

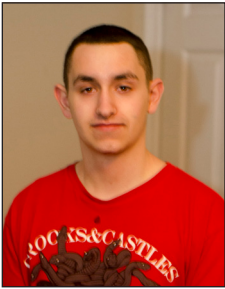
On the street

We asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

How do you celebrate Valentine's Day?



Rhonda Shortt, 57, sales associate, Loyalist Bookstore, "We've been together for 30-something years so me and my husband just get each other cards and take-out. Valentine's Day is too expensive."



Cameron Ansell, 20, first-year television-new media, "I don't celebrate Valentine's Day because it's a capitalist consumer holiday, that and I don't have any money."



Jack Carver, 19, second-year journalism online-print-broadcast, "Usually I go on an elaborate date, but this is the first year that I have no plans."



Amanda Hein, 18, first-year journalism online-print-broadcast, "I usually hang out with friends and have an anti-Valentine's Day party!"



Amanda Davenport, 29, cashier, "I will be working on Valentine's Day and then coming home late to spend time with my kids."



Brad Scaletta, 32, community and justice service worker, "For Valentine's Day I just hang out with my family and spend the evening with my girlfriend making dinner."

Editorial

When did voluntary become mandatory?

Across Ontario, public schools have seen their regular daily routines shaken up by the fallout of the teachers' strike against Bill 115. This bill basically imposed a two-year contract on public school teachers which removed their right to negotiate, froze wages, reduced benefits and limited their right to strike. The legislation was repealed Jan. 23 but only after it was used. Since the Ontario Labour Relations Board ruled that protesting during school hours was illegal, because it's against the contact, the Ontario teachers and their union determined that boycotting any and all activities outside the classroom is their next step. So what has been affected? Anything outside classroom hours: supervising school clubs, coaching athletic teams, trips, after-school programs, prom and a host of other non-classroom activities. The time spent supervising and running these programs are primarily voluntary. According to the a study completed for the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, on average, teachers spend an extra 2.7 hours per week on extra-curricular activities. The issue of who supervises extracurricular activities is very complicated and emotionally driven. There are many sides and more than just students are affected. At the moment, everyone is on the losing end. Teachers who volunteer: they don't get to spend their free time doing something they enjoy doing and working with their students. Parents and students: they don't get their fun, character-building, supervised clubs, teams, trips, prom, fundraising, after-school programs, etc. School boards: they don't get an effortlessly running system for further education. The government: they don't get happy teachers, students, parents and boards. While the teachers, unions, boards, and the governments try and figure out their next step, here are a few suggestions of how to change things for the future:

- Add 'extracurricular time' as an option to the teachers' contracts and pay them for the time.
- Hire coaches, retired teachers or trained community members to cover these activities.
- Generate a pool of parents, booster clubs and community volunteers, as well as teachers to run these programs.

It just seems like everyone involved is being volun-told what their place is in the big picture and it's their responsibility to step up and get the job done. No matter what you call it: extra curricular, volunteer or after-school program, it's an invaluable part of a young person's education. So let's figure this out. Because then, everyone wins.

Julia McKay

U.S. military finally accepts women in combat role

Historically the role of defending one's country and fighting in wars has been the realm of men. The exemptions have been few and far between of women in combat throughout history. The Russian military during the Second World War is a particularly interesting example of the women utilized in warfare and not just in an auxiliary or administrative role. Women served as machine gunners, tank crew members and pilots. A famous example of the latter would be the 588th Night Bomber Regiment. Threat regiment consisted of 40 female bomber pilots and crew. By the end of the war, the regiment would have flown 23, 000 sorties and dropped 3,000 tons of explosives. Twenty-three members of the unit were award the title "Heroes of the Soviet Union" and the decorated bomber unit would sustain 32 casualties by war's end. Flash forward 68 years. On Jan. 24, 2013, the U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta lifts the long-running ban that disallowed women from the combat trades of the U.S. military. The ban barred women from units or trades in the military whose primary mission was direct combat such as the infantry, armoured and combat engineers. Along with this limitation being horribly discriminatory, it is no longer relevant to the type of warfare experienced in the last 13 years in Iraq and Afghanistan, where the front line was never a set line. The traditional combat trades would at one time have been the ones most likely to actually engage the enemy. This is no longer the case, and this is evident with the changing face of the modern veteran. For example, consider Tammy Duckworth, the freshman Democratic congresswomen from Illinois, who became the first female double amputee of the Iraq war. Duckworth lost her right left below the hip and her left leg below the knee on Nov. 12, 2004 in Iraq. Duckworth sustained these injuries while co-piloting a Black Hawk helicopter that was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade. To add insult to injury, given the fact that women are just as vulnerable as men are to enemy fire, they will never be cited as serving in combat units, which is a huge detriment to those pursuing a long term career in the military. Combat deployments look good on a resume. On the flip side, the Canadian military has allowed women in combat roles arms since 1991. Canada lost its first woman in a combat role in Afghanistan. RMC graduate Captain Nichola Goddard died after suffering fatal wounds from an insurgent rocket-propelled grenade. Women have made sacrifices just as equally as men have over the past 20 years. So the news from the United States is good news, albeit old news. In this case, old news is good news.

Jeff Peters



Opinion

Scrutiny about Kathleen Wynne should be based on skills alone

By Benjamin Priebe

A new straight-talking Liberal MPP is on the rise and making a stir in Ontario. Kathleen Wynne is a Liberal Party MPP currently representing the riding of Don Valley West. She was appointed premier by Lieutenant-Governor David Onley on Feb. 11, upon the formal resignation of Dalton McGuinty, after which she will be the first female premier of Ontario. One more thing: Wynne is openly gay and lives with her partner Jane Rounthwaite; she will also become the first openly gay premier of Ontario. Now personally, this fact has little importance to me. I disregard the fact that she is female as much as I disregard her sexual orientation; her role in Ontario politics is directly correlated only to her position and work in politics. I am frustrated by the fact that wherever you hear Wynne's name, someone must

point out that she is a non-heterosexual female politician. For example, The Star's Martin Regg Cohn posted an article on Feb. 7 which opens with the line "First woman premier and, yes, first lesbian premier." Does whom she chooses to date and her gender really have any bearing on her political career? It's 2013, and if we were really as progressive and open-minded as we pretend to be as Canadians, then it would not even be a topic of discussion. If you will agree that it is wrong to discriminate against someone because of race, gender or orientation; is it not also wrong to advocate them for the very same reasons? The media seems to emphasize the facts of Wynne's home life in an attempt to create either shock or awe while they should be focusing on the extensive and important offices she has held. Wynne has three children and

two granddaughters and has lived in North Toronto for more than 25 years with the same person; that is stable in this day and age. Is it not the media's mandate to be fair, unbiased and to focus on the issue at hand? I thought that sleight-of-hand techniques and diversion were tools akin to mud-slinging utilized by party members. Wynne's sexuality does not deserve any mention in the media as it is not a factor in politics. Let's focus instead on her position as Minister of Education in 2006 where she supported full-day daycare and smaller class sizes, her swearing in as Minister of Transportation in 2010 and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Aboriginal Affairs in 2011. Whether Wynne turns out to be the best or worst MPP, whether she succeeds or fail, we should limit our judgment to her professional performance and not her private life.

Putting the brakes on poor parking lots

By Lyndsay-Lee Quinn

I paid exactly \$282.50 to park here at Loyalist College for my two-year education as a photojournalism student. Like most other media students, I park in the P10 parking lot. This parking lot is unpaved and poorly maintained. If you talk to students who park in that lot, you will get a wide range of responses including swearing and cursing. During the warmer months, dirt is kicked up making all the cars dirty. Students hardly have time to eat and sleep, let alone take the time to wash their cars every week. This parking lot is also unmarked, causing confusion among drivers – some people have

been seen parking sideways, or parking in the makeshift laneways. Not to mention the potholes that show up daily, which could cost us money in car repairs if they get deep enough. During the colder months, when there is snow and ice, it seems to always be the last parking lot to be plowed or sanded. When there are a few inches of ice in the parking lot, like there was this school year, sanding does absolutely nothing. Personally, I have fallen in the P10 parking lot, as well as skidded, almost crashing while I was trying to park my car. In my program, students can easily have \$5,000 or more worth of camera gear on them. Falling with that kind of gear could result in broken cameras and lenses. Paying for repairs

or replacing items is quite costly and could result in students not having the tools they need to complete assignments. I am certainly not impressed with the lack of care the school takes in the parking lot. So I ask, where does my money for parking go? I think it should go directly in to the maintenance of the parking lots. I should not have to park in another parking lot, further away from my classes just because it's better maintained. In February 2011, Hadas Parush wrote about the P10 parking lot. That article stated that dependant on funds, the lot could be paved by the summer of 2011. It's now two years since that article has been written, and what has been done?

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.