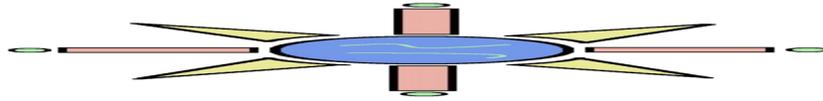


The Coquitlam Review



€dition 6, April 1st, 2017

Coquitlam Review Bought by Postmedia

Dear valued reader of The Coquitlam Review,

It is with great pleasure and pride that I am able to take this moment to welcome you into the Postmedia family. As you may have read on one of our many identical news channels, today Postmedia reached an agreement with the publisher of The Coquitlam Review to purchase this exciting and innovative publication. While I am not able to share with you the dollar amount just yet, what I am able to share with you is our commitment to ensuring that the quality journalism that you have come to expect from The Review will almost certainly possibly continue in some form or other.

As purveyors of quick facts and mediocre entertainment, Postmedia has evolved to become synonymous with terms like supra-efficiency, lowest-cost, conservative-liberal and, one that I am particular proud of, dividend-payouts. However, recently through little fault of my own, we have lost many of our journalists and the pulse that they once had their fingers on. Thus we did what any other supra-efficient, lowest-cost, conservative-liberal media conglomerate would do in our situation: we bought the cheapest alternative news outlets that we could find. Which brings us to our vision for The Review by Postmedia™.

One of the benefits that comes with being part of the Postmedia family is that The Review by Postmedia™ will have unlimited access to our complex news algorithm which scrapes the internet for the hottest and most trendy pieces online. Once collected, these are funnelled into our state-of-the-art AI program which creates ‘bots’ to turn them into news items which can be published in and on any of our media channels. What this means for you the reader is that you will no longer have to suffer through incorrect(ish) grammar or poor sentence structure as a result of human error. We at Postmedia have removed humans from the equation almost totally, allowing news to be news, pure and unbiased - it will no longer be shaped by any one writer or editor - it will be shaped by the settings we enter into our algorithm. (cont. p.4)

So You Decided to Write a Poem

The First thing to know about poetry, is to rhyme.
The Second is too bothersome, better not to try.

Battling Obesity in the TriCities

Never mind alternate facts – in the TriCities the word is out about “alternate pricing”, a pilot project designed to add an element of chance and excitement to the average grocery shop.

Cashiers at some of the major chains will soon be asking shoppers whether they want to pay the marked price or go with the alternate price – this may be more or less than the posted price, governed by an algorithm that provides shoppers with a 68% chance of “winning” or saving money.

I was invited to be part of a select group of shoppers, chosen for our competitive and bargain-seeking natures, to test the project before it is formally introduced in the TriCities.

We gathered at the appointed time in front of the customer service desk. We were each given a basket and told to choose up to 10 items we would normally buy and then to head to the cashier. Once there, our purchases were rung in normally and we were given our totals. We then reconvened and were given the opportunity to participate in the “alternate pricing” scheme.

All of us chose to participate in the alternate pricing.

A man loaded up with granola bars, chips and pop went first. Instead of paying \$24.56 his alternate price was \$23.12. Hardly worth the effort, but still, a savings of slightly over one dollar.

Next was a young woman who had spent the entire time in the fresh vegetable section – the regular price for her basket of kale, lettuce, carrots and fruit was \$15.78. Her alternate price was \$10.50. Definitely worth choosing the “alternate pricing” scheme.

The third participant was clearly feeding a family of likely dangerous carnivores with a basket of chicken, steak, pork and sausages. This basket totalled a hefty \$76 at the regular price and an even heftier \$87 at the alternate price. (cont. p.3)

Voltaire Said it Best

What a coincidence to have Martin McGuinness buried with all the pomp and ceremony of a state funeral in a "house of God" a day after the latest iteration of a terrorist did his own foul deed at Westminster.

I had just begun university in London in 1973 when the IRA intensified its bombing campaign, much of which seemed to be centred around Chelsea. If we left the windows open in our residence we could hear the bombs going off and make a rough estimate of the distance and direction. (cont. p.3)

(cont. Voltaire p.2)

We used to get down on our hands and knees before we got into the car to check for bombs, even in the rain. Of course they soon got better at killing innocent people. Ever since, I have despised the IRA, and especially the hypocritical murdering bastard McGuinness and his evil cohort Gerry Adams.

I wonder, after another generation, whether today's terrorists will be hailed as heroes as well. I suspect there are already lots of people in the U.K. who secretly (and not so secretly) support the aims of these radical Islamists. There were lots of Irish in London in my day who supported the IRA.

On a related note I can report that this very day in Ottawa, the Canadian parliament passed a motion declaring their concern about "Islamophobia and hatred towards other religions". Plain old "anti-semitism" never even got a mention and shitting all over a Christian gets you a feature article in the Toronto Star - but it's all let's not be nasty to "Muslims" over here. And over in the U.K. too, I'm sure of it.

Well, us average folk never got too worked up over the IRA back in the day, and I expect that the vast majority of people today will carry on as usual. The "acceptable level of risk" seems higher now, of course, and the capitulation more subtle, but if History is any teacher, I think the Islamists will win in the end.

I see the IRA did...

(cont. Obesity p.2)

I was next. My butter, eggs, milk and orange juice came to just under \$20 when rung through normally. Heart racing, I opted for the alternate pricing scheme, watching the screen as each item showed up - some a few cents cheaper, the eggs a bit more expensive - what would the total be? \$18.50, not too bad, I'd saved - won - enough for a coffee.

The next shopper was still deliberating over her purchases so just for fun I asked to have my basket priced alternately a second time. Again my heart raced, keeping pace with the click of the cashier keying in the codes, the flicking of the numbers on the screen, sweat breaking out on my brow - what would the outcome be? Not so good - \$22.79 this time.

Will "alternate pricing" work? That depends. The stress of wondering if you are going to win or lose - even though the price differences are usually minimal, though may be as high as 80% off - can be exciting. So for those who view grocery shopping as a chore, the introduction of "alternate pricing" might be just what's needed to turn a chore into a game of chance - to turn a routine task, into entertainment - and it might just convince the buyer to choose what is good over what is cheap. We are unhealthy and something needs to be done. At this point, all options are on the table.

Alternate pricing - coming soon to a TriCities supermarket near you.

(cont. Postmedia p.1)

From this day forward I am sure you, our reader, will have more experience when reading The Review by Postmedia™. You will no longer need to read unique, stand-alone stories that often span more than one page. Instead you will be able to read the same succinct stories that millions of other readers across Canada have looked at and clicked on; you will not have to bother yourself with stories about complex issues and ideas.

We look forward to ushering in this new era of news together. May it bring us bland conversations, non-threatening viewpoints, safe stories and above all else, sweet dividend payouts.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Godfrey

CEO of Postmedia

By the Time That it was Over
(a marching song)

Before we forget that the war was won,
Long years ago in the forests.
We remind ourselves of Grendel
and the lengths to which one might go.

So if this be our last, let us make it doubly so. So off we go with stories of glory and grandeur.

Tonight we dine on our enemies dreams, and tomorrow we'll show them a stand-off.

The Coquitlam Review is published by the Commonwealth Federation of Explorers.

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If you would like to submit articles to The Review please do so by emailing the editor at simon.j.postma@gmail.com

All submissions will be considered, no limitations as to content or length except do your best not to be boring. Local or international, philosophical or satirical, poetry or prose, all are welcome, providing for quality.

If you wish to advertise in The Review please submit advertisement to the same above email address. Only funny, or attempting to be funny, adverts will be accepted. There is no cost to advertise.

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