

# theLink

Student Newspaper at BCIT

December 8, 2005  
to January 11, 2006  
Volume 41  
Issue 7

## Happy Holiday Season!





## theLink

Putting out milk and cookies for the big guy since 1964

SE2 - 285  
3700 Willingdon Ave.  
Burnaby, BC, V5G 3H2  
Tel: 604.432.8974  
Fax: 604431.7619

**The Link** is the student newspaper of the British Columbia Institute of Technology. Published bi-weekly by the BCIT Student Association (BCITSA), **The Link** circulates 3,000 copies to over 16,000 students, faculty and staff.

### Contributors:

Carolynne Burkholder  
Ayami Kato  
The Library Ladies  
Annika Reinhardt  
Eric Szeto  
Tara Williams

### Managing Editor:

Geoff Gauthier  
link@bcitsa.ca

### Advertising Sales:

Gilbert Matembe  
ads@bcitsa.ca

### Assistant Editor:

Ryan Malzer  
link.malzer@gmail.com

### Photo Editor:

Shawn Edstrom

### Copy Editor:

Heather Thompson

The views in **The Link** are not necessarily those of BCIT, BCITSA, or the Editorial Staff.

As a member of Canadian University Press (CUP), **The Link** adheres to the CUP code of ethics and will not publish any material deemed by the editors to be sexist, racist, homo/hetero phobic or in poor taste.

 Canadian University Press  
Member Paper

 **Campus Plus**

National Advertisers Call for Rates  
416.966.8311

 **STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

# Future predictions for 2006

The new year is approaching and this stuff could happen...

By Geoff Gauthier  
Managing Editor

**January 23, 2006**  
**Stephen Harper Wins**

The three words no one in Canada wants to hear are broadcast on CBC as the ballots are counted. Shortly after Harper's landslide victory, he has all Canadians of alternative lifestyles and other cultures gathered up and placed in concentration camps. Fearing Harper's anti-everything-that-isn't-WASP policies, Paul Martin, Jack Layton and Gilles Duceppe form an underground resistance movement called the Canadians Against Stephen Harper (CASH).

With no other options remaining to them, CASH turn to Celine Dion for help with Operation Sonic Terror. All three of CASH's helicopters are equipped with giant speakers and do constant fly-bys over 24 Sussex Drive, bombarding Harper and his minions with the extra annoying versions of "My Heart Will Go On."

**February 10, 2006**  
**Olympics Cancelled**

In a crude attempt to save money while beefing up security, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) opts to station all Olympic hopeful biathletes in and around Torino. The armed skiers in tight fitting pants, who number in the dozens, are mocked by locals and teased by the other competitors. The scene turns violent and all but the Canadian Hockey Team are taken out by the trained ski-assassins.

**March 2, 2006**

**Jovo and Clouts for Luongo**

Finally at wits end with the play of Alex Auld, Dave Nonis calls Mike Keenan and hooks up the deal he should have made at the start of the '05/'06 season. That bum Jovonoski and his buddy Dan "ouch, my groin, knee, hip, and head" Cloutier move down to sunny Florida where they can retire with no one but old people watching them.

Meanwhile, Vancouver fans get a real, albeit somewhat narcissistic, goalie in the form of Roberto Luongo.

**April 22, 2006**  
**Malzer Gets Shot**

Link Assistant Editor and long-time hoodlum Ryan Malzer becomes the first casualty at the hands of the newly armed Sky Train Police. Ryan is survived by his hamster, Gouda, and owes the Link, like, at least \$15 and three stories. No major news outlets cover the story.

**May 30, 2006**  
**www.ashleysteier.com Soars to Internet Infamy**

BCITSA President Ashley Steier's personal website becomes the biggest thing on the internet, eating up tonnes of bandwidth as hordes of internet junkies check out the "breaking news" section because their lives are so incredibly empty.

So entranced by Steier's hotness, money, and fame Paris Hilton takes an interest in the budding CA. Steier goes on record as the first accountant to ever get laid. Three days later Paris leaves him for Macaulay Culkin.

**June 15, 2006**

**Nothing to Report**

Absolutely nothing of any great importance happens in June.

**July 7, 2006**

**Jackson and Lucas Combine**

Peter Jackson and George Lucas decide to break new cinematic ground and release "Lord of the Stars," a 12 DVD collector's edition box set wrapped in hair from Frodo's feet and Darth Vader's cape fragments.

The 9 films are spliced together with the stories and characters overlapping, and even nerds can't figure out why Jar-Jar Binks is being piggybacked by a Nahzgul. The other three discs contain countless hours of Jackson and Lucas shaving each others' beards and talking about how rich they are. It's an instant classic for some reason.

**August 18, 2006**

**BCIT Sinks**

After years of rumour and speculation, BCIT's Burnaby campus finally collapses in on itself. Luckily, BCIT Administration had the foresight to obtain a corporate partner. Soon after the incident, BCIT announces its new BCIT Metrotown Campus, combining a sought after education with the joys of shopping.

**September 3, 2006**

**AC/DC Hires New Frontman**

In a move that shocks the rock world, AC/DC hires American Idol contestant/heartthrob Clay Aiken to front the legendary rock band

Looking to attract a younger

audience, AC/DC begins to focus on soft country styling. Angus Young turfs the schoolboy get-up for a more practical pair of boots, some tight jeans, and Stetson. Clay Aiken's hypersexual onstage presence rockets the band to stardom once again.

**October 31, 2006**

**Hallowe'en Becomes National Day Off**

After years of petitioning by wiccans, neo-pagans, and fine arts students, the Canadian government grants all citizens the day off of work and school.

**November 15, 2006**

**AI Research Grinds to a Halt**

The scientific community decides that artificial intelligence may not be such a good idea.

Realizing that all AI up until now has been programmed with brainwaves liberated from John Stamos and Chuck Norris, scientists round up and recalibrate all AI-based robots on the face of the earth before they become too good-looking and ass-kicking.

**December 6, 2006**

**Gauthier Fired**

Link Editor Geoff Gauthier is fired for writing stupid future predictions each year in the Link. As all of his predictions eventually come true, he quickly gets a new job as the advisor to the Stamos-Norris Robot Empire, where he becomes inundated with hair implants and stretch denim.

Any future predictions of your own? Email them to Geoff at:

link@bcitsa.ca



# Immigrants' difficulty finding employment in rural areas means trouble for Canadian economy

By Carolynne Burkholder  
Over the Edge  
(University of Northern British Columbia)

**P**RINCE GEORGE, B.C. (CUP) -- Despite the fact that most immigrants to rural regions are more educated than their native-born counterparts, they have difficulty finding employment. According to local scholar, Marius Curteanu, until Canada recognizes foreign credentials, the Canadian economy will suffer.

Curteanu immigrated to Canada from Romania 20 years ago, so he knows first-hand the challenges that immigrants face. He is currently a graduate student at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) where he researches issues affecting immigrants who move to Canada's

rural areas.

Canada has the most immigrants per capita in the world. According to Statistics Canada, rural regions attract about 12,000 immigrants a year. Of those, approximately 3,000 move to rural B.C.

But immigrants are struggling to find work under Canada's current policies that do not recognize many foreign qualifications, Curteanu explained. This underutilization of the skilled-labour work-force amounts to a loss of \$2 billion annually.

"Employment barriers have grown rather than evaporated," said Curteanu.

"Recent immigrants are having an increasingly difficult time in the labour market...experiencing higher unemployment and lack of recognition of foreign credentials."

Statistics Canada found that in Canada's rural regions, immigrants are more educated than the Canadian-born. In rural northern regions over 20 per cent of native residents have not received a high school diploma, compared to less than 15 per cent of immigrants. In the same areas, 23 per cent of immigrants are university graduates compared to 17 per cent of Canadian-born citizens.

Immigrants to rural northern B.C. are also disadvantaged by the lack of immigration resources. The Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society (IMSS) located in Prince George offer settlement services to integrate immigrants into the community and employment services to help them find work. This is the only service of its kind in the region.

"Prince George is lucky," said Sue Rudland, employment coun-

sellor at IMSS. "There are major differences between rural facilities and those available in cities. Prince George is the only community in northern B.C. that has employment services specifically for immigrants."

Rudland agrees with Curteanu that unrecognized credentials are preventing many new residents from finding work.

"Most [immigrants] come well trained and have lots of work experience, but their credentials aren't accepted in Canada," she said.

Rudland said it's "difficult, but not impossible" for immigrants to gain the credentials needed to work in their field.

Some go back to school to gain the required qualifications; others either take a job with few required credentials or pursue other training.

"We invite people to come to Canada, then we should facilitate credential recognition," she said. She urges the Canadian government to "invest in the educated immigrant."

Baljit Sethi has been the executive director of IMSS since the organization was founded 30 years ago. Over the past three decades Sethi has seen many skilled immigrants struggling to find employment.

She shared the story of a man who emigrated from Iran to Canada with his family four years ago. Although he had a master's degree in psychology from an Iranian institution, he was employed as a taxi driver. He didn't have the time or money to return to school – he had to support his family.

Sethi said this man's circumstances aren't unique.

## FREE Laundry Service\*



\*by mom.



Going home for the weekend has never been so easy. Greyhound provides bus service directly to *mom's laundry room*. Visit us at [greyhound.ca](http://greyhound.ca) to discover how easy it is to get

**25% OFF**  
your next ticket purchase!

  
**GREYHOUND**   
[www.greyhound.ca](http://www.greyhound.ca)  
1-800-661-TRIP (8747)



# Canada’s first non-profit university

To open doors in 2007

By Eric Szeto  
The Ubysey  
(University of British  
Columbia)

VANCOUVER (CUP) -- The president of Canada’s first non-profit, private university said the school isn’t

serving as an antithesis to large public universities—instead, it’s an alternative. Quest University is taking a novel approach to education by providing its students with a broadened curriculum that includes liberal arts and science courses while maintaining small

class sizes—contrary to the criticisms many large public institutions now face. Rather than acting as factory line for producing diplomas, Quest U’s purpose will be to provide a fulfilling undergraduate experience, said the school’s CEO and founding director, David Strangway. “The system in Canada needs to have different kinds of institutions meeting different needs, meeting different demands from its society—and we’ve had a tendency for students to be clones of each other,” he said. In addition, he said lectures will be “highly engaging” as class sizes at Quest U will be no larger than 25. This is sig-

nificantly less than many first year classes at major institutions, which can at times climb to 160, he added. “The whole idea of this thing is small and intensive,” said Strangway. Strangway’s brainchild was first conceived shortly after his tenure as president of UBC. With articles like the Maclean’s University Report highlighting the problem of keeping classes small and intimate with consistently scarce funding, Strangway recognised that the diminishing quality of education was undermining the undergrad experience. He set out to create an institution that would address these deficiencies. “I think there’s a real prob-

lem with the public system,” said Strangway, “Something has to give,” he stated. Going to Quest U carries a hefty price tag, however. For two semesters, it will cost a student \$32,000. This will include tuition, room and board, though much of it will be subsidised by a scholarship program, putting the cost at a little more than \$25,000. That is approximately equivalent to what an UBC international student currently pays for tuition, room and board. Strangway noted that not everybody will flourish in the environment that Quest U is trying to provide. He feels that people have their own needs, and doubts that everybody will succeed at a place like Quest U.

## EARN SOME HOLIDAY JINGLE

**GREAT POSITIONS AVAILABLE NOW!**

Competitive Salaries  
Flexible Hours  
Discounts on Great Gear

**SPORTCHEK** The Power of Sport

# NOW HIRING

Apply at a Sport Chek near you or apply on-line at [sportchek.ca/careers](http://sportchek.ca/careers)

## GO AWAY. NOW.

**Fiji**  
R/T air From **\$1160**

**Auckland**  
R/T air From **\$1360**

**Sydney**  
R/T air From **\$1118**

**Melbourne**  
R/T air From **\$1118**

**Hostel Accommodations**  
Fiji - \$17      Sydney - \$22  
Auckland - \$20      Melbourne - \$24

**Have a ball, see it all! Travel Passes**  
Fiji - \$273  
Auckland - \$340  
Sydney/Melbourne - \$520

Airfare is out of Vancouver. Taxes and applicable fees not included. Hostel accommodations are per person per night. All prices subject to change and availability.

**STA TRAVEL**  
[www.statravel.ca](http://www.statravel.ca)

568 Dunsmuir St.      1191 Davie St.  
(604) 806-4040      (604) 685-4066  
109-1965 West 4th Ave.  
(604) 739-6001

## STUDENT TRAVEL & BEYOND



By Annika Reinhardt  
2nd Year Marketing  
Management/Direct Response

CHECK-IN

Passenger: Christian Basantes,  
Financial Management, 2nd Year  
Destination: Ecuador  
Intention: Visit my home country

TAKE-OFF

Capital: Quito  
Population: 13,364,500  
Currency: U.S. Dollar since 2000  
(before it was Sucre)  
Language: Spanish

CUSTOMS

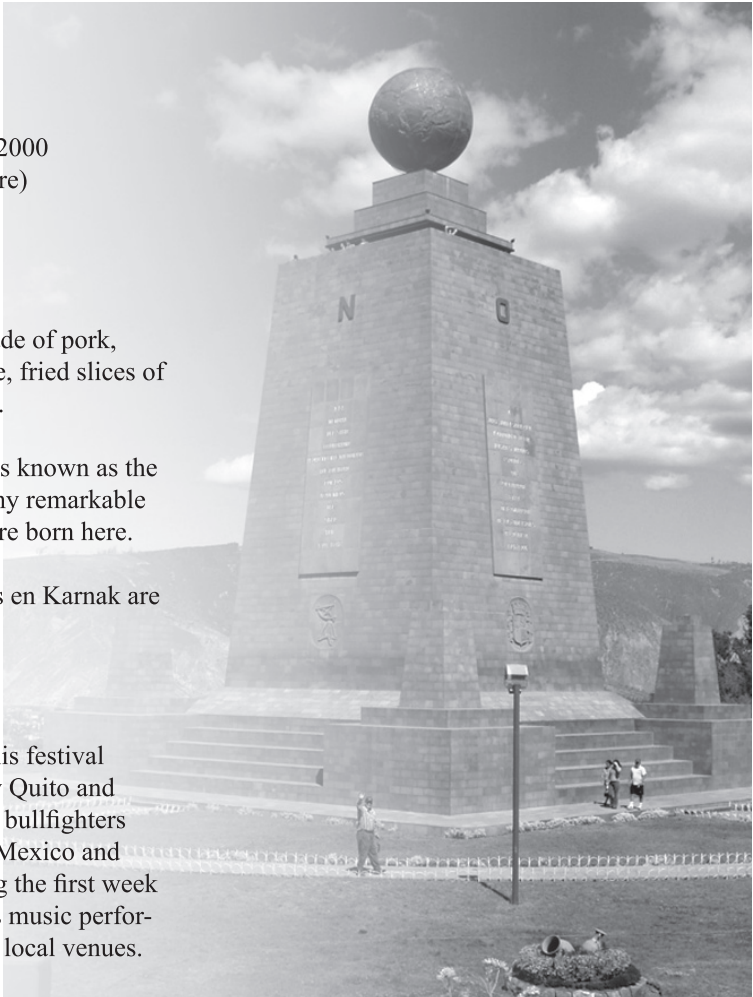
Tasty Food: Fritada. A dish made of pork, potatoes, onions, tomatoes, lettuce, fried slices of bananas and a special spicy sauce.  
City with Flair: Cuenca. The city is known as the “Athens of Ecuador” because many remarkable philosophers, artists and poets were born here.

Trendy Band: Tranzas and Cruks en Karnak are two popular rock bands.

CHECK-OUT

Music: Feria de Quito. This festival celebrates the founding of the city Quito and features some of the most famous bullfighters from Spain, Portugal, Colombia, Mexico and Ecuador. It is held annually during the first week of December. There are numerous music performances in the streets and at many local venues. <http://www.quito.com.ec>

Recreation: Mitad del Mundo. This monument is called the “Middle of the World” because you can stand on both sides of the hemisphere at the same time. Crazy! Also, you can visit the Ethnographic Museum and enjoy the different restaurants and shops.  
<http://www.thebestofecuador.com/qexcur.htm>  
Regional: Fiesta de las Flores y las Frutas. The city of Ambato presents the “Flower and Fruit Festival” each year at the end of February. Various parades with colourful floats, traditional dancers and folk music are only some highlights of this cheerful celebration.  
<http://www.thebestofecuador.com/ambato.htm>





# Thank you

## For supporting BCIT Students & Student Families!

To the following individuals, clubs, sets & departments for their generous support & donations to the "Gift of Choice" Holiday Campaign 2005:

Alumni Association  
Verna Magee Shepherd, Vice President, Student Services  
BCIT Executives, SE2 Third Floor  
BCIT Library, Student Services  
BCIT Association of Interactive Marketers (AIM)  
BCIT Finance Department, Financial Services  
BCIT Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship  
BCIT Toastmasters Club  
Geoff Gauthier, Managing Editor - Publications, BCIT Student Association  
BCIT Marketing and Communications Department  
BCIT Marketing Association (MA)  
BCIT Student Association  
CUPE 1004 Staff of the BCIT Faculty and Staff Association  
Tourism Class 2006  
Recreation Services, Health & Counselling Services and IRP

BCIT Program Advising, Student Employment Services and International Student Centre  
Biomedical Engineering Technology Program  
BCIT Student Association Executives  
BCIT Computer Resources Department  
Steier Family, BCITSA President  
Fish, Wildlife and Recreation class 2nd year  
Environmental Health Program 2nd year  
Geomatics Set B 2nd year  
BCIT Aboriginal Services, Disability Resource Centre, Student Financial Aid and Awards  
Geomatics Set A 2nd year  
Uconnect Student Resource Centre, BCIT Student Association  
BCIT Apprentice Services  
BCIT Student Association Operations Department

**A warm blanket or shirt  
can make all the difference.**



**BCITSA  
Clothing  
Drive**

**Uconnect  
Resource  
Centre**



WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUR USED

**CLOTHING    SLEEPING BAGS  
SHOES        BLANKETS**

BCITSA will give all donations to The Gathering Place.

Check our website for details:  
**[www.bcitsa.ca](http://www.bcitsa.ca)**



**Happy Holidays  
from your BCIT  
Student Association**

**Shop in our stores Online**



**[www.businessvision.net/bcitsa](http://www.businessvision.net/bcitsa)**



**[www.bcitsa.ca](http://www.bcitsa.ca)**



**BCIT Student Association**



# Online shopping is where it's at for the holidays

By Geoff Gauthier  
Managing Editor



Let's face it, holiday shopping is a nightmare. Before you even set foot in the mall you're already stressed out from traffic and trying to find parking. Once you fight your way past the 30 different charity set-ups and set foot inside the giant Mecca of consumerism you are instantly overcome by hordes of people scrambling to purchase that perfect gift for that special someone.

Not for me.

I'm already people-phobic as it is. A few years ago I was shopping at Super Store on a Sunday afternoon with my roommate. It was so busy and crowded that I actually had to sit down on the floor and cre-

Bad plan. However, I did have three gin and tonics before we went, you know, to take the edge off. I started to get a little hungry, so we walked over to the food court and I had one of those episodes again, like in the Super Store. There were no seats to be had. People were sitting on the floor, eating fast food, huddled in little groups. It looked like those photos of refugee camps you see on the news. I flipped. We left.

Malls aren't like they used to be. I remember shopping with my parents when I lived at home. We would make an outing of it. The malls were busy, granted, but they never

Me Elmo or Furby, or whatever the toy du jour happens to be. I like my space, and there is plenty of space in front of my computer, in my home, away from the masses, where no one can touch me.

Last year I did 35% of my shopping online. This year I'm going to do 35% of my shopping in malls. The internet is where it's at for holiday shopping. No parking, no pushing, no fighting, and if I want a sandwich while I'm shopping all I have to do is walk four feet to the kitchen and make one. Plus, I can choose whether or not the floor is the best seating option for me.

The benefits of shopping online are far greater than the avoidance of holiday shopping idiot drones. My family is hard to shop for. For example, my brother is a fan of the most obscure teams in every league. He loves the St. Louis Blues of the NHL (he worshipped Brett Hull growing up), and loves Dante Culpepper of the Minnesota Vikings in the NFL. I don't know how many of you have ever tried to purchase items in Vancouver for these particular teams, but let me tell you it's near impossible.

A quick trip through cyber space to either team's website, a couple of clicks, some "windows" shopping and in three to six weeks, voila! A sweet, original present for my brother that I know

he will like. And even if he doesn't, most web retailers and even some eBay sellers have return policies in place in case he really doesn't like the gift.

And speaking of eBay, there are some pretty rad gifts to be purchased there. If you have the time and patience to rifle through the pages of stuff, a good bargain awaits you on a unique gift idea.

One of my 35% of internet purchases last year was an autographed 8"x10" glossy of Christopher Walken, with a full certificate of authenticity, from the UK, for my sister-in-law. Try getting that at Metrotown. Tough luck. She was so excited on Christmas morning that I instantly became her favourite brother-in-law. Did I mention I got the gift for \$30 CAD including shipping?

There are the non-believers out there who think that internet shopping is not safe. You might think that your credit card information will be stolen, and then your identity, and then your life savings if you use the internet to make purchases. Here's something to ask yourself: Have you ever gone to a gas station, full serve, and handed the attendant your credit card? Simple procedure, right? You've just handed off a wealth of personal information to someone who you've never met, trusting them completely, unflinchingly. Two times this year a member of my family has had a credit card compromised by this action. Luckily,

no one has lost anything but time, and two new, replacement credit cards.

To put it another way I have made over 50 transactions on eBay and have never once been ripped-off or unsatisfied in any way. I have made countless other purchases for shoes, CDs, t-shirts, and even hockey equipment from websites and have always received my items without hassle or fuss.

The biggest complaint I hear about online shopping is the cost of shipping totals for items purchased. One of the other gifts I purchased last year online for a friend was an Incredible Hulk bobble head from a company in San Francisco. The bobble head was \$5, the shipping for said bobble head was \$15. I was a little surprised. I thought that to be quite high. About a month after Christmas I was walking by a store and I noticed the figure in the window. I went in to check it out and it was \$20. Even Steven. While the shipping price was high, the item price was low, and it balanced out. And the best part is that I didn't have to set foot in a store or mall to get it.

There you have it. Internet shopping is the way of the future. No crowds, no stupid people, no lines, no cacophonous buzz in the air.

Try shopping from your home; give yourself some time, save yourself some sanity and maybe even some cash. Happy holidays, I won't be seeing you in the mall!





# sfire!

## Traditional mall shopping adds to the holiday experience

By Tara Williams  
BUSA (Post-Diploma) Set 1A

Ever wonder why The Bay's slogan, "shopping is good," is particularly applicable during the holiday season? Could it be because despite the roots of Christmas being something religious that Christmas has become nothing more than just another consumer holiday? According to multiple sources, Christmas is the largest consumer holiday of the year.

Today, as consumers, we are virtually brainwashed as to where we should shop and what we should buy. This year the preaching seems to be to shop online: It is quicker, it is faster, it is just better. I don't believe the fact that shopping online is better, not even for a second.

To me, it would not be Christmas without going to the store to buy the presents that will be under the tree on Christmas day. The things that I most love about going to a store to do my Christmas shopping are experiencing the atmosphere, being able to get the presents right away without having to wait, the early Boxing Day bargains, and the fact that you can always find something for the person who has everything.

There's just something about getting bundled up to go shopping on West 4th or Robson Street and battling crazy holiday shoppers that cannot be matched. Sitting down at your computer, typing in "Tickle-Me Elmo" and then proceeding to fill out your billing information just doesn't scream "Christmas" the way going to a store does. Sure, the lineups are longer than normal, but it's called networking people! Shopping in a brick and mortar store puts me in the holiday spirit.

So why shouldn't I shop online? It seems faster. I don't have to brave the lineups or those crazy people who steal your parking spot and then pretend like they didn't see you and walk away with

a malicious grin on their face. I can sit in the comfort of my own home and stare at my computer screen and get all my Christmas shopping done at once. Or can I? Despite the trend towards shopping online, e-commerce shops still have a lot of problems. From the plethora of shops out there to choose from, multiple bugs in the system, and security issues, online shopping is not on my list of places to visit this Christmas.

First of all, where do I shop online? How do I pick a website to shop at? There seem to be a lot of choices, but how do I know that one source is more credible than another? Personally, I don't feel comfortable handing over my credit card number to people I will never even get as close as an agent to. For all I know, you are little Johnny Smith in Garberville, California who has decided to set up shop selling cute little widgets, but really, you had no intention of sending me the goods. In fact you don't even know what a widget is. All you wanted was my credit-card number so that you could go down to your local Wal-Mart and do your Christmas shopping. I'm not saying that all websites aren't credible. I've bought textbooks on chapters.indigo.ca many times, but these sites have a real brick and mortar store backing them up. If I have a problem, and believe me I have, I can simply go down to the store and talk to an agent about it. As for popular sites like E-bay, any Joe Blow can set up shop without showing their credentials.

They say "a sucker is born every minute" and well eBay is a great example of a meeting place for these "suckers." The amount of crap that one can purchase on eBay is appalling. Looking for a way to make some easy cash? Write a diary for three months and I bet you can sell it there (sorry Keith I know how crucial eBay

is to our lectures).

Perhaps you have managed to weed through the multiple stores that are out there on the internet and found a credible source that you are willing to trust, what's next? Choosing the presents you are going to give to your family and friends. But wait how did you pick a site to shop at if you don't know what you're going to give everyone? One of my friends told me to check out Yahoo Shopping. "It's great! You can go to one place and look at a bunch of different types of goods." So I visited this site to check it out, but really all it is, is a list of stores that I can visit. A useful source if you know what you're looking for that acts like a mall directory. However, I still don't know what to buy for those difficult people on my list who have everything. I don't even know where to begin looking. In a mall or on Robson Street, I can just walk store to store and I know I'll always find that perfect gift. I just don't have the creativity to search hundreds of online stores looking for an unknown gift.

Let's say you know exactly what you want to buy for everyone on your list and you've decided to shop online. You type in each object in the search box and add each item very carefully to your "shopping cart". Just then your browser crashes. This happens all the time to me. For some unknown reason your internet browser decides that it doesn't want to be open anymore and simply shuts down. Now, I'm sure there's some perfectly logical reason, one which

a computer guy could explain to you, but frankly you don't care at this moment. The three hours that it has taken you to figure out what to add to your shopping cart, how to add the items to your shopping cart, and finally typing in all the necessary information to complete your purchase has been lost in a split second.

Lastly you've actually managed to retype in all the items you're planning on giving to your family and friends for Christmas. You've retyped in all the essential information and your browser hasn't crashed on you this time. You however did get a message after the transaction goes through that reads "Your goods will be shipped within the next seven to ten days". But wait, I thought you had guaranteed shipping? You do have guaranteed shipping but due to the hectic online frenzy at the

moment goods cannot be shipped to you until a week later. But Christmas is in ten days! Now you are forced to worry if your goods will arrive on time to be waiting under the tree on Christmas morning. Worrying if the parcels will arrive on time is just another factor that adds to the stress of the holiday season. This

is an unnecessary stress that could have easily been avoided by braving the crowds at your local mall or holiday vendor.

Call me a traditionalist, but I still think that shopping in a brick and mortar store for all your holiday needs is the better choice.





# CAMPUS QUERY

WHERE YOUR OPINION MATTERS

The Link asked: What do you want for Christmas this year?  
By Shawn Edstrom



**Zack J.**  
**Electrical Engineering**

“A case of beer!”



**Colin W.**  
**Marketing Communications**

“I want love for Christmas.”



**Ashley S.**  
**Marketing Tourism**

“Colin W.”



**Flip McGern**  
**Robotics and Automation**

“I want a new robe to wear for when I host dungeon parties.”

## One million lights for Christmas

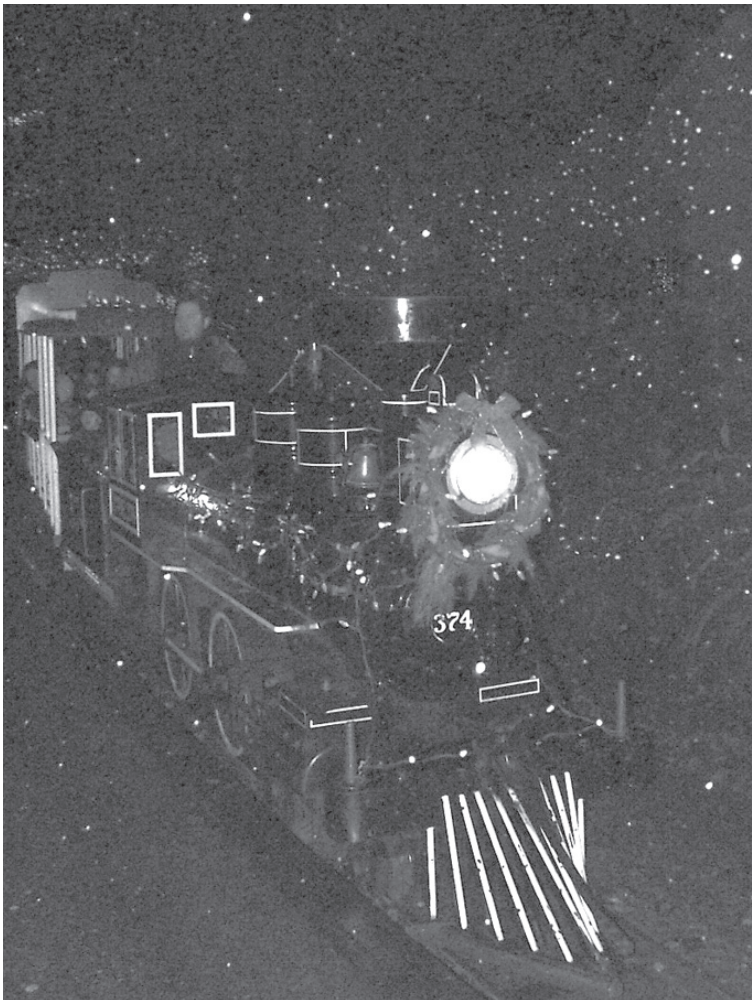
Bright Nights lights up Stanley Park for holiday lovers

By Annika Reinhardt  
2nd Year Marketing  
Management/Direct Response

Lighten up my friend – it is almost Christmas! Only a few more days and your well deserved Christmas break will begin. However, after all the exam stress you might need a little help to get into the holiday spirit. Here is a great event to visit: Bright Nights in Stanley Park. With over one million lights that turn the park into winter wonderland, it feels like every day is Christmas.

The little trains have been running for over 20 years through the forest in Stanley Park, and for many the ride at Christmas time is a holiday tradition. This year the train family got a forth member, the CP Huntington engine which decreases waiting times significantly. Even though waiting in line is quite an experience because you are surrounded by the cutest little kids. They are all trying to get some of the candy you just bought from the concession stand. Therefore, it is recommended to attend the event with children. Bring your own kids, nieces and nephews, brothers or sisters, everybody will love it. This way they can make new friends and you can enjoy your chestnuts and a hot chocolate while waiting for the train.

The train ride is fantastic because it brings you back to your childhood and all the Christmas stories. The trip takes around 10-15 min during which you see displays of the Grinch, the 12 Days of Christmas and my personal

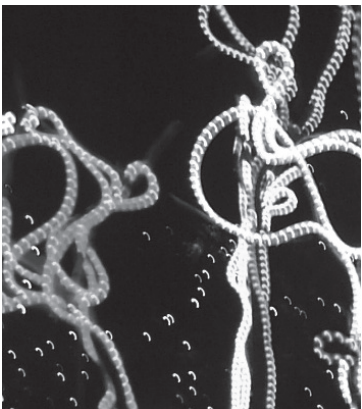


favourite - the Gingerbread Man! He dances on stilts with a candy cane in his hand while you are passing. It is absolutely hilarious.

The tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children or seniors which also allow you to visit the Children’s farmyard. Unfortunately, there are no student discounts. Admission to the Train Plaza which features various lights and animated displays is free. Purchasing a ticket will help a great cause as well. Partial ticket proceeds and all donations collected

at the event go to the BC Professional Fire Fighter’s Burn Fund which assists burn survivors and their families. Therefore, Bright Nights will not only lighten-up your heart but also those of burn survivors in need of emotional and medical support.

Bright Nights is open daily from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. until January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. It is closed on December 25<sup>th</sup>. You can easily access it by taking bus number 19 towards Stanley Park. The final station is right next to the entrance of the Train Plaza. There are also a few parking stalls right next to the entrance but you will most likely have to walk a little. The event is definitely popular and the lack of close parking as well as the line-up for the train is quite common. However, when the snow is quietly falling and the lights are softly gleaming – time does not really matter because after all it is Christmas.



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

**Wishing you Happy Holidays from the staff at Travel CUTS**

★ 2006 ★

Come visit us in the New Year for all your travel needs!

Give the gift of travel. Travel CUTS gift certificates now available!

Travel CUTS is owned and operated by the Canadian Federation of Students.

BCIT, in the Great Hall: (by the free microwaves)  
(604) 659-2890 or  
bcit\_burnaby@travelcuts.com  
Downtown: 567 Seymour St. 604-659-2830

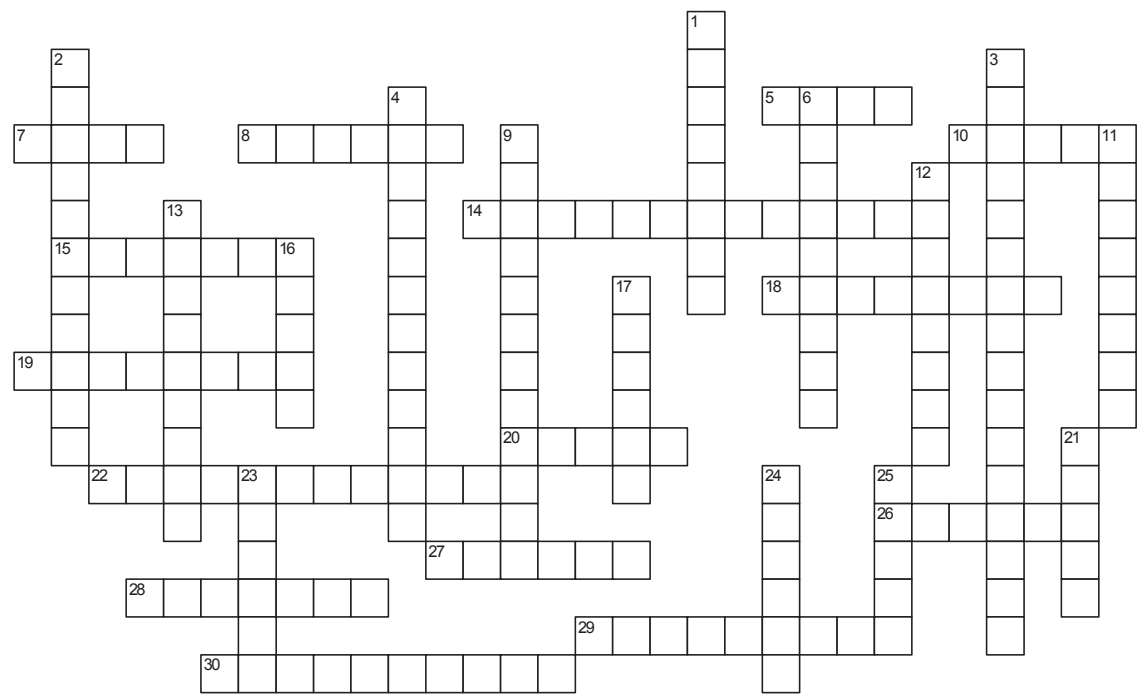
**TRAVEL CUTS**  
*See the world your way*  
[www.travelcuts.com](http://www.travelcuts.com)



# Holidayword Puzzle

'Tis the season... for crosswords

By Geoff "It's Christmas, dammit!" Gauthier  
Managing Editor



www.CrosswordWeaver.com



Across

- 5 harvest this and then put itin your living room, or get a fake one
- 7 causes Vancouver drivers to crash
- 8 Americans refer to this winter garment as a “knit cap”
- 10 they’re tiny, they make toys, and they wear funny shoes
- 14 comes in various prints and colours, kind of a waste (2 wds.)
- 15 this reindeer probably has a drinking problem
- 18 all of your mom’s candles smell of this during the holidays
- 19 French Santa Claus (2 wds.)
- 20 wears a red suit - may have played keyboards for Devo
- 22 often accompanies myrrh
- 26 a traditional holiday beverage (2 wds.)
- 27 Santa’s ride
- 28 Jewish holiday celebration
- 29 the celebration of the birth of that guy from the Mel Gibson movie
- 30 this guy can be found on the bottom of page 2 in this paper (2 wds.)



Down

- 1 you get good ones and you get bad ones
- 2 sometimes a man, sometimes a house (2 wds.)
- 3 played title role in the movie “Bad Santa” (3 wds.)
- 4 a vegetarian’s holiday nightmare (2 wds.)
- 6 love them or hate them, you’ll see them over the holidays
- 9 not a whole lot of sleeping happens on this night (2 wds.)
- 11 it hangs from the mantle
- 12 tree or hood
- 13 I wonder if Sugar Ray Leonard and Mike Tyson celebrate this day? (2 wds.)
- 16 pointy with red berries
- 17 now available in cool-to-the-touch LED
- 21 a cherub who watches from above the Christmas tree
- 23 African holiday celebration
- 24 a circular bough of tree parts
- 25 they jingle, oh ya!



The solution for this puzzle (and any previous puzzles) can be obtained from the Link office door, SE2-285, between the Image Centre and Uconnect, or by emailing link@bcitsa.ca

# Nice try, Meesh

I got to trash a band for Christmas!

Meesh - *Touch*  
Diffusion YFB Records

By Ryan Malzer  
Assistant Editor



So another album has come into my hand that needs my caring opinion. And it's **Meesh**, presenting their first album *Touch*. Now first off this is right after the Link's Stress Issue, so continuing on this path I want to tell you that a great way of letting off steam is to trash bands.

About the record, there should be a system that prevents crappy bands from ever recording music. The sad part is that some of you are going to like this album. In my opinion it sounds like a generic crappy rock-pop thing. It's the music that stupid kids cry to in their room after they tried to O.D. on cough syrup.

I actually listened to this entire album, it was brutal. There are 11 tracks on the album with original titles like "Jerk," "Popstar," and "Headache." They actually wrote all their own lyrics, which is amazing. Let's quote a few lines out of track 8, "Popstar" - "It's not fair / I hate my hair / my clothes all suck, I've had enough / just wanna be a lip-synching popstar." Hey that's moving. It's really too bad too, they are a Canadian band, and they represent us with this crap.

Now they've got a website as well. Unfortunately the website sucks harder than the album. There is not much to see or do on there besides read a press release, or link to the band's blog, which consists of a picture... that's it. I was actually only the 30<sup>th</sup> person to even visit their blog. If my Grandma had a blog it would have more hits than that.

The site itself is all full of pictures of the band looking all pissed off; like they just got grounded, it's pathetic. The press release on the site tries to explain what the band is all about, and this is how they describe them: "The Montreal Quartet delivers us with a whirlwind of emotions that explore the torments of the adolescent soul."

Then I was like "what the fuck?" There is nothing adolescent about this band, it's a sham, and one of the guys looks like he's 40.

I don't know what else to say, I can't talk about this band anymore. I'm done here. This album makes me want to vomit. ½ out of 5.

Enter to win a copy of The Switcheroo Series  
the latest release from

**ALEXISONFIRE and MONEEN**

enter at the  
Uconnect Resource  
Centre  
in the Great Hall

brought to you by  
the Link  
and Universal Music

available in stores now



# They're making a list...

A great list of published lists, for those who like lists

## By The Library Ladies

We've made our list and now you can check them out (twice, if you want to be faithful to the carol). Here are the top holiday reading picks from the Library Ladies:

**The top 10 of everything 2004 / Russell Ash**  
Burnaby Stacks AG 243 A76 2003 (2005 is in Reference for in-Library use only)

If you love top ten lists, you'll love this book! Thought-provoking and often hilarious facts - from the world's richest people to the world's deadliest spiders.

**Mysterious Canada: strange sights, extraordinary events, and peculiar places / John Robert Colombo**  
Burnaby Stacks FC 176 C64 1988

From the well-known Magnetic Hill to the unrenowned

Mississauga Blob, aboriginal legends, UFO sightings, ghosts, buried treasure, the hapless Major Sumerford who was struck by lightning no less than four times - everything is here - who couldn't be interested? - It's even got pictures.

**Sea Kayak the Gulf Islands / Mary Ann Snowden**  
Burnaby Stacks GV 776.15 B7S665 2004

This comprehensive guide leads paddlers through some of the best kayaking waters on the B.C. coast.

**Making kind choices: everyday ways to enhance your life through earth-and-animal-friendly living / Ingrid Newkirk; foreword by Sir Paul McCartney**  
Burnaby Stacks HV 4708 N46 2005

Options that will not only enhance your life, but those of your

neighbors, your community, animals, and the earth itself, including choices for comfortable home furnishings, delicious foods and fashionable clothing that can have a lasting positive effect on the well-being of animals and the environment.

**iPod fan book: go everywhere with iPod / Yasukuni Notomi; translated by Aya Brokering-Iwata**

Burnaby Stacks ML 74.4 I48 N68 2004

Get the most out of the world's most popular portable music player - a quick, fun way to learn all the features and capabilities of the iPod.

**Writing the short film / Pat Cooper and Ken Dancyger**  
Burnaby Stacks PN 1996 C814 2005

Teaches how to create a dramatic narrative that is at once short (approximately half an hour

in length) and complete - includes exercises and examples.

**Powerbook fan book: love at first boot / Derrick Story**  
Burnaby Stacks QA 76.8 M3S76 2005

Quick and fun guide to mastering all the features and taking advantage of the infinite advanced capabilities of your laptop.

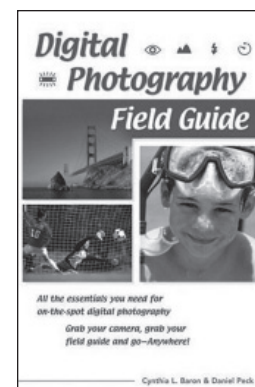
**Ultimate Pilates / Dreas Reyneke**  
Burnaby Stacks RA 781 R377 2002

Unique program of exercises that will help you condition your body and mind - this form of exercise is gentle, noncompetitive, relaxing, and also extremely effective.

**Forensics for dummies / D.P. Lyle**  
Burnaby Stacks RA 1051 L958 2004

A plain-English primer on

crime scene investigation that's a must for fans of CSI or Patricia Cornwell.



**Digital photography field guide / Cynthia L. Baron and Daniel Peck**  
Burnaby Stacks TR 267 B36 2005

Chapters on outdoor photography, event photography, and portraits contain easy to follow instructions on getting the best shots with the least amount of fuss.



## ACE Corner

### Applying what we are learning.

Recently ACE BCIT has established a relationship with EMBERS (Eastside Movement for Business & Economic Renewal Society); a non-profit agency that is working to combat poverty in Vancouver's inner city. Through this relationship the ACE **Inspire Team** has begun working with a woman named Hinda to help her build her small business "Hinda's Finest," a line of specialty vinaigrettes and preserves.

With the help of ACE, Hinda

has been able to double her profits at recent craft fairs. She now has an established brand, logo and professional signage. She is learning how to effectively handle her finances as well as develop a customer database. Next month ACE will be helping to expand Hinda's Finest into retail stores within the Lower Mainland.

Hinda's Finest is only one of several projects ACE venture partners are currently working on. This past month, ACE made their first trip to Mt. Currie where a team of venture partners met with the high school students they will

be working with on a monthly basis throughout the year; to mentor them while teaching them the skills they need to create sustainable small businesses.

ACE BCIT is an asset to any student interested in applying the skills they are learning, developing new skills or making a difference in their community.

To learn more visit [www.ace-bcit.com](http://www.ace-bcit.com) or contact [cearle1@my.bcit.ca](mailto:cearle1@my.bcit.ca).

**Candice Earle**  
Director of HR  
ACE BCIT



## MA Corner

### Snow Ball!

You are in the home stretch. The end of the term is almost here. There are only two things on your mind. The first: How are you going to ace your final exams when you haven't even started studying yet?

The second: How are you going to celebrate the end of the term?

Unfortunately for you the BCITMA can't write your finals for you, but we are hosting the end of term and holiday celebration, the Snow Ball!

Tickets for the Snow Ball are on sale now in the Great Hall or from any board member. The Snow Ball will take place at the Caprice Nightclub & Lounge (967 Granville Street) on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. This event always sells out so get your tickets soon for the ultimate end of term party!





# CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are free for students accompanied with your student ID, and \$10 for advertisements.

All ads will run for two issues, and must be 8 lines or shorter. Hey you's are limited to 35 words, and are intended for students only. The Link reserves all rights to edit ads for length or content.

The Link and BCITSA cannot guarantee the quality or safety of classifieds. Be safe, use your judgement.

Send classifieds to the Link office at: 604.432.8974 or [adsales@bcitsa.ca](mailto:adsales@bcitsa.ca), or if you will, slide them under our door at SE2 rm 285, between the image centre and the Uconnect resource centre.

is having a clothing drive and wants you to donate your old clothes, blankets, and shoes to the UConnect Resource Center. All donations will be given to The Gathering Place in Vancouver. This will be an ongoing event.

**The 2005 "gift of Choice"** holiday campaign is now on. Since the holiday season is knocking at our doors, BCIT and BCITSA are focusing on students and student families that are less fortunate to afford some of the things we take for granted. Please donate towards this cause in the spirit of holiday giving. For more information, contact Melodie at the Uconnect centre, 604 432 8549

## For Sale

## For Rent

Clean spacious furnished bedroom in quiet residential neighbourhood. Shared bath. (Halifax & Holdom) Parkcrest area. Bus stop at door. Quiet home. Includes internet and cable. Meals optional and negotiable. Call Lucy at 604 657 6739 or 604 298 0138.

## Help Needed

### Annual Student Film Festival

Freshly brewed productions is getting ready to host its 3rd annual student film festival. We are actively seeking the following four volunteer management positions:

- Sponsorship coordinator
- Media and public relations
- Festival operations coordinator
- Student relations liaison

If you are a student, energetic, motivated and looking to get more real work experience, please contact us. For complete job description, please email [ekmshaw@gmail.com](mailto:ekmshaw@gmail.com).

## Announcements

Comp TIA A+ Certified PC Technician that can resolve your PC/printer/network issues for half the price of Future Shop/Best Buy. (Better service too!). If I can't fix it, there will be NO charge. Call Robert at 604-996-1365.

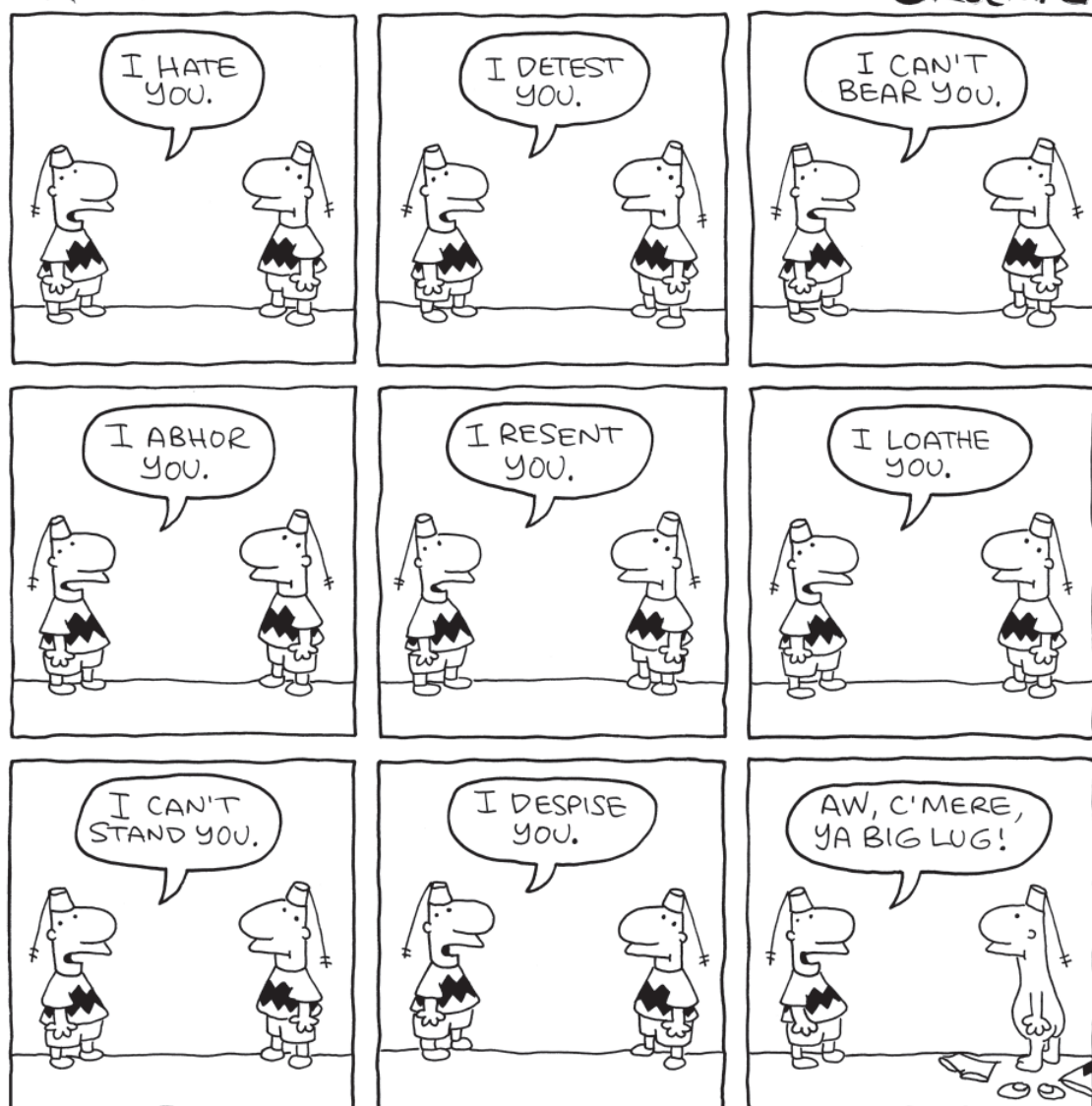
The BCIT Student Association

## Events

### Dec. 18th

If you were born on this day, you share a birthday with celebrities like Christina Aguilera, singer of Genie in a bottle, Brad Pitt, star of Mr. & Mrs. Smith and wrestling star "Stone Cold" Steve Austin also known as the Texas

## LIFE IN HELL



rattlesnake.

Due to the current busy school schedule and upcoming exams, we have no events scheduled for

this period. Keep looking out for upcoming events at BCIT and even outside BCIT on this page.

## Hey You's

You climbed and climbed and I just stood staring up there and wondered how I'd be able to catch your ass if you fell... Cheers to your view from a 300 ft crane! "Check one off life's to do list!"

Call out Gouranga, be happy... Gouranga Gouranga Gouranga. That which brings the highest happiness!



Hey, did you know that burping is one disgusting habit

but is considered a complement in my culture? Yeah, try googling it, the burpists.

Attention all hot girls on campus, Malzer is currently single and accepting applications for winter break girlfriend. If hot and interested, contact the Link or call 604-842-6487 for interview.

Hey Jimmy, your head is the baldest. I hear the chicks in Vegas love a man with a big, bald head!

Hey, are you seriously ready for exams? I'm not and I'm freaking out. Please come to my aid. I'm seated right across from in the great all. Look up, you'll see me frowning.

Hey, did you know that when you are connecting your PC to an LCD projector for Power Point presentations, one of the requirements is to press the Fn and F5 keys simultaneously?

Hey, do you know what happens in high school? Well, your girlfriend becomes your arch enemy, your arch enemy becomes your best friend and your best friend becomes your

girlfriend. Nice eh!

Hey you, out there beyond the wall, breaking bottles in the hall, can you help me?

Wanted: 1 high five from Goats.

Be apart of the Link and the student community at BCIT. Write a Hey You. Find them at the Link office SE2 Rm 285, between the image centre and the Uconnect resource centre, or email it to [ads@bcitsa.ca](mailto:ads@bcitsa.ca). Write what you would like to read in your newspaper and let us publish it on your behalf.

**Teach English Worldwide!**  
**Start Your Adventure Today**

World Class TESOL Certification in 5-days  
 Over 25,000 Global TESOL Graduates are Teaching in 85 Countries  
 Study In-Class, Online or by Correspondence

**Job Guarantee!**  
**FREE Info Night Tuesday**  
 Suite #203-1451 West Broadway  
**1-888-270-2941**  
**globaltesol.com**



# Top ten worst Christmas gifts

If any of these are on your shopping list then it's time to reevaluate your friends

By Ryan Malzer  
Link Assistant Editor

Christmas is almost upon us, and that means that we have to shell out most of our hard earned cash to please others. The idea behind gift giving is great, but when you get that bad gift it sure seems like a waste of time. Like everyone else, I've been given really horrible gifts over the years. It's the thought that counts (I call it karma). So as my crappy gift to you I have composed a list of gifts to steer clear from this holiday season (in no particular order).

### 1. MacDonald's Gift Certificates

This is a gift that you would almost certainly give to a child (if you give this to your friends you deserve to have no friends). Now for this we must go into a child's mind. So when a kid goes into MacDonald's, in their head he/she is already paying with gift certificates (their parent's money). The minute you add responsibility to a visit to MacDonald's it ruins the whole experience for a child, possibly sending them into a life of crime and depression. So give them something nurturing, and fun... a pellet gun perhaps.

### 2. Handi-Cleanse Personal Hygiene System

If you really want to ruin someone's confidence then get them this. The Handi-Cleanse system is a clever little portable bidet device that you can clip to any toilet and "refresh yourself." Also being priced at \$24.95 it's a steal. Some of you might say it's "healthy" or "hey I love to take cold shots of water in my rectum," well that's cool and all, but the minute you tell someone else that they should love these things is the same minute they decide to put you on the socks list forever. Plus is it really "healthy" when you get a crazy foreign disease after shooting airport toilet water up your ass?

### 3. ET for Atari

This game sucked so hard that it almost destroyed console gaming in the early 80's (during its birth). The graphics on the Xbox 360 are now so good you've got games giving kids multiple seizures. I'm going to say it you nerds: Atari sucked, it always has, and always will. So unless you are trying to break up with your

boyfriend, don't give them this crappy game, or any like it.

### 4. Lingerie

Ok guys this is a life lesson. Unless the girl has sat you down, and for three hours explained exactly which type of lingerie she wants DON'T GET HER LINGERIE. She will pretend to like it, but inside her head the gears start moving and that's never good. This is the law, obey it or you will have awkward Christmas sex. Also about 99.2 % of men are crazy perverts and that's why crotchless panties exist. But hey what the hell do I know? I only wear lingerie on Tuesdays.

### 5. Crap From Other Countries

I hate it when relatives go somewhere cool like Cuba, and then for Christmas they give you some crap a homeless guy made out of spare twine. It's a double insult, because not only is the crap so sub-standard that you have to buy it in another country, but it reminds you that they went on vacation somewhere cool and you didn't. Steer clear from these gifts; nobody likes them, and nobody cares to hear the funny story about how Ted got butt worms in Mexico.

### 6. Fossil Fuels

I have no idea how this primitive form of gift giving was brought into play, but fossil fuels are a dangerous gift to give someone. One time I put a lump of coal in my ex girlfriend's stocking as a joke, and she beat me with it. I felt like I was in a prison riot. You could also kick it up a notch by giving actual gasoline, say in an old 40 oz. bottle, with a rag stuffed in the spout.

But Malzer Christmas only happens on leap years.

### 7. Used LEGO

This is a horrible gift. You can always re-gift Lego, and that's cool. But the minute you take LEGO out of the package it seems to get stuffed with old food, and body fluids. Bad gift, so please stop giving me used LEGO.

### 8. Christmas Sweaters

What the hell is going on when you get this? If you say that you love that tacky sweater your aunt made you then you're a lying piece of scum. You know the one; it has the word X-MAS right across the front so everyone can see. It's blue, red, green, and blows hard. They are so bad they don't even burn right (try throwing one in a fire, disappointing). The best part about this gift is that you really only have to enjoy it on Christmas, unlike other bad gifts that haunt you year round.

### 9. Gift Certificates

It's like getting money with conditions on it. "Here ya go, 400 dollars... at Petland." Why do we give these things out?

Give money, seriously, is it that offensive to give money? It's not like you're saving any cash by buying these corporate postcards. Let's do a test to see if you really like gift certificates.

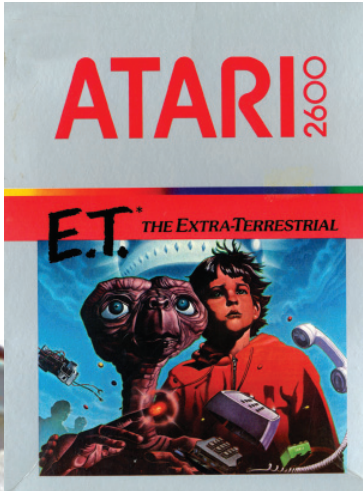
Have you ever gotten a gift certificate, gone to the store, bought a crappy three dollar belt just to get the balance of the gift certificate in cash? That's what I thought; give money, it's ok.

### 10. Chia Pet

Yes these things still exist. Along with the pet rock this gift is one of the most useless things man has created. Even Atom bombs

serve a purpose. If you want to feel totally ripped off helping create life, then this is the gift for you. It's grass (like lawn) so after you grow this crap are you going to shell out 7 bucks to get more seeds to grow more grass... no!

You want to encourage a green thumb this Christmas? Get them a 1000w HPS bulb, with a ballast, and hood. Add a closet, and you got some real grass baby. None of this Chia shit.



Gift Certificate

1000

A Gift For **Ryan Malzer**

Worth **Twenty Five** Dollars \$ **25 00**

From **Everyone at the Link (except Gibert)**

Authorized By **Goats** Expires **Dec. 1/05**



NORTH GARDEN INN  
1014 N. Garden St.  
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225  
(360) 671-7828 1-800-922-6414  
<http://northgardeninn.com/ngi>

