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on immigrants
and dreams
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Verbatim

My sense of belonging

by SOPHIA KIM

As much as I belong everywhere, I don't belong anywhere. I've lost my footing on my origin and now I float in a giant limbo. Is this a common phenomenon in Canada, the giant melting pot of cultures? It is often the easiest thing to do: to lose sight of your motherland and convince yourself that you belong everywhere. It is almost an inevitable characteristic of all living organisms. We change to adapt and we evolve.

I vividly recall coming home crying with a black eye, after a girl punched me in the eye during math class at the back of the classroom in grade two. The teacher never noticed. Maybe I didn't cry loud enough. Or maybe the teacher was turning a blind eye. There was much violence that was passed from teacher to student and from student to student. Fortunately, I was never on my teacher's blacklist of troublemakers nor was I the worst in academics, so the old hag's wooden ruler never came down on me. However, many Korean teachers are ruler-happy – they believe



Photo by Marcello Bona, Flickr

▲ Korean school girls.

the ruler to be the answer to all, whether it be deteriorating grades, bad work habits or cheekiness. Though other children always snickered when a classmate was receiving a whopping, I never

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Celebrating 4/20: Issues and Ideas

by BRENDAN MUNRO

April 20th marks another yearly celebration of marijuana culture in Vancouver and across the world, and as such it creates an opportune moment to examine the complex relationship that our communities have with this little green plant.

While there is some speculation about the specific origin of the term 4/20, it has evolved over time to become both the quasi-official time of the day best suited for recreational cannabis use as well as a synonym for the mar-

ijuana culture in general. April 20th (4/20) thus became an important day within this culture; a day to promote the decriminal-

ization of the drug, to advocate for its use as a medical therapy, or simply to get high with friends. Since 1995, thousands of supporters have gathered on this date in downtown Vancouver, with

crowds swelling to above 10,000 participants in recent years. A similar contingent is expected once again this year.

verites show towards this culture, despite the fact that their focal point is a substance that remains illegal under the Con-

“ We sold pot seeds by the millions around the world, but we used the money to fight prohibition.

Greg Williams, co-defendant of Marc Emery

Despite the rampant marijuana use at this event, local police have taken the approach of guarded tolerance towards it, which seems to be in step with the attitude that many Vancou-

controlled Drugs and Substances Act. Constable Lindsey Houghton of the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) elaborated on the de-

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Also in this issue



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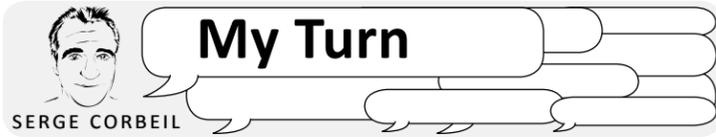
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My Turn

SERGE CORBEIL

Boxing – a detour to leadership?

Ottawa's top dogs have recently been captivated by a politically inclined sports event. You will no doubt have guessed that I am referring to the boxing match between the conservative senator Patrick Brazeau and liberal MP Justin Trudeau.

True enough, the boxing match between the two pseudo pugilists had all it needed to impress the media gallery in Ottawa. After all, what better, on an otherwise boring Saturday night, than to see two politicians come to blows? Especially when one protagonist is a Conservative senator whose attributes recall the typical street kid, and the other is the son of Pierre Elliott Trudeau himself, playing the part of the handsome son, embodying every mother's dream.

Even if the occasion was really about an unusual type of fundraising event for cancer research, each opponent having himself witnessed family members stricken by the terrible disease, the politicians chose to see in it a different narrative. With a politician named Trudeau in the ring, it took next to nothing for the old elitist guard devoted to the Liberal party to start dreaming again, since they see Canada's future Prime Minister in him.

His victory has indeed revived hopes that he will conquer the voters when the Liberal's race to the leadership finally starts. It seems quite extraordinary that a charity boxing match should be perceived as the ideal platform from which to win over a party's leadership.

Is that what we have come to, in politics? Three rounds in the ring as the ultimate test of a leader's character? Really! Just call me a skeptic. It is sad to see how many party followers still live so profoundly in the past. As if the very name of their spiritual leader was enough to lead them back to power's Promised Land.

In fact, Justin Trudeau is not to be judged by his boxing qualities, but rather on his intellectual journey since his arrival on the political scene. And, we must admit, his performance in this regard has not been especially shining. Nonetheless, the nostalgia evoked by the epoch of his father's glory days has an overreaching influence on some.

In fact, speaking about Justin's father, the former Prime Minister's name was in the news as recently as last week, courtesy of Fidel Castro. In one of his celebrated diatribes, the former Cuban president had nothing but praise for the former Canadian leader, and compared him to the present leader.

Spencie's View



We can only surmise that it didn't sadden Stephen Harper. I am quite sure that the Prime Minister prefers to leave this kind of praise to others, since the dictator took power forcibly, spending all of his energy oppressing his people and jailing dissenters. And that is not counting all the

people who disappeared forever.

Meanwhile, our two antagonists could easily meet for a match. Maybe early on the morning of the leadership race. And what a marvelous platform that would be. ✍

Translation Monique Kroeger

► "4/20" from page 1

partment's stance regarding the 4/20 rally. "The VPD polices approximately 200 demonstrations throughout the year and we have no concerns as long as they are peaceful. While in this case we know people will be in possession of illegal drugs, it will not be our first priority to intervene in this event. The VPD's priority as part

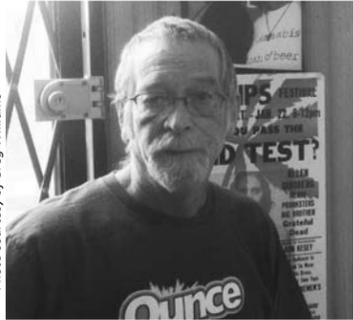


Photo courtesy of Greg Williams.

of our drug strategy is to focus on those trafficking controlled substances, not those in possession of minor amounts of marijuana."

Someone who knows all too well about being the focus of drug law enforcement is Greg Williams. The target of a 2005 DEA raid against his employer, Emery Seeds, which sold marijuana seeds via mail order, Williams spent half a decade fighting drug trafficking charges that could have carried a sentence of more than 30 years in jail. Williams' former employer, Marc Emery, is currently serving a five year jail sentence in the United States, while Williams served two years of probation.

As he sits at his desk in the upstairs office at the BC Marijuana Party headquarters on Hastings Street, with a cloud of pungent green smoke wafting from both his lips and the burning embers of a freshly lit joint, Williams explains why he believes Marc Emery, co-accused Michelle Rainey

and himself were singled out by Canadian and American law enforcement. "We sold pot seeds by the millions around the world, but we used the money to fight prohibition," he said. "We collected and distributed about four million dollars over eleven years, and used it to finance many of the medicinal marijuana initiatives in the United States." Williams added that the company financially supported court cases, ballot initiatives and other pro-marijuana organizations globally. "The DEA made a statement the day that they raided us, saying they had toppled the 'main marijuana activists group' and they seemed less concerned about us breaking laws as they were about us advancing the notion that prohibition should end."

Williams purposefully uses the word prohibition frequently, framing the recreational use of marijuana in the same context as the consumption of alcohol during that substance's prohibition period. He dedicates his time and energy to fighting for the widespread acceptance of cannabis in our society, and while his calls to end the marijuana prohibition seem improbable, he sees one avenue where progress has been made: its legal acceptance as a medical therapy. "We were fairly responsible for that," he said. "The people who started the very first compassion club in Vancouver came out of this organization, as have others who started their own organizations."

While it is understandably difficult to separate marijuana use from stoner or hippie culture and the negative societal labels that often go with it, some in the legal medical marijuana dispensary business are working hard to put distance between the two in terms of public perception. Jay (who declined to give his last name) is the manager at Westcoast Medicann Dispensary on West Broadway. The clinic-like facility, which has the same look and feel as any conventional medical or naturopath's office, is operated by a non-profit group

whose goal is to help bring relief to people suffering from a wide variety of ailments. As long as they have received a Health Canada marijuana license, patients there are able to fill doctors prescriptions for medical marijuana.

"That whole stoner culture, I'm not really into it," said Jay. "Most people don't realize they're setting it back by going downtown, making a huge fuss and blowing smoke in everyone's faces. It sends the wrong message to people in government and the police that people who smoke weed are just like 'this'. If people who actually used the product for health reasons showed up, it would be a completely different story."

Jay characterizes many of his roughly 1000 customers, who suffer from conditions ranging from glaucoma to terminal cancer, as regular people, professionals, seniors and other average people from our community. While they do not want to be branded with the same derisive labels often placed on marijuana users, they have gained much sought after medical benefits such as pain and nausea reduction by using marijuana.

Jay feels that going through official government and medical channels to get the drug into people's hands will create a much greater chance of earning cannabis acceptance in society.

"I'm going to be unpopular for saying this, but I think Mark Emery has set things back a little bit too," he said. "I think he was flaunting it so badly. It's better to run under the radar, help some people, do your thing, make sure you're doing things above water. That's what's going to get this legalized, not having big rallies, making a ton of money off it and that whole thing. It kind of irks me. I've seen it for so many years and that's never going to get this legalized as a medicine. It makes people angry, makes people think poorly of marijuana and gives it a stigma, and that stigma has to be lifted because it's not just going to go away." ✍

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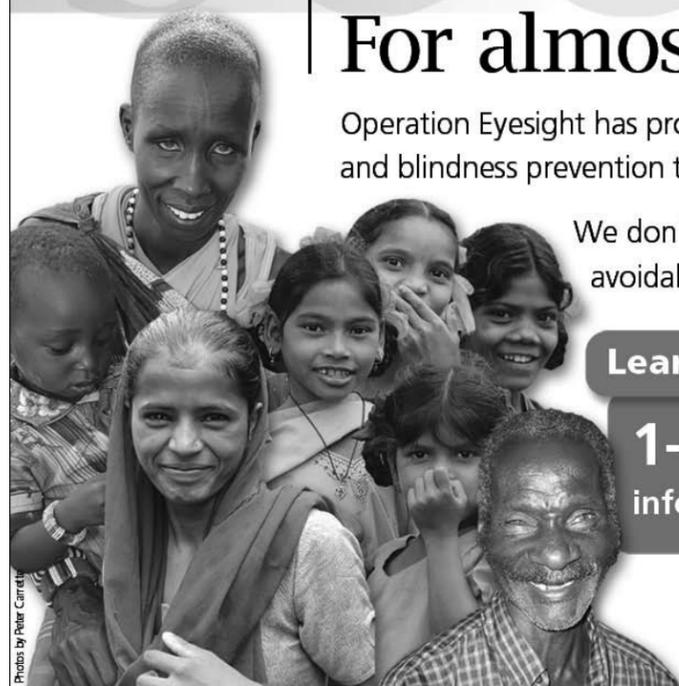
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Mailing Address

Denman Place PO Box 47020,
Vancouver BC V6G 3E1

Office

204-825 Granville St., Vancouver BC

Telephone (604) 682-5545

Email info@thelastsource.com

www.thelastsource.com

Founding Publisher Mamadou Gangué

Associate Publisher Saeed Dyanatkar

Managing Editor Samuel Ramos

Editor (English) Mike Lee

Editor (French) Nalla Faye

Copy Editors (English)

Kevin Drager, Saira Hayre, Kate Kovaleva,

Shalini Nayar, Anne Nelson

Copy Editors (French)

Anne Laure Paulmont, Jeanne Semichon

Office Assistant Kevin Paré

Website and Social Media Enej Bajgoric,

Eric Chu, Laurence Gatinel, Marjo Pekonen,

Ernest Salvat

Art Director Laura R. Copes

Graphic Designer Helen Luk

Photographers Denis Bouvier

Illustrators Joseph Laquerre, Rana Nikkholgh,

Gordon Spence

Writers Serge Corbeil, Guillaume Debaene,

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Derrick O'Keefe, Brendan Munro, Marjo

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Nathalie Tarkowska, Phoebe Yu, Robert

Zajtmann

Translation Monique Kroeger, Nathalie Tarkowska

Circulation Denis Bouvier, Sepand Dyanatkar,

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Holocaust remembered locally

by SAMUEL RAMOS

You can only run so far before you're forced to confront your past. But Alex Buckman, 72, isn't running away from anything. As a Holocaust survivor he came to terms with his past years ago, and now runs for sport, but also to cope with the atrocities of the Nazis during and after WWII.

"The bitterness has never left me," says Buckman, "but when things got really troubling, I would run. I don't run marathons anymore at my age ... I would if I could, but now I run with my grandson."

As a toddler when the Germans invaded Belgium in 1941, Buckman's father, Issac, feared for his son's life and went to many lengths to keep him safe. His father paid a woman who helped place Buckman with Belgian families who risked their own safety by harbouring Buckman in their homes. For two years Buckman went from family to family trying to keep one step ahead of the Nazis.

"Belgian families were not allowed to help Jewish people," says Buckman. "If they were to be caught doing this, they would be sent to a concentration camp for helping, so I [lived with] more than a dozen families. I have pictures of them but I have no memories of them."

When Buckman was around the age of four his father was no longer able to pay the Belgian woman to keep him safe, so Buckman says she denounced his entire family to the Nazis. Buckman was placed in an orphanage where he, alongside his cousin Annie – who, for safety reasons,

was told she was his sister – lived until the age of seven.

"I accepted the fact that I was in an orphanage," says Buckman. "I was not unique and I was like everyone ... the bitterness came after. During the war there was no bitterness because I didn't know what was happening. And it was only after that I found what happened and the way that they were murdered that it affected me."

Buckman was told that the Gestapo knocked on his parents' door and took them, and Annie's parents, to be put into concentration camps. After months of waiting and eventually being put into concentration camps, only Annie's parents survived.

With the war now over, his aunt and uncle in recovery, and his name having been posted amongst a list of many other child survivors, Buckman, now

an orphan, started the long process of piecing his life together.

"I was immediately being told about the murders of my parents" says Buckman "... I didn't know who I was and I was asking all

"The bitterness has never left me, but when things got really troubling, I would run. I don't run marathons anymore at my age ... I would if I could, but now I run with my grandson."

Alex Buckman, Holocaust survivor

kinds of questions because my parents were dead and now, who am I if not my sister's brother? It took time for me to find out my identity. And who my mother was and father was."

In 1951 Buckman, Annie, his aunt and uncle came to Canada where he continued to cope and put his life together. Almost 25 years ago he decided to join a

group of Holocaust survivors. In Vancouver alone he says there are 80–90 survivors, but of them only 30 come to the group to share in their experiences and connect in different ways.

"When you have something that eats up at you all the time, it's better to talk to someone about it," says Buckman. "We may love of our wives and husbands, but we cannot talk about it. We do a little bit, but not really. When we are together and we are able to open up unlike anybody else. When we speak, we do not have to explain too much there is an

immediate understanding. And we are exactly like the other."

Outside of his survivors group, Buckman finds solace and comfort through his wife, son and in particular his three grandchild-

dren. He says they're a whole other world.

"Seeing your grandchildren grow up is totally different from children," says Buckman, "because when [my son] was growing up it was time for us to be busy with work and getting our lives together. After, when we had our grandchildren and we retired we spent so much valuable time with our grandchildren. With them it is different. We are making up for time now."

For the third time, Buckman took part in this year's Sun Run with his oldest grandson Alexander, 16, who, as expected, outran him.

"I love the idea to be able to run side by side with my grandson," says Buckman. "At the very end I tell him 'you go and run faster than me and wait for me in the end.' I let him get excited about seeing his name before with an earlier time, and it doesn't bother me at all."

Alex Buckman will be speaking at this year's Holocaust commemorative evening on April 18 as part of Yom Hashoah. For more information visit www.vhec.org.



▲ Alex Buckman with grandsons Jaime and Alexander after the Sun Run in 2010.

Photo courtesy of Alex Buckman

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found the heart to laugh along. Instead, I winced every time the stick made contact with the ruddy skin of the unfortunate victim's little palms.

I was considered privileged due to the fact that my parents are not advocates of violence and that I was born into a fairly well off family. My happiest memories of Korea were never with friends because I didn't have many. Family was the entire world to me. When I left Korea for good, I wasn't very sad since I didn't get the feeling I was leaving much behind. Yes, my beloved grandma and dad, but no more, no less. I was enraptured by the prospects of venturing into the unknown. All I knew was that it couldn't be any worse than Korea.

The dive into Canada's foreign culture wasn't challenging. I embraced its ambience, its people and its diversity. There was no splash of culture shock. My English was already in fair shape and Vancouverites are so calm – a little cold and distant per se, but nonetheless sociable. The weather was a little depressing, but was no worse than the forest of bleak skyscrapers back in Korea. However, I've come to love the rain, the icy winter and Vancouver's chilly autumns. I find the gentle tapping of rain on my roof inspiring, the blanket of snow cozy, and the bare tree branches poetic. The grim seasons of Vancouver bring the best out in my musings, my writings and my reflections. Of course, I can't forget about summer, the best time of the year in Vancouver.

Though with all its lovely seasons, Vancouver is the loneliest

place to be during holidays for those without families. Friends are no longer consolations during Christmas because they are all off with their own families, sitting around the stereotypical scenery: the stockings are stuffed full, the fireplace is roaring, a cat or dog is curled up in front of the hearth and generations of family members are sitting around a dining table ladled with cookies, pies, pudding and turkey. Meanwhile, you would most likely find me sitting in front of my desktop, thinking up melancholic, poetic things to write or paint about, or hear me singing crestfallen lyrics to the doleful diminished seventh chords I stamp out on the piano. Maybe I would take my mum and sister out for some "holly jolly" dinner at a restaurant. Perhaps, I'd be helping out my mum clear the snow-packed driveway and wipe the frost off our car windshields – anything but holly jolly. On such days, I dearly miss my dad and I try to liven up the house by putting on some Michael Bublé, writing overdue Christmas cards and baking cookies for teachers and friends to spread the holiday spirit.

As great as Vancouver is, with all my newfound friends, its picturesque scenes of nature and magical weather, I never feel completely at home. Sometimes, I manage to convince myself that I belong here, in Canada. Yet deep inside I know that I don't genuinely belong in Vancouver because all my roots are back in my home country. Regardless, I cannot bear the ridiculous idea of belonging to Korea either. So the question is: where do I truly belong?



Left Bank



There will be protest: Big Oil sets its sights on BC

Two years ago this month, a massive oil spill at a deep sea BP operation shocked the world. Workers were killed, and the environment and coastal communities around the Gulf of Mexico were devastated.

Despite the BP spill anniversary, the Texas-based oil and pipeline corporate giant Kinder

the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline proposal.

Of course, the truth is that the billionaires and the 'foreign' interests are the ones pushing for these pipelines to be built. With both the Enbridge and Kinder Morgan projects, huge foreign oil companies – from China, the United States and beyond – are

“Aside from the foreign interests, there are big domestic interests behind these pipelines – the Big Oil companies at the heart of Stephen Harper's agenda.

Morgan chose this month to announce their plans for a massive expansion of their pipeline and oil tanker traffic in Burrard Inlet. Kinder Morgan wants to nearly

investing the billions of dollars needed to build the projects.

Kinder Morgan, for its part, was founded by two former executives of the notorious Enron



Photo by eych-you-bee-ee-ahr-tee, Flickr

▲ Earth Day 2011 in Vancouver.

triple the capacity of their pipeline which brings tar sands crude oil from Alberta to terminal in Burnaby.

Like the more well known Enbridge proposal in northern British Columbia, Kinder Morgan's plan is all about exports. Slated for completion in 2017 if approved, the project would mean up to 360 oil tankers a year filling up in Burnaby and navigating out the first and second narrows of the Inlet. That would mean basically one giant oil tanker a day in Vancouver's harbour.

The BP oil spill should have been a wake up call about our society's addiction to oil. And yet, here in Canada, our governments seem determined to slumber ahead, expanding the tar sands and making fossil fuel exports a key goal of diplomacy and trade policy.

The Harper government has made no secret of prioritizing the tar sands pipelines across BC – regardless of local opposition. Natural Resources minister Joe Oliver went so far as to blame foreign “billionaire socialists” for the widespread opposition to

corporation. Founder and CEO Richard Kinder is a billionaire, well known for raising money for the likes of George W. Bush and Rick Perry.

Aside from the foreign inter-

ests, there are big domestic interests behind these pipelines – the Big Oil companies at the heart of Stephen Harper's agenda.

In BC politics, the Kinder Morgan proposal may particularly contribute to the divisions in the right-wing between Christy Clark's BC Liberals and the upstart BC Conservatives. Clark has made shipping raw materials to China and other Asian markets a priority, so she would be very unlikely to raise any objections to the pipeline. But Kinder Morgan is already meeting opposition in the traditional conservative stronghold of the Fraser Valley, where many communities will be directly impacted by any pipeline expansion. Already anger is simmering in Abbotsford, where there was an oil spill at the Kinder Morgan tanker pipeline earlier this year.

No doubt Kinder Morgan is confident that despite this they will be able to plough ahead. They have the wind of major investors and supportive governments at their sails.

I'm sure Kinder Morgan didn't think about the BP anniversary when announcing their big plans. But the oil spill anniversary is not the only piece of bad timing for Kinder Morgan. This Sunday, April 22 is Earth Day.

In Vancouver, a group of high school students called Youth For Climate Justice Now (Y4CJN) is organizing a big Earth Day rally and walk down Commercial Drive. And their main theme is opposition to tar sands, tankers and pipelines like those proposed by Enbridge and Kinder Morgan.

And Earth Day will be just the beginning. Already, the mayors of both Burnaby and Vancouver have come out firing against Kinder Morgan's pipeline and tankers plan.

Last year, a couple thousand people joined the Earth Day action organized by Y4CJN. Given the timing, I think this year's crowd might be even bigger. ☞

You can join the crowd this Sunday, April 22, beginning at 11am at the Commercial Skytrain Station.

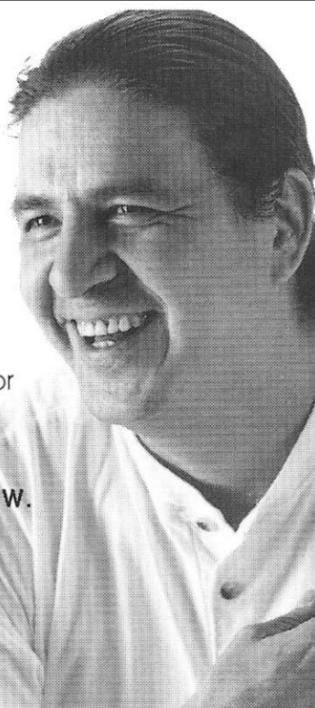
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Film festival offers insights into different cultures and media literacy

by MARJO PEKONEN

The Reel 2 Real International Film Festival for Youth runs at Vancity theatre until April 20. This year's festival goes from country to country in order to give audiences images not usually seen in Vancouver.

"Movies are the best way to teach children what the living is [like] in different countries and cultures," says Venay Felton, the director of the Reel 2 Real festival. She says movies make it easy to give insights into different communities, parts and cul-

essential analytical and critical thinking skills, but they are only a tool and in order to be a quality educational tool, they should always be followed by some form of analysis and discussion," says Gist. "With proper guidance, quality films can teach children numerous things including story telling, fact versus fiction, their feelings about society, and the world at large."

Movies selected in this year's festival bring important issues to the forefront such as class differences and finding your own identity.



Photo courtesy of Reel 2 Real

▲ High school students in New Denver, BC, film *Never Again*, a documentary about the local Japanese-Canadian internment camp.

tures either in Canada or abroad.

Alex Gist, manager of youth education programs at the YWCA Metro Vancouver agrees that films and documentaries are useful tools in teaching. However, he emphasizes the importance of analysis and discussion after the movies.

"Films and documentaries are useful tools in teaching children

"[These] movies deal with the same issues kids do. At some point all children [face] issues of who they are and where they fit," says Felton.

Gist agrees with Felton that the media can reflect what children are experiencing in life. Yet, he often worries that youth are spending more time interacting with the media than they are

with real life and he feels that more needs to be done in order to prepare youth and educate them in their consumption of video games, music and movies.

"Media literacy has never been more relevant than it is today," says Gist. "Far too much time is being spent by our youth in front of screens. They [youth] need to develop the skills to properly decipher the media and know exactly what it is that they are consuming – to understand the complex messages and images that are shown and become aware of the messages that advertisers and/or media producers are conveying," he adds.

"Ultimately, they need help learning how to critically think for themselves about all the media they consume."

According to Felton, the best way to teach critical thinking towards movies and television shows is to give the kids a camera and let them make their own movies.

Gist, on the other hand, says that children should not be left entirely alone in their consumption and creation of media. He expects parents to take part in teaching media literacy to their children.

"Parents should watch television, movies, and internet clips with their children and engage them in an open and honest discussion about what they are watching," he says. ✍

The Reel 2 Real International Festival for Youth runs from April 13–20. For more information, visit: www.r2rfestival.org



Photo courtesy of Kim Okran

▲ Kim Okran publishes autobiography.

Of Immigrants and Dreams

by ERIC HO

Vancouver business woman Kim Okran runs 20 International Student Centres. Her early years in Canada puts a human face to the obstacles some immigrants face upon arriving in Canada.

According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), new immigrants are categorized into three groups: permanent residents, temporary foreign workers, and temporary foreign students. As of December 2011, these three groups totaled 787,902, of which permanent residents comprised 32%, temporary foreign workers 38%, and temporary foreign students 30%. British Columbia generally trails Ontario as the province with the second highest percentage of new immigrants to Canada. At the end of 2011, BC was home to 14% of all permanent residents, 23% of all temporary foreign workers, and 28% of all temporary foreign students.

Originally from Busan, Korea, Kim was raised by a single mother who sold fish to support a family of seven children. Having lost a teaching job in her 20s due to illness, and perceiving few prospects in Korea, Kim decided to move to Canada. With the encouragement of friends and a personal desire to travel, she came to Canada in 1991. Her short stay turned into a long and difficult journey of integration.

"My earliest years in Alberta were the most depressing," says Kim. "I had little money, no friends, and only one chance to get a TOEFL [an English test] score of 600 in order to be admitted into a university program and get a student visa. And I had to do this in three months."

CIC says that four years is the key period in which new immigrants integrate into Canadian society. During this period, immigrants engage in four "integrative activities": finding employment, accessing education and training, accessing health care services, and finding housing. In general, any problems that immigrants have in these activities decline with time. However, three obstacles: language barriers, difficulties in accessing information and services, and financial constraint have been identified as problems that persisted beyond the key four-year period. Of these, financial constraint is the most prevalent and persistent. Problems that Kim herself faced and overcame with time.

Kim's friend, Ibrahim Khamis, also has a story that echoes that of Kim. A refugee from Sudan, he came to Canada in 2007 when he was 29 years old. Back in Sudan, Ibrahim worked in a computer shop repairing computers, which was his passion. But political instability caused the closure of his business and he decided to leave Sudan.

He was lucky to have a cousin who sponsored him to come to Canada. But like Kim, he also cited language barrier and money being the obstacles he encountered in his early years in Canada.

"When I first came to Canada," says Khamis, "I had to go to school for ESL classes and work three different jobs, all the while sending money back home to support my family."

Khamis' passion for digital media gave him a sense of purpose and helped him stay focused. He completed his ESL studies and is now studying graphic design at the Art Institute of Vancouver.

Kim and Ibrahim's stories, like those of countless other Canadian immigrants, are the stories of self-sacrifice and perseverance.

"Money is still a problem today," he admits, "but at least I feel optimistic about the future." ✍

Feeling unable to handle the pressures of studying and wanting to integrate into Canadian life, Kim decided to put her studies on hold. She took up a series of low-paying jobs such as working in coffee shops, cleaning, and care-giving – all with the hopes of getting a work visa instead. The process of getting a visa, which is required for staying in Canada and getting permanent residency in the long run, was a slow bureaucratic nightmare. This, along with persistent financial hardships, put her on an emotional rollercoaster and took a toll on her health as she skipped meals and became sleep-deprived.

But a strong determination to succeed and a talent in building a social network helped her overcome her challenges. As she became more accustomed to life in Canada, Kim began volunteering to help other new Korean immigrants get settled in their new country. She was so dedicated to providing information and advice, and offering all forms of assistance to international Korean students that her name began to spread in the Korean community. She started her own business, an International Student Centre (ISC), in 1997.

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"Money is still a problem today," he admits, "but at least I feel optimistic about the future." ✍

To learn more about Kim Okran and her self-published autobiography, contact her at kimokran@shaw.ca.

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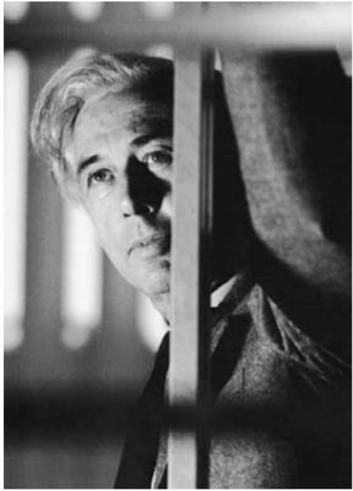
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'Cinema Québécois' leading the wave

by ERIC HO

Playing at Pacific Cinematheque through the month of April is a Robert Bresson retrospective. Bresson was a French director whose works influenced the French New Wave and contemporary directors, as well as cinema closer to home, in Quebec.

"France has played such a vital role in the evolution of cinema since its very inception, that to map out its influence on film in Canada in any kind of comprehensive way is difficult," says



▲ Robert Bresson.

Peter Lester, a post-doctoral teaching fellow with UBC's Film Studies program. "As far as English Canadian cinema, the direct influence is perhaps a little less easily traceable ... but generally speaking, the French influence is typically more pronounced within the context of Quebecois cinema."

David Hauka, a film professor at Capilano University agrees.

"The influence of France is so deeply engrained in Canadian cinema and culture, that it is genetic," he says. "Unlike other English-dominant nations, Canada has been engaged in French history and culture so much so that it is part of the nation's collective unconscious. From Jutra to Falardeau, the bar has been set in Canada for Canadian stories, not by American filmmakers, but by Quebec filmmakers."

Given the historical and linguistic connections between Quebec and France, the cultural influence France has on Quebec cinema is not surprising.

"Since at least the 1950s and 60s there has been a rather close crossover between the cinema of France and that of Quebec," says Lester. "Two titans of Quebec cinema – Claude Jutra and Michel Brault – were famously associated with the origins of two of the post-war period's most influential cinematic developments: The French New Wave and the documentary tradition that has become known as *cinéma vérité*."

Lester explains that the influence of the French New Wave on Quebecois cinema and the subsequent success of Quebecois films *The Decline of the American Empire* and *Mon Oncle Antoine* in France show that it is not just simply French cinema influencing Canadian cinema, but that the two have a "symbiotic" relationship. But he cautions that the direction of Quebecois cinema has changed in recent years.

"This recent crop of films has demonstrated quite a pro-

nounced interest in the international, global community with narratives, characters and influences reaching well beyond the geographic and cultural confines of Quebec and Canada," says

more location-oriented and "an antithesis to the kind of influence French cinema has on Canadian film."

The status of Vancouver as a service industry to Hollywood

cinema then serves as a good antidote to Hollywood's influence and a model to English Canadian cinema on forging its own distinct identity.

"Quebecois cinema expresses

“ Unlike other English-dominant nations, Canada has been engaged in French history and culture so much so that it is part of the nation's collective unconscious.

David Hauka, film professor, Capilano University

Lester. "This would include the Middle East, Africa and certainly France. Much of *Café de Flore*, for instance, occurs in France and stars Vanessa Paradis. *Monsieur Lazar* of course stars the Algerian-French performer Fellag."

Ernest Mathijs, a professor with the UBC Film Studies program says that Vancouver, also known as "Hollywood North," is

only underscores the weak and malleable identity of Canadian cinema. Naming some famous film directors from English Canada can be a bit difficult and the like of David Cronenberg, Atom Egoyan, and Guy Maddin come to mind. But even then, Cronenberg may be the only one who is well-known in mainstream cinema.

The maturation of Quebecois

the dynamic that is Canada. It expresses the need for identity and history at the same time as it is being redefined by history. This is why Quebecois cinema is so relevant and successful," explains Hauka. ✎

For more information, please visit: www.cinematheque.bc.ca/robert-bresson



▲ A selection of Bresson's films: *A Man Escaped* (left), *Four Nights of a Dreamer* (top right), and *Mouchette* (bottom right).



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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.





Experience a bit of French culture at the *Marché français*.
Meet vendors of hard-to-find French resources,
French-themed items & décor.

Wednesday, April 25, 2012
École Herbert Spencer School Gym
605 Second Street, New Westminster
1:45 pm – 7:30 pm

Enjoy French music, delicious crêpes, tourtière pies,
maple treats & more!

- ✿ Children's activities & crafts
- ✿ Raffle & Café
- ✿ All vendors accept cash & cheques.
Only some accept charge cards.
- ✿ Free Admission. Everyone is welcome! À bientôt!

Hosted by Canadian Parents for French - New Westminster Chapter
Supported by SD40 Info: 604-525-2631

Contribution

Canada's electoral boundaries are set to change

Canada's electoral map is going to change.

Every 10 years, Canada's electoral boundaries are reviewed and redrawn to account for movement and growth in the population. That time has come.

Ten independent commissions have been established to propose new electoral boundaries to better reflect population shifts and growth in each of the 10 provinces. As Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon each constitute one electoral district, their boundaries will not be reviewed.

The Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for British Columbia is dedicated to ensuring that the new electoral boundaries are fair to the people of the province. The Commission will draft a proposal of the new boundaries while taking into consideration various factors, such as population figures, communities of identity or interest, historical patterns, and geographical factors.

Your electoral district, which is where you live and vote for your member of Parliament, may be altered as a result of the redistribution process.

After the Commission has drafted its proposal, the new electoral map is published and members of the public are invited to comment and make their own suggestions. Public hearings are held, and everyone is invited to attend and provide input.

After the views from the public are considered, the Commission will submit a report to the House of Commons, where members of Parliament will provide feedback that will then be reviewed by a parliamentary committee.

The Commission will consider the feedback from members of Parliament and decide whether to make any final changes to its report, which is then submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada for preparation of a document called a "representation order." This final step allows the new electoral map of Canada to be officially implemented.

The new map will be used at the first general election called

List of Existing Federal Electoral Districts in British Columbia

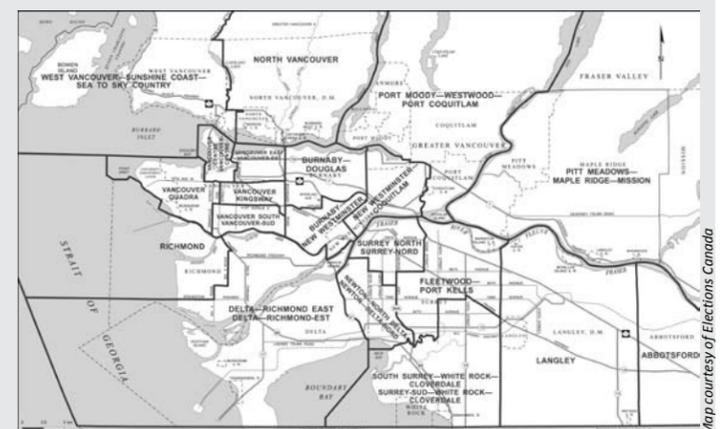
- Abbotsford
- British Columbia Southern Interior
- Burnaby–Douglas
- Burnaby–New Westminster
- Cariboo–Prince George
- Chilliwack–Fraser Canyon
- Delta–Richmond East
- Esquimalt–Juan de Fuca
- Fleetwood–Port Kells
- Kamloops–Thompson–Cariboo
- Kelowna–Lake Country
- Kootenay–Columbia
- Langley
- Nanaimo–Alberni
- Nanaimo–Cowichan
- Newton–North Delta
- New Westminster–Coquitlam
- North Vancouver
- Okanagan–Coquihalla
- Okanagan–Shuswap
- Pitt Meadows–Maple Ridge–Mission
- Port Moody–Westwood–Port Coquitlam
- Prince George–Peace River
- Richmond
- Saanich–Gulf Islands
- Skeena–Bulkley Valley
- South Surrey–White Rock–Cloverdale
- Surrey North
- Vancouver Centre
- Vancouver East
- Vancouver Island North
- Vancouver Kingsway
- Vancouver Quadra
- Vancouver South
- Victoria
- West Vancouver–Sunshine Coast–Sea to Sky Country

at least seven months after the representation order becomes law – likely the 2015 general election.

If you'd like to provide your comments to the members of the British Columbia Commission while they are developing their initial proposal, you are invited to contact them by e-mail (bc-cb@rfed-rcf.ca) or mail by April 20, 2012.

To learn more about the redistribution of British Columbia's federal electoral districts, visit www.federal-redistribution.ca.

Source: 2012 Redistribution, Federal Electoral Districts



▲ Vancouver's existing electoral boundaries.

Map courtesy of Elections Canada



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Cultural Calendar

April 17–May 1, 2012



Photo courtesy of Inti-Ililmani

▲ Chilean musicians Inti-Ililmani will perform April 24 at the Chan Centre.

by PHOEBE YU

You know nice, warmer days are here when outdoor parades start showing up, like the Earth Day Parade and Festival. Other notable events include: the Projecting Change Film Festival, The Touré – Raichel Collective and in remembrance of the 100th year anniversary of the sunken ocean liner – the News of the Titanic museum exhibit.

Projecting Change Film Festival
April 17–22
Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, SFU
149 W. Hastings St., Vancouver
604-737-1637
www.projectingchange.ca

The festival showcases films from around the globe with the aim of providing a forum for film

and dialogue about social and environmental issues. Aside from film screenings, there will also be speakers, 2 youth days, workshops and more. Tickets: adults \$12, students / seniors / children \$10, festival pass \$80.

Behind the Mirror: Stanley Kwok in Conversation with Trevor Boddy

Thursday, April 19, 7 p.m.
Museum of Vancouver
1100 Chestnut St., Vancouver
604-736-4431
www.museumofvancouver.ca

Architect and developer Stanley Kwok, together with architecture critic and curator Trevor Boddy, take you behind-the-scenes to the planning and development of False Creek North and the Dubai Marina. There is a reception af-

terwards, with a cash bar and light refreshments. Tickets \$15 adults, \$10 students and members.

Svengali

April 20–22
The Centre in Vancouver
for the Performing Arts
777 Homer St., Vancouver
604-602-0616
www.rwb.org

In a setting much like mid-century Weimar, a psychological drama unfolds through a ballet performance. The score features composers like Rachmaninov, Liszt, Richard Strauss, Phillip Glass and the Amsterdams Klezmer Band. Tickets from \$32.50.

Earth Day Parade and Festival

Sunday, April 22
11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Commercial Dr., Vancouver
youth4climate@gmail.com
www.earthdayparade.ca

This year's Earth Day celebrations will focus on global warming and social justice. The parade starts at 11 a.m., at Grandview Hwy. and Commercial Dr., near the skytrain station, and ends at Grandview Park, where a festival will be held. The festival will feature live music, a family tent, the queen of green student art competition, guest speakers and more. Open to the public.

Inti-Ililmani

Tuesday, April 24, 8 p.m.
The Chan Centre
6265 Crescent Rd., Vancouver

604-682-4515
www.intivancouver.com

The eight-member Chilean musical ensemble presents a night of Latin folk and world music. With a combination of Andean instruments and vocals, Inti-Ililmani provides a glimpse into Latin American culture. Tickets \$39.75–\$69.75.

Rutsuko Yamagishi and Chieko Konishi

Wednesday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.
Christ Church Cathedral
690 Burrard St., Vancouver
604-939-8707
www.rosecanada.info

An evening of classical music by pianist Rutsuko Yamagishi and flutist Chieko Konishi. All proceeds go to a health centre in the Iwate Prefecture of Japan, an area affected by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door for adults; \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door for students and children.

visi at the Silk Purse Vancouver International Song Institute

Thursday, April 26, 10:30 a.m.
West Vancouver
Community Arts Centre
1570 Argyle Ave., W. Vancouver
604-925-7292
www.silkpurse.ca

The Vancouver International Song Institute gives a sneak peak on their upcoming concert series as part of the 2012 Songfire Festival. The performers are soprano

Tracy Satterfield and pianist David Bergeron. Tickets \$15 adults, \$12 children and seniors.

The Touré – Raichel Collective

Monday, April 30, 8 p.m.
Norman & Annette
Rothstein Theatre
950 W. 41st Ave., Vancouver
604-684-2787
www.chutzpahfestival.com

Malian guitarist and Israeli pop star come together for a post-Chutzpah Festival performance. Idan Raichel is an Israeli pianist and composer who blends Yemenite chants, Biblical psalms, Ethiopian folk music, Arabic poetry and Caribbean rhythms in his music. Vleux Farka Touré is a Malian guitarist and songwriter who specializes in desert blues guitar. Tickets \$40.

News of the Titanic

Ongoing
Tuesday–Saturday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday: 12 p.m.–5 p.m.
Vancouver Maritime Museum
1905 Ogden Ave., Vancouver
604-257-8300
vancouvermaritimemuseum.com

With the sinking of the famous ocean liner's 100th anniversary this month, the Vancouver Maritime Museum currently has on exhibit various news clippings of the disaster in 1912. Collections of clippings from the newspaper of the day, The Vancouver World, show the Vancouver response to this historical event. Tickets: adults \$11, youth and seniors \$8.50, children under five are free.

Street Photography by Denis Bouvier

Our Crab, the Protector

The stainless steel fountain sculpture of a crab by George Norris is a frequently photographed Vancouver icon. Located just outside the entrance to the Museum of Vancouver and the H. R. MacMillan Space Centre, the fountain and buildings were constructed to celebrate Canada's 1967 Centennial.

The crab in First Nations legend guards the entrance to the harbour. It was also the zodiac sign for Canada's birthday in July. Oddly enough, the Crab Nebula was formed from a supernova which historical Chinese records show as first being visible on July 4, 1054. Both First Nations and the zodiac attribute qualities of protection to the crab.

Notice the building we see just under the crab's pincers. It's Parkview towers at 1450 Chestnut St., built in 1960 by Peter Kaffka. This 14-storey Y-shaped tower came into being as an extension of the growth of towers in the West End when

height restrictions there were lifted in 1956. An anomaly in a neighbourhood of family homes and low-rise buildings, local residents were outraged at the time. Its bulky exterior and olive green colour only added insult to injury.

But 52 years later, it's still the only residential tower in the area of Vanier Park which besides the buildings mentioned above contains the Observatory, City Archives, Vancouver School of Music, and the Maritime Museum, all in a beautifully landscaped setting.

Maybe we can thank the protective nature of the crab for preserving the Vanier Park area from no further mega residential development after the fountain was built. Perhaps it even influenced the change in colour of Parkview Towers which is currently taking place.

It might not be a bad idea if we had a few more crabs around select areas of the city!

Don Richardson



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