

# the link

student newspaper

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# Loving to Hate Valentine's Day

Many of us observe, or are forced to observe, holidays based on violence and death, so what better holiday to celebrate than one of love.

By Laura Gallant  
The Link

Valentine's Day celebrations are a matter of perspective. Instead of seeing February 14th as consumer driven chaos, it should be celebrated for one of a few weaknesses worth having: love.

The reluctance towards Valentine's Day which many people feel stems from a dreaded feeling of obligation. A lot of people become confused into believing it is better



to express their love through a greeting card than a kiss. The significance and meaning of any holiday is questionable when society exploits its true significance for monetary gain but, we don't need to buy into the propaganda. It would be a shame to avoid Valentine's Day because of an exploitive commercial agenda controlled by people whose idea of romance are cards imprinted with bad one-liners.

I understand the singleton point of view all too well. The popularly labelled "Hallmark Holiday" is full of hype and can make anyone who is alone feel inadequate. Being single can be rough at this time of year but, it doesn't mean you still can't have that glass (or bottle, I'm not judging) of wine.

So I accept this holiday, in spite of its flaws. Valentine's Day is the chase, it's the first night, it's the good-bye that hurts and the hello that completes.

**Got something to say or have some story ideas you want to share?**

**Email us at [link@bcitsa.ca](mailto:link@bcitsa.ca)  
Or you can visit us in SE2.  
We're behind the convenience store and council chambers and across the hall from Uconnect and Ctrl P.**

## The Link's new Associate Editor: Birdie Hamilton

Hello! I'm Birdie and I am very excited to be the new Associate Editor for the Link! Kind of a dream come true really.

I am in the broadcast journalism program here at BCIT



and having tons of fun. I have been writing for the Link since I started here in September, and pounced on Laura Gallant's old job once it became available! I really like music, sports, traveling, photography, and long walks on the beach... and, of course, writing! I am super excited to have more responsibilities at the Link, and encourage all of you to write something, or take a pretty picture and send it to us!

I look forward to filling your heads with stories, and the opinions of myself and other BCIT students. Hope to hear from you all sometime this semester.

**COVER:** By Devon Taylor

**For all the Valentine's Saps...**

Paris is the city of love and the rose is the symbol of love. Everyone wants to have a romantic experience in Paris and the rose with the Eiffel Tower in the background represents something that every body can attain.

We'd like to invite all students to send us their high resolution photos to be considered for the cover. Along with your photo, please send a little blurb as to why you took the photo or why it's significant to you. Did we mention there's a cash incentive? Email us at [link@bcitsa.ca](mailto:link@bcitsa.ca) or drop by the Publications office.

### Link Feedback:

"Greetings:  
I picked up your paper during a "Community Breakfast" discussion Metro Vancouver hosted Feb. 4 at BCIT's downtown Vancouver campus. I was impressed with the environmental theme of that edition of The Link."  
-Glenn Bohns, Metro Vancouver

### Link Feedback:

"Green Rocks! This issue had some really cool articles about sustainability. Are their going to be more themed issues?"  
-Anonymous

### Link Feedback:

"The new cover design is cool. I picked the paper up because the cover image jumped out at me as I walked by. I also really liked that it's a themed issue and that you guys were able to spread the theme across all newspaper sections."  
-Anonymous

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# News In Brief

By Laura Gallant  
The Link

## B.C.'s Unemployment Rate on the Rise

Full-time job openings are on the decline causing increased competition between new graduates. B.C. lost 68,000 full-time jobs in January, according to labour force employment numbers compiled by Statistics Canada. Even though the province created 33,000 part-time jobs in January, there is a serious lack of full-time employment. According to Statistics Canada, B.C.'s unemployment rate rose from 5.3 percent to 6.1 percent between December and January. Approximately 18,000 jobs lost were in B.C.'s manufacturing industry. The national unemployment rate is not doing much better. In December 6.6 percent of Canadians were unemployed, that rate rose to 7.2 percent in January.



## HSBC Celebration of Light fireworks festival cancelled

The province has decided to give B.C. Place a \$365 million makeover. Funding will go towards revamping stadium facilities, including interior upgrades and building a retractable roof. Much anticipation has been placed on upgrading B.C. Place as it will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2010 Olympic Games. Interior upgrades are anticipated to be the first project beginning this year, and are expected to be completed before the 2010 Olympics. Construction on a retractable roof won't begin until after the Games wrap up. Aspects of the makeover will add a new art gallery and housing, retail and business space to the area.

## Company may have knowing sold salmonella tainted peanuts

The American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have announced that a Georgia peanut company may have sold peanut products knowing they were laced with salmonella. FDA officials say the Georgia company did not wait for a second test to clear peanut butter and peanuts that initially were positive for salmonella. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has listed over 200 products to be recalled. Popular foods from companies such as Atkins, North Star Ice Cream, and Safeway's Honey Roasted Peanut Butter are on the list. The salmonella outbreak has caused at least eight deaths and 575 illnesses in the U.S. No confirmed illnesses have yet been reported in Canada. A full list of the recalled products can be found on the CFIA website.



## New driver's licenses will make ID's harder to fake

In March, drivers renewing their license will receive a new high-tech license designed to prevent identity theft and fraud. Holographic overlays, laser-engraving, and raised elements are just some of the new security features to be included on the new licenses. The B.C. Provincial government says new facial recognition technology embedded into the licenses will allow ICBC to correctly identify people before fraud can be committed. Facial recognition technology analyzes facial characteristics that do not change, such as the size and location of cheekbones. The government says the new cards will also have the enhanced driver's licence feature, which will allow people to cross the border as an alternative travel document to a passport.





# Bee Trouble

Fraser Valley Farmers are already concerned about crops months away from sprouting in their fields. The reason? Bees. The farmers rely on bees to pollinate their plants so that Blueberries, Strawberries, and Raspberries can be brought to markets.

By Shane Woodford  
The Link

Last year the industry was 2000 bees short of what was needed to get the tough task of pollination accomplished. While it’s still too early to tell, indicators are that the bee shortfall could be much worse this year.

John Gibeau runs the Honey Bee Center in Surrey and a significant part of his business is hiring out his bees to the farmers. He summed up the unique triple threat facing the

bee population.

“What we have here is a Varroa mite infestation and we have a fungus called Nosema and then we have unpredictable changing weather patterns like an unusually cold winter or a wet spring. The three together creates a problem because bee keepers colonies die off when they shouldn’t.”

With our unusual cold snowy winter the bees, already dealing with fungus and Varroa mites, are taking a triple hit. Beekeepers all over the lower mainland are anxiously checking their colonies hoping against hope that they haven’t lost to many of their tiny charges.

Chris Bright runs Chris’ Honey yard in Surrey. Admittedly a small operation compared to most, but Chris has been in the bee colony game for years. Owning 50 or so hives on which he relies for honey and wax, he stocks his shelves with different products.

With some beekeepers reporting 25 percent hive losses already, Chris walked through his hives checking to see how they fared after months of bitter cold. Some were buzzing with activity while the ground around others was littered with tiny frozen bee bodies.

He says while the cold winter is a local twist to the bee problem as a whole it is actually a global issue.

“Some [hives] were buzzing with activity while the ground around others was littered with tiny frozen bee bodies.”

“It is of huge concern to every bee keeper anywhere in the world; there isn’t one part of the world where this isn’t a problem.”

Chaos, some would consider this to be an extreme choice of words but when you consider that 30 percent of everything we eat is only there because a bee pollinated it, the situation makes itself a little clearer.

With some beekeepers reporting 25 percent hive losses already Chris walked through his hives checking to see how they fared after months of bitter cold. Some were buzzing with activity while the ground around others was littered with tiny frozen bee bodies.

With the economy’s downward spiral already making headlines, consider the ramifications of food shortages due to the lack of bees. Or closer to home, Fraser Valley farmers suffering shortages of needed berry crops. Abbotsford, the Raspberry capitol, relies heavily on the little red berry for its summer economy.

World honey supplies have already taken a hit with a world honey shortage driving up prices off and on since 2002.

While it is too soon to tell how this spring will shape up and affect summer crops, the concern is definitely already in the air for many.

# Crash Course Cookin’ A Hit

Free cooking class at BCIT a great opportunity for students

ByBirdie Hamilton  
The Link

Free food.

Need I say more?

Crash Course Cookin’ is a free cooking class offered by the BCIT Student Association, which runs on the last Thursday of every month. Although I have been a student at BCIT since September, I had never heard of Crash Course Cookin’ until January, and decided to give it a try. Turns out not many other people knew about it; there were only 6 other students at the cooking class. I thanked my lucky stars though; we got to take the food home, and

less people meant more food.

The seven of us, alongside leader Elena Hack, made a gourmet four-course dinner, which only took two hours and was absolutely delicious. As there was a Mexican theme that night, we started off right with some chips and salsa (we didn’t make those, but they set the mood). The seven of us split into teams to make the different dishes; I had the honor of making the main course, which was a tasty Mexican-style casserole made with tortillas, veggies, enchilada sauce, and cheese. Another team made an amazing salad with spinach, avocado, grapefruit, and orange with an oil and vinegar dressing. We also had Mexican rice, and for dessert, the absolute best cookies I have ever had; they were oatmeal chocolate chip cookies; they were incredible, and I can’t wait to make them again.

After we were done cooking and cleaning up, we got to take home all the food we just prepared. We divvied up the feast, and I had enough food for two meals. We got to keep

the recipes; and I even scored free Tupperware, although it is encouraged that cooking students to bring their own.

Crash Course Cookin’ is a great way to learn how to cook, without taking up too much of your time. Elena, who comes to BCIT to run the class, was very helpful and made the time fun. The biggest selling point, to me, is that it is absolutely free. How could anyone turn down a free meal?

I would strongly recommend signing up for the next Crash Course Cookin’. Dates for the next two classes are:

February 26, 2009  
March 26, 2009

Sign up at the Uconnect Resource Centre in SE2. Call 604.451.7087 or email at [uconnect@bcitsa.ca](mailto:uconnect@bcitsa.ca) for more information.

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# Two BCIT students taking on 40 days and 40 nights

While most will give up red meat, caffeine, or Girl Scout cookies, Ryan Sullivan and Kyle Richardson are on day nine of their own unique version of lent. Based on the somewhat popular teen movie *40 Days and 40 Nights*, Ryan and Kyle have decided to give up junk food, alcohol, sex and sexual self help for forty days.



Kyle Richardson (left) and Ryan Sullivan (right). Photo courtesy of Laura Gallant.

By Laura Gallant  
The Link

This idea originally sparked with Ryan when he saw his hockey team mates go for a month without alcohol. Ryan has been spurred on by finding himself involved in too many empty physical relationships and late nights.

“Since New Years I’ve had a few late nights. It started affecting my school work, I was often tired and couldn’t focus. My sleeping pattern was all thrown off!”

Ryan’s sleep has not been his only life style hindrance. Ryan would be the first to admit that his diet could be improved.

“My favourite foods are cookies and ice cream and after hockey games I like to enjoy a nice cool pint. Eventually my master card got stacked, it got expensive.”

All of these distractions have left Ryan with less money in his pockets and a poor diet. His lifestyle has caused him

to be unfocussed and has hindered his success in school. His solution? To give up junk food, alcohol, sex and sexual self help. Classmates and friends are taking bets that he will break his vow before his 40 nights are up.

In support of Ryan, his good friend Kyle has decided to join him on this quest.

“I felt bad for the guy. It sucks if after a hockey game or class everyone is drinking around him and he is the only one sipping juice.”

**So far it hasn’t been too hard, although I have been yelling at random people on the street... I accused Ryan of wearing my socks!**

Kyle is a true friend. He doesn’t fully agree with what Ryan has chosen to do and does not recommend others to give up ‘all things good in life’. Before committing to this Kyle never really felt like he had changes to

make in the first place but, he is in it to support his friend. After nine days, Kyle has been feeling a little more tense than usual.

“So far it hasn’t been too hard, although I have been yelling at random people on the street... I accused Ryan of wearing my socks! The weekdays are okay because by the

time you get home you’re exhausted. The weekends are brutal though. I have found that working out is helping to relieve built up stress and tension though. I have actually found myself watching more sitcoms such as *Seinfeld* and *King of Queens*.”

For Ryan, the easiest and most cost effective goal to keep is limiting his alcohol since he claims he doesn’t drink that much anyways. A *Seinfeld* marathon weekend and a tennis tournament have been planned in order to keep each other distracted and on track.

On a Monday like any other, Ryan and Kyle are facing yet another Tim Horton’s line up for a whole grain bagel, fruit explosion muffin and a carton of skimmed milk. I for one believe you can make it.

**Check out the Link Blog for Updates on Kyle and Ryan’s Progress:**  
**[www.bcitsa.ca/blogs](http://www.bcitsa.ca/blogs)**

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# “Bye, Bye Birdie” Hits the Stage at Studio 58

Some left you wanting more,  
some left you wanting less

By Devon Taylor  
The Link

On Friday, January 30th, I had the pleasure of watching ‘Bye, Bye Birdie’ at Langara College’s Studio 58. ‘Bye, Bye Birdie’ is a 1950s style rock-and-roll musical that follows the life of mega-music-star Conrad Birdie. This teenage heartthrob has just been drafted into the US army, and before he goes his manager has set up one last publicity stunt; Conrad Birdie will give a farewell kiss to one lucky girl. The recipient: Kim McAfee of Sweet Apple, Ohio.

Studio 58 did a superb job with the limited space they had. With a small and intimate studio setting, the cast and crew used every last bit of space to bring this romping classic to life. A bird’s eye view of the stage, designed by Pam Johnson, would show the audience that it was a record turntable. There was even a spinning record that spun the stage around. Brilliant! The back drop was simple; two tiered and plain white, with four doors and windows that opened and closed to indicate different places in the play. The visual effects used on the backdrop via projector were very clever. They even managed to superimpose an actor’s mouth on Ed Sullivan’s face! In keeping with the 1950s theme, costume designer Marina Szijarto did a remarkable job of bringing the audience right into an old fashioned sock hop.

From the top, co-leads Rachel Aberle and Ben Elliott, who played Rosie Alvarez and Albert Peterson, stole and carried the show. With their first song, “English Teacher” these two set a high tone for the rest of the evening’s performance. The chemistry between the pair was electric and left the audience wanting more.

In terms of the ensemble cast, they took a while to warm up. When they finally did, they brought life to the sometimes lagging plot, but there were spots where they could have expelled more energy. One stand out performer in the ensemble was Andrea Yu, who played Ursula, friend and neighbour of Kim MacAfee. Yu brought the part of hysterical teenage fan to life with her physical comedy. Another favourite was Genevieve Fleming who brought comic relief to the show as Mrs. Mae Peterson. She made you feel sorry for a ‘poor ailing Mother.’

I was disappointed with the performance of Kirsty Provan who played Kim MacAfee. There was no spark in her performance and as the girl who was to receive Conrad Birdie’s kiss, there needed to be more passion. The only member of the MacAfee family that was worth listening to was Mrs. MacAfee played by Alisha Davidson. She was the perfect ‘50s housewife with a beautiful voice. Rhys Finnick who played her husband was trying too hard and wanted too much attention.

One of my favourite songs from this show has always been ‘One Boy’. While Provan was pitchy and hard to listen to, the other girls, Joy Castro and Marlene Ginader, sung in perfect harmony and managed to make Provan look better than she deserved for someone who was playing a secondary-lead character. The reprise of this song done by Rachel Aberle was outstanding; she definitely stood out on top of this cast and Studio 58 will have a hard time replacing her when she graduates this spring.

Overall, the show was extremely entertaining and I recommend it to anyone looking for a fun, inexpensive and cultural night out.

‘Bye, Bye Birdie’ plays Tuesday through Sunday evenings until February 22nd, 2009 (with matinees on Saturday and Sunday). Ticket prices are \$24.50, \$21.50, \$19.50 and \$15 for matinees. To reserve tickets go to [www.ticketstonight.ca](http://www.ticketstonight.ca) or call 604-684-2787.



Photograph Courtesy of David Cooper

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# Taken

## Movie Review

By Shane Woodford  
The Link

When I saw the trailer I was sold. When I saw the movie ran only 93 minutes, I raised the caution flag. I am happy to report the movie is pretty decent albeit I still think it could have used another 10 or fifteen minutes of “fleshing out” if you will pardon the pun.

Taken is Jason Bourne meets Charles Bronson starring in Death Wish 2009 with a serious injection of testosterone and a dash of Jedi master. Liam Neeson stars as a father and ex-spy who is trying to reconnect with a daughter he neglected in the service to his country.

The daughter goes off to Europe and gets herself kidnapped and sold in sexual slavery. Cue pissed off CIA trained killing machine father. At that point the movie goes no holds barred as Neeson strolls into Paris and begins piling up bodies until he finds his girl.

I will warn you now the movie is a slow starter which is

a little unnerving when you consider the shortness of the film as a whole. Once it gets going though you will hear a lot of people around you in theatre suddenly exclaiming “OH Shit!”

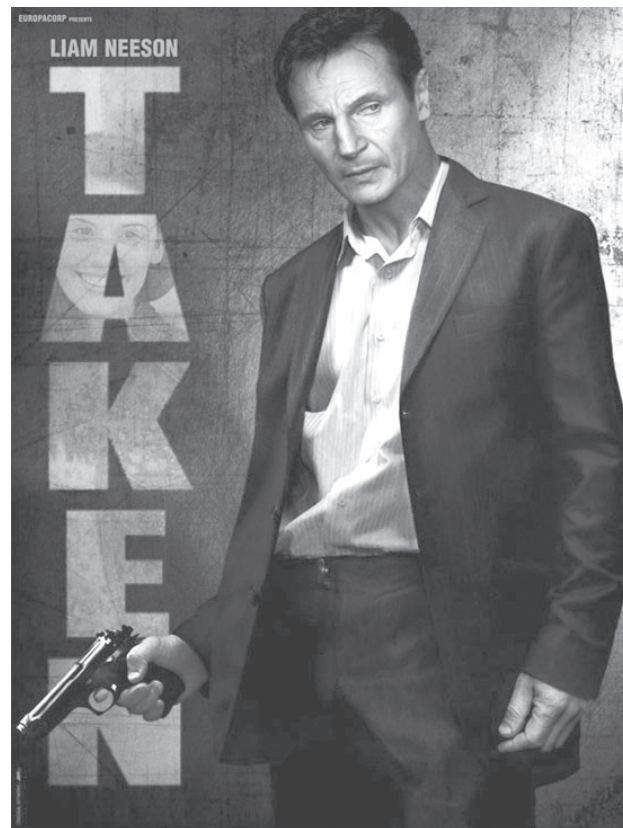
Luc Besson lends his manic action touch to the film, which has shades of his other action heavy franchise Transporter in it.

To nit-pick, this film while highly entertaining and heavy on skull busting action needed some extra minutes tacked onto it.

You’d think that being a caring father on a mission to save his daughter, Liam Neeson’s character in this movie wouldn’t bypass all of the other girls he finds, leaving them drugged and handcuffed to the beds. I also think after being kidnapped, drugged, sold like a piece of meat, and sexually degraded you would have a lot of serious mental issues that would preclude you from the happy hyper teenager meets Mom scene at the end of the film. But maybe I am splitting hairs here.

Bottom line here is that this movie works, as does Liam Neeson in his first foray into the world of action movie star.

The saying goes, Revenge is a dish best served cold. In Taken revenge is a visual feast served with bullets and body blows with torture, explosions, and lots and lots of dead guys as side dishes.



# Skate 2

## Video Game Review

By Bob Kreut  
The Link

When Skate was released, it was the up and coming Tony Hawk killer that tried to add more realism into the sport by diving deep into skateboarding culture. With Skate 2, we get more of the same, which is definitely not a bad thing. While the first iteration was about innovation, this second version is all about polish and expansion and while it still has its flaws, it delivers big time on the fun factor.

The story takes place five years after the first one and you’ve just been let out of jail and are ready to get back into the scene. People will still recognize you, but you’ve got to earn your way back up to the top which means that you really don’t need to know anything about the first game in order to follow the story.

The game plays out in a very free roaming sense where if you don’t want to do any story or events, you don’t have to and can simply cruise around the huge city looking for places to board. You’re able to set markers to warp you back to any spot you’ve chosen this time around too, so there’s no more skating back to the start to try and make that jump or grind again. Another addition to the sequel was the ability to get off your board allowing you to access remote locations and move objects and ramps around to create sick spots that can be shared with friends. The controls are pretty clunky while off your board, but it’s a skateboarding game, not a walking around game so it’s forgivable.

The events available are numerous and varied. As you progress through the game, more and more options become available from doing photo shoots where the end results look identical to the kind of photos you’d see in skate magazines, to competitions involving mega ramps and some extreme air. If you’re not into that at the moment, there’s always the other side of skating and you can try and take the nastiest fall you can and see how many scrapes, broken bones and fractures you can accumulate.



The controls are based off of flicking the right thumbstick in certain directions to perform ollies and heelkicks. It’s kind of like a tech deck on your controller. It has a very high learning curve, but after a few hours, you’ll find that you’ll be able to get the moves you want to happen actually happen. It adds a nice dimension to the game that feels like you’re actually getting better at skating because your skill is getting better, instead of simply raising stats.

The online component is well done with lots of options to choose from. You can simply skate around the city with your friends or you can enter into events for the highest score, most painful fall, fastest time or play a HORSE type game against 5 other people. The one downfall here is the inability to kick people you’ve been grouped with. So if someone is away from their controller, you’re going to have to watch them stand there for 30 seconds until their time expires. Since you’re automatically entered into the next event, this has been a pretty common experience so far. There’s also the option to upload your videos you’ve made and spots you’ve created.

Skate 2 offers so much more to the franchise than its

predecessor so that if you haven’t played Skate just skip straight ahead to Skate 2. The visual style is beautiful with the camera looking through a fisheye style lens that focuses on the board rather than the skater. The additions they’ve added only enhance an already great game. EA Black Box managed to keep the game play fun and though it may be a steep learning curve for casual gamers, it is an excellent game and is a recommended buy.

Skate 2 is available for PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360 and is rated T for Teen. This review was based off the PlayStation 3 version.

**Reviews:** Would you like to review a movie or video game? Email us at [link@bcitsa.ca](mailto:link@bcitsa.ca)



# THE LINK'S UNOFFICIAL OSCAR GUIDE

By Mana Mansour  
The Link

As the new year begins, I begin my count down until the month of February for two very important reasons. And no, one of those reasons doesn't include my massive consumption of chocolate. Firstly it's my birthday! Secondly, it's Hollywood's most important night of the year: THE ACADEMY AWARDS.

Most people have childhood memories of playing basketball with their dads or going on camping trips with their family. But with my family? Forget that! A lot of my early childhood memories consist of us being glued to the television, watching **Cher** walk the Oscar's red carpet in a hideous **Bob Mackie** creation, or seeing **Kevin Costner** take home gold for *Dances with the Wolves*.

Nevertheless, watching the Academy Awards has become a life-long ritual as has discussing the best dressed over cocktails the week after. This year the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences are taking a bit of a risk with having Aussi actor **Hugh Jackman** host the soiree. Not the typical person one imagines as first choice (was **Jon Stewart** busy or something?), but for the few of us who are familiar with his extensive musical theatre and stage background, I think he will be rather entertaining to watch. I have compiled a nominee list of all the major categories for your viewing pleasure, and given my predictions on who's going to win.

## BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- Amy Adams, *Doubt*
- Penelope Cruz, *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*
- Viola Davis, *Doubt*
- Taraji P. Henson, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*
- Marisa Tomei, *The Wrestler*

### MY PREDICTION

As much as I adore **Amy Adams**, and the fact that *Doubt* was one of the most gratifying plays I have ever been in during theatre school, I just don't think it's **Adams'** night. I loved **Taraji P. Henson's** performance in *Benjamin Button*, but the fact that she's pretty much an unknown is going to work against her. I am going with **Penelope Cruz**, who's surprisingly good portrayal of a psycho ex-wife in *Vicky Christina Barcelona* was pretty much the best thing about that film (sorry **Woody**, I still love you).

## BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

- Josh Brolin, *Milk*
- Robert Downey Jr., *Tropic Thunder*
- Philip Seymour Hoffman, *Doubt*
- Heath Ledger, *The Dark Knight*
- Michael Shannon, *Revolutionary Road*

### MY PREDICTION

If only **Robert Downey Jr.** could win... *Tropic Thunder* was a comedic masterpiece with so many loveable surprises (hello **Tommy Cruise**?), but the Academy doesn't fly that way. I am pretty sure it's going to **Heath**, as a final testament of his brilliance.

## BEST ACTRESS

- Anne Hathaway, *Rachel Getting Married*
- Angelina Jolie, *Changeling*
- Melissa Leo, *Frozen River*
- Meryl Streep, *Doubt*
- Kate Winslet, *The Reader*

### MY PREDICTION

KATE, KATE, KATE!!! It's about time **Kate Winslet** won, and her performance in *The Reader* is being praised as one of her best to date. **Kate Winslet** has always been one of my favourite actresses, and I really love the fact she always pushes herself to play really messed up, yet believable female characters (side note: watch *Little Children*, and you'll see what I mean).

## BEST ACTOR

- Frank Langella, *Frost/Nixon*
- Sean Penn, *Milk*
- Brad Pitt, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*
- Mickey Rourke, *The Wrestler*
- Richard Jenkins, *The Visitor*

### MY PREDICTION

This one is a bit harder than the rest as I can't seem to decide between **Rourke** for *The Wrestler*, and **Penn** for *Milk* (both have put out some STELLAR performances). But seeing as how it's all about recognizing the underdog in awards this year, I am going to go with **Mickey Rourke**. Plus looking as sad as that has GOT to give him some brownie points.

## BEST DIRECTOR

- Danny Boyle, *Slumdog Millionaire*
- Stephen Daldry, *The Reader*
- David Fincher, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*
- Ron Howard, *Frost/Nixon*
- Gus Van Sant, *Milk*

### MY PREDICTION

Lastly, the director category, which for the first time in many years, perfectly matches up to the Best Picture category. Again, going with the theme of the underdog, I am going with the loveable Brit **Danny Boyle** for *Slumdog Millionaire*. It would be nice to see this first-time nominee win for the film that's making sweeps in 2009.

## BEST PICTURE

- The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
- Frost/Nixon
- Milk
- The Reader
- Slumdog Millionaire

### MY PREDICTION

Definitely *Slumdog Millionaire*. With wins at both the Golden Globes and the Screen Actors Guild Awards, this movie has WIN written all over it (not to mention being a really well done film). I call it "the little movie that could"!



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# Music News In Brief

By Kristina Mameli  
The Link

## RIP Lux Interior (1948-2009)

**Lux Interior**, frontman of punkers the **Cramps** has sadly succumb to an existing heart condition.

The **Cramps** are most noted for their uncanny integration of rockabilly and surf, which paved the way for psychobilly.

**Lux** was one of the most prolific frotnmen on the genre and will be sorely missed.

## Michael Buble debuts as Canucks colour commentator... watch out Tom Larscheid.

Burnaby crooner **Michael Buble** took over colour commenting duties Saturday February 7th as the Canucks beat the Blackhawks 7-3 on invitation from play by play, John Shorthouse.

## Grammy Highlights.

**Robert Plant** and **Alison Krauss** cleaned up with Record of the Year, Album of the Year, and Best Pop Collaboration With Vocals.

Despite all of the potential legal implications with **Joe Satriani**, **Coldplay's** "Viva La Vida" got Song of the Year, Best Pop Performance by a duo or group with vocals, and Best Rock Album.

Shockingly, Best Metal Performance went to **Metallica** for "My Apocalypse."

**Radiohead** was awarded Best Alternative Album for In Rainbows.

Best Rock Performance by a duo or group with vocals went to the infectious **Kings Of Leon** for "Sex On Fire."

Best Rock Song went to the Boss, **Bruce Springsteen** for "Girls In Their Summer Clothes."

Best R&B Album went to Dreamgirls star **Jennifer Hudson** for her self-titled.

And **Lil Wayne** also cleaned up with Best Rap album, Best Rap Song, Best Rap Solo Performance and Best Rap Performance by a duo or group.

## Coachella's official line-up announced.

One of California's most respected festival's official line-up has been announced. Some of the many highlights include:

**Paul McCartney**, **Morrissey**, **Franz Ferdinand**, **Leonard Cohen**, **Beirut**, **The Black Keys**, **Girl Talk**, **Silversun Pickups**, **The Ting Tings**, **The Crystal Method**, **Crystal Castles**, **We Are Scientists**, **White Lies**, **Los Campesinos!**, **The Aggrolites**, **The Killers**, **Amy Winehouse**, **Thievery Corporation**, **TV on the Radio**, **Band of Horses**, **Fleet Foxes**, **MSTRKRFT**, **Michael Franti & Spearhead**, **Atmosphere**, **Henry Rollins**, **Turbonegro**, **Superchunk**, **Glasvegas**, **Drive-By Truckers**, **Booker T & the DBT's**, **Liars**, **Bob Mould Band**, **Billy Talent**, **The Cure**, **My Bloody Valentine**, **Yeah Yeah Yeahs**, **Lupe Fiasco**, **X**, **Public Enemy**, **Lykke Li**, **the Cure**, **the Kills**, **Okkervil River**, **Fucked Up**, **Perry Farrell**, **K'naan**, and **the Glaslight Anthem**...just to name a few.

The festival goes down April 17-19. [www.coachella.com](http://www.coachella.com)

## Ticketmaster and Live Nation to merge?

Ticketmaster Entertainment Inc. and Live Nation Inc., two music industry powerhouses, are in talks about a merger.

The combined forces would be known as Live Nation Ticketmaster.

No word yet on how much more exorbitant service fees would become.

## Blink 182 reunite...yay, no more side projects!

Following the band's appearance at the Grammy's as presenters, they've announced that they are working on a new album and preparing to tour again. But the details are still a little hazy.

## Vancouver's Cultural Olympiad Concert Series.

With about a year to go until Vancouver's 2010 Olympics, a series of fantastic Canadian bands will be playing as part of the Cultural Olympiad's program in an effort to showcase Canadian talent.

Check out the Calendar of Events to see what shows are on when and check out the Link blog for Chris England's review of **Tegan and Sara** and **Broken Social Scene** at the Orpheum.

## Juno nominations announced.

The nominations for the annual Junos have been announced. Check out the list of complete nominations at [www.junoawards.ca](http://www.junoawards.ca).

The Junos happen in Vancouver at GM Place March 29th and air on CTV.

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# CD Reviews

By Kristina Mameli  
The Link

## Hot Panda

### Volcano...Bloody Volcano

Hailing from the frigid plains of Edmonton, **Hot Panda**'s debut full-length *Volcano...Bloody Volcano* is an eclectic musical opus, laden with catchy synth breakdowns, marching drum beats, crunchy guitar, accordions and raspy vocals that collectively makes their sound seem almost impossible to classify.

But hell, let's give it a try anyway.

I'm thinking Brit pop meets glam with heavy new wave and indie influences pretty much sums it up. But who am I to say?

Almost frustratingly catchy, the collective vocals make it easy to sing along, and each track seems familiar after even just one listen; an element of pop at its finest that will definitely hold your interest.

Sure to garner accolades from critics and music fans alike, **Hot Panda** is a band that's not afraid to take risks. One listen to the textured tracks on *Volcano...Bloody Volcano* is a testament to that. Every song has an element of drama and seems to tell a story, never mind the lyrics.

Fresh from the prestigious South By South West, **Hot Panda** play Vancouver April 4th at the Media Club, in what is sure to be a spectacle.

## Acres Of Lions Working

A year in the making, Victoria's **Acres Of Lions** debut full-length *Working*, titled thusly to describe the effort that went into the lengthy and careful song writing process and solidifying a line-up is a post-punk pop journey, fraught with breakdowns rooted in new wave hardcore, but still heavily favouring the melody. And that's not at all a bad thing.

Riddled with odd time signatures, spontaneity, and, well...volume, this energetic quartet's debut is long over due. The title track aptly captures the band's admirable work ethic. Not to mention the solid production aspects.

The good natured songs range in subject matter from TV and movies to everyday encounters with people and love. The press release makes it clear that the emphasis is on love, not heartbreak.

**Acres of Lions** play the Media Club February 12th.

## Franz Ferdinand

### Tonight: Franz Ferdinand

Named for **Archduke Franz Ferdinand**, yes, the very man whose assassination prompted a little thing called World War I, Glasgow quartet Franz Ferdinand's highly anticipated third offering *Tonight: Franz Ferdinand* nothing short of rocks. The album's first single "Lucid Dreams" was unanimously voted through Evolution's esteemed music committee, in a heart beat. It's not hard to see why.

A few hundred words hardly seems long enough to do this album justice. It's riddled with dreamy synth, pounding bass lines, that instantly recognizable dance-floor ready pop, and the hauntingly engaging vocals of *Alex Kapranos*, a combination that just drips sex. Case in point, what can safely be called a shoe in for third hit single, "What She Came For."

Overall, the album is far less commercial than their previous efforts, and the automatically infectious instant classics seem to be missing---on first listen that is. But a few more listens in, it's not hard to picture *Tonight: Franz Ferdinand* topping year end lists.

Got any music news?  
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# Sports News In Brief

By Shane Woodford  
The Link

## WHL

Thank god for the Vancouver Giants. As their big league cousins down the road seem to delight in giving their long suffering fans coronaries, the Giants have quietly become the best ticket in town. It's a two horse race as the WHL nears the end of its regular season as both the Giants and the Calgary Hitmen stand head and shoulders above every other team as the two best teams in the league. While Canucks fans dream of a post season run the Giants are becoming regular challengers for the Memorial Cup. A trophy they already have in the bag once.

On the other side of the WHL success spectrum from the Vancouver Giants is their down valley rivals the Chilliwack Bruins. While the Giants continue to dominate the Bruins continue to slide. Latley they've lost six straight games including getting shut out six nothing on back to back nights. I should mention those six losses come right after the team fired the GM. Can you say problem? The fans that pack the Prospera center in Chilliwack can not only say it they can see it every time they take to their seats.

## GOLF

Congratulations to the phenom of the links Tiger Woods as his wife gave birth to a son recently. The baby will be Tiger's second child as he and his wife already have a daughter. Well if nothing else this just goes to prove that Tigers good on both the drive and his short game. Please note I wrote this and resisted the urge to make all sorts of hole in one jokes here.

## CFL

The BC Lions roster continues to change in the off season. First it was Defensive End all-star Cameron Wake signing the largest deal ever signed by a CFL player when he joined the Miami Dolphins of the NFL a few weeks ago. Now Stefan Logan has also departed, sort of, to the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers. There is the possibility of Logan not making the team that could pave the way for a return to the orange and white. Meanwhile QB Buck Pierce has until February 15th to sign with an NFL club a situation GM Wally Buono will be keeping a careful eye on. All is not lost however as Paris Jackson and Geroy Simon have both been signed for the upcoming season



## WHITECAPS

The Caps named a new captain for the new season and it is veteran Martin Nash, and yes he is the younger brother of local NBA star Steve Nash. The long time Cap takes over the captaincy from Jeff Clarke who was released by the club during the offseason. Nash is the Whitecaps 19th captain.

# Canucks Down the Stretch

Langley residents and seismologists both say an Earthquake hit the region on Saturday night. The truth is it wasn't an earthquake at all. The Richter scale just hit 2.1 when Canucks fans all jumped back on the bandwagon en mass after Saturdays thumping of the Blackhawks.

By Shane Woodford  
The Link

Mats Sundin, the object of talk radio ridicule, has quietly amassed four goals and four assists in his last 11. While Ryan Kesler now looks like a bargain over that huge money deal the Canucks were forced to sign when Bobby Clarke went off his meds and offered the young center an offer sheet a couple years ago.

The quiet you hear is the fire-Alain-Vigneault-crowd whom collectively have all found something better to do all of a sudden.

Vigneault the long time scapegoat in the recent slide suddenly looks like a genius with the line combination of Pavol Demitra, Ryan Kesler, and Mats Sundin. Now if someone could somehow get Kyle "Buffet" Wellwood out of the doldrums and back into scoring form.

Another nice turn of events is the suddenly inspired play of Alexander Edler who is suddenly playing like a clone of Salo and Ohlund merged into one. His shot from the point has become lethal which may signal the end of Sami Salo's time as a Canuck sooner or later.

While we are on the blue line, how listless does Kevin Bieksa look these days? What happened to the hard-nosed, fiery tempered, powder keg with hustle we used to see on the ice. He better find his game or at/before the

trade deadline Bieksa could be finding himself renting a moving truck.

You throw in some superstar goaltending from the crease bound captain Roberto Loungo and voila, hope springs eternal. Speaking of Luongo how scary is it for opposing teams when he plays lights out and then casually comments to reporters after a game that he isn't playing at a hundred percent yet.

All kidding aside this team still has along way to go. Every game has already become super important as we head down the stretch. The Canucks will have to win a majority of the games left to assure them of a playoff spot

and simply can't afford another losing streak.

I will end on an interesting side note. The Canucks are going to have challenges staying under the cap this offseason. Matter of fact on the blue line the team looks hard pressed to be able to sign everyone. So with names like Bieksa and Ohlund floating around in trade rumors all season long, here is a new one.

According to Al Strachan on the satellite hot stove, Brian Burke is looking to land the Sedin twins in Toronto some time before next season. With both Daniel and Henrik being unrestricted free agents in the off season, Mike

**The Canucks are going to have challenges staying under the cap this offseason. Matter of fact on the blue line the team looks hard pressed to be able to sign everyone.**

Gillis is going to have to decide on a strategy to deal with the Sedins. Do you let them leave for nothing, do you resign them as your offensive core, or do you dare make a move and risk team chemistry by dealing them at the deadline.

Either way, expect Gillis to be a buyer between now and the trade deadline. With some room to move and a few glaring needs as well as both assets to deal with and about three million in cap space. Adding a significant piece down the stretch is a no brainer.





# A MATS-ive Mistake?

Is Mats Sundin an Asset to the Vancouver Canucks, or a Let-Down?

By Birdie Hamilton  
The Link

**D**isclaimer: I write this after the Canucks snapped their franchise-record nine-game losing streak at home and finally won a game.

There are mixed feelings among Canucks fans; some think the acquisition of Mats Sundin was a complete mistake, and others think he is one of the greatest assets to the Canucks as of late. The first time we saw Sundin suit up as a Canuck, we saw the team blast their way to a 4-2 win over the Edmonton Oilers. Although Sundin didn't show up on the scoreboard, I remember his very first shift; he made a hard hit, and it was exciting. It made the Canucks' future look fantastic.

Nine games later, and you know the story. The Canucks picked up five of a possible 18 points after Sundin's first game, which had some Canuck fans thinking Mats was a big mistake, that the team was in need of a makeover, and that the season might as well be a write-off. There are many excuses available; one being that the Canucks' best defense and number one man Roberto Luongo was out with an injured groin. But many people were convinced that Sundin was just not pulling his weight. To date, in ten games he has three goals, two assists, and 16 penalty minutes, during which some game-winning goals were scored against the Canucks.

All that being said, my view is that it is too early to make a judgment about Mats Sundin. First of all, look at his history. In the early stage of his 18th season, Sundin has 1,326 points to date. He has averaged about a point

**If the Canucks happen to actually make the playoffs this season, I believe Sundin will be a good investment to the team.**

per game, even when he was playing for a perennial play-off-missing Toronto Maple Leafs team. Yes, he's getting a hefty \$5-million or so for his portion of the season, but he has barely had an adequate amount of time to get in game shape. It is like the beginning of the season for him when every other NHL player is in mid-season form; and if he can be in top condition for the playoffs, I think we're going to see an amazing leader and player in Sundin. He is second on the team for physical conditioning after all.

If the Canucks happen to actually make the playoffs this season, I believe Sundin will be a good investment to the team. His timing may be rusty right now, but his leadership qualities are not. Other Canucks players have not said anything bad about the new star. What's more, Sundin was the first Swede to be drafted first overall (in 1989 by the Quebec Nordiques), which adds to our faux team Sweden roster.

Canucks fans should hold on to their horses; I do not think it's fair to judge Sundin so early, and I have faith in the expertise of the judgment calls coming from GM Mike Gillis and his staff. Canucks fans be patient – I don't think we've seen the best of Mats Sundin quite yet.

## Campus Query

Where your opinion matters

**"Do you think Mats Sundin was a mistake?"**

By Birdie Hamilton

**Chantal Brisco**

I feel that maybe he hasn't been pulling his weight; he was really hyped up to more than he has turned out to be. He hasn't supported us like we thought he would.



**Stirling James Simpson**

I think they're over paying him. But, he is a great player and will regain his form; people are being too impatient.



**Michael Aynsley**

I think that's up to his parents to decide. I mean, we don't know what was going through their minds when they conceived him, we don't know if he was an accident or a love child.



## Bojan "The Havarti Kid" Zivkovic

The Link's latest Intramural Superstar

By Alicia Agarrabeitia  
The Link

**Sport:** Soccer...of course.

**Team Name:** Night Walker Stalkers (...he thinks...)

**Team Record:** 2-0

**Position:** Player one. All of the above. Sometimes Player 2.

**Hero:** Davor Sukar

**Superstitions:** Always wears the same shirt on game day.

**What do you eat on game day?** Two pounds of cabbage and some rakia. And sometimes a banana and some water.

**Hates:** Hockey players that play soccer.

**Team's Promise:** To remain undefeated like last season.



Photo courtesy of Alicia Agarrabeitia



# Valentine's Day for All the Single Souls

Valentine's Day is a day where you spill out an extra 50 bucks on dinner and a gift to tell your significant other that they're apparently still worth 50 bucks. It's a day of commercialism, chocolate, and sex. That is unless you're single. Then it's a day of self wallowing, boredom, and that day where you saved 50 bucks. Well I'm here to help kiddo's. I've compiled a list of things for you to do on that lonesome day to show all those "happy couples" how to actually have a good time.

By Bob Kreut  
The Link

## Throw an Anti-Valentine's Day Party

You're not going to be the only one sitting around on that Saturday night with nothing to do, so have all your single friends over at the same time. Call it a gathering, a party, a rager, a box social, it really doesn't matter. What matters is that you make turn it into something so exciting that come Monday, all the couples will hate their partners for taking them out to Lumiere instead of to your crummy apartment shindig. And who knows, with all those eager single people around, something could spark!

## Watch Movies All Night

Nothing takes your mind off things like popping in The Lord of the Rings trilogy extended edition and trying your best to finish it before going insane over the fact that they're just walking and fighting for 14 hours. It doesn't matter what movies you choose, but try and stick to thrillers, action movies, and comedies, and stray away from romantic comedies like Love Actually. Although, that is an awesome movie. Okay, watch Love Actually, but follow it up with The Wedding Crashers to balance things out.

## Send Yourself Flowers

Somebody told me once that this is something that women sometimes do when they don't have a date for Valentine's Day. Honestly, it sounds a bit depressing to me, but hey. Flowers. Sweet.

## Study for Midterms

For all you who have their second semester split in half, it means that you're most likely in the middle of midterms right now. What better day to get studying for your upcoming tests than one that won't be interrupted with your buddies trying to drag you out for some Pho. Make the most of free time and get a few extra percent.

## Drink Booze and Listen to Emo Music

When all else fails, just give in. Put on your favourite Dashboard Confessional record (a Mark, a Mission, a Brand, a Scar), cozy on up with your favourite bottle of rum (Sailor Jerry's) and have yourself a great old time feeling sorry for yourself. When all is said and done, no matter what option you choose, you know you're just going to drunk dial your ex and end up hooking up with them for the night, so why not blame it on the music and rum?



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## MISSED CONNECTIONS

Lost love. The one that got away. Perhaps this isn't something that I should claim publicly but I have always found unrequited love to be terribly romantic...

By Tara-Lee Novak  
The Link

When two people fall in love without any kind of challenge, I generally feel ripped off as an observer. How could they possibly be in love without months of restlessly pining from a distance?

Alright, I just officially got creepy. But stick with me here.

As an English major I constantly read love stories and dissected them with my classmates in tutorial. Our prof would point to poignant moments of heartache and we would delight in the knowledge that the pair would eventually unite. Now, as a busy student at a tech school, I hardly have the time to pick up a novel let alone the guts to discuss the details with a colleague. This is why I now turn to Craig's List each day for a quick fix of lost love.

If you haven't taken the time to indulge in the "Missed Connection" section of Craig's List, you are doing yourself a major disservice. Everyday the link is updated with messages directed to people who unknowingly struck the interest of an onlooker. For example, today a man seeks the beautiful woman who sat a car away from him on the Edmonds Skytrain. Yesterday a woman wanted to thank a helpful and handsome employee at Brentwood Mall. In all cases, people are just trying to connect with the person that they didn't have the guts to pursue in real time.

Not that I am judging.

There is no doubt that the people we are most attracted to can ironically make us retreat in shyness. I also wouldn't judge because I often scan "missed connections" looking for my own description. Certainly someone on the bloody Skytrain must find me attractive? I have been guilty in the past of trying to convince myself that I am actually a cute Asian girl who travels on the 99 B-Line regularly. I told myself that the man who sought this description weekly must have sat too far away from me on the bus to realize that I am actually a blonde with Eastern European descent. It was weeks before I admitted to myself that I have never actually been on the 99 B-Line. And so I now continue to peruse "missed connections" daily to find an authentic shout-out.

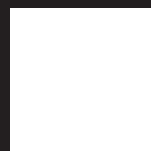
This Valentine's Day, whether you are single and looking or betrothed and satisfied, do yourself a favor and check out a newspaper or CL's version of "Missed Connections". You could find your secret admirer. Or at the very least take pleasure in witnessing the budding stage of true love.

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# Wrist Watches Out of Time

The wristwatch, a staple for our parents' generation, is not something worn by many younger people today. I will bet that most of the people who read this article are not be wearing a wristwatch.

By Shane Woodford  
The Link

With the advent of a range of small portable electronics, the wristwatch has been rendered obsolete. Now most people rely on cell phones, PDA's, Blackberries, iPods, or other handheld multi-use gadgets to get their time.

When asked, one out of ten shoppers at Metrotown were wearing a wristwatch. The follow up question of how they tell time was unanimous, they use their cell phones.

"I do not wear a wristwatch, I wear a cell phone for

time," declared one shopper summing up what seemed to be the overwhelming response.

Arv Khera the manager of Timeco in Metrotown says the wristwatch has now moved into becoming a fashion accessory instead of a useful addition to ones wardrobe.

"It's a fashion trend more of an accessory than a practical watch these days."

Fewer young people may come into his store but Khera says his sales are still doing well. He does admit though that he sees more and more people checking their cell phones for time rather than their wrist.

The wristwatch isn't giving up without a fight though as

it continues to evolve to meet today's tech demand. A new Bluetooth wrist watch is set to hit the market complete with an ear piece, where James Bond-like, you can tell time and chat with friends.

It should be interesting to see if companies like Timex can indeed take a licking and keep on ticking as both the economy and technology give it a double whammy.

So while the days of the wrist watch being a status symbol or a sign of adulthood are over, the venerable timepiece is far from vanishing all together.

# The BCITMA How-To Guide to Public Speaking

You may not be Barack Obama, but you can still captivate that audience.

By Eddy Tan  
VP of Communications | BCITMA

I hear a voice introducing my name over the speakers. It's time. Everything's a blur as I run up onto the stage. I avoid tripping over the steps: so far so good. The lights are blinding me in the eyes as I try to position myself in the right spot. My palms are sweaty, holding the microphone in a death grip. As the applause dies down, I look over the crowd. They look back at me. Watching. Waiting. What do I do now? Picture them all in their underwear?

Public speaking is the most common fear in North America, affecting 75% of the population. I am no stranger to the stage. I've delivered speeches, presentations, and performances in front of thousands of people. However, I have a secret: public speaking scares the life out of me. Nobody knows this, because I am actually a fairly good public speaker. On the surface I appear calm, cool, and collected. On the inside, however, my heart feels like it's in my throat.

This being said, I couldn't help but feel a little anxious when asked to host the BCITMA's fashion show event, Swagger 604. Of course, for students in BCIT's School of Business, presentations are a fact of life. Like it or not, good presentation skills are not just an asset in business, but essential. So whether you are hosting a fashion show in front of 300 people or presenting a marketing plan for Durrex condoms, use these tips to blow your audience away:

**Begin with a bang.** A great introduction is very important, so do something that will grab their attention. Don't be afraid to have some fun and be unique, so long as it's appropriate. Once you have their attention, all you need to do is hold on to it.

**Look sharp.** If you are going to be the centre of attention, then dress the part. Look like someone people will want to watch. For business presentations, a well-fitting suit and good grooming are essential. Plus, when you look good, you feel good. Be careful to avoid drawing attention away from your words, so no short skirts or neon polka dot ties.

**Know your stuff.** Be sure you know your subject matter inside and out. This doesn't mean rehearsing your lines so many times you can recite them in your sleep. Know what you are talking about so that you sound natural and not a robot reading a script.

**Slow down.** It's true that the faster you talk, the quicker it will be over. However, unless you're an auctioneer with a gavel there is no need to race through your presentation. Just find a comfortable pace that feels natural for you. Don't be afraid to pause, think, or breathe.

**Keep going.** Forgot what you were going to say for a certain section? Keep going. Pronounced something wrong? Keep going. So nervous your hands are shaking? Keep going! If you mess up, the worst thing you can do is draw attention to it. Correct yourself and keep on going; the audience will barely notice.

**Be professional, yet personable.** It's important to be professional so that your audience takes you seriously, so dress the part and use a polite tone. But unless you are delivering a eulogy, there's no need to be overly formal. Don't be afraid to be yourself and show some personality.

**Make eye contact.** Your audience will not believe or listen to you if you are talking at the floor. Scanning the room and looking people in the eyes will engage your audience and build your credibility.

**Videotape your rehearsal.** Do you look like a bobble-head doll when you present? Or play with your hands? Or end every sentence with "um?" Chances are you don't know, unless you've seen yourself present or received feedback from others. Nobody likes to watch themselves on camera, but it's a good way to see what needs to change.

**Involve the audience.** Tell a story, make a joke, or ask them a question.

**Avoid presentation ping pong.** When delivering a



Beth Irvine (left), Mandy Blerot (centre), Eddy Tan (left).

group presentation, try not to switch back and forth between presenters 50 times. Give each person an equal amount of time, because it takes three to five minutes for presenters to get comfortable and find their groove. Plus, it minimizes transitions and awkwardness.

**SMILE!** To ease your nerves, engage your audience, and show confidence, never underestimate the power of a smile.

So don't stress about your next big presentation. The more you present, the better you will become. Just walk in there with confidence and make your audience love you!

## Your Success Starts Here.

As a collegiate chapter of the American Marketing Association, the BCITMA is a diverse group of business-savvy students dedicated to developing professionally and capitalizing on their time at BCIT. Opportunities in advertising, event planning, philanthropy, public relations, leadership, and integrated marketing allow members to develop and apply their business skills in a professional organization.

Over the years, the BCITMA has established itself as a dynamic and exciting force on campus. Come join the action! No matter what program or year you are in, you are welcome to get involved. General meetings are held every **Monday at 7:45am** in the Student Association Chambers in SE6. Be sure to check out the official website at [bcitma.com](http://bcitma.com).





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# Who is cooler: Batman or Spiderman?

## Debate

One controversial issue has divided us since grade school: who is more awesome – Batman or Spiderman? Some will pledge allegiance to Marvel or DC, and stand firmly behind their favourite publisher's icon. For others, it's more personal. Two student journalists from Vancouver's Capilano Courier geek it out for their superhero of choice.

### Batman is badass: a study in three parts

By Sam MacDonald

Capilano Courier (Capilano University)

VANCOUVER (CUP) – Because several essays could be written about this topic, I'll isolate it to three reasons Batman is so obviously better than Spiderman.

First, the alter ego: Bruce Wayne is better than 10 Peter Parkers. In fact, 10 Peter Parkers would just be 10 times as much suck.

Bruce Wayne is a wealthy industrialist, a playboy, and a philanthropist. Peter Parker is a whiny ginger who is hailed for being "relatable."

When I read comics, I'm not reading them so I can relate with a guy who dresses up in spandex and fights equally insane individuals, also dressed in spandex. That is just stupid.

If anything, Bruce Wayne is easier to relate to than Peter Parker, because Peter Parker has actual superpowers, while Bruce Wayne is just a man: a hand-you-your-own-ass-in-a-fist-fight kind of man.

He relies on technology, as well as his wits and physical prowess to get the job done. Who would you rather take influence from: a teenager handed the supernatural powers of some animal characterized by having creepy legs, or by a man who, as a child, saw his parents killed, yet still manages to purge the city of evil on a nightly basis? Oh, and he is rich as fuck too.

Second, the archetype: since his origins in the pulp magazine Detective Comics in the 1940s, Batman has always been an incredibly dark character. Without going too far into it, Batman is a more modern version of the Black Knight archetype: a dark defender of the good, and a vigilantly against the scum of the earth. Aside from the odd hiccup (i.e. the '60s and Joel Schumacher), Batman has remained a pillar of fear, and it is that fear that keeps everything in check.

As seen in The Return of the Dark Knight, everything has fallen back into chaos when Bruce Wayne goes into retirement. Without a figure of justice running the night, the innocent are in constant danger as the night is ruled by the mob and other despicable individuals.

Batman creates order; he is more than a superhero. Calling him just a superhero would be an insult. Spiderman fights crime out of guilt for having superpowers ("with great powers comes great blah blah blah"); Batman sees the city he loves in social and political ruin, and he aims to save it.

Third, the movies: Sam Raimi wins points for Evil Dead 2, however, I'm not the first to say that the Spiderman movies, as a collective, are of questionable quality, at best.

The first one was OK, but not great, for several reasons

(one of them being the involvement of Chad Kroger), and the second was actually good before it went to shit.

For a movie that was supposed to expose his darker sides, the third one just made Spiderman out to be a joke. Filled with moments more pointless than a Fantastic Four cut scene and jam-packed with sloppy exposition, the only thing the movie had going for it was that Topher Grace was actually OK as Venom. How the fuck does that end up being the most positive aspect of a film?

Batman's movie record is a little more solid. The first two Tim Burton films were good enough to make up for Joel Schumacher's suckfest of Batman Forever and Batman and Robin. However, it is Christopher Nolan, a man smart enough to handle a superhero film without cheese, who made Batman unfuckwithable again. Batman Begins and The Dark Knight have bested the originals (they have, get over it); both critics, fans, and the box office have made this clear.

Oh, and just to wrap this up, who would you rather sleep with: Tobey Maguire or Christian Bale? Obvious.

### Unlike Batman, Spiderman is a real superhero

Gabe Laubach

Capilano Courier (Capilano University)

VANCOUVER (CUP) – Spiderman versus Batman is an absurd argument because Spiderman is obviously a bazillion times better.

Spiderman has a cooler suit, an alter-ego that one can actually relate to, and actual superpowers.

Not only that, but would you rather wear a suit that represents a bat, or one that represents a spider? A spider, clearly. An arachnid is way better than a flying mammal – a flying mammal you can bat out of the air. Try batting a flying spider out of the air, mofo.

The spider suit is far simpler, and from an aesthetic point of view, really, really, ridiculously good-looking.

The spider suit is also far more comfortable because it is spandex, so it's light and breathable and Spiderman can showcase his muscular physique. The Batman suit, however, is very restrictive and is weighted down with a lot of extra gadgets and a cape that would just get in the superhero's way.



There is no doubt that Bruce Wayne is much cooler than Peter Parker; that is not even up for debate. But who can you relate to more easily? Peter Parker is nerdy college kid, who struggles financially and has a crush on the hottest girl in school. Most of us have been in that position at one point in our lives. But you have to be in a totally different tax-bracket to even think of aligning yourself with Bruce Wayne.

The thing that truly makes Spiderman better than Batman, and that douses any argument for Batman, is that Spiderman has superpowers.

Come the fuck on. Spiderman can climb walls, is unnaturally strong, and can sling web; Batman can drive his Batmobile really fast. Big deal. This argument is settled at the fact that Spiderman is a superhero, whereas Batman is simply a crime fighter.

What do you think?  
Email us at  
[link@bcitsa.ca](mailto:link@bcitsa.ca)





# Edit Flags Would Cripple Wikipedia

Early last week, Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales pushed forward a plan to further protect the infamous online collaborative encyclopedia from vandalism.

By Lucas Wagner  
The Gateway (University of Alberta)

The concept for the flagged revisions system was born after vandals edited the pages on U.S. Senators Ted Kennedy and Robert Byrd, falsely proclaiming their deaths.

Essentially, flagged revisions would enable Wikipedia's administrators to add an extra step to the editing process for certain controversial articles; any edits made to an article protected by the system by anonymous or new users would be put into a queue, which trusted users would review, and either approve or deny the changes.

Of course, vandalism is nothing new on Wikipedia, and any change towards making the site a more accurate resource is generally a good idea. While flagged revisions seem like a good plan in theory, there are some major issues with the implementation of such a system.

The main issue is that the flagged revisions plan doesn't scale to a website the size of the English Wikipedia. With over 2.5 million articles, even enabling this process on a minority of the articles would be prohibitively time-con-

suming for the site's current volunteer staff.

The flagged revisions process is currently in use on the German-language edition of the site (which is host to around 800,000 articles), and so far, delays as long as three weeks have occurred in the review process.

The review process also creates further delays as a result of staffers having to review multiple changes to the same article. Unlike the current system, under flagged revisions, multiple users could make changes to the same version of an article, leaving it up to the unpaid staffers to sift through the revisions and merge them together. Having such delays in an online encyclopedia, where the main benefit is providing the most up-to-date information, effectively destroys the utility of such a resource.

More issues come about with the selection of reviewers for the new system. Wikipedia currently has a fairly rigorous and time-consuming selection process with regards to who gets chosen to be an administrator. These administrators have the power to protect and unprotect articles from edits.

There are roughly 1,600 of these administrators on the English version of the site. Leaving only them in charge of

approving or denying revisions would make the site grind to a halt.

Proponents of the flagged revisions system suggest that a new rank of users, called surveyors, be created. The criteria currently proposed by Wikipedia users basically amounts to giving surveyor rights to anyone who's been continually using the site for over a month.

While I'm not necessarily opposed to this, the fact is there are not many people out there who will actually care enough to weed through the hundreds of edits per day made to the site and meet these criteria.

While Wikipedia currently boasts over 8.8 million users, only 150,000 of those have made at least one edit in the past 30 days. It's more than likely that only a small percentage of those are editing on a regular basis, and even fewer would be willing to put in the work that flagged revisions requires. Quite simply, there's not enough unpaid manpower to keep a system like this going.

Wales is obviously looking out for the best interests of the encyclopedia, but I'm afraid that in its current state, I'm flagging it for further revision.

## Concussion

Intramural sports gone wild

By Doug Herbert  
The Link

The other day I woke to the sound of rain and the alarm clock. For all intents and purposes it felt like it would be a regular day. It looked like it would be a busy day at school and then that evening the highlight of the week, BCIT intramural hockey! It would be my second game of the spring season and my team and I were revved up. But that day wouldn't be a regular day, it would be a day that would launch me on a confusing and frustrating odyssey.

The game was going well, we were up by three goals with close to six minutes left. I gleefully accelerated down

the floor and stole the ball from the opposing team's defender. I was pumped that I'd out ran him. But just as I went to go behind their net I felt two hands push me from behind. Slam! I went head first into the stacked up metal bleachers. Boom! Blackness hit and I was out. This was intramural hockey, not the NHL! However the culprit was nowhere to be seen and I briefly passed out again. When I finally got up I saw the culprit in the sin bin. The best I could come up with in my groggy state was "that was uncalled for!" Brutal! My game was over and after talking to a doctor so was my season. I had a serious concussion.

These last few days have been a series of ups and downs. The day after I tried to go to school but couldn't handle it. I felt sick even looking at a computer screen. I missed the

rest of the week at school and had to get three of my work shifts covered which hurt me in the pocket book big time. Even deciding what movie to watch has been a challenge. My brain is swollen and I have to let it rest. Crazy mood swings hit me at the weirdest of times and walking up a hill leaves me tired. As for the culprit who knocked me out, well the Director of Recreation Services has decided to let him keep playing. Thanks Bettman! His reasoning? Well apparently the guy who knocked me out apologized to the refs and wasn't allowed to play for the last six minutes of the game. Well Sean Avery apologized, Marty McSorley apologized, even Bertuzzi apologized but they were all suspended. I guess because I'm just a student at BCIT and this isn't the NHL I don't matter.

## Wonder Walrus

By Rory Fidler  
The Gateway (University of Alberta)





MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
FEBRUARY			12 Links Newspaper Issue 10  Valentine's Fair  Love Flicks in the Love Hall  The Unnatural History of Stanley Park (to Feb 15th)	13 Murder City Devils @ The Commodore  Under the Sea 3D opens at IMAX  Love Flicks in the Love Hall	14 Valentine's Day  "The BIG Make-out" concert featur- ing The Prettiest Face, in Town, The Painted Birds, Laura Smith @ the Media Club	15	
	16	17	18 Last Day to Order Harvest Box  Night at the Indies @ the Cafe Deux Soleils  Rah Rah, Library Voices, Bel Riose, the Adorable Pig- lets @ the Railway	19 Bell Orchestre, Beast, Besnard Lakes @ the Commodore  Helio Sequence @ the Biltmore  Kool Keith @ Richard's	20 AC Newman @ The Biltmore  Climbing Towards the Fall by Randy Grskovic @ the Plank Gallery (to March 2nd)  DJ Steve Aoki @ Celebrities	21 Shad, Fond of Tigers @ the Biltmore  Bison BC, Jaws, Haggatha @ the Cobalt  Ra Ra Riot @ Richard's	22 Agent Orange, Life Against Death, Plus Perfect @ the Cobalt  The Yardbirds @ Richard's
	23 Student Council Meeting @ 5:30pm  Risky Business  The Submarines, the Morning Benders @ the Biltmore	24 Risky Business	25 Gordonn, Lawn Social, Bridges Out @ the Bourbon  Set/Tech Rep Meeting	26 Links Newspaper Issue 11  Harvest Box  The Water-Cooler Wright Brothers Extravaganza @ ATC  Mishka, Dirty Heads @ the Biltmore	27 Spring Break Latex Luau  Chad Vangaalen, Hawksley Workman @ the Commodore  Big John Bates @ the Bourbon	28 Cadence Weapon, Thunderherst @ the Biltmore	1 MARCH
	2	3 Estelle @ Vogue Theatre  Donavon Frankenfreiter @ the Commodore	4	5	6 Band Night @ the Pub: Colonel Panic @ 5pm  Pendulum @ the Commodore	7 Raphael Saadiq @ Richard's	8

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