

**ON STRIKE!**

Faculty &  
support staff  
unions vote  
in favour of  
job action

# The Link

Wednesday, November 14, 2012  
Volume 48, Issue 6  
Next issue: November 28, 2012

## ABOUT THE LINK

The Link is the British Columbia Institute of Technology's student newspaper. Published bi-weekly by the BCIT Student Association (BCITSA), The Link circulates 3,000 copies to over 46,000+ students, faculty, and staff.

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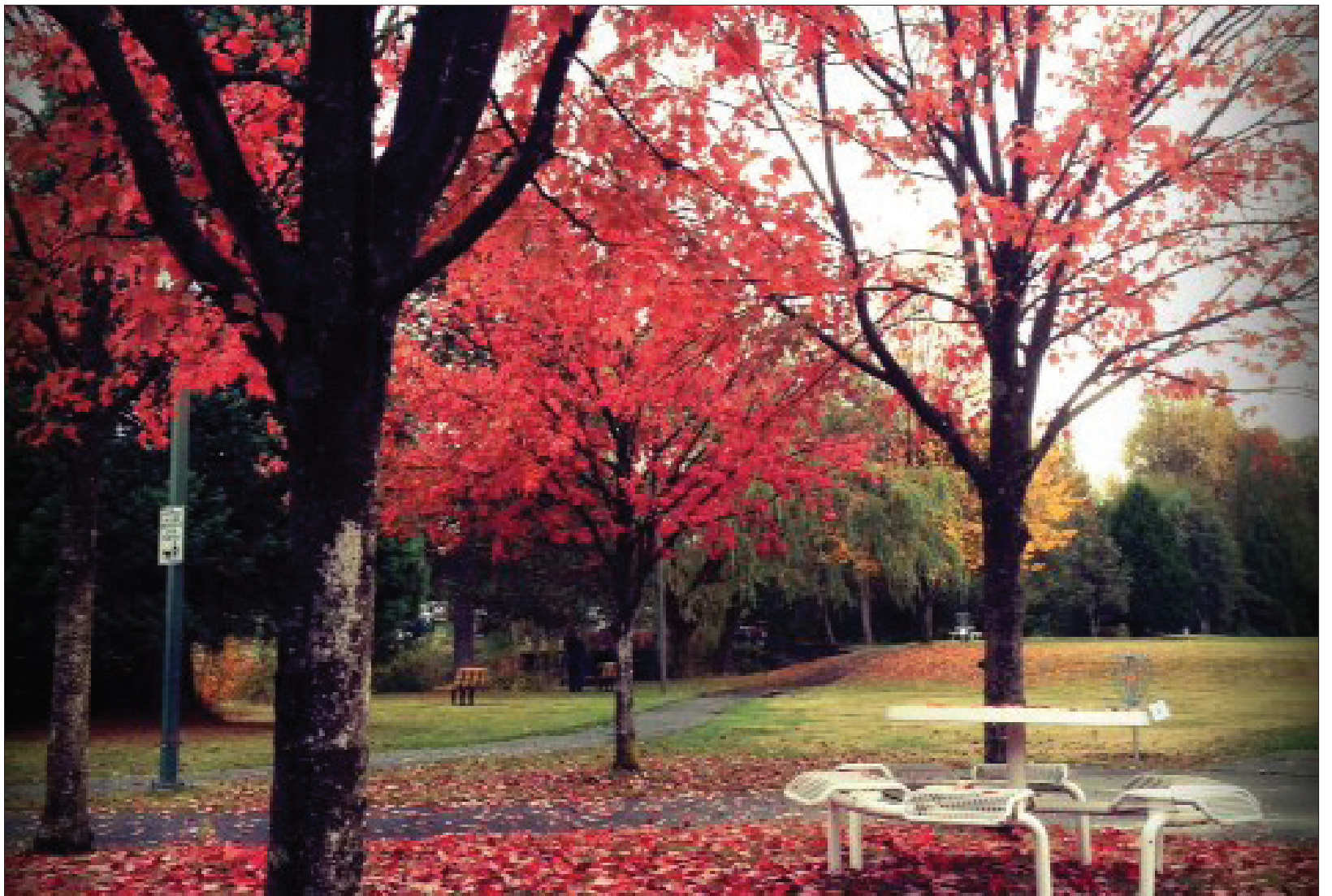
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# PHOTO of the WEEK



The leaves turning colour at Burnaby Campus.

Abubakr Bajaman

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## CAMPUS QUERY

## Why are you participating in Movember?



**PATRICK O'MEARA**

Marketing Management and Professional Sales

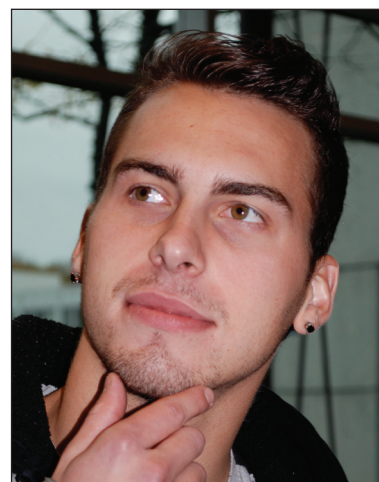
"I do it to help out with cancer and to raise awareness about men's health."



**PEYMAN ATAEE**

Biomedical Engineering

"The best part of it is that you get to grow a moustache. But my girlfriend isn't a fan of it."



**JONNY WEIBE**

Marketing Management and Real Estate

"It helps in picking up the ladies, and it raises awareness about cancer."



**CALEB HENRY**

Broadcast Journalism

"I did because the demand for moustache rides are on the rise!"





FSA Executive Director Paul Reniers speaks to a strike vote information meeting attended by 250 FSA members on Wednesday, November 7.

Paul Dayson / BCIT FSA

## BCIT Faculty and Staff Association vote in favour of job action

The union voted 78% in favour of strike action, which could mean more class cancellations.

### NEETU GARCHA

News Editor, *The Link*

It seems to be strike season at post-secondary institutions across British Columbia. BCIT's Faculty Staff Association (FSA) voted 78 per cent in favour of holding strike action at BCIT.

The FSA represents about 600 instructors in part-time studies, about another 600 day-school instructors, professionals in the library, students services in counselling, 100 members in information technology services, technical staff in the technology programs, and assistant instructors.

This follows strike action on November 6 by BCIT support staff, who are members of the BC Government Employees' Union (BCGEU) and could mean more class cancellations for students.

According to a press release sent out by the FSA on Tuesday, FSA members will be withdrawing from all institute activities on Wednesday from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. – during which time BCIT does not schedule regular full time classes. However, if BCIT applies to the Labour Relations Board for mediation, job action will be put on hold until the FSA or BCIT abandons mediation.

Reniers also wrote a letter to BC's Minister of Advanced Education, John Yap after the FSA reportedly made repeated requests to meet with Minister Yap in person.

FSA Executive Director Paul Reniers predicted that will not be the case.

"We are considering taking action, but it would be very limited," stated Reniers.

**"What we're fighting for is to be treated in the same way as the universities,"**

— Paul Reniers,  
executive director, BCIT Faculty  
and Staff Association

Around the same time BCGEU support staff strike action was taking place at BCIT, the FSA was holding a bargaining support meeting. According to Reniers, 70 FSA union members met to talk about what they would do if they were to go on strike, while some other FSA members were showing their support for the BCGEU.

"We kept our members out of the buildings that were impacted by the strike," Reniers told *The Link*. "We had members on the picket line sup-

porting the BCGEU."

Reniers referred to one of the FSA meetings held during the week of the BCGEU strike action as potentially the largest meeting held in about a decade, if not longer.

Reniers said that the focus of the FSA has been to make the contract easier to understand and to address a few key issues, such as part-time studies contracts.

"Students probably don't realize that part-time studies instruction isn't paid the same way as base-school instructors are paid and they're paid a lot less ... [and] have fewer rights," Reniers noted, pointing out the disparity between how night school instructors are paid.

Other key issues include parental leave, staff turnover and wages. The FSA is seeing that many other unions in university sectors are settling for two per cent wage increases each year for two years.

"We haven't had a [wage] increase since July 20, 2009," complained Reniers. "What we're fighting for is to be treated in the same way as the universities."

Reniers says the FSA's vote in favor of strike action was autonomous of the BCGEU and other unions' decisions to take strike action around BC.

"Our concerns are the same," said Reniers referring to other

institutions across BC that have taken strike action as well as BCIT's support staff. "I think we're less concerned about the fact that there are strike votes going on at other institutes, in fact we compete with SFU for instructors and for students."

As the BCGEU has also told *The Link*, Reniers says the focus is on the provincial government.

**"Our schooling is so accelerated, you can't just not have a two-hour lecture."**

— Sarah Montgomery,  
nursing student

"We need to give BCIT a proper mandate for negotiating. Then it will be up to BCIT to make it work but right now our focus is going to be on sending a really clear message to the province."

In terms of what strike action will look like, Reniers says before the FSA does anything that will disrupt students or impact programs, they need to know that it's going to have an impact on their negotiations as well.

"Our members have said we need to inform students on what's going on. They should know why we're in this position and what it means for their education, so

those are things we are looking to do in the coming weeks."

First-year nursing student Sarah Montgomery says she hopes her program is not affected by strike action.

"I feel like, especially in the nursing program, our schooling is so accelerated, you can't just not have a two-hour lecture," says Montgomery. "Our time frame is very important."

Montgomery says one of her professors told her class that further strike action may lead to class cancellations and that the date and/or location of one of her midterms might be changed, but other than that, she has not been kept updated on strike action.

"I feel like we, nursing students at least, don't really have interaction with other faculties, so other than e-mails I get, I don't really know what's going on at the school," Montgomery said.

Montgomery says she supports the unions' requests, but does not think programs should be affected by strike action.

The FSA strike vote was conducted on November 7, 8 and 9 at BCIT's Burnaby and Downtown campuses and saw 689 members cast ballots, with 78 per cent voting in favour of taking strike action.

For updates on this developing story, visit [linknewspaper.ca](http://linknewspaper.ca) or follow @BCIT\_Link on Twitter.



# Gov't employees' union strikes at BCIT Burnaby

Classes close temporarily as BCGEU members picket four BCIT Burnaby buildings

**NEETU GARCHA**  
News Editor, *The Link*

Following a series of votes in favour of strike action at post-secondary institutions across the province, support staff at BCIT's Burnaby campus picketed outside of four buildings on Tuesday, November 6. The demonstration forced BCIT to cancel day classes, while night courses were unaffected.

Larry Dea, head of BC Government Employees' union (BCGEU) Local 703, said the focus is on sending a message to the provincial government.

"We're striking here today [because BCIT] tells us they don't have a mandate from the provincial government... to settle money issues," Dea told *The Link* as he picketed outside building SW1.

"So, the purpose of the strike is to move [BCIT] to petition their group to petition the government to give them a mandate to settle with us."

Richard Schaeffer, who leads the BCGEU's bargaining committee, said support staff demands are not far from what institutions have been granted elsewhere in BC.

"The last offer we put on the table is a very similar offer to what was accepted at UBC and what was accepted in the master agreement in the BCGEU... and it has yet to be approved at BCIT," said Schaeffer, who considers the support staff contract change requests to be reasonable.

Schaeffer said the BCGEU support staff is seeking to add a special needs day in case of family illness, job security, minor benefit improvements, and a wage increase that is the same or similar to what support staff at UBC received.

He also stated that BCIT support staff have been without a contract since June 30, 2010 and that after proposing a package similar to what UBC had settled for, it was rejected. In order to back their demands, BCIT support staff voted 89 per cent in support of the strike action on October 29.

According to the Canadian Union of Public Employees, UBC's bargaining committee reached a tentative deal with the institution on November 6 to renew the collective agreement after more than two years of negoti-



Members of the BC Government Employees' Union form picket lines on Tuesday, November 6.

Blanca Brandon

ations. Comments from BCIT did not deviate far from information provided in press releases.

"The purpose of the strike is to move [BCIT] to petition their group to petition the government to give them a mandate to settle with us."

— Richard Schaeffer,  
chairperson, BCGEU Local 703

"BCIT respects and values its faculty, staff and students and we are continuing to work with the collective bargaining representatives to ensure that we find a suitable resolution for all parties involved," said a media relations representative when asked about BCIT's response to the strike action.

Although it had been advertised that picketing would take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on November 6, support staff picketed from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. to avoid disrupting part-time students who take night classes at BCIT starting at 4:30 p.m.

First-year business management student Poonam Chahal had one of her classes cancelled due to picketing.

"I believe that the [support staff] do deserve what their demands are in limits," said Chahal, "but striking is not fair to us students who are paying tuition for a proper education."

Chahal told *The Link* she was not inconvenienced or bothered by the strike action but she believes this type of action is not fair for students and added that she hopes that no further class cancellations occur due to strike action.

For updates on this developing story, follow @BCIT\_Link on Twitter or visit [linknewspaper.ca](http://linknewspaper.ca)





# Is BCIT prepared for an earthquake?

What you and BCIT can do to prepare yourself for an unexpected natural disaster

**NEETU GARCHA**  
News Editor, *The Link*

Three words: drop, cover, hold. If you were to pick out the most important words from the information provided online regarding BCIT's emergency preparedness, those are likely them, according to Teresa Sharp, who runs BCIT's emergency management department.

"Get personally prepared because you will be on your own at least for 72 hours," advises Sharp, who also does personal preparedness presentations at BCIT. "In the event of a severe earthquake, everyone will be affected, so aside from ensuring your own safety the next important thing is to make sure your families are safe, so you will then be focused to help others."

Sharp says it's important to stay put after an earthquake stops, to see if there are any aftershocks. After ensuring your own safety, see who's injured, before carefully walking out of the building. Sharp says to continuously assess and be prepared for dangers such as aftershocks and falling debris, and be ready to seek cover again immediately.

Although these steps may seem straightforward, Sharp feels they are important.

Natural Resources Canada's latest geological survey says that the west coast of Canada is one of the few areas in the world where four tectonic plates meet and interact with three different types of plate movements. This results in significant earthquake activity and makes the Pacific Coast the most earthquake-prone region in the country.

"Get personally prepared because you will be on your own at least for 72 hours"

"We get earthquakes all the time; every day, but we don't feel them because some of them are very small," Sharp advised.

Sharp left the west coast before the 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit central BC on October 24, and headed for the US east coast, not far from Hurricane Sandy. She recently returned to BC from the Universities and Colleges Caucus at the International Association of Emergency Managers conference in Orlando.

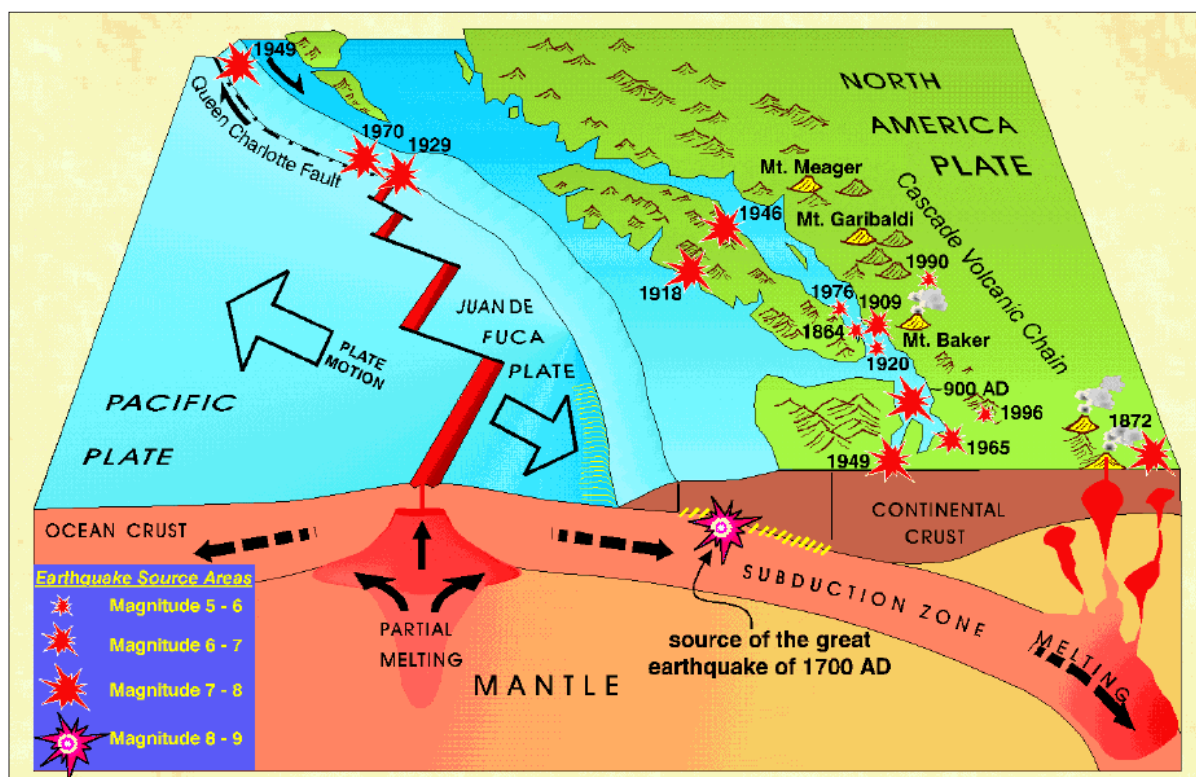
"The conference continued despite many cancelled sessions because of attendees returning to the east coast to respond to the event," said Sharp. "Much conversation centered around ... how Obama and Romney were handling the situation."

In terms of how BCIT would handle the situation, Sharp says the institution has a very good emergency program: "Over 10 per cent of the staff at BCIT are on one of our emergency response teams."

Sharp encourages members of the BCIT community to register for BCIT Alert, a warning alert system designed to keep the BCIT community safe and connected to key information. BCIT Alert is only used in urgent or emergency situations to send a short message to a cell phone, e-mail address, or voicemail.

"We do the test on the same day as ShakeOut BC," says Sharp of BC's annual earthquake drill, "so we can use the alert test as an opportunity to also promote ShakeOut BC."

Sharp says the BCIT community can access information, some of which is campus-specific, on BCIT's website under "Safety, Security & Emergency Management: Personal Preparedness." If you don't go there, just remember those three words that might save your life: drop, cover and hold.



Block diagram of southwest B.C. showing the Juan de Fuca plate descending beneath North America along a subduction zone.

Courtesy of Natural Resource Canada

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# International students' club to provide representation, support

Founder hopes to provide a platform for students far from home

**RONIL DESAI**

*The Link*

It may be easy for homegrown students to go about their routines on campus without the pressure of making new friends, but the same cannot necessarily be said for international students.

International students must find ways to connect to the culture, the city, and most importantly, their peers on campus, which can be a struggle. Rodrigo Mendez, a second-year international student from Venezuela, hopes to turn that struggle around.

After observing the lack of multicultural representation on campus, Mendez decided to create the Association of International Students (AIS), which was sanctioned as a club by the BCIT Student Association on October 29.

AIS will be a hub where international students can network, make connections, and find a sense of community. The club's primary goal is to provide international students with resources that will contribute to their social and professional lives at BCIT.

Rather than simply promoting cultures on campus, Mendez has a different vision.

"The [Association of International Students] is here to create a mentorship program for international students. I know it is tough for those coming abroad to get accustomed to the campus life and this club will allow [them] to instantly connect because these students already share a common ground," he Mendez explained.

**"I know it is tough for those coming abroad to get accustomed to the campus life and this club will allow those to instantly connect."**

The club's main initiative will be a type of mentorship program to help incoming international students acclimatize to the overwhelming BCIT experience and the cultural shock of living in a new city.

"Our current 60 members have already asked me how

to get in and around the city. We've been doing several activities, visiting downtown and planning dinners," Mendez told *The Link*. "All of this may not seem like a lot but it means a boatload to those who have no family in this city and are looking for an outlet to connect with their peers."

Promoting multiculturalism on BCIT's diverse campus will provide an opportunity to celebrate cultures and work to create unity through diversity.

"Coming from SFU and being part of several clubs, it felt like a home away from home. But at BCIT I don't feel that connection," explained BCIT engineering student Gurinder Brar. "Now it has the potential to change and it's great to see that a platform is provided for those who are in dire need for it."

AIS' success means the world to Mendez, who hopes that this outlet can provide international students with solutions to the challenges they face daily.

To learn more about the BCIT Association of International Students, check out the World Showcase Showdown, taking place November 16 at the Great Hall. A host of countries will be represented in booths staffed by students eager to show off their homelands.



International students from Austria show off their talents in 2011's Eurovision talent showcase hosted by Professor Mugs Pub.

Courtesy of the BCIT Student Association

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Ken Taylor (Victor Garber), left, meets Sam Mendez (Ben Affleck) in front of the Canadian embassy.

Courtesy of Warner Bros.

# Argo downplays Canada's heroic role

Despite its critical role, Canada's involvement gets unjustly overlooked the film adaptation of the 1980 hostage rescue mission

**THORSTAN GERLACH**  
*The Link*

Before Ben Affleck hits the Oscar trail for his film *Argo*, he needs to account for the proverbial bitch-slap he handed Canadians with his film.

*Argo*, based on the 1980 joint US-Canadian effort to save six American hostages hiding in the Canadian ambassador's house in revolutionary Iran, does its best to minimize Canada's role in the rescue. Instead, most of the credit goes to CIA operative Tony Mendez and a small group of agents — both the political and the Hollywood kind.

Much of the rescue effort was classified due to the west's volatile relationship with Iran. Mendez posed as a Canadian producer scouting “exotic” locations for a would-be sci-fi flick *Argo*. The six hostages each had a part: director, photographer, cameraman, etc.

“**Though Canadians acted nobly and bravely, Canada was reduced to a punch line.**”

Though Canadians acted nobly and bravely, especially Canadian ambassador Ken Taylor, Canada was reduced to a punch line by Mendez and his team by the film's end.

When *Argo* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in September, controversy arose over the minimized depiction of the Canadian effort.

“The movie rewrites history at Canada's expense, making Hollywood and the CIA the saga's heroic saviours while Taylor is demoted to a kindly concierge,” wrote *Maclean's* magazine.

But it didn't end there: a group of Ambassador Taylor's friends, who watched the film at TIFF, were angered, prompting Affleck to phone Taylor. A meeting was arranged, some post-script was changed and all was well.

However, after watching the film, one cannot help but feel a little cheated.

*Argo* has already been courting Oscar attention for best director and best picture. The nominations will be well de-

served, because it is a carefully constructed and exciting political thriller.

However, Affleck used artistic license in his retelling of history: Taylor himself stated, “... in reality, Canada was responsible for the six and the CIA was a junior partner. But I realize this is a movie and you have to keep the audience on the edge of their seats.”

“**Maybe Canadians who watch the film should tell Affleck to *Ar-go* fuck himself.**”

Critical acclaim doesn't let Affleck off the hook for his slight toward Canadians.

It's understood that in Hollywood Canadians will never be seen as the tough guys. There may never be a Canadian John Wayne in the movies, a towering figure that defines masculinity.

Instead, Canadians are portrayed as caricatures: Mounties wearing silly beaver pelt hats, cabin dwellers in plaid, or toothless hockey players. But above all, Canadians are mild-natured neighbours who play by the rules, and that's not sexy — certainly not compared to the fearless and valiant Americans.

Though the film is certainly worth watching, viewers need to put on their thinking caps. Or maybe it's best that viewers leave their thinking caps at home and enjoy *Argo* as a fun, exciting, fast-paced thriller.

Maybe Canadians who watch the film should tell Affleck to *Ar-go* fuck himself.





Reviving a genre is serious business.

Kate Henderson

## Bringing pop punk back

Eric Axen and Sightlines breathe new life into the genre

**JESSE WENTZLOFF**

*The Link*

When Eric Axen decided to start pop-punk band Sightlines, he wasn't worried that people might be sick of the simple song structures and hooky riffs that Blink-182 and Green Day used in the mid-'90s and early '00s.

"I think we've had about five years' reprieve from garbage like Sum 41," Axen says, "so people aren't so scared

of the genre anymore." With Good Charlotte and Simple Plan firmly in the rear-view mirror, Axen uses the label "pop punk" knowingly, in part because it has so many different connotations.

The genre spans wide spectrum from radio-friendly shlock to strongly principled do-it-yourself craft, and the front man thinks, "People are ready to embrace the good stuff again."

Axen has been writing and playing music in Vancouver's independent alternative music scene for ten years, most recently as the guitarist and lead singer for two-piece Hermetic. He was writing so many

songs, though, that another creative outlet was needed — one better suited to the style of the new material.

“We’ve had about five years’ reprieve from garbage like Sum 41.

“About half of what I was writing was very straightforward and almost embarrassingly sentimental,” he says — content that didn't quite fit the literate, socially conscious

themes of Hermetic's output, but were perfect in the context of a pop punk band.

So the guitarist got together with two other veterans of the local music scene, drummer Chris Martell and bassist Aaron McHattie, and set out to “clear the vault” of backed-up songs. The three-piece walks the line between straight Ramones-worship and observant, self-aware punk, but “the common thread is it's mostly pretty fun.”

The role that Vancouver's independent artistic community has played in shaping Axen's music is not lost on the long-time participant.

### LOCAL EVENTS

**November 9-23rd**

**Snoop Dogg Vancouver Art Show**

The Fall Gallery, 644 Seymour St.

The Fall art gallery invites everyone to “drop it like it's art” in an unusually-themed art show. The exhibition is organized by a collective who made their name with other exhibits featuring celebrities as art objects, including *Bill You Murray Me?* last February, and *Steven Seagallery*, which included pieces from a Burning Man art show. The show will feature artists of all levels expressing their love for D-O-double-G through various media.

**November 12-18**

**Hopscotch Festival**

PNE Forum

Looking for something more sophisticated than a six-pack of Pabst Blue Ribbon to celebrate the upcoming weekend? The Hopscotch Festival's sixteenth edition brings the best of whiskey, scotch and craft beer to Metro Vancouver. Upgrading to a bigger venue, the festival will feature over 250 products available for tasting. Aside from being a great excuse to enjoy delicious beverages, Hopscotch offers master classes on topics like the history of Jack Daniel's and lessons on European craft beer brewing techniques.

**November 16-18**

**Eastside Culture Crawl**

East Vancouver

The culture crawl invites the public to visit East Vancouver artists' work in their natural habitat. Over 400 local artists with studios located in the area from Main Street to Victoria Drive participate in the free event this year, which is a hundred times more than the first Eastside open-studio fundraiser in 1994. The event involves artists of all levels of expertise and all types of craft, from glassblowing to writing. Whether it's to find a new painting for that empty spot on your wall, or to share experiences with fellow artists, the Crawl gives Vancouverites plenty of chances to get properly cultured.

— Olsy Sorokina

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16. Fire's Highway - Japandroids
17. Fall In - Cloud Nothings
18. Matter Of Time - The Killers
19. Vibrant Scene - Jon and Roy
20. Hold On When You Get Love, Let Go When You Give It - Stars







Khalifa pictured earlier this year in London, Ontario.

Courtesy of Nate Warren Tapper

## Wiz Khalifa brings 2050 tour to Vancouver

The Taylor Gang had the crowd on their feet, offering high times and a higher message

**SARAH SANGHA**

*The Link*

Rogers Arena has remained nearly dormant since the NHL lockout started, but was turned into a giant hotbox on Tuesday night as fans waited for Wiz Khalifa and his Taylor Gang.

The show started off with Chevy Woods, a lesser-known but talented rapper, who is often featured on Khalifa's tracks. Woods and Lola Monroe, the "princess" of Taylor Gang, made use of every moment on stage, delivering quick rhymes over loud bass, to leave an impression on the hazy crowd.

Those upbeat vibes were quickly replaced when hip hop veteran Juicy J began his set, attempting to create a moody,

drug-den ambience. Sadly, The Weeknd he is not. Although the two share similar lyrical material, Juicy J lacked subtlety in both his lyrics and performance, waxing about his love of marijuana before switching to a faster song about MDMA as the crowd roared its approval: "Y'all know I love molly, right?"

“At only a quarter-century old, he's sold millions of albums, established a record label — and he's going to be a father soon.

Luckily, he switched gears before the audience had to hear about the merits of heroin, choosing to end with his song Bands Ah Make Her Dance which currently sits atop the

rap Billboard Charts. For this, Juicy J needed some help.

"I need 100 chicks on stage right now," he commanded as dozens of young women, some of whom were clearly teenagers, flocked onstage to shake their asses for the crowd. As the women began to dance, Juicy periodically pointed to certain ladies, shouting, "She a ratchet hoe!" before inviting all 100 women back to his tour bus, where he promised an assortment of pills would be waiting for them.

It was disappointing to see someone who once rapped about the intense poverty and drug problems of the south singing about strippers and degrading women onstage.

Although misogyny in hip-hop can't be placed squarely on his shoulders, he's reinforcing a stereotype to a generation that isn't old enough to remember the battle between feminists and rappers in the '90s.

Juicy J left the audience buzzing with anticipation for Khalifa. The packed crowd was another impressive testament to the impresario that is Wiz Khalifa. At only a quarter-century old, he's sold millions of albums, established a record label with a promising roster of artists and put his native Pittsburgh on the map — and he's going to be a father soon

“Be who you want to be, don't let anybody influence you, smoke weed but get your shit done.”

— Wiz Khalifa

Khalifa began with a song from his new mixtape Cabin Fever 2. Khalifa originally found fame through his mixtapes, and

thanked everybody who had been "Taylored" with him since his earliest tape came out. He was in good spirits, reminding people to spark and share their joints, and seemed truly touched that the audience was so moved by his music.

It seems that Wiz wanted his show to deliver more than just music and a contact high; he wanted to deliver a message. With the stage as his pulpit, and a giant billowing bong serving as his crucifix in the background, Khalifa took time between songs to discuss empowerment.

"People are so worried about our generation, but do what you want to do," he said, smiling at the crowd. "Be who you want to be, don't let anybody influence you, smoke weed but get your shit done." He ended the show with the aptly titled Work Hard, Play Hard, leaving the crowd excited and inspired.





Internet “hacktivist” group Anonymous put a face to their name — the Guy Fawkes mask shown above.

Courtesy of Vincent Diamante

# ***We Are Legion* explores the faces behind the Guy Fawkes mask**

Documentary reminds viewers why they should not forgive threats to our freedom or forget the Anonymous

**OLSY SOROKINA**

*The Link*

Until their response to the cyber-bullying of Amanda Todd Internet activist group Anonymous had been laying relatively low, making no headlines since 25 of their members were arrested by Interpol in 2011. As a result, *We Are Legion: The Story of the Hacktivists* was expected to be somewhat of a eulogy for this Internet phenomenon — but writer and director Brian Knappenberger had a different idea.

Knappenberger begins the narrative by briefly tracing

the history of hacking, starting in the late '80s with groups like LØPHT and the Cult of the Dead Cow. Discussion of those two groups foreshadows the documentary's main contrast between harmless hacking and a serious battle for freedom of expression on the web. The narrative continues to describe where the Anonymous movement all began, with Christopher “Moot” Poole's brainchild — the controversial online, anonymous forum 4chan.

While the primary focus of the film is on the serious issues of Internet freedom, Knappenberger doesn't miss a chance to enlighten the audience on the strange nature of 4chan and its “/b/” subsection, which serves as a stage for posting oddities and Internet memes without censorship.

The documentary gives viewers insight into an average night on /b/, ranging from pictures of men dressed up as unicorns to Justin Bieber's face Photoshopped on a busty woman's body.

“Anonymous stopped being a bunch of “kids sitting in their mom's basement” and put a face to the legion.”

4chan has become much more than a portal for silly GIFs, though. *We Are Legion* introduces Anonymous as an online vigilante group, initially targeting Internet “troll”

(one who purposely causes trouble online) Hal Turner, a famous Neo-Nazi blogger, the Church of Scientology.

According to another member of the group, the “Scientology troll” was the defining moment of the Anonymous movement.

In taking a collective moral stance against the controversial religion, Anonymous stopped being a bunch of “kids sitting in their mom's basement” and put a face to the legion — a Guy Fawkes mask, to be precise.

The diversity of the Anonymous community is explored wonderfully in the film, with commentary from main players like Gregg Housh and Barrett Brown, as well as numerous webcam interviews with /b/ members who chose to

remain, well, anonymous. Additional insight is provided by academics, old-school hackers and companies like Gawker and Wired magazine.

There is, however, a lack of representation from the organizations targeted by Anonymous.

For those previously unfamiliar with 4chan and Anonymous, *We Are Legion* provides a detailed, accurate account of the movement from its early days as “the weird part of the Internet” to its recent hacktivist exploits.

As for the present and retired /b/tards (the affectionate nickname netizens of /b/ have given themselves), maybe it is a proud moment to be a part of a larger thing and relive past glory, or just another good opportunity for the lulz.



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The scene above is both unnecessary and possibly unsafe.

Courtesy of Flickr user Noodles and Beef

## Down with the flu vaccine

Why you should avoid getting the flu shot this year

**JEN ZIMMERMAN**

*The Link*

Sneezing, body aches, chills, fever: We've all been there, but is there anything we can do to protect ourselves from the dreaded flu?

The flu shot probably comes to mind, but does it really work? Is it safe? The answer is no!

**What does the Center for Disease Control have to say?**

Each year, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) creates an influenza vaccine (based on flu trends) that is supposed to protect against the three deadliest strains of flu each season.

The problem: there are hundreds of strains of the flu, as the flu mutates every year. This makes the flu shot nothing more than a seasonal stab in the dark at flu strains that may be active.

Take the 2003/2004 flu season. The CDC predicted that the flu vaccine they created that year was not going to be effective, because the strains the vaccine targeted weren't active that season.

According to the CDC, "No flu vaccine will protect its recipient 100 per cent."

Isn't the whole point of getting a vaccine for protection from disease or illness? I don't get a polio vaccine hoping that I won't get polio — I know I won't get polio, because the polio vaccine is targeted, unlike the influenza vaccine.

What raises more eyebrows is a brief chemistry lesson on how the flu vaccine works, courtesy of Dr. Anne Marie Helmenstine, PhD in biomedical sciences.

"When you get the flu vac-

cine, your body is receiving minute traces of inactive flu molecules. When the flu virus contacts a chemical "match" from the vaccine, it stimulates the body to produce antibodies. When an antibody binds to a molecule, it marks it for destruction. A flu vaccine can only stimulate your immune system to protect you against the viruses in the vaccine."

So, if you have had a flu shot, will you be protected?

**In purely economic terms, a market existed for scantily-clad female footballers, and it was filled.**

Protection depends on how closely the CDC is able to "match" the vaccine to the active flu each season.

According to Helmenstine, "You may not get any protection from the flu, because the flu virus mutates and the vaccine doesn't account for these mutations."

Even if the CDC's predictions are "on" for a flu season, you may still get sick if the vaccine can't create enough antibodies to actually protect you from the flu.

According to Helmenstine, you will still get the flu if your body isn't fast enough to produce antibodies; the virus has mutated beyond your body's ability to recognize it; your body didn't make enough antibodies when you first received the flu vaccine; or if you received your vaccine too early or too late in the flu season.

**What's inside a flu vaccine?**

According to Helmenstine, each flu vaccine contains high levels of mercury, aluminum, formaldehyde, and other various toxic agents. In addition to these toxins, there is triton X-100 (a chemical in laundry detergent), polysorbate 80 (a food filler), carbolic acid, ethylene glycol (antifreeze) and various antibiotics in every flu vaccine.

According to Dr. Donald Miller, cardiac surgeon and professor of surgery at the University of Washington, two-thirds of flu vaccines administered in 2008/2009 were comprised of 49 per cent mercury by weight.

Dr. Miller's research indicates that mercury is 100 times more toxic than lead: every flu shot contains 25 micrograms of mercury, which is 250 times more than the Environmental Protection Agency's safety limit!

**How to protect yourself from the flu without getting the flu vaccine?**

Besides commonsense behaviors like hand washing, avoiding contact with your eyes, nose and mouth before you have washed your hands, and sneezing into your sleeve or a Kleenex, what can you do? Dr. Miller has some great insight.

He recounts five independent studies indicating that insufficient levels of vitamin D significantly impairs your immune system's ability to respond to common viruses like the cold or the flu, and dramatically increases respiratory infections in your body.

Miller's solution is to increase your intake of vitamin D during flu season, through foods like fish, eggs, and soy milk, or by taking a synthetic vitamin D supplement.

So, before you roll up your sleeve for your flu shot this season, consider the facts.

## Scarlet Letters

by BCIT's own Scarlet de Sade

Dear Scarlet,

*My girlfriend is refusing to give me head because she says my sperm tastes gross — aside from getting a new girlfriend, is there anything I can do to change her mind?*

— Funky Spunk

Dear Funky,

There's not a lot you can do to actually change your girlfriend's mind. However, you can try changing the taste of your cum instead. Almost everything we eat or drink can affect the smell and taste of our bodily fluids. Food items such as coffee, garlic, red meat and alcohol can negatively affect the way we taste, potentially causing a sour or bitter taste. Foods such as vanilla, or citrus fruits like pineapple, can have a positive effect, creating a sweeter, more pleasant taste.

All food digested by the body is carried through the bloodstream to various glands and tissues, including the seminal vesicle and vaginal wall. The smell and taste of food molecules we ingest can be released through the secretions produced by these glands and tissues, resulting in a noticeable difference in our body fragrance and flavour.

Modifications in diet may improve your chances, but in reality, you would have to give up many foods you love while consuming copious amounts of pineapple and vanilla. Have either of you considered using a condom during oral, or perhaps your girlfriend opts not to swallow next time?

— Scarlet

Dear Scarlet,

*My boyfriend has given my hoo-ha a nickname that my ex-boyfriend used. How do I approach my current boyfriend to address this subject? Do I tell him?*

— Hoo-Ha Dilemma

Dear Hoo-ha,

What are the odds? You have to ask yourself, does this nickname bother me? Are your ex-boyfriend and current flame best friends and, if so, do they spend a considerable amount of time in the locker room? Does your hoo-ha have a Facebook page?

The fact of the matter is, there is a good chance your boyfriend does not want to know that he is about as original at naming your vagina as your ex was, so telling him may unnecessarily hurt his feelings.

If you are fine with the name, then I say let it run its course. There are far greater evils in this world than a questionable vaginal namesake.

If you hate this nickname, tell him so. He doesn't need to know why you hate it, just that you do.

Remember, Hoo-ha, originality in a world of seven billion is rare, and I think Ralph Waldo Emerson said it best when he quipped, "All my best thoughts were stolen by the ancients."

— Scarlet

**Do you have a question for Scarlet de Sade? Email [scarlet.letters.bcit@gmail.com](mailto:scarlet.letters.bcit@gmail.com)**



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Angie Thielmann

## Driving Miss Safety

**NAME**  
Rikki Lamb  
**AGE**  
25  
**HOMETOWN**  
Fort St. John, B.C.  
**PROGRAM**  
Occupational health and safety diploma program

**ANGIE THEILMANN**  
Assistant Editor, *The Link*

Unfazed by the background noise, I find Rikki Lamb sitting, quietly doing what BCIT students do best: studying. This second-year occupational health and safety student takes the time to talk with me despite looming midterms. Calm and open about her thoughts, it makes perfect sense to me that this girl hails from small town

Fort St. John, in the heart of Northern BC's Peace River Valley.

At 25, Lamb lives up to many things that I'd expect from a small town girl. She drives a truck, she'd two-step with you in a heartbeat — that's a dance, city folk — and, oh, she's just a little intimidated by the big city crowds. As we chat, I realize that living up to any kind of stereotype takes a backseat in this girl's life.

How many girls have worked in the oil sands; and of those, how many start by driving a "rock truck" — basically a gigantic dump truck. Lamb did, and at barely over five feet tall, Lamb couldn't meet the top of the wheel well even if she was standing on a friend's shoulders. Did I mention this was in the winter in northern BC?

During another stint on the

oil patch, she worked as a "hot shot driver", delivering machine parts to crews on a 24 hour-a-day basis. Just another ordinary day in the driver's seat for Lamb.

"Fort St. John is an oil town, and so is any of the surrounding area like Fort Nelson, Grand Prairie," she told me.

Despite being a very male-dominated industry, Lamb has been around the oil patch her whole life and the idea of working there is something she's used to.

That's not all she's done since high school. She earned a bachelor's degree in equine sciences — the training, rearing, and caring for horses. But with little money to be had in the industry, it was back to the oil patch; this time, she went with a first aid certification qualifying her to work as a medic.

With a makeshift camper vehicle as her treatment station, she says that she never had to treat anything too serious. In fact, the challenge was more what to do with all her free time.

*“She drives a truck, she'd two-step with you in a heartbeat — that's a dance, city folk.”*

"Basically, you sit in your truck all day. So I started looking at online courses because, I was like, if I'm going to be here for twelve to fourteen hours a day, I might as well do something."

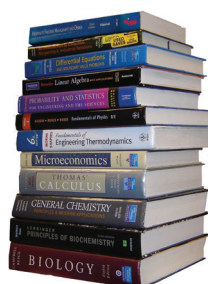
So from up north, Lamb emailed BCIT to find out more about the occupational health

and safety programs, and realized she should commit to the full-time diploma in Burnaby. And so she applied. Six weeks later, she was accepted. That was last August.

Near completion of her diploma, she'll be the person at your workplace who trains you to properly use your safety equipment, investigates the cause of your injury or who makes best practice recommendations to your company.

In the meantime, Lamb has adapted. She knows the best country bars in town, and has found respite from the city in her quiet New Westminster neighbourhood. And, her truck? Oh, it's parked, because in her words, the U-Pass is "like gold." And whether it's oil, a bus pass, or her education, this gal knows how to capitalize on a valuable resource when she sees one.

*The Link* pays its contributors!



Spend the money however you like.

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



# WinterFest<sup>2012</sup>

Come party in the snow!

January 9



## Includes:

Entry to the BCITSA Winterfest event @ Mt Seymour

A beer at Professor Mugs

Bus ride to and from the mountain between 2pm-10pm  
(Departs and returns to BCIT Burnaby)

A beer at Mt Seymour

A burger at Mt Seymour

**DJ's, Party, Competitions, Prizes and Special  
ticket pricing for all things Alpine**  
(Skiing, Boarding, rentals, Snowshoeing and Tubing).

Don't miss out, get your tickets today,  
available at BCITSA stores.







## BCITSA Info & News



### EXECUTIVE WEIGH-IN



**A message from BCITSA  
School of Construction  
Chair Brian Harvey**

The BCIT Student Association has been very busy over the first few months of the school year. Starting this week, the second floor of the building SE2 will become a construction zone.

The result of a process that started over two years ago, the project has been a long time coming. Working with BCIT, students, and architects we have developed a design for brand new student space directly next to the Great Hall.

This project has been something that I have seen almost from the beginning and am now closely involved with the decisions regarding everything from the finishes to the furniture. The new space will see the addition of plenty of meeting rooms, study space, and student service spaces that will be available to all BCIT students.

The renovation will see the addition of spaces on the third floor of the building in the years to come. We have been extremely excited about making building SE2 centre for students on-campus. Throughout construction, Stand Central and the Uconnect Resource Centre will be open as usual.

On top of this, I hope to be able to expand on the student lounge spaces that were developed in the summer of 2011 as well as branch it out to the satellite campuses in order to provide them with additional student services that they are paying for. This is something that will hopefully be developed for the future expansion of the BCIT Student Association.

## Notice:

# BCIT STUDENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Monday, November 19  
5:45 to 6:30 p.m.



Until then, like our Facebook page  
([facebook.com/bcitsa](https://facebook.com/bcitsa)) and follow us  
on Twitter (@BCITSA) to stay updated!





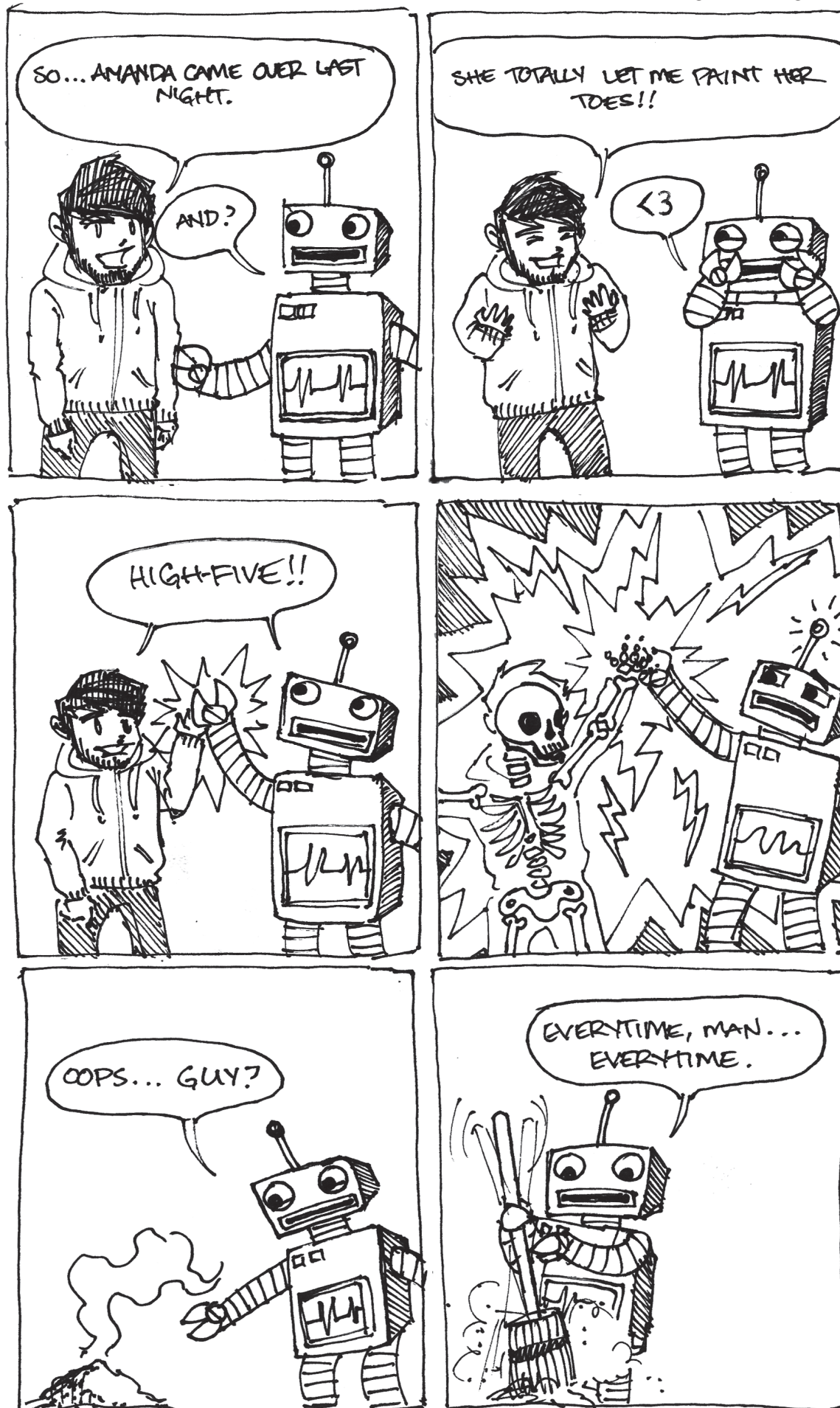
SKI NINJAS

Kyle Lees (Lakehead University)



THE ROBOT &amp; THE GUY

Kudagra (BCIT original)



# FAUXROSCOPES

with Mystical Mama Angie,  
semi-certified astrologist



## IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY

Count your lucky stars, birthday boy/girl — really, count them. On my birthday this year, I counted 8,568 and then I had the best summer ever. Spot 8,569, and your whole year is guaranteed to be *stellar*.

## VIRGO (Aug. 24 – Sept. 23)

Pictures are worth a thousand words, Virgo, but books have more than a thousand words. So read one. Or five. Stapling web screen printouts doesn't count. It just makes you *spineless*.

## LIBRA (Sept. 24 – Oct. 23)

Guitars are good for playing the blues, but bongo drums are good for beating them away. So go on Libra, test one out at your local music store. And if they tell you to literally beat it, *tri, tribalgain*.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24 – Nov. 22)

Are you scared of the dark? The night skies illuminate futures, but they don't lighten those dark fall nights. Our solution? Be your own shining star, with glow-in-the dark T-shirts. Hundreds of them.

## ARIES (March 21 – April 20)

Aries, it's time to make friends. Get your neighbours' attention by banging pots and pans. Then, surprise the crowd by speaking French and serving them crepes and maple syrup. Because *vous-êtes le flippin' best*.

## TAURUS (April 21 – May 21)

Taurus, put on a '50s record and shake your hips to get what we astrologists like to call "ships". Then, use your ships to sail across the Pacific and visit a country you've never seen. Sounds crazy, but well worth it!

## GEMINI (May 22 – June 21)

Gemini, if you feel like it's sink or swim, maybe it's just because you need a new umbrella, brella brella. Still feel like you're swimming upstream? We give you full permission to *fish* for a few compliments.

## CANCER (June 22 – July 23)

Your Monday grocery purchases will predict your future. Beets? You're *reddy* for anything. Coffee? You are *stronger* than you think. Greek Cheese? You're *feta-up* with your lifestyle ... and quite possibly these puns.

## LEO (July 24 – Aug. 23)

Leo, my cosmic radar says a bright new star in the cell-phone market has emerged and it's called the Galaxy. Find someone who has one. They are your destiny. But be serious, or you'll ome across as a *phone-y*.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 – Dec. 21)

Salt and pepper shakers seem like nothing special. But Sagittarius, the elements they contain in turn contain your life motto. Make every day delicious. *Season the day. Carpe-pper So-dium*.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 – Jan. 20)

It's cold out Capricorn, and time your teapot runneth over with mint tea, black tea, green tea and red tea. Be a team player and offer your friends a cuppa. But follow through, or people may think you're just a *tea-se*.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 – Feb. 19)

No matter your cultural background, you must perfect your Santa Claus impression before November ends. Your ability to impersonate this white-bearded man will be critical. At the *El-venth* hour, you'll thank us.

## PISCES (Feb. 20 – Mar. 20)

Pisces, the mountains say, "Sharpen your skis AND your spy skills." Go to the 007 pre-winter film fest. Watch *Casi-snow Royale*, *Black diamonds are forever* and *Tobaggan never knows*. Take snow-tes.

## CASH! FAME! PUNS!

Send the lulz to [link@bcitsa.ca](mailto:link@bcitsa.ca)