

Panarticon

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...with tendrils from Montreal...

The US Needs To Smoke a Joint

The Senate is on its way to opening up the debate on decriminalizing marijuana; and now we face—perhaps over an issue that many would consider minor if not downright silly—serious challenges to Canada’s sovereignty from our next-door neighbour with the Big Stick, the United States. Pressure is already being applied by the US. Colonel Robert Maginnis, a US government advisor on drug policy, had this to say about Canada’s liberalizing tendencies: "To antagonize [US] government leaders and grass roots leaders because you [Canada] insist on having a radical drug policy that we [the US] will not ignore in the long term, then its going to have adverse consequences and I hope we would be able to rectify it before it comes to blows." People, people. I cannot stress it enough: this is the same argument, the *very same logic*, that every nation, hell bent on conquering the planet, has used against its neighbour before acts of invasion. Although, today, invasion can occur without military force or occupation—instead we invite in the DEA, we bow to US policy, we adopt the US dollar & cultural standards, methodologies and languages—we should not belittle the powerful affect of the United States in quashing, throughout the past 70 odd years, every independent decision that disagrees with its own interests. These interests, moreover are not logical. They are, to speak politely, ethically fascist. They are neither democratic nor even “liberal.” We may be in the age of *Pax Americanus*, but at this rate, we have surpassed *hybris*; the Village Fool is now ruling the most powerful arsenal on Earth, and the time will come for the neo-postmodern Nero to fiddle while the plutonium burns...

Cleaning Out Campbell

The Province’s May interview with the Premier’s Cleaning Lady—Christiana Helzel—is one of the funniest things I’ve read in a long time. Take this quote from Helzel, who claims that Campbell actually does have a big heart: "Gordon is taking us somewhere," she says. "He has a plan for B.C., I think. I mean, he must, right?" I can’t figure out if this is a PR job gone horribly awry, if the Liberals are this desperate, or if Helzel is just as taken in by the Premier’s charm as his dog. He *does* love his dog, she says. And what do dogs do? Obediantly wait for their masters. A word of advice, Ms. Helzel: the Premier does have a plan for this Province, and it is just unfortunate that it has nothing to do with milk bones and a whole lot to do with doing it doggy-style. Guess who’s the bitch?

Christ(y) Clark: A Lesson In Callousness

Liberal Education Minister Clark has made some brilliant remarks recently. After claiming that the BCTF was a “political” organisation, and that most individual teachers would rise above union politics—this, despite the fact that 91.5% voted in favour of strike action—she has tried to manipulate the conditions of the yet-to-be-formed school planning councils to include “regular teachers” and not “union

activists.” So, let’s see here: a *politician* accuses the teacher’s union of being *political* as if it was a dirty word; she then appeals to some sort of pre-political individuality. What exactly is this subjectivity? Well, a better name would be the *apathetic* teacher. (Not the *sympathetic* teacher, as that would be a hot potato). Next, she tries to manoeuvre the apathetic teachers into the school councils, despite the fact that the sole teacher is *elected* to the council by the school’s staff. Hello democracy! Here’s some blatant *political manoeuvring and suppression of Charter Rights*, for it is easy to see that the union activists will damn straight get on the councils with the current 91.5% approval rate of such tactics. And to top it off, Clark refuses to give a position to a student representative on the board, despite the presence of *three parents*. The whole goddamn situation stinks: students, it’s time to take action and organise walk-outs! Now, more than ever, your voice is needed in defence of your education and future.

Afrika Aware

Philly techno DJ Bob Brown has laid down a 37 track mix of hard-to-find hard techno stormers in support of Project Concern, a Zambia based grassroots organisation attempting to stop the spread of HIV. All profits go to PC, which focuses on providing food, shelter, and education for Zambia’s 75, 000 street kids—and that’s just in the capital, Lusaka. Although Brown’s mixing leaves a little to be desired, this is a great way to get your hands on some vinyl-only techno tracks as well as support where it’s needed. Look for it in your local, independent techno record store—and if they don’t have it, bug them to order it in!

The Strange World of Olo J. Milkman

Olo J. Milkman—a man of many missions—is now up to a prominent Show 60 or so with his “(W)ith / With (Intent To Hear)” netstreaming series. Check <http://www.aebc.com/olo23/with.html>. It’s a crazy link to follow and a crazy show to listen to, mixing together obscure acoustic oddities, experimental post-everything, melancholic melodies—you name it. Mr. Milkman also produces incredibly rhizomatic line drawings. Check the site, and keep your hands greased for free copies of the mix-shows that are slowly being distro’ed through an artsy-friend near you. Collect & trade!

Until humanity is worth more than fiscal responsibility!