PARKING BARKING AT BCIT BAS PARKING AT BCIT BONE from service to scam?

The Link PHOTO of the WEEK

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Spring blossoms at the Marine Campus.

Rodney Dickinson

Submit the photo of the week and we'll pay you \$20

Send a horizontal photo that is related to campus life to contact@linknewspaper.ca. Include your name and a description of what you shot. If we print it, you make \$20.

CAMPUS QUERY

What has your parking experience been on campus?



MINORU NAKANO Computer Systems Technology, second year

"I don't drive, but have heard about dealings from friends and students. Seems the results are always negative; they don't accommodate students' needs."



TYRA BERMUDEZ International Business Management, first year

"Preferential parking for professors shouldn't be that big — it's mostly half-empty and students have to run to classes."



MARWAN MARWAN Computer Systems Technology, second year

"Personally, I think it's ridiculous. They are overpriced: they have a monopoly over this – they know that students have to pay them and they take advantage.



ANDREJ KOUDLAI Computer Systems Technology, second year

"I did have one ticket. I relocated on prepaid and forgot I can't freely move myself around."

NEWS

Candidates eager to take over BCITSA

The BCITSA general election is just around the corner, with 30 candidates vying for 12 positions

NEETU GARCHA News Editor

30 candidates are running for a position on the BCIT Student Association (BCITSA) executive board, some seeking re-election, some getting involved in student politics for the first time, and others exercising a passion to get involved.

Last year, the BCITSA saw 33 candidates run for various positions on student council, which broke the record. The year before only 18 that ran, which changed campus politics according to elections chief Marwan Marwan.

"The voting turnout last year was the highest and it was a really tough race," Marwan told The Link. "Last year really kind of rocked the boat and challenged the status quo."

Marwan said he is happy about this year's candidate turnout and acknowledged the current executives for encouraging students to run in the election.

"One of the most amazing things for me was the personality in the people that are running," said Marwan. "A big thank you needs to go out to the current councilors that rallied these students to run



Candidates gather for a group shot at a pre-election meeting.

for positions."

One candidate's personality has shone through in a unique way, through a rap song and video produced for her campaign. Eirene Cloma, who is running for vice president of student affairs, said she wanted to engage students and encourage creative campaigning.

"I felt with a rap video it would kind of mix things up in the campaign and appeal to other senses that may not necessarily be stimulated when you're so busy with school," Cloma told The Link. "The main goal of doing [the rap] is to let that creative fire grow."

Last year, only two candidates ran for president. This year, there are five hopefuls,

one of whom was looking forward to an opportunity to be a voice for students.

> "I know how hard our students work and I know how great they are and I really want to offer them everything they deserve."

> > Rebecca Davidson, presidential candidate

"[Politics] seemed like a lot of hard work and up until coming to BCIT, I wasn't really interested in hard work but I am now and I think this will be a lot of fun," presidential candidate PJ Krider told The Link. "I really want to be a sort of voice for the students. I have a big mouth, so I'm good at that."

Tristan Gillon, another candidate for president, said he is running because of encouragement from current executives, but admitted he doesn't have a lot of experience.

"Honestly, not a whole lot," Gillon told *The Link* when asked what experience he has going into the election. "A few years ago, I never would have expected myself to run for anything, so this is a big step for me. I'm really excited about doing it."

Kevin Hipolito, who is also running for president, said

he is involved because of the number of students that he has seen dropping out of BCIT, despite their potential.

"I want people that are smart and ready for the working world to actually get through the hardest years of their potential life," said Hipolito.

Jamie Clark is also in the running for president and feels his work in the BCITSA's marketing department has prepared him well for the potential role.

"I learned a lot about the Student Association and how they run things," said Clark.

Rebecca Davidson is the other presidential hopeful. She reitereated that her passion for the students of BCIT as her motivation to run.

"Everyone got me really passionate and I realized how much more we can do for the school," said Davison. "I know how hard our students work and I know how great they are and I really want to offer them everything they deserve."

A new position was created this year to represent BCIT's downtown campus, with one candidate in the running.

Voting for all positions will take place from Friday, April 12 to Friday, April 19.

To find out more about the canidates, you can read their platforms on the following four pages. Please note that only those who responded to questions have been included and all responses are unedited.

JAMIE CLARK CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT



Why are you seeking election?

Since the beginning of my time at BCIT I have been involved with the SA. I began by participating in the SA's Peak Leadership program and then became more involved with the SA this past summer, working part-time in their marketing department. My experience with the SA gives me insight into areas that are strong and those that need improvement. I want to lead the SA in maintaining its strengths and bettering its weaknesses.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

Lets face it... you are not going to enjoy every minute of BCIT, but I want to make everyone's time here a little less stressful. I want to do this by increasing what the SA is able to offer its parttime and full-time students. I will achieve this by maximizing the efficiency of the SA, freeing up resources to be used in new ways to serve you.

REBECCA DAVIDSON CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Why are you seeking election?

Students at BCIT are the most determined and dedicated people I have come across thus far in my life. It would be an honour to work hard for what this BCIT student body deserves. I have the leadership and compassion the position will require. Some of the factors that inspired my campaign are my two full time years here, sitting on the Education Council and working as a peer tutor at the BCIT learning commons.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

If elected my objective would be to create a safe atmosphere for students, where all their voices and concerns are heard; I will take on a challenge for you. Some of the changes and initiatives I want to achieve are: to improve the communication between students and faculty, to collaborate student ideas and encourage interaction, especially between schools and to ensure proper study areas are available and flexible to meet the needs of every student.



KEVIN HIPOLITO CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT



Why are you seeking election?

Being President is about representation; it is about taking the ideas, voices, and needs of the students and bringing them to the Board. What a President needs is the ability to present, persuade, and deliver a point and I know I can do just that. I will serve to represent and advocate for all students.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

BCIT is already highly regarded in providing students with strong work ethic and amazing team skills but I want to bring more to our table. As President I will look into having BCIT participate in more inter-school projects, hold effective seminars on work placement, and take initiative on opportunities to improve BCIT as a whole.

PJ KRIDER CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Why are you seeking election?

Far too often politics comes down to voting for a lesser of two evils. Students shouldn't have to make that choice. I'm running because I want to do something positive for BCIT and the people who go here. It would be arrogant of me to claim I know what's best for you guys – only you know that. I'm here to listen to what you guys want and give voice to your opinions and ideas.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

I want to get students involved in more social activities. This is the time where we can make friends that will be with us for life. I also want to make the whole BCIT experience more affordable – from tuition, books and food vendors on campus. If we are the future, we should not have to pile up huge amounts of debt to realize this future.



BRAD JOHNSON candidate for vice president, finance & administration



Why are you seeking election?

I believe in BCIT and am passionate about improving student services & lifestyle while being financially responsible. I am currently a member of student council and sit on the 2013 budget committee for the BCITSA. My background with the budget committee and the Financial Management Program at BCIT provides me with a strong foundation for the responsibilities of this office.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

During my term in office some of the key improvements I would like to make are improve the availability sof used books on campus, make BCIT-SA services available to part time and satellite campus students, create more specials and healthy menu items at the pub, improve availability of food options during the weekend, work with BCIT in cleaning up the bathrooms and student areas. To learn more about me visit my LinkedIn Page: linkedin.com/in/bradjohnsonfinance

RYAN MARKLOFF CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Why are you seeking election?

I am currently a set rep in my first term, one of my set mates recently had his apartment building burn down, and through that, discovered that students have little support in cases of emergencies and I want that to change. I believe that I can change that through the Student Association. I have experience in accounting and have great interpersonal skills. I love being active in my community when I get the chance.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

I want students have a support network in case they have a real life emergency. I want fundraisers to happen, so students can get financial aid. Some emergencies are traumatic, and I want them to have places to go to deal with them, and the knowledge of where to get all this help. Students need more support then they get. These aren't issues that affect everyone, but you never know when they will.



YASAMIN ALAMI CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, CAMPUS LIFE



Why are you seeking election?

I am seeking election because I am passionate about BCIT student involvement. As a current councilor for the SA, I learned that we have the power to change almost any aspect of our school. I believe that our campus vibe can be more positive and BCIT's events more engaging! I bring passion, dedication and my outgoing personality to the position and I look forward to the opportunity of enhancing the student experience at BCIT.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

If elected, I intend to promote campus spirit by continuing events such as Froshfest, SA 5K and instituting many others. I would like to enhance orientation for new students and improve interfaculty relationships. My ultimate goal is to create a fun and engaging environment that encourages students to become more involved with each other across faculty boarders. BCIT is a fantastic place to meet new people, make lifelong friends and future connections!

AJ BRIGDEN CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, CAMPUS LIFE

Why are you seeking election?

I have been through enough of BCIT that I will be able to make a difference in the way the school treats its students. I have been here for over 2 years and have experienced much of what this school has to offer. I wish to improve the school in any way that I will be able to, even if it means going above and beyond my position.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

As VP of Campus Life I have a few goals that I wish to achieve, including reducing club fees and making it easier for students to start up clubs. I will also be striving to make BCIT a more social, exciting campus by pushing for more pub parties and campus wide events.



NEWS

MIKE HANSON CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, EXTERNAL



Why are you seeking election?

I am seeking re-election as VP External because I wish to continue to ensure the BCITSA delivers value to BCIT students. My experience as VP External this year will make for a smooth transition into next year and I can offer valuable insight to newly elected executives. As VP External I will continue my work from this year to build on existing relationships with BCIT and the BCIT Alumni Association for the

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

As VP External I will work to ensure student fees do not rise, education is already expensive enough, and raising fees will not enhance student life at BCIT. Second, I want to increase access to student services for part-time students. Third, is electoral reform, the current student election process is far from perfect and needs to be fixed.

MARTIN JAVIER CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, EXTERNAL

Why are you seeking election?

I'm seeking an election at this time because I feel I have a lot of qualities that would be useful from Computer Information Technology. I am fourth level student at the moment and am wanting expand my knowledge in the world of leadership, raise my experience, and establish a connection with the student body

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

I'm hoping to achieve; more bus routes, better connection with out post-secondary schools through social events and continuing the upass referendum,



EIRENE CLOMA CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENT AFFAIRS



Why are you seeking election?

I am inspired by the potential for growth and positive change within student culture. I believe that I possess the necessary intention, skills, attitude, and relevant experience to make students care about their school environment. I recognize how diverse our student body is, and how we all experience and internalize things uniquely. I will support all students with this perspective, through an open-minded, inclusive, and compassionate approach.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

I want students to understand BCIT policies, to feel supported if something doesn't feel right, and to know what resources and options are available to them. I will emphasize extra-curricular learning and community-building using media and culture. For example, I could make meaningful video PSAs about self-care, rape culture, sustainability, and racism. Through collaboration, I would like to encourage students to contribute and apply their skills by participating in committees, campaigns, and research.

TYLER HLYNSKI CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENT AFFAIRS

Why are you seeking election?

Since coming to BCIT, I've naturally fallen into an advocacy role within my intake, and I want to extend that to the entire school. I believe that every student's success should hinge on only one thing: how hard they work. I want to invest my time to eliminate any obstacles they might face, so that they can focus on what we all want: getting a great education and a great job.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

There are multiple improvements I would like to work towards, such as better bus service during peak hours, a greater awareness of clubs, or the quicker adoption of skills and certifications that employers want. Ultimately, what I work towards has to be relevant to students. Therefore, my primary goal is to remain receptive to their needs, both individually and as a group, and then address those concerns as



JOSEPH HOU CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENT AFFAIRS



Why are you seeking election?

I want to help students get jobs. In the past, the VP of Student Affairs has focused more on academic grades and helping students pass courses. But what's more important to you, passing a test or getting a job? What's the point of getting high grades if you can't get a job? I want focus the Student Affairs Office on what really matters to students. And that's finding work in school and after graduation.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

Lorem Ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and typesetting industry. Lorem Ipsum has been the industry's standard dummy text ever since the 1500s, when an unknown printer took a galley of type and scrambled it to make a type specimen book. It has survived not only five centuries, but also the leap into electronic typesetting, remaining essentially unchanged.

DANIEL SUMANO candidate for chair of the Aerospace technology campus

Why are you seeking election?

I have the leadership qualities needed for this position. I can face challenges straight on and well represent our students. I will be a transparent, empathetic and hardworking chair for you! I will dedicate the time and effort necessary to listen, observe and solve any issues or concerns our student body may or shall have. I believe in a campus in which all trades and levels of study have a clear and open communication.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

To improve the quality of student life in campus by creating a welcoming, exciting and nurturing environment to international, out of province and domestic students. An essential part of continuing to improve our community is to move forward and build a stronger, well united community where learning is comfortable, easy and most importantly one which we all look forward to going to everyday! Let's make our experience here at BCIT one that we'll remember always!



EMILIO DA SILVA candidate for chair of the downtown campus



Why are you seeking election?

As a student who has the majority of his classes downtown, I am in a unique position to represent the downtown campus. I live in both the Burnaby and Downtown campus and able to provide a working knowledge of both. This affords me the face time to speak to issues on both sides, as well as represent each campus, when I am at the other. I am running to represent everyone at DTC.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

As you may know, Columbia College currently utilizes 2 floors of the downtown campus. With the refurbishment on the way, they will vacate these floors. I am actively advocating for one floor to be devoted entirely to the students and also the Student Association, so all BCIT students can receive Student Services. It is my goal to put in a purification water system, as well as a lounge and study area complete with microwaves.

JAY JUNG CANDIDATE FOR CHAIR OR THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Why are you seeking election?

On stage he makes the crowd Rock & Scream. On campus he just Rocks, enough said. I want to make the upcoming year the best year ever by getting involved in all aspects of school and student life. BCIT is great but there is always room for improvement and making something great even greater is my motto. YOLO? YOVO!

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

For those who know me, I'm real and upfront. I won't make promises I can't keep such as lowering tuition and improving parking issues because they're outside of the realistic scope. But I will put my dedication to improve network-ing opportunities amongst different faculties and industries, communication between students and instructors, education qualities, and school facilities. Let me be the man to speak for you all in the front line! Vote Jay Jung



DOMINIKA PILAT CANDIDATE FOR CHAIR OR THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



Why are you seeking election?

I, like all of us at BCIT, have big dreams for myself after all this schooling is done. However, as graduation is still a couple years away, why should I wait until school is over to make a difference? Chair of Business is a position that I have had my eye on ever since September and it fits with who I am: organized, supportive and outgoing.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

I hope to become a staple at BCIT and an advocate of change. I want to be someone who students want to share their concerns, questions or ideas with and have the ability to do something about it. I am not the kind of person who sits around and does nothing; I need to be involved and busy to feel that I have had a successful day.

HUNG LE CANDIDATE FOR THE SCHOOL OF COMPUTING

Why are you seeking election?

As a Set Representative, Iíve witnessed the Student Association work hard in making many changes to the school to accommodate students. As Chair of the School of Computing & Academic Studies I will continue to push for the changes that we need to make your experience at BCIT the best it can possibly be. I also want to continue providing the advocacy that the previous executives are known for.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

I want to create an entrepreneurship club that welcomes students from all of the schools and helps foster start-ups and projects. There are many students with ideas and many students with the technical knowledge to turn these ideas to life. I want to connect these students and help them form partnerships. I would also like to create more opportunities for computing students to meet and relax from their studies.



DANIEL YEN CANDIDATE FOR CHAIR OF THE SCHOOL OF ENERGY



Why are you seeking election?

I am seeking election because I want to be involved in the decisions that affect BCIT and its students. I have realized that the most important aspect of this school is all of the students who go here and I want to give them a powerful, passionate voice within the student association.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

If elected as the Chair for the School of Energy I hope to be able to make positive, proactive decisions about policies and events that will provide the best education and campus experience for all students. I hope to achieve a good relationship with all bodies involved around BCIT and make this campus a place that all students can be proud of!

MICHAEL NGUYEN CANDIDATE FOR CHAIR OF THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Why are you seeking election?

I am an advocate for fundraising and charities, and being in a health promotional field, I would love to lead the charge for more fundraisers at BCIT to not only gain experience, but to help those in need. I am a vocal person and I am not afraid to speak out, so the Chair of Health Sciences would serve as a solid platform for me to help those who are afraid to speak out.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

I want to involve Health Science students in opportunities that may take them out of their comfort zone and help them grow professionally. Strengthening the voice of the students belonging to each faculty and seeking opportunities for exercising leadership in the community will enrich their experience at BCIT. The graduates from the year that I am in office will walk away from BCIT an unique experiences and confidence.



ALICIA PARAYNO CANDIDATE FOR CHAIR OF THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES



Why are you seeking election?

I want to see a more connected and engaged community especially within Health Sciences. How many of us know our fellow students outside of our program - the very people who will be our future colleagues? Why not start the collaboration now? As chair, I believe we can shift the focus from being program-specific to becoming a network of disciplines. Connected, we will be motivated to work together to shape a better student experience.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

I would like to provide avenues for networking and inter-collaboration of students across health science programs and other schools. Also, since students are busy with their studies, it is important that we continue and enhance mental health, wellbeing and health promotion services and resources to all students to ensure a healthy student body. Furthermore, I would like to see more environmentally conscious campus services (ex. more water bottle filling stations across campus, composting).

TONY ATKINS CANDIDATE FOR CHAIR OF THE SCHOOL OF TRANSPORTATION, CONSTRUCTION, & THE ENVIRONMENT

Why are you seeking election? I am seeking election because I know I am right for the job. I will work hard to represent my fellow students in all matters. I am a good problem solver and clear communicator that will dedicate my time and energy making student life as pain-free as possible. I know that amazing things can happen when you speak up. It would be my privilege to be the loud voice of my fellow students.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office? One thing I would hope to achieve is a higher level of awareness. Every student should be informed about all the rights and benefits associated with full time enrollment. There are an abundance of tools and resources that come with tuition fees and it's a shame to let them go to waste. With more information and better communication students can actually take advantage of all the services available.



EMILY PAWLUK candidate for chair of the school of transportation, construction, & the environment



Why are you seeking election?

As a 3rd year Architectural Science student, I understand and appreciate the hard work that it takes to succeed at BCIT. I have been actively involved as a Set Representative, Student Councillor for the SA, and I recently co-founded and became president of Architectural Connections, a student club. I am ready to take my leadership skills to the next level to reach out and serve the larger community of BCIT.

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

The school of Transportation, Construction, and the Environment is a large school with many different programs. I will work hard to create better lines of communication and improve the networking within this school to ensure that every student's needs are met. I will continue to reach out to the Great Northern Way satellite campus, making sure all voices are heard.

RAMIZA REFEEQ CANDIDATE FOR CHAIR OF THE SCHOOL OF TRANSPORTATION, CONSTRUCTION, & THE ENVIRON-

Why are you seeking election?

As a BCIT student, I have learned that you have to be tough to succeed here. We all endure sleepless night working on projects and assignments, not to mention surviving an exam month instead of exam week — unlike those university friends of ours. This is why I want to represent all of you tough BCIT students because well, we are all awesome!

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

As Chair I will help make sure all of you are aware of what type of benefits BCIT and the SA have to offer to make your learning here more enjoyable and successful. I want more of your ideas to be heard and I want to fight for issues that matter to students, like cleaner washrooms, water fountains that work, and finding support for student appeals. I want to fight



JEREMIAH TANTONGCO CANDIDATE FOR CHAIR OF THE SCHOOL OF TRANSPORTATION, CONSTRUCTION, & THE ENVIRONMENT



Why are you seeking election?

I usually go to BCITSA meetings as an observer or as an executive of the United Geeks Liberation Front (AKA the BCIT Board Games Club). However, Councillors or BCITSA execs are the only ones permitted votes at meetings. Since I'm going to the meetings anyway, I might as well be able to do something there.I basically want to get more involved with the runnings of the BCITSA!

What do you hope to achieve during your term in office?

There are many clubs and socieities for students in any of the engineering disciplines. The BCITSA was hardly even presented as an option for me to volunteer for! I find that it is a lot of work to sort through each group's mandate and select one which aligns with my personal goals. I figure since I'm trying to figure this out for myself, I should leave that information cohesive for following generations of students.

Excited about the results? Visit linknewspaper.ca for election updates!

FFATURF

HAS PARKING AT BCIT GONE FROM SERVICE TO SCAM?

By Sarah Gray

esterday, my karma took a hit: I spent approximately 12 minutes yelling at a customer service representative at Impark, BCIT's parking despot.

The root of my rage, which was taken ungracefully out on an Impark peon, is that thrice this school year, I have trudged across the parking lot to my beige Honda to find a malevolent, light-blue, \$80 parking ticket plastered smugly to my windshield.

Getting a parking ticket is fairly commonplace, I know — but each of these times, I'd already paid \$4.50 for my stall and (luckily) still had a crumpled receipt in my pocket.

Still might not sound like a big deal: people are ticketed mistakenly all the time. But I've found that Impark is one of the most irresponsible companies in our small solar system, with a customer service centre run by lemurs.

From November 2012 until March 2013, I phoned Impark almost once a week in the hopes I could dispute my ticket. Every time, a pre-recorded voice told me,

"We are dealing with a higher than normal call volume."

Even if I called at 7:00am. Or 4:00pm. Sometimes, the machine even hung up on me, which (in hindsight) tipped me from indignant to irate on the Rage Richter.

Each of these times, I'd paid \$4.50 for my stall and (luckily) still had a crumpled receipt in my pocket.

In desperation, I wandered BCIT's campus looking for an Impark representative or a of when Shelley DeWitt told

the cobwebbed corner of my brain reserved for my memory

BCIT staffer with a direct line,

or a suggestion for how to pro-

receipts to my smirking, blue

tickets, put the contents in

an envelope labeled "GOD IS

SMITING ME" and contin-

ued with life. Occasionally, I'd

send a Tweet to Impark about

how irresponsible they are, or

hurl a hasty email rant in their

pushed the whole ordeal into

Some time passed, and I

Defeated, I stapled the stall

ceed - to no avail.

direction.

me I look like a pig, a recollection housed in the same vault as the memory of my first period.

Now one of my tickets has gone to collections. The operator at the collections agency in Ontario said, "Oh, Impark. That company has terrible customer service. We get calls all the time."

Unfortunately, she was unable to help me and had to direct me back to Impark.

When I called Impark to deal with this latest blow, the customer service representative told me in a rather bored tone,

"The only thing I can do right now is accept your payment of 80 dollars."

Hmm... Not the wisest response. She actually thought I was going to fork over a cool eighty, even though I was literally holding a stall receipt for the ticket in question.

Given her total inability

FEATURE

to come up with a meaningful solution (take my receipt number, erase the ticket), I can only conclude that she was desperate to meet me in person and was hoping her idiotic responses would prompt an in-office visit.

After what can only be called a tirade, she "released the call". Thus, my shameful journey with Impark continues and I'll likely have to head down to the office, for a parley with my lemur. Impark's Twitter shows that positive comments about the company are scarce.

For the purposes of this piece, and to avoid a legal situation, I attempted to phone Impark for comment. After numerous tries, my call was returned by "John" at Impark. He wouldn't provide a last name for "personal safety", but his job is to liaise between Impark and BCIT's lots.

John told me that a "directive" handed down "yester-

Purewal suspects that Impark's system is designed to deter people from clearing erroneous tickets.

Although many would handle this situation differently, foregoing a tantrum laced with obscenities, the fact remains that there is a real problem with Impark and how it does business at BCIT.

It's nearly impossible to get in touch with an Impark human being to discuss parking tickets, which presents a problem when so many tickets are doled out speciously.

Other students have found unwarranted tickets sticking to their cars. Sukh Purewal says it was a struggle to clear two tickets from his record.

"The first ticket took me three hours, over two days. Twice I got through [to a customer service representative] and they told me they couldn't deal with it on that line, and gave me the exact same number."

In fact, the process was so difficult that Purewal suspects that Impark's system is designed to deter people from clearing erroneous tickets.

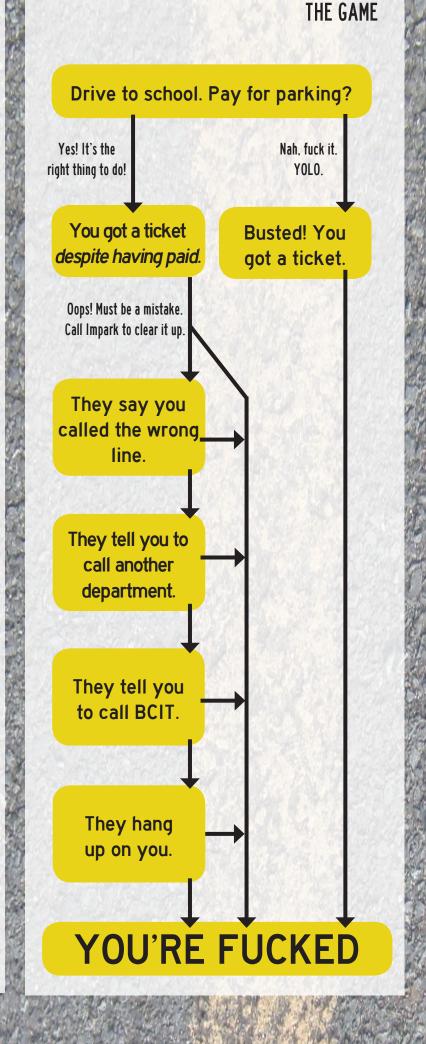
It's not hard to find people who've been given the run-around by Impark and its agents. A glimpse into day" prevents him from commenting to media, but that he'd do his best to find someone who could speak with me.

Then he gave me the number of Impark's Marketing Coordinator, Jeff Powell (who apparently isn't worried about his personal safety). This number turned out to be a fax machine. Impark's comment is hereby recorded as, "Beeeeeeeeeeee."

Given that we're stuck with Impark, perhaps BCIT could devise a system for better communication with the company — maybe an oncampus representative or a direct line for students from the campus security office. After all, Impark's lots are the only parking choices for students and staff on campus. It shouldn't be such a fiasco if there are valid reasons to dispute a ticket.

Regardless of the track BCIT takes to deal with these parking wars, the fact remains that Impark is a company seemingly unable to complete the very basic tasks of picking up telephone calls and honoring "paid" receipts.

PARKING WARS



BCITSA STUDENT ELECTIONS

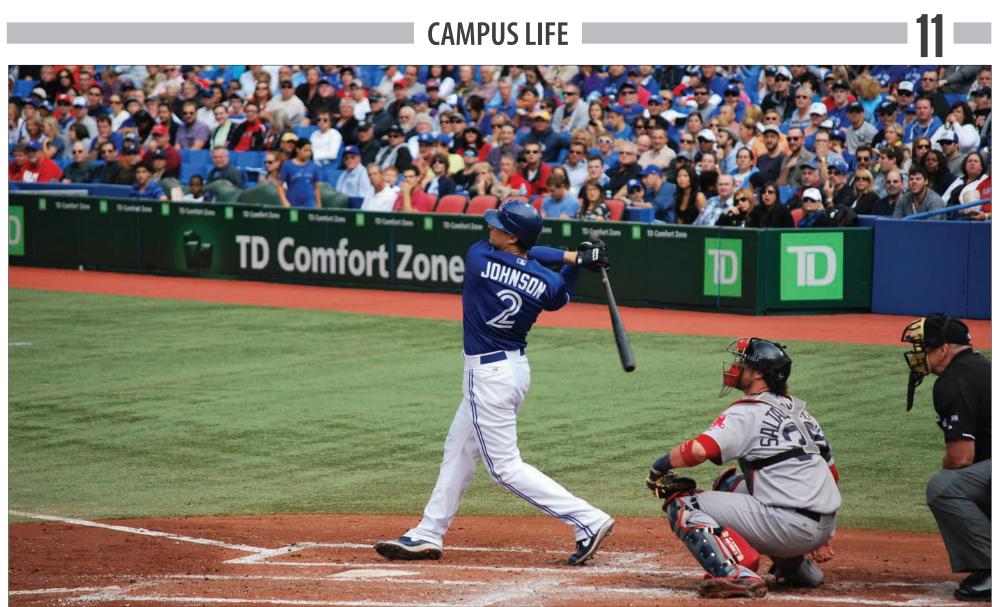
ALL GREAT LEADERS TOOK A FIRST STEP

Voting takes place





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BCIT students are hopeful that this season will be a home run.

ames G

Students have high hopes for Blue Jays

Spring means finally giving the Toronto the time of day

JEFF RENNEY

The Link

Here in BC, it's a well-known fact that Toronto sucks. We hate the way everything seems to revolve around them and how they constantly overlook us on the west coast.

As for sports, most BC residents could care less about their NBA team, the Toronto Raptors. Their CFL team barely registers on our radar. Most of all, we love it when the Maple Leafs lose games.

"The Leafs portray themselves as the centre of the universe and the best hockey team in the world, and that frustrates a lot of people. It makes them angry," explains BCIT student Sukh Purewal.

But while all these things may be true, the one exception to the hatred of Toronto may be the way we support their Major League Baseball team, the Blue Jays. Despite the dreaded "Tword" that sits in front of the name, there have always been fans in the Lower Mainland cheering for the Blue Jays.

In recent weeks, if you've walked around BCIT campus, you might have noticed numerous Blue Jay hats and jerseys. In fact, the popularity of Jays gear may actually rival the Canucks merchandise students are wearing.

Sukh Purwal feels the difference between the West Coast's reception to the Jays versus other Toronto teams may come down to money. The Jays have constantly been at a disadvantage over the years: they play in a division with two of the major league's three highest payroll teams, the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox.

During their last off-season, the Jays' payroll spending went from 23rd in the league to 10th.

"The Jays are the underdog, so people really like that," said Purewal.

First-year student T.J. Tulloch also points to the owners' marketing of the team in recent years. He says the Jays are branded as a Canadian team.

"One thing they've done right over the past couple years is they made it about the country," Tulloch explained. "They put a Canadian flag on the arm. It's a Canada sports team."

Toronto-born Kyle Hocking says he's enjoyed finding a common interest among other sports fans at BCIT.

"It's welcoming for sure," said Hocking. "I've been a Jays fan my entire life. I moved to a new city and it's been nice to see so much support for the team here."

While many BCIT students show excitement for the team at the beginning of the year, there's extra buzz across the campuses this time. During their last off-season, the Jays' payroll spending went from 23rd in the league to 10th. This means they've upgraded their salary spending from \$75 million in 2012 to 115 million in 2013.

The Jays worked hard to beef up their roster. They recently added several high-calibre players including Jose Rayes, Melky Cabrera, Mark Buehrle, and last year's most valuable pitcher, R.A. Dickey. With allstar Jose Bautista and rising stars Brett Lawrie and Edwin Encarnacion, it's an impressive squad.

"I was excited [when it happened]," said Hocking. "It's a completely re-vamped line-up."

> "There's definitely potential. We'll definitely be playing the games when they're on."

> > — Peter To, bartender, Professor Mugs pub

And Hocking isn't the only one with high hopes. After all the trading was said and done, Las Vegas suddenly had the Jays at seven-to-one odds to win the World Series.

With the season set to begin, Peter To, a bartender at BCIT's Professor Mugs pub, is hopeful the changes will pay off for the team. He says he's looking forward to airing games throughout the year and possibly into the playoffs.

"There's definitely potential," said To. "We'll definitely be playing the games when they're on."

Student T.J. Tulloch is optimistic things that it's finally going to be a great year for fans.

"Come this fall you are going to see the Toronto Blue Jays for the first time in 20 years in the post season," Tulloch boldly predicted.

Meanwhile, Sukh Purwal is being more cautious about the season but is also expecting big things from Canada's only MLB team.

"Being a Blue Jays fan, I've come to a lot of disappointment but this year my heart and my head are saying the same thing: they'll win the pennant and they'll win the World Series," Purewal said.

BCIT baseball fans looking to get closer to the Jays can make the two-hour drive to Seattle to catch them in action from August 5 to 7. By then, the team will hopefully still be playing some meaningful baseball and fighting for a spot in the post season for the first time since 1993.

CAMPUS LIFE



Little do they know, these four students will soon hate each other.

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Crimes against group harmony

Discover the most egregious errors committed by group members, and how to successfully navigate group project waters

SARAH GRAY Senior Editor

Senior Luitor

Instructors love group projects, especially at BCIT. They're described as a way to "get to know your peers" and a brilliant form of "burden sharing." After a semester of experience, I can confidently say that anyone who tells you a group project is either of these things is flagrantly lying.

Group projects are the worst. Survivors, who make it to the due date without bald spots, say that you see the worst in your peers and the worst in yourself. You'll find that the group's designated Debbie downer becomes all you can moan about, while you suffocate under the pressing weight of research and responsibility. You will steel your nerves and clench your fists before speaking with the group's bossypants, whose goal in life is to organize yours. Finally, there are the fillers - veritable pylons, who could be replaced with such.

The things that make group projects dismal are quite simple to fix. If you've ever committed the following crimes against group harmony, consider making a change for the better. If you've been on the receiving end of a malfeasance, know that your pain is understood – and tape this list to the culprit's locker.

First and foremost, why don't you open or answer group emails? We know you got it: everyone is attached to a smart phone (or if you're unfortunate, a BlackBerry), and it's impossible to evade contact these days. I was in a valley in Laos and my tour guide answered his cell phone. You're in Vancouver. There's no excuse.

No one enjoys putting life aside for a menial group meeting. But since we did, you should too. Don't make 'em wait by being late. This rule is easy to remember because it rhymes. It's super rude to show up 20 minutes tardy and is a guarantee you'll be verbally eviscerated until you arrive.

If you've ever committed the following crimes against group harmony, consider making a change for the better.

At the meeting, open ye olde oral orifice. If you don't contribute to the discussion, what part of the final project will be yours? Sometimes it's a matter of shyness, so send your idea in a group email so it can be brought up at the meeting. At the end of the day, shyness can be construed as laziness, so participate!

Ervin Cho

If you hate an idea, saying, "That's [insulting adjective]," isn't the best way to deal. It's OK if you disagree, but be sensitive. "Maybe we should think about developing some different ideas," is less likely to result in scratch marks. Conversely, don't cry if your idea is shunned like an Amish woman using a dishwasher. Group dissent indicates that your brainchild is terrible and/or embarrassing. Move on.

Finally, keep in mind that it's easy to be hacked as a slacker, whiner, or mini-Putin. In fact, your unwillingness to work may even unite the rest of the group, who will gleefully brainstorm ways to describe you on the peer evaluation and take unique pleasure in circling "ZERO" to outline your unflattering attributes.

With any group, there's a good chance personalities will clash; managing these dynamics may be the real work of your project. However, keep your goals in mind and don't take things too personally. Model your behavior on the Girl Scout's motto: cooperate, communicate and bring the marshmallows for s'mores. You will certainly earn your group work badge.

CULTURE



Not on MY campus

Snooze-free zone?

According to campus security, you should think twice before napping at BCIT

SARAH SANGHA

The Link

Recently, Edmonton's MacEwan University became a target for students who were caught sleeping. Twitter account @MacEwanSleeps has nearly 500 followers and dozens of photographs oflink students sleeping, seemingly unaware that their slumber was being captured and on the internet for all to see.

Although, mercifully, a similar social media account hasn't popped up at BCIT, I'm sure we've all seen someone with their heads bowed down, sneaking in a quick catnap. Several schools have policies against sleeping at school, and in some cases security guards have been known to kick out students who are caught sleeping.

Sarah Elliott, manager of security at BCIT, says that while there aren't specific institute at school, there are municipal rules about snoozing at BCIT.

"Under the Burnaby city bylaw, these buildings are specifically zoned for the purposes of education, so that specifically precludes sleeping," Elliott told The Link. "It's also a security issue, if a student is sleeping and they've got their laptop and iPhone laying around, they're at a risk of having these items stolen. It's also a safety issue, if a student is sleeping, we don't know if they're actually sleeping or if they've had some sort of seizure."

According to Elliott, it's at the discretion of security whether or not they want to wake up a sleeping student. If they are woken up, they will simply be asked to stay awake while on campus. However, there is a specific policy set in place for extended areas at school, such as the broadcast building at SE10.

It's at the discretion of security whether or not they want to wake up a sleeping student.

"We have areas that have extended access, the 24/7 access policies in regards to sleeping is for students for the purpose of studying and it specifically states to not be sleeping," said Elliott. "Overnight sleeping is not allowed and if students are caught sleeping and are not properly identified then they will be asked to leave."

> Kelly Hwang is an accounting student who says that late

night projects keep her on campus during the early morning hours and sometimes she has no choice but to take a nap.

"I live far from campus and my eight-class course load often keeps me on campus because we have a lot of group work to do," explained Hwang. "It's safer for me to try and get a few hours of sleep, rather than trying to drive all the way back home, on no sleep."

Hwang said that she sees many people sleeping at BCIT and that there should be an area where this is designated.

"I know that whatever time it is, day or night, I always see people sleeping and see people exhausted," said Hwang. "This is an intense campus and we don't have the option of taking as few or as many classes as we like, as you do in a traditional university setting."

Hwang notes that many students have work and home responsibilities and that BCIT may want to think about accommodating for those who need a place to rest.

"It would be nice if the school could set up an area with couches or somewhere where students can just relax for a few hours before their next class. "

If you do choose to nap at BCIT, always be aware of your surroundings: you never know whose watching, possibly with a camera phone in hand.





CULTURE

Tyler the Creator keeps it odd with Wolf

Odd Future's front man offends and entertains with new album

SARAH SANGHA *The Link*

14

Odd Future shook up the music scene upon arrival. Before them, eccentricity was limited to Outkast's André 3000, who would wear flamboyant colors in contrast to bandmate Big Boi's masculine image.

Never in hip hop history would an act rapping about dancing in women's clothing for fun or committing suicide have succeeded past one-hitwonder status.

That was before the Odd Future movement invaded the hip hop community, starting with a steady cult following, which has now been absorbed in the mainstream.

Odd Future seems like those kids in high school who huffed paint in the washrooms and would get kicks from pulling the fire alarm. Now those kids are running the music industry, branching out with other artists and making appearances at the Grammys. Odd Future has made it cool to be weird.

No one is more forthcoming with their weirdness than Tyler, the Creator himself. Tyler has stepped back over the last year, as his label mate Frank Ocean created waves with his debut album "Channel Orange," which is as close to R&B perfection as anything we've seen in the last few years, as well as being the first mainstream R&B artist to come out as bisexual.

Odd Future has made it cool to be weird.

It was intriguing to see if Ocean coming out would impact Tyler's music; in the past both Tyler and Odd Future have thrown out the F-word that rhymes with maggot more than they make fun of Earl Sweatshirt's lips.

Fear not, Odd Future fans, commercial success hasn't changed Tyler's creative style. His music contains substance but it's interplayed with offensive lyrics and jokey rhymes.

No one is safe from Tyler's wrath: he goes after the music industry, negative blogs and fake industry friends on the album. Tyler even pokes fun at industry goddess Adele on "Rusty" with the lyrics "sick and getting bigger/ like I sneezed on Adele."

In between his audacious lyrics, you realize that Tyler is brave; he isn't afraid to show his raw wounds to the world.

The most authentic track is "Lone" in which he paints a real portrayal of his shift from class clown of OFWTGA to an artist backed by a major label. Most rappers touch on the subject but don't often go past saying that the industry isn't "all it's cracked out to be." Tyler takes it a step further and scripts an image so vivid that it makes you understand why an entire generation sees him as a visionary.

Indeed, it's startling to realize that at twenty-two, Tyler is at the helm of an entire crew of rappers, and heavily promotes all of the artists in the group. Many of these artists make an appearance on the album —



Courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment

Earl Sweatshirt is on the aforementioned "Rusty" and Frank Ocean makes an appearance on two songs, singing sweetly on "Slater".

Listening to *Wolf* is freedom from the symphonic similarity that is often churned out by major labels. Tyler seems to have no filter, no inhibitions — he tells it like it is whether he knows what it is or not.

It's an attitude that is infectious and it can be especially intriguing for the type-A set.

Songs to listen to: "Treehome 95", "48", "Colossus"

OVERALL GRADE: A-

Music industry finally on the rise after 14-year slump

Despite the transformation in how listeners get music, industry experiences growth

RYAN STEPHENS

The Gateway

EDMONTON — Fourteen years ago, the booming music industry hit a thick fog, leaving it adrift as dollars disappeared from even the most influential record labels. Though many thought Napster's 1999 debut would signal the commercial downfall of the industry, music thrived despite it, expanding and evolving to the benefit of artists worldwide. As a result, the cash-draining fog is finally lifting, revenues are up and the music industry is once again headed for growth.

According to a recent report by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, 2012 saw the worldwide music industry grow for the first time since 1999, with a 0.3 per cent growth in global revenues. While such an increase may seem insignificant, it's emblematic of a rejuvenated respect for music that many criticize the current generation as lacking.

However, a lack of respect for the music industry is what led to fans so easily jumping on the pirate ship in the first place. By the late '90s, albums such as the Spice Girls' Spice and the Backstreet Boys' Millennium topped the charts, both indicating the keys to high sales were perfectly manufactured lineups and strategic advertising. Though the talent of these groups shouldn't be understated, the majority of the profits from their successes went straight to the masterminds behind the scenes. Manipulative commercialization was at the forefront of the industry rather than the music itself. And because raw talent was no longer the measurement for success, the music industry would face increasingly disenchanted consumers.

Since the collapse, the public has significantly changed how they consume music, simultaneously pressing into the digital future while jumping into the retro past. Digital downloads increasingly outsell physical media, with digital revenues up nine per cent in 2012. The growing speed and ease with which music can be bought online will likely ensure that compact disks and vinyl will never catch up. Nevertheless, vinyl has made a noticeable resurgence of late, with sales booming every year and many opting to pay much more for the prestige and art of the physical form that was once thought to be completely obsolete. With the majority of vinyl purchased at independent record stores, chains like HMV are rushing to cash in on the trend.

Regardless of the form, the best-selling albums are be-

ing purchased legally and in higher quantities than in years past. Adele's 21 has been atop the charts for two years, with combined sales of more than 10 million copies. Just when selling three to five million albums was becoming the norm a decade ago, Adele proves that immense talent will still bring in sales.

2012 saw the worldwide music industry grow for the first time since 1999.

But the most powerful indicator of a renewed respect for music stems from the unprecedented ubiquity of music festivals. Prior to Napster, only a handful of enormous music festivals gained steam around the world, and many of them struggled financially despite bringing in the biggest musicians of the day. Now, new music festivals sprout up from nowhere every year, and the ease with which they sell out comes not from massive headliners, but their ability to fill lineups with a diverse array of artists of lesser fame.

Whereas the '90s saw the music industry controlled by cunning record executives, music today is healthier, more diverse and led from below. Thanks to the internet, music fans set the trends, giving underground artists the exposure they need and forcing the business to follow suit.

While many decry today's music fans as entitled, the truth is that an industry built on exclusivity and pure profit motive was destined to crumble, and music is now back on track as an increasingly creative and profitable profession.

CULTURE

Spring Breakers no Disney Girls Gone Wild

Harmony Korine's new flick is a sunny trip to the dark side of today's youth culture

OLSY SOROKINA

The Link

Most people, including some long-term Harmony Korine fans, had a similar reaction to Spring Breakers: "Why would I pay to see a movie about skinny white girls shaking it to Skrillex?"

It can hardly be called an unreasonable response everything about the movie, from posters featuring young women clad in neon bikinis to the film's Disney Channel cast, screamed 'just another teen party movie'. It was just too cliché to be true.

Following the American premiere of the movie, it seemed like a requirement for all reviews to have a line about girls leaving the movie in silent shock.

Spring Breakers will defy the viewers' expectations precisely because, whether the audience members knew it or not, the expectation itself was carefully constructed by the film's director, Harmony Korine. And the sneaky genius did it just so he could reach the right audience without making them feel preached to.

The film follows four friends (played by Ashley Benson, of Pretty Little Liars fame; Selena Gomez, the Biebs' long-term GF; Vanessa Hudgens, who rose to fame through the High School Musical series; and the director's wife, Rachel Korine) who rob a fast-food restaurant to fund a trip to Florida for spring break.

Their adventures take an unexpected turn after the girls get arrested at a hotel party and bailed out from jail by local rapper and hustler Alien (based on the notorious rapper RiffRaff and brilliantly portrayed by James Franco).

Despite the initial scathing criticisms about Korine's lights of the film's peculiar choice of actresses for the lead roles, Disney Channel and young adult television



stars are a perfect fit for the bored/temporarily-badass characters.

Moreover, the girls' short foray into the local crime world beautifully demonstrates an average Saturday morning cartoon-raised suburbanite's ability to deal with experiences they have only been exposed to through hiphop lyrics.

The brilliance of Spring Breakers is showing experiences familiar to most Gen Y members through a different lens, as if daring them to take a moment and think about the reasons behind their ordinary activities.

Tracks from Skrillex and Britney Spears are highsoundtrack, which also takes the viewer on a musical journey of an average twentysomething's life. Many girls who grew up dressing in schoolgirl outfits to mimic Spears' "Baby One More Time"-era style are now sneaking joints into dubstep

Why would I pay to see a movie about skinny white girls shaking it to Skrillex?

shows and mouthing lyrics to the latest A\$AP Rocky track.

The more one considers how deliberate each element of the movie really is, the more cinematic "Easter eggs" can be found. The biggest one is in the tagline — "Spring

Courtesy of Annapurna Pictures

break forever" — which is also one of the most repeated lines in the movie.

The irony of the line is revealed when the viewer realizes that spring break's very nature is to be temporary. Taken in the context of the movie, it is as temporary as the main characters' crime spree: although it affects all the local players in a very permanent way, Spring Breakers Candy and Brit are able to go back to their "real" mundane lives, and have a chance to "be better".

One of the many beautiful things about Harmony Korine's movies is his ability to take a common element of current culture trends and expose its grotesque nature. Spring break, an experience aimed at a very narrow group of people, is a perfect target for Korine's scrutiny.

LOCAL EVENTS

April 13

Terminal City Rollergirls season opener

Minoru Arena, Richmond

Get ready to rumble with Vancouver's best at the 2013 season opener for the Terminal City Rollergirls. The event features two bouts: Public Frenemy versus the Riot Girls in the first, and a face-off between last year's championship finalists the Faster Pussycats and the Bad Reputations in the second.

The new season will be played with new rules from the Women's Flat Track Derby Association, promising a more exciting game than ever. If you liked Whip It! (without all the romance, of course), don't miss out on this event.

April 20 Pull My Glowing Finger: The E.T. art show

Toast Collective – 648 Kingsway This friendly alien has gathered quite the following in the last twenty-odd years, and it shows. Folks at the Toast Collective are dedicating a whole art show to this lovable extraterrestrial from the 1982 classic. Contributors to the show were encouraged to use any medium, as long as their work was E.T.-centric.

The deadline for submissions is April 14, so if E.T. inspires you too, there is still time to express your alien passions. The art show and silent auction will be held on April 20, with most of the proceeds going to the artsy E.T.-thusiasts.

April 20-21

Vancouver Fan Expo Vancouver Convention Centre

Geek out with sci-fi's best at this two-day comic convention. The event will feature autograph and celebrity photo sessions with actors from all generations of geekdom, from Star Trek to The Walking Dead. If fawning over famous people just isn't your thing, there are numerous other activities to keep the fans occupied, including various workshops and game shows.

So whether it's to check out some crazy cosplay, meet your favourite celebrity or get advice on your portfolio, Vancouver Fan Expo will satisfy even the choosiest fan's needs.

Olsy Sorokina

Can't get enough *Link*? Follow us on Twitter! @BCIT Link

16 HUMOUR South Korea decimated by invading Northern forces, imagines Kim Jong-un

Kim stands tall on crumpled enemy forces; actually a pile of Legos

GARY LIM The Peak

The Pea

BURNABY — Several waves of Taepodong-3 missiles launched from silos at the Tonghae satellite launching site annihilated major South Korean military and civilian targets late last Sunday, as imagined by North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un.

Gripping a cardboard tube with the words Tapodog[sic]-3 scrawled along the side in blue ballpoint pen, the supreme leader repeatedly blew up the cities of Sejong and Munsan, utterly devastating the enormous metropolises as indicated by Kim's cries of "Kapow!" and "Kabloosh!"

The missile's payloads of chemical and bio-warfare agents, indicated in lime-green marker, proved effective in limiting the southern nation's response capability. In the meantime, North Korean forces rallied at the border ready for full-blown invasion, as Kim emptied out a plastic Ziploc baggie filled with toy soldiers onto his desk. The two-and-a-half inch tall battalion of over four dozen of the same injection-molded plastic army men quickly overtook the entire nation, seizing key strategic points of the desk lamp, stapler and pencil sharpener.

The unrelenting march of North Korean forces only paused momentarily when, after running around the room three times, the out-of-breath supreme leader of North Korea paused to eat the peanut butter and jelly sandwich left out for him by minister of the People's Armed Forces, Kim Kyok Sik.

The South Korean army appeared to be turning the tide, recapturing the capital city of Seoul and erecting blockades made from Lego blocks and Popsicle sticks, hoping to delay their defeat.

That hope was dashed when Kim himself made an impressive appearance on the battlefield, represented by an action figure of Optimus Prime from popular children's television franchise Transformers. Kim heroically destroyed the barricades by firing his arm-mounted laser blaster and flying into the fortress head first several times.

Victory for the forces of the supreme leader were nearly



'Hey, mom? We did it!"

assured when stealth jets of the treacherous West, which Kim had carefully folded out of heavy paper stock, appeared off the horizon, hoping to catch the courageous North Korean forces off-guard.

But it was the Americans who were caught unaware, neglecting to take into account Kim's invisible force field that stops all guns. Their underhanded sneak attack resulting in the crumpling of the entire fleet into a large ball.

In retribution for the attack, the 700-foot-tall robotic Kim Jong-Un took hold of both American and South Korean Presidents Barack Obama and Park Geunhye, who were suddenly on the battlefield. Both were made to swear fealty to North Korea, which they hastily agreed to.

The war was over, the mantle of victory squarely on the shoulders of Kim, when all of a sudden aliens appeared, in-

Courtesy of the Workers' Party of Korea

tent on stealing North Korea's bountiful resources. But the intense scene came to an end when a knocking and voice from other side of his bedroom door informed him of his daily military strategy meeting.

A visibly annoyed Kim hastily brushed the action figures into a grocery bag and stuffed them under his bed. He then left to meet with top generals and discuss the logistics of the latest long-range missile tests.



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