

On the street

We asked people on the street the following question:

What is your opinion of Tim Hortons new coffee cup sizes?



Phillip Fife, self-employed contractor, “We don’t need to compete with Starbucks or Second Cup. If you want a bigger size, make a bigger size; don’t just change the name and put the price up.”



Sherry Wood, self-employed, “I think that the size changes are confusing. I think for the first couple of months, everyone won’t know what they’re ordering.”



Avita Baskin, retiree, “I think Tim Hortons is a well run operation – I wish I had some of their business sense!”



Dennis Baskin, retiree, “I think it’s up to the company to do whatever they want to do. If they want to raise the price or increase the size, it’s up to them. And I’ll decide if I want to buy from them!”



Bob Dolan, marina owner, “I don’t have an opinion, because I’ve never seen one, and I probably won’t ever have one – it’s too much! You don’t need 24 ounces of coffee. We drink too much of that stuff.”



Ferdinand Golva, retiree, “I think it’s a good thing – you get more for the same money. Really, I think you’re saving. They have to change to stay competitive.”

Editorial

‘Friendly city’ also known as ‘dangerous’

After the gold rush, Belleville was known as the Gateway to the Golden North.

After a *Belleville Intelligencer* contest, launched in 1914, the slogan for our city became “A Bigger and Better Belleville.”

In 1923, the chamber of commerce started an official search for a slogan. Some of the favourites included: Why not Belleville? The United Empire Loyalist City and the City of Opportunity.

Now, Belleville is known as the friendly city, and is also nationally known by another name.

A dangerous city. More accurately, according to a *Macleans’* annual survey, Canada’s 11th most dangerous, which is up from 15th last year.

But Belleville isn’t the only “friendly” city that made the list. Guelph, also coined a friendly city, ranked 84th.

And Winnipeg beats out Belleville for ninth place because, you are also most likely to be robbed in ‘friendly city’ Winnipeg.

Other friendly cities, however, held true to their names and didn’t appear on the list, including Woodstock, Ont. and Moose Jaw, Man.

Macleans magazine uses a methodology that examines the number of aggravated assaults, robberies, homicide, break and enter, auto thefts and sexual assaults in cities across Canada.

What brought Belleville to its highest ranking was its placing in sexual assaults and break and enters. Although you are “Most likely to be sexually assaulted in St. John, N.B.,” Belleville comes in a close second.

But Belleville does claim the number one spot in break and enters.

The *Belleville Intelligencer* reported last week that police said break and enters are down 25 per cent, bringing them to a five-year low. If break-ins are down 25 per cent, and *Macleans* reported that a Belleville resident has a one in 86 chance of having their home broken into, what does that mean for past crime statistics?

Recent events reported by local media, including two knife-point robberies, aren’t helping matters either.

The friendly city label can give a place the right reputation. It can promote tourism in a community that thrives off of a waterfront location and a vibrant fishing industry. It can also promote a small town feel that welcomes new residents into a neighbourhood.

But what can happen if the dangerous city label is promoted? Tourism drops. People move away. Students choose other colleges.

Belleville may be coined the friendly city, but it needs to promote and live it, so as to not be overtaken by the dangerous city stigma that carries with it statistics and numbers that this community cannot ignore.

Melissa Murray

Downloading battles are far from over

Students, knowledge seekers and fact finders across the globe were in for a surprise on Wednesday when they were unable to access their favourite encyclopedia.

Wikipedia closed their virtual doors to their English content for 24 hours to raise awareness about the online piracy bills being introduced to U.S. Congress. If passed, the bills would effectively censor the internet.

Over 162 million people visited the massively popular website while it was blacked out. Eight million of the visitors took Wikipedia’s suggestion to search for their congressional representative.

Two days later, the bills were withdrawn from Congress.

However, the battle is far from over. Hollywood and the music industry are among the richest and most influential industries in the world, and piracy is putting a major dent in their bottom line.

According to the Institute for Policy Innovation, “more than \$58 billion is lost to the U.S. economy annually due to content theft, including more than 373,000 lost American jobs, \$16 million in lost employee earnings, plus \$3 billion in badly needed federal, state and local governments’ tax revenue.”

The entertainment industry is not about to give up.

Nor should they. With the ease in acquiring copyrighted material, it’s easy to forget that it’s still illegal.

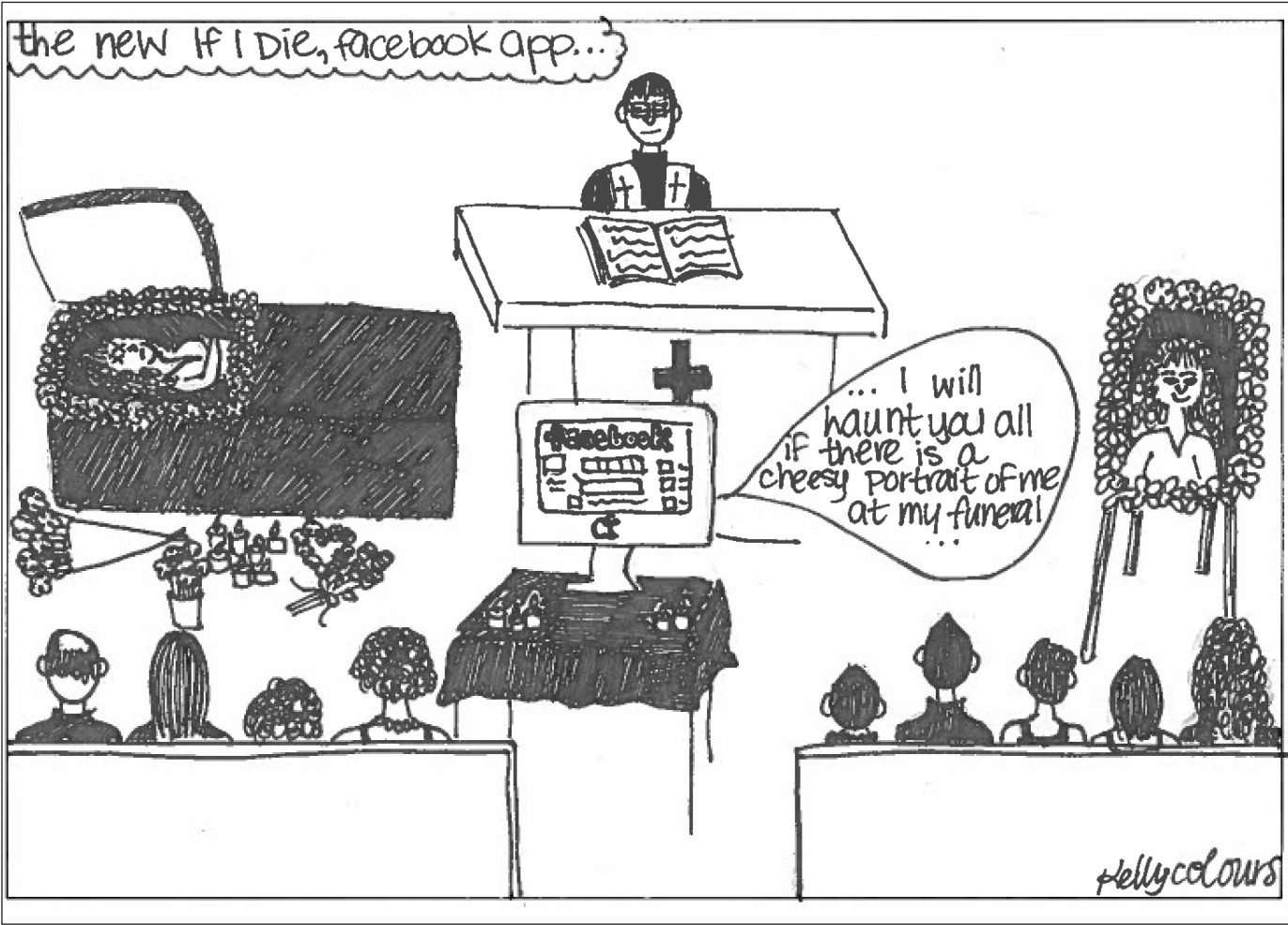
Market research firm Interpret, which focuses on entertainment, media and technology, published the results of a survey on illegal music downloads covering 64 million people. Of this group, 24 million respondents (36 per cent) admitted that they had downloaded music illegally in the past three months.

Congress’ answer to the problem is obviously not the solution. There must be a middle ground between freedom of speech and the prevention of piracy.

The entertainment lobbyists made their move and the tech giants flexed their muscles. Now the question is: are the Googles, Wikipedias and Reddits willing to work with the entertainment industry and Congress to come up with a solution to this problem?

Perhaps Steve Jobs gave us the answer with the iTunes model, where people pay a small fee to download their music. Despite piracy’s popularity, iTunes continues to thrive. One thing is certain, this is their first act in what will be a long and hard fought battle on both sides.

Dan Pearce



Opinion

Sending a message from the beyond

By Megan Voss

“What will you leave behind?”

Most people would like to leave behind a legacy or having contributed to a worthy cause. The header of the new Facebook app, “ifidie,” (if I die) gives you options to leave a video or text message on your Facebook page. The material posted once the three trustees that you appoint through the app confirm your death. It’s the only Facebook app of its kind – a digital afterlife.

The app’s light take on death even prompted a question on the FAQ page, “Is this a joke?”

During the minute and nine-second promo video, a daytimer with various activities sched-

uled throughout the week is shown.

“I don’t remember scheduling an appointment with death,” a man with an English accent says, sounding surprised, “and you’re right, but so is death – right around the corner,” he continues, while you watch as a grim reaper holding a scythe gets crushed by a falling piano.

Despite the over 7,000 “likes” on Facebook, the app released early last week, the general consensus on Twitter is that it is creepy. One person tweeted, “If you’re dead, why would you care?”

Good question.

Imagine that you found out that a classmate had passed away. A few weeks later back in school, you are hanging out with your class-

mates. Suddenly the voice of your deceased classmate can be heard. Imagine the thoughts swirling through your head – the sudden hope that it was all just a horrible joke. But no, it’s just a pre-recorded video, uploaded to their Facebook page.

Or maybe take it the other way. The app has a page where people can post comments. Among the blog posts of “How to stage your death in six easy steps,” one posts reads, “This app might be more fun if my ‘trustees’ were actually trustworthy.”

What will I leave behind? Will it be a pre-recorded Facebook video (who knows how old – I mean, how often do you update those kinds of things?), or a message?

Only Facebook will know.

Hockey changes aren’t always for the best

By Kayla Allen

Canada’s national game is getting warped into a total replica of Europe’s take on the sport.

When the NHL announced that they had created the new ‘Head Shot Rule’ or made huge changes to the rule governing hits to the head (Rule 48) at the beginning of the 2011 hockey season, Canadian hockey fans didn’t know how to react. The thoughts going through my head were that I really hope this doesn’t change the way Canadians play hockey.

The game in North America is becoming ‘soft.’ Good old rough and tough hockey players are now a dying breed in the NHL. Players like Colton Orr from the Toronto Maple Leafs are being sent down to play in the American Hockey League because, “there doesn’t appear to be much need for players like him in today’s game,” said Brian Burke, Maple Leafs general manager, in an interview with TSN.

Sticking up for your teammates is no longer acceptable in the NHL. Staring at a teammate after they get hit is now the right thing to do. Watching this on TV is absolutely mind-boggling and disappointing. I feel like I’m watching a game between Russia and Sweden, where bailing on a hit is the norm.

Changing this one rule is drastically affecting the flow of the game. It’s cutting down on

the physical play and promoting the fancy hands of the Europeans. Slowly but surely, the ‘fighter’ on every team in the NHL will be sent down to the American Hockey League. “To me, it’s a dangerous turn in our game,” said Burke.

With the game slowly changing in a negative way, the opportunity for chippy play has now become more obvious. While watching a NHL game now, you see more of the cheap shots and dangerous hits that are outrageous. NHL players who support the new style of hockey mostly falls under the category of European-style players.

“These guys that won’t back it up, won’t drop their gloves, run around and elbow people in the head and hit people from behind. They never have to answer for that in the game; they used to have to answer for that in the game. The players (used to) police the game and now it’s Brendan Shanahan,” said Burke.

I fear that behind the play cheap shots are becoming extremely popular and are corrupting not only the NHL’s way of playing, but minor hockey play as well. The new and ‘improved’ head shot rule has also come into play with minor leagues in Ontario such as the Ontario Minor Hockey Association and the Ontario Women’s Hockey Association. While sticking up for yourself or a team-

mate, if your hands are raised and you come in contact with the opposing player, you receive either a penalty for a two-minute non-intentional hit to the head, or a four-minute intentional hit to the head, or you could even be suspended.

While watching both the NHL and minor league hockey you can always point out the ‘rat’ on any team. The rat is the one player that runs around the ice slashing players in the back of the legs behind the play, throwing a quick elbow or trying to start unwanted drama while skating away before they receive a penalty. Rats are becoming more popular since the head shot rule has become more strict. They’re not scared of someone turning around and knocking them out, because if a player did that now, they would be suspended in most cases, which I think is ridiculous.

“I wonder about the accountability in our game and the notion that players would stick up for themselves and for each other. I wonder where we’re going with it, that’s the only lament I have on this. The fear that if we don’t have guys looking after each other that the rats will take this game over. You see guys that run around and start stuff and won’t back it up and it makes me sick to my stomach,” said Burke on TSN.

The Pioneer

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