

the link

student newspaper

Volume 44

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B.C.'s Justice System Still Weak

Not having a minimum sentence is a big loop hole

By Laura Gallant
The Link

The recent explosion of gang violence has lower mainland citizens wondering where tomorrow's next spray of bullets will be coming from. Police Chief Jim Chu has responded to public concern and has announced that cops will be focused on making arrests on the many unsolved gang killings of late. This comes in the wake of the eldest Bacon brother and his close Red Scorpion associate being released on bail. Allowing known, dangerous gangsters to live among the public has left citizens wondering when the justice system will crack down harder on gang leaders.



Federal Justice Minister Rob Nicholson, while admitting that drugs are the root cause of the gang problem, has come up with what he thinks are some solutions to combat organized crime's habit for drug dealing. Here are the highlights: A one year mandatory jail term for dealing drugs and a two year mandatory jail term for dealing drugs to youth. Nicholson also announced that people who are caught growing large amounts of pot have to serve a maximum 14 year jail term.

Nicholson's jail terms are not going to throw fear into the hearts of drug dealers. The mandatory jail time numbers are soft and the maximum leaves too much to the judge's discretion. The maximum penalty of 14 years is strong but, what is the minimum? House arrest, a fine? When will the maximum be implemented? Nicholson's attempts at reforming drug dealing penalties are a step in the right direction but the jail terms are vague at best. The public is still seeking a justice system with a spine.

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

COVER: By Alicia Agarrabeitia

“The Water-Cooler Wright Brothers Extravaganza was a hit at our Aerospace Technology Campus so we thought we'd put a photo of all the contestants and their paper airplanes on the cover of the paper!”

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

Link Feedback:

“Just finished reading Laura Gallant's: “...Downtown Eastside Money Pit”. The whole tone of the piece sounds like a rant by some right-wing ignoramus.

At the end of the day drug addicts that don't want to get clean are criminals and should be treated as such.” Either Ms Gallant's heart is as cold as a small stone or she simply doesn't understand the scope of the problem. Probably the latter as it appears she's somehow come to the mistaken conclusion that it's the addicts that are shooting each other, not the dealers. That's like saying everyone who works in a liquor store is an alcoholic.

And then she puts the top on it all by whining about the “political will” required to put on the Olympics and the money being spent on the event comparing it to the failure of government to solve the poverty and drug abuse problems. So what does she want? As she's noted “nearly \$1 million a day is being spent on the Downtown Eastside” but she doesn't seem to know is that due to this spending both the death rates because of overdoses and the numbers of users remaining addicted are declining. A poor student of human nature she thinks addiction and poverty are a simple problem that should be able to be solved by throwing money around. To conclude that “We are somehow patting drug addicts on the back.” is just plain foolish.

I suggest Ms Gallant stick with topics she's better suited to like teen dating and leave the social commentary to the better-informed.

BTW. Get somebody in there who can copy edit! Does a media organization (singular) have more than one nose? Don't think so. And how about this one? “Until we start to address illegal drug abuse and treat users like criminals as oppose to people . . .” That's “opposed”. And then there's “...inviting the world to our back door ...”. What's our “back door”? Is there an anus somewhere in Vancouver I don't know about?

Also, what's the deal with featuring a photo from Banff on the front page? Maybe you better pull back a bit and take another look at the purpose of the Link keeping in mind it's for the BCIT community.

-Gardner Monk

Link Feedback Response:

Hello Mr. Gardner Monk,


Thank-you for your letter.

We appreciate your opinion on the subject matter of Link 44-11's Editorial. Everyone has their own opinion on the matter and we're glad that we can feature both sides of an argument.

As per our copy editing, thanks for catching those errors. To our dismay, sometimes errors slip through the cracks. Having extra editing time is something we're working on.

Although it would be nice to always feature photos of BCIT news/events on the cover, it doesn't work as easily as that. When we have a BCIT news/event related photo (as we did for this paper), we'll put it on the cover. For all of the other covers however, we decided that we would ask BCIT students to share their photos/art with us and the BCIT community. We're sorry if you don't find the experiences of your classmates as interesting as we do!

-Link Editors



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News In Brief

By Laura Gallant
The Link

BCIT's Ecological Restoration Degree One of a Kind in Canada

Beginning this September, BCIT students will be able to apply for a Bachelor of Technology in Ecological Restoration. Students will study how human influences, such as urban sprawl, invasive species expansions, and direct damage affect the natural environment. These factors combined with the resulting increase in the number of threatened and endangered species has prompted BCIT to create a program that focuses on ecological restoration initiatives. This degree is the first of its kind in Canada. Applicants with previous environmental education have the opportunity to be fast-tracked into the program.



New Competition is Similar to Canadian Idol but for Marketing Students

Smart Savvy + Associates, a marketing recruitment firm, has announced a program to identify BC's top three marketing grads to help secure their first job with some of the lower-mainland's top employers. This competition is open to marketing students with a graduation date after December 2008 and before December 30th, 2009 at any BC degree-granting post-secondary institution (and BCIT). The recruitment firm claims grads are not selected solely based on their GPA, but on their total offering of knowledge, skills, abilities, attitudes, and behaviours.

BCIT Student Tragically Killed in Car Crash

Flags at the BCIT Burnaby Campus were lowered to half-mast on Sunday, March 1st in memory of Mindy Sahota, a second year BCIT Marketing Management student who tragically passed away last weekend. Sahota and friend Annie Nijjar passed away in the early morning of Sunday February 22nd. Delta police allege the two women were killed instantly as the car they were in lost control and crossed the centre line where it collided with an oncoming car. The driver of the oncoming car was taken to hospital with minor injuries and released. Delta police continue to investigate the crash. A Facebook memorial group has been set up by friends of the two women.



4,500 Volunteer Performers Needed for Closing Ceremonies

VANOC has launched a massive casting call for volunteers to perform in the 2010 Olympic closing ceremonies. The organizing committee is looking for 4,500 dancers, athletes, and performers to be apart of the show. Applicants 17 years old and over can apply online before May 1st, auditions will also begin in May. Volunteers must be able to supply their own transportation and accommodation. The ceremonies are being produced by David Atkins Enterprises of Australia, the same company that produced the ceremonies for the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney.



bcit CAREERS FAIR

by Clara Lee
SES Student Marketing Assistant

Feeling distant from the ever-changing job market is common for many students who have yet to step out of classes and dive into the workforce. This is why BCIT's Student Employment Services host the yearly Careers Fair – so you will have an excellent opportunity to meet and talk with companies which are recruiting from BCIT programs. This year's Careers Fair is being sponsored by the CGA Association, BCAA, Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers, Suncor Energy, Peter Kiewit Sons, and 19 other sponsors.

The 2009 BCIT Careers Fair will be held on Monday, March 23, 2009, from 10 am to 3:30 pm in the Great Hall (SE2 and SE6), Burnaby Campus. With 115 eager employers attending the fair, it is the absolute best opportunity for BCIT students to network with employers in their field of study. Registration for the event is optional, but if you register at www.bcit.ca/careersfair, you'll get a chance to

win a Go Gear 8GB Philipps mp3 player. While you're on the site, check out the list of employers, the program areas they're targeting, and the advice for students to make the most of your time at the event.

SES encourages everyone to use this free resource to learn what employers are seeking and ask questions. Last year, one of the employers interviewed 100 people at the Careers Fair and eventually offered jobs to 30 of them. To help you get the most out of this experience, SES is hosting guest speakers at two "Careers Fair Know-how" seminars – on topics such as competitive intelligence, networking, and relationship-building. These seminars on March 18th and 19th will show you how to connect with employers, what to know prior to going into an interview and much more. If you are looking to be even more involved with the Careers Fair, you can register to be a volunteer. If you would like to know which companies are attending the Careers fair or discover other resourceful SES services, visit www.bcit.ca/careersfair and www.bcit.ca/ses.

The Link hopes everyone has an awesome and safe Spring Break! We'd like to hear about your Spring Break adventures, so shoot us an email at link@bcitsa.ca with your stories and photos!
HAVE FUN!



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Important Notice for Students with Canada Student Loans

Are you graduating or taking more than six months off from school?

If you are **not** returning to full-time studies this fall, you will need to contact us to discuss repayment options:

- **For your Canada Student Loan**, contact the National Student Loans Service Centre at 1-888-815-4514 (TTY for the hearing impaired: 1-888-815-4556).
- **For your provincial student loan**, contact your provincial student financial aid office at 1-800-561-1818.

If you think you might have trouble paying back your student loans, there are federal and provincial programs available to help you stay on track.

Ask about the repayment options available to you. For example, the new Repayment Assistance Plan will ensure your Canada Student Loan payments will never be higher than what you can reasonably afford.

Visit the **Spotlight On** section of CanLearn.ca for details.

Avis important aux étudiants qui ont un prêt d'études canadien

Tu termines tes études ou tu les interromps pendant plus de six mois?

Si tu **ne** retournes **pas** aux études à temps plein l'automne prochain, tu dois communiquer avec nous afin de discuter des options de remboursement.

- **En ce qui concerne ton prêt d'études canadien**, communique avec le Centre de services national de prêts aux étudiants, au 1-888-815-4514 (téléimprimeur pour malentendants : 1-888-815-4556).
- **En ce qui concerne ton prêt d'études provincial**, communique avec le bureau d'aide financière aux étudiants de ta province, au 1-800-561-1818.

Si tu crois que tu pourrais avoir de la difficulté à rembourser tes prêts d'études, des programmes fédéraux et provinciaux s'offrent à toi afin de t'aider à maintenir le cap.

Renseigne-toi au sujet des possibilités de remboursement qui te sont proposées. Dans le cadre du nouveau Programme d'aide au remboursement, par exemple, tu seras assuré que les versements sur ton prêt d'études canadien ne dépasseront jamais un montant raisonnablement abordable pour toi.

Pour plus de détails, visite la section **En vedette** du site cibletudes.ca.

Canada



Peter Orlandi
President
BCITSA
president@bcitsa.ca
www.bcitsa.ca

BCITSA Elections

Starting Monday, March 16th the BCIT Student Association elections officially begin! If you are interested in advocating for students, and helping to add more to student life, please pick up a nomination form at the BCITSA reception in SE2. For further information go to our website www.bcitsa.ca. The nomination period closes on Friday March 27th at 12pm.

The following positions are available for the 2009/10 school year:

- President
- VP Finance and Administration

- VP Marketing and PR
- VP Student Affairs
- VP Campus Life
- Chair of the Aerospace Technology Campus (ATC)
- Chair of the School of Business
- Chair of the School of Health Sciences
- Chair of the School of Transportation, Construction, and the Environment
- Chair of the School of Manufacturing, Electronics, and Industrial Processes
- Chair of the School of Computing and Academic Studies

Curious about what these positions entail? Contact the Chief Returning Officer at info@bcitsa.ca or visit www.bcitsa.ca (there's a brief description of each position on the front page). You are also invited to see what a typical council meeting is like. The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday March 16th, at 5:30pm in Council Chambers located in the Great Hall (SE2) next to the elevator.

Voting will take place between Thursday April 9th and Friday April 17th. I highly encourage all students to vote. Even if your program is coming to an end, this is still a great way to help the future of this campus by electing the students you see most appropriate for the positions. All candidates will have a bio in the April edition of "The Link." Stay tuned.

www.bcitsa.ca



Hui Hang
Vice President
Campus Life
BCITSA
vpcl@bcitsa.ca
www.bcitsa.ca

Toon In Campaign

On January 29th, over a hundred students and many staff and faculty members canvassed the campus and pitched in their efforts in support of a worthy cause: students. Your response was fantastic; we were able to raise \$6,100 which was then matched by BCIT to become \$12,200 towards an endowment fund for student bursaries. This endowment fund can be added to in future years with future campaigns and the interest generated will go back to the students most in need of financial assistance. The Toon In campaign is the first of its kind this year, where the main focus was to have our peers work towards bettering another peer's pursuance of further education at BCIT.

I would like to thank the following groups:

- Thank you to all the generous students who donated towards the cause; the value of your donation wasn't just in the cash amount but also in your belief in the cause and your support of your fellow peers.
- A huge "thank you" to all the volunteers involved, your commitment and efforts were truly inspiring.
- Thank you to all the staff and faculty who supported the student campaign as well, your encouragement aided tremendously in our efforts, from the instructor inviting students into their classrooms, to staff volunteers who canvassed their office mates. The best quote I got that day from one staff member when another colleague said he already Tooned In was, "Well, you haven't Tooned my tin yet!"
- Thanks to the student clubs who participated and the winner of the clubs' competition, PCMA who were able to raise over \$500.

Being a full-time student at BCIT is stressful enough, let alone having compounding fears of not being able to pay next month's bills. The funds raised will go to help students in need next year and for many years after. It's always a pleasure to be involved with so many motivated and dedicated peers.

To end off, the winners of the prize draws are as follows:

Full-Time Winners:

Tuition: Xavier Alcantara
Laptop: Sergey Shevchenko
iPod Touch: Lena Mehran

Part-Time Winners:

Course Fee: Craig Shirri
iPod Touch: Bimal Prasad
\$75 Gift Certificate to BCIT Bookstore: PJ Cuevas

Staff Winners:

iPod Touch: Fraser Robertson
\$100 Metrotown GC: Pat Cummings

Water Cooler Wright Brothers Flying Extravaganza at ATC



The Supplies

Photo courtesy of Ian Morton



The Warriors

These brave warriors were strapped to the paper planes.



Team Ramrod

Team Ramrod (Mike Cartwright and Brian Walter)

On February 26th, the Aerospace Technology Campus experienced the one and only

Water Cooler Wright Brothers Flying Extravaganza.

Teams had to build paper planes, keeping in mind airplane technicalities they learn in class. After an hour or so, the planes were launched from a balcony. Some fared well, some... not so well. Prizes included a Helijet Tour for four, BCIT sweatshirts, and gas cards.



Winners:
Team Manschäft

Team Manschäft (Paul White, Aaron Reinhardt, Tim Devolder) = FIERCE

Alicia: How's it going guys?
Team Ramrod: Terrible.
(15 minutes later)
Alicia: How are things, any better?
Team Ramrod: This is a disaster.
Alicia: Atleast you guys are still smiling!

Photos courtesy of Alicia Agarrabeitia



A-Team (Gene Jeong, Justin Jeszensky, and Jim Moynham)



Team Shimmy Shimmy Bang Bang (Mike Hughes, Brent Reddick, and Matt Stacey)



The Moment of Truth



The Link “sponsored” Team Manschäft’s paper plane (basically, we let them tear up our newspaper for the sake of success). They won. We’re not saying they won because of the Link, but we’re sure we helped in some way.



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lego world

Wheels, Wings, and Waves at the Telus World of Science

Michael Brolich
BCIT Railway Conductor Program

Just like any other smart student out there, I jump on the chance for a free thing. Even more so when this free thing happens to be my favourite childhood toy: Lego. Everyone has seen the pictures online of large scale Lego models, but you really can't appreciate them until you see them in person along with the little plaque sitting next to each piece listing off how many pieces were used, and how long it took to build.

A few small scale exhibits stand outside, whetting your palette for what's to come. There's a mini *Stargate*, from the aforementioned show, a "future plane", as well as an all terrain multi-purpose vehicle looking like something out of *Transformers*. All of those displays were pretty eye catching, but nothing compared to what was to come inside. Greeting you is a mini Lego World, terrain and everything, where everything is built out of small lego pieces, not those jumbo toddler lego blocks. All modes of transportation seem to be on display. Everything from plains, trains, automobiles, and some other unique ways to move around.

The exhibits largest piece, a rocket ship, is made from over 16,500 normal sized Lego blocks, took 399 hours to build. As impressive as the rocket ship was however, the piece that caught my attention was the ground transportation exhibit. Showcasing a semi-truck and trailer, trolley, motorcycle, old jalopy, and horse and buggy. The attention to detail was amazing.

Displaying ships, rockets, blips, helicopters, and trains, there is certainly a lot on display. For the kids, they have mini Lego car races, as well as a kid's sized F1 car to sit in with a video of them racing. Hearing the screams and yelps, it is good to know that the tradition of Lego is still being passed on to the next generation.

While I can keep on trying to describe the scenes to you, all I can leave you with are a few pictures of the exhibits and recommend that you go down there yourself to see it. Be sure to take your student card to get a discounted rate., if not its \$18.50, a bit of a steep price, but well worth it .



As of March 7th, even more lego creations have been added to the exhibit, including a plasma race car track, a Z2 spaceship, and a model of the upcoming Airport and King Edward stations along the Canada Line SkyTrain built by the Vancouver LEGO Club.



Photos courtesy of Michael Brolich
Exhibit Logo courtesy of Telus World of Science



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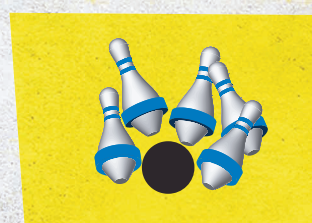
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Ireland and Hollywood

A Love Affair I can't remember

By **Mana Mansour**
The Link

I have a confession to make: I miss **Colin Farrell**. There, I said it! The thought occurred to me when I was dusting off my St. Patty's Day paraphernalia the other day, while on the phone discussing the course of action for my March 17 plans with my best friend.

Like most non-Irish people, I look forward to St. Patrick's Day in the hopes of being able to drink green beer and get away with speaking in a lousy Irish accent all day. St. Patrick's Day may be coming up soon, but when it comes down to the Irish and Hollywood, I haven't been able to get my fix lately.

Our favourite Irish "hunks" haven't graced the silver screen for awhile: **Cillian Murphy** was last seen in a 5 second blip in *The Dark Knight*, **Jonathan Rhys Meyers**' last season as **Henry VIII** in *The Tudors* ended in mid-2008 and our top limerick lad **Colin Farrell** was last seen in the poorly promoted film *Pride and Glory* last October.

My passion for the Irish is not a new phenomenon, nor was it influenced by the six-packs and rugged looks of these Irish "hunks". It began in 2004, while I was living in Southern California studying acting. Of the very few

foreigners in my classes were these two Irish best friends, Kieran and Roisin (don't you love the Gaelic names?). Kieran hoped to be the next **Daniel Day-Lewis** and Roisin hoped to be the next **Maureen O'Hara**.

We bonded immediately, and they became probably the most fun, lovable people I came across during my time there. When I came back for my final year at UBC, I took an Irish Film Studies class, which opened my senses to films such as *My Left Foot*, *The Crying Game*, and *Michael Collins*. And although kind of cheesy, I even adored **Ron Howard's** *Far and Away*, which has some of the most quotable lines courtesy of **Tom Cruise** and his two hours worth of a bad Irish accent.

I was able to get my Irish fix more frequently when Hollywood (and every heterosexual woman on the planet) fell in love with bad-boy **Colin Farrell**. Sure, he covered up that addictive accent of his in *The Minority Report*, and *The Recruit*, but the fact is, we all wanted

to see him and his accent smoke a cigarette and flip off everyone on the red carpet FOR those movies.

Anyways... in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day, I say to all the producers and directors in tinsel town, BRING ON THE IRISH HOLLYWOOD! And not in some depressing tale about civil war, poverty and oppression, but rather something like **Daniel Day-Lewis'** comedic debut, co-starring **Colin Farrell**, **Cillian Murphy** and **Jonathan Rhys Meyers**.... just a thought.



Evolving 20 Countdown For March 7, 2009

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Wintermitts - DANS | 11. Eagles of Death Metal - Cheap Thrills |
| 2. The Nods - Uh huh | 12. Beast - Mr. Hurricane |
| 3. The Butless Chaps - Broken Transit, Broken | 13. Metric - Help I'm Alive |
| 4. AC Newman - There Are Maybe Ten or... | 14. Beast - Mr. Hurricane |
| 5. Islands - The Arm | 15. Like A Martyr - And by coffee I mean... |
| 6. Wolf Parade - California Dreamer | 16. The Black Keys - Strange Times |
| 7. Franz Ferdinand - Ulysses | 17. The Decemberists - The Rake's Song |
| 8. Snow Patrol - Take Back the City | 18. Bon Iver - Blood Bank |
| 9. Shad - Brother Watching | 19. Like a Martyr - Elizabeth |
| 10. The Fireman (Paul McCartney) - Nothing. | 20. Kings of Leon - Use Somebody |

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ITSAZOO Productions: a Theatre Company Worth Keeping an Eye On



Photo courtesy of Andrew Thompson

Their New Show *Death of a Clown* runs March 18th to 28th at the P.A.L. Theatre in Coal Harbour

**By Devon Taylor
The Link**

Land in Vancouver in the Spring of 2008, ITSAZOO Productions have been making quite a name for themselves; they were recently named “Favourite New Company for 2008” by the Westender Newspaper. ITSAZOO was started in Victoria in 2004 by three UVic Theatre students that wanted to create their own shows. Their first show, **Edward Albee’s *The Zoo Story***, was a success, and ever since then they have been growing and creating new and exciting shows in unconventional theatre spaces.

ITSAZOO received the award of ‘Best New Play’ in Victoria’s 2007 Critic’s Choice Awards and Monday Magazine ‘M’ Awards for *Grimm Tales* written by playwright in residence **Sebastien Archibald**. This show was so successful that ITSAZOO remounted it in 2008 at Mount Douglas Park in Victoria and Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver. While ITSAZOO will continue to perform in Victoria, they have permanently moved the company to Vancouver.

Speaking with ITSAZOO’s General Manager and Director Chelsea Haberlin about their new show *Death of a Clown* by **Sebastien Archibald**, Haberlin spoke of why people should come to see the show as well as why this version is different than the previous two that Archibald wrote.

Death of a Clown centres on **Roy**, a clown who wants to be successful and climb the corporate ladder. His problem lies in the fact that he’s a clown and he can’t climb that ladder because he’s different. He meets many challenges and obstacles along the way, including boss’ and doctors’ that try to change him and make him something that he’s not. All **Roy** wants is to be accepted, but as the show progresses it becomes obvious that that’s impossible.

ITSAZOO has produced *Death of a Clown* once before, but never to this extent. This is **Archibald’s** third incarnation of *Death of a Clown*, but it is without a doubt the most elaborate of the three versions. Various members of the cast are trained in clown, others are trained in movement. The cast incorporates clowning with a more Brechtian epic style of theatre which is a unique thing to see on stage. As Haberlin points out, “It’s really exciting to see people with amazing talent come together on a project like this. And it’s really exciting as a director to be able to find what they’re great at and put it into a project.”

Other exciting elements include a live clown band that underscores the show with instruments from flutes to accordions and recorders to pots and pans. There is also a video component where actors are seen “on location” at ‘Rich Whites New Five Star Resort’, one of the play’s

development sites. This multi-media component incorporates an interesting element and creates a dynamic setting that isn’t usually seen on the stage.

The set, designed by Kyle Sutherland, is essentially scaffolding that the actors can ‘play’ on, which adds an interesting element. Costume designer Meredith Canby has designed the entire show in black, white, and red. It is simple but elegant. It adds mystery and makes you pay attention to the meaning of the play rather than the design elements.

Why come see this show? It is a play unlike any you have ever seen before. Guaranteed that you have never seen a show like this. It will open your eyes to new possibilities in theatre and leave you wanting more. *Death of a Clown* also features a new playwright, new designers, and new actors from all over the lower mainland that you’ve probably never seen before. If you want to witness a new company in its early stages and see a play that will have you laughing from beginning to end, this is the show to come see this month.

The show runs from March 18th to March 28th. The 18th is perfect for students as it is a ‘Pay-What-You-Can Preview’. Tickets are \$12 for anyone under 30 or Seniors /Students and \$15 for adults. If you come with a group of 10 you get a discount. And Tuesday’s are 2 for 1. The P.A.L. Theatre is located at 581 Cardero St in Coal Harbour. For information call 778-888-2435 or e-mail Chelsea Haberlin at info@itsazoo.org.

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Music News In Brief

By Kristina Mameli
The Link

Does what you listen to correspond to your IQ?

According to Virgil Griffith, a 25 year old Caltech grad student, it just might.

Griffith used Facebook data about favorite bands of various students at various colleges and plotted it against the average SAT scores of the same institutions to plot a chart that measures taste vs. intelligence.

According to the chart, those interested in **Radiohead** and **U2** scored higher on their SAT's (1371) than those interested in **Lil Wayne** and **Beyonce** (889)

Hold on. That can't be right...

The same chart also states that **Zeppelin** beats **Queen** and **Bowie** put together...

Check out where you fall at: <http://musicthatmakesyoudumb.virgil.gr/>

Mark your calendar's Vancouver: the Junos are March 29th 2009.

And what a line-up!

Recently slated into the already solid roster, soulstress **Divine Brown**, singer-songwriter **Serena Ryder**, one to watch in country **Crystal Shawanda**, Montrealers the **Stills** and of course, no Canadian music showcase would be complete without **Sam Roberts**. What's more, all are nominees!

Also performing: **Sarah McLachlan**, **Nickelback**, **City and Colour**, **Simple Plan**, **Kathleen Edwards**, **Great Big Sea**, **Bryan Adams**, and the one and only **Hawksley Workman**.

Not to mention the whole thing will be hosted by **Russell Peters** at GM Place...

Final curtain call for Michael Jackson.

At a press conference at London's O2 Arena, **Jackson** announced his July residency at the venue and described it as his final performances.

The first date in what will surely go down as a significant piece of history, is July 8th, tickets going on sale March 13th. **Jackson** is slated to perform 10 shows with a rumoured addition of 10 to 15.

NIN and Jane's Addiction tour dates finally announced.

This could well be your last chance to check out **NIN** in action, in case you missed them last year at the one off that will go down in history known as Pemberton Fest.

A newly reunited **Jane's Addiction** will join the dissolving **NIN** in what could be their final tour, the dates of which have just been announced. The closest they come to us other than Sasquatch of course, is Toronto June 2nd at the Molson Amphitheatre.

Further to that, amid rumours that **Jane's Addiction** will be playing Lollapalooza, the band will not be playing the Chicago tour stop...which leads one to speculate that they will indeed be playing the fest that frontman **Perry Ferrell** founded.

"Neon Angels On the Road To Ruin..." That's right, they're making a Runaways movie!

Art and **John Linson** have teamed up to bring us the story of the **Runaways**, the most influential all girl punk band to date.

The film, *Neon Angels* (after the aforementioned song), will centre around the lives of the band's most consistent members: **Joan Jett**, **Cherie Currie**, and the late **Sandy West**. According to *Variety* via *punknews.org*, the plot uses an unpublished memoir of **Currie's** as a source to tell the story of the drugs, sex, and heartache that were the **Runaways** as they "struggled to be viewed as musicians, not sex kittens with guitars."

Adding further intrigue to the tale that already promises to be rather interesting, 15 year old **Dakota Fanning** has been cast as **Cherie Currie**, who was also 15 when she joined the band. **Kristen Stewart** of *Twilight* fame will play **Joan Jett**.

Bedouin Soundclash going green.

The new video for **Bedouin Soundclash's** "Hearts In the Night" and directed by **Michael Mazzis**, premieres on the **David Suzuki Foundation's** website throughout the month of March.

Yeah Yeah Yeah...

After the leak of their new album *It's Blitz*, the **Yeah Yeah Yeahs** have pushed the release of the album from April 13th to March 9th, but will first stream it for free on their myspace page.

Oh dear god, why? U2's not done with 009 yet...

U2 is planning to release a companion to its latest release *No Line On the Horizon* before 2009 is up. Finger's crossed...

Also announced, **U2** will be hitting Vancouver on their stadium tour October 28th at B.C. Place.

Anti-Flag will win the war!

Pittsburgh punkers **Anti-Flag** have been forced to cancel all of their European dates after frontman **Justin Sane** took an awkward stage dive in Norwich resulting in a broken collar bone.

Adding further trouble for the band, guitarist **Chris Head** has had to fly home due to a death in the family and drummer **Pat Thetic** broke three ribs at the start of the tour.

For the full story, check out anti-flag.com.

James Hetfield hospitalized.

16,000 Swedish **Metallica** fans left the Stockholm Globe Arena disappointed; no not because the band insisted on playing *St. Anger* front to back, but because they were forced to cancel the show minutes before it was set to start.

Lead singer **James Hetfield** fell victim to a stomach bug and dehydration, but is now back in the US with the rest of the band.

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Vancouver Should Have Been the Lead MLS Contender From the Beginning

In this volatile economic market, Vancouver has financial security with Greg Kerfoot, Jeff Mallett, Steve Luzco, and Steve Nash backing the soccer team. So what's the problem?

By Laura Gallant
The Link

The Major League Soccer (MLS) expansion race has become a months-long American Idol saga in which slowly and steadily contending cities are eliminated. Recently, Miami became the third city ruled out by the league since MLS accepted seven expansion applications in October. Now that Miami is no longer in the mix, the feeling among MLS circles is that Vancouver is now the number one contender to acquire a team.

The Vancouver bid should have been a number one contender to begin with. The ownership group have always ponied up the money, have a strong organization, they've made plans to upgrade B.C. Place, and they exist in a soccer market with deep roots.

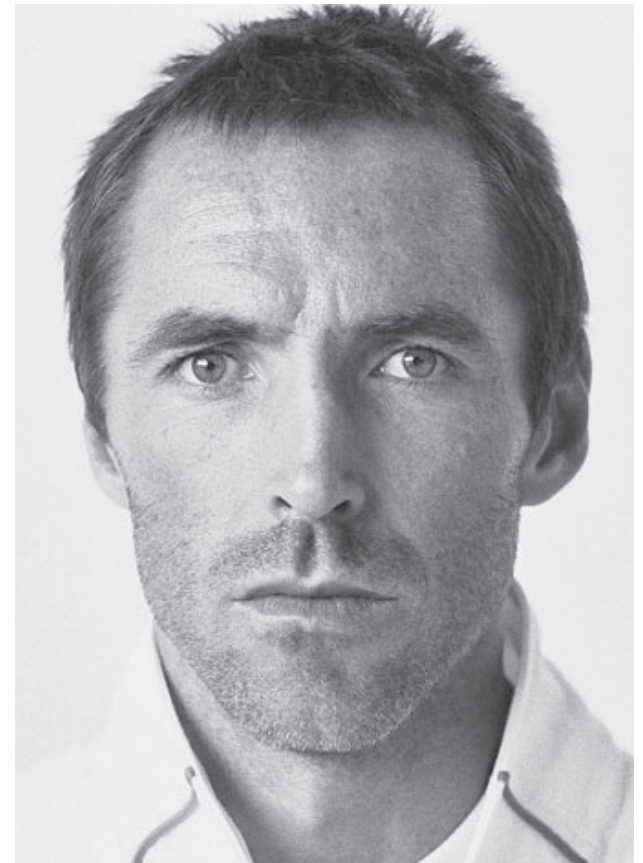
The Vancouver bid group has experience and proven financially stable owners. The ownership group is made up of Vancouver Whitecaps owner Greg Kerfoot, former Yahoo executive Jeff Mallett, Boston Celtics co-owner

Steve Luzco, and NBA star Steve Nash. With the current global financial crisis at hand, these business leaders have the know-how and experience to cope in troubling fiscal times.

A potential national TV contract for MLS in Canada boosts Vancouver's candidacy. With Toronto FC already in the league, a second Canadian team would call for more fans and could make it profitable for MLS television to move into Canada.

Vancouver has the double benefit of being a national rival to Toronto FC, while also being a geographic rival with 2009 MLS expansion club Seattle Sounders FC.

It is expected that MLS Commissioner Don Garber will announce a 17th MLS team before the league opening match on March 19, 2009. He has committed to adding two teams into the league and begin play in 2011. The remaining four cities in the race that he has to choose from are Ottawa, Portland, St. Louis and Vancouver. For the 17th team, Garber's decision should be a no-brainer. What do you think?



Been to any games? What are your thoughts on Vancouver's professional sports teams? What do you think about intramural sports at BCIT? Email us at link@bcitsa.ca.

Jacob "Samurai Fireman Jake" Barker

The Link's latest Intramural Superstar

By Birdie Hamilton
The Link

Sport: DodgeKey (Hockey/Dodgeball Combo)

Number: 55

Game Day Rituals: Trying to give back to the community by recycling as much paper as possible on game days.

Lucky Objects: A fireman hat – to intimidate the other side, and let them know their fire will be put out by Fireman Jake

Superstitions: I throw computer mice over my left shoulder. I also never look at clocks on game days.

Game-Day Meals: Chicken, rice, and broccoli. I also bake fresh bread

Shameless Plug: If anyone reading the Link wants a loaf of bread, the first loaf is free – the next loaf costs \$1.50

Memorable Quotes:

"Spring Break is for losers – I'm coming to school every day"

"Put that in your blackberry and message it"



Photo courtesy of Birdie Hamilton

St. Patrick's Day 2009

March 17 is the best yearly excuse to pretend to be Irish, and here are some ways to celebrate

By Birdie Hamilton
The Link

Most of us aren't Irish – but most of us celebrate **St. Patrick's Day**.

Every year on March 17th, it's fun for all to get dressed up in green. And, once you turn 19, it's also fun to enjoy some **St. Paddy's** inspired bevies.

It's one of those holidays we celebrate, but we don't really know what it's all about. Well, I didn't, so I did a bit of research and have a few fun facts about **St. Patrick's Day**. Wikipedia told me there was a law enforcing all pubs to be closed on March 17th in Ireland, until the 1970s. Trustee old Wikipedia also told me that **St. Patrick's Day** is a day of feasting, and is Ireland's national holiday.

Anyway, if you are thinking of indulging in some potent potable **St. Paddy's** celebrations, here are some ideas to keep in the Irish tradition.

Green Guinness Beer

Who could go wrong with a beer that is the colour green? Not my favourite year-round beer, but it's a must-do on **St. Patrick's Day**.

Bailey's Irish Crème

It's magically delicious. Make a milkshake with it, or mix with coffee (or I've tried it with tea and it's really good).

Jameson Irish Whiskey

A little on the heavier, stronger side – but might be a good choice if you are going out.

And if you are looking to celebrate, here are a few places to check out:

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Sunday, March 15th @ 11:30 AM

Georgia St between Broughton and Howe

The Wolf And Hound

Tuesday, March 17th @ 8 PM
3617 West Broadway

The Blarney Stone

Tuesday, March 17th @ 8 PM
216 Carrall Street

Campus Query

Where your opinion matters

"What are you doing for St. Patrick's Day?"

By Birdie Hamilton



Andrea Visscher

I might go to Ceili's, or I'll just go to a pub around the corner from my house and drink green beer.

Peter Hartwick

I'm hosting a party, and will be drinking green beer for sure.



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2009 Pontiac Vibe

A student's everyday solution

By Theo Birkner

The Link

Uninspiring: unfortunately it's the first word that comes to mind when examining the 2009 Pontiac Vibe. Pretty much a tarted-up Toyota Matrix, it projects itself as a useable all-around car that comes with a kick-ass stereo and some bonus niceties – like a standard 3-prong 115 volt outlet for all your portable electronic charging needs.

The Vibe is a looker as hatches go and frankly, that's a good thing, because outside of its visual appeals, it's not the most thrilling car. Cockpit ingress is a surprisingly awkward maneuver in such a spacious ride (the back seat is huge, and totally comfortable for a full-sized adult or three). Once in place, the oddity of the ergonomics strikes home; you need abnormally short legs and really long arms to drive this car comfortably (I'm 6'1", taller than the average perhaps, but by no means pushing the envelope of expected positional flexibility). The standard telescopic and tilt steering wheel attempts to save the driving position some grace, but the feeling of disproportionate claustrophobia ruins the whole experience.

Once installed, a veritable sea of plastic, each piece cheaper and more "parts-bin" derived than the next, assaults the drivers' senses. While the use of metal and mahogany is not really expected in entry-level vehicles, there is no denying that this car is on the lower end of the spectrum when it comes to the luxuriously appointed.

...cont'd on page 15...



...cont'd on page 14...

A lot of it looks quite good – the instrument cluster is a beautiful piece with all kinds of exciting red and white lights and gauges – but it doesn't instill a feeling of build quality. One would hope it's all a ploy to encourage optioning, but further inspection of the bonus list reveals that a leather-wrapped steering wheel is really the only escape from base-level interior specification.

Don't get me wrong: there are upsides to the car of course. Trunk/cargo space is massive, with 1399 liters

(49.4 cu. Ft.) of emptiness once the flat-folding 60/40 split rear seats are put down. The plastic theme is continued in the cargo area, this time to the owners benefit, as you could essentially hose out the trunk. Also, grocery bag hooks and baby seat fastening points abound for when/if you decide to knowingly procreate. All in all, the car seems very well positioned toward anyone needing a general ride around the city, with the potential of carrying just about anything, from several babies to a couple of muddy bicycles.

Mechanically, the Vibe is good. The front wheel drive base model enters the market with a 1.8-liter 4 cylinder,

132bhp motor. The all wheel drive (AWD) – automatic transmission only – and the GT versions heat things up with a 2.4-liter lump that produces 158 bhp. Again, the engines are directly pulled from the Toyota lineup, and feature that company's patented Variable Valve Timing-intelligence (VVT-i), a proven engine management system. The torsion beam front and independent rear suspension, coupled with GM's Stabilitrak traction control system and all-around ABS disc brakes, make for a nice drive, with good composure at speed over broken pavement. The only minor niggles were the somewhat severe jarring from bigger

obstacles like parking lot speed-bumps – perhaps a case of the cargo-supporting rear suspension being a little stiffly sprung for everyday empty car driving – and the fact that taller drivers' 2 o'clock vision will suffer with the mammoth rearview mirror.

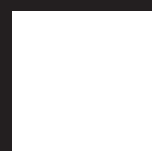
What it comes down to then, is that the Vibe simply does a decent job of doing what it's designed to do. The base model asking price is a little steep at \$16,830, but don't necessarily jump at the GT either: you'll be out over \$26,000. Yes, if nothing else, shoot for a middle-of-the-road model, and you'll soon discover that the pricing structure epitomizes the car: the Vibe is a happy medium vehicle that'll run you around the city during your student years, and maybe even usher you into "adulthood". Don't buy this one for the long haul though; the bang for buck value just isn't there.

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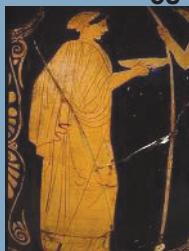


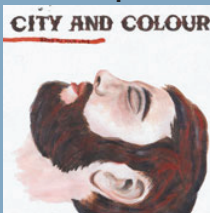


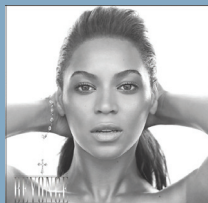

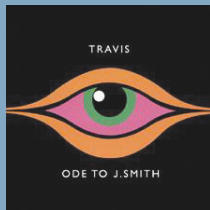
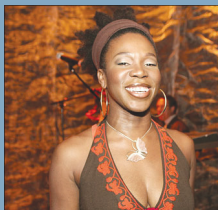
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<div>MARCH</div>			<div>12</div> <div>Link Newspaper Issue 12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>The Recession Party!- A Fundraiser Variety Show @ The Pacific Theatre - 8 pm</div> <div>CelticFest Vancouver @ Various Venues</div>	<div>14</div> <div>6-day workshop revolutionizing approach to leadership and life</div> <div>Call 778-994-2432 or 778-317-6656</div> <div></div>	<div>15</div> <div>Homechild @ the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage</div> <div></div>
	<div>16</div> <div>BCITSA Student Council Meeting @ 5:30pm</div> <div></div> <div>Nomination Forms Available</div> <div>Elections Open House @ 5:30</div>	<div>17</div> <div>2009 Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival @ the Van Dusen Botanical Garden</div> <div>FREE Astronomy Shows @ the BCIT Planetarium - 1pm (until the 20th)</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Night at the Indies @ Cafe Deux Soleils 8:30pm</div> <div>Lady Gaga @ the Commodore</div> <div></div>	<div>19</div> <div>TOOLBOX @ BCIT</div> <div>Jocasta @ Studio 58</div> <div></div>	<div>20</div> <div>Link Newspaper Issue 13 Content Deadline</div>	<div>21</div> <div>The Real Thing @ the Granville Island Stage (until April 4th)</div> <div></div>
<div>23</div> <div>Careers Fair 10-3:30 in the Great Hall</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Plain White T's @ Richards</div> <div></div>	<div>25</div> <div>Set and Tech Rep Meeting @ 2:45 in Council Chambers</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Link Newspaper Issue 13</div> <div>Crash Course Cookin'</div> <div>Harvest Box Pick-up</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Mobile @ The Bourbon</div> <div>City and Colour @ The Orpheum</div> <div></div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Marianas Trench @ the Commodore</div> <div></div>
<div>30</div> <div>BCITSA Student Council Meeting @ 5:30pm</div> <div></div>	<div>31</div> <div>Beyonce @ GM Place</div> <div></div>	<div>1</div> <div>APRIL</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Wintersleep @ the Commodore</div> <div></div>	<div>3</div> <div>Link Newspaper Issue 14 Content Deadline</div> <div>Band Night @ The Pub featuring Coastline Pilot @ 5pm</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Travis @ the Commodore</div> <div></div>	<div>5</div> <div>India Arie @ the Commodore</div> <div></div>

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