

## Are cell phone users losing their minds?

It seems that not a day goes by when some heavy thinker, or group of heavy thinkers, releases a study/report/survey on something which may or not be of interest to the general populace.

Hey, just last week I found out that two glasses of tomato juice helps keep the old cholesterol count down. Before that, it was 25 per cent of Canadian men and women say the smile is the most important thing, physically, for both sexes, when they meet for the first time.

Frankly, I gave up putting much stock in studies years ago when some yahoo said that mother's milk can cause cancer. So tell me, where exactly do you put the warning label for that?

However, there was one recent report from Britain that I believe has some credibility. Apparently, a group of scientists there determined radiation emitted by cell phones can affect a person's short-term ability to perform mental tasks. They suggest that low-emission phones be used and the use of an earpiece and microphone would help to keep the old noggin' from being bombarded by those nasty energy watts.

The study concludes that portable phones may alter memory and "interfere with concentration and spatial awareness".

I take this to mean that users of cell phones are missing a few toys in the attic... if you get my drift.

And you'll get no argument from me.

Apart from seeing the usual half a dozen drivers each day, toodling along at 10 kilometres under the speed limit with a phone glued to their head, I've been seeing phone users turning up in all sorts of locales lately—and it's damn annoying.

This past week one gent was telling a buddy that he had to hang up because he

THIS  
'N  
THAT



John McGhie

had to pay the cashier in the grocery line.

Another guy was telling his better half that he was now in the potato chip aisle.

One idiot was basically ignoring the Tim Hortons counterperson as he engaged in an oh-so-important conversation about a hockey game.

I've always considered a telephone call a personal thing—something between me and the person I was calling. If I wanted to share my conversation with the rest of the world I'd make a conference call.

Just as I don't want to be bombarded by someone's cigarette smoke while I'm waiting to buy radishes and guacamole, I don't think I need to hear the guy ahead of me get into a fight with his wife over who should pick up the kids.

And I really don't want to hear the annoying beep of a cell phone while I'm on a golf course, but, enter any golf tournament nowadays and there's more beeping going on than a Howard Stern radio show.

But, perhaps I'm being too hard on the cell phone users among us. Maybe those British scientists are right and these poor people are slowly frying their minds and don't realize what they're doing.

Perhaps, instead of my anger they deserve my sympathy.



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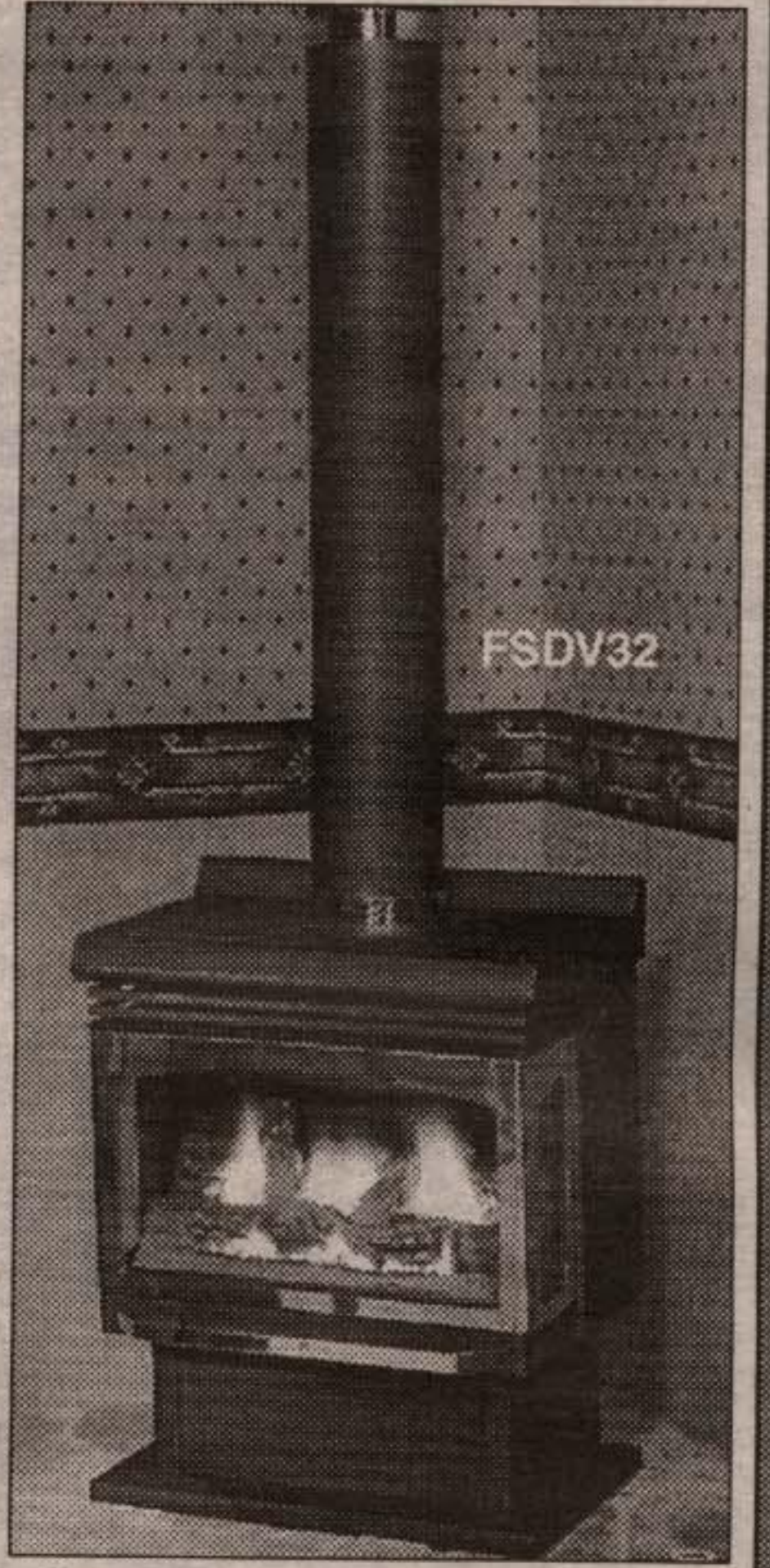
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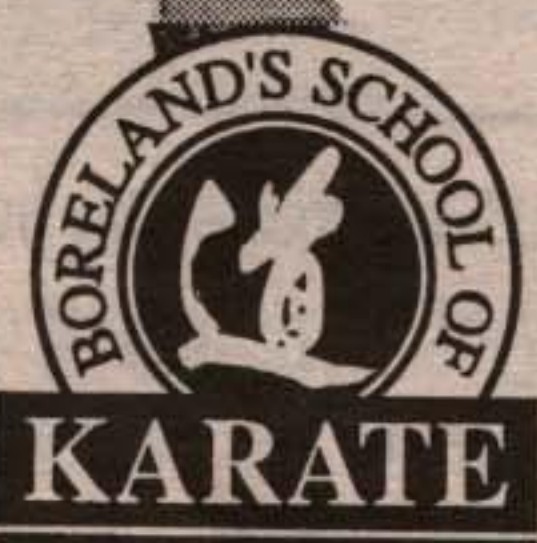
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5:30 - 6:15 pm	5:30 - 6:15 pm	5:30 - 6:15 pm	5:30 - 6:15 pm	6:00 - 6:45 pm	
6:30 - 7:15 pm	6:30-7:15 pm	6:30 - 7:15 pm	6:30 - 7:15 pm		
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