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Letters to the Editors

An open letter to professor Hamouda,

Having read your proposal to the APPC concerning the future of Glendon I am both enraged and disgusted at the way you have represented the students of Glendon College. Referring to the students of Glendon College as “Pathetic except for a tiny minority” is both irresponsible and completely unfounded. You have publicly insulted the students of this college and demand an immediate apology and retraction of your thoughtless remark. How can you be so ungrateful to the very people who are paying for your salary with every dime we can scrape together? How dare you call us pathetic after all that we have done in spite of some of the faculty’s total lack of concern for its students. After what you and the administration have put us through during your labour dispute you should thank each and every one of us for having the patience to tolerate the 7 week dispute that so greatly disturbed our year. You have the nerve to call us pathetic!? How about tenacious? For putting up with 7 missed weeks and no final grades till October. How about passionate? For the way which Glendon students consistently can come together to defend our institution. How about dedicated? For persevering at a college where the course selection plummets every single year. You should be ashamed of yourself. I think it is pathetic that at every event staged by the friends of Glendon and that at every student fund-raiser and production there are but a few dedicated members of the faculty who show up to help. Perhaps sir, it is some of the faculty of this college that are pathetic except for a tiny minority.

An Angry Student

Next Pro Tem meeting:

Tuesday, January 27 at 5:00 pm.

Pro Tem: room 117
Glendon Hall, 487-6736

Prochaine réunion de Pro Tem:
mardi 27 janvier à 17h00.

Vous avez des commentaires, Faites-nous les parvenir par courrier électronique (E-Mail). Notre adresse: proton@delphi.glendon.yorku.ca

Any comments? Send them to us by E-Mail. Our address: proton@delphi.glendon.yorku.ca
La Société des débats de Glendon est fière de mettre sur pied le Championnat national de débats oratoires en français. Cette prestigieuse compétition aura lieu, ici-même, sur le campus du Collège lors de la fin de semaine du 20-22 février 1998. Environ 25 des meilleures équipes de débats au pays se présenteront à Glendon afin de tenter de remporter notre titre national de débats.

Au cours des deux dernières années, Glendon a été très bien représenté à ces même Championnats nationaux. À ces deux occasions, une équipe de Glendon s’est incliné en demi-finale de la compétition. Ces tournois ont eu lieu à l’université d’Ottawa et à l’université de Montréal—cette année c’est Glendon qui est à l’honneur. Ian Roberge est le directeur du tournoi édition 1998 et il a prévu tout une fin de semaine pour cet événement.

Une fin de semaine spectaculaire est en train d’être préparé pour les compétiteurs qui viendront à Glendon non seulement pour débattre mais, également pour se dévouer. Deux super fêtes sont d’ailleurs prévues pour les compétiteurs le vendredi et le samedi soir. En plus, la bouffe et l’hôtel seront payés pour les participants au tournoi.

Les membres de la Société des débats travailent avec enthousiasme afin de mettre cette compétition sur pied. Ils ont aussi besoin de votre aide lors de cette fin de semaine. La Société des débats est à la recherche de juges. Si cela vous intéresse, vous pouvez communiquer avec Kim Rebanchuk au 440-9215. Une session de formation sera donnée de façon à pouvoir accomoder tous ceux qui désirent être juges. Les juges seront nourris tout au long de la journée samedi et auront accès aux deux fêtes.

Avec quelques semaines à peine avant le début du Championnat national de débats oratoires en français 1998, les membres de la Société des débats sont débordés de travail mais également ils sont excités et ils ont très hâte à la présentation du tournoi.
**Access Week at Glendon**

Joel Ramirez

This year's annual "Career Conversations," organized by Glendon's Counselling and Career Centre, was held in the Heath Room during the week of January 19-22. It was a series of seven seminars, designed to expose students to future career possibilities as well as summer employment opportunities.

The seminars exemplify the need for positive exposure to the generally negative view of an uncertain future for Bachelor of Arts graduates at Glendon. Furthermore, it presents an array of options that a student may not have considered up to this point.

Mareka Kememy, one of the organizers of the event, states that "the idea is to invite in speakers who are alumni also," which is important to provide students with a sense of where they may be in the future. Among the speakers who were Glendon graduates include: Kim Donegan (Glendon '95), Martin Perron (Glendon '96), Kathleen Horne (Glendon '95) and Kristina Price (Glendon '94).

Kememy would like to thank the Counselling and Career Centre's "Career Conversations" in upcoming years to have a larger career planning outreach. Students have left their phone numbers and would like to be "ongoing contacts within their field so that students, when they have questions about their area of work, or, want to do a little it of job shadowing, or interest interviewing, can be in touch with them".

This is valuable resource the Counselling and Career Centre has provided the Glendon community, and students are encouraged to make use of this open door to the workforce.

The Counselling and Career Centre’s "Career Conversations" had a relatively good turn-out, through back entrances. To demonstrate this, administration and faculty had to maneuver around the campus using a wheelchair. Local media covered the event and dealt with the broader issues of human rights, and access.

Thursday, a series of classroom demonstrations were done. Students learned what it is like to be disabled in a classroom environment, and how frustrating that can be. One of those demonstrations let students hear what it is like to be disabled.

Finally, the week ended with a pub night in the cafeteria, so that all students could access it. As the Café de la Terrasse is not accessible to disabled students.

In the future, the student access committee will try to implement a plan for improved access to the campus. Such a plan will need to be lobbied and supported by the students, faculty and administration.

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**News in brief**

**William Patterson**

**Staff your wine and cheese...**

Students at York University were outraged at President Lorna Marsden's gesture of wine, cheese, and free gifts at the Tuesday, January 26th meeting of 'student leaders'. Frustrated students protested the event held in The Underground, a pub in the Student Centre at the Keele Campus.

**Day of action**

January 28th is national student "Day of Action", where members of the Canadian Federation of Students will be staging protests across the country. York University, York University of Toronto and Ryerson students will join together for this protest. A bus will leave Glendon at 12:00p.m for the protest being held at the intersection of Bay and King (the heart of Canada's financial district). The protest is being held to protest increasing tuition rates and the lowering of government funding to post-secondary institutions.

**Joint Seneca-York degree**

Students are now able to begin their post-secondary education at Seneca College, and graduate three years later with both a Seneca diploma and a York University Bachelor of Arts degree. York says that the "program is designed to provide students with experience in both a college and university setting, and allows them to earn a college and university degree in just three years, instead of four or five."

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**CityTV at Glendon**

Joel Ramirez

Glendon's Access Awareness Week was graced by mainstream media's CityTV, as the Scavenger Hunt attempted to interactively raise awareness in the Glendon community about Glendon's limitations in accessibility to special needs students, faculty, administration and visitors. The event was held on January 21st, and was one of the week's many events sponsored by the Glendon Counselling and Career Centre's Special Needs Program and the GCSU Action for Accessibility Committee.

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nouvelles

Acadia students up in arms over stalled contract talks
Source: The Athenaeum

WOLFVILLE (CUP) — With negotiations heading nowhere fast, students at Acadia University are bracing for a faculty strike.

But they aren’t taking the looming strike sitting down. Or are they?

On Jan. 12, hundreds of students occupied the main administrative building on the Nova Scotia campus and held a sit-in to express their displeasure with the current state of contract negotiations between administration and faculty.

Talks are currently at a standstill.

A provincially-appointed conciliator had been called in earlier this month to help the two sides reach an agreement, but left after just two days.

The highlight of the sit-in was a two-and-a-half hour question period during which Acadia president Kevin O’Grady and faculty association president Jim Sacouman fielded questions from students.

“Think the students were really pleased about the forum,” Paul Black, president of Acadia’s student union, said. “They got to ask the questions they wanted to ask, and they got to ask them to the people the way [they] wanted to.”

During the emotionally-charged forum, however, there were signs of frustration among the students as the two presidents batted each other. One student asked how they could stand there and expect to be taken seriously while virtually laughing at each other, and many were still calling from the audience for the two to “grow up.”

The faculty is calling for a five per cent raise retroactive to last November and in each of the next two years. The administration is only willing to give faculty the five per cent retroactive raise, with smaller increases in each of the next two years. There is also disagreement over the language of the new contract.

Acadia students have taken action to encourage the two sides to sit down and work out their differences. Many have formally refused to pay their tuition this semester, and some are sporting red and blue ribbons to protest the stalled talks.

Sacouman announced that if the situation is not resolved soon, the student union will call for the resignations of both O’Grady and Sacouman. “Having allowed the situation to escalate to this point, it is apparent that neither is capable of competently holding their position,” Black said.

While O’Grady refused comment on the matter, Sacouman said, “If it were seen to contribute to the negotiations, I will resign immediately at the same time that Kelvin O’Grady resigns as president of the university.”

Black also announced that if a strike or lockout occurs, charging faculty union will pursue legal action against both parties.

Student frustration is being exacerbated by a work-to-rule action that was launched by Acadia faculty at the beginning of the month. Professors are refusing to take part in the ‘Acadia Advantage,’ a program through which students use laptop computers as a major learning tool.

Students in the program, who now number over 1,400, pay an extra $1,200 on top of their regular tuition and are issued a laptop computer. Using the computer and one of the myriad network connections found in Acadia’s classrooms, residence rooms and common areas, students can download material provided by their professors, access class notes found on web sites or join with others in chat groups.

Sacouman says professors have not received pay for helping to make the Acadia Advantage program a reality. Other faculty say they are participating in the job action to drive home the fact that they should have the choice as to whether or not they will use computer technology in their classes.

Acadia faculty will hold a strike vote in late January or early February.

Trent TAs launch union drive
Source: The Arthur

PETERBOROUGH (CUP) — Student employees of Trent University demanded job security, adequate wages and good working conditions as they kicked off their drive to unionize.

The Trent Academic Assistants Workers Committee announced the beginning of a unionization drive for Trent’s teaching assistants, research assistants, lab workers and grad students.

Student workers, most of whom are graduate students, are the only non-unionized employees at Trent.

“As non-unionized employees, we’re in a dangerous position in that we don’t have much say when it comes to the working conditions on universities by the government and corporate sectors,” Alex Levant, a member of the committee.

As members of a union, the student workers would be able to negotiate a collective agreement, which would formally establish the rights and obligations of both employer and employees.

Student academic assistants at Oshawa’s Trent and the University of Waterloo are already unionized, and union drives are underway at two more, Brock University and Queen’s University.

According to Daria Ivanovskii, a national representative for the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), there has been a marked increase in the number of inquiries about unionizing academic workers in the last few months.

She says people are increasingly concerned about job security and working conditions as more and more funding is cut from post-secondary institutions.

“My job as a TA is crucial to me. I need that money to complete my studies,” Morgan Gay, a graduate student and TA at Trent, said. “But with all the cuts to education, everything is threatened and because we are not unionized we have to take action to ensure our survival.”

Val Patrick, business agent for CUPE local 3903 at York and 3008 at Trent, echoes Gay’s concerns.

“Especially in this political climate and this time of squeezing, if you don’t have an organized collective voice you’ll get squeezed out,” she said.

Union members at other universities, who have already launched an information campaign to organize, say it is helping to protect them in these tough times.

“Last year the administration wanted huge rollbacks. If we hadn’t been organized we would have had our pay decreased, we would have lost our job security and many of our benefits,” Andrew Gray, a student teaching assistant at the University of Toronto and treasurer of CUPE local 3902, said.

Unionized student academic workers have even managed to make gains recently. At York University, negotiations resulted in a drug and dental plan, guaranteed annual wages of approximately $9,500 and a guaranteed number of years of paid work.

But Trent academic assistants don’t seem to feel that there is a strong need for student academic assistants to organize.

“I disagree strongly that [they] are so vulnerable,” Paul Healy, dean of research and graduate studies at Trent, said. He adds that student academic workers are highly valued by the university.

Healy says he is skeptical about the success of the unionization drive. He adds that organization can simply exacerbate the problem, labour unrest, pointing to the fact that there have been two faculty strikes at Trent in the past six years.

“Graduate students will need to consider the pros and cons... negotiation processes, labour unrest can also occur,” he said.

But members of the organizing committee say their group has already launched an information campaign and over the next two weeks, they will be collecting signatures from interested student academic workers.

“We need to protect ourselves,” Gay said.

York wine and cheese sparks outrage
Source: excalibur

TORONTO (CUP) — A wine and cheese party held for student leaders at York University provided an opportunity for irate students to lash out at the administration.

Approximately 15 protesters entered the event chanting “Stuff your wine and cheese, freeze tuition fees.”

“York couldn’t buy me enough wine, cheese or free gifts to make me drunk enough to forget about my student debt and rising tuition costs,” Blair Dowell, student activist and head of the visual arts student union, said.

The event, held Jan. 26, was put together by Lorna Marsden, York’s president. “President Marsden has ignored our persistent requests to take real and competently holding their position,” Black said.

While O’Grady refused comment on the matter, Sacouman said, “If it were seen to contribute to the negotiations, I will resign immediately at the same time that Kelvin O’Grady resigns as president of the university.”

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Acadia faculty will hold a strike vote in late January or early February.
I’ll lay a bet that just about everyone out there knows at least one person who has or who used to have an eating disorder of some kind (if you don’t ask around, if people are being honest, you’ll at least find someone who knows someone.) I’ll also hazard a guess that you’ve heard a bit about the symptoms, and you know that if you’re worried about a friend you can talk to them, find a clinic in the area (if you don’t know of one, go to the Women’s Center in Hilliard - they have lots of info.), you can also even help them find a nutritionist or doctor. Sometimes all it takes is a supportive friend. What I really want to talk about is dieting.

Many people - by people I mean men and women - ‘go on diets’, for various reasons which usually have something to do with not liking our bodies. People go on many different kinds of diets - there’s the grapefruit diet, the 30 day diet, the Jenny Craig style diet, the healthy diet, the vegetarian diet, the fatty foods diet the I’m-gonna-start-tomorrow diet, the I’ll-never-eat-again diet and the I’ll-eat-lots-and-puke-it-up-after diet, to name a few. What people don’t seem to get is that dieting, per se, is unhealthy. You don’t go on a diet, you change your diet or your habits. If you talk to any health professional, and they’re straight up with you, they’ll at least tell you that the best thing to do is to eat smaller portions, eat more fruits and veggies, and eat less fat (you know, eat the light chocolate bar). They will also tell you that the healthiest way to lose weight is through a combination of diet and exercise, no more than two pounds a week, with the exception of five for the first week. It may sound like a lot but that’s 60 pounds in 3 months. Now, if you’re happy with the way your body looks, congrats! This is not at all a conducive way to be. And you might also want to look at how healthy your body is. Don’t get me wrong, I am NOT saying go out there and change your diet. What I am saying is that for some people, having a healthy body is an issue about their general well-being. Around here, I’ve noticed that it’s incredibly difficult to maintain healthy-eating habits, so I’ve brainstormed a few little things you can do - and don’t kid yourself, these add up, especially if you’re not doing them.

1. Cut down on the extras. Instead of getting mayo and butter on your sandwich, pick one. This goes for cream cheese bagels too. Order your fries naked - no gravy or poutine, and for these days when you really need some gravy, ask for less, or to get it on the side.

2. Choose your junk food wisely. Check out the fat content, and the ingredients on those chips and chocolate bars. Some of them post this stuff in very easy to find places. Saving it for later works, but isn’t always the most appetizing option. Feel free to ask for smaller portions. Who knows, maybe if enough people ask they’ll start offering smaller portions. (Well, we can dream can’t we?)

3. Eat less. I don’t know about you, but I always feel obligated to eat everything on my plate, especially with the prices around here. Saving it for later works, but isn’t always the most appetizing option. Feel free to ask for smaller portions. Who knows, maybe if enough people ask they’ll start offering smaller portions. (Well, we can dream can’t we?)

There are many more little things you can do, this is just to get you started. And remember don’t abuse your body or your self-esteem by “dieting.”

A cure for anorexia has been found!

Meri Perra

I have wonderful news! A cure for anorexia has been found! Soon, there will no longer be a need for “National Eating Disorder Awareness Week”, and eating disorder treatment centres will close their doors! What is this miracle cure, you ask? Has the U.N. declared objectifying the human body as a violation of human rights? Has all dieting, from the drinks, foods, weightloss clinics, and anything marketed with the word “slims” in it been banned? Are we about to hypnotize everyone on this planet that nobody’s worth should be measured in the attractiveness, while at the same time erasing oppressive beauty ideals from everyone’s minds so that natural beauty and body sizes can be truly celebrated?

Oh no, not at all! (We don’t have to worry about that stuff anymore, silly?) Why? Because the word anorexic “gene” has been found! I pause now, to breathe a sigh of relief. Here, the thought that genetic research is valuable, but that environmental problems involves implementing stricter environmental laws. Stricter environmental laws mean that corporations can’t do as cheaply as they’d like, so much is done to sway governments to relax

...political correctness allows for women to be objectified, if they have an objectified man next to them.

their laws.

Genetic causes for cancer are hence publicized, and environmental causes are denied. And, sunscreen sales increase. Finding an anorexic “gene” is part of this continuum.

Eating Disorders are a societal form of violence against women. Eating disorders affect more than men, but, since the new trend in political correctness is to objectify men along with women, more and more men are falling victim to this societal disease.

There is such little recognition for men who have eating disorders, and the disease is so feminized, that it can be harder for a man to seek help for his eating disorder than a woman. And, even in Toronto, it is so hard for women to get help for eating disorders that the disease continues to go untreated. It’s disgusting.

The causes of eating disorders, including anorexia, are much more complex than genetics. So is the healing process. Finding a quick cure for eating disorders is not the answer. Holistic healing, education, and prevention is...
girls regret their first time. It was rushed, it wasn't...
Denise Alevizos

Assuming we all made it through all the overrated New Years Eve parties with few to no bruises or regrets, we inevitably are forced to seriously look to the new year with aspirations of achieving all the things we’ve failed or neglected to do in the past. These achievements will transform into personal goals and promises and due to the date on which they are formed become the infamous New Years Resolutions.

My own personal resolution came about as I sat down to write this article. Seeing as I spent my entire vacation doing absolutely nothing, I found myself quite ill-prepared to write anything let alone something that would inspire or interest any of our readers. During my three week holiday I made a point of limiting the intake of information to my brain, so that I could sit on my couch to watch television open-mouthed taking breaks only for food and when I could hold it no longer, the bathroom. So there I was, trying to write a wicked article and all I could think of was taking a nap or mmmmm... more television. So I started thinking, “It’s the beginning of a new year and my resolution is to write something on myself”. So it begins here, I’m no longer going to beat myself up over things. I’m just going to let myself flow and whatever the outcome, it’s okay, I’ve done my best. So here’s hoping you all enjoy the uncensored, uncut, thoughts which are floating around in my brain. Here goes! First I’d like to give a big congratulations to all the first year students who are still here. If you haven’t dropped out yet you’re more than halfway there, so put the back on to you. Trust me, I know what I’m talking about. I did my fair share of dropping out, though I cleverly did it in March during the final exam. It was little things like not going to school to study whatever and ended up paying 50% in interest on top of the amount borrowed through OSAP... i.e. Borrow $15,000 pay back $22,500. I am however; taking a chance on the university and find myself learning an incredible amount at work. More amazing than realizing yourself in the face of failure is the following. As it turns out my company will reimburse me for my education costs upon completion, which begs the question why did I

Please stop asking me what I am going to do for the rest of my life

Marc Kroesen

A couple weeks into 1998, and for all it’s worth it seems a lot like 1997 to me. New Year’s Eve just didn’t do it for me anymore, I don’t really like the idea of going down to Nathan Philip’s square (on what now seems to be a regular basis) and spending ten dollars on a sumptuous four course dinner, which begs the question why did I take me a long time to here’s hoping you all enjoy the

Here’s an idea. Genns are always thought of as the pet peeve of mine. It involves those people who say “I’m going around” when you’re sick. Whether it’s winter, spring, fall or summer, nod as you sneeze and say stupidly “Yeah, I hear that’s going around.”

1998 is the year for self-realization

40 years., Dip in and out of different

My point is that while school can be neat, and it can really be a good education, it is what you do with' your self, you just kill yourself just to get a piece of paper that lands you in a cubicle 9-5 for 40 years. Dip in and out of different waters, and don’t be afraid to dive in sometimes. The job that I have right now is a lot of fun for me, yet the qualifications were much more than what I had to offer. I had to get my feet in the door (bilingualism, I now recognize as one of the most valuable assets I have) and get an interview. Once you get an interview the focus comes back to you and it becomes a matter of you selling yourself. To successfully sell yourself you have to know yourself, you have to know what you can do, where you can go and where you want to be. In order to know those things you need to look inside yourself and understand your desires and needs. Once you know those things, you can identify your strengths and weaknesses. You can take your weaknesses and consider how to best utilize them.

Challenge yourself to know what you want and to be striving toward it

Just make it a priority to find immediate and permanent solutions to problems such as: when the customer (students) feel they are treated unreasonably, the customer service, mind you don’t participate in some elite oligopoly, thus must recognize the customer as their reason for being. Students sometime lose sight of the fact that they are customers and get service for a fee and a pretty fee at that. Businesses would have obligations like that and they stay where they are. Don’t get me wrong I loved my job at right now working at a place where you can’t make a real difference and learning something. I was able to learn, at all times in one life. Challenge yourself to know what you want and to be striving toward it.

Most people feel that they could do anything provided they had the time to learn how to do it and the resources to teach them so. Yet even after four years of university so many people find themselves not knowing what they want to do, which would seem point to me that the university does not necessarily give you direction rather merely provides you with the resources to learn from that would not otherwise be available daily. You could still get access to the same information hence in large part the same ‘education’; for free ever.

Libraries have minimal fees, providing access to books students pay hundreds of dollars for. Talk to the people who know - you only get better at something by practicing or doing it with someone who is par or better with someone who is par or better with someone who is par or better. Students borrow money to follow the ‘enlightened’ path and once done school, get a job with a company (to get some experience) and then the monthly bills and loan payments start. It is much more difficult for people to take a chance once they

For instance, I would like to say that the university and find myself learning an incredible amount at work. More amazing than realizing yourself in the face of failure is the following. As it turns out my company will reimburse me for my education costs upon completion, which begs the question why did I
perspectives

No more plastic people!

Christina Minaki

"Come on, Christina, What do you expect from me?"

Sydney's question hangs in the air, and my impatience dies as I realize it wasn't very long ago that her question, her dilemma, was my own. So I take a deep breath and issue the challenge that has been my personal inspiration.

"I expect you to stop being a plastic person. Stop surviving and start living. Be responsible and run your own life. If you don't do it, your limitations will do it for you. I don't want you to realize years from now that it was your wheelchair that stopped you from being exactly the person you wanted to be. You have a choice to make. It's hard, but it's important. Take it. Use it. And live."

To many, a wheelchair is an intrusive, rude, and unwelcome stranger in the home of our hopes. In many lives, it is a scar, a of wound too painful to face, too strong to, and too imposing to minimize. I am not one of the many. I am a proud and a loud exception. To me, my wheelchair symbolizes a way of life, a choice. It is a way for me to prove, to myself as well as to others, that I don't take the easy path home. It is an opportunity and a reason to fight stereotypes and pity. I see my wheelchair as an asset and a symbol of my personal strength. I am proud to say that when I look in the mirror, I like the person I see. But it disheartens me to think that many people who also face disabilities for whom a wheelchair effectively than blind us that way because of ad is ability,

I see. But it disheartens Susan Stowe and Jennifer Puddicombe (in chair) look incompetent. Yet through my experience, gained as I trials and at home with ourselves have shed many tears along my mirror, I like the person we make oursel ves

It is through my experience, gained as I live my own life and watch those close to me with disabilities live theirs, that I have built the convictions on which I stand strongly today. The best remedy for dissatisfaction is affirmative action. It does no good to lie back and remain unhappy, but it does wonders to bring us to the mirror which is a canvas upon which to sketch accomplishments.

The latter is more difficult to face honestly, but it reaches further, expects more, and is infinitely more satisfying because it requires integrity. The first option is more and passive, closer to the plastic end of the scale of reaction choices. The latter is more difficult to face honestly, but it reaches further, expects more, and is infinitely more satisfying because it requires integrity.

In response to my point of view, I often hear people say: This is not a fairy tale. I am only human. That makes me angry. To say simply that we are only human is to insult the miracle of human life. God did not put us in this planet to be plastic people, leading plastic lives. Someone once said: "Experience is a difficult teacher. The test comes first and the lesson a forward." We must acknowledge the mistakes and regrets of our past and use them as tools in the active business of learning about ourselves. We are here with a challenge, a mission, a challenge. That challenge is to take our individual circumstances, assess them and make changes until we are satisfied with who we are and how we feel. To say we are only human is to miss the assignment of action as an excuse to do nothing. By diminishing humanity, we make ourselves look incompetent. Yet when others are ignorant enough to see us that way because of a disability, we are insulted. Is that not the way many of us often choose to see ourselves? Living with a disability is not easy. It is a challenge over which I have shed many tears along my journey to the home of a vibrant and valuable life. When all is said and done, I have accepted my challenge as a blessing in elaborate disguise, because I am not a plastic person. I am alive, and I wear life with pride.
A megamusical fan's guide to collective creation

Rae Perigo

Admit it. Your heart swirled with the twirling teacups and Beauty and the Beast. You lept obediently up into a standing ovation as the helicopter disappeared into the mist in Miss Saigon. You were outwitted by Magical Mr. Mistofelles in Cats; you beat your breast in social activist indignation at the cruel end of Ragtime; you yelled out 591 to see a chandelier drop and be tortured by an overly repetitive, insipid score in Phantom of the Opera (not that I'm biased, or anything).

Put less wordily, you are a fan of the megamusical. Avant-garde theatre artists hate you for destroying mid-size theatre in Toronto, but truly they need you as a mass group to patronize, which inflates their egos. But the cast members of Stranger than Fiction - Glendon's-upcoming collectively created production - love you. Because if your but filled a plush seat at the Royal Alex, there's a remote possibility it may fill a vinyl one at Theatre Glendon. To that end, I have concocted a friendly guide to help you, O megamusical sheep, get the most out of Glendon's new collective creation. Now pay attention! This is ART.

I. Don't try to follow the plot. Remember those plot graphs you did in English class back in grade six? Erase all memory of them. That particular literary skill is completely irrelevant here. Why? There's simply no plot to follow. A collective is a series of fragmented moments. Sometimes the only connector between them is a repeated phrase, or a few bars of music, or a mimed tableau. You won't be told the grand story of Jean Valjean and the nineteenth-century French urban poor, as you were in Les Misérables. What you will get are short vignettes that exist for a moment, impart their wisdom, and move on.

II. Don't fall in love with the characters. Those of you who go to the theatre solely for the flashes of developed characters here. Each one dies away as quickly as a scene change. With a few exceptions, the actors play different characters in each scene. Watch out for cues that point to the type of character the actor is playing - a bomber jacket, facial tics, a squeaky voice. III. Laugh. "Go nuts. It's not a megamusical, but that doesn't mean it's a dissertation. The peppy will of Glendon's finest actors seasons each scene. Clowns, religious freaks and public drunkenness are but some of the more overt humorous devices used. More subtle and more scathing is the show's underlying social commentary - but you'll have to uncover that for yourself.

IV. Think. It may be too much to ask of you Andrew Lloyd Webberpilots, but Stranger Than Fiction really does ask you to put your decaying grey matter into use. Remember those plot graphs you six? Erase all memory of them. That particular literary skill is completely irrelevant here. Why? There's simply no plot to follow. A collective is a series of fragmented moments. Sometimes the only connector between them is a repeated phrase, or a few bars of music, or a mimed tableau. You won't be told the grand story of Jean Valjean and the nineteenth-century French urban poor, as you were in Les Misérables. What you will get are short vignettes that exist for a moment, impart their wisdom, and move on.

V. Admit it.

Rae Perigo

An interview with the two Directors

Vanita Butsirkingorn and Stephanie Sleightholm

Emile de Rosny

Protem - Briefly tell me what your play is all about.

- In a few words, possibilities... potential... interaction between strangers. The different possibilities that emerge from such encounters. It is the result of a lot of hard work put in by a cast who didn't know each other; 7 actors and us, the 2 directors.

Protem - What is it about in terms of how it was created?

- It was created collectively by all of us, the actors and directors. It's episodic, divided into scenes related by theme rather than characters. It's analogous to an anthology of scenes about strangers, with a common theme. It tries to find out who the stranger is, because it's dealing not only with strangers never met, but with people who we think we know, but who become strangers.

Protem - How do you come about this play?

- It started out as a joke a year ago. We were playing with silly theme ideas, and thought of how it would be if we put it in the form of a collective play.

Protem - What artistic tradition is this play in?

- It's a tradition in Canadian theatre. It's the spirit that permits the actors to have a say in the roles they're going to play and in the production to which they devote 3 months of their lives.

Protem - How did you come about this play?

- It started out as a joke a year ago. We were playing with silly theme ideas, and thought of how it would be if we put it in the form of a collective play.

Protem - What difficulties did you encounter in terms of vision, and how did you resolve them?

- In a large group where all members share power, there were conflicts in terms of vision - the directions the play should take - which ranged from superficial to profound; from changing a word in the script to altering the whole feel of the production. We had one particular discussion a few weeks ago that served as a marker of everyone's commitment to the production. This represented for us a moment at which the production became the property of everyone involved. From that point on we've known that the show will manifest itself in the final product.

Protem - What about the method of script development?

- The script evolved over two months during which, as directors, we would lead the actors through improvisations based on the theme of stranger interactions. In December, once we had accumulated a significant number of scenes, we spent two weeks putting the created scenes onto paper. Actors were invited to participate in the writing sessions, and everyone did. Following that, we organized the scenes, gave the play a framework, and prepared the script for the first post-holiday rehearsal. Actors were given the opportunity to alter the script in any way they deemed necessary.

Protem - You seem to have learned a lot during this production. Is there anything else that's had an impact on you?

- We really want to acknowledge the fact that, apart from the two of us, no one else involved in the production is earning an academic credit. Theatrical productions at Glendon demand countless hours of work. The cast and crew are all selfless in their dedication to this production which is evident and admirable.
Oh Canada!!!

For most of our young athletes, the Olympics are a crowning moment. For a youngster who spends almost eight hours a day, everyday training, there is no greater honor than waving your flag in the air or winning the coveted gold medal. For most Canadians, there is a great sense of pride when one of your athletes brings home the gold medal especially when it is in the sport that is Canada’s pride and joy-hockey.

The road to the Winter Olympics in Nagano is fastly approaching named. After months of speculation, Team Canada General Manager Bob Clarke publically announced the chosen sons to guide us to glory. Among the players chosen to lead this fabulous flight are Joe Sakic, Eric Lindros-who incidentally was named team captain, Wayne Gretzky, Rob Zamuner, Brendan Shanahan, and Steve Yzerman. Incidentally, the greatest leader sports history from the team- Mark Messier, was excluded from the invite list. Clarke also left our sharp shot artist Claude Lemieux.

After a disappointing loss in the World Cup of Hockey to the United States, the only Canadian sporting record which was some what sacred was that of our World Junior Hockey team, their streak of winning five straight gold medals was untouched. However, on Christmas Day, again a rude awakening hit Canada as our juniors lost.

In recent years, our hockey program has gone from being exceptional, to one of the best, to good, to no bad. Our future in the game depends heavily on how well our hockey Olympians can do in Nagano.

Instead of being East meets West in a show down to the highest goals scored, it was North America versus The World. The show down was at General Motors place in Vancouver. The stars for North America were, Wayne Gretzky, Canuck captain Mark Messier, Eric Lindros, Patrick Roy, John LeClair, Brendan Shanahan, Steve Yzerman, Joe Sakic, Mike Modano, Theoren Fleury, Brian Leetch, Ray Bourque, Al MacInnis, Ed Belfour, Darryl Sydor, Tony Amonte, Martin Brodeur and Chris Chelios.

The World was represented by Jaromir Jagr, Slava Kozlov, Mats Sundin, Peter Forsberg, Nikoli Khabibulin, Dominik Hasck, Jaru Karri, Pavel Bure, Saku Koivu, Daniel Alfredsson and Teemu Selanne.

Hometown boy Mark Messier was chosen to lead this faithful flight to glory. Among the players chosen to guide the Canadian team to the podium, as well go with the next one.

The annual all-star tradition has deviated from its traditional norm. Traditionally, the best players from the Eastern Conference play the best players from the Western Conference in an adventure filled sixty minute game. This year, the All-Star game changed its format.

The unexpected magic created by Gretzky and Messier in the early eighties was definitely present throughout the evening and it is a terrible shame that the two will not be able to remake that magic in Nagano this February.

The sold out audience were treated to an 8-7 victory by North America in the hockey packed sixty minute game. There was no fighting and body checking was minimal. At one point, North America's coach decided to make a line change, he pulled John Leclair and replaced him with Joe Sakic as well as with the next one.

I have heard that aikido is the martial art which takes the longest time to master, and from the lessons I've had so far, I can honestly say that that is pretty much true. The reason for this is the smooth, slow, relaxed and focused. Otherwise, the possibility of injuring oneself is quite real.

When I started to take aikido, however, is being able to learn how to soothe my soul and cast off my worries and troubles. And it works. Every time I go to the dojo (place of practice and learning), I feel a sense of calm wash over me, draining my tensions and anxieties. It clears my mind, preparing me for the lesson I am about to learn. With aikido, one has to be calm and relaxed in order to achieve inner strength, peace, and harmony.

Aikido is a highly developed, system of techniques based on the simple principles of circular force used in conjunction with an attacker's movement, speed, and timing. With aikido, one goes with the movement, never fighting or resisting it. All movement centers on the force that either pushes or pulls the body, one way or the other. As such, aikido can redirect the force of an attack until it is no longer a threat, and weakens the attacker or opponent by throwing him/her off-balance, which makes it easier to submit him/her to different forms of control, such as blocks or pins. Aikido is not about learning how to beat someone up. Rather, it is a graceful way of learning how to use a potential attacker's own energy against him/her.

I started to take aikido at the beginning of the year, and so far, I am finding it thoroughly fascinating. My reasons for doing so are many. One is learning how to defend myself, and keep in shape. Another is improving my balance and coordination, both of which I have some problems.

My primary reason for taking aikido, however, is being able to learn how to soothe my soul and cast off my worries and troubles. And it works. Every time I go to the dojo (place of practice and learning), I feel a sense of calm wash over me, draining my tensions and anxieties. It clears my mind, preparing me for the lesson I am about to learn. With aikido, one has to be calm and relaxed in order to achieve inner strength, peace, and harmony.

Well, not exactly. The Japanese form of self-defence known as aikido is almost never used aggressively. In fact, there is no competition in aikido, unlike other martial arts, which have many tournaments (judo, karate, and kendo, for example).

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Pro Temp, le lundi 26 janvier 1998

Poetry & Fiction

From all the broken hearts
I've seen in residence
This one touched my heart.
This is for the kindred soul:

Stay Just A Little Longer
How many times have you
and you discover so little
You passed her by chance
and a forgotten feeling came back.

Maybe he waited for you
on prohibited bridges
now he comes close, almost
doesn't dare to any closer.

Don't go,
he wants to be with you a little longer
it will hurt a lot unless you don't react
so that you don't interrupt the dream
or reality.

Don't go,
he wants to be with you a little longer
so that the things that happened
won't be forgotten so fast
and now you're exhausted or in love.

Like this or that,
He will never have you
And with time he will forget you
And move on.

Ronnie
Papa

Tui m'as donné la vie, et moi je ne suis qu'un ingrat.
Tu m'as donné ton nom avec tout ce qui l'accompagne.
Tu m'as donné ton amour, et moi je ne l'ai pas remarqué.
Tu m'as également donné les plus belles années de ma vie.
Tu as toujours été la première à me soutenir.
Tu as toujours été là pour moi.
Tu m'as apporté une autre espèce de réalités.

Toujours en quelque chose, c'est un peu que je la sert, je t'en remercie.

Toujours en quelque chose, tu es mon modèle, et c'est cela que j'aime.
Tu es celui en qui j'ai toujours cru, et c'est pourquoi je vois un grand chef.
Tu es pour toujours mon modèle de courage, et d'amour.

Let's call her Papa, d'une manière impressionnante.

It is better to be Fiction
Nicolas Lisonoba

...and seeing as no one else on the k'nilim would talk to the Snuffbox, Fril felt it was his big opportunity to ask him why he had done such a thing.

The Snuffbox responded, "I really cannot grump such thing out happening. You uchka are constantly grumbling about how miradus and unworthy you are. In the last five thousand sturrays, you have elevated ritual abatement to an incredible level - just to place Ulthilang, as if he were a terrible god who would do something to harm you or your immortal askay. Then you turn around and mention that Ultholang loves you in all, regardless of being brief or long, on one hand. Do you bother with Three Practice Ulthilang or a Praxion that you should fear?"

"This does not explain anything," challenged Fril.

"Well, it's only in a smallish way, that all you uchka are in any shriveled band or even look for one another, of course, " answered, "now before Confinum, answer my query."

Fria looked behind him to the uchka on the grassy k'nilim for some support. He received none, but slavering, he carried on bravely nonetheless.

"Both. He is both hospitable, seeing as he is the daskel of Good. How could he, or the fortriers claim that he is devoting if he was not helpful? As for fear, you have fallen in the trap of the many starrs that fear is a prelude. Before habitation into Gruhlfield, 'fear' meant 'stark'. Ulthilang's fear means 'inconceivable'. When you turn your back a roystered leader, do you not think it true that Ulthilang is not hostile in the waterfall first? You try to reach his level of dekrunamok. In the case of Ulthilang, you cannot reach his level of dekrunamok. He is perfect. The last we can do is gawk, in what we cannot reach his perfection. This is why we 'grump' about how 'miradus' we are.

One does not fear Ulthilang, The uchka are the only one whom you have just exaggerated Ulthilang is a love, and I have no sidekick to doubt it."

Fria was well pleased with the answer. The Snuffbox, unfortunately, also looked puzzled, and took no pains to disguise its satisfaction.

"You are right, dear sir, ex-inspection Poczak. You should fear Ulthilang in the true sense, and vrebadalja must this fear lie. Ulthilang hates us all. I must use urash that he despise me as much as I despise him. You are correct that he is perfect. Except his perfection is in malice. Pure, undying, rearing Hate. Abhorrence is not a righstabilsh to him, but his entire essesplak. And since he hates us so much, he will make us suffer. You uchka think that he delivered all of the Regual's thoz for he wanted us to survive. Well you, and not your starrs, and you think he can bully us. He wants to pull out our eyes with burning torches. And unlike the eight-year-old male uchklak, he will do it not because of an evil kuvrakor, but because he himself is Evil."

The Snuffbox seemed to grow larger as the frightened uchka huddled on the k'nilim, their fur all up in the way. No one could see it, although there were no clouds in the blue, blue sky. The only movement in this exasperating vicinity was that of the smoke still rising from Ficua's little body.

The Snuffbox Smallpox, smallpox rumble took on greater power until it seemed to emanate from the uchka's own pelvis.

You believe Ulthilang is Love, do not, Ulthilang is Hate.

"The only way to defend yourselves is to fear him. What else could this defence be? What else does a being who hates all other beings want more? Nothing but hate. Pure fascination for the thing you despise. This is the only thing that can satisfy this last Praxion. And the way to his court is reward to you uchka hate. Fear. Vagabond fear; for a plain for what is best, they will cultivate it. The more you fear him, the more; you want you in his court.

"I do not want, Sheck, to be in his court. I want to control his court, and I will start by controlling you. You were peaceful uchka with no defense, no cunning and therefore no fear. I have taught you fear. And I will provide more, because you cannot oche me if I do not wish to be oche. And I will extirpate one of you randomly when you sleep next and individual each time. If I can prove to Ulthilang that I am more tributary to him as a feamstorms ever than as a fear to think. I will reach his court as a korrill rather than as a slave."

From the "The Way it Iz" by AM Zeztous and GM Summings

George Cummings

The Satanic Coupless (After William Blake)

Hell becomes a place of lust;
Keep fear it is just.

Heaven's cold and hell is warm,
Has a finite form.

Hell is forlorn, heaven scorn;
Now the innocents are panting
In heaven's jealous game for souls,
In which tactics there are boles;
If God is good and know it all,
And see salvation, our fall,
Then he's lost his game of chess,
And thus hell check's holiness;

For hell is warm and lusty sweet,
Where we must our true god meet

Emile