

Bring on the beer, hockey brawls and regulatory frameworks



— Michael Ridley —

Canadians love hockey, beer and regulatory frameworks. Regulatory frameworks, they are a massive national preoccupation. In the Canadian desire for “peace, order and good government,” it’s really the “order” part we like the best.

Consider the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). Though not an organization you think about often (if ever), Google them and you’ll learn that they have a lot of control over what you see and hear. The CRTC determines policy and

practices about what you watch on TV and listen to on the radio. This gig must be getting old though, because lately they’ve been thinking that maybe they should be regulating the internet too.

The CRTC hearings on “new media” started recently. There’s lots of good coverage on the net, but mainstream media is either uninterested or asleep. There are two major issues at stake: net neutrality and Canadian content on the Internet. The CRTC took no action regarding net neutrality – a mistake – and they’re thinking about taking action regarding Canadian content on the Internet. Another mistake.

Net neutrality is an active issue in the United States and Europe, but not so much in Canada. The main concern is whether telecommunications companies

– or carriers such as Bell and Telus – should be allowed to favour certain kinds of traffic or services. The problem is that the carriers can and do make it hard to access the sites or services of their competitors. Most telecommunications companies are not just in the business of networks, they also provide consumer services or products. It is very much in their interest to steer you to their services and away from those of others. This is wrong.

It’s wrong because we think of the Internet as a public good, a facility where all things are equally available or accessible. It’s wrong for commercial interests to restrict our access. We need to think of the carriers as just that: carriers. They should not be in the business of manipulating consumer or user choice. This issue came to the CRTC for

consideration and possible regulatory action. The telecommunications industry has a very powerful and effective lobby, but no action was taken by the CRTC on this important issue.

On the other hand, the CRTC is considering whether special regulations should be devised to encourage Canadian content (CANCON) on the Internet. The CANCON regulations of the 70s brought a lot of Canadian music into public awareness by requiring radio stations to play a certain percentage of Canadian material. That was then, this is now. Are the same conditions relevant to the Internet?

Broadcast TV and radio have limited bandwidth and therefore they are resources that need to be managed. Not true of the Internet. The Internet has massive capacity. Why impose a scarcity

model on a medium that is all about abundance?

Don’t get me wrong – I’m all for having more Canadian content on the Internet and accessible around the world. I just don’t think we need a regulatory body to mandate its creation or availability, particularly on the net where national boundaries hardly make sense.

Net neutrality and Canadian content on the Internet; where the CRTC should intervene, they don’t, and where they shouldn’t intervene, they just might. It makes me crave a cold beer and a Guelph Storm game.

Michael Ridley is the Chief Information Officer and Chief Librarian at the University of Guelph. His column will appear biweekly. Send your questions or concerns to mridley@uoguelph.ca.

Why not try a new hairstyle



— Carly Vandergriendt —

I was watching a boring, uninspired sex scene in a movie when I had an epiphany about pubic hair.

The scene was your typical misrepresentation of sex: it involved two attractive, young and wispy heterosexuals who looked at each other and instantaneously realize they had to make passionate love. After they got naked and hopped into the sack, I wondered why they had not discussed, among other things, their pubic hair?

After all, both males and fe-

males face grooming decisions that are often based on both personal and partner preference. Unfortunately, the media doesn’t often acknowledge the existence of pubic hair, and when they do it is most often seen as unsightly. Thus it follows that mainstream ideals seem to prefer a comoclitism, or hairless genitals.

While some choose to remove the majority of their pubic hair for aesthetic, hygienic or religious reasons, the movement towards baldness in recent years has been largely supported by individuals who claim that sexual pleasure and confidence is increased by baring all. For males, there is a rumoured “extra-inch” effect, an optical illusion whereby the penis shaft actually looks bigger when it is not surrounded by hair. In addition, both sexes report extra

tactile sensation during oral, anal or vaginal intercourse when hair is out of the way.

But not everyone believes that hairlessness is best, and with good reason. In fact, many question why any sexually mature individual would want to style their pubic hair like a prepubescent child, promoting ideals of virginity and sexual purity. Luckily, there are a variety of other ways to practice creative grooming and still reap the benefits of added sexual pleasure.

Many of today’s more common and fashionable hairstyles are suitable for both sexes and you can make them your own if you so choose. There is the traditional Brazilian or G-wax which is now an acceptable practice for males and females, and involves leaving only a small patch of hair directly

above the genitals. Some decide to leave a longer, rectangular strip of trimmed hair, frequently known as the “landing strip.”

With males, the width of the landing strip matches the thickness of the penis. When this area is shortened to be a square, it is commonly likened as the Charlie Chaplin moustache. Other styles include having three or more strips of hair separated by vertical hairless areas for a striped effect, or shaping hair into a triangle or wedge shape for a little more coverage.

Of course, your style doesn’t have to be by the book. Trendsetters and aspiring artists might prefer something totally unique. If you’re talented enough to use care with a razor, you can surprise your partner with your own design. Of course, some prefer to

just let their partner take over the grooming in a practice called “marking.” Here, a partner might use their initials or a significant symbol to indicate a sexual relationship.

While crafting your pubic hairstyle, make sure that you’re using the right tool for the job. Some claim that waxing is uncomfortable and painful, but it’ll give you two weeks of hairless glory. Shaving requires more of a commitment as hair grows back quickly, but it also gives you the freedom to try new styles more frequently. Whatever you choose, don’t be afraid to get down there and make your pubic hair your own.

Carly Vandergriendt writes about Sex biweekly. Send your sexy questions, comments or concerns to oeditor@uoguelph.ca.

because I asked.

compiled by: Jamie MacDonald



“Well really what do they do? Maybe bribe students to vote with cookies.”

• Brit Laidlaw •
4th year



“I’m not sure what to say, I really don’t know what they do.”

• Sarah Flynn •
4th year



“If they could give rugby its own pitch that would be great.”

• Steph Devries •
3rd year



“Be more visible.”

• Marielle Lehoux •
2nd Year

“What advice would you give to the CSA exec candidates?”