

On the street

Franki Ikeman asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

What is your opinion on Russian President Vladimir Putin being nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize?



**Benito Cortese, first-year TVNM,** “I can’t say it’s a bad thing, maybe it’s just a flattery thing. Maybe if they give him something good, he’ll stop beating up on Ukraine.”



**Paul Latchford, co-ordinator of aboriginal services,** “I’m not sure what they base that on, but I think their statement is controversial.”



**Quinton Fyshe, first-year social service worker,** “I severely disagree with that. I think it’s absolutely ridiculous that somebody that has such backwards views should be nominated for the Nobel Peace prize.”



**Samantha Porter, first-year social service worker,** “It’s a little ridiculous, like I’m lost for words. It’s a little backwards.”



**Hillary Jackson, second-year environmental technology,** “I don’t think he fits for that award.”



**Brian Lane, skilled trades and technology leader,** “You have to take it out of the context of what’s happening right this second.”

Editorial

Finders keepers, losers weepers

Splitting a car in half sounds difficult, but what happens if someone wins a Toyota Corolla during the Tim Hortons roll-up-the-rim contest from a coffee they did not buy? Possession is nine-tenths of the law, and ‘finders keepers’ both apply in this situation. If you have the cup in your hand and it’s a winner, then you are too.

Anxious to win a car, gift card or simply a coffee, millions across the country have been rolling up the rim with hope. Buying a coffee for a friend seems like a kind gesture, but at this time of the year it may come with a few strings attached.

Splitting the prize is an option after winning, as well as giving the cup back to the person who originally purchased it. However, according to the rules of the contest, whoever has it, gets it.

Lottery tickets are often shared between friends or co-workers, and can cause quite the dilemma when a group of people wins together. The name that is signed on the ticket wins. Arguments may ensue between friends and family, but the money will be awarded to the name on the winning ticket.

With the roll up the rim contest no one signs his or her name on a ticket, meaning anyone can claim the prize as long as they are in possession of the cup. If you bought it yourself, received it from a friend, or found it in a dumpster, as long as you have the cup you are eligible to redeem it.

While there are many rules in place with the contest (32 rules are listed on the Tim Hortons website), nothing is set in stone about who wins the prize, the person who bought the beverage or the person who rolled up the rim.

It may not seem like a big deal if the prize is a coffee or donut, a prize worth less than two dollars. When the prizes get larger such as a \$5,000 Visa card or a Toyota Corolla, fights can often occur about possession vs. purchase.

A “no purchase necessary” clause is stated directly on the side of the cups, and in the contest rules, making it fairly clear where Tim Hortons stands on the debate.

Many people complain that they don’t win very often, or that they drink a lot of coffee and have yet to win. With \$57 million worth of prizes available, everyone has a chance to win. The more beverages that you drink from Tim Hortons, the more chances you have to play. Splitting a prize is absolutely possible, but according to the rules is not necessary.

Victoria Thoms

Prong collars not for everyone

Many people believe the prong collar is cruel and unnecessary. It looks dangerous and painful. The collar is designed to be used in a specific way and when used inappropriately it will cause harm.

Prong collars are designed and manufactured with limited traction on the chain which is combined with specifically angled prongs. This prevents the prongs from becoming close enough to actually pinch the dog.

The prong collar is not for every dog and their owner. It should be well maintained, ensuring that the prongs are not deformed or bent before each use. If the prongs have been damaged, the collar should be discarded.

In many neglect cases when the dog has survived but now suffers from behavioural issues, the prong collar is an effective and appropriate training tool when used with care. The collar is designed to re-enact the mother dog’s assertive bite. Meaning, it mimicks the bite the mother uses to communicate their role of dominance. It is a method that is completely natural and humane.

Choke and pinch collars have more potential of harming a dog than the prong collar. Seemingly healthy dogs will develop a ring of lost hair around their necks after any type of collar is left on for a significant length of time.

A collar should only be worn when the dog is outdoors or during training. Even permanent outdoor dogs should have their collar taken off 50 per cent of the time to prevent hair-loss resulting in skin irritation.

Training collars like the prong collar should only ever be worn during training, which should never be excessive.

Ultimately, it never comes down to the animal or the training device. It is those at the other end of the leash who are to blame for cruelty to animals. Any collar can cause harm. Responsible pet owners prevent harm to their pets by using collars in a safe, responsible manner.

Lacy Gillott



Opinion

Bullying a bigger issue than just pink shirts

Bullying awareness should be part of course curriculum

By Dawn Barger

I am against bullying just as much as the next person, but when it comes to putting a stop to it, I think everyone has a different idea.

As a mother of a child who is bullied, I see the pain a child has to go through on a daily basis. I bought him a pink shirt for the pink shirt event to show my support.

I bought the shirt. I did not ask my child if he wanted the shirt. I just did what I thought was best.

I know when people purchase the shirt they have the right intentions, but are we helping these children by wearing and mak-

ing them wear the shirt? I don’t think we are. I think that what our children need is proper education from both the schools and at home.

Unfortunately, we have to deal with bullies throughout our lives from childhood up to adulthood. This is something that is a fact of life.

You get picked on in public school whether it’s because you are overweight, underweight, develop later or develop earlier than your classmates. Even if you drink or you don’t drink. The list goes on and on. There is no escaping bullies, in fact, most adults can say that at some point in their life, they have been a bully to some degree.

Then, when you get to high school, it’s because you are not a cheerleader or a football player. Or because you look “different.”

When you get older and get a job, you are still getting bullied from either co-workers, supervisors or your boss.

Bullying is something that has existed

throughout time. I think through social media and technology, bullies have been able to get to their victims in different means and ideas through websites and videos.

According to the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada Centre for Faith and Public Life in 2002, 20 per cent of students were victimized, increasing in 2010 to 22 per cent.

So the numbers have gone up. Even with more education and awareness, the numbers are still rising. Wearing the pink shirt doesn’t make an impact at all. All it shows is that yes, some people are aware of bullying and that some parents buy them for their child to wear on pink shirt day.

Has it ever been considered to bring bullying awareness to our children’s education curriculum? I believe it would make a better approach in tackling the issue because some children don’t learn the right skills and have the proper tools to learn how to both stand up to a bully and to recognize when they are being one.

Mother Nature delivering a miserable winter

Continuing cold weather making even tough Canadians cranky

By Matthew Desouza

It just doesn’t want to end!

It seems Mother Nature doesn’t want to loosen her frosty grip on the nation in what is turning out to be one miserable winter. And, if you’re thinking that this is the coldest winter you can remember, you’re probably right.

Winnipeg residents are experiencing the coldest winter in 35 years, Toronto and St. John’s are dealing with their coldest in 20 years, while Saskatoon hasn’t had these record cold temperatures in 18 years. Even Vancouver, known for its milder weather,

is having the coldest and snowiest February in 25 years.

While we Canadians are known for our ice hockey and igloo-like conditions, this dragged-out winter is putting even the toughest of us to the test. Yes, we should be used to annual winter punishment by now, but at some point, enough is enough! I’m sure I speak on behalf of all Canucks when I say we’ve had it up to here with the endless shoveling and frozen car batteries.

With this winter being the longest and coldest in recent memory, it’s no surprise that it’s also being called the most miserable.

Our neighbours down south have also been affected. The U.S. National Weather Service has compiled daily temperature and precipitation data, a “misery index,” to show just how miserable this winter is turning out to be.

United States National Weather Service meteorologists have also put together the Accumulated Winter Season Severity Index, which ranks each winter based on daily temperature, snowfall and snow depth, and have shown this winter to be among the worst in recent history.

With spring just around the corner, those looking for relief from this crippling winter might have to wait. Environment Canada is predicting a colder than usual March, and is also pointing out that 25 per cent of snowfall usually happens after March 1.

But light is at the end of the tunnel, with the sun hanging higher in the sky in March, making for longer, warmer days. It might be fair to say the worst is behind us, and we are just going to have to ride out the rest of one of the coldest, most miserable winters in recent history.

The Pioneer

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