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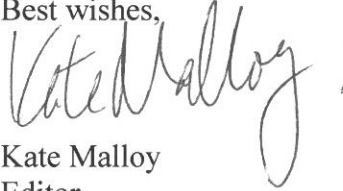
Oct. 27, 2017

Dear OCNA judge,

I'm submitting editorial cartoonist Michael de Adder's name for this year's Cartoonist of the Year award because he's hugely talented and he continues to engage our readers every week. Mr. de Adder also draws for *The Halifax Chronicle Herald* and *The Toronto Star*, but he draws for *The Hill Times* twice a week and has been doing so for years. His drawings are smart and provocative and they usually either make our readers laugh or angry, but they always make you think.

Here are three of his best from the year. The Donald Trump blow-drying the iceberg with the polar bear is timeless (March 29, 2017); the Melissa McCarthy one is bang-on (Feb. 15, 2017); and Justin Trudeau as Snow White and Donald Trump as the Wicked Witch (Feb. 13, 2017) is very clever and funny.

Best wishes,

Kate Malloy
Editor
The Hill Times

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Editorial

Ambrose should come clean about her vacation at billionaire family friend’s yacht, too

Christmas holidays are usually uneventful in Canadian federal politics because that’s when politicians return to their ridings to spend time with their families and constituents. But the most recent annual holiday became consequential for both Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and interim Conservative Leader Rona Ambrose. The holidays started with Mr. Trudeau and his family, Liberal MP Seamus O’Regan, Liberal Party President Anna Gainey and their spouses travelled to the Caribbean Island residence of billionaire Ismaili leader the Aga Khan. A friend of the Trudeau family for decades, the spiritual leader’s philanthropist foundation, the Aga Khan Foundation, receives millions of dollars in federal funding from the Canadian government.

After the Postmedia News broke the story, opposition MPs questioned Mr. Trudeau about possible ethical breaches. Ms. Ambrose went full throttle and went after Mr. Trudeau’s ethics in the same as she routinely did in Question Period over the prime minister’s cash-for-access controversies. But then *iPolitics* broke another story that Ms. Ambrose and her husband J.P. Veitch were enjoying a vacation at Canadian billionaire and Calgary Flames co-owner Murray Edward’s yacht in the Caribbean Island at the same time she was blasting the prime minister on social media.

“Justin Trudeau knew what he did was against the law. All he had to do was say

no, but he couldn’t resist the billionaire lifestyle,” Ms. Ambrose tweeted at the time while enjoying the same billionaire lifestyle she was criticizing.

Ms. Ambrose successfully sought approval of her trip from the ethics commissioner, but only did that a week after new stories came out about Mr. Trudeau’s vacation and the same day she attacked the prime minister in her tweet for accepting the lavish holiday.

Politicians around the world are no strangers to hypocrisy and Canadian politicians are no exception. But Ms. Ambrose’s display of hypocrisy in this instance takes a certain kind of chutzpah. Since this story came out the opposition leader has been avoiding the media and her caucus colleagues are not asking questions in Question Period about the prime minister’s trip to the Aga Khan island anymore.

For his part, Mr. Trudeau has denied any wrongdoing, but he may have committed an ethical breach which the ethics commissioner is investigating. Prime Minister Trudeau has faced media questions and has vowed to cooperate in the ongoing investigation.

Ms. Ambrose, meanwhile, should also stop avoiding the media and come clean about the facts related to her vacation. If she has made a mistake, she should apologize. And if not, she will be able to move on by putting the matter to rest.

Letters to the Editor

Will the Conservative Party renew itself as Progressive Conservative Party?

The ideological and thoughtless character of the “new” Conservative Party of Canada leadership candidates calling for tax cuts to corporations and for the richest few reminds us that their politics are American neoconservative, not conservative and that they are not Progressive Conservatives.

The Progressive Conservative Party of Canada stated clearly the view and principle that conservatives in Canada seek a “balance between progressive social policy and fiscal responsibility.” Without fiscal responsibility, progressive social policy is not sustainable.

Conservatives and fellow Canadians of all political outlooks need to be concerned that the anti-government libertarian objective of “starve the beast” American neo-conservative approaches to taxation and government services remains evident in

proposals by the majority of “Conservative Party” leadership candidates.

Will the majority of members of the “Conservative Party” continue down the path rejected by Canadians now that Canadians understand the party is not the progressive Conservative Party we thought we were voting for? Or will the party renew itself as Progressive Conservatives? That’s what, as all real Tories have intended the word Tory to mean in Canada from Sir John A. Macdonald forward, building on the British tradition through Joseph Addison through Edmund Burke to Disraeli onward, and in the principles of liberal democracy enunciated by John Locke in the 17th century at the time of the birth of the Tory party as the foundation of Western society.

Brian Marlatt
South Surrey, B.C.

Parabolic reflectors can be used to collect, concentrate energy

May I ask a stupid question or two or three? I hear a lot about solar panels, solar power, solar heating, and passive solar heating. Solar panels produce electricity and could charge batteries for later use or to keep batteries charged. Electric cars and buses run on batteries that get recharged when they are plugged in. Why do we not see solar panels on electric cars and busses? You plug them in power supplies that are coal generated to charge up batteries. Would the solar panels on the cars and busses lessen the time and power requirements? A bus can be 40 feet long and over eight feet wide, offering a large roof area for solar panels.

We talk about solar panels being less efficient in the cold, under snow and ice. Why not incorporate passive solar heating to keep your solar panels warm, and ice and snow free? Could we put a magnifying glass or lens in front of a solar panel to increase light intensity? What about a mirror behind the solar panel? How about a parabolic mirror? What is that, you ask? A parabolic mirror is a curved mirror, like a satellite dish.

According to Wikipedia, the parabolic reflector functions due to the geometric

properties of the paraboloidal shape: any incoming ray that is parallel to the axis of the dish will be reflected to a central point, or “focus.” Because many types of energy can be reflected in this way, parabolic reflectors can be used to collect and concentrate energy entering the reflector at a particular angle.

We have all seen satellite dishes being used for TV signals focused on receiver so why not use a polished satellite dish to focus sunlight on a solar receiver, possibly a solar panel or a solar sphere? Like the TV dishes they started huge and got smaller and more efficient.

Could we not place a magnifying glass in front, and also incorporate passive solar heating for year round use? Could we not use a portion of the power created to ensure optimal aiming? Solar panels are getting more powerful, more efficient, and less expensive. Instead of spending billions on big projects, could we not focus on smaller ones? These may be stupid questions, but I just had to ask. Thank you.

Garfield Marks
Red Deer, Alta.

Prime Minister Trudeau did respond to my letter, says Mukerjee

In my letter dated Jan. 16, 2017, to *The Hill Times* regarding how Lester B. Pearson inspired me to immigrate to Canada, I made mention that I had not received a reply from my letters to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. I am very pleased to report that he

did supportively just reply to my 30 years of federal public service working at Multiculturalism Canada. I just wish to leave a positive rapport with the prime minister.

Roman Mukerjee
Ottawa, Ont.



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Editorial

South Sudan deserves your attention

South Sudan, the world's newest country, is in crisis, and not many people are paying attention.

The landlocked African country broke apart from Sudan after decades of war in 2011. But within a couple years, innocent civilians were once again stuck in a country in full-fledged conflict, this time between political and ethnic factions internally and not between it and its northern neighbour.

The conflict has now led to famine, the first declared anywhere in the world in close to six years. The country has oil and Western support to succeed, but its institutions are in their infancy and politicians are bitterly fighting for power.

It's a man-made disaster, and one political leaders are accused of creating. United Nations officials say soldiers are blocking roads into places where aid is needed, asking for money and sometimes forcing the aid convoys to turn back. The famine-stricken region is opposition-controlled.

Refugees have been pouring into neighbouring Uganda and to a lesser extent Ethiopia and Kenya. Close to 1.6 million people have fled the country since the conflict heated up in December 2013.

Yet this refugee crisis has received scant headlines. Aid organizations have been trying to drum up interest in any way they can.

But crises like this one, man-made and confusing to explain, don't easily provoke a person to reach for their wallet and give to those in need.

For politicians in Canada, too, there's not much incentive to pay attention. The South Sudanese community in Canada is fairly small, so the pressure from voters is not hot.

In the last month, since the UN declared that South Sudan was in the midst of a famine, the Conservatives, to their credit, have asked about the situation once

in the House. And the Liberals later asked about it too, lobbying a softball question to the international development minister so she could tout a recent announcement of \$120-million to provide food, drinking water, and health care.

That's commendable. But Canada can do more.

Back around the turn of the millennium, then-foreign minister Lloyd Axworthy was involved in trying to broker peace between the then-warring Christian and animist south of Sudan and the Muslim north. Liberal Senator Mobina Jaffer was appointed a special envoy to the peace process in Sudan in 2002.

Yes, it's a complex problem and the peace process in South Sudan has run in fits and starts. But Canada could work with governments in the region to offer its help as a mediator, if need be. It could urge the warring factions to respect aid workers (several of whom have been killed amid the fighting). And it could do work with aid groups to devise ways to help the South Sudanese people to the fullest extent possible. It could also provide aid to those who've fled to neighbouring countries.

It's a complex problem, but one Canada should care about. The first couple paragraphs of a weekend *Globe and Mail* story said it all: there's "mounting evidence that an oil-rich regime is using the brutal tactic of deliberate starvation to crush a revolt by its own citizens."

"Yet...there is little sign of any urgent response by the world's most powerful leaders. Instead there are growing fears that political apathy and U.S. budget cuts will make the catastrophe even worse."

There's ample room for the Liberal government to prove its usefulness on the world stage here.



Letters to the Editor

Turkey's take on the conflicts in its neighbourhood

Re: "Trump must choose a side in the Sunni-Shia war" (*The Hill Times*, March 22, p. 9). I would like to note that on July 19, 2015, Executive Council Co-Chair of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) (which is listed as a terror organization in Canada) Cemil Bayik stated that: "All our people must arm, train, and organize themselves. In all cities and villages, underground systems, tunnels, and fighting positions should be established against all kind of attacks from all forces."

Between July and December 2015, 205 members of the Turkish police, gendarmerie, and military and 80 civilians were killed; 1,002 security personnel and 436 civilians were wounded; and 14 security personnel and 110 civilians were kidnapped by the PKK terrorist organization.

Being part of the International Coalition against Daesh (also known as ISIL and ISIS) since its inception, Turkey has supported the moderate opposition in Syria. With Turkish support, members of the moderate opposition have liberated 2,200 square-kilometres and more than 250 towns, including Jarablus and al-Bab, from Daesh in the last six months.

As part of Turkey's ongoing efforts in the fight against international terrorism and Daesh, Turkey has banned 38,000 foreigners with ties to terrorist organizations from entering Turkey, caught and



Turkish Ambassador Selçuk Ünal. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

deported almost 3,500, as well as arrested another 1,000 terrorists.

Unfortunately, the article makes no reference to the total number of Syrians living in Turkey which has reached over 2.7 million; 300,000 people also came from Iraq. The total amount spent by Turkey since the beginning of the crisis has reached almost US\$25-billion.

Selçuk Ünal
Ambassador of Turkey to Canada
Ottawa, Ont.

Time to fully cut fossil fuel subsidies

How can Canadians pretend to be addressing their responsibility around global warming (in other words, the destruction of our only planet) while the government continues to subsidize the fossil fuel industry? This is unacceptable.

It's time to put an end to fossil fuel subsidies completely. I understand that this industry now supports certain Canadian communities. But I don't understand why the hundreds of millions of dol-

lars that are spent fuelling a poisonous industry cannot be redirected to support renewable energy. Step up, please. There is so little time left.

It is possible to build a clean economy that will create jobs across the country, and at the same time reduce the fluctuating cycles in the energy sector that are causing certain Canadian regions to suffer.

Denise Markhame
Val des Monts, Que.

Vital bee colonies shouldn't be killed by pesticides, says reader

We understand "down under" that Canada is soon to debate and then decide whether bee-killing pesticides will be allowed to continue killing vital bee colonies. Should the pesticides remain, then we stand to lose many of the fruits and vegetables that depend upon bees for pollination.

Can we not turn off the pesticides, ban them, and find more ecologically suitable and

less destructive means of controlling common pests without causing death to the bees?

We fight a similar battle in Australia where the pesticide lobby is probably equally vocal and belligerent, but they must be confronted and subdued.

With hopes for the continuing buzzing of our vital bees,

Fred Orr
Sydney, Australia

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Editorial

Dion's curious dual diplomatic appointment

Stéphane Dion is set to become Canada's next ambassador to both the European Union and Germany.

Mr. Dion is a smart man and will surely be a wonderful ambassador for Canada abroad. But one has to question the logic of cross-appointing him to both Germany and the EU.

Though the business of the EU is done in several cities across Europe, its nerve centre is in Brussels, Belgium, and that's where Canada's current ambassador is based.

It might make sense for Canada to appoint Mr. Dion to be ambassador to both Belgium and the EU, but not Germany, whose capital, Berlin, is an hour-and-a-half flight away.

Germany is seen as a leader within the EU, given its strong economy and especially with longtime eurocentric Chancellor Angela Merkel at the helm. But both Germany and the EU deserve their own individual Canadian ambassadors, as they have now, not someone shuttling between the two, as the Prime Minister's Office has said Mr. Dion will do.

Both are complex enough appointments individually. The Canada-Germany relationship runs deep and encompasses areas as varied as trade and investment, defence, science, and tourism. Likewise, Canada's relationship with the 28-country EU is not something to smirk at, especially given that the bloc's future is more precarious now that Britain is set to leave. It's faced with an ongoing migration crisis, which Canada is surely keeping tabs on, and it also co-ordinates with Canada on everything from air travel to education and the

ongoing ratification procedure of a wide-ranging trade deal, CETA.

This isn't a one-man job.

Making it one has already caused some discomfort.

As *Toronto Star* columnist Paul Wells wrote recently, "Around Ottawa, old diplomatic hands are aghast. 'When the chancellor (of Germany) wants to see him, he'll be in Brussels,' a former Canadian ambassador told me the other day. 'When the president of the European Council wants to see him, he'll be in Berlin.'"

"A European diplomat was delicate. 'It's a very interesting assignment,' he said. 'Somewhat special.'"

Former diplomat and current Conservative leadership contender Chris Alexander said on Twitter it "sends the wrong message at a time when [Canada] needs CETA to succeed."

The government would be wise to leave the two seasoned ambassadors only recently installed in Germany and the EU, Marie Gervais-Vidricaire and Dan Costello respectively, there in addition to Mr. Dion, as his capable deputies. They would act as chargé d'affaires when the ambassador is in the other country or travelling elsewhere, and they could handle the day-to-day job of running the shop (signing off on payroll, dealing with human resources issues that arise, etc.). They would also be his eyes and ears when he's away.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is set to depart Wednesday morning for Strasbourg, France, on a visit to speak to the European Parliament and see Ms. Merkel in Germany. He should shed more light on how this diplomatic arrangement will work then.



Letters to the Editor

How a NAFTA rethink may affect Canada's rail network



The impact on Canadian railways of protectionist U.S. tariffs could mean 'NAFTA corridor' roads and parallel rail lines would go quiet, writes Harry Gow. Photograph courtesy of Tony Hisgett

Brian Mulroney not only wrought havoc on Canadian railway passenger service with cuts in 1989-90, but he negotiated a very major trade deal, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). He will be remembered for both, but the former "accomplishment" now seems to be more durable than the latter. As a result of the loss of Via Rail revenue, some rail lines inside Canada (and, after another cut by the Liberals, even in Maine) have had to be shut down or downgraded by the Class I railways, while Canadian National and Canadian Pacific lines that cross the border and in the United States have seen massive investment to carry all the north-south NAFTA trade both ways. Since about 80 per cent of our foreign trade is with the United States, our economy is at risk now that U.S. President Donald Trump is sitting down to renegotiate NAFTA. Mexico is on the top of his hit list, but the risk seems great that the northern neighbour will suffer heavy collateral damage. When the U.S. raised tariff barriers in the 19th century this led to unemployment in Canada and massive emigration from Quebec in particular,

and the resulting world depression from a tariff-barrier boost in the 1930s had Canadians on the bread lines and riding the rails in search of jobs.

The impact on our railways of a repeat of protectionist tariffs may possibly mean that all those improved "NAFTA corridor" roads and parallel rail lines will go quiet. Canadians may have to start (shudder) trading with each other and lower inter-provincial tax and regulatory barriers so they will have someone to trade with. They will also have to work hard to get back lost markets.

More east-west trade is a nice idea, but can our railways handle it? With key east-west railways such as Sudbury-Montreal ripped up, the grain trains that ran down the Ottawa Valley no longer exist. This is repeated all over the country, as our rail network has been downsized inside Canada, and bulked up southwards.

Harry Gow
 Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu, Que.
(Editor's note: The author founded Transport 2000 in 1976 to defend the interests of public transport users and he is the past president of Transport Action Canada.)

In wake of Quebec City shooting, we must fight ignorance

It seems that the trend of Islamophobia that had been magnified since last year's election in the United States has reached its peak in the Quebec City shooting. The lives of six innocent human beings—forget being Muslim—were taken away on the grounds of their faith. No Muslim, Christian, Jew, or atheist deserves any sort of persecution or marginalization. We are all human, and we each have a right to express ourselves in whatever form we please.

What's important now is to recognize

that this unfortunate tragedy was a result of an ignorant attitude, and we must protect ourselves against it. We must learn to accept religious, cultural, and ethnic differences and work towards unity.

As an Ahmadi Muslim, who has personally felt the effects of Islamophobia, I sympathize with the victims of these attacks, and offer my most sincere condolences and prayers for their families.

Khizar Karim
 Alliston, Ont.

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