

## Armistice

The Great War arose out of a state of opinion which regarded war as a legitimate and normal method of promoting national interests . . . The crime was not to make war, but to make it unsuccessfully.

J.A. Spender

Remembrance Day does not mean much anymore; most of the people alive today were not alive during the First World War, and the mainstream of society does not remember the Second World War. The wars of the Fifties, Sixties, and Seventies somehow seem inappropriate for a Remembrance Day memorial because Canada did not have a direct role in them.

But the fact remains that thousands of soldiers were killed in a matter of hours at the Battle of the Sommes. Total bomb tonnage dropped by the U.S. A. on North Vietnam in a three-year span during the late Sixties amounted to more than the sum they dropped in World War II. Today countless nameless human beings are being killed in armed combat in the Middle East, Cambodia, Africa, Central America and God knows where else.

But since Remembrance Day is for remembering, here is what I remember:

• In elementary school, Remembrance Day would be marked by a reading of "In Flanders Fields" over the intercom by our principal. That was followed by a two-minute silence, where we all fumbled nervously waiting for the lengthy two minutes to end. All I remember of that is a vague guilt, and an anger over having to stand in embarrassment, commemorating something I didn't understand. But, that's elementary school — I doubt the teacher understood either.

• When the air raid siren went off, we had bomb drills. This is 1962. We would all be rushed out of the school and forced to kneel against the school wall with our arms protecting our heads. We would stay like this until we had been inspected by the principal. This would shelter us in the event of an attack by the Soviets. This is what we were told. It wasn't like a fire drill, where the teachers would huddle together and laugh over something while the kids threw snowballs. The teachers did not smile during bomb drills; they looked grim and ill at ease. That is what I remember.

The air raid siren still stands in the field across the street from my parents' house. It goes off once or twice a year, mysteriously, sometimes in the middle of night. But now its official function is to warn people about civil emergencies; the threat of Soviet attack has been thwarted, I guess.

I am uncomfortable wearing a poppy; it doesn't ease the guilt remaining from the two-minute silences. I can't remember each and every soldier who gave his life so I could be free because I don't believe it. I think the millions of men and women who died in the nine years of the two world wars died mostly for nothing, as we watch nuclear arms build-ups increase without criticism.

War is still the normal method of promoting national interests. Remembrance Day is poorly-named, for we have chosen not to remember.

Gordon Turtle

## the Gateway

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If it happens on campus...we'll probably miss it

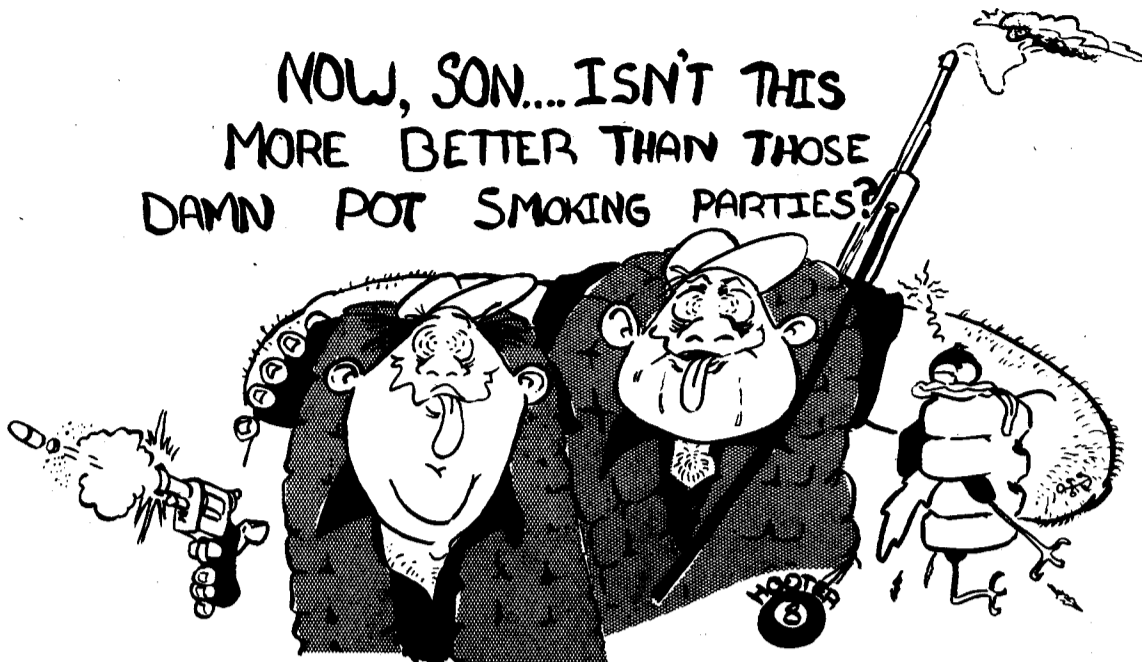
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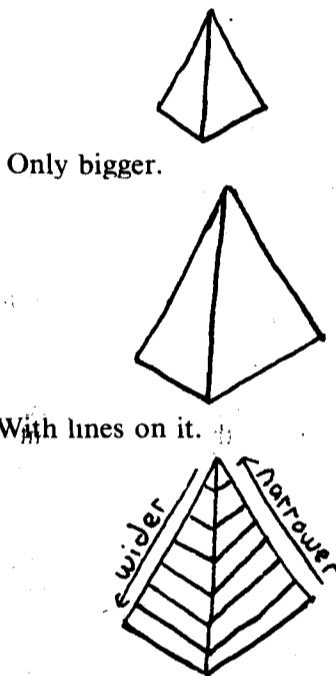
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NOW, SON... ISN'T THIS  
MORE BETTER THAN THOSE  
DAMN POT SMOKING PARTIES?



## Pyramid power

Canada's legal system may be viewed as one giant pyramid.

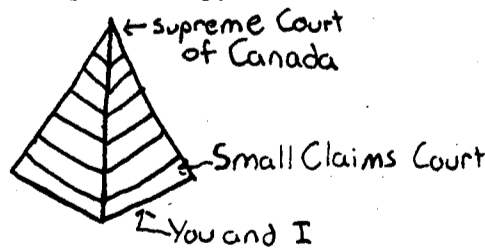


The upper portion of the pyramid represents the Supreme Court of Canada. The lowest portion (called the "base" because only base people use it) represents the Small Claims Courts. Notice that the pyramid narrows towards the top.

This is because very few cases go to the higher courts. This is also because judges at the highest levels tend to be narrow individuals.

Still, the pyramid is only part of the story. The pyramid concept must be extended if we are to perfect the analogy. Both the public and the government are outside the pyramidal model of the judicial system.

The average law abiding citizen might be represented as a heap of dust crushed under the weight of the pyramid.



Sitting atop the pyramid is the government. It has the power to create and/or change laws. Governments are often criticized for being overly cautious and slow. But

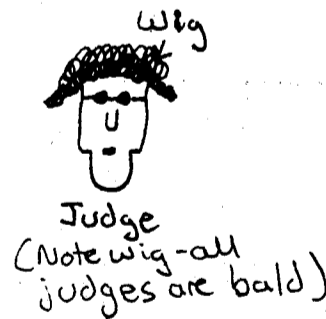
then, how would you feel if you had a pyramid shoved up your ass?

One might as well ask why there are so many levels of courts. The answer is that money-grubbing lawyers are able to become extraordinarily decadent by convincing their more gullible clients to appeal. Nowadays, lawyers are even beginning to advertise with catchy slogans like "Watch out for the Statute of Limitations; don't be late, litigate," "Sue early and often, by September 15 for Christmas (1981) delivery" and oft-heard "Don't delay, appeal today."

In any case, there are three levels of courts, sometimes referred to as the Court of Approximate Cause, the Court of Intermediate Conjecture, and the Court of Final Mistake. Thus plaintiffs get three chances to make sure that defendants get royally screwed. (See Regina vs. Allied Nut and Bolt).

In recent years, class-action suits have come into vogue. This has given rise to what is known as the United Appeal.

Usually, a party to a proceedings will be represented by counsel. Usually this is a lawyer (pompously referred to as a barrister, or, if a prostitute, solicitor), although it may also be an agent, particularly in charges under the Official Secrets Act. Counsel's job is to make sure that the judge doesn't have to do any more work than is required to toss a coin. Whatever the judge decides, counsel must give reasons for.



Generally, this is accomplished by either making up cases which would, if they existed, support a judge's conclusion, or, in rare cases, citing actual cases and changing only the facts. This latter course of action is risky, as some judges are still ambulatory and a few retain their sight (despite the saying that Justices are Blind"). Thus some have actually been known to read cases, although this high-schoolish activity is generally left to naive law students.

## Foreign students pay as well

Somehow I got the impression that there are a few Canadian students here on campus who entertain some misconceptions of foreign students, depicting us as kind of parasites sucking the economic life-blood

out of the impoverished Sheikdom of the Prairies. It will come as a surprise to these fellows that, as a foreign Graduate Assistant, I not only pay income tax, but also contribute to the Canada Pension

Plan, although I will most probably never benefit from it. Disbelievers are heartily invited to come to my office in Tory 2-51 and inspect my latest "Statement of Earnings and Deductions."   
Ludger Mogge  
Grad Studies