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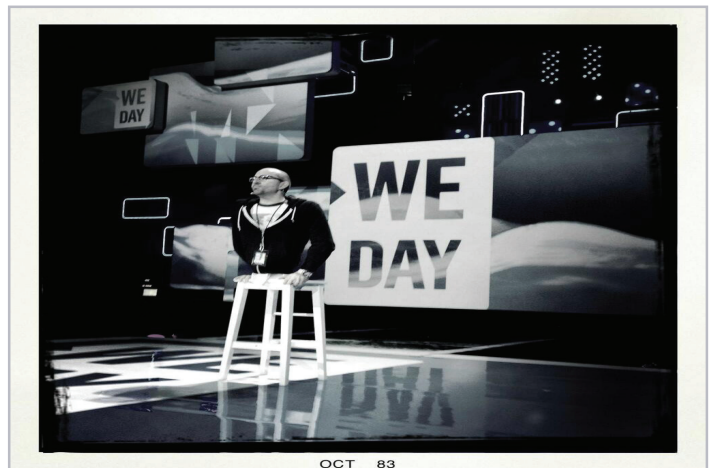
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// Letter From The Editor

Dear Readers,

It's the time of year when we're supposed to remember. And if you drink the way most university students do, perhaps this is not your forte.

But listen up, because this is serious.

November is the month where we honour veterans for serving our country, keeping us free, and enabling the lifestyle we all cherish.



Many of these veterans won't be around much longer, so it's important to pay your respects – wear that poppy all November!

I want to draw your attention to an important issue that impacts veterans of wars from around 1953 to today.

Up to 400 of these so-called “modern-day” veterans die each year in poverty, without family or means to pay for a dignified burial.

So far, the federal government does not provide funds for these indigent veterans. What's disheartening is that federal funds are provided for convicts who die impoverished and incarcerated.

Can't the gap be filled to also provide veterans with these funds?

It's an issue that's been taken up by The Last Post Fund, which is campaigning to change how the government deals with indigent veterans. You can find out more at <http://www.lastpostfund.ca/EN/home.php>

For those of you expecting an aloof, curse-filled letter, I'm sorry I let you down. But November is a time for serious reflection about how lucky we are, and who deserves our thanks for that.

Keep remembering.

Sarah Gray
Senior Editor

the **Link**

Tuesday, November 12, 2013
Volume 49, Issue 3

ABOUT THE LINK

The Link is the British Columbia Institute of Technology's student voice. Published monthly by the BCIT Student Association (BCITSA), *The Link* is distributed among five campuses and to over 46,000+ students, faculty, and staff.

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//BC Government Announces Free Online Textbooks

Cory Correia

Textbook fees which students pay every semester may soon become easier to bear, as the Ministry of Advanced Education has announced that online open textbooks for forty popular post-secondary courses will be available for free.

According to the government of British Columbia Newsroom, open publication licences will permit students to view and download textbooks online at no cost, or obtain a printed copy for a small fee.

The provincial government is aiming to make these new resources available for use at BC post secondary institutions by September 2014, and will be available in disciplines such as business, humanities, sciences, and the arts.

The publicly funded BCcampus is tasked with developing the Open Textbook Project,

and is currently adapting existing openly-licensed textbooks for use, before the final phase of creating new open textbooks begins, according to the BCcampus website.

BCcampus already makes learning materials available for free to the public through their Shareable Online Learning Resources repository or SOL*R.

Minister of Advanced Education, Amrik Virk said the program will prove beneficial to both students and instructors.

"Instructors can use them, modify them as required, and a student can research them, they can print them, or he or she can pull them up on their electronic device."

First year carpentry apprentice student, Trevor Kootney said the free online textbooks may just be the answer for him; he said the books are not worth the cost.

"If the information in those books was useful enough for me throughout my career I might have considered buying it," said Kootney. "For the most part once I've learned it here in class and I go and practice it out in the real world I shouldn't need those books."

Kootney said paying for post-secondary school is hard as it is.

"A lot of us have bills to pay. It would just go a long way to making this easier for all of us."

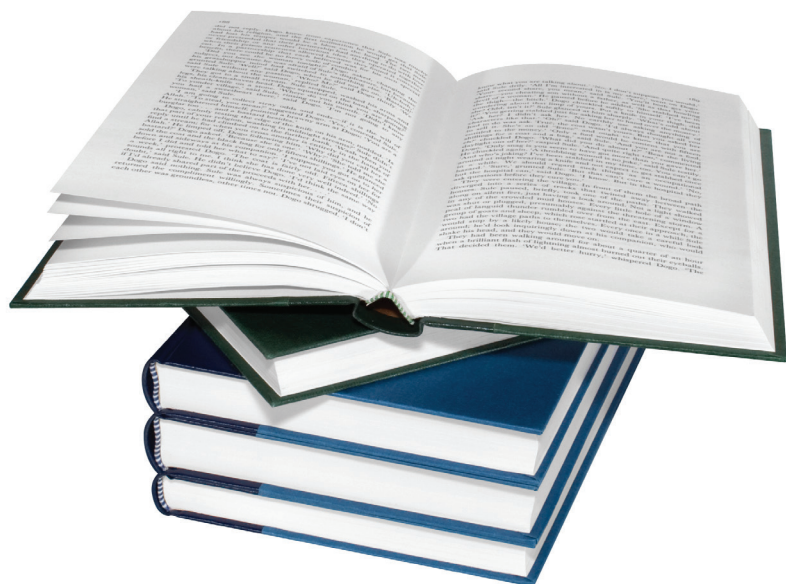
Despite the positive steps that this project would mean for reducing costs for students like Kootney, Canadian Federation of Students representative, Zach Crispin claims that the Open Textbook Project is not doing enough to address student debt.

"The money that's going into this program is not the sort of amounts of money that we would need to put in to make education more accessible," said Crispin.

"If we don't start thinking about accessibility to post secondary education, then issues of student debt and underfunding of our education system are going to become worse."

Minister Virk said the open textbooks program is only the start of what he hopes will be a nation-wide trend of offering free online open textbooks to students.

With files from Neetu Garcha



//Zombie Combat Zone

Killing the undead: Do you have what it takes to survive?

RIA RENOUF

You do not have to wait for a zombie pandemic to see if you would live or die – the Zombie Combat Zone in White Rock offers people a chance to prove their survival chops.

Many believe they would survive, especially after exposure to summer attractions such as *World War Z* and *The Last of Us*. Viewers and video game players tend to launch into combat scenarios, which they believe inadvertently teach them what do to – and what not to do – while fighting the undead.

But not the way the

Zombie Combat Zone does.

Zombie Combat Zone was launched in 2012 by Ron McCall, a film prop master. McCall said the idea to bring the experience to life came to him by chance.

“I was just sitting around with my friends one day, we were all talking about it [surviving a zombie apocalypse]...so I called them on it and decided to create it,” he told The Link.

At the Zombie Combat Zone, teams of up to twelve players get briefed on the pandemic. Then, led by an army tour guide, the team tactically battles the undead with paintball guns. The players can also upload a

cyber-virus to save their cohort.

Knowing people in the film industry gave McCall the edge of realism to immerse players in a terrifying zombie outbreak.

“I have a friend in make-up who built the zombie body armour and the helmets, a friend with a set-building background who got us army transports this year, [and] some army tents, too,” McCall said. “It’s really a whole base.”

You may have all the weapons you need to survive, but be warned: the Zombie Combat Zone is not for the weak. McCall says people who thought zombies were easy to slaughter have been shown otherwise many times over.

“We scared a girl so bad she didn’t want to play anymore. And that was in the first stage! She was bawling her face off. But her group dragged her through,” McCall recalled.

The Zombie Combat Zone is running for a limited time, and you will need to book in advance.

To bring your troop of survivors, visit

<http://www.zombiecombatzone.com/bookings> - and be sure to let us know if you survived!



Are you ready to enter a real-time zombie outbreak and see if you survive?

Photo Courtesy of Ria Renouf - The Link

// BCIT Students Feel Safe On Campus Despite Recent Attacks At UBC

Emily Lazatin

With the recent string of sexual assaults that have occurred at UBC, University and College campuses in the lower mainland have taken extra security measures to make sure their staff and students are safe at all times.

The consensus among BCIT students is that they generally feel safe on campus in light of the six attacks at UBC since April.

"I feel like the attacks that have happened at UBC are secluded to that area and I don't feel affected by it. What's happening there isn't happening here and I'm not too worried", said BCIT student Riley York.

BCIT's Assistant Director of Safety Adrian Hingston said that all campuses have been informed about the incidents at UBC and they have asked security to be more diligent and to step up patrol in areas where public safety is of concern.

The institution offers a Safer Walk Program where either security or bike patrol will escort students and staff to their location of choice, typically on campus or to bus stops just off campus grounds. Safer Walk personnel carry radios with them at all times enabling open communication and the ability to dispatch for help when appropriate.

"It's available and as far as I'm concerned, it's underutilized, said Hingston. "It's a great service and it would be nice if more people used it - specifically those who are here after hours, and on weekends or those who live on campus."



*BCIT urges students to walk with friends, especially during dark hours.
Photo Courtesy of Ben Hilborn*

Hingston told The Link in an interview that the main reason for Safer Walk is to provide a sense of safety when there are less people on campus. The aim is to offer piece of mind and to urge people to think about their own personal safety, whether it's to be aware of their surroundings or to not walk alone, according to Hingston

In the last two years, the request for Safer Walk calls have averaged from 1 to 26 calls a month. Hingston says there hasn't been any increase in calls since the UBC attacks.

Maninder Bal, is another student who sometimes stays late on campus, said she has yet to use Safer Walk but knowing the services are available to her at any time offers a sense of comfort.

Safer Walk is available 24 hours a day at all BCIT campuses with the exception of the Marine Way campus as it shuts down over night. Students can access more information through the school website or call security at: **604-451-6856.**



// Spencer West Embarks On A New Journey For Free The Children

An amputation has not deterred West from influencing thousands through the local charity.

Chantal Coschizza

Spencer West sits himself on a chair four feet off the ground in preparation for a press conference. This ordinary task is made remarkable by the fact that Spencer West has no legs. West swings himself onto chairs, and moves around using his only arms.

West is a Me to We inspirational speaker, and a Free the Children Ambassador who spoke at We Day in Vancouver on October 18.

We Day is an initiative of Free the Children, which inspires a generation to act, both locally and globally. Held at Rogers Arena this year, around 18,000 students took part in the event.

While speaking at We Day, West explained

that at the age of five, he had both legs amputated from the pelvis down, and that this genetic disorder has not hampered him from living life to the fullest.

West credited a volunteer trip for helping him realize his calling to motivate and inspire people around the world. In 2008, he visited Kenya's Maasai Mara, and helped build a school in a local community, explains a press release.

West also acknowledged his parents for introducing him to volunteerism at an early age.

"It was just something that was engrained into us from the time that we were born," he said at a press conference. "Leading by example and having that freedom to choose what we are passionate about, was the key for me."

Since then, West has been raising awareness for issues of global poverty and destruction through Free the Children. In 2011, during Kenya's worst drought in 60 years, West attracted worldwide attention by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. According to a press release, he raised over \$500 000

for clean water projects in communities affected by the drought that year.

Craig Kielburger is the co-founder of Free the Children, and ended We Day with this description of West:

"Spencer West has taught us to re-define 'possible'."

During his We Day speech, West explained his newest project and how he plans to once again re-define possible.

"We are going to go on a road trip across Canada in the name of the 57 million people who are still denied passage to school and education, and in solidarity with the 200 schools in developing communities around the world."

A press release further expands on West's project, called the We Create Change Tour. West will visit students who pledge to raise \$10 000 to build a school. The tour supports Free the Children's Year of Education, which is a year-long initiative to build 200 schools in countries of need.

It was evident in West's We Day speech that he has no plans of stopping any time soon:

"There are still communities that need our help. They need you, I need you, and the world needs you ... Let's make this the year that we change the world."



//Craft Beer Month

Brewtiful BC Craft Beer Month: A glance at the best

BC's most precious natural resource is in the spotlight as local brewers show off their best.

Simon Little

BC Craft Beer month is about recognizing just how far our province's brewing and beer culture have come, according to co-founder Lundy Dale. With several new craft breweries opening every year and more choice than ever at bars and liquor stores, October celebrations offer a chance to get the word about BC beer out.

"It is about educating the public that we don't have to go to the States or to Belgium for great beer. We have it here," Dale told *The Link*.

The idea brewed up in 2011, while Dale

was president of the BC Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), a volunteer-driven group dedicated to better beer. The continental market for craft beer was suddenly booming, and Dale said ensuring BC's offerings were well represented was key.

Dale teamed up with CAMRA Vancouver and Victoria. Together, they succeeded in getting October proclaimed as BC Craft Beer Month by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Now in its third year, Craft Beer Month was bigger than ever.

Throughout the month, numerous casks were scheduled. Casks are kegs of unfiltered, 'live' beer, which undergo a second fermentation right in the keg. No beer gas is added to carbonate or serve them, and they are often interesting one-offs designed to show a brewer's imagination.

The real show-stopper, however, is the BC Beer Awards on Saturday, October 19 at the Croatian Cultural Centre. Brewers from across the province are vying to take home honours in 12 categories, and the afternoon features over 20 one-of-a-kind casks.



Over twenty one of a kind cask beers will be on offer at the BC Beer Awards. Photo courtesy of Simon Little



The Alibi Room boasts Vancouver's largest and most diverse tap list. Photo courtesy of Simon Little

It is "the number one event to attend" according to Dale.

However, celebrating craft beer month does not necessarily mean buying a ticket to something. Beer lovers on a student budget can get in the spirit of the event in a number of ways.

A trip to one of the many excellent taphouses mushrooming about town is a great way to start. Both the Alibi Room and St. Augustine's are legendary for their vast selection of rotating taps – both also offer 'taster paddles' of 4oz pours as a way to sample more styles.

Another option is to take a walk through one of the city's two emerging brewery districts. R&B, 33 Acres, and the newly opened Brassneck are three breweries easily accessible from Main Street, between 4th and 8th avenue.

Further east, Parallel 49, Powell St. Brewing, and Vancouver's oldest microbrewery, Storm, are all within a few blocks of Victoria Drive at Powell Street.

With recent changes in provincial legislation, many of these breweries now offer on-site tasting lounges and nearly

all of them will fill growlers (reusable 64-ounce glass jugs) for you.

Of course, Craft Beer Month can be celebrated right in your living room, any month of the year. With the growth of specialty liquor stores such as Brewery Creek, Legacy Liquor, and Firefly beer lovers now have more choice than ever.

One option is to pick up the BC Craft Beer mixer packs now available at government liquor stores. Or go in another direction and do a home tasting – grab a variety of different beers of a single style and taste them against each other.

It is pumpkin beer season, and virtually every BC brewery worth its salt has an offering available.

To that end, The Link is pleased to offer you a beginner's guide to beer tasting. Follow these guidelines and soon you can make every month craft beer month.

POUR

Don't be a barbarian: use a glass. You'll get the most out of your senses this way. Pour gently at a 45-degree angle.

LOOK

Hold your beer up to the light – what colour is it? Is it cloudy or clear? Does it have highlights? How much and what kind of head does it have?

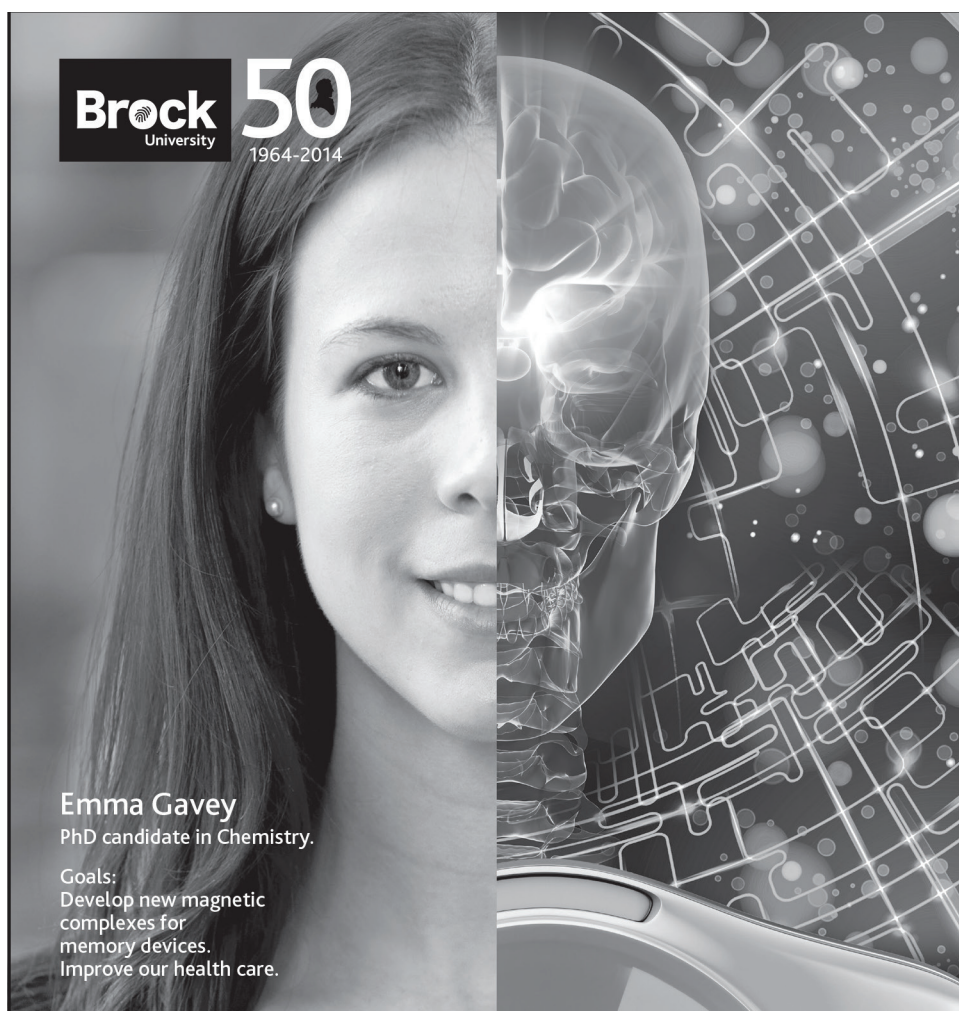
SMELL

Get your nose in there and sniff! What malt and hop aromas do you sense? Common malt aromas include cereal, grain, chocolate, roast, and caramel. Hopheads might smell pine, citrus, tropical fruit, spice, earth, or grass.

TASTE

What is your initial impression? Is it sweet? Dry? Bitter? Is there a difference between your first taste and the beer's finish? What notes can you find? Fruit? Toffee? Toast? Coffee? What seems dominant, malty flavours or hoppy bitterness?

**Send your favourite
beer pictures to [culture@
linknewspaper.ca](mailto:culture@linknewspaper.ca) to be featured
in the next edition!**



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//Museum Of Vancouver Opens A Retrospective On Daniel White

MOV's exhibit 'Play House' introduces one of Vancouver's most influential and least known innovators

Larua Taylor

Museum of Vancouver's hip, Vancouver-focused exhibits aim to create provocative conversations about the city. This aim makes it the perfect space for a rare retrospective of the work of one of Vancouver's most remarkable architects, who had a significant impact on the city's urban landscape.

"Play House: The Architecture of Daniel Evan White", the museum's newest exhibit, features the residential work of Daniel White, esteemed Vancouver-based architect. Many Vancouverites may not be aware of White, as he was notoriously publicity-shy. From 1960 to 2010, White quietly broke boundaries and gained acclaim for designing sophisticated, modernist homes on some of Metro Vancouver's most rugged terrain.

The exhibition engages visitors with White's projects through stories from clients and contractors, as well as projections, topographic models, a replica of the famed Máté House grandly built to a 1-to-4 scale,

and an interactive area where visitors can explore some of White's favourite geometric shapes.

"PlayHouse" invites you to explore Vancouver through the eyes of White, who excelled at integrating visionary residential projects into seemingly impossible landscapes.

"Dan's work not so much fits its site as becomes one with it," explains co-curator Greg Johnson. "His clever architectural innovations allowed his buildings to match their dramatic West Coast sites."

One of the most unconventional West Coast properties modeled in the exhibit is the Taylor Residence, in which a narrow, glass and concrete house appears to hover in midair above a river gully which plunges over a cliff into the ocean below.

The house is supported by thin, concrete columns and anchored at either end to a sheer rock face. The building's location over a small river creates a deceptive scale and sense of play. This stunning property

highlights White's risk-taking style that does not shy away from complex topography and celebrates the beauty of the West Coast wilderness through design.

The exhibition refreshes our ideas of the function and form of a typical house, as each of White's featured project is a commentary on contemporary culture and innovative design. The exhibit asks the viewer to explore the homes by considering Vancouver's sprawl, diversity and natural beauty.

In his 2012 eulogy to White, friend Bruce Fraser said, "I had the impression of being in the presence a man who ... made a house speak the way a Dylan Thomas poem makes a grown man weep or a Lawren Harris clean line painting evokes the grandeur of Canada."

This is what brilliant architecture should achieve, and through the exhibit's stories of the life changing effect of his designs, it is apparent that White's has.

MOV is once again introducing the City to one of its remarkable innovators. Despite perhaps not knowing his name before, you may recognize his arresting work around Vancouver; and if you do not, that will definitely change after visiting "Play House".

"Play House: The architecture of Daniel Evan White" is on at the Museum of Vancouver until March 23, 2014

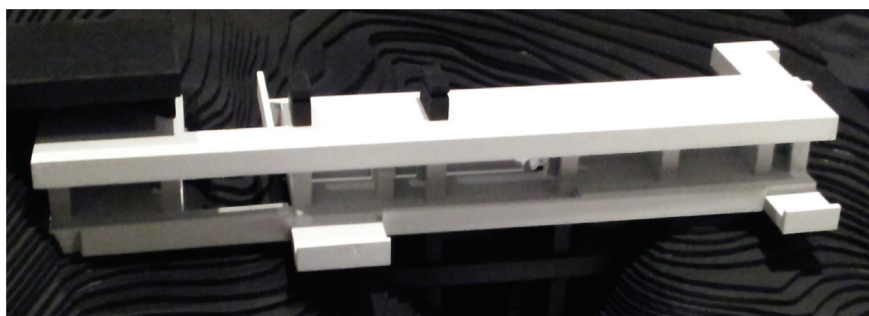
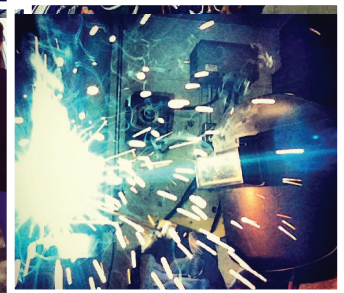
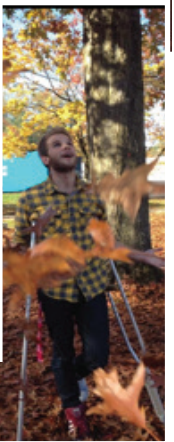


Photo courtesy of Laura Taylor

#BCIT INSTAGRAM



NAIL CARE TIPS

5 easy nail care tips

As the semester carries on and work keeps piling up, our beauty routines tend to fall by the wayside. Getting a manicure no longer takes precedence as that Economics midterm looms ahead. Plus, regular salon manicures get expensive for a student budget. Here are a few at-home tips for having beautiful nails.

Emily Lazatin

01

FILE YOUR NAILS IN ONE DIRECTION

Using a back-and-forth motion when filing your nails only serves to weaken them, which leads to breakage and general frustration. Filing in one direction will ensure your nails stay strong and look beautiful. Also, keep in mind that filing is meant to even out the nail only, not shorten it. Over-filing, no matter the direction used, can lead to breakage, so use a nail clipper to shorten the length.

02

BUFF YOUR NAILS

This is a step most of us forget, but it's crucial, especially if you're a compulsive nail polish wearer. Wearing nail polish all the time leads to nail discolouration due to lack of air. Buffing your nails can help to get rid of that yellowness and add natural-looking shine. It takes five minutes to do, but makes a world of difference and your nails will thank you! And that leads me to my third tip...

03

TAKE NAIL POLISH BREAKS

As stated before, wearing nail polish constantly can lead to discolouration, and some of the more vibrant colours can stain your nails. It's important to take breaks from wearing nail polish, even for just a few days, since your nails need air! There's something to be said for lovely, natural nails.

04

TAKE CALCIUM SUPPLEMENTS

Taking calcium is not only great for your bones and preventing osteoporosis later in life, it is great for your nails too! Calcium makes them grow beautifully and strong. Fair warning: taking too much calcium can lead to deposits on your nails, little white stripes that don't disappear. Everything in moderation, ladies! On the topic of supplements, the old adage that taking prenatal vitamins is good for your hair and nails is unproven and even dangerous. Doctors don't recommend taking prenatal vitamins if you're not pregnant or trying to become pregnant, since you may be getting too little of one vitamin while getting too much of another. And now for my last bit of advice...

05

IF ALL ELSE FAILS, FAKE IT!

If after all these tips your nails still aren't growing long and strong, fake it! Impress by Broadway Nails make beautiful press-on nails with no glue required, and they won't damage your nails. Each package comes with twenty-four nails in twelve different sizes, a prep pad, and a mini nail file. When applied properly, they last up to a week. These nails are so easy to use and incredibly addictive, but at \$7.99 a package, it's an addiction that won't leave you feeling guilty – and will have your friends asking where you got your lovely manicure. Tip: apply these nails at or just below the cuticle. No need to push them back!

Impress by Broadway nails, \$7.99, London Drugs

//Fashion Tips On A Student Time Line

Michelle Morton

The heat of school deadlines is on full blast this month – it's getting hotter by the minute.

Rushing seems to be routine: from sleeping in after a late night of studying, to running to class after completing final touches on an overdue project.



Time is a luxury for every BCIT student, and we cannot always invest too much thought into what we wear, right?

Wrong! Dress for success. It can be exhausting to put

great amount of effort into outfit-planning when your mind is occupied with exams. But when you have the right tools on hand, an effortless outfit can be easily accomplished even in a hurry.

High heels and skirts are not required to be fashionable; it is originality in the details. Shifting the focus from how to style clothing, look to which accessories can add to the outfit. The outfit can be as simple as skinny jeans, a pair of flats, a T-shirt, and a statement necklace to bring the look together.



Another fun way to experiment with accessories is to mix metals. You may have heard the rules to match tones together, but I have broken this rule with many

outfits and found the result to be a success.



When mixing metals, it is great to have a piece that acts as a transitional point, so that the focus is on the whole outfit, not just the statement accessory. For example, this Zara necklace

has the bright colours, pearls and brass hues that make styling playful, since you can pair silver or gold jewellery with it. Adding a little sparkle and excitement to a stressful day can also brighten up the day for your colleagues!

Next time you are running out the door, take extra thirtyseconds to add some originality from accessories to your look – if you are already late, at least arrive in style.



//Arcade Fire Takes Fans On An Emotional Journey With Reflektor

Thomas Molander

Arcade Fire has been putting out records for almost a decade. Their albums have been getting progressively longer since the 2004 debut with "Funeral." They've added more instruments, and borrowing from different styles of music – which is notable, since from the very beginning they had at least 10 musicians on stage during live performances.

"The Suburbs," Arcade Fire's previous release, packaged themes of modern domestic life, technology, and alienation into something that was relatable to so many people, it won Album at the Year at the flippin' Grammys. That album, which was over an hour in length, also included the band's first dabble into something like electronic music. "Sprawl 2," for example, had percussive snaps and claps, and a synth bassline straight out of a club hit.

Over three years later, when it was announced that dance-punk wizard and DJ James Murphy would produce their new album, it seemed clear that this was their new direction: they'd be going into full-blown dance music. This might have been troublesome to Arcade Fire fans if Murphy didn't have such a record of finding emotion in electronica. Songs from his catalogue, such as "All My Friends," and "New York I Love You, But You're Bringing Me Down," are equally likely to bring a tear to the eye as they are to bring feet to the dance floor.

The title track on Reflektor is seven and a half minutes long, and a melting pot of insane elements. Try to put this together: a straightforward 4/4 dance rock beat,

hand drums, a Cuban-sounding bassline, saxophone and other reed-work from Colin Stetson, and a cameo from David Bowie. Around halfway through, it gets overdriven; the guitars begin to take over, and the front-man Win Butler alternates French and English verses with his wife Regine Chassagne.

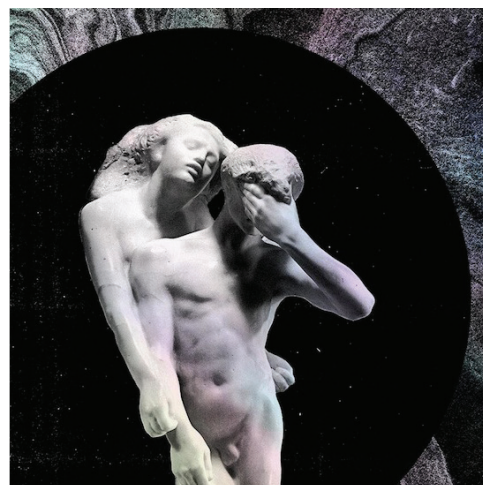
And that's just the first song on the album.

The next song, "We Exist," opens with an unexpectedly sexy bassline for Arcade Fire that is reminiscent of "Billie Jean." "We Exist" is closer to their previous albums, featuring a prominent string section and lyrics telling a tale of homophobia. Butler sings:

"Daddy, it's true, I'm different from you, but tell me why they treat me like this? If you turned away what would I say? Not the first betrayed by a kiss."

The album's standout song is "Here Comes the Night Time." It's another long track constantly transformed by tempo changes: from a fast snare-heavy stomp, to a woozily-slow groove that Butler says was influenced by Haitian percussion. At the heart of the song, however, is a playful piano melody that reassuringly reoccurs just when things start getting heavy.

On the topic of things getting heavy, up next is "Normal Person," a pure classic rock track. Butler addresses this off the top, sighing and mumbling, "Do you like rock and roll music? 'Cause I don't know if I do." This statement is made confusing when the chorus hits with a wall of wailing blues guitars licks and distortion. It could be a statement about



(October 28th, 2013/Merge)

feeling roped into a life that you hate. Or, more likely, it could be one of the biggest bands in the world having some fun. "When they get excited, they try to hide it, look at those normals go," sings Butler in the bridge.

As the album progresses, the songs build and fall like scenes from a movie: with historical and literary references (Joan of Arc, Eurydice, Orpheus), instrumentation borrowed from an overwhelming amount of genres, and recurring motifs.

Book-ending Reflektor is "Supersymmetry," which is slow, introspective and brooding. The drums are sparse; the synthesized notes swirl, swell and modulate; and a subtle string section provides the backdrop. It's an opportunity to reflect on the emotions that have come forth over the past 12 tracks.

After the release of Arcade Fire's penultimate album, I remember wondering how they could follow such a masterpiece. Three years later, after hearing Reflektor, I once again can only wonder what may come next.

//The Walton Casino

Mitchell Sayers

Dayton, Ohio,
"The Gem City"
1974

The time was 11:48. The atmosphere at the Walton Casino was beginning to deflate. As the night wore on, the "Gem City," as it was called, was losing its lustre. Gone home were the energetic dancers in their shimmering gowns and glittery garbs, intoxicated on bubbly spirits.

The music still emanated from the halls, the smell of booze radiated in the fabrics of the poker tables. Just a casual crowd remained: the types of people comfortable with relaxation in the presence of so many strange faces.

True enough, the Walton did have a rather charming ambiance, a soothing type of scenery where the who's who of Ohio came to mingle.

Just past the expansive area of roulette and other chance games, the main staircase cast a presence over the high stakes poker table. Polished and gleaming, the twin oak handrails seemed to gather the lights in the room and bloom magnificently.

At the top of the stairs, a shadowy figure loomed over the railing, keeping a close eye on the poker game below. His structure contorted in the darkness. The only illumination put forth was the burning end of a cigar.

He could feel it now: a thousand needles ever-so-slightly digging their sharpened points into his neck. Of course, this was only nerves, but if Tom lost this hand, he might wish for it to be all over anyway.

The dealer, with his thick Poirot moustache, did nothing to calm him. Tom hesitated, peering under the edge of his thick-rimmed cap. Surely now all eyes at the table were on him. With a sudden swift movement, he cupped his fingers across his chips and pushed them forward.
All in.

A gasp went up. The spectator was quick to muffle her voice. It was all up to the cards now. Tom took his final swig of bourbon. He could feel the pressure rising, he knew of the consequences. The owners ran the casino but didn't play by the rules.

This wasn't just a game. This was all or nothing. This was a deadly debt.

The cards were dealt; he tried to make a break for it, but was quickly wrangled. He repented his decision to come to the Walton; he hated himself for his selfish ways. He knew this was bound to happen.

Just then, the shadowy figure glided down the marble steps of the staircase leaving a trail of wispy white cigar smoke in its wake.

A man appeared in front of the games table. Standing in a three-piece suit with a contrasting double-breasted waistcoat, Mr. Henry Goldcliff doused his cigar against the underside of the poker table and snapped his fingers. The casino guards quickly released Tom and took a few short steps back.

Mr. Goldcliff reached into his inner jacket pocket and pulled out a single sapphire gemstone. The green glint from the jewel glanced off the corners of the casino.

"This should do for the man's release."

Tom felt faint. Who was this man sweeping down to rescue him? And why?

Mr. Goldcliff tossed the bright green jewel to the games warden and, just as soon as he had arrived, he turned and made his way back up the stairs into the dimly lit private quarters.

Before he was shown out, Tom glanced up to thank the mysterious gentleman who saved his life.

As he struck a match and lit another cigar, Mr. Goldcliff calmly raised two fingers and gestured a farewell to Tom.

Who is Mr. Goldcliff?

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