

Outdated sperm donation laws not coming along like they should



RAMIN OSTAD

her homosexual male friend "D." The Ontario Court of Appeal has denied the request, citing a 1977 federal regulation that denies homosexuals the right to donate sperm in order to reduce the risk of infectious diseases being spread to women and unborn children.

At first glance, this may not seem like a big deal. There's plenty of medical data to reinforce the fact that, in Canada, AIDS is most prevalent in MSMs.

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It becomes a problem much further down in the regulations, however, where they don't apply to men who are donating to a spouse or sexual partner—ostensibly because they're considered to be in a position of trust and can make their own decisions on whether or not the semen is safe.

So, to recap: not only do gay men like to have sex with other gay men, they also are unable to decide for themselves whether or not they have AIDS. That is quite the congenital affliction.

Now let's forget for a moment that, frankly, it's Susan's vagina, and she can do with it whatever she likes. Despite the fact that MSMs have the highest occurrence of AIDS in Canada, there's actually nothing that gives straight men an edge when it comes to sperm-

safety. Sperm banks have to do rigorous disease-testing, meaning it would be just as likely for an HIV-positive straight man to get through the filters as an HIV-positive gay man.

As it stands, the only way for a donation-excluded man to have the restriction lifted is to make a special application to the federal minister of health. Their semen must be tested for infectious diseases such as HIV and hepatitis. It's then quarantined six months before being retested. Why not just include an anal douche and remove the veil of dignity? You're telling me it takes a homosexual a little over six months to do what a straight man can do in five minutes?

More importantly, it's Susan Doe's right to choose who she wants to be inseminated by. If this D character is someone she's known for a long time—someone she trusts, respects, and maybe even loves—then they shouldn't be denied the right to have a child simply because they don't happen to be physically involved. In fact, it should probably be illegal to refuse them that right.

It's a little disappointing to see that we still base major decisions on laws that were created 30 years ago—laws that probably fit the society they were made in, but are in desperate need of review today. What we don't need is a drawn-out process to determine whether or not gay men are viable candidates for sperm donation. The way this system works now, it seems less AIDS-related, and more gay-related after all.

Mommies, where's Daddy?

COLIN KREIGHER



Why is it wrong for a family to have two mothers and a single father, or some such other configuration? We have seen many traditional families out there that are nonetheless ineffective in keeping their children on a leash. We see kids on the street, affected by the social ills of prostitution, drugs and alcohol, and many of these kids came from these same traditional families. These families have also been guilty of abusing their children, be it verbal, sexual, physical—or by simply ignoring them. For that matter, many of these traditional families don't take responsibility for their child's actions, citing that their kids are out of control and they don't know what to do.

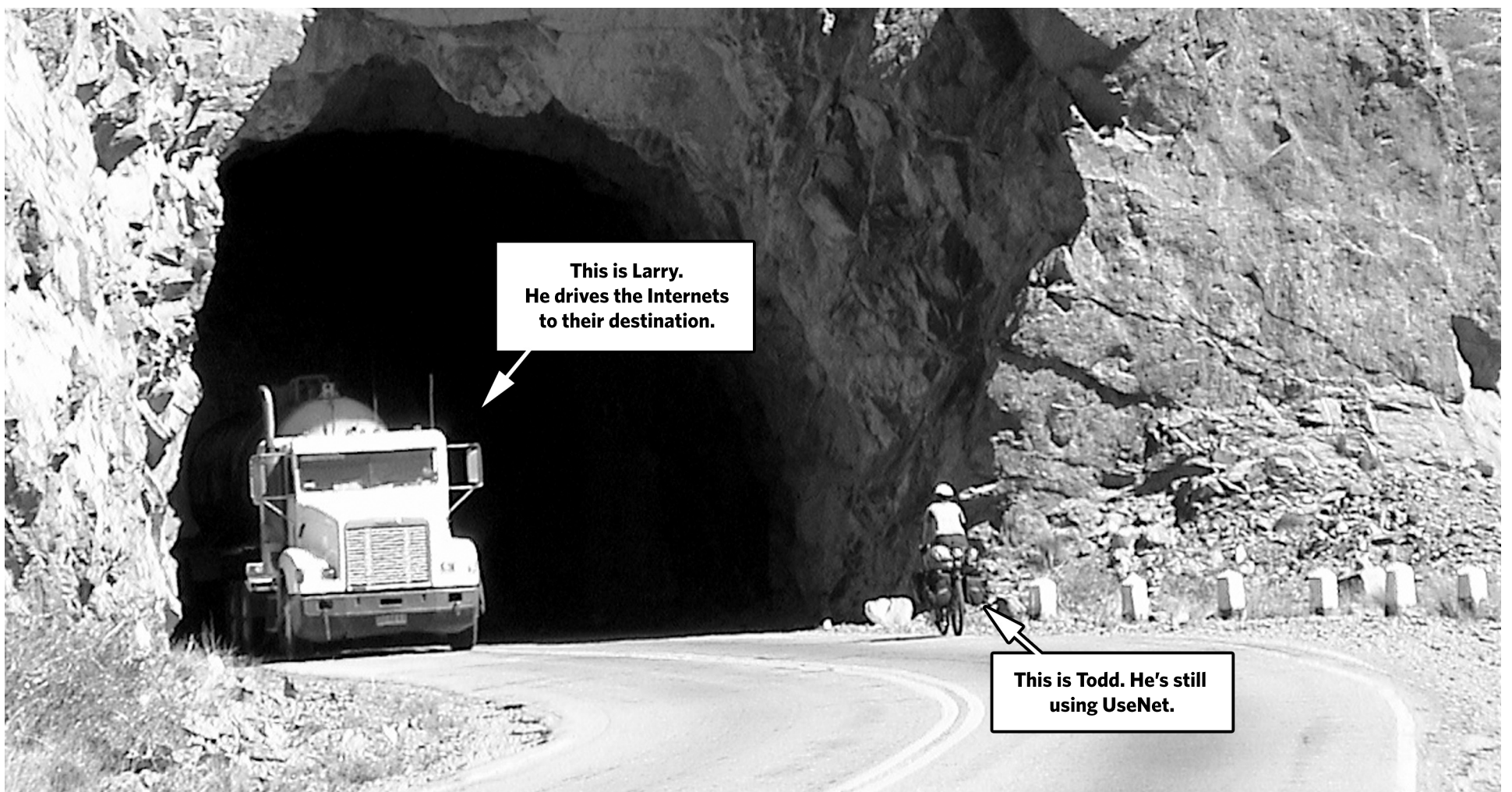
David Quist, a director of the Institute of Marriage and Family in Canada, has stated that these sort of family-related policies should be debated in a public forum. If we had done that to certain other social issues in this country, Aboriginal people would have been slower to get the vote, the Japanese and Chinese would never have gotten repaid for the errors of the government, and a plethora of other minorities would still be struggling to get what's right today.

If a family has gone out of its way to get the government to recognize the legality of the family structure, it should be quite apparent to these family groups that there's love involved—something that they seem to have forgotten about. Instead of focusing on these "non-traditional" families, which appear to have some semblance of love, we should focus on the many broken families. If anything, families with three parents will likely be stronger than many other families out there.

Earlier this month, the Ontario Court of Appeals ruled that a child can have three parents. This ruling was immediately criticized by family lobby groups, who had claimed that this was another attack on traditional marriage.

The female partner in this case argued that the ruling was necessary to protect her guardianship over the child in the case of a mishap with the biological mother. This is a completely logical statement, contrary to what the family groups say. In the case of step-parents—typically a result of divorce, something that they should be also condemning but are typically silent about—they generally don't have legal jurisdiction over their stepchildren unless it's granted by the other parent.

The shortsightedness of these family groups is obvious. Before, the child already referred to the two mothers and the father as his parents, and all this legal ruling did to the family was give the non-biological mother the same legal privileges as the other parents. To say that there is no way to maintain a stable family with such a court ruling is absurd, as this has no bearing on so-called "traditional" families and has no effect on the social fabric of the family in topic. This is just another case of sour grapes because these groups already lost on the same-sex marriage front.



This is Larry.
He drives the Internets
to their destination.

This is Todd. He's still
using UseNet.

NEW
THE GATEWAY ONLINE

Running Todds off the Supermation Infohighway since some time later this month.

... we hope.