

Re: Remembrance Day is vulgar (Nov. 10 Gateway)

Russell, I think you wrote the article "Remembrance Day is vulgar" simply to get a response from someone like me. Your article was so "vulgar", such a slap in the face to those who participated in the war(s), that it should have been named "A Vulgar Article".

It is a vulgar article indeed, primarily because of the attack on the soldiers who fought the wars. I won't bother to argue whether national defense is "natural" or "good"; you'll have to take that up in a political science class. However, I do take violent (forgive my meaningless rotten emotion) exception to your interpretation of Remembrance Day, and I wish to correct the misconception you hold about this most important of holidays.

Remembrance Day, as the name suggests, is meant to remind all of us that war involves the violent extermination of human life. The men who stand before the cenotaph, those wearing uniforms or decorated in ribbons, do not bask in a warm glow of adoration: They stand in the horrible mist of the past. They stand surrounded by the dismembered, disfigured, blood soaked parts of bodies and internal organs belonging to friends and strangers. They stand alone, sad and confused; sad for a generation of mates they never had the chance to know, and still confused as to why they had to thrust a knife into another man's stomach, and feel his warm blood run out of the wound.

But worst of all, for the rest of every year they sometimes stand alongside some insensitive, one-dimensional people who can't seem to read the real message behind this holiday. These people wish to trample it, along with the real memory of the forgotten but not gone soldiers. Violence may be meaningless (in a limited sense), but lest we forget and not face the real death in these old soldiers' memories, we forget the violent death that war witnessed, and thus increase the odds of more "meaningless rot" in the future.

Take heart Russell, and "gaze" into their memories: If everyone had the courage or wisdom to do that, there would be "war no more".

Harry J. Roth

One fact that Mr. Janzen is truly ignorant of is that almost all of Canada's war dead volunteered to serve, to help protect the rights and freedoms that Canadians are so fortunate to enjoy. The freedom, I might add, for misguided souls such as Mr. Janzen to utter such garbage.

If Mr. Janzen truly wants to spout off about "exaltation of war" then perhaps he should look towards movies such as "Rambo" and "Missing in Action." These are truly sad events which trivialize and glorify the horrors of war. Movies of this genre are the events which foster and perpetuate continued hatred against past foes.

I hope that someday Mr. Janzen will come to realize exactly what Remembrance Day means to Canadians. He is correct in understanding that "violence is rot", but it is through remembering and understanding the past horrors that we can hopefully come to avoid future repetitions.

Dale Harrison

I, for one don't feel that violence and war are "glorious" as Mr. Janzen would have us believe we do. However, I ask him this: if there was a chance you might have your home destroyed, your family slaughtered, and your dignity torn from you, would you allow it to happen or take a stand for what is yours? I also ask him: would you rather people forget about those who died for the cause of freedom, the same freedom which allowed you to write your letter?

Kevin Webster

I understand your dislike of war, but I think you are misunderstanding what Remembrance Day is all about. Remembrance Day is neither an exaltation or a glorification of war. Notice that the day we celebrate, November eleventh, is the anniversary of the end of the war, not the beginning. On this day we remember the sacrifices that were made, in sadness and hope that such measures won't have to be taken again. History is known to repeat itself. The sooner we forget our mistakes and problems of the past, the sooner they are likely to recur.

T.M. Tribe

## Lest We Forget



Photo: Bruce Gustave

If you gave your life for someone, regardless of the reason, I would hope that that person would be thankful. (Or are you a piece of "meaningless rot" not worthy of such thanks?)

S. Richards

To me, the only sin worse than the wars, is to forget the wars — why they occurred. Humanity must remember its mistakes in order to avoid repeating them. Remembrance Day is therefore not a ridiculous ritual.

I am disappointed to learn that our education system, the efforts of the Royal Canadian Legion and even our Royal Canadian Armed Forces to teach this attitude are wasted and that this day is so misinterpreted as indicated in the cited letter.

James E.L. Gray

re: Remembrance Day is vulgar (Nov. 10 Gateway)

Mr. Janzen, how dare you! For your information, Remembrance Day does not promote or "glorify war". It simply serves to remind us of the countless men and women who died during wars while fighting for the rights and freedoms we enjoy today. It is those rights and freedoms, if I may remind you, that allow people like you to express your ideas today. Remembrance Day is a much deserved tribute and a thank-you to those who cared about our country enough to fight for its preservation and to die for it.

To those who lost family members and friends, to those who fought for Canada, I say thank-you. Because of your sacrifices, I am proud to be a Canadian.

Craig Murray

### OPEN FORUM

with  
**Students' Union  
Executive  
&  
Commissioners**

**Friday 20 November  
2:00 P.M.  
034 SUB**



### Important Gateway Staff Meeting

Thursday November 19 4:00 p.m.  
Room 282 SUB  
All volunteers please attend!

#### Agenda:

- CUP services review
- Selection of CUP National Conference delegates
- Selection of CUP review committee
- Discussion of CUP position paper
- Discussion of picking up a syndicated cartoon
- Gateway soccer team

Volunteers — please come and talk to the editors about CUP and inform yourselves before voting.  
It's your paper!