

South Korea because some smarmy South Korean company was building a 102-floor hotel in Singapore. Uh huh. Historians will probably look back on North Korea not as a member of the Axis of Evil but probably the world's largest cargo cult (albeit a well armed one).

It's generally assumed construction came to a halt because North Korea was suffering from a famine (in a nation of starving people the hotel was to have 7 revolving restaurants), an acute electricity shortage, and they basically ran out of money (the hotel cost upwards of \$700 million, which is about 2% of North Korea's GDP).

Clearly a simple matter like in the world's most closed off society where few people ever need or want to visit, a 3,000 room hotel makes as much economic sense as setting up a frogurt stand on Mars. Those who need the comforts of a Western-style hotel in North Korea's capital are already served by two existing (and money losing) hotels, including the Yanggakdo Hotel, a new and more modest 5-star hotel for foreigners located strategically on an island in the middle of the city's main Taedong river (which acts as a moat to keep foreigners from wandering off the hotel grounds and quite possibly keeps starving North Koreans from storming the breakfast buffet). If, for whatever reason, you decide to visit this Stalinist Disneyland, be warned foreigners are not permitted to stay in North Korea longer than a solitary week.

What probably killed the project — besides a simple lack of money and realistic expectations for eager tourists — is that it was discovered recently that the hotel was made from substandard concrete. The hotel, if finished and occupied, would come crumbling down.

The North Koreans themselves are quietly trying to make the hotel go away (short of blasting it to rubble). Even before the hotel was started, it was featured on North Korean stamps and added to city maps. The hotel is no longer found on stamps and newly issued maps.

I personally like to think of the Ryugyong

Hotel as the ultimate example of what happens when managers get really insane ideas and everyone knows it's a really insane idea and there are zero resources to do it but your job (or life) depends on you doing it, so you kinda just barely do the job, make a big show of it, in status meetings you use terms like "repurpose the supply-chain"/"impactful delivery"/"action-item paradigm", and substitute memos for reinforced concrete, all with the expectation that the insane manager will a) die b) get fired and when something like that happens everyone will then make a big show about how the project is still top priority — because it's on everyone's check point performance review objectives for next quarter — and then everyone just stops working on it and the subject never comes up again, unless of course, the project is 105 stories tall and in the middle of your city.



It's interesting to note, the North Koreans also built themselves their very own "L'Arc de Triomphe". Not unexpectedly, *their* Arc de Triomphe is about 10 feet higher than the lill pisser found in Paris.

FYI, the tallest hotel in America is Detroit's Marriott Renaissance Center Tower. It stands 73 stories and has 1,300 guest rooms.



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## La Petite Lesson en Franglais

### Lesson Numerux 21

### Franglais pour Summer School!



By  
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## La Intro

Hello my friends (*Bonjour mez amis*)! This is a small French lesson (*ca c'est une petite lesson en français*). In this lesson (*dans cette lesson*) you will learn conversational French (*vous will prenez la knowledge de sortie a la bouche la langage français de quelle volume*) you can use if you do a summer exchange session in one of Quebec's French universities (*vos can use en l'programme cruel cruel d'summer d'exchange en l'crèche d'ecole étoileversity*).

Good, let's begin (*Bein, let's allez*).

## La Lesson

**English:** Thing is I thought U of M meant University of Manitoba, not University of Montreal.

**French:** C'est debatable, d'accord, qui est déteste la hosties l'Ontarians tight assed double plus more, la franclophonez ou la Winterpreggers. Pour ma l'argent, since je suis est in pour une beating homestyle dans either province, je will prenez la Quebecois parce que la beer ici est better bein et les filles de coed rumpus pas de lookez like elles could birth a steer.

\* \* \*

**English:** Oh you're my roommate?

**French:** Hein monsieur de backhair et grooming habits incertaines questionable sasquatch. C'est must de be une mistake petite au L'Office d'Student Maison d'Affairs all they do is play on the Internet. Je penséd dans ma questionnaire de roommate qualities d'matchez ideal jettez, je requested une hostie d'evolved past l'etage Australopithecus ou pas la Unix gimp.

\* \* \*

**English:** Okay we need a sign in case one of us is in here with a lady.

**French:** Si tu est gettin' jiggy avec la femme d'nursing étudiant pub night, yours always look a little young, nos est needez un sign d'exterior. Je penséd, depuis since I won't be spending a single night here sober, est d'required un signe more évident than la noises de passion moaning bang bang sex gross savage emanating en c'est portal door flimsy. What's french for "stay the fuck out for the weekend"?

\* \* \*

**English:** Sure I'll drink that.

**French:** Bein oui je suis une partie animal house, don't call me flounder, youth de hard drinking Spuds Mackenzie, wut up dog chein. Donnez moi c'est brew mystère toxic et je suis will boit de chug-a-lug cette to d'impressez les jeunes filles de slam hounds.

\* \* \*

**English:** Wow, we never get condoms in our Frosh packs in Ontario.

**French:** Zut alors, en crèche d'ecole étoileversity l'Ontario tight-assed, nos sommes only est gettez les packette de free publicity product samplez they always put in the worst smelling deodorant et la Bible livre de Roi King James-Pierre l'Version. Ici, vos get packet gross de la sheaf de baton rumpus de bang bang sex de trampoline très safe one-size-fits-all except me of course.

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**English:** Food in the residents' cafeteria tastes so much better when all the items on the menu are in French.

**French:** La crème d'road kill, la burgers d'horse cheval ground spinal cord savory, et la deep fried salad d'caesar d'refried avec le demi tasse de smoked meat deep fried est palatable bein since depuis la cafeteria fountain d'soda dispensez la brewski Labatt's.

\* \* \*

**English:** How do I join a fraternity around here?

**French:** Hein, qui est je gets coup d'tapped pour la fraternity frèrehood de hazing death mattress room sweaters de Ralph-Pierre Lauren hand shakes de main future access d'privileged a la corporate world monde Delta Chi, keggers for nothing et la chic for free?

\* \* \*

**English:** The French have a very different emphasis on education. It's more of a holistic approach.

**French:** Je pas d'réalisé nos d'had to singez warble le Gens D'Pays avant before each class allez began and heil salute la picture de Jacque Parizeau wearing la thong \*shudder\* sur la plage beach de la Labrador.

\* \* \*

**English:** Oh there are no classes on St. Jean Baptise Day? Sure I'll go to your student rally and your little bonfire party. It's kind of a clam bake is it?

**French:** Je d'réalisé taking part in c'est Fete National étudiant rally est une petite hypocritical si it's calling pour la violent overthrow coup de la federal hostie institutions qui est otherwise cover mon ass fat when I'm living dans l'town factory Oshawa mais est kind of fun de smash and burn feu stuff, like la Starbucks de étoile.

**Fin!**

## North Korea's Ryugyong Hotel

At 105 floors, Ryugyong Hotel would have been the world's largest hotel if work had not come to a halt in 1991. Why it was even built is something of a mystery. Early on in South Korea's planning for the 1988 Seoul Olympics, North Korea sort of assumed South Korea would stage some games in Pyongyang. Uh huh. It's also conjectured that North Korea wanted to take the wind out of the sails of