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Got Something to say? Write to us at editor@linkbcit.ca or you can find us online at www.linkbcit.ca

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### Christmas Break-ing Up Ain't Hard to Do

As exams and final projects come to a close here at BCIT, I find myself looking forward to all of the merriment the holidays have to offer. And that's the way it should be. You've worked hard. You've (tried to) avoid temptations (like Netflix) that could potentially mess with your study and/or work schedule – so good job.

Looking back on the year, I think one of the biggest things I know I've realized I need to get better with (and am still trying to juggle) is taking care of myself. I had to learn the lesson the hard way (read: pneumonia) and knowing that you can't do everything is something we should all be cognizant of. That's why this month's issue is full of stuff to try and take care of you – especially during one of the most overwhelming times of the year. We've got a wonderful piece by Sarah Morden talking about how to survive holiday stress. We also have plenty of gift ideas to help you take the guesswork out of giving, and fun events you can follow – courtesy of Mitchell Flann's Santarchy piece. And then there's stuff to simply enjoy – like Samantha Pinter-Thompson's travel story from Ireland, and a fantastic interview with Jim Robson by Calvin A. Jay.

So put your feet up, grab a glass of that holiday beer (Simon's got you covered on that, too) and read at a leisurely pace.

We'll see you next year!

Ria Renouf Associate Editor

#### **FACES TO NAMES**



#### **ESTEFANIA DURAN**

After obtaining her B.A. in Political Science, Estefania Duran went on to study at the London School of Journalism. Her experience at LSJ and her passion to approach information in a critical manner, led her to the Broadcast and Online Journalism Program at BCIT. When she is not running around campus looking for her next story, you can find Estefania on her yoga mat or baking her stress away.

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#### **RANA SOWDAEY**

Rana Sowdaey is a writer and multimedia developer in her first year of Broadcast Journalism. She majored in fierceness at Concordia University in Montreal, while specializing in linguistics and Mandarin on the side. A native Torontonian, Rana brings a chic East coast sensibility to Raincity, but none of that other weird Toronto stuff.



Twitter @RanaSoleil



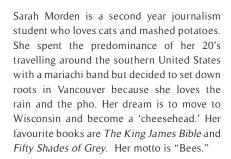
#### **JASMINE NIJJAR**

Jasmine Nijjar is a second-year marketing management student. Her love for fashion is reflected in her blog posts and......

I GIVE UP. THIS IS SO HARD.

Twitter @jasminenijjar

#### SARAH MORDEN





### WELCOME TO TINKERSHOP

BCIT gets 3D printing club

y now, most people have heard about 3D printing and its seemingly futuristic technology that in recent years has been jumping straight from the pages of science fiction into homes and offices around the world. If you are like me and have been dying to see this tech first hand, you're in luck. All it takes is a trip to the TinkerShop.

What is the TinkerShop you may ask? It is a maker space at BCIT that's open to students, alumni, and the community. Located just across Willingdon in the CARI building in room 1072, the group is always looking for new members. You don't have to be an engineering or robotics student to contribute; you just have to be curious.

Iames McCartney from BCIT's Advanced Research Liaison Office and one of the key organisers behind the club describes it best.

"Basically it's a place to meet, discuss ideas and then make things... We are really focusing in on 3D printing. We have a prosumer (professional consumer) 3D printer here and we are taking objects that students send us and we'll print them off ... We also do the training side of things so we are willing to teach people how to use 3D printers," he told Link.

One of the group's main plans is to actually use their 3D printer to make parts to build more 3D printers. TinkerShop held an open informational meeting in November for interested students to get involved. Mathew Ng Shun is a mechatronics and robotics student at BCIT who attended the event. He says the versatility of the tools is what excites him most about 3D printing. "It's the ability to make your own parts, to do what other tools can't do, to do what other tools can do, but with a lot less difficulty," he explained.

If you have a pulse and any of this excites you at all, you can learn more about the group on their meetup.com site - just search for BCIT TinkerShop.

-Zak Miller

#### BCITSA WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE CHAIR

Nav Bhatti victorious in student by-election

s the newly elected Chair of Computing and Academic Studies, Nav Bhatti is ready to start and can't wait to get things done. "It's kind of surreal," Bhatti said. "I ran last term and didn't end up winning, but I stayed on as councillor and did my best to represent students.'

Bhatti was born and raised in Vancouver. He began post-secondary at Langara, where he was trying to find what he wanted to do, but after taking two classes in programming he realized he had found his passion. This brought him to BCIT; he started his program in Computing Systems and Technology in September last year. As Chair, Bhatti represents over 6,000 students. Even though he was the only candidate running for the position, he still needed more 'yes' votes than 'no' votes to win. He came out victorious with Il2 'yes' votes and 47 'no.'

So what's next for Bhatti? He will begin his term with three main projects:

**Industry workshops** — more opportunities to meet people from the computing industry and bring potential employers to campus.

Supplementary Study - providing students with extra time to work on class material and apply their classroom knowledge. It would take form of either peer-to-peer help or extra time with an instructor.

CST Mixer - An event where Computing Systems Technology students can get together and get to know each other while watching hacker movies. He will start with CST only, but depending on the success of the event he might expand it to other programs.

Bhatti says he will add more objectives as he talks to more students. "I encourage people to be vocal about criticizing things and saying what needs to be changed," he explained, "because that's why the SA is here for, to make sure students are heard."

For now he would like to focus on student engagement and students' success while at BCIT. He explained that as long as his projects help bring more opportunities for students, he will be happy.

- Estefania Duran

#### DAMP DWELLINGS ON CAMPUS Mold apperars in some BCIT residences

here's an unwanted houseguest living with some students in BCIT residence... mold. The issue: condensation in some bedrooms. The residence, built in 1978, lacks air circulation technologies because standards were not as stringent at that time, according to Housing Services.

"When people close their bedroom doors of course, it traps the warm air in the building and condenses on the outside surface, so that's the walls and the windows," says Tom Moore, Director of Housing Services.

While condensation is inevitable in a building this age, without proper cleaning, the condensation can turn into mold as it did for resident Layne Ongman. "It's quite gross to be honest. If I had thought it could happen so easily I would have been more adamant about preventing it."

Housing Services is counting on preventative measures to control the issue for the remaining lifespan of the buildings. They have issued notices to residents with tips like opening windows, and using hood fans when cooking, but Ongman is looking for more. "I would like the housing office to do monthly checks like they do for bedbugs, it's an easy thing to take care of once they know about it," says Ongman.

While expensive upgrades would be ideal in fixing the issue and installing a forced air ventilation system, Housing Services doesn't have the budget to begin that project, and are realistic when planning for the future. "The lifespan on the building is approaching an end, we know that," says Moore.

While Student Housing hasn't made concrete plans yet, new residences will need to be built in approximately five to six years, and will be sure to feature better ventilation systems.

- Lindsay Howe

# **BCITV**GUIDE

In a little known tradition (okay, assignment) first-year BCIT Broadcast Journalism students write, shoot and edit a IO-minute short film or television feature. With a budget of \$0, a camera and a dream, teams compete for the coveted 'Jello Award' for best film. The results usually range from amazing to awkward to absurd. This year's fresh crop of future Cronkite-cum-Cronenbergs have just wrapped their productions, so let's see what's on.

#### 1 OF LUST AND LOVE - Drama

COLOR An original (stereotypical) soap opera! Abandoned by his mother as a child, Jason is a teacher whose girlfriend is on humanitarian mission. He meets and develops feelings for the new teacher Laurenstill coping with the death of her husband, Hans. Meanwhile, Lauren's best friend Miguel wants to declare his love for her, but Jason gets in his way...

#### 10 BE RIGHT BACK - Mystery

COLOR First Things First Productions presents episode one of its newest television series *Be Right Back*. Loosely based on a true tale, the show follows a group of students as they come together for the first time to create a short film. Episode one opens the season with curious behaviour, secrets, and deception. Only one member is pleased to uncover the mystery.

#### 36 THE INTERNSHIP— Reality

COLOR A paid internship at Global TV is the opportunity of a lifetime. A group of journalism student friends help one another on their applications for the job, but when notes are compared tempers flare, and friends become enemies - the winner of the opportunity could be anyone.

#### 4 The PRETENDERS - Action

COLOR 21 Jump Street meets The Avengers... except instead of a badass team of Marvel characters, it's a crew of completely incompetent idiots. Pikachu, Dora the Explorer, Catwoman, and Sailor Moon are summoned by Nicola Fury to BCIT's Burnaby campus. The problem? A highly-addictive drug is plaguing the broadcast department that, at first, enhances journalism skills, but quickly spirals downward.

#### 12 HEIST, HEIST BABY - Mystery

B&W Missing jewels, hardnosed policemen, and an abundance of fedoras – this film has all the makings of a 1940s film noir. A young lady's jewels are missing, and with no strong leads, they look to be gone for good. But Detective Maxwell, a disgraced cop-turned-private investigator, is determined to get to the bottom of this classic whodunit.

#### 42 SEINFELD - Comedy

COLOR A mockumentary style film about... trying to make a film. Follow the cast as they race against the clock to replicate an episode of *Seinfeld* as a group project. The 12-minute performance will take the audience on a journey that will hit a little too close to home for anyone who's ever had to work in groups.

#### 3 LATE NIGHT AT STUDIO ONF – Documentary

ONE — Documentary
COLOR Behind the scenes of *Late*Night Talk with host Timm Bruch.
Unfortunately for Timm, his dreams are smashed by someone with just a tad more experience... Guest starring one of the biggest names in local TV, it's a feature you won't want to miss.

Catch all of the BCIT student features online at www.linkbcit.ca starting the week of December 11th.



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Sarah Morden's Guide to The Emotional Chaos Of Adult Family Gatherings.



When navigating the minefield of patronizing comments on your here-to life choices, your (literal, physical) position in the house full of pseudo-concerned family members is paramount.

As with previously mentioned life choices, always have an exit strategy when speaking with a rum and 'nog soaked aunt. Find the closest door and lean on the jamb, create a network of friends with issues only a phone call away, and above all, always have a drink nearly finished.

### GIFT BUYING AND RECEIVING

Determining a gift to buy for a family member you see once a year and know next to nothing about, can be as simple or as complex as you make it. There are, for instance, sophisticated gift analysis tools available that include interest pattern information, demographic and lifestyle data, and competitive-with-other-gifts analyses. Or you could go to Chapters and buy the first thing you see on sale.

Receiving gifts takes a special level of tact. Whether it be a bespoke candle from a cousin you didn't think liked you very much or an already opened bottle of scotch from your favourite uncle, organizing your face to show the proper amount of gratitude will vary in difficulty depending on how much glühwein you've had. Just remember, they probably thought the same thing when they opened your gift unless you went the "let's just love each other and that will be enough" route this year, in which case, they hate you.

### AVOIDING RELIGION WITHOUT A FIGHT ---- ABOUT YOUR ETERNAL SOUL

Next on the must-avoid list: The House of God. The ol' place of worship is a definite hotspot during the holidays, and people undeniably love it. However, if religion has simply become the least palatable in a long list of family obligations, read on. Do your due diligence, get a demographic overview of the crowd; who knows, some other good-looking shmuck may have been roped into attending service and you will have someone to pass the flask to.

If you're Catholic, and in a worst-case scenario, remember that most Catholic churches have a tiny grotto somewhere outside the relentless merriment. It won't exactly be the *Playboy* mansion's grotto (other than the nagging guilt at both), but once outside you can avoid the troubling fact that your family doesn't have to look at the hymn-book to sing Latin.

#### TECH (THE HALLS)

# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

by ria renouf and jon hall

WiiU Gamecube Controller Adapter (\$23, Future Shop) Nintendo has heard the Smash Bros fanbase loud and clear and manufactured a 4-port Gamecube controller adapter, launching alongside their newest Super Smash Bros title. The only downside? It

> requires USB ports your WiiU – meaning if you want to play 8 player games with Gamecube controllers, you'd best not have an external hard drive hooked up to your console.

Dynex SD card adapter (\$12, Best Buy)



This Dynex SD card adapter is outrageously useful if you're on the go and need to dump data off an SD (or MicroSD) card. Snag it at for cheap and toss it in your bag - you never know when you'll need one.

Joby Gorillapod (\$29, Staples)

It's pretty convenient someone who has a (like an iPhone android), and it also and shoot camera is a little funky, but done. Good for that photographer who

smaller phone or a smaller holds a point well. The design it gets the job wants to get that selfie right.

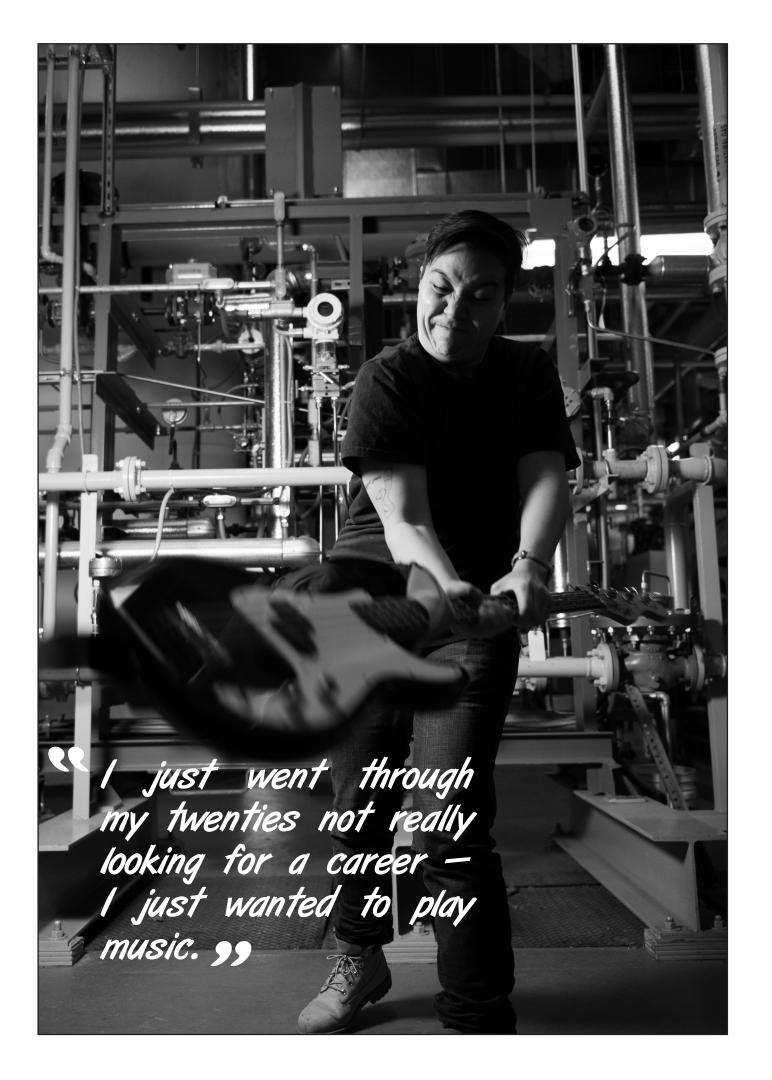
> ASUS Xonar U3 **USB Audio Card** (\$44, Future Shop)

you music? Are you sick and tired of the headphone port on your laptop underperforming? this is easily the best (and most economical) way to take your headphones to the next level. This USB headphone/microphone amplifier not only powers your headphones and cleans up your audio signal, it also boasts adjustable gain levels so you can amplify your listening experience. Includes Dolby Signal Processing and an adapter for SPDIF/Optical output.

Aladdin Travel Tea Mug (\$20, David's Tea)

We know, we know, while it's not a tech item of the digital kind, it's pretty neat for taking tea on the go! Comes with an infuser attached to a hanging mechanism that allows you to get your loose leaf tea steeped just right. The mug itself isn't really lined though, so be warned, your beverage may cool a little faster.





### **FINDING A RHYTHM**

Whether it's the pounding of a hammer, the punishing of a tom skin, or the driving of a bass line, **Karen Lum** is all about that beat. But how does she find the rhythm between her two passions of trades and music? *Link* had a chance to jam with Karen about her musical past in bands like Vancouver's Tight Jeans; the annual Christmas Band, her cover band, and what it's like balancing school and music.

interview by Calvin A. Jay | portraits by Yinan Shi



#### How did you start playing with Tight Jeans?

My bandmate (Liam, vocals/guitar) had a room at the same rehearsal space, but his band broke up. We had been jamming a bit together... He was a friend of a friend of mine, and then one day he asked me to jam, and I was like 'for sure.' That was two or three years ago now. We don't really go for something when we're writing [songs], we'll just say 'I like that', and then I will have an idea, or then Liam will have an idea.

#### Any other collaborations?

Every Christmas, for the past 12 years, my friends and I get together and play holiday music. We're just called Christmas Band, because we've always called it that. This year we're playing at the Biltmore on December 13th and at the Astoria on December 20th, we're raising money for the Saint James Music Academy. We charge \$5 - \$10 cover and just give it all to Saint James.

[ed. Saint James Music Academy is a music program for kids of low-income families hosted by Saint James Church.

#### What do you like about drumming?

I started playing when I was thirteen, my dad got me a drum kit and I taught myself

how to play. You're not thinking about life when you're doing it; you're just making sure that you're playing well... At this point in my life, I just play music to have fun – right now; I've been mostly rehearsing with a cover band that I'm in.

What music do you listen to and what other things do you get up to off campus? I walk to the bus stop every morning, and it takes about fifteen to twenty minutes, so I'll usually pick a Thin Lizzy album to listen to on the way to school. Yesterday, I came home from school, walked the dog, washed the dishes, and rode to band practice – I'll usually have practice two or three times a week. I have exams every Thursday morning, so I know rehearsing on Wednesday is not a good idea... But I'll have them on the weekends and it seems to be fine as long as I get my work done.

#### Balancing school with music, is that a hard thing to do? Or do you crave playing music so much that it's always in the back of your mind?

It's nice because our program starts at 7:30 in the morning and ends at 2:00, so by the time I take the bus home its 3:00, but I can get a practice in from 4-6pm and still make

it home for dinner. So I have to level the two out – but right now, school is my priority... But it's nice to go to practice – yesterday, I went and played bass for an hour and a half and didn't think about school, because we're starting some projects right now that are pretty hard.

#### What made you come to BCIT for trades?

I just went through my twenties not really looking for a career, I just wanted to play music, and so I did. Some people can make a lot of money out of it, but for the most part, it's pretty hard to make money playing music. You really have to push yourself, make sure you're doing at least a gig every weekend, or at least a few gigs a month that are going to pay you a certain amount, otherwise you're just doing little jobs here and there... I had thought about becoming a plumber and going into this trade for the past few years. And I went to a trades job fair, then to the open house here [at BCIT], and talked to one of the students, that's when I was like 'I can do this! I'm going to do this!' It's a six-month program and the tuition is such a small investment compared to what you can get back in starting your career in it.

# BATTLE

# for BURNABY MOUNTAIN

by Rana Sowdaey

Four days after the BC Supreme Court granted Kinder Morgan an injunction against the anti-pipeline organizers, the first 14 arrests were made.

Kaleb Morrison was the first or second protester arrested, where they stood on Centennial Way in front of trucks carrying survey equipment up the mountain. The RCMP entered the camp that had been occupied since September, and started arresting those who wouldn't leave the area set out in the injunction. "I was speaking with the police liaison," said Morrison who affirmed they were comitted to peaceful protest, "five minutes later, twenty RCMP officers stormed up the mountain, read us another thing and then three or four huge RCMP officers suddenly stormed the camp." Morrison was released soon after and was not charged.

By the end of the first week, following the court order, more than 60 people were arrested. The number of arrests has since gone up and so has the willingness of protesters to be arrested.

"There are people here who are choosing to very peacefully cross the line, in a very nonviolent way, communicating with the RCMP as a statement. Like, 'I'm saying this now, and with civil disobedience'... It's a powerful statement," said Morrison.

The Trans Mountain pipeline timeline indicates that the survey process is expected to take 15 to 18 months. If it's approved by the National Energy Board (NEB) in 2016, the company will begin installing the pipeline in 2017.

Trans Mountain (a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan) said in a statement that it respects the right of protesters to assemble and demonstrate their interests. And they do

not seem deterred by the protests. "We're definitely moving forward. It has been challenging on Burnaby Mountain but we're determined to complete the survey work," said a Trans Mountain spokesperson.

For the protesters, the oil can't

flow if there's a section of the pipeline missing. The protest location on Centennial Way is near the end of the proposed pipeline, where tanks full of bitumen will be stored. Protester Alicia Fox says it's the most important section. "It's the section that's storing giant tanks of bitumen on a fault line through this mountainand it's all downhill. If there's a leak it's all going into [Burrard] inlet there."

The proposed application to the NEB would triple traffic of oil tankers, making Vancouver the major conduit of tar sands and bitumen to China.

Fox arrived as a protester by herself on Friday from Vancouver Island. She says it's the expansion of the industry to the coast that has her upset. "Right now they're talking about pro-oil business interest groups coming to our town council—my town, that I'm willing to put my life on the line to protect. That's why I'm here," said Fox.

So what's next in this battle? Protesters say they are focused on growing support, building relationships and keeping the story alive while the issue works its way through the NEB and the courts.

"They're not putting the pipeline through yet, and as far I know from anyone here, they're not going to do it," said Morrison. "We're going to stop them. So this is practice. This is a great practice round and we're just going to get stronger."

The installation date of the pipeline is set for 2017, allowing years for public debate before the company breaks ground for the actual pipeline. As climate change protests grow worldwide, this may only be a preview of what's to come.



(photos by rana sowdaey)





round and we're just going to get stronger"

"This is

a great

practice



### IT IS A MISTAKE TO THINK THAT THE CONFLICT WAS ABOUT RELIGION.

#### Leprechauns, potatoes and alcohol

tend to come to mind when North Americans think of Ireland. While most of those are true (except the leprechaun thing; the Irish resent that), Ireland is also a country with beautiful scenery, a rich cultural background, and a complex political landscape.

In the 1920's the majority of Ireland separated from the United Kingdom and became what is now the Republic of Ireland, with Northern Ireland remaining in the UK. But beginning in the late 1960's a civil war erupted in Northern Ireland that would last for thirty years. The conflict is non-ironically referred to as the Troubles, and was largely divided between Catholic and Protestant factions.

This was something I knew about growing up because my father was born in Belfast. He and his family moved to Vancouver when he was a child, right before the Troubles began. I am intensely grateful for the opportunities Canada has afforded me and my family, however I always felt connected to my Irish roots. So the summer before last I headed to Ireland in what felt like a sort of symbolic pilgrimage.

I arrived in Belfast tired and hungry from the train ride from Dublin. Looking for a nice lunch and some cover from the rain, my first stop was a restaurant inside the beautiful Europa Hotel. What I didn't know beforehand was that I was eating in the most bombed hotel in Europe. It's estimated the hotel has been bombed a colossal 33 times by the IRA. This was my first indication the violence in Belfast went far beyond what I had previously imagined.

If you didn't know about the Troubles, walking through downtown Belfast you would be hard pressed to tell they ever happened. The Europa was bombed 33 times, but it was also rebuilt just as many. I found Belfast to be a modern, industrial city filled with many of the international retailers you see in Vancouver. To outside eyes it appears the city is trying to heal, grow, and show they will not be defined by the Troubles. But this wasn't the only side of Belfast I would come to see.

If you want to see the *real* Belfast, you go to the dividing line between the Falls and the Shankill Road. Most official sources date the ending of the Troubles in 1998, but visiting this area I could hardly tell they had even ended. The Falls is a Catholic neighbourhood, the Shankill a Protestant one. The two are separated by the Peace Wall, which is up to 25 feet high in places. Despite the wall separating Protestant and Catholic populations, I learned that it is a mistake to think that the conflict was about religion. The roots of the Troubles are complicated, but they largely stem from political and social inequity going back hundreds of years. Nonetheless the difference is noticeable. In Protestant areas, houses are lined with Union Jacks where in Catholic neighbourhoods the houses are adorned with Irish flags, without fail. Tension between the two sides is still equally evident.

Much of the Peace Wall is covered in murals and graffiti, but there's been a push to reappropriate the walls to embrace reconciliation. One quote engraved on the Peace Wall resonated with me. "Open your arms to change but don't let go of your values." - Dalai Lama. Although I witnessed a lot of bitterness in my time in Belfast, I also saw a great deal of renewal and strength. I fell in love with the country my family left behind, and all I can say is I hope Belfast continues to have the strength to take the Dalai Lama's words to heart.

# 

by Jon Hall

t all began in August when indie game developer Zoe Quinn split up with her now exboyfriend Eron Gjoni. Gjoni would later write a rambling blog post detailing Quinn's alleged infidelities with a handful of men, including a video game journalist from popular gaming website Kotaku.com.

A number of allegations about a conflict of interest were made, however Kotaku never reviewed the game Zoe Quinn produced at that time. Soon after, ardent misogynists began lashing out at Quinn and any woman trying to defend her. Inexplicably, actor Adam Baldwin decided to wade into the fray and gave the movement its name: Gamergate.

Some women have had their names and home addresses posted on social media alongside threats of assault, rape and murder. Developer Brianna Wu fled her home after receiving such threats, as did 'Feminist Frequency' creator Anita Sarkeesian. More recently, she had a talk at Utah State University cancelled after an anonymous person threatened to enact a "Montreal Massacre style attack." The University still allows students to carry concealed firearms.

Local developers that have received threats are terrified to talk about it, even anonymously. Developers on the sidelines were clearly upset about the situation. One told us that a result of his speaking out has garnered a number of harassing e-mails sent not only to himself, but also to his employer calling for him to be fired.

Another local games industry member spoke to a situation surrounding a game they'd worked on that dealt with a number of non-normative sexual themes. A number of people posting in the game forums believed the developer was a woman, and were organizing to 'take her down' until another forum member informed them that the developer was, in fact, a man. They immediately dropped their campaign.

These threats are coming from an incredibly small but vocal minority, and if anything positive can be said, gamer culture as a whole is doing what it can to fight the abuse. "It's those people we're making games for," said another developer.

One BCIT gamer, who wished to remain anonymous, said that she was "disappointed in humanity," adding, "It makes me sad that there's that many mean people out there. Nobody deserves to be harassed like that, and the fact that it's spread to women in general is appalling."

Threatening tweets and e-mails do qualify as criminal harassment under the Canadian Criminal Code. The RCMP recommends that anybody experiencing online harassment should document all instances of it, and file a police report with local police departments.



### WHITE ROSE

promoting a violence-free society,

<u>December 6</u>
National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

by Ria Renouf

Picture this: you're in your engineering class when out of nowhere, a man with a rifle enters, fires a shot into the air and tells the class to separate by gender – male and female.

The entire scene is confusing, so you valiantly speak up and say, "We're just here to study engineering." He doesn't care; he fires shots at your classmates. Six of them fall to the ground before your eyes, dead in an instant. As for you, your life is spared – but you've been hit by a bullet.

This is what happened to Nathalie Provost, one of the engineering students targeted on December 6th, 1989. Fourteen women – most of them engineers – were killed when Marc Lepine went on a rampage at École Polytechnique de Montreal.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of what has historically been dubbed The Montreal Massacre, and BCIT is remembering the event with its own campaign against violence. The Student Association's Health and Wellness Coordinator Hannah Bielert says 'White Rose' is more than just commemorating the day.

"Really, it's about commemorating the women. And we recognize the incident because so many of our students are women... More than that, *any* act of violence against *anyone* is not right, and we want to take a stand against that."

Right up to December 5th – the day before the 25th anniversary of the attack, the BCITSA has been handing out tokens of remembrance.

"We're handing out white chocolate roses – and the meaning behind that is two-fold. It's a way to remember what happened, and of course, chocolate is sweet. So what we're trying to do is spread a message of sweetness while also promoting a violence-free society."

And they'll be ending the week with a candlelight vigil in the Great Hall to remember those affected in any way by violence.

"Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW) will be there," says Bielert, "and we're also going to have an elder from the Aboriginal services say a blessing. We'll have a memorial for the fourteen women who died in Montreal, as well as a candlelight vigil."

Bielert is inviting everyone to wear white in remembrance of not just the women, but those who have lost their life to any kind of conflict.

"We're seeing so many things this year that affect us – the ISIS issue, and the deaths of soldiers at Ottawa and in Montreal. No act of violence is right," Bielart reminds. "There's no excuse."

#### ABOUT WAVAW

Women Against Violence Against Women was first established in 1982 as a group aiming to end violence in women's lives.

Their services today include:

- a 24-hour crisis line
- one-to-one counselling
- advocacy
- public education
- workshops

Their services are free and confidential. If you need help, you are encouraged to call the 24-hour Crisis Line:

604.255.6344 toll free: 1-877.392.7583

www.wavaw.ca

## TEDxBCIT is coming.

By now most of us have heard of TED talks, the global speaker series focused on Technology, Entertainment and Design. The program has been so successful it has spawned an offshoot 'x' program, independently organized 'TED-like' events. On January 24th, 2015 BCIT's Aerospace campus will be home to the school's innaugural run at the conference. We sat down with Student Association Student Executive President and TEDxBCIT organizer **Dylan Smith** to get the details.

interview by simon little

#### **How did TEDx come to BCIT?**

It had small slow beginnings. The idea first came to me in fall of last year. One of the instructors would show TED Talks to keep things lively at the beginning of class, and I started to pick up on people talking TED here and TED there - there was some currency to it. The other piece to it was being aware the SFU does one, UBC has done one in the past. So I started to poke around and found my way onto the TEDx website and learned what I had to do.

#### What makes BCIT a good fit for TEDx?

There's a perception that students come here to get job ready. But if you pull back the curtain a bit, there's more to it. Especially the way that BCIT courses challenge students to be critical in their thinking. They're thinking big picture.

#### What's the theme for this TEDx?

Building the future. BCIT students, where they are in their lives and careers, they're set to go out into industry and take that next big step, and sort of effect the change they want to see. Which is sort of along the same lines of TED, and ideas really spreading. Ideas and conversation is what sparks change. It also came from the sense that there is so much going on geopolitically, the global community is becoming smaller and smaller, that what we do today - now more than ever before in the past - has a larger and larger impact on the potential future.



BCITSA Student President Dylan Smith

#### WHEN:

Jan. 24, 2015

#### WHERE:

BCIT Aerospace Campus Richmond

www.tedxbcit.com

@TEDxBCIT

#### What's on the menu for guest speakers?

They're all local- a few who have spoken at other TEDx's, some BCIT alumni, and some business leaders. Really what we're looking for in a speaker is the idea, more so than it is the speaker. The idea is what's going to tie into the theme and grab people's attention. But there are some exciting [speakers]. Robert Murray is one, he's done a lot with Peak Leadership that the Student Association does. He has a very successful track record doing turnarounds in businesses and leadership development.

#### What are you hoping students will take away?

A couple of big things. If they can walk away with a different view on something that they've never thought of before. [I'm] hoping they walk away from the event energized... motivated to go out and effect change. And to realize that, getting back to building the future, you need to go out and work to build the future you want. It's not going to be delivered to you.

The other thing I'm hoping is to increase student involvement on campus. And that's by sharing ideas. It doesn't have to be this huge world-changing thing. Just so long as it's something that students come together about, and you can create that community and start to foster discussion.

#### And how can students get involved?

Volunteering is one. There will be a little bit of a window to get involved in January, but the big involvement piece will be volunteering on the day of. And obviously attending! But the big piece is - I don't want this to be a one-time thing. I want this to be something that starts to happen on an annual basis. That begins to generate a following and gets bigger and bigger. That's where students can really start to get involved. Get in touch! Take over the reins for next year, take this project and run with it. Because it can be way bigger than this.





by simon little

How did your time at BCIT play into Geoff and the Ninja?

It was huge. We tried to do this project actually about eight years ago. It was a time before web series' were even really a thing, and we were all gung-ho about how we were going to be the first. And it fell apart. We had the ambition, we were pretty decent with cameras and editing, but we didn't have the real skill necessary to pull off something at this level. And I definitely 100% owe BCIT for that.

#### Where exactly did you get the idea of a guy and a ninja co-habitating?

We always kind of joked about ninjas being all-powerful beings. [Originally] we were joking about doing a short film about two ninja roommates. We thought it was the best idea ever, and told somebody... And they were like - 'yeah, that's already a thing' and showed it to us on YouTube. And we thought, screw that, we can't copy someone else. But I was looking for a roommate, and I thought - well what about that, what if I had a ninja for a roommate? And then it's just about this normal person living with this crazy ridiculous ninja. And it just kind of naturally spun out of that.

You shot your pitch video in three days with \$100. What was that like?

It was a grind. It was lots of fun. I had to fly up to Prince George. We shot it in two days, and then edited it in a 24-hour straight grind. Literally to the minute, from when we started editing to when we uploaded it to the website was 24 hours. We got it submitted with 40 minutes to spare. It was brutal, we were exhausted and feeling pretty crazy by the end, but it was totally worth it.

How much pizza and Redbull did you consume?

I'm more of an ice-cap guy. But, the answer is: a lot.

Were you at each others' throats by the end of it?

No, we were pretty good because we all have the same kind of general vision. Especially as we've refined it. It's gotten a little more difficult as the weeks have gone on, because we're not sleeping and our girlfriends hated us for the first four weeks or so... it's really kind of a second full time job. The distance has been the biggest factor.

That's a thing - You live in Richmond, your teammates in Prince George. How does that work?

Lots of green screens. More green screen than I ever wanted to have to work with. The plus side is I've gotten pretty good with them. Special effects have kind of become one of my specialties, so this is a chance to kind of flex those muscles. We really benefit by having such a crazy idea. If it weren't for the ninja being basically superhuman and from this crazy world, we wouldn't be able to get away with the kind of stuff we've been doing.

And what's it like being in the top 15, competing against top level talent?

It's awesome! Because we've never really accomplished anything in the industry whatsoever. We've always wanted to... We always believed we would find a way down this path, and to have it happen like this, out of the blue and so quickly, and to see us still in the running... Some of the teams have directors that have done stuff that's played at the Cannes film festival. So to be competing against people like that really makes it feel like we're doing the right thing.



Did Geoff and the Ninja make the top 5? Find them and the other entries at comedycoup.cbc.ca. The big winner will be unveiled December 10th.

# Win a Macbook Air Just In Time For Christmas





To enter simply get your teeth cleaned\* on campus between November 1st - December 19th.

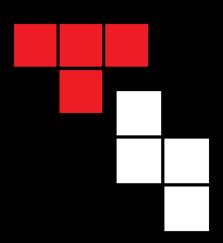
Sign Up at the <u>Uconnect Office</u> or online at: www.bcitsa.ca/services-on-site/



\*must have a valid Health & Dental plan; must complete the appointment to be entered in the draw.



## BUILDING THE FUTURE.





organized TED event

STUDENT ASSOCIATION M-C



JANUARY 24, 2015 BCIT Aerospace Campus www.tedxbcit.com @TEDxBCIT

#tedxbcit #buildingthefuture

# 

by Mitchell Flann

n December 13th, the Vancouver Cacophony Society will be decking the halls of  $oldsymbol{J}$ downtown Vancouver with a mob of rowdy Santas for their annual SantArchy event.

SantArchy is all about getting weird in the name of Kris Kringle. Everyone's invited to come down and dress up as either SantA or any of your other favorite Christmas mascots and roam through downtown Vancouver in a massive red blur of participants - visiting various pubs along the way. Last year amassed over 200 SantAs. One long-time santarchist who would rather not be named for fear of reprisal, claims those numbers were weak in comparison to "the blackout years of 2010-2012."

The event formerly known as "Santacon" has been going on since 1994, until an anonymous member of the Cacophony Society decided to change the name, scrap the "pub crawl" title, and turn it in to the rambunctious roaming spectacle it's become today.

Don't be mistaken, this isn't a pub crawl. Though liquor is definitely a contributor to the fun, the event likes to branch out. The santa-ssembly likes to pack SkyTrain cars, march through malls, engage in dance battles, and essentially do whatever the crowd feels like doing - as long as it wouldn't put you on the naughty list (ie. jail).

Be ridiculous, but don't be rude.

You're encouraged to bring some music, signs, paddles, jump ropes, spray bottles full of gin, and whatever else you feel will spice things up. As long as you're creative, respectful, and have fun. The Cacophony Society boasts how organic and improvised the event is each year on their website santarchy.ca. The rules are few and simple: Don't mess with cops, kids, security and especially not other Santas.

So, if you look good in red and can handle your liquor, you might want to check this one out.



#### BRING SOMETHING:

SantA has no clue what's happening. If SantA thinks that's boring, bring music, treats, paddles, and a windex bottle filled with Gin & Tonic.

#### WAIT FOR SANTA:

There's no hurry. Figure out which SantA is Covert Megaphone SantA, and don't stray.

#### ONE-DRINK MAXIMUM:

SantA is not here to sit around drinking. SantA is here to walk around "drinking", and paddling, and pranking.

#### WHEN ASKED: "WHAT IS THIS?"

It's like Anarchy with SantA. (Say nothing more)

#### "WHO ORGANIZES THIS?"

SantA, and his eight tiny reindeer. (Say nothing more)

#### "WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?"

Because SantA Loves You! (Say nothing more)

#### DON'T ASK: "WHERE IS SANTA GOING NEXT?"

SantA has no idea where SantA is "going next."

Ride the red train and just go with it.



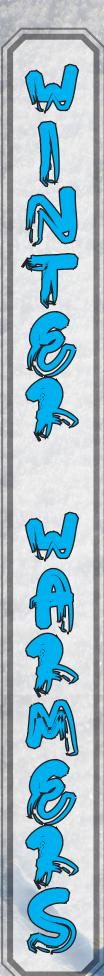
#### WHAT IS THE CACOPHONY SOCIETY?

"A randomly gathered network of individuals united in the pursuit of experiences beyond the pale of mainstream society through subversion, pranks, art, fringe explorations and meaningless madness.

You may already be a member."

www.cacophony.ca





Snow is falling, the air is crisp and dry, and the winter sun is shining! Wait, no, we're in the Lower Mainland, so it's dark and wet. But hey, it's definitely winter, and what better way to hibernate than to curl up with a delicious beer. Here's some of our favourites for the season.



Anchor Xmas Ale Winter Ale (5.5%)

\$17.15 / 6x355ml

Anchor likes to mix it up by completely redesigning their winter ale every year. Some years it's stout-like, others a black IPA. This is their 40th brew of the ale, and they're going for more of a classic 'winter warmer.' Dark and rich, it packs a blend of cinnamon and winter spice with dark fruit and roasty flavours, and a nice piney finish for balance. Bonus points for their beautiful label.



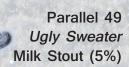
Deschutes

Jubelale 2014

Winter Ale (5.%)

\$15.29 / 6x355ml

These brewers from Bend rarely miss, and their winter ale is no exception. Deep red in colour, it's a little on the sweet side for me, with notes of toffee/brown sugar and a noticeable hop kick to finish it off. Hints of raisin and date, toast, and earth with a very light spicing.



\$12.50 / 6x341ml

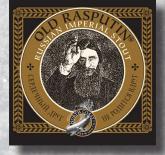


This style of beer was a big hit early in the 20th century. Advised as a nutritional supplement for new mothers(!) it's sweetened with lactose - the sugar found in milk. Sweet, and with chocolate and roasty notes, Parallel 49's winter seasonal is a hit. If you are really lucky, catch it on draught somewhere pouring it with nitrogen (ala Guinness) for a silky smooth texture. Think: chocolate milk for adults.



North Coast Old Rasputin Imperial Stout (9%)

\$11.50 / 4x355ml



Not strictly a 'winter beer,' this boozy bad boy is my personal favourite for the season. The archetype of Russian Imperial Stout, Ol' Raspy is thick and chewy, slightly sweet, with dark fruit and chocolate notes. At 9% it'll put colour in your cheeks. Watch where you leave the bottle though - Rasputin's always got a (creepy) eye on you.



\$10.75 / 650ml



Winter is also the season of booze-packed barleywines, and Driftwood makes one of the best. These beers are actually designed for aging, so they can be a bit off-putting when resh - very sweet and very bitter. Have the patience to sit on it for a year or more though, and the flavours blend into the most harmonious fireside brew you can imagine. Huge malty body and big raisin, prune, and caramel notes. And at 13% it will make that walk home in the rain downright pleasant.

## CRAM WEEK COMFORT FOOD

by Francesca Lucia

### Homemade Mac & Cheese w/ Crisp Apples

This may sound bizarre coming from an Italian, but I absolutely love Mac & Cheese. But the macaroni dish I crave at least once a week is not your traditional out of the box Kraft Dinner. My Homemade Mac & Cheese recipe adds some class to this comfort meal we all love so much.

Ingredients: (yields 4 servings)

- 1 package (454 grams) macaroni noodles
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 medium-sized onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 red delicious apple, chopped (unpeeled)
- 1 6oz can tomato paste
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar and mozzarella cheese
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon dried basil
- 1 tablespoon oregano

#### Directions:

- 1) Bring a medium-large pot of water to a boil. Add three tablespoons of salt. Cook macaroni as directed on package, but for one minute less than it says.
- 2) Drain macaroni and set aside.
- 3 Add butter to the same pot used to cook macaroni. Put over medium heat.
- 4) Add chopped onion, garlic, and apples. Give ingredients a good stir so they're coated in the butter. Then cook for 3 minutes stirring continuously.
- 5) Add can of tomato paste, milk, and flour. Mix ingredients well
- Mix in cheese, basil, and oregano and cook for 2 minutes stirring continuously.
- 7) Put macaroni back into the pot and mix with the sauce. Transfer to a serving bowl and garnish with more basil.

### Pesto Tomato Grilled Cheese & Ham Sandwich

This sandwich is a grown up version of a childhood favourite. I often turn to this recipe when I need a quick but filling dinner after a long day. The pesto is my favourite part of this recipe as it pairs so well with all the other ingredients. (Hint: see the September issue of *Link* magazine for my quick and easy pesto recipe.)

Ingredients: (yields 4 servings)

Ingredients: (Yields 1 serving)

2 slices of whole wheat bread Butter

2 slices of ham

2 - 3 tomato slices

few slices of Mozzarella or Cheddar Cheese

Mavo

Pesto sauce

1 tablespoon oregano

#### Directions:

- 1) Butter two pieces of bread on the outside. The ingredients should be added to the dry sides of the bread.
- Spread mayo over one slice of bread and pesto on the other side.
- 3) Add cheese, ham, and sliced tomatoes.
- 4) Put sandwich together and add to a small frying pan over medium heat.
- 5) Cook about 4 minutes on each side or until cheese is perfectly melted.

# JIM interview by Calvin A. Jay ROBSON

"Greg Adams! Greg Adams! Adams gets the winner fourteen seconds into overtime! The Vancouver Canucks are going to the Stanley Cup Finals!"

That was the goal that got the team through to the 1994 Stanley Cup Finals. The famous play was called by none other than Jim Robson, a veteran play-by-play hockey announcer. Robson called 40 years of play-by-play from 1970 to 1999, saw two Stanley Cup runs, and watched players like Kirk Maclean, Trevor Linden, and Stan Smyl play. Needless to say, Jim Robson has seen some good hockey.

Recently, there have been a lot of changes in the National Hockey League in both the way the sport is being played and broadcast. Hockey is a much different game in North America than when Robson was calling the shots.

One major difference, says Robson, is the style of hockey being played. The seventies were infamous for 'rock-em-sock-em' hockey, and now we see a much more finesse game.

"Certainly there has been a lot of changes..." Robson says. "When the Canucks first came to the NHL in 1970, it was a slower game and there was more intimidation." He used the Philadelphia Flyers as an example, and even referred to them as the 'Broad Street Bullies' when recalling the physical demeanor of classic hockey. Robson also noted that the

rules have changed dramatically since his time, and says that the influx of European players has had an effect on the way the game is played. He also

says that although hockey was slower back then, the injuries were still significant, if not worse than modern hockey due to better equipment and medical attention. "Some of the old timers now are really paying for it, they can't even walk around a golf course... because their bodies are so battered up," Robson says.

The physical shape of hockey players has changed as well. Robson says, "Way back, the old timers used to say 'don't worry about me coach I'll be in shape by Christmas!' (Now) the players have to be in top condition 12 months of the year." Thanks to improved diet, medical trainers, and team discipline, players bring that much more energy to the sport. Trainers back then were usually just ex-players and not medically trained, and teams didn't have in-house chefs to help stabilize their diet, elaborates Robson.

In November, Rogers Sportsnet signed a 12-year, \$5.2 billion deal with the NHL, and will now broadcast 500+ games across North America. Sportsnet is now the most prominent hockey provider in the world and has also bought the rights to CBC Hockey Night in Canada.

On the opening Saturday for regular season games, seven were broadcasted on



Sportsnet Hockey Night in Canada. There are certainly more games for hockey fans to view than ever. Robson says from a fan's stand point it's beneficial, and easier to follow cross conference teams. As for the change in Hockey Night in Canada – moving from historical CBC to a multimedia company like Sportsnet – Jim says all decisions are based on business, and not sentimental value.

The times in hockey have changed. Never has there been so much attention drawn to the sport, and with Sportsnet's new contract with the NHL, more fans are sure to be made with the influx of games coming to cable TV. With all this change in the broadcast media industry, it's good to listen to some advice given from a true veteran if you're thinking of a career in it. Robson says to start work in sports writing to help prep your awareness of the players and politics of the game. As well as this, he says to prepare to be away from home and be sure your family situation is stabilized.

But the best advice that Robson gave was to seize every opportunity you have. His perseverance and eccentric personality were what propelled his career in the industry, but it's safe to say that it's his love for hockey that kept him calling the plays.

#### Catch some GIANT action at the Pacific Coliseum

DECEMBER								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
	1	2	3	4	<sup>5</sup> <b>POR</b> 7:30	<sup>6</sup> SAS 7:00		
7	8	9	<sup>10</sup> <b>PA</b> 7:00	11	12	<sup>13</sup> <b>VIC</b> 7:00		
14	15	16 <b>EVT</b> 7:00	17	18	19	20		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
<sup>28</sup> <b>SEA</b> 2:00	29	<sup>30</sup> KAM 7:00	31					

Single game tickets starting at: **Q10 E0**\*

\$19.50

Use the promo code "BCIT" for any of our December games and SAVE up to \$3 on single game tickets!

\*service fees apply

Buy your tickets at VancouverGiants.com or call 604-4-GIANTS



# A-ROID

#### NOT JUST A NICKNAME ANYMORE

Alex Rodriguez was suspended for the entire 2014 season after being found to have taken steroids from Tony Bosch at his Biogenesis clinic in Florida. He wasn't alone - other big names like Nelson Cruz, Ryan Braun, and Melky Cabrera were among the Major League players caught taking performance enhancing drugs from Bosch. But A-Rod's is probably the biggest story of them all. He repeatedly denied ever taking steroids, although many never believed him. He aggressively tried to sue Major League Baseball after he was suspended for his actions, but then pulled his lawsuits off the table, basically admitting defeat.

It's since come out that he tried to pay his cousin one million dollars to keep quiet. Those actions haven't prompted any punishment from Major League Baseball but nonetheless Rodriguez's image is now tarnished. The Yankees owe him a whopping sixty four million dollars over the three remaining three years in his contract. And yet, A-Rod's position on the team is up for grabs, as the Yankees have been actively trying to find a third baseman to replace him. Rodriguez will probably have to accept the designated hitter role with his age and the fact he took a year off of baseball.

Alex Rodriguez can't hide anymore from the act that he did commit, and that he tried to deny to no end. It's a trend in Major League Baseball that PED use is happening more and more. We can hope that Rodriguez's downfall will help show that this kind of behaviour won't be tolerated.

- Jessica Fedigan

#### **NOEL ARRIVES EARLY**

Giants Look To Get Back On Track With New Bench Boss

The Vancouver Giants have officially named Claude Noel as their fifth coach in franchise history.

The Giants had been hoping for a fresh start, bringing in an experienced Troy Ward as their new head coach to start the season, but clearly the change wasn't what they had hoped for.

Ward was fired last Wednesday by the team, just 23 games into his first year as a WHL coach. With the Giants record a disappointing 9-16-0-0, putting them last in the Western Conference, they decided change was needed and brought the decorated Claude Noel as Ward's replacement.

Noel brings over 25 years of coaching experience – 15 as a head coach. He has an 80-79-18 record as an NHL head coach, recently spending time with the Winnipeg Jets from 2011-2014 before being fired mid way through last season. Noel also coached the Columbus Blue Jackets from 2008-10, serving first as an assistant and later head coach, and has led the AHL's Manitoba Moose (2010-11), and Milwaukee Admirals (2003-07).

With Milwaukee, Noel made two Calder Cup appearances, winning once in 2004. That year he also won the Louis A.R. Pieri Memorial Award as AHL coach of the year.

The last time Noel coached junior hockey was in 1989-90, when he was an assistant with the OHL's North Bay Centennials.

### "He has shown that he can be very hard on his players."

During his time in Winnipeg, Noel was very open to the media, at times being harsh or hilarious (you can find some of his post game sound bites on YouTube). He has shown that he can be very hard on his players, and he's consistently acknowledged if his players have shown a lack of effort or ability.

As the Claude Noel tenure beings, he takes over a now 10-18-0-0 Giants team that has won but three of its past 12 contests. Clearly he'll have his work cut out for him as he tries to salvage the Giants' season.

- Colton Davies



1943 - 2014

In the midst of the Vancouver Canucks surprisingly impressive start to the 2014-2015 season, there was cause for pause in Canuckland as one of their own passed over into life's post-game show.

On November 24th, 2014, Canucks legend Pat Quinn passed away at the age of 71. The "Big Irishman" or "Large Steve" as he was sometimes called, was a member of the inaugural Canucks squad that first took to the ice in the Rink on Renfrew in the 1970-1971 season. Quinn would tally two goals and eleven assists for 13 points, but it was his 149 penalty minutes that would make him an instant fan favourite in Vancouver.

Regrettably I haven't been in this business long enough to have any first-hand stories about Quinn that I can regail, I can tell you that the respect that his name commanded in the hockey circles I have come to be involved in is second to none.

He will always be one of the great builders in this franchise for his role in the 1994 Stanley Cup run, and if it were for that fact alone he'd go down in history as a Vancouver legend. Add that to the various charitable efforts over the years that he has been involved in around the Lower Mainland and it's easy to see why he has become larger than life.

For all of us here at *Link* magazine, we give our most sincere condolences to the Quinn family and to anyone whose life Pat touched.

Rest in peace, coach.

- Jared Featherstone

## THE PERFECT HOLIDAY DRESS

A re you looking for that perfect dress? Don't want your mom poking your belly or your grandma asking you why you're not engaged yet? You need to make sure it fits just right. Regardless of how your exams go this semester, this guide will have your family so busy fussing over that gorgeous dress, they won't even realize you've shaved your head to save time while showering

your head to save time while showering during exam week. Here is a guide to finding

the right dress for your body type!

by Jasmine Nijjar

Is your bust significantly larger than your waist (10" or more)?

YES

Is your waist significantly narrower than your hips (10" or more)?

Are your hips wider than your waist (10" or more)?

NO

NO

YES

NO

YES

Do you wear tops that are 1 or moredress sizes larger than your jeans?

#### **FULL-BUSTED**

A sexy v-neck avoids that "uniboob" look, while details around the neckline and shoulders draw the eyes up and balance out the silhouette.



#### **CURVY**

Show your hourglass figure with a wellfitted wiggle dress that accentuates your small waist



#### **PEAR**

A cute midi-length dress avoids drawing attention to the hips, add something to neckline and get that headturning look you want!



#### **APPLE**

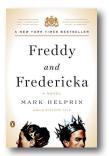
A knee-length wrap dress creates an even silhouette



#### **BOYISH**

Peplum is your best friend, creating the illusion of curves!





Freddy and Fredericka Mark Helprin

This witty novel was released in 2005, eventually becoming a Best Seller in the United States. In the novel, author Mark Helprin mocks the British royal family by satirizing Prince Charles and Princess Diana with two characters: Frederick Prince of Wales and Princess Fredericka. The story starts with Frederick taking part in a royal tradition: falconry in the mountains of Scotland. If the falcon flies, it signifies that the Prince is wise, courageous, and strong enough to deserve the throne. But the falcon, named Craig-Vyvyan, rejects Frederick for the fourth time. We then follow both main characters in their everyday lives, always mocked by the commoners and never being able to leave their home-Moocock-because of their royal positions. Fredericka carries herself as a silly but stunning woman, in contrast to Frederick who is always seen as the object of misfortune by the press, led by Baron Psnake and his accomplice Didgeridoo.

Their situation catches the concern of Fredrick's parents who bring in the family councillor, Mr. Neil, to help. Neil sends the Prince and the Princess to America with the mission to reconquer the colonies. The two are dropped in the middle of New Jersey naked, with no

money or identification. Throughout one year, the couple work in jobs as diverse as janitors to dentists, eventually making their way into American politics. In the process, they discover the value of simple life and reignite the love for each other.

With this novel, Helprin reinvents the way we can look at the Royal family, by wittingly humanizing the characters. We are allowed to connect with the usually reserved and private life of Royalty through the couple's journey fraught with unfortunate circumstances.

- Karime Kuri

#### LISTEN



Seeds TV on the Radio (harvest records)

Gerard Smith, TV on the Radio's former bassist, died nine days after the band's last album Nine Types of Light was released in 2011. The band went into a musical hiatus, not releasing any new material until now. Seeds, the Brooklyn alternative rock band's latest album, was released on November 17th - and oh boy is it emotional. It starts off angry, loud, and demanding while, breathing haunting honesty and truth on the matter of life and death through its ballad formatted tracks.

The urgency of singer Tunde Adebimpe's writing yelps out in lyrics like "How much do I love you?" or "Everything's alright, just let me be your darling." The album touches on subject matter like the death of Adebimpe's friend/bassist (Smith), as well as the questioning of life's ebb and flow, and how it gives and takes when it wants. The album, overall, sounds like the score to a post-apocalyptic neon desert town, but halfway through the album, it takes on a different route and morphs into a more accepting tone - as if the band

got over the death of their friend right in the middle of making the record. It has a natural slope to the emotion and tenderness of the feeling of loss; this is super relatable after going through break-ups, the death of a loved one, or struggling with grasping substance in this ever-stirring life. I don't have many complaints for this album. It's a fantastic juxtaposition of existence and the unknown, intertwined and disguised as a monologued, doorstep apology. This album is a must listen.

- Calvin A. Jay

#### WATCH



Grumpy Cat's Worst Christmas Ever (lifetime network)

When my friend first told me Grumpy Cat was coming out with a movie (fun fact - he actually works at the mall they shot many of the movie's scenes at), I was excited. Who doesn't love a forever frowning cat?

It didn't take much (and by this, I mean viewing the trailer) to see that this movie looks like an awful idea.

Grumpy Cat's Worst Christmas Ever is a story about a girl who becomes friends with said cat only because the girl is able to hear Grumpy Cat talk (Aubrey Plaza is the voice actor for the cat).

To begin with, the movie is a Lifetime movie. I'm not saying every Lifetime movie is a dud, but they're notorious for poor production choices - and from my own viewing of this trailer, I'm led to believe this movie isn't exempt.

I'm incredibly disappointed they gave the cat a voice. It's just not right. Watching the cat say things like "fail," "look at my face," or, "don't get sappy on me," isn't funny. It's borderline annoying.

The plot seems a little far-fetched as well. It goes from a lonely cat trying to find a home to what looks like a cat-napping?

Don't get me wrong - I'm not knocking the success that is Tardar Sauce (yes, that's Grumpy Cat's real name), but this movie seemingly takes her success about ten steps back. While telling folks to avoid the movie altogether is my recommendation, I'm going to simply caution the crowd here. She'll probably benefit from having a solid fan base and being oh-so internet famous, but if your eyes end up wandering to the Lifetime Network and you find yourself saying, "I watched the grumpy cat movie once. It was awful," don't say I didn't warn you.

- Ria Renouf

There's a lot more to videogames than just Call of Duty and Grand Theft Auto, but most people don't The Indie Beat There's a lot more to videogames than just Call of Duty and Grand Theft Auto, but most people don't realize that. I'm here to introduce the unaware masses to a type of game that's setting the world on fire, whether it knows it or not the india game. whether it knows it or not: the indie game.

The Road Not Taken

(spry fox) STEAM / PS4

w/ Mat Paget



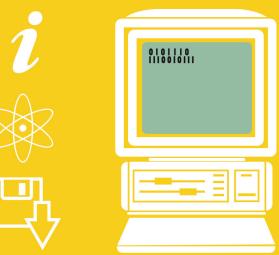
"The storms never cease. Hope you manage better than the last one"

These are the words that greet you as you start Road Not Taken, while a man steers a boat towards shore, a hooded figure as his passenger. You are that hooded figure, and you start your career as a Ranger whose goal is to rescue children from the harsh, cold winter wilderness for the next fifteen years. It's a puzzle game that involves moving around on a grid, picking up your immediate surroundings, and then sending them flying as far as they can possibly go -- you'll do this to get rid of obstacles and enemies, as well as to create combinations of certain objects. These combinations can unlock new paths, create a new object that'll help further your career, or create one that will make it harder for you to get your job done.

And you know how if you die in a videogame, you can just restart from the beginning of the level? Well, when you die in Road Not Taken, your character is dead forever and you have to take on the mantle of a new ranger from the very

beginning. You won't only lose the progress you've made in your career, relationships you've made in the town will also be reset. In between each year, you can talk to any of the townsfolk and deliver a gift of rice, gold, bunnies, or berries; each person likes and dislikes certain things, and presenting them with the right gifts will grow your friendship with them. Who knows, the two of you might even fall in love. It delivers gifts of fun (yet difficult) puzzles, beautiful audio and visuals, and delightfully charming characters, resulting in one thing: me falling in love with Road Not Taken.





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