

ARCHIVES

The

Link

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

B.C.I.T. Library



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SA Elections Candidates' Statements

see pages 4 and 5

Tuition fees to increase for 2002-03

see page 3

Open House 2002

see photo coverage
on pages 6 and 7

SA Copy Centre reduces prices

see page 3

Duck family sets up home at the Rix

see page 8

BRUCE MCTAGGART
PHOTO

The Student Newspaper of the British Columbia Institute of Technology

The Link

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

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As a member of Canadian University Press (CUP), *The Link* adheres to CUP's Code of Ethics. To this end *The Link* will not publish material deemed by the editors or steering committee to be sexist, racist, homophobic or in poor taste.

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

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LINK LETTERS POLICY

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 Your name, affiliation with BCIT and a telephone number to contact you (which will not be published) must be included.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

Campus Events

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

Wednesday, April 10

SA Elections Campaign Speeches. Noon, Great Hall, SA Campus Centre.

BCIT Christian Club. Bible study & worship. 11:30am. SW1-2005. Contact Pastor Calvin 451-4568.

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

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

Friday, April 12

Technology Entry: Last day of classes.

April 15 - 19

Voting in Student Association Elections. Polls open April 15 - 18

10:30am - 3:30pm and April 19 9:00am - Noon in the SA Campus Centre.

Technology Entry: Exams

Tuesday, April 16

To a s t m a s t e r s International. 7am. SA Council Chambers, Campus Centre (SE2).

Wednesday, April 17

BCIT Christian Club. Bible study & worship. 11:30am. SW1-2005. Contact Pastor Calvin 451-4568.

Thursday, April 18

Deadline for the next edition of *The Link*.

Saturday, April 20

Two-day Golf, first day. (second day April 27) Contact Recreation Services at 604-432-8287 for more information.

Monday, April 22

Technology Entry: Registration & Orientation.

SA Council Meeting. 5:30pm. SA Council chambers, Campus Centre (SE2).

Tuesday, April 23

To a s t m a s t e r s International. 7am. SA Council Chambers, Campus Centre (SE2).

Wednesday, April 24

BCIT Christian Club. Bible study & worship. 11:30am. SW1-2005. Contact Pastor Calvin 451-4568.

Next edition of *The Link* hits the stands.

Saturday, April 27

Two-day Golf, second day. (first day April 20) Contact Recreation Services at 604-432-8287 for more information.

information.

Tuesday, April 30

To a s t m a s t e r s International. 7am. SA Council Chambers, Campus Centre (SE2).

Wednesday, May 1

Last day to withdraw and receive a 'W' on transcript for Term B courses.

Electronics engineering Technology: Last day to withdraw and receive a 'W' on transcript for Term B courses.

BCIT Christian Club. Bible study & worship. 11:30am. SW1-2005. Contact Pastor Calvin 451-4568.

Quintathlon. 11:30am - 2:20pm. Contact Recreation Services at 604-432-8287 for more information.

Link call 432-8974 Unclassifieds

Bi-curious? Bi? Gay? Club Vancouver, Bathhouse for Bi and Gay Men. Rooms, lockers, steam, showers, snack bar, videos. 24hrs, 7 days. Students 1/2 price all the time with valid student ID. 339 West Pender St. 681-5719

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The Link

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EDUCATION COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations are now open for 4 student seats on Education Council for a one year period.

Nomination forms are available at the Registrar's Office, the Student Association Office, and all Dean's Offices.

Hurry to get your completed nomination form in to the the Registrar's Office in SW1 2170.

The nomination period opened April 2 and will close at 1630 on April 11.

Check it out. You CAN make a difference for BCIT students!

For more information, contact Sandie in the Registrar's Office in SW1 2170 or at 432-8848.



A delighted child at Technology Education Training's display at Open House. BRUCE MCTAGGART PHOTO

BoG hikes tuition for 2002-03

AMY LAPSLEY
Link News Editor

Tuition will go up for every BCIT student after the Board of Governor's approved fee hikes last week. Fees will increase by an average of 25 per cent. But, so far BCIT administration hasn't decided how much tuition will increase for each program. So, some programs might see an increase of more than 25 per cent, and others will see a lesser increase.

Michael Becker with BCIT's Media Relations, says the details "are still being worked out, program by program." The

Registrar's Office and the VP of Education are currently working on coming up with a definitive cost for each program. Students should know within the next few months how much their program will cost in September.

Becker knows that the increases aren't popular with all students. "Tuition increases are something that students don't want to face. But the harsh fact is there has been six years without an increase," he said.

But, he does say that the majority of the increases will go directly back to the students. "Quite a chunk [of the tuition hikes] will go to student aid and equip-

ment upgrades that will benefit students. The general goal is to improve the services and programs delivered at BCIT and to grow the institution," he said.

The institution will 'grow' with the addition of seats in popular programs. Becker says programs that usually have long wait lists, such as Broadcasting, HR Management, Marketing and Computing Systems, will get more spaces for students.

Student Association Executive Brian Simpson supports the increases, as long as the money improves education for BCIT students. "Our school needs fund-

continued on back page

Student Association elections underway

PAUL DAYSON
Link Managing Editor

The elections for the Student Association executive positions for 2002-03 are underway.

Seventeen candidates are running for eight of the nine positions. One position - the Chair of Manufacturing, Process Energy and Natural Resources - has no candidates seeking the position and will have to be filled in a by-election in September.

There are candidates running for all of the presidential and vice-presidential positions. The most hotly contested

position is that of Vice-President of Campus Life with four candidates - Ryan McDonald, Paula Deslippe and Nola Kilmartin from Marketing and Daniel Boffo from Building Technology.

Marketing student Patricia Stefani is running unopposed for the position of Vice-President of Public Relations and Marketing after Terra McBain, another marketing student, withdrew from the race.

Two of the candidates for chair positions are also running unopposed - Jeff Patton for Chair of Electrical, Electronics and Computing and Winston Tong for Chair of Transportation and

Construction.

Candidates for the other positions are:

President: Samantha Yeung from Marketing, Teri Almas of Broadcasting and Mark Daniel from Civil and Structural Engineering;

Vice-President of Administration and Finance: Jay Selinger from Financial Management and Bruce McTaggart of Marketing;

Vice-President of Student Affairs: Will Heller of Marketing, John Alexander of the Technology Teacher Education Program and Benjamin Kwok from Common Core Electronics;

Chair of Business and Health: Craig Clark of Marketing and Cristina Roman from Management Systems.

Polling is scheduled for Monday, April 15 to Friday, April 19. The polls will be open in the Great Hall of the SA Campus Centre from 10:30am to 3:30pm Monday to Thursday and from 9:00am to noon on the Friday. Candidates running unopposed still must be approved by a yes/no vote.

For candidates statements please see pages 4 and 5.

Electronics students petition for extended polling

SA Council Notes
Cameron Rankin

Electronics Common Core Program students will not be able to vote in the upcoming SA elections. Ben Kwok of the Electronics Common Core Program - a candidate for Vice President of Student Affairs - came to council with a request that council arrange an alternative voting date for the Electronics Common Core students as this program, as well as other programs, ends for the year the Friday before election week. SA President Brent Morris said the SA is bound by its constitution to one week of polling and could not accommodate a change of dates.

The SA is investigating voting at satellite campuses for members of the programs that end before the election dates, although their will be no accommodation made for students who do not live in the Lower Mainland. The SA is hoping that the online voting system they are investigating will solve that problem in the future, but this assumes everyone has internet access.

- It was announced that comedian Norman Navronski will entertain students in the Great Hall on Wednesday, May 8 at 12:00 PM.
- Student Council is investigating having a live band perform in the Campus square.
- The Canadian Blood Service will be holding a blood drive on Thursday, April 11.
- The Cut for the Cure 2 will be held on Wednesday, April 17 during the three-hour break in the Great Hall.
- The East India Dance Club have not met their mandate so the council revoked their sanction for the East Indian Dance Club to operate on campus.
- Shannon Blackwood Chair of Trades and Jessica Jensen Chair of Electrical, electronics and Computing went to the BCIT's Langley Campus to find ways to improve relations between the SA and Satellite campuses.
- Some BCIT trades students are entering the Skills Canada competition to be held on May 29 at BC Place.

The next SA Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 24 in the SA Council Chambers on the 2nd floor of the SA Campus Centre.

SA Copy Centre reduces prices

PAUL DAYSON
Link Managing Editor

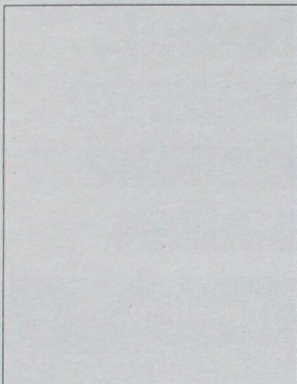
The Student Association's photocopying services revamped their operations during spring break with new copiers being installed across campus and reduced pricing.

Copying and black and white laser printing prices have been reduced from 15¢ to 10¢ per copy, while colour laser printing has been reduced to a flat rate of \$1.00 per page from \$2.00 for the first page and \$1.50 for each subsequent page.

In addition, the rate for local fax service has dropped from \$1.00 per page to 75¢.

Thirteen new self-serve copiers were installed during the week of spring break - seven in the library, two in room 336 of the Inglis building and four in the self-serve section of the copy centre itself. Two new full-service copiers are also in operation in the copy centre.

The copy centre's new pricing is a result of its trying "to be competitive with other competition," according to SA Copy Centre manager Rod Potis.

PRESIDENT

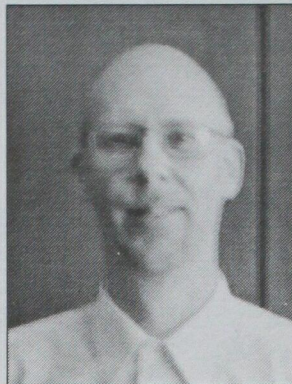
SAMANTHA YEUNG



TERI ALMAS

My primary goal as President will be to UNITE the student body and IGNITE the desire to invest in your school. I know that the key to quality campus life depends on open communication and strong connections with your fellow-students in all programs. I have created a number of initiatives that I know will achieve these goals.

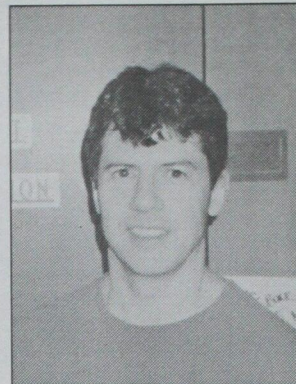
Vote Teri for President April 15th - 19th.



MARK DANIEL

I am a Civil & Structural Engineering student. I am running for council because I believe in student representation from a broad range of technologies. I am a good listener, approachable and very practical. I see the S/A as a venue where practical human decisions are made; decisions that will translate into care for the people we serve. That means I intend to deliver the services that the S/A is supposed to be providing to you, the students! I will also find ways to maintain a high level of services without any increase in student fees.

We Civil Engineering students are learning how to make our physical world a more civil(ized) place. Good building design includes enhancing creature comfort. I intend to bring this practical human approach to running the Students' Council, and I look forward to serving you in the coming year.

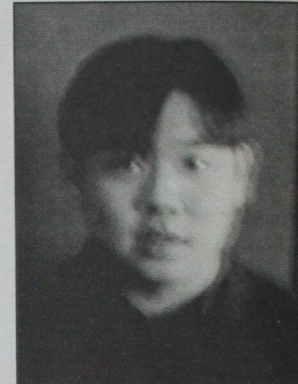
VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

JOHN ALEXANDER

John is in his first year of studies in Technology Teacher Education. His goal is to seek a career in technology education in the public school system. A past BCIT student, John completed his carpentry apprenticeship studies in 1990.

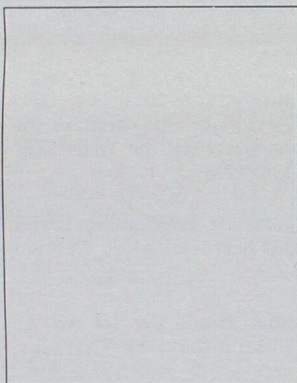
John will bring to the SA years of experience of serving on a variety of community organisations, trade union committees and political organisations. As well, John managed his own construction business for four years, giving him knowledge of scheduling, financial planning and staff management.

According to John, key issues facing students today are continuing government funding cutbacks to post-secondary education, rising living costs for students, skyrocketing tuition fees and securing meaningful employment after graduation. The SA needs to speak with one voice with other student organisations across the country. Unity among students is essential to challenge forces attempting to make post-secondary education institutions the private preserve for a wealthy elite.



BENJAMIN S.H. KWOK

Hi~ My name is Benjamin Kwok and I'm running for the Vice President of Student Affairs. First, I'd like to introduce myself a bit. I'm currently in the Electronics Common Core program, and what actually got my interest to run for this position was due to an incident that happened to my next year's program. The course name was Computer Business Equipment Service Technician, but the program was decided to be permanently taken out in the middle of the year. My fellow students and myself felt that this was an unfair judgement, and they had me in charge to resolve this problem. Finally, we got the program running for another two years, and I felt that I like working for student affairs. I could assure to you all that I will try my best in this position, and Thank You all for supporting me.

VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

JAY SELINGER



BRUCE MCTAGGART

My name is Bruce McTaggart and I am running for VP of Administration & Finance. I am a student in Marketing Management and previously graduated in Survey Technology from BCIT in 1987.

I think BCIT provides a great career oriented education and I returned here because I was a satisfied customer. Part of that satisfaction was with the services provided by the Student Association. I am running for office to maintain those services and where possible to increase them.

The SA generates revenue through student fees and through running businesses. Given the increases in tuition and the decreases in student aid I think it is time that the SA started looking for other sources of revenue, I think we need to find that money off campus. If you elect me I will find those sources of revenue.

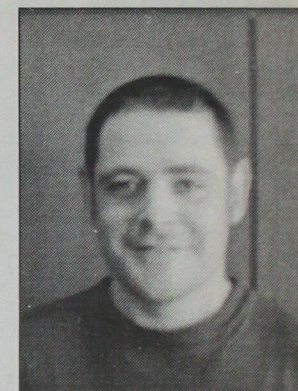
**STUDENT ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS**

Voting will take place:

**Monday, April 15 to Thursday, April 18
10:30am to 3:30pm**

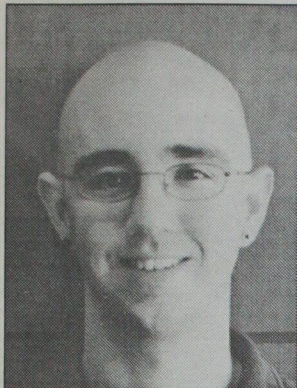
**Friday, April 19
9:00 to Noon**

in the Great Hall of the SA Campus Centre



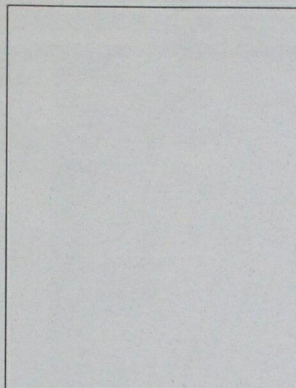
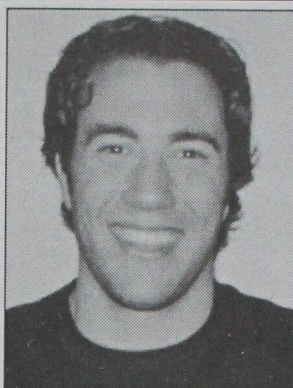
WILL HELLER

VICE PRESIDENT OF CAMPUS LIFE



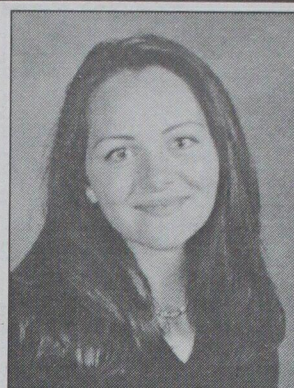
RYAN McDONALD

Hi, my name is Ryan McDonald and I am running for VP of Campus Life. The reason I want this position is that I want to be able to contribute in the best way that I can in order to improve the quality of life for the students here at BCIT. Although we are all in different programs, we're all roughly in the same boat with our heavy course loads, and what I want to do is find the best ways of relieving some of the stress builds up, through the existing extracurricular activities, and by developing some new ones as well. One of my main goals is to increase communication between the SA and the student body, so that we can not only keep you up to date with new developments, but get some feedback as well. So please come out and make your voice heard, vote.

PAULA DESLIPPE
Marketing

DANIEL BOFFO

Being VP of Campus Life is a great opportunity for me to share my past experiences and knowledge with the rest of you, the BCIT student body. Along with being a 1st Year Set and Recreational Rep, I am actively involved with intramural programs and private charitable organizations. Through working as a Sports Counsellor, with varying age groups, I broadened my ability to effectively interact and extract the best out of people. But it was while obtaining my BA in Economics at UBC that I realized the importance of having a balance between work and play. In order to put my good intentions into action, we need the unity of the student body. With this in effect, I will ignite a passion into this school unlike any seen in the past! With your support in the upcoming elections, I guarantee you will not be disappointed! VOTE DAN! UNITE THE BODY; IGNITE THE PASSION!



NOLA KILMARTIN

Fresh ideas, experience, hard work and good times is what I can bring to next year's SA as your VP of Campus Life. This position means some major coordination and high energy levels to take on the challenge of organizing BCIT intramurals, hockey games, ski trips and anything else all of us hard working BCIT types can call a good time. These two years go by quickly. I want to be the person that can contribute to making our time here not just tolerable, but memorable.

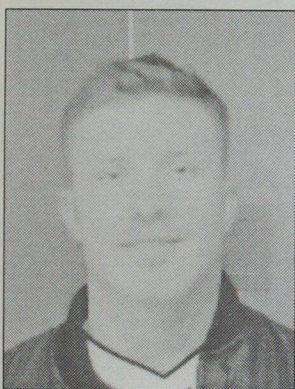
VICE PRESIDENT OF PR AND MARKETING



PATRICIA STEFANI

As this year's first year Marketing Tech-Rep, Patricia has gained valuable experience as a liaison between faculty staff and fellow students. She is committed to being a strong representative that will ensure that students' questions, opinions, and issues will be heard and addressed. Patricia is also very enthusiastic and motivated to pursue and accomplish the objectives that are essential to the Vice President of Public Relations and Marketing position. She looks forward to working with fellow students, faculty, other Student Association members, and our community to make next year's Shinerama fundraising campaign as exciting and successful as possible. If you would like any further information about Patricia or her campaign, please contact her at: stefanipatricia@hotmail.com. Thank you in advance for your support.

CHAIR OF BUSINESS AND HEALTH



CRAIG W. CLARK

The Student Association is here to provide services that the administration does not. Examples of this are: daycare, convenience stores and the pub. Managing the student association is an important job. I will work hard and look after your interests.

As candidate for chair of Business and Health Sciences I am interested in improving food service in the evenings and making more efficient use of the student owned and operated businesses on campus. I recognise that Health Science students have an unusually heavy course-load and also have many off-campus educational demands.

I believe that the S.A. should have close ties with club/association activity on campus. I will work to see that associations and clubs are provided with permanent office space and access to resources within the S.A.

I am a student in Marketing Management. Earning a university degree taught me that there is more to going to school than getting good grades. Involvement in student life is important.



CRISTINA ROMAN

My name is Cristina Roman and I am running for the Chair of Business and Health Sciences. I am a great listener because I am able to emphasize with ones problems and help provide solutions. I want to help you alleviate the stress of the school day and get a snapshot of who you are, what you are and where you are standing. As your representative on the Student Association, I can bring your voice to the table while you are busy learning to juggle your workload at BCIT. So, vote for Cristina Roman

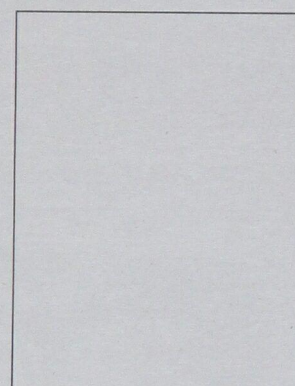
CHAIR OF TRANSPORTATION AND CONSTRUCTION



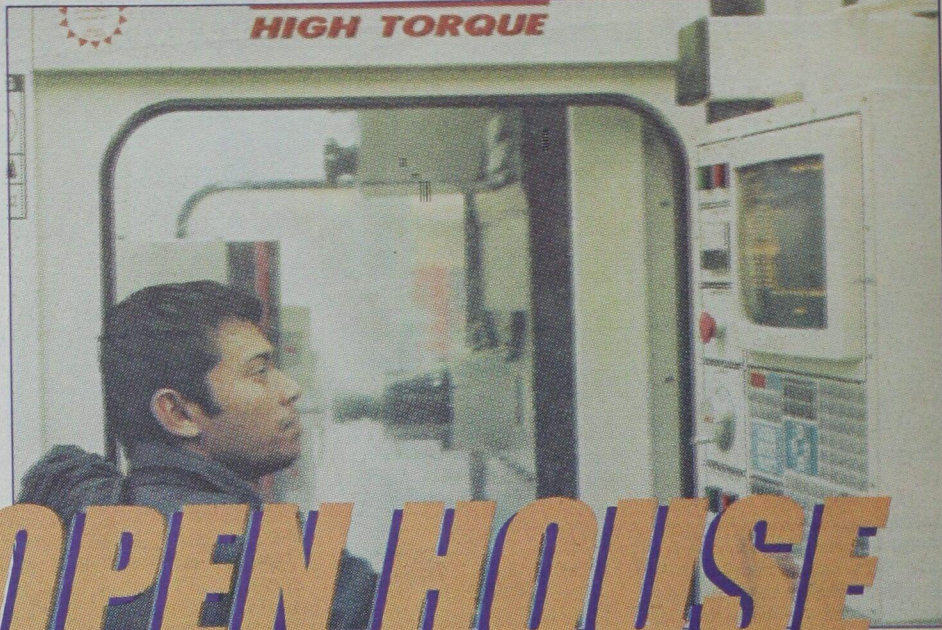
WINSTON TONG

My name is Winston. I'm a 1st year ABET tech rep and councilor for the student association chamber. The current chair, Brain Simpson, has done an extraordinary job and I'm hoping to carry the tradition. Please come out and support the democratic process. All of the candidates need your vote.

CHAIR OF ELECTRICAL, ELECTRONICS AND COMPUTING



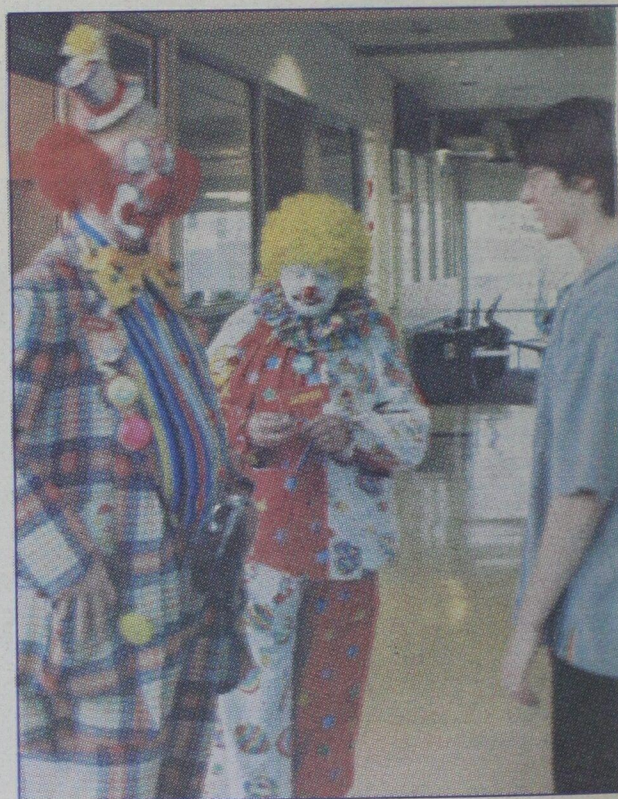
JEFF PATTON



OPEN HOUSE

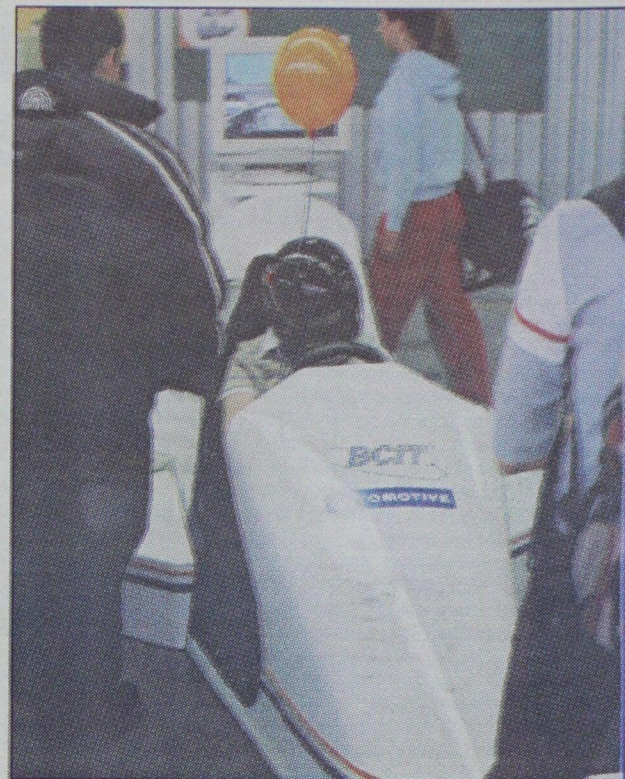
Clockwise from top left: Fitting braces at prosthetics; Computer and Numerical Controls Machining in action; BCIT Automotive — the past and present; Marine Engineering students ready to answer questions; Sparks fly as lathe works; Open House volunteers greet our guests on campus; Nature takes its course at an inopportune time in the petting zoo — they were soon pulled apart; Clowns entertaining the crowds; Robotics; International Trade and Transportation Logistics, one of many School of Business displays; and CFML Radio on the air.

BRUCE MCTAGGART PHOTOS

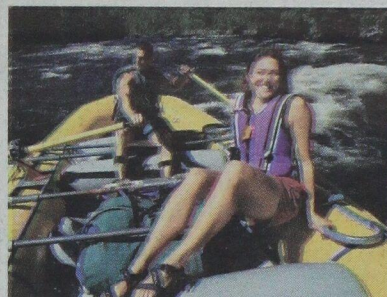




2002



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Snake River, Wyoming, 2002

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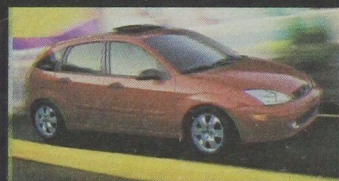
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Provincial government rewriting rental laws

AMY LAPSLEY
Link News Reporter

The Provincial government is rewriting the Residential Tenancy Act, and some groups are worried that the new Act will lift the limits now in place that keep landlords from skyrocketing rents. Under the current legislation, landlords can only increase rent by a "justifiable" amount every 12 months. Landlords can only increase rent if they can prove their costs went up, for example if they had an increase in taxes or had to do major renovations or repairs.

During the election last year, Solicitor General Rich Coleman was asked three times if rent increase laws would be changed. Each time, he answered 'no'. According to the Tenants Rights Action Coalition (TRAC), Premier Campbell made similar assurances during the election and said "one of the things we want to do is be sure that you can provide affordable rents for people."

But, TRAC says Solicitor General Rich Coleman dodged questions about changes to rent protection when he appeared on

CKNW's The Bill Good Show in late March. Good challenged Rich, asking him to assure that changes to the Act would not increase the financial hardship of renters. But, Rich said "I don't want to comment on the legislation here today, but certainly when we bring it into the house I'll be more than happy to deal with those issues."

Vanessa Geary, Coordinator of the Tenants Rights Action Coalition says "tenants are already having a tough time with high rents and low vacancy rates. For Minister Coleman to back down on this issue shows he is out of touch."

Geary says the elimination of rent protection would be devastating for students. "It will mean landlords can increase the rate to whatever they want and it doesn't matter if students can pay it or not. With tuition going up, the financial situation for students is getting worse, and it will be even harder to pay increases in rent."

At this point however, no changes to the Residential Tenancy Act have been officially announced. The provincial government is expected to introduce the changes to the Residential Tenancy Act in May.



BRUCE MCTAGGART PHOTOS

Ducks nest in Rix

PAUL DAYSON
Link Managing Editor

Rezansoff. "They're really people friendly," she said.

Many students and staff have spent time watching the nest during the last week.

Renuka Goodipati, the SA's Support Programs manager, described sitting drinking her coffee while watching the mother turning the eggs in the nest.

"The students are just mesmerized, and the faculty, too," said Rezansoff. "They think it's really neat."

Rezansoff said neither of the ducks have names as of yet but that "Rixy" is being seriously considered for the mother.

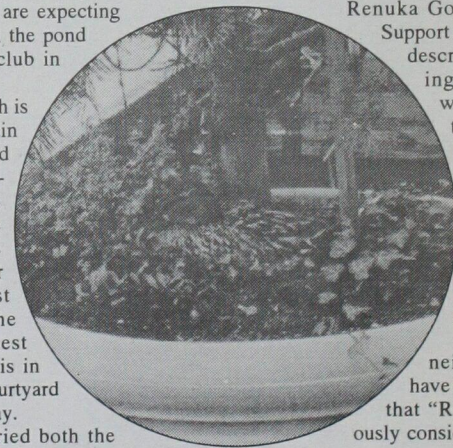
The Rix is holding a contest to guess the date that the eggs hatch and the number of ducklings that emerge with a prize of a \$75 gift certificate to the Rix. A draw will be held if more than one entry pick the same day and number. Entry forms will be available at the Rix starting on Monday, April 8. The contest will be open to enter until hatching day.

Two ducks have set up house, and are expecting children, in the pond outside the Rix club in the SE2 building.

The nest, which is believed to contain 11 eggs, is located in the northernmost of the two planters in the pond on the Rix's patio. The mother is spending most of the day on the down-covered nest while the father is in and out of the courtyard periodically all day.

The mother tried both the planters before settling on the northern one, according to Barb Rezansoff, the manager of the Rix. A depression is quite noticeable in the southern planter, where the mother started to make a nest.

The ducks don't seem to be bothered by the people that come and go on the patio. During the sunny days during the first week of April the patio was quite crowded but this didn't seem to disturb them, said



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Chiefs burn ballots in Vancouver.

STEPHEN HUI (CUP) PHOTO

B.C. treaty referendum ignites protest

STEPHEN HUI
The SFU Peak
Canadian University Press

Most B.C. voters have by now received their ballots in the mail.

The province's controversial referendum on treaty negotiations has arrived. Citizens are being asked to register their opinions on eight treaty negotiating principles regarding land use, property, governance and tax issues. Voters have until May 15 to return their ballots to the province's elections commission.

"This little piece of paper has created the biggest controversy that British Columbia has ever seen," said Chief Judith Sayers of the Hupacasath First Nation "It is creating anger, it is creating racism, it is creating fear. This government does not know what it has unleashed."

Sayers and several other First Nations leaders burned ballots in protest at a Vancouver press conference Thursday, April 4. A week and a half ago, the Hupacasath unsuccessfully sought an injunction to block the mailing of the ballots. They argued that the referendum's principles were illegal and would undermine the treaty process. A constitution challenge is also planned.

"We want the people of British Columbia to be consulted," Sayers said. "People need to be involved in the treaty process. We want successful treaties. But this is not the way to go about bettering the treaty process. This paper is going to kill the treaty process in British Columbia."

Sayers said the referendum would promote economic uncertainty by dissolving any good relations between First Nations and B.C.

"Why would we sit down and work with a government that does this to us?"

Sayers and the other chiefs present said their band offices have been deluged with calls of support. They are

recommending that citizens opposed to the referendum forward their ballots the nearest band or tribal council office. Labour unions may also be collecting ballots. The hope is that those rejecting the process will collect more ballots than are actually cast in the referendum.

"Don't vote 'yes.' Don't vote 'no.' Don't legitimize this process," Sayers said.

"The cloud that is already over the treaty process...has gotten even blacker. And the storm is about to occur."

Many observers have said the treaty referendum represents a clear-cut case of majority tyranny — when the rights of a numeric minority are subjected to the will of the popular majority. As well, aboriginal leaders point out that many British Columbians are uninformed about or ignorant of the plight of aboriginal peoples.

"What's the next referendum going to be held on?" asked Allan Weselowski, chief of the Ulkatcho Indian Band and chair of the Carrier-

Chilcotin Tribal Council. "It could be you. Today it's me."

Weselowski said the burning of the ballots is symbolic only and urged British Columbians to participate in an "active boycott."

"What we're suggesting is they simply don't just throw the ballot in the trash bin like a lot of people might be inclined to do. We'd like them to send the ballots to us," said Stewart Philip, chief of the Penticton Indian Band and president of the Union of B.C. Chiefs.

"This referendum is purposely designed to further marginalize the interests of aboriginal people. If a person is absolutely convinced they have to participate in this process, the consensus, I believe, is to vote 'no.'"

On Sunday, April 7, the ministers at Anglican churches around the province were read a pastoral letter calling on them to vote "no" to all of the principles or send in blank ballots to be recorded as rejected.



Ballots are reduced to cinders.

STEPHEN HUI (CUP) PHOTO

Toastmasters' early risers learn the craft of public speaking

KENDALL HARRIS
Link Reporter

At 7:00 AM on Tuesday mornings, while most of us are crawling out of bed, thinking only of coffee and getting to school on time, a group of about 20 students here at BCIT are beginning their weekly Toastmasters meeting. Yes, at the ridiculously early 0700 hours, they are holding a formally structured meeting, giving speeches and critically evaluating each other's performance.

It is a well known fact that most people would rather die than speak in front of a group of people; we are more afraid of public speaking than we are of death. Toastmasters International is a non-profit organization established in 1924 to help people get over this fear and speak more effectively. It has been accomplishing that aim, expanding to cities and communities around the world, and millions of people have benefited from its training.

BCIT has had a Toastmasters Club for 17 years, and Marshall Heinekey, Dean of Process Energy and Natural Resources, has been involved with it from the start. "I like the humour, creativity, and spontaneity of the students," he says. These students come from a wide range of technologies (marketing, professional sales, financial management, etc) and from a wide range of abilities. "When there's a variety of speaking levels among the members, people see what levels they can improve to," says Heinekey. "You're only in competition with yourself."

The Toastmasters meeting is basically composed of two parts: the impromptu speech section and the prepared speech section. For the impromptu speeches, a member stands up and announces a topic, and elects three people, one at a time, to come up and speak for two minutes on that subject. The prepared speech section of the meeting involves three members presenting speeches they've prepared, guided by their Toastmasters manual. All speakers are constructively evaluated and encouraged by other members at the end of the meeting, receiving specific comments on eye contact, projection, hand gestures, and the organization of their speeches.

So is it worth it? All those early mornings and hours of preparing speeches in what little spare time most of us can find at BCIT? "It's pretty obvious if someone has done Toastmasters," says Marshall Heinekey. "You know that when they go into an interview, they're more prepared than the average person." BCIT students can become members of Toastmasters at any time of the year, and the annual fee of about \$90 is adjusted depending on when you join. The membership fee covers a variety of manuals and resources on speaking. That fee, combined with the early meeting time, ensures that those BCIT students who do join are very dedicated, and the tone of the meeting reflects that commitment to self-improvement. BCIT students interested in joining Toastmasters are welcome to attend the meeting held every Tuesday at 7:00 AM in the SA council Chambers across from the copy centre.

Toastmasters looks good on your resume and yes, it will help you perform well at job interviews and give better sales presentations. But more importantly, even in the age of e-mail, "You can't deny the power of the spoken word," says Heinekey. "How you speak defines you—you are your word." Anything you do to improve how you speak and how you express yourself can only have a positive effect on all areas of your life

RCMP avoids apology for APEC misconduct

CHRIS SHEPHERD
Ubyssy, University of BC
Canadian University Press

VANCOUVER
Five years after police made 49 arrests and pepper sprayed dozens of protesters at the University of British Columbia, the body that handles complaints for the RCMP is recommending police issue an apology.

At the end of last month, the RCMP's Commission for Public Complaints released its final report on complaints filed against the RCMP for misconduct at the 1997 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, held at UBC.

The report summarizes the commission's interim report, released in August 2001, which found police behaviour inappropriate and calls on the RCMP to acknowledge the consequences of its conduct at the summit.

"An apology now would still be appropriate," wrote commission chair Shirley Healey in the report.

But although both the interim and final reports made several recommendations about police conduct at demonstrations, many civil liberties activists and former APEC protesters feel the final report is inadequate.

"It's kind of irrelevant," said Nathan Allen, a former UBC student association vice-president who was arrested during the APEC demonstrations.

"The fact that students weren't allowed to protest is

the bigger issue. That being said, [the RCMP] should definitely apologize."

Lindsay Lyster, policy director of the BC Civil Liberties Association, echoed Allen's sentiment.

"We're certainly pleased to see the call for the police to admit their wrongdoing, and to be fair, they have acknowledged their wrongdoing. But to apologize would be too little too late," she said.

The 1997 APEC summit was held at UBC and was attended by the leaders of 18 Pacific Rim countries, including Chinese President Jiang Zemin and then-Indonesian President General Suharto — both widely criticized for their alleged human rights abuses.

On the last day of the summit, approximately 1,500 people protested at UBC. The RCMP arrested almost 50 demonstrators and controlled crowds with pepper spray. The August interim report, written by former complaints commission chair Ted Hughes, specifically targeted RCMP conduct at UBC's Gate 6, where police pepper sprayed approximately 40 protesters who were obstructing the road.

"[The] use of pepper spray on that occasion was not a justifiable or appropriate use of force," wrote Hughes. That report found the RCMP didn't give protesters enough time to comply with orders to clear the road, and that appropriate procedures were not followed before pepper spray was used.

The interim report also found the RCMP had inade-

quately prepared for the summit and that the lack of preparation was a major cause of police misconduct.

RCMP Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli wrote a letter acknowledging Hughes's interim report shortly after it was released last summer. In the letter, Zaccardelli admitted the RCMP had made errors when planning security at UBC. He said any inappropriate behaviour was the fault of the RCMP's poor planning, and not of individual officers.

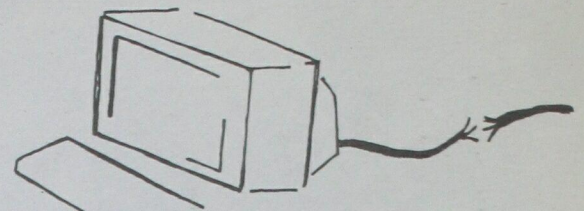
The complaints commission recommended the RCMP apologize for its actions after Zaccardelli wrote his letter of response. The RCMP has not offered an apology since the release of the final report on March 25.

Sergeant Marsh Paul, RCMP media relations officer, would not comment on whether the RCMP was considering an apology.

But an apology from the RCMP is not protesters' main concern, according to Lyster.

"We don't think it's the RCMP who owe the apology," she said, "It's the Prime Minister's Office."

Many critics have speculated that the RCMP acted to address government concerns that were unrelated to security. In his report, Hughes questioned the Prime Minister's Office's involvement in planning police response to the APEC protests.



Provincial gov't scraps distance learning institute

KEVIN GROVES
BC Bureau Chief
Canadian University Press

VICTORIA

The BC Liberals have slashed a program that offers post-secondary education off campus.

Over the next two years, all programs provided by the Open Learning Agency (OLA) will be discontinued or transferred to post-secondary institutions across the province.

"These programs are primarily for students who might not meet the requirements for [university] admission or can't take the time to go through the admission process of a university because they're working," said Cindy Underhill, a spokeswoman for the University of British Columbia's distance education department.

Before the changes, the OLA ran a separate college and university as well as the Knowledge Network, an educational television station. The agency serves between 15,000 and 22,000 students each year, which amounts to about 2,600 full-time students throughout B.C.

The OLA kindergarten to Grade 12 courses, career and college preparation, as well as uni-

versity courses will be incorporated into correspondence programs offered at the University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, UBC and other post-secondary institutions in the province.

It is still unclear how the programs will be integrated.

"As of yet we haven't received any new information," said Don Black, a spokesperson for the OLA.

Black said the government wants to adopt a distance education approach where member universities work closer together.

"I would imagine this is to ensure that work in online learning is coordinated, rather than duplicated," he said.

Privatization could be one of the routes the government may take to administer B.C.'s distance education programs in the future, said Black.

Joan Collinge, a spokeswoman for Simon Fraser's distance education department said privatization could work if administered properly.

"The effect on students would depend on the extent to which the new service provider would be willing to work with the institutions," she said.



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The salsa scene uncovered

Dance till dawn in Vancouver's nightclubs

KENDALL HARRIS
Link Arts Reporter

If Latin music and salsa dancing are your thing, Vancouver offers several venues to listen to live bands, watch some incredibly talented dancers, and learn a few salsa steps yourself. Bars and nightclubs like Voda, The Drink, Mesa Luna and Legends offer an unforgettable night out, whether you're on the dance floor, or on the sidelines.

Mesa Luna is a well-established salsa club on West Broadway at Cypress. Here you can dine and dance every night of the week, but Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are the big nights for salsa. Newcomers can take a free salsa class before the evening heats up, to learn the basic movements and a few fancy steps. Instructor Tony Boutros teaches at Mesa Luna on the last Sunday of every month and regularly at Dance World Studio on Main. He advises nervous beginners, "Definitely take my class. The first thing I focus on besides building a foundation for basic salsa is helping people get over their inhibitions...building up their confidence so they can get out there." Mesa Luna is owned by an Austrian named Franz Schmuck (pronounced Shmook) who admits in a charming, heavy accent that he can't dance salsa, but has seen hundreds of people take that first class. "Students do feel a bit funny when they start, but the teachers emphasize that salsa is different—it's sexy—and after a few drinks they usually start to move," he laughs.

Voda, at Robson and Homer, holds a very classy and successful Latin dance night every Tuesday. There is an elegance and luxury about Voda, with its wall of running water behind the bar and a long table lined with candles near the dance floor. The dozen members of the band BC Salsa perform energetically every Tuesday, and the skilled, well-dressed dancers attract an appreciative audience. Voda holds an annual Latin Dance Competition where Vancouver's best salsa dancers compete, with prizes for the top three couples.

The beginning salsa dancer may find The Drink (at Richards and Cordova) a little less intimidating than Voda. The dance floor is full of salsa dancers, but also with groups of people doing their own thing. DJ Jorgito B. plays a fantastic mix of Spanish language music, Top 40 songs, and Latin pop by artists like Enrique Iglesias and Shakira, while a large screen above the dance floor broadcasts a Spanish MuchMusic. Jorgito B. is also the DJ and promoter of Legends' Copa Cabana Nights, another of Vancouver's salsa destinations.

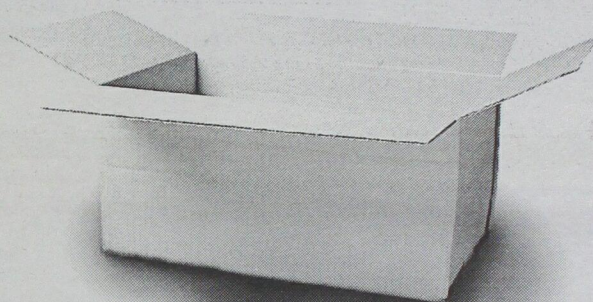
Legends (Dunsmuir and Seymour) holds its Copa Cabana Nights on their downstairs dance floor, starting the night at 8:30 with a salsa lesson for beginners. "Women are drawn to dancing more than men," says Jenny Stuart, who is an avid dancer and assistant instructor. "We girls keep them very busy!" It was difficult to believe she had only been salsa dancing about two years. "My friends used to call

me Captain Coordination because I was such a klutz," she admits. "If I can pick this up, anyone can." Dancers Harmony Hodge and Gillian MacLeod agreed salsa nights are a great place to meet people. "Salsa dancing forces you to mingle, to interact with your partner," says Harmony, "and then when you go to other clubs you start to see the same faces." Gillian added, "There is a core group of dancers that you see all the time."

If the idea of hitting the salsa clubs and bars as a beginner is too frightening, take a salsa class at one of the city's many dance schools. "The key to getting really good," says instructor Tony Boutros, "is to dance with people who are better than you." Or convince someone you know to take lessons with you. Kelly Stuart and Tim Court began taking salsa dance classes to learn something new as a couple. They chose salsa over swing or tango, saying, "It's

more current, more sexy, and you can salsa dance in so many places now." When asked if they felt intimidated in the company of such talented dancers, they admitted, "At first we did. Then we realized that nobody was watching us. Everyone is just here to have a good time." So check out Mesa Luna, Voda, The Drink, or Legends, and you'll find Vancouver's salsa scene is a sure way to have a good time.

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BCIT tuition increased

continued from page 3
ing, and our programs are suffering from it. As long as we know the fees are going to benefit the students, it's not unreasonable to expect the increases," he said.

BCIT's President Tony Knowles says he is committed to improving services with the new funding from tuition increases. "We're committed to updating equipment

and facilities, providing more opportunities for workplace education, expanding educational technology support, adding students spaces and introducing delivery mechanism that will increase the ability of our students to complete their studies as quickly as possible," he said.

According to a BCIT news release, 30 per cent of the new funding will go to

financial aid and equipment upgrades. Each year there will be \$3.7 million available for equipment upgrades, up from \$1.9 million. For students who already have problems funding their own education, an extra \$500,000 is being added to BCIT's financial aid, scholarship and awards program.

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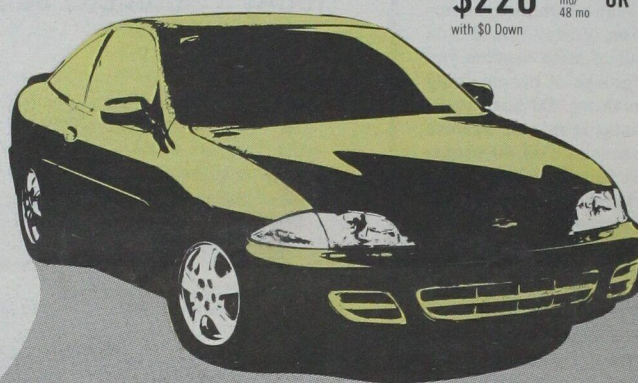
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