

*In This Issue*

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**La Prochaine Date Limite:**  
15 mars

## The SNC-Lavalin Scandal Explained: A Primer on the Key Issues and Questions



Adrian Wyld, Canadian Press

Sabrina Sukhdeo  
*Issues & Ideas Editor*

Unethical, or simply unsavoury? Illegal, or just inappropriate? The SNC-Lavalin scandal is a confusing concoction of problems, and as a federal election looms, it's important for voters to be able to make an informed judgment on their government. Here's a primer on the key issues and questions surrounding the scandal on Parliament Hill.

**Criminal charges against an engineering giant:** In 2015, the RCMP laid corruption charges against SNC-Lavalin, a Montréal-based engineering and construction firm. The company is accused of having bribed Libyan officials with \$47.7 million between 2001

and 2011 to obtain business. SNC-Lavalin denies all allegations. Under the Canadian government's anti-corruption laws, a conviction would mean that the company would be shut out of bidding on government contracts in Ottawa for 10 years.

**The big questions:** Should companies convicted of corruption suffer punishment so serious that the livelihoods of thousands of employees, investors, and stakeholders are jeopardized? Should Canadians pay the price for crimes committed overseas in their interests?

**SNC-Lavalin's lobbying efforts for DPAs:** After the Liberals were elected in 2015, SNC-Lavalin began intensely lobbying the government to

have deferred prosecution agreements (DPAs) written into the Criminal Code. DPAs allow companies to avoid costly trials and criminal convictions so long as they concede to other, less punitive measures—fines, organizational restructure, or new compliance regimes, for example. This would prevent companies from going belly-up while not completely letting them off the hook. This sort of lobbying is currently not illegal, and was successful. DPAs became law in 2018, the relevant provision quietly stuffed into an omnibus bill focused not on legal reform but on the federal budget.

(Continued on pg. 13)

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Opinions published in Pro Tem are those of the individual writers, and do not reflect the views of the publication as a whole. We will not print copy deemed racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise oppressive.

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Hey Glendon!

It has definitely been a while... Clearly, we're all feeling pressure from this semester nearing its end. Je voudrais porter à votre attention que la date de vote pour notre référendum s'en vient rapidement. Marquez-la sur vos calendriers : le 19 au 22 mars.

Comme vous le savez déjà, en ce moment Pro Tem reçoit la plupart de son financement du AECG. If this referendum should pass, it will determine the levy that students may opt-out of in the coming years. Sinon, notre prélèvement dépend entièrement sur celui de l'AECG.

In the coming academic years, Pro Tem hopes to maintain its reputation as your trusted, free source for the students voice. Next issue, expect campus-heavy content. Attendez des nouvelles sur le « Student Choice Initiative » et comment il va affecter les organizations et services étudiants à Glendon.

Bon courage, Glendon.



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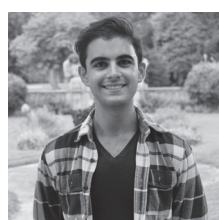
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## The Student Choice Initiative: Why It Doesn't Make Sense

Kaya Harris-Read  
Chief of Operations

Ford's Government has made several changes that will impact the upcoming academic year—and students are not happy about it. The 10% reduction in tuition does nothing for students who rely on OSAP grants to help pay their tuition, which will no longer be available. The removal of the grace period has sparked panic in students who have to use loans to fund their education, and now have to worry about the interest these loans will collect as soon as they graduate. International student fees, which are already high, won't be included in the 10% decrease or the tuition freeze for the following year. Included in these negative changes is what is being referred to as the "Student Choice Initiative." The reason I find this initiative to be ridiculous is not rooted in the idea itself, because while I don't agree with it, I can understand the logic behind it. Why should students pay money for certain services and campus activities if they are not the ones personally benefiting from them? I can understand this argument. However I find it to be a narrow point of view that puts a larger number of things into question, and if adopted it would eventually fail the logic behind the argument.

When we enroll in classes and pay our tuition, none of that money goes directly to our course instructors. If that were so, class sizes would have a direct impact on the salary of that instructor, which we all know is not the case, as some of the highest paid profs have some of the smallest classes. So with that same logic, wouldn't it make sense for students to be able to "opt out" of contributing to the salaries of professors we do not take courses from? Of course not. When you enroll in classes at a university or college, you're not just paying for those classes. You're paying into the institution as a whole. A parallel can be drawn between paying tuition and paying taxes. Not every person benefits from every government service, but everyone benefits from the institution as a whole.



Another reason why I find the Student Choice Initiative to be illogical is because what is considered to be essential is highly subjective. The University of Toronto student paper, *The Varsity*, published a document outlining what will be included as essential fees. Although the article states that the veracity of this document has not been confirmed by the Ontario government, at the very least it provides insight as to what will be considered essential and non-essential. Essential services which students will not be able to opt out of include health and counseling, student ID cards and financial aid offices among other necessary services. However, there is one that sticks out distinctly from the others: athletics and recreation.

It is important to note that nowhere on this list does it mention student government or levy organizations. This begs the question of why athletics remains on the list of mandatory fees while so many organizations are at risk of losing their funding. This is not meant to negate the importance of athletics in a university, but athletics is only one

of the many ways in which students get involved in extracurriculars. There is a wide variety of organizations and events that exist to enrich their university experience. This includes events like Frosh week, pub nights, and Late Night Luniks, as well as every student-run club on campus. It is a trend within education to prioritize athletics over the arts, which is highlighted by this decision. In order for the Student Choice Initiative to be constructed in a fair and equal manner, it should be consistent with its criteria. If athletics are considered essential, all other extracurriculars should be considered essential as well.

I think that within this debate, it is also important to bring up the general allocation of tuition money. The Student Choice Initiative will likely reduce the amount of extracurriculars available to students, the number of employment opportunities available on campus, and the overall quality of the university experience. While this is happening, over 16,000 faculty members of York University appeared on the sunshine list in 2018. For those who are unfamiliar with the sunshine list, it is a public disclo-

sure of salaries exceeding 100,000. It is unclear if the 10% tuition cut is going to impact the salaries of these faculty members, but nothing has been said to indicate that it will. It seems more likely that this tuition cut will mean less funding for student services and resources. This, paired with the Student Choice Initiative, threatens a dramatic decrease in opportunities for students for the upcoming academic year.

For this upcoming academic year, I hope that everyone, upon being given the choice to opt out of "non-essential" fees, will consider the wider implications of that choice. For example, in my first year I was able to enjoy Frosh week and all the benefits that came from it. The fact that during my first week of university there were D-Frosh all over who were happy to point me to my classroom, show me where to find the shuttle, and simply answer questions helped me acclimatize to university. It's disappointing to me that because of this change, students starting university this coming year may not have the opportunity to enjoy that same experience.

## Why is Glendon so White?: A Reply

Anonymous

“A man should look for what is, and not what he thinks should be.”

– Albert Einstein

I have been at Glendon for five of my six academic years of study, and every Thursday I pick up a copy of our student newspaper. I love reading about the thoughts and opinions expressed by my fellow students, especially since we are all well-educated individuals with interesting things to say. However, in issue seven I came across a particularly disappointing article: Why is Glendon So White? An interesting question which could produce many fruitful discussions but is, unfortunately, filled with ideological ignorance.

The article begins with comparisons to the Keele campus, noting how “at the Keele campus, one sees the population of Toronto reflected more accurately...” (even if there is a very large percentage of commuters from the 905). It then points out the lack

of diversity in the alumni graduation photos dating back to York’s founding (Glendon was founded in 1959). Surely things have improved since the sixties, right? Apparently not.

Liberal arts are racist: the thesis of the article. Shocked, I nearly didn’t read the rest, but continued out of sheer curiosity. “The Greco-Roman origins of liberal arts which filtered through European, then American civilization reflect the whiteness of the education provided at such institutions.” Clearly the author knows little of how the ancient Greeks and Romans were influenced by their Egyptian and Persian neighbours.

Indeed the ultimate Greco-Romans, the Byzantines, sent out many priests and philosophers to learn about eastern societies while developing trade routes with China and India. It was their collapse which also kick-started Europe’s renaissance by introducing these texts to the rest of Europe. Liberal arts, as they are, have also been studied by every civilization in one form or the other, and the way the article was written makes it seem as though the origins of our school’s education system have been confined to a vacuum since before Christ, that is.

However, the main problem with this article, in my opinion, is not the historical fallacies, but rather grand and shallow statements made by the author. The article is quick to point out many perceived institutional problems at Glendon, but offers no real solutions. From blaming graduate students for advancing into professional careers, to attacking the lack of diversity of faculty and staff. What solutions, if any, can be drawn from this article? According to the author, historically the upper and middle classes have dominated the study liberal arts. That is true, but simply is not the case anymore, as many of us, and indeed myself, are part of the working class and need to work either full or part time to continue paying for our education. Although our OSAP grants are a little risky right now, clearly the situation is much more complex.

The fact that linguistics was not brought up by the author shows the lack of depth in the arguments presented. Glendon is by default exclusive; you must take French courses to be a part of the bilingual college, however that does not stop Keele students from attending courses here. The population at this school is made largely of Fran-

co-Ontarians and international (franco-phone) students. These students face their own challenges: Franco-Ontarians are trying to keep their culture alive in an anglophone city, and international students face many obstacles such as high tuition costs and problems obtaining visas.

In my humble opinion, the real problem of Glendon’s “lack” of diversity is due to these factors. My solution, although not glamorous or grand, would be to make the school more accessible to international students by reducing their extremely high tuition costs. These obstacles prevent many working-class international students from studying at our school. This solution would not only increase the diversity at Glendon, but it would also Canada’s diversity as a whole. The problem is not liberal arts, nor is it (by any means) the faculty or staff. The problem is also not the French language restriction, as there are no francophone universities for us Franco-Ontarians to attend in Quebec. So, although not as provocative statement, by looking at what is—and not what ought—to be the status of Glendon’s diversity, a concrete solution can be provided for the issue at hand.

## Latvia Symposium

International Studies Symposium

To celebrate Latvia’s 100th year of independence and its rich history and culture, the International Studies Symposium program has chosen to focus on this country and the unity that exists in Baltic countries. The symposium will be taking place Friday, March 29th at Glendon Campus, York University.

The symposium aims to engage experts, students, and civil society in understanding how Latvia has cultivated itself as a resilient country throughout its centenary. In addition, the Symposium aims to explore the Baltic countries that emerged alongside Latvia. Through the analysis of relevant historical and contemporary topics of Latvia, the symposium invites you to contribute to an insightful discussion on the role of Latvia and the Baltic countries in the international arena.

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- Networking opportunities with Latvian and Canadian Government officials, the Ambassador of Canada to Latvia, the Consulate of Latvia to Southwestern Ontario, esteemed scholars and panellists, students, and the Latvian community.
- A curated museum exhibit running all day, titled “Sharing our Stories: The Baltic Diaspora at Home in Canada”

Tickets are selling fast, and can be purchased at <http://latviasymposium.com/tickets> or at Latvia Symposium fundraising events, as advertised on our social media:


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- Access to a curated museum exhibit

## Why Self-Care is More Than Just Mindless Capitalism

Reia Tariq  
Contributor

“Self-care.” It has been a buzzword for a few years now, often mocked and just as often used unironically. Self-care has entered our modern day lexicon, but what is it exactly? Is it aromatherapy? Books on meditation? Drinking enough kombucha to bring probiotic balance to your gut? Or perhaps it’s bath bombs, journals in loopy cursive saying “Embrace Your Dreams,” or escaping to a ski resort. What do all of these things have in common? They all imply that purchasing something is the first step to self-care. Not taking five minutes to just breathe, talking to a friend, or even doing something that would probably benefit you in the long term such as changing your sheets, watering your plants, or stepping out for a short walk. Instead, much of modern-day self-care is more than just lifestyle changes.

We now live in a world where depression and anxiety have unintentionally become romanticized and, as such, it has become aspirational to show how you’re taking care of yourself on social media. Whether it means showing off your freshly manicured nails or your cutely misspelled name on a matcha latte cup, self-care is now far removed from its original purpose and meaning: a way to stay healthy both

physically and mentally, and instead has become another way to peddle products consumers don’t necessarily need or want. We live in a society that constantly pushes us to spend, spend, and spend some more to meet the expectations we hold for ourselves based on ideals we find in others. Self-care is now just a common term to slap on anything and everything without taking time to consider that we might be cluttering our living spaces with more objects we don’t need while failing to keep a healthy bank account balance. The solution is to learn the difference between buying something you need and something you’re merely told you need.

To take care of yourself, you first and foremost need to ensure that you are living your best life financially, socially, academically, and professionally. Having strong healthy relationships with those you love, volunteering, giving back, and doing something creative are all ways to fill in the need that many of us have to make an impact on the world, or to escape the buzz and confusion of our rapidly-changing environment. Create something, plant the seed of your legacy and realize that what time we have here on earth is short, make the most of it and leave it better than how you left it—that’s what self-care is for me; taking care of myself so I can continue to help others without burning out. And that’s far more important, personally speaking, than just dropping money I should be putting towards my student loans on yet another face mask.

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## Wintering Out Your Health

Gulsvert Dela Cruz  
Metropolis Editor

“Healthy” and “winter” aren’t always the most synonymous words when it comes to living in a relatively cold part of the world. I’ve almost gotten sick twice over these past few months, and the long nights and icy wind don’t necessarily help me to feel upbeat, energetic, or really just myself. So, for those who’ve felt the brunt of winter lethargy and dry sinuses, here’s a short list of things you should try to help yourself out:

### 1. Get a humidifier

The air isn’t just cold—it’s really dry too. This is especially true indoors, where most homes rely on gas furnaces for heating, thereby further removing the moisture from the air.

This can not only lead to dry skin and eyes, but also contribute to an irritated nose, sinusitis, colds, the flu, and asthma. You could get a hygrometer to measure the humidity which, according to some sites, should be between 30% and 50%. If you find your air at home is more arid than prescribed, a humidifier can help to get your air back up to snuff.

### 2. Stay active

Okay, we all know exercise that is supposed to be good for you, but for a good number of people, below-zero temperatures are a real factor in influencing our decision to not lift a muscle beyond what’s absolutely necessary.

Skating and winter hiking are always options for outdoors and winter lovers. I am lucky enough to have a gym in my apartment, but you could always find a fitness centre near you. If you have enough space at home, there are plenty of online tutorials that you can easily watch (and repeat) to guide you through a complete workout session.

### 3. Stay up-to-date with your vaccines

Other than tetanus and diphtheria vaccines which you need to take every 10 years, you might want to get your yearly flu shot. This should be done ideally in the fall, but if you didn’t this year there’s always the next. In

2016, getting the flu shot meant a 42% reduction in the risk of getting the flu, and that should be reason enough to go get your dose of the vaccine.

### 4. Get out of the house

As students, we are often pretty busy with studies, extracurriculars, and sometimes part-time jobs. Going out in this weather might not only seem tedious with all the layers you have to put on, but trust me—it’s going to help to get through the last half of winter without going stir-crazy.

While the long nights can definitely get to you, a good dose of sunshine can give you a quick jolt of energy, waking up your brain. Even better, it’s been shown that getting some sunlight right after you wake up helps restart your daily sleep-wake cycle (a.k.a. your circadian rhythm), which of course helps with your mental and emotional states of being. A lack of sunlight has been said to disrupt this cycle and reduce levels of both serotonin (a key mood regulator) and melatonin (a sleep and mood regulator). This, in turn, is linked to Seasonal Affective Disorder. We also all know—or should know—that sunlight is important in the body’s production of Vitamin D, a key catalyst in bone growth and the reduction of symptoms like inflammation and diseases such as colon cancer. Sometimes we might just need a change of scenery. Try hitting up a friend to see if they’d be willing to go out to eat, have a drink, or even just chill at their place. Alternatively, treat yourself to lunch and a matinee!

While this list certainly isn’t comprehensive, it offers a few key pointers that have helped me get through the winter blues both physiologically and psychologically. So this winter, stay strong and keep working on your physical, mental, and social health!



## John Kemp's Kitchen: Paella

John Kemp  
*Health and Wellness Editor*

As some of you may know, I'm down in the beautiful and exotic country of Costa Rica this week. During my time here, I've been trekking through the rainforests and climbing volcanoes, drinking what's said to be some of the world's best coffee, and sunbathing my days away, developing a lobster-red sunburn which I'm telling myself will turn into a beautiful caramel tan.

Gastronomically, what I've thoroughly enjoyed in Costa Rica has been the surprisingly wide array of food options. Apparently the Costa Ricans are big fans of Italian and Chinese cuisines, lining even their least touristy streets with trattorias and Chinese food joints. However, a dish that they come by at least a little more honestly also seems to be all the rage here: paella. Paella (pie-AY-ah) is a Spanish dish from the city of Valencia which is comprised mainly of rice and is actually a type of pilau. It usually features some sort of protein (chicken and rabbit are common), beans, tomato, and a variety of seasonings. It's made traditionally in a large pan called—you guessed it—a paella, which helps the rice and other ingredients to cook evenly and allows the moisture to evaporate so that the rice doesn't become one big starchy clump.

Paella has become quite popular even in the U.S. and Canada in recent years and for that reason I thought I'd share with you a recipe I've used a number of times when I've wanted to make the dish myself. This recipe has

### Paella Valenciana

#### Ingredients:

500 g. Rabbit  
500 g. bone-in chicken breast  
2.5 cups extra virgin olive oil  
1 tomato, diced  
200 g. green beans  
200 g. lima beans  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 large onion, diced  
1 large red bell pepper, sliced  
500 g. short-grain rice  
1.5 litres chicken stock  
1 sprig fresh rosemary  
1 large pinch saffron  
10 pre-boiled snails  
Salt to taste

#### Method:

1. In a very large pan (use a paella if available), heat the oil until it thins. When heated, add the chicken and rabbit.
2. Cook the meat, turning it over as needed to develop a golden colour. Add the tomato, the beans, onion, garlic, and bell pepper and continue to stir.
3. When they are well-fried, add the stock and rosemary and allow to cook. When the mixture boils, add the rice, snails, and saffron. Remove the rosemary sprig and cook, stirring only as needed.
4. After about 10-15 minutes of cooking, decrease the heat and allow to cook for another 10-15 minutes. Add salt to taste.
5. Once the liquid has been absorbed, allow the paella to stand, covered with tin foil.

Enjoy!

# Glendon Salon Francophone!



Salle: YH B111

Lundi - Jeudi: 12h00- 18h00

Vendredi: 12h00- 15h00

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LABORATOIRE DE MÉDIAS NUMÉRIQUES  
YH B217

## Mamma Mia! at The Isabel Bader Theatre: A Musical Review

Bruno Delgado Da Costa  
*Arts and Entertainment Editor*

In the midst of a long, biting winter, I found myself whisked away in a mediterranean dream to a time before AirBNB, Cher's Dancing Queen, and genetic testing. My flights of fancy were made real thanks to a spectacular performance of Mamma Mia! at The Isabel Bader Theatre. Produced by the Victoria College Drama Society and directed by Ronan Mallovy, the cast is brimming with personality and actors who bring the energy of ABBA classics alive.

Mamma Mia! finds Sophie on the day before her wedding. Surrounded by her mother, her friends, and the life she's always known, Sophie is look-



ing for the one thing that's been missing her entire life: her father. Unbeknownst to her mother, Donna, Sophie invites the three men she suspects of being her father to her wedding. The arrival of the three fathers forces Donna to confront her past, meanwhile Sophie searches for answers as she faces her future.

The force behind Mamma Mia! is the chemistry between characters, it's their shared stories that leaves the audience on the edge of its seat. The impeccable Renae Wolfesberger brought the lightness of Sophie's character to life. Wolfesberger's musical talent made Sophie a force to be reckoned with on stage. The grounded

performance of Lisean Henry as Donna had the audience roaring and feeling alongside her. Henry owned the role of Donna, breathing even more life into an already iconic character. The leading ladies spearheaded this production towards success, and navigating the complicated waters of family relationships so seamlessly.

The beauty behind this production of Mamma Mia! was that of director Ronan Mallovy's vision. A good production comes from the hard work of the crew as a whole, from a body of work whose members all play vital roles in bringing a creation to life. Despite moments where lighting, music, or choreography might not have been locked down tight, Mallovy managed to stay true to his goal of creating theatre that is enthusiastic, inclusive, creative, and collaborative. Every single actor brought their uninhibited energy to the stage and owned every moment in their spotlight, proving that sometimes all it takes to create good art is the willingness to be present.

## La valeur de la créativité dans les arts libéraux

Sarah Ariza-Verreault  
*Rédactrice en chef*

La poésie m'a toujours semblé comme un genre destiné aux personnes ayant un « surplus » d'émotions. Il est donc facile d'imaginer ma surprise lorsque je me suis inscrite à un cours de poésie lors de ma quatrième année en études françaises à Glendon. J'ai choisi ce cours parce que je pensais que les lectures seraient de courte durée et parce que je me sentais très à l'aise avec l'analyse de la littérature, après tant d'années. Or, je ne m'attendais pas à ce que ce cours remplisse un vide dans mes études universitaires.

Les cours de français à Glendon valorisent avant tout l'orthographe, la syntaxe et la grammaire; on veut absolument perfectionner ses compétences en argumentation, on veut exprimer clairement les idées tirées d'un texte. Ce sont les idées de quelqu'un d'autre. Pour plusieurs étudiants, y compris moi-même, cet aspect des études françaises est pénible. J'ai entendu



parler d'étudiants dont la confiance en leurs capacités linguistiques baisse énormément au cours de leurs études à Glendon.

Ayant grandi dans une maison bilingue et biculturelle, je ne me suis jamais sentie très à l'aise par rapport à mon identité linguistique. Comme beaucoup de Glendoniens, je me suis souvent sentie « emprisonnée » entre deux langues. Le bilinguisme « parfait » est un rêve lointain. Certains d'entre nous pensent même que c'est un rêve irréalisable. Mais cette année, j'ai pensé pour la première fois : « Est-ce vraiment important? Ou devrait-on accepter et valoriser nos dialectes uniques, peu importe notre langue natale? »

Lorsqu'on se sent si découragé à l'égard de nos études, ou plutôt à l'égard de notre maîtrise de la langue, il est plus facile de se sentir impuissants

en tant qu'étudiants. Certes, il existe déjà des ressources sur campus, notamment le Centre ABC, qui offrent des services de soutien aux étudiants en péril gratuitement. Mais pourquoi pas incorporer les émotions des étudiants dans leurs cours? Pourquoi pas enseigner comment gérer ses émotions ainsi qu'une langue en même temps?

Pourquoi pas encourager les étudiants à exprimer leurs émotions dans leurs études?

J'ai eu cette prise de conscience lors de mon cours de l'écriture poétique. Dans ce cours, étudiants francophones comme anglophones, qui complètent soit leur baccalauréat ou leur maîtrise, les différences linguistiques sont bienvenues. Certes, on doit toujours respecter la grammaire française, mais les étudiants sont incités à jouer avec le français, à créer

quelque chose de nouveau et à incorporer leurs émotions à leur poésie. Pour la première fois dans mes études de français à Glendon (et peut-être, la dernière), je me sens épanouie.

Oui, il y a des travaux en études françaises où les professeurs nous demandent de rédiger une histoire avec tel ou telle syntaxe/mot de transition/expression. Et, oui, il y a des organisations étudiantes, telles que Pro Tem, qui nous encouragent à éveiller notre esprit créateur. Mais pour la plupart, on lève les yeux au ciel quand on nous donne un travail créatif à faire dans nos cours, et on attend toujours la prochaine date limite pour soumettre un article ou une nouvelle à Pro Tem.

Je propose que nos études nourrissent notre esprit créateur. On devrait nous enseigner que nos émotions, ainsi que notre individualité, devraient être célébrées. La créativité n'est jamais une perte de temps. Plus les étudiants se sentent à l'aise d'exprimer leurs propres pensées pendant leurs études, plus ils se sentent épanouis.

Avant de quitter Glendon, suivez mes conseils. Ne passez pas toutes vos études sans savoir la valeur de vos créations et de votre français unique.

*REMIX: La mode à Glendon*



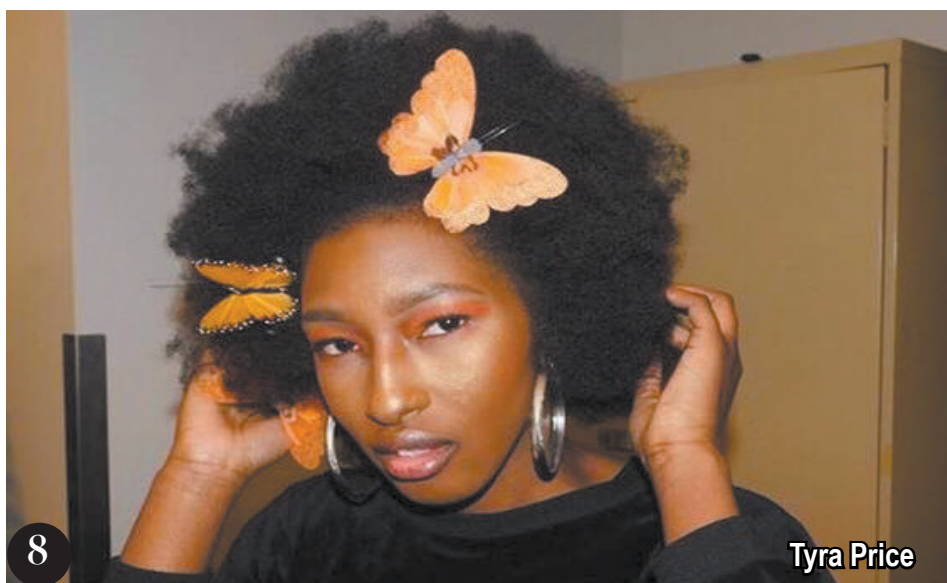
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Tyra Price



Tyra Price



Tyra Price



Tyra Price





## Krysta's Picks: les roadtrips les plus sous-estimés de l'hiver

Krysta Veneruz  
Agente des médias

Tous ceux qui travaillent rêvent sûrement de leurs prochaines vacances. Il est vrai que le froid nous affecte énormément et que le manque de soleil nous donne envie de nous envoler vers la Floride; cependant, peut-être que pour nos prochaines vacances, nous pourrions profiter de la belle neige de la saison et ainsi soutenir notre propre économie. Enfilez donc un bon manteau et prenez un double double : c'est parti pour des vacances incroyables à quelques heures de route seulement de Toronto!

### Thunder Bay

La plupart des Ontariens du sud n'en savent pas beaucoup sur Thunder Bay, ville située au nord du lac Supérieur. Vous pouvez découvrir la beauté du nord sur les pistes de ski Loch Lomand et Mt. Baldy, sur la piste de ski de fond Centre Kamview Nordique et au gros parc provincial Sleeping Giant. Si vous êtes plutôt intrépide, faites de l'escalade de glace avec Outdoor Skills and Drills, seul(e) ou en groupe. Pendant votre séjour, promenez-vous à travers le marché des fermiers pour trouver des produits artisanaux du nord et assurez-vous de goûter la truite fraîche du lac. Thunder Bay est peut-être loin en voiture, mais un billet d'avion aller-retour avec Porter coûte à peu près \$250, ce qui n'est pas mal comparé au prix d'un billet d'avion en direction d'Orlando!

### Simcoe County

Si vous n'êtes pas très aventureux, il y a toujours une option qui n'est pas très loin! Lake Country Ontario est un paradis d'hiver, situé à 2 heures de route de Toronto. Faites du fatbike ou du ski de fond à Hardwood, où il y a plus de 80 km de sentiers à explorer. Le lac Simcoe est un endroit parfait pour faire de la pêche sur glace, avec plusieurs possibilités d'hébergement et de location d'équipements (consultez [www.fishinglakesimcoe.com](http://www.fishinglakesimcoe.com) pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements). Prenez ensuite une bonne bière à Flying Monkeys à Barrie, une microbrasserie très célébrée en Ontario. Ne partez pas sans prendre une belle photo du lac spectaculaire.

### Parc National du Mont Mégantic (QC)

Un bon roadtrip de 8 h de Toronto ou de 3 h de Montréal, parfait pour éviter le chaos de la ville sans devoir aller trop loin. Le Parc national du Mont Mégantic est magnifique pour tous ceux qui aiment faire de la raquette. Avec 30 km de sentiers de raquette, il y a des options pour les experts comme pour les débutants. Le mont Mégantic vous offre l'occasion de louer tout ce dont vous avez besoin pour passer une superbe fin de semaine hivernale, y compris des chalets tout à fait abordables. Vous vous intéressez à l'astronomie? Profitez du beau ciel pour faire une randonnée nocturne à l'observatoire du sommet de la montagne.

### Ottawa/Gatineau

Et enfin, notre précieuse capitale! Ottawa est la ville la plus occupée en hiver! Pour le ski de fond, les sentiers du parc de Gatineau ont plus de 200 km de sentiers! Vous pouvez aller patiner sur le canal Rideau. Pourquoi pas prenez des queues de castor pour le petit déjeuner? Pour reprendre un peu de chaleur, rendez-vous à Two Six {Ate}, un restaurant artisanal qui utilise les fruits et légumes de saison!



## Winter Events in Toronto: What Not to Miss

*If you're around Toronto and hear of an event that might be of interest to our community, write to us at: [metropolis@protenglendon.com](mailto:metropolis@protenglendon.com).*

### Arts and Culture

**Wildlife Photographer of the Year**  
Royal Ontario Museum, Jan 13 – Mar 31

**Impressionism In the Age of Industry: Monet, Pissarro, and More**  
Art Gallery of Ontario, Feb 16 – May 5

**Winter Stations 2019**  
Woodbine Beach, Feb 18 – Apr 1

**Ai Weiwei: Unbroken**  
Gardiner Museum, Feb 28 – June 9

**Egg Paint Night**  
Queen Gallery, Mar 15

### Career & Education

**Desktop Publishing with InDesign**  
Camp Tech, Mar 20

**Abstract Canvas Doodle Workshop**  
Fresh Paint Studio (Danforth East), Mar 15

**Encaustic Painting Workshop**  
Lusculpture Studios and School, Mar 16

### Community & Environment

**Toronto Antique & Vintage Market**  
Enercare Centre, Mar 2 – 3

**Welcome to Winter: Rink Social**  
Mel Lastman Square, Mar 2 – 3

**Green Living Show**  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Mar 22 – 24

**Kundalini Tutorial: Enjoying Mantra and Meditation**  
Lotus Yoga, Mar 22

### Food and Drink

**Caribbean Street Food Festival**  
Ralph Thornton Community Centre, Mar 16

### Music and Entertainment

Learn to Play Dungeons and Dragons  
Agincourt Library, certain Fridays between Feb 15 – Mar 15

**Hooking up with The Second City: Third Base**  
The Second City, Various days between Feb 14 – Mar 31

**Toronto Comicon 2019**  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Mar 15 – 17

**SUNMI**  
Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Mar 16

**CHAI with Haiku Hands**  
Velvet Underground, Mar 20



## EMERGENCY ALERT/ALERTE D'URGENCE



Peel Regional Police activate AMBER Alert. Victim is Riya Rajkumar age 11. Suspect is Roopesh Rajkumar age 41. Vehicle is a silver Honda civic plate # ARBV 598. Last known location East bound 401. If observed please call 9 1 1

## A Lost Life, the Amber Alert, and Just a Few Too Many Complaints

Gulsvert Dela Cruz  
*Metropolis Editor*

Riya Rajkumar was the 11-year-old victim of a family kidnapping by her father Roopesh Rajkumar. He picked up Riya to celebrate her birthday; hours later, Roopesh allegedly contacted Riya's mother—the couple are separated—making statements of plans to harm himself and their daughter. She immediately contacted authorities, and a subsequent Amber Alert search was initiated 11:30 pm the same day. It took an hour to locate Riya, and a little longer to pinpoint her father, who was 130 kilometres away in Orillia, and arrest him. Her lifeless body was located in the basement of her Roopesh's duplex in Brampton. He's facing a charge of first-degree murder while currently undergoing medical treatment for an unspecified condition.

It was a horrible loss of life on what was supposed to be a happy day for the victim. While we can't turn back time to revive Riya, we can at least provide justice and treatment to her unstable father. The arrest was only possible thanks to the Amber Alert issued that night, according to Peel Regional Police.

The gratitude given to the alert system's vital role in locating the suspect however, was mixed in with multiple complaints by residents of the late night disturbance it caused. Indeed, of the 124 calls received by the 911 emergency hotline during the first hour of the Amber Alert, most were complaints by people whose sleep was disturbed. Peel Constable Akhil Mooken tweeted his frustration towards this incidence, stating, "I can't even begin to describe

how disappointing and upsetting it is to read the comments, emails and calls to our communications bureau complaining about receiving an Amber Alert late at night. I appreciate that a lot of people were sleeping but the immediate need to locate [...] the child outweighed the momentary inconvenience that some people encountered. Tragically this incident did not have the outcome we were all hoping for but the suspect was located as a direct result of a citizen receiving the alert and calling 9-1-1. The system works."

Most agreed with this sentiment. Some noted that if the complainants were in the same situation as Riya's mother, they would have wanted the same done for their children. Others shared the feelings of loss and grief given the loss of life, while many more expressed their gratitude for both the alert system as well as the constable for his efforts.

An interesting comment by twitter user @shikkaba noted that some of the complaints were about the timing and closure of the alert, claiming that it wasn't sent out early enough. Furthermore, the twitter user claims that "letting people know it's over doesn't require "yelling" at them. A different tone at a lower volume would be better suited to that task, or just a message."

Like most people in the GTA, I received a loud, and frankly terrifying, alert on my phone. I was not asleep at the time, but even in that case I think I would've been fine with the noise if it was for the sake of saving a life. I'm disappointed as to the number of complaints (which could have been shared through the non-emergency line), reinforcing the stereotype of apathy and lack of community spirit of urban residents. While obviously not true—with the suspect having been caught through the Amber Alert—I do hope we can move forward from this tragedy with greater concern for our neighbours and fellow residents in the city.

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 @issaglendon & [issaglendon@gmail.com](mailto:issaglendon@gmail.com)

## La Finlande : championne de l'éducation

Gabriella Giordan

Rédactrice adjointe français

Peu d'étudiants ontariens qui souhaitent enseigner savent que la Finlande est réputée pour avoir l'un des meilleurs systèmes d'éducation au monde, surtout aux niveaux élémentaire et secondaire.

Le pays scandinave obtient, depuis plusieurs décennies, d'excellents résultats scolaires au niveau national et mondial. En outre, le taux d'élèves qui obtiennent leur diplôme d'études secondaires est de 99,7 % (HuffPost Québec).

Le système en Finlande est très distinct du système en Ontario, et ce grâce à plusieurs facteurs. Par exemple, selon HuffPost Québec, la scolarité obligatoire commence à l'âge de 7 ans en Finlande. Les élèves passent cinq heures à l'école et font plusieurs pauses. Ils ont moins de travaux à faire à la maison et ne passent aucun test normalisé, à part quand ils ont 16 ans.

De plus, alors qu'en Ontario, les enseignants n'ont besoin que d'un diplôme d'enseignant, les enseignants des 6 premières années possèdent une maîtrise en sciences de l'éducation, et les enseignants des deux dernières années possèdent une maîtrise dans leur discipline ainsi qu'un diplôme pédagogique (HPQ). Ils possèdent ainsi un rôle social extrêmement important.

Katriina Tikanmäki, étudiante finlandaise à l'université de Jyväskylä que j'ai rencontrée pendant mon échange en France, répond à certaines questions à propos du système d'éducation finlandais.

### Comment sont divisés les différents niveaux d'étude?

L'enseignement fondamental et obligatoire est divisé en deux : les classes 1 à 6 (quand l'élève a entre 7 et 12 ans) et les classes 7 à 9 (quand l'élève a entre 13 et 16 ans). Après l'école fondamentale, les élèves ont deux choix d'éducation de second degré : le lycée ou la formation professionnelle, qu'ils fréquentent pendant trois ans. Après les études de second degré, il est possible de poursuivre des études supérieures,



Aapo-Lassi Kankaala, Flickr

soit aux écoles supérieures professionnelles ou à l'université.

### Quelle attitude les Finlandais ont-ils en général par rapport à l'éducation? Et toi, qu'en penses-tu?

Je dirais qu'en général, les élèves finlandais ne voient pas ce qui rend le système d'éducation finlandais si spécial. Quant à moi, ce n'est que quand j'ai entrepris mes études à l'université que j'ai compris qu'en Finlande on fait beaucoup de recherche sur l'éducation et que les enseignants sont très motivés à bien enseigner.

### Selon toi, qu'est-ce qui fonctionne bien dans ce système?

Puisqu'il n'y a presque pas de devoirs, les enfants ont beaucoup de temps libre pour jouer et avoir des passe-temps. On encourage les élèves à jouer des instruments, à faire du sport et de l'art, etc., dès le début de leur parcours scolaire. On les initie aussi aux travaux manuels, tels que l'utilisation d'une machine à coudre ou d'un marteau, et on les initie un peu plus tard aux travaux ménagers, tels que la cuisine.

Je pense qu'en Finlande, les enfants sont libres d'être enfants pendant plus longtemps. Le métier d'enseignant est très respectable en Finlande et on fait confiance aux enseignants, même s'ils ne mettent pas tous à jour leurs méthodes d'enseignement.

### Trouves-tu que le système finlandais t'a servi dans ta vie d'adulte et d'employée?

Je dirais qu'à l'enseignement fondamental, j'ai acquis les connaissances nécessaires pour poursuivre mes études, en premier au lycée et ensuite à l'université. Avoir appris comment effectuer des tâches ménagères m'a beaucoup aidée dans ma vie quotidienne. Même si j'ai reçu beaucoup de soutien scolaire entre les classes 7 et 9, je ne savais pas ce que je voulais faire après mes études. C'est une des raisons pour lesquelles je suis allée au lycée. J'ai acquis des connaissances générales et j'ai eu trois ans de plus pour décider ce que je voulais faire plus tard.

### Tu envisages d'enseigner les langues. Si tu deviens enseignante ailleurs qu'en Finlande, emploieras-tu les méthodes d'enseignement finlandaises?

Selon moi, tout enseignant doit guider ses élèves et les aider le plus possible. En parlant avec ses élèves, il ou elle peut trouver les modes d'apprentissage et d'enseignement que ces derniers préfèrent et les thèmes qui les intéressent le plus. Bien sûr, il faut aussi aborder des sujets « moins intéressants », mais les élèves devraient pouvoir dire ce qu'ils pensent de la façon dont ces sujets sont enseignés, par exemple.

Je trouve que la meilleure façon d'enseigner est de laisser les élèves découvrir des choses eux-mêmes. Il ne faut pas donner de réponses prêtes, mais plutôt poser des questions aux élèves pour qu'ils puissent penser aux

réponses possibles. Je trouve également qu'il est important de laisser les élèves travailler en petits groupes et de les laisser réfléchir ensemble. L'objectif est que tous les élèves aient la possibilité de penser par eux-mêmes et de s'exprimer à leur façon, même si ce n'est pas nécessairement devant toute la classe.

Je ne sais pas si ce sont vraiment des méthodes d'enseignement finlandaises. Pour moi, ce sont des méthodes efficaces que j'ai apprises à l'école, au cours de ma formation d'enseignant et même à l'étranger, donc j'enseignerai probablement de cette façon.

Le modèle d'éducation finlandais met véritablement l'accent sur la réussite globale des élèves, même en dehors de la salle de classe. L'école élémentaire catholique au Cœur d'Ottawa, qui a ouvert ses portes en 2017, a adopté certaines méthodes d'éducation finlandaises. Reste à voir si tous les élèves ontariens pourront un jour bénéficier d'un modèle d'éducation aussi progressif.

**Source :** « En Finlande, un système d'éducation au cœur de débats mondiaux. » *HuffPost Québec*, 19 mai 2018, [www.quebec.huffingtonpost.ca/monde68/en-finlande-un-systeme-d-education-au-coeur-de-debats-mondiaux-\\_a\\_23424655/](http://www.quebec.huffingtonpost.ca/monde68/en-finlande-un-systeme-d-education-au-coeur-de-debats-mondiaux-_a_23424655/).

## The SNC-Lavalin Scandal (cont.)

**The big questions:** Should there be tighter restrictions on lobbying? In authorizing DPAs, did the government act in the best interest of the public or in that of big corporations?

**Undue pressure from the PMO:** Even though DPAs became part of Canadian law, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC) decided not to offer SNC-Lavalin the remediation option. According to a Globe and Mail report in February 2019, SNC-Lavalin then began to pressure the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to force a DPA. This report prompted the government to form an investigative committee, before which the then-Justice Minister and Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould, alleged that that pressure eventually turned to her. As Attorney General, Wilson-Raybould possessed the power to override the PPSC's decision and allow for a DPA.

Wilson-Raybould claims that



The Canadian Press

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Finance Minister Bill Morneau, and various advisors thereto "hounded" her to negotiate a settlement with SNC-Lavalin. The risk of job losses, the firm moving their headquarters out of Canada, and angering Québec voters before their 2018

provincial election were all cited as reasons for why the government needed to protect the Montréal-based company, according to Wilson-Raybould. Trudeau has repeatedly insisted that neither he nor his government acted inappropriately.

**The big questions:** Did the PMO politically interfere in Wilson-Raybould's role as Attorney General? To what extent was the PMO's conduct illegal?

**Tension between the roles of AG and MOJ:** The offices of Attorney General and the Minister of Justice have always been occupied by the same individual. That means that the person in charge of independent public prosecutions is also a cabinet minister and politician who is responsible to the Prime Minister and their party. In other words, the situation combines a non-partisan role with a partisan one, inevitably creating a conflict of interest. Wilson-Raybould suggested in her testimony that this is perhaps why events unfolded as they did—the PMO engaged in conversations that were proper for a Justice Minister but improper for an Attorney General.

**The big questions:** Should the position of Attorney General and Minister of Justice be separated? How did this situation impact the handling of the SNC-Lavalin file?

**Anti-Indigenous racism and misogyny in the PMO:** During Trudeau's first years as head of government, Canadians saw their prime minister give a tearful apology to residential school survivors and sing the praises of

feminism across the world stage. However, his "woke" sound bite politics were quickly drowned out by his caustic response to Wilson-Raybould's apparent insubordination. After making clear that she would not direct the PPSC to settle with SNC-Lavalin, Wilson-Raybould was shuffled out of her position as Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Demoting her to Minister of Veterans' Affairs and repeatedly referring to the former cabinet member by her first name during subsequent press conferences were seen by some as attempts to admonish and belittle Wilson-Raybould. It seemed as though, to Trudeau, political representation for Indigenous peoples and women is virtuous insofar as such representatives toe the party line. Up until her resignation from cabinet, Wilson-Raybould was the only Indigenous member of cabinet and one of only two Indigenous women in the Liberal caucus.

**The big questions:** Does the Trudeau government truly respect the voices of its Indigenous and women members? Did appointing an Indigenous woman to Justice Minister positively impact the government's commitment to reconciliation, and does her removal from that role have any related implications?

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## Our Personal Police: What Guilt Is Here To Teach Us

Kaya Harris-Read  
Chief of Operations

The thing about nerve-endings is that we are lucky to have them. We curse when we stub our toes and lose productive days to migraines. But as painful as, well, pain is, it's actually there to help us. We know not to reach into the oven without mitts on because otherwise it hurts. This saves us from inflicting damage to our skin. The natural reflexes we have based on avoiding pain are there to help keep our body safe and in one piece. But I'm not here to give a biology lesson. What I want to do is make a comparison: negative sensations exist to help keep our body safe. So what about negative emotions? Aren't they the same?

For example, you borrow your sister's iPod and get a little over enthusiastic while dancing to ABBA. It flies across the room and the screen cracks, right down the middle. You then feel guilty—never a nice feeling. But why should that feeling exist? Well, it's just the same as a stubbed toe. The reason stubbing your toe hurts so much is because toes don't like to be banged against walls. They hurt because that's their way of telling you to look where you are walking.

Guilt is there for the same reason. It's our mind's way of telling us to be more careful in future. I mean, we learn that you have to respect others, but what enforces this? The police have more important things to worry about than cracked iPods. Guilt, along with other such feelings, is our own personal law enforcement.

This is a way of turning things around. Rather than serving as a punishment, the negative emo-

tion is there to teach us to do things differently in the future. When we feel sad after having an argument with a friend, this is our mind's way of telling us to work out our differences in a more amicable way. When we feel angry at ourselves for walking into a lecture twenty minutes late (yet again), our mind is telling us to wake up the first, or second, or even third time your alarm goes off. Not the fifth. Not the tenth.

When we stub our toe, how long does the pain last? We hop around, shout inexplicably satisfying swear words, and in some cases drop to the floor and roll around dramatically. And then we get up, and we move on with our life. The pain fades and soon it's just a memory. So why do we hang on to guilt and sadness and anger for so long? Once it has taught us the lesson, we don't need it anymore. Your sister isn't going to feel better about her iPod because you've been feeling guilty about it for three months now. Feeling sad about an argument does not have the power to change what happened. Being angry about being late isn't going to retrospectively make you arrive on time.

These emotions are not there just to point out what you shouldn't have done, but to show you what you can do to fix the situation that caused them. How do we get rid of the guilt? Have the iPod screen fixed. How do we resolve the argument? Talk it out and apologize. How do we wake up to our alarm? Please if someone knows the answer to this help me out because I haven't the slightest idea.

My point, though, is that we don't need to treat negative emotions as an enemy. Obviously we want to avoid them, but that's the whole point. Just as our body lets go of pain after we learn to not touch hot things, we need to let our minds do the same thing.

## La déPression

Isabelle Lepage  
Conditrice

### La déPression

Elle nous hante continuellement,  
Elle nous fréquente, telle une **obsession**,  
Elle frappe inlassablement à notre porte...

...Sans avertissement...

Et c'est ainsi qu'elle nous **emporte!**

### Quel voyage ce sera!

La dépression, c'est un **ouragan**,

Et nous ne sommes qu'un petit navire,

**Prisonnier** d'un immensurable océan;

Une minute... puis tout change!

La dépression, elle touche les **âmes**.

...Sensibles ou non... Elle nous ensorcelle dans un tourbillon de flammes,

Que nous soyons; que nous soyons; que nous priions...

**Personne** n'est à l'abri d'elle!

Personne ne s'y attend!

Qui n'ouvrirait pas la porte à cette charmante demoiselle?

Ouvrez! **Allez!** Après tout, ce n'est pas Satan...

Ou alors...?

N'est-elle pas... démoniaque?

Et même si c'était le cas, N'aiderions-nous pas...

Quelqu'un dans le besoin...

Qui frappe à notre porte.....???

La voilà entrer.

**Impossible** – ou semble-t-il –

d'y échapper,  
Elle est là pour rester...

Bonne chance pour vous en débarrasser!

Un jour,  
On se réveille,

D'un cauchemar...

On se regarde dans la glace,  
« Continuerai-je ainsi pour toujours? »

On devient des couche-tard,  
« Une pilule, une p'tite granule

», disait ma grand-mère...

On les gobe matin et soir,  
« Je me sortirai de cet Enfer »,

nous chuchote un espoir...

On l'écoute, on le suit, on évite le minotaure...!

« Je ne ferai pas comme Icar », se dit-on face au miroir!

On ne vole plus près de ce soleil, cet imprévisible ouragan,

*Celui qui brise des vies et des familles, depuis la nuit des temps...*

Dans le désespoir, un **espoir**;

Dans la noirceur, une **lumière**;

Prenez garde... mais...  
Ayez **confiance** :

Suis cette **étincelle**,  
Toi qui lis,

**Suis** cette **voix** au fond de **toi**.

**Isabelle Lepage**  
Étudiante, auteure, qu'importe le nom,

qu'importe le titre;

Je suis un nom propre et non un adjectif

suivi d'un nom commun,  
Me voici : Isabelle.

Merci.



## Café turc

Ayla Slijvar

Rédactrice d'expressions

La jeune serveuse, une fausse blonde, me demande : « Vous avez fait votre choix? ». Elle a l'air impatiente et indifférente à la fois.

— Juste un café, lui dis-je. Noir.

Sans crème.

— Juste un seul?

Je regarde la chaise vide devant moi. Tante Didi est en retard.

Ou elle ne viendra même pas.

— Oui, pour l'instant. Merci.

La serveuse s'en va sans dire un mot.

Je reste seul avec mes pensées encore. C'est facile; le café est sans vie (à l'exception de la présence de la jeune serveuse). Je regarde autour de moi. Un côté du café a un mur en brique marron tandis que les autres murs sont recouverts de stuc camel. Il y a des rideaux de différentes couleurs, styles, et textures, allongés sur les murs et canapés. Les meubles sont différents aussi; il y a des chaises fabriquées en bois, en acier ou en cuivre, tandis que les tables sont circulaires ou rectangulaires. À droite, il y a une vitrine réfrigérée où se trouvent des milliers de pâtisseries. Gâteau opéra, dacquoise aux noisettes, tarte au chocolat... tout a été rangé en haut de la plate-forme de glace. À côté de la vitrine, des tasses de couleurs variées se trouvaient près de la machine à espresso.

Je sors mon téléphone de ma poche. Il est 11 h 37.

« Si elle ne vient pas dans cinq minutes, tu t'en vas. » Sauf que c'est un mensonge. Je ne partirai pas. Je n'abandonnerai pas tante Didi. Même si elle m'a abandonné.

Je trouve bizarre qu'on puisse avoir des relations plutôt froides avec nos proches, sans préavis. C'est comme si l'arbre familial qui a été planté, autrefois fort et abondant en feuilles et fleurs colorées, est devenu fané.

Qu'est-ce qui a pu empoisonner l'arbre? C'est ce que j'essaie de comprendre aujourd'hui. Qui a empoisonné tante Didi? Et pourquoi agit-elle comme si je l'avais empoisonnée?

Nous ne nous sommes pas parlé depuis un an. Jamais je n'aurais pensé que nos interactions se réduiraient à des regards vides et au silence. C'est étonnant comme notre

relation a changé d'un jour à l'autre. Tante Didi était auparavant comme ma deuxième mère. Je me sentais comme si ma propre mère m'ignorait.

J'ai crié, j'ai pleuré... j'ai fait tout ce que j'ai pu pour attirer son attention. Ces cris sont évidemment tombés dans l'oreille d'un sourd.

En songeant à tout cela, la porte s'ouvre soudain et tante Didi entre.

Chaque fois qu'elle pénètre une salle, elle est essouffée et des mèches noires et bouclées lui collent au cou et au visage. Quand nos regards se croisent, je me demande comment la douleur et l'arrogance peuvent exister en même temps à travers ses yeux.

Elle marche lentement vers la table, sans dire un mot. Je me rends compte qu'elle a l'air différente. Sa peau semble plus pâle qu'avant et ses joues semblent creuses. Même sa façon de marcher est différente.

— Le café a l'air insipide...

Peut-être qu'elle n'a pas changé tant que ça.

— Bonjour, Didi, ça va?

— Ça va.

Silence.

Ça commence bien.

— As-tu conduit? J'ai vu que

les routes n'étaient pas encore dégagées.

Elle ne répond pas et lit le menu, moqueuse.

— Quoi?

— Ils n'ont pas de café turc. Que dois-je commander? Un café régulier?

La jeune serveuse revient.

— Bonne journée, que—

— Café turc avec deux morceaux de sucre, s'il vous plait.

— Hein?

Elle dévisage la jeune serveuse.

Je prie en silence pour la jeune fille.

— Quand on s'adresse à une personne aînée, on ne dit pas « hein », on dit « pardon ». Et j'ai dit que je voulais une tasse de café turc avec deux morceaux de sucre, s'il vous plait.

Je peux voir le choc et la peur dans le visage de la jeune serveuse.

— Mais on ne sert pas de café turc...

— Pourquoi?

Encore un silence.

Les larmes aux yeux, la jeune serveuse ouvrait sa bouche pour parler, mais rien ne sort.

— Didi, ce n'est pas grave, lui

dis-je. Il y a d'autres options—

— Je ne vous ai pas demandé d'intervenir.

« Vous »? Didi me vouvoie?

Ma vision devient floue. Lentement, des larmes ruissellent sur mon visage, le genre de larmes qui viennent lorsque le cœur se brise. J'ai l'impression que tante Didi m'a poignardée dans l'abdomen.

On dit que vouvoyer quelqu'un est un signe de respect.

Mais je sens autre chose que du respect ce jour-là.

Je me sens seul encore une fois.

C'est ce mot « vous » qui m'oblige à me lever de mon siège et de dire « adieu » à tante Didi.

Didi et la serveuse se tournent vers moi.

— Vraiment? Tu m'abandonnes maintenant?

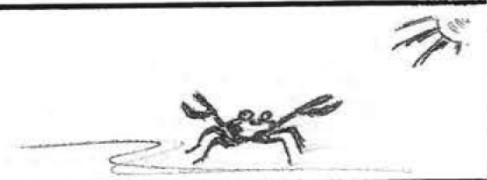
Ça me fait rire que c'est maintenant à moi d'abandonner tante Didi.

Sans dire un mot, je laisse de l'argent et un pourboire sur la table.

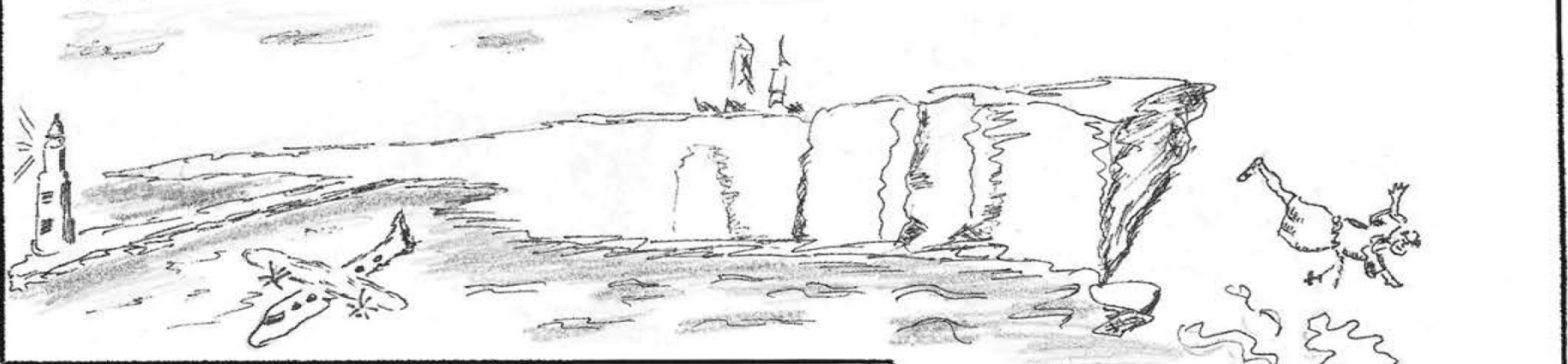
Je m'en vais tandis que tante Didi me regarde d'un air fâché et triste à la fois.



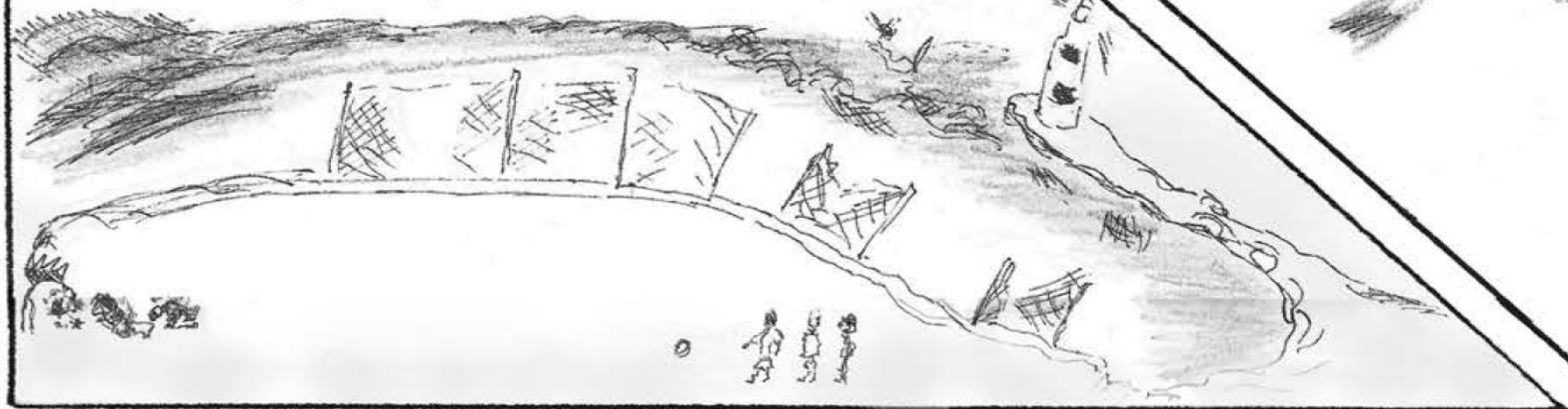
# Le paradis des suicidaires de mon enfance...



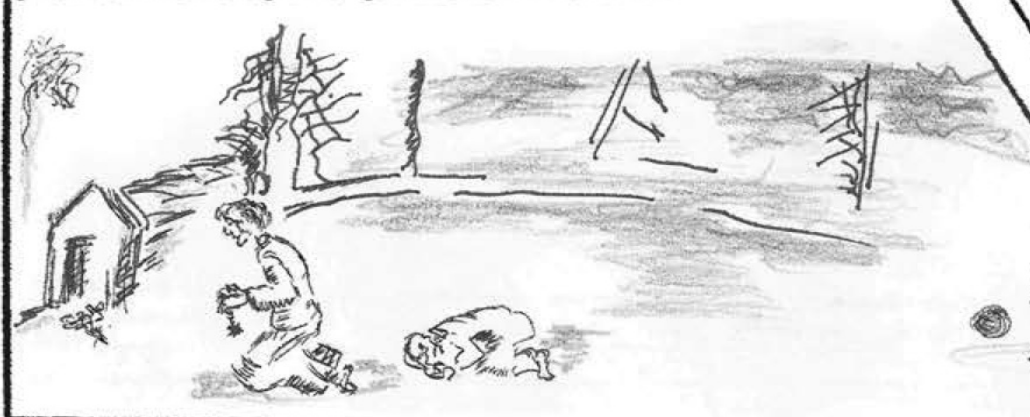
J'ai grandi à un kilomètre d'un parc appelé le Paradis du Suicide, au sud du Saut de frères et au nord de l'endroit où l'équipe péruvienne Alianza Lima s'est écrasée en 1987



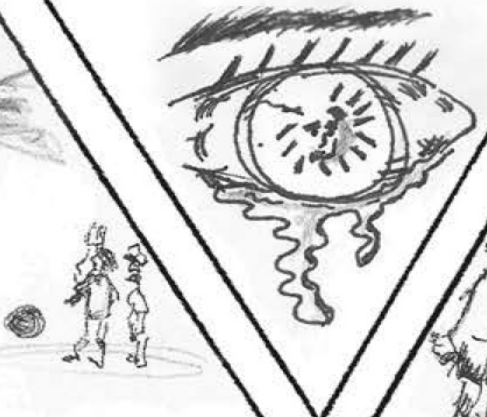
Cette place en face de l'Océan est fréquentée par les fous errants et les enfants mélancoliques de l'orphelinat



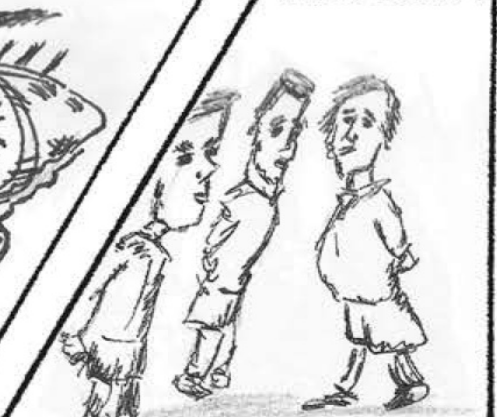
Rarement, les vieilles dames avec des vêtements sombres viennent prier pour les âmes désespérées qui ont sauté dans le vide



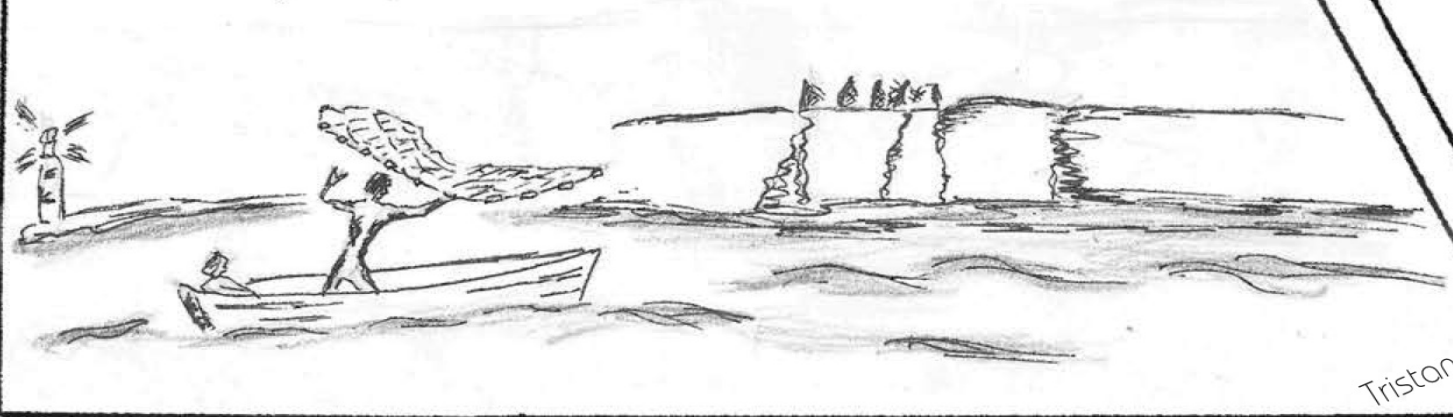
Est-ce que leur regard coupable pourrait exprimer autre chose ?



Qui sera la prochaine victime ?



Même le filet de pêche épais ne peut pas soutenir le chagrin des suicidaires anonymes du paradis



Un silence mortel... à la fin

