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# Going Out

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## CONCERTS

Musical Arts Club of Ottawa: Music scholarship gala fundraising concert featuring Catherine Donkin, Amelie Langlois and more, 7:30 p.m. Saturday at First Unitarian Congregation, 30 Cleary Ave. Tickets \$20 adults, \$15 seniors/students at the door.

Almonte's Folkus Music Series: The Gregory Hoskins Trio, with opening act Lindsay Ferguson, 8 p.m. Saturday at the Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St. Tickets \$22 in advance or \$25 at the door. 613-256-9090.

Laurentian Junior Music Club: 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Carleton University Music Department, Studio A, 9th floor, Loeb Building. \$4 at the door.

Benefit Concert to Support Westboro Food Bank: Caroline Leonardelli, harp, 8 p.m. Saturday at Chapel of All Saints' Anglican Church, 347 Richmond Rd. 613-725-9487. Suggested donation of \$10 or more.

Finest King and Craig, Morgan and Robson: 8 p.m. Saturday at the NAC Fourth Stage. Tickets \$22 at the NAC box office or TicketMaster, 613-755-1111. Presented by The Ottawa Folk Festival.

A Concert of Middle Eastern Music: Featuring Andre Ibrahim and the Stars of Lebanon, with guests The Orient Productions Musical Band, 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Carleton University's Kailash Mital Theatre, Carleton University (formerly Alumni Theatre). Free admission.

Piano Recital: Reto Reichenbach from Switzerland, 2 p.m. Saturday at Christ Church Cathedral, 420 Sparks St. at Bronson. Tickets \$15 or \$25, \$10 students at 613-567-1787.

An Evening with Ron Hynes:

8 p.m. Saturday at the Joshua Bates Centre, Athens, Ont. Tickets at Shadowfax in Perth, Reids Flowers in Athens, and Mr C's, Brockville or 1-800-518-2729.

A Steinway Celebration Concert: 8 p.m. Sunday in the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, 30 Cleary Ave. Tickets \$25, \$10 student/seniors or pay-what-you-can at the door. 613-725-1066.

Roch Voisine: 8 p.m. Sunday at Salle Odyssee, 855 Gappe Blvd., Gatineau. Tickets \$43 at the box office or

819-243-2525.

Dawn Tyler Watson and Paul Deslauries: With special guest Lindsay Ferguson, 8 p.m. Sunday in the Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre, 1233 Wellington St. Tickets \$25 at the GCTC box office or 613-236-5196.

Piano Recital: Tamás Érdi from Budapest, 7:30 p.m. Monday at the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, 30 Cleary Ave. Tickets \$15 or \$25/\$10 or \$15 seniors/children at the door or 613-225-8754 voicemail.

Organ Tuesdays at St. Andrew's: Recital by Gordon Johnston, playing works by Bach, Karg-Elert and Mulet, 12:15 p.m. Tuesday at the church corner of Kent and Wellington streets. Freewill offering. 613-232-9042.

Dany Bédar: Rock 'n Blues, 8 p.m. Tuesday at Salle Odyssee, 855 Gappe Blvd., Gatineau. Tickets \$35 at the box office or 819-243-2525.

The Tim Murray Quintet with Charley Gordon: A Jazz Reunion, 8 p.m. Thursday in the NAC Fourth Stage. Tickets \$15 at the box office or TicketMaster, 613-755-1111.

Richard Séguin: 8 p.m. Thursday at Salle Odyssee, 855 Gappe Blvd., Gatineau. Tickets \$35 at the box office or 819-243-2525.

Noites da lapa: Featuring Marcos Ariel, Brazilian pianist and flutist joins Canadian sax player Jean-Pierre Zanella and band in a program of Bossa Nova, Samba and Chorinho, 7 p.m. Friday in the auditorium of De La Salle, 501 Old St. Patrick. Presented by the Embassy of Brazil. Free admission, first-come-first served beginning at 5:30 p.m. Cocktails follow. 613-237-1090.

Tapeire —Driven by Rhythm: Written and performed by James Devine, also featuring Ashley MacIsaac, 8 p.m. Friday at Centrepointe Theatre, 101 Centrepointe Dr. Tickets \$38-\$43 at box office or 613-580-2700.

Frédéric de Grandpré: 8 p.m. Friday at Salle Odyssee, 855 Gappe Blvd., Gatineau. Tickets \$3 at the box office or 819-243-2525.

## THEATRE

The Ark: Join artistic director Peter Hinton, and a company of Canada's finest professional actors, playwrights, historians, and students from the National Theatre School of Canada as they share readings, songs, and excerpts of plays, 8 p.m. Saturday at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 82 Kent St. Tickets \$20, students \$10 at the NAC box office or TicketMaster, 613-755-1111.

Ariadne: By Michael Geither, presented by the Drama Guild, University of Ottawa, Wednesday to Nov. 4 at Academic Hall, 135 Seraphin Marion, University of Ottawa. Tickets at 613-562-5761.

CATS: Tuesday to Sunday, Oct. 28 in the NAC Southam Hall. Tickets at the box office or TicketMaster, 613-755-1111.

DADS: The musical presented by Goya Theatre productions, 7:30 p.m. Friday to Tuesday, Oct. 30, 1:30 p.m. matinées Saturday, Oct. 27, Sunday, Oct. 28 in the Chambers at Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Dr. Tickets at the box office or 613-580-2700.

Dracula: Presented by BarnDoor Productions, 8 p.m. Saturday and Thursday to Saturday, Oct. 27, 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21 at Perth's Studio Theatre, 63 Gore St. E. Tickets \$16 reserved, \$18 at the door. 613-267-1884.

Falstaff: By John Wood and Roger Forbes, presented by the NAC English Theatre and The Old Castle Group, previews Tuesday, Wednesday, opening night Thursday to Nov. 3 in the NAC Studio. Curtain times 8 p.m. with 2 p.m. Saturday matinées. Tickets \$25–\$35 at the box office or TicketMaster, 613–755–1111.

Family Matters: By Paul Dervis, presented by New Ottawa

Repertory Theatre, 8 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday, Oct. 28 and Oct. 31–Nov. 4 at Club SAW, Arts Court, 67 Nicholas Ave. Tickets \$15, \$10 students at the door. 613–231–7562.

Guys and Dolls: Starring 40 area children ages seven to 17, presented by The New Star Children's Theatre, 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Sunday at the Bronson Centre, 211 Bronson Ave. Tickets \$12, \$10 in advance or \$15 and \$12 at the door. 613–523–3264.

The Lady's Not For Burning: Presented by the Linden House Theatre Company, 8 p.m. Saturday and Thursday to Saturday, Oct. 27 at 261 Buena Vista Rd. Tickets \$20 at 613–842–4540.

Love and Ashes: By Ooh La La Opera featuring tenor George Valettas and soprano Shawne Elizabeth, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27 in the NAC Fourth Stage. Tickets \$25 at the box office or TicketMaster, 613–755–1111.

Othello: By William Shakespeare, translated by Normand Chaurette, presented by the NAC French Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, Oct. 27 in the NAC Theatre. Tickets at the box office or TicketMaster, 613–755–1111. Opening–night talkback, Tuesday.

The Other Shoe Drops: Derek Edwards new one–man comedy, 8 p.m. Wednesday at Cornwall Aultsville Theatre, 613–938–9400; 8 p.m. Thursday at Centrepointe Theatre, 101 Centrepointe Dr.; Brockville Arts Centre, 8 p.m. Friday, 613–342–7122. Tickets \$36–41.50 at the box office or 613–580–2700.

Top Girls: By Caryl Churchill, presented by Third Wall Theatre Company, Thursday to Nov. 3 at Arts Court Theatre, 2 Daly Ave. Tickets at 613–236–1425.

Wingfield's Inferno: 8:30 p.m. Saturday at Centrepointe Theatre, 101 Centrepointe Dr. Tickets \$34–\$43 at the box office or 613–580–2700.

## COMEDY

Absolute Comedy, 412 Preston St.: David Acer with Rick Currier and M.C. Kevin Gasior, to 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, 8 p.m. Sunday; Pro–Am Night, 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays; Joe Minnitte with Scott McMann and M.C. Herb Irving, Wednesday to Sunday, Oct. 28. Dinner–show packages for \$25 plus tax/tip and under. 613–233–8000.

## AUDITIONS

Sock n' Buskin Theatre Company: Auditions for R.U.R. by Karel âapek, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Saturday, Sunday at Carleton University. Information at 613–520–3770 or snbtheatre@gmail.com .

## DANCE

Le Groupe Dance Lab: Dance creation in progress with choreographer Tony Chong, 7 p.m. Saturday at Arts Court Theatre, 2 Daly Ave. Tickets \$20/\$15 students/seniors at 613–235–1492.

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan: Wild Cursive, 8 p.m. Saturday in the NAC Southam Hall. Tickets from



\$35, students from \$18.75 at the box office or TicketMaster, 613-755-1111.

Africa is a Verb: Featuring dancers and musicians, 8 p.m. Saturday at Theatre la Nouvelle Scene, 333 King Edward Ave. Tickets \$20 at 613-241-2727.

The International Folk Dancers of Ottawa: Meet 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Jack Purcell Centre, 613-729-1515.

#### SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Phantom of the Opera: Starring Lon Chaney with chamber choir Seventeen Voyces performing works by Gounod, Schubert, Beethoven, Kodaly, Ravel and Langlais, 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27 at St. Matthew's Church, 130 Glebe Ave. Tickets \$15-\$25 at Leading Note, Compact Music, Book Bazaar, Herb & Spice or at the door.

Inside Out: Ottawa-Gatineau LGBT Film and Video Festival: Thursday to Sunday, Oct. 28 at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St. Box office at Arts Court, 613-564-7240 or 613-789-4646.

Canadian Film Institute: The Egyptian Film Festival: The Emigrant, 7 p.m. Sunday, Date Wine, 9:15 p.m. Sunday; Sleepless Nights, 7 p.m. Nov. 9, Alexandria Why?, 7 p.m. Nov. 10; Film Fest Japan: Twilight Samurai, 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28, Kamikaze Girls, 9:15 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28 at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St. \$6 for CFI members, \$9 non-members. 613-232-6727.

Ottawa Family Cinema, 710 Broadview Ave.: Mr. Bean's Holiday (G) 2 p.m. Saturday; Special fundraiser, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG), Friday. 613-722-8218.

#### LIVE MUSIC-ROCK

Barrymore's, 323 Bank St.: Wintersleep with Woodenstars, Saturday; The Witches Gathering with Wiccan Ritual and DJ JP, Friday.

Carleton Tavern, 223 Armstrong: Rusty, Saturday; Open stage with Julie Element and James Wright, Thursday; Wise Guys, Friday.

Jacques 'Trap Roadhouse and Restaurant, corner of Boundary Road and Russell Road: Bon Jovi Foreverr, 9 p.m. Saturday.

Mavericks, 221 Rideau St.: Clothes Make the Man , 8 p.m. all-ages show with Dirty Tricks and guest opening at 7:20; licensed show at 11:30 p.m. with opening at 10:30 p.m. Friday.

The Mix Bar & Grill, 1675 10th Line Rd.: Marc Charron, 9 p.m. Saturday.

Slots at Rideau Carleton, 4837 Albion Rd.: Eddy & The Stingrays,

8 p.m. Saturday.

Zaphod Beeblebrox, 27 York St.: Tokyo Sex Whale and Mad Parish, Saturday; The Heatskores, Sunday; Blue Reverb, Monday; Shout Out Out Out Out, with guest San Serac, Tuesday; The Vanity and guests Wednesday; Shad, Thursday; Adam Franklin and Tallships, Friday.

#### LIVE MUSIC-BLUES-WORLD-FOLK

Avant-Garde Bar, 135 1/2 Besserer St.: Melm'rabet Trio with Al Tarab, Saturday; Autumn Sun, Tuesday;

Brian Downey Jazz, Wednesday; Carleton University's In/Words Magazine poetry event, Thursday.

The Bay Street Bistro, Black Bear Pub, 160 Bay St. at Albert: Jaymz Hawley, 9 p.m. Saturday.

Blacksheep Inn, 753 Riverside St., Wakefield.: Eleni Mandell, 9 p.m. Saturday; Master storyteller Mike Burns, 2 p.m. Sunday, Ukuleles for peace benefit, 4:20 p.m. Sunday, all ages; Hot Little Rocket, Thursday; Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart, 9 p.m. Friday.

The Branch, 15 Clothier St. E., Kemptville: Mike Yates, 9 p.m. Saturday; jazz open stage hosted by Linda Girard, 3 p.m. Sunday.

Cock 'n Bull Pub and Eatery, 3791 Richmond Rd., Bells Corners: Patrick Ang, 9:30 p.m. Saturday.

Irene's Pub, 885 Bank St.:The Grass, Saturday; Cabsha, Sunday; The County Boys, Friday.

Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Rd., Orléans: Open musical jam session, 2–5 p.m. Saturday.

Pendradon Pub, 1490 Merivale Rd.: Karaoke, Thursdays.

Rainbow Bistro, 76 Murray St.: The Hammerheads, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday; open blues Jam with L'il ls Combo, 3–7 p.m., Trumped Music,

9 p.m. Sunday; Stacie's Showcase with Erthjuice, Monday; Open blues jam with Big Mojo; Buena Fe, Wednesday, Thursday; The Coggs, 5 p.m., Scott McKeon, Friday.

Rasputin's Folk Cafe, 696 Bronson Ave.: Cara Luft, tomorrow; Penny Lang, Thursday; El Dorado, Friday.

Tucson's, 2440 Bank St. at Hunt Club: Quicksand, Saturday; Bluestone, Friday.

Whispers Pub and Eatery, 249 Richmond Rd.: Wayne Jeffrey, Saturday; Dave Kalil, Friday.

#### LIVE MUSIC–JAZZ

Cafe Paradiso, 199 Bank St.: Laroche, Letourneau Duo, 7 p.m. Saturday.

Fiddleheads Bar and Grill, 53 Herriott St., Perth: Clay Young, piano, Art Katona, trombone and vocals, Sunday.

Landmarks Lounge, Westin Hotel, 11 Colonel By Dr.: Marie Patenaude Trio, 7–9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Options Bar, Brookstreet Hotel, 525 Legget Dr., Kanata: Andrei Krylov, Saturday.

Roses Cafe, 1285 Wellington St.: Bob Johnson Duo, Saturday.

The Royal Oak, 329 March Rd.: Apex Jazz Band, 3–6 p.m. Sunday.

The Royal Oak, 1981 St. Joseph Blvd: Amanda Rheume, 9 p.m. Saturday.

Vineyards Wine Bar and Bistro, 54 York St.: Mike Tremblay Duo, Sunday; Pollcats Duo, Tuesday; Hugh O'Connor Duo, Wednesday.

## LIVE MUSIC–COUNTRY

Barrhaven Legion, 3023 Cedarview Rd.: Halloween party with Unwound, 7–11 p.m. Friday.

Eastview Legion, 294 Cyr Ave.: Music by Dusty King, 7 p.m. Saturday, 4–8 p.m. Sunday.

Greenfields Pub and Eatery, 900 Greenbank Rd.: Musicians Without Borders, 9:30 p.m. Friday. Recording live CD.

## DANCE CLUBS

Babylon, 317 Bank St.: Punk Rawk with DJs Mike and Murielle, Wednesdays; Ready, steady with DJs Cam and Brodie, Thursdays; Progressive techno with international DJs and residents S4 and Quake, Fridays; Dance music alternative style with DJ Simon, Saturdays; R&B with old–school hip hop, Sundays.

Barrymore's, 323 Bank St.: Retro '80's with DJs JP & Ellen, 8 p.m. Sundays; Retro '90's with DJs Cowboy & Indian, 8 p.m. Thursdays; New Music Fridays with DJs Cowboy and Indian, 8 p.m. Fridays.

Bulldog Pub, 380 Elgin St.: Retro '80s Gender Bender with DJ Chemical Cam, Thursdays; The best music in town with DJ Chemical Cam, Fridays, Saturdays.

The Cornerstone Bar and Grill, 92 Clarence St.: DJ's, Fridays, Saturdays.

Balcony Bar and Lounge, 360 Elgin St.: Hip hop and house with Dj Flip and DJ DV8, Thursdays; Hip hop and Top 40 with DJ DV8, Fridays; Hip hop and techno with DJ DV8, Saturdays.

The Great Canadian Cabin, 95 York St.: DJ's Spanky Todd and Chris play a variety of new and oldschool favourites, Thursdays to Saturdays.

Heaven Nightclub, 400a Dalhousie St.: Hip–Hop party with DJ Illo and guests, Thursdays; International world class DJs; Fridays; Martin Villeneuve, Saturdays.

Maxwell's Bistro, 340 Elgin St.: DJ and dance floor, 8 p.m. Thursdays to Saturdays.

Ottawa English Country Dance Club, John G Mlacak Centre, 2500 Campeau Dr.: 7:30 p.m. Fridays. Experience, partners not necessary.

Paraiso, 300 Preston St.(upstairs): Salsa, merengue, bacchata, all Latin, Fridays, Saturdays.

Suite 34, 34 Clarence St.: DJ Wet Willy Electric Ballroom, Saturdays.

Swing Dance Night: The Ottawa Swing Dance Society, 8:30 p.m. One–hour lesson included. Fridays, 151 Chapel St. \$5.

Tantra Night Club, 212 Sparks St.: Quattro Rouge with resident DJs MistaSho, Richniques, Mes, BoJangles, Fridays.

Whiskey Bar, 112 York St.: DJ's Best of '80s Rock DJ Grime, Thursdays; Best of '80s, '90s Rock, Fridays; DJ Spanky, '70s, '80s, '90s Dance DJ Tommy Segin, Saturdays.

Whiskey West, 1280 Baseline Rd.: DJ's Thursdays to Saturdays.

Zaphod Beeblebrox, 27 York St.: The Electric Ballroom with DJs Simon & Tim, Saturdays; Sabbath Sunday, hosted by "Slayer" Pat & Matty M.; Manic Mondays with DJs Tim and Matt; Industrial Strength Tuesdays with DJs Leslie & Jairus; PopScene with DJ Emmett, Wednesdays; Full Flavour with DJ Simon, Thursdays; The Electric Ballroom with DJs Stef and Fiver, Fridays.

#### LITERARY EVENTS

Elisabeth Harvor: Reading from her works, 7 p.m. Saturday at Solstice Bookstore, Wakefield. 819-459-2797.

Chuckle Bros.: Autograph their book *On the Road*, 11 a.m. Saturday at Leishman Books. 613-722-8313.

Arthur Black: Author of *Black to the Grandstone* launches and signs his book, 6 p.m. Thursday at Yuk Yuk's Comedy Club, 88 Albert St. in Capital Hill Hotel.

Book Launch: *The Spirit of the Ride*, *The RCMP Musical Ride*:

2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at RCMP Musical Ride Centre at Rockcliffe Stables.

Books 'n Beer Program: Roy MacSkimming talks about his novel *MacDonald*, 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Ironworks Pub, 79 Little Bridge St., Almonte. Presented by The Miller's Tale book store. 613-256-7840.

John Newlove: Book launch of *A Long Continual Argument: The Selected Poems of John Newlove*,

2 p.m. Sunday at the Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St.

Oblique Strokes: Book launch by The Wellington Street Poets and friends, 7 p.m. Monday in Room 156, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St.

Ottawa International Writers Festival: Through Sunday at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St. For information, [www.writersfestival.org](http://www.writersfestival.org).

Tree Reading Series: Clare Latremouille, author of the novel *The Desmond Road Book of the Dead* is the featured reader, 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Royal Oak II Pub, 161 Laurier Ave. E. Free. 613-749-3773.

Poetry Evening: A Vehicule/Signal poetry evening, 7:30 p.m. Friday at Collected Works Bookstore and Coffeebar, 1242 Wellington St.

#### LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

Harmony, Blend and Balance: Harmonizing and singing with one of England's foremost a-capelola harmony trios and assisted by *Finest Kind*, 1-4 p.m. Saturday at the Old Firehall, 260 Sunnyside Ave. Tickets \$20 members, \$25 others available at the Ottawa Folklore Centre or \$5 extra at the door.

Inside the Music Lecture & Concert Series: A jazz lecture/concert with Bill Coon, Sunday at Alcorn Music Studios, 903 Carling Ave., corner of Sherwood Dr. Tickets \$25 at the studio or 613-0693.

Come Sing, Play and Dance: An Orff workshop for children ages seven to nine led by Leslie Bricker, 2-4 p.m. Sunday at St. Matthias Anglican Church, 555 Parkdale Ave. Pre-registration is \$5 members, \$8 others, \$5 extra at the door. 613-724-3719.

#### SINGLES

Active Singles Group: Meets 6:30 p.m. Mondays at Malone's, Dow's Lake Pavilion. 613-235-6337.

At Eight: For single professional people over 50 to meet for good conversation and fine dining.  
[www.ateight.biz](http://www.ateight.biz)

Cercle d'amitié Jonathan: For French-speaking, 45-plus singles, non-smoking. Sunday breakfast served until 10:30 a.m. at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Hull. 613-746-2204.

Danse Des Amis(es): Halloween dance, 8 p.m. Saturday at Centre Pauline Charron, 164 Jeanne Mance. Western. Gaetan 613-741-0562 or Paul, 613-228-1271.

F.A.C.E.S.: For single Catholics, Sunday brunch following the 11:15 a.m. mass at Good Shepherd Parish in Blackburn Hamlet, at Blackburn Arms, 2586 Innes from 12:30 p.m. Reserve 613-837-9194; Murder-mystery evening, Friday at Cedar View Golf Club, 56 Cedarhill Dr. starting at 6:30 p.m. 613-523-3016.

Gloucester Singles Club: Dance for singles 30 and over, 8:30 p.m. Saturday at the Cyrville Community Centre, 4355 Halmont Dr. Members. Members \$5, guests \$8. 613-860-0990.

Magic Encounters Dances: Single's Dance, every Sunday night for 30+ at 270 Marier Ave. 819-246-3363.

The New Friendship Singles Club: Dance 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Fridays with door prizes at 1000 Byron Ave. close to Woodroffe Avenue and Richmond Road. 613-729-3631.

N.F.A.A. New Friends and Acquaintances: For unattached people in Cornwall and area to meet one another while promoting a healthy lifestyle. [www.cabd.net/directory/listing.php?id=2939](http://www.cabd.net/directory/listing.php?id=2939) .

One Parent Families Association: Friendship group for single parents (custody not required) meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at Dempsey Community Centre, 1895 Russell Rd. Ongoing adult and family activities. 613-834-1308.

Ottawa Single Girlfriends: Social and friendship group for single women ages 35-45. 613-324-7479 for event schedule.

People Meeting People: Western dance for singles 50+, 8 p.m. Saturday at Carleton Heights Community Centre on Appeldorn St. Casual wear/jeans. 613-825-7083.

Prinzo's Dance Bar, 85 O'Connor/Slater: Dance for singles 30+, D.J. favourites, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Saturdays. \$5 cover, neat casual dress code, no jeans. 613-565-1328.

The Single Option: Information evening, 8 p.m. Friday. Reserve at 613-596-6533 or at [www.TheSingleOption.com](http://www.TheSingleOption.com)

Single Seniors Friendship: With other women on a unique journey into new beginnings, 10 a.m. Fridays at The Olde Forge, 2730 Carling Ave., Carling and Richmond Rd. 613-828-4515.

Sunday Brunch Group: For singles has brunches in various restaurants Sundays at 11:30 a.m. Reserve at 613-825-7083.

## OTHER EVENTS

Victoria's Quilts Canada 8th Annual Quilt-a-thon: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday at Orléans United Church, 1111

Orléans Blvd. Register at [victoriasquiltsCanada.com](http://victoriasquiltsCanada.com) or 613-822-3441.

Medieval Feast: Glengarry Place for the Arts presents an evening of classic medieval feasting and entertainment, 5:30 p.m. with entertainers dressed in authentic costume. Admission \$50 at 613-527-2724.

Sky, Snowboard & Travel Show: Equipment sale and swap, travel destinations and more, 10 a.m.–

5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday at Lansdowne Park. Free admission. [www.ottawaskishow.com](http://www.ottawaskishow.com).

Giant Used Toy Sale: The Canadian Toy Testing Council presents its annual fall toy sale, 10:15 a.m.–

2 p.m. Saturday at 1973 Baseline Rd. 613-228-3155.

Comhaltas Irish Ceili Dance:

8 p.m. Saturday with music by the Ottawa Ceili Band and guests the Sue Fay Healy Irish Dancers at Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, 194 Fourth Ave. Singles are welcome. 613-761-8618.

An Evening of Halloween Family Fun: Spooky tunes, macabre melodies and haunting harmonies, 7:30 p.m. Friday at Rideau Park United Church, 2203 Alta Vista Dr. 613-738-9223. Free but donations welcome.

Cantley's Phantom Village:

6:30–9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27 at Mont Cascades Resort. Admission fee is one kilogram of candy per child, adult guests 16 and older pay \$2 fee. [www.villagefantome.ca](http://www.villagefantome.ca).

Italian Culture afternoon: A showcase of art, artifacts, crafts, music, traditions, food and wine,

2–5 p.m. Sunday at Villa Marconi, 1026 Baseline Rd. Free admission. 613-737-0431.

Artists Talk: With Lynne Anderson and Tony Fohse discuss their works as part of Festival X/Ottawa Photography Festival 2007, 6 p.m. Wednesday at La Petite Mort Gallery, 306 Cumberland. 613-860-1555.

Contra Dance to Live Celtic Music: Music by Big Night Band, 7:30 p.m. Saturday at All Saints Anglican Church, Laurier and Chapel, \$10. 613-761-7582. No experience needed.

Ottawa Nostalgia and Collectibles Show and Sale: With 60 dealers, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Sunday at the Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave. Admission \$5, under 12 free. 613-850-5446.

Inspirations Needlecraft Show: Featuring classes, fashion show, demonstrations and merchant mall, 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Saturday at Hampton Conference Centre, 200 Coventry Rd. 613-744-0989.

Third World Bazaar: Colourful handcrafted goods from around the world, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and Oct. 26–28; Nov. 2–4; Nov. 9–11 at the barn in Manotick Station, 6110 Mitch Owens Dr.

Around About Ottawa: Guided walking tours of historic landmarks and famous tourist sites in Ottawa's beautiful downtown. Reservations required. Minimum two people. 613-599-1016

Ghosts and the Gallows: 8 p.m. nightly. Departs from corner of Sparks Street and Elgin Street. Reserve at 613-232-0344.

Crime and Punishment Jail Tour: 7 p.m. nightly. Depart from lobby of the Ottawa Jail Hostel, 75 Nicholas St.

Reserve 613-232-0344.

Naughty Ottawa Pub Walk: 7 p.m. Saturdays, depart from ticket office, 73 Clarence St. Reserve 613-232-0344.

The Original Haunted Walk of Ottawa Tour: 8 p.m. nightly. Departs from the corner of Sparks Street and Elgin Street. Reserve at 613-232-0344.

Ottawa On Foot: Historical walking tours of downtown Ottawa. Private tours only. 613-447-7566.

Parliament of Canada — Tours: Free Centre Block guided tours available daily; schedule varies throughout the year and when Parliament is sitting. Visit [www.parl.gc.ca/vis](http://www.parl.gc.ca/vis) or call 613-239-5000. (Tours may be re-routed or cancelled without notice due to parliamentary activity). 613-239-5000.

Saunders Farm, 7893 Bleeks Rd., Munster: Pumpkin Art Festival and Carving competition presented by Majic 100 and CTV, public can join local artists in creating a pumpkin masterpiece, Saturday, Sunday; Haunted hayrides, live stage shows, puppet show, parades, 11 mazes and more. Open 6-10 p.m. Fridays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sundays, to Oct. 31. Fee. 613-838-5440.

Tour of the Supreme Court of Canada, Wellington Street: Law students conduct free guided tours on weekdays. Reservations are required. 613-995-5361 or [tour@scc-csc.gc.ca](mailto:tour@scc-csc.gc.ca)

Upper Canada Village, Morrisburg: Celebration of Thanksgiving weekend with old-fashioned games, 19th century fall activities, and more, Saturday, Sunday; Old-fashioned horse-drawn wagon rides. 613-543-4328 or 1-800-437-2233.

## MUSEUMS

Canada Agriculture Museum, Prince of Wales Drive, south of the traffic circle: Celebrate the fall with daily demonstrations and weekend activities centred around Canada's bountiful harvest, Saturday and Sunday; Tractors exhibition; The Museum Passport; Access to the animal barns and exhibitions, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Food for Health Exhibition, to Oct. 31; New themes for birthday parties year-round for ages three-12. Fee. 613-991-3044.

Canada Aviation Museum, 11 Parkway: Art Flight 2007; Introduction to Aviation Art Workshops. 613-993-2010.

Canada Science and Technology Museum, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd.: Collection Tours, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Fee. 613-991-3053.

Canadian Clock Museum, 60 James St., Deep River: Large exhibits of Pequegnat, Westclox, and Snider Canadian clocks. Call to confirm hours. 613-584-9687. Fee.

Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier St., Gatineau: Chinese Watercolour Painting, 1-5 p.m. Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday in special exhibitions corridor; Of Rum and Water, bilingual play by Jean Herbiet, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturdays to Nov. 24 in Canada Hall; In My Lifetime, Contemporary Aboriginal Art, to March 8; Treasures from China, to Oct. 28; Canada in a Box: Cigar Containers that Store Our Past 1883-1935, a new virtual exhibition on view at [www.civilization.ca/tresors/cigares/cigar-boxes-e.html](http://www.civilization.ca/tresors/cigares/cigar-boxes-e.html) Open Tuesday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Closed Mondays. 819-776-7000.

Canadian Children's Museum, in the Canadian Museum of Civilization: Scary Sketches, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday; Kids Celebrate!, explore how children around the world celebrate at this time of year: Bat Hunt, to Oct. 31. Open Tuesday–Sunday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Closed Mondays. 819–776–7000.

Canadian Postal Museum, in the Canadian Museum of Civilization: The Post Goes Pop, exhibition looks at the role played by the postal service in everyday life; Signed, Sealed, Delivered; Reflections of Canada: The National Stamp Collection. Fee. Open daily 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m. 819–776–7000.

Canadian Museum of Nature, 240 McLeod St.: Renovated West Wing features the new Talisman Energy Fossil Gallery, which represents the end of the dinosaur age and rise of mammals, a refurbished interactive Mammal Gallery and a new Bird Gallery with hundreds of birds plus a special play area for kids; New Discovery Zone with activities and HD movies. On the Labrador: Photography by Arnold Zageris and The Gee! in Genome. East wing is closed for renovation.). nature.ca. Open 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday, to 8 p.m. Thursdays. 613–566–4700

Canadian Ski Museum, 1960 Scott St.: Explore the history of skiing, see how the sport has evolved and learn about Canada's great champions in the Canadian Ski Hall of Fame, 3rd floor Trailhead. 613–722–3584.

Canadian War Museum, 1 Vimy Place: Afghanistan: A Glimpse of War, extended until April 27; War Brides: Portraits of an Era, which features portraits of war brides to Jan.6; and Stitches in Time which features 15 quilted artworks, to Jan. 6. Open Tuesday to Sunday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m. 819–776–8600.

Diefenbunker, 3911 Carp Rd., Carp: See 100,000 sq. ft. bunker that was intended to protect the government and military in the event of an attack. Visits by guided tour only, Monday–Fridays at 2 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. Reservations required. Fee. 613–839–0007.

Fulford Place Mansion Museum, 287 King St. E., Brockville: Metal artifacts identification workshop with Janet Carlile, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Saturday; Guided lantern tours from 6–9 p.m. Friday, leaving every half hour; This 35–room Edwardian home was built in 1899–1901 for Senator George T. Fulford, a successful marketer of Pink Pills for Pale People. Open for tours Tuesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with last tour departing at 3 p.m. Tearoom. 613–498–3003.

Glengarry Pioneer Museum, County Road 24 at the crossroads with County Road 30: Antiques and Collectibles for the Novice classes, to Nov. 2, 7–9 p.m. at the Dunvegan Recreational Association Hall in Dunvegan. 613–527–5230.

Heritage House Museum, 11 Old Slys Rd., Smiths Falls: A Snapshot of Rideau Life, a photography exhibition and sale. Six photographers give their visual impression of life along the Rideau Canal which has recently been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to Oct. 28. Open daily 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 613–283–8560. Fee.

Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St.: Aboriginal Treaties: Spirit and Intent, Understanding Aboriginal Treaties, 9 a.m.–10 p.m. daily, exhibition room C; Order of Canada, to May 11; Literary Landscapes of French Canada, Nov. 23; Cultural Celebrities of Quebec, March 30. Open 9 a.m.–10 p.m. daily. Free. 613–996–6138.

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, 3 Rosamond St., Almonte: Carl Stewart, Fragments, to Oct. 28; Unclothing and Uncovering: Revealing Art in Textiles, by Wendy Feldberg, Karen Goetzinger, Carmella Karijo Rother, to Oct. 31. 613–256–3754.

National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Dr: Exhibitions and installations: Snap Judgements: New Positions in Contemporary African Photography; Platinum and Photogravure, to Nov. 12; Inuit Sculpture Show, to Nov.



18, Early Twentieth Century British Wood Engraving, to Dec. 2. Garry Neill Kennedy: Superstar Shadow 1984–2005, to Dec. 12; Cheryl Sourkes: Public Camera, to Sunday. Free guided tour of the collection with a docent, sign-up in the Great Hall, daily at 2 p.m. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursdays to 8 p.m. 613–990–1985.

Nepean Museum, 16 Rowley Ave.: Celebrating the 40th anniversary of Canada's Centennial and another Centennial -- 100 years -- of the Boy Scouts of Canada. 613–723–7936.

Old Stone Mill, National Historic Site & Museum of Early Industrial Technology, 4 Court St., Delta: Open 10 a.m.–5 p.m. daily. 613–928–2584.

The Ottawa Art Gallery, 2 Daly Ave.: Natasha Mazurka talks about her artist residency in Sweden, 12:30 p.m. Friday; Media Povera, to Nov. 11; Tourist, to Nov. 4. 613–233–8699 ext. 225.

Perth Museum, National Historic Site, c1840, 11 Gore St. E., Perth: Our Quilting Heritage, 40 quilts date 1833–1967, to Dec. 31; Four restored period rooms, two galleries with featuring exhibition, Victorian Fashion and Society in Perth; Victorian garden, outdoor bake oven and herb garden. Admission by donation. 613–267–1947.

Symmes Inn Museum, 1 Front St., Gatineau: Regional history museum, open Tuesday–Sunday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Free.

The Royal Canadian Mint, 320 Sussex Dr.: Along with seeing \$1 million in gold, you can hold more than \$175,000 of pure gold in your hands. 613–993–8990.

The Victoria School Museum, 256 Edmund St., Carleton Place: The Place for All Seasons, view the history of Carleton Place through the decades and the seasons. Displays, original artifacts and hands-on activities. Open daily 10 a.m.–4, 1–4 p.m. Sundays. 613–253–7013.

## NEW ART SHOWS

Art Mode Gallery, 96 George St.: 25th anniversary exhibition by Michel Leroux, to Oct. 28. . 613–241–1511, ext. 224.

Centre d'exposition l'Imagier, 9 rue Front, Aylmer: Six Artists, Six Rivers, Three Countries, mixed media, to Dec. 9 . 819–684–1445.

Galerie D'art Jean–Claude–Bergeron, 150 St. Patrick St.: Paul Clouthier, to Nov. 4. Vernissage 2–5:30 p.m. Sunday. 613–562–7836.

Galerie Old Chelsea, 10 Scott Rd., Chelsea, Que.: Under the Sun, a group show by Lucie Leclerc, Malcolm Cowell, and Jacques Dompierre, to Nov. 8, opening reception 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday. 613–748–7528.

Galerie St–Laurent+Hill, 333 Cumberland: Victoria Block, Oct. 31, vernissage, 1–5 p.m. Sunday. 613–789–714

# Young and old songs

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Chrome Dreams II

HHH 1/2

Neil Young (Reprise)

Never much of a slouch, Neil Young has been even more prolific since his brush with death in 2005. After brain surgery for an aneurysm, he put out the reflective, acoustic disc *Prairie Wind*, and a warm and fuzzy film to go with it. Then last year, he released the powerful *Living With War*, a politically charged rock outing that let him rant against the war with some of the most ferocious songwriting of his career.

Now comes something that takes a little from each side of the Canadian-born rocker, and draws from his early days. Named after an album recorded in the late 1970s but never released, *Chrome Dreams II* contains gentle folky material and sprawling electric-rock tracks.

The first three songs date from the 1980s. *Beautiful Bluebird* and *Boxcar* sound like they're foreshadowing a sequel to *Prairie Wind*, defined by plenty of stringed instruments and a chorus of angelic voices. But then comes *Ordinary People*, a sprawling, 18-minute beast of a song laden with horns and searing electric guitars. Recorded in 1988, it suggests that Young is in the mood to tie up loose ends.

The disc downshifts with several gentle musings on faith, including *Shining Light*, *The Believer* and *Ever After*. The edgy *Spirit Road* pulls the music out of any potential rut, and the raw, irreverent *Dirty Old Man* elicits a smile — though a quickie about trying to make a living and getting hammered on a Friday night isn't going to go down as one of Young's most memorable songs.

Songwriting aside, there are some notable performances. One of the best comes in *No Hidden Path*, where Young and his bandmates settle into a groove and play around with it for 14 minutes. While casual listeners might not have the patience for the whole thing, it's a must for diehard fans. Come to think of it, you could say the same about the whole album.

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rock & pop

Raising Sand

Rating 4 1/2

Robert Plant and Alison Krauss (Rounder)

Some things that should never go together (say, aged balsamic vinegar and vanilla ice cream) are in fact sublime when combined. Keep that in mind if you're skeptical about *Raising Sand*, the new disc from country/bluegrass songbird Alison Krauss and Led Zeppelin wailer Robert Plant. The combination of voices and styles is inexplicable, but the disc, out Tuesday, is a tremendous success.

The songs, culled from the catalogues of Tom Waits, Townes Van Zandt, Gene Clark and others, range from mellow to moody to haunting. Highlights include a brooding stroll through the LaBostrie–Millet song *Rich Woman*, the easy rollick of the Everly Brothers' *Gone, Gone, Gone (Done Moved On)*, and the slow gypsy stomp of of Sam Phillips' *Sister Rosetta Goes Before Us*.

The atmosphere rises from the guiding hand of producer T Bone Burnett, who has crafted a tight but expansive sound, all reverb and harmonies and cultural influences.

*Raising Sand* is sure to be one of 2007's greatest — and most unexpected — successes.

Peter Simpson

In Rainbows

Rating 4

Radiohead

*In Rainbows* is very much the gloriously mournful Radiohead we've all come to love. Closer to the insular *Kid A* than the more radio friendly *Hail to the Thief*, the tracks are typically dense and atmospheric, a hefty smog of electronica, sampling and hiccuping backbeats, which Thom Yorke's cherubic falsetto pierces like pinpricks of light.

The lazy trip-hop of *15 Step* sets the mood of these headphone symphonies, and the upbeat *Bodysnatchers* is perhaps the most radio friendly track. The third track, *Nude*, is the first stunner. Starting out with a haunting orchestral score and a dash of reverb, this despondent ballad gets downright chilling once Yorke begins to coo.

The short *Faust Arp* is richly orchestrated and Greenwood's gorgeous finger-plucking carries the latter half of the tune.

The album closes out nicely with the piano-driven *Videotape*, which seems influenced by the minimalist electronic work of Boards of Canada.

Ultimately, it's the ideal iPod album, one made for intimate listens walking down chilly streets on overcast days.

Available bydownload at [Inrainbows.com](http://Inrainbows.com)

Nick Lewis

Metal

Young and old songs

Pilgrimage

Rating 3

Om (Southern Lord)

Somebody must have slipped something into Om's collective drink. Opening dirge Pilgrimage is 10-and-a-half minutes of heavy-lidded chant, bass noodle and wispy tabla bonk, a tune so quiet you may think your hi-fi is on the fritz. Unitive Knowledge Of The Godhead has volume in spades as bassist/singer Al Cisneros mumbles on and drummer Chris Hakius somnambulates through a shambolic beatdown.

Om's otherworldly brand of metal conjures up religious themes and an oblique take on mysticism, though the faith base remains mysterious. Worship at the altar of the underworld, explore life, death and redemption and don't forget to flip off the lava lamp before you pass out. This late night drone squad carefully excises spirituality though bombastic salvation.

Shawn Jam Hill

Rap/ Hip Hop

Lightning Strikes

Rating 3 1/2

Aceyalone (Decon/Koch)

For anyone familiar with the work of indie emcee Aceyalone, the first notes of Lightning Strikes come as a bit of surprise. The album begins with a voice jumping out of the speakers, proclaiming "Aceyalone -- new sounds!" and then the dancehall riddims take hold, and don't let go for the next 46 minutes

This isn't watered-down pop dancehall either. For the most part, Aceyalone and friends toast over serious down-lo beats with hyper-active drum machines, dutty percussion, synths, sirens & lasers and riddims courtesy of up-and-comer Bionik -- who does a great job of "mixing up the tonic."

A founding member of hip-hop collective Freestyle Fellowship in the '90s, Aceyalone has taken a major detour with this record. His last album, Magnificent City, was a critically acclaimed collaboration with Def Jux instrumentalist Rjd2 that was influenced by urban life.

This album is more of a sunny ode to the music of Jamaica and even though it does seem a bit calculated, it actually flows quite naturally: ou can almost picture some of these tracks going blow for blow with whatever Rihanna song is playing on the radio these days.

The again, who listens to radio anymore anyway?

Eric Cohen

ROOTS

Lucky Blue

Rating 3

Young and old songs

Tannis Slimmon (Independent)

Usually inclined to the lyrical and hopeful, Prairie native Tannis Slimmon does an about-face on Edmonton, the middle track on her new album. It's a first-person account by an emotionally inarticulate woman — "I hated guns" is as outspoken as the narrator ever gets — about losing her soldier husband in Afghanistan, and the song's unadorned lines say more about heartbreak and the waste of war than an arsenal of words ever could.

Other tunes on the album are good, sometimes very good, but never rise to the simple power of Edmonton.

Slimmon, a longtime member of the folk trio the Bird Sisters, is helped out here by such notable Canadian musicians as David Francey, Stephen Fearing and Ken Whiteley.

Tannis Slimmon plays the NAC Fourth Stage Wednesday.

Patrick Langston

Classical

Mozart: Concertos 11 and 12

Rating 4 1/2

Janina Fialkowska, piano; Chamber Players of Canada (ATMA)

Anyone who remembers the all-Mozart concert given in St. Andrew's at the time of Julian Armour's resignation from the Ottawa Chamber Music Society will want this disc. It includes the same program performed by the same musicians. It was recorded in Toronto in the days immediately following that memorable concert.

The piano concertos are presented in the composer's own transcriptions for piano and string quartet, to which these performances add a double bass. Janina Fialkowska and the string ensemble achieve a virtually perfect consensus in their playing.

The Chamber Players of Canada is a group of flexible makeup, though cellist Armour and his wife, violist Guylaine Lemaire, have always been part of it. The other members in these performances are violinists Jonathan Crow and Manuela Milani and bass player Murielle Bruneau. As always, the playing is of the highest quality.

Like the concert, this CD also includes a delightful account of Mozart's Quartet no, 4 in C, with an especially beautiful slow movement.

Richard Todd

Jazz

The Wish

Rating 3 1/2

Julie Hardy (World Culture Music)

Young and old songs

Julie Hardy proves herself to be doubly a treat on *The Wish*.

On one hand, she's a strong interpreter of well-known material. Her pure, earnest voice make the classic ballads *Meaning of the Blues* and *I Fall In Love Too Easily* sound new again. She winningly modernizes *We Kiss In A Shadow* and *I Wish I Knew* with subtle add-ons.

She's also got a knack for composing. On *August*, *On the Verge* and other songs, Hardy uses her voice as an instrument to deliver wordless melodies.

Guest saxophonists Jaleel Shaw and Sam Sadigursky enliven the CD, while guitarist Ben Monder, heard this month in Ottawa with saxophonist Donny McCaslin, is a consummate accompanist and soloist.

With her voice and compositions, Hardy seems determined to expand the tradition-bound box that too often defines jazz singers.

Peter Hum

#### RATINGS

Rating 5: A classic of the genre

Rating 4: Excellent

Rating 3: Good

Rating 2: Fair

Rating 1: If your host puts this on, leave.

Your CD here

We want local bands on our Recordings page. Send us a copy of your new disc and we'll consider it for review. Send review copies to Arts editor Peter Simpson, Ottawa Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Ottawa, K2C 3M4.

E-mail exciting info to ottawarocks

@thecitizen.canwest.com.

# Prepare for a continental shift

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Make no mistake, Stéphane Dion is no milquetoast. Following Quebec's 1995 referendum, he tackled the separatist dragon with due diligence, learned letters and the astute Clarity Act — facing down, along the way, even the formidable Lucien Bouchard.

Partisan posturing aside, concerns about weakness usually mask concerns about something for which great strength is required. So, unable to make an impact on other files or to connect either in his province or elsewhere, it may be Dion did the job for which he was specially recruited too successfully and now, with Quebec separatism waning, his time has passed. Certainly, if the man with a Ph.D in public administration and the looks of celebrity hoser Rick Moranis seemed an unlikely separatist-buster, he appears an even less likely saviour of a party caught in the death throes that necessarily precede resurrection.

In any case and although the trappings of Quebec separatism remain intact, it is a decidedly different beast that is slouching toward the federal status quo, one whose influence will have continental implications and whose taming will require an approach different from anything Stéphane Dion appears to have contemplated.

Linda Diebel's new biography *Stéphane Dion: Against the Current*, describes how the young Dion became a federalist. It was the early 1990s and a time of worldwide ethnic tension. But the Canada–Quebec conflict was different, Dion argued in an essay for the Brookings Institution in Washington, from the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia and Ethiopia. "Created in 1867, the Canadian confederation is not a decaying, totalitarian regime, a new democracy, or an unstable Third World country; it is a wealthy modern welfare state."

While it is true Canada is no Soviet Union, he overlooked Czechoslovakia. By 1992, the velvet revolution that earlier unburdened the two–nation country of Communist dominance had also laid the groundwork for its velvet dissolution. Arguably, though, it was the existence of the European Union that eased the separation of the Czechs and the Slovaks by simplifying citizenship and labour mobility issues.

To be sure, no one was talking about a North American Union in the nineties; today such discussions are rife in conspiracy theory circles and silently acknowledged in others. But if free trade opened Canada–U.S. borders, 9/11 and the Security and Prosperity Partnership agreement established the impetus and the bureaucratic infrastructure necessary for next steps. In the meantime, interprovincial and state/province agreements are establishing new trading and other blocs. British Columbia and California, for instance, signed a memorandum of understanding on climate change this year while British Columbia and Alberta, signatories to the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (a de facto economic union) held their fifth annual joint cabinet meeting. In Quebec, Mario Dumont's Action démocratique is demanding and will probably acquire a greater devolution of powers.

In other words, some new North American continental arrangement is under way. Call it the rise of the region state or the post national state but as nation states everywhere adapt to the imperatives of a globalized economy, new political dynamics are following. Today, it is on Canada's doorstep and Quebec's aspirations are the first of many it will accommodate.

This new sweep of history will require transcendent leadership to contain and to direct it.

This need not preclude Stéphane Dion though Stephen Harper, with his Québécois-as-nation motion, spending power restraints, and throne-speech designs for an economic union, has set the pace, if not the tone, on this issue.

Potential Liberal leadership candidates also qualify but former New Brunswick premier and one-time ambassador to the U.S., Frank McKenna stands out, as does former deputy PM John Manley. His credentials continue to deepen with his appointment as chair of the Afghanistan review panel.

Margret Kopala's column on western perspectives appears every other week.



# A doomed mission; The panel looking into Canada's role in Afghanistan won't find the achievable objective we've been lacking

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**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
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**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B7  
**COLUMN:** Gar Pardy  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Shah Marai, AFP Getty / Two Canadian soldiers standguard at the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) headquarters in Kandahar, Afghanistan. ;  
**BYLINE:** Gar Pardy  
**SOURCE:** Citizen Special  
**WORD COUNT:** 975

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The two unspoken words in the prime minister's recent announcement creating the Independent Panel on Canada's Future Role in Afghanistan were "exit strategy."

Unlike the daily litany of these words in the Iraq debate in the United States, in Canada the two words are only implicit in the announcement. Nevertheless the panel is a short-term exit strategy on the Afghan issue for the government to remove it from the feverish atmosphere surrounding the resumption of Parliament. Mackenzie King would be proud of the stratagem.

In one fell swoop, the prime minister disarmed the Official Opposition. The panel broadens the fence on which the Liberals have been uncomfortably sitting and effectively removes the one issue of some consequence from forthcoming parliamentary debates. The NDP and the Bloc will remain consistent with their previous views but their voices will be of little consequence. The government will be sailing in blue waters in the coming months and Canadians may have a breather from the overheated debate on the possibility of a fall election.

The emphasis, however, is on the short term. Like the government's stratagem in 2006 in obtaining parliamentary approval for the two-year extension of the Kandahar commitment in Afghanistan, the panel is a flawed instrument that may have some impact on some Canadians; however, it will have no effect whatsoever on events in Afghanistan. And before Canadians get too comfortable with Mr. Harper's handling of the issue, it would be prudent to remember that is where the war is and Canadians are dying.

Others have pointed out that panel members have been carefully selected and are ideologically and sociologically coherent. They are not neophytes in Canada's political wars and, if past expressions are a guide, have strong views on Afghanistan.

Equally important they are not experts on Afghanistan or military affairs. It is easy to understand why it was not named an "expert" panel and shows that someone had a sense of humour with the use of the word "independent." This is especially so in light of comments in the Speech from the Throne on Tuesday, when the government declared its intention to see the Afghan mission extended to 2011.

As such there can be every expectation that the panel will provide recommendations that closely adhere to the government's existing policy. Road to Damascus conversions should not be expected. And should there be, the manner in which President George W. Bush handled the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group provides the prime minister with a useful precedent on how quickly recommendations can be shunted into the archives.

The four options listed by the prime minister for study by the panel assume an almost benign Afghan and Alliance environment. The construction of the options -- continue training the Afghan army and police so Canada can begin withdrawing its forces in February 2009; focus on reconstruction and have forces from another country take over security in Kandahar; shift Canadian security and reconstruction effort to another region in Afghanistan; withdraw all Canadian military except a minimal force to protect aid workers and diplomats --are all designed to beguile.

The options also assume that in the Afghan chess game, Canada can play both the white and black pieces.

Nothing could be further from the Afghan reality. The government is in its present pickle because the initial deployment decision by the previous government ignored that reality; nor was it a factor when the present government extended the mission. It is the same folly that led the Americans to their debacle in Iraq.

The government in instructing the panel states it should keep in mind the "potential" for deterioration in security and development. Obviously, this is a reality that has been with us for some time and its importance is undercut by its being boxed with such factors as the sacrifices already made and our obligations to NATO, the UN and our international reputation.

It is now close to six years since the first Canadian troops arrived in Afghanistan and the current war has exceeded the days of the Second World War. The lack of a coherent achievable objective still bedevils the mission and in its absence public ambiguity can only become more so. Rampant poppy production, the use of the death penalty, torture of prisoners and corruption are not influenced by the presence of western troops or episodic development efforts. These are issues Afghans know but they also know they are part of the social cohesion that will provide for the continued existence of Afghanistan in its historical framework.

There is only one real western objective in Afghanistan -- to ensure that it is not again used as a base for al-Qaeda in its worldwide jihadist objectives. The idea that foreign troops can promote enormous social change is an enormous con and gets in the way of achieving the one thing that makes sense to most western audiences.

Recently the commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps suggested that his soldiers should get out of Iraq and perhaps be used in Afghanistan since they fight best in an "expeditionary" role. The idea that Afghanistan six years after the fall of the Taliban still needs an expeditionary force should give pause to all, including the panel. Perhaps such a pause might lead to a better understanding of what is possible in the chaos of present day Afghanistan.

Lt.-Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, former commander of American forces in Iraq, spoke publicly this month. He described American political leadership as "incompetent" and Iraq being a "nightmare with no end in sight."

Mr. Harper's panel might wish to invite the general to Ottawa for a discussion of the commonalities with Afghanistan since he was responsible for part of that "nightmare."

Gar Pardy retired from the foreign service in 2003. E-mail: [garp@rogers.com](mailto:garp@rogers.com)

A doomed mission; The panel looking into Canada's role in Afghanistan won't find the achievable objective v

# Surviving Chrétien

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
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**PAGE:** B5  
**BYLINE:** Raymond Rivet  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 61

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Jean Chrétien suggests we could have sent our troops to a safer place in Afghanistan. That kind of leadership would now have us fielding calls to shoulder the load rather than issuing the calls. I suspect that men like Paul Martin are the reason we survived Mr. Chrétien's tenure.

Raymond Rivet, Ottawa

# Alternative North Americas; In this excerpt from Uneasy Neighbo(u)rs: Canada, the USA and the Dynamics of State, Industry and Culture, authors David T. Jones and David Kilgour explain that, although Canada and the U.S. have similar histories, they have developed different approaches to the rest of the world

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Saturday Observer  
**PAGE:** B4  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Jim Young, Reuters / (See hard copy for photodescription) ;  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 819

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Ever since Canada evolved into something other than a colony of Great Britain, it has puzzled over its relationship with the United States. The phenomenon can be viewed as akin to an accordion being played: regularly moving/squeezing closer and then changing harmony by pulling back. It is also analogous to the psychologist's approach/avoidance" concept in which, as two bodies move closer, the forces to be overcome increase and push them apart again.

The Canada–U.S. bilateral relationship has been characterized by innumerable adages and pithy descriptive phrases. One of the most trenchant is attributed to John Bartlet Brebner: "Americans are benignly ignorant of Canada. Canadians are malevolently well informed about the United States." Another suggests that there is the sociological equivalent of a one–way mirror at the border. Canadians looking south see Americans as they are, but Americans looking north see only a reflection of themselves.

One might also say that geography has made us neighbours; history has made us allies; economics has made us partners; but we are friends by choice. More cynically, "we are best friends, like it or not"; if so, we are certainly in a "not" portion of the cycle as the relationship moves further into the 21st century, although many Canadians would say that the hostility is to the Bush administration rather than to the American people.

Rather than belabouring differences, another approach to examining our countries is to suggest that we are "alternative North Americas." Both Canada and the United States have similar political and historical origins in the United Kingdom, a commitment to free market capitalism to differing degrees, and a demography that began with indigenous tribes but now reflects worldwide immigration. Both have technologically sophisticated, well–educated populations. And each is attempting to find solutions for basic questions of the 21st century: the most effective mechanisms of political expression for two peoples enjoying essentially the same human rights and freedoms; the most rational and effective manner to secure the safety of the population from external threat; the delivery of health services and care of the elderly; the education of children in a manner permitting them to address problems 50 years into the future; the exploitation of natural resources

without significant environmental damage; the balance between the freedom and privacy of individual citizens with the societal objective of safety from violence; and creating the conditions for equality of opportunity — if not equality of outcome.

As a superpower, the United States has wider — indeed global — interests and a greater ability to implement and defend its interests than does Canada. While Washington is willing to consult with others and even modify elements of its approaches and objectives if given convincing reasons to do so, it remains willing to act on its perception of its interests — alone, if necessary. Its willingness to act unilaterally reflects its ability to do so. Canada believes that significant international action — particularly force of arms — can only be taken in conjunction with allies and, if possible, with the sanction of the United Nations. By a systematic although somewhat absent-minded long-term neglect of its defense establishment, Canada virtually abdicated from significant military action. It is still to be determined whether Canada's venture into a NATO-Afghanistan commitment is a one-off exercise or a return to an earlier era. The intensely divided citizenry and very narrow May 2006 parliamentary endorsement of a continued participation suggests the former as Canada's future.

Consequently, to be able to defend and implement its global interests, the U.S. maintains a massive defense establishment at high expense and employing the most advanced technology both for offense and defense. In contrast, Canada's armed forces are marginal; they are now far below what its economy could maintain or what comparable countries do support. In effect, Canada has subcontracted its defense to the United States, making the actuarial judgment that it could never defend itself against attack from the south, but that any external threat to Canada would also threaten the United States — and the U.S. would have to address it. Hence, Canada can be defended badly at great expense or badly at little expense. With health care being more popular than a modernized military, the Canadian choice has been an antiquated military and it is likely to remain so, regardless of temporary upgrades of equipment or personnel.

Excerpted from *From Uneasy Neighbo(u)rs*, Wiley, \$33.99

# He said, he said; A tale of two prime ministerial memoirs

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Brian Mulroney and Jean Chrétien shared a laugh at the unveiling of Mulroney's portrait. ; Photo: Gary Hershorn, Reuters / 'When I came down for breakfast ...' Jean Chrétien wrote, 'I received my instructions for the day from my wife (Aline, pictured) and daughter. ; Photo: John Major, the Ottawa Citizen / (See hard copy for photo description) ; Photo: Bruno Schlumberger, Ottawa Citizen / Aline Chrétien, pictured with her husband in 1994, woke the newly-elected prime minister up with the words 'Would you like coffee, prime minister?' It didn't sink in until then, Jean Chrétien said in his memoirs. ; Photo: Robert Cooper, National Archives of Canada / Brian and Mila Mulroney with Pierre Trudeau at the National Art Centre in 1984. ; Photo: Paul Latour, the Ottawa Citizen / Brian Mulroney called former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher 'a remarkable leader.' ;

**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 613

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Two former prime ministers, two powerful egos driven to record their own history, leads us to two memoirs duking it out on the bestseller lists. Louisa Taylor compares the recently released memoirs of Brian Mulroney and Jean Chrétien.

Pages, excluding appendices

Mulroney: 1015

Chrétien: 407

Years covered

Mulroney: 1939–1993

Chrétien: 1993–2003

Research and writing

Mulroney: Handwritten

manuscript based on intermittent journals and copious notes taken during his years in office, supplemented by researcher Arthur Milnes.

Chrétien: Recorded interviews supplemented by research and writing by author Ron Graham.

Dedication

He said, he said; A tale of two prime ministerial memoirs

Mulroney: To his wife, Mila

Chrétien: To his children, his grandchildren, and his wife, Aline

On becoming

prime minister

Mulroney: "I stood before the television set with Mila, surrounded by cheering friends, as the beauty of the moment washed over me."

Chrétien: "The reality didn't sink in until the next

morning, when Aline woke me up with the words,

'Do you want a coffee, prime minister?'

24 Sussex Dr.

Mulroney: "The official

residence was anything

but restful ... the house was cooled during stifling

Ottawa summers by noisy air conditioning units placed in windows. In the winter, family and guests often found themselves shivering in the 34-room limestone home."

Chrétien: "Stornoway ... is a much better house (than 24 Sussex) --- better built,

better maintained,

better laid out --- except

for the fact that nobody wants to stay there for long and nobody wants to be sent back to it."

Regrets

Mulroney: "For me the end of Meech was like a death in the family. I carry with me to this very day a throbbing sense of loss for one of the greatest might-have-beens in Canada's 140-year history. I carry with me as well the scars from those battles --- some self-inflicted, others not --- that I wear as a badge of honour secured in an

honourable attempt to strengthen our nation."

Chrétien: "There were some areas, I have to admit, in which we went too far with our cuts. Some ... we were able to correct after we balanced the books; others were irreversible."

On the Airbus case

Mulroney: "I will deal with this extraordinary ... attempt to destroy a former prime minister of Canada ... in another book, at another time."

Chrétien: "I didn't intervene one way or the other in the RCMP investigation into the so-called Airbus scandal ... (Mulroney) had done a number of good things as prime minister and he had suffered enough humiliation when his great party had been reduced to two seats in the wake of his retirement. As far as I was concerned, he didn't need to be hit with anything else."

On media:

Mulroney: "I had always

accepted the notion of an adversarial relationship with the media ... Where I drew the line, however, was at the deep disrespect and malice shown by some gallery members ... so I withdrew from the offensive farce they staged and refused to attend a press conference."

Chrétien: "I never watched the evening news, which was probably why I slept so well."

On resigning,

or not resigning, "

after two terms

Mulroney: "If you run again and win, either a majority or minority government, what do you want to achieve? And my answer is simply 'more of the same.' I do not believe that honest answer to be adequate, so I will step aside."

Chrétien: "I didn't stay

(for a third term) because I wanted to cling to power ... or deny Paul Martin's dream. I stayed because I loved the job ... I was damned if I was going to let myself be shoved out the door by a gang of self-serving goons."

On successors

Mulroney: "The PC party would have been left with a hell of a lot more than two seats had it been me facing off against Jean Chrétien in October 1993."

Chrétien: "Unfortunately when my successor took too long to make up his mind about whether Canada should extend our term (in Afghanistan), our soldiers were moved out of Kabul and sent south again to battle the Taliban in the killing fields around Kandahar."

On each other

Mulroney on Chrétien:

"His disadvantages include intellectual insolence and a very considerable measure of vanity."

Chrétien on Mulroney: "He can't have been too happy to see someone he looked down on (Chrétien) succeed in so many areas where he himself had failed."

Final words

Mulroney: "I leave with a happy heart and a sense of fulfillment at having done much and at all times having done my best for Canada."



Chrétien: "Vive le Canada!"

# Three years old . . . and engaged; Poverty forces Afghan parents to find spouses for their underage children

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS / Three-year-old Sunam in a bridal outfit in Kabul. ; Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS / Sunam, in her engagement outfit, holds hands with her cousin, Niem, 7, who's also her fianc . Marriage between first cousins is common in Afghanistan. ; Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS / Sunam is held by her father, Parvez. The families of the betrothed children believe if the two grow up knowing they will marry, they will be happy to wed. The plan is for them to marry when Sunam is 14 or 15. ;

**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** ALISA TANG  
**SOURCE:** The Associated Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 845

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When asked about her engagement party this summer, little Sunam glanced blankly at her family, then fiddled with her gold-sequined engagement outfit — a speechless response not out of shyness, but because she does not yet talk much.

Sunam is three.

The toddler was engaged to her seven-year-old cousin Niem in June, in a match made by their parents.

Despite the efforts of the government and rights groups, the engagement and marriage of children persists in this country, especially among poor, uneducated families or in the countryside.

About 16 per cent of Afghan children are married under the age of 15, according to recent data from UNICEF. And there is evidence that the poverty of recent years is pushing down the marriage age further in some areas.

The practice can force couples into a miserable union and sometimes expose the girl to violence if she resists.

Sunam's father committed her in marriage as a gift to his sister, Fahima, who does not have a daughter and desperately wants one. Marriage between first cousins is common in Afghanistan because families believe it is better to know their in-laws well. The two families live in the same modest housing compound in Kabul.

"It's a very common problem. I know people in my own family who were engaged this way," said Orzala Ashraf, founder of Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan. "The engagement happens before birth in some cases."

In an unhappy forced marriage, the man can take a woman he loves as a second wife in Islamic and Afghan culture. But the girls are trapped. Some commit suicide -- in Kapisa province, just north of Kabul, an 18-year-old girl shot and killed herself because her family would not break off her three-year engagement to a drug addict, Afghanistan's Pajhwok News Agency reported in August.

Others run away, sometimes falling into drugs or prostitution.

"Many girls who want to marry as they wish run away as a threat tactic to their family," Ashraf said. "There is no law that forbids running away, but it is a matter of honour."

The tactic sometimes works. Ashraf helped shelter one 17-year-old girl who ran away from home for a few days, humiliating her parents into letting her marry the man she loved.

The minimum legal age of marriage in Afghanistan is 16 for girls and 18 for boys. Yet child marriages account for 43 per cent of all marriages, according to the United Nations. The reasons are often economic: The girl's family gets a "bride price" of double the per capita income for a year or more, according to the World Bank.

In March, the Women's Ministry and rights group Medica Mondiale started a campaign to encourage marriage registration before a judge, which they hope will cut down on forced and child marriages. Marriage registration is already mandated but rarely practised.

The families of Sunam and Nieem are convinced that if the two grow up together knowing they will be married, they will be happy to wed in the future. The plan is for them to marry when Sunam is 14 or 15.

Nieem's mother, Fahima, said if the children grow up to dislike each other, the families will break off the arrangement.

"It's their whole lives. If they don't like each other they will have problems their whole lives," she said.

But according to the children's aunt, Najiba, the match is unbreakable.

"We are Pashtun people. If we engage them, there is no way to separate them. They will marry," Najiba said. "In our tribe, it is like this. When they get engaged, they cannot divorce."

Many engaged couples do not meet until after they are married. In some cases, two pregnant women -- either sisters or good friends -- agree to make a match if one has a boy and the other a girl.

Girls from fatherless families -- there are many in war-torn Afghanistan -- often are forced into the worst engagements.

Jamila Zafar, a social worker for rights group Women for Afghan Women, says it took 2 1/2 months of negotiations to free 14-year-old Mudira in Paghman province outside Kabul from her engagement.

Mudira had lost her father, and her uncle forced the girl into an engagement with his son, a handicapped amputee. When the son died, the uncle engaged her for a second time to another handicapped son.

When Zafar's colleagues talked with the uncle and his family, the relatives threatened to kill them and went to Mudira's house to beat her stepfather. Only under pressure from Paghman police and officials was the engagement called off.

It is nearly impossible to break engagements "because you're considered the other family's property. You're

Three years old . . . and engaged; Poverty forces Afghan parents to find spouses for their underage children

theirs now. You've been given away," said Manizha Naderi, director of Women for Afghan Women.

"It's obviously barbaric. It's going to take generations to change this custom."

One 22-year-old woman from Kabul has tried to break off her engagement for eight years. Her 36-year-old fianc — whom she describes as uneducated, conservative and cruel, "like a Taliban" — has threatened to kill her if she refuses him. His father has also beaten her.

"I have told my mother for eight years that I don't accept this man," the engaged woman said, asking that her name be withheld for fear his family would attack her. "My mother said, 'What can I do? You don't have any brothers, you don't have a father.'"

Her father died in a car accident when she was six months old, so a close friend of her father took it upon himself to find her an appropriate husband — his son.

She is educated and works for a prominent international organization. Her fianc is a tailor with a high school diploma.

"I'm young. I want to go to school," she said, at a coffee shop in a Kabul shopping mall. Her voice was full of desperation and resignation.

"This is Afghanistan. That's why I don't like Afghanistan. I will leave Afghanistan."

# Soldier earns posthumous degree

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**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
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**WORD COUNT:** 269

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When Cpl. Jordan Anderson wasn't working in the dangerous terrain of Afghanistan, he was working on his university courses.

This week, three months after he was killed by a roadside bomb, Anderson became the first Canadian soldier since the Korean War to get a posthumous degree.

The 25-year-old was remembered by friends as a dedicated soldier, and by his widow as a man with an intense hunger for knowledge.

"He would read something in the newspaper . . . and he'd go home and he'd look it up on the Internet," Amanda Anderson told reporters as she fought back tears before accepting the arts degree on her husband's behalf from the University of Manitoba on Thursday.

"I wish it wasn't me doing it, I wish it was him. But I'll do it. It's an honour."

Some of her husband's colleagues from the Edmonton-based 3rd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry came to the event in a show of support for the young man who was often seen with his nose in the books.

"Every time we'd see him, he'd be working on a paper," said Cpl. Adam Bowness, who served alongside Anderson on a previous mission to Afghanistan in 2002.

"Most of the guys, we'd get out of the field and we'd go party, have a good time. But he'd be right in the books right away."

Anderson pursued his studies online through the university's distance education program while serving overseas. He had completed nearly all the program requirements for his political science major when he and five other soldiers, along with an Afghan interpreter, were killed by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar city July 4.

His colleagues got the ball rolling to ensure his degree would be granted.

"It was clear this was a dedicated student who clearly would have gone on to do graduate work and do it well," said Prof. George Maclean, acting head of the political science department.

# Afghans largely supportive of NATO-led mission, poll finds

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**EDITION:** Final  
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**DATELINE:** HALIFAX  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
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An opinion poll of Afghans shows that democracy is taking hold in the war-torn country and there is confidence in the NATO-led mission, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said yesterday.

The Environics Research poll, released Thursday on behalf of the Globe and Mail, CBC and La Presse, was based on nearly 1,600 interviews with Afghan men and women.

Sixty per cent of the respondents said the presence of foreigners in the country was a good thing, while only 16 per cent said it was bad.

Forty-three per cent said foreigners should stay in the country until order is returned, while 25 per cent wanted foreigners to leave immediately or within a year.

Support was weaker in Kandahar, where Canadians have been engaged in bloody battles with the Taliban, although most still said they wanted foreign soldiers to remain.

MacKay said the results show that Afghans have confidence in NATO forces and are realizing that their lives are improving.

"I see enormous positives coming from this poll, first and foremost the fact that a poll can even take in a place like Afghanistan, where very little democracy, very little consultation was taking place with people there," MacKay said following a funding announcement in Halifax.

Respondents were also asked which foreign countries are involved in Afghanistan. Canada had the fourth-highest recognition overall.

However, virtually no respondents named Canada when asked which countries were fighting the Taliban.

The poll was conducted between Sept. 17 and 24 and is considered accurate to within 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Other results from the survey:

60 per cent of respondents said they were better off than they were five years ago.

51 per cent said the country is heading in the right direction, while 28 per cent said it was heading in the wrong direction.

While 40 per cent felt the Afghan government, with foreign assistance, will win against the Taliban, another 40 per cent said it was too early to say or that they didn't know.

More than 70 per cent had a positive opinion of President Hamid Karzai's government.

Seventy-four per cent supported negotiations with the Taliban, while slightly more than half supported the idea of a coalition government sharing power with the Taliban.

Seventy-three per cent had a negative opinion of the Taliban.

# Debate over yellow ribbons continues

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The Fredericton Peace Coalition is preparing to launch a counter- campaign to the "Support our Troops" yellow ribbons.

Members of the coalition will be mailing packages to several city businesses that display the yellow ribbon. Inside will be a letter, along with alternative information on the situation in Afghanistan and a different image to the "Support our Troops" yellow ribbon.

The alternative image features a question mark and the words "Question War" along with "Bring Them Home."

"We are hoping to have a reaction that is healthy to a democratic debate about the war in Afghanistan," coalition spokesman Charles Fournier said yesterday. "We're hoping people are willing to step forward and express their view, pro or contra, in a very civil way."

About 35 packages will be mailed out. Fournier said the coalition, a collection of 12 groups consisting of about 100 members, has been contacted by people who have voiced their displeasure about what they are doing. But Fournier said the coalition believes in its cause.

"It is necessary in a time of war to ask the tough questions about the actions of the military and the orders they have been issued by our government," he said.

Fournier said it's not the coalition's intention to confront the targeted businesses or try to bully them. Fournier said the coalition is operating on meagre resources and it's just hoping their actions will spark a stronger debate in the community about the Afghan mission.

Military spouse Colleen Moquin of Oromocto said she hopes local businesses have already made up their minds whether or not to keep their ribbons up.

"I personally think that if people don't have ribbons up now, they should go out and get one," Moquin said. "Displaying the ribbon has nothing to do with political views. It is to show support of the brave men and women who are doing their jobs, (and) to show them we are thinking of them and hope they come home safe. And it also shows support to their families."

As a military wife, Moquin said it's comforting to see the ribbons — especially when a spouse is overseas — and reassuring that they were not alone while waiting for them to come home safe.



## PM showing disdain again

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**BYLINE:** W.E. (Bill) Belliveau IN  
DEPTH  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Times & Transcript  
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On Tuesday, Canada's Governor General, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean delivered a "Throne Speech" on behalf of Stephen Harper's Conservative government. Traditionally, the Throne Speech doesn't make much of a noise away from Parliament but this one, aired on prime time TV was accompanied by all the intrigue of a poker game.

It was expected that Mr. Harper would take advantage of the Conservatives' lead in the polls to trigger an election by loading the Speech with a poison pill that Liberal Leader, Stéphane Dion could not swallow.

Dion fooled him. He delivered a scathing rebuttal that offered a series of amendments to the speech that would be acceptable to Canadians. Harper rejected them and moved acceptance of the speech as delivered. The Liberals refused to vote on Harper's motion, knowing it would trigger an unwanted election. With support from the Bloc Quebecois, the Conservatives' motion to accept the speech was carried by Parliament. The Conservatives immediately introduced a Bush-like crime bill designed to inflame the Opposition and trigger another election challenge.

In his response to the Speech from the Throne, Harper promised to strengthen Canada's sovereignty and place in the world; protect our environment; steer our economy toward long-term prosperity; modernize our federation and our democratic institutions; and make our streets and communities safe again. According to Mr. Harper, our most important sovereignty challenge is the Arctic, where retreating polar ice, rising global demand for resources and the prospect of year-round shipping are creating new challenges and exciting opportunities for the North.

He acknowledges that our role in the world is not just about Arctic sovereignty; it is also about actions beyond our borders and relationships with the international community. He would continue to rebuild the military and defend our mission in Afghanistan as a noble and necessary endeavour. He says "The mission in Afghanistan reflects our conviction that Canadian foreign policy must promote our values and defend our interests." Could be a page from the global playbook of George W.

Harper abandons the Kyoto Accord on climate change and embraces the Asian Pacific alternative, claiming its targets are among the most aggressive in the world.

He announced a reduction in personal income taxes, a further one per cent reduction in the GST/HST and a long-term plan of broad-based tax relief that would further reduce taxes for businesses, individuals and families. He says that his party has long been "committed to low taxes, direct benefits for families" and a free market powered by the private sector.

Everyone wants lower taxes but tax reductions should be used to stimulate economic activity. Tax revenues should be used to improve the life circumstance of Canadians.

The prime minister promises to introduce legislation that would place formal limits on the use of federal spending power in areas of provincial jurisdiction and to provide for the opting out of federal–provincial programs by provinces with compensation. He also promises to reintroduce a Senate bill that would reduce term lengths and seek public consensus on Senate appointments — an attempt to end–run constitutional amendment.

Harper's first priority, post Throne Speech appears to be an anti–crime bill that would put the rights of law–abiding citizens ahead of the rights of accused criminals. It would introduce mandatory prison time for serious gun crimes. It would make it tougher for accused gun criminals to get bail. It would give police and prosecutors more tools to get impaired drivers off the road. It would make sure violent, repeat and dangerous offenders stay behind bars. While the intent may be laudable, the language reminds us of the Dick Cheney approach to "enemy combatants".

Stéphane Dion, as might be expected, was highly critical of the Throne Speech. He noted its ambiguity in respect to Afghanistan, the length of mission in Kandahar and Canada's role as an offensive combat force. He also questions why the government has asked the panel, headed by John Manley to look at options for Canada's role in Afghanistan when the Throne Speech chooses an option — training of the Afghan army and police.

Dion challenges the prime minister's unilateral promise to reform the Senate without Constitutional amendment or provincial agreement. On the matter of limiting federal spending powers in areas of provincial jurisdiction, Mr. Dion correctly reminds us that the federal spending power was instrumental in building Canada–wide social programs such as Medicare, the Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, etc.

In respect to the economy, Dion argues that the Harper government has done more harm than good in terms of Canada's international competitiveness. He notes that Harper has promised to spend another \$12 billion per year to cut the GST/HST by a point, a measure that does nothing to combat poverty or make our economy more competitive.

On the matter of climate change, Dion quotes the Sierra Club of Canada's Kyoto report card for 2007. The report observes that the Conservative government cut over \$5 billion worth of investment in environment and climate change programs last year. "Federal programs were slashed, and the importance of addressing global warming was downplayed."

Also "The Canadian government's efforts at the international climate change conference in Montreal won Canada international praise . . . Under the new Conservative government, Canada quickly went from hero to zero . . . At an international conference in Bonn, Canada attempted to sabotage the Kyoto Protocol."

In a spirit of compromise and good will, Mr. Dion offered amendments to the Throne Speech: that the government take action to catch up on its Kyoto obligations; that Canada announce that its offensive combat mission in Kandahar will end in February 2009; that the government address the issue of poverty in Canada and that government bring forward measures to improve the economy.

Mr. Harper refused to consider any of these amendments, thus confirming his disdain for Parliament and the Canadian people.

\* W.E. (Bill) Belliveau is a Shediac resident and Moncton business consultant. His column appears in this space every Saturday. He can be contacted at [bill.bellstrategic@nb.aibn.com](mailto:bill.bellstrategic@nb.aibn.com)

# Your view: Letters to the editor | Local police could improve domestic violence training

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A recently released Statistics Canada study based on more than a decade of police data from across the country shows that nearly three-quarters of people charged with killing or attempting to kill their spouse have no prior record of spousal abuse.

But experts say that just because police don't know about it, doesn't mean it didn't happen. The findings contradict earlier studies, including Statistics Canada's annual homicide survey which indicates that most people accused of killing their spouse have previously abused them.

A personal survey of police training in domestic abuse from three police forces across Canada provided the following information:

Moose Jaw Police Service provide more than 20 hours of domestic abuse training during recruit training. They have a staff of 52 police officers. The training includes dealing with sexual assault, family law, victim services, Victims of Domestic Violence Act, cycle of family violence, practical crisis intervention and theory of psychological framework and crisis intervention.

The Calgary Police force, made up of 1,600 officers and 855 civilian members, provides 15 hours for recruit training. The training includes dealing with criminal harassment and stalking. A spokesman for the force says the training is an ongoing process over the course of an officer's career.

The Windsor, Ont. Police force of 479 police officers say the initial training took one year.

In the light of the new information from Statistics Canada, and the fact that three women have been murdered in the Fredericton area in the last four years, would it not be prudent for the Fredericton Police force to shorten its stated time line of "two to three years" to train its 100 officers in the dynamics of domestic abuse to a much shorter period?

Many lives could be saved.

Norma Christie

Women for Justice

Fredericton

Health records never secure

On Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2007, I was reading a front–page Gleaner story entitled Who will be looking at your medical records.

I find this quite amusing, but not funny.

I would say the health minister should take this \$250 million for electronic patient records and give the money to the homeless or to adults and children who go to bed hungry every night.

Everybody thinks their medical files are safe and secure. If the health minister thinks they really are, he must be dreaming in Technicolour.

I would say to privacy specialist David Townsend that some lawyers can very easily get your medical records without your consent.

Wayne Carter

Second North River, N.B.

PM is Deceivin' Stephen

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives claimed in the Throne Speech: "The results are clear . . . the government is clean . . ." and in a follow–up speech to Conservative MPs the prime minister claimed, "We keep our word."

Both of these claims are completely false. Before and during the last election, Harper and the Conservatives stated "to begin the process of fixing the system . . . to clean up government" they would, if elected, pass a Federal Accountability Act (FAA) that would close 52 loopholes in the federal government's accountability system.

In fact, the accountability act introduced by the Conservatives only contained 30 measures and actually weakens ethics rules for the most powerful politicians, political staff and senior government officials.

The Conservatives have only implemented 21 of the 30 measures. So by their own standards, they have done less than half of what needs to be done to clean up the federal government.

In addition, the Conservatives have broken their promises that they would not tax income trusts, would ensure nomination and party leadership races are fair, transparent and democratic -- an Alberta court recently ruled that the Conservatives had run an unfair nomination race in Calgary -- and would prevent party leaders from appointing candidates without local riding association approval. Harper just made such an appointment in Nova Scotia, in Bill Casey's riding.

The last federal Conservative government was led by a Prime Minister who came to be called "Lyin' Brian" -- this Conservative government is led by a prime minister who deserves to be called "Deceivin' Stephen."

If Harper's Conservatives think Canadians will be conned by them again, they are fooling only themselves.

Duff Conacher

Co–ordinator

Democracy Watch

Ottawa, Ont.

Run for Cure success

On behalf of the volunteer organizing committee for the Fredericton 2007 Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure, we would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated, donated and volunteered at the run Sept. 30

This year more than 2,600 participants raised an outstanding \$361,000 toward a future without breast cancer.

We would like to acknowledge the ongoing accomplishments of our top two individual fundraisers, Sheila Young who raised \$14,197 and James Tucker who achieved his goal of \$8,000.

The top team was the rUNBuddies, which raised \$20,397.

To the residents of Fredericton and the surrounding communities, we could not have done it without each and every one of you. We are privileged to live in such a generous community. 2008 is the 10th anniversary of our run site. We hope that you will be there to celebrate with us Oct. 5, 2008.

October is breast cancer awareness month. Every day breast cancer becomes a reality for 51 Canadian women and men. Although important inroads have been made, there is still work to be done in terms of research, education and awareness to reach the goal of a future without breast cancer.

Rachel Brown

Barbara Thompson

Volunteer run directors

Fredericton

Yellow ribbons support military

In response to a letter to the editor written by a Charters Settlement woman, I am also a woman, a mother and some day, hopefully, a grandmother.

I am also saddened by all the controversy over the yellow ribbons. We need to leave it alone. Let it rest.

I have a son in the military, and he will be heading to Afghanistan in February. I worry now, and he hasn't even left yet, but I support him and stand behind him 100 per cent.

He chose the military for his career, knowing full well he would be going to war. I don't support the war anymore than the next person, but I definitely support him. No one wants a loved one hurt or worse.

The only ones that seem to have a big problem with the yellow ribbons and red Friday are the ones who have no connection to anyone in the military, or just don't understand what's happening. The yellow ribbons and red Fridays are not only to show support for our troops but also for the friends and family left at home.

My concern was that the ribbons would come down now that the troops from Gagetown are home. There are soldiers from here that are posted elsewhere. So I hope the support continues. It's important to me as a mother. The ribbons and red Fridays are to support our troops, not our politicians. No one wants or enjoys a war but that's to be taken up with the government.

Also, thank you to Fredericton Mayor Brad Woodside for the support as well as everyone who supports our military, not the war.

Gloria Tapp

Central Blissville, N.B.

# Poll: Majority of Afghans say they support presence of foreign troops

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A poll of Afghans shows democracy is taking hold in the wartorn country and there's confidence in the NATO-led mission, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said Friday.

The Environics Research poll, released Thursday on behalf of the Globe and Mail, CBC and La Presse, was based on nearly 1,600 interviews with Afghan men and women.

Sixty per cent of the respondents said the presence of foreigners in the country was a good thing, while only 16 per cent said it was bad.

Forty-three per cent said foreigners should remain in the country until order is returned, while 25 per cent wanted foreigners to leave immediately or within a year.

Support was weaker in Kandahar, where Canadians have been engaged in bloody battles with the Taliban, although most still said they wanted foreign soldiers to remain.

MacKay said the results show that Afghans have confidence in NATO forces and are realizing that their lives are improving.

"I see enormous positives coming from this poll, first and foremost the fact that a poll can even take in a place like Afghanistan, where very little democracy, very little consultation was taking place with people there," MacKay said following a funding announcement in Halifax.

"You have a country that is starting to walk on its own and that's expressed in many of these poll results that I've seen."

Respondents were also asked which foreign countries are involved in Afghanistan. Canada had the fourth-highest recognition overall.

However, virtually no respondents named Canada when asked which countries were fighting the Taliban. To date, 71 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed in Afghanistan since the mission began.

The poll was conducted between Sept. 17-24 and is considered accurate to within 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

# Coalition readies alternative to ribbons; Debate | Slogans are 'Question War,' 'Bring Them Home'

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**BYLINE:** MICHAEL STAPLES staples.michael@dailygleaner.com  
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The Fredericton Peace Coalition is preparing to launch a counter- campaign to the "Support our Troops" yellow ribbons.

Members of the coalition will be mailing packages to several city businesses that display the yellow ribbon. Inside will be a letter, along with alternative information on the situation in Afghanistan and a different image to the "Support our Troops" yellow ribbon.

The alternative image features a question mark and the words "Question War" along with "Bring Them Home."

"We are hoping to have a reaction that is healthy to a democratic debate about the war in Afghanistan," coalition spokesman Charles Fournier said Friday.

"We're hoping people are willing to step forward and express their view, pro or contra, in a very civil way."

About 35 packages will be mailed.

Fournier said the coalition, a collection of 12 groups consisting of about 100 members, has been contacted by people who have voiced their displeasure about what they are doing.

But Fournier said the coalition believes in its cause.

"It is necessary in a time of war to ask the tough questions about the actions of the military and the orders they have been issued by our government, " he said.

Fournier said it's not the coalition's intention to confront the targeted businesses or try to bully them.

He said the coalition is operating on meagre resources and it's hoping to spark a stronger debate in the community about the Afghan mission.

Military spouse Colleen Moquin of Oromocto said she hopes local businesses have already made up their minds whether or not to keep their ribbons up.

"I personally think that if people don't have ribbons up now, they should go out and get one," Moquin said.

"Displaying the ribbon has nothing to do with political views. It is to show support of the brave men and women who are doing their jobs, (and) to show them we are thinking of them and hope they come home safe.



And it also shows support to their families."

As a military wife, Moquin said it's comforting to see the ribbons — especially when a spouse is overseas — and reassuring that they were not alone while waiting for them to come home safe.

"I think modifying the ribbon in any way, like changing it to say 'Bring Them Home Now,' will then turn it into a political statement, which I think is totally wrong," Moquin said.

# Poll in Afghanistan a positive sign for democracy – MacKay

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An opinion poll of Afghans shows that democracy is taking hold in the war–torn country and that there is confidence in the NATO–led mission, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said Friday.

The Environics Research poll, released Thursday on behalf of the Globe and Mail, CBC and La Presse, was based on nearly 1,600 interviews with Afghan men and women.

Sixty per cent of the respondents said the presence of foreigners in the country was a good thing, while only 16 per cent said it was bad.

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MacKay said the results show that Afghans have confidence in NATO forces and are realizing that their lives are improving.

"I see enormous positives coming from this poll, first and foremost the fact that a poll can even take in a place like Afghanistan, where very little democracy, very little consultation was taking place with people there," MacKay said following a funding announcement in Halifax.

"You have a country that is starting to walk on its own and that's expressed in many of these poll results that I've seen."

Respondents were also asked which foreign countries are involved in Afghanistan. Canada had the fourth–highest recognition overall.

However, virtually no respondents named Canada when asked which countries were fighting the Taliban.

# No drafts, no interests and no protests

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**COLUMN:** The Meddler

**BYLINE:** Holman, Al

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Often when university graduates of the 1960s gather, they decry the youth of today, their lack of political activism, their focus on 'me'. You know the complaints.

These days, they're complaining that university campuses are benign places compared to the heady days of the '60s when virtually every campus was dominated by the antiwar movement. Vietnam was 'the' rallying cry for student activists.

Today, the only thing students unite on and protest are fee increases – this despite the fact there are two unpopular wars dominating the agendas of our country and our neighbours to the south.

In the 1960s the antiwar movement was all about America's involvement in Vietnam. It is generally accepted that the movement played a major role in forcing President Johnson to withdraw the American troops. It was one of the few military defeats the United States ever suffered. (Its failure along the shores of the Great Lakes during the War of 1812 was another, giving Canadians something in common with the Vietnamese.)

The antiwar movement was not confined to the campuses in the United States. It was worldwide and Canadian students were very much involved. But it was in America that the students were most strident.

Given that the activist students of the 1960s were so successful, why are today's students so complacent and disinterested? Recently on CNN television, when Chris Mathews put this question to the lead singer of the '60s rock group, Crosby, Stills and Nash, David Crosby had a simple and rational answer.

"Today, there's no draft," he said. The United States now has a volunteer army. American students today aren't worried they'll be called up to go and fight in the jungles of Southeast Asia, or in the streets of Iraq. They may not like the war. They may not agree with the reasons given for going to war. Iraq may dominate the newscasts, but other than that, the war doesn't affect their lives. There is always American cultural spillover in this country. Most of the fads in Canada originate in the States. So do the movies, as does much of the television, we watch and the music we listen to. In the '60s, the antiwar movement spilled over into Canada and in a similar vein, the lack of concern about the Iraq war on the American campuses is reflected by the disinterest in the Afghanistan conflict among Canadian students.

And it is not just students. Most of us, like most Americans, are only peripherally involved in the battles our troops are fighting. We read about them. We think about them, a bit, and then the phone rings. Daily life inflicts itself upon our thoughts and the battles are quickly forgotten.

The supporters of the Afghanistan conflict often draw comparisons to the contribution Canada made in the First and Second World Wars. The comparison borders on being specious, and is tenuous at best. In both those wars, the German forces had overrun the neighbouring countries, including France, and were threatening Britain. The object of those wars was to drive the Germans out and to restore those countries to the control of their own citizens. The Afghans attacked no one.

In those wars, the efforts made in supporting Canada's contribution involved everyone, not just the families of the troops. Food and gasoline were rationed, taxes were raised, wages were frozen, whole new industries were developed, people were encouraged to buy special war bonds to financially support those wars.

At least in this country the government is able to fund the cost of our military involvement in Afghanistan out of existing revenues, so there's been no need for new taxes. In the United States, the war is costing trillions, the federal deficit is increasing, their dollar is shrinking and the Bush administration cuts taxes.

But the cost of the involvement in both Iraq and Afghanistan has been borne by the troops, and the their families. For some of them the cost has been very high. Too high.

And yet Canadians' initial reluctance to support the Afghanistan mission has been slowly eroding. Prime Minister Harper's desire to keep Canadian troops in the Kandahar region beyond 2009 has been aided and abetted by Gen. Rick Hillier and his \$25 million military public relations campaign.

Like today's students, most of us aren't interested enough, aren't affected enough, to fight against that kind of campaign. But maybe we'll vote against it when we get the chance. That's Mr. Harper's gamble.

Alan Holman is a freelance journalist living in Charlottetown. He can be reached at:  
acholman@pei.eastlink.ca

# Sounds of snap, crackle and pop mark return of Testaverde, 43

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**BYLINE:** Cam Hutchinson  
**SOURCE:** The StarPhoenix  
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Tiger Woods will have his own sports drink when Gatorade Tiger is introduced next March. I'm thinking some other endorsement possibilities exist on the PGA Tour. Like, say, the Flirtini Sabbatini, the Vesper Martini Parnevik, or, my favourite, the Fuzzy Navel Zoeller . . . There are some possibilities on the LPGA Tour as well. How about the Irish Whip Creamer, the Vanilla Vixen Gulbis or the Woo Woo Wie? . . . From contributor Derek Wilken of Calgary: "Saskatoon is in the midst of a baby boom and officials say it could be due to a blizzard nine months ago, an upturn in the economy or a promotional visit by Travis Henry." . . . Janice Hough, after the NFL game between Carolina and Arizona last weekend featured starting quarterbacks Vinny Testaverde, 43, and Kurt Warner, 36: "The game could go down in history as the first U.S. Grey Cup." . . . NFL commissioner Roger Goodell can foresee the day when the Super Bowl is played in London, England. I'm thinking the only thing more absurd would be having the Stanley Cup final in Toronto . . . From contributor Bill Littlejohn: "Harvard fullback Noah Van Niel plans on becoming an opera tenor after graduating from college. Wonder if he's ever been penalized for falsetto starts?" . . . A quick second helping from Wilken: "Kobe Bryant has missed the last few practices, fuelling speculation he may be traded. Bryant denied the reports, saying he was preparing for the season by practising alone." . . . I am happy to report that Eric Schnupp, the Baylor assistant football coach who urinated on a bar in Waco, Texas, last weekend, has been relieved of his duties. Schnupp was apparently pretty good with his Xs and Os, but clearly not as good at minding his Ps and Qs.

Tony Gonzalez of the Kansas City Chiefs set a scoring record last weekend for tight ends. The mark has been challenged by a group of Chippendale dancers who say they have tighter ends and have scored far more . . . If I am a member of the 1972–73 Miami Dolphins, I would be very worried about the unbeaten New England Patriots running the table. I'm starting to think the only way the Patriots lose a game this season is if Tom Brady gets himself pregnant . . . When during the first six weeks of the NFL season did one of the teams change its name? I swear I keep reading about a team called the Hapless Atlanta Falcons . . . Wilken says Boston–lawyer Paul Kelly wasn't the person NHL commissioner Gary Bettman wanted to see in charge of the NHLPA: "Bettman's suggestions to the hiring committee included Barry Bendover, Freddie Foldalot and Harry Handitover." . . . Vancouver comic Torben Rolfsen, after scientists announced they had discovered a twin planet to Earth — named Gliese 581 C — just 20 light years away: "Gary Bettman immediately announced plans to schedule next season's NHL opener there." . . . Ellen DeGeneres had a dog repossessed this week after she broke the adoption contract she signed with a rescue centre. Apparently Ellen didn't break down and cry until she was told the dog had been placed in Michael Vick's home . . . Scott Ostler of the San Francisco Chronicle, on disgraced U.S. sprinter Marion Jones: "Jones had an elegant style. Some likened her to a gazelle, but I'll always picture her as a cheetah." . . . I am not saying some CFL officials are old, but there

is a country named after Jake Ireland.

Toronto comedian Frenchie McFarlane thinks when the Buffalo Bills hold an NFL game in Toronto, they should play by Canadian rules: "There will be a single point on missed field goals and, due to our increased exchange rate, a field goal will be worth 3.03 points." . . . Mark Kriegel of FoxSports.com, questioning, as I often have, the genius of Tony La Russa: "Let's go back to the Oakland A's. How many points does his baseball IQ drop if there had been drug testing? Is he still a genius? Or just an out-of-work lawyer?" . . . Is it just me or has the overall quality of play in the CFL been really, really bad this year? There hasn't been a truly outstanding player and the lack of depth at quarterback has made too many games all but unwatchable . . . Had Josh Beckett and Kenny Lofton got at it in Game 5 of the American League Championship Series, it would have been the biggest mismatch since Don Zimmer charged Pedro Martinez . . . Wilken, after Calgary Stampeders quarterback Henry Burris came back from a separated shoulder to throw for 400 yards in a win over Winnipeg: "Burris credits his quick recovery to exceptional conditioning, God-gifted healing ability and the realization he is in his option year." . . . The University of Toronto Blues lost their 48th consecutive college football game last weekend. Maybe the Leafs aren't the worst team in Toronto after all . . . How Mark Cuban managed to survive on *Dancing with the Stars* is beyond me. Cuban is to dancing what Donald Trump is to humble, David Hasselhoff is to sobriety and Rosie O'Donnell is to dainty . . . When Mike Milbury speaks, why would anybody listen?

Bruce Dowbiggin of the Calgary Herald, after the Edmonton Oilers asked ticket holders to donate their ducats for the home game against Chicago to military members from CFB Edmonton: "Gee, wasn't the Afghanistan sacrifice enough for our terrific troops?" . . . Wilken, after reports emerged last week indicating Gord Miller of TSN leaked information on dissident members of the NHLPA to deputy commissioner Bill Daly. "Miller says he had to do it after league officials threatened to give him a haircut like Rod Smith's." . . . Wilken says Miller's actions have given the letters TSN a whole new meaning: "The Snitch Network." . . . Calgary contributor Jeff Funnekotter, after the Cleveland Indians tried to throw off Boston Red Sox ace Josh Beckett by having his attractive ex-girlfriend, Danielle Peck, sing the national anthem Thursday: "Maybe Tom Arnold's ex would have been more effective." . . . I think we can safely say Peck is no Kate Smith, on many fronts . . . Drew Curtis of fark.com, on the eye injury suffered by Juan Encarnacion of the St. Louis Cardinals: "His MLB career is probably over, but his umpiring career is just getting started." . . . Evander Holyfield lost a unanimous decision in a heavyweight title bout in Moscow last week. Or at least that is what they are telling him . . . Wilken, on the suspension of the National Lacrosse League season: "In order to avoid penalties with their broadcast partner, the NLL will air reruns of last season because no one watched that one either." . . . Littlejohn, after the first baby boomer in the United States applied for Social Security Benefits this week: "But Danny Almonte says it's only until he signs his first contract." . . . Jay Leno, on the body of former Notre Dame football great George Gipp being exhumed: "To give you an idea how bad Notre Dame is this year, he's playing Saturday."

## BY THE NUMBERS

37 — Years that Richard Loney has been singing the anthems at Vancouver Canucks games.

48 — Penalties assessed the University of Saskatchewan Huskies football team through six games this season. Average penalties assessed the six other teams in the Canada West conference — 70.5.

12 — Golf handicap for actor Sylvester Stallone, putting him behind actor Dennis Quaid (1.1) and ahead of actor/director Clint Eastwood (13.5) and actress Cheryl Ladd (14).

0 — College graduates on the University of Maryland men's basketball team of the players who enrolled between 1997 and 2000.

6 — Interceptions that Mark Feader and Jordan Penner of the Saskatoon Hilltops have thrown in 238 passes

this season.

\$1,880 --- Fine assessed the Alessandro cosmetics firm for breaking German child labour laws. The company had Anna Ermakowa, seven-year-old daughter of former tennis star Boris Becker, promoting nail varnish at a trade fair.

9 --- Career shutouts for Lynden Sammartino of the Yorkton Terriers, an SJHL record.

3 --- Ranking for Arnold Palmer on Golf Digest's list of the highest earners in the game, behind only Tiger Woods, with \$99 million, and Phil Mickelson, with \$44 million. Palmer makes more than \$27 million in endorsements, appearances and course architecture.

\$25 --- Proposed parking fee at the new Yankee Stadium.

# Politicians need to take Afghans' wishes seriously

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Given the political shenanigans involving Canada's mission in Afghanistan by this government and its predecessor, it's little wonder that Canadians are split on the matter.

According to recent opinion polls, less than half of Canadians support this country's attempts in Afghanistan to subdue the Taliban and create an environment where Afghans can enjoy a measure of peace, security and economic development.

From former prime minister Jean Chrétien's spurious rewriting of history on the mission, to the Harper government's efforts to control information coming from war-torn Afghanistan, to Opposition calls to pull out Canada's troops when the current commitment ends in February 2009, to the incredibly damaging demand by the NDP to bring the soldiers home now, it's no wonder that Canadians are cynical about what's going on in Kandahar.

But, according to a recent poll by Environics Research, done on behalf of The Globe and Mail, the CBC and La Presse, Afghans don't suffer anything like this crisis of conscience. They know what the international community, including Canada, is trying to do in their country and they like it.

"Despite the terrible toll suffered by Afghans for decades, Afghans are surprisingly upbeat about the direction they see their country moving," says the Environics report.

The people feel safer, see their country being rebuilt and appreciate the fact that the world is helping to disarm the bad guys and making it safe for young girls to go to school.

This runs in stark contrast to the claims of naysayers who insist that Afghans want the foreigners out. An impressive 60 per cent of the men believe their lives are better since the Taliban were sent packing and an even more impressive (but not surprising) 75 per cent of women feel better off.

These poll results, while they run counter to those who believe Canadians should shirk their responsibility and leave the Afghans to their would-be brutal masters, come as no surprise to the soldiers who've fought to deliver some measure of security to the region.

Interviews with rank-and-file soldiers broadcast in the wake of the poll's release indicate that they not only know what they are accomplishing but recognize that the people whom they are helping appreciate the assistance.

Given the political rhetoric at home, Canadians might be surprised to learn that Afghans believe they can have a better life and they want help from the international community to achieve it.



They even want foreign soldiers to help them dispatch the Taliban, although most believe the Americans are the only ones doing the fighting.

They also seem to have more confidence than Canadians do in the ability of Afghan institutions, including the army, police and President Hamid Karzai, eventually to bring the kind of governance necessary to perpetuate a peaceful existence.

Not unexpectedly, many respondents wish that progress would come faster, while a significant minority doesn't believe the international community will be there for the long haul and so are convinced some sort of compromise deal must be made with the Taliban.

These sentiments are just what one would expect, considering the tone of debate in most of the countries that promised help but hoped the chit would never come due.

Opportunistic and fear-mongering politicians who hope to capitalize on the natural abhorrence in democratic nations for the use of military power have suggested the war is impossible to win.

Some even suggest that Afghans are predisposed to violence and repression, and are undeserving or unappreciative of a peaceful existence, or even that the international community only is in the country to steal oil, impose its will or stir up the pot.

These claims were hard to counter as the Harper government attempted to control the message coming out of Afghanistan and few Canadians had any idea what the Afghans truly wanted.

This poll was the first comprehensive effort to address these issues for Canadians, and those who commissioned it and the researchers themselves deserve credit for the role this information plays in the debate.

Politicians who have used the mission for partisan reasons must reconsider their position, given the positive impact Canadian soldiers are having and the devastation that would result if they are made to beat a quick retreat.

This debate is the most important Canada will have since the mid-1980s, when it reaffirmed its position as a modern society by eschewing the death penalty. It's worth remembering that the majority of MPs voted against the death penalty even though the punishment was wildly popular.

They did so because they had the courage to set aside narrow politics and consider the best evidence. It was a defining moment for Canada. Let's hope parliamentarians show that kind of courage on this issue.

# Canadians oversee huge ammo dump; Sprawling complex keeps troops supplied with array of munitions

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**IDNUMBER** 200710200016  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A13

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: CanWest News Service / Maj. Roger Lupien, responsible for everything that moves from Kandahar to Canadian troops in the field, stands in front of an ammunition magazine at the Canadian-led ammo dump at the Kandahar Airfield. Near the magazine are several pallets of artillery shells. ;

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 356

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KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- It is not talked about much by the troops or by the media, but Canada cannot fight the Taliban without large stocks of deadly artillery and tank shells and tens of thousands of bullets for 25-millimetre cannons, sniper and assault rifles and pistols.

Warrant Officer Martin Marceau and a small cadre of technicians spend their days and nights in a sprawling ammo dump at the Kandahar Airfield preparing pallets of munitions for shipment by air and by road to the Royal 22nd Regiment battle group, which is mostly deployed in the Taliban heartland, not far to the west of Kandahar City.

As you might expect, the ammo dump, officially known as the Multinational Ammunition Depot, is one of the most secure areas at the Kandahar Airfield, which is home to about 13,000 NATO troops and civilians.

"If all we have here went up at once, it would be a really big show, that's for sure, but that just isn't an issue. It's safe," said Master Cpl. Sebastien Janvier, who keeps close track of all the firepower.

Maj. Roger Lupien, who oversees everything from toilet paper to weapons that leave the airfield for Canadian troops in the field, said great care was taken to follow every shell and bullet and to have munitions that were not being used or that were faulty, returned to be examined in Kandahar or in Canada.

Kandahar's state-of-the-art ammunition depot is an unusual hybrid. In a deal struck under Paul Martin's Liberal government as NATO's big Afghan push began in 2005, Canada saved \$1.7 million by sharing costs of the compound equally with the British and Dutch armies. While each country has an equal share in the facility and takes care of its own ordnance, the command rotates between a British and a Canadian officer every six months.

Except for German-made tank shells for Canada's Leopard I and Leopard II tanks, almost all of the ammunition in the Canadian storage areas was made at home. As extremely hazardous cargo, weapons were flown here on military aircraft where passengers were banned.

# Rebuilding Afghanistan; Leader-Post journalist shares first-hand look at Canada's efforts in war-torn country

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**IDNUMBER** 200710200119  
**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Weekender  
**PAGE:** G1 / FRONT

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: David Ramsay, Leader-Post / A view of Kabul from TV Hill, the highest point in the city of four million people. ; Colour Photo: David Ramsay, Leader-Post / A Canadian Forces soldier provides protection for a group of Canadian journalists visiting Kabul. ; Colour Photo: David Ramsay, Leader-Post / A tank graveyard near Kabul contains hundreds of discarded Russian tanks and other military vehicles. ; Colour Photo: David Ramsay, Leader-Post / Children play with balloons in Kabul. ; Colour Photo: David Ramsay, Leader-Post / Hanifa and her grandson Reshad at a centre in Kabul that helps widows. ;

**BYLINE:** David Ramsay  
**SOURCE:** The Leader-Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 1970

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When I was invited by the Department of National Defence to be part of a four-day media tour of Afghanistan, my first thought was it would be a wonderful opportunity to gain a better understanding of the country and its people. It would also allow me a chance to talk to Canadian soldiers and civilians, especially those with Saskatchewan connections, who are making tremendous sacrifices to rebuild a country torn apart by war.

After a full schedule of events that sometimes kept us going 20 hours a day, my understanding of the immense challenges faced by the Afghani people, as they rebuild after three decades of war, increases exponentially. I talk to soldiers, bureaucrats, academics, aid workers and ordinary Afghans. I witness the rapid rebirth of Kabul, a city that is both vibrant and dangerous, and the much slower reconstruction of the Kandahar countryside, a desolate stretch of land that Canadians are trying to improve one small project by one small project.

I do not meet a single soldier, in either private conversation or at official briefings, who does not believe in the Canadian mission to make the peace and help the Afghani people become self-sufficient.

My trip starts on a sombre note on Sept. 28 when, as I arrive at CFB Trenton, I and the five other journalists on the tour are quickly escorted to a less public part of the base.

The reason: Family is arriving for the repatriation ceremony of a young Alberta reservist, Nathan Hornburg, killed on Sept. 24 in Kandahar province. These are usually private events, allowing family members and friends an opportunity to grieve outside of the public eye.

This solemn occasion is followed a few hours later by touching scenes of soldiers saying goodbye to loved ones, as they depart for dangerous assignments halfway around the world. Some are big, burly men — looking very much like soldiers — holding hands with anxious-looking wives. There are others, bespectacled

and slight of build, who might be mistaken for high school English teachers or office workers. Although all soldiers carry rifles, not all of them are headed for the battlefield. Some unload cargo, others fly planes, others fix trucks and some keep computers running.

I also meet civilians waiting to board our Airbus for Afghanistan. One is a doctor from Winnipeg who will be working at a hospital that treats soldiers injured on the battlefield. These days most of those wounded are Afghan soldiers, who are now taking the fight to the Taliban. I'm told others in the airport waiting room might be heading to work at the always busy Tim Horton's at the Kandahar Air Field, where the drive-through is actually a walk-through. It sits next to a Burger King and a Pizza Hut, where both pick-up and delivery service are available.

One soldier brings his young daughter, maybe two or three years of age, to the check-in counter while his wife, with a baby in a stroller, waits a few feet away. The young girl helps her dad with his gear. I wonder what he is thinking as he says goodbye to his family.

The harsh reality is that Afghanistan is an extremely dangerous place. It has taken the lives of 71 Canadian soldiers. Few Canadian soldiers now die in actual fighting. Most of the front-line fighting is done by the Afghan National Army, which receives some of its training from Canadians. Canadians are most likely to die from suicide bomb attacks or from driving over improvised explosive devices.

We are aware every day of the danger. A car bomb goes off in Kabul during our stay there and a rocket lands near our tent at a camp just before we check in. Another day, ground fire is directed toward our plane before it lands to pick us up. Obviously, it is much more dangerous at the battlefield, but we do get a small taste of the dangers some soldiers face daily.

We travel everywhere under heavy guard, in well-equipped vehicles, wearing flak jackets and we are mindful when a vehicle approaches our convoy. Is it friendly or not? Should we be trying harder to avoid it? I wonder how anyone can seriously suggest that aid work can continue in Kandahar province if Canadian troops withdraw.

Canadians should care about what is happening in Afghanistan and the debate that is taking place over whether Canadian troops should be withdrawn. No one here is prepared to say how long Canadian troops are needed to help keep the peace, in part for fear that Canadians back home won't like the answers. But one cannot rebuild a country in five years, especially when an insurgency still exists and is ready to retake land if our troops leave.

We spend more public money in Afghanistan than any other single country in the world.

That money, and the efforts of Canadian soldiers and civilians, make substantial contributions to improving the lives of ordinary Afghans. Five years ago, only 600,000 Afghani boys (no girls) attended school; now six million children (one-third of whom are girls) are getting an education. Also, eight out of 10 Afghans now have access to health care, an eight-fold increase since 2001. These facts and more are drilled into our heads at a series of sometimes mind-numbing briefings.

However, not all is well. According to a new United Nations report, violence is increasing dramatically in Afghanistan and is now at its highest level since the U.S. defeat of the Taliban in 2001. More than 5,000 people have been killed by insurgents so far this year.

I spend a moment or two at each stop looking for Saskatchewan connections. "Where are you from?" becomes one of my most commonly asked questions. Very early on, I meet two soldiers from CFB Dundurn. One is a big Alouettes fan who tries to make it to Mosaic Stadium whenever Montreal is in town to play the Roughriders. He proudly wears his Alouettes jersey, and spends part of each game in "friendly banter" with

Rider fans. I also learn that another Saskatchewan resident works at the hospital at the Kandahar Air Field, but we do not get a chance to meet.

In what becomes a common theme of the trip, we are told the media concentrates too heavily on reporting on Canadian deaths, which sways public opinion against Canada's rebuilding efforts. We are told journalists should be writing more about humanitarian efforts — that is what is really important. However, even though we have been flown halfway around the world at taxpayers' expense, we encounter significant roadblocks that prevent us from doing they want us to do.

I decide to write a story on the RCMP's role in helping train Afghan police officers. It is a natural story for Regina. But obtaining permission to interview an RCMP officer proves to be an almost insurmountable task.

The difficulty, I quickly learn, is that someone in Ottawa — likely political — is blocking access to the RCMP. But, I protest, I just finished reading another newspaper quoting an RCMP officer stationed here. The story focuses on the high number of Afghan officers who have died on the job. Oh, there was trouble over that piece, I'm told.

I protest to whomever will listen that it makes no sense to fly me over here and then have a political handler decide I can't do a story of great interest to my readers. My nagging seems to pay off when, the next day, a police officer is made available. My hopes raised, I begin writing down everything he says. I'm more than a little shocked, however, when he tells me he's a municipal police officer based in Medicine Hat, the only non-RCMP officer in camp.

A solid guy, with many interesting observations, but not what I wanted. I complain again, and get looks of understanding that, yes, it is a great idea to write about the RCMP, but without proper authorization, it is out of our hands.

I sense those in charge are growing tired of this now-cranky prairie reporter. I'm told the RCMP has signed off on an interview, but some other official with an acronym I don't recognize must first give approval. And that could take some time. Meanwhile, the only RCMP officer in camp that day is about to leave for a well-deserved trip home to Canada. Finally, I get my approval, mere minutes before he boards a Blackhawk helicopter. The journalistic day is saved, although it leaves me shaking my head over Ottawa's communication failures.

What proves much easier is talking to Afghani people. We meet only a few because of security issues. But those we do talk to prove very interesting.

I meet Sammi, an interpreter working for the Canadian Forces, at a small school outside Kandahar City. What sparks my interest is a Toronto Maple Leafs hat attached by a clip to his flak jacket.

A slight, well-spoken young man, he admits to being a big hockey fan, catching games on TV whenever he can. It takes considerable effort to watch Hockey Night in Kandahar, with games starting at 3 a.m. local time and often interrupted by power failures.

Sammi's job is among the most dangerous in Afghanistan. Interpreters are prime targets of insurgents, and often have a price on their heads. A Canadian soldier I met earlier in the week described how the interpreter he worked with — and was learning Pastun from — had been killed by insurgents.

Sammi is actually a nickname that he uses when out with Canadian soldiers. He keeps his real name and identity secret and works with his face completely covered by a scarf. Few people know what he does for a living — not even his mother.

I also meet Hekmat Karzai, the brother of President Hamid Karzai, who is our dinner host at a traditional Afghani feast in Kabul. The head of the Centre for Conflict and Peace, Karzai is a Georgetown-educated academic who commands any room he enters.

We spend two hours speaking to him about his country, its traditions, its challenges and its future. As we sit cross-legged on pillows with delicious Afghan dishes on the floor in front of us, Karzai, who clearly will be a successful politician some day, speaks with eloquence about his people. No other single event during our trip is as valuable in gaining insight about Afghanistan.

I also learn about the resilient nature of these proud people from a soft-spoken, 50-something mother of six we meet at a Canadian-funded program that provides assistance for widows.

Hanifa lost her husband to a rocket attack 14 years ago. At the time, her youngest child was only two months old and she had no one to turn to for help. Unlike Canada, there is no government-run social assistance system here. Instead, widows are left to their own resources. Through an interpreter, Hanifa says she survived by working hard and getting help from her extended family.

The widows' program has made her life more bearable by supplying her with a meagre weekly ration of food. More important, she has become something of a fledgling entrepreneur. With the project's assistance, she has been able to acquire a cow. That enables her to sell both milk and yogurt; she also uses its dung for fuel for cooking. When she is asked what else she might like in order to live a better life, she looks at the centre's director, smiles, and says, "A second cow."

I finally meet a Saskatchewan soldier on the last day of my trip. He was hard to miss in his Roughrider jersey. He has lots to say about what he does and why he does it, and I learn more about life in the military.

As I finish the interview I know it was a great way to cap off a truly remarkable four days.

# Pakistan's Bhutto vows no surrender to militants

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**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** C12  
**DATELINE:** KARACHI  
**SOURCE:** Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 524

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KARACHI (Reuters) — Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said on Friday she would carry on her struggle for democracy, despite an attack on her motorcade that killed 133 people as she returned home after eight years of exile.

"We are prepared to risk our lives. We're prepared to risk our liberty. But we're not prepared to surrender this great nation to militants," Bhutto, wearing a black armband, told a news conference at the home of her parents-in-law in Karachi.

"The attack was on what I represent. The attack was on democracy and the very unity and integrity of Pakistan."

The 54-year-old former prime minister returned on Thursday to lead her Pakistan People's Party into national elections due in January that are meant to mark a transition from military to civilian-led democracy.

Bhutto said she had known an attempt on her life was coming and she expected more. She also alluded to enemies in government who were spreading militancy and plotting against her.

"I am not accusing the government. I am accusing people, certain individuals who abuse their positions. Who abuse their powers," she said.

Travelling in a truck reinforced to withstand bomb attacks, Bhutto was unhurt by one of the deadliest bomb attacks in her country's violent history. The Interior Ministry said 133 people had been killed and 290 wounded.

The attack underscored the turbulence which lay in store for Pakistan ahead of the elections but it was unclear how the assassination attempt might affect a possible power-sharing deal between Bhutto and President Pervez Musharraf.

Washington has quietly encouraged their alliance to keep nuclear-armed Pakistan pro-Western and committed to fighting al Qaeda and supporting NATO's efforts to stabilise Afghanistan.

Army chief General Musharraf consoled with his potential ally by telephone from Islamabad and they both "expressed their unflinching resolve to fight the scourge of extremism and terrorism", the president's spokesman Rashid Quereshi said.

The grenade and suicide attack struck Bhutto's motorcade as it edged through hundreds of thousands of well-wishers who had stayed up late into the night to welcome the two-time prime minister back to Pakistan

after years of self-imposed exile.

The attack took place shortly after midnight, around 10 hours after Bhutto arrived from Dubai.

"The first blast was caused by a hand grenade. The second was the suicide attack," said Manzoor Mughal, a senior police official. "The attacker ran into the crowd and blew himself up."

Mughal said the head of the suspected bomber had been found, and it was estimated he had 15 to 20 kg of explosives strapped to his body. Typically, the upward force from a blast blows off the head an attacker.

Bhutto said there were also shots fired at her vehicle during the attack, while a man armed with a pistol and another wearing a suicide belt were arrested earlier.

There was no claim of responsibility.

Baitullah Mehsud, a well-known Pakistani Taliban commander said to have issued assassination threats against Bhutto, telephoned Reuters to deny any involvement in the attack.

The government said police were investigating whether the attack had links to tribal regions bordering Afghanistan which have become hotbeds of support for al Qaeda and the Taliban.

"Definitely, it is the work of the militants and terrorists," Interior Ministry spokesman Javed Iqbal Cheema said.

The scale of Thursday's reception for Bhutto proved she has the mass appeal no other leader can muster despite being out of power for 10 years, and out of Pakistan for eight.

Bhutto's re-entry to the political scene was welcomed by investors who saw her as a force for democracy and stability, who would help Pakistan keep consistent economic policies.



# Afghans back presence of foreign troops

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**PAGE:** C10  
**DATELINE:** TORONTO  
**SOURCE:** Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 255

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TORONTO (Reuters) — A majority of Afghans support the presence of NATO-led troops and want them to remain in the country to fight the Taliban, a poll conducted for Canadian media said Friday.

The survey, conducted by Environics for the Globe and Mail and La Presse newspapers and the Canadian Broadcasting Corp, showed that 60 per cent of respondents supported having foreign troops in their country, 16 per cent opposed, and 22 percent said it was equally good and bad.

In Kandahar, where 2,500 Canadian troops are based, 61 per cent supported the foreign presence, while 23 percent were opposed.

Overall, 43 per cent of respondents wanted foreign troops to stay as long as it takes to defeat the Taliban, and 14 per cent said they should leave immediately.

In the middle ground, 11 per cent said foreign troops should leave within a year, and 27 percent said they should stay from two to five years.

Earlier this week, the Canadian government said it wants its troops to stay in Afghanistan until 2011, two years longer than the planned pullout in 2009. It has promised a vote in Parliament on any extension.

Seventy-one Canadian soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan, the third biggest death toll among NATO countries.

In Kandahar, in a region in which the Taliban is active, 32 per cent said the soldiers should leave within the year, while 18 per cent said they should stay between two and five years, and 31 per cent said they should stay for as long as it takes.

Overall, 60 per cent of the Afghans felt they were better off now than they were five years ago, with 73 per cent saying that women fare far better today.

# Canadians oversee massive weapons stockpile in Afghanistan

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**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
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**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** C10  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR AIRFIELD,  
Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 580

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KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — It is not talked about much by the troops or by the media, but Canada cannot fight the Taliban without large stocks of deadly artillery and tank shells and tens of thousands of bullets for 25-millimetre cannons, sniper and assault rifles and pistols.

Warrant Officer Martin Marceau and a small cadre of technicians spend their days and nights in a sprawling ammo dump at the Kandahar Airfield preparing pallets of munitions for shipment by air and by road to the Royal 22nd Regiment battle group, which is mostly deployed in the Taliban heartland, not far to the west of Kandahar City.

As you might expect, the ammo dump, officially known as the Multinational Ammunition Depot, is one of the most secure areas at the Kandahar Airfield, which is home to about 13,000 NATO troops and civilians.

"If all we have here went up at once it would be a really big show, that's for sure, but that just isn't an issue. It's safe," said Master Cpl. Sebastien Janvier, who keeps close track of all the firepower and the mountains of paper its movement and its use generate.

"We get urgent requests for ammo almost every day. Sometimes we have to move the ammo out so fast that we deal with the paperwork afterwards."

Maj. Roger Lupien, who oversees everything from toilet paper to weapons that leave the airfield for Canadian troops in the field, said great care was taken to follow every shell and bullet and to have munitions that were not being used or that were faulty, returned to be examined in Kandahar or in Canada.

"It is rigidly controlled," he said. "We know exactly what is inside each truck that leaves here and exactly what the consumption rate is."

Kandahar's state-of-the-art ammunition depot is an unusual hybrid. In a deal struck under Paul Martin's Liberal government as NATO's big Afghan push began in 2005, Canada saved \$1.7 million by sharing costs of the compound equally with the British and Dutch armies. While each country has an equal share in the facility and takes care of its own ordnance, the command rotates between a British and a Canadian officer every six months.

Except for German-made tank shells for Canada's Leopard I and Leopard II tanks, almost all of the

ammunition in the Canadian storage areas was made at home. As extremely hazardous cargo, weapons were flown here on military aircraft where passengers were banned.

The dump isn't actually a dump at all, but a series of magazines set far apart from each other and each protected by sandbags. For safety reasons, each shed was designed in such a way that if there was an accident the blast would push the explosives up, rather than out.

One of the problems in the extreme heat of the Afghan summer has been keeping each building sufficiently cool so that weapons do not become unstable. An unexpected difficulty has been flash floods that occur sometimes during the winter. To keep the weapons dry they have been stored several feet off the ground and a network of culverts has been built outside to divert water.

Another major security concern was that "we can't mix the weapons much," said Marceau, who spent 10 years as a gunner before entering this arcane, secretive world by passing an onerous three-day examination that required him to build his own ammo dump.

"NATO has specific rules. Canada's are sometimes more strict. We try to exceed them where possible. For a field operation, this is a good one."

# 136 dead in blasts that shatter Bhutto homecoming, rock Pakistan

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**DATE:** 2007.10.19

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 784

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The midnight attack shattered ex-premier Bhutto's homecoming procession hours after she returned from exile pledging to end military rule and fight extremism.

Police suspected the bombing was linked to a pro-Taliban warlord based near the Afghan border who had reportedly threatened to launch an attack during Bhutto's return, but there was no claim of responsibility.

The devastating attack cast a pall over her talks with President Gen. Pervez Musharraf which have raised the prospect of them forming a moderate, pro-U.S. alliance.

Leaders of her Pakistan People's Party were meeting at her Karachi residence Friday, and Bhutto was expected to hold a news conference afterward.

Musharraf was "deeply shocked" by the midnight explosions, which went off near a truck carrying Bhutto through Karachi, tearing victims apart and throwing a fireball into the night sky.

The general "condemned this attack in the strongest possible words. He said this was a conspiracy against democracy," the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan said.

Musharraf appealed for calm, promised an exhaustive investigation and stiff punishment for those responsible, APP reported.

The attack shattered the windows of the truck carrying Bhutto, but police said she was unhurt and was hurried to her house. An Associated Press photo showed a dazed-looking Bhutto being helped away.

Officials at six hospitals in Karachi reported 136 dead and around 250 wounded, making it one of the deadliest bombings in Pakistan's history.

Earlier reports had placed the death toll at 113 and said nearly 300 people were injured.

A police investigator, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the group of pro-Taliban militant leader Baitullah Mehsud was suspected.

On the eve of Bhutto's arrival, a provincial government official had cited intelligence reports that three suicide bombers linked to Mehsud were in Karachi. The local government had also warned Bhutto could be targeted by Taliban or al-Qaida.

Earlier this month, local media reports quoted Mehsud \_ probably the most prominent leader of Islamic militants destabilizing its northwestern border regions near Afghanistan \_ as vowing to greet Bhutto's return to Pakistan with suicide attacks.

Karachi, which lies in the far south of Pakistan but has been buffeted by militant attacks in recent years, was quiet Friday. Schools were closed and traffic was thin, with city residents wary of venturing out.

Hundreds of Bhutto supporters hurled stones at vehicles and shops during a funeral procession for two victims, forcing police to cordon off the area. Elsewhere, Bhutto supporters ordered shops to close and burned tires in the road.

Bhutto had flown home earlier Thursday to lead her Pakistan People's Party in January parliamentary elections after eight years in exile, drawing cheers from crowds that police put at 150,000.

The throngs reflected Bhutto's enduring political clout, but she has made enemies of Islamic militants by taking a pro-U.S. line and negotiating a possible alliance with Musharraf.

Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, said on Dawn News television that he suspected that "elements sitting within the government" who would lose out if Bhutto returned to power were involved in the attack.

He didn't elaborate, though Bhutto has accused conservatives in the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Q party and the security services of secretly supporting religious extremists.

But Musharraf's camp sounded conciliatory.

Presidential spokesman Rashid Qureshi said he doubted the attack would deflect Bhutto from her course.

"If someone thinks that by spreading this kind of terror they will stop the political process in Pakistan, I don't think that's correct, I don't think that will happen," Qureshi said.

Musharraf believes that "all political forces need to combine to face this threat which is basically the major, major issue that faces Pakistan," he said.

Authorities had warned Bhutto that extremists sympathetic to the Taliban and al-Qaida could target her in Karachi and urged her in vain to use a helicopter to reduce the risk.

"I am not scared. I am thinking of my mission," she had told reporters on the plane from Dubai.

Leaving the airport, Bhutto refused to use a bulletproof glass cubicle that had been built atop the truck taking her toward the tomb of Pakistan's founding father, Mohammed Ali Jinnah. An AP photographer who saw the cubicle of the wrecked truck Friday said it appeared to have shrapnel holes from the bombing.

Her procession had been creeping toward the center of Karachi for 10 hours, as supporters thronged her truck, when a small explosion erupted near the front of the vehicle.

That was quickly followed by a larger blast, destroying two escorting police vans.

The former premier had just gone to a downstairs compartment in the truck for a rest when the blast occurred, said Christina Lamb, Bhutto's biographer.

The United States, the United Nations and the European Union condemned the attack.

"Extremists will not be allowed to stop Pakistanis from selecting their representatives through an open and democratic process," said Gordon Johndroe, foreign affairs spokesman for U.S. President George W. Bush.

Bhutto had paved her route back to Pakistan through negotiations with Musharraf, a longtime political rival despite their shared liberal values. Their talks yielded an amnesty covering the corruption charges that made Bhutto leave Pakistan.

Musharraf won re-election to the presidency in a controversial vote this month by lawmakers that is being challenged in the Supreme Court. If he is confirmed for a new five-year presidential term, Musharraf has promised to quit the military and restore civilian rule.

# Battle for Vimy Ridge comes to stage at Edmonton's Citadel Theatre

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**DATE:** 2007.10.19

**KEYWORDS:** ARTS DEFENCE ENTERTAINMENT INTERNATIONAL

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 552

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EDMONTON \_ The First World War battle for Vimy Ridge has been called the moment a young Canada marked out a place of its own.

Yet when prolific Edmonton playwright Vern Thiessen began researching the landmark battle, which left 3,598 Canadians dead, he was puzzled.

“I was just kind of interested in why nobody had tackled this battle, which is considered by some to be the birth of the nation, why nobody had tackled it in dramatic form,” said Thiessen, who splits his time between Edmonton, where he is the Citadel Theatre’s playwright in residence, and New York.

“It’s been documented to death and there’s been some fiction written on it, but nobody had written a play about it.”

So Thiessen, who won the Governor General’s Award in 2003 for his play “Einstein’s Gift,” began poring through the diaries and journals of those who were actually there, trying to get an understanding not only of the war but also of what Canada and Canadians were like at that time.

The result is “Vimy,” which begins previews at the Citadel on Saturday and has its official opening premiere on Oct. 25.

The play is set after the April 9, 1917, battle has ended. A nurse is tending to the wounds of four soldiers in a field hospital. The soldiers \_ along with the nurse and her soldier boyfriend, seen only in flashbacks \_ represent everyone who fought, and the country as a whole.

“The play itself is sort of a composite of, or a metaphor for, what happened at Vimy, with the Canadian soldiers fighting together,” says director James MacDonald, who notes the cast includes both francophone and aboriginal actors.

“We’ve got a cast of many different cultures and many different regions of the country, so it kind of reflects the story of Vimy itself.”

The characters are revealed through flashbacks to their diverse lives in Canada and snippets from the battle as they all try to heal physically and emotionally.

Thiessen has visited the Vimy memorial in France twice, once in 2003 after deciding to tackle the story and also this summer. He said the battle is still relevant to everyone in Canada, something that more people realize after memorials this spring marking the 90th anniversary.

“There were 100,000 people involved in that battle, 100,000 Canadians. That’s bigger than the population of Vancouver at the time.”

Some may draw parallels between the play and the conflict in Afghanistan.

“The military is probably more in the public spotlight this year than it has been for at least a decade,” says MacDonald.

But both Thiessen and MacDonald are quick to emphasize that the play is not making a statement about Canada's present-day combat.

“I want to make it very clear \_ the play's not some allegory on Afghanistan,” said Thiessen. “It's not even about war, as far as I'm concerned. It's not a play that discusses whether war is good or bad.”

Instead, Thiessen uses the time and setting as a way to explore memory, in both a personal and national sense.

“I'm curious how memory operates in our lives. Does it heal us? Does it give us nightmares? And as a nation, why do we have to mythologize things in order to remember them?”

MacDonald refers to a quote used in the opening of the play: a First Nations leader asks, “If this is your nation, where are your stories?”

For MacDonald, this is a central question, and Vimy, a battle that claimed so many lives, provides a potential launching point for some answers.

“We don't, as Canadians, necessarily mark our own stories. We don't understand, always, where we came from,” he said.

“That's the crux of it for me,” said MacDonald.

“We cannot band together as a country, we can't be recognized as a strong country from within, we won't feel we are a unified country, if we don't understand the stories that are in our past.”

“Vimy” runs until Nov. 11.



# MackKay says opinion poll in Afghanistan a positive sign for democracy

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**DATE:** 2007.10.19  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 397

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HALIFAX \_ An opinion poll of Afghans shows that democracy is taking hold in the war-torn country and that there is confidence in the NATO-led mission, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said Friday.

The Environics Research poll, released Thursday on behalf of the Globe and Mail, CBC and La Presse, was based on nearly 1,600 interviews with Afghan men and women.

Sixty per cent of the respondents said the presence of foreigners in the country was a good thing, while only 16 per cent said it was bad.

Forty-three per cent said foreigners should remain in the country until order is returned, while 25 per cent wanted foreigners to leave immediately or within a year.

Support was weaker in Kandahar, where Canadians have been engaged in bloody battles with the Taliban, although most still said they wanted foreign soldiers to remain.

MacKay said the results show that Afghans have confidence in NATO forces and are realizing that their lives are improving.

"I see enormous positives coming from this poll, first and foremost the fact that a poll can even take in a place like Afghanistan, where very little democracy, very little consultation was taking place with people there," MacKay said following a funding announcement in Halifax.

"You have a country that is starting to walk on its own and that's expressed in many of these poll results that I've seen."

Respondents were also asked which foreign countries are involved in Afghanistan. Canada had the fourth-highest recognition overall.

However, virtually no respondents named Canada when asked which countries were fighting the Taliban. To date, 71 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed in Afghanistan since the mission began.

"I see enormous good news for the mission, for the effort and for the confidence that Afghans are feeling in their own future," MacKay said.

The poll was conducted between Sept. 17 and 24 and is considered accurate to within 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Other results from the survey included:

– Sixty per cent of respondents said they were better off than they were five years ago.

- Fifty–one per cent said the country is heading in the right direction, while 28 per cent said it was heading in the wrong direction.
- While 40 per cent felt the Afghan government, with foreign assistance, will win against the Taliban, another 40 per cent said it was too early to say or that they didn't know.
- More than 70 per cent had a positive opinion of President Hamid Karzai's government.
- Seventy–four per cent supported negotiations with the Taliban, while slightly more than half supported the idea of a coalition government sharing power with the Taliban.
- Seventy–three per cent had a negative opinion of the Taliban, while 54 per cent of respondents said al–Qaida was a negative “Islamic force” in the world.
- More than 70 per cent of respondents felt women are better off today than they were in 2002.

# White House says Bush made `rhetorical point' in warning of Third World War

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**DATE:** 2007.10.19  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 249

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WASHINGTON \_ The White House said Thursday that President George W. Bush was simply making ``a rhetorical point" when he suggested that if Iran obtained nuclear weapons, it could lead to the Third World War.

``The president was not making any war plans, and he wasn't making any declarations," said White House press secretary Dana Perino. ``He was making a point, and the point is that we do not believe \_ and neither does the international community believe \_ that Iran should be allowed to pursue nuclear weapons."

If Iran acquired nuclear weapons, she said, ``that would lead to a very dangerous \_ a potentially dangerous situation, and potentially lead to a scenario where you have World War III. But he was using that as a rhetorical point, not, you know, making a declaration."

The United States and its allies accuse Iran of secretly trying to build a nuclear weapon, a charge Tehran denies.

Bush, at a news conference on Wednesday, said, ``I've told people that if you're interested in avoiding World War III, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing them (Iran) from having the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon."

Iran denounced Bush's comment. ``This sort of policy will jeopardize peace and security at the international level, and is a barrier for peace," the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mohammad Ali Hosseini, said in a statement.

Hosseini said Bush was resorting to ``warlike rhetoric" to divert the American public's attention from White House failures on international issues such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

# CORRECTION–Afghan–Poll–MacKay

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**DATE:** 2007.10.19  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 160

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Stations: Please substitute the following for Afghan–Poll–MacKay moved at 2:15 p–m EDT:

(corrects to ``nearly" instead of ``nearby" in second paragraph)

HALIFAX — Defence Minister Peter MacKay says an opinion poll of Afghans that measured support for the NATO–led mission is a sign that democracy is taking hold in the war–torn country.

The Environics Research poll, released Thursday on behalf of the Globe and Mail, the CBC and La Presse, was based on nearly 16–hundred interviews with Afghan men and women.

Sixty per cent of the respondents said the presence of foreigners in the country was a good thing, while only 16 per cent said it was bad.

Support was weaker in Kandahar, where Canadians have been engaged in bloody battles with the Taliban, although most respondents still wanted the foreign soldiers to stay.

While Canada had a relatively high profile when respondents were asked which foreign countries are involved in Afghanistan, virtually no respondents named Canada when asked which countries were fighting the Taliban.

MacKay says the poll reflects positive progress in Afghanistan and the population's confidence in the NATO–led mission there.

(The Canadian Press)

# Throne–Speech–Vote

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**DATE:** 2007.10.19

**KEYWORDS:** POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 100

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OTTAWA -- The Harper Conservatives easily survived the first vote on their throne speech.

The Liberals and N–D–P joined with the governing Tories to vote down a Bloc Quebecois sub–amendment.

The sub–amendment blamed the Conservative government and the previous Liberal one for failing to fight climate change.

It also demanded an end to Ottawa's spending power in areas of provincial jurisdiction and called for measures to help Quebec forestry workers.

The throne speech faces its next challenge Monday when a vote will be held on a Liberal amendment.

The final vote on the speech itself will be held next Wednesday.

Its should pass, seeing as Stephane Dion has said his Liberals will not oppose it.

The speech declares that Canada will not meet its Kyoto targets and suggests Canadian troops should continue their current Afghanistan mission until 2011.

(The Canadian Press)

TAP

# TOR OUT YYY

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**DATE:** 2007.10.19  
**KEYWORDS:** POLITICS INTERNATIONAL  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 157

---

TORONTO \_ Defence Minister Peter MacKay says the simple fact that Afghans are now able to take part in democratic processes like polling show progress is being made in their country.

A poll of Afghans conducted on behalf of the Globe and Mail, C-B-C and La Presse suggests a strong majority want NATO-led troops including Canadians to stay to fight and help them rebuild their country.

The results are in what Environics Research bills as the first ever public opinion poll conducted in person in Afghanistan.

While polls show most Canadians want the country's military mission to end in February 2009 or sooner, the survey indicates Afghans want it to continue.

It shows that 60 per cent said that the presence of foreigners in the country was a good thing. Only 16 per cent said it was bad.

Support in Kandahar, where the Taliban are stronger, was only slightly weaker.

Other findings include 64 per cent believe that foreign troops have made a progress in fighting the Taliban, and 60 per cent say they're better off than five years ago.

(The Canadian Press)

clt

# Afghan–Posthumous–Degree

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**DATE:** 2007.10.19

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 139

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WINNIPEG -- When Corporal Jordan Anderson wasn't working in the dangerous terrain of Afghanistan, he was working on his university courses.

Now, three months after he was killed by a roadside bomb, Anderson is the first Canadian soldier since the Korean War to get a posthumous degree.

His widow, Amanda Anderson, fought back tears yesterday before accepting the arts degree on her husband's behalf from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg.

She said Jordan had an intense hunger for knowledge.

Some of Anderson's colleagues from the Edmonton–based 3rd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry also attended the graduation ceremony.

They described him as a dedicated student, who would typically be in his tent studying during parties.

Anderson and five other soldiers, along with an Afghan interpreter, were killed by a roadside bomb July 4th.

He was 25.

The university has set up a bursary in Anderson's name, which will fund two students each year -- one in the military and one cadet.

(The Canadian Press)

ScH

# INDEX:Advisories

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**DATE:** 2007.10.19  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 398

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(Firefighters–Killed)

Only part of the report into the deaths of two Winnipeg fire captains has been released.

City officials say it's still too fresh for the firefighter's loved ones to publicly release the entire report into the deadly incident.

Captains Harold Lessard and Tom Nichols were killed and four other firefighters were injured last February after getting in caught in a "black fire," described by fire officials as a turbulent, high-velocity, intense fire with temperatures estimated at more than 600 degrees.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner released 22 recommendations from the report.

The rest of the report is being kept private out of respect for the victims' families and fellow firefighters. (The Canadian Press)

(HEALTH–HPV–Vaccine–Backlash)

A University of Manitoba researcher says the HPV vaccine is needed because some cervical cancers are hard to treat.

Dr. Fred Aoki says he does not think the Gardasil vaccine's importance is being overblown by its promoters.

He says he believes it can help prevent cancer in women who do not feel comfortable having regular pap tests for cultural or personal reasons.

Some health experts have recently questioned the vaccine's long-term efficacy, intense marketing campaign and 400-dollar cost. (Wpg F–P)

(Mba–University–Strike)

Striking support workers disrupted traffic entering the University of Manitoba on a rotating basis, moving pickets from entrance to entrance.

The strike by 480 skilled trades, maintenance and food services workers is in its 10th day today.

University spokesman John Danakas says traffic did get through, with some delays.

A conciliation officer called the two sides together yesterday for the first talks since negotiations broke down October 9th. (Wpg F–P)

(CRIME–Taxman–Gambling)



A woman who worked for the Canada Revenue Agency has pleaded guilty to adjusting several people's people's tax returns and putting the refunds into her bank account.

Twenty-seven-year-old Michelle Mariano, of Winnipeg, managed to get about 130-thousand dollars, which she says she used to support her gambling habit.

Mariano has been fined 120-thousand dollars and given a two-year conditional sentence.

She selected individuals at random from across the Prairies and none of them were actually out of pocket. (Wpg F-P)

(CRIME-Homeless-Manslaughter)

A homeless Winnipeg man has been convicted of manslaughter after the elderly man he beat died of pneumonia will be sentenced Monday.

The Crown says 29-year-old Floyd Alex Chartrand should go to prison for eight years, while his lawyer says a four-year term is enough.

Sixty-three-year-old Ernest Sinclair died in hospital last November, seven weeks after being jumped in the early morning hours in an apartment.

Police say a number of people demanded money from him and proceeded to assault him when he refused to hand any over. (Wpg F-P)

(Afghan-Posthumous-Degree)

An Edmonton-based soldier who died in Afghanistan has received a posthumous arts degree from the University of Manitoba.

Corporal Jordan Anderson had almost completed his political science degree when he was killed by a roadside bomb near Kandahar in July.

His widow, Amanda, fought back tears as she described her husband as a man with an intense hunger for learning. (The Canadian Press)

(Manitoba Update by Irv Thomas)

# TOR OUT YYY

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**DATE:** 2007.10.19

**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 330

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Defence Minister Peter MacKay says the fact that there can be a poll in Afghanistan is a telling sign of how far the country has come.

MacKay is reacting to new polls conducted in the country that show overwhelming support for the NATO-led mission.

The polls were done in person by Environics Research for The Globe and Mail, the CBC and La Presse.

Sixty per cent say that the presence of foreigners in the country is a good thing. (20)

(School Bus-Collision)

Crisis counsellors will be on hand Friday at the Mountain View Christian school in Calgary to help students cope with Thursday's tragic bus crash.

An eight-year-old girl was killed when the school bus she was a passenger in rammed into an abandoned dump truck on the side of a busy freeway.

Alberta Transportation Minister Luc Ouellette says the crash points to the need for drivers to pay attention while behind the wheel. (20)

(Pakistan-Bhutto-Bombing)

Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf is condemning Thursday's suicide bombing in Karachi.

Musharraf calls the attack "a conspiracy against democracy," and says the government will take every step to find the perpetrators.

The bomber detonated himself just as a cavalcade carrying former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto drew near.

She was uninjured, but 126 people were killed and over 200 more were wounded in the attack. (20)

(Climate Change-Watt-Cloutier)

Terrorism isn't the world's top safety and security issue -- it's climate change.

That according to Nobel prize nominee Canadian Sheila Watt-Cloutier.

In an interview in Red Deer, Alberta this week, Watt-Cloutier warns that if something isn't done about climate change, it will cost as many lives as war.

She also says Alberta has to think hard about the environmental impact of its oil and gas industry. (20)

(Weyerhaeuser–Cda–Plants)

Lumber and paper giant Weyerhaeuser says it will close three plants before the end of the year --- two of which are located in Canada.

The facilities are located in Drayton Valley, Alberta and Wawa, Ontario and together, employ over 260 people.

The company blames a reduced demand for wood due to the decline in North American housing starts. (20)

(ENT–People–Jerry Seinfeld)

It's hard to believe now, but actor/comedian Jerry Seinfeld says he didn't fit in with the ``in" crowd when he was in high school.

In an interview with Parade magazine, the 53–year–old says he was a sensitive teenager, who felt more comfortable hanging out with the nerdy kids and playing sports.

Seinfeld's newest role sees him as the voice of Barry the bumble bee in the animated ``Bee Movie," which he also produced and co–wrote. (20)

(NewsWatch by Leanne Davis)

# INDEX:Defence, International, Politics

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**DATE:** 2007.10.19  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 150

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HALIFAX – Defence Minister Peter MacKay says an opinion poll of Afghans that measured support for the NATO–led mission is a sign that democracy is taking hold in the war–torn country.

The Environics Research poll, released Thursday on behalf of the Globe and Mail, the CBC and La Presse, was based on nearly 1,600 interviews with Afghan men and women.

Sixty per cent of the respondents said the presence of foreigners in the country was a good thing, while only 16 per cent said it was bad.

Support was weaker in Kandahar, where Canadians have been engaged in bloody battles with the Taliban, although most respondents still wanted the foreign soldiers to stay.

While Canada had a relatively high profile when respondents were asked which foreign countries are involved in Afghanistan, virtually no respondents named Canada when asked which countries were fighting the Taliban.

MacKay says the poll reflects positive progress in Afghanistan and the population's confidence in the NATO–led mission there.

(The Canadian Press)

# Soldiers take another hit

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**IDNUMBER** 200710200159  
**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Sports  
**PAGE:** G4  
**COLUMN:** In Brief  
**KEYWORDS:** 0  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 69

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You've probably heard that the Edmonton Oilers have asked ticket-holders to donate their ducats for their Nov. 24 home game against Chicago to military members from CFB Edmonton. The Oilers' 3-4 start to the season may make that campaign a bit easier. Cracked Calgary Herald writer Bruce Dowbiggin: "Gee, wasn't Afghanistan sacrifice enough for our terrific troops?"

# 7 Days

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**IDNUMBER** 200710200064  
**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial  
**PAGE:** C2  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS; WEB SITES; INTERNET  
**SOURCE:** Vancouver Sun  
**WORD COUNT:** 516

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Take Pakistan. Please. In the ongoing (yeah, it's a hateful word, loved by academics, educators aka teachers, military officers and lazy journalists... sorry, dozed off) competition among that fair state, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Levant for most shmendrik–nation of the week, Pakistan, thanks to the usual terrorist crowd, wins with a welcome home for Benazir Bhutto that slaughtered scores of people and doubtless endeared the suicide bombers to some god, somewhere. (Unfortunate phrase of the week: "I know, let's go welcome Benazir back!") Or maybe, just before they enlightened the fuse, the terrorists bellowed, "Christopher Hitchens is Great!" Maybe not. These Anglo–American journalists conjure such faithless acts of tolerance. Burn the latest issue of Vanity Fair. Except for the lingerie ads. They're always good. But as you ignite it, bellow instead, "Christopher Hitchens is just so–so!" So there.

By coincidence that, again, is sheer, we hope, Google Inc. produced the search terms that were most popular for various nations. Pakistan again ranked up there, maybe primed by the Chitrali hash for which many a bygone hippie held the country in such high esteem. Among its searches were "terrorism," "Taliban" and "jihad." But what about the Irish? "Hangover" and "Kate Moss." Causing a great exodus of Pakistanis to Ireland, one suspects. Canada took a more intellectual approach to world affairs: "Burrito" (burrito?), "Tom Cruise" (Tom Cruise?), "Britney Spears" (I see England, I see France...) and marijuana (well, yeah, we had to show some solidarity with Pakistan. Pass the bong, my Baluchi friend.) No problem, Canucks joined Aussies and Americans in searching the 'net for "Iraq" and "Car Bomb." Google is being a tad politic, for none of the terms added the search term "nude." As if anyone would Google a fully clothed burrito.

Before we leave, and leave we must, before we depart this column at the bottom of the page and end up spilling over into, oh, the New York Review of Books, which always irks the editors at the New Yorker, who lust for the spillage, we should mention the scientific revelation of the week. It was revealed by Ralf Sommerfeld, an evolutionary biologist at the Max Planck Institute in Germany, a school named after the scientist who made particle physics so obvious to all of us who muck around with string theory in our spare time. Anyhow, Herr Sommerfeld and his fellow researchers conducted experiments that proved that people believe gossip more than they recognize the truth. Gossip, they found, can be more useful than truth in determining whether a person would make a desirable match for sex, folly and life. How'd he find out? Google him, please, and knock Tom Cruise off the most searched list. Please.

Bart Jackson

Sun Nation and World Editor

# Extremists have found a home in Pakistan's capital

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**IDNUMBER** 200710200029  
**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A15  
**KEYWORDS:** TERRORISM;  
WAR  
**DATELINE:** LONDON  
**BYLINE:** David Blair  
**SOURCE:** The Daily  
Telegraph  
**WORD COUNT:** 414

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LONDON -- Of all the Pakistani cities Benazir Bhutto could have chosen for her homecoming, Karachi is the most dangerous. Teeming with some 14 million people, the country's commercial capital is torn by unending violence.

Al-Qaida operatives are known to have found refuge in Karachi, where hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees have also settled.

Rivalry between native Sindhis and Mohajirs, the Urdu-speaking migrants who fled to Pakistan after partition, has claimed thousands of lives in the city.

So there is a long list of possible suspects for the suicide attack on Bhutto's convoy.

Broadly speaking, the two most likely culprits are Pakistan's Islamist extremists, who are probably linked to al-Qaida, or elements of the national security forces.

There is little doubt that al-Qaida terrorists have both the motive and the capability to carry out such an attack.

To them, Bhutto is a loathsome Western puppet who openly breaches the canons of Islam by aspiring, as a woman, to lead Pakistan. Before her arrival in Karachi on Thursday, she received at least two specific and public threats from Islamist radicals.

One commander linked to the Taliban, Baitullah Masood, specifically pledged to send suicide bombers to kill Bhutto during her welcoming parade in Karachi.

Masood is believed to be based in Pakistan's lawless tribal areas on the frontier with Afghanistan.

Al-Qaida's ability to strike in Karachi has been proven repeatedly.

A car bomb attack on the American consulate in the city killed 11 people in 2002. Afterwards, all Westerners were advised to leave Karachi.

The likelihood must be that Islamist radicals, probably linked to al-Qaida, were responsible for the assassination attempt.

But some of Bhutto's allies were quick to accuse the authorities.

In particular, they hinted that Pakistan's powerful Inter-Services Intelligence agency (ISI) may have played a role. There would be two motives for an officially inspired attempt to kill Bhutto.

First of all, President Pervez Musharraf's most popular opponent would be eliminated.

Second, any attack could give him a pretext to delay the parliamentary elections that must be held by January.

No hard evidence supports this theory and Bhutto made clear that she does not blame the government for the suicide bombing. Musharraf, who telephoned Bhutto Friday, was quick to express his "deep shock" over the attack.

The key question is whether there is a real difference between an attack carried out by militants linked to al-Qaida and one executed by elements of Pakistan's intelligence service.

In other words, could the ISI, or the military establishment more generally, be colluding with al-Qaida operatives?

Bhutto has talked of this possibility.

Before her arrival in Karachi, she said: "People like Baitullah Masood are just pawns. It is those forces behind him that have presided over the rise of extremism and militancy in my country."

Pakistan created the Taliban and helped them capture most of Afghanistan in the 1990s. Its army has openly supported Islamist extremists fighting Indian control of the disputed territory of Kashmir.

After the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 Musharraf allied with America and pledged to hunt down al-Qaida and the Taliban.

But did Pakistan's official relationship with these militants end overnight?

The evidence suggests that some elements did not execute this swift U-turn.



# PM's grip on power makes Parliament irrelevant

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**IDNUMBER** 200710200207  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A19  
**BYLINE:** James Travers  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 586

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What most Canadians see happening here is a strong Stephen Harper taking advantage of a weak Stephane Dion to impose the will of the minority on the majority. What the country's leading expert on the machinery of power sees is a Parliament acting as a palace court and a Prime Minister behaving much like an absolute monarch.

Before dismissing the observation as hyperbole or hysterics, consider the source. Donald Savoie's list of honours and publications is long and imposing. A celebrated international scholar and Order of Canada member, the Universite de Moncton political economist is best known in Ottawa for one of three–dozen books. *Governing from the Centre*, an unflinching examination of the concentration of Canadian political power, made him a pariah in Jean Chretien's capital and is now a workshop manual for Conservatives who in opposition saw it as proof of the devil's undemocratic work.

So take Savoie seriously when he says, as he did in an interview this week, that the events of the past few days measure the rapid acceleration of a decades–old trend. In forcefully imposing a notably personal agenda on a Parliament with life–and–death powers over his administration, Harper is taking advantage of a specific political circumstance – disorganized Liberals fear a campaign – and the generalized truth that between elections modern prime ministers are perilously close to omnipotent.

"There's no question," Savoie says, "that the Prime Minister has all the power he could possibly want."

Harper is not the first to yank those levers, nor is he alone among recent prime ministers in recognizing that the most effective, and certainly most comfortable way to manage complex issues is by controlling them at the epicentre. In practice that means two offices that serve the Prime Minister rule while backbenchers, cabinet ministers and ultimately Parliament watch.

Harper's "fish or cut bait" ultimatum is one test of Parliament's growing irrelevance. Those no–name representatives of the people are essentially being told to stand–down from their elected task. Under threat of an imminent campaign, public policies tightly scripted by an inner circle that only occasionally intersects with ministers or the civil service are to be approved without amendment or improvement.

Another revealing illustration of concentrated power is the appointment of a panel to steer Canada's post–2009 Afghanistan course. Rather than trust an all– party committee reporting to Parliament, Harper is delegating that politically charged responsibility to a handpicked elite beholden only to him.

Led by former Liberal deputy prime minister John Manley and including Derek Burney, a former chief of staff and ambassador to the U.S. under Brian Mulroney, and the head of Harper's transition team, the

panellists are among what Savoie calls the new courtiers. In return for access, prestige and handsome per diems, they whisper advice the king can accept, dismiss or ignore depending on his wants, needs or whims.

Understanding this circular evolution in its full Magna Carta historical context requires waiting for spring and the latest of Savoie's seminal exposes of the practical application of power. But before then, this Parliament, labouring on life-support while the immediate families bicker, is likely to die. When it does, Canadians will have to decide if they can comfortably give this Prime Minister the added power he wants to operate a system he now so fully controls.

James Travers' national affairs column runs Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

# An alternative plan for Canada; The Liberal leader, talked out of voting against this week's Conservative throne speech, writes his own

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**IDNUMBER** 200710200206

**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star

**DATE:** 2007.10.20

**EDITION:** Ont

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A18

**ILLUSTRATION:** RENE JOHNSTON Toronto Star Liberal Party Leader Stephane Dion worksThursday on his throne speech for the Toronto Star in his office at Stornoway, the official Ottawa residence of the Leader of the Opposition. ;

**BYLINE:** STEPHANE DION

**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation

**WORD COUNT:** 1091

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A Liberal throne speech would have done what the Prime Minister, seeking to trigger an election, failed to do: acknowledge that Canadians want their MPs to work together on their priorities. In that spirit, I would have asked Parliament to support a plan to build a richer, fairer and greener Canada, with an independent international voice.

I would have asked all parties to work on this plan. Canada, after all, is at its best when Canadians look beyond their differences, and work together.

To achieve these priorities, however, we must overcome the challenges of climate change and poverty. And, to overcome these challenges we need a strong, prosperous and sustainable economy.

The Conservative government inherited an unprecedented economic dynamism thanks to the efforts of Canadians and to over a decade of sound financial management by the previous Liberal government.

However, the economy will not remain sound without constant attention. The parity of our currency with the U.S. dollar, the uncertainty of the U.S. market, the high cost of energy, and the new powerhouses of India and China are all putting pressure on our economy and on the exporters and manufacturers that generate the jobs upon which we depend to maintain our high standard of living. Yet, in 19 months, the Conservative government has provided no convincing plan to enhance our economy's potential. This cannot stand.

If we are to overcome these challenges and achieve Canadians' priorities, we must have a sensible, responsible plan for ensuring our economy remains strong, prosperous and, above all, sustainable.

We also need a government in Ottawa that speaks clearly, honestly and directly to Canadians about these challenges we must overcome.

That means telling the truth about Canada's presence in Afghanistan – that our military in Kandahar is in fact involved in a combat mission that requires them to actively seek and engage in battle with insurgents. Not, as the Harper throne speech ambiguously suggests, in a training mission.

It also means taking urgent action to protect our environment and combat the climate-change crisis. We cannot pretend that voluntary targets, aspirational goals, or small groups of countries working alone, will be enough.

We know Conservative inaction on climate change – driven by their indifference – means Canada won't meet its obligations under the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol. But Canadians know the Kyoto Protocol is an ongoing international effort involving 175 countries, and we must build momentum now in order to close that gap in the next phase of the agreement, after 2012. We must achieve absolute greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and we must begin today.

Mentioning these obligations, however, is no substitute for delivering a plan that will actually help us meet them. It never is. That is what was so wrong about the Conservative throne speech: all talk, no action. That just isn't my style. I want to mobilize Canadians to tackle the challenges I just outlined.

The question I must answer, that anyone who aspires to lead the country must answer, is how do I propose to address these challenges, and meet the objectives I have set? By basing our actions on our shared and fundamental values as Canadians: freedom, opportunity, responsibility, and truth.

When we value freedom, we can build a richer Canada.

It was our belief in freedom – that our children should have the freedom to live their lives without fear of crippling national debt – that demanded we end decades of deficits and balance the books. And it is our belief in freedom – that comes with a good job, with a good paycheque – that demands we strengthen our homegrown industries and businesses with competitive corporate tax rates; we invest in research and development and in our country's infrastructure, especially in our cities and communities; we support the arts, culture and the creativity of our citizens; and we cut the taxes that will actually make a difference in the lives of Canadians.

When we value opportunity, we can build a fairer Canada.

It was our belief in opportunity – so cruelly denied by poverty – that demanded we create the Child Tax Benefit that has given millions of Canada's kids a chance. And it is our belief in opportunity – that comes when you're able to fully participate in the Canadian workforce and society – that demands we tear down every barrier that continues to prevent all of Canada's children, seniors, Aboriginals, and newcomers from fully participating; we do even more to support early learning and child care, post-secondary education, and lifelong learning; and we do everything we can to help parents climb over the welfare wall so they can provide the stability and security their children need.

When we value responsibility, we can build a greener Canada.

It was our belief in responsibility – to our grandchildren, and every future generation, not to leave for them a planet devastated by indifference – that demanded we base our actions on science and develop the most ambitious climate-change plan ever proposed in Canada: The Clean Air and Climate Change Act, which has as its foundation the Liberals' Carbon Budget. And it is our belief in responsibility – taken by doing everything you can to protect our country's precious natural resources – that demands we make polluters pay, and ensure our land, air and water are safe and clean; and we set an example for our children and live up to our international commitments so they do not have to suffer from indifference.

Finally, when we value truth, we can build a Canada with a strong and independent international voice.

It was our belief in truth – that we cannot be a leader in the world if we are not truthful with our allies, with the Canadian people, and with the men and women risking their lives under our flag – that demanded we

An alternative plan for Canada; The Liberal leader, talked out of voting against this week's Conservative throne

clearly indicate now that Canada's combat mission in Kandahar will end in February 2009, in order to facilitate the responsible rotation of our troops and clarify what non-combat role Canada may play in the ongoing reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. And it is our belief in truth – being truthful about how to achieve real, lasting peace in the world – that demands we pursue a respectful, multilateral approach to foreign affairs.

A Liberal government would have offered to Canadians a throne speech inspired by Canadians' priorities and driven by Canadians' values.

It would have encouraged Parliament to work together, in common cause, to overcome the great challenges we face and, together, build the richest, fairest, and greenest country in the world.

# NATO displays confidence, doubts about Afghan role; Some top brass suggest military role is like riding two horses at once, others compare Taliban to virus

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**BYLINE:** Mitch Potter  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
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Analysis There is a new metaphor making the rounds at NATO headquarters here that rings like simplicity itself. When you think of what Canada and its allies are doing in Afghanistan, think not of the ravages of the opium boom, the complexities of Pashtun tribalism, the elusive battle for hearts and minds or the indefatigable challenge of telling friend from foe.

Think instead of two horses.

Two horses upon which NATO now must ride simultaneously to find light at the end of the tunnel and, perhaps in three or four years, the first glimpse of the way out of Afghanistan.

The two-horses scenario is not yet official NATO doctrine for Afghanistan. But even as the alliance undertakes a full structural review of its mission to support the fledgling Afghan government, the metaphor is catching on.

"We are at the stage now where, as NATO, we have to ride two horses by simultaneously straddling two very challenging tasks," explains senior NATO spokesperson James Appathurai, speaking on the record amid a series of background briefings at alliance headquarters in Brussels.

"One horse, NATO has been riding since the beginning. That is the task of actual combat, the job of pushing the Taliban off its pedestal, out of its bases and onto its back feet in southern Afghanistan. We have to stay on that horse. For now, NATO must continue fighting to keep the Taliban off-balance.

"The other horse NATO must ride now is to accelerate and expand the training of, equipping of the Afghan army. You are going to see a very big push now on training Afghans to the point where they will be able to fight their own fight. And as they take on that role, NATO will be able to phase down its role in combat, providing the Afghans with embedded trainers, air support and border patrol – but not actually be on the front lines.

"This two-horses moment is the most delicate stage of the mission because we need to ride them simultaneously. It's like being in a circus – but we have to be able to do it. That's where we find the light at

NATO displays confidence, doubts about Afghan role; Some top brass suggest military role is like riding two

the end of the tunnel."

Several NATO sources estimate 2011 as a target date to reasonably expect Afghan army battalions emerging in numbers sufficient to allow for a role reversal, with Afghan army regulars taking the lead against anti-government fighters as NATO troops fall back.

NATO's estimated timeline happens also to coincide precisely with that outlined in Ottawa on Tuesday, when Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government proposed maintaining a Canadian military presence in Afghanistan until 2011. The Conservative throne speech called for Canadian troops to "shift to accelerate the training of the Afghan army and police so that the Afghan government can defend its sovereignty."

The quiet confidence at NATO headquarters comes in stark contrast to many critics of the broader international effort in Afghanistan, who argue the increasingly difficult struggle for the country's future won't be won by metaphor alone. And even in NATO corridors, some acknowledge concerns that the combined energies of foreign aid to Afghanistan registers as less than the sum of its parts because of a lack of co-ordination by the various delivery agencies, governmental and non-governmental alike.

One NATO adviser, retired Dutch military commander Frank van Kappen, told the Star of the "deepening doubts" of at least one branch of military intellectuals who now are questioning many of the larger political assumptions around which the foreign troop presence was designed.

"In academic circles, the biggest issue now is: 'Are we shooting the right guys?' It stems from the realization that the Taliban is a motley bunch that shifts like a virus and is riddled with seams," said van Kappen, a senior analyst with the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies.

"What the Dutch are finding in Uruzgan is that there are many groups who have joined the Taliban for all kinds of reasons – business interests, family reasons, tribal conflicts, smuggling, drugs – layers and layers of factors far too complex for us to ever truly understand.

"But ... if you place your knife at the right part of the seam, you can break part of it off by negotiating it to your side. You can crumble the cookie. And the hard kernel that remains – the ideological extreme, which is not going to respond to a 'nice conversation' – therefore becomes easier to swallow."

It is no coincidence, said van Kappen, that Afghan President Hamid Karzai recently renewed overtures for negotiation with his political and military opponents. That speaks to a deepening appreciation among foreign diplomats in Kabul for the value of encouraging Afghans to locate and stitch together possible consensus from the seams of their broken society.

Van Kappen suggested such Afghan dialogue could lead eventually to an international reckoning on some more deeply held assumptions about the country's future.

"More and more analysts are beginning to think that a strong central government in Kabul – which absolutely underpins the NATO-led effort – is a bridge too far," he said. "Instead, it may be necessary to achieve stability first in the regions – including an accommodation for the political needs of the Pashtun south

which is something the Afghan people are more familiar with, based on their background and history.

"It is all wonderful for NATO and the UN to talk about the three-pillared approach. Yet if the over-all concept is wrong, you are not achieving anything. But to look at these questions you need all of the like-minded nations involved – most importantly, you need the United States – to have the intellectual courage to sit down and really discuss it. We're talking more than tweaking here."

NATO displays confidence, doubts about Afghan role; Some top brass suggest military role is like ~~90~~ finding two

Such talk rises above the pay grade of most NATO officials, whose task is complicated enough, without entertaining conversations with those it has branded enemies. At NATO HQ, they shrug away the criticisms of the think tanks, saying they doubt the wisdom of modifications coming from the tips of "8,000-mile screwdrivers."

"The bottom line is NATO doesn't negotiate with the enemy. We can't do our business if we try to mediate with unknown Taliban elements," one senior NATO official told the Star on condition of anonymity.

"At the same time, we view as quite encouraging the fact that the Karzai government is in discussions with people who can influence the Taliban. We are very comfortable with that.

"Three years ago, it would have been unthinkable ... But we all agree that the key is to let the Afghans lead the process of talking with each other. I'm not going to try to understand all the fault lines. But they do. And that is what matters."



# Kandahar conundrum; NATO source: Canucks are replaceable at front, but 'it might not be easy'

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**PAGE:** AA02  
**ILLUSTRATION:** GORAN TOMASEVIC reuters A Canadian soldier, left, and an American comrade stand guard in Panjwai Bazaar, a town west of Kandahar. ;  
**BYLINE:** Mitch Potter  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 557

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Important, yes. Irreplaceable, no. That is NATO's candid assessment of Canada's role in the controversial effort to stabilize Afghanistan.

In a surprise admission from NATO headquarters in Brussels, a senior military source estimates the cohesion of the Afghan alliance now is sufficiently stable to withstand a Canadian withdrawal.

"It would be a disaster if Canada withdrew its forces and was not replaced. But would that be the case? Almost certainly not," the NATO source told the Toronto Star on condition of anonymity.

"If Canada needs to withdraw from Kandahar, we will find a way of replacing those capabilities. It might not be easy, but we will find a way. I'm fairly confident we could."

Officials in Brussels point to a 20 per cent increase in the size of the NATO-led international military coalition in the past year as evidence that the "challenge of force generation is being met." The addition of those 7,000 soldiers gives at least some of the military thinkers in Brussels a more buoyant sense of international commitment to the mission.

That confidence, however, is not shared by the alliance's chief spokesperson, James Appathurai, who cautioned that NATO's primary role in the mobilization of resources is "limited to a technical discussion. The real discussion is the political one, which happens between capitals.

"It's nice to know some of our people are sanguine about what would happen if the Canadians were to leave Kandahar province. I'm not," said Appathurai. "I don't think anyone can really predict which of the different scenarios might unfold."

Appathurai, 39, a Toronto native, speaks about Canada's role from an awkward position, wearing the hat of NATO but the heart of a Canadian. He acknowledges that never before in his nine years with NATO has he seen Canada command so much respect among its allies as it does today. Regardless of what Ottawa ultimately decides, "Nobody is ever going to say Canada didn't contribute to Afghanistan, or even punch above its weight.

"Everyone here recognizes how much Canada has contributed to this mission – including the 71 Canadian casualties, which is disproportionately high to what other nations have suffered," he said.

"It matters to the big players here. Your blood is worth a great deal. The price you pay on the ground translates into a seat at the table, because the voices that carry weight here are the voices that carry the can."

Thus far, none of the 37 nations contributing militarily to the NATO–led mission has announced any intention to leave. Insiders in Brussels say Canada is highly unlikely to become the first unless Ottawa first engineers a side deal that would see the arrival of replacement troops from other countries to assume the difficult task of securing Kandahar. In effect, the length of Canada's continued deployment will depend almost entirely on the skill the Harper government applies to persuading others to take its place.

"I do think that if – and it is a big if – Canadians were to leave Kandahar and nobody else steps in, the results would be extremely damaging. For the Afghan people foremost, it would be an absolute tragedy," said Appathurai.

"The biggest reason the Afghans don't throw as much support as they could behind the government in Kabul, and the international coalition, is that they hear the Taliban telling them, 'Just you wait. They are going to leave and we will still be here. And then you are going to pay.'

"So what is the answer to that? In the end, it is a decision Ottawa has to make and no one questions that."

# A liberal agenda for the Liberals

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The prospect of a snap federal election is fading slightly following the Liberals' decision this week not to reject the Conservative government's throne speech. But Prime Minister Stephen Harper is clearly itching for an election, and sooner rather than later.

The Liberals' move not to force an election now means the party has been granted a bit of breathing room before facing the voters. And it is important that the Liberals use the time available to them wisely, to rebuild their internal organization and their finances, and to heal the rifts within the party, especially in their Quebec wing.

But it is also critical that the Liberals use the time to flesh out a truly progressive and liberal agenda for Canada.

As outlined in Tuesday's Speech from the Throne, Harper has a small vision of Canada, with a diminishing role for the federal government. Instead, he focuses on cutting taxes, throwing away the keys on criminals, taking a go-slow approach to the environment and extending Canada's mission in Afghanistan until at least 2011.

Missing entirely from the Harper program is any commitment to address the scourge of poverty, which robs far too many Canadians of the chance for a decent life. And reflecting Harper's long-standing goal of a weakened central government, he offered nothing for cash-strapped cities while at the same time vowing to introduce new legislation to limit federal spending in areas under provincial jurisdiction.

This is not a nation-building agenda.

By contrast, Liberal Leader Stephane Dion has shown that he understands what nation building is all about, but is failing to get his message out. He has focused his policies around what he calls his "three-pillar" framework, namely economic prosperity, social justice and environmental sustainability.

Each of these pillars is good, but they mean little in real terms to most Canadians who are trying to keep their jobs, feed their children, pay off debts and enjoy a few of the benefits that Canada has to offer.

To connect better with voters, Dion needs to expand on his "three pillars" and relate it to levels Canadians can understand.

That means Dion needs to talk about policies that foster high-paying jobs, in addition to "economic prosperity." He must address Canada's overvalued dollar and the damage it is inflicting on the manufacturing sector. He must speak about the kind of education our children need to compete in today's world. And he must talk about the importance of a "new deal for cities," which are Canada's engines of growth.

Also, he must tell Canadians that social justice means policies that lift parents and children out of poverty, that promote diversity and protect multiculturalism, and that speak to the particular needs of women, youth and native Canadians.

At the same time, he must flesh out what he means by environmental sustainability in terms of clean air and water and the invisible emissions of climate-changing greenhouse gases.

As first steps, Dion should outline clear policies on these top issues:

**Poverty:** Canada needs a national poverty reduction strategy, with firm targets and timetables for lowering it. Toward that goal, he should promise to appoint a senior cabinet minister to oversee the war on poverty to ensure the job gets done. He must also develop an affordable housing plan and an affordable, accessible child-care program. And he should be willing to strengthen the National Child Benefit and other income supports for low-income families.

**Cities:** Dion should reaffirm the Liberals' support for a "new deal for cities," aimed at ensuring large urban centres have the money they need to remain attractive places for people to work and live. A major part of that is to adopt a measure promoted by the mayors of Canada's 22 biggest cities to transfer one cent of the GST to urban areas.

**Global warming:** Where Harper has tried to confuse Canadians on what his government is doing to protect the planet by introducing terms such as "intensity targets," which do little to combat climate change, Dion must be straight with people. He needs to tell them what it will take to cut emissions significantly over the next five to 10 years. And he must spell out how he would get people and businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

By using this period before the next election to refocus on traditional Liberal issues – poverty, cities, the environment, women, natives, jobs, multiculturalism – Dion could emerge with a program that is an attractive alternative to the narrow agenda offered by Harper.

Ultimately, Dion must reaffirm a progressive agenda for Canada, one that will make this a stronger, fairer and richer country.

## Afghans see progress that we ignore

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**BYLINE:** Rosie DiManno  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
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Here are but a few stories from Afghanistan that you won't have read in the past couple of months:

New bridge built over the Kokcha River, connecting the only major road in Badakshan.

Dozens of injured civilians transferred by NATO helicopters to military hospitals after a massive suicide bombing in Spin Boldak.

Senior Taliban commander captured in Gereshk.

An orphanage for 200 children, boasting the luxury of running water, opened in Farah province.

Ribbons cut on three skills development centres in Khak-e Jabbar and Bagrami.

Raid of a massive weapons and drugs cache in Uruzgan.

Insurgent mortar position destroyed in Kunar province.

New hospital and separate health clinic completed in Tarin Kowt.

Village medical outreach services provided to civilians by the provincial reconstruction team (PRT) in Qalat.

Press releases of this nature, from the International Security Assistance Force, drop into my email basket every few days. They never make it into print. But accounts of Western soldiers killed, and most especially our own, are given elegiac cover, understandably so.

Military commanders and grunts on the ground are torn about this. They want sacrifices given proper respect. Yet they fret over how the tragedy of loss is disproportionately depicted, every death exploited in some quarters to undermine the mission.

Canada remains conflicted about the combat deployment to Kandahar, although public opinion appears to be slowly shifting as more people come to understand the complexity of the undertaking, how incremental and fragile the successes, what a long slog the reversal of Afghanistan fortunes is destined to be. As a wedge political issue, Afghanistan has also lost opposition party traction through some finessing of the portfolio by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Afghans are not conflicted.

That central fact – disarming critics – comes through loud and clear in an extensive and nuanced Environics Research poll released on Thursday.

Listen up.

Sixty per cent of Afghans whose views were sampled in the survey, conducted between Sept. 17 and 24, said the presence of foreigners in the country is a good thing. Only 16 per cent said it was a bad thing. Even in volatile Kandahar, whence the Taliban emerged and a province where civilians have suffered horrifically from both the collateral damage of combat and suicide attacks, 61 per cent of respondents favour the foreign presence.

Some results fly in the face of received wisdom, as so often argued by a faction bitterly opposed to the mission: Eighty-four per cent have "a lot" or "some" confidence in the often-ridiculed Afghan National Army; 64 per cent say foreign countries are doing a good job fighting the Taliban; 59 per cent believe beleaguered President Hamid Karzai represents their interests; 73 per cent think women are better off now; and 65 per cent say foreign countries are doing a good job of providing reconstruction assistance.

NDP leader Jack Layton wants Canadian troops out now and Liberal leader Stephane Dion wanted them out by early 2009 (although I'm not really sure what he favours at the moment). They've argued, from various perspectives – some informed, some not – that the assignment isn't working, the overall approach to Afghanistan ruinously unbalanced, the insurgency impervious to military intervention and the citizenry increasingly disillusioned, pushed by NATO further towards the neo-Taliban.

Anyone who's been to Afghanistan, spent time in the company of ordinary Afghans, knows this to be emphatically untrue. It's heartening that a detached poll has borne that out.

Afghans get it. Weary of war and the hard-fisted neo-Taliban, they yearn for something a little better for their children, just as Canadians do. They may not distinguish much between Canadians and Americans. But they know enemy and they know friend.

Rosie DiManno usually appears Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

# Afghan girls bound by family betrothals; Despite government efforts, pre-arranged marriages persist among poor, rural families

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**ILLUSTRATION:** PHOTOS BY Farzana Wahidy AP Three-year-old Sunam, dressed in her bridal outfit, left, is betrothed to her cousin Nieem, 7, above, wearing their engagement clothes. Pre-arranged marriages finds some Afghan women trapped in abusive relationships. PHOTOS BY Farzana Wahidy AP Three-year-old Sunam, dressed in her bridal outfit, left, is betrothed to her cousin Nieem, 7, above, wearing their engagement clothes. Pre-arranged marriages finds some Afghan women trapped in abusive relationships. ;

**BYLINE:** Alisa Tang  
**SOURCE:** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
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When asked about her engagement party this summer, little Sunam glanced blankly at her family, then fiddled with her gold-sequined engagement outfit – a speechless response not out of shyness, but because she does not talk much yet. Sunam is 3.

The toddler was engaged to her 7-year-old cousin Nieem in June, in a match made by their parents.

Despite the efforts of the government and rights groups, the engagement and marriage of children still persists in this country, especially among poor, uneducated families or in the countryside.

About 16 per cent of Afghan children are married under the age of 15, according to recent data from UNICEF. And there is evidence that the poverty of recent years is pushing down the marriage age further in some areas.

The practice can force couples into a miserable union and sometimes expose the girl to violence if she resists.

Sunam's father committed her in marriage as a gift to his sister, Fahima, who does not have a daughter and desperately wants one. Marriage between first cousins is common in Afghanistan because families believe it is better to know their in-laws well. The two families live in the same modest housing compound in Kabul.

"It's a very common problem. I know people in my own family who were engaged this way," said Orzala Ashraf, founder of Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan. "The engagement happens before birth in some cases. "

In an unhappy marriage, the man can take a woman he loves as a second wife in Islamic and Afghan culture. But the girls are trapped.

Some commit suicide – in Kapisa province, just north of Kabul, an 18-year-old girl shot and killed herself because her family would not break off her three-year engagement to a drug addict, Afghanistan's Pajhwok News Agency reported in August.

Others run away, sometimes falling into drugs or prostitution.

"Many girls who want to marry as they wish run away as a threat tactic to their family," Ashraf said. "There is no law that forbids running away, but it is a matter of honour."

The tactic sometimes works. Ashraf helped one 17-year-old girl who ran away from home for a few days, humiliating her parents into letting her marry the man she loved.

In March, the women's ministry and rights group Medica Mondiale started a campaign to encourage marriage registration before a judge, which they hope will cut down on forced and child marriages. Marriage registration is already mandated but rarely practised.

The families of Sunam and Nieem are convinced that if the two grow up together knowing they will be married, they will be happy to wed in the future.

The plan is for them to marry when Sunam is 14 or 15.

Nieem's mother, Fahima, said if the children grow up to dislike each other, the families will break off the arrangement.

"It's their whole lives. If they don't like each other they will have problems their whole lives," she said.

But according to the children's aunt, Najiba, the match is unbreakable.

"We are Pashtun people. If we engage them, there is no way to separate them. They will marry," Najiba said. "In our tribe, it is like this. When they get engaged, they cannot divorce."

Many engaged couples do not meet until after they are married. In some cases, two pregnant women – either sisters or good friends – agree to make a match if one has a boy and the other a girl.

Girls from fatherless families – there are many in war-torn Afghanistan – often are forced into the worst engagements. It is nearly impossible to break engagements "because you're considered the other family's property. You're theirs now. You've been given away," said Manizha Naderi, director of Women for Afghan Women. "It's obviously barbaric. It's going to take generations to change this custom."

One 22-year-old woman from Kabul has tried to break off her engagement for eight years. Her 36-year-old fiance – whom she describes as uneducated, conservative and cruel, "like a Taliban" – has threatened to kill her if she refuses him.

His father has also beaten her.

"I have told my mother for eight years that I don't accept this man," the engaged woman said, asking that her name be withheld for fear his family would attack her.

"My mother said, 'What can I do? You don't have any brothers, you don't have a father.'"

Her father died in a car accident when she was 6 months old, so a close friend of her father took it upon himself to find her an appropriate husband – his son.

Afghan girls bound by family betrothals; Despite government efforts, pre-arranged marriages persist among



She is educated and works for a prominent international organization. Her fiance is a tailor with a high school diploma.

"I'm young. I want to go to school," she said, at a coffee shop in a Kabul shopping mall. Her voice was full of desperation and resignation.

"This is Afghanistan. That's why I don't like Afghanistan. I will leave Afghanistan."

# Kandahar munitions dump manned by Canadians; NATO facility also supplies British and Dutch soldiers

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: CanWest News Service / Maj. Roger Lupien, who oversees the movement of everything from toilet paper to weapons from Kandahar to Canadian troops in the field, stands in front of an ammunition magazine at the Canadian-led munitions depot at Kandahar Airfield. ;

**KEYWORDS:** POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan

**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 502

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KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – It is not talked about much by the troops or by the media, but Canada cannot fight the Taliban without large stocks of deadly ammunition -- artillery and tank shells, and tens of thousands of bullets for 25-millimetre cannons, sniper and assault rifles and pistols.

Warrant Officer Martin Marceau and a small cadre of technicians spend their days and nights in a sprawling ammo dump at the Kandahar Airfield, preparing pallets of munitions for shipment by air and by road to the Royal 22nd Regiment battle group, which is mostly deployed in the Taliban heartland, not far to the west of Kandahar City.

As you might expect, the ammo dump, officially known as the Multinational Ammunition Depot, is one of the most secure areas at the Kandahar Airfield, which is home to about 13,000 NATO troops and civilians.

"If all we have here went up at once it would be a really big show, that's for sure, but that just isn't an issue. It's safe," said Master Cpl. Sebastien Janvier, who keeps close track of all the firepower and the mountains of paper the ammo movement and use generates.

"We get urgent requests for ammo almost every day. Sometimes we have to move the ammo out so fast that we deal with the paperwork afterwards."

Maj. Roger Lupien, who oversees the supply of everything from toilet paper to weapons that leave the airfield for Canadian troops, said great care is taken to follow every shell and bullet and have munitions that are not used or which are faulty returned to be examined in Kandahar or Canada.

"It is rigidly controlled," he said. "We know exactly what is inside each truck that leaves here and exactly what the consumption rate is."

Kandahar's state-of-the-art ammunition depot is an unusual hybrid. In a deal struck under Paul Martin's Liberal government as NATO's big Afghan push began in 2005, Canada saved \$1.7 million by sharing the costs of the compound equally with the British and Dutch armies. While each country has an equal share in

Kandahar munitions dump manned by Canadians; NATO facility also supplies British and Dutch soldiers

the facility and takes care of its own ordnance, the command rotates between a British and a Canadian officer every six months.

Except for German-made tank shells for Canada's Leopard I and Leopard II tanks, almost all the ammunition in the Canadian storage areas was made at home. As extremely hazardous cargo, weapons are flown on military aircraft where passengers are banned.

The dump isn't a dump at all, but a series of magazines set far apart from each other and is protected by sandbags. For safety reasons, each shed was designed in such a way that if there was an accident, the blast would push the explosives up, rather than out.

One of the problems in the extreme heat of the Afghan summer has been keeping each building sufficiently cool so that weapons do not become unstable.

An unexpected difficulty has been flash floods that occur sometimes during the winter. To keep the weapons dry, they have been stored off the ground and a network of culverts has been built outside to divert water.

# City has voice in gov't

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Re: "Redefining clout: Hawn aids Peter MacKay," Editorial, Oct. 14.

I was surprised and disappointed to read this editorial, which wrongly suggested that Edmonton does not have any political clout at the federal cabinet table or in our government.

My seven Edmonton–area colleagues and I have been hard at work representing the interests of our community and have successfully delivered hundreds of millions of dollars in new funding for infrastructure projects and other initiatives to Edmonton.

I am particularly proud of the \$37 million that we have invested in the University of Alberta and the \$47 million that Western Economic Diversification provided to strengthen innovation, entrepreneurship and community economic development in the capital region.

My passion for our city goes far beyond just delivering funding to meet the community's needs; it involves a deep desire to listen to the people of Edmonton and ensure that I can effectively communicate their views about the important issues we face as Canadians.

Several weeks ago, I hosted a town hall meeting in my riding to explain the humanitarian component of the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. More than 130 people attended this unique event.

It is disappointing that The Journal did not attend this important forum to hear the concerns of Edmontonians.

Rona Ambrose, MP, Edmonton–Spruce Grove, and minister of western economic diversification

# Putin's trip to Tehran bolsters the hawks in Bush's flock

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Reuters / Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, left, and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin. The visit increases the chances of military action by the U.S. ;

**KEYWORDS:** TERRORISM; NUCLEAR POWER; NUCLEAR REACTORS; URANIUM; NUCLEARWEAPONS

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

**BYLINE:** Con Coughlin

**SOURCE:** Daily Telegraph

**WORD COUNT:** 865

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WASHINGTON – There is a chilling sense of déjà vu to the conduct of the Bush administration's debate over how to handle the potential threat posed by Iran's nuclear program.

Five years ago, the discussion over Saddam Hussein's Iraq resulted in one of the deepest political fissures in recent American history.

The doves, led by former Secretary of State Colin Powell and, to a lesser extent, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, were trying to persuade a reluctant President George W. Bush to let diplomacy run its course; the hawks, with Vice-President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld the principal cheerleaders, were pressing for immediate military action.

Some of the main protagonists may now have departed the Washington scene, to continue their mud-slinging through volumes of political memoirs, but the doctrinal rivalries that have been one of the less-reassuring features of the Bush administration are as strong today as they were then, with Iran inflaming passions to the level reached over pre-invasion Iraq.

## GATES, RICE LEAD 'REALISTS'

This time, there are those who might best be described as "the realists," anxious to avoid the mistakes made over Iraq, such as the flawed intelligence assessments of Saddam's WMD capability and Iraq's post-war administration. And then there are hawks, who will not be diverted from their determination to confront Tehran with inconvenient truths such as whether the regime really is trying to acquire nuclear weapons.

The realists are led by the recently installed defence secretary, Robert Gates, who takes a more measured approach to the country's numerous security challenges than his gung-ho predecessor, and by Rice, whose dovish inclinations have appeared more pronounced since she moved to the State Department.

The Gates-Rice axis, while seeking to maintain the political and diplomatic pressure on Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to freeze uranium enrichment, argues that all other avenues must be exhausted before

any military action is seriously considered. A key factor underlying this approach is the recognition that, with the U.S. military already stretched to breaking point by its commitments to Iraq and Afghanistan, the world's sole superpower might struggle to contain Iranian belligerence. As a senior Pentagon official remarked this week: "We have more than enough to occupy us. We are certainly in no hurry to open a third front at this particular time."

The apparent reluctance of the realists to embrace the military option in dealing with Iran is, not surprisingly, regarded with the contempt by the Bush administration's hard-core hawks who, as with Iraq, are centred on the redoubtable figure of Cheney.

The hawks and their neoconservative backers dismiss talk of diplomatic dialogue and UN Security Council sanctions as defeatist and redolent of 1930s appeasement, and insist the only sure way to remove any threat posed by Iran's nuclear program is to bomb the country back to the Stone Age (a threat previously made in all seriousness to Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf if he failed to support Washington's campaign against al-Qaida). As far as the hawks are concerned, diplomacy is for wimps.

### HAWKS ABHOR THE 'WEENIES'

Even so, the hawks are concerned they're losing ground to the powerful forces at the Pentagon and State Department who have, so far at least, locked the administration into pursuing the diplomatic track on Iran. That tactic has the hawks seething with frustration.

But the realists' hand has lately been strengthened by evidence that the military surge in Iraq, overseen by Gates, is starting to pay dividends; al-Qaida's terrorist infrastructure is in disarray and violence is in sharp decline. If the realists can sort out Iraq, why not Iran?

"If we're not careful, the weenies will take over and Iran will have an atom bomb," remarked a close associate of

Cheney, who is becoming increasingly concerned at the influence exerted by the realists over White House policy.

While neither the realists nor the hawks are reticent about expressing their views, the ultimate decision on how to handle Iran lies with President Bush who, while appearing content to let diplomacy run its course, is said to be determined to sort out the Iran issue before he leaves office.

"This president is not the type of person who would leave a problem of this magnitude to his successor, irrespective of whether he or she is a Republican or a Democrat," commented a senior Bush administration adviser. "This crisis has arisen on his watch and will be resolved on his watch."

But now it appears the White House policy pendulum has swung once more towards the hawks after this week's controversial visit to Tehran by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Russian leader no doubt believes it is in Moscow's long-term strategic interests to have a good working relationship with Tehran, but by allying himself so closely with the mullahs he may have inadvertently made the diplomatic solution to the nuclear crisis that the realists seek more difficult to achieve.

Washington's desire for a third UN Security Council resolution that toughens economic sanctions against Iran is now unlikely to attract Russian support, which would, in effect, end hopes of resolving the crisis by peaceful means.

That narrows the options available to Bush, who reasserted his own hawkish credentials this week by warning

Iran that Tehran's pursuit of nuclear weapons could ultimately lead to the outbreak of the Third World War.

## Right-of-centre is the new centre

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**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
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**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** Issues & Ideas  
**PAGE:** A23  
**COLUMN:** Andrew Coyne  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Black & White Photo: Chris Wattie, Reuters / (See hardcopyfor Photo Description) ;  
**BYLINE:** Andrew Coyne  
**SOURCE:** National Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 844

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This week's Throne Speech occasioned more than the usual confusion among the commentariat. Was it "hard line" or "conciliatory"? Was this, as one columnist suggested, a speech that could have been written by a Liberal government, or was it, as another insisted, a brusque, in-your-face rejection of Liberal demands? The answer, of course, is: yes.

The speech was in many ways less a guide to what is to come than a summation of the past several months of partisan manoeuvring. That it is regarded as a success is as much attributable to Liberal blunders as to any Conservative strategic brilliance. The Speech's achievement is to give expression to these political facts on the ground, and to piece them together into a coherent statement of present-day Toryism.

That the speech crossed a number of opposition "lines in the sand" is undeniable: on Afghanistan (we're staying at least until 2011), on Kyoto (with 77 days to go, there is no prospect of meeting our targets by the original deadline), on crime (omnibus this!), the government made no effort to meet the opposition half-way, or even to pretend to. Moreover, on a number of other fronts— taxes, the spending power, the economic union — it is objectively radical, proposing large changes in the way we are governed. It is, in almost every respect, a recognizably conservative document.

Yet such was the moderation of its tone, and so artfully had the ground been prepared in advance, that almost no one decried it has a turn to the hard right. Certainly, the Liberals were in no mood to do so, which would only make their decision to abstain look even more abject than it was. Suddenly the Grits discerned "flexibility" and "ambiguity" where before they saw

only far-right, Republican dogma. There were no "poison pills" that he could see, Michael Ignatieff blandly asserted.

But of course. The Liberals are hardly likely to challenge the Tories on taxes and crime, traditional Conservative strengths. Nor is there much mileage left in Kyoto or Afghanistan: The Tories have effectively neutralized these potential liabilities. On Kyoto, it is true, they were ably assisted by the Liberals, whose doctrinaire insistence, in the face of all the evidence, that the targets could still be met on time, left them marginalized on an issue they once owned.

But the summer meetings of the G8 and the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation group were also milestones on the way to rehabilitating the Conservative position. When voters tell pollsters they support Kyoto, they mean something should be done about global warming, and Canada should be part of it. They don't want us to be out of step with the international consensus. The Prime Minister can now plausibly argue that his own



approach — less severe than Kyoto, but with broader participation, notably from the Americans

and the Chinese — is the international consensus.

On Afghanistan, likewise, the Tories spent the last few months covering an essentially unchanged position — continuing on with the mission, including a combat role — with large dollops of fudge: Mr. Harper's early summer musings about the need for parliamentary "consensus," the John Manley appointment. To the point that no one seemed to notice that the Throne Speech pledged the troops will still be there four years from now, and perhaps beyond. Or rather, no one chose to notice. It isn't that there are no poison pills in this document. It's that the opposition has elected to swallow them.

So the Throne Speech has consolidated and summarized developments that were already in motion. Capitalizing on opposition weakness, the Conservatives have succeeded in moving the yardsticks of political debate, capturing the centre ground for themselves — not by moving to the middle, as had been the strategy until this spring, but by moving the middle to them: Right-of-centre is the new centre. The combination of firmer policy substance and continued moderation of tone will reassure their base, without scaring off swing voters.

It isn't that they have taken any great risks in so doing. If they have dared to call the opposition's bluff, it is only because they are confident that their own position is closer to where the public is than the opposition's. Fine: Minority governments can ill afford to spend too much political capital. What the Tories have done, rather, is to find the overlap between their own agenda and the public's, and inhabit that space: the sensible centre-right.

There is one exception to this, and that is the section, all but ignored by the national press, asserting "the federal government's natural leadership" role in enforcing a common market within our borders — specifically, by dusting off the federal trade and commerce power, all but unused these past 140 years. This bold, transformative proposal, if enacted, would dramatically alter both the political and constitutional landscape, and thus deserves treatment in another column.

ac@andrewcoyne.com

**KEYWORDS:** POLITICS; SPEECHES & STATEMENTS

## Following our principles

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**BYLINE:** Jack Layton  
**SOURCE:** Special to the National Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 749

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I believe that leadership is about knowing what you believe and having the courage to stand up for your principles. This is what guides me as an elected official and what guides the party that I lead.

In the lead up to this week's Throne Speech, I was very clear with the Prime Minister about what we needed to see from him to secure NDP support. Like many Canadians, we believe that Stephen Harper is taking Canada in the wrong direction on many key issues. We wanted to see a new direction taken with the war in Afghanistan; a serious commitment, once-and-for-all, to tackling climate change; and steps to address the growing prosperity gap that's squeezing the middle-class in this country. But we did not see any new direction on these important files and therefore, after reading the Throne Speech on Tuesday evening, I announced that the NDP would not be supporting Mr. Harper's agenda.

Liberal party leader Stephane Dion also laid out his conditions for a vote in favour of the Throne Speech: clarity on timelines for withdrawing Canadian troops from Afghanistan, a reinstatement of the revised Climate Change Act (Bill C-30), an economic plan and a commitment to tackle child poverty. In the lead-up to the Throne Speech, Mr. Dion and his Liberal colleagues were very firm in their position.

On Sept. 26, Mr. Dion said of Mr. Harper's agenda and the Throne Speech: "We will stop this. We will stop it by voting against the [Throne Speech] and by being resolute." On Oct. 5, Montreal area-Liberal MP Marlene Jennings said: "Our leader, Mr. Dion, has laid out what we want in the Speech from the Throne. If it's not there, it's clear that we vote against it."

Putting aside the fact that Mr. Dion was a member of the very cabinet that sent troops to Kandahar -- with no timelines -- or that under his own watch as environment minister, greenhouse-gas emissions increased, not decreased as promised. Even the most charitable reading of Mr. Harper's Throne Speech would not suggest that Mr. Dion's demands were met.

Yet, contrary to the statement made by Ms. Jennings, Mr. Dion has now announced that he will ensure that the Harper agenda contained in the Throne Speech will pass. Not only does this represent an about-face by the Liberals from their position over the

past few weeks, it represents an about-face from their position over the 10 months since Stephane Dion took over as party leader.

Mr. Dion cannot have it both ways. He cannot in good conscience complain about the negative effects of Mr. Harper's agenda one day and then see to it that it passes in Parliament the next. Increasingly, this is what is wrong with politics. More and more Canadians are seeing that this is what is wrong with the Liberal party.

In the recent by-election in the Mont-real-area riding of Outremont, thousands of former Liberals embraced the NDP because, as they put it, they were tired of being taken for granted by the Liberals, and they no longer knew what exactly their former party stood for.

It's not just in Quebec that the NDP is now significantly more popular than the Liberal party -- especially among francophone voters. It is also increasingly popular in every region of Canada -- particularly among ethnic communities, young people and women. That's because the NDP knows what it believes.

Not only will we hold Mr. Harper's government to account on behalf of the 2.5 million-Canadians who voted for the NDP, but we'll also do it on behalf of all Canadians who voted against this government but cannot count on the Liberals to do it.

The NDP will oppose this Throne Speech because we have principles. We know what we believe. Our MPs will be in their place for each and every vote, and we will rise when it is our turn to vote and demonstrate clearly our opposition to the wrong direction in which the government is taking Canada.

I invite every Canadian who voted Liberal in the past, who today is disappointed with their former party, to join us in changing politics in this country. Like you, the NDP wants Canada to be a voice for peace on the world stage, a clean environment for future generations and a prosperous country where no one is left behind. But Mr. Harper's Throne Speech, with the help of Mr. Dion, will take us further in the wrong direction.

-Jack Layton is the leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada.

**KEYWORDS:** POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA

# Freedom Won't Stand A Chance

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**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A1

**BYLINE:** Peter Goodspeed

**SOURCE:** National Post

**WORD COUNT:** 711

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Thursday's carnage in Karachi, in which a suicide bomber killed 134 people in an attempt to assassinate former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, was an assault on the idea of a moderate, pro-Western, secular democracy in Pakistan.

It marks a turning point in the country's bloodstained history and could be the prelude to a conflict uglier and more violent than that now convulsing Iraq.

Karachi alone, a teeming, decrepit port city of 14 million, has already seen bloody street battles between Sunnis and Shiites, between Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party and the city's ruling Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM). It has also been the target of repeated terrorist attacks by Islamic jihadists who owe their allegiance to Osama bin Laden and the Taliban.

The latest violence will stoke ethnic conflicts in neighbouring Baluchistan, where 120,000 Pakistani troops are trying to suppress a separatist movement, and fuel existing tribal feuds among the Pathans in the North West Frontier Province and the Pashtuns in western Pakistan's tribal areas.

The country's political establishment is already in chaos, with the military government facing a Supreme Court challenge to President Pervez Musharraf's continued rule, the possible invalidation of his re-election and legal threats to the backroom deals he cut to pave the way for a U.S.-backed power-sharing deal with Ms. Bhutto.

If the violence worsens, Gen. Musharraf could suspend parliamentary elections scheduled for January, propelling the country into an ever-worsening cycle of terrorism.

Yesterday, political hysteria replaced stunned shock as Pakistan's leaders hurled accusations at each other in a search for someone to blame.

Just hours after the attack, a pale and shaken Ms. Bhutto blamed elements of the same military and intelligence establishment that executed her father, former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, 28 years ago.

Before the bodies were cleared away, she told reporters travelling with her: "I know exactly who wants to kill me. It is dignitaries of the former regime ... who are today behind the extremism and the fanaticism.

"It is not done by militants -- it is done by that intelligence agency."

In a news conference held in a tent on the grounds of her family home in Karachi, Ms. Bhutto said she had been warned of four assassination plots.

"There was one suicide squad from the Taliban elements," she said. "One suicide squad from al-Qaeda, one suicide squad from Pakistani Taliban and a fourth group from Karachi [possibly the MQM]."

Desperate to assert herself after eight years of exile, Ms. Bhutto may have felt she needed to hold a huge street rally in Karachi to display her credentials as a leader who represents the masses.

Aftab Sherpao, Pakistan's Interior Minister, said government officials had begged her not to drive across the city and asked her to fly by helicopter to the tomb of the country's founder, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, where she had been scheduled to speak.

"I know that some people will think it was naive, but I think it was the right decision," Ms. Bhutto said. "As I said, if you fight for something you believe in, you have to be ready to pay the price. And the cause I believe in is to save Pakistan, by saving democracy and involving the people of Pakistan in the affairs of their nation."

Her claim "that intelligence agency" was behind the plot to kill her exposes the undisguised hostility between Ms. Bhutto and Pakistan's military — and the fragility of the alliance Washington and the West are depending on to fight Islamic extremism.

For their part, Pakistani officials say the attack bears the hallmarks of an al-Qaeda operation. The Taliban are also likely suspects. Days before Ms. Bhutto's return, Baitullah Mehsud, a pro-Taliban warlord from South Waziristan, vowed to welcome her with suicide bombers.

If he keeps his promise, the government can be expected to crack down on radical Islamists who have sought refuge in tribal areas along the border with Afghanistan. A day before the attack on Ms. Bhutto, Gen. Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz were reviewing plans for a military operation to check growing militancy in tribal areas.

Already battered by suicide bombings, civilian revolts and political uncertainty, Pakistan may have met its 9/11 when Ms. Bhutto's would-be assassin detonated himself on a street in Karachi this week.

Any repetition of the violence will open the door for Gen. Musharraf to declare a state of emergency and postpone parliamentary elections for up to a year. That will end any hope of a transition to democracy in Pakistan any time soon.

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES

# Pied Piper of Baghdad; Nine Lives; Scooter: what cats know about war

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**EDITION:** Toronto  
**SECTION:** Weekend Post  
**PAGE:** WP5  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Color Photo: Joao Silva For The New York Times / A battalion of stray cats have found sanctuary within the walls of The New York Times compound in Baghdad. ;  
**BYLINE:** John F. Burns  
**SOURCE:** The New York Times  
**WORD COUNT:** 973

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It was a bitterly cold night in the Baghdad winter of 2005, somewhere in the predawn hours before the staccato of suicide bombs and mortars and gunfire that are the daily orchestration of the war. Alone in my office in The New York Times compound beside the Tigris River, I was awaiting the telephoned "goodnight" from foreign desk, eight time zones west, signalling that my work for the next day's paper was done.

That is when I heard it: the cry of an abandoned kitten, somewhere out in the darkness, calling for its mother somewhere inside the compound. By an animal lover's anthropomorphic logic, those desperate calls, three nights running, had come to seem more than the appeal of a tiny creature doomed to a cold and lonely death. Deep in the winter night, they seemed like a dismal tocsin for all who suffer in a time of war.

With others working for The Times in Baghdad, I took solace in the battalion of cats that had found their way past the 12-foot-high concrete blast walls that guard our compound. With their survival instincts, the cats of our neighbourhood learned in the first winter of the war that food and shelter and human kindness lay within the walls. Outside, among the garbage

heaps and sinuous alleyways, human beings were struggling for their own survival, and a cat's life was likely to be meager, embattled and short.

Cat populations in the wild expand arithmetically with the supply of food. And soon our compound was home to as many as 60 cats at a time, their numbers carefully tallied by Younis and Saif, the enthusiastic young Iraqis who prepared the heaped platters of rice, lamb and beef — and, as a special treat, cans of cat food trucked across the desert from Jordan.

Not everyone in the compound regarded the burgeoning cat population so fondly. Some, including my wife, Jane, who works as the compound's chief administrator, loves cats as much as anyone, but thought matters had gotten out of hand when middle-of-the-night fights between the dominant males outside our building threatened to wake the devil, or when supertime walks past the "cat motel" outside our kitchens turned into a pied-piper's epic, each step followed by dozens of hungry, impatient meowing creatures.

One control measure, having the cats spayed, was unavailable, since all of Baghdad's domestic-animal veterinarians seemed to have fled, among hundreds of thousands of other Iraqis who have sought sanctuary abroad.

There were warnings, too, from the American military command, which imposed a ban, for American troops, on adopting stray animals, or feeding them. Still, many troops in Afghanistan and Iraq ignore the ban.

On that bitter night in 2005, I went a step further. Making my way to a verandah overlooking the spot where the kitten was crying, I "bombed" it with a feather duvet off an absent colleague's bed before it could scoot into an inaccessible recess in a garden wall. Thus did we acquire Scooter — white, with flecks of ginger and tabby, a female of extraordinary agility, who found a way, when still no bigger than the palm of my hand, to leap and claw her way out of a cardboard packing case five feet high.

Watching her, and the two litters of kittens she had over the following 18 months, offered us humans a new reaction to the cacophony of the war. The bloodiest suicide bombings, even miles away, have the sound and feel of the apocalypse, causing humans to freeze, no matter how often they experience it. Cats need to hear it only once. As they skitter to the safety of trees and bushes, they enter the blast and the tremor on the hard drive of their brains. On the next occasion, come the blast, they barely stir.

But Scooter had her own ticket out of Iraq booked from the moment I clutched her in the duvet's folds. By August of this year, she had three 12-week-old kittens, each bearing the name of an American war machine — Apache (Patch, for short), Bradley and Stryker. The names were chosen, in part, in the hope that we might eventually find American veterans of the war, now home, to adopt them.

But that lay ahead when I arrived at the Baghdad airport one recent summer day with the crate carrying the four cats. Getting them that far had been a saga: finding Iraqi health officials ready to issue and counterstamp fit-to-travel documents, negotiating the 12 hazardous miles to the airport and persuading wary airline personnel to clear the cat crate for loading.

The process took hours, and left me exhausted. All about was hubbub, with hundreds of angry, fearful Iraqis struggling to secure their own passage out. The cats seemed terrified, so I fell once more into my anthropomorphic mode, offering them a quiet discourse on what lay ahead — the 3,000-mile journey, detention in the quarantine centre and, ultimately, liberation into a green and pleasant land where they would be full citizens, never again wanting for shelter, warmth and food.

A small crowd of Iraqis had gathered, and one among them, a middle-age man who introduced himself as a physician travelling to Jordan to see his ailing mother, knelt down beside me and asked, in halting English, if I'd mind a question. By all means, I said. "Well then," he said, his face breaking into a sad smile, "what I want to ask is this: This proposal you make, is it for four legs only, or also for two? Six months' detention, British passport, free to stay, guaranteed home, this is excellent. I will take, and many other Iraqis, too."

**KEYWORDS:** 0

## Concise comments on some current topics

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**SECTION:** Editorial / Op-Ed  
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**COLUMN:** And Another Thing ...  
**KEYWORDS:** POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; QUEBEC  
**SOURCE:** The Gazette  
**WORD COUNT:** 618

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### A Surreal Proposal

Quebec needs more immigrants, but Pauline Marois now proposes only those able to speak French be allowed to enjoy full status here, including the right to run for office, although non-"citizens" of Quebec could apparently still vote.

This hare-brained scheme is the policy equivalent of a soap bubble; it won't hold up even long enough to be studied. What about unilingual anglophone immigrants from, say, Nova Scotia? Would they be citizens of Canada but not of Quebec? What about landed immigrants from, say, Germany via Ontario? What court would entertain this for a second?

This proposal is nonsense, as is talk about a Quebec constitution. Dabbling in the absurd and the surreal is what put the Parti Québécois in third place. We hope they keep it up.

### Retailers Begin to Shape Up

As top federal officials urge Canadians to be more demanding shoppers, some retail chains are beginning to make dollar parity a shopping reality. It's none too soon.

Predictably, Wal-Mart led the way, saying this week it was cutting Canadian prices on toys, video games and some other items to bring them in line with U.S. prices, now that the Canadian loonie is actually worth a little more than the greenback. Yesterday, Zellers announced a similar policy.

Who's next? Shoppers are watching.

### MORE POPULAR THERE THAN HERE

Opinion polling in Afghanistan is no doubt a tricky business, and the margin of error is high. But the findings are clear enough: the people of that country strongly approve of NATO's presence and efforts, including Canada's. That's the finding of survey data published yesterday, and it should be food for thought for those Canadians still critical of our presence there. We are, say the people we are trying to help, actually helping.

### WHY NOT AN ANGLOPHONE?

In some quarters, there is jubilation that Stéphane Dion has relented and given the Liberal nomination in Westmount-Ville-Marie, as safe a seat as the Liberals still have, to "star candidate" Marc Garneau.



But there should be no rejoicing among anglophones, who are once again getting the back of the Liberals' hand. As francophone seats become harder for the Liberals to win, the party is giving its anglophone/allophone bastions to "star" francophones who can't win elsewhere. In the 2006 election, Garneau got just 28 per cent of the vote in Vaudreuil–Soulanges riding.

Quebec's non-francophones, fawningly loyal to the Liberal brand, are treated in return with disdain bordering on contempt.

#### A LESSON IN CO-OPERATION

It's hard to think of two women more sharply opposed than Nancy Keenan, president of

NARAL Pro-Choice America, the leading U.S. abortion-rights group, and Roberta Combs, president of the Christian Coalition of America.

How refreshing it is, then, that the two worked together to produce a ringing defence of free speech after Verizon, a cellphone company, rejected NARAL's application for a "short code," to enable people to get text-message updates from the group by texting a five-digit code. Verizon soon backed down, but still claimed a right to block text messages.

Not good enough, the two foes wrote in a joint article for the Washington Post. "Why," they asked, "should any company decide what you choose to say or do over your phone, your computer or your BlackBerry?" Why, indeed?

The fact two people who disagree so fundamentally can stand together on a matter of democratic principle is a lesson for us all.

#### BHUTTO BOMBING: CUI BONO?

Benazir Bhutto is blaming the Taliban, al-Qa'ida and related fanatics for the bombings that turned her triumphant homecoming into a slaughterhouse this week.

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the bombings, but the old test of "cui bono" (who benefits?) is instructive. The former prime minister's return to the country, and to active politics, is not good news for extremists.

True, her time in office is recalled mainly for corruption – not her own, she says – but she is popular all the same. If she reaches a deal with President Pervez Musharraf, their power-sharing could mean progress toward both stability and democracy. The hard-liners wouldn't want that.

# Scrap draconian security certificates

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**SECTION:** Editorial / Op-Ed  
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**KEYWORDS:** 0  
**SOURCE:** The Gazette  
**WORD COUNT:** 47

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Re: "Few Liberals keen on fall campaign" (Gazette, Oct. 18).

Amendments to the Throne Speech are needed regarding the environment, the military mission in Afghanistan, poverty and the economy, but they also should cover the repeal of the draconian Security Certificate provisions.

Jalal Uddin

Brossard

# Everything you need to know for a dinner-party conversation about ... Revenge

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<b>PUBLICATION:</b>	Montreal Gazette
<b>DATE:</b>	2007.10.20
<b>EDITION:</b>	Final
<b>SECTION:</b>	Saturday Extra
<b>PAGE:</b>	B5
<b>COLUMN:</b>	The Bluffer's Guide
<b>KEYWORDS:</b>	0
<b>BYLINE:</b>	ANDY RIGA
<b>SOURCE:</b>	The Gazette, Journal de Montréal, ScientificAmerican.com, NationalGeographic.com, The Internet Movie Database, www.enemybook.info, Revengeguy.com, revengelady.com, Thepayback.com, BrainyQuote.com
<b>WORD COUNT:</b>	678

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Keywords: Revenge, Satisfaction, Jean Chrétien, André Boisclair, Alexandre Dumas, Mr. Burns.

So what happened? "Chrétien's Revenge," read a big headline on the front page of The Gazette this week. Like Brian Mulroney, former prime minister Jean Chrétien is apparently spending his retirement stewing and is now ready to mete out revenge. Chrétien's new autobiography hit store shelves and it included pointed attacks on his successor (and nemesis), Paul Martin. The next

day, it was the turn of former Parti Québécois leader André Boisclair

to seek internecine vengeance – against his Brutus, Bernard Landry.

What's Chrétien's problem? He's still bitter about behind-the-scenes manoeuvring to push him out in favour of Paul Martin. In his book, *My Years as Prime Minister*,

Chrétien attacks Martin and his "gang of self-serving goons."

He says Martin mishandled Kyoto and the sponsorship scandal, and even blames Martin's indecisiveness for Canadian soldiers now being mired in "the killing fields around Kandahar."

What's Boisclair's problem? He's still bitter about the election in March, when the Parti Québécois came third, its worst showing since 1970. Days before the vote was called, his predecessor, Bernard Landry, stabbed him in the back. Complaining the PQ was collapsing under Boisclair, Landry didn't dampen speculation he wanted to replace Boisclair. "He displayed great disloyalty," Boisclair said of Landry in

a Journal de Montréal interview.

Boisclair also mocked Landry's claim he regretted giving up the leadership, blaming advisers for his decision to quit. "When I make decisions, I assume them," Boisclair said scornfully. "I don't blame my advisers."

Why now? They wanted to maximize the media punch of their revenge, timing outbursts to coincide with the beginning of the new political season – the Throne Speech in Ottawa, and the reconvening of the National Assembly in Quebec City. The urge to lash out apparently trumped loyalty to their parties. The PQ's Pauline Marois can do without squabbling as she tries to revive her moribund party. And struggling

federal Liberal leader Stéphane Dion (a Chrétien protégé) wants to use Afghanistan and Kyoto against the Conservatives – and the last thing he needs is more talk about the sponsorship scandal.

Will revenge really make them feel better? Yes, according to a 2004 University of Zurich study. Researchers measured blood flow in the brain while a group of men

participated in a game involving the exchange of money, with opponents able to penalize those who made selfish choices. Participants felt a surge of enjoyment and satisfaction when they got back at people.

The anticipation of pleasure also

appeared to affect participants'

eagerness to punish.

I don't have time to write a 450–page tome and reporters don't return my calls. How can I quickly get revenge? Fire up your computer. The Revenge Guy ([revengeguy.com](http://revengeguy.com)) offers free personalized advice, plus an interactive map on which you

can insert virtual pushpins to show where your enemies are, with

colourful notes indicating why they're \*@#!\$%s. RevengeLady.com suggests rules

to revenge by, including Number 7 ("Don't go for clichés like slashing tires. Yawn. Be original. Enjoy yourself.") and Number 9 ("If you have

to do something you're not proud of, be sure to cover your tracks well.") For a price, Thepayback.com will send wilted roses, rotten fish, even nasty, anonymous emails, to the people on your hit list.

The target of my planned vengeance is on Facebook. How do I proceed? Easy – put them on your Enemybook, an anti–social add–on to Facebook, the popular social–networking site. Enemybook lets you "enemy" people (assemble a list of foes for display on your Facebook page),

and explain why they're evil. It even

offers a helpful list of suggestions: did they hook up with your ex?

Kill your dog? Insult your honour? George W. Bush is currently Enemy Number One.

I want some tips on getting revenge. What should I read? Alexandre Dumas's *The Count of Monte Cristo*, in which a kind, happy young man is eaten alive by a hunger for revenge after he is torn away from his love and unjustly imprisoned in an inhumane Napoleon–era jail. After years of suffering, he escapes, amasses

a fortune, then – you guessed it – unleashes his fury on his enemies.

Who can I quote when chatting about revenge? How about Mr. Burns of *The Simpsons*: "I could crush him like an ant, but it would be too easy. No, revenge is a dish best served cold. I'll bide my time until ... oh, what

the hell, I'll just crush him like an ant." Or Tony Soprano: "You know what they say: Revenge is like serving cold cuts." Ivana Trump once opined: "Looking good is the best revenge."

Open-ended discussion question: Who do you secretly dream about getting back at?

# Majority of Afghans support NATO: poll; To fight Taliban 14 per cent in survey said troops should leave now

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**IDNUMBER** 200710200039  
**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A16  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; FOREIGN RELATIONS; FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN  
**DATELINE:** TORONTO  
**SOURCE:** Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 228

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A majority of Afghans support the presence of NATO-led troops and want them to remain in the country to fight the Taliban, revealed a poll issued yesterday.

The survey, conducted by Environics for the Globe and Mail, La Presse and the CBC, showed 60 per cent of respondents supported having foreign troops in their country, 16 per cent opposed, and 22 per cent said it was equally good and bad.

In Kandahar, where 2,500 Canadian troops are based, 61 per cent supported the foreign presence, while 23 per cent were opposed.

Overall, 43 per cent of respondents wanted foreign troops to stay as long as it takes to defeat the Taliban, and 14 per cent said they should leave immediately.

In the middle ground, 11 per cent said foreign troops should leave within a year, and 27 per cent said they should stay for two to five years.

This week, the Canadian government said it wants troops to stay in Afghanistan until 2011, two years longer than the planned pullout in 2009. The Conservatives have promised a vote in Parliament on any extension.

Seventy-one Canadian soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan, the third-largest death toll among NATO countries. Thirty-seven foreign countries have personnel stationed in Afghanistan.

In Kandahar, in a region in which the Taliban is active, 32 per cent said the soldiers should leave within the year, while 18 per cent said they should stay between two and five years, and 31 per cent said they should stay for as long as it takes.

# Canadians sitting on massive ammo dump; Afghanistan depot 'rigidly controlled'

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**IDNUMBER** 200710200056

**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald

**DATE:** 2007.10.20

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A27

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: CanWest News Service / Maj. Roger Lupien, standing near the Multinational Ammunition Depot, oversees everything from toilet paper to weapons that leave the Kandahar Airfield for Canadian troops in the field. ;

**KEYWORDS:** POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan

**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 541

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It is not talked about much by the troops or by the media, but Canada cannot fight the Taliban without large stocks of deadly artillery and tank shells and tens of thousands of bullets for 25-millimetre cannons, sniper and assault rifles and pistols.

Warrant Officer Martin Marceau and a small cadre of technicians spend their days and nights in a sprawling ammo dump at the Kandahar Airfield preparing pallets of munitions for shipment by air and by road to the Royal 22nd Regiment battle group, which is mostly deployed in the Taliban heartland, not far to the west of Kandahar City.

As you might expect, the ammo dump, officially known as the Multinational Ammunition Depot, is one of the most secure areas at the Kandahar Airfield, which is home to about 13,000 NATO troops and civilians.

"If all we have here went up at once it would be a really big show, that's for sure, but that just isn't an issue. It's safe," said Master Cpl. Sebastien Janvier, who keeps close track of all the firepower and the mountains of paper its movement and its use generate.

"We get urgent requests for ammo almost every day. Sometimes we have to move the ammo out so fast that we deal with the paperwork afterwards."

Maj. Roger Lupien, who oversees everything from toilet paper to weapons that leave the airfield for Canadian troops in the field, said great care was taken to follow every shell and bullet and to have munitions that were not being used or that were faulty, returned to be examined in Kandahar or in Canada.

"It is rigidly controlled," he said. "We know exactly what is inside each truck that leaves here and exactly what the consumption rate is."

Kandahar's state-of-the-art ammunition depot is an unusual hybrid.

In a deal struck under Paul Martin's Liberal government as NATO's big Afghan push began in 2005, Canada saved \$1.7 million by sharing costs of the compound equally with the British and Dutch armies.

While each country has an equal share in the facility and takes care of its own ordnance, the command rotates between a British and a Canadian officer every six months.

Except for German-made tank shells for Canada's Leopard I and Leopard II tanks, almost all of the ammunition in the Canadian storage areas was made at home.

As extremely hazardous cargo, weapons were flown here on military aircraft where passengers were banned.

The dump isn't actually a dump at all, but a series of magazines set far apart from each other and each protected by sandbags. For safety reasons, each shed was designed in such a way that if there was an accident the blast would push the explosives up, rather than out.

One of the problems in the extreme heat of the Afghan summer has been keeping each building sufficiently cool so that weapons do not become unstable. An unexpected difficulty has been flash floods that occur sometimes during the winter. To keep the weapons dry they have been stored several feet off the ground and a network of culverts has been built outside to divert water.

Another major security concern was that "we can't mix the weapons much," said Marceau, who spent 10 years as a gunner before entering this arcane, secretive world by passing an onerous three-day examination that required him to build his own ammo dump.

"NATO has specific rules. Canada's are sometimes more strict. We try to exceed them where possible. For a field operation, this is a good one."



# Official warns of rising bomb threat in U.S.

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**IDNUMBER** 200710200039  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A18  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Michael Chertoff;  
**KEYWORDS:** SECURITY; TERRORISM; CRIME  
**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON  
**BYLINE:** Carol Eisenberg  
**SOURCE:** Newsday  
**WORD COUNT:** 356

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The ingredients can be purchased from Home Depot. They are cheap and easy to assemble. And they can be combined to lethal effect.

Improvised explosive devices, or IEDs as they are commonly called, have become the weapon of choice of today's terrorists, whether on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, or on public transit systems in Britain, Spain and India.

And increasingly, they are a threat in America, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff told members of a think –tank Friday.

"We have been working on this a couple of years, and I think we have made dramatic strides," he said. "It is a very high priority." Chertoff said efforts to thwart such attacks must be preemptive.

"Before we have the actual explosion," he said, "there are a series of intervention points when . . . we can stop that boom from taking place.

"That begins with deterring and incapacitating those who obtain the funds for IEDs . . . intercepting the gathering of materials for the IED, and then . . .

the actual detection and disruption of the planning of attacks." Above all else, that intervention requires good intelligence, he said, asserting that such intelligence ultimately would benefit rather than restrict privacy.

"When we don't have intelligence . . . we have to operate in a much more generalized and, dare I say, blunderbuss fashion," he said.

". . . That means we have to intercept and engage with more people, including more innocent people . . . That's why the better we hone our intelligence, the better we are in having a focused, less disruptive and less costly intervention to prevent an IED." Beyond intelligence gathering and sharing, he outlined several strategies still in the works to stop IEDs in this country, from closer regulation of small boats and planes to ensure terrorists cannot exploit them for bomb delivery, to exerting more control over commonly used radiological materials like Cesium-137, to prevent them from being used in so-called "dirty" or radioactive bombs.

"Sometimes I see that there's a tendency to shy away from these kinds of issues because they're hard," Chertoff said, acknowledging that such proposals would be controversial.

But "I'm going to try to make it my business to force us to look square . . . (at) some of the most difficult issues.

Because even if we may not have a perfect solution, I can guarantee that closing your eyes is the worst possible solution."

# No one's surprised, except CBC

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**SOURCETAG** 0710200834  
**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 10  
**BYLINE:** LICIA CORBELLA  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 273

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Time after time Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Karzai himself, Afghan government officials in Kandahar, Canadian generals and rank-and-file Canadian soldiers have all been quoted in other media saying that the Afghan people want us there and appreciate the help we are giving them.

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The CBC's ombudsman should investigate how a news organization that is supposed to provide the country with unbiased news has so badly skewed it for so long.

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# Veterans given break on their VLT take

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**SOURCETAG** 0710200824

**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.20

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 5

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Brian Donogh, Sun Media Legion member Wendy Turner, whose son-in-law was wounded in Afghanistan, plays a VLT at No.4 Legion in St. James. Legions' share of the revenues is to rise to 25% from 20%.

**BYLINE:** PAUL TURENNE, SUN MEDIA

**WORD COUNT:** 240

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Recognizing that veterans' organizations are in a different league than lounges and hotels, the Manitoba Lotteries Corporation has boosted the take legions can keep from their VLT operations.

Currently, Royal Canadian Legions and other veterans' organizations in Manitoba take in about \$3.1 million a year from government-owned video lottery terminals in their halls. That represents 20% of the net revenue those machines bring in -- the same ratio paid out to commercial site holders like hotels, restaurants and lounges.

First Nations licence holders keep 90% of their take, although 70% must be targeted for sustainable economic and social benefits.

The government announced yesterday that as of Jan. 1, veterans groups can now keep 25%, representing an average boost of about \$11,000 per legion annually.

## 'UNIQUE ORGANIZATION'

"This will definitely help us. We can do more now," said Roland Fisette, president of the Royal Canadian Legion's Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario command.

"Our organization has declining membership and when the membership declines, the people frequenting our buildings declines and so do the donations. We're not in dire straights yet, but it definitely helps."

Fisette said the legion's main goal is to look after veterans and their dependents, but it also contributes money to things like hospitals, community clubs, boy scouts and cadets.

The veterans have been lobbying the provincial government for the past two years to increase their VLT take.

"The veterans are a unique organization and I think they need to be treated as such," said St. James MLA Bonnie Korzeniowski. "They're non-profit, and these guys put their lives on the line."

Korzeniowski said hotels, restaurants and other VLT siteholders were consulted about the 5% increase for legions and were "fully understanding." **KEYWORDS=MANITOBA**

# Afghan poll positive Results show they have confidence in NATO and in themselves, says MacKay

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**SOURCETAG:** 0710200292  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 26  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of PETER MACKAY "Good news"  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** HALIFAX  
**WORD COUNT:** 331

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An opinion poll of Afghans shows that democracy is taking hold in the war-torn country and that there is confidence in the NATO-led mission, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said yesterday.

The Environics Research poll, released Thursday on behalf of the CBC, La Presse and The Globe and Mail was based on nearly 1,600 interviews with Afghan men and women.

It found 60% of the respondents said the presence of foreigners in the country was a good thing, while only 16% said it was bad and 43% said foreigners should remain in the country until order is returned, while 25% wanted foreigners to leave immediately or within a year.

Support was weaker in Kandahar, where Canadians have been engaged in bloody battles with the Taliban, although most still said they wanted foreign soldiers to remain.

MacKay said the results show that Afghans have confidence in NATO forces and are realizing that their lives are improving.

"I see enormous positives coming from this poll, first and foremost the fact that a poll can even take in a place like Afghanistan, where very little democracy, very little consultation was taking place with people there," MacKay said.

"You have a country that is starting to walk on its own and that's expressed in many of these poll results that I've seen."

Respondents were also asked which foreign countries are involved in Afghanistan. Canada had the fourth-highest recognition overall.

However, no respondents named Canada when asked which countries were fighting the Taliban. To date, 71 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed in Afghanistan since the mission began.

"I see enormous good news for the mission, for the effort and for the confidence that Afghans are feeling in their own future," MacKay said.

The poll was conducted between Sept. 17 and 24 and is considered accurate to within 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Afghan poll positive Results show they have confidence in NATO and in themselves, says MacKay 28

Other results from the survey included:

- 60% said they were better off than they were five years ago.
- 51% said the country is heading in the right direction, while 28% said it was heading in the wrong direction.
- 40% felt the Afghan government, with foreign assistance, will win against the Taliban, but another 40% said it was too early to say or that they didn't know.
- 74% supported negotiations with the Taliban, while slightly more than half supported the idea of a coalition government sharing power with the Taliban.
- 73% had a negative opinion of the Taliban, while 54% of respondents said al-Qaida was a negative "Islamic force" in the world.
- More than 70% of respondents felt women are better off today than they were in 2002.

KEYWORDS=WORLD

# No one's surprised, except CBC

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**SOURCETAG** 0710200280  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Comment  
**PAGE:** 18  
**BYLINE:** LICIA CORBELLA  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 273

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After all, if those viewers primarily get their news from the CBC, most of what they've seen and been told about Canada's mission there and what Afghans say and think about that message, is negative.

Indeed, Mansbridge has been to Afghanistan himself. Why didn't he go out and speak to Afghans and ask them directly what they thought of foreign troops being in their country?

Had he and the countless other CBC staff members done that -- like some Sun Media journalists have -- he and the CBC would have been reporting five years ago that the Afghan people want foreign troops in their country, that they don't want them to leave any time soon, that they support and admire their own government led by President Hamid Karzai and that the vast majority of them absolutely detest the Taliban.

Time after time Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Karzai himself, Afghan government officials in Kandahar, Canadian generals and rank-and-file Canadian soldiers have all been quoted in other media saying that the Afghan people want us there and appreciate the help we are giving them.

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**SOURCETAG** 0710200761  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 14  
**BYLINE:** LICIA CORBELLA, EDITORIAL  
**WORD COUNT:** 273

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# Poll shows Afghans support mission

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**SOURCETAG** 0710200370  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of PETER MacKAY Sees "enormous" positives.  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** HALIFAX  
**WORD COUNT:** 233

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The Environics Research poll, released on behalf of the Globe and Mail, CBC and La Presse, was based on nearly 1,600 interviews with Afghan men and women.

Sixty per cent of the respondents said the presence of foreigners in the country was a good thing, while only 16 per cent said it was bad.

Forty-three per cent said foreigners should remain in the country until order is returned, while 25 per cent wanted foreigners to leave immediately or within a year.

Support was weaker in Kandahar, where Canadians have been engaged in bloody battles with the Taliban, although most still said they wanted foreign soldiers to remain.

MacKay said the results show Afghans have confidence in NATO forces and are realizing their lives are improving.

"I see enormous positives coming from this poll, first and foremost the fact that a poll can even take in a place like Afghanistan, where very little democracy, very little consultation was taking place with people there," MacKay said following a funding announcement.

"You have a country that is starting to walk on its own and that's expressed in many of these poll results that I've seen."

Respondents were also asked which foreign countries are involved in Afghanistan. Canada had the fourth-highest recognition overall.

However, virtually no respondents named Canada when asked which countries were fighting the Taliban. To date, 71 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed in Afghanistan since the mission began.

"I see enormous good news for the mission, for the effort and for the confidence that Afghans are feeling in their own future," MacKay said. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# White House backs off

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**SOURCETAG** 0710200686  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 48  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON  
**WORD COUNT:** 216

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The White House says President George W. Bush was simply making "a rhetorical point" when he suggested that if Iran obtained nuclear weapons, it could lead to the Third World War.

"The president was not making any war plans, and he wasn't making any declarations," said White House press secretary Dana Perino. "He was making a point, and the point is that we do not believe – and neither does the international community believe – that Iran should be allowed to pursue nuclear weapons."

If Iran acquired nuclear weapons, she said, "that would lead to a very dangerous, a potentially dangerous situation, and potentially lead to a scenario where you have World War Three. But he was using that as a rhetorical point, not, you know, making a declaration."

Bush, at a news conference on Wednesday, said, "I've told people that if you're interested in avoiding World War Three, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing them (Iran) from having the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon."

Iran denounced Bush's comment. "This sort of policy will jeopardize peace and security at the international level, and is a barrier for peace," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini said in a statement.

Hosseini said Bush was resorting to "warlike rhetoric" to divert the U.S. public's attention from failures on international issues such as Iraq and Afghanistan. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Pakistan attack reverberates

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**SOURCETAG** 0710200671  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 24  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of BENAZIR BHUTTO Explosive homecoming  
**BYLINE:** BROOKES MERRITT, SUN MEDIA  
**WORD COUNT:** 228

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The suicide bombing during former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's return to Pakistan Thursday has highlighted the country's failed efforts at democratization, a political scientist says.

"Bhutto is more accepted by the people of Pakistan than president Pervez Musharraf, but I think her co-operation with him is the kiss of death to some extent," University of Alberta professor Mojtaba Mahdavi told Sun Media yesterday.

"His popularity is in decline. Members of his own government clearly helped the Taliban and others plan this attack. Although I hope for the best, I really don't know that Bhutto can lend legitimacy to this government."

Mahdavi said "illiteracy, poverty, political militarization" trump any advances Pakistan has made in the democratization process.

"Compared to India, the political picture of Pakistan is very unstable," he said.

Contributing to that instability are jihadist sympathizers in areas of the country where members of the Taliban and al-Qaida move freely across the border with Afghanistan, disrupting rebuilding efforts there as well.

Bhutto herself has posited a variety of theories regarding who may have orchestrated Thursday's attack, which killed nearly 140 people, including 50 of her guards.

Al-Qaida, the Taliban and intelligence officials within Musharraf's own government may have facilitated the attack, she has said.

Sohail Quadri, president of the Pakistan Canada Association of Edmonton, was less critical of the country's efforts at democratization.

His sister and mother were in Pakistan when the blast occurred and phoned him to deliver the news.

"All the energy went out of me. I think this is one among a series of attacks on Pakistan's leadership to destabilize the government.

"Pakistan is a true, working democracy and is playing an active role in combating terrorism. This is the price they pay for doing the right thing." **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

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**SOURCETAG** 0710200657  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 10  
**BYLINE:** LICIA CORBELLA  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 273

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**SOURCETAG** 0710200525  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
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**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 14  
**BYLINE:** LICIA CORBELLA  
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What's most surprising about a new CBC/Environics poll that shows that the Afghan people overwhelmingly want foreign troops to stay in their country is just how surprised the CBC is.

The CBC has had a steady stream of reporters almost constantly in Afghanistan since regular Canadian forces were stationed there in January 2002.

So why haven't CBC reporters reported on the thoughts of ordinary Afghan citizens before now?

On Thursday night The National's host Peter Mansbridge mentioned that viewers might be "surprised" by the poll results. No kidding.

After all, if those viewers primarily get their news from the CBC, most of what they've seen and been told about Canada's mission there and what Afghans say and think about that message, is negative.

Indeed, Mansbridge has been to Afghanistan himself. Why didn't he go out and speak to Afghans and ask them directly what they thought of foreign troops being in their country?

Had he and the countless other CBC staff members done that -- like some Sun Media journalists have -- he and the CBC would have been reporting five years ago that the Afghan people want foreign troops in their country, that they don't want them to leave any time soon, that they support and admire their own government led by President Hamid Karzai and that the vast majority of them absolutely detest the Taliban.

Time after time Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Karzai himself, Afghan government officials in Kandahar, Canadian generals and rank-and-file Canadian soldiers have all been quoted in other media saying that the Afghan people want us there and appreciate the help we are giving them.

Why weren't we hearing the real news out of Afghanistan on our tax-funded national broadcaster?

More importantly, why were we so often hearing the exact opposite of the real news?

The CBC's ombudsman should investigate how a news organization that is supposed to provide the country with unbiased news has so badly skewed it for so long.

Now that would be really surprising!

# MILITARY AFFAIRS Manley's panel will visit Afghanistan, but plans no public hearings on mission

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**PAGE:** A6

**BYLINE:** ALAN FREEMAN

**SECTION:** National News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Ottawa ONT

**WORDS:** 339

**WORD COUNT:** 321

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ALAN FREEMAN OTTAWA The independent panel on the future of Canada's mission in Afghanistan will not hold public hearings but does plan to travel to the war-torn country and to consult widely with experts.

The five-member panel, led by former Liberal cabinet minister John Manley, has already rented office space in downtown Ottawa and is expected to have its first meeting this weekend, according to a source close to the panel.

The group was appointed last week by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to make recommendations on the future of the contentious military mission, currently due to end in February of 2009.

The panel has been asked to finish its work by Jan. 31, 2008, giving it about three months to research, deliberate and write its report, although the legal mandate extends to March 31. The panel has recruited a half-dozen federal officials who have been seconded from Foreign Affairs, National Defence and the Canadian International Development Agency.

The timing of the visit to Afghanistan is still under wraps for security reasons. The panel is also expected to visit NATO headquarters in Brussels and to get advice from academics and non-governmental organizations active in Afghanistan.

Mr. Manley visited Afghanistan in May in his role as a director of CARE Canada.

As reported earlier in The Globe and Mail, members of the panel are entitled to per diem payments of \$1,200 to \$1,400 in the case of Mr. Manley and \$850 to \$1,000 in the case of the other four panelists.

But according to the Privy Council Office, some members of the panel have already indicated that they will serve without pay for personal reasons or because they already receive federal pensions.

In addition, in the case of Mr. Manley and Jake Epp, their remuneration for work on the panel is strictly limited because they receive pensions as former MPs. Similar rules apply to former public servants appointed by Governor in Council, but details of the individual cases were not made public because of privacy laws.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

MILITARY AFFAIRS Manley's panel will visit Afghanistan, but plans no public hearings on mission137

SUBJECT TERM:foreign policy; defence; strife; political

PERSONAL NAME: John Manley

# WAR ON TERRORISM: SECURITY Why U.S. won't remove Arar from no-fly list Classified files point to lone witness

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**BYLINE:** COLIN FREEZE

**SECTION:** National News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Minneapolis MN

**WORDS:** 1708

**WORD COUNT:** 1616

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COLIN FREEZE MINNEAPOLIS Maher Arar's denials that he ever went to Afghanistan are contradicted by a man convicted of immigration fraud and a self-confessed mujahedeen instructor who says he spotted him there in the early 1990s, according to classified American documents seen by The Globe and Mail.

The intelligence documents are said by U.S. sources to be key to understanding Washington's argument that, even though Mr. Arar has been cleared of any wrongdoing and paid \$10-million in compensation by the Canadian government, he should remain on a no-fly list and remain barred from entering U.S. territory as an alleged security threat.

Until now, the files have been accessible only to those with security clearance, and appear to be the invisible hurdle as Mr. Arar fights to clear his name in the United States.

In Minnesota, Mohamed Kamal Elzahabi, a Lebanese-born U.S. resident who once led training-camps in Afghanistan, has been jailed for three years. His case is obscure and his credibility is very much at issue. Earlier this year he was convicted of immigration fraud and still faces outstanding charges of lying to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

His alleged admissions he fought as a sniper in Chechnya and Afghanistan have not resulted in criminal charges. Mr. Elzahabi's statements, under seal, have never been tested in court, nor have they been made public before today.

They stem from FBI interviews that arose almost two years after Mr. Arar's U.S. arrest and were outside the scope of the Canadian inquiry led by Mr. Justice Dennis O'Connor.

Judge O'Connor was tasked with investigating only the Canadian files that led to the Central Intelligence Agency rendition flight to Syria. The issue of the no-fly list was outside the O'Connor remit.

Mr. Elzahabi once told the FBI that he had served as a sniper instructor at the Khalden training camp in Afghanistan.

The information seen by The Globe and Mail indicates Mr. Elzahabi said he didn't train Mr. Arar, didn't know what kind of training he may have taken, nor if he had a camp nom de guerre.



As described, the encounter appears to have been, at most, fleeting.

The Globe and Mail believes publishing the new information is important. On Thursday, Mr. Arar told Congress that he has been given "no explanation whatsoever" as to why his attempts to clear his name in the United States have stalled.

He reiterated that he never travelled to Afghanistan and that his connections to alleged al-Qaeda-linked figures have been overstated.

Mr. Arar gave his testimony to Congress via video link from the University of Ottawa. He is still not permitted to enter the United States to speak in person about his rendition on a CIA jet to torture in Syria. Representatives agreed following Thursday's hearing that their government behaved reprehensibly in "outsourcing torture" of Mr. Arar.

But it has emerged that Congressman Jerrold Nadler of New York, who told the hearings he had seen the entire classified file relating to Mr. Arar as recently as Wednesday and saw nothing to persuade him that Mr. Arar should have been tortured or kept on the no-fly list, had not been told of the Minnesota case.

"I'm not aware of it," he told The Globe yesterday.

Asked if the briefing he received included a look at the confession Mr. Arar gave under torture in Syria, where Mr. Arar said he had been to Afghanistan, he said: "No comment." On Thursday, Mr. Nadler asked Mr. Arar about Afghanistan.

"Mr. Arar, let me ask you one preliminary question, were you ever at an al-Qaeda training camp in Pakistan or Afghanistan?" Mr. Nadler asked.

"No." "Were you ever in Afghanistan or Pakistan?" "No." "Given those facts, if the United States government believes that you were, can you think of any reason why they might think so?" "... Frankly I don't remember being asked in the United States about that," Mr. Arar replied. "The only time this came up was in Syria and I falsely confessed in Syria [to being in Afghanistan] under torture." This spring, Mr. Arar's Canadian lawyer, Lorne Waldman, told The Globe that Mr. Arar doesn't recall ever meeting the man held in Minneapolis and only had his car fixed by Mr. Elzahabi's brother, who once ran a garage in Montreal.

The lawyer for his U.S. civil suit, Maria LaHood, said yesterday she would not comment on the FBI material seen by The Globe. "Regarding whatever document you've seen, I just won't comment on a document that I cannot see," she said.

Washington has never claimed that Mr. Arar had any links to a terrorist act or plot. Rather, under the low legal thresholds of terrorist watch lists, he has been branded a persona non grata.

U.S. government lawyers have stated that as a presumed alien enemy, Mr. Arar has no constitutional recourse — adding he is not entitled to have his case reassessed under a standard of "probable cause" nor even "reasonable suspicion." Removed from the United States to Syria in 2002, the Canadian telecommunications engineer will be barred from entering the United States until 2012, barring a reversal by U.S. officials.

Crucially, the stated reasons for the U.S. position have changed over time.

At the time of his rendition to Syria, U.S. immigration officials cited "classified and unclassified" information to allege Mr. Arar was a member of al-Qaeda. The removal-decision documents remain mostly blacked out, saying only that under questioning by the FBI, Mr. Arar "admitted his association" with two other Canadians then jailed in the Middle East.

In 2004, U.S. officials declined to participate in the O'Connor inquiry probing Mr. Arar's ordeal.

Refusing to hand over files, U.S. officials pointed the finger back at Canada: "Mr. Arar's name was placed on a U.S. terrorist lookout list based on information received as part of an ongoing general sharing of information between the governments of the United States and Canada," a U.S. State Department lawyer wrote at the time.

Last year, after Canada apologized to Mr. Arar and compensated him with \$10-million for passing bad intelligence about him to the United States, Prime Minister Stephen Harper urged U.S. officials to "come clean" about their handling of the file.

But U.S. officials resisted Canadian entreaties to remove Mr.

Arar's name from their no-fly list, hinting this past January that there had been a crucial evolution in their argument, with the suggestion the United States had in its possession material obtained outside Canada's knowledge.

"Our conclusion [to keep Mr. Arar on a no-fly list] in this regard is supported by information developed by U.S. law-enforcement agencies that is independent of that provided to us by Canada regarding Mr.

Arar," Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Alberto Gonzales, the U.S. attorney-general at the time, said in a Jan.

16 statement.

No details were revealed.

The U.S. Center for Constitutional Rights, U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, and other U.S. officials are urging Washington to follow Ottawa's lead — apologize, launch a commission, and cease the blacklisting of Mr. Arar.

On Nov. 9, Mr. Arar's lawyers will appear in a New York court to try to revive his U.S. lawsuit, dismissed on the grounds that moving forward could compromise state secrets.

Judge O'Connor, who spent two years probing Mr. Arar's ordeal, had no access to Syrian or American files. Mr. Arar was given the option of testifying once the findings were complete, but declined in August.

Judge O'Connor stated that he saw all the Canadian files before concluding that: "I am able to say categorically that there is no evidence to indicate that Mr. Arar has committed any offence or that his activities constitute a threat to the security of Canada." Judge O'Connor took a hard line against torture evidence entering counterterrorism investigations. Playing devil's advocate, he stated in his findings that even if one were inclined to believe coerced confessions, the Syrian information would hardly be grounds for marking Mr. Arar as a terrorist for life.

"The training camps were diverse in nature," Judge O'Connor writes.

"Some could be described as terrorist training camps, others only as mujahedeen training camps.

"Based on the Syrians' information, it could not be determined whether Mr. Arar was a member of al-Qaeda or had received specific terrorist training. He could have gone to Afghanistan as a religious Muslim with a desire to fight the infidels or he could have had more nefarious intentions." In an interview yesterday, Paul Cavalluzzo, Judge O'Connor's commission counsel, explained why the inquiry didn't settle the Afghanistan question.

"What the report says is that one's presence in Afghanistan is a very complicated and nuanced question. If the person is a mujahedeen fighting the Soviets ... we looked upon these people as freedom fighters and nationalists," Mr. Cavalluzzo said. "However, if they were in Afghanistan after 1996, when al-Qaeda moved to Afghanistan, and attended an al-Qaeda training camp, that's a different story." He added, "as far as Arar is concerned, there was the allegation and it wasn't proven either way." The focus of the inquiry, Mr. Cavalluzzo said, was on the conduct of Canadian officials. "Whether Arar was in Afghanistan in 1993 wasn't related to that," he said.

Congressional Q&A An exchange between U.S. Congressman Jerrold Nadler and Maher Arar at a video conference on Thursday: Nadler: "Mr. Arar, let me ask you one preliminary question, were you ever at an al-Qaeda training camp in Pakistan or Afghanistan?" Arar: "No." Nadler: "Were you ever in Afghanistan or Pakistan?" Arar: "No." Nadler: "Given those facts, if the United States government believes that you were, can you think of any reason why they might think so?" Arar: "... Frankly I don't remember being asked in the United States about that. The only time this came up was in Syria and I falsely confessed in Syria [to being in Afghanistan] under torture."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; United States

SUBJECT TERM:terrorism; suspects; civil rights; human rights; justice; evidence; statements; list; internal security; political

PERSONAL NAME: Maher Arar; Jerrold Nadler; Mohamed Kamal Elzahabi

ORGANIZATION NAME: al-Qaeda

# First past the polls

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**IDN:** 072930197  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**PAGE:** A28  
**BYLINE:** SCOTT PRESTON  
**SECTION:** Letter to the Edit  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:** Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask.  
**WORDS:** 77  
**WORD COUNT:** 92

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Scott Preston Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask.

According to the Environics poll – done for, among others, The Globe and Mail – 74 per cent of Afghans, generally, and 85 per cent of those in Kandahar, support talks with the Taliban as a way of reducing violence.

Based on those numbers, your front–page headline Majority Of Afghans Want Foreign Troops To Stay And Fight (Oct. 19) just as easily could, and perhaps should, have read: Majority Of Afghans Want A Political Solution To The Conflict.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM:public opinion polls; strife

ORGANIZATION NAME: North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Taliban

# First past the polls

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

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**DATE:** 2007.10.20

**PAGE:** A28

**BYLINE:** ROLAND PARIS

**SECTION:** Letter to the Edit

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Ottawa ONT

**WORDS:** 96

**WORD COUNT:** 116

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Roland Paris Ottawa \* Like many Canadians, I was pleased to read most Afghans support their government and the NATO mission. Worth noting, however, is the disquieting fact that Afghan public support, while still high, has been slipping in recent years.

While 51 per cent of Afghans today think their country is headed in the "right direction," two years ago it was 83 per cent. Other surveys also suggest Afghans are growing more disaffected with their government's corruption and ineffectiveness.

Longer-term trends present a more nuanced – and, unfortunately, less reassuring – picture than the snapshot of this single poll.

**ADDED SEARCH TERMS:**

**GEOGRAPHIC NAME:** Afghanistan

**SUBJECT TERM:**public opinion polls; strife

**ORGANIZATION NAME:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Taliban

# First past the polls

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

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**PAGE:** A28

**BYLINE:** JAN BURTON

**SECTION:** Letter to the Edit

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Toronto ONT

**WORDS:** 66

**WORD COUNT:** 78

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Jan Burton Toronto \* After months of listening to opponents of the NATO mission insisting Canadian troops are occupiers, fighting against the wishes of the Afghan people, it sure was nice to hear from the Afghan people for once.

The poll makes it perfectly clear what most Afghans want: the continued presence of NATO troops, and peace talks with the Taliban.

Canadians should do everything possible to make it happen.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM:public opinion polls; strife

ORGANIZATION NAME: North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Taliban

# First past the polls

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

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**BYLINE:** CHARLES TIDLER

**SECTION:** Letter to the Edit

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Victoria BC

**WORDS:** 46

**WORD COUNT:** 65

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Charles Tidler Victoria \* If 46 per cent of the people of Afghanistan are aware of Canada's presence in their country, shouldn't the headline on your editorial Glad You're Here, Say The Afghans (Oct. 19) have read: Know You're Here, Say Fewer Than Half The Afghans?

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM:public opinion polls; strife

ORGANIZATION NAME: North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Taliban

# First past the polls

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL  
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**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**PAGE:** A28  
**BYLINE:** EARL B. MORRIS  
**SECTION:** Letter to the Edit  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:** Coquitlam, B.C.  
**WORDS:** 48  
**WORD COUNT:** 60

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Earl B. Morris Coquitlam, B.C.

\* Are we really so naive as to trust a poll taken in an occupied, war-torn country (No Simple Phone Surveys In War-Torn Afghanistan – Oct. 19)? What Afghan is going to identify themselves as a Taliban supporter when a bombed-out home could be the imagined result?

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM:public opinion polls; strife

ORGANIZATION NAME: North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Taliban



# The rousing bon mot is no more

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL  
**IDN:** 072930182  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**PAGE:** A23  
**BYLINE:** REX MURPHY  
**SECTION:** Comment Column  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:**  
**WORDS:** 827  
**WORD COUNT:** 868

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REX MURPHY Commentator with The National and host of CBC Radio's Cross-Country Checkup Mention John Kennedy and most people will quickly call up the famous line, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." I am not sure why this is so.

To begin with, the line was not his own. It is commonly ascribed to his courtly speechwriter, Ted Sorensen. But even were it really Kennedy's, it is still difficult to see why it clots the pages of every modern quotation book, and is so often invoked as a touchstone of public eloquence.

It is clumsy for one thing. Ask not what your country can do for you is a very odd sequence of modern English. You don't run into a lot of "ask nots" these days. Ask not is an idiom of a time long gone; it has the feel of the overtly poetic about it, the fake suede of greeting-card prose.

The best we can say of Kennedy/Sorensen is that at least they were trying. Kennedy was still alert to the rapidly thinning air of a quite ancient tradition: one that understood that public utterance, especially on ceremonial occasions, should strive for elevation, elegance and dignity. Kennedy may have been the last major leader in the West to carry that ambition. In his case, it probably survived because he was a leader who grew up under the long shadow of Winston Churchill, one of history's great wordsmiths, a man to whom leadership was inseparable from the ability to fashion speech, to draw from words something of their elemental power to bind and inspire.

The energy with which Churchill composed his illustrious speeches is commonplace knowledge. So also is the care he gave to his studiously offhand or "spontaneous" remarks, jibes and witticisms. One of those same witticisms tells us so: "I'm just preparing my impromptu remarks." Churchill represents the end of that great tradition, which is at least as old as the great Latin and Greek orators.

Abraham Lincoln is perhaps his only superior, for Lincoln's oratory had a lyric and affecting quality that Churchill's did not. Churchill could stir: He was a master of the sonorous and martial mode. Lincoln could move: Much of his language had the subtlety and strange power we associate more with poetry than the platform. Lincoln was quiet and deep. Churchill reached for the accents of defiance and glory, as he said himself, to "give the lion's roar." The volumes of Brian Mulroney and Jean Chretien are now competing in our nation's bookstores, but we shall not be going to them to savour or resavour favoured passages from some of their most memorable speeches. That's because there aren't any, which is not as dismissive as it sounds. It may still be possible for leaders to write and give great speeches – Vaclav Havel certainly tried during his tenure – but it is getting more difficult with each advancing year. There was no evidence, for instance, of any exertion toward eloquence in this week's Throne Speech, whose entire elegance was in the person who read it.

We are in the culture of the sound bite. We remember of Mr. Mulroney his onslaught against John Turner ("You had a choice, sir . . ."), just as of Mr. Chretien we recall a telling and petty riposte ("For me, pepper, I put it on my plate.") Considering the great number of debates in which these two participated, the number of state occasions during which they spoke, this is a pathetic harvest.

The premiers fare no better. Dalton McGuinty, Jacques Parizeau or Ralph Klein, to take but three large names, may all be remembered in time, but they will not cheat oblivion because they crowded the public mind with imperishable speech.

It is not, by any means, all their fault. Churchill spoke in an age, despite its horrors, more confident of its public men, and during a time when politics itself still retained some association with noble practice. He could speak the largest of words – such as "honour" and "country" – and make appeals to the glory of his people, and neither those words nor appeals sounded hollow in his mouth.

Today, the large words have shrunk, and even in their shrunken stature do not fall obligingly from lips that have had them "poll-tested" and "focus-grouped" beforehand. Even in the many debates we have had on Afghanistan, I cannot recall any sentiment expressed touched with the fineness and depth of that most honourable undertaking.

From Lincoln's day to ours, soapbox to satellite, the means of communication have proliferated. Yet, even Google will not search up a more affecting and noble tribute than a few words spoken at Gettysburg nearly a century and a half ago.

Modern words can blanket the whole world in an instant, and that is as long as most of them will endure. They steal from light nothing but its speed.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

SUBJECT TERM:politicians; political; oratory

PERSONAL NAME: Winston Churchill; Brian Mulroney; Jean Chretien; Abraham Lincoln

# IN THE EYE OF THE STORM The twisted road to Kandahar 'Canada slipped into war in Afghanistan, step by step, incrementally, without fully understanding that it was going to war'

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**BYLINE:** MARGARET WENTE  
**SECTION:** Comment Column  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:**  
**WORDS:** 1269  
**WORD COUNT:** 1273

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MARGARET WENTE In December of 2003, Canada's then-defence minister, John McCallum, met a journalist named Arthur Kent over lunch. Mr. Kent (best known to TV viewers as the Gulf war's Scud Stud) was by then an old Afghan hand. For an hour, he regaled the politician and his aides with tales of that wild and complex land. On the way out of the restaurant, a senior Department of National Defence staffer said anxiously, "We don't know anything about this country." Indeed, we didn't. We didn't know the language, culture, values, customs, history. We didn't have a clue. But we did have 2,000 troops there – "stabilization forces." Officials figured that, by the fall of 2004, the number would be reduced to a mere 200, engaged in some small, safe mission. Afghanistan was barely on the radar screen.

Nobody had uttered the word "war." No one expected the Taliban to come back.

Three years later, Canadian troops were fighting a war nobody had foreseen, for reasons no one in the political class could decently articulate. Afghanistan was in the headlines, and most of them were bad. Canada was paying a higher price in casualties than other NATO nations. We had made the most significant defence and foreign policy decision of a generation, one that would shape our sense of place in the world for years to come. Yet, no one could really explain how we'd got there.

Now we know. The Unexpected War: Canada in Kandahar , by Janice Gross Stein and Eugene Lang, is a revelation, an inside account of how things work in government. You won't be surprised to learn that it's a messy business, fraught with competing agendas and internecine wars, and heavily influenced by personality.

"There was never a medium- or long-term Afghanistan policy," says Prof. Stein, a well-known political scientist with sharp instincts for the way foreign policy gets made. "There were several distinct missions in Afghanistan, and decisions taken by different governments at different points in time." Prof. Stein and Mr. Lang (who was chief of staff to both Mr. McCallum and Bill Graham) are deeply sympathetic to the mission. But they are also unsparing in their descriptions of dysfunction in Ottawa.

Few people come off particularly well in this account, with the exception of the men and women in uniform, who are ably fighting off the bad guys while doing their best to win hearts and minds.

Take the senior officials who were feeding the politicians their best policy advice. They were obsessed with the Americans. Canada had turned down Washington on Iraq and turned it down again on ballistic missile defence. They were certain that, if we turned them down on Afghanistan, "catastrophic" consequences would ensue. This was not the case. The Americans, in fact, scarcely noticed that we'd stayed out of Iraq and BMD, and didn't really care.

"We grossly overstate our importance in Washington," says Mr.

Lang. "They really don't care that much about us. But the advice our politicians get is that they care deeply. It's self-absorbed.

It's not a realistic view of Canada's role in the world and our relationship with the U.S." So here's what you really want to know. Did Paul Martin's dithering send our boys to the killing fields, as Jean Chretien alleges? No.

Like everything about Afghanistan, things were way more complicated than that. A lot of people in the military wanted to go there from the start. The troop commitment was supposed to be very small. There was no shooting war back then. In any event, the bureaucracy was paralyzed until Rick Hillier came along. Mr. Martin, who had finally become prime minister, was demanding a "transformation" in defence and foreign policy. He wanted something bold and dazzling, something that would differentiate him from his loathed predecessor. The confident and charismatic Chief of the Defence Staff had the answers: General Hillier sold a vision of how the military should be overhauled to fight 21st-century wars, the ones with no safe places and no front lines.

Ironically, Mr. Martin was never enthusiastic about Afghanistan, an obligation he'd inherited from Mr. Chretien. He had romantic fantasies of sending Canadian troops to straighten out Darfur and the Palestinian mess. Gen. Hillier assured Mr. Martin that he could do Afghanistan and also, if necessary, Darfur. No one talked much about the operational realities of Kandahar.

Gen. Hillier was a strong force operating in a vacuum, with very weak civilian oversight. "Hillier's leadership has unbalanced the relationship between civilian and military," the authors write.

The Prime Minister's Office was consumed by the sponsorship scandal, and nobody read the tea leaves. In January of 2006, the Kandahar deployment was still being described as a "more robust peace role." Afghanistan did not figure in the election that brought the Conservatives to office. The mission was turning dangerous, but Gen. Hillier pressed for a two-year extension, and Stephen Harper gave it to him. That decision, too, had almost nothing to do with what was happening on the ground. It was all about Canada's obligations to its NATO allies. And that is how "Canada slipped into war in Afghanistan, step by step, incrementally, without fully understanding that it was going to war." Now that we are there, alas, we're punching well below our weight.

The much vaunted 3-D strategy – defence, development and diplomacy – is a mess. One reason, say the authors, is the black hole where our foreign policy apparatus ought to be. "In Ottawa, words like dysfunctional, debilitated and broken are common descriptions of the institutions at the centre of Canadian foreign policy," they write. The Department of Foreign Affairs, gutted during the 1990s, is basically a glorified travel agency. The Canadian International Development Agency focuses on long-term "capacity building," which is largely irrelevant to the immediate needs of the Afghan populace.

What it doesn't do is build schools. The three institutions that need to work together – Defence, Foreign Affairs and CIDA – might as well exist on different planets.

To be fair, Canada is not alone. No one in NATO knew what they were getting into, either. What began as a

short-term stabilization exercise has turned into a nation-building commitment that will take at least 15 to 20 years – if we stay the course.

Will we? Not likely. Canadians will only tolerate an extended troop commitment if the troops stop getting killed. There's no appetite for fighting a war or long insurgency. The other NATO countries have been conspicuously unenthusiastic about replacing us. And the Afghan government, such as it is, is shaky. "Sometimes, I think the government is [President Hamid] Karzai with a cellphone," said one Canadian official. But no nation wants to be the first to pull its forces, because it's a house of cards. "That's why Canada is in the eye of the storm," says Prof. Stein.

"We're not saying it was a mistake to do this," says Mr. Lang.

"We're saying we didn't understand what we were getting into." Not surprisingly, a lot of people are hopping mad about this book.

The authors leave the readers to draw their own conclusions, so here are two of mine: This 21st-century fighting isn't going to be a piece of cake. And our reasons for going to war in Afghanistan have hardly anything to do with that mysterious country at all – they are overwhelmingly about us.

mwente@globeandmail.com

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: political; foreign policy; defence; political; books; the unexpected war: canada in kandahar

PERSONAL NAME: Janice Gross Stein; Eugene Lang

# CARNAGE IN KARACHI: THE PERPETRATORS

## Musharraf or ISI? Taliban or al-Qaeda? Conspiracy theories run rampant

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**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**PAGE:** A24 (ILLUS)  
**BYLINE:** SAEED SHAH  
**SECTION:** International News  
**SOURCE:** SPCL  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:** KARACHI, PAKISTAN  
**WORDS:** 505  
**WORD COUNT:** 488

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SAEED SHAH Special to The Globe and Mail KARACHI, PAKISTAN Pakistan is a country of conspiracy theorists and Thursday's devastating attack on Benazir Bhutto's convoy has sent wild rumour and speculation into hyper-drive.

Many ordinary Pakistanis sincerely believe that the government of General Pervez Musharraf was behind the outrage, reasoning that it was an attempt to stop a coming election that Ms. Bhutto is expected to win.

That theory usually carries with it suspicion of another player, the Inter-Services Intelligence, or ISI, an agency with a dark history, habitually accused of terrorism in Pakistan.

It was the ISI that brought jihadi groups together to fight the Soviet Union in neighbouring Afghanistan in the 1980s, and it is this agency that is generally thought to be behind the creation of the original Taliban, a movement of radical students in Afghanistan who seized power in the 1990s. Many believe that the ISI and other Pakistani intelligence agencies kept up their connections with and possibly their support for radical Islamic groups even after 9/11.

Few independent analysts believe that high-ranking state officials were involved in Thursday's bombing, but they do think that low-ranking renegade workers in the intelligence agencies may have helped the attackers. At lower levels, the agencies contain operatives with radical Islamist thinking.

One of the chief suspects in the bombing of Ms. Bhutto's convoy, a Pakistani Taliban commander, quickly ruled himself out yesterday.

"I had nothing to do with it," said Baitullah Mehsud, who operates in Waziristan, a lawless area within Pakistan's tribal belt.

Mr. Mehsud had reportedly threatened to send suicide bombers to "greet" Ms. Bhutto. He is leader of the Pakistan's Taliban, a loose group modelled on the Afghan group.

Whether or not Mr. Mehsud was involved, suspicion points to his fellow Taliban or al-Qaeda operatives – the two are largely indistinguishable now – who operate freely in the tribal region and have personnel all over Pakistan. Karachi is a particular hot spot for militants, who can easily hide amid its sprawling slum districts.

Ms. Bhutto, as a female, secular, pro-Western politician who had closely allied herself with Washington's war on terrorism, represents everything extreme Islamists hate.

But they are not the only violent opponents of Ms. Bhutto. Karachi is the base for an ethnic movement and political party, the MQM, which was in open warfare with Ms. Bhutto's government in the 1990s.

More recently, the MQM was blamed for an attack on a demonstration in Karachi in May, where indiscriminate gunfire killed 50 people.

A former director of the ISI, Hameed Gul, said: "It is the MQM who believe that Karachi is their city. Benazir made a big mistake by gathering so many people there." However, the MQM has never been involved in a terrorist attack on the scale seen Thursday. And the party had recently made efforts to settle its differences with Ms. Bhutto, leading to talk that the Pakistan People's Party and the MQM may be able to form a coalition after the planned general elections.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Karachi; Pakistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; bombs; deaths; attempted assassination; terrorism

PERSONAL NAME: Benazir Bhutto; Pervez Musharraf

ORGANIZATION NAME: Taliban; al-Qaeda

# CARNAGE IN KARACHI: ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

## Bhutto praises guards who died protecting her 'The attack was on what I represent. The attack was on democracy,' former Pakistani prime minister says of suicide bombings

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SAEED SHAH Special to The Globe and Mail KARACHI A wall of body guards – young men, decked out in white T-shirts that read "Willing to die for Benazir" – standing firm. A would-be assassin, wearing a vest laden with explosives, nuts, bolts and steel balls, intent on breaking through.

This was the extraordinary scene painted by former prime minister Benazir Bhutto the day after her brush with death Thursday night.

Accounts differed in details – Ms. Bhutto said one attacker threw a hand grenade in hopes of breaking the cordon to allow another suicide bomber with a much more lethal payload to rush through; police suggested it was a single attacker detonating both explosives in an attempt to kill Ms. Bhutto, who was resting inside her specially armoured vehicle.

Regardless, the resolve of the young men facing death may have been pivotal in preventing the bomber from accomplishing his mission.

Fifty of the guards died in the blast that killed 136 and wounded more than 200.

"They stood their ground, and they stood all around the truck, and they refused to let the suicide bomber – the second suicide bomber – get near the truck," Ms. Bhutto said.

At a news conference in Karachi yesterday, Ms. Bhutto revealed details not only of the attack, but of a series of warnings she had received ahead of her return to Pakistan.

She said she'd been told that suicide attackers had been dispatched to kill her after she announced plans to end her eight years of exile in London. "There was one suicide squad from the Taliban elements, one suicide squad from al-Qaeda, one suicide squad from Pakistani Taliban and a fourth – a group, I believe, from Karachi," she said.



She said that telephone numbers of suicide squads had been given to her by a "brotherly" country, and she sent a letter dated Oct.

16 with the details to President Pervez Musharraf.

She also suggested that elements within the state were involved, though she did not point her finger directly.

"I am not accusing the government. I am accusing people, certain individuals who abuse their positions, who abuse their powers." She did, however, demand an inquiry into why street lights on her route had been switched off. She said it was impossible for her security workers to see potential attackers in the darkness.

"The attack was on what I represent. The attack was on democracy and the very unity and integrity of Pakistan," she said. She said security guards caught another man earlier with a suicide vest and a fourth man armed with a pistol.

Manzoor Mughal, a senior police official, said that the head of the suspected bomber – estimated to have had 15 to 20 kilograms of explosives strapped to his body – had been recovered.

Pakistani television showed the head of the supposed suicide bomber.

Many eye witnesses insisted that at least one blast came from a car, a theory not accepted by the authorities.

Given that a suicide attack was involved, suspicion immediately fell on radical Islamic terrorists. Al-Qaeda and the Taliban have made Pakistan's wild tribal region their stronghold and their network is spread across the country.

Kamran Bokhari, director of Middle East analysis at Strategic Forecasting, a U.S.-based consultancy, said: "Jihadis were certainly involved. The question is: Were they the only ones in this or did they get help from rogue elements within the state?" Pakistan's intelligence agencies, which include the feared Inter-Services Intelligence, have connections with Islamic militants, which have been used by the state to fight proxy wars in Afghanistan and Kashmir.

Many believe renegade officers within them could have provided the attackers with crucial help and intelligence.

At Karachi's Jinnah hospital yesterday, the names of 163 people brought there after the blasts were pinned up at the entrance to the emergency ward. Most of the injured were in their teens or 20s.

"It appears it was a suicide attack because some of the bodies we got were so badly mutilated," said Dr Seemin Jamali, deputy director of the emergency department. "Two corpses were completely intertwined.

One had barely any abdomen left and a face that was pressed flat." In the emergency ward, someone had spray-painted "PPP" on the wall, short for Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, and "Long live Benazir." Shaukat Ali, a 35-year-old man from a poor district of Karachi, rested against a hospital wall in bloodied clothing. He said that he was just a few metres away from the two blasts that blew apart Ms. Bhutto's convoy.

"The people standing in front of me died. They saved me. I couldn't recognize what was left as bodies," Mr. Ali said. "We can't understand who would do this. Those people don't want a democracy in Pakistan." Outside Ms. Bhutto's mansion, in Karachi's posh seafront Clifton district, her supporters gathered. There, a party activist, Zaha Iftikar, said: "The government said it would provide full security, but didn't. Musharraf had a hand in this." The banners and flags of the PPP, put up for Ms. Bhutto's arrival, still covered roadsides across Karachi yesterday but they now took on a grim significance. Just a day earlier, the city of 15 million was

staging a carnival for her.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Pakistan; Karachi

SUBJECT TERM: strife; bombs; deaths; attempted assassination; political; terrorism; statements

PERSONAL NAME: Benazir Bhutto

# CARNAGE IN KARACHI: PICKING UP AFTER THE ATTACK ON BHUTTO With its economy hot and its people proud, why does Pakistan face trouble at every turn?

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MARCUS GEE A joyous throng cheers the returning opposition leader as she heads home after years in exile. Then, suddenly, an explosion shatters bodies and hopes.

Great expectations, blasted dreams. Yesterday's events in Karachi were a mirror of Pakistan's national story.

Born in turmoil, raised in war and division, Pakistan is the country where things always seem to go wrong. With a resourceful people gathered under the green flag of Islam, the country of 164 million should be one of the developing world's success stories.

Instead, it finds itself embattled, divided, misruled and perpetually on the doorstep of catastrophe. Headline writers call it a nation "on the edge." Scholars debate whether it will join the ranks of failed states, spewing out loose nukes and Islamic militants.

Why doesn't Pakistan work? India, its great rival next door, is going from strength to strength, with a thriving democracy and a booming economy. Pakistan faces trouble at every corner.

A fierce revolt in its unruly tribal areas has left more than 250 troops dead. Islamic militants like those suspected of attacking opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's convoy are stepping up their insurgency.

Yet another political crisis is roiling the country.

President Pervez Musharraf, desperately unpopular since firing the chief of the supreme court earlier this year, has just had himself re-elected president by tame lawmakers so he can hang onto his job.

One opposition leader, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, returned from exile only to be turned back at the airport. Another, Ms. Bhutto, has tried but failed to strike a power-sharing deal with General Musharraf. Elections are due in January but no one knows what will come out of the current mess.

For Pakistan, it was ever thus. Since its birth on Aug. 14, 1947, the country has staggered from crisis to crisis. In 60 years, it has been through three wars, four military coups and several economic collapses. Just one prime minister has fulfilled his full term in office.

A civil war in 1971 robbed the country of half its territory when East Pakistan broke away to become Bangladesh, a humiliating episode from which the country has never fully recovered.

A new report by Foreign Policy magazine and the U.S.–based Fund for Peace put Pakistan among the world's failed states, ranking it ninth, just after Haiti and just ahead of Afghanistan. Half its people still cannot read or write. Its per capita GDP, once ahead of India's, is just \$2,225 (U.S.).

It was not supposed to be this way. When Pakistan emerged from the partition of British India, it was meant to be a prosperous and stable haven for the Muslims of the subcontinent.

But the death of its leader, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, just a year after independence, robbed it of its guiding light. Its leading political party, the Muslim League, had only shallow roots in the new country, so no cohesive political force like India's Congress Party emerged, or has since.

As a result, Pakistan seems unsure of what, exactly, it wants to be, swinging from mild authoritarianism to unstable democratic rule, from secular government to flirtations with Islamism.

The tragedy is that Pakistan could do so much better. Its urbane, educated elite can hold their own with any in the world. Its economy, after years of faltering, has rallied to post some of the fastest growth rates in Asia.

Islamic militancy, while growing, still commands only minority support in a country that prefers a more moderate brand of Islam.

Pakistanis, for all their divisions, have a strong sense of national pride, visible whenever its cricket team takes on India.

A vibrant free press has grown up to challenge government views.

Various non–governmental groups, from women's organizations to the lawyers guilds that challenged the government in street protests earlier this year, are coming together to form a vital "civil society." "For a state that has been under military rule for more than half of its history and under corrupt or undemocratic civil rule for the rest, Pakistan has an astonishingly large number of citizens committed to democracy," writes U.S. author Stephen Cohen in his book *The Idea of Pakistan* .

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ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Pakistan; Karachi

SUBJECT TERM: strife; bombs; attempted assassination; deaths; political; government

PERSONAL NAME: Pervez Musharraf; Benazir Bhutto

# CARNAGE IN KARACHI: POLITICAL AFTERMATH

## Potential for democracy ripped apart by bombs

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AHMED RASHID LAHORE, PAKISTAN Pakistan's long-running political crisis took a dramatic turn for the worse Thursday with the bloody carnage in Karachi. The bombings have raised serious doubts as to whether a parliamentary election can be held in January, deepened the long-standing mistrust between President Pervez Musharraf and opposition leader Benazir Bhutto and struck a major blow to international efforts to stem the tide of Islamic extremism that is sweeping the country.

The bombing may give General Musharraf and the ruling Pakistan Muslim League party the excuse to postpone the general election that could put Ms. Bhutto and her Pakistan People's Party in office. According to the country's constitution, Gen. Musharraf has the powers to postpone the election for up to 12 months.

Even if the election goes ahead in January, public participation will be at a minimum after the bombings. Political rallies, public meetings and door-to-door campaigning are likely to be heavily curtailed.

Under such circumstances, the election can be only a half-hearted affair and the potential for the military to rig the vote has increased substantially.

While Ms. Bhutto's people single out the country's security and intelligence service for failing to prevent the blasts, government spokesmen accuse Ms. Bhutto of acting recklessly by insisting on leading a 30-kilometre convoy from the airport to the centre of Karachi, especially after Gen. Musharraf had asked her to postpone her return. She had also declined a government offer to fly her in a helicopter from the airport into town, where she was due to hold a political rally.

Ms. Bhutto took a calculated risk that cost many lives, but she also put her own life on the line. After eight years in exile, Ms.

Bhutto felt the need to make her political mark and show the army, the public and the international community that she still has a massive following. She clearly demonstrated that; tens of thousands of people arrived from all over the country to welcome her.

For the United States and Britain, who have been trying to stitch together a rapprochement between Gen.

Musharraf and Ms. Bhutto and pushing for free and fair elections, the bombing comes as a severe blow. Unlike Gen. Musharraf and the army, who have hesitated on the need to crack down hard on extremism, Ms. Bhutto has been clear about the issue from the start.

Her party faithful have backed her on the need to politically isolate the Islamic fundamentalist parties, deal harshly with Islamic extremism, make up with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan and settle another insurgency that is taking place in Baluchistan by tribes seeking separation from Pakistan.

Gen. Musharraf has refused to attempt a national reconciliation between the army, the PML, opposition parties and the various insurgencies taking place in the country. Instead, he has successfully divided the opposition and played hot and cold with the extremists. And he still wants to keep Islamic fundamentalist parties on board with him in any future electoral alliance.

It was hoped that Ms. Bhutto's safe arrival would increase pressure on Gen. Musharraf to consolidate a strategy against the extremists.

That looks increasingly unlikely, as Ms. Bhutto is forced to cordon herself off under tight security, reduce contact with her supporters and refrain from touring the country as planned.

Pakistan is just short of becoming a failed state, battling a far more lethal and ideologically motivated Islamic extremism than that which U.S. and NATO forces are fighting in Afghanistan. Unless the army shows a greater willingness to establish political stability through fair elections, Pakistan is heading downhill.

Ahmed Rashid, a Pakistan-based journalist, is author of *Jihad, The Rise of Militant Islam in Central Asia*.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Karachi; Pakistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; bombs; deaths; attempted assassination; political

PERSONAL NAME: Benazir Bhutto; Pervez Musharraf

# **SPECIAL REPORT: A GOVERNMENT WITH LITTLE TO SAY FOR ITSELF** The cool on the Hill Parliament is back in session and once again the media want answers from a government that steadfastly refuses to provide them. Christopher Dornan examines Stephen Harper's reasons for declaring a war without words on the fourth estate, what it says about his approach to politics and why there may be a hint of peace in the air

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Christopher Dornan OTTAWA It is no secret that the Conservative government and the reporters who cover it don't get along. And now that the resumption of Parliament has reunited them, the two sides should keep in mind the words of A.J. McKenna, a senior member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery: "Today the enlightenment of any country may be judged by the degree to which its lawmakers facilitate information about the business of government. The members of the press gallery are the trustees of this heritage. They must ever pressure and keep unhindered this essential ingredient in the democratic function." Mr. McKenna was speaking in 1955 against a government proposal to move the press gallery's offices, kicking and screaming, from the Centre Block of Parliament to the West Block.

This week, it came to light that the Conservative government seriously considered doing something much more radical. It planned to spend \$2-million to set up its own media centre for playing host to press conferences and speaking to the nation, just blocks from the one the press gallery runs.

The project was quickly ridiculed as a mini-Ministry of Truth and the government instantly disavowed it, saying it no longer intends to build such a facility.

But anyone who really wants to understand this government – a tight-lipped operation adamantly protective of its inner thinking – would do well to monitor its relations with the media. Here, curiously, is one of the few instances in which its behind-the-scenes strategy comes into view.

THE MEDIA AS IMPEDIMENT For Canada's so-called new government, rhetoric about the media being trustees of enlightenment is the height of absurdity. It considers the media an impediment, not only to the

Conservative partisan agenda, but to democratic politics. If you believe that, or if you can be convinced of it, then the passive-aggressive hostility the Stephen Harper government has shown toward the media makes perfect sense.

It springs from a deep-rooted conviction that, because the media are fundamentally opposed to the Conservative platform, they will at every turn portray its policies as extreme, hysterical and not wanted on the voyage.

Or as Tom Flanagan, a University of Calgary political science professor and former Harper campaign manager, puts it succinctly in his new book, *Harper's Team: Behind the Scenes in the Conservative Rise to Power*, "The media are unforgiving of conservative errors, so we have to exercise strict discipline at all levels." Since the mission of the Harper Conservatives is precisely to shift the mainstream thinking of the nation – to make their priorities the new common sense – they cannot help but see the media as anti-democratic.

In their eyes, the media labour to restrict what will count as a legitimate policy alternative. It is bad enough that reporters are nuisances poised to cause trouble for whoever happens to be in power.

It is infuriating to think they can usurp the national debate. It is time, the Conservatives believe, to put them in their place.

But how to do so? This government clearly bears the stamp of one man. And whether his distrust of, exasperation with and contempt for the media are prudent or paranoid, Stephen Harper comes by them honestly. All political observers agree that he learned a great deal from his defeat in the 2004 election, turning that to his advantage in 2006.

There were at least two incidents in the campaign three years ago that convinced Mr. Harper that it was essential to corral the media. First, with 10 days until the vote, the Conservative war room issued an electronic news release headlined, "Paul Martin supports child pornography?" It accused the Liberal government of being soft on child porn for supporting exemptions for material deemed to be in the "public good" and for refusing to establish a national sex-offender registry.

At a campaign stop in Quebec, reporters rounded on Mr. Harper over the incendiary headline. Instead of admitting that it was uncalled for, he defended it in a heated exchange – and the press mauled him for it. Mr. Harper resolved never again to allow himself to be put in a position where he could be trapped that way.

The other object lesson for Mr. Harper was the way abortion emerged as an issue. Early in the campaign, Conservative health critic Rob Merrifield mentioned in an interview with *The Globe and Mail* that it would be "valuable" for women contemplating abortion to receive counselling before making their decision.

When the story appeared, its headline suggested that the Conservatives favoured drastic changes in abortion legislation that would include mandatory counselling. This, despite the fact that the party proposed no such thing, that Mr. Merrifield had said nothing about making counselling mandatory and that, indeed, compassionate abortion counselling is a policy of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada.

Other media followed *The Globe's* lead and for a week the Conservatives had to fend off accusations they harboured a secret agenda to rewrite social practice if they were elected. The fact that Mr. Harper refused to fire his health critic became an election story.

The entire incident could not help but confirm in his mind that the media would seize any opportunity to paint the Conservatives as extremists whose values were at odds with those of the country.



(It may also be why just last Friday his chief of staff, Ian Brodie, shocked a private gathering at the C.D. Howe Institute, a Vancouver-based conservative think tank, with an extemporaneous tirade against *The Globe* – a paper that endorsed his leader in the last election.) Hence the Conservative media strategy in the 2006 campaign: extraordinarily tight message discipline in which party members said nothing to the media that was not pre-approved, and a practice of releasing a policy announcement every day, taking control of the news agenda and forcing the media to cover what the party wished them to cover.

**THE GREEN LIGHT** The results of that election persuaded the Harperites that the news media could and should be controlled. And if they squawked about it, well, it's not as though the public holds them in any great esteem. As American satirist Garrison Keillor has written: "A person does feel sheepish picking on journalists, a class already so richly despised that, if a planeload of them crashed in flames, most people would smile from pure reflex." And so began the litany of measures intended to contain and circumvent the journalists who cover the Hill: \* The Prime Minister's refusal (until very recently) to set foot inside the National Press Theatre, where press conferences are moderated by a member of the gallery.

- \* Demands that media outlets submit questions to the Prime Minister in advance so that his staff can select who will ask questions from a list that they draw up.
- \* Attempts to control which reporters would accompany the PM on a trip to Afghanistan.
- \* Using the RCMP to physically remove reporters from a hotel where the Conservative caucus was holding a retreat.
- \* Muzzling public servants.
- \* Breaking tradition by declining to attend the press gallery's annual dinner.
- \* Flatly ignoring a polite letter from gallery president Richard Brennan of *The Toronto Star*, seeking to normalize relations by giving press conferences the sense of order the Conservatives said they wanted.

In the face of all this, gallery members have been divided on how to respond. But in the main they are dismayed.

"It's so acrimonious," Mr. Brennan says, "it borders on hatred." Many are convinced that the government's behaviour is not only autocratic but reveals a petty mean-spiritedness that is embedded in its character. In turn, the government no doubt sees their willingness to believe this as yet more evidence of media prejudice.

As to "the list": From the PM's perspective, why shouldn't he try to manage his message by selecting who gets to ask questions? Why should he be compelled to hand himself over to the predations of people he sincerely believes wish him no good fortune? His aides have pointed out that his predecessor, Paul Martin, used a list to select reporters' questions during the 2006 campaign and that, although reporters grouched, it was not held up as a sinister assault on democratic practice. That is a charge the press supposedly reserves for the Conservatives.

Nor is this Prime Minister the first to shy away from the National Press Theatre, a dowdy Pearson-era room ill suited to the needs of an image-conscious government.

As Winnipeg writer Allan Levine points out in his 1993 book *Scrum Wars: The Prime Ministers and the Media*, in 1978, "in an attempt to exercise greater control over the prime minister's meetings with journalists," Pierre Trudeau's communications director, Dick O'Hagan, "moved the weekly gatherings down Wellington Street to the Canada Conference Centre. Now the conferences were chaired by Trudeau's press secretary Jean Charpentier, who decided which reporters could ask questions." Looking back today, Mr. O'Hagan recalls that

Mr. Trudeau was exasperated by the press and especially hated being buttonholed in "scrum" sessions with reporters. "But we pulled back. We weren't going to go to the mat over this. We weren't going to compromise our relations with the gallery." The current PM, however, "is in a different situation and is a different kind of guy," he adds. "I've been kind of amazed at how far he's prepared to go with this. I'm surprised how determined he has been to prosecute this issue. He's trying to change the terms and conditions of the relationship . . . make it into a different kind of relationship altogether. It's an Americanization of the process, but so far he's been successful." Some of Mr. Harper's actions, such as the recent announcement that he is skipping the press gallery's big dinner on Nov. 25, are open to interpretation. Because it's an event at which political leaders are expected to deliver self-mocking speeches and generally show what good sports they are, many journalists consider his refusal to attend a gesture of contempt from someone who cannot bear to be in the same room with them.

By the same token, it could be seen as refusing to participate in a hypocritical charade – why is the Prime Minister expected to behave with jollity toward people he sees as antagonists? Other objections to the Conservatives' communication strategy are more substantial. For example, many journalists are infuriated by the strategy because they believe it damages the country its creators serve. "We're not getting a clear picture of what this government is doing," Mr. Brennan says. "That's planned." CTV reporter Roger Smith points out that at the recent Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit in Australia, Mr. Harper refused to talk to the press for three days. When he held a controversial meeting with the President of China, Canadian reporters had to resort to other sources. As a result, all anyone back home knew about the private discussions came from Chinese officials.

The communication strategy has been implemented so rigidly that it is now impossible to know what we are not being told. For example, the Ottawa Citizen revealed that in April the National Research Council and the British Museum were set to make a joint announcement: They had discovered a mineral with the exact formula for kryptonite as spelled out in the movie Superman Returns. Things went awry when the Privy Council Office refused to clear the innocuous release, saying it needed five days to review it.

But the BBC had already been alerted by the British Museum. And so the story went round the world that kryptonite had been discovered by the Brits, with no mention of the fact the analysis had been conducted by two Ottawa scientists.

Presumably, the government feels that missteps like this are a small price to pay to prevent errant press attention that would cause political turbulence. Others will take it as evidence of a hyper-controlling instinct that subordinates everything, even the most trivial matter, to the will of the Prime Minister and his deputies.

This was just a quirky science story, but four months elapsed before the Citizen found out about it, raising questions about what else is being kept from the public and why.

Ottawa media consultant Barry McLaughlin respects the message discipline the Conservatives have imposed, but he wonders whether it may not backfire in the end. "If you get a lot of negative filtering through the media to the effect that the government is controlling and secretive," he says, "voters may indeed start to see them as aloof and arrogant. You can go one step too far with control." MAKING AMENDS? Perhaps that's why a relaxed Prime Minister paid a surprise visit to the National Press Theatre two weeks ago, fielding questions from journalists on their terms for 45 minutes. And why the government was so quick to disavow the plan for its own media centre once it came to light. Election talk has been in the air.

And so relations between the government and the media bear watching.

They are a political Rorschach blot that reveals either a leader true to his principles and uncompromising in his commitment to realizing them, or a man who, for all his grasp of political machination and the apparatus of government, is at root deeply distrustful of the messy business of democracy.

Christopher Dornan is director of the Arthur Kroeger College of Public Affairs at Carleton University and a professor in the school of journalism and communication.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada

SUBJECT TERM: government; political; media

PERSONAL NAME: Stephen Harper

ORGANIZATION NAME: Conservative Party of Canada

# THE BUY SIDE Investing in turbulent times could be your best move

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AVNER MANDELMAN Avner Mandelman is president and chief investment officer of Giraffe Capital Corp. and the author of *The Sleuth Investor*.

Many are still hesitant about investing these days. After all, we are in the midst of a financial/political/military crisis. In Canada, some asset-backed commercial paper (ABCP) has been frozen, and some banks and pension funds are attempting to refinance it. In the United States, the subprime mortgage scare does not seem to have passed – just the other day a bunch of U.S. banks said they are putting together an \$80-billion (U.S.) package to backstop buying such problem mortgages. And if the financial upheaval were not enough, there are nasty wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and on top of that, the Americans may be getting ready to attack Iran. How can anyone invest in a turbulent time like this? The answer: It's perhaps the best time to invest. In fact, today reminds me strongly of a similar period, December, 1990, to January, 1991, which led to the first Gulf War.

You probably remember the first Gulf War. But do you remember the financial crisis of the time? It was about junk bonds – another type of subprime debt instrument. Junk bonds were created by Drexel's Michael Milken to help finance takeovers of prime American corporations.

Many such bonds then fell into default and caused the stock market to tank. Yes, just like the subprime mortgage market today.

So why am I bringing up this 16-year-old history? For two related reasons: The first is obvious and general: I think the junk bonds/first Gulf War era is directly comparable to today's period of subprime/military conflicts. But the second is more personal: The 1990–91 period is etched in my memory because of a vivid lesson I learned about perceived risk and real risk.

In those days I was a partner at Gordon Capital, which was both a broker and a merchant bank. As the latter, and in partnership with a few big players, Gordon made a bid for Columbia Savings and Loan, a California insurance company that held defaulted junk bonds of several prime American corporations. The idea was, if you own the failed bonds, you could convert them into partial ownership in the companies that issued them. Gordon's group's bid competed with several other bidders (who had the same idea).

Now, remember, this was the end of 1990, when the market kept tanking and the international tension kept rising, as the Americans amassed forces in the Persian Gulf. Yet all the bids stayed on the table.

It was then that some junior Gordon analysts and partners asked the senior partners: How come Gordon doesn't fear making such a large bid (\$2.3-billion) in the midst of all the financial and military uncertainty? In reply, one of the senior partners gave the following memorable answer: Risk, said he, is often lowest when it is most visible.

When asked to explain, he gave two reasons, the first fundamental, the second one of valuation, both linked through the mechanism of fear.

First, when risks are visible they scare the decision makers (governments, corporate boards, the good guys' armed forces) into taking the necessary unpleasant decisions they could not take otherwise. And when such decisions are taken and implemented, the risks are already on the way to being solved, even though no one can yet see this – except the stock market.

This indeed is what happened: On Jan. 17, 1991, the Americans launched the first cruise missiles; the market bottomed a few days later and never looked back.

And before you ask, no, Gordon didn't get CSL an American team got it, and those junk bonds became the foundation for a large fortune as the Federal Reserve Board kept fixing the junk bond problem, slowly but surely, while cutting rates.

A similar thing, I am proposing, may be what is happening today.

The Fed has cut rates once – and will likely do so again and again if necessary, if investors keep panicking. In 1991 it was about junk bonds, today it is about subprime.

Similarly, in 1991 it was about Saddam Hussein and the coming Gulf War; today it's about the Iranian mullahs and the possibility of bombing the Iranian nuclear operations. I am definitely not trying to minimize the awfulness of war (I fought in one), but over the past 20 years, you must admit that all those that occurred then created a buying bottom, as risk became so visible it had to be solved – as is probably being done now, even while prices became bargains.

Which leads to the linked second reason: That one, said the senior Gordon partner, is panic itself. When risks are most visible, not only are they on the way to being addressed, but the panic they generate often causes otherwise sane people to dump perfectly good stocks for next to nothing.

Therefore, the scarier the headlines and the riskier the world seems, the more likely it is that problems are in the process of being solved, even as others hand you bargains; like in mid-August.

Indeed, based on the low valuation of many of the stocks Giraffe finds, it appears we are in the midst of a fairly typical market bottoming, as in 1991.

Which is a long way of saying that, if you find a cheap stock of a good company you have researched well, scary headlines of war fears and financial troubles should be no reason not to buy. Just like those far-off days of January, 1991, panicked sellers often hand you bargains just when the good guys (the Fed and U.S.-led armed forces) are aggressively reducing risk globally on your behalf.

amandelman@giraffecapital.com

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

SUBJECT TERM: investments; investment strategy

# VERBATIM WHAT WAS SAID THIS WEEK, IN PUBLIC AND IN PRINT BY MICHAEL KESTERTON

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**IDN:** 072930012

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**SECTION:** Focus

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**MICHAEL KESTERTON THE SHADOW KNOWS** "This is the first time in post-Soviet history when only the Kremlin decides who can participate and who can't. The Kremlin decides which party can exist and which party cannot." Vladimir Ryzhkov, a Russian democracy advocate and member of Parliament whose party has been banned **WE'RE SORRY YOU'RE WRONG** "We are certainly very much displeased and regret the fact that the U.S. side would totally ignore the repeated requests of the Chinese side and go ahead with its erroneous decision." Wang Baodong, a spokesman for the Chinese embassy in Washington.

He was upset that U.S. President George W. Bush met with the Dalai Lama and that a public ceremony saw the Tibetan spiritual leader awarded the Congressional Gold Medal **DUBYA LAMA?** "We know each other, and we have developed, I think, a very close friendship -- something like a reunion of the family." The Dalai Lama, speaking of President Bush **POPPY CULTURE** "The eradication process over the past five years has not worked.

This year, it was a farce." Antonio Maria Costa, executive director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, on Afghanistan's record opium harvest **COKE IS IT** "They consider it a blessing from God." Luis Perez, police chief of Bluefields, Nicaragua, on how local residents view the bags of cocaine that wash up on Caribbean beaches.

Colombian drug smugglers dump the bags while fleeing police boats **NOBEL SIGHS** "I'm already thinking about all the people who are going to send me begging letters -- I can see them lining up now." British author Doris Lessing, 88, on the \$1.47-million cash award she will receive as winner of the Nobel Prize for literature **CRISIS MANAGEMENT** "I don't do life crises. I really don't. Life's too short. Get over it and move on to the next thing." U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice **WISHFUL THINKING** "I have yet to read about any terrorist attack on a state capital.

I just don't think it's a high-priority target -- though sometimes I would like it to be." South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford, who questions spending \$5.3-million (U.S.) on safety upgrades at the State House complex, when there are more urgent law-enforcement needs **MARRY-GO-ROUND** "All these middle-aged women would sit down and pour out their secrets to me. What I found fascinating was they would go to enormous lengths and expense to divorce someone and then marry someone who was practically identical." Rumpole creator Sir John Mortimer on his days as a divorce lawyer **GRANNYOCRACY** "It's time for all governments to be replaced by a tribunal of grandmothers." U.S. comedienne Roseanne Barr **THEORY OF RELATIVITY** "I am virtually deaf and refuse to wear a hearing aid because I like the way things sound naturally." Musician Eric Clapton **PRIMATES AND PREJUDICE** "Monkey society is governed by the same

two general rules that governed the behaviour of women in so many 19th-century novels.

Stay loyal to your relatives . . . but also try to ingratiate yourself with the members of high-ranking societies." Dorothy Cheney and Robert Seyfarth in their book *Baboon Metaphysics* ATTACK OF THE WILD YOB "I've found human beings far more frightening than nature or God throwing darts. It's more terrifying being alone at a train station with a load of yobbos coming your way than it is lying in a tent listening to wolves howling in the polar night." British explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes Michael Kesterton writes the weekday Social Studies column in *The Globe and Mail*.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

SUBJECT TERM:news reviews; statements; list

# Jihadists use Web to recruit in the West; Blogs and YouTube used by Islamic extremists to spread propaganda, appeal to black Americans

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Bryan Denton, New York Times / The control room at Al-Risala, an Islamic TV station in Lebanon. Some have called it 'media-savvy, modern and moderate.' ; Photo: another YouTube video, this one an ode to suicide car bombers. ; Photo: The jihad has come to YouTube where militant Islamists render grainy car-bombing tapes into slick hip-hop style recruitment videos, ;

**BYLINE:** Michael Moss and Souad Mekhennet

**SOURCE:** The Hamilton SpectatorThe New York Times

**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation

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When Osama bin Laden issued his videotaped message to the American people last month, a young jihad enthusiast went online to help spread the word.

"America needs to listen to Shaykh Usaamah very carefully and take his message with great seriousness," he wrote on his blog. "America is known to be a people of arrogance."

Unlike bin Laden, the blogger was not operating from a remote location. It turns out he is a 21-year-old American named Samir Khan who produces his blog from his parents' home in North Carolina, where he serves as a kind of western relay station for the multimedia productions of violent Islamic groups.

In recent days, he has featured "glad tidings" from a North African militant leader whose group slaughtered 31 Algerian troops. He posted a scholarly treatise arguing for violent jihad, translated into English. He listed hundreds of links to secret sites from which his readers could obtain the latest blood-drenched insurgent videos from Iraq.

His neatly organized site also includes a file called "United States of Losers," which showcased a recent news broadcast about a firefight in Afghanistan, with this added commentary from Khan: "You can even see an American soldier hiding during the ambush like a baby!! Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar!"

Khan, who was born in Saudi Arabia and grew up in Queens, N.Y., is an unlikely foot soldier in what al-Qaeda calls the "Islamic jihadi media." He has grown up in middle-class America and wrestles with his worried parents about his religious fervour. Yet he is stubborn. "I will do my best to speak the truth, and even if it annoys the disbelievers, the truth must be preached," Khan said in an interview.

While there is nothing to suggest that Khan is operating in concert with militant leaders or breaking any laws, he is part of a growing constellation of apparently independent media operators who are broadcasting the message of al-Qaeda and other groups, a message that is increasingly devised, translated and aimed for a western audience.

Jihadists use Web to recruit in the West; Blogs and YouTube used by Islamic extremists to spread propaganda



Terrorism experts at West Point say there are as many as 100 English language sites along with Khan's, which claims 500 regular readers, among the more active. While their reach is difficult to assess, it is clear from a review of extremist material and interviews that militants are seeking to appeal to young American and European Muslims by playing on their anger over the war in Iraq and the image of Islam under attack.

Tedious Arabic screeds are reworked into flashy English productions. Recruitment tracts are issued in multiple languages, like a 39–page, electronic, English version of a booklet urging women to join the fight against the West.

There are even online novellas like Rakan bin Williams, about a band of Christian European converts who embraced al–Qaeda and "promised God that they will carry the flag of their distant brothers and seek vengeance on the evil doers."

Militant Islamists are turning grainy car–bombing tapes into slick hip–hop videos and montage movies, all readily available on Western sites like YouTube, the online video smorgasbord.

"It is as if you would watch a Hollywood movie," said Abu Saleh, a 21–year–old German devotee of al–Qaeda videos who visits Internet cafés in Berlin twice a week to get the latest releases. "The Internet has totally changed my view on things."

Al–Qaeda and its followers have used the Internet to communicate and rally support for years, but in the past several months the Western tilt of the message and the sophistication of the media have accelerated. So has the output. Since the beginning of the year, al–Qaeda's media operation, Al Sahab, has issued new videotapes as often as every three days but even more come from Iraq, where insurgents are pumping them out daily.

That production line is the legacy of one man: Abu Musab al–Zarqawi, the former leader of al–Qaeda in Iraq who was killed in June 2006 by American bombs.

Al–Zarqawi learned the power of the Internet in prison, according to a former associate who was imprisoned with him in Jordan a decade ago. Al–Zarqawi's jailhouse group of 32 Islamists sought to recruit other prisoners by handwriting a newsletter, Al Tawheed, when it discovered a larger audience.

"We sent them outside, to brothers in Europe and England," who posted the newsletters on militant websites, the associate said, asking not be identified because of his involvement with Islamist activities.

In Iraq, al–Zarqawi embraced the video camera as a weapon of war. "He made the decision that every group should have a video camera with them, and every operation should be taped," said a Palestinian militant who went to Iraq in 2005 to teach foreign fighters from Morocco and parts of Europe how to build bombs and stage roadside attacks.

Two Lebanese intelligence officials confirmed that the Palestinian, who goes by the nom de guerre Abu Omar, had worked with al–Zarqawi in Iraq, and he played a video of foreign fighters in Iraq for reporters of the New York Times.

Abu Omar, 37, a muscular man who carried a Glock 21 pistol tucked into the belt of his camouflage pants during an interview at his home in Lebanon, said al–Zarqawi also had him tape his bomb–making classes so his expertise would not be lost if he were killed.

"We had two cameramen, people who learned how to do this before they came to Iraq," Abu Omar said. "And after filming, we had different houses in the area where we made the videos."

Dahia al–Maqdassi, 26, a Palestinian who said he produced insurgent videos in Iraq two years ago, said, "In

Jihadists use Web to recruit in the West; Blogs and YouTube used by Islamic extremists to spread propaganda

every city in Iraq they had a little office where someone did film operations." He described his "media section" as a house near Fallujah where six to 10 people worked. "We finished the film and then sent it to jihadi websites," Maqdassi said.

One of the most influential sites is Tajdeed, which is based in London and run by Dr. Muhammad Massari, a Saudi physicist and dissident. Over lunch at a McDonald's near his home, Massari said al-Zarqawi's insurgent videos from Iraq inspired local productions like Dirty Kuffar, the Arabic word for nonbeliever. The 2004 rap music video mixed images of Western leaders with others purporting to show U.S. troops cheer as they shot injured Iraqi civilians.

Massari, who helped promote the video, said similar crossover productions soon followed and made their way to his website.

"I never touch the videos that are on my forums," said Massari, who wears a long white Arabic robe. "Someone with al-Qaeda uploads them, probably at Internet cafés, to password-protected sites. Then they call a friend, say, in Australia or Brasilia, and say, 'Hi Johnny, your mom is travelling today.' That is the code to download the video. It goes up and down like that a few times, with no trace, until someone posts a link on my site."

Last spring, al-Qaeda made what analysts say was a bold attempt to tap potential supporters in the United States. In a videotaped interview, Ayman al-Zawahri, a bin Laden lieutenant, praised Malcolm X and urged American blacks and other minorities to see that "we are waging jihad to lift oppression from all of mankind."

The tape quickly found an audience. Al-Zawahri "cares about black people," wrote a blogger with Vibe, the American hip-hop and urban culture magazine, which claims 1.6 million visits a month. "At least, I think that's why he's quoting Malcolm X in his latest mix tape, which dropped last weekend."

Umar Lee, a 32-year-old Muslim convert from St. Louis, offered a stinging critique of al-Zawahri on his blog for Muslim Americans, criticizing "the second-class status many blacks live in right in the Arab World." Soon, Lee's blog churned with commentary on the parallels between Arab and black American radicals.

A four-minute version of hour-long al-Qaeda video, entitled To Black Americans, has logged more than 1,800 views on YouTube in the four months since it was posted.

Among those who posted a link to the YouTube version was Khan, the North Carolina blogger who said he was struck by the simplicity in the messages of both al-Qaeda and Malcolm X.

"They are geniuses for having the ability to mould their ideology into simple yet influential messages that can reach the grassroots level," he said.

Khan produces his blog anonymously, but was identified by the New York Times through the e-mail account he used in previous online discussions. (Pictures he had posted online helped the Times distinguish him from another, unrelated North Carolina resident, about 10 years older, who has the same name.) In an interview at a local mosque, where he sat on a prayer rug wearing a traditional Arabic robe, Khan traced his increasing militancy.

His blog has attracted enough notoriety that vigilante groups opposed to jihadi sites have gotten him shut down a few times in recent months. He said he was somewhat surprised he had not been confronted by government authorities, although, he said, "I've never told anybody to build bombs."

His early postings, beginning in 2003, promoted strengthening Islam in North America through nonviolent confrontations. But with the escalating war in Iraq, bloodshed became a recurrent theme.

Jihadists use Web to recruit in the West; Blogs and YouTube used by Islamic extremists to spread propaganda

He described his favourite video from Iraq: a fiery suicide-bomber attack on an American outpost.

"It was something that brought great happiness to me," he said. "Because this is something America would never want to admit, that they are being crushed."

Asked how he felt living among people who had sent soldiers to Iraq, Khan said: "Whatever happens to their sons and daughters is none of my concern. They are people of hellfire and I have no concern for them."

Born in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, Khan was seven when his family moved to New York City and settled in the Queens neighbourhood of Maspeth.

He mirrored his teenage peers, from their slang to their baggy pants, until August 2001 when, at age 15, he said, he attended a week-long summer camp at a mosque in Queens, which was sponsored by a fundamentalist but nonviolent group now known as the Islamic Organization of North America.

"They were teaching things about religion and brotherhood that captivated me," Khan said. He said he went back to school knowing "what I wanted to do with my life: be a firm Muslim, a strong Muslim, a practising Muslim."

He prayed more regularly. He dressed more modestly. He stopped listening to music except for Soldiers of Allah, a Los Angeles hip-hop group, now defunct, whose tunes like Bring Islam Back continue to have worldwide appeal among militant youth.

He also befriended members of the Islamic Thinkers Society, a tiny group that promotes radical, nonviolent Islam by leafleting in Times Square and Queens.

After moving with his family to North Carolina in 2004, Khan said, he attended a community college for three years and earned money selling various products, including kitchen knives.

But he began spending chunks of his days on the blog he created in late 2005, Inshallahshaheed, which translates as "a martyr soon if God wills." The Internet traffic counter Alexa.com, which rarely is able to measure the popularity of blogs because they do not have enough readers, ranked his among the top 1 per cent of one hundred million Internet sites in the world.

If Khan's extreme rhetoric has won him a wider audience, it has caused him problems at home. Last year, his father tried to pull him back to the family's more moderate views by asking an imam to intervene.

"I tried to bring arguments from the Koran and scholars, and said, 'Whatever you are thinking it is not true,'" said Mustapha Elturk, a family friend and the leader of Islamic Organization of North America, the Islamic organization that first inspired Khan. But Khan did not budge, he said.

Khan said he separated from Islamic Organization of North America over one matter: the organization would not support violent jihad without the endorsement of a Muslim nation's leader, which Khan argues is unnecessary.

Elturk said, "His father and family are really scared that he might do something."

From time to time, Khan said, his father also cut off his Internet access and, to placate him, Khan recently added a disclaimer to his blog disavowing responsibility for the views expressed on the site.

He has also been fending off citizen watchdogs who are working to knock sites like his off the Internet. Twice in September his blog went dark when his service provider shut him down, citing complaints about the

Jihadists use Web to recruit in the West; Blogs and YouTube used by Islamic extremists to spread propaganda

nature of his postings. His blog was off-line again Sunday.

Khan has now moved his blog to a site called Muslimpad, whose American operators recently moved from Texas to Amman, Jordan. Their larger forum, Islamic Network, is the host of discussions among English-speaking Muslims. One of their former employees, Daniel Maldonado, was convicted this year in federal court of associating with terrorists at their training camps in Somalia.

Khan said that he had dreams about meeting bin Laden and that he would not rule out picking up a weapon himself one day.

In a recent essay, he argued that jihad was mandatory for all Muslims, and he cited three ways to fulfil this obligation: join fighters in Iraq, Afghanistan or Algeria; send them money; or promote militant videos as part of the jihad media.

For now, he said, he is fulfilling his obligations by helping other Muslims understand their religion. Recently he posted a video of a news report from Somalia showing a grenade-wielding American who had joined the Islamists.

"He is an example of a Muslim who follows the Religion of Islaam," Khan wrote.

# Are the Liberals on a path of no return?

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**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
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**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Opinion  
**PAGE:** A19  
**COLUMN:** Terry Cooke  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Mark Blinch, Reuters / Liberal Leader St phane Dion needs a recovery plan for the party and himself. ;  
**BYLINE:** Terry Cooke  
**SOURCE:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 539

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"It is going to define how he is seen by millions of Canadians and remembered so it is a moment he has to make up his own mind. It's about his leadership and it's about the Liberal brand."

— Liberal MP Garth Turner

So even Garth Turner can be right every once in a while.

Wounded by a Gomery hangover, defections, byelection losses and the leaked memoirs of the ever-vindictive Jean Chr tien, St phane Dion is now fighting for his political life.

His grip on the Liberal leadership remains tenuous, his standing with the electorate is badly weakened and he seems incapable of constructing a recovery plan for himself or his party.

The best Dion could muster this week in response to the Conservative throne speech was to play for time. But in so doing, Dion compromised the only political asset that he might have used in an election against Prime Minister Stephen Harper, which is his authenticity with the electorate.

Dion's credibility as a Chr tien cabinet minister was earned the old-fashioned way: by telling the truth when it was hard.

First, he took dead-aim at Quebec separatists as the Clarity Bill champion and got vilified in his home province as a consequence. Thereafter, he became a zealot for Kyoto within a Chr tien government committed only by lip service to that environmental accord.

But now, desperate to avoid an early trip to the polls, Dion has sacrificed that integrity and plunged his party down a path of political no return.

His willingness to abstain (or have his backbenchers abstain) on upcoming confidence votes will lead either to an early election on terms dictated by the Conservatives or to a revolt within Liberal ranks forcing a change in leadership. Either way, it ain't gonna be pretty.

For Dion and the Liberals to swallow hard and allow passage of not only the throne speech but also bills with which they fundamentally disagree — on crime, Kyoto and Afghanistan — could shred what remains of the

Liberal brand outside of Quebec and concede to Jack Layton and the NDP the mantle of official opposition in the rest of Canada.

The consensus I've heard from local Liberals is that Dion has got to go, the sooner the better.

But as a practical matter, there is no way to achieve that end without either an internal bloodbath or an election loss.

The only solace taken by Grits is in their remarkably buoyant Ontario poll numbers, all things considered.

Six months ago, Hamilton–area Liberals were boasting that with a little luck they might grab all four local seats in the next federal election -- stealing three from the NDP and one from the Tories. Now all bets are off. Even former mayor Larry Di Ianni, the Liberals' star candidate locally, is considered only a 50/50 proposition to win in Stoney Creek.

To have the most successful political party in Canadian history fall so far so fast is shocking.

Locally, the aura of Liberal invincibility has been shattered; the political machine lead by John Munro and then Sheila Copps now but a distant memory.

The Liberals cling to two faint hopes. Dion has to quickly learn to speak passable English and he must completely change his approach to opposition.

He should abandon the nattering negativism of the past year and actually offer some new and novel Liberal policies in an attempt to recapture public imagination.

Alternatively, Dion can pray for Harper to overplay his hand, given the prime minister's killer partisan instincts and the Liberals' vulnerability. But with Harper looking more confident and less error-prone in the job, that possibility is fast fading.

Terry Cooke is a former Hamilton–Wentworth regional chair. He is president of Cooke Capital Corporation.

# Saddam's jailer jailed over document stash

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**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
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**EDITION:** Final  
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**DATELINE:** BAGHDAD  
**SOURCE:** Reuters  
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BAGHDAD – A senior U.S. army officer who was Saddam Hussein's jailer was himself jailed after a court martial in Baghdad on Friday found him guilty of charges including illegal possession of secret documents.

Lt.-Col. William Steele, 52, the former commander of a detention facility that held Saddam before his execution last December, was sentenced to two years in prison, dismissed from the army and ordered to forfeit all pay and allowances.

He was also found guilty of refusing to obey an order and behaviour unbecoming an officer for his relationship with an Iraqi woman interpreter. The sentence covers those charges and three others he pleaded guilty to at a pretrial hearing.

He was acquitted on the more serious charge of aiding the enemy, which carried a term of life imprisonment, for allowing detainees to use his mobile telephone for unmonitored calls.

Steele was the highest-ranking U.S. officer to face a charge of aiding the enemy since Capt. James Yee, a Muslim chaplain at Guantanamo Bay, was charged in September 2003. The army eventually dropped the case.

Prosecutor Capt. Michael Rizzotti told the court on Friday that nearly 12,000 secret documents had been found in a search of Steele's living quarters.

"(They were) documents that if (they had) fallen into the wrong hands could be used to the injury of the United States or the advantage of a foreign nation. He did not get authority to take these documents," Rizzotti said.

Much of the trial was held in closed session because of the sensitive nature of the documents, but reporters were given a glimpse of one which contained aerial photographs of Kandahar airbase and Bagram airfield in Afghanistan.

Steele, whom the prosecution painted as a maverick who believed rules did not apply to him, opted not to testify during the court martial but read out a statement during sentencing in which he apologized "for my stupidity."

# Going Out Critics' Picks

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**IDNUMBER** 200710200211  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa CitizenThe Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** FinalFinal  
**SECTION:** Style Weekly: TelevisionStyle Weekly: Television  
**PAGE:** K14K14 News CP  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Snakes and Ladders is from Response, new oil on resincompositions by Erin Robertson. The exhibit is on view through Nov. 19 at Artguise Gallery, 590 Bank St. For information, call 613-238-3803. Colour Photo: Belle's Place, by Pamela Cockcroft-Lasserre, is on view at Galerie McKenzie Marcotte. Information: 819-459-3164. ;  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa CitizenThe Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 4157

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## CONCERTS

Musical Arts Club of Ottawa: Music scholarship gala fundraising concert featuring Catherine Donkin, Amelie Langlois and more, 7:30 p.m. Saturday at First Unitarian Congregation, 30 Cleary Ave. Tickets \$20 adults, \$15 seniors/students at the door.

Almonte's Folkus Music Series: The Gregory Hoskins Trio, with opening act Lindsay Ferguson, 8 p.m. Saturday at the Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St. Tickets \$22 in advance or \$25 at the door. 613-256-9090.

Laurentian Junior Music Club: 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Carleton University Music Department, Studio A, 9th floor, Loeb Building. \$4 at the door.

Benefit Concert to Support Westboro Food Bank: Caroline Leonardelli, harp, 8 p.m. Saturday at Chapel of All Saints' Anglican Church, 347 Richmond Rd. 613-725-9487. Suggested donation of \$10 or more.

Finest King and Craig, Morgan and Robson: 8 p.m. Saturday at the NAC Fourth Stage. Tickets \$22 at the NAC box office or TicketMaster, 613-755-1111. Presented by The Ottawa Folk Festival.

A Concert of Middle Eastern Music: Featuring Andre Ibrahim and the Stars of Lebanon, with guests The Orient Productions Musical Band, 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Carleton University's Kailash Mital Theatre, Carleton University (formerly Alumni Theatre). Free admission.

Piano Recital: Reto Reichenbach from Switzerland, 2 p.m. Saturday at Christ Church Cathetral, 420 Sparks St. at Bronson. Tickets \$15 or \$25, \$10 students at 613-567-1787.

An Evening with Ron Hynes:

8 p.m. Saturday at the Joshua Bates Centre, Athens, Ont. Tickets at Shadowfax in Perth, Reids Flowers in Athens, and Mr C's, Brockville or 1-800-518-2729.

A Steinway Celebration Concert: 8 p.m. Sunday in the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, 30 Cleary Ave. Tickets \$25, \$10 student/seniors or pay-what-you-can at the door. 613-725-1066.



Roch Voisine: 8 p.m. Sunday at Salle Odyssee, 855 Gappe Blvd., Gatineau. Tickets \$43 at the box office or 819-243-2525.

Dawn Tyler Watson and Paul Deslauries: With special guest Lindsay Ferguson, 8 p.m. Sunday in the Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre, 1233 Wellington St. Tickets \$25 at the GCTC box office or 613-236-5196.

Piano Recital: Tamás Érdi from Budapest, 7:30 p.m. Monday at the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, 30 Cleary Ave. Tickets \$15 or \$25/\$10 or \$15 seniors/children at the door or 613-225-8754 voicemail.

Organ Tuesdays at St. Andrew's: Recital by Gordon Johnston, playing works by Bach, Karg-Elert and Mulet, 12:15 p.m. Tuesday at the church corner of Kent and Wellington streets. Freewill offering. 613-232-9042.

Dany Bédar: Rock 'n Blues, 8 p.m. Tuesday at Salle Odyssee, 855 Gappe Blvd., Gatineau. Tickets \$35 at the box office or 819-243-2525.

The Tim Murray Quintet with Charley Gordon: A Jazz Reunion, 8 p.m. Thursday in the NAC Fourth Stage. Tickets \$15 at the box office or TicketMaster, 613-755-1111.

Richard Séguin: 8 p.m. Thursday at Salle Odyssee, 855 Gappe Blvd., Gatineau. Tickets \$35 at the box office or 819-243-2525.

Noites da lapa: Featuring Marcos Ariel, Brazilian pianist and flutist joins Canadian sax player Jean-Pierre Zanella and band in a program of Bossa Nova, Samba and Chorinho, 7 p.m. Friday in the auditorium of De La Salle, 501 Old St. Patrick. Presented by the Embassy of Brazil. Free admission, first-come-first served beginning at 5:30 p.m. Cocktails follow. 613-237-1090.

Tapeire --Driven by Rhythm: Written and performed by James Devine, also featuring Ashley MacIsaac, 8 p.m. Friday at Centrepointe Theatre, 101 Centrepointe Dr. Tickets \$38-\$43 at box office or 613-580-2700.

Frédéric de Grandpré: 8 p.m. Friday at Salle Odyssee, 855 Gappe Blvd., Gatineau. Tickets \$3 at the box office or 819-243-2525.

## THEATRE

The Ark: Join artistic director Peter Hinton, and a company of Canada's finest professional actors, playwrights, historians, and students from the National Theatre School of Canada as they share readings, songs, and excerpts of plays, 8 p.m. Saturday at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 82 Kent St. Tickets \$20, students \$10 at the NAC box office or TicketMaster, 613-755-1111.

Ariadne: By Michael Geither, presented by the Drama Guild, University of Ottawa, Wednesday to Nov. 4 at Academic Hall, 135 Seraphin Marion, University of Ottawa. Tickets at 613-562-5761.

CATS: Tuesday to Sunday, Oct. 28 in the NAC Southam Hall. Tickets at the box office or TicketMaster, 613-755-1111.

DADS: The musical presented by Goya Theatre productions, 7:30 p.m. Friday to Tuesday, Oct. 30, 1:30 p.m. matinées Saturday, Oct. 27, Sunday, Oct. 28 in the Chambers at Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Dr. Tickets at the box office or 613-580-2700.

Dracula: Presented by BarnDoor Productions, 8 p.m. Saturday and Thursday to Saturday, Oct. 27, 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21 at Perth's Studio Theatre, 63 Gore St. E. Tickets \$16 reserved, \$18 at the door. 613-267-1884.

Falstaff: By John Wood and Roger Forbes, presented by the NAC English Theatre and The Old Castle Group, previews Tuesday, Wednesday, opening night Thursday to Nov. 3 in the NAC Studio. Curtain times 8 p.m. with 2 p.m. Saturday matinées. Tickets \$25–\$35 at the box office or TicketMaster, 613–755–1111.

Family Matters: By Paul Dervis, presented by New Ottawa

Repertory Theatre, 8 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday, Oct. 28 and Oct. 31–Nov. 4 at Club SAW, Arts Court, 67 Nicholas Ave. Tickets \$15, \$10 students at the door. 613–231–7562.

Guys and Dolls: Starring 40 area children ages seven to 17, presented by The New Star Children's Theatre, 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Sunday at the Bronson Centre, 211 Bronson Ave. Tickets \$12, \$10 in advance or \$15 and \$12 at the door. 613–523–3264.

The Lady's Not For Burning: Presented by the Linden House Theatre Company, 8 p.m. Saturday and Thursday to Saturday, Oct. 27 at 261 Buena Vista Rd. Tickets \$20 at 613–842–4540.

Love and Ashes: By Ooh La La Opera featuring tenor George Valettas and soprano Shawne Elizabeth, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27 in the NAC Fourth Stage. Tickets \$25 at the box office or TicketMaster, 613–755–1111.

Othello: By William Shakespeare, translated by Normand Chaurette, presented by the NAC French Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, Oct. 27 in the NAC Theatre. Tickets at the box office or TicketMaster, 613–755–1111. Opening–night talkback, Tuesday.

The Other Shoe Drops: Derek Edwards new one–man comedy, 8 p.m. Wednesday at Cornwall Aultsville Theatre, 613–938–9400; 8 p.m. Thursday at Centrepointe Theatre, 101 Centrepointe Dr.; Brockville Arts Centre, 8 p.m. Friday, 613–342–7122. Tickets \$36–41.50 at the box office or 613–580–2700.

Top Girls: By Caryl Churchill, presented by Third Wall Theatre Company, Thursday to Nov. 3 at Arts Court Theatre, 2 Daly Ave. Tickets at 613–236–1425.

Wingfield's Inferno: 8:30 p.m. Saturday at Centrepointe Theatre, 101 Centrepointe Dr. Tickets \$34–\$43 at the box office or 613–580–2700.

## COMEDY

Absolute Comedy, 412 Preston St.: David Acer with Rick Currier and M.C. Kevin Gasior, to 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, 8 p.m. Sunday; Pro–Am Night, 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays; Joe Minnitte with Scott McMann and M.C. Herb Irving, Wednesday to Sunday, Oct. 28. Dinner–show packages for \$25 plus tax/tip and under. 613–233–8000.

## AUDITIONS

Sock n' Buskin Theatre Company: Auditions for R.U.R. by Karel âapek, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Saturday, Sunday at Carleton University. Information at 613–520–3770 or snbtheatre@gmail.com .

## DANCE

Le Groupe Dance Lab: Dance creation in progress with choreographer Tony Chong, 7 p.m. Saturday at Arts Court Theatre, 2 Daly Ave. Tickets \$20/\$15 students/seniors at 613–235–1492.

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan: Wild Cursive, 8 p.m. Saturday in the NAC Southam Hall. Tickets from

\$35, students from \$18.75 at the box office or TicketMaster, 613-755-1111.

Africa is a Verb: Featuring dancers and musicians, 8 p.m. Saturday at Theatre la Nouvelle Scene, 333 King Edward Ave. Tickets \$20 at 613-241-2727.

The International Folk Dancers of Ottawa: Meet 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Jack Purcell Centre, 613-729-1515.

#### SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Phantom of the Opera: Starring Lon Chaney with chamber choir Seventeen Voyces performing works by Gounod, Schubert, Beethoven, Kodaly, Ravel and Langlais, 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27 at St. Matthew's Church, 130 Glebe Ave. Tickets \$15-\$25 at Leading Note, Compact Music, Book Bazaar, Herb & Spice or at the door.

Inside Out: Ottawa-Gatineau LGBT Film and Video Festival: Thursday to Sunday, Oct. 28 at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St. Box office at Arts Court, 613-564-7240 or 613-789-4646.

Canadian Film Institute: The Egyptian Film Festival: The Emigrant, 7 p.m. Sunday, Date Wine, 9:15 p.m. Sunday; Sleepless Nights, 7 p.m. Nov. 9, Alexandria Why?, 7 p.m. Nov. 10; Film Fest Japan: Twilight Samurai, 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28, Kamikaze Girls, 9:15 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28 at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St. \$6 for CFI members, \$9 non-members. 613-232-6727.

Ottawa Family Cinema, 710 Broadview Ave.: Mr. Bean's Holiday (G) 2 p.m. Saturday; Special fundraiser, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG), Friday. 613-722-8218.

#### LIVE MUSIC-ROCK

Barrymore's, 323 Bank St.: Wintersleep with Woodenstars, Saturday; The Witches Gathering with Wiccan Ritual and DJ JP, Friday.

Carleton Tavern, 223 Armstrong: Rusty, Saturday; Open stage with Julie Element and James Wright, Thursday; Wise Guys, Friday.

Jacques 'Trap Roadhouse and Restaurant, corner of Boundary Road and Russell Road: Bon Jovi Foreverr, 9 p.m. Saturday.

Mavericks, 221 Rideau St.: Clothes Make the Man , 8 p.m. all-ages show with Dirty Tricks and guest opening at 7:20; licensed show at 11:30 p.m. with opening at 10:30 p.m. Friday.

The Mix Bar & Grill, 1675 10th Line Rd.: Marc Charron, 9 p.m. Saturday.

Slots at Rideau Carleton, 4837 Albion Rd.: Eddy & The Stingrays,

8 p.m. Saturday.

Zaphod Beeblebrox, 27 York St.: Tokyo Sex Whale and Mad Parish, Saturday; The Heatskores, Sunday; Blue Reverb, Monday; Shout Out Out Out Out, with guest San Serac, Tuesday; The Vanity and guests Wednesday; Shad, Thursday; Adam Franklin and Tallships, Friday.

#### LIVE MUSIC-BLUES-WORLD-FOLK

Avant-Garde Bar, 135 1/2 Besserer St.: Melm'rabet Trio with Al Tarab, Saturday; Autumn Sun, Tuesday;

Brian Downey Jazz, Wednesday; Carleton University's In/Words Magazine poetry event, Thursday.

The Bay Street Bistro, Black Bear Pub, 160 Bay St. at Albert: Jaymz Hawley, 9 p.m. Saturday.

Blacksheep Inn, 753 Riverside St., Wakefield.: Eleni Mandell, 9 p.m. Saturday; Master storyteller Mike Burns, 2 p.m. Sunday, Ukuleles for peace benefit, 4:20 p.m. Sunday, all ages; Hot Little Rocket, Thursday; Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart, 9 p.m. Friday.

The Branch, 15 Clothier St. E., Kemptville: Mike Yates, 9 p.m. Saturday; jazz open stage hosted by Linda Girard, 3 p.m. Sunday.

Cock 'n Bull Pub and Eatery, 3791 Richmond Rd., Bells Corners: Patrick Ang, 9:30 p.m. Saturday.

Irene's Pub, 885 Bank St.:The Grass, Saturday; Cabsha, Sunday; The County Boys, Friday.

Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Rd., Orléans: Open musical jam session, 2–5 p.m. Saturday.

Pendradon Pub, 1490 Merivale Rd.: Karaoke, Thursdays.

Rainbow Bistro, 76 Murray St.: The Hammerheads, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday; open blues Jam with L'il ls Combo, 3–7 p.m., Trumped Music,

9 p.m. Sunday; Stacie's Showcase with Erthjuice, Monday; Open blues jam with Big Mojo; Buena Fe, Wednesday, Thursday; The Coggs, 5 p.m., Scott McKeon, Friday.

Rasputin's Folk Cafe, 696 Bronson Ave.: Cara Luft, tomorrow; Penny Lang, Thursday; El Dorado, Friday.

Tucson's, 2440 Bank St. at Hunt Club: Quicksand, Saturday; Bluestone, Friday.

Whispers Pub and Eatery, 249 Richmond Rd.: Wayne Jeffrey, Saturday; Dave Kalil, Friday.

#### LIVE MUSIC–JAZZ

Cafe Paradiso, 199 Bank St.: Laroche, Letourneau Duo, 7 p.m. Saturday.

Fiddleheads Bar and Grill, 53 Herriott St., Perth: Clay Young, piano, Art Katona, trombone and vocals, Sunday.

Landmarks Lounge, Westin Hotel, 11 Colonel By Dr.: Marie Patenaude Trio, 7–9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Options Bar, Brookstreet Hotel, 525 Legget Dr., Kanata: Andrei Krylov, Saturday.

Roses Cafe, 1285 Wellington St.: Bob Johnson Duo, Saturday.

The Royal Oak, 329 March Rd.: Apex Jazz Band, 3–6 p.m. Sunday.

The Royal Oak, 1981 St. Joseph Blvd: Amanda Rheume, 9 p.m. Saturday.

Vineyards Wine Bar and Bistro, 54 York St.: Mike Tremblay Duo, Sunday; Pollcats Duo, Tuesday; Hugh O'Connor Duo, Wednesday.

## LIVE MUSIC–COUNTRY

Barrhaven Legion, 3023 Cedarview Rd.: Halloween party with Unwound, 7–11 p.m. Friday.

Eastview Legion, 294 Cyr Ave.: Music by Dusty King, 7 p.m. Saturday, 4–8 p.m. Sunday.

Greenfields Pub and Eatery, 900 Greenbank Rd.: Musicians Without Borders, 9:30 p.m. Friday. Recording live CD.

## DANCE CLUBS

Babylon, 317 Bank St.: Punk Rawk with DJs Mike and Murielle, Wednesdays; Ready, steady with DJs Cam and Brodie, Thursdays; Progressive techno with international DJs and residents S4 and Quake, Fridays; Dance music alternative style with DJ Simon, Saturdays; R&B with old–school hip hop, Sundays.

Barrymore's, 323 Bank St.: Retro '80's with DJs JP & Ellen, 8 p.m. Sundays; Retro '90's with DJs Cowboy & Indian, 8 p.m. Thursdays; New Music Fridays with DJs Cowboy and Indian, 8 p.m. Fridays.

Bulldog Pub, 380 Elgin St.: Retro '80s Gender Bender with DJ Chemical Cam, Thursdays; The best music in town with DJ Chemical Cam, Fridays, Saturdays.

The Cornerstone Bar and Grill, 92 Clarence St.: DJ's, Fridays, Saturdays.

Balcony Bar and Lounge, 360 Elgin St.: Hip hop and house with Dj Flip and DJ DV8, Thursdays; Hip hop and Top 40 with DJ DV8, Fridays; Hip hop and techno with DJ DV8, Saturdays.

The Great Canadian Cabin, 95 York St.: DJ's Spanky Todd and Chris play a variety of new and oldschool favourites, Thursdays to Saturdays.

Heaven Nightclub, 400a Dalhousie St.: Hip–Hop party with DJ Illo and guests, Thursdays; International world class DJs; Fridays; Martin Villeneuve, Saturdays.

Maxwell's Bistro, 340 Elgin St.: DJ and dance floor, 8 p.m. Thursdays to Saturdays.

Ottawa English Country Dance Club, John G Mlacak Centre, 2500 Campeau Dr.: 7:30 p.m. Fridays. Experience, partners not necessary.

Paraiso, 300 Preston St.(upstairs): Salsa, merengue, bacchata, all Latin, Fridays, Saturdays.

Suite 34, 34 Clarence St.: DJ Wet Willy Electric Ballroom, Saturdays.

Swing Dance Night: The Ottawa Swing Dance Society, 8:30 p.m. One–hour lesson included. Fridays, 151 Chapel St. \$5.

Tantra Night Club, 212 Sparks St.: Quattro Rouge with resident DJs MistaSho, Richniques, Mes, BoJangles, Fridays.

Whiskey Bar, 112 York St.: DJ's Best of '80s Rock DJ Grime, Thursdays; Best of '80s, '90s Rock, Fridays; DJ Spanky, '70s, '80s, '90s Dance DJ Tommy Segin, Saturdays.

Whiskey West, 1280 Baseline Rd.: DJ's Thursdays to Saturdays.

Zaphod Beeblebrox, 27 York St.: The Electric Ballroom with DJs Simon & Tim, Saturdays; Sabbath Sunday, hosted by "Slayer" Pat & Matty M.; Manic Mondays with DJs Tim and Matt; Industrial Strength Tuesdays with DJs Leslie & Jairus; PopScene with DJ Emmett, Wednesdays; Full Flavour with DJ Simon, Thursdays; The Electric Ballroom with DJs Stef and Fiver, Fridays.

#### LITERARY EVENTS

Elisabeth Harvor: Reading from her works, 7 p.m. Saturday at Solstice Bookstore, Wakefield. 819-459-2797.

Chuckle Bros.: Autograph their book *On the Road*, 11 a.m. Saturday at Leishman Books. 613-722-8313.

Arthur Black: Author of *Black to the Grandstone* launches and signs his book, 6 p.m. Thursday at Yuk Yuk's Comedy Club, 88 Albert St. in Capital Hill Hotel.

Book Launch: *The Spirit of the Ride*, *The RCMP Musical Ride*:

2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at RCMP Musical Ride Centre at Rockliffe Stables.

Books 'n Beer Program: Roy MacSkimming talks about his novel *MacDonald*, 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Ironworks Pub, 79 Little Bridge St., Almonte. Presented by The Miller's Tale book store. 613-256-7840.

John Newlove: Book launch of *A Long Continual Argument: The Selected Poems of John Newlove*,

2 p.m. Sunday at the Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St.

Oblique Strokes: Book launch by The Wellington Street Poets and friends, 7 p.m. Monday in Room 156, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St.

Ottawa International Writers Festival: Through Sunday at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St. For information, [www.writersfestival.org](http://www.writersfestival.org).

Tree Reading Series: Clare Latremouille, author of the novel *The Desmond Road Book of the Dead* is the featured reader, 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Royal Oak II Pub, 161 Laurier Ave. E. Free. 613-749-3773.

Poetry Evening: A Vehicule/Signal poetry evening, 7:30 p.m. Friday at Collected Works Bookstore and Coffeebar, 1242 Wellington St.

#### LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

Harmony, Blend and Balance: Harmonizing and singing with one of England's foremost a-capella harmony trios and assisted by *Finest Kind*, 1-4 p.m. Saturday at the Old Firehall, 260 Sunnyside Ave. Tickets \$20 members, \$25 others available at the Ottawa Folklore Centre or \$5 extra at the door.

Inside the Music Lecture & Concert Series: A jazz lecture/concert with Bill Coon, Sunday at Alcorn Music Studios, 903 Carling Ave., corner of Sherwood Dr. Tickets \$25 at the studio or 613-0693.

Come Sing, Play and Dance: An Orff workshop for children ages seven to nine led by Leslie Bricker, 2-4 p.m. Sunday at St. Matthias Anglican Church, 555 Parkdale Ave. Pre-registration is \$5 members, \$8 others, \$5 extra at the door. 613-724-3719.

#### SINGLES

Active Singles Group: Meets 6:30 p.m. Mondays at Malone's, Dow's Lake Pavilion. 613-235-6337.

At Eight: For single professional people over 50 to meet for good conversation and fine dining.  
[www.ateight.biz](http://www.ateight.biz)

Cercle d'amitié Jonathan: For French-speaking, 45-plus singles, non-smoking. Sunday breakfast served until 10:30 a.m. at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Hull. 613-746-2204.

Danse Des Amis(es): Halloween dance, 8 p.m. Saturday at Centre Pauline Charron, 164 Jeanne Mance. Western. Gaetan 613-741-0562 or Paul, 613-228-1271.

F.A.C.E.S.: For single Catholics, Sunday brunch following the 11:15 a.m. mass at Good Shepherd Parish in Blackburn Hamlet, at Blackburn Arms, 2586 Innes from 12:30 p.m. Reserve 613-837-9194;  
Murder-mystery evening, Friday at Cedar View Golf Club, 56 Cedarhill Dr. starting at 6:30 p.m. 613-523-3016.

Gloucester Singles Club: Dance for singles 30 and over, 8:30 p.m. Saturday at the Cyrville Community Centre, 4355 Halmont Dr. Members. Members \$5, guests \$8. 613-860-0990.

Magic Encounters Dances: Single's Dance, every Sunday night for 30+ at 270 Marier Ave. 819-246-3363.

The New Friendship Singles Club: Dance 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Fridays with door prizes at 1000 Byron Ave. close to Woodroffe Avenue and Richmond Road. 613-729-3631.

N.F.A.A. New Friends and Acquaintances: For unattached people in Cornwall and area to meet one another while promoting a healthy lifestyle. [www.cabd.net/directory/listing.php?id=2939](http://www.cabd.net/directory/listing.php?id=2939) .

One Parent Families Association: Friendship group for single parents (custody not required) meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at Dempsey Community Centre, 1895 Russell Rd. Ongoing adult and family activities. 613-834-1308.

Ottawa Single Girlfriends: Social and friendship group for single women ages 35-45. 613-324-7479 for event schedule.

People Meeting People: Western dance for singles 50+, 8 p.m. Saturday at Carleton Heights Community Centre on Appeldorn St. Casual wear/jeans. 613-825-7083.

Prinzo's Dance Bar, 85 O'Connor/Slater: Dance for singles 30+, D.J. favourites, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Saturdays. \$5 cover, neat casual dress code, no jeans. 613-565-1328.

The Single Option: Information evening, 8 p.m. Friday. Reserve at 613-596-6533 or at [www.TheSingleOption.com](http://www.TheSingleOption.com)

Single Seniors Friendship: With other women on a unique journey into new beginnings, 10 a.m. Fridays at The Olde Forge, 2730 Carling Ave., Carling and Richmond Rd. 613-828-4515.

Sunday Brunch Group: For singles has brunches in various restaurants Sundays at 11:30 a.m. Reserve at 613-825-7083.

## OTHER EVENTS

Victoria's Quilts Canada 8th Annual Quilt-a-thon: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday at Orléans United Church, 1111

Orléans Blvd. Register at [victoriasquiltsCanada.com](http://victoriasquiltsCanada.com) or 613-822-3441.

Medieval Feast: Glengarry Place for the Arts presents an evening of classic medieval feasting and entertainment, 5:30 p.m. with entertainers dressed in authentic costume. Admission \$50 at 613-527-2724.

Sky, Snowboard & Travel Show: Equipment sale and swap, travel destinations and more, 10 a.m.–

5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday at Lansdowne Park. Free admission. [www.ottawaskishow.com](http://www.ottawaskishow.com) .

Giant Used Toy Sale: The Canadian Toy Testing Council presents its annual fall toy sale, 10:15 a.m.–

2 p.m. Saturday at 1973 Baseline Rd. 613-228-3155.

Comhaltas Irish Ceili Dance:

8 p.m. Saturday with music by the Ottawa Ceili Band and guests the Sue Fay Healy Irish Dancers at Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, 194 Fourth Ave. Singles are welcome. 613-761-8618.

An Evening of Halloween Family Fun: Spooky tunes, macabre melodies and haunting harmonies, 7:30 p.m. Friday at Rideau Park United Church, 2203 Alta Vista Dr. 613-738-9223. Free but donations welcome.

Cantley's Phantom Village:

6:30–9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27 at Mont Cascades Resort. Admission fee is one kilogram of candy per child, adult guests 16 and older pay \$2 fee. [www.villagefantome.ca](http://www.villagefantome.ca) .

Italian Culture afternoon: A showcase of art, artifacts, crafts, music, traditions, food and wine,

2–5 p.m. Sunday at Villa Marconi, 1026 Baseline Rd. Free admission. 613-737-0431.

Artists Talk: With Lynne Anderson and Tony Fohse discuss their works as part of Festival X/Ottawa Photography Festival 2007, 6 p.m. Wednesday at La Petite Mort Gallery, 306 Cumberland. 613-860-1555.

Contra Dance to Live Celtic Music: Music by Big Night Band, 7:30 p.m. Saturday at All Saints Anglican Church, Laurier and Chapel, \$10. 613-761-7582. No experience needed.

Ottawa Nostalgia and Collectibles Show and Sale: With 60 dealers, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Sunday at the Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave. Admission \$5, under 12 free. 613-850-5446.

Inspirations Needlecraft Show: Featuring classes, fashion show, demonstrations and merchant mall, 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Saturday at Hampton Conference Centre, 200 Coventry Rd. 613-744-0989.

Third World Bazaar: Colourful handcrafted goods from around the world, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and Oct. 26–28; Nov. 2–4; Nov. 9–11 at the barn in Manotick Station, 6110 Mitch Owens Dr.

Around About Ottawa: Guided walking tours of historic landmarks and famous tourist sites in Ottawa's beautiful down core. Reservations required. Minimum two people. 613-599-1016

Ghosts and the Gallows: 8 p.m. nightly. Departs from corner of Sparks Street and Elgin Street. Reserve at 613-232-0344.

Crime and Punishment Jail Tour: 7 p.m. nightly. Depart from lobby of the Ottawa Jail Hostel, 75 Nicholas St.



Reserve 613-232-0344.

Naughty Ottawa Pub Walk: 7 p.m. Saturdays, depart from ticket office, 73 Clarence St. Reserve 613-232-0344.

The Original Haunted Walk of Ottawa Tour: 8 p.m. nightly. Departs from the corner of Sparks Street and Elgin Street. Reserve at 613-232-0344.

Ottawa On Foot: Historical walking tours of downtown Ottawa. Private tours only. 613-447-7566.

Parliament of Canada — Tours: Free Centre Block guided tours available daily; schedule varies throughout the year and when Parliament is sitting. Visit [www.parl.gc.ca/vis](http://www.parl.gc.ca/vis) or call 613-239-5000. (Tours may be re-routed or cancelled without notice due to parliamentary activity). 613-239-5000.

Saunders Farm, 7893 Bleeks Rd., Munster: Pumpkin Art Festival and Carving competition presented by Majic 100 and CTV, public can join local artists in creating a pumpkin masterpiece, Saturday, Sunday; Haunted hayrides, live stage shows, puppet show, parades, 11 mazes and more. Open 6-10 p.m. Fridays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sundays, to Oct. 31. Fee. 613-838-5440.

Tour of the Supreme Court of Canada, Wellington Street: Law students conduct free guided tours on weekdays. Reservations are required. 613-995-5361 or [tour@scc-csc.gc.ca](mailto:tour@scc-csc.gc.ca)

Upper Canada Village, Morrisburg: Celebration of Thanksgiving weekend with old-fashioned games, 19th century fall activities, and more, Saturday, Sunday; Old-fashioned horse-drawn wagon rides. 613-543-4328 or 1-800-437-2233.

## MUSEUMS

Canada Agriculture Museum, Prince of Wales Drive, south of the traffic circle: Celebrate the fall with daily demonstrations and weekend activities centred around Canada's bountiful harvest, Saturday and Sunday; Tractors exhibition; The Museum Passport; Access to the animal barns and exhibitions, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Food for Health Exhibition, to Oct. 31; New themes for birthday parties year-round for ages three-12. Fee. 613-991-3044.

Canada Aviation Museum, 11 Parkway: Art Flight 2007; Introduction to Aviation Art Workshops. 613-993-2010.

Canada Science and Technology Museum, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd.: Collection Tours, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Fee. 613-991-3053.

Canadian Clock Museum, 60 James St., Deep River: Large exhibits of Pequegnat, Westclox, and Snider Canadian clocks. Call to confirm hours. 613-584-9687. Fee.

Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier St., Gatineau: Chinese Watercolour Painting, 1-5 p.m. Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday in special exhibitions corridor; Of Rum and Water, bilingual play by Jean Herbiet, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturdays to Nov. 24 in Canada Hall; In My Lifetime, Contemporary Aboriginal Art, to March 8; Treasures from China, to Oct. 28; Canada in a Box: Cigar Containers that Store Our Past 1883-1935, a new virtual exhibition on view at [www.civilization.ca/tresors/cigares/cigar-boxes-e.html](http://www.civilization.ca/tresors/cigares/cigar-boxes-e.html) Open Tuesday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Closed Mondays. 819-776-7000.

Canadian Children's Museum, in the Canadian Museum of Civilization: Scary Sketches, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday; Kids Celebrate!, explore how children around the world celebrate at this time of year: Bat Hunt, to Oct. 31. Open Tuesday–Sunday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Closed Mondays. 819–776–7000.

Canadian Postal Museum, in the Canadian Museum of Civilization: The Post Goes Pop, exhibition looks at the role played by the postal service in everyday life; Signed, Sealed, Delivered; Reflections of Canada: The National Stamp Collection. Fee. Open daily 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m. 819–776–7000.

Canadian Museum of Nature, 240 McLeod St.: Renovated West Wing features the new Talisman Energy Fossil Gallery, which represents the end of the dinosaur age and rise of mammals, a refurbished interactive Mammal Gallery and a new Bird Gallery with hundreds of birds plus a special play area for kids; New Discovery Zone with activities and HD movies. On the Labrador: Photography by Arnold Zageris and The Gee! in Genome. East wing is closed for renovation.). nature.ca. Open 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday, to 8 p.m. Thursdays. 613–566–4700

Canadian Ski Museum, 1960 Scott St.: Explore the history of skiing, see how the sport has evolved and learn about Canada's great champions in the Canadian Ski Hall of Fame, 3rd floor Trailhead. 613–722–3584.

Canadian War Museum, 1 Vimy Place: Afghanistan: A Glimpse of War, extended until April 27; War Brides: Portraits of an Era, which features portraits of war brides to Jan.6; and Stitches in Time which features 15 quilted artworks, to Jan. 6. Open Tuesday to Sunday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m. 819–776–8600.

Diefenbunker, 3911 Carp Rd., Carp: See 100,000 sq. ft. bunker that was intended to protect the government and military in the event of an attack. Visits by guided tour only, Monday–Fridays at 2 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. Reservations required. Fee. 613–839–0007.

Fulford Place Mansion Museum, 287 King St. E., Brockville: Metal artifacts identification workshop with Janet Carlile, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Saturday; Guided lantern tours from 6–9 p.m. Friday, leaving every half hour; This 35–room Edwardian home was built in 1899–1901 for Senator George T. Fulford, a successful marketer of Pink Pills for Pale People. Open for tours Tuesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with last tour departing at 3 p.m. Tearoom. 613–498–3003.

Glengarry Pioneer Museum, County Road 24 at the crossroads with County Road 30: Antiques and Collectibles for the Novice classes, to Nov. 2, 7–9 p.m. at the Dunvegan Recreational Association Hall in Dunvegan. 613–527–5230.

Heritage House Museum, 11 Old Slys Rd., Smiths Falls: A Snapshot of Rideau Life, a photography exhibition and sale. Six photographers give their visual impression of life along the Rideau Canal which has recently been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to Oct. 28. Open daily 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 613–283–8560. Fee.

Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St.: Aboriginal Treaties: Spirit and Intent, Understanding Aboriginal Treaties, 9 a.m.–10 p.m. daily, exhibition room C; Order of Canada, to May 11; Literary Landscapes of French Canada, Nov. 23; Cultural Celebrities of Quebec, March 30. Open 9 a.m.–10 p.m. daily. Free. 613–996–6138.

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, 3 Rosamond St., Almonte: Carl Stewart, Fragments, to Oct. 28; Unclothing and Uncovering: Revealing Art in Textiles, by Wendy Feldberg, Karen Goetzinger, Carmella Karijo Rother, to Oct. 31. 613–256–3754.

National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Dr: Exhibitions and installations: Snap Judgements: New Positions in Contemporary African Photography; Platinum and Photogravure, to Nov. 12; Inuit Sculpture Show, to Nov.

18, Early Twentieth Century British Wood Engraving, to Dec. 2. Garry Neill Kennedy: Superstar Shadow 1984–2005, to Dec. 12; Cheryl Sourkes: Public Camera, to Sunday. Free guided tour of the collection with a docent, sign-up in the Great Hall, daily at 2 p.m. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursdays to 8 p.m. 613–990–1985.

Nepean Museum, 16 Rowley Ave.: Celebrating the 40th anniversary of Canada's Centennial and another Centennial -- 100 years -- of the Boy Scouts of Canada. 613–723–7936.

Old Stone Mill, National Historic Site & Museum of Early Industrial Technology, 4 Court St., Delta: Open 10 a.m.–5 p.m. daily. 613–928–2584.

The Ottawa Art Gallery, 2 Daly Ave.: Natasha Mazurka talks about her artist residency in Sweden, 12:30 p.m. Friday; Media Povera, to Nov. 11; Tourist, to Nov. 4. 613–233–8699 ext. 225.

Perth Museum, National Historic Site, c1840, 11 Gore St. E., Perth: Our Quilting Heritage, 40 quilts date 1833–1967, to Dec. 31; Four restored period rooms, two galleries with featuring exhibition, Victorian Fashion and Society in Perth; Victorian garden, outdoor bake oven and herb garden. Admission by donation. 613–267–1947.

Symmes Inn Museum, 1 Front St., Gatineau: Regional history museum, open Tuesday–Sunday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Free.

The Royal Canadian Mint, 320 Sussex Dr.: Along with seeing \$1 million in gold, you can hold more than \$175,000 of pure gold in your hands. 613–993–8990.

The Victoria School Museum, 256 Edmund St., Carleton Place: The Place for All Seasons, view the history of Carleton Place through the decades and the seasons. Displays, original artifacts and hands-on activities. Open daily 10 a.m.–4, 1–4 p.m. Sundays. 613–253–7013.

## NEW ART SHOWS

Art Mode Gallery, 96 George St.: 25th anniversary exhibition by Michel Leroux, to Oct. 28. . 613–241–1511, ext. 224.

Centre d'exposition l'Imagier, 9 rue Front, Aylmer: Six Artists, Six Rivers, Three Countries, mixed media, to Dec. 9 . 819–684–1445.

Galerie D'art Jean–Claude–Bergeron, 150 St. Patrick St.: Paul Clouthier, to Nov. 4. Vernissage 2–5:30 p.m. Sunday. 613–562–7836.

Galerie Old Chelsea, 10 Scott Rd., Chelsea, Que.: Under the Sun, a group show by Lucie Leclerc, Malcolm Cowell, and Jacques Dompierre, to Nov. 8, opening reception 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday. 613–748–7528.

Galerie St–Laurent+Hill, 333 Cumberland: Victoria Block, Oct. 31,

# Young and old songs

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**IDNUMBER** 200710200198  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Style Weekly: Television  
**PAGE:** K4  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Jana Chytilova, the Ottawa Citizen / Neil Young's latest album includes gentle, folky material as well as sprawling electric-rock tracks. ;  
**BYLINE:** Lynn Saxberg  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 1442

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Chrome Dreams II

HHH 1/2

Neil Young (Reprise)

Never much of a slouch, Neil Young has been even more prolific since his brush with death in 2005. After brain surgery for an aneurysm, he put out the reflective, acoustic disc *Prairie Wind*, and a warm and fuzzy film to go with it. Then last year, he released the powerful *Living With War*, a politically charged rock outing that let him rant against the war with some of the most ferocious songwriting of his career.

Now comes something that takes a little from each side of the Canadian-born rocker, and draws from his early days. Named after an album recorded in the late 1970s but never released, *Chrome Dreams II* contains gentle folky material and sprawling electric-rock tracks.

The first three songs date from the 1980s. *Beautiful Bluebird* and *Boxcar* sound like they're foreshadowing a sequel to *Prairie Wind*, defined by plenty of stringed instruments and a chorus of angelic voices. But then comes *Ordinary People*, a sprawling, 18-minute beast of a song laden with horns and searing electric guitars. Recorded in 1988, it suggests that Young is in the mood to tie up loose ends.

The disc downshifts with several gentle musings on faith, including *Shining Light*, *The Believer* and *Ever After*. The edgy *Spirit Road* pulls the music out of any potential rut, and the raw, irreverent *Dirty Old Man* elicits a smile — though a quickie about trying to make a living and getting hammered on a Friday night isn't going to go down as one of Young's most memorable songs.

Songwriting aside, there are some notable performances. One of the best comes in *No Hidden Path*, where Young and his bandmates settle into a groove and play around with it for 14 minutes. While casual listeners might not have the patience for the whole thing, it's a must for diehard fans. Come to think of it, you could say the same about the whole album.

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rock & pop

Raising Sand

Rating 4 1/2

Robert Plant and Alison Krauss (Rounder)

Some things that should never go together (say, aged balsamic vinegar and vanilla ice cream) are in fact sublime when combined. Keep that in mind if you're skeptical about *Raising Sand*, the new disc from country/bluegrass songbird Alison Krauss and Led Zeppelin wailer Robert Plant. The combination of voices and styles is inexplicable, but the disc, out Tuesday, is a tremendous success.

The songs, culled from the catalogues of Tom Waits, Townes Van Zandt, Gene Clark and others, range from mellow to moody to haunting. Highlights include a brooding stroll through the LaBostrie–Millet song *Rich Woman*, the easy rollick of the Everly Brothers' *Gone, Gone, Gone (Done Moved On)*, and the slow gypsy stomp of of Sam Phillips' *Sister Rosetta Goes Before Us*.

The atmosphere rises from the guiding hand of producer T Bone Burnett, who has crafted a tight but expansive sound, all reverb and harmonies and cultural influences.

*Raising Sand* is sure to be one of 2007's greatest — and most unexpected — successes.

Peter Simpson

In Rainbows

Rating 4

Radiohead

*In Rainbows* is very much the gloriously mournful Radiohead we've all come to love. Closer to the insular *Kid A* than the more radio friendly *Hail to the Thief*, the tracks are typically dense and atmospheric, a hefty smog of electronica, sampling and hiccuping backbeats, which Thom Yorke's cherubic falsetto pierces like pinpricks of light.

The lazy trip-hop of *15 Step* sets the mood of these headphone symphonies, and the upbeat *Bodysnatchers* is perhaps the most radio friendly track. The third track, *Nude*, is the first stunner. Starting out with a haunting orchestral score and a dash of reverb, this despondent ballad gets downright chilling once Yorke begins to coo.

The short *Faust Arp* is richly orchestrated and Greenwood's gorgeous finger-plucking carries the latter half of the tune.

The album closes out nicely with the piano-driven *Videotape*, which seems influenced by the minimalist electronic work of Boards of Canada.

Ultimately, it's the ideal iPod album, one made for intimate listens walking down chilly streets on overcast days.

Available bydownload at [Inrainbows.com](http://Inrainbows.com)

Nick Lewis

Metal

Pilgrimage

Rating 3

Om (Southern Lord)

Somebody must have slipped something into Om's collective drink. Opening dirge Pilgrimage is 10-and-a-half minutes of heavy-lidded chant, bass noodle and wispy tabla bonk, a tune so quiet you may think your hi-fi is on the fritz. Unitive Knowledge Of The Godhead has volume in spades as bassist/singer Al Cisneros mumbles on and drummer Chris Hakius somnambulates through a shambolic beatdown.

Om's otherworldly brand of metal conjures up religious themes and an oblique take on mysticism, though the faith base remains mysterious. Worship at the altar of the underworld, explore life, death and redemption and don't forget to flip off the lava lamp before you pass out. This late night drone squad carefully excises spirituality though bombastic salvation.

Shawn Jam Hill

Rap/ Hip Hop

Lightning Strikes

Rating 3 1/2

Aceyalone (Decon/Koch)

For anyone familiar with the work of indie emcee Aceyalone, the first notes of Lightning Strikes come as a bit of surprise. The album begins with a voice jumping out of the speakers, proclaiming "Aceyalone -- new sounds!" and then the dancehall riddims take hold, and don't let go for the next 46 minutes

This isn't watered-down pop dancehall either. For the most part, Aceyalone and friends toast over serious down-lo beats with hyper-active drum machines, dutty percussion, synths, sirens & lasers and riddims courtesy of up-and-comer Bionik -- who does a great job of "mixing up the tonic."

A founding member of hip-hop collective Freestyle Fellowship in the '90s, Aceyalone has taken a major detour with this record. His last album, Magnificent City, was a critically acclaimed collaboration with Def Jux instrumentalist Rjd2 that was influenced by urban life.

This album is more of a sunny ode to the music of Jamaica and even though it does seem a bit calculated, it actually flows quite naturally: ou can almost picture some of these tracks going blow for blow with whatever Rihanna song is playing on the radio these days.

The again, who listens to radio anymore anyway?

Eric Cohen

ROOTS

Lucky Blue

Rating 3

Young and old songs

Tannis Slimmon (Independent)

Usually inclined to the lyrical and hopeful, Prairie native Tannis Slimmon does an about-face on Edmonton, the middle track on her new album. It's a first-person account by an emotionally inarticulate woman — "I hated guns" is as outspoken as the narrator ever gets — about losing her soldier husband in Afghanistan, and the song's unadorned lines say more about heartbreak and the waste of war than an arsenal of words ever could.

Other tunes on the album are good, sometimes very good, but never rise to the simple power of Edmonton.

Slimmon, a longtime member of the folk trio the Bird Sisters, is helped out here by such notable Canadian musicians as David Francey, Stephen Fearing and Ken Whiteley.

Tannis Slimmon plays the NAC Fourth Stage Wednesday.

Patrick Langston

Classical

Mozart: Concertos 11 and 12

Rating 4 1/2

Janina Fialkowska, piano; Chamber Players of Canada (ATMA)

Anyone who remembers the all-Mozart concert given in St. Andrew's at the time of Julian Armour's resignation from the Ottawa Chamber Music Society will want this disc. It includes the same program performed by the same musicians. It was recorded in Toronto in the days immediately following that memorable concert.

The piano concertos are presented in the composer's own transcriptions for piano and string quartet, to which these performances add a double bass. Janina Fialkowska and the string ensemble achieve a virtually perfect consensus in their playing.

The Chamber Players of Canada is a group of flexible makeup, though cellist Armour and his wife, violist Guylaine Lemaire, have always been part of it. The other members in these performances are violinists Jonathan Crow and Manuela Milani and bass player Murielle Bruneau. As always, the playing is of the highest quality.

Like the concert, this CD also includes a delightful account of Mozart's Quartet no, 4 in C, with an especially beautiful slow movement.

Richard Todd

Jazz

The Wish

Rating 3 1/2

Julie Hardy (World Culture Music)

Young and old songs

Julie Hardy proves herself to be doubly a treat on *The Wish*.

On one hand, she's a strong interpreter of well-known material. Her pure, earnest voice make the classic ballads *Meaning of the Blues* and *I Fall In Love Too Easily* sound new again. She winningly modernizes *We Kiss In A Shadow* and *I Wish I Knew* with subtle add-ons.

She's also got a knack for composing. On *August*, *On the Verge* and other songs, Hardy uses her voice as an instrument to deliver wordless melodies.

Guest saxophonists Jaleel Shaw and Sam Sadigursky enliven the CD, while guitarist Ben Monder, heard this month in Ottawa with saxophonist Donny McCaslin, is a consummate accompanist and soloist.

With her voice and compositions, Hardy seems determined to expand the tradition-bound box that too often defines jazz singers.

Peter Hum

#### RATINGS

Rating 5: A classic of the genre

Rating 4: Excellent

Rating 3: Good

Rating 2: Fair

Rating 1: If your host puts this on, leave.

Your CD here

We want local bands on our Recordings page. Send us a copy of your new disc and we'll consider it for review. Send review copies to Arts editor Peter Simpson, Ottawa Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Ottawa, K2C 3M4.

E-mail exciting info to ottawarocks

@thecitizen.canwest.com.



# Prepare for a continental shift

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**IDNUMBER** 200710200061  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B7  
**COLUMN:** Margret Kopala  
**BYLINE:** Margret Kopala  
**SOURCE:** Citizen Special  
**WORD COUNT:** 655

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Make no mistake, Stéphane Dion is no milquetoast. Following Quebec's 1995 referendum, he tackled the separatist dragon with due diligence, learned letters and the astute Clarity Act — facing down, along the way, even the formidable Lucien Bouchard.

Partisan posturing aside, concerns about weakness usually mask concerns about something for which great strength is required. So, unable to make an impact on other files or to connect either in his province or elsewhere, it may be Dion did the job for which he was specially recruited too successfully and now, with Quebec separatism waning, his time has passed. Certainly, if the man with a Ph.D in public administration and the looks of celebrity hoser Rick Moranis seemed an unlikely separatist-buster, he appears an even less likely saviour of a party caught in the death throes that necessarily precede resurrection.

In any case and although the trappings of Quebec separatism remain intact, it is a decidedly different beast that is slouching toward the federal status quo, one whose influence will have continental implications and whose taming will require an approach different from anything Stéphane Dion appears to have contemplated.

Linda Diebel's new biography *Stéphane Dion: Against the Current*, describes how the young Dion became a federalist. It was the early 1990s and a time of worldwide ethnic tension. But the Canada–Quebec conflict was different, Dion argued in an essay for the Brookings Institution in Washington, from the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia and Ethiopia. "Created in 1867, the Canadian confederation is not a decaying, totalitarian regime, a new democracy, or an unstable Third World country; it is a wealthy modern welfare state."

While it is true Canada is no Soviet Union, he overlooked Czechoslovakia. By 1992, the velvet revolution that earlier unburdened the two–nation country of Communist dominance had also laid the groundwork for its velvet dissolution. Arguably, though, it was the existence of the European Union that eased the separation of the Czechs and the Slovaks by simplifying citizenship and labour mobility issues.

To be sure, no one was talking about a North American Union in the nineties; today such discussions are rife in conspiracy theory circles and silently acknowledged in others. But if free trade opened Canada–U.S. borders, 9/11 and the Security and Prosperity Partnership agreement established the impetus and the bureaucratic infrastructure necessary for next steps. In the meantime, interprovincial and state/province agreements are establishing new trading and other blocs. British Columbia and California, for instance, signed a memorandum of understanding on climate change this year while British Columbia and Alberta, signatories to the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (a de facto economic union) held their fifth annual joint cabinet meeting. In Quebec, Mario Dumont's Action démocratique is demanding and will probably acquire a greater devolution of powers.

In other words, some new North American continental arrangement is under way. Call it the rise of the region state or the post national state but as nation states everywhere adapt to the imperatives of a globalized economy, new political dynamics are following. Today, it is on Canada's doorstep and Quebec's aspirations are the first of many it will accommodate.

This new sweep of history will require transcendent leadership to contain and to direct it.

This need not preclude Stéphane Dion though Stephen Harper, with his Québécois-as-nation motion, spending power restraints, and throne-speech designs for an economic union, has set the pace, if not the tone, on this issue.

Potential Liberal leadership candidates also qualify but former New Brunswick premier and one-time ambassador to the U.S., Frank McKenna stands out, as does former deputy PM John Manley. His credentials continue to deepen with his appointment as chair of the Afghanistan review panel.

Margret Kopala's column on western perspectives appears every other week.

# A doomed mission; The panel looking into Canada's role in Afghanistan won't find the achievable objective we've been lacking

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B7  
**COLUMN:** Gar Pardy  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Shah Marai, AFP Getty / Two Canadian soldiers standguard at the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) headquarters in Kandahar, Afghanistan. ;  
**BYLINE:** Gar Pardy  
**SOURCE:** Citizen Special  
**WORD COUNT:** 975

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The two unspoken words in the prime minister's recent announcement creating the Independent Panel on Canada's Future Role in Afghanistan were "exit strategy."

Unlike the daily litany of these words in the Iraq debate in the United States, in Canada the two words are only implicit in the announcement. Nevertheless the panel is a short-term exit strategy on the Afghan issue for the government to remove it from the feverish atmosphere surrounding the resumption of Parliament. Mackenzie King would be proud of the stratagem.

In one fell swoop, the prime minister disarmed the Official Opposition. The panel broadens the fence on which the Liberals have been uncomfortably sitting and effectively removes the one issue of some consequence from forthcoming parliamentary debates. The NDP and the Bloc will remain consistent with their previous views but their voices will be of little consequence. The government will be sailing in blue waters in the coming months and Canadians may have a breather from the overheated debate on the possibility of a fall election.

The emphasis, however, is on the short term. Like the government's stratagem in 2006 in obtaining parliamentary approval for the two-year extension of the Kandahar commitment in Afghanistan, the panel is a flawed instrument that may have some impact on some Canadians; however, it will have no effect whatsoever on events in Afghanistan. And before Canadians get too comfortable with Mr. Harper's handling of the issue, it would be prudent to remember that is where the war is and Canadians are dying.

Others have pointed out that panel members have been carefully selected and are ideologically and sociologically coherent. They are not neophytes in Canada's political wars and, if past expressions are a guide, have strong views on Afghanistan.

Equally important they are not experts on Afghanistan or military affairs. It is easy to understand why it was not named an "expert" panel and shows that someone had a sense of humour with the use of the word "independent." This is especially so in light of comments in the Speech from the Throne on Tuesday, when the government declared its intention to see the Afghan mission extended to 2011.

As such there can be every expectation that the panel will provide recommendations that closely adhere to the government's existing policy. Road to Damascus conversions should not be expected. And should there be, the manner in which President George W. Bush handled the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group provides the prime minister with a useful precedent on how quickly recommendations can be shunted into the archives.

The four options listed by the prime minister for study by the panel assume an almost benign Afghan and Alliance environment. The construction of the options -- continue training the Afghan army and police so Canada can begin withdrawing its forces in February 2009; focus on reconstruction and have forces from another country take over security in Kandahar; shift Canadian security and reconstruction effort to another region in Afghanistan; withdraw all Canadian military except a minimal force to protect aid workers and diplomats --are all designed to beguile.

The options also assume that in the Afghan chess game, Canada can play both the white and black pieces.

Nothing could be further from the Afghan reality. The government is in its present pickle because the initial deployment decision by the previous government ignored that reality; nor was it a factor when the present government extended the mission. It is the same folly that led the Americans to their debacle in Iraq.

The government in instructing the panel states it should keep in mind the "potential" for deterioration in security and development. Obviously, this is a reality that has been with us for some time and its importance is undercut by its being boxed with such factors as the sacrifices already made and our obligations to NATO, the UN and our international reputation.

It is now close to six years since the first Canadian troops arrived in Afghanistan and the current war has exceeded the days of the Second World War. The lack of a coherent achievable objective still bedevils the mission and in its absence public ambiguity can only become more so. Rampant poppy production, the use of the death penalty, torture of prisoners and corruption are not influenced by the presence of western troops or episodic development efforts. These are issues Afghans know but they also know they are part of the social cohesion that will provide for the continued existence of Afghanistan in its historical framework.

There is only one real western objective in Afghanistan -- to ensure that it is not again used as a base for al-Qaeda in its worldwide jihadist objectives. The idea that foreign troops can promote enormous social change is an enormous con and gets in the way of achieving the one thing that makes sense to most western audiences.

Recently the commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps suggested that his soldiers should get out of Iraq and perhaps be used in Afghanistan since they fight best in an "expeditionary" role. The idea that Afghanistan six years after the fall of the Taliban still needs an expeditionary force should give pause to all, including the panel. Perhaps such a pause might lead to a better understanding of what is possible in the chaos of present day Afghanistan.

Lt.-Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, former commander of American forces in Iraq, spoke publicly this month. He described American political leadership as "incompetent" and Iraq being a "nightmare with no end in sight."

Mr. Harper's panel might wish to invite the general to Ottawa for a discussion of the commonalities with Afghanistan since he was responsible for part of that "nightmare."

Gar Pardy retired from the foreign service in 2003. E-mail: [garp@rogers.com](mailto:garp@rogers.com)

# Surviving Chrétien

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**PAGE:** B5  
**BYLINE:** Raymond Rivet  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 61

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Jean Chrétien suggests we could have sent our troops to a safer place in Afghanistan. That kind of leadership would now have us fielding calls to shoulder the load rather than issuing the calls. I suspect that men like Paul Martin are the reason we survived Mr. Chrétien's tenure.

Raymond Rivet, Ottawa

# Alternative North Americas; In this excerpt from Uneasy Neighbo(u)rs: Canada, the USA and the Dynamics of State, Industry and Culture, authors David T. Jones and David Kilgour explain that, although Canada and the U.S. have similar histories, they have developed different approaches to the rest of the world

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**SECTION:** Saturday Observer  
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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Jim Young, Reuters / (See hard copy for photodescription) ;  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 819

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Ever since Canada evolved into something other than a colony of Great Britain, it has puzzled over its relationship with the United States. The phenomenon can be viewed as akin to an accordion being played: regularly moving/squeezing closer and then changing harmony by pulling back. It is also analogous to the psychologist's approach/avoidance" concept in which, as two bodies move closer, the forces to be overcome increase and push them apart again.

The Canada–U.S. bilateral relationship has been characterized by innumerable adages and pithy descriptive phrases. One of the most trenchant is attributed to John Bartlet Brebner: "Americans are benignly ignorant of Canada. Canadians are malevolently well informed about the United States." Another suggests that there is the sociological equivalent of a one–way mirror at the border. Canadians looking south see Americans as they are, but Americans looking north see only a reflection of themselves.

One might also say that geography has made us neighbours; history has made us allies; economics has made us partners; but we are friends by choice. More cynically, "we are best friends, like it or not"; if so, we are certainly in a "not" portion of the cycle as the relationship moves further into the 21st century, although many Canadians would say that the hostility is to the Bush administration rather than to the American people.

Rather than belabouring differences, another approach to examining our countries is to suggest that we are "alternative North Americas." Both Canada and the United States have similar political and historical origins in the United Kingdom, a commitment to free market capitalism to differing degrees, and a demography that began with indigenous tribes but now reflects worldwide immigration. Both have technologically sophisticated, well–educated populations. And each is attempting to find solutions for basic questions of the 21st century: the most effective mechanisms of political expression for two peoples enjoying essentially the same human rights and freedoms; the most rational and effective manner to secure the safety of the population from external threat; the delivery of health services and care of the elderly; the education of children in a manner permitting them to address problems 50 years into the future; the exploitation of natural resources

without significant environmental damage; the balance between the freedom and privacy of individual citizens with the societal objective of safety from violence; and creating the conditions for equality of opportunity — if not equality of outcome.

As a superpower, the United States has wider — indeed global — interests and a greater ability to implement and defend its interests than does Canada. While Washington is willing to consult with others and even modify elements of its approaches and objectives if given convincing reasons to do so, it remains willing to act on its perception of its interests — alone, if necessary. Its willingness to act unilaterally reflects its ability to do so. Canada believes that significant international action — particularly force of arms — can only be taken in conjunction with allies and, if possible, with the sanction of the United Nations. By a systematic although somewhat absent-minded long-term neglect of its defense establishment, Canada virtually abdicated from significant military action. It is still to be determined whether Canada's venture into a NATO-Afghanistan commitment is a one-off exercise or a return to an earlier era. The intensely divided citizenry and very narrow May 2006 parliamentary endorsement of a continued participation suggests the former as Canada's future.

Consequently, to be able to defend and implement its global interests, the U.S. maintains a massive defense establishment at high expense and employing the most advanced technology both for offense and defense. In contrast, Canada's armed forces are marginal; they are now far below what its economy could maintain or what comparable countries do support. In effect, Canada has subcontracted its defense to the United States, making the actuarial judgment that it could never defend itself against attack from the south, but that any external threat to Canada would also threaten the United States — and the U.S. would have to address it. Hence, Canada can be defended badly at great expense or badly at little expense. With health care being more popular than a modernized military, the Canadian choice has been an antiquated military and it is likely to remain so, regardless of temporary upgrades of equipment or personnel.

Excerpted from *From Uneasy Neighbo(u)rs*, Wiley, \$33.99

# He said, he said; A tale of two prime ministerial memoirs

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**IDNUMBER** 200710200037  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.10.20  
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**SECTION:** Saturday Observer  
**PAGE:** B3

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Brian Mulroney and Jean Chrétien shared a laugh at the unveiling of Mulroney's portrait. ; Photo: Gary Hershorn, Reuters / 'When I came down for breakfast ...' Jean Chrétien wrote, 'I received my instructions for the day from my wife (Aline, pictured) and daughter. ; Photo: John Major, the Ottawa Citizen / (See hard copy for photo description) ; Photo: Bruno Schlumberger, Ottawa Citizen / Aline Chrétien, pictured with her husband in 1994, woke the newly-elected prime minister up with the words 'Would you like coffee, prime minister?' It didn't sink in until then, Jean Chrétien said in his memoirs. ; Photo: Robert Cooper, National Archives of Canada / Brian and Mila Mulroney with Pierre Trudeau at the National Art Centre in 1984. ; Photo: Paul Latour, the Ottawa Citizen / Brian Mulroney called former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher 'a remarkable leader.' ;

**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 613

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Two former prime ministers, two powerful egos driven to record their own history, leads us to two memoirs duking it out on the bestseller lists. Louisa Taylor compares the recently released memoirs of Brian Mulroney and Jean Chrétien.

Pages, excluding appendices

Mulroney: 1015

Chrétien: 407

Years covered

Mulroney: 1939–1993

Chrétien: 1993–2003

Research and writing

Mulroney: Handwritten

manuscript based on intermittent journals and copious notes taken during his years in office, supplemented by researcher Arthur Milnes.

Chrétien: Recorded interviews supplemented by research and writing by author Ron Graham.

Dedication

He said, he said; A tale of two prime ministerial memoirs

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Mulroney: To his wife, Mila

Chrétien: To his children, his grandchildren, and his wife, Aline

On becoming

prime minister

Mulroney: "I stood before the television set with Mila, surrounded by cheering friends, as the beauty of the moment washed over me."

Chrétien: "The reality didn't sink in until the next

morning, when Aline woke me up with the words,

'Do you want a coffee, prime minister?'

24 Sussex Dr.

Mulroney: "The official

residence was anything

but restful ... the house was cooled during stifling

Ottawa summers by noisy air conditioning units placed in windows. In the winter, family and guests often found themselves shivering in the 34-room limestone home."

Chrétien: "Stornoway ... is a much better house (than 24 Sussex) --- better built,

better maintained,

better laid out --- except

for the fact that nobody wants to stay there for long and nobody wants to be sent back to it."

Regrets

Mulroney: "For me the end of Meech was like a death in the family. I carry with me to this very day a throbbing sense of loss for one of the greatest might-have-beens in Canada's 140-year history. I carry with me as well the scars from those battles --- some self-inflicted, others not --- that I wear as a badge of honour secured in an

honourable attempt to strengthen our nation."

Chrétien: "There were some areas, I have to admit, in which we went too far with our cuts. Some ... we were able to correct after we balanced the books; others were irreversible."

On the Airbus case

Mulroney: "I will deal with this extraordinary ... attempt to destroy a former prime minister of Canada ... in another book, at another time."

Chrétien: "I didn't intervene one way or the other in the RCMP investigation into the so-called Airbus scandal ... (Mulroney) had done a number of good things as prime minister and he had suffered enough humiliation when his great party had been reduced to two seats in the wake of his retirement. As far as I was concerned, he didn't need to be hit with anything else."

On media:

Mulroney: "I had always

accepted the notion of an adversarial relationship with the media ... Where I drew the line, however, was at the deep disrespect and malice shown by some gallery members ... so I withdrew from the offensive farce they staged and refused to attend a press conference."

Chrétien: "I never watched the evening news, which was probably why I slept so well."

On resigning,

or not resigning, "

after two terms

Mulroney: "If you run again and win, either a majority or minority government, what do you want to achieve? And my answer is simply 'more of the same.' I do not believe that honest answer to be adequate, so I will step aside."

Chrétien: "I didn't stay

(for a third term) because I wanted to cling to power ... or deny Paul Martin's dream. I stayed because I loved the job ... I was damned if I was going to let myself be shoved out the door by a gang of self-serving goons."

On successors

Mulroney: "The PC party would have been left with a hell of a lot more than two seats had it been me facing off against Jean Chrétien in October 1993."

Chrétien: "Unfortunately when my successor took too long to make up his mind about whether Canada should extend our term (in Afghanistan), our soldiers were moved out of Kabul and sent south again to battle the Taliban in the killing fields around Kandahar."

On each other

Mulroney on Chrétien:

"His disadvantages include intellectual insolence and a very considerable measure of vanity."

Chrétien on Mulroney: "He can't have been too happy to see someone he looked down on (Chrétien) succeed in so many areas where he himself had failed."

Final words

Mulroney: "I leave with a happy heart and a sense of fulfillment at having done much and at all times having done my best for Canada."

Chrétien: "Vive le Canada!"