



the link

student newspaper

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Killer bottles gone

BCIT follows the trend and gets rid of plastic bottles

By Shane Woodford
The Link

BCIT is phasing out plastic drinking bottles amid fears they will eventually give users cancer.

Concerns over the chance of a chemical compound called Bisphenol A leeching from plastic drinking bottles into the liquid they contain has been raising questions among consumers and retailers.

BCIT Student Association Retail Manager Julia Boswell admits the decision to ditch the polycarbonate bottles with BCIT logos "came to our attention via the media that [plastic bottles] might not be safe for multiple usage."

Boswell says returning the unwanted bottles to suppliers has been difficult since a link between health problems and the containers hasn't been definitively proven.

She says the plastic bottles are now being sold in discount bins within the store and is "working with suppliers to switch to aluminum and stainless steel drinking containers."

Boswell says she hasn't received any complaints from students over the plastic drinking containers. Although she does say students have asked the store to stock metal containers.

Boswell says looking out for customer health is paramount.

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Out now on DVD; p.16



New menu, fresh look

Change of grub at the pub

By Shane Woodford
The Link

Students might have noticed a change in the menu at Professor Mugs. That's partly because new staff member Steve Ferguson is bringing his 20 years of experience, 15 of those as a chef, into the kitchen.

Ferguson says he wants to "bring the freshest of ingredients as well as a new quality of cooking" to Professor Mugs.

Patrons of Professor Mugs will notice several new menu items like the Spanish and Artichoke dip, which Ferguson says "is to write home about."

Other new features include the

California Burger with roasted Red Peppers and Guacamole.

The new menu includes broader choices for people looking for a specific diet choice. Vegetarian students who were confined to just one or two items on the old menu now have more options, such as the prominently featured Garden Burger, which Ferguson says "includes a new homemade Veggie Pattie," as well as a new Roasted Veggie Wrap and several new pasta options in Lasagna and Fettuccini Alfredo.

For students whose diet choices are more carnivorous, Professor Mugs now has Prime Canadian Beef in all its burgers.

Ferguson says a new initia-



New food selections and old classics are cooked to perfection at Professor Mugs. - photo by Geoff Gauthier

tive students can look forward to is weekly specials "which offer great meals off the menu at

drastically reduced prices." He also is introducing weekly "Fresh sheets" which he says "gives the

kitchen a chance to be creative and introduce new items to the customers."

Locating metal bottles a challenge

Continued from the cover...

"We will never, ever order hard plastic drinking containers [again]...the customer's interests are very important to us."

Medical Radiography student Mary Fowler is aware of the health concerns but says it doesn't bother her.

"There are a lot of other things that produce cancer-causing things too, so it is pretty hard to know what is causing the cancer."

Fowler, who was drinking from a metal coffee mug and sporting a plastic Nalgene brand water bottle in her backpack, says she is sticking with plastic for now.

"If someone puts something

out on the market where it was as convenient I would probably switch."

David Wilson, a student in the electrical program, drinks from a plastic bottle and says he isn't worried about cancer fears although he says he is open to switching to metal.

Wilson says BCIT's decision to switch from plastic to metal is "a good move - it is obviously promoting some sort of health concern and health awareness that is a good thing for everybody."

BCIT isn't the first vendor to remove plastic drinking containers from its inventory. Mountain Equipment Co-op, a huge outdoor

supplies chain, garnered national media attention when they removed all plastic containers containing BPA from its shelves.

BCIT's newly formed Green Team, a committee looking to make the campus eco-friendly, asked Stacey Schoffer from the Student Records Department to hunt down as many metal drinking containers as he could.

With consumers and businesses switching to metal and glass drinking containers Schoffer quickly discovered a problem with suppliers.

"There was quite a back log of bottles, at first I was told you couldn't get this one or that one,

a lot of them were sold out and I am finding out a lot of them are sold before they even make it into North America because [they] are coming from China."

After much scrambling Schoffer managed to locate 72 bottles from a supplier in Calgary and quickly discovered there is a strong demand for metal bottles.

"Within two days I sold out of all 72...I could have sold them out three times over."

Schoffer says he doesn't want to prey on peoples fears but instead wants to focus on the re-usable aspect of metal containers.

"This is why you have stainless, you can keep re-using that kind of

thing and you're not coming with your daily plastic bottle [and] not so much of the fear of the number seven plastic bottles."

Hard plastic bottles containing Bisphenol A are identifiable by a number 7 located inside a triangle emblem stamped on the bottle.

Schoffer says he threw his plastic bottles away and has made the full switch to stainless steel in order to live a more sustainable life.

Health Canada has been working on an assessment looking at the health impacts of Bisphenol A.

The report is expected to be released in May of this year.

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SE2 - 281
3700 Willingdon Ave.
Burnaby, BC, V5G 3H2

News: 604.456.1167
Ads: 604.432.8974
Fax: 604.431.7619

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Editor:
Brent Shearer
editor@bcitsa.ca

Photographer:
David K. Lai
photo@bcitsa.ca

Cover:
photo - Len Catling
model - Lyndee Free

Link Writers:
Len Catling
Tom Laird
Kate Lerman
Casey Neathway
Mike Small
Josh Tawse
Shane Woodford

Contributors:
Joanna Bhaskarahn
Adrian Binakaj
Carline Brown
Matt Groening
Brian Parker
David Suzuki

Publications Manager:
Geoff Gauthier
link@bcitsa.ca

Advertising Sales:
Gilbert Matembe
adsales@bcitsa.ca

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Foreign studies

Ukrainian university welcomes BCIT students

By Brent Shearer
The Link

Five BCIT students are getting a taste of life in the Ukraine. During their visit to Kiev the power was out, and when they made it to Ternopil University to present a paper they've been working on, there was no water available.

But Ron Kessler, head of BCIT's Business Management Studies program, says, "I understand it's going really well and I know that the faculty there are delighted to have them."

The students are presenting a paper at an international forum focusing on economics and business management.

Kessler says BCIT has developed a relationship with Ternopil University over the last year and a half mainly because the Ukrainian school is interested in BCIT's programs.

"Their economy is an emerging market economy and they are starting to have new businesses

start up and they need the kind of skills in their program that [BCIT] does so well."

The relationship came about after a new member of the Business Management Studies Program staff, who hails from the Ukraine, suggested they take advantage of a government grant to build a relationship with Ternopil University.

Since the Ukraine is a former part of the communist Soviet Union, the universities traditionally haven't focused on business and the economy is struggling to find educated professionals with the sort business acumen BCIT grads tend to possess.

Kessler says Ternopil University needs help setting up courses outlining how to develop business plans, marketing strategies, and websites – something he's hoping to eventually take part in.

"A couple of faculty and myself will be taking a professional development leave next year and will be in Ternopil for a few



Five of BCIT's finest pictured here in the front row, have travelled to Ternopil University in the Ukraine to present a paper. - image courtesy of Ron Kessler

months helping them teach. What we're hoping for in the long run is the opportunity for BCIT students

to study in Ukraine." The school teaches in English and Kessler says it would be a

good opportunity for students to spend a term studying in another country.

Students in it for the money

But almost as many love their classes

By Joanna Bhaskaran
The Manitoban
(University of Manitoba)

WINNIPEG (CUP) – A new study has found that students choose their courses based on long-term job prospects more than on how much fun they think it will be.

The study, entitled "Do Students Choose Courses for Love or Money?" was released by the Warwick Institute for Employment Research and published by the Education Guardian, a U.K.-based magazine.

It revealed that, for many students, a good job and long-term career plans are the major motivating factors for choosing university courses and degrees.

Of the 130,000 students polled in the study, 21.6 per cent said that getting a good job was their top reason for choosing what to study. Only 16.9 per cent said they were studying because of interest.

As well, in the study, 55 per cent of students had a clear idea of what kind of job they wanted after graduation, whereas eight per cent indicated having no clear idea.

Christine Blais, director of University 1, a preparatory program at the University of Manitoba, said many factors can motivate students to choose courses. He agreed that interest in the course was not necessarily one of them, though.

Some students choose courses that fit with their long-term career plans, he said, and others because of parental pressure. Others are genuinely passionate about the subject matter.

"I don't find my courses particularly interesting," Ravneet Johar, a second-year student in the Asper School of Business, said.

"I was in med school in India for two years. But when I came here, the process to get into med school was too long and complicated. So I decided to transit into

business."

Christian Sikoran, a first-year University 1 student hoping to move into the Faculty of Pharmacy, disagreed.

"I chose my courses because I am interested in them and they are prerequisites for entry into the faculty."

Blais said that the reason most students drop courses is due to performance.

"Students usually drop courses because they are unable to perform well [in] it," said Blais. "Two-thirds of students will change their mind about their courses."

Blais said that three different approaches — the balanced, the focused and the sampling approaches — are a great way for new students to decide which courses to take.

The balanced approach is used when students can't decide between two university paths. The focused approach is used when students have decided

what their long-term career plans are and must begin the prerequisites for the degree immediately. The sampling approach is used

when students are unsure what they'd like to do and take a variety of courses offered from many different faculties.

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Getting a mortgage:

What all first-time home buyers should know

By **Carline Brown**
The Navigator
(Malaspina University-College)

NANAIMO (CUP) -- Next to completing an education program and getting a job in your field, owning a home might be paramount in your mind as a marker of having accomplished something. Indeed, it is a big step towards both financial independence and financial responsibility. A well-managed home purchase and subsequent sale can often garner very high financial gain. Similarly, the responsibility of every minor repair also rests on the homeowner, and can begin to cost a lot of money.

Before you can purchase a house, there are a few things that should be known and worked towards. In order to get a mortgage you need good credit. This gives your lending institution evidence that you have borrowed money in the past, and repaid it in compliance with the contract involved.

Credit is obtained in a number of ways, the most obvious one being to acquire a credit card and then use it responsibly. At least two forms of credit should be acquired. This means getting two credit cards, or one credit card and a small loan, or some other form of monthly credit. The next key is to use it consistently. Just having it isn't enough, you need to use it, and make the payments on it on time.

If you've applied for a credit card and been denied, find out if any of your friends have one. Ask them who it's with and how they got it. My first card was a Sears card. I signed up in the store during a promotional offer. I was just walking through and they had a booth. I think the woman working it must have gotten a commission on each application form, because she was very convincing. Even though my income was low, I had already made a couple of student loan repayments. I am not sure if this convinced them, but in any

case, I got the card. I made sure I only made small purchases on it, and always payed it off within a very short time. It wasn't long before a Mastercard offer came in the mail—now I've got both. Be careful, though. Credit cards might tempt you to overspend. This gets them lots of money in interest payments, but is counter-productive to your goals of obtaining good credit.

If you still have trouble acquiring some type of credit, perhaps because you've already had one you mismanaged, or are just too young to have proved yourself, apply for a card with a cosigner. A cosigner is accepting responsibility for any debt you gather. Usually, only a close family member is willing take this risk.

To find out what your credit rating is, you can contact one of the two major credit information gathering companies, Equifax Consumer Services Canada or Trans Union of Canada Inc. Their websites have advice on building good credit. Keep in mind an important fact: credit card companies may take up to two months to report your current credit standing to the information gathering companies. So if you are applying for a loan, it is best if you keep your balance at \$0 for two months beforehand.

Once you've established credit, it's time to get pre-qualified. This means a lending institution will assess your credit rating, income, job stability, and any other relevant information, and give you a guarantee for a loan within a certain price range. It is important to note that your pre-qualification amount will be determined largely by your credit, and what is called your debt service ratio. This is how much debt you are already paying. It is therefore not advisable that you make any other big purchases just before trying to purchase a home. Let's say that in your attempt to gain credit you bought a car. Your monthly payments on that vehicle will dramatically lower the amount of mortgage you are eligible for. If you want to get a small loan to raise your credit, consider a smaller purchase, and have it payed off before you go in to get pre-qualified.

If you work with a broker, they will shop around for you to find a

bank or credit union most willing to offer you the best deal. Once you are pre-qualified, you know how much money you will be able to afford, and can start seriously looking at houses in that price-range. Many realtors won't accept an offer on a home unless the person is pre-qualified. Your pre-qualification commitment gives you a certain amount of time, usually between 90 and 120 days, to complete a mortgage transaction at the interest rates available at the time of your application. If you do not find a suitable home, or experience delays in the transaction, then you may need to re-apply.

I mentioned income and job security as influencing your mortgage eligibility. By far, those with a stable full time job they have had for a couple of years have the best chances of getting a mortgage with fewer hassles. The lending institution will want to view your Notice of Assessment, the form you receive after your tax return has been accepted. Two years worth of these are generally reviewed to determine your annual income. Because self-employed people usually have more fluctuation in their income, a mortgage is usually based on the lower-income year. However, if you earned more in the recent year, they will average the amount. Even if you are employed part-time, you can still get a mortgage. Your employer may need to sign a Letter of Employment on your behalf.

If you are having trouble getting pre-qualified for a mortgage because of low or unpredictable income, you can get a co-signer. As mentioned with obtaining a credit card, a cosigner is someone who accepts responsibility for your debt should you default on your mortgage payments. Because my partner and I are both self-employed, we asked his brother to cosign so we could obtain a mortgage more quickly, taking advantage of a timely opportunity. He was happy to oblige, and has never needed to take any responsibility for our mortgage. Now that our mortgage term is coming up, we will be removing his name from it, assuming complete responsibility ourselves—which is, of course, what we always did. But having his support behind us



really helped us out when dealing with the bank.

The type of home you want to buy will help determine whether you get the mortgage you are hoping for. Even with pre-qualification, if the lender doesn't think the home is a good investment, you may still be denied a mortgage. As a rule, single-family detached homes, those with a house and its own yard, are considered the strongest investment and lowest risk. For some homes, you may need mortgage-default insurance in order to get a mortgage.

A down-payment is another important factor in acquiring a mortgage, although many institutions now have zero percent down offers, even for first time buyers. Remember, though, that your down-payment is free of any accumulated interest. It is the part of your home that you have already paid for outright. A large percentage payed on your mortgage goes to interest rates, and not directly to your owning the home itself. For this reason, I would urge anyone wanting to buy a home to save up as much as possible for a down-payment. Perhaps this can be something your parents or family members help you with. If you state your goal of buying a home, suggest a contribution to your down-payment in lieu of birthday or Christmas presents. They may be willing to contribute much more than they would have spent on an ordinary gift.

There is so much to know about buying a home, and I encourage you to do more research if your goal is to be a homeowner. A mortgage broker can be an invaluable source for information and help.



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Laurie Jack Award

Laurie Jack was President of the BCIT Student Association in 1971-1972. Tragically he died in an airplane crash in 1975. Together, his parents and the BCIT Student Association have sponsored **two \$500 annual awards** in his honour. These awards are given to two students in 2nd year who have contributed to student life at BCIT.

The selection of the two recipients is based on the following:

- The student nominee must be a registered full-time BCIT student and graduating in 2008.

• The student nominee must be someone who has contributed to and enhanced student life at BCIT. Student nominees may have demonstrated their contribution to areas including but not limited to: advocacy, student government, student clubs, campus life, leadership and intramurals.

If you would like to apply please visit the Uconnect Resource Centre, SE2 to pick up a form or check the website for details:

www.bcitsa.ca

Annual Charity Campaign



Recently, the BCIT Student Association completed a survey asking students to assess how BCITSA conducts its annual charity campaign (formerly Shinerama).

We are working with key stakeholders to develop a new campaign that will be more consistent with your needs and wants, while having fun and contributing to our community.

Please check back to find out more details for the upcoming charity campaign coming September 2008.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the survey and we would like to congratulate Yatan Nizzar, Natalie Condrashoff and Jae Man Song for winning the three \$100 Metropolis at Metrotown Gift Cards.

Come out and vote!

Fri April 4 (5:30pm)
All Candidates Meeting
 - Approval for campaign material

Mon April 7 – Fri April 18 (12:00pm)
Campaign Period

- Watch for candidates campaigning about issues important to them and working to find out about issues that are important to you. Make sure your issues are heard this election - talk to the candidates!

Wednesday April 9
(10:45am or 12:45 pm)

Wed April 16
(10:45am or 12:45pm)

- Speeches in the Great Hall
 - Come out and listen to the candidates. Get your info, make your decision and choose the candidate that's right for you.

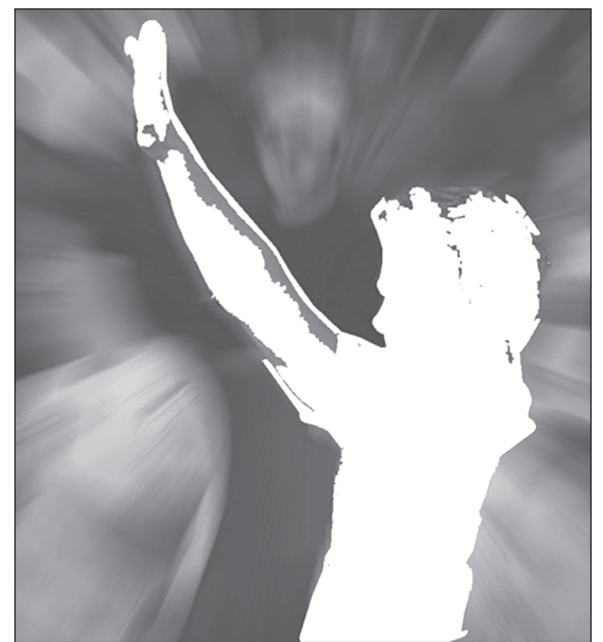
Fri April 11 (9:00am) - 18 (12:00pm)
Balloting

- Online balloting available any time between then through my.bcit.ca

- On site polling stations:
 - Great Hall April 14-18 (11:30-1:30)
 - NE 1 April 15 & 17 (9:30-11:30)
 - ATC April 16 (11:00-1:00)

Fri April 18 (5:30pm) – Results
 - Got questions? Call or email me.

Jennette Leung
 VP Finance and Administration
 BCIT Student Association



VOTE
 Online at www.bcitsa.ca



Great Hall
 April 14 - 18
 11:30-1:30

NE1
 April 15 & 17
 9:30-11:30

ATC
 April 16
 11:00-1:00



The Question: Do you agree that by electing the BCITSA Vice-President Student Affairs each year that are also appointing the BCITSA Vice-President Student Affairs as one of the elected student representatives to sit on the BCIT Education Council for a period of one year?

BCITSA REFERENDUM



The vote passed!

Thanks to all who participated.

Jennette Leung, BCITSA CRO
 Tel: 604-432-8605
 Fax: 604-434-3809
vpfin@bcitsa.ca

* The BCITSA Info Page is designed for the BCIT Student Association to showcase BCITSA projects or events. The advertising on the BCITSA Info Page does not necessarily reflect the views of the Link or its staff.

Power struggle

BCIT instructor leads charge against project



By Brent Shearer
The Link

BCIT's own Mark Angelo was the first speaker at a rowdy public meeting on the merits of a power project on the Upper Pitt River late last month.

The standing room only crowd of more than a thousand burst out in hollers and applause when the head of the Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Program said the proposal was ill conceived and a bad idea for the area.

Angelo has been battling for BC's rivers for decades now and

along the way he's been awarded the Order of Canada for his hard work.

On this night he was a voice of reason during a debate that had clear political overtones. The next speaker following Angelo was NDP leader Carole James, followed by NDP environment critic Shane Simpson, who both made a point to blame Premier Gordon Campbell for the project.

Other speakers were of the flaky environmentalist sort that many roll their eyes at and simply do not take seriously – which is shame because much of what they were saying was bang-on, but as is often the case, it's *how* it's said and *who* is saying it that matters.

That's why Angelo's passionate speech on why a 'run of river' power project should not be allowed on the Upper Pitt was so compelling. He's neither political nor is he a flake.

The company behind the proposal wants to build a number of power stations on the tributaries running into the Pitt River and

slice off a piece of Pinecone-Burke Provincial Park and lay down power lines in order to connect to BC Hydro's power grid.

The 1000+ who turned out for the meeting believe this will destroy the area. Not only has part of the area already been given the highest level of protection by being deemed a 'Class A Park' – which requires a motion in the legislature to make any changes to its boundary – but it's also a pristine wilderness area with grizzly bears, elk, and thriving salmon stocks.

The meeting saw one speaker after another step to the microphone and launch into a litany of reasons why the project ought to be abandoned. Finding anyone except for the people from 'Run of River Power Inc.' who actually agreed with the proposal was like finding the proverbial needle in a haystack.

The next day, somewhat out of the blue, BC's environment minister Barry Penner, publically declared the government would



Environmentally sensitive areas are BCIT instructor Mark Angelo's passion.
- photo by David K. Lai

not be supporting the project in the legislature. As noted above, the proposal requires government consent since it involves a provincial park.

While the project hasn't been shelved completely, the announcement is a major set back and the project's future is now in serious jeopardy.

Had the overwhelming public disagreement got to the minister? A former BC Parks ranger himself, Penner said he had reservations about the project from the start. He noted there wasn't a

great deal of support from neighbouring municipalities and questioned the economic benefits of the project.

I ran into Mark Angelo in the days after the meeting. He was visibly pleased about the decision – and I couldn't help but congratulate him on his efforts.

BCIT students should be proud one of their instructors played a role in protecting the boundaries of a Provincial Park and, for the time begin at least, helped keep the vast wilderness in the Upper Pitt safe from development.

Dion lacks leadership

Which is bad, for a party leader

By Shane Woodford
The Link

Stephane Dion needs to find himself a set of balls. Since becoming leader of the Liberal Party he has bumbled, fumbled, and repeated empty threats to topple Harper. As *leader* he should *lead* not utter empty rhetoric only to support the government at virtually every opportunity. Even if you're not a Liberal supporter you should support a strong opposition - something that is essential for good government.

Dion is supposed to be strong on the environment, something the current government is teabag-in-the-ocean weak on. Yet despite Harper having almost as many positions on the environment as he has had ministers named to the portfolio, Dion has done nothing.

The worst example of Dion's weakness as leader has been the

over and over again threats of toppling the government with zero follow through. Confidence motion after confidence motion sees a tough talking Dion either abstaining from voting or voting with the Conservatives.

It is quite clear to most the vote split that vaulted Dion to Liberal leader is still alive and thriving within the Liberal Party. A true leader would acknowledge the obvious and put the onus of shame on those working against him.

More recently members of his own party in Quebec have tried to have him thrown out of the party.

On top of that the never ending internal party strife, always linked to Michael Ignatieff, has reared its head again. On both counts Dion simply deflects the questions instead of showing strong leadership skills.

What do you think Trudeau would have done in similar cir-



cumstances? He wouldn't have smiled at the camera and offered sweet platitudes.

It is time for Dion to either man up or step down. A continued weakness with the Liberals will only pave the road to a no-contest Harper majority and Canada into a one party country.



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SIFE Corner

SIFE BCIT to host cocktail reception in celebration of entrepreneurship success

On Thursday April 10, SIFE BCIT is hosting a networking and entrepreneurship cocktail reception inviting alumni, sponsors, and industry members to the downtown BCIT campus.

The cocktail receptions theme is "SIFE for Life, Building Communities One Entrepreneur at a Time." The celebration features a presentation by Dick Dolan, Dean of the BCIT School of Business

who is retiring after 39 years of service; video updates from past SIFE BCIT clients; past and present client product booths; live music; an awards presentation; assorted beverages along with an

array of hors d'oeuvres.

In a recent interview, Jordan Rogers, the event organizer stated, "The event focuses on celebrating SIFE BCIT's past and present achievements made through

helping local entrepreneurs start, maintain and grow profitable businesses. The reception will also help broaden members' networks and open up potential job opportunities."

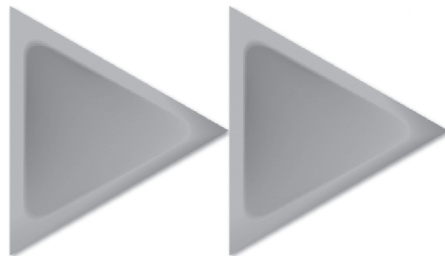
The reception is expected to draw a diverse group of present SIFE BCIT students and Alumni, members from the Entrepreneurs Organization, local small business owners, industry professionals, the BCIT business advisory board, and senior management from the BCIT School of Business.

Any proceeds from the event will go towards sending the SIFE team to the Toronto national competition in May. Those interested in attending the event can find out more through Jordan Rogers via e-mail at jrogers63@my.bcit.ca by April sixth.

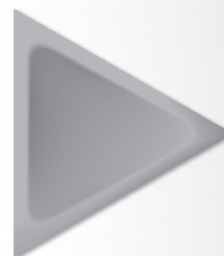
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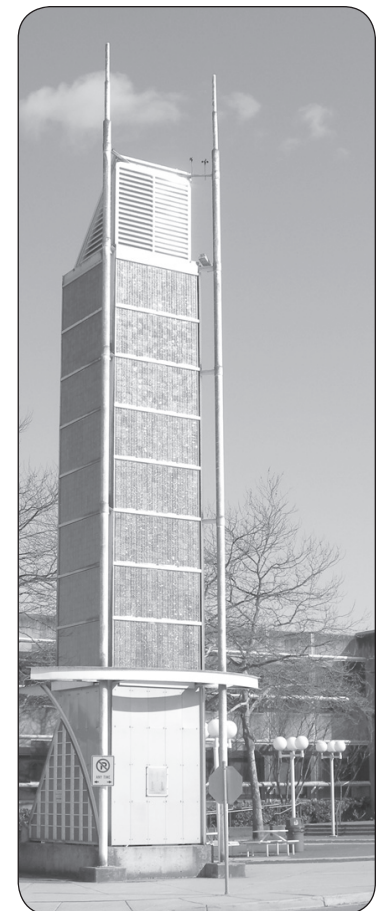


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Snapshot!

By David K. Lai



Spring has sprung at BCIT - the tower outside of SE1 glistens in the sun.

A bunch of orgasms

The best of the best from below the belt

By Mike Small
The Link

The orgasm is a wonderful phenomenon I think most take for granted. Yes, it is part of our biological make up and it is required for procreation (the male orgasm, anyway).

But if you think about it, we could have ended up with very plain orgasms instead of the nerve tingling, mind exploding variety. What if our orgasms felt only as good as taking a pee, or yawning?

Get down on your knees and thank God, Darwin, or Ron L. Hubbard that they feel the way they feel. However, there are varying levels on the 'orgasm pleasure' scale, so let's take a look.

Self Promoted Orgasms

More commonly called mastur-

bating. Yes there are times when a good self help session can leave your toes curled, but for the most part these orgasms are simply oil changes.

The body has a few extra miles on it after work, school, and taxes, so you go to your room, close the door, youporn.com Halle Berry's nude scene in *Swordfish*, and four minutes later you have liftoff.

These orgasms are like brushing your teeth – you know you have to, you feel like crap if you don't, and you always feel better afterwards.

Blue Balls Orgasm

Pretty self explanatory. You haven't gotten one off in a long time, and it's your lucky day.

I'm going to go off on a little side note here, so I'm apologizing ahead of time. I don't know if this happens to girls, but I remember on my 15th birthday I spent the en-

tire evening with my girlfriend at the time. Nearly the whole night was spent fooling around and the highlight was when I received my first 'erotic massage.' It was a great present, but her dad picked her up before the present was fully opened, if you get my drift. Let's just say after hours of teasing and a half finished HJ, I was sore!

I'm sure you can guess the rest. I rushed upstairs and locked myself in the bathroom. If you've ever had an orgasm that hurts but feels oh so good, you know what I'm talking about.

Kinky Orgasm

This orgasm occurs when you try something kinky that you've never done before, and you liked it! The first time you got tied up, smacked around a little, or got touched somewhere you shouldn't, you've had this kind of orgasm.

The best part about the kinky orgasm is that you can recreate it over and over. If you like someone spanking your ass the first time, chances are you'll like it the second, third and fourth. The only danger of this type of orgasm is that you'll discover you enjoy the, 'I like to be ball gagged and pee'd on' kink.

While not a problem on its own, it can be hard to find someone to do the gagging and peeing part.

The 'In Love' Orgasm

Call me a hopeless romantic, but these are my favorite. OK, so you don't have to actually be 'in love' to have these, but they are the orgasms you get to share with someone you care about.

Everyone aims to get off at the same time as their partner, because it is the purest satisfaction you can feel together at the



"Dude, show her your O face!
Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh."

same time. Sure, he loves *Battlestar Galactica*, and yeah she loves expensive clothes, but at that moment, all of the little flaws in the relationship vanish...poof!

So yes, there are all kinds of orgasms, but just like pizza, they're good even when they're bad. Whether you're having a supreme stuffed crust with all the toppings, or a *Delissio* from the freezer, make sure you have one tonight.

I guarantee you'll like it.

Seven things about Yoav

One guitar, many sounds, and quite the charmer after a show

By Len Catling
The Link

Yoav is a one man band, but he is far from one dimensional.

The nomadic musician who samples, strums and sings in precise pulsations used the buzz of his debut album *Charmed & Strange* to sell out Vancouver's Media Club.

Yoav is obsessed with sound.

Charmed & Strange is fast becoming an art pop smash. It blends guitar and percussion rooted in "Indian and Hip Hop" with Yoav's modulated wordplay. The record's quality would be impressive even if crafted by a three or four piece band.

The fact Yoav created it solely with his guitar and vocal chords, utilizing only the mixing of producer Ian Davenport, shows sometimes creativity needs no company.

"It's really only taken off in the last two or three years what I'm doing," Yoav admitted.

"I'm always looking for new

sounds to add. On the record it was all about how am I going to get a synth sound, how am I going to get a bass 303 synth sound out of the guitar, how do I get a pad sound. That sort of stuff was quite challenging but very interesting."

Yoav is charmed.

"Right after I get off stage I feel charismatic," the 28 year-old South African native said when asked which time he's at his most charming.

"I might tend to yap and babble because of the adrenaline rush."

Yoav is strange.

"On various psychedelic expeditions people who have been with me say I look extremely strange," Yoav replied when queried about his strangeness.

"I get a vein in my head, my ears go pointy, and I get a wicked grin. I feel like I'm aware of everything and I play really well."

Yoav is savvy.

Instead of listing the drug cocktail that propels his psychedelic expeditions, Yoav kept his

crosshairs locked on his musical journey.

"When I started out experimenting with new sounds it was more off a party thing with the dance music scene hitting South Africa," he recounted.

"Then I'd do it on full moons, solstices, or equinoxes. I'd take off to the mountains or a beach by myself and play my guitar for eight hours."

Yoav is busy.

After recently wrapping up a previous gig opening for *Tori Amos*, Yoav is on his first headlining trek, seeing him hit major markets in Canada before touring the UK. He will end springtime with a date at the Coachella Festival in California.

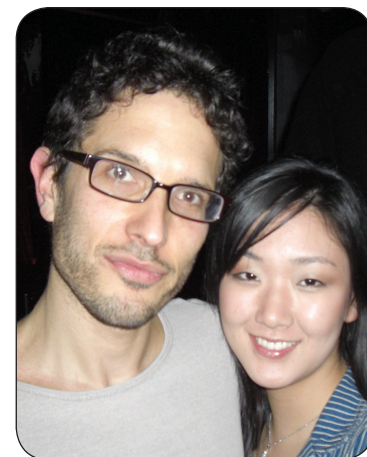
Yoav was supposed to be a cellist.

"My parents made me take an aptitude test to see which instrument I would be best suited for... It came back I was suited for a stringed instrument, particularly the guitar. My parents said 'OK you can play the cello.'"

Yoav's parents were traditional types who believed classical music was noble and pop music was the working of the Devil. Yoav reacted as any young music fan would.

"I would go to friend's places and listen to music, or my cousins who were teenage girls. Later on when I was thirteen there were one or two alternative music clubs I could get into. I first heard The Pixies, The Cure, Rage Against the Machine. It was tied to rebellion, but mainly alcohol."

Charmed & Strange is in stores now. The lead single "Club Thing" is finding rotation on radio airwaves worldwide.



Thing number eight: If you're taking photos at the Media Club in Vancouver, Yoav will steal your date.
- photo by Len Catling



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Ask the Sex Doc

A voyeuristic view into Canada's dorm rooms

Dear Sex Doc;

So, last night I was having sex with my girlfriend. She was sitting on top of me when all of a sudden a bunch of warm liquid shot onto my stomach. It didn't really smell like pee, but I think she pissed on me. It completely turned me off. I had to stop having sex with her. I think she was a little embarrassed too because we haven't talked about it yet. I've heard of girls squirting, but I don't believe it exists. Was this really just piss?

Watersports Willy @ UBCO

Dear Watersports Willy @ UBCO;

When are you and all your buddies out there going to realize that girls CAN ejaculate? Almost every time I speak of gusher orgasms in front of large groups of men I see the look of disbelief in their eyes.

Come on Watersports Willy, if she wanted to piss on you she'd most likely find a way to do that in the shower.

Experts on the topic report that every single woman is capable of ejaculating. A

large study, published in the *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, found that forty percent of women report being able to shoot girl cum.

Research has also proven that the gushing liquid isn't piss. It is generally a mixture of alkaline fluid made up of prostatic acid phosphatase and glucose (like that from the male prostate gland) and 3% urea.

And Watersports Willy, you probably thought she tinkled on you since the fluid came out of her urethra. Researchers have found that only trace amounts of ejaculate will make it's way through the paraurethral ducts into the vagina and mix with her natural love juices.

It sounds like she released a lot of fluid, if you confused it with pee. If your gal is anything like her sisters in the studies, she most likely released about 300ml.

Instead of being pissed off, you should be excited. You must have turned her on enough that she had some pretty severe pelvic muscle contractions during orgasm. And, she is (or at least was at the time) comfortable and relaxed enough with you to use you as a cum rag for a change.

Watersports Willy, I would suggest you apologize to your girl for over-reacting. Tell her you were surprised by the experience and that you didn't know what happened.

Tell your gushing girl that you've read up on female ejaculation and congratulate her on this experience. She'll feel much more comfortable with you (and with releasing her juice) from this moment on.

Dear Sex Doc;

I just started seeing this guy about a month ago. I really like him and all, but I think he's kind of deformed. His foreskin is freakishly long. I haven't been with too many guys, but I know when something is off down there. It doesn't bother me during intercourse, but when I give him oral I pretty well gag on all that skin. I want to stay with him, but what can I do about his massive foreskin?

Choking on Foreskin @ UNBSJ

Dear Choking on Foreskin @ UNBSJ;

I'm not sure how long a 'freakishly' long foreskin is, but I'm assuming his tickle trunk doesn't retract over the head of his penis when he's erect.

When most uncut guys get an erection, their foreskin moves over their glans. In fact, it is often difficult to tell if a guy is uncut when he's hard.

Your guy was born with a little more trunk than most. It sounds like it works for intercourse because there's more junk to stimulate you.

But, like you mentioned Choking on Foreskin, too much casing at the end of his sausage can be a pain in the ass in the mouth.

I would suggest you push the foreskin down when you are going down on your guy. Hold it in place while sucking on his knob. You can slowly move the foreskin back and forth, but don't let his macro derma dick get out of control.

I worry that you think he's deformed.



Do you think he has issues with the amount of outer membrane on his member? If so, talk to him and let him know he's normal. Even better, tell him that all that extra skin adds to his girth during intercourse.

Most guys love their dicks regardless if they're cut or uncut. I'm sure your guy loves his too. He might wish he had less skin, but I'm sure he's learned to accept it.

If you really love him, you should love him for all of his qualities, whether you see them as good or bad.

If you just can't get over the tickle in his trunk, you might just need to end it.

Dr. Brian Parker is a clinical sexologist and sex educator and the co-creator of two sexual intimacy board games "Embrace" and "Pillow Talk." The games are available on his website, www.foreverpleasure.com which features original erotic art, high-end sensual products and adult sex education.

This column is made possible by the generous support of O'My Natural Lubricants. If you have a sexual question you want answered in the 'Ask the Sex Doc' column please email drbrian@foreverpleasure.com and watch for his response in this paper.

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A little misery

Misery Signals takes show on the road

By Len Catling
 The Link

Misery needs company and what better company than good old fashioned melody.

When you're Wisconsin based metal wizards **Misery Signals**, finding misery and turning it into a spinning disc of beautiful anger is the odd reality of existence.

As the thrashing quintet prepares for life on the road and to drop a new disc, they have wizedened to ways of making the darkest themes and screams accessible to an eclectic range of fans.

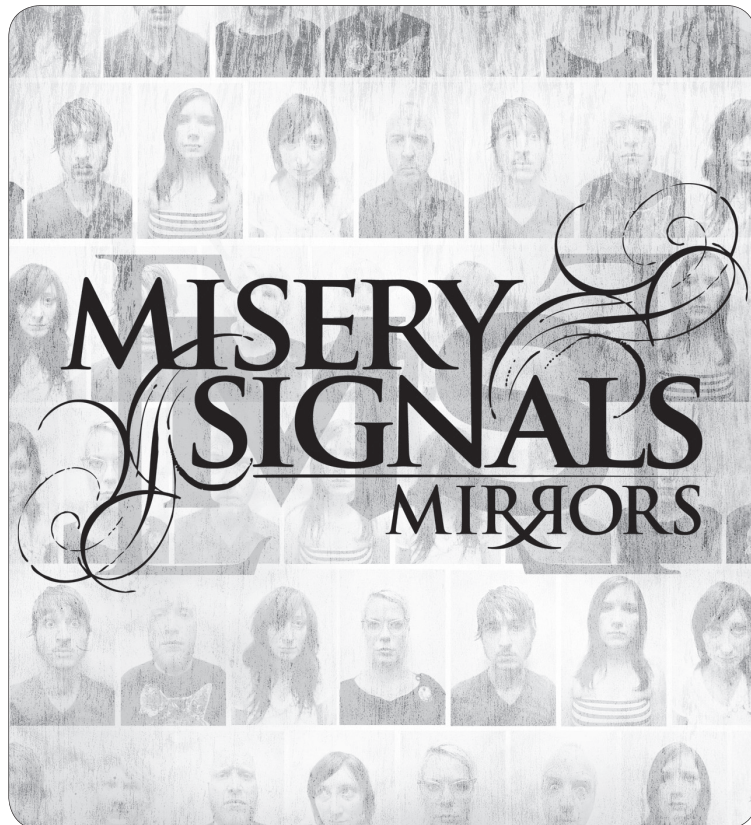
"Less is more," said bassist Kyle Johnson when queried how **Misery Signals'** new album (as yet unnamed) will keep its metal street credibility yet still maintain a popular sensibility.

To prevent metal heads from hemorrhaging by hearing the phrase pop sensibility, Johnson continued on how he and his band mates blend the lines between loud and groovy.

"The production is finally right. After three times we finally got it," Johnson admitted.

"The new album will be more melodic but at the same time heavier."

Misery Signals begins touring this month. The band's live show is nothing short of explosive. They are often asked to open for metal scene giants **All That**



Misery Signals will play at the Croatian Cultural Centre on April 29. - graphic courtesy of Metal Blade Records

Remains, another hardcore act, proving there is nothing wrong with selling out when it happens in a record store.

Misery Signals will hit Europe for the beginning of April, where their particular brand of mosh pit panache has always been well received.

"Europe is a little different; it's a little more chilled out when

it comes to judging music," explained Johnson.

"But they're more appreciative at the same time. They cheer louder than Americans."

If you are looking for a little misery in your life check out **Misery Signals** as they tour Canada in mid-spring and summer. They will play Vancouver's Croatian Cultural Centre on April 29.

Campus Query

Where your opinion matters

The Link asked:

"Plastic water bottles have been found to be dangerous to your health, are you still using yours or are you planning on buying different ones?"

By David K. Lai
 Link Staff

Miho M.
 Business Management Studies



"I want to switch from using plastic bottles because it is not good for the environment and dangerous to our bodies. I don't want to use it. I do use them now, it is impossible to change so far... but I will try to in the future."

Vince A.
 Web Technologies



"Definitely, I want to switch to metal bottles. I am health conscious and I am always aware of my health. I think it is better but I have no money to get new ones."

Ashley N.
 Marketing Pro Sales - Real Estate



"As I understand they are only dangerous to your health if you leave them in the sunlight. I'm planning on using [plastic bottles], just planning on being more careful where I leave them. Not leaving them in my car, etc."

Steven B.
 Mechanical Engineering



"I always use plastic bottles, the hard covered bottles. I wasn't actually aware of hard plastic bottles being dangerous. I thought we were talking about the ones from the vending machines. I probably will not switch right now."

EVOLUTION 107.9 FM

Evolving 20 Countdown For Saturday, April 5, 2008

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. Hayden - Where and When | 11. Chucky Danger - Strawberry Man |
| 2. ill Scarlet - N.T.F | 12. Chris Witoski - Chance |
| 3. Immaculate Machine - Nothing Ever... | 13. Dragonette - Competition |
| 4. Tegan and Sara - The Con | 14. Yeah Yeah Yeahs - Kiss Kiss |
| 5. Orson - Broken Watch | 15. City and Colour - The Death of Me |
| 6. Radiohead - Jigsaw Falling Into Place | 16. Matt Costa - Mr. Pitiful |
| 7. Xavier Rudd - Stargaze | 17. Tokyo Police Club - Citizens of... |
| 8. Jack Johnson - If I Had Eyes | 18. Rogue Wave - Lake Michigan |
| 9. Jason Collett - Out of Time | 19. Young Galaxy - Searchlight |
| 10. Band of Horses - Islands on the Coast | 20. The Kooks - Always Where I Need... |



Greenspace:

Using the information superhighway to track health concerns

By Casey Neathway
The Link

As the world progresses to a more “user-generated” information system, one has to consider the possibilities of public health knowledge being shared in the same manner.

Most tech professionals consider us to be in an age of “Web 2.0”: average people now post the majority of information found on the Internet. You’ll find this to be the case on sites such as YouTube, Flickr and nearly every blog created by a person with spare time on their hands and something to say.

Google has increased the ability to share information with their new system “Google Sites,” which allows easy set-up of a user generated wiki, whereby anybody can add comments, upload files, and modify the site.

My classmates and I have set up such a site where we can share information gained during our practicum, which maximizes the learning experience for all involved.

So how does all of this apply to public health?

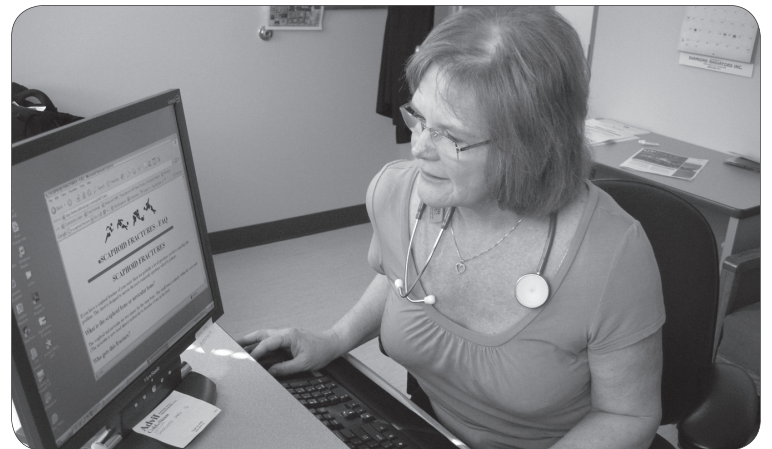
Firstly, epidemiology and disease tracking becomes much more simplistic when there’s a giant, user-modified database available (i.e. the Internet). A site that I previously linked to on my BCIT blog (blogs.bcit.ca/li-feofcasey) allowed users to input signs and symptoms on a Google Maps mash-up, and search for the same. So if a person came down with a specific symptom set, they could search online to see if there were a number of similar cases in their area.

While public health professionals couldn’t rely solely on this information for disease track-

ing, it makes the identification of multiple cases much easier. Rather than having to identify every potential and actual contact of the ill person, or trying to find a common link between cases, the PHI could simply look at the mash-up to see how many cases were in a similar area.

Another method by which the sharing of information could become of public health importance is less commons-generated, and more professionally generated. Google (once again) is in the midst of developing a database of health records for each person in the U.S.A. The records could then be accessed by the person, as well as health professionals such as doctors and therapists.

In the privatized health world of America, this kind of information sharing is both important, and difficult to maintain. An internet-held database eliminates many of



Health professionals are already using online patient info databases in the U.S.A. - photo by David K. Lai

the challenges, and provides an easy way to share the files.

While still a fledgling market, more health professionals are jumping on the bandwagon of information sharing via the Internet. Whether it’s the simple act of posting public health inspection reports online for the public to

view (which is an act performed by many of the health authorities here in B.C.) or a fully user-generated system that brings together people from around the world, reinforcing the “global community” theorem, the future of public health most certainly involves the information superhighway.

Science Matters

Small actions make a world of difference



Vol. 10, No.12
By David Suzuki

Through small actions make a world of difference

As you no doubt know, last week’s Earth Hour took place in several cities around the world, including many in Canada.

The project was spearheaded by the World Wildlife Fund, which successfully tested the idea in Sydney, Australia, last year. The idea is simple: ask everyone to flick off lights and non-essential appliances for an hour.

Earth Hour was a fascinating experiment. It’s a bold idea. As Marshall McLuhan famously observed, we live in a global village. And Earth Hour is an expression of cooperation and support between the other villagers on our little blue planet.

It’s easy to downplay this idea. Many people did. Last week, it seemed as if all of Canada’s con-

trarians got space in newspapers and radio to complain: “Turn off the lights?! Says who? I paid for them, and I’ll leave them on as long as I darn well please!”

Fine. We live in a free society and we are free to do as we please. But these naysayers have a myopic view of the world, and the important social networks of which we are all a part.

When individuals do something beneficial for the environment--turning off the lights for an hour to show support for a good idea, or using energy-efficient appliances, or purchasing fuel-efficient cars--they aren’t just taking a simple action. They are expressing a bold statement about their values.

On Saturday, millions around the world quietly announced, through actions instead of words, that they think environmental conservation is important.

It’s not much different from the audiences who attend hockey games or rock concerts. When a fan sees a goal scored, or hears the opening chords to their favor-

ite song, they put their hands together to make a noise. Clapping is one of the simplest things that humans are capable of.

But it has an effect. Just ask anyone who’s been to a stadium recently. The air fills with thunderous applause. People start to hoot and holler. Chairs start to vibrate. And you can see the passion that fans have for their teams and musical heroes.

The simple act of turning off lights and appliances for an hour has an incredibly important symbolic value, and it’s as profound as a applause in a crowded stadium.

When we express our values, others take notice and we are energized by not being alone. And pretty soon a lot of inspired individuals start operating as a collective. And once this happens, unusual things occur.

You don’t have to look far to find inspiring examples. The history books--and Wikipedia--are full of them.

Who can ever forget Rosa Parks, who became an icon of civil rights by refusing to give

up her bus seat to a white passenger in the segregated south?

Who can forget Terry Fox, who continues to inspire thousands around the world to take part in the non-competitive run that bears his name each year? All this, even

though this brave young man didn’t live to complete his own cross-Canada journey.

Turning off lights for an hour all over the world is a great place to start, but it isn’t where we want to end.

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The NHL west is gonna be hard fought

This weekend marks the make or break games for the wild, wild, west

By Josh Tawse
The Link

As of Monday, March 31, every NHL team has an average of two-and-a-half games left in the regular season. That includes the Vancouver Canucks, coming off of Sunday's 6-2 drubbing over the Calgary Flames. As it stands from Monday's standings, the Canucks are one point up on Nashville for the eighth and final playoff spot.

With so few games left in the regular season, here is a look at where every playoff team and those teams on the bubble in the Western Conference stand.

Best of the West
(In No Particular Order)



Vancouver Canucks

Pros: Have done well despite having a lot of major injuries to the defence (have had less than 10 games with the top six defence they thought they would have at the beginning of the season). The Sedin twins have had a solid season despite not having a consistent line mate. One of the top defensive teams in the league, at seventh in fewest goals allowed.

Cons: Take too many dumb penalties, second in the league in total penalty minutes. Forwards weak in backchecking, forcing Luongo to face too many shots and let in goals he would have otherwise stopped. One of the worst shots-on-goal to goals for ratio for possible playoff teams in the league.



Detroit Red Wings

Pros: Boast two of the top 20 players in the NHL right now in Pavel Datsyuk and Henrik Zetterberg as well as some of the best defencemen in the game with old geezer Chris Chelios who is 46 (who does he think he is, Gordie

Howe?) and Swede sensation Nicklas Lidstrom

Cons: Secondary scoring is lacking, but when you have players like Datsyuk, Zetterberg, Lidstrom and fellow defenceman Brian Rafalski, do you need secondary scoring?



San Jose Sharks

Pros: Are on a hot streak (insert last 10 here) and have one of the best big players in the league in Joe Thornton. Have tons of secondary scoring and one of the best offensive defencemen in the game in Brian Campbell. Have one of the best goalies in the league in Evgeni Nabokov

Cons: Patrick Marleau and Jonathan Cheechoo had very disappointing seasons and need to really pick it up for the Sharks to win the Cup.



Anaheim Ducks

Pros: A pretty big and intimidating team. Have the most combined penalty minutes in the league. Own one of the best defensive corps in the league. 2nd in penalty killing percentage

Cons: Lack a lot of scoring. But that does not matter for this team because they beat their opponents to win. Can take too many stupid penalties at times.



Minnesota Wild

Pros: Plays defensive hockey really well and can bolster their toughness easily just by inserting 6'7" beast Derek Boogaard. Mixed in with Todd Fedoruk Aaron Voros, and Chris Simon, and you have a pretty tough team. Has fairly decent scoring with Marian Gaborik.

Cons: Not the greatest de-

fensively. Ranked 23rd for team +/- which at -7 is the worse of any team guaranteed to make the playoffs (only Edmonton is worse at -29). Do not have a defence to brag about. Brent Burns is easily their best defenceman with 43 points, 75 PIM and a +/- of 11 in 80 games.



Dallas Stars

Pros: Have one of the best group of centres in the NHL with Mike Ribeiro, Brad Richards and Mike Modano. Have a solid troupe of defencemen who can put up the points and help out their goaltender. Best team at penalty killing.

Cons: Do not shoot the puck enough. Have the fewest shots per game of any playoff bound team.



Colorado Avalanche

Pros: Can win despite the onslaught of injuries to major players they have had this season. Have a pretty good group of defencemen on paper. On the ice can be a bit of a question.

Cons: Do not have any stand-alone players in terms of offence with the exception of Peter Stastny with 69 points. Goaltending is a little weak (sorry Jose).



Calgary Flames

Pros: Jarome Iginla - One of the best players in the NHL. Currently third in goals and total points. Dion Phaneuf - Has played in every game this season for the Flames, scoring 58 points while also sitting in the penalty box for 173 minutes, the most for his team and the most for all defencemen. Have two solid scoring lines and a solid

defence.

Cons: Can get into penalty trouble. Their defence alone has about 500 penalty minutes combined, which is over a third of their total minutes. Despite the fact that they (should) have two solid goalies in Miikka Kiprusoff and Curtis Joseph, both men have had a pretty bad season in terms of GAA and Save %.



Nashville Predators

Pros: One of the best with a man in the box, fourth in PK %. Surprisingly strong goaltending in Dan Ellis and Chris Mason.

Cons: Not an overly tough team, nor one who scores a lot. One of the worse PP% as a result of that. Does not own a defence to be scared of.



Edmonton Oilers

Pros: Have a great crop of talented youth who have surprised the league the past few months with a great run despite the injuries to their better, older players. Own one of the better PK%.

Cons: Do not have a lot of experience, nor secondary scoring after leading scorer Ales Hemsky. Fourth in goals allowed.

As it stands, Detroit, San Jose, Minnesota, Anaheim, and Dallas have all clinched a playoff spot while Colorado, Calgary, Vancouver, Nashville, and Edmonton, battle for the remaining three spots.

One thing to note, is that the Chicago Blackhawks can make it to the post-season if Vancouver, Nashville, and Edmonton lose all of their remaining games (yeah, right).

In a tight Conference, and an even tighter Northwest Division, for the Canucks to be guaranteed make it into the playoffs, they have to win all three remaining games.

This means the Canucks will have 94 points which will be four more than Edmonton's max of 90 and one more than Nashville's max of 93.

One thing the Canucks do not want is to end up with an even number of points with Nashville because chances are, Nashville will have more wins than the Canucks in that scenario.

Then it comes down to the first tiebreaker being the greater number of games won, that means the Predators would take the eighth and final spot over the Canucks.

And fans do not want that, do they?

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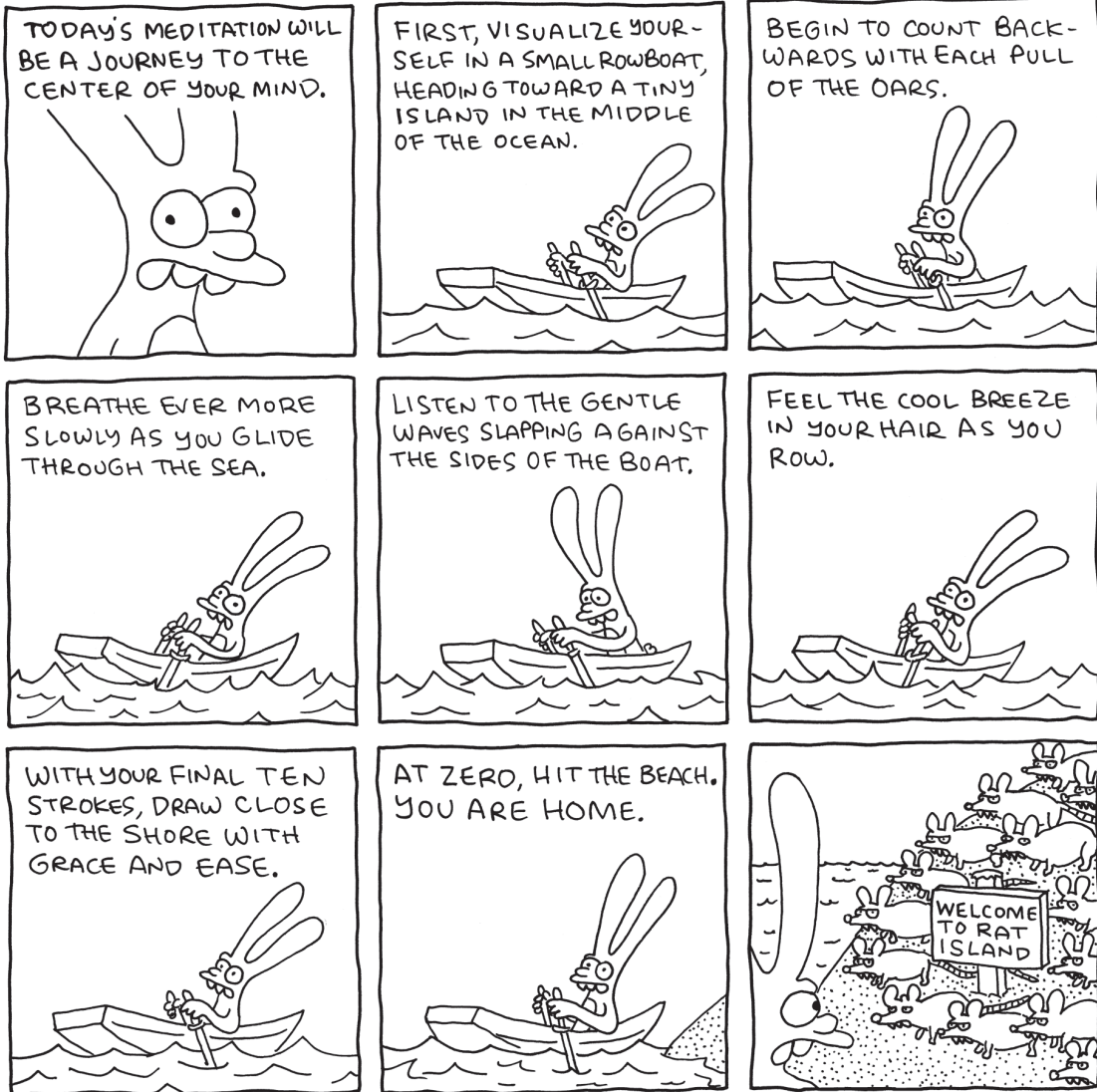
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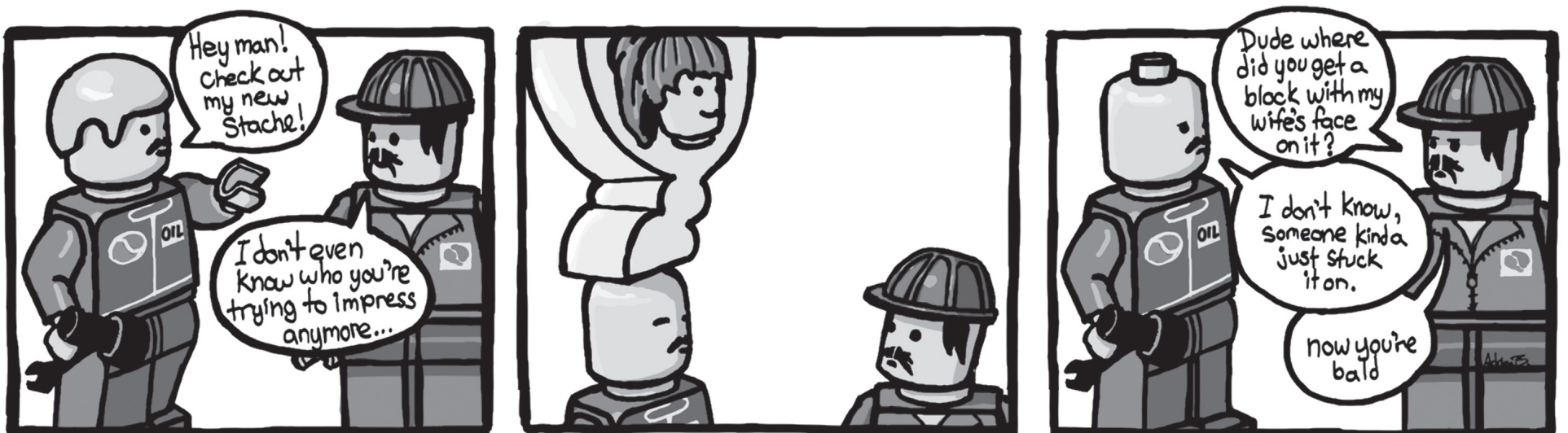
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2	5	7	1	9	8	3	4	6
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Lego World Comic

By Adrian Binakaj
Nexus (Camosun College)
VICTORIA (CUP)



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Volunteer Opportunities

Become a Big Sister. Become a Study Buddy tutor. Become a friend! Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland is looking for female volunteers (age 19+) who are interested in mentoring a young girl in their community. Contact Big Sisters at 604-873-4525 ext. 300 or info@bigsisters.bc.ca to find out more about mentoring! www.bigsisters.bc.ca.

Coast Mental Health is seeking Life-Skills 1-1 volunteer Workers for Various sites in Vancouver. Work one to one with a client, facilitating their reintegration to their community. These are clients in an independent living situation, who may experience social isolation and have a desire to reconnect. Requirements: Patience, understanding and caring. Some understanding or experience with mental illness is helpful with some clients. Duration: 6 months. Email: valm@coastfoundation.com or call 604-675-2313.

Open House 2008 takes place on April 11 and 12. The theme for Open House 2008 is Change Your World. Enter Ours. You can get involved by helping with a program display booth or by volunteering to help with whatever needs to be done. Display and Volunteer registration form - bcit.ca/openhouse/regdisplay, deadline - Friday, March 7. Volunteer registration form - bcit.ca/openhouse/participate/volunteer. More information, bcit.ca/openhouse.

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Volunteers needed April 27, 2008 for walk for ms event for check in, route marshalling, cheering section and set up/tear down, information tent, photographer assistants and runner positions – must have vehicle for this position. Benefits include breakfast, T-shirt, reference letter with hours volunteered. Please contact Rati Arora, rati.arora@gmail.com.

Income Tax Preparation
 Immigrant Services Society is seeking volunteers to help with their Income Tax Clinics. These clinics are held in March and April. The training will be provided by the Canada Revenue Agency in February 2008. For further information, please contact Jackie at 604.684.2561 ext. 233

Income Tax Prepares
 South Burnaby Neighborhood House is seeking volunteers to prepare Income tax Returns for the 2007 tax season. Volunteers will be working every alternate Fridays from 10am-1pm and will be filling in income tax forms for low income families and individuals, and new immigrants. Good

communication and basic accounting skills. Second language an asset. Training provided. Contact Abdul 604.431.0400 or vol@sbnh.ca

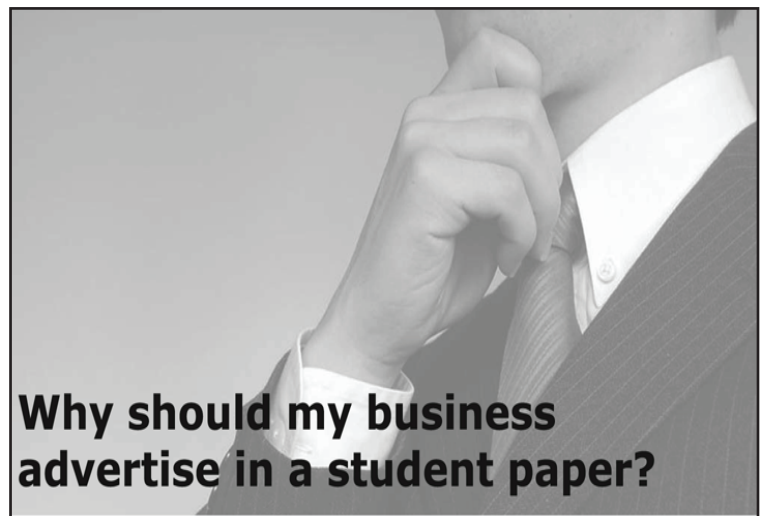
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bed, computer desk, dresser, etc. All utilities are included, heat, gas, water, hydro, satelitv, ADSL high speed internet and laundry. \$350/month. Close to BCIT and Metrotown. Call Fanny at 604.436.4507 or 604.719.4507.

Big flicks for your small screen

Juno, There Will Be Blood, and Into the Wild for your viewing pleasure



Juno
(April 15)

By Kate Lerman
The Link

This little indie that could really irritated me. Before you either join in on the “Juno-bashing,” or pelt me with orange Tic-Tacs, I must clarify.

I did find redeeming qualities in the tale of Juno, a high school student who gets pregnant and decides to keep her baby. Yes, the lead was delightful, yes, that kid from Arrested Development (Ontarian Michael Cera) was nerdy-cute as Juno’s baby-daddy.

And yes, the hamburger phone was hi-larious; for the first few minutes of its screen-time.

But an Oscar nomination for Best Picture? The Oscars are not the supreme greatest judge of good movies, of course, but the truth remains that the number one thing driving this film’s success is hype.

Call me jaded, cold-hearted, or just plain grumpy, but I found the story less heart-warming and more trite. Entertaining to a point, sure, but screenwriter Diablo Cody (riding hype and a flashy back-story of life as a stripper all the way to the Oscar Podium), tries painfully hard to be witty. The characters are firing so many zingers, that I’m surprised they have the ability to breathe.

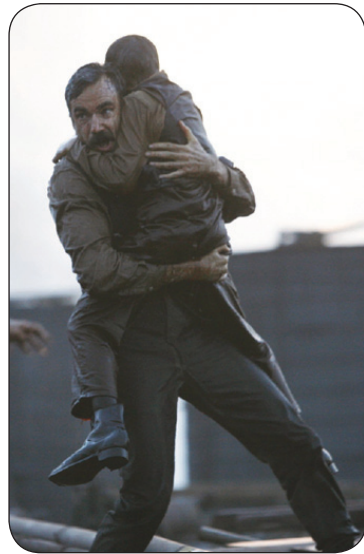
This brings us to the saving grace of the film: Ellen Page. She inhibits the title role so completely that I could almost, just almost, see Juno as a real person. For a better glimpse at the potential of Nova Scotian Ellen Page, rent the 2005 film “Hardy Candy,” and

last year’s Canadian indie flick “The Tracey Fragments.” And for a similar subject matter, check out the film “Saved!” (2004).

Honest-to-blog, all “Saved!” has in common with “Juno” is the pregnant-teen-decides-to-have-baby storyline. Its approach to its characters is a lot less quirky and a lot more realistic, while still being entertaining and engaging.

Overall, “Juno” is a decent film from Montreal-born director Jason Reitman, who’s showing potential; but just as long as you take it for what it is, and don’t swallow the hype.

Regular and two-disc special edition DVDs will be in stores April 15. Both editions include commentary, deleted scenes, and more.



There Will Be Blood
April 8

By Kate Lerman
The Link

“There Will Be Blood” is Director Paul Thomas Anderson’s (“Magnolia”) loose adaptation of the Upton Sinclair novel “Oil!” It is Anderson’s first film in five years, following the excellent “Punch Drunk Love.”

Attempting to hide my bias for this movie is futile. I tend to go semi-catatonic when it comes to “There Will Be Blood.” I’ve seen it twice in theaters, spoken about it on the radio, and managed to include it in a Sales Class Presentation. To call me a “fangirl” would be a clear understatement, and I am not in the least disturbed by my lack of objectivity. Movies are intended to provoke non-objective reactions, and get you to

think, and this one did not disappoint.

The film follows the life and quest of Daniel Plainview, an oil prospector in early 20th Century California, as he seeks power, prosperity, and, of course, black gold. Though remarkably detailed when it comes to early oil prospecting and its progression, the *most* fascinating element of the film is its exploration of the main character.

Anderson manages to tie the striking visuals and a bewildering, compelling story together with the help of an exceptional cast and crew.

To say that Daniel Day-Lewis gives an astonishing, fiery performance as Plainview is like saying “the sun is shiny” or “kittens are cute” - it’s pretty much a given. And to oversimplify his character as simply greedy and angry would be a disservice to a performance that’s about a lot more than yelling a whole bunch.

Proving a good match for the oil man is Paul Dano (“Little Miss Sunshine”) playing an enigmatic young preacher who’s not as innocent as he seems.

The performances and direction kept me riveted on the first viewing, but what actually drove me to the theatre a second time was the need to hear the incredible score once more. Composed by Radiohead guitarist Jonny Greenwood, the score is inventive and original, and is used to great effect with other, more classical pieces.

The film is being released on a bare-bones DVD, as well as a 2-Disc Collector’s Edition that includes additional scenes, a couple of featurettes, some trailers, and not very much else. The film is also being released in HD, due to its release being scheduled before BluRay proved victorious in the format war.

And as feverish as my devotion to this film is, my common sense (alright, mostly my cheapness), urges me to wait for another edition of the movie to come out on DVD (not to mention BluRay).

Whether soon in my DVD player or not, “There Will Be Blood” has cemented itself as the one movie of 2007 that provoked an extreme range of emotions from me; frustration, admiration, unexpected laughter, smugness,

self-awareness, and the list goes on.

I expect debate about “There Will Be Blood,” especially that last scene, to go on for years.



Into the Wild
Out now

By Shane Woodford
The Link

If great literature and great cinema ever had a love child its name would be “Into the Wild.”

Directed by Sean Penn and starring Emile Hirsch, “Into the Wild” is easily one of the best movies I have ever seen.

Inspired by a true story, the movie follows young Christopher McCandless as he graduates university and embarks on what is truly his own journey. He gives his entire \$24,000 savings account to charity and embarks on a trip of personal and geographic exploration.

“Into the Wild” does an excellent job of capturing the complexity of human life. You will laugh, smile, and feel joy, pain, heart ache, sadness, loneliness, and triumph with a liberal dose of inspiration.

The film takes the audience along on an emotional odyssey of the joy in living and loving.

Emile Hirsch is amazing in his role as McCandless fleeing a family in the throws of breaking apart. He abandons all expectations and superficial trappings of society by embarking on the road to freedom and spreading his reckless love of life on all he encounters along the way.

Through his journey he along with audience sees how terrible we are to each other and what ridiculous ways we have constrict-

ed and limited ourselves with silly rules. McCandless ventures out of the normal comfort zone most of us live in.

Watching “Into the Wild” al-

lows the viewer to vicariously taste just a tiny bit of the pure joy by living through McCandless.

His goal is simple: hitchhike to Alaska and then live in its vast wilderness. During his journey he changes and inspires just about everyone he meets.

“Into the Wild” dares to pull the blindfold off our eyes, exposing a world where paycheques, 40 hour work weeks, and arguments about finances are the norm – and not what life is meant to be.

Christopher’s journey offers up that love, people, and the beauty of experiences both shared and alone is the true joy in living.

Even though the end is sad, it also passes on a message McCandless learns tragically too late: “Happiness is only real when shared.”

One of the best movies I have seen - so much so I bought it the day after renting it.



Seen a good movie?
Write a review.
Send it to link@bcitsa.ca