

EDITORIAL!



FOR REMEMBRANCE day I like to put on Pink Floyd's *Final Cut* and read Wilfred Owen poems. Now that the day is over, I guess it's time to throw away the plastic poppies.

Personally I like Remembrance Day to last a little longer than a day. Increasingly, the day is being used to not only honour our veterans, but to try and nurture an understanding that may prevent future wars: Veterans are giving talks in the schools now, and have become active in educating against nuclear war. When I read Owen (A soldier killed on the last day of World War I), I can understand the horror he saw. I can see why that war ended the romantic notion of battle. When I listen to *The Final Cut*, I hear the anger of a man whose father died in the second world war as he watches his country, England, steam off for another war in the Falklands. And I play a few games to try and bring it all home:

Imagine the Canadian Government deciding to put an end to the superpower's cat and mouse game being played in our arctic. Imagine France started sinking Newfoundland trawlers off the coast of St. Pierre. And imagine conscription being imposed to deal with it. I have to ask myself what I would do; would I skip the country, or join up in a flare of patriotic furor? Could I ever justify committing murder for any reason, especially nationalism? Could I support the choice of a military solution at all? After all, these are the questions our veterans asked themselves.

We have been lulled into believing that the next war will be unpreventable and nuclear, and most don't think about the possibility of 'conventional' war. Thinking that way leads to a fatalistic view that can be very dangerous. When Remembrance day rolls around, I like to remind myself that only two atomic bombs have ever been used to kill. This is probably due to the fact that using them again means that a) Everyone gets killed, and b) Only a few can play. People still overwhelmingly prefer to kill their neighbor with bullets.

Canada is a pretty quiet place. But Remembrance day reminds me that peace is not the natural state of the world— battles are being fought in the Phillipines, most of Central America, Iran, India and others. The U.S. funds a group to destroy the government of tiny Nicaragua, and South Africa is doing the same thing to Namibia. Countries are still children when it comes to dealing with each other. If you travel outside North America, airport security is frighteningly thorough because of terrorists. All this reminds me that the relative serenity in Canada is an exception that could change very quickly.

We owe it to the people who died to not let that happen. Don't become complacent when people tell you the next war will be nuclear. You may be surprised. And this year, don't throw your poppie out just yet. Keep it on for another day or two and think a little more about all that it means.

THE GEM

"A free press can of course be good or bad, but, most certainly, without freedom it will never be anything but bad."

— Albert Camus

Derrick Webber, Editor-in-Chief
Ian Mollison, Interim Production Editor
Derrick Cameron, Advertising Manager
Darrell Cole, Sports
James Connolly, Systems Manager
Jill Noonan, Typesetter

SOMEWHAT REGULAR STAFF MEMBERS

Robert Bodrog, Dolly Bhatia, Dawne Chappelle, Kaberi Dasgupta, Cora-Lee Des Roches, Anne Irving, Bobbi Sue Keating, David MacKinnon, Ian Mollison, Lisa Murphy, Claire Murray, Sam Okello, Ellen Perry, Mark Walker and Chris Vessey.

This week's contributors:

Mark Walker, Sean MacIntosh, the Canada Employment Centre on Campus, and Lloyd Bruce.

Deadline for submissions is Monday, 5:00pm

Please ensure your submissions are legible to persons other than yourself. We prefer typed and double spaced submissions and submissions on computer disk or through VAX mail. For legal reasons, all submissions must include the author's name and phone number. However, names will be withheld from publication on request.

The GEM is published by the University of Prince Edward Island Student Union. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the GEM staff, the UPEI Student Union, or of anyone in particular.

We reserve the right to edit submissions due to limitations of space or taste.

If you are interested in learning more about your student newspaper, drop on down to our office anytime or come to our regular meetings Monday at 6:00pm.

Our office is buried in the UTILITY BUILDING, Rm.01. Just follow the charred heat pipes. Phone 566-0629 or 566-0530 or send VAX mail to account GEM.

The GEM is a member of the Canadian University Press.