

the link

student newspaper

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Twitter, Not for Absent Minded

By Laura Gallant
The Link



People who use the micro-blogging service Twitter keep their “followers” (people who subscribe to their Twitter feed) updated on their life. It’s a tool used by the

media to provide up to the second reporting. This medium has been responsible for the near instant announcement of the plane crash in New York. It is used to market products, for PR, and job hunters. But be wary. Twitter is addictive and dangerous, like crack. Facebook is bad enough, but at least ‘the Face’ has a marginal level of safety where users have the choice who they add to view their profile. By design, Twitter is farther reaching.

Recently, lawyers for a building products company are asking an Arkansas court to overturn a \$12.6 million judgment against the firm after a juror tweeted during the trial, violating court rules.

Posted on Twitter was a lucky job applicant who managed to tweet herself out of a great job offer. “Cisco just offered me a job! Now I have to weigh the utility of a fatty paycheck against the daily commute to San Jose and hating the work,” the user wrote. Unfortunately, this user’s profile was public. A Cisco employee who had been researching the candidate wrote back, “Who is the hiring manager. I’m sure they would love to know that you will hate the work. We here at Cisco are versed in the web.”

Sports players are also communicating with their fans on Twitter. Although that is not likely to interfere with game scores, it is still worrisome, at least to Milwaukee Bucks coach Scott Skiles. He has asked his players not to use Twitter from the locker room after learning that Bucks forward Charlie Villanueva tweeted from his mobile phone during a game at halftime.

Twitter is no doubt the wave of the social networking future. In this brave new world of Twitter, a mistaken comment (although highly entertaining) can be viewed by millions of people in seconds. Think before you tweet.

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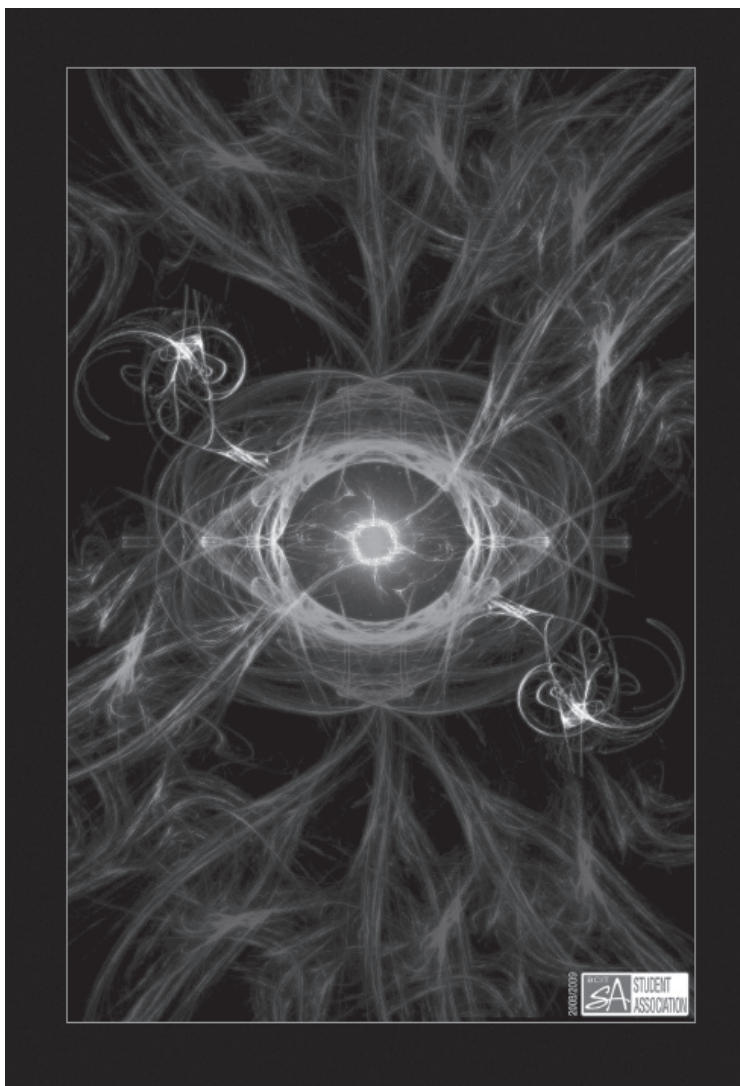
We’d like to invite all students to send us their high resolution photos to be considered for the cover. Along with your photo, please send a little blurb as to why you took the photo or why it’s significant to you. Did we mention there’s a cash incentive? Email us at link@bcitsa.ca or drop by the Publications office.

COVER: By Alex Rakhit

This photo was taken in Deep Cove. It’s not often that we have a camera on hand when there’s a rainbow. And even though it rains a lot in Vancouver, it’s never raining and sunny enough at the same time to see rainbows on a regular basis.

**Have something to say or a story idea you’d like to share with us?
Email us at link@bcitsa.ca**

The Publications Department has started designing the 2009-2010 Student Handbook. We’d like to invite students to send us their ideas or artwork to be considered for the cover. Last year we had a cool graphic design (seen at right). So be sure to let all of your talented friends know about this great opportunity to add a quality publication to their portfolio! Contact us at link@bcitsa.ca for more information or stop by the Publications Office in SE2 (right behind the convenience store).



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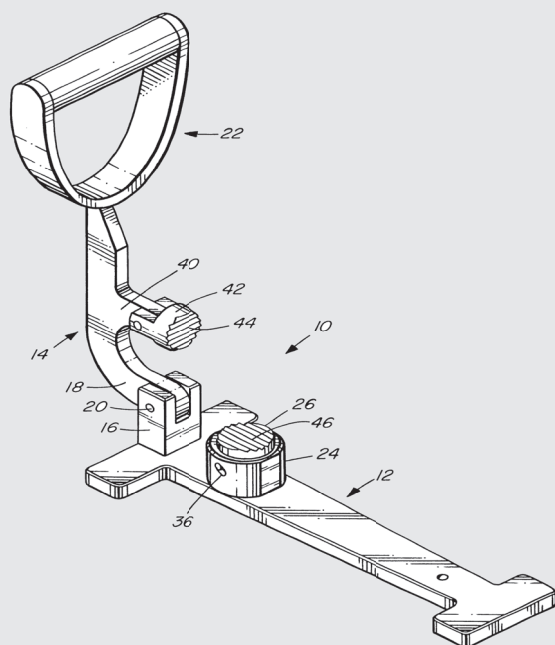
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News In Brief

By Laura Gallant
The Link

Local inventor sought out BCIT to create a Pill Crusher

Dennis Kruger, owner of AB Innovations and a hospital employee in Mission, came to BCIT to create a pill crusher for hospital staff. On many occasions, Kruger observed coworkers and health care staff crushing pills using whatever means possible, causing strain injuries. Under the requirements laid out by Kruger, BCIT was able to research and develop the device, allowing the functional prototype to be produced commercially. It is currently being provided to the health care industry, both as a commercial and home product.



Russia calling off baby seal hunt

Russia has recently announced that it will be banning the hunting of baby seals. The decision is yet another blow to an age-old industry that has been losing a public relations battle in recent years to animal-rights groups. In addition, the European Union is considering a ban of all seal products, similar to one that the United States adopted decades ago. This announcement is timely as the world's largest seal hunting event is about to take place on Canada's east coast later this month.

VANOC filing lawsuit against scalping

Vancouver 2010 has filed a lawsuit in B.C. Supreme Court against Coast2Coast Tickets claiming the broker is infringing official marks, misleading consumers, and scalping tickets for the Winter Games. Scalped tickets were a problem during the Beijing Games and VANOC does not want to see a repeat in Vancouver. When ticket buyers arrived in Beijing some found that the tickets they had bought from resellers did not exist or were counterfeit.



B.C.'s Green Party campaigns for marijuana

B.C.'s Green Party is promising to decriminalize marijuana and prohibit Tasers as the party releases its platform of promises ahead of the May provincial election. Green leader Jane Sterk says a Green provincial government would work towards decriminalizing marijuana and reap tax revenues by taking control of its production and distribution. She recognizes that decriminalization is a federal jurisdiction, but believes the province can still assert some authority. Also among the over 500 measures in the platform, Sterk says a Green Party government would establish a provincial police force and prohibit the use of Tasers.



A Different Fight for Sustainability

The B.C. Wildlife Park is doing its part in fighting the extinction of the burrowing owl, which is yet another battle against a deteriorating environment.

By Birdie Hamilton
The Link

The term “sustainability” has been thrown around quite a bit in the last decade. A myriad of definitions exist for the term; popular media advertises that the general understanding is that if humanity continues its’ course of abusing non-renewable natural resources of the planet, there will be nothing left for future generations dependant on outdated, environmentally harmful power sources.

That being said, what about animal populations? With progressive urban expansion, many species-specific habitats are being destroyed, including the Canadian grasslands. The burrowing owl is just one of many animals affected by urbanization. Their population in B.C. was bare-to-none in the early 1990’s, and they were deemed an endangered species.

The B.C. Wildlife Park in Kamloops started a captive breeding program for burrowing owls 20 years ago. The program breeds baby burrowing owl chicks, raises the young until they are strong enough to fly on their own, and every April releases them into the wild. In regards to where the birds make their homes, program supervisor Paul Williams states that “we don’t just let them go and find their areas; we do release them in specific sites that we’ve developed where there is a good food source and where predators won’t get them.” Now, releasing approximately 100 birds every year, the breeding facility is the biggest of its kind in North America, and has inspired a similar recovery program in Abbotsford.

The goal of the program is to re-create the self-sustaining population that once existed in BC. However, there are a number of obstacles trying to reach this goal. The burrowing owl is a very small bird, and is hunted by many



other animals, including bears, coyotes, and skunks. They also don’t have much down covering to keep them warm, and as they are highly migratory, it’s hard to get the birds to return to B.C. and breed here. Part of the challenge of getting the birds to repopulate B.C. is that the climate is almost unsuitable, being that our province is at the northern tip of their range.

Williams, and his team at the B.C. Wildlife Park, are trying to teach grassland owners the ways of co-existing with the burrowing owl to get the maximum use out of the grasslands, and he says, “we’re looking at sustainability of the grasslands. There are ways to develop things so that everybody can have access to that land, that really needs access to it.”

The burrowing owl population is consistently dropping, and Williams says other areas the owls find habitable (like the Prairies), will probably need to turn to captive breeding. And if they do, they won’t need to start from scratch; the B.C. Wildlife Park already knows what works. This ongoing battle of sustainability at risk will continue, and is just another exposé on the necessary changes that need to be made, to sustain the planet.

Campus Query

Where your opinion matters

“What do you do to help the environment?”

By Birdie Hamilton



Rebecca Johnstone

I recycle everything possible, I use the backside of paper to conserve it. I love coffee, and I don’t want to waste any more paper cups, so I bought this stainless steel mug.

Rob Buffam
I am keen about my recycling!



Sarah Johnstone

I use reusable bags as much as I can.

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BCIT student donates paintings to charity event

Student will donate his art to help Architecture for Humanity’s “Art Auction” fundraising event.

Kimbeley O’Dowd
Architecture for Humanity - Vancouver Chapter

Patrick O’Shaughnessy, an Architectural and Building Engineering technology student, has been involved with the organization since 2008. However, this will be first time for both Patrick and the local chapter using art to raise funds.

“They’re a great organization. I’ve been volunteering with them for a couple of years now,” said O’Shaughnessy. “We do lots of helpful projects both locally and abroad, everything from designing temporary shelters for the homeless, to providing community service.”

O’Shaughnessy will be donating a diverse mix of his works to the fundraising event in the hopes of having the proceeds from the sales of his art fund the organization’s work.

“I’m giving them a painting I drew while in New York last summer, it’s basic landscape of some older buildings

and a star-filled skyline as the backdrop. Also a black and white photo of the Brooklyn Street Bridge. The final piece I decided on is a

hand drawn portrait of a young woman. I framed them all myself out at Emily Carr, so hopefully that adds some value” he said.

O’Shaughnessy formally studied sculpture, fine painting, and construction during undergraduate studies. But surprisingly he stopped drawing altogether until the last couple of years due to a new found interest in his work.

“It was my friends who told me to not give it up. They seem to like what I’m doing, and started asking me to paint or draw something for their apartments or offices. It’s nice that people like the stuff I’m doing.”

Architecture for Humanity is a not-for-profit charity organization that brings design, construction and development services to communities in need. They have grown to offer professional design services to community groups, non-governmental organizations, funding agents, social



Patrick puts finishing touches on a drawing for Art Auction

entrepreneurs and other not-for-profit organizations. For more information go to architectureforhumanity.org/

The Art Auction will be held at Grace Gallery located at Main & 3rd in Vancouver on Friday April 3, starting at 4 p.m. Another art auction is being scheduled for later this summer.

FIVE STUDENTS NEEDED



We need your help! BCITSA is doing a student survey in April. \$10 an hour and we can work around your class schedule. Interested? Email your resume to Scott at outreach@bcitsa.ca or drop by the Student Association Main Office in SE2.

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is our issue too



Earth Collision: A New Frontier

On Monday morning March 2nd at 5:45 Pacific Time an asteroid designated 2009 DD-45 came what scientists' term close to Earth. The asteroid skimmed by Earth coming within 41,000 miles of the planet.

By Shane Woodford
The Link

Dr. Don Yeomans is the head of a division of N.A.S.A. called the Near Earth Object Office based out of California. He is charged with the discovery and tracking of objects that enter our solar system, to determine their path, and whether a collision with our planet is imminent.

While his office played a role in identifying DD-45, they already knew where it was going and how close it would come before it skimmed past our planet.

"There was no danger, we knew it wouldn't hit."

The work that goes into discovering asteroids and space debris and tracking them is a very new study. For most of human kind's existence we have lived on Earth blissfully ignorant of the danger of celestial impacts. While the Earth has sustained several giant impacts in its history, Dr. Yeomans says we are just now able to identify and track space objects using cutting edge science.

"[Asteroids] are discovered by using telescopes of

course. An observer with a telescope would look at a particular area of sky and take a CCD image, then would come back to that same area of sky fifteen minutes later and take another image. Then come back a third time or even a fourth time to take another image or two. Then the observer would compare those three or four images and see which objects in the field have moved."

According to Dr. Yeomans, once an asteroid is discovered they use the stars in the background of the pictures to track the asteroid by allowing a super computer to extrapolate a speed and course. This way staff at the Near Earth Object office can actually peek into the future and see where an asteroid will be in ten, twenty, or even a hundred years in its future.

Dr. Yeomans says asteroids that are projected to pass within thirty million miles from the Earth's orbit are then classified as near earth objects. Objects that are determined to pass very close to the Earth then get some extra attention.

"If there is something really close, then we try and compute earth impact probabilities."

Dr. Yeomans says they are able to identify and track about 90 percent of near earth objects as a kilometer across in size and larger. However, there is still a lot of work needed in finding and tracking smaller objects than that. Asteroids as small as 50 meters across can still inflict serious damage in a collision.

It may sound like Hollywood, but Dr. Yeoman says saving the Earth from a collision is feasible. Since 2005 when N.A.S.A initiated a head on collision with a comet for scientific purposes, it has proved that diverting an asteroid is possible.

"It rather clearly demonstrated that the technology for running into these objects is there...so the easiest technique is simply to run into these objects and slow them down just a bit...so that in 20 to 30 years time when they were predicted to hit the Earth they wouldn't."

For most of human kind's history on our planet we have been completely ignorant of the threat from outside our atmosphere despite proven damage. Dr. Yeomans says the technology is now there and progress has been made but there is still a lot to learn.

"The process of finding and tracking these objects has just been underway for about ten years so a start and a lot of progress has been made especially for finding the big ones that could cause most of the damage. Until about ten years ago we were blissfully unaware of this threat and now we know and we are doing something about it."

The question now remains that when, not if, the next asteroid to hit our planet large enough to cause catastrophic damage is found, will we be able to stop it now that we can find and track it?

Gang Violence: Advice From an Expert.

If anyone could comment on the state of the gang violence currently ongoing in Metro Vancouver with any authority, it would be Michael Chettleburgh.

By Shane Woodford
The Link

He is an accomplished author who has written two books on Gang culture. *Young Thugs* published in 2007 is a Donner book prize finalist. He also wrote *Gladiator School* in 2009.

He's also the author and research director for two Canadian survey's on youth gangs. He also worked with former police officer Tony "PacMan" Morano to publish *Lessons from a Gang Cop*.

Michael also publishes the Canadian Street Gang journal and has served as a consultant and keynote speaker for government, police, and community agencies.

When Michael saw shooting after shooting start showing up on his news from his Toronto home he wasn't surprised at all.

"What Vancouver is dealing with are problems that have been in the making for 15 or 20 years...when you look at the extent of gang affiliation and the size of the drug trade in the lower mainland area. When you look at the strength of organized crime and you put a number of other factors into play, what you have been having is the perfect storm of gang violence over the last few months."

He is quick to point out that Vancouver's location as a port city close to the U.S. border as well as the gateway to Asia, have all played a part in making the city a hub for organized crime and a very lucrative drug trade.

"You know it is a number of those factors but you can't really understand the gang issue in Vancouver without really understanding how large the drug trade is in your province. [It] is estimated between six and eight billion

dollars."

Michael says organized crime and street level gangs all try to get a piece of the drug money floating around.

"So when you have that kind of money that can be made on a product where the demand is going through the roof both in terms of people who want to consume it in Canada...but also the international demand for B.C. bud and B.C. meth, it is no wonder that Vancouver is experiencing the violence that it is right now."

When asked about the U.S. style war on drugs and tough justice system, he points out that those tactics may not be right for Canada.

"If we want to look at a case study of what not to do in terms of the gang issue then we do have to look at the United States."

Michael says it is as simple as looking at the numbers in U.S. cities like Los Angeles to prove the U.S. style war on drugs is a failure.

"Back in 1980 there were approximately a 100,000 gang members in the United States and about 300,000 prisoners in the federal and state system. In 2005 there were well over a million gangsters and 2.4 million people in jail. So if tough on crime tough on gangs worked you would expect to see it in the numbers but what we do know is that it has led to this explosion of the drug trade and consequently the size of gang memberships. So we need to look past these quick fix solutions that might play well for voters."

He goes on to explain that it doesn't mean we need to get soft on crime or gangsters, but instead he says we need to focus on legalization.

"With [drug] prohibition we are allowing gangs to control what gets sold, to who it gets sold, and where it gets

sold. I would rather, myself, take that estimated between 12 and 15 billion dollar a year fiscal dividend that comes out of the gang trade and rather than let organized crime and street gangs enjoy that money for their exclusive benefit I would rather take that money through some kind of legalized regime. Put proper money into prevention and harm reduction, which is a dirty word in this country right now. Dealing [instead] with the consequences that arise from drug use."

He points out he would at least like to see the discussion start in Canada about legalization. He continues by pointing out that alcohol and smoking are both dangerous and deadly substances that are already controlled by the government.

On recent government announcements made in B.C. he didn't mince words calling it "Window dressing". Michael advocates an approach that both punishes but also prevents.

"What I advocate for is very much a balanced approach that you need both the carrot and the stick if you want to deal with the gang situation."

Michael thinks we have along way to go in this country in dealing with gangs and drugs effectively. He says a united approach across Canada would be more effective but is a long way off. For the immediate future he sees gang violence being cyclical, operating in peaks and valleys.

He finished the interview with a confident, "we will be having this interview again five or ten years down the road."

BCITMA Dream Team Takes New Orleans By Storm



Up against seven other finalists, the BCITMA is determined to leave the AMA Collegiate Conference as marketing champions

By Eddy Tan
VP of Communications | BCITMA

The BCITMA is currently in New Orleans representing Canada at the American Marketing Association Collegiate Conference. Besides attending networking events and industry seminars, the BCITMA has a more pressing objective in mind: to return home as the 2009 champions of the AMA Case Study Competition. Over 50 collegiate chapters across North America have spent the past few months developing an integrated marketing campaign for a real client. On March 26, the top eight finalists will compete for the title of AMA Case Study Champion, and the BCITMA's Dream Team is among them.

The client this year is Kodak, and teams are to apply their marketing savvy and creative ingenuity to develop a campaign that supports the launch of the next generation Kodak Gallery. The Dream Team has been working

intensely on this campaign since September, and is thrilled to be among the top eight finalists. Although campaign details are top secret, the team has been working day and night perfecting the pitch they will deliver in front of hundreds of AMA members and client representatives, going head-to-head against other finalists such as the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

The Dream Team consists of ten highly talented BCITMA members. Four of these members will be suiting up for the final pitch, and they are Alicia Fruhm, Jacquie Anderson, Bianca Schmitt, and Scott McCartney. The BCITMA has enjoyed considerable success in the past. They finished in second place in 2007 and 2006, and were the first place champions in 2005. This year's Dream Team is determined to bring the championship back home to Canada. We will be cheering them on all the way!

Your Success Starts Here.

As a collegiate chapter of the American Marketing As-

sociation, the BCITMA is a diverse group of business-savvy students dedicated to developing professionally and capitalizing on their time at BCIT. Opportunities in advertising, event planning, philanthropy, public relations, leadership, and integrated marketing allow members to develop and apply their business skills in a professional organization.

Over the years, the BCITMA has established itself as a dynamic and exciting force on campus. Come join the action! No matter what program or year you are in, you are welcome to get involved. General meetings are held every Monday at 7:45am in the Student Association Chambers in SE6. Be sure to check out the official website at bcitma.com.

Does your club have
a good news story?
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10,000 Voices for B.C. Rivers Day of Action



Transmission lines accompany the development of all private hydro projects. Photo by Gary Diers.



River-diversion tunnel at the Ashlu Private Power Project.

March 26 has been designated 10,000 voices for BC Rivers Day of Action. Organizers want anyone opposed to run-of-river, or independent power projects (IPP) to email or phone their MLA and premier Gordon Campbell and voice their concern. The event is calling for a moratorium on private power projects until they are regionally planned, environmentally appropriate, acceptable to First Nations, and publicly owned.

By Laura Gallant
The Link

BCIT head of Fish, Wildlife and Recreation **Mark Angelo** says the public is concerned about a flood of private run-of-river power proposals all over B.C. that are approved without a comprehensive provincial strategy that considers environmental and social impacts.

Event organizers say for 10,000 Voices claim, “the BC government has rushed to develop private power which has resulted in a chaotic situation where cumulative environmental impacts are ignored, regional planning is non-existent, our energy security is jeopardized and local governments have been silenced”.

Run-of-river projects have been proposed on rivers and streams across the province. Many projects have been announced under the Liberal’s BC Clean Energy Plan with the aim of providing clean power to supplement the forecasted shortfall of power from BC Hydro.

Environmental advocates argue that IPPs have considerable harmful environmental impacts on B.C. streams. Organizers for 10,000 voices claim that at first glance the IPPs seemed to be a legitimate source of clean, ‘green’ power. However, they say the negative impacts of these proposals become obvious during construction. The Ashlu River project proposal was met with great resistance from locals. Grassroots opposition prompted the Squamish-Lil-

loet Regional District not to approve the zoning for the project. Shortly after the local government halted the project, the Liberal government passed Bill 30, ultimately revoking the right for local government to zone on IPPs and as a result development on the river continued despite strong community opposition. Organizers of 10,000 Voices for BC Rivers began to take a closer look at this IPP and others where there was an obvious loss of local democratic rights. The once open to public Ashlu River soon became hard to access, a large tunnel was drilled and heavy equipment was present in the river constructing the infrastructure

One of the largest IPPs currently proposed is in the Bute Inlet on the Sunshine Coast. This project proposes to dam and divert 17 rivers, resulting in 200 km of road construction and 100 bridges.

10,000 Voices for B.C. Rivers claim that for the last seven out of 11 years, BC Hydro has been a net exporter of power, buying low and selling high. Upgrades to existing dams have been suggested as alternatives to IPPs. The event is pushing for a moratorium on any further IPP development.

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Zipcar

Last week I had the opportunity to test drive a Zipcar. Here are the results...

By Maria-Jose Ramirez
The Link

Zipcar was founded in 1999 by Robin Chase and Antje Danielson who created a car rental company for people to conveniently book cars for a couple of hours or for a few days without having to go through a car rental agency.

Depending on how frequent your needs for transportation are, you have the choice to choose from an annual occasional contract of \$55 with a one-time application fee of \$25, or choose a monthly plan with added bonuses such as one to two month rollovers and lower hourly and daily rates. The best part of about Zipcar is that all of the driving packages include 150 free kilometers, insurance, and free gas. Keep in mind however, that you need to be 21 to have a Zipcar membership.

When booking our first car to test, we were surprised by all the different types of cars available such as the Toyota Prius, Honda Fit, Mazda 6, VW Jetta, Mustang Convertible, BMW 328i, and Zipcars signature vehicle, the Mini Cooper. We chose the Mini.

Once you've picked up your Zipcar membership including your special "Zipcard" swipe card that acts like a fob system (you know, those thingy's people use to get into their apartments) to activate your desired car, reserving a Zipcar is as easy as using the Where feature on your iPhone to locate and reserve a Zipcar near you.

After choosing a car, the amount of time you will need,



Maria in the Zipcar

and from which location you want to pick it up, you are ready to head out and pick up your car.

Upon arriving to the underground parking lot along Commercial Drive we saw a red, two-door Mini Cooper. We located the little black box on the top corner of the driver's side windshield, swiped the card, and the doors magically unlocked! When I opened the passenger's door I was again surprised on how clean the interior was considering how many people might have used it before us. But luckily for those offended by the dirty interior of a car, having your pet inside of a Zipcar or returning the car passed your allotted time will get you a Zipcar fine. Also, all Zipcars are smoke free vehicles.

Back to the driving I noticed that once inside the Mini that we found this odd little saucer shaped thing that ended up being our car key. (Side note, the car will not start if you're pressing on the brakes.) The ride was fun and it was my first time riding in a Mini Cooper. We decided to drive around Vancouver to get a feel for the Mini. When we were finished with the car, we simply returned it to the underground parking lot where we found it and locked the car with a simple swipe of the Zipcard just like in the beginning. If any of you individuals are as forgetful as I am, Zipcar will conveniently text you when your reservation is about to expire. Isn't that great?! Plus if you happen to be stuck in traffic or need a little more extra time, you can simply call the number behind your Zipcard and ask the automated machine to extend your reservation.

I believe this company is great for anyone that only needs transportation once in a while but who doesn't want to commit to paying the monthly payments and insurance fees for a normal personal car. With the frequently talked about topic of global warming and being more friendly to the environment, this is the perfect way for students to do weekly errands such as grocery shopping. It's also great for companies that need a car

to entertain clients or even for people on a business trip who can use the hosting companies Zipcar membership. All Zipcar members have the opportunity to reserve a Zipcar in 50 different cities in North America and the UK. Zipcar has an approximate fleet of 5,500 and also 250,000 registered members. Zipcar also provides special rates and contracts for students and corporate companies. Currently there are 91 Zipcar available for Vancouverites.

An independent study for Zipcar has indicated that each Zipcar on the road takes 15 personally owned vehicles off the roads, which thus improves carbon emissions and promotes a greener environment. In addition, Zipcar has estimated on taking an overall 90,000 vehicle off the roads. Another great fact about Zipcar is that they're the leading greenest car-sharing service in which each Zipcar member consumes approximately 100 gallons of gasoline less than when they owned their own vehicle, resulting in significant oil conservation (Zipcar Member Behavior Survey). Since 2001 Zipcar has won countless awards such as the Environmental Merit Award and the Copernican Award. The company is aware that giving back is important and therefore Team Zipcar ran a campaign to raise \$150,000 for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in 2008. Zipcar also work in conjunction with local Vancouver business' to provide shopping discounts and services.

All-in-all, Zipcar is environmentally friendly and the best economical way of getting around a busy city with a car while without actually owning one. I believe that we should all consider this option as a means of transportation and it was a pleasure to have the opportunity to experience this first hand. Go to www.zipcar.com for more information.

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Music News In Brief

By Kristina Mameli
The Link

BCIT's Evolution 107.9 on CBC Radio 3's Station Shout Out.

As part of *CBC Radio 3's* initiative to garner a little exposure for radio stations across Canada that play alternative or independent music, *Evolution 107.9* has given a Shout Out to transplanted locals **Ladyhawk**.

You can check it out at: <http://radio3.cbc.ca/blogs/2009/03/The-Station-Shout-Out-Kristina-from-Evolution-1079-picks-Ladyhawk>.

Further to that, Ladyhawk also has a new album in the works.

Ladyhawk's new album appears to have something to do with Ogoogo, or the Loch Ness Monster, that is said to live in the murky waters of an Okanagan lake; the band originally being from Kamloops.

Cryptic album teasers have been posted on their blog. No word yet on when exactly we can expect the new one, the follow-up to last year's well received *Shots*.

The Plaza Club not yet down for the count...

The club, currently under renovation, was scheduled to be complete by now; though it remains closed. Despite rumours that the renovations had pushed the club into bankruptcy, it is expected to open again soon---just a little bit behind schedule. Live events taking place at the club have been moved to accommodate this, check your local listings for more information.

Jane's Addiction releases two Trent Reznor produced free tracks.

Via the cleverly named ninja2009.com, **Jane's Addiction** has released two free studio tracks, reworked by **NIN's Trent Reznor**.

"Chip Away" and "Whores" are both songs from 1987's self-titled live release.



Evolving 20 Countdown For March 21, 2009

1. Shad - Brother Watching
2. The Butless Chaps - Broken Transit, Broken
3. Wintermitts - DANS
4. The Nods - Uh Huh
5. The Black Keys - Strange Times
6. AC Newman - There Are Maybe Ten or...
7. The Fireman (Paul McCartney) - Nothing.
8. Like A Martyr - And by coffee I mean...
9. Snow Patrol - Take Back the City
10. Islands - The Arm
11. Vancougar - Philadelphia
12. Franz Ferdinand - Ulysses
13. Wolf Parade - California Dreamer
14. Eagles of Death Metal - Cheap Thrills
15. Uh Huh Her - Not a Love Song
16. Mother Mother - O My Heart
17. Beast - Mr. Hurricane
18. Lily Allen - The Fear
19. Metric - Help I'm Alive
20. The Decemberists - The Rake's Song

Safety Tips and Taylor Swift With the Arkells

By Kristina Mameli
The Link

Before we start, for your protection, a few rules in the form of an anagram courtesy of the **Arkells** video for their hit single "Oh, the Boss Is Coming":

- A: Always use precaution.**
- R: Rules must be followed.**
- K: Keep alert.**
- E: Eye protection must be used.**
- L: Lift with your legs.**
- I: Leave your work area clean.**
- S: Safety first?**

Got that? Please bear those in mind for the duration of this article. Though, the original version was apparently deemed unfit on the day of the shoot. So the question that begged to be asked, what are the real rules? We'll get to that.

Just before their Vancouver gig at the Biltmore, in a drafty staircase just off the lobby, the *Link* caught up with lead singer and guitarist **Max Kerman** and jack of all trades keyboardist, guitarist, and backing vocalist **Dan Griffin**. Having made the indie festival circuit with their well received debut full-length *Jackson Square*, the Hamilton quintet is being hailed as a band to watch. Rounded out by bassist **Nick Dika**, drummer **Tim Oxford**, as well as guitarist and backing vocalist **Mike DeAngelis**, their driving and soulful rock anthems and overall passion for their music bleed through in every track, and evidently on stage.

Griffin describes their sound as "black and blue eyed soul. It's sort of a play on **David Bowie's** "Blue Eyed Soul." We just figured that we're not nearly as talented

as **David Bowie** or as graceful. It's like if someone took **Bowie** out back and beat the shit out of him, broke his fingers and magically undid all of his abilities...then it wouldn't be so blue eyed soul. It would be black and blue eyed soul."

They've toured with other reputable Canadian acts such as **Matt Mays** and **El Torpedo**, **Attack In Black**, **Bedouin Soundclash**, **the Black Lungs**, **the Cancer Bats**, and even **Sam Roberts**.

Fun fact: Arkel is a village in the Dutch province of South Holland.

"Our name unfortunately doesn't have anything to do with Holland..." reveals **Griffin**.

"Unfortunately," adds **Kerman**. "We were in a band called Charlemagne and Tim joined the band and **Tim** is French Canadian and so he didn't like the idea of using a former French king as our name because he's pretty controversial...at the time we happened to be listening to a lot of 60's girl groups like the **Shirelles** and **Martha** and the **Vandellas**, the **Rolling Stones**...and we thought **Arkells** kind of rhymed with all those things to."

The band then started a cover band, playing the Hamilton circuit, before deciding to forge their own way as the **Arkells**. They are currently on tour with the **Waking Eyes**, whom they've affectionately dubbed "the **Blind Boys Of Alabama**," sharing in a nightly tradition. "Every night they come up on stage and sing a song with us," explains **Griffin**. "We don't tell them what song it's going to be, so if they know the lyrics then they're in good shape."

Karaoke **Arkells** style if you will?

"They've got a great tune we come up and sing with them as well," continues **Griffin**. "And we try to mess it up a lot."

"We try and change the tuning of instruments on stage; **Dan** unplugs the keyboard," laughs **Kerman**. "Suddenly everything's in drop D; classic!"

The tight knit band recently had an eerie experience

driving from Kamloops to Kelowna. "It was about 10 o'clock at night and usually we try not to drive at night because we're so scared," relates **Kerman**. "It was going ok, the whole day was great, and then we saw a sign on the side of the road. It said 'foggy conditions.' We're like yeah, well, the sign's always up; it can't be foggy all the time. Sure enough within a matter of minutes we couldn't see two feet in front of our car. We didn't know what to do so we pulled off to the side of the road..."

"When we moved on to the road again," continues **Griffin**, "out of nowhere, like an angel from the sky came a Ford 150 pick-up. Shining, like **Taylor Swift** on *Rolling Stone Magazine*."

They looked out the window and the driver winked. "We couldn't tell if it was **Willie Nelson**, **Morgan Freeman**, or **Taylor Swift**," giggles **Kerman**. "It was one of the three. But he pulled in front of us and we just followed his taillights and as soon as it cleared up he exited. Never to be seen again..."

"Possibly to Kamloops the city of angels," suggests **Griffin**.

Unnatural obsession with **Taylor Swift** aside, the **Arkells** are indeed a band to watch for. Look for new songs debuting at their live shows, and as promised, the original words of wisdom from the **Arkells School Of Safety**:

- A: Always use protection.**
- R: Remember to use protection.**
- K: Keep using protection**
- E: Even when you think you shouldn't use protection.**
- L: Leave protection on even when you think you should take it off.**
- I: Leave it on.**
- S: Seriously.**

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If you're from another province but have resided in B.C. for at least six months and consider B.C. to be your home, you're eligible to register and vote in the May provincial election.

How:

Registration is easy! Visit www.elections.bc.ca or call toll-free **1-800-661-8683** before April 21, 2009. If you aren't registered by the deadline, you can still register when you vote. Just remember to bring identification.

You must prove your identity and B.C. residential address to receive a ballot or register at the time of voting. Any one of the following IDs is acceptable: • **B.C. Driver's Licence** • **B.C. Identification card** • **Certificate of Indian Status**. For other ID options, go to www.elections.bc.ca.

When:

Advance voting:

8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (local time), Wednesday May 6 to Saturday May 9.

General voting:

8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Pacific time), Tuesday May 12, 2009.

Other options:

If you're going to be out of your riding or the province during the May provincial election, you have other voting options. Contact us to find out more.

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The Watchmen

Movie Review

By Shane Woodford
The Link

I haven't read the graphic novel but have been stoked about this film since seeing the first trailer. Since the trailer, I have avoided reading the graphic novel because I wanted to just soak it up without any expectations as to the plot etc.

File this under cool facts. If you are a BCIT student, several scenes in **The Watchmen** will have extra significance as it was filmed partially at BCIT. When **Dr. Manhattan** teleports into the TV studio, that is in fact the foyer of the Broadcast center in SE-10. The actual interview he does in the movie was filmed in Studio one of the same building.

For those of you who live in a cave, **The Watchmen** is set in an alternate reality where **Richard Nixon** is still President and the evils of Communism are still being stamped out. Masked heroes are regular people just wearing masks except **Dr. Manhattan** who thanks to an accident has been turned into a blue, anatomically correct dude who can do just about anything, except of course cover up his dangling blue man junk.

The idea of **The Watchmen** is of course the deconstruction of the super hero. Originally pitched to use DC comic's super heroes with name recognition, the idea was altered to preserve those characters for future DC use. Instead an alternate line of "super heroes" was crafted albeit with some heavy similarities to other better-known char-

acters.

The film is visually compelling and entertaining. Thankfully, seeing as it clocks in at just less than three hours. I found it somewhat lacking in making the jump to spectacular. While a visual feast, it lacked that certain je ne c'est quoi. At any rate it just didn't attain fantastic for me.

Maybe it is because the film is in very large part very American-centric. Dealing in such American issues like **Nixon** or Vietnam and the stamping out of Communism, which of course sparked the equally as inane McCarthyism. At any rate on a cultural level these things don't play to a Canadian audience. When one character snarls "Free is just another word for Socialism," I couldn't help but think I bet you don't have public health care but I digress. While people might think the latest incarnation of **Batman** to hit theatres is dark, **The Watchmen** goes darker than any **Batman** could ever hope to be. So much so I had a hard time cheering for the "good guys" who seemed a gutless, sadistic, or just plain misguided bunch. The film features liberal use of the F bomb, sex scenes, nudity, and of course more dangling blue twig and berries than any super hero movie ever made. Not to mention enough self-loathing to make **Peter Parker** look like a happy, upbeat, well-adjusted young man.

The purpose of the film is to put a human face on the superhero including all the flaws and emotional baggage most of us pack around. It just doesn't make for compelling sympathy for the protagonists of the film but maybe that is the point. Equally as frustrating, is that there is almost a complete absence of an antagonist in the film. Sure a shadowy figure murders **The Comedian** and generally works behind the scenes, but as an audience we don't get a regular "villain" other than some false threads, hired thugs, and shadowy manipulations. It's not until the film hits its



final act when the reveal comes in that the "antagonist" is found to be masterfully manipulating events to accomplish great good or his idea of it at any rate.

The Watchmen achieves being a feast for your senses and doesn't disappoint on the big screen for entertainment. However, it falls short of being an epic piece of movie making that will leave you wanting more.

The International

Movie Review

By Shane Woodford
The Link

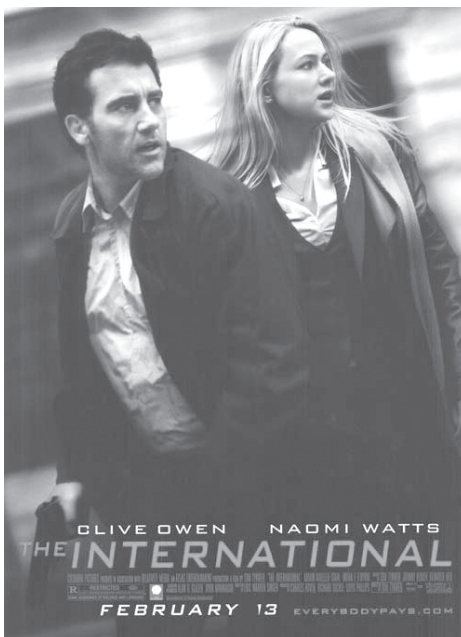
He's back. **Clive Owen** has been on quite a roll of films since 2004 with *Closer*, *Sin City*, *De-railed*, *Inside Man*, *Children of Men*, *Shoot 'Em Up*, and now *The International*. Okay I was just kidding about *Shoot 'Em Up* but you have to admit the rugged Brit has starred in some very good films over the last few years.

The International has **Clive Owen** starring as a Interpol agent with a hard on to bring down a huge multi-national bank. The bank of course is using its deep pockets to make zillions manipulating arms deals and the rise and fall of war torn countries. Along the way they assassinate anyone who gets wind of their crimes including **Clive's** partner.

The International plays like a very smart film so much so that you can't help but wonder if there isn't some element of truth to the plot. However, while it could have been a top-notch suspenseful thriller it doesn't quite work.

The movie tries to achieve being an intelligent thriller but suffers some serious dyslexia along the way. The big gun battle in the museum scene while exciting, felt thrown in like the director had suddenly decided to make *The International* into an action movie. This of course is too bad because the suspense of locating the assassin and the human interplay between him and his "handler" not to mention the tense interaction with **Clive Owen's** character was a big plus to the film as a whole.

The final climactic scene which could have been a very clever reveal and would have left the audience talking is



also badly mishandled. Instead the ball is clumsily dropped to the point that one line must be said by the assassin to make the audience understand what has just happened. It's really too bad because *The International* is a very good film with great elements and very human characters. **Clive Owen** and **Naomi Watts** both play strong leads without going to overly Hollywood. The film is made better by performances by co-stars like **Armin Mueller-Stahl** who plays one of the villains.

It is worth a watch and is all-in-all a good film but sadly it could have been great had it not missed a few rungs in the ladder trying to get there.



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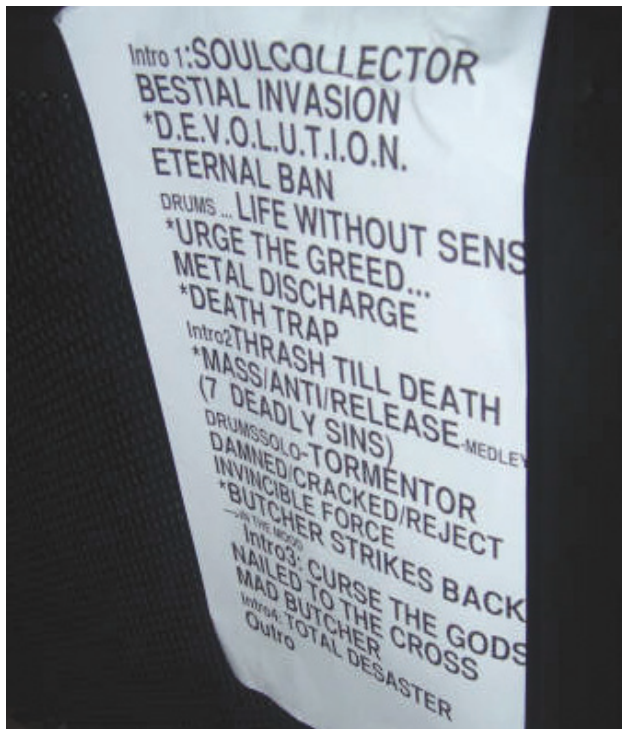
Destruction

Concert Review

By Kristina Mameli
Link Staff

The first time I saw **Destruction** was absolutely earth shattering. I had yet to see a heavier band. It was their 25th anniversary show at the largest metal festival in the world *Wacken Open Air 2007* in Wacken, Germany. The festival had a mere 70,000 or so in attendance...but that amazing experience proved to be nothing compared to seeing them in front of 100 people maximum at one of Vancouver's smaller live venues, the Red Room.

The German thrash legends were bumped to the venue from the originally scheduled Plaza Club, which is currently under renovation. The veteran band played a powerful nearly two hour set to an enthusiastic crowd of die hard fans, which consisted of the following infamous tracks:



The blitzkrieg aural assault was relentless from start to finish and the three-piece played fast and heavy, constantly moving around the intimate stage, head banging in time to the music and proving why they are indeed a force to be reckoned with almost three decades down the line.

Look for an interview with lead singer and bassist **Schmier** in the next edition of the Link.



Photo courtesy of Kristina Mameli

Want to review cd's for the Link?
Email us at link@bcitsa.ca.



By Alicia Agarrabeitia
The Link

Keep your eyes peeled on the BCIT hallways, you might see some of **Coastline Pilot's** band members strolling to class. **Thomas** and **Leo Tesan**, **Chad Devlin**, and **Ryder Sheen**, the foursome known as **Coastline Pilot**, will be playing at Professor Mugs Pub on April 3rd.

The band, influenced by the tunes of **Blink 182**, **Yellowcard**, **Stone Temple Pilots**, **Red Hot Chili Peppers**, **Sound Garden**, **Nirvana**, and many others, describes themselves as a "mix of rock, ska, punk, and alternative with some blues undertones." They get together about twice a week to practise and write songs and they try to play live shows once to twice a month, but lately they've been playing live shows much more often. They work hard to write their own original songs and bassist **Chad** adds that when, "you play your new song live, you get that feeling in the bottom of your stomach and then it's all good."

When asked where they see their band going, lead guitar **Leo** said that they're, "trying to make a big splash onto the scene this summer. Trying to establish a name for ourselves and hopefully do a small tour down the coast. Basically what any band wants is to have fun."



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PRINCE GEORGE

Life in perfect balance

The Real Thing



Jennifer Lines and Vincent Gale in *The Real Thing*. Photo by David Cooper.

An ArtsClub Theatre Production

By: **Mana Mansour**
The Link

Known as one of the wittiest playwrights alive today, Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing* was his foray into a much more emotional realism. Better known for his Academy Award for Shakespeare in Love in the Best Screenplay category, Stoppard had long made a name for himself in the theatre world with such works as *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern*

are Dead (1966) and *Travesties* (1974).

This play follows the lives of two couples living in early 1980's London. The central character is a man named Henry; a playwright himself who we learn early on is cheating on his actress wife Charlotte with her co-star Max's wife, Annie. Stoppard tries to trick the audience into thinking that Charlotte and Max (the co-stars) are also having an affair, but we soon learn that it's a short scene from the play they are in, which turns out to be the most entertaining scene in the whole of *The Real Thing*.

Simon Bradbury's rendition of Max is filled with such sharp comedic timing and a lovable demeanor that it's quite sad Max doesn't hit the stage until near the very end.

The talented Jennifer Clement plays Charlotte, and although she masters the wit of the Stoppard's dialogue, her lack of stage time and character dynamic with Henry (played by her real-life husband Vincent Gale) falls too short for the audience to feel any sympathy or a connection with her.

The protagonist Henry is the character that dominates the stage for most of the play, proclaiming his unhappiness about his marriage, his career and the state of the world. Vincent Gale's Henry is exhausting to watch and his attempt at a British accent kept repeatedly fading into a bad Irish one. In his defense, director Michael Shamata didn't give the actors much to work with, placing them on a bare stage and keeping them stationary on the few pieces of furniture that were scattered around.

The best moments of *The Real Thing* come at the beginning (refer to the scene with Max and Charlotte above) and towards the end, when the real emotional meat of the play starts unfolding.

At this point, Henry and Annie are now married, and Henry discovers she is cheating on him with her much younger co-star Billy in the play *Tis Pity She's a Whore* (irony!). The roles are now reversed as the cheater now becomes the person cheated on, and the audience watches Henry succumb to the jealousy and anger that he once was the cause of. The sexual prowess of Charlie Gallant's Billy is refreshing after an hour of Vincent Gale, but the eluded sexual tension between Annie and Billy seems only one-sided by Gallant.

In the end, Stoppard's *The Real Thing* is his personal three-hour commentary on relationships, which at times seems outdated and conservative in 2009. But, thank goodness the smart dialogue makes up for most of it.

The Real Thing plays until April 4 at The Granville Island Stage, tickets at www.artsclub.com

The Green Chain

To Cut or not to Cut?
That is the question.

By: **Mana Mansour**
The Link

“Nothing is ever clear-cut,” reads the tagline for Canadian director Mark Leiren-Young's newest installment, *The Green Chain*. After watching his film, audiences soon realize how very true that statement is.

The film cuts deeply into an ever-evolving issue in BC news: How has our more environmentally conscious attitude affected the logging industry in BC? *The Green Chain* follows the lives of seven different people all connected by a single remote BC community where logging and trees is the centre of everything.

Through a series of interlinking monologues, audiences are exposed to the personal stories and experiences of these “characters”, all-relating to their love (or lack thereof) of the forests around them. Leiren-Young chooses to use a faux documentary aesthetic, having each character tell their story to the camera.

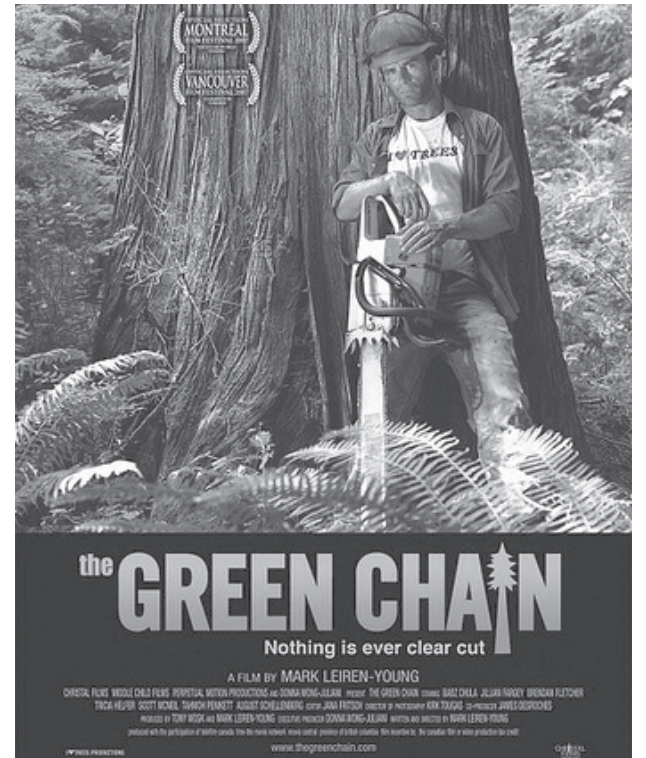
First we meet “the logger”, whose livelihood and the security of his family depends solely on trees. Portrayed brilliantly by actor Scott McNeil, the logger describes the long history his family has had working as loggers; how

proud he feels for working the land. But the logger also goes on to describe how quickly everything that he knows and loves is vanishing, due to environmentalists and “big city” government. Then we meet “the protester” who talks to us from within the walls of the city jail, serving time for protesting logging companies and pushing herself in front of a bulldozer. Babz Chula's protester, a former science teacher, memorably states how she wants her grandchildren “to know the difference between a forest and a tree-farm”.

Then there's the un-educated, roughneck, young man, who fights forest fires that he thinks the “city folk” are responsible for. The unusual film structure, and the fact that the audience knows the actors are portraying real-life characters rather than the real people that the documentary is trying to emulate, completely falls apart when we meet the roughneck young man. Tahmoh Penikett, better known for his roles in *SUCH* masterpieces as *Battlestar Galactica* and *Whistler*, is laughable in his attempt to show audiences an embattled young man from the backcountry of B.C.

He carries an axe but his wardrobe, consisting of a tight black t-shirt and Guess jeans, makes him look more like Granville Street fan-fare, rather than a small-town woodsman. On top of that, Penikett's attempt at capturing small-town speech patterns just ends up sounding like a cartoonish cowboy (who knew we had southern accents in the Kootney's).

Thankfully performances from Brendan Fletcher, as the hippie tree-hugger who is living in a 100-foot tree, and Jillian Fargey, as the distressed wife of the logger we meet at the beginning of the film, brings the audiences' attention back to the film's core purpose: showcasing every facet of B.C.'s logging industry through the eyes of seven very different people affected by it.



After 90 minutes, the film ends abruptly and the audience leaves the theatre with no sense of climax or resolution. But in a way, that's what Leiren-Young wants for *The Green Chain*. The film is meant to provoke questions and inspire dialogue about our own judgments on the logging industry. By showing both sides of the story, the film creatively asks the age-old question: who has the right answer when it comes down to cutting trees? According to *The Green Chain*, the answer to that is not so clear-cut.

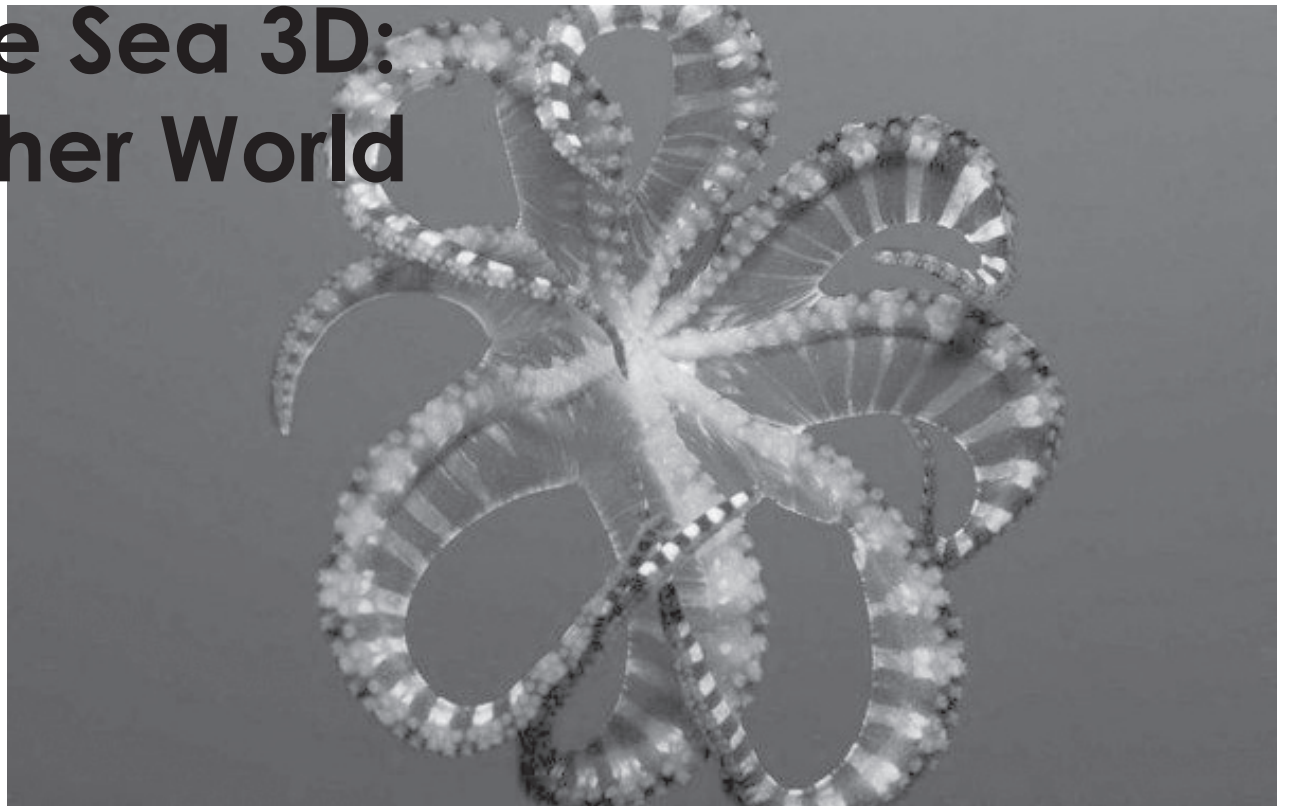
IMAX Under the Sea 3D: Exploring Another World to Save Ours

An IMAX Film With A
Creative Message Against
Climate Change

By Birdie Hamilton
The Link

IMAX Under the Sea 3D takes you to a place far, far away – Australia and Papua New Guinea to be exact. It allows one to experience a whole other world, that of the marine life that exists on the other side of the planet. The interesting and exquisite marine life of the Great Barrier Reef, and the Coral Triangle, is beyond most who dwell on this side of the globe. Unless you have scuba-dived in either of these places, the IMAX Under the Sea 3D captures some extremely rare and remarkable marine life, including some creatures I for one did not know existed.

But, what's more, this film exposes some of the unique creatures whose populations are being minimized due to global warming. I was introduced to the concept of Ocean Acidification, meaning that, the excess of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere is disrupting the populations of those species who rely on normal CO2 levels. As an example, the Cuddle Fish's skeleton is partially made up of calcium carbonate, a compound that is being thrown off due to excessive carbon dioxide levels. The Cuddle Fish is just one of many other similar marine species that could be extinct quite soon, if we don't change our ways. The film also exposed some coral reefs that have been bleached,



and are now dead because of excess carbon dioxide; if more coral reefs die this way, the marine life that inhabits these areas will disappear as well.

Jim Carrey narrates the film, and gives personality to many of the creatures that are seen up close. The creatures that stuck out to me include the Australian Sea Lion, a really cute but increasingly rare sea mammal found in the Great Barrier Reef. The Australian Sea Lion relies on cold waters to swim in, and as ocean temperatures increase, the Australian Sea Lion population decreases. If global warming continues on the destructive path that people have created, future generations may only have pictures and films like this one to show them what marine life used to be like. Other exciting sea organisms include sea snakes, the most venomous predator in the Coral Triangle, and almost scary

enough to keep me out of those waters. They, too, are going extinct, as most of them are being made into shoes or purses, as mentioned in the film. I also want to mention the sea dragons exposed in the movie – they are the weirdest yet neatest things, in my opinion. They are very much skeletal, and kind of remind me of tiny seahorses.

IMAX Under the Sea 3D is being shown at the Canada Place IMAX, and is \$12. It is a 40-minute film that all ages can enjoy. It is a nice escape, and will probably make you want to travel to the "Down Under". But, most importantly, the film exposes you to a world that is being destroyed by environmental damages brought on by the human race; it exaggerates the fact that if we don't change, this marine world will be destroyed. This is just the beginning of an era of destruction.

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2009 Nissan Versa Hatchback

Car Review

Theo Birkner
 BCIT Link

The top of the line Nissan Versa Hatchback is really weird to drive. Not in a bad way, but rather because it never shifts gears. Allow me to explain: The SL model (one letter better than the base model S) can be fitted with Nissan's Xtronic™ CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission) transmission. For those unaware, the CVT is much like what you would find in a boat – a “gearless” transmission consisting of a belt and two pulleys designed to provide smooth driving at any speed. Usually reserved for higher-class offerings like the Audi A4 and various hybrids, the Versa stands alone among its budget compatriots.

Anyway, back to the weird. The CVT seems to make a lead-foot out of everyone, tricking the driver into a state of constant acceleration in search of that elusive next gear. Unfortunately, it can become quite confused while city driving, revving up, down, up again etc, before settling into a regular hum at cruising speed. Long story short, if you like the mechanical familiarity of gear-changes, and are afraid of change in general, you're best to stick with the standard offerings.

Of course, that's not such a bad idea either. Nissan's really run the gamut with the Versa: A CVT for the technologically intrigued, a humdrum four-speed auto for the regular push-the-pedal-and-go types, and – what's this – a six-speed manual gearbox for the budget-minded boy-racer! Yes that's right, the 1.8-liter four-cylinder may only be cranking out 122bhp (same engine in both models), but the little bugger's actually got some get-up-and-go with the



short-ratio six-speed. Good fun to be had, indeed.

Driving impressions epitomize the proverbial econo-car: Peppy, decently responsive little engine (until you pack the family, luggage, and dog in), and good fun through the corners (well-enough composed, and not enough power for any significant torque steer). It's front discs and rear drums all the way through the lineup in this case – ABS optional – and they do a good job, even under urgent braking in the wet. The front strut and rear torsion beam suspension soak up the bumps well – a little “rollercoaster-like” for the performance enthusiast perhaps, but good all-round for the everyday commute through the broken pavement of greater Vancouver.

Once you've had your fun driving the car, you take a look around the inside and discover that, like most of the compact auto-market these days, the Versa does a fantastic job of looking bigger on the inside than it does from the outside. The front seats are comfortable, the instruments clearly legible, the controls close to hand, everything ergonomically placed, and nothing overly “cheap” feeling. The flat-folding rear seats (again, doing their magic we're-big-

ger-than-you'd-think trick) are also comfortable, offering up cavernous leg/headroom for the average adult. Lastly, the luxury list is plastered with all the usual suspects: 6-disc CD changer, Bluetooth, XM-satellite, power everything, remote entry, air-con, etc. And as with all things Japanese, everything is neatly organized into packages, making optioning a breeze.

That's the story. If you want to buy one, the Versa Hatchback starts at just \$13,998, with the SL model tipping the scales at \$25,000.36 after everything (taxes, freight, PDI). With Nissan Canada's current offering of 36 months at 0% financing, the car could be yours free and clear after three years at \$480-\$680 per month. In my opinion, the Versa is a great buy: It's decent looking, spacious and economical, and frankly the only thing threatening it is the fact that Nissan keeps releasing equally cool and affordable compact cars. As a matter of fact, the Versa had better keep an eye on the Cube – it's here in a few weeks time, and it's pretty wicked cool too. Only time will tell if it's as well rounded as its only slightly bigger brother.

Atrocious Classroom Conditions

The obvious disregard of student's health, safety, and learning environment by BCIT Administration must stop.

By Manny Sangha
 The Link

The Geomatics Engineering students have been subjected to a cruel and unusual punishment of being forced to learn in windowless concrete dungeons. Rooms 2770 and 2790 located in SW3 have only one entrance for both rooms. If a fire were to break out in room 2770, the students and instructor in 2790 would be trapped. This safety concern has been raised with Project Services, the Safety Committee, and the Management of School and Construction.

The rooms have been included in a recent workplace safety inspection and the findings have been recorded. Even though there is a fire safety issue, nothing has been done by the administration to protect the student's who are forced to take classes in these rooms. Some of the students concerns are that there no windows, no fresh air, and no air-conditioning to counteract the body heat of students and the heat expelled by the 50 computers in the rooms.

Fourth year Geomatics Engineering student Bevan Bird says, “it doesn't seem fair that I have paid \$9,600 in tuition to get a diploma, and another \$11,600 for my degree, and I cannot be provided with one of the basic human necessities, fresh air.” Another student who wished to remain anonymous has expressed his concern on the learning en-

vironment and says, “the constant interruptions and echoing in the room make it very difficult to stay focused and understand what the instructor is trying to get across.”

Don Thompson, PhD and Geomatics Instructor, also commented on the issue; “the rooms are not conducive to good instructing or learning primarily because of the physical layout, and the continuous interruptions from accessing the adjacent room.”

According to Ian Lloyd, P.Eng and Program Head of the Bachelor of Technology in Geomatics, a request was put in the Spring of 2007 to have air conditioning added to both rooms. The request was approved and the work was slated to begin in the Summer of 2007. The Summer of 2007 came and went. The department was informed that the work was to be done during the Christmas break of 2007. An email was sent to Tim Wong the Senior Facilities Coordinator on November 15, 2007 in which Mr. Lloyd expressed his concerns of the health and safety of the students. The email went unanswered and without any notification to the department, the upgrade was cancelled. Mr. Lloyd found out about the cancellation through the Project Services Construction Updates and sent further emails expressing his concerns for the health and safety of the student's.

It is now the spring of 2009, and it is obvious that the facilities coordinator and administration of BCIT do not



Room 2790

concern themselves with the health and safety issues of the Geomatics students. Are these students' health and safety different from that of the all the other students? What will it take? A fire and the death of a student?

Cellphones: detriment to youth

I try to call a friend, but the battery on my cellphone dies and my memory fails me, so I'm stuck with no idea what number to dial.

By Jenna Sedmak
Nexus (Camosun College)

As a kid, I not only had the phone numbers of all my friends and family memorized, but also the local pizza place and video store. A digitized phone book in the palm of my hand has made things easier, but it has let me down occasionally.

I've noticed cellphone users are getting younger and their dependency on their virtual leash is growing stronger.

These kids are messaging their friends while they're out for dinner. Not just one or two short messages, but an ongoing electronic conversation with someone who isn't even in the room.

Their parents half-heartedly say: "Please put your phone away," but there isn't much luck. I asked a parent of a young cellphone owner why they don't just take the phone away, and the answer was: "It's for the safety of my child."

I understand cellphones offer security not possible in previous generations. If there's an emergency, help is only a phone call away. I can empathize with parental concern, but phones are available only for calling emergency numbers – no text, no camera, no Internet.

But that's not good enough. In order to remain cool with their friends, youths want a top-of-the-line phone because: "Mommmy, everybody has one!"

Once the parents are fooled, these phones are rarely used for emergencies, or even just important calls. Chatting and texting with friends during class, after school, and on the weekend is the hip new way to keep in touch.

I understand cellphones are a very positive form of technology, and I appreciate the convenience of being able to make a phone call while I'm out, but I'm not dependent on it.

I worry future generations will become more and more detached from humanity. I fear the youth will spend more and more time in their virtual worlds, becoming apathetic to other people in their lives.

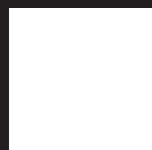


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Adventures in Twilightland

By Leanne Yu
The Link

While Vancouver may very well be known as Twilight central to millions of envious fans at the moment—with New Moon shooting and Rob Pattinson roaming in our backyard—our city’s involvement with the vampire saga will, sadly, only be a fling.

Inevitably, after a few short months, the Twilight train will be pulling out of our station. But there is a place—a very real place—that will be married forever to this seductive cultural phenomenon. It is a place where vampires and werewolves and mushroom ravioli are free to exist in their true forms.

Forks, Washington. Yes, it’s a real place. And it’s where I spent my spring break.

Twilight author Stephenie Meyer never actually visited Forks until after she published and sold millions of the first book in her four-book saga. Any knowledge she had of the town was mostly from Internet research. So it seemed any little coincidental nuances she included in the novel about the town were almost meant to be.

And because of Meyer’s imaginings, Forks has made a complete 180. A mere few years ago, the town was barely clinging onto its glory days of being the so-called “Logging Capital of the World”. The only tourism it saw was from fishermen taking advantage of the sparkling rivers of the Olympic Peninsula.

But now, Forks is a booming destination for Twilights from across the globe. We here in Metro Vancouver have it easy. Our pilgrimage route is not at all arduous.

My friends Deepak, Maria, and I took the normal route to Victoria via ferry. From downtown Victoria, we hopped on a ferry to Port Angeles. Both ferries took 1.5 hours each to reach our destinations. Forks was then an hour’s drive from Port Angeles. It surprises people that this mystical vampire haven is just on the other side of Vancouver Island.

Our home was the same as the Cullens’. To us humans, it is the Miller Tree Inn. The owners of this delightful bed and breakfast dubbed their home the official Cullen residence after an excerpt in the novel described the building as being over a hundred years old, painted white, and having a wraparound porch. Pretty much spot on.

Homes and businesses all around town have similar stories. A local schoolteacher was the first to put up a “Home of the Swans” sign in her front yard and her house has been a popular photo op ever since.

Rare is a store without at least some sort of Twilight merchandise. The interesting thing about all the paraphernalia is that it is mostly homemade, which makes it quite endearing. Dazzled By Twilight is a newly opened superemporium of sorts that sells Twilight gear only. Again, most of its goods are not officially licensed, but instead seem to be products made for fans, by fans.

Restaurants cater to those whose hunger for Twilight extends to their tummies. Forks Coffee Shop was undoubtedly the inspiration for the location of Bella’s graduation dinner in Eclipse, what with the elk head and all. There we had “Jacob’s Blackberry Cobbler”. We thought we could do better. We preferred to call it “Jacob Black-berry Cobbler” or “Blackberry Jacob-bler”, oh yes!

And the theme continues. Sully’s Burgers has the Bella

Burger. The local Subway has a special Twilight Sandwich. Pacific Pizza has Bellasagna served with Ed Bread and a side of Swan Salad. You get the picture.

The one that takes the cake is not in Forks at all, but in Port Angeles. Bella Italia was where Edward and Bella had their first date (I know... I substituted myself in for Bella when I read that part, too). There I had the infamous mushroom ravioli. At \$21, I thought it was a mere Twilighter trap, but it was absolutely delicious in its own right. Don’t forget to wash it down with Coke, just like Bella did.

The absolute highlight of the trip surprisingly had to be La Push. Its breathtaking beaches are only a 20 minute drive away. We decided we would gladly switch to Team Jacob if it meant being able to see its beauty everyday. If you’re wondering, there is in fact a treaty line to separate the werewolves/vampires (“dogs”/“bloodsuckers”). We didn’t think it’d be hard to choose a side before, but now we’re not so sure.

While we may not have considered ourselves “Twi-hard” or “Fanpire”, we did enjoy gallivanting through the area as an exploration of pop culture. If you’re a fan, I’d encourage you to make a trip down (and make sure “Full Moon” by The Black Ghosts is blasting from the stereo... you know why). We thought we’d be the only Twilights in town—but whenever we approached a destination such as Bella’s red pick-up truck or Dr. Cullen’s parking spot at the hospital, a group of more hardcore, more decked out fans would already be there.

I guess it all speaks to the success of the town’s makeshift tourism industry. The charm of the place has to do with the townspeople’s enthusiasm in displaying bits of their everyday lives as something a little more magical to share with fans who are all too eager to drink it in. If you put up a sign, they will come.



Photo courtesy of Leanne Yu

Sports News In Brief

By Patrick O'Shaughnessy
The Link

Baseball

The World Baseball Classic is becoming the best thing to ever happen to baseball. The reason is this, in the world of sports, nothing is as exciting as watching a team of underdogs with unrecognizable names crush a team of high-paid all-stars who were expected to win. That's what fans have been treated to regularly at the World Baseball Classic. In San Juan, the Netherlands, most known (outside baseball) for making some great beer, including Heineken, pounded the heavily favored Dominican Republic. Not once, but twice. And the roster is made up of players mostly out of the Dutch Major League, which according to ESPN is the equivalent to a U.S. high school baseball crowd. Weekday games start at 7:45 p.m., somewhat late because many of the players work full-time during the business week. Weekend games are held in the afternoon. Tickets cost about \$5 (U.S.) and pets get in for free. So you can guess that the salaries are low. In fact, the entire team made a combined total of \$454,000 US last year. The best part about it is that their top player is a Canadian from British Columbia. In the final, expect to see a match up of the powerful Japanese machine against red-hot bats from Venezuela.

Hockey

The Canucks are breaking records. With a 3-0 thrashing of the pesky St. Louis Blues, Vancouver extended its home winning streak. More importantly Vancouver's goaltending problems are over. The reasons the Canucks are rolling right now are not hard to see. All the lines are clicking,

meaning they are working hard for each other. But the real change is in the locker room, Vancouver's leaders are leading. Another key change is the team is peaking at the right time. But no player has developed and blossomed as greatly as Michigan native Ryan Kesler. The six-foot-two centre has become a legitimate player-maker and is now a leader, and because of that Vancouver is a contender. The Canucks will start a six-game trip in Phoenix on Saturday.

Soccer

In soccer news, Vancouver is once again a major league soccer city, but let's call it what it should be called, football, the world's game, the beautiful game. Soccer legend Bob Lenarduzzi should be given an award for Man of the Year by the city of Vancouver for making us more respectable in the eyes of the world. If you don't agree why we needed a major soccer team in Vancouver then you need to read "How Soccer Explains the World" by Frankin Foer. Look for Vancouver to re-ignite one of the best rivalries in sports against the Seattle Sounders when Vancouver makes its Major League Soccer debut. But don't expect Vancouver to light it up in the new league, give them three years to make the adjustment. Some players will not be ready to make the jump right away, but some of the young guns coming up through the ranks will thrill the MLS crowds with their talent.

Golf

With spring closing in, golf season is finally here. And there is one professional golf tour that is about to become a major player in the national sports scene, and that is the

Vancouver Golf Tour. The VGT enters into its third season of play, and if last year is any indication, this season should be even better. The tour has put several local players into the PGA Qualifying School, nicknamed the 5th Major by the media. The VGT has given young Canadians their chance to take a crack at professional golf, and put money back into the community. This was all done through the tireless efforts of tour commissioner Fraser Mulholland. Mulholland, who has twice played on the PGA Tour, is probably the most savvy marketing person in the game today. The real question is why haven't any students at BCIT put a team together and tried playing in the tour? www.vancouvergolftour.com. That is another story for next month.

Football

It's never too early to talk about the BC Lions. This will be the year Paris Jackson becomes the leading receiver in the Canadian Football League. This season will be the beginning of the Buck Pierce era. But the Lions aren't without its problems. Wally Buono has been recently labeled as the most overrated coach in the CFL. Furthermore, any success the Leos may have enjoyed should be attributed to the work of Hall of Fame General Manager Bob Ackles. This will be a make or break year for the journeyman coach. The Lions kick-off the season on the road at Saskatchewan on July 3.

Want to be the next
intramural star?
link@bcitsa.ca

Tara Gostelow

The Link's latest Intramural Superstar

By Birdie Hamilton
The Link

Sport: Dodgeball

Number: 32.5

Game-Day Ritual: Not shaving my legs. Ever. Not so much a game day ritual, as an 'everyday' ritual

How do you Prepare for Games: Braid leg hair and eat a bowl of small chocolate doughnuts





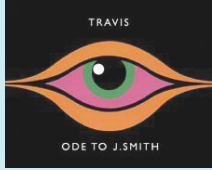





Pump-Up Jam: Kiss From a Rose - Seal

Motto/Quote: "Any base is good... But there's no point in bragging to your friends unless it's a home run." - Mike Aynsley

Hero: Green Power Ranger



Photo courtesy of Birdie Hamilton

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MARCH			26 Links Newspaper Issue 13	27 City and Colour @ the Orpheum Mobile @ the Bourbon ELECTIONS: Nominations Close	28	29 Marianas Trench @ the Commodore @ 2pm Deadmau5 @ the Commodore @ 9pm
30 BCITSA Student Council Meeting @ 5:30pm 	31 Beyonce with special guest Eva Avila @ GM Place 	1 APRIL	2 TOOLBOX in the Great Hall Wintersleep @ the Commodore 	3 BAND NIGHT @ Professor Mugs Pub Featuring Coastline Pilot 	4 Travis @ the Commodore 	5 India.Arie with guest Laura Izi- bor @ the Commodore 
6	7	8 Meet and greet with Eric Sorenson in Student Council Chambers @ 2:30pm White Lies @ Richards	9 Student Elections Speeches @ 10:45 and 11:45 Links Newspaper Issue 14	10 Good Friday BCIT CLOSED The Gaslight Anthem @ the Plaza Club	11 Fall Out Boy @ UBC Thunderbird Arena The Ting Tings @ the Commodore 	12 Glasvegas @ the Commodore Under the Sea 3D 
13 Easter Monday BCIT CLOSED	14 Student Elections VOTE Turbonegro @ the Commodore 	15 Student Elections Speeches @ 10:45 and 11:45 Student Elections VOTE	16 Student Elections VOTE Arts Club Theatre Presents Age of Arousal until May 9 	17 Student Elections VOTE A visit with Craig Henschel in Town Square D @ 12pm Gavin Rossdale @ Red Robinson Show Theatre	18 B.C. Book and Magazine Week until the 25th	19 B.C. Book and Magazine Week until the 25th

PEER TUTORING @ BCIT

The Student Associations Peer Tutoring Program is designed to help you succeed at BCIT. Having problems with a course? Do you lose track of what's going on during lectures? Do you find it tough to relate the lecture material to the homework and projects? You are in luck, because we have great peer tutors who are ready to help you.

The program is subsidized by the BCITSA.

Go to www.bcitsa.ca for more information or stop by the Uconnect resource centre in SE2.

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