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TODAY'S PAPER

FOCUS

Sex on a Zamboni?

If you've ever dreamed about scoring on an ice-cleaning machine, you're not alone, MURRAY CAMPBELL discovers in his annual statistical portrait of Canadians. But if you're looking for someone to indulge your fantasy, try east of the Rockies. Apparently, British Columbians already have enough fun in their lives

By MURRAY CAMPBELL
Saturday, December 27, 2003 - Page F7

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1% of Canadian men say driving a good car is more important than having good health.

2% of advertising and marketing executives offer employment to a job seeker after just one interview; 44 per cent require at least three interviews.

3% of Canadians say their mothers warned them to be wary of the opposite sex; 11 per cent said mom shared tips about keeping a partner satisfied in bed.

4% of men say they would search their partner's wallet or break into their e-mail account to search for signs of infidelity; 7 per cent of women say they would behave that way.

5% of Canadians don't ever wear underwear.

6% of people would like to celebrate Canada Day by having sex on top of a Zamboni.

7% of households have five or more pets.

8% of Canadian teenagers smoke marijuana daily.

9% of business leaders believe French proficiency is "essentially worthless" in the corporate world.

10% of Canadians with the national average household income of \$58,000 consider themselves well-off; half of those earning \$200,000 believe they are just getting by.

11% of girls 15 to 17 had a major depressive episode in

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the previous year, compared with just 2 per cent of boys.

12% of sexually active Canadians have had an affair with their best friend's partner. Six per cent have had sex with the boss.

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13% of women spend more on a Christmas gift for their spouse than for others, whereas 31 per cent of men empty their wallets for their beloved. Only 1 per cent of Canadians spend the most on their father.

14% of families live in common-law partnerships, double the 1981 rate.

15% of Ontario students say they have driven within an hour of consuming two or more drinks. In 1977, that figure was 58 per cent.

16% of Canadian Muggles say the Harry Potter series of books should be banned from school libraries because they glorify witchcraft.

17% of drivers flirt with someone in another car.

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18% of Canadians would rather be in the garden than spend intimate time with a spouse.

19% say fatigue plagues them daily while 63 per cent say just an hour's extra sleep would help. The sleepest Canadians are in British Columbia and the most alert in Quebec.

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20% of Canadians are worried that they or someone in their family will lose a job; during the 1993 recession, this figure was 35 per cent.

21% of vacationers say their idea of a swell summer vacation is to get in the car and drive; 6 per cent like nothing better than staying at home.

22% of Canadians think cosmetic surgery is a fine way to improve on what nature wrought.

23% of men smoke cigarettes daily, compared with 20 per cent of women. Quebeckers smoke more than other Canadians and British Columbians the least.

24% of men wanted to get power tools this Christmas while 17 per cent of women wanted jewellery.

25% of employees are now classified as "knowledge workers," compared with 14 per cent in 1971.

26% of Canadians say they would never place their parents in a nursing home.

27% of adults say they are currently dieting or at least trying to lose weight.

28% of vacationers say parasailing behind a boat is their idea of a wild and crazy thing to do on holidays; 24 per cent of Quebeckers fantasize about tearing up their return tickets.

29% of people with a computer and television in the same room visited the website

of a program they watched; 11 per cent bought on-line a product featured in a TV show or an advertisement.

30% of Ontarians say they or a family member have had trouble finding a family doctor.

31% of men say they have had sex in a car; only 14 per cent of women admit to this.

32% of Canadians agree with the statement that "fast-food restaurants offer enough low-fat nutritious choices for children."

33% of employees don't use up all their allotted holiday time.

34% of Canadians support closing national borders in the event of an infectious-disease epidemic if it's ordered by the World Health Organization; 27 per cent say they wouldn't wait for the WHO to weigh in.

35% of adults would rather start the day with a passionate romantic encounter than a hot breakfast but, sadly, 61 per cent think of their stomachs first.

36% of people looking to sell their houses want to buy a smaller place.

37% of Canadians oppose legalized euthanasia, compared with 49 per cent who support it.

38% of teenaged girls are physically inactive, compared with 24 per cent of boys.

39% of women say beauty comes from personality while 21 per cent says it's confidence; only 3 per cent cite physical characteristics.

40% of women with breast implants have asked to have them removed because of complications.

41% of twentysomethings still live with their parents, a 20-point increase over 1981.

42% of Canadians say their houses are well organized.

43% of Canadians have faked an orgasm; Canadians have sex on average 119 times a year, way behind Hungarians, who led the globe with 152 encounters annually, but well ahead of the under-sexed in Singapore (92 times).

44% of Alberta employees remain in contact with work while on vacation by checking telephone or e-mail messages. The national average is 36 per cent.

45% of Canadian women say the best way to connect with someone is by shaking his or her hand; 41 per cent prefer to hug.

46% of doctors are in an advanced phase of burnout, characterized by emotional exhaustion, cynicism and feelings of ineffectiveness in their work.

47% of adults are overweight and 15 per cent are considered obese.

48% of those over the age of 55 say they find advertisements relevant, compared with 64 per cent of people 18 to 24.

49% of Canadians who set a budget for Christmas shopping spend more than they intend; 40 per cent of all shoppers expect to start the new year with a balance on their credit cards.

50% of Canadian companies say they have been defrauded in the past two years.

51% of male workers eat lunch at their desks, compared with 42 per cent of women. The habit is most evident in British Columbia.

52% of Canadians feel it's acceptable to use pirated computer software; indeed, 40 per cent of business software programs in Canada last year were illegal copies.

53% of Canadians say they don't feel guilty about taking time out to doing nothing at all; 29 per cent feel shameful about goofing off.

54% of Canadians support same-sex marriages.

55% of older Canadians say downloading music from the Internet is theft; 31 per cent of those 12 to 24 share that view.

56% of problem gamblers tried unsuccessfully to shake their addiction to video lottery terminals in the past year; 18 per cent say they considered suicide.

57% of Canadian employers have instituted policies to regulate the time their workers spend on the Internet, compared with 33 per cent three years ago.

58% of university graduates in Canada are female, compared with 52 per cent a decade ago.

59% of women say the colour black dominates their wardrobe.

60% of Canadians say they don't have enough fun in their lives.

61% of beer drinkers say, if stranded on a deserted island, they would want to have beer along more than anything else. Only 3 per cent of the 500 respondents say they would want a woman (one guy specified Rita MacNeil).

62% of high-school graduates go on to college or university.

63% of shoppers try to find out if a product they want to buy is made in Canada.

64% of Ontario women eat at least five servings of fruit or vegetables daily; for men, the figure is 55 per cent.

65% of Canadians sleep either in the nude or in their underwear.

66% of Canadians receive at least one unwanted gift during the holidays, but a third of those people keep it anyway.

67% of Canadians feel guilty about calling in sick no matter how ill they feel.

68% of Canadian companies say they don't offer Christmas bonuses and that any

66% of Canadian companies say they don't offer Christmas bonuses and that any extra pay is tied to performance.

69% of Ontarians believe that "some French" should be mandatory in elementary and high school, compared with 54 per cent of western Canadians.

70% of Canadians support the proposal for a national identification card with fingerprinting or eye-scanning.

71% of men say they are sexually active, compared with 53 per cent of women.

72% of employees say they would rather get bonus money than have their boss throw a Christmas party.

73% of executives say they are more focused when interviewing job applicants in the first hours of the day. The chances of getting hired in the afternoon are slim -- only 4 per cent favoured the 3-to-5 p.m. slot.

74% of Albertans believe they are in very good health, compared with 59 per cent of Atlantic Canadians.

75% of married Canadians consider their spouse their best friend; 41 per cent admit, however, to keeping secrets from them.

76% of Canadians have skinny-dipped at some point and only 3 per cent say they did it alone.

77% of Canadians say they avoid pirated software because it might damage their computers.

78% of drivers say they would stop and help another driver stuck in snow or ice.

79% of Canadians believe money is being laundered in this country to finance terrorist activities abroad.

80% of Ontario school boards have placed video-surveillance cameras in schools.

81% of Canadians believe in God, but only 47 per cent think it's important to belong to a religious group.

82% of drivers belt out songs in their cars.

83% of British Columbians say they have "enough" fun in their lives; 93 per cent believe that having fun will lead to a healthy, successful life.

84% of Canadians correctly identified unsafe sex practices as a prime method of HIV transmission; 6 per cent cited kissing and 2 per cent mosquito bites.

85% of pet owners believe their pet shows concern when they are sick.

86% of Canadians prefer a pen or pencil to a laptop or other electronic note-taking device.

87% of gays, lesbians and bisexuals have used on-line personal advertisements.

88% of Canadians are happy in their current jobs, although one in 10 employees hates the boss. Getting ahead by sucking up to the boss was considered unsuitable by 78 per cent.

89% of Canadians believe that their country provides a better quality of life than the United States does.

90% of Canadians say their chief financial goal is to pay down debt.

91% of Canadians say they trust pharmacists while only 9 per cent trust national politicians.

92% of women 35 to 49 years old agree with the statement that they are "happy with who you are inside and out."

93% of adults want compulsory physical education in schools, and 61 per cent said junk food should be banned from schools. Of course, 16 per cent of these parents don't worry much about their own personal health and eat and drink whatever they want.

94% of barbecue owners cooked hamburgers last summer, compared with 2 per cent who slapped artichokes on the grill.

95% of Canadians feel safe in their homes at night, but half the population believes there are too few police patrolling their neighbourhoods.

96% of schoolchildren have used a computer. Students in rural areas were more likely to use them at school while urban kids used them at home.

97% of people say they plan to retire by the age of 65.

98% of recent immigrants did not apply to emigrate to any other country than Canada; 91 per cent intend to settle permanently in this country.

99% of lawyers have Internet capabilities in their offices. (Polls haven't determined whether the remaining 1 per cent have moved beyond quill pens.)

100% of questions not asked by pollsters aren't answered.

Murray Campbell is The Globe and Mail's Queen's Park columnist.

Sources: Ipsos-Reid; Decima Research; Ontario Student Drug Use Survey; Pollara; SES Research; Statistics Canada; B.C. Centre for Disease Control; comScore Media Metrix Canada; Canadian Community Health Survey; Environics Research Group; Law Times; Leger Marketing; Workopolis.com; Hewitt Associates; MochaSofa; COMPAS Inc.; Weber-Stephens Products Co.; Behavioural Sciences Research Press; Cancer Care Ontario; Canada.com; Jigsaw Marketing; Canadian Medical Association; American Animal Hospital Association; Solutions Research Group Consultants Inc.; Jamieson Laboratories Men's Health Survey; Heart and Stroke Foundation; Maritz; Thompson Lightstone.