

The Gazette

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ITALIANS TRIUMPHANT

LOCAL FANS ELECTRIFIED But power outage during World Cup final was quite a shock



DAVE SIDAWAY THE GAZETTE

St. Laurent Blvd. turned green, white and red yesterday after Italy defeated France to become 2006 World Cup champions. "Everybody should feel such joy at least once in their lives," one local fan said.

KATE LUNAU
THE GAZETTE

A power outage in Little Italy was an early shock for thousands of fans gathered there yesterday to take in the championship match of the soccer World Cup.

But the crowd really lit up hours later when Italy defeated France in a penalty

shootout to become four-time world soccer kings.

Many of Montreal's 180,000-strong Italian-Canadian community filled St. Laurent Blvd. below Jean Talon St. — in the heart of Little Italy — to cheer on their team. The streets, which police closed to traffic, were festooned with flags, streamers and balloons.

Several of the area's bars and restaurants set up big-screen television sets facing the sidewalk, where viewers who couldn't get a table gathered in droves.

"Most of the bars and restaurants around here took reservations days ago, so it's impossible to get a seat anywhere," said Nadia Bruzzese, 23, a green, red and white garland around her neck.

About 2:30 p.m., with the score already tied 1-1, a hydroelectric technical problem in the area caused television sets to go blank, Hydro-Québec said.

The outage, which affected about 2,000 people and only some of Little Italy's bars and restaurants, lasted about an hour.

Please see ITALY, Page A3

REDEMPTION

Losers of the 1994 World Cup final in a shootout, the Azzurri won this year's tournament yesterday by outscoring France 5-3 in penalties after the game ended 1-1. Details, Page C1

Boisclair would prefer smooth transition

SNIPES PERSIST OVER CHAREST COMMENT

'We have the means,' PQ supporters chant

HUBERT BAUCH
THE GAZETTE

Should Quebecers vote to separate from Canada, it is in everyone's interest that there be a smooth transition to Quebec independence, Parti Québécois leader André Boisclair said yesterday.

"It isn't in anyone's interest that there be a tumultuous transition," he said at a party rally in Pointe aux Trembles, where he was officially acclaimed the PQ candidate in the Aug. 14 provincial by-election in the riding at the eastern tip of Montreal Island.

"The rest of Canada, Ontario-

ans in particular, have invested billions of dollars in the Quebec economy. I count on people's good sense."

Boisclair and Premier Jean Charest continued sniping at each other over the premier's Friday statement in a TV interview during his visit to France that, technically speaking, Quebec has the means to become an independent state.

"He said it to Quebecers and the world that Quebec has the means to achieve sovereignty," Boisclair said in his speech to a

pumped-up crowd of more than 400 that jammed the theatre of a local cultural centre and repeatedly took up the chant: "We have the means."

Charest, meanwhile, replied with a letter to La Presse published in the newspaper yesterday in which he accused Boisclair of distorting his statement in a "pathetic" attempt to make political hay for the PQ, which has been faltering in the polls since Boisclair became leader.

Please see BOISCLAIR, Page A8

Sound barriers give rise to cacophony of opinions

Much grumbling over Décarie, Plateau walls

JAN RAVENSBERGEN
THE GAZETTE

The closer you are to downtown, the greater the likelihood of controversy over noise barriers.

A recent proposal to build an above-ground, four-metre barrier

er to muffle vehicle noise along the Décarie Expressway has been stalled by sharp divisions of opinion in the residential areas nearby.

And a railcar-sound barrier known as the Plateau Wall has caused recurring controversy in one of Montreal's older areas over the past 18 months.

Things are different in the 'burbs, however.

Please see NOISE, Page A4

IN FOCUS



PIERRE OBENDRAUF THE GAZETTE

Jazzfest not forgotten

Win or lose, soccer fans get soothed with wedding and funeral music at the jazz festival's last outdoor blowout. **Page D1**

On the backs of shirts

China's economic boom is taking manufacturing jobs from the West, and skilled labour might follow suit. **Page A4**

Suspect a Con U grad

A Lebanese man suspected of leading a plot to blow up tunnels in New York City is a graduate of Concordia University. **Page A7**

Paper clip buys home

It took one red paper clip, 14 wacky online trades and nearly a year, but Montrealese Kyle MacDonald has bartered for a house. **Page A12**

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"And even the ranks of Tuscany could scarce forbear to cheer."

LORD MACAULAY

WEATHER

Cloudy with thundershowers
High 24° Low 17° Page D7

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