d’ailleurs publié). Le GIRICO recevait de l’argent de compagnies privées, et plus de 100,000 par an du gouvernement du Québec. Le GIRICO cherchait à promouvoir l’informatique la plus avancée (systèmes experts, etc.) au sein des organisations privées ou gouvernementales. Cet axe de recherche touche justement les deux domaines que le Sénat de l’Université York veut voir se développer à Glendon: l’informatique, et les sciences de l’administration.

2. Raisons propres à Glendon.
2.1 Le professeur Janta a donné beaucoup de cours à Glendon et est très respecté par ses étudiants et estime que les étudiants savoir, pour son zèle à le communicer, ainsi que pour sa disponibilité envers ses étudiants.
2.2 Le professeur Janta a un contact facile avec les étudiants, une connaissance de leurs problèmes et un réel souci de leur venir en aide. Il a l’appui déclaré des étudiants. Chère professeure Hobson, j’étais dans la salle quand vous et votre comité étes venus parler aux étudiants, j’ai entendu le nom du professeur Janta mentionné par plusieurs intervenants.
2.3 Le professeur Janta semble en savoir plus sur Glendon que des professeurs. Je comprends tout, quel que soit l’actuel Principele.
2.4 Il s’est impliqué dans plusieurs comités de Glendon. Il a

été président du Comité des Normes Académiques [CASTL] et a été sénateur de York.

3. Raisons internationales
3.1 Le professeur Janta a été impliqué (au risque de sa liberté) dans le processus qui a mené à la démocratisation de la Pologne. Il a collabore à la recherche démocratique dans le régime communiste. (Il s’est fait prendre une fois. Il a été trésorier du Comité Belge d’Aide à la Pologne et du Syndicat Solidarosc et a récolté des fonds importants pour aider la cause de la démocratie. Il est directeur des relations européennes de la Fondation Canada Pologne. 3.2 Le professeur Janta est très ouvert au multiculturalisme et est engagé en faveur des nombreux étudiants ethniques canadiens de Glendon. Il jouit de la confiance de la personne que je propose à l’embauche du poste de Ministre du Multiculturalisme au Canada, à savoir ancien sénateur Stanley Haidasz.
3.3 Le professeur a de contacts avec des scientifiques et personnalités dans différents pays du monde.
3.4 Le professeur Janta connait bien les questions internationales et a été invité à faire des exposés sur ce sujet. Il a rédigé un livre sur les aspects occultes de l’histoire récente, qui est présenté ici aux leçons de la célébration des 10 ans de l’Université York. Il a passé une fois en France deux institutions de haute qualité (systeme experts, etc.).
3.5 Il connaît plus de 16 langues et en parle couramment huit, ce qui lui donne un avantage certain dans les domaines de la recherches internationales.
3.6 Chère professeure Hobson, pouvez-vous me citer d’autres professeurs à l’université York qui lui se trouvent sur ce point comparatif?

4. Raisons reliées à York.
Vous m’écrivez, chère professeure Hobson, je crois que le professeur Janta n’a pas la permanence ou n’est pas dans un poste menant à la permanence à York. C’est vrai, mais il enseigne aussi en Pologne, et il est autre professeur permanent !

Le Collège Universitaire Glendon lui avait offert un poste il y a 15 ans déjà, après qu’il ait franchi avec succès toutes les formalités de soumission, reconnaissant par là même ses compétences. (A cette époque et à son retour, pour des raisons familiales, il n’avait pu accepter le poste.)
Il y a cinq ans, le professeur Janta venait à Glendon sur invitation. Il y est resté parce qu’il aime ce Collège et veut en faire le joyau académique que Glendon est naturellement appelé à être. Il est-il donc qui situe plusieurs fois à moitié de ces projets.
On lui avait promis deux postes seraient ouverts en informatique, que l’un d’entre eux se situe au sein de Glendon, et que l’autre resterait à un seul. Le titulaire de ce poste l’a abandonné depuis.
Si un département aussi vital pour Glendon que l’informatique, et quasiment attirant pour les étudiants, reste avec un seul professeur, à cause de la politique à courte vue de l’administration, comment le se tromper, d’autres qui est-ce qui empêche de réunir les comités appropriés (y compris le comité des permanences si besoin est) et d’engager le professeur Janta sur un de ces postes, puisqu’il a déjà fait ses preuves à York.

Le capital intellectuel est une des plus précieuses ressources des universités. Elles ne devraient pas s’étonner qu’elles vont au-devant de problèmes si elles le gèrent bien.
Exploitez-moi chère professeure Hobson, pourquoi on préfère à Glendon engager des jardiniers plutôt que des professeurs, puisque de toute façon ce merveilleux campus reste honteusement sous-utilisé.
En esperant que ces quelques considérations vous aideront à faire prendre conscience de l’importance cruciale que vos décisions éclairées auront pour l’avenir de Glendon, et pour la vie de conséquence, pour l’avenir de York, je vous transmets mes salutations respectueuses et confiantes en votre sagesse.

Marc-Antoine Vercain
Yk00337@yorku.ca
Vercain@yahoo.com

Pro Tem, le lundi 8 mars 1999
The YNN project

Stephanie Lake
Grade 12, Meadowvale Secondary School

We may be teenagers, but we’re not all couch potatoes! Well, at least we weren’t.

Who knows, maybe one day soon, secondary school students all across Canada will be the same - walking, brainwashed zombies. That frame for this can be placed squarely on the shoulders of YNN and the governors of our education system. Treat the government, I don’t think so!

I am upset with the administration of my school for using us, the students, as guinea pigs, in a test which uses television sets inappropriately in my school.

Television sets have been placed in each classroom, cafeteria, library, lobby, Guidance Office, and any other rooms that students use.

YNN, with the cooperation of one school board per province, who in turn chose one of their schools to participate in this experiment. Meadowvale Secondary School was selected for the province of Ontario. Television sets have been placed in each classroom, cafeteria, library, lobby, Guidance Office, and any other rooms that students use.

The Peel Board of Education, as well as the administration of Meadowvale Secondary School, agreed, without asking or informing students or parents, to have YNN place these television sets in each room. Students are required to watch 12 minutes of news broadcasting every day which includes 2 minutes of prepped commercials.

The official launching took place on Friday November 28, 1998 at precisely 1:20 p.m.

The actual news broadcast BRIEFLY discussed Canadian topics such as Quebec because wanting to separate from Canada and the Canadian dollar. Both of these are great issues that all Canadians should be aware of, however, YNN did a poor job of delivering the information to inform students about these topics.

Since the purpose of the exercise is to educate, you’d think that there would be educational commercials. Wrong. The commercials feature chewing gum and milk. Only one of the commercials sent an educational message. It was a commercial about smoking and how it causes death.

The people responsible for placing television sets in my classroom should know that the media influences its audience. If they wanted to educate us, they sure aren’t going about it in the right way.

The television stations are supposed to be monitored and used for educational viewing only. During lunches they don’t seem to be monitored enough. Students crowd into the front foyer of Meadowvale S.S. to watch music videos and talk shows.

It’s disgusting walking into my school after lunch and seeing the front foyer filled with television sets in each room. Students should be able to determine where they want to be and what they want to watch. Parents feel the same way.

Is the message that the administration at my school has no control over anything?

Throughout my education I have come to believe that easy access to television, easy access to air and a chance to get out of class is what the purpose of my lunch break is. I didn’t realize that now all of a sudden my teachers, principals and government are encouraging my peers to become couch potatoes.

How is it that there is money for this kind of experiment? Why can’t someone donate books to our pathetic stack of books that we’re expected to call a school library?

Kevin Summer
Meadowvale Secondary School

The ivy beleaguered

Marie Daviau
Glendon’s United Nations Club sent 13 delegates to represent the Philippines and Georgia at the Harvard Model United Nations debate. It was the first time that Glendon participated in this conference and a good time was had by all, but not because of the conference.

Club members were very disappointed by the level of the debate, particularly senior members, whose expectations of a Harvard organized conference were high. More than one committee moderator was heard to address the rules in the rain (Robert’s Rules), and was unsure quite what to do with motions by committee members.

York vs. Glendon

The 12-hour bus ride with Keele campus club was ...interesting. A racing rendition of “I’d rather be a Yoeman than a dirty $15 Sing Blue” greeted us as we took our segregated seats at the back of the bus (does this remind you of any particular historical context?)

After we had been put in our place, we were told that, although we were known to hate York main students, we had to hate University of Toronto more (juvenile). Then, just to be sure we felt completely taken advantage of, we were asked for additional money to pay for the hotel, and taxi drivers.

We can’t figure out why this wasn’t taken care of when Keele campus arranged for the driver. Puzzled, but not beaten, we even survived the occasional horror show when the door to the tile bathroom was open. Next time, we’re taking the plane.

We’re not with those people anymore! (Or is it just a case of history repeating itself?) York (Keele) embarrassed us (and anyone unfortunate enough to mention they were from Toronto) when their delegation welcomed 3000 students and dignitaries with a stunning rendition of... you guessed it. Seated in the balcony across from U of T, they captured the attention of everyone in the ballroom just before opening ceremonies. Old Harvard message of ...peace... and... love?

In the spirit of the UN? “I’d rather be a Yoeman than a dirty freaking Blue (3x) So screw you Varsity Blue!” (I would like to apologize at this time to Pakistan whose misfortune it was to be represented by these Pepsi Squat Rejects) Needless to say, we were a little hesitant then to introduce ourselves to people who inevitably asked if we were part of ‘that group who sang we’re not all couch potatoes’. Well, wrap up, Harvard was the last conference for the club until next year. Usually, Glendon would be an alternate to New York in April, but we all drained our cash resources to go to Harvard.

Come out and join the club in the fall and find out about the other controversies the club participates in.

Despite embarrassment and a below par conference, Glendon delegates had a lot of fun. Living with four other co-eds for four days was my residence experience since I live off campus. It reminded me of camp. Great for a week, but for an entire school year? Never!

Glenda Palmer
Glendon College, York University
Taking our economy away
Sarah Isaac
Source: SFU Peak (CUP)

On Wednesday, October 15th, the David Suzuki Foundation held a free lecture explaining the problems of air pollution and climate change and their effects on human health. The David Suzuki Foundation is a non-profit organization which strives to understand the root causes of environmental issues, and help identify and implement solutions to those problems. The panel speakers included physicians, scientists, and a government official, all addressing the acute threat to public health posed by increased air pollution and climate change.

The cause of both air pollution and climate change (i.e. the "greenhouse effect"), is the combustion of fossil fuels on a massive scale.

In addition to addressing the scientific factors involved in these processes, and posing feasible solutions, such as transit, there was an awareness of the panelists' addresses, and the remarks made by the audience, that the problem was enormous, even overwhelming. As well, there was an awareness of the potential social implications he had been reviewing prepared to require our society for the implementation of effective changes.

In British Columbia, automobile exhaust is the largest contributor to total fuel emissions. In addition to contributing to air pollution, which has adverse effects on human health, the combustion of fossil fuels is contributing to climate change. The effects of climate change, or global warming, include the loss of disuse of previously stable weather systems, more frequent violent weather events, increased risks of infectious diseases, threats to food supplies, and, in time, rising sea levels.

Although our current Liberal government committed to stabilize (i.e. reduce emissions) by the year 2000, both at the Rio convention and in the Red Book, no serious action has been taken. In fact, Canada's emissions had already increased by 9.8 percent above 1990 levels by 1995, and are predicted to increase to 19 percent by the year 2010. Canada's continuing threat to global environmental security is proceeding virtually unchallenged by the Canadian public.

The threat of global warming and increased air pollution is terrifying. Scientists conclude that emission reductions of 60-80 percent of current global output are required to avoid serious climate changes. But the possibility that these reductions may not occur does not seem implausible, which means that by the time I am 55, the world may be different, hostile place, and not the harmonious relations with the natural environment that currently exist.

To address these concerns, one of the scientific community to avoid catastrophe.

Clearly the eventual economic costs of environmental degradation, to be eventually borne by an entire economy, will be enormous. The maxim "a stitch in time saves nine" is most relevant when applied to an ongoing problem. This is not only evident in the near-miss situation in the former USSR, but is intuitive; clearly if the economic effects of implementing environmental regulations could actually be positive. So why aren't all levels of government responding proactively to the urge of the scientific community to avoid catastrophe?

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One can only hope that grassroots activism gives government a clear message: Environmental concerns must precede all other political considerations. Canadians are willing to swallow the bitter pill of regulatory restrictions on business. But promoting and implementing rapid transit should coincide with a decrease in the manufacturing and sale of automobiles, especially those that are fuel inefficient; this is logical and in the interest of public health, the purchase of more automobiles undermines the movement towards public transit. In this sense, automobile marketing is competing with the message of those who would prefer mass transit, and fewer cars.

Although the need to address and solve environmental problems is undenied, the individual who takes environmental concerns seriously must alter his or her lifestyle to accord with these concerns lives on the margins. Not only because of the economic impacts and inconveniences associated with rejecting consumer impulses, but also because of the critical analysis of the social and economic structures that will necessarily follow. The capacity of a profit-driven structure to adjust to massive policy shifts, which must take place globally, is yet to be seen.

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Perhaps we can also blame inaction on the short policy horizon of governments; actions that will necessarily precipitate economic instability are not likely to result in re-election. But the result of inaction is so dramatic and so frightening that eventually, the lifestyles and social structures that dominate North American life must change. Perhaps it will not be the proliferates who will fuel the revolutionary fire, but the scientists, all too conscious of the impending doom.

Yet, like every plea for environmental awareness, the messages of the David Suzuki Foundation and others, who advocate harmonious relations with the natural environment, are being drowned out by the cacophony of consumerist propaganda and the whines of myopic lobbyists advocating "business as usual" policies; these, at present, successfully dominate the public sphere.

Take, for example, the promotion of public, rapid transit. The implementation of infrastructure for public transit, when viewed superficially, is a "win/win" public policy choice. But promoting and implementing rapid transit should coincide with a decrease in the manufacturing and sale of automobiles, especially those that are fuel inefficient; this is logical and in the interest of public health, the purchase of more automobiles undermines the movement towards public transit. In this sense, automobile marketing is competing with the message of those who would prefer mass transit, and fewer cars. Although the need to address and solve environmental problems is undeniable, the individual who takes environmental concerns seriously must alter his or her lifestyle to accord with these concerns lives on the margins. Not only because of the economic impacts and inconveniences associated with rejecting consumer impulses, but also because of the critical analysis of the social and economic structures that will necessarily follow. The capacity of a profit-driven structure to adjust to massive policy shifts, which must take place globally, is yet to be seen.
du Maurier Arts

Supporting 215 cultural organizations across Canada during the 1998-99 season
perspectives

Lick this...

If you consider the simple explanation of which is about to follow, 'see' may pop into your head...'.c' for conspiraSEE.

Annammara Kouglis

For those of you who check the mailbox regularly, you know already that it's rare to find an actual letter amidst the pages of junk that habitually accumulates at your residence. When you do get an envelope, it's usually a bill of some type or another and it's been stamped with an automated stamping machine.

It's not often that you end up with a letter in your hand that has an actual stamp on it. It just seems real mail doesn't visit you that often, oh? I don't know whether that's because of e-mail or if it just because people don't write other people as often, or if it's a combo of both or not. Whatever the reason it doesn't matter, it's just that usually, you don't get authentic mail.

P.S. you will self-destruct

So the day that I received that white envelope in the mail with my name hand printed on the front of it, something immediately made me question the contents...and the fact that there was no return address on it. It turned out to be, you guessed it, one of those clone chain letters. You know the kind I'm referring to, that says if you don't follow instructions and send twenty people a copy of the same letter within seventy-two hours, you'll experience damaging, avoidable bad luck and self-destruct in nine days...or something like that.

pulped mission

I read the thing in its entirety and the first thing that came to my mind was the psychological aspect of the whole thing. Here you get this letter, and it tells you, by the power invested in the saints that launched this paper mission, that you will suffer the consequences of not choosing to send the same message to additional peeps. I could write about the 'guilt' and 'scare' aspects of its tactics, but I'm sure you can figure that out on your own if you read one of these letters by noticing the manner in which it is written.

XXXluck

These letters usually include 'real' examples of people who decided not to fall through with the chain. Like Bob who meant to make copies and send them out, but put it off and eventually forgot about it. Poor guy came home one afternoon and found his cat dead, semi-chewed, floating in the fish tank. Then there's Ellen who upon receiving the letter, threw it in the garbage, only to unfortunately slip under a bus the next day. After her hospital release she immediately retrieved the letter and then later that week, attributed herotto winnings of ten dollars to the fact that she followed through with the instructions of sending out copies to her closest friends. And there's Sheila, who ripped up the letter after reading what it was. Down on his luck he figured he'd release some what-could-have-been-energy, by going to the video store etc. He hurried back home and upon his arrival found a note on the door. His date had changed her mind and went to his apartment to resume the evening, but he wasn't there. What could he do now, he thought, but go ahead and pop in the flick. Poor, poor Mitch should have sent out that letter as soon as he got it because when the film started rolling, he soon realized that his hot date was the hot feature.

bad luck-no...life-yes

Okay, so did these folks suffer bad luck because they didn't fulfill the letter's requisition of distribution? I don't think so. Shit happens. Bob should have bought a canary for his piranha tank or should have made a smarter choice in pets. Ellen shouldn't have worn her heels in icy weather. Sheila, well her husband was a loser anyway. And Mitch, well he shouldn't have skipped the what-do-you-do-for-a-living part of the conversation during his date. All in all, the examples mentioned and others included in chain letters could have happened regardless of continuing the chain or not. But some folks believe that the events that happen to them after the letter are due to the choice they made of complying or not complying. Attribution seekers is all they are I tell ya.

'post-attrition'

In the concluding paragraph of the chain letter, you'll notice that it basically threatens you. If you don't make twenty copies and mail them out within a couple of days, you too will experience bad luck. Do it. Don't ignore this. DO IT or St. Whoever will make sure that whatever you touch, wherever you go, whatever you do, will have bad luck written all over it and you'llmesh, you'll melt away slowly as your world around you too melts, because you didn't do what you were supposed to. You broke the chain that has circled the world 236 times and now you must face the consequences. Well, after opening and reading my chain letter, I put it aside. That was about a month ago.

Are the chain-letter-gods waiting patiently to cast bad luck upon my ass? Ne ne pense pas. What I think is that the whole thing is a scam. Yup, a big worldwide scam. As I mentioned earlier, there aren't too many letters out there anymore with stamps on them right? So, the chain letter is just a convenient, inconspicuous way of making money for the post office. They send out a bunch of letters right, and suckers who feel guilty-rulled by their weak conscience, make twenty copies, just like the letter instructs, and mail out these copies. Twenty copies means twenty stamps, each one almost fifty cents. You aren't just sending money, letters, because then you wouldn't be following the rules, so you write out the addresses of twenty peeps you know and mail this letter in the hopes that your lucky numbers come up. So Joe sends twenty and so does Sandra and so does Trish, and maybe some of their recipients send some out and so on, you get the picture. Anyway, if enough of these letters are sent out and circulate...and it happens, because I've received about three of them as I'm sure you have also come across one or know someone who has then we're talking cumulative expenses on postage, non? Did I mention the cost of the envelopes and photocopying? I'm not saying the post office is the demon behind the scheme-scaring peeps by implying that bad luck will rule their house if they don't 'continue the link', I'm just saying that it could possibly be an indirect and unsuspecting way to make money for the office. With telephones and e-mail eliminating mailing traditions, the gays and gals in blue gotta deliver something right? So Mr. Postmanhead decides (or is told) to randomly infiltrate the mail system by means of the popular chain letter with the aim of generating some type of revenue for the bureau by playing on the minds of the wishful and superstitious.

spurring your tastebuds

If you do participate in chain letters hoping that good fortune will come your way, then the best of luck. If you do so because you fear the letter's stated potential consequences of non-compliance I'm sure there's a group or something you could join to help you with the pressures of conformity, or help you in achieving the karma balance you so desire, or you could just pray to St. Katharines of the Immaculate Lick-patron to chain letter addicts- to help you overcome the urge of making those copies, to conquer the glue-craving-blues, and to help you deprecate your luck-needly-link-driven thoughts.
As the school year slowly comes to a close a few thoughts come into mind. As much as I love this school and value the education it has given me I must confess certain worries. How much longer is Glendon going to last?

It seems strange to me to even consider that we should even be worrying about the future of this college. The idea of having a liberal arts college, which stresses bilingualism, in a country, which is represented by two national languages, seems ingenious. At risk of sounding insulting to others I find it hard to believe that graduates of Glendon College find it that hard to find a job. In fact, none of the grads which I come across have any problem what so ever. So why then is it so hard to attract students to this school?

Periodically I carry on conversations with students who are about to enter university. My first big surprise was that a significant majority of these students did not even know that Glendon existed. Of the others who did recognize the name Glendon College, very few seemed to have a good idea of what the curriculum was. The one fact, which seemed to come up time and time again, was the whole “French” question.

“Oh I heard that you have to take most of your courses in French?”

“I heard that there are very few classes offered in English.”

I found it very difficult to reply to these charges. I tried to first explain that these assumptions were greatly exaggerated. I added that indeed it is mandatory to take a certain classes in French that the majority of the course load could easily be in the English language. I then tried to show these students that knowing French was actually an asset. I am a true proponent of studying languages and push this credo upon any that asks me. I must admit that as a child I fought tooth and nail with my parents to take me out of French Immersion, but now I am very happy to have persevered.

This French “turn off” is just a minor deterrent to enrollment at this school. In fact there are much greater structural problems which present many more problems.

Although I will be finished my degree at the end of next year I worry passively about the future of this campus. Since I started studying here at Glendon I have seen many programs cut, slashed and even moved to the Keele campus. I have seen one of the most popular programs, that of education, moved off campus. I have witnessed the attempt to down size the work study program, one that I am presently a part of, so that no full time Prof. will be over seeing the day to day results. I have seen the campus pub, a once thriving facility, wither away at the hands of a relentless debt. The International Studies program is undergoing a complete over haul. All of this adds to an already high level of instability, which does very little in attracting new students.

Since I was born in this neighborhood and I grew up in this neighborhood I can say with confidence that there is a great deal of students who would be interested in coming to Glendon if in fact Glendon interested them.

As the school year slowly comes to a close a few thoughts come into mind. As much as I love this school and value the education it has given me I must confess certain worries. How much longer is Glendon going to last?
Conglomerates, corporations and cancer in a box

Post-colonialism? I dare say we flatter ourselves with the title. All kinds of euphoric ballyhoo are heard in praise of this age of outward-spreading democracy. Gone are the days of national imperialism, of foreign hegemony, of missionary paternalism! A bright new dawn of cultural tolerance, diversity, and pluralism extends its rosy fingers across the global sky!

But, behind the saccharine cant, the real world marches on. How it grieved my heart to read that another megalomaniac is taking his kick at the can. Last week, Starbucks opened its first outlet in Beijing, China, with the terrifying avarice of turning 1.24 billion tea-drinkers into caffeine junkies.

Now doubt that Starbucks, owned by Reynolds Tobacco, the same good company that brought you lung cancer in a box, sees itself heroically liberating the Chinese people from an oppressive 5,000-year-old tradition. They have assumed the quixotic task of righting perhaps the most egregious wrong: that the rest of the world alone? Well, certainly not. It is alive and well in China. But Starbucks’ incursion suggests frightening consequences in other corporate colonies around the world. The work, moreover, is dangerous and brutish. The new strains, unlike natural coffee plants, do not grow in the shade at high altitudes, but rather, in full sun on the sweltering plateaus. Since coffee is the third-most chemically-sprayed crop in the world, the workers are in constant contact with all sorts of harmful substances, including DDT and malathion, which were long ago banned in the US and Canada.

North America’s love affair with coffee is something to be critically questioned, not blindly promoted. Should 1.24 billion tea-drinkers be converted to coffee, most of the developing world become one large plantation maintained by an enormous army of slaves. Americans drink, on average, 3.4 cups of coffee per day. Imagine, if you will, that the Chinese cultivated an equal passion. They would be disposing of some three billion Styrofoam Starbucks cups daily. Not in excess of such excess space itself, China might well begin to see North America as a convenient landfill of infinite capacity. It would then justify sending its garbage home.

Elections

Pro Tem will be holding elections on March 23 for people interested in working next year, nominations will be accepted until March 15.

Positions available:

- Poetry and Fiction editor
- Editor-in-chief
- Business Manager
- Gérant de la production

Postes disponibles:

- Perspectives editor
- Assistant à la rédaction
- Features editor
- Assistant à la mise en page
- News editors
- Éditeur des arts

Pro Tem tiendra des élections le 23 mars, pour les gens intéressés à y travailler l’an prochain. Les candidatures seront acceptées jusqu’au 15 mars.
Ode To J.J. O'Rourke: There seem to be many Glendites concerned with the now infamous Pepsi deal. Apparently some are worried that the students are being short changed in one way or another. Others seem to be infatuated simply with the idea of letting a multi national company onto the campus. The following list is dedicated to all those anti-Pepsi crusaders: of the following products and companies, which are owned by Pepsi?

1. Doritos  
2. Pizza Hut  
3. Lay's  
4. Tropicana  
5. Ruffles  
6. Smart Food Popcorn  
7. Taco Bell  
8. Fritos  
9. Sun Chips  
10. KFC

The answer is all 10! Oh and by the way in the fiscal year of 1997 PepsiCO, Inc. registered $20,917,000,000.00 in sales.

Burning Passions & Glendon Women’s Centre Present:

"What's A Girl To Do?"

how the myth of “happily ever after musicals” messed up one woman’s life

on International Women’s Day celebration

Monday March 8 1999, 8:30 pm
Glendon Cafeteria, 2275 Bayview Ave
(@Lawrence)
For information call: 736-2100 ext. 88197

written by: Matthew Behrens and Laurel Smith 
performed by: Laurel Smith
musical director: Michael Barber
admission: $3 students / $5 non-students

Easier tax filing and faster refunds for students

It’s free, at your fingertips, and available seven days a week.

Check your personalized income tax package for a TELEFILE invitation.

For more information, visit our Web site at:

www.rc.gc.ca/telefile/
She's All That

Catherine Hancock

She's All That

- Hollywood has done it again...
She's All That, like every other "teenie bopper" movie follows a formula that we know by heart: popular boy meets loser girl - they fall in love-conflict arises-conflict is resolved: they live happily ever after.

She's All That takes this formula, adds in some beach scenes, nice cars, and of course, a prom. The film industry is like Puff Daddy, taking what worked back in the 80's and redoing it for the 90's. The film is nothing but an updated version of Can't buy me love - with a couple of twists, of course. But, even though originality is definitely lacking in this particular flick, I still found myself enjoying every minute.

1. I actually like "teenie bopper" movies... I enjoy the temporary escape from reality that these movies provide. Two hours of fun, laughs and the latest music - and no, there is no Puff Daddy on the soundtrack.
2. Matthew Lillard (Scream) is one of my favorite actors. Once again he plays a weirdo, but he's good at it, so he might as well.
3. The movie is filmed in the same school as the television show Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Sarah Michelle Gellar (Buffy) makes a small appearance and since I'm a huge Buffy fan, that made the movie for me!
4. Finally, the 80's flick Can't Buy Me Love is my favorite movie so obviously I would enjoy a new version of the same story. The only real difference is the reversal of the sexes.

In Can't Buy Me Love, the boy is a geek who pays the most popular girl in school to date him for one week. In She's All That, the boy is maybe too cool and bets that he can turn any girl into the prom queen.

To be fair, I'll share the films biggest problem. The lead female (I can't even remember her name) is not very talented. There are many young actresses out there who could have done a much better performance, and while the story is good, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. However, Freddie Prinze Jr. (I know what you did last summer) plays the role very well and I'll admit that I left the theatre with a little crush on him!

NOW PLAYING

200 Cigarettes

What a long list of big names in a low budget movie. This does not happen often and maybe that's why this movie works. These are the serious actors, the one's who do it for passion and not for money. And talk about funny! This film had the sold out audience laughing so loud they were stomping their feet.

There's something for everyone in this 200 Cigarettes. Contrary to what some may think, it is not a "chick flick". There were just as many males in the theatre as there were females.

All the actors gave good performances, with the exception of Courtney Love. She plays Lucy, a girl who is secretly in love with her best friend, Kevin (Paul Rudd), who just got dumped by his girlfriend. I'll be fair and admit that Courtney did have her moments, and maybe she just seemed less talented than the rest because she is the one with the least amount of acting experience.

Next to actors like Paul Rudd (The Object of My Affection), Janane Garofalo (The Truth About Cats and Dogs) and Ben Affleck (Shakespeare in Love), she's bound to seem inexperienced.

Another thing is that the previews are slightly deceiving into letting us think that Ben Affleck has a big role. His role is quite small compared to the others; he does not even have a name; he is known simply as "the bartender". His brother, however, has a much bigger part and is actually quite talented. Cussey Affleck had a small role in Good Will Hunting as the friend who went upstairs with the baseball glove - if you know what I mean...

With an accurate portrayal of New York City's 80's wardrobe, retro music and New Years Eve, how can the film go wrong? It doesn't.

Other names include: Dave Chappelle, Elvis Costello, Gaby Hoffmann, Kate Hudson, Jay Mohr, Martha Plimpton and Christina Ricci.

NOW PLAYING

Tomson Highway and Jason Sherman at Glendon

Rob Shaw

Just after 4pm, March 2nd, the senior Common Room was converted into a small stage as Michael Ondaatje hosted a seminar with Canadian playwrights Tomson Highway and Jason Sherman. This area was reserved for readings and discussions from these two, which Ondaatje called "the best in Canada," writers. The outline for the hour was that the writers were to read from their latest work and then answer questions from both the audience and Ondaatje.

Tomson Highway was the first to read from his most recent novel Kiss of the Fur Queen. He was born in northwestern Manitoba and graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a degree in Music and English. He began writing in his early thirties and has been the author of several plays including, Rez Sisters and Dyilips Dughta Move to Kapuskasing. He read a selected chapter from his newest book which had to do with understanding religion and the way in which his character is hearing it for the first time. Tomson who teaches at the University of Toronto began by introducing himself and asking why there is a God and no Goddess. The selected passage was very entertaining and very meaningful in the short time that he read.

Sherman, whom I believe to be the lesser known of the panel, graduated from York Main in creative writing and has put on several plays in Toronto. His reading was from a play called It's All True. Because it was read as a play it lacked any of the descriptive prose that Tomson had, but still Sherman's reading was very alive as his characters were very much enhanced through his dialogue. A strong dialogue was the one technique that these writers captured amazingly. His writing focused on a person or person's search to find themselves through happiness. Even in this short passage, however, one was definitely able to feel the narrative of this story. As Sherman ended his reading Ondaatje and the audience held a small discussion with these writers. Through this I began to see Tomson as a comical figure as he talked about the "Garden of Eden" and growing up in a Cree background.

As well, Sherman discussed his transition from writing plays for small theatre companies in Toronto to the small screen. While Tomson talked about taking the Queens face off the Canadian dollar, Sherman would talk about moving to television in order to support his family. In the end both writers agreed on the lack of interests in art and the small funding put into Canadian productions. However, they both expressed their dislike for Canadains supporting American plays and not encouraging more Canadian theatre.

One topic that I found very interesting was when Tomson talked about Australia and how he felt Canada would stand as a colony. In the past year I've seen a few Canadian writers speak, but I would have to say that this was by far the most entertaining. These two men looked beyond their own works and took time to express opinions on real matters and beliefs; things that most people are too shy to say. I definitely found that this was very worthwhile and something that I think most of the standing room only common room, would agree upon.
FACTS ARE USELESS THINGS.
RONALD REAGAN

BUT CLICHES IN A NEW CONTEXT CAN BECOME UNCLICHED
WHICH IS TO DISCOVER THAT THEY ARE NO LONGER ORDINARY.
CORITA KENT

FRAGMENT
AS FOR HIM WHO FINDS FAULT
MAY SILLINESS
AND SORROW OVERTAKE HIM
WHEN YOU WROTE
YOU DID NOT KNOW
THE POWER OF
YOUR WORDS.
WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS

CHOICE
THE SINGLE CLENCHED
FIST LIFTED AND READY,
OR THE OPEN ASKING
HAND HELD OUT AND
WAITING.
CHOOSE:
FOR WE MEET BY ONE OR
THE OTHER.
CARL SANDBURG

THE NORTH END OF THE FIELD WAS CONSIDERED UPHILL. RUNNING SOUTH DOWN THE
PROPERTY, YOU ENDED BY GOING DOWN INTO THE GULLY. IF YOU WENT DOWN THERE, AS I DID
ON THAT DAY, YOU FELT THE PULL. YOU COULD LOOK UP, STRAIGHT UP, AND SEE THE BIRDS
DATING ITS CHARM. THEY ALWAYS FLEW THERE, GATHERED AND FLOCKED INTO THE CURRENT
THAT THE PULL CREATED IN THE AIR.
AS THEY FLEW ABOVE ME, THAT DAY, THEY WERE BLINDED BY THE REFLECTING SUN COMING OFF
THE GLISTENING TREE TOPS. THEY WERE LACQUERED IN ICE FROM THE RECENT STORM, AND THE
SUN MELTED THE COATING JUST ENOUGH TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A SILVER SCULPTED
LANDSCAPE. THE BLINDNESS DID NOT SOOTHE, BUT GATHERED THE BIRDS INTO A MASS
Hysteria THAT EVENTUALLY EXPLODED, SENDING FEATHERS AND PEAKS EVERY WHICH WAY.
WELL, EVERY WHICH WAY BUT THE PULL, YOU SEE, IN THE CONFUSION, THE PULL TURNED INTO A
PUSH. THIS GREAT MASSIVE SHOCKWAVE BURST SO LOUD, A LONELY HITCHHIKER HEARD IT
FROM DOWN THE WAY. HE FROZE. HE DECIDED THAT HE SHOULD START WALKING, HE DECIDED
THAT HIS LUCK JUST MAY HAVE TURNED SOUR.
A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

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