

The Pioneer

Vol. 47 · Issue #11
 Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015
 Loyalist College · Belleville, ON · Canada



Photo by Hélène Roth

People gathered at the Place de la République in Paris on Jan. 8, as they observed minutes of silence, broken with slogans of 'liberté, égalité, fraternité' ('liberty, equality, fraternity') values that France stands for. The sign 'charliebertie' is a play of words between Charlie and liberty. For more photos from rallies in Paris and Toronto, see pages 4-5.

Powerful response to violence 'dizzying'

Loyalist photojournalism student moved by experience in Paris

By Moush Sara John

The past week has seen a lot happen in Paris.

But through six almost sleepless nights and boundless up and downs, there's been one conversation that Hélène Roth has battled with over and over again. "Why would you attack and kill someone for the depiction of truth, for pointing at issues that concern society at large?"

Roth is a first-year photojournalism student at Loyalist College who returned home to France on a Christmas break. She was at Place de la République in Paris the day after the attacks.

"As chants of 'On a pas peur' ('We are not scared') rang through the air, I stood

there thinking -- it is hard to say it is beautiful, but it is. We were around the monument of Marianne, which is symbolic of French revolution, and embodies the French values of 'liberty, equality, and fraternity' and it was beautiful to see everyone united for the same cause, standing together representing what France stands for.

"It was really emotional seeing so many people present at the square, seeing so much respect and silence. Thinking about the thousands paying homage to the fallen journalists who have been working so hard and for so long, courageously, to report and publish information that no other media would in France or even elsewhere." As she says this, her face clouds and her voice wanders away.

"My mind moves to the square, to the dizzying crowds of people singing the French national anthem in unison and... chanting 'non à l'amalgame', 'on a pas peur', 'le crayon vaincra le fusil', 'liberté

d'expression' ('no to the confusion', 'we are not scared', 'the pencil will beat the gun', 'liberty of expression').

"It was powerful in a quiet way. I lost myself in the crowds of people, remembering the values of our nation, the blood that had already been shed, and the people who had fought for the rights that we stand for."

Long-known for its freedom of expression and powerful concept of secularism, France came under attack last Wednesday when masked gunmen shot and killed 12 people at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo office in Paris. The following day, a French policewoman was gunned down, and on the final day of the crisis, four more hostages were killed at a Jewish grocery store standoff. Although three of the four terror suspects were killed, at least one of the suspects in the Charlie Hebdo attack remains at large. As France and the rest of the world still reels under these attacks that struck terror

at the heart of Paris, there is a growing dismay among journalists and proponents of free speech. More than 3.7 million people marched on Sunday throughout France in massive anti-terrorism rallies to show solidarity, among them were 40 world leaders.

"Before the Charlie Hebdo attack, the last major attack took place 20 years ago," says Stéphane Schorderet, press and communication counsellor at the French Embassy in Ottawa.

"No one is safe from the acts of madmen capable of striking anywhere. We must therefore be vigilant but we must also inform, educate, and re-educate people about how to live together. The fact that four million people came out into the street all over France on Sunday shows that France is still a strong, united country."

Pondering the loss of life, and why it hurts so much, Roth says, "Some of the journalists who have succumbed

to the attacks have been working since the 1960s, depicting a whole range of issues through their satire, from governments to religion, from people to politics, from national to international issues. "So it is sad to see them go this way. It is ironic that those who are at the very heart of the freedom of speech should be silenced.

"In many ways, I think the French people realize how deep our loss is. And we are standing today in unity, and hoping that there will be more people like Charlie Hebdo. Nous sommes Charlie Hebdo."

Garry Clement, an Ontario-based internationally recognized expert in the areas of money laundering and organized crime, with 34 years of policing experience says the Paris attacks represent home-grown terror.

"Having worked post 9-11 in the national security arena and with latest developments around the world, the incident does not come as a surprise.

...See Paris, page 4-5

Slip and sliding on the city's slushy streets

Some bikers embrace the weather during cold winter months

By Andrew Meade

Two wheels and snow might not seem to go hand in hand but winter cycling is starting to gain traction as dedicated riders gear up to brave the cold around Belleville.

Ideal Bike employee Adam Tilley is one of a number of riders in the community who do not let the coldest season keep them off of two wheels.

"For me it's not as hard now as it seemed at the beginning, I had got rid of my car and cycled all summer so the winter was something to fear," Tilley said.

"It was not a cold one and I'm glad because I definitely didn't have the gear to be prepared as I thought I had been," he said.

Weather is one of the largest deterrents keeping people off of their bikes at this time of the year, said Tyler Allsopp, co-owner of Doug's Bicycle Sales and Service in Belleville.

"Winter biking is definitely a polarizing thing. Some people love it; others can't stand it. I personally find I have a hard time getting out in the cold, but when I do, it's usually short distances like commuting to work."

Sub-zero temperatures, slippery road conditions and narrowed shoulders can make riding in traffic at this time of year an even more daunting task than it can already seem to be during the summer.

When asked about his thoughts on



Photo by Andrew Meade

Winter riding is less of an intimidating task once dressed for the weather. Adam Tilley rides down a slush covered Paterson Street Monday.

nwhat keeps the majority of riders off of the road, Tilley noted traffic to be the top concern after the cold.

"Traffic scares people riding in the summer so I can imagine how it does

in the winter. There are some times when I'm going along the sides of the road on days like today, where we have a foot of snow, that you're in and out of the lane.

"It's almost easier to be on the sidewalk."

To successfully and safely navigate the snow covered roads, Tilley and Allsopp both touted knobby tires as the best up-

grade for winter riding. They also agreed that careful maintenance of a bicycle's drivetrain is essential to keeping it working smoothly.

Proper clothing is a cyclist's best defence against the weather and best chance at making it a comfortable ride.

"There are people who bundle up with stovepipe pants like they're going skiing or snowmobiling, but while you're on a bike, range of motion is a huge asset," Tilley said.

"I've learned that there are synthetics that do a good job as outer and sweat management layers because you will get hot out there when you start riding, but it's a matter of keeping your extremities warm. Good gloves, socks, a balaclava, eye protection, hat, a good base layer to keep you warm and a shell to keep the wind out."

Commuters and urban cyclists are not the only riders who can be seen out on two wheels in the snow. Mountain biking is one of the most resilient and year-round disciplines of the sport, Allsopp said.

"Our core group of mountain bikers will usually get out for rides. You can certainly still ride off-road as long as the snow isn't too deep or fresh and there is a hard-packed layer of snow you can definitely get out and ride."

Allsopp offered advice to give to those who are on the fence about riding through the winter.

"Just get out and give it a go. It's not as bad as many people think. The fear of going out in the cold is much worse than actually going out in the cold so get out there, layer up and have fun."