

Theme: Iran, A Feminist Revolt

Iran, Ukraine, and False Sympathy

By Irene Berezin

I remember welcome day at Dawson College as if it was yesterday. I stood alongside hundreds of my soon-to-be peers, as we huddled together in line on the first floor for our tours, anxious of what lies ahead. And above us, as we waited in that line, flew the Ukrainian flag, a symbol of the school's solidarity towards the Ukrainian people and their fight to save their homeland. Little did I know, shortly after the start of my studies here, it would be taken down- it appeared as though the flag was just another way to virtue signal, after all.

I have family in Ukraine and was glad to see the school stand with us and show its support. Surely, after this, Dawson college would continue to aid the country in whatever way it could, despite Ukraine not being front and center in the headlines anymore.

Consequently, once another tragic global event inevitably hit, surely our college wouldn't just toss the less newsworthy war to the side in favor of the latest tragedy. Wrong.

The flag came down, replaced by- nothing. A new tragedy had hit, and the supply of sympathy at Dawson had to be relocated. First, it was the Turkish earthquakes. Fundraisers sprung up but were gone almost instantly- replaced by the Women's right movement exploding in Iran.

While yes, it is understandable that Dawson cannot always aid every single tragic event, prior events are rarely ever brought up again. This shows that Dawson's emphasis on highlighting and fighting for marginalized communities is dependent on not how much aid those communities need, but rather, by how "trendy" sympathy for marginalized communities is.

This seeming plague of false sympathy can only be described as [virtue signaling](#), the expression of a moral viewpoint with the intent of communicating good character. The CEGEP's actions are a symptom of a greater disease, one that plagues almost every institution in the western world. It feels as though [nobody cares anymore](#). The people in

Ukraine are still suffering. And so is all of Turkey, Iran, and everywhere else where rights are being infringed. So, where has the compassion for them gone?

This new digital age of rapid media has desensitized us to feeling compassionate for others. Our sympathy is limited to reposting the occasional Instagram infographic- other people's suffering has become a way to promote ourselves as good people. The internet, which was supposed to unite us, has made us shallower than ever before.

I beg for just a shred of genuine compassion. Instead of reposting Instagram stories- go and speak to those affected by these senseless tragedies: The Iranian women studying at Dawson, the Turkish students with families abroad, the Ukrainian refugees. Try to help without an ulterior, virtue-signaling motive, in any way that you can.

The Hidden Truth About Iran's Protests

By Emmanuel Farrel-Santamaria

The Western world has erred in reducing the complexities and intricacies of the challenges facing Iran to a mere fixation on the hijab, in truth, there exists multifaceted and deep-seated issues that require nuanced and thoughtful analysis. By electing to adopt a narrow perspective. We remain oblivious to the broader realities that underpin the challenges faced by Iranian society.

At the surface it may appear as if Iran has a similar governmental structure as western countries however that couldn't be further from the truth. Iran is an Islamic theocracy, this means that there is a man who is believed to have a personal connection with the deity of Islam; his title is the supreme leader. He has a say on many important topics such as the economy, education, environment, foreign policy and many others. This might not be the best thing for the people.

Out of 167 country around the world Iran is ranked 126th in terms of quality of life and when it comes to GDP per capita they are at about [4250\\$ per capita](#), in comparison Canada's GDP per capita is at [52 000 USD per capita](#) and the US is at [70 000 USD per capita](#). This is a drastic change from their prior real GDP per capita. [In 1976 Iran's GDP per capita was at an all time high of 7800\\$ per capita](#). This Generally means that per person in Iran the value of what is produced and sold is very low in comparison to the west and also what Iran used to be. What's more is in 2019 in a span of a month the average price of housing increased by 91%. This clearly demonstrated that Iran's economy is being mismanaged. This clearly shows us that the centralization of power might not be a positive thing for Iran.

The other problem with having such a leader is that he will forever push the beliefs of the religion such as the wearing of a hijab and a public dress code for women. Iran's consensus claims that 99.5% of the population remains religiously devout to Islam however a survey was conducted on a fraction of the population; about 40 000 people. This Survey showed [that only 40% of the population claimed to be Muslim](#). Clearly there is a large percentage of the population with increasingly secular ideologies. In conclusion the issue in Iran is about much more then just the Hijab. People are protesting

because they are discontent with the Supreme leader's management of the country as well as him pushing theocratic ideology on a population that is increasingly secular. This is why they are taking to the streets to burn hijabs and shout things such as "[Death to the dictator.](#)" As responsible global citizens, it is imperative that we recognize the complex issues faced by Iran and refrain from oversimplifying them by solely focusing on the Hijab











Theme: Transgender Politics

LGBQ+; helping the trans community by excluding them

By Rosalie La Rue

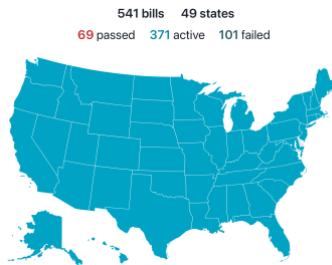
“Keep your sexuality away from babies!” and, “Stop sexualizing kids!” are arguments often used to oppose trans representation in school and society. Yet, being trans is not “sexual” or a sexuality, so why do so many people share this opinion? Partly, it is due to the inclusion of “Transgender” in the LGBTQ+ community, so, to better the social acceptance and desexualize trans identities we need to separate them from the community. A good portion of the public does not know the meaning of every letter of the LGBTQ+, which leads them to falsely assume that it is a grouping of only sexual orientations. The assumption of *the T* being a sexuality further relates them to sexual attraction, or more specifically *deviant* sexual attraction.

“Trans people are child predators” is a statement often heard, especially on the right currently with their focus on Trans wedge politics. The LGBTQ+ sexualises trans people which allows for these kinds of false beliefs to be made especially when biased media is promoting them. Biased media is promoting them. *Fox News*, the most known right-wing U.S media, has used this “argument” to support their continued effort to suppress (word choice?) trans rights. Even if there is essentially no data to back them up, they still constantly push this narrative by grasping at any case they can find, which can be seen in their “reporting” of the exceptionally rare case of a trans woman assaulting a child which they published over [11 articles](#) about.

-  Fox News
<https://www.foxnews.com/trans-child-molester-hann> ...
Trans child molester Hannah Tubbs crafted new female ...
Feb 27, 2023 — As Fox News Digital reported Friday, Sanna has argued in the past that jailhouse phone calls show Tubbs, now 27, was attempting to use gender ...
-  Fox News
<https://www.foxnews.com/california-trans-child-mol> ...
California trans child molester Hannah Tubbs faces life ...
May 24, 2022 — Hannah Tubbs, a trans convicted child molester, faces a possible life sentence for the murder of a fellow “survivalist transient group” ...
-  Fox News
<https://www.foxnews.com/hannah-tubbs-pleads-not> ...
Hannah Tubbs, trans child molester, pleads not guilty to ...
May 10, 2022 — Hannah Tubbs, a transgender California inmate convicted of molesting a child in a case that sparked massive criticism of Los Angeles County ...
-  Fox News
<https://www.foxnews.com/california-hannah-james-l> ...
California trans child molester Hannah Tubbs charged with ...
May 10, 2022 — Hannah Tubbs, a transgender California inmate convicted of molesting a child, has been charged with murder. The first-degree murder charge out ...
-  Fox News
<https://www.foxnews.com/california-trans-child-mol> ...
California trans child molester's dad denies murder ...
Mar 7, 2023 — Hannah Tubbs, formerly known as James Tubbs, charged with murder in 2019 death of Michael Clark. Michael Ruiz. By Michael Ruiz | Fox News.
-  Fox News
<https://www.foxnews.com/california-trans-child-mol> ...
California trans child molester Hannah Tubbs was accused ...
Apr 6, 2022 — Fox News Flash top headlines are here. Check out what's clicking on Foxnews.com. GRAPHIC CONTENT WARNING. EXCLUSIVE: Hannah Tubbs ...
-  FOX NEWS
<https://www.foxnews.com/california-trans-child-mol> ...
California trans child molester Hannah Tubbs charged with ...
May 9, 2022 — Hannah Tubbs, 26, is being held in the Kern County jail on a \$1 million bond for second-degree robbery and is slated to appear in court Tuesday. ...
-  Fox News
<https://www.foxnews.com/media/la-prosecutor-han> ...
LA prosecutor in Hannah Tubbs case slams suspension, ...
Feb 28, 2023 — Hannah Tubbs, formerly known as James Tubbs, is a convicted child molester and accused murderer who allegedly began identifying as female only ...
-  Fox News
<https://www.foxnews.com/california-trans-child-mol> ...
California trans child molester Hannah Tubbs pleads not ...
Jun 2, 2022 — Hannah Tubbs, 26, faces several charges in Kern County, including first-degree murder, assault on a person with force and great bodily injury ...
-  Fox News
<https://www.foxnews.com/los-angeles-hannah-tubbs> ...
California trans child molester Hannah Tubbs gloats over ...
Feb 21, 2022 — Fox News correspondent Bill Melugin reports the latest on the scrutiny from Los Angeles. EXCLUSIVE: Explicit Los Angeles jailhouse recordings of ...
<https://www.foxnews.com/hannah-tubbs-trans-moles> ...
Hannah Tubbs, trans child molester, had string of offenses ...
May 16, 2022 — Hannah Tubbs, the convicted trans child molester now facing a murder charge in an unrelated case, committed a string of violent offenses ...

'Bathroom predators' is yet another false label put on transpeople, which is in part caused by the association with sexuality. This hurts trans people and actively helps anti-trans campaigns by saying that they hurt the most vulnerable populations that everybody feels empathy for: *children*. Although they often bring up the safety of cis women, it would be a lie to say that everybody, especially in the U.S feels empathy and cares about the safety of *all cis women*. Ignoring the obvious logical fallacies in their arguments about trans-bathroom-predators, this belief is just another consequence of the sexualization of trans people.

With 541 anti-trans [bills](#) proposed so far this year in the U.S, protecting trans rights is incredibly important and separating *the T* from the LGBTQ+ *will* help do that. We need to



refer to it and talk about it as a gender identity and nothing else. Many of the bills involve minors which raises the question of why trans are constantly associated with children, is it a carefully crafted technique by the right to get people on their side through sympathy, or a sincere, but misguided, attempt to protect the children?

438 words

No Rights, No Life

By Nathalia Zerpa Perez

If the USA always say freedom and liberty are so important to them why is the Republican Party so determined to deny transgender youth's freedom by taking away their health care rights? Transgender healthcare is an extremely important part of transgender people's lives; Therefore, the US republican government should not criminalize and deny transgender people's rights to medical care

[Gender-affirming care](#) has been proven to be useful to transgender youth on many occasions as it improves their mental health and overall well-being as well as helps reduce the risk of suicide. A close friend of mine who is currently transitioning told me that as of right now he feels relieved and finally happy to just have the possibility of being able to transition. he also told me that if someone were to take that away from him, he would most likely contemplate suicide because he would not be able to live as someone he never truly was.

even if the information mentioned above is a popular feeling amongst transgender people, the republicans in the U.S are still certain that nothing regarding transgender people is that simple. The government of Alabama put in place a [ban on medical care](#) for transgender youth. They justified this ban under the pretext that they are not "mature" enough to make a decision that big. Purposefully ignoring all the data provided by experts and testimonies from transgender youth, Alabama went forward with the decision on banning something so important. All this just to preserve the tradition of their great nation.

To continue their hot streak in dictating people's lives and violating human rights, the republican state of [Texas](#) went one step further. They criminalized gender-affirming

care for transgender youth by passing a bill that makes the treatment qualify as [child abuse](#). This officially made a natural human right a second-degree felony that is punishable by prison. Just like Alabama, Texas decided to violate transgender people's human rights and overlook professional advice given by doctors. All this just to keep a perfectly cisgender society and not have it filled with people who, as the [GOP](#) legislators have so charmingly said, "lead an abnormal lifestyle."

Overall, we must remember that Alabama and Texas are not the exception but rather the rule in republican states when it comes to transphobic policies in the health department. They talk a great deal about freedom, but still manage to violate a minority's human rights and say it is for the greater good. By trying so hard to maintain the status quo, the republican party is guiding transgender youth into dangerous routes from where there is no coming back.

431 Words

Theme: The Quebec Education System

Down the Academic Black Hole

By Nathalie Bucur

My graduation was in November; the mayor was invited at the event, and made a speech about how my College Saint Louis school, ranked number 1 in Montreal, always prioritized happiness. This made the entire crowd laugh awkwardly. Not once, throughout my years there, did I ever feel my well-being was ever taken in consideration. In fact, my grades, and what they could bring to the school's reputation, were always more important than the individual making them.

I had expected my high school to be more understanding of its students, and I had fallen for its false marketing. I never felt like I quite fit in primary school, and my parents also reinforced the idea that I was a better student, so I deserved a higher quality education. To me, this meant getting an education that would explore alternate learning methods, since I was bored with traditional school. I had heard College Saint Louis was an international public school.

At the time, I believed it meant that it was finally a place where I could explore real world issues, in a different and compelling way. I also believed the people there would be just as dedicated to learning about various political and social issues and develop their stance on it.

This perspective was completely flipped on its head once I found out my academic success was actually, once again, just a numerical value. We were told by teachers that we were going to have to get used to no longer being the top students anymore. That we were the cream of the crop, and that it was now the time to prove yourself amongst other

students. The focus was not on the fact that we were all talented students, but that there were others that were better, and that just couldn't be allowed. I recall having to file endless reports to please snobby IB representatives figureheads, telling them what I had learned

My head never felt emptier despite all the knowledge I was cramming inside of it.

Due to the pressure to get accepted in CEGEP, the class environment was incredibly hostile: every time you'd ask a question in math or science class, people would whisper behind your back about how stupid or incompetent you were. I remember being scoffed at over an 80% in math, mocked for falling behind my personal project progress by my own friends. I was barely able to attend school, paradoxically harming my studies. My personal project was never presented to anyone: only those with high grades got to.

As I now pursue my studies at Dawson, I wonder if it was all worth it. I get good results at the collegiate level, and my mental health is better than it ever was in high school. Was it indeed the grueling work I had to do that made me the student that I am today? Or was it simply always in me?

The R score is the killer of student's academic journeys

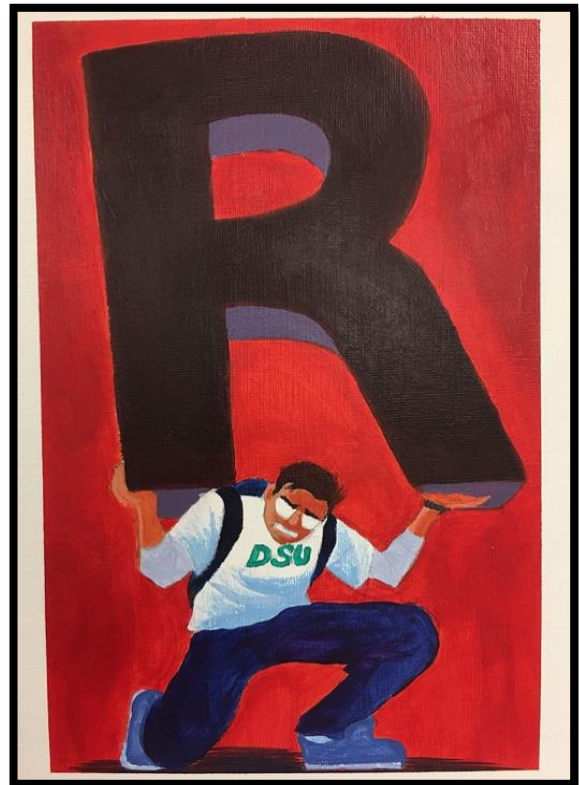
By Lina Adda

I am not afraid to admit that the R score is a limiting system in CÉGEP. Its mere presence only adds to their worries in an already difficult educational system.

I will not pretend to be an expert of the R score. Ask anyone to describe it, and you will have a new version each time. It is still challenging to comprehend, even to teachers or students, demonstrating its unnecessary complexity. It is absurd to see an idea that few comprehend deciding our worth. This looks more like a dystopian process than the helping system that the government justifies.

How do you feel when I tell you that other students also determine your excellence? The R-score is one of the most important factors in a university's selection, yet it depends on variables that are outside your control, such as other students' grades, standard deviation and entire program performance in the province. It is

utterly absurd to think that doing your best no longer matters. You cannot influence other student grades so why would it matter to your success?



Art made by: Thomas Lugarcy

This discourages students from pursuing academics since the R score encourages the belief that your efforts are unacknowledged and that in the end, you do not control the results.

The R score also promotes an intense rivalry. The main objective

for students in my program law, society, and justice became to see who has the best R score (greatest probability) of getting into "McGill Law". So in a competitive program, the R score invites even more students to use strategies (sometimes sneaky ones) to stand out. Some students choose courses only because they know there is a better chance of getting good grades or the professors based on the ability to receive easy points.



The goal is no longer to learn but be able to attend university. This, dears, ravage many students' health since they are unable to keep up with the R score. The pressure is overwhelming as you strive to distinguish yourself not only in academics but also in

implications; you want to be the one that does the most. My friends and I feel bottled up by this letter, we know that the two numbers that constitute our grades could stab us in the back. Sometimes, I even feel like abandoning since my efforts seems for nothing. Even if I kill myself to get a 95%, it may change slightly my R-score.

Now I am speaking to students, if in 2012 we made Quebec tremble with the tuition fee protests, I don't see what's stopping us from doing it again for the R-score. No changes will happen in this toxic system if we don't come together to imprison this killer. Let's revive the buried main goals of education; learning and growing.

