

STORIES BY RISHAB REVANKAR
GRAPHIC BY ALICIA HANGCHOCK



Toronto, Canada

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford dodged allegations of crack cocaine use for months. On Monday, Nov. 4, Ford made an admission to reporters outside his office. "You didn't ask the correct questions," Ford said, referring to his previous denial of drug use. "No, I'm not an addict. And no, I do not do drugs. I have smoked crack cocaine probably approximately about a year ago." Many, including Toronto City Councilor John Filion, hold that the mayor's admission was prompted by the Toronto police chief's recovery of a video of Ford allegedly smoking a crack pipe.

Paramus, New Jersey, USA

Authorities are wondering, "What was Richard Shoop's intent?" after the 20-year-old gunman entered an upscale shopping mall, fired six shots without striking anyone and finally took his own life with a single shot to the head. Bergen County Prosecutor John Molinelli told CNN that Shoop could have targeted mall shoppers but instead chose to "shoot randomly at different locations." Bergen County law enforcement officers have yet to confirm the reasons behind the shooting, but Molinelli said that they had uncovered a note from Shoop indicating that the "end was coming."

Khartoum, Sudan

After a month-long closure imposed by state security, Sudan's most widely read newspaper, Al-Intibaha, is printing again. As a strong critic of the government's decision to raise fuel prices, Al Intibaha ignited nationwide protests that left dozens killed and hundreds detained, Agence France-Presse reports. Government censorship heightened and the paper shut down indefinitely, until finally censorship eased on Nov. 3. "Thanks be to God; we are back," said Al-Tayeb Mustafa, editor-in-chief and uncle of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir.

Dhaka, Bangladesh

At least 152 soldiers, mostly Bangladeshi border guards, were sentenced to death for mutiny crimes. Another 161 soldiers have been sentenced to life in prison. The cause: a 2009 border guard mutiny that left 57 senior officers and 17 family members dead. Historians attribute the uprising to resentment against the officer class — the average border guard in 2009 earned about \$70 a month, less than half the salary of a first-year lieutenant, the BBC reports. The Human Rights Watch recently criticized trial proceedings, claiming that over 50 additional suspects either died in or escaped from custody.

NSA spy scandal escalates from domestic dispute to international issue

BY ROBERT PACHECO
STAFF WRITER

"The best spies no longer look like James Bond," said Lucas Kempton '03, a social media advisor for Lincoln Financial Group. "Now they look more like Bill Gates and think like Steve Jobs."

In recent days, the National Security Agency's spying scandal has grown from a fairly lackluster, run-of-the-mill government scandal to a possibly unprecedented breach of power. The question now becomes: who is to blame?

On Oct. 25, The New York Times reported that the Spanish government added its voice to a chorus of nations, including Brazil, France, Germany and Mexico, seeking clarification by the U.S. over reports that the NSA had spied on them.

The loudest voice railing against U.S. intelligence agencies is that of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is reported to have been wiretapped for the last 12 years.

According to the Associated Press, Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert said that the chancellor made clear to Obama in a phone call that "she views such practices, if the indications are confirmed ... as completely unacceptable."

Now an international affair, rebuke of the NSA's invasive tactics has caused the U.S. government's legislative and executive branches to attempt to distance themselves

from the NSA.

For example, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, continued support for the NSA after former contractor Edward Snowden exposed details of mass surveillance programs through WikiLeaks.

But after months of supporting the agency, Feinstein and members of Congress have sharply changed their tone to one of opposition to the NSA's tactics.

On Oct. 28, Feinstein said that the Senate Intelligence Committee was not satisfactorily informed of the NSA's spying on allied leaders and heads of state. She also told reporters on Capitol Hill that "a total review of all intelligence programs" was in order.

While investigations are underway, many, including former CIA member and Assistant Professor of Political Science Robert Duncan shift the blame to Congress.

"Members of the two intelligence oversight committees are fully briefed on these activities," said Duncan. "In my opinion (they) are simply covering their butts."

"Operations and agencies are functions of policy-makers," former Secretary of Defense and Director of the CIA Robert Gates told The Guilfordian. "The policy-makers are the consumers of the data, and the NSA is their tool."

"So when the camera points to (policy-makers), it's like a full moon on a werewolf."



Chancellor of Germany **Angela Merkel** spoke out against U.S. intelligence agencies wiretapping.

Although blame is yet to be officially assigned, revelations of the NSA's recent data-farming may be more of a threat to the Obama administration's reputation than to that of the NSA personnel's.

In the words of Gates, "The question is not whether we have the capability to gather information. We must be more concerned with addressing whether it is wise to enact these policies."

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