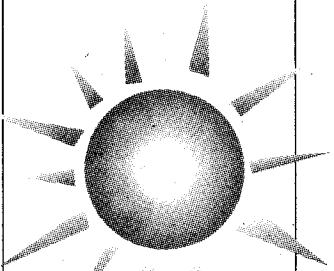


THOUGHT OF THE DAY

We must rediscover the distinction between hope and expectation.

- Ivan Illich



SUNDAY



IN OUR OPINION

Safety conundrum needs wise heads

I will take wise heads to make the ultimate decision on whether a permanent life guard presence should be established at Happy Valley.

It's not about a question of cost because as little as \$70,000 would pay for a facility, which is really chicken feed in the big scheme of things.

But once council takes such a step - even if the beach is not flagged - it would be indicating the area is safe for swimming.

But Happy Valley is, without question, one of our most dangerous beaches because of the huge volume of water that rushes out of the mouth of Pumicestone Passage.

It is also one of the most deceptive, which is the main reason an

English tourist drowned there last week in waters that appeared to be safe.

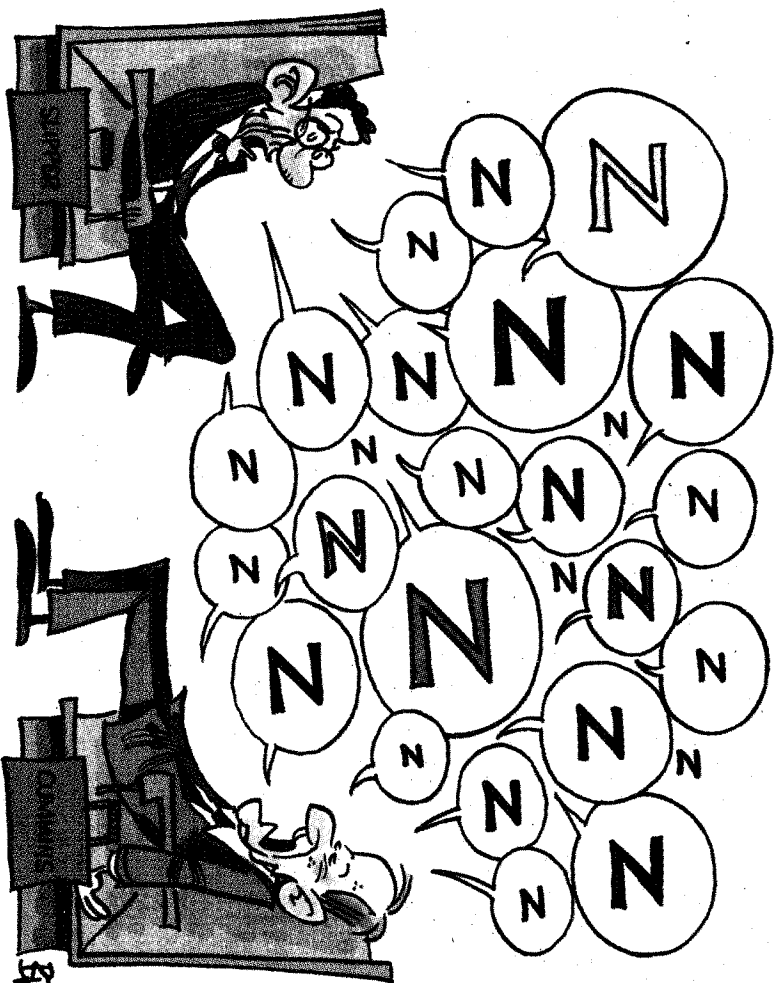
Officials of the Ithaca Caloundra City Life Saving Club, who patrol nearby Bulcock Beach, say they can't keep an eye on swimmers at Happy Valley because it is hidden from them.

But if the council will build a surveillance tower and storage facility at Happy Valley, they will take responsibility for monitoring the site.

The big question faced by authorities is whether the presence of a surveillance tower - even without flags on the beach - would give people the false impression the water is safe and make the problem even worse than it already is?

PETER BROELMAN - AUSTRALIA'S CARTOONIST OF THE YEAR

THE GREAT DEBATE FOR FISHER...



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