

## On the street

We asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

### What’s the craziest thing you’ve done while driving?



**Ryan Herley, community and justice services worker,** “Drove naked.”



**Shawn Reid, electrical engineering technician,** “Spitting out the window.”



**Ryan Hobart, electrical engineering technician,** “At 2 a.m., turned right onto the oncoming traffic.”



**Melissa Runions, aesthetics,** “Texting.”



**Jessalyn Foley, child and youth worker,** “Gone around buildings at 120-kilometres an hour, skidding around the corners.”



**Shelby Hudgins, pre-health sciences,** “Texting, I got a ticket once and got out of two!”

## Editorial

# Too much media: Is it really?

The trial of Michael Rafferty, accused of the death of eight-year-old Tori Stafford of Woodstock, will no doubt fall into a long list of famous trials. We learned more than was necessary during the trial of convicted rapist and murderer Russell Williams.

The Moussaoui 9/11 trial in 2006 followed quite possibly the most in-depth and graphic coverage of terrorism in north American media history.

The Bill Clinton impeachment trial, in 1998, struck a deep blow to the heart of the American people’s trust and support for its government. Of course, the O.J. Simpson trial in 1995, was the first tabloid level broadcast reporting ever.

While we are at it, let’s not forget our history and include the Salem witchcraft trials of 1692.

Is social networking about to cause irreparable damage to an unsuspecting public with shocking reports from the Rafferty trial?

The reason for the Rafferty trial is horrific — a child only eight years old was abducted, sexually assaulted and murdered brutally. It is heart-wrenching, terrifying and sickening.

Processing the information from this trial and trying to understand how individuals from our own human race can be so twisted and incomprehensible is bad enough. Now we have to read these atrocities in single lines of tweets as well as reporting on the tweets by other means of media.

What made the Salem witchcraft trials an outrageous travesty of injustice? Historians attribute it to an unfortunate combination of an ongoing frontier war, economic conditions, congregational strife, teenage boredom and personal jealousies. Does this sound familiar to anyone in present day?

In their time court communication methods such as trial transcripts and courtroom sketch artists introduced heinous details of crime for public consumption.

From the days of public hangings when calm people turned into crazy mobs, to open courtrooms being filled to the rafters of outraged citizens to present day “viral videos” such as Kony2012. There is an insatiable need-to-know mentality escalating out of control.

Technology makes our world faster and more expedient, reaching the public in ways that boggle the mind.

No matter the method of technology used journalists have a duty to maintain high standards of responsible reporting.

Generation Z coined digital natives has been bombarded with new methods of communication.

Readers and viewers are scrambling to understand the impact and figure out just when is enough, enough.

Twitter is not the question; it is who should be held accountable to protect ourselves against our own unquenchable need for information.

We are facing system society overload and it is about time we step back, turn it off and reboot before we all crash permanently.

Sharon Kallaste

# Robocall scandal a sour taste in Canadian politics

The recent robocall scandal suggests the political climate in Canada is souring. Reversing the Conservative government’s tendency to weaken the bureaucracy may make it palatable to Canadians again by making elections more clean and fair.

During the last election, it is alleged that thousands of calls were made by an automated dialing system and warm-blooded call centre workers to as many as 77 ridings across Canada. The caller advised the voter that their voting station had changed, when it had not.

Elections Canada staff said in their report on the last election that they had 1,003 complaints that required individual response. Among those were several allegations of calls “designed to discourage voting, discourage voting for a particular party, or incorrectly advise electors of changed polling stations.”

It is not clear who is going to shoulder the blame in the end. Regardless, it is an issue both for the Canadian government and public.

Former Reform Party Leader Preston Manning commented rightly on this scandal, noting that it is a problem for all the political parties. If there is a heavy distrust of government, it makes it harder for the government to do any governing. He prescribes changing the culture of campaigns by doing ethics education for campaign workers.

That likely would not help “Pierre Poutine,” or the possible others hiding along with him. Poutine is the mystery alias that made automated robocalls. He has evaded investigators so far by using a prepaid cell phone and a Paypal account filled by a Visa gift card paid for by cash. Poutine knew the illegality of his actions and that being associated with a specific party would be detrimental to its public support.

The quicker Elections Canada, the RCMP or a public inquiry can get to the bottom of this scandal, the better for everyone involved.

The NDP is providing a more concrete solution to the issue with a private member’s bill from Nycole Turmel. It will empower the chief elections officer to request all party financial documents related to the elections act, force telemarketing companies that provide voter contact services to register with Elections Canada, and require telemarketing clients to be registered and verified; this bill proposes to make these requirements retroactive to cover the last election.

The motion was initially opposed by the Conservative government but in an about-face, they have given it some initial support.

Giving Elections Canada the power to investigate this and future matters fully appears to be the best possible way to bring Poutine to justice and to strengthen Canada’s democratic institutions.

Cole Breiland



## Opinion

# Tuition hikes, protest and apathy: a tale of two provinces

*Quebec students battle over rising tuition hikes while Ontario students seem accepting of increases*

By Liam Kavanagh-Bradette

It seems like every article I read about these upcoming tuition hikes just slag Quebec students for daring to take issue and fight for affordable fees. Yes, students in Quebec pay less than us living in Upper Canada but they’re also the ones who are fighting for it.

Students are protesting in Quebec because of an upcoming tuition increase of \$1,625 over the next five years. In the fall, students in On-

tario can expect a five-per-cent tuition hike of their own.

Did you know that from 1990 to 2001, average undergraduate tuition fees in Canada skyrocketed by 135 per cent?

The Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance holds semi-regular rallies against tuition rate increases and the few that I have been to were sparsely attended.

It’s as if students in Ontario have given up and are docilely accepting that tuitions will continue to rise at such incredible rates.

The Drummond Report suggested raising tuition to help shrink class sizes by reducing the number of students who can afford to attend. The report argued that this would not only help balance the provincial budget but would also increase the quality

of education.

By reducing the student-to-teacher ratio in each class, the quality of teaching and therefore the quality of education that each student receives would be markedly increased.

Two glaring problems struck me when I read the report. If you look at class sizes across the country for post-secondary institutions, you’ll find that the province with the lowest number of students attending some sort of post-secondary institution per capita is Quebec.

It’s interesting that the province with the lowest tuition fees also has the fewest students attending post-secondary institutions.

Do we want to live in a province that thinks only the wealthy few should be entitled to post secondary-education?

# Love a feeling of acceptance and understanding

*Oversexualization within mainstream media has impact on society*

By Brynn Campbell

With mainstream media becoming over-sexualized, people are becoming more oblivious to what love actually means.

Sex appeal in the media has become the most common method that most companies use to advertise their products. Using sex appeal through advertising can often lead to the misconception that sex is what will bring you love, especially to younger generations who have not been completely informed about sexuality.

Media influences people’s behaviour. The bombardment of sexual images to a young, vulnerable generation affects their sexual attitudes and behaviours, and they may act on the confusing feelings these images may cause without any education. With boys and girls being exposed to sex through the media at such a young age, this

could be linked to the rising rates of teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. The lack of education about healthy, loving relationships has had a lot of negative impact on younger generations. The power of the media has influenced so many people to think that sex is what makes two people connect.

The many different forms of love have not been fully represented in the media either. A romantic encounter or a loving relationship is not always between man and woman as the media portrays it to be. The lack of representation of all the different forms of love has left a void for some who don’t necessarily fit into this common norm.

For instance, the bias may even keep some homosexual or bisexual people “in the closet” about how they feel, because it is seen to be against cultural norms to have certain feelings for someone of the same sex. Love is not always a relationship between a man and a woman; love can be expressed to all forms of being.

We should replace the sex appeal in the media with positive, healthy, realistic images and messages about love. Love does not necessarily mean there is romance or sex involved... love is a feeling.

Love isn’t just about having a romantic encounter, it could also be a feeling you have for a family member or friend. It is an unconditional bond between two people that is mainly built on trust. Love is the energy between two people on many different scales.

Where does this feeling originate? Love is not something of our control, it is a connection to another being and it is built on compassion and empathy. Love is an appreciation for the goodness in another being.

It is a feeling of acceptance and understanding. Love is a realization that each of us is the same at the core. Therefore, there is love among all of us. Love is what heals pain, supports, and creates the strongest bonds among people. In other words, love is good!

So perhaps if people were exposed to healthy ideas like these, they would have more of an understanding what a healthy relationship should look like. If there were less exposure to sex in the media, perhaps there would be fewer broken relationships and more opportunity to express without feeling judged. If love and affection were reflected in the media through all forms of relationships and not represented by sex, this would have a positive impact on how we treat each other.

# The Pioneer

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