

On the street

We asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

How do you think international piracy and copyright protection laws, such as ACTA, will affect you?



Mark Hanson, second-year radio broadcast, “There are some shows I can’t see on television here in Canada, but I can watch them online. If these laws come into effect, I would have to pay, and as a student, I can’t afford that.”



Jaymin Batel, biotechnology technician, “I don’t think it will affect people as much as you think.”



Breanna Scott, general arts and science, “Different types of research will be affected. Depending on our class assignments, we do a lot of research.”



Geoff Kirkland, culinary management, “They’re walking a dangerous line by trying to regulate something that’s had no regulation at all before. It’s a big balance of power.”



Kyra Groening, second-year animation, “Google and Youtube will suffer. The entire Internet will go down.”



Kyle McMillan, second-year animation, “It sucks. I don’t like it at all. It’s the first step to taking away people’s freedom.”

Editorial

Tax increase may be necessary evil

Say the words “tax increase” and right away the grumbles start. It’s time for the grumbling to begin in Quinte West after an announcement of a two per cent tax increase. This year, complaints may be a little more vocal as most of the increases to the budget are due to salary increases for city staff, professional firefighters and police staff. Are these grumbles warranted? Maybe not as much as we would like to think. If you’re like most of us, you may not remember the last time you got a raise. It’s easy to get upset when we see people whom we perceive as already having a good job get a little more, especially when the economy hasn’t exactly been terrific. It gets hard to swallow a tax increase when we see increases to city staff salaries, however it should be noted that council actually decreased internal spending. Between 2008 and 2011, spending dropped by \$74,000. A lot of us find ourselves with more money going out than coming in and officials of the City of Quinte West are saying that they are having the same problem. Last year, council voted not to give funding to Loyalist College, stating that the city was already spending too much. The city has indeed had a few increases that they may not have been ready for.

Professional firefighters were awarded through an arbitrator a salary increase that is be retroactive until 2008. The increase was reportedly more than the city had initially offered. Firefighters do a very important job and deserve fair compensation, but a higher salary does mean a higher city budget. The city was also hit with a provincial mandate to increase contributions to its provincial pension plan. Over the past few years, many cities have been the victims of municipal downloading. Basically, things the province used to pay for have shifted onto the backs of municipalities. While mayors and councillors grumble it is the municipal taxpayer who really pays. The buck always stops at the little guy who often doesn’t know whom to blame. As voters and taxpayers we have to look at every level of government to see where expenditures are coming from. The exact amount of increase is different across the wards. Trenton ward saw a decrease last year, while Murray Ward has seen the highest increases over the last couple of years. Based on an average residential assessment of \$177,000, the highest increase, which is 3.13 per cent in Murray Ward, means an extra \$55.73 a year, or \$4.64 a month. Is an extra \$5 a month worth two new police sergeants and happier firefighters? That is the question, it seems. The answer, two per cent, is fairly minor and if you really don’t like it, let your councillors know. Or you can just wait until the next election rolls around.

Kristen Haveman

Use of oil an individual choice

The fossil fuel-burning business has divided society into two polarizing spectrums but people must consider the individual choices they make. Canadian use of oil for transportation dominates all other modes of transportation, therefore we have acted on our decision that we do need and depend on oil. A surge of individual consumer choices will decide that oil is no longer needed, and a free market will react to our purchasing habits, rendering that business obsolete. That’s the way economic freedom works. Don’t like the oil business? Then don’t buy oil. A recent trip to China by Prime Minister Stephen Harper put U.S./Canadian relations, oil and environmental concerns in the spotlight. During Harper’s visit to China, he met with the general secretary of the communist party of China, Hu Jintao, to discuss business relations between the two countries, focusing heavily on energy security. “Canada has abundant supplies of virtually every form of energy, and you know, we want to sell our energy to people who want to buy our energy; it’s that simple.” Harper said in the city of Guangzhou. If only it were that simple.

In January an application to expand the Keystone pipeline into the United States was rejected by U.S. President Barack Obama, essentially manipulating the natural supply and demand of the energy markets. The Keystone XL extension would provide Alberta oil to the state of Texas through the Gulf Coast Expansion, as well as Nebraska through the Steele City Expansion. Construction of the pipeline has also met criticism in the form of environmental concerns, the possibility of spillage, property disputes and greenhouse carbon emissions in particular. TransCanada CEO Russ Girling said the extension would implement 57 improvements above standard US Regulatory requirements. Girling said the XL extension would be “the safest pipeline ever built.” TransCanada also agreed to change the route of the pipeline to avoid areas of environmental concern such as the Sandhills in Nebraska and the Ogallala Aquifer, a major source of fresh water. Joe Oliver, Canada’s minister of natural resources, responded to climate activists, saying Alberta’s oil sands account for 0.1 per cent of global greenhouse-gas emissions. Coal plants in the U.S. pump out 40 times more. Oliver says “celebrity protestors” ignore these facts. Celebrities such as climate-alarmist Al Gore, whose documentary An Inconvenient Truth met an inconvenient verdict when a UK High Court in 2007 ruled it was riddled with scientific errors. “The errors were made in “the context of alarmism and exaggeration.” High Court Judge Michael Burton said. Burton ruled that the screening of An Inconvenient Truth in British secondary schools violated laws barring the promotion of partisan political views in the classroom. According to the US department of energy, Canada is the world’s 15th largest importer of oil. Canada’s exporters include Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Iraq, which are notorious for human rights abuses and conflicts. While we are still dependent on resource-based energy, let us cleanse the blood oil from our existence, and at the same time whet our purchasing appetite with our own resources, companies, and jobs.

Mark Tarnovetsky



Opinion

Deaf community tired of society’s labels

Have own language, culture, values and behavioural norms

By Tristan Kong

Enough is enough. It’s time to end confusing labels for people in the deaf community. You probably have no idea how to refer to deaf people, but there are some labels that are insults to the deaf community. “Deaf-mute,” “dummy,” “hearing impaired,” “deaf and dumb,” “hearing handicapped,” are hurtful names people in the community are called. Deaf people are like you. They are annoyed when they are labelled by you. Deaf people struggle when they face ignorance every day of their lives. Stop and think before you label them. Deaf

people do not view themselves as people with “disabilities.” They have their own language, culture, values, behavioural norms, arts, education institutions and organizations. • They use sign language (American Sign Language, British Sign Language, French Sign Language, Langue des Signes Quebecoise in Canada, Spanish Sign Language, Russian Sign Languages, Australian Sign Language, etc.) as their first language. • There are deaf schools and one deaf university e.g. Gallaudet University. • There is deaf theatre, poetry, jokes, writings, and paintings. There are magazines, journals, books, video/films and television programming by deaf people about their interests or concerns. • There are organized deaf groups in every community as well as national organizations in roughly 125 countries. • There are “peripherals” such as TTYs, caption decoders, flashing alarms and so on.

The list proves that deaf people are part of a cultural and linguistic minority group. wThey share a common history, experiences and language. “Deaf” is the correct word to reflect their identity and culture. The deaf community disagrees with hearing society’s view on deafness. The public thinks being a deaf person is a medical deficiency that needs to be “fixed” to restore hearing, so that people can be put in the “right place” with hearing society. Negative terms like “hearing impaired” or “hearing handicapped” define the deaf community as having a problem or difficulty. People in the deaf community do not feel damage in themselves because they already have their language, culture or identity. They have many reasons to be proud of being deaf. So no more labelling for the deaf community. Show respect. Just say “deaf.” Discloser: Tristan Kong is deaf.

Discrimination shouldn’t be part of airport screening

Modifications to Aeronautics Act might have impact on transsexual community

By Rémy Legé-Jovian

Big Brother has moved in. Over the past 10 years, air travel security has slowly tightened the noose, sometimes without us even noticing. In August of 2011, the Canadian Aeronautics Act made modifications to its protocol, which somehow eluded Parliament for overview. You might not get on your flight if you’re not girly or manly enough. Under this new act, it is stated “5.2 (1) An air carrier shall not transport a passenger if ... (c) the passenger does not appear to be of the gender indicated on the identification he or she presents.” The major concern with the new regula-

tions is the obvious difficulties it imposes on the transgender community and its reliance of personal judgment on behalf of the screener. I would like to think these regulations were put in place because of our increased paranoia and not an attempt to segregate the transgender and transsexual community. You would think that in this day and age, in a country that we would all like to consider “open-minded,” it would find a better way to deal with its fear. In its current state, this regulation greatly impacts transgender and transsexual people who wish to fly. The sex on the passport can be changed permanently only if gender reassignment surgery has occurred or will be in the coming year. A two-year temporary passport is also an option if proof of reassignment surgery is presented. It’s really time for our country to stop hammering down and trying to bury minorities. There must be a better way to keep us safe and yet still have people retain their right of freedom of expression. The rules are simply too

constraining to allow proper and comfortable travel for the people who are affected by such regulations. I understand that some level of scrutiny is needed; however this type of screening is not effective. The simple fact that the screening process is dependent on the screener determining whether you look masculine or feminine enough allows too many people to be caught in the crossfire. What if you’re a woman and just have masculine features? What if you like wearing big, comfy, baggy clothes? What about the woman who wears her niqab or hijab; will she be turned away too? Could it go as far as simply not liking your face? A step in the right direction might be to add a third, non-specific-gender option for transgender and transsexuals. A note from a doctor or psychologist confirming the lifestyle choice of the individual would work just as well too. We have to get over this hyper-paranoia and stop persecuting the people caught in the crossfire in the name of security.

The Pioneer

The Pioneer is currently produced by photojournalism students for Loyalist College and the surrounding area. In the spirit of the pioneers who settled our community and who were rooted in tradition, these pioneers always had an eye on the future. Our students strive to serve the public interest, seek the truth and uphold the highest standards of our profession.

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