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Wednesday, December 2, 1998

The Link

Happy Holidays

Behind the Mirrorshades

William Gibson, the man who labeled cyberspace speaks about the latest adaptaion of his futuristic fiction to film.
see page 6

The world's frogs are disappearing

And that means trouble for our eco-systems ...
see page 14

BCIT goes SOLAR

BCIT has begun producing its own energy — by collecting it from the sun.
see page 3

Plenty of Arts & Culture

A little reward yourself with when its all said and done .

Concert Reviews
see pages 8 & 9

CD Reviews
see page 10 & 11

The Skate Canada competition.
see page 12

The Link

is the student newspaper of the British Columbia Institute of Technology. Published bi-weekly by the BCIT Student Association, *The Link* circulates 3,500 copies to over 16,000 students and staff.

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As a member of Canadian University Press (CUP), *The Link* adheres to CUP's Code of Ethics.

To this end *The Link* will not publish material deemed by the editors or steering committee to be sexist, racist, homophobic or in poor taste.

The views in *The Link* are not necessarily those of BCIT, the Student Association, or the editorial collective.

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LINK LETTERS POLICY

The Link welcomes letters. Letters should be typed, double spaced, under 300 words and can be dropped off at *The Link* or SA offices and sent through campus or regular mail. Your name, affiliation with BCIT and a telephone number to contact you (which will not be published) must be included. Anonymity may be granted at the discretion of staff. Letters on disk, as a txt file, with a hard copy would be greatly appreciated. *The Link* reserves the right to edit for clarity and brevity.

Campus Events

This Calendar column is open for notices of events on all BCIT campuses. Submissions can be faxed to 431-7619, sent by campus mail or dropped off at *The Link* office in the SA Campus Centre (down the corridor between the video arcade and the vacant store)

Thursday, December 3 General Rec & Athletic Drop-in Programs end. Aerobics Classes end. Friday, December 4 Last Day of Classes (for most Technologies). December 7 to 11 Exam Week (for most Technologies). Thursday, December 10 Human Rights Day. December 13 to 15 Rec & Athletics: Mt. Washington Ski Trip. Sunday, December 13 Eve of Hanukkah. Monday, December 14 Hanukkah. December 16 to 17 Marks meetings take place. Friday, December 18 Electronics: Last Day of Classes before Christmas Break. Student Association: Last Day of Operations.	Sunday, December 20 Ramadan begins. December 21, 22 & 23 Grades available on the WEB Monday, December 21 Winter Solstice. Hanukkah ends. Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve. BCIT Closed. Friday, December 25 Christmas Day. BCIT Closed. Saturday, December 26 Boxing Day. Monday, December 28 Day in Lieu of Boxing Day. BCIT Closed. Tuesday, December 29 International Day for Biological Diversity. Thursday, December 31 New Year's Eve. BCIT Closed. Friday, January 1 New Year's Day. BCIT Closed Monday, January 4 First Day of Classes (for most Technologies).	Electronics: Exams begin. Electronics: Classes resume for Electronics Engineering Technology. American Marketing Association Meeting. 7:00am. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre. Medical Radiography Levels 1 & 3: Student Orientation. SA Council Meeting. 5:30pm. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre. Tuesday, January 5 Toastmasters. Public speaking club. 7:00am. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre. Recreation Council Meeting. Friday, January 8 Level 2, 4 & 6: Fee deadline for January 4th term start. Medical Radiography Level 3: Term fee deadline.. Nursing Levels 1 - 4: Fee deadline. Link Publication deadline for first issue of new year. Saturday, January 9 General Recreations & Athletics Drop-in programs begin. January 11-15 Intramurals Registration Week.	Monday, January 11 American Marketing Association Meeting. 7:00am. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre. Nursing Level 5: Registration Aerobics begins. Tuesday, January 12 Toastmasters. Public speaking club. 7:00am. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre. Wednesday, January 13 Link's first publication date for 1999. Friday, January 15 Nursing Level 5: Fee deadline. Recreation Council Social. Monday, January 18 American Marketing Association Meeting. 7:00am. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre. SA Council Meeting. 5:30pm. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre. Tuesday, January 19 Last Day to withdraw from classes and receive a full refund (less \$200 commitment fee). Last Day to apply for course credit (exemption) and/or change registration to audit status.
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Solar energy now feeds BCIT's grid

LUCAS TEODORO DA SILVA
Link Reporter

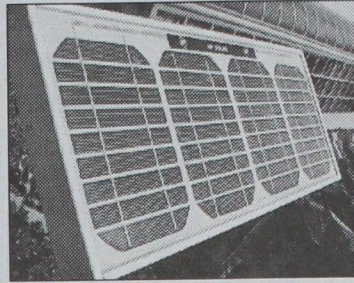
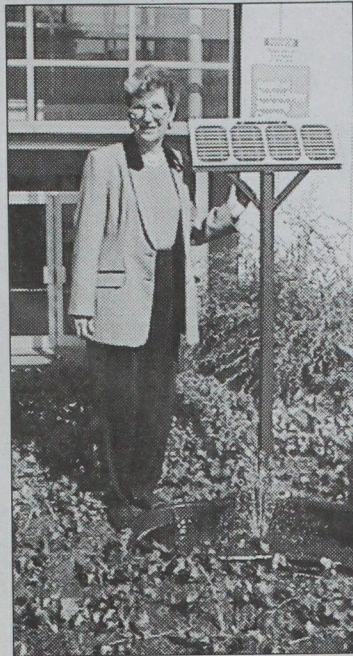
Building NE25 is looking a bit different these days. Just above the middle set of windows there is a row of what looks like metal/glass grids. They are actually photovoltaic power cells, part of a BCIT experiment with solar power that will eventually lead to the construction of a solar Power Tower next to the electrical building on the Burnaby campus.

Photovoltaic cells are a unique way of producing electricity. "They are totally non-polluting. No noise...they are clean and quiet. All you need to run them is the sun," says Lou Stamenic, the BCIT Tech Centre Project Leader, about the benefits of solar technology.

PV's are also wonderfully versatile. The same technology being used to light a building, pump water, or grind grain can also be used on a smaller scale. Take, for example, the solar powered calculator.

However, it makes much more sense, and is more cost-effective to use PV's on a large scale. This is one of the reasons BCIT's Photovoltaic Energy Applied Research Lab (PEARL) is pushing for the Power Tower. The Tower would produce enough electricity to provide commercial industrial power for a large selection of electrical needs by collecting not only sunlight coming from the sky, but also soaking in all the reflective glare from the surrounding buildings. In effect, BCIT would be making its own power, instead of paying for BC Hydro's.

It is important that other buildings begin to make their own electricity as well, because buildings like NE25, the one the first set of PV's were just installed on, account for 40 percent of the energy consumed by industrialized countries. The future in PVs lies in



MLA Joan Sawicki with the single photo voltaic panel powering a small fountain. The Tech Centre project employs a large number of these panels.

al roof, facade, or windows, thus displacing conventional building materials and labour costs. Also, as soon as the building is up and running, it begins to pay for itself by producing some of its own electricity.

Europe and Japan are world leaders in the development of programs to encourage installation of building integrated photovoltaic systems (or BIVPs). They have had hundreds of thousands of BIVP systems installed in the past five years alone. The American government has also committed itself to the PV, under president Clinton's "One Million Solar Roof Plan", which supports the installation of one million solar roofs by the year 2010.

For now, BCIT is the leader in Canada. PEARL is checking the safety of the PVs and working to adapt the technology for practical usage.

Who knows, one day in the very near future, we will all be able to look out of a window that is making the electricity to light the room we're looking out from.

"We've got big plans," says Stamenic.

making buildings more self-sufficient.

The newest use of the PV being explored is incorporating solar panels into the building materials themselves. "We're hoping to see self-sustaining communities in the future...where solar power is integrated into the buildings. They [the PV panels] would provide some or all of the power for the community," says Stamenic.

Interest in the integration of PVs into building materials seems to be on the rise world-wide. This is because it is much cheaper to use a PV as part of the outer layer of a building than to put an outer skin on a building, and then add a PV on top of it. Using the PV as the weathering skin of a building, for example, eliminates the need for an addition-

Millennium project's planning now underway

LUCAS TEODORO DA SILVA
Link Reporter

The Campus Centre Square, now a wet slab of concrete tiles, may soon get a makeover. Imagine, in its place, a grassy area, with flowers, a fountain, and benches - a place to sit and relax with friends.

This vision is only one of the many proposed by BCIT's Millennium Steering Committee, the group responsible for dreaming up the Millennium Project, an undertaking aimed at making the campus a more livable and inviting environment, and at leaving a legacy to mark the turn of the century. Other ideas proposed include a 2000 metre reflective or historical pathway winding through and around the campus, or a First Nations sweat lodge or long house.

The Student Association has recently circulated a survey around campus polling students, faculty and staff for their ideas. A large number of responses have been received so far and the



overwhelming majority of these have been positive.

According to SA executive director Stephen Miller, this has been due mostly to the hard work of the SA's executive using the tech and set representative system to involve the community, and students in the decision on which project will be chosen.

The financing of the project will likely be through government grants, student fundraising, and community contributions or sponsorship. Possibly, a corporate sponsor will be found.

The results of the survey were not available at press time but will be published in *The Link's* first issue of the new year.

SA Council Notes
Carlos Assuncao

SA developing Course Instructor Evaluation Project

The SA is about to embark on an experimental instructor evaluation pilot project.

SA president Stephen Diebolt told the SA meeting a Course Instructor Evaluations will be run by the SA. Students in the past have not been satisfied with the Course Instructor Evaluations currently in use. Some reasons for dissatisfaction are that alone see evaluations in most cases. It is up to the instructors discretion to share the results with program heads or the deans. In other cases, "the instructors don't bother to look over the evaluations at all," said one councillor.

This project has been worked on for some time in the SA. Diebolt has initially wanted a more extensive evaluation by the SA but quickly realised that it would not be feasible. Instead, the SA has opted for a pilot project that will include only eight sets — some 200 students.

Diebolt hopes that the pilot project will initiate an on going and expanding SA evaluation which might ultimately cover the entire institute.

Diebolt predicts there will be some opposition to the project.

"Labour unions are not in favour of the SA implementing course instructor evaluations," he said.

He believes, however, the overall benefit would be an improved quality of overall education.

- Melissa Tracey, vice president of Administration and Finance, proposed a back to school campaign for the SA next semester. The purpose of the campaign would be to spread information about the SA and the services they offer to students. The theme would be along the lines of "What have you done for me lately?"
- Conditions at BCIT's Sea Island Campus have lead to concern. Missing walls and a lack of carpeting were among the complaints that have been raised by Sea Island students. The Sea Island president said the poor conditions result from the bankruptcy of a contractor who was working on the Sea Island campus.
- Diebolt was in court Friday, November 27 observing a judgement concerning the leasing of tables in the Great Hall. Judgement was reserved but the SA hopes the judgement will be revealed sometime next week, although that is at the court's discretion.
- Diebolt spoke about a call he received from Generation Y, a youth oriented show on Rogers Cable. They are looking students to interview for the show. They would like a broad range of students from BCIT to volunteer to speak about their experiences in post-secondary education.
- Members of the SA participated in Timmy's Telethon and helped to raise funds for disabled children. They said the SA's performance was outstanding — bringing fun and goodwill to the event.

Winterfest fundraising revived

LUCAS TEODORO DA SILVA
Link Reporter

Assistance Fund and have fun doing it?"

I can see you. I know what you're thinking. You are sitting by yourself, reading this paper, and asking yourself, "Hmm... I wonder how I can help raise money for the Student

Well, my friend, consider your query answered. It's as easy as putting on your pajamas and heading on out to Elephant On Campus.

That's right, Winterfest 1999 is on its way, and the kickoff

party is the Pajama Jammy Jam, an event which consists simply of partying and hanging out in your nightwear. It takes place Friday, January 22, and jump-starts a three week effort to help raise money for the SAF.

Right now, Winterfest is still in the stages of planning, with ideas being bounced off the Student Association, so full details of the event days and times are not available. I sat down with vice-president of PR and Marketing Rafael Atienza to hear some of the event ideas that they are thinking about. Duck races, canoe races, and a few games of ice hockey will probably take place in the three weeks, as well as some more "unusual" ones.

"We're going to see if it's feasible to rent a few hot tubs and put them in the square," says Atienza, smiling. Hanging out in a hot tub in the snow and rain sure sounds spiffy to me. As for the Pajama Jammy Jam, tickets are going to be five dollars a person. And if you're a bit embarrassed about your PJ's, just remember, it's for a good cause.



One of the children from BCIT Childcare holding a pumpkin from their Hallowe'en pumpkin patch.

Release of APEC inquiry's report not a sure thing, new solicitor general says

ALEX BUSTOS
Ottawa Bureau Chief
Canadian University Press

ings, which are looking into whether officers used excessive force against protesters at last year's Asia Pacific summit in Vancouver.

OTTAWA
Canadians may never get a chance to read the final report of the APEC inquiry, the newly appointed solicitor general said Tuesday.

"The report is given to me, and then I will decide whether it will become public or not," said Lawrence MacAulay, barely 24 hours after being assigned to the post left vacant by Andy Scott, who resigned Monday under the heat of allegations he prejudged the APEC investigation.

"What I want to happen is to have the (RCMP) Public Complaints Commission do their job and submit their report to me, and then I'll deal with (the report)," MacAulay said outside the House of Commons.

MacAulay's remarks caught some members of parliament off guard.

"When you call something the public complaints commission it's a little hard to think it wouldn't be made public," said New Democratic Party MP Dick Proctor outside the House. "It's hard to imagine why the new solicitor general would say that."

Others said MacAulay's statement highlighted the need for an independent judicial inquiry to replace the RCMP Public Complaints Commission hear-

"When the public complaints commission does report, it goes to the commissioner of the RCMP and the solicitor general," Conservative Party MP Peter MacKay said.

"What they do chose to do with it is completely done behind closed doors. They're not under any obligation to make it public. They're not under any obligation to even act on what the commission reports," he said.

MacKay also said an independent investigation is needed because the current inquiry has no mandate to investigate the government.

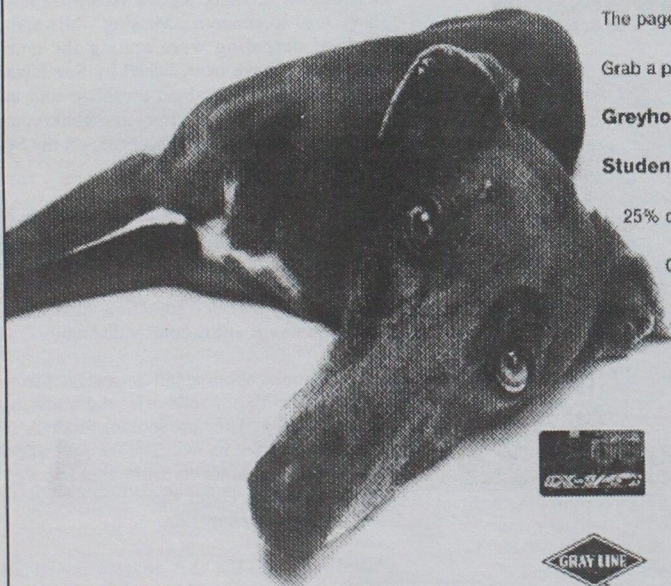
For months, opposition parties and students have accused the Prime Minister's Office of ordering the Mounties to quell APEC student protesters at the meeting of 18 Pacific Rim leaders.

"As has been pointed out time and time again this commission is not the proper forum to look at political interference," said MacKay.

"And political interference is what is at very base of these questions (over APEC)."

The Prime Minister, however, told the House Tuesday he would co-operate with the APEC inquiry if asked.

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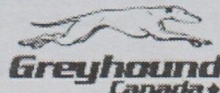
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The sky
above the
port was the
color of
television
turned to a
dead
channel

Neuromancer
r. 1984.

William Gibson

the man behind the mirrorshades discusses the latest film adaptation of his futuristic stories

JOHN ZAOZIRNY
Canadian University Press

A ring of journalists sit in a hotel room around their interview subject and with pens poised and tape recorders rolling, eagerly anticipate any pearl of wisdom that might roll out.

Sitting in front of them is famed author William Gibson, who regards the entire situation with a bemused, slightly weary expression as he sits, stooped over, on the edge of the couch.

Normally, Gibson is nearly impossible to get a hold of and even harder to get to talk. But today, one of the world's foremost science fiction writers is just as enthused and eager to be here as the reporters, and he's more than ready to talk.

The Vancouver resident wants to discuss the latest film adaptation of his work, *New Rose Hotel*. Starring William Dafoe and Christopher Walken and directed by Abel Ferrara (King of New York,

Bad Lieutenant), the film is based on Gibson's short-story collection

Burning Chrome.

New Rose Hotel is about two men who try to manipulate a young girl into the heart of an isolated scientific genius — a scam that will make them rich if they succeed. But as in all of Gibson's stories, nothing goes as just planned.

"They're these human beings trapped in a world that consists of nothing but hotel suites, nightclubs, and board rooms," Gibson says of the two main characters, played by Dafoe and Walken.

"And there's no exterior world. These guys never get to the street. They seldom go there. In the end, they just go there to die. They're like specialized organisms who live in hotel suites. I think there's one scene in a mall, and that's kind of like the wilderness for these guys, being in a mall."

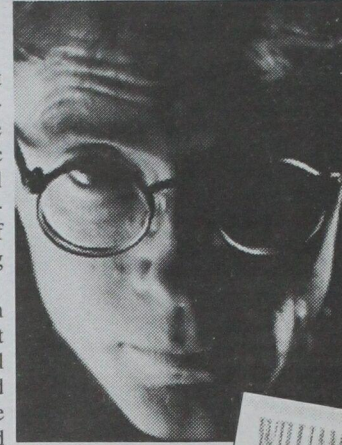
The film, which recently played at the Vancouver International Film Festival, isn't Gibson's first foray into the film world. Those with long memories and Keanu Reeves fascinations will recall the movie *Johnny Mnemonic*.

Gibson has also had some experience with television, last year writing an episode of the conspiratorial *X Files* in which two hackers attempt to transform themselves into artificial intelligence on the Internet, only to have their computer take on a life of its own.

And he appeared onscreen in Oliver Stone-directed TV miniseries *Wild Palms*, when he was introduced as "the man who invented cyberspace." Gibson turned to the camera and "Yes and they won't let me forget it."

Indeed, creator of the idea of cyberspace is how most people think of Gibson.

"The sky above the port was the color of television turned to a dead channel," reads the first sentence of Gibson's



1984 book

Neuromancer, which helped usher in the new literary world of Cyberpunk — a new science fiction sense of dystopia and corporatization.

By depicting an imaginary city where people lived on the edge of humanity in a world of drugs, prostitution and hustling, Gibson created a vivid world that captivated readers with its style, its description and, most of all, its possibility of becoming a reality.

Gibson's body of work influenced films long before any of his novels were adapted for the big screen — although the results were less than spectacular.

"There's a whole shelf of really low-budget sci-fi movies that I look at and think, 'yeah, I know what they've been reading,'" Gibson says.

"And I kind of like that, it's kind of cool. Each one always has one really great moment. That was really what I wanted *Johnny Mnemonic* to be. I wanted it to be all of the really great moments in all of the really bad science fiction movies that I've watched over the years. A dangerous strategy."

While all of Gibson's stories are set in the future, his vision of the future has

changed over his career.

Yet the stories *New Rose Hotel* is based on are as relevant as they were when he wrote them 15 years ago, Gibson says.

"It's a lot closer to the world of 1998 than any of my short stories," he says.

"One of the things that's pre-supposed, but never mentioned in *New Rose Hotel* is that global capitalism is the only game in town.

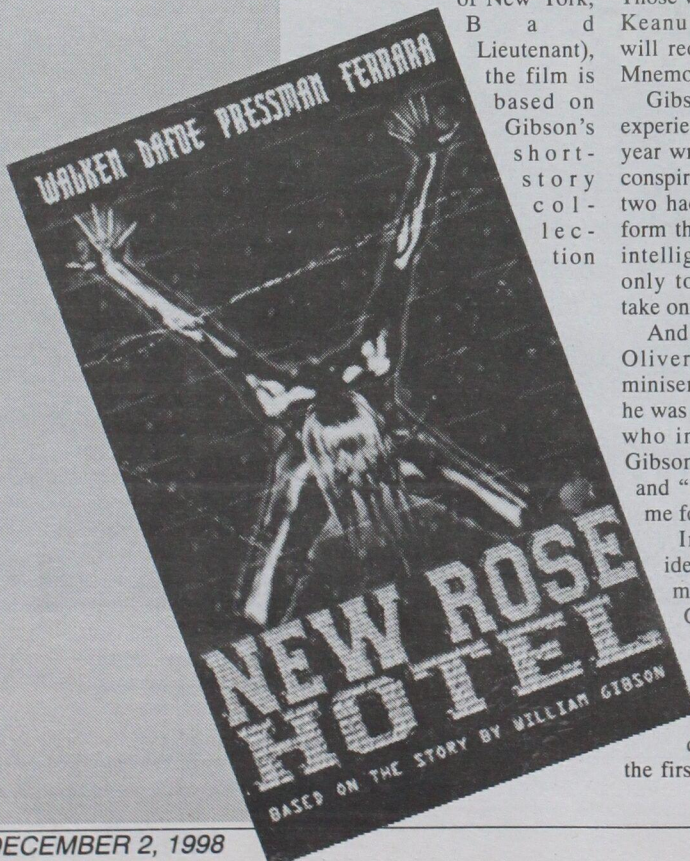
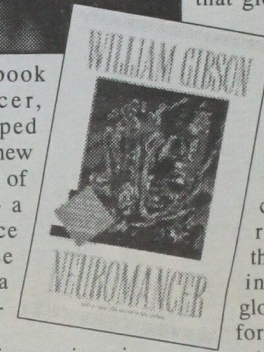
When the story was written, the Soviet Bloc was still very much a going concern and Marxism was still a going concern . . . but that's not really true anymore, there is no driving force in the world except global capitalism, except for a few oddball, hold-out places.

"If you want to find the places where you'll find guys like those in *New Rose Hotel*, you'd have to go to Moscow and look at the hustlers who are over there eating the heart of the former empire ever since the gates opened. It's the same guys."

But for all the times Gibson has been labeled a pessimist, he sees himself as an optimist.

"I used to think that I was way more optimistic than anyone gave me credit for, because at least I was proposing that there was going to be a future for human beings. At the time I started writing this stuff, I had grown up all my life in the psychological shadow of the idea that if the right button was pressed, everything would end forever. That was the psychological state that people my age inherited and it began almost when we were born.

"That sounds more unbelievable than science fiction in today's world. If I made that up, nobody would believe me. It was such a weird thing. I thought it was kind of a radical assumption that there would be this future."



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Student Rush

vs. Dallas Stars
Fri, Dec. 4th @ 7pm

VS



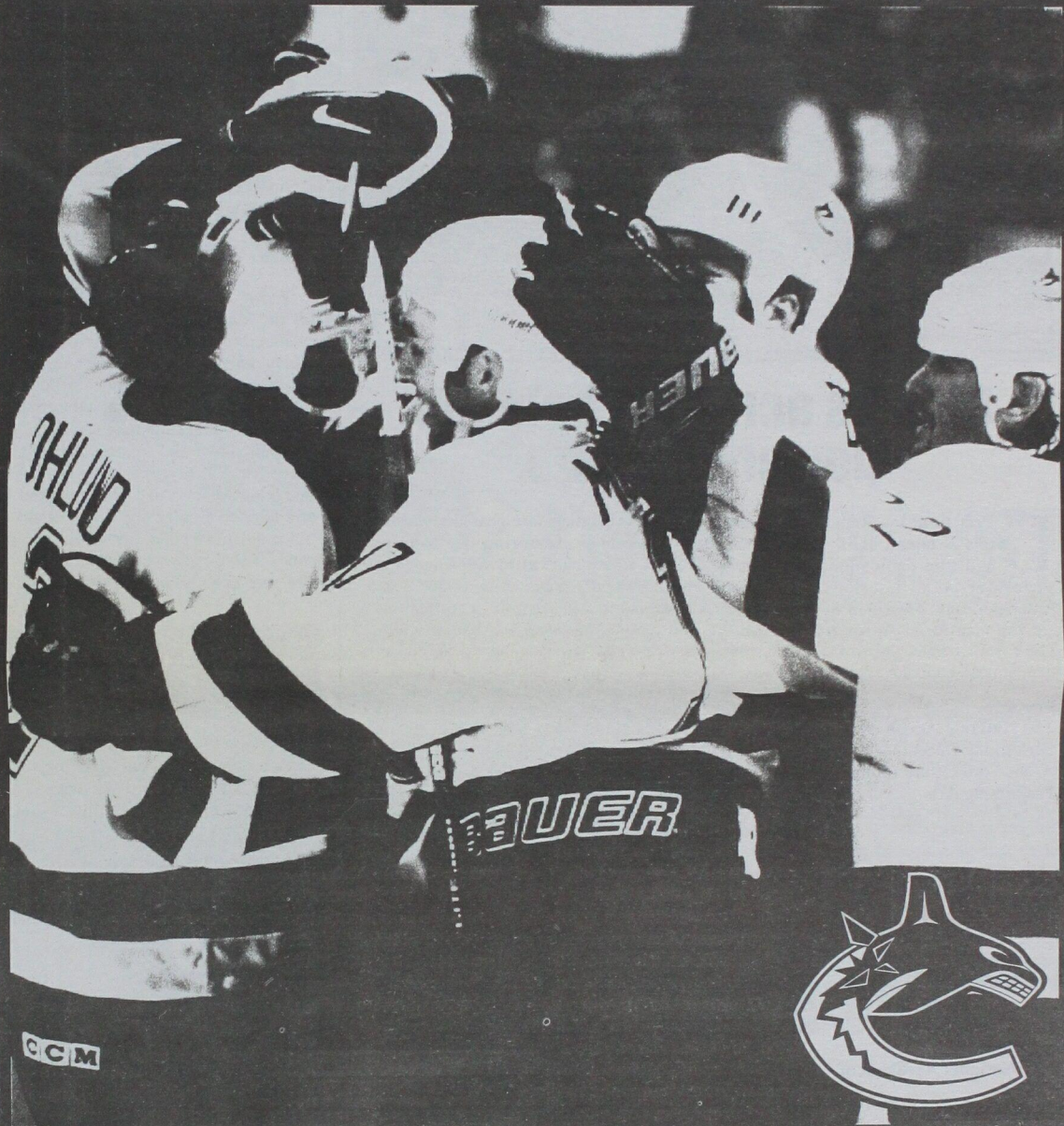
vs. Nashville
Predators
Sat, Dec. 19th @ 7pm

VS



vs. Calgary
Flames
Wed, Dec. 23rd @ 7pm

VS



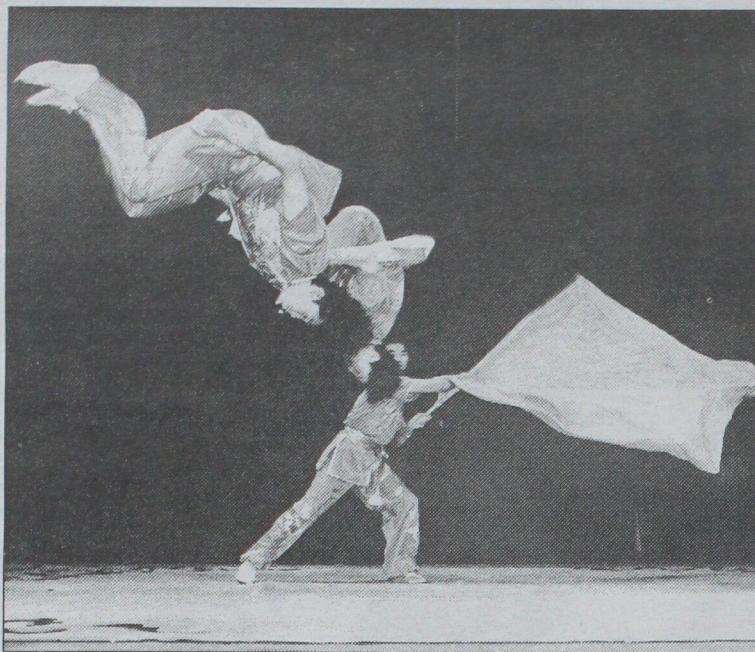
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China's acrobats hold the power to amaze

Direct from the Republic of China, this is talent, skill, concentration and true dedication. Coming to Vancouver, on the last stop of their North American tour, presented by Livent Inc., are the 'National Acrobats of China'. Their performance promises to inspire, awe, amaze, and take your breath away.

Preview

The National Acrobats of China
Performing December 3-6, 1998
At the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts

These evenings are geared towards the entire family, featuring death-defying leaps, illusions, sword fighting, magic, beautiful movement, dancing and contortions with colorful elegant costuming worn by all the acrobats. The performers use everyday objects that we can relate to, such as chairs, knives, bowls, tables and many more to fascinate, awe and keep you on the edge of your seat.

Tickets are on sale November 30 at the Ford Centre Box Office or through ticketmaster outlets, perfect for the holiday seasons. These Chinese performing arts are going to be a sure wonder for the eyes and mind.

ON THE OUTSIDE . . .

Dec 2, Wednesday

Hayden

At Richard's On Richards

Dec 3-6, Thursday to Saturday

The National Acrobats of China

Performing at the Ford Centre

Tickets at box office or ticketmaster

Dec 4, Friday

Tricky with Whale

At the Rage

Depeche Mode

with Stabbing Westward

At the Pacific Coliseum

Dec 5, Saturday

OLAM

at the Cellar Jazz Cafe

(Acid Klezmer, Gypsy

Funk, Balkan Blues)

Dec 11, Friday

Deftones

with Quicksand & Snapcase

At the Croatian Cultural Center

Chris Isaak

with Jude

At the Orpheum

Dec 12, Saturday

54-40

at the Whistler Conference

Centre

(Sea-to-Sky Ballroom)

Dec 14, Monday

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Dec 17&18, Friday-

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om

Dec 19, Saturday

LHASA

at the Vogue Theatre

Dec 20,21,22,

Sunday-Tuesday

Holly Cole with

Vancouver Symphony

(Holiday Celebration)

At the Orpheum Theatre

Dec 26, Saturday

Spearhead

at Richard's On Richards

Dec 31, Thursday

Foxfest, with Econoline

Crush, Matthew Good

Band and guests

At the Plaza of Nations

Come and be blessed

alternative pioneer packs the Rage

PATRICK HNILICA

Link Arts & Culture Reporter

The show started with a solo guitarist singing and playing a mellow set of songs which seemed to make most of the crowd drowsy. A brave and good guitarist, but unfortunately didn't move the audience so much.

Concert Review

Frank Black and the Catholics

At the Rage

Sunday, November 15, 1998

When Frank Black and the Catholics hit the stage, the crowd went wild and swarmed to the front. Frank Black's (formerly known as Black Francis of the Pixies) new band was sure to be a great show tonight. With four albums in the stores it's about time they started headlining their shows and for one of their shows to be in Vancouver, this was great. Speaking for myself, I have waited long and hard to finally see Frank Black and his band play so many of my favorite songs including a couple Pixies songs that I'm sure nobody thought they would ever

again hear live by at least one original performer.

The band played songs from all their albums with the added solo guitarist's technical skills that made me realize how good a guitarist he really is. However the whole band energized the crowd to the point which I seldom see people encoring with such energy that the band is sure to come back out and play another set.

The band composes its songs in a punk rock tone but at the same time combines elements of country and acoustic sounds that cannot be classified into any one particular category.

If you thought the Pixies are dead your missing out because the sound is still in his voice and in his songwriting and I'm impressed that Frank Black and the Catholics will be around for a while. The band strongly hinted a release of a new album in the near future and played three of the songs which were more energetic as well as more melodic but in general the same style of good artistry. Check out his latest release, Frank Black and the Catholics on Sonic Unyon Recording.



MonsterMagnet's metal posturing invokes childhood lunchtime memories of cheese sticks.

ANDREW DENNISON PHOTO

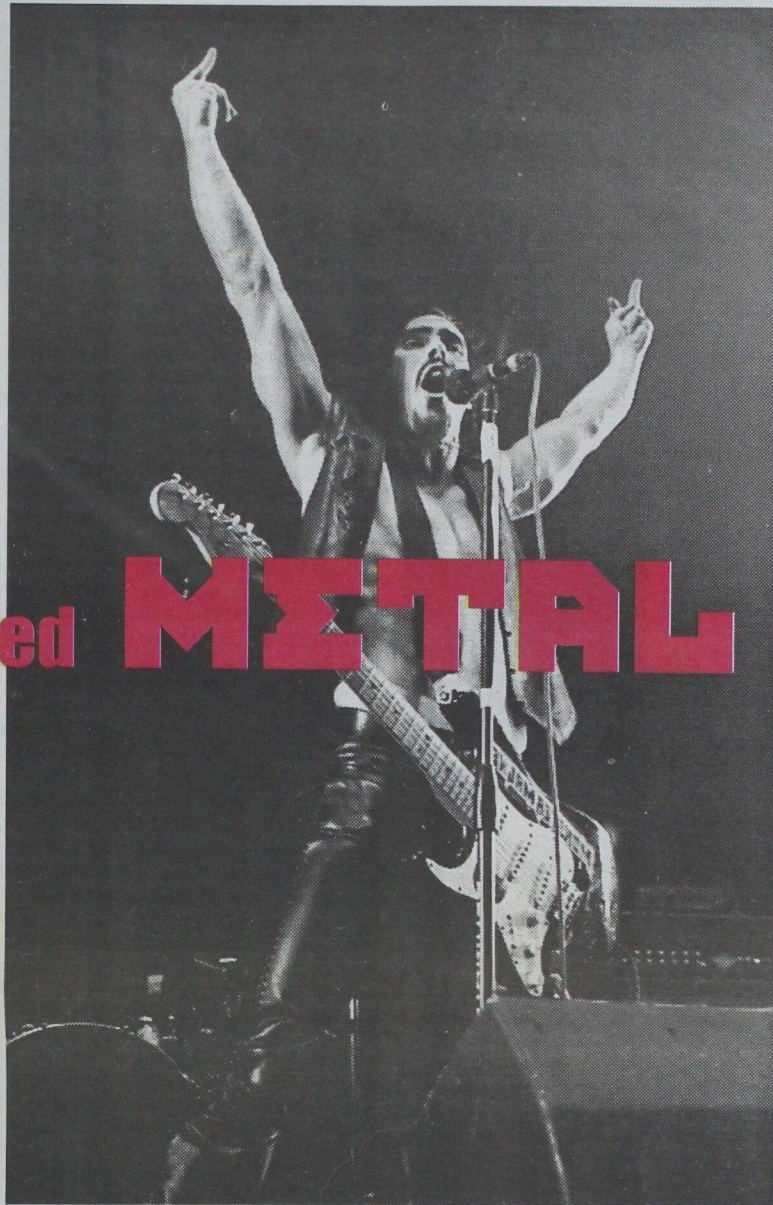
Three pronged **METAL** apocalypse

natalie mead
Link Arts & Culture Reporter

Well, there was a lot of yelling and even more swearing, unintelligible lyrics and noise that vaguely resembled music, but it still rocked.

Fear Factory took the stage five minutes early, and didn't slow down for their entire 45 minute set. They are one of the hardest working bands around, and it shows. They play as an extremely tight unit, all the way down to the seemingly choreographed head banging. They riled up the crowd with Nazi-esque chants and played with their emotions during their latest single "Resurrection" which slipped in and out of sounding like a Bastardized gospel song. Before leaving, Fear Factory said "We want to put on the best show we can for you" and they certainly delivered.

Concert Review
Rob Zombie/Monster Magnet/Fear Factory
PNE Forum
Monday, November 16, 1998



Monster Magnet spent their 45-minute set spewing out all the cheese they could and the audience just ate it up. Their set had everything you could ever want in an 80s hair band, there was pelvic thrusting, rolling around on the stage and even the classic arms in the air Jesus Christ pose. It got to the point where it was almost impos-

sible to concentrate on the music, but that was okay, because there was plenty of in between song banter to amuse, including a real gem about their new CD being the perfect soundtrack for everything from burning down your house to "worshiping your girlfriend's behind". And we thought the 80s were gone forever.

Rob Zombie hit the stage at 9:45, with a

bang, literally. With explosions punctuating nearly every word and an impressive backdrop, Mr. Zombie worked the crowd like a nomad wandering through hell. He effortlessly worked his way through a set comprised mostly of White Zombie tunes, with some songs from his new solo CD "Hellbilly Deluxe" and even a Black Sabbath cover in honor of "a bunch of old guys going back on tour". The show was reminiscent of the good old days when a band would actually interact and entertain their audience, Zombie spoke to the crowd and they listened. He seemed to have thought of everything a Satanist could want in life, there was topless dancers, video screens featuring nuclear explosions and Betty Page, dancing devils and even a derogatory reference to Matchbox 20. Ah, it was a great night that made you realize how much you are missing when the band just stands there on stage, plays and leaves with the same enthusiasm. After watching Rob Zombie's spectacular stage show, you wonder why all of life couldn't be this good.

Worst thing about Ringmaster is Springer

CHARLIE HENAULT
Link Arts & Culture Reporter

As I left my house I was slightly concerned about the number of people who reacted positively when I told them what movie I was about to attend.

Film Review
Ringmaster
Opens Nov. 25th, 1998

The opening scene of Jerry Springer's "Ringmaster" takes place in a trailer park - that's right, the movie is based on trailer trash!

Shocking, eh?
More shocking is that "Ringmaster" is actually a tolerable movie. I would even say that the dialogue was well written although the storylines were probably based on truth "I'm Sleeping With My Stepdaddy" being just one. If you're expecting a "show all" type of movie there is less nudity than there was at the Rob Zombie concert last week.

As for actors, since it was Jerry's movie, I was semi-surprised people I had actually heard of/ was familiar with were casted.

William McNanara, Michael Dudikoff and Molly Hagan led the cast but Jaime Pressel stole the show, portraying Angel

the 19 year old sleeping with her stepdaddy (Dudikoff) and just about everyone else... except well, I don't want to ruin the movie for you.

If your looking for Jerry Springer keep looking as he "highlights" the film; I can only think of two scenes that featured him for more than five minutes.

Unfortunately, the most damaging thing about this movie is Jerry Springer. I suppose playing "yourself" doesn't really involve acting but his performance was sub-standard at best. At some points, I wished he would leave the screen altogether. It's a nice piece of rental fluff.



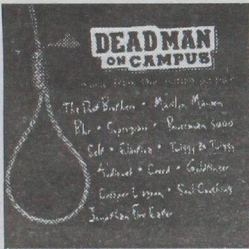
Jerry Springer.



BECK
Mutations
(DGC)

Listening to his latest release, sounds like he has been on a long journey and coming to a plateau. With Mellow Gold and Odelay behind him, Beck is returning to some roots, playing more acoustic guitar and harmonica. Mutations has Beck playing with his core touring band on all eleven songs. The studio was only booked for two weeks, in which Beck managed to record everything for this release, about a song a day. Being who he is, Mutations does still contain elements of ambiance and hallucinatory soundscapes, not to drift too far from his other music. Beck has definitely gone through some 'mutations', unlike his other albums, this new release has some real continuity. He's already taking his time working on another album, so stay tuned. Good feelings and a great burst of creativity, excellent for laid back afternoons enjoying the time float by.

David Lai



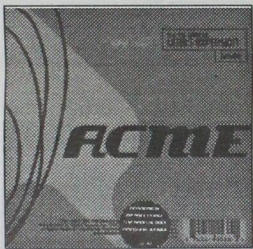
DEAD MAN ON CAMPUS
Music from the Motion Picture
(Dreamworks)

Marilyn Manson covering David Bowie's "Golden Years"? Too weird for me. But then again I didn't relish this movie either. The "Dead Man On Campus" soundtrack is a compilation of works by many artists including Blur, Elastica and Creed and every song has its own unique and different feel. Although I've never been too excited about the moanings of Manson. The Supergrass tune was peppy and the album had a very lively energetic feel. Much like what you would hear on a

Spinnin' the disks

campus radio station or even maybe MTV, although I doubt you would know many of the tunes as they're not anywhere near mainstream. The music is leading edge and I sense a lot of work has been put into make it sound polished, although it feels a bit abrupt and inconsistent at times. If you have any interest in the Chemical Bros., you will love their work on this one.

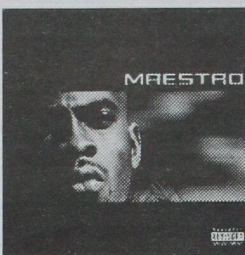
Erin Garlick



JON SPENCER BLUES EXPLOSION
Acme
(Matador)

This is excellent rock and roll. After seeing their Oct.27 performance, I had to get Acme and amazingly they kick ass on CD too. It brings back memorable memories of the show and fun, fun, fun. Absolutely fantastic, the songs are pounded out with extreme rhythm and blues, the fat earthquake bass feeling it all out, the guitars grinding and twinkling and drums just pulsating and beating to cosmic sonic vibrations. Calvin, Magical Colors, I Wanna Make it All Right, High Gear, Torture there's not a song that deters from this album. It's complete and consistent, the JSBE'98 are dynamite. There's nothing negative here just down right '98 blues rock and roll. For your own good buy this album or at least for everyone else around you.

David Lai

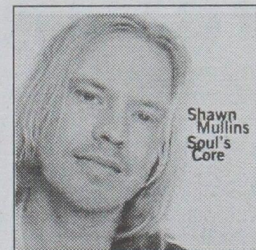


MAESTRO
Built to Last
(Attic)

Maestro, also known as/short for Maestro Fresh Wes, is one of the best known Canadian rap artists, just released his latest album 'Built to Last'.

From Toronto, Ontario, Maestro began his career in the late '80's, early '90's with songs such as 'Let Your Backbone Slide' and 'Conducting Mang'. I've heard snippets of his newest album and it certainly convinced me to pick up the album. Unlike other rap music, his music is original, not hardcore and easy to listen to. Maestro will always give his fans the music they want to hear. Even more interesting is that Maestro is also known and recognized in the United States by most DJ's.

Marie Odulio

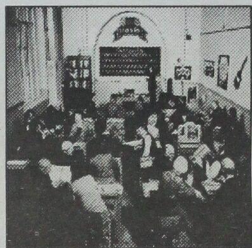


SHAWN MULLINS
Soul's Core
(Columbia)

Shawn Mullins has two voices. One is speak-driven, best demonstrated on the "Soul's Core" single "Lullaby". The other is a vocal presence that brings

to mind Adam Duritz (Counting Crows) with a blues/ folk tinge. Lyrically this album reads like someone's journal but at times it seems Shawn is holding back. The storyteller aspect gets tired because you want him to SING. The first track "Anchored In You" is an excellent example of my qualm with him. "Soul's Core" is an appropriate title for a record that leaves you with an underlying emotion that "everything is gonna be alright". I suggest going to a listening booth and trying on the following songs "September In Seattle", "Twin Rocks, Oregon", "And On A Rainy Night" if these songs fit then this album is for you otherwise hold off for awhile... or check out Edwin McCain.

www.shawnmullins.com



OASIS
The Masterplan
(Epic)

No it's not a new album, this is a collection of their B-Sides, though by listening to it you would never think they were B-Sides. The Masterplan sounds better than their last album, Be Here Now. A brilliant live rendition of the Beatles' "I Am the Walrus" is included as well as the song "Fade Away" which was on the Help compilation. This version though is much faster with more guitars and if I'm not mistaken the version on the Help compilation had Noel singing, this one has Liam. The album is put together well into a nice neat package. Cohesive. Even the liner notes are well done; it gives a little history report for each song, (what the A-Side for the song was) and of course the lyrics are nicely laid out right beside it so you can sing along in the car and have people stare, laugh or point cause it looks like you're talking to yourself. Not that I have first hand experience or anything.

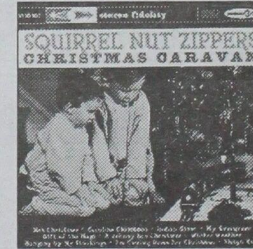
Janet Yu



ROB ZOMBIE
Hellbilly Deluxe
(Geffen)

Halloween three hundred and sixty five days a year if you have this album. "13 Tales of Cadaverous Cavorting inside the Spookshow International" claims the album cover. Indeed. It's not a scary album per say, ghoulish but not frightening. It's all tongue in cheek...I think. Nevermind that cause it's a pretty solid album. The liner notes have artwork done by Mr. Zombie himself as well as Marvel Comics' Gene Colan and songs like "Superbeast," "Dragula," "Living Dead Girl," and "What Lurks on Channel X?" make the album live up to its cover caption. And don't be fooled by the picture of Rob on the cover because contrary to what it may portray, the former lead singer of the now broken up White Zombie, is a very smart businessman. It's all about hype and the way his album was hyped out before it's release made it a big seller. Plus, look at his history, he's earned five Grammy Award nominations, won an MTV Music Video Award for Best Director, sold more than three and a half million records in the U.S. and over 300,000 records in Canada. So have a little more respect for Mr.Hellbilly Deluxe.

Janet Yu



SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS
Christmas Caravan
(Attic)

Ah, another swing band for the whole big swing revival. But before you can say "bandwagon" this band has been together since 1993 so there. And this isn't about trends, this band is very serious about their craft. For example,

for their second album, "Hot," they trekked from their North Carolina homes to New Orleans just to to record it like the people they admired used to. Taped live with single takes and with very few microphones. The album is Christmas oriented as the name suggests and it's surprisingly mellow. The tracks that really make your toes tap are "Sleigh Ride," "Carolina Christmas," and "Hot Christmas." Other than those three, expect a slower paced, quieter album. Great for relaxing with a cup of cocoa beside the fireplace... I can't wait for Christmas. And by the way just so you know, the name Squirrel Nut Zippers comes from an old time brand of chewy, peanut-flavoured sweet that's still made in Massachusetts.

Janet Yu



SOULARIUM
Sister Soleil
(Universal Records)

There's something seriously wrong with Sister Soleil. She's sadly crying out for attention and you can tell she's desperate for it. From her hideous make up job (can somebody sad !-want-to-make-a-statement-but-I-just-failed?) to her posing as an angel on the back cover (what were you thinking, Sister?), you know this girl is up to no good. I reluctantly put the CD in my discman and listened painfully. She has this terrible, annoying voice that makes nails running down a chalkboard seem pleasant. And, Sister Soleil, just what exactly are you trying to prove or say? It seems like your life is a nightmare which is reflected in your music. Well honey, I got news for you-nobody cares! Track number five, Chair, seems to want to vent out angst, but it doesn't work. It wants to have an edge but it's too 'pop', so neigh. And track number seven, AOL, also

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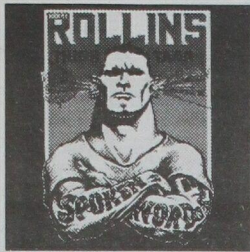
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tries really hard but doesn't succeed in getting the message across. Sister Soleil, whoever you are, next time you decide to record an album, take a good look in the mirror and be honest with yourself. Or else, just don't bother.



BOND
Bang Out of Order
(Sony)

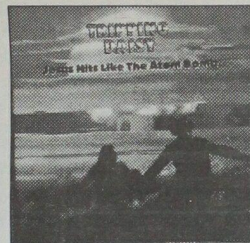
I don't know about this band. It's not all that bad in terms of their music. It's heavily influenced by guitars, but with a techno-like flair. I think I'd find this CD fascinating if I was on a drug that hallucinates. There's something really cool about the way this band puts their music together. I like the rhythm and musical undertones. But, I have no respect for any group that degrades women through lyrics. If my interpretation is correct, to be Staarbucked, so to speak, is to have a woman perform oral sex to a man and then swallowing. I know I'm a little graphic, but this is relevant. Some feminists have argued that a man who demands oral sex likes to control women and feel superior to women. Controlling men can become abusive, and we were all created equal so no one is superior to anyone. Maybe I just have a chip on my shoulder. It's too bad about the lyrics to only really one song, because the music is very agreeable.



HENRY ROLLINS
Think Tank
(Pun Dip)

Another spoken word album by Mr. Rollins, previously of Black Flag and currently of Rollins Band, now Think Tank. This double CD I guess you could say lecture is nothing short of humorous and entertaining.

Henry basically talks (thus spoken word) about how he got to the show, how much fun he had at the airport, why he doesn't watch TV, world peace and Clinton's hormones, why El Nino, weatherman, homophobia and Los Vegas all on one CD. On the second disc he talks about the topics 'Nothing can go wrong', How he knocked himself out at a show in Brazil, how Rollins Band were treated like kings in Russia, Marius and 'No one is Fax Exempt



TRIPPING DAISY
Jesus Hits Like The Atom Bomb
Island 1998

"...everyone kind of comes face to face with the person that they are always wanting to know and be and understand..." Tim DeLaughter- singer/lyricist

Have Tripping Daisy grown up? If so, does the world still need Tripping Daisy?

In the three years since "i am an Elastic Firecracker" and the success of "I Got A Girl" changes were bound to occur mentally, with that comes a re-formed lineup including new drummer Ben Curtis and the introduction of a second guitarist/ trumpeter Phillip Karnats.

Along with the help of co-producer Eric Drew Feldman (Frank Black, keyboardist with PJ Harvey) this record has a cleared up sound compared to previous outings. However with the clarity and Tim's new found disposition the CD is left with original elements placed throughout but collectively lost among a Porno For Pyros back catalogue. If this is the "record that defines them" then they'll be sadly missed- BUT it is the start of something that hopefully people won't forget.

www.trippingdaisy.com

More cd reviews More cd reviews More cd reviews



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At the Movies

Roberto Benigni's *Life Is Beautiful (La Vita E Bella)* is the official Italian selection for Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards. As writer, director and the star, Roberto Benigni has rendered his most ambitious and moving film to date.

This film is a Chaplinesque fable set in Tuscany, Italy, about the powers of love and imagination poised against the brutal realities many Jews faced during World War II in Europe.

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The Fierce Competition



Xue Shen and Hongbo Zhao staking in the pairs short.
SAMANTHA TSE PHOTO

Skate Canada

Samantha Tse
Link Arts & Culture Reporter

The second event of the Grand Prix Series went well under way earlier this month. Every year, a new destination in Canada is granted the honor of hosting this international event that the International Skating Union sanctions; this year, it was Kamloops, BC. Many Canadian figure skaters debut their new programs at this event. Most notably is the ice dancing team of Shae-Lynn Bourne and Viktor Kraatz. For the past few years, they have made it a tradition to debut their new dances at Skate Canada.

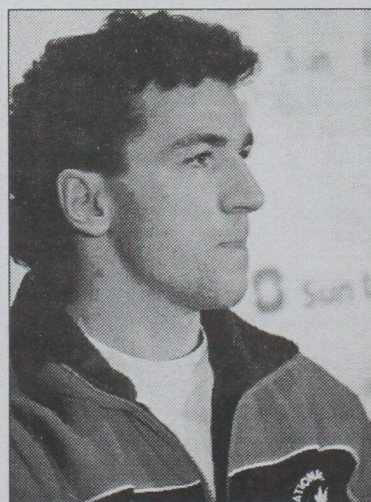
Skate Canada 1998
Nov. 5-8, 1998
Kamloops, BC

Skate Canada kicked off with the dance event. The compulsory dance selected for this event was the Paso Double. To no surprise, Canada's Bourne and Kraatz placed first. A new addition for the Canadians was adding their trademark, hydro blading, in the compulsories. In the past, they have generally saved this element for the Original and Free dances. Both Canadian teams, Bourne and Kraatz and Megan Wing and Aaron Lowe, made some changes to their approach in skating this year. Both teams used foreign choreographers. Bourne and Kraatz worked with the legendary ice dancing team of Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean; Wing and Lowe brought French choreographer, Shanti Ruchpaul over from Paris. Wing and Lowe also took up ballet training in hopes of improving their line and body postures. The Original Dance theme this year was the waltz. Bourne and Kraatz presented an absolutely breathtaking Irish waltz titled, Seachran. It is sung in Gaelic and is about a man who courts a woman.

"After doing Riverdance last year, we thought it'd be a nice touch this touch to do something Irish," says Bourne. "We made it our own. We tried to make it light and airy, soft and beautiful."

And that pretty much sums up the dance: light and airy, soft and beautiful.

It's really hard to describe in words what it was like to watch a perfect waltz. Everything just floated and their skating was seamless. The costumes were very tasteful and elegant. It was just a 'complete package' that had everybody standing in ovation afterwards. This dance was a different look for Bourne and Kraatz. It's focus was really on the pureness and joy of dancing and not the athletic hydro blading. Of course, there was a little bit of hydro blading, but the flow and lines were more emphasized. Au contraire, the other Canadian team was not as well received. Their OD was set to the music and theme of the ballet, Coppelia. It was a really cute dance, slightly reminiscent of the Fins, Rahkamo and Kokko. It was highly difficult as Wing performed half the dance with her eyes closed (corresponds with the ballet's theme), but the judges did not seem to appreciate this team. The audience disagreed heavily with the judges' placing, ninth after the OD, and booed loudly in support of Wing and Lowe. Obviously disappointed, Wing and Lowe have even hinted retirement after this season.



Elvis Stojko at the Skate Canada press conference.

LYNNE TOUROND PHOTO

"I don't want to be a whiner, but this sport is getting to be so irritating to me," says Lowe. It's too bad the politics are still such an issue. But, the ISU is trying hard to conquer this by adding new rules to ice dancing so that judging can be less subjective. Some new rules in the free dance are specific difficult elements such as lifts, dance spins, twizzles and step sequences. There will be deductions for omission, failure, falls or interruptions. This hopefully will restore the credibility of ice dancing.

Bourne and Kraatz had a very successful season last year with Riverdance and coming up with something that will top that was hard.

"It's always nerve-wracking debuting a new program. The biggest challenge was coming up with something the audience would like as much as Riverdance," says Bourne.

Their choreographers, Torvill and Dean, came up with something really innovative and exciting this year. It's set to a fast tempoed techno piece called Meet Her at the Love Parade by Da Hool. It's intricate and avant-garde choreography was a very unique look for Bourne and Kraatz. It's not traditional in any way; it's got more of a club/rave feel to it and it's high in energy and spirit.

"I was so happy when the crowd started clapping during the program," beamed Bourne. The costumes were not the most interesting things I've seen, lycra athletic things in teal and black, but had it been any more lavish, it may have clashed with the choreography. Wing and Lowe stayed in ninth place after their free dance.

Next event that featured a Canadian debuting a program was BC's own Keyla Ohs. Oh my, oh my, what a disaster. Us Canadians are not too proud of our women right now, but Ohs' performances at Skate Canada just poured salt into the wound. But, in all fairness, the women in the World scene right now seems to be in trouble. There's a lot of talk about how the triple jumps have taken precedent over everything else and the bar for women's skating has been risen too high. Nonetheless, Keyla Ohs did not rise to the challenge. Ranked second in Canada, Ohs was considered a hopeful in the sport. She spent some time away from her home in North Vancouver this summer to work with renowned choreographers, Bernie Ford (short program) and Sandra Bezic (long program). Her short program was to a Middle Eastern theme, and of course, Ohs attempted the fatal triple lutz, double toe combination. Well, she fell on the triple lutz and her solo triple jump, a triple flip, was not successful either. And to top it off, she did not have enough rotations on one of her required spins, so marks were deducted off that as well. A very bad debut, indeed. After the short, Ohs was in tenth place.

Things did not get brighter for Ohs in the long. The program is actually a very beautiful one; it's tranquil and sophisticated. Ohs came out in a beautiful black dress with some diamonds trickling down

the side. As the music started, we expected to see the loveliness of Bezic's work. But, Ohs just was not on top of things. She fell all over the ice; in fact, she did not even complete any triples. It was a rather sad event for Ohs and somewhat of an embarrassment to Canadians, because there was a lot of hype over her and it just didn't happen.

Oh well. What can you do? It's early in the season and there were a few rusty competitors alongside Ohs. One of them was Irina Slutskaya, ranked second in the world. Slutskaya skated to a beautifully choreographed number to the music of Alfred Schnittke's Concert No. 6. It's a less dramatic and more elegant Slutskaya. She is a really talented skater but lacks in the consistency of the jumps. She is known to be a good competitor, but not this time. In the short, she two footed a triple lutz and fell on a triple loop. Somewhat unusual for Slutskaya to fall twice in the short, but her ice coverage and spins were outstanding. Going into the long, Slutskaya was third. The long was not that much better for Slutskaya. Some trips, misses and falls. That's highly unusual for her, because her long has always been her strong point. But, it is early in the season.

Laetitia Hubert of France, ranked fourth in the world, faltered in both the short and long, placing fourth overall, behind Slutskaya. It's really too bad to see veterans of the sport fall like that.

It was new comer, Fumie Suguri of Japan who surprised everyone. She entered the event, not even as her country's national champion, and places first after the short. She executes a perfect triple lutz, double toe combination, triple flip and double axel. On top of that, her artistry was superior to most others. Her programs are both choreographed by Lori Nicol, who also choreographs for Suguri's idol, Michelle Kwan.

When asked about her placing after the short, she replied in her first press conference, "Yes, really, really surprised! This is a very big competition for me." Unfortunately, in the long, Suguri had a few mishaps and her final placing was second.

Elena Liashenko from the Ukraine jumped from second to first after the long.

In the men's event, it was age vs. experience. Plushenko, 16 year old boy wonder vs. Stojko, three time World Champion; both are coming off injuries; Plushenko had surgery over the summer and Stojko is nursing his groin. The short program was pretty intense as the quad and triple axel as a solo jump are now allowed to be in the short program. In Skate America, Stojko attempted the quad in the short but faltered; this time around, he omitted the quad and stuck with a safer triple axel/triple toe combination and a triple lutz as his solo jump.

"Last week in Detroit, I pushed through everything to test it. Here, the last two days, I kind of knew I wanted to leave feeling good about things. I sort of decided to

go for the clean program," says Stojko.

It was his clean program that landed him in first place after the short. Plushenko chose to attempt the quad, but doubled it, landing him second place after the short. Our other Canadian, Jeff Langdon, was also quite impressive during the short. Sustaining an ankle injury, Langdon pulled off a brilliant short, including a triple axel for his solo jump and a triple flip/double toe combination.

"I couldn't have done much more. This was a big breakthrough for me. Because of the injury, I haven't had the luxury of training a lot. But it's nice to know I can count on myself," said Langdon after the short, which he placed fourth.

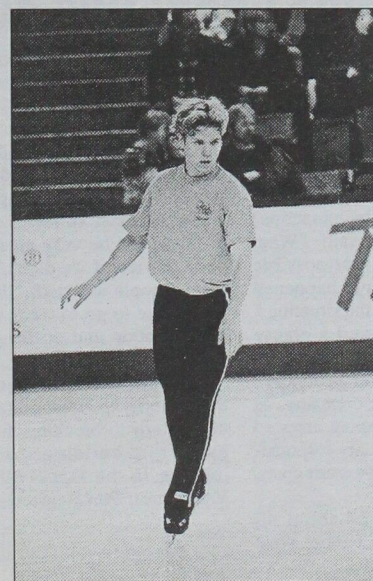
Our third Canadian entry, Jayson Denomme, was entertaining, but lacked consistency in his jumps and landed in seventh place after the short.

The tides began to turn during the long. Stojko skated his new long program and went for everything. However, he two footed the landing on his quad; as a result, he failed to do the quad in combination. The rest of the program went well. But, without the quad combination, Stojko was dethroned by the youthful Evgeny Plushenko.

"It's been a rough road, but we've moved up another notch this week. The big thing is we were back doing quad-triples in practice here. I like the way everybody pulled out all the steps in the free skate. That's what male skating's all about," says Stojko.

Plushenko produced a quad toe/triple toe combination, as well as five other triples. Although Plushenko's program lacked the maturity of Stojko's, it was still well crafted and executed. Plushenko calls his performance at Skate Canada the best in his life.

His coach, Alexei Mishin disagrees. "Evgeny was good tonight, but he's still very far from his potential. It hasn't been easy. Evgeny has grown three inches since last January. That cost him some power in



Kristy Sargeant and Kris Wirtz after staking in the pairs short.

SAMANTHA TSE PHOTO

his jumps," says Mishin.

Jeff Langdon did not perform as well in the long. He skated to Puccini's Tosca.

"I've wanted to skate to it for a couple of years and this year I felt I was ready to do it justice. I've really tried to use the line, the spread eagles and spirals. That program came together really, really quickly. I thought it would take a lot of time, but everything clicked," says Langdon.

The program is exquisite in terms of choreography, and it would have been ravishing had all the jumps been there. But, it didn't happen for Langdon that night. He fell and fell and fell. That was really too bad because Langdon is a superb skater with a lot of potential and class. Obviously, his injury hindered his performance, but it's early in the season, so he still has time to redeem himself. And hopefully, he will. He dropped to eighth place. Jayson Denomme performed a highly energized program that kept him in seventh place.

The pairs event was both surprising and exciting.

The Chinese team of Xue Shen and Hongbo Zhao was one of the many highlights of the event. Their huge throws and twists, breakneck speed, synchronization and overall presentation made them a true joy to watch. In the short, they even performed a delayed double twist. In the long, Shen and Zhao worked a lot on their artistry this year. But, it was the breathtaking technique that wowed everybody. This team is so 'on' with everything that they do; it's just pure perfection. To no surprise, they won the event.

Another Canadian debut was the new pairs team of Jamie Sale and David Pelletier. Both have had success with previous partners, but in each other, they seem to have found a perfect match. They both have such a flair and audience appeal. Sale and Pelletier were brought together over the summer and their only goal at Skate Canada was to have fun, not expecting much else. First off, they are a very new team and secondly, Sale missed two and a half months training this summer due to an Achilles tendon problem that resulted in surgery. But, they are awesome and dynamic. It's been so long since Canada

Jason Denomme during the warm up.

KIM STICKEL PHOTO

has seen such a promising pair. This pair will have a very bright future together. It astonished everyone, including themselves to find them second after the short.

"We're a new team. We didn't know what to expect. We didn't know where we were. I told Jamie before we went out there, 'Don't expect anything. Let's just do our thing,'" says Pelletier.

"We feel really lucky to be picked to skate at Skate Canada. I think our goal tonight was to go out and just have a good time. We knew we could do our elements. All of our elements were very strong, so we were pleased," says Sale.

Their teammates, Kristy Sargeant and Kris Wirtz were not as successful. Coming off a second place finish at Skate America, Sargeant and Wirtz seemed disappointed with their placing after the short, fourth. The other Canadian entry, Marie-Claude Savard-Gagnon and Luc Bradet were fifth after the short, although all their elements were clean.

"We're very pleased with what we've done. The rest is out of control. We're happy tonight that everything came together," says Bradet.

Just three months ago, Bradet could barely walk due to severe back pain. He spent from May to Labor Day off the ice so to come to this event and place within the top five is commendable.

The pairs free skate was very intense. All three Canadian teams were hoping to medal, but beating out the Chinese team was unthinkable. They were just too amazing. But, Sale and Pelletier were riding high and nothing really could bring them down. In their free, they had slight bobbles, most notably when they missed hand on their overhead lift. But they were entertaining and clad in divine navy velvet costumes. They had two huge throws, triple salchow and triple loop. They dropped to third place, but it really was refreshing to see such a promising team. Their only weakness is the side by side triple jumps because Sale doesn't always get the height to complete the rotations, but that's only if one knit picks. They are generally awesome! Sargeant and Wirtz had a really bad free skate. They skated to a sexy jazz number that, when performed well, is svelte and smooth. But, it just didn't happen that night. Sargeant fell everywhere and in the end, her partner stormed off before all the marks were posted. They ended up fourth anyway. That's just really too bad because they skated so well just the week before. Savard-Gagnon and Bradet kept their *Gone with the Wind* program, a lovely program. It was pretty close to being perfect with slight mishaps. The first one being that Savard-Gagnon double a planned triple toe and Bradet's blade got caught during a lift. Minor errors dropped them to fifth. Second place went to the new Russian team of Marina Petrova and Alexei Tikhonov, a new team on the rise.

So, all in all, Skate Canada went very well. It was a successful event that rocked the Riverside Coliseum all weekend long.

Gifts for our living planet

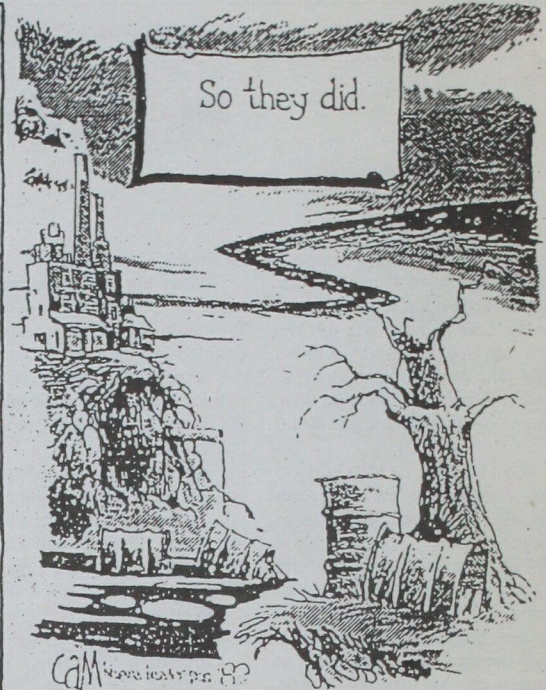
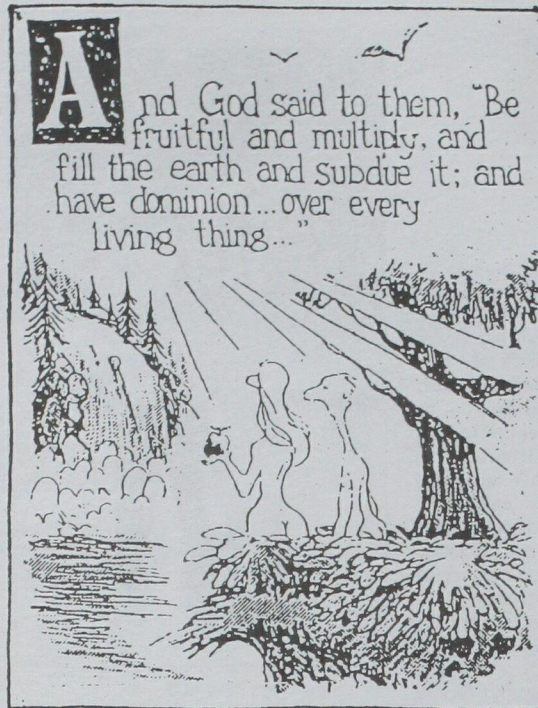
You can send a message to your loved ones, save money and have a great, green Christmas if you think for a moment before spending your wad on short-lived, disposable gifts that require batteries and come in three layers of packaging. Consider some of these gift ideas.

- A living, potted Christmas tree to replant after Christmas
- A sack of wildflower seed to sprinkle in the spring
- A membership to an environmental group
- A worm bin composter
- A canvas, string or wicker shopping bag to save the use of plastic or paper bags (Canadians use 55 million plastic bags every week!)
- A pot of growing kitchen herbs
- A house plant to "green up" your home
- A reusable cloth or metal coffee filter
- A reusable cup
- An energy-saving shower head
- A rechargeable flashlight
- A whale-watching or sea-kayaking trip
- A biodegradable pen
- A compact fluorescent light bulb
- A transit pass
- Cycling accessories

Wrap your gifts in recycled or reused paper or make your own out of cloth or Sunday comics pages. And don't forget to make the point of saving all that beautiful wrapping paper that you get for the next gift event.

We wish you a Merry and Green Christmas!

Thanks to W.H.E.N. (Worldwide Home Environmentalist Network) for gift ideas



The ecological alarm bells are ringing The world's frogs are vanishing

ALLAN ANTONIO & GREG HELTEN
SA Environmental Education

Around the world, the night time croaking of frogs has been silenced. Reports of missing frogs and toads have been coming in for years from Australia, Canada, India, Europe, Russia and the Independent States, Central and South America and the United States.

The leopard frog, for example, was once so abundant that it was found in almost every pond in North America. By 1995, it had virtually vanished. Though these disappearances have been going on for years, scientists still can't

agree for certain why it's happening.

Besides the disappearance of species of frogs from backyard and back country ponds, the incidence of deformed frogs has, well, jumped...very high. Deformities including missing or extra legs, eyes in the throat, missing or shrunken eyes and shrunken genitalia have been reported in the last few years.

There are some explanations to the disappearances and deformities, but in most cases they only account for problems in localities. For example, California frogs may have decreased due to drought, pesticides, fishes, and predatory non

native frogs. Some scientists have found that the decline is due to acid rain. Frogs have sensitive skin and acid in water could kill them. Some point to increased ultraviolet rays from the sun that may be damaging to the eggs. Maybe the cause is a combination. These are still only theories. Nobody really knows what is really happening, except frogs are disappearing.

One thing that scientists do agree on is that frogs are excellent environmental indicators. They have porous skin and no hair to use as a shield. They live both in water and on land, which makes them extra sensitive to slight environmental changes.

"Frogs are simply one of the best environmental indicators in the world," like the canary in the coal mine a leading herpetologist from Denmark said in a recent interview.

As the evidence mounts, more scientists - and backyard enthusiasts, believe that something bigger is underway. Hopefully the frog mystery may be explained sooner than later, and we can do something about it. Declines and disappearance of frogs worldwide is a strong indicator of environmental stress. We should listen to what they're saying.

Timber company obtains injunction against protesters

PATTI EDGAR
Canadian University Press

VICTORIA
A timber company has won an injunction against a handful of environmental protesters camped out in an old growth forest.

The decision came last week when the Supreme Court of British Columbia rejected the protesters' appeal against the injunction, which was sought by Timber West Forestry Ltd.

The group had been camped out in the Upper Walbran Valley since mid-September in an effort to prevent the company from logging in the area.

Protest organizer Ian Hunter said while they may have lost last

Tuesday's battle, their war isn't over.

Despite losing their fight against the injunction, the protesters gained two victories in court, Hunter said.

"I couldn't personally conceive of (an overturn of the injunction) happening," Hunter said. "What did happen is the best possible thing that could have happened from what I read of the situation."

The court removed a clause that gave police the right to arrest people who counsel protesters into blockading the company, as well as a clause making arrested protesters automatically responsible for Timber West's court costs, Hunter said.

And the group of about 40 people plans to take Timber West

to court again — this time over an affidavit it used in its defence during the appeal.

Land-use forester Steve Lorimer said his company is pleased protesters will no longer prevent it from operating in the Upper Walbran Valley.

"It would be very nice in our point of view if we didn't have to (have people arrested)," he said. "We'd like to go to work without confrontation and do the job we are permitted."

The injunction will give police the authority to arrest protesters if they return to blocking the company from building roads and logging in the Upper Walbran Valley, near Port Renfrew, B.C.



Greenhouse gas not included in GVRD's air quality study

GREG HELTEN
SA Environmental Education

Big improvements in Lower Mainland air quality have occurred over the last decade, but the decline has begun again, according to a report by the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD).

It's alarming news that our air is now getting worse, but one element missing from the study is the measurement of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. CO2 is a powerful greenhouse gas and a major component of the combustion process. The average vehicle puts out up to six tonnes of the stuff each year. But it's not included in the monitoring process because it's not classified as a pollutant that impacts directly on health.

Ken Stubbs, manager of GVRD's monitoring and assessment department says that greenhouse gases are in the realm of a global problem, rather than local, yet the health effects of human-induced climate disruption caused by CO2 releases is now well documented. Just last week a report from the Worldwatch Institute in Washington, D.C. tabulated the damages from human-induced, climate disruption events over the last year at US\$89 billion, including the deaths of 32,000 people and the displacement of 300 mil-

lion more. Stubbs said that CO2 may be included some day in air quality monitoring programs.

Aside from the CO2 question, Ken Stubbs told a group of industry and institutional environmental managers recently that the GVRD study, completed in July, looked at ambient air quality between 1987 and 1996. The numbers showed a net improvement in mean air quality by 12 percent and dirtier air events by 26percent. The number and intensity of fair quality days had gone down 92 percent, too.

The bottom line: cleaner air for longer periods than in the 1980's, but now the growth in the sheer volume of vehicles and industrial activities are starting to worsen air quality, Stubbs said. Between 1994 and 1996 the AQI levels experienced a very small upward trend.

Many sectors of industry and consumer behaviours have changed, in some cases significantly, but air quality is tied inextricably to transportation and land use. This requires a complex and multidisciplinary approach - and a lot of cooperation, if we want to avoid future environmental costs. As for the GVRD, the next step for improving air quality will be the mandatory roving and testing of heavy duty vehicles slated to start next April.

TOP O' THE FOOD CHAIN
AND THEY KNEW IT.

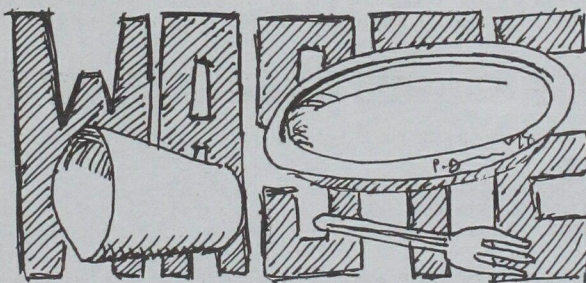


Graphic/The Peak

Students band together to oppose campus' cafeteria waste

BCIT cafeterias are setting a bad example and forcing students to produce a mountain of garbage, says student Jennifer Murray. Murray, a first year student in the Human Resource Diploma program has started a petition and letter-writing campaign directed at changing the cafeteria practice of using disposable dishware and cutlery. She and twenty other students signed a petition saying BCIT should review the issue of waste reduction in the campus cafeterias.

"On my first day of school," Murray wrote in her letter to President Brian Gillespie and other decision-makers, "I noticed that there is no cafeteria where you can eat from reusable plates, drink out of a reusable coffee cup or use permanent cutlery (pub not included)...I'm sure you agree that it is wasteful to be sitting 15 feet away from the cashier's till eating soup out of a



Styrofoam takeout container with plastic cutlery, only to throw it out 10 minutes later."

Murray doesn't think many people would object to paying 15 cents more for a cup of coffee or bowl of soup, knowing that the cup or bowl will not end up in the landfill by the end of the week.

She pointed out that BCIT has very "admirable" policies that include minimizing waste through the use of reducing, reusing and recycling, and also

promoting the adoption of these principles to BCIT's contractors and suppliers. But is it unreasonable to apply the policies in this case, she asked?

Indeed, BCIT's cafeterias do produce mountains of garbage. Figures from 1995 show that the campus community is using, and throwing away minutes later, over 17,000 disposable cups a week (that's 600,000 a year) and 7,500 plates a week (250,000 a year). No figures were available at press time on plastic cutlery,

but you can be sure it's a big number, and these numbers have certainly risen with a growing campus. It wasn't always like this though.

According to records, china plates and steel cutlery were available in two

of the five campus cafeterias in 1993, and even last year, Town Square staff

would give you ceramic plate if asked, but not any more. They're not stocked.

Restauronics Manager, Claude Helm, has said before that they hate to see the disposables used, too, but it's a matter of economics. Obviously not including the environmental cost of plastics production and super long lifetime, plus avoiding the costs of dishwashing and staff, is a lot cheaper - more profitable. Another large cost that concerned Helm is loss and breakage. He said that he's lost so much inventory to people taking

away items, and even just throwing the goods into the garbage. When china was available, it was a regular occurrence. So security is an issue. How could we ensure that dinnerware and cutlery go back to the cafeteria?

Murray's letter raises several questions. Why was the use of disposables not a factor in awarding BCIT's cafeteria contract a year ago? It's in the policies, but not in practice. Secondly, what can each of us do to reduce cafeteria waste? And thirdly, by working together with BCIT's administration, students and cafeterias, what solution can we come up with?

This could be a great joint project for students in many programs. A good target to solve this problem is resolution by this coming April when BCIT is hosting ECO-FAIR, the environmental technologies, lifestyles and careers event.

And thanks, Jennifer.



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du Maurier
A R T S

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