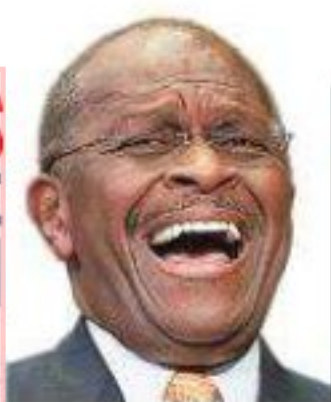


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DECEMBER 5, 2011

**THIS TINY THING
WILL ROCK THE
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proving Einstein wrong and
opening the door to **time travel**
and whole new dimensions P.52

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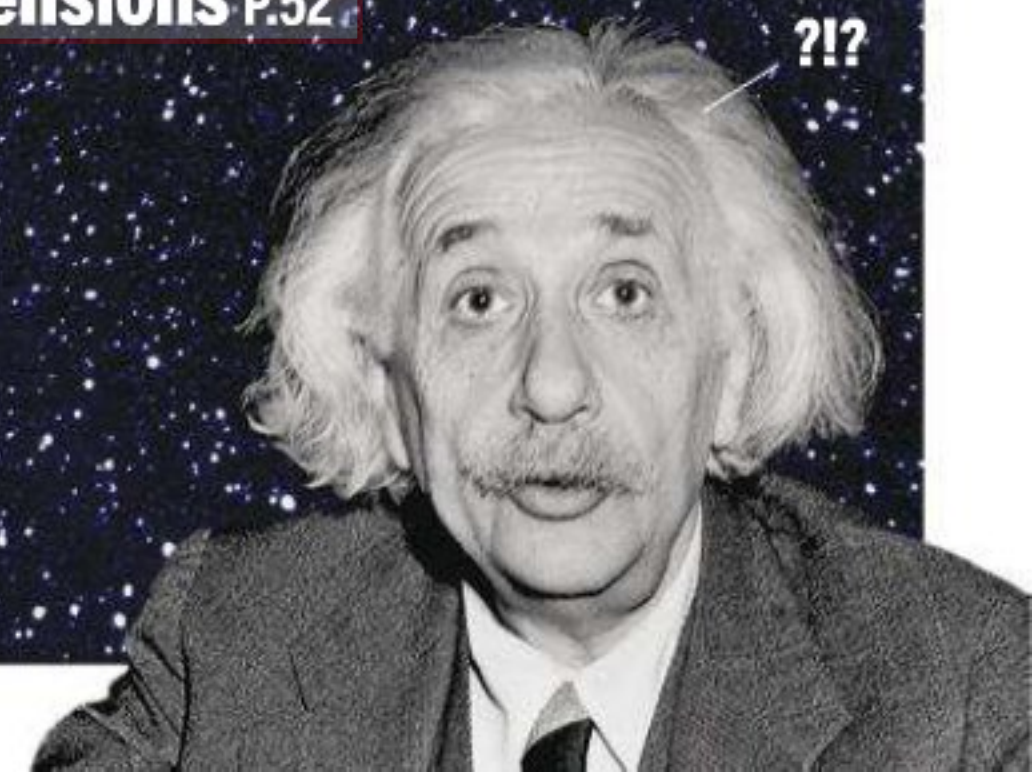
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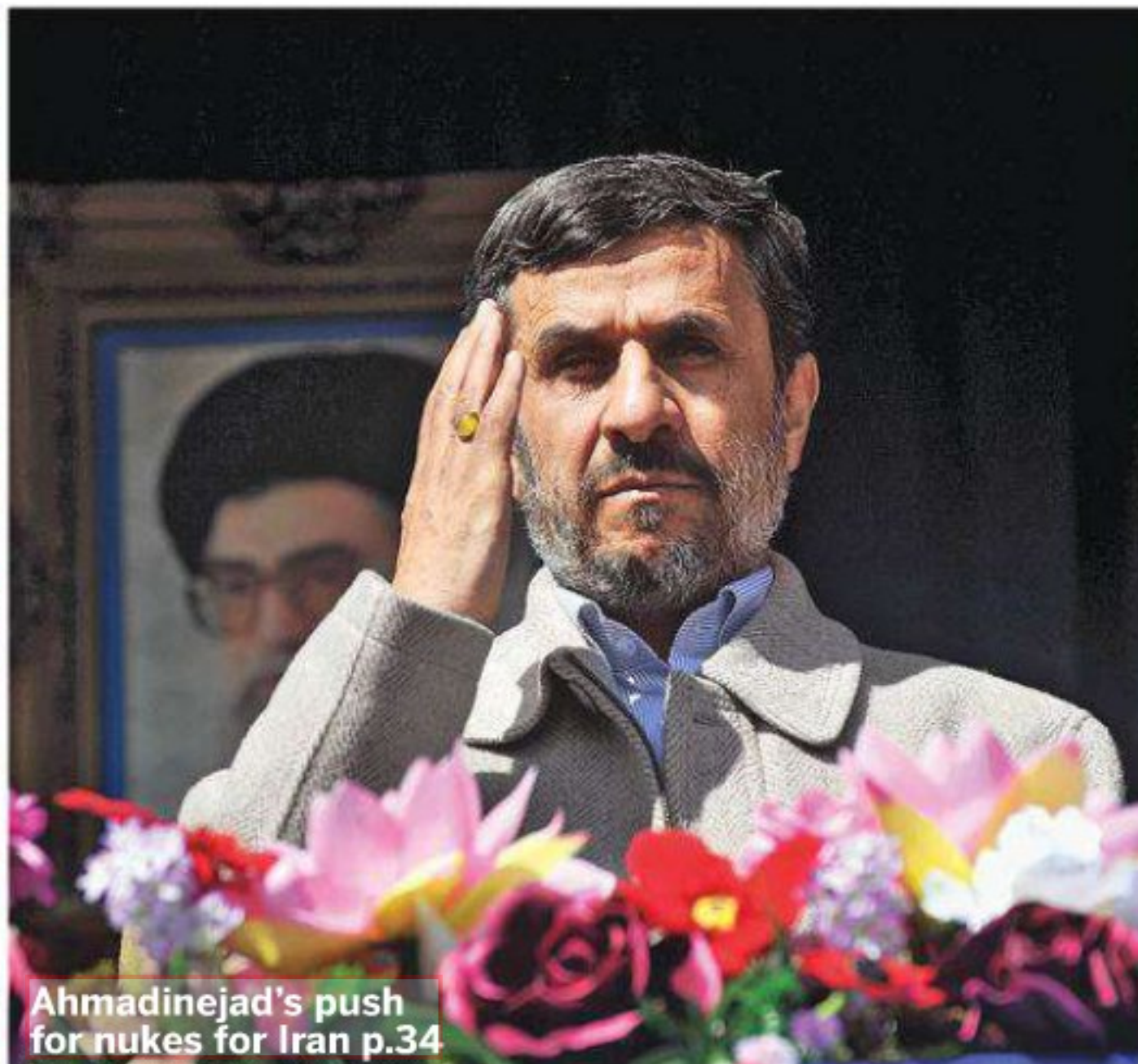
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Two Canadian institutions that deserve more respect

WHEN DETROIT LIONS fan Dennis Guttman heard that Nickelback would be playing during his team's halftime show on American Thanksgiving this week, he wondered why organizers had picked a Canadian act, let alone one with a such an awful reputation. (A U.K. magazine once voted it "the worst band in the world.") Guttman started a petition to have it booted from the show, and within weeks drew over 50,000 signatures and international attention. "Does anyone even like Nickelback?" he wrote.

For the band from Hanna, Alta., this kind of pile-on is nothing new. They've been taking abuse from armchair music critics since they broke on the scene in 2000. When reports emerged that Nickelback might be performing in Winnipeg to kick off the NHL season, *Free Press* music critics called on the NHL to scrap the plan, calling it "tantamount to spitting on Bobby Hull's toupée."

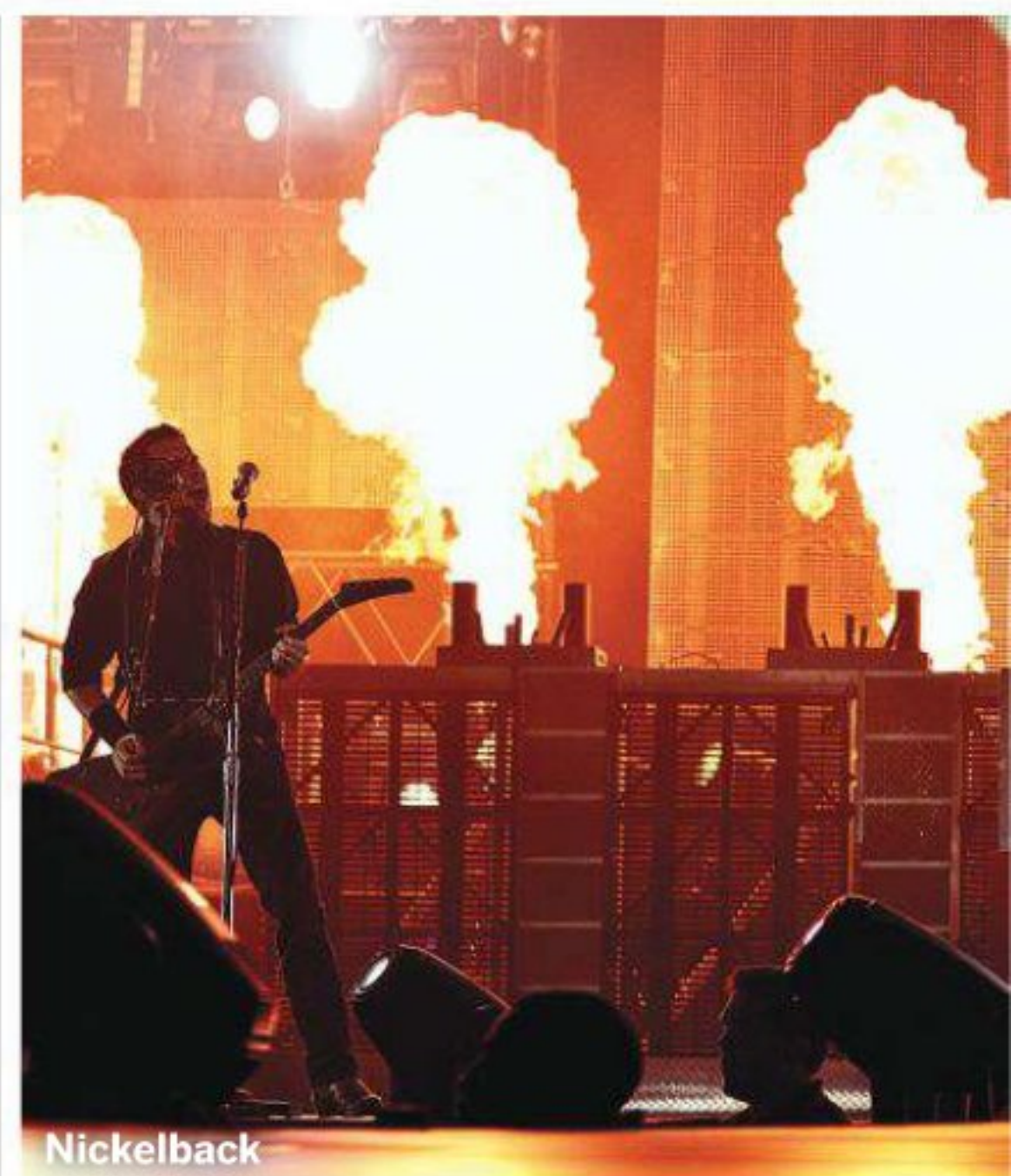
There have always been bands that people dislike, or dismiss as overrated and artless. But the response to Nickelback goes far beyond that—to the point where some say they are ashamed the band is Canadian. It is a view so vicious it borders on cruel. And it's just plain wrong.

Nickelback serves a huge and devoted fan

base. With record sales in excess of 30 million, it's one of this country's top cultural exports. Billboard named it the top band of the 2000s based on chart success, and its song *How You Remind Me* was named the top rock song of the decade.

The numbers, of course, are often used against it, cited as evidence that the band is too popular to be any good—that they are, in effect, rock 'n' roll's lowest common denominator. But there is an undeniable genius in finding mass public acceptance. It's what every artist, businessman and politician hopes to achieve—but rarely does—when they present an idea or product to the public. Like Tim Hortons or Wal-Mart, two other blue-collar champions, Nickelback knows who it serves and works hard to deliver for them. And like Rush, another hugely successful but often critically derided Canadian group, Nickelback has put its stamp on music history. Rolling Stone said the song *How You Remind Me* with its "combination of Nirvana dynamics and early Pearl Jam sludge made it official that early-nineties alt-rock was the new classic rock."

Criticism is always subjective, of course, and fair enough. But it can also be thoughtless, and even tinged with envy, particularly when it becomes as virulent as the sort Nick-



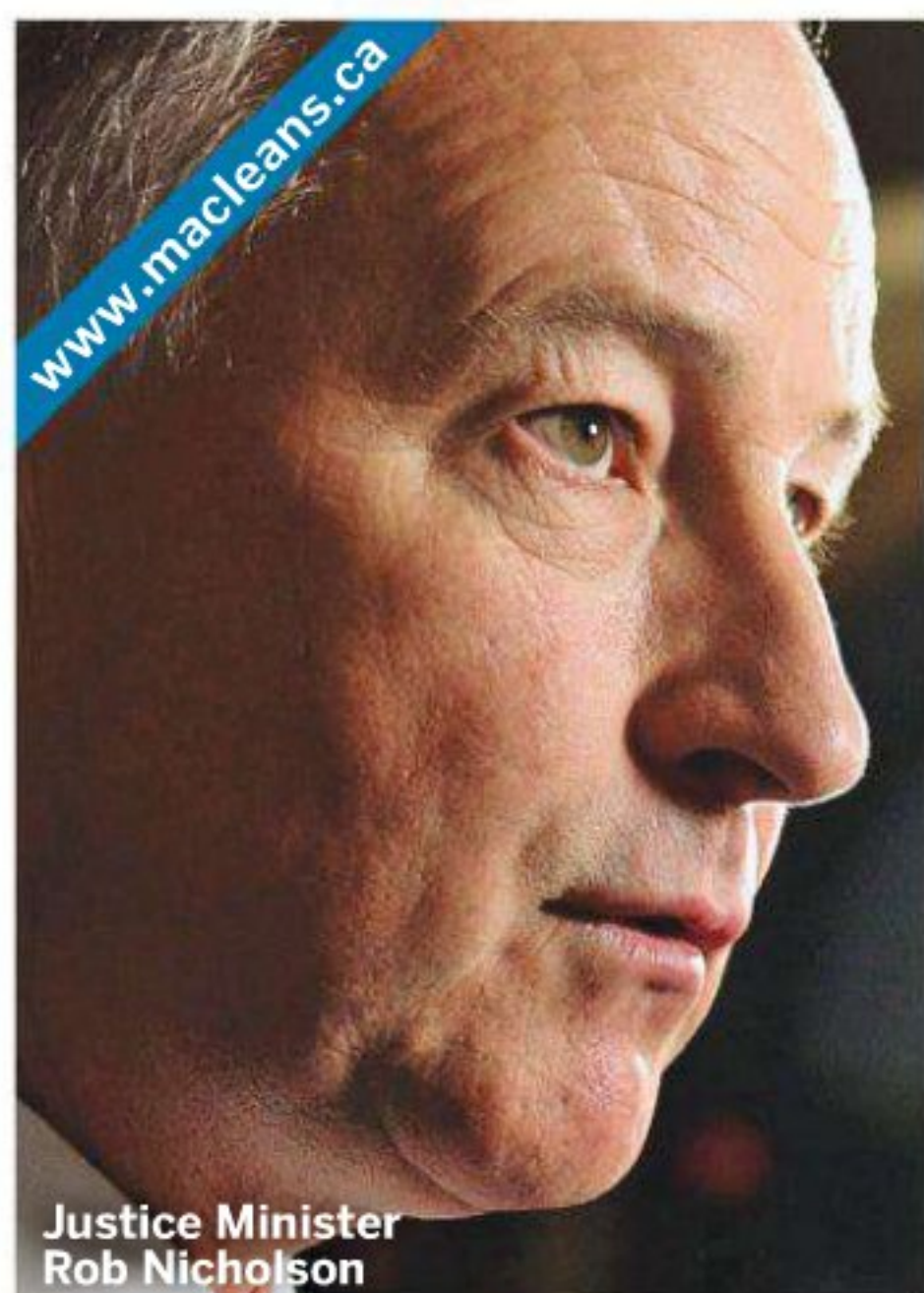
Nickelback

elback faces. "Any reviewer who expresses rage and loathing for a novel is preposterous," Kurt Vonnegut once said. "He or she is like a person who has put on full armour and attacked a hot fudge sundae."

Nickelback's music isn't for everyone. But when the band takes to the field in Detroit this week, there is no doubt the fans will far outnumber the noisy critics. It will be a moment of Canadian accomplishment worth celebrating.

THIS WEEK, *Maclean's*, in partnership with *L'Actualité* and the Historica-Dominion Institute, is pleased to present our fifth annual Parliamentarians of the Year awards. Bob Rae

SEAN KILPATRICK/CP



Justice Minister
Rob Nicholson

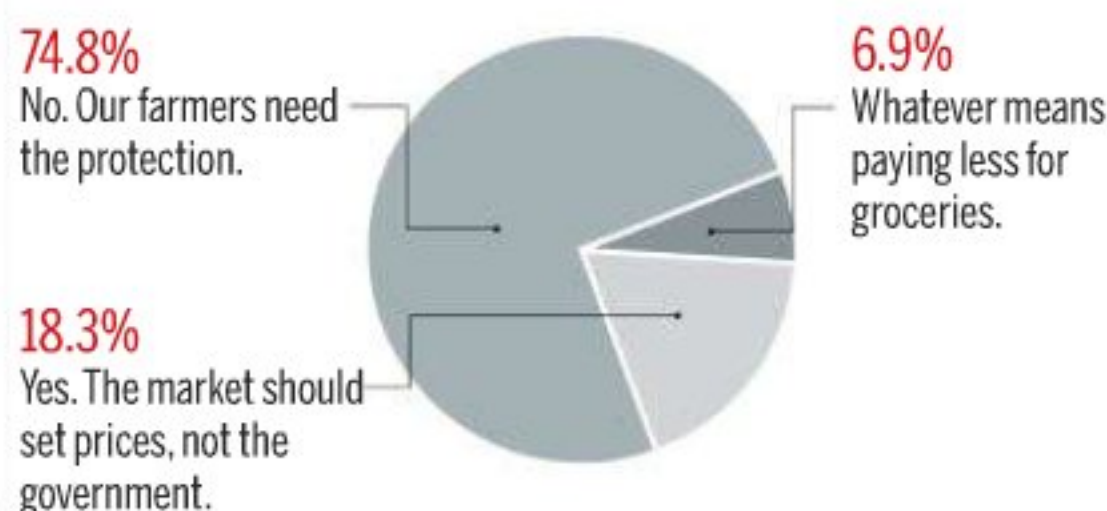
THIS WEEK ON THE WEB

Is the Conservatives' omnibus crime bill

For more on the Tories' law-and-order agenda—and the resistance

THE WEB POLL

Should the federal government abolish supply management?



THE BLOGGERS

COLBY COSH on how the tents the Occupy movement has set up are no different than other protected forms of speech

MICHAEL PETROU on how Ottawa isn't being forthright about its reasons for allowing Suncor to keep working in Syria



CHRIS RYAN/CORBIS

wins the top honour. His lifetime of political experience, unparalleled debating skills and intelligent approach to difficult issues belie the current state of the federal Liberal party and his title as its interim leader. When Rae speaks, colleagues on both sides of the House know to pay attention. He joins previous honourees John Baird, Jason Kenney, Bill Blaikie and Ralph Goodale.

From the hardest working to most knowledgeable, these awards celebrate those who represent what is right about Ottawa. To determine the winners, Ipsos Reid asked all 308 members of Parliament to nominate the best MPs from both inside and outside their

own parties, in each of seven categories. (Votes were converted to a point system to ensure that larger parties did not have an advantage. The winner of Parliamentarian of the Year was awarded on the basis of the highest number of total points across all categories.)

And this year, for the first time, we are presenting a Lifetime Achievement award, as chosen by the editors. The winner, Jack Layton, made history this spring by single-handedly lifting the NDP to Canada's official Opposition in a mesmerizing display of campaigning skill and character, before succumbing to cancer over the summer. His presence is sorely missed in Parliament. ♣

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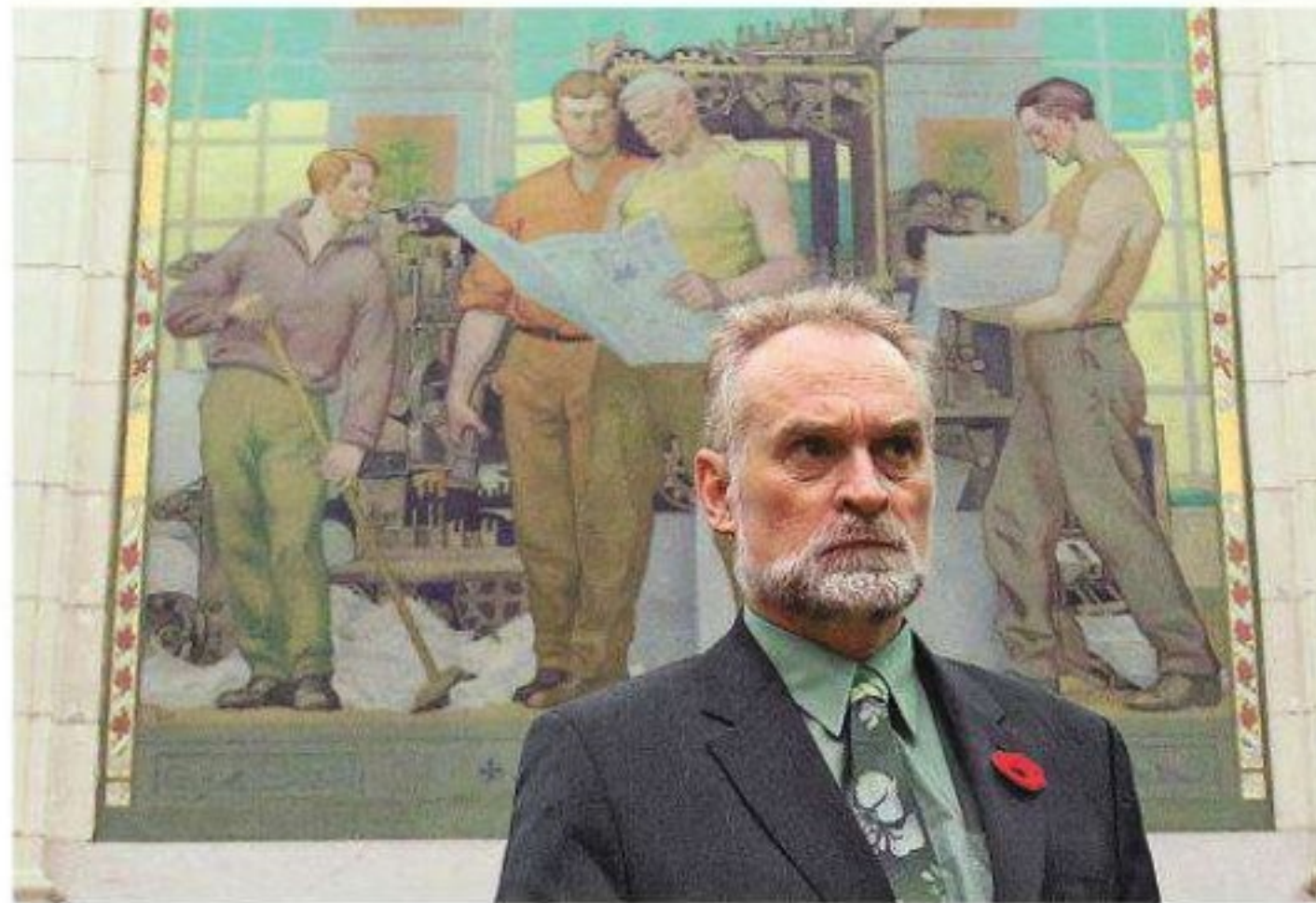
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‘We need the best people for the most important jobs. Bilingual ability should not be the deciding factor.’

*Richard E. C. Layne,
Harrow, Ont.*



‘Why bother with bilingualism? There are only eight million French-speaking people in this country.’

*Richard Leblanc,
Ste-Catherine-de-Hatley, Que.*

Magic man

It seems a bit optimistic to call Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney “The Canadian hired to save the world” (National, Nov. 21). Is it reasonable to expect that he can pull a Merlin and avoid another recession, considering the massive, unpayable debt already out there, much of it nothing but figures on paper and the turnover of stocks? Carney’s task is Sisyphean. The trick for us peasants is to try and avoid that rock when it rolls back down.
Doris Wrench Eisler, St. Albert, Alta.

Talking bilingualism

Congratulations for having the courage to tell it like it is regarding the appointment of Michael Ferguson as Canada’s next auditor general (“Why official bilingualism doesn’t mean settling for second best,” From the editors, Nov. 21). We need the best people for the most important jobs in the country, and to reduce the choices to the few that are fully bilingual is simply a waste of human resources. Canadian taxpayers are best served by the best-qualified people for federal positions, and bilingual ability, though important, should not be the deciding factor.
Richard E.C. Layne, Harrow, Ont.

The position of auditor general is accountable to the citizens of Canada. Why bother with the incumbent being able to communicate in French? After all, there are only eight million French-speaking people in this country.
*Richard Leblanc,
Ste-Catherine-de-Hatley, Que.*

I was staunchly supportive of those who hold the opinion that the appointee to auditor general should be a person who is fluently bilingual, in keeping with the belief that Canada is a bilingual nation. After reading your editorial, I changed my stance. The

question that did it was: “Is it reasonable to declare over 80 per cent of Canada’s population ineligible for the most important tasks in the country?”

Jim Ursulak, Nanaimo, B.C.

You state that we should let Ferguson “get on with the job.” I have some problems with reaching that conclusion so quickly. Since he did not meet one of the essential qualifications as stipulated in the “job” posting, the staffing process should have been repeated without that essential requirement therein. Then perhaps other, better-qualified candidates of either anglophone or francophone roots would have surfaced.

Willie Gibbs, Ottawa

Aging ungracefully?

Brian Bethune’s article on aging rang a few bells (“What it’s really like to grow old,” Society, Nov. 21). I had often thought how wonderful it would be to live a long life, but after watching my mother get through a day, I’ve arrived at a different opinion. It’s all well and good if one is active in both body and mind, but when the body or mind goes, life isn’t fun anymore. Toward the end of her life, my mother would repeat a Ukrainian saying, “Old age isn’t happiness, death isn’t a wedding.” She’d laugh at that as she had a wonderful sense of humour, but I knew it took tremendous courage to live out her last years dependent on others to help with basic needs. As Bethune pointed out: “Old age is not for sissies.”

Diana Stevan, Campbell River, B.C.

You say that “young people bitterly resent the perpetual-motion treadmill they pace while maintaining their hyper-aged parents’ entitlement programs.” Would these be the same entitlement programs that were funded

by those working 40 to 50 years and dumping about half of their income in the form of various taxes, hidden and otherwise, into government coffers, as well as decades of Canadian Pension Plan contributions?
Gary Cutting, East Gwillimbury, Ont.

In the same week that *Maclean’s* projected a dismal old age for millions of boomers who will suffer from cognitive loss and dementia, it was heartening that two seniors—Lucas Papademos, 64, and Mario Monti, 68—were recruited as prime ministers to rescue the financial health of their respective countries, Greece and Italy.

M. Jean Duff, Toronto

The future is now

Charlie Gillis’s article “Driving Ambition” (Business, Nov. 14) describes the wonderful world of future cars that would infallibly drive their passengers around, leaving the latter to sleep, chat, play Scrabble or just enjoy the scenery. But isn’t the future already here? It’s called public transit. And while it may not promise infallibility, at least it’s got drivers, some of whom will smile at you when you drop your ticket.

Geoff Rytell, Toronto

Ordinary lives, extraordinary sacrifices

I want to thank you for doing the story of Kyle Knox’s life and untimely death (“Kyle James Knox,” The end, Nov. 14). We always hear stories of emergency workers dying in the course of work, but we almost never hear stories of ordinary farmers, labourers, fishermen and construction workers who die while building, feeding and bettering our communities. Though they may not wear uniforms, I am glad that you take the time to honour the ordinary workman and woman.

Andy McIntosh, London, Ont.

Money isn't everything

In our rush to admit wealthy investor-class immigrants such as accused murderer Mohammad Shafia ("House rules," National, Nov. 14), are we ignoring more fundamental criteria, such as a commitment to Canada and an ability to adapt to our laws and values? It seems that in this case, as with the millionaire hairdresser charged with slavery in Vancouver, their wealth was more than enough reason for us to roll out the welcome mat. When we focus only on the money we should not be surprised when some who have it conclude that they are above the law in Canada.

Ronald McCaig, Port Alberni, B.C.

A private escape

So nice to read that the rich are already staking out their own private "gated" planets and cornering the markets in travel ("Shooting

on quotes and interpretation of science from consultants to the Salt Institute—an organization solely funded by salt mine owners and salt producers. Canadians need to be cautious of interpretations of science by organizations and "expert" consultants with a commercial interest in salt. Ensuring Canadians are aware of the need to reduce sodium additives to food and reduce their intake is a critical step in the effort to ensure Canadians live long healthy lives with a sustainable health system.

Norm Campbell, HSFC CIHR Chair in Hypertension Prevention and Control, Calgary, Bill Jeffery, LL.B., National Coordinator, Centre for Science in the Public Interest, Ottawa, Canadian Cardiovascular Society, Canadian Council of Cardiovascular Nurses, Canadian Pharmacists Association, Canadian Society of Nephrology, Canadian Stroke Network, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada,



Cornering the market: Sir Richard Branson holds a model of the Virgin Galactic Spaceship Two

for the stars—privately," International, Nov. 14). I was beginning to worry that they wouldn't survive the coming Armageddon.

Richard McMillin, Wellington, Ont.

The trouble with salt

Your recent article, "A pinch of reality about salt" (Society, Sept. 19), which minimized the risks of salt excess, did not disclose the conflicts of interest of several of the experts cited and minimized the risks associated with excess sodium intake. The risk of dietary salt excess is real. The UN, WHO, many national governments, and nearly all major scientific and health organizations concerned with heart disease and stroke have called for reductions in dietary salt based on strong evidence that this will reduce death, disability rates and health care costs. In contrast, your article was largely based

Hypertension Canada, National Specialty Society for Community Medicine, Canadian Medical Association


CLARIFICATION

In the article "A two-tier system?" in *Maclean's* 2011 University Rankings issue (Nov. 7), the following statement was attributed to Paul Davidson, president of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada: "Large lectures are here to stay, and along with them, increasingly disengaged students." In fact, Mr. Davidson did not address the question of disengaged students.

We welcome readers to submit letters to either letters@macleans.ca or to *Maclean's*, 11th floor, One Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ont. M4Y 2Y5. Please supply your name, address and daytime telephone number. Letters should be less than 300 words, and may be edited for space, style and clarity.

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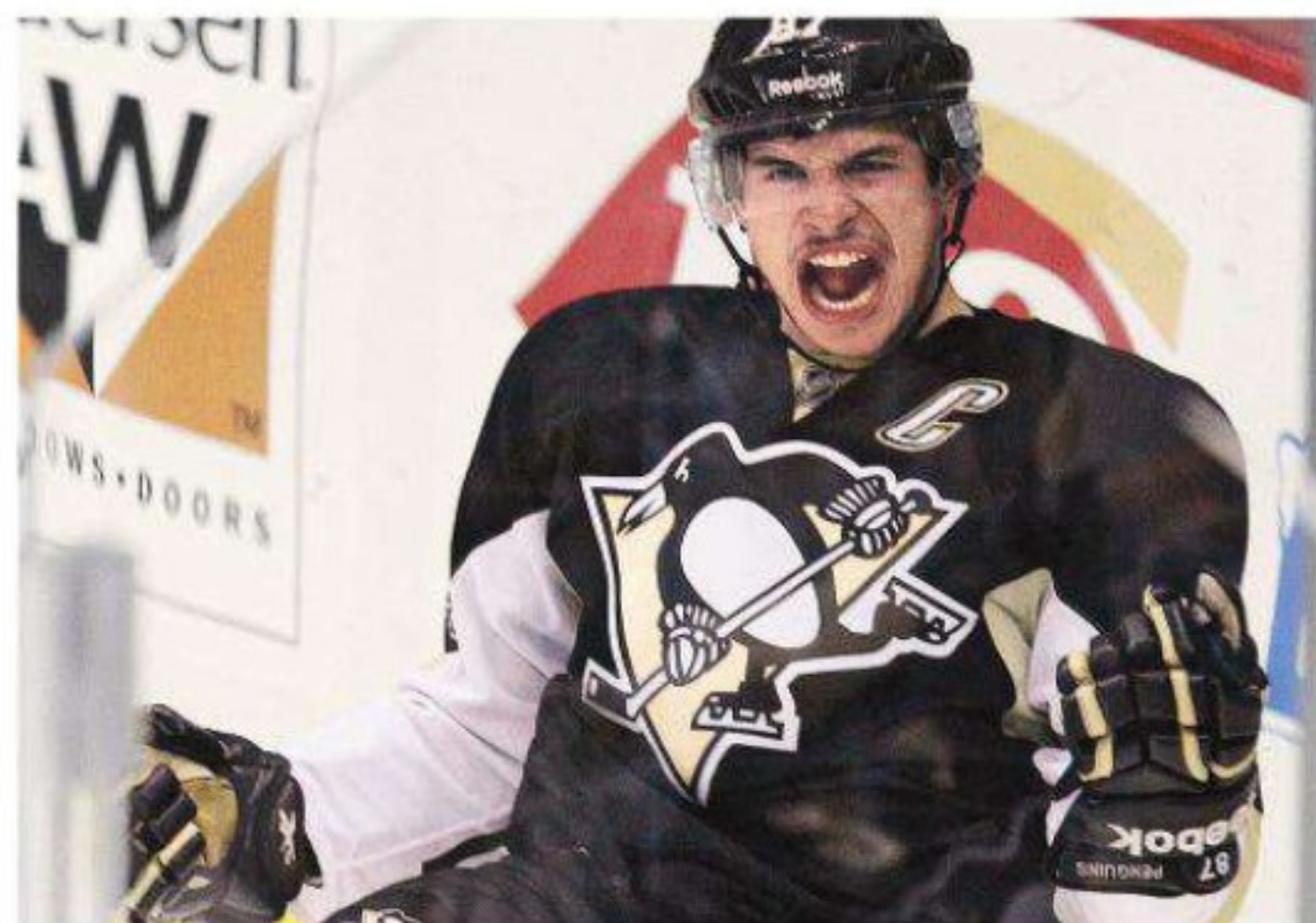
GOOD NEWS

Speak freely

After avoiding section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act for years, the Conservatives are finally standing up in defence of free speech. In a 2009 interview with *Maclean's*, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said section 13's contentious definition of hate propaganda was "a very tricky issue." Last week, however, Justice Minister Rob Nicholson was far clearer. He said: "Section 13 is not an appropriate or effective means for combatting hate propaganda" and urged all MPs to support a private member's bill calling for its repeal. He specifically mentioned *Maclean's* for our efforts in focusing attention on this important issue. Better late than never.

Mopping up

It will take time, but a better Libya is emerging from the horror of Moammar Gadhafi's rule. The national transitional council's



Sidney Crosby scores four points in a triumphant return to the NHL

new cabinet, unveiled this week, includes representatives from all regions and ethnic groups, soothing fears of infighting. And the recent capture of Gadhafi's son, Saif al-Islam, and his former intelligence chief, Abdullah al-Senussi, lessens the threat posed by loyalists to the late dictator. The next

hurdle will be providing the pair with the sort of fair trials that Gadhafi never would have allowed.

The Kid is back

It was the most anticipated comeback in hockey: nearly a year after sustaining a concussion that threatened to end his career, Sid-

ney Crosby of the Pittsburgh Penguins exploded onto the ice in a home game against the New York Islanders on Monday. The brilliance of his performance—two goals and two assists—was only rivalled by the reaction of fans, who chanted his name in a thunderous anthem and waved "SID" signs like they were national flags. Their hero was back.

Sober statistics

Even one fatality from drunk driving is too many, but new data from the Traffic Injury Research Foundation reveals that Canadians are at least moving in the right direction in curbing alcohol-related deaths: the number of traffic crashes involving an intoxicated driver dropped from 1,296 in 1995 to 714 in 2009. Tolerance for dangerous driving is dwindling in other ways too: the same report shows texting while driving is a top concern among Canadians.

BAD NEWS

Stalled spring

Just 11 months after the birth of the mass protest movement that freed Egypt of its long-time dictator Hosni Mubarak, the country is again at a dangerous crossroads. Renewed street demonstrations calling for an end to "interim" military rule have been met with force, leaving at least 29 dead and 1,750 wounded. In the aftermath, the country's generals are promising a new constitution and presidential elections by next June, but the new boss looks an awful lot like the old one.

Some strings attached

Ottawa's plan to buy 65 F-35 fighters from the U.S. may be even more costly than previously thought. An auditor general's report has criticized efforts to save money on such deals by agreeing to long-term service contracts from suppliers. (Canada has set aside \$9 billion to buy the jets and \$7



The pepper-spraying of Occupy protesters at UC Davis sparks outrage

billion for a 20-year support contract.) In addition to the deal taking away Canadian jobs, the report cited concerns about a gradual loss of technical know-how that could weaken the military's self-sufficiency down the road. If taxpayers are asked to spend billions on the latest military technology, they

should benefit from the full value of their investment.

Don't look at me

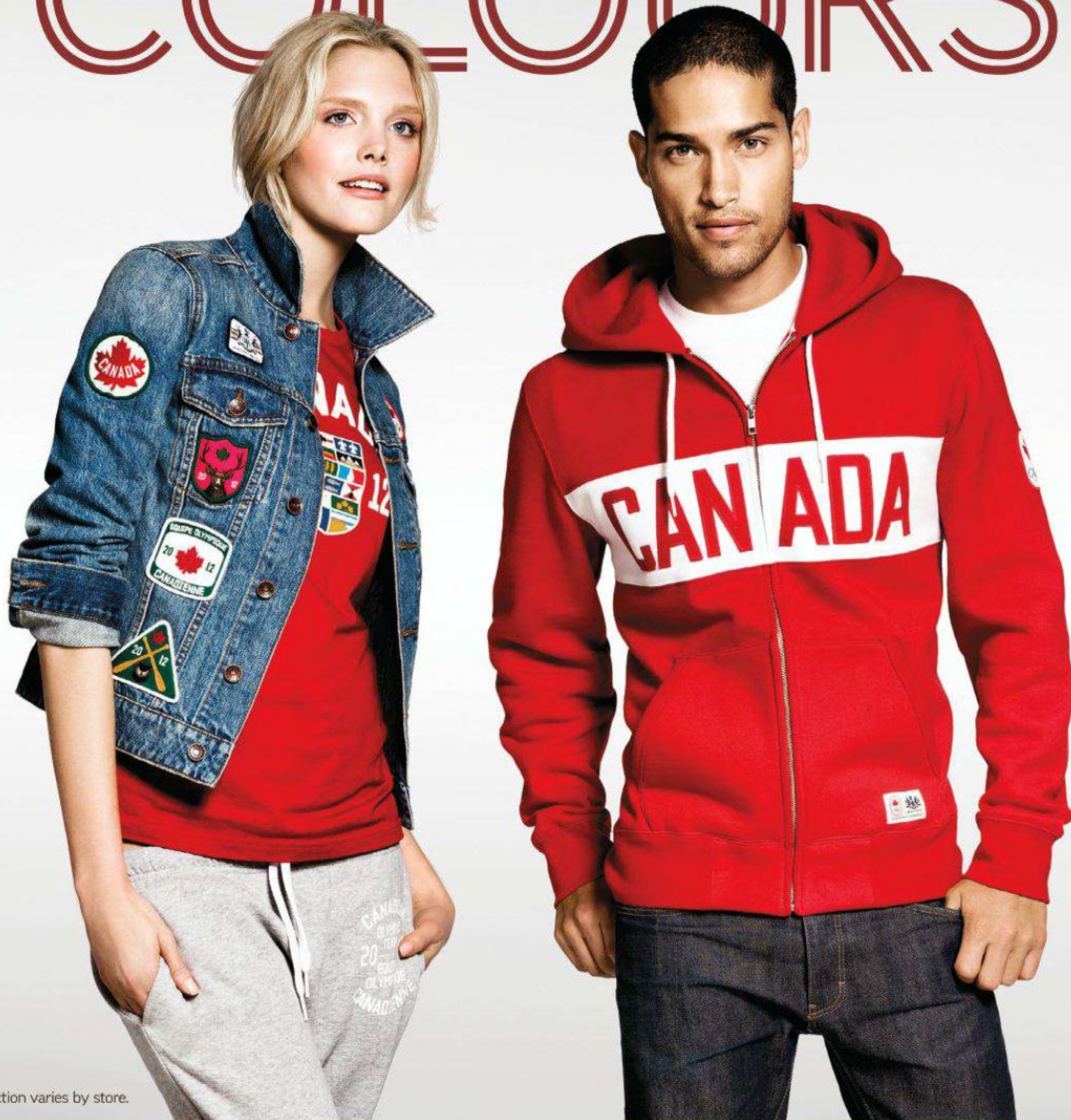
A congressional committee tasked with reducing the ballooning U.S. deficit by \$1.2 trillion failed to come up with a plan. Reports say there weren't even any frenzied

last-minute efforts. Instead, lawmakers punted the problem farther downfield—into 2013, when automatic cuts to military and domestic programs will kick in. Meanwhile, the political blame game over the failure has begun and is certain to continue for months. More evidence the U.S. system really is broken.

Too much information

The world really is getting smaller. Thanks to social media, the old rule about six degrees of separation between any two people—friends, friends of friends and so on—is now down to just 4.74 people, according to new research by Facebook. That's less than it was three years ago, when the average was 5.28. But while services like Facebook have brought us closer together, consider: compromising photos posted online now come to the attention of your boss faster than ever. ♦

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This week

Newsmakers

The Natalie Wood case is reopened, Silvio sings a new song, and a baby girl for Bollywood's first family

Amystery fit for Hollywood

One of Hollywood's most enduring mysteries, the drowning of **Natalie Wood** during a trip on the family yacht, *Splendour*, made headlines again last week. In a bombshell interview, captain **Dennis Davern** admitted he hadn't told investigators the "honest truth" 30 years ago. Davern told the *Today* show he holds Wood's husband responsible for her death—though the L.A. County Sheriff's Office said **Robert Wagner** is not a suspect. "It was a matter of 'we're not going to look too hard, we're not going to turn on the searchlight, we're not going to notify anybody right at the moment,'" said Davern.

Baby takes Bollywood

After months of breathless speculation, Bollywood's First Baby finally arrived this week, born to

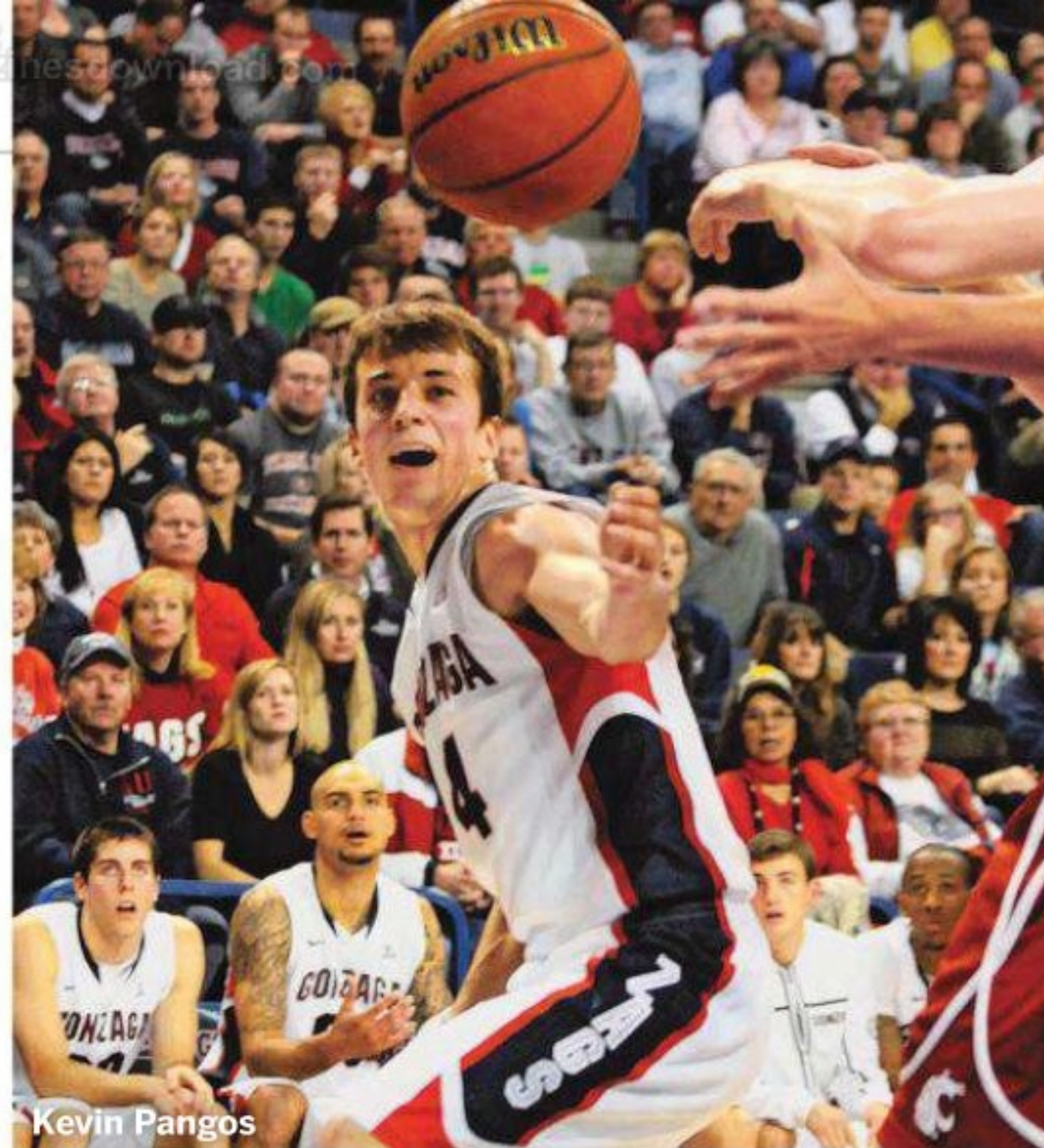
Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. The former Miss World became Bollywood royalty in 2007, when she married leading man **Abhishek Bachchan**, the son of Bollywood icon **Amitabh Bachchan**. After furiously tracking the pregnancy, India's rambunctious media was oddly restrained last week, the result of a 10-point code of ethics governing the birth. The self-imposed blackout meant the Bachchan birth could not be treated as breaking news, no cameras were to be dispatched to hospital, and journalists were to keep broadcast birth stories to within 90 seconds.

A new low

News broke that **Rebekah Brooks**, former editor of *News of the World*, is expecting her first child via a surrogate with husband **Charlie**, as the phone-hacking revelations continue. She is



Silvio Berlusconi



Kevin Pangos

reportedly "overjoyed" by her baby news. Meanwhile, the Leveson inquiry investigating press standards heard that the mother of murdered schoolgirl **Milly Dowler** felt "euphoria" when she finally got through to her daughter's voice mail—the false hope came from thinking her missing daughter had checked the messages, when in fact *News of the World* hackers had deleted some. It also emerged that Welsh superstar **Charlotte Church**'s mother **Maria** attempted suicide after a *News of the World* story suggested her husband was having an affair and taking cocaine, a story padded with details from hacked voice mails. Brooks, who received a \$2.7-million severance package, is currently on bail, and has denied committing any criminal offences.

Canada's hoops dream

It was almost inevitable, given what came before, that the next big thing in Canadian basketball wouldn't be that big at all—at least not physically. Newmarket, Ont.'s **Kevin Pangos** stands about six foot one, about the same size as the greatest Canadian basketball player of all time, two-time NBA MVP **Steve Nash**. The 18-year-old, playing for Gonzaga University in only his second NCAA game, tied the school's record for three-pointers—nine—last week,

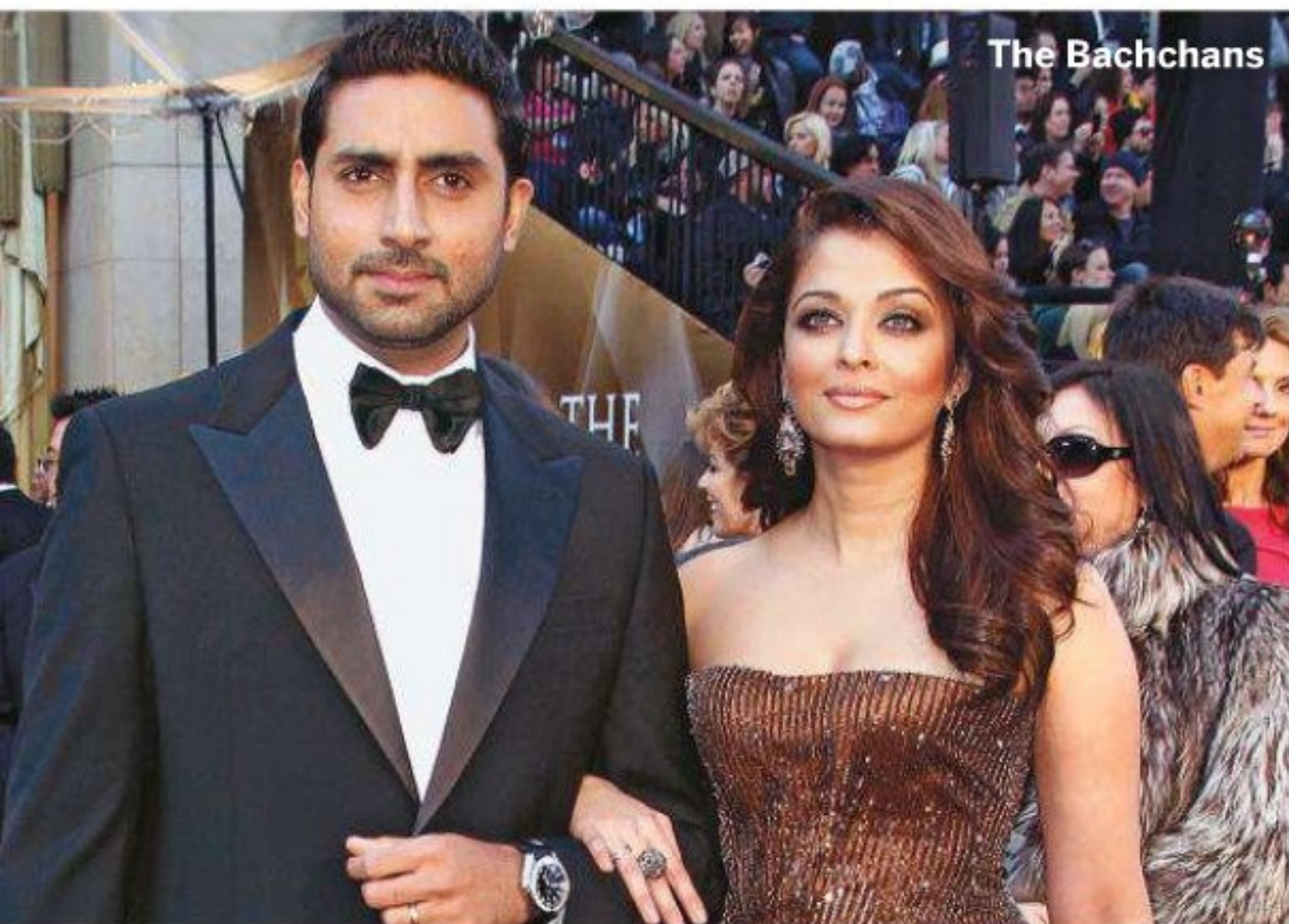
sinking a total of 33 points. "Every time he shoots it, we think it's going in," Gonzaga coach **Mark Few** told CBS.

Confirming bias

Daniel Klein is the economics prof who, last year, published a *Wall Street Journal* piece detailing research suggesting "liberals" aren't generally very bright, particularly on economic matters—a finding he admitted he found "easy to believe," given his right-wing politics. But this month in *The Atlantic*, a *mea culpa*: new research shows that "conservatives and libertarians were as likely as anyone" to get economic questions wrong, Klein wrote. "The tendency to judge a statement according to how conveniently it fits with one's settled position... is pervasive among all of America's political groups." And, it seems, among academics.

One author's gift

With bookstores shuttering across North America, it may feel like a strange time to open a new one. But **Ann Patchett**, award-winning author of *Bel Canto* and other novels, has done just that. Compared to Nashville's massive Borders bookstore, which closed shop last year, Parnassus is as small as a "shoebox," Patchett told NPR. "I think of this as my gift to the city," she



The Bachchans

says, “and if I want to live in a city with a bookstore, then I’m willing to pay for it.”

If the T-shirt fits

George Bernard Shaw counselled against wrestling with pigs: “You get dirty, and besides, the pig likes it.” But what if both opponents are equally porcine? Consider this: **Mike Sorrentino**, the *Jersey Shore* star known as “the Situation,” has sued Abercrombie & Fitch, the clothing retailer, over an apparently tongue-in-cheek suggestion it was willing to pay Sorrentino *not* to wear its brand, citing fears the association caused “significant damage to our image.” Sorrentino’s people say there was no such offer and that the comments amount to an advertising gam-

bit that generated significant profit for Abercrombie & Fitch.

Campaign travails

Two B.C. mayors were struck in the final days of their re-election campaigns—one by a fundraising scandal, the other by a car. Vancouver’s **Gregor Robertson**, whose left-leaning Vision Vancouver party elected all seven candidates last week, faced questions over the \$194,000 his campaign received from a web of companies connected to two charities: Tides Canada and the Endswell Foundation (charities are barred from making political contributions). Coquitlam Mayor **Richard Stewart**, who was hit by a car while campaigning, was released after two nights in hospital—time enough to spend a final day knock-

ing on doors. Meanwhile, Surrey Mayor **Dianne Watts**, who swept Surrey council, received four injections in her spine just so she could stand to deliver her acceptance speech; the politician injured her back this summer when she fell off a horse.

Ritorna

Silvio Berlusconi released an album of love songs this week. Memorable lines tell of tormented love—“Another day of wind and rain, another night without you.” *True Love* marks a return to familiar terrain for the former Italian prime minister, a one-time cruise ship crooner. Speaking of surprising returns, **Ricky Gervais** will once again host the Golden Globe Awards. His insult-laden act last spring took aim at **Charlie Sheen**’s drinking habits, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association’s then-president **Philip Berk** and **Angelina Jolie** and **Johnny Depp**’s widely panned film, *The Tourist*. “The outrage I caused was of course, as usual, totally out of proportion to the things I said,” he wrote on his blog. “This year I’m going to make sure their offence is completely justified.”

Brave bride

Farzana Yasmin walked out of her own wedding when, at the last minute, her husband’s family demanded a dowry, which is technically illegal in Bangladesh. Yasmin is now seeking a divorce.

“The dowry has become a cancer of our society,” she told the BBC. “I have always wondered why people should put up with it.”

FARC’s next stand

After the Colombian military tracked and killed rebel leader

Alfonso Cano, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) named **Timoleon Jimenez**—better known as **Timochenko**—to succeed him. The appointment of the hard-liner, announced last week, is widely seen as a bad omen for

peace. Still, there are questions about how much power FARC still wields. Government forces have pounded rebel positions in the past decade, weakening the army. **Timochenko**’s first public dispatch as leader, meanwhile,

came off as more peevish than threatening. The new FARC chief griped about Colombian President **Juan Manuel Santos** boasting over Cano’s death—what did he expect, flowers?

That f--king tweet

Pat Martin was so enraged that the Conservative government was cutting off debate over budget legislation, he whipped out his smartphone. “This is a f--king disgrace,” he tweeted. “There’s not a democracy in the world that would tolerate this jackboots--t.” Another tweeter, moments later, labelled him a “foul-mouthed socialist.” “F--k you,” responded the NDP MP, who remains unapologetic.

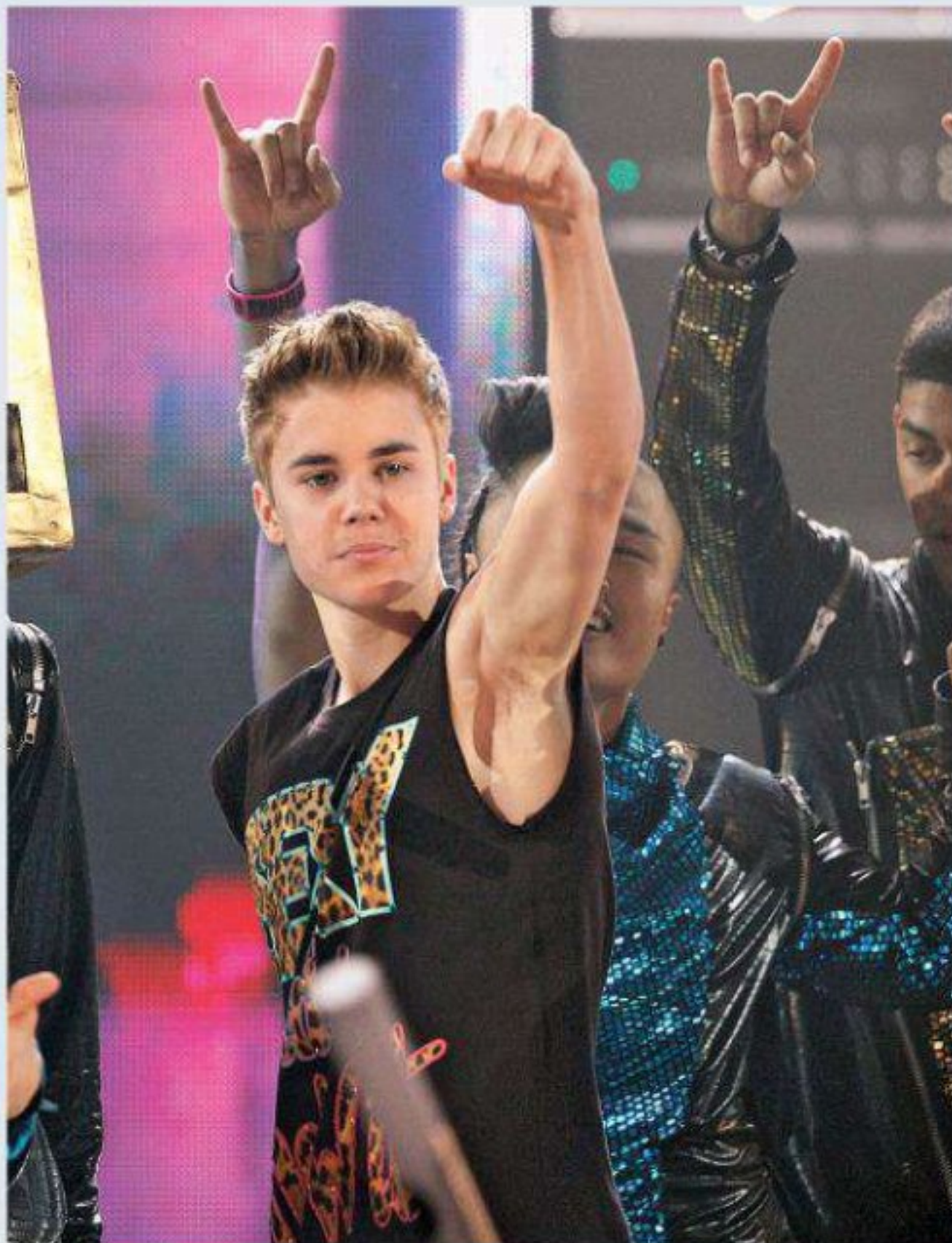
Wither Detroit?

Detroit Mayor **Dave Bing** doesn’t mince words. In a TV address last week, the former basketball star and businessman asked unionized city workers to

take a 10 per cent pay cut, to pay for their own health care, and to play along if he privatizes services. “Simply put, our city is in a financial crisis,” he said. “And city government is broken.” **ALEX BALLINGALL, NICHOLAS KÖHLER, RICHARD WARNICA AND KATE LUNAU**



Rebekah Brooks



The Biebs fights back

What better way to shake off nasty paternity claims than a dance with LMFAO at the American Music Awards? **Mariah Yeater** may have dropped the paternity case against **Justin Bieber**, but his legal team intends to take action against her. Last week, Bieber took a DNA test to support his case.



'The Situation'



Don't look: Democracy in Egypt is slipping away, *Twilight* is the top-grossing film in North America, and our F-35 jets have a speech impediment

POLITICS

THESE DAYS, NO NEWS IS GOOD. PERIOD.



PAUL
WELLS

THE OTHER DAY, Martin Scorsese screened his new 3-D children's movie, *Hugo*, for his daughter Francesca, who was turning 12, and 50 of her friends. Two thoughts occur:

It's probably a good thing Scorsese didn't have a daughter turning 12 the year he made *Taxi Driver*.

It's official: you're an inadequate parent.

"What? A pinata?! Daddy, I wanted 3-D *Jude Law*! Francesca's dad gave her 3-D *Jude Law*!"

This is the kind of autumn we're having, people. Trouble and woe in every direction. We are way past the days of "No News is Good News." We are well into the realm of "No News is Good." It's as if the entire world had turned into a *Maclean's* magazine cover.

The omens and portents are many. Consider these two isolated data points:

Pakistan's ambassador to the U.S. resigned amid allegations he was trying to enlist the Obama administration in a struggle to keep Pakistan from falling under military control.

Billy Crystal is going to host the Oscars again.

Sure, the scale of these potential disasters is not quite the same. But as Dan Gardner

reminded us in his book *Risk: The Science and Politics of Fear*, risk is the product of a nasty event's magnitude, multiplied by its probability. So "nuclear-tipped Islamo-fascist Pakistan" would be a bigger problem, if it came to pass, than "way-too-long opening musical number in dubious homage to the Best Picture nominees." But it's also less of a sure thing. So basically you should worry as much about one as the other.

Everywhere the news is the same: bad. In Washington, the bipartisan congressional debt supercommittee turned out to be a partisan congressional debt supercommittee, which means it was unable to decide how to fix the jumbo American debt. The panel never had a chance of succeeding. As soon as it admitted failure, everyone went right back to work on whose fault this all was.

"What's most disappointing about that is that our President has had no involvement in the process," Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney said. "Instead, he's been out doing other things: campaigning and blaming and travelling." Romney, who has had no involvement in the process, made his comments in Nashua, N.H., where he had travelled to campaign.

Failure of the debt panel "guarantees" (i.e. probably does not guarantee) a series of tax increases and spending cuts meant to reduce the debt. These measures are designed to be automatic. So they will not be automatic. The chairman of the House armed services committee, Howard "Buck" McKeon, said he will bring in a bill to prevent the automatic cuts. So (a) words have no meaning and (b) countless billions of dollars' worth of war machin-

ery and, who knows, maybe the very credibility of the U.S. economy, now depend on the actions of a guy named "Buck."

In Egypt, the army has finally agreed to early elections, which could well mean triumph for the Islamic fundamentalists. The "liberals"—the groups that want the most democracy, as Canadians understand the term—prefer a later election, because the democrats can't win if voting happens now. The good news is Egypt's army and its fundamentalists aren't in open warfare. The bad news is they're starting to get along.

The top-grossing film in North America is the latest *Twilight* movie about pale, pouty vampires. Taylor Swift, who swept the American Music Awards, has the top-grossing tour in North America. Here I have no punchline. I figure I don't really need one.

In Ontario, Dalton McGuinty's Liberals returned to office with a Throne Speech that used the words "uncertainty" and "slow" four times each. Perhaps surprisingly, the Throne Speech wasn't referring to U.S. Republican party presidential candidate Herman Cain, who told an interviewer he thinks a military strike against Iran would be a bad idea because Iran has mountains. "I'm not supposed to know anything about foreign policy," Cain told a campaign rally later. "Just thought I'd throw that out."

Perhaps the best demonstration that a leader should know as little as possible about foreign policy is Michael Ignatieff. The former Liberal leader, BBC globetrotter and Kennedy School thinker is the subject of a new book by our distinguished colleague Peter C. Newman, who signed on to chron-

THERE'S GOOD CHEER.



AND THEN THERE'S
REALLY GOOD CHEER.



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TWICE MELLOWED
THROUGH
SUGAR MAPLE
CHARCOAL

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icle Ignatieff's triumph in the recent elections but who remains flexible based on changing events. Newman is down on the Liberals these days, but remains oddly persuaded Ignatieff had greatness in him.

"This party needs to change, this party has to grow, this party needs to renew," Ignatieff told Newman in July, 2010. "We've got a hell of a lot of work to do."

"If people could have only heard the way he talked to me on the bus," Newman writes. I think that's precisely backwards. People heard, loud and clear, that the Liberals need to change, grow and renew, and that they had a hell of a lot of work to do. So people declined to elect them.

Meanwhile, the news continues to roll in. The Canadian Press reports that Canada's multi-billion-dollar F-35 jet fighters may be unable to communicate with ground troops or older aircraft, if the F-35s ever even get delivered. It's that kind of autumn. ♦

On the Web: For more Paul Wells, visit his blog at macleans.ca/inklesswells



PENN STATE

THIS ISN'T THE WAY TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN



BARBARA AMIEL

A VIRUS HITS American commanders-in-chief when on aircraft carriers. Think George W. Bush on the USS Abraham Lincoln declaring we "have prevailed" in front of the Mission Accomplished banner. Or the sombre Richard Nixon doing a mini jig of excitement on board the Hornet at the Apollo 11 splashdown. Hard not to compare them unfavourably with Cher on the USS Missouri in thigh-high stockings and biker jacket, utter fabulosity, even though her lyrics, "If I could turn back time," were nearly as banal as Dubya's.

For new lows the ribbon goes to President

Obama's Veterans Day remarks on the USS Carl Vinson. The Penn State scandal, said the American President, should lead to "soul-searching" by Americans. "Our first priority," he said, "is protecting our kids." As opposed to what: protecting senior citizens, the economy or perhaps the endangered Kretschmarr cave mould beetle? A bit rich, anyway, in a country where over a million of its potential kids per year get deliberately aborted.

Briefly, in case you have been in a coma: legendary (junior grade) Penn State football assistant coach Jerry Sandusky, 67 (there are many "legendary" figures in this story, but as I can't tell legend from long snapper in American football, I can't vouch for the designation), has been indicted on 40 charges, all relating to sexual assault on minors. The indictment came via a grand jury convened over years in the absence of the citizen under investigation or proper rules of evidence.

Included are allegations of groping, anal sex in showers and oral sex with young boys met through Sandusky's program for disadvantaged youths. All very nasty, but unproven before trial, which is already mission unaccomplishable. Prosecutors released the grand jury's findings of fact to an eager press who advertently misplaced the word "alleged." Thus the "How many other children could have been sodomized?" reaction of Nancy Grace. I doubt any jury north of Antarctica could try this case fairly.

Two executives at Penn State are charged with perjury and failing to report allegations of child abuse to the police. The graduate assistant who reported a 2002 shower incident to his Penn State superior is now on "indefinite leave." Legendary coach Joe Paterno, 84, due to retire, has been fired by Penn's board of trustees together with unlegendary university president Graham Spanier. More alleged victims are coming forward. There is talk of civil suits to be filed on behalf of the victims against the university. Experienced child abuse lawyer Slade McLaughlin is quoted saying lawyers are trolling for clients at the Penn State rallies: "When you've got 19, 20 kids coming out, saying 'he did it, he did it,'" explains McLaughlin, "I don't understand why anyone at Penn State in their right mind would say, 'Let's fight this.'" Nope, just roll over: if there are funds to be dished out, it's payday.

Do we want a society in which people who see a crime but don't report it to the police become criminalized? If you see a mugging and don't report it immediately to the police you are morally bankrupt but not a criminal. If I tell my boss I saw a fellow employee stealing from the supply cabinet, should I be

charged if she doesn't go to the police? Snitching is the right thing to do in every conceivable sense if you see a child being sodomized, but to create another class of criminals for not snitching doesn't seem helpful. Such reporting laws are part of what sentencing authority professor Michael O'Hear of the Marquette University law school, in his essay "Perpetual Panic," refers to as "harmful effects of excessive or misdirected responses" to child sexual abuse. They won't deter sexual predators, but commit resources to non-productive areas.

Changing emphasis in the culture is another inconvenience. Penn State's own professor Philip Jenkins, a distinguished historian, in his book *Moral Panic: Changing Concepts of the Child Molester in Modern America*, details three waves that peaked in approximately 1915, 1950 and 1985 of "wildly exaggerated and wrongly directed" panic over child abusers, with public interest declining during the 1920s and 1960s. In retrospect, say both Jenkins and O'Hear, 1985 was not the peak but the plateau. We are now in the third decade of this hysteria, with new laws proliferating, harsher sentences and witch hunts based on false memory syndrome and the lure of big payoffs.

Sex with children has rightly never been acceptable in modern times, particularly if physical force is involved, but the age of consent has varied considerably and still does in both the U.S. and Europe, from 13 to 18 years old, according to gender or marital status. Paterno, whose only crime appears to be not going to the police, came of age in the locker rooms of the late forties, where sex with a child would be wrong but likely handled inside the university. Should we punish him in the 21st century for his retrospective cultural attitudes? There is a case to be made for a temporal jurisdiction: crimes committed in the cultural framework of another time may not always yield to trials held in new time.

A statute of limitations (currently removed for child abuse) exists because memories fail, hard evidence may be unavailable, guilt or innocence cannot be established confidently. How can you know which of the adults citing incidents 20 years ago are telling the truth? Is the onus to be on the accused to prove his innocence rather than the accuser to prove his case?

Perhaps Cher was wrong. We can turn back time and have: to the hysteria and methods of 17th-century Salem, to Cotton Mather and his "touching tests" for witches. Not a good bargain for justice and no way to protect our children. But we keep singing the same tune and it's getting louder. ♦

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TRAGEDY

On the Warriors' hardest season, playing through tragedy and learning to forgive

RICK GILSON IN CONVERSATION WITH KEN MACQUEEN

RICK GILSON has coached 57 football teams over the past 30 years. This season—his 25th as football coach of the Grande Prairie Composite Warriors, and his eighth as principal at the northwestern Alberta high school—began full of promise. Then, just after midnight on Saturday, Oct. 22, a car carrying five team members home from a party collided with a pickup driven by a 21-year-old. Four Warriors died at the scene, the lone survivor in the car went to hospital in a coma. The pickup driver faces charges of impaired driving causing death. The team elected to play on, finishing the most difficult season the Warriors have ever known.

Q: Let's start with congratulations. Last week the National Football League named you Canada's youth coach of the year.

A: It is very definitely an honour and one I'm accepting on behalf of the whole team and everyone who's been involved in getting us through the past several weeks.

Q: How big is football to Grande Prairie Composite and to you?

A: Football is important to me, something I didn't want to give up when I went into administration. It's important for what I think it can do for young men.

Q: What else do players take off the field beyond the usual scrapes and bruises?

A: My philosophy is not so much to make university players or CFL players as much as it is to try to get some core values across. I say this to the boys: it's important to me that you go on to be great husbands, great fathers, great employees and great employers.

Q: Then came the accident. You were awakened with the news.

A: My son knocked on our bedroom door. He's a starting corner and a Grade 12 player on our team. He said, "Dad, one of the guys called and there's been an accident." I got hold of an RCMP officer at the scene. We worked from there to begin to realize the scope of what had gone wrong, and that Zach [Judd] was in hospital. We headed to the hospital and were able to get there before Zach's parents. My son accompanied me. The Judd family arrived and we were able to provide

some comfort and support to them. I worked through the remainder of the night with the RCMP to help in the identification process. I accompanied the RCMP to the homes of the families to notify them.

Q: It must have been such a difficult night.

A: It was important that there be somebody there that they know.

Q: Vincent Stover, 16, Walter Borden-Wilkins, 15, Matthew Deller, 16, Tanner Hildebrand, 15, all dead, and Zachary Judd, 15, in a coma. How do you prepare the school for such a loss?

A: As we finished the notification of families, it shifted to the need to let my staff know. We met at the school at 10:30 Saturday morning. We also began the process of getting all the players, the managers and their parents together at 11:30. Many of the players knew that there had been an accident. They knew that Zach had been badly injured and that two players had passed away. They didn't know that there were actually five in the car. The hardest part was telling the team that they didn't lose two teammates, they lost four. That was very, very difficult. The discus-



sion was how we're going to get through the next hour, and then the next hour. Then the emphasis was on us healing and focusing on being supportive of each other. Focusing on compassion and mercy over anger and any ideas of revenge. We were definitely upset that it involved an alleged drunk driver, but we focused on mercy toward the driver.

Q: *How was that message of compassion received? You're asking so much of the family and friends of these boys.*

A: It was received very well. I still feel today very saddened by this boy's choices. It's something I say to students in my office: we get to choose what we're going to do, we don't get to choose the consequences of what we do.

Q: *Too many principals in their careers deal with the consequences of drunk drivers. Why must this lesson constantly be relearned?*

A: There is no learning where nothing changes. Unfortunately, I don't understand it. I personally don't drink at all. It seems to me that somehow, some way, there's only a superficial belief that you shouldn't drive drunk.

Q: *You're a religious man of the Mormon faith. Did you have words with your God after this?*

A: My God and everybody else's is probably the same God. Personal prayer and a belief in the eternal nature of man definitely helps me get through this. The belief that these young boys are in good hands, that we will have an opportunity to be reunited. It's not going to happen right away but I firmly believe it will happen. That helps me get through the day, but that doesn't mean I didn't shed an awful lot of tears at their loss.

Q: *Was it your decision or the team's to finish the football season?*

A: Our decision. It was a collective.

Q: *What did they draw from playing on?*

A: To not have played is a decision you would have made in an emotional moment. By making a decision to play you had a place you could go to step out of the grieving process. It wasn't easy. At first it was very solemn, like they were afraid to laugh and enjoy themselves. I said, "What do you think the boys would say?" Vince and Matt, the two Grade 11s, were very focused on getting the Peace Bowl, the league championship. If you don't play, these guys are going to chase us around and haunt us, and you know it.

Q: *What was the impact on Grande Prairie Composite and the larger community?*

A: We didn't anticipate the broad response for mercy and compassion. That did resonate far further than I ever thought. People who had gone through similar events on smaller scales had been holding high levels of resentment and anger forever. They sent notes and emails saying, "Thank you for this, it allowed me to let go." And we didn't expect, request, or desire to have such a broad nationwide response to us continuing to play. We drew inspiration from the people writing us to say they were inspired.

Q: *You visited Zach this weekend. How is he?*

A: At the time, I said to [the team] you have to prepare yourself, Zach could die. But with each passing day the worst-case scenario is moving closer to the best-case scenario. He woke up [from a coma] about 10 days after the accident. He spit out his respirator and started breathing on his own. He's looking better every day. It's a miracle, quite honestly. He's still got a lot to do to [regain] movement, and the [mental] processing is delayed. There's lots of reason for hope there. He doesn't yet know the full scope of the accident. There will come a time when that conversation will have to take place.

Q: *Two trust funds have been established.*

A: The Warrior Fund is to support all five families, to help with the expenses they've experienced and to support the families moving forward, and in honouring their sons in some way. The Zach Judd Fund is to support Zach himself. Even though Zach has made tremendous progress from when I saw him at ground zero on Oct. 22, he's still got a lengthy period of rehabilitation ahead of him. Both funds are through the Royal Bank. My

understanding is you can go to any Royal Bank, or you can go through the school.

Q: *The Warriors won two games after the accident and the regional championship. They had a shutout loss in the provincial quarter-finals. The scoreboard doesn't really tell the tale, though. Does the loss of the game seem significant when you have lost so much more?*

A: Well, the scoreboard certainly tells a tale. We liked it when it said that we won. But all of that said, the character that they displayed was so outstanding that they didn't lose. As the game ended, I said before you shake hands I want you to go across the field to wave and clap to your parents and thank the crowd because we did receive tremendous support. That created a whole flood of tears. Unexpectedly, it hit me pretty hard. We did all we could, against an extremely strong opponent, with what was left in the tank.

Q: *Now comes the off-season. Without football, are you worried about that void?*

A: I'm very concerned about that, for everyone. It will be an off-season where we are doing more things and following up with get-togethers, touching base with each player to see how they are doing. And coaches, too. We have some catching up to do, on work, and on sleep, and on grieving.

Q: *How are you handling this?*

A: I have, quite honestly, been richly blessed through this whole experience. I had an opportunity to watch such a high level of courage and composure by a group of young men, and the four young women who are our managers. I had the chance to provide support to five families going through the most difficult time a family can go through, and watch them try to handle that with such grace and dignity.

Q: *When you agreed to this interview, you said you*

wanted to focus on what can be learned from this. I'd like to hear your thoughts on that.

A: Around the subject of alcohol and driving, we have to stop kidding ourselves. We're not doing a good enough job. Too much lip service and not enough change in behaviour. If we don't change the attitude, people need to stop crying about people getting killed by drunk drivers. Learning is when behaviour changes, otherwise it's just information. We shouldn't have 18-year-olds drinking [the legal age in Alberta and Quebec]. Matt and Vince aren't going to be 18. Not in this life. Never. And Tanner and Walter didn't even get to be 16. ♣

After the last game, the team thanked the crowd for their support. That created a whole flood of tears.

MACLEAN'S EXCLUSIVE

Parliamentarians of the Year

Our fifth annual survey honours the hard work and commitment of Canada's federal MPs, with winners selected by their peers in categories ranging from Best Orator to Rookie of the Year. And for the first time this year, a special award for Lifetime Achievement.

PARLIAMENTARIAN
OF THE YEAR

MASTER OF THE HOUSE

SHORTLY AFTER BOB Rae was first elected in 1978, John Diefenbaker, the former prime minister who remained an MP until his death in 1979 at the age of 83, imparted two pieces of advice: "Don't take any s--t from anybody," and "Go for the throat every time."

These might be words to live by, but Rae looked elsewhere for inspiration—to Allan MacEachen, the legendary Liberal, and Tommy Douglas, the patron saint of the NDP. MacEachen was a commanding presence who taught Rae you couldn't be yelling all the time, that you had to have "more than one gear." Douglas was disciplined and practical. He cracked jokes and didn't hold grudges. And it was Douglas who told him to eschew notes when speaking in the House. "Because as soon as you start to do it, he says, you lose all the spontaneity and all the effect," Rae recalls.

Here are the makings of a master of the House.

Rae doesn't so much speak as hold forth. The leader of the third party, one with interim in his title at that, he could easily be ignored, relegated to a footnote in the major debates of the day between the government and the official Opposition. He might, at the very least, strain noticeably and unflatteringly for everyone's attention. But no one holds the attention of this 41st Parliament like Bob Rae. "The House is a raucous place and it doesn't give much quarter," says Ralph Goodale, the Liberal deputy leader, "but when Bob gets to his feet, people listen."

It owes something to a different time. When he asked his first question in the House it was of finance minister Jean Chrétien. When he stood to deliver his maiden speech, he heard heckles from Ray Hnatyshyn and Lincoln Alexander, a future governor general of Canada and a future lieutenant general of Ontario respectively. He moved the motion that brought down Joe Clark's government

and watched as Pierre Trudeau debated the Constitution. The proceedings had only just begun to be televised when he first arrived.

The House didn't seem then to be so ritualistically antagonistic. Discipline of message was not the dominating force it is now.

He is a link to this past. A throwback, even. But he is not yesterday's man. He is the man entrusted to keeping the Liberal flame. And he is Stephen Harper's toughest test each afternoon. Witness that day last month when Rae led a reasoned, even heartfelt, debate on suicide prevention—a rare moment of enlightenment in a brutal fall sitting. "I still have this, maybe naive, but I don't think it is, this notion," Rae says, "that the House should be a place

where big ideas are shared and people are listening to each other and trying to make progress." **AARON WHERRY**

PARLIAMENTARIAN
OF THE YEAR

Bob Rae

LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT

Jack Layton

HARDEST WORKING

Jason Kenney

MOST
KNOWLEDGEABLE

ABOUT ISSUES
OF THE DAY

Joe Comartin

BEST REPRESENTS
CONSTITUENTS

Michael Chong

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Chris Alexander

BEST ORATOR

John Baird

MOST COLLEGIAL

Peter Stoffer

Parliamentarians of the Year is a joint annual venture by *Maclean's* and *L'actualité*, with the help of Ipsos Reid.



BEST ORATOR

SO MUCH MORE THAN A PIT BULL

RECENTLY IN THE House, when, at the end of question period, the Bloc Québécois's André Bellavance asked the government about its plans for spending cuts, it wasn't immediately clear who among the Tories would take the question—so ensued five or 10 seconds of awkwardness, until Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, despite having no responsibility in this regard, and without benefit of script, leapt up and spun a vague but applicable response: "Mr. Speaker, we are obviously seeking to ensure that every dollar of taxpayer money is spent wisely," he intoned.

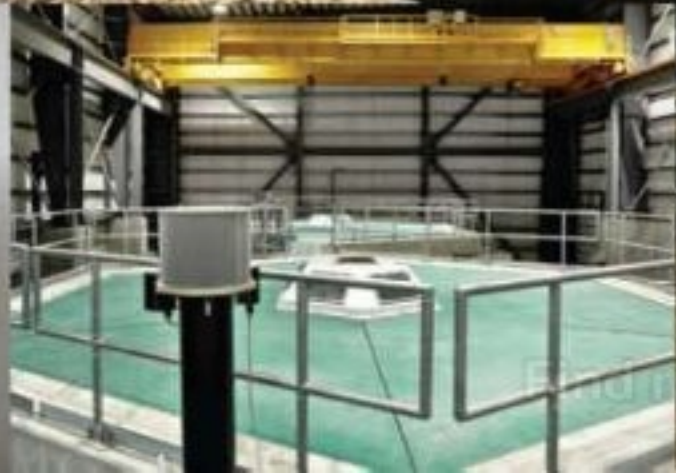
Not his finest hour, but in such workaday moments a man's mettle is revealed: Baird is a masterful, and enthusiastic, orator. "The first rule of Canadian politics is, never ask him a question, because you're going to get your head handed to you," says NDP MP Pat Martin. "You couldn't actually maintain that level of choleric, or it would eat you alive," says Martin, who knows of bombast and faux indignation, as evidenced by last week's profane Twitter tirade.

Baird enjoys repartee with Martin; other MPs, not so much. "When I was government House leader and taking questions for the PM, I would always dread when I looked across the aisle to see Michael Ignatieff wasn't there—and Bob Rae was," he says. Baird, for his part, admires Ronald Reagan's speaking style, but is in private more likely to quote *The Simpsons*. **NICHOLAS KÖHLER**





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BEST ROOKIE

The new guy in town

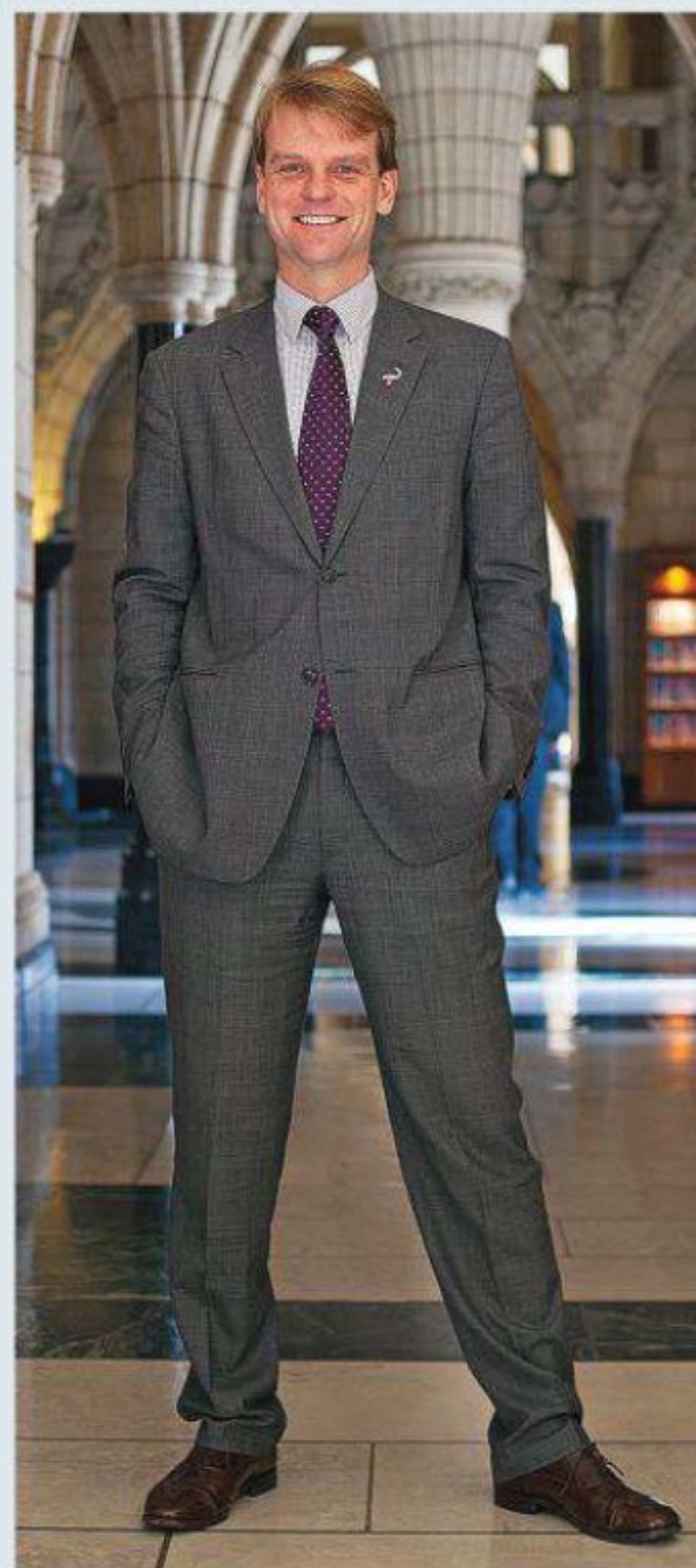
FOR MOST ROOKIE MPs, the move to Parliament Hill marks the most exciting job they've ever had, and the most media attention they've ever drawn. Not Chris Alexander. Before running for the Conservatives in Ajax-Pickering, just east of Toronto, Alexander was Canada's most celebrated diplomat of recent times—the country's first resident ambassador in Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban, then a special UN representative in Kabul. Six high-profile years in the war-torn country ended in 2009, when he came home and soon announced he was entering politics as a Tory.

Expectations were high for the star recruit; a stumble wouldn't have been a surprise. But Alexander, 43, has proven a solid performer. He had expected to be working largely on his own as a backbench MP, but has been surprised by "the intensity of the teamwork" on the Hill. As parliamentary secretary to Defence Minister Peter MacKay, he's been specializing in issues that play to his international experience. They are often far from glamorous. This month, for instance,

he spearheaded the government's push to pass a measure to boost the independence of military judges.

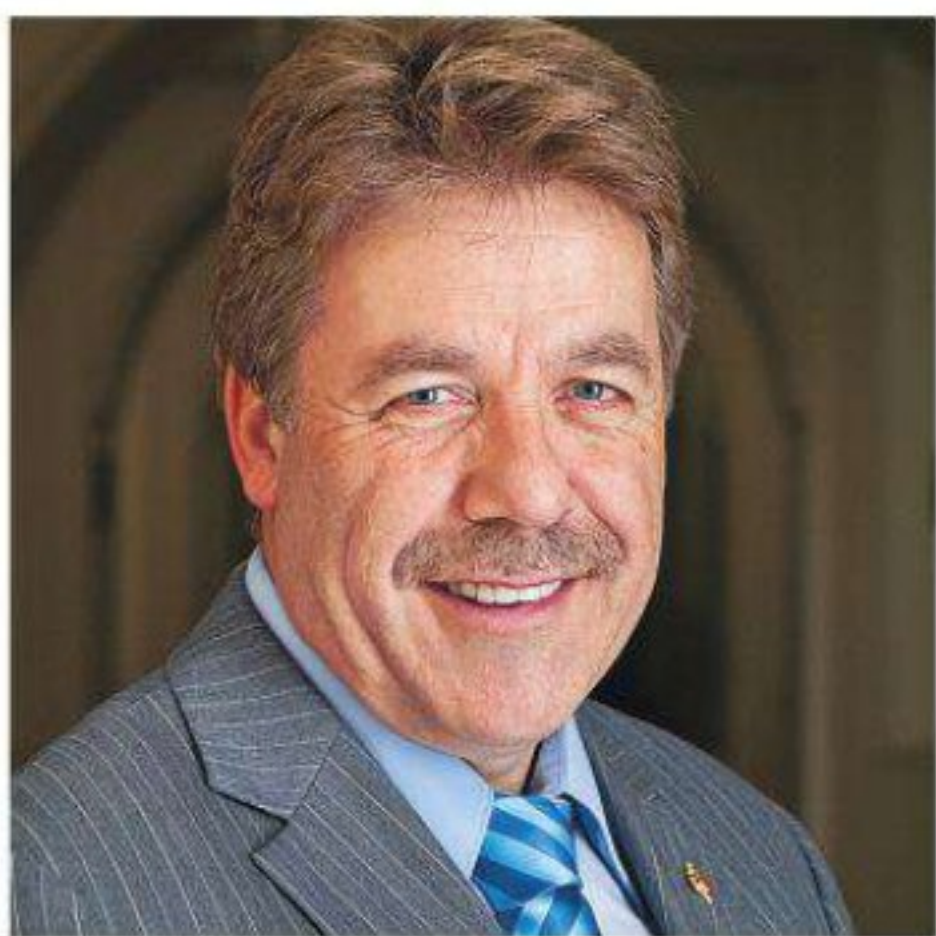
When that legislation was debated in the House, Alexander took pains to credit NDP and Liberal MPs who had co-operated on the bill. It was a small example of his concern about the broader question of House decorum. He blames the strains of recent political history for creating a testy atmosphere. Minority government polarized and charged things, he says. "We're trying to change that now."

Alexander lives in Ajax, near the shore of Lake Ontario, with his Danish wife, Hedvig Christine Alexander, who worked for seven years on development projects in Afghanistan, and now runs a company that imports fine crafts from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan. They have a two-year-old daughter and another born on Oct. 11. They've been pleasantly surprised, Alexander says, to find that Ajax has a sizable Afghan-Canadian community. Some aspects of his storied previous career seem destined to follow him. **JOHN GEDDES**



MOST COLLEGIAL

Mr. Nice Guy



PETER STOFFER HAS laugh lines etched deep in his cheeks, earned from a lifetime of smiling. "Even his enemies like him," Conservative MP Randy Kamp says. Indeed, the Dutch-born NDP member from Nova Scotia—who's known to tip off opposing members on what he will ask them during question period—has been voted most collegial every year *Maclean's* has offered the award. Stof-

fer, to the frustration of NDP brass, eschews a BlackBerry but personally responds to all inquiries he receives from veterans and Nova Scotians. "I take the job seriously, but I never take myself seriously," says Stoffer. And he doesn't have a lot of time for divisions polarizing the House. "Like Bob Dylan said in a song, we just sell it from a different point of view. That's all." **ALEX BALLINGALL**

PREVIOUS PAGE: PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BREGG
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER BREGG

YOU HAVE THE FLOOR

MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE

THE WISE MAN OF WINDSOR

JOE COMARTIN READS for roughly two hours each day—often 10 minutes squeezed “here and there”—but he says he longs to read more. There’s always more to know. “I think I read only about half what I’d like to,” the NDP MP for Windsor-Tecumseh says. The former criminal lawyer is up by 6 a.m. and on the Hill by 7:30 every morning. “I begin my day with preparatory work,” says Comartin, “and paperwork—which accumulates constantly.” Comartin, an expert on House procedure, intelligence services and criminal



law, says he prepares extensively for speeches, debates and procedural motions, but often feels unfulfilled when they’re over. “I never feel comfortable we’ve covered enough,” he says. His love of learning makes him an obvious choice for “Most Knowledgeable MP,” and his perspective isn’t limited to politics.

Comartin is a Margaret Atwood fanatic and counts Saskatchewan-born authors Alastair MacLeod and Guy Vanderhaeghe among his favourites, though he can’t pronounce the latter’s name, he’ll freely admit. And he’s a long-time “military buff,” he says, having spent time in the reserves in his youth. The ancient Romans and Mongols, particularly their wartime tactics, are a favourite area of study. When he’s not working—which is extremely rare, he notes—he likes to spend time with his grandchildren or travelling with his wife, often visiting “historical sites that may show up in a novel or article.” **EMMA TEITEL**

BEST REPRESENTS CONSTITUENTS

The principled maverick

MICHAEL CHONG’S GUIDING political rule is: always pay attention to your constituents. “The least we can do for people who have disagreements with the government is to relay those concerns to Ottawa,” he says. “They want to know that, at the very least, they’re being listened to.”

Perhaps best known for resigning from the Harper cabinet after refusing to support a government motion recognizing the Québécois as a nation, the Tory backbencher remains a hometown hero in Wellington-Halton Hills, the riding in which he grew up, and now represents. This past spring, the self-described “Wellington County boy” took nearly 64 per cent of the vote in his fourth straight electoral win; few of his opponents bothered putting up signs, or showing up for all-candidates’ meetings.

While knocking on doors during the

campaign, Chong, the son of a Chinese father and a Dutch mother, says he got an earful about the sorry state of our democratic institutions. That inspired him to renew his crusade for decorum in the House. Last year, Chong tabled a motion seeking improvements to question period—capping answers at 35 seconds, setting schedules that would put the prime minister on the hot seat for 45 minutes every Wednesday, as in the U.K., and allotting days to specific ministries, like Finance Fridays. Chong, who turns 40 this week, is hoping to table the motion, which died on the floor after the election call, as soon as he has the opportunity.

As for his birthday plans, he celebrated early, with his wife Carrie, and three young boys; on the day itself, he’ll be in Ottawa, working for his constituents. **JEN CUTTS**



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HARDEST WORKING

MINISTER IN A HURRY

JASON KENNEY WORKS frenetically and snatches rest when he can. For the Calgary MP, sleep is less something that happens in blocks than in patches. On planes, between events, any free moment can become a catnap for the Conservative heavyweight. "I can sleep anywhere," he says—which is good, because anywhere, other than his bed, is where he spends a good 20 hours most days.

He's at the cabinet table, in committee meetings or just as often jetting off to any one of the dozens of community dinners and other meetings he attends every year as part of his outreach to ethnic and religious groups.

Kenney, named by parliamentary peers Canada's hardest-working MP this year, was first elected in 1997, just after his 29th birthday. Today he wears a permanent five o'clock shadow, a testament to a work rate that can seem at least a bit masochistic. On the day he spoke to *Maclean's*, Kenney had a marathon run of meetings and briefings. He hoped to be back at the office by 9 p.m. where the real work of running a government ministry—he was appointed minister of citizenship, multiculturalism and immigration in 2008—and chairing the powerful cabinet operations committee could begin. "Last night, I was doing that stuff until about 2:30 a.m.," he says. As to how he keeps his schedule up, it's all time management. "The thing about this job," he says, "is you just have to cram things into every possible moment." **RICHARD WARNICA**



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

From outsider to insider

AFTER HE LED the NDP to its breakthrough in the election last May 2, Jack Layton returned to Ottawa vowing to set a new tone. "One thing that we're going to be doing is having no heckling," said the new leader of the official Opposition. "It is difficult to speak in the House of Commons when you have boorish comments being yelled in your ear at top volume by people a few feet away."

But Layton would have only the briefest chance to watch his marching orders be put into effect. In July, his fragile health took a terrible turn, and on Aug. 22, he died of cancer at just 61. In the national mourning that followed, Layton's personal qualities and campaigning abilities were celebrated. But his parliamentary style and strategy were less frequently remembered, even though he established himself over his mere eight years on the federal stage as an uncommonly talented—and unusually shrewd—performer inside the House.

It wasn't always obvious that Layton would put such emphasis on the Commons. When he was running for the NDP leadership in 2002, his background as a Toronto municipal politician made him a

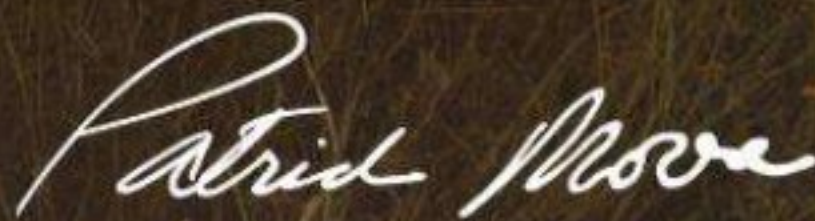
Parliament Hill outsider. His main rival, Bill Blaikie, was a veteran MP and acknowledged expert on the House. Blaikie says Layton used the 18 months he spent as the party's leader before finally winning a seat in the 2004 election to study the place. "He certainly claimed at the time," Blaikie recalls, "to be learning the art of asking a question by watching me and others as well." It paid off. Layton proved himself a probing question period inquisitor and a stirring speech-maker.

And he didn't hesitate to aggressively leverage his NDP votes when it mattered. In 2005, he extracted \$4.6 billion for NDP priorities like affordable housing in return for temporarily propping up Paul Martin's minority Liberal government. In 2008, he tried to forge a coalition with the Liberals—a controversial move he had quietly studied for years—to oust Stephen Harper's Conservative minority. It nearly worked.

How he would have fared facing a Harper majority is, sadly, now a matter only for conjecture, as we pay tribute to the late Jack Layton's rare achievements as a parliamentarian. **JOHN GEDDES**

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Patrick Moore, Ph.D.
Environmentalist and Greenpeace Co-Founder



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CAPITAL DIARY

Mitchel Raphael on spilling secrets, parties and poutine

MP has cover envy

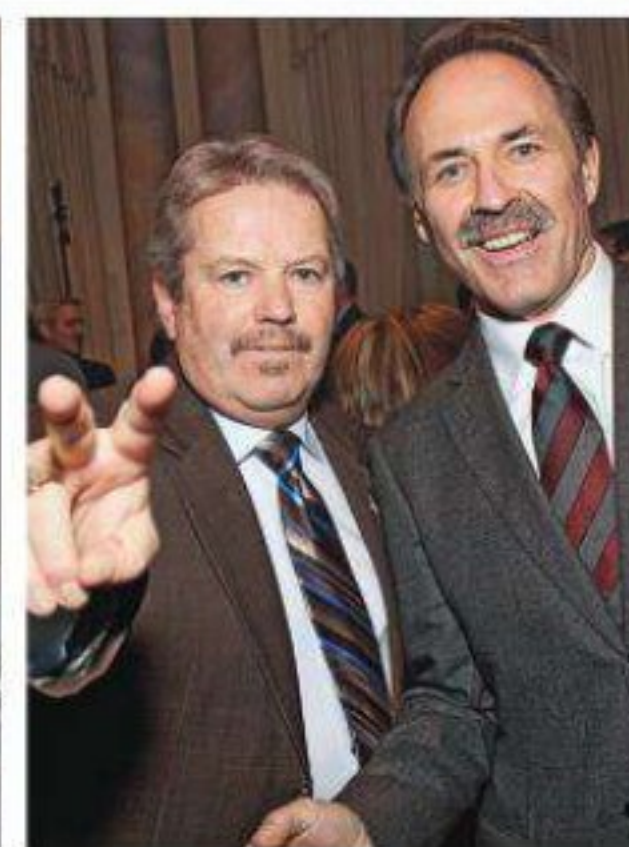
Maclean's fifth annual Parliamentarians of the Year Awards ceremony this week at the Fairmont Château Laurier had **Stephen Harper's** communications director **Angelo Persichilli** spilling secrets to the CBC's **Julie Van Dusen**. Persichilli told the reporter the secret to good pasta sauce was "light on the mushrooms and lots of garlic." That night, Immigration Minister **Jason Kenney** took the award for Hardest Working MP but is still bitter about the year he won the big prize of Parliamentarian of the Year: "I still can't believe that every other winner before me got a cover story but I was bumped by [former Liberal MP] **Ruby Dhalla**." At the time, Dhalla was making headlines over allegations of mistreated nannies. Former NDP leader **Jack Layton** received the first ever Lifetime Achievement Award, which was accepted by his widow, Toronto MP **Olivia Chow**. With Chow was screenwriter **Shelley Eriksen**, who is working on a script for a TV biopic on Layton. Eriksen was in Ottawa for a tour of the NDP war room from the last election and other significant places, such as Layton's old offices.

Chezwhat?

Conservative MP **Michael Chong** took the award for Best Represents Constituents. Second runner-up in that category was NDP MP **Niki Ashton**, who's been fighting for the miners in her Manitoba riding and, more recently, trying to save the Canadian Wheat Board, something vital to the future of the port of Churchill. Ashton, 29, is currently seeking the NDP leadership. She joked that she may adopt the slogan of a snack bar in Quebec City called Chez Ashton (no relation), which is: "Only fresh. Only real." Chez Ashton is known for its poutine. The MP has eaten there recently, as well as when she was eight, when she "took one of the placemats and put it on my wall."

Life of all parties

After NDP MP **Peter Stoffer** won the award for Most Collegial for the fifth time, Jason



House honours: (top, from left) Peter Stoffer, Jason Kenney; (bottom) Olivia Chow accepts the Lifetime Achievement award on behalf of Jack Layton; Niki Ashton; Rodger Cuzner, Pat Martin

Kenney suggested the award should just be called the Peter Stoffer award and be given to others. Stoffer could lose his edge next year because he is no longer organizing the annual All-Party Party, a popular event for everyone who works on the Hill. Stoffer isn't worried: "That's why I have a pool table in my office now," he says. He is also planning what he calls the "Stoffer Olympiad," which will be "five putts, five kicks of a soccer ball, five shots of a basketball, five darts and five shots of pool. Ten dollars every time you want to try. All proceeds go to our Summer Olympic athletes going to London." Once again Stoffer beat out Liberal MP **Rodger Cuzner**, who was the runner-up for Most Collegial. Notes Cuzner: "I'm going to have to put a hot tub in my office if I want to play that game. If there is any of that Economic Action Plan money left I might be able to. I'd put the sign up in the office and everything."

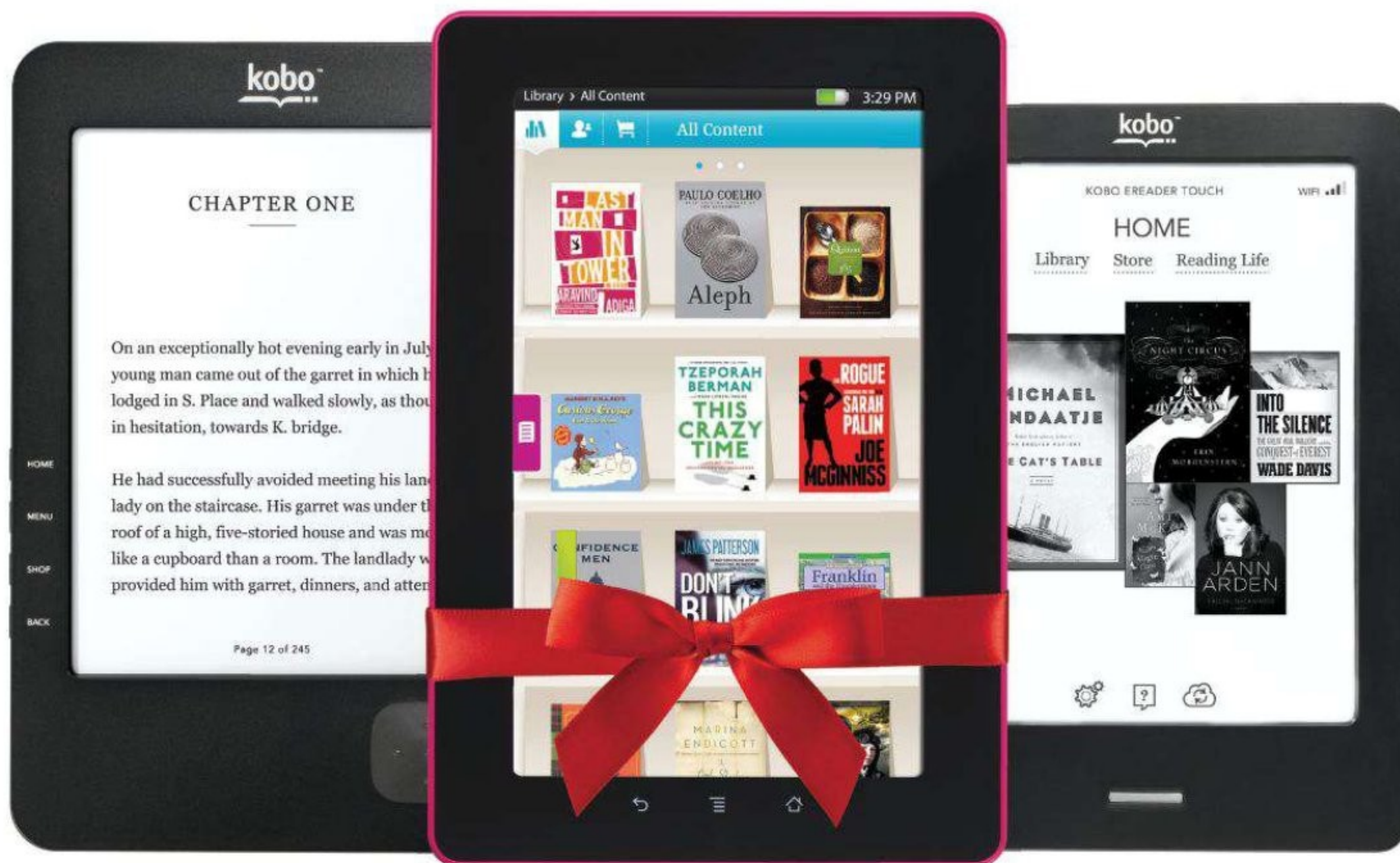
Look who's talking

Best laugh went to the Best Orator category,

where the runner-up was NDP MP **Pat Martin**. It should be noted that MPs voted for the awards before Martin's profane tweet caused such a ruckus across the country. He is, however, famous for such colourful remarks, as when criticizing government trade strategies, he evoked this image: "The Canadian beaver will bite off its own testicles when it is threatened and offer them up to its tormentors." Martin told Capital Diary that "One of the highlights of the year, I am told, is when I said, 'Patronage is the K-Y Jelly of politics.'" The winner for Best Orator was Foreign Affairs Minister **John Baird**, who was unable to accept his award in person because he was at the G8-Broader Middle East North Africa Forum for the Future. Interim Liberal leader **Bob Rae**, this year's big winner of Parliamentarian of the Year, was in Halifax "saving the Liberal party," noted *Maclean's* columnist **Paul Wells**. ★

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JUSTICE

A LOYAL SON, A RUTHLESS BROTHER

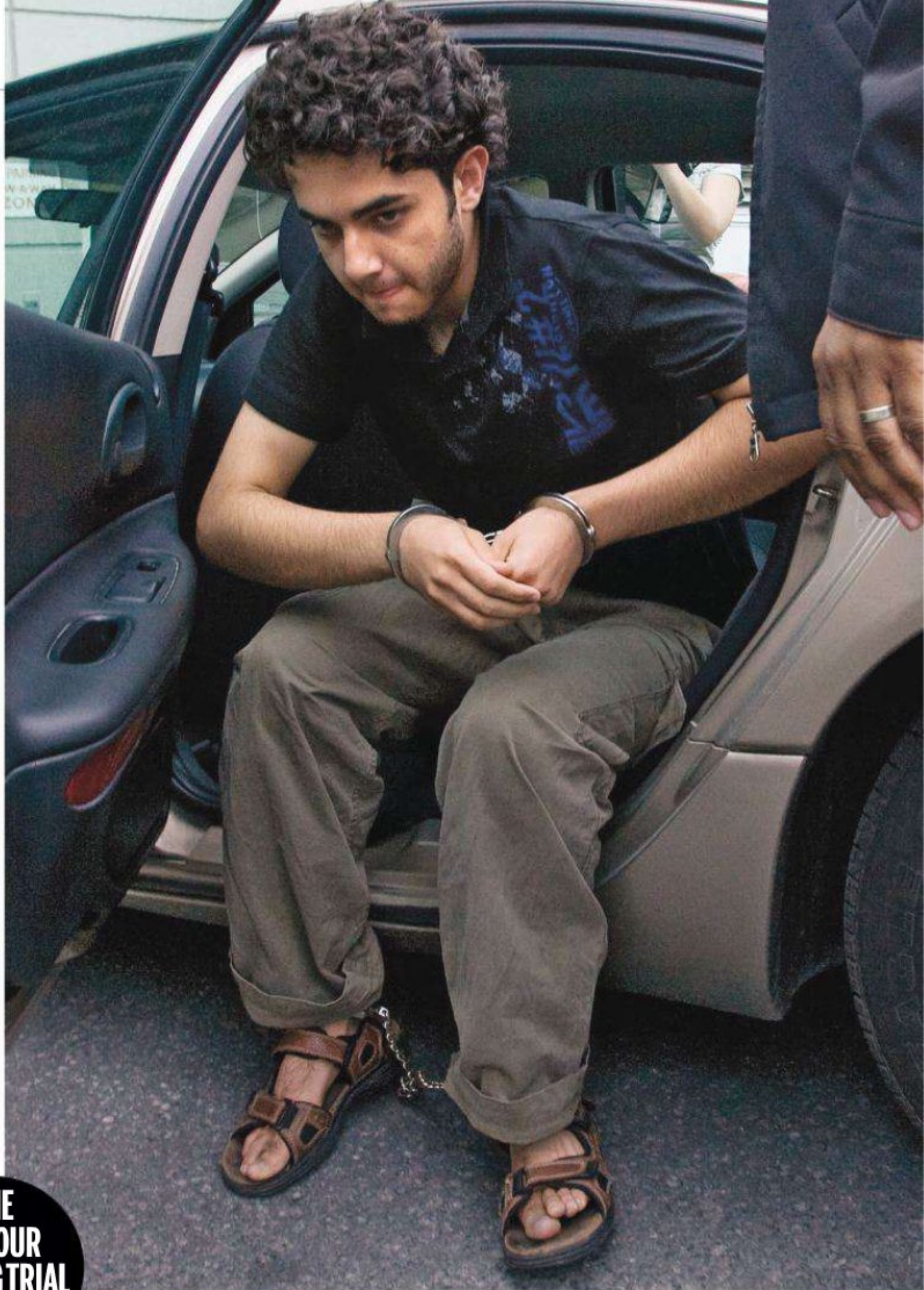
Like his father, Hamed Shafia believed nothing comes before family honour

WHEN POLICE SEARCHED Hamed Shafia's Montreal bedroom in the summer of 2009, they found a short essay written for a recent school assignment. The title was: "Importance of Traditions and Customs." Today, inside a Kingston, Ont., courtroom—where Hamed and his parents are on trial for the mass "honour killing" of four family members—the essay has a new title: Exhibit #2.

"Traditions and customs are to be followed till the end of one's life," Hamed wrote in his opening line, his mistakes marked by a teacher's pen. "It doesn't matter at all whether you're close to the community following the specific traditions or living millions of miles away. Traditions and customs of a person are like his identity and what makes him special."

Hamed was 18, toothpick skinny with a mop of curly black hair, when he printed those ominous words. The eldest son of a wealthy Afghan entrepreneur, he had immigrated to Canada less than two years earlier, and already enjoyed what most in his adopted country can only dream about: a Lexus in the garage, a wallet full of cash, and the inevitable inheritance of his dad's multi-million-dollar business. (In one memorable car-ride conversation, captured by a police wiretap in the days before their arrests, father asked son if he had any small bills because "sometimes they don't accept hundreds" at the gas station.)

But as his essay reveals, young Hamed was not easily corrupted by money or cars or other Westernized excess. His "traditions and customs" were so important—his family's reputation so paramount—that he allegedly helped his mother and father execute three of his own sisters because they had the nerve to wear revealing clothes and fall in love. "They betrayed Islam," his father declared during another intercepted rant. "They betrayed our religion and creed, they betrayed our tradition, they betrayed everything." (His



**THE
HONOUR
KILLING TRIAL
WEEK 4**

father's first wife in the polygamous clan, Rona Amir Mohammad, was also found in the Rideau Canal, floating alongside her "stepdaughters" in a sunken sedan.)

On New Year's Eve, Hamed will turn 21. When court is in session, he sits between his parents in a glass prisoner's box, his hair neatly trimmed, his ankles cuffed. Across the street, at the campus of Queen's University, hundreds of undergrads his age walk to class and drink lattes and behave like young Canadians do—the very same offence that was allegedly enough to snuff out his sisters' lives. Last week, as the jury watched a recording of Hamed's post-arrest interrogation, a field trip of high school students took in the proceedings. Some looked older than him.

What they saw on the screen was the last

His rules: Hamed Shafia, 18 years old when he was arrested for killing his sisters, was the family enforcer when his father was away



stand of a fiercely loyal son, a soft-spoken but unwavering young man who not only stuck to his suspicious story, but repeatedly asked to see the photographs of his sisters' corpses. Months later, that same man would completely alter his version of events in the misguided hope of freeing his beloved parents from prison. "If there is any punishment," he would proclaim, "let me have it."

Hamed was born in Kabul. His father, Mohammad Shafia, had two wives: Rona, who was infertile, and Tooba Yahya, who would bear all seven of the children. When investigators found Hamed's essay, they also stumbled upon Rona's diary. Written in Dari, it offered a rare glimpse of life inside the Shafia house—including the time she took a nasty fall while cradling baby Hamed.

"Through the grace of God both of us recuperated," Rona wrote. "My husband, though, treated me very badly after that and he used to say time and again, 'You dropped my son,' and I used to reply, 'I didn't do it on purpose, I was hurt too,' but he used to say, 'I don't care about you, you hurt my son.'"

Hamed was still a toddler when the family fled the Afghan civil war and settled in Dubai, where Shafia made his fortune. Hamed was not the oldest child; his sister, Zainab, was born a year earlier. But by the time the family relocated to Quebec in 2007, 16-year-old Hamed was more of a third parent than a sibling, keeping close tabs on all his sisters.

Ammar Wahid experienced Hamed's iron fist first-hand. The two attended the same high school, and on Valentine's Day 2008 Wahid sent Zainab a card. She replied with an email: "firstly be aware of my bro," she wrote; "if my bro is around, act like complete stranger." On the witness stand, Wahid recalled that when Hamed did discover their secret romance, Zainab never came back to school.

As the jury has been told numerous times, Zainab eventually worked up the courage to run away from home, taking refuge at a women's shelter. When Hamed phoned 911, the responding cop heard much more than a missing persons report. Sahar, 17, told the officer that her brother slapped her in the face and made "his own rules" when their dad was away on business. Geeti, 13, begged to be placed in foster care.

All three sisters—Zainab, Sahar and Geeti—would be dead within weeks.

Prosecutors say the accused trio, obsessed with restoring the family's tarnished honour, booked a Niagara Falls vacation as a ruse to

lure the girls (and their stepmother) to a watery grave. During the midnight drive back to Montreal, the threesome allegedly used one car, a Lexus SUV, to push the other, a Nissan Sentra, over the edge of the Kingston Mills locks. Investigators who scoured the scene found smashed pieces of the SUV's headlight, and scratch marks from both vehicles confirmed a bumper-to-bumper collision.

But even before the forensic tests came back, police were suspicious of the victims' dry-eyed relatives—especially Hamed, who just so happened to drive back to Montreal right after the "accident" and crash the Lexus into a parking lot pole, an apparent attempt to mask the previous damage.

Father, mother and son told police the same initial story: they checked into a Kingston motel, Zainab asked for the car keys to retrieve some clothes, and when they woke up the next morning, the foursome was gone. But their words recorded on the wiretaps, which were also played for the jury last week, tell a much

IN AN ESSAY, HAMED WROTE: 'TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS ARE TO BE FOLLOWED TO THE END OF ONE'S LIFE'



Sibling fear: In an email, Zainab warned her boyfriend to 'be aware of my bro'

more incriminating tale. "Be I dead or alive, nothing in the world is above your honour," Shafia said. "Isn't that right, my son?"

The very next morning, father and son were in the back of a police car, charged with four counts each of first-degree murder. "Don't worry, my son," said Shafia, now 58.

"I'm not worrying, only about my mother," Hamed replied.

"It's okay, my son."

Once inside the interrogation room, Hamed's biggest concern remained the same. "Is my mom in one of the cells?" he asked Det. Steve Koopman. "If I can just see her on my way back..."

"Probably not," the officer replied. "We normally don't have the prisoners interacting, especially male and female sides of it."

"Even if it's a mother and son?"

"Right now you guys are co-accused."

Like Koopman, Sgt. Michael Boyles tried to wrestle a confession from the son by pinning blame on the father. "You've been caught for four murders, but I don't think that you were the one that made this decision," he said. "I don't think you were the one to say: 'I'm tired of my sisters getting Westernized. I'm tired of the disrespect. I'm tired of them not doing what they should. I want them killed.' I don't think you said that, I really don't. I think your father has problems."

But Hamed didn't cave. Instead, he asked to see the full-page photos of his dead sisters. "They deserve to know the truth," Boyles said, as Hamed stared at the departed. "I'm not trying to disrespect your father, but your father is a certain type of man. And I think he expected certain things from some of your sisters, and I think that wasn't happening and he dealt with it the wrong way. He dealt with it as a traditionalist, how his culture, how his upbringing has taught him to do. And he's raised you like that. I'm not going to sit here and tell you your culture's wrong or our tradition's wrong. What I'm here to tell you is what you did in Canada is illegal."

Hamed stood up and asked to be returned to his cell. "I'm getting a bit of a headache," he said. "I just want to go."

Another three months would pass before Hamed offered some semblance of an explanation—not to police, but to a translator/amateur investigator hired by his father. During a jailhouse meeting on Nov. 7, 2009, Hamed told Moosa Hadi that he did, in fact, follow his sisters out of the motel parking lot that night, just to make sure they made it back safely after buying phone cards at a nearby gas station. The pumps, though, were closed, and while looking for a suitable place to turn around, Hamed said he rear-ended the Nissan. Moments later, while picking up shards of shattered headlight, he heard the splash.

According to Hamed's new narrative, he beeped his horn, lowered a rope into the water—and then drove the Lexus back to Montreal because he had some "business" to deal with. He never told his parents what happened, he said, and didn't call police because they would "blame me" for allowing Zainab to drive without a licence.

At the end of his audiotaped statement, Hadi asked Hamed one last question. "What do you want to be in the future?"

"I wanted to study business," he answered.

Under different circumstances, Hamed probably would have done well in college. The teacher who graded that essay gave him 70 per cent. **MICHAEL FRISCOLANTI**

MANITOBA

Trouble at the smoke shack

Tax-free native cigarettes, a big business in Ontario and Quebec, are now a problem for western provinces, too

CHIEF FRANK BROWN of the Canupawakpa Dakota Nation doesn't smoke, but he swears by the Mohawk-manufactured cigarettes on sale at the Dakota Chundee Smoke Shack near Pipestone, Man. "We did our research and the provincial [name brand] cigarettes have a lot of chemicals in them," he says. "We think our smokes don't have the cancer that the province's cigarettes do."

Whatever the supposed health claims put forth by Brown, the Manitoba government isn't listening. In mid-November, officials seized 90,000 contraband cigarettes, which were not authorized for sale in the province. The next day, Dakota Chundee, which doesn't sit on reserve land, was open again, crowded with non-Aboriginal buyers.

The raid, and subsequent reopening of the smoke shack, is the latest in a growing frontier war between First Nations and western provincial governments. Unlike in Ontario and Quebec, where the booming Indian tobacco business has also been linked to gangs, not to mention billions in lost taxes, Indian cigarette sales haven't been an issue in the West. That's changing as western bands turn to smokes to not only fill their coffers, but to assert land claims, too.

Last year, Kahnawake Mohawk-owned Rainbow Tobacco Co., which is based in Quebec and is the best-known native-owned tobacco manufacturer, announced a new western marketing offensive, entering into talks with various Prairie bands and touting the economic benefits of selling tax-free cigarettes. With these native-manufactured cigarettes there is no question of "smuggling" per se, since the smokes are licensed for on-reserve sale by the federal Customs and Revenue Agency.

It's at the provincial level where the line between contraband and legal native cigarettes gets problematic. The provincial tax treatment of tobacco sold on-reserve varies from province to province, but the federal Indian Act says that provinces cannot tax "the personal property of an Indian or a band situated on a reserve," thus requiring courts to make tricky ontological decisions about the definitions of "personal property" and "situated." In April, Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission

officials seized 16 million cigarettes from a Quonset hut on the reserve of the Montana First Nation in Hobbema, Alta. The seized cigarettes were Rainbow Tobacco brands, and Rainbow CEO Rob Dickson claims that he had not yet been paid for them. His case is before a court in Wetaskiwin, Alta., where he claims the cigarettes were intended for sale to other First Nations in Alberta and that the Indian Act trumps the provincial Tobacco Tax Act. Smaller amounts of Rainbow Tobacco cigarettes have also been seized in B.C. and Saskatchewan.

The situation in Manitoba is even more complicated. The language of the Indian Act exemption might not apply to the off-reserve Dakota Chundee Smoke Shop, but Chief Brown points out that the treaty status of the Dakota is in question; the Dakota claim

historic roots on both sides of the international border, but were considered refugees from American power by the British government of the 19th century. "We consider ourselves a sovereign nation that made a military, economic and trade alliance, as equals, with the British," he says. Later Canadian treaties do not include the Dakota at all, he adds.

The federal government is staying out of the fights, even though cheap cigarettes take away the main leverage governments have to reduce tobacco use: taxes. Manitoba's provincial tax on cigarettes is a whopping \$45 a carton.

Those who have the most at stake may be non-Aboriginal mainstream retailers, whose National Coalition Against Contraband Tobacco says adventurous Indian vendors are on the same legal and ethical footing

as smugglers. "Imagine how the typical convenience store owner feels about this—a Canadian, very often a new Canadian, who works 12 hours a day and lives in fear that a government 'secret shopper' might catch him selling cigarettes to a minor,"

says NCACT spokesman Gary Grant. "We support the Manitoba government in putting a stop to what, according to the law in Manitoba, is illegal." **COLBY COSH**

**'WE THINK OUR SMOKES
DON'T HAVE THE
CANCER THAT THE
PROVINCE'S NAME
BRAND CIGARETTES DO'**



Cheap smokes: Bands in the West see cigarettes as a way to bring in cash and assert land claims

TIM SMITH/BRANDON SUN

OTTAWA

DECENCY ALONE CAN'T SAVE PARLIAMENT



ANDREW
COYNE

THIS YEAR'S Parliamentarians of the Year awards were, as ever, a grand occasion, and while I'd quibble with one or two choices, the recipients were all deserving enough. The premise of the event is a good one: there are decent, conscientious people in politics who take Parliament seriously and treat each other with respect, and it is worth recognizing them, if only to encourage others to follow their example.

Yet it was hard to escape a certain rage-against-the-darkness feeling about the whole thing. We can point to this or that exemplary individual, but it does not change the reality that Parliament is dying. Largely irrelevant, increasingly impotent, it is treated with contempt by those in power, matched only by the indifference of the general public.

The institution is caught in a death spiral, wherein each new assault on its prerogatives makes the argument for the next. The more degraded it becomes, the harder it is to rally people to its defence: it's only Parliament, after all. So even after an unprecedented seven invocations of "time allocation"—a politer form of closure—to cut off debate in as many weeks, it wasn't until Pat Martin's foul-mouthed outburst on Twitter last Wednesday that the press gallery, who are paid to pay attention, could rouse themselves to make an issue of it. But their enthusiasm soon passed. All it took was last Thursday's question period: by common consent the worst in years. Who, in all seriousness, could mount a defence of Parliament's right to debate who had actually watched Parliament in debate?

To see how insidious this cycle of decline is, consider the Prime Minister's warning to the public during the last election campaign: that, were they to deny him a majority at the polls, a majority of the House might then vote to remove him shortly afterward and put another prime minister in his place. Never mind the constitutional fact that such a move would be entirely within Parliament's prerogative. Leave aside, too, the arithmetical fact that his party, in this scenario, would not even have a majority of the seats, let alone the popular



Harper's rule: *The only vote that counts is at the ballot box, not in the House of Commons*

vote. Just consider the message, and why it might be persuasive.

The Prime Minister was not merely advertising a probability. He was suggesting something unfair, even underhanded. Though his party had been *elected by the people*, their victory might be *taken away from them* afterwards. The unfairness of this depends upon an unspoken assumption: that the only vote that matters is the vote of the people on election day. Or rather, that the only aspect of that vote that matters is the party affiliation of the members of Parliament they elect. The votes of MPs are essentially irrelevant, as indeed are MPs themselves.

Parliament, in this version, is not a body of legislators charged with scrutinizing bills and holding government to account. It is simply an electoral college. Its sole function

is to convert a minority of the popular vote, through the alchemy of the first past the post electoral system, into a majority of the seats. Should it fail in that responsibility, delivering what the British call a "hung Parliament," the government is entitled to carry on without it, as governments have in recent years: ignoring confidence votes, or proroguing Parliament to avoid them.

Well, who could argue with that? Isn't it true that MPs are elected almost entirely on the basis of party? Don't they owe their seats to the party leader, more or less literally—after all, without his signature on their nomination papers they could not even have stood for office. Certainly MPs themselves seem disinclined to complain, publicly at least. Ask how they enjoy being a member of Parliament and they will burble on about the work they do in their constituencies, forwarding letters to the Immigration Department and the like. Everything but actually sitting in Parliament.

And so we get the kind of people in politics who are willing to accept a job with no meaningful responsibilities. And so we get the standard of behaviour, in Parliament and out, we should expect from people in that situation. And so, yes, MPs do become mere stand-ins for the party, and yes, Parliament becomes but an extension of the executive, more accountable to it than the reverse. And so the cycle of decline becomes an iron ring of futility.

The Parliamentarians of the Year awards are a brave attempt to reverse that dynamic, on the theory that if we treat MPs as somebodies, they will no longer be content to be nobodies. But I'm afraid it will take more than that. Over the years, I've proposed any number of reforms, ranging from giving caucus the power to hire and fire the leader, to cutting the number of cabinet ministers in half, to narrowing the aisle separating government from opposition. But all of these depend on someone in Parliament being willing to buck the status quo. But who among its present inmates is disposed to do that? Not the leaders, obviously. And not their obedient followers. After all, if they were the sort likely to rock the boat they'd never have been nominated.

Nothing will change in politics, I am convinced, until we give power back to the MPs. And nothing of that sort will happen until party members and riding associations demand it—until they insist their MPs be accountable to them, rather than the leadership. I hold no hope of that occurring in any of the established parties. But perhaps the Liberals will be willing to give it a try. ♦

On the Web: For more Andrew Coyne, visit his blog at macleans.ca/andrewcoyne

ONTARIO

The value of a man on a rope is ...

HIGH-WIRE ARTIST NIK Wallenda made his case last week to perform a tightrope walk across Niagara Falls, saying it would bring \$20.5 million worth of tourism spending to the region, plus a \$122-million “legacy impact” over the next five years. But his appearance before the Niagara Parks Commission—which has control of the iconic gorge on the Canadian side—underlined the conundrum he now faces: how do you sell the commercial benefits of an event to people dedicated to fighting commercialization?

The commission was formed 126 years ago to curb the hucksterism and stunting that had come to sully the whole Niagara experience. Today, the board interprets its role as rigidly as when hawkers demanded five cents to view the falls through a peephole. “It’s sensationalism,” acting chair Janice Thomson told *Maclean’s* last summer of Wallenda’s proposal. “That’s



not what the falls is supposed to be about.”

Wallenda, an heir to the Flying Wallendas circus dynasty, argues the spectacle will emphasize the falls’ natural beauty as much as his derring-do. Still, his pitch is, at bottom, one of financial benefit to a region buffeted by sagging U.S. tourism. He has submitted a study

predicting 125,000 spectators would come to view the walk from the Canadian side, while a stunning 411 million would tune in on television—fully 320 million of them overseas. “What you’ve got is a prime-time event that will last two hours, with one of the wonders of the world as a backdrop,” says Michael Harker, senior partner of

Enigma Research, the Toronto-based firm that did the study. “There are host venues around the world that would pay for something like this.” Commissioners responded coolly to the proposal, but have agreed to consider it over the next three weeks. **CHARLIE GILLIS**

BRITISH COLUMBIA

LULULEMON GOES TEA PARTY

PROG ROCK AND yoga pants don’t have much in common—not generally anyway. The latter is a millennial fad tied loosely to exercise but dedicated mostly to making butts look good. The former, a much-maligned musical form that peaked with the Electric Light Orchestra. But two prominent Canadians from the different fields do share one love: the philosophies of Ayn Rand.

Recently, Vancouver’s Lululemon, makers of arguably the most famous yoga pants in the world, began selling bags with the phrase “Who is John Galt?” emblazoned on the side. The line comes from Rand’s *Atlas Shrugged*, a 1957 classic and Tea Party movement favourite that pushes the virtues of

radical self-interest. On the Lululemon website, a staffer wrote that company founder Chip Wilson discovered Rand when he was 18. Her work eventually inspired Wilson’s company creed: “Elevate the world from mediocrity to greatness.”

Reaction to Wilson’s Galt love has been mixed. Some angry fans have suggested a philosophy of getting yours and screw the rest doesn’t exactly jibe with the yogic message Lululemon otherwise pushes. “Are you effing kidding me. This is the lamest thing I’ve ever heard,” one critic wrote on the company’s site. Others, though, have been more kind. “I just heard about this and because of it, I just may become a new customer,” another fan chipped in.

If Wilson begins to feel the backlash, he may want to consult Neil Peart. The Rush drummer and fellow Canadian is known for his devotion to all things Rand. (The 1976 Rush album *2112* was inspired by a Rand novella.) If all goes well, the two could even collaborate on a prog-rock yoga album or a line of Rush-themed exercise mats. The slogan writes itself: “Today’s Tom Sawyer, mean, mean thighs.” **RICHARD WARNICA**

STUDIES SAY

REAL FRIENDS MATTER, AND LYING KIDS

British Columbia: Being richer doesn’t always mean eating better. A new study out of the University of British Columbia found those living in Vancouver’s wealthiest neighbourhoods have the least accessibility to healthy, fresh food. As incomes rise, so does the average distance to food stores—which is the opposite of the situation in some U.S. cities, where many low-income areas are considered “food deserts.”

Alberta: Jimmy Kimmel recently pressed his audience to delete people from Facebook and focus on flesh-and-blood friends. The late-night TV host may be on to something. A University of Alberta study found that people with strong, real-world social lives are less stressed and better able to raise their kids, even when mired in financial hardship.

Manitoba: Even though the province has some of the highest obesity rates in the country, a recent University of Manitoba study found that obese people don’t significantly weigh down the provincial health system until they display “the very highest” body mass indexes. Even then, hospital visits and the taking of prescription drugs only increase by about 15 per cent. As the lead author put it, rising obesity is going to be “a bit of a burden, but it’s not going to be an avalanche.”

Ontario: Accused of insatiable greed and unjust political influence, the one per cent is also charged with over-contributing to global warming. A recent study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives found that the richest one per cent of households are responsible for greenhouse gas emissions three times higher than the national average, and six times higher than the poorest 10 per cent.

Quebec: A researcher at McGill University found a correlation between children’s ability to fib and the harshness with which they’re disciplined at school. When two groups of three- and four-year-olds from the same neighbourhood were compared, those in the more punitive atmosphere showed they could lie more convincingly. **ALEX BALLINGALL**



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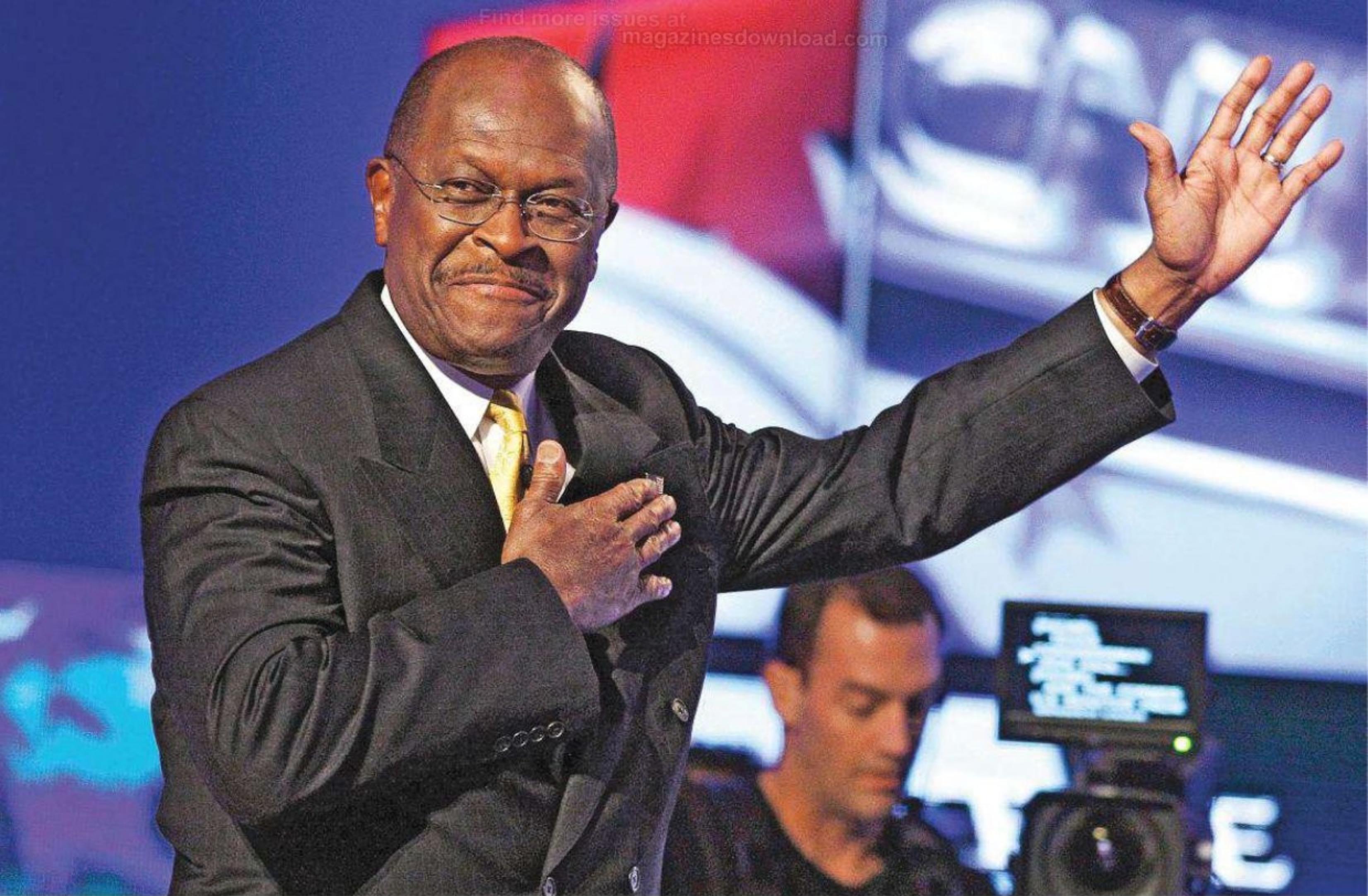


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Under pressure: Cain asked the Secret Service to protect him from reporters 'trying to follow him with a lot of heavy equipment and cameras'

UNITED STATES

American idiots

Gaffes, mistakes, scandals and humiliation. How did the campaign for the Republican 2012 presidential nomination turn into such a joke?

"WE ARE PROTECTING Herman Cain," announced a spokesman for the U.S. Secret Service on Nov. 18. The Godfather's Pizza magnate became the first Republican candidate for U.S. president to request Secret Service protection in this election cycle, and a campaign spokesman told the *Washington Post* that Cain needed protection from reporters, who have been "trying to follow him with a lot of heavy equipment and cameras." Cain later denied this, saying only that he needed the protection "because of the popularity of my campaign." By the time he said that, though, his popularity was declining, with polls showing that his support was going to another candidate—Newt Gingrich, the former Speaker who resigned in disgrace in

1998 and spent most of the next few years reviewing spy novels on *Amazon.com*. It was a familiar step in a bizarre campaign season: reporters stop focusing on one transparently unelectable candidate, and move on to what historian Rick Perlstein calls "the next shiny object," an equally unelectable candidate.

The Republican campaign season, from Donald Trump's birtherism to Rick Perry's inability to remember which government agency he wanted to cut, has been one of the wildest in recent memory. It drove apostate conservative David Frum to lament the effect the conservative movement was having on the presidential race: in a widely discussed article, he called the parade of Tea Party candidates "a series of humiliating fizzles and

explosions that never achieved liftoff." With Republican voters fired up to beat Barack Obama but also disillusioned with politics in general, any candidate who claims to be a political outsider can get a serious look. Doug Gross, an Iowa Republican operative and former gubernatorial candidate, told *Maclean's* that candidates like Cain or Trump "are products of the voters' concerns about the failure of the current system to produce leaders who can solve problems."

There have always been freaky candidates in every election, of course. Cain, an amusing rich guy who got a lot of publicity and then flamed out, isn't that different from Steve Forbes in the 1996 and 2000 elections—except that Forbes actually won a couple of

ISAAC BREKKE/AP

primaries. But usually there are a few respectable candidates that the race can focus on: in 2000, it was mostly about George W. Bush and John McCain, and we could easily dismiss most of the fringe candidates. In this cycle, it's the respectable Republicans who are getting dismissed, while the fringe candidates rise. Gov. Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota, who had an impressive résumé and was taken seriously by the press, attracted no interest and was forced to drop out early.

The people who have led in the polls mostly aren't the respectable types; they're people like Cain, like Gingrich, like Michele Bachmann, a congresswoman who once delivered an entire televised speech while looking into the wrong camera; like Sarah Palin, who never actually entered the race; like Trump, who spent most of his campaign trying to bring anti-Obama conspiracy theories into the mainstream. It's what Perlstein calls "this kind of clash of the titans, these third-tier figures fighting for an identity as the purest, the most extreme, the most Tea Party-friendly candidates." Reporters sometimes rule out a candidate as being too extreme, like the aging pro-life libertarian Ron Paul. But this time, if they dismissed every implausible candidate, they'd have no race to cover. And so while Perlstein says "none of these guys have a chance," Cain or Bachmann or Trump have to be covered as though they can win: "It's a full employment program for political pundits and political reporters, not to mention political consultants."

The problem with being a fringe candidate who gets taken seriously, though, is that fringe candidates usually aren't prepared to handle

the pressure—"They tend to wither under scrutiny," Perlstein says, and the media moves on. No one has ever been less prepared for major media scrutiny than Herman Cain. Since he started winning straw polls and debates this fall, he's been taken seriously as a candidate, including the increased scrutiny that comes with being a front-runner. Women who accused him of sexual harassment came forward to repeat their charges, which Cain declared to be a trick of the "Democrat machine." Reporters tried to get him to talk about Libya and were told that he couldn't remember what he thinks because "I got all this stuff twirling around in my head." People made videos showcasing his comments about Muslims, like his vow to refuse to appoint a Muslim to cabinet. All of this was normal treatment for a first-tier candidate, but he seemed ill-equipped to deal with it; knowing that every anti-Muslim comment he made would turn up on YouTube, he still continued to tell a story about his fear when he found out his doctor's name was "Abdallah."

But Cain, like all the other wacky candidates, has an ace up his sleeve: with no real chance to win, he doesn't have to run a serious campaign. He certainly doesn't seem to be taking it seriously. In October, when he was riding high in the polls, reporters noticed that he wasn't doing the things a candidate needs to do to take advantage of those poll numbers—like raising money and starting a

campaign apparatus. "Cain's got nothing," a South Carolina GOP strategist told *Talking Points Memo*, while ABC News went to Cain's Iowa campaign headquarters and found no one there. The *New York Times* looked at his calendar of campaign events and found that "19 of the 31 days of October are blank," because he spent most of the month promoting his book, *This is Herman Cain!*, instead of, say, fundraising. In the key state of New Hampshire, he failed to show up for an interview with a newspaper whose endorsement he was supposedly looking for.

Some commentators started to suspect that the campaign was a fake. Liberal pundit Jonathan Chait wrote that Cain

doesn't have a campaign, but a business plan, which involves "raising his profile as a conservative personality, which he can monetize through motivational speaking, book sales, talk shows and other media." Looked at from that point of view, the Cain train is a brilliant marketing strategy, a piece of political performance art done for a price.

Even some of Cain's gaffes have a showbiz quality to them; he once was quoted as saying "we need a leader, not a reader," which, it was pointed out, was an inadvertent swipe from president Arnold Schwarzenegger in *The Simpsons Movie* ("I was elected to lead, not to read"). Meanwhile, Perlstein says, Cain's very presence in the race was "useful for the Republican party, because they're always on the lookout for someone to prove

If reporters dismissed every implausible candidate this time around, there would be no race to cover

Welcome to the silly season

From Donald Trump and the birthers to Rick Perry's fading memory, it's been a race to remember. Pity the "serious" candidate like Mitt Romney, who just comes across as boring.



MITT ROMNEY

The establishment favourite. Voters don't like him, but he doesn't care. His slogan should be, "Romney: hold your nose and think of beating Obama."

NEWT GINGRICH

His nasty reputation appeals to voters who want a tough guy. But the *'Wall Street Journal'* says he can win. It also said there would be no recession.

MICHELE BACHMANN

Beloved by conservative Christians for her stands against gay marriage and HPV vaccination. But her congressional "Tea Party Caucus" went nowhere.

RICK PERRY

There are three reasons he could still win: one, he's handsome, two, he's raised a lot of money, and three...uh...give us a second, we'll remember...

SARAH PALIN

Never actually ran for the nomination, which makes her the ultimate outsider: someone who doesn't even want the job.

DONALD TRUMP

He's already out of the race and concentrating on boosting the ratings of his flailing reality show. Though all bets are off if his hair chooses to run separately.

I R A N

WHAT TO DO ABOUT TEHRAN'S PUSH FOR NUKES?

The U.S. says all options are open—but it's talking down military strikes

WAR DRUMS ARE beating again in Washington, nearly a decade after the push to invade Iraq over stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction that turned out to be non-existent. This time critics warn that time is running out for President Barack Obama to stop Iran's alleged progress toward building a nuclear weapon. A growing chorus of hawkish voices say the United States—or Israel—must soon bomb Iran's nuclear facilities or else accept a world in which the theocratic Islamist regime wields nukes, and then try to “contain” the threat.

The world's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, concluded in a report on Nov. 8 that Iran is closer than ever to obtaining nuclear weapons. Then, on Friday, Nov. 18, the IAEA's 35-nation board of governors, including representatives from China and Russia, voted to censure Iran. “The information indicates that Iran has carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device,” said the agency's head, Yukiya Amano.”

The IAEA said Iran has been acquiring large quantities of enriched uranium, and that it was working toward perfecting an “implosion device” that would turn it into a weapon. “It is no longer within the bounds of credulity to claim that Iran's nuclear activities are solely peaceful,” said Glyn Davies, the chief U.S. delegate to the IAEA.

Tehran's response was to dismiss the report as American fabrication, insisting that its nuclear program is only for civilian energy. “We will not budge an iota from the path we are committed to,” President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in a public speech the day after the report's release. So what now?

On Monday, the White House, along with Canada and Britain, announced toughened sanctions on Iran's petrochemical industry. But there is pressure on Obama to do much more. “If we re-elect Barack Obama, Iran will

that they're not racist.” Intentionally or not, Cain has put together a campaign that fails as politics but succeeds as a branding strategy. The same goes for Bachmann, Gingrich and others; there has never been a better time, in terms of money or publicity, to be an improbable candidate.

Compared to these reality show contestants, it's almost dull to watch the one “serious” candidate. That would be Mitt Romney, the former moderate who stepped down as governor of Massachusetts in 2006 and has been running for president ever since. “I would have put money on Mitt Romney 18 months ago,” says Perlstein, whose *Before the Storm* recounts the 1964 election that created the modern Republican party. In a party where Ronald Reagan got the nomination four years after losing to Gerald Ford, Romney is the natural choice after getting beaten by McCain in 2008. “Waiting your turn is a factor,” Gross says of his party, adding that “having run before and done relatively well helps in subsequent cycles because of the experience granted the candidate.”

That experience, the sense of knowing

concerns: “I'll get rid of Obamacare. I know why it's bad. I know how it's different than what we did and why it needs to be taken off the books,” he told talk radio host Sean Hannity. If the other candidates will say anything to get attention, Romney will only say things that make him electable.

But the very fact that he makes so few mistakes may be what makes Romney so boring to Republican primary voters. In the last *Real Clear Politics* average of polls, Romney was stuck at 21 per cent, with most of Cain's former support going to Gingrich. New front-runners keep popping up because voters don't like Romney, and don't like being told that they have to vote a certain way. William Kristol, the influential Fox News contributor and editor of *The Weekly Standard*, summed up the base's thinking when he wrote that Romney is not inevitable and that “Here in America, we the people rule by electing. We don't bow to those anointed by pundits.” The search for an anti-Romney goes on.

Perlstein thinks the search will eventually have to end as voters accept that there's no one else but Romney: “Have you ever heard the expression ‘Democrats fall in love and Republicans fall in line?’ ” Gross hasn't yet endorsed a candidate, but thinks electability matters most to voters: “Republican voters are looking for someone who can win.” But as the polls have shown, voters are also looking for ideological reinforcements, and most of the front-runners have offered it: Cain argued that he, not Obama, was the real post-racial candidate, while Gingrich has become a spokesman for the base's dislike of the Occupy movement.

That's why conservatives are still looking for a better alternative to Romney, even after the first caucuses begin. In his article, Kristol wistfully hoped for a run by Florida Sen. Marco Rubio or Bush brother Jeb, and even contemplated the possibility of people who already said they aren't running: “Hello, Mike Huckabee! Hello, Sarah Palin!” Herman Cain won't be the next Republican nominee, but if it's not Mitt Romney, it could be because he helped whet conservatives' appetite for someone more exciting. Or at least more fun. **JAIME J. WEINMAN**



Waiting his turn: Romney lost the nomination to McCain in 2008

what works in a campaign, may explain why Romney is the only person not committing campaign-ending gaffes. Rick Perry, expected to be a serious conservative alternative to Romney, destroyed his credibility with the base when he argued that immigration hard-liners “don't have a heart.” Romney has mastered the art of defending his unorthodox positions without offending anyone. When he defends his Massachusetts health care plan, so similar to the hated “Obamacare,” he always includes a nod to conservative



Moving ahead: A suspected Iranian nuclear enrichment facility; a new report says that Iran is working toward perfecting an 'implosion device'

have a nuclear weapon," declared former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney at a Republican presidential debate this month. Romney called for tougher economic sanctions and a "very real and very credible military option," bolstered by the regular presence of aircraft carrier groups in the Mediterranean Sea and Persian Gulf. Another Republican presidential rival, Rick Perry, the governor of Texas, called on Obama to sanction the Iranian central bank "right now and shut down that country's economy."

Bipartisan pressure is also mounting in Congress. In August, 92 out of 100 U.S. senators signed a letter calling for a ban on transactions with Iran's central bank. On Nov. 17, House Speaker John Boehner and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi wrote to Obama asking for the same. "Clearly, the time available for the United States and responsible nations to prevent Iran's acquisition of a nuclear capability is running short," the lawmakers wrote.

There have been mysterious incidents that some believe are Western attempts to sabotage the program: scientists linked to Iran's nuclear ambitions have been mysteriously gunned down, a virus called Stuxnet damaged their centrifuges and, earlier this month, an explosion at a munitions base killed a senior Revolutionary Guard commander who

worked on the missile program.

But so far in public, Obama is moving cautiously—and to his critics, timidly. Administration officials have expressed concerns that clamping down on the Iranian central bank might create a spike in oil prices that could pummel the teetering global economy. Those concerns led to a heated exchange at a House



Man of the hour: President Ahmadinejad at an enrichment facility south of Tehran

subcommittee hearing on Iran chaired by Republican congressman Jason Chaffetz of Utah, who demanded of an administration official, "Why is the price of a gallon of gas the primary driver in our—in the Obama administration's quest to supposedly make sure that they don't get a nuclear bomb, for goodness' sake?" The Treasury Department's leading official on sanctions, Adam Szubin, responded that while the price of oil is not the primary driver of Iran policy, "It is certainly a consideration because it is a primary driver of the recovery that's going on worldwide and the strength of our economy and that of many of our allies." Szubin also noted that a spike in oil prices could give Iran a financial windfall.

The administration sounds even more skeptical of military strikes. Like his predecessors, Obama has said that a nuclear armed Iran is "unacceptable," and the administration has said all options, including military strikes, remain open. Even so, officials have continued to talk some of them down. "The President has not taken any options off the table," Colin Kahl, deputy assistant secretary of defence for the Middle East, told a House hearing last week. "But I also want to emphasize our continued belief that, at this time, diplomacy and pressure remain the most effective tools for changing Iran's behaviour."

On Friday, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta delivered the same message—that the administration would stick with diplomatic pressure and sanctions. "Obviously to go beyond that raises our concerns about the unintended consequences that could result," Panetta said.

U.S. analysis suggests a strike on Iran would set back its nuclear program—which Tehran says is only for peaceful purposes—by one or two years at most. It could also invite retaliatory attacks on U.S. forces in the region. Other considerations include the delicate state of the Arab Spring, says Matthew Duss, director of Middle East progress at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank in Washington. "If the U.S. took military action, you would see a wave of anti-Americanism in the region that would be devastating to our effort to facilitate a positive transition." Furthermore, mil-

itary strikes could cause Iranians who have turned against their regime to rally around it.

Rather than take such risks, the Obama administration is operating on the assumption that multilateral pressure will have the biggest impact on Iran in the long run. "The Obama administration is trying to work much harder to create international consensus and to be seen as working within that consensus," Duss says.

The approach is causing concern in some quarters that the White House is preparing to accept the inevitability of a nuclear-armed Iran, and laying the groundwork for a

SOME CRITICS OF OBAMA'S CAUTIOUS APPROACH SAY THE TIME MAY BE RIGHT FOR THE USE OF FORCE



Stepping softly: Obama is concerned about repercussions

Cold War-style strategy of containment. "I think the administration is leaning toward the containment option, but that doesn't mean that they don't have a military option," Elliott Abrams, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and former official in the administration of George W. Bush, told reporters.

Critics say that the White House's dovish approach is hurting its diplomacy. "The fact that there is not a credible use-of-force option on the table—at least not one that the Iranians believe—has to some degree disabled the

diplomacy," says Eric Edelman, a former diplomat and undersecretary of defence in the Bush administration.

Edelman argues that the timing may be right for military strikes—to wait longer is to risk waiting too long. In a recent article in *Foreign Affairs* entitled, "Why Obama should take out Iran's nuclear program," Edelman and his co-authors say that while the consequences of military strikes may be troubling, "the possibility of a nuclear Iran is likely even worse."

Once Iran obtains weapons, the nuclear balance that will matter will be between Iran and Israel, and it will be "inherently unstable," says Edelman, now a fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. "And you are likely to get a cascade of nuclear weapons in the region." A Middle East with four or five nuclear powers would be less stable than the old U.S.-Soviet rivalry, he said. "It could exponentially increase the chances that these things get used for the first time since 1945."

Edelman also questions whether concerns about oil prices are valid. After all, the U.S. diplomatic cables released by WikiLeaks last year quoted the Saudi ambassador to the United States as saying that King Abdullah was urging Washington to "cut off the head of the snake" in Tehran by launching military strikes. "I can imagine an effort by several OPEC countries to hold oil prices down," says Edelman. Lower energy revenues is a price Saudi Arabia is presumably willing to pay.

While the Obama administration talks down military strikes, they are being talked up by Israel. Israel's defence minister, Ehud Barak, warned that a strike was possible, and according to news reports that option has been discussed by the Israeli cabinet. After Dec. 31, at least one operational limitation to a potential Israeli strike—flying through U.S.-controlled airspace over Iraq—will disappear as the U.S. withdraws fully from that country. "From the Israeli point of view, it might be a time to go ahead and act and do something," says Edelman.

But others are skeptical that Israel is preparing to move. Duss speculates that the Israeli rhetoric is aimed at putting pressure on the U.S. as much as on Iran. He notes that when Israeli air strikes took out a partially built reactor in Iraq in 1981 and a suspected reactor in Syria in 2007, they were preceded by no sabre-rattling or warning.

"When they go silent," says Duss, "is when we should get scared." **LUIZA CH. SAVAGE**



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CHILE

Commandant Camila's uprising

A charismatic student leads a widespread revolt against former dictator Augusto Pinochet's school reforms

IF ONE WERE to rank the legacies of the Pinochet era in Chile, education reform wouldn't likely make most lists. The former dictator devastated his country in many ways. Thousands of his opponents were murdered or simply disappeared. Countless more were tortured or forced into exile. But Augusto Pinochet also radically deregulated the education market, pulling funds from the public sector in the early 1980s and spreading them into a parallel private system. Remarkably, it is that decision that has his country roiling today.

For more than six months, tens and sometimes hundreds of thousands of students have filled the streets in Chile's cities. Their explicit goal: to overturn the education system Pinochet imposed. Under the Pinochet system, private education flourished while the costs for public education, at the university level, soared. Chilean university students today pay upwards of 80 per cent of the costs of their own education in public and private universities, the highest rate in the OECD. To pay that, many take out crippling student loans. Many lower-income students, products of the poorly funded public secondary system, meanwhile, are shut out of the better universities by dint of poor test scores.

Beginning last Chilean fall, the students began to revolt. They shut down classes, stormed ministries and, depending on who you believe, either provoked or suffered through violent clashes with police. The protests, which featured massive street marches as recently as mid-November, are the largest and most sustained since Pinochet's rule ended more than 20 years ago. Many have been organized by the country's most prominent student group, whose leader, Camila Vallejo, has

become a minor folk hero in the country.

Vallejo, who stepped down from her post recently to run for re-election, has been remarkably effective at spreading her message. She has over 300,000 followers on Twitter and is capable of massing tens of thousands of supporters with little notice. "She's very bright," says Philip Oxhorn, a professor of political science at McGill who studies Latin

American politics. She is also striking to look at, something she hasn't been afraid to use to her advantage. "You have to recognize that beauty can be a hook," Vallejo told the *Guardian*. "It can be a compliment, they come to listen to me because of my appearance, but then I explain the ideas."

Vallejo and other protest leaders come from the so-called "penguin protest" generation, which took over secondary schools in a wave of demonstrations in 2006. (The "penguin" refers to the school uniforms the protesters wore.)

The penguin protesters were focused on secondary school reform. This time, demonstrators are demanding a fully publicly funded university system. But dramatically lowering university tuitions would likely mean significantly increasing taxes. And while the protests have so far been popular with the public, it's not clear they'd remain that way if it meant everyone paying more. Conservative President Sebastián Piñera has already promised more money for the system and better rates for student loans. It's not entirely clear how much further he, and the Chilean budget, are capable of going. One thing is clear: if larger reforms aren't forthcoming, the students will likely be in the streets for months to come. **RICHARD WARNICA**



Folk hero: Vallejo has over 300,000 Twitter followers, and can call out thousands



BRITAIN

THIS WON'T HURT A BIT, ROVER

THESE ARE TOUGH economic times. Some people occupy public parks. Others—particularly in Britain—prefer to kill their pets. According to the *Daily Mail*, British pet owners are "deliberately maiming or even killing their animals to get a payout," so much so that fraudulent pet insurance claims have nearly quadrupled in the past year. In fact, notes the *Daily Mail*, pets are now the "fastest growing area of insurance claims" in the country.

Figures from the Association of British Insurers show that there was more than \$3 million worth of pet insurance fraud uncovered last year—a number that's more than doubled since 2009. So how exactly do people commit pet fraud? Authorities insist that many fraudulent claims resemble "crash for cash" set-ups, in which animal owners stage accidents and injure their pets on purpose to get a payout. That, or they try to claim insurance on pets that don't even exist to begin with.

Fake pets aside, however, 2.3 million real animals (cats and dogs) were insured last year in Britain—and that doesn't even include the scores of other species covered by pet insurers. For example, one British company, Exotic Direct, offers its customers—in addition to the standard dog and cat packages—tortoise, lizard, snake, parrot, and "bird of prey" coverage.

Still, any Brit planning on taking advantage of the seemingly accommodating system should probably think twice before making a false claim. The Association of British Insurers is in the process of developing a database about insured animals and their veterinary paper trails, in order to detect fraud. **EMMA TEITEL**



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Saved: The government has announced a six-month ban on killing stray dogs

UKRAINE

It's a doggone shame

UKRAINE'S ENVIRONMENT minister, Mykola Zlochevsky, recently announced a six-month ban on the killing of stray dogs. The practice has gained traction of late as municipal governments try to clear streets of homeless canines ahead of the Euro 2012 soccer tournament, which will be co-hosted by Poland and Ukraine next summer. "Let us stop the deaths of these poor stray animals for half a year and build shelters together," said Zlochevsky.

Thousands of dogs have reportedly been killed during the past year alone. Most

often, they're either poisoned or given a lethal injection. But in one remarkable case reported by the *Donbass* news site, authorities in Lisichansk have been paralyzing dogs with a syringe gun and burning them alive in a mobile crematorium.

It remains unclear how the ban will be enforced, or what will happen after it expires. For the sake of Ukraine's legions of wandering mutts, let's hope city governments heed Bob Barker's favourite advice by having their strays spayed or neutered, rather than killed. **ALEX BALLINGALL**

INDIA

A HIT MAN LIKE FEW OTHERS

IF THE ALLEGATIONS are true, Indian police have their hands on one of the most prolific hit men and gang leaders operating in the criminal underworld that thrives in the shadow of India's economic boom. Jagghu Pehelwan is charged with 31 murders, but the inspector who arrested him believes he's responsible for more than 150 (among his secondary charges are kidnapping, extortion and gun smuggling). His alleged victims include politicians, businessmen and gangsters—the same groups that are said to have paid him to kill.

Police say Pehelwan—a 285-lb., 28-year-old man from a poor village—first killed for cash as a teenager in 1998. By his early 20s, he was allegedly an accomplished car thief. In August, a special police operations unit tracked him down in the industrial city of Ghaziabad, where they arrested him after a brief gunfight. Since then, police say, Pehelwan has confessed to more than 100 killings. But Pehelwan maintains his innocence. He says police beat the confessions out of him—a charge the authorities deny. "I have never hurt anybody, let alone murdered someone," Pehelwan told Britain's *Guardian* newspaper in an interview from his prison cell. "I hope I will get out soon. I am praying for that."

ALEX BALLINGALL

NICARAGUA

Granny with a gun

COPS LIKE MARGE Gunderson, the petite but very pregnant police chief who resolves gruesome crimes in the Coen brothers' landmark movie *Fargo*, really exist. Meet Aminta Granera, Nicaragua's police chief. At 60, she's not expecting, but as a fragile-looking grandmother who once trained to be a nun, the five-foot-tall chief cuts just as striking a figure in a region rocked by drug violence and gang fighting. Unlike its neighbors in Central America, though, Nicaragua has a strong record on fighting organized crime, for which some credit Granera.

President Daniel Ortega, who won re-election

in a landslide earlier this month, recently reappointed her to the post. Ironically, Granera's greatest accomplishment may be that she is, according to some accounts, even more beloved than the president. Survey after survey, in fact, puts her as the country's most popular public figure. It has caused friction with Ortega in the past, and U.S. diplomats suggested, in a leaked cable, that he may want to keep her in the police force to ensure she doesn't enter politics. As Granera recently told a journalist from McClatchy Newspapers: "The greatest danger for the bullfighter isn't the bull. It's the applause." **ERICA ALINI**



Granera

OSWALDO RIVAS / REUTERS; EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

THAILAND

A pardon for a prodigal son?

Protests erupt over news that controversial former PM Thaksin Shinawatra might be returning home

TO THAIS, Thaksin Shinawatra is a lot of things: a businessman, a populist politician, and a controversial fugitive. But even from his refuge nearly 5,000 km away—the 62-year-old is currently living in Dubai to evade a two-year conflict-of-interest jail sentence—Thailand's former prime minister has never strayed far from the country's political hubbub. Now his spectre has again incensed Thailand's opposition parties, following reports in the English-language *Bangkok Post* that he would be granted a pardon.

Royal pardons are granted annually in Thailand on Dec. 5, to celebrate King Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday. If the king approves the decree, the *Bangkok Post* reported, Thaksin would be allowed to return home and forego the jail sentence



ord majority win. In a country accustomed to coups and dictatorships, he was the first prime minister to head an elected government through a full term of office, and gained popularity amongst Thailand's rural poor for his investments in infrastructure and universal health care.

But his tenure was marred by civil unrest and allegations of corruption, tax evasion and conflict of interest, and Thaksin was overthrown by the military in a 2006 coup. Although his Thai Rak Thai party was disbanded in 2009, he still wields authority in the governing Pheu Thai Party: his younger sister Yingluck Shinawatra was elected Thailand's prime minister in July.

Reports of a possible pardon have already sparked street action by both his oppon-



Not welcome here: Opponents of Thaksin Shinawatra took to the streets of Bangkok last week

handed to him in 2008. But the ex-prime minister remains a divisive figure. Born in the northern Chiang Mai province, Thaksin was educated in the U.S. before returning to Thailand in the 1980s to build the telecommunications conglomerate Shin Corp. He entered politics in 1994, leading the populist Thai Rak Thai party to a 2001 rec-

ents and supporters. But back in Dubai—he splits his time between there and London—Thaksin isn't holding his breath. In an open letter, he wrote: "I support all measures that will lead to national reconciliation and do not want to see any attempt that will sour the atmosphere. I will be patient for the sake of the people." **JANE SWITZER**



Walk on the wide side

QATAR

ROLLING IN MORE THAN JUST DOUGH

THE PEOPLE OF the Persian Gulf nation of Qatar are the wealthiest in the world. The citizens of the small emirate enjoyed a per capita GDP of US\$179,000 in 2010, the highest among nations by a considerable margin. That's the good news. The bad news is that Qataris are also among the fattest people on the globe. Over 70 per cent of adults are overweight. That includes the nearly 40 per cent who are obese, according to recent studies. Both stats are expected to climb in coming years.

What isn't news, likely, is that the two factors—wealth and obesity—are related. Qatar became very rich, very fast in recent decades. For many native Qataris, that has meant a new life with servants, rich foods and little manual labour. As a result, obesity and related issues, like hypertension and diabetes, have soared. "It's a very, very serious problem facing the future of Qatar," Sharoud Al-Jundi Matthis, from the Qatar Diabetes Association, told *The Atlantic* recently. Qataris aren't the largest people on Earth. The Pacific Island nations remain the most obese for now. But if things don't change, Qatar may soon compete for the crown. **RICHARD WARNICA**

ECONOMY

TEARING APART AMERICA

With 25 million out of work or underemployed, the U.S. is in the grips of a jobs depression, and it's taking a devastating toll on society

EIGHT MONTHS AGO, Deborah Burnley, an administrative assistant in Baltimore, suddenly found herself among America's growing army of unemployed. Losing her job at a cash-strapped non-profit was a demoralizing and debilitating experience, she says, and to keep her spirits from crashing she's sought solace in, of all things, the bleak arithmetic of her job hunt: 226 positions applied for, six temp agencies engaged, and countless miles travelled across the region for interviews. "I try to think of it as a numbers game, that each day is basically one more step closer to being employed," says Burnley, 52. In other words, if she applies for enough positions, and meets enough prospective employers, some day—eventually—she's bound to find work. But even as she clings to that hope, Burnley acknowledges she and her husband, who also lost his job as a facilities manager six weeks ago, have depleted their savings and almost maxed out their credit cards. "It can be hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Two-and-a-half years after the Great Reces-

sion was deemed officially over, that light has never seemed dimmer for the close to 25 million Americans who are either out of work or underemployed today. Like a gaping wound at the heart of the economy, the U.S. job crisis has cast a vast swath of the population into a state of semi-permanent unemployment. At the same time, America's housing market is in a shambles and poverty is on the rise. Even if economists weren't already once again warning of another global recession, a realization is slowly setting in: the United States is suffering from an outright economic depression, and it threatens to leave a deep scar on the American psyche for decades to come. As Robert Reich, a professor of public policy at the University of California at Berkeley and a former secretary of labour, put it recently: "America's ongoing jobs depression, which is what it deserves to be called, is the worst economic calamity to hit this nation since the Great Depression."

Exactly where the line between recession and depression lies remains up for debate,

but in the eyes of David Rosenberg, chief economist at Gluskin Sheff & Associates in Toronto, a depression can be defined as "a prolonged multi-year period of economic malaise." That succinctly captures the abysmal performance of what was once the world's greatest wealth creation machine. Many key measures of the economy remain deep in negative territory, and have stayed there despite huge efforts by Washington and the Federal Reserve to spur a rebound.

For one thing, even Americans who have jobs are having to make do with less. During the official recession, incomes in the U.S. fell 3.2 per cent. Yet since the so-called recovery began in July 2009, incomes have kept falling, dropping another 6.7 per cent, according to a recent analysis by Sentier Research. As of June, the median household income in America was \$49,909, nearly \$5,500 less than it was at the end of 2007. The problem is certain to get worse. Henry Farber, an economist at Princeton, has found that unemployed people who finally land a job are, on average,



earning 17.5 per cent less than they did in their old positions.

Home prices also show few signs of hitting bottom. Average prices have already fallen by roughly one-third from their bubbly peak in 2006. If the rout continues, this real estate crash will be worse than what homeowners endured during the Great Depression. The carnage could be even greater now because the rate of home ownership was two-thirds higher in 2006 than it was in 1929. House prices have already fallen back to the level they were at in 2003, erasing trillions of dollars of wealth. With U.S. stock prices roughly where they were in 2002, America was already in the grips of a lost decade similar to what Japan went through in the 1990s, even before the Great Recession began. We just didn't realize it at the time.

The fact is it has taken until now for the value of America's economic output, as measured by GDP, just to claw its way back to the level it was at before the recession began. That's three times longer than the average recovery period for all 10 recessions since the Second World War, according to Bloomberg. That also means any growth in the U.S. econ-

omy during the past nearly four years was nothing but a tough slog to make up lost ground. "A depression doesn't mean the economy is perennially in a contraction phase, just that you have a multi-year period of extremely choppy but anemic growth," says Rosenberg. "It's pretty clear America is in a completely different phase than anything we've been accustomed to in the post-World War Two period."

The flood of bad news for workers is unrelenting. In late October, Whirlpool, the appliance maker, said it would axe 5,000 jobs, with one in 10 of them located in the U.S. and Europe. The company will mothball its factory in Fort Smith, Ark., shifting the work to a plant in Mexico instead. At one time Fort Smith was a manufacturing hub, but over the past decade the city has lost 33 per cent of its blue-collar jobs. Workers from all walks of life are suffering. In New York state nearly 7,000 teachers were let go this year. Even the people responsible for processing the mountains of unemployment cheques aren't safe. In Washington state the Employment Security office was forced to axe 222 jobs because of cuts to government spending.

They will join roughly 14 million people who are already out of work. Another nine million want to find full-time jobs but are stuck in part-time positions. Meanwhile, 2.5 million people would work if they could find someone to hire them, but instead they've simply given up. In October the U.S. unemployment rate stood at nine per cent, but the real unemployment rate, which also includes the underemployed, was more than 16 per cent. "For the one-fifth of the American

workforce who have been idled, this is a depression," says Rick Sloan, executive director of the Union of Unemployed, an offshoot of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. "Until the jobless find work, we're going to be mired in a decade or longer morass."

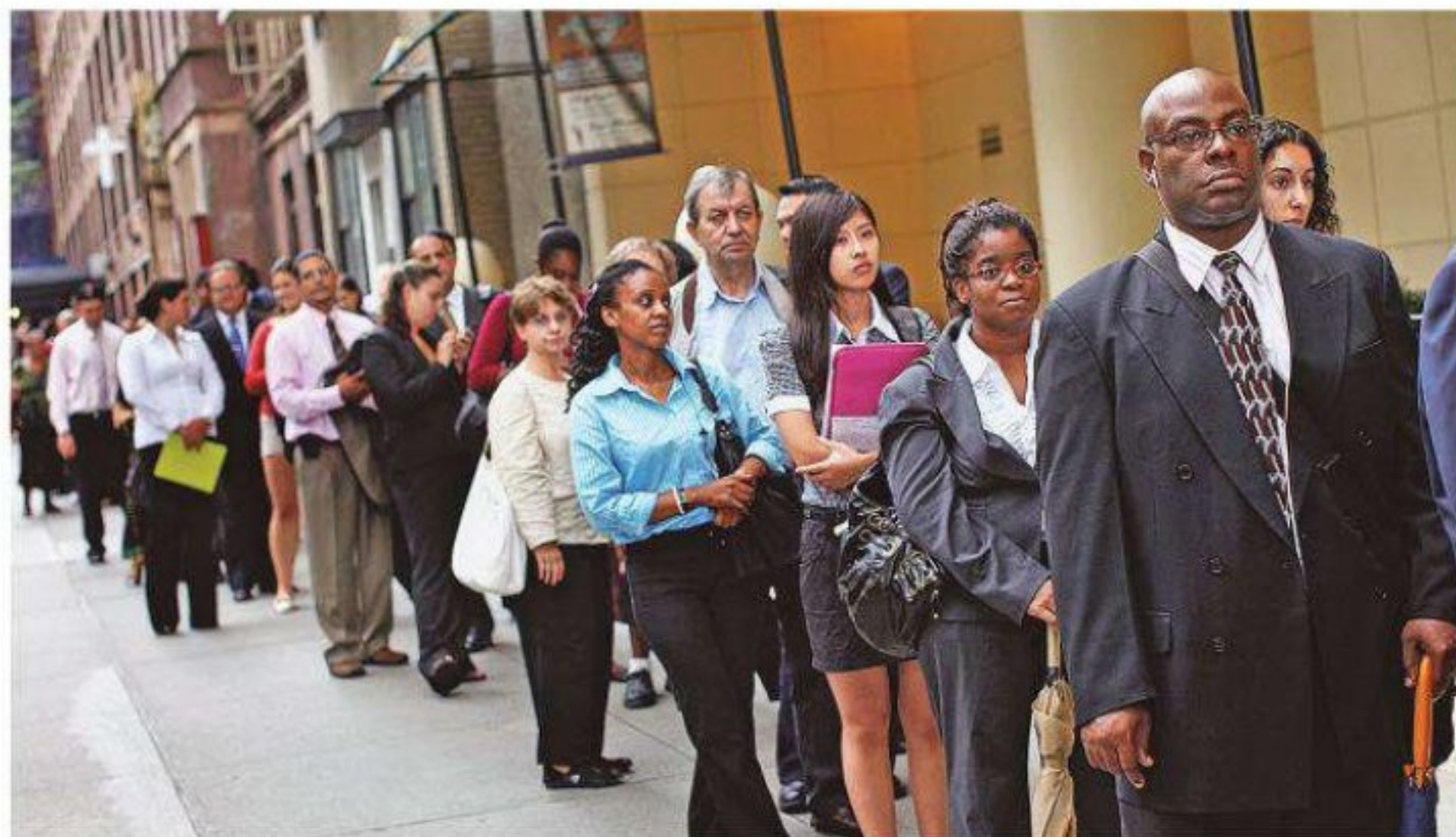
By far the most corrosive aspect of America's unemployment crisis is the grinding length of time it's taking people to find new jobs. Of those who are unemployed, nearly half have been out of work for more than six months, and one-third haven't held a job in two years. That's having a devastating effect on people's mental health, says Arthur Goldsmith, a professor of economics at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., who recently completed a study into the effects of long-term unemployment. Goldsmith found that if a worker is unemployed for 25 weeks or more, he is three times more likely to experience mental health issues for the first time in his life, compared to those with jobs or someone out of work for only a

short period of time. Put another way, workers are quite capable of bouncing back from short bouts of unemployment, but once the days and weeks extend into six months or more, serious disorders such as anxiety and depression take hold. "When you get re-

employed after a bout of long-term unemployment, your mental health doesn't go back to the level it was before," says Goldsmith. "It becomes a permanent scar."

The crisis has already begun to manifest itself in a breakdown of families. Bradford Wilcox, director of the National Marriage Pro-

UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE WHO FINALLY LAND A JOB ARE EARNING 17.5 PER CENT LESS THAN THEY DID BEFORE



On the line: Fourteen million Americans are looking for work—2.5 million have given up

ject at the University of Virginia, has found that marriage rates have dropped 10 per cent since the recession began. At the same time birth rates in the U.S. have dropped sharply, from 69.6 births per thousand women of child-bearing age in 2007 to 64.7 last year. There is also evidence that children raised in families with unemployed parents do less well in school, says Goldsmith, and that men who are unemployed for long periods are more likely to be abusive to their spouses. "Long-term unemployment like we're seeing now has the capacity to undermine the social fabric," he says.

One reason there has been a reluctance to acknowledge the current crisis as a depression is because the Great Depression of the 1930s was so traumatic it completely warped our understanding of the term. During the Great Depression the size of the economy shrank by a full 30 per cent, while in the Great Recession of 2008 the economy fell by less than eight per cent. Yet before the Great Depression there were several lesser depressions that nonetheless left the American economy in a deep malaise. In the 19th century the U.S. was rocked by four depressions. In 1893, for example, a bubble in the railroad industry burst and caused the collapse of 153 railroads; more than 500 banks went bankrupt and one in six American men were thrown out of work. Thousands of unemployed men marched on Washington as part of Coxey's Army, a populist protest movement lead by Ohio businessman and politician Jacob Coxey, which was not all that different from the Occupy Wall Street protest today.

One characteristic that sets this depression apart from a mere recession is the extent to which it has fundamentally altered people's attitudes, says Rosenberg. Recessions typically lead to short-term corrections in GDP after excesses build up in the system. When a central bank cuts interest rates and the government ramps up spending, the business cycle usually restarts and the recession ends. Depressions are different. For one thing, they invariably follow massive buildups in debt and speculation, in this case around housing. Depressions also change how people live their lives.

Rosenberg sees signs of that in today's



MARRIAGE RATES HAVE FALLEN 10 PER CENT SINCE THE RECESSION BEGAN. BIRTH RATES HAVE DROPPED, TOO.



Social stress: Food bank use has jumped (top); children raised in families with unemployed parents may do less well in school

environment. For one thing, home ownership rates are in free fall, suggesting that one of the key pillars of American society—owning a place of your own—has lost its lustre. The propensity of households to live on borrowed money, whether it's credit card debt or home equity loans, has also hit a wall. American families continue to wind down their debts and save their money, a reversal of three decades of profligacy. Such dramatic changes don't happen after recessions, and they are why Rosenberg says this crisis is different.

At this point it's impossible to tell how

this modern variety of depression will reshape American society. Rosenberg has some ideas, though. Having such a large army of semi-permanent unemployed workers will leave Americans poorer for years to come. "It not only affects your social fabric and creates social tensions, but it also has a fundamental impact on the long-term potential economic growth of the country," he says. "What that means over time is a lower standard of living for everybody."

The downgrade in living standards is already underway in some unlikely places: America's decaying suburbs. For decades the 'burbs represented the American dream for the middle class—white picket fences, two cars in the garage and a quiet cul-de-sac for the kids to play in. Yet today poverty in the suburbs is growing twice as fast as in cities, according to a recent analysis by the Brookings Institution. In Cleveland, close to 60 per cent of the poor now live in the suburbs, an about-face from a decade ago when poverty was more concentrated in the city itself. Meanwhile, in the suburbs around Chicago the number of people turning to food banks has jumped nearly 170 per cent since 2006. "A lot of the people coming in used to be donors or volunteers who now need help themselves," says Donna Lake, of the Northern Illinois Food Bank. "They're very humble about asking for help because they had good paying jobs in six-figure households until a couple of years ago, and never thought they could ever be in this situation."

In the coming months and years the economic crisis will continue to leave its mark on the United States. Even if unemployment rates begin to drop, the damage for many millions of households will already have been done; their savings have been destroyed, their job prospects obliterated and the value of their homes decimated. This isn't a repeat of the 1930s, but ask the families who've felt the full brunt of the crisis, and they'll tell you what it is plain and simple. A depression. Their depression. **JASON KIRBY**

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REAL ESTATE

Welcome to my yurt

Sales of the circular huts are booming as they catch on with both campers and protesters alike

LATE LAST MONTH the same central Asian dwelling appeared in both the posh Neiman Marcus Christmas catalogue *and* in the park where anti-consumerist protesters with Occupy Toronto remained camped out for the long haul: the yurt, that collapsible, cylindrical hut with a conical top that for eons has housed all classes of nomads, from simple shepherds to the Great Khan.

The Neiman Marcus yurt, dubbed the “Dream Folly,” starts at \$75,000, boasts an interior designed to look like the inside of a genie’s bottle, comes equipped with a Plexiglas dome, and is billed as “the ultimate girls’ club.” Photographs make it look like Martha Stewart’s grotesque shrine to the cult of Moammar Gadhafi. The Toronto protesters, meanwhile, got three authentic yurts for \$20,000: imported from Mongolia by Gati-neau, Que.-based Groovy Yurts Inc., they stand swathed in high-quality sheep’s felt, are covered in whimsical Mongolian designs, and sheltered Occupy Toronto’s library, media centre, assembly space and health clinic. In such incongruous pairings can the voice of the zeitgeist be heard: finally, millennia after the Greek historian Herodotus described the Scythians camping out in them, the yurt’s time has come in the West, where they’re now big business. Purveyors report sales as much as doubling, thanks to two contradictory trends—an appetite for roughing it à la luxe on one hand, and apocalyptic fears of a collapsed economy on the other.

The yurt has made its trek into modern times with few alterations: the true Mongolian yurt is assembled on the bare earth using a series of latticed wooden sections brought together in a circle, with wooden rafters meeting in the centre. It’s a skeleton that can be put up and dismantled quickly but that gives the yurt an amazing durability against wind and snow. Clad in layers of canvas and felt, it is bound together using horsehair ropes, with carpets thrown down on the packed dirt.

Earthy stuff, but enthusiasts attribute an otherworldliness to the little yurt. “People have always found the space calming and deeply meaningful,” says Alex Cole of Little Foot Yurts, a Wolfville, N.S., yurt-making

business, “in the same way that when they go into St. Paul’s Cathedral; or a Hindu yantra or a Buddhist wheel of life, it’s symbolic of things like life cycles.” Others just appreciate yurts as a comfortable camping option—for “glamping” (glamorous camping), in other words.

A recent *Guardian* article extols the virtues of a yurt vacation on one of the Canary Islands—“I didn’t realize just how luxurious the Eco

floating yurts out on the water.

Others like yurts for longer-term living. Patrick Ladisa, who with partners founded his Pickering-based yurt-making company, Yurta, in 2004, has seen his business double in the past 12 months, with traffic to his website quadrupling in the same period. “Most of our clients actually live in their yurts permanently,” he says (in Canada such arrangements usually require an insulated foundation). Ladisa is part of a cottage industry of yurt-makers and importers that’s sprung up, particularly in Canada, over the last decade, whose yurts cleave to traditional central Asian techniques, and eschew modern synthetics they say can lead to unhappy results like mould.

Among these is Cole’s Little Foot, and Groovy Yurts, where the Occupy Toronto protesters shopped. Yves Ballenegger, owner of Groovy Yurts, attributes some of the new



Home base: Occupy Toronto protesters had three yurts imported from Mongolia for \$20,000

Yurt Royale would be.” Similar yurtish abodes have surfaced at Oregon’s Three Sisters back-country ski concern (where they are the new-fangled Swiss chalet) and in Potsdam, Germany, where a romantic night for two in a yurt, including dinner and champagne, costs \$350. The unemployed in Gwynedd, Wales, are making yurts, part of a retraining program, available to buy in London for \$4,900. Bruce Peninsula National Park, northwest of Toronto, put 10 yurts up just months ago; Nova Scotia’s Kejimikujik National Park is making a yurt available to cross-country skiers this winter at \$55 a night. On the Baie-des-Chaleurs, in Gaspésie, bed and breakfasts can sleep in

interest to anxiety over the future—“a fear some have that they will lose everything in 2012.” It’s no surprise that a portable home you can throw up and pull down in hours, and which is cheap—a year-round yurt doesn’t have to cost much more than \$15,000—has an anti-establishment following. Many municipalities don’t even regard them as permanent dwellings, meaning they fly beneath the requirements of building codes even while some house families full-time. If regulation does exist, some just don’t care: “They just throw their yurt up and say, ‘It’s my land, this is a tent—that’s it, that’s all,’” says Ladisa. **NICHOLAS KÖHLER**



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*Ratings of "Good" are the highest rating awarded for 40-mph frontal offset, 31-mph side-impact and 20-mph rear-impact crash tests conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) (www.iihs.org). A "Good" rating obtained in all three crash tests plus a "Good" rating in new roof strength testing and the availability of Electronic Stability Control (ESC) (Vehicle Dynamics Control) achieves a 2011 Top Safety Pick. †Based on ALG's 2011 Residual Value Award for Best Mainstream Brand. ‡It is possible to travel up to 1,094 km on one tank of fuel based on estimated fuel consumption figure rating posted by Natural Resources Canada of 6.4L/100 km (highway) for a 2011 Subaru Legacy equipped with continuously variable automatic transmission and a 70L fuel tank capacity. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving conditions, driver habits and vehicle load. *MSRP of \$23,995 on 2012 Legacy 2.5i (CA1 BP). Model shown: 2011 Legacy 2.5i Sport Package (BA1 SP). MSRP of \$27,995. Taxes, licence, registration and insurance are extra. \$0 security deposit. Dealers may sell for less or may have to order or trade. Offers applicable on approved credit at participating dealers only. Vehicle shown solely for purposes of illustration, and may not be equipped exactly as shown. See your local Subaru dealer for complete program details.

AIRLINE INDUSTRY

Up, up and away

Aircraft makers are racking up huge sales of fuel-efficient planes. But who's going to foot the bill?

AIRLINES FACING TURBULENT economic times have historically turned on the "fasten seat belt" sign and tried to ride out the chop, cutting underperforming routes and offering seat sales to boost others. With high fixed costs, the name of the game is preserving cash flow. So why then, with the economy looking so gloomy, are some now shelling out tens of billions of dollars to scoop up the latest state-of-the-art planes? It's all about fuel.

With the price of oil hovering just under US\$100 a barrel, airline executives are gambling that newer, more fuel-efficient planes will translate into huge cost savings down the road. Boeing, for example, revealed last week that it had signed the biggest-ever order in history with Indonesia's Lion Air, which agreed to buy 320 Boeing 737s in a deal worth US\$21 billion, based on list prices. Of those, 201 will be the 737MAX, outfitted with more efficient engines that burn up to 12 per cent less fuel than a regular 737 (Boeing also sold 50 of its 777 jets to Emirates Airlines for US\$18 billion a week earlier). Similarly,

Airbus's A320 NEO, which has also been outfitted with more fuel-efficient engines, has proven to be the manufacturer's fastest-selling model ever.

But if there's a challenge for the industry, it's finding lenders willing to finance all these purchases. It's no coincidence that the biggest buyers right now are from Asia and the Middle East. "In Asia, their idea of a recession is an eight per cent growth rate instead of 12 per cent," says Richard Aboulafia, an industry analyst at the Teal Group. "And while the Middle East doesn't have a lot of traffic, they're really good at taking oil cash to buy market share."

In Europe and North America, it's a different story. Boeing, for example, agreed this summer to provide 100 single-aisle airplanes to American Airlines on lease, and plans to use its capital finance arm to help it sell more planes. "Boeing Capital will be much more than a lessor of last resort," Jim Albaugh, the CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, recently told reporters. It worked for the auto industry—at least for awhile. **CHRIS SORENSEN**



Jet stream: The biggest buyers currently include oil-rich nations in the Middle East

ECONOMY

THE SAVIOUR OF SALES

AFTER STEVE JOBS lost his life to cancer last month, pundits praised him for his genius. He was likened to a savant, a saviour—even the Messiah. Based on the most recent sales numbers from the United States, there may actually be some validity to that extravagant comparison.

American consumers keep snapping up electronics and shopping online, despite living with declining personal savings in a volatile economic climate. In October, U.S. retail sales—which account for more than 70 per cent of economic activity—exceeded analysts' expectations by climbing 0.5 per cent from September. According to Goldman Sachs, Apple is to thank for this unexpected bump. "The introduction of Apple's latest iPhone likely accounted for much of the upside surprise in core sales," the bank said in a statement. The iPhone 4S, Apple's latest model, was released on Oct. 14. More than four million were sold over its first three days on the shelf. This helped electronics sales in the U.S. jump 3.5 per cent over levels in September.

It isn't unprecedented for a single company to wield such influence in the American economy. In 1927, the U.S. went into a recession that has been attributed to Henry Ford's decision to shut down production of the Model T car in order to make upgrades before his company started making its Model A.

Today, Apple's economic clout is boosted by evolving consumer habits related to the ease and efficiency of online shopping, a development Apple has helped spearhead. E-commerce sales as a share of total retail sales in the U.S. reached 4.6 per cent in the third quarter of this year. That's the highest level ever. Economic analysis firm IHS Global Insight is predicting e-commerce sales will surpass \$50 billion for the first time by the end of the year. In September, 48 per cent of tablet owners in the U.S. bought something using their devices, according to a recent comScore report. It also found that, in August, iPads drove more than 97 per cent of Internet traffic from tablet devices.

Without iPads and Apple gizmos, retail sales wouldn't look so rosy—who knows, maybe the U.S. economy would be back in a recession again. **ALEX BALLINGALL**



Pizza delivery: Domino ads now feature a marketing executive dressed in a chef's uniform

PERSONAL FINANCE

EIGHTY AND EMPLOYED

AS THE ECONOMY and markets have generally gone south over the past few years, it's become clear to many boomers that retirement may not be quite as golden as they'd once planned. In fact, some new research suggests it may not happen at all.

According to a recent survey by U.S. bank Wells Fargo & Co., Americans think they'll be working longer than ever before. Roughly 76 per cent of respondents (1,500 Americans, aged 26-75, were surveyed) said they would rather make a set amount of money before retiring, compared to just 20 per cent who said they'll retire when they reach a certain age, regardless of savings. How long will it take to reach their target? A quarter of respondents say they expect to work into their 80s.

That's a mentality not so far removed from the Canadian one: a recent Royal Bank of Canada poll shows that 72 per cent of Canadians hope to be mortgage-free by age 65, while a third of Canadians over 55 currently have 16 or more years still left on their mortgage term. "Canadians want to be mortgage-free as they approach retirement age and beyond," says Claude DeMone, director for Home Equity Financing at RBC, "but the reality is that it takes prudent planning and the right advice to stay on track." **EMMA TEITEL**

ADVERTISING

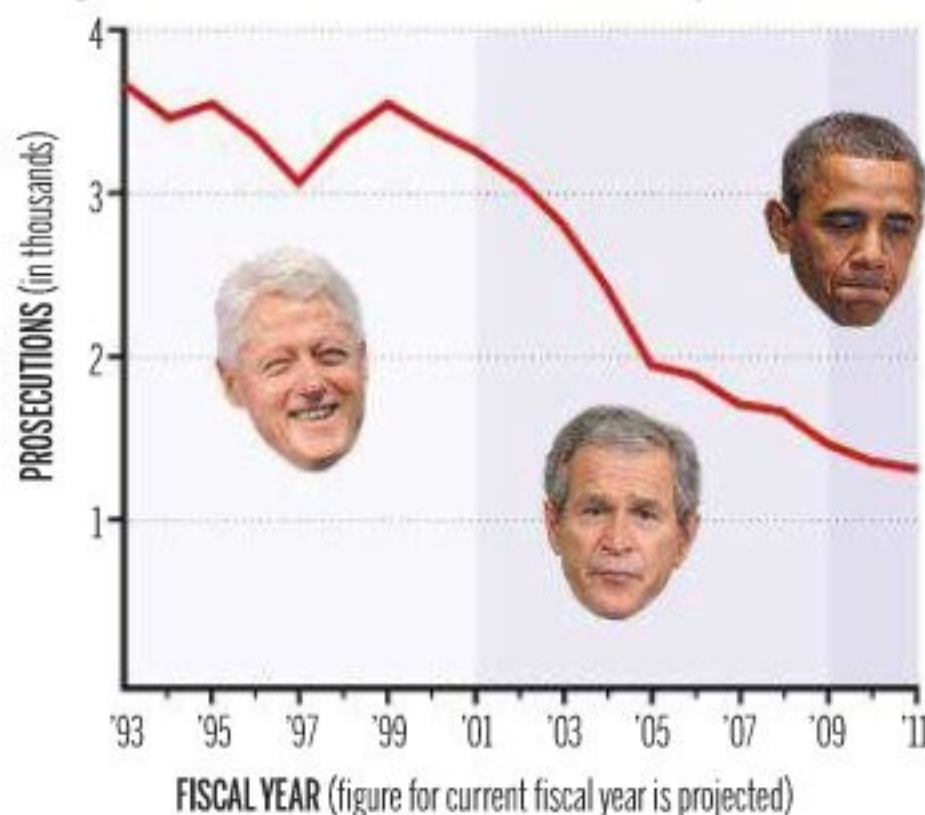
Compliments to the fry cook

JUST AS MARKETERS scrape bottom in the whole "artisan" trend (official low point: Tostitos Artisan Recipes chips), the fast-food industry is gravitating to a new wholesome sales tool: the white-jacketed chef. Whether it's Burger King's new "Chef's Choice" burger or Domino's decision to feature Brandon Solano, the pizza chain's vice-president for marketing and retail innovation, in a chef's uniform in television ads, there's a movement underway to convince customers their food is being cooked by someone other than the teenage staff actually slaving away in the kitchen. As a recent article in *Advertising Age* noted, McDonald's executive chef Dan Coudreaut is increasingly being made available to talk about new products, while KFC's "chief chicken officer" was used as a spokesman for the chain's cook certification program. Just don't try asking for wine recommendations at the drive-through. **CHRIS SORENSEN**

Chart of the week:

Missing fish in a barrel

Shady dealings nearly destroyed Wall Street and sank the U.S. economy. Yet bank fraud prosecutions have been in steady decline.



BRIGHT IDEA

Down with bosses

IMAGINE AN OFFICE with no managers. Workers have no doubt fantasized about it once or twice in the confines of their cubicles, but it's an idea that could actually have some useful benefits for organizations, argues Gary Hamel, a professor at the London Business School and business strategy expert. Managers are expensive, for starters. A company with 100,000 employees might have 10,000 managers, plus another 1,111 managers to manage the managers, he writes in the *Harvard Business Review*. All told,

they could account for 33 per cent of the payroll. Big management hierarchies also up the odds of "calamitous decisions"—the bigger



the decision, the smaller the number of people who can challenge decision-makers—and slow down the decision-making process. They also limit the incentive for lower-level workers to contribute ideas. Of course, in the real world, managers do offer a necessary guiding hand. Even if, as Hamel concludes, it can be "inefficient and often ham-fisted." **COLIN CAMPBELL**

PHYSICS

This changes everything

Experiments show neutrinos moving faster than the speed of light. Was Einstein wrong about our universe, Nicholas Köhler asks.

THE LIFE OF the neutrino as we know it began amid personal chaos. Its existence was first postulated by Wolfgang Pauli, a brilliant but troubled Austrian physicist who at 20 wrote a definitive, 200-page book on Albert Einstein's theory of relativity that Einstein himself admired, and at 25 proposed his "exclusion principle," a fundamental statement on the behaviour of matter at the subatomic level that later earned him a Nobel Prize. Colleagues called him "God's whip" and the "conscience of physics" for his ferocious skepticism and probing, often devastating questions. Yet he was also a prodigious drinker and carouser who, while lecturing at the University of Hamburg, was on intimate terms with the Reeperbahn, that city's notorious red light district, and who suffered strange, haunting dreams.

The neutrino was perhaps Pauli's least favourite of his contributions to modern physics. In the late 1920s, physicists examining the decay of radioactive materials such as uranium puzzled over a mysterious gap in the amount of energy they shed: they knew uranium emitted energy in the form of electrons, but when they added these electrons up they discovered that some energy was missing. Faced with this mathematical quandary, Pauli found himself forced in 1930 to accept the presence of an invisible and hitherto unknown neutral particle that could account for the loss—a ghostly spectre of the subatomic world. This was the neutrino. "It was the first time anyone ever postulated a missing particle," says University of Toronto physicist

Bob Orr. "Most people thought this was a really stupid idea." Even Pauli himself called it a "terrible thing," and he lamented that in proposing it he had "invented a particle that cannot be detected." Indeed, he placed a standing bet—a case of champagne—on the notion that it never would be, outlining his ideas on the particle in a letter to colleagues that began: "Dear radioactive ladies and gentlemen."

The improbable and bizarre dogged Pauli for the rest of his life, and have now caught up with his neutrino. Within months of penning that letter, Pauli's marriage to Käthe Deppner, a Berlin cabaret dancer, collapsed. This, in combination with his mother's suicide, sent him into a depressive tailspin, and he sought the treatment of Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung. The two men became friends and embarked upon a joint obsession with the numeral "137," both believing it a sort of code that would unlock the secrets of the universe. It is perfectly by accident that when Pauli died in a hospital of pancreatic cancer in 1958, he did so in room 137.

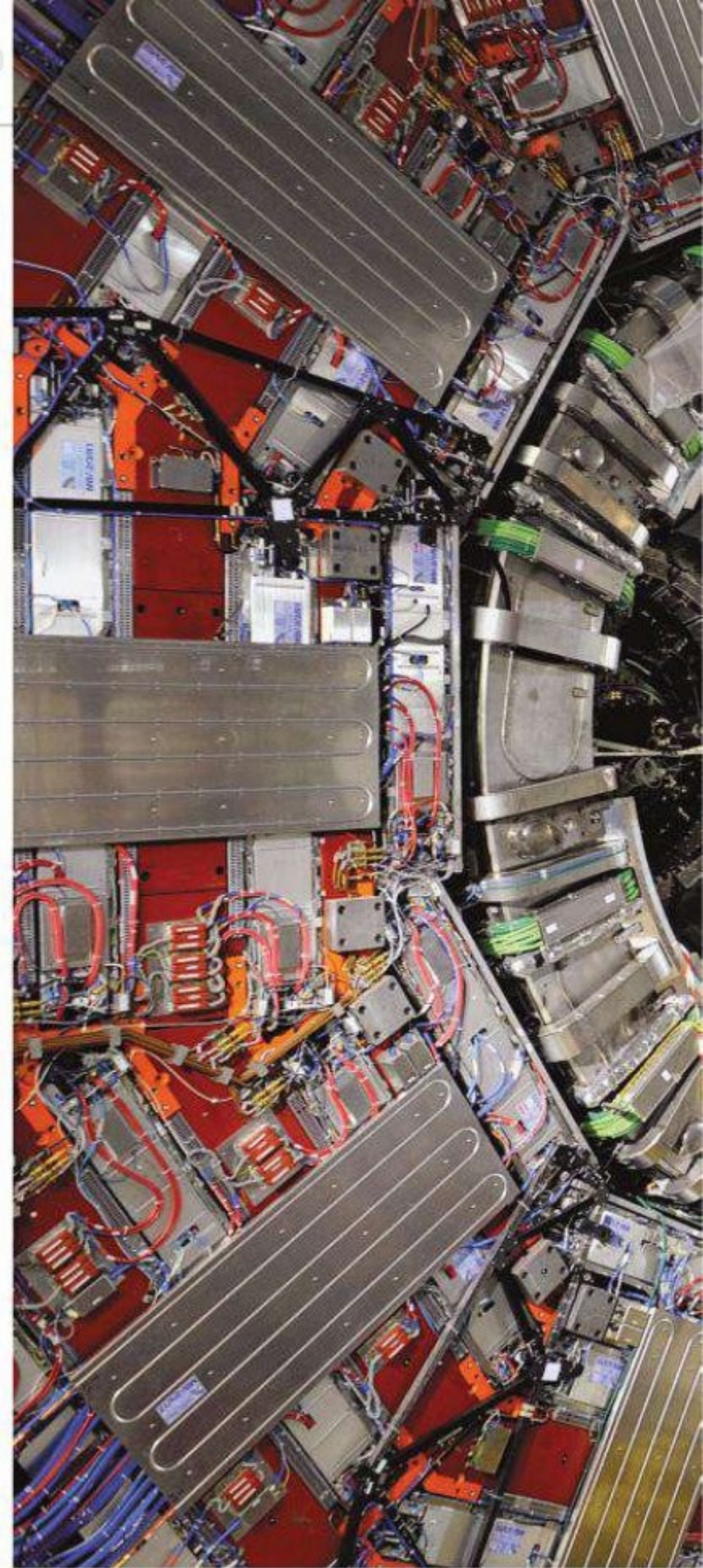
Therefore he was still alive in 1956, when

physicists conducting tests at the Savannah River nuclear reactor in South Carolina managed to capture neutrinos for the first time, netting them in a vat of heavy water (it's not clear whether Pauli shipped his American colleagues that champagne). Suddenly here they were—real neutrinos, however hard to discern and however puzzling.

Last Friday, that puzzlement deepened when physicists in Europe said they had repeated an experiment, confirming



'God's whip:' Pauli was brilliant but also troubled

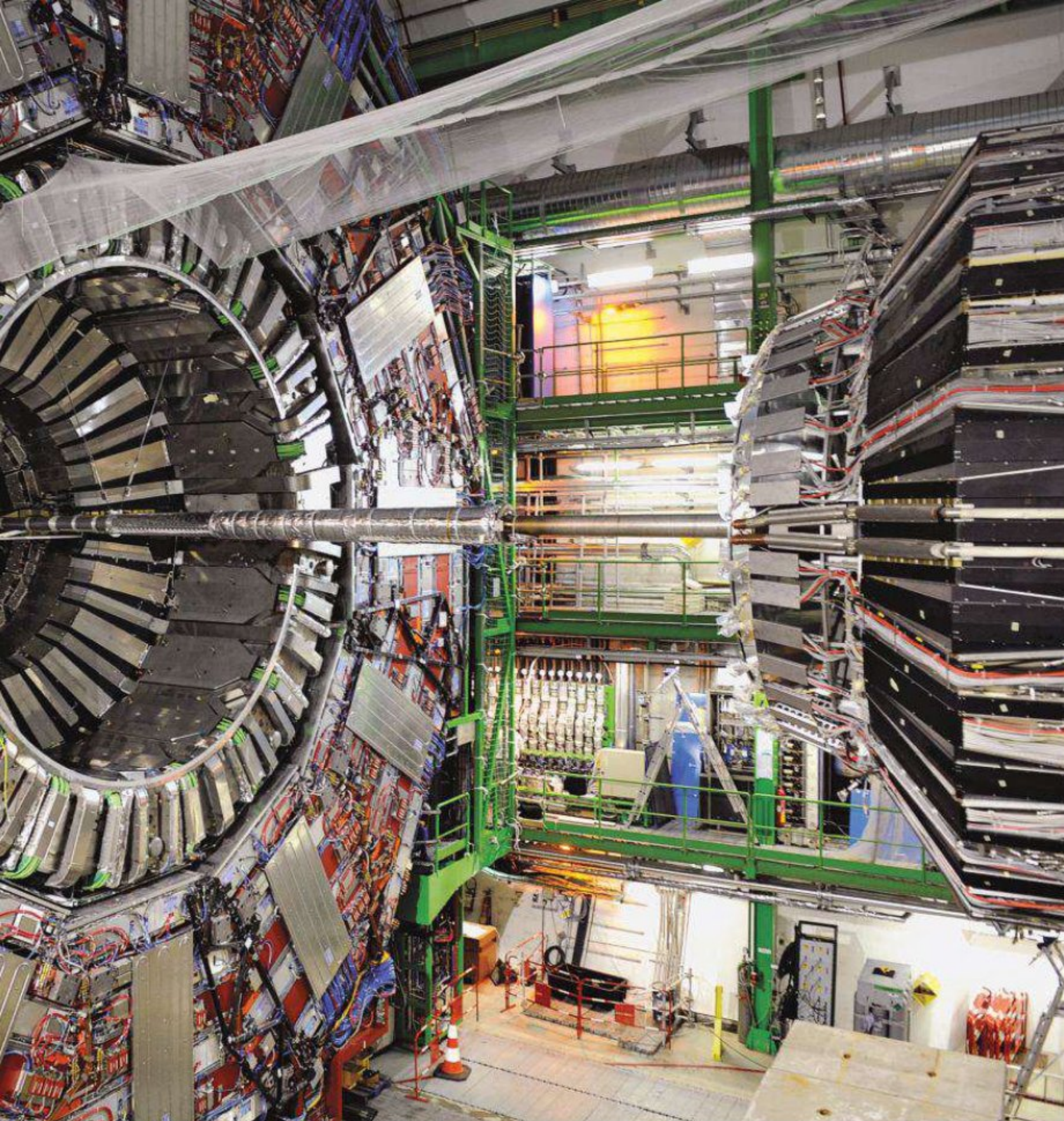


Ready, aim: Scientists at CERN blasted neutrinos 730 km at 'superluminal' speed

controversial findings that were first reported in September in which neutrinos appeared to travel faster than the speed of light—an impossible result, according to our current understanding of physics, which says nothing can go faster than light.

In both instances scientists working on the so-called OPERA experiment at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) outside Geneva generated blasts of neutrinos and sent them south, through the rocky subterranean precincts beneath the Alps, then high into Italy's Apennines mountains, where, near the city of L'Aquila, they popped up in a neutrino detector at the underground Gran Sasso National Laboratory—a distance, all told, of some 730 km. The latest OPERA findings appear to back those earlier results—the neutrinos arrived a shocking 60 billionths of a second or so faster than a beam of light.

Should that result hold up, physicists will



that large groups are increasingly the norm) refused to sign the draft paper drawn up after the experiment—an unusual display of internal dissent. An OPERA spokesman has reportedly said that all 200 of the participating scientists from 13 countries signed the draft following the second experiment, which improved upon the first by ruling out what critics felt must be the source of the September results: the bursts of neutrinos emanating from CERN were so long that the margin of error could have explained the perplexing results. And still there is skepticism (despite what the OPERA spokesman claims, the neutrino rumour mill among physicists over the past weekend held that, while scientists who did not sign the OPERA draft in September did sign the second, others who signed in September have now opted out).

For many physicists, the prospect of a superluminal neutrino is too much. “The most likely hypothesis was originally, and still is, that the experiment is wrong,”

either have to scrap Einstein’s theory of special relativity or accept a range of phenomena now confined to science fiction—for example, that an observer travelling past a swift-flying neutrino would witness the particle hurtling backwards in time and appear at its destination before beginning its journey. The confirmation, made by scientists working on the collaborative OPERA experiment, generated enormous international chatter among physicists, who remain skeptical of the results but who must nevertheless contemplate what it would mean if a faster-than-light, or “superluminal,” neutrino proves real. Such a development would upend everything we know about the concept of “causality,” opening up the possibility of time travel at the subatomic level, and even suggesting the existence of new, hitherto unknown dimensions. More than that, it might require us to contemplate the possibility of wormhole portals

THIS COULD UPEND WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT ‘CAUSALITY,’ OPENING THE DOOR TO SUBATOMIC TIME TRAVEL

connecting a Geneva suburb with the mountains of central Italy. “It would be the most dramatic thing since Newton discovered universal gravitation,” says Orr.

Superluminal neutrinos would threaten to overthrow Einstein’s theory of special

relativity, propounded in 1905, because in it Einstein established the speed of light as an absolute constant that’s fundamental to the workings of our universe. So far, special relativity has survived a century of scientific discovery and has become critical to our understanding of everything from astronomy to modern electronics—even to navigation systems like GPS. Its loss would be a major blow.

Indeed, the original OPERA findings were so astonishing that physicists worldwide dismissed them as fantastical, reflective of some underlying error in the experiment. Even some scientists in the OPERA collaboration (these endeavours have grown so complex and costly

says Lee Smolin, a theoretical physicist at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo, Ont., and the author of *The Trouble With Physics: The Rise of String Theory, The Fall of a Science, and What Comes Next*. “Of course, the experiment has the last word. If it is true it’s the most important experiment of our lifetimes.”

Still, bearing all the caveats against ditching Einstein in mind, it must be said that of all the creatures of the subatomic world, the neutrino is the most likely candidate to change how we think about the universe. We know less about it than any other particle, so mysterious, hard to observe, and strange is it. They are invisible, nearly weightless, shape-shifting things that, unlike electrons, their subatomic cousins, have no electric charge. Neutrinos therefore have little impact on the things they meet upon their travels—so feeble are their interactions with matter that they can pass through lead as easily as moonlight through a window. Generated by the decay of radioactive elements or nuclear reactions—

Society

such as occur during supernovas and in the core of the sun—they are likely among the most numerous subatomic particles in the universe and are constantly streaming down upon us, then through us like ghosts.

They have long been thought fast—just a hair slower than light, according to previous orthodoxy, as well as according to measurements taken during a shower of neutrinos that rained down upon Earth in 1987 as a result of a distant supernova.

Neutrinos can be as new as those generated in nuclear energy reactors or as old as the Big Bang itself, which scattered remnant neutrinos across the cosmos. All this makes understanding them crucial to our understanding of how the sun's innards work, how stars die, and how the universe was born. "There's all sorts of things that we don't understand about the cosmos," says Mark Chen, a neutrino physicist at Queen's University and director of the SNO+ experiment

on the same trajectory through the Earth to the Gran Sasso lab, where some leave traces of their arrival in bricks of photographic emulsion film interwoven with lead plates. Because scientists must bombard Gran Sasso with copious quantities of neutrinos just to capture a handful, measuring their speed is like clocking the departure and arrival of a herd of cats (with all the headaches of measuring down to the billionth of a second and of synchronizing watches between Geneva and Gran Sasso). Now the cats have been corralled and the results are the same—that the neutrinos arrived in Gran Sasso sooner than light could. Sooner, in other words, than they really should have.

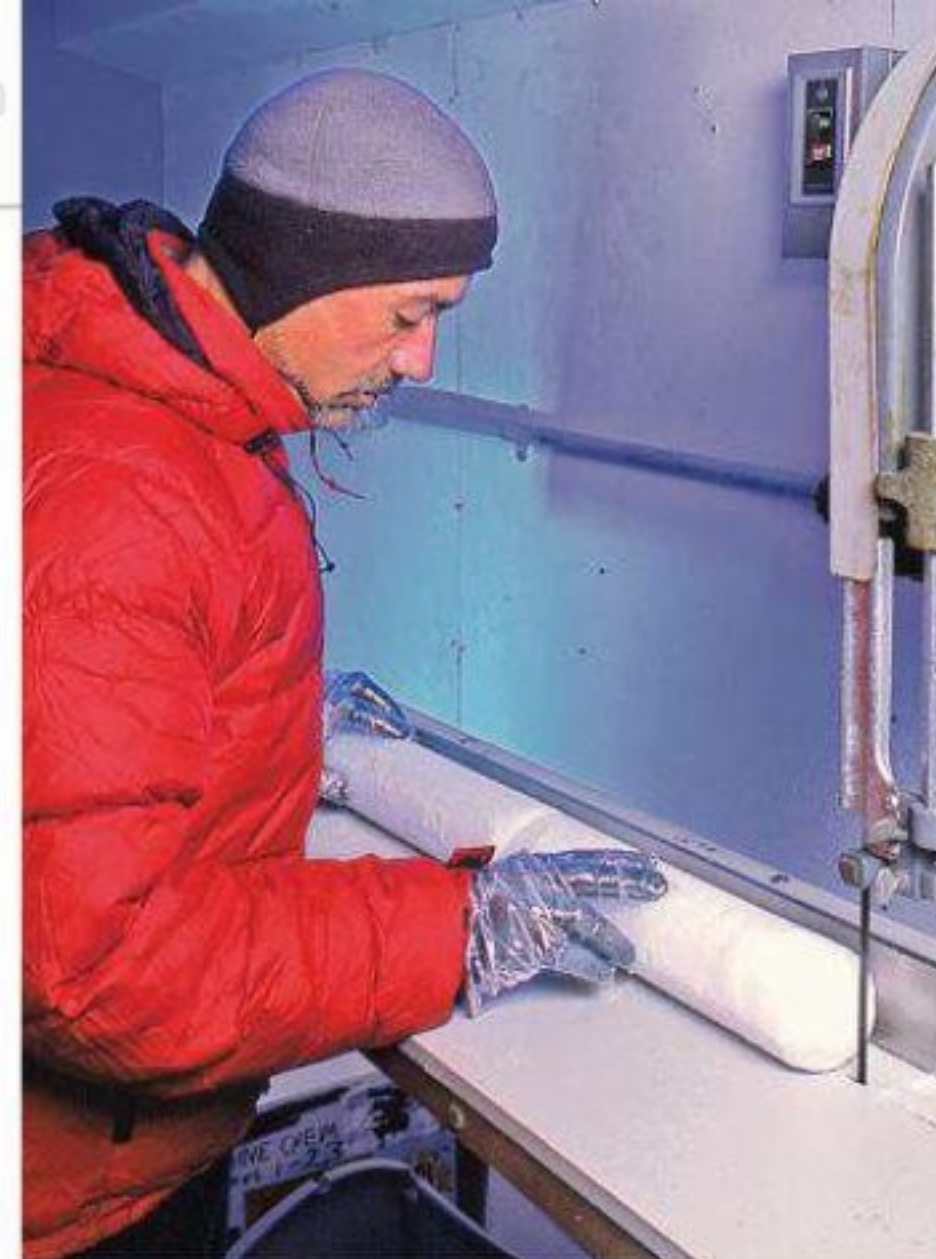
In conversation, physicists wondering at the experiments from afar are almost too abashed to discuss what it would mean were the findings corroborated or refuted—as they may soon be at the Fermilab in the American Midwest. Dump relativity? "That would have serious

impacts on your and my ability to even speak," says physicist Charles Dyer, of the University of Toronto. "If special relativity is incorrect then issues of causality would raise their ugly heads—we could do some very fancy things, like going back in close time, and we could have statements like 'A' and 'not A' being both true at the same time."

Yet it may also turn out both that the experiment's results are correct *and* that neutrinos are still sticking

to Einstein's speed limit. "Another possibility," says Savard, "is invoking extra dimensions of space. Maybe the neutrinos are not necessarily going faster than the speed of light, but taking shortcuts." Savard stops himself, exclaiming of the OPERA experiment: "It's an interesting result, but we will need much stronger experimental confirmation before we start speculating as to what this could mean." Chen, the Queen's prof, who is on sabbatical at Oxford, is less circumspect—and almost giddy. "Maybe neutrinos are travelling through wormholes and other dimensions—taking a shortcut—so then by travelling through this wormhole, not only can you violate causality but it enables you to travel in time and generate effects before their cause. So all of that science fiction is connected to this observation. And that's what makes it fun."

Wolfgang Pauli's "terrible thing," the poor neutrino, sure has travelled far. ♦



Core research: Each sample contains sea salt, dust and air from snow that fell on glaciers

SCIENCE

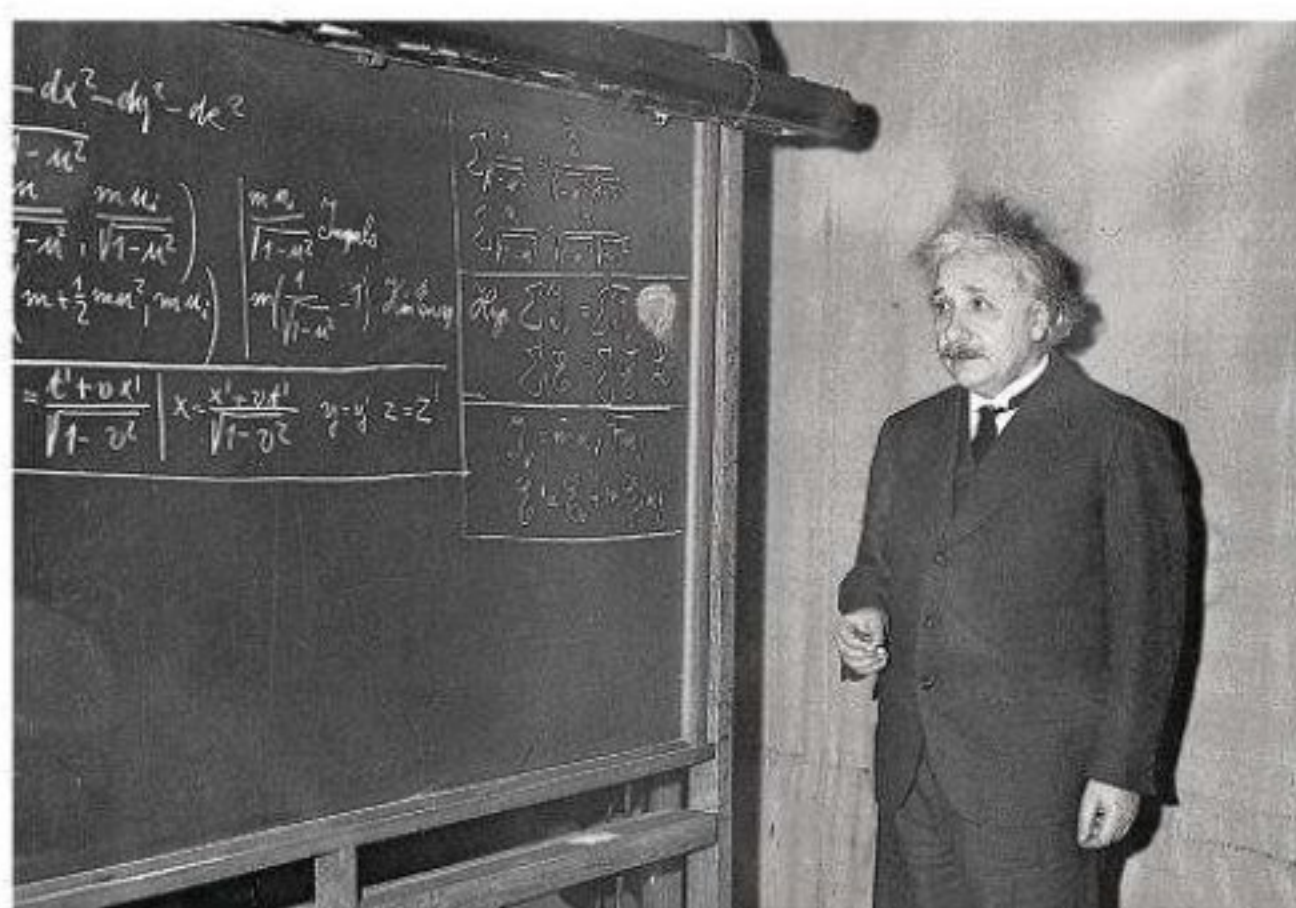
FROZEN ASSETS

Ice cores tell the history of Canada's climate, but now the government doesn't want them anymore

IN A NONDESCRIPT government office in the middle of Ottawa's downtown core lie more than 10,000 years of the Arctic's climate history. Ice cores drilled from Canada's northernmost ice caps and ice fields are packed into dog-eared, insulated cardboard boxes and loaded onto floor-to-ceiling shelves in a walk-in freezer in a government building on Booth Street. Notes duct-taped to the outside divulge the distant origins of their contents: Agassiz, Prince of Wales, Penny. There are more boxes stashed in freezers outside the walk-in at the offices of the Geological Survey of Canada, and still more in rented commercial space, stored between frozen fish and ice cream.

Each core contains the sea salt, dust and air caught in the snow as it fell on the glaciers over thousands of years. They contain the records of past environmental changes, a history of human impact on greenhouse gases, atmospheric pollutants and global temperatures. And they have been collected over four decades at great expense.

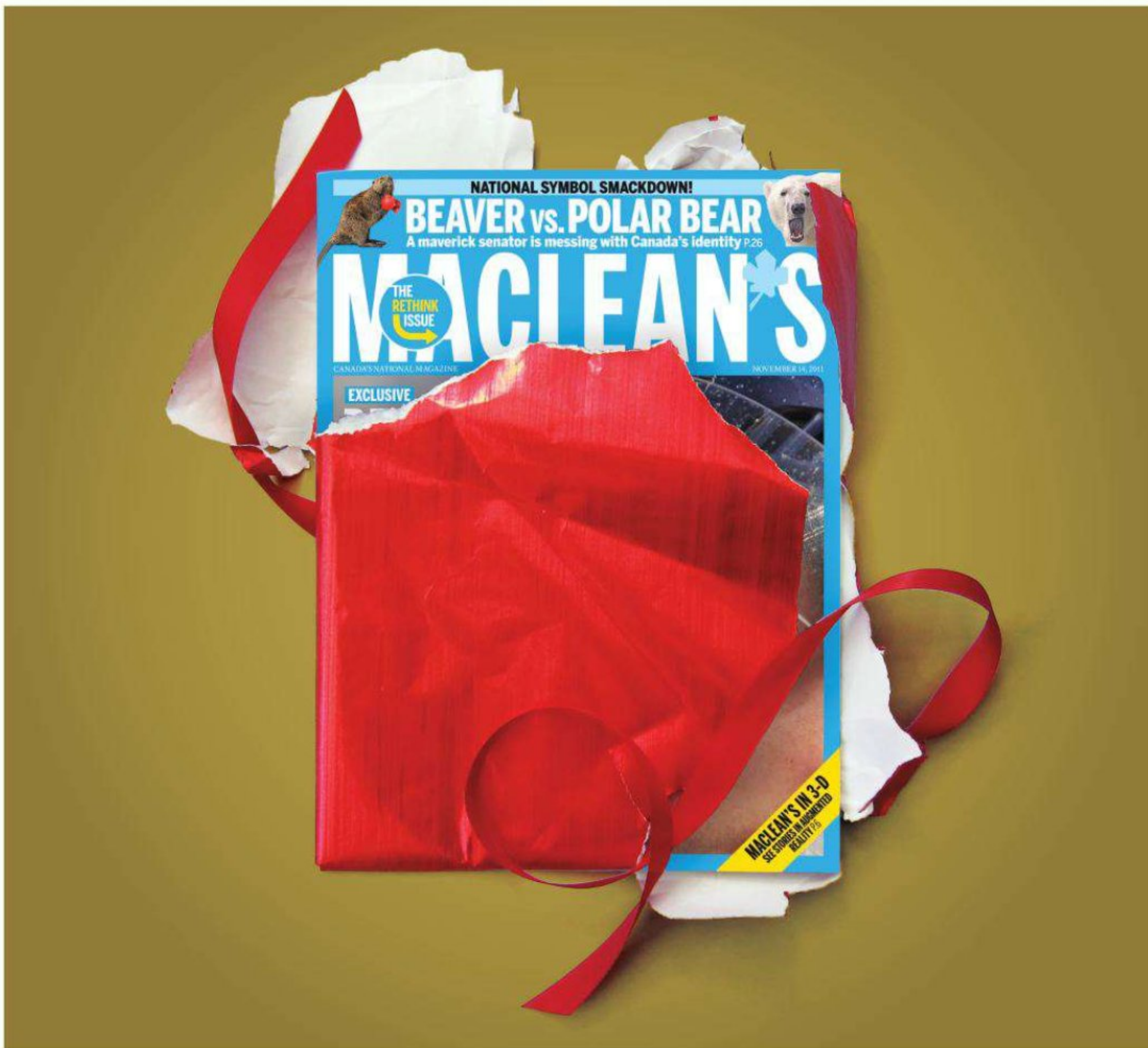
But the ice core library's future is far from certain, as the Geological Survey of Canada's research priorities have changed and the



Up in the air: Einstein's theory of relativity may need rethinking

at the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory in northern Ontario. "In our quest to understand the fundamental laws of nature, neutrinos play a big role despite their small size."

Yet they've remained maddeningly unknowable. "You need to produce astronomical quantities of them if you want to see any," says University of Toronto experimental particle physicist Pierre Savard, who works on the ATLAS particle physics experiment at CERN. Herein lay the major hurdle for the OPERA scientists, who have toiled for two months to rework their experiment and test their earlier result. In both cases the experiments began with the OPERA group at CERN shooting protons—particles of light—into the great coil of the complex's particle accelerator. Carefully aimed into Italy, the protons then collide with a graphite target to produce a shower of charged particles, which in turn decay into neutrinos. These particles continue



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Booth Street building is slated to be sold.

In September, GSC glaciologist Christian Zdanowicz sounded the alarm, asking Canadian colleagues for expressions of interest and citing a “radical downsizing” of the Ice Core Research Laboratory. “Before we proceed with destroying the collection, we wish to ensure that the core holdings be made available to researchers with an interest in using them for climate and atmospheric studies,” he wrote.

Zdanowicz’s boss took issue, saying the decision was not due to budget cuts and no ice cores would be destroyed. Instead, the extraction of deep ice cores and the paleoclimate work that goes along with them is no longer a priority, according to David Scott, director of the Geological Survey of Canada’s northern division. Research will focus on permafrost and infrastructure—think northern airstrips and roads—as well as the growth and retreat of glaciers over time, which they can measure from aerial and satellite images.

But the decision comes at a time when many worry about the government’s commitment to environmental research. The non-profit Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Science, which funds university-based climate studies, is expected to close next year, and Environment Canada has made striking reductions to its ozone-monitoring network.

Extracting cores from the top of the world is a logistical headache. On each expedition scientists cart equipment—from drills and storage boxes, to pots and pans—to sparse and remote camps. It takes weeks to pull cylinders of ice from far below the ice cap. And it is expensive: after a 2005 expedition, it cost about \$70,000 to send two cores by plane from Ellesmere Island to Ottawa via Resolute and Iqaluit, according to Martin Sharp, a glaciologist at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

The importance of the collection was under-



New focus: Paleoclimate research is no longer a priority for the Geological Survey of Canada

scored this week when the scientific journal *Nature* published a study by an international team of researchers led by Christophe Kinnard, a Canadian glaciologist who works at the Centre for Advanced Studies in Arid Zones in La Serena, Chile. They used cores from the GSC collection to piece together a history of the polar ice pack over the past 1,450 years. The work also relied on data from ice cores drilled from Greenland and Norway, tree ring records from Alaska, Russia and northern Quebec, and sediment cores extracted from lakes in the Canadian North.

There has been a continuous decrease in Arctic sea ice since the 1960s, but historical observations only went back about 100 years. “We wanted to know what happened in the past, before that,” says Kinnard. “Is this decline

natural? Were there any drastic decreases like that before?” The team traced sea ice minimums from 561 CE to 1995 and found, in recent years, it has dropped below any minimum seen in the past 1,400 or 1,500 years. “It is unprecedented in terms of the magnitude of the loss and the rate of loss,” says Zdanowicz, a co-author of the paper.

The worry is the *Nature* paper will be the glaciology group’s last hurrah after 50 years of paleoclimate research. And that would be

a shame, says Karl Kreutz, an expert at the University of Maine. “The Canadians have really played a big role in understanding climate change in the Arctic. It’s a strong group with an international reputation.”

Canadian scientists say no facility in the country could store the entire collection, which contains 1,000 m of cores chopped into one-metre segments. The longest were extracted from a depth of over 300 m, where the ice may have formed 80,000 years ago.

The U.S. National Ice Core Laboratory in Denver, Colo., would consider adding some to its collection of roughly 17,500 samples from Antarctica, Greenland and North America, says Mark Twickler, director of the laboratory’s science management office. “These ice cores are so valuable that the international community, including the U.S., will do whatever we have to to preserve these remarkable archives of past climate.”

The University of Alberta’s Sharp says if there was enough money and a facility more research could be done, because new analytical techniques can extract more information on pollutants and microbes.

The future of the ice core collection should be decided by the end of March. “We would want to keep it in Canada, if possible; that would be our preferred outcome,” says Donna Kirkwood, an acting director general at the Geological Survey of Canada. “We realize it is an important collection.” **HANNAH HOAG**

The worry is the ‘Nature’ paper will be the glaciology group’s last hurrah after 50 years of climate research

HAKAN SAMUELSSON



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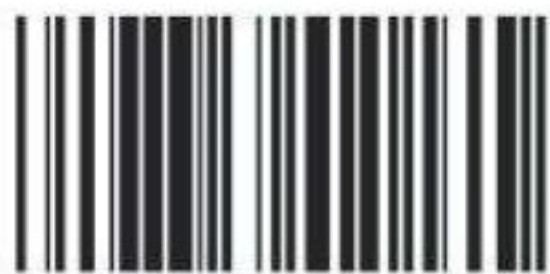
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SPECIAL
interest
FEATURE



(HOW TO BUY) WINE FOR YOUR BOSS

Holiday time at the office is a great opportunity to show your boss your appreciation. One of the classiest gift choices is simply a nice bottle of wine—a classic holiday “thank you.” But surveying the endless rows of bottles at the store can be daunting if you don’t buy much wine yourself. Fortunately, many provincial retailers, like the LCBO in Ontario, have product consultants who would like nothing better than to share their knowledge and help you find the best bottle in your price range.

“Don’t overthink it,” says Michael Fagan, manager of the Knowledge Resources Group at the LCBO. He recommends giving the boss a bottle of your favourite wine. “Wine enthusiasts enjoy variety,” Fagan says. “What often happens when you share something you like is you open our eyes to something we may not have tried before. It’s a great adventure.”

Keep in mind that gifts of alcohol are not appropriate for everyone or for every occasion. Make sure your boss enjoys wine and double-check your company policy for giving and receiving alcohol in the workplace.

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If you are wrapping up a tablet, a smartphone or a game console, consider adding an iTunes card or another gift card to download games, apps or music.



RAZR SHARP

The impossibly thin Razr by Motorola streams music, pics and more from your PC. Choose the Optimus 4G LTE with its huge touchscreen for unprecedented wireless speeds. rogers.com



WE'RE JAMMIN'

Accessories are a great gift for those who have it all. The new line of House of Marley earbuds and headphones are an eco-conscious and stylish way to bring joy and spread happiness to the music lover. thehouseofmarley.ca

For the

GADGET LOVER

It's a pretty safe bet that someone on your Nice List is a gadget hound. If you're looking for this year's hottest tech gifts, here are a few can't-miss suggestions. *Caution: these gifts may cause holiday hysteria.*

FAN-TAB-ULOUS

Fans of Google's hot Android platform should consider giving the super-thin Samsung Galaxy 10, the versatile Sony tablet, or the LTE-powered HTC Jetstream – all optimized to support the latest cellular wireless speeds (in select cities).



SMALL & MIGHTY

Simply said, the Jambox speaker by Jawbone is the best sounding, most stylish portable speaker on the market. Equipped with wireless portability, these colourful little numbers pump up the jams from your MP3 player, smartphone, tablet or laptop. jawbone.com



SPECIAL
interest
FEATURE

GIFTS THAT KEEP GIVING

❄ For Canadians wishing to clear the clutter, buy less stuff, simplify the holidays, and make the world a better place, there are all kinds of unique charity gifts that can be bought online, quickly and easily.

When choosing a charity, Aaron Armstrong, a writer for Compassion Canada, suggests keeping two things in mind: your own values and the charity's credibility. "What really matters to you? What do you care about?" he asks. "If you share the values of the charity and the gift options available are things you want to give, you've probably found a good fit."

(MORE GIFTS WITH) GOOD KARMA

- ➡ Gift a volunteer vacation **CADIP.ORG**
- ➡ Help a village to weather a storm **OXFAMUNWRAPPED.CA**
- ➡ Adopt an octopus **WORLDWILDLIFEFUND.ORG/GIFT-CENTRE**
- ➡ Empower a woman with a microloan **KIVA.ORG**
- ➡ Buy a Scaredy Squirrel Puppet to support literacy **INDIGO.CA**
- ➡ Purchase a blue tie to support prostate cancer research **PROSTATECANCER.CA**
- ➡ Donate your AirMiles points to a good cause **AIRMILES.CA**

Tear asphalt, not gift wrap.

Give the gift that truly pushes the limit. From a half-day Driving Experience to a full-day Winter Driving Academy or Mastering Performance course, there's an experience guaranteed to excite anyone.

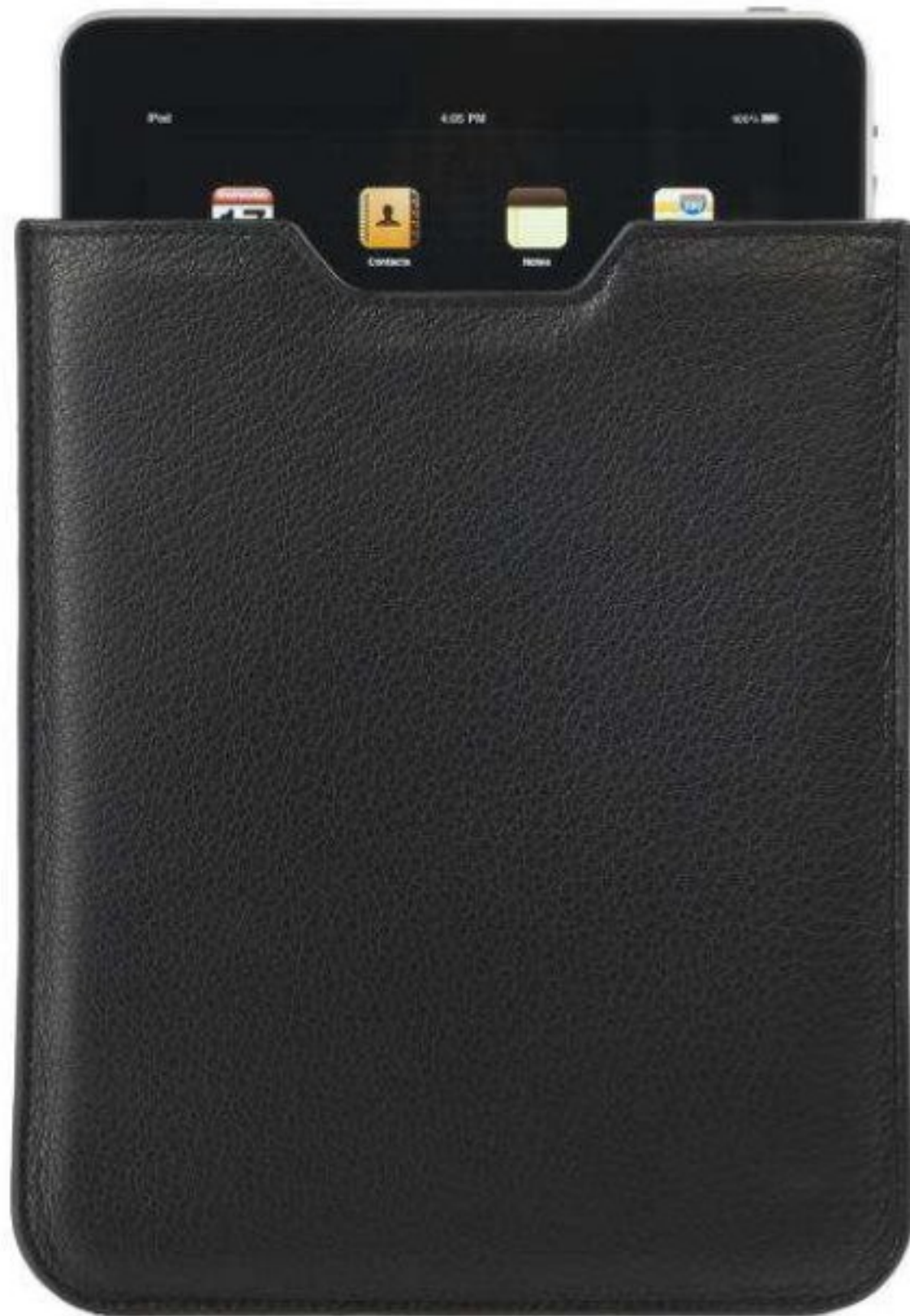
The Mercedes-Benz Driving Academy.

mercedes-benz.ca/drivingacademy



Mercedes-Benz
The best or nothing.

SPECIAL
interest
FEATURE



UPPER CASE

Treasured technology demands cutting-edge protection: a leather iPad case moves discreetly from briefcase to boardroom and back again.



CASH & CARRY

It seems logical that the means for obtaining the finer things in life—a crisp roll of bills—should be housed in high style. Enter an elegant solution: the sterling silver money clip.



Gift tip

Magazine subscriptions make fantastic gifts. Browse Rogersmagazines.com for a great selection of magazines including *Sportsnet*, *Maclean's*, *Canadian Business* and *MoneySense*.

SPEC-TACULAR SHADES

With its stylish shape and tortoise print, the Clubmaster adds a preppy twist while retaining the benefits—strength, flexibility, comfort—of Ray-Ban's signature carbon fibre. ray-ban.com



THAT'S A WRAP

Pick up a genuine leather belt and take his look to a whole new level. It's shiny silver buckle perfectly complements the smooth, upscale appeal of leather.

BETTER WATCH OUT

Give him a gift that will stand the test of time. The **Panerai** Men's M00310 Luminor Chrono Black Dial Watch is a connoisseur's dream come true. The Panerai Company has been making timepieces since 1860. humbertownjewellers.com



For the

MALE MOGUL



Father. Brother. Husband. Boyfriend. Buddy. Satisfy the style-savvy men in your life this year with some of these classic, yet very cool gift ideas.

**SPECIAL
interest
FEATURE**

SHINE ON

There's no re-gifting with diamonds! Wrap a gorgeous diamond bracelet around her wrist and cause some holiday commotion.



HELLO!

If there's a new smartphone in a loved one's future, the trendy **Apple iPhone 4S** features a fast processor, high-quality camera and the voice-activated "Siri" personal assistant. (Contact your mobile provider for more details)



GOODY TWO SHOES

Fact: all women love shoes. Whether she's been naughty or nice, she deserves a gorgeous pair of buckled beauties.



Gift tip

Giving an experience as a gift gives someone a memory that lasts forever. Think spa package, kayak tour, culinary classes, theatre tickets or even a cruise.

WRISTY BUSINESS

If you're buying for an iPod nano owner (6th generation), the **iWatchz** collection turns the square-shaped media player into a hands-free wristwatch – perfect for fitness types. iwatchz.com

For the

**STYLE
MAVEN**

Slipper socks and snugglies are banned this year. The style maven on your list deserves something trendy and thoughtful to keep her looking fashion-forward through the holidays and into 2012.



WHITE HOT

Delight her with a white, anything-but-basic **Elie Tahari** pea coat from the Bay. This modern must-have takes a directional turn with modern details for a new take on the traditional silhouette. thebay.com

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URBAN PLANNING

Building a better city

The high cost of aging infrastructure inspires researchers seeking the longevity of the Parthenon

DEEP BENEATH THE streets of Montreal's entertainment district, running alongside the usual water, sewage and gas pipes that lie underground in every community across the country, something entirely unique is buried: 1.5 km of carbon steel tubes that will eventually funnel the neighbourhood's garbage, recycling and organic waste into a massive subterranean container with a capacity of up to 10 tonnes. The trash will be sucked through the pipes and into the container by four fans with a combined power of 440 kilowatts, and later trucked to a landfill or another destination.

Once up and running in 2014, the Envac system will be Canada's first municipal auto-

ated vacuum waste collection program—a stark contrast to the weekly curbside pickup most people are used to, which is labour-intensive and inefficient. “Today we are collecting waste like we did hundreds of years ago,” says Sean Monclús of Envac, who has been working with the city of Montreal to set up the system, which is costing \$8.2 million. That makes no sense, he says: “If we have waste water underground, why not the waste?”

Perhaps most surprising about the implementation of this innovative program is the fact that it's being done in Quebec, which has become the poster child for aging infrastructure, and the perils of failing to

manage municipal services in a progressive way. In Laval in 2006, five people were killed, including a pregnant woman, when the neglected Concorde overpass crashed onto cars below. Parts of the Champlain Bridge corridor, which crosses the St. Lawrence, have been deemed “mediocre to deficient,” according to an annual inspection obtained by the *Montreal Gazette*. And in July, a 25-tonne concrete beam collapsed from Montreal's Ville Marie tunnel onto an expressway travelled by 100,000 vehicles every weekday (no one was hurt). “But it's not just a Montreal problem,” said Mayor Gérald Tremblay then. “When I talk to my colleagues in other big Canadian cities it's the same issue.”

Indeed. Aging infrastructure, says Berry Urbanovic, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, “is one of the greatest—if not the greatest—challenges Canadian communities are facing from coast to coast to coast.” Many roads, bridges, buildings and underground systems “constructed during the huge expansion of our cities in the 1950s and 1960s have reached the end of their service lives,” says Ian Moore, Canada Research Chair in infrastructure engineering. “And the



A BETTER WASTE SYSTEM

After garbage, recycling and organic matter are placed into the correct chute, four fans suck the items through underground carbon steel pipes and into a massive container bound for the landfill or another destination.

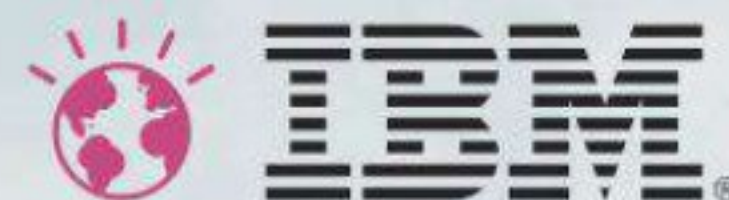
PHOTOGRAPH BY ROGER LEMOYNE, ENVAC

Smarter business for a Smarter Planet:

What 3 million lines of code means to a piece of luggage.

It means Amsterdam Airport Schiphol will be able to accurately and efficiently move 70 million pieces of luggage per year – 20 million more bags per year than they used to. The airport's automated baggage solution will allow them to increase their baggage handling capacity by 40%, so they can meet the growing demand placed on them as one of Europe's largest transport hubs. This system is built on IBM Rational® and Tivoli® software and runs on Power Systems™. A smarter business is built on smarter software, systems and services.

Let's build a smarter planet. ibm.com/luggage/ca



A data visualization of the flow of baggage traffic at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

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cost of replacement is huge.”

The “infrastructure deficit” is estimated at \$123 billion, says Vrbanovic, citing a 2007 report, up exponentially from \$12 billion in 1985 and \$60 billion in 2003. With municipalities getting just eight cents of every tax dollar, and responsible for 53 per cent of public infrastructure, every community is struggling to solve problems as fast and as well as possible. But the solution needs to be more than a patchwork of quick and dirty repairs. “Over the long term,” says Vrbanovic, “if we’re going to compete globally and protect the quality of life of citizens, we need to invest in high-quality and efficient infrastructure.”

The good news, notes Moore, who is a professor at Queen’s University, is that Canada possesses one of the leading groups of researchers and infrastructure engineers in the world—talent we’ve exported in the way of services to other countries for years. An incredible range of inventive concepts, materials, tools and techniques are being discovered and implemented with a singular objective that is as old as time: how to build a better city. “As Canada goes through our own infrastructure renewal process, we have an excellent opportunity to build on our expertise,” says Moore, who specializes in underground infrastructure such as pipes, which he calls “buried treasure” for their social significance. “The supply of clean drinking water and the management of waste water likely does more to safeguard human health than any other factor.”

With these stakes in mind, the city of Edmonton turned to Simaan AbouRizk, Canada Research Chair in operations simulation, to get a handle on its own situation. AbouRizk has developed an elite computer modelling program that predicts the deterioration of infrastructure over time (even decades), and can be manipulated to determine what financial investments are required to improve, repair or replace these systems. Over the course of three years, he inputted every piece of municipal data he could find pertaining to roads, sidewalks, pipes, pools, libraries, light poles, traffic signals, parks, police stations and any other public property that might need attention—when they were built or installed, what they’re made of, every time they’ve been inspected or impacted. Different models and formulas were designed, and then, eventually, AbouRizk, who is a professor at the University of Alberta, identified the worst-affected

**‘OUR STRUCTURES
ARE LASTING LESS AND
LESS. IMAGINE THAT.
THAT’S A SERIOUS
INDICTMENT OF US.’**

areas.

At the top of the list were Edmonton’s neighbourhoods, some 300 in all. For years, any infrastructure funding had gone toward fixing arterial roads, a common and even logical approach most cities take to putting their limited money toward the things that will affect the most people. And like most cities, Edmonton didn’t have the cash for this new cause. But using the data from the computer models, city council implemented a

creative solution under the banner of “neighbourhood renewal”: in 2009 and 2010, residents paid an additional two per cent in property tax, and 1.5 per cent this year, totalling \$45.7 million, to help fund the fixes. Since then, 11 neighbourhoods have had their roads and sidewalks reconstructed and street lights replaced, and 27 have received rehabilitative or preventative maintenance such as resealing

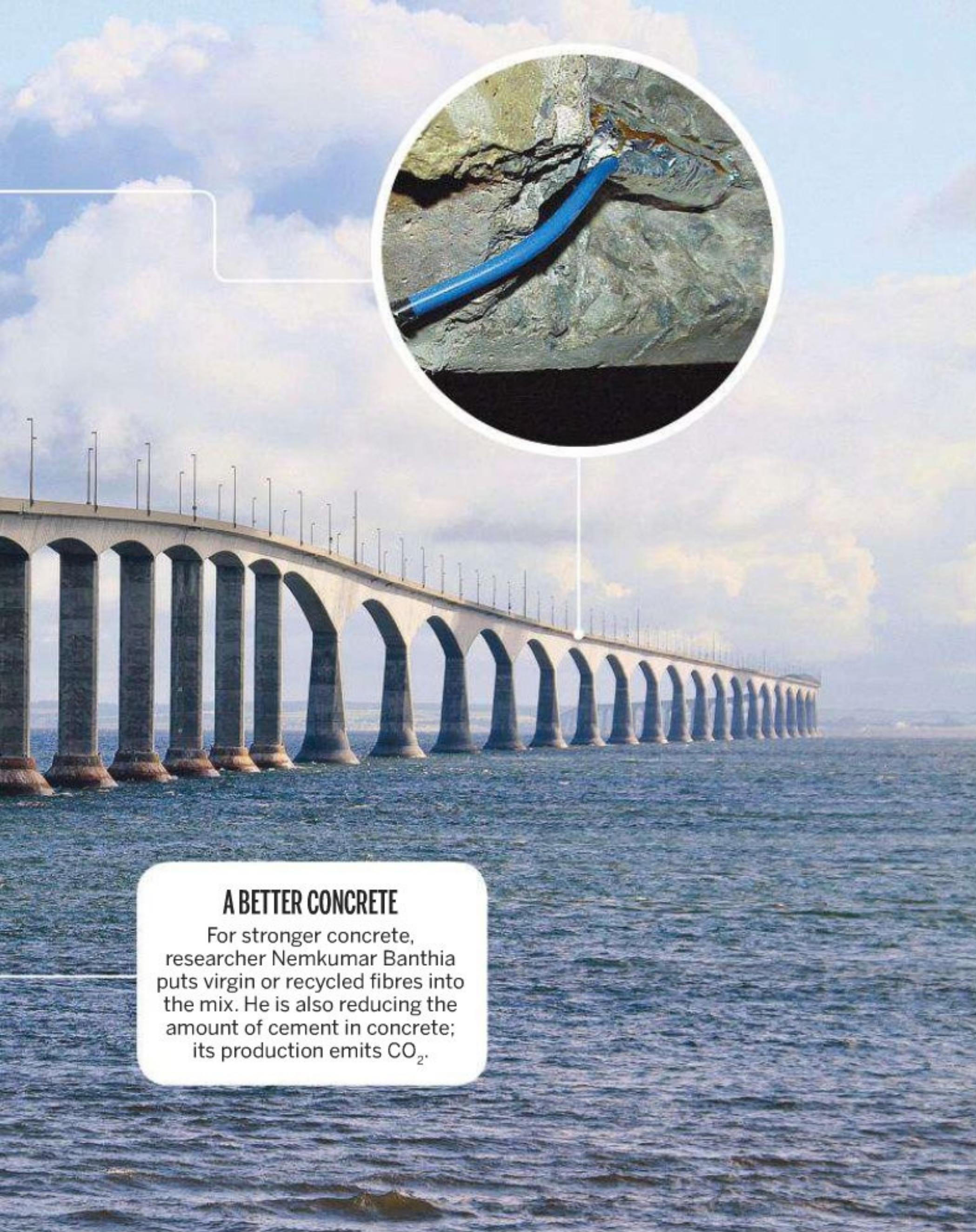
roads to extend their lifespan.

Creating longer-lasting structures is the mission of Nemkumar Banthia, another Canada Research Chair in infrastructure rehabilitation and sustainability. In particular, he is inventing a new type of concrete that will be more durable and crack-resistant than what was used for building decades ago. “There is a very large population of these structures that are in very bad shape now,” says Banthia, a professor at the University of British Columbia. To make a stronger concrete, Banthia is using a combination of materials, including fibre reinforcements made from either virgin or recycled matter such as cellulose from the pulp and paper industry. It will also contain just one per cent cement, which will make it environmentally friendly; today, the production of cement creates between eight and 10 per cent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions, says Banthia, who hopes the new concrete will be commercially available within a few years.

A BETTER BRIDGE

Fibre optic sensors affixed to 15 bridges in Canada, including the Confederation Bridge, transmit real-time information about their condition under different strains.





A BETTER CONCRETE

For stronger concrete, researcher Nemkumar Banthia puts virgin or recycled fibres into the mix. He is also reducing the amount of cement in concrete; its production emits CO₂.

In the meantime, he's been busy with another project: installing sensors to more than a dozen of the country's busiest and most important bridges, including the Confederation Bridge in the east, the Taylor Bridge in Manitoba, and the Safe Bridge in British Columbia, a major logging route. The fibre optic sensors are affixed inside and onto the bridge and measure the strain it experiences. That information is then transmitted via fibre optic cables in real time over the Internet to a computer in Banthia's office. "If there's an earthquake tomorrow, I would know exactly

how the bridge performed," he says, or "if there has been a problem with a retrofit or if indeed there is a failure in the bridge as a result of a very heavy truck that just went on board, I will be able to tell that."

In the future, Banthia imagines these sensors being incorporated into every new major concrete construction as a way of helping inspectors and engineers know exactly the state of any piece of infrastructure—a big challenge today. Current techniques are "very rudimentary," he says. "Somebody goes and they tap it with a hammer and they try to hear a voice

as to what kind of reflected acoustic pulse they get." The same day the Concorde overpass collapsed, a transport road patroller had been out. "That tells you everything about our condition assessment techniques at the moment," says Banthia.

For Richard Brachman, a professor at Queen's University, the most overlooked component of infrastructure is what lies beneath our roads and buildings: the pipes that carry our water, sewage and gas. "Buried and forgotten," he says. "When people turn on the faucet to brush their teeth in the morning no one is thinking about the pipe that brought you the water. You only think about the pipe when there's a leak at the surface or there's a leak underground that's led to the development of a sinkhole."

But engineers, contractors and a growing number of municipalities have been heeding new ways of fixing old pipes, especially using "trenchless technology." Rather than ripping up the road, where possible a hole is drilled down and then along horizontally to install a new pipe, or to pull a liner through a pipe for reinforcement; alternatively, a metal tool can be dragged inside a pipe, bursting it and moving fragments out of the way while a new pipe is pulled through in its place.

While all of these innovations are promising, that it's taken so long for municipalities and developers to appreciate the need for longer-lasting buildings, bridges and underground pipes is disheartening, says Banthia, pointing to ancient structures such as the Parthenon, which are still blissfully standing. "As we are moving along the time axis, our structures are lasting less and less. Imagine that. That's a serious indictment of us. We have a disposable mentality on our infrastructure," he says.

Going forward, Banthia believes the focus should be on building structures that last more than 100 years, establishing better condition assessment tools and techniques, and developing more durable materials with a minimum carbon footprint. "If you can get that, then I think you have really solved the problem." Canada, it seems, is on its way. But the road won't be smooth. **CATHY GULLI**

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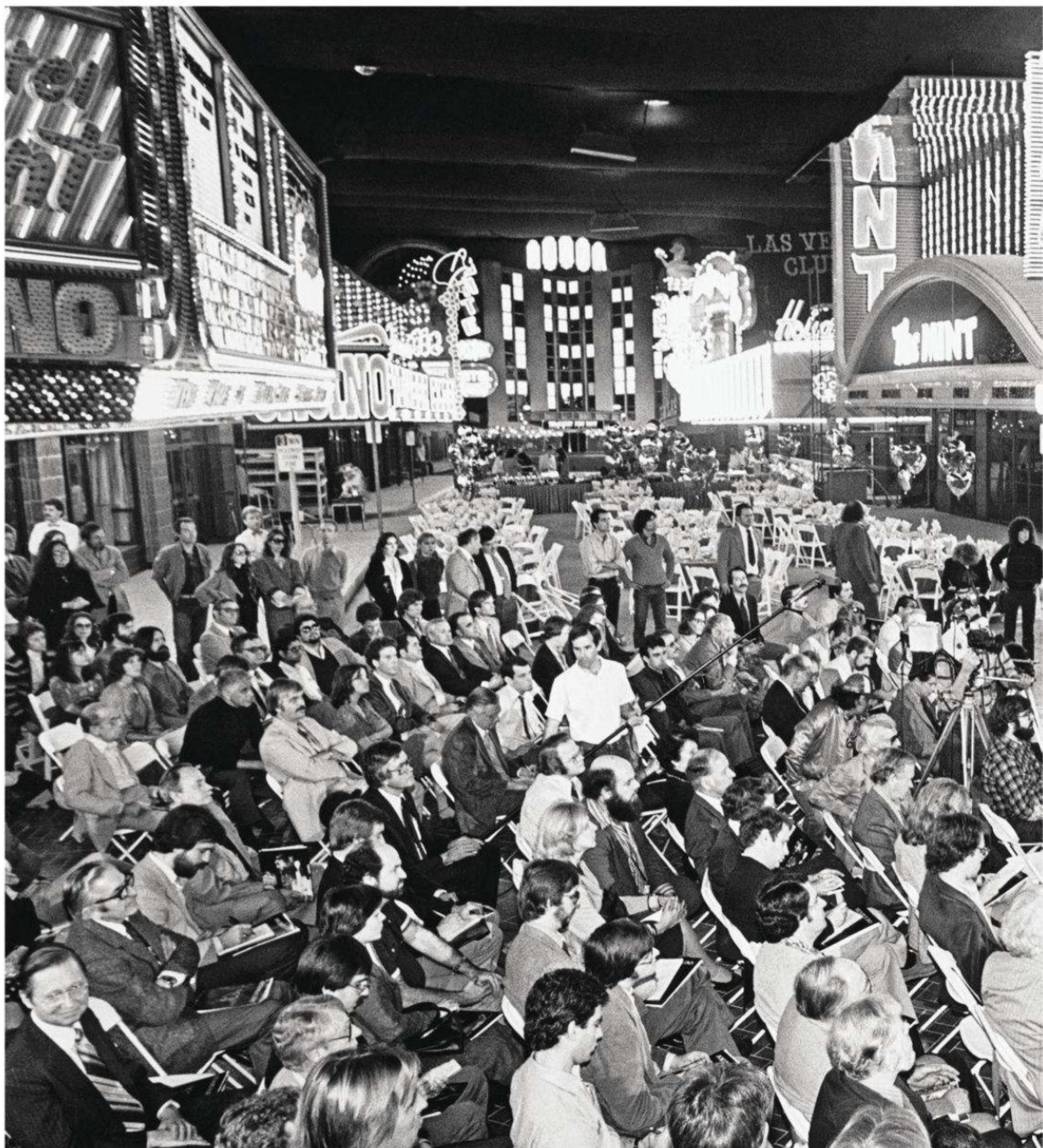
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Film

L.A.'S UNLIKELIEST ANGEL

Jack Singer went to Hollywood to get Francis Ford Coppola's autograph, and revitalized a studio instead

ASK JACK SINGER how he became a Hollywood player and he'll deliver the same line he's been using for nearly 30 years: "I went there to get an autograph and I ended up owning a studio." The autograph—not to mention the studio—belonged to Francis Ford Coppola, who, in 1981, was filming a movie called *One from the Heart*. At the time, Coppola was a big-time director celebrated for *The Godfather* films, had recently bought a studio and, luckily for Singer, needed money to finish his film. Singer was a big-time real estate developer from Calgary, a one-time Canadian boxing lightweight champion and, luckily for Coppola, a man who liked to take risks. They met when Singer, who'd been golfing in Palm Springs, took up a friend on an offer to tour Coppola's studio. Perhaps, the friend said, they'd snag his signature. In the end, Singer snagged much more. A meeting with Coppola that day turned into a \$3-million investment in his film, an invite to stay in a bungalow on set and, ultimately, the beginning of Singer's long relationship with Tinseltown. "I believe in fate," he says. "Everything good or bad that happened was fate."

Singer was recently recognized for all the good that came from his fateful encounter

High stakes: Coppola holds court at Zoetrope Studios, which he'd lose to Singer after *'One from the Heart'* bombed at the box office

with Coppola. In October, a Los Angeles city council member presented a special resolution honouring Singer for his "vital role in the revitalization of the District of Hollywood" and for his work in establishing the facility known as Hollywood Center Studio, which he bought in 1984, as a "world-class resource for feature film and commercial production." The resolution ends declaring him "an angel in the City of Angels." Remarkable, considering Singer is a frail 93-year-old living in a modest bungalow in Calgary.

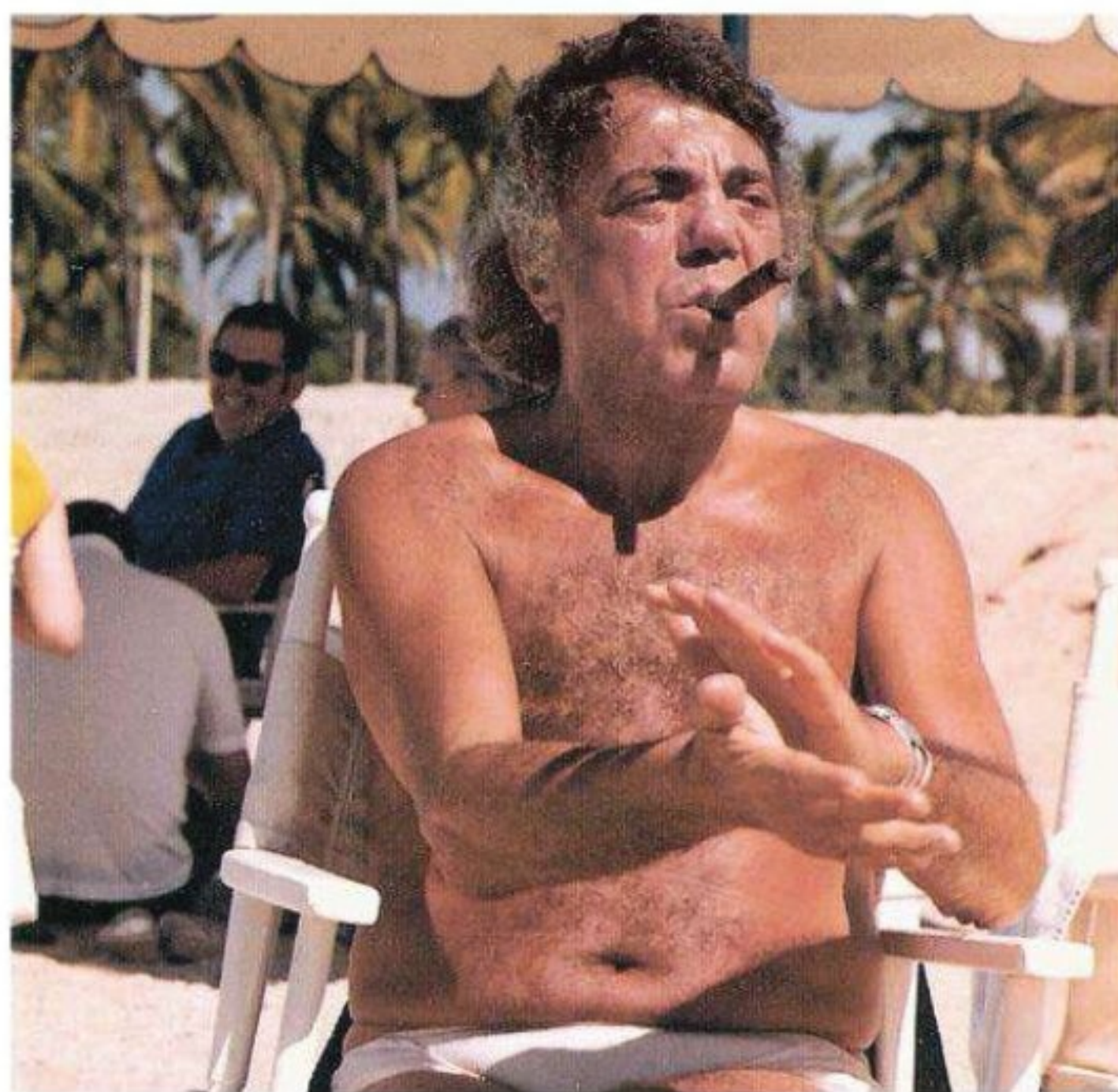
These days, few would recognize him but many know of him; one of Calgary's finest venues for live music, the Jack Singer Concert Hall, bears his name. He hasn't been in ages, though. Singer spends much of his time in bed, watching sports and chatting on the phone. Lately, he's been ill. At the time of the ceremony in Los Angeles, held for friends and family at Hollywood Center, Singer was battling pneumonia in hospital. Soon after he was released, he fell, broke his hip and underwent partial hip replacement surgery. In between hospital stays, Singer gave a brief interview to *Maclean's*. The topic: Hollywood. He said he hasn't been there since his 90th birthday party at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Did famous people attend? "There were some stars there, but I didn't even meet them. I was busy getting drunk."

Singer loves the one-liners, which brings us back to how he came to own Coppola's studio. Singer's first movie foray did not go well. *One from the Heart* flopped, causing a lengthy battle over the loan he expected to be repaid. Meanwhile, Coppola's studio went into receivership. When bankers placed it on the auction block in 1984, Singer decided he'd like to try making movies. He dragged his son Alan, who was against the idea of buying it, to the courthouse. "I told him, 'Dad, we're in the real estate business, not the movie business.'" To appease his father, who'd put down a multi-million-dollar deposit to earn a bidding paddle, Alan said they would bid first. The courtroom was filled with reporters and people they believed to be buyers. From their seats at the back of the room, Alan raised his paddle to place the first bid at \$12.4 million. No other paddles shot up. "The auctioneer said, 'Going once, going twice, sold!'"

says Alan. "It turns out only one other person had put up money to be a bidder."

Alan moved to Los Angeles to run the studio, which they renamed Hollywood Center Studio, and oversees it to this day. Since 1984, they've revamped the studio's facilities, nearly doubled its size and encouraged business development in the area. Though Singer never fulfilled his wish of making movies himself, a wide range of commercial, TV and movie productions have been shot there, including *The Addams Family*, *Home Alone 2*, *Mad TV* and *MTV Unplugged*. "I didn't know anything

For Singer, buying the studio was a real estate deal, but through it he befriended Capote and George Burns



King of the one-liners: After growing up in Depression-era Calgary, Singer loved the glamour and the deal-making in Hollywood

about owning a studio," said Singer. "Alan has done a great job and brought in the right people." Singer suspects that was the problem for Coppola. "He was a great director but didn't have the right people. He had guys that toadied up to him and they didn't know anything, I guess." Looking back, he has no qualms about what happened. Buying the studio had nothing to do with the loan, which was eventually settled privately between Coppola and Alan. "I respected Coppola and I didn't try to steal his studio. He would've lost it anyway because the picture did terrible."

To Singer, buying a studio was like making any other deal—and he was well versed in the

art. Singer's mother, Bella, was a Polish immigrant who, while cleaning rooms at Calgary's Palliser Hotel in the early 1900s, was quietly buying and running rooming houses. By the age of 11, Singer was acting as the rent collector and bookkeeper for the family business. At 17, he bought his first building in Calgary. Singer's real estate empire eventually grew to include countless malls, buildings and hotels across Canada and the U.S. He saw the studio as another real estate investment, but one that would open an important door to a new world. "Jack grew up in the Depression. Downtown Calgary was rundown and the only glamour you would see was on the silver screen," says Tyler Trafford, an author who's written biographies on both Singer and Bella. "Jack just loved that. Not just the glamour, but how interesting those people were."

Backing Coppola in 1981 catapulted Singer into the spotlight. "Nobody in Hollywood had ever heard of him before," says Trafford, citing the press that came from media such as *Variety* and *Canadian Business*. "He comes in and is involved with Coppola, who's the big name at the time, and he's hanging out at the studio. Who is this guy? Nobody could figure him out." Singer didn't seek the publicity, says Trafford, but enjoyed its fruits—mostly, the people he met. He became friends with many, including George Burns and Truman Capote, who wrote Singer letters about various goings-on. As Singer told Trafford for his biography, he did not keep Capote's letters because it was their friendship—not the fame—that he valued. Singer's son, Stephen, who lives in Calgary and handles the family's business in Canada, says it was not in his father's nature to be showy. "He didn't care about expensive cars or jewelry. To him, it was about making the deals and meeting interesting people," he says. "He was a real character."

Stephen says his father is recovering from surgery and is eager to get home. The framed City of Los Angeles resolution awaits him; it's hanging on a bedroom wall. Sitting on the edge of his bed at the end of October, before he returned to hospital, Singer pointed to the resolution and said, "It's quite the deal, this proclamation. Maybe I'll get a [spot on the] Hollywood Walk of Fame." **MICHELLE MAGNAN**



A whole new measure: Root vegetables from North Arm Farm in Pemberton, B.C., where the sweetness indicates high Brix content

What's the Brix level of your carrot?

Forget 'certified organic'—the real test of food lies in a 19th-century measurement

THE BRIEF EMAIL that noted organic farmer David Cohlmeier sent on Halloween to announce the completion of the long-anticipated sale of his farm, Cookstown Greens, contained a few lines explaining that he was departing on a note of triumph. At least, in the pastoral scheme of things. "The root cellar is filled with the best quality storage vegetables the farm has ever produced," Cohlmeier wrote. "The flavour profiles, density (weight per sac) and Brix have never been so high..."

Brix? What's that all about, then? And if you were saying goodbye to a loyal customer base that you had slowly built up over 23 years with a letter spanning a scant 200 words, would you focus on something called Brix, which neither other farmers nor my spell-check appear to have ever heard of?

Perhaps not. But it takes a special type to be a crusading organic farmer, and a success at it, too. And Cohlmeier's clientele were a rarefied lot, almost entirely composed of informed chefs willing to pay top dollar for a lumpy carrot just because it tasted superb—and could not care less that Cohlmeier was too busy honing his methods of organic farming to bother filling out forms and paying for real, government-sanctioned organic certification. "I always thought that farmers who insisted on getting certification just weren't good farmers," Cohlmeier explained over the phone from his house in Cookstown, Ont.

As it happens, this disparaging view was

encouraged by giants in the field—like the late Robert Rodale, whose father J.I. Rodale was the founder of organic farming in the United States in the 1930s, and believed that most people have the notion backwards. "Robert Rodale told me that organic farming was never supposed to be about *not* doing something, but about what you did do, which was to introduce lots of organic matter into the soil. If you feed the soil with organic matter, you get more plants and fewer weeds, and then you don't need herbicides and pesticides," Cohlmeier says.

This statement sounds a little implausible, I know. But having visited the fields at Cookstown, I can attest to this statement's veracity. What interests me more is the nature of the plants that grow in said organic soil—and specifically, their level of Brix.

Degrees Brix is a scaled measure of sugar content (as devised by 19th-century scientist Adolf Brix) and, by association, flavour. The relationship between Brix and sugar made it a mainstay of winemaking and brewing, but for more general farming—even organic farming—it is largely ignored. Two of the other top vegetable growers in Canada, Jordan Sturdy, co-owner of the certified organic North Arm Farm in Pemberton, B.C., and Pierre-André Daignault, co-owner of Les Jardiniers du Chef in Blainville, Que., are

not preoccupied with Brix and do not measure it, though a taste of their produce indicates that the levels are high.

Cohlmeier, by contrast, has long proselytized on the subject, persuading several customers to procure their own Brix-measuring refractometers to take measurements from both the vegetables they like and those they do not. "I was sort of expecting it, but David's vegetables always registered high, and supermarket vegetables barely registered," recalled chef Martin Kouprie, co-owner of Toronto's Pangaea Restaurant.

The pleasing sweetness of high-Brix vegetables is only part of the story. The other is storage life. As Cohlmeier tells it, just as

surely as Brix levels rose in his vegetables every year as a product of improving soil quality, so did his vegetables' longevity—to the tune of an extra week each year. On which front, be advised that there are

'Farmers who insist on getting organic certification just aren't good farmers'

Cookstown-sourced radishes in my fridge that have been there for well over a month and yet remain as hard as rocks, as well as Jerusalem artichokes harvested back in November 2010, that are still crisp enough to slice on a mandoline. This does not happen with produce sourced from your local supermarket—or certified-organic farmers' market—so I suspect Cohlmeier was onto something. **JACOB RICHLER**



Life imitates art: For the Booooooom.com contest, artist Emily Kiel recreated Lichtenstein's Ohhh... Alright... using red hairspray and paint

Remaking masterpieces

How a Vancouver blog became one of the biggest art phenomena on the Internet

CALGARY-BASED ARTIST Spencer Pidgeon put Gumby and Mr. Bill in his photo remake of Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam*. Montreal photographer Vinna Laudico recreated John William Waterhouse's *Ophelia* with a fashion model in her neighbour's backyard. Hamilton-based photographer Kevin Thom remade Sandro Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus* on the shores of nearby Burlington Beach, featuring artist Laura Hollick wearing a copper bikini. Instead of standing on a giant shell, she's standing among rolled-up canvases of her paintings. "It's symbolic of Laura's rebirth as an artist," explained Thom, who is one of over 500 entrants in the Remake photo contest on *Booooooom.com* (that's seven o's), an art blog run by Vancouver artist Jeff Hamada.

The contest's mandate to recreate a classic work of art without special effects proved to be catnip for artists. The month-long contest is now closed, and Hamada is assembling a jury of design and art bloggers to dish out the prize—a copy of the Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 Master Collection, worth \$899, donated by the software firm.

Hamada graduated from Emily Carr University of Art & Design in 2006, and founded *Booooooom* two years later. "It was never my intention for the blog to be my full-time job," says Hamada, who designed a line for Endeavor Snowboards and T-shirts for the street fashion label 3sixteen. "But it took off when Kanye West posted about me on his [now defunct] blog, *kanyeuniversecity*." *Booooooom* is now one of the biggest art phenomena on the Inter-

net, attracting over three million page views a month. "*Booooooom* isn't only for people who went to art school," added Hamada. "It's not elitist, at all. I edit the site to welcome people who don't necessarily know art history."

Everyone knows *American Gothic*, by Grant Wood, and maybe that's why it had seven remakes in the contest. "It's one of the most parodied pieces of art in history," said photographer Jesse Hunniford, via email from Launceston, Australia, where he shot his version of *American Gothic* with a skateboard instead of a pitchfork. Equally popular submissions were remakes of Leonardo's *The Last Supper* and Johannes Vermeer's *Girl With a Pearl Earring*. Less expected was an homage to Christo's *Umbrellas*. "I raided the dollar stores looking for cocktail umbrellas," recalled Tate Foley, an assistant professor in Missouri. "When there's a tinge of humour, it makes the entries infinitely more interesting."

Emily Kiel's master's thesis is about recreating famous paintings with photography, so she jumped at the chance to submit a remake of *Ohhh... Alright...* by Roy Lichtenstein. "My bedroom walls were already yellow and I found a can of red hairspray in the closet," recalled Kiel, from College Station, Texas. "I painted my face with red acrylic dots, which would crack if I moved my face, so I had to scream with my mouth shut when I accident-

ally sprayed myself in the eye with hairspray."

Is Lichtenstein rolling in his grave? Have Botticelli and Leonardo been debased? "It's for fun, but remakes *are* legitimate," noted Lori Pauli, associate curator of photographs at the National Gallery of Canada. "They're a way of continuing the tradition of training and teaching." Montreal artist Jessica Eaton pointed to Jeff Wall's *Backpack* as a successful remake. "You'd never guess it's based on a Kazimir Malevich," said Eaton. "He captures the energy, the balance and the colour in a completely different context." Likewise, remakes that are pure imitations don't interest curator Karen Irvine at the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia

College Chicago. "They need to make some kind of commentary or question the canon of art history," explained Irvine. "When it's done right, a remake engages the viewer because of the familiarity, then throws

into question the history of representation."

Hamada's response to that would be a resounding "whatever." His primary concern is entrants having fun and sticking to the rules. Does he have a favourite submission? "I have a soft spot for handmade, analog, imperfect art," said Hamada. "I don't like a lot of the slick art you see on the Internet that's made with a lot of computer graphics."

JOANNE LATIMER

'I have a soft spot for handmade, analog, imperfect art. I don't like a lot of slick art.'



No chicken: Former president Bill Clinton got down to his high school weight after he decided to live on vegetables, legumes, nuts and fruit

The how-to guide to going vegan

Try almond milk with your cereal, and remember, 'broccoli is 30 per cent protein!'

WHEN FORMER U.S. president Bill Clinton gave up eating meat, he explained he'd done a lot of research into low-fat vegan diets, and had discovered that 82 per cent of people like him with heart disease who switch from meat to plant-based foods heal themselves without surgery or drugs. Clinton was facing his third heart operation when he changed his diet. He lost 24 lb. "I live on beans, legumes, vegetables, fruit," he said. "No dairy. No meat. No chicken, no turkey. I drink almond milk mixed with fruit and a protein powder. It changed my whole metabolism and I got back to what I weighed in high school."

For those who want to try a Clinton-style vegan diet but feel daunted by the prospect, a new book by Dr. Neal Barnard gives meat eaters step-by-step instructions on how to make the switch from meat and cheese to kale and lentils. Called *21-Day Weight Loss Kickstart: Boost Metabolism, Lower Cholesterol, and Dramatically Improve Your Health*, it prescribes a vegan diet so low in fat that Barnard eschews cooking even with olive oil, instructing readers to stir-fry vegetables in water, or wine, or vegetable broth, or in just a hot, dry pan.

"Take maybe a week or 10 days and make a list of breakfast, lunch and dinner," he tells meat eaters. "During that time, you're not changing your diet. All you're doing is sorting out foods that you can have." For example, "Let's say we're having cereal with milk in the morning. Well, have I ever tried soy milk, rice milk, almond milk, oat milk? For a week,

all you're doing is trying different products. Then when you find what you like, you're going to do a three-week test drive."

His book provides meal suggestions. "If you're looking for a super-quick breakfast, pick up some frozen breakfast burritos. A few minutes in the microwave and you have a nourishing breakfast." For lunch, Barnard recommends Manischewitz brand dried soup mix as a base to which to add vegetables—bring it to work in a thermos. For sandwiches, switch from mayonnaise to Vegemise, and experiment with different brands of meatless deli slices. Or try hummus as a sandwich filling. For dinner, pasta and pizza are the easiest meals for the beginner vegan. "You'll find frozen pizza with rice crusts and vegan cheese at many supermarkets and health food stores."

As for protein, Barnard says, "even if you ate nothing but pasta, you'd actually get enough protein. The Dieticians of Canada did a report on nutrition on a vegan diet and they said that as long as you're getting the beans and grains and vegetables, the protein comes along with it. Broccoli is 30 per cent protein!"

Barnard insists that vegan cooking isn't any more time-consuming than preparing a meat-based meal. "Cereal with soy milk is just as fast as cereal with cow's milk," he says. "Or, if I'm making spaghetti, I can use canned

sauce and that's okay. Frozen vegetables are perfectly fine. So it can be very quick or it can be elaborate if you want."

"Or you can go out for dinner. One easy way to get to know tofu is at a Chinese restaurant," he writes. At Italian restaurants, order pasta e fagioli—pasta with beans. For fast-food meals at Taco Bell, "try the bean burrito, hold the cheese, and add lettuce, tomato and hot peppers." When cooking at home, "don't throw out your favourite family recipes!" he writes. "Often, all that's needed is an adjustment here and there. Meat replacements can be extremely varied. You can use mushrooms and hearty vegetables like eggplant."

What about that "dyed-in-the-wool meat eater"? Barnard asks. He recommends "the Gardein company of Vancouver. It has come up with an ingenious line of products that will have your guests thanking you

Perhaps someday 'a meat eater arriving at a dinner party will have to apologize to other guests'

for the delicious chicken breast with garlic mashed potatoes and green beans."

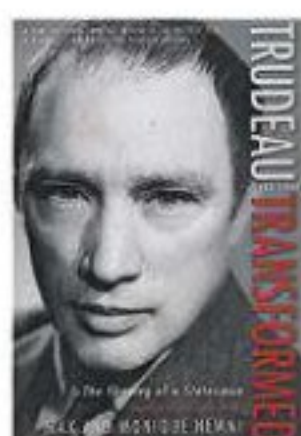
Perhaps someday, Barnard writes, "in the not-too-distant future, a meat eater arriving at a dinner party will have to apologize to other guests, 'Excuse me, I'm still a carnivore. I hope you don't mind if I indulge my habit today.' And of course, you will be magnanimous and let him know that you once had the same habit yourself." **JULIA MCKINNELL**



'Trudeau Transformed': The biography's authors dissected Pierre Trudeau's notes, letters and journals to negate his reputation as a dilettante

Why we were all wrong about Trudeau

Plus, Stephen King's ingenious new novel, a history of the piano, the life of Vincent van Gogh, an anatomy of Israel's survival, and racism in Peyton Place



TRUDEAU TRANSFORMED: THE SHAPING OF A STATESMAN, 1944-1965

Max and Monique Nemni,
translated by George Tombs

An enduring element of his myth has it that Pierre Trudeau was a dilettante well into adult life. The image of the future prime minister indulging in a motorcycle-riding, beard-growing, job-hopping arrested adolescence has been cultivated both by admirers—it makes him more fun—and detractors—it confirms his lack of seriousness. The Nemnis, a husband-and-wife writing team devoted to burnishing their subject's memory, set out to demolish the image of an aimless Trudeau.

And they largely succeed. In a previous volume, 2006's *Young Trudeau*, they revealed the narrowness of his early thinking, which shockingly featured pro-Fascist sympathies. Now they trace his 1944-47 postgraduate education from Harvard to Paris's Sciences Po to the London School of Economics. Their painstaking study of his notes, letters and journals shows how Trudeau systematically acquired democratic ideas centred on individual rights and absorbed economic theory.

Previous biographers have viewed his celebrated travels through Asia after his university years as evidence of rootlessness. The Nemnis cite a letter to his mother in which Trudeau writes of setting out "to understand

the world's politics," and argue that his itinerary shows he followed through. They pounce on evidence that Trudeau later sought out, rather than stumbled into, his key first experience in Ottawa as a junior bureaucrat.

In their telling, Trudeau's rise in the 1950s as a public intellectual in Quebec—a blur of writing, editing, lecturing and organizing—flows naturally out of what came before. So does his 1965 jump into federal politics, which closes this instalment of their multi-volume project. Of course, the anti-Trudeau camp now ascendant in Canada needn't buy this laudatory version. But to go on dismissing him as gifted but undisciplined, charismatic but shallow, has just gotten that much less plausible. **JOHN GEDDES**



11/22/63

Stephen King

Opinions vary (and how) about the literary quality of Stephen King's vast output—more than three dozen novels alone—but no one denies the man can tell a story. Or that he has an authentic channel to the zeitgeist, both capturing baby boomer pop culture and contributing to it: who can imagine a prom gone wrong without recalling *Carrie*, or notice a dog acting strangely without thoughts of *Cujo*? So it comes as no surprise that when King, 64, wanted to write a time-travel novel, its plot

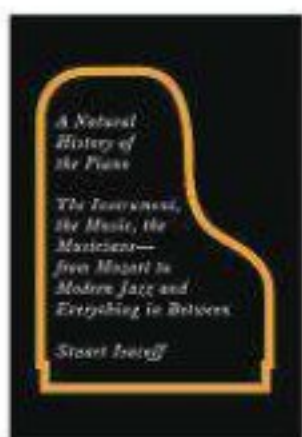
would pivot on his generation's watershed moment, the assassination of John F. Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Jake Epping, a young Maine schoolteacher, takes up the mission bequeathed him by Al Templeton, the owner of a local diner who discovers that his pantry offers a portal to the age of Ike and Elvis, to 11:58 a.m., Sept. 9, 1958, to be precise. Al has learned that every time one of us visits 1958, it's like the first time: everything he has done on previous visits has vanished as though it had never been. So Al, dying of lung cancer, needs Jake to go and live back then permanently, or at least long enough—five years—to accomplish a mission both consider vital: the portal doesn't extend back far enough for Jake to kill Hitler, so he had better save Kennedy.

Al offers a summary of the expected benefits of erasing that bad day in Dallas, succinct enough not to bog down readers and persuasive enough to convince Jake, before King starts tackling just about every classic conundrum ever raised in sci-fi's time-travel subgenre. Some are disposed of quickly—what would happen should he kill his own grandfather, Jake wonders aloud; "Why the f-k would you do that?" Al retorts. Others unfold more slowly over the novel's 842 pages. Time is "obdurate," and resistant to change, Jake soon learns; only later does he realize that's a good thing, in a story that's as ingenious as it's compulsively readable. **BRIAN BETHUNE**



'A Natural History of the Piano': The book divides pianists into categories such as 'the Combustibles,' 'the Melodists' and 'the Rhythmitizers'



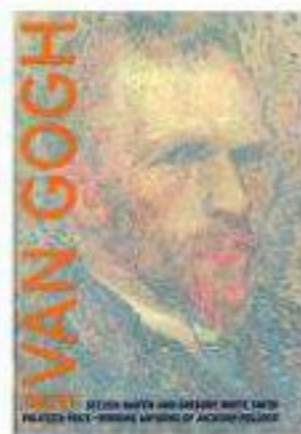
A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE PIANO: THE INSTRUMENT, THE MUSIC, THE MUSICIANS—FROM MOZART TO MODERN JAZZ AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN
Stuart Isacoff

Which is more important, the piano or the pianist? In his study of the world's most versatile and bulky musical instrument, Isacoff seems to come down on the side of the man (and occasionally, woman) who plays it. He notes that the piano caught on in the 18th century, obliterating the harpsichord, because of its usefulness as a piece of mechanical engineering: other keyboards "couldn't simply respond to changing finger pressure, the way a piano does." But what it really did was allow virtuoso players, from the classical to the jazz era, to create different types of sound. Isacoff divides pianists into categories depending on those sounds. "The Combustibles" are noted for extroverted noisy energy; "the Melodists" emphasize attractive tunes; "the Alchemists" are the ones who, like Claude Debussy or bebop players, conjure up unusual sound-worlds; and finally, "the Rhythmitizers" gave us ragtime, rock 'n' roll, and international influences.

Isacoff includes quotes and mini-essays by many famous musicians, who sometimes confirm his idea that high and low music are connected: Billy Joel is quoted saying he can "discover secrets about music by what I call 'breaking the Beethoven codes.'"

Inadvertently, the book seems to suggest that the great age of the piano is over. The author says that the creative range of the piano "is still expanding, as composers explore the instrument's endless possibilities." But many of the pianists he quotes seem to contradict this, with the classical pianists talking about yet another Tchaikovsky concerto performance and the

jazzmen waxing nostalgic about older jazzmen. The one ray of hope, as often in music, is Asia; China has "mushrooming piano schools filled with millions of students," who might go on to expand the international piano repertoire. Or, on the other hand, they might just play a lot of music written when the piano was still a new instrument. **JAIME J. WEINMAN**



VAN GOGH: THE LIFE

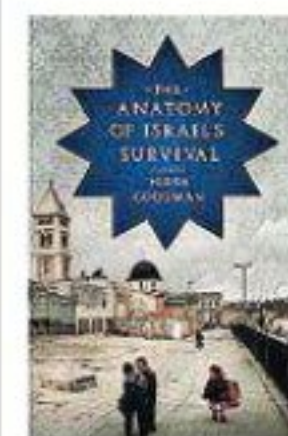
Steven Naifeh and Gregory White Smith

In the modern Western imagination, Vincent Van Gogh is the very embodiment of the tortured artistic genius, able to express that genius—in his case, on canvases that are now among the best-loved artworks in the world—precisely because he was tortured, a man who eventually died young (only 37) by his own hand (of course). All very tragic, if undeniably romantic. And all profoundly mistaken, according to Naifeh and Smith, authors of the Pulitzer Prize-winning biography *Jackson Pollack*, about another volatile painter who died young. The truth, in fact, is far more authentically tragic. Van Gogh was enormously productive and incandescent with inspiration when he was feeling well, and unable to take up his brush during his bouts of mental illness. With a final blow to the mythic Van Gogh, the authors argue he didn't even kill himself, but fell victim to a couple of boys with a misfiring revolver.

Naifeh and Smith are persuasive in that conclusion, as they are in everything else in this magisterial biography. Writing with the co-operation of the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, they didn't have just the beautifully written letters exchanged by Vincent and his beloved brother Theo, but also previously unpublished family correspondence.

The man who emerges is not someone most people would enjoy having for a relative. (Theo was a long-suffering brother.) Vincent was as dedicated to violent quarrels as he was to investigating the surprises provided by his own troubled psyche. Yet he had courage and integrity that is humbling to encounter.

After the death of his father in 1885, Van Gogh lost his religious faith, a loss with which he never really came to terms, according to Naifeh and Smith. As Van Gogh himself wrote, only art was left: "Illusions may fade, but the sublime remains. My aim in life is to make pictures and drawings, as many and as well as I can, and then passing away thinking, 'Oh, the pictures I might have made!'" In Vincent Van Gogh's heartbreaking story, there's really nothing more to add. **BRIAN BETHUNE**

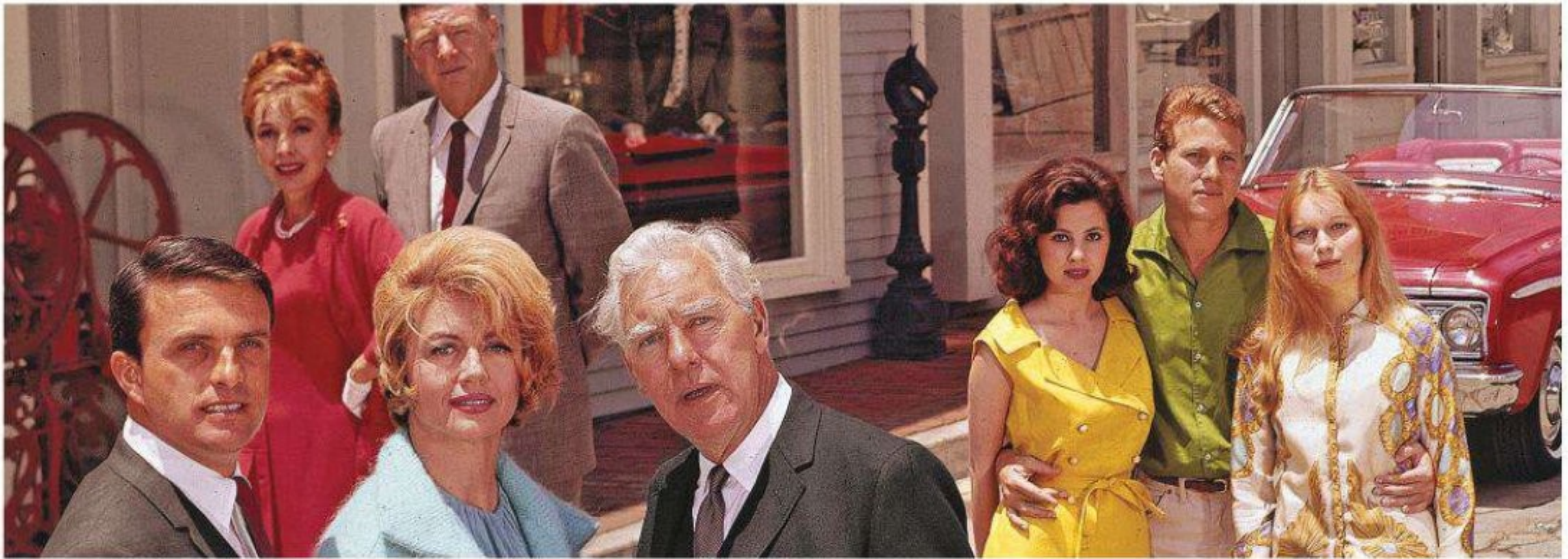


THE ANATOMY OF ISRAEL'S SURVIVAL

Hirsh Goodman

This book explains why Israel has survived, argues why it will continue to do so, and warns of the kind of country it risks becoming unless it stops occupying Palestinian territories. Goodman, an Israeli scholar and journalist, addresses the dangers that Israel faces from nearby states and judges none of them to truly threaten the nation's existence—even those from a nuclear Iran. Indeed, these threats have driven Israel's innovation in military technology and strategy, which both makes it stronger and benefits its civilian economy. Unlike many in Israel, he is encouraged rather than worried by the upheavals of the Arab Spring, believing democracy's spread will ultimately benefit everyone in the Middle East, Israelis included.

Israel's more serious challenges are internal. Ultra-orthodox Jews are growing in num-



'Dirty Whites and Dark Secrets': Can the success of the 1956 novel *Peyton Place* and its later TV series be linked to America's racial history?

ber and remain, by and large, separate from the rest of Israeli society, as are Israeli Arabs. Both groups must be better integrated.

Because of higher birth rates among Palestinians, there will soon be more Muslims and Christians living in all the territory Israel controls than there are Jews. "The choice is blatantly clear: between Greater Israel or Democratic and Jewish Israel," writes Goodman. Israel must shed territory and disengage from land it has occupied since 1967—ideally by striking a peace deal with West Bank Palestinians, unilaterally if necessary. (The most that's achievable with Hamas in Gaza, says Goodman, is a long-term truce.)

Goodman knows this will be difficult, even wrenching. And he says total Jewish withdrawal from territory that will be ceded to a new Palestinian state may not be feasible, suggesting thousands of Jewish settlers will remain in the West Bank as expatriate Israelis, paying taxes to a Palestinian government.

But Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands must end, he argues, as much for Israel's sake as for the Palestinians. It wastes resources, divides Israelis, and erodes Israel's moral fibre. "If I were to draw a gun and shoot a Palestinian throwing a stone on my street in Jerusalem I would be locked up for a long time. If I did so in Kiryat Arba or Jewish Hebron [Jewish settlements in the West Bank], I would be a hero," he writes. "The dichotomy is morally debilitating and destructive." **MICHAEL PETROU**



DIRTY WHITES AND DARK SECRETS: SEX AND RACE IN PEYTON PLACE

Sally Hirsh-Dickinson

Grace Metalious's 1956 pot-boiler *Peyton Place* was one of the most influential novels

of the '50s, the ancestor of many books, movies and TV shows that seek to reveal the sexy secrets of proper small towns. Hirsh-Dickinson, an assistant professor who wrote her dissertation on *Peyton Place*, is one of the people pushing for the novel to be taken seriously as literature, and she admits that she has met with some resistance: "On what grounds is *Peyton Place* the stuff of academic inquiry?" she recalls being asked. She discovers the answer right in the title of the book. The fictional founder of Peyton Place, Samuel Peyton, was a freed slave who found that the North wasn't much better than the South.

Though this is merely a side issue in the novel, Hirsh-Dickinson claims that the undercurrent of America's racial history is the key to the whole book, and particularly the scandal it caused at the time. Using "whiteness studies" as a guideline, she argues that the white population of Peyton's town "cannot deal with the fact that he was black." Looking at the town's anxieties from this perspective, she finds racial undertones to a lot of the references in the book; the sexy poor girl Selena Cross isn't black, but she is "Peyton Place's duskiest female," and therefore stands apart from the "normative whiteness" of the town. Other characters who are ostracized in the town are referred to as "dark" in some way.

Like many academic arguments, this one doesn't always seem to have much connection to what the author intended, but the frequent racial and skin colour references in the book may help explain why *Peyton Place* had more resonance than other small-town sex novels. As Hirsh-Dickinson says, Metalious's concept "was a success in each of its manifestations: novel, film and prime-time television drama." Racial panic might not be the best explanation, but it makes more sense than literary quality. **JAIME J. WEINMAN**

MACLEAN'S BESTSELLERS

Compiled by Brian Bethune

FICTION

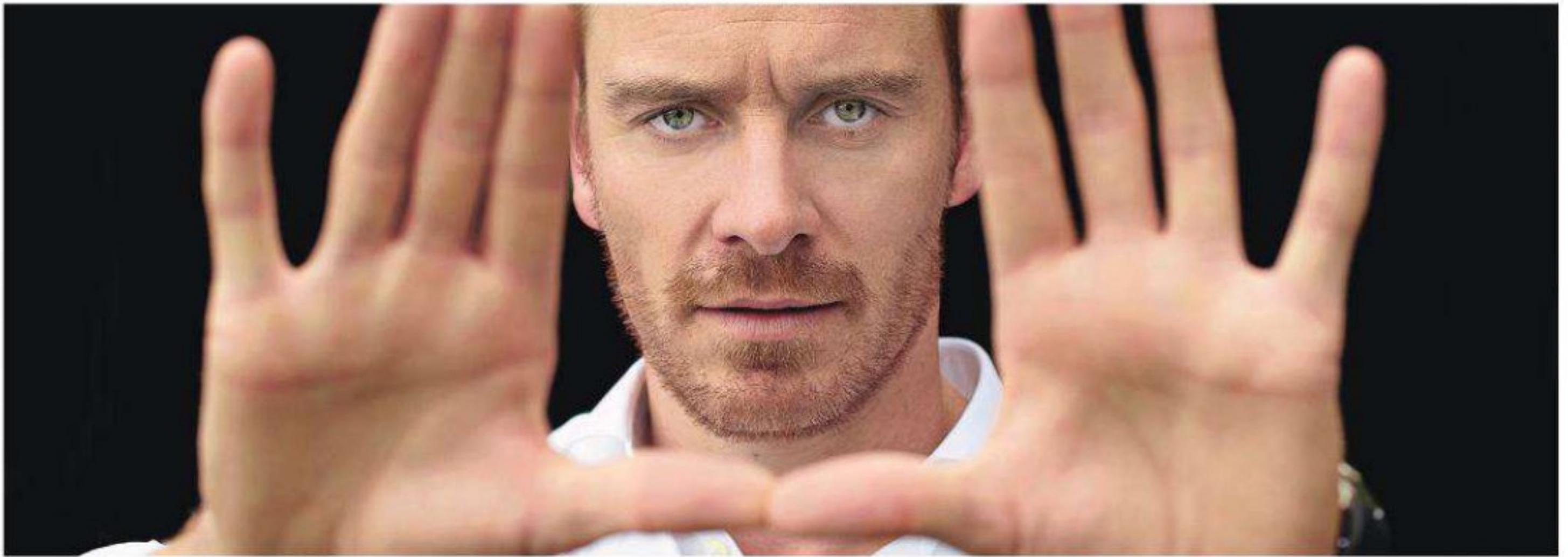
1. **THE CAT'S TABLE** Michael Ondaatje 1 (13)
2. **THE SENSE OF AN ENDING** Julian Barnes 3 (16)
3. **THE PRAGUE CEMETERY** Umberto Eco 9 (2)
4. **1Q84** Haruki Murakami 2 (5)
5. **THE VIRGIN CURE** Ami McKay (1)
6. **THE NIGHT CIRCUS** Erin Morgenstern 5 (10)
7. **A DANCE WITH DRAGONS** George R.R. Martin 10 (19)
8. **THE MARRIAGE PLOT** Jeffrey Eugenides 7 (4)
9. **THE STRANGER'S CHILD** Alan Hollinghurst 6 (7)
10. **11/22/63** Stephen King 4 (2)

NON-FICTION

1. **STEVE JOBS** Walter Isaacson 1 (5)
2. **BLUE NIGHTS** Joan Didion 3 (2)
3. **JERUSALEM** Simon Sebag Montefiore (1)
4. **NATION MAKER** Richard Gwyn 6 (8)
5. **THE TABLE COMES FIRST** Adam Gopnik 7 (4)
6. **OLIVER'S TWIST** Craig Oliver (1)
7. **INTO THE SILENCE** Wade Davis 2 (8)
8. **CIVILIZATION** Niall Ferguson 5 (3)
9. **A SEASON IN HELL** Robert Fowler 10 (2)
10. **IN THE GARDEN OF BEASTS** Erik Larson 8 (24)

LAST WEEK (WEEKS ON LIST)

ON THE WEB: For book reviews, feature articles, interviews and recommended reading by celebrities, check out our books page at macleans.ca/books



Fluid persona: When Fassbender was introduced after the *Dangerous Method* premiere, the audience gasped because they didn't recognize him

The many faces of Michael Fassbender

Lover, sex addict, shrink, superhero, spy—a new leading man stars in five movies

IN HOLLYWOOD, STRONG and versatile leading men are almost as scarce as intelligent scripts. It's a rare breed—the serious actor with defiantly masculine sex appeal who can play a swaggering action hero, melt into a shrewd character role, and charm a woman out of her clothes. Ryan Gosling, Javier Bardem and Daniel Craig are among the few who come to mind. Now Michael Fassbender joins the club. This German-born Irishman is not yet a household name, but at the rate he's going, it won't be long.

Fassbender, 34, has starred in no fewer than five movies this year. Last spring, he brought an unnerving erotic menace to the role of Rochester in *Jane Eyre*. In the summer, he harnessed Magneto's force field in *X-Men: First Class*. This fall, he tore up the festival circuit, winning best actor in Venice for his incendiary role as a sex addict in *Shame*—a pathology he could have diagnosed in his role as Carl Jung in David Cronenberg's *A Dangerous Method*. Finally, he takes on a female black-ops assassin in *Haywire*, an upcoming spy thriller from Steven Soderbergh. (*Shame* opens here next week; *A Dangerous Method* and *Haywire* won't hit Canada until January.)

Cronenberg cast Fassbender after seeing the extraordinary range he displayed in myriad roles—as self-starving IRA martyr Bobby Sands in *Hunger* (2008), a British army officer in *Inglourious Basterds* (2009), and a cavalier cad who seduces his girlfriend's 15-year-old daughter in *Fish Tank* (2009). In *A Dangerous Method*, Fassbender's Jung emer-

ges from the shadow of Freud (a droll Viggo Mortensen) and tumbles into a kinky extra-marital affair with a Russian protege (Keira Knightley), who graduates from wild-eyed patient to amorous colleague. Interviewed by *Maclean's* this week, Cronenberg said, "I felt that Michael's innate sexiness would work with Keira, and his sense of humour and playfulness would work with Viggo on the set."

The Canadian director also felt Fassbender would make a convincing intellectual, even though the actor doesn't remotely see himself as one. "Even with an intellectual character, his approach is visceral," says Cronenberg. "He jokingly likes to say the only research he did was read 'The Idiot's Guide to Carl Jung.' He reminds me of Errol Flynn. He has that same gently swashbuckling, charming tone." Laughing, Cronenberg adds: "He's just so perky, it drives you crazy. One day I found him standing out in the sun in his costume and makeup, with this big smile. I said, 'Michael, why are you smiling like that?' He said, 'I don't know... life.' I said, 'It's so irritating that you're happy all the time.'"

But Fassbender is clearly capable of venturing to the dark side. For *Hunger*, his breakout role, the six-foot actor dropped from 165 lb. to a skeletal 125 lb., an act of self-sacrifice that scarily mirrored that of his character. *Hunger* director Steve McQueen then cast him in

Shame, a haunting descent into sexual addiction that, ironically, seems more Cronenbergian than the elegant period drama of *A Dangerous Method*. In fact, we haven't seen graphic sex portrayed with such chilling, pathological detachment since Cronenberg's own *Crash* (1996). And Fassbender's high-wire act in *Shame* is the one generating Oscar buzz.

He plays a suave, successful office worker in Manhattan who is addicted to empty sex—Internet porn, prostitutes, anonymous strangers. The emptier the better. From the first scene of him wandering about his apartment, frontally naked, then pleasuring himself in the shower, Fassbender strips himself bare, body and soul. When his messed-up sister

(Carey Mulligan) moves in uninvited, disturbing the insular order of his life, vague hints of incest suggest his aversion to intimacy runs deep.

Unlike most movie stars, Fassbender has a fluid persona with no

fixed identity. When he was introduced after the *Dangerous Method* premiere in Venice, says Cronenberg, "the audience gave a little gasp because they didn't recognize him from the movie. Viggo has the same thing—he can walk through a city and no one will notice him." But next year Fassbender will play the lead in *Prometheus*, Ridley Scott's blockbuster reboot of *Alien*. Then he can kiss his anonymity goodbye. **BRIAN D. JOHNSON**

'He reminds me of Errol Flynn. He has that same swashbuckling, charming tone.'

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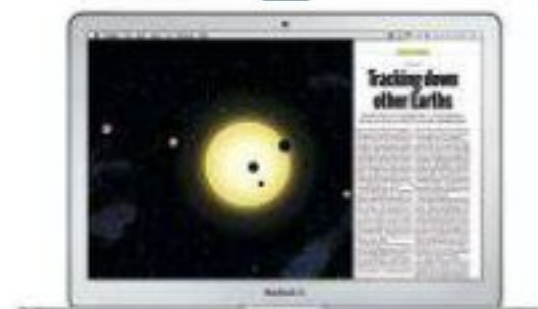
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How to look young and cool: *Who knew that choosing the physical manifestation of one's fleeting mortality could be so stressful?*

Planning a better mid-life crisis

Sports cars make women think 'Viagra,' and affairs just require too much energy



SCOTT
FESCHUK

SO I'M HAVING my mid-life crisis now—and so far it consists of struggling to decide what to do for my mid-life crisis. Who knew that choosing the physical manifestation of my crippling self-doubt and fleeting mortality would be so stressful?

In my 20s, I always assumed I'd wake up one morning, slap on a hairpiece and embrace a fun new hobby like curling or alcoholism. But the truth is, people judge you on the originality and quality of your crisis. It's like a science fair for middle-aged people: you don't want to be the guy struggling to hook up a potato battery while the genius next to you breeds an advanced race of atomic supermen.

That's why I decided right from the start to rule out all the clichéd mid-life crises for men. Among them:

Buying a sports car. This is the classic display of male mid-life anxiety. Every sporty two-seater sold to a man over the age of 40 should come with a mandatory bumper sticker that reads: "My other car is more practical but does not sufficiently announce my paralyzing fear of death. PLEASE PRETEND I LOOK YOUNG AND COOL."

Alas, men of a certain age get so caught up in the allure of the shiny \$50,000 car that they overlook one important fact: it costs \$49,980 more than a box of Just For Men but has the exact same effect—it makes ladies look at you and instantly think, "Viagra."

Trying to recapture one's youth through sport. I'm ashamed to say I gave this a try in recent weeks, going out on Monday nights to play pickup hockey. I hadn't taken to the ice in full equipment in 25 years, but believe me, it didn't feel that way: it felt as though I'd *never* done it before. The fellas would surely have nicknamed me the Human Pylon, but pylons don't vomit on the bench. (For reasons I still don't understand, my ensuing retirement speech was not carried live on Sportsnet.)

Having an extramarital affair. Engaging in a tawdry fling would violate the sanctity of the marital bond and inflict grave emotional distress. Also, it seems like a lot of work—the sneaking around, the clandestine texting, and all those candles that need to be lit around the bathtub (I've never had an affair so I assume all are conducted like the ones on TV). And the cost of hotel room service every time—that's some pricey sex-having! Nor should we overlook all the flirting that's required to get things started—I mean, who's got the energy? Listen, lady, you're very attractive but tonight's episode of *The Mentalist* isn't going to watch itself.

There are practical concerns, too. When I hit 40, I pretty much had to stop lying in all aspects of my life because my memory is no longer reliable enough to keep track of any untruths. How can I remember to hide the Visa bill when I forgot we had a Visa?

Another critical guideline of the mid-life crisis is that under no circumstances is one

permitted to copy the crisis of a friend. It draws too much attention. One middle-aged man deciding to buy a motorbike can be plausibly explained as an innocuous new pastime. *Two* middle-aged men suddenly buying motorcycles supplies the planet's recommended daily allowance of sadness.

So what's left?

Pursue a selfless dedication to others. Confronted with their mortality, some resolve in middle age to seek a more fulfilling existence through tireless dedication to noble causes. This is a deeply honourable path for a human being to follow. On the other hand: boring.

Start seeing a psychiatrist. The most important thing about seeing a psychiatrist is that you can tell people you're seeing a psychiatrist. In the eyes of others, this imbues you with Hidden Depth. *I always thought Scott was fairly normal and boring but turns out he's walking the knife's edge of madness!* I'm keeping this one in my back pocket.

Blame others for my failings. A real load off.

Unless I can decide on a cool crisis in the next few months, I'm just going to bottle up my emotional anxiety. If I'm lucky, it'll fester until one day in my 50s when I abruptly have an affair in a sports car while dyeing my hair. The whole crisis will be over in about eight minutes. ♦

On the Web: To read Feschuk on the famous, visit his blog, macleans.ca/feschuk

1960-2011

Gerald 'Jerry' Wayne Friesen

He started running at an early age. 'Wind, snow or sleet—nothing would stop him,' his mother Joan recalls.

GERALD 'JERRY' WAYNE FRIESEN was born at West Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Grimsby, Ont., on July 15, 1960. His older brother, Randy, had a hand in naming his newborn sibling, known for the rest of his life as Jerry. "There used to be a show called *Uncle Jerry's Club*," says Randy. "I liked the show, and the story was that I said we should call him Jerry." Raised on a farm on the Niagara Escarpment between Grimsby and Beamsville, Jerry spent his childhood happily surrounded by horses, cows and pigs. "We spent a lot of time outdoors," says Randy. "We had ponies and later on, when we got older, we had motorcycles and snowmobiles."

His parents, Joan and Ben, also grew grapes, pears and apples on their 23-acre fruit farm. According to Joan, Jerry's strong work ethic dates to a young age. "He started on the farm with me when he was two weeks old," she says. "I carried him in my arms to pick fruit, and I carried him out in the trailer with a playpen. When he was 12, he started working on his uncle's dairy farm next door." Jerry also inherited his parents' green thumb. In 1974, his produce won the grand champion title at the Beamsville fair, an accomplishment that made the front page of the *Toronto Star*.

As a teenager, Jerry took up long-distance running—mostly out of necessity. "He started running because he could run down the mountain without us having to drive him someplace," says Joan. "Wind, snow, or sleet—nothing would stop him." A lifelong athlete, Jerry also dabbled in football and track and field. He took up boxing at age 19 under the tutelage of coach Jim Neill. He wasn't naturally athletic, Randy says, but made up for it with determination. Jerry won a provincial championship title within a year, and went on to compete nationally, narrowly missing a chance to compete at the Commonwealth Games in 1982.

Jerry graduated from Grimsby Secondary School in 1978 and started working as a labourer for the town's parks and recreation department soon after, eventually moving up to various managerial positions. His wife, Jody, also attended Grimsby Secondary, but the two didn't meet until years later when Jody saw Jerry's photo in a University of Guelph Gryphons football fan book (one of Jerry's friends was a team quarterback). "I thought he was cute," she says

with a laugh. The couple married on Christmas Eve 1985 and had three children: Lindsay, Rachel and Brett. Jerry was an involved parent, and took pride in coaching his girls' soccer teams. "He loved watching them play," says Jody. "If he couldn't coach because he was too busy, he would sponsor a team."

Over the years, the running bug never left him. On the day his eldest daughter Lindsay was born in 1989, Jerry walked into the hospital room with an announcement: "He said, 'I took over the Peachbud,'"

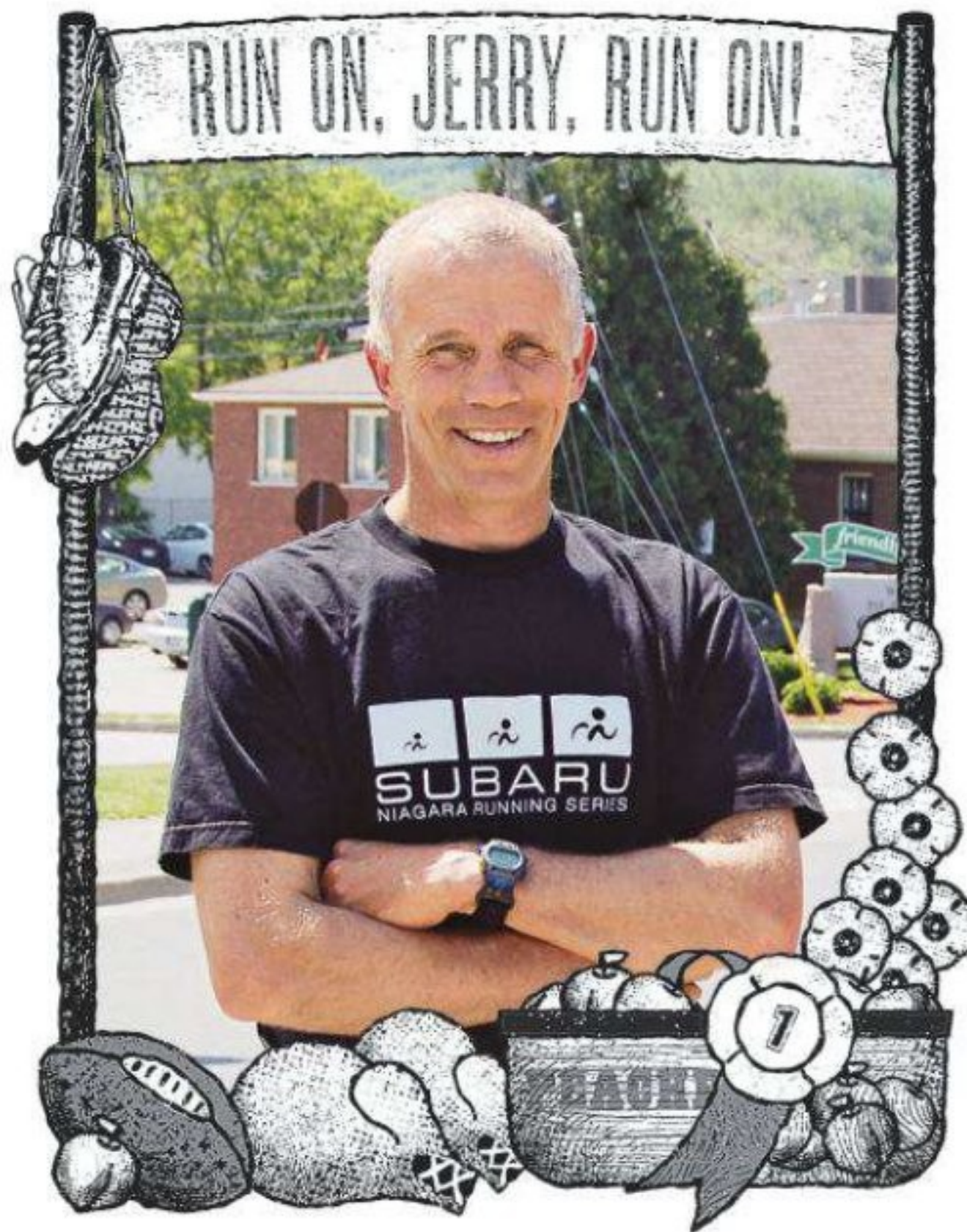
Jody says of the annual Tim Hortons-sponsored charity race, now in its 32nd year. "That was the start of it. He loved organizing races." A flurry of other races followed over the years, raising tens of thousands of dollars for several charities.

Jerry quit the parks and recreation department in 2001, after 21 years, to focus on InStride, a running promotions company he founded in 1999. Jody, a self-described fair-weather runner, joined her husband at the many running events he organized around the world. His favourite time to run was in the morning—the earlier, the better. "It didn't matter what time it was," says Jody. "If he had to be somewhere at 5:00, he would get up at 3:00."

In 2008, running began to take its toll; Jerry underwent hip resurfacing surgery and was sidelined from racing for two years. Jody recalls that when he returned home from his first run earlier this spring, he was exhilarated: "He came through the door and said, 'That was the best 5K ever.'" By 51, Jerry had

organized more than 100 races. His last scheduled one for the year was the Nov. 12 Tim Hortons Casablanca Classic. To commemorate Remembrance Day, he encouraged runners to wear poppies, and invited the colour guard from Grimsby's Royal Canadian Legion to kick off the festivities.

Just after 6 a.m. on Nov. 2, Jerry laced up his shoes, waving goodbye to Jody as he headed out the side door. A few minutes into his run, less than a kilometre from his house, Jerry collapsed and died. He was 51. The Tim Hortons Casablanca Classic carried on without him on Nov. 12, a small Remembrance Day ceremony taking place under a handmade red-lettered sign stretched across the start/finish line: "Run on, Jerry, run on." **JANE SWITZER**



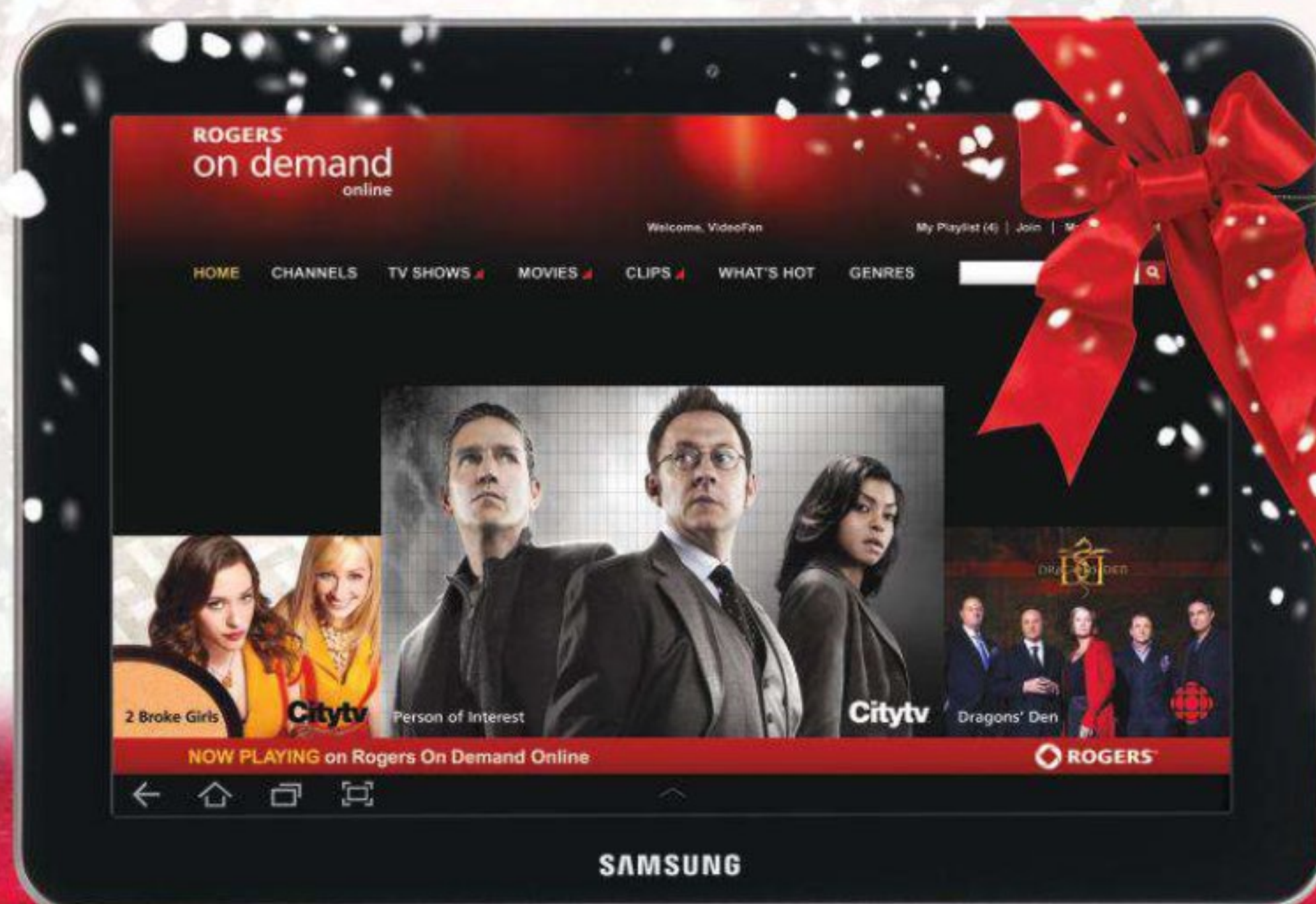
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