

The

Reckoner

of Marc Garneau C.I.

Bill C-51: The Conservatives’ Political Power Play

by DAVID LI

On 23 February, Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s proposed Anti-Terrorism Bill C-51 was passed. The bill expands privileges and powers given to Canadian intelligence and security agencies. The Conservative government claims that the bill is necessary in order to protect Canadians and ensure their freedoms. Is protecting Canadians truly the objective of the Conservative party, or is it a political strategy meant to ensure a Tory victory in the upcoming election?

The unveiling of Bill C-51 came not long after the Quebec and Ottawa attacks on Canadian Armed Forces members. Canadians were shocked at the severity and awakened by the reality of radical attacks on home soil. Coincidentally, Harper’s government reveals what seems to be a solution to soothe the agitated Canadian minds: an anti-terrorism legislation that will act as heightened precautions against any future terror attacks on Canadian land. Under the guise of concern for Canadian people, Harper’s government exploited the mood of the people and introduced a political move that would surely appeal to the masses.

See C-51 on P4

TTC Fare Hike

OP-ED by JACKIE HO

Mayor John Tory breaks a campaign promise – surprise, surprise!

On 2 February, the TTC Board unanimously voted to approve an operating budget that adds \$95.3 million of service improvements and increases the price of metropasses and tickets, a move instated Sunday 1 March. They also decided to allow children twelve and under to ride for free.

This decision will add more services, such as express buses and Blue Night buses, and reinstate some of the service cut in 2012. Two more subways will be available during rush hour on the Yonge and Bloor (yellow and green) lines, fifty new buses will be purchased to replace older ones, and more fare enforcement officers will be employed on streetcars, where passengers may now enter from the rear doors.

While the service improvements are great, I question why the TTC is raising fares for those who need it most – its loyal daily transit riders.

As a regular commuter, and especially as a student, this fare increase makes public transit much less affordable. The move to only increase the price of ticket and metropass fares directly punishes those most loyal to public transit, and I foresee several problems that will come with this change.

First off, what’s changed?

Student/senior ticket prices increased by 10 cents, from \$1.85 to \$1.95 per ride.

See FARES on P4

-Correction-

An article published in the February issue of The Reckoner, titled “School Budget Breakdown”, was incorrectly attributed. Joy Wang co-created the infographic, and was not credited for her contributions.

MIST Competition



MGCI students participated in the annual MIST competition that takes place every year during the March Break. Photo courtesy of Khadija Jawwad

by JULIE XIAO

Over the March Break, 32 students from MGCI’s Muslim Student Association participated in the Muslim Inter-Scholastic Tournament (MIST).

MIST is a competition for high school students, and contains a variety of categories from basketball to short film. The purpose of MIST is to develop and promote leadership, communication, and other creative skills in high school students while helping youth achieve a deeper understanding of Islam and of Muslims. Although MIST occurs in many American cities, including Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, and Detroit, Toronto is the only Canadian city to host MIST. The 2015 Toronto MIST competition was held at the University of Toronto St. George Campus from 14 to 15 March, with an award ceremony on following on 16 March.

All in all, MGCI’s team did very well. The following awards were presented to

MGCI team members:

- Girls’ Basketball - Most Disciplined
- Boys’ Basketball - Most Disciplined
- Ameera Seiyad (Girls’ Soccer) - Most Valuable Player (Tournament)
- Girls’ Soccer - 3rd place
- Nasheeds - 3rd place
- Research in Action - 3rd place
- Business Venture - 3rd place
- Knowledge Test - 3rd place

MGCI moved onto the finals in the Math Olympics, Photography, 2D Islamic Art, Short Film, and Boys’ Basketball. MGCI also participated in Improv, Debate, Scholastic (MIST) Bowl, Poetry: Spoken Word, Short Fiction, and Quran Recitation.

Throughout the preparation process, students were supported and coached by Mansour Ghazi and Ms. Ali. Students were also appreciative of the teachers for their dedication to the competition.

To participate in MIST, each student

had to pay a \$53 registration fee. To compensate for the high cost, the Muslim Student Association raised money by selling pizza on unhealthy food sale days, and spoke to organizations to get sponsors. The fundraising went well, and MSA was able to reimburse approximately 50% of each student’s fee.

Overall, MIST contestants had an enjoyable time at the competition. Students were able to display their talents while having fun. One participant, Khadija Jawwad, also liked that many Muslim and non-Muslim students, not only from Toronto, but also from Ajax, Waterloo, Kitchener, and Pickering, came to MIST.

Mustafa Bandukwala, another participant, said, “[MIST was] honestly an amazing experience.” He added, “The people there were extremely supportive.” ■

QSA Mural

by DEIFILIA TO

Marc Garneau’s Queer Straight Alliance (QSA) and Art Council are working together to design a mural that will be placed in the school cafeteria. The mural spells out the word “Pride” in a myriad of colours, and will serve to encourage and support LGBTQ students in the school.

Approximately twenty members in Art Council and QSA have been designing and preparing for this project for a month and a half. Students began creating the mural three weeks ago. It is expected to be completed in two weeks. In these three weeks, the participants have primed the canvas, sketched the

outline, and begun painting.

The two councils seek to create a piece of art that will brighten up the atmosphere of the school, while delivering a meaningful message. The mural’s primary objective is to announce that MGCI is a queer-positive space that will support all LGBTQ youth. However, the meaning goes further than that—it wants to eliminate social prejudices that minorities face, including racism, sexism, ageism, ableism, and homophobia.

In addition to reducing prejudice, the mural also seeks to encourage students who are currently questioning their sexuality to feel accepted in the school environment. Khalida Elsadati, Social Media Manager of QSA, said that “This mural is important because it will make a lot of students who may be afraid of coming out, or who are worried about being accepted know that MGCI has their back. Our school becomes more of a queer-positive space.”

Gloria Zhou, president of Art Council, elaborates on the purpose of the mural. “If we address the ignorance and discriminative behaviour possessed by a fraction of our society today and make an effort to shout back with something as loud and expressive as this mural, perhaps that fraction will become more open minded.” ■



Art Council and QSA collaborated to create a mural to encourage MGCI students to create a LGBTQ supportive environment in the school. Photo courtesy of Gloria Zhou

Teacher Feature

by DEIFILIA TO

This month, The Reckoner is introducing a new segment, the Teacher Feature. For our first instalment, we sat down with Mr. Pearce to discuss his experiences with teaching, as well as some light-hearted trivia.



Mr. Pearce, pictured on left. Photo: Susie Liu

Q: What’s your favourite time of the day?

A: When I pick my kids up from their afterschool program and I walk home with them.

Q: Coke or Pepsi?

A: Coke

Q: Batman or Superman?

A: Definitely Batman

See PEARCE on P4

An Open Letter to Future Voters

by SUSIE LIU

When I Google “Ontario Sex Ed Curriculum” the first result that appears is titled “Ontario’s Radical Sex Ed Curriculum”. Before even entering the page, I am greeted by a brief excerpt which references Kathleen Wynne as a gay-activist in a derogatory manner. While these attitudes are certainly not representative of all Ontarians, they do reflect a trend of misinformation among voters. They demonstrate decision-making and opinion-forming based on emotion and outrage rather than based on evidence. They also reflect a fear of progressive and preventative government measures that sometimes challenge our beliefs and sensibilities.

It is extremely important to be wary of misinformation and sensationalism as the next federal election draws near. Not only does our tendency to rely on gut reactions manifest itself in public opinion, but it has also manifested itself in our legislature under the Harper government. Bill C-10, which was passed in March of 2012 under the name of the Safe Streets and Communities Act, is filled with policy that may satisfy our desire to see justice, but which has not shown itself to be effective through evidence. In particular, the expansion of the number of offenses that are subject to mandatory minimum sentencing reflects a tough-on-crime attitude but is counterproductive to rehabilitating criminals and reducing recidivism.

There is little evidence to show that mandatory minimum sentences have any ability to deter crime. Rather, longer prison sentences have actually been shown to increase the likelihood of repeat offenses.

See INFORMED VOTING on P4



LIFE

The Flight to Dream

by MARA GAGIU



McLaughlin's Fence

by XIN NIU ZHANG

Fisher could see the house across the street through her bedroom window. To her, that meant she could see the neon picket fence and the woman responsible for it.

It infuriated her. McLaughlin had lived in the house across the street since before Fisher had moved in. In other words, McLaughlin had been painting that fence for who-knows-how-long, and no one had said a thing.

At least, she assumed that McLaughlin—who, like Fisher, lived alone—was the one who painted the fence. Fisher had never actually asked, had never even spoken to any of her neighbours except sometimes to the old divorced next door whose children never visited. She had seen him taking out his recycling once, and she'd gone over and asked about the neon picket fence.

"McLaughlin's fence?" he'd said. He shrugged. "Never seen anyone paint it, but it's just always looked like that. Pretty, ain't it?"

"Let me help you," she replied, words tumbling out in a rush. She reddened. "With your garbage and stuff. Let me help."

So she did, every week. She also got into the habit of mowing the old man's front lawn and looking after his rose garden. Sometimes after she got home from work, she knocked on his door and had tea with him. Whenever she left his house, whenever she watered his flowers, her eyes wandered across the street and caught on the neon picket fence.

It was inescapable. Each vertical board was painted a

different, obnoxiously loud colour—flamingo pinks, highlighter yellows, fluorescent greens. Looking at the fence hurt her eyes. Thinking about the fence hurt her head. She ground her teeth and fixed her gaze downward, cursing loudly when she tripped on the uneven driveway and knocked over the garbage bin she was dragging to the curb. She looked up.

There was McLaughlin across the street, taking out her own trash. At first glance, she didn't look like the kind of deranged person who would paint a picket fence so offensively. She looked almost normal, with long, straight hair and a neatly pressed grey skirt. Noticing Fisher's stare, she smiled and gave her a small wave.

Fisher flushed, turning towards her garage without waving back.

One afternoon, when Fisher was finishing up the old man's lawn, the one eye she always kept on the neon picket fence detected McLaughlin's sudden appearance and approach. She watched with faint horror as McLaughlin sailed across the street and landed, thankfully, on the curb instead of invading the driveway.

"Good evening," McLaughlin said, politeness surely masking a sick, perverse desire to paint Fisher's grass bright orange. "You're so kind to help out Mr. Johnston like this."

"I'm not kind," said Fisher hurriedly. She returned the lawn mower to the old man's garage and fled home, drawing the curtains so the colours of that fence had no way of infiltrating her fortress. The next day, she went back to Mr.

Johnston's to sort his recyclables.

She never caught McLaughlin in the act, never actually saw her painting the picket fence—but Fisher was certain she was doing it. Some mornings, on her way to work, Fisher noticed how the world was subtly, unbearably brighter, the fence's pinks pinker, the greens greener. The whites and greys a little more forgotten.

Often, she lay sleepless in bed and imagined McLaughlin hauling out buckets of paint in the middle of the night, moonlight framing the soft, sinister curves of her face as she carefully added another coat, board by board, colour by colour. She probably derived a sadistic pleasure from the sheer wastefulness of her actions, the blinding tackiness of her results. She probably loved how her neon picket fence was so bright and distracting that it made Fisher wonder about the colour of McLaughlin's eyes.

After a week without sleep, Fisher shattered. She traversed the street without looking both ways, storming through the fence without glancing at it.

When McLaughlin opened the front door, Fisher noticed that her eyes were brown, an infuriatingly plain brown.

They stared at each other, both taken by surprise, and then McLaughlin broke out into a delighted smile as though Fisher had shown up on her doorstep bearing homemade fruitcake.

She blurted, "Why do you paint your fence like that?"

McLaughlin laughed, soft and bright, and invited her inside. Suddenly, Fisher was thinking that McLaughlin's fence was actually kind of pretty.

The Pursuit of Happiness

by PARNIKA GODKHINDI

The concept of happiness bothers me. Don't get me wrong: I'm completely fine with people being happy. And for the record, I love being happy, too. But there's a difference between happiness and false hope, and that's what we're all failing to see. Society seems to have an odd obsession with the idea of happiness. I can't count how many times I've heard people say, "My goal in life is to be...happy," and to be honest, I've done the same as well. Really, we consider everything we do in life to be in pursuit of happiness. I suppose this isn't entirely our fault. From a young age, we're told stories where the only possible outcome is a happily ever after—a happy ending, with people walking off into the sunset. Who wouldn't want a life like that?

But what we don't realize is that this insinuates an inadvertent fear of sadness. A fear of being defeated and shut down; a fear that we might not always be successful. And if I've learned anything during my brief time on this planet, it's that life is a bumpy ride—we all know that. So why do we keep on setting ourselves up for failure and disappointment by aiming for happiness? If you want to be happy, anything that does not meet your standard of satisfaction will only make you sadder, and in the end, knowing that you haven't achieved your goal of happiness only disappoints you even more. It's counterproductive, really.

Rather than aiming to be happy, we should all aim to be whole. There is no real definition for it, but wholeness is composed of a multitude of elements. It is a mixture of pleasant moments of joy, excitement, victory, success, and fun, in addition to the lows of depression, disappointment and failure. It is multifaceted, and thus allows more room for error. In fact, there is no error because practically everything will add to that person's wholeness. You can't fail at becoming whole, and that's the beauty of this paradigm.

In the end, it's important to remember that we learn more from the lows than we do from the highs. Every mistake in life is a learning experience, and every time we are struck down, we stand up stronger than before; we're more whole.

So instead of thinking about whether an event is contributing to your happiness, ask yourself, "Is this contributing to my wholeness?" And if you've been having a bad day, then, yes, it is.

The mandatory minimums also make judges unable to give special consideration to individuals in unique circumstances, such as single parents who could require special provisions to continue working during their sentences. In addition, a report from the BC Civil Liberties Association estimated the cost of the Safe Streets and Communities Act to be \$150 million in trials, corrections, and parole expenses, and the full cost of the bill could be even more. This is money that could be better spent addressing the gaps in mental health care in our correctional system or focused on rehabilitation and crime prevention. These are steps that could improve the safety of our communities and the well-being of our citizens, though they may seem less glamorous.

As citizens and voters, it is our responsibility to judge with our minds rather than to react emotionally. One of the greatest tools of the past five centuries has been the method of scientific inquiry - of making conclusions based on evidence rather than based on conjecture. We must examine our national affairs with a critical eye and demand that our politicians be accountable to the welfare of our country. The only way we can do this is by showing them that they must appeal to us with effective policy, rather than feel-good legislation. To Garneau students becoming able to vote for the first time, this also means that we must exercise our ability to vote; a 40.7% turnout right for first-time voters is not high enough. So on October 19, take to the ballot boxes, but take with you an informed opinion, and make your vote count.

Nothing... nothing, nothing. She lay still on her bed, her green eyes shielded from the gruesome world forever. Forever... forever, forever.

Forever

by AREEBA ASGHAR

I ran my hands through her tangled tresses, the moonlight bathing the locks in its bright glory. Her ebony skin was cold and smooth, her velvet cheeks in my tender grip. Her long lashes were laid out on her skin, innocence evident in her cherry lips.

But what I longed to see were the green specks in those eyes, the warming gaze that calmed my soul. Just one glimpse was all I wanted, all I needed.

I waited, waited for her eyes to open, for the sparkling orbs to capture me with their lustre. Waited for her raspy laughter to fill my sinning ears. Waited for her tiny hands to grip my calloused skin. Waited until they gripped my shoulders and led me through the worn-out door.

I sat on the edge of the rocking chair, the voices around me fading. Her pale face was etched in my brain. Her words

became the only sound I heard. Her last words.

The last words she uttered, the last words I ever heard. They remained in my mind, every whisper resurfacing, haunting me.

I had tried, tried to hear her voice again. I screamed at her to speak to me, begged her to say a word. I had repeated to her the story, our story, and waited for her to laugh the laugh she always did when I told her a tale.

Nothing... nothing, nothing. She lay still on her bed, her green eyes shielded from the gruesome world forever. Forever... forever, forever.



by LISA WANG

Adrift



EDITORIAL

Fare is Foul and Foul is Fair

FARES
Continued from P1



The TTC fare hike makes transit less affordable for its regular riders. Photo: Jackie Ho

The student Metropass, the unlimited monthly pass, increased \$4, from \$108 to \$112. Cash fare stays the same at \$2.

Adult token prices increased by 10 cents, from \$2.70 to \$2.80 per ride. Adult Metropasses increased from \$133.75 to \$141.50. Cash fare stays the same at \$3.

Now let's do some math. Consider the average month to have twenty school days.

As a student commuter (in secondary school) who takes the bus twice a day, I would need to use the bus forty times a month, coming to \$78 a month, versus \$80 in cash fare. \$2 a month difference? This is practically no incentive for students or their parents to buy tickets. I'd much rather pay in cash than risk losing a ticket that falls out of my pocket. And since a secondary student Metropass is \$34 more expensive than tickets, a student would need to ride the TTC sixteen more times in the evenings or on the weekends to make up the difference. Even if you take into account the 15% tax credit, the Metropass is \$17.20 pricier than tickets; you'd have to take the bus or subway nine more times.

Selling the same student Metropasses to both secondary and post-secondary students also makes little sense. Secondary and post-secondary students pay different cash fares (post-secondary students pay as adults), but the same Metropass fee applies to both groups. This is why so few high school students use a Metropass—it's just not worth it.

One of the biggest things that irks me about the fare changes is the

seniors pay the same ridiculous price as students. Furthermore, no programs exist to help low income individuals and families.

The TTC has not increased cash fares since 2010, and I do not understand why. Although it's nice that they are at an even \$2 or \$3, if the TTC really needs to increase revenue, cash fares must go up. In the coming years, a hike in cash fares is inevitable anyway (the student tickets are only five cents cheaper, they really can't go up any more). In the Greater Toronto Area, Toronto daily commuters pay the most for their monthly passes but the least cash fare. This is great for tourists and occasional riders, but why are the loyal customers the ones who are punished? Regular transit users help reduce congestion on roads and leave a smaller environmental footprint. Thanks for caring, TTC.

Below is a list of fares in other parts of the GTA compared to those of the TTC:

- TTC: Cash fare \$3, monthly pass \$141.50
- Brampton Transit: Cash fare \$3.75, monthly pass \$118
- York Region Transit: Cash fare \$4, monthly pass \$132
- Durham Region Transit: Cash fare \$3.25, monthly pass \$106

Increasing the cash fare would generate a greater income for the TTC while increasing Metropass sales among people who currently only use transit to get to and from work or school.

The TTC is actually the least subsidized transit system in North America. In 2014, the city's subsidy accounted for \$0.78 per ride. If the government invested more into improving the infrastructure of our public transit (and much faster, please!), it would solve so many of our emissions and congestion problems. In the long term, this brings great benefits to the city—we just need our politicians to see this too.

This is how Toronto compares to other transit agencies:

- Toronto: \$0.78
- Montreal: \$1.16
- Vancouver: \$1.62
- Chicago: \$1.68
- New York City: \$1.03
- Mississauga: \$2.21

Public transit truly makes or breaks a city, and it's especially important in a city as big as Toronto. The TTC is an archaic system greatly in need of improvement. If we are to catch up to other major cities, the TTC board and city council need to step up their game.



ASK THE RECKONER

"I'm allergic to pineapples but I can't stop eating them. Help!"
-Pineapples

Dear Pineapples,

You are faced with a very tough dilemma. On one hand, you could follow your dreams, pursue the delightful culinary journey that your soul and body lusts for, even though you may – well, certainly will – fall into a dark pit of despair and swollen lips shortly after. Depending on the severity of your allergies, you may die. On the other hand, you could forsake pineapples altogether and live a life of blandness, existing for the sake of existing, drifting, lost, alone.

The choice is obvious. Eat those pineapples! Regret nothing! Live like a firecracker! Burn bright, blaze through, illuminate the midnight sky with your passion and ferocity! Nothing, not even death can stand before you and your love for this exotic, tropical fruit!

How do you get rid of the untrustworthy TDSB trustees?

-Anon

Unfortunately, once these guys are elected, it's pretty hard to get rid of them. The best way would be to make sure that we elect the right trustees (TDSB mis-trustees are elected during each municipal election). However, there's no guarantee that an elected mis-trustee will just turn their back once they've been elected to their cushy job. Alternatively, you could try calling Toronto snake removal services at 1-877-221-2999.

Everyday, when I come from an exhausting day of school, I stand in the northeast corner in my room and breath heavily to tune out the voices in my head. Should I switch to another corner in my room?

-Victor Yu

The voices in your head feed upon familiarity. Do you notice how boredom and dull places make the hours drag and the headaches swell? The fact that school is such a large part of your life doesn't help matters. Numbers and letters are stuffed in your brain until your mind blows uncomfortably. Random and haphazard bits of trivia seep out your ears. It's all very awful, dastardly so. To stop the voices in your head, you must become distracted.

Consider moving to the southwest corner in your room. This puts you in a better position for being blinded by the setting sun as you huff and puff your thoughts away. All your thoughts will melt away as you tend to your burning eyes. You will be able to forego the stresses and anxiety of the common man, thus opening the path to spiritual catharsis.

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

A Veil over Canadian Citizenship

OP-ED by DANIEL PEKAR

Recently, the Federal Courts of Canada upheld the ban on the wearing of niqabs during the citizenship oath. Niqabs are full face covering veils worn by Muslim



Illustration: Susie Liu

women for religious reasons.

In 2011, it was banned by the Conservative government because they felt that you need to openly accept Canadian values. Jason Kenney, the Minister of Immigration at the time, said that "it is a matter of deep principle that goes to the heart of our identity and our values of openness and equality." So, to make sure new Canadians were treated equally and accepted openly, they were forced to abandon their cultural and religious freedoms.

Canada is a country whose national identity comes from its multiculturalism and its acceptance of other cultures. How forcing women to abandon theirs at a key moment in their life in Canada, the citizenship oath, helps equality

of cultures is beyond me. We should be embracing their different values and allowing them the freedom to express that

In 2015, Zuneera Ishaq, a woman well on her way to becoming a citizen, appealed to the courts to be allowed to wear her niqab during the citizenship oath. The courts ruled the ban unconstitutional. As soon as the decision hit, Harper and the Cons vowed to appeal the ban. They created an online petition named "Not the way we do things here." In it, they say that since women are equal members of society, they oppose anyone wearing the niqab during the oath. Harper is quoted as saying that "it is offensive that someone would hide their identity at the very moment they are committing to join the Canadian family."

This underlines their lack of understanding of Muslim culture in Canada. He sees the physical barrier of the veil as the women hiding their identity. In reality, since Canada is a free society where women are "equal members", it is fully their own decision whether or not they wear it. If their faith is an integral part of their identity, and they wear the niqab as a physical manifestation of that, we must embrace that.

Supporters of the appeal often say that women in Arab countries are frequently required to wear the niqab regardless of their own decisions, and that they are discriminatory against women and repressive. They argue that in Canada, women should be free of these restrictions.

However, while they may be symbols of repression in those countries, in Canada, women are not forced to wear them. Choosing to wear them is a freedom here; it is not a sign of society discriminating against Muslim women.

Appealing the lifting of the ban would represent a move towards a Canada that is not multicultural. It would show a Canada which cares less about the religious freedoms of minorities.

It is unacceptable for us to demand that new Canadians abandon part of their identity in order to "join the Canadian family". Having to choose between your faith and your citizenship is not something anyone should be forced to do.

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

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NEWS

Puddin’ Eatin’ for United Way

by DEIFILIA TO

On 12 March 2015, MGCI United Way held a pudding eating competition in the cafeteria at lunch. Students participated in relay teams of four. To participate, students could either sign up as an individual for \$2 each, or sign up in a group for \$8.

After the preliminary round, the top three teams competed in the finals. The results were as follows:

- First Place - AP 16 Crew. (0:20)
- Second Place – Force to be Reckoned With (0:23)
- Third Place - #1 SAC (0:24)

In total, eleven teams participated in the competition, raising approximately \$80-90 for United Way.

Students who are interested in helping United Way plan future events can join the club on Tuesdays at Lunch in Room 212.

Eva Liu, Co-President of MGCI United Way, said that she thought “the competition was a success.” She also mentioned that they “had a lot of fun organizing the event,” and thought that “the contestants had fun too”. ■



Garneau students competed in a pudding eating competition. Team AP 16 Crew, picture to the right, took first place and received pudding as a prize. Photos: Valiant Chan

Shifting Attitudes: C-51

C-51
Continued from P1

When the bill was initially passed, a shocking number of people strongly supported the implementation of C-51. An online survey conducted by the Angus Reid Institute in February of this year showed that 82% of adult Canadians supported the passing of the bill. Around a third of the supporters claimed that the bill did not go far enough in terms of powers given to Canadian security agencies. All of this meant a lot of positive attention for the Conservative party, and favouritism shifted towards Stephen Harper.

In terms of opposition by the other parties, Justin Trudeau and the Liberals presented next to no resistance to Harper’s bill; the Liberals actually supported C-51. Thomas Mulclair and the

NDP, on the other hand, saw Bill C-51 as a flawed legislation and vowed to fight against its implementation. Mulclair attributed Trudeau’s compliance with the bill to faltering under political pressure from the Conservatives. Trudeau retaliated by claiming that the NDP had no concern for national security at all, and that there was no reason to vote against the bill aside from the fact that the bill should be revised further and be more specific. The Conservatives had the support of the Liberals as well as the general public.

In the weeks that followed the first presentation of Bill C-51, the Conservative party and their breadwinning bill faced no considerable opposition. Mulclair had said that the bill was too

vague in wording and that it could harm Canadian freedoms instead of protecting them, but had no plan of action or proposition to oppose Harper. Harper was counting on this single power play to secure him the spot as Prime Minister in the next election.

However, support for Bill C-51 left as quickly as it came. Earlier this March, in a poll conducted by Forum Research, support for the bill had dropped to 45%, with an almost equivalent percentage of people who were opposed to the bill. Canadians had begun to scrutinize the bill, and public opinion on the legislation changed dramatically. Concerns arose around the protection of the privacy of Canadians, and further analysis brought to light the possibility of Ca-

nadian security agencies abusing the privileges granted by the bill. Harper’s political juggernaut had jolted to a stop.

This sudden change in public opinion opens up an opportunity for the NDP to step in and take the stage. Considering the Liberals had sided with the Conservatives on the passing of Bill C-51, the shift in public favour puts the NDP in an advantageous position to appeal to the general public in place of the Conservatives and the Liberals. A reckless and greedy grab for support leaves the Conservatives in a difficult spot as more and more people rally to oppose Bill C-51. ■

A Brief Chat with Mr. Pearce

PEARCE
Continued from P1

Q: *Pet Peeve?*
A: Plagiarism’s a big one
Q: *Favourite word?*
A: I like the word ‘nefarious’
Q: *Favourite nerdy pastime?*
A: Studying world maps
Q: *Best place in Toronto to be?*
A: Toss up between Kensington Market or Toronto Islands
Q: *Coffee or tea?*
A: Coffee
Q: *Read the book or watch the movie?*
A: Book
Q: *What subject do you teach?*
A: Currently, History, Civics, and Philosophy
Q: *What inspires you to teach? Did you have a favourite teacher that influenced you?*
A: Yeah, I had a few. My Grade 11 History teacher, Mr. Dodds, was inspirational. I went to school in Victoria BC, and he treated us like adults. He had us asking big questions, and encouraged us to get involved out of the classroom. I can remember for one civics assignment, we had to volunteer for a political party because there was an election going on.
Q: *Do you think what you learned from that teacher is carried out in your own teaching today?*

A: I think it is, to a large extent. I think I’ve got a lot of things I still need to work on as a teacher. I don’t feel like I’ve mastered it by any stretch, but I think one of the things about teaching is just a real passion for the subject matter.
Q: *What is one aspect of your personal life that you are willing to share that students would be surprised about?*
A: Before I was a teacher, I worked for many years doing human rights work in Latin America.
Q: *Specifically, where did you go?*
A: Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia
Q: *If you could choose any time to go to in a time machine, where would you go?*

A: Well, actually I love music, so I might want to go back to the late 50s or early 60s to see some of the famous Jazz musicians play like Thelonious Monk or Miles Davis.

Q: *Would you stay there, or visit and come back?*

A: I would visit and come back
Q: *Do you have one teacher that you disliked when you were a student? Would you like to share a story about them?*

A: I was pretty lucky with teachers most of the time. I don’t have a good terrible teacher story.

Q: *What do you think is the most important message that you try to convey to your students through your teaching?*

A: It depends on the class, I tend to have one or two simple messages to each class that are sort of like my mantras. For philosophy, the overall message is “Do not believe hastily”. There’s a Roman poet Ovid who said that. [I want] to get people to just reflect on their beliefs and to try to think critically about what they believe and why. ■

The Reckoner

of Marc Garneau C.I.

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Photos by Cindy Cui
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“Who are your role models?”
“My friends, these guys. Friends... they’re always there whenever you need them.”

“What are you looking forward to?”
“Graduating!”
“What grade are you in?”
“Nine. I know. Four more years to go.”

