

Editorial

War and remembrance Unmaking a peacemaker

By Marko Peric

AS REMEMBRANCE DAY DRAWS NEAR, poppies start appearing on lapels. As everyone knows, the poppy is a symbol to remind of us those who died in the World Wars. But as the ranks of veterans start to dwindle, some people have forgotten what these wars were all about. Racists claim that the Holocaust never occurred, despite the fact that six million Jews, hundreds of thousands of Poles, and many other innocents were butchered. How can anyone have the audacity to deny that this ever happened?

We have all seen the commercials for the WarAmps, and many of us use their key tags and address labels. These men have created an excellent organization, but who will carry on after the last veterans of World War II and Korea retire? Canada has not sent soldiers to war in more than forty years. A peacekeeping mission isn't the same as being sent to fight actively. Peacekeeping is a commendable duty, and Canada has done more than its fair share. Because of this, Canada has a reputation as a peaceful nation.

Recently, Canada's peaceful reputation has been in dispute. The death of a Somalian teen at the hands of Canadian soldiers is the main reason for this. It's shameful that the actions of a handful of men could besmirch the name of an entire country. Of course, the fact that these soldiers murdered a boy is despicable. They obviously forgot what the purpose of a peacekeeping mission is-- to protect the populace from its warlike elements.

I truly hope that Canada will maintain its status as a nonviolent nation. The US has been

criticized for its tendency to leap into the fray to uphold democracy. It's good that someone will do this 'dirty work,' but the Americans sometimes seem to avoid situations where they should interfere, and interfere where they should stay out. Because of this, and other policies, Americans are resented in many countries. On the other hand, being a Canadian brings respect. At least it used to. Now people fail to see any difference between us and our southern neighbours.

To be certain, Canadians and Americans are similar, but far from identical. I hope that people in other nations will not lump us together as the same, for if they do, we may one day become the same.



Members of the UPEI Board of Governors'

As the representatives of the student body, it is our responsibility to look out for the interests of that group when it comes to university affairs. When something happens to discredit this university, not only are the staff, faculty and administration affected by that event, the student body is as well. Over the past month, we have heard and seen much in the media about your decision not to appoint Barb Mullaly as the Director of Athletics. We are not concerned about the bad press this event has received, but rather about the apparent misuse of justice in this case.

On behalf of the students of this university, we would like an explanation for why the Board of Governors does not wish to hire Ms. Mullaly to the position she has been filling competently on an interim basis for several years. We are even more concerned with this decision given the fact that she was the recommendation of the hiring committee set up by your body to find the best person for this job?

The Student Union sees essentially two issues here. The first and foremost being the

competency of the Board of Directors to make decisions for the betterment of this university. We would contend that a decision-making body such as yours should be less guarded in

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its decision-making process. In this particular occasion, there has been information leaked purposely to portray certain people in a poor light, board policy and procedure has been ignored, and a decision has been made to appease members of the public who are not willing to put their names to their opinions. What guarantees do we have that this has not happened in the past or will not happen in the future.

The second issue comes down to this specific case and your reasons for this decision. Was Barb Mullaly's nomination turned down because she has not run her department properly, because she does not show enough support for the hockey team, or is it because she is a woman? These are very tough accusations, but we feel that the Board needs to know what some people are thinking about the situation and what it could mean for the reputation of this university.

At this point in time, UPEI students have some serious questions about the competency of the Board of Governors, but before asking for a review of the membership of the Board, we would like to have you clear up any potential misunderstandings of your decision in this case.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew MacPherson
UPEISU President

X-press

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