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The
Link

Wednesday, April 9, 1997



Not some ball to kick around

See page 9

Strike Averted!

Faulty & Administration reach agreement

See page 3

Link Classifieds

call 432-8974

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Burnaby Campus
Mon. & Wed. in April
11 - 2:30
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The Link
yours to
read . . .

. . . yours
to write.

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 computer store)

Wednesday, April 9

Campus Christian Club. 11:30am. SW1 - 2005. For more info 451-4568.

BCIT Investment Club. 11:30 in SE6 122. If you are interested please call 438-1442.

E-File your Taxes. No appointment necessary. 11 - 2:30pm. SA Campus Centre.

BCIT Employment Services Workshop. Getting A Summer Job, Resumes. 12:30 - 1:30pm. SW1-1125. Must pre-register. \$5 incl. workshop materials.

Thursday, April 10

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

BCIT Employment Services Workshop. Getting A Summer Job, Resumes. 4:30 - 5:30pm. SW1-1125. Must pre-register. \$5 incl. workshop materials.

Friday, April 11

Take Pride Drop-in. Free Tea & Chat. 4:00pm, SW1 - 2004. For

more information or just to talk call Gordon Handford at 451-6922 or Mark Miller at 432-8964.

Monday, April 14

E-File your Taxes. No appointment necessary. 11 - 2:30pm. SA Campus Centre.

Tuesday, April 15

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

Planned Parenthood Clinic. 7:00pm to 9:00pm Medical Services, SE16.

Wednesday, April 16

SA Executives Elections. Voting in the Great Hall, SA Campus Centre (SE2). 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Campus Christian Club. 11:30am. SW1 - 2005. For more info 451-4568.

BCIT Investment Club. 11:30 in SE6 122. If you are interested please call 438-1442.

E-File your Taxes. No appointment necessary. 11 - 2:30pm. SA

Campus Centre.

BCIT Employment Services Workshop. Getting A Summer Job, Resumes. 12:30 - 1:30pm. SW1-1125. Must pre-register. \$5 incl. workshop materials.

Thursday, April 17

SA Executives Elections. Voting in the Great Hall, SA Campus Centre (SE2). 10:00am to 4:00pm.

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

BCIT Employment Services Workshop. Getting A Summer Job, Resumes. 4:30 - 5:30pm. SW1-1125. Must pre-register. \$5 incl. workshop materials.

Friday, April 18

SA Elections. Voting in the Great Hall, SA Campus Centre (SE2) 9:00am to 12:00am. Voting Closes at Noon. Results Announced in Great Hall, by 4:00pm.

Take Pride Video / Discussion. 4:00pm, SW1 - 2004. For more information or just to talk call Gordon Handford at 451-6922 or Mark Miller at 432-8964.

Saturday, April 19

Career Connections. CACEE Career Conference. Learn about Behaviour-based Interviews, Internet Job Search, Employers' Views on Resources, & Job Search Skills. 10am - 4:30pm. Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings St, Vancouver. (See BCIT Employment Centre for more info.)

Monday, April 21

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

E-File your Taxes. No appointment necessary. 11 - 2:30pm. SA Campus Centre.

Tuesday, April 22

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

Planned Parenthood Clinic. 7:00pm to 9:00pm Medical Services, SE16.

Wednesday, April 23

Campus Christian Club. 11:30am. SW1 - 2005. For more info 451-4568.

BCIT Investment Club. 11:30 in SE6 122. If you are interested please call 438-1442.

Thursday, April 24

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

BCIT Employment Services Workshop. Getting A Summer Job, Resumes. 4:30 - 5:30pm. SW1-1125. Must pre-register. \$5 incl. workshop materials.

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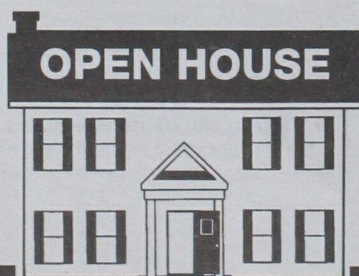
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 19, 1997

4400 Still Creek Drive

(side entrance)

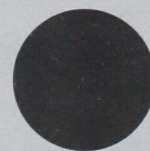
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STUDENT ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL NOTES

SA elections underway

The Student Association is holding elections next week for all executive positions. Campaigning is already well under way, with eager political hopefuls posting campaign slogans through-out the Burnaby campus. Polling stations are open on Wednesday, April 16 and Thursday, April 17 from 10am to 4pm and until Friday, April 18 at noon.

If you had set photos taken, they can be picked up when you vote. Unfortunately, you can only vote once ... so no one can stuff ballot boxes. The elections are very important and careful consideration should be given to those candidates who will work hard to make next year a great year....one to remember before you head off for the work force.

Voting is a right which was fought for by students passing through this campus long before we did. Exercise your right.

Campaign speeches can be heard Wednesday (today) at 1145 am at the Great Hall.

● Max Noble is a hard working, bright individual involved in the Robotics program. He would like to hear from enthusiastic people interested in setting up a Venture Club. The club would offer information from guest speakers and feature reports on entrepreneurial topics such as: Financial planning, inventing, patents, trends, and strategies. This could be a great project for summer...and after a full year next year could get some students their own business. You can contact Noble to pledge your support or help build the framework of this venture, by calling 617-4767.

● The Vancouver-Burnaby branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association is looking for a young person to sit on their board of directors.

One in five people in Canada suffer from some sort of serious mental health problem. One in eight people need to be hospitalized from this problem. Mental Health problems can affect many people, however negative stereo-types and prejudice make it very difficult for people to seek treatment.

This person should be able to articulate the needs of today's youth, have an understanding of some legal matters, and be involved in the health sciences. If you feel that you are what they need call the acting Executive Director, Joan Gosse at 872-4902.

● The Student Association is asking for your opinion on laptop computers. As you may be aware, the BCIT admin want everyone to have a laptop computer before too long. This is will be the new way to plug in. It will save on paper among other things. If you have ideas about this move, or about plug-in centers, outlets, internet plug-ins, e-mail and other techno, new age stuff, you can do so at the SA office located in the Great Hall above the Elephant.

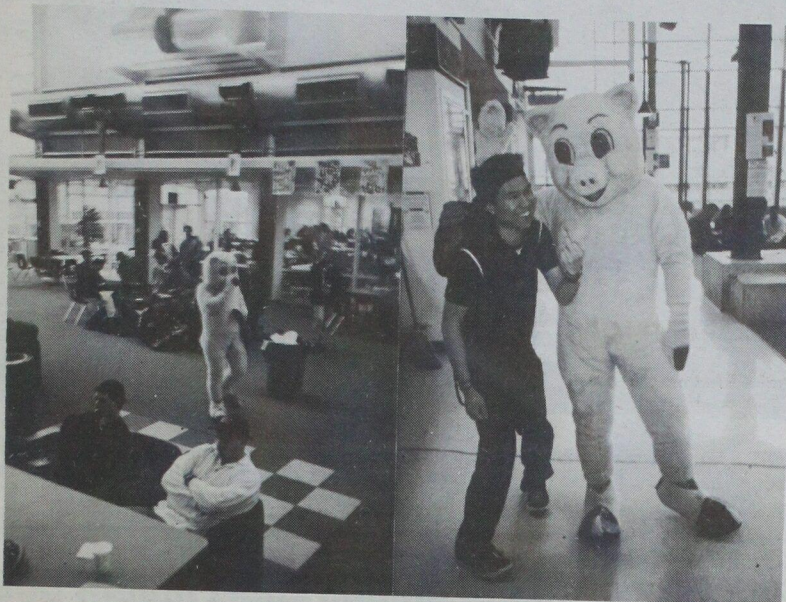
● Pigs in the Hall seemed to go very well. The giant pig had fun dancing with several people including a still bewildered journalist student. and oinking home the point which was to pick up your garbage and keep the Great Hall cleaner.

● No Fault Insurance could be a big loser for students. Under this plan, if you are hurt in an accident you compensation could be based on your net earnings which as a student are slightly higher than the amount you've really won from Ed McMahon. Call ICBC to complain about this one.

● Career week is under way and a success from all early reports...make sure you attend or find out more about it. (last issue or S.A. office)

● Their are still efforts being made to get the Red Cross to perform a blood donor clinic before the end of the school year. Cutbacks to the Red Cross have made it difficult in getting them here, but there is still hope. If it is to happen it will occur on a Friday. Remember to give the gift of life.

compiled by Sean Constable



No Pigs in the Hall?

Promoting cleanliness in our living and studying environment the SA's "No Pigs in the Hall" campaign kicked off Wednesday, March 26th with hilarious antics by the campaign's mascot. The Pig directed students to the garbage cans at the exits and demonstrated oxygen masks while the Business Chair Peter DeSouza over the PA spoke procedures in the event of a garbage emergency in the vein of a pre-flight safety demonstration.

Able Link staffer and council reporter Sean Constable played the role of the pig admirably and cavorted with students in the Great Hall.

PAUL DAYSON PHOTOS

Strike averted, agreement reached
Next round of negotiations arming up to start with BCGEU

JOLLEAN WILLINGTON
Link News Editor

You can breath easily. There will not be a strike by the Faculty and Staff Association (FSA). A tentative settlement has been reached between the FSA and the administration after lengthy and intense mediated negotiations.

The two hot topics on the table were Long Term Disability (LTD) payments for all FSA members, and workload increases. There are approximately a dozen other issues included in the tentative agreement which include professional development and leave details.

The FSA has settled the LTD issue at an 80 percent employer paid plan for regular employees such as teacher assistants and full-time instructors and staff. Others who do not fall into this category, such as part-time instructors, temporary and student workers, will be given an allowance of a 1% increase in salary in lieu of LTD. Both programs begin November 1, 1997. While not exactly what the FSA was looking for, it seems as

though it will have to do for now.

The workload issue, also top priority during negotiations, has been settled for the time being. While the contact hours totaling 15 to 17 hours a week remain the same, some things have changed. The FSA wanted to have the issue of student numbers per class addressed so that instructor workload does not get beyond what the instructor considers workable.

"We were going for an arrangement that included a process for the instructors to take," says FSA president, Jennifer Orum.

The process detailed in the tentative settlement offers three layers of appeal for instructors if they have more students in a class than can be effectively taught, or if they must teach a new course. The first layer of appeal is from the instructor to the department head, where workload originates. If there is no progress at that level, then its on to the dean of that particular school. If there is still no joy for the instructor, the final avenue is to the workload disputes committee. This committee members are

half FSA and half management.

None of this is set in stone. The negotiations were concluded and the agreement signed on April 1 at 11 o'clock in the evening. On April 2, there was a vote by 265 of the 1035 FSA members. Of the 265 who voted 95 percent were for the settlements ratification. A package including all the details of the settlement has been put together by the FSA and sent out by mail to all 1035 members with a secret ballot. The ballots must be sent in and counted and the results will be out on May 5, 1997.

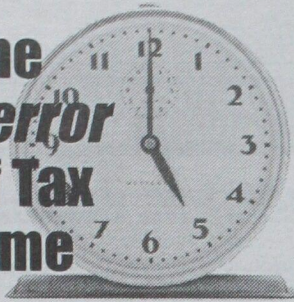
Don't get too excited. If all members vote and if the majority is against the ratification of the settlement, the next step would be a strike vote. Even if there is a ratification of the agreement, it will only be good news for a short time. The new contract, if ratified, will be dated from January 1 1996 to June 1, 1998. Plans are already in the works for yet more bargaining. The reason for this is general dissatisfaction with the deal just cut.

"Certainly we made some headway in our bargaining.

Continued on next page

Errata

The Terror of Tax Time



In the last issue of The Link we mistakenly printed that BC residents are eligible for renters deductions. Only Ontario residents are eligible for such deductions.

We apologize for any confusion or inconveniences this may have caused.

Tutoring Request Cut-Off for Term

Friday April 25

call 451-6915 to register



The BCIT SA's newest contribution in the offering worm composting bins under construction and soon to be filled with Red Wigglers on the Burnaby Campus. The bins are expected to reduce campus waste and the institute's fertilizer costs (see story page 10)

Tentative agreement means short labour peace

continued from previous page
Clearly, we didn't reach our goal. So we'll be negotiating again next spring," says Orum. "This work provides a good foundation to get closer to these goals," she adds. Their goal is to have the same working conditions and benefits for all FSA members.

The FSA have just held their elections for the board of direc-

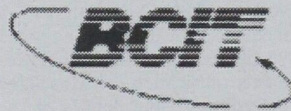
tors. All of the present directors are in again by acclamation, meaning they put their names forward without contest. "We decided to do this so it's not like abandoning a sinking ship," explains Orum.

The next fire may very well be the campus's trade area. BCGEU bargaining unit 703, representing trades instructors, are not overly

pleased with the way things have been running lately and have over 50 grievances against the administration. Chairperson Tom Kozar says, "We'll probably take the strike vote this year." Not great news for college administrators who are getting plenty of practice at putting out fires. They caught the last one with the FSA in the nick of time.

Diversity Day

Join the BCIT community for a celebration of difference.



Wednesday, April 16, 1997 1100 - 1500

The Great Hall - SE2

This event will demonstrate and highlight the many groups and initiatives on campus supporting diversity.

paid parking is available in front of building SW1

Diversity: A point or respect in which things differ; difference; unlike in kind.

Pepsi article opens eyes

I returned home this weekend with my mind set on a single task: to compose a ballsy yet clever letter to the editor attacking the complete non-accessibility of Coca-Cola on the BCIT campus.

Not one to be lured into the obvious, I chose not to debate the merits of Coke versus Pepsi as this trite argument is forever unsolvable: like art, food and running shoes logic does not apply, arguments does not sway, taste alone rules, ergo a person should buy what she likes.

No, I proudly decided to rise above all that and go with my cleverly contrived two-pronged thrust, namely that: A) providing choice in something so fundamentally sacred as cola to a captive audience such as ourselves is the only right thing to do, and B) who does the SA think they are withholding the amount of his "considerable sum" in savings from us, their own membership?

When, BLAM! Out of the blue I am hit between the eyes by Luis Curran's sledgehammer article about PepsiCo's relationship with the government of Burma, one of the most brutal and repressive regimes on the planet [The Link, March 5, 1997].

Excuse me while I adjust my priorities.

Mr. Curran's article was not only well written, thoughtful and clear, but it raised my perspective of the situation above the small minded ideas that my likes and dislikes are paramount, that my freedom of choice is undeniable

and that my right to know is inalienable. As I read and digested the article I felt as if I was being raised high up in the air, and, whereas once this Pepsi-Coke war seemed like something around me which was big enough to fight, now I could not help but raise my eyes to an ever-expanding vista of wars the worldwide, seemingly too big to fight, and making my causes look like petty spats. For myself, I felt only shame.

Thank you Mr. Curran, for doing what was right in saying what needed to be said. In clarifying what was important. In putting the various levels of this issue in proper perspective. In providing me with not only an example but an inspiration. I salute you.

As for Coke, I sadly admit I know nothing about them and their doings. But I sure as hell am going to find out.

Jenny Young
Paint and Glaze

LINK LETTERS POLICY

The Link loves 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.

SA PEER TUTORING CENTRE (SE 14.1) FREE DROP-IN SCHEDULE

DAY	TIME	SUBJECT(S)
Monday	16:30 - 18:30	Calculus, Digital Elex 1
	17:30 - 20:00	Basic Math
Tuesday	07:30 - 08:20	CAD - Mech, Statics
	16:30 - 18:30	Calculus, Digital Elex 1
	16:30 - 20:30	Calculus, Physics, CAD
Wednesday	11:30 - 13:20	Bus. Math, Stats, Acct. Econ.
	11:30 - 13:20	CAD - Mech, Statics
	16:30 - 18:30	Calculus, Physics, CAD
Thursday	07:30 - 08:30	CAD - Mech, Statics
	11:30 - 12:20	Bus. Math, Stats, Acct., Econ.
	13:30 - 15:20	Bus. Math, Stats, Acct., Econ.
	17:30 - 20:00	Basic Math
	18:30 - 20:30	Calculus, Digital Elex 1
Friday	11:30 - 12:20	Bus. Math, Stats, Acct., Econ.
	11:20 - 20:30	CAD - Mech., Statics

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De La Soul hoppin' up for the party

DAVID LAI
Link Entertainment Editor

This show was packed, sold out, and people were still lining up outside, wanting to get in on the scene. This Easter weekend was fully hip hop style at Richard's On Richards. The weekend shows were all souled out, with Q-bert and Funkdooiest, DJ Shadow, The Jeru the Damaja and De La Soul.

CONCERT REVIEW
De La Soul
Richard's On Richards
March 31, 1997

The entertainment began with a few DJs laying down some tracks, not really breaking it up. This was unfortunate, as when they do mix their vinyl, it makes for a much more enticing evening. After, a local band boarded the stage and kept the audience attentive, and anxious for the headliners to flood the waves.

The energy was on fire, melting some cheese in the club, and everyone just wanted La Soul to show their talents. It wasn't until just after midnight, before their ran up on stage and started ripping it out and our ears perked. Some attendants hardly noticed as their alcohol levels also perked.

De La Soul had the power and energy to hype the people, raising their expectations. Does Vancouver want to party?!! Who's the most righteous in the crowd, left side or the right side?!! Yeah!! the crowd screams. Hormone levels around the area were sky rocketing as were alcohol sales. Yeah! Then these guys went on to ask the audience who likes jazz, rock 'n roll, hip hop, R&B, and country! De La Soul had the audiences' full attention and hyped them to yell "We want to party!", "Yeah!" and so on, the evening continued.

Their played a few short mixes of some tracks off their past releases, but sounded unlike any of them I've heard. A few of the mixes remembered were from "Me Myself and I", "Breakadawn" and "Stickabush". The actual performance seemed limited and restrained, compared to the amount of hype they were able to generate. De La Soul kept the audience attentive and hopeful for a fuller performance.

As time traveled on, select individuals slowly began to depart, before the mad rush to the coat check out and exit doors. This evening, De La Soul had the crowds soul and attention under their command, and they played it up for a final evening of hip hop style on this triple-bill weekend slam.

Celebrating our diversity with music of East & West

DAVID LAI
Link Entertainment Editor

Presented by the Chinese Cultural Centre and Vancouver Symphony, this celebration brought together elements from the East and infused them with the West. The Orpheum Theatre is deceiving from the outside. Inside it is architecturally stylistic, beautiful and extremely spacious. The size is immensely deceiving. Seated on the stage was the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. The honored and respected guests this evening, representing the Eastern musical culture were Liu, De-Hai (pipa, similar to a lute), Cheng, Chai-Man (Chinese flute), and Vicky Chow (grand piano). There were a total of six movements for this evening.

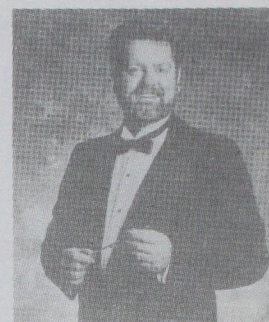
CONCERT REVIEW
A Musical Celebration of East and West
The Orpheum Theatre
April 4, 1997

The first movement, the VSO played Variations on a Chinese Melody, by John Van Deursen. This piece sounded like Asian music for a western cultured symphony. Following was a more traditional piece, Ambush on All Sides, performed by Liu. This was most amazing as Liu just ranked out on the pipa, creating an expanding range of sounds which emanated throughout the theatre, it created a nostalgic atmosphere. Everyone was intensely focused on Liu's incredible skill on the pipa. He has made a major contribution to the development of the pipa by applying western-style fingering techniques expanding the instrument's range of expression. He has a numbers of recordings in China, and presently spends his time performing, and teaching. The next piece, Glad Tidings to the Mountain Village, performed by the VSO, was accompanied by Cheng Chai-Man, on the Chinese

flute. Cheng led the symphony on a musical journey through the village. His techniques on the flute and various other wind instruments was very impressive and combined with the orchestra to create a new life of sound, using traditional instruments.

The fourth piece, enriched by thirteen year old Vicky Chow on the piano, showed great courage and maturity in her abilities to perform with the VSO, playing Piano Concerto in A minor op.16. Vicky was able to handle the audience's focus and spotlight, and did not appear to be nervous or have any effect on the rich warm tones that vibrated from the piano. The fifth traditional piece, Shadows in the Moonlight, was performed with Liu on the pipa. It portrayed a vivid scenic picture, of floating down a river in a Spring tranquil night, reflections on both sides. The piece was tightly executed, combining many themes. And the final piece, Song of Deities, was performed with Cheng on several different wind instruments. A table was laid beside Cheng and as the performance progressed he would pick up different traditional wind instruments and play along, adding a divine, defined sound quality to the music. Song of Deities has been regarded as a successful fusion of modern and traditional music composition.

The Eastern artists attracted a noticeable number of Asian attendants and the VSO, bought the more Western influence to the Orpheum Theatre. The audience were much appreciative of the VSO and were honored to have the chance to experience such a musical celebration of the East and West. In the past, there was New Music for Asian Instruments, Further East/Further West, now there's the Musical Celebration of East and West, lets hope to see more of this blending and bringing together of Eastern and Western (inter-racial) cultures and arts.



Clyde Mitchell



Vicky chow



Cheng Chai-Man



Liu De-Hai

BCIT Medical Services

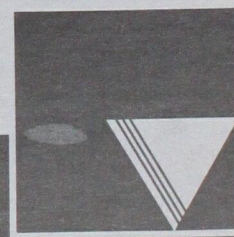
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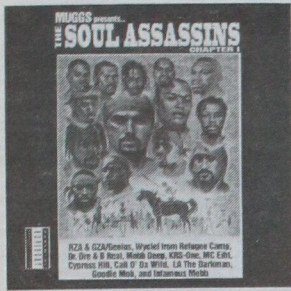
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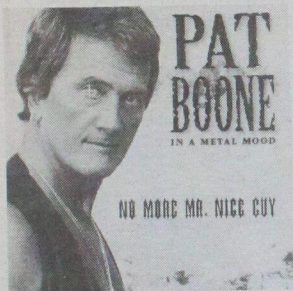
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Various Artists
The Soul Assassins
(Columbia)

Word up. Muggs presents the Soul Assassins, Chapter 1. This newly released compilation features many rap/gangster artists, fronting their musical abilities, attitudes and opinions. Dr. Dre and B-Real, Mobb Deep, KRS-One, Wyclef from Refugee Camp, LA The Darkman, the Infamous Mobb and many more. DJ Muggs is a founding producer behind three consecutive albums of Cypress Hill, one of the most internationally successful groups in Hip Hop. Mr. Muggs is also credited for the success of House of Pain, Funkdoobiest, and Ice Cube. This Soul Assassins project of DJ Muggs is not a soundtrack to a movie, even though it may sound like one with all the sampled vocals and sound effects (gunfire) in the background (some from movies). Score this 12-tracked disc for some lyrical rhymes and beats, for a taste of some successful gangster rappers. (DL)

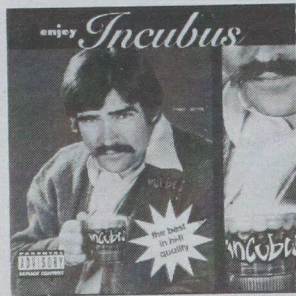


Pat Boone
In a Metal Mood:
No More Mr. Nice Guy
(Hip-O)

Now THIS is it! This is the kind of wholesome, family oriented metal we here at the Link have been longing for. Pat Boone has got it all. Judas Priest, Ozzy, Alice Cooper, AC/DC, Metallica! Talk about a strange mixture! But, amazingly, Pat Boone pulls it off. Some of the songs are pretty cool, too, especially, Enter Sandman, Holy Diver, Stairway to Heaven, and The Wind Cries Mary. I think this album is worth picking up just for the novelty value and the picture of fake tattoo and sunglasses clad Pat posed with a Harley (I hope they make a poster of that one!). What can I say? The songs are done in a kind of big band/lounge style, a few of the songs are kind of danceable and the whole thing is kind of

spinnin' the disk

cheesy! It's a good combination. (AD)



Incubus
Enjoy Incubus
(Immortal/Epic)

Injecting this fresh disc into the box, I was immediately reminded of Mr. Bungle and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. These five guys have got the hard-core funk rhythms and beats phat out for your listening excitement. Containing only six tracks, the CD will end before you know it. Tapping to pounding drums and bongos, funky guitars, subsonic bass, and scratches/samples will keep their listeners' feet moving and heads nodding for louder and faster playing. If Incubus were to play live, the music would receive encores. Their sound is uplifting and open into your face. They thank everyone and thing, from their parents to Spaceman Spliff, to African Percussion, and company sponsorship. The inside sleeve contains all the lyrics for those who have a hard time listening and graphics of the band and a cheesy '50s looking fellow. For another hard-core funk disc, this is one that's sure to grow. (DL)

Lazlo Bane
11 Transistor

I sat down a week ago to finish off this review of Lazlo Bane's album, 11 Transistor. I had scrawled down about 200 words that went something like this: "Lazlo Bane another clone



band..." The music on 11 Transistor could be passed off for any of a number of CD's in my collection, all attempts of doing something outside of the norm were washed away in a drone of guitar riffs.

Something happened though as I sat at my computer while giving 11 Transistor one last listen. To my amazement, I had let a few substandard tracks (especially the last song) skew the rest of the album. There is a lot of good music on this disc! Notable cuts include the opener "I'll Do Everything" (I always been a sucker for a song with whistling), the melodramatic "Flea Market Girl," and 1975 (no relation to the Pumpkin's 1979!). This is not to say that mixed in with these jewels are a some highly forgettable tracks such as the uninspired "Novakane" and "Midday Train."

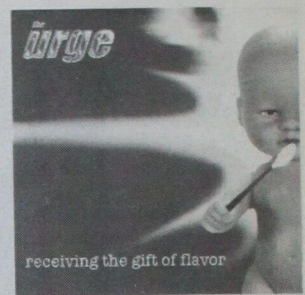
As mentioned above the worst cut was the last one. Like a lot of

bands before them, Lazlo Bane threw an extra cut on the CD. The standard practice is to have the last cut run on for a few minutes into the loyal listener is rewarded with a couple of extra minutes of music. Instead of doing this, "11 Transistor" has a number of 2 second cuts on the end of the CD until you are "rewarded" with a tune on track "69". "69" — get it?!!!! I had to check the album insert just to make sure that these guys weren't a bunch of Grade 9's who got off on Friday nights by looking at Playboys and eating nachos.

All of this aside it all comes down to one big question: is it worth spending the last remnants of your student loan on this album? I'm going to massively cope out and suggest that you hang on to those pesos, at least until you can give this album a really good listen and decide for yourself. (KP)

The Urge
Receiving the gift of flavor
(Immortal/Epic)

Well, gee, um, let's see. I know! There's already one Fishbone and that's plenty for me. But seriously kids, you've got to see the "selling points" for this band. It's like the label is a degenerate gambler and The Urge is a hurtin' horse. I guess there are a couple of good songs on this record, they're sort of like if the Voodoo Glow Skulls were a



metal band. The album sort of starts out fresh and cool, and then drifts into songs that sound more like Rage Against the Machine castoffs than anything else. This is good stuff for those of you that like the "mainstream alternative" music that the labels so fondly refer to. (AD)

Age of Electric Contest Winners

- Justin Tomson, Building Tech.
- John Schenk, Marketing Grad
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- Trevor Fane, Electronics
- Squeig Conejo, Trades
- Darcy Cornock, Marketing

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The first Earth Day

GREG HELTEN
SA Environmental Education
Program

The roots to the first Earth Day began in several key events in the 1960s that fired a great concern for the environment. The Great Lakes were proclaimed virtually dead, choked by what seemed to be an endless torrent of pollutants; the first catastrophic oil spill from a supertanker, the "Torrey Canyon", off the coast of England; Rachel Carson's book, the best-seller "Silent Spring", which stimulated widespread concern over the misuse of pesticides and their devastating impacts.

The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, was the largest focused demonstration in history. The US Congress closed its doors as politicians went home to attend or participate in local events. Legislatures from 42 states passed Earth Day resolutions to commemorate the date. An estimated 20 million Americans – students, teachers, and officials – took part in the activities.

The impact was tremendous. Environmental organizations blossomed and the membership ranks of established conservation groups swelled. The US Congress, spurred on by the earlier passage of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, passed the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act revisions. By the end of the year, the Environmental Protection Agency was created. The same progress began to happen in Canada and around the world.

In 1990, twenty years later, Earth Day was a well-organized and well-funded event. More than 200 million people in more than 140 countries took part. A new generation focused its concerns on recycling, saving the

rain-
forests,
reducing
hazardous
wastes and acid
rain.

Great leaps continue to be made in protecting the environment and living sustainably. Just this Monday, the BC government announced a new deposit law on almost all beverage containers to come into affect next year. And here at BCIT, we're just starting up our latest addition to our recycling system – a vermicomposter that uses 170,000 worms to process organic waste from cafeterias into up to 18 metric tonnes of compost a year.

But this is not time to stop now. Human industrial society continues to take more from the earth than it's giving back, destroying more habitat than it saves or creates, forcing extinct more species than ever. We're certainly not winning the battle as larger forces come into play like disruption of earth's climate system and the life-protecting ozone layer. World Population stands at close to six billion, about 104 species are lost to extinction every day. It's estimated there are ten years until one third of all species will be gone, Antarctic ozone deple-

tion is at 70 percent and climbing...

"In the end, when it comes to the environment, individuals count most."

We could fill newspapers full of facts and figures, but in the end, when it comes to the environment, individuals count most. A lot of environmental damage comes not from big catastrophes like the Exxon Valdez oil spill or the Kuwaiti oil fires, but from the daily actions of individuals. When a million people allow their cars to leak oil, or conversely, recycle a pop can, the results can be startling! And when you graduate, go out and help transform companies you work for and communities you live in. Make Earth Day every day.

Tuesday, April 22

Every year BCIT commemorates Earth Day with various environmental activities that give meaning to the maxim "Think globally, Act Locally". Join us at the following events:

EARTH DAY EVENTS

12:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 22 - Grand Opening of BCIT's Composting System outside on the north side of the Great Hall with Burnaby Mayor Doug Drummond, BCIT officials, students and the child-care class.

Wednesday, April 23 - 11:30 - 2:30 p.m. - lunch time, storm-drain marking, tree-planting

Make an Earth Day pledge to yourself to change or upgrade some part of your lifestyle to become more environment-friendly.

Start with some simple changes. Carry your own reusable mug instead of disposables, and cycle, carpool, or take the bus instead of driving.

REDUCE your consumption, especially of highly packaged and short-lived items. Use rechargeable batteries.

Recycle everything possible, and dispose of toxic materials responsibly. Use non-toxic, biodegradable cleaners at home. Switch to energy and water efficient appliances.

Be active and be vocal in your community.

Contact the Environmental Education Programme at 451-7060 for more information.

to help out with EarthDay activities

• storm-drain marking • tree-planting • grand opening of BCIT's compost program •

Call the SA's Environmental Education program at 451-7070

Worms join BCIT's war on waste

LISA LECLERC
SA Environmental Education

One hundred and seventy thousand worms have begun the siege on BCIT's organic waste. Some of them arrived on campus last Fall to train and as of next week they will officially take over organic waste produced by Campus Cafe and Town Square. BCIT will be the only institute of its size to have a functioning vermi-composting system on its campus.

Besides reducing waste, a permanent composting system will produce high-grade humus which can be used to enrich the campus' severely taxed soils, it will serve as an educational tool for both campus departments and surrounding elementary and high schools, and it will boost BCIT's public environmental image. Also, BCIT will be ahead of the game when the GVRD puts a ban

on organic waste. The ban is scheduled to happen in 1998.

The Student Association's Environmental Action Centre initiated organic waste pilot projects last Fall as part of its commitment to help reduce waste at BCIT. The pilot projects showed that Campus Cafe and Town Square produced on average 703 pounds of organic waste per week. Over the course of the school year BCIT's vermi-composting program will therefore redirect 28,120 pounds of organic waste from landfills.

The great thing about it is that it is virtually effortless. The worms do all the work. Kitchen staff surveyed stated that composting has had no impact on their regular staff duties and only a few alterations had to be made in the waste disposal system currently operating at both locations in order to initiate the program. Once the waste is deposited into



the compost bins the worms take charge. It's as simple as that.

The Food For All Foundation (FFAF), a local non-profit society, is sponsoring BCIT's composting program. FFAF designed and helped to build the composting bins free-of-charge, and will

Garbage into Gold, 1993

provide BCIT with free general maintenance and up-keep of the bins for one year. A work-study student will also be on-hand to aid with this task.

Many thanks should be extended to the BC Government E-Team member Jack Tallon, Physical Plant, Restauronics, Marriott Janitorial and all the staff at both Campus Cafe and Town Square. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated. Be sure to join us at the Compost System Grand Opening on Earth Day.

BCIT and its worms are allies in the war on waste. That means you are an ally too. Lets keep fighting.

Little known worm facts

The noted English scientist, Charles Darwin, made a study of the earthworm and estimated that from seven to 18 tons of worm casts per acre of land were brought to the surface each year by earthworms. He figured that in England alone 320,000,000 tons of soil yearly are transformed into worm casts and deposited in and on the surface of the earth in the immediate root-zone of vegetation.

In the soils of the United States it has been estimated that the combined weight of the earthworm population would equal more than ten times the weight of the human population.

Good garden and farm land will easily support 1,000,000 or more earthworms per acre. It is estimated that this number of worms will transform upwards of 200 tons of soil yearly, delivering the fertile castings to the surface to richly nourish growing crops.

World Book Encyclopedia.

A quick look at the Numbers

In the BCIT Compost System, over 170,000 Red-Wiggler worms will process 68 kg (150lb) per day of organic waste from the Campus Cafe and Town Square cafeterias, and produce about 18 metric tonnes (40,000 LB) per year of fine, organic compost. Vermicomposting, or composting with worms, will reduce on-campus waste by 28,120 pounds per academic year (10 months). Over time, as the worms proliferate, they can be harvested and sold, or used on campus to expand the composting program to other areas. High-grade humus produced by vermi-composting can be used on campus as a natural soil conditioner. This will save BCIT \$2,400 per year in chemical fertilizer costs. Worm castings are considered the best all-around fertilizer available.

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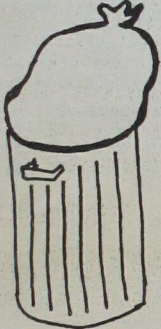
ENVIRONMENTAL SNAPSHOTS

KEVIN BATDORF, SA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

March sets weather record

This March set the record for the most rainfall ever. A record 234mm of rain fell last month, well above the previous record of 186mm in 1974, and more than double the average of 109mm. The number of hours of sunshine was also below average, with approximately 95 hours, well below the average of 132. This wasn't the record however, which was set in 1950 and was a paltry 76 hours. Winds peaked this March at 104 km/h, which compared to the record 115km/h set in 1945. The 104 km/h was the third highest wind recorded in the month of March. The only normal weather statistic this March was the temperature.

All of these extreme weather conditions suggest that global climate change is starting to have a bigger impact, with more adverse weather becoming more common.



Canada One of World's Worst Environmental Abusers

A report on 52 of the world's largest nations shows that Canada is one of the worst abusers of the environment, with only four nations ranking worse than Canada on a per capita basis. These countries were Iceland, New Zealand, the United States and Australia.

The 52 countries represent 80 percent of the world's population and 95 percent of its economic output.

The report says that Canada consumes resources at four times the rate that the planet can renew them.

The study was co-authored by UBC ecologist and urban planner William Rees. The study was commissioned by the Earth Council, the organization which was founded at the 1992 Earth Summit Rio de Janeiro.

Canada's poor ranking is partly because of large energy requirements for both heating and transportation. Also, Canada's economy relies heavily on exporting natural resources.

The Fraser Institute disagrees with the report, claiming that air and water quality are improving

in the US and Canada, in spite of "alarmist" information. They claim that fears of long term environmental damage are exaggerated.

The Fraser Institute report focused on indicators like air and water quality, while the Earth Council report was based on consumption of resources and generation of waste.

Urban streams in danger can be saved

There are approximately 600 urban streams in BC, and many of those streams are either threatened or endangered. The collection of urban streams has recently been named BC's most endangered river.

The threat to these streams comes mostly from development in the Fraser Valley and southern Vancouver Island. Environmentalists say that with a slight adjustment to existing provincial laws, the streams could be saved.

Currently there is no province-wide standard, with each municipality responsible for protecting streams in their jurisdiction, according to *the Province*, April 1. Because of this, there is a wide variety in standards from one city to another.

Environmentalists would like to see a provincial standard which protects rivers by using a buffer zone between development and vegetation and streams. They'd also like to see a provision that the sale of any Crown lands includes the mandatory protection of rivers, and would require a permit for any tampering to streams or vegetation.

Contamination Found in Fraser Valley Groundwater

Hugh Liebscher, Environment Canada's regional groundwater hydrologist says the quality of the water in the Fraser Valley is declining.

According to *the Vancouver Sun*, March 27, he says population growth in the Valley is a large factor in the increasing amount of contamination found in the Abbotsford aquifer. He has found small amounts of 14 pesticides in the aquifer, where the groundwater is pumped out for 90,000 people.

A pesticide which was formerly used by raspberry farmers, was found as late as 1993, the last year before now that tests were done. The pesticide, called 2-dichloro-propane, hasn't been sold in BC since 1985, yet it still

shows up in the drinking water.

Liebscher also found high levels of nitrate in the water, which can pose a health risk to people by displacing oxygen in blood, and can cause "blue baby" syndrome in infants and pregnant women. Nitrate levels in 11 per cent of the wells in the Fraser Valley exceed safe limits for drinking water.

Liebscher says one of the problems is farmers who carelessly handle toxic chemicals near wells, mixing or storing them near wells. Liebscher would like to see the BC water act amended.

The original law was instituted in 1859. In 1960 the Social Credit government amended the law to make it applicable to all of BC. The law was to come into effect on a day announced by cabinet. No date was ever set, and since then cabinets have come and gone, with none ever utilizing the law.

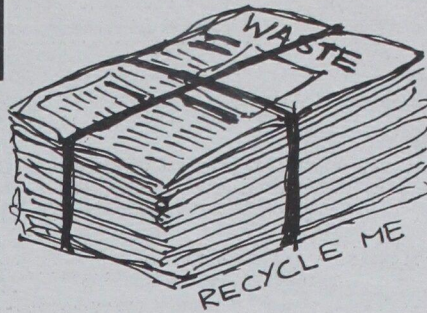
Canadians recycle only 45 percent of newspapers

Canada is one of the world's largest paper manufacturers, and the United States is one of its biggest customers. But the US has strict rules about the recycled fiber content of imported paper.

According to *the Vancouver Sun*, April 1, the result is that the Canadian paper industry imports scrap paper from the US. Anything Americans toss into their recycling bins, including newspaper and office waste, or old magazines, is brought in. Canadians use approximately one million tonnes of newsprint per year. But they only recycle about 45 per cent of that, or 450,000 tonnes.

Just to satisfy the current US demand, the Canadian paper industry needs 1.5 million tonnes of scrap paper per year. So even if in Canada we recycled every bit of scrap paper, it still wouldn't be enough.

And soon we may have to import even more US waste paper. By the year 2000, four states, New York, Texas, California, and Florida will all require that newsprint contain between 30 to 50 per cent recycled content. These four states by themselves represent 20 per cent of North American newspaper readership, and they use three



million tonnes of newsprint a year.

Chopstick plant shut down

Environmentalists were happy to learn that a Fort Nelson chopstick factory has been closed, according to *the Province*, April 2.

The factory produced up to 10 million pairs of chopsticks per day for the Japanese market. The Japanese treat chopsticks as disposable, going through approximately 120 pairs a year.

Colleen McCrory, of the Valhalla Wilderness Society said "it's an industry that clear-cuts huge areas of forest to make an entirely disposable product. It's one of the most wasteful things I've ever seen."

The factory would cut large amounts of aspen for the chopsticks, and would then burn waste wood in the forest.

The company which owned the factory said that the factory became uneconomical when the province started to force them to haul waste wood to a local pulp mill. The factory employed 300 people.

Grizzly hunt in Alberta in dispute

Environmentalists are demanding that Alberta's grizzly bear hunt should be canceled, for fears that the bears might eventually be wiped out.

According to *the Province*, March 31, hunters and the provincial government claim that the grizzly population is showing a steady increase, and a controlled hunt won't do any harm.

Gray Jones, of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee says "We think it's based on bad science and bad biology."

Jones claims the environmental protection department does not accurately count the grizzlies, saying that there are about 750 to 800 bears in Alberta. Gray claims

that the number is closer to 500.

John Gunson, a provincial wildlife-management biologist says that the controlled hunt is to remove problem bears that are too aggressive, before problems with the bears are developed in the summer.

He says there are concerns in the drop

in Grizzlies in Jasper and Banff National Parks, but everywhere else the grizzly population is increasing by one to three percent per year. He says that a bigger threat to the bears is development in the Bow Valley west of Calgary and in Banff. About a dozen grizzlies are expected to be shot this year.

Quarry blamed for water contamination

The 2,000 people who live in the Haztic Valley rely on well-water for their drinking supply, like 600,000 other people in the province. But now concerns over a local quarry have some wondering how safe the water supply may be.

Stave Lake Quarries, which has just recently filed for bankruptcy, has been the object of their concerns.

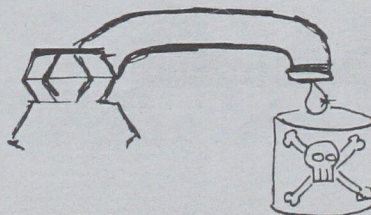
Orest Werezak, who used to work for the quarry, wouldn't drink the water from the Haztic Valley when he worked there. He had bottled water imported for himself and his family. He says that the quarry blasted rock out of the mountains near his home and the local well. And the company has left patches of oily gravel behind, along with a visible oil covering on a local pond.

Werezak says there were frequent accidents and some work policies that led to the dumping of diesel, hydraulic fluid and oil. Werezak claims that rather than clean up the mess, the quarry covered the oil in gravel, then crushed up the soaked rock and sold it.

He says that when environmental officials came to inspect the site that he was told to spray the pond with a pump and fire hose to temporarily disperse the oil, so the officials couldn't see it. He says that was the day he quit.

Other residents of the Valley are angry, saying that they weren't informed that the quarry had been allowed into the valley until four months after the permit was granted. Some residents have complained that silt from blasting operations have contaminated their water supply.

A BC environment official says that while there have been many complaints from residents, there is no proof that the quarry





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