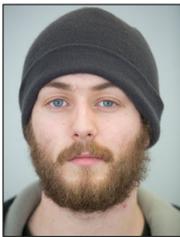


## On the street

Andrew Meade asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

### What do you think about selling beer in convenience stores instead of the LCBO/ Beer Store?



**Nathan Clairoux**, "As long as there is still regulations, I think it is a good idea. 24/7 sales of beer is not a good idea. I think it should happen as long as the rules are enforced."



**PJ Louis**, "It would be much more convenient. I think it is harder for people to have to go to the LCBO or Beer Store instead of a gas station or grocery store to buy beer."



**Brandon Evans**, "It would make it easier and cheaper not having to go to the LCBO or Beer Store. You'd think it would be better for consumers if stores were given an opportunity to set their own prices privately."



**Linden Roy**, "Yes. It would be way more convenient and better for business because there would be competition, no longer just the monopoly on beer sales."



**Laim Dempster**, "I don't think there is anything wrong with it, but it leaves more room for abuse. The responsibility is on the buyers if it were to be more easily purchased (outside of LCBO and Beer Stores."



**Mitchell Moore**, "It should be regulated but convenience stores should be able to sell it. If it were sold privately but unregulated, it could result in retailers selling beer inappropriately and abusing the ability to sell beer."

## Editorial

### Respect should be part of the debate on freedom of expression

Freedom of expression should not trample respect.

In recent days, the world has been debating freedom of expression and the actions of the offended. Many words have been written about intolerance, rights and sending a strong message.

Fewer words have been written about respect.

In reality, in Canada, we don't have absolute freedom to say what we want. We have hate speech laws to protect the rights of the marginalized. We don't allow people to deny the Holocaust. Saying nasty things about people based on their gender, sexual orientation or skin colour can get you into trouble socially and legally.

When it comes to religion, the gloves come off. Bullying people for their faith should neither be allowed nor praised.

The right to say or draw whatever you want must be tempered with respect.

In October 2005, Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* printed cartoons depicting Mohammed. When they were reprinted in January 2006, I was living in N'Djamena, Chad. The Muslim population in N'Djamena, as in many other places around the world, took offense to the cartoons. The resulting riots were violent.

I remember too well watching my friends deal with the psychological and emotional aftermath of being caught in those riots. It took months to feel safe again.

A week after the Charlie Hebdo shootings, rampaging mobs went on the attack in Niger. They were angered by the lack of respect shown by Charlie Hebdo to something they held sacred. Many people lost all of their possessions, including their homes, which were taken down brick by brick. Ten more people lost their lives as a result of those cartoons.

Respect is all the rage nowadays. September 18 is Respect Day. Loyalist College even has a committee to promote respect.

Flemming Rose, the cultural editor at *Jyllands-Posten* who published the 2005 cartoons, said that in a "contemporary democracy and freedom of speech ... one must be ready to put up with insults, mockery and ridicule."

But not respect.

Not respect for the billions who take their religion seriously and have a different worldview.

Not respect for the thousands who lose everything in the violence that results from the printing of cartoons that are considered offensive, including their lives.

No respect for them. Only smugness that our right to express ourselves however we please hasn't been trampled. Only vows that we will never give in to the intolerant or censor ourselves to please them.

We claim moral superiority over those who show their offence through violence. And we are willing to let people die to prove our point. It's not right.

Elaine Bombay

### Beer Store monopoly no longer welcome

Zombie-like patrons slowly shuffle in the usually-single cue, staring at a wall of beer for sale at The Beer Store. The line is mixed with people returning their empties and others just wanting to get a case of their favourite brew.

We've all been there—standing in line waiting to tell an exhausted college kid at the cash what our poison that weekend will be.

Many people have raised the question, "Why do we need to have the Brewers Retail Inc. around?" The answer to that is we don't.

This near monopoly is owned by some of the largest foreign brewers – Anheuser-Busch InBev SA, Molson Coors Brewing Co., and Sapporo Breweries Ltd. Roughly 80 per cent of Ontario's \$3-billion in beer sales annually come from the retail giant, and a majority of purchases are beer made by the big three.

Let's take a look at what some other provinces are doing with their sales of this hoppy goodness. British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, New Brunswick, Yukon, and Northwest Territories have a mixture of private and government-run facilities. Alberta is the only fully privatized province.

Ontario has two retailers selling all the alcohol – The LCBO and The Beer Store.

Why can't we follow our neighbours? Premier Kathleen Wynne believes that this monopoly works, and that it's "a success story the entire world should be emulating."

The Europeans would have a laughing fit if they heard a politician say that in their home country. That area of the world has beer and other alcohol readily available everywhere you turn – grocery stores, gas stations, and other retailers.

Now let's not get ahead of ourselves just yet. Ontario isn't ready for a fully privatized alcohol distribution system.

So what are our options? We can leave it as it is. Leave our beer sales in the complete control of the government and the three brewers. The second, and more obvious option is we share the love and follow in the footsteps of Quebec. Let's open up the sales of beer to convenience and grocery stores, while still selling a small collection of this potion at the LCBO.

Not only will this become more convenient, but the prices will go down. There will be no steep listing fees for breweries like we have at The Beer Store. Who doesn't love cheaper beer?

This isn't going to happen overnight, so let's not get the pitchforks out and storm Queen's Park demanding that The Beer Store be disbanded. Let's find a civil way to end the cattle-like herding of beer consumers so that we can pick up a 6-pack and a bag of ketchup chips at the same time and prepare to watch Hockey Night in Canada. Let's be Canadian about it.

Now I don't know about you, but I'm going to go wait out the people returning empties and pick myself up a nice case of those delicious suds.

Andrew Lahodinskyj



## Opinion

### Normcore eliminates pressure of what to wear

By Dillan Cools

Next time you see a group of people standing around acting normal, don't jump to any conclusions because they may not be as normal as they look. These days it is possible that one or more of those people is secretly really cool and belongs to a new extreme anti-style called normcore.

Normcore is a reaction to the recent 'hipster' explosion which is best described as people making an attempt to be individual with the elitist attitude that comes with it.

Realizing that this is too daunting of a task, the normcore have decided that it is cooler to become a member of the mundane masses. This hardcore conformity is all about joining the crowd, losing your individuality and drawing as little attention to yourself as possible.

Some say this new attitude will make life easier for the normcore but as we all know, just like life, dressing ordinary is so hard.

After all, the purpose of normcore is to eliminate the pressure of having to express yourself through what you wear, by expressing yourself through what you wear.

The normcore pretend to take the preten-

tiousness out of fashion but only succeed in scrutinizing the 'ordinary' people whose style they are ironically claiming.

The differing factor that separates a 'normally' dressed person and a normcore is that the normcore is making a conscious decision to dress so drab. It is in this critical decision-making process that the normcore covers all their bases and maintains their assumed superiority.

The fine line then falls between the normality being someone's actual look and the normcore getting confused thinking that they are making a statement.

Don't beat yourself up if you get fooled by a normcore. Until they open their mouths, it's nearly impossible to tell them apart.

Normcore seems to have acquired a stronger following among the more useless members of society. Some normcore take widely used practical items like hiking boots, raincoats and baseball caps to the next level by removing their function entirely.

Of course, irony is a classic goal among normcore. I just don't see anything ironic about a raincoat. I actually find raincoats to be quite useful and for the sake of argument, am

willing to admit that I usually wear one in the rain.

Other popular normcore items include cheap mass-produced products from stores like Old Navy and The Gap who exploit suffering labour markets in Third World countries.

The one good thing about normcore is that they idolize Jerry Seinfeld, but unfortunately for the wrong reasons. His dad jeans and plain sneakers make him a fashion superhero along with Larry David, Steve Jobs, Barack Obama and Prince William, who all sport bad pants.

The non-spectacular activities that are part of many people's daily humdrum, like going for a walk or sitting on a bench, have come to define normcore pastimes. Really, these normcores are just non-celebrities getting off by dressing like a porn star in a Yankees hat, trying not to get noticed at the grocery store.

At the end of the day, there is not much difference between hipsters as we know them and this new wave of normcores. They just look worse because they're purposefully wearing crap that doesn't fit.

Some say that normcore doesn't exist. Let's just hope it is normcore to have a job.

### Health-care reforms necessary for aging population

By Moush Sara John

Without bold reforms and close attention to its policies, Canada's health-care system will not be able to withstand the tremendous pressure of the baby-boomer generation. There needs to be a greater awareness of this situation, so that more resources are made available to the health-care sector, and they are ready to handle this overwhelming deluge of greying citizens.

According to Statistics Canada projections, the aging demographic will see seniors outnumbering children by 2021. Canada needs to address this issue immediately.

This debate is crucial now more than ever, because of the population projection that by 2030, there will be eight million seniors – which is one quarter of the population – with the majority of them suffering from chronic diseases.

Canadians take enormous pride in their health-care system. Having provided quality care and service for years at a reasonable cost,

all forms of support and infrastructure should be provided to prevent the healthcare system from crumbling.

This is where the government needs to step in, by creating a bigger pool of resources that will alleviate the burden on the health-care system. These resources should include training geriatrics, funds for infrastructure that will help the elderly to be more mobile, finances for medicines and long-term care, and most importantly having professionals creating aging-friendly communities.

Given its past record, our system often responds when there has been a crisis or emergency, but it is important to recognize that often the measures that need to be taken, and the infrastructure that has to be in place require work and time. Funding is needed if changes are to be implemented, but it seems people who need to be aware and act, aren't listening.

With the current system, much of the services and care that's needed for the elderly are not covered by the health insurance, which is a

huge area of concern as many feel that they don't have the money to pay for them. Then there is the daily struggle that hospitals and clinics face, to find places for aging patients, who should be in a long-term care facility, not stranded in the hallways for hours or even days.

Besides funding new programs dedicated especially for greying citizens, resources should be reworked within the health-care system to create funds for these programs. It is key to recognize that the preparatory work is a broad spectrum, including trying to take in more medical specialists who can specifically work with the aging population; developing technology and skills to detect mental health problems; and creating aging-friendly spaces within homes and communities that can support and look after them for as long as possible.

The sooner we grasp this new reality and take measures to assuage this impending situation, the easier it will be on our health care to be more efficient and effective, and ready to face the onslaught.

## 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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