



CURRENT CENSORSHIP ISSUES IN CANADA

freedomtoRead

VOLUME 28

BOOK AND PERIODICAL COUNCIL

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Intellectual Freedom Fighter

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The year 2011 was inspirational for proponents of free expression. A deep longing for democracy, human rights and equality drove people into the streets during the Arab Spring and mobilized the Occupy Wall Street movement. Although they sometimes faced violent responses, ordinary people armed with powerful ideas toppled governments in North Africa and challenged inequality at home. These events remind us that free expression is vital to building and maintaining healthy democracies.

Freedom to Read 2012 looks at pressing issues of censorship and free expression in our Canadian democracy and around the world.

In this issue, we look at the freedom of Canadian youth to read. Lucy White explores censorship in theatre for young audiences. Anne Jayne writes about a newly amended law in Alberta that limits discussion of sexual orientation in public schools. And Professor George Dei explains why he is a longtime advocate for Africentric public schools.

Freedom to Read 2012 also features interviews with two tireless Canadian advocates of free expression: John Ralston Saul, the president of PEN International, and David Bouchard, an award-winning author and champion of literacy in aboriginal communities.

Librarians David Burke and Carol Perry tell us about their attempt to gain access to government documents, and Alvin Schrader and Donna Bowman report the latest attempts to remove books, magazines and DVDs from Canadian public libraries.

But there is much more in this issue of *Freedom to Read 2012*: book reviews, international news and ways to promote freedom to read in your community. I won't give everything away. Enjoy!

Josh Bloch, Editor



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THE BOOK AND PERIODICAL COUNCIL (BPC) WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP OF FREEDOM TO READ WEEK 2012:

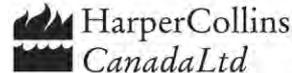


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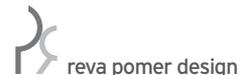
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THE BPC WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND IN-KIND DONATIONS:



THE BPC THANKS THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SPONSORSHIP: CANADIAN CHILDREN'S BOOK NEWS, CANADIAN LITERATURE, FELICITER, THE FIDDLEHEAD, GROUNDWOOD BOOKS, HOUSE OF ANANSI PRESS, THE INTERNATIONAL FREE EXPRESSION REVIEW, QUILL AND QUIRE, STUDIES IN CANADIAN LITERATURE, UBC PRESS AND THE WRITERS' UNION OF CANADA.

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE CONTRIBUTED AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF TIME AND ENERGY PRODUCING THE KIT AND POSTER AND MAINTAINING THE WEBSITE AT WWW.FREEDOMTOREAD.CA: JOSH BLOCH, FRANKLIN CARTER, LESLEY FLETCHER, ANNE MCCLELLAND, PEGGY MCKEE, SCOTT MITCHELL, MARG ANNE MORRISON, REVA POMER, SANDRA RICHMOND AND DAVID WYMAN.

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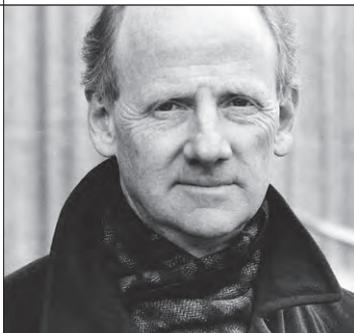
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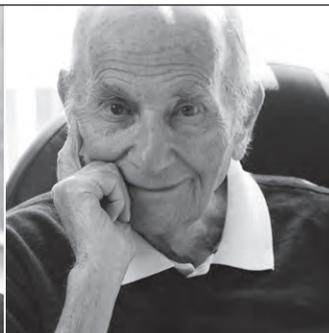
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John Ralston Saul



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Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi

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CANADA'S EVENT CALENDAR FOR FREEDOM TO READ WEEK • A LIST OF BOOKS RECENTLY CHALLENGED IN CANADA • TIPS ON HOW TO OBSERVE FREEDOM TO READ WEEK • A CHRONOLOGY OF BOOK BANNINGS AND BURNINGS IN WORLD HISTORY • POSTER ART FOR 28 YEARS OF FREEDOM TO READ WEEK • LINKS TO OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES • AND MUCH MORE ... VISIT WWW.FREEDOMTOREAD.CA AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER



The Book and Periodical Council is the umbrella organization for associations involved in the writing, editing, publishing, manufacturing, distributing, selling and lending of books and periodicals in Canada.

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Position Statement

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND FREEDOM TO READ

A statement of the basic tenets of the Freedom of Expression
Committee of the Book and Periodical Council

*"Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms . . .
thought, belief, opinion, and expression."*

— Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Freedom of expression is a fundamental right of all Canadians, and freedom to read is part of that precious heritage. Our Committee, representing member organizations and associations of the Book and Periodical Council, reaffirms its support of this vital principle and opposes all efforts to suppress writing and silence writers. Words and images in their myriad configurations are the substance of free expression.

The freedom to choose what we read does not, however, include the freedom to choose for others. We accept that courts alone have the authority to restrict reading material, a prerogative that cannot be delegated or appropriated. Prior restraint demeans individual responsibility; it is anathema to freedom and democracy.

As writers, editors, publishers, book manufacturers, distributors, retailers and librarians, we abhor arbitrary interpretations of the law and other attempts to limit freedom of expression.

We recognize court judgements; otherwise, we oppose the detention, seizure, destruction or banning of books and periodicals—indeed, any effort to deny, repress or sanitize. Censorship does not protect society; it smothers creativity and precludes open debate of controversial issues.

Endorsed by the Book and Periodical Council

February 5, 1997



TO ORDER KITS AND POSTERS

Freedom to Read kits may be ordered from the Book and Periodical Council for \$16.50 plus shipping, handling and HST. Orders for 10 kits or more, shipped to a single address, receive a 20 per cent discount and may be accompanied by a purchase order. Flat, rolled, full-colour posters are available for \$10 plus shipping, handling and HST. (GST/HST#R106801889). All orders are non-refundable.

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CANADA

JUSTICE MINISTER CALLS FOR REPEAL OF BAN ON HATE SPEECH IN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

In mid-November 2011, Rob Nicholson, the justice minister of Canada, rose in the House of Commons to urge MPs from all parties to vote to repeal section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act.

Section 13 bans the repeated transmission on telephones and the Internet of messages that are intended to expose identifiable groups of people—usually minorities—to hatred or contempt.

“Our government believes that section 13 is not an appropriate or effective means for combatting hate propaganda,” Nicholson said. “We believe the Criminal Code is the best vehicle to prosecute these crimes ...”

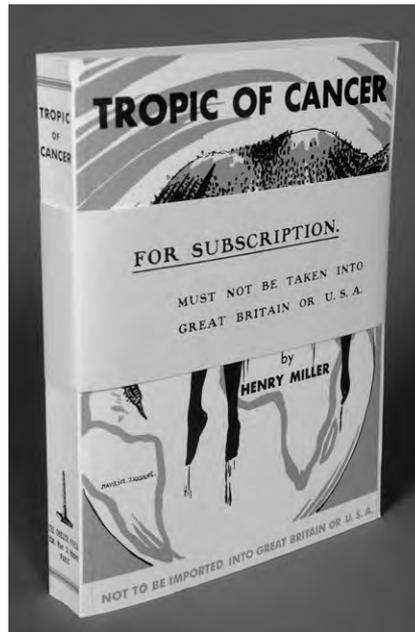
“Our government is supporting the repeal of section 13 because it is subjective and unnecessarily vague when it comes to informing Canadians about what can and cannot be said on the Internet,” added Julie Di Mambro, press secretary for the minister of justice.

MPs could vote to retain or repeal section 13 in the first months of 2012.

NEWSPAPER MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF TROPIC OF CANCER'S CENSORSHIP IN TORONTO

In November 2011, *The Toronto Star* marked the fiftieth anniversary of the censorship of *Tropic of Cancer*—a sexually explicit memoir by U.S. author Henry Miller—in Toronto.

On Nov. 25, 1961, the board of the Toronto Public Library surrendered its only four copies of *Tropic of Cancer* to Canadian customs officials. The book had been banned as obscene in Canada since the 1930s.



Tropic of Cancer by Henry Miller (Obelisk Press, 1934)
Photo by Anthony Maddaloni

The library had acquired its copies, which were published outside Canada, earlier in 1961. Some library officials wanted to resist the censorship, but the library board ultimately complied with the law.

In New York City, Grove Press had published a new edition of *Tropic of Cancer* in 1961. Legal authorities across the United States and in other countries tried unsuccessfully to suppress the book in the 1960s.

ACCLAIMED NOVEL ESCAPES BAN IN ONTARIO SCHOOL DISTRICT

In November 2011, the Bluewater District School Board in southern Ontario decided to keep copies of Timothy Findley's *The Wars* in its secondary schools.

The board accepted the recommendation of a textbook review committee which had studied *The Wars* and had concluded that the novel was useful in Grade 12 English classes.

Six months earlier, in May, some parents had objected to depictions of sex and violence in *The Wars* and had

demanded the removal of all copies from schools.

“We consider *The Wars* to be inappropriate to be presented to a class where there are students under 18,” said Carolyn Waddell of Tiverton.

The Wars tells the story of a young Canadian man who goes to France to fight in World War I. He endures violence, horror and trauma. In 1977, the novel won the Governor General's Literary Award for fiction.

HIGH COURT RULES ON INTERNET HYPERLINK CASE

On Oct. 19, 2011, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled unanimously that hyperlinking to defamatory sites on the Internet does not amount to publishing defamation.

People who merely hyperlink to other people's sites cannot be held legally responsible for any defamatory remarks on those sites, the court said. But people who repeat defamatory remarks on their own sites may be sued in court.

The Supreme Court of Canada also dismissed the appeal of Wayne Crookes, an activist for the Green Party of Canada. Crookes had argued that Jon Newton had defamed him by hyperlinking to sites that Crookes said defamed him and other Greens.

The dispute originated in British Columbia in 2006.

Publishers and free speech advocates across Canada welcomed the decision. They had feared that a victory for Crookes in court would stifle free expression on the Internet.

HIGH COURT HEARS DISPUTE OVER ANTI-GAY LITERATURE

On Oct. 12, 2011, the Supreme Court of Canada heard lawyers argue for and against the censorship of strongly worded anti-gay literature.

NEWSBYTES CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

NEWSBYTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Grant Scharfstein, the lawyer speaking for the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission (SHRC), argued that hate-filled anti-gay literature poses a threat to gay people. He asked the court to uphold the clause in the Saskatchewan Human Rights Act that authorizes the censorship of anti-gay literature.

Thomas Schuck, the lawyer for Christian activist William Whatcott, argued that the ban on anti-gay literature in the Saskatchewan Human Rights Act unjustly infringes the free expression rights of his client and other Christians who condemn gay sex as unhealthy and sinful. Schuck asked the court to strike down the ban.

In 2001 and 2002, Whatcott wrote and distributed anti-gay flyers in Regina and Saskatoon. In 2005, a tribunal of the SHRC found that Whatcott had broken the law by exposing gay people to hatred or ridicule.

The Supreme Court of Canada is expected to rule on the law in 2012.

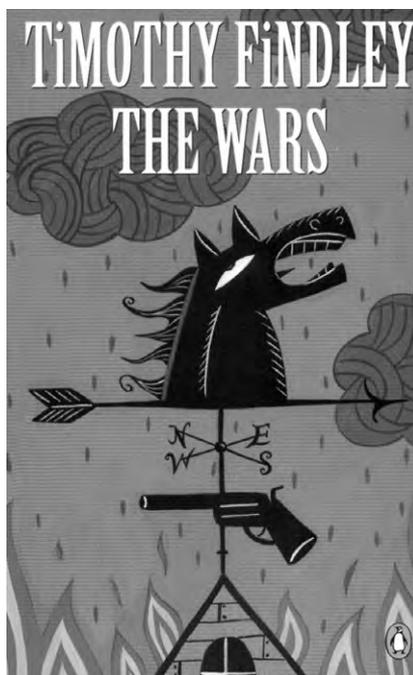
QUEBEC CABINET MINISTER EXPLORES IDEA OF CERTIFYING JOURNALISTS

In the autumn of 2011, Christine St-Pierre, the minister of culture and communication in Quebec's government, launched public hearings to gather opinions about a plan to certify professional journalists.

St-Pierre proposed certification to help the reading public distinguish between professional journalists—who do original research, write in the public interest and produce quality work—and amateur writers such as bloggers.

She also suggested, in August 2011, that certified professional journalists could enjoy privileges such as better access to government sources of information.

But several news agencies—such as *La Presse*, *The Gazette* and *The*



The Wars by Timothy Findley (Penguin Books, 1996)

Suburban—opposed the proposal because they suspected that government certification meant a loss of journalistic independence and freedom.

In April 2011, members of La Fédération professionnelle des journalistes du Québec—a non-governmental association of journalists—voted overwhelmingly for certification. But support for the proposal fell when members learned that they would not establish the standards for professional status.

EXPLICIT DIGITAL COMICS LAND U.S. VISITOR IN LEGAL TROUBLE

On June 24, 2011, two legal organizations joined forces to defend a U.S. man who was stopped at the Canadian border and charged with possession of sexually obscene comics.

The two organizations—the Comic Legends Legal Defense Fund of Canada and the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund of the United States—also announced their intention to raise \$150,000 for the man's legal defence.

In 2010, a U.S. computer programmer in his twenties flew to Canada to visit

a friend. At the border, a Canadian customs officer searched the man's belongings, including his laptop computer. The officer found sexually explicit manga—a Japanese style of comic book art.

The officer turned the laptop over to Canadian police who charged the man with possession of child pornography and intent to distribute child pornography. If convicted, the man faces a minimum sentence of one year in prison.

The case could go to court in 2012.

INTERNATIONAL

OFFICE OF SATIRICAL MAGAZINE FIREBOMBED IN FRANCE

During the night of Nov. 2, 2011, an arsonist firebombed the office of *Charlie Hebdo*, a weekly satirical magazine, in Paris. No one was injured or killed.

On the same day, *Charlie Hebdo* was set to release its latest issue which mocked fundamentalist Islam. The cover bore the headline “Charia Hebdo” (“Shariah Weekly”) and a cartoon of the Muslim prophet Mohammed saying, “100 coups de fouet, si vous n’êtes pas morts de rire!” (“100 lashes if you’re not dying of laughter!”)

French politicians—including Prime Minister François Fillon, Minister of the Interior Claude Guéant and Mayor of Paris Bertrand Delanoë—lined up to condemn the attack and defend the magazine's freedom of expression.

Spokesmen for important Muslim organizations—such as the Association of Imams of France and the French Muslim Council—also condemned the attack.

One week after the firebombing, *Charlie Hebdo* released its next issue. The cover bore a cartoon of a male *Charlie Hebdo* cartoonist kissing a Muslim man on the mouth. The headline: “L’amour plus fort que la haine.” (“Love is stronger than hate.”)

MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARD ENDS BOOK BAN BUT RESTRICTS STUDENT ACCESS

On Sept. 19, 2011, a school board in Republic, Mo., ended a two-month-old ban on two novels: Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five* and Sarah Ockler's *Twenty Boy Summer*.

But the school board put the two novels in secure sections of school libraries. Students were told to obtain the permission of a parent or guardian if they wanted to read a school copy of either novel.

Slaughterhouse-Five and *Twenty Boy Summer* are available only for students' independent reading. Teachers may not require students to read the novels. Teachers may not read the novels aloud in class.

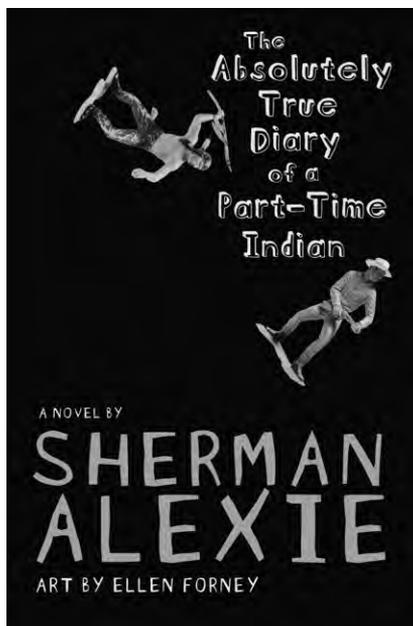
In July 2011, the school board voted to remove both novels from schools in the district. A Republic resident, Wesley Scroggins, had complained about profanity, blasphemy and references to sex in the novels.

In August 2011, the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library in Indianapolis offered free copies of *Slaughterhouse-Five* to 150 students in Republic to raise public awareness of the ban.

U.S. SPY AGENCY ORDERS CUTS TO COUNTERTERRORISM MEMOIR

In the summer of 2011, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States successfully demanded deletions to the memoir of a former special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) who played a major role in fighting terrorism between 1997 and 2005.

The Black Banners: The Inside Story of 9/11 and the War Against al-Qaeda by Ali H. Soufan argues that the CIA missed a chance to disrupt al-Qaeda's attacks in the United States in 2001 by withholding information from the FBI about two of the terrorists who were living in California more than a year before the attacks took place.



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie. Art by Ellen Forney. (Little, Brown Young Readers, 2007)

Before the book's publication in September 2011, the CIA successfully ordered the publisher, W.W. Norton & Company, to delete scores of passages from the text as well as photographs and the book's index.

Soufan and his publisher, however, challenged the CIA's order in court and hope to restore all the deletions in a later edition of the book.

DUTCH ACTIVISTS BURN COVER OF CANADIAN NOVEL

On June 22, 2011, anti-racist activists in Amsterdam, Holland, burned photocopies of the cover of Lawrence Hill's *Het negerboek*. They objected to the word "neger" ("Negro") in the title.

Lawrence Hill is the Canadian author of *The Book of Negroes*, an acclaimed novel about slavery in the eighteenth century. *Het negerboek* is the title of the Dutch translation.

Several days before the activists burned their photocopies, Hill received an e-mailed message from their leader, Roy Groenberg. Groenberg told Hill that he planned to burn the book.

Hill responded by writing a column in *The Toronto Star* on June 20. He spoke against book burning. He also explained that racial terms—words such as "Negro," "black" and "African-Canadian"—have changed over time.

The title of Hill's novel refers to an actual eighteenth-century document. At the end of the revolutionary war in the American colonies, the British recorded the names of black loyalists in a ledger. The British then evacuated the loyalists by ship to Nova Scotia.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NAMES MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS

In 2010, the most frequently challenged book in U.S. public libraries was *And Tango Makes Three*, announced the American Library Association (ALA). The children's book by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell tells the story of two male penguins raising a baby penguin in a zoo.

Americans who sought to have *And Tango Makes Three* removed from libraries objected to the theme of same-sex parenting. They complained that the book was unsuited for children and often cited religious reasons for wanting the book banned.

The book has consistently appeared on the ALA's list of the 10 most frequently challenged books since 2005.

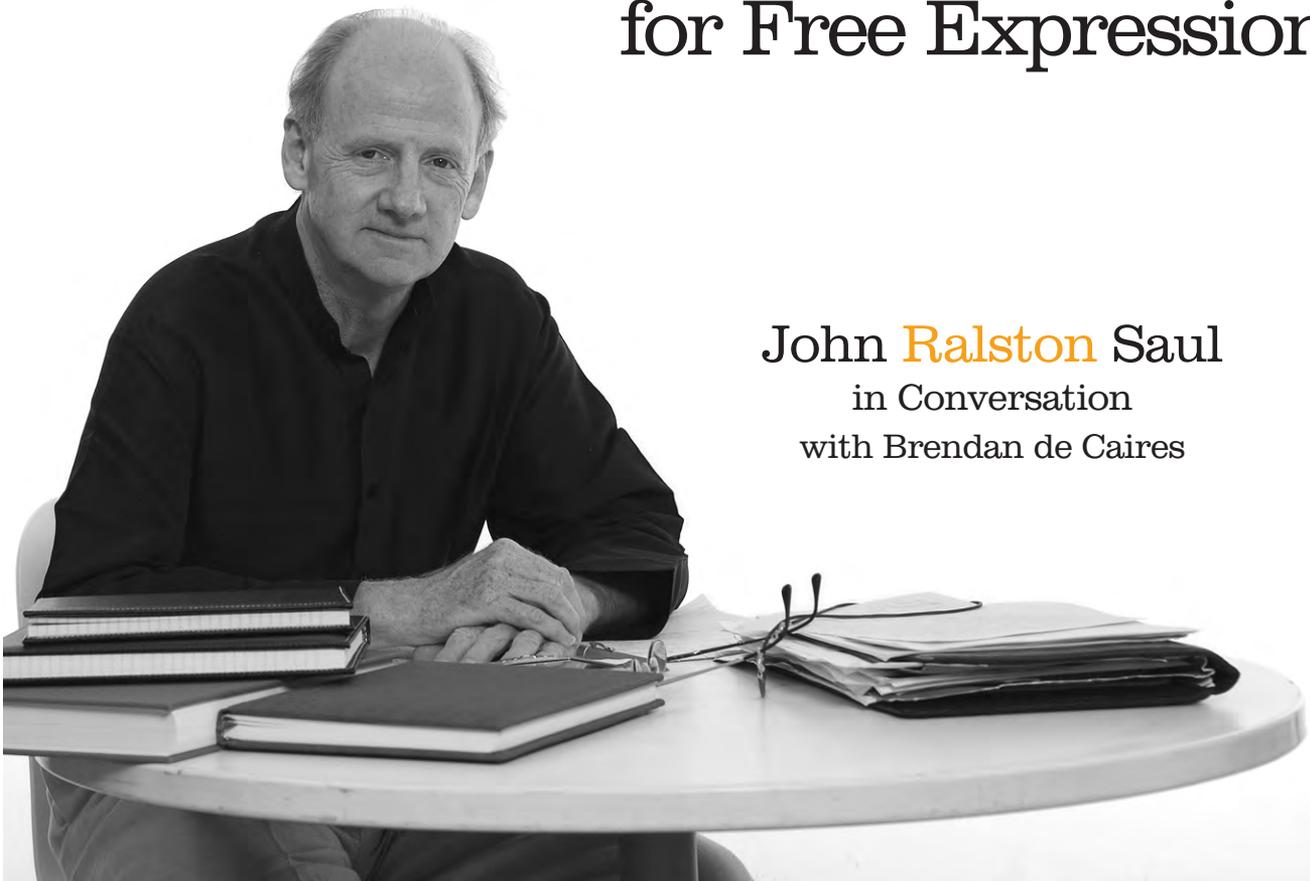
The second most frequently challenged book on the ALA's list was *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. This novel tells the story of a teenager who is alienated from the white kids at his high school and the Spokane Indians who live on his reservation.

Americans who sought to have Alexie's novel removed from libraries objected to the book's language, "racism" and sexual references.

In 2007, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* won a National Book Award in the category of young people's literature. ■

Enduring Advocate

for Free Expression



John **Ralston** Saul
in Conversation
with Brendan de Caires

KATE SZATMARI

In February of 2011, the Writers' Union of Canada awarded John Ralston Saul its Freedom to Read Award. The award honours Canadians who have made a significant contribution to defending the right to read and write freely without fear of reprisal.

Saul is the president of PEN International and a former president of PEN Canada. He was instrumental in establishing PEN Canada's Writers in Exile program. Some of his many titles include co-chair of the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, founder and honorary chair of Le français pour

l'avenir/French for the Future, and founder and chair of the LaFontaine-Baldwin Symposium on advancing an egalitarian and inclusive approach to democracy.

Saul's award-winning books and essays—including *The Unconscious Civilization*, *Voltaire's Bastards: The Dictatorship of Reason in the West* and *A Fair Country: Telling Truths About Canada*—have had an important impact on political and economic thought around the world.

In June 2011, Brendan de Caires sat down with Saul to discuss his lifetime of work for freedom of expression.

BdC When did your commitment to freedom of expression begin?

JRS In the 1980s, I spent a lot of time in Southeast Asia and North Africa, and I had friends who were in trouble all the time. Intellectuals who were arrested, beaten up, forced into exile. When I went to those countries, I didn't think that I would make friends with people whose lives would be on the line because of what they wrote or spoke.

It was naïve on my part. I was in my twenties, and I hadn't thought through the implications for people who opened their mouths. I had always been able to open my mouth. So in the mid-1980s, I focused on PEN as a place to direct my primary effort outside my writing.

Here I am at 64 and the issues are the same and we are still fighting them.

BdC Of all the campaigns that PEN took on, what are your proudest achievements?

JRS Of the recent things, I think the position on China has been very complex and very sophisticated. It's very hard to pull freedom of expression in China to the centre of the debate and hold it there. But if you look at it as a long-term or medium-term process, it's really quite successful.

The members of the Chinese PEN Centre have shown incredible courage and professionalism. There are thousands of people making billions of dollars who do not want freedom of expression to be at the centre of the debate, and we just keep pulling it back there. At the same time, we keep saying, "You know, we are actually on China's side. It's just China that is not on China's side."

Also, when I ran to be president of PEN International, I said that one of the most important things was to protect smaller languages and endangered languages. The issue hadn't been a big theme of PEN's because it didn't seem to be related to literature or freedom of expression. But of course the issue is directly related to both because all of these languages have literatures. If you lose your language, you lose your freedom of expression. So it's exciting that PEN International is now committed to working in this area.

One other achievement. Last year, we joined a session in Geneva at the United Nations Human Rights Council to discuss the question of religious defamation.* We went with a group of mainly Arab and Islamic writers. It really caught the attention of the human rights community in Geneva.

We were helped by the fact that the leader of the other side, who was the representative of Pakistan, stormed out and made a terrible fuss and said PEN is a Western organization. And, of

course, I was sitting there—the only Westerner at the table—and everyone else was North African or Asian. So storming out was just the silliest thing he could do.

So we just continued and, in its latest statement on the subject, Geneva has dropped its desire to get status for religious defamation. That is an enormous achievement, and we can claim at least 50 per cent of it.

You win for freedom of expression by the simple fact that you keep going and you are there. You demonstrate that this is what civilized activity is like. This is what responsible citizenship is like. Being silent, or accepting crumbs from the table, is the worst thing you can do.

BdC What are the most pressing issues of freedom to read and freedom of expression in Canada?

JRS It's very clear to me that education in Canada and elsewhere has been moving in what can best be called a utilitarian direction. The result is this idea of measurables—that things have to be measured—and, of course, that has a disastrous impact on literacy.

Our levels of illiteracy and functional illiteracy are very high. Up to a quarter of the population is illiterate, or functionally illiterate, because the educational approach toward language has lost its content. This utilitarian thing is a blow against freedom of expression.

If people can't really read, they can't take part in debate. If they are not reading, they are not writing. Remember that the Charter of Rights guarantees freedom of expression. It is the most important of those four guarantees. Freedom of expression is about writing and reading, speaking and listening. The reading and the listening are as active as the writing and the speaking. So if you are not reading, you are not part of the debate and you have lost your freedom of expression.

I think that this is a real challenge. It is absolutely essential to bring, if you like, the imagination and literature back into the core of learning to read at school. It's not the fault of the teachers; it's the fault of bureaucrats and the people who design the programs. They are acting as if the students are stupid. They are not challenging the students.

BdC How about freedom of expression outside the education system?

JRS This is equally a problem across the big cities of Canada. If people aren't engaging with real writing, then they are giving up the fundamentals of how democracy works.

And you just have to remember that, in spite of some of the politicians around at the moment, Canada has a long list

JOHN RALSTON SAUL CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Libel Tourism

Shopping AROUND FOR THE Best Verdict

By HILARY MCLAUGHLIN

Imagine that a reporter files a story that Mayor Bloggs of East Pine Tree, Ont., is a tippler and not really up to the next job he seeks, that of MPP for his area. There are a couple of photographs—the nasty kind, where the person has been caught as he is blinking and would look drunk if he were eating a banana—and a reputation is under threat.

What should Mayor Bloggs do? Sue in an Ontario court? Not if he wants to win without cost. He will make sure that someone has posted this story on the Internet and that the story has been read in Britain—almost a given in this day and age—and take his case to London. There, where he—unknown to most of the great British public—has been defamed, he can sue the reporter and

his publication. And the onus will be upon the reporter and the publication to prove the veracity of the case. British libel courts are notoriously plaintiff-friendly.

Libel basically refers to defamation in writing that calls into question some action or behaviour. The purpose of libel law is to prevent reckless commentary on any person to his or her detriment without documented proof to substantiate the story.

Not surprisingly, the way such laws are applied vary from country to country and, often, from jurisdiction to jurisdiction within countries. But we might suppose that Canada, with its Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the United States, with its Bill of Rights, and Great Britain, the cradle of democracy as it is understood at home and elsewhere, are the freest of all. Not necessarily so.

The other side of libel is the freedom to express: opinion,

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of great leaders at the federal, provincial and municipal levels. Almost without exception they were intellectuals. The great prime ministers of Canada—Conservatives and Liberals—were all intellectuals. And the bad ones were not. They read. They thought. They considered ideas. That is how they were able to lead a complicated country.

If you don't have an intellectual idea of a place—an imaginative idea of the place—you are lost.

BdC In a few years, what would you like to be remembered for as president of PEN?

JRS It's very simple. I keep saying that my job is to help drag the concept of freedom of expression into the absolute centre of public consciousness in the public debate. ■

*Since 1999, the representatives of Muslim governments in the U.N. Human Rights Council have voted for resolutions that call for an end to the defamation of religion, especially Islam. Western governments and organizations such as PEN International, however, oppose the resolutions because they would effectively ban the criticism of religion around the world and curtail freedom of expression.

investigation, straight reportage. When libel laws are too restrictive, they may protect an innocent celebrity, for example, from being labelled a drunkard if he or she is seen at a reception with a glass of wine in hand, but they may also prevent a reporter who has covered the celebrity for months and seen instances of alcohol abuse from reporting the fact. If the individual in question is a private citizen, whose drinking patterns have little public interest, that fact alone might prevent such a story from ever making print. If the drinker is a politician, a famous actor or a religious leader, there might be some perceived public interest in knowing about this trait.

If Mayor Bloggs went to the United States, which also has near-universal Internet access and where someone might have posted on the story from the *East Pine Tree Screech*, he might not be so lucky. Americans are well covered by the First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, and the onus would be entirely upon the plaintiff to prove that his drinking was in no way accurately reflected in the article. And, unlike in Britain, where most plaintiffs file on a fee-for-win contingency, he would be up to his ears in legal fees, win or lose.

So why not just stay home and take care of the matter locally? Until recently, that option would have been Mayor Bloggs's best course. Canadian libel laws were quite draconian, and the onus was very much upon the defendant to prove the veracity of any single statement. And truth alone was not enough of a defence: if the court had a whiff of malicious intent in the publication of the story, the finding would still be for the plaintiff. How important was it for East Pine Tree to know that the mayor/MPP candidate liked a tippie? He would, after all, only have been following in the footsteps of earlier Canadian politicians. (Why, Sir John A. himself, father of our Confederation and all that ...)

However, a couple of years ago, the Supreme Court of Canada opened up the issue by ruling that a defence of "responsible communication" could be applied against liability. The justices' comparisons of other Commonwealth guidelines and laws suggested that Canada's law was lagging behind because it infringed freedom of expression and allowed "libel chill," which prevented reporters from investigating malfeasances to the detriment of public interest.

And therein lies the conundrum. Mayor Bloggs—Joe—may drink with impunity, as long as he does so under law. (He is of age, he does not get behind the wheel of a car, he does no damage to person or property.) But Joe Bloggs—candidate for higher office, family values man, of a previously unblemished reputation—is seen publicly with a drink in his hand time after time. Does the constituency that will be called upon to consider electing him have the right to that information?

If the reporter turns out to be the scion of a family long associated with another political party, his motives may well be called into question. If, however, he has no axe to grind, a court may

be called upon to determine if the story meets the standards the Supreme Court has now added for free and fair expression:

1. the publication is on a matter of public interest and
2. the publisher was diligent in trying to verify the allegation, having regard to
 - a. the seriousness of the allegation
 - b. the public importance of the matter
 - c. the urgency of the matter
 - d. the status and reliability of the source
 - e. whether the plaintiff's side of the story was sought and accurately reported
 - f. whether the inclusion of the defamatory statement was justifiable
 - g. whether the defamatory statement's public interest lay in the fact that it was made rather than its truth ("reportage")
 - h. any other relevant circumstances

Britain has also—as recently as March 2011—introduced draft libel legislation which will loosen some of the restrictions. Britain is a little sensitive about its reputation as a destination for "libel tourism," which allowed the sort of scenario sketched above for Mayor Bloggs to work heavily in his favour. Consider the celebrity cases that were taken by stars such as Catherine Zeta-Jones and Michael Douglas or Roman Polanski to the British courts to get restitution for things published about them in the United States or elsewhere.

And the United States, following in the wake of several states, including New York, is enacting federal law to make sure that the freedom of its own writers to express legally acceptable material in the United States is not jeopardized by findings in foreign courts, even (especially?) friendly ones such as those in Britain.

The next great battleground will straddle all countries and jurisdictions, as people scrutinize social media for potential abuses. The likes of Facebook profess to be hosting platforms instead of publishers, but if significant abuse appears within its platforms, will they, too, become responsible for what their countless members publish, so far with relative (though not blanket) impunity? In liberal-minded Australia, the cases that have seen the light of day have involved things that breach other criminal conducts—cyber-stalking and threats—but can taking the mickey irresponsibly be far behind?

Like all laws, those regarding libel are intended, in a free society, for the protection of all. They are intended to protect you and me against being defamed unjustly as well as the right of a reporter to opine, should we put ourselves forward, that we might not be up to the mark of some public office we wish to embrace. In the end, the issue does come down to responsible behaviour. ■

Hilary McLaughlin is an Ottawa journalist and communications consultant.

DRIPPING

the Curtain on Children's Theatre

By LUCY WHITE

Playwright Joan MacLeod's *The Shape of a Girl* tells the story of Braidie.

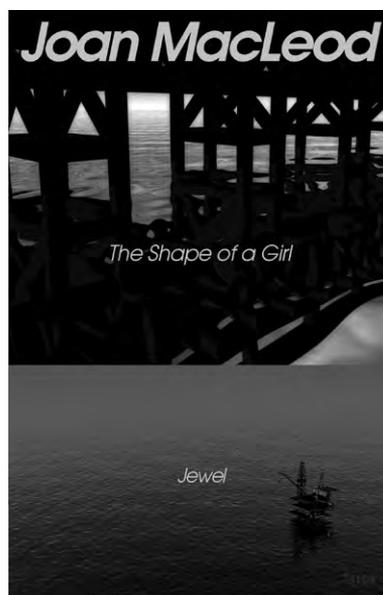
Braidie knows that being a teenager, even being a little kid, means often seeing hideous behaviour from your peers.

For years, Braidie's best friend has cruelly and painfully harassed another classmate. Now, from the television and the papers, Braidie learns about a shocking case in a nearby city: a teenager murdered by another youth—"a monster in the shape of a girl."

Braidie worries. Could a murder happen here? Could her friend become a killer? And if Braidie just stands by and lets murder happen, will she be guilty too? Joan MacLeod pulls us into a tough and complicated teenage world—a world where loyalty to a friend can have tragic results.

The Shape of a Girl has played in schools and on main stages across Canada and the United States to audiences in the thousands. The play is one of the most in-demand plays on antibullying and personal responsibility for high school audiences of 13 years of age and older. It is also one of the most challenged plays. The word "fuck" is used twice.

The Shape of a Girl is one of many plays written specifically for Theatre for Young Audiences or TYA. TYA is professionally produced theatre for and about children. The topics range from traditional folk and



The Shape of a Girl / Jewel by Joan MacLeod
(Talonbooks, 2002)

fairy tales to hard-hitting contemporary topics such as bullying, drug abuse and teen pregnancy.

Canadian TYA is produced for children as young as three and as old as 18. TYA companies face a range of censoring behaviours from educators, parents and other theatre professionals.

Content and context are the challenges in making theatre for young audiences. Content, including language and subject, is what most often determines whether principals or teachers will want to bring the show to their schools. A play that addresses one or more curriculum topics is much more likely to be booked.

But the context is also extremely important. When planning a show, professionals must consider the age of the audience, region of the country, and urban, rural and cultural sensitivities. Certain topics or words will not be acceptable in some regions but will be acceptable in others.

In Quebec, for example, schools are much less worried about language or sexual topics than schools in other regions. Big-city high schools are more interested in frank explorations of drug use or gang violence. Sex, or anything related to sexuality, is a big no-no in conservative areas of the country.

"*Shape* is a great play and bullying is a topic that schools really want help with," says Dean Fleming, artistic director of Geordie Productions in Montreal. "'Fuck' is used for a good reason in *Shape*." But when booking a school tour to visit Quebec and Ontario

schools, he adds: “Principals in Ontario said that if that word was used, they would stop the play and ask the company to leave the school. But there were no complaints in Quebec.”

Green Thumb Theatre in Vancouver produces four-to-six plays each year for elementary, high school and young adult audiences. Like most TYA companies, the group has developed strategies for dealing with censorship. *War*, a play that explores young male rage and anger by Denis Foon, had the last few tour performances cancelled in one school district because a school board official deemed the play good except for one monologue which he found “too frank.”

“But we refused to cut the monologue,” recalls Patrick McDonald, artistic director of Green Thumb. “The school board booked the play, and they knew the subject matter, so it was important to have them acknowledge that it was the vocabulary they objected to.”

Another strategy is to ensure that the marketing materials are honest. Green Thumb’s *Blind Spot* depicts a teen couple who become aware that their actions lead to tragic consequences. The girl pretends to be dumb to attract another boy, and the boy has sex with her when she is too intoxicated to give consent. The marketing materials for *Blind Spot* alert the schools that violence, sexual violence and taboo language are in the play.

“Parents will call the school—rarely the theatre company—to complain if they are unhappy,” McDonald says. “Some principals will just avoid booking the shows that they expect will lead to complaints. Although this show is selling well, we know it won’t be booked in certain areas of the country where language is a bigger issue than violence or sex.”

TYA companies do not all agree on strategies for dealing with the censorship of language. McDonald tells writers not to use certain swear words, so that if schools refuse to book, or if they cancel after booking, the schools and

What is experienced as censorship at worst is also understood as choosing appropriate theatre for kids at best.

the theatre company know they are cancelling because of the subject.

This approach is what McDonald and playwright Dave Deveau use in *Out in the Open*. The play is about two boyhood friends. One comes out during a camping trip. McDonald is clear that many schools may object to the topic, but they won’t be able to pretend that their reason is language.

TYA practitioners worry that there is a lot of pressure to self-censor in language and content. It’s not well understood by the educational and the family marketplace that theatre companies are not 100 per cent subsidized through government grants. Theatre companies increasingly rely on ticket sales to make budget. The reputation of the company and positive word of mouth are important factors in selling tickets. The reverse is also true: one determined individual can harm ticket sales and school bookings. So the market places pressures on theatres to create and present shows that will not offend any audience segment. Resisting these pressures is difficult.

Sexual content is another hot-button topic with its own dilemmas for theatre companies. Relationships, sexual activity, teen pregnancy, HIV, STDs, rape and homophobia are all covered in curriculum. However, some parents also consider reproduction and puberty taboo subjects. The ability of theatre to powerfully explore difficult subjects means that theatres grapple with these issues all the time. For example, should the set design include a condom or Tampax dispenser? How revealing should the costumes be? How exactly to explore the curriculum without offending any sensibilities?

McDonald describes the process as “a dance in that we are selling to the gate-

keeper—the principal or parent—but we need content strong enough to appeal to the teens who are the audience for the show.” Censorship does exist, but it is often hidden in marketplace buying decisions.

All TYA practitioners are aware of and sensitive to these issues. What is experienced as censorship at worst is also understood as choosing appropriate theatre for kids at best. Theatres provide after-play talk backs, study guides and educator nights to educate, inform and welcome educators. But it’s getting increasingly difficult for theatre companies to create great shows. It’s no longer enough just to tell a great story.

Once a play is developed—even one that does meet one or more curriculum requirements—there is the additional barrier that the theatre company often has no idea who is choosing or not choosing to book the play. Not so many years ago, individual teachers and schools had more flexibility and resources to decide whether a production was suitable for their classes. Increasingly, the gatekeepers are school board officials who may or may not have the training and sensibility to make informed decisions about what is best for schools. There is no doubt that censorship is happening at the decision-making stage.

Despite the challenges, TYA companies are committed to the power of live theatre to entertain and educate young audiences. “Once you choose a play,” Fleming says, “then the most important thing is to do it well whether for kids or adults.” ■

Lucy White is the executive director of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres.

Changing the Story

Aboriginal Characters in CanLit

David Bouchard in Conversation with Josh Bloch

David Bouchard is a tireless advocate for literacy, and he is especially passionate about promoting reading in aboriginal communities. The Saskatchewan-born writer says a major obstacle is that aboriginal readers rarely see themselves reflected positively in Canadian literature.

*Bouchard was a reluctant reader. He did not read for pleasure until his late twenties and wrote his first book at the age of 37. Since then Bouchard has written more than 50 children's books including bestsellers such as *The Drum Calls Softly*, *I Am Raven*, *The Song Within My Heart* and *The Great Race*. His books have received numerous awards, and Bouchard was named a member of the Order of Canada in 2009.*

A former teacher and school principal, Bouchard travels extensively on speaking tours to schools and communities to share his message that reading is a key component of a child's education and success.

Josh Bloch sat down with David Bouchard in July 2011. The following transcript of their discussion has been edited.

JB What is the link between positive indigenous characters in literature and literacy?

DB To become readers, people have to see themselves in a book, and they have to have the skills to read the book. Books have to be inclusive and accessible. Until recently, aboriginal people were not included in books. They have been denied the gift of reading.

JB What does that exclusion look like?

DB Put all other issues aside and exclusion is disastrous.

The other issues that I'm referring to are deep, meaningful and real: health, substance abuse, family-related problems caused by a century of residential schooling, poverty. Somewhere down that long list of "other issues" is an embarrassing student drop-out rate that is in part caused by students having been excluded from books and thus being denied the opportunity of becoming readers.

In North American libraries, both public and school libraries, information that is related to aboriginal people was not, until recently, written by aboriginal writers. The books that did exist were almost always poor representations of who aboriginal people are.

The Song of Hiawatha, written by Henry Longfellow, is epic around the world. Everyone knows of, or has heard of, *Hiawatha*. In his telling, Longfellow says:

By the shores of Gitche Gumee,
By the shining Big-Sea-Water,
Stood the wigwam of Nokomis,
Daughter of the Moon ...

“Nokomis” is “grandmother” in Ojibway, but Hiawatha was not Ojibway. He was Onondaga. That would mean little to most readers, but to First Nations people this is very wrong, inaccurate and hurtful. How could anyone call an Onondaga man an Ojibway?

One of the other many mistakes that Longfellow committed was that he intertwined a second personality into his telling. He gave Hiawatha many of the characteristics and much of the history of Peacemaker, a completely separate individual. Peacemaker was neither Ojibway nor Onondaga. Peacemaker was Wendat.

Hiawatha is one of many stories that include aboriginal people but are complete misrepresentations.

The other book that you would have found in our libraries was *The Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynne Reid Banks. This is one of many books being pulled off bookshelves because of the stereotyping and a plethora of inaccuracies. The few books that did include aboriginal people did not realistically depict them and, more than often, they were disrespectful.

JB So why do you say that indigenous people are now being included in the reading circle for the first time?

DB First Nations people, Métis and Inuit are, for the first time ever, starting to pop up in our libraries and in a much more wholesome way. Books are now being authored by aboriginal writers. Joseph Boyden (*Three Day Road; Through Black Spruce*), Richard Wagamese (*Keeper 'n Me; One Native Life; Ragged Company*) and the Ojibway writer Drew Hayden Taylor (*Me Funny; Me Sexy; Motorcycles and Sweetgrass*) are but three prominent figures who are making an impact and a difference.

The problem in all of this is that, even though a number of books now include aboriginal people, not enough aboriginals are reading them. Their reading skills are not as strong as they have to be to grasp the fullness of these writings. There are several reasons; the least is that aboriginal people are second-

generation readers. Time, role models and more of the right kind of books should, over time, remedy this.

JB What do you think needs to be done to increase the reach of these writers?

DB After the years that I spent as one who did not read, as one who was a reluctant reader and as one who struggled with reading, I sincerely believe it takes three things to become a reader.

First, it takes time. Children will read when they are ready and not when a teacher, a school or a system tells them they are ready.

Second, children need a role model; they need a hero. Children need someone to take them on that reading journey. In aboriginal communities, those heroes were not present because our Elders—the people whom we respect and in whose footsteps we want to walk—are themselves not readers. My goal is to get onto our reserves and into our communities and say to the Elders, “You have to pick up the ball. Our kids have to become readers, and you have to lead them on that journey.”

Einstein was right. Modelling isn’t one way to influence people; it’s the only way.

The third and last prerequisite to become a reader is books: books that are accessible and inclusive. Books that include First Nations, Métis and Inuit readers have not been there but are starting to appear. In all this, it’s vital to make sure that these inclusive books are accessible. That remains a problem ...

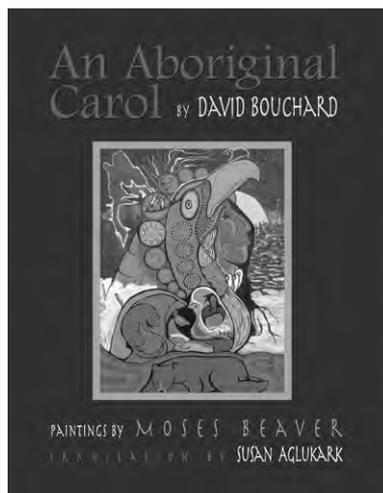
JB You have been travelling across the country and speaking at schools and communities. What message are you trying to communicate?

DB It’s my hope to put books into the hands of readers: books that they can see themselves in and books that they can read. In order to do that, I write. I write using rhythm and rhyme and art and music. I include as many components as possible to draw

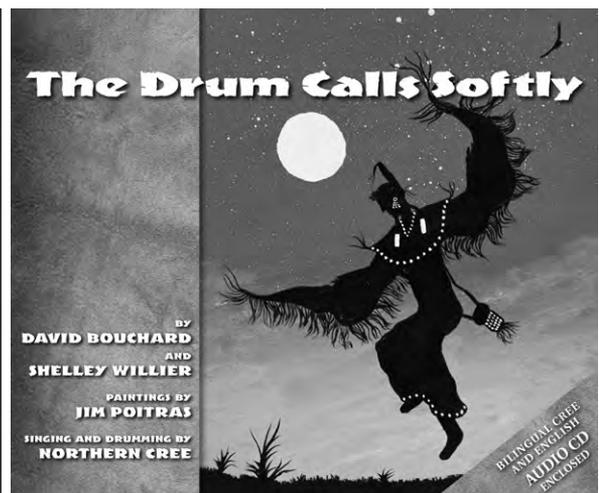
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The Secret of Your Name by David Bouchard (Fitzhenry & Whiteside Ltd., 2009)



An Aboriginal Carol by David Bouchard (Fitzhenry & Whiteside Ltd., 2007)



The Drum Calls Softly by David Bouchard and Shelley Willier (Fitzhenry & Whiteside Ltd., 2008)

Alberta's Chilling Human Rights Amendments

Opting out in the Classroom

By ANNE JAYNE

Recent changes to Alberta's human rights law allow parents to remove their child from lessons that deal with sexuality, sexual orientation and religion in public schools.

The former Bill 44, which became law in 2009 and came into effect in the fall of 2010, made two significant amendments to the Alberta Human Rights Act (AHRA).

The first amendment added sexual orientation to the law's anti-discrimination provisions, a mere 12 years after the Supreme Court of Canada had ruled in *Vriend v. Alberta* (1998) that the province had to treat sexual orientation as a protected ground.

The second amendment, which has been called a counterbalance to the first in some quarters and a sop to social conservatives in others, created a parental right in section 11.1 of the AHRA to remove a student from lessons that deal with religion, sexuality or sexual orientation.

This new law requires public schools to notify parents in writing if any aspect of instruction—from an entire course, such as World Religions, to instructional material to exercises—deals both primarily and explicitly with religion, sexual orientation or sexuality.

Parents who object must submit a written request for the student to be excluded from that instruction. The request must state whether the student is to remain in the classroom doing other work or to leave the

classroom. It is an opt-out process.

This right does not apply to incidental references to religion, sexual orientation or sexuality; this right also does not apply to non-instructional situations such as a teacher addressing bullying.

Given the wide range of what is covered—courses, materials, instruction, exercises—parents and schools may differ on what is “incidental” and what is “primarily and explicitly” about a topic, as well as what a term such as “religion” means. For example, educators say that evolution is science, but some commentators argue that section 11.1 should be interpreted to treat evolution as religion.

When disputes arise, school boards encourage aggrieved parents to meet with the teacher, principal or board. However, since this new right is in the AHRA, not the School Act, parents must lodge their complaint against the school board with the human rights commission. That complaint can proceed to a tribunal and then on appeal to the courts.

Advocacy groups may seek opportunities for test cases that will push the envelope on the interpretation of section 11.1.

In school libraries, some complainants try to keep what they see as a bad book out of the hands of all children, no matter what other children's parents think about it. In the same way, we could see complainants use the human rights process to try to influence what is taught in Alberta's public schools.

Section 11.1 is likely to have a chilling

effect on at least some teachers as they make decisions about topics, resources and assignments. Consider, for example, an English teacher who allows students to choose a novel from a list of options. Good fiction is full of ambiguity, and readers interpret novels differently. Is Fannie Flagg's *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* “primarily and explicitly” about sexual orientation? Might some parents interpret the novel that way? Should the teacher keep it on the list without notifying parents? Keep it but notify the parents? Drop it and substitute a novel that is certain to be a safe choice that offends no one?

This situation isn't completely new. Alberta's educators have a long tradition of notifying parents about anything that might be of concern and then working with parents and students to select alternatives if any parents have objections. This process has worked so well that the Alberta Teachers' Association saw Bill 44 as a solution in search of a problem.

Section 11.1 makes parent-teacher consultation more formal and bureaucratic, and adds additional layers of oversight through the Alberta Human Rights Commission, tribunals and courts.

As the stakes have gone up, so too has the risk that educators will move away from teaching controversial issues. When teachers make decisions out of fear, students will suffer from the narrowing of their education. ■

Anne Jayne is a member of the Calgary Freedom to Read Week Committee.

Access

to Government Information in Canada's Public Libraries

The overarching purpose of access to information legislation ... is to facilitate democracy. It does so in two related ways. It helps to ensure first, that citizens have the information required to participate meaningfully in the democratic process, and secondly, that politicians and bureaucrats remain accountable to the citizenry.

Justice Gérard La Forest, *Dagg v. Canada*

By **DAVID BURKE**
and **CAROL PERRY**

The advent of born-digital government documents has forever changed access to government information. While there are many advantages to the new format, there are also some challenges—especially for libraries that preserve and provide access to these materials.

During 2009, we decided to examine the rapidly changing environment for government document departments within academic libraries and to investigate the nature, causes and impact of these changes.

After conducting a survey of academic librarians, we found concerns expressed

across the country about the management of digital content such as the frequent disappearance of material from government websites. These concerns were compounded by structural changes within the academic library itself.

This article focuses on the initial stage of our research: following the legislative trail for government policy on public access to information. We reported the results of this stage of the project at the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference in 2010.

The Canadian government's Depository Services Program (DSP) was established in 1929 to provide libraries with access to information published by

the federal government through a centralized distribution service. This service was offered to public, academic and government libraries.

The current goal of the DSP is "to ensure that free public access to published government information is available in most communities through our library network across Canada and freely accessible online."¹

This goal is important for rural communities (and other groups) where physical access to information is problematic. Now rural citizens with Internet access can locate material without making a trip to their nearest library. Rural libraries

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readers into the books. And I attempt to do my books in native languages. For the many who do not speak their languages, I include a CD with the language read for them so they can follow along. I include anything and everything that can make my books accessible to my readers. And even with that, getting them reading is challenging.

JB What should the Canadian government be doing to support this goal?

DB Quite frankly, I think that Stephen Harper's apology to First Nations people in the House of Commons in 2008 was sincere. It was profound and meaningful, but it fell far short of where it should have gone.

I believe the prime minister of Canada should have said: "For having stolen your languages and so much of your culture, the Canadian people are sorry. We are sorry and we know how much

it will cost for you to regain much of what has been lost. In order to help, on behalf of the people of Canada, I would like to present you with this blank cheque. Use it to build schools, train teachers and publish books in your own languages. Good quality books in Ojibway, Chipewyan, Slavey, Swampy Cree and the Haudenosaunee languages will be expensive to create. Please accept our apology and this support."

The average Canadian cannot see or understand the situation of schools in the North. The average Canadian is not aware of the dropout rate of First Nations students in our country or of the unbalanced proportion of aboriginal people in our penal systems.

If Canadians knew, we would rally behind these causes. We are a kind people. We are a gentle and caring people. If they knew, they would become involved and force our governments to do what is right. ■

ACCESS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

can also provide expanded access to walk-in users.

In return for receiving these materials, participating libraries agree to long-term preservation of the resources and to provide catalogue access, inter-library loan and reference services that ensure public access to the information received through the program.

Similar programs are offered at the provincial level within Canada and by governments in other countries such as the United States. The U.S. Federal Depository Library Program, for example, was established in 1813.

Over the years, libraries have faced increasing difficulties when dealing with digital government information which at times appears and disappears from government websites. Long-term access to information is becoming problematic.

Lack of government preservation policies is a major contributor to the problem. The Canadian parliamentary website (<http://publications.gc.ca/>) contains no preservation policy but includes a disclaimer stating “access to the website and content is provided as is.”²

During the time of our research, the site also contained a statement that material might be removed after consultation with interested parties. The site did not indicate how this process would work.

There is another ongoing problem as well. As government departments revise their websites, the URLs to documents change and broken links appear in library catalogues. This is probably the most common cause of loss of access to information. Previously, libraries would have received paper copies of much of the material and would have chosen their policies and procedures to ensure enduring access.

We began our research by looking at the agreements between these libraries and a variety of governmental and international agencies (such as the United Nations) to determine whether a

change had occurred in the mandates or goals of these programs over the years. Part of this examination involved making an access-to-information request of the government of Ontario under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).

An informal request was made of ServiceOntario Publications in February 2010 after we had discovered documents on its site which identified the authority for establishing the program and authorizing the distribution of government publications free of charge. The documents are a Management Board Minute (August 19, 1970) and Management Board of Cabinet Directive 65-3-1 (July 29, 1975).

We began by making an informal request because an information need can be often met by a “routine disclosure.” Such disclosures can be quickly and easily handled because the information within the documents is not personal, private or protected in any way. Public bodies in many cases have already identified the kinds of documents that may be released in this manner.

Unfortunately, our informal request of ServiceOntario Publications was unsuccessful. The staff indicated that they could not help.

The next step was to begin a formal written access request under FIPPA. The formal request was made of the Information and Privacy Unit at the Archives of Ontario because we felt Archives was most likely to have custody and control of the documents. Under FIPPA, every person has a right of access, and public bodies have an obligation to disclose.

At the time, we felt confident that we would gain access to these documents, despite their designation as Cabinet records, because documents that are more than 20 years old or cited as the basis for policy cannot be withheld, and our documents fit both criteria.

We provided enough detail to facilitate

the request and included the necessary \$5 application fee. We paid a further \$105 in processing fees and awaited the final response letter.

The final response to our access request was received 74 days after the date of application. Unfortunately, the documents we requested were not located, and the decision letter states that “no responsive records exist in custody of Archives.” As our search was only performed on some 14 boxes, this conclusion seems unwarranted.

We had the option of filing an appeal (with a \$25 fee) to Ontario’s Information and Privacy Commissioner within 30 days. Unfortunately, because of time constraints, we did not appeal. To this day, we do not know whether the documents really don’t exist or whether the access-to-information process served more to frustrate than facilitate this legitimate information need.

Access to information requests should receive timely and transparent responses despite which level of government or incumbent political party is involved. There is much debate about whether the assessing of fees prevents abuse of the system or whether it acts as an impediment or deterrent to legitimate information requests.

In both instances of our formal and informal requests, the responses were too vague to determine whether the information is truly missing. Our conclusions from this stage of our project and other information requests are that access is not unfettered, it is filtered and it is extremely under-resourced. ■

David Burke is the information management officer at the City of Saint John.

Carol Perry is the research enterprise and scholarly communication librarian at the University of Guelph.

1 Canada. Depository Services Program. 2011. <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/programs/dsp.html>

2 Canada. Parliament of Canada. 2011. <http://www.parl.gc.ca/ImportantNotices.aspx?Language=E>



Africentric Education

Enabling the Freedom to Read and Learn

In September 2009, the Toronto District School Board opened the Africentric Alternative School. The small school teaches children in the primary grades. It is located at Keele Street and Sheppard Avenue West inside the Sheppard Public School.

The Africentric school teaches the same curriculum that other public schools in Ontario teach. But the school emphasizes African and African-Canadian perspectives and favours black teachers as role models.

The school board voted to create the school in January 2008 to tackle the disproportionately high dropout rate of black students in Toronto's schools. Approximately 40 per cent of the city's black students drop out before they reach the end of high school.

From the beginning, the idea of a publicly funded Africentric school was controversial. Opponents labelled the school segregationist. Proponents countered that enrolment in the school was voluntary.

So far the school's students have performed well on provincial tests, and a proposal is in the works to open an Africentric school for high school students. This proposal is also controversial.

Professor George Dei is a faculty member of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. A sociologist, he endorses the Africentric Alternative School. We asked him to explain the link between Africentric education and the freedom to read.

By **GEORGE J. SEFA DEI**

Africentric schooling, and its philosophy of education, encourages the freedom to read and learn. The Yoruba of Nigeria have an interesting proverb. It says that "one does not watch a masquerade party or dance while at a standstill." In other words, one must be a part of the action.

I hold that education is for a public good, and reading and learning about the principles behind a particular educational advocacy are themselves significant. I similarly hold that the advocates for countervisions of schooling have a

right to demand an excellent education for their children.

Any attempt to curtail freedom of expression and the voice for educational change cannot help a democracy. In the spirit of searching for countervisions of education and trying out ideas, I want readers to assess Africentric schooling.

The school is not defined by the colour of the students who go there. The school is guided more by its principles of education, teaching and learning.

There is a long history of African-Canadian advocacy for a fair and just educational system. In the current

Canadian climate, we who demanded the school have long realized the differential educational outcomes for our youth, and we simply say that something else is possible.

To say that the current school system is serving all students is to be in denial. Of course, the system works well for some students. There are African-Canadian students who succeed in school. No doubt about that.

But conventional schooling as we know it may not work for everyone. Some of our youth are not faring well,

AFRICENTRIC CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

The International View

Freedom of Expression in 2011

CANADA

CJFE gave a grade of F- to Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his government's record on providing access to information. Under his leadership, CJFE said, gaining access to information takes longer than ever, and when released the information is often incomplete. Source: CJFE

UNITED STATES

Flickr—a photography website—faced criticism for taking down an Egyptian activist's photos of his government's state security police. Facebook also acquiesced to an Israeli official's demand to remove a page called "Third Palestinian Intifada." Source: *The New York Times*

MEXICO

Journalist Javier Arturo Valdez Cárdenas was named a winner of CPJ's International Press Freedom Awards. Valdez and his staff have suffered threats and attacks (including a grenade attack in 2009) for covering drug trafficking and corruption in Sinaloa, one of Mexico's most violent states. Source: IFEX

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

On August 2, José Agustín Silvestre was kidnapped by gunmen and found dead hours later. A magazine publisher and TV show host, Silvestre had accused political figures in the city of La Romana of involvement in drug trafficking. Source: IFEX

PERU

In April, journalist Geovanni Acate, director of Radio Televisión Oriente, faced a 10-year prison term for reporting protests that took place in Loreto region in 2009. Acate was accused, among other things, of committing "crimes against public peace." Source: IFEX

UNITED STATES

In Virginia, a school board removed *A Study in Scarlet*, Arthur Conan Doyle's first Sherlock Holmes novel, from Grade 6 reading lists after a parent complained that the novel was "our young students' first inaccurate introduction to an American religion" —Mormonism. Source: *The Guardian*

PALESTINE

The attorney general ordered the cancellation of a nightly satirical TV show after receiving complaints from public servants that they were being ridiculed. *Watan ala Water* (Country on a String) had become popular for its mockery of Palestinian leaders, officials, corruption and nepotism. Source: *Index on Censorship*

EGYPT

In October, three newspaper columnists and a film critic protested military censorship in Egypt. Belal Fadl, Omer Taher, Nagla Bedir and Tareq el-Shinawy left their columns blank, publishing only a few words to explain their decision. Source: *Boston.com*

ETHIOPIA

On May 3, government officials co-opted a UNESCO-sponsored World Press Freedom Day event by inviting only pro-government journalists to speak and disinviting all independent journalists. Source: CPJ

UGANDA

Between November 2010 and April 2011, 55 journalists were subjected to politically motivated violence, according to a report published in 2011 called *Press Freedom Index*. The number of attacks spiked upward during elections in February. Source: HRNJ—Uganda

ABBREVIATIONS

AFP: Agence France-Presse
 CJFE: Canadian Journalists for Free Expression
 CPJ: Committee to Protect Journalists
 HRNJ—Uganda: Human Rights Network for Journalists—Uganda
 IFEX: International Freedom of Expression Exchange
 UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

AZERBAIJAN

In March, after spending four years in prison, Eynulla Fatullayev was released. The journalist had written an article that accused high-ranking officials of being behind the murder in 2005 of Azeri journalist Elmar Huseynov. In 2007, Fatullayev was imprisoned on unsubstantiated charges of criminal defamation, threatening terrorism, inciting ethnic hatred and tax evasion. Source: IFEX

RUSSIA

Five years after journalist Anna Politkovskaya was shot dead in her Moscow apartment building in 2006, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation arrested a central figure in the murder, Dmitry Pavlyuchenkov, a former colonel in the 4th division of the Moscow General Internal Affairs Directorate. Pavlyuchenkov is said to have organized the team of men who killed Politkovskaya. Sources: IFEX and *The Nation*

CHINA

Ai Weiwei—one of China's leading artists and dissidents—was detained for 80 days at an undisclosed location. He was not formally charged or tried but was apparently made to confess to charges of tax evasion. On June 22, after an international campaign called for his release, Ai was freed. But he may not talk publicly about his detention. Source: IFEX

MALAYSIA

Zunar (the pen name of Zulkiflee Anwar UI Haque) won the Award for Courage in Editorial Cartooning from Cartoonists Rights Network International. For almost 10 years, the government has censored Zunar's cartoons. His office has been raided and his phone has been tapped. He has also been arrested for cartooning. Source: IFEX

PAKISTAN

Syed Saleem Shahzad, a prominent Pakistani journalist, was found dead on May 31 about 150 kilometres outside Islamabad, where he had been abducted two days earlier. He was considered to be an expert on al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Source: IFEX

MYANMAR

The government's chief censor, Tint Swe, called for press freedom in Myanmar and even suggested that his own department should be shut down. "Press censorship is non-existent in most other countries as well as among our neighbours and, as it is not in harmony with democratic practices, press censorship should be abolished in the near future," he said. Source: AFP

BURUNDI

Officials of the National Council for Communication ordered the arrest and interrogation of journalists, including Bob Rugurika and Patrick Mitabaro, to muffle criticism of the government. Outspoken lawyers, including Isidore Rufyikiri, have also been jailed. Source: IFEX

AUSTRALIA

At the request of the government, Telstra and Optus—the two largest Internet service providers in Australia—agreed to start blocking more than 500 "child abuse" websites. Anti-censorship activists raised concerns about the scheme's effectiveness and lack of transparency. Source: *Herald Sun*

FIJI

On August 26, the Ministry of Information asked media outlets to send all news headlines to censors half an hour before publication. The order followed the photographing of soldiers removing anti-regime graffiti from public property. Fiji's military-backed regime began requiring daily monitoring of all news stories in April. Source: *Index on Censorship*

AFRICENTRIC CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

and this situation demands action. The problem cannot simply be with the youth themselves. Instead of putting the problem in the person, we must look critically at the structures and processes that deliver education.

We usually conflate “dropping out,” being “pushed out” and “school disengagement.” But we need to distinguish between “dropping out,” being “pushed out” and “school disengagement.” While these terms are connected, we also know that some youth who appear physically in school are actually disengaged mentally, emotionally and psychologically. This disengagement eventually becomes a “push out” for them.

While we may ask for inclusive schooling that addresses the needs of all students, we must come to terms with the severe issues that affect certain students in school. For the disengaged students, what we have in place now is not working. These students do not feel a sense of ownership in their schooling and learning. They have not become fully engaged learners, and when one talks and listens to them, one hears an unmistakable yearning for something different.

We cannot silence or dismiss their voices and concerns and those of their parents and communities.

Philosophically, Africentric schooling aims to create schools as communities. Parents, elders, families, educators and students all have central roles to play. They create schools that give youth hope for the future.

The educational strategy focuses on the most vulnerable groups but enhances the welfare of all students. Addressing questions of learners’ identities (e.g., race, class, gender, sexuality, disability) is significant for effective schooling outcomes.

There is a place for families, elders and communities in schooling. The curriculum is targeted to their lived experiences, cultures and histories. There is a teacher the student can identify with.

Africentric schooling works with the

principles of social responsibility, mutual interdependence, respect for elders and authority, transparency and accountability. Classroom teachings centre the learner in her or his own culture, history, personal location and spiritual identity; they are important entry points to the understanding of local, national and global histories, experiences and knowledge.

In making all of the students’ life experiences relevant to all parts of the curriculum, the Africentric school fosters the social, physical, spiritual and academic development of students.

Some have argued that creating the school is a call to balkanize the public schools. They have asked: Where do we stop with such schools? Do we give in to any group that wants such a school? My response has always been that where youth (e.g., African-Canadian, aboriginal and Portuguese students) have an educational disadvantage, we must never close the door to new educational options.

These schools do not represent a reversion to the days of segregation. They are not intended to oppress anyone. Segregation in the past oppressed and discriminated. I ask: Whom does Africentric schooling oppress? Who has been told he is not welcome in such a school? Who is being forced to go to the school against her wishes?

We cannot say much for the social practice of segregation. When segregation was in effect in the first half of the twentieth century, black people were excluded from meaningful participation in society. We were forced to sit at the back of a bus, to avoid certain restaurants or washrooms, and to drink from designated water fountains!

By contrast, Africentric schooling is designed to help students succeed in their education and, at the very least, give them a fighting chance in life. In an Africentric school, youth have the freedom to learn and become educated.

The least that people who are misinformed about the school can do is exercise their freedom to read to learn about the school. In addition, we must not forget that African-Canadian parents are taxpayers like everybody else. We have a right and a responsibility to demand a fair public school system for our children.

I end with this simple analogy. Picture a train at the VIA station. It promises to take passengers from Toronto to Montreal. The train has been making this promise for years, but it never takes passengers to Montreal. Then along comes a new train, and it makes the same promise. It would be foolhardy for passengers to stay on the first train and not try the second train to go to Montreal! ■

Africentric High

More than two years after the Africentric elementary school opened its doors in Toronto, the city’s public school board plans to launch an Africentric high school.

In 2008, trustees of the Toronto District School Board promised to study the feasibility of opening an Africentric high school. A surprise bid to open the program in September 2011 at Oakwood Collegiate was abandoned after staff and students protested.

Advocates for an Africentric high school point to the success of the elementary school. In the fall of 2011, the elementary school had 188 students in kindergarten and Grades 1 to 7. The school achieved higher than average results on provincial standardized tests for writing, reading and arithmetic.

Meanwhile in Quebec ...

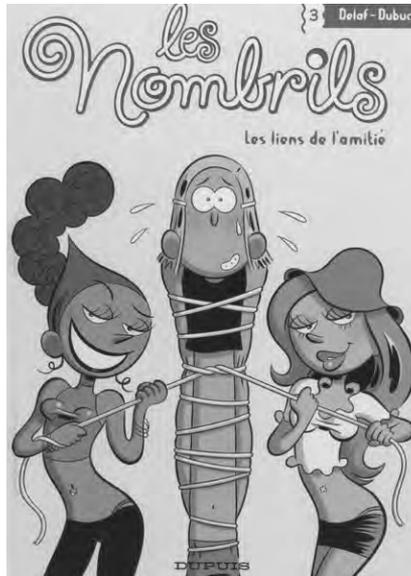
By CHARLES MONTPETIT

Two new book challenges came to light over the last year. Both involved secondary schools in Laval, both took on top creators in their respective fields, and both occurred so far from the media glare that they went utterly unnoticed.

Marc Delafontaine and Maryse Dubuc's chart-topping comic strip series *Les nombrils* made history when it was picked up by European publishing giant Dupuis for worldwide distribution. Nevertheless, in 2009, the books—which acidly depict the rivalry between young, fashionable airheads and their favourite scapegoat—were pulled off the shelves of the Mosaïque school for troubled teens for fear that the characters' thin silhouettes might encourage anorexia among students (a problem denounced by the strips themselves). The decision was rescinded after the graduation of the girls who had been perceived as vulnerable.

Then there's Michel Tremblay. While the often provocative oeuvre of Quebec's premier author had eluded challenges in the past, the run ended in the fall of 2010. The religious mother of a student at the École d'éducation internationale tried to get the school to ban the writer's first short story collection, *Contes pour buveurs attardés*, which he created while still a teenager. These Lovecraftian tales have been a staple of the province's Grade 10 reading lists for many years.

As Tremblay points out in his preface, the stories tackle homosexuality, incest and encounters with the devil (although these allusions are so veiled that they are virtually undetectable). Such themes



Les nombrils by Marc Delafontaine and Maryse Dubuc (Dupuis, 2008)

prompted the plaintiff to argue that she did not want her son exposed to the “promotion of Satanism and pedophilia.” The complaint was rejected in the end, and the book remains part of the curriculum.

On the plus side, Pierre Hébert released *La littérature québécoise et les fruits amers de la censure* (Fides, 2010) which examines the effects of censorship on the history of Quebec literature. And in February 2011, Libredelire.org was launched. Put together by independent librarians, this anti-censorship website invited its visitors to send in a picture of themselves posing with a challenged book and to comment about it. The site was only active through March 15 but will be back in 2012, so it should be considered a seasonal companion of Freedom to Read Week.

March 2011 also saw the birth of QuebecLeaks.org. This WikiLeaks-inspired website releases “sensitive, exclusive and authentic documents” to

counter lack of transparency in politics and business. So far, the site has tackled the construction and management of an amphitheatre in Quebec City by the Quebecor Media consortium, as well as plans by Radio-Canada and *La Presse* to act in synergy to maximize the impact of news coverage.

Since the documents in both instances were available elsewhere, the “exclusive” part of the website's mission statement was questioned, but at least the structure for future releases is now in place.

Noir Canada Update

Still making news is Éditions Écosociété's book *Noir Canada*, which exposes mining practices in Africa. In 2008, the Canadian firms Banro Corporation and Barrick Gold had respectively sought \$5 million and \$6 million in damages.

Since Banro's lawsuit was filed in Ontario, the Supreme Court of Canada convened in March 2011 to study Écosociété's motion to move the proceedings to Quebec, where the case might be dismissed in accordance with the province's law against frivolous libel suits. The ruling was still pending at press time.

As for Barrick's case, which was itself to be heard in Quebec, we will never know its outcome, as it was settled out of court in September. To avoid the costly trial, Écosociété's insurance company disbursed an undisclosed amount of money and the book was pulled off the shelves. We'll provide further analysis in our next issue. ■

Charles Montpetit is the freedom of expression co-ordinator for the Union des écrivaines et des écrivains québécois (UNEQ). E-mail him at cmontpetit@hotmail.com.

Award-Winning Activists and Writers of 2011

Ron Haggart

On October 20, 2011, Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE) announced that Ron Haggart was the posthumous winner of a special Vox Libera Award.

Haggart (1927–2011) was a journalist. He wrote for *The Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Star* and *Toronto Telegram* in the late 1950s, '60s and early '70s. Later, he became a founding head of news at Toronto's Citytv and a senior producer at the CBC's *The Fifth Estate*.

"Ron was a giant in Canadian journalism, a brilliant newspaper columnist and



RON HAGGART Photo: CJFE

television producer who worked hard to shed light on wrongdoing in society," said Arnold Amber, CJFE's president.

The Vox Libera Award is granted to a Canadian who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the principles of free expression and has made an important and sustained contribution to those principles.

Nasrin Sotoudeh

On October 19, 2011, PEN Canada bestowed its One Humanity Award on Nasrin Sotoudeh at the International Festival of Authors in Toronto. Because Sotoudeh is in prison in Iran, she could not personally receive the award.

Sotoudeh is an Iranian writer and lawyer known for her advocacy of women's and children's rights. Her imprisonment is believed to be linked to her outspoken public defence of clients who were arrested after Iran's violent presidential elections in June 2009.

In 2010, Sotoudeh was arrested in Tehran. On January 9, 2011, a revolutionary court sentenced her to 11 years in prison for waging "propaganda against the regime," "acting against national security" and "violating the Islamic dress code in a filmed speech." She was also barred from practising law and leaving the country for 20 years.

Her sentence has since been shortened to six years in prison.

The One Humanity Award has a cash value of \$5,000. At the International Festival of Authors, an empty chair with Sotoudeh's photo appeared on stage.

Mohamed Abdelfattah and Khaled al-Hammadi

On September 21, 2011, CJFE announced the winners of its International Press Freedom Awards for 2011. Two foreign journalists won recognition for their courageous reporting of the turmoil in the Arab world.

Mohamed Abdelfattah is from Egypt. He helped expose the story of Khaled Said, the young man who was beaten to death by Egyptian police in 2010. Said's death is believed to have been the spark that ignited the Egyptian revolution in January 2011.

Abdelfattah was also among the first journalists to cover the revolution in Egypt. His reports were transmitted by the CBC and CNN. While covering a large demonstration in Alexandria, Abdelfattah was beaten and detained by riot police.

Khaled al-Hammadi is from Yemen. He



KHALED AL-HAMMADI Photo: CJFE

has worked as a photojournalist, correspondent and fixer for foreign news agencies. For his reportage in Yemen, Khaled al-Hammadi has been threatened, attacked and harassed. He has been arrested and kidnapped, and he has had his equipment destroyed.

"This year we recognize two journalists who have risked their safety to provide a true narrative of the events in the Arab Spring in their countries," said Carol Off of CJFE. "We recognize their strength and courage in devoting themselves to freedom of expression, speaking out when ordered to remain silent."

The Citizen Lab

On May 3, 2011, the Canadian Committee for World Press Freedom (CCWPF) gave the Citizen Lab its Canadian World Press Freedom Award. The Citizen Lab won the award for its dedication to free expression on the Internet.

The Citizen Lab is based at the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. Its team of thinkers and researchers investigates censorship, espionage and information warfare on the Internet around the world.

"The Internet has changed forever the way we impart and receive information, and it is critical that we keep it free,"



MOHAMED ABDELFATTAH Photo: CJFE



ALAN BOROVOY Photo by Josh Chan



NAHEED NENSHI Photo: City of Calgary



PATSY ALDANA

said Rafal Rohozinski, senior research adviser for the Citizen Lab. “We are greatly honoured by this award.”

The Citizen Lab also received a cash prize of \$2,000 and a certificate from the Canadian Commission for UNESCO at the CCWPF’s annual luncheon in Ottawa.

Three Cartoonists

On May 3, 2011, the CCWPF also announced the winners of the 11th annual International Editorial Cartoon Competition. For this year’s competition, cartoonists were asked to portray WikiLeaks and its creators as villains or heroes.

This year, the competition received more than 700 submissions from 50 countries. Marilena Nardi of Italy won first prize (\$1,500). Jugoslav Vlahovic of Serbia won second prize (\$750) and Sergey Elkin of Russia won third prize (\$500).

The winning cartoons may be seen at www.ccwfp-cclpm.ca/cartoons-2011.

Alan Borovoy

On April 18, 2011, the Canadian Library Association (CLA) named Alan Borovoy as the recipient of its Award for the Advancement of Intellectual Freedom in Canada. Borovoy, a lawyer and civil libertarian, earned the award for his dedication to social justice and freedom of expression.

“Mr. Borovoy has been at one with the Canadian library community, whose core values include a strong commitment to intellectual freedom, a freedom under continual challenge and frequently

unpopular to defend,” said the CLA’s press release.

Throughout his legal career, Borovoy consistently opposed censorship and the episodic public apathy that enables it. He also flattered Canada’s librarians as “the Clark Kents of political action.”

Borovoy served as the general counsel of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association from 1968 to 2009. He wrote numerous newspaper articles and four books. He is an officer of the Order of Canada.

Naheed Nenshi

On February 24, 2011, Mayor Naheed Nenshi of Calgary received the Calgary Freedom of Expression Award for his contributions to free expression as a writer, an educator and an elected official.

The presentation of the award occurred at Sir Winston Churchill High School and was part of Freedom to Read Week.

The Calgary Freedom to Read Week Committee presented the award. *Fast Forward Weekly*, a news journal published in Calgary, sponsors the award.

John Ralston Saul

On February 23, 2011, the Writers’ Union of Canada (TWUC) bestowed its Freedom to Read Award on John Ralston Saul, the president of PEN International. The event occurred during Freedom to Read Week at a gala in Toronto.

“We are absolutely delighted to be able to present our award to John Ralston Saul,” said Alan Cumyn, TWUC’s chairman. “He has worked tirelessly over

many years as president of Canadian PEN, and now of PEN International, to protect the rights of Canadians and those around the globe to read, write and express their opinions without fear of reprisal.”

“We as a union are honoured to celebrate Freedom to Read Week by recognizing John Ralston Saul ... for helping to make Canada safe to express our views in writing and to create works of literature and art which in some cases may be controversial,” added Kelly Duffin, executive director of TWUC. “We are also proud to claim him as one of our own as he is a longstanding union member.”

Turn to page 8 in this issue of *Freedom to Read* to read an interview with John Ralston Saul.

Patsy Aldana

On February 4, 2011, the Ontario Library Association (OLA) bestowed its Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award on Patsy Aldana at the OLA’s annual Super Conference in Toronto. Aldana is the publisher of Greenwood Books in Toronto.

The OLA honoured Aldana “for her insight and courage in publishing challenging and inspiring books for children and for her passion in defending the right of children to read books that explore complex issues,” said Shelagh Paterson, the OLA’s executive director.

The award is named after Les Fowlie, a former chief librarian of the Toronto Public Library and a staunch defender of Canadians’ freedom to read. ■

Challenges to Canadian Library Resources and Policies in 2010

By **ALVIN M. SCHRADER**
and **DONNA BOWMAN**

For the first time in five years, *And Tango Makes Three* did not appear in the Canadian Library Association's annual survey of challenges to library materials and policies in Canadian libraries.

And Tango Makes Three is a children's picture book. It tells the true story of two male penguins raising a baby penguin—Tango—in New York's Central Park Zoo. The award-winning book was written in 2005 by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson.

Even so, *Uncle Bobby's Wedding*—another gay-positive picture book, by Sarah S. Brannen—was challenged for the first time in 2010. This book tells the story of Chloe, a little girl guinea pig. She worries that her uncle won't have time to play with her after he marries his guinea pig boyfriend, Jamie.

Altogether, 92 challenges were reported in the 2010 survey that is conducted annually by the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Canadian Library Association (CLA). Of these challenges, 87 were to library resources, and five involved library policies.

A resource challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials based on the objections of a person or group to prevent or limit access. A policy challenge is an attempt to change access standards for library resources.

The survey revealed that 85 unique titles were challenged. Only two items were challenged twice: the gay weekly newspaper *Xtra! West*, and the Punjabi and English versions of the Sikh religious text *Guru Granth Sahib* (which is also called *Adi Granth*). Neil Gaiman's works—*American Gods* and *M Is for Magic*—received two challenges.

Two series were challenged: the Dark Horse manga series which has 14 titles and is based on four of the Star Wars movies, and the seven titles in the Harry

Potter movie series. (A challenged series is counted as the total number of individual titles.)

Challenges were multi-layered and almost always involved more than one rationale. There were 142 objections to the 87 titles targeted in 2010. The justification offered by a public library complainant about *The Waiting Dog*, a picture book by Carolyn and Andrea Beck published in 2003, illustrates this phenomenon: "violence; offensive language; age inappropriate; obscene content, language and pictures."

Three major reasons accounted for 60 per cent of all complaints: "sexually explicit," mentioned 33 times; "age inappropriate," mentioned 31 times; and "violent," mentioned 23 times. There were 10 complaints about offensive language.

There were four or fewer complaints based on each of the following reasons: racism, nudity, insensitivity, sexism, homosexuality, anti-ethnicity, inaccuracy, drugs/drug use, political viewpoint, religious viewpoint, sex education or "does not support curriculum."

Some two-thirds of all challenges to library materials involved books (38 titles) and graphic novels (21 titles), and 26 per cent of the others were to DVDs. Two challenges were aimed at a newspaper, two were aimed at magazines/journals, and one was aimed at a sound recording.

Of the 21 challenges to graphic novels, 15 titles (70 per cent) were for children's publications in that genre. There were also 12 other challenges to children's picture books and three to children's fiction. Four challenges were reported to young-adult fiction and nine each to adult fiction and adult non-fiction.

The vast majority of both resource and policy challenges—more than 80 per cent—occurred in public libraries, and all but one of the other challenges took place in school libraries. By far the most

concerns were initiated by patrons (65 per cent) or by parents and guardians (24 per cent). Two challenges each were initiated by grandparents, library administrators and library staff members, and one challenge each by a school student, a school administrator, an educational assistant, a chief librarian, a chief and council, and an elected official.

In all but two of the 87 challenges to library resources, targeted items remained on library shelves. Three-quarters of retained materials remained unchanged in status. However, 16 per cent resulted in restricted access and 9 per cent resulted in relocation or reclassification. Most challenges were resolved within a month, but a few took six months or longer.

Five policy challenges were reported in 2010: They sought to

- ban restricted movies from those under 18 years of age,
- allow family members to pick up materials on hold for spouses,
- extend library hours for an after-school homework program for all students,
- relocate college library print resources about sexual satisfaction in marriage, from the general collection to the teacher resource section in the back room, and
- ban offensive material of a graphic nature.

Four of the five challenged policies were revised in compliance with expressed concerns. One policy remained unchanged.

Two items were reported in both the 2009 and 2010 surveys: the DVD documentary *Islam: What the West Needs to Know* and the children's book *My Mom's Having a Baby! A Kid's Month-to-Month Guide to Pregnancy* by Dori Hillestad Butler.

Findings of the 2010 survey provide clear evidence that attention to the core value of intellectual freedom remains central to the advocacy work of Canadian librarians and their allies. CLA President Karen Adams observed: "Libraries have a

basic responsibility to maintain access to the right of all persons in Canada to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity.”

With the high number of challenges reported to entire series of titles over the last two years (four challenges to a series of 10 books and one challenge each to series of variously 15 books, 29 books, 2 items, 7 DVDs and 14 manga), we encourage library decision makers to adopt a policy of requiring complainants to fill out a separate reconsideration form for each and every title in a series, if that policy is not already the practice.

The *Annual Challenges Survey*, which was initiated in 2006 by Toni Samek who was then convenor of the CLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee, has been conducted now for five years. The Canadian survey was inspired by two precursors: the Edmonton Public Library's challenged materials spreadsheet and the confidential database maintained since 1990 by the American Library Association.

The goal of the CLA's *Annual Challenges Survey* is to document complaints about materials and policies in publicly funded Canadian libraries to inform the associa-

tion's policy and advocacy work for intellectual freedom on behalf of the CLA's membership.

Participating in the survey is voluntary, and the self-reports forwarded to the committee represent only a fraction of all challenges that occur during any calendar year. The American Library Association estimates that for every challenge reported in its Web database, four to five go unreported. ■

Donna Bowman and Alvin M. Schrader are colleagues on the Canadian Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Advisory Committee.

Challenged Resources

as Reported by Publicly Funded Canadian Libraries in 2010

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS ARE PRIMARILY REPRODUCED AS REPORTED BY LIBRARY OFFICIALS.

SERIES: ONE CHALLENGE EACH

Harry Potter DVDs (a series of seven titles)
Star Wars, Vol. 3, Dark Horse Comics (a series of 14 manga)

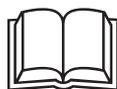
INDIVIDUAL ITEM: TWO CHALLENGES EACH

Guru Granth Sahib
Xtra! West

INDIVIDUAL ITEM: ONE CHALLENGE EACH

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
Akeelah and the Bee, DVD, written and directed by Doug Atchison
Alice on Her Way by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Alice the Brave by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
American Gods by Neil Gaiman
Beauty's Punishment by Anne Rice
Big Bad Bun by Jeanne Willis; illustrated by Tony Ross
The Bigness Contest by Florence Parry Heide
Black Hole by Charles Burns
The Boys: Herogasm #5
Breakdowns: Portrait of the Artist as a Young %@&!* by Art Spiegelman
Bruno written by Sacha Baron Cohen and others
Calf Roping: The World Champion's Guide to Winning Runs by Roy Cooper
Catwoman: Crime Pays by Will Pfeifer
Certain People: A Book of Portraits by Robert Mapplethorpe
CFA: 100 Success Secrets—100 Most Asked Questions by Korbin Howard
Chicken Soup for the Unsinkable Soul: 101 Stories by Jack Canfield et al.
Cold Feet by Cynthia DeFelice
The Complete Fairy Tales of Charles Perrault translated by Neil Philip and Nicoletta Simborowski
Dear Dumb Diary: Never Underestimate Your Dumbness by Jim Benton
Dino-Dinners by Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom
Don't Be That Guy by Colin Nissan and Sean Farrell
The Dumb Bunnies Go to the Zoo by Dav Pilkey
Eastern Promises, DVD, directed by David Cronenberg

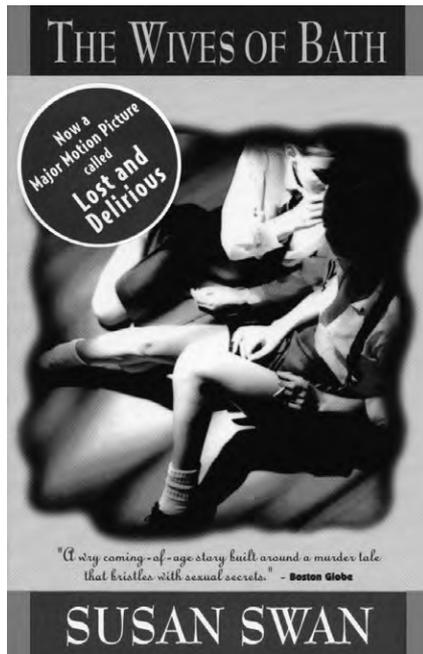
Egg Drop by Mini Grey
Fanny Hill, DVD, directed by James Hawes
Gardens of the Night, DVD
"Good Evening, Vietnam!" by Brian McNally, *Vanity Fair* (April 2008)
Grace, DVD, directed by Paul Solet
The Great Mouse Detective, DVD
Hot City by Barbara Joosse
In the Realm of the Senses, DVD, directed by Nagisa Oshima
Islam: What the West Needs to Know, DVD
Jay Wiseman's Erotic Bondage Handbook by Jay Wiseman
Lost Song, DVD, directed by Rodrigue Jean
M Is for Magic by Neil Gaiman
Man Bites Dog, DVD
The Man Handler by Cairo
Maria Monk by Sylvie Ouellette
The Muppets' Wizard of Oz
Murphy's Law by Colin Bateman
My Mom's Having a Baby! A Kid's Month-by-Month Guide to Pregnancy by Dori H. Butler
The New Adventures of Jesus: The Second Coming by Frank Stack
Outside Over There by Maurice Sendak



For a list of more
**Challenged Books
and Magazines**
visit
www.freedomtoread.ca

Pir by Vladimir Sorokin
Real Outlaws, DVD
Rolling Stone magazine cover (September 2010)
See Inside Pirate Ships by Rob Lloyd Jones
Slocum and the Lucky Lady by Jake Logan
Swans in the Mist by D.E. Athkins
The Third Woman by William Cash
Tintin in the Congo by Hergé
Trick 'r Treat, DVD
Uncle Bobby's Wedding by Sarah S. Brannen
Victim Six by Gregg Olsen
Voices of Iraq, DVD
A Voyage Long and Strange: Rediscovering the New World by Tony Horwitz
The Waiting Dog by Carolyn and Andrea Beck
War Stories, Vol. 1, by Garth Ennis
Zift, DVD, directed by Javor Gardev

Two Canadian Authors' Experiences



The *Wives of Bath* by Susan Swan (Vintage Canada, 2001)



The *Biggest Modern Woman of the World* by Susan Swan (Lester and Orpen Dennys Publishers, 1983)



Scars by Cheryl Rainfield (WestSide Books, 2010)

Susan Swan

HOW DOES IT FEEL to have your books censored?

First, having your work censored is not about people disliking your books, which they're entitled to do. Getting censored is about preventing your work from being read by others. Unfortunately, this has happened to me several times, perhaps because some of my novels deal frankly with sexuality.

In 1989, my novel *The Last of the Golden Girls* faced an obscenity charge after two Albertan women heard me reading a passage from it on CBC Radio and complained to the Edmonton morality squad, but the charge was dropped when one of the squad's detectives read the section and deemed it charming.

In the mid-nineties, a Canadian customs official seized my novel *The Wives of Bath* at the border from the briefcase of a University of Waterloo professor because the customs official claimed the novel was obscene material. It was later returned to the professor.

Then this summer, a gift shop in Tatamagouche was convinced not to carry my first novel *The Biggest Modern Woman of the World* about the Nova Scotian giantess Anna Swan because someone found it disrespectful to his relative (and mine) and the community where she came from.

In each of these situations, my reaction has been the same: first shock and bewilderment and then cheerful determination because I hope the problem will be an easy matter to clear up. In each case, writing obscene or pornographic material wasn't what I had in mind. I need only explain my intent and the

would-be-censors will go back to the book with fresh eyes and realize they've made a mistake.

This summer, I explained that my novel was an act of homage to Anna Swan and in a number of universities my novel is taught in feminist courses as a tale of female empowerment.

However, explaining intent or discussing the work doesn't seem to matter to people who want your book banned. They appear to be trapped in a literalism that won't let them re-examine their point of view. It's the kind of literalism that refuses to understand metaphor or the idea that a literary narrative is a work of the imagination and not a factual biography.

Back in the 1980s, I ran into another set of disapproving Swans who disrupted a reading I gave when my novel about the giantess was first published. They said I should have written a biography about their great-great-great aunt, not a novel. I tried to explain my position until the people at the reading asked them to leave.

I still feel that dialogue is important. And I wish literature were more celebrated in our schools. But mostly it isn't, and Canadian authors are rarely on the curricula. Anyway, that's another story. *Read more about Susan Swan at www.susanswanonline.com.*

Cheryl Rainfield

BOOKS SAVED ME—realistic books that helped me know I wasn't alone and fantasy that helped me escape. Books helped me survive the extreme abuse that was my childhood and teenhood. I know how important it is to know you're not alone

FACING BOOK CHALLENGES CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Facing Cuts to Library Funding

By **RON BROWN**

Libraries are fundamental to our freedom to read. But libraries are more than just book repositories. They offer banks of computers to library patrons, services to new Canadians and places for community groups to meet. Libraries provide educational opportunities for youth who are less well off and unable to afford computers of their own.

Libraries are even forums for debate. PEN Canada, for example, holds its annual Freedom to Read event at the Toronto Reference Library.

And in Canada, librarians often lead the charge in the many fights against book censorship.

It is therefore astonishing that provinces, states and municipalities would even contemplate funding cuts to such a valuable community resource.

In October 2010, in the United Kingdom, a coalition of authors, librarians, publishers and booksellers issued an urgent plea to local councils to reconsider measures that would result in cuts to, and even closures of, local libraries in counties such as Nottingham, Warrington, Leeds and Richmond.

The local councils were themselves

responding to a 28 per cent cut in their funding by the British government.

In the state of Victoria in Australia, the government of Premier Ted Baillieu has ordered cuts to local council budgets for libraries amounting to AU\$5.7 million. The move threatens library services, hours, jobs and even closures.

And in Brooklyn, a 24-hour read-in took place in June 2010 on the steps of the library at Grand Army Plaza to roil against cuts by the government of New York City which could close up to 40 libraries.

So it should come as no great shock that Toronto's library system is under a similar threat.

It began when Toronto voters elected Rob Ford as their new mayor in 2010. After promising to stop the "gravy train" at city hall and guaranteeing no cuts to essential services during his election campaign, the mayor ordered 10 per cent funding cuts to all city services, including libraries.

His brother, Toronto Councillor Doug Ford, claimed that he would close libraries "in a heartbeat" and that his ward had more libraries than it did Tim Hortons. The opposite proved to be the truth.

And that is where Canada's literary icon Margaret Atwood weighed in.

Ms. Atwood, like most Torontonians,

was aghast that funding for such a vital service could be cut, and she started a popular online campaign to oppose the plan.

Resisting calls to run for mayor, she said on Twitter that she considered herself too ignorant for the job, but added ignorance "hasn't stopped some."

In jest, she admitted to pondering the creation of a "TwinFord mayors" comic strip.

Sadly, as of this writing, cuts are coming to Toronto's public libraries (even as Calgary builds more). In response to Mayor Ford's demand for a 10 per cent cut to all city services (except the police who got a raise and a budget increase, even though Toronto's crime rate is the lowest in decades), the Library Board has acceded to reducing staff and hours.

One library board member even suggested that all computers be removed from libraries. But the suggestion met with the appropriate ridicule and was quickly quelled.

Worldwide, library lovers are rallying against cuts to one of society's greatest assets, its libraries. What better way to enjoy freedom to read than through a healthy library system? ■

Ron Brown is the chair of the Rights and Freedoms Committee at the Writers' Union of Canada.

FACING BOOK CHALLENGES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

in your pain. That's part of why I wrote *Scars*.

There's been so much silencing and oppression of queer people, incest and self-harm: all things I address in *Scars*. And my abusers frequently threatened to kill me if I spoke about the abuse. So when *Scars* was challenged at the Boone County Public Library in Kentucky by a patron, I found it very painful. It hit me hard.

I know what it's like to have no one to turn to, nothing to help you hang on, except books. To have a book that might help another teen be kept from them—it seems wrong to me on a deep level.

I was fortunate to have a librarian let me know that *Scars* was being challenged. I used my blog and social media—especially

Twitter—to let readers and my contacts know that *Scars* was being challenged, and I asked for help to keep *Scars* in the library.

There was a huge outpouring of public support which was very heartening for me. The Boone County Public Library had to go through the process of the challenge and then voted to keep *Scars* on the shelves. What a good feeling to not have *Scars* removed—this time.

I know that *Scars* has probably been challenged, banned or quietly removed from many more libraries than I hear about because the book deals with issues that many adults don't want to talk about. But *Scars* is still reaching readers who need it, and I'm grateful! ■

Read more about Cheryl Rainfield at www.cherylrainfield.com.

Is Journalism Worth Dying for?

By **BRENDAN DE CAIRES**

In 2003, the Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya—whose subsequent murder remains unsolved after five years of high-profile investigations, arrests and trials—asked her readers: “Is journalism worth dying for?”

Shaken by the attempted assassination of a colleague in Ryazan, she noted that “in Russia—[where] attempts to kill journalists are no rarity—we, the servants and slaves of information, ask ourselves this question. If the price of truth is so high, perhaps we should just stop, and find a profession with less risk of major unpleasantness. How much would society, for whose sake we are doing this work, care? In the face of that, each of us makes his or her own choice.”

Politkovskaya’s question has to be answered daily in Mexico. Despite the country’s recent transition to democracy—after 70 years of single-party rule—little has been done to reform a culture of corruption and impunity. President Calderón’s five-year war on the drug cartels has claimed more than 40,000 lives, including the lives of at least 34 journalists. Scores of others have been harassed, threatened and attacked.

Very few of these crimes are investigated properly, and even fewer are brought to justice. In August 2011, a report by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México concluded that “for every 100 crimes committed in Mexico, only three are charged, fewer than two come before a judge. Perpetrators get away with murder.” The report acknowledged “formal advances” in the recognition of human rights but noted that “much more must be done to establish effective means to defend those rights.”

Corruption, Impunity, Silence: The War on Mexico’s Journalists offers a comprehensive analysis of Mexico’s grave and worsening human rights crisis. Published in June 2011 by PEN Canada and the



Murdered in Mexico: poet Susana Chávez Castillo and journalist Humberto Millán Salazar (Photo Illustration)

International Human Rights Program at the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Law, it examines Mexico’s failure to honour “binding international human rights obligations, including the right to life and the right to freedom of expression.” The report also suggests ways that Mexico’s NAFTA partners can press the Calderón government for credible reforms.

Ironically, one of the main obstacles to reform has been the government’s proficiency in accepting criticism from human rights groups, and its capacity to “simulate a serious response while taking minimal effort to effect substantive changes.” This “strategy of minimization” has allowed Mexico to receive at least 1,000 recommendations from rights organizations, and sign or ratify more than 80 international rights-related legal instruments while actually doing “little to address some of its most pressing human rights concerns.”

For example, despite its impressive title, the “Special Prosecutor’s Office for the Attention to Crimes Committed against Freedom of Expression has no formal ability to investigate crimes or lay charges, nor is it empowered to tackle cases involving drug traffickers or organized crime. As a result, during its first four years, the prosecutor has averaged just one prosecution per year.”

Corruption, Impunity, Silence also addresses the government’s misleading insistence that the culture of impunity is an unavoidable consequence of the war on drugs. The report finds that “community radio broadcasters—a group which

faces no threats from drug trafficking organizations—are more vulnerable to violence and intimidation than professional journalists.” It also notes that “this violence and intimidation comes, instead, from state officials [as do two out of every three recorded attacks on journalists].”

With Politkovskaya’s doubts ever present in the fearful atmosphere that has taken hold in northern Mexico, the report’s sobering conclusion is worth quoting in full:

“Journalism in Mexico has reached a state of emergency. Reporting the news in certain parts of the country has become as deadly an undertaking as living in a war zone. But Mexico is not engaged so much in a war on drugs as in a battle for its fledgling democracy, its grasp on the rule of law, and its very future. It is a war with two fronts: terrifyingly violent drug trafficking organizations are pressing from one side and Mexico’s legacy of impunity from the other. It is ordinary citizens who are feeling the squeeze, and journalists, in particular, who are caught in the middle. Yet the media, which in a less violent context would be exposing this situation for the world to see, become quieter with each passing day. Mexico’s journalists can no longer take action to protect themselves without putting their lives at grave risk. It is time for the world to act. The risk of not doing so is far too great.” ■

Brendan de Caires is the programs and communications co-ordinator at PEN Canada.

Canadian Press Censorship in World War II

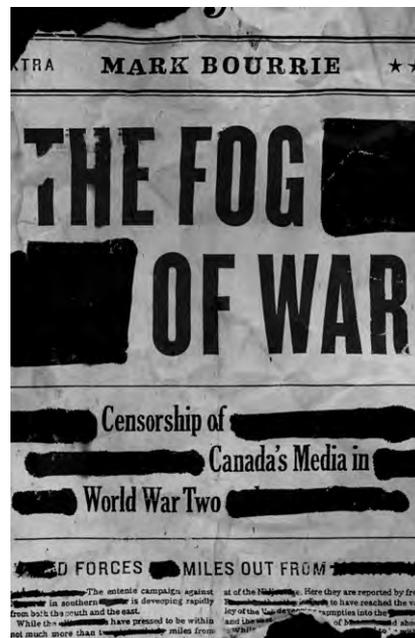
Reviewed by GRANT BUCKLER

DURING WORLD WAR II, NEWS of troop movements, U-boat attacks off Halifax and Japanese “balloon bombs” drifting across the Pacific was largely kept out of the Canadian media. Even Canadian political speeches sometimes went unreported. Armed with access to the press censors’ files and to key figures in the censorship mechanism, freelance journalist Mark Bourrie has told the story of how that was done in *The Fog of War: Censorship of Canada’s Media in World War Two*.

There is no clear line between heroes and villains in this story. Media censorship for most of World War II was in the hands of ex-journalists, most notably Wilfrid Eggleston and Fulgence Charpentier. Eggleston was a former *Toronto Star* reporter who later became the first dean of Carleton University’s journalism school. Charpentier had been a member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery since 1920.

Eggleston, the chief press censor and later director of censorship, argued that shielding Canadians from the war’s bad news could be disastrous. “He came to believe France fell to the Germans in 1940 because the French public lived in a dream world created by their government’s propaganda and censorship systems,” Bourrie writes. “The press must be allowed, even encouraged, to print bad news so people would be angry and upset. Frightened Canadians would work and fight harder if they believed there was a real chance they’d lose the war.”

The censors often pushed back against government and military pressure, and were especially reluctant to let the



The Fog of War by Mark Bourrie (Douglas & McIntyre, 2011)

government use censorship to protect itself from embarrassment.

The media, meanwhile, largely did as the censors told them. Canada’s World War II domestic censorship was essentially voluntary. Publishing certain material could lead to charges under the Defence of Canada Regulations in the War Measures Act. The censors’ role was to warn media outlets what might get them into trouble. The publisher or broadcaster could choose to take its chances. Few did. As Bourrie points out, the Quebec media took the most chances, realizing that the Mackenzie King government would be very reluctant to risk alienating Quebecers, many of whom were already ambivalent about the war.

Newspapers did quarrel with the censors occasionally. *The Globe and Mail* was more vocal than most, and

John Bassett—the publisher of Montreal’s *Gazette*—argued with censors and politicians more than once. When the papers fought back, it was often more for competitive reasons—because the lack of a clear and timely ruling from censors caused them to get scooped, for instance—than out of concern for the public good.

And Bourrie’s book paints a picture of frequent racism in the Canadian press—notably anti-Semitism in some of the Quebec media and attacks on Japanese-Canadians in British Columbia’s papers.

The Fog of War contains lots of stories and details, not all directly about censorship. Occasionally Bourrie seems to stray from his topic, as in the chapter on the conscription debate, although in most cases the apparent digressions help put censorship stories in context. But any reader not already knowledgeable about World War II will learn something about censorship and the war’s effect on Canada as well.

Canada was fortunate during World War II to have censors who used their powers sparingly because they believed in the role of the media. That attitude is rare in government today. “These days,” Bourrie writes, “the Canadian federal government, like most governments, has chosen to choke off news at the source and to rely on public-affairs officers to shape much of the coverage of military activities.” We are unlikely to see government-appointed officials defending media freedom again any time soon. More than ever, journalists need to do that themselves. ■

Grant Buckler is a freelance journalist in Kingston, Ont., and a member of Canadian Journalists for Free Expression.

The Man in Blue Pyjamas

By Jalal Barzanji (University of Alberta Press, 2011)

Reviewed by **BRENDAN DE CAIRES**

“I MUST PRESENT MY STORY IN small pieces,” warns Jalal Barzanji at the outset of his lyrical memoir, “because my life has been in pieces.”

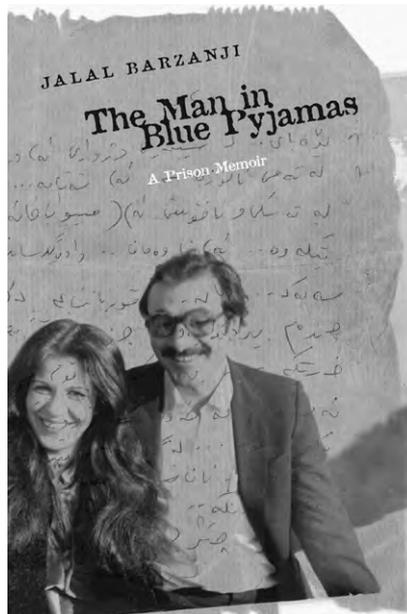
The choice serves him well, for the surreal transitions that result from this scattershot approach conjure up a haunting impression of the uncertainties of Kurdish life under Saddam Hussein. One moment the poet is at home, drinking tea in his favourite pyjamas; the next he is being clubbed by the secret police.

During a brief respite, he realizes that his mother has also been detained, and they enjoy the momentary consolation of each other’s company. Then: “The man who had insulted my mother turned to his companions. It soon became apparent what they were planning to do. The officers brought five young men—or I should say boys, for they all seemed to be younger than eighteen—into the room. They were blindfolded and shackled together.

“I was still trying to figure out who they were when the shooting began. Within an instant they were all gone. Right there in front of their parents. One mother, weeping and beating her chest uncontrollably, said to her husband, ‘This was our son, Nawzad.’ Then she turned to the officers: ‘I beg Khuda to come and blind you all.’”

The grim account of prison life that follows is replete with novelistic details. There is some inevitable squalor and brutality, but also unexpected humanity. Raconteurs in the overcrowded cells distract others with droll stories; during a prison visit, inmates agree to ration their time atop a heap of dirty blankets so that each gets a minute peering through a hole in the ceiling for a glimpse of their loved ones. At times it sounds almost like a Jesuit boarding school—except for the routine torture and occasional disappearance of the prisoners.

After more than two years, the nightmare ends as absurdly as it began.



The Man in Blue Pyjamas by Jalal Barzanji (University of Alberta Press, 2011)

The inmates are told to stand in single file in the hallway. A treacherous Kurd who works for the secret police then declares: “The Leader-President Saddam Hussein, may Allah bless him with His protection, has decided on his birthday to issue a general amnesty for prisoners. You are all included in the amnesty. He has pardoned you for your crimes against the revolution. I want you from now on to devote yourselves to our beloved leader. Keep him in your prayers and ask Allah to keep him safe and well.”

What sets Barzanji’s story above mere reportage is his poet’s eye for detail. His recollections of childhood in Kurdistan are as absorbing as anything that takes place within the prison. Consider, for instance, his discovery that train tracks can multiply the value of coins: “Kh. would scramble in front of the approaching train and carefully lay a flis on the track. I never ceased to be amazed by what the train could do to a coin! It could magically turn a simple flis into one the size of a ten-flis coin. Once the train had disappeared into the distance, Kh. would pick up the squashed coin and run off to

the ice-cream vendor. Hama Ali, who was half-blind, would rub his fingers against the coin to determine its worth. He always accepted it as a genuine ten-flis and handed us our ice creams.”

These memories are punctuated by darker passages. Barzanji recalls that “[b]ecause at the time there was no such thing as a mental health hospital, those who were mentally disturbed were taken to the sheikh’s house where they were tied up in a dark room and beaten with wooden sticks. Somehow, someone had decided that this would make them better.”

Throughout the book there is an unsettling intimation of Death stalking Barzanji, and often just missing its mark. As a student in Bakour, he leaves a café minutes before a bomb kills his drinking companion. On his first day as a teacher in a place called Sktan: “the village was pounded with artillery and small arms fire for several minutes. I sat inside the house with the other teachers. None of us spoke a word. As soon as the gunfire stopped, the soldiers came down into the village and started rounding up all the men. . . . We later learned that of the fifteen men who were taken away that day, five were executed at Abu Ghraib prison. The rest were given sentences ranging from three-to-fifteen years. I never saw them again.”

Appropriately, the most memorable image in the whole book is the conversion of the local library into the prison that will eventually house Barzanji. This sacrilege becomes a potent symbol of the Ba’ath party’s wider despoliation of Kurdish culture. Once Saddam Hussein assumes control, the pleasures of reading are banished almost immediately. Rousing memories of an attractive librarian fetching books from the higher shelves, and dusting them on her bosom, give way instead to the horrors of incarceration.

BLUE PYJAMAS CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

The Master Switch: The Rise and Fall of Information Empires

By Tim Wu (Alfred A. Knopf, 2010)

Reviewed by WAYNE MACPHAIL

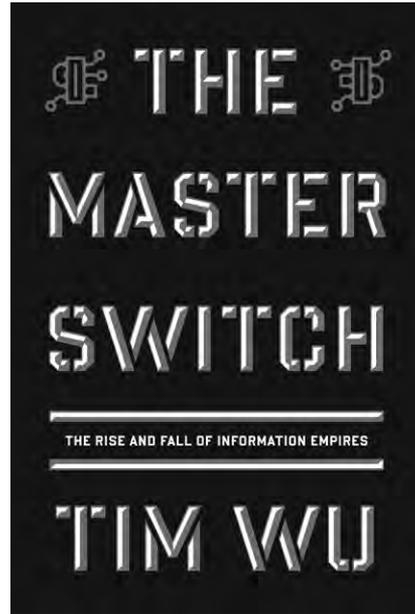
IN THE LATE SIXTIES, WHEN I was a boy growing up in Dartmouth, N.S., I built myself a crystal radio set from an inexpensive kit. With a copper wire antenna strung along the length of our home's eavestrough, I could lull myself to sleep with the rig's round plastic earphone sandwiched between my soon-aching ear and my pillow.

When I skated the needle up and down my hand-wound tuner, I heard the call signs of distant hams, ship-to-shore radio, AM signals and a flanging of foreign languages bouncing and skipping off the ionosphere. I didn't know it then, but in the dark I was listening to the last vestiges of a radio whose time had already come.

In my teens, my radio was a store-bought transistor, and the signals it picked up were the repetitive bubble-gum pop and prog rock of the dominant FM and AM stations that now flooded the electromagnetic spectrum like the white glare of a sports arena's lights in a night sky. The acoustic Wild West I had marvelled at as a boy was now a tamed suburb.

The medium's transition—from an open, everything-goes Golden Age to its corraling, curating and commercializing—is the subject of Tim Wu's *The Master Switch*.

In his exhaustive book, Wu, a professor at Columbia University, argues that media—the telephone, radio, television, film—all began life as the playthings of inventors and hobbyists. Unfettered



The Master Switch by Tim Wu (Alfred A. Knopf, 2010)

by commercial, industrial or legislative restrictions, the infant media embraced innovation and divergent alternatives in a gleeful, unfettered Darwinism.

Then, inevitably, industrialists swooped in, stealing patents and credit, delaying developments, crushing independents and turning the gilded, youthful medium into a jaded and mercenary adult only interested in the gold. These new monopolists held the “master switch” of the medium—AT&T's ownership of long-distance lines.

At times, as Wu tells it, the industrialists were aided and abetted by governments only too willing to listen to the reinvented histories spun by major

campaign donors. At other times—for example, during the break up of AT&T into the Baby Bells—the government lost its taste for the venal monopolistic practices of industrialists and dropped the anti-trust hammer. Then the Wild West rode into town again. This swing in communications technology—from open to closed to reopened—Wu calls “the cycle,” a process he believes no medium, not even the Internet, is immune to.

In cautionary tale after cautionary tale, Wu lays out the case that we may be living through the Golden Age of the Internet. Like the ham radio operators I heard as distant voices, we may be merrily sharing our statuses, hashtags, blog posts and videos with abandon and without stricture or sanction. But, Wu argues, the Internet really is dependent on a series of pipes. These pipes are owned by large cable and telecommunications companies who also own content they'd love us to consume over those same pipes.

Most recently we've seen that Shaw has placed bandwidth caps on its Internet services, but it has also announced that the Internet video service it provides will not count against those caps, thereby favouring its content over all other Internet traffic. Wu would call that a canary in a coal mine to anyone who is a student of media history.

Wu's solution is what he calls the “separation principle,” a church-and-state proposition that would not allow Bell Canada or Shaw or Rogers to own the pipes and the content and that would also hold the government in check so it does not legislatively favour a dominant player.

Wu's cry is clear and clarion. It may also, if Shaw is any kind of bellwether, be too late. ■

Wayne MacPhail is the president of w8nc, a Canadian marketing and communications company that specializes in emerging technologies. He writes a weekly technology column for Rabble.ca.

BLUE PYJAMAS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

The final sections cover Barzanji's escape from Iraq, through Turkey, before he finds refuge in Edmonton. The book ends with his family comfortably established in their new life and Barzanji just back from a trip to post-Saddam Kurdistan. Watching television reports of Saddam's execution, he is troubled by the scaffold mob's chants of “Allah u Akbar

Muqtada.” (Muqtada al-Sadr is a prominent Shi'a cleric.)

“As the new day dawned, a line I had heard some time back popped into my head: ‘It is hard to live in the same world forever, isn't it?’” ■

Jalal Barzanji has lived in Canada since 1998. He was named PEN Edmonton's first writer in exile in 2007. The Man in Blue Pyjamas is the first translation of his work from Kurdish into English.

Freedom to Read Week Activities and Events Across Canada 2011

Below is a list of the events that took place before, during and after Freedom to Read Week 2011.

You'll find great ideas among the speakers, displays and activities for your own

Freedom to Read Week event in 2012.

Airdrie Public Library

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA

We Dare You! Celebrate Your Freedom to Read

The library displayed photos of patrons with challenged books. The display included interactive panels, photos and challenged books. Patrons were quizzed on the history of book challenges in Canada.

The ARTery

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

Freedom to Read ... Out Loud: Risky and Risqué Stories for Adults

Linda Paksi and Tim Anderson read erotic tales and poems.

Book and Periodical Council

TORONTO, ONTARIO

Challenging Books: Who Should Decide What Our Children Read?

Panellists Patsy Aldana, David Booth, Eve Freedman and Peggy Thomas joined moderator Ken Settington to discuss the censorship of children's books in schools and libraries. The Writers' Union of Canada presented its Freedom to Read Award to John Ralston Saul.

Calgary Freedom to Read Week Committee

CALGARY, ALBERTA

Presentation of a Challenged Book

Anne Jayne presented a challenged book to city council: *The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman.

Calgary Freedom to Read Week Committee and Fast Forward Weekly (FFWD)

CALGARY, ALBERTA

Annual Freedom to Read Week Celebration

The celebration included the presentation of the 2011 Calgary Freedom of Expression Award to Mayor Naheed Nenshi. The winners of the Calgary Public Library's Who Chooses What You Read? contest were also announced.

Calgary Public Library

CALGARY, ALBERTA

Freedom to Read Week Contest

Students in Grades 7 to 9 expressed their thoughts on Freedom to Read Week by drawing, painting, taking a photograph, writing a poem or story, or making a film.

Coho Books

CAMPBELL RIVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Reception/Free a Challenged Book

At a reception to celebrate Freedom to Read Week, people enjoyed refreshments and discussed intellectual freedom and book censorship. Coho Books released challenged books into the community.

Edmonton Public Library

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

An Evening with Amy Goodman

Amy Goodman—award-winning journalist, syndicated columnist and host of *Democracy Now!*—led a discussion about the role of independent media in promoting social justice.

First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto

TORONTO, ONTARIO

Freedom to Read Week Discussion

Franklin Carter, researcher for the Book and Periodical Council's Freedom of Expression Committee, discussed censorship and book challenges in Canada.

Forest Heights Collegiate Institute

KITCHENER, ONTARIO

Altered Books Display

The Grade 12 Visual Arts class created an exhibit of sculptures made from discarded books. During Freedom to Read Week, the sculptures were displayed at the Forest Heights Community Library.

Grande Prairie Regional College

GRANDE PRAIRIE, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Freedom to Read Cards

Staff and faculty created cards for Freedom to Read Week. Patrons filled in their names and the names of challenged books that they had read or planned to read.

Innisfil Public Library

INNISFIL, ONTARIO

We Recommend: Freedom to Read Week Edition

Staff members celebrate the freedom to read all year round, but for Freedom to Read Week they recommended only banned books and highlighted the works that they had read.

Library Association of Alberta (LAA)

ALBERTA

Annual Freedom to Read Contest

The Intellectual Freedom Committee of the LAA ran a contest that encouraged Alberta's libraries to celebrate and promote Freedom to Read Week. Libraries were asked to submit their event ideas for a chance to win \$300 to help with the cost.

Library Association of the National Capital Region

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

LANCR Presents Freedom to Read Week 2011

The association hosted a discussion about current local and international censorship. Special guests appeared: Donna Presz, library services supervisor at the Derry Byrne Teacher Resource Centre in the Ottawa Catholic School Board; Alan Cumyn, author of *The*

Famished Lover and chair of the Writers' Union of Canada; and Mary Cavanagh, public librarian and assistant professor at the University of Ottawa's School of Information Studies.

Libre de lire

QUEBEC

Website Launch

Independent librarians celebrated Freedom to Read Week by launching Libre de lire. The website posts photos of readers holding their favourite banned, challenged or other books. The website also lists banned and challenged books. Visit <http://libredelire.org>.

Literary Arts Windsor

WINDSOR, ONTARIO

Writers in Prison and in Exile

Ava Homa, an Iranian writer in exile, read from her book *Echoes from the Other Land* and led a discussion about writing in prison and exile. Audience members read passages about writers who had been in prison.

Mount Royal University

CALGARY, ALBERTA

Freedom to Read Week Discussion

Dr. Ann Curry talked about intellectual freedom, access to knowledge, creativity and the expression of thoughts in public. She discussed the heckler's veto in law, social media, and Canadian universities and colleges.

Nan Boothby Memorial Library

COCHRANE, ALBERTA

Comments Corner/Freedom to Read Week Forum

During Freedom to Read Week, the library provided a "comments corner" where patrons could discuss their views on the freedom to read and censorship. The library also organized a panel discussion that featured community leaders in education, journalism and commerce.

Newfoundland and Labrador Library Association (NLLA)

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Freedom to Read Photo Contest

The NLLA invited people to visually represent their freedom to read. People submitted their photos about free expression, freedom from censorship and promotion of the written word from all over the province. The winning photo appeared on the NLLA's Freedom to Read Week poster which was circulated to libraries throughout the province.

New Glasgow Public Library

NEW GLASGOW, NOVA SCOTIA

Freedom to Learn/Freedom to Read/Freedom to Write

The library hosted several events. First, Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan showed the film *Return to Kandahar*. A discussion and free seminar followed the screening. Next, writers Bijou Dlamini and Maureen Hull presented a discussion in honour of Freedom to Read Week. The library also celebrated the freedom to write by screening *A Call to Consciousness*, a documentary film that depicts memorable speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

New Glasgow Public Library

NEW GLASGOW, NOVA SCOTIA

Public Domain Movie Marathon

To celebrate the freedom to watch, the library hosted a public domain movie marathon. A list of films was posted to the library's website; patrons voted for the movie they most wanted to see.

Norfolk County Public Library

NORFOLK, ONTARIO

Freedom to Read Week Readings

The library asked a local author to visit each of the library's branches during Freedom to Read Week. Josie Penny, author of *So Few on Earth: A Labrador Métis Woman Remembers*, visited all five branches, read from her book and answered questions.

Okanagan Regional Library

KELOWNA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Visiting Author Series

The library invited writer Patrick Lane to speak. His *Poems, New and Selected* won the 1978 Governor General's Award. He has published a memoir, *There Is a Season*, more than 20 books of poetry and a novel, *Red Dog, Red Dog*.

Okotoks Public Library

OKOTOKS, ALBERTA

Freedom to Read Week Book Sale

The library hosted a book sale. Patrons could fill a bag with titles for \$3.

The Olds Municipal Library

OLDS, ALBERTA

Freedom to Read Week (Weak?) Teleconference

Dr. Ann Curry reviewed recent censorship incidents in Canada and the United States and discussed whether our freedom to read is becoming stronger or weaker. She challenged librarians to be more active in defending intellectual freedom. The discussion was broadcast live to libraries across the province.

PEN Canada and the Toronto Public Library

TORONTO, ONTARIO

What We Talk About When We Talk About Hate

Journalist Steve Paikin moderated a debate about hate speech in Canada. Special guests appeared: Susan G. Cole, author, playwright, broadcaster and senior editor at *NOW Magazine*; Janet Keeping, president of the Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership; Richard Moon, professor of law at the University of Windsor; and Rinaldo Walcott, sociologist at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

Pink Triangle Press and the Toronto Public Library

TORONTO, ONTARIO

Sexual Outliers: Censorship, Advocacy, Journalism and the Gay Press

Pink Triangle Press, publishers of *Xtra* and *Fab*, presented a lively discussion about the moral puzzles of censorship and free expression in the gay press. The discussion looked at how queer communities struggle to reconcile the fights for freedom of sexual and

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

political expression with the fight against homophobic expression. Case studies included Queers Against Israeli Apartheid and the Toronto Pride Parade, murder music, and the Canada Border Services Agency and queer-themed film.

Queen's University Learning Commons

KINGSTON, ONTARIO

Freedom to Read Week Public Readings

Queen's University Learning Commons hosted public readings in Speaker's Corner to raise awareness of censorship.

Queen's University Stauffer Library

KINGSTON, ONTARIO

Panel: Changes to *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

The staff organized lunchtime activities for Freedom to Read Week. Students attended a panel discussion on changing the text of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. The featured speakers were Dr. Elizabeth Lee, Dr. Laura Murray and Dr. Barrington Walker.

Quest University Canada

SQUAMISH, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Freedom to Read Week Discussion

The library hosted a presentation featuring Dr. Lisa Nathan of the University of British Columbia's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. The presentation was entitled Intellectual Freedom v. Censorship: Leveraging Information, Technology and Policy in Support of Societal Change in Rwanda.

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild and the Saskatoon Public Library

SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Shhhh! Don't Read This

Local authors Mari-Lou Rowley and George Khng and librarian Ann

Foster led an audience on a lively romp through challenged works. Subjects included *The Odyssey*, WikiLeaks, historical revisionism, and the challenges writers face in closed societies, societies opening up to free expression and our own seemingly open society.

Stettler Public Library

STETTLER, ALBERTA

Free the Words!

Library patrons were invited to decorate a bird with a word and symbolically set it free. The library was decorated with freed words. Patrons were also invited to record each book that they had read from the challenged book list.

Toronto Public Library

TORONTO, ONTARIO

Banned Books: *Madame Bovary*

The library hosted a discussion about the nineteenth-century French novel that sparked such moral outrage that the author and publisher were put on trial.

Toronto Public Library

TORONTO, ONTARIO

Censoring Manga for Fun and Profit

Chris Butcher, who writes about comics and manga at Comics212.net, talked about the many surprising and unfortunate ways that manga comics are censored in North America.

Vancouver Island University Reading and Writing Centre

DUNCAN, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Freedom to Read Marathon

The students at the Cowichan campus celebrated their freedom to read by dedicating themselves to reading more. By Freedom to Read Week 2011, participating students had read more than 6,000 pages and had made a chart to highlight their progress.

Wellington County Library: Fergus Branch

FERGUS, ONTARIO

Freedom to Read Week Photo Contest/Book Sale

The library asked patrons to take photos of other people reading. The winning photo submissions were displayed during Freedom to Read Week, and the winners were given banned books. The library also hosted a book sale.

Winnipeg Public Library and Manitoba Writers' Guild

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

Freedom to Read Marathon

The library and the guild celebrated Freedom to Read Week with public readings from challenged books. Volunteer readers were asked to fill 10-minute time slots.

Writers Guild of Alberta and WordFest

CALGARY, ALBERTA

WGA and WordFest Present Judge John Reilly

Judge John Reilly, author of *Bad Medicine: A Judge's Struggle for Justice in a First Nations Community*, spoke in a candid interview. In 2010, the controversial book was the target of legal action by officials of the Stoney Nakoda Nation. ■

Displays of Banned Books

These organizations displayed challenged and/or banned books.

Canadian Library Association (University of Western Ontario) and Librarians Without Borders

Coho Books (Campbell River, B.C.)

Concordia University College (Edmonton, Alta.)

The Fraser Library at Simon Fraser University

Grande Prairie Regional College

Medicine Hat Public Library

Morinville Public Library

Nan Boothby Memorial Library (Cochrane, Alta.)

Okotoks Public Library

Prince George Public Library

St. Catharines Public Library

Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology,

Wascana campus library

Get Involved Ideas for Educators

The Get Involved section is based on the articles that appear in the preceding pages of *Freedom to Read*. The objectives of this section are to

- highlight freedom of thought and freedom of expression as universal human rights;
- examine the educational value of controversial texts;
- emphasize tolerance of other people's viewpoints as a vital principle of democratic education.

The target group for this section includes high school, college and university students who discuss language and literature,

politics, society, history, law and other courses about intellectual freedom. The Get Involved activities are designed for classroom instruction and discussion.

Get Involved is also intended for citizens outside the classroom who wish to plan community events. This section includes ideas for publicizing challenged books and magazines in Canada, organizing events that draw attention to freedom of expression and generating publicity for local events.

We encourage you to use these ideas to Get Involved during Freedom to Read Week and all year round. We sincerely hope your efforts have an impact in your classroom and in your community.

Winners of the Calgary Public Library's Freedom to Read Contest

Each year, the Calgary Public Library holds an essay-writing contest for Freedom to Read Week. In 2011, the contest included poster and video submissions. Here are the contest winners.

WINNING STUDENT ESSAYS

Freedom to Read By Matthew (Grade 9)

Democracy is not perfect. But we have never had to put a wall up to keep our people in.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

John F. Kennedy was referring to the Berlin Wall and how the Soviets had to forcibly keep people away from the ideal of democracy. However, this observation could just as easily refer to the virtual wall put up by China or by the current government of the USA.

Internet publications are more susceptible to censorship than traditional publications because of all the technology required to access the Internet. While the printed word in its simplest form only requires a piece of paper and a pen, digital publications require a myriad of servers, cables and towers to get that information onto your screen.

One of the great Internet censors of our age is China. Since 2003, all Internet media have been censored by the Golden Shield Project. This prevents Chinese citizens from accessing content that the government has decided is "unacceptable" for its citizens.

However, China is not the only country that flies a tattered flag in this regard. The USA also tries to censor what information its citizens have access to online. WikiLeaks, the controversial whistleblower of the Internet age, has been dropped as a customer by most of the major American corporations. Amazon, MasterCard and Visa all ceased providing services to WikiLeaks after the government put pressure on them to stop.

The Internet has the prospect to strengthen democracy around the world by allowing people to communicate with each other and express ideas and opinions more easily, as it is doing

in Tunisia and Egypt. However, we must all remain vigilant against governments and others who may attempt to restrict our access to information. We all have a role to play in protecting our online freedom to read.

Who Decides What We Read? By Jun (Grade 7)

Who should decide what we read: families or peers or the powerful government?

These forces have significant influence over our lives, but who should control what we read?

The truth is that we have the power to control what we should read. Some things can indeed influence what we read, but how much of it can they control?

Sure, the government could burn all the books in the country and ban books, but would you not be able to go somewhere else and read them?

And even if one doesn't have enough money to go elsewhere, does not one have a brain? The sheer glory of it is that the human brain has imagination! One cannot destroy the creativity of the human mind.

We can create books, then read them!

We could burn previous literature, such as the works of Shakespeare and Mark Twain, but no one can control the thoughts in your head. In fact, if the government burned all books, could you not create your own book?

One could say that only we decide what we read, and we create what we read. Our peers or parents can recommend a book, but you can accept or refuse it. It's more likely that you would like a book better if you chose it than if somebody forced it on you.

In short, people may have influence on you and there may be

WHO DECIDES WHAT WE READ CONTINUED ON PAGE 38



WINNING STUDENT POSTER Ananya (Grade 9) submitted this winning poster.

WHO DECIDES WHAT WE READ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

certain barriers, but you will control what you read. And perhaps you may even write a book of your own.

These books are worth reading:

The Alchemyst by Michael Scott

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

Hamish X by Sean Cullen

WINNING STUDENT VIDEO

Gina (Grade 9) created the winning video. Its title is “Who Chooses What You Read?” and it can be seen at this URL: http://old.calgarypubliclibrary.com/teenscreate/index.php?option=com_hwdvideoshare&Itemid=89

Freedom to Read Kit Quiz

1. In “Opting Out in the Classroom,” Anne Jayne writes about a law that affects the teaching of controversial issues in public schools. What right does the law give parents if their children are taught lessons that address sexuality, sexual orientation or religion?
2. In “Access to Government Information in Canada’s Public Libraries,” David Burke and Carol Perry write about the challenges that librarians face when they try to gain access to certain government documents on the Internet. What service was established in 1929 to provide libraries with access to information published by the federal government?
3. In “Dropping the Curtain on Children’s Theatre,” Lucy White writes about plays that run into problems when they are performed in schools. One such play is *The Shape of a Girl*. Who wrote the play?
4. In “Meanwhile in Quebec . . .,” Charles Montpetit writes about *Les nombrils* comic book series which was pulled off the

shelves of the Mosaique school for troubled teens. What was the school’s concern about this series?

5. Charles Montpetit also writes about a website in Quebec that was inspired by WikiLeaks.org. The newer website promises to release “sensitive, exclusive and authentic documents” to counter the lack of transparency in politics and business. What is the name of this website?
6. In “Challenges to Canadian Library Resources and Policies in 2010,” Alvin M. Schrader and Donna Bowman write about the Canadian Library Association’s latest annual survey of challenges to library materials and policies in Canadian libraries. What happened for the first time in five years?
7. In “Changing the Story,” David Bouchard describes factual inaccuracies in *The Song of Hiawatha*, Henry Longfellow’s epic poem. What First Nation did Hiawatha actually belong to?
8. In “Africentric Education,” Professor George J. Sefa Dei

FREEDOM TO READ QUIZ CONTINUED ON PAGE 39



Speak Out for the Freedom to Read

*There are many ways to speak out about freedom of expression in Canada.
Here are just a few suggestions to help you organize and get involved.*

A Book Club Discussion

Select a banned book for your next book club meeting, or start a book club that reads only banned books.

B Banned Book Booklist

Post a list of banned or challenged books on your website, or publish the list as a bookmark.

C Banned Book Swap

Organize a book swap and create a space where people share stories and experiences about book banning. See PaperbackSwap.com as a model.

D Banned Book Electronic Display

Create a slide show of covers of banned books on your computer. Display them on a computer monitor at your library or school.

E Panel Discussion: Authors of Banned Books

Host a panel discussion of authors whose books have been banned or challenged. Invite the public to attend.

F Challenged Plays

With a local theatre company, organize a staged reading of a challenged or banned play.

G BookCrossing

Register banned books online at BookCrossing.com and follow them on their journeys from reader to reader.

H Banned Book Display

Create displays of banned books in your library or school.

I Read-a-thon

Host a 24-hour reading marathon. Have students and authors read aloud from banned books. Consider raising funds for an organization that defends free expression.

J Book Challenges and Privacy Issues

Host a talk about the defence of intellectual freedom.

K Film Screenings

Curate a series of films to illustrate the many faces of film censorship. Include the role of government and focus on Canada. Suggested films include *Sedition* by Min Sook Lee and *Little Sister's vs. Big Brother* by Aerlyn Weissman.

L Create a Display of Defaced Books

Ask library staff to collect books that have been defaced (e.g., with racist, anti-gay or other slurs) or destroyed to prevent other people from reading them.

M Forum on Freedom of Expression

Host an author, a publisher or an advocacy group which has been sued to silence them.

N Ninety Second Megaphone

Set up a Freedom to Speak Station where anyone can pick up a megaphone and speak his or her mind for 90 seconds.

O Free Speech Board

Set up a Free Speech Board that allows anyone to post messages, quotes, poems or ideas.

P Chalking for Free Expression

Collect famous quotations on freedom of expression, and write them in chalk across the school campus or on city streets.

Q Write a Letter to the Editor

Let your local newspaper know how you feel about banned or challenged books. Such letters are important even if they don't get printed.

R Host a Photo Contest

Ask participants to submit photos about freedom of expression or anything that promotes the written word. Display the submissions during Freedom to Read Week, and give out books as prizes to the winners.

S Organize a Debate

Have students debate the pros and cons of banning specific books, teaching certain issues in schools or curbing certain kinds of speech in Canada.

T Create a Video

Create a short video about a banned or challenged book. You could write the script as a news story or dramatize the debate that precedes the banning of a book. Here's an example on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwyRGYKWXDA&feature=related

FREEDOM TO READ QUIZ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38

explains why he supports Africentric alternative schools. In what Canadian city did an Africentric school open in 2009?

9. Mark Bourrie's *The Fog of War* explores Canadian press censorship during what era?

10. In "Libel Tourism," Hilary McLaughlin writes about libel law in Canada, the United States and Britain. What did the Supreme Court of Canada do to change Canada's libel law?

11. Of which international organization is John Ralston Saul the president?

1. The law allows parents to remove their child from the classroom.
2. The Depository Services Program
3. Joan MacLeod
4. The school feared that the series might encourage some students to become anorexic.
5. QuebecLeaks.org
6. No challenges were reported to *And Tango Makes Three*.
7. Onondaga
8. Toronto
9. The Second World War
10. The court ruled that a defence of "responsible communication" could be applied against *Habibty*.
11. PEN International

Quiz Answers

Freedom to Read

Word Search

See if you can find the words listed below. In the puzzle, the words could be written in any direction: up, down, diagonally and backward.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. banned | 13. journalism |
| 2. censorship | 14. theatre |
| 3. children's lit | 15. poetry |
| 4. literacy | 16. music |
| 5. libel | 17. borders |
| 6. access | 18. control |
| 7. controversial | 19. free speech |
| 8. library | 20. megaphone |
| 9. information | 21. read |
| 10. book club | 22. Internet |
| 11. literacy | 23. silence |
| 12. letter writing | 24. speak out |

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| r | b | b | y | r | s | a | n | l | e | a | l | e | t | f | o | c |
| e | w | t | a | i | c | s | c | i | i | s | j | l | r | i | o | n |
| t | s | u | e | n | n | e | h | e | i | t | i | e | t | n | k | t |
| y | a | o | l | t | n | i | i | e | n | b | e | a | t | m | c | r |
| r | c | k | l | e | m | e | l | e | r | s | m | r | u | t | l | d |
| t | d | a | o | r | t | m | d | a | p | r | o | s | a | n | u | r |
| e | t | e | r | n | c | t | r | e | o | v | i | r | r | c | b | m |
| o | s | p | t | e | u | y | e | f | e | c | n | e | s | l | y | e |
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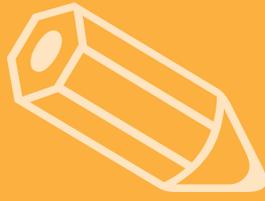
Banned Authors

Word Search

See if you can find the surnames of the authors in the puzzle. The surnames are listed below in **boldface** type. All these authors have had their books challenged or banned somewhere in Canada. In the puzzle, the surnames could be written in any direction: up, down, diagonally and backward.

1. Mordecai **Richler** (*The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*)
2. Anthony **Burgess** (*A Clockwork Orange*)
3. W.P. **Kinsella** (*Dance Me Outside*)
4. Stephen **King** (*Different Seasons*)
5. Margaret **Laurence** (*The Diviners*)
6. Peter **Turnbull** (*Embracing Skeletons*)
7. Piers **Anthony** (*Faun and Games*)
8. Margaret **Atwood** (*The Handmaid's Tale*)
9. John **Ball** (*In the Heat of the Night*)
10. **Yuk Yuk's** (*Jokes Men Only Tell Other Men*)
11. D.H. **Lawrence** (*Lady Chatterley's Lover*)
12. Alice **Munro** (*Lives of Girls and Women*)
13. Marguerite **Duras** (*Man Sitting in a Corridor*)
14. John **Steinbeck** (*Of Mice and Men*)
15. Jimmy **Pritchard** (*The New York City Bartender's Joke Book*)
16. Salman **Rushdie** (*The Satanic Verses*)
17. Charlaine **Harris** (*The Southern Vampire Mysteries series*)
18. J.F. **Gonzalez** (*Survivor*)
19. Kate **Allen** (*Takes One to Know One*)
20. William **Pierce** (*The Turner Diaries*)
21. Jonathan **Nasaw** (*Twenty-Seven Bones*)
22. Timothy **Findley** (*The Wars*)
23. Jane **Rule** (*The Young in One Another's Arms*)

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FICTION
A**R**TICLE
V**E**RSE
D**R**AFT
ILLUSTRATION
M**A**GAZINE
C**O**NTEXT
J**O**URNAL
H**A**NDWRITING
L**I**TERATURE
N**O**VELLA
E**S**SAY
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Z**E**UGMA
X**E**ROGRAPHY
Q**U**OTE
R**E**PORT
P**L**AY
U**P**D**A**T**E**
S**T**UDY
W**O**R**D**PLAY
Y**A**R**N**
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T**R**ANS**C**R**I**P**T**
K**N**O**W**L**E**D**G**E
B**I**O**G**R**A**P**H**Y

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