

On the street

We asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

The Ontario Court of Appeal has removed part of the publication ban on the divorce records of convicted killer Russell Williams. His wife had 14 days to appeal. Do you think the ruling should be upheld?



Jack Carver, journalism, print and broadcast, “If it is the norm for divorce records to be open, you can’t just really change it for one person. If you do it for one person, you have to do it for everybody.”



Cynthia Frongia, developmental service worker, “Yes, the ruling should stay. I think it needs to be known, for the victims.”



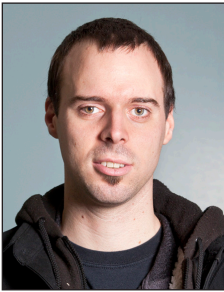
Steve Glover, facilities services, “No, I think the wife needs some privacy. It’s a fine line what the public needs to know.”



Aaron McCrae, manufacturing engineering technician, “I don’t think there should be any special circumstances because of what her husband did. The records should be open.”



Ronni Martin, child and youth worker, “I think it should be. It affects people’s rights, the rights of the victims. It could help the case.”



Eric Hartke, automotive service technician, “I don’t see why they should be treated like everyone else. I don’t know if personal matters should be made public.”

Editorial

Fans losing interest in all-star hockey

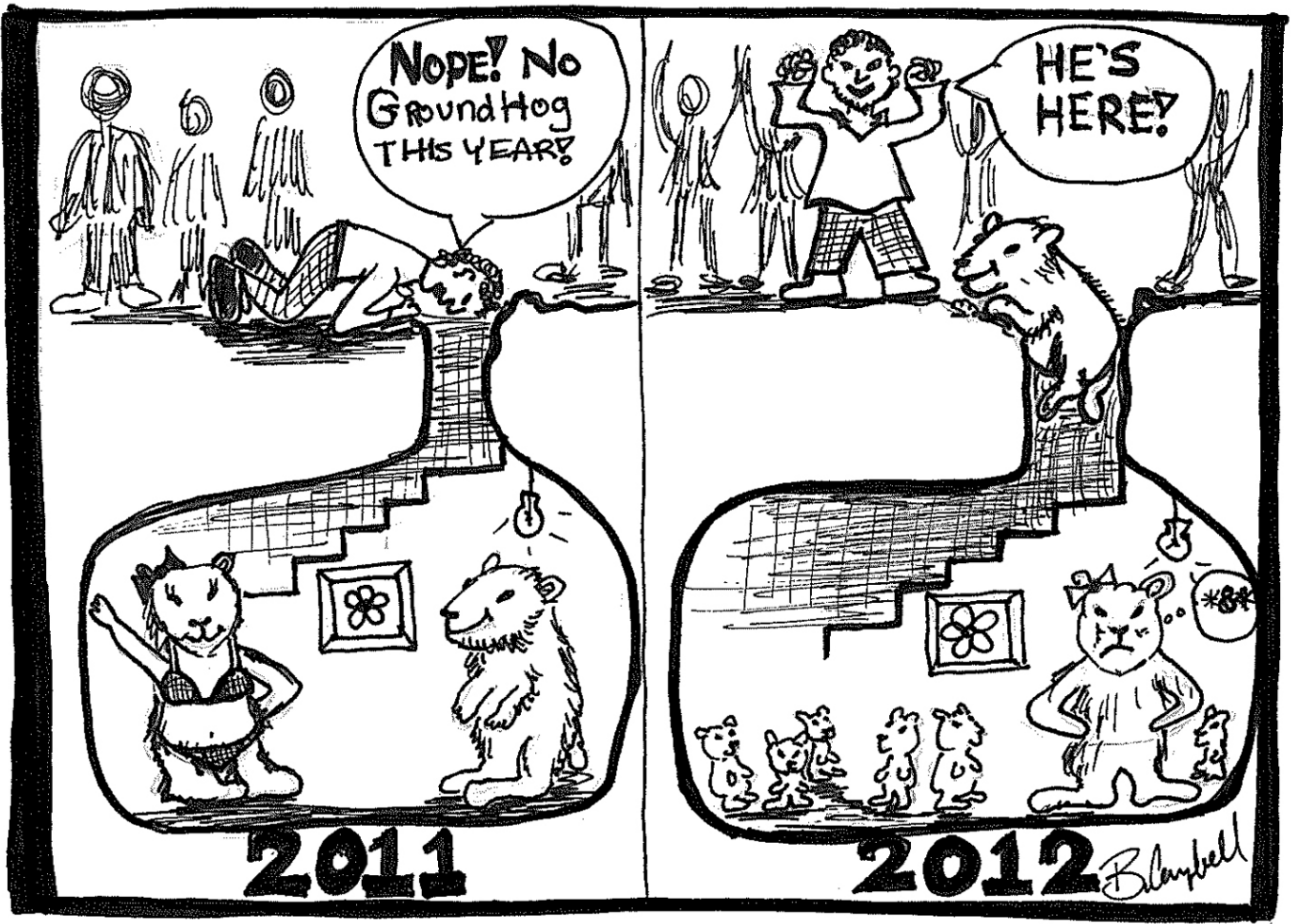
What is an NHL All-Star?
In the world of sports, an all-star is someone who exemplifies the attitude and the skill level to perform at the top of his or her sport.
What is an all-star game?
According to the NHL, it’s getting a bunch of guys who are paid enormous amounts of money to play a non-competitive game of shinny hockey.
Year after year, the all-star games become less interesting for fans. It might be because we’re getting older, but it’s probably because the non-competitive game itself is getting old.
The NHL does deserve some credit. They’ve been trying to improve the game for years. Most changes have been unsuccessful minor tweaks, but it’s the major changes that have hit the nail on the head.
For instance, back in 1990, they introduced the SuperSkills competition. Today, the competition proves to be far more fascinating than the game it precedes.
More recently, the NHL has changed the format on how the two teams are formed. Teams are no longer formed by the conference they represent, but rather chosen by a fantasy draft involving two captains, much like a game of shinny hockey on the pond.
The only downfall to the draft is that for a lot of fans, waiting to see who was picked last has probably become the most nail-biting part of the entire weekend, making the rest of the week less interesting.
It’s no secret something needs to change. It’s no wonder the Winter Classic, a regular-season game played outdoors, has surpassed the all-star game in popularity and it’s only been around for five years.
In fact, according to an ESPN article, ticket sales for the recent all-star game are about 50 per cent cheaper than tickets to the Winter Classic, which was held on Jan. 2.
There have been a few suggestions surrounding the all-star game. Don Cherry gave his two cents during Coach’s Corner on CBC’s *Hockey Night in Canada*, suggesting the game be played outdoors and teams be chosen by the classic “stick toss.”
It’s true, combining the two events could prove interesting, but it won’t change the tempo of the game, and it won’t be long before the novelty runs out.
The bottom line is that the NHL needs to make the game more competitive. Sure, it’s nice to watch a player deke his way through a defenceman who’s not really trying and score a highlight-reel goal on a goalie who’s not really trying. But fans want to see competition.
The NHL should take a page from Major League Baseball. The MLB All-Star Game pits the American League against the National League with the winner getting home field advantage for the World Series.
The format gives players something to play for and makes the game competitive, which is exactly what fans want to see.
If these players are considered all-stars, then the league should let them play the game like all-stars. There’s enough shinny hockey being played at any local arena.

Andre Lodder

Fresh view needed to tackle homelessness

Homelessness is an age-old problem in Canada. It may be one that requires a fresh solution. The issue hasn’t improved and can’t be expected to until the government takes more action.
This homelessness issue has always been in the media in bigger cities like Toronto and Montreal. What are often put on the back-burner are smaller communities.
Last Friday downtown Belleville held an event to raise awareness and funding for the homeless called ‘Sleep Out..So Others Can Sleep In’. The efforts made on the part of the organizers, volunteers and participants are something to be commended. They are the people in the community who are taking the time and care to address and improve the lives affected by this issue.
But as a community we have to ask if this is enough? Are the right issues being addressed in the first place?
The government has to take a more active and assertive role if things are going to change. The government of Canada currently has a program called The Homelessness Partnering Strategy, which is focused on 61 communities struggling with homelessness. An enormous amount of money— currently \$134.8 million currently per year— has been committed to the program. Is the money going where it needs to go?
To truly stop homelessness, the government should be looking at what the factors are in someone’s life that led them to their situation. Stopping homelessness before it happens should be priority. We can’t attribute why someone becomes homeless to one factor alone. The more we look at our country, the more we see that the number of people living from paycheck to paycheck is increasing. The average Canadian is finding that it is harder than ever to save money. The current global economy as well as the losses in the job market has not helped at all.
Small towns are losing private, independent businesses while even larger cities like Windsor, Ont. are finding their populations dropping each year as jobs disappear.
And it’s not just middle-aged adults who are the main age group of the homeless like it was 50 years ago. The average age today of people living on the street is low to middle thirties.
While homelessness is a very real physical state, it is also a mental state. It’s not only a matter of having financial support from the government, but learning the skills to keep ahead before being found without shelter. It’s time for the Canadian government to step up to the plate and make a real difference.

Sarah Schofield



Opinion

Women athletes rarely get top billing

Equal funding and better treatment needed for promotion

By Amielle Christopherson

If you stand in front of a magazine rack in any grocery store, bookstore, airport kiosk or newspaper stand and count the number of sports magazines, you’ll come up with a number running into the hundreds. That’s not counting the magazines that aren’t being carried.
However, if you were to look over the covers of any of those magazines and count the number of female athletes taking centre stage, you’d come up with, well, most likely zero.
Not that that’s out of the ordinary. From the beginning of the Ancient Olympics in Greece, women were banned from even viewing the events. It wasn’t until 1900 that women were allowed to take part, and in considerably less sports as the men did.
Even with the Olympics, the glory of sports, and allowing women to compete, it wasn’t until the 1990s that women’s professional sports teams achieved any sort of popularity.
It’s been 20 years since then, and still women aren’t on even footing in the sports world. The Canadian Women’s Hockey League was

founded in the 1990s with the current incarnation beginning in 2007. Up until the 2010-11 season, each of the players had to pay \$1,000 to play. Everyone involved in the league, from the players to the staff, works pro bono, their love of the sport their payment, while working other jobs to make up for what they don’t make.
Taking the issue out of the professional leagues, the U-18 women’s teams also have a long way to go. Every year, there’s the World Junior Hockey Championships, held for both U-18 men and women.
The attention, however, is put almost entirely on the men’s tournament. Fans everywhere expressed rage, sadness or shame when Canada lost to Russia to play the United States for the bronze medal on Jan. 3. Social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr were filled with posts, tweets and tags expressing thoughts on the men losing.
Yet, four days later, barely anything was said about the fact that the Canadian women’s U-18 team won gold at their tournament in the Czech Republic 3-0 against the U.S.
This year sees the induction of a new sport in the Olympics for women: boxing. However, the Amateur International Boxing Association doesn’t seem quite as ready for women to step into the 21st century. They’ve put forward what they call ‘a suggestion’ for women to wear skirts instead of the traditional shorts.
Their reasoning is that it would help make

the boxers look more ‘elegant’ and help to ‘distinguish’ female boxers from their male counterparts. Not only can females look elegant in articles of clothing that aren’t short skirts, but the simple fact that men are, for the most part, shirtless, during their fights should help with distinguishing. If that’s not enough, there’s quite a difference between a male and a female’s physique, even if that woman is a boxer.
Not only would it undermine all the hard work these women have put into their sport, it could also have some negative influences. Fighting in a uniform that they’re not comfortable in could directly affect their performance, as well as their safety.
The examples don’t stop there. There’s women’s soccer and the struggle with the Women’s Professional Soccer Association because they don’t have enough support for more than six teams and lack of funding. Women’s basketball has a lack of viewers and supporters, despite being in operation for more than a decade with 12 teams and three TV stations that broadcast it.
Maybe fans don’t realize there are teams and associations dedicated to female athletics. Maybe if they did, there would be more of a demand for equal funding and equal treatment. But fans will never realize there are teams out there if there’s not the funding to keep up the teams and promote them.

A border fence would be a blight on landscape

By Meagan Pecjak

The United States is currently on the fence when it comes to the debate about building a barrier along the Canadian and American border. They should instead be tearing down the idea even before they start.
It’s as though they do not realize that cutting down thousands of trees to build a fence across thousands of kilometres will have an immense impact on the environment.
Currently, 50 kilometres of the border are monitored and secured by U.S. border officials. The fence is supposed to help secure the areas they cannot monitor, which consists of another roughly 6,400 kilometres.

An article from CBC News states the project has been put on hold, but officials are still not hiring more patrol officers. Officials are instead considering adding new technologies such as radar, drones and sensors.
According to CNN, the fence would blend in and “complement the natural landscape.” It seems as though they believe that a 6,400-kilometre fence will fit right in among the thousands of trees and long stretches of prairies.
CNN also stated there would be trenches dug in order to slow down those trying to “smuggle” their goods into the United States.
You would think if someone is determined enough to attempt to sneak something over the border past hundreds of patrol officers, then the same determination will be applied

to finding another way to get their smuggled goods across the border.
Several people were interviewed during a CTV report, and most of them agreed that the fence is not the best idea. In the meantime, officials should be thinking about adding more officers along the gates that we do have.
Those interviewed said that in their opinion, the fence is to keep Canadians out of the States. If we are supposed to be neighbours, and get along, why try to segregate?
If officials are going to use a fence to separate us and keep Canadians out of their country, then they had better build it with the trees they are tearing down.

The Pioneer

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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.