

The Pioneer

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Photo by Tyson Leonard

Brandi Belliveau, a first-year student in the Child and Youth Worker program, writes down what she learned from the Poverty Challenge on a graffiti wall.

Poverty Challenge hits home

By Tyson Leonard

Imagine you are a single parent of three; you've lost your job, and are about to be evicted. You don't know if you're eligible for social assistance, and you don't know how you'll support your family without it. That's what over 100 students in Loyalist College's Child and Youth Worker program were asked to do Wednesday at the program's first Poverty Challenge.

Students were each assigned a role to play that was based on the experiences of someone living in the Quinte community. They then had to navigate through various mock social agencies set up around the college.

"The Poverty Challenge is an opportunity for students to go through an experiential workshop – to put themselves into a position where they may experience

what life might be like for someone who has to live in poverty, what the everyday struggles are," said Lisa Shunock, Coordinator of the Child and Youth Worker program.

This is the first year the program has run a poverty awareness event this large. Shunock said she hopes it will become an annual event.

"We are hoping that it's going to raise awareness among our students about poverty, and help our students understand the role of advocating for others to ensure that children and families are not living in poverty in our communities," she said.

Megan Butler, a first-year student in the program, said the Poverty Challenge opened her eyes to what poverty really looks like.

"I was never really touched by pov-

erty, so coming into this I didn't have a clue about what poverty really was," said Butler.

"When we actually got to meet the people our characters were based off of, that's when it really hit home. These people are real and they exist around us everywhere."

One of the biggest shocks to Butler was being denied services she had always assumed were easy to come by.

"We were going around to the different areas and we were not able to see the services. Or to be shot down by the services and not receive the things you need to survive" was frustrating, she said.

"If everyone could know a little bit more about poverty then it would make us all better people."

Kayla Clouthier, a third-year student in the Child and Youth Worker program, was one of the mock workers at a social-

assistance booth.

"You perceive poverty as a choice, or you perceive it as something that would be very obvious to you if you saw it, and it's not – it's everyday people, anyone living on a service wage, or in a temp position. These are students, these are people that you know," said Clouthier.

During the speakers corner segment of the Poverty Challenge, Clouthier talked to the first-year students who participated in the challenge. She said a lot of the students had never seen poverty first hand.

If the students were to learn only one thing it should be that poverty affects us all, whether directly or indirectly, Clouthier said.

"It's about listening to their story and acknowledging the fact that they're human beings – that they matter, and that it could just as easily be you."

\$3.5 million contract award to local factory

by Shelby Wye

A local factory has been awarded a \$3.5-million contract from the Canadian government.

HDT Expeditionary Systems LTD. will build 38 military shelters and connecting apparatus over the next six years. The new project will create 10 more jobs at the Belleville company.

The contract was announced on Monday by Prince Edward-Hastings MP Daryl Kramp.

"This is great news, not just for Belleville, but for the military, who not only need these shelters but also will provide them with more efficiency," said Kramp.

According to Bob Parsons, HDT Global's director of international business development, the shelters deploy in a matter of minutes, compared to the previous model which could take up to half an hour.

Parsons said they also come fully equipped with climate-control technology, allowing troops to remain comfortable in any extreme temperatures. As well, the amount of fuel used to transport and run these shelters has been halved with this new technology.

"We have a long heritage of supporting our men and women, wherever they serve," said Parsons. "This contract will allow us to bolster our presence in the Belleville area."

The company is expected to begin production of these shelters in the new year.

For better or for worse, Christmas is already here

By Riley Maracle

It's that time of year again. Christmas music is being heard in the stores. Santa Claus is at the mall. Christmas trees and decorations are lighting up homes. But look at the calendar and you'll see it's still November – and that's got some people wondering: Has Christmas come too early?

Rob Popovski is a second-year television new media student at Loyalist College and part of a family of five, says Christmas is a big deal for his family and friends.

"I am happy to be home and to see my family and my friends who have gone off to school," said Popovski. "To me it's more about seeing them, and enjoying my time with them over what I get for Christmas."

But Popovski also said he feels that Christmas is becoming a marketing ploy. "It's not about family anymore. It's about presents – 'What did you get for Christmas?' or, 'That's cool, I got this or I got that.' It's no longer, 'How was Christmas with your family over the break?' It's become too much marketing and not enough family time or coming together with the people you love," said Popovski.

Cameron Langille, a third-year television new media student, said he thinks it is annoying too.

"I find it extremely irritating because everything seems to rush through each holiday, like I've noticed even before Halloween people have started to push forward," said Langille. "We can't even settle on a holiday and enjoy it."

He agrees with Popovski that Christmas has become about marketing.

"It's a massive marketing scheme. It's quite sad," said Langille. "It used to be a holiday we used to enjoy."

But not everyone dislikes the early start to the season.

"I don't think it is a really big problem. Christmas has become obviously more than just the day – it's become a whole season," said third-year television new media student Matt Parks.

He also feels that the Christmas season has become more about receiving gifts than enjoying time with family and loved ones, he said.

MacKenzie Lockyer's family begins Christmas festivities the day after Halloween.

"I've always put (Christmas decorations) up on Nov. 1, so it's pretty normal for me. I like it," said the first year journalism student.

Lockyer said she is usually sick of the holiday season by the time it actually rolls around, but she doesn't think it has anything to do with when she begins the celebrations.

"I think it has to do with how often everything is played, like the videos and movies and songs and everything. It gets annoying."

Dress up to rock on

By Greg Murphy

Canadian rock band, Arcade Fire, has stirred up a storm with its recent request that concert-goers wear formal attire, or a costume, to its upcoming concerts.

It's an idea that's got a lot of reaction on twitter. Local musicians and music fans are also reacting.

Jordan Salmon, a local studio musician, says he's not sure about the dress code, but can foresee some problems.

"They didn't make this dress code optional. Arena tickets are already super expensive, and what if some people can't afford a suit on top of that?" Salmon said, adding that wearing a full suit or other fancy attire would be uncomfortable, and too hot for an arena concert.

Another issue, Salmon says, is the band openly stated they were not sorry about making the request, even after the Twitter-verse reacted angrily to the idea.

"I think this is their attempt to do something new. I think its backfiring because people now obviously think they're being pretentious," he said.

Tony Silvestri, a recording and live performance musician from the Quinte area, likes the idea. He says the dress code is an innovation.

"This will bring people together, bring fans closer to the band. I think people will come out of a show saying 'this is the band I went to see, I was a part of the show,'" said Silvestri. "I can see the limitations, but personally, I enjoy the idea."

He also says this sort of thing is not unusual for Arcade Fire.

"This is not the first quirky idea from Arcade. It also won't be the last," he said.

Phil Scott, a first year radio student, says formal attire fits their style.

"Arcade Fire is pretty theatrical, they're really spiffy looking. I believe the true fan will have no problem dressing up to match their favorite band," said Scott.

Ryan Covell, also a first year radio student, sees two sides to the idea.

"I think forcing someone to dress in a certain way will weed out the die hard fans from the casual fans. But I think this will take away some of the enjoyment from the concert," Covell said.

Arcade Fire's Reflektor tour starts in Louisville, Kentucky next March.



Photo by Matthew Blair

Staff and students from the Hastings and Prince Edward School Board take part in an anti-bullying workshop

Students work to stop bullying

By Morgan Davy

Local students got a chance to learn about what bullying is and how to prevent it this week.

The Quinte Sport and Wellness Centre played host to over 150 students from the Hastings and Prince Edward school board Wednesday for a Bullying Awareness Week workshop.

The day included snacks, guest speaker Michael Eisen, founder of the Youth Wellness Network, and exercises to help boost students' self-esteem.

"We're talking about that idea of caring for yourself so that you have love to give away to other people," said Therese McMahon, student leadership co-ordinator for the school board.

McMahon said she hoped students would understand the connection between self-worth and bullying prevention: people who are happy with themselves are less likely to project negative things onto other people.

Federal Justice Minister Peter MacKay is joining in the fight. He introduced new legislation this week to try to address criminal behaviour associated

with cyberbullying and help better protect Canadians from online exploitation.

The legislation would prohibit the non-consensual distribution of intimate images. It would also empower courts to make an order to prevent the sharing of these images, and order the removal of the images from the Internet.

"With the click of a computer mouse, a person can be victimized before the entire world. As we have seen far too often, such conduct can destroy lives. It clearly demands a stronger criminal justice response, and we intend to provide one," said MacKay.

Kerry Donnell, communications officer with the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board, said she hopes that the new federal legislation will help people feel safer on the Internet.

"Anything that the community can do to support that media awareness can really help. It's too bad that we have to go to the step to enact a law, but if it's something that will create better situations for everyone, not just young people but older people as well, I think it's very important," she said.

Students from Kente Public School in Ameliasburgh who attended the event were asked how they felt about laws against cyberbullying.

Madeline Jones, a Grade 7 student at Kente, said she thinks bringing in the police would show bullies what it's like to feel bad about themselves, and give them an opportunity to learn how to change.

"I think it would be a good idea because if the police know then they can maybe give the bully strategies to not do it anymore and tell them how bad it is," she said.

Madeline said the workshop reminded her to treat people the way you want to be treated.

Jacob Doxtator, a Grade 8 student, said he has seen bullying at school, on Facebook and through text messaging. He said that although many students tell teachers or parents when they witness mean behaviour, the victims still feel isolated and like they have no friends.

He thinks people need to see how common bullying is, he said.

"When it's on the news it explains to everyone what bullying is," he added.