



Sexual Entrapment On The Danny



As a Co-op cab driver, over the last 20 years, I have seen a lot of strange things happening on the streets of Toronto. But most recently I was shocked by what I saw in the early morning of October 18th, 2009 on Danforth Ave near Victoria Park. At first glance, I thought I had a customer flagging me down. What I saw was a tall,

attractive, well-dressed young girl leaning into the roadway with a smile, trying to make eye contact with me. I was worried she could be in some sort of trouble, so I stopped. Her first words were, "How much do you want to spend?" Without an answer I asked her into my cab. She refused. I was curious. But thought that there was something wrong here. So I closed the window and drove down Danforth Ave. Within a block or two a second girl was leaning into the roadway. At this point I realized what was wrong. I haven't seen a Street hooker in a long time. The younger cabbies

tell me they are all on Craigslist. When I did see street hookers they were old, ugly, smelly and looked bad, often indicating years of drug abuse. Often they dressed like men, never stopping in one spot, and nervous about being caught. They were not someone you would want to contact for a sexual encounter. There is an old expression "Never go down a dark alley with someone who has nothing to lose." As a cabbie I have seen that their customers are in just as bad a shape as they are. You would have to be looking for these girls to buy drugs from them but could stomach having sex with them. As for the drugs, Craigslist has "420" posted all over it.

So next week the local media reports 70 guys got arrested for saying the wrong thing to an attractive policewoman. Of the 70 guys guess how many were cab driver whose first language is NOT English. As for the rest, they now have a criminal record and a wife that wants a divorce. Were they looking for a cracked out, smelly, ugly street prostitute? Maybe—but not See page14

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The Toronto Catholic District School Board educates more than 90,000 students from diverse cultures and language backgrounds in its 201 Catholic elementary and secondary schools and serves 474,876 Catholic school supporters across the City of Toronto.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) will resume free adult English classes (LINC, ESL) on Tuesday, September 8th. While evening and weekend classes will start again the week of September 14th.

New registrations are welcome. Interested adults are asked to bring along two pieces of identification upon registration showing status and address in Canada. The Board also offers free English classes to meet specific

needs of adults such as workplace preparation (ELT, SLT), academic preparation (TOEFL), literacy and basic skills (LBS) and citizenship preparation. Newcomer settlement services (ISAP) and childminding and nursery services are available in many school sites.

The Adult Education Program in the Continuing Education Department of the TCDSB has been serving the multi-ethnic and multi-faith community of Toronto since 1964. With

Time and Fate at MacGregor Park

by Kasia Ignatowska



It was a sunny October Sunday when I went to see a theater performance at MacGregor Park located north of the junction of College and Lansdowne. The play was based on a map of the area from 1884, where the children had a free reign to create the story line and use their imaginations collaboratively for the purpose of staging an outdoor show. The audience was in for a 'blast from the past' journey around the park as the different chapters of the play unfolded.

Everything about the production was interactive. Thanks to the youth group that helped with the making of the incredible utensil orchestra, life sized props, sets and costumes, all designed by Tatjana Hutinec, performers, crew and the

audience were all in for a treat. The set melded into the Autumn landscape as the audience participants carried the long train traveling to a new place.

Kristen Fahrig, a Toronto based designer, sculptor and educator who initiated the community play, uses Art mediums to bring people together on a community level. Kristen facilitated the benefits of the kids working together; encouraging their own ideas, where their imaginations proved to be extremely entertaining, from the audience hopping on board of the 'All Hallows Train' to smooth - on the spot problem solving, where the director Jane Wells and choreographer Jaclyn Buckley assisted with dance moves and script lines upon amusing moments of distraction.

The play was a story time you would have at home with your family but on a multi-medium community environment. The Mac Gregor Park project contributed a positive challenge, broad thinking, interpersonal and team building skills.

More pg 14

Walk Bloordale - Enjoy the Light, Art - Food Event



Dougal Bichan

Dyan Marie

LAF is a light, art, food event with artists, store and restaurant owners collaborating to turn Bloor Street from Lansdowne to Dufferin, into a late-fall walking destination on cold, dark November 21, 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Everyone is invited. Over 20 restaurants are opening their kitchens, many with taster menus at marginal cost. There couldn't be a better time to restaurant hop and try everything.

Retail stores are also transforming their shop windows with light and art projects. Artist Orest Tataryn is making a light sculpture for the corner of Bloor St. and St Clarens Ave. Artist Dyan Marie is having a nightlight creation party at 1211 Bloor. Galleries are staying open. Cafes are providing music. For a complete list of activities see www.bloordale-bia.com.

LAF is an initiative of the Bloordale BIA and artist Dyan Marie. Spiro Koumoudouros the BIA chair says, "This is a wonderful opportunity for families to walk out, explore and support local business while making new discoveries". Musician and LAF co-ordinator Dougal Bichan says, "After producing the BIG on Bloor festival this summer, it is very important to continue sharing the attractions of this interesting neighbourhood. "

LAF is a DMP / Bloordale BIA initiative, a Cavalcade of Light, City of Toronto BIA Participant and a Transcultural Exchange proposal for The Art Of Collaboration

Italian Walk of Fame 2009



September 7, 2009 in Toronto's "Little Italy", Canada. In front of the CHIN Building

Pictured from left to right: *Giancarlo Giannini - Internationally Acclaimed Academy-Award Nominated Actor - Connie Francis - "America's Sweetheart of Song" and International Best-Selling Artist - Phil Esposito - Hockey Legend and Hockey Hall of Fame Inductee - Rudy Bratty - Real Estate Developer, Described as "The Man who Built Toronto" - Julian Fantino - Commissioner of*

the Ontario Provincial Police - Lenny Lombardi on behalve of Johnny Lombardi - Pioneer Broadcaster and Community Leader

It was the last of the CNE as the planes flew by on this beautiful day. A proud day for "Little Italy" as Lenny Lombardi spoke: "I feel like Little Italy is the centre of the universe right now. My father would be very happy at the gathering today because he loved this community" Lombardi said.

"My father was born and raised here but he could never be lured out of the neighbourhood. He would be very proud today."

Lenny Lombardi on behalf of his Dad's posthumous Walk of Fame award



Lenny Lombardi

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News From Cross Roads of the Danforth BIA



Regal Tile Centre

There are many great things going on the Cross Roads of the Danforth BIA

We have few new businesses opening up by the end of the year and next

year, besides the, 'That's One Happy Dog' and 'Cross Roads Sports Academy', A UPS store opened up on Victoria Park and Danforth, A Cellular phone store is opening soon, and a large Bengal Bank is opening in the new year in the same plaza.

Access Alliance is a Ministry of Health initiative which will open in May 2010. This centre is primarily for the use of newcomers and new immigrants to Toronto. It is opening up where the Regal Tile Centre was before.

Our new "Banners on the Road" with our logo, which is the same as printed on the feather Banner, will be installed on the Hydro poles starting November 23rd 2009.

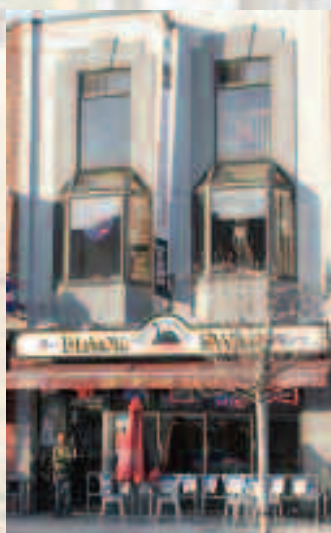
We will have flowers and Planters placed on our Corridor starting next spring

We are looking at having a Farmers Market for once a month in the Oakridge Park starting spring 2010.



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To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own. To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future. To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile. To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticise others. To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear; and too happy to permit the presence of trouble. To think well of yourself and to proclaim this fact to the world, not in loud words but in great deeds. To live in the faith that the whole world is on your side so long as you are true to the best that is in you.

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Ed Guca: The International Polka Treasure



Over 5 years ago when the Roncesvalles festival was just taking shape, Mr. Ed Guca expressed his constructive criticism regarding the lack of organization, and has ever since successfully coordinated the Polish event. Ed's main contribution involves arranging grants and bringing top Polka

bands from the USA. The bands this year included; "Freeze Dried" from Chicago, Grammy-nominated Canadian musician John Gora who performed a mix of polka beats and New Orleans blues, as well as a more traditional Polka sound brought by Mr. Guca's "Major Music" and "The Buffalo Touch" ensembles.

When asked about his creative process, Ed's hit "Ej Mamusiu Moja" a song about his mother, came alive through imagining what would Ed's mother, whom died at his early age had to say about his life.

Mr. Guca is the second Canadian honored at the International Polka Association's Hall of Fame is an established Musician, that has been touring North America with his band; The Polish Canadians for the past 50 years. Today He is the chair BIA for "the Bloor by the park" and as a proud representative

of the region convinced me to a couple of restaurants as best in town; "The King Slice" for pizza and "China Island" for Chinese food, both located on the north-west corner of Dundas West and Bloor. Furthermore, as a store owner of "Movie Art Décor" at 1566 Bloor St. West, Mr. Guca offers quality independent foreign films, as well as donated movies along with some new releases.

Mr. Guca's achievements include; Performing at the 1977 World Polka Festival in Poland, creating his recording company POLANCA Records, hosting "The All Night Friday Night Polka Party" as a DJ on CHIN-FM radio, establishing RAM Records to record and promoting Canadian Polka talent, finally running the Canadian Polka Carnival on the first Friday after every Easter for 25 years!

by Kasia Ignatowska

Celebrate Literacy "Word On The Street"



By Melissa Peters

"Word on The Street" celebrated their twentieth anniversary this year. As I writer, I am ashamed to admit I was only seeing the festival for the first time. It's quite

impressive. Endless booths and tents line Queens Park for one Sunday each September, while crowds slowly investigate what each one has to offer. Whether you want to illustrate horror comics, edit website content, or become a romance novelist, there is a booth catering to every aspect of the writing world. It is the perfect place to network and find out whats available, whether you have a journalism degree or are thinking of putting your ideas on paper for the very first time. For those who would rather read what others

write, it is a perfect place to find independant, local, and up-and-coming artists that haven't made their way into the bookstores. For one day, fringe scribblers and Margaret Atwood can be found in the same place.

And the festival is not just for adults. Childrens authors and literacy advocates provide age-appropriate and entertaining acitivities for the kids, and some of their favorite authors and kid-gearred bands take the stage all afternoon. Don't miss it next year- I know I wont.

“OVO” See Life Through Insect Eyes

After a day of learning productivity from the ants and art of weaving from the spider, I'd sneak a nap inside a puff ball and at night, just like a firefly light up my stomach to see what kind of a mate I'd attract! Most of us as kids, were fascinated by insects' world of structure and possibilities, their radiant colours, super hero shapes and unusual movement abilities tempted us to explore their utopia.



OVO means egg in Portuguese and symbolizes transformation that brings change and promising unknowns. I got to experience the theme's meaning short after finding my seat, when a human sized larva gently pulled my hair to

put whatever it had found on my head into a box and escaped into the aisles. The surprise-lice check up was an introduction that grabbed me physically, visually and emotionally, swarming everyone else around with insect reality.

A spotlight hit an enormous, majestic flower that opened its petals infusing the beginning of the show with magic. A creature appeared on its stem, flawlessly climbing, strategically falling, hypnotizing the audience with charisma and athletic talent. If you're one of the people who still wonders whether insects have a brain, let OVO prove, that their ability to fly, spin thread from the mouth and catapult each other into the air and land with one foot on another's head, would not be possible without it!

The flying trapeze, presented for the first time under a Grand Chapiteau of Cirque du Soleil, had six flyers fly as high as 14m and combined; Banquine, a Russian swing and a swinging chair. The challenge of enabling this multifaceted act was conquered by Fred Gerard, a rigging and acrobatic equipment designer, who incorporated the three disciplines by using 80 cables, allowing artists to define

gravity by leaping almost 40 feet in air! To top that off, expect to be impressed by the finale that features 20 artists running, jumping and leaping straight up an 8m vertical wall. It took the award winning Brazilian choreographer Deborah Colker a year and a half to generate choreography ideas for OVO. Her signature composition for large-scale production revealed the sequences through gradual built up and smooth transitions. The show's dynamic was harmonized by Gringo Cardia's bold and expressive set design, Eric Champoux's sensual lighting, Berna Ceppas's intriguing sound and Liz Vandal's poetic costumes.



If you're still looking to make your childhood fantasy a reality, go see Cirque du Soleil's "OVO", where an incredibly diverse group of invertebrate creatures awaits you!

Check out the Cirque du Soleil website for upcoming shows! www.cirquedusoleil.com by Kasia Ignatowska

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The Riverdale Share Concert



Since 1991, the all-volunteer concert has brought together some of Toronto's most celebrated artists to entertain the community and has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars and truckloads of food for children and families in need. The event raises money through ticket sales, donations and the generous support of its sponsors. Local merchants assist by selling the tickets, donating goods and services, and hosting special events.

This year's 18th annual edition will be held at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, on the south side of Danforth Avenue at Hampton Avenue (between Broadview and Chester subway stops), on Saturday, Dec. 12 and the format will feature two shows, at 2 and 4:30 p.m.

The Riverdale Share Concert is a diverse holiday celebration held every December in Toronto's vibrant Riverdale neighbourhood. Together, residents, businesses, students, volunteers, community leaders, and performers pool their resources and talent and gather under one roof to celebrate their spirit of community and raise money for families in crisis.

Murray McLauchlan
Played last year



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Ethiopian Day Celebration in Toronto 09



Donna Makeda, Dr. Retta, Gethachu Millon

On Sept 12, 2009 the Ethiopian community in Toronto marked the 11th annual Ethiopian Day celebration. For third year in a row, thousands of Ethiopians gathered at Christie Pits Park located at

the heart of the city extending partially over the Bloor/Danforth subway line. Along this surface route, to the west, are thriving Ethiopian businesses, as expected, more Habeshas are frequenting this area more than any other place in the city. The city of Toronto and its suburbs are homes to over 50000 Ethiopians who have chosen Canada as their adoptive country.

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH 100th Birthday!



This year St. Anthony's Catholic Church located at 1041 Bloor St W., celebrated its 100th Birthday! The parish is a multi-cultural family of 2,400 members, first founded by the Irish Catholic immigrants, and today is populated by the new comers from Portugal, Brazil, Italy, Sri Lanka, Mexico and the Philippines. The services are provided in English, Italian, Portuguese and

Tagalog. The parish has been running since 1977 by Scalabrinians who are Missionaries committed to working with migrants. St. Anthony's helped raise money to build 48 houses in India, and sent 5000 boxes of aspirin to Brazil, Haiti, the Philippines and migrant houses on the Mexico-U.S. and Mexico-Guatemalan borders.

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The Apology Project, Nuit Blanche 2009



Performance Art project created by Maria Legault

Nuit Blanche 2009, The Apology Project was a cluster of 55 people wearing large brown paper bags on their bodies, standing in a way of a public hallway and personally apologizing to every person who ventured through. The human blockade disrupted the regular flow of traffic and provoked a reflection of passive aggressive behavior. The audience expressed a range of reactions; from questioning why and what are you apologizing for? To "you should be sorry!", "it's ok's", "oh don't be sorry" There were kids, dogs, group hugs, cameras recording, sweet mockery, attempts to psych the bag person out in attempt to make them say something other than "sorry". Apart from dealing with getting sticky notes with funny drawings on, managing not to fall in a mush pit, endurance was a

significant component. The dedication of standing and apologizing for 12 hours turned into a stretch dance improvisation with a paper bag over the head!

Maria Legault, the creator of the project states "There is an enigma about what precisely they are sorry for and why they are choosing to continue doing something that they find reproachable. If it is their awkward presence in the space that they are apologizing for, why do they choose to remain there? Why not just stop an offensive behavior rather than continue to indulge in it a n d apologize?"

As one of the participants, it was simple; I was happy because I saw so many people laugh. It made me smile to witness the range of reactions and the crowd having a great time!

Maria Legault is an inter-disciplinary

artist who is fully bilingual and currently a Torontonian. Her work has been showcased at such venues as the Galapagos Art Space in New York City, Musee de Strasbourg in France and the Castle of the Imagination performance festival in Poland as well as locally at Mercer Union, Inter-Access, Forest City Gallery, 7a11d Performance Festival, Rodman Hal, Studio XX, Toronto Alternative Art Fair International, and The Drake Hotel.

by Kasia Ignatowska

The biggest tax increase in the history of Ont

Hello Ontario,

This new RST/GST tax is not getting any coverage in the news paper/television and I am not sure why. It is going to be the biggest tax increase in history. It's like no one wants to inform us of the facts. I have been investigating and I would like to share my findings.

The new tax will be administered by the Federal Government. It will be based on the GST, that means if the tax is currently collected on the Goods and Service Tax at 5% it is going to be increased to 13%, that sounds fine as Ontario's Provincial Retail Sales Tax is 8%. Add the two together and things seem fine.

One problem, Retail Sales Tax is not collected on everything that Goods and Services Tax is, the key word here is "Services". Retail Sales Tax is not collected on services. What is going to increase?

Here is a small list of services currently only taxed at 5% going up to 13%.

Natural Gas bill, Internet bill, Water bill, Gas at the pumps- That is like 6 cents per L. (that is a tax on top of a tax), Hair cut, Massage therapy & Condo Maintenance Fees !Electricity bill

Anything that requires labour around your house- plumber, electrician, painting, grass cutting etc.

Let talk about small business for a minute.

Mr. Mcguinty tells us in the budget that this new tax is going to save small businesses 500 million dollars. I do not know how much it costs to fill out a six line tax return monthly, but all small business owners I know do their own. If you are in business you will know about compensation on your Retail Sales Tax return. This is when you get to keep 5% of the tax collected up to \$1,500.00 per

year to help with your administration costs. That is gone once this tax is combined. Really it only helps large corporations with multiple vendor permit numbers, not small businesses.

Good news, I thought. There were two places where we were going to see an advantage to this tax. First there is no GST on used cars if bought privately and provincial tax on alcohol in between 10% to 12%. That is 2% to 4% higher then our normal Retail Sales Tax. Good old Mcguinty took care of that real quick. He is now saying to make it fair between used car lots, that he will collect the Retail Sales Tax on used cars still. Get ready for this one, he is going to add a levy on alcohol to promote social responsibility. This man is using the words social responsibility at the same time as he is raising our taxes, what he promised not to do.

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New Restaurant
1405 Danforth Ave

12-Storey Condo at Danforth / Woodbine

Winterfolk 09

A proposed condo without enough parking



There is a redevelopment proposal for 2055-2057 Danforth Avenue, at the intersection of Danforth and Woodbine. This 12-storey condominium with retail space at the ground level will be the tallest structure in the vicinity.

The 38 metre high building will have a density of 3.49 times the area of the lot. The proposed density exceeds current permissions of 3 times the lot area on the front portion and 0.6 times the area of the lot on the rear

portion. The proposed height exceeds the current height limits of 14 and 12 metres. An exception to the current Zoning By-law is required.

Based on the submitted proposal to the City, this condo has 107 one bedroom, 34 two bedroom for a total 141 condo units, plus retail stores.. But **ONLY 120 Parking Spaces!** That is 19 sold apartments **WITHOUT** a parking space. Also there is no visitor's parking or parking for the retail stores.

Winterfolk is a music festival on the Danforth with 100 Artists for 4 Days of Roots & Blues Music on February 12 - 15, 2010 at Black Swan, Dora Keogh, Willow Restaurant, and Mambo Lounge

CONGRATS TO WINNERS @ WINTERFOLK AUDITION

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Brian Gladstone
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Time & Fate at MacGregor Park (Con't)



The children got to workshop with professionals, collaborated with peers and shared a creative, translating into real life - purpose.

A myriad of imaginations came together in this fantastical event and I very much look forward to Kristen's future community

projects! Kristen's work as a 'Cultural Animator' is currently being funded by the Canada Council for the Arts. In December She will be holding free workshops for local kids after school in the Art Room at West Toronto Collegiate. www.kristenfahrig.ca

Sexual Entrappment On The Danny (Con't)

likely. You need to be on drugs to NOT see how bad they looked.

I ask you: does this help the Danforth become a better street? Makes for good headlines, sells newspapers, makes the cops look like they are doing something about prostitution; and gives the local city councillor something that they can brag about in their re-election speech. But should the money not be spent on helping these girls get off the streets, and off the drugs? The local homeless shelter at Main and

Danforth does not have an addiction councillor. They just house them so they can go out and post an ad on Craigslist to feed their habit.

Co-op Cabbie Name Withheld

Editor's note: As a part time DJ, I had just finished a late night party for a lovely couple from Scotland. I was looking for an after work slice of pizza at 3 a.m on the same Saturday night. And yes I saw the very nice looking, so when I got this submission I knew it was true.

P.S. About a year ago I was walking

down Danforth Ave. and shot a picture with my iphone of the police cleaning out a "rub and tug". It took them about ten years to close them down; just in time for Craigslist to take over where they left off.



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