

# Link

## MAGAZINE

Issue 49 - 5 || January 2014

### THE BITCOIN CRAZE



PLUS:

5 THINGS EVERY BCIT STUDENT SHOULD KNOW  
BEYONCÉ | SALINGER'S SECRETS | RESOLUTION BLUES  
CONTACT FESTIVAL | WOLF OF WALL STREET



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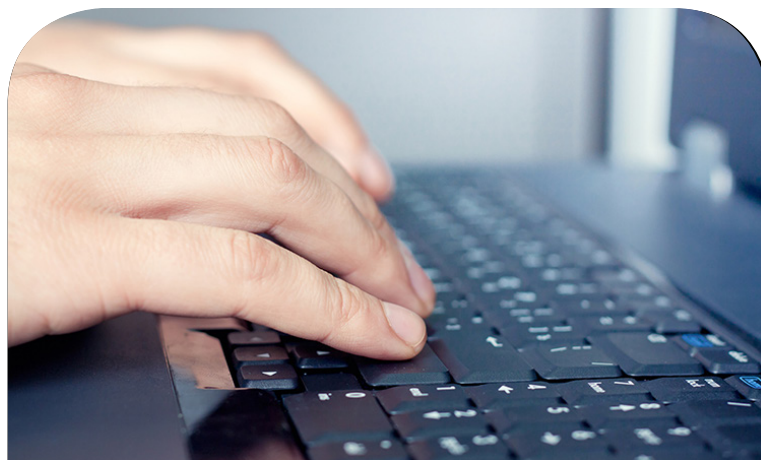


photo by Francesca Lucia

# // Letter From The Editor

## WELCOME BACK

*"This paper will fail in its duty if it does not stimulate activity of both body and mind." (The Link, September 1965)*

January is like a perpetual Monday. Things that were put on the backburner during December's holiday frenzy come back full force, and while you're all fat and tired with a residual turkey hangover, the phone just rings off the hook and the inbox gets flooded. It's dark, cold, snowy and icy, but there's no longer any Christmas charm to this type of weather.

Adding to the pressure of the hectic January cooker are the expectations for New Year's resolutions. Whether it's to quit smoking or to smoke more, lose weight, call Gramma every Sunday, take more walks, or re-varnish the hardwood, these are the list items that often go unfulfilled as life inevitably takes over.

That's why *Link* Magazine has made no new resolutions that could be forgotten or swept away with the chaos of the daily grind. Instead, we promise to keep on exploring issues that directly affect the student body. We want to know where students are "after dark," in the hours between classes and homework — the hours that make you who you are.

Although it's clear things have changed around here, honoring traditions that have been part of *The Link* since its inception are just as important as making new resolutions or declarations. So we are back with another great issue, featuring a tribute to Nelson Mandela's death and an example of how it affects you

here at BCIT. We dive into cyber space, where a disturbing trend of live-stream suicides is encouraged, and we even answer one of today's most pressing questions: what the hell is a bitcoin?

As always, please remember that this is your magazine as much as anyone's and we want to hear from you: photo submissions, article idea, or plain old words of wisdom for what we could do differently. Because if you're not stimulated, then this magazine will fail in its duty.

Happy 2014.

**Sarah Gray**  
Senior Editor

# Link

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# CROWDSOURCING SUICIDE

by Sarah Gray

When a University of Guelph student live-streamed his suicide attempt this past winter, 200 people tuned in to watch. “Stephen,” whose real name has not been divulged, washed down a handful of pills with vodka, before trying to burn himself alive, all to the taunts and cheers of online onlookers.

Investigators have since revealed that Stephen’s audience on 4chan (a popular cyber posting board) egged him on and continued to watch as his dorm room was engulfed in smoke. Stephen even participated in the desensitized chatter, typing out what he thought was his final thoughts: #imdead #omgimonfire. Thankfully, despite Stephen’s best efforts, first responders were able to save his life and he is now recovering from severe burns.

This type of incident is not new, but it does highlight an increasing trend in the macabre underbelly of the online world, where suicide can take place in front of an encouraging audience. In 2008, a 19-year-old in Florida committed suicide on web cam. 1,500 people watched him die. A year ago, a One Direction tween Tweeted her suicidal thoughts to the world, and kept her followers abreast every moment until she shot herself. Luckily, she survived.

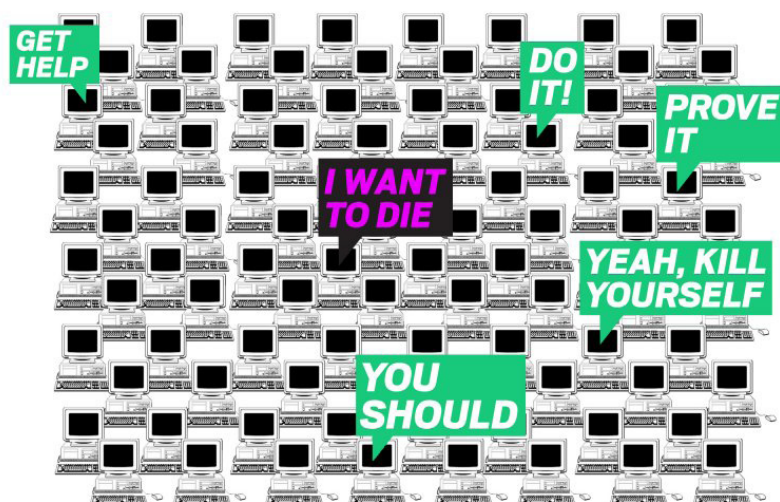
According to an article in The Daily Beast, the issue is not confined to North America. Reports of suicide pacts formed by “despondent strangers” who meet

online are turning up around the world, including in Japan and Sweden.

Anonymity is perhaps the most disturbing aspect of a life lived online. Behind a computer screen and with no real-life consequences, people say things they would never say face-to-face. This invisibility also permits people the freedom to find and indulge in their darkest

fantasies, and the very connected nature of the internet ensures those with similar leanings can participate together.

With invisibility and connectedness, the disenfranchised, depressed and misinformed can meet up and find support in one another. They can also encourage harmful words and thoughts, and eventually, harmful actions.



## THE FACTS

- Young people at risk of self-harm or suicide were often online for longer periods than other teenagers.
- Those who went online to find out more about self-harm and suicide and were exposed to violent imagery were more likely to act out what they had seen online.
- Internet forums did not make users feel better, and in some cases they showed signs of increased distress after using the sites.

source: University of Oxford study



# THE DREAM JOB

by Francesca Lucia

**B**CIT grad **Dan Murphy** is doing what every hockey fan dreams of: getting closer to the action. However, the Canucks' rink-side reporter (or "Murph" as he's known to many NHL players and fans) didn't get to where he is today with a quick slap at the puck. *Link Magazine* recently chatted with Dan about how he took every opportunity thrown his way, to get that hot spot near the ice.



photo courtesy Jeff Vinnick / Getty

## How did your journey begin after BCIT?

I was placed at CKVU-TV and *Sports Page* for my final practicum. Luckily when I was graduating, there was a very part-time production assistant role open for about eight hours a week... That's how I got my foot in the door. Then for the next four years I worked my way up the ladder at *Sports Page* from a production assistant into a writer, and then into a producer of the half-hour show, but I was never really on-air... I was more in the producing side of things. I decided to take a job with the Golf Channel in Orlando, Florida to produce because I figured that would be my lot in life. While I was waiting for my American paperwork, I got hired for Sportsnet as a reporter and that's kind of the way it went. So for four years I worked my way up behind the camera and felt that I

was probably going to be behind the camera for my career, but in the fall of 1999 I was hired by Sportsnet and three years later I was doing the Canucks broadcast.

## Many aspiring sports journalists look up to you today. Is there anyone or anything that inspired you to get into sports?

I certainly liked the show *Sports Page* when I was in my late high school years and into my university years. When I first was hired by Sportsnet, Don Taylor and especially Barry MacDonald were two guys that really helped me and really solidified that this is what I wanted to do.

## If you weren't the Canucks' rinkside reporter right now, what would you see yourself doing?

I think that maybe my dream job would be to produce features, like an HBO *Real Sports* type of

show or even ESPN *30 for 30*. I think I'd like to do more storytelling where you spend anywhere from a week to a few months producing one story because I don't see myself travelling forever. But I'm not bored of my job yet. I still love what I'm doing and as long as I love it, then I'm going to continue to do it.

## Do you have any advice for others who aspire to be sports reporters and hope to follow in your footsteps?

No matter what your end goal is, don't turn your nose up at any other job! The more you know the better. It will help with what you're doing because you understand other tasks and challenges. I feel that the more well rounded you are, the more attractive you are to employers and that's ultimately what you want to be.





*“ We have the opportunity  
every day to make people’s  
lives better.”*

photo by Francesca Lucia



# CHANNELLING MANDELA

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Ian Koenigsfest, a radio broadcaster from South Africa, is taking the lessons he learned from Nelson Mandela and passing them on to BCIT students.

by Neetu Garcha

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**N**elson Mandela was a son of the globe. Throughout his life, he impacted people all over the world who were granted freedom and rights because of his fight for equality, but sometimes it's hard to see what that means for you, a BCIT student here in Canada.

For one example, I turned to Ian Koenigsfest, CKNW's Brand Director who, for the past 18 years, has been giving students in the Broadcast and Online Journalism program a chance in the industry. Many students in the two-year diploma program at BCIT have heard Koenigsfest share his expertise in broadcasting and have seen him offer eager students internships at Vancouver's leading news radio station. Giving students an equal chance to shine in broadcast and potentially get a job at CKNW is something Koenigsfest is proud of. Originally from South Africa, Koenigsfest once struggled to find radio work in Canada because of his accent, but he promised himself that one day, when he was in a position to hire, he would give everyone he could a chance—a promise he has kept.



## IAN'S STORY

Koenigsfest's story goes back to 1982 when he studied at the University of Cape Town (UCT). There, he and a few friends got involved in pirate radio, a campus radio station, not licensed by the government at the time. The station would broadcast real stories of the struggles faced by people in South Africa, largely because of the laws of the apartheid government, which was illegal. Consequences for illegal broadcasts included twelve years in prison and a fine. For them, it was worth the risk.

Koenigsfest was quick to discover that to be an objective journalist, a story has to be told right, but that many of the stories he had been told growing up were not accurate. The more he read, the more he wanted to get involved. "If I could have some role in telling the story I needed to do that," Koenigsfest told me. "And that was how the pirate radio came in –the ability then to tell more than five or six people, but to tell hundreds if not thousands."

With the help of engineering students, UCT radio's broadcasts spread from solely within the student union building to a 10 to 12 kilometer radius off campus. But the dream of spreading information this way in South Africa at the time was short-lived. He recalls: "I remember clearly one lunchtime, three or four police officers arrived with the university president and demanded to know where the transmitter was to confiscate it."

### Koenigsfest's Advice for Students

#### **Don't take anything for granted.**

*"If you are able to seize an opportunity to bring about change that impacts people, no matter how small it is, do it."*

#### **Don't underestimate yourself.**

*"Any advancement we can make to make the world a better place is an advancement, and I think that's where we need to spend our energy."*

## STRUGGLES IN CANADA

The conscription forced all white South African men into military service in the South African Defence Force. Koenigsfest's enrolment at UCT allowed him to defer military service, but for a maximum of seven years, which had ended. Although Koenigsfest was feeling political pressure to do so, he had no interest in joining the military at the time.

"My choice then was either to go in to the military or to go to jail as a conscientious objector [someone who claims the right to refuse military service] and I know people who did both. For me, the option was neither. I needed to start over again," he said. In 1991, Koenigsfest immigrated to Canada. "[Choosing] Canada was probably one of my best decisions I've ever made because I got a whole new opportunity and it's been a good ride."

It wasn't a smooth ride right off the bat for Koenigsfest. He struggled to find a job in broadcast media in Canada, mainly because of his South African accent. Accents were and sometimes still are frowned upon in the broadcast industry; employers thought he'd be hard to understand on air.

After being advised to go back to school because his experience in South Africa was not transferrable, he enrolled in BCIT's Broadcast and Online Journalism program. "There was an instructor at BCIT that said if you can't make yourself sound like Peter Mansbridge, you'll never really work in this market," Koenigsfest recalled. "At the time, I was really deflated. I thought, 'Well then I'm probably never going to work in this market.'"

But the instructor was wrong. In his first year at BCIT, Koenigsfest performed an on air interview for the campus radio station's talk show, which was later aired at CKNW- a rare feat for a first year student in the program, even today. Not long after, Koenigsfest was hired at CKNW from what was supposed to be a three-week internship. He became an associate producer of The World Tonight, hosted by Canadian broadcasting legends Philip Till and John McComb. "That was nearly 23 years ago. I never went back."

## TODAY

On December 5, 2013 Nelson Mandela passed away leaving behind a legacy that has encouraged people all over the world to foster values of reconciliation and facilitate the ability of people to find common goals rather than differences.

Here in Canada, the lessons learnt by Koenigsfest through illegal UCT radio broadcasts during the apartheid rule, live on. "No matter what the story is, as a radio station in the news talk format, we have the opportunity everyday to make people's lives better... We need to entertain and make people smile and make Vancouver, BC, Canada—whatever it is—a slightly better place everyday."

Koenigsfest says he didn't realize how much of an impact Mandela had on him, until the days after his passing. "I guess what was profound for me was that it was more than sort of an external connection ... it is part of my DNA that what he stood for, what he did, is part of me." And Ian isn't alone. There are people all over the world who consider Mandela a part of them, and continue to ensure his legacy lives on in their daily lives. This is just one example we found but look around you, you might find more.

### **Seek the best in people:**

*"The lesson that I think Mandela really stood for was always look for the positive and always look for the common goodness rather than people's differences."*

### **Seize the opportunity:**

*"It's the people who go the extra mile, not only for themselves but for others, who will always triumph. And they will then be in a position 10, 15, 20 years from now who are encouraging the next generation. Students now are fortunate. They are in a fantastic place with many opportunities; you've got to seize them, make yourself unique, and do the best you can."*

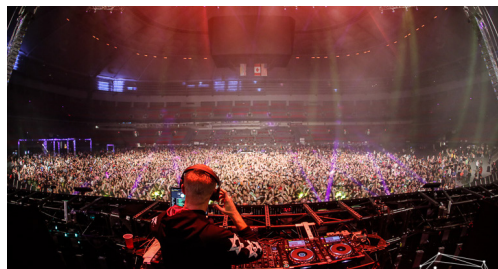


# READY TO RAVE

The Contact Music Festival was an innovative event for Vancouver, but did it work?

by Sarah S.

We all know the clichés about Vancouver. It's a "no fun" city, a sleepy place with stringent liquor laws, and airport-like security requirements to get into bars. There is a general consensus that Vancouver needs something, anything to wake itself out of its humdrum reputation. An answer to that lies in the Vancouver music scene. This city is known for having great talent (Swollen Members, Sarah MacLachlan, Grimes, and Michael fucking Buble, just to name a few) and many budding musicians call this city home. Vancouver sees a rare amount of international talent that is on par with larger hubs such as San Francisco and Austin, Texas. Everyone who's anyone has rolled through Vancouver and they always have a story about audiences here being a crazy good time.



So it was promising when Blueprint events decided to throw together CONTACT, a two-day electronic dance music festival. The lineup was a selection of cult talent, and up-and-coming DJs. The festival was housed inside the massive BC Place stadium, a venue with a capacity of 54,000. The premise sounded enticing, a mini-Electric Daisy Carnival where fans could come together to fist pump in unison and listen to the same DJs that play Ibiza and other EDM hotspots around the world. I was excited to twerk to Diplo and Bangarang to Skrillex until I saw the bottom of the announcement, where it listed that the show

would be all-ages and end at midnight. That, ladies and gentlemen, is everything that is wrong with Vancouver. Having been fortunate to travel to countries where this kind of music is popular, I have seen that clubs don't usually get busy until midnight, and DJ set times are always in the wee hours of the morning.



Instead, doors opened at 5:00 and the show started at 6pm. There's something really unsanctimonious about having to pop your first molly before the sun's gone down. It didn't take long for the EDM crowd to descend out of the Stadium Skytrain station, fully geared out in the ridiculous outfits that make EDM so much fun.

Many people opted for the "less is more" look, with girls dressed in barely-there crop tops and mini skirts, many of them still wearing braces. Nearly half of the crowd appeared to be underage. There's nothing wrong with teenagers—some teenagers are cool and have a grasp of good music. However, an EDM festival seems to be a pass for all sorts of ratchet behavior. Security had amassed a collection of fine Smirnoff bottles, there were puke stains all over the dome and I really couldn't tell if certain people were dancing or convulsing. It's all part of the experience, but certain areas of the venue felt like a high school dance, minus the chaperones. I decided to shake off the urge to

pull a Chris Hansen from *To Catch a Predator*, and ventured into the 19+ area. Although it still had its crazy denizens, the vibe in the area was decidedly more calm and contained.

This is the second year of the festival, and perhaps the organizers were not expecting such large numbers. Many festival goers (who paid \$100 per ticket), were left to wait outside in the cold for up to three hours, as there were not enough gates opened to accommodate for such a crowd. The CONTACT Twitter page was filled with apologies to its enraged customers who sat outside while the show continued on time without them.

CONTACT Festival wasn't perfect, but it was a start. All around the world, people come together to party, and while there is always drunk buffoonery, it's a mostly positive experience. In order for Vancouver to shed its boring reputation, it has to move in accordance with global guidelines. Relax the liquor law that says it can't be served past 2 a.m. Remove the fairytale midnight curfew that forces people to come down before they're ready. Trust the denizens of Vancouver, trust that there can be a system for revelry. Otherwise... there's always Paradiso in Washington.



(photos courtesy contact-festival.com)



# BITCOINS

## A TWO-SIDED DEBATE

By: Olsy Sorokina

If you look up “money” in the Oxford English Dictionary, it talks of a collection of coins and banknotes. “Currency” – a similar but not quite synonymous word – is defined as a money system used in a particular country. However, a new form of money is challenging both of these definitions in a mere five years of existence.

It's a form of Digital Currency.

All transactions are controlled  
by Open-Source Software.

It is not controlled by  
any government.

It has no set exchange rate.

All Bitcoin transactions have  
no additional fees.

“Bitcoin” is a decentralized digital currency that uses an open-source, peer-to-peer network to make worldwide transactions. First introduced in 2009 by a developer (or a group of developers) under a pseudonym “Satoshi Nakamoto,” the currency has since gained popularity outside of the techie circles. 2013 has been a good year for Bitcoin and its users: it has been called the next hottest investment, and even said to remake international finance.

In order to find out more about this nifty form of digital money, I spoke with a BCIT Robotics student Bryan Hellard— our resident Bitcoin expert who is currently in the process of organizing an official Bitcoin student club at BCIT.

“Bitcoin transactions basically make sending money as easy as sending an email,” Hellard told *Link Magazine*. “It can go anywhere in the world, for cheap if not free, and it takes a minute, maybe an hour, for the money to transfer.”

Hellard explained two characteristics that make Bitcoin different from the familiar types of money: the digital currency only consists of numbers on a screen, and it is not controlled by any government.

“When you have your Canadian dollar, or US dollar, they’re backed by the government. So it’s the government who says, ‘Here’s a dollar, it’s worth a dollar, go spend it,’ explained Hellard. “Whereas with Bitcoin, it’s not backed by anybody. It’s purely a currency for the people.”

The digital money’s autonomy takes away the hassles associated with regular online banking: there are no processing fees for transactions, and Bitcoin users don’t have to worry about conversion rates in different countries.

However, lack of an authority on the exchange rate also makes for drastic fluctuations in Bitcoin value. This presents a problem for those calling Bitcoin the next exciting investment opportunity, says Hellard, since the unpredictable exchange rate makes it unreliable to use the “buy low, sell high” tactic when playing the digital money market.

“There are many speculations on what causes the price to swing,” Hellard explained. “But since it’s a free market right now, it’s basically at the whim on what people would want to pay for it. And these big fluctuations, they are a problem if this wants to be stabilized as a currency.”



Despite the currency's volatile nature, Bitcoin user community has been growing around the world and a recent change has made it a lot easier to hop on the Bitcoin wagon: the first ever Bitcoin ATM was installed right here in Vancouver this past October. It allows for an easy way to deposit money into your cyber wallet, without being forced to mine or barter to start a digital money fund. Hellard now wants to organize a local community around Bitcoin by starting a student club at BCIT.

"I believe that the Bitcoin network is one of the biggest advancements our generation has seen," Hellard shared with us. "It's an exciting thing to get in on, and fascinating to watch develop around the world."

Hellard says the club will most likely start out with a few information sessions about the basics of Bitcoins, but the ultimate goal is to engage in a discussion about the digital currency's influence in the world. Hellard describes how the angles that one could take in such a discussion can span from software to hardware, political to economic.

"I like the Bitcoin because it's almost like, the more you find out about it, the more you see what it applies to. It just has so many implications that could ripple over so many aspects of life," he says.

While the student club is still awaiting official approval from the BCITSA, a dozen people have expressed interest in being a part of BCIT Bitcoins. If approved, this will be only the second such club in the Lower Mainland – with Simon Fraser University pioneering the idea in June of 2013. In his presentation before the Student Association, Hellard explained that having a Bitcoin Club at an institute of technology seems only natural, considering the splash the innovation made in the tech world.

As our conversation was winding down, I asked Bryan for some advice for those wanting to explore the exciting world of Bitcoin. "If you want to get started, just buy a coin. Go to the ATM, find someone who's selling (like the Bitcoin Co-op), or go to one of the exchanges downtown. If you want to be financially wise, buy a little bit of a coin. Throw like \$20 at it, see how it goes...But be cautious with your money, and remember that any day, Bitcoin could crash to \$0, just as likely as it could explode to over \$10 000. *Be smart!*"

## The world's first Bitcoin ATM located at Waves Coffee in downtown Vancouver



Follow @LinkBCIT on Twitter for updates on BCIT's Bitcoin Club!





# SALINGER'S SECRETS

.....  
*Revelations from a previously unpublished story*  
*by one of America's most-read authors*  
.....

by Thomas Molander

It's evil to read someone's diary or snoop through a cell phone, right? Eavesdropping and wiretapping are also pretty deplorable actions, can we agree?

Ok, so how about when one of America's most widely-read authors (who died a mere three years ago) donates some short stories to Princeton University under the stipulation that they have to be read under supervision and cannot be published, then somebody uploads the stories to a torrent website and they become accessible to anyone with an Internet connection? Suddenly we have to decide whether we should respect J.D. Salinger's wish to keep the works private, or partake in the peeping.

A .PDF file with three stories surfaced on the internet in early November. Two of the stories are incomplete sketches, but one is worthy of the excitement. *The Ocean Full of Bowling Balls* was written back in 1945, years before *The Catcher in the Rye* became a massive success; but the short story wasn't accepted by any magazines and was shelved for the rest of Salinger's life.

The newly discovered story is exciting for fans of Salinger and *Catcher* in particular, because it gives a more detailed look into the life of Holden Caulfield and his siblings. In *Catcher*, one of the contributing factors to Holden's mental instability is the tragic death of his younger brother. In *The Ocean Full of Bowling Balls*, the death of the young boy is front and center. Holden himself only makes a brief cameo in the story, as he is just getting home from camp as the story winds down.

However, one of the more memorable moments of *Bowling Balls* comes when Holden's siblings are reading a letter that he sent them from camp. The letter is full of grammatical mistakes and youthful angst, as he refers to those around him as "rats" in the same way that he'd later go on to call people "phonies." We also learn that Holden goes off to war when he gets older, this being significant because Salinger saw a lot of action in World War II himself.

Salinger never published a long book—*Catcher* is only 220 pages, and all of his other works are either novellas or short stories—thus it doesn't take the author much time

to leave a mark. The protagonist in *The Catcher in the Rye* enrages some readers, as they perceive him as being whiny, immature, and entitled. Salinger likely wasn't trying to create an unlikable character, but he created a person out of ink, towards whom readers experience very real feelings of annoyance. The same effect is felt from *Bowling Balls*, where intimate moments, a tragic family event, and 1940s America come alive in only a handful of pages.

A recent documentary and biography on Salinger's long and reclusive life mention the fact that he was constantly writing, even into his later years. Hopefully, future works will be released in ways that coincide with Salinger's wishes, instead of splashed all over the Internet like pop-ups for Hot Local Babes In My Area.

Salinger somehow tapped into a gushing vein of genuine human emotion over half a century ago. With future releases expected to further detail the lives of Salinger's famous Glass and Caulfield families, we're faced with this astonishing situation where the tales will continue to unfold as the author rests.



# SMART START

Everyone likes to think of a new year as a fresh start, but short winter days and routine can get in the way of keeping those promises, and we risk falling back into old habits. To avoid this, here are a few tips on how to keep your resolutions and successfully finish the academic year.

## RESOLUTION BLUES

by Montana Cumming

There tends to be a pattern in the New Year: January is full of committed, energetic, passionate people making big lifestyle changes to follow their resolutions. Typically, it takes until the end of February and into March for the resolutions to be forgotten.

It's one thing to set a goal, and a whole other task to make it happen. So what can be done to keep your resolutions?

We started our BCIT programs with the best of intentions: enough time set aside for study, maybe keep a part-time job, and, if we're lucky, a few hours to actually have a life. But that kind of consistency is elusive. So what's a student to do? Go through the motions, hang on tight and hope for the best? Forget that. Let's be consistent.

- **Make your goals specific.** If your goals are vague, they are easier to ignore. For example, instead of saying "I'm going to be healthier," as a general statement, tune in on one component of health. How do you want to be healthier? Do you want to quit smoking? Quit drinking? Eat more fresh food?

- **Don't be too hard on yourself.** Making a big change takes time and effort. Keep your goal in mind, and remember that this is your resolution for the entire year; you can achieve it if you work hard enough, don't get discouraged easily.

- **Don't be afraid to reward yourself,** even for small steps in the right direction. Just make sure your reward is not defeating the purpose of your resolution.

## START STRONG, FINISH STRONG

by Matthew Howlett

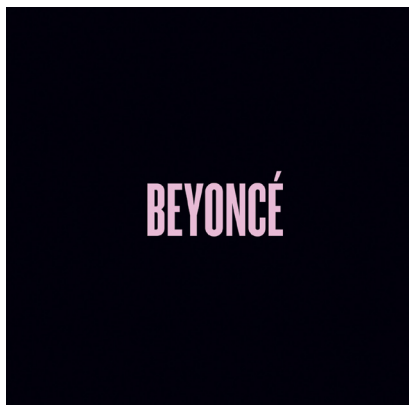
- ✓ **Show me your friends and I'll show you your future.** The people we spend time with influence us. Want better grades? Hang with students who spend some free time studying. Befriend people that take their education seriously.

- ✓ **Give yourself rails to ride on.** In other words, have a plan that outlines your basic decisions for you. Think train + rails = eventually reaching destination no matter what. Try this: write down your main goals, the steps you need to take to reach them and then some practical things you need to do.

- ✓ **Surround yourself with sources of motivation.** We started out strong, but to finish that way, we need to be reminded of our goals. So write them down. Put weekly reminders in your phone. Share your goals with a friend and get that person to hold you accountable.



# LISTEN.WATCH



## BEYONCÉ

(Beyoncé, 2013)

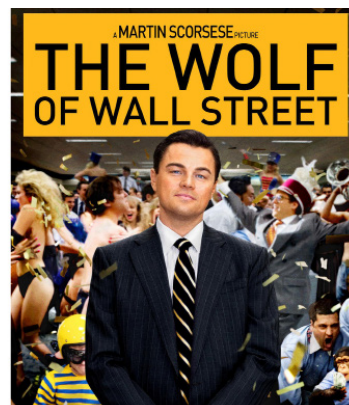
Beyoncé shocked the world by dropping her fifth studio album *BEYONCÉ* on iTunes at midnight on December 13. No press, no build up – just 14 new tracks and 17 original videos released as a “visual album.”

With an impressive list of collaborators including Jay-Z, Justin Timberlake, Frank Ocean, Drake, Pharrell Williams, Timbaland, and her Destiny’s Child counterparts Michelle Williams and Kelly Rowland, the self-titled album does not disappoint.

The album includes fun, diva-anthems Beyoncé is known for, like “Grown Woman,” as well as big ballads that showcase her remarkable vocal range. Tracks such as “Partition” and “Flawless” add a provocative edge, while softer songs like “Blue,” featuring and appropriately named after the songstress’ own daughter Blue Ivy, round out the album. It’s hard to label this latest offering from the superstar as simply an album, as it engages multiple senses.

The idea of combining fresh beats with stunning images in an all-encompassing visual album is certain to make a mark in the music industry landscape, and change the way fans respond to content. With the surprise release, Beyoncé has once again reclaimed her throne above other pop princesses as Queen B.

— Melissa Taylor



## THE WOLF OF WALL STREET

(dir. Martin Scorsese, 2013)

Drugs and prostitutes have never looked as much fun as they do in Martin Scorsese’s latest flick, *The Wolf of Wall Street*. Leonardo DiCaprio plays a real-life 1990s Wall Street stock broker, Jordan Belfort and the film is based on Belfort’s 2007 memoirs, which chronicle his astronomical rise from brokerage-house trainee to multi-millionaire to his eventual downfall.

DiCaprio’s performance is a massive reason why this film works as well as it does. He’s both charismatic and slick as hell as in the role. He’s always likeable – even when he’s swindling working-class clients and snorting lines of coke off of prostitutes, you still like this guy.

This is a truly entertaining film from beginning to end, and that’s a feat given its almost three-hour length. The script is tight and smart; it was penned by Terence Winter, whose credits include *The Sopranos*. It’s also damn funny. Jonah Hill plays DiCaprio’s sidekick, and these two have a level of chemistry on-screen that I would not have expected from two such different types of talent.

The drug-fuelled antics that these two get into are simply hilarious. And that’s the problem. Using comic situations, the film glorifies Jordan Belfort and the lifestyle he led. The audience never sees the countless individuals he defrauded to make his way the top. Likewise, there are a lot of sex workers in this movie who are presented as nothing more than eye candy for the male gaze. If you’re looking for a realistic depiction of prostitution, this film is not it.

At the end of the day, this is an endlessly watchable film. But given the subject matter, it’s just a little too glossy and too light-hearted to be called a great one.

— Laura Shortt



## TOP 5 BCIT POLICIES AND PROCDEURES EVERY STUDENT SHOULD KNOW

by Robyn Loughheed (Student Advocate)

### #5104-PR1

#### Fight the Power

You have the right to appeal a grade you do not agree with. However, "The time limit to submit a formal Request for Reassessment is within 20 business days after the final marks are available."

### #5103

#### Gimme a Break

"When a student is scheduled to write exams in consecutive time slots, he or she will be given a break of one hour minimum between exams." Also: "No exam timetable changes will be allowed after posting, unless approved by the Associate Dean"

### #5101

#### Seeing is Believing

"In situations having a requirement for in-person attendance, instructors must be seen by the students to be documenting attendance."

### #7507

#### R.E.S.P.E.C.T

BCIT has a **zero tolerance** policy for behaviour that "undermines the dignity, self-esteem, and productivity of any student and/or employee." You'd be surprised what that consitutues.

# ADVOCACY

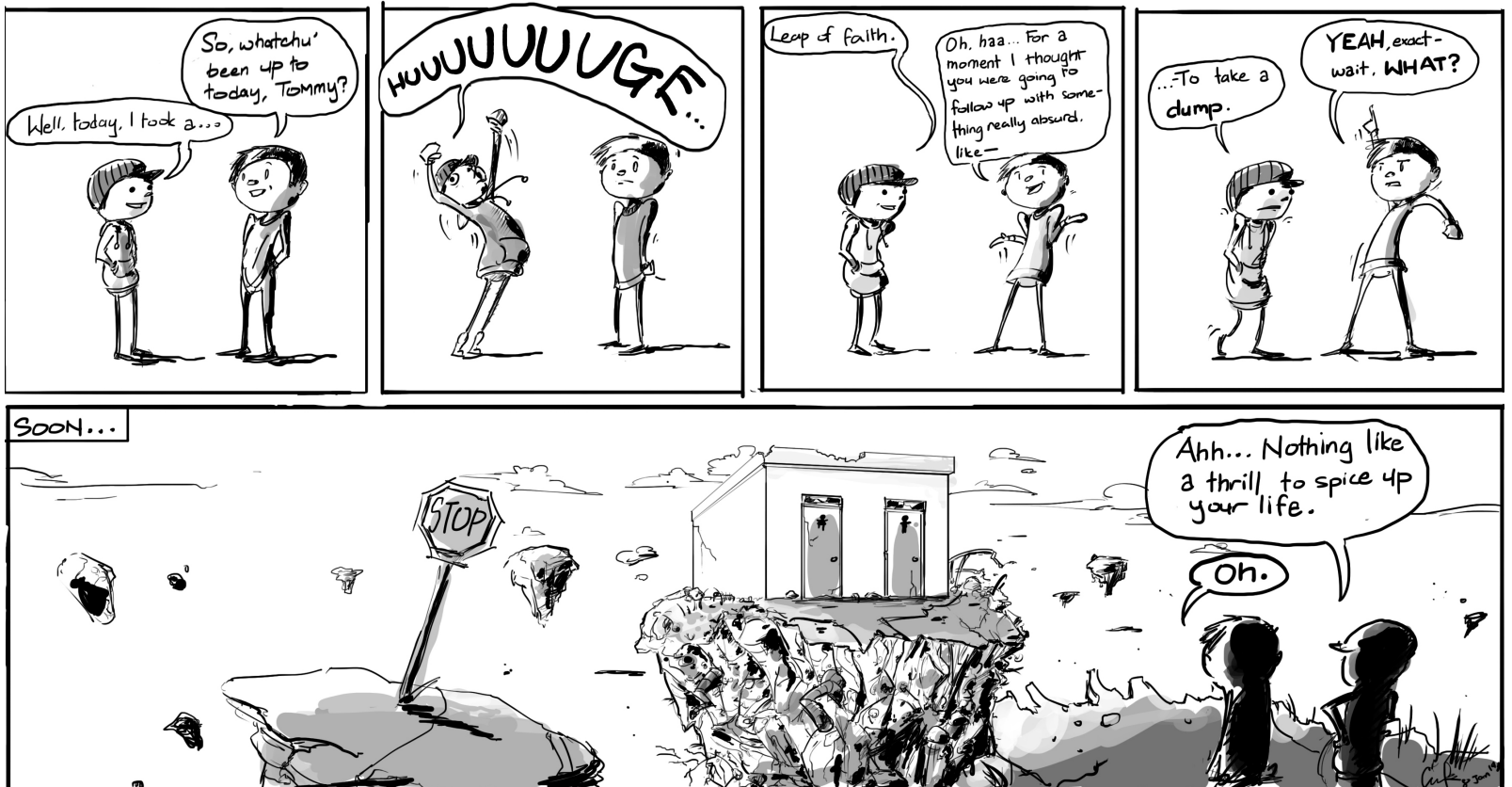
### #5102

#### Cause and Effect

As a student, you are "responsible and accountable for your conduct from the time you apply for admission, to the actual awarding of your credential." You may even be subject to disciplinary sanction for your behaviour both *on* and *off* campus (even at sea!)

Student Advocacy is located on the BCIT Burnaby campus (Great Hall, 273) right about Professor Mugs Pub. Full policies online at: [www.bcit.ca/about/administration/policies.shtml](http://www.bcit.ca/about/administration/policies.shtml)

## The End and All That Hype. (by Carlo Puche)



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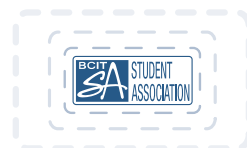
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