

COLUMN

La route vers Glendon

by Ed Drass

Glendon College was born (or abandoned, depending on how you see it) when the youthful York University outgrew its original space at Lawrence and Bayview Avenue and headed for the wide open fields up north. The leftover entity then developed into a semi-independent bilingual college.

So while York nominally tries to bring both English and French cultures together at "Universite York University", it is really only at "College Universitaire Glendon College" that this succeeds — sort of.

York's distinctive (and attractive) red outdoor signs are at the older campus as well, with English printed in off-white and French in yellow. Signs like York Hall/Pavilion York or Bibliotheque Frost/Frost Library are not just for show. Even the Poop & Scoop sign is in both vernaculars.

Un(e) francophone qui vient a Glendon peut vraiment trouver des gens bilingues pour l'assister. More and more staff are able to serve people equally, as those cute little English/Francais desk cards indicate. Security guards, librarians, cafeteria staff, even Physical Plant employees are

becoming increasingly fluent in both tongues. To be fair, there are a great deal of staff who speak only English and so this ends up being the language of discussions.

There are quite a few students who have been at Glendon for quite a while and are in the "unilingual" stream. For these people, Glendon is an attractive little liberal arts college with small classes.

Francophone students tend to be quite keen on improving their English, so the politics of a conversation can be quite interesting. A prime example occurs when several francophones are conversing. As soon as an anglophone addresses them, their discussion changes to English. This means that anglophones usually will not practise their French.

This linguistic phenomenon reaches its height when both speakers are so fluent (this happens more and more) that each will speak in their own language, making for a weird mix. Si on ne peut pas visiter Montreal ou Ottawa/Hull, une visite a Glendon peut vous donner une idee comment les gens des deux communautés linguistiques (officielles) vivent ensemble.



The Excal needs News writers. If you, your friends, your relatives or grandparents are interested, please call Brent or Peter 736-5239.



I WRITE WITH AN AXE



by Brett Gellert

Sometimes you just have to voice your views about politics. I'm going to address one particular issue: the memory of North Americans.

As you know our Prime Minister is at the top of most polls.

Three Things Canadians Fear:

1. Mulroney will be elected for a third time.
2. A comet will hit the earth.
3. Janis Joplin isn't dead.

Yet, there is something for which the PM can be given credit. He never gets caught up in lies because nobody ever believes him in the first place. No one calls him a liar because that is taken for granted.

As Canadians, we know that we usually elect someone with more teeth than brain cells. It gives us something to talk about when the army isn't solving real estate enquiries.

The Americans, however, have a problem. They actually, get this, believe what their politicians tell them. What morons.

The Americans went nuts when they realized that Bush (The Silly Hand Gestures — No Nonsense President) was actually going to raise taxes. They honestly believed that just because he said he wouldn't raise taxes, he really wouldn't.

Canadians wouldn't be surprised if the PM sent several million dollars to Antarctica to provide sun screen for penguins with ozone burn.

Americans don't seem to want to remember the past and find memory loss to be a viable explanation

for selling weapons to people who refer to the US as The Great Satan. Remember the wacky Reagan administration? I hope so, because I'm sure Reagan doesn't. Anyway, when Irangate hit the fan, Reagan actually asked reporters if they could remember what they were doing on the day he supposedly gave permission for the arms deal.

The reporters said they couldn't remember what they had done on that date, (newspaper people, me being one of them, have terrible memories allowing us to remain unaffected by things like televised golf). Reagan said he rested his case and promptly forgot where he was. The major networks exploded with the fact that since the President couldn't remember the incident he obviously had nothing to do with it.

The fact that Reagan kept referring to Gorbachev as "Gavin MacLeod, that lovable character on Love Boat" seemed to escape everyone's attention. To the general population of the U.S., their leader couldn't be lying. Mind you, I can see how someone who admitted to being in *Bedtime For Bonzo* would probably admit to anything.

Politics has become an extension of show business. Canadians enjoy watching the PM walk through a fishing village, claiming that people love him while crowds of "happy" supporters chant death threats.

And what American junky cannot think warmly of the time when President Bush held up crack to show that, yes by golly, there was a drug problem.

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