

dialogue

Canada's Independent Voices

Vol. 21, No. 3 Oct./Nov. 2007 \$5.00

Are We Round (ing) the Bend?

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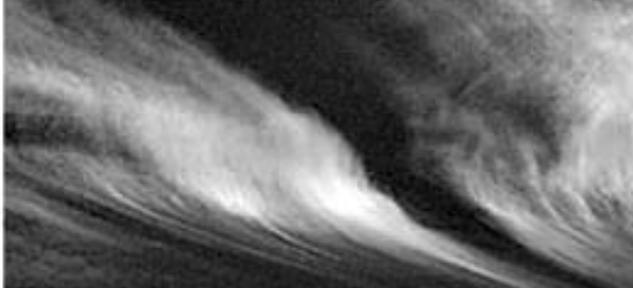
- health & disease
- "us" and "them"
- war & peace

Mother Nature teaches us that things are not always as they appear! This "Fire Rainbow" is as cold as ice! story, p.2



Has the world gone mad?
Are we turning a corner?
-to a better (or worse) future

In this Issue...



Fire Rainbow - National Geographic says this rare sight is known as a circumhorizontal arc, caught on film on June 3/06.

It is caused when the sun is very high, by light passing - as through a prism - wispy, high-altitude cirrus clouds with hexagonal ice crystals shaped with their faces parallel to the ground, causing the whole cloud to light up in a spectrum of colors. This arc spanned hundreds of miles over the Idaho-Washington border, and lasted for about an hour. Photograph: World Picture Network

BY NAOMI KLEIN

THE SHOCK DOCTRINE

THE RISE OF DISASTER CAPITALISM

CCPA recommends Naomi Klein's new book, p.14

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articles to enlighten, engage & (perhaps) enrage... but also entertain!

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Our Special Offer continues in October: You can purchase TWO 6-month gift subscriptions for the price of ONE - just \$15

Subscription Info - P.58

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A word from the publisher and editor...



Maurice, Janet & Penny

Dear Reader,

Janet's cover for this issue encourages us to think about where we are heading... Are we turning a corner, in the process of rediscovering our humanity and brotherhood that will help us create a better world? Or will we allow greed, fear and hatred to prevail, continuing the mad dash towards destruction that will see things getting even worse, before they get better? Many writers in this issue share their thoughts

on our future – with both dire warnings and healthy, soulful solutions.

Saying Goodbye to Kenneth McDonald & Jim Chambers

It was with deep regret that we learned of the passing of Kenneth McDonald at age 93 and Jim Chambers at age 84. Both men were great supporters of this publication and were regular contributors. Ken published six books about Canada's socio-economic condition, as well as his memoirs, "*A Wind on the Heath*." His last book was "*Alexis in Charterland*," that discusses the constitutional change imposed on Canada in 1982 by Pierre Trudeau. Jim's passion that he shared with us was promoting the health benefits of chelation therapy. Both men were born in the UK and had chosen Canada as their home. We thank and remember them both for their efforts to make their adopted country a better place to live.

2-for-1 Gift Subscription Special extended! **In October, you can still take advantage of the special promotion that lets you send TWO 6-month Gift Subscriptions for just \$15.00 (regularly \$15 ea). Can you help Dialogue grow?** A special thank you to the many readers who have made use of the "2-for-1" special to send gift subscriptions. Dot Fuhrman and Ernie Semple have been especially heroic in helping the magazine grow!

Mike Harvey's suggestion is for readers to pass on their copies of *Dialogue* to a doctor's office when they are finished with them – thereby introducing it new readers (and, hopefully, subscribers!).

New on our website: As another way to help support the publication of *Dialogue*, we have set up a link to **Amazon.ca** which allows readers to order books (at the regular Amazon price), while also providing a small commission to *Dialogue*. We have listed on our Amazon.ca "page" – at **www.dialogue.ca** – the books mentioned in this issue, in case you are interested in ordering them!

The website also now features a "pdf" extract of each issue. And if you are not yet receiving our monthly "e-mail newsletter" (prepared by Maurice), send an e-mail – to **maurice.king@dialogue.ca** – and we will add you to our e-newsletter list. [Please note: the e-mail address for submissions to the printed magazine is still: **dialogue@dialogue.ca**]

Thank you for your part in keeping our publication going! For without your support and your voice as an independent thinker, reader/writer (and subscriber!) – there would be no *Dialogue*! Your help in finding new readers is so vital – and very much appreciated. *Thank you!*

Maurice, volunteer publisher

Janet, volunteer editor

On mental ruts... "The path of least resistance and least trouble is a mental rut already made. It requires troublesome work to undertake the alternation of old beliefs. Self-conceit often regards it as a sign of weakness to admit that a belief to which we have once committed ourselves is wrong. We get so identified with an idea that it is literally a "pet" notion and we rise to its defense and stop our eyes and ears to anything different." – *John Dewey [1859-1952]*

dialogue is...

...an independent, not-for-profit Canadian magazine, written and supported by its readers - empowering their voices and the sharing of ideas.

Dialogue, for over 20 years, has been providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and an antidote to political correctness. We encourage readers to share with others – including our politicians – the ideas and issues gleaned from these pages.

If this is your first issue, please let us know what you think of it. If you would like to share your ideas and become a writer in

dialogue magazine

consider this your invitation!

We also need your support as a subscriber, to help us continue

(See P. 58 for details)

Dialogue was founded in 1987 and is published six times a year.

Maurice J. King, President-Publisher
Janet K. Hicks, Volunteer Editor

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From Near & Far

ARTIC: Let us speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves

Gunther Ostermann, Kelowna BC

The race is on, to claim and exploit the Earth's treasures, by many nations in the northern hemisphere, May I suggest a resolution by ALL nations, ON BEHALF of future generation, who cannot speak for themselves, to declare the whole region beyond the 85th latitude a legacy, off limits to all gas, oil and mineral exploitation. Leave it unmarred, except for the hole J made by the Russian flag on the North Pole. Any dig could create a frenzy that might be unstoppable with dire consequences.

Planet Earth will still be around for millions of years; what gives us the right to chop down and dig out, whatever there is left, to chop and dig, in the course of a century? And that includes species extinction through habitat loss, for the same reason.

Let us explore the why and how of life and nature instead, rationally, of which we know next to nothing. We simply cannot carry on as usual, as our wasteful and destructive ways are diminishing the lives for our progeny!

Let us speak ON BEHALF of those who cannot speak for themselves, and that includes those who are living now. ♣

Re: CIA Secrets Revealed

Kenneth T. Tellis, Mississauga ON

After I read the article in the New York Times (Aug. 27 07), I was convinced that there is no real difference between the Soviet KGB and the CIA. Both these entities were laws unto themselves and their power was outside the realm of justice. So, what in effect is the difference between the CIA and the KGB?

I guess, there are times when nutbars run countries and we all become their victims, or do we not? When we think of Kim Jong-Ill of North Korea being a little touched in the head, we should also take the time to study our own leaders. Perhaps in studying Kim, we might get an idea how to handle our own leaders. Thus, we could in effect make the world a much safer place to live in. ♣

Canada joining a US-led nuclear initiative?

"By Bruce Cheadle: SYDNEY, Australia (CP) - Canada will make a decision on joining a new U.S.-led nuclear initiative "within a matter of days," Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier said Thursday at a summit of pan-Pacific leaders. The Conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper is denying reports that it has been suppressing information about the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership after documents obtained by The Canadian Press showed negotiations between Canada and other governments have been ongoing for at least a year." [Recd. from Don Parker] ♣

Monsanto Goes GMO-Free in its UK Cafeteria! ***Speaks for itself, doesn't it?!***

Rec'd from Connie Fogal [conniefogal@telus.net]

UNITED KINGDOM. From now on, staff at the British headquarters of biotech giant Monsanto will be eating only non-genetically modified products on their lunch breaks. Foods containing genetically modified soy and corn are no longer available in the company cafeteria. Granada Food Services, which manages the canteen, is said to be concerned about health risks. Monsanto's press department contends the action was not the result of a boycott initiated by worried employees of the U.S. multinational. For more, see the "Millions Against Monsanto": www.organicconsumers.org ♣

Fight for our rights at home!

Leslie Mundy, Greenfield Park, Que.

I hear a lot of talk of war in Afghanistan? I never heard of any declaration of war ever being announced. When did this take place? Now, about supporting this so-called war, and the troops. Sure, I'll support the troops any day, but first I'd like to have them come and liberate me. I spent six years in the forties, fighting for everybody's rights - almost two of those years were spent in Sicily and Italy. Now, when I lose my rights in Quebec - and I did lose rights! - most of the people in the rest of Canada still have the rights that I fought for - but, believe me, I feel like a second class citizen living here in this undemocratic hellhole. Now tell me. Why should I support the troops fighting for democratic rights in Afghanistan. What about my democratic rights in Quebec? ♣

Morality of producing ethanol from food products

Gerry Masuda, Duncan BC

The era of biofuel production is significantly affecting global food production. Government subsidies for production of ethanol are diverting the growing of corn, wheat, and other grains from food to ethanol production.

This diversion of food is in the face of a growing global food crisis in grains. Lester Brown of Earth Policy Institute stated that the global grain production has not been able to meet annual needs in seven out of the last eight years.

Global grain reserves are rapidly running down. These global reserves have now shrunk to 53 days. A global disaster in starvation is pending.

This is another example of corporate power over government and the dominance of the corporate bottom line over all other values. Corporations use their political influence to get governments to provide generous subsidies for ethanol production, and both are blind to the impacts on human needs.

Corporate profits trump human lives - again. ♣

From Near & Far

Undoing of Canada begun by Mulroney in 1988

Art Bradford, Orillia ON

The Canadian Action Party was begun in 1997 by Paul Hellyer. He wanted the Canadian Government to use the Bank of Canada for its borrowing of money and also to stand up for Canadians against the control of big Canadian corporations and the American government. He desperately tried to develop a new Big Party and asked those at a federal NDP meeting in Winnipeg to join him. Only 40% agreed.

In 2004, Connie Fogal became our (CAP) leader and moved the head office to Vancouver. She and David Orchard were two of the six that fought for several years against the passing of any so-called Free Trade Agreement (signed by Mr. Mulroney in 1988) – Canada lost at least one quarter of its manufacturing industry in the following year. Did you know that an agreement was made by Canada with the U.S. in 2002 that has led to allowing armed Americans to cross our border? [...]

Connie Fogal asks, "Does anyone still believe that our federal leaders have not thrown away our sovereignty?" They are bent on destroying our constitutional and civil rights. She says that "our nations belong to us the people, and that no shadow government, no military, no treacherous politicians or officials are going to take them away from us." ♣

Worst Canadian but a great revolutionary

Peter Whitebone, Saint John NB

Like Charles Moore (*Telegraph-Journal* 09/08/07), I was gratified that Trudeau has been voted the worst Canadian ever in a poll conducted by The Beaver magazine! As an English-speaking Canadian who remembers and was proud of our British Judeo-Christian heritage and close connections to Great Britain and the USA, I was never conned by the media's portrayal of Trudeau as a demigod and always considered Trudeau as the most destructive anti democratic PM Canada has ever had (and God knows we have had some disastrous PMs).

However, I will give the devil his due! Trudeau, if not the greatest, certainly was one of the greatest non-religious revolutionaries that ever lived! Unlike Lenin, Mao Tse-Tung and other revolutionaries, Trudeau revolutionized his country without a war or civil war! Trudeau changed British Canada into new "New France" – not only without a shot being fired, but with the adulation of a population duped by him and the media that was more of a Fifth Column than a Fourth Estate! Trudeau changed Canada into a new "New France" without a whimper from the NDP and the Conservatives who sold out Canada for the Quebec vote! ♣

The place of minorities in the "Quebecois Nation"

AffiliationQuebec, Montreal QC

Now that nationalist, rural Quebec voters are tilting towards Canada's Conservative Party, in the wake of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's designation of the "Quebecois Nation", AffiliationQuebec Leader Allen Nutik calls on all Federal Party leaders to clearly state their policy in respect to minority rights for the more than one million of Quebec's cultural communities and Anglophones.

Nutik notes that the courting of Quebec nationalist votes by federal party leaders has caused them to ignore Quebec's minorities and their loss of language, sign, education and access rights.

"What is our place in the Quebecois Nation", asks Nutik, "Why have Harper and Dion been so silent on this important file?"

AffiliationQuebec is a new Quebec political party formed to actively pursue the full rights and interests of staunch Canadians living in Quebec.

For more information: contact Allen E. Nutik, Leader/Chef of AffiliationQuebec; www.affiliationquebec.ca
Tel: 514-799-4919 (Montreal) ♣

The Security & Prosperity Partnership (SPP) - disaster or solution? It is a Question of Direction.

Mike Nickerson, Lanark ON

[EXTRACT] For those of us opposing Deep North American Integration, the SPP negotiations, Aug. 20-21, were a nightmare. Nevertheless, as long as Growth (the expansion of monetary activity) is seen as society's primary goal, efforts to stop the SPP will be an uphill battle. Mass production and economies of scale have long served expansion. The SPP would accommodate both, by providing uninhibited access to natural resources, labour and markets for businesses with continental operations. The problem is that growth, for growth's sake, is past its "best before date." To reclaim local governance with its hands-on appreciation of environmental and social impacts, we have to challenge the legitimacy of perpetual economic expansion. [...] To stop growth-inducing trade deals, we need to question the legitimacy upon which they are based. It is a Question of Direction. More on shifting the focus of legitimacy can be found in "The Challenge and the Goal" at:

Website: www.SustainWellBeing.net Mike Nickerson is Author of "Life, Money & Illusion; Living on Earth as if we want to stay"-**Sustainability Project - 7th Generation Initiative**
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SEE MORE FROM MIKE NICKERSON ON P. 22, 59 ♣

The SPP reflects a surprising 23-year continuity of intent!

-- a joint, right-wing Liberal/Conservative collusion since 1984

Russ Vinden, Errington BC



[EXTRACT] Contrary to expectations, another federal election has been postponed until next spring through some crafty footwork involving fixed election dates. The new Act, rushed through just before the summer recess, was hardly a cause for dismissing the government, so it has given the current government almost another year, free of

disruption, to complete its secretive negotiations for a major extension of NAFTA. Its warm, and fuzzy title is 'The Security and Prosperity Partnership', but it is more clearly expressed as 'The Greater North American Union.'

Spin, we are told, is everything, but the carefully selected title fairly shouts that vast and irreversible changes are afoot which we, the masses, will not like, and that obfuscation is necessary. Mr. Harper's political skills are not to be under-estimated.

However, it is a mistake for anyone to think that this major undertaking is only a New Conservative ambition (as in Mulroney / Alliance / Conservatism), for it was Liberal Paul Martin who happily announced completion of the first part of the negotiations, over four years ago. And it was his Liberal Deputy Prime Minister (John Manley) who calmly stated, after leaving his office three years ago, that "it was time for a major extension of NAFTA." Moreover, the large and rigorously screened meetings, which have taken place many times since then, have included top-level contingents from the Liberal hierarchy, Liberal ex-cabinet Ministers and their Deputies, as well as dozens of senior corporate executives, presidents, etc. (the prime financial supporters of both these Parties). These have been named and ably reported on in this magazine. There is no mistake, this is a joint, right-wing Liberal/Conservative policy, one of many – whatever their protestations of 'Party' differences.

It is my contention that we do not have two separate Parties on the right, but one, with cosmetics freely applied to hide what is a remarkably small power base in the corporate world. Unfortunately, resistance to their policies – divided between the New Democratic Party, the Canadian Action Party, and the Greens (I discount the Bloc) – enables those policies to be hammered into place, by merely taking advantage of a situation which certainly would not exist under a fair voting system.

I simply do not believe that a majority of electors in this country wish to see relations with our US neighbours further codified in the inevitably one-sided deals so far constructed, like the FTA and NAFTA. Rather, they desire that

a far greater degree of Canadian sovereignty to be proclaimed and upheld, and the massive American intrusion into our economy and influence on our culture and social arrangements curtailed, but this desire gets little expression in the mainstream media in the country, owned by a tiny handful of corporations.

The current negotiations were set in place by the Liberal Party hierarchy, not in response to overwhelming requests from their own local branches, or even initiatives from their national conferences following lengthy debate. They were seamlessly adopted by the Conservatives under the same non-democratic limitations. Clearly, they represent top-down legislation, driven by a large, permanent big-business lobby, well funded at taxpayers' expense; and they expose the fundamental faults of our decaying Parliamentary system.

This is now driven by the vastly increased power of an unelected Prime Minister's Office, and constrained by a rigid insistence on conformity by government MPs. Protests about independent views being expressed in caucus carry little weight when respected MPs of long standing are summarily dismissed by their Leader for daring to remind him of his neglected election promises. The message is not missed by his colleagues – criticise and you're out, gone, your Parliamentary career terminated, and the electors who put you there dismissed as a tiresome irrelevance.

This situation is not good. Our hands are tied by a dismally ineffective electoral system, and it is obvious that the Lib/Con collusion will keep it that way. While its shortcomings have received steady publicity over the years, there has never been the slightest sign of any real intention by either Party to change it. Despite a general reduction in voter turnout, the system has maintained either Libs or Cons alternating in power for well over a century, and effectively kept the Left-leaning Parties out of power, even though they collect, in total, far more votes.

Vocal in Opposition, Libs and Cons follow their predecessor's major policies in lock-step when elected. Each follows the other in total acceptance of major policies (their protests in Opposition swiftly forgotten): whether it be the Stone Age voting system; total privatisation of government debt; acceptance of the associated GST and other high taxes (which necessarily follow the debt); massive cutbacks to programs, all of which resulted directly from the construction of immense debts; and even the absolute about-face, immediately after the 1984 election, which set the FTA rolling, and then NAFTA and now the SPP – reflecting a surprising 23-year continuity of intent!

[END OF EXTRACT – Read full article in the Oct. Issue]

A Senior-senior's Efforts To Save His Country

- from the corrupt practices of too many of our politicians and corporations

In my efforts to reveal Harper for what he is and the danger he is to our country, I have visited 19 municipalities and 8 school boards with the following message. I share it with you now.

- Don Parker

PHOTO RIGHT: Don Parker enjoying one of his hobbies – getting an ILQ glider ready for flight, at the York Soaring Assoc., Aug. 10 07.



Letter to Municipalities and School Boards

Chair and Trustees:

Below is a letter I recently wrote to Prime Minister Harper in which I refer to the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP). Earlier, I left a copy of the Council of Canadians' in depth article about SPP entitled, "Behind Closed Doors" at your board office for each of you.

In my efforts to help more people learn about and understand the threat to Canada and Canadians that this document holds, I find that very few people know of its existence, let alone its details.

In addition, there is another program that is equally threatening. It is called the Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA). It is an agreement between Alberta and British Columbia and it came into affect last April. I have learned that Ontario and some other provinces are eager to be included. I will send an analysis of TILMA to each of you in another e-mail.

I have written to both our federal and provincial representatives to urge them to inform their respective constituencies of the details of these two programs. Both gentlemen replied but said nothing that I could interpret as encouraging.

At any rate, I strongly urge you to read the articles I am sharing/have shared with you. Nothing in all the history of Canada is as threatening as these two programs should they become the law of the land.

Sincerely, Don Parker,
711-26 Hall Road
Georgetown, ON L7G 5G5
905-877-8807

Letter to the Prime Minister

Prime Minister Harper:

I am a senior-senior Canadian. The Canada I have grown up in has been a wonderful country, a truly great example of what a country should be for its citizens and for the world of nations. Sadly, things have changed to the detriment of our citizens and our world neighbours. The next generation of Canadians will not be able to enjoy the Canada of my generation, and the next generation, our grandchildren, will find life as a Canadian even worse.

I believe that what has caused this state of affairs is the corrupt practices of too many of our politicians and the corporations of the world that do business in Canada or with Canada. **I believe that what is responsible for this deplorable state of affairs are the following:** legislation – such as the North America Free Trade Act (NAFTA), the Security and Prosperity Partnership for North America (SPP), Atlantica, and the Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA); the opaqueness of our federal and provincial governments regarding the nature and the consequences to Canada and Canadians if this sort of legislation is enacted; and the apparent unwillingness of our media to report on these issues.

In saying the above, I must also say that Canadians as a whole must take a great deal of the blame; we elect our politicians BUT WE DO NOT MANAGE THEM. We do not take the time to telephone them on these and other issues to query them about the implications of such legislation, nor do we, as a general rule, write letters to them or to the media to raise our concerns in the hope that a revealing light will be cast upon some of the more nefarious pieces of legislation that may be slithering their respective ways through our halls of parliament.

This head-in-the-sand attitude on the part of Canadians MUST stop or Canada will become a vanished country along with all of the social benefits that we have left that Canadians are still enjoying.

In my opinion, Canada MUST abrogate NAFTA, she MUST put a stop to the formation of any more TILMA agreements, she MUST declare water as a human right and not an additional commodity that corporations can use for more profits, and she MUST return to her peace keeping role in the world; she MUST NOT use our military forces as combatants in unlawful wars unless we are directly attacked.

In addition, Canada MUST put a stop to her becoming a mirror image of the United States. Our federal government MUST follow an independent path in world affairs as directed by the wishes of a highly informed public. I believe we must weed out the Quizzlings in our midst and tell them that their actions are NOT acceptable.

I also firmly believe that if we do not reverse the current trends in our federal policies, Canada will fast become the Austria of North America.

I also believe, Mr. Prime Minister, that things ARE changing. More and more Canadians are coming to realize that you and your NEW government are selling us out to the Americans. If this happens, Mr. Prime Minister, you ⇒

and your NEW government will be held accountable by the very same Canadians that you are planning on hoodwinking. Think again, Mr. Prime Minister, you and your family are part of the citizenry of Canada. When you purposely betray Canadians as a whole, you also betray your own family. Stop this SPP business while you still can!

Sincerely, Don Parker, Georgetown, Ontario. ♣

P.S. While sharing my letter & documents with 17 municipal offices and 8 school board offices, I learned that only ONE person had heard of SPP but didn't know any of the details; and NO ONE had heard of TILMA!

P.P.S. In view of the recent Canadian deaths in Afghanistan, I think it is appropriate to share the following poem with you. ♣

"WAR"

~

by Don Parker

Down by the river in the deep grass,
Columns of ants solemnly pass
Licking their wounds, lugging their dead.
The battle was lost. To-day they bled.

Over the top with the dawn's first rays,
They charged through the mist and foggy haze;
They yelled and screamed as their banners flew;
And crimson grew the morning's dew.
Shoulder to shoulder they charged at first;
Bolder and bolder but with every burst
Of enemy fire their ranks were thinned;
Soon they were down and thoroughly pinned.
Moans from the dying couldn't be heard.
Cries from the wounded, too were blurred,
And medics with stretchers at the trail
Had never seen gore on such a scale.
They fought for a knoll some half- mile wide;
They fought knowing God was on their side;
And as they fought and saw comrades fall,
They still paid heed to that rallying call
"To arms! To arms! And dash the foe down!
"To arms! To arms! We must save our town!
"Question our manhood if you dare!
"We'll fight to the death fair and square!"

Newspaper headlines proclaimed aloud,
"OUR TROOPS ARE THRASHING THAT SORRY CROWD!"
War correspondents with truth to tell,
Threatened with banishment straight to hell
Should ever their stories tell it straight
That battles were fought beyond Hell's gate,
Struggled and strived so desperately
To get the news home and censor free;
But government men with conscience dead,
Attacked each wire with the blackest lead.
What of the publishers of our press,
What did THEY say of this sorry mess?
Most were concerned about revenue
And some of charges of treason, too.
For Government claimed it was a crime
To freely speak of the gore and grime
That devoured our men, yes, drowned them, too.
Of that higher plain, they would eschew.

Over the fence by her garden gate,
Mrs. McKenzie spoke with Kate,
Her neighbour of almost thirty years.
And as she spoke, she expressed her fears.

What if her THIRD son should die as well
In some foreign land, some foreign hell,
And what would she have to swage her grief,
What succour lies in the strong belief:
No nobler death can possibly be;
Die for one's country across the sea!
Kate stood their frozen. What could she say
To help her neighbour this blackest day?
And what of herself with husband, Tom.
Will he be smashed by some airborne bomb?

Up in his office, he strode the floor
Striving to think of something more
That he could say to gain precedent:
Money for guns is money well spent!
What should he say to the Minister?
Bribe him? Corrupt him? All sinister.
The shares in his firm are on the rise
The holders of same would agonize
If funds invested should turn to dust.
This government sale: A simple must!

Firm on the floor of the Parliament
The Minister spoke with grave intent,
"More troops we must have, more guns as well,
If we are to hear victory's bell."
"Nay!" came the shouts from the opposite side.
"Already this war has spread far too wide
"The fighting MUST stop and talks begun,
"No more killing of a mother's son."
The talks raged on through morning and night
With no solution at all in sight,
For many there were stood firm and fast
"Our country first!" no matter the past.

And as they wrestled with wounded and dead,
A soldier ant, with a shake of his head,
Pondered aloud, "Why do we do it?
"Another dispute, again we blew it!
"Here in the park with picnics galore,
"Why can't we share and stop all this gore?
"Instead it seems we must always fight.
"Ours is the colony with the right!
"But that is wrong and it must be learned,
"Or the whole ant race will be burned."

Don Parker, September 2002 ♣

North American Integration and the Militarization of the Arctic

by Michel Chossudovsky, Ottawa ON

www.globalresearch.ca

[AUG. 20 07, EXTRACT] The Battle for the Arctic is part of a global military agenda of conquest and territorial control. It has been described as a New Cold War between Russia and America.

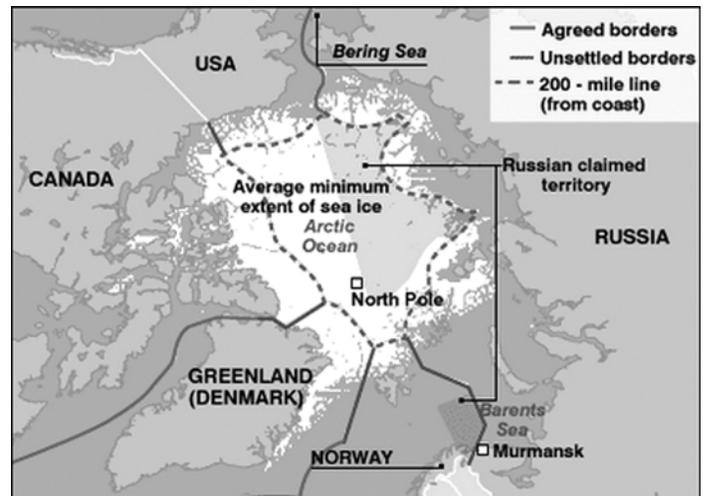
Washington's objective is to secure territorial control, on behalf of the Anglo-American oil giants, over extensive Arctic oil and natural gas reserves. The Arctic region could hold up to 25% of the World's oil and gas reserves, according to some estimates. (Moscow Times, 3 August 2007). These estimates are corroborated by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS): "The real possibility exists that you could have another world class petroleum province like the North Sea." (quoted by CNNMoney.com, 25 October 2006)

From Washington's perspective, the battle for the Arctic is part of broader global military agenda.

It is intimately related to the process of North American integration under the Security and Prosperity Partnership Agreement (SPP) and the proposed North American Union (NAU). The SPP envisages, under the auspices of a proposed "multiservice [North American] Defense Command", the militarization of a vast territory extending from the Caribbean basin to the Canadian Arctic.

It also bears a relationship to America's hegemonic objectives in different parts of the World including the Middle East. The underlying economic objective of US military operations is the conquest, privatization and appropriation of the World's reserves of fossil fuel. The Arctic is no exception. The Arctic is an integral part of the "Battle for Oil". It is one of the remaining frontiers of untapped energy reserves.

The Arctic nations (with territories North of the Arctic circle) are Russia, Canada, Denmark, the US, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland. The first three countries (Russia,



Canada and Denmark) possess significant territories extending northwards of the Arctic circle. (see Map). [...]

Canada's Arctic Military Facilities

Ottawa's July 2007 decision to establish a military facility in Resolute Bay in the Northwest Passage was not intended to reassert "Canadian sovereignty. In fact quite the opposite. It was established in consultation with Washington. A deep-water port at Nanisivik, on the northern tip of Baffin Island is also envisaged.

The US administration is firmly behind the Canadian government's decision. The latter does not "reassert Canadian sovereignty". Quite the opposite. It is a means to eventually establish US territorial control over Canada's entire Arctic region including its waterways.

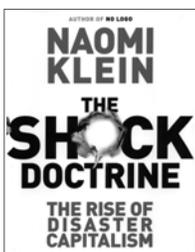
Under the renegotiated North American Aerospace Defense Agreement (NORAD), the US military has access to Canada's domestic territorial waters including Canada's sea shelf with the Arctic, which coincidentally also provides Washington under the guise of "North American sovereignty" with a justification to challenge Russia in the Arctic. [...]

Read full article at: www.globalresearch.ca/ ♣

BOOK REVIEW

Naomi Klein -- The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism

CCPA: <http://policyalternatives.ca/>



As you may have heard, Naomi Klein's new book -- The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism -- was published at the beginning of September. Naomi gave a dynamite speech about her book at a benefit event for the CCPA's BC Office -- and you can now watch it online on the CCPA website at:

www.policyalternatives.ca/naomi_klein_videos
OR: www.youtube.com/policyalternatives

[See Dialogue Oct. Issue for a brief excerpt of her talk]

ANOTHER VIDEO "Is another world possible?"

LINK: www.brasschecktv.com/page/152.html This link below is to several videos that feature Canadian writer, **Naomi Klein (author of The Shock Doctrine)**. The first video segment is a very disturbing (7min.) presentation about the impact that "shock" treatments have on human beings - and contains important keys to help our understanding of what has been happening around the world.

The other video segments (somewhat longer - but worthwhile!) feature Naomi Klein speaking at a conference on the theme "Is another world possible?" ♣

BOOK REVIEW

“Banker to the Poor”

Review of Muhammad Yunus’ book, “Banker to the Poor.”

by J Makhan Dubé, Nanaimo BC

[EXTRACT] We have become accustomed to the notion that the affluent Northern

Industrial countries have the physical and intellectual resources to solve all global problems. This notion has been widely disseminated in the voluminous reports by experts in our consultancy industry, by the news media and, latterly, by the great entertainment figures e.g. Bob Geldorf and Bono on Woodstock-like platforms, adorning philanthropic giants like Bill Gates, George Soros and others.

There is no gainsaying that good things can be achieved by these initiatives, and that more is being achieved as more experience is gained in the exercise of their programmes. One unfortunate side effect of these Northern strategies is that the poorer recipient countries of the South are considered as passive objects of charity without any ability to assess their own situation realistically, or to formulate effective solutions based on more sensitive knowledge, culled from their own experience.

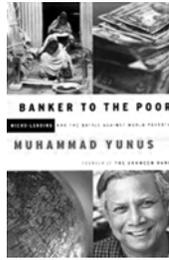
The task of alleviating the massive problem of poverty in the Southern countries for instance has been appropriated by the giant financial institutions of the North for the last fifty years, with questionable results. In his book “Banker to the Poor”, Muhammad Yunus, a Bangladeshi citizen describes his experiences as he takes on the challenge to address the endemic poverty around him and, against all odds, rescued hundreds of thousands of his fellow citizens. He has been consulted by such financial stalwarts as the head of the World Bank.

After some thirty years of operating a Grameen (village) bank, he has won the Nobel prize (2006) for peace. His example has inspired the micro-credit movement world-wide, benefiting millions of needy and disadvantaged ignored entrepreneurs around the world.

Born in the 1940’s, as the historic struggle to throw off colonialism was being waged, Mohammed Yunus grew up in what would become Bangladesh, a part of Pakistan, eventually an independent country. His was a devout Muslim family in small business. In 1965, he was awarded a Fullbright scholarship and studied at the University of Colorado (Boulder campus) where he obtained his Ph.D. in Economics.

He became caught up in the Bengali League of America, a group of concerned professionals in the USA when Pakistan invaded what was then East Pakistan, later to become independent Bangladesh.

On returning to Bangladesh in 1972, he was employed by the Planning Department of the Government, then became Head of the Economics Department of Chittagong Univer-



sity teaching conventional Economics to his eager students.

During a famine in 1974, Yunus noted that there were unused fields in a village called Jobra nearby. It was the reflections that he made on this disaster that stimulated him to investigate the causes of poverty firsthand, conventional economic theory touting economic growth as the panacea did not adequately address the problems of the poor starving people around him. He abandoned classical book learning in favour of hands-on, person-to-person experience.

In-depth study of the poor in Jobra revealed that the village women made beautifully hand-woven bamboo stools. A bamboo trader provided the bamboo and received the finished stool, leaving her with 2 cents per day for herself. This was just enough to keep her alive and in perpetual bondage.

To borrow money to buy the bamboo herself meant dealing with moneylenders who charged 10% per week or per day. Money lenders do good business lending for such things as seeds, sowing, fertilisers, pesticides and such ingrained cultural practices as dowries and extravagant weddings. Often, new loans would have to be taken out to pay off old loans.

Eventually he considered lending a needy person 22 cents. But on second thought, he did not think that this would make the significant contribution that he had in mind. What was needed was an institutional answer that those people could rely on. They had no collateral. In other words, only the rich could access the recognised banks.

Due to some good fortune and long-standing connections, he did get a loan for \$300 but had to sign as a guarantor for each individual loan when the money was given out. More than 98% of the loans were repaid. Support groups were required to approve each loan request and assume the moral responsibility for the loan. A rural bank was opened to circumvent sharia law, which forbids interest payment. There was a 7-day training course for prospective members and testing of individuals. [...] Muhammad Yunus is training micro-credit officers from many countries, and gaining more recognition for it from financial foundations through a Global Grameen Trust. He laments the fact that most economists have failed to understand the social power of credit. He considers credit a human right, and claims that banks have imposed a financial apartheid against the poor as unworthy of credit.

But he is aware that there are other complementary factors in the eradication of poverty. I quote: “Micro-credit is not a miracle cure that can eliminate poverty in one fell swoop. But it can end poverty for many and reduce its severity for others. Combined with other innovative programs that unleash people’s potential, micro-credit is an essential tool in our search for a poverty-free world.”

Muhammad Yunus’ book, “Banker to the Poor” is a major contribution to this goal. [Full book review in Oct. Issue]

More at: <http://grameen-info.org>
<http://www.muhammadyunus.org> ♣

More on Environmental Sustainability

"Life, Money and Illusion" – ...Progress or Insanity?!

The following extract was suggested by John McCullough, with his note: "I have found Mike Nickerson's book really excellent, and I will certainly be recommending it to friends."

Extract from "Life, Money and Illusion: Living on Earth as if we want to stay," by Mike Nickerson
From the chapter: "Problems with our Market Economy: Where Value is Overstated"
[sub-section: Efficiency and Wealth]

The following story from the Internet reveals some of the illusions arising from our modern notion of progress:

A Fast Track to Prosperity

An American tourist visiting a tiny Mexican village complimented a fisherman there on the quality of his fish and asked how long it took him to catch them.

"Not very long," answered the Mexican.

"Why didn't you stay out longer and catch more?" asked the American.

The Mexican explained that his small catch was sufficient to meet his needs and those of his family.

The American asked, "But what do you do with the rest of your time?"

"I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, and take a siesta with my wife. In the evenings, I go into the village to see my friends, have a few drinks, play the guitar, and sing a few songs... I have full life."

The American interrupted, "I have a business degree from Harvard and I can help you! You should start by fishing longer every day. You can then sell the extra fish you catch. With the extra revenue, you can buy a bigger boat. With the extra money the larger boat will bring, you can buy a second one and a third one and so on until you have an entire fleet of trawlers. Instead of selling your fish to a middle man, you can negotiate directly with the processing plants and maybe even open your own plant. You can then leave this little village and move to Mexico City, Los Angeles, or even New York City! From there you can direct your huge enterprise."

"How long would that take?" asked the Mexican.
"Twenty, perhaps twenty-five years," replied the American.

"And after that?"

"Afterwards? That's when it gets really interesting," answered the American, laughing. "When your business gets really big, you can start selling stocks and make millions!"

"Millions? Really? And after that?"

"After that you'll be able to retire, live in a tiny village near the coast, sleep late, play with your children, catch a few fish, take a siesta, and spend your evenings drinking and enjoying your friends!"

It may be that we have succeeded in creating enough wealth to serve human need and that it is no longer appropriate to view continued wealth creation as the best way to serve the well-being of society. The subsidies and advantages that are presently awarded to wealth-expanding operations, might more efficiently serve well-being if they were put directly into education, distributing employment opportunities, preventative health care and the preservation and enhancement of soil health and environmental stability.

What is the appropriate goal for civilization as we proceed into the 21st century! Do we want continued expansion of wealth or improved quality of life through full employment and environmental health? This points again to the Question of Direction, which is described in detail in Chapter 15. [END OF EXTRACT]

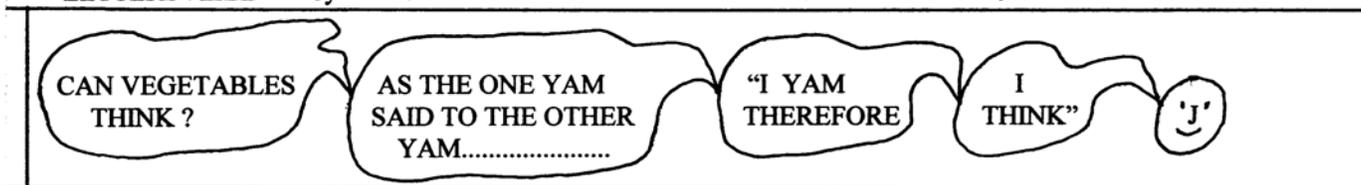
From p. 156 of "Life, Money and Illusion: Living on Earth as if we want to stay."

For more information contact the author, Mike Nickerson:
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See p. 59 for more information about Mike's book, LIFE, MONEY & ILLUSION (and for details about ordering this book from *Dialogue*). ♣

LETTERSVILLE by J

Cartoon by Jim Grant, Ste. Catharines ON



Jgrant@becon.org

"Stirring the Soup"

It takes all kinds

Marie Gaudet, Edmonton AB



It takes all kinds to make a world, so they say. That's actually very true on many levels. Human resource professionals are constantly struggling to find the right "fit" for employees in their organizations. The type of person you'd find working in the Wellness field would be vastly different from

the type you'd find working in a Collections office (or so you'd think). Even within the Collections office itself, the various employees would have to be dissimilar to some degree in order to work cohesively.

In relationships, too, you'll note that the couple is two quite different people. One will likely be an introvert and the other an extrovert. One will be thrifty and the other will like to spend (with the woman not always being the latter). One will be a neat-freak and the other a slob. One can balance a check-book and the other is inept with financial matters. Not surprising there are challenges – but put these two together to work towards a common goal (Costa Rica for their next vacation) and they make an unbeatable team! When each brings his or her own special set of skills to the table, wondrous things can happen! This doesn't mean that their differences disappear -- she still thinks he should do more around the house and he still considers her a world-class nag – but they can be put aside while the focus is on something important to both of them. If you watch such a collaborative effort closely, it's a thing of beauty.

I witnessed such an event in Edmonton on August 25, 2007. I had been informed of a conference being held at the **Chin Yin Buddhist Temple** (an architectural delight for those of us accustomed to our bland North American structures). The **Interfaith End of Life Care** workshop promised to be very interesting, especially for health workers, family members and friends of terminally ill patients. Admission was free, as were the refreshments and the complimentary luncheon. The ever-smiling Buddhists hosted representatives from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Baptist/Pentecostal/Full Gospel pastors, Sikhs, Jains, Hindus, First Nations elders, as well as representatives from the Baha'i, Muslim, Jewish, Zoroastrian, Unitarian, Eckankar, Scientology and Church of Religious Science faiths. Can you picture it? An entire roomful of people with religious beliefs ranging from one end of the spectrum to the other – and all under one roof!

What in the world would bring these people together? Because, even in a multi-cultural country such as Canada, this

was a big surprise to me. Well, they simply found a common goal. They realized that if we are to share this big, beautiful country, there will be times when we will need each other. One such time will be at our passing from this life to the next. Nearly everyone who was in attendance at this workshop (but not all) believes in an afterlife. And although everyone's views of that afterlife differed, all present were committed to offering to their fellow Canadians the best possible end-of-life care, respectful of the person's belief system. Collectively, they organized this conference and assembled in one place to openly share their most vulnerable identity to a packed house of people from all ethnic backgrounds and walks of life. That's the kind of courage you don't see every day. I personally don't think I would ever stand up in front of a large number of people and announce my spiritual beliefs. But who knows – if there was a good enough reason...

These people had a good reason. After all, when the time comes for any of us to go, how do we know where we'll be and who will be with us? We of course (and our families) would wish for us to be around someone who has at least an inkling of what we believe is about to happen to us. Otherwise, wouldn't we just be perplexed when a Hindu, in all good conscience, would lay us down on the ground (to be closer to Mother Earth, according to his belief system). If we were near a Sikh, would we feel comforted or frustrated by his assertion that "life never ends" as we lay dying (there is just a short transition from one plane to the next, in his opinion). Would we wonder, as we breathed our last next to a First Nations person, why she was blowing smoke into our non-smoking face (smudging, to help guide our spirit to the afterlife). Would our Buddhist friends help or hinder our passing by telling us that we may be reincarnated next as an animal (one of the 6 realms of existence we can be born to during our countless lifetimes). We would of course feel much more at ease if, in our final minutes, we were accorded a nice peaceful (insert end-of-life ritual of choice here). But there's no guarantee that will be available, is there?

The participants of the End-of-life-Care Conference are now closer than most to having their beliefs honoured and observed on their deathbed. And they are more prepared than most to assist a fellow human being to pass over in the most peaceful and humane manner possible, no matter what their position on life after death.

Some time after this conference, I had lunch with a friend and was telling her about what I had learned there. She seemed to think that the whole multi-cultural phenomenon in Canada just wasn't going to work. She felt that other cul-

tures were moving here so that they could “take over”. She grumbled that if she ever moved to Rome, she would never insist that they learn all about her culture and cater to her every whim. In fact, she felt that she would just blend in and “do as the Romans do” which in her refined opinion, all ethno-Canadian groups should also do.

I tried to reason with her that, while there surely are those who come to Canada with hidden agendas, I was quite convinced that those attending the conference were there because they accept the new order in Canadian society and want to make the best of it. Unfortunately, she felt this was just their way of getting the population to accept them while they plot as terrorists behind our backs.

I can't even blame her for this attitude because I know how easy it is to sit at home and make these types of judgments. However, if she had actually joined this conference and mingled with the people in question, if I know this

wonderful lady, I rather suspect that her outlook would be dramatically different today – at least in relation to the gathering in question.

Because sitting at home, you can't sense the spirit of caring engendered by this group of strangers who chose to put aside their most intimate differences just to ensure a peaceful death for an unknown neighbor. You can't possibly feel the fellowship and the sense of community between the people involved. You would be hard-pressed to recognize from the comforts of your home, the extent of cooperative effort that would have been required to make this event come together as it did. All those very different people... each with their own special set of skills. It takes all kinds.

Kudos to all the organizers, partners and participants of this conference. It made me quite proud to be an Edmontonian.

-- *Marie Gaudet, Edmonton ♣*

Can we come together to create a better world?

Louise Malloy, Ottawa

I will add more to this later, but here is a start to what I hope will be a series on looking at our food system, our animals and what is required to join forces to help fix the planet for our children and all future generations; We are spiritual beings and all of us want world peace. If we all unite and ask God, He will give us the world peace and love we so desperately want and need.

We are obviously on the same page with regards to all of us being connected spiritually and as human beings. What the elite are doing to this planet – using everything as weapons against us – should have us focus on global unity. We should not fall into the trap of being separate beings. Neither language, or country, or race or religion or any belief system should separate us, ever; God does not hold any human being above another. No matter who we are or what we've done, we are all going back to our creator. Everyone wants world peace. There is not enough love, and too much greed in this world. The powerful elite would have us believe that a reduction in world population is required.

Would it be possible for you to do some articles regarding our food supply within Canada. Is it safe? Where is the food coming from? Also could you highlight the obvious abuse of our animals. I urge all Canadians and your readers to get the book, "Diet for a new America" The first chapters are extremely difficult to get through. Even those of us who know that animals have been killed to feed us (our chickens, pigs and cows) should be saddened at the inhumane, grotesque torturing of these innocent animals. There are several illusions including the illusion of lack which the global elite would want us to believe in. Canadians must not fall into this trap. Instead of treating our animals like machines in a life time of suffering, it is time we said enough. Use our lands to grow more and better crops (not

with genetically modified and patented seeds); We need to begin shopping at local farms and smaller grocery stores. We need to share our wealth which most of us are more than willing to do. We need to remind our government that Canadians are peacekeepers and do not endorse cruelty and slavery to either animals or human beings. Enough is enough. Stop this illusion and this insane belief which has absolutely nothing to do with reality.

Blessed are the peace keepers for they shall inherit the earth; Saint Joseph the Foster father of Jesus is the Patron Saint of Canada ... we should ask for him to protect Canada and our Canadian soldiers.

Also the movie **Conversations with God** came out last October (available at video stores). Those who haven't read the “Conversations with God” books are welcome to check them out. Even atheists are included, because all on this planet are God's children. God cannot fix the planet unless all of us specifically ask him to do so; Ask God to end the illusion that there isn't enough and that we are separate. United globally, we can stop those who hurt our brothers and sisters all over the world. SOS.

For that which befalleth the sons of man befalleth the beasts
Even one thing befalleth them;
as the one dieth, so dieth the other;
yea, they have all one breath,
so that a man hath no pre-eminence above a beast.

– Ecclesiastes 3:19

P.S. Maybe we need to do articles about fluoride, (why does Ottawa have fluoride while Montreal and other cities do not? What exactly is fluoride... the real story that Gordon Sinclair, of Front Page Challenge, was upset with years ago), aspartame and MSG everywhere (why so many North Americans are obese and unhealthy...is MSG hidden everywhere in our processed foods?) ♣

"Rhymes and Reflections"

Larry Vaincourt, Deux Montagnes QC



[Larry's best-known poem, "Just A Common Soldier," is found on the Internet in more than 1000 locations! It is featured in this issue in honour of our November Remembrance of fallen soldiers.]

Larry notes: "The letter from Alex Lucy (discovered on the Internet) that follows the poem

may have been part of a school project – I know I have never laid eyes on it before, but it is an excellent piece of writing; my answer to Alex follows his letter."

JUST A COMMON SOLDIER (A Soldier Died Today)

by A. Lawrence Vaincourt

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one.

And tho' sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Bill has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.

He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary and quite uneventful life.
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,
And the world won't note his passing, though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell their whole life stories, from the time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow who, in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?

A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives
Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.
While the ordinary soldier, who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps, a pension small.

It's so easy to forget them for it was so long ago,
That the old Bills of our Country went to battle, but we know
It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,
Would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?
Or would you prefer a soldier, who has sworn to defend
His home, his kin and Country and would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier died today.

© 1987 A. Lawrence Vaincourt
On-line at: <http://vaincourt.homestead.com>

ESSAY BY ALEX - 2nd PLACE LEVEL III *Dear Larry Vaincourt,*

Why are we created if we're only going to destroy each other? My grandfather, William Schnur, is a veteran of World War II. A year ago he shared your poem, "Just a Common Soldier," with my family and me. This poem truly affected him because he lived through the experience of war. However, what surprised me was how much I was affected by it. Today we have fighting overseas in Iraq, and up until I read your poem, I tried not to think much of it. War is something that affects us all but also puts a question on the real meaning of life and existence.

Behind the wars, there are hundreds of thousands of individual people with their own lives, their own families, and their own hopes and dreams, I never looked at it from that perspective until I read your poem. It's truly a tragedy that so many people have died because of war. However, the bigger tragedy is that no one has seemed to learn a lesson and we still continue to add to this pointless loss of life.

My grandfather could apply the meaning of your poem to his experiences of war and all the friends he may have lost and lives he's seen ruined. I think he could understand and relate to what you wrote the most because he experienced it first hand. When he was sent to fight, he had his own life and family. But because the people we have given the most influence in the world can't agree for one reason or another,

Continued next page

the common person has to go out and fight for them. It's sad that we have to live in a place where other people's problems are solved by the death of the "common soldier."

What surprised me was that this poem not only affected my grandfather, but me as well. Times have changed since he was younger, but war is still in the world. To be honest, politics and government have never been a topic that interested me. I've always felt I had more important things to worry about in my life and that I shouldn't obsess over things like that. The fighting overseas was always just something that was happening that would get sorted out eventually. Then a few years ago I heard the idea of a draft was being thrown around. All I remember was being much younger and not really understanding the idea. I feared my parents would have to go and fight and I would lose them forever. I now know that they are too old to be drafted, but it was a scary idea to have as a child. It just shows how war affects everyone, even those not involved.

Now that I am older, and still getting older, I realize that war could start to affect me. It seems the fighting has been going on for a while and things don't seem to be getting better. The future is getting more and more unpredictable and it's become apparent that a future draft is a possibility.

This really makes me question the meaning of life and existence. Ten years of school, countless nights of homework, working hard for a good future, what's the point of it all? If there's a chance of being sent off to the war, then were all these years of work wasted? Why are we here if we're just going to destroy each other? – All questions I found myself asking when I thought about the issues presented in your poem. I've heard the term "world peace" used a lot, but I've just thought of it as something extreme activists wished for. I never thought much into what it actually meant. However, now I understand that it really would solve a lot of problems.

I never liked the idea of war and fighting, but all my life I had thought of my grandfather as a hero. Then I realized – how could I support someone fighting for a cause I don't support? After thinking about your poem, I decided it was possible to feel this way. The common soldiers who fought for our safety are the true heroes. They gave up their lives, their families, their hopes and dreams, just because their country told them to. Fighting may not be the best solution, but they worked to make it so the future wouldn't have to deal with the tragedy they had to go through. I am not the kind of person who would ever take part in a war, but I truly respect the soldiers whose self sacrifice was a step towards a safer and more peaceful future.

Sincerely, Alex Lucyk
Grade 10, Conard High School
West Hartford, Connecticut USA

Larry's answer to Alex...

The Unanswerable Question

Dear Alex,

"Why are we created if we are only going to destroy each other?" This is the question that you, a grade ten student, have asked of me, a WW2 Veteran, who, at 84, is approaching life's final chapter. I have been asked the unanswerable question, by a youth whose life is just beginning and who is concerned about its meaning and purpose.

Youth turns to age for knowledge, which is as it should be and I am flattered that you have chosen me as an elder of sufficient wisdom to answer that most basic of questions, "What is the meaning of life?"

This is a question rarely asked by someone of your tender age and the fact that you have addressed it indicates to me that you are a young man of unusual logic and intelligence, with a great deal to contribute for the betterment of society. You voice concern for the world condition, at an age when *my* prime interest was girls and cranky old cars – and WW2 was something that it was my patriotic duty to take part in.

I agree with you on the awful waste and tragedy of war. It is sad to consider the waste of young lives and to contemplate what their contribution to society might have been, had they been allowed to live out the full course of their lives. But wars have been with us since the beginning of recorded history and are, I fear, part of the human condition. Hate, greed, avarice, the lust for power, and religious differences are the prime cause of most conflicts and I agree that a world without war would be utopia.

Perhaps that is your purpose in life, Alex, not to fight in the wars, but to play a role in their ending.

Think about it!

Sincerely, Larry Vaincourt

SPECIAL NOTE FROM LARRY...

Hi there! If there any of my old Air Force buddies out there, who still remember me, I would love to hear from you. The nicknames "Lucky" or "The Cowboy" might trigger your memory! Contact me at: 245 7th Ave., Deux Montagnes, Que. J7R 3H7; Ph/fax 450-473-2238. ♣

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"Thoughts on Media and Politics in Canada"

Canadians must stand up and speak out
for the nation's independence



Roly C Smith, Brampton ON

I don't know how many Canadians have noticed, but our country is becoming less of a democracy with every passing day. Today, our politicians couldn't care less what the public think. All that matters is that their rights be preserved and their

entitlements guaranteed.

Prior to the recent federal election, I was of the belief that the Conservative Party, under Stephen Harper, was Canada's only hope for a brighter future.

Once the election was over and Harper was established in as the new Prime Minister, I believed, "happy days are here again!" After 13 years of black lies, deceit, corruption and scandals associated with the Jean Chrétien Liberal government, Harper and his Conservatives appeared to be a "breath of fresh air."

Unfortunately, this situation didn't last and I was bluntly reminded that, "the more things change, the more they stay the same!"

Every three or four years, Canadians trot off to the polling stations to select and elect politicians to represent them in Parliament at Ottawa. Whichever way one examines the equation, it is an exercise in futility.

New first-time candidates come to the forefront, full of enthusiasm and plans how they are going to improve the lives of their constituents. Once elected, they soon discover they are living in a dream world. Loyalty to the constituents means nothing and the new MPs discover they are nothing more than a "rubber stamp," filling a seat in the House of Commons.

Incumbent candidates, seeking re-election are well aware of where their loyalties lie. Regardless of what promises they made during their campaign, once they are elected for another term, those promises disappear in the wind. The power elite of the party run the show, aided of course by senior mandarins in the civil service, who are well versed in political correctness.

Like countless thousands, if not millions, of my fellow Canadians, I am totally frustrated, disappointed, discouraged, disillusioned, disgusted and angry at how our country is governed.

After 13 years of Chrétien Liberalism and the Liberal Party's belief that they are ordained to government and have a divine right to do so, I thought the Conservative Party would bring a change. Lord knows they had a

vast record of Liberal screw-ups to learn from.

Stephen Harper had a chance to form a new political dynasty that could have lasted 40-50 years and he blew it! What's more, he still hasn't got the message and appears to be making his chances of at least gaining a majority - "disappear like the Arabs in the night!"

There is an existing anti-American attitude running wild in Canada, whether it is justified or not. Despite this overwhelming fact, Stephen Harper has now set out on a journey that can't help but bring down his government. Harper is joining in with US president George W. Bush in an attempt to form a North American Union. If successful, this will mean Canada will join in with Mexico and the USA in one central government based in Washington. Canadian sovereignty and independence will disappear. Ignoring the fact that Bush is a "lame duck" president serving his last year in office, Harper is content to meet and agree on plans that will thoroughly destroy any real future for unborn generations.

It is commonly believed that the Republican administration in Washington has lost complete control of the country. Most assuredly, they are out of step with the average American citizen.

Now the question has to be asked. Who gave Harper the mandate to sign away Canadian sovereignty? What right does he have to hold secret meetings behind closed doors with foreign powers?

More than at any other time, perhaps, the Canadian taxpayers have to wake up and demand an accounting, before this North American Union plan goes any further. That is, if it isn't already too late!

There is a federal election coming and now is the best time to settle this entire representative problem. The "dog wags the tail" - not the other way around! All MPs, regardless of party, must be made aware they are only in office through the grace of the electorate. They are elected to serve the people and if they are incapable of doing that, let them find another profession! At the same time, the ultimate authority of the prime minister must be challenged by a program of "checks and balances."

The only way to control this would be through the establishment of town-hall meetings - coast-to-coast! It may sound "old hat" and not politically correct in today's world, but the heroes and heroines of two world wars and several brush wars passed us the "Torch of Freedom."

They didn't make the supreme sacrifice so that some "Johnny-come-lately" could give away the future of un-

born generations. They didn't give their lives so that a clutch of political elites and unaccountable, unelected civil servants (and a bunch of lobbyists!) could decide among themselves this nation's future.

Town-hall meetings would be set up in every constituency throughout the country for the purpose of acquainting all citizens of what is taking place in this country. This is one country and we should be proud of it! All MPs, regardless of party affiliation, should be ordered – not asked! – to attend the meetings in order to account for what they have or haven't done. They are supposed to work for us, the taxpayers, not the other way around!

Local ratepayers' associations could organize these town-hall meetings – or failing that, they could be organized by national or provincial ratepayers' associations.

It is the duty of every citizen to be fully aware of what is

happening and why. Failing to follow up this programme could bring closer to reality the day when our independent freedom is lost forever. We could wake up one morning and find that we are living in a "police-security state" or one government by some military elites in a foreign country.

If that should happen, we can only blame it on public apathy. The same apathy that has allowed the Chrétien, the Martin and the Harper governments to believe that they have the ordained right to do whatever they please – and the hell with the public's right.

We can see how such an attitude and way of thinking has shaken the United States. The same condition can easily develop here if we don't stand up and speak out NOW!

– *Roly C. Smith, Brampton ♣*

Canadians for Language Fairness

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Kim McConnell, President, CLF

Fraser Institute Research Projects

[EXTRACT] After 40 years and billions of dollars spent to force bilingualism on the Most of Canada, culminating to date in the failure to produce a bilingual populace, does it not make sense that we should know how much it has cost us and will continue to cost us in years to come?

The Fraser Institute is proposing (subject to fund-raising) to embark on a project close to the hearts of all of us i.e. they will investigate the cost of Official Bilingualism. As it is a non-profit organization that depends solely on funding from the public, we have pledged to help them raise the funds for this costly project. This was prompted by a very dedicated, tireless worker for English-speaking Canadians, Dot Fuhrman, who had sent the Fraser Institute Jim Allan's researches on the cost of Official Bilingualism. Our fund-raising efforts will kick off with a lunch on November 4th. We have tentatively booked a private room at a Chinese Buffet restaurant and our guest speaker is Nick Vandergragt who is a talk-show host for CFRA. Nick has his own show on Saturday nights called, "Nick at Night" but he can also be heard on some weekends and week-days when the regular talk-show host is on leave. People who would like to attend (tickets \$20 per person) can contact me: kimlian@sympatico.ca. This is just one of many such fund-raising efforts and if people can come up with other ideas, we will be glad to accommodate them.

Fraser Institute: Language Policy in Canada...

The following project proposal outlines three potential projects to be undertaken and completed by the Fraser Institute and scholars associated with it. Each of the proposals is separate and distinct from the others, although the three could be undertaken in sequence to create a sizeable and

important body of research on this topic in Canada.

- 1) Costs of Federal Bilingualism in Canada
- 2) Costs of Provincial and Local Government Bilingualism in Canada
- 3) Optimal Language Policy for Canada

The Fraser Institute is seeking financial support for this work, as each of these studies would cost approximately \$90,000, and they will not go ahead until they are fully funded.

Since circulating the information on the above proposed study by the Fraser Institute, I have received a number of positive responses from people who are very happy that finally, we've been able to get a prestigious organization to turn its attention to a topic that is avoided by all politicians and most members of mainstream media. [...] [MORE IN THE OCT. ISSUE]

Faith-based schools

Another very contentious topic is the proposed Tory funding of (more) faith-based schools. The debate is centered around the idea that this encourages segregation by having faith-based schools. I was very surprised to hear Lowell Green on CFRA ask what is more segregated than schools based on language? Good question, Lowell!! I was sent an analysis by a supporter who is in the business of reading & gathering data and he created a table that showed the amount of funding for each school board in the Ottawa area [(1) Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, (2) Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board, (3) Conseil des Écoles Catholiques de Langue Française de Centre-Est]. In order of the above, funding per student based on total revenue: #1 gets \$8,773; #2 gets \$9,117; #3 gets \$10,460. Expenditures per student: #1 spends \$9,374; #2 spends \$8,726; #3 spends \$11,469. Conclusion: French education costs more: why? Why are the public schools not making a fuss about this? Why do they accept this inequity so silently? [...] ♣

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