

# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Editorial

### Remembrance Day: the holiday (but not for UNB)

*The significance of remembering the impact of war*

by Cindy Brown  
Editor-in-Chief

It's always nice to get a day off. Last week, when I realized Remembrance Day was almost here, I was pretty happy about it. I mean, I go non-stop - I am busy all the time. I suppose that's not surprising considering I am the Editor-in-Chief of an outstanding newspaper, work part time and go to school full time. I could use a day off.

It was nice to look forward to the holiday. Then I found out there wouldn't be a holiday - at UNB. *Sunday* was the holiday. I didn't have to work at my other job because the malls were closed. But I still had to go to classes on Monday - which was fine for me, until I found out that St. Thomas was closed for the holiday; the buses weren't running; and the other schools in Fredericton didn't have classes. So, why did I have to get out of my warm bed and come to school?

The purpose of Remembrance Day is so people can take a moment to remember those who fought and/or died in combat. I use that definition because it encompasses all personnel - not just those from World Wars I and II. The two World Wars were defining events in our history but I think everyone who is willing to stand up for what they believe in deserves recognition - equally.

With the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks still fresh in our minds, Remembrance Day meant even more this year. We are entering yet another new era, and our lives will never be the same because of the terrorists who caused the death of countless others.

So you ask, if I know and understand the meaning and importance of Remembrance Day, why am I whining because I didn't get another day off? Isn't

it enough to take one day, whether it is Sunday or not, to remember those who fought for us and the freedom of others?

For one thing, those who are still devout church-goers, will most likely be in church on a Sunday morning, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour and, therefore, not able to partake in the ceremonies at the cenotaphs across the country. Those who do not go to church may just not want to sacrifice their one and only day off to go to a ceremony.

This leads me to another point. Is Remembrance Day still significant? The majority of the veterans of World Wars I and II are gone now, so is it still important to spend a day of remembrance? I think it is. We must teach our children the importance of the November 11<sup>th</sup> ceremony. That is why I include all those who were in combat in my definition: in the World Wars, Vietnam, Korea, Iraq and so on. All of these people, who were/are willing to lay their lives on the line, to fight for their country, deserve recognition.

I am not pleased Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, was not recognized as a statutory holiday by UNB as it was by other educational institutions. Is this an indication UNB doesn't appreciate the sacrifices people made during all the wars and battles I mentioned above? Does UNB think students, faculty, and staff are not worthy of a day off to reflect on the hardships of war?

Many, I suppose, would have used the day off for school work or sleep, which is not the purpose of Remembrance Day. But at least we would have had a choice in the matter. Others, I am sure, would take serious time to mourn the war dead and reflect on war in general.

By not recognizing November 12<sup>th</sup> as a legal holiday did the UNB administration tell us they do not consider Remembrance Day to be meaningful?

Remembrance Day is meaningful, and UNB should reflect the significance of this day by closing its doors.

by Joanne Barr  
Campus Minister

Don't know the source of this, so apologies to whomever...

How to write a college paper:

1. Sit in a straight, comfortable chair in a well-lit place with plenty of freshly sharpened pencils.
2. Check your e-mail.
3. Read over the assignment carefully, to make sure you understand it.
4. Walk down to the vending machines and buy some coffee to help you concentrate.
5. Check your e-mail.
6. Stop off at another floor in your building and visit your friend from class. If your friend hasn't started the paper yet either, you can both go to McDonald's and buy a hamburger to spend a day of remembrance?
7. When you get back to your room, sit in a straight, comfortable chair in a well-lit place with plenty of freshly sharpened pencils.
8. Have a snack.

## Just a thought...

9. Check your e-mail.
10. You realize you haven't written to that kid you met at camp since fourth grade. You'd better write that letter now and get it out of the way so you can concentrate.
11. Look at your teeth in the bathroom mirror.
12. Listen to one side of your favourite tape and that's it... As soon as it's over, you're going to start that paper!
13. Listen to the other side.
14. Check your e-mail.
15. Rearrange all your CDs in alphabetical order.
16. Phone your friend on the other floor and ask if s/he's started writing yet. Exchange remarks.
17. Sit in a straight, comfortable chair in a well-lit place with plenty of freshly sharpened pencils.
18. Read over the assignment again; roll the words across your tongue; savour them.
19. Go to Wal-Mart and buy fun stuff you don't need.
20. Come back and check the TV listings to determine you aren't missing something truly worthwhile.

21. Catch the last half-hour of whatever happens to be on Channel 26.
22. Phone your friend on the other floor to see if s/he is watching. Discuss the finer points of the program.
23. Check your e-mail.
24. Look at your tongue in the bathroom mirror.
25. Look through your roommate's photo album from home. Ask who everyone is.
26. Sit down and do some serious thinking about your plans for the future.
27. Open your door; check to see if there's anyone in the hall.
28. Check your e-mail.
29. Sit in a straight, comfortable chair in a well-lit place with plenty of freshly sharpened pencils.
30. Read over the assignment one more time, just for the heck of it.
31. Move your chair across the room to a window and watch the sunrise.
32. Lie face down on the floor and moan.
33. Leap up and type the paper.
34. Complain to *everyone* you didn't sleep because you had to write a paper!

## Maintaining the Monarchy, Part III

### The great Monarchy debate continues...

by Brian Cheron

Well, it appears the Son of Liberty has at least one supporter in his republican views. I concur that so much debate is good.

Mr. Llewellyn states in his letter "the fact that our real Head of State is a family from another country...". As Mr. McKay pointed out in his first letter (October 19<sup>th</sup>), due to modern communications and transportation, how far away our Head of State lives is hardly relevant.

Mr. Llewellyn further says the duties of the Governor General and Lieutenant Governors include "throwing parties and drinking a lot of wine." While some of the duties of Her Majesty's representatives do include attending banquets, et cetera, I hardly consider it fair to say they have an easy job. I am reminded of an article I read in the *Toronto Star* about a day in the life of Ontario's Lieutenant Governor (the

Honourable Hilary M. Weston). The entire day is planned months in advance, virtually to the minute. It is hardly an easy job. She furthermore stated their duties are to "show that the Windsor family approves of (parliamentary bills). As if Canadians aren't mature enough to make their own decisions." I'd like to simply point out that the Queen, and all her representatives in Canada, are all Canadians.

The Son of Liberty (who I will once again refer to as "Mr. X") asks two questions midway through his letter on November 9<sup>th</sup>: "Why is (the Queen) deemed worthy of (ruling) when others aren't?" and "...on what authority is it given to her?" Perhaps I can answer both these questions from a quotation from the Canadian historian Jacques Monnet: "...a king is a king, not because he is rich and powerful, not because he belongs to a particular creed or to a national group. He is King because he is born. And in choosing to leave the selection of their head of state to this most common denominator in the world - the accident of birth - Canadians implicitly proclaim their faith

in human equality; their hope for the triumph of nature over political manoeuvre, over social and financial interest; for the victory of the human person."

Mr. X furthermore states the coins should say "J.K." for "Just Kidding" or "Dieu et mon Droit." I fail to understand why Mr. X would insult the Queen in such a way. I don't think the Canadian Mint will either.

One of Mr. X's final points is that he does not believe the Queen is worthy of more respect than other Canadians. I would argue that the Head of State is worthy of extra respect just as the head of government is; if I were to meet the leader of most any country I would show extra respect.

This will be my final letter under my name, as I have founded a new club: "The Monarchist League of Canada, University of New Brunswick Chapter" (a branch of the Monarchist League of Canada), and all further letters will be authored under that name.

All fellow monarchists are welcome to attend - we meet every Monday at 7:00 p.m. in Carleton 218.

## A plea for ceasefire : don't bomb Afghanistan during Ramadan

by Emma R. F. Nothmann  
Harvard University

(U-WIRE) CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — For Muslims all over the world, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, Ramadan, is a sacred time for introspection, religious devotion and fasting. Yet U.S.-led coalition members have repeatedly rebuffed Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's request that they halt bombing during the holy month of Ramadan, set to begin on Nov. 17.

Historically, warring Muslim nations have not ceased fighting for Ramadan. For example, the 1973 Egyptian-Israeli war is commonly referred to in Arab nations as the "Ramadan War." However, the United States must be careful not to forget that as a non-Muslim country, its actions will be judged on a different set of criteria. This "war" already risks devolving into a religious struggle, despite the best efforts of Muslim leaders. Osama bin Laden has already couched the conflict in religious terms, castigating Pakistan for their efforts to aid to the United States and lambasting Arab leaders who work with the United Nations as sell-outs. Also, in the eyes of many

Muslims, the war in Afghanistan is complicated by a decade of bloodshed from the Palestinian territories to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Chechnya that has convinced them that they are locked in a death-grip with the Judeo-Christian world.

As international support for the American campaign erodes, the United States needs to consider its long-term interests. The Bush administration seems intent on alienating the very nations whose continued support is unquestionably vital to the success of this mission. Musharraf has specifically warned of "negative fallout" in the Muslim world were the United States to bomb through Ramadan; the leaders of a number of predominantly Muslim countries considered part of the coalition such as Kuwait, Egypt, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, have expressed strong reservations.

Right now, Pakistan lets America use its airspace and remote military bases in the western desert and is indispensable for providing intelligence information. However, cries of "Death to Musharraf!" are already echoing in the streets of Islamabad. The United States must take into account the consequences of its actions on the long-term security and stability of the region. In the case of

Pakistan, the present U.S. position may accomplish more than alienation — it may destabilize the nation politically, jeopardizing Musharraf's authority. Were bombing to continue through Ramadan, fundamentalists could capitalize on the public indignation, driving moderate Pakistanis into the fold of Islamic radicals.

Similarly, many scholars have suggested that one of the United States' staunchest regional Muslim allies, Saudi Arabia, may also be heading towards an Islamic revolution à la Iran in 1979, stemming from the steady decline of support for the more cooperative government from the relatively conservative population.

In response to questions about the Bush administration's plans to continue bombing through Ramadan, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld was quoted by the BBC last week as saying, "Our task is certainly to be sensitive to the views of the region, but also to [make the world] see that we aggressively deal with the terrorist networks that exist." American officials repeat that interrupting the military offensive even for a few days during Ramadan does not make military sense. But hasn't the United States already made its military point?

Week after week of imprecision

bombing has created streams of Afghan refugees trying to enter Pakistan by illegally crossing the barren Khyber Mountains. According to the U.N. refugee agency, since Sept. 11, more than 100,000 such refugees have entered Pakistan. Yet after the seemingly haphazard destruction of power plants, military targets, medical clinics and civilian villages, Rumsfeld asserts that the Taliban still poses a threat. This "threat" is the justification given for the continuation of the Bush administration's textbook-style policy for the first phase of their "America Strikes Back" campaign. But unfortunately for policy-makers, Afghanistan does not exist in a vacuum.

Doubtless, reverberations of the upheavals that rock Kabul will also be felt in Islamabad, Baghdad, Riyadh, Cairo and Tehran. The Bush administration needs to take these reverberations into account and move beyond retaliation to develop a more global strategy instead of petulantly pursuing their present series of reactionary policies in an attempt to boost lagging American confidence.

Already, the U.S.-led coalition is shaky at best. Existing tensions between Pakistan and India have jeopardized the stability of the coalition, with India threatened by the recent warming of U.S.-Pakistani relations. With such antagonistic neighbors both possessing a nuclear arsenal, the Bush administration must do everything in its power to preserve the alliance and prevent regional disintegration.

In the past, the United States' most effective alliances have been among ideologically similar nations. Perhaps even more importantly, in the past, each member of the alliance has fought together for essentially the same reasons. However, we are living in a non-traditional age—an age of non-traditional international relations, non-traditional warfare and non-traditional alliances. Let's prove that this non-traditional alliance can work. Let's prove that the world is not fracturing along religious lines. Let's respect the religious beliefs of our allies. Let's not bomb during Ramadan.

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