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Discovering the world through exchange programs

by KATE KOVALEVA

Daniel Caicedo woke up one morning to find a castle outside his window. He went to Norwich, England, on academic exchange through the University of British Columbia's Go Global program and had arrived the night before.

"That building," he says "is older than any of my grandparents ... than the entire country of Canada, older than anything I've ever seen in my life."

There are a variety of exchange programs in Canada for those interested in learning or volunteering abroad. Although the goals of each program are unique, all of them aim to provide young people with the opportunity to experience other cultures, make a positive impact in their host community and develop interpersonal skills.

New Love and Salsa Club

Now in his final year as an undergraduate student at UBC, Caicedo happily recalls his adventure in England. In his second year at university, Caicedo met extraordinary new friends who were international students.

"[They] reawakened my love for Europe ... I just thought now it's my turn."

After what Caicedo calls "a bit of a tough application process" he was accepted to the University of Eastern Anglia.

Although it was a positive experience overall, Caicedo says there were difficult moments, such as being far away from his family and friends. After receiving



Illustration by Diana Lippolis

yet another invitation to a party in Vancouver which he could not attend, he decided to start his own salsa dance group in Norwich.

"There wasn't much salsa going on there so I said, I'm going to make it happen here," he says.

The International Students' Society at UEA was a great resource, says Caicedo. The society organized an orientation for new students within a few days of his arrival and he found their events a great place to connect with others.

"Some of the most amazing

people I've ever met were at those events," says Caicedo.

International Internships with AIESEC

Although a student exchange program implies that there is a reciprocal swapping of people taking place, this is not a requirement.

AIESEC is known to be the world's largest non-profit, student-run organization. Margaret Kim, incoming president at AIESEC UBC Chapter says that although the program used to aim

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Verbatim

By the Sea

by CALLIE HITCHCOCK

I wanted adventure. Faced with the choice of an in-state school in Colorado or traveling to the Great White North, I chose the beautiful University of British Columbia. So, up I came with my laptop and twin extra long sheets in tow, expecting hockey fans and maple trees.

My first culture shock came when I patiently waited on a curb to cross the street and an entire bus stopped for me to cross. I had not even a toe over the curb and a city bus stopped to let me pass. In Denver, I would consider myself lucky if someone even slowed down when I tried to cross the street. Canadian politeness doesn't stop at driving either.

I have been asked numerous times if I needed directions from kind strangers on the street, and I could go about a month without ever having to open a door for myself if going in after someone. One woman went to three different professors with me to help me find information on a new science class I could join. It was the first time I bear hugged someone I had met twenty minutes prior.

The dorm I live in houses predominantly international students, and I have felt myself defending America quite a bit. At the same time, I like taking a step back and looking at it from a different perspective. Growing up in America I thought everyone must have grown up with an "it's a free country" attitude. My impression is that Canadians embrace the freedom and

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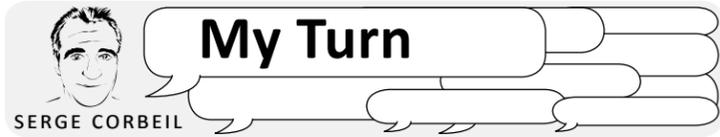
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When you play with fire

Is the Harper government playing with fire? Subsequent to its recent behaviour, the question begs to be asked. True, the Conservative government is taking advantage of an obvi-

The rhetoric is sometimes dumbfounding and provokes such ire among the opposition that it can only succeed in crystallizing resistance towards the government. It's a risk that the

“ [The Harper government] must be careful to not purposely do anything that would breathe life back into the comatose opposition.

ous vacuum in the Chamber of the opposition. However, it must be careful to not purposely do anything that would breathe life back into the comatose opposition.

Evidently, the Conservative government has mastered the art of drawing the strongest of lines when it comes to matters close to its heart. This is especially true regarding judicial issues. The debates about the long-gun registry is one example.

Conservatives are obviously willing to take, since it seems, for the most part, to end in a desirable result for them.

A recent illustration of the danger the government faces when its rhetoric goes a bit far is found in the debates initiated by the online surveillance bill. As such, it unveils the government's strategy, best represented by the often used saying: “you are either with us or against us”.

In fact the very name of the bill

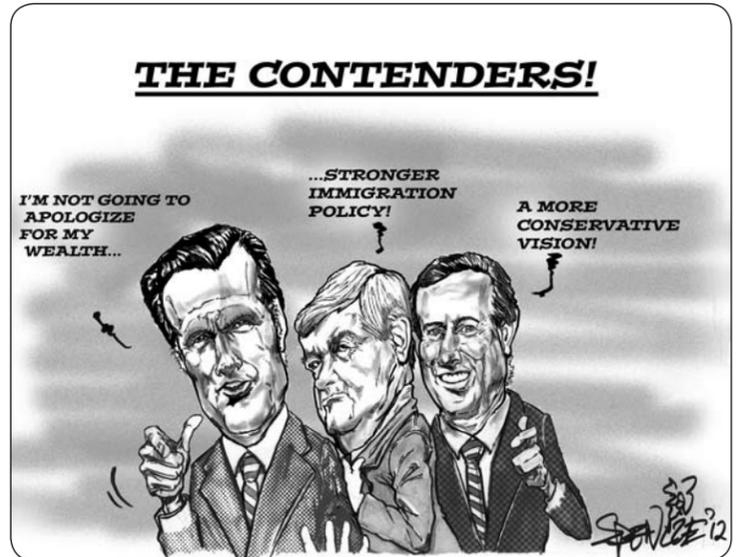
encapsulates the strategy. Officially entitled: “An Act to enact the Investigating and Preventing Criminal Electronic Communications Act and to amend the Criminal Code and other Acts,” the government gave it a shorter, more evocative name: “Protecting Children from Internet Predators Act.” At first glance it seems difficult to object to a bill which focuses on the most heinous of crimes.

However, the bill goes farther than its title suggests. It re-groups all crimes committed using modern technology, namely, but not limited to, fraud or any activity with the goal of destabilizing internet systems. The bill is not without its merits, but the debate on the fundamentals must be allowed to be carried out without any fear that those citizens who express doubts about those merits be accused of siding with the pedophiles.

Unfortunately the government has decided to play a game of political division from the start. Its outrageous declarations aren't helping to raise the bar of the debate.

Yet – must we repeat it? – this approach is full of risks for the

Spencie's View



government. Concerning this particular subject, the government will see members of its own troops, members that it has been grooming over the years, raise their voice against it. This is ironic since the debate will be happening at the close of the long gun registry debate.

The government's main argument, which allowed for solid support during the last elec-

tions, was based on the fact that the registry constituted a major intrusion into honest people's private lives.

The government must read-just its aim when discussing the ramifications of electronic communications. If not, it might run the risk of alienating a number of its most loyal partisans. ✎

Translation Monique Kroeger

► “Exchange Programs” from page 1

for a one to one ratio, where for every student that went abroad another one came to Canada, it's not like that anymore.

Kim says that “AIESEC was set up after the Second World War in the hopes that people will experience different cultures” which would help to promote understanding and decrease future conflict.

“All the major universities have a chapter,” says Kim, noting there are 110 AIESEC Chapters around the world. AIESEC offers the global internship program, which is for students whose management or technical skills match the host country's needs. This includes education internships where students teach a language or cultural awareness in another country.

AIESEC also has a global community development program, which is project-based and involves students working with international groups.

According to Kim, these opportunities to experience other cultures are important.

“They impact society and they impact you,” says Kim.

She says that students who attend internships abroad are socially integrated into their new community with a variety of social events organized by their host chapter. AIESEC also brings young people to Canada to experience internships with local businesses here.

Adventures in Thailand

The Global Youth Volunteer Network (GYVN) also involves students in development projects abroad. Kim Ross, is doing a mas-



▲ Daniel Caicedo in London, England.

ter of Music Therapy in Ireland, recalls her month of volunteering in Thailand, and how she had to become a “busker” to get there.

A native of Saskatchewan, Ross says that fundraising for her trip to Thailand was a very positive experience. She decided to busk in her workplace, a gym in downtown Vancouver.

“I set up my keyboard at 6:30 a.m. and played throughout the day, she says. “It was a cool way to talk to the gym members about where I was going, and why, and to hear their stories as well. I even played music with some of them.”

Ross raised a total of \$1,200 that day, just from donations at the gym.

When she arrived in Thailand, she felt that the experience was a whirlwind. Her volunteer group first went to northern Thailand, where entire villages were made up of Burmese refugees. Although living in such close proximity to Thai culture, the refugees were excluded from it, and had no access to education or medical care.

“The local NGO consisted of one person,” says Ross, “a doctor from Burma.”

According to Ross, the doctor greeted the volunteers at the airport and taught them how to provide access to clean water and sanitation in the villages.

Ross says that they lived in the villagers' bamboo huts. “They

cooked amazing food for us, we climbed a waterfall and ate fresh fruit off the trees. It was work too, but it was amazing.”

Discovery

Afterwards, the volunteers went to live in a town along the border with Burma. A group called Compasio, who collaborated with the GYVN was building a safe house for homeless refugee children.

Ross says that they discovered that in the developing world there wasn't a distinction between work and play.

“[In Thailand] we would take breaks whenever we wanted... yet, because everyone was helping each other, the process was really enjoyable,” says Ross. “... it was fun, and we got an awful lot done.”

Exchange programs are one way to discover the world, another way is completely moving to another country.

Milena Colovic left her native

Montenegro at 17 and went to study in Hong Kong at the United World Colleges (UWC).

She applied to Simon Fraser University last year as an international student and was able to go because of a scholarship the UWC gives out to six students each year.

Colovic says she didn't feel overwhelmed when she first arrived in Vancouver.

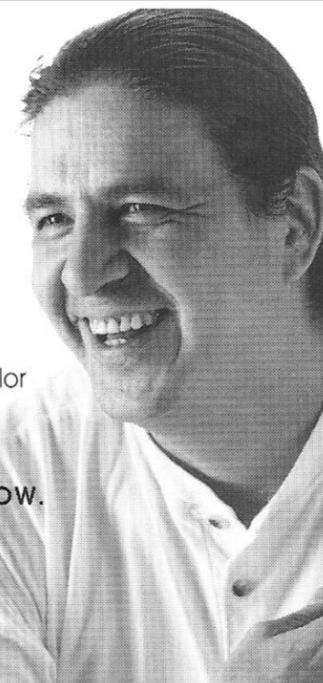
“People and nature here were close to [her]... it was easy to settle down” and become acquainted with the city.

Asked if she would recommend going to live and study abroad, she said that she would.

“It's not the same as traveling or being a tourist, [which can be] more artificial, as everything is arranged for you.”

Colovic says living in another country can seem intimidating and scary.

“[Travelling] allows you to experience so many new things ... it enriches your personality.” ✎



“Traditions are a big part of my culture. Unfortunately, so is diabetes.”

Bernie, First Nations counsellor

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Immigration crucial to Canada's growth: 2011 Census

by JAN HILARIO

After controversial sparks flew in 2010 when the federal government announced that the mandatory long form would be replaced by a voluntary survey, many critics speculated about the level of accuracy and usefulness of the 2011 census. Some even went as far as to refuse to participate in the national survey.

But apparently, the Census, like death, taxes and government, is another inevitable fact of life.

The first round of results on population and dwelling counts has been released, and while the figures show interesting trends, they're not unexpected.

According to the 2011 census conducted in May of last year, there are approximately 33.5 million inhabitants in Canada. This figure includes non-permanent residents who are persons from another country with either work or study permits, or are refugee claimants.

With a population of 33.5 million, Canada is the least populous of the G8 countries. Italy, the second least populous country of the G8, still comes in at nearly twice the population of Canada at more than 60 million.

Population growth and density

Between 2006 and 2011, Canada's population grew by 5.9 per cent, an increase in growth compared to the last time when it grew by 5.4 per cent.

British Columbia, along with every other province, saw an increase in population between 2006 and 2011. And in B.C., the population grew from 4.1 to 4.4 million. As a whole though, the province is still sparsely populated. With a land area of ap-

proximately 922,000 square kilometres, the population density in B.C. is 4.8 individuals per square kilometre.

By contrast, the Philippines has 300,000 square kilometres but a population of 92 million, making that country's population density 310 people per square kilometre.

In Vancouver, however, the population density amounts to 803 people per square kilometre. At 2.3 million inhabitants enumerated in this census, Vancouver has experienced a 9.3 per cent increase in population growth since 2006.

Migratory increase

According to Statistics Canada, the country's slightly higher population growth is attributed primarily to migratory increase, or "the difference between the number of immigrants entering the country and the number of emigrants leaving the country." In fact, migratory increase makes up two-thirds of the population growth in Canada.

Since 2001, population growth due to natural increase, or the difference between births and deaths, has been on the decline, and now only accounts for one-third of growth. Statistics Canada cites two reasons for this decline: a relatively stable number of births and a steady increase in the number of deaths.

Paul Kingsbury, an assistant professor in the Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University and a member of The Canadian Association of Geographers, is not surprised that the census results quantify a sustained decline in fertility rates. He says that low fertility is attributed to a shift in values, as a greater number of people choose to have children later in life, seeking higher education and establishing careers first.

The low fertility rates, coupled



▲ One of many scenes of diversity in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Photo by Jan Hilario

with an aging population, have placed migration in an increasingly important role for population growth in the country, with immigrants specifically moving to metropolitan areas such as Vancouver.

Statistics Canada predicts that, within 20 years, immigration will account for more than 80 per cent of the country's population growth. This population growth projection is based on an immigration rate of 7.5 immigrants per 1,000 population.

Asked about its current immigration rate, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) responded that the country allows between 240,000 to 265,000 immigrants into the country every year. The 7.5 out of 1,000 figure projected by Statistics Canada equates to 250,000 immigrants per year, which is comparable to

the current average.

CIC determines the rate of immigration to Canada by consulting with "public stakeholders across Canada, provincial and



▲ Paul Kingsbury, assistant professor of geography, SFU.

territorial governments, and security partners...to develop the immigration levels plan, which sets the overall planning range and mix of immigration."

Also taken into account is the department's operational capacity, goals in backlog reduction and shorter wait times, the capacity of service providers for settlement and integration, and Canada's economic and labour market outlook.

Kingsbury recognizes the potential influence of the census statistical trends towards our future "social geographies." He notes that we will have to be aware of "how such trends [will] reconfigure, and in some cases radically challenge, current Canadians' senses of belonging, history...[and] attitudes towards citizenship and multiculturalism. ☞

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Ancient school helps Vancouver retain and celebrate Japanese culture

BY PANAYIOTI YANNITSOS

It doesn't take long to remember the morning of Dec. 7, 1941. Japanese fighters, bombers and torpedo planes filled the skies as the seemingly impenetrable

As a product of the physical internment of all Japanese Canadians on the West Coast, the Canadian Government confiscated all private, commercial and community properties owned by Japanese Canadians. From 1942 to

dians, the full property of the school was given back in 1953. Out of all the confiscated Japanese Canadian properties, cars, homes and businesses, the VJLS-JH stands alone as the only property retained after the war.

such as this will never happen again."

"It's very important," says Chris Lightfoot, a resident of Vancouver, who has spent time in Japan. "Immigrants of all language backgrounds struggle to maintain

blessing in disguise. Beneath every struggle, she says, lies an important lesson for the future.

"It's important for us to understand where we came from," she says. "It helps us discover where we are headed. We learn from our past mistakes and strive to become better the next time," she continues. "That is what we try to teach our students."

The VJLS-JH currently caters to students of all ages, providing a variety of classes in Japanese language and cultural education. In the year 2000, the VJLS-JH built a new spacious facility, leaving the original 1928 building as a designated heritage center.

Now 12 years later, the VJLS-JH continues to operate with the same respect and dignity that its founders established over a century ago. Above all, their mission is, and always will be, geared towards keeping Canada a multicultural nation.

"Canada is a great place to continue to work and learn," says Homma. "Despite the past struggles, our school has flourished in this community and has brought life to Japanese culture in the hearts of not just the Japanese people themselves, but all Canadians in general," she says.

"Our ultimate objective is to enrich inter-cultural communication and understanding among our students. If we can do that, then we have done our job as Japanese Canadians." ✍

“Despite the past struggles, our school has flourished in this community and has brought life to Japanese culture.”

Mari Homma, principal, Vancouver Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall

golden gates of Pearl Harbour collapsed into the Pacific Ocean. Most will argue that this served as the beginning of the Second World War for North America. That same morning, the Vancouver Japanese Language School had celebrated its 35th anniversary, and was forced into a war of its own.

Established in 1906, the Vancouver Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall (VJLS-JH) has served the Japanese Canadian community for over 100 years. Created as a learning centre for early Japanese immigrants, the school has successfully continued to sustain and preserve Japanese culture here in Vancouver.

"A great accomplishment," says school Principal Mari Homma. "But one that has seen its fair share of heartache."

In 1941, as war spread across the Pacific, the school was forced to shut its doors.

1947, the school's facilities were occupied by the Canadian Armed Forces, throwing out a handful of teachers along with over a thousand students. An event, according to Homma, that stripped many Japanese immigrants of their pride.

"You no longer wanted to be known as Japanese Canadian," says Homma. "Many called themselves Canadian Japanese instead. They wanted to be Canadian first, Japanese second. It was a difficult time." In April of 1949, Japanese Canadians were given back the freedom of resettlement, and began to move back to Vancouver.

Despite the hardships and turmoil of the war, many Japanese Canadians still believed in cultural preservation and took it upon themselves to rebuild their shattered community.

Thanks to the courageous efforts of many Japanese Cana-

Today, it has become more than just a school, but a symbol of pride and a reminder of the resilience that so many Japanese Canadians showed in rescuing their culture from a most certain death.

Professor Henry Davis, a current member of the UBC Linguistics Department, encourages Canadians to understand how important this traumatic event is to our history as a country. Most importantly, he says, it exposes an ugly truth.

"The treatment of Japanese Canadians, particularly here on the West Coast, is a reminder that Canada has an unenviable history of racial discrimination and persecution," Davis says.

"The survival of a distinctly Canadian Japanese-speaking minority shows that we have learned a little from the uglier episodes in our history. This is one way of ensuring that events

their original languages past their children's generation."

"I believe encouraging multiculturalism eventually encourages mutual understanding. Any efforts to this end should be supported."

Despite past suffering, Homma believes that the events that happened to her people are a



▲ A bloody Chris Lightfoot in Okinawa.

Photo courtesy of Christopher Lightfoot

► "Verbatim" from page 1

rights provided by their country, while also participating in the responsibilities that come with the privileges. With the "American Dream" comes a very individualistic attitude that purports anyone can do well if they work hard. Individual success becomes paramount and the idea of community can lose itself in the shuffle. America by no means is devoid of camaraderie and collectivism, but Canada has really struck me as a place that seems to have your back no matter who you are.

As far as the little differences go, I heard the term "First Nations" for the first time here and have been slowly learning the history behind First Nations people via the Museum of Anthropology on the UBC campus and my Sociology 101 class. I am interested in learning more about their culture over the next few years.

I do miss Denver's amazing Mexican food; the city has

a very rich Hispanic culture. I love participating in all the celebrations such as Day of the Dead and Cinco de Mayo. However, I love the abundance of Asian cuisine in Vancouver, namely sushi. I can say that I eat sushi four to five times a week and never get tired of it.

Concerning Canadian vocabulary, I have become well acquainted with terms such as Timmy's, two-six, mickey, loonie and toonie. There are also fun accent differences that leave my friends and I saying the word 'pasta' back and forth for a good five minutes. I only know *bonjour* and *au revoir* in French, and I still had to spell check *au revoir* to spell it right. My five years of Spanish classes are somewhat useless here, but I am not opposed to learning new languages.

Overall, I could not live in a more breathtaking place than beautiful British Columbia. With a kind community and Timbits in hand, Vancouver already feels like home. ✍



Photo by Daniel Nugent, Flickr

▲ Writer Callie Hitchcock is quickly learning uniquely Canadian terms such as 'timbits'

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Merging two official languages

by TIM REINERT

Since the Official Languages Act was passed in 1969, Canada has had two official languages: English, and French. In theory, it was designed to ensure easy access to all services in either language. In practice, it has meant that the divide between Francophone and Anglophones has stretched ever further, with

a program exists. Currently, less than half of the 59 school districts in B.C. have French Immersion programs.

Attempts at change

Glyn Lewis is trying to change that. He's the Executive Director for the BC & Yukon branch of Canadian Parents. It's a grassroots organization dedicated to creating and promoting second lan-

“French is part of our linguistic duality. It's a building block of Canadian identity, and it's part of who we are.

*Glyn Lewis, Executive Director,
BC & Yukon branch of Canadian Parents*

little incentive to bridge that gap at all, either culturally or linguistically.

guage opportunities at the community level.

Lewis feels that learning both languages is a must in today's society.

B.C. no friend to French

In British Columbia, it's easy to forget that there is a second official language.

“We've come to a point where it's a recognized value,” he says. “French is part of our linguistic duality. It's a building block of Canadian identity, and it's part of who we are.”

According to the last Census that released specific language data, less than 7 percent of British Columbians speak French, and if you're counting people that speak exclusively French, that drops to less than 1500 in total.

Lewis recently had an opportunity to share his ideas in Ottawa in front of the Senate subcommittee on Official languages.

But that number is growing, and French Immersion number programs in British Columbia are filling up at an exponential rate.

“One of the things we were talking about in Ottawa in our presentation to the Senate is how to broaden the definition of Francophone, to include French language speakers.”

But not every one who wants to put their children into French Immersion can do so. The pro-

He says that the senator's reaction was receptive, though con-

see

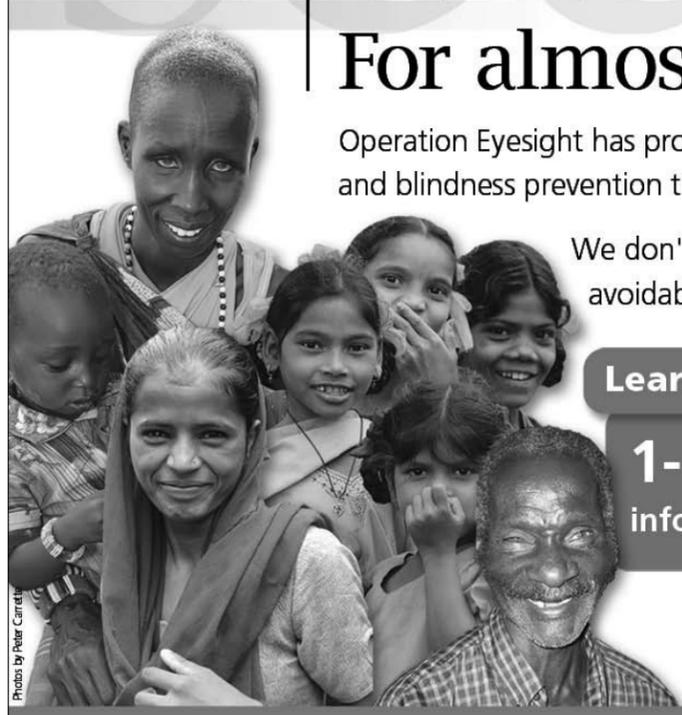
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▲ Left to right: Victoria Vaseleniuck (Vice-President CPF BC & Yukon), Glyn Lewis (Executive Director, CPF BC & Yukon) and Debra Pool (President, CPF BC & Yukon).

grams are limited, and long line-ups for child placement are common. But if French is an official language of Canada, why is it so difficult for some Canadians to have the opportunity to learn it?

cerns were raised. Ultimately he views the trip as a success, and feels that the Senators were receptive to their message.

Unfair advantages

According to the Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms, only native French speakers or children of native French speakers have a guaranteed right to French school programs. French second language speakers aren't covered at all. And so parents wanting to place their children in French immersion must hope that their school district has a large enough population to warrant such a program, and that their school board also recognizes that the demand for such

“They recognize that if there are parents camping out in Tofino or Coquitlam because they can't get into a (French Immersion) program, it's a shame, and something needs to change.”

Although Lewis' goal of having the Federal government guarantee access to French language programs to everyone may be a long way off, he says that the amount of kids enrolling in French Immersion programs is increasing every year.

“French and English are our official languages, and It's important that all kids have the opportunity to learn those languages and are able to grow and excel anywhere in Canada.”

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▲ Volunteers hold signs indicating an example of the many languages spoken at the Diversity Health Fair in Vancouver.

Local health fair caters to people across all cultures

by ERIC CHU

On March 3, the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC (AMSSA) will be holding its eighth Diversity Health Fair.

"It will be an event that gathers a vast number of health-related resources all in one place so that immigrants can enjoy full access to information that correlate with their own cultural perspectives of health," says Jessica Chant, Diversity Health Fair coordinator.

To the surprise of many, health care and diversity are in fact two very closely related topics. Chant illustrates why the Multicultural Health Program has become such a major component of AMSSA.

"Over the years, we've found that new immigrants become less healthy over time," says Chant.

"This is due to the barriers that exist between these immigrants and the Canadian health system."

Chant says that one big hurdle for new immigrants is the different perspectives as well as language barriers.

"For instance, some immigrants may be more comfortable with herbal medicine and acupuncture," says Chant. "It's important, then, to provide the related resources so that when medical assistance is required, they can seek what they're most comfortable with."

AMSSA, over the past seven

years, has hosted similar events annually. Last year, there were over 3,500 people who attended the Health Fair. The attendees benefited from healthy cooking demonstrations, free health

sources, and more fun. There will be five different multicultural performances, over 50 exhibitors, and four different cooking demonstration sessions. Attendees can have their blood, hearing or

“The most important goal of this event is to build bridges between immigrants and the resources available.

Jessica Chant, coordinator, Diversity Health Fair

screenings, countless health-related exhibitors, and multicultural performances.

This year, the theme is "Cancer Prevention and Early Detection". AMSSA is anticipating it to be the biggest and best fair to date.

"There will be even more re-

sources, and more fun. There will

be five different multicultural performances, over 50 exhibitors, and four different cooking demonstration sessions. Attendees can have their blood, hearing or

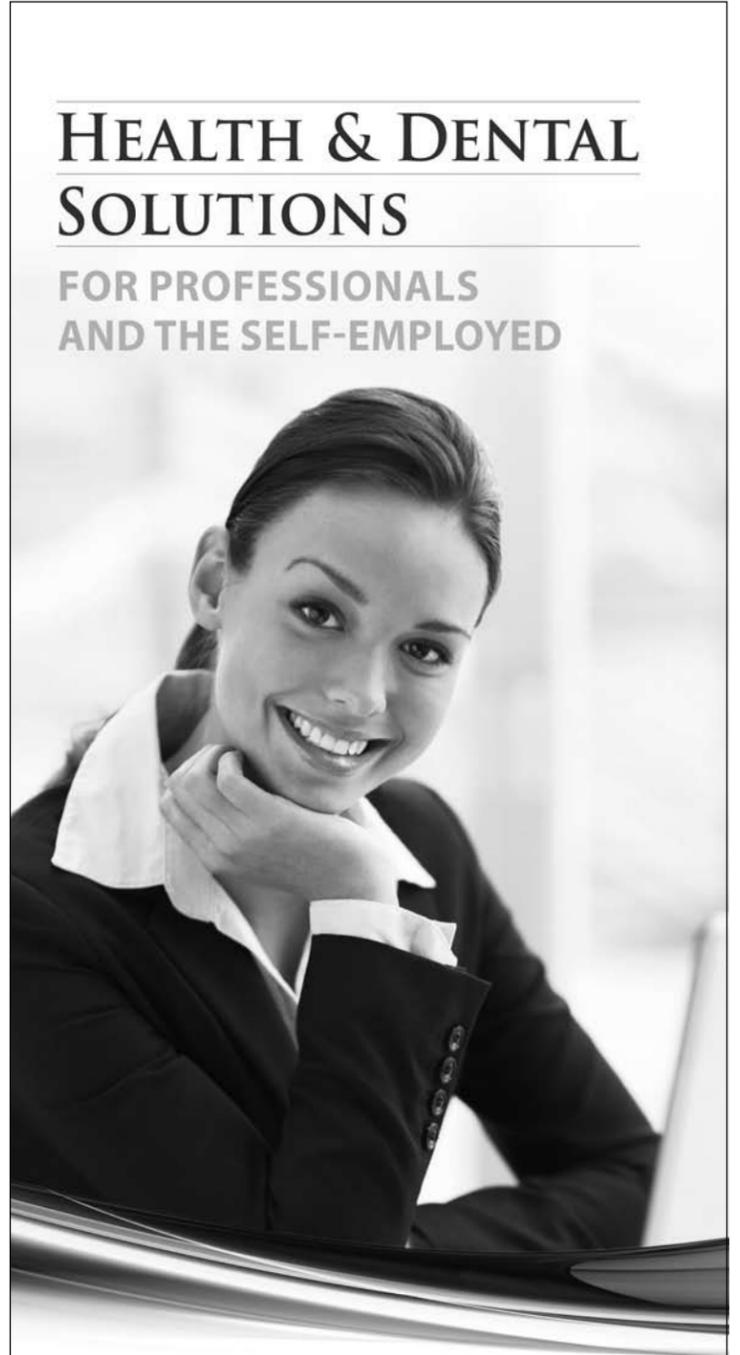
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▲ Jessica Chant.



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A richly textured love story at the Arts Club Theatre

by SAMUEL RAMOS

Intimate Apparel is a diverse tale bound in tight colourful corsets, made of fabric from around the world. The play unfolds themes of desire, repressed by expectations, class and race in the early 1900s.

The play tells the story of Esther, a 35-year-old black seamstress. Esther devotes her time sewing for clients and visiting the fabric shop of Mr. Marks, a Romanian Orthodox Jew.

In a world distinguished between black and white in more ways than just skin colour, it's among the many colours of Mr. Marks' shop where he and Esther share a mutual love for fine fabrics. Beyond their love of fabric, Mr. Marks and Esther know, yet are reluctant, and most notably, unable to acknowledge a deep admiration and, perhaps, love for one another.

"It was before people really understood the nature of their feelings and desires" says New York playwright Lynn Nottage. "They just felt – and had a limited vocabulary to share those feelings. You find people with complicated emotions, but they can't express themselves because the language simply didn't exist yet. So they have to find an alternative means of expression."

Nottage says that Mr. Marks and Esther find a unique and personal way of expressing themselves – through touch and the exploration of fabrics.

"The two are interesting because they're so close and yet so far apart; or maybe it's the

other way around," says Nottage. "They're obviously from different worlds, but they've found a common ground and a remarkable level of intimacy."

Throughout the play you can see characters testing the boundaries of convention and expectation. One of Esther's clients, Mrs. Van Buren, is a wealthy Fifth Avenue socialite. It's clear that she's in a hapless marriage, but she endures her husband's wanderings for fear of the social repercussions if she were to leave him.

She takes a keen interest in her seamstress as she helps her write letters to a potential husband [George] working in Panama who turns out to just want Esther for her hard earned money. Van Buren also confides in Esther about the inane details of her life and asks about Esther's friend, Mayme, who is a talented pianist, but makes a living as a prostitute.

Mrs. Van Buren is so bored of her life that at one point she, to the surprise of many, plants a big kiss on Esther's lips. As Esther rejects her advances, Mrs. Van Buren yells at her, calling her a "coward." It's clear that, as Nottage says, Mrs. Van Buren "covets the freedom and sexual liberation of Mayme," so much that she pushes social norms and conventions. Meanwhile, Nottage goes on to say, "Mayme covets the legitimacy and the wealth and the place in society that Mrs. Van Buren enjoys."

In her own muted and delicate way, Esther herself pushes the envelope of what is expected and appropriate for a black woman. While in Mr. Marks's shop, in the midst of looking at fabrics, she allows her hand to lightly touch Mr. Marks's. He backs away quickly, insulting Esther, but he reassures her by telling her that in his religion it is inappropriate for him to touch a woman who is not his wife.

Esther knew this but, like Mrs. Van Buren, and perhaps many women of the time, she had to take a risk in order to find intimacy beyond the cloth.

The rampant repression of emotions, feelings and desires is apparent throughout the play. Esther sums up the frustration of many by confiding to her friend: "I knew it was wrong, but I had to touch him." ❧

Intimate Apparel runs until Mar. 10 at Arts Club Granville Island Stage, 1585 Johnston St. Tickets: \$29 to \$49 from www.artsclub.com or 604 687 1644



▲ Daren Herbert as George.

▲ Jonathon Young as Mr. Marks and Marci T. House as Esther in *Intimate Apparel*.

All photos by David Cooper



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Annual Winterruption festival highlights Granville Island's arts scene

by ADRIANNA GRANVILLE

Rain or shine, Granville Island is hosting its 7th annual Winterruption festival from Feb. 24 through Feb. 25 celebrating how fantastically eclectic and multicultural our city can be for all ages.

"Winterruption is about our local arts scene on Granville Island," says Scott Fraser, marketing and communications officer

range of enchanting Zimbabwean marimbas to produce music that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, described as being "very clever" after a command performance at the Balmoral Castle in 2007.

"[The members of Kutapira] are fun, funky and fabulous musicians," summarizes Katharine Carol, artistic and executive director of the Vancouver International Children's Festival. "The marimba/percussion music is

the second time to Winterruption.

"[Machado] is a force of nature, a one-man orchestra with an astonishing musicality," says John Orsyik, media director and co-founder of Coastal Jazz. "He has the ability to transport the listener to a world where anything is possible."

Machado's career started in street bands at the age of seven in São Paulo, Brazil, and led to

“ [The members of Kutapira] are fun, funky and fabulous musicians. The marimba/percussion music is infectious – children and adults love to dance to them.

Katharine Carol, artistic and executive director, Vancouver International Children's Festival

of Granville Island. "It is a showcase of the amazing work and artistic diversity one can find down here throughout the year."

Whether you book a food and wine/beer tour or simply walk around you will not be able to look far without something stimulating your worldly senses.

Playing on Saturday and Sunday in the Picnic Pavilion at no charge is Vancouver's renowned five-member band, Kutapira.

The band, mixes the pulsing Afro-Cuban drum beats with a full-

infectious – children and adults love to dance to them."

With an energetic appeal spanning generations, it is no wonder that this youthful band is already loaded with experience of having played hundreds of shows.

Just further down the road in another free performance, taking the stage at Performance Works. The Vancouver-based Brazilian singer/guitarist/percussionist and 2008 Canadian Folk Music Awards' World Solo Artist of the Year, Celso Machado, returns for

France and then Canada. His style has few boundaries as he makes music out of everything and anything around him.

"I've been listening to Celso Machado since his first appearance at the Vancouver International Jazz Festival back in 1986," Orsyik continues. "His guitar playing, singing and his ability to engage an audience never cease to amaze me."

It isn't only the world music that will captivate you. After you dance with the Rainforest animals and before you take a workshop in glass-blowing, you can make your way to the Charles H. Scott Gallery to view Babak Golkar's latest site-specific installation exhibition.

This project, which is called Ground for Standing and Understanding is a continuation of Golkar's previous series of art entitled Negotiating Space. Raised in Iran and now living in Canada, Golkar, explores the connection between East and West with Modernism through Persian car-



▲ The Rainforest Procession is a favourite of many who come to Winterruption.

pets and architecture. His ability to transform a space from 2D to 3D may challenge your eyes and mind and leave you to never look at a Persian carpet the same.

The festival is not just confined to stages and galleries. Local and international buskers will be scattered throughout

Granville Island, filling spaces, large and small, with their talents of fire juggling, music and magic. The organizers of Winterruption remind us on the festival website, "If you enjoy what you see and hear, please be generous – these artists rely on your contributions." ✂

Festival at a Glance

Arts

- 125th Anniversary Cube
- Artisan Walking Tours
- Babak Golkar: Ground for Standing and Understanding
- Circle Craft's Annual Student Scholarships Exhibition
- Guided Tours and Drop-In Life Drawing at Emily Carr University of Art & Design
- Haida Carver: Clarence Mills
- ReVision at the Creekhous
- Woodenough
- Mini Glassblowing Workshops
- T-Shirt Spin Art by MAKE
- Flowerruption

Music

- Michael Bernard Fitzgerald with special guests Acres of Lions
- Aidan Knight with special guests The Belle Game
- Celso Machado
- Aeroplane Trio
- Jasper Sloan Yip
- Bill Coon Latin Trio

Performances

- Vancouver TheatreSports® League

- Intimate Apparel by Lynn Nottage
- I Love You Because
- Aesop's Fables
- Pop Up Dances
- Buskers
- Mixed Company

Kids' Stuff

- 125th Anniversary Cube
- Sock Puppet Workshop
- Rainforest Procession
- Face Painting
- The Great Mountain
- Journey through a Sound Garden
- WinterSports
- Vancouver International Children's Festival presents Kutapira
- Theatre Fix
- Duh Hockey Guys
- Mortal Coil Performance Society's Chix on Stix

Food

- Guided Culinary Market Tour + Canadian Beer/Wine Tasting + 3-course Dinner
- Granville Island Sustainable Seafood walking tour

For more information, visit www.granvilleisland.com/winterruption



▲ Pop-up Dances by New Works presents dance in unconventional location.



Photos courtesy of Winterruption

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PICS Vancouver also offers one-on-one employment assistance, paid on-the-job work experience through our Wage Subsidy program, and a one-stop Career Centre with a broad range of job hunting resources. Funding for all programs is provided by the Ministry of Social Development, Employment and Labour Market Services Division

Please call 604-324-7733, go to www.pics.bc.ca, or visit us at 200-8161 Main Street, Vancouver, to find out how we can best help you.





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de la Colombie-Britannique

csf.bc.ca



▲ *Coteau Rouge* is one of the films showing at the French Film Festival.

French Film Festival reinvents itself for 18th anniversary

by SAMUEL RAMOS

There is a David to every Goliath. In the original story Goliath falls and David triumphs. In reality, when taking on a giant, the story is not always one of victory. David doesn't always win and instead simply continues searching for his own place to make a difference in the world.

The French Film Festival has seen many ups and downs since its inception in 1994. Before the film festival, according to Régis Painchaud, there were only two French films available for audiences in Vancouver that year.

Painchaud is co-founder of the French Film Festival. He says that Vancouver was totally devoid of French cinema eighteen years ago, so he and Lorraine Fortin started the festival in order to showcase films from French speaking countries and Quebec.

"I had my friend Michael, who organized the Rendez-Vous [Quebecois film festival] in Montreal, and I just phoned him and said, 'hey Michael, is it possible to have those movies in Vancouver?' He said, 'just pay the transportation and we'll negotiate the rights and you can cut the deal with the Pacific Cinematheque and you can show them there.'"

For ten years the French Film Festival was showcased at le Pacific Cinematheque. According to Painchaud the relationship was good, but then there was the push to bring everything under one tent at Vancity theatre. The move didn't feel like home for Painchaud and his festival.

"[The Pacific Cinematheque] was the end of an era," says Painchaud, "but at the same time it was the movement to bring everyone to the Vancity [theatre], and to be able to receive all the grants and to create a new partnership." Painchaud adds, "it was natural for us to be the French token, and it was fine for a few years."

After ten years at Pacific Cinematheque and four at Vancity, Painchaud and Fortin found themselves in a position no one imagines or wants to be in, homeless. For two years the French Film Festival roamed around from one theatre to another showcasing their collection of films. Painchaud admits that it was not the most delightful of experiences, but they were able to survive and saw some hope at the end.

"We became orphans with no place to project our movies," says Painchaud, "but at the same time we were totally independent. We had to [use] a lot of money from our [own] pockets, and do some fundraising."

Fortunately, the French Film Festival has now found a home

at Jules-Verne high school at 5445 Baillie Street in Vancouver. It's a fair distance from downtown and from the buzz of all the other theatres, but Painchaud assures that audiences will experience and learn about independent cinema in a grassroots setting.



▲ Régis Painchaud, co-founder of the Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois et francophone

"The French culture has a special way to think about the problem and a special way to find a solution to that problem," says Painchaud.

With 18 years of showcasing francophone films, and the many hurdles Painchaud and his team have jumped over in that time, it doesn't seem like they're going anywhere soon. They still seem to have some fight in them in order to contribute to Vancouver's film festival circuit.

"We don't want to come here to B.C. and create a French ghetto. Nobody needs a French ghetto, but we can be part of the development of that society. With our strength and spirit we can do something together."

For ticket and movie information go to www.rendez-vousvancouver.com



▲ Oscar nominated film *Monsieur Lazhar* will close the film festival Feb. 26.



Deanna Fogstrom

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Presented by: The Scandinavian Cultural Society & The Danish Canadian Community Centre

Cultural Calendar

February 21–March 6, 2012

by PHOEBE YU

Celebrate the remaining days of Black History Month with these events: An Evening with Minnijean Brown Trickey, Children's Festival and a screening of *Mighty Jerome*. Other notable events include Cinema Kabuki, Carnival 2012, Diversity Health Fair and more.

Syria – What's Next?

Tues, Feb. 21, 4:30 p.m.
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Rm. 130, 842 Cambie St., Vancouver
604-648-4461
www.fdu.edu

As part of FDU's Diplomatic Circle Series, the Honorary Consul of Syria, Sawsan A. Habbal, will speak about Syria's education and political situation. Habbal is a barrister and solicitor who is actively involved in fostering cultural and commercial ties between Syria and BC. She has worked with different establishments including the UN, Siemens and the British Embassy in Damascus. Event open to the public, but RSVP no later than February 20.

Eco-Arts Salon

Wed, Feb. 22, 7 p.m.–9 p.m.
Roundhouse Community Centre
181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver
604-682-0010
www.cacv.ca

Discussion with artist Bruce Joyce about environmental art. Joyce incorporates plant matter and recycled materials into his large public sculptures. Free admission.



Photo Courtesy of CACV

▲ Artist, Bruce Joyce

An Evening with Minnijean Brown Trickey

Canadian Association of Black Lawyers
Thurs, Feb. 23, 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
UBC Robson Square
800 Robson St., Vancouver
cablbc@gmail.com
www.cablbc.ca

Minnijean Brown Trickey was part of the Little Rock Nine, who were instrumental in the integration of black students at Little Rock Central High School in the U.S. This event is presented as part of a series of Black History Month events. Tickets: \$15 adults,

\$10 children and seniors. Seating limited, RSVP in advance.

Exploring a Dead End: the Chinatown Tunnel Myth

Thurs, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Museum of Vancouver
1100 Chestnut St., Vancouver
604-878-9140
www.vancouver-historical-society.ca

The story of tunnels existing underneath Chinatown pervades the social consciousness. Speaker John Atkins looks at the origin of the tunnel myth and why the myth still persists today. Open to the public.

Carnaval 2012

Brazilian Community Association
Sat, Feb. 25, 8 p.m.
Hellenic Community Centre
4500 Arbutus St., Vancouver
604-266-7148
www.braziliancarnaval2012-eorgf.eventbrite.ca

A Brazilian carnival party lasting all night, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. the next day. Look forward to live performances, dancing and caipirinha. Must be at least 19 years old to attend. ID check in place. Tickets \$20.

Children's Festival

National Congress of Black Women Foundation
Sat, Feb 25, 1 p.m.
Bonsor Community Centre
6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby
604-605-0124
www.vancouver.ca/multiculturalism/blackhistory.htm

A festival for all ages, as part of Black History Month. There will be games, history, storytelling, face painting, music, live performances, open mic and Caribbean food. Open to the public.

Cinema Kabuki

Sun, Feb 26, 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Cineplex Odeon
International Village Cinemas
88 W. Pender St., Vancouver
604-806-0799
www.cineplex.com

In cooperation with the Japan Foundation, recorded live productions of Japanese Kabuki Theatre will be shown on the big screen. The films are: *Murder in a Hell of Oil* at 1 p.m. and *The Heron Maiden* at 3:30 p.m. In *Murder in a Hell of Oil*, the protagonist Yohei is a profligate son of an oil merchant who becomes a murderer. *The Heron Maiden* is a challenging piece involving the transformation of a white heron to a coquettish girl, then into a woman who seduces and betrays her lover. Tickets: \$12.75 adults, \$9.75



Photo Courtesy of Murder in a Hell of Oil

▲ A film, *Murder in a Hell of Oil*.

children and seniors. Also available in 3D.

Vancouver Fashion Up Close and Personal

Original Costume Museum Society
Sun, Feb 26, 2 p.m.–4 p.m.
Hycroft Mansion
1489 MacRae Avenue, Vancouver
604-872-1230
www.ocms.ca

Marilyn Wilson, editor of *Fame'd Magazine* and *Raine Magazine* will discuss new design trends, designers and contemporary fashion. See works of new and unusual clothing trends from the collection of local designers. Tickets: \$22 non-members, \$20

OCMS members, \$10 OCMS student members.

Mighty Jerome

Mon, Feb 27, 7 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
Vancouver Public Library
350 W. Georgia St., Vancouver
604-331-3603
www.vpl.ca

A film by Charles Officer. It tells the story of Harry Jerome, Canada's record-setting track and field star. Special guest Selwyn Jacob, producer of the film, will have a question and answer session with the audience. Open to the public.

Nonna's Kitchen and Children's Festival

Fri, March 2, 6 p.m.
Italian Cultural Centre
3075 Slocan St., Vancouver
604-430-3337
www.italianculturalcentre.ca

Enjoy a classic Italian dinner with lots of friends, family and good food like, pasta, polenta, chicken, sausages, salad and dessert. Tickets: \$25 adults, \$15 children ages 6-12, and \$5 children younger than 6. Advanced ticket purchase required. After dinner follows the Children's Festival where there will be skits, costumes,

games and carnival treats. Free admission to festival.

Diversity Health Fair

Sat, March 3, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Croatian Cultural Centre
3250 Commercial Dr., Vancouver
604-718-4220
www.amssa.org

The fair aims to bring health and wellness resources presented in various languages to different ethno-cultural communities. This year's theme is "Cancer Prevention and Early Detection." There will be cooking demonstrations, a healthy kids activity zone, multicultural performances, free health screenings, and over 50 health-related exhibitors. Open to the public.

A Little Night Music Orchestra 40th Anniversary Concert

Mon, March 5, 7:30 p.m.
Magee Theatre
6360 Maple St., Vancouver
604-261-6891
www.alnm.ca

A special concert featuring pieces from Mozart and Schubert. A Little Night Music Orchestra is a community-based orchestra of amateur musicians of all ages and abilities. Free admission; donations appreciated.

Street Photography by Denis Bouvier

Illuminate Yaletown

© 2012 Denis Bouvier | denisbouvier.com

This incredible light spectacle took place in Yaletown Feb. 10 and 11. It was part of City and Slope Winter Festival which featured mountain activities as well as urban entertainment. Spurred on by the successful street events around the 2010 Olympics, its aim is to spark activities during the winter season.

Illuminate Yaletown was staged as a free street party

showcasing energy efficient, interactive light and video technology. In the picture above, award winning Urban Visuals has integrated architecture, lighting and visual media to produce the precise and colourful effect projected onto the face of the building.

Built in 1913, this beautiful historic building at 1152 Mainland originally served as a warehouse and office space. Goods were shipped from the east on

the Canadian Pacific Railway and were processed, repacked and stored here before being shipped again.

This building's exterior was also featured in the TV series *Stargate SG1* where the apartment of one of the main characters, Daniel Jackson, was located. It now houses various businesses.

Don Richardson

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