

ARCHIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

The

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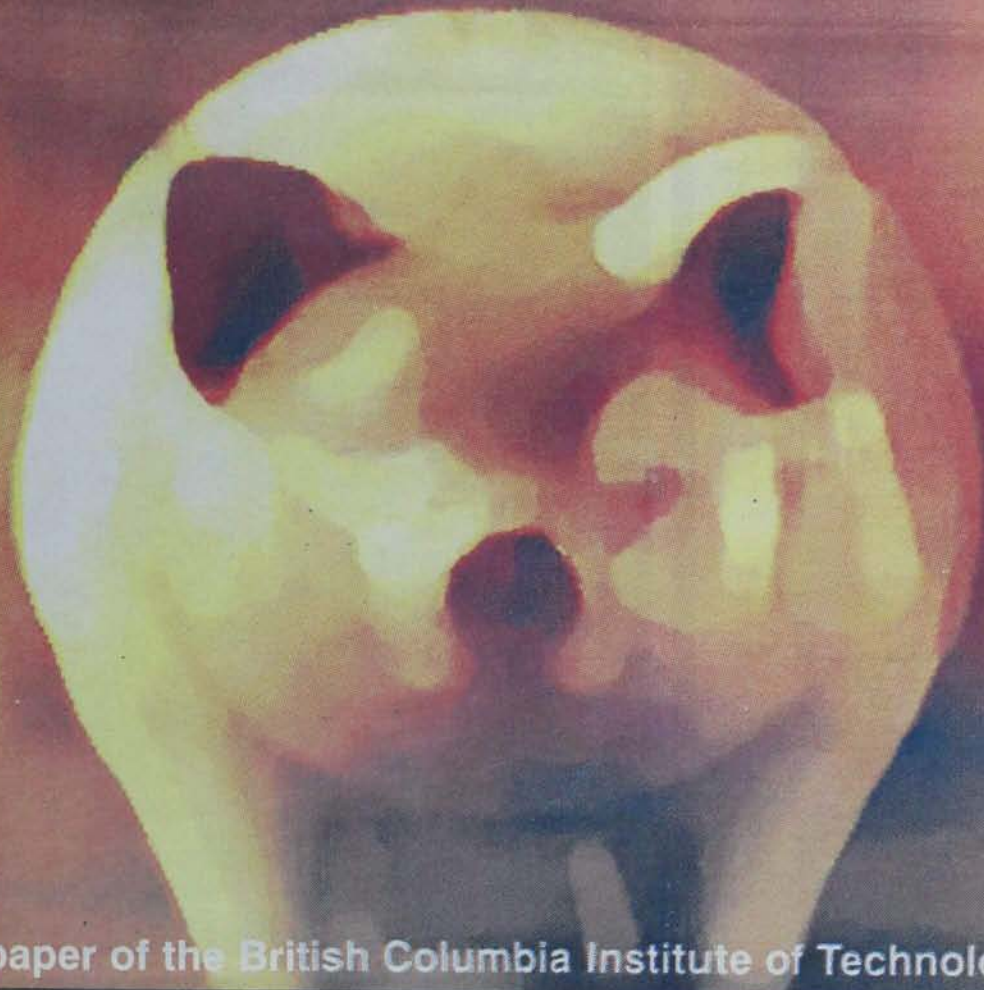
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Ottawa is back in the student loan business now the banks have bailed out

see pages 3 and 4



The Student Newspaper of the British Columbia Institute of Technology

The Link

is the student newspaper of the British Columbia Institute of Technology. Published bi-weekly by the BCIT Student Association, *The Link* circulates 3,500 copies to over 16,000 students and staff.

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To this end *The Link* will not publish material deemed by the editors or steering committee to be sexist, racist, homophobic or in poor taste.

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

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LINK LETTERS POLICY

The Link welcomes letters. Letters should be typed, double spaced, under 300 words and can be dropped off at *The Link* or SA offices and sent through campus or regular mail. Your name, affiliation with BCIT and a telephone number to contact you (which will not be published) must be included. Anonymity may be granted at the discretion of staff. Letters on disk, as a txt file, with a hard copy would be greatly appreciated. *The Link* reserves the right to edit for clarity and brevity.

Campus Events

This Calendar column is open for notices of events on all BCIT campuses. Submissions can be faxed to 431-7619, sent by campus mail or dropped off at *The Link* office in the SA Campus Centre (down the corridor between the video arcade and the new copy centre location)

Wednesday, March 22

Intermediate Latin Dancing. Contact Recreation and Athletics for more information.

Beginners' Swing. Contact Recreation and Athletics for more information.

Edition of *The Link* hits the stands.

Friday, March 24

Electronics: Term A courses end.

Nursing: Last day to withdraw and receive a "W" on transcript.

Monday, March 27

Electronics: Term B Courses begin.

American Marketing Association Meeting. 7am. Call 451-6777 for more information.

Tuesday, March 28

Toastmasters. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre, 7am.

Wednesday, March 29

Blade Runner. Noon - 1:00pm. See the Recreation and Athletics office in the SAC Building (SE16) for more information.

Getting a Bachelors of Commerce at Royal Roads University. A presentation by Eric West, Dean of Commerce at Royal Roads. SW1-2030, 12:30pm.

Monday, April 3

American Marketing Association Meeting. 7am. Call 451-6777 for more information.

SA Council Meeting. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre, 5:45 pm.

Tuesday, April 4

Toastmasters. SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre, 7am.

Recreation Council Meeting.

April 7-9

BCIT Open House.

Link Unclassifieds

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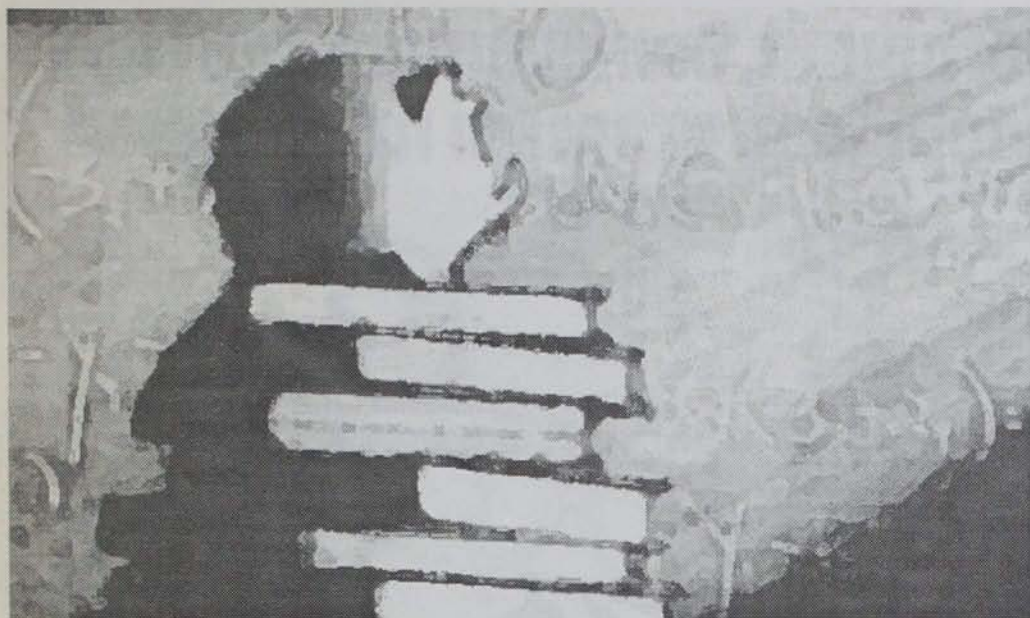
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Ottawa takes over student loans as banks pull out

ALEJANDRO BUSTOS
National Bureau
Canadian University Press

The federal government is taking over the Canada Student Loans system from some of the country's major banks, a Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) official announced March 9.

But in the wake of the announcement, made during a press conference in Hull, Que., a crucial question remains unanswered: will Ottawa spend more money running the program than the banks?

Thomas Townsend, director-general for learning and literacy at HRDC, said in Hull that the Royal Bank, Bank of Nova Scotia and CIBC were no longer interested in administering the national student loan system.

Conflicting media reports last week said the loan system costs anywhere from \$1-billion to \$1.8-billion a year to administer.

When asked how much the loan system really costs per year, a federal government official said he wasn't sure.

"We can't calculate the cost last year because we were not administering the system," said Gino Trifiro, a spokesperson for HRDC. "What we can say is that starting August 1 we will have to raise the capital to run the program, and that is \$1.8-billion."

But this does not mean the banks dished out \$1.8-billion to administer the loan system.

In fact, according to Michael Conlon, national chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students, HRDC officials told him several times this school year that the student loan system cost \$1-billion a year to administer.

There were also conflicting press reports about how much more money the banks wanted in risk premiums from Ottawa to continue running the program.

Since 1995, the banks have assumed the risks of student loans, while the federal government has provided between \$50-million to \$75-million a year to offset risks.

Some reports said the banks wanted \$75-million more, while other stories pegged the number at \$100-million.

When asked how much more money the banks wanted from the federal government, Trifiro replied, "I cannot provide that data."

When asked why the banks decided to pull out of the student loan system, Trifiro said he could not respond because he was a spokesperson for the government, not the banks.

And when asked why the government decided not to give the banks what they wanted, the spokesperson said, "There was not enough tenders to guarantee a viable national system of delivery."

He repeated this answer several times when asked for clarification.

The spokesperson did say, however, that an undisclosed number of financial institutions made bids to administer the loan system.

Trifiro said the government didn't like any of the tenders, but he wouldn't reveal what the tenders contained.

Nevertheless, student reaction to the HRDC announcement was positive.

Kieran Green, communications coordinator for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, says students will now have more input into how the student loan system works.

"No student could access the

negotiations between Ottawa and the banks," he said. "Now we can be involved in the negotiations."

Green added that students should not see the announcement as a sign the student loan system is in trouble.

"Our key message to students is don't panic, this is not the end of the Canada Student Loans system," he said. "Come August 1, there will be money for student loans."

The Canadian Federation of Students was also pleased with the news.

"Our general reaction is to applaud the federal government for standing up to the banks and not bending to their demands," said Conlon. "The banks walked away from the deal because they wouldn't make a profit."

The Canadian Press reported last week that the banks wanted an extra \$100-million from the federal government to continue administering the loan system.

Conlon, meanwhile, said he would be willing to sit down with federal and provincial officials to come up with a better loan model.

Some 450,000 students each year rely on the loan program, which has been operating since 1964.

In related news, HRDC recently announced it is taking immediate action to correct errors resulting from the conversion of data in the Canada Student Loans Information System.

The government agency announced in a press release dated March 5 that the Customs and Revenue Agency will not withhold the income tax refund of people who were incorrectly identified as having an outstanding Canada Student Loan debt.

(With files from the Canadian Press)

BC tuition announcement gets mixed reactions

MASON WRIGHT
Canadian University Press

BURNABY, BC

Some university administrators in British Columbia are not celebrating just yet after receiving a promise from the provincial government for more funding.

Last week, Graeme Bowbrick, B.C.'s newly-appointed advanced education minister, said the upcoming March 27 provincial budget will include more money for post-secondary education and will maintain the province-wide tuition fee freeze for another year.

Bowbrick also recognized the importance of jobs in the trade sector and the education needed to obtain them.

But despite the minister's assurances - delivered in a speech at Douglas College, located just outside Vancouver - the president of The University Presidents' Council of B.C. says his members are going to wait for the budget before celebrating.

"There's been an indication that we can expect some kind of lift for universities in the budget, and as a result we would like to be encouraged," said Don Avison. "We'll wait until the 27th of March to see just exactly what that means."

Maureen Shaw, president of the College Institute Educators' Association, was more optimistic about the anticipated funding.

"We're hoping that it will provide the adequate funding that we've argued is necessary to cover the costs of inflation, to cover the costs of infrastructure replacement, educational technology and cover the costs of the collective agreements that both have signed," she said.

She later added that the province is fortunate to have a government committed to increased funding for post-secondary education and stable tuition rates for students.

Shaw also said students in all areas of post-secondary education, from trades to degree programs, need access to quality education.

"We recognize there is likely to be as much of a problem for the country in the trades area [regarding a lack of skilled workers] as there will be for the professions," said Shaw, whose union represents 7,000 faculty and staff at colleges, university-colleges, institutes and agencies across the province.

Yet Avison, who heads up the council of presidents for the province's four major universities, was less enthused about the proposed tuition fee freeze.

"We accept that," he said. "But the issue in British Columbia is if you're going to do that, are you going to adequately compensate the universities for the revenue that is otherwise not available?"

Avison went on to say that the province needs financial resources to help make the transition from an economy based on raw materials, to one that is founded on knowledge-based technological industries.

U of Alberta researchers given grant to study neo-liberalism

JONATHAN DUNBAR
Canadian University Press

EDMONTON
Researchers at the University of Alberta (U of A) have been awarded a major research grant to join an international study of neo-liberal policies.

The purpose of the study is to examine alternate ways of thinking about governing society.

"We are told that globalization is inevitable, that there is no alternative," said Gordon Laxer, a sociology professor at the University of Alberta and director of the Parkland Institute, a local left-wing think tank.

According to Laxer, neo-liberalism is part of a corporate agenda, exemplified in such global trade agreements as the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The study - titled Globalism and its Challengers - will focus on Canada, Mexico, Australia and Norway. Researchers from all four countries are taking part in the study.

In Canada, researchers are being drawn from Edmonton, Vancouver and Toronto.

Laxer is the principal investigator.

Funding for the study is being provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. It is valued at up to \$1.4-million over five years, and is the third such grant ever to be awarded to researchers at the U of A.

Neo-liberal globalism is defined by the researchers as a "political regime based on the corporate agenda."

The researchers plan to look at the impact of globalism as a political regime in the four countries targeted in the study.

They will also examine citizen opposition to neo-liberal policies and gauge how successful protests have been.

In a prepared statement, the researchers said their project is necessary after the defeat of the MAI in Paris in 1998, and the protests against the World Trade Organization in the streets of Seattle last fall.

The team is determined to find out whether the world is undergoing a paradigm shift in political thinking.

Laxer said researchers will search for signs of post-globalism that will be "the next ideology of governance."

The also plans to publish at least three books, edit special issues of academic journals, hold an international symposium at Parkland's fall conference in 2005 and propose a program for CBC radio's Ideas program.

Government, banks mum about key student loan program information

CHRIS BODNAR
Canadian University Press

OTTAWA
Both government and banking officials cannot provide key information about Canada's student loan system, a Canadian University Press (CUP) investigation has revealed.

On March 9, three of Canada's largest banks - the Royal Bank, CIBC and Scotia Bank - announced they were no longer administering the Canada Student Loans program for the federal government.

Monetary losses and lack of financial guarantees from Ottawa for defaulted loans were cited as reasons for the pullout.

These three banks had administered the program since 1995, when Human Resources Development Canada transferred the loan system from their department to the private sector.

Yet immediately following the bank announcement, conflicting reports began to circulate about the real cost of the program and the true demands of the banks.

Media reports said the loan system cost anywhere from \$1-billion to \$1.8-billion a year to administer.

Other stories said the banks wanted \$75-million more in risk premiums from Ottawa, while other pegged the number at \$100-million.

And questions about the true number of student loan defaults were rampant, as critics accused the banks of inflating the default rate numbers.

But clarifying details with those involved isn't easy.

"Have you called the government?" asked Shannon Bonus, a representative from CIBC, responding to an inquiry about how many student loans the banks financed.

"That sounds like an industry number. Have you called the Canadian Bankers Association?"

Sharon Wilks, of the Canadian Bankers Association, replied that only Human Resources Development Canada and the three banks involved with the program keep these numbers.

"Only three of our members are involved, so we don't keep those numbers," said Wilks. "You'll have to contact the member banks involved."

Meanwhile, Steve Dyck, a representative from the Royal Bank, cited figures as reported in the media. He said the default rate on student loans is at 27 per cent, citing HRDC figures he said he saw.

"I think that's an accurate number," said Dyck.

Dyck also said his bank may have lost between \$100- to \$160-million annually in administering student loans, but he couldn't provide specific numbers.

When asked how much the banks spent in administering the program, Dyck wouldn't commit to numbers.

Upon suggestion that some media outlets reported the amount to be \$1-billion, he responded, "I don't know if that's an accurate number."

The government wasn't being any more

helpful than the banks.

Gino Trifiro, an HRDC spokesperson, told CUP he didn't know how much the student loan system cost the banks to administer.

"We can't calculate the cost last year because we were not administering the system," he said. "What we can say is that starting August 1 we will have to raise the capital to run the program, and that is \$1.8 billion."

Current figures kept by Statistics Canada show that Canadian banks had a total of \$3.6-billion lent out in the form of government-guaranteed loans.

Government critics say this figure points to the fact that the system is likely losing money, and that a vital trust was broken between the banks and the government.

"This program was a disaster and the banks realized the situation wouldn't improve," said Henri Sader, a researcher for New Democratic Party MP Lorne Nystrom. "The banks wanted to be perceived as white knights for financing education. Instead they became the arm twisters forcing students into debt."

If the \$3.6-billion figure is correct, said Sader, and you assume that 20 per cent of students default on their loans, then you can conclude that the three banks were collectively losing \$700,000 annually.

But accurate default rates are also hard to come by.

The latest figures from Ottawa show 80 per cent of students repay their Canada Student Loans without incident, while 13 per cent repay their loans after defaulting at least once.



In other words, 93 per cent of students eventually repay their federal loans.

These numbers, however, date back to 1995 - the same year the three major banks began administering the student loan system.

The banks have not released conclusive data to show what the current default rate is like.

Student leaders, meanwhile, say they are pleased the government will begin administering the loan program rather than the banks.

But they quickly add, however, that the lack of concrete numbers on the program is problematic.

"From our standpoint the lack of information on this only shows the lack of transparency in the student loan program," said Michael Conlon, national chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students.

He said neither the banks nor the government have provided concrete figures on the cost of administering the student loan program or how much is being put up annually to finance the loans.

All of these figures were public information until 1995 when the student loan program was given to the banks to administer.

Now it isn't known if these figures are even kept.

"The primary reason the numbers aren't there is because it went to the banks. [The government] got rid of the people who administered the program," said Conlon.

The CFS leader, however, did tell CUP that HRDC officials had told him at meetings this school year that the loan system cost \$1-billion to administer.

CINEMATIC AIR POLLUTION

ANGELA PACIENZA
Canadian University Press

The story unfolds like a Hollywood version of David and Goliath, with the Famous Players theatre chain cast as Goliath and the 88,500 residents of this picturesque township in the role of David.

And the drama could soon unfold in a court of law.

The controversy surrounds four searchlights used by Famous Players theatre in the township of Langley, an area 45 kilometres east of Vancouver that is near the municipality of Langley, a small town of 22,000.

Residents say that ever since the multiplex opened its doors last May, the night sky has virtually vanished. After the group collected nearly

700 signatures, municipal councillors started the process of considering legislation to regulate the use of searchlights.

The proposed bylaw, which would restrict the use of searchlights to 30 days a year and not more than three consecutive nights, got past its first two readings mid-January.

The next reading has been tentatively set for March 20, though that date could change.

But if the bylaw passes it's likely Langley township will be embroiled in a legal battle with Famous Players who say its within their rights to shine their lights as they please.

Langley Theatre's manager Mark Smaal told residents at a town meeting last week the company is willing to find a compromise.

He said the company would agree to reduce the number of hours the lights operate to 14,600 from 71,540. But the company is not willing to permanently shut off their lights.

"We understand that you are concerned about the use of track lighting," wrote John Bailey, Famous Players president, in a letter addressed to some local residents shortly after the lights first began beaming their rays last year. "[But] we are licensed by the city to operate these lights."

In fact, the township has no search light policies in place at present.

"Backyard astronomers can't use telescopes, night migration of birds is affected and the overall aesthetics of the neighbourhood has decreased," said Mark Watson, one of the 700 residents who signed the petition demanding the theatre shut off its lights. "The lights even spook my dog."

Watson and his family live four blocks away from the multiplex. The area, a combination of rural and suburban development, makes a strange setting for the conflict. A five-minute drive west of the small residential area lands you squarely in hectares upon hectares of farmland.

However, Watson's fight isn't the first time a group of residents have complained about Famous Players' searchlights. Two years ago another Famous Players Theatre found itself subject to criticism for its use of lights.

When the 18-screen "Colossus" theatre set up shop on the outskirts of Toronto and down the street from York University, it immediately began using four giant searchlights at night to advertise its location. The bright lights left hundreds of astronomy students, who need the dark sky for research, starless.

"We monitor the stars," said Mel Blake, a York PhD student studying galaxies. "We watch all night and tabulate data, take photos and measure the brightness of stars."

To their dismay, any stars passing through the bright beams of the searchlights got lost and were difficult to detect.

"The data becomes unreliable so we have to throw it out," said Blake.

York lobbied against the lights and eventually struck a deal with the theatre: the searchlights are now turned off after the last movie for the evening has finished.

But movie times run later and later says Blake. A scan through a local newspaper shows the last movie typically begins at midnight.

Blake, still frustrated with the theatre's lights, fears the proliferation of searchlights.

"Once one company sets up searchlights, other people will do the same," he

said. "We could end up with a whole forest of these things."

The fight against light pollution has picked up steam as the reach of heavily developed urban centres grows, slowly encroaching on the night sky of residents in neighbouring areas.

Light pollution is the large amount of escaped lighting that creates an urban sky glow and gets lost among starlight.

At fault, say sky watchers, is the design of most modern outdoor lighting which allows light to escape in all directions. They want bulbs to be placed in conical fixtures forcing light to focus downward where it's most needed.

The proliferation of ill-designed fixtures allows as much as 30 per cent waste, the equivalent of six million tons of coal or 23 million barrels of oil, worldwide.

Astronomers have been lamenting light pollution for years. Look into the night sky and the normally brilliant displays of twinkling stars, planets and gases are often obscured by giant beams of business lights.

Massive urban sprawl has largely contributed to the problem. Every year, billions of dollars and energy are spent lighting cityscapes, and for the most part large metropolitan cities ignore complaints of night pollution.

Opponents say it has severe consequences.

"Light pollution has produced a situation now so bad that a whole generation of young people don't know what the natural sky looks like," said Jim Laframboise, a professor in the physics and astronomy department at York.

And he has proof.

Several years ago, a Los Angeles earthquake knocked out the city's power and sent people into the streets. Once outside in the darkness, a stream of light had people calling local radio and television stations reporting what they believed was a Russian air attack. What they were seeing was actually the Milky Way. The event prompted the city to adopt a light pollution bylaw.

Other cities have followed suit. The world's first sky preserve was born last summer. The Torrance Barrens

Conservation Reserve, located in the Muskoka region of Ontario, is nearly 2,000 hectares large and completely free of night time lighting.

Richmond Hill, a small city in Southern Ontario, adopted a light pollution bylaw in 1995, preventing new installation of unshielded light. Reason's cited include protecting the night environment for the University of Toronto's David Dunlap Observatory.

Penticton, New Mexico and Golden Bay, New Zealand have legislation restricting the use of search lights.

York's Mel Blake would like to see more municipalities put restrictions on the use of search lights and other light pollutants.

"If you turn the stereo on loud, the neighbours complain and the police show up and tell you to turn it down," he said. "You turn a big beam into the sky and no one stops you."

And with urban sprawl multiplying at a rapid rate, the night sky is unlikely to return.

"The pity is that with little extra cost, if any, better lights can be installed that minimize the problem," said Ron Macnaughton, a director of Photon, a Canadian group that tries to raise awareness about light pollution and its consequences.

Back in Langley township, Watson says if the bylaw passes and the night sky is restored, it will be thanks to the residents and their 10-month battle.

"What cases like this need are a group to push it," he said.

To that end, his family and some friends, set up Shut Off Searchlights - www.bc-alter.net/stoplights - a website dedicated to the fight against

Famous Players search lights.

Watson says the drive to fight such a large company is simple: "You have to fight for what you believe in."

With additional reporting from Kelly Pedro



Reminder to Students!

This week is your chance to make your choice and vote for two students who will represent you, the student body, on the Board of Governors.

The three candidates are:

Steve Corrie, Radio Broadcasting
(Linda) Ling Lee, Marketing Management
Victoria Wills, Marketing Management

Biographies of the candidates appeared in the March 10 issue of the LINK.

Voting stations will be set up in the Great Hall and NE1 on Wednesday, March 22, during the 3-hour break, 1130 - 1430.

Come and cast your vote!
You have a voice.



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MISSION

The Jerry O'Connell Interview

CARLOS ASSUNCAO
 Link Arts & Culture Writer

Jerry O'Connell plays Phil Ohlmyer in *Mission to Mars*, the Brian De Palma sci-fi production. Jerry's credits include *Jerry MacGuire* (starring Tom Cruise), *Stand By Me* and the television action-adventure *Sliders*. In his latest film, Jerry plays a supporting role opposite Gary Sinise and Tim Robbins.

The Link had the opportunity to speak with Jerry, just days before the release of *Mission to Mars*.

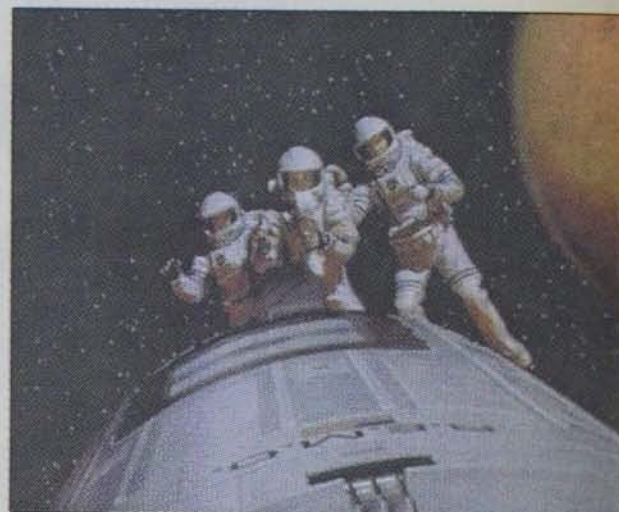
You had to audition for the role in *M2M*, how did you feel about auditioning at this point in your career?

Jerry: I felt great! I really wanted to be a part of this project. First of all, I think Brian (De Palma) is totally wicked. I really loved the idea of playing an astronaut, how else could I get the opportunity to put on an authentic NASA spacesuit? I couldn't make the cut at NASA.

What was the best pick-up line you ever used?

Jerry: Last week I meet a girl, so I get her phone number, you know, so the next day I call her, I mean the very next day. She doesn't call back, you know she's giving me the brush-off. So... the next day I call her again, I leave a message on her machine, again she doesn't call back. For seven days in a row I call her, every day, sometimes twice, every time I leave a message, you know "hi, it's Jerry, we met the other day, blah, blah, blah..." Finally on the seventh day I call her and leave this message, "Hi Adrienne, it's Jerry, Listen, I hate to do this on the phone, but I have to break-up with you, it's not working out. I'm sorry, it's not you, it's me. This calling and leaving messages thing, your just to hard to get a hold of..... anyways, if you want to talk about it, call me at ###-####". In three minutes she calls me back, laughing hysterically.... It was so cool.

What projects led you into feature films? How does it feel to have gotten where you are?



Jerry: I made a film while in college at NYU, *Calendar Girl*, starring Jason Priestly, you know, big Canadian star (laughter) no really... he is. I remember on campus at NYU, every dormitory would shut down while "90210" was on... he was huge. When I finished that film, I told my parents "I think I'm going to be a huge star." You know my father was like this British guy, he'd say "that's very nice son, but maybe you should finish college, just in case." And my mother, when I told her I didn't need to finish school because I was going to be a movie star, she said "over my dead body!" But you know, my parents are really great, thank god they made me finish college. I was all pumped and I took them to the opening of "Calendar Girl" I think the film made something like \$14.

When you were younger, you were in "Stand By Me", a classic film. Was it difficult to lose the image people had of you being known as the chubby kid in that film?

Jerry: Husky, I was husky! (Laughter) Nah man, I was proud to be a part of it, it's a great film. In fact I was just asked to do an interview for the 15th anniversary DVD special edition release of "Stand By Me". If you could imagine, at that age being asked "would you like to spend the summer in Oregon and make a film, or go to summer camp somewhere?" It was a lot of fun.

What was the main difference for you, as an actor, in working on a film like *Mission to Mars*?

Jerry: Well, you're acting to a green screen, it's really weird, you don't know how it's going to turn out till you're in the theatre. I've had that experience before, while working on "Joe's Apartment"; there were a lot of computer effects. It seems like I'm becoming a professional G.S.A. (green screen actor). Brian (De Palma) was really great, the stuff he does with the camera, brilliant. I remember somebody on the set having trouble with their laptop, De Palma was like "here, let me see it" and pow, it was fixed. If he wasn't a director, he could get a job at Radioshack for sure.

Finally, the Link's own Melina Rousselle got in a last question for Jerry, on a philosophical note:

Jerry, if you were to wake up tomorrow and realize your life was a dream, what would be the one thing you would want to keep as reality from your life?

Jerry: Wow that's deep. I don't know if I can handle a deep question right now. Well, let me think... oh yea, my car, I just bought this sweet convertible... got it for \$2000. A 1973 Centurion convertible, man, what a beautiful car. I would definitely want to keep that.

ON TO MARS

SUE HONG &
CARLOS ASSUNCAO
Link Arts & Culture Reporters

Summary: The year is 2020 and NASA has made another giant leap for mankind - successfully landing a team of astronauts on Mars. However, shortly after their arrival on the Martian surface, Mission Commander Luke Graham (Don Cheadle) and his colleagues encounter something bizarre and chilling that brings about catastrophic and mysterious disaster which decimates the crews. Graham is able to send one hasty cryptic message back to Earth. Haunted by the message, NASA launches a rescue mission under the command of Woody Blake (Tim Robbins), Jim McConnell (Gary Sinise), and Scientist Phil Ohlmyer (Jerry O'Connell). This rescue mission uncovers the mysteries of Mars and safely returns the rescue mission crew back to Earth leaving Jim McConnell (Garry Sinise) on Mars.

FILM REVIEW Mission to Mars

Starring: Tim Robins, Don Cheadle, Gary Sinise, Jerry O'Connell

Director: Brian De Palma

Mission to Mars is rather a different type of science fiction. Yes, the computer generated graphics enchants your imagina-



tion way better than any Sci-Fi so far; moreover, the realistic story line, which reaches the implausibly far-fetched human imagination as far as being creative about outerspace, brings the point that we are part of universe.

This movie shows the epitome of human beings in passionate pursuit of their dreams at any expense. The uncertainties of traveling in space with unknown dangers, the untested human endeavors, are all shaped into one

dream, the frontier of mankind and its boundaries.

Mission to Mars challenges the controversial issue of whether or not there's life out there. Some of us may segregate ourselves from the universe by stating that I do not believe in aliens or life outside of earth. Yet this seemingly personal statement not only narrows our view to this small planet, earth, but also separates us from the vast universe that works in harmony with every

particle in us and around us. However, Mission to Mars, with bountiful imagination, eloquently as well as creatively relates us to there is something out there. Surely, the elaboration of Martians being the seed to the human evolution to state that all things are part of each other may sound unconvincing. Yet, looking at the whole process of dynamics of collective evolution as a universe, we may be able to grasp the essence of the beginning of

human existence and the unknown state that human beings would progressively evolve into. Well, who knows where, why, how, and to what end we are here for anyway? Martians to Earthlings, and to some other...strange form of life. Mission to Mars depicts, in part, the circle of life, the dynamic phenomenon of beings in a very big picture with no definite destination.

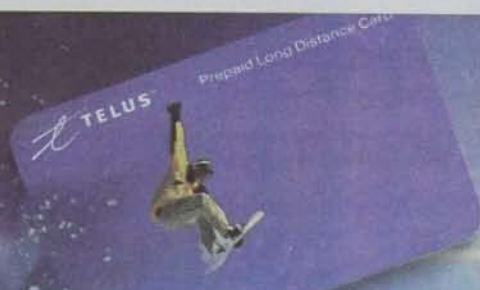
Something unknown and vast that is so overpowering bears us fear in our hearts. But as one of the scenes from the movie where Sinise being left alone in the Martian Castle, he realizes the truth of all things - getting on with the groove with no fear. He lets go of his life on earth, himself, and his memories of lost love and plunges himself into unknown. At first, he holds his breath for life. He limits himself to his reasons and physical limitations; nevertheless, when he could no more, he lets go of the fear, breathing in the joy of truly being free and one. He realizes he became a part of the universe for another journey to extend our existence.

This is a science fiction uniquely human. It is with a heart and imaginative score. But it is little too sentimental in its reasoning rather than providing some sort of logical or rational hypothesis of Martians in relation to Earthlings.



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Watchmen, Danko Jones and
The Rascals

Meet Joe Black for an evening with popcorn

KATHY BOYCE
Link Video Reviewer

Wealthy media magnate Bill Parish (Anthony Hopkins) lead a life of comfort and luxury. During dinner with his family, death suddenly comes knocking on his door - literally. Enter Joe Black (Brad Pitt). Joe Black has come to take Bill to the "otherside" as his time on earth is up.

Video Review
Meet Joe Black
at the SA's "Best No Name
Video Store" off the Great Hall



The story begins to unfold when Joe explains to Bill that he will give him more time in exchange for a sample of life, in this case, Bill's charmed life. The only hitch is Bill must not tell a soul who Joe is and why he is constantly at his side or his life will abruptly end. Bill is suddenly a very vulnerable man catering

to Joe Black's every command. Arguments between the two inevitably ensue, including one over Joe's love for Bill's daughter Susan (Claire Forlani).

This is a tale of life, love and loss. I was slightly disappointed as such a great storyline had so much more potential for its characters. After all, we are talking

about life here and there is certainly so much more to it than cookies and peanut butter.

A final thought — some of the characters are truly likeable and this movie is definitely worth checking out; Hopkins' acting is the reason enough to recommend this movie.

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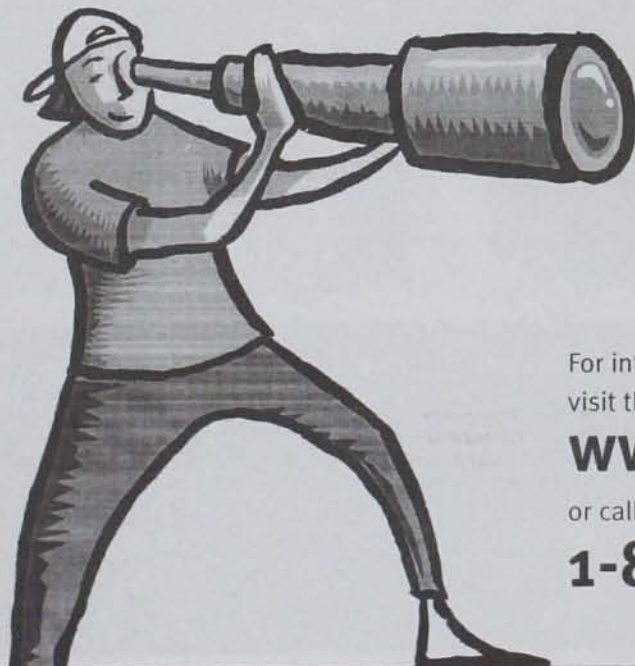
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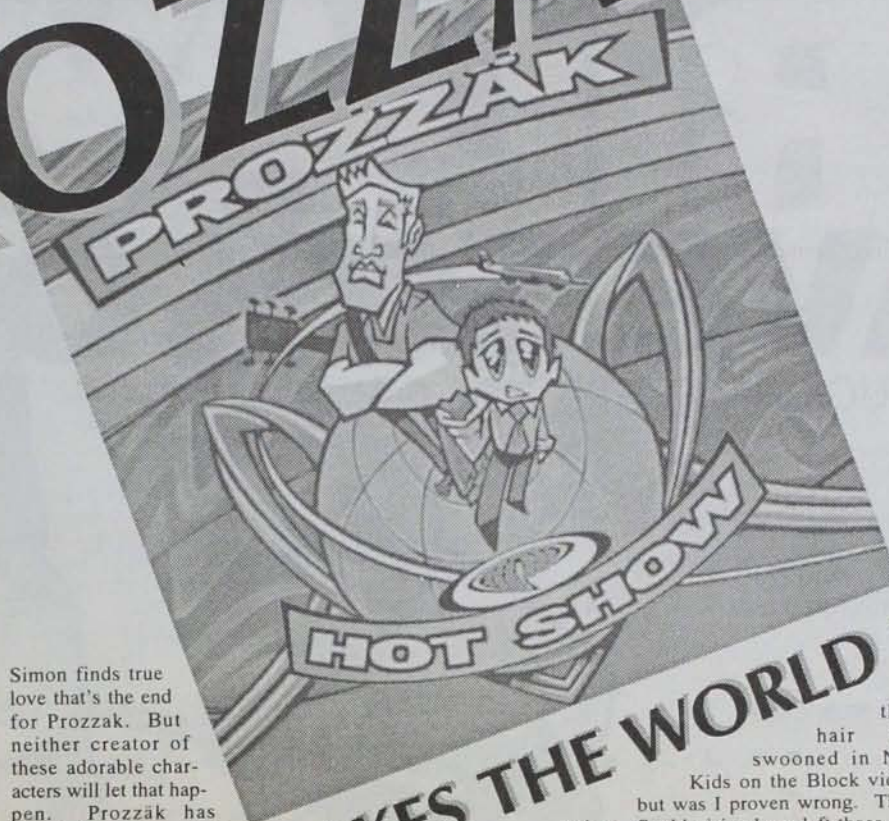
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Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology
Honourable Graeme Bowbrick,
Minister Responsible for Youth

PROZZÄK



Melina Rousselle
Link Arts & Culture Editor

Musical masterminds James McCollum and Jay Levine have created a disco-pop sensation that have taken the world by storm.

Prozzäk is an animated cartoon with two fun lovin' characters in search for true love. Or rather alter ego Simon (Levine) with Milo (McCollum) keeping an eye on him. They travel everywhere from Europe to Japan to America. If you ask me there's Simon's problem right there. I think what he needs is a good down to earth Canadian girl to keep him in line. But if you were to ask Levine and McCollum you would find out that Simon is not going to find love for a long time.

That's what Prozzäk is all about, the search, it's all about the search.
O n c e



Simon finds true love that's the end for Prozzäk. But neither creator of these adorable characters will let that happen. Prozzäk has already been through at least 20 CD's of unsuccessful love. Of course these are future albums yet to be released but they are written. I think this could lead to a problem though because of the changing times.

Will the type of music they have written still be what's happening two to three years when future albums are released? But I'm sure as genius as they are they'll be able to fit the music to the times. I guess we'll have to wait until then to see.

Jay Levine is always in creative mode so there is no telling what is in store for us next. There are rumors that Prozzäk is coming out with a 'Simpson's' type cartoon...

Does this mean their other project, Toronto based Jazz band the Philosopher Kings is coming to an end? It's hard to tell. Jay who plays bass and James who is front guitar man promise their new inside project won't get in the way of the Philosopher Kings growth. I'm very skeptical about this for more than one reason:

Prozzäk is continually working on promotional deals to get their name know and they are

TAKES THE WORLD BY STORM

going to be doing a lot of work in the US soon. Furthermore, plans for a new album from the Philosopher Kings is yet to be seen in the near future. A few of the guys have been travelling all over the place producing up and coming Canadian stars. Gerald Eaton is supposedly making a solo album and Denton Whitfield was the drummer for Prozzäk's recent tour, which was a total success.

It started off with a bang in Vancouver working its way east finishing in Toronto at the Junos...

The doors opened at 6:30pm with hundreds of girls lined up outside hoping to get the best spots as close to the stage as possible. To the disappointment of all the fans and to my delight everyone had to stay seated until the opening band came on.

McMaster and James opened the show with ear screeching pop music that kept all the girls screaming through their half-hour set. Then came out local band Souldecision that sounded basically the same as the first band. I thought teenage girls only pulled

their hair and swooned in New Kids on the Block videos but was I proven wrong. Those Souldecision boys left those girls light headed with lots to dream about for a long time.

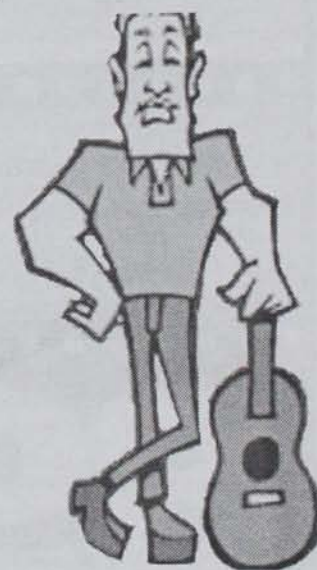
Then finally after being shoved and pushed by ankle biters the show I had been waiting for since August started. The stage covered with smoke and out came Jay and James standing on two platforms shaped as the lovable Simon and Milo. They sang live into microphones set in British accents while the cartoon characters of Simon and Milo were on a screen behind them.

The show was jam packed with props to keep the audience busy. Almost every song consisted of some type of set change or prop. Simon answered an audience member's love question on stage and one lucky contest winner was sung too. If I had known about that contest I might have actually considered tuning into Z95.

As for the show being flawless, it didn't happen. For the first three songs the performers couldn't hear themselves playing their instruments or singing.

Also a few times during the show there were some sound problems. Then again it was their first live show ever so there was bound to be some problems. And the one thing that totally shocked me was that Levine forgot some of the words to one of their new song's 'Pretty Girls'. As the perfectionist that he is I cannot believe he screwed up so royally. He must have been nervous because that just does not happen to him.

Overall though it was an awesome show totally worth all the money I paid. It let them show off their true and raw talent and a pure reflection of their album "Hot Shows."



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I'm a schizophrenic, and so am I

I have three personalities that I know of, and I see them clearly when I hang around different people. When I'm around some people I act like this, and when I'm around other people, I act like that. Basically, I act in three ways because I only have three friends...that I know of.

One personality is very weird and surprisingly willing to look foolish. That's when I hate sharing one body with other personalities. If one does something stupid, the other personalities, like myself, have to deal with the strange looks and pointing fingers. And the stupid things he does are so pointless, like asking his friends to smell his shirt or mittens because he just washed them the day before with Fleecy. People don't want to smell other people's mittens! Weirdo! Or the time when he sent out a mass e-mail survey, not to do any real research, but just to ask if people think they sweat more from their right armpit if they are right handed or if they sweat equally from both armpits. And to top it all off, he actually got some responses.

"Don't listen to that loser. He is the permanent party pooper. He can ruin a joyous occasion just by showing up. My survey wasn't dumb; I found some very interesting results. For example, most people believe they sweat equally from both armpits, but if they have a backpack or something, then maybe they will sweat more out of one armpit. I had one person write me back with the statement, 'I think people who lick their armpits are weird. And



I.s. pannu

they smell funny too, sort of like an armpit." When I get a response like that, it makes me think I can change peoples' minds, just as long as they follow my line of thinking. And who wouldn't want the world to smell better? I mean, wouldn't it make sense that if you used your right arm more, then you would sweat more under your right arm? Very logical, right? What can we do with this info you ask? Easy: save money. That's right. You would use less deodorant on your left armpit, and keep the same amount on your right armpit, and viola, you make your deodorant last longer, thereby saving you money."

"That is the most stupid thing I've heard all day."

"Then you don't get out much, do you? Just go ride on BC Transit, and you'll have a shit-load of stupid things to listen to."

"Must you swear?"

"Fucken eh."

"Quit it you two. We are trying to write an article."

"Yeah asshole, the baby has spoken."

"Don't call me baby."

"Why did you wear overalls today then, baby?"

"I can't handle this stress, I need to shop."

"Jerk can't let the credit card cool down, what else is new?"

That's why I have to come up with ways to save money. You spend too much. Like deodorant- you actually pay \$19 for one stick of deodorant. If people found that out, you would be considered weirder than me."

"It's Calvin Klein deodorant, or Hugo Boss deodorant. You don't expect me to wear something as cad as Speed Stick? Even the name sounds so boring."

"Guys, why can't we just get along? And please don't swear. Let's not fight in front of the kid eh."

"Well you said you hated my deodorant."

"I do like how it smells. I was just thinking of ways to make it last longer. You know I totally believe that sometimes you just need to spoil yourself with guilty pleasures. Like expensive deodorant!...Hey, you know what? I just figured this out. We are a family. Me, I'm like the main guy, the 'dad' if you will, and you are the feminine side, the 'mom,' and there is a little kid, like the son."

"Yeah, so can I call you mom and dad?"

"Fuc...I mean no."

"What he really means is that we will only exist until we are replaced."

"You mean I'll disappear if he has a kid and you'll disappear if he gets married?"

"Yes. But don't worry, that won't happen for a long, long time. Have you seen the face we have to work with? No, we'll be together for ages."

"That's what you think."

"Hey! Who said that?"

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Varsity athlete says competitiveness was never the point of BCIT's teams

I wish to thank Alan Ross for his article regarding the termination of the intercollegiate program at BCIT. It is most certainly a sad day for all of the athletes at BCIT that they no longer have the opportunity to represent their school through sport.

I had the privilege of being named Captain of the BCIT Women's Soccer Team this past season. My fellow teammates and I did a fantastic job of representing our school. Even through the adversity that seemed to plague us from the beginning, we played with integrity, fairness and always with respect for our opponents.



Competitiveness never entered the equation and should never have been used against us.

One more note, if you please. Isn't it interesting that the only time the intercollegiate program was mentioned in this fine paper of ours is when it is no longer. It begs the question:

How many of you students actually knew that you had a men's and women's soccer, volleyball and badminton team that you could play for? Where was the support of the school when we really needed it?

Joanna Krynen

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