# THE 1910 INQUIRER

THE ROAD IS MADE BY WALKING

TOP STORIES / LAST NEWS / EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW / BUSINESS / SPORT / CULTURE / TRAVEL / MEDIA

TECH & SCIENCE



### **EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**

It's March 2020. John Honderich, chairman of the eminent Torstar Corporation, sits in his office wearing a severe, businesslike suit juxtaposes jacket that trademark grin. Wide picture windows reveal a view of the Toronto skyline, and we take a moment to admire it as we prepare to conduct our interview.

The city has changed significantly throughout the span of Chairman Honderich's career. He first began working as a news reporter for the Toronto Star in 1976, at a time when community and daily newspapers enjoyed ample circulation and readership. Now, it is almost five months since the closure of StarMetro, the last free

English newspaper Canada. Torstar Corporation made the decision to terminate the newspaper on November 19, 2019, after increased digitization led to plummeting demands for print media.

Turning our backs on the bright city landscape, we decide to discuss the subject of change and continuity with Chairman Honderich. How will the closure of small print newspapers such as the StarMetro impact civil society and life in Toronto?

Chairman Honderich is quick to reassure us of the healthy and prevailing presence of reliable news sources in the city.

"The media play a critical role in the health of democracy. It is an inevitable part of the process... Toronto [and] the area extremely well served by the media," he enthuses. "So about the closure of the StarMetro, whether this has had an impact: No, since [are] many other opportunities to have access to the information."

In short, the closure of StarMetro newspaper does not necessarily engender the dire scenario of isolation by communication that scholars such as Adorno and Horkheimer have theorized. But the question remains: Is this technological progress for the betterment of society? Or does it herald "the collapse of continents" (or the integrity of journalism itself), as envisioned by the fretful Frankfurt school of thought?

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# The media play a critical role in the health of democracy.

Despite his conviction about the availability of news sources in the city, Chairman Honderich admits that he fears for young people whose primary source of information consists of Facebook videos and Twitter threads. We wholeheartedly agree. Especially in light of online amateur journalism, the unchecked and unregulated nature of open access online platforms, and accusations of 'fake news', physical newspapers are seemingly more important than ever to aid in the dissemination of trustworthy information. Indeed, as Gianni Vattimo postulated, amidst the forces of postmodernity and technologies' continuous mediation, the urban dweller could very well experience the 'weakening of the real', or the relentless 'crisscrossing of information, interpretations, and images' spurred by digital mainstream media.

Despite these concerns, digital media continues to be popular and attractive to the public. According to Leif Weatherby, the digital comprises perfect replications of data that are both free and instantaneously transmitted — affordances that print media cannot compete with.

Therefore, can digital journalism ever be a sufficient replacement for the growing decline of print journalism? Chairman Honderich does not pause to ponder his answer.

"Absolutely not. It is true that people on social networks do a basic job as reporters, giving their time and opinions on topics. But being a journalist requires real involvement and is not just about giving your opinion. Being a journalist means getting out, going out to try to understand a fact... Call me old fashioned!"

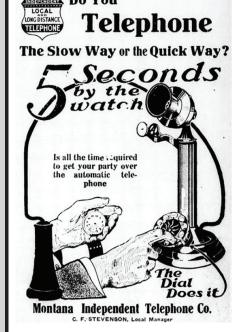
He laughs, and we do too. In regard to the conflict between print journalism and digital journalism, it is apparent that the journalistic medium is indeed integral to the journalistic massage.

But will print journalism ever make a come-back? Is there a possibility that digital media will revert back to its prior materiality, much like vinyl experienced a resurgence of popularity amidst the prevalence of streaming services in the music industry? Chairman Honderich is skeptical.

"I think it's highly doubtful [that newspapers will make a come-back]. But do I think that print is over? No... There is a magic to the experience you have with a printed product, which is entirely different from the experience you have with your phone in your hand. I call it the 'serendipity of print'. When you're reading a newspaper and you come across a photograph, or drawing, you're drawn into the story... and I think that happens much more often with print media than digital media."

However, with the decline of print newspaper circulation — evidenced by the closure of StarMetro — the public is increasingly turning to digital journalism to read the news. Access to such media comes at a price. Within conditions of postmodernity and the rise of the







'information society', which Barbero (2013) describes as a society wherein "information has become the most valuable and costly raw material and in which communications has become the model of its own organization", digital news has become inundated with monetary barriers and paywalls, meaning that the public must subscribe to access news content.

According to Chairman Honderich, these paywalls are necessary to ensure the survival of newspaper organizations such as the Torstar corporation.

"This is how I describe what's happened to the newspaper industry: It used to be that we were the ones that had the dominant share of local advertising in markets. Now, between 75 and 80 percent of all digital advertising is owned by Facebook and Google. They're getting all the money... It's no secret that we [Torstar corporation] are in a very tough battle for survival."

It is true that the digital economy has arguably engendered what is known as 'platform capitalism'. Just read Scott Galloway's The Four, which likens Facebook, Google, Amazon, and Apple to the four horsemen of the apocalypse. Italian scholar Carlo Vercellone similarly claims that such multinational corporations are "re-making the world in their image." Chairman Honderich is more blunt in his description of Facebook and Google:

"They are predatory in how they operate, they want to push their stuff to the top and everyone else down to the bottom, so it has been a huge challenge... We're trying with our paywalls to get a subscriber base that will sustain the news operation. But it's quite a struggle."

The struggle for survival is also not merely dependent on digital subscriptions. As the Financial Times reported on February 26, print advertising is still the largest source of revenue for Torstar Corporation. With the advent of digitization, and with it the domination of 'global technology giants' in the digital advertising sphere, we wonder how the Torstar Corporation plans to make up for this significant financial deficit.

"I think North America — and Canada, in particular — is finally starting to wake up and realize the dangers of Facebook and Google. Especially in the United States, philanthropy for public service journalism is well-established. It's been there for a couple of decades now. Through their tax rules, they can get charitable slips for people who want to donate to newspapers who are doing serious journalism."

Although Canada has not yet implemented any laws to safeguard and support the news industry, Chairman Honderich is adamant that domestic legislation will soon change. Multiple media sources actively demanding that the Canadian government take measures to regulate foreign digital companies, and through revised copyright protection and taxation rules these national news agencies hope to preserve the vibrant, reliable, and diverse 'media ecosystem' that is integral to a healthy democracy.

We find ourselves comparing Chairman Honderich's answer to the Palo Alto school of thought. Canadian news sources and democracy can be likened to Gregory Bateson's (1972) 'redwood forest' or 'coral reef' in Steps to an Ecology of Mind: A human community, with its various societal institutions, comprises 'closed loops of causation'. The StarMetro newspaper (and the Torstar Corporation as a whole) could and should thus be studied in accordance with its environment, as it and the greater community are mutually influenced by each other.





### [ It's no secret that we are in a very tough battle for survival.

So where do we, the students, belong in this environment?

"The most significant way that students can support newspapers is to subscribe," Chairman Honderich affirms. "I know it's not cheap, but that's all anyone can realistically expect from students."

Chairman Honderich Indeed, cheekily emphasizes, there is no such thing as a 'free lunch'. If a community wants to read quality journalism, then it must be committed to supporting it. His words are reminiscent of his 2019 Canadian Journalism Foundation lifetime award acceptance speech,

where he pithily told his audience to "Think not what journalism has done for you, but ask what you can do to make quality journalism thrive in Canada".

Chairman Honderich's 2019 Canadian Journalism Foundation's lifetime achievement award followed his receipt of the Order of Canada in 2004 and the Order of Ontario in 2006. As our interview comes to a close, we are astounded by his amazing accomplishments and profound professional legacy. Most of all, we are humbled that he had taken the time to talk to us

about such important matters. But we are also curious — of all his many achievements, what is he most proud of?

Chairman Honderich smiles as he speaks about the sweeping impact of the Toronto Star, which has been in circulation since 1892.

"The Star is governed by what are called the Atkinson principles, and they have been the philosophical prism through which we have operated. The Star stands for certain things. We're a paper that covers certain stories:

Stories of immigrants, stories of people hard done by. To be able to have preserved, maintained — and hopefully to have informed people of what is going on as a progressive voice — is probably what I am most proud of."

Indeed, like the discipline of communications itself, it can be said that over the course of his career Chairman Honderich has "assume[d] some of the mantle of philosophy, seeking to explain humanity to itself" (Hartley, 2002, p. 32).



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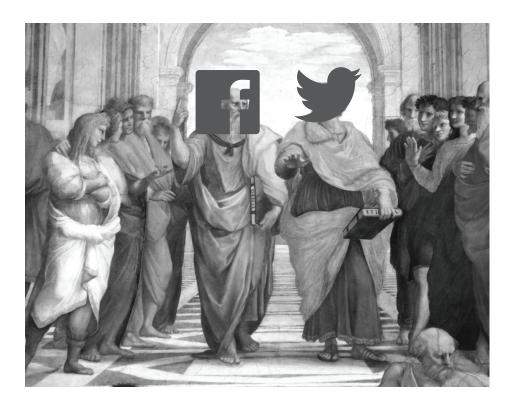
# DE LA RHÉTORIQUE ET DES RÉSEAUX SOCIAUX

Par Rose Debu

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram. Autant de nouveaux terrains de jeux pour ceux qui communiquent - c'est-à-dire, intrinsèquement, tout être humain. De la caption Instagram au post Facebook, du retweet au partage : à chaque action effectuée sur les réseaux sociaux correspond un nouveau code particulier, et si un domaine en est affecté, c'est bien l'art de la parole. Cette rhétorique, canonisée il y a plus de 2000 ans, est aujourd'hui confrontée à l'évolution d'un monde qui semble tourner bien trop vite pour elle : voilà tout l'intérêt de redécouvrir Aristote, Cicéron ou même Schopenhauer à la lumière de la communication digitale.

L'ère du pathos ; le désert du logos ; l'attaque de l'ethos...

Le triptyque aristotélicien, qui définit les différents types d'arguments utilisés par le rhéteur - du pathos (l'argument émotionnel), à l'ethos (le caractère de l'orateur) et au logos (l'argument logique) - reste un cadre d'analyse pertinent, mais montre des évolutions très marquées. Tout d'abord, le flot permanent d'informations et la multiplication des contenus en tout genre entraînent un besoin de se démarquer pour exister, et donc de pouvoir susciter très rapidement l'émotion. Si l'exemple des vidéos de chaton est le plus emblématique, suscitant une tendresse et une empathie presque instantanée chez la plupart des viewers,

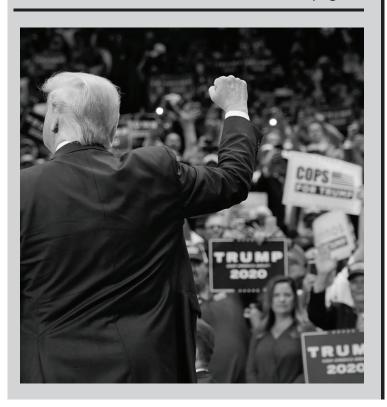


l'exemple des groupes contestation politique sur Facebook illustre également très bien ce propos. L'utilisation d'emojis "pas content" ou "poing levé", les titres en majuscules (du "ON NOUS MENT" à "CETTE VIDÉO CENSURÉE PAR LE POUVOIR"): tout est fait pour accrocher l'oeil, et susciter la colère, le mépris ou l'indignation de celui en face de son écran. Cette sur-utilisation du pathos n'est pas surprenante: il semble bien plus facile de convaincre une foule diverse et variée, comme peut l'être celle présente sur les réseaux sociaux, en recourant à des sentiments simples et universels, plutôt qu'en utilisant un soutenu logique, discours argumenté, forcément plus long à produire, plus clivant et moins adapté au format des réseaux sociaux. C'est ce qui explique un certain recul du logos, de l'argument logique : si les feu 140 caractères de Twitter pouvaient être perçus comme peu favorables à un long débat construit (perception remise question depuis en notamment par l'effusion de threads autres techniques), commentaires Facebook ne sont pas plus un espace d'échange citoyen ou académique.

A cela, il reste possible de répondre que cette vision du logos, comme étant une argumentation développée et presque référencée, peut sembler élitiste, et qu'au contraire obliger à synthétiser une réflexion en quelques phrases, voire quelques mots, est un citoyenneté d'expression tout à fait intéressant. A chacun de se faire son idée, selon ce qu'il observe sur son fil d'actualité : il semble néanmoins possible d'affirmer qu'aujourd'hui, les réseaux sociaux sont majoritairement un espace de communication "coup de poing", se basant sur l'émotion et la réputation de celui qui s'exprime, bien plus que

sur la rationalité de son propos. C'est ce qui nous conduit à notre dernier point : l'argument du caractère, l'ethos, celui qui se construit en fonction du charisme, de la répartie, des précédentes prises de position, de la capacité à s'exprimer, de la réputation de l'orateur. Cet ethos est disséminé à chaque prise de parole, et donne aux arguments avancés un poids supplémentaire : les exemples politiques contemporains les plus marquants étant Barack Obama, Nelson Mandela ou encore, en France, Christiane Taubira; pour les combats qu'ils ont menés, et le prestige associé à leur nom, leur parole est considérée comme plus légitime et marguante. Evidemment, figures considérées comme "progressistes" ont leur équivalent du côté obscur de la force politique : de Donald Trump à Matteo Salvini, d'autres dirigeants ont aussi fait de leur réputation une arme de communication. Et si cet article tend à se concentrer sur la dimension politique de la rhétorique, les mêmes procédés sont à l'oeuvre dans le domaine du marketing et de la publicité : capter l'attention du consommateur par un appel direct à ses émotions, s'assurer de son attention par la présence d'une personnalité reconnue, et expliquer pourquoi le client a absolument besoin de ce produit - ce qui peut se baser sur un syllogisme des plus simples (ce vêtement est de bonne qualité et peu cher, vous avez besoin de vêtements de bonne qualité et peu cher, vous avez donc besoin de ce vêtement).

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# **OPINION:**Bateson & COVID-19

"Mammals in general, and we among them, care extremely, not about episodes, but about the patterns of their relationships. When you open the refrigerator door and the cat comes up and makes certain sounds, she is not talking about liver or milk, although you may know very well that that is what she wants. You may be able to guess correctly and give her that — if there is any in the refrigerator. What she actually says is something about the relationship between herself and you. If you translated her message into words, it would be something like "dependency, dependency, dependency" (Bateson, Steps to an Ecology of Mind, 1972, p. 470).

Human beings are dependent on each other. Our identity is formed by the relationships that we maintain. Our relationships, and how we interact with and relate to each other, accordingly provide the basis of society.

So what happens when the pattern of these relationships is stripped away?

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, governments across the world have enacted strict social distancing laws in order to mitigate the spread of the virus. In Canada, this generally means that citizens are being encouraged to stay home, practice social distancing, and delimit gatherings so that they only include immediate family members. Failure to observe these measures will mean that the virus will continue to spread from person to person.

During a situation without modern precedent, the dependency of humans is being brought into stark relief. Despite repeated warnings, people are still taking unnecessary trips outside, congregating in large groups, skulking around public places, and blatantly disregarding government pleas to stay home.

Could the relationships that society depends on therefore also lead to its downfall?

Epistemologically, Gregory Bateson (1972) argued that "when you separate the mind from the structure in which it is immanent, such as human relationship, the human society, or the ecosystem, you thereby embark... on fundamental error" (p. 485). But actually,

...La fin du "storytelling", l'époque du "clash"

L'enjeu majeur des réseaux sociaux diffère finalement assez peu de la question déjà posée par les Grecs, 2500 ans avant l'invention de la story Insta : comment rendre sa parole audible et impactante pour l'audience ? Jusqu'à récemment, aux différents types d'arguments évogués précédemment dans cet article s'ajoutait un instrument bien utile: la narration, ou storytelling. Construire une histoire dans laquelle il est possible d'avancer ses arguments, qui viennent encore renforcer l'histoire, qui à son tour nourrit les arguments. Cette narration se retrouve principalement dans le discours délibératif, le discours politique : les grands récits du néolibéralisme, du communisme et du libre-marché en sont quelques exemples ; le récit de l'immigration massive et criminelle, ou le récit de la crise écologique en sont d'autres. Notons que la valeur du récit n'est pas ce qui nous intéresse : c'est bien le procédé en soi dont il est question, car c'est lui qui est remis en question aujourd'hui. La première raison de cela, étrangère aux réseaux sociaux, est l'effondrement d'une partie de ces récits : le mythe communisme s'est affaissé un jour de Noël 1991 ; le récit d'une finance néolibérale autorégulatrice a perdu sa valeur spéculative en automne 2008. Lorsque les banques se tournent vers les Etats pour éviter que la crise mondiale ne s'aggrave encore plus, le récit se brise, ce qui n'est pas sans conséquence : les contre-récits, notamment ceux de la théorie du complot, prenant en importance depuis le 11 septembre 2001, se retrouvent renforcés, et constituent une alternative concrète à ceux que les grands récits laissent maintenant de côté.

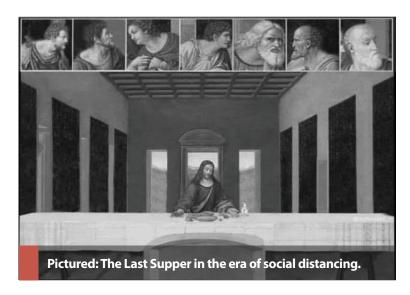
Un exemple incarne particulièrement ce déclin du storytelling: Greta Thunberg. Comment communiquer l'urgence, quand on ne peut même pas créer la panique ? D'abord, cette activiste s'inscrivait parfaitement dans le récit écologique - celui de la prise de conscience, de l'inaction mondiale, et du réveil citoyen. Mais face au manque d'impact de ce récit, une transition s'opère vers une confrontation plus directe ("How dare you ?") : on passe du récit, au clash. Et le terrain d'affrontement devient alors les réseaux sociaux : Donald Trump (75 millions d'abonnés) attaque violemment Greta Thunberg sur Twitter, celle-ci lui répond en reprenant son attaque pour en faire la caption de son compte, suivi par 4 millions de personnes. Et voilà une affaire virale, traitée par les médias, et à l'impact bien plus important que celui que pourrait avoir une interview de une heure donnée par la jeune activiste. Exit les spin doctor, professionnels de la communication politique : place aux spécialistes du conflit en peu de mots - en somme, celui qui trouve la meilleure phrase, la meilleure attaque. Cet ère du clash, nous y baignons en permanence, car c'est celle qui s'adapte le mieux aux réseaux sociaux : de Twitter à Facebook, la toile raffole des saillies telles que "ok,

boomer". Deux mots, une vidéo, et un "buzz" mondial. Voilà la recette du succès, reprise très largement par une multitude d'acteurs. Pour revenir au marketing et à la communication des entreprises, la logique est la même : l'essaimage des Community Managers, ces communicants 2.0, le montre bien ; l'objectif est d'être au plus proche du client, de répondre à ses attentes, ses angoisses, ses inquiétudes, et d'en profiter pour se montrer comme la marque la plus sincère, la plus empathique ou sympathique. L'essor compilations des clashs, réponses bien senties voire surenchères entre différents comptes de marques en est la preuve. Aujourd'hui, l'enjeu, qu'il soit commercial, publicitaire ou politique, ne se joue plus seulement en magasin et sur les bancs de l'Assemblée, mais bien sur les nouveaux panneaux d'affichage de l'espace public : Facebook, Twitter et Instagram.





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# **EDITORIAL**

This is an editorial written thirty years ago that we decided to publish once again in our current edition. The author is a former political science teacher at the University of Washington, and was part of the utopist school of thought in the mid-90s, thinking of the Internet as a huge democratic and social tool, with massive positive impact for all citizens.

### FROM PRINTED TO DIGITAL MEDIA: THE KING IS DEAD, LONG LIVE THE KING!

Open Editorial - Lou R. Ex 31 March 1990

Remember this: internet is the future. And along with it, our way of understanding media and information is going to evolve, towards a new time: the era of digital media.

For the first time since the telegraph, humanity is going to free communication from the constraints of both time and distance; more than this, from all barriers currently known. You will be able to access all the resources you need, or want, everywhere, and at any time. This is the simple promise of digital media.

Long gone are the days of printed papers, distributed once a week by a poor newspaper delivery boy, with more pimples on his face than on the dashboard of a car: this is about permanent, unlimited access to newspapers, information and comments made by other people.

Today, I hear your frustration. When you see, in the Toronto Star, an advertisment for a new Blue Jays

to physically do so would be the opposite: To separate these entities is the solution to the COVID-19 crisis.

Our current survival is therefore not dependent on the presence of the relationships that sustain us, but their absence. By sacrificing our routines and the patterns of our relationships, we can keep each other healthy and safe from harm. Indeed, the best way to love thy neighbour right now is to leave them alone.

# **FILM REVIEW**

Citizen Kane (1941)

Citizen Kane is a wondrous film directed by Orson Welles, nominated in many prestigious ceremonies, and renowned as one of the greatest cinematic masterpieces of our time for many compelling reasons.

With Citizen Kane, the American director redefines cinema, blurring the lines between art, storytelling, and documentary. He denounces the fallacy of fiction, with a montage worthy of a government campaign film. He puts newspaper headlines in the foreground and uses an almost advertising like voice-over to narrate the life of the main character. For Welles, cinema is neither propaganda nor pure melodrama Citizen Kane delightful entertainment. Orson Welles offers an innovative narrative structure — an "inverted narrative" — as he begins with the death of Kane and develops an enigma with his last word "Rosebud". Is it a woman? A place? A secret code?

A reporter is hired to translate the end of this incredible story. He will meet the great man's relatives and, through their testimonies, reconstruct the events and emotions that make up a life.

Welles shows us individuals who have become ghosts overwhelmed by memories that they relive before our eyes. The past contaminates the present with long flashbacks. They offer a cubist portrait of Charles Foster Kane.

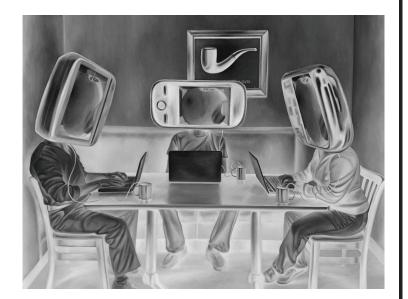
This film also encourages the spectator to conduct their own investigation by forming their own ideas about the character of Kane and his life. In an innovative twist, Orson Welles gives his viewer freedom: he doesn't tell a story, he offers to tell it to himself. Citizen Kane is ultimately an excellent portrayal of the values that formed the basis of Hollywood cinema in the 20th century: the reality of freedom and happiness of individuals.

can-opener, and you have to wait until the end of your day to go to the store, while hoping that it is still available: this is over. With digital media, you'll just have to click on the advertisement to order it online, and it will be delivered at your front door in less than a few hours — even a few minutes, if the delivery boy runs fast (out of his newspapers job, he turned to Deliv'Express to pay for his acne cream).

Of course, such a wonderful tool is not to be wielded without caution. If a State should gain control over such a web, it could have far-reaching consequences, and even if the blue-dot planet will probably not be turned into Red, the USSR threat did not entirely disappear.

But the benefits far outweigh the risks, if nothing else in terms of health: our individual health patterns will be more than improved, and it will have a tremendous effect on our life expectancy. Jobs will be affected: you will be able to work from your home, or your holiday residence, without any physical risk for you! Impersonal printed media will be a thing of the past. With new digital media, you will have access to everything you need, according to your personal information: to deal with any health issue you may have, you will be redirected towards scientific and medical articles, to raise your awareness and help you overcome your problems. No need either to worry for your future political commitments: as the Internet will know everything about you, it could tell you exactly for which politicians you should vote for; the one who'll serve your interests the best!

This is an era of rest and harmony, the beginning of the biggest information and social revolution the world has ever known. For this time, however, leave aside the sickle and the hammer: computers of all countries, unite!



# **HOROSCOPES**

The Stars Down to Earth - Secondary Superstition at Your Service

What are you doing here, what would Adorno say? ...It's okay, you can read on. We promise not to tell him.



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Make today a meaningful one. Your can-do attitude will carry you through the day. Maybe it's time to start that online venture you've been thinking about. Time to sell people random things they do not need. Tonight: Stay inside.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You've been rather passive lately. Extra passive. Have you been looking at too many advertisements maybe? You are finding it even more difficult than usual to initiate. Try to get ahead of the curve and manipulate the masses instead. Tonight: Stay inside and comfort food.



**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)

You have a lot of curiosity in regards to your surroundings. Quit being dialectical and just relax-you're not Hegel! Why don't you subscribe to that online publication you've been thinking about? Tonight: Have a dinner party with yourself.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

You've been looking for a tertiary superstition to believe in. Look no further, the answer is on one of these pages. Tonight: Watch a wild documentary.



**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

Feeling a bit retro tonight? Blow the dust off that VHS player, or buy a new one and reminisce about the good old days because we told you to. Tonight: Host a Zoom party.



**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your friends try to convince you to listen to jazz but you know better. You aren't so easily influenced, and that's a good thing. Tonight: Cook a gourmet dinner for yourself. Use our promo code for your first delivery free.





**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

There is nothing esoteric about the significance of our galaxy. Try to impress your peers with your cool gadgets instead. Tonight: Make that phone call.



**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

When Horkheimer and Adorno were talking about the negative connotations associated with early experimentations with sex, they were talking about you. Tonight: Go to bed early.



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You've been feeling the wanderlust a lot lately. Try tracking some flights a few years from now to get the best deal. If anything else, buy a travel book. Tonight: Write it down.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You're smart, and people know you for this. Tell your friend to purchase your ebook and they will. Tonight: Light a candle to celebrate.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You've been holding off on your purchases, but it's starting to look like everything is selling out. Now is the best time to start a new hobby, like healing crystals. Tonight: Add to cart.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Believe in your art. You will find inspiration in the occult. Tonight: Tell a friend what's on your mind.

## **DEAR ABBY...**

Dear Abby, am I isolated in the current system?

I am writing to you with a troubling matter. As I was riding the Toronto subway to work last Tuesday, I caught sight of my reflection in the car window and thought, my gosh, am I a victim of isolation by communication? I've been reading the Dialectic of Enlightenment (1947) by Adorno and Horkheimer lately, and I wholeheartedly believe that I am experiencing the very situation that they described all those years ago. The lying words of my lecherous local radio announcer have become imprinted on my brain — I'm so upset because of it, I can't even talk to my friends — and I'm fairly certain that Pepsi advertisements signify the end of all humanity. When I look at all of the corporate advertisements that are plastered on my subway car, I also can't help but also be reminded of Adorno's text "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception", wherein "those in control of the system are entrenching themselves in advertising" and "advertising for advertising's sake [is] the pure representation of social power". I feel victimized not only as a commuter, but as a consumer. Is there no escape from this madness?

What's more, the other day I was talking to my friend Susan, who was lamenting about movie stars who promote uncouth sexuality in children that will probably result in fractured marriages. I truly feel, deep in my heart, that societal 'progress' is literally forcing people apart!

I would love to talk to my fellow passengers on the subway about my concerns, but they are always engrossed in their phones or at advertisements that I am convinced will kill off continents. Personally, I spend my time on the subway staring blankly out the window, struggling to connect to Wifi, or failing to access news stories online because of paywalls. I used to read the free commuter daily StarMetro, but since its closure I feel like I'm travelling on rubber tires in complete isolation from other people!

Dearest Abby, I would truly appreciate any advice that you have on this matter.

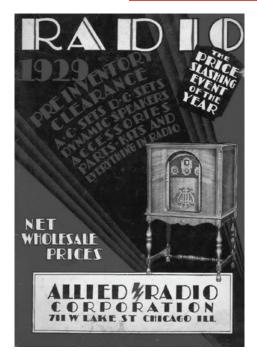
Sincerely,

Frankie



ADVERTISEMENT COMMUNICATION DIGITAL INTERACTIONISM NEWSPAPER SOCIETY CAPITALISM CRYPTOGRAM FAKE NEWS LOUIS SULLIVAN PALO ALTO STAR METRO CITIZEN KANE
DEMATERIALIZATION
INFRASTRUCTURE
MEDIA
RHETORIC







# OPINION

### **Subscription Music: A Condition for Existence**

Music occupies a very special place in people's lives. But over the course of the last fifty odd years, the way music is consumed, produced and distributed has evolved drastically. From listening to music on the radio (where you could not only listen to catchy new tunes, but also hear about a terrifying alien invasion from Mars!) to the introduction of vinyl,

the shifting materiality of music has been the subject of much contention. The progression of physical music media from vinyl records and CDs to transcendental music streaming services has led to what some theorists term the "dematerialization of material culture". Colin Renfrew even declared in 2003 that the human experience in its entirety is becoming more electronic and less tangible, resulting in a separation between communication and substance. But today, I'm here to argue that streaming services, rather than heralding the end of material culture, is in fact the best thing to happen to our civilization since sliced bread.

The first LP vinyl came out in 1948 at record stores, in big poster envelopes. It was the typical way to buy your music back then. Can you believe it? I cannot imagine ever going back to that. The leap from vinyls to cassettes took some time. Then right before our eyes came the rise and demise of Compact Disks. Before we knew it, rejoice! No one was buying physical copies of their music.

Cont'd page 12

Such a marvelous time. Instead music finally joined us in its truest form: The mp3. It eliminated the hassle of keeping up with the discs and tapes that were taking up precious physical space. And then came the smartphone — combining two products into one? How remarkably linear. No other technology before had allowed the possibility of listening to Springsteen's entire discography, then immediately phoning a travel agent to book a trip down the New Jersey Turnpike. But alas, the best was yet to come.

Now we have the ever lovely subscription music services, which includes giants such as Spotify, Apple Music, Play Music, Amazon Prime Music, and YouTube Music. Unlimited access to their library of millions of songs for a monthly fee? Fantastic. Plan options customizable for Student and Family specials? Amazing! It is definitely the most favoured among public consumers and I seriously doubt a return to former archaic times. As former Beatle George Harrison once said in his song "Living in the Material World", "I'm fated for the material world/Get frustrated in the material world/Senses never gratified". Streaming services could indeed be our salvation from this dismal reality, allowing us to hold millions of songs, podcasts, books, and poetry in the palm of our hands.

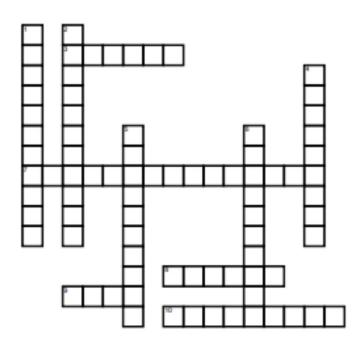
Streaming services accommodate everyone, and I predict that they will undoubtedly be the preferred method to listen to music till the end of time. Video may have killed the radio star, but music streaming trumps all.



# **SPOTLIGHT**

On February 12, Canada lost a great voice: that of Christie Blatchford. This great journalist and columnist lost her life in Toronto after leading a battle against disease. Today, the 1910 Inquirer wishes to pay tribute to one of Toronto's greatest newspaper writers. Christie Blatchford's writing will forever be remembered as a writer who did so much for the press in this country. Christie Blatchford began her career as a journalist with The Globe and Mail in 1973, breaking down gender barriers by becoming the first Canadian woman to be a sports reporter. Four years later, she left the Globe and Mail for the Toronto Star and then worked as a columnist for the Toronto Sun in 1982. She dedicated 16 years of her life to the Toronto Sun, reporting on difficult issues such as victims of crime and Canadian soldiers. She left the Toronto Sun in 1998 to join the newly launched National Post. She then returned to the Globe and Mail for a few years before ending her career at the National Post in 2011. In parallel to her work, Christie Blatchford has covered numerous criminal trials and has also been a regular guest on CFRB Radio. Interested in a multitude of issues, particularly those of public order, and subjects such as Olympic athletes, Christie Blatchford has delighted readers for almost 50 years. Her work will be recognized by the National Newspaper Award she received in 1999 for all of her columns. Christie Blatchford has also been in the field, making four trips to

Cont'd page 13



### Across

- 3 Critical Theorist
- 7 German for culture industry
- 8 1999 film critiquing Base and superstructure concept
- 9 The new replicator
- 10 School of social theory and critical philosophy

### Down

- 1 Welles Film (2 words)
- 2 Mcluhan's field of study
- 4 Ended its publication in late 2019
- 5 Individual in Grand Hotel Abyss
- 6 Famous for "One cannot not communicate"

# WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Afghanistan between 2006 and 2007. From her travels, she published the book Fifteen Days: Stories of Bravery, Friendship, Life and Death from Inside the New Canadian Army, which will also win her a prestigious award: the Governor General's Literary Award in 2008. In this manner, Christie Blatchford certainly exemplified Barthes' (1994) apprehension of language as power. This iconic journalist ended her career on a high note when she was inducted into the Canadian News Hall of Fame last November. Canada will remember this great versatile journalist who dedicated her life to the causes that touched her and to the journalistic community.



### **BOOK REVIEW**

Course in General Linguistics by Ferdinand de Saussure

Here's what a few of our readers had to say...





"If Aliquid stat pro aliquo, then this book is a sign that I need to study more."



"Very confusing but can be summarized in three words: structuralism, semiotics,"

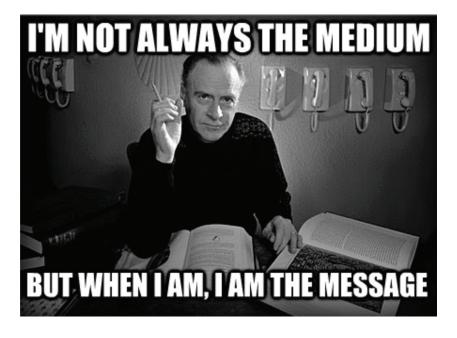


"Overall mind-boggling read. I was loathe to put this book down until I had read the last word."

### **CONTEST RESULTS**

### WINNER OF THE MEME CONTEST

Our heartfelt congratulations to Dichard Rawkins, the winner of last week's meme contest. See their submission below:











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a non-profit social enterprise is seeking a full-time General Manager with business experience to tead and manage, the floors of the work will be on sales, marketing, \$60,000 per annum

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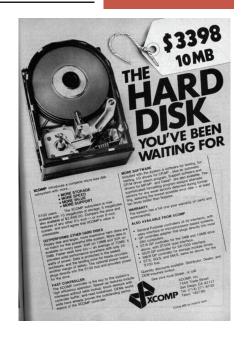


15 **ADVERTISING** 









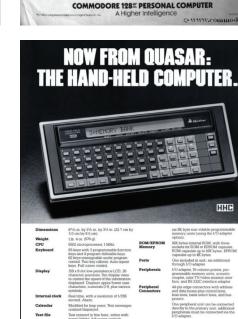












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