



The

Link

**IF THE BANKS AND
THE GOVERNMENT ABANDON
THE STUDENT LOANS SYSTEM,
WHERE WILL THAT LEAVE
THE STUDENTS,
THE SCHOOLS
AND EDUCATION
IN THIS COUNTRY?**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFO

The Link

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

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

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

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

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LINK LETTERS POLICY

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 Your name, affiliation with BCIT and a telephone number to contact you (which will not be published) must be included.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

Campus Events

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

Wednesday, January 27

Ice Hockey in Campus Square for the Winterfest Student Assistance Fund campaign. Prizes! Check with the SA for more information.

Faulty Towers. 11:30am - 2:30pm. Gym. Contact Recreation & Athletic Services for more info.

Friday, January 29

Electronics: Last day to change sections for students on modified programs.

Electronics: Levels 2, 3, 4 and Co-Op fees due.

Monday, February 1

American Marketing Association Meeting. 7:00am. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre.

SA Council Meeting. 5:30pm. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre.

Tuesday, February 2

Groundhog's Day

Toastmasters. Public speaking club. 7:00am. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre.

Ballroom Dancing begins. Contact Recreation and Athletic Services for more info.

Wednesday, February 3

Dunk Tank in Campus Square for the Winterfest Student Assistance Fund campaign. Prizes! Check with the SA for more information.

Duck Race on Kyle Creek for the Winterfest Student Assistance Fund campaign. Prizes! Check with the SA for more information.

SCUBA Lessons begin. Contact Recreation and Athletic Services for more info.

Intermediate Latin Dancing begins. Contact Recreation and Athletic Services for more info.

Thursday, February 4

Beginner's Swing begins. Contact Recreation and Athletic Services for more info.

Friday, February 5

Deadline for submissions and ads in the next issue of *The Link*.

Monday, February 8

American Marketing Association Meeting. 7:00am. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre.

Tuesday, February 9

Toastmasters. Public speaking club. 7:00am. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre.

Electronics: Last day to withdraw from classes and receive a full refund (less \$200 commitment fee for level 1)

Electronics: Last day to apply for course credit (exemption) and/or change registration to 'audit' status.

Wednesday, February 10

Duck Race on Kyle Creek for the Winterfest Student Assistance Fund campaign. Prizes! Check with the SA for more information.

Next issue of *The Link* hits the stands.

Sunday, February 14

Valentine's Day

Monday, February 15

National Heritage Day.

American Marketing Association Meeting. 7:00am. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre.

SA Council Meeting. 5:30pm. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre.

Tuesday, February 16

Toastmasters. Public speaking club. 7:00am. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre.

Recreation Council Meeting. 5:30pm. Contact Recreation and Athletic Services for more info.

Wednesday, February 17

Last Day to withdraw from Term 'A' Courses and receive a 'W' on transcript.

Thursday, February 18

Graduating Awards Ceremony for programs completing in January.

Winter Convocation Ceremony.

1st Annual Kamikaze Kyle Creek Race

Wednesday, February 3rd & 10th

Buy a Duck and Change Your Luck

- \$2 donation for a ducky •
- Awesome Prizes!!! •
- Shirts, Sunglasses, Sweaters & More •
- All for a very good cause •

Tickets available at the SA office now!

All proceeds go to the BCIT Student Association Bursary Fund

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SATURDAYS STEAK DINNERS! \$5.95 So Good we're doing it twice!	FRIDAYS FISH & CHIPS \$4.99 Fried or Grilled
SUNDAYS BRUNCH served w. Hashbrowns from 9AM - 3PM STEAK 'N' EGGS \$6.95 PANCAKES \$3.95 3-EGG OMLETTE \$4.99 DINNER TRADITIONAL ROAST BEEF \$6.95 All the fixins - mashed potatoes, gravy, veggies & yorkshire pudding	EGGS BENEDICT \$4.99 FRENCH TOAST \$3.95 FREE POOL!

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The Next Face of Funding

Federal student loans may look starkly different in new millenium

DEREK CHEZZI
Excalibur, York University

TORONTO (CUP)

If the proposals that have been kicking around Parliament Hill for the past few months are any indication, the turn of the century may herald some major changes to the Canada Student Loans program.

Ottawa raised the ire of student activists in December, when it announced it would spend the next six months considering whether to deny loans to students attending post-secondary institutions with a high number of loan defaults.

The Canada Student Loans program expires August 1, 2000.

Under the proposed "institutional designation," universities and colleges with a high level of student loan delinquents become would be ineligible to participate in the national program.

Privately-run vocational schools would be hardest hit by the proposal since they have the highest rates of student default, student groups say. "Effectively, the federal government is saying, 'We would rather bankrupt a generation than invest in education right now,'" says Elizabeth Carlyle, national chairwoman of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Carlyle says she's opposed to institutional designation because it punishes universities and colleges for social and economic factors beyond their control.

"There's a lot of places where students just cannot make ends meet, not because of their own fault but because unemployment is 20 to 30 per cent or higher," she says.

Not surprisingly, university administrators were also concerned by the idea.

"It needs to be considered cautiously," says Teresa Alm, president of the

Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, which represents loan administrators at post-secondary institutions across the country.

"It needs to be discussed very extensively before being instituted." But Ottawa's decision to examine institutional designation is just the latest in what critics say is a prolonged attack on post-secondary education.

Late last year, for example, the federal Liberals amended the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, extending the waiting period for students who need to declare bankruptcy from two to 10 years after leaving school.

At the same time, observers say changes to some provincial loans programs are also casting students adrift as large financial institutions scale back their involvement.

Most recently, the Royal Bank of Canada made headlines when it pulled out of the loans programs in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, citing heavy financial losses and high default rates as the reason.

At issue in both provinces was the risk premium rate of five per cent, which the Royal Bank said wasn't enough to cover the actual rate of default.

Royal Bank's decision will affect more than 6,000 students who will now be left with only the National Bank to administer their provincial loans.

The changes raised concerns that the National Bank alone won't be able to adequately meet the needs of student lenders.

It also sparked criticism from student leaders who charged that the bank was bailing on the program because it wasn't turning a profit.

But Royal Bank spokesman Sean Kirby disagrees, saying Royal Bank

remains very interested in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick's loans programs.

"We're not in the business to make money on student loans," says Kirby. "We do it because we think it's important."

Carlyle says she finds it hard to believe that a for-profit company would be involved with a student loans program if didn't expect to make money.

"Why else would they be in it?" she says. "What other reason would there to be involved? We should by no means believe that they are philanthropical (sic)."

And until she sees the numbers, Carlyle says, she's skeptical that default rates were as high as the Royal Bank says. "We've always said banks should not be ... in this program," she says.

The Royal Bank isn't the first big bank to decide not to renew its contract with a provincial student loan program.

Since the federal and provincial governments handed over full administration of student loans to banks in 1995, there have been several cases of back peddling by financial institutions.

In the past two years, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce has withdrawn from the loans programs in Nova Scotia and Manitoba, leaving the Royal Bank as the sole lender in those provinces at the time.

SA Council Notes

Carlos Assuncao

President promotes participation at SA council meetings

SA President, Steve Diebolt, reminded SA councilors of their voting responsibilities with a motivational speech. Councilors are following the Pareto principle; 20 percent of the councilors represent 80 percent of the participation at council meetings. Diebolt is actively encouraging equal participation, trying to make councilors feel more comfortable voicing their opinions during meetings.

"If you have an opinion, share it... That's your job. (as councilors) You have a responsibility to your fellow students," said Diebolt.

Some councilors feel uncomfortable speaking during the meetings due to the structure and awkward seating arrangement of the meetings. Many issues are voted on with little discussion or only a few individuals voicing their opinions.

- BC Transit turned down a request for an additional stop for BCIT. A new express bus route is planned for the SFU campus, the planned route will pass by BCIT but not stop. The reason BC Transit gave for refusing to include a stop for BCIT is that the stop would slow service to SFU (meant to be express service). Transit officials claim that BCIT has service every seven minutes from Metrotown, therefore does not need additional service. The possibility of an extra stop is not yet completely closed, SA is still investigating the issue.
- An initiative for student recreational housing was discussed by SA Executive Director Stephen Miller and executives. If reasonably priced property could be found, the intention would be to provide a "club cabin" space for students to use at a discounted rate. Finding an appropriate location (in or near Whistler) at an affordable price is no easy task, for this reason this plan has been in the planning stage for a while. Anyone with information on affordable, strategically located property should contact Stephen Miller at the SA office. BCIT students, now and for years to come, will be extremely grateful.
- The Science World corporate pass is now available to all students of BCIT. A \$10 deposit (refunded upon return) is required and reservations in advance are advised. The pass is good for admission for five adults to Science World including admission to the Omnimax cinema.
- The Bank of Canada has issued a list of dormant accounts on their website. SA Executive Director Stephen Miller suggested at the council meeting that anyone who might have reason to believe they have a link to a dormant account should peruse the list of accounts at:

http://ucbswww.bank-banque-canada.ca/fastq_English.htm

After a bank account lies dormant for nine years, banks must send the money to the Bank of Canada, which publishes the names of the account owners and then holds the money in trust for them. After bank accounts are inactive for two years, the most Banks send out notices to the account holders, letting them know about the money. If they remain dormant, attempts are made to contact the owners in another way. There are usually extenuating circumstances in cases where accounts go to the Bank of Canada.

Computer tips of the week

TASCIEN UWAMAHORO
Link Science and Technology Reporter

How good do you rate your computing skills? Well, even if you are a wizard, you may find the following tips helpful in your projects at school.

Tip 1: Powerpoint can automatically add a black slide at the end of your presentation.

Most of students end their presentation in the slide sorter view or the outline view. You can instruct Powerpoint to add a black slide at the end of your presentation.

On the menu bar, choose Tools. Click Options, and on the dialog box, click the view tab. Select the Check Box labelled "End With Black Slide" and click OK. With this option selected, a black slide will appear at the end of your presentation.

Tip 2: Did you want to insert a CD into your CD ROOM without playing it this very time?

Well, you can disable this auto-play feature on one time basis. You can press and hold down the Shift Key. You must hold the key down as long as the CD is trying to play.

When you want to play the CD at latter time, you double click my computer icon, and right-click-mouse on CD. On the shortcut menu, click on play.

Is this kind of familiar? Let's hope you added something new and interesting at your computing skills.

New fee added to price of blank CDs, tapes to compensate for lost royalties to musicians

SHERI BLOCK
The Carillon, University of Regina

REGINA (CUP)

The price of blank tapes and CDs is about to increase thanks to a new levy introduced by the federal government.

While no one is sure exactly how much more consumers will have to pay, insiders speculate the increase could range from \$1 on the price of tapes to \$2.50 on the price of CDs.

The actual levy will not be determined until next fall after hearings are held into the matter. Importers and manufacturers will not be required to charge the levy until a decision is made.

The levy, which came into effect Jan. 1, was introduced to compensate for revenue lost by musical artists, composers and producers when copies of and CDs are made.

"The levy is really geared toward the consumer who walks in and tapes a CD a blank," said Marian Donnelly, executive director of the Saskatchewan Industry Association.

Until recently, copying a pre-

recorded CD or cassette onto a blank one was illegal. But under new federal legislation, this is now allowed for private use.

"The music industry did not want (dubbing) legalized the levy was the trade off," said Al Mayer, owner and president of Attic Records.

So far, some consumers don't seem to mind the fact that they'll soon have to dig deeper into their pockets to purchase blank media.

"I think it's probably a good idea because there's so many people out there taping," said Jennifer Melville, a first-year science student at the University of Regina. "It's like stealing."

But some people in the music business are concerned that since distribution of the levy is based on factors such as radio play and record sales, only big-name artists will benefit from it.

"It will benefit the big guys but not the little ones," said Joe Wood, owner and president of RDR Music Group, a Toronto-based CD manufacturer.

"Their music would have to be in such a demand (for them to benefit)."

Mayer agrees. "It's probably safe to say bigger artists will get bigger shares," he said of the levy.

Todd Rennebohm, who plays in the Regina area band FTA, says he doesn't expect the levy will make a difference for independent groups.

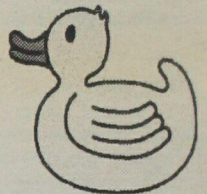
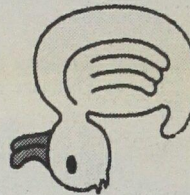
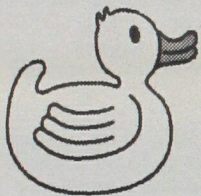
He says many independent bands will end up being harmed by the levy because they often buy blank CDs to make copies of their music.

"Being an indie artist, it's a drawback because you're paying (the levy) for your own discs," he said. "Instead of saving us money, it's costing us more."

But while Mayer says the levy has some unfortunate consequences, he says it's important to compensate for unauthorized taping if the Canadian music industry is to grow.

"When the industry is not maximizing its profit there is not much to invest in new bands," he said.

A joint body, including the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada and the Canadian Musical Reproduction Rights Agency, will collect and distribute the levy.



1st Annual Kamikaze Kyle Creek Race

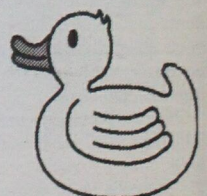
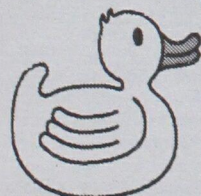
Wednesday, February 3rd & 10th

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JUNGLE SMURF

Link Arts & Culture Reporter

Before the incarnation of "Jungle Smurf", I was "Depeche-Mode-is-God Smurf". I've been a DM fan since their first album, 1981's "Speak & Spell". I was 4yrs old in '81 and since then it's been 17 years and another 12 albums, but who's counting? Anyway, I was thrilled that DM was going to tour again after all the problems with Dave Gahan's heroin habit and the departure of Alan Wilder (he claims DM "ruined his life" Bull!). So, after an absence of 5 years, DM came back to Vancouver to promote the "The Singles 86-98" album and I just hope I get to see them one more time, as I felt slightly robbed at this concert, but I'll explain why later.

Concert Review

Depeche Mode

at GM Place

Concert Review

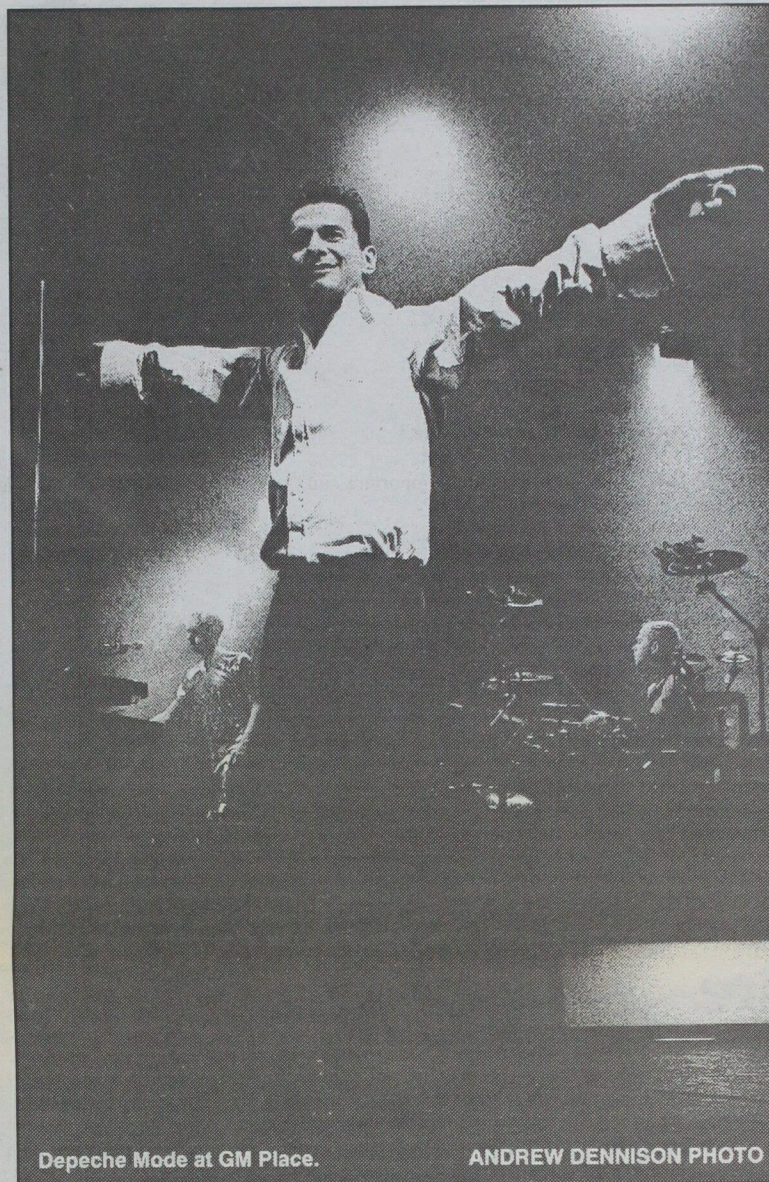
Friday, Dec. 4, 1998

Opening up was Stabbing (Shitting) Westward, who must have done a lot of ass-kissing to get on this bill again, as they'd opened for DM the last time they were here; they sucked 5 years ago and nothing's changed since then. Let's face it — if you want your sound to be "Nine Inch Nails"-like, you might as well own up to it. They say "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery", but in the case of

Shitty Westward, they just butchered it. As with all the other bands I don't care about, I never bothered to find out the names of their songs,

but I think they threw in their most popular singles at the end. I remember this because I get so annoyed hearing them on the radio and hearing them live gave me the heebies too.

At 8:37pm, the band of all bands strolled onto their surprisingly simple and lounge-ish stage and the crowd "went wild"! I must admit that this orgasmic little shiver went through my body when they walked out, but that's normal. First on the bill was "A Question of Time", which was the 3rd oldest song of the entire show, dating from the 1986's "Black Celebration". Then came "World in My Eyes" from 1993's "Songs of Faith & Devotion", followed by "Policy of Truth" from 1990's "Violator" and "It's No Good" from 1997's "Ultra". It was nice to see that Dave, Martin and Fletch weren't hampered by the loss of Alan, whose only real talent was to sit there and bitch. Apparently, he'd been the only classically trained musician of the four, but if the



Depeche Mode at GM Place.

ANDREW DENNISON PHOTO

Thinking back in Time

music didn't suffer when he left, then maybe he hadn't been that essential anyway.

The first of several songs that made the crowd absolutely ecstatic was "Never Let Me Down Again", the first track off 1987's "Music for the Masses". With the crescendo notes of the opening bars, everyone was on their feet, waving their hands and singing along with Martin as he sang the chorus: "We're flying high, we're watching the world pass us by. Never want to come down — never want to let our feet back down on the ground." It was great because not only was that the first big energy infusion of the night, but they even ended the song with their "Aggro Mix", which is found on the B-side of the "Music for the Masses" album.

Next up were some of slower songs: "Walking in My Shoes" from "Songs of F&D" and the most recent single, "Only When I Lose Myself", which was the only new song released with the "Singles" album. Continuing the mood, Martin

came out to sing "Sister of Night" from "Ultra", which had never been previously performed in concert, so it was a special treat for us. It was a classic "lighter" moment, to say the least. Then Martin sang "Home", my favourite song from "Ultra". Although you can buy the CD-single here, I believe it was only released as a proper single and video in Europe and Asia, but not in North America. Dave returned and sang "Condemnation" and "In Your Room", both from "Songs of F&D". Then DM played "Useless", a guitar-driven track from "Ultra".

Going back to another two "crowd-pleaser" songs, DM re-energized the fans and probably received the biggest roar from us by performing "Enjoy the Silence" and "Personal Jesus" from "Violator", which was probably the height of DM's popularity, as it rose from album to album. But since then, DM's ability to win over new fans hasn't been too strong.

We sang along with the chorus of "Enjoy the Silence" 3 times and Dave was

back to his mic-stand antics from the mid-80s. The light show accompanying "Personal Jesus" wasn't as inspiring as the last, when the crowd raised its arms along with the lights each time the chorus said,

"Reach out, touch faith". However, we were all going nuts: screaming, dancing and clapping along. A truly unifying moment for everyone, and then the band ended the set with "Barrel of a Gun", the first single from "Ultra". The lights had some sort of disco-ball effect going on and then the 3-way screen in the centre of the stage showed the video as well.

The first encore of the night had Martin come back to the stage to sing the 2nd oldest song, "Somebody", from 1985's "Catching Up with Depeche Mode". It's a fragile, revealing song about the need to have someone who is willing to both accept you as you are but also gently try to change you for the better. One can well imagine our delight to hear this song and its wonderful piano background. Afterwards, Dave and Fletch returned and performed a driving (ha ha) rendition of "Behind the Wheel", once again from "Music for the Masses". They finished with "I Feel You", the first single released from "Songs of F&D".

At last, as their final encore, DM came out and played "Just Can't Get Enough" from their oldest album, "Speak & Spell". Some of the new fans didn't recognize it, but for the hardcore original fans like myself, we were in heaven. Going back to the first paragraph, the reason I felt

robbed at the end was that the boys didn't perform "Everything Counts" which is the song that

they ALWAYS play to end a concert. (It is on 1983's "Construction Time Again", 1984's "People Are People" and 1989's "101"). It's the one song where everyone sings and everyone reaches out and waves their arms and it just makes your body tingle! That they didn't properly finish off what had otherwise been a damn good concert was a slight letdown for me and I was choked. Oh well, I shouldn't complain too much — I'd pretty much had my cake and eaten it too, I just didn't get to lick the icing from the bowl.

Anyway, I guess that was my big gush all about Depeche Mode and the concert. The band is often touted as the "Godfathers of Electronica", and although I hate to use such commercial terms, maybe it's one way to explain why I evolved from my earlier self into my present one. Suffice to say that the concert rocked and I just hope I'll get to see them again (for a 5th time!). Take care, Jungle Smurf.

ON THE OUTSIDE...

January 28, Thursday
SEAWEED
At the Starfish Room

January 30, Saturday
JOHNNY FERREIRA & THE SWING MACHINE (Benefit for Renaissance Haiti Orphan Society)
At the Hot Jazz Club, 2120 Main St. at 5th Ave.

ALTITUDE 99
THE 7TH ANNUAL WHISTLER GAY AND LESBIAN SKI WEEK LAUNCH
Special guests CeCe Peniston and San Francisco DJ Neil Lewis
At the Mars Nightclub

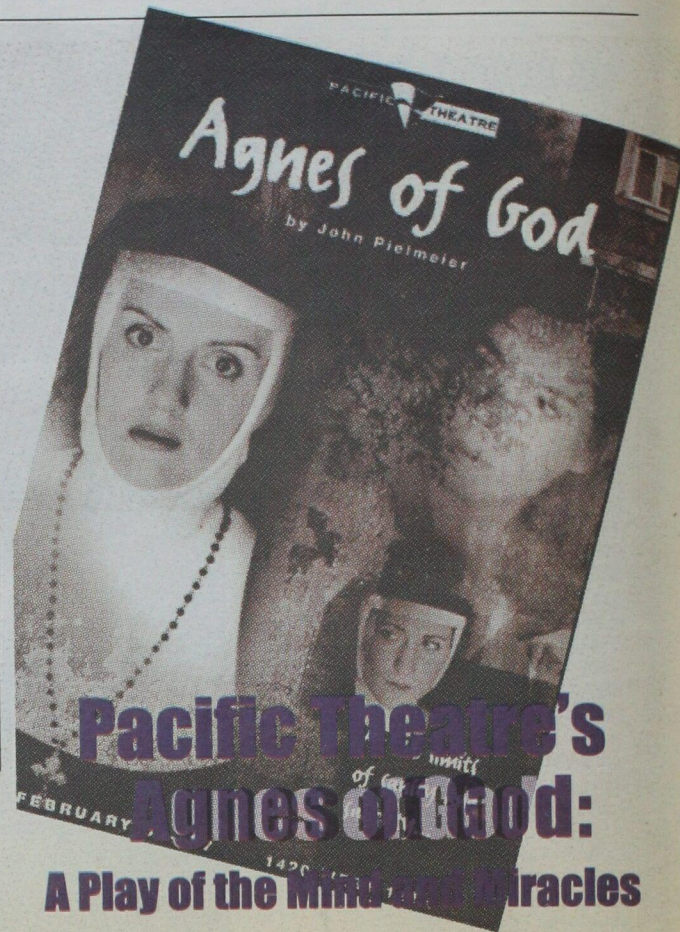
January 31, Sunday
TELEPOETICS
A virtual poetry reading between First Nations writers in Vancouver and The Umista Cultural entre in Alert Bay
At Liliget Feasthouse, 1724 Davie St. (12pm-3pm)

Feb. 5, Friday
STRAPPING YOUNG LAD, HDR's OCEAN MACHINE and INFINITY
At the Starfish Room

Feb. 6, Saturday
CHANT AND BEYOND, 7 Centuries of Choral Music
At Ryerson United Church, 1254 W. 7th Ave.

Feb. 11, Thursday
JOHNNY FAVORITE SWING ORCHESTRA
In-Store Performance at 4:30pm at HMV 1160 Robson St.
In-Concert at the Gate

Feb. 12, Friday
LUCINDA WILLIAMS with PATTY GRIFFIN
At the Vogue Theatre



Pacific Theatre's Agnes of God:

A Play of the Mind and Miracles

ERIN GARLICK
Link Theatre Reviewer

You may have seen the 1985 Oscar nominated film, "Agnes of God" starring Anne Bancroft, Meg Tilly and Jane Fonda. If so, you will be very interested in the stage production of the story, soon to be playing at Vancouver's Pacific Theatre.

Theatre Preview
Agnes of God
Pacific Theatre
February 5 to 27

The show explores themes of light and shadows, good and evil. Agnes, a young nun, is accused of a terrible crime. So innocent as to seem angelic, Agnes stands between two powerful, impassioned women - her mother superior and her court appointed psychiatrist. Disturbingly honest, the play explores the shattered mind and fragile spirit of the heroine. John Pielmeier's play "Agnes of God" runs February 5 - 27 at 8pm with 2pm Saturday matinees at Pacific Theatre, 1420 W. 12th Avenue, Vancouver. For tickets, please call the box office at 731-5518.

Romeo et Juliette: Vancouver opera takes on 19th century French adaptation

SAM TSE
Link Arts & Culture Reporter

Romeo and Juliette, the most famous lovers in literature. Now, the Vancouver Opera is recreating the magic with their newest masterpiece, Romeo et Juliette. The French opera is Gounod's 19th century adaptation to the Shakespearean tale, but the passion and drama remains ever present.

Opera Preview
Romeo et Juliette
Vancouver Opera
January 30 - February 8

Tenor Carl Tanner and Soprano Karen Driscoll, star in this tragic romance; Romeo et Juliette is considered to be French opera's most sensual music.

Tickets are still available at Ticketmaster. Romeo et Juliette runs January 30, February 2, 4, 6 and 8 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

date
Feb. 4

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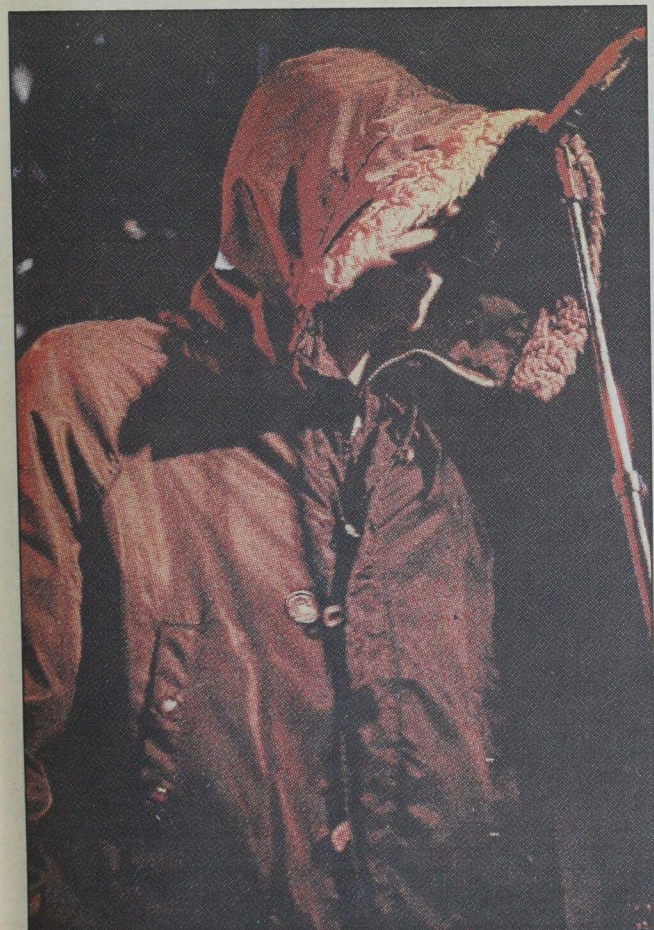
► 1000s OF POSTERS

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The **New Radicals** get more than they give



SHANNON LENTZ
Link Arts & Culture Reporter

The New Radicals are a one hit wonder and the band seems well aware of their status. This was a sold-out show and everyone at the venue was there to hear "that song".

Concert Review
New Radicals
the Starfish Room
Thursday Jan 21, 1999

The evening started out with a one-man show by a guy from a band called Thurston 5. He never told us his name, but this cowboy hat wearing dude delivered interesting enough acoustic numbers more suited for a small cafe than a noisy club.

Shortly after the cowboys set came the New Radicals. Everyone was in a golly mood and the show picked up very quickly. A couple songs into the set they played "that song". They delivered it perfect and the energy of the band was amazing. The great thing about the Starfish is that there are no juice-monkeys up front with foreign objects hidden in their pants. This made for maximum crowd participation and the band was totally accomadating. Usually a band with one hit saves it for the encore but alas do not fear because they played "that song" again, finishing off a very brief set of 35-40 minutes.

The music played in between "that song" was mediocre at best but was played with a lot of

energy and that's what saved this show. This is a band that realizes it 15 minutes are going to be done by the end of this year and they are basking in the glow of their Mc Music in this fast food style Mc Music business. There is a new song on your tray by the minute but the meal has no substance and leaves you bloated and regretful afterwards. Ciao.



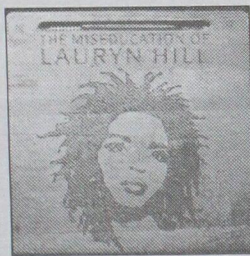
Top and Left: The frantic and sombre moods of New Radicals frontman.
Left: New Radical harmony.

LORNA MCPARLAND PHOTOS



EAZY-E
It's on (Dr.Dre) 187um Killa (Ruthless Records)
Recognized as the Godfather of gangsta rap, this homey is the real 'muthaphuckin G'. He and the NWA crew, brought us the realities of street life and living in Compton or the Hood. Here Eazy-E disowns Dr.Dre, and defaces the inside photo of Dr.Dre. The beats are hard and funky and the lyrics are killa. Eric "Eazy-E" Wright is the late founder and CEO of Ruthless Records. This 23 year-old is a key cornerstone of the Ruthless legacy. He started by dealing singles out of his trunk in South Central LA, now this label produces R&B, Pop, and Rap with J.J. Fad, Michel'le, MC Ren and Above the Law. This release features the dope artist Ice Cube and all 40 minutes are wicked. This is the bomb and the count down starts here. The last track "Down 2 Tha Last Roach" is killa, and so are all the rest, note "Real Muthaphuckkin G's". Listen up, or face beats from the possee.

david lai



LAURYN HILL
The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill (Ruffhouse Records)
Listen and you'll recognize her from "The Fugees". She has branched out and released her solo work, with

Spinnin' the disks

Carlos Santana playing guitar on the song "To Zion" written for Lauryn's son. Lauryn has also been in studio with Carlos working on material for the new Santana release. As a guest for Carlos, he is a guest here on her release. Her positive and strong voice is much admired by other musicians and listeners. This diva is all about roots, knowledge, love and helping your fellow brothers or sisters. The commentary in the background speaks for itself, and Lauryn's lyrics drive it hard. "You might win some but you really lose one, You just lost one, it's so silly how come, When it's all done did you really gain from, What you done done, it so silly how come". Her lyrics are righteous and feel good. Inside the booklet, there's all the lyrics and some beautiful shots of the featured artist. She's an advocate of the Refugee Project, which helps children gain access to education and opportunity. It's not about ability, it's the access to opportunities that might be unavailable otherwise. Check out www.refugeeproject.org

PORTISHEAD
Roseland NYC Live (Go Beat)
Beth Gibbons live in New York, at Roseland. Consistent ambient, surreal-



istic and at times sobering vibrations from Portishead, never let you down. Instant karma hits like 'Sour Times', 'Glory Box' and 'Only You' play with your emotions and the atmosphere around you when you listen to this CD. The accompanying orchestra adds a great sense of depth as Beth eerily moans and howls. The overall energy of Portishead is enhanced and the ghostly sounds are full with the orchestra playing at the Roseland theatre in New York. It's a great idea to have this orchestra play with this band. There's a sense of release or hopelessness as she sings. Sometimes you may think she needs to cheer up, as if there's something inherently wrong with it all, an uneasiness. Then the audience cheers and space is filled with encore. Listen carefully and you may hear samples from various artists such as The Pharcyde, Issac Hayes, and Weather Report.

david lai



An interview with Mandy Woetzel & Ingo Steuer

SAMANTHA TSE
Link Arts & Culture Reporter

For 1998 Olympic Bronze medalists, Mandy Woetzel and Ingo Steuer, the new season was a time of immense changes. They gave up their Olympic eligibility and embarked on their first season as professionals.

"We just turn pro. We turn pro because we had enough years in amateur career and we got everything we want and now we're looking for something new," says Woetzel. Together, Woetzel and Steuer have conquered many feats. They are German Champions, World Champions, and Olympic medalists, just to name a few.

Turning professional has given Woetzel and Steuer a chance to explore different sides to the sport. Unlike the amateur world where competitions with rigid rules are the focus, the professional world allows skaters the freedom to perform and entertain with no boundaries. Professionals don't have the rules and restrictions that define the amateur world.

"The major difference are not so strong rules. Like, a little bit more open and have more chance to bring emotions and the feelings over to the audience," explains Woetzel.

Since turning pro., Woetzel and Steuer have toured extensively and competed in the new Pro/Am open completions sanctioned by the International Skating Union (ISU). This new but controversial format allows skaters from both worlds to mingle and compete. Pro/Am has a panel of ISU judges and skaters are expected to compete using the ISU rules as a guideline. Although this kind of defeats the purpose of becoming professional, many skaters are drawn to the lucrative prize money. Also, part of the challenge is to see if the professionals 'still have what it takes' to defeat the up-and-comings, so to speak. This arrangement is not too popular with veteran professionals like Kristi Yamaguchi and Brian Boitano, who have chosen to go the other way, which is to participate in competitions that are exclusively for professionals.

"But for us, it's not so difficult like other professional skaters. Like they stay longer in professional. We came right from amateur, so we know exactly what we must do and we work on new stuff for pro, so it's easier for us to skate Pro/Am. So now, I think the next two years, we feel comfortable in this, but we getting older and I don't think so we can do this in the next five years the same because the level maybe going more up in pairs skating too. I think professional skating is more for us," says Steuer.

"We like both and we have good programs for both so ... and we really enjoy

the competitions. There are rules, have to skate short program like amateur, like ISU rules and then open program, like professional program, so you have a mix from everything," adds Woetzel. "We want to find our own style and I guess we found it already. We want to bring every competition, every show something new and don't skate like some people who always skate same numbers. We want to be interesting through out whole career as amateur and as pro too."

Like other European skaters, Woetzel and Steuer want to establish a more prominent professional circuit in Europe.

"We want to bring some raves over to Europe... of the shows here because different feeling. All the lights and all the people and these group numbers and it's not so popular how in Europe. It's coming, you know, and we have Philippe (Candeloro) and other European skaters who try the same, so we're not alone and it helps," says Woetzel.

"(Our work) 60 percent North America and forty percent Germany, Europe. Because for us, it's very important we skate at home, in Germany or somewhere in Europe. The audience want to know what happen because professional skating is not so popular in Europe or Germany like here (North America)," says Steuer.

Steuer, who is still recovering from a shoulder injury says that he feels better now.

"I think I need another year and it's completely gone, but I can skate and I feel okay, much better," confirms Steuer.

Prior to the Olympic games, Steuer was hit by a car in Germany and injured himself. The weeks leading up to the games proved to be stressful and no one, not even Steuer, was sure if he would be well enough to participate. But, as fate unwound, Woetzel and Steuer arrived at the games and competed courageously to bring home a bronze.

"The favorite moment was that we winning a medal at the Olympics. It was amazing because we couldn't skate before. We had no practice because I had an injury, accident, car accident. So, we never thought we could skate at the Olympics. So then, we tried with our skating, just we must skate and we got the bronze and it's like the gold for us," reflects Steuer.

But, all that is behind them now and their new lives as professionals have proved to be hectic as this duo is high in demand. They have been busy with various tours and competitions internationally.

"We live on the road!" exclaims Woetzel.

"When we have time, time for relaxing!" laughs Steuer.

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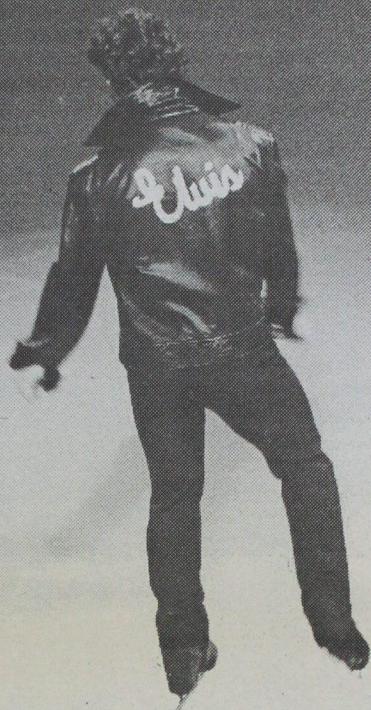
Welcome Back Elvis-Tour of Champions

SAMANTHA TSE
Link Arts & Culture
Reporter

Many figure skaters have headlined tours before, but seldom do skaters have their own tour with an entourage of prestigious National, World and Olympic champions. Elvis Stojko, Three time World Champion, broke the ice and launched his own tour. This year is Stojko's third year on his annual tour and what a success it has been. Stojko's tour is relatively small, just a handful of the best skaters over a two week span across Canada, but in each city, Stojko and friends perform to sold out venues.

This year, Stojko invited two very special guests: Katerina Witt, Two time Olympic Champion and Philippe Candeloro, Two time Olympic Bronze medallist. Both Witt and Candeloro are "sex symbols" in the skating world and they brought their charisma with them and charmed the Canadian crowd.

Canadian sweetheart, 1988 Olympic Silver medallist, Elizabeth Manley, was also a part of the entourage. Manley's still beautiful, still charming and still sweet as sugar. I think all those qualities shine from within so her skating's just a reflection of who she is. Sporting a darker 'do, Manley pulled out an old favorite, Cowboy Sweetheart. It has not lost its luster; this program's more than a few years old, but it's one of those timeless classics that one never gets tired of. Need I say more?! Manley may be petite in stature, but her incredible presence is undeniable. The second piece was new and it utilized another Canadian talent-Alanis Morrisette. Skating to Uninvited, Morrisette's number one hit, Manley was magnificent. She's back to her old self-the powerful, passionate, dramatic Liz Manley. The music and choreography



Above: Elvis Stojko
Below left: Karen Preston skates to 'Certainly.'
Below right: Philippe Candeloro skates 'Dartagnon.'

BLACK KNIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY (RANDY GIESBRECHT) PHOTO

really suited Manley's style and with this number, she stole the show. There is no doubt that Elizabeth Manley is the finest female figure skater Canada has ever produced.

Another excellent performer who was on the tour was Philippe Candeloro, two time Olympic Bronze medallist. He is probably the sexiest man in the history of skating! He has the exotic looks and the boyish charm to make any girl scream! Whenever a chance, Candeloro bares his chest to his adoring fans. Watching Candeloro is one the funniest experiences. He really plays the crowd and in turn, the crowd feeds off of him. This year, he performed a number to a Bee Gees medley from the movie, Saturday Night Live. Decker out in the famous white costume, Candeloro was on HOT man! Included in the choreography was some of the signature moves from the movie, but it was Candeloro's personal style that had people on their feet. The most memorable moment was when he stripped his shirt off to reveal a very toned and very sexy body!. The women went wild; it was like letting a bunch of untamed animals out for the first time! Candeloro also performed his Olympic free, Dartagnon.

This piece was brilliant. Most notably, the sword dueling footwork. Everybody's familiar with this program, so it was pretty predictable. What was somewhat unexpected though was the back flip at the end.

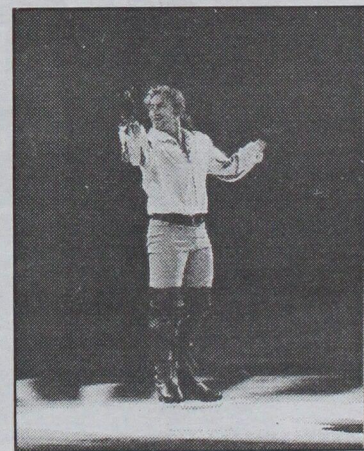
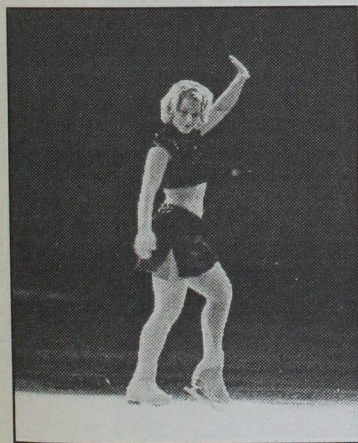
The sex kitten herself, Katerina Witt, commanded the ice as she appeared. All she had to do was step on the ice and the crowd hushes instantly and then broke out in applause. The first number Ms. Witt performed was Angel, from the soundtrack City of Angels. She is a God sent angel to the skating world! This number was very...angelic. It was a softer side to Ms. Witt; her sophistication and elegance was beyond anything I've ever seen. Her strappy costume was so nothing unusual, but somehow, seeing Ms. Witt live was a glorious experience. I've seen the dress and others similar to it many times on TV, but like her skating, TV just doesn't do it justice. Ms. Witt's larger-than-life stardom is so amazing perhaps because of her modesty. Her second number, Rescue Me, had her in another strappy, low-cut dress, but this time it was sparkly! This number was a little more playful and light. It allowed Ms. Witt to tease the audience and nobody seemed to mind!

Once again, her overwhelming presence just awed me. I don't know what to say, because to fully understand what I mean, one just has to watch Ms. Witt live. Words will not do her justice, no matter how hard I try!

It wasn't until the King himself, showed up that everybody went wild. Elvis Stojko just brought the house down with house. There is no denying that Stojko is the King and Canada loves him. I think after he came out to do his first number, Keep on Lovin' Me, I went deaf! It was very Stojko, with the intensity of the music and the difficulty of the footwork. He did jump as well, but that was not the main focus; the main thing was that He's back. After his injury, Canada wasn't sure she'd see the King again, but after a summer off, He's back! To many's surprise, Stojko chose to skate to the Armageddon love theme, something that's not traditionally linked to Stojko. I'm

not saying that he doesn't have emotions, but skating to Aerosmith? I actually quite liked the change. It was refreshing and it's a side of Stojko that I've never really seen. I didn't want to see another signature "Elvis skates to Elvis" number again. Oops, I spoke too soon. Of course, Elvis had to skate to Elvis' Jailhouse Rock. Oh well, it wasn't that bad...just glad to see that the old Elvis Stojko's back!

As the night came to an end, many of us were not quite willing to let the wonderful cast go. But, as all good things must come to an end, so must the Welcome Back Elvis-Tour of Champions. That's okay though, you're always welcome back, Elvis.



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The Earth is really starting to cook!

GREG HELTEN
SA Environmental Education

Meteorologists in Canada agree, 1998 was the warmest year on record in Canada according to a report released recently by Environment Canada.

The Canadian national average temperature for January to December 1998, based on preliminary data, was 2.5°C above normal. This exceeds the record established in 1981 by a full 0.5 of a degree Celsius. This is "an incredible amount" in a science where records are normally broken by no more than a tenth of a degree, Canadian scientists said.

Areas of the Canadian Arctic have had annual temperatures more than 4°C above normal in 1998. Much of the rest of the country has been more than 2°C above normal. "Globally, 1998 was the warmest on record, as well. Evidence to support greenhouse gas induced global warming, as predicted by global climate models, continues to mount," the Environment Canada report said. And scientists around the world are seeing the effects of global warming become more apparent.

Worldwide, air and water temperature records were broken every month of 1998. In BC average temperatures have already risen by up to one degree in some areas in the last few decades, and

precipitation on the west coast has increased by about 20 percent.

The global mean surface temperature is estimated to be 0.58 degrees Centigrade above the recent long-term average based on the period 1961-1990. It will be the 20th consecutive year with an above normal global surface temperature. The ten warmest years have all occurred since 1983, with seven of them since 1990. The previous warmest year, 1997, was 0.43 degrees Centigrade above average. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) forecast that the earth's global temperature in 1998 would be the highest since 1860.

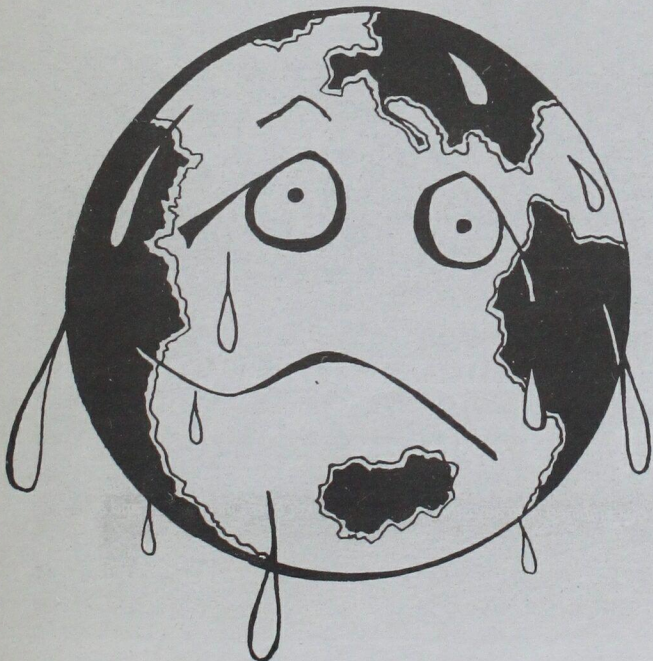
Greenpeace says that critical levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide will be reached within 30 years, if current rates of fossil fuel consumption are maintained. "At these levels there is likely to be major and irreversible climatic changes," the group warned. Data from Britain's Hadley Centre for Climate Change, crunched with a supercomputer, shows that the earth is heating more rapidly than previously thought, and by 2050, an unstoppable green house effect will be triggered, if nothing changes in our damage to the atmosphere and ecosphere.

The global warming is believed by many researchers, including the NASA scientists, to be at least partly a consequence

of increasing human-made gases in the atmosphere, especially carbon dioxide, which arises from the burning of coal, oil and gas. We've been keeping pace with global trends in BC with emissions in 1995 that were 15 percent higher than 1990 levels. Much of this increase is caused by the rapid rate of population and economic growth in the province. The biggest two contributors to growing emissions are private vehicles and industry.

During his State of the Nation address last week, US President Clinton called global warming "our most fateful new challenge." He added, "Last year's heat waves, floods and storms are but a hint of what future generations may endure if we do not act now."

The silver lining in the global climate change picture is that it's forcing us to rethink everything we do. According to the Rocky Mountain Institute in Colorado protecting the climate is actually profitable and good for the economy. Greenhouse-gas emissions are simply the byproduct of the uneconomically wasteful use of resources. The obvious solution, then, is increased efficiency. Being more efficient not only reduces emissions, it also saves money and increases economic competitiveness.



GEOTIME

GRANT COBURN
Canadian physicist living in Japan

If we think of the earth and its interdependent life system as an entity or single organism, we must start hinking in geological time scales for old mother earth instead of our "human" time scales. We do it for dogs. My dog is 12 years old but in dog years he's 84. That's getting up there for a dog.

The earth is about five billion years old. It can probably support life for another five billion years at the max. After that the sun will expand into its red giant phase and engulf us. Humans can live about 100 years if you're lucky, so our time conversion factor is one hundred million. That means that a million years to us is about three or four days to mama earth.

Some mountains can rise up and erode away again in five million years. In geotime that's a couple of weeks. Kinda like a pimple, don't you think? The mass extinctions that have raped the earth time and time again were probably caused by asteroid impacts and global climatic shifts. These traumas wiped out up to 95percent of the complex life forms on the earth. It took millions of years for the life to re-diversify and fill up the available niches. The last one 65 million years ago wiped out the

dinosaurs. Ten million years later life is flourishing in every imaginable nich. In geotime that's four or five weeks. Kinda like a real bad flu don't you think?

We are not the ever so powerful masters of the planet that our over-inflated arrogance leads us to believe. In geotime we have only been here a few days. Jesus was born a few minutes ago. Mother earth does not depend on us or need us. She will hardly notice when we are gone. With massive nuclear-war and terrible ocean pollution, all we could manage to give her is a week or two of the sniffles.

We don't have the responsibility of protecting the earth for the earth's sake. We should love and protect this planet for our sake and for our children. If we tip the balance too far we could give mother earth a cold. If we don't embrace her and care for her she could wipe out humanity and cause immense suffering and pain in one sneeze. We should be environmentally concerned because in our brief time scale, offsetting the symbiotic balance of life could destroy us. Mother earth doesn't need us, we need her.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The term 'geotime' was first coined by Grant Coburn. This essay is based on some ideas presented by Steven Jay Gould in his book "Right Little Piggies"



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