

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The Air-India challenge

While I can only begin to imagine the grief and frustration that the surviving victims of the Air-India tragedy feel, I see no value in a public inquiry (Air-India Families Rebuff McLellan — March 18). The failings of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the RCMP and the Crown in this case are already a matter of public record. What more could an inquiry tell us?

And while angry voices try to condemn Canada's ability to combat terrorism, the worst that can be honestly said is that we weren't very good at it 20 years ago.

I understand that many struggle to find closure in this result, but it's time to move on. I hope that Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan will continue to resist pressure for a public inquiry. There are more immediate challenges to face.

STEVE MARSH, *Ottawa*

■ I don't dispute the judge's decision in the Air-India case. But discrimination comes with many faces. And 20 years ago, the Air-India and Narita bombings were considered by many to be the work and problems of cultures not our own. And mistakes made in the investigation and prosecution would not so easily have been ignored had the flight been Air Canada's Montreal to Paris service.

Maybe lessons have now been learned; maybe not. A public inquiry might shed some light on all this darkness.

RAYMOND LINDSAY, *Sidney, B.C.*

## That missing Harper thing

Rick Anderson (The Tory Problem? That Missing Vision Thing — March 17) says "voters are prepared to credit him [Stephen Harper] with knowing what he's talking about — something rare in politics."

Would he be referring to the same Stephen Harper who trumpeted during the election campaign that Paul Martin supports child pornography? The same Stephen Harper who cautions that same-sex marriage will lead to polygamy? The same Stephen Harper who maintains that same-sex marriage is a threat to multiculturalism?

Oh yeah. Certainly sounds like he knows what he's talking about. And this voter will certainly credit Mr. Harper with those statements the next time we all head to the polls. God help him.

STEPHEN LUKAS, *Hammonds Plains, N.S.*

## Really, just say no

Re What To Do When Your Teen Goes To Pot (Focus, March 12): I am an RN with a program for early intervention in psychosis that treats young people between the ages of 14 and 30.

For some time, researchers have known that the rates of cannabis use are much higher among young people with psychosis compared with healthy populations. A Dutch epidemiological study on 4,045 psychosis-free individuals demonstrated that daily marijuana users were 24 times more likely than non-users to develop se-

vere levels of psychotic symptoms three years later.

Our team has found that young people are starting to use marijuana at a younger age (12 to 15), a period when their brains are still in crucial developmental stages. Also, the THC content of marijuana is as much as 15 times stronger today than a generation ago. Unfortunately, cannabis use can provoke relapse and exacerbate symptoms of psychosis.

The message for teenagers and their parents is that marijuana use does not only lower IQ and diminish maturation, but is very strongly associated with psychosis. Preserve your brain health. Don't use.

HEATHER HOBBS, *Hamilton, Ont.*

## Seoul's déjà vu

In Japan's Rising Star Driven By Nationalism (March 17), Geoffrey York says: "Some analysts worry that the new populists, led by [Shinzo] Abe, could give Japan a narrower outlook on the world."

This is not the first time that Japan has been tempted into hard-line rhetoric nationalism. These jingoistic outpourings of Japan's nationalistic sentiment have indelibly marked and traumatized the minds of its neighbours.

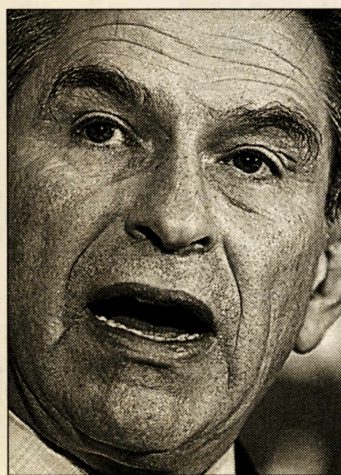
This year marks the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Korea and Japan. At a time when we should be celebrating, Japan is straining relations with one of its key allies by challenging Korea's sovereignty of the Dokdo islets and renewing its campaign to rewrite history in accordance with its ultra-right views to glorify its past aggression in Asia.

These actions raise a fundamental question as to whether Japan has the will to co-exist with its neighbour as a peaceful partner in Northeast Asia. We hope against hope that it is possible for a country to win trust from its neighbour by denying its dark history.

HE BEOM KIM, *director for public affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Ottawa*

## Dreaming of Wolfowitz

I note The Globe and Mail's support for the nomination of Paul Wolfowitz as president of the World Bank by George W. Bush (Why Wolfowitz Works — editorial, March 17). This nomination is very much in line with Mr. Bush's earlier nomination of John Bolton, a long-time critic — indeed foe — of the United Nations as U.S. ambassador to that body. It re-



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**Paul Wolfowitz: Well, at least he won't be at the Pentagon.**

mains only for Mr. Bush to appoint Simon Legree to race relations, put Benedict Arnold in charge of the Patriot Act, and assign the national unity portfolio to Jefferson Davis.

DONALD GRAYSTON, *Burnaby, B.C.*

■ While I completely disagree with the tone and content of your editorial, I have to admit that anything that removes Paul Wolfowitz from the Pentagon must be considered an improvement.

TIM FOWLER, *Toronto*

■ Max Boot, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, says Paul Wolfowitz is "a hard-hearted realist who will take on an organization filled with starry-eyed do-gooders" (Bush Taps Defence Hawk For Helm Of World Bank — March 17). A realist? Is this the same guy who insisted that Iraq could be held with just 100,000 troops? Sounds like a starry-eyed dreamer to me.

BRIAN ELLISON, *Oakville, Ont.*

## The real Sinn Fein?

Despite the attempt by Alan McConnell of Friends of Sinn Fein (Canada) at damage control (Defending Sinn Fein — letter, March 15), the fact remains that Sinn Fein is the only non-fringe political party in Western Europe with its own private army: the IRA.

Both the Prime Minister and Justice Minister of Ireland have said that Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness are members of the IRA's army council. According to the British and Irish governments and their police chiefs, Sinn Fein leaders may not have known the details of the Northern Bank heist in Belfast, but they did know that the IRA was about to carry out a big operation of some kind — at a delicate moment in negotiations for a new power-sharing assembly.

The bank raid, the IRA's continuing criminality and Sinn Fein's duplicity have rendered the peace process almost as dead as Robert McCartney.

DEREK LUNDY, *Salt Spring Island, B.C.*

## Drilling for conservation

The dramatic front-page picture of Mount Kilimanjaro without its snow cap (Kilimanjaro's Global Warning — March 15) was ironically followed two days later by news of the U.S. Senate's decision to permit drilling for oil in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Senate Opens Alaska's Arctic Refuge For Drilling — March 17). While the debate on conservation goes on, the gluttony for oil continues, at any cost, at any peril.

GUSTAVO MARTINEZ, *Toronto*

■ What next? Star-spangled bumper stickers for SUVs with the declaration: "God bless America! Support our rough-necks in the Arctic"?

JIM REYNOLDS, *Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.*

## Swallow this

Re Coming Soon To A Drug Plan Near You (March 17): As your writer discusses refer-

ence-based pricing (RBP), he does not highlight the fact that this system would deny or substantially limit seniors and those on social assistance access to the best and most effective medicines to treat their conditions. He does not consider the positive impact on innovative drug utilization on the rest of the health-care system.

Frank Lichtenberg of Columbia University has estimated that, for every \$1 invested in newer medicines, \$6 to \$8 are saved in other parts of the health-care system. About two-thirds of this reduction is in hospital costs; the other third is evenly divided between savings in physician and home-care costs.

RBP does not ensure the best health outcomes for patients and ultimately doesn't yield the anticipated savings. It interferes with the choice of a physician to prescribe the optimal medicine to treat a patient's illness and the patient's right to have access to that prescribed medicine. Patients come first; under RBP, they finish last.

RUSSELL WILLIAMS, *president, Rx&D, Ottawa*

## Marching to the museum

In Kate Taylor's excellent *tour d'horizon* of the current museum world (Remember When Museums Weren't Shrines? — March 16), she uses the word "poignancy" to describe the fine line between those displays that are memorable and educational and those that simply wring the emotions or describe the facts. Actual used artifacts along with the explanatory photos and text, she says, are the best.

As the Canadian War Museum rises in downtown Ottawa, passersby see a huge display of tanks and armoured vehicles. This is not poignant. It's memorable (yes, we beat them) but not educational, except to military historians.

Can we hope that, along with the military dreck, there will be artifacts from Canadians' efforts to oppose war — placards, perhaps, from the huge protest marches against the superpowers' Cold War and baby's teeth showing the toxic effects of the nuclear weapons testing campaigns? Otherwise, the "Canadian War Museum" must be called the Canadian Museum of Military History.

PENNY SANGER, *Ottawa*

## Hogtown hubris

So David Mirvish (Can A Hobbit Save Hogtown? — March 17) believes "we've never seen major shows actually start in cities outside of London and New York before"? *Camelot*, anyone?

ROGER KINGSLEY, *Winnipeg*

## Get me rewrite!

Re New Bible, Same Ending (on-line edition, March 17): Why is it they constantly rewrite the Bible but never rewrite Shakespeare?

DOUGLAS CORNISH, *Ottawa*

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