

Travelling with a maple leaf badge

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At the break one of them came over to talk to their fellow Canadians, and upon finding out that we were from Hamilton, all five of them descended on me.

As it turns out, they were from Hamilton. Not only were the most obnoxious people I've met so far (this was before the lady in the French bathroom) from Canada, but they were from my tiny part of Canada. Oh yes, two of these men had attended Parkside High School in Dundas growing up, and two of them had attended McMaster.

But our reputation precedes us still. On a tour in Edinburgh, the host made a special mention of Canadians. We were standing in the stone courtyard behind a pub to hear some literary history, and in the interests of time our host instructed us to leave our glasses on the table near the patio door.

"Now," the grey-haired host told us in his thick Scottish accent. "Whenever I tell groups to do this it's always the Canadians

that have trouble following these directions."

Bewildered, I looked at my friends, two of whom were also Canadian.

"Canadians always have trouble leaving their glasses outside because they can't bear to make more work for the bar staff, so they always bring their glasses inside, right up to the bar.

It is true, that many people are delighted to find out that I am from Canada. They've heard that it is beautiful, they are planning a visit or have already been there.

The boring truth is that Canadians are generally polite and courteous, and the world over knows us that way. It is a nice way to walk around the world, with the feeling that you're from some well liked, albeit dorky, club. People know you, and what's more, they like you already.

And every time I politely ask for a glass of juice everyone exchanges knowing glances, "Oh, typical Canadian."

SEX & THE STEEL CITY

"Sexting" on campus

NATALIE TIMPERIO

ASSISTANT INSIDEOUT EDITOR

Recall the time when you first felt sexual angst and the sudden relief that quickly followed after an innocent session of self-indulgence. Chances are that first time was shortly accompanied by a second, followed by a third, and, after nearly suffering carpal tunnel, you lost count altogether.

In a similar manner, sexting (which refers to the risqué practice of sending sexually explicit text messages, including photos) recreates these same feelings. It begins with a mounting tension while you sit half-minded in a desolate corner on campus, soon followed by an unwavering desire to send a tantalizing text to that certain someone. Of course, assuming these feelings are reciprocated, an exchange of dirty dialogue is sure to follow, leaving you wanting more and more.

Undoubtedly, sexting is just one form of sexual expression and exploration that often ac-

companies much of the university lifestyle. Not only is sexting a way to entice but it's also a way to release that pent-up frustration that we are regularly burdened with in our day-to-day lives.

We spend our lives consumed in the stresses of school. So when time doesn't permit for physical sexual encounters then sexting can indeed be an outlet for those sexual impulses that seem to creep up on us at the least convenient hour.

However, sexting has also become a somewhat taboo topic. As we see ever-increasing mentions of it in news media and the like, it has taken on a foreboding undertone. As of late, there have been numerous news reports denouncing sexting as a "disquieting trend" in flirting. Just like all sexually progressive practices, it is for certain that sexting does in fact have potentially negative consequences for both parties, such as harassment and legal repercussions.

Consequently, in light of

this growing concern, multiple resources have been made available to the public, such as TextED.ca, a Canadian website specifically geared towards textual education. Some features available on TextED include a list of guidelines for safe texting listing palpable statements such as "I will respect people with my text messages, and will not harass anyone," and an "acronymary" cataloguing textual acronyms from A-Z such as AYY (are you vertical?). This tool may in fact be a valuable resource for those troubled with the latest in sexting phenomena. However chances are that as practitioners of academia we're without a doubt well-versed in the vernacular of the telecommunications world and need not reference websites for codes of conduct regarding texting.

On that note, while taking necessary precaution of course, there should be no shame in sexting. Presuming that we are civil, decent beings, then I say hooray to hot and heavy text messaging.

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