



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: LAUREN STIEGLITZ

I SAID ICED DECAF HALF-FOAM VENTI CARAMEL MACHIATO, MOTHERFUCKER! If you're gonna spew, do it outside.

Bit by bit, Tim's has gotten worse



MEGAN
CLEAVELEY

If we're to believe the newest Tim Hortons commercials, there's no secret ingredient in their coffee that keeps people coming back time after time. Which is true. They don't add an addictive substance to their coffee—it's already in there. But I'm willing to bet they put in some sort of forgetfulness serum to make us all shut out how terrible everything else is that they serve. There's no other explanation for why there hasn't yet been an uprising against the company: they've consistently been serving sub-par products to great success.

I've had more unsatisfactory experiences at Tim Hortons in the past four months than I've had dates in the past year. But who can blame me for being disenchanted with good ol' Timmy's? Soup that resembles a combination of Jell-O and the most disgusting garlic bread ever have left me with a bitter taste in my mouth, both literally and figuratively.

It doesn't stop there—Tim's hot chocolate is more water than anything else, and the muffins are so dry that you'll end up buying a bottle of juice that turns out to be sugar-water with food colouring just to wash the

thing down. And don't get me started on their coffee. The last time I had coffee from Tim Hortons, it was so bad I dumped it down the sink in favour of a cup from a small-town arena.

This is assuming that what they serve in those little brown cups really is coffee. It's always been terrible, but lately their coffee has tasted like diluted battery acid mixed with week-old coffee grounds and burned toast. You'd have a hard time finding another coffee that's equally repulsive—and nowhere else would anyone actually pay for the honour of consuming it.

We Canadians are all too dedicated to Tim Hortons.

It might be that my tastes are evolving, but Timmy's quality seems to be missing lately. Gone are the days when I would pick up a bagel and large double-double after a 5am swim practice. That was when the doughnuts were made on-site and I still carried a Walkman around with me.

We Canadians are all too dedicated to Tim Hortons. It's something that most see as distinctively ours. But now that Tim's has expanded and has stores in the great land of freedom to the south (over 300 and counting, as a matter of fact), it's no longer exclusive to us

Canucks—especially not after Timmy's merged with Wendy's in 1995. And for a company so devoted to being quintessentially Canadian, they aren't much different than a big, bad monopolizing corporation like Wal-Mart.

The only circumstances under which I find Tim Hortons tolerable is when I'm in a small town and the coffee at the arena is worse, or while road-tripping in remote locations where you stop in a small town for a coffee and by the time you're finished, you're in the next small town and it's time for a bathroom break—and another cup of coffee. However, one must be wary, since this cycle can continue for far too long and is a tough one to break.

This isn't to say that Tim Hortons can't do anything right. They run a number of camps for underprivileged children and are very involved in supporting minor hockey, both of which are admirable endeavours. And I have to admit that the iced cappuccinos are pretty good—if only because there's enough sugar and fake cream to adequately mask the flavour of their foul coffee. But after taking a long hard look at our history, I've decided that it's time for Tim and I to part ways.

It's taken me a long time to come to grips with this. I've loved Tim's for so long that I've refused to admit how terrible their food has become. But it's time to put a little truth serum in our coffees and admit that what has been embraced as being quintessentially Canadian is quintessentially crap.



This freaky little bastard is an ewok.

It looks like he wants that person over there to write Opinion for the Gateway.

You'd better go tell them.

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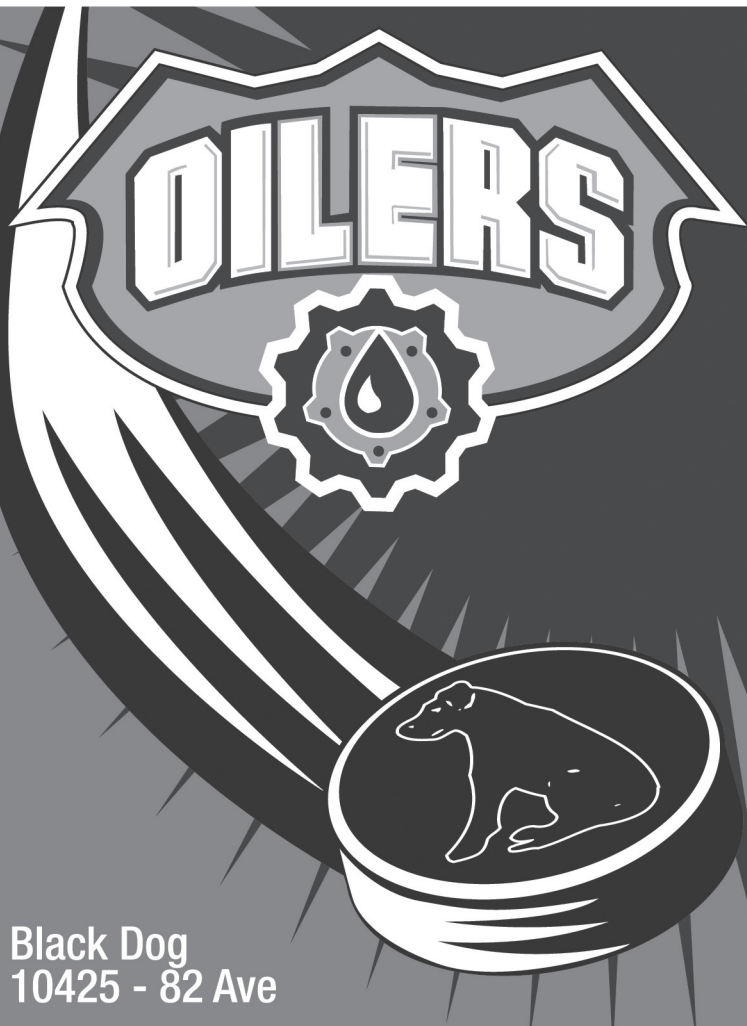
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