

# WRIGHT GOES LEFT

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# The Link

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## ABOUT THE LINK

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## THE LINK

Room 304 - Building SE2  
3700 Willingdon Ave.  
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3H2

PHONE  
604.456.1167

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER  
John Morrison III  
publications@bcitsa.ca  
604.456.1167

ADVERTISING SALES  
Andrea Lekei  
sales@bcitsa.ca  
604.453.4072

SENIOR EDITOR  
Sarah Gray  
editor@linknewspaper.ca

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
Angelina Theilmann  
campuslife@linknewspaper.ca

NEWS EDITOR  
Neetu Garcha  
news@linknewspaper.ca

CULTURE EDITOR  
Jesse Wentzloff  
culture@linknewspaper.ca

PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR  
Ervin Cho  
visualmedia@linknewspaper.ca

WEBMASTER  
Spencer Kotowick  
webmaster@linknewspaper.ca

PROOFREADER  
Amy Smith

THIS WEEK'S CONTRIBUTORS  
Blanca Blandon, Jenn Fedyk, Thorstan Gerlach, Nigel Haynes, Debs Howard, Michael Jarosz, Kim Pringle, Laura Rodgers, Olsy Sorokina

Cover: Nigel Haynes



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# PHOTO of the WEEK



BCIT joins the Harlem Shake trend thanks to the BCIT Marketing Association. Search "Harlem Shake BCIT" to see the video.

Michael Jarosz

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## CAMPUS QUERY

## Are you going to watch the Academy Awards?



**KYLE CORNELL**  
Math for Business

"Yeah, I used to work in film in a talent agency and on set, so definitely."

**Rooting for:** Bradley Cooper  
(*Silver Linings Playbook*)



**STACEY LOUIE**  
Financial Management

"Apparently, I'm going to an Oscar party."

**Rooting for:** No favourites.



**SHANE GLEESON**  
Computer Information Systems  
Administration

"Yes — my girlfriend will want to."

**Rooting for:** *Life of Pi*



**COURTENAY RANNARD**  
Marketing Management

"I probably will while studying."

**Rooting for:** Jennifer Lawrence  
(*Silver Linings Playbook*)



# BCIT president resigns for potential position with BC NDP

President Don Wright to join BC NDP as head of public service

**NEETU GARCHA**  
News Editor

President Don Wright announced his resignation on February 13 in a formal address. While the BCIT president was visibly emotional, he was optimistic about the road ahead with the provincial branch of the New Democratic Party (BC NDP).

"Adrian Dix has offered me the position of head of the civil service over in Victoria if his party wins the election in May," Wright announced to a crowd of BCIT staff and students, "and I have accepted that offer."

Wright communicated his support for Adrian Dix and the BC NDP to listeners, noting he is not partisan but expressing his own personal philosophy.

"I believe Adrian Dix's agenda is ... a natural extension of what the mission of what this institution is," said Wright, "which is to promote the prosperity of BC by providing people with the tools to be productive, to have rewarding careers and to make a meaningful contribution to the wealth of our society."

Wright's last effective day as president of BCIT will be February 26, at which time Chris Golding, the current vice president for institute planning, will step in as acting-president.

Golding told *The Link* that he feels he will be a good person to fill in during the search for a new president because he doesn't intend to ever take on that role on a permanent basis.

"It's probably best that you have somebody who's acting that doesn't plan on applying for the job because it can often appear to be you have a

head start of everyone else," said Golding.

"I've known for a few weeks now," Golding said, "and we've been just trying to make sure that everybody got informed at the right time."

Kathy Corrigan, the MLA for Burnaby Deer-Lake with the BC NDP, said that Wright was selected based on his credibility in the private and public sectors and his time at BCIT is synonymous with the NDP's prioritization of post-secondary education in BC.

"It certainly dovetails nicely with the emphasis that we have put in recognizing how important post-secondary education is, trades and training and universities absolutely critical to the future of this province," explained Corrigan.

Although enthusiastic about his new potential role with the BC NDP, Wright was emotional when announcing his resignation and reflecting on his five years as BCIT's president.

"I think when it comes time for me to finally retire, I'm going to look back at these five years as the best five years of my career," said Wright.

According to Corrigan,

"[BC NDP leader] Adrian Dix has offered me the position of head of the civil service over in Victoria if his party wins the election in May."

— Don Wright  
outgoing BCIT president

Wright's role with the NDP, if elected in May, would be instrumental in transition planning.

"It's prudent of you to plan



Don Wright addressing staff and students on February 13.

Blanca Blandon

for being in government and that's not second-guessing what the people of BC are going to do by any means," Corrigan told *The Link*. "What it does mean is that you need to have a plan in place and that's called transition planning."

In his public announcement to BCIT staff and stu-

dents, Wright said his reason for accepting is two-fold.

"I need to spend the next period of time preparing for my new position," said Wright.

"Second, I didn't want BCIT in any way to be affected by perception of conflict from my current position to the one that I may be going to."

Wright said that if the NDP were elected in May, a higher investment into post-secondary education is likely.

"If the government does change in the spring time, I think you'll find that there's a government that places a higher value on BCIT than has been the case over the last little while," said Wright.

**Flip to pages 8-9 for our one-on-one interview with Wright**





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## Students urged to vote in U-Pass referendum

Price of U-Pass to increase to \$38 per month over three years

**OLSY SOROKINA**

*The Link*

The current U-Pass contract expires in March, and eleven eligible post-secondary institutions will vote to decide whether they should keep the U-Pass, with an increase in cost, for three more years.

The universal transit pass, introduced at BCIT three years ago, permits its users to use public transit in all three fare zones in Metro Vancouver and get a discount for the West Coast Express, a weekday commuter rail service between downtown Vancouver and Mission.

According to the information on British Columbia Institute of Technology Student Association (BCITSA) and TransLink websites, the revised program will be in effect from April 2013 to April 2016, and will adjust U-Pass rates yearly in accordance with TransLink fare changes.

The proposed monthly U-Pass rates are: \$35 from May

2013 to April 2014, \$36.75 from May 2014 to April 2015 and \$38 from May 2015 to April 2016.

Students at BCIT can have their say in the U-Pass referendum from February 19 to 26. Voting dates were initially from February 15 to 22, but due to technical difficulties, about 400-450 votes went uncounted. If you voted on Friday, February 15, make sure you re-vote online or in the Great Hall.

**If you voted on Friday, February 15, make sure you re-vote online or in the Great Hall.**

Mike Hanson, vice president-external of the BCITSA, said that although voter turnout for the U-Pass referendum in 2011 was over forty per cent, the organization hopes to increase the numbers by focusing on student awareness.

“[BCITSA is] taking the

neutral position, so we don’t necessarily care whether it [U-Pass] passes or if it fails,” Hanson told *The Link*, “but we want the maximum number of potential people to vote.”

The student association will run an awareness campaign to include the majority of eligible voters, including other BCIT campuses.

“We are going to try to increase awareness [for the referendum] at our satellite campuses, so the Aerospace campus, the Marine campus, and downtown,” Hanson said. “We are going to send people out there to talk to students, and put up posters around campus.”

According to Hanson, even some of the students who are currently taking courses at high school locations throughout the Lower Mainland can vote in the U-Pass referendum.

As stated on the BCIT website, students are allowed to vote if they are: full-time students of a program in Metro Vancouver who are assessed with the Student Association Fee; are registered into a minimum of 3.0 credits; or whose tuition exceeds \$151 per month of study.



# Labour unions come to agreement with BCIT

After months of bargaining and strike action, the BCGEU and FSA have reached a deal with BCIT

**NEETU GARCHA**

News Editor

Voting by electronic ballot ended on January 30, revealing a clear majority of the 827 Faculty Staff Association (FSA) members who cast their ballots in consensus of a settlement agreement.

One week later, the British Columbia Employees' Union (BCGEU) support staff voted 66 per cent in favor of ratifying a new agreement. Another week later, the BCGEU vocational instructors reached a deal with BCIT.

Richard Schaeffer, chair of the BCGEU bargaining committee, said there are still ongoing concerns for the support staff despite having ratified a new agreement.

"The benefit restrictions that were specific to the support staff were a real issue and will remain so into the next round of negotiations," Schaeffer told *The Link*.

Paul Reniers, executive director of the FSA, said the newly ratified agreement includes wage increases of 1 per cent on March 21, 2013; July 1, 2013; December 1, 2013 and April 1, 2014, meaning an overall four per cent wage increase over the term of the contract. The BCGEU vocational instructors and support staff reached the same wage increase agreement with BCIT.

Reniers said it's possible the contract was only ratified based

on the feeling that there was no better option, not because of a genuine fulfillment with the terms it carried.

"No one in the union was suggesting that this actually solved any of the issues that we were looking to deal with in bargaining," said Reniers. "No one in the union was suggesting that this actually solved any of the issues that we were looking to deal with in bargaining."

In a meeting with the FSA members in November last year, BCIT President Don Wright stated he was in support of the requests made by the union's members and that he would do what he could to help achieve the results the FSA was hoping for.

"It was pretty apparent that the more action we took, the more the government moved and that's a sad lesson to tolerate," said Reniers, "but Don [Wright] did help."

"No one in the union was suggesting that this actually solved any of the issues that we were looking to deal with in bargaining."

— Paul Reniers  
FSA executive director

Reniers said that the prospect of waiting any longer for



BCGEU members pictured striking before the winter break.

Blanca Blandon

a wage increase was difficult to bear, especially because the FSA had not seen a wage increase between July 1, 2009 and March 31, 2013.

According to Reniers, there were other viable options available instead of ratifying the agreement.

"A real option would have been to probably wait and see if a new government was going to give BCIT more latitude," Reniers told *The Link*, "or wait and see if BCIT was going to take a different approach to try and get more done with their authority."

Reniers said that after three-and-a-half days of strike action, the union wasn't sure if any more job action would have had any impact on the end result.

For updates, visit [linknews-paper.ca](http://linknews-paper.ca) or follow @BCIT\_Link on Twitter.

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# NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The BCIT Student Association is holding a Special General Meeting to will discuss 18 bylaw changes affecting a number of issues including student representation, quorum for AGMs and SGMs, standing committees, student space, elections and referenda, finances, clubs, transparency and accountability, executive powers, and more.

The proposed bylaw changes can be found in their entirety on the BCIT Student Association website ([www.bcitsa.ca](http://www.bcitsa.ca)).

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# BC universities and trade schools fight over funding

Research university organization argues against Liberals' prioritization of trade programs

**LAURA RODGERS**

CUP B.C. Bureau Chief

VANCOUVER (CUP) — A limited pot of post-secondary funding in BC has begun to pit the province's large research universities and trade schools against one another.

As technical and skills-based programs at schools were given sizeable sums in recent weeks as part of the BC Liberals' Jobs Plan funding rollout, a group representing research universities' interests across the province fired back.

The Research Universities Council of BC, representing UBC, Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria, University of Northern BC, Royal Roads University, and Thompson Rivers University, recently re-released a report they'd originally publicized back in October 2012. The report shows, based on the government's own jobs data, that job-market demand for university graduates in BC will outstrip supply by 2016.

But the Liberals are still committed to staying the course on their plan to beef up trade and technical programs at key schools, while giving post-secondary grants across the province an overall \$41 million cut by 2014. The NDP opposes this cut, but the party has yet to reveal whether it will prioritize research-based universities or skills-based trade certification programs in its post-secondary platform.

University of Victoria president David H. Turpin said the province needs a variety of education options so young people can choose what path they'll take to try to obtain employment.

"Trades are valuable, college diplomas are valuable, university degrees are valuable. What's important is that there be space in the system for every qualified student," Turpin said. "I'm a firm believer in this being driven by demand."

And when given a chance to speak at a recent invitation-only event promoting student involvement, UBC president Stephen Toope took a more adversarial stance. He argued that a trade-school education,

while helpful for employment, doesn't help students become versatile and agile leaders.

While the overall cut in operating grants has shrunk the number of funded spaces available at many schools in the province, targeted capital spending has allowed some schools to expand. Emily Carr University of Art and Design was given over \$100 million to expand into a new campus in late January.

**The Liberals are still committed to staying the course on their plan to beef up trade and technical programs.**

And Thompson Rivers University — a midsize institution that is part of the Research Universities' Council, but also houses a good number of trade certification programs — was just given \$1.39 million specifically for heavy equipment used by trades and technology students.

This shows the shift in priorities as laid out by BC Liberal Minister of Advanced Education John Yap when he took over the cabinet post in September 2012 from Naomi Yamamoto.

"Taxpayers invest \$5 million each and every single day to support the [BC post-secondary] system. The four major research universities — UBC, SFU, UVic, UNBC — receive more than half of the operating grants provided to the 25 institutions," said Yap.

"We want to ensure that we have a situation where people are looking for jobs, and jobs are looking for people. To try and do better at matching the skills training that is happening to what jobs need to be filled," he continued, giving a more optimistic spin on the "people without jobs, jobs without people" refrain that's long been used across the country to describe the frustrations faced by students who don't pick programs that prepare them for high-demand areas of the job market.

As for the NDP's take on all of this, advanced education critic Michelle Mungall said the party, if elected, would focus on increasing aid going directly to students across the board, rather than prioritizing either universities or trade schools. Their plan is to introduce a \$100-million program of non-refundable grants for students.

"It's true that universities do get the bulk of post-secondary funding, but they also have the bulk of students," said Mungall. "The skilled labour shortage, while being felt in the trades most acutely right now, especial-

ly up north, is actually across the board. Every single occupation is going to feel that shortage."

Turpin argues that a significant uptick in funding should be given to schools' operating budgets, rather than just focusing on affordability for needy students.

"The quality of our pro-

grams is going to erode. And that is a long-term problem for the province of British Columbia. Our view is that the investments we're calling for are truly investments. By generating talented people for society, they're going to be able to give back through the tax system," he said.



Kim Pringle (The Ubyssy)

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# The Wright stuff

BCIT president **Don Wright** reflects on his career, his five years at BCIT, and what's next

**J**ust two days after he announced his official resignation from his nearly five-year term as president of BCIT, *The Link* was able to sit down and talk to Don Wright about his career leading up to where he is now and where he's going from here.

As he leaned back in his chair to reflect on his time at BCIT, Wright emphasized how fortunate he feels.

"I really do mean it when I say it has been a magical five years," he said.

## CAREER

He went on to discuss the diverse portfolio he developed before coming to BCIT. "If you look at my career, the one thing that you'll see from it is that your career just takes you where it will take you."

Wright listed the variety of experiences that led to his role as president, including academia, government service, the private sector, consulting, and finally BCIT. He revealed that it's important not to pass up opportunities.

"You never say never in terms of what might happen, interesting opportunities come along and I just have been very lucky."

## DEPARTING FOR NDP

Wright's resignation is a result of his decision to accept the position of deputy minister of the BC NDP if the party is elected in the May 2013 election.

"I first started conversations with [the current BC NDP lead-

er] Adrian Dix late last year and then it crystallized really with a dinner we had just before Christmas."

Wright confessed that much deliberation went along with the decision to accept the position with the

NDP and to step down from his post at BCIT. "I'm going to be without a paycheque than two months and you don't do that lightly," said Wright with a chuckle. He went on to explain that he couldn't take on the potential role with BC NDP if he didn't spend the better part of the next three months preparing, nor would it be in the best interests of BCIT to keep him as president during this time.

where he was going and where he was."

He felt a "clean break" was the right thing to do.

## MAKING THE CALL

"I spent a good part of the Christmas holidays reflecting over it, talking it over with my family and then came to the conclusion," said Wright who sat down with Tony Gugliotta, chair of the board of governors, in January to discuss

next few weeks will be like that: busy with transition. Incoming acting president Chris Golding, who is the current vice president of institute planning, learning and technology services, originally intended to retire next month.

## TRANSITION

"One of the things you realize when you are at the executive level is that you carry a lot of stuff around in your head," said Wright. "Very little of what you do is actually down on paper and so it's real important for me to spend a lot of time with Chris."

Wright happily explained that the board, Golding, his colleagues, and family are all supportive of his decision and optimistic about the road ahead for him.

## THE FUTURE

"I am truly excited ... but I'm anxious because it's a huge job," said Wright who added that getting his mind around

**"You never say never in terms of what might happen, interesting opportunities come along and I just have been very lucky."**

er] Adrian Dix late last year and then it crystallized really with a dinner we had just before Christmas."

Wright confessed that much deliberation went along with the decision to accept the position with the

"I couldn't do that with integrity if I continued to be president of BCIT," said Wright. "BCIT would not be getting the appropriate value out of me and I think people after the fact might say 'you know there was a bit of a conflict between

how to handle his decision.

It was officially announced to the board at a meeting on February 12, a day before Wright made the official public announcement of his.

Wright said in a phone call prior to our interview that the





Wright, known for his charity work, slept outside in fall of 2012 to raise funds for homeless youth programs

Blanca Blandon



Wright at the launch of the Marine Simulation Centre in 2010

Courtesy of BCIT

every new detail about his job — and quickly — seems overwhelming.

Some of his new tasks will include weighing in on how the government will be structured, the policy platform the BC NDP will pursue, and

he personally believes a new president should have, emphasizing that this was his own personal opinion.

“Integrity has to be first and foremost,” said Wright, “and the person I think needs to have the same commitment

**“I really do mean it when I say it has been a magical five years.”**

how that will be translated into short-term and medium-term plans and personnel decisions. “You just have to remind yourself that you take it one step at a time.”

Wright was hesitant to answer any questions about the incoming president of BCIT, whoever that might be, but he guesses it will take about six months to find a new president and that by September 1 the position might be filled.

Wright thought hard before describing characteristics

that I have that the students are what this organization is about.”

During the half-hour interview with Wright, it was clear that he was sad to be leaving BCIT but also very optimistic about his future — keeping in mind that if the BC NDP is not elected in May, he will be looking for a job.

Wright plans to step down from his position effective February 27, at which time he’ll be working on a volunteer basis to prepare for his potential role with the BC NDP.



Wright smiles sheepishly as colleagues applaud his nearly five years of service

Nigel Haynes





Courtesy of the Museum of Vancouver

## Exploring Vancouver's glow-in-the-dark past

How the rise and fall of Canada's neon capital affects our discussion of city heritage

**OLSY SOROKINA**

*The Link*

Vancouver's tumultuous relationship with neon signs is a subject of much discussion in both academic and popular platforms. Once the neon capital of Canada, the only remnants of the city's once vibrant sign culture are a few restored signs and the infamous "Great White Way" of Granville Street.

The neon history of Vancouver was once again a topic of discussion at the Vancouver Heritage Foundation movie night showing of *Glowing in the Dark*, a 1997 documentary produced and directed by local talents Harry Killas and Alan Goldman. The film was shown in the old Hollywood Theatre, suitably found near one of the oldest neon signs in the West Side.

The documentary recounts the history of neon signs in Vancouver, starting with the North American neon boom of the 1930s. During those years, the use of neon exponentially increased for businesses across the United States and Canada.

Vancouver alone had around 19,000 signs at the height of the neon boom — about one sign per 18 Vancouver residents.

A giant blinking sign on a storefront killed two birds with one stone: it was a cheap way to advertise and acted as decoration for lazy shop owners. The flexibility of neon signage meant it could produce any color of the rainbow; the tubes could be bent in all sizes and shapes; and it had the power to simulate an action by blinking on and off.

Vancouver night skies became saturated with neon. Shop owners were happy, and so were the neon sign companies.

Meanwhile, in the United States, suburban sprawl led to a decline in money flow to down-

town business. Shop owners would vacate buildings, leaving behind a storefront and a wrecked neon advertisement.

In city centres across America, neon signs went from vibrant to depressing. Vancouver heritage advocate and neon history expert John Atkin explains it best:

"In the movies, the sign that someone is finished is the shot of them in an undershirt, in a hotel room, with a red neon sign flashing behind them."

The over-saturation of the night cityscape with neon came to be seen as gaudy instead of glamorous. Signs were deemed a distraction to drivers. Vancouver authorities went as far as calling neon a symbol of "crass commercialism."

"In US, neon signage became a sign of urban decay," Atkin recounts. "Vancouver authorities made a preemptive strike by imposing strict limits on the use of neon."

New sign bylaws, while not directly prohibiting the use of neon, were strict enough to sig-

nificantly discourage the use of signs. Even a thin strip of neon outlining a windowsill was against the new rules. *Glowing in the Dark* describes the effect of the sign regulations with appropriate graveness:

"There was nothing to distract the driver, but nothing left to lighten his soul either."

Neon signage became a sign of urban decay.

Many iconic neon signs can now be found in the permanent exhibition at the Museum of Vancouver, Neon Vancouver/Ugly Vancouver, while some others like the Hotel Astoria sign can still be spotted around town, refurbished.

Still, the audience of *Glowing in the Dark* reminisced about neon long gone. Someone recalled a sign on the Molson

brewery that used to change colors in accordance with the temperature; another audience member brought up the BOW-MAC sign still hanging by the Toys'R'Us on Granville. Neon is not just a part of the city's history, but also the personal history of every Vancouver citizen in the city's time as Neon Capital of Canada.

Hollywood Theatre had its last showing in 2011; the heritage building is now used as a church. With the recent closures of Granville 7 Cinemas and the Ridge, not to mention the Waldorf Hotel debacle, it seems that the "out with the old" attitude still gets in the way of preservation of the city's vibrant history.

Discussion of the importance of heritage landmarks reminds us that history does not have to get in the way of innovation, but can instead be a solid foundation to build the city on. This way, maybe reminiscing on Vancouver's glow-in-the-dark past can make way for a brighter future.



# My trip to the Grammys (with complimentary underboob)

How I sidled up to the stars and saw Justin Timberlake's spit bubble

**DEBS HOWARD**

*The Link*

The morning of my birthday usually includes a bucket beside my bed and a headache, so you can imagine my delight when I woke up feeling like a normal human being. Not only did I wake up hangover-free on my birthday, I was also just hours away from lining up for the Grammys. Yep — the Grammys.

## The pre-show spectacle

You're probably wondering how a commoner gets to go to the Grammys. Turns out it's not what you know, it's who you know. My brother conveniently works for the Grammys, and can pretty much invite as many people as he wants. So there I was in Los Angeles on my birthday, heading to the Grammys.

After an hour of getting ready, three wardrobe changes, and about 42 layers of mascara,

my brother's entourage headed out to the Staples Centre in Downtown Los Angeles. After lining up, we were ushered into the not-so-glamorous holding area in the building. There, we were given strict instructions not to enter the cocktail lounge. So we hit the cocktail lounge.

The lounge was meant for "important" people attending the Grammys. I'm talking about the people who make seven or eight figures a year. The people who call their necklaces "ice". The people who can legitimately wear sunglasses at night.

We walked in the bar, hiding our "common people" wristbands and were greeted by photographers who clearly thought we were important — because why else would we be there? Suckers.

We rubbed shoulders with The Big Bang Theory's Kaley Cuoco and some of her friends, and drank a couple of premium alcohol drinks that we got for free (important people don't have to pay for anything, which is probably why they're so rich). We were then corralled into the Grammys mosh pit, in front of the stage.

## Cue the celebrities

The show began with Taylor Swift's opening act. I'm not sure if people understand quite how gangly she is. Love her. But boy, are her limbs ever long. In person, she looked a bit like a dancing daddy-long-legs covered in glitter, wearing a top hat.

“As Justin Timberlake was singing, a spit bubble flew out of his mouth and landed on my boyfriend's head.

I was literally 15 to 20 feet away from Jay-Z, Beyonce, Jessica Biel, Justin Timberlake, Katy Perry, John Mayer, Kelly Clarkson, Ellen DeGeneres, and Portia DeRossi, to name a few. All the celebs and their guests seemed to love Swift's performance, and they

danced and sang along.

One of the best performances of the night was probably Justin Timberlake's. I'm not saying that in hopes that he'll somehow read this and divorce Biel (but that would be okay with me). He performed with so much energy. At one point as Justin Timberlake was singing, a spit bubble flew out of his mouth and landed on my boyfriend's head.

Rihanna looked amazing, maybe even more gorgeous in person than in photos. She performed right in front of us, and we saw her shaking right before she began. Someone in the pit mentioned nerves, someone else mentioned drugs. Either way, her song was impressive.

What was even more impressive than her vocals, however, was her underboob. It's a new spin on side-boob. When she came out to sing her part in the Bob Marley tribute, she wore a skirt and a matching loose-fitting top that seemed to be missing its bottom half. She also must have forgotten her bra. Our location in the pit was at a

downward angle of the performers, so we got a great view of [Rihanna's] underboob, which boasts an interesting tattoo.

## Jealous yet?

We shook hands with Faith Hill, Katy Perry, and latched on to Neil Patrick Harris right before he announced the band "fun." Then the show wound down to its finale by LL Cool J and friends. It was an energetic performance, though the lyrics may have been lacking some intellectual merit (I was reading along on the teleprompter as they performed, and basically every second word to the song was "whuddup").

My birthday evening ended with an incredible dinner and even better wine at my favourite restaurant in LA, Bottega Louie. And guess who happened to choose the same restaurant for dinner? Big Bang Theory's Kaley Cuoco. Again. I think she was stalking me.

The next day began as my previous birthdays had, with a bedside bucket and a headache.

**Wright Brothers Flying Extravaganza**  
Airplane Throwing Contest

**Feb 21**  
The Hub @ ATC

Great prizes to be won  
Construction @ 10:00am  
Launch Time @ 12:30pm  
\*food provided

Registration deadline is February 15th  
Contact [chairaerospace@bcitsa.ca](mailto:chairaerospace@bcitsa.ca) for more information.

BCIT STUDENT ASSOCIATION





Disney's heartwarming *Paperman* is an early favourite

Courtesy of Disney

## Oscar shorts nominees highlight the world of animation

The Animated Short Film category displays great leaps of imagination and mastery of form

**OLSY SOROKINA**

*The Link*

The Animated Short Film category in the Academy Awards should be the highlight of all Oscar-watching parties.

It is the category with the most variety between the nominees, and showcases a breadth of skills and imagination that is rarely found, even with the most advanced computer-generated imagery in feature films. Perhaps the most important reason is that the Oscar-nominated shorts are a legitimate excuse for serious adults to get excited about watching cartoons.

Five animated films made the cut for the 85th Academy Awards, with animation styles ranging from claymation to final line advection, a brand-new technique that combines two-dimension drawing with computer generated imagery. The shorts explore themes from the culinary arts, the Old Testament, Ayn Rand-themed

daycare, and, of course, love.

Even with such great diversity, however, it is not difficult to foresee the winner of the award. *Paperman*, a Disney short film which had already won the Annie Award for Best Animated Short Subject, is this year's obvious favorite.

A seven-minute black-and-white film set in 1940s New York City, *Paperman* keeps up with Disney's tradition of playing on the viewers' heartstrings with a sweet love story and beautiful imagery.

**Oscar-nominated shorts are a legitimate excuse for serious adults to get excited about watching cartoons.**

The story of two lonely people trying to find love in the bustling white-collar lifestyle set to the beautiful score by Christopher Beck is guaranteed to give even the most cynical of viewers a bad case of the feels.

The short has been released on YouTube last month, which certainly cannot hurt its chances to take home the golden statuette.

While *Paperman* may be an obvious choice of the Academy, *Head over Heels* is a no less deserving candidate. *Head over Heels* depicts an elderly couple who have grown apart — literally — as the wife lives on the floor and the husband on the ceiling, in a house that is free-floating through the air.

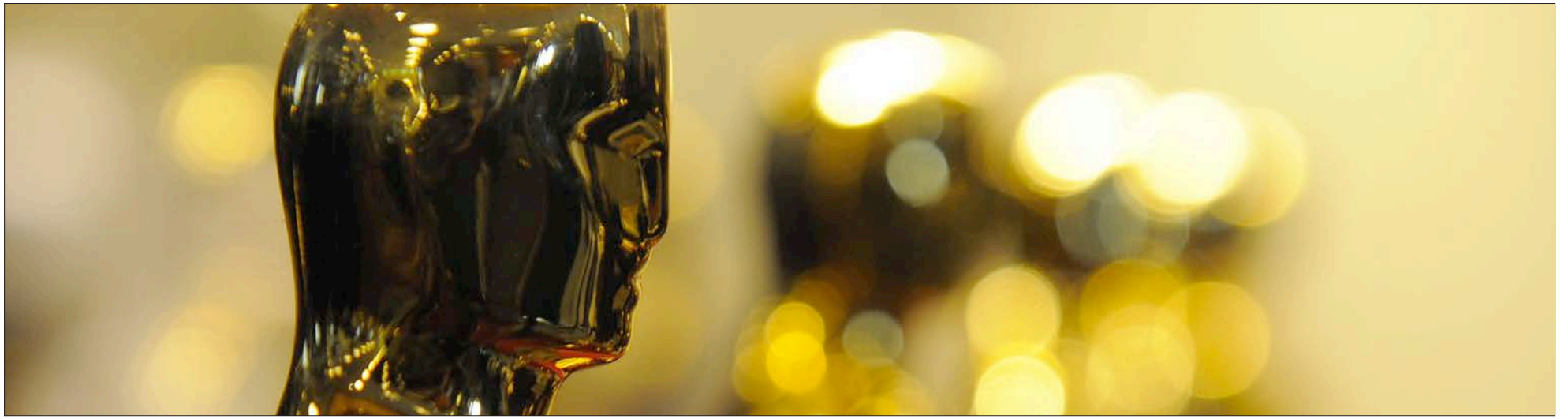
The short film tackles a challenging subject matter and form of animation, fully utilizing the advantages of animated versus feature film. In ten minutes, *Head over Heels* manages to ease the viewer into a world where the traditional laws of gravity do not apply, and to sneak in a plot twist at the end.

While it does not play on the emotions conditioned by years of watching Disney films, *Head over Heels* is a masterpiece of the genre.

Endearing in content and daring in form, the Oscar Shorts nominees combine the excitement of watching Saturday morning cartoons with aesthetic pleasures of arthouse cinema.

**linknewspaper.ca**





# The Link's Oscar picks

A president, a dentist, super heroes, and Canadians

**THORSTAN GERLACH, SARAH GRAY, and JESSE WENTZLOFF**  
*The Link*

The Oscars are right around the corner, and let's face it: you've been too busy with group projects and midterms to see any of the nominees.

*The Link* has you covered.

Our picks for seven major categories will help you figure out which flicks to watch before the big show on Sunday, February 24. Follow along from home, and keep pretending the movies that should win actually have a chance!

## ANIMATED FEATURE

*Frankenweenie*

If anyone can unseat Pixar from their usual reign atop the animated features, the smart money is on Tim Burton's *Frankenweenie*.

The expertly-crafted stop-motion adventure is a love letter to the horror movies and Hollywood of a bygone era, and the Academy will be glad to reward Tim Burton with his first Oscar.

— Jesse Wentzloff

## VISUAL EFFECTS

*The Avengers*

There is no contest here. One movie seamlessly integrated visual effects and live-action shots of superheroes fighting intra-dimensional invaders pouring out of a rift in the fabric of space-time, and four others did not.

*The Hobbit* showed us more of the same instead of Smaug, and *Life of Pi*'s tigers and whales seem quaint compared to Tony Stark saving the planet from certain thermonuclear destruction.

Comic books are cool again, and *The Avengers* wins this one in a landslide.

— Jesse Wentzloff

## SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Amy Adams (*The Master*)

In an effort to avoid enduring another chirpy acceptance speech from Anne Hathaway, this nod will go to Amy Adams for *The Master*. Her unsettling depiction of Peggy, cult leader Dodd's wife, had a chilling effect on my temptation to join any "cause".

Adams deserves extra kudos for going nude in the flick while she was pregnant and totally untanned.

— Sarah Gray

## LEADING ACTRESS

Jessica Chastain (*Zero Dark Thirty*)

This is the hardest pick of the litter. Both Jessica Chastain (*Zero Dark Thirty*) and Jennifer Lawrence (*Silver Linings Playbook*) have equal chance to hear their names called.

I'm going with Chastain to edge out Lawrence because Chastain gives a controlled and non-heroic performance. But really, this category is even money. Naomi Watts is also incredible in *The Impossible* and makes a movie bloated with computer-generated imagery more than your average Michael Bay film, even if no one saw it.

— Thorstan Gerlach

## SUPPORTING ACTOR

Christoff Waltz (*Django Unchained*)

Cristoph Waltz (*Django Unchained*) is an absolute treat to watch, and while many will bemoan the fact that Leo is missing out on yet another chance at a statuette, it's hard to argue that Waltz doesn't deserve the nod. Dr. King Shultz is unpredictable, delightful, and chillingly intelligent, and Waltz plays him with meticulous precision.

— Jesse Wentzloff

## LEADING ACTOR

Daniel Day-Lewis (*Lincoln*)

Daniel Day-Lewis (*Lincoln*) might as well get his polish kit out of the closet because he will get his third Best Actor prize come Oscar night. He's been sweeping up all top actor awards this year and I don't expect that to stop. DDL's understated and controlled performance brings to life one of American history's greatest characters and comes out with a performance nothing short of spectacular.

—Thorstan Gerlach

## BEST PICTURE

*Argo*

Despite overlooking a few Canadian details, *Argo* brilliantly depicts the thrilling rescue of hostages from Iran in 1979 against a backdrop of bell-bottoms and beehives. Ben Affleck deserves praise, and at least a Best Director nomination, for making an important historical narrative relevant. In casting John Goodman and Alan Arkin as heroic comic foils, Affleck makes a film that is pleasing, informative, and exciting all at once.

— Sarah Gray

## THE LINK'S OSCAR BALLOT

*Fill this out before the winners are announced to compare your tastes to those of the judges!*

### BEST ANIMATED FEATURE

- ☐ Brave
- ☐ Frankenweenie
- ☐ ParaNorman
- ☐ The Pirates! Band of Misfits
- ☐ Wreck-It Ralph

### VISUAL EFFECTS

- ☐ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey
- ☐ Life of Pi
- ☐ Marvel's The Avengers
- ☐ Prometheus
- ☐ Snow White and the Huntsman

### SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- ☐ Amy Adams (*The Master*)
- ☐ Anne Hathaway (*Les Misérables*)
- ☐ Helen Hunt (*The Sessions*)
- ☐ Jacki Weaver (*Silver Linings Playbook*)
- ☐ Sally Field (*Lincoln*)

### LEADING ACTRESS

- ☐ Emmanuelle Riva (*Amour*)
- ☐ Jennifer Lawrence (*Silver Linings Playbook*)
- ☐ Jessica Chastain (*Zero Dark Thirty*)
- ☐ Naomi Watts (*The Impossible*)
- ☐ Quvenzhané Wallis (*Beasts of the Southern Wild*)

### SUPPORTING ACTOR

- ☐ Alan Arkin (*Argo*)
- ☐ Christoph Waltz (*Django Unchained*)
- ☐ Phillip Seymour Hoffman (*The Master*)
- ☐ Robert De Niro (*Silver Linings Playbook*)
- ☐ Tommy Lee Jones (*Lincoln*)

### LEADING ACTOR

- ☐ Bradley Cooper (*Silver Linings Playbook*)
- ☐ Daniel Day-Lewis (*Lincoln*)
- ☐ Denzel Washington (*Flight*)
- ☐ Hugh Jackman (*Les Misérables*)
- ☐ Joaquin Phoenix (*The Master*)

### BEST PICTURE

- ☐ Argo
- ☐ Amour
- ☐ Beasts of the Southern Wild
- ☐ Django Unchained
- ☐ Les Misérables
- ☐ Life of Pi
- ☐ Lincoln
- ☐ Silver Linings Playbook
- ☐ Zero Dark Thirty

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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## LOCAL EVENTS

February 15-March 30

## Luminous Books Pop-Up Bookshop

UNIT/PITT Projects

Face it: Victoria's cool indie bookstores are upstaging Vancouver's shops. Part of the solution? Luminous Books is a London-based store that specializes in second-hand books on philosophy and cultural curiosities, with a "special interest in alternative activity around the book form." Travelling to Vancouver is part of those activities.

Unlike a traditional bookstore, Luminous Books will alter their collection with each sale, accommodating interest. The bookstore will also be experimenting with the set-up and categorization of books to offer an alternative to sorting by genre.

All bookworms welcome.

February 22-23

## Street Eats &amp; Beats Under the Bridge

Granville Island

Vancouverites love food trucks: there have been at least two food truck events in the past six months, not to mention the famous summer street food festival at the Waldorf.

If you are missing the summer, or simply love seeing a careful and delicious arrangement of food trucks, this event is for you.

There will be six food trucks, along with some booze and music — all the necessary ingredients for a good time.

February 27

## Cupcake Throwdown

Fortune Sound Club

Let them eat (cup)cake...and support DTES development organizations at this delicious competition. Local cupcake artists will vie for the title of the best mini-cake to tunes provided by DJ Hebegebe. The competition is open to both professional bakers and amateur culinary enthusiasts.

All you have to do to access this dessert heaven is buy a ticket, which comes with five tasting tickets, and bring your sweet tooth. Additional tasting tickets can be purchased for those brave souls who can lick the icing off more than five cupcakes.

Sugar coma comes free of charge.

— Olsy Sorokina



## My Bloody Valentine's creative courage shines through

New album more than an exercise in nostalgia

JESSE WENTLOFF

The Link

When it comes to pop music, expectation is a fickle thing. It's exciting, motivating, and when expectations are met or exceeded, there's no greater sense of euphoria.

Unfortunately, expectation also carries the risk of letdown.

The threat of letdown is huge with the surprise arrival of *mbv*, My Bloody Valentine's long-awaited (we're talking 20-plus years) follow-up to their iconic masterpiece, *Loveless*.

After all this time, the cards are stacked against Kevin

Shields and company. Evaluating *mbv* by comparing it to *Loveless* is sure to disappoint.

The structural predictability that marked previous albums *Isn't Anything*, and to a lesser degree *Loveless*, has been almost entirely discarded. Instead, Shields commits himself to developing the tonality and sonic assault that are synonymous with My Bloody Valentine.

While it is quite consciously (and loudly) a My Bloody Valentine record, *mbv* is very much a transfer of ideas and aesthetics from the early 1990s into the twenty-first century.

Much of the record involves Shields updating and diversifying his sound palate and songwriting tendencies, making *mbv* a truly great re-

cord and an early candidate for 2013's best record.

“[The new album] is very much a transfer of ideas and aesthetics from the early 1990s into the twenty-first century.

From start to finish, *mbv* is a strange twist of nostalgia. The opener, “She Found Now” sets a clear tone with a familiar drone, bleeding into Bilinda Butcher's ethereal vocals in the dreamy “Only Tomorrow”, reminding us why we waited so long for the

noisy Dubliners' return.

Experimentation in the second half of the record signals creative courage: the result is a refreshing take on old sensibilities that demonstrate that the band can move forward from past sounds.

While later tracks, like the jarring noise romp of “Nothing Is” or the chaotic closer, “Wonder 2”, aren't poised to draw in the casual listener, *mbv* succeeds in quenching the thirst of My Bloody Valentine fans.

The record refrains from merely paying homage to the band's past. Instead, *mbv* signals room for further growth and development, offering a different version on something we've come to love.

OVERALL RATING: A

## EVOLVING 20

brought to you by  
Evolution 107.9

1. The Do Nothings - Fields Of Green
2. Constant Conversations - Passion Pit
3. Cough Cough - Everything Everything
4. Escape Artist - The Zolas
5. Stubborn Love - The Lumineers
6. Separate Ways - The River And The Road
7. Night Eyes - Maurice And The Tough Lovers
8. Winter Skies - Community Trees
9. Pick Me Up - Hollerado
10. Creatures Great And Small - Aidan Knight
11. Trojans - Atlas Genius

12. One Way Trigger - The Strokes
13. Lonesome Dream - Lord Huron
14. Inhaler - Foals
15. Headphones - Mounties
16. Unseen Footage From A Forthcoming Funeral - Nicole Sabouné
17. Call And Answer - Jordan Klassen
18. Breezblocks - Alt-J
19. Mein Deutches Motorrad - Corb Lund
20. Feels Like We Only Go Backwards - Tame Impala





# Vote to keep the U-Pass

The U-Pass program is valueable to students and we must vote to keep it

**ANGELINA THEILMANN**  
*The Link*

I'm a BCIT student who uses the U-Pass to the point of exhaustion. And I'll sure appreciate if the pass doesn't go the way of dial-up Internet as a result of the BCIT's current U-Pass referendum.

Like many BCIT students, I am one of the lower-mainland dwellers for whom transit makes sense.

Whether it's bussing to the Tsawassen ferry terminal, sky-training to see family in Richmond, or sea-bussing to North Van, U-Pass has my back.

So, for me (and my transit-centric colleagues), whether BCIT students continue to support the U-Pass program is the difference between an extra \$140 per month to cover my transit costs.

That's right: A three-zone transit pass costs \$170 per month. And yet, the U-Pass, which covers those same bases, costs BCIT students a piddly \$30 per month. It's sort of a modern-day student miracle.

To put this in perspective, my monthly U-Pass costs the same as a third of an average tank of gas. I pay the same amount regardless of how much I travel in the Lower Mainland that month.

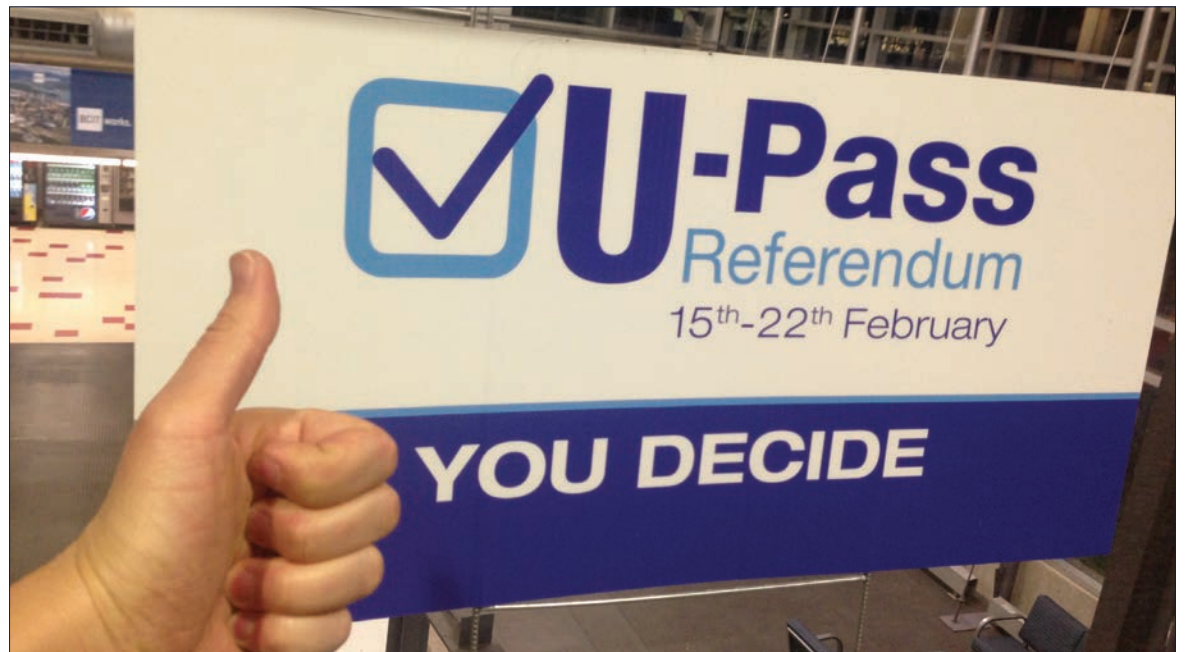
During the 2011 edition of the referendum, 3,367 students voted. An overwhelming 85 per cent wanted the program to stay.

It's not too surprising — in many schools the program has been an overwhelming success.

**“Losing the U-Pass would be a huge disservice to BCIT students.”**

At UBC, the U-Pass program attracted many more users than TransLink initially foresaw, to the point that TransLink may actually be losing money on their U-Pass deal. And UBC's 2013 referendum saw upwards of 95 per cent of voters cast their ballots in favour or keeping it as part of student fees.

Hopefully BCIT's 2013 referendum will have similar results.



Angelina Theilmann

Students pay for a variety of things at BCIT with student fees, and it's natural that not everyone will take advantage of everything they have access to — U-Pass included. Considering this, it's interesting that students even get a say as to whether or not a service stays.

For example, I never use the weight room, but I know lots who do. I haven't touched the pool at BCIT Marine Campus, either. Nonetheless, my student fees go to maintain these facilities.

The campus pub is trying out a vegetarian deepfryer. If demand is demonstrated, thousands of dollars could be spent to renovate the pub kitchen to permanently install it. Meat-eaters might not care, but I bet vegetarians do.

So hey, because fees cover all sorts of BCIT amenities, options exist if needs change. If I become vegetarian, buy a car, decide to get buff, or want to practice treading water, I may shift my usage of BCIT services.

And the U-Pass is just one more service that students may or may not use. The difference is that it's a service actively asking students to vote on its fate.

And drivers: Maybe on principle you want the \$30 per month back. But the fee is not a total loss for you: You are paying to keep cars off the roads.

So maybe you care about the U-Pass and maybe you don't. But just like watching the gym or weight-room disap-

# BCIT students still struggle with priorities and sex

Scarlet writes about sex and relationships. Have a burning question? Email [scarlet@linknewspaper.ca](mailto:scarlet@linknewspaper.ca)!

**SCARLET DE SADE**  
*The Link*

Dear Scarlet,

It's intimidating to go to my doctor to ask if I have a STI. Are there a few ways to self-diagnose? When do I need to go to the doctor for sure?

— Scared out of my Mind

Dearest SOOMM,

SOMM, you bring up a good point. For as much as I stress getting regularly checked, it can be challenging for many people to get up the courage to go for testing. The tricky truth is that the majority of people

with a sexual disease or an infection exhibit absolutely no symptoms, and even if they are examined, it may take time to diagnose the issue.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) carriers quite often pass on the virus without even knowing they've done so. They are currently incurable (despite recent developments in treatments), and can cause more health complications over time.

That being said, there are many sexually transmitted infections (STIs) that are quite easy to spot.

Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and trichomonas give telltale signs of infection. Women may experience an increase or change in discharge, bleeding during vaginal sex, or lower abdominal pain if infected. Men however, often display symptoms such as burning or itching, painful

urination, unusual discharge or testicular discomfort.

At the end of the day, it's important to respect yourself and your partners by getting regularly tested even if you are having protected sex. Making the choice to live with the discomfort of an infection or the fear of not knowing should overpower the fear of getting tested or treated, but it is a choice, and it is yours to make.

— Scarlet

Dear Scarlet,

I am still maintaining an awkward friendship with my ex, but all my girls are telling me how much of a bastard he was and that he doesn't deserve my time. I'm tired of "listening to my heart" because I seriously don't have time for that (as a full-time BCIT student).

Can you give me some down-to-earth advice on how to deal with exes?

— Way too Busy

Hey WTB,

I'm going to be frank with you—the real question you need to start asking yourself is whether or not you want to have any involvement with your ex. Friends and school aside, you alone decide your involvement, and what you're willing to commit to when it comes to your exes. This is one of those "listen to your heart" moments, WTB, and there's no getting around it (no matter how many assignments you have).

I would also like to note how natural it is for your friends to have animosity towards your ex. After all, they are the ones who have had to listen to you bitch and moan about a fail-

ing relationship for goodness knows how long. Translation: your friends are biased (with good reason) and cannot help you figure this out—they can only stir the pot and create additional stress for you.

There are very academic reasons for you to hit this issue head-on, as well: according to the UK Health and Safety Executive, stress tends to build up over time because of a combination of factors that may not all be work related, and problems outside work can affect a person's ability to perform effectively at work. In other words, you are not doing yourself or your scholastic career any favours by avoiding this issue.

Good luck WTB. Post-relationship encounters with exes can be messy no matter how amicable the break was, and there isn't always a right way to go about it.

— Scarlet



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- ✓ Suggest a story
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