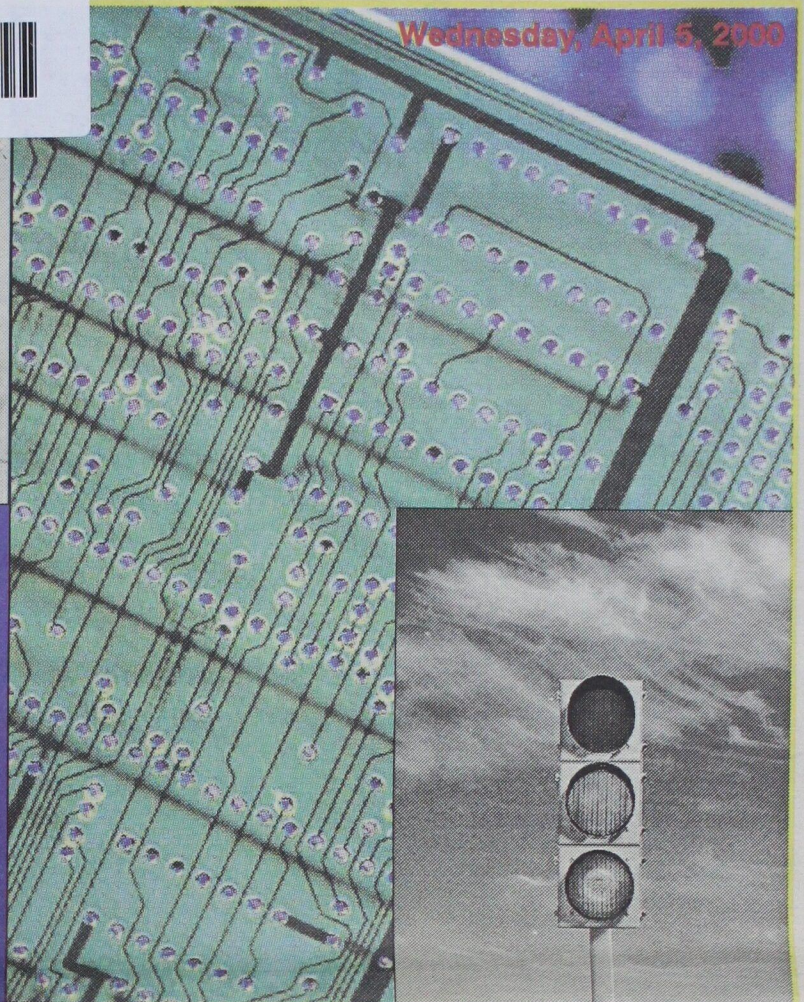




welcome to
open house 2000



FSA reject tentative argeement by 85%

see page 3

Tuition fees frozen,
post-secondary
funding increased

see page 3

The Link

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

Contributors:

Carlos Assuncao,
Sue Hong
Greg Helten,
Melina Rousselle,
Tamara Rousselle
Cam MacDonald,
& Paul Dayson

Managing Editor

Paul Dayson

News Editor

Carlos Assuncao

Arts & Culture Editors

David Lai
Melina Rousselle

Advertising Representative

Navdeep Singh

Distribution Manager

Cam MacDonald

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

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

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

3700 Willingdon Avenue
Burnaby, BC V5G 3H2
Tel: 432-8974 Fax: 431-7619



LINK LETTERS POLICY

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 Your name, affiliation with BCIT and a telephone number to contact you (which will not be published) must be included.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

Campus Events

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

Friday, April 7

Last day to withdraw and receive a "W" on transcript for Full Term courses.

April 7-8

BCIT Open House.

Saturday, April 8

Beginner's Golf. Contact the Rec & Athletics Office in SE16 for more info.

Monday, April 10

American Marketing Association Meeting. 7am. Call 451-6777 for info.

SA Council Meeting, SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre, 5:45 pm.

Tuesday, April 11

Toastmasters. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre, 7am.

Wednesday, April 12

Electronics: Last day to withdraw and receive a "W" on transcript for Full Term courses.

Friday, April 14

ETE: Last day of classes.

Deadline for application the Student Association's SYA Fund.

Saturday, April 15

Beginner's Golf. Contact the Rec & Athletics Office in SE16 for more info.

Ocean Kayaking. Contact the Rec & Athletics Office in SE16 for more info.

April 17 - 20

ETE Examinations

Monday, April 17

American Marketing Association Meeting. 7am. Call 451-6777 for more information.

SA Council Meeting. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre, 5:45 pm.

Tuesday, April 18

Toastmasters. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre, 7am.

Friday, April 21

Good Friday - BCIT Closed.

Monday, April 24

Easter Monday - BCIT Closed

Link Unclassifieds

call 432-8974

TRAVEL-teach English: 5 day/40hr (Mar 22-26) TESOL teacher certification course (or by correspondence). 1,000's of jobs available NOW. FREE information package, toll free 1-888-270-2941.

Advertise in
The Link

Call 432-8974

for rates or more information

Warning: Registering for the CMA National Entrance Exam by **April 14, 2000** could eliminate your need for further examinations. Side effects will include increased earning power and a rewarding, successful career as a strategic business leader.

The Certified Management Accountants National Entrance Exam is your first step on the road to a dynamic, flexible accounting designation. Best of all, the CMA Program will give you the skills you need to succeed in business today.

Register for the Certified Management Accountants National Entrance Exam and you could be eligible for an Exam Scholarship. To register or for more information, call Deborah Richards at : (604) 687-5891, local 240 or email: deborah@cmabc.com. Or visit: www.cmabc.com. KEEP YOUR OPTIONS OPEN.



FSA members reject tentative agreement by 85 % margin

PAUL DAYSON
Link Managing Editor

The members of the Faculty & Staff Association at BCIT rejected a tentative agreement with the institute by a margin of 85 percent on March 29. A key part of the rejection was the article in the tentative agreement which extended hours of work for FSA employees.

"The members are sending the strongest message possible that they are not prepared to accept any package that contains an increase in the hours of operation," said FSA President Ron Kessler in a press release. "The proposed expansion of hours of operation are not only opposed by the membership, but they are educationally unsound for the students as well."

The rejected changes would have seen the institute's existing operating hours, Monday to Friday 8:30am-5:30pm, extended to Monday to Friday 7:30am-6:30pm. But FSA members would have to voluntarily agree to work more than seven hours per day or more than a nine hour spread between the beginning of their first hour and end of their last hour. No conditions were included for students who could have faced 11-hour days.

"The members are sending the strongest message possible that they are not prepared to accept any package that contains an increase in the



hours of operation," said FSA president Ron Kessler in a press release. "The proposed expansion of hours of operation are not only opposed by the membership, but they are educationally unsound for the students as well."

Students attending the SA's council meeting on April 3 also opposed the idea of extended hours. Many said they wouldn't mind starting at 7:30am but stated that the possibility of an 11-hour day was unacceptable.

"8:30 to 4:30 is a long enough day. Learning is impossible after a seven or eight hours, let alone ten. Long breaks won't help either," said one student. (see council notes, this page)

Nor was the tentative agreement seen as a solution to the impasse in negotiations between the FSA and BCIT according to the FSA's president. "In recommending the tentative agreement to the membership, the Directors clearly indicated that it was a settlement, not a solution, to the long-standing labour problems plaguing BCIT," said Kessler.

"Now the onus is on the Employer to make a response to the membership's strong and clear rejection," Kessler said. "FSA members, in rejecting the tentative agreement, have retained the right to strike at any time. Given the current level of membership rage over a variety of issues, any proposed settlement will have go farther."

Any immediate strike action by the FSA is unlikely as they are in the middle of their executive elections. Nominations closed on April 3, after being extended by one week, and balloting will be finished on April 26. An all candidates meeting is scheduled for April 5 from 11:30am to 12:30pm. The FSA would likely wait for the results in late April before taking any further action, according to SA president Shane Styles.

BC's tuition freeze extended, province puts more money into education

NICHOLAS BRADLEY
Canadian University Press

VICTORIA
As expected, British Columbia's new provincial budget extends the province-wide tuition freeze for another year, but it also includes additional funding for post-secondary education across the province.

The budget, announced March 27 by BC Minister of Finance Paul Ramsey, increased funding to the province's universities and colleges by \$85-million - a jump of 7.5 per cent over last year's advanced education spending - and confirmed that tuition fees in BC will remain at their current levels.

"The freeze has helped enrollment grow faster in BC than anywhere else in Canada," Ramsey said in his speech to the Legislative Assembly. "Enrollment is growing throughout the province, reflecting our commitment to provide quality education and opportunities in all regions."

The new advanced education funding will be granted to post-secondary

institutions to help offset the cost of the tuition freeze, to increase core funding and to pay for new courses.

"One of the focuses [of the budget] is investing in vital services, including education," Ramsey told the media Monday.

Of the \$85-million in new spending, \$39-million will go towards creating over 5,000 new spaces at universities and colleges.

The new funding has not yet been divided among BC's various schools, although some has been earmarked for Royal Roads University and the Technical University of BC.

A capital development fund of \$133-million will also go towards university infrastructure. A ministry official said that although the Minister of Advanced Education will announce new projects at a later date, approximately \$97-million of this fund will be allocated to ongoing care and maintenance projects.

Another \$117-million will go to research infrastructure.

The budget received an enthusiastic response from both student and

university officials.

"This budget is a great-news budget for students," said Mark Veerkamp, BC chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

"The tuition fee freeze has been the most important policy for improving access to post-secondary education, and we're glad to see it continued in this budget."

Veerkamp added that the number of new spaces was far beyond what the CFS had called for.

Douglas College's Neil Nicholson, of the Advanced Education Council of BC, said the 5,000 new seats is a positive development, but notes more spaces will be needed in the future.

He hopes to see an additional 4,000 spaces created annually to fulfill the demand.

Nicholson suggested a cost of \$45-million per year would be necessary to accommodate these new seats.

Maureen Shaw, president of the College Institute Educators' Association, BC's largest post-sec-

continued on page 7

SA Notes

Paul Dayson

Extended hours debated

The idea of an extension to institute operating hours from 7:30am to 6:30pm was met with opposition at the SA council meeting on April 10. Even the possibility of having a four day week wasn't tempting.

Students present at the well attended meeting expressed a number of concerns over extended operating hours. Many students said they wouldn't mind starting at 7:30am but stated that the possibility of an 11-hour day was unacceptable. "8:30 to 4:30 is a long enough day. Learning is impossible after a seven or eight hours, let alone ten. And long breaks won't help either," said one student.

Some students said, if timetabling was done responsibly and did not result in long hours it would be acceptable. But others disagreed. "You have to go on the previous track record. Why give them a bigger window of opportunity," said another student citing problems students already have with their timetables.

Concern for students who are parents and might have problems accessing childcare if their classes went until 6:30pm was also raised.

SA president Shane Styles said the institute's aim was to create more seats for students. He said, "[BCIT] should not take on more students. They should work on quality not quantity."

The proposal to extend operating hours was included in the tentative agreement with BCIT that was rejected by the FSA on March 29. (see story on this page)

- The Burnaby/Coquitlam Lions Club have created a new club in Metrotown specifically for young people. The Metrotown club's secretary Steve Lacoursiere, a BCIT CST grad, and Bill MacIntosh the club's founder spoke to council, encouraging students to get involved. Currently, the Burnaby/Coquitlam Lions Club works on projects like Sight First, which in association with Lenscrafters sends eyeglasses to the third world. The Metrotown club meets twice a month at Kingsway and 16th. All students are welcome. The next meeting is on April 10 at 7pm, call Steve Lacoursiere at 435-7177 for more information. "Its a great opportunity to help out the community," according to SA president Shane Styles.
- SA council members have been talking to classes about the upcoming executive elections. Approximately 30 election packages have been distributed but only a few have been received back. The deadline for nominations is April 6 at 3:30pm. If not enough candidates are forthcoming and positions remain unfilled further elections will be held in mid-September.
- The BCIT chapter of the American Marketing Association was given a grant of \$1,000 to help pay for 15 of its member to attend a conference in New Orleans. Part of the conference is a competition for best chapter. Last year, the BCIT chapter placed first in western North America and 16th over all—the first time a Canadian chapter has done so. Chapters are judged on their annual report and their chapter plan. Scott Kobis, the chapter's president hopes this year to place first.
- During the year the AMA has run a speakers series open to all students covering topics such as interviews and negotiating your salary. It has also done charity fundraising for Shinerama, the Food Bank and Children's Hospital. Those interested in more information can check their website at: www.bcit.ama.org.
- A large number of applications have been taken for forgivable loans from the SA's Save Your Ass Fund. Only a few have been received back. Deadline for application is April 14.
- The Sea Island students have a new student president, Dave Casper.

Top Girls is tops

SUE HONG
Link Arts & Culture Reporter

The story takes place in England of the early 80s. The main character is a woman moving up the corporate ladder of an employment agency called Top Girls. Marlene holds a celebratory dinner for herself, inviting historical women to the table in the first half of the play. Later we see Marlene at work in the agency and how she operates within the conservative background of the time period weeding out women for upcoming jobs. As the play unfolds we begin to see the complicated life of a woman having a hard time confronting past family experiences and a sister that raised a child that was not hers.

THEATRE REVIEW
TOP GIRLS

Written by Caryl Churchill
Created by Jay Hamburger
Cast: Adrienne Ferguson, Monte Gagne, Janis Harper, Govindini Murty, Rennie Smith and Mitzi Thaddeus
Michael J. Fox Theatre
March 30 only

The first half of the play is the dramatization of how women from different cultures, times, and purposes hold their point of view towards their way of lives. A Victorian traveler, a Japanese royal concubine, a female Pope who was stoned to death, a

female Viking, a commoner who, by the grace of the King, to be his wife, and Marlene, a career woman have come together to celebrate Marlene's promotion. Their conversation, rather, speeches are blurred one from another as the chatty five women are eager to express their experiences of being female.

Act II focuses on Marlene's experience of being female and the complexity of her life in modern days. Marlene's conversation with her sister who raised her daughter escalates as Marlene's sister blames Marlene for her unhappiness. Marlene, who is well underway to reach her dream of being a successful career woman in London, easily says, "No one stopped you from doing what I did. You are the one who wanted to stay" ignoring her sister's sacrifice to raise the child.

The overall play revolves around the issue of childbearing — blessing or condemnation from God is for the audience to decide. However, this life altering matter is shown through rather a pessimistic point of view. The root of complexity in life. Something that might hold you back or hold someone else back because of you. Eve, despite God's curse to suffer the pain of childbearing for coaxing equally curious Adam into biting into sin, is now hungry for success. This time, may success be the serpent's persuasion for her.

Crowd swoons and sways to Ricky

TAMARA ROUELLE
Link Arts & Culture Reporter

Ricky Martin rocked through town in early March to an excited sold out crowd at GM place. From old ladies to young men, the diverse audience erupted when the lights went down and the massive video screen played a cinematic movie intro to the show. The intro showed Mr. Martin being chased by fans and then the paparazzi, only to escape them in a huge car. He drives the car through the dark streets and then comes to a dead end where the lights go out and Ricky rises out from the floor standing on the same car.

CONCERT REVIEW
Ricky Martin
GM Place
March 11

Once on the car the dance moves began and the band kicked into Livin' La Vida Loca. Halfway through the song the trunk's cargo emerged in the form of two dancers who joined Ricky onstage to do a number around the car.

The screams were deafening but it was still hard to tell who was having more fun, the crowd or Ricky. His readily available

smile and bouncy step make him an instantly likable superstar. Not only do the women swoon over him but he's a guy dad would approve of.

Some might criticize Martin for opening with his smash hit but it left the slate clean and ready for the crowd's undivided attention. Otherwise, they'd be sitting through the whole show thinking "When's he going to play Livin'

La Vida Loca'?" Also, anyone who was a "One Hit Wonder" hunter could leave early for a good night's rest if the weren't interested in the rest of the show.

Love him or hate him, Ricky Martin knows how to put on a spectacular show. He even got the most rigid of spectators to shake their bon bons!



ASHLEY MAILE PHOTO

BC Open University

OPEN TO YOU

Thinking of starting, completing, or adding to your university degree?

Looking for credit courses and programs available year-round, delivered where you live?

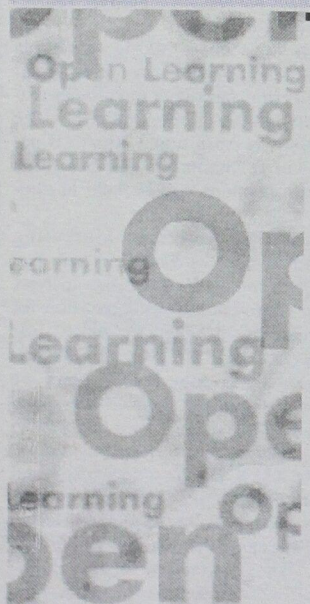
BC Open University combines the flexibility you need with the recognized credentials you want.

Phone: (604) 431-3300 (BC Lower Mainland)
1-800-663-9711 (Toll-free)

Email: student@ola.bc.ca

Website: www.ola.bc.ca/bcou

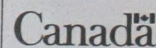
BCOU is a fully accredited BC public university and a member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.



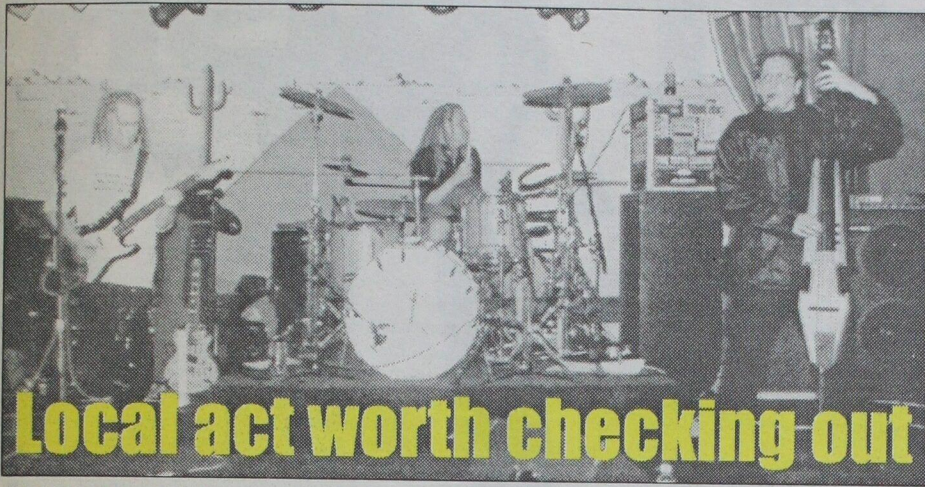
ELECTRONICS ENTHUSIASTS

Experience a second career as a radio operator, radio technician (electronic), lineman or communications officer. We offer varied training programs and opportunities for part-time and full-time employment. Interesting salary and social benefits.

744 Communication Regiment
4050-4th Avenue West
Vancouver, BC V6R 1P6
666-4235 or 666-4121 or 1-800-856-8488



454 Supersport's bassist Neil Murphy.
TAMARA ROUSSELLE PHOTO



Local act worth checking out

TAMARA ROUSSELLE
Link Arts & Culture Reporter

Vancouver's best kept secret made an appearance tonight hidden in the back roads of Surrey. Following Horus played an opening spot for Slick 60 and Gladys Patches at Champagnes.

CONCERT REVIEW
Following Horus, Slick 60 and Gladys Patches
Champagnes
February 26

Melodic, funky tunes with a harder edge soon permeated the small club. The thing about Follow Horus is their sharp sounds have the ability to grab the crowd and make them listen. The sharp bass sounds prick your ear and make you curious where it's all coming from. Upon listening you're hooked on the entire package.

Tonight this trio, made up of singer/bass player Denton Bramley, guitarist Derek and drummer Dave Swart, had the task of kicking things off. It's not always the easiest thing to do to loosen up the crowd but Following Horus made it look easy. Rolling off tunes such as "World So Cruel" and "Upsidedown" from their current EP "twigsberriesmud" they showed what a musical talent they are and how intelligent lyrics can be.

This band doesn't play locally too often so you need to see them when you can. Keep your ears

peeled for their next show. But in the mean time, don't remain in the dark, own this EP! Check out www.followinghorus.com.

Above: Following Horus on stage at Champagnes.
Below: Singer and bassist Denton Bramley
ASHLEY MAILE PHOTOS



First impressions

TAMARA ROUSSELLE
Link Arts & Culture Reporter

Who is 454 Supersport? A local band who played their first gig at the lustrous Columbia.

CONCERT REVIEW
454 Supersport
Columbia
March 16

It's not often that you get to witness a band's first gig. It really is a treat and tonight was no exception.

This trio was no doubt feeling nervous before they hit the stage but you would never know it. Cool and energetic, lead singer/guitar player Raff Larosa entertained the crowd with stories about each song's origin. He's loved and lost and now the entire capacity of the Columbia knows about it.

Bassist Neil Murphy had a set of dance moves all his own and drummer Simon Clayton kept things steady.

The set was speckled with

cover songs including Goldfinger's "Miles Away", "Molly's Lips" by Nirvana, "Ring Of Fire" by the legendary Johnny Cash and even a fine rendition of Adam Sandler's love song to Drew Barrymore while on the plane in "The Wedding Singer".

These boys also picked things up with their own array of original tunes. Here's a poppy punk band with enough excitement between them to share with everyone else.

Even when faced with getting royally shocked by a shoddy mike Raff said with a grimace "That really hurt!" Then he went on informing the crowd that they were really good at that song since it was the first they'd ever learned. Encouraged by the crowd they took it from the top and proved that they were indeed very good at it.

It was a rare occasion to see the usually dismal Columbia buzzing with interest. It was pats on the back all around for this talented and brave crew on opening night!

STUDENT RUSH FRIDAYS

SAVE 50% OFF

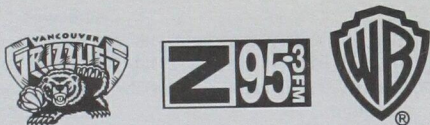
GRIZZLIES GAME TICKETS

GRIZZLIES

APRIL 14 MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES

TICKETS AS LOW AS \$11.75!

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS AT ANY TICKETMASTER
OUTLET IN THE LOWER MAINLAND BY PRESENTING
YOUR 99/00 STUDENT ID



All games are on Friday nights at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased any time up until 90 minutes prior to the start of the game.

This offer is valid for tickets in select price ranges only. Subject to availability and while quantities last.

Offer valid for games listed on this ad. Please show current student ID at time of purchase.

This offer cannot be combined with any other ticket offer. Ticket prices include GST but are subject to Ticketmaster service charges.



*Purchase a pair of
Grizzlies tickets and you
could win movie passes
to a Warner Bros. film*

DAVID ARQUETTE
OLIVER PLATT
SCOTT GAAN

READY
TO
RUMBLE



COMING IN APRIL TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU

899-RUSH

Just a tiny case of "to please" disease

It's a catch twenty two. It's so a catch twenty two, that it's actually a catch twenty three. It's hard to go through life suffering from 'to please' disease, but what can you do? It's almost as if you need 'to please' disease to go through regular life. 'To please' disease is, by definition, doing what ever it takes 'to please' someone so they like you. This means you have to like what they like. It means you have to hate what they hate. Well, I'm sick of it already. I don't want to please anyone anymore. But I don't want you to not like me. See what I mean about catch23?

I sort heard about to please disease in grade 8. I had no idea I was so involved in it, hook, line and sinker. It was funny then, well I was young and stupid in the olden days, but I had no idea it was so serious. On a regular day, I would stand in the outskirts of a group of people who I thought were my friends (there are no such things as real friends in high school,

THE ORIGINAL FREAK
I.s. pannu

you meet your real friends at college or university) and totally try not to say anything stupid. But on a bad day, which was from Monday to Friday, I usually said stuff like: do you like Madonna? You do? Me too. I love her songs. Or do you like Golden Girls? You don't? Me too. I hate that show. Notice I asked for their opinion first? That way I get a feel for what my answer was going to be. My answers had to be the same, I was afraid of having my own opinions. It's really scary in high school. It's such a big change. So I did anything I could to make people accept me.

Sometimes it's acceptable to suffer from to please disease. If you work in retail, it's okay to

please the customers, because it means a sale for you. And usually you never see the customer ever again. (with exception of psycho customers, and in my experience they usually shop on Fridays and Saturdays) I always say things like: oh I agree, it is the best soup ever! Or Yes, I love moth balls, I use them everywhere. (in reality, I never eat any food from a can that has a dancing cartoon of the product on the label. And moth balls smell like old people and I prefer Calvin Klein to old people smell.) But this is okay because it means a sale.

So the thing to do is to balance the pleasing. You have to be picky about who you please and who you don't please. You have to learn to control the 'to please' disease slowly, it won't happen overnight. I know sometimes I still suffer from it. That's why I have to say the following statement here so it's in print forever. The statement is: I really like the Golden Girls. Whew. That's a load off my

mind. I feel much better now. I think everyone who likes the Golden Girls should contact me so we can start a Golden Girls club. We'll collect Golden Girls figures and trade the cards. Our official club food would be cheesecake and our secret handshake would be something cool like a high five or something like that.

But why do we have this deep down need to be liked and accepted. Is everyone out there to get attention? Can people live without human interaction? We'll soon find out the answers to these questions when the full impact of computers is felt. So many people communicate with faxes and pagers, emails and voice mail. No one really knows the art of conversation anymore. People are becoming numbers and letters instead of being individuals. Nobody talks about the weather anymore. So maybe the internet revolution is the cure for to please disease. Now that I think about it, do I really want a cure? I don't know. Another catch twenty two? Actually, let's make it a catch twenty four.

Tuition freeze

continued from page 3

ondary education union, was also pleased with the budget.

"When you consider we have colleges and institutes and university-colleges throughout the province in 110 communities, it means more students will be able, everywhere, to get post-secondary education," she said.

Shaw applauded the creation of 400 new nursing spaces, but noted areas such as trades training and English as a Second Language programs need to be funded as well.

"This goes a heck of a long way," said Robert Clift, the executive director of the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC, which represents academic staff at the province's four universities.

"Now that they've done it once, hopefully they'll do it again next year, and we'll get the rest of the way [there]," he said, calling for further financial support of post-secondary education in future budgets.

Clift stressed, however, the need for the province to support university research. Details of such support were not made clear in the budget.

Start your job search here



If you're 15 – 29 years old, check out Youth Options BC. There are more than 12 employment programs, including summer jobs, environmental work, volunteering in exchange for tuition credits, and work experience.

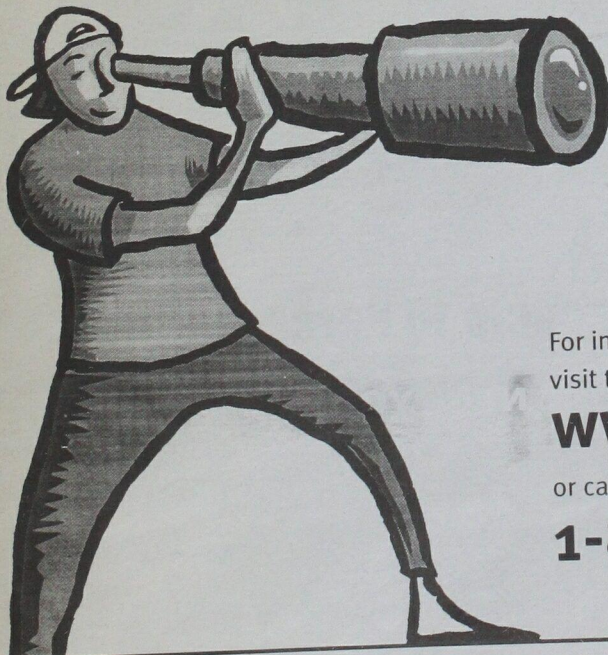
Last year, more than 20,000 young people found a position through **Youth Options BC**; this year, you could too. The jobs go fast, so start your **job search now!**

For information on programs, visit the Youth Options BC web site:

www.youth.gov.bc.ca

or call a Youth Options BC representative toll free:

1-877-BC-YOUTH



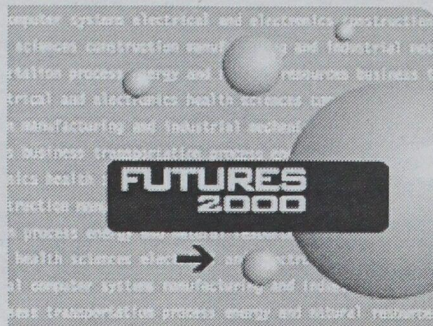
Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology
Honourable Graeme Bowbrick,
Minister Responsible for Youth

Running with the Bruntland Commission's idea: Open House 2000 looks at Sustainable Development

GEOFF FULLER
SA Environmental Education

At BCIT's Open House this Friday and Saturday (April 7-8), up to 20,000 people are expected to visit. It's an excellent opportunity to support BCIT students, bring public awareness about sustainable development and learn about other technologies.

Students from all technologies have been preparing projects and displays that focus on some of the work done in support of sustainable development. Open House is an excellent opportunity



to see some examples of these technologies like Forestry, Fisheries, Wildlife, Recreation, Mining, Mechanical, Pulp and

Wood Products, Metalwork, Environmental Engineering, Marketing, Business, Woodworking, Information

Management, Computer Mapping and many more. Disciplines from all specialties are working together to generate new solutions for a better future.

Sustainable Development is a relatively new concept first coined by the Bruntland Commission some 30 years ago. The idea being that in order for future generations to meet their needs, present resource use has to evolve from non-renewable resource use and develop renewable resources. Our generation knows of the challenges placed upon us to restructure the careless, or perhaps, ignorant, mis-

management of the past. It is up to us to explore new opportunities for growth in a positive fashion that will discontinue the present trends of waste, consumption, and pollution. We need to learn from mistakes of the past and build upon them in order to educate our children for the future.

Be sure to check out the Sustainable Futures Room in Town Square D, just beside the Great Hall to see more of these concepts and technologies in action.

Why Not Drive?

Over the past decades, scientists have measured a warming trend in the earth's surface temperature, and predict it will accelerate unless action is taken now to reduce the rate of increase of greenhouse gases. The internal combustion engine is the single greatest source of our greenhouse gas emissions. There are more than 17 million motor vehicles in Canada.

Eighty percent of Canadians commute to work by car. Only ten percent use public transit (Statistics Canada).

The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has risen by 30 percent since the beginning of the industrial revolution, which is directly attributable to the increase of the number of vehicles on the road. Canada is the third highest producer of Carbon Dioxide per capita, behind Australia and the United States.

Given these trends, how are we to change?

It starts with you. Monitor your car use for a week by keeping fuel receipts, recording mileage traveled and keep track of where you go with your car. See how you can take alternative ways of travel. Make goals and targets to reach. Try to advent your time driving for convenience and make it habitual. At the end of a trial period, see what habits you are able to change.

By becoming aware of your activities, you empower yourself to change. The benefits may far exceed your expectations and you will exercise more, save money and feel good!

We are entering a new era of world development. Reports are in from international agencies and it is undeniably true that world consumption of resources is already exceeding the ecological limitations of our planet. For example, the world population has just reached six billion people. This has great implications on the natural resources from which we all depend.

Consumption of fossil fuels and renewable resources such as wood, fish, water is sure to increase with a estimated population doubling by 2020. We need to become educated about our present impacts on the planet.

There is still hope for humanity to change these trends. However, we need to become more responsible of our actions and take initiative as a collective species. As educated and affluent citizens, it is your responsibility to take part and create a workable future.

Create options for yourself and be more cognizant of your daily activities. Recognize what you do has an impact to future generations.

Climate Change: A reality

Climate change is not news. It is a trend that has been monitored by scientific observation for over 100 years.

In 1896, Svante Arrhenius predicted carbon dioxide emissions from burning of coal would lead to global warming. In 1957, Revelle and Seuss reported that much of the carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere

Reason for change



was not absorbed by the oceans. In 1958, Keeling initiated reliable and continuous measurements of atmosphere carbon dioxide. In 1985, Dr. Joe Farmer discovers a hole in the ozone layer.

In 1995, an inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, (representing the consensus of the world's climate scientists) concludes that, "the net benefits of greenhouse gas mitigation exceed the costs in most countries." In 1997, the warmest year is recorded since scientists began keeping accurate meteorological logs in 1860. The next two warmest years are also in the past decade: 1995 and 1990.

Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Encourages a Step Toward Action.

In 1995, the government of Canada made an amendment to the Auditor General Act.

These amendments were enacted to encourage a stronger performance by the federal government in the areas of environment and sustainable development. The federal government has designated a commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development.

The role of the commissioner is to hold Canadian government accountable to international treaties and to ensure that sustainability goals are met. Here are some of the main points the commissioner addressed in his report to the House of Commons.

He acknowledges the importance for evaluating the use of pesticides and implications to health and environmental standards. He states, "there is discrepancies in government agencies about the degree of risk imposed by industrial chemicals." He saw a lack of cooperation between federal and provincial governments and noted that agreements between national and provincial governments were a necessity. He asserted that Canadians are not alone in the challenges of sustainable development. He acknowledges that Canada has made a major contribution to the international efforts to enhance the understanding of the Arctic's unique environment.

Recycle 10 Percent More!

Join BCIT in an effort to increase recycling by 10 percent. Drinking containers create a major component of waste in our school. It does not take more than a few minutes to collect a handful of empty cans and bottles.

You can make a difference by making use of the blue recycling containers. The amount of efficiency gained by recycling is better. A recycled aluminum can is three times more efficient than a throw-away.

Recycling your bottles and cans creates a positive step toward sustainable development and larger goals. Recycling creates a cleaner school. Recycling creates a positive attitude and makes you feel better!