

Reckoner

of Marc Garneau C.I.

Censorship from
Parliament Hill



Federal legislation that would make the expression of pro-terrorist sentiments online illegal is being discussed.
Photo: Susie Liu

by LAWRENCE PANG

The fatal shooting of Corporal Nathan Cirillo on 22 October at the Canadian National War Memorial in Ottawa has unified Canadians and brought a deep outpouring of sympathy from across the world. However, the shootings have also raised troubling questions about Canada’s national security, and the failure of government and law enforcement agencies to effectively prevent such incidents.

Responding to these attacks, Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party are attempting to strengthen national security through increasing governmental powers in the areas of “surveillance, detention and arrest”. One possible piece of legislation would make it illegal to claim online that terrorist acts are justified.

Though these laws are well-intentioned, they are ultimately unconstitutional.

Free speech, under Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, is protected as a “fundamen-

tal freedom”. Naturally, the Internet, which is the greatest tool of self-expression in the modern age, is a part of that.

Though tragedies like the one which occurred on 22 October are certainly unjustifiable, it is nevertheless a matter of principle that people should be allowed to hold and express whatever views they believe in. Tolerance of dissent is a cornerstone of democracy; in fact, tolerance is one of the critical principles which distinguishes Canada from extremist ideologies.

Those who are more pragmatically inclined argue that an exception must be made here when lives are on the line. They contend that criminalizing online defenses of terrorism effectively identifies potential terrorists and prevents their message from being spread. After all, it seems reasonable to sacrifice a certain amount of freedom of speech in order to protect Canadians’ right to life and security.

This, however, is not the case; freedom of speech and right to life are

fundamentally separate, and therefore not interchangeable. Furthermore, this proposition would seek to persecute anyone who expressed sympathy with terrorist aims - a troubling notion that bears little resemblance to our justice system, which assumes innocence until guilt is proven.

The definition of what constitutes terrorism is itself problematic. While those responsible for the attacks on 22 October are certainly reprehensible, other groups and other actions are part of a vaguer gray area. For instance, under Canadian laws, Nelson Mandela would have been considered a terrorist for his organization’s acts of violence and sabotage; indeed, Conservative MP Rob Anders expressed this view as recently as 2013.

In 2012, the Harper government also listed extreme environmental groups as terrorist threats.

See INTERNET on P3

Ebola in the News –
A Different Angle

OP-ED by DAVID HAO

Isolated cases of Ebola have been identified in North America. However, this should not concern the general population and instead attention should be directed to the root of the problem in Africa. Here’s why.

What exactly is Ebola?
Ebola viruses were first discovered in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), in 1976. The disease’s high lethality is due to its tendency to infect blood vessel cells. Once Ebola enters the bloodstream it damages the cells that line blood vessels, causing circulatory system damage or failure. This results in the rashes, bruising, and bleeding. The cause of death is usually sepsis, which is a whole-body inflammation due to severe infection.

The current epidemic began in Guinea during December 2013. It spread to Liberia and Sierra Leone. As of October 12 8,400 cases have been reported worldwide, of which 4,033 were fatal. This epidemic has been the most severe outbreak of Ebola since its discovery.

What has made Ebola so much more successful this time around? Some insight reveals that it is not Ebola which has changed, but rather Africa. Africa now has a population of 1.1 billion,

more than double what it had in the 80’s. Bigger cities and greater rural expansions paired with faster transportation between urban areas and the bush mean that the disease is able to reach more people faster than ever before. That is why this epidemic is killing more people. It’s reaching more people.

Ebola is not a realistic threat in North America. Ebola cases reported in Europe, South America, and recently North America have largely been specially contained medical evacuations, such as infected aid workers being tak-

en back to their native countries for improvement medical treatment. The media has its own interests, and sensationalist headlines such as “DISCOVERY OF NATIVE EBOLA CASE: TEXAS ON HIGH ALERT” draws the attention of readers. We have a more advanced and accessible health care system, as well as a higher level of public education and awareness. Western countries have resources that developing countries lack. Simply put, the North American public is too well-informed, and our healthcare is too advanced for Ebola to be a significant problem.

The greatest threat to arise out of the Ebola pandemic in North America is not the virus itself, but rather the general apathetic attitude towards people who are actually at risk. High-profile networks such as CNN focus on singular cases in the United States and dedicate a colossal amount of air time speculating about hypothetical scenarios, when the spotlight should be focused on the epicenter of the epidemic, in West Africa.

See EBOLA on P3



Illustration: Joy Wang

Soldiers,
We Remember

by KASHIFAH AHMED

11 November, 1918 marked the end of World War I. Canada commemorates the centennial of the start of the Great War this year.

On 10 and 11 November, MGCI held several events in remembrance of the soldiers who have given up their lives in international conflicts.

In period 3 on Monday 10 November, Ovais Ahmed, a former soldier of the Canadian Armed Force, came to Marc Garneau CI to give a presentation about his time on the battlefield. Mr. Ahmed started his presentation with a simple quote. “Everyone has a story.” A decorated two-time war veteran with the Canadian Armed Forces, he first

joined the military when he was 19. He shared a wide range of experiences, from his near-death experiences, to his battle against post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), to the power of having strong leadership skills.

The students were moved by his words. “It wasn’t just another Remembrance Day assembly.” Grade 11 student, Tahura Iqbal commented, “Ovais Ahmed was a great inspiration to me! I think he taught us great values on leadership, and what it takes to become a strong leader.”

See REMEMBRANCE on P4



On 11 November, students involved in the Royal Canadian Air Cadets performed a flag ceremony as part of MGCI’s Remembrance Day commemoration. Grade 12 student Michael Shu performed The Last Post on trumpet. Photo: Jackie Ho

The Right to Die

by PARNIKA GODKHINDI

Does having the right to live also give you the right to die?

This is what the Supreme Court of Canada is currently contemplating in Ottawa as it hears arguments for and against medically assisted suicide, a debate which commenced 15 October 2014. The Supreme Court will decide to either legalize assisted suicide at a Federal level, or continue the current ban, just months after Quebec has adopted its own law allowing the practice.

Physician assisted suicide is “the suicide of a patient suffering from an incurable disease, effected by the taking of lethal drugs provided by a doctor for this purpose.”^[1] While similar in its aim, it differs from euthanasia in the fact that euthanasia occurs when a physician physically performs the intervention, whereas in assisted suicide, the physician provides the necessary information and means, and the patient ultimately performs the act which ends his or her life. Both are currently illegal in Canada, but both practices are very relevant to every Canadian citizen; someday, every one of us could potentially become victim to terminal illness.

The ultimate goal of assisted suicide is to allow medical patients suffering from terminal illnesses to die with dignity and without pain. Often, serious illnesses render patients bedridden and

heavily dependent upon their relatives, and some individuals consider circumstances like not being able to visit the washroom aid to be very humiliating. Moreover, terminal illnesses often bring with them an overwhelming amount of pain which many patients would rather die than continue to face.

In opposition, the Government of Canada argues that decriminalizing assisted suicide would demean the value of life and put the lives of the vulnerable at risk, as patients could be pressured by their families into choosing death. What is more, critics say it is a slippery slope: legalizing assisted suicide for the terminally ill may lead towards the extension of assisted suicide to other vulnerable groups, such as the physically or mentally disabled, and later on, to those who feel disadvantaged due to their socioeconomic or demographic status.

However, consider the fact that suicide was decriminalised in Canada in 1972. So why is it that perfectly healthy individuals have the right to end their own lives, while those in pain and suffering who are physically incapable of doing the same thing cannot rely on the help of others?

See ASSISSTED SUICIDE on P3

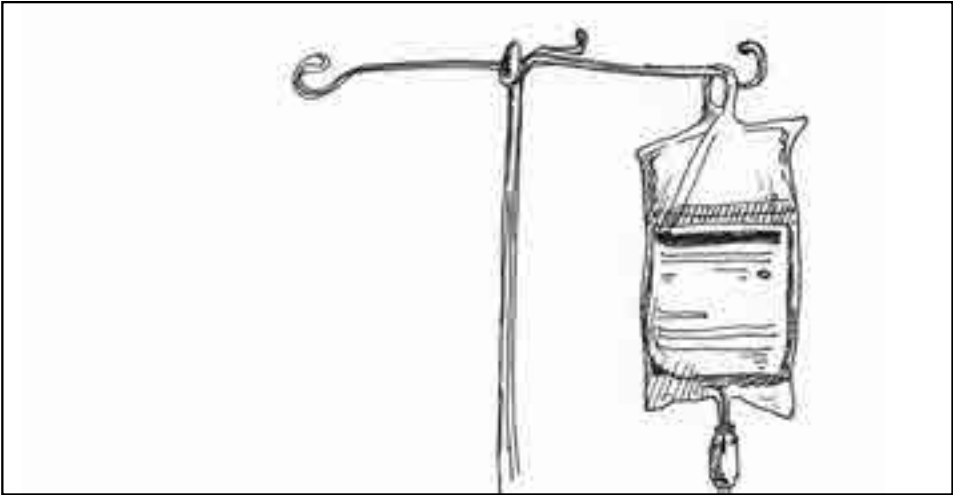


Illustration: Susie Liu



LIFE

Are We All Crazy

by TAKLHIQ AMIR

"I think that we're all mentally ill; those of us outside the asylums only hide it a little better..." - Stephen King

Autumn is the season of changing colours, of trees that become violet, ash, and a plethora of hues in between, seemingly overnight. It is the season of whispering breezes and wispy winds, of

sodden dirt paths and crunchy leaves, of rainy mornings and cool evenings.

It is October, the month of smirking jack-o'-lanterns and zombie parades, of living ghosts and walking skeletons. It is the month of gore and blood, of monsters and werewolves and superheroes and vampires, of princesses and fairies and queens and dolls. It is the month

of spooky stories and macabre movies, of stolen identities and released personas, of forgotten realities and captured fantasies.

It is the month of Hallowe'en, after all.

Naturally, in the western hemisphere, the departure of summery skies and blooming flowers and the arrival of bare trees and windy nights brings with it a sudden steaming suspense, a certain gloom, a building mystery.

Though All Hallows' Eve may once have been a Christian religious celebration dedicated to remembering the dead, for many – even nonbelievers – it has become a time of manifesting the nonexistent creatures that reside in the tales of modern day. Little children, adolescents, and adults alike can be seen walking around in costumes, more often than not personifying monsters and zombies and gory beasts.

Horror movies start to appear left and right, all with their usual mix of human realities, dark fantasies, and unsuspecting victims. Moviegoers flock to the theatres, apprehensive and excited, willing to be taken in by the world of terror, coming out shaking with nervous laughter and wide eyes (if the movie is horrible enough).

It is inevitable, then, that Stephen

King, a king of contemporary horror, comes to the forefront of one's mind at this time. In his short essay titled "Why We Crave Horror Movies," he writes of mankind's love of horror as one's way of "daring the nightmare," or "re-establishing [one's] feelings of essential normality," or perhaps just "having fun."

Hallowe'en, horror movies, shows of zombies and vampires and serial killers – perhaps they really do appeal to mankind's darkest parts. One might like the shows and movies for their plot lines and become attached to their characters, but the appeal may also be in the gruesome scenes that keep one's eyes glued to the screen in repulsive fascination.

It is in the idea of Hallowe'en – of being able to, for one night, forget oneself and become another. It is the idea of terror through haunted houses or pranks that pull out shrieks from deep within oneself, that leave one's heart racing and one's body shaking.

According to King, "The mythic horror movie, like the sick joke, has a dirty job to do. It deliberately appeals to all that is worst in us. It is morbidity unchained, our most base instincts let free, our nastiest fantasies realized ... and it all happens, fittingly enough, in the dark."

Certainly in King's portrayal of hu-

manity there is a morbid fascination with the inhumane, an inherent demon that craves to be released, a hidden hunger for horror. But perhaps there is a certain element of truth to it, after all.

Perhaps horror movies are a way to challenge oneself, to reach an inner sense of victory by putting oneself in the shoes of the main characters, by feeling their fears and anxieties as one's heart rate speeds up, hands become clammy, and muscles become tense. But then again, most horror movies end terribly, so it may not be the best way to find triumph.

Perhaps they are one's escape from reality to irrationality, to a world where madness and mania and gory gestures are the norm. Perhaps they are relief for the deepest parts of humanity that crave the truly depraved, a way for one to reach catharsis by releasing one's inner demons.

Or perhaps they are just a way to have fun. Then maybe horror is honesty – but what a twisted sense of humour humans have, if that is so.

"If we are all insane, then sanity becomes a matter of degree." - Stephen King



Illustration: Lila Huang

To Fall, With Grace

by LAUREN CHANG

A boy is kicking his legs underneath the table. His father speaks to him with a gruff voice, "Tommy, come say goodbye to Aunt Maria."

The boy continues kicking. The camera pans onto his face.

"Tommy, now."

The boy stares stubbornly at his plate of wilting leaves.

"Why. Is. She. Leaving."

He punctuates each word with a kick. The camera zooms out and we see his father's face. It is pained. He does not understand.

"I don't know, son. But this is what Aunt Maria wants. Don't you want your aunty to be happy?"

A click of the tape recorder, a whirring sound.

"So, has it helped knowing what she plans now? Well, before it actually happens?"

A woman is sitting across from a couple; she is a journalist. The man starts to speak.

"It's been difficult. Um, my husband and I both agree that it is unfair. We feel like we can't do anything for her – but dammit – this is probably the only way we could make a difference."

"Did you want to stop her?"

His husband grips onto the first man's arm, and speaks with a tightly controlled voice.

"Of course we tried to stop her; she's my husband's only sister. She's part of this family; she doesn't understand how this will affect us all. Our son doesn't understand why his aunt, his only aunt, is going away forever. How do we explain such a concept to a kid? How will we get through this?"

The woman reaches over and hits a button on the recorder. A tense silence falls upon the room.

"Will you two be okay?"

The man grips his husband's arm tightly.

Aunt Maria is putting her shoes on, and reaches for her jacket. The little boy speaks.

"I don't want you to leave."

She looks up with red eyes, and smiles. "None of you deserve this; most of all you. You're so small... But promise me this: that you'll always be in control of your life

– who you are, what your opinions are. Never let something or someone come into your life and take it over. Promise?"

The little boy nods solemnly. She smiles, truly this time.

"Come give your aunty one last hug."

The boy runs with his arms open.

The woman hits the tape recorder, and speaks above the whirring.

"Why?"

The woman across from her, Aunt Maria, grimaces.

"I let it go too far. After he died, I had no direction, no control. You have to understand that we were one. We weren't complete without each other... he was literally there all the time. When he left, I felt so alone, so far from who I used to be. Do you know that I had to take all the mirrors down? I couldn't look. But one day, I woke up and it was okay. I felt a calmness that I hadn't felt for a very long time, and I was by myself, so it was a very new feeling. And it felt wrong to be alright, to have gotten over it. I went to go buy more mirrors afterwards, but nothing helped... all I could see was my face, one person staring back in the mirror. And I couldn't live like this. I'll always be either completely alone in the world, or wracked with guilt because I'm not. So I decided to end it all...I realized that I didn't really have to live like this. So I made my decision and called my brother. Is that normal?"

The journalist shakes her head, and uncrosses her legs.

"People generally do not call their brothers once they have made the decision to kill themselves."

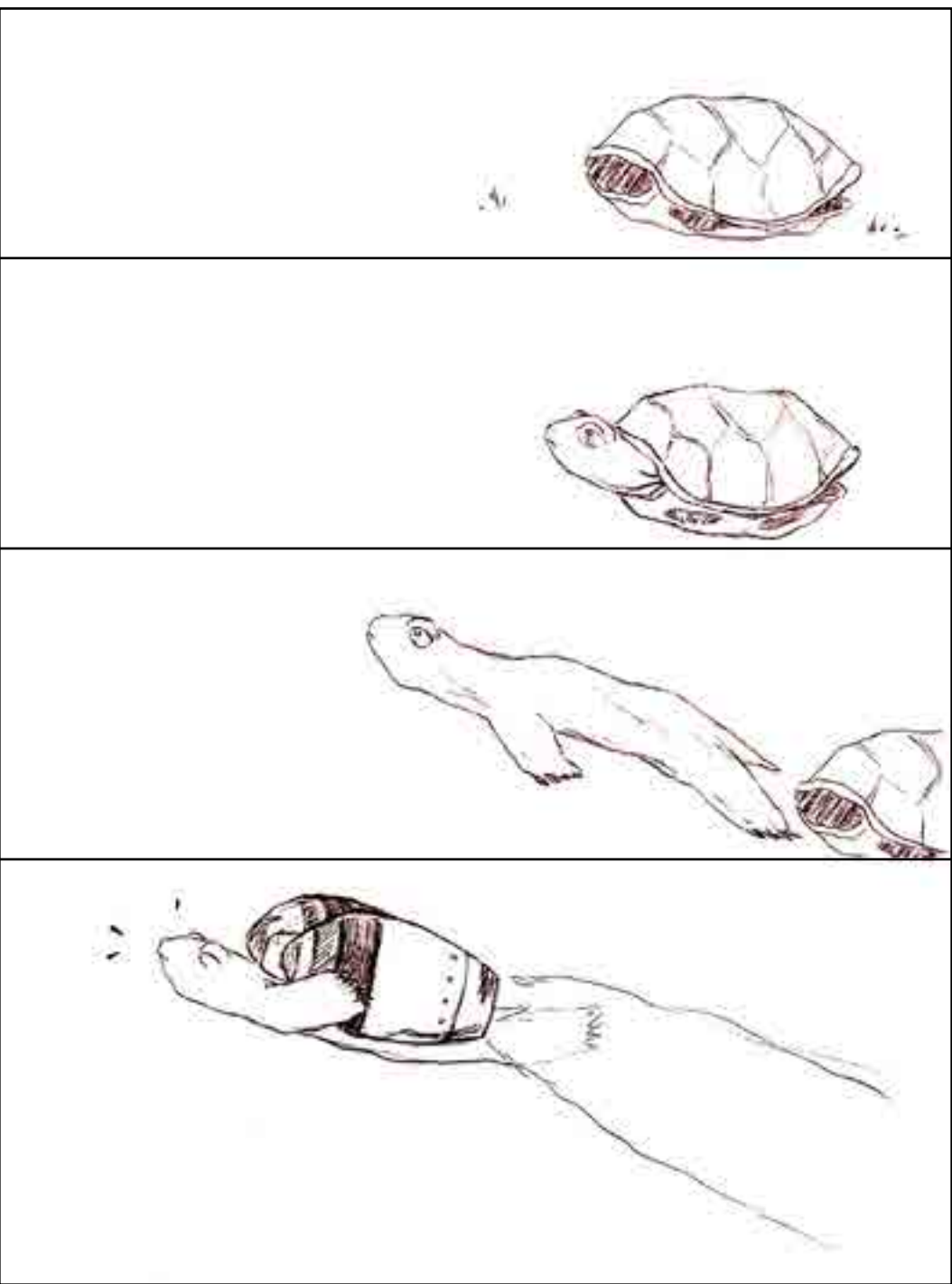
Aunt Maria laughs. "Well, it is what it is."

The journalist leans forward. "What about the effect this will have on your family, their young son?"

Aunt Maria swallows. "I keep reminding myself that this won't ruin their lives. In the long run, we'll both be happier – and that's the ultimate goal right? I don't even know what I'm looking for, whether I'm expecting to be reunited with him, or something. I'm not even religious, but somehow I know that this is something I need to do."

"How are you going to do it?"

"Painlessly, possibly, but probably not without pain: I'd like to remember that I was once alive."



HAPPINESS

by FRIEDA RONG

Ideas for Toronto

Over the past two weeks, The Reckoner put out a survey asking

“As students and residents of Toronto, what do you most want to see?”

The results are in! The top ten ideas chosen by MGCI students are posted on thereckoner.ca/ideas.

www.thereckoner.ca



EDITORIAL

An Open Letter to Hooligans

by BOSHEN CUI



Illustration: Lila Huang

Dear Hooligans,

Hi there! You probably don't know me and I probably don't know you. I see you guys playfully push each other around sometimes. I hear you in the hall during class sometimes. I see your vandalism in the washrooms sometimes.

I don't know y'all that well, but I like you guys. You have a sense of cool-

ness, a kind of mysterious charisma. It's entertaining seeing what kind of crap you do daily. It brings life to an otherwise drab, spiritless school. But this time, my dear hooligans, you've gone too far.

See, when you pull that fire alarm, over and over, you may bring temporary joy to some students, but take my word: you piss off many more. Includ-

ing me.

I'm not that mad that response times are increasing as false alarms become more and more common.

I'm not that mad that the general attitude towards fire alarms has changed from urgency to contempt.

I ain't even that mad that we're probably a joke to the fire department now.

I am absolutely livid that for every fire alarm pulled, fire trucks are diverted from incidents that may actually require assistance, possibly endangering the lives of others.

What I am absolutely livid about is that for every false alarm, a \$410 per truck fine is slapped onto either you, or us. And if you're not caught, we pay the price.

If you haven't noticed, Marc Garneau isn't located in the best neighborhood. We don't have the best facilities, and we certainly don't have the biggest budget. That \$410 per truck you waste every time you pull that lever? That comes directly from our school budget if we don't catch you. The money that's

taken out to pay these fines could have gone to a multitude of things. Things like, perhaps, a ventilation system that doesn't leak water into classrooms below? Maybe a field that doesn't have a gaping hole in the middle of the track? Or maybe even some 2-ply in the washrooms that doesn't feel like a cheese grater on my butt? There's plenty of places where this money could go to good use, but thanks to you, we're

blowing it away on, of all things, fire alarms.

You can bet that when you pull that alarm, administration will be hunting for you. They know which alarm is pulled. They have security cameras to track you. Measures are being put in place to ensure that culprits don't walk away clean. When they catch you? They'll make you pay the fine, for sure. And give you a suspension, maybe an expulsion.

But I bet you don't really care about all that. After all, the whole point of being a hooligan is living that carefree life, right? Well, how about a criminal record then? See, the police department have the option of pressing criminal charges against you. Want to get a job? Nope, criminal record. Want to travel? Nope, criminal record. Want a decent bank loan? Nope, criminal record. All because of something as petty as a fire alarm.

It's time to draw the line. Go back to your shenanigans, but stay away from the fire alarms. Stay a hooligan, don't become a jerk.

Sincerely, your fellow hooligan, Boshen

P.S. Hey do you guys even read The Reckoner anymore? Or is my rant falling on deaf ears?

P.P.S Write back to me! Use the Contact Us page on the website! Yoo-hoo!

Death with Dignity

*ASSISTED SUICIDE
Continued from P1*

The debate over assisted suicide in Canada first took the spotlight in 1993, surrounding the case of a woman named Sue Rodriguez. Rodriguez had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), making it impossible for her to physically end her own life without any outside help. Unfortunately, her appeal was unsuccessful and ultimately Rodriguez sought the help of an anonymous physician and chose to die at her home in Vancouver Island on 12 April 1994. Clearly, there are people who seek assisted suicide, and support has only grown over time, but our country has still made no progress in its legislation.

Legalization of assisted suicide has been implemented carefully and received well in other parts of the world.

Since Oregon, the first American state to legalize assisted suicide, first passed its Death with Dignity Act in 1997, approximately 1100 individuals in the state have obtained lethal drug prescriptions, and around 750 have chosen to use them^[2]. Annual reports and statistics have shown that Oregon's experience has been positive.

Abuse of assisted suicide is a serious concern, however it can be guarded against through careful, well-considered policies and restrictions. In Oregon, for instance, only specific, well-defined categories of patients may participate. Patients must be eighteen or older, and in a mentally stable condition. They need to have been deemed to have no more than six months left to live by doctors. In

addition, a physician must make sure that patients understand the decision they are about to make: the options of palliative care, pain management and living in a hospice are made available as alternatives. These stringent rules have made it very difficult for people to misuse the practice, and so the results of legalizing assisted suicide in Oregon have been very effective. Today, assisted suicide is also legal in many other countries, such as Switzerland, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands.

So what's the bottom line? According to our constitution, every human has equal rights; accordingly, every human has the right to choose when to die. Legalizing assisted suicide is the best way to respect the wishes of the vulnerable that are in pain and suffering.

To do anything else would be to discredit their opinions and refuse these individuals the right to choose what to do with their own lives. Canada has always prided itself on its protection of equality and human rights, thus it should revise its legislation to respect the right of all Canadians to leave this world in peace, dignity, and surrounded by loved ones.

^[1] <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/assisted-suicide>
^[2] <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2014/10/06/expanding-the-right-to-die/oregon-shows-that-assisted-suicide-can-work-sensibly-and-fairly>

Internet and Terrorism

*INTERNET
Continued from P1*

The National Energy Board, CSIS, and RCMP have also spied extensively on a wide range of anti-oil sands organizations, including Idle No More, Sierra Club, Dogwood Initiative, and the Council of Canadians. Under the proposed laws, they could also be censored as part of anti-terrorist measures.

A real counter-terrorism strategy must address the root cause. Whenever terrorist incidents involving radical ideologies are involved, people are quick to blame it on Islam and the Muslim identity - but research shows that having a strong Muslim identity is not the problem. Rather, the reason Muslim individuals become radicalized is because they perceive that their culture or way of life is under threat. The reason some individuals have this perception is due to societal blaming of the radical acts of a few Muslims on Islamic culture as a whole. Thus, extrem-

ism, violence, and the resulting prejudicial es, and backlash form a vicious cycle.

To break this cycle, instead of criminalizing certain opinions, which would only serve to make at-risk communities feel further marginalized and discriminated against, the government should encourage cultural openness and diversity. Canada, of all nations, should be embracing multiculturalism - we claim that it is one of our best characteristics. It is important that all communities are aware that they are respected members of society, and that they have the freedom to express themselves and the right to represent themselves in the political process.

Ultimately, if issues of discrimination and cultural alienation are not addressed, any attempt at censoring the Internet is merely a superficial policy and a violation of fundamental rights.

Media and Apathy

*EBOLA
OP-ED Continued from P1*

People that are truly at risk are the real victims of the self-obsessive North American mentality. It is rare to hear anyone comment about the situation in West Africa itself, only the possible spread of the virus to North America. Selfishness is the face of North America.

The truth is that news networks and their derivatives are, first and foremost, businesses, designed to make money. Just a peek at tabloids near the grocery checkout proves sensationalism and yellow journalism have their roots deep in North American culture. Sadly, mainstream news is not immune. Any Torontonian could testify to the sheer amount of news matter surrounding the Rob Ford drug scandal, and high-profile criminal cases

such as the O.J. Simpson murder trial, and more recently, Oscar Pistorius, have been meticulously dragged out by networks hoping to puff up their viewership. In all of these examples, the emphasis is never on the victim, but the famous perpetrator. Can you even name Pistorius' girlfriend? Now, Ebola is in the spotlight, but the camera is pointed the wrong way.

So what can we do? We should redirect our efforts to help combat the spread of Ebola in Africa, where they are in dire need of support such as medical and monetary aid. Organizations like Doctors Without Borders are currently sending medical aid directly to the areas which need it most, although financial donations are always needed to keep their operations going.

Other organizations such as UNICEF and the CDC Foundation have led efforts as well.

In the end, we put out our neighbor's fires, not because the flames might spread to us, but because it is the neighborly thing to do. Ebola is not a current threat to us, but keeping our heads down and out of sight is the wrong way to act. The world is a global community, it is high time we act like global citizens.

Sources:
WHO/International Study Team. "Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever in Sudan, 1976." Bulletin of the World Health Organization (1978): n. pag. Web. Accessed 5 Nov. 2014
WHO: EBOLA RESPONSE ROADMAP UPDATE (2014): n. pag. Web. Accessed 3 Nov. 2014



Why do my fingers feel immobile after being in the cold? Is it because the blood turns into ice?
- Confused

They are not immobile, they just move slower. Time itself is slower when it is cold and faster at higher temperatures. At 0 degrees K, time stops all together. This is also why the life expectancy is longer for people in cold climates like Canada and Norway than in warm climates like Kenya and the Bahamas.

Does the friend zone exist?
- Anonymous

"I just want to be friends", "I like you but...", "it would ruin our friendship", three phrases that would make people anxious. Why? These are the typical phrases that indicate the "friend zone", a proclaimed "invisible barrier" imposed by another person. The definition of a friend zone (by modern culture) is a situation wherein a person develops romantic feelings for another, while the other does not, and only wishes to be friends.

Why is it that when a friendship develops between opposite genders there is a specific zone dedicated to it? The truth is, there isn't really a friend zone, these claims of "I've been friend zoned" are usually another way of saying "I got rejected", sort of.

When these "friend zone" phrases are being thrown at you, you are not being placed behind a barrier. The simple fact is that these phrases are driven by social pressure, which instructs people to be less direct, fearing that they may offend someone. Really what they're saying is "no", but covered with gentler - and somewhat misleading - terms in order to maintain a positive relation with that person.

If someone did a few nice things for a person, chatted, and randomly asked the person out, and the person says "I just want to be friends", this doesn't mean that a person is friend zoned, it just means that the feeling was not mutual. Just because you are "nice" to them does not automatically mean that you get a date. A romantic feeling for another person can be created by several different reasons, but the criteria doesn't only include niceness. It would be silly to think that we'd have to shun everyone because by not doing so, you're a potential date for them.

Being friend zoned is just an imaginary thing to rant about, when someone really means "no".

If you seek counsel from The Reckoner like the individuals above, send us a question at www.thereckoner.ca/ask-thereckoner

Do you have a response to an article in this issue? Make your voice heard! Contact us at editor@thereckoner.ca.

www.thereckoner.ca



A Haunted Hallowe'en in Garneau Halls

by CHENG CHENG LIN AND LAWRENCE PANG



Students dressed up in halloween costumes to participate in a costume show.
Photo: Sophia Liu

On the week of 27 to 31 October, numerous Hallowe'en events were held in MGCI's cafeteria. Events ranged from a photobooth and a haunted house, to a fashion show featuring creative Hallowe'en costumes. In combination, the events created an air of festivity unprecedented for Hallowe'en celebrations at Garneau.

Activities were organized by clubs Garneau in Motion and Habitat for Humanity, and the school's Student Activity Council (SAC).

A haunted house was held from 28 October to 30 October on the stage. Run by Grade 12 student Shazde Mir, who represented Garneau In Motion, participants were charged \$1 to enter. The haunted house raised a total of \$80 for the club.

Teacher supervisor Ms. McGregor commented about the event. "It's a fun opportunity to enjoy Hallowe'en festivities but at the same time raise money for a good cause." Participants concurred; Grade 10 student Gabeena Ahmad said that she enjoyed the haunted house, but it "could've been scarier if they had masks on".

On Hallowe'en, a fashion show was hosted by the collaborative effort of SAC and Garneau in Motion. It featured twenty-four contestants who dressed up in Hallowe'en costumes. Participants could sign up in advance, but last-minute entries were allowed.

The top four contestants were selected by the hosts, Shazde Mir and Mahad Khokar, based on the creativity of the costumes. The overall winner was then determined from the finalists by the cheering they received from the crowd.

Ultimately, Michelle Nyamekye, dressed as Lil' Wayne, was the winner; she received gift cards and a feature on Humans of Garneau. She said that the show was "a lot bigger than it has ever been", and that "hopefully it continues this way".

Other events were held in the cafeteria as well. Habitat for Humanity sold cupcakes, organized games, and held a Henna station at various times of the week to raise more funds.

Overall, the student response to this Hallowe'en's events was positive. Fund-raisers reported an unexpectedly large turnout; this was especially remarkable

given that Habitat for Humanity, and Garneau in Motion were only founded this year.

On the other hand, students felt that the week's events could have been advertised more. Grade 11 student Vicky Xu said, "There could have been more publicity, I actually had no idea these events were going on."

Other students echoed this sentiment, stating that they were not aware of any events other than the costume parade. Addressing this issue, Shazde agreed that more announcements should have been made.

Looking toward the future, Spirit Convenor Mara Gagiù said that the lessons learned from this Hallowe'en's events would go towards improving the Christmas show, remarking that "the challenges that arise here gives me an understanding of precautions I should take when reaching out to people about other events to come."

Want more pictures? SAC and The Reckoner have posted albums on their Facebook page.

Words of Wisdom

by SHEILA BALU

On 6 November 2014, the Social Justice and Equity Committee held a Spoken Word Café to fundraise, raise awareness about the Committee, and inspire young artists by exposing them to the power of poetry.

The event began at approximately 12:15 PM, and ran until the end of lunch. For an entry fee of \$1, students were welcomed into the library and offered snacks. Including the speakers and attendees, around 50 students turned out to participate in the Spoken Word Café.

Introduced by Social Justice Convenor Jackie Ho, the event kicked off with guest speaker Randell Adjei, the founder of RISE Poetry Edutainment, speaking about his past and his involvement with spoken word. He began by reciting

a powerful poem titled 'Mama Africa,' which addressed equality and other issues in the community. He finished with a second poem, 'Art is Power,' a piece about how art saved him. "I wouldn't be here without it," said Randell solemnly. The attendees listened closely, captivated with his every word.

The event continued with seven student speakers reciting poetry. The poems covered a variety of topics and issues, including mental illness, graduation, pain, religion, and war. They were mostly self-written, with the exception of one recited from a book.

One of the most popular poems addressed the wearing of the hijab, and was presented by Amna Sabowala and Alvira Sheikh. When asked about her

inspiration, Alvira responded: "While working on a presentation for Islamic History Month, I realized just how many people look at us [hijab wearers] from a different point of view. We found out that the Spoken Word Café was taking place today, so why not write a poem about it?"

Overall, the attendees enjoyed the quiet introspective lunchtime. "It was really inspirational and was a good learning experience," commented Grade 11 student Saffiya Lulat, "and it was fun too." All in all, the Café raised \$65.00 to go towards future events run by the Social Justice and Equity Committee. For students interested in joining, they meet every Wednesday at lunch in room 221.

1914 to 2014

REMEMBRANCE
Continued from P1

Ahmed's definition of Remembrance Day was simple: "[it] is a day to remember the sacrifices of not only the soldiers fighting, but all the parents, the children, everyone. That is what I think Remembrance Day is about."

Shamilah Mukhtar, another Grade 11 student, said, "we all should take a moment to remember those who sacrificed their tomorrow to give us our today."

The events were not limited to one presentation. In respect of the veterans who gave their life for Canada, hundreds of paper poppies were hand cut and displayed in the cafeteria, spelling out phrases such as "Lest We Forget", and "1914-1918". Student Council, its sub-committees, and other volunteers took part in preparing the poppies for

this display. The cafeteria was decorated after school on Friday 7 November. The idea originated from Mr. Alexander, SAC's staff advisor.

On Remembrance Day itself, several students from the school who are air cadets performed a flag ceremony outside by the flagpole. At 11 am, they raised the Canadian flag, stayed silent until 11:11, then lowered it. Michael Shu, a Grade 12 student and air cadet, performed the Last Post on trumpet. Inside over the PA system, In Flanders Fields by John McCrae was recited by Mr. Sharp and Grade 12 student Selina McCallum presented her original poem titled Not Only in November. A moment of silence was held.

The Reckoner

of Marc Garneau C.I.

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"What's something interesting about yourself that others might not know?"
"Oh god. I guess I laugh too much, and I have way too many embarrassing stories."
"Would you like to share one?"
"One time, when I was in Pakistan, I was dared to sing a song on stage. All the judges were professional singers and everyone was watching, my friends, my parents. My principal was there too, and she was doing a facepalm, and I just remember slowly blacking out. I also got chased by a donkey once, because I thought it was a dog."



"Who is someone that you look up to?"
"My mom, actually."
"How so?"
"She's always getting me to study and focus on school. She was a doctor back home, so when she came here, she started studying pharmacy, and now she's a pharmacist. So now, every time I think, 'I'm dropping out of high school,' I tell myself, 'Nah. No way.'"