

1) Government / Politics-Politicians-Elections

The Orange Revolution:

Who:

Viktor Yanukovych, Viktor Yushchenko, voting citizens of the Ukraine

What:

The Orange Revolution was a series of nonviolent protests, strikes, and sit-ins by the people of the Ukraine who were outraged by Yanukovych's presidential victory accredited to two rigged elections. The Ukraine's Supreme Court condemned any attempts at separation or federalization of regions of the country, and called for a non-confidence vote, ultimately leading to a second run-off election which was highly monitored by Ukrainian officials as well as volunteers from all over the world, in which Yushchenko was chosen as the rightful president.

Where:

Although the entire Ukraine was affected (the Eastern and Southern regions supported Yanukovych, while the rest favoured Yushchenko), the majority of the protests were held in Kiev, the capital.

When:

October 31, 2004 (Original election) → January 23, 2005 (Inauguration of Viktor Yushchenko)

Why:

When the presidential election in October of 2004 resulted in neither candidate receiving a majority of the vote, Ukrainian law stipulates that a "run-off" election must be held between the two highest vote-receivers, which took place in November, naming Viktor Yanukovych the winner. The scandal surrounding this election was brought to the public's attention when Yanukovych was suspected of electoral fraud, prompting a massive revolt, as the public demanded true democracy.

Significance:

The protests exemplified the country's democratic ruling, and demonstrated the true power of the people in a circumstance where the politicians would not have, and could not have fought for democracy without the public.

Themes/Topics:

- democracy
- politicians vs. citizens

Same Sex Legislation

Bill C-38 is the civil marriage act, this bill is asking for the government to legalize same sex marriages. Prime Minister Paul Martin told his caucus that the time to act on same sex legislation is now.

Some Liberal backbenchers accused their own party of blackmail by linking the passage of the recent budget with the same sex legislation, the government is placing them in an impossible situation. Many have stated that they will go against their own party and vote against the proposed Bill. However Liberal House Leader Toni Valeri has stated that his government will use every move they can muster to pass this Bill.

Belinda Stronach

Belinda Stronach who ran for leadership of the Progressive Conservatives in early 2004 has crossed the floor and is now sitting on the Liberal minority government. This happened days before the Liberal government attempted to pass their budget. As the liberals are a minority government they may not have enough votes to pass the proposed budget, which will force them to call a new election. However, with the crossing of Belinda Stronach to the liberal side, it will add a much needed vote. The liberals were able to pass the budget with Belinda's help. Belinda Stronach stated that the reason she crossed the floor was because she believed another election was not in the best interest of the country. Stronach was awarded with a cabinet position.

Iran's Presidential election

US president George W. Bush has criticized Iran's presidential election as ignoring the demands of democracy. He stated that the country did not allow a number of reformist candidates from running. After 8 years of futile attempts at democratic reform by the once popular President **Mohammed Khatami**, Iranians face a political moment as dark as the have encountered.

Alberta Oil

(Maclean's, June 13, 2005): The oil sands in Alberta will allow it to supply the petroleum requirements to North America for 50 years. However, this economic inequality could lead to tension in Canada, as Canada now needs Alberta more than Alberta needs Canada.

Franz Ferdinand

On June 28, 1914, **Franz Ferdinand**, the archduke of Austria-Hungary, was assassinated while on a visit to Sarajevo. The assassin was a member of the Black Hand, a secret organization of extreme Serbian nationalists who sought independence for the south Slav provinces of the Austrian Hungarian Empire.

Russian Revolution

Russia had been ruled by czars, which ruled things with an iron grip. The industrial workers were poor and had terrible living conditions. Prompted by failed war with Japan, a branch of the fragmented Russian Social Democratic Labor Party (the Bolsheviks) eventually overthrew the czars.

Signing of the Treaty of Versailles

It came about due to the collapse of Germany and its allies in late 1918. The negative outlook of the German army, and the suffering of Germans caused by the **blockade imposed by the Allied powers**, caused **Kaiser Wilhelm II**, to seek an armistice. On November 11, 1918, WW1 came to a close. This document was signed in the Hall of Mirrors in France.

Mahatma Gandhi

-in the 1890s, South Africa's **Natal Legislative Assembly** was considering a vote denying the right to vote to Indians; Gandhi started a campaign and petition against this and formed the Natal Indian Congress; united the South African Indian community into a stronger political force

-in 1907, he had organized his first satyagraha (devotion to the truth), a non-violent protest and called on Indians to defy a new law that infringed on their rights; urged them to suffer the punishments for defiance rather than resisting through violent means

-a 7 year struggle ensued where thousands of Indians were jailed (including Gandhi, numerous times), but the harsh tactics of the South African government led to a public outcry and this led the South African government to negotiate a compromise with Gandhi

-in March 1931, he organized one of the most successful campaigns of all time – **a march 400km to the sea to make his own salt in protest of a salt tax**; the campaign resulted in 60,000 being imprisoned; ultimately, the British negotiated with Gandhi, and set all political prisoners free in exchange for suspension of Gandhi's civil disobedience movement

-Gandhi drafted a resolution called Quit India, which ignited the largest movement for Indian independence up to that time; he was arrested and held for two years

2) Wars / International Relations

War between Israel and Palestine (Beginnings of Resolution)

The two sides are beginning to settle their differences through the withdrawal of Israeli people and troops from the Gaza to allow the Palestinian citizens to move in. This movement will entail the destruction of thousands of homes that Jewish settlers will abandon when they leave Gaza this summer and the parties will work together with destruction and clean up. This agreement between the two nations follows peace talks that occurred in Egypt in February, where Abbas (President of Palestine) and Sharon (PM of Israel) announced a truce and Palestinian militants declared a temporary cease-fire in March. Sharon feels that the Israel move out from Gaza is a necessary step toward advanced peace efforts. However, Palestinian militants may threaten this peace effort due to their unhappiness of with Israel military moves into West Bank. Also, the Palestinians are not respecting their end of the deal as there has been renewed Israel-Palestinian violence caused by Palestinian terrorist groups. In addition, Jewish militant settlers are resisting this move out disrupting traffic to protest the decision.

These peace efforts are being supported by the United States and Condoleezza Rice has done much to facilitate this resolution. These efforts to attain peace between the two nations is apart of the "road map" for Middle East peace which is supported by the United States, European Union, Russia and the United Nations, it calls for a series of steps by the Israelis and Palestinians aimed at putting an end to violence and establishing an independent Palestinian state. The two nations are at odds over this piece of land because Israel has occupied and settled in Gaza and West Bank in defiance of international law since 1967.

Intellectual Property Protections: WTO and TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights)

Source: Siegal, NA. "Withholding the Cure". *Annual Editions: Developing World 2004/2005*. McGraw-Hill/Dushkin. Guilford: CT. 2004.

Significant Events:

- TRIPS created by World Trade Organization in 1994
- Doha Declaration World Trade Organization's November 2001 meeting in Doha, Qatar

What Happened/Significance:

In response to the fact that, in 1994, there were no international trade barriers to the manufacture and distribution of generic forms of drugs invented in the West, the WTO created TRIPS, a set of laws governing international property protections.

TRIPS basically gave a patent protection of 20 years for "all inventions, whether of products or processes, in almost all fields of technology". This included medicines manufactured by pharmaceutical giants in the West, meaning that if one of these companies were able to develop a cure for a disease, that drug would not be able to be manufactured generically for 20 years. This means that only expensive brand-name versions of the drug would be sold - if you can't afford Pfizer or Merck, you're out of luck!

When creating TRIPS, the WTO did provide a way for developing nations to seek relief from this patent monopoly: the country would simply have to grant a "compulsory license" that would allow them to break the patent monopoly. Outlined in TRIPS was a list of seven ways that a country could grant a compulsory license (ex. declare a national public health emergency). Nelson Mandela of South Africa attempted to issue such a license in 1997 to gain access to generic versions of "cocktails" for AIDS treatment. In response, some of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies filed lawsuits against the South African government for patent violations.

The Doha Declaration was signed by 142 nations at the WTO's 2001 meeting in Doha, Qatar. This pact was created in response to developing nations' fears after the South Africa incident and attempted to clarify TRIPS and reassert the rights of poor nations to issue compulsory licenses. At the time, the Doha Declaration was heralded as a landmark moment for developing nations; however, since it was signed the USA, EU, Canada, Japan and other wealthy countries have attempted to undermine it by seeking restrictions. However, pharmaceutical companies argue that limiting the scope of the Doha pact is essential to keeping pharmaceutical companies in business and to ensuring future research and development of life-saving drugs.

Canada's contribution towards peacekeeping overseas

-portrays military in a positive role

-promotes the reconstruction and security of a politically unstable nation as opposed to what military/war is usually associated with (death & destruction, economic downfall ...)

The Canadian Forces are currently participating in the **International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)**, to contribute to the NATO-led, UN mission in Kabul, Afghanistan. There are currently over 900 troops deployed and their duties involve surveillance missions and training of the Afghan National Army. This fall, CF Camp Julien (in Kabul) will close and a brigade headquarters and task force will be deployed to Kandahar. This deployment of 9 and 12 months respectively is in hope of accelerating the ISAF mission in southern Afghanistan. The results of ISAF's efforts can be seen in the establishment of a democratic government and the nation's first free presidential election in October of 2004.

The primary role of ISAF is to assist Afghanistan in providing a safe environment within Kabul and its surrounding areas in order to assist the reconstruction of the country. ISAF also runs Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) projects throughout the city, focusing on assessment of the provision of basic human needs. CIMIC is also involved with the rebuilding of medical facilities and schools. There are 36 countries currently in support of ISAF.

G8 agree to cancel \$40-million debt poor African countries.

Who: G8, African countries

What: 2 weeks prior to the G8 summit in Scotland this year, the G8 finance ministers made a landmark decision by agreeing to cancel all debts owed by 18 countries, including 15 poor African countries. This amounts to a staggering \$40-million to the World Bank, IMF and African Development Bank.

Impact: Reflects worldwide unity and a growing concern to fight poverty.

Source: http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/africa/jan-june05/debt_6-13.html

3) The Nation / Citizenship / Democracy

Quebec Sovereignty Referendum (1995)

When: October 30 1995

Where: Quebec Canada

Who's involved: Leader Jacques Parizeau and the Parti Quebecois (PQ)

What happened and what is the significance:

Quebec voted on the following question:

"Do you agree that Quebec becomes sovereign after having made a formal offer to Canada of a new economic and political partnership within the context on the Bill on the future of Quebec and the agreement signed on June 12, 1995?"

In essence, if separated, the Bill said that, Quebec would maintain its boundaries, the laws permits and pensions of Canada would still be enforced, and courts and judges would still have their authority. Economic association with Canada would remain to be negotiated. Quebecers would be able to hold both Canadian and Quebec (joint)

citizenship. Canadian dollars would be used. Quebec would assume its part in Canadian treaties as well as debts and assets, and take action to join the UN, NATO, NAFTA, NORAD, and GATT. Final vote came to a 49%(yes) to 51%(no) split.

The government must respond to shifting views in the general population by modifying policies and laws to accommodate current opinions of citizens.

example: there has been a considerable rise in the amount of debate and discussion regarding same-sex marriage in Canada, which has led the government to consider passing a new law to legalize same-sex marriage
same-sex marriage is a current need and passing a law to legalize same-sex marriage would have immediate effects

Government policy should address needs of the future rather than the present.

example: The Kyoto Accord is a treaty that was formed between Canada and several other countries with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions
while the Kyoto Accord has already been established, its full effects are not intended to be seen for many years to come

A government may sometimes restrict its citizens' freedom of choice and require citizens to do something they would not normally choose to do by their own will.

example: expropriation – local Governments in the United States have recently expanded expropriation laws, which allow the government to seize personal property for their own use (i.e. to build an expressway or a shopping mall)

Government may not be justified in requiring its citizens to do something they do not want to do.

example: The French government passed a law forbidding any headwear to be worn in schools in France
this law is unjust for citizens who are required to wear headwear for religious purposes – effectively, the French government is forcing these citizens to disobey their religious beliefs or to stop attending school

Helmut Oberlander (Citizenship)

Helmut Oberlander came to Canada in 1954, and received his Canadian citizenship soon after his arrival. He fled to the United States in 1995 when accused of being directly involved in Nazi war crimes in WWII. He was discovered in the United States and was deported back to Canada to face a potential revoking of his Canadian citizenship and deportation. His citizenship was revoked in 2001, but was reinstated. The Canadian government first charged Oberlander with direct actions in the killing of thousands of Jews and other civilians with the killing squad Einsatzkommando (a German mobile killing squad) when he was 17. However, with no evidence, the Federal Court of Canada charged him with lying about his service with the Nazis during WWII.

Oberlander's lawyer, Hafemann, claims that Oberlander's rights were violated since the government changed its policies after launching the civil proceedings against

him. At first, the government was only pursuing German War veterans if there was evidence of personal participation in the war crimes, but when the cabinet revoked Oberlander's citizenship, it included anyone who enabled the killing, which included Oberlander, who was a translator. At the moment, Hafemann is trying to delay Oberlander's deportation, despite citizenship Minister Joe Volpe's determination to revoke Oberlander's citizenship and deport him, saying that he was never eligible to be a Canadian citizen in the first place.

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/1118443471013_34/?hub=TopStories

California Proposition 187 - 1994

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Proposition_187_\(1994\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Proposition_187_(1994))

When: November 8, 1994

Where: California, Sacramento (Capital), California

Who's Involved?

State of California Legislature: Republicans and Democrats

Dana Rohrabacher (author of Proposition)

California Coalition for Immigration Reform (CCIR) (co-author of Proposition)

Dick Mountjoy (assemblyman introduced proposition in *Save Our State* initiative)

What Happened?

California introduced a proposition banning social services, health care, and public education from illegal immigrants. The 2 additions to the illegal immigrant law were:

[1] If law enforcement suspects illegal immigration status, it must be reported to attorney general of California and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

[2] No one receives public benefits until proven legal immigration status.

Major proponents of the proposition was the then governor Pete Wilson.

Opponents called the proposition "the last gasp of white America in California".

Surprisingly, some liberals favoured the proposition because they felt less illegal immigrants might result in labour shortages driving up low-income wages. Unionized workers also supported the proposition for this employment gains reason.

The law was later issued a temporary restraining order on Nov 11, 1994 by federal judge **Matthew Byrne** and eventually in 1998 defeated due to a lack of appeals being issued by Democratic Governor Gray Davis, an opponent of the proposition.

Significance:

This proposition is an example of how prejudice and racism can often creep into a law but also demonstrates that the open and more compassionate ending triumphs. It displays one of the ramifications of culture clash between the US and Mexico. It highlights how a law can be unfair but how the democratic system is resilient enough to adapt and correct it. It also demonstrates how self-interest (increased wages, decreased poverty) can trump ideals (positive immigrant treatment) that may be held by a group (certain liberal groups).

Time magazine to hand over reporter's notes - 2005

When: Thursday, June 30, 2005

Where: Supreme Court, Washington D.C., Time Inc., New York

Who's Involved?

Matthew Cooper, Time Inc. White House correspondent

Judith Miller, Time Inc., Reporter

What Happened?

Reporters at Time Inc. have been accused of leaking a CIA officer's name, Officer Valerie Plame. This is considered illegal under the Intelligence Identities Protection Act. The US government has laid charges against two journalists: Matthew Cooper and Judith Miller.

Significance:

Individual Rights vs. National Security/Interests

This ruling and further court proceedings has implications in affecting the media's confidentiality of sources. The confidentiality is sacrosanct in a democratic society and if removed would impinge on an individual's and media's Freedom of Speech. The revelation of the Watergate scandal with Former President Richard Nixon may not have occurred without the guarantee of source confidentiality. On the other hand, because the revealing of such confidential government information jeopardized government security operations, one can claim that national security needs to be protected, and that these sources need to be revealed to prevent further leaks.

US Supreme Court Ruling on the display of the Ten Commandments - 2005

Source:http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/U.S._Supreme_Court_rules_on_government_display_of_Ten_Commandments

When: June 27, 2005

Where: Supreme Court and the State of Kentucky

Who's Involved:

- 1) McCreary County, Kentucky
- 2) Kentucky American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- 3) The US Supreme Court

What Happened:

The US Supreme Court made a ruling that displays of the Ten Commandments in government buildings (Capitol buildings, Courthouses) were okay as long as the displays were neutral and historical. Any displays that emphasized religious passages from the Bible or attributions to Christ would be considered a non-neutral display focusing on the religious instead of the historical aspects of the monument. Opponents of the monument state that lines like "I am the Lord thy God" have nothing to do with the law.

Significance:

Separation of Church and State. Religious conservatism is currently experiencing a revival in regions of the United States. Secularists are concerned that the separation of Church and State will become blurred resulting in the increased influence of religious groups upon law and government. Certain religious figures believe that such removal of such monuments and traditions is a fundamental disrespect and disregard for our institution's origins and backgrounds.

4) Laws / Justice

Saddam Hussein's trial

- He is being tried by Iraqis instead of by international community

Laws against euthanasia:

- Terri Schiavo case
 - Description: US Congress' midnight assembly to prevent removal of feeding tube from a neurovegetative woman, media backlash ensues
 - Case against: right to life (equality), husband's questionable motives (financial gain), religious/moral/political side to the issue
 - Case for: right to die, save taxpayers' money, humanistic argument (putting her out of pain)
- Dr. Kevorkian (not recent, but relevant)

Laws banning affirmative action ("reverse racism") in the US

- There is a possible backlash from this Supreme Court decision

Celebrity trials

- Michael Jackson (2004-2005), Robert Blake (2004-2005), OJ Simpson (1994-1995)
 - Issues to consider:
 - Are celebrity trials a true representation of justice?
 - Are laws applied equally to celebrities in the US?
 - Description: eccentric music superstar (Michael Jackson) accused of molesting a pre-teenage boy after years of suspicion, taken to criminal trial and acquitted
 - Case against: celebrities given unfair treatment (justice not served), celebrities use influence to obtain better lawyers, cases tried in media (hard to get an unbiased jury)
 - Case for: justice takes many forms (not always the same), some degree of blind faith required for our justice system to work (kind of a cop-out argument but it's valid) ~ parallels to medicine (every disease not fully understood - HIV/AIDS for example - but potentially dangerous treatments administered)

Karla Homolka

Karla Homolka is infamous as an accomplice to Paul Bernardo's rape and murder of her sister Tammy Homolka and Leslie Mahaffy. Having faced 12 years of detention for manslaughter, she is to be released at some point this week. Press coverage of her release has increased with as the date of her release grows closer, and having received death threats, Homolka seeks an injunction to restrict media coverage of her life after the completion of her sentence.

Homolka's first attempt was dismissed by a Superior Court Justice, saying that it would be a danger to the freedom of the press, but recognizes that the justice system will "have to look at the situation if the media becomes too insistent or behaves badly."

- Issues at play with this event involve:
- rights of criminals (to have be able to live as private citizens having completed a sentence) vs. rights of the general public (to be protected from the possible danger of offenders)
 - the nature of punishment (not only just sentencing, but the social stigma that it entails)
 - the role of the media in the portrayal of criminals

Controversial Juvenile Homicide Case

Sarah Johnson , a 16 year old high school student, ambushed both her mother and father with a gun in September 2003. She shot her mother while asleep, and then tackled her father when he came out of the shower, killing him as well. After awaiting trial for one and a half years, Sarah Johnson is now 18 years old. Last week, she was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Some say that her sentencing was fair, while others adamantly disagree.

The ruling on this case is controversial because Sarah Johnson committed her crime at such a young age. Several psychologists testified on Sarah's behalf, explaining that rehabilitation seems probable for Sarah. These psychologists stated that it would be against what the U.S. stands for to punish someone so harshly for a crime committed at the young, impressionable age of 16.

Some however, including Sarah's Idaho state judge, believe that Johnson is a reckless young adult, who would put the public in jeopardy if ever released from prison.

The controversial issue here is: should age be factored into a sentencing? and, How young is too young to be fully responsible for one's own actions? In a case such as this, how can justice truly be served?

5) Business Practices

Xbox and Product Appearance:

The success of a business depends on a number of things – credibility of a company, quality of product, and customer service. More recently, however, appearance of the product has played a significant role in the success of a business. Microsoft realized this with their introduction of the Xbox. 25% of the gaming systems bought in North America in 2004 were the Xbox. But the Xbox failed to meet customer satisfaction compared to Sony's Playstation due to the bulky design and unappealing colour. The product was said to have followed Microsoft's formulaic system – lacking edge and innovation. Microsoft has since learned from this and put billions of dollars into the creation of the new Xbox 360 set to release in November of 2005. This new version not only includes a sleek design, but has functions like no other gaming system seen before. It may just revolutionize entertainment with its ability to function as television, stereo, and dvd player. With a great deal of money invested in this project, Microsoft hopes to not only make a great deal of profit, but create a milestone in gaming and entertainment. Microsoft's story teaches us that even with an incomparable reputation and meticulously formulated products, the demand of an appealing design can be the decisive factor on the success of a company's product.

Web Controversy

- Microsoft in China complies with regulations and laws of the country on taboo topics
- the company's internet venture into one of the biggest economic global power is censoring words such as 'freedom', 'democracy', 'human rights' and 'Taiwanese independence' in their search engines
- this has caused much Web controversy for the world's biggest software producer
- the corporate decision was made in the midst of a national sweep in China to control the Internet
- a media watchdog group, Reporters without Borders, in China stated that all unregistered China-based domestic Web sites and blogs would be terminated
- searches in words and phrases for the banned subjects beginning mid June 2005 were returned with an error message stating "prohibited language, please remove"
- even former and current political leaders' names such as "Mao Zedong" and "Hu Jintao" were prohibited, although in context, they do appear
- Web critics accuses this decision as an effort to appease China's government due to conflicting business interests
(CNN News Online: www.cnn.com)

A Blow to Small Businesses

- The Supreme Court ruled June 24, 2005 allowing the government to take private land for business development by the country's retailers -- expropriation**
- companies such as Target, Home Depot are expanding into urban residential areas where prime retail areas are difficult to find
- "eminent domain"** is a legal principle that permits the government to take private property for "public use": e.g. building of schools, roads, bridges in exchange for just compensation
- the willing response of government to extend "eminent domain" to retailers due to potential for tax revenue generation, job creation in communities
- the Supreme court decision allows for local governments to seize urban homes and business even AGAINST their will for private and public economic development**
- the ruling opens new business opportunities at the expense however of public rights**
- > may be very controversial**
- critics believe the ruling is a "big blow for small businesses"
- (CNN:
http://money.cnn.com/2005/06/23/news/fortune500/retail_ eminentdomain/index.htm)

Consumer Drug Advertising

In June 2005, the American Medical Association agreed to study whether consumer drug advertising leads to unnecessary prescriptions, which may harm patients and increase health costs. In the past, the widespread use of cox-2 painkillers (Vioxx), which is linked to serious cardiovascular problems, has been attributed to drug advertising. Vioxx was taken off the market in September because of the health problems it caused.

One proposed idea at the AMA meeting was to ban advertisement of new drugs for at least a few months after they go on sale. This would allow doctors to evaluate the medications and possibly detect drugs that cause serious side effects before patients ask for them.

Pharmaceutical manufacturers and the advertising industry argue that the marketing of drugs helps alert consumers to treatments. They suggest that many people see their doctor about health problems only after seeing a prescription drug ad. However, physicians feel that advertising can lead patients to thinking that medications can work better than they actually do.

Many drug advertisements can be misleading. Guidelines are being drafted and are expected to be released in July.

Note: This can also tie into the “Business” section. Do companies have responsibility to the public when they advertise their products? Should guidelines similar to those being set-up by the AMA be established for advertisements of other categories of products as well (ie. toys, food, diet ads, etc.)?

Go here for article:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/06/22/business/media/22adco.html>

6) Morality / Ethics

Abortion

Background:

- Dr. Henry Morgentaler is part of the Humanist Fellowship of Montreal. The group values rational thought and human compassion. In addition, the group has **no** religious affiliation.
- Note how this sets up a conflict with the Catholic Church
- October 19, 1967: Morgentaler testified in front of the Supreme Court of Canada in favour of abortion
- Canada did not approve of abortion at this time, so women resorted to using injections with Drano and used “back-alley” methods to get abortions done.

Example of Religious beliefs playing into the judicial system:

-**1974:** In Quebec, the jury acquitted Dr. Morgentaler for performing abortions, but this acquittal was overturned in 1974 by five judges from the Quebec Court of Appeal who were Roman Catholic. Thus, Dr. Morgentaler was sent to jail. However, he was acquitted again and was set free. In 1988, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of Morgentaler.

As a final note: this is a quote by Madam Justice Bertha Wilson with regard to abortion saying that it “deeply reflects the way the woman thinks about herself and her relationship to others and to society at large. It is not just a medical decision; it is a profound social and ethical one as well.”

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/series/morgentaler/>

Issue: Moral Opposition by Pharmacists Preventing Access to Contraception

In recent months, there has been an explosion of cases of pharmacists refusing to fill women's prescriptions for birth control and/or the morning-after pill on the grounds that doing so violates their moral or religious beliefs. Some pharmacists and pro-life groups argue that forcing professionals to fill such prescriptions is a violation of religious freedom. "Conscience clauses" currently exist in most of the US states that protect the right of a doctor to refuse to perform an abortion on moral grounds, and it has been proposed that these laws should be expanded to include the right of a pharmacist to refuse to provide contraception. However, those on the other side of the debate argue that contraception is not a form of abortion, and as such, pharmacists should not have the same right of refusal. It has also been argued that, in the case of the morning-after pill, time is a factor, and the refusal of a pharmacist to provide the morning-after pill can quickly result in an unwanted pregnancy, especially in a rural area. One middle ground that has been proposed is that a pharmacy must either have at least one staff on-hand who will fill prescriptions for contraceptives, or refer the patient to another pharmacy that will do so. The ethical issue at play is whether personal morality/conviction trumps duty of care and a patient's right to have access to treatment.

Further reading on the subject:

An article from the Washington Post that explores both sides of the issue:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A5490-2005Mar27.html>

Another, this one from the BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4425603.stm>

One more: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0408/p01s02-ussc.html>

The case of Stephen Dawson of British Columbia:

He was a seven year old boy who had suffered meningitis as a newborn and therefore was brain-damaged, hydrocephalic, and didn't have any control over his limbs. After birth, he had a shunt implanted in his head to relieve pressure from the hydrocephalus but in 1983, the shunt was blocked and needed to be surgically replaced. His parents acted as the proxy decision-maker since he was considered incompetent to make his own decision because of his lack of mental capabilities and also because he was a minor. His parents decided not to allow the surgery because in their point of view, they didn't think that he could have an appropriate quality-of-life even if he had the procedure done and that he would be better off dead. A superintendent of child welfare disagreed and so took the family to trial. The Family Court judge ruled that the surgery could be withheld but appeals were made by the B.C. Association for the Mentally Retarded. The Supreme Court ruled that the surgery could not be withheld because a congenitally incompetent person does not lose rights to health care normally enjoyed by other persons. The court also ruled that although the parents are usually appropriate proxy decision-makers, their authority can be challenged when it is not exercised in the best interests of the incompetent person. **Also, the best interests of the incompetent person cannot be determined from the point of view of an objective reasonable person but rather from the perspective of an incompetent person.**

This is an example that does not support euthanasia. It argues that since you should be looking at the patient's condition from the perspective of the patient, you cannot justify killing them because they may value aspects of their lives that normal people do not consider valuable. In addition, it's almost impossible to put oneself in the shoes of a mentally handicapped person because you have higher mental capabilities and therefore cannot possibly know what they want so it is too rash a decision to end their lives on the basis that they do not have a life worth living. Since this is an example that pretty much shows that in no situation should euthanasia of the handicapped be acceptable, it would fit the thesis section of Supplemental Prompt 8 in the Princeton Review Verbal Reasoning and Writing Review Book: Moral principles should be absolute, never affected by the circumstances of a given situation.

7) Science / Research

[Dr.] Phil Nuytten from Vancouver invented hardsuits for diving:

- Exosuit (1000 feet), Deep Worker (2000 ft), Deep Diver (3000 ft)
- an engineer, businessman, diver, and marine archaeologist
- allows one to work at extreme depths without experiencing decompression illness known as the "bends"
- achieved international acclaim; his clients include NASA and the National Geographic Society
- allows divers to experience one atmosphere all the time

Microsoft censors Chinese blogs

Source: BBC News, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/4088702.stm>

When: June 14, 2005

Where: China

Who: Microsoft Corporation and the Communist Party of China (Chinese government)

What: The introduction of Microsoft's MSN service to China has brought about some controversy as a result of China's strict press and media censorship laws. The MSN service allows for users to have an MSN Space account and to maintain a personal 'blog'. However, Microsoft changed the Chinese version of the service in order to comply with the laws of China regarding regulation of online speech. To do this, censorship is used on words such as 'democracy', 'freedom', 'human rights', which may prevent Chinese users from publicly criticizing the Chinese government and speaking out against strict Chinese regulations. Other large companies such as Google and Yahoo have taken similar steps in the past order to abide with the Chinese laws. The Chinese government has also taken previous steps to keep strict controls on such public speech by requiring all 'bloggers' to register their blog accounts with the government to allow for monitoring of their public speech.

Significance: This issue ties together the topics of new technology and politics. While people in fully democratic countries can have the full benefit of a service such as MSN, people in countries like China must endure strict regulations against free use of this

technology. Therefore, although new technologies are constantly being developed, is it just for some people to be able to use them freely while others' use is restricted? Should the government be allowed to have such strict censorship and control on public media, and limit the freedom of speech?

One can also look at this issue from a business perspective. Should large multinational companies, especially ones that originate from democratic countries, modify their services in order to abide by laws that may be seen as oppressive in those countries of origin? It is clear that if a company modifies their services it will be able to enter a new market and have the opportunity for larger profit gains. Should a company maintain a certain ideology when it comes to government laws or should it just look to maximize its profits?

The FDA approval of BiDil - a drug specifically for Black Americans

Source: Time magazine

What is BiDil?

- the first drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration for a specific race (after 8 years)
- only when tested on patients that identified themselves as African Americans as a treatment for congestive heart failure did tangible benefits occur (43% reduction in death rate and 39% reduction in hospitalizations)... when tested on general population, results were not statistically significant.

Race and Medicine - a bit of history

- marketing this drug is not an easy task due to the fears of many African Americans of past "discrimination" of race and medicine
- ie. Tuskegee experiment where doctors denied approx. 400 black men in Alabama treatment for syphilis in order to observe the disease's long-term effects.
- also, it is reported by Time that "medical care between blacks and whites in the U.S. are real and persistent and not explained by differences in economic status alone" - minorities of equal income and insurance coverages in the U.S. routinely receive lower-quality care than whites.

BiDil isn't a "race drug" but it works in specific populations for reasons that researchers do not understand.... this could possibly lead to some future research into the differences between race which is "probably a mix of biomarkers, demographics and genes."

When: May 2005

What happened: South Korean scientist, Woo-Suk Hwang, created 11 human stem-cell lines perfectly matched to the DNA of human patients. Dr. Hwang used the Dolly-the-sheep techniques, and the process was called somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT). This was considered as major breakthrough because this meant any new tissue derived from the patient's cell line can be injected into that individual without triggering an immune reaction. It was an important step closer to creating custom stem-cell treatments for

everything from Alzheimer's disease to severed spinal cords. High efficiency was also noted – 11 stem-cell lines were created using an average 17 eggs each.

Significance:

Scientific advancement VS Ethics

- methods used by Dr. Hwang's laboratory are controversial
- some people do not agree with cloning, including President Bush
- under President Bush, researchers in U.S. who want to study human embryonic stem cells are restricted to a handful of federally approved stem-cell lines
- stem-cell research in Asia (not just in South Korea but in China, Japan, and Singapore) is far more advanced than U.S.\

8) Education

Body Worlds 2 is an international, traveling educational exhibition which contains about 200 samples of actual organs as well as entire cadavers in various athletic or ruminative poses. This exhibit is coming to the Ontario Science Center in Toronto on Sept 30, 2005 and will stay until Feb. 26, 2006.

Dr. Gunther von Hagens, known as the father of plastination, invented the process in 1977 which by 1990 was used to preserve entire bodies. He has taken his show on the road in order to educate.

"Seeing the human body in lifelike poses has never been done before. Nor has it been possible to compare healthy versus diseased tissue...So I think this brings better insights into the importance of health," he says.

However, this exhibit has not existed without controversy. Religious authorities among others have complained that Body Worlds offends human dignity and is a glorified freak show. It has also been questioned whether the cadavers were used without consent.

Relevance:

- Educate others about human anatomy
- Demonstrate healthy versus diseased tissues in an attempt to change lifestyles of viewers
- Has sparked controversy: Are these exhibits ethical or are they impinging on human dignity?

Homeschooling - Joyce Swann

In 1975 she decided to homeschool her daughter Alexandra, even though there was concern that she (and the rest of her children) would be unable to function in society. Swann had 10 children and now all have been homeschooled and they achieved their masters degrees on average, by age 16 from accredited universities (via correspondence). Her children are now happily employed!

Quote example: "to educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society" - Theodore Roosevelt

Recently, the Yukon's largest First Nation has decided to pull out of the territory's education system. The reason, according to the chief of the Kwanlin Dun First nation is that, "We don't have too many graduates. We have more of our students dropping out of school so it's not very relevant to us."

There has also been suggestion of creating a new and separate school system for Kwanlin Dun.

Things to consider:

-Would creating a separate school system be beneficial? In the past, it was known that not all people were allowed into the public school system and only in the last few decades has all citizens been seen going to the same schools in the Yukon—advocating for a public school system that is free and accessible to all people, that includes all people and reflects all people

Who: Education and Hitler

What: Education played a very important part in Nazi Germany in trying to cultivate a loyal following for Hitler and the Nazis. Nazis were aware that education would create loyal Nazis by the time they reached adulthood

Where: in German schools

When: 1920's-1945 (Hitler's death)

How: The "Hitler Youth" had been created for post-school activities and use of propaganda was a common practice in Nazis school and the education system. Enforcing a Nazi curriculum on schools depended on the teachers enforcing it. Teachers that were considered disloyal were fired. Subjects underwent a major change... especially history and biology. History became based on the glory of Germany and biology became a study of the different races to prove that the Nazi belief in racial superiority was a correct belief. Teachers were expected to attack every aspect of Jewish culture.

So What?: Education can be controlled by those that enforce it. People are influenced by authority figures. Education is specific for the culture it is being taught in. The lessons learned early in life can have great bearing in adulthood.

9) Media / Advertising

CanWest Global News Corporation:

- Came under intense scrutiny for the implementation of a common editorial policy in all of their Nationally owned newspapers.
- This strictly limited the amount of local information and opinion that local journalists could give in their daily columns.

- David Asper, an executive with CanWest Global, defended this policy as a way to ensure quality journalism and “override local interests in matters that were of national concern”.
- Despite claims that the policy was put in place in order to stifle journalistic opinion that was not aligned with company thinking, Asper maintained that articles which discussed views which were anathema to company interests would continue to be promoted and published.
- Several pertinent journalists at CanWest owned papers such as the *Halifax Daily News* and *Windsor Star* have either resigned or been dismissed over the controversy.

Media organization: The Waco Tribune-Herald

When: February, 1993

Where: Outside of Waco, Texas

Who: David Koresh and the Branch Davidians

The Branch Davidians were a New Religious Movement (cult) who lived at Mount Carmel, just outside of Waco, Texas. They were suspected of illegally stockpiling weapons, and making illegal modifications of said weapons. There were also reports of them sexually abusing children. The Waco-Tribune Herald began a series about their leader, David Koresh, entitling it the “Sinful Messiah”, mocking the group’s belief that the next re-incarnation of Jesus Christ (Koresh) would be born with sin.

Around the time they were preparing this series, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) began to plan a “dynamic entry” to arrest Koresh and search for illegal weapons. The ATF wished that the Waco-Tribune Herald postpone the release of their series, for fear that it would create a more defensive posture at Mount Carmel. The WTH refused, and so a race began between the two, each determined to accomplish their objective before the other.

The first article in the series was released on February 27, with the belief that the raid would be carried out on March 1st. The article depicted Koresh and his followers in a very negative light. On February 28, news vehicles were stationed outside the compound, and one of them accidentally asked one of the Branch Davidians (not realizing who he was) if there was going to be a raid. This led the Branch Davidians to have knowledge of the raid, causing them to be extremely agitated, and prepared. They thought that this was the end of the world, and were prepared to defend themselves to the death. A 51 day standoff ensued.

Throughout the standoff, media and news organizations around the country relied on information from the WTH for their information. This led to the propagation of negative imagery surrounding the Branch Davidians, and a general public sentiment that the Branch Davidians were suicidal maniacs, who had to be shut down. This placed added pressure on the government agencies to provide a quick end to the standoff.

Unfortunately, this “quick end” turned out to involve shooting lethal amounts of nerve gas into the building. The building caught fire and burned down, killing 74 Branch Davidians, including Koresh and 23 children. It is not known whether the fire was accidental, set by the government agencies, or set by the Branch Davidians themselves so as not to be overtaken by what they considered to be the forces of evil.

Published in Time Magazine – May 30th, 2005, p.46-48
"When a Story Goes Terribly Wrong"

-“Journalists strive to be influential”

-Newsweek magazine (May 2nd issue) reported that a Pentagon investigation supported claims that guards at the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, flushed a copy of the Koran down a toilet.

-within days, news of its reports spread through the Muslim world. Protests erupted in Pakistan and Afghanistan which turned violent, resulting in 17 people dead and many injured

-Whitaker, editor of Newsweek, acknowledged the error and claimed that journalistic standards had been maintained throughout the affair – “You can be professional in your reporting and still makes mistakes”

-Questions: Should Newsweek have published such a controversial statement from only one anonymous source which had the potential to cause harm? Did the potential for mischief outweigh the journalistic value of the published information?

-Lesson learned: “You have to be prepared to defend the accuracy of everything that appears in the magazine – no matter how short”.

-Quick history lesson: Westerners often compare the Koran to the Bible, but a closer analogy is to Christ himself. Newsweek’s account portrayed American’s flushing God down the toilet. Koranic defilement is a recurring Islamic concern.

"The Catch"

With the recent launch of its cell phone service, Virgin Mobile launched an interesting and effective advertising campaign. Billboards, flyers and posters in subways stated statistics like:

- two out of three Canadians suffer from "the Catch",
- over 11 million Canadians have "the Catch".

On their website, Virgin Mobile states that this was an awareness campaign to inform Canadians of "the Catch" (hidden fees, etc.) and of "the Cure" (Virgin mobile). The advertising campaign was far reaching with television, radio and print ads, all of which were at times suggestive. Some advertisement contained a countdown until "the Cure" was to be announced.

The effectiveness of this advertising campaign is due to the degree of mystery and the degree of instilled fear. Until it was announced what "the Catch" was (this coincided with the launch of Virgin Mobile), many people were unsure what "the Catch", and given the statistics of the larger number of Canadians who were affected, some people could have been concerned about the seriousness of "the Catch". This advertising campaign was original and creative. It created a lot of discussion about what was the exact nature of "the Catch".

website: http://www.virginmobile.ca/web/pages/media_02_h.htm

How this example could relate to possible essay prompts:

- Relevance: Promoting conformity, increasing level of creativity need to grab target audience's attention, using media to create fear.

10) Technology / Computers

When: July, 2005

Who's Involved? Amazon.com

What Happened? Significance?

-started in July 1995

-one of internet's largest retailers

-helped start trend in internet retail

-owned by man known as "king of internet commerce" Steve Bezos

-competition growing tougher from up-and-coming businesses

-known for reliability and its ease of navigation

-revolutionized the way in which businesses operate by offering one of the world's first internet retailers

Related prompts:

- The more people rely on computers, the more people become alienated from one another.
- Technology designed to make our lives simpler often turns out instead to make our lives more complicated.
- The role of technology should be to improve human life, but not to affect human values.

Robotic Assisted Surgery

Late 1990s - Robotic assisted surgery was first introduced to minimize invasive surgical techniques. St. David's Medical Center is one example of a centre that has the option of using this technology. St. David's new da Vinci Surgical System uses small surgical instruments along with a 3D endoscope that are both controlled by robotic arms. These robotic arms are inserted into the patient through small cuts in the body.

The surgeon can control the robotic arms and movement of the 3D camera, through the motion of his or her own hands. Using the images generated by the endoscope, the surgeon moves his/her hands accordingly as the tips of the surgeons fingers directly control the tips of the instruments inside the patient.

PROS - Less blood loss, minimized hospital duration, less scarring, less risk of infection

CONS - Expensive equipment, surgeons must receive additional training in order to use robotic system.

Source:

<http://www.stdavids.com/CustomPage.asp?guidCustomContentID=%7B05BC39CA-C208-4B8C-AE39-82F55CB96CE9%7D>

Internet Censorship

The Communications Decency Act (a portion of the Telecommunications Act of 1996) was deemed unconstitutional by the US Supreme Court in 1997. It was ruled that this act violated the right to freedom of speech and was struck down. The CDA imposed very strict content regulations and prohibited posting "indecent" or "patently offensive" materials in a public forum on the Internet. This would have included the texts of classic fiction such as the "Catcher in the Rye" and "Ulysees", the "7 dirty words", and other materials which, although offensive to some, enjoy the full protection of the First Amendment if published in a newspaper, magazine, or a book, or in the public square. It is also important to note that the CDA was not about child pornography, obscenity, or using the Internet to stalk children. These were already illegal under current law.

Significance: This highlights the constant changes that courts must consider with new forms of communication. It also shows the high value that is placed on our right to freedom of speech.

11) History

1. Example: Oppression in Post-War Europe (ie. East Germany)

Significance: After World War II and the formation of the Berlin Wall, citizens of East Germany were forbidden from leaving the country and so did not have the right to leave for a non-socialist country, such as their neighbour, West Germany. Since the citizens had to respect this law (there were many armed forces patrolling and securing Berlin to make sure no one escaped to the democratic West Germany) many of them had to suffer in this oppressive country, with many of these citizens being torn away from family and friends in West Germany until 1989, when the Berlin Wall was destroyed. In essence, this law was put in place to take away the freedoms of East German citizens. In democratic countries, laws that hinder freedom should not be obeyed or respected, but eliminated and laws like this illustrate a key difference between democratic and communist countries.

2. Example: Ancient Rome after the fall of the Republic.

Significance: After Julius Caesar's death, Rome was hit with fifteen years of civil war, with the main characters being Mark Antony and Caesar's son, Octavius. After the war was over, Octavius, later to be called Augustus, emerged as Rome's leader and completely changed the system of Rome from a Republic to the Roman Empire. Rome then entered a time free of war and bloodshed. As a result, there are times when peace

can be a result of violence, as if there was no civil war, Augustus would not have emerged as the sole power to maintain the peace in Rome.

Date and place: On December 1, 1955 in Montgomery Alabama (United States)

Event:

- Montgomery Segregation laws were as follows: blacks were required to pay their fare to the driver, then get off and reboard through the back door. Sometimes the bus would drive off before the paid-up customers made it to the back entrance. If the white section was full and another white customer entered, blacks were required to give up their seats and move farther to the back.
- Rosa Parks (age 42), a black woman who worked as a seamstress, refused to give up her seat on a bus to white passenger and was arrested (by the bus driver) for violating a Montgomery law
- By refusing to give up her seat she was standing up for the civil rights for herself and fellow African Americans
- Her refusal, was followed by a Montgomery Bus Boycott whereby African Americans boycotted the usage of busses to get to work, which continued until the bus segregation laws were changed (lasted 382 days)
- During the boycott, her and her husband received threats and she was fired from her job as a seamstress
- In December of 1956, the Supreme Court decided that bus segregation violated the constitution. The Civil Rights Movement was put into motion, which led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Today all Americans, whatever their race, nationality, or religion, must be given equal treatment under the law

When: June 28, 1993

Where: Rosedale, Maryland

Who's Involved: Dawn Hamilton & Kirk Bloodsworth

What Happened:

After nine years in jail, the innocent Kirk Bloodsworth was finally pardoned and released. He had been accused of the murder and rape of nine-year old Dawn Hamilton when an anonymous caller identified Bloodsworth as the man in a police sketch publicized on TV and in newspapers. Bloodsworth had unfortunately been in Baltimore at the time of the incident, which was near the Rosedale murder scene. Upon returning to his home in Cambridge, he had also told his friends that he had done something that would harm his marriage.

With this minimal evidence, the jury convicted Bloodsworth of Hamilton's murder and he was sent to death row; this occurred despite presentation of witnesses who could attest to being with Bloodsworth at the time of the murder.

As time passed by, the advent of DNA testing progressed to a point where the miniscule spot of semen found on Hamilton's underwear could be tested. Bloodsworth maintained his innocence while in prison and when his attorneys were finally able to

obtain permission to test the spot of semen, they found that the DNA did not match that of Bloodsworth. An innocent man had been put into jail.

This case plays a significant role in history since Kirk Bloodsworth was the first man to be vindicated as a result of DNA evidence.

The Cold War:

- Post 1945: Democratic powers against Communism
- US and its allies against Soviet Union
- No direct military conflict...however, economic and diplomatic struggles occurred
- Both countries fought against Germany in WWII. The alliance broke down when Joseph Stalin used his Red Army to control most of Eastern Europe
- US Prez Harry Truman opposed Stalin's policies
- Both sides broke agreements made during war time. Stalin broke promise to hold free elections in East Europe. Truman broke promise to send reparations to rebuild war-devastated Soviet Union
- US launched Marshall Plan: \$13 billion to rebuild Western and Central Europe (left out East Europe and Soviet Union)
- Truman created military alliance – the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Korean War broke out when North Korea tried to invade South Korea. US aided South Korea. 3 years later, reached an agreement, keeping the original border intact

- US was first to develop fission bomb. They maintained a monopoly on nuclear weapons. At the same time, US was also pushing for UN to lead the abolition of nuclear weapons, and maintain international control over the processing of nuclear weapons.
- The Soviet vetoed this plan by UN
- 1949 – Soviet exploded its own atomic weapon and ended the US monopoly
- Possibility of nuclear war now present – set into motion the atomic arms race

Explosion of the Challenger Space Craft

When: January 28, 1986

On January 28, 1986, 73 seconds after a seemingly routine liftoff from Cape Canaveral, Florida, the space shuttle Challenger exploded in midair at an altitude of less than 10 miles. All 7 members on board were killed instantly. 5 months after the tragedy, a government official concluded that the disaster could have been avoided. Engineers had warned NASA that a crucial component of the shuttle was faulty - a set of gaskets called O-rings, which sealed the joints between the rocket booster sections. But NASA was determined to launch Challenger on time and neglected to correct the problem. The Challenger itself had been delayed 4 times previously, and therefore mission control felt it was necessary to go ahead and launch. Upon liftoff, the gaskets failed and the O-rings were significantly weakened due to the cold temperatures, releasing a flame which ignited the main fuel tank. As a result of the blast, many astronauts left the NASA program and

all shuttle flights were suspended until 1988. The following year, NASA announced that civilians would not be permitted on shuttle crews, following the death of teacher Christa McAuliffe, who was on the Challenger as a result of winning a national-wide "Teacher in Space" contest.

Chernobyl, Ukraine (near the Belarus-Ukraine border)

April 26, 1986

The Unit-4 reactor in the Chernobyl power plant exploded during testing of the plant's cooling system. Radiation spread with the prevailing winds and frequent rain. In the ten days following the accident, 130000 people were evacuated within a 30-km radius around the reactor; 45000 had lived in the Pripyat power plant settlement, which remains uninhabited today. But it was only nearly a month later that the government ordered iodine preparations distributed to those living in contaminated areas. By this time, radioactive iodine would have already accumulated in the people's thyroid glands, increasing risk for developing thyroid cancer. Meanwhile, a sarcophagus to enclose the destroyed reactor was completed with a lifetime of thirty years. Two international pledging conferences held in 1997 and 2000 raised over a billion dollars toward the respective stabilization, and then building of a second shelter, for the reactor. It was initially intended that the accident stay under wraps: it was only after workers at a Swedish nuclear power plant found radioactive particles on their clothing - and confirmed that there was no leak in their own plant - that an accident was suspected to have occurred somewhere in the Western Soviet Union.

The affected regions still suffer heavily in every way. The cost of recovery, worth billions of dollars, disrupted the countries' economies; birth rate is down while mortality is up; young professionals continue to move away from the contaminated territories, leaving a deficit of skilled workers; those who have gone to live in other settlements find themselves stigmatized for having come from contaminated areas, and are envied for the benefits and recompensation they receive from the government.

Countries in both the East and the West were prompted to reassess their own nuclear reactor safety regulations. Here was a classic example of countries learning from their mistakes. Yuri Vishnevsky, the head of a Russian nuclear energy inspectorate, stated in a 1996 interview, "A new culture of safety has arisen in Russia as a consequence of Chernobyl. There will not be a second Chernobyl."

12) Right to Privacy / Individual Rights

Example: Elijah Parish Lovejoy (*Freedom of Speech and Freedom of the Press*)

Elijah Parish Lovejoy was born in Albion, Maine in 1802. He studied theology at Princeton and, in 1832, became a minister of the Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, Missouri. Here he established a religious newspaper known as the Observer, in which he

advocated the abolition of slavery. Lovejoy received several threats of mob violence because of the views expressed in his newspaper; despite this, he continued to voice his opinion and persisted in the fight against slavery. He became a figure of hatred to slave owners and Southerners, and in 1836, a mob destroyed his printing press. He moved to Alton, Illinois, where he became a member of the local Anti-Slavery Society. Here he also began to edit the Alton Observer, continuing to advocate the end of enslavement.

In Alton, Lovejoy's press was seized by pro-slavery mobs and thrown into the Mississippi river on three occasions. Nonetheless, he continued to fight for freedom from enslavement, as well as freedom of speech and freedom of the press. In 1837, he received a new press, but soon after this, the warehouse harboring the press attacked by a pro-slavery mob. Lovejoy and his friends attempted to defend the press; in the process, Lovejoy was shot five times and died. The other defenders of the press surrendered and were allowed to leave the warehouse, and the press was destroyed by the pro-slavery mob.

Elijah Lovejoy will always be remembered as America's first martyr for freedom of thought, speech and the press. In 1952, the Elijah Parish Lovejoy award was established; it is granted to a journalist who demonstrates Lovejoy's fearlessness in expressing his/her opinion in the print media.

The issue of Health Information Privacy and Consent

With technological advances in healthcare, electronic medical records (EMRs) are quickly replacing paper health records. EMRs not only provide organization and efficiency to busy physicians, but it can also support easy communication between the various health professionals that the patient sees (such as specialists, pharmacists, etc). The benefits of this technology can ultimately improve patient care.

However a secondary use of EMRs is for research. The possibility of combining every patient's health information into a large database is very appealing for research groups as it could provide quick and easy collection of health information from a large number of patients.

However, the problem is consent. The Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, (PIPEDA), was implemented by the federal government of Canada in order to protect the privacy of the patient's health information by putting restrictions on the collection, use, and disclosure of their information. Under this act, research groups must inform patients of any use of their health information and obtain consent. Recent surveys show that patients for the most part, agree that they will allow the use of their health information for research purposes if their personal identification were removed. However many agree that consent must be asked first.

Research groups find the issue of consent to be extremely problematic. Asking each patient for consent takes too much time. In addition, patients who refuse to give consent will not be included in the study. If these patients are associated with a particular factor related to the primary outcome, the data may become seriously skewed and may not accurately represent the intended population.

Researchers find it difficult to imagine why patients would be afraid of use of their health information if their personal identification were removed, while patients believe that since it is their health information, they should have the right to privacy if the wish.

The Story of Mukhtaran Bibi

Synopsis of court events found at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mukhtaran_Bibi

Mukhtaran Bibi, also known as Mukhtaran Mai, was gang raped by a group of men in her village, Meerwala, two years ago. The raping took place as per a tribal council ruling stating that Ms. Mai was to be punished for her younger brother's actions. Her brother (11-12 years old) was accused of having sexual relations with a woman in a rival clan, an accusation that was later found to be lacking evidence.

News of the crime shocked people in Pakistan and made headlines all over the world forcing the government to take action. Twelve men were arrested and Ms. Mai defied threats and customs to testify against the suspects. Six men were acquitted and six were sentenced to death by hanging.

However, on March 3rd, 2005 five of the six sentences were overturned and the last sentence was reduced from death to life imprisonment. Also, to prevent further embarrassment the government placed Ms. Mai on the "exit control list" preventing her from traveling outside of Pakistan to spread her story. This move prompted protest in Pakistan and all around the world. It appeared that Ms. Mai was being confined while her rapists were free to go.

Due to pressure placed on the Pakistan government, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz finally ordered Ms. Mai's name off the "exit control list". Furthermore, the acquittals were suspended and the Supreme Court ruled that all 12 men would be retried.

The US has been very important in allowing Ms. Mai to voice her pain. Mercy Corps., a US aid organization, helped her start a shelter for abused women and provided her with a van to act as an ambulance. Also, Amnesty International has been supporting her throughout and has invited her to the United States to tell her story.

Significance:

This event focuses on women's rights in Pakistan. The story also verifies the strength of non-profit groups like Mercy Corps. and Amnesty International. Individual rights should be afforded to all people and when this is not the case, the public and the media have the power to make it happen. Finally, this example is one that makes it ok for one country to get involved in the affairs of another.

Who: Judith Miller of The NY Times and Matthew Cooper of Time magazine

What: Reporters are going to jail for refusing to give the names of anonymous sources.

Where: The United States

When: It's happening right now

How: By Supreme Court ruling

So what: Taken from the article - "Journalists simply cannot do their jobs without being able to commit to sources that they won't be identified. Such protection is critical to the free flow of information in a democracy."

Who: British people

What: 1.5 million cameras watching public areas

Where: Britain, mostly in urban areas

When: Relatively recent occurrence

How: Police watching the cameras for illegal activity

So what: Definitely a loss of privacy as people are being watched whenever they're in public - but might it be worth it? - "Authorities said an independent evaluation of the system showed that in the first five months of operation, car crime in the area was down 80 percent, shoplifting was down 69 percent, robbery was down 68 percent, burglary was down 49 percent and violent crime is down 30 percent."