

ARCHIVES

the  
**Link**

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**The Newspaper of the British Columbia Institute of Technology**

## The Link

The Student Newspaper of  
the British Columbia  
Institute of Technology  
... since 1965

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

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## Take some time for yourself during the cramming

Exam season is upon us again with all the stress that comes rolled up with it. And the job hunt is following close behind for those of us who haven't found summer or career employment yet.

Take care not to let the load overwhelm you as stressful times can often do. Get off the tight-rope for an hour or two everyday. Take some time for yourself.

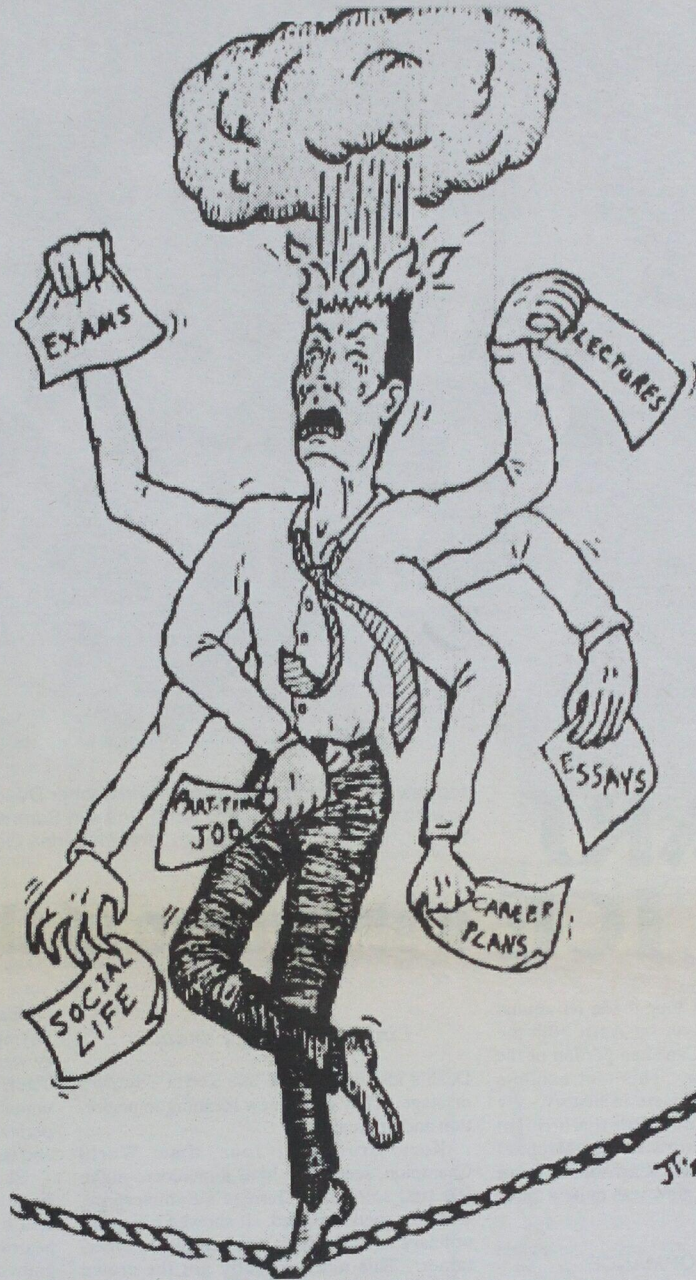
Take a walk, maybe go to the beach and listen to the waves for a half hour.

The important thing is to let yourself relax and unwind, to get some exercise and fresh air. Give your body an opportunity to burn off some of the frustration you've been building up with a workout.

Take the time to eat healthily, instead of snacking on potato chips, pop, coffee and chocolate bars at your desk. It's your brain as well as your body that you have to feed and being awake on caffeine won't help if you can't think straight.

If it helps think of it as a treat for a job well done when you reach certain points in your study schedule.

With the break you'll find you've gained a bit of perspective on what is stressing you out or have solved that problem that's been eating at you for hours. In a relaxed state of mind it's easier to concentrate and your study time will be infinitely more productive.



## Are you being stalked? Criminal harassment info focuses on safety

DAVID LAI  
Link Reporter

The Ministry of Women's Equality, Minister and Attorney General, has recently released new public education materials to help women identify and deal with criminal harassment or stalking. Criminal harassment or stalking, as more commonly known, was added to the Criminal Code in 1993. It causes victims to fear for their safety or the safety of those close to them.

Over 80 per cent of stalking victims are women, exclusively at risk of physical injury or death. Most female victims are stalked by former partners and most male victims are stalked by

casual acquaintances.

The harassment can be against a single person, their family, friends, or workmates. Stalking can also involve other crimes such as assault, break and entry and threats. This can include repeated behavior such as: waiting and watching the person's home, workplace or other place they may be, unwanted direct or indirect communication with the person and making threats. The majority of stalkers are men. It can be anyone, from a current or former spouse, intimate partner, casual acquaintance, co-worker, fellow student or a total stranger. Stalking is not an act of love, it's an attempt to gain power and control over someone. You are not an object to be owned.

Psychological terrorism is the weapon stalkers use. Stalking is a pattern of threats, intimidation and actions that are intended to frighten; it takes away any feelings of self worth and destroys one's sense of safety, leading to severe emotional trauma for the victim.

A wallet-size information card (Are You Being Stalked?) is available describing criminal harassment (stalking) as well as basic awareness and safety procedures. For more information contact Public Information Counters at Police Stations; or the Ministry of Women's Equality, PO Box 9899 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria, BC, V8W 9T9, Fax: (250) 953-4529, <http://www.weq.gov.bc.ca>.

## SA ELECTION RESULTS

### Budget tops agenda of year's final meeting

The final council meeting of the year took place this past Monday night and it was a night of fun and last minute business.

The major news revolved around the budget being accepted for next year. This year's budget was balanced and ended with a slight surplus. A couple major new programs for students have been incorporated for next year within the budget. Among the new programs is a special fund being set up to help those students who may need added financial assistance and would see moneys allocated for a "forgivable" type loans to qualifying needy students.

An investment fund is also being set-up next year, so the Student Association can invest moneys into a long term project to ensure the financial stability of the SA long-term.

The overall budget is about two million dollars strong. The moneys come to the SA, via their several on campus businesses: the pub, This 'N' That stores and copy centre. These businesses accumulate roughly two thirds of the total collectable moneys, while student fees bring in the rest

- It was decided that BCIT would support the flood victims of Manitoba by sending a donation through the University of Manitoba.

- The Toastmasters is a public speaking organization that meets weekly on campus and is supported by the SA. If you would like to be involved with toastmasters this year or next, feel free to drop by one of their meetings, or pick up some information at the SA office, located next to the copy centre in the Great Hall.

- There is a contest on to design a logo for the upcoming Shinerama fund-raiser. Of course the big day is in September, and the logo is needed for the spiffy T-shirts that everyone should purchase. If you think you've got a killer design make sure you submit it. Details are available at the SA office or from the VP of PR & Marketing Laura Kleinstueber-Kohlh.

- The final official business was to acknowledge all the people who help to bring the SA together. Stephen Miller and Janice Eden were given special commendation for all their hard work and support. Special gifts of affection were given by this year's SA to each of them.

And that wrapped up another year of the SA. Next year's members will be working hard to learn their positions and organize their offices....September is not that far away....unless you're a Canuck fan. To all those leaving BCIT...good luck....and all those returning for next year....get ready....cause it oughtta be a good one....Have a safe summer.

Sean Constable

## Upcoming Cultural Entertainment Highlights

May 8

Chemical Brothers  
with local DJ's  
at The Rage

May 8-10

Music West Festival  
all over Vancouver

May 9

Ben Harper with guests  
at The Rage

May 12

Jamiroqui  
at the Plaza of Nations

May 15

The Cardigans with guests  
at the Vogue Theatre

May 16

Rush  
at the GM Place

May 17/18

Glenn Miller Orchestra  
at the Vogue Theatre  
and Massey Theatre

May 18

The Mystical Arts of Tibet  
at the Vogue Theatre

May 21

Dinosaur Jr.  
at The Rage

May 23

Metallica  
with Corrosion of Conformity

May 25

Bruce Cockburn  
at the Orpheum Theatre

May 26

Tina Turner  
with Cyndi Lauper  
at the GM Place

June 5

Yo La Tengo  
at the Starfish Room

June 24

Dave Brubeck Quartet  
at the Vogue Theatre

Bill Frisell Quartet  
at the Vancouver East  
Cultural Centre



(top row left to right) Brian Orser, Christopher Dean, Lloyd Eisler, Denis Petrov, Kurt Browning, (bottom row left to right) Rosalynn Summers, Jayne Torvill, Isabelle Brasseur, José Chouinard, Elena Bechke, and Ekaterina Gordeeva.

# STARS ON ICE a showcase of skating talent

The Stars On Ice tour made its annual visit to Vancouver on April 30th—the last stop of the Canadian portion of the seventy-four city tour. This tour exhibits some of the greatest skaters in history. By compiling these legends with the brilliant choreography of Sandra Bezic, Michael Seibert, Lea Ann Miller, Christopher Dean and Jayne Torvill, the show was quite a spectacle.

**ICE SKATING PERFORMANCE**  
**Stars On Ice**  
April 30  
GM Place

The performance began with a group number featuring the whole cast in black and gold costumes. The sophisticated choreography displayed the skaters with much poise and elegance. They came out in two rows, skated as a group and then dispersed off into their own section of the ice to flaunt individual talents.

José Chouinard, three time Canadian Champion and the rookie, performed two solo numbers. Her charming and warm personality shone through with each number. I especially enjoyed the one she did to the music of Shania Twain. She seemed to be having so much fun that even when she fell, it was okay as she just got up and continued enthusiastically.

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, the 1984 Olympic Gold medalists and four time world champions in the ice dancing category, are known for their innovative ideas. This is indicated throughout the whole show as they helped with the choreography. I thought their jazz piece was outstanding. Torvill and

**Sam Tse**  
**Link Ice Skating Fanatic**

Dean's ideas on ice are like Twyla Tharp's on stage. They give a new meaning to perfection and originality.

Kurt Browning, four time World Champion, seemed to have a mediocre night. His first solo, to Al Jarreau's Summertime, was very well executed. It showed his extraordinary talent both as a skater and an entertainer. This number really got the crowd rocking and it was near flawless. However, in his second piece he fell apart and dear old Kurt was all over the ice. He fell a few times and practically slid right into the spectators sitting in the floor seats. I was sitting close enough (four rows away from the ice) to see his disappointment. But, Browning made it up to his audience by delivering an absolutely hilarious performance in the group ensemble *The Red Hat*.

*The Red Hat* number was an absolute masterpiece. An upright piano was on the ice and the whole objective was to obtain the red hat. This idea is a branch off a competition piece by Torvill and Dean and was totally hilarious. The crowd loved it.

The 1984 Olympic Silver Medalist, Rosalynn Summers, has incredible presence on the ice. Since her amateur days, Summers has really grown as a performer and it's as if she's an actress on ice. This is most evident in her only solo which was very dramatic and very solid. The music was Amanda Marshall's *Beautiful Goodbye*. I've seen it many times on TV, but to see it done live was so powerful. It's not something I can really explain, but I was just in total awe and amazement. Summers has truly mastered her art.

Elena Bechke and Denis Petrov, the 1992 Olympic Silver Medalists in the pairs category were definitely one of the best in the show. Their lyrical style was so beautiful and unmatched. It was unfortunate that they only performed one solo piece. It was so polished and tasteful that it left me hungry for more.

Ekaterina Gordeeva, skating as a soloist since the sudden death of her pairs partner and husband, Sergei Grinkov, was truly heartwarming. Together, G&G (as they were known in the skating world) were four time world pair champions and two time Olympic gold medalists. But now, Gordeeva must skate alone and her performance evoked a lot of emotion from the audience. Both her solo pieces were achingly artistic and it shows that even after almost a year and a half after Grinkov's death, the pain is still there. Her first number was choreographed by Marina Zoueva, G&G's long time choreographer. Words like "Je t'amour" (I love you) throughout the song shows that she still misses him deeply. But she is recovering and it was evident in the second piece titled *No One is Alone*. Gordeeva was in a white sparkly dress and seems to be expressing her life after Grinkov's death. That number brought tears to my eyes. Although Gordeeva fell during both her numbers, she picked herself back up and continued. And, the audience forgave her because Gordeeva represents strength and courage. She is a true role model.

Two time Olympic Silver Medalist, Brian Orser, was also a part of the cast. Like Browning, he wasn't at his best. The first solo was really not that bad, but we're used to seeing so much more from him. What were once triples are now doubles. But, like

Continued on next page

# PAVEMENT: Better than sitting on the curb

ANDREW DENNISON  
Link Entertainment Reporter

As I walked up to the Vogue, I saw the poor, misinformed masses lining up to enter the meat market that is the Roxy. I felt happy in knowing a more desirable location awaited me. I entered the Vogue just as Pavement started the first song of a great, if not active set

## CONCERT REVIEW

**Pavement**  
Sunday, May 20  
The Vogue Theatre

Pavement, if you are not familiar, are the purveyors of a fairly unique brand of indie sounding rock mimicked slightly, at times, by the likes of Weezer and Sloan.

This was an all around good show as far as I'm concerned, the sound was good, the set was a good length, and the band played a good selection of songs, although there was a distinct lack of older material (I guess I'd get tired of playing the same songs tour after tour too!).

Pavement is never an exciting band to watch, save for the occasional giggle between band members, but their musical prowess more than makes up for it.

# Canadian skaters show stoppers

Continued from previous page

Browning, he quickly redeemed himself. Ten years ago, Orser did a number to Neil Diamond's *The Story of My Life*, which was his mother's favorite song. Recently, his mother died of cancer and Orser decided to perform this number once again to share his private grief in a public arena. This number was emotional and touching. It was vintage Brian Orser.

Canada's Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler are incredible show stoppers. Two time Olympic Bronze medalists in the pairs category, they are the most inventive and exciting professional pair executing signature moves such as "chainsaw". Every

number was a scream and received standing ovations. Although they did two pieces, I was hoping to see more. I absolutely loved them.

All good things must come to an end. But, the cast of *Stars On Ice* made it a very memorable one with an ensemble titled *Shameless*. The setting is a tacky dance hall in the 1950's and each skater had a distinct character to act out. I was in stitches throughout. Things that you wouldn't normally see, such as Torvill teaming up with Eisler to do a death spiral, were incorporated. It was work of art and a production of perfection.



# Webber's Phantom leaves a satisfying sadness

DAVID LAI  
Link Entertainment Editor

This was the first time I'd seen a production at the Ford Centre and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical hit, *The Phantom of the Opera* is the rightly kind show to see there. The theatre was designed for this type of production.

On this opening night, the centre for performing arts was hustling with commotion, as people lingered with anticipation and excitement. Inside this very new theatre the plush seating and soft lighting, along with business attired attendants, created an atmosphere filled with a cheesy prestige, that brought laughter and smiles from everyone.

MUSICAL REVIEW  
**Phantom of the Opera**  
at the Ford Centre  
April 30, 1997

The prologue of the *Phantom of the Opera* launched with an incredible scene that ended with the giant 1200 pound chandelier swinging madly and rising up high above the seated audience and then coming crashing down on to the stage — a very impressive spectacle to watch. The numerous cast were excellent, along with the 200 costumes which

were a pleasure to observe. And not to mention the orchestra played wonderfully, both the music and the sound effects. The performance involved 53 mechanized scenes, 104 speakers and much more used in this massed produced production. 150 people are responsible for each performance of *The Phantom of the Opera*.

If you don't go for the music or story, just the visual spectacle was enough to keep the audience attentive and entertained. The story is a sad one, where the unfortunate Phantom, after teaching Christine to really sing for the opera because of his love for her, is dumped by the beautiful girl after she pulls off his mask to reveal a circus freak. Christine then runs off with the blond noble cheese ball who isn't as much of a fascinating freak.

At the very end as the Phantom is being hunted down, he disappears before anyone can catch him, leaving only the recognizable mask. Everyone appeared to enjoy this highly recognized musical, and left with a satisfied feeling of sadness for the Phantom.

The *Phantom of the Opera* will run at the Ford Centre until June 29, 1997, before touring around the world. Tickets are available through ticketmaster, 280-4444.

# The Link

bring you  
information by  
and for students



# spinnin' the disk

## THE AGE OF ELECTRIC Make a pest a pet (Universal)

Since our Age of electric contest was so smashingly successful, I was appointed the duty of reviewing one of the left over CD's. This album is definitely a huge improvement over the AOE's earlier efforts, as there is a noticeable influence from Ryan and Kurt Dhole's other band, Limblifter. It even sounds vaguely like Jellyfish, an excellent band that appeared from LA in the early nineties. There is definitely a profusion of catchy riffs and hooks, but the lyrical content lacks meaning and leaves much to be desired as far as I'm concerned. If you're a fan of radio-friendly rock you'll probably like this. If you like the AOE's old 'Hard Rock' sound, then this might not appeal to you.

Andrew Dennison

from a general lack of exciting movement from some of the band members, they are a tight, high-quality unit. This album is a must have if you wish Helmet were a tiny bit mellower.

Andrew Dennison



## Reef Glow (Sony)

This album is beyond terrible. It's 51 minutes of almost pure hell. The lyrics are uninspiring and dull which makes it really hard to stay focused. The musical composition doesn't help either as it's annoying to the point it becomes monotonous. But the worst part has got to be the singing. I wonder whether or not Reef has been inspired by Axel Rose. The vocals can only be described as unclear screeching—a cross between someone clearing flem out of his throat and someone going through the midst of puberty. To listen to this album is punishment of the worst kind.

Sam Tse

## Space Spiders (Universal Music)

This is a foursome male band from Liverpool. Pop rock that can be catchy or easy to throw. This British pop band starts off with a track called Neighborhood, that has a Latin-tinged ska sound to it.



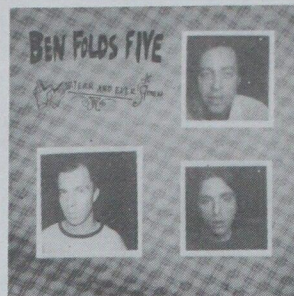
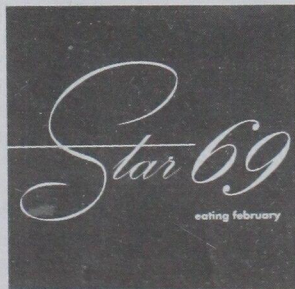
Space has tried to avoid sounding like a traditional British guitar rock band, but underlining the tracks you get that feeling of "Oh yeah, just another cute, catchy British pop band." The most original piece of work on this CD, is the actual graphics of tarantulas on the disc itself, some of their lyrics are pretty original though, if not the music. In this package are two discs, one their album "Spiders", and the other, "Female of the Species," containing four remixed tracks, from the other album. Two guitarists, a keyboardist and a drummer make up this music ensemble. You can note from giving this disc a listen that some of the tracks sound like they're from a movie, or are influenced by more popular bands, e.g. Frank Sinatra, maybe Cypress Hill and Ella Fitzgerald? So it has been done before. Total 14 tracks, plus the extra disc.

David Lai

## Star 69 eating february (Radioactive)

The first thing that caught my eye was their red glittery cover. I had imagined they might have sounded somewhat 70s disco or funky, but I was totally wrong. Star 69 is the rock band, with the female lead singer. They have two independent singles and have played a number of live gigs. Star 69 are receiving acclaim in the UK, but here on the coast, I haven't ever hear of them before. This band is what you'd called "alternative" rock. It's marketable and unoriginal. There are already so many bands that sound like this, that you wouldn't know the difference. This band has potential, but needs to lean away from the typical rock guitar sound. I was disappointed, hoping to hear something more original and creative.

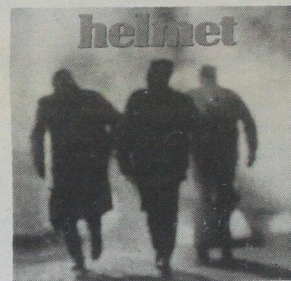
David Lai



## Ben Folds Five Whatever and Ever Amen (Sony)

I liked the album right away. I was hooked to the good usage of the piano which was present throughout. The band produces very carefree music that's both upbeat and lyrical—with hints of sort of a popish sound of a bygone era. The vocals had a nice quality which was a cross between the boy next door and an innocent angry male. Simple yet truthful lyrics about everyday life makes this band a true winner.

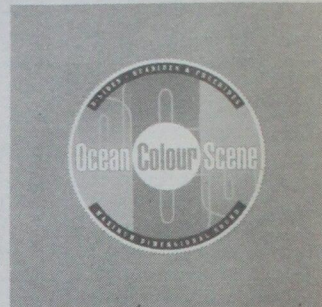
Sam Tse



## HELMET Aftertaste (Interscope)

When I first heard this CD, I thought 'damn, those guys must be gettin' old or somethin' 'cause this sucks!' But then I started to listen to it more and more, and then not a day would go by that I didn't listen to it. And now, as I write this review, even hearing the CD through the somewhat mediocre speakers on my PC, I feel sorry that I ever doubted Page Hamilton's song writing skills. Simply put: Helmet still rules!!! As you can probably tell from that little rant, the songs on this disk take a little getting used to for the longtime Helmet fan such as myself. This is definitely the band that brought the 'New York' sound of rhythmically oriented hardcore to its full potential in the early nineties and just kept getting better and better. This is a definite must-have for every Helmet fan or anyone who wants excellent heavy, melodic music with a lyrical message.

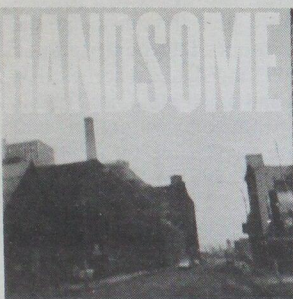
Andrew Dennison



## Ocean Colour Scene B-sides, Seaside & Freerides (MCA Records)

My first impression when listening to the disc, was an overall feel good sound quality. They have recently played at the Starfish Room. Their rhythms and beats are undoubtedly copied from the Beatles. And on top of that they also do a Beatles cover of "Day Tripper". The music rises with a sound and feeling of the sixties. The White Album was the first thing that came to mind when listening to this band. This four piece band have got it together, with love and happiness. If I didn't listen to the lyrics, I may even have suspected this was the Beatles. There are a few original tracks and their name is certainly original. The CD comes in an impressive case, with a booklet containing all the lyrics. This CD is one that'll remind you of the old Beatles or Happy Days.

David Lai



## HANDSOME Handsome (Epic)

Talk about a New York super group! Peter Mengede, formerly of Helmet and members of the much lamented Quicksand! But wait a second, Cochese, this is not what it first appears. Handsome is relatively mellow compared to the furor that Quicksand unleashed on audiences and the grit of early Helmet recordings. This is what I'd call 'Post-Hardcore Easy Listening'. The easy listening part comes in mainly due to Jeremy Chatelain's vocals. Don't get me wrong, Handsome rocks and there is no shortage of excellent songs on this record, it's just that it isn't what I expected. I also had the opportunity to see Handsome live and can honestly say that, aside

# British Columbia's Wilderness Protection Rating slips

## BC's Wilderness Protection Rating Slips

World Wildlife Fund Canada released a report ranking the federal and provincial governments on wilderness protection, according to the Vancouver Sun April 29. The report gave the BC government a C ranking, compared to its previous rankings of an A in 1996 and an A- in 1995. BC went from first on the list to fourth, behind the federal government, Manitoba, and PEI. One of the main reasons BC ranked lower than in the past is the government's policy to preserve 12 per cent of the landbase as park. The WWF wants to see this 12 percent as a minimum amount, and not as the absolute maximum. They would also like to see 12 percent of each type of land preserved, rather than 12 percent of the land overall. Currently, BC has set aside 17.5 percent of ice, rock and muskeg areas, 11.5 percent of high elevation forests, and only 5.4 percent of low elevation forests. It's this last figure which worries environmentalists. BC did rank the best of a bad lot in marine conservation, though. The federal government and BC both received a C- rating for their efforts. The WWF was disappointed that not a single marine park was created in the past year. One positive is that 128,000 hectares of coastal land in the Queen Charlottes has been turned over to the Nature Conservancy of Canada by four oil companies. The companies voluntarily surrendered their rights to the land to help the conservation effort.



## ENVIRONMENTAL SNAPSHOTS

KEVIN BATDORF  
SA Environmental Education

### Taxpayers Kept in the Dark in Animal Research

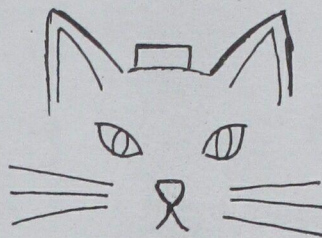
In 1994, the last year that statistics were available, approximately 2.3 million animals were used for research purposes in Canada, according to the Vancouver Sun last week. This total includes 1,500 primates, 7,900 dogs, 3,500 cats and 23,300 rabbits. Up to \$230 million of taxpayers money goes to animal research each year. Researchers are not required to divulge their methods until the experiment is completed and the results are published. Therefore, in any experiment which fails, the public is not informed how the animals are treated.

The Canadian Council on Animal Care is a government funded council which is supposed to look after the interests of taxpayers and the animals. But recent budget cuts to the CCAC has limited its effectiveness. The government still covers the cost of the CCAC to inspect academic institutions, which ensures that they follow the CCAC guidelines. But the CCAC no longer inspects commercial institutions for free, instead asking for about \$5,000 over three years for inspections. Because the inspections are not mandatory, commercial researchers can simply take the option of not paying the CCAC and implementing their own guidelines. And nobody knows what these guidelines are. As of last August, at least 13 companies have withdrawn from the CCAC, which represents approximately 27,000 animals.

### Thompson Coho Close To Extinction

The Thompson River coho are a genetically unique type of fish, one that scientists say is important for maintaining biodiversity. However, this particular type of coho is endangered, and on the brink of extinction.

According to the Vancouver Sun last



week, Ken Wilson, a fisheries biologist with the federal department of fisheries and oceans is worried that commercial and sports fishing may wipe out the stocks. He says that even the best of the six alternatives for fishing the Fraser River will reduce the Thompson River coho by approximately 27 percent. He fears that this loss will be enough to make the coho extinct.

Aboriginal authorities say that the coho must be protected, and that any commercial or recreational fishing off the west coast of Vancouver Island or in the Strait of Georgia that could harm stocks should be closed. Dave Moore, the fisheries director with the Shuswap Nation Fisheries Commission says that 20 to 40 percent of streams that coho used to spawn will have no fish returning this summer. He says that the commission is so worried, they are collecting sperm from the salmon and freezing it. They hope to use the sperm in restoration efforts in the future.

The Thompson River coho may be related to the upper Columbia coho, a type of coho that was wiped out when the river was dammed. The department of fisheries wants the coho preserved, not only to follow the UN Convention on Biodiversity, but also as a policy to protect weak fish

stocks. The problem with the Thompson coho is that it travels with other fish stocks that are sought after by commercial fishermen. Even the incidental catch which results from pursuing the other fish may be enough to wipe out the coho.

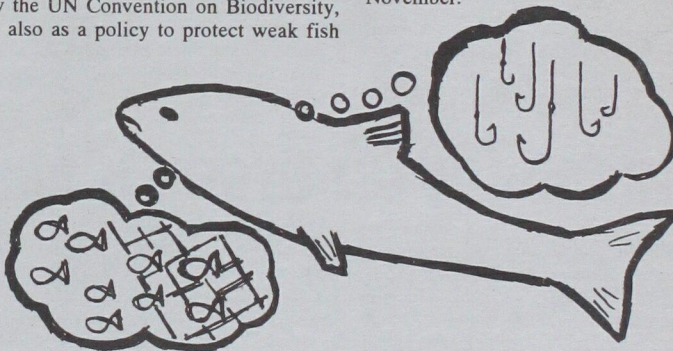
And politics may complicate the whole issue. Canada and the US are in the final stages of talks over catch quotas for the 1997 season. The American coho runs are also in danger, the US have placed huge bans on their commercial fishery this year. But Canada can threaten to fish US bound fish off Vancouver Island if the US doesn't stop fishing BC bound chinook and sockeye from Alaska. All of this over-fishing threatens to push even more types of fish to extinction. Rather than work out a solution, the each government seem willing to let fish stocks perish to spite the other.

### Surrey Forcing Waste Transfer Station on Residents

Despite a protest last week by 200 residents, Surrey council approved plans to build and open a waste transfer station close to the Surrey/Langley border, according to the Province newspaper Sunday.

The plant will be separated from about 1,000 residents by a 300 meter buffer zone of trees. Although the waste will be dumped and compressed indoors, residents are still concerned about a stream of 120 garbage trucks and about 150 residential drop-offs each day, the danger of a spill into McLellan Creek, a salmon stream, and general deterioration of their neighborhood. The transfer station will handle about 150,000 tonnes of residential, business and industrial waste from Surrey, Langley city and Langley township each year. Once its compressed, the waste will be trucked to the massive dump at Cache Creek.

The station is slated to open in November.



## Elephant donates prize for Earth Week Survey

A big thanks to the Elephant on Campus and manager Darryl Jang for donating dinner for two for participants in the Student Association's Earth Week Survey. And thanks to all on campus that participated. Our winner turned out to be Dave Hueskin from BCIT's Automotive Department.



## Shell-In-Nigeria protest goes into its 30th week

Since last October a dedicated band of people have been protesting in front of Shell stations around Vancouver once a week to draw attention to Shell International's acts of environmental destruction and support of a military regime in Nigeria.

International attention was focused on the situation in Nigeria last fall, when Ogoni writer and environmental activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, winner of the Goldman Environmental Prize and Nobel Peace Prize nominee was hung along with eight others by the Nigerian military in November.

Saro-Wiwa was a leader in the campaign to secure compensation and justice for the environmental degradation caused by Shell's industrial activities in the Ogoni homeland in the oil-rich Niger Delta region, described by Greenpeace International as "one of the most fragile eco-systems in the world."

Besides damage to the environment and human health from open-air gas flaring at some sites 24-hours a day for over 30 years, oil spills are a chronic problem.

According to the Ogoni Solidarity Network, between 1982 and 1992, 1,626,000 gallons spilled from the company's operations in 27 separate incidents. Though Shell in Nigeria says it has spent millions on infrastructure upgrades and

**"The environment is humanity's first right."**

**Ken Saro-Wiwa**

**"Lord take my soul, but the struggle continues."**

**His last words**

upped its community and environmental efforts, first hand accounts say nothing fundamental has changed.

The City of Vancouver is being pressured by the Network to not renew its city vehicle fuel contract with Shell Canada in protest, but a similar city-supported effort regarding Shell's involvement in south Africa during apartheid was quashed in court.

Few local media have taken notice of the protests, but according to a rare story on the issue in the March 21 issue of *the North Shore News*, the spread of information has been somewhat effective. North Vancouver City council voted unanimously to direct all city staff not to buy gas or have any dealings with Shell Canada or its parent company Shell International.

For more information call the Ogoni Solidarity Network at 873-8554.

## Win money for Green Ideas

Over the summer, keep an eye out for innovative solutions to environmental problems. You could win money through a number of contests, and get some assistance in developing your invention or process. One of the contests close to home is the Environmental Innovation Contest, coordinated by Ron Simmer of the PATSCAN office at the University of British Columbia. The contest opens in September and ends in February 1998.

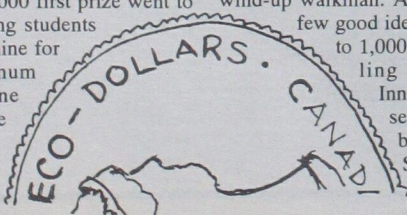
Last year, the \$1,000 first prize went to five UBC engineering students for inventing a machine for better onsite aluminum recycling in machine shops. Second prize went to an Emily Carr student for a full circle recycling

system for a disposable hot cup. Third prize was picked up by a Simon Fraser University student for a new technique for investigating mercury contamination.

Funds for the contest were donated mostly by the Canadian Intellectual Property Office. The Molson Companies Fund donated \$500 last year for the best recycling concept.

Another contest is the Manning Young Canadian Innovation Awards.

One of last year's winners invented a wind-up walkman. And if you think up a few good ideas, you could win up to 1,000 English pounds sterling for the Social Innovation Awards, presented by the London-based Institute for Social Inventions.



## WORKING FOR BCIT WORKING FOR BURNABY



- Svend has always been a solid supporter of BCIT students, faculty, and staff.
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The Student Association  
would like to express its thanks  
to all the students  
who worked for the organization  
over the past year

It is these students,  
on work study or as volunteers,  
who make this programs like  
Tutoring, Environmental Education,  
Shinerama, Campus Crimestoppers,  
BACCHUS, the SA's Business Research,  
and The Link possible.

We all owe them a debt of gratitude  
for their service to our community.

