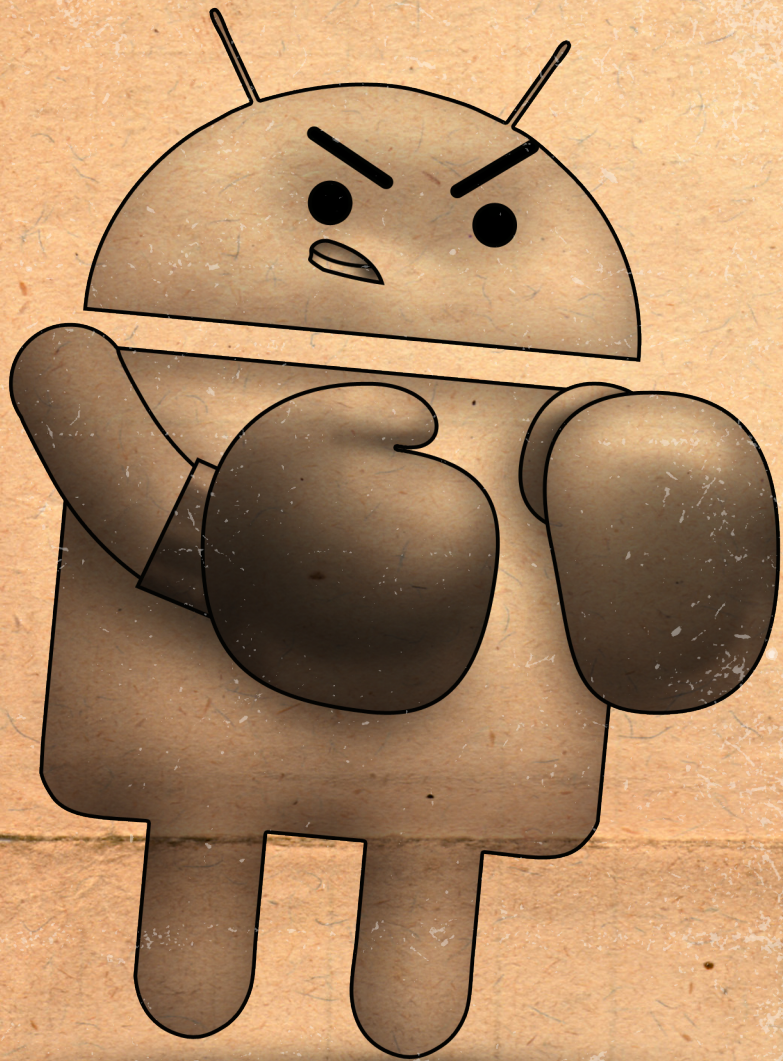


# the *Link*

November 16, 2011

Volume 47 • Issue 6

STUDENT PUBLICATION OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



**Android**  
CHALLENGER

VS.

**iPhone**  
CHAMPION



# The Link

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## ABOUT THE LINK

The Link is the student newspaper of the British Columbia Institute of Technology. Published bi-weekly by the BCIT Student Association (BCITSA), The Link circulates 3,000 copies to over 45,000 students, faculty, and staff.

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The Link is proud to be associated with these organizations:



Local politicians and BCIT officials official open SW1, a new building at BCIT Burnaby.

Chad Klassen

# New Gateway building to boost student life

Refurbished SW1 creates more space for studying and socializing

**CHAD KLASSEN**  
Assistant Editor

It has a beautiful façade that's noticeable to students walking from the bus stop to the classroom every morning and afternoon. It is hard to miss for BCIT Burnaby students.

The large windows that surround the front entrance of the school are one of the many environmentally-friendly qualities the building encompasses.

However, the real beauty of the new Gateway building is the impact it's having and will continue to have further on the student experience.

"We've got this marvelous new addition to this campus and we've also rehabilitated the existing classrooms, labs and instructor offices as well as provide a brand new student services centre," says former

Vice President of Student Services Val Karpinsky, who was on hand to officially open the newly renovated Gateway building on November 10.

"It begins to show the public that BCIT is a modern post-secondary institution and now we provide a really creative and modern face to the public."

A new wing constructed around three renovated parts of the building has made for 33 additional rooms, coupled with more space for students to study and socialize.

It's the kind of building Karpinsky envisioned when he and his colleagues started talking about a project like it back in the 1980s.

"It's hard to imagine this was basically open to the elements—wind, rain, snow, hail, whatever was coming down at the time. It had a few rocks in here, it had a couple scrubby little trees and it wasn't used by anyone," recalls Karpinsky, "We had a vision: 'What if we could put a roof over this building? What if we could

turn this into the true student services hub for the campus?'"

Some 30 years later and his vision has been fulfilled, now leaving behind a strong legacy that will have an impact on students who comes through BCIT for the next 30 years and beyond.

*"When you work at a place like BCIT, you want to make it a better place than when you came here..."*

- Val Karpinsky  
Former BCIT VP Student Services

"Always, when you work at a place like BCIT, you want to make it a better place than when you came here and I feel very proud of not only what I've done, but what my colleagues have done as a team," says Karpinsky, who has a set of stairs in the building named after him.

The project took cooperation from the provincial and federal governments, which provided \$39 million in April 2010.

It's all part of B.C.'s Knowledge Infrastructure Program, which is meant to upgrade infrastructure at post-secondary institutions while getting citizens to work on local projects.

"We looked at projects that dealt with the needs of maintaining older, existing structures and increasing space for student learning, and the BCIT Gateway project accommodated both," says Minister of Advanced Education Naomi Yamamoto, who adds that investment in education is critical for the creation of jobs across the province.

It is unlikely other buildings around the Burnaby campus will get a facelift to the extent of SW1, but Karpinsky says due to land restrictions, BCIT will have to follow the same model using existing facilities to upgrade.

## HAVE A HOT NEWS TIP?

[linkeditor@bcitsa.ca](mailto:linkeditor@bcitsa.ca)



# Media democracy events speak out against mainstream media

Thousands attend Media Democracy Days 2011 to hear experts speak on media justice issues

**DAVE SWANSON**  
Culture Editor

Academics, media activists, and journalists assembled on November 11-13 at the Pacific Cinémathèque, the Vancouver Public Library, and SFU Woodward's for the tenth annual Media Democracy Days. Participants discussed the evolving media climate and to explored ways in which it can be improved.

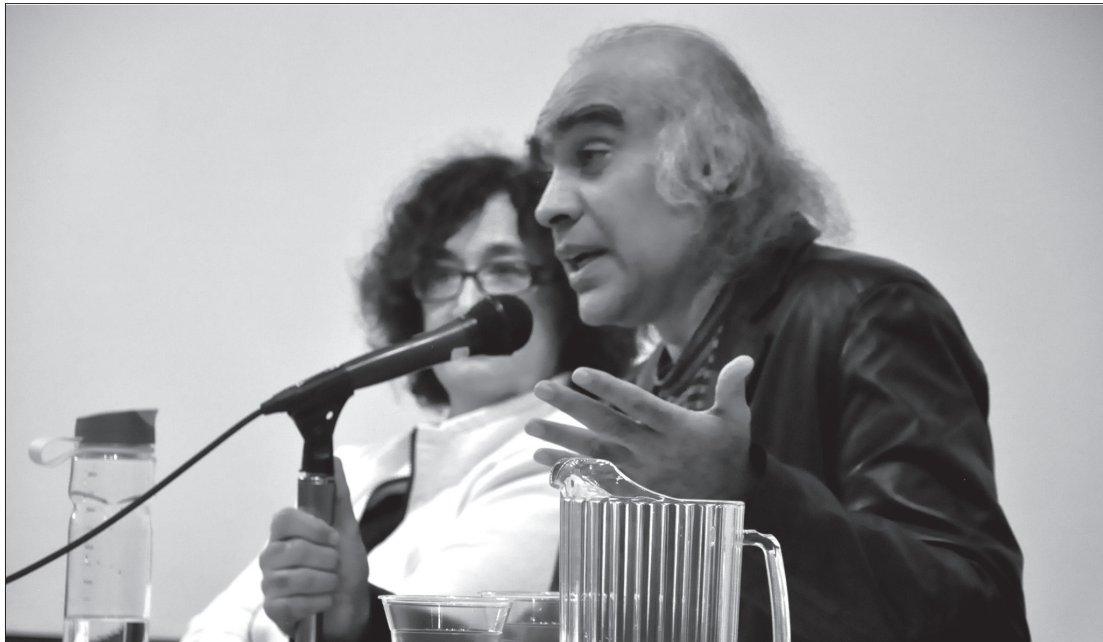
Media Democracy Days is a free multi-venue, multi-day media ecology conference. It generates expert panel discussion on a variety of topics ranging from the future of journalism to new directions in civic engagement.

It was founded by Simon Fraser University communications professor Bob Hackett in hopes of starting a dialogue on ways to improve a deteriorating media landscape.

"We sought to explore the options for both media practice and public policy that could help improve media's contributions to a democratic government, but also make the media themselves more accessible and diverse," Hackett wrote in event materials.

Media Democracy Days operates on the premise that the media ecosystem has become polluted in recent years. It believes a democratic society cannot exist unless it has a healthy media infrastructure. Instead, only when media is free, diverse and representative can a society be egalitarian.

Some reputable speakers were in attendance addressing important issues in their field of media expertise, in-



Keynote speaker Dr. Sut Jhally discusses building media democracy.

Gala Milne

cluding Rabble.ca founding publisher Judy Rebick, *Vancouver Observer* founder and editor-in-chief Linda Solomon, and *Georgia Strait* editor Charlie Smith.

Green Party chief Elizabeth May was also in attendance. She addressed the importance of democratic media policies.

**"The concentration of media ownership in this country is monstrous."**

- Elizabeth May  
Leader of the Green  
Party of Canada

"The concentration of media ownership in this country is monstrous. To an aware effective and engaged citizenry, a cooped media is disaster. We desperately need policy tools to deal with this and there isn't a single thing on the legislative agenda in this country that begins to touch it. We need is anti-trust legislation that deals with the concentration of ownership in Canadian media," May told

the audience.

Dr. Peter Stevens, author of *Media in the About Canada* series believes that this concentration of ownership is hurting Canadian news.

"Canadian media is in decline. The quantity and quality of news available to Canadians is less than it used to be. The number, the length, and depth of news are not as good as it once was," said Stevens.

While many panelists were drawing attention to dysfunctional attributes of mainstream media, others highlighted the positive impact that grassroots media movements are having in the media sphere.

Gala Milne, the event's head coordinator, was quick to point out that past Media Democracy events have helped create tangible change.

"OpenMedia.ca is an organization that stemmed from Media Democracy Days. It is a really progressive policy based organization in Vancouver. It just had 500,000 people sign a petition against usage based billing."

The event has grown into an independent media net-

working event. Over 30 alternative media originations participated in Vancouver Public Library media fair and a diverse range of interactive workshops were held at SFU Woodward's.

"The workshops map out our local resources in terms of people and organizations. They involve media production and education and work to bridge stronger connections between those smaller alternative sources so that [participants] are working together towards this larger goal of creating more justice in the media," Milne told the *Link*.

She believes Media Democracy Days has become an important access point for media education in the Vancouver but can still improve upon the success it witnessed this year.

"The intention is to grow from Media Democracy Days to Media Democracy Project. We want it to grow as a project throughout the year. Creating more democracy in our media is a challenge but people in Vancouver seem very interested. There is room to grow."

## NEWS BRIEFS

### World rivers advocate retires from BCIT

Mark Angelo, a well-known river advocate and BCIT figure, is retiring after 36 years of service.

Angelo leaves behind a great legacy, having launched B.C. Rivers Day which has been celebrated on the last Sunday of September for over 30 years.

In 2005, Rivers Day went global based on the success of Angelo's work, which earned him the Order of Canada and the first-ever UN Fresh Water Science, Education and Conversation Award.

He moved to the Lower Mainland in 1975, inspired by the Fraser River, and started conveying his passion for rivers as an instructor at BCIT.

In 1980, Angelo organized a field trip to the Thompson River, where he and several volunteers helped remove waste from the river.

The adventure was the beginning of something great – B.C. Rivers Day, an event that continues to be a success annually, thanks to Angelo's passion and dedication.

— Chad Klassen

### Students start new green business

BCIT students are part of a new green business that will deliver products using tricycles.

It's called the SHIFT Urban Cargo Delivery Service, and starting May 1, they'll team up with students from SFU and UBC to provide a last-minute service in downtown Vancouver using no emissions to deliver the goods.

"Our idea is replace delivery trucks with delivery trikes in downtown Vancouver," said Robyn Ashwell, sustainable community development student at SFU.

"While big trucks may be efficient for carrying large loads over long distances, they cause congestion and pollution in the city, and they put pedestrians and bikers at risk.

The group wants to provide sustainable solutions for clients, while engaging its workers through a co-operative model.

It's already drawn interest from several companies, including Frogbox, Mills Basics and Shirtland Dry-cleaners.

— Chad Klassen with files from Canadian University Press

THE LINK IS SEEKING NEWS REPORTERS

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# Death of a damsel

Mainstream media provide disproportionate coverage to the murders of young, attractive affluent girls

**DAVE SWANSON**  
Culture Editor

You're on your way to school, ready to catch the skytrain, extra large coffee cup in hand. A *Met-ro* or *24 Hours* employee hands you a newspaper headlining the latest front page tragedy.

You get to your 8:30 A.M. class, load up your laptop and go onto Facebook and see the very same story swamping your newsfeed. After a long day of lecture and labs, you get home, flip on the television. and again, you see the same tragic story blitzing the evening news.

No, it's not a report about a mass rape in the Congo or a story on the dozens of missing women from the Vancouver Downtown Eastside. The tragedy is the death of a young, attractive girl from an affluent home.

This phenomena, intense media coverage of the death or disappearance of an attractive girl, is commonly referred to as Missing Pretty Girl Syndrome.

You are witness to this trend yourself. I am sure you remember the 2010 murder of 15 year old North Delta resident Laura Szendrei, the recent shooting of SFU student Maple Batalia, and the killing of Kelowna's Taylor

Van Diest just a few ago on Halloween night. All were attractive young women from affluent communities.

Now just to be clear and preemptively extinguish the growing contempt I am sure you are feeling for yours truly, it is necessary to state that I think the murder of any person, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or wealth, is disgusting. I have great sympathy for the victims of each family and hope the person or persons responsible are punished accordingly.

*“Intense coverage of the death or disappearance of an attractive girl is commonly referred to as Missing Pretty Girl Syndrome.”*

However, I think the criteria the media follows in deciding if someone's death is newsworthy perverts the value of human life.

Coverage of less “newsworthy” murders, the socio-economic disadvantaged, minorities, or other fringe communities focus more on infrastructural issues like crime rates and policing policy. They do not build a vivid narrative or manufacture sympathy for the victim. These murderers also stay in the news for a much shorter period of time.

Over 500 Aboriginal women have gone missing in Canada. There issue has received minimal media because the majority of these women come from destitute communities and might not fit the stereotypical image of beauty. A disadvantaged person's misfortune is almost expected and therefore, it is not considered unusual news if they die, even heinously at the hands of a killer.

Marginalized groups are dehumanized in the public view. They are viewed as different, or separate, from the majority of the population, which creates an “us,” and “them” mentality. When this occurs, it is much more difficult to relate to someone or identify with their plight. A disconnect is built. The death of Laura Szendrei, Maple Batalia, and Taylor Van Diest received intense media attention because they are portrayed in the image of our sisters, daughters, cousins, and friends.

The media needs to augment its sense of civic duty. Its purpose is not to serve an affluent majority. It needs to serve all people equally to be democratic. Because most of its audience is white middle class, the media believes it will lose viewership if it does not run stories that have an obvious link to their viewers. While they might lose some patronage if they choose to be more egalitarian, I think they will build loyalty and trust with the public as a whole.



The death of teenager Taylor Van Diest was front page news in the November 2, 2011 issue of The Province.

The Province



Maple Batalia's murder made headlines and this September 29, 2011 edition of 24 Hours was no exception.

24hrs.ca

**HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?**  
**BE HEARD. WRITE FOR THE LINK.**

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# It's a lot more than 'just your opinion'

We are losing our ability to form and defend opinions, and that is a serious problem

**BRADY TIGHE**

Vancouver Island University

NANAIMO, B.C. (CUP) — Formulating cohesive opinions can be a challenge. I should know, as I've spent days spewing forth useless 200-word paragraphs and trying to come up with an opinion worthy of being an editorial. Most people believe you can say anything and have it be a valid opinion. It's true that I could say something like, "The Eiffel tower is purple!" It's true that it would be my opinion, but we all know that facts and science and about a trillion photographs could prove me wrong. The point is that having an opinion —

one that you can back up — is a lost art. It seems that in many conversations I have, people's only defence for their controversial opinions is to say, "Well, that's my opinion."

What kind of bullshit is that? What are you, five?

It seems to be happening with every topic: politics, smoking, hockey teams and even books. Argument and discourse are awesome things.

To say that something is "just your opinion" and not have any facts to back it up is just weak. If someone disagrees with you, you should be able to unleash a full-fledged truth whirlwind of almost religious force onto his or her head. You should be prepared to practically die for your opinion. You should back your opinion up with questions that blow gaping holes in your opponent's ar-

gument. You should get passionate — even in the face of total unreason. Doesn't matter how crazy, stupid, or illogical your opinion is; if you want to voice it, back it up.



*If someone disagrees with you, you should be able to unleash a full-fledged truth whirlwind of almost religious force onto his or her head.*

University campuses are full of smart, well-spoken people — people who get straight A's and write brilliant essays with thesis statements. Yet, when I'm talking to one of these students and say something like, "Hey, I think the Vancouver Ca-

nucks are the most useless hacks to ever touch a hockey puck, and I'm glad they lost to the infinitely better-looking, legendary Boston Bruins," I'm met with blank stares followed by the refrain that drives me insane: "Well, that's just your opinion."

What? You wouldn't shut up about the team for six months, and now you won't even bother explaining all their stupid stats to me?

Even if it has nothing to do with hockey, even if has nothing to do with politics, even if it comes down to a discussion about which colour is better, red or blue, you should back your opinion up — and not just on Facebook, either. Recently, especially in the aftermath of the ongoing Occupy protests, it seems everyone has a malformed opinion to spray all over the interwebs. But instead of putting their opinions on the

web in a thoughtful manner, it seems most people are content to share single images with big text explaining entire world problems in six words or less. All you need is a damning picture and some size-90 impact font, and bam! You've convinced everyone you have an awesome social opinion. You're up to date on current events! You're involved with things! If you really want to go above and beyond the call of duty, you'll leave a short sentence about how you feel! That's not an opinion; that's empty posturing.

The changes going on in the world today cannot be boiled down to the pictures you "like" on Facebook. Do some research, form your own opinions about things and don't just "baa" and follow the herd. If your opinion is controversial, defend it and defend it well.



## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES EVENT

If you are a **REGULATED HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL OR EXPERIENCED ADDICTION COUNSELOR**, Alberta Health Services invites you to attend an event where you can discover the wide variety of career opportunities currently available in Alberta. Recruitment Advisors and Operational Managers will be available to discuss how your personal career aspirations might fit with the new Alberta Health Services.

If you'd like to take advantage of this unique opportunity to have a personal career conversation with our professional recruitment team, plan to visit us at:

**SHERATON, VANCOUVER AIRPORT**  
**7551 WESTMINSTER HIGHWAY, RICHMOND, BC**  
**GROUND FLOOR, SOUTH TOWER**  
(OFF OF THE MAIN HOTEL LOBBY IN STEVESTON B)  
**DECEMBER 1, 2011 FROM 9-11AM, 1-3PM AND 7-9PM**

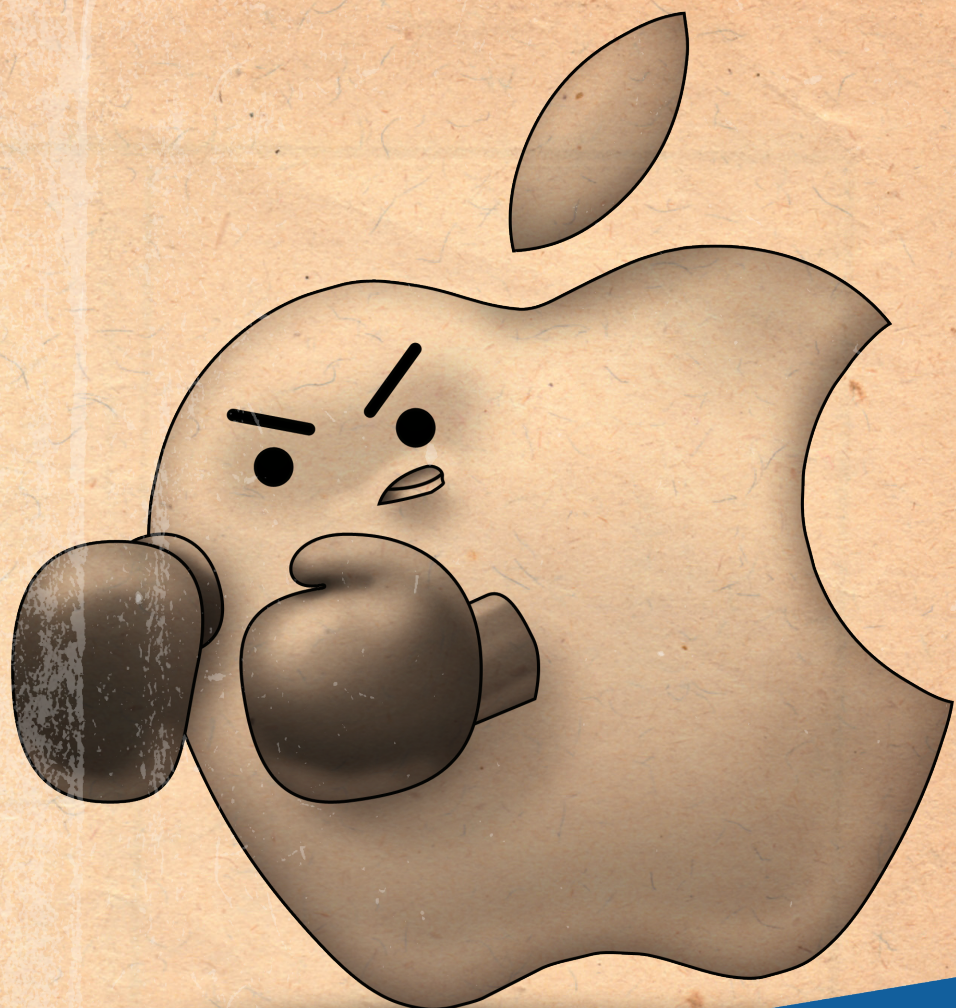
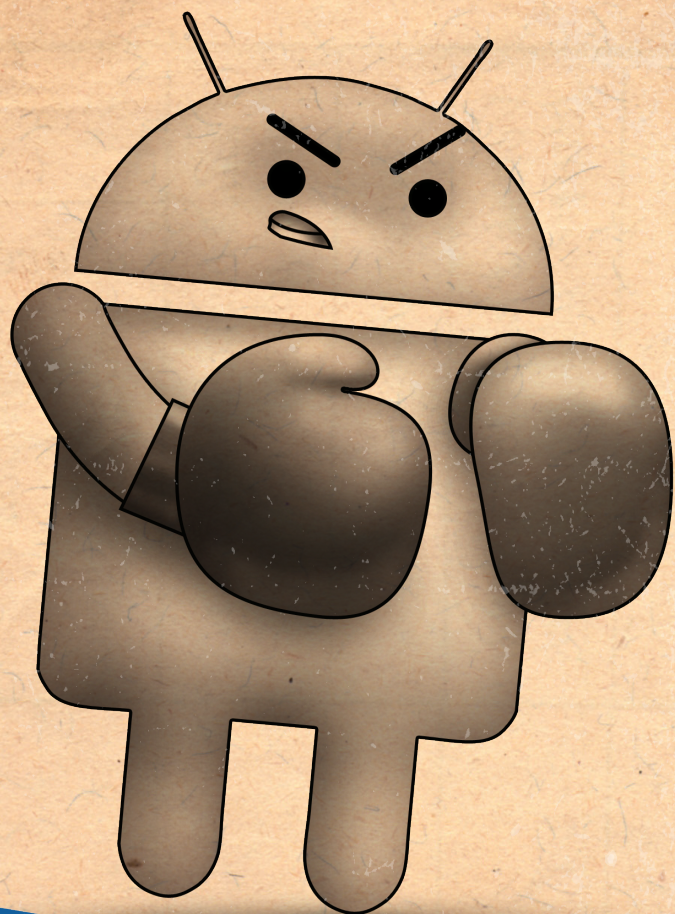
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# אנדرويد

## CHALLENGER

VS.

# iPhone

## CHAMPION

Over the course of the last ten years, the criteria that constitutes a decent mobile phone has evolved from the ability to make phone calls to the capacity to operate similar to a full desktop computer.

While a decade ago a new phone's ability to send text messages might have given your friends goosebumps way back when, these days if a phone doesn't shoot high quality digital photographs, stream music, and video conference, many tech savvy consumers can't be bothered.

Since its launch, the Apple iPhone set the standard for smartphones. While companies such as HTC, Palm, and Black-

berry have all released high quality smartphones, the iPhone remained the single most popular phone of its kind on a fairly consistent basis since its launch in the summer of 2007.

That is, until recently.

The Android operating system appeals to those who enjoy the customization, flexibility, and range of hardware options that iPhone users lack access to. While the iPhone might have been the standard once upon a time, smartphones running Android are quickly becoming the norm, much to the chagrin of Steve Jobs.

The recently deceased Apple founder and former CEO was so outraged with the Android oper-

ating system that he once swore to destroy it, because he saw as an outright copy of Apple's ideas.

Jobs once went so far as to state, "I will spend my last dying breath if I need to, and I will spend every penny of Apple's \$40 billion in the bank, to right this wrong."

Unfortunately for Apple fans, Android does not seem to be losing steam. The operating system has been continually gaining market share since its release in 2008.

While the Apple iPhone might be the quintessential smartphone in the eyes of many, it has been overtaken by phones running Android, the OS that ran

43 per cent of new smartphones sold in 2011 as of August.

Meanwhile, iPhone hovers at 18 per cent. Researchers have gone so far as to predict that Android will attain half of all new smartphone sales by the end of 2012.

So what does this all mean to you? If you are in the market for a new smartphone or if you're considering switching sides, take some time to consider the strengths and weaknesses of both Apple and Android.

While the two operating systems share many features, each has their own unique ways that they shine. Refer to the handy chart on the opposite page for specifics.

By John Morrison III & Christina Jung





iPhone		Android
Apple's intuitive, user-friendly design makes the iPhone easy to use, even for beginners.	EASE OF USE	The Android operating system takes some getting used to, even for a person experienced with smartphones.
One thing the iPhone is <i>not</i> is affordable. Apple is the only company selling iPhones, so they can charge what they like and they are not really in the business of cutting deals.	AFFORDABILITY	There is a spectrum of smartphones that run the Android operating system so consumers can choose the one that suits their needs.
Apple enjoyed the majority of the smartphone market for a long time and they are also the more recognizable names. As a result, they have a more apps overall.	APPS	While there's no question that the iPhone has more apps, Android's apps are not forced to be approved like the iPhone's are, so there is a wider variety.
As far as smartphone battery life goes, the iPhone is pretty decent. Depending on use, most users get a day and a bit out of their iPhones.	BATTERY LIFE	There is a wide variety of different phones running the Android operating system. While their battery lives are usually worse than the iPhones, there are apps that help preserve battery.
iPhone's lack of customization part of what makes them so easy to use. More recent models have offered more tinkering options, but nothing near that of the Android.	CUSTOMIZATION	There is no question the Android wins this category. The Android is open-source, which means developers have access to the Android's source code, which makes developing software customization relatively easy.



## OLDIE BUT GOODIE

**ON THE WATERFRONT (1954)**

In 1952, director Elia Kazan was called to appear before the House of Un-American Activities Committee. Kazan decided to name eight people who belonged to the American Communist Party, becoming one of the first to cooperate with the committee. Kazan's testimony ruined many careers in Hollywood which led to blacklisting, and Kazan, unapologetic until his death in 2003, was allowed to continue making films in Hollywood. Two years after his testimony, he made *On the Waterfront*.

*On the Waterfront* tells the story of Terry Malloy (Marlon Brando), a washed-up boxer who has become an errand boy for the mob-connected union boss, John Friendly (Lee J. Cobb). Terry is happy playing "D & D" (deaf and dumb) until he meets Edie (Eva Marie Saint), the sister of a dead dockworker whose murder Malloy is partly responsible for, that his loyalty to the mob becomes fogged as he begins to question whether it is better to speak out against injustice or play "D & D".

It is arguable that there has been no finer performance captured on film than Brando's, whose tortured turn as a Mob informant is unforgettable. His famous "I coulda been a contender" speech will forever be remembered and tied with Kazan's involvement with the House of Un-American Activities Committee and defense for the informer.

Filmed on location in New York and New Jersey, the cold that etched itself on the faces of the actors brings to life the haunting realism of life on the New York waterfront.

*On the Waterfront* won Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director (Kazan), Best Adapted Screenplay (Budd Schulberg), Best Actor for Brando, and Best Supporting Actress for Saint.

— Thorstan Gerlach

**Want to review an old classic? Email [linkeditor@bcitsa.ca](mailto:linkeditor@bcitsa.ca)**



Leonardo DiCaprio ages over 50 years as title character J. Edgar Hoover.



Warner Brothers

## J. Edgar rarely compelling despite subject matter

How could a film about one of the most exciting lives in recent American history be so lifeless?

**THORSTAN GERLACH**  
Link Contributor

Leonardo DiCaprio stars as J. Edgar Hoover, the feared and loathed man responsible for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and popularizing fingerprinting and collecting forensic evidence.

It must be admitted that DiCaprio, who is not averse to taking on difficult roles, is marvelous. He ages from his twenties to his seventies as Hoover, giving an impassioned and meaningful performance despite being layered under prosthetic

makeup that is at times all too obvious.

The film explores J. Edgar Hoover's many obsessions including his fight to stop communists from taking over America and his struggle to find the Lindberg Baby killer.

Director Clint Eastwood attempts to debunk the myth of a man plagued with crippling insecurity, a puritanical mother, and alleged homosexuality.

Hoover is revealed through the people closest to him: his mother Annie Hoover (Judi Dench); FBI associate — and later companion — Clyde Tollson (Armie Hammer), and Helen Gandy (Naomi Watts) the long-serving and devoted secretary of Hoover.

Enough of the plot, time for the bad.

Dustin Lance Black, the talented writer behind the Oscar-winning *Milk*, has written a screenplay so muddled and clichéd that as the film unravels it comes to resemble more of a soap-opera than a drama.

*“Though the film tries in earnest to be sincere, it ultimately is left to wade in the shallows of its own mediocrity.”*

Black's screenplay unfolds in a non-linear fashion, jumping back and forth through time that results in more confusion than closure

and concerns itself more with Hoover's love life than his actual achievements.

Director Clint Eastwood, who is famous for his quick takes, should have perhaps been more patient with this film as the acting, minus DiCaprio and Dench, is as stiff as the dialogue.

The roles of Robert Kennedy — who comes off sounding more like Mayor Quimby from *The Simpsons* than a Kennedy and Richard Nixon come across more as bad impressions as the actors seem to have been plucked from a state fair contest.

Though the film tries in earnest to be sincere, it ultimately is left to wade in the shallows of its own mediocrity. A poor film that should have been a lot better.

### UPCOMING MOVIES



November 18

#### *Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 1*

Directed by Bill Condon

Stars Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson

In the first part of the two-part conclusion to the series, Bella and Edward get married, which sets off a chain of consequences they must deal with. From their nuptials, to the honeymoon, to the birth of their first-born child, Bella, Edward, and Jacob are shocked with how their lives unfold. Running time: 117 minutes



November 18

#### *Happy Feet 2*

Directed by George Miller

Stars Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Elijah Wood

The tap-dancing penguins have a problem. Erik, son of Mumble the Master of Tap, is afraid to dance. As Erik runs away to find himself, he encounters friends and enemies that threaten to shake the icy wonderland they happily live in. Erik learns the courage of his father while trying to save the world and make things right again. Running time: 127 minutes



# Optimistic television an alien concept

For a little optimism on TV, we have to look overseas

**CLINTON HALLAHAN**  
CUP Arts Bureau Chief

VANCOUVER (CUP) — On a continent where some of the most popular shows are about a dying drug dealer forced by desperation into life of crime, or the worst people in the world running the worst bar in the world, or a competition to be alone and rich on an island somewhere, it's understandable that we're a bit cynical. Indeed, it's no wonder that in the land of *Breaking Bad*, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, and *Survivor* that a ferociously optimistic television show about an alien adventurer can't break very far into the mainstream. Of course, I'm talking about *Doctor Who*.

*Doctor Who* is a BBC series that has been running since 1963 about an alien with a time machine, wandering and running around in search of a good time. That is, until danger rears its head and The Doctor has to leap into action with his human companions and giant brain to avert disaster. It's a kind of Golden Age comic book premise that's just too sickly sweet for a North American television audience weaned into modernity on homicide procedurals and sadness. It's that aversion to even the hint of optimism in the genetics of a show that is depriving audiences here of some of the best on-screen storytelling in a generation.

The Doctor flies around time and space (all of it) in the TARDIS, a time machine that can camouflage itself to hide in plain sight and just happens to be stuck in the form of a police phone box used by the London Metropolitan Police. He is of a species known as Time Lords from the planet Gallifrey, and is about 905 years old. In that time even he has gotten a bit cynical, and has started to take the wonders of the universe for granted.

So he travels with companions, letting the lens of their



The Doctor, played by Matt Smith, stands in front of his time machine.

BBC

awe keep his life of relative solitude exciting. Galleries of villains roll in and out of the lives of The Doctor and his companions, but their overall philosophy remains the same: "The universe is awesome and time is awesome, let's go see all of it." And when they come across someone who needs a helping hand? "We have to help."

The problem has a loose American analog in the rapid degeneration in relevance of the Superman mythology. Moral infallibility and nigh invulnerability are in low demand in the Age of the Anti-Hero, but those characteristics in both The Doctor and Superman are the source of their most interesting trait: their god complex. Showtime and HBO have given us a steady diet of overt crisis, so it's understandable when such subtexts seem out of reach.

The Doctor and Superman are both immigrants obsessed with their adopted home world of Earth. Whereas Superman is a sworn protector in title, The Doctor is just a little more dedicated to the protection of Earth than any other planet because of his fascination and, ultimately, envy of the human species.

*"The universe is awesome and time is awesome, let's go see all of it."*

They persevere, survive, and thrive right to the end of the universe and the onset of entropy in the Who universe, and their development and startling goodness as a species is a never-ending source

of amusement for someone who has seen it all. The Doctor brings a human to be by his side so he doesn't get off track, so mortality remains a constant factor and so his ability to violate the interstellar Hippocratic oath he lives by stays in perspective. He desires humanity, and the easiest way to shuck the burden of his abilities is to party with them. Humans are the favorite cause of a being with access to everything.

But even with the refreshing optimism that makes Who a total joy to watch, the newest incarnation of Doctor Who never forgets the sadism that goes along with great drama. Showrunners Russell T. Davies and Steven Moffat make sure that, just like with Superman, the darkness is there, bubbling just under the surface. The Doctor faces the moral dilemmas of omnipotence

regularly: if I'm the last one standing, that means I'm the victor and can do whatever I want? I feel a need for these companions, but am I ruining their lives by dragging them into danger? Who am I to decide what is right and what is wrong? Do the means justify the ends when all of time is available to me to see what the consequences are? The personal psychology of an impossibly old and wise man losing his way makes the current Who years a fascinating character study.

The source of that directionless wandering, that constant search for a moral compass — it is the core of what makes The Doctor who he is, and what might make the show palatable to North America after all. When the adventures are done, The Doctor will always be alone, an immortal madman in a stolen blue box meant for a crew.



# The young hacker who schooled Plenty of Fish

**ALICIA WOODSIDE**

University of British Columbia

VANCOUVER (CUP) — As a young hacker with a track record of cracking some of the most well-known websites on the Internet, every day brings Chris Russo something new and unexpected.

Within the first month of 2011, Russo found himself wrapped up in the centre of a major publicity storm that pitted him against the founder of the world's largest free dating website, Plenty of Fish. In the media, Chris was villainized, described as a threat to security who had exposed Plenty of Fish's 30,000,000 members.

But, it wasn't the first time he has stirred controversy with a major website. Just six months earlier, in July 2010, Russo hacked Pirate Bay, making a name for himself with his reported ability to access four million accounts' worth of user data.

At his home in Buenos Aires, during a Skype interview, Russo paints a picture of the 23 years that led up to his worldwide notoriety. While his youthfulness is frequently mentioned in the media, reports rarely note that Russo already has over a decade of experience. Russo got his own computer when he was only eight and began to teach himself programming by reading forums.

"I [found] I could communicate with computers better than I could with humans," he said. But his first introduction to the world of hacking came through romance.

"I had a discussion with

the girl I was dating, so I got interested in hacking her email account. I guess that was the way I started with security-related topics," Russo said. After that, he founded and ran several different underground communities before heading off to university, where he studied to become a software engineer at Argentina's Universidad Argentina de la Empresa.

But like Bill Gates or Mark Zuckerberg, a university degree wasn't in the cards.

"I was wasting my time ... so I just didn't go back [to university] one day," said Russo.

The years of self-teaching were a big factor. "I already had the technical knowledge in programming that was interesting for me in the career, so I decided to quit and focus directly on my own business."

This led him to create Insilence, an Internet-penetration testing business, which has grown to employ five researchers.

Today, the word "hacker" has a negative connotation, one that evokes viruses, information theft and fear. Russo is often portrayed as a villain in the media. For example, a Feb. 11 article in the *Financial Post* said, "Chris Russo must have had some bad online dating experiences. Less than two weeks after the self-described 'security researcher' based in Argentina accessed the Vancouver-based online dating website Plenty of Fish, it now appears he has set his sights on eHarmony, a similar web-based romance provider."

However, Russo explained that he has come under fire because of a stereotype fab-



*I'd hack that, if you know what I mean.*

*The Ubyyssey*

ricated by Hollywood dramas in the 1990s. He insisted that, unlike the movies, there

*"I [found] I could communicate with computers better than I could with humans."*

- Controversial hacker Chris Russo

are distinct types of hackers.

"A hacker is basically a person with advanced technical knowledge. This doesn't mean that everyone who's into hacking is a criminal," he explained. "You, as a hacker, can provide services to companies seeking ... security solutions, release public advisories, cre-

ate tools in order to expose a certain vulnerability — or sell services to underground communities, develop malware or viruses, sell stolen information or even steal money from others.

"This isn't something related to the profession itself, but the ethics and education of the person. It's mostly like the difference between a policeman and a thief. The fact that you have skills aiming a gun or analyzing weak points in a structure doesn't mean that you'll necessarily use such skills to cause harm."

So where does Russo stand — is he a cop or a robber?

While the Pirate Bay hack stirred allegations that Chris profited from selling information about users' downloads on the site, he publicly denied

selling the information.

"The Pirate Bay hack was closely linked to a government, that's all I can say."

In the case of Plenty of Fish, Russo's actions take a wildly different plot line, depending on the source of the information.

When asked about the incident in person one month later, he said, "I didn't hack into Plenty of Fish. What we did was reporting a security vulnerability to its owner, just like we regularly do when we find something vulnerable on the web ... many people [think] that hackers like us break into the security of the site, but the reality is that we never broke into it, we just informed about the potential risk of a website running like that."

"If you were a firefighter,

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## Executive Weigh-In



### A message from BCITSA VP Campus Life Matthew Notelli

Hey! Matt here, how's it going? Mid-term marks back? I know, me too. Brush it off, you'll be okay. Finals are around the corner, so pull up your socks!

If I've learned anything over my three years at BCIT, it's that you're never too busy to get more involved. You might think I'm crazy, but hear me out.

My first day at BCIT, a wise instructor told me to play as hard as you work. If you look around, you'll see that BCIT and the Student Association have lots of opportunities to offer you. Whether it is intramural sports, clubs, scholarship opportunities, or events at the pub, we always try and make your life around campus easier. I urge you to do something extracurricular, and be a leader while doing it.

I would like to switch gears and address the amount of theft we have been having on campus. Since September, multiple cases of bikes, cell phones, and laptop computers have been reported stolen.

BCIT and the Student Association are actively pursuing ways of reducing this issue, but I would also like to remind everyone that we are all students, and we are all as poor as the guy next to us, so let's keep an eye out for each other's stuff. As a BCIT community we can help crack down on these thugs. Please report anything suspicious to campus safety and security.

Well, that's all folks. Remember, success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it, so do the most with your time spent here at BCIT, and we'll see you on the other side!

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# Dear Di

with Di Daniels (University of Ottawa)

Dear Di,  
I'm in my early 20s and still a virgin. I've had the opportunity to have sex, but it didn't feel right. I'm still holding out for when I feel ready, but the older I get, the more left out I feel. I'm starting to feel like a huge loser. Am I weird for waiting?

— Waiting and Waiting

Dear WW,  
In a word: No!

You are not “weird” for waiting to lose your virginity. You are not bizarre, strange, or a loser. I know it seems like every single student on campus spends all of his or her spare time sucking and sexing every consenting adult in sight and, admittedly, some do; however, there are tons of 20-somethings wandering around with their V-cards tucked firmly away in their back pockets. I know this because they're all sending me countless emails exactly like the one I received from you.

The decision to keep your

genitals closed to the public until further notice is nothing to be ashamed of. There is no such thing as a “right” or “wrong” time to hop on a penis, penetrate a vagina, or explore an anus. It's your body, decision, and business, and not that of anyone else.

Turning down the past opportunities you've had to pop your cherry or insert your sausage tells me you know yourself well and can trust your own instincts. These are hard-to-come-by qualities you should be proud of—I have some friends who can barely dress themselves without consulting others!

In all honesty, I'm a little jealous of you. Instead of losing your virginity to a clueless, fumbling teenager in the back of your mom's car, you have the opportunity to do it with someone who truly gets your below-the-belt juices gushing. Just imagine how hot it will be when you fi-

nally roll around in the sack with the right person.

Keep your head held high, have sex when you're ready, and in the meantime: Masturbate.

Love,  
Di

• • •

Dear Di,  
I have a problem: I'm sleeping with two guys right now, which is great, except for the fact that they both have tiny penises! Nothing turns me off more than when a guy's pants fall to the floor and I find a little baby carrot staring me in the face rather than a giant cucumber. How can I tell if a guy has a big cock before I get him into the bedroom?

— Need Bigger Meat

Dear NBM,

Short of pretending to faint and “accidentally” grabbing his penis to break your fall—which I strongly advise against—there's little you can do to accurately

determine the size of a man's meat prior to unzipping his pants. Contrary to popular belief, there is no correlation between the size of a hottie's hands, feet, and dick, so don't bother sneakily stealing a peek at his shoes or winter gloves.

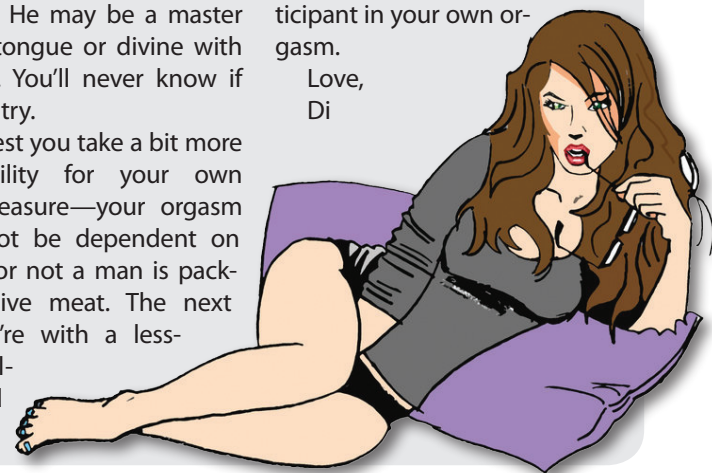
I think what you need to do is adjust your attitude—sometimes good things come in small packages. Admittedly, pulling off a partner's pants for the penis premiere and finding a “little baby carrot” can be somewhat disheartening, but give the guy a chance. He may be a master with his tongue or divine with his digits. You'll never know if you don't try.

I suggest you take a bit more responsibility for your own sexual pleasure—your orgasm should not be dependent on whether or not a man is packing massive meat. The next time you're with a less-than-well-endowed

lad, hop on top, lean forward, and grind your clitoris into his pelvic bone. Doing it doggy-style will also work wonders—keep your ass in the air and your face and chest on the mattress for optimal results.

The moral of the story is this: A super-sized sausage does not necessarily equal good sex. A partner's ability to make you see stars in the sack is dependent on much more than the girth of their genitals. Stay positive, let your sex buddy surprise you, and above all, be an active participant in your own orgasm.

Love,  
Di



Lame Dad - Ulysses X. Edgarton



Ski Ninjas - Kyle Lees (Lakehead University)



## THE LINK IS SEEKING COMICS!

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