

Writing Op-Eds

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OPINION

THE CANADIAN PRESS/STYLING BY JACQUELINE HARRIS

Justin Trudeau's man crush on Fidel



By Sarah H. Brown
@sarahbrown

Justin Trudeau's endorsement of Fidel Castro is the most surprising political endorsement I've seen in a long time. It's not that he's endorsing a man who has spent his life in a political prison, but that he's endorsing a man who has spent his life in a political prison. It's not that he's endorsing a man who has spent his life in a political prison, but that he's endorsing a man who has spent his life in a political prison.

The man who has spent his life in a political prison is Fidel Castro. He is a man who has spent his life in a political prison. He is a man who has spent his life in a political prison. He is a man who has spent his life in a political prison. He is a man who has spent his life in a political prison.

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Equal justice for indigenous women

The province government must not be a sign of support for the courts in their efforts to bring justice to indigenous women.

By Sarah H. Brown
@sarahbrown

On behalf of the women of British Columbia, I stand in solidarity with the women of the province who are being denied justice. The province government must not be a sign of support for the courts in their efforts to bring justice to indigenous women.



Supreme Court of British Columbia logo.

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Lifestyle tops drugs (again) in delaying dementia



By Sarah H. Brown
@sarahbrown

A lifestyle that is healthy and active can help delay the onset of dementia. The province government must not be a sign of support for the courts in their efforts to bring justice to indigenous women.

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- Description of op-ed
- Short: 600-700 words
- Topical: On top of the news
- Essay of opinion or explanation authored by a named person not associated with the newspaper's editorial board or even a member of staff.
- Often well-known and certainly knowledgeable author.

“It occurred to me that nothing is more interesting than opinion when opinion is interesting, so I devised a method of cleaning off the page opposite the editorial, which became the most important in America ... and thereon I decided to print opinions, ignoring facts.”

Herbert Bayard Swope, editor *New York World*

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Pickle

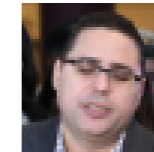
By AMY NICHOLSON

A couple go to great lengths to keep an unusual array of animals alive and comfortable.

The Evangelicalism of Old White Men Is Dead

By TONY CAMPOLO and SHANE CLAIBORNE

We need a new Christian movement.



The Death of Fidel Castro

By PATRICK CHAPPATTE

Fidel Castro, a Cuban revolutionary who defied the United States for nearly 50 years, died on Friday.



Does India's Right Wing Have Any Ideas?

By AATISH TASEER

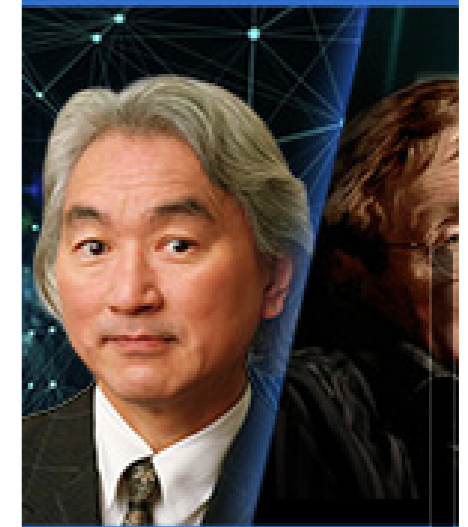
Conservative nationalists have won at the ballot box. But they are still struggling to put forward an intellectual agenda.



The Dream of a Free Cuba

By HENRY GODINEZ

New Documentar



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Student Undergraduate Essay *typicam canadensis*

“The total overhaul of the news mediascape has redefined not only methods of news distribution, but also the role and quality of journalism as it translates to an increasingly digital age. Globe and Mail editor-in-chief David Walmsley’s suggestion that the form news media takes does not impact the quality and methods of production is too simplistic and overlooks the necessary evolution journalism has undergone in order to maintain a sense of relevancy in today’s news media climate.”

–Johnny Appleseed

CUBA

Justin Trudeau's man crush on Fidel



MARGARET WENTE
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Justin Trudeau's man crush on Fidel Castro is making news round the world - and not in a good way. The headlines are painful. "Justin Trudeau ridiculed over praise of 'remarkable leader,'" said The Guardian. "Trudeau's Castro tribute raises eyebrows," said CNN. "Twitter imagined what he would say about Stalin," mocked The Washington Post.

Mr. Trudeau's affection for the old dictator puts him in the company of Vladimir Putin and Bashar al-Assad. He described Fidel Castro as "a legendary revolutionary and orator" and fondly recalled their old family ties. "I know my father was very proud to call him a friend," he said.

The worst word he used in his statement on Saturday was "controversial." I guess that's one way to describe how he dealt with his political opponents. He lined them up against a wall and shot them.

Mr. Trudeau's comments were oddly timed. He was just winding up a far-flung trip whose theme was human rights, during which he lectured various African countries on the need to improve their treatment of women and sexual minorities. Unfortunately, Mr. Castro wasn't all that progressive either. He regarded homosexuals as counterrevolutionary. He called them "luggots" and "worms," and locked them up in prison camps. "Gays were not treated like human beings, they were treated like beasts," according to Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas's memoir.

Mr. Castro's people loved him so much that nearly 20 per cent of the population tried to escape, taking off across the ocean in leaky homemade boats. Tens of thousands of them never made

it. (The most complete account of the regime's victims can be found at the Cuba Archive's Truth and Memory Project.)

It's hard to single out the worst atrocity committed by the Castro regime. One might surely be the execution of 166 Cubans back in 1966. Before they died, their bodies were drained of blood - an average of seven pints a person. The blood was sold for \$50 a pint to Communist Vietnam, in order to support the Viet Cong aggression and gain hard currency for Cuba. After the victims were exsanguinated, their limp bodies were carried off to the firing squad.

Where did Justin Trudeau get his man crush on Fidel? Clearly, he inherited it from his dad. Pierre Trudeau had a certain fondness for socialist dictators, of whom Fidel Castro was just one. He was an honorary pallbearer at Pierre's funeral, which also marked a turning point in Justin's life. His affecting tribute to his father was his first adult appearance on the public stage.

Like many other left-wing strongmen, Fidel was beloved of public intellectuals. Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre were among his early acolytes. They lionized him as a freedom fighter against American imperialism (but were eventually repelled by his human rights abuses.) This alone has been enough to turn Fidel into a folk hero - especially in Canada, where there's plenty of sympathy for a small nation struggling to survive in the shadow of a big, bad cultural and economic oppressor.

I would guess that quite a lot of Canadians heartily agree with Mr. Trudeau about Fidel. They have an extravagantly romantic idea of Cuba as an exotic land of equality and falsetto musicians and palm-fringed beaches, a picturesque time capsule of decaying architecture and ancient Studebakers kept on the road by native ingenuity. The people are so educated! Their health care is so good! They send doctors to Venezuela! Or, at any rate, they

used to, until Venezuela ran out of currency, medicines, soap and anesthetics.

It's easy to overlook the truth about the place. The Cuban people are equal in their wretchedness. (Meanwhile, the Castros have salted away a fortune.) Everyone is literate, but there's nothing to read apart from what the regime approves of. Aspirin and Band-Aids are available only by prescription, and treatment for complicated illnesses is almost non-existent. People can't vote. They can't speak freely. According to Human Rights Watch, "Many of the abusive tactics developed during [Castro's] time in power - including surveillance, beatings, arbitrary detention and public acts of repudiation - are still used by the Cuban government."

Fidel Castro was a failure in every way. He wouldn't give his people freedom and he couldn't even give them bread. We should be dancing on his grave. As for Justin - he's not sorry for what he said. He's proud of it.

Margaret Wente in flight

Justin Trudeau's man crush on Fidel Castro is making news around the world – and not in a good way. The headlines are painful. “Justin Trudeau ridiculed over praise of ‘remarkable leader,’” said the Guardian. “Trudeau's Castro tribute raises eyebrows,” said CNN. “Twitter imagined what he would say about Stalin,” mocked The Washington Post.

Matthew Coon Come begins . . .

On behalf of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee, I must express our indignation at the double standard evident in the Quebec government's refusal to address the allegations of abuse of indigenous women in Val d'Or and elsewhere in Quebec.

Tom Flanagan declares . . .

The Conservative Party leadership race has a dozen candidates but no front-runner. Kellie Leitch's lead in public opinion polls means little, because the leader will be elected by party members, not the general public.

- Both articles begin with a simple declarative sentence structure using the active voice.
- When the subject is the agent or doer of the action, the verb is in the active voice. Chief Coon Come: “I **must express** our indignation . . .” And Dr. Flanagan: “The leadership race **has** a dozen candidates but no front-runner. Kellie Leitch’s lead in public opinion polls **means** little - and only then does he dip into the passive voice where the subject is the target of the action - “because the leader **will be elected by** party members, not the general public.”
- **Active** voice: Sheila **ate** the marshmallows. **Passive**: The marshmallows **were eaten** by Sheila. You can see which structure is stronger, more muscular, more clear,

Structure

- Introductory paragraph (lede): strong, provocative, active voice, attention-grabbing
- 2nd paragraph: expands on intro and leads into first point of argument
- First point with supporting evidence
- Second point with supporting evidence
- Third, fourth, fifth (if there's room) points with supporting evidence
- Conclusion - which swings back to introductory paragraph.

Flanagan

- 2nd paragraph expands on his intro paragraph and leads into his 1st point of argument: Leadership election rules will have a strong impact on outcome
- He then explains the rules

- Each of 338 riding associations is awarded 100 points divided among candidates in proportion to the votes they receive. Voting is by preferential ballot, with the candidates with the fewest votes being successively dropped off the ballot and their votes transferred to the voters' second choice until there is a clear winner with 50 + 1 per cent of the total 33,800 points.
- Complex chunk of information - but needs to be there, up high in the article, to enable the reader to understand the rest of the essay

- His third point: main strategy a candidate can employ -“go for broke” (**evidence** - victory on 1st ballot e.g. Harper and Trudeau) by stirring up lots of publicity (Leitch technique with vetting immigrants and killing CBC)
- Problem: Opposition may coalesce around another candidate
- Fourth point: 2nd main strategy is to build alliances with candidates likely to drop off the ballot early. They can be promised prominent positions in party in exchange for supporting Dr. Leitch.

- Fifth point: candidates can agree to exchange preferences: recommend to their supporters to give 2nd preference on their ballots to the “preference partner”
- Conclusion: ties everything together and circles back to the lede

- “Preferential voting helps to build consensus around the winning candidate. Unfortunately, however, the qualities needed to build internal [party] consensus do not always lead to victory over other parties.”
- (Dr. Flanagan gives two illustrations of politicians who won their party’s leadership but lost big in elections: the federal Liberals’ Stephane Dion and Alberta Progressive Conservative Allison Redford. And then two examples of leadership winners who also won elections: Mr. Harper and Mr. Trudeau.
- “The Conservatives have to hope that a consensus winner in an internal party race can also become a winner in the larger arena of national elections.”

Summary

- Neat, short sentences, active voice wherever possible, tightly argued
- Provocative, attention-grabbing lede - makes you want to read on
- Arguments and supporting evidence side-by-side
- Conclusion that ties everything together and swings back to reprise the lede.