

## A Lighter Side...

### Canada's Official Haircut

by Will & Ian Ferguson  
Source: How to Be A Canadian

When singer Bill Ray Cyrus moved to Canada, some people wondered what the attraction had been. The clean air? The mountains majestic? The many an achy-breaky heart? No. The Answer was simple. He came because of the hair.

In northern U.S. states such as Michigan and Minnesota, it is known simply as "the Canadian." In Canada it is called the "mullet" or, more commonly, "the hockey haircut." It is the National Hairdo of Canada, a blend of long and short, conservative and rebel, silly and stupid, Ray and Cyrus.

How does one concoct a "hockey haircut"? It isn't easy. Like Canada itself, the hairstyle is a blend of competing urges, embodying both compromise and a profound duality. The hair is cut short over the skull but left long in the back. When done properly, it should look like a cropped porcupine wearing a cape.



### Fore!!

www.short-funny-stories.com

As a golfer teed up at precisely his reserved time, he was tapped on the shoulder.

The intruder handed him a note which read, "I am deaf and mute. Please let me play through."

"This is MY tee-off time," the golfer bellowed, shaking his head vigorously. "Your handicap doesn't entitle you to play through!"

Then he proceeded to drive his ball straight down the fairway.

"Nice shot," the fellow's caddie said as they headed off the tee, leaving the deaf-mute fuming.

While lining up his next shot, the golfer was struck on the head by a ball. Turning around angrily, he spotted the deaf-mute holding up his hand.

"What is he doing?" asked the golfer, squinting into the sun. "I believe he's holding up four fingers," the caddie replied!

### Pairing Wine and Food

www.grapegrowersofontario.com

The basic concept of pairing wine and food is to complement and enhance the aroma and flavors of



both the food and wine. Reds with heavier meals, whites for lighter meals, red wine with red meat, and white wine with white meat. Although these can be used as general guidelines for pairing wine with food, there is only one rule - choose a wine you know and like.

Wine before food should be low in acidity, preventing the wine from interfering with the taste of the coming meal. If choosing a red wine, mask some of the acidity by serving a little cooler than normal. If choosing white wine, serve a little warmer than normal revealing the character of the wine.

As they are not traditionally consumed with food, sparkling wines make a perfect start to an evening of good conversation and dining. Sweet wine after the meal complements most desserts. Also keep in mind that serving a heavy wine after your meal may make your guests feel unpleasantly full.



### Mail Bag

Have an idea, comment, or question for us?

### The Captioning Group

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### A Day In The Life

by Lori Segneri



Beep, beep, beep beep...it's 4:00 a.m., again, and time to kick-start another day. I walk through the house silent as a mouse, enjoying what undoubtedly is the quietest part of my day, the time before my husband, kids and dog wake up. Coffee, sweet coffee, where are you? After sucking back two cups like someone who has been lost in the desert for days, I am ready to go.

I make the trip to the office (just down the hall), log on to the Internet and start perusing the usual news-oriented sites in order to find out what's news in the world today.

#### 4:54 a.m.

I command my modem to call up our first assignment of the day. After listening to the modem screech and squawk and finally connect, I put on my headphones and wait for the morning news to be beamed to me from somewhere far from home.

#### 6:00 a.m.

With my first show done, it's time to feed the horse -- I mean the dog -- and take him for a walk. It is only then that I realize I am in fact



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actually awake! When I get home, I put on my "mom" hat, wake up the kids, feed them breakfast and make their lunches for the day, just in time for my husband to get them ready for school. The best part of all of this is I'm still in my pajamas!

#### 7:15 a.m.

I have another assignment in 15 minutes, just enough time to change from my pajamas into my running clothes. I knock out the 7:30 show and head out for a run.

#### 9:45 a.m.

Showered and ready to go, I prepare for an hour and a half of captioning. Wow, did that go by fast!! I try and get myself together and run out the door and into the school to volunteer or out to

complete one of a million errands.

#### 3:30 p.m.

My most difficult show of the day, why? It's not the content, it's not the hyper speed babbling host, but it's the timing of it all. Right before air time, I find myself preparing my son for hockey and my daughter for Tahitian dance class -- not to mention getting their homework organized and ensuring that they are not going to rip each other's hair out while I'm on the air.

#### 5:30 p.m.

The dinner news hour has begun, and I am off and writing the news for a local station, far up north -- it's cold there, and I am glad to be where I am! "And that's the news for tonight." I poke my head out of the office and hear my family's cries for supper. Luckily for them, I have time to accommodate their request, and go about putting

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together a meal fit for a king or queen.

**8:00 p.m.**  
My last group of shows for the evening! Will 9:30 never come??

As my day winds down, my husband has finished the dishes and put the kids into the shower, preparing them for bedtime. It's been a long day, but I have enjoyed every minute of it, getting the most of my time and the flexibility offered to me by being able to work from home.

**Industry News**

**"AMERICA ONLINE ANNOUNCES CLOSED CAPTIONS FOR STREAMING MEDIA"**  
by Amy Gross

America Online, the world's leading online services provider, announced the availability of closed captions on the service for select multimedia content that will enhance the online experience for members who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. This initiative will mark the first time an Internet service provider will feature captioned content online, underscoring AOL's commitment to accessibility and ease-of-use. AOL will debut captions for AOL Member Education Tutorials and "Princess Natasha," an original cartoon series created exclusively for the KOLÔ service, the first version of the AOL service designed entirely for kids aged 6-12. AOL for Broadband will

also roll out captioned CNN news content later this fall. The online captions will be available to AOL members through AOL 9.0 Optimized, the newest version of the AOL client software.

Similar to closed captioning for television, AOL captions are displayed directly beneath the video clip and correspond to the audio content. Activating the captions is easy and convenient. Members simply click on the CC button, which appears near the video.



**PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS?**

Where would you like to see captioning for sporting events, such as hockey, positioned?

email us:  
[feedback@captioning.com](mailto:feedback@captioning.com)

**DID YOU KNOW?**



Charles Dickens is the world's most famous shorthand writer. Of all the notable people who have learned shorthand, no other has ever left so graphic an account of his struggle to master what Charles Dickens called "the noble art and mystery of shorthand." He mentions that when he began the

study, without a teacher, "I plunged into a sea of perplexity that brought me, in a few weeks, to the confines of distraction." He tells about his first attempt to take a speech, long before he was qualified to do so. He says, "The speaker walked off from me before I began, and left my imbecile pen staggering about the paper as if it were in a fit."

"I have often transcribed for the printer from my shorthand notes important public speeches in which the strictest accuracy was required, and a mistake in which would have been, to a young man, severely compromising, writing on the palm of my hand by the light of a dark lantern in a post-chaise galloping through a wild country in the dead of night at the then-surprising rate of 15 miles an hour. ... I do verily believe I have been upset in almost every description of vehicle known in this country. I have been, in my time, belated on miry by-roads, 40 or 50 miles from London, in a wheelless carriage, with exhausted horses and drunken postboys, and have got back in time for publication. ... To the present year of my life, when I sit listening to a dull speech, I sometimes beguile the tedium of the moment by momentarily following the speaker in the old, old way. Sometimes I even find my hand going to the tablecloth, taking an imaginary note of it all."

**Words of Wisdom**

I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have."  
- **Thomas Jefferson**

**CAPTIONING FAQs**

There are two types of offline captions - closed and open.

**Closed Captions**

Closed captions are used when you only want to display the captioned text as desired. In other words, you can turn the captions on or off. They are not permanently on screen. To access closed captions, your TV must have a teletext decoder in its circuitry. Most recently manufactured TVs contain the circuitry, but not all.

**Open Captions**

Open captions include the same text as closed captions, but the captions are a permanent part of the picture and cannot be turned off. Open captioning is most often used for government or public announcements and does not require you to own a recently manufactured TV with teletext circuitry or own any special equipment.



**The Power of Words - The following lists of words are all types of what?**

1. splake, goggle-eye, coney, ferox, mahseer

2. cogan, brome, sedge, spelt, fescue

**Part 3: The Steno Machine & Software**

Courtesy: National Court Reporters Association

What sets captioning software apart from realtime software is its ability to communicate with an encoder, the piece of equipment that inserts the captions into the video stream. The captioner must be intimately knowledgeable of their software in order to transmit high-quality captions as well as troubleshoot difficulties as they arise. The captioner is directly and most often independently responsible for executing software functions affecting the overall caption presentation.



For example, the captioner can be responsible for any or all of the following functions:

- Dialing modems to connect to encoders
- Preparing and integrating scripts seamlessly with realtime captions

- Determining the proper placement of the captions on the television screen and adjusting placement as needed
- Sending various commands to the encoder at the proper time

With several different steno machine manufacturers and a wide variety of captioning software available to captioners, the potential for conflict between software and hardware is always a possibility. It is recommended that before the purchase of any new equipment, hardware or software, a guarantee of compliance is given by the manufacturer - this could go a long way to solving any technical issues that arise as the new technology is implemented.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first president to appear on television. April 30, 1939.