

NOVEMBER 2014

BCIT & BEYOND

Link

magazine

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BCIT'S RESIDENT PRO SKATEBOARDER KNOWS
IT PAYS MORE TO BE ON HIS FACEBOOK THAN ON
HIS BOARD



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THE ISIS CRISIS: 3 PERSPECTIVES •

ADULTS IN COSTUMES

ARRESTED IN BANGKOK •

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Ian Twa with a switch crooked grind in front of NE1 at BCIT's Burnaby Campus.

Photo by **Yinan Shi**

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magazine

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Association of BC



November Rain

Short days, lots of rain. We're there. It's that season of transition that seems to invite reflection – to me, of light and darkness. I certainly had those thoughts in October, reporting on the breakup of the Oppenheimer Park homeless camp. I'd been there for all of about 15 minutes on my first day when the police pulled a dead body from one of the tents. It was heavy stuff.

Before going down, I was warned by several people to be careful – to find a 'media buddy' on site to ensure safety. But the more I walked in the park and spoke to the campers, the more ridiculous that idea seemed. Sure, there was plenty of darkness. A death; people struggling with a myriad of addictions; the very fact that these people had nowhere to go, would rather sleep in a park than a dingy shelter or bedbug infested rooming houses.

But mixed with that were bright sparks of something very human. People looking out for one another. Couples who chose the camp over shelters so they could be together. Sharing food. I even heard laughter – even as these people faced eviction.

As we head into a wet and dark winter, facing scary headlines of war and disease, it's worth keeping that in mind. It's never as dark as it seems. Yes, you have a midterm and a monsoon to deal with – but look around you. You're surrounded by some fine people. They'll back you up. Share when you need it. And yes, even make you laugh.

- Simon Little
Associate Editor

FACES TO NAMES



CALVIN A.J.

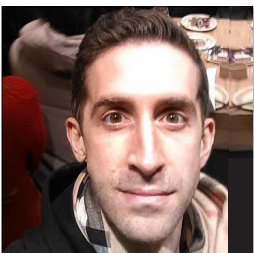
Calvin is a first year Journalism student and brand new to the *Link* crew. If you can't find him holed up in a coffee shop on Commercial Drive writing a story, verse, or working on his novel, he'll be elsewhere writing/recording/performing music, acting, directing film or catching a Canucks game. He loves cats and long walks on the beach. What else do you need to know to be his friend?

twitter: @Calvinajay

ZAK MILLER

Zak Miller is a student and writer from Mission, British Columbia. He moved to Burnaby this summer to pursue his dream of attending BCIT's Broadcast and Online Journalism program. One day he hopes to write and get paid for it.

twitter: @ZakaryMiller



JONNY KIDNEY

Jonny Kidney is currently in his second, and hopefully, final year of Broadcast and Online Journalism. He enjoys reporting the news, reading the news and making sandwiches. Recently, Jonny has befriended television personalities, Ian Hanomansing and weather woman, Johanna Wagstaffe, with whom one day hopes to work side by side.

Jonny also loves to smile.

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LYNDSAY HOWE

Lindsay is a first year student in the Broadcast and Online Journalism program. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Communications from Capilano University, and formerly worked at the campus newspaper there. Her interests include writing, playing tennis, and spending time with family. She hopes to continue to bring students interesting stories each month as a *Link* contributor.

twitter: @Lyndsay_Howe



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A SKILLED TRANSITION

BCIT program helps veterans get ahead

With Remembrance Day upon us, it's not only important to honour those who have fallen protecting us, but also to give thanks to those who have served and made it home. A number of those veterans have swapped army life for life at BCIT. The Legion Military Skills Conversion program was created to help military personnel transition to civilian life.

The program offers three separate pathways, with one being educational opportunities. Students are able to complete a credential at BCIT, often using their past military experience to be expedited to advanced placement in programs.

One of these students is Stu Leamy. After spending 11 and a half years in the military, the former Master Corporal made the transition to BCIT. "I was injured on my way out, and I saw the writing on the wall and needed to make that leap," says Leamy.

He began his journey in a Human Resources diploma program where his military background exempted him from taking 80% of the electives. He is currently working towards his Bachelor of Business Administration.

The two other pathways offered by the program are the Legion Lion's Lair, and the job finding pathway. The Lion's Lair was created for ex-military personnel who are interested in entrepreneurship. Each individual is required to create a business plan and present it to a panel of business professionals for the chance to win \$10,000.

The job finding pathway assists veterans with workshops on how to build resumes and cover letters, as well as other information to help them transition to a civilian career.

The program also offers scholarships to veterans, as well as peer tutoring and other support free of charge. And so far, the program has been well received. "They've all come with a certain drive, and have proved to be very successful in the program," says Justine Arsenault, program developer.

The program has joined forces with Enactus BCIT to sell poppies on campus the first week of November, with proceeds going to the Legion. So when you're making your annual poppy purchase, remember that your donations are helping those who protect you to attend BCIT.

— Lyndsay Howe

PUTTING THE 'T' IN BCIT

The school's big guns of tech celebrate a milestone

by Simon Little

There's a running gag that the 'T' in BCIT is silent. It's something most of us have felt at least once when trying to log into the school's email system. The reality is anything but. In labs around campus, top names in science and technology are working with industry on cutting edge projects. It's called applied research, and this year it celebrates its 25th anniversary at BCIT.

It was 1989 when the province brought BCIT and the private sector together as partners. "Originally it was done as – there's a problem industry has, and they want to have an institution like ours, which is

applied, do some innovation work," says James Albright, director of the Applied Research Liaison Office. Since then, he says the work has changed dramatically to involve and enrich students. "They become more cutting edge – they understand the latest issues and trends in their industries," he told *Link*.

Those industries are diverse. Research now ranges from building a better skateboard testing machine to leading the field in green roofs to designing smart power grid tech. It's also attracted top talent. BCIT now hosts Canada Research Chairs (field leading research scientists) in areas like building de-

sign and natural health products. Along the way, BCIT helped found Polytechnics Canada – a national organization of schools driving industrial research forward.

To mark the big 25, BCIT is hosting Polytechnics Canada's Applied Research Showcase. That includes a gathering of industry and alumni at a Science World Gala hosted by CBC's chic geek Bob MacDonald. And on November 14th, students from across Canada will be pitching their best applied research projects in a *Dragon's Den* - style showdown in the Great Hall. Bring some popcorn and check out the Thomas Edisons of the 21st century.

THE FACTOR FOUR INITIATIVE

The School of Construction and the Environment is walking the talk

Five years ago the School of Construction and the Environment decided to implement a bold sustainable initiative called Factor Four. The team leading this program recently released an implementation update report and *Link Magazine* wanted to know more about their achievements and challenges. We met with two of the people making it happen, Jennie Moore and Alexandre Herbert. Jennie Moore is the Director of Sustainable Development and Environmental Stewardship, and Alexandre Herbert is the Energy and Sustainability Manager. Here's what they had to share with us.

What is Factor Four?

Jennie Moore: It's an initiative that aims at reducing the School's energy and material consumption by a factor of four (or 75%) without compromising service level.

Alexandre Herbert: This program operates in the buildings occupied by the School, from NE1 to NE8. We have designated this sector as the Factor Four Area. When completed, Factor Four will help BCIT save \$500,000 per year.

What is the balance after 5 years?

AH: In 2009 we estimated the energy consumption of these buildings in around 40,000 Gigajoules per year (GJ/yr) and the goal is to reduce it to 10,000 GJ/year. Today, without affecting levels of service, we've reduced our energy consumption by 10,000 GJ/yr, and the next project will help us save an additional 15,000 GJ/yr. That means, currently our goal has been achieved by 1/3, and by next year we'll be half way through it.

JM: Yes, our next project, the construction of a waste-to-energy biomass plant will utilize the wood waste produced by our programs of Carpentry and Joinery, and instead of paying for taking it to a landfill, it'll be safely burned in the new plant to produce part of the heating for these buildings.

Why only these buildings and not the whole Burnaby campus?

JM: This initiative was thought to be as an experiment and see if the bold goals we set were realistic. We



decided to start small and grow big. BCIT is realizing that it is possible to cut our energy consumption by that amount and is fully backing us up.

AH: At the beginning there was a lot of skepticism, but as positive results start to appear, more and more people in BCIT want to make part of it.

How are faculty and students involved in this program?

JM: Everything we're doing with this program has an important academic component. Faculty and students have been actively participating in all aspects of it. At least 150 students from 12 academic programs have been involved, and five research projects have sprung from it. BCIT has become a real living lab with this initiative.

What's next for Factor Four?

JM: The biomass plant will keep us occupied for the next months. In the medium to long term, we think that the future of NE1, the largest of the buildings in the Factor Four Area will be replaced and we want to make sure that the new NE1 will not only be energy efficient but that beyond that, it should be a passive building.

AH: That's right. A passive building goes beyond energy efficiency. It means that no (or minimum) mechanical input is necessary for heating and cooling, because the design and construction take care of that.

— Marlon Figueroa



DAY OF THE IMPRISONED WRITER

15 NOVEMBER

Imagine, you write an article for BCIT's *Link* but you're afraid to submit it to your editor for fear of going to jail. Your story could put you in handcuffs. Do you even begin to write it down? Most people wouldn't risk it.

The International Day of the Imprisoned Writer is the one day a year that highlights our freedom and human right to story-tell. Writers from different parts of the world are given attention for writing their thoughts and beliefs, often against their governments. Each writer represents a circumstance of repression that occurs when governments or other groups in power feel threatened by what was written. China, Iran, and Russia are only a short list of states who silence their writers. The one day is simply a milestone to recognize the importance of an event, a person, a story and to reconsider our progress towards positive change. To give attention to the writer who risked their life to share a story.

Recently in Honduras, TV news anchor Julio Ernesto Alvarado was given a 16 month ban on practicing journalism. Marian Botsford Fraser, chair of PEN International's Writers in Prison Committee said, "His case is a mockery of justice, and part of an alarming climate of violence, impunity and fear in Honduras." The group also recently supported Nabeel Rajab in Bahrain, the President of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) imprisoned for various tweets.

These are only two of hundreds of cases that the group follows. While the world is changing culturally, politically, and environmentally, the writer plays the role of the educator and the change maker.

— Rana Sowdaey

MEDIA DEMOCRACY DAYS 2014

Why you should put this event in your calendar

The SFU School of Communications, OpenMedia.ca, and the Vancouver Public Library are gearing up for the 14th annual Media Democracy Days running from November 7th to 8th. MDD has become a local signature event for alternative and independent media alike.

The event is set to start on November 7th with a film screening of *Preempting Dissent*, a documentary focusing on the political issues that arise when mass groups of people protest and form an opposition. The film, timely in nature, will resonate with all who see it especially in the wake of Hong Kong's Umbrella Revolution.

MDD engages its participants by providing thought-provoking workshops and by enlisting pertinent keynote speakers. This year the event will host Michael Geist, an expert in copyright and Internet freedom; Reilly Yeo, a community engagement specialist at OpenMedia.ca; and Kai Nagata, Energy and Democracy Director for B.C.'s Dogwood Initiative.

The workshops will be taking place on Saturday, November 8th and organizers suggest pre-registering to avoid disappointment. Some of the workshops open to the public include: So You Wanna Be an Indie Journalist?, Social Media for Social Change, and the Politics of Public Voice. These workshops are geared towards people who wish to seek a better understanding of the media culture we live in. Gil Aguilar, Coordinator for this year's MDD, says in the workshops, "Many people engage in lively discussions about the issues presented, offer their support to the many campaigns represented and find out how they can join this work."

Aguilar says it's crucial for our citizenry to work towards the democratization of our media systems because by doing so we are "ensuring that social justice movements and issues are covered responsibly and fairly, for example. Not only that, when the media is democratic and open, political debates and complex issues become easier for everyone to participate in."

Participate at these locations:

— Olivia Smith

Friday Nov. 7
SFU Harbour Centre
(7pm-10pm)

Saturday Nov. 8
SFU Harbour Centre
(10:00am-5:30pm)

AMATEUR HOUR



Jeremy Poitras is a 22-year-old BCIT student, in his second year of the Radio Arts and Entertainment program. He's been shooting amateur photography for about 3 years now, getting his start shooting friends' events and parties—all with borrowed equipment.

After starting his Instagram account (@jermisp) he became interested in more abstract and artsy photography. "There was just something about working within the boundaries of what a phone could do," says Poitras. "It was a neat creative challenge and it always pushed me to do something different than everyone else."

The more he started to post, the more opportunities to shoot cool stuff started opening up, so finally last year, he made the jump and bought an SLR with a couple of lenses. He started just by shooting things around his life—trips, events, random things he saw online and wanted to try—and eventually a few of them turned out alright. Jeremy's camera eventually landed him a job with 937 JRFM and from there he ended up with an on-air gig at their sister station 1027 The Peak.

"It all started as a hobby," Jeremy reminds, "and even though I technically get paid to take photos now, I don't consider myself a photographer... I'm just happy people enjoy seeing things from my point of view. To me, that's what photography is all about."

Get discovered, every Wednesday afternoon 3-4pm on
[Facebook.com/linkbcit](https://www.facebook.com/linkbcit)



J U S T T H E T E C H

TECH

Headphones: in today's busy world, you need a solid pair. We tested a few to see what worked (and didn't). We played "Avaritia" by Deadmau5, for its bass and frequency range. by Jon Hall and Ria Renouf



AKG K81

\$75, Long & McQuade/Tom Lee Music

Jon says they're "durable, but bass heavy." Jon sometimes found higher frequencies got lost. These also fit a bit snug. "I wear glasses, so they're tight on the ears."

Ria found effects were clear, but contrast between bass and high frequency were muddy. "They're not too tight, and thank goodness they're foldable and come with a bag."

Bonus: it comes with a 1/4" adaptor.

Jon's Rating: B+

Ria's Rating: A



SONY EX EARBUDS

\$40, Sony Store

Jon found them comfortable. The bass? Heavy, but reasonably balanced. He also took calls with them and found that call quality, as with all sealed earbuds, was good.

Ria didn't like the wear. "The buds are shaped weird, and keep falling out!" She found the sound came through okay, but was muddy at some points. Both agree the cord on this pair is quite short.

Jon's Rating: C-

Ria's Rating: D



SKULL CANDY ZXL

\$9.00, HMV

Jon found all the sounds crushed together - if you're editing audio, avoid them. "I wouldn't even give these to a younger sibling."

Ria also found massive sound distortion in these: way too much bass for her liking, despite listening to a lot of electronic/EDM music. "If you like style over function, then go for these."

Jon's Rating: F-

Ria's Rating: F



SONY MDRZX100 ZX

\$70.00, HMV

Jon found the mid-range sounds muddy. The bass was heavy, yet flat. "The cable is disgustingly short. Fine if your music player or phone is in your hand or pocket."

Ria also found the mid-range sound flat; this definitely took away from the listening experience. Bass was also a bit too heavy. Her one issue? "They need a case! Good luck trying to keep them mint!" She thinks they're decent multitasking (music/phone use) headphones.

Jon's Rating: B

Ria's Rating: B

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10am-2pm Great Hall, SE2, Burnaby campus.

JONNY KIDNEY

ARRESTED IN BANGKOK



Bangkok is a chaotic city.

There is so much going on, and so much to do. But with the freedom to do as you wish as a tourist comes a potential for being taken advantage of by more than just tuk-tuk drivers. Police have the tendency to ask for payouts as well.

After enjoying a fun night on Koasan Road with some new friends I met that night, I decided to take a cab home. I arrived home fairly early not quite ready to call it a night. After all, it was only my second night in Thailand. So, I went back out looking for an adventure, and that's exactly what I found.

I should have stayed home.

As I walked and walked, rather enjoying the hollering of female attention from every bar I passed, I found myself on a quiet street with not many signs of life.

I had just visited the ATM, and took out quite a bit of cash. Before I knew it, two police officers on dirt bikes pulled up and surrounded me on the sidewalk. They began asking me questions and aggressively going through my pockets. I was reluctant to let them, since I had just stuffed my money belt with a few hundred dollars. They became more physical with me.

What was going through my head was that maybe they were not police officers at all, but instead posing as police and taking advantage of me. I started thinking if I don't do something these guys are going to rob me.

Instinctively, without hesitation, I elbowed one and pushed the other one over as I started my getaway. I booked it, and they gave chase on foot. But I was much quicker, and all they could do was blow their whistles. I turned down the next street, which was a mistake because it was a busy street crawling with locals. The officers continued to yell at me from afar.

Now, Thailand is a very community oriented country. Thais help out other Thais whenever help is needed. The sense of community is astounding. Something I still envy.

That being said, as the cops whistled, taxi drivers and bystanders were taking notice. Car doors were swinging open, and a crowd of locals was in pursuit as well. I felt like I was playing football, weaving and dodging everyone that was trying to get a hand on me. I was thinking how crazy this situation was and I couldn't help but laugh as I was running my heart out down the middle of Sakimvit Road.

At first I was doing well. I was thinking, I'm actually going to get away with this. Just as I was getting cocky, I was side swiped and my one foot tripped the other. I went flying through the air landing with my arms out in front me, scraping my palms, and smacking my face on the pavement, resulting in a fat lip that would later form.

I could now see how bloody my palms were.

I was instantly tackled by five or six men, and restrained until the officers eventually caught up. I was then tossed on the sidewalk, with my hands behind my back and handcuffed.

My shoes and socks were taken as if I was going to try and run again, and my pockets were completely emptied. Luckily, I didn't have my passport on me. I have been told that police take your passport; it can be expensive to retrieve it from them.

I became a sideshow sitting there on the sidewalk bleeding from my hands and face, waiting for more police to arrive. As I sat there I was remembering the film *Broke Down Palace* and thinking to myself, I am in for it now - I just royally fucked up!

Surrounded by residents and the two officers, I was completely unaware of what was going to happen next. I was actually becoming angry with the volunteer "good" Samaritans who kept laughing and poking the foreigner.

Next, a large, white Police pick-up truck arrived. They put me in the back with one cop sitting beside me clenching my handcuffs making them tighter and tighter. It hurt. I actually had cuts around my wrists for days afterwards.

I kept thinking that I was going to a Thai prison and I wouldn't see the light of day for a very long time.

I arrived at the police station, and they put me in a room with eight other cops. They positioned my arms so that the handcuffs were now in front of me allowing for a little more comfort as they sat me at a large oval table. I could now see how bloody my palms were.

One officer who looked to be in charge began interrogating me. He asked, "Why did you run away from the police? Where are you from? What are you doing here? Where is your passport?" I answered honestly, and said that I panicked because I thought I was getting robbed, and instinctively I ran.

I was there answering the same four questions over and over for about an hour. After hours of explanation and Canadian humour, the mood eventually lightened. I mentioned that the police need to be in better shape if they plan on catching more foreigners.

The head officer finally said, "Just don't run away from police again, and you won't have another problem." Obviously I said thanks for the advice.

Around four in the morning they helped me clean my cuts with alcohol and iodine, which they thought was humorous as well, as I screamed in agony. I asked them to drive me home, which they also found funny.

So, on the bright side I was now standing outside of the police station free as a bird, not in a roach infested Thai prison. My pockets were once again full with my personal items and money.

But, on the down side, I had no idea where I was, with bandages around my hands and a bloody fat lip. Finding my way home from there is a whole other story.



**“PROFESSIONAL SKATERS HAVE PROBABLY
SOLD A PERSONAL IMAGE, OR STYLE, OR EVEN
A CAUSE BEHIND THEIR IMAGE, TO INCREASE
THEIR SALES.”**

PRODUCT POSITIONING

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Calgary isn't exactly world-renowned as a skate city. Serious winters mean seriously short seasons. For **Ian Twa**, one of our country's top skate exports, that meant finding ways to head South to ride as often as possible. It led him to a spot on the pro touring roster with Zoo York, and branded boards sporting his name in shops across the continent. More recently he's taken up residence here on the coast and is grinding his way through a Marketing Management diploma at BCIT. We sat down with him to talk about the transition from boarding to branding.

interview by **Simon Little** | portraits by **Yinan Shi**



360 Flip - photo: Yinan Shi

When I think marketing, I think suits. When I think skating, I think punk rock. What sparked the move?

I spend a lot of my time working with photographers and sponsors to get on team tours, produce magazine coverage, things like that... how I ended up progressing in the industry was almost purely how I marketed myself, how I worked with sponsors to promote their brands and promote myself at the same time. [My brand manager at Zoo York and I] would sit around at night talking about how so many talented skaters maybe didn't make it very far in the industry, whereas somebody with less talent just blew through... generally it kind of comes back to how did this person market themselves, what image did they end up selling to the public.

So is that then a reflection of the industry? That you have to be able to brand yourself in order to be successful?

Definitely... There is a very small portion of the industry that maybe rates themselves on a contest level. But honestly out of 1000 or so professional skaters, there's probably only about 50 or 100 that really excel in that contest environment. So the other 900 plus or so professional skaters have probably sold a personal image, or style, or even a cause behind their image to increase their sales with their brands.

What have you learned skating that's transferred to the work you do here?

Skateboarding is very big on social media and online presence. A lot of skaters might not realize it to the aspect that I realize

it now. Skaters are just 'Oh, I'm going to put out a video of my best stuff and hopefully people will like it,' but from a marketing perspective, it's about 'how is this measurable and how many people are you actually influencing with this video? Did it increase our sales?' So bringing that mentality with me... it really helped me understand from the companies' perspective of what's quantifiable, how much does it affect their bottom line?

So - BCIT is notorious for its intense workload. How do you find time to skate?

Honestly, it probably does affect my grades at some moments. I get off school, I go straight to the skate park for an hour or two, I talk less to my friends while I'm there and skate more. Just because I love



Nollie bs Lipslide. photo: Gordon Nicholas

“IF ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU GET HURT AND EVERYTHING GETS TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU, REALLY ALL YOU MIGHT BE LEFT WITH IS A DRINKING PROBLEM”

IAN TWA



ZOO:YORK

the act of skateboarding so much. And then I go home and I study. It's tough. I'm not going on as many trips in the winter, and I've definitely had to sacrifice a lot of my presence in the industry. At moments I have to tell myself, 'I have to leave the skate park and go home and do homework.' Whereas vice-versa, sometimes after weeks and weeks of term projects, all of a sudden I'm just like 'for my own sanity and to keep my presence in the industry going I'm just going to put down this school project and go skateboard for a while' - It's really a give and take.

What's it like being a Canadian in an American dominated skate world?

It's almost comparable to CFL and NFL. It's very difficult to become a professional in the American industry, being a Canadian citizen. There's such a large population of good, young and up-and-coming skateboarders. A lot of states in the US have a longer season, it gives them more time to practice and achieve a higher level of skill. And from a business perspective, [companies think] - 'we've got this kid and he's amazing. But he doesn't have a green card, we don't know how the American population is going to respond to him... we're going to have to spend upward of \$5,000-\$10,000 just to get him a green card... and then it's going to cost us \$40,000 of advertising just to introduce him to the American market. If he doesn't catch on, it's a lot of money invested compared to picking up the kid in the county next door... So there's a lot of roadblocks, whether it's seasonality or government regulations and things like that... and there's just a way bigger pool to pick from down there to begin with.

Some kids probably think 'this guy's got it made - paid to skate, paid to party...' What would you say is the biggest misconception about pro skating?

Well definitely for the Canadian industry, that a lot of the sponsored skateboarders probably actually aren't making that much money. And how quickly it can all fall away. You get hurt, and you have surgery, and a couple of months after that if it doesn't look like you're getting better, all of a sudden your sponsors are going to drop you. If all of a sudden you get hurt and everything gets taken away from you, really all you might be left with is a drinking problem or something like that. It's all hearsay towards individuals - a lot of people are smart with their money and they're putting money away because they plan on starting their own brand or distribution or skate shop or things like that - but really just how quickly it can all fall away. At the same time that helped make skateboarding what it is... when I started, nobody was making millions off it. It was just something that I loved and was passionate about and wanted to do.

So, finally - We've got to ask... What's it like having a board with your name on it?

It's a little nerve-wracking in it's own way. Before, I didn't feel as much pressure to be at a certain level of the industry or produce a certain amount because it was more for myself... It kind of put me from a level of comparing myself to the industry around me, the local industry, to comparing myself to the skateboard industry as a whole. At the same time just a lot of positivity - you see a board with your name on it you get a little hyped up, you get stoked- it makes you want to push yourself that much farther. Overall, a very good experience and I feel very blessed to have been given that opportunity when so many amazing Canadian skateboarders - probably some much more naturally skilled than myself - never did.

This interview has been edited and condensed. Read the whole thing at Linkbcit.ca



360 Flip. photo: Yinan Shi



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3 TAKES ON A GLOBAL CRISIS

CANADA'S INVOLVEMENT
RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION &
THE FORGOTTEN FRONT LINE

EDITORIAL

MY BAD GUY IS BIGGER THAN YOUR BAD GUY

BY: KEN PAULIN

by KEN PAULIN, ZAK MILLER AND SAMATHA PINTER-THOMPSON

In a vote that was largely split down party lines, the Conservative-dominated parliament has committed Canadian armed forces to the international effort to combat ISIS. Our contribution thus far involves 6 fighter-bomber jets, two aerial surveillance planes, a single aerial refueling plane and 69 Special Forces soldiers. However, one of the stipulations that define our role in this new war is that we have limited the use of deadly force to ISIS targets within Iraq. A decision has been made to not pursue terrorist forces beyond the border with Syria.

The government arrived at this decision because it views combating ISIS forces on Syrian soil as benefiting the government of Bashar Al Assad. Assad has been labeled as a war criminal and has been condemned by the Prime Minister for his use of chemical weapons during the civil war that has been raging in Syria for over three years.

Many analysts argue that allowing ISIS forces to have a safe haven and a space to regroup, re-arm, and send weapons across the porous border they now control, makes the war we are now fighting unwinnable. If so, it draws into question the morality of asking our armed forces to risk their lives on a mission they simply can't win.

The Canadian government must choose which is of greater importance, defeating ISIS or ostracizing Bashar Al Assad. It is clear that they can't ride the fence on this issue. To have any chance of defeating ISIS, the allied forces must face them wherever they have a stronghold. They hold large swaths of territory in two countries, any effort to defeat them must take this reality into consideration. As Canadian citizens, we must ask ourselves, is it more important to defeat ISIS even though that will mean strengthening Assad's position within Syria, or continue to ask our armed forces to fight a never ending war?

"THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
MUST CHOOSE WHICH IS
OF GREATER IMPORTANCE:
DEFEATING ISIS OR OSTRACIZING
BASHAR AL ASSAD."

ISLAM

ISIS has been in the media a lot recently due to their many human rights abuses and active social media campaign. But with these current extremist actions, many Muslims are being unfairly negatively viewed and stereotyped. I sat down with Saleem Nuri, a representative of BCIT's Muslim Association, to discuss Islam and how it does not give credence to the actions undertaken by ISIS.

Not all practitioners of Islam are extremists says Nuri; many Muslims live peaceful and tolerant lives. The tenets of Islam, he explains, involve devotion to God, charity, mercy, and compassion. The problem says Nuri, is the extremists, who are in lower numbers than mainstream

DOES NOT EQUAL

practitioners, are louder and get more media coverage. How could a group of tens of thousands claim to represent a religion of over a billion people? Nuri says it is against the core beliefs of Islam to coerce someone into religion and it is unfortunate that ISIS is carrying out these atrocities and recruiting in the name of Islam.

Nuri believes that in order to combat stereotyping and ignorance, people should become more educated, not in just Islam but in all religions. Comprehending a religion does not mean devoting to a religion, he says; it is simply a way to understand other aspects of life. He thinks it would be beneficial for society to

by Zak Miller

EXTREMISM

educate people through workshops that promote religious tolerance and respect, much like recent anti-bullying campaigns. Education, he says, is needed for youth to not be radicalised. If you know the religion, says Nuri, then you can understand that what ISIS is doing is not Islam

We live in a multicultural society, one that has put into law the rejection of ignorance and bigotry. Part of living in such a society involves being tolerant and working towards a peaceful and understanding future. With a little more understanding, Nuri hopes people who don't already, will learn to see ISIS as what they really are – not the face of Islam, but terrorists.

"How could a group of tens of thousands claim to represent a religion of over a billion people?"

A NATION WITHOUT A STATE

Kurdish fighters have been on the front lines of battle with ISIS in Syria, but many of us don't know much about who they are. The roots of the Kurdish struggle go back to World War I. Following the allied victory, European powers redrew the map of much of the Middle East. The problem was that many groups with different beliefs and a history of rivalry were pushed together as part of these new states. According to UBC political science professor Dr. Hani Faris the Kurdish people had hoped to establish an independent state. But ultimately, he says, "the Kurds came out on the losing side." If you turn on the news today you'll see that their struggles still continue.

Estimates suggest that Kurds in Syria comprise approximately 10% of the population, but no official statistics exist. The Kurds are often called a nation without a state, with populations in Iraq, Turkey and Iran as well as Syria. The Kurds declared autonomy over the Northern region of Syria near the beginning of 2014, an area which is unofficially called Syrian Kurdistan. These Kurdish controlled areas are strategically important because they contain the majority of Syria's oil. Currently the fighting is centred in Kobani, a Kurdish area near Syria's border with Turkey. The fighting is fierce- the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights has reported over 600 deaths in the region since fighting began.

Leading the fighting for the Kurds is the Peshmerga, their armed force who originated as part of the Kurdish independence movement. The heavily armed ISIS was beginning to make gains in the region but the Peshmerga has been able to hold them off on the ground. Dr. Faris says that Kobani is now beginning to tilt towards the Kurdish groups because of continuous coalition air raids. The tide can turn quickly during these volatile times, but the Kurdish people have been fighting for their survival long before ISIS arrived. And they don't appear likely to go down without a fight.

— Samantha Pinter-Thompson

HONG KONG : THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT

BY RANA SOWDAEY

The world is having a good look at Occupy Hong Kong, and China is very aware of it. Many have left the protest sites and major roads have cleared up, but pro-democracy demonstrators, mostly students, are still seeking government reform on Chinese authority over Hong Kong.

Remaining protesters want real dialogue against the ruling limitations on who could stand as a candidate for leader in the 2017 Hong Kong elections. The new ruling gives Beijing's statesmen the power to make the final call on the candidates. The Chief Executive, CY Leung, who is overlooking the standards of election told reporters, "Over the last few days... we expressed a wish to the students that we would like to start a dialogue to discuss universal suffrage as soon as we can and hopefully within the following week," according to BBC. Universal suffrage refers to the citizens right to vote.

Hong Kong, the former British colony, is under the formula "one country, one rule", but had the new ruling implemented by the Chinese government last June. The so called "white paper"

ensures Beijing will hold the power to make the final election decision, asserting Chinese authority over Hong Kong.

Hong Kong is one of Asia's most competitive markets. Its political and economic relationship with China has long been fragile. Media outlets BBC and *The New York Times* predict that potential instability caused by the occupy central movement could weigh on Hong Kong's ability to remain China's most competitive city. There is a large spectrum of opinion in China and not everyone agrees with protesters.

So what next?

Protesters have been known in the past for playing an important role in the Hong Kong elections. Still, a change to the elections process in 2017 would require the Hong Kong government present a plan to its Legislative Council who have openly said they would vote the referendum. A committee of 1,200 mostly pro-Beijing figures would select the leader.

At deadline, Hong Kong government says it will be ready for open dialogue with student protesters late October.



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ebola:

by Simon Little

is B.C. ready?

Ebola—it's the stuff of Hollywood 'epidemic thriller' nightmares.

And the media images out of Africa - teams in hazmat suits carrying bodybags - aren't helping. So it was no surprise when the first North American case last month set people's nerves on edge. Could it come here?

Not from the US. That's what Perry Kendall, BC's Chief Medical Officer, says. He says poor conditions on the ground and lack of resources are what allow the disease to spread so quickly in West Africa. "Given the health care facilities and public education we have here in North America, I've absolutely no doubt that we can contain it," he told *Link*.

If it does come here, Kendall says, it's most likely to come through the airport, as it did in Texas. Last month, the Public Health Agency of Canada brought in new screening measures at the nation's biggest airports. There aren't direct flights to Canada from affected countries, but travelers who have visited one recently face screening at the airport. If they're feeling unwell or have had contact with an Ebola victim they're referred to a trained quarantine officer who will assess them, potentially checking their temperature.

Will the screening be enough? It's hard to say - Ebola has a 2-21 day incubation period, and there is some debate about the effectiveness of temperature screening. And, says Dr. Kendall, to a certain degree we must rely on people to be honest about their condition.

"Any real effort at disease control involves an assumption that people will behave honourably and honestly," he told *Link*.

"Disease control involves an assumption that people will behave honourably and honestly."

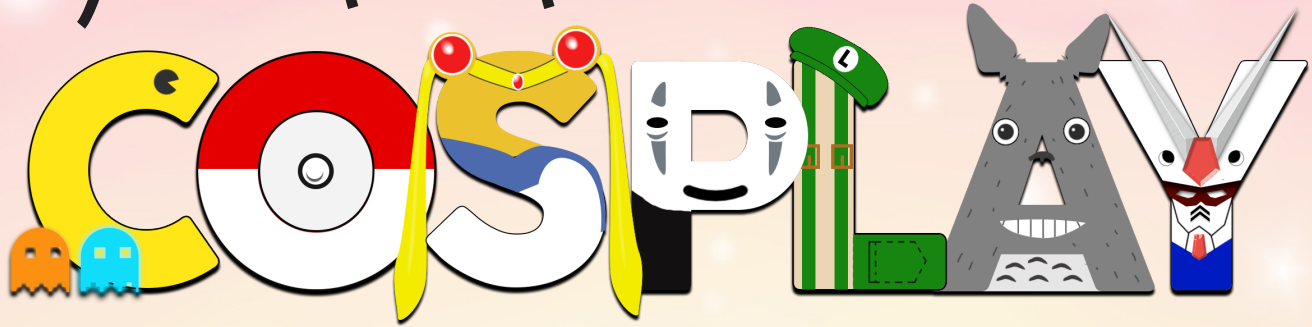
But Kendall is confident that we won't see an epidemic here. "It's relatively hard, in the north American context, to contract Ebola," he said. "You have to have physical contact with the virus in an infected person's secretions." That means getting seriously up close and personal with infected body fluids. Could you get it from a handrail touched by an infected person? "I think you're moving into the nightmare movie type scenario there," he said.

While Kendall doesn't believe we'll see the virus spreading publicly here, he's still serious about being prepared. Protocols are in place should a suspected case turn up. "Somebody with symptoms and a travel history would be isolated immediately," he said. Kendall explains the patient would be transported by a special ambulance to hospital, where they would be kept isolated while tests were done. Since our interview five BC hospitals have been designated for Ebola cases, though all health workers are expected to be prepared.

He says specific precautions have been laid out around protective equipment and any handling of blood. Kendall also says there are discussions about bringing in a small quantity of an experimental Canadian vaccine for front line workers who may be exposed.

For the time being, it seems like Ebola's biggest threat to BC is its shadow. The announcement of the Texas diagnosis caused a minor panic when rumours spread of a case at Surrey Memorial Hospital. No such case actually existed. Kendall says public health officials are doing their best to dispel the rumours. "I can assure the public that if we had an Ebola case we would be announcing that." That's something everyone hopes he won't have to do.

SO YOU WANNA...



By Roshini Nair

As I entered the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre for the Vancouver Halloween Expo, I didn't really know what to expect of my first cosplay convention. It turns out dressing up like someone else is pretty fun. I was lucky to meet two veterans, Tiffany Pomegranate Fox and Antonia Ursa. They've organized and attended many conventions and have these tips for the very beginner:

1) **Bring Cash** – Cosplay conventions are home to vendors selling intricate hats, corsets, art, anime, full costumes, and more. And they don't necessarily have credit card capabilities. At one convention at UBC, the ATMs ran out of cash 25 minutes into the first day. Come prepared!

2) **Stay hydrated** – Speaking of sugary snacks and drinks... don't! Drink plenty of water, especially if your costume starts getting hotter than Charmander's fire breath.

3) **Ask before touching or photographing** - Just because someone's costume might be from a fantasy realm, real world principles of respect and consent still apply. Also, Tiffany says some costumes are held together by "glue and hope," so be careful.

4) **Costuming 101** – The main rule is to dress up as whomever you love. While some cosplayers spend thousands of dollars(!) on their costumes, pour their own latex and sculpt their own foam, you can get your costume pre-made. Just pick someone who looks cool and go for it!



5) **Bring snacks** – Nobody wants to stand in an hour long line up for a \$5 muffin. Nobody.

6) **Make friends** – People are super friendly at the convention. Just approach one person about where they got their costume to get started. Or head to the internet. Every convention has a social media board or forum. You can even coordinate your costume with a group: Sailor Scouts? Ghostbusters? The A-team? Mere suggestions, people.

7) **Be open minded** – Sure, the costumes might be a little weird (especially cross-fandom where two worlds collide to create completely new characters like Sherlock + Hermione = Shermione), but people are here to enjoy themselves, meet artists, and buy cool stuff. While it might look like fun and games, it means much more to cosplayers.

So, newbie cosplayers, start stocking up your lembas bread and surfing those forums. It's time to get geeky! (Or is it nerdy?)



The **BCITSA Annual General Meeting** is on
Monday, November 17, 2014
 in Council Chambers room **283**.
Meeting starts at 5:30 to 6:30pm.

All BCIT students welcome!

Attention students in the School of Computing & Academic Studies

BCIT Student Association (BCITSA) is holding a by-election for the **Chair of the School of Computing & Academic Studies**. From November 17th – 20th, you will have the opportunity to **elect a student in office** who is committed to **enhancing your experience** while at BCIT.

It is as simple as logging in to your <http://my.bcit.ca> account to vote. Please do so before the polls close at **2pm** on Friday November 20th.



For more information about who to vote for, go to www.bcitsa.ca/elections. Students lead our organization and strategically drive what happens, so get involved, ask questions, and **vote!**

If you have any questions, please contact Evan Finlay the Chief Returning Officer at vpsa@bcitsa.ca or by phone at (604) 456-8162.



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JAY DEMERIT

VANCOUVER'S ADOPTED SON

by Curt Morgan

Not everyone can hop on a plane to London with only a dream and \$1500 to their name, and land with a professional soccer career—nevermind one that spans a decade and the globe.



That's exactly what Jay DeMerit did. But it wasn't all smooth sailing for the American international as he made his way from Sunday League soccer to the pinnacle of the sport, starting all four games for the USA at the 2010 World Cup.

Growing up in Green Bay, Wisconsin, DeMerit was a three-sport athlete throughout high school. But he says soccer was the best fit for him.

"That allowed me to get a small scholarship to the University of Illinois in Chicago (UIC) which helped my parents pay for school and thankfully soccer became my vehicle" he told *Link*.

Coming from a household of two teachers, he says he understood the importance of education in case

sports didn't work out. "[My parents] weren't really going to let me get away with playing just sports," he said. That attitude helped him achieve a design degree at UIC.

DeMerit wasn't given many opportunities. But when he was, he excelled. At Watford F.C., where nobody knew his name, he turned heads in an exhibition match. That led to a signing with the club, and a place in English Football's most lucrative match, with a chance to make it to the Premier league. He scored the winning goal and was awarded man of the match.

Jay came to Vancouver after the World Cup, signing with the Whitecaps as a free agent. Although he had many opportunities in Europe, he says Vancouver as a city is what attracted

him to the 'Caps. "Vancouver is everything that I have ever really wanted in my personal and professional life," he explained, citing the culture both on and off the pitch. It also gave him a chance to play in Major League Soccer, a goal of his.

DeMerit was a feature speaker at last month's TEDxVANCOUVER. His message: How do you prepare for when things are going right? "There are a lot of times where society is preparing for the rainy day or what happens when it goes wrong - are we as a society programmed to prepare for the worst?" he said. Jay believes this is fundamentally insufficient. "Why aren't we spending half our time preparing for the best?"

IS CANADA READY TO BE THE NEW SPORTS MECCA?

It was eight months ago when just over 96,000 fans jammed into the old Olympic Stadium in Montreal to watch the Toronto Blue Jays take on the New York Mets in a two-game exhibition series. Thus begging the question; can Montreal and Canada support another professional baseball team?

Seven months later, and on the other side of the country, 19,000 people packed themselves into Rogers Arena in Vancouver to watch the Toronto Raptors play the Sacramento Kings in NBA pre-season action. Again, begging the question; can Vancouver and Canada support another professional basketball team?

Both cities at one time had professional teams in the MLB and NBA, but lost them to relocation in 2001 (Vancouver Grizzlies to Memphis) and in 2005 (Montreal Expos to Washington Nationals), having some say those two cities had already had their chance. Times have changed since then, with the most important being the Canadian dollar.

In 2001, the Loonie was worth 65 cents to the Greenback, while in 2005 it was 83 cents. The Grizzlies left town when the dollar was at one of its lowest points in its history, while the Expos endured those hard times and eventually had to leave due to mounting debt. Recently, the Canadian dollar has been hovering around 90 cents. It's showing greater financial stability, leading to a greater ability to compete against other teams in both leagues.

It may take a few more years, but Montreal and Vancouver have proven they are ready to once again be big time sports towns. Quebec City will also be opening a brand new arena in the fall of 2015, with its sights set on an NHL franchise and bringing back the Nordiques.

Not thought possible a decade ago, Canada is positioning itself as a franchise haven moving forward, as we have seen the Winnipeg Jets return, as well as an Ottawa CFL franchise. Now all one can do is wait and see how the cards play out.

— Mac Dalglish

Vancouver Canucks No Longer Sell-Outs

It's been over a decade since the Vancouver Canucks last failed to sell out General Motors Place/Rogers Arena. Since that fateful day in November of 2002, the Canucks have won two President's trophies, lost one Stanley Cup final and have managed to keep the hockey-related riot total to just one.

For years it seemed as though Vancouver could do no wrong; only missing the playoffs in three of those 12 years. But as the team enjoyed years of enviable success, something was awry. It was the crowd. They were too well-dressed.

You look at teams like the Seattle Seahawks, who have only enjoyed relative success for the past 4 years or so, that regularly strive to break world records for crowd noise levels. Face paint, screaming fans, and your favourite player's name slapped on the back of the jersey you're wearing. That's the kind of experience that fans gladly fork out hundreds of dollars to go enjoy.

For that same price level (say, around \$250) at a Canucks game, you got to sit quietly in your seat and watch politely as some of the greatest teams in Canucks history skated before you. Heaven forbid you stand up to cheer them on, let alone cheer too loudly, lest an usher come bustling down the stairs to shush you.

I'm glad the sell-out streak is over. It's the wake-up call that Linden and company needed to finally realize who is important in sports entertainment: the fans. Not corporate fans; real fans.

Trade in your suit jackets and coffee cups for Sedin jerseys and pints of beer, Canuck fans. It's time to be a real crowd again.

— Jared Featherstone

GRASS CEILING

When you hear the names Abby Wambach, Alex Morgan, Nadine Angerer, Silva Simoes and Veronica Boquete, you probably think of the elite star power these women bring to the game of soccer. Most Canadians might think back to the Olympics in London and the devastating semifinal loss to the United States. Whatever comes to one's mind seeing these names, not many would think about them filing legal action against the Canadian Soccer Association and FIFA – but they have done just that.

Many may already be aware of the corruption surrounding FIFA and Sepp Blatter with the 2018 Men's FIFA World Cup being held in Russia. There's also the issue with the 2022 World cup being held in Qatar. Blatter is being pushed to disclose information on bids from the two countries. FIFA ethics judge Joachim Eckert is reading the first draft reports on the scandal and Blatter says that he is bound by FIFA ethics to not disclose any information from the bids. FIFA board members have wanted the information publicly disclosed but Blatter quickly points out many of the members weren't present on the board when the World Cups were awarded.

Now it's the Women's side of the game that is engulfed in controversy. FIFA spokesperson Tatjana Haenni states studies done by FIFA have been conclusive there is no actual increase to injuries on artificial turf. "There is no plan to change that decision," she states. The stars filing legal action state men get to play on grass, so they should be given that opportunity as well. They also believe injuries occur more frequently on turf. They claim it constitutes illegal sex discrimination, against the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. With the claim being filed in early October, and the request for the case to be expedited, people hope to hear sooner rather than later whether or not the playing field will need be leveled for everyone.

— Jessica Fedigan

RAIN, RAIN COME AGAIN

by Jasmine Nijjar

It's that time of year again: Rainy season in BC. But then again, it's always raining in the Lower Mainland, that doesn't mean you can't be fashionable. Functional fashion is a must for any college student and I've got the perfect looks for you!



WATERPROOF BACKPACK

You can't attend BCIT without a backpack - it's just impossible. That's why a good quality waterproof backpack is a must for your functional fall wardrobe! The Lululemon "Cruiser" Backpack, is fun and functional and perfect with anything you wear. The backpack comes in more subtle colors and has several compartments to keep the busy BCIT bookworm organized and ready to go.

HUNTER BOOTS

Classic and cool, Hunter rain boots are a staple that work every year. A little pricey, ranging between \$150 - \$200, these boots come in an array of colors and styles! Paired with some jeans or thick leggings and a trooper jacket, this look is perfect for that long trek from the parking lot to NEL.



THE SELFISH UMBRELLA

Technically it's called the Birdcage Umbrella, but personally I like to call it the selfish umbrella. This umbrella comes in a large cage style that covers your head and shoulders completely. The heavy duty PVC outer layer provides clear visibility while the flexible frame helps prevent wind damage. Most of all, its sharing free. This umbrella makes it impossible for you to share the space with anyone!

MOVEMBER

by Montana Cumming

November is becoming less a festivity break between Halloween and Christmas, and more a festivity all its own: Movember, aka No Shave November.

If you're not familiar with this tradition, Movember is a challenge for men to grow out their facial hair all month, resisting the urge to shave until December rolls around. The two names are interchangeable, but some argue that Movember is just about mustaches with some manscaping allowed, while No Shave November is an unadulterated hair-growing and hair-raising spectacle.

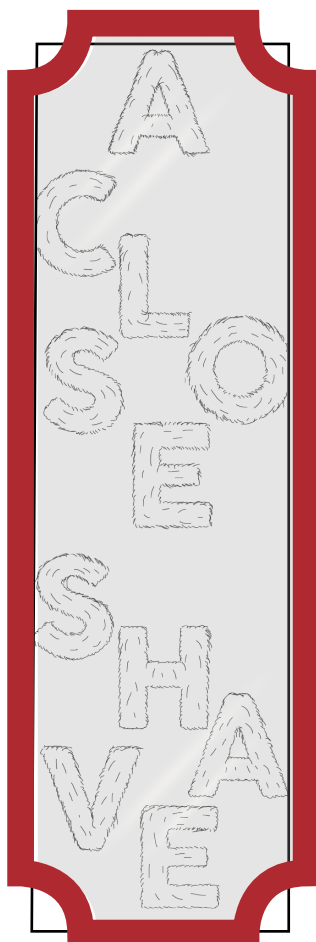
The phenomenon is foremost recognized as a chance to embrace one's inner bro. However, Movember was invented to raise awareness for men's health issues, such as prostate cancer. The Movember Foundation is a global organization with which men (called "Mo Bros") can sign up and raise funds for charity.

For those who have a little less testosterone flowing through their veins, growing a mustache for charity isn't as easy as it sounds. However, there are still ways others can get involved. Women are more than welcome to sign up with The Movember Foundation, as "Mo Sistas".

TIPS

Typically, fake mustaches are available to buy and put on the face. But if you want to bring some more fun to Movember, consider the following:

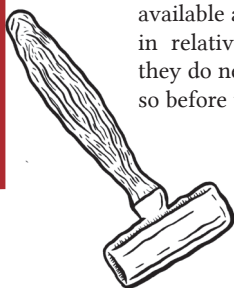
- Use some mascara on your upper lip for a more authentic looking mustache.
- Facilitate a contest among friends; the one who can grow the longest leg hair by the end of the month wins the razors spared by not shaving for a month.
- Grow your armpit hair, and dye it fun, bright colours. There's nothing more fun than a scraggly bundle of purple hair expelling out of someone's arm.
- Take up people-watching with friends, but instead of passive-aggressive comments, rate the mustaches of men that walk by.
- Find some quirky mustache apparel to wear if you're aiming for subtly this month.
- Or, just do everything on this list if you're looking to make a splash.



When it comes to traditional shaving, most people think of *Mad Men*'s Don Draper, or (if they're old enough) their own grandfathers standing in front of the sink, whipping up a shaving lather from a puck of soap or shaving cream.

But a growing number of men (and women!) have been moving away from the canned shaving gels that filled the consumer landscape in the 50's and 60's – getting away from the chemical propellants and over-strong scents. The brushes help exfoliate your skin, and ensure every hair on your face (or leg!) is surrounded by lather.

There are three main materials that shaving brushes are made from: Badger hair, boar bristles, or synthetics. Brad Maggard, co-owner of the celebrated shop Maggard Razors, recommends that most people start with boar – they're cheap (\$10-\$15, and available at Shoppers Drug Mart) and break in relatively quickly. Be warned though, they do need to be soaked for 10 minutes or so before they can be used.



by Jon Hall

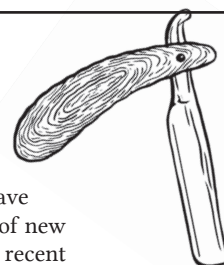
Shaving creams and soaps never truly went away. Taylor of Old Bond Street and other classic brands have kept up production – and a number of new players have entered the market in recent years. Even Brad & Casie Maggard's shop have their own line of traditional creams.

When asked if using a soap and brush was just for men, Casie's response was emphatic:

"Absolutely not! I know several women who wetshave! It is a relaxing thing and makes your legs feel wonderful! Shaving is shaving whether you're a man or a woman."

Many shaving soap scents are gender neutral, but surprisingly enough rose and lavender are still to this day considered classic male scents.

So pick up a shaving brush from Shoppers and some soap from House of Knives. Watch a YouTube tutorial on how to use it. Change your morning. You might like it.



FINGER FOODS

Easy Cheesy Artichoke and Spinach Dip:

This dip takes 5 minutes to prepare and 20 minutes to bake. It's the definition of a fun, no-fuss appetizer that will surely impress your guests. This hot cheesy dip is best served with tortilla chips or crackers. You'll guests will be asking for more "cheese please" in no time!

Ingredients: (Yields approx. 1 ½ cups of dip)

- 1 (14 oz) can of artichoke hearts
- 1/2 cup of cream cheese
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 1 cup of fresh spinach
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 cup Kraft Tex Mex Shredded Cheese

Directions:

- 1) Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
- 2) Strain artichoke hearts, using your hand to squeeze excess juices.
- 3) In a blender or food processor, place artichoke hearts, cream cheese, garlic, spinach and lemon juice. Process until smooth.
- 4) Mix 1/2 Tex Mex cheese into the dip. Transfer dip to an oven-safe dish. Top the dip with remaining Tex Mex cheese (1/2 cup). Bake for 20 minutes.

by Francesca Lucia

Sausage meatloaf cupcakes with mashed potatoes whipping cream

These savoury cupcakes are great for cocktail-type parties where it's mostly finger-food. They're easy to make and fun to serve! (Yields 12 cupcakes)

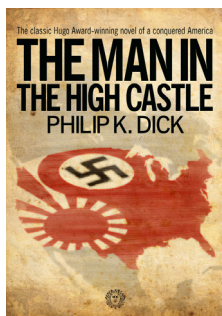
Ingredients:

- 1 (6 oz) box of Kraft Stove Top Stuffing (any flavour)
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 2 lbs ground sausage
- 3 cups of mashed potatoes (refer to the "Easy as Pie" article in the October issue of *Link Magazine* for a simple and delicious mashed potatoes recipe!)

Directions:

- 1) Begin by setting the oven to 350 degrees F.
- 2) Generously spray a 12 cup muffin pan with cooking spray, such as Pam.
- 3) Dice carrots and celery. Set aside in a bowl.
- 4) Follow directions on Stove Top Stuffing box. Essentially, in a medium-sized sauce pan, you'll need to bring the appropriate amount of water to a boil, and then add stuffing mix.
- 5) Add carrots and celery to stuffing and stir well so the stuffing is well blended and fluffy. Set aside.
- 6) In a pan, add two tablespoons of water over medium-high heat. Add ground sausage. With a fork, break sausage apart and cook for about 7 minutes or until browned.
- 7) Add sausage to stuffing mixture.
- 8) Fill muffin tins to the top (leave some room so they can grow when they bake).
- 9) Bake for 35 minutes.
- 10) Let them sit for 5 minutes. Then pipe on mashed potatoes (slightly cooled - not too hot) with a piping bag, just like whipping cream. Don't have a piping bag? No sweat! Get a zip-loc bag, cut a small hole at one corner at the bottom of the bag and use that to pipe mashed potatoes on the cupcakes. They're now ready to serve! If you want, garnish cupcakes with diced green onions to add to the presentation!

READ



The Man in High Castle
Philip K. Dick

Philip K. Dick's *The Man in the High Castle* depicts an alternate outcome of WWII. In the novel, the Axis powers have won and Japan is in full control of Asia, while Germany controls Europe and Africa. The US has been divided into three states; the Eastern third controlled by Nazi Germany, the pacific seaboard by Japan, and an autonomous demilitarized central area called the Rocky Mountain State. In this fictional historic depiction, Hitler is insane and incarcerated, and Germany and Japan are locked in a Cold War. Dick's way of presenting the evils of the Nazi regime makes itself present only in subtle ways through his characters and

as a political sideline. The story, set in 1962, unravels around the fate of Frank Frink (a Jewish man), Juliana (Frink's ex-wife), Nobuske Tagomi (a high-ranking Japanese politician), and Baynes (a German agent). Some of the characters know each other, and some are indirectly influenced by others. However, in this isolated depiction of the characters, Dick demonstrates the philosophical influence of Tao, one in which the Universe is always interconnected one way or another. Based on this philosophy, the characters leave their destiny to the wisdom of the *I Ching*, a book of divination. In addition to the Taoist

UNDER REVIEW

influence, one of the most important elements is the novel within the novel, *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy* by Hawthorn Abendsen. Abendsen depicts an alternate historic ending in which the Allies have won the war. Most of the characters demonstrate a certain obsession with the book, especially Juliana, eventually facing the cruel reality of the world they live in. *The Man in the High Castle* was originally published in 1962 and has been translated to several languages. It won the Hugo award the following year, and it is definitely one of the most controversial Science Fiction novels ever written.

— Karime Kuri

LISTEN



I Forgot Where We Were
Ben Howard
(island records)

London native Ben Howard's sophomore album has just been released, and it is truly captivating. Howard had a big couple of years between the time his UK top 5 release *Every Kingdom* (2011) debuted, and his Coachella performance last year. After establishing himself, he had time to sit back and reflect on his whirlwind career start. The result is this beautifully self-contemplative follow-up album. But the big question is: Does this record stand out from his previous mellow/folky sounding album? The answer is yes in so many ways. The biggest theme that I get from this

album is transition – the album's poetry reeks of that volatile time between adolescence and adulthood where time seems so eager to become your enemy. There are so many questions about time and the state of the world, yet no answers seem to come. The music itself also sounds like a teenager locked in his bedroom, playing distorted guitar with a voice like a church. Give the title track "I Forget Where We Were" a listen, and you'll know what I mean. It's worth pointing out the fantastic acoustic guitar on this record: soft on the ears, yet complex and melodic. Although the theme is quite apparent,

there's a little bit of a structural insecurity in the album's storyline or concept. Perhaps the tracks were written at different times in his life and then pieced together, something common in many second efforts – but that's alright because this album is different and wonderfully moody. It's the perfect soundtrack to your November rainy car ride, or those cozy study nights in your flat. Needless to say, *I Forget Where We Were* is an easy album to get lost in.

— Calvin A.J.

WATCH



Source Code
dir. Duncan Jones

You're apparently a school teacher (Jake Gyllenhaal), commuting to work on a Chicago train. Your best friend, Christina (Michelle Monaghan) contemplates her life. A conductor validates your train ticket. Someone spills coffee on you. A guy cracks a joke. But wait. This is not me. What am I doing here? And then your train blows up. But instead of dying, you wake up. Welcome to the *Source Code*, where you're forced to relive the last eight minutes of a train passenger's life to stop a second catastrophic bombing from taking place.

Story and Writing

Ben Ripley writes clearly, making this sci-fi thriller easy to watch. Characters are relatable, but complex so as one progresses through the story, we're left feeling countless emotions.

Acting

Jake Gyllenhaal is superb. I'm disappointed he wasn't nominated for any major awards here. He pays homage to characters like James Cole (Bruce Willis, *12 Monkeys*) and to soldiers. Vera Farmiga's character diving headfirst into the questions of ethics was exceptional.

Visuals, Producing and Editing

Stunning. One scene with Gyllenhaal and Monaghan in front of a fiery blast made my heart sink – in amazement. Editing was tight, made sense and matched the writing.

Overall

Revisit it – but not just the first (or last) eight minutes. While it falls under sci-fi, it's an interesting alternative to most movies people watch around Remembrance Day.

A solid 9/10

— Ria Renouf

The Indie Beat

w/ Mat Paget

There's a lot more to video games than just *Call of Duty* and *Grand Theft Auto*, but most people don't realize that. I'm here to introduce the unaware masses to indie games that are setting the world on fire, whether they know it or not.



limousine include: a sheepish couple on their first date, a very loving portrayal of a Canadian, and a magical skeleton from space. You may even find love, who knows? Anything is possible in the city of *Roundabout*. Except driving straight. Seriously, that would completely ruin the entire point of the game. Thankfully, there isn't any of that 'responsible driving' in *Roundabout*: it's one heck of a ride that everyone should take for a spin.

Have you ever wanted to play a game where you could replace every sound effect with farts? I know I have. And now, thanks to indie developer No Goblin, we can rejoice in the fact that there's a game for us.

In *Roundabout*, you're Georgio Manos, the original revolving chauffeur. You drive your revolving limousine to specific destinations, picking up and dropping off guests along the way. You're doing all of this while trying to safely maneuver your rotating vehicle around various obstacles without spinning out of control. It merges the open-world driving of *Crazy Taxi* with the combo system of *Tony Hawk's Pro Skater* and does it exceptionally well. Crashing your limo, much like bailing on a trick in *Tony Hawk*, will end your score streak; and driving through an entire area without touching a single obstacle could not feel more satisfying.

The gameplay is accompanied by live-action cut-scenes that feature talented actors who have no problem making you laugh. That's right: real, live people in your fake, dead videogame. Some of the characters you'll pick up in your

ROUNABOUT

(mediatonic)

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