

**THE**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

**INSIDE ...**

**LINK**

ARCHIVES



# SEXUALITY ISSUE



THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



## One stop shopping in new security office

By Anna Goater

Underneath the walkway, by the SW1 TnT, a new building stands. The office grew quietly and quickly like a mushroom, in just over two months. The ribbon cutting ceremony took place on January 25, in the presence of the Board of Governors and Wynne Powell (the Chairman). The new building houses the Director, Safety Officer, Security Officer, Industrial Hygienist, WHMIS Coordinator, Commissionaires, Secretary, and the Student Patrol Coordinator. The Security office also issues keys for BCIT and will eventually be the home of the Lost and Found.

Why a new building? Ed Baye, the Security Officer, says

the office is meant to be "up front, and out front," to promote awareness and use. The building is centrally located, with higher visibility. It's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. One commissionaire will be on duty at all times.

The location makes it an ideal meeting area. The security building is close to the main BCIT entrance on Willingdon, so it's convenient to wait inside if someone is coming to pick you up. Also, knowing that a building is open at all times with a commissionaire on guard allows one to feel more confident walking across the campus at night. The new building will promote safety and security awareness at BCIT.



President John Watson opening the new security office.

M GODOWSKI PHOTO

## LINK CLASSIFIEDS

LINK CLASSIFIEDS... are \$5 for a 3 line ad and \$1 for each line after—except employment listings for which the first 3 lines are FREE. To place a classified ad contact *The Link* at 432-8935.

### LOST

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## CAMPUS EVENTS

Campus Events is a calendar column open for the advertisement of events and functions on all of BCIT's campuses. Submissions should be dropped off at *The Link* offices or sent through campus mail. Deadline for the next paper, published February 23th, is Thurs. February 17th.

### Wednesday, February 16

**Stress Management Strategies.** Topics of discussion will include: what is stress?, identifying common stress for students, recognizing physical, behavioral and emotional cues of stress, strategies for coping with stress in your life. 12:30 - 2pm SW1 Rm 2595. Pre-register at Student Services (SW1 Rm 2300) or drop in on the day. For more info call Heather Hyde 432-8432.

### Monday, February 21

**Gays and Lesbians at BCIT's 2nd Annual Valentine's Tea.** Celebrate LOVE, whatever that means to you. There is no orientation test. The WHOLE CAMPUS IS WELCOME. Last year's was our best event, with the Pres., John Watson, in attendance. Treats and tea and coffee. Be brave enough to come and mingle! 12:30 - 1:20pm. SE12 rm. 204

**GALA BCIT general meeting.** What do you want from this group?! Come out in numbers that reflect our presence on campus. 12:30 - 1:20pm. For meeting

location call Mark (432-8964) or Gordon (434-5734, local 5301).

### Tuesday, February 22

**Movies: "Before Stonewall" and "Forbidden Love".** Gays and Lesbians at BCIT. A couple of Lesbian/Gay history classics. 4:30 - 6:30pm, SAC boardroom.

### Friday, February 25

**Pub night at the Royal (1025 Granville).** 8:00 pm If you haven't experienced the Royal, now is your chance. This is THE downtown, after-work, watering hole. Crowds of people, a fun band and sardine dance floor, lots of dykes and everybody else. Look for the table with the discrete BCIT banner. If you want to carpool or need a chaperone call Mark (432-8964) or Gordon (434-5734, 5301).

### Monday, February 28

**94 Solutions: Student Design Competition in Assistive Devices Application Deadline.** Looking for creative solutions to problems facing persons with disabilities as a marketable product. Cash prizes

and awards will be made after judging of all projects at an exposition at Science World. Projects must be completed by June 30, 1994. For more info call Judy Findlay at the Technology Centre 432-8952.

**Intro to Assertiveness.** Topics of discussion will include: what is assertiveness?, benefits of being assertive, recognizing aggressive/passive behaviour(s), identifying some areas for personal assertiveness development. 3:30 - 5pm SW1 Rm 2595. Pre-register at Student Services (SW1 Rm 2300) or drop in on the day. For more info call Heather Hyde 432-8432.

### Thursday, March 3

**Take a Deep Breath Health Fair.** Check out your lungs with spirometers and smoke analyzers. Get the latest info on: allergy identification, control and treatment; and lung hazards and treatments; BCIT's work to eliminate and control asbestos on campus; respiratory safety products to try and information; and how to quit smoking. 9am - noon. JW Inglis Cafeteria.



If you'd like a booklet about Jack Daniel's Whiskey, write us here in Lynchburg, Tennessee 37352, U.S.A.

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Mon, Thurs & Fri 1

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Mon 12:40 to 1:10

#### Afternoon:

Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs

4:40 to 5:25

#### Step Classes:

Mornings: Wednesdays

Noonhrs: Mon 12:40 Fri 11:40

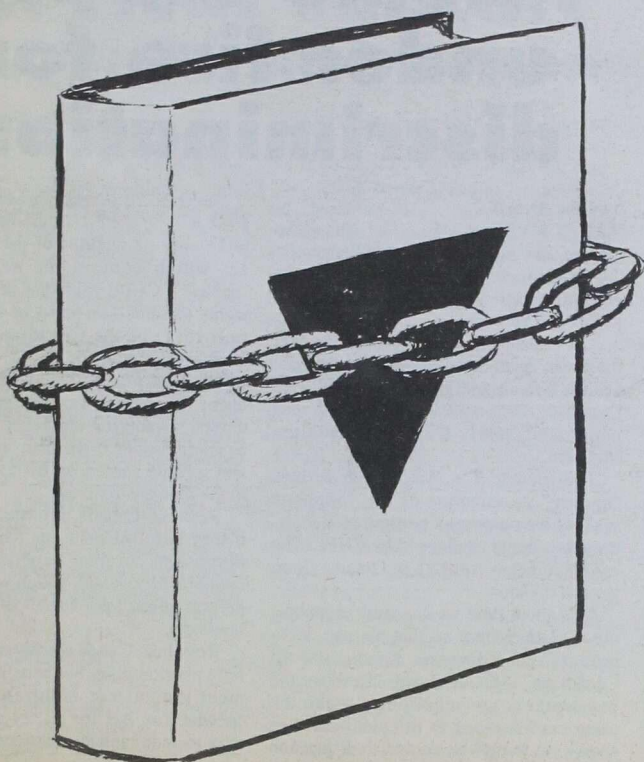
Afternoons: Tues & Thurs

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## Gay bookstore still fighting censorship and discrimination

by Niva Chow

Vancouver(CUP) — Like something out of Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, censorship and the destruction of books are occurring under the supervision of the federal government.

Little Sister's Book and Art Emporium has had problems with Canada Customs since 1985. Little Sister's manager Janine Fuller feels that delays and seizures of their shipments, and the opening of some of their mail, have occurred because the store has been "identified as being targeted for inspection because we are a gay and lesbian bookstore."

"Other bookstores that aren't labeled gay or lesbian are not encountering problems with the same books," Fuller said, referring to books like Penguin's *Heretica*, a collection of women's erotic fiction sold at

other mainland bookstores.

Books are commonly held at the border where they are inspected and reviewed by senior officials of Canada Customs. According to Fuller, she was told by a Customs official that Little Sister's receives "special treatment."

"The way that the Customs tariff act is set up, the system is such that we have to appeal each individual seizure with court dates for each magazine that is seized", Fuller said.

The result is increased economic problems for small businesses which cannot survive lengthy legal disputes.

"There is also a social stigma against exposure. We felt the real issues weren't being covered," she said.

Fuller stated that the focus on gay and lesbian bookstores is due to discrimination and homopho-

bia.

The recent seizure of mail sent to Little Sister's from Penguin Books in Ontario last December has increased the interest in Little Sister's story.

"Who regulates the borders of what we read?" questioned Fuller. Canada Customs claimed the opening of the shipment was "an accident."

Little Sister's is fighting back. They took Customs to court on several occasions, and were postponed each time for several months. According to Fuller, the scope and cost of the court case escalated substantially each time the case was delayed.

"At first the case would have been \$5000-\$10 000, with one week in court," she said. "Now it would cost at least \$200 000 with two months in court."

## About this issue

As you read through *The Link's* Sexuality Issue you are going to find a great deal of the content is devoted to gays, lesbians and bisexuals while very little addresses or discusses heterosexuals. This has been done for a reason.

BCIT can be a rough environment on anyone socially, but more so on gays, lesbians and bisexuals. For gays, lesbians and bisexuals BCIT's campus life is most often about being silenced, excluded, and confronted with messages of hate—subtly expressed in casual conversation or on the wash-room walls. It is a place quickly left. Only in rare cases is someone willing to put themselves on the line to confront this.

So let's face it, BCIT is as straight as a hot rod-der's dream—as far as the eye can see. A feat of engineering that has blasted away evidence of natural contours that would create bends.

Much of this issue has been dedicated to giving voice to these contours that are being blasted each day on this campus. (With 16,000 students, staff and faculty passing through these halls there is going to be a substantial minority of people—approximately 1,600—who will be homosexual.) They deserve a voice on this campus, as do all of us.

BCIT, however, excels at creating futures and is quick to adapt to change. This is a reason for hope.

And there is evidence of change. It is BCIT that has created Gays and Lesbians at BCIT (GALA), a discrimination and harassment policy that covers sexual orientation and the voices in this issue of *The Link*.

*The Link* is The Student Newspaper of the British Columbia Institute of Technology. Published bi-weekly by the BCIT Student Association, *The Link* circulates 5,000 copies to over 16,000 students and staff.

### Contributors

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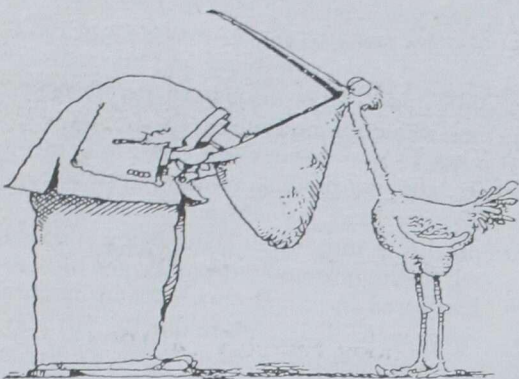
As an member of Canadian University Press (CUP), *The Link* adheres to CUP's Statement of Principles and affirms that the student press in Canada has a unique role in society as a voice for social justice. To this end, *The Link* will not publish material deemed by the editors or steering committee to be sexist, racist, homophobic, or in poor taste.

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



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## MAQUINNA RESIDENCE IS LOOKING FOR RESIDENCE ADVISORS FOR SEPT. '94 - MAY '95

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#### *So What is a Residence Advisor Anyway?*

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BCIT full time students, staff, faculty and alumni are eligible for R.A. positions. Applications are invited from singles and couples. However, because of lack of facilities, applicants with children cannot be considered.

These positions offer an excellent opportunity for personal growth, if you are interested, please pick up an information package form the Housing Office, located in the Maquinna Residence (SW11), or call 432-8606.

**Application deadline is Friday, February 25, 1994 at 4:30 p.m.**



# Income Tax Act under fire for discrimination

by Taivo Evard

VANCOUVER (CUP) — The Canadian Income Tax Act is set to be challenged by the largest trade union in the nation on the grounds that it violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"As it stands now, the Income Tax Act forces us, or any employer to discriminate against lesbian and gay employees," said Canadian Union of Public Employees national secretary-treasurer Geraldine McGuire.

The Income Tax Act, which defines "spouse" as someone of the "opposite sex" for the purpose of pension plan registration, is being challenged by CUPE. The case is to begin April 26 in Ontario Court general division.

"It's about time we changed an archaic out-of-date system so that we can accommodate the diverse needs of all Canadians," McGuire said. "Lesbian and gay workers are required to make the same contributions to the plan and they should no longer be denied their pension rights."

Section 52 of the Constitution Act 1982 will be used to challenge the constitutionality of sections of the income tax act which contain the definition of "spouse." CUPE says that denying equal rights to same-sex partners violates section 15(1) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

CUPE's pension plan is registered under the Income Tax Act, providing tax deferral advantages—employer and employee contributions to the plan are deductible and income earned on investments made in the plan are tax free.

Revenue Canada informed CUPE that if they included same-sex partners for the purpose of survivor benefits, their plan could be deregistered, which would end tax deferral advantages for all of its 408,000 members.

Revenue Canada now says that not only pension plans but benefit plans do not meet the current requirements of the Income Tax Act for all tax advantages if they include same-sex partners.

## Student suspended over art exhibit

OTTAWA (CUP) — A University of Saskatchewan graduate student may be expelled because of the content of an art exhibit he displayed in a student gallery.

Christopher Lefler has been suspended from attending classes since November 26. On February 6 the university's discipline board met to consider a recommendation from university vice-president Patrick Browne that Lefler be expelled. The board made no decision that meeting and has indicated it will discuss the case further.

Lefler's art exhibit included a university binder containing two letters which reveal that a prominent Saskatchewan government official is a lesbian.

The exhibit was intended to reveal the government official's hypocrisy by "outing" her, Lefler said in an interview. "Her government has done so many things to harm the lesbian and gay communities," he explained. "She was killing us with her silence."

Shortly after the exhibit opened on Nov. 22, university officials entered the gallery and removed the binder. Lefler later attempted to replace the letters on at least one occasion.

A series of written exchanges and meetings with university officials ensued, and Lefler was repeatedly ordered to refrain from any further action.

"Not only is material of this nature offensive," wrote Vice President Browne, who has not returned calls from the media, "it does not constitute art in any

sense of the word, and is not suitable for exhibition."

Since his suspension, Lefler has had his scholarship revoked and has lost his thesis advisor. He is also forbidden from entering the campus.

In a memo obtained by the student press, Browne recommends that Lefler be expelled on three grounds — because the university could be sued by a "third party" for the exhibit, because the letters are "a serious invasion of privacy into the private life of an individual," and because Lefler ignored Browne's instructions not to alter the exhibit after the letters had been seized.

"The situation has been handled abominably," said gallery curator Elizabeth McKenzie. "The administration has reacted so virulently against Christopher. He obviously represents some kind of real threat to them."

Lefler's exhibit, which was confiscated by university officials, was not returned until he reported to the police that it had been stolen.

University officials have refused to speak to the media about the matter.

Lefler, who said he is now on welfare, feels the university's actions are an example of "how the heterosexual university environment acts to repress homosexual voices." He claimed that the university is worried about "the embarrassment and humiliation [of the government official] because of funding for the future. They're worried about economics."



# Cervical cancer: sex, health and women

by Anna Goater

Okay women, I know it's pretty unappetizing, the thought of getting a pap smear done, but it is the simplest and fastest way of testing for precancerous and cancerous cells. Note the word precancerous. The Pap smear is a preventative measure that detects abnormal cells at a stage when the threat of cancer can be easily removed.

The cervix is the neck of the uterus, which is a small, pear-shaped organ located in a woman's pelvis. A doctor, in a matter of minutes, gently removes cells from the cervix and places them on a glass slide which is sent to a laboratory. These cells are then examined under a microscope. In most cases, the cells are normal. However, in six out of every thousand, the cell don't look normal. When this occurs, the test is repeated and, if necessary, further examinations are made.

## Statistics

The Canadian Cancer Society introduced the wide spread use of the Pap smear in the 1950's. In 1993, in BC, 140 new cases of cervical cancer and six mortalities per 100,000 women were reported. In the late 60's the mortality rate was closer to 20 per 100,000 women. Across Canada, the total number of new cases in 1993 is 1,300.

## Who's at Risk

A high incidence of cervical cancer occurs in:

- lower socioeconomic groups
- smokers
- blacks
- Hispanics
- women who had many sexual partners and who have become sexually active before 17.

The occurrence of cervical cancer has also been linked to the presence of viral infections. Herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV2) has been shown to be carcinogenic in animals. Women with cervical cancer usually have a high incidence of antibodies to HSV2, which means that these women have probably been exposed to HSV2 at some time during their life. The human papillomavirus (genital warts), is sexually transmitted, and some strains have been associated with the development of cervical cancer.

Also, the history of a woman's sex partner can increase the risk of developing cervical cancer. Women married to men whose previous spouses have had

cervical cancer seem to be at a higher risk of developing cervical cancer, but it has not been determined why that is the case. The male partner's age at having first sex, smoking habits, number of sexual partners and if he has visited prostitutes also may affect relative risk. Wives of men with cancer of the penis are at increased risk in the development of cervical cancer.

## Treatment

First, the important thing is to determine the extent of the disease before the course of treatment is decided. The Pap smear, colposcopy, and cone-biopsy determines the extent and severity of abnormal cells. Colposcopy is a type of microscope used to examine the tissues of the cervix and vagina. A cone-biopsy is when a cone-shaped piece of the cervix is removed for study.

For less invasive types of cervical cancer, "cryotherapy" is used, a procedure that freeze-burns away the lesion. Laser surgery is another alternative, where a precise beam of focused light vaporizes pre-cancerous cells on the cervix or vagina. The laser is mounted on the colposcope, and the laser beam is directed under it's control. Less disease free tissue is removed with the lesion and healing occurs in about two weeks. The disadvantages of laser therapy is that it may be more painful than cryotherapy and may cause thermal damage to tissue making it more susceptible to invasive cancer.

For more invasive forms of cervical cancer, two methods of treatment can be used—conization or complete removal of the uterus. Conization may be employed in the same way as a cone-biopsy: for diagnosis and to determine the extent of the lesion. Conization can also be used to entirely remove the lesion. Conization is slightly better at preventing recurrence of cervical cancer at the same site than laser therapy (95 percent vs. 90 percent success rate), but it also increases the risk of infertility. Removal of the uterus is a very severe form of treatment, but ensures that cervical cancer can't spread to other organs.

## How to protect yourself

1. Don't smoke.
2. Have regular Pap tests.
3. Use barrier-type contraception.
4. Eat recommended daily allowances of vitamin A, beta carotene, & Vitamin C.
5. Limiting the number of sexual partners.
6. Start sexual activity at a later age.

Forster's



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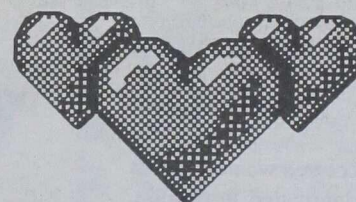
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## Being out at BCIT: It just depends ...

"Ever tried walking down the hall holding hands? Try it with someone of the same sex one day and see people's reactions."

"I'm out to everyone on campus. What amazes me is that it doesn't seem to make any difference—positively or negatively. But I'm glad to report that there have been no adverse comments or feedback."

Mark Eric Miller

"It's frightening being gay and in the closet. But it's more frightening seeking acceptance from peers. I found GALA offers a little light to this darkness. It has the potential to be "sunny" with more support from people who feel like I do."

"Mostly positive. Examples? It was a colleague (straight) who introduced me to Mark Miller; the meeting was the springboard for starting GALA BCIT. Students of mine that are aware seem reasonably positive, have asked appropriate gay-issue questions, seem to regard my orientation as just another piece of information about me. Not so positive? Well, a few men with whom I had had chatty, affable relations chilled out noticeably, at least temporarily, when they discovered I was gay. The general climate here is "chilly". Few men I encounter here that I presume are gay (that old "cruise alert" is always on) will be comfortable enough to say Hi or chat."

Gordon Handford

"BCIT has finally accepted women into its traditionally male dominated institution. Congratulations! But it fails drastically in welcoming gays. So being a dyke here has not been the most wonderful experience. Hey, I paid my \$987 to come here, I think I should be able to have some fun and not feel like I have to hide!"

"Being gay at BCIT is like driving a convertible in the rain: you might try to freely enjoy yourself, but in a climate such as this, you're going to get pissed on. Obviously, it's time for a change."

These are comments made by some of the people in attendance at the last meeting of GALA-BCIT in response to the question "What's it like for you being gay or lesbian at BCIT?"

# Come out, Wherever



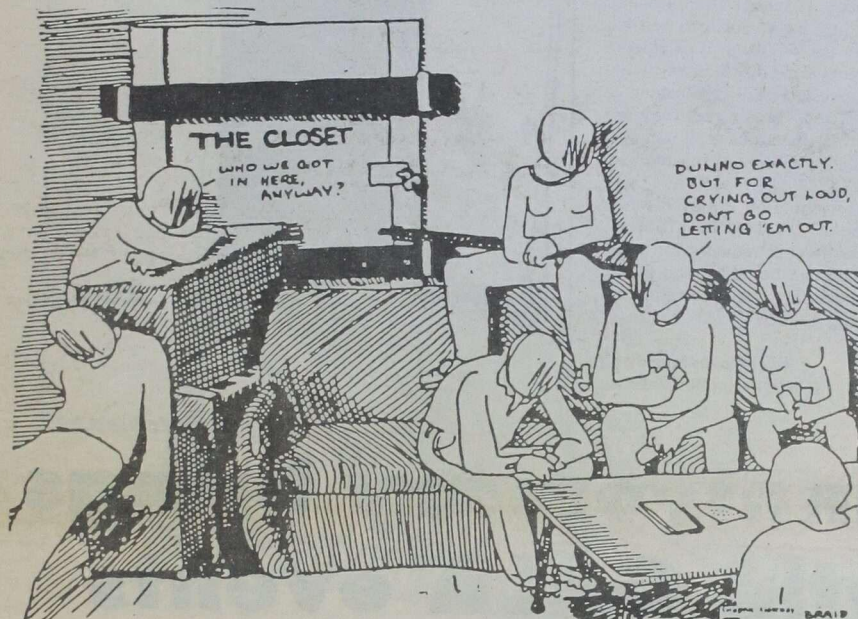
By Gord Handford

"Come out, come out, wherever you are...". This call put a satisfying end to the kid's game of hide and seek. It acknowledged that you, the hider, had consummate skill at seclusion and subterfuge: you had stumped the seeker. It was a badge of recognition: we couldn't find you, we want to get on with the game, we want you in the game. Your prize was to assume the power and threat implicit in the job of "it", the seeker. But this playing at seeking and being sought, at loss and resurrection, undergoes a twist for a lot of kids as they move into adolescence. They now hide out of fear, perhaps out of loathing, and they don't anticipate the relieved delight that fills and greets the "outing" of the successful "hiders" of childhood. These young people already know that they're different - queer maybe—that at some level they are the target of the jokes or taunts of their peers. The pervasive sense among adolescents that they are transparent - an open book for the world to read - tends to persist for these kids. A few embrace this aspect of themselves, hook up with those who are a little when it comes to buckling social expectations, and get on with their lives. Most back away at least temporarily and put that part of themselves into the closet.

And then they come to BCIT. We pride ourselves on being a no-nonsense sort of institution. People come here to get jobs. We're not into questioning the system but learning about it and how to get ahead in it. This tacit acceptance of what "is" can carry a lot of baggage, one piece of which is the perception that as well as being "straight ahead", B.C.I.T. is plain "straight". I've heard campus mates say "Why do a lesbian/gay/bisexual supplement? There are no gays at B.C.I.T.!" And I think this misconception is particularly strong on the North Campus or maybe just more noticeable because the trades tend to train in an environment that is much like the current workplace. But B.C.I.T. isn't "straight" any more than any other broad sample of humanity. For those who identify themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual it's just a little more closeted.



# Come out! you are...



## SEXUALITY IS A PRIVATE AFFAIR!

Heterosexuals don't flaunt it, don't have "Het Pride" marches, so why do gays? Two points. First, hets do flaunt it: they walk around brazenly holding hands, they sit on knees, they even kiss! Pretty minor stuff, but all risky behavior for gay people. Second, the claiming of a homosexual identity is no different than the claiming of a heterosexual one. It requires the rituals of courtship, the support of one's peers, ceremonies for the broader community. So "coming out" deserves special space and respect. B.C.I.T. is the only campus in the lower mainland that doesn't have a student organization to support its lesbians and gays. A case can be made that it is more important for gay people to be out at B.C.I.T. than elsewhere because we train more managers. Attitudes that get established or at least supported here can have an incredibly broad ripple effect. What better place to address one of the most pervasive and hurtful forms of sexual harassment and what easier way to deal with it: simply recog-

nize and accept this aspect of our culturally varied community. But a student can/will go through his whole exposure to our programs without ever having a heterosexist perspective questioned. "There are no gays or lesbians at B.C.I.T.!"

## CUTE TO BE QUEER?

Freddy Mercury, David Bowie, Elton John, Mick Jagger, all have cultivated sexual ambiguity to add depth and danger to their persona. For us mere mortals, homosexuality makes life a more challenging experience than it might otherwise be. This can create the sensitized perspective of the perennial outsider and be a springboard to creative energies. It can also generate the stress and anguish that expresses itself in the reported 2 to 6-fold increase in teenage suicide amongst gay youth. Woody Allen's crack to the contrary, being bisexual doesn't double your chances of a date on Saturday night. At best, we're just people. At worst, being homosexual is a life-threatening status: talk to the three young men who got bashed (that included a knifing) last Friday

night as they went for coffee on Davie. No other minority group in Vancouver is subject to this level of overt and violent attack.

## GLAD TO BE GAY?

Self-knowledge and self-acceptance are recognized in religion and philosophy as a joint wellspring of peace and energy. "Coming out" is the first experience of working from the center of their needs and understanding for many gay people. It can release energies that were tangled in deception of self and others. This self-affirmation allows the individual to get on with the important work of living which includes forming nurturing relationships, having fun and working hard. And despite the monstrous AIDS plague that in Canada is still a "gay disease", coming out can be rich, empowering, and exciting. And being homosexual is probably more acceptable now than it has been in modern history. It's well past time that the B.C.I.T. community recognized and embraced this aspect of its heterogeneous community.

## Attitudes towards difference

- what level are you now?
- at what level would you like to be?
- at what level is your daily environment?

POSITIVE

### Nurturance

Gay men and lesbians are indispensable in our society. Views them with genuine affection and delight. Acts as an advocate for gay men and lesbians.

### Appreciation

Diversity in people is a good thing and gay men and lesbians are part of that diversity. Willing to confront homophobia in oneself and others.

### Admiration

Being gay or lesbian in this society takes strength. Open to examining one's own homophobic attitudes.

### Support

Gay men and lesbians deserve legal and civil rights. Regardless of one's own comfort with homosexuality, people should treat others fairly.

### Acceptance

Heterosexuals need to make accommodations for gay and lesbian sexual identity. Here another's identity isn't given the same value as one's own. ie: "I don't even think of you as gay; you're just a person."

### Tolerance

Homosexuality is just a phase of development that many people go through and that most people "grow out of." Thus, gays and lesbians must be protected and tolerated like children.

### Pity

Gay men and lesbians are somehow born that way and should be pitied. The goal is to help these poor individuals be as "normal" as possible.

### Repulsion

Gay men and lesbians are sick, crazy, immoral; and sinful which justifies changing or eliminating them.

NEGATIVE



## HOW TO COMBAT HOMOPHOBIA

**Don't assume everyone is heterosexual**

Research indicates that approximately ten percent of the population is lesbian or gay.

**Avoid anti-gay jokes and conversation**

This perpetuates the discrimination and serves to further isolate those who are still coming to terms with their orientation.

**Create an atmosphere of acceptance**

Openly inviting positive discussion of alternate lifestyles.

**Confront homophobic remarks and statements**

When others use words like "queer, fag, dyke" in a derogatory way, challenge this by confronting that person's attitude towards gender orientation.

**Be a role model**

Show through your words and your actions that lesbians, gays and bisexuals are human beings first—by including them in your activities and by showing them you accept them and their orientation.

**Acquaint yourself with the lesbian, gay and bisexual community**

Become aware of issues relating to lesbian and gay rights, the problems faced when "coming out of the closet" and the difficulties of "being-out" on campus. Become familiar with at least some of the positive aspects of being lesbian, gay or bisexual.

**Feel good about yourself**

Research has shown that people who have a solid self-esteem and a positive identity are less likely to promote or believe prejudices and far more likely to let go of stereotypes once they are confronted with contrary evidence.

# Sexual orientation discrimination prohibited by law in BC

In the summer of 1992, the provincial government acted on a promise it had made during its election campaign. Bill 63, amending the BC Human Rights Act to include sexual orientation as a prohibited grounds for discrimination was passed into law. BC is now one of a number of provinces that includes this provision in their Act. For gays and lesbians this means that an employer can be held liable if he or she refuses to employ or continue to employ someone because they are gay or lesbian. It also means that the employer can also be held liable if discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation has an impact on any term or condition of employment.

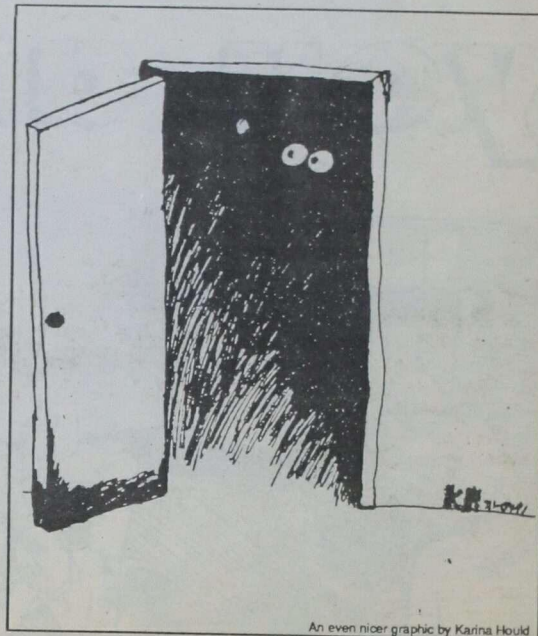
Landlords can no longer deny gays and lesbians the right to occupy a space open to normal tenancy, nor can public facilities who customarily provide service

to the public, discriminate against gays or lesbians in the provision of that service unless there are justifiable reasons for doing so.

If individuals feel that they have been discriminated against in employment, tenancy or receipt of service from a public facility, complaints can be filed with the BC Council of Human Rights within 6 months of the last incident of discrimination.

If individuals feel they are being discriminated against because of sexual orientation, BCIT's Harassment and Discrimination Policy offers a way to resolve the problem. Questions or requests for assistance can be addressed to the Harassment and Discrimination Advisor at 451-6721.

**BCIT Harassment and Discrimination Advisor**



An even nicer graphic by Karina Hould

## First anniversary brings growth, GALA events

### GALA events

**Monday, Feb. 14, 12:30 - 1:20**

**THE SECOND ANNUAL GREAT GAY VALENTINE'S DAY TEA.** Held in the romantic surroundings of SE12 - 204. Celebrate LOVE, whatever that means to you. There is no orientation test. The WHOLE CAMPUS IS WELCOMED. Last year's was our best event, with the Pres., John Watson, in attendance (maybe this year with a bow and Cupid's wings?!). Treats and tea and coffee. Be brave enough to come and mingle!

**Monday, Feb. 21, 12:30 - 1:20.**

**GALA BCIT general meeting.** What do you want from this group?! Come out in numbers that reflect our presence on campus. For meeting location call Mark (432-8964) or Gordon (434-5734, local 5301).

**Friday, Feb. 25, 8:00 pm.**

**Pub night at the Royal (1025 Granville).** If you haven't experienced the Royal, now is your

chance and magic and can't happen without a mysterious "critical mass". But we are optimistic. (As a gay person the alternative to optimism may be despair.)

### NAME CHANGE??

We will soon be altering our name to make room for the bisexuals in the crowd. Heck, we've already got one avowed and incorrigible bisexual in the group! The details have yet to be sorted out (e.g. GALAB-BCIT? GLB-BCIT? GALABA-BCIT???) but the principle is clear and shared by our group. People who are accepting as a rich part of themselves some aspect of their sexuality that doesn't find easy social validation and that isn't expressed at somebody else's cost, these people should be able to assume acceptance and support from our group. They shouldn't have fight for it, here at least. Of course there are limits to the number of names that can be accommodated before the title wags the group but we wish to be seen as inclusive rather than exclusive.

This fall was frustrating for all concerned. We had lost the central core of members from last year to the mixed blessing of graduation. Gordon and Mark had little time and free energy. Most students were wondering if they were going to survive final exams let alone worrying about their social well-being. Students and staff who bravely showed up to the few meetings we had probably felt confirmed in their suspicions that perhaps they were the only gay person at BCIT!

But this is a brand new term and, bolstered up by the unflagging support of our Student Association liaison person Anna-Lisa Jones, who has poured in ideas, energy, and organizational skill, we are optimistic for the spring! Our first meeting this term was very encouraging. Five new people turned out. That puts us at about a dozen—not a social revolution but a nice nucleus. What most want is simply a bit of a haven, some recognizable, friendly faces, a chance to socialize with others without a whole bunch of tiresome charades. WHEW! Of course this sort of social chemistry is only partly organizing. The rest is

chance. This is THE downtown, after-work, watering hole. Crowds of people, a fun band and sardine dance floor, lots of dykes and everybody else. Look for the table with the discrete BCIT banner. If you want to carpool or need a chaperone call Mark (432-8964) or Gordon (434-5734, 5301).

**Tuesday, Mar. 1, 4:30 - 6:30, SAC boardroom.**

**After-class movies** - This time a couple of Lesbian/Gay history classics. "Before Stonewall" documents the daring things gay people were doing before the relatively recent and increasingly accepted gay revolution marked by the Stonewall riot of 1969. "Forbidden Love" (NFB) is a lightly leavened look at the con-tortions artists have had to go through to present love between women to a modern audience. These should prove interesting whatever your orientation: everyone welcome! If we are starving we can always order in a pizza and share the cost.





KEEP YOUR LAWS OFF MY BODY

## Where queer anger comes from

In recent years there has been a rise of new lesbian, gay and bisexual—or queer—militancy resulting in the birth of organizations such as Queer Nation, Nation Rose, Outrage and others. These are the result of a simmering boil of an anger that is becoming a raging one as a new generation of queer youth come of age. Understanding these groups means understanding the anger and the societal situations that cause that anger.

The list below is a sampling of the some of the sources of one person's anger:

1. From never being told anything about my sexuality in school
2. From not being able to tell anyone about my first relationship and lover
3. From having to go through my confusion about my sexuality alone
4. From feeling self loathing when I first realized I wasn't straight
5. From knowing many others like me killed themselves as teenagers
6. From reading "die fag" on the bathroom wall and knowing they meant me
7. From having to sit quietly by while someone said they hated gays because I didn't feel safe enough to say anything
8. From having to tell people my sexuality so I don't have to go through that again
9. From wondering if someone will stop being a friend if I "come out" to them
10. From having it happen
11. From having to come out to large numbers of people about my sexuality at one time
12. From getting drunk to avoid the stress everytime I come out to a large or personally important group of people
13. From having to leave volunteer work for lesbian and gay groups off my resume
14. From turning down relationships because I didn't want to deal with the baggage of a closeted relationship
15. From having to tell my parents I'm not straight
16. From having to ask myself if I risked losing them if I did
17. From having a friend tell my brother my sexuality before I did
18. From knowing my mother is uncomfortable with my sexuality
19. From walking friends to their homes to feel safer
20. From having abuse screamed at me on the street
21. From walking friends to their homes to feel safer
22. From having a roommate lock himself in his room for two days after being stabbed because he was gay
23. From being hit with a baseball bat
24. From a gay friend telling me he was bashed three times in one night
25. From not feeling safe on the streets
26. From knowing that none of us reported it to the police
27. From finding out homosexuals were killed during the Holocaust and it never having been mentioned in history classes
28. From finding out that with the collapse of Germany they were not released but kept interned as criminals to "complete their sentences"
29. From knowing people who have died of AIDS
30. From knowing the government should have done more sooner before AIDS became a crisis in my community.
31. From waiting to see gay and lesbian relationships portrayed on TV
32. From only seeing gays portrayed as either victim or victimizer in films.
33. From wanting to hear a queer love ballad on the radio.
34. From knowing I have no guarantee that insurance or pension benefits would ever be shared with the life partner I choose
35. From knowing if I loved someone from another country I couldn't marry them so they could live here with me
36. From knowing that censorship of expression my sexuality is most often legal
37. From having to be an advocate for gay and lesbian issues
38. From sometimes feeling powerless to deal with it all

## WHAT IS HOMOPHOBIA?

Homophobia is nearly everywhere in our society. It's not just the typical examples: someone out on a Friday night with a baseball bat looking to beat up gays, or the landlord who evicts a tenant upon finding out they are gay or lesbian. Here are some examples of homophobia:

Looking at a gay man or lesbian and automatically thinking of their sexuality, rather than seeing him/her as a whole, complex person.

Changing your seat in a meeting because a gay man or lesbian sits in the chair next to you.

Feeling repulsed by public displays of affection between gay men or lesbians, but accepting the same affectionate displays between heterosexuals as O.K.

Not asking about a gay man/woman's male/female lover, although you regularly ask "How is your girlfriend/boyfriend?" when you run into a heterosexual friend.

Thinking that if a gay man or lesbian touches you he or she is making a sexual advance.

Kissing an old friend, but being afraid to shake hands with a gay man or lesbian.

Feeling that a gay man or lesbian is just a man/woman who couldn't find a woman/man.

Stereotyping gay males/lesbians as promiscuous, "recruiters", separatists, or radicals. Using those terms accusingly.



THIS ARTICLE CONTAINS  
SCENES OF GRAPHIC  
SEXUAL FICTION  
AND MAY  
OFFEND  
SOME

# CREATING THE LESBIAN EROTIC: LESBIAN SEX STORIES

by Rachel Rose, McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP) — The debate about lesbian sexuality seems endless. Do we have sex at all? Do we have long sessions of foreplay? Do we imitate heterosexual sex? Do we like S&M? Do we hate S&M? Do we try to have feminist sex, whatever that is? Is lesbian sex more spiritual, more profound, more loving than het sex? What about casual sex, anonymous sex or lesbian sex clubs? Do lesbians really have multi-organic sex that can last for days at a time, since they don't depend on any man to define the time of the sex act through his erection? Do we merely imitate the oppressive structures of the racist, homophobic and sexist society in which our sexuality developed? What do lesbians DO in bed?

The only safe statement to make is that there are as many forms of lesbian sex as there are lesbians. It will come as no great shock that the lesbian erotic has been violently suppressed for centuries. Images of women's sexuality have been manufactured by and for the satisfaction of straight men. To believe we can entirely separate lesbian desire from the socially oppressive context in which desire is learned is politically naive.

While no sexual practice or partner provides a recipe for political liberation, there is certainly a place for women, for lesbians, to stretch, to reclaim, to create, to appropriate discourses of desire. Many of us are working to challenge the male hegemony of the erotic/the pornographic. Lesbian sexuality is ours! If we don't like what's out there, we can do no better than to produce our own. It's fun, it's subversive, and it's very powerful.

Queers (lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals) are some of the most influential sexual pioneers. When we don't see what we want or need, we create it ourselves. Lesbians today have a great variety of lesbian manufactured sexually explicit material to choose from. Check out Susie Bright's (aka Susie Sexpert) anthologies *Heretica I* and *II*, which are some of the best collections of hot erotic writing out there for women of any and all persuasions

and backgrounds. The more literary-minded of you will prefer Jeanette Winterson's latest, *Written on the Body*. And who could forget that lovely scene in *Zami* where the young Audre Lorde and her lover Afrekete experiment with fruit.

"I took the ripe avocado and rolled it between my hands until the skin became a green case for the soft mashed fruit inside...the oil and sweat from our bodies kept the fruit liquid, and I massaged it over your thighs and between your breasts... a mantle of goddess pear that I slowly licked from your skin."

Clearly, lesbian desire is coming out in all its complexity. Even more exciting than reading lesbian erotica is writing it. Women everywhere are writing their own stories, making their own zines and videos, and loving it. I belong to a lesbian discussion group that recently experimented with writing our own erotica.

Since we are a large group, we wrote anonymously, each of us starting a story and passed them on for others to work on. What came out was fascinating, very funny and at points downright hot. Here are three of those stories. Keep in mind that each paragraph was written by a different person.

## Bananas are a girl's best friend

I had thought about Rebecca for months but had never let myself believe she reciprocated my feelings. Talking to her always made my heart beat faster than usual. My heart was pounding as I lay beside her and let myself start to believe. I let my hand roam to her practically bald head, pretending it was only friendly. She responded and moved her hand up my leg, over my hip.

I gasped. My lustful dreams might just come true. I leaned over and kissed her hard on the mouth. She responded by quickly grabbing and stroking my breasts. She was a lot less shy than I had thought.

Much more attentive and so there.

Her breasts were as incredible as I had dreamed them to be. Always tucked behind those great shirts. But now there she was her breasts before me. My eagerness to suck them was my only concern at that very moment. I reached out and cupped them.

I squeezed her nipples gradually, gentle to hard, until she screamed, until she lost her breath. I put my tongue in her mouth, licked her lips and bit. I put my fingers in between her legs.

Then I thought, "Condiments!" I ran to the kitchen and grabbed everything in sight. Chocolate, honey, cayenne pepper, bananas. I was finally going to do it.

I thought about how the taste and feel of each of these would combine with Rebecca's sweet cunt, with the feel of her sweaty and luscious skin. She was waiting for me, her legs teasingly spread as I entered the room. Her eyes brightened at the sight of the bananas and I could hardly keep the dripping from my cunt from falling on the floor, a trail of lust through my bedroom.

I discarded the cayenne pepper in favour of a gentler flavour, perhaps a nice sage and rosemary mix. No, I discarded everything except the banana. I peeled it and rammed it into her cunt. It disintegrated on its way in and I was forced to lick and suck to clean her off. She writhed and moaned. The banana proved good lubricant and I drove my whole fist into her waiting cunt. I fucked her hard as she screamed and twisted, cumming hundreds of times.

## That Dildo in the Window

On a dark, dreamy night, I was walking down the street. Suddenly a pink neon dildo caught my attention — just what I needed. I felt horny and imagined picking up the dildo and playing with this woman's body in front of me.

I decided to buy the dildo. As I walked into the store, a very attractive butch dyke asked, "Can I help you?" I blushed and said in a shaky voice, "I was admiring that neon dildo in the

window. "How much is it?" The sales-dyke replied, "Oh yeah, that's a hot new item. It glows in the dark and comes in three sizes." She reached into a drawer and picked up the medium-sized one.

I wanted. I'm not sure what I wanted or maybe I knew too well. She came over and ran the dildo over my inner thigh. This dyke was the one I had always fantasized about. She made me cum night after night. She rubbed it against me harder. "Can you close the store. I really need a demonstration to convince me of my purchase," I said.

"Sorry, babe," she said. "I really can't close the store. But I guarantee you this dildo is worth the money." She lifted it all the way up my leg and pressed hard on my cunt. I tightened my legs and let out a gasp despite myself. I wanted her now, whether the store was open or not.

She became aloof, perhaps teasing me was a part of the sales pitch. "Will that be cash or credit?" she murmured. This was one hell of a saleswoman.

**Queers (lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals) are some of the most influential sexual pioneers. When we don't see what we want or need, we create it ourselves.**

"Cash," I said. I began to wander around the store, trying to cool down a little. I stopped to look at the porn videos.

A mixed selection. I felt a hand caressing my back side. I jumped so far I almost knocked over the video display.

The hand continued its journey up my thigh and discovered that there were no panties under my short latex skirt. The hand could feel how wet and slick I was. Then I felt a strange kind of heat. It radiated up my thigh and then I felt something thick and hot in my pussy. It must be the neon dildo. Oh, it felt so good. I wanted this for so long. Then I realized that a crowd had gathered.

And much to my chagrin, I realized that she had her baseball cap out on the counter. It was filling fast with quarters and dollar coins. This was a saleswoman par excellence, but I didn't care. I let out a deep groan as she fucked me, one hand moving around to finger my clit. She pumped hard and fast and I let out another deep groan as I came. The audience clapped. I figured she would split the profits with me.



The kiss...

with apologies  
to Rodin...

Amori

### Three Fingers in Willamena

I waltzed into the local dyke cafe/bar. The atmosphere there is always a little intimidating. So many women, chatting and eating. A sudden silence always overtakes me.

Silence - nothing like the night before. I remembered the moans and cries, bellowing from my gut, our bodies bathed in sweat. Willamena knew how to get me going.

She would whisper in my ear, with her husky voice, tell me how she would like to slowly tease me with her soft warm touch. She would caress me with her soft lips, run her fingers through my hair, laugh carelessly as her hands explored my intimately secret contours, my shoulders, ribs, stomach.

Then she would kiss me delicately by the fireplace. I never minded. The fire wasn't going - it was summertime and I just went wild having my hands locked over my head. With my eyes blindfolded, I never knew where her mouth would next meet my skin. I tried to guess, to anticipate her tongue between my legs, to imagine where I would next feel her teeth.

I shook myself out of my daydream of last night's events and scanned the cafe. There was Willamena and she was talking with another woman. "Play it cool," I thought. "Don't be jealous." The

blond woman with Willamena smiled at me. Maybe I could have them both, tonight, at the same time.

I sat down, ordered a coffee and continued to daydream.

First Willamena pulled and twisted my nipples and the blond woman teased me with her fingers lightly ruffling my muff and then rubbing her finger quickly against my clit. They took me down and forced me to service them, three fingers in the cunt of one and mouth on the clit of the other.

I succumbed to the power of being controlled, being forced to obey. What more could I do but pump all three fingers harder and lick deeper. I had both of them at my mercy.

While my daydream overtook me, Willamena went to dance with the blond woman. I watched them giggling and caressing each other's backs. They kissed long and hard and turned to look at me. Their eyes were fixed on me as Willamena's hand roamed on that woman's ass.

I approached them and nonchalantly asked how they were doing. No sooner said, we were on our way to a dark corner. I felt Willamena's hand on my breast as I was quickly introduced to her new companion. I did not waste time and cupped the nearest breast I could find and slipped my hand down to Willamena's sound firm butt. Could this really be happening?

## WE ARE PRINTING THIS PIECE BECAUSE...

Gays and Lesbians are bombarded with hetro media images. Television, movies and the print media extoll the virtues of 'straight' sex. Where does that leave those who aren't 'mainstream'?

Offended? Perhaps. Excluded? More than likely. Now ask yourself this question, when was the last time you heard gays/lesbians asking to ban media's constant stream of hetro loving (READ SEX)?

No, we're not running a piece of hetro erotica. There's plenty on the tube, even if you don't have cable. We're running a piece of lesbian erotica because lesbians have the same right to see images of themselves in the press as straight people.

'This kind of stuff doesn't belong in the newspaper'. Fine, then where do we put it? In some obscure pamphlet at health services? It isn't taught in class so where on campus can we breach the topic. Not safely and inoffensively so as not to ruffle feathers, but frank talk in plain language. The campus student newspaper is the only medium (sad to say) on campus to get the word out.

It's O.K. to be Lesbian, and if you read the following passages you might realize it can be fun too. Hetro fantasy is everywhere in the mainstream media. By printing this piece we're saying there's a place for lesbian fantasy. Not in some dingy unseen place of shame, but for all to see and accept as natural.

Besides you might learn something. What it feels like to be queer and feel good about it. That you're not the only one in the world who thinks that way.

Why forget and ignore the outside world when you come to BCIT. Sooner or later you're going to have to deal with me. Your lesbian lab partner. Your dyke grandma. We're all around you, you can't escape. So deal with it! It's your choice to read on or turn the page. No one can force you to read something you feel is offensive. But what's so offensive about the way people are?





# Fun with your fingers

by Dia Richardson

In the 90's some people turn red when the subject of masturbation arises. Even worse, some people still consider masturbation a mortal sin. Then there are the old wives tales about going blind, or growing hair on the palms of your hands or even your cock falling off. These were the stories that boys were told to discourage them from jacking off. The truth is, with the threat of AIDS and the campaigns to "Just so no (to sex)", the only real safe sex is masturbation. Besides it's a lot more fun than saying no.

We are born as sexual beings. Little baby boys get erections and little girls like to play with themselves and hump stuffed animals. Parents' reactions to their children's first sexual urges can shape their children's sexuality for the rest of their lives. There FOUR most common reactions are:

**THE PRUDE APPROACH:** Horror, shock and scolding the child for doing such a disgusting thing.

**THE SENSIBLE APPROACH:** Telling the child they are doing nothing wrong however they should only do that in their own home/room.

**THE INVISIBLE APPROACH:** The parent does not know how to deal with the situation so they ignore the child.

**THE HORRIFIC APPROACH:** These sick people prey on a child's innocent sexuality and abuse them. An abuser once used the defense in court that the three year old girl was sexually aggressive and that was why he molested her. The judge bought into his story.

Which is the right approach? I think we all know that the last one is definitely not right but it will still affect the child's sexuality. A lot of these children will themselves grow up to be abusers. Informed adults will usually chose the sensible approach and let their children enjoy themselves.

How we were raised determines if we as adults are the gigglers, the blushers, the abusers, the completely shocked or comfortable when the subject of masturbation comes up. The completely shocked probably stopped reading this article after the first paragraph. So what is masturbation? According to the Oxford dictionary:

**masturbate:** Produce sexual orgasm (of) by manual stimulation of genitals etc., not by sexual intercourse.

There is even a market in devices to help people masturbate. There are artificial vaginas for men and vibrators for women. Of course you can always stimulate yourself by hand, then you don't have to worry about replacing the batteries. Some women prefer a nice massage with the shower head.

Masturbation is also probably the one thing that humankind has in common. I'm sure, as much as some of us hate to admit it, that most of us have masturbated at some point in our lifetime. It probably felt good too. Maybe not as great as the real thing...sex... but it felt good. Isn't that really what masturbation is, a substitute for sex, and since we all have it in common what is there to be ashamed about.

# A bisexual sets Woody Allen "straight" about Saturday

by Paul Dayson

*"I'm a practicing heterosexual, but bisexuality immediately doubles your chances for a date on Saturday night."*

Woody Allen

Woody, to be blunt, you don't know what you are talking about. I'm bisexual and reality is quite different. It has less comedic value. In my experience it has, if anything, made it harder to meet people. Being bisexual in our society comes along with phobias - myths - among both straight and gay communities.

So, let's get a few things on bisexuality straight (sic).

The basics:

- a) I'm not straight.
- b) I'm not gay.
- c) I'm not even half-straight nor half-gay. Personally, I don't even bother messing around with the percentages. It is just a waste of time.
- d) Bisexuals are no more promiscuous than gays or straights. After all that we're not discriminating is the

"humour" in Woody's "joke", isn't it? Some bisexuals sleep around some don't. I'm not interested in "anything that moves"-except the bisexual magazine by that name. Actually, I'm looking for a long term monogamous relationship.

- e) I'm not confused about this at all. I understand and quite comfortable with who I am and my sexuality. I love, feel desire for and sleep with men and women.

Simple. Until you add homophobia, heterosexism and biphobia.

As a bisexual, I am in a position to be acutely aware of how homophobia and heterosexism shape society. I know what the difference freedoms like holding hands, kissing in the corner of a restaurant, or talking about your partner mean-I have had them and had them taken away.

Homophobia is a fear of me, as it is a fear of homosexuals. It prevents me from expressing my sexuality and my right to exist without fear.

Woody, did you ever think that fear

might be a deterrent to relationships?

The heterosexism insults me. A constant barrage of heterosexual images, role models and assumptions enrage me. It is obvious that society finds one "side" of my sexuality more acceptable. Sorry, it isn't a side my sexuality is a whole-indivisible. I am not going to hide in the closet for peace of mind of straight people. It's too much work to quietly deal with rejection, alienation and denial.

Nor will I for the gay or lesbian community, who often view bisexuality as a phase, homosexuals clinging to heterosexual privileges or straights looking for thrills. This is biphobia. I am not experimenting. This is not a test. I repeat, this is not a test.

And Woody, have you ever tried explain to your partner that you are attracted to people of the same/opposite sex? Or deal with the insecurity that almost inevitably engenders?

So, Woody to wrap up...If you don't know what you're talking about shut up, stop spreading myths and educate yourself.

# Just pashin the time

by Steve Everitt

What is the definition of Passion? Is Passion some flavor of yogurt, good only before the due date? Is it merely liking what you do, not unlike the love a grocery store feels for a car?

Well I don't really care much about it anyways. Personally, I don't think anyone cares anymore.

It basically comes down to your view of life. I mean, will it be worth living for 80, maybe 90, years. Do you want to be living in a seniors residence, with your pension paying the bills, waiting for something to happen?

John Oldham, in his book, To A Friend, stated, "all your fortune lies beneath your hat", highlighting what

should be obvious. Complain if you want, but life is here and now and it's not going away.

So what about Passion?

Instead, how do your job prospects look? Do you care where you work, or if you even get a job? Due to the fact that the job market is more than tight, businesses don't need more employees, they need individuals who care about what they do.

Oh sure, you pick bad eggs off a chicken ranch conveyor belt, but do you think about the health risk you're helping avoid, or are you just "pickin' eggs"?

But, back to Passion.

When you're out with the buds, do you think "yay, were out, who

cares..."? How far past, "gee, I like your shirt", do you get?

How is your family? The conversations are very one-sided once they're gone.

How's the weight loss program? (A favorite among New Year's resolutions).

The passion necessary to get through life depends on the individual. Some people feel life just got in the way of something more important, while others died with the smile of fulfillment on their face, knowing it was all worth it.

Do you feel passion for the purpose of your existence or should we talk about the eggs again?



I really love my hometown. But more than that I loved leaving it. Why? Because, I thought it was a community filled with an excess of narrow minded people who lived to stereotype and discriminate against all other kinds of groups.

Getting away to the "liberal" big city was a huge relief. Unfortunately "liberal" ends when you walk into the doors of BCIT. This school is filled with intelligent individuals who perform academic wonders on their exams. Which makes me wonder why so often, they fail to think before they speak.

## LETTERS TO THE LINK

I have sat, tight lipped through many classes listening to students sling anti-gay insults at each other. I recall one situation where a person in my class asked his friend if he was going to invite his "bum chum" along on an outing. Although he is an intelligent person who would probably never demean a black person by calling them "nigger", he seems to find it socially acceptable to openly insult homosexuals.

Sometimes careless jokes turn into malicious attacks intended to hurt someone. I had the misfortune to witness such an occasion in one of my

classes. A fellow student's sexual orientation was called into question by a group of students who, empowered by a group situation, chose this person to belittle and humiliate publicly. Terribly upset, he confided this to me. I was shocked and appalled that grown men and women could be so cruel.

It is the careless jokes said without thought to who may be offended and occasional displays of homophobia which send the message that homosexuals are not welcome at BCIT.

Anonymous



# Wishing on a star

by Michael Welter

It was a clear morning, perhaps a little cool for a late June day. The farmer took a break from his labours and rested against his plough. Gazing to the north he did not know that his world was about to change.

Without warning the sky lit up in a blinding flash, the heat burning the hairs on his face and hands. Then the shock-wave came; it lifted him up like a feather and threw him down like a brick. He didn't know what had happened, but he knew he was lucky - he was alive.

The year was 1908 and the Siberian farmer had witnessed, from a distance of 125 miles, the most awe-inspiring and devastating of natural disasters: the impact of an asteroid. The blast had levelled 2000 square kilometres of forest, and the shockwave was picked up on seismometers in America. It was later estimated that the explosion was equivalent

to that of 15 million tons of high explosive.

The earth is continuously bombarded by objects, most of them tiny chunks of dust and rock. Usually they burn up in the upper atmosphere and give us "shooting stars" to wish upon. Those are called meteorites. Bigger ones, maybe the size of a car or even a bus, don't always burn up entirely on their trip down, and the chunks that hit the ground are called meteors.

The one that exploded over Siberia was a whopper, probably 80 metres in diameter, and is classified as an asteroid. Fortunately the big ones don't come too often, but they do come, and when one does you don't want to be around to see it. Statistically speaking we can expect to see an 80 metre asteroid hitting somewhere on earth every 50 to 100 years, which means we're pretty much due for

one now.

Well, you might say, so what? There's nothing we can do about it, and anyway what are the chances of me being in the way of one? In reply I would say wrong and wrong, and please allow me to explain...

For a moment I will return to the Siberian event. The asteroid that struck there was, relatively speaking, a lightweight. There are hundreds and probably thousands of asteroids of much greater size that regularly pass through earth's orbit. One of them, sooner or later, is going to hit us. When it does the effects will be globally catastrophic.

Just over a year ago an asteroid four miles wide came within an astronomical hair's breadth of slamming into the earth. Had it done so a quarter of the world's population would have perished, accord-

ing to a N.A.S.A report submitted to the American Congress last year.

As for whether we can do something about it comes down to whether we are prepared to do something about it. If an incoming asteroid is spotted early enough it is entirely feasible to send up a war-head, explode it close by and knock the asteroid off its course by a few crucial fractions of a degree. We have the telescopes, we have the technology, but do we have the will?

The one set of people that can really do something about it is the American government but they, like most people, have traditionally ignored the problem ("Don't be ridiculous - it's science fiction") It would seem though that they came to their senses when Congress was presented with the 1993 N.A.S.A. report, and much needed funds are finally being apportioned to avert this frightening, and very real, threat.

## OPINION

## LETTERS TO THE LINK



### Link does shoddy journalism

This letter is in response to the misguided editorial in the Wednesday, January 26, 1994 edition of "The Link".

The Link has managed to take small excerpts from a discussion with many considerations and trivialize the issue of the Silvia Leung Memorial.

Let's look at the facts:

The Link reports that the garden idea was deemed unacceptable because "it would draw too much attention to the event". This is flatly untrue. The final decision had nothing to do with drawing "attention". We felt the garden would be vulnerable to vandalism and a tree could largely maintain itself and at the same time be tasteful.

The Link then asks why we commemorate Silvia Leung's death in the first place. The SA feels that her death was a tragedy and we respect her memory. We feel we could this by planting a tree which symbolizes growth and future. We want to show students that we have not taken her death lightly and have taken steps to promote greater awareness of safety and security on campus with programs such as the Campus Patrol.

On the issue of honouring the unfortunate death of Neil McQueen. Every person is an individual in life and death and should so be remembered. Proper research would have shown that the SA commemorated Neil McQueen's memory by

offering the Neil McQueen Memorial Award which was offered and awarded to a person showing leadership in Recreation and Athletics.

In a newspaper based on cheap shots and irresponsible journalism, articles such as this one, which is based on little fact, are par for the course. In an attempt to fill space The Link has, once again, proven their lack of writing credibility by not researching the facts and fully understanding the issues at hand.

If anyone is to blame for "bastardizing" the events, The Link is the culprit. And Link staff.....Silvia Leung died tragically on January 24, 1993 not January 21 as you so inaccurately reported.

The Student Association

### Moving Sea Island facilities would be a waste

BCIT's Sea Island Campus located on 5301 Airport Rd. has been home to students and staff since 1987. This, however, may soon change. The lease on Sea Island is up for renewal and probable increase, therefore, chances are the lease may not be amended.

The attitude of the students towards the issue is that the present facilities are excellent and that moving would be a great expense for no apparent reason. Each of us can look back and remember the first day of classes at Sea Island when our instructors first led us into the hangar

after our morning session in the classroom. Our unsuspecting eyes were not prepared to take in the vastness of a real life, full size hangar. The appendage of a Vickers Viscount airliner is the first thing to greet you. It sits proudly encompassing one quarter of the hangar space reminding us of the day when its four Rolls Royce turbo prop engines made it soar through the sky. And as our eyes followed the great arched ceiling to the other end of the building next to the three yellow Harvard military trainers we caught glimpse of the only existing prototype of Lockheed's Jetstar. Looking fast even as it sits chalked and retired.

The present campus is a spacious hangar filled with aircraft that range from high tech to nos-

talgie is a locale that teams with aviation activity. Being so close to the action of an active airport allows students the chance to learn how to conduct themselves in a real life environment. It enables students to live and breathe aviation every day of their academic careers. Here the classes can see all aspects of the industry they have chosen to pursue. Also as an added bonus it places students smack dab in the middle of future employers.

Although still on airport property the new location would be far away from the general aviation that surrounds the present facility which is a key ingredient in the training of future A.M.E., Avionics and Structures technicians.

Bob Lambrianidis  
Sea Island

If It's Laughter You're After...  
Don't Miss The World's Funniest  
and Most Amazing Stage Show!

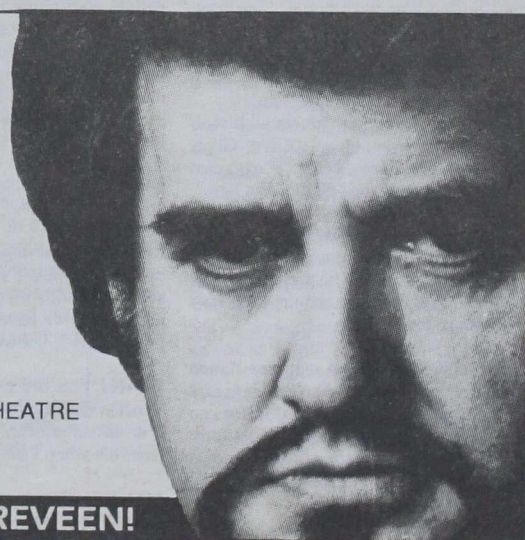
# REVEEN

WEDNESDAY FEB. 16 TO SUNDAY FEB. 20  
TWO SHOWS SATURDAY 6:00PM & 9:30PM  
ALL OTHER SHOWS AT 8:00PM - QUEEN ELIZABETH THEATRE  
TICKETS \$16.50-\$19.50-\$22.50 (S/C) STUDENT AND SENIOR DISCOUNTS

TICKETMASTER

280 - 4444

YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER REVEEN!





# THE WONDER STUFF

## LIVE UP TO THEIR REPUTATION

by Steve Everitt

*Maybe I could live by my wits. The eight-hour day was impossible, yet almost everybody submitted to it. And the war, everybody was talking about the war in Europe. I wasn't interested in world history, only my own. What crap. Your parents controlled your growing-up period, they pissed all over you. Then when you were ready to go out on your own, the others wanted to stick you into a uniform so you could get your ass shot off.*

**HAM ON RYE, Charles Bukowski**

Miles Hunt, lead singer and lyricist of The Wonder Stuff, finds great value in the writings of Charles Bukowski, a Los Angeles skid row author, who parallels his life experiences through the eyes of his literary alter-ego, Henry Chinaski. The same could be said of Miles; the man that can be seen through his lyrics and his on-stage persona, parallels the type of person he is off-stage except for one glaring difference. The abrasiveness on-stage is completely opposite to the soft-spoken, gentle demeanor he portrays when confronted on a one-on-one level.

I had the privilege of interviewing Miles and guitarist Malc Treece, prior to their February 2nd show at the Commodore, as well as a private chat after the show. I call it a privilege because I have been a huge fan since the release of their first EP, *It's Your Money I'm After Baby*, back in 1988. Since then they have released 4 full-length albums, including their newest album, *Construction For The Modern Idiot*, as well as the soundtrack to the movie, *Welcome To The Cheap Seats*.

It all started with their indictment of Stock, Aitken & Waterman, a group of record company exec's who created two members of the exceedingly pathetic music business; Kylie Minogue and Rick Astley. Their song, "Astley In The Noose", featured the line, "I wouldn't kill you, even if you paid me", and thus began their anti-establishment reputation.

They continued their careers with such tongue-in-cheek songs as, "Give, Give, Give Me More, More, More", "30 Years In The Bathroom" and "Radio Ass Kiss". Most of their songs dealt with the conventions of life and the ills of English society, along with the reprehensible nature of greedy, lying women who were along for the ride until the money ran dry. But let's fast-forward to today.

**LINK:** There has been a common thread through all of your albums, of lies and disguises and having to put on a face to please everyone. Why don't you just form a garage band, write stories for your own benefit and stay out of the public eye?

**MILES:** The creative side is quite a selfish thing to do and we get our pleasure from it, but we're into pop music and even though there are disguises to be worn, I find the live atmosphere entertaining. At least, I'm entertained by it.

**LINK:** What do you think of bands that follow in your footsteps musically?

**MILES:** Well, a lot of really horrific bands have formed as a direct result of being influenced by us, and we don't, but we do get off on slagging other bands, even though I don't think anybody appreciates to see it.

**MALC:** It's a very easy thing to do. But we do like to bitch about things just like people in every other walk of life.

**LINK:** How is touring around the world?

**MILES:** It's funny really. In America, you get complete strangers coming up to you in a lift in a hotel, and they say, "Are you guys in a band?". I just wanna say, "No. I always wander around other countries with 15 of my mates".

**MALC:** I suppose it does look absurd when you wander around with that many people.

**LINK:** Does music still excite you?

**MALC:** Yes, especially at the moment, in the last year or so. There a lot of English bands coming through that do excite me, with a lot of energy.

**MILES:** There's always stuff there, it just depends how willing you are to dig it out. If you just rely on the music press in Britain, you're probably not going to find yourself being that satisfied. There's been a lot [of] studio-based electronic music, which doesn't really do anything for me, that's why I would say that it's been very stagnant lately. I'm very old fashioned; I like bands that just get up there and play.

**LINK:** When do you feel that you write your best?

**MILES:** Dreaming. It's when you wake up with an idea. I've done that once! We sometimes fall victims of our own laziness, when we haven't spent time writing new material, but we've survived it.

**LINK:** You did a cover of The Jams' "That's Entertainment". Do you think that it is still as relevant today as it was in the late 70's when Paul Weller wrote it?

**MILES:** Yeah. Probably nothings changed really. England still is the same



Miles Hunt, Malc Treece, Martin Gilks, Martin Bell and Paul Clifford the recipe for The Wonder Stuff.

as when Paul wrote it.

**LINK:** What about the amount of drugs in music?

**MILES:** It was quite shocking when we first started. I thought it was this mythical thing that only the top rock bands did that, but then it started showing up backstage. I've always stayed away from it, I never thought it was a very thrilling thing to do. But it does serve a really good purpose as well, cause of course it kills people. The people who are gobbing off about how trendy and artistically useful it is, I'm quite glad that these people do it cause the quicker it brings about their demise, the better.

**LINK:** I wanted to ask you about the song, "Hush", on your new album. I pictured an indictment of the press, and turning the tables on reporters, "What are your worst fears?"

**MILES:** It's a bit wider than that really. It was written about a really bad night I had. A few years ago someone dragged me off to see Guns and Roses and I thought I would go for the comedy value. We had just been out for three weeks doing a promotional tour. And I looked at this ridiculous circus of a band and these foul people lapping it all up. And I just thought, what was this three weeks all

about? If that was the end result of that work we just did, something's gone very, very sadly wrong somewhere.

...

After the interview, they performed for over an hour and half, playing 24 songs, and I was thoroughly impressed with their skill and energy level. It had to have been one of the best shows that I've ever seen. The anger, the thoughtfulness, and the detail of their songs came across in every note.

After the show I found Malc and Miles and sat down and talked with them. They both thought that the show was not very good, but I reminded them that they've probably played 200 shows a year for the last 6 years and that they can tell when their off, but an audience that sees them maybe once every 2 years, will still believe that it was a wicked show.

The conversation I then had with them won't make it to the pages of this paper, but it just confirmed my faith in this band and the lyrics they present on their albums. Their newest album, *Construction For The Modern Idiot*, represents all that is decent and real in this world. And it proves the statement that Miles sings on the song, *On The Ropes*, that "commerciality over art can't win out".



## Sixth annual festival shows women artists

by Jeanette Arthur

### WOMEN IN VIEW FESTIVAL

Women in View was founded in 1986 by a group of professional theatre artists to showcase work by both emerging and established women artists. *The Link* was there to share in their sixth annual festival, January 22-30, 1994 at various locations in Vancouver.

### Mad about Barbie

Jennifer Martin wrote and performs this one women show. It took me a while to realize where each of the three scenes were occurring. She alternates between her therapists office, the stage where she performs her stand-up comedy routine, and at home where she plays with Barbie dolls. She does however use the dolls to make some very telling statements about how women in our society view their bodies. In one scene she enacts an encounter group between six Barbie dolls. Barbie #1 is trying to convince Midge that Barbie #2 has put on weight. Midge has to switch bodies with #1 to convince #1 that they all have identical bodies. *Mad About Barbie* has its funny moments but I found it otherwise quite tedious.

### Sapelo: time is winding up

Sapelo is one of the Georgia Sea Islands where an original slave colony's African traditions and culture have been kept alive through the art of story telling. The culture is dying out as the government is buying up the land to make wildlife reserves. Diane Ferlatti went to Sapelo to learn the stories hoping that by performing them she could keep a small piece of this unique culture alive.

Unfortunately, the old-timer who was the repository of the islands stories was too old to remember them. However Ms. Ferlatti was able to make a riveting and immensely entertaining 90 minute show telling the stories of the people that she met on the island. There was Kate Brown, who was 10 years old when slavery was abolished. Using only changes of hats and coats to depict changes of scene, we are transported from the barnyard, listening to an old farmer, to the front parlour where we meet the churchgoing woman. The mobility and plasticity of Ms Ferlatti's face enables her to ply convincingly very different characters. One of the best pieces of theatre that I have seen in a long time.



Shaun Philips (left) as Peter Van Daan and Laara Sadiq (right) as Anne Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

## Anne not Frank enough

by Anna-Lisa Jones

This play is based on the writings of Anne Frank, a young Jewish girl hiding in an attic for two years in Holland at the time of the Nazi invasion.

Anne, was a girl filled with wit and optimism. Her effervescent personality shines through her writing and shadows the tragic situation in which she lived.

### THEATRE

**The Diary of Anne Frank**  
A Carousel Theatre Production

I read *The Diary of Anne Frank* as a young girl. I remember feeling the frustration of someone my age not being able to run and play in the yard, not knowing if she would live outside of her overcrowded apartment, living on rationed food...seeing the same seven people every minute of the day of each day for two long years. I remember feeling her fear and crying her tears...knowing that I could never imagine a life like that...

I guess I will go on imagining how that was...The Waterfront Theater's production did not bring to life the complexity and pain of Anne's life. Their production was myopic—focusing mainly on the character of Anne, with little view of the tension, fear and hopelessness of the war torn times she lived in. In the play's program, the Artistic Director, Elizabeth Ball, says how "important and timely" this play is for today's audience. Timely, I suppose because of the atrocities being committed in Bosnia. Important in that it would show us the waste of the life of one so precious...

Unfortunately, the production fails to evoke any sense of indignation about the horrific treatment and shaming of the Jewish people. Stronger performances by the two people responsible for keeping the family hidden, Miep and Mr. Kraler could have developed the sense of fear around the family being found, and could have brought a sense of their own struggle to economically and emotionally support eight fugitives. Whenever Miep came up

to deliver supplies, she sounded more like Doris Day at a sorority luncheon than a woman straining to bring hope to people whose fate seemed so grim.

The biggest disappointment in terms of performances, was Mr. Frank whose monologue dealing with the death of his daughter, Anna, sounded more like an entry from the log book of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

On a brighter note, one supporting actor, Peter Duschenes, who played a family friend, Mr. Van Dann, created a character who reflected real tension throughout his performance. From his skulking pacing, to his cutting side remarks, to his frenzied smoking, this actor helped to remind us that he was living in desperate times.

Overall, I was disappointed with the simplistic, humorous treatment of the story of a young girl, who, despite her unflinching hope, was denied a future due to oppression and hatred.



# Dick's Deltones provide surfin' rage

by Brian Rice

A day on the ocean surfing consists of much more than the brain splattering thrill of riding the big breaking tube. There's the preparation, the struggle past the breaking waves, the search for the ideal location, and the wait. When the big set rolls in you had better be ready. There is no mercy, you are engulfed by a surprisingly powerful force that fills all your senses.

## CONCERT

**Dick Dale and the Deltones**  
Commodore  
Thursday, February 3

Watching the Dick Dale show I realized I was running through a surprisingly similar set of feelings. I guess surfing was on my mind because the guy playing guitar is dubbed "The King of the Surf Guitar" and started the whole Southern California surf music thing with his 1961 hit "Let's Go Trippin'".

Maybe daydreaming my way to a warm sunny ocean top was my way of escaping the cold Vancouver fog that had chilled me on the way to the bar. Maybe the yawns that crept out while I was waiting for the band to start are similar to the frustrations felt when the big waves are elusive. Maybe the satisfaction and feeling that I was in the right place at the right time when Dick shot through his set are somehow the same as catching the magic wave. Maybe I've been studying too much and my brain took a holiday.

Regardless, Dick's fast picking style which influenced artists from the Beach Boys to Hendrix was evident and the audience was graced with a glimpse back at life in California in the early 60's. The trio (guitar, bass, drums) played a groovy show. I enjoyed the trip.

# Ace is on the Case

by Trent Hogue

He takes his place among the best and brightest in the pantheon of great detectives; from Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot to Miss Marple and Inspector Clouseau. He's the finest pet detective there is—in fact, he's the only one there is.

## FILM

**Ace Ventura Pet Detective**

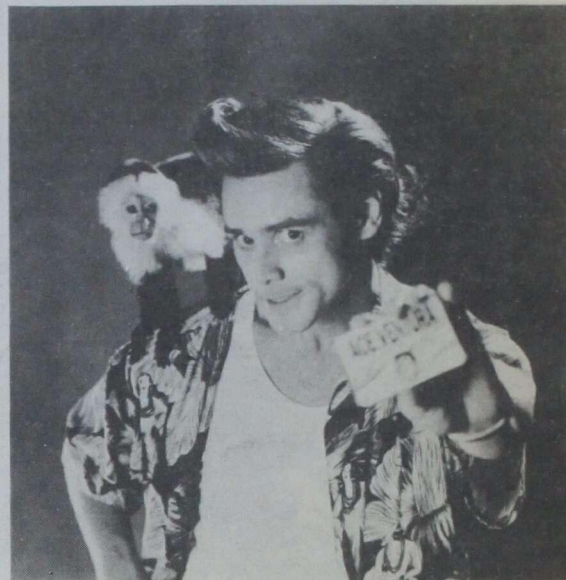
From *In Living Color* fame, Jim Carrey comes to the big screen in his first starring role as Ace Ventura: Pet Detective.

Jim Carrey is best known for his portrayal of outrageous characters, Fire Marshal Bill and the steroid-crazed body builder Vera De Milo on the Emmy Award winning "In Living Color". Carrey brings the same sort of zany comedy to life in his por-

trayal of Ace Ventura.

The bumbling, fumbling Ace always gets his man, or in this case pet. When the Miami Dolphins mascot is stolen, they call upon Ace to locate his whereabouts. Ace's slick, absurd style makes him an instant hit with the ladies but a flop with the local police force.

In the end Ace ends up solving the case in a twisted plot that leaves us shaking our heads. The laughs are plentiful, but the plot leaves a lot to be desired. If you go to this flick expecting a great plot line your going to come out demanding your \$8.50 refund, or \$4.99 on a Tuesday. But if you go in feeling depressed you will leave shaking your head with a chuckle. This movie should propel Jim Carrey (who by the way is Canadian) into bigger and better things.



Jim Carrey as Ace Ventura.



The Rose Chronicles.

# Vancouver band's album has powerful sound

by Kelly Head

Hailing from Vancouver, Rose Chronicles, has a fresh and powerful sound in their debut album, *Shiver*.

## ALBUM REVIEW

**Rose Chronicles**  
*Shiver*

The mesmerizing vocals of lead singer, Kristy Thirsk, can't help but make you think the

singer's influences must include Sarah McLachlan and Kate Bush. That's not to say Thirsk does not have her own sound, she certainly does, but she sings with the same intensity and emotion as her two colleagues.

Combining Thirsk's great vocals with the hard driven music from the rest of the band, (Richard Maranda, Judd Cochrane, Steve van der Woerd) Rose Chronicles has come up

with a very aggressive sounding album, though in some parts, the heavy music detracts from the vocals.

The subject matter of the songs tend not to be noticed at times because of the upbeat sound, but more often than not, the theme of the song packs a punch. The band deals with topics like sexual abuse, lost love, and finding yourself.

Rose Chronicles combination

of beautiful vocals, powerful music, and intelligent lyrics gives this band their sound and it works well for them.

Rumor has it that the band puts on a great live show, so check them out. They are slated to start a cross-country tour in early spring so I would plan to catch them soon. Two of their upcoming shows are on Feb. 10 at SFU and February 12 at the Town Pump. See you there!





## Bringin' back the anti-disco punk 70's

by Kelly Head

Ever feel like time is passing you by so fast that you can't keep up? That music, clothes, and styles change faster than you can replace your current discs and shirts? Then you should have been at the Town Pump on Saturday night and taken in the D.O.A. show.

**CONCERT**  
D.O.A. with Chixdiggitt  
Town Pump  
Saturday, January 29

A common question asked when talking about the show with friends was, "is that the same D.O.A. that has been around forever?" Yes it is.

After the opening bands had cleared the way, D.O.A. took to the stage a little after midnight. There were no introductions, nor tuning of instruments, just an immediate eruption of straight forward 1970's style punk rock. Following the tradition of punk rock, the band dealt with contro-

versial subject matter such as: the Clayoquot Sound, revenge, religion, and abuse.

The band had little trouble filling the somewhat small Town Pump and the mosh pit was not to be attempted by those not fully numbed on the Pump's excellent selection of draught beers.

Pushing middle age, Joey Shithead, the band's lead singer and guitarist, played a hard, fast and very energetic show. If you missed the seventies music scene, it wasn't just ABBA and disco, it was also punk rock and power trios. Saturday night brought a lot of people back to the 1970's.

## Warm up band sizzles

by Kelly Head

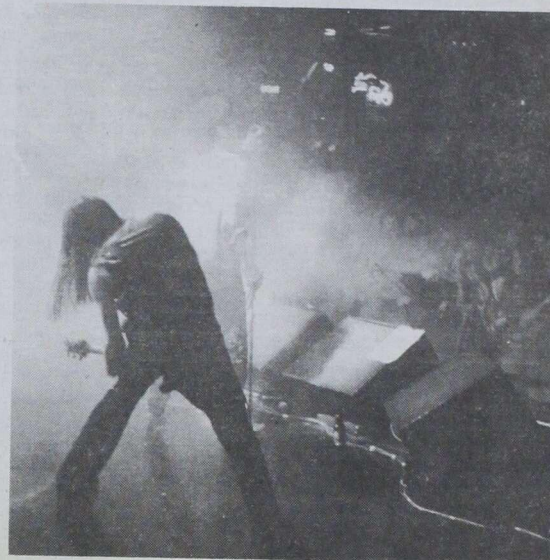
Quite often you don't hear much mention of opening bands when reading concert reviews, but I feel Chixdiggitt, one of the opening bands for DOA, deserves to be mentioned. The band, originating from Calgary, could best be described as "Kids in the Hall Meet the Ramones".

Playing humorous and energy packed songs such as, "I should have played football in high school", "Where's your mom?", and "I Wanna Hump You", the band kept the crowd very enter-

tained while waiting for DOA. Perhaps the best testimonial for this band is they are the only band (including original artists) that can make George Michael's "Faith" and Brian Adam's "Another Lonely Night" worth listening to.

The band does not have a record label, but they have a four song cassette available at their shows for \$5. They have just completed their west coast swing and are heading home, so watch for their return. It's a show you don't want to miss.

## More power to Bootsauce



by Steve Everitt

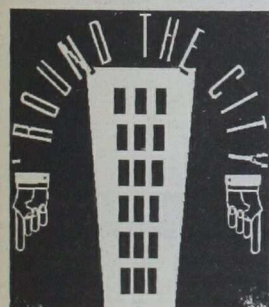
The Show: After talking to the band a couple of weeks ago, I was anxious to see if these guys could impress me as much with their live show, as they did with their personalities. I was not disappointed. I'm not the biggest Bootsauce fan but after seeing them throw out a live show that was loud, tight, and super hi-fi, I became a believer in this five piece band from Montreal.

**CONCERT**  
Bootsauce with guests Pillbox  
The Commodore Ballroom  
Friday February 4

I've always believed that just about any schmoe can record an album by layering multiple tracks and fooling the listener into believing they know how to play. The true test of a band is when they get onto a stage. Well Bootsauce proved that they have worked very hard in digging

their way into Canadian culture. They've obviously spent many hours practicing, because what exploded off the stage was a tirade of unrelenting guitar work by Pere Fume, a powerful rhythm section led by Al Baculis, and the "sauciest" vocals since Anthony Kiedis, belted out by Drew Ling.

The funk was practically oozing off the mike stand and onto the girl-heavy audience. The crowd swayed, jumped, screamed, and puked throughout the entire show, even though Drew kept calling Vancouver audiences "lame" (which of course was just a ploy to get them to scream louder). Their versions of "Moanie" and "Love Monkey No.9", practically blew my eardrums, but I have health care so I didn't mind. I thought it was a great show and even met a cute, young thing, which of course is what you're supposed to do at a Bootsauce show.



**70's Disco Night**  
The Commodore, 870 Granville St.  
EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT

**FLIRTATIONS with SENSIBLE FOOTWEAR**  
Vancouver East Cultural Centre  
February 9-13, starts 8:00

The flirtations have been described as "the world's first and only politically active, multicultural, all-gay a cappella quintet." They have a solid musical background and quite funny. Joining them are one Britain's most raved about female

comedy troupes. Three English women who have been describe as "comedic feminist terrorists".

**ALANNAH MYLES**  
The Commodore, 870 Granville St.  
Friday Feb. 11, Saturday Feb., 12  
doors 8:30  
With special guests YOUNG SAINTS.

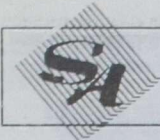
**SWERVEDRIVER**  
The Commodore, 870 Granville St.  
Monday Feb. 14, doors 8:00  
With THERAPY? and MEDICINE.

Tickets are \$12.00 in advance.

**ODDS**  
The Commodore, 870 Granville St.  
Saturday Feb. 19, doors 8:30  
With special guests BAR STOOL  
PROFITS. Tickets are \$11.00 in advance.

**LAWRENCE GOWAN**  
Vancouver East Cultural Centre  
Saturday, Feb. 19





## Reach for unbleached

*"The Pulp and Paper industry has recognized the need for unbleached pulp, and mills have done an excellent job of reducing bleaching pollutants. It's time for BCIT to show support for these initiatives."*

**Tim Reeve, BCIT Recycling Coordinator**

You might be surprised to hear praise from a Recycling Coordinator for BC's Pulp and Paper industry. But according to a recent report issued by the BC



**TIM REEVE**

Environment Ministry, pulp mills are cleaning up their act. In fact, discharges of dioxin - the most notorious by-product of the bleaching process and believed by many scientists to be the most toxic compound ever made by man - have dropped 85 percent.

The improvements haven't been easy, and the industry needs our support. Already a billion dollars has been spent on the clean-up, and the year 2002 deadline for "zero discharge" of organochlorines is fast approaching. But if this industry wishes to remain internationally competitive then it must keep pace with technological advancements.

As consumers it's critical we support these efforts by using unbleached paper products. Copy paper, coffee filters, and toilet paper are just some of the unbleached products that are now readily available at competitive prices.

BCIT should be using its purchasing power to support markets for these products. It's absolutely hypocritical to expect industry to spend billions of dollars upgrading production technologies on one hand, and then refuse to accept their new products in the marketplace on the other.

So, if you believe that a healthy and sustainable pulp and paper industry is vital to BC, then it's time to put your money where mouth is. Reach for Unbleached!!

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## Contraceptive Guilt (or it's not Green being Easy)

Get lucky? Now the guilt sets in. No, silly, not the pre-marital sex variety your mum failed to instill in you-contraceptive guilt. Yup, your noble effort to stem overpopulation may have worsened the ozone hole, the greenhouse effect, and the garbage crisis. Yessiree, sex is fraught with environmental peril.

Take the humble condom. Once hand-sewn from biodegradable animal innards, they're now made from slow-degrading latex. There are even rumblings that the ring at the end degrades so slowly that it presents a hazard to water creatures-you know, picture a sea bird with a condom ring stuck around its neck. Worse, as condoms have come out of the closet, the marketing geniuses have spruced up their presentation. One brand now comes packed in a purple plastic box that resembles a large make-up case. Add to that the fact that condoms are vulnerable to pollution - ground-level ozone smog from burned fossil fuels, and ultra-violet radiation that sneaks in through the stratospheric ozone

hole-and the condom looks like an environmental torpedo. On the bright, side latex is a sustainably-harvested rainforest product, so that perhaps your copious usage could turn the tide of deforestation and save the world.

Then there's contraceptive foam. These spermicides are among the small number of spray products that still use ozone-layer-zapping CFC's as propellant, because they're relatively non-toxic. Although manufacturers are looking to other propellants, these tend to be hydrocarbons that not only cause smog, but are flammable. In the words of the US Federal Drug Administration's Dr. Martin Bennett, "I would say that if a person using this foam was smoking, they could have a hot time."

Foaming suppositories are a different animal. Activated by body heat and moisture, they operate on the same 'vinegar and baking soda' principle that caused your volcano model to erupt in high school. This reaction releases Carbon Dioxide, the quintes-

sential greenhouse gas, so consider planting a tree to absorb your emissions.

The Pill presents a classic case of over packaging layers and layers of plastic. The reusable diaphragm generates only spent tubes of goo, but then, rumour has it a disposable diaphragm is coming down the pike.

A relative newcomer to the contraceptive scene is VCF, a dissolving film impregnated with the spermicide, nonoxynol-9. A 2.5-inch square arrives wrapped like a condom. In the body the film melts, slays sperm, and is eventually flushed out. Too bad the film is a polyvinyl-alcohol plastic.

Hey, if contraception's so problematic, rife with threats to the earth, sea and sky, where are the eco-pre-neurs? Where's the organic plant-gel? Who's going to perfect the washable cotton-condom? We greens are waiting with crossed legs.

Reprinted from Garbage  
July/August 1992

## KUDOS & COMPOST

A thousand sheets of Compost to Craig MacMillan, VP Student Affairs, for plastering the campus with posters printed on chlorine bleached paper. The SA Environment Policy specifies the use of unbleached paper whenever possible. Reach for unbleached!!

Kudos to Grant LeHuquet, Tom Nakatsuka and Cham Tan, 2nd year Operation's Management students, for choosing to develop construction waste management guidelines for the campus as their directed studies project. BCIT generates more waste from construction than from any other single activity on campus.

Kudos to Tom Moore, Housing Manager, for printing all the recent "Res Rap" newsletters on unbleached recycled paper. Great example — Reach for unbleached!!

Kudos to the staff of the Purchasing Department for Lugging their Mugs. Every member had their own mug at

a recent staff meeting. Collectively, this group is saving over 2000 disposable cups each year.

Loads of Compost to the organizers of the last AMA meeting for using disposable cups instead of china from Forster's. Not only is Styrofoam hideous for the environment, it sets a bad business example.

Kudos to Claire Webb and Bob Mellett, 2nd year Environmental Health students, for assessing the noise impact of the glass recycling process and making recommendations for improvements.

Belated Kudos to Stacey Morton and everyone on the Open House Committee who has been making "green" choices for the event. Every effort helps.

From Karen Odenwald.

Send your Kudos and Compost to the Recycling Department and be automatically entered into our monthly draw for a free backyard composter and other cool prizes. Include your name, program and phone number. Enter now for February's draw!!

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*Who should you go to with a problem? What opportunities have you been missing out on? Who should you thank for a pleasant change to campus policy or planning?*

*Executives often seem to work away in little seen musty offices, too often without the knowledge of those they administer.*

*With this new section **The Link** hopes to give the student, and staff at BCIT an increased awareness of executive action, asking executives to explain how they serve the campus. In this way **The Link** hopes it will aid and assist students, and others in the campus population, through a better campus experience.*

## Lyle Boivin, SA President

As your Student President, I am responsible to you, my fellow students. My first priority is representing you in all matters of student life. I represent you on the Board of Governors for BCIT, and also on the Student Association Council meetings. I am also responsible for the interests of the Student Association and how it can provide you even better benefits and services.

Being Student President allows me to have the opportunity to meet political leaders in and out of our community. During my two year tenure in office I have met Premier Harcourt twice, Gordon Campbell and also had the chance to see Mikhail Gorbachev. I have also met with MP's, MLA's and other ministers who have a direct involvement in our life at BCIT.

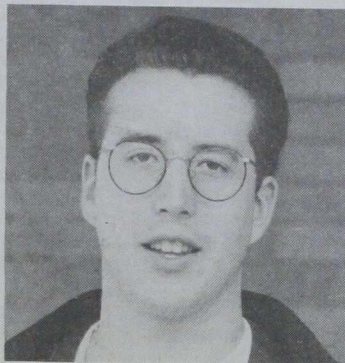
My priority for the year was to get student voting rights on the Board of Governors. To date the Ministry for Skills and Training has not yet announced if we have voting rights, but I believe we will have it by the end of this year.

## Neil Howard, BCIT Executive Director of Marketing and Developing

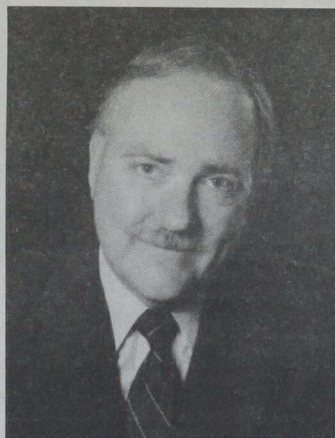
Sometimes I feel a little misunderstood. . . . Students might understandably scratch their heads when asking how the marketing and development division fits into their campus lives. Well, the answer is simple: it fits in a lot, from some of the latest equipment they use in class or the shop to the value of the credential they receive when they graduate.

Working with the community on and off the campus, the marketing and development department brings together four related areas: marketing and corporate relations, alumni affairs, information and community relations and development, BCIT's fund-raising arm. Together they work toward an end that benefits every student — enhancing BCIT's image as a world class institution and improving the facilities and equipment that's the backbone of BCIT's industry-recognized training.

We never forget that BCIT is here to serve the students and ultimately the employers who hire them. Everything we do supports that direction, which is why one of the department's priorities is to build a formidable volunteer network for increased fund-raising. Our strength is our training, and as government funds become tighter and tighter fund-raising helps us



Although it is impossible for me to get to know all of you, I hope that if you have any suggestions or critiques you can feel free to approach me in the hallways or in my office. I am very grateful for student input throughout the year. It really helps me to understand your outlook of things and gives me a scope of what there is to be done. I hope to see all you second year students at the graduation ceremony in June.



continue to provide students with industry-current equipment and training.

At BCIT we're proud of our highly qualified students. Using advertising, publications, special events and government and media relations, this department will continue to enthusiastically take that message to government, industry and the community.

We know our students can meet whatever challenges the workplace presents them — the more employers who know it, the more a BCIT graduate is a valuable addition to a company.

So when companies approach with student projects — or a job offer — you'll know how they came to think of BCIT.

# Volleyball could pay dirt for BCIT this year

by Trent Houg

Yes, BCIT has a volleyball team. In fact there are both a mens and womens team.

Both teams play in the BCCAA conference, consisting of teams from the Vancouver area as well as teams from as far away as Prince George and the Okanagan.

The Cougars volleyball program is only in its fourth year and has met moderate success to date. While the team has only seen post-season action once in its existence, this could be the year the Mens team hits pay dirt.

The Cougars are currently in a dog fight with the Douglas College Royals for the last available play-off spot. With only four games remaining in the Cougar's season, the mens team needs to win both of its upcoming weekend series in order to advance to the play-offs. Currently BCIT sits in seventh place overall in the BCCAA conference standings, parked between College of New Caledonia and Douglas College.

The top six teams in the ten team league advance to the play-offs which begin on Friday March 4th.

Mens coach Fred Lafleur, is confident

his team will find their way into the play-offs. "I don't expect we will have any problem beating CNC, but Douglas College may be a bit tougher for our guys."

BCIT is currently coming off two consecutive defeats against Langara and Trinity. "Our problem seems to be inconsistency, we probably played our best matches of the season this past weekend, said Middle Blocker Dwayne Ferguson.

Lafleur is happy with the way the Cougars have progressed this season. "We have a good bunch of guys on the squad and we will be even stronger next season".

With the demanding programs BCIT dishes out to its students the Cougars only have time to practice twice a week, which may hurt the team in the long haul should they make it into post season play.

The Cougars have a date with Douglas College next weekend at home, then travel to Prince George the following weekend to take on the Kodiaks of CNC.

If you want to catch the Cougars in action they play their last home games of the season on February 12 and 13. Game time for the women's team is about 5 pm, while the men hit the floor around 7 pm.



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