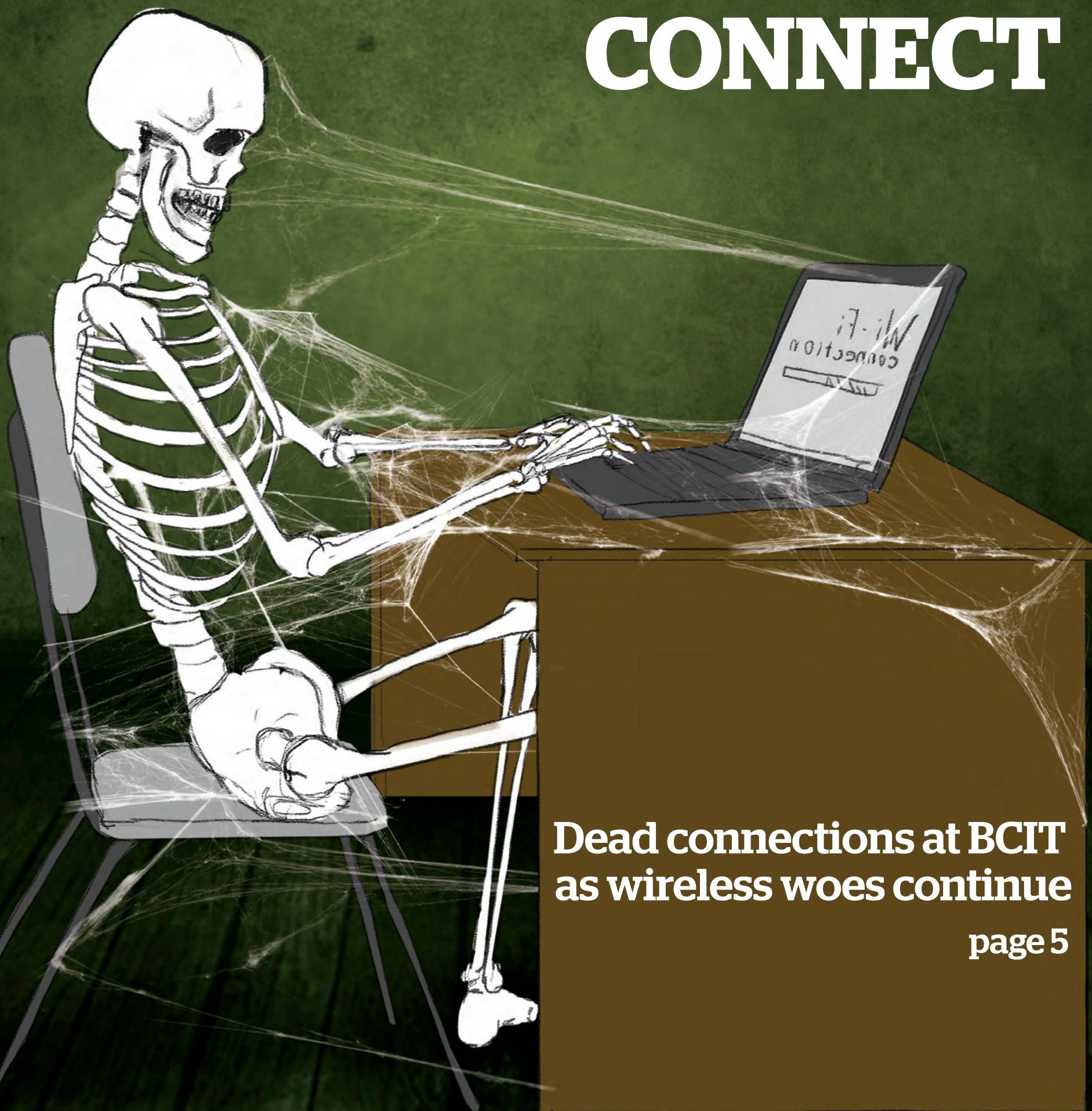


WAITING TO CONNECT



**Dead connections at BCIT
as wireless woes continue**
page 5

NEWS

pages 3-6

- U-Pass going to referendum this spring
- On-campus strikes may continue
- Childcare centre opens at Burnaby Campus

CULTURE

pages 7-9

- Contact festival rocks BC Place
- Top albums you may have missed in 2012
- *Vancouver Noir* tells tale of crime & corruption

HUMOUR

page 12

- British Columbia Museum of Technology
- How to tell if you are a werewolf
- Fauxroscopes

The Link

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ABOUT THE LINK

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PHOTO of the WEEK



BCIT's famous squadron of crows is a frequent winter spectacle.

Credit: Kevin Murray

Submit the photo of the week and we'll pay you \$20

Send a horizontal photo that is related to campus life to contact@linknewspaper.ca. Include your name and a description of what you shot. If we print it, you make \$20.

CAMPUS QUERY

Have you ever had an issue with Wi-Fi on campus?



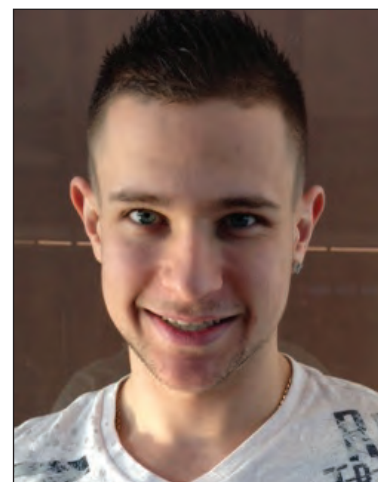
MANDEEP SANDHU
Marketing Communications

"I no longer count on Wi-Fi because it's a risk so I just make sure I keep enough time to go to the library."



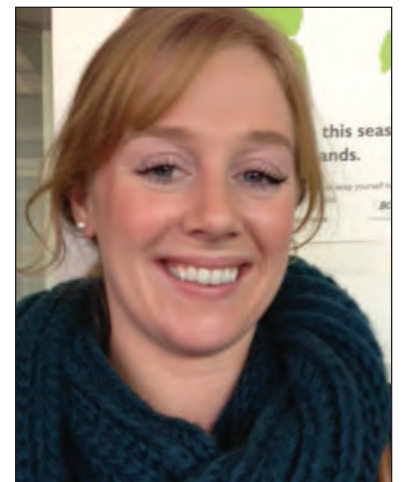
CHANEL LUM
Marketing Communications

"We're at BCIT, an institute of technology, and the Wi-Fi is spotty at best."



STAN GORMENSKI
Tourism

"It's so slow or it doesn't load and the final product is I'll just end up putting away my laptop."



KAITLYN KROIS
Marketing Communications

"Quite often it's not available and you have to keep trying and sometimes it takes 15 minutes to half an hour [to log on] and that's really frustrating."

U-Pass program going to referendum this spring

BCIT among 11 post-secondary institutions to vote whether or not to continue universal transit pass this spring

OLSY SOROKINA
The Link

Student unions at 11 post-secondary institutions in Metro Vancouver, including BCIT, will take part in a referendum deciding whether or not to continue participating in the U-Pass program when the current contract expires in March this year.

Presently, all students (whether they use it or not) pay the monthly mandatory fee of \$30 in addition to tuition fees to cover the cost of the pass.

The pass permits its users to use public transit in all three fare zones in Metro Vancouver and get a discount for the West Coast Express, a weekday commuter rail service between downtown Vancouver and Mission.

According to the information on British Columbia Institute of Technology Student Association (BCITSA) and TransLink websites, the revised program will be in effect from April 2013 to April 2016, and will adjust U-Pass rates yearly in accordance with TransLink fare changes.

The proposed monthly U-Pass rates are: \$35 from May 2013 to April 2014, \$36.75 from May 2014 to April 2015 and \$38 from May 2015 to April 2016.

While this is an immediate increase of \$5 per month from the current rate, it saves students up to \$135 in transit fares in comparison to the regular-priced adult pass. Despite the fee increase, there is no news of any changes to public transit services specific to post-second-



BCIT students' future with the universal transit pass to be decided this February.

Kai Jacobson / *The Ubysey*

ary students' needs.

There are no significant changes to the U-Pass, other than the price: the pass will continue to give eligible students access to bus, SeaBus and Skytrain services in all three fare

“Despite the fee increase, there is no news of an increase in service levels specific to post-secondary students' needs.

zones within Metro Vancouver.

The new U-Pass can be loaded

directly onto the students' Compass Card, the electronic fare card that will replace all FareSaver tickets in late 2013. Compass is a reloadable fare system which allows commuters to add value onto a single card instead of buying multiple tickets or passes. The new system was designed to reduce waste from paper tickets, and collect commuter data to improve transit services.

From February 15 to 22, BCIT students will have their chance to vote whether to renew BCIT's U-Pass program or not.

When asked about their opinions on the new program, BCIT students expressed their desire to keep the U-Pass.

“It's not a surprise, and it's most definitely not a welcome addition

to the financial burden to us as students,” Thushara Suresh, a BCIT student, told *The Link*, “but I feel like it's still worth the investment compared to the more expensive alternatives.”

Michael Fan, General Insurance and Risk Management student, shared Suresh's opinion.

“They [TransLink] are going to change the prices for the regular adult passes: \$91 for one zone, \$124 for two zones and \$170 for three zones,” says Fan. “Compare that to the mere \$35 to \$38 that we'll be paying, we should be grateful.”

The referendum for the new U-Pass will take place at participating post-secondary institutions across BC starting January, and will continue until March 2013.

CAMPUS SHORTS

Future of UBC microbrewery remains murky

UBC's new Student Union Building (SUB) will be opening soon, but there are questions about the student-run microbrewery set to be located there.

In a spirited debate, Alma Mater Society (AMS) executives, permanent staff, alumni, and a vocal delegation from the BrUBC home-brewing club discussed the financial aspects of bringing a microbrewer to the university. Discussions centred around whether the potential monetary and social gains from brewing beer in the SUB outweighed the project risks.

A final AMS Council vote on the status of the microbrewery is expected to take place in January 2013.

Langara student union restricts student access to board meetings

Langara Students' Union (LSU) is enforcing a set of changes to its bylaws, passed in a referendum, to prohibit students from attending meetings of the LSU's board of directors.

The LSU has ignored repeated email, phone and in-person requests for information from national student media cooperative *Canadian University Press* and Langara's campus paper, *The Voice*.

University of Alberta researchers proposed tax on sugary drinks

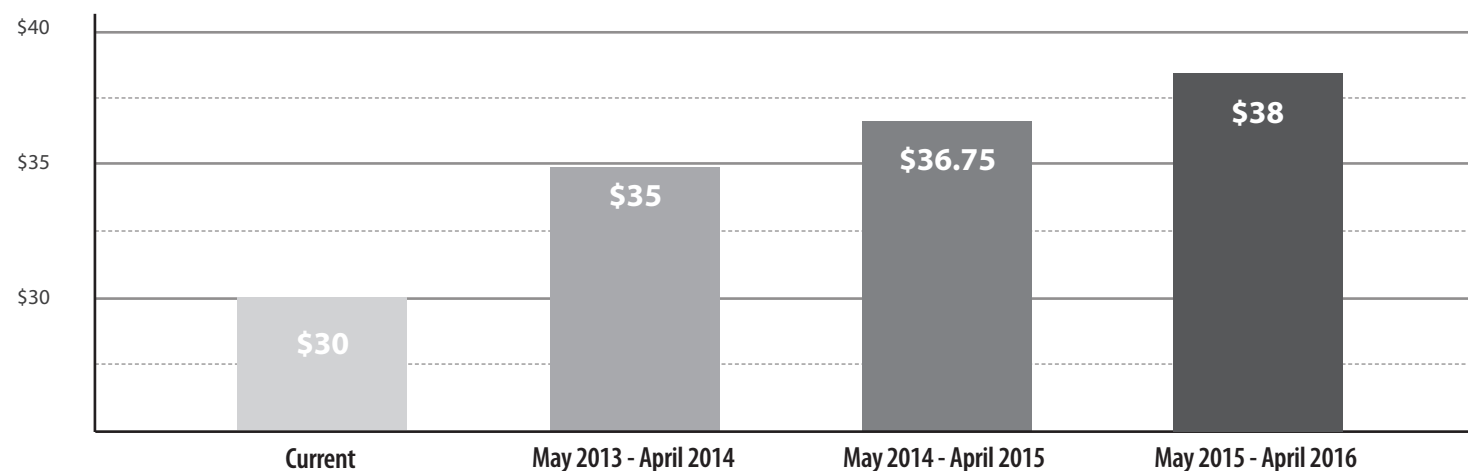
Two University of Alberta researchers have proposed a tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) sold in Alberta saying it could decrease consumption and raise \$750 million in revenue.

Research conducted by PhD student Sue Buhler and supervisor Kim Raine led to a sweet discovery: Albertans drink about 1.5 billion litres of SSBs annually, amounting to more than one litre per person each day.

They found that implementing a tax of \$0.05 per 100 mL of SSBs could lower consumption by 10 to 17 per cent in the province, as well as provide revenue that could finance a wellness foundation, or promote health throughout Alberta.

— Nagin Rezaiean

PROPOSED U-PASS FEE INCREASES (PER MONTH)





All photos by Kevin Willemse

Childcare centre now open at Burnaby Campus

Modern, professional, and friendly facility offers friends of BCIT an attractive day-care option

KEVIN WILLEMSE
Senior Editor

After a complete renovation of the SE41 building, BCIT Burnaby Campus can now boast a professional, fully licensed childcare centre.

Able to cater for 25 children from BCIT or the local public (with BCIT students and staff receiving preference), the centre officially opened its doors for business on January 2, and has five full-time children enrolled, with more on the way.

"The response from the BCIT staff, students, and community have been very positive, and I know that as word gets out, and people are able to visit the centre, it will fill up quickly," manager Sue D'Altroy told *The Link*.

Prior to joining the BCITSA, D'Altroy had been part of a parent participation preschool centre in North Delta for over 13 years, and has more than 20 years' experience in childcare and early education.

"Fortunately for me, I came in when the fun began, and I was able to shop, shop, shop!" D'Altroy said. "I got to make the centre as home-y and unique as I could in a very short time."

The creation of the centre is part of the ongoing renovations package taking place at BCIT, headed by BCIT Student Association Executive Director Caroline Gagnon, which included the renovation of building SE2.

“Every day is an adventure when you spend it with children.”

— Childcare Manager Sue D'Altroy

The childcare facility has ample space for those looking to enroll their kids, with numerous play areas, drawing boards, storage facilities, nap-time places, and of course, toys and educational activities. The centre strives to promote "emotional, social, physical, and intellectual development of the children, at their own pace, in a stimulating, secure, and respon-

sive environment."

Learning is continually integrated and extended through play, and Sue plans subjects and craft classes in advance — for example, this week everyone will be learning about birds and building feeders.

Healthy, hot lunches are provided by the kitchen at Professor Mugs pub, the cost of which is included in the enrolment fees. There is also a large outdoor play area for the children to run around in on warm days or to enjoy the occasional snowfall. Furthermore, the entire facility is kept secure with padlocks on all gates and access control on all entrances and exits, with BCIT security only seconds away.

"There's so much fun to be had, I can't wait to get started" Sue concludes. "Every day is an adventure when you spend it with children."

The centre is currently enrolling new children from 30 months old to school entry age (five years). For more information contact the BCITSA on 604.451.7087 or send an email to childcaremgr@bcitsa.ca



Wi-Fi at BCIT a growing pain for students

On-campus Wi-Fi connectivity struggles to keep up with demand as number of devices continues to grow

NEETU GARCHA
News Editor

BCIT's efforts to keep up with the increased number of independent Wi-Fi capable devices on campus have not eliminated student frustrations over connectivity and other Wi-Fi related issues.

The BCIT Student Association (BCITSA) has received numerous, continuous complaints from students who have a hard time connecting to BCIT's Wi-Fi. Those who have been able to connect have been experiencing slow connections, according to BCITSA Vice President of Finance Geoff Smith.

"We hear about [Wi-Fi issues] pretty frequently. It's one of the most common issues that students speak about here at the Student Association," said Smith.

According to Stephen Lamb, Chief Information Officer at BCIT, although students are encouraged to go to the information technology service desk in building SE12 of BCIT's Burnaby Campus to report issues or concerns, there are not many doing so. Smith attributes the minimal use of SE12 to report issues to lack of promotion.

"I think that there are fewer issues than there were in the past, like this time last year," said Smith. "But the issue still

exists and I think the students aren't connecting with SE12 and the office there because there isn't a good enough awareness."

As Wi-Fi is becoming such a critical service, the institution is taking on a multi-million dollar infrastructure upgrade project, Lamb told *The Link*.

"We are replacing all 600 of the legacy access points with newer, faster and more capable devices," said Lamb. "All of the old devices have been replaced and we have roughly a third of the additions to go to completion."

Regardless of BCIT's efforts, students are still having a hard time with connectivity and speed of the Wi-Fi on campus.

Marketing student Mike Hodson said he still has problems connecting to Wi-Fi on campus.

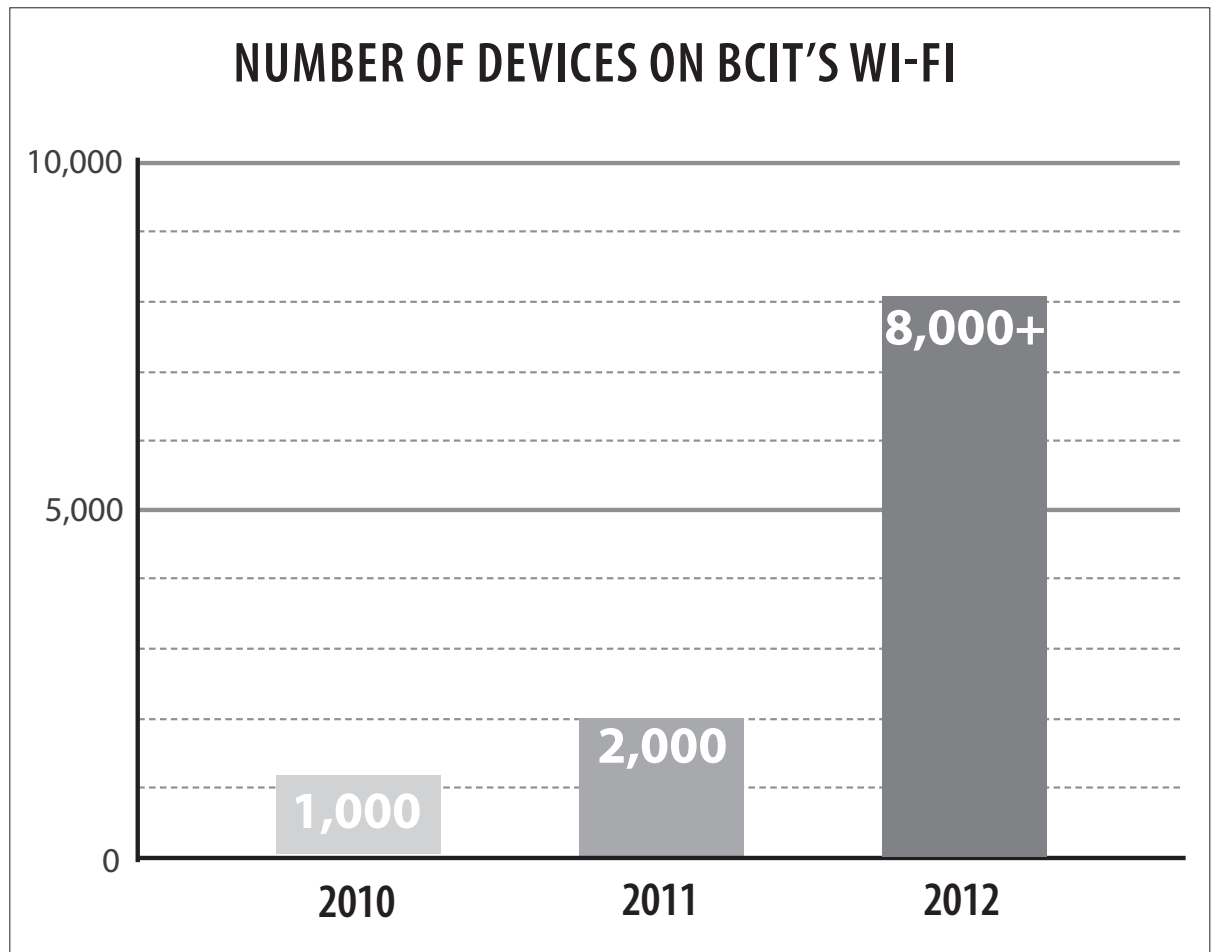
"During school hours it can

"It's eating up into lab time and class time; it's impacting us in a whole bunch of different ways."

— Marwan Marwan,
Vice President, Student Affairs
BCIT Student Association

slow right down," explained Hodson. "If you're trying to download slides for a presentation or lecture, it can be challenging."

BCITSA Vice President of Stu-



dent Affairs Marwan Marwan told *The Link* that, despite efforts by BCIT to combat the problem, it still exists and negatively impacts students' campus experience.

"It's eating up into lab time and class time; it's impacting us in a whole bunch of different ways," said Marwan. "Trying to do work in the Great Hall, you can't because you can't really access anything."

Lamb says the issue is not how many students are on campus, but the amount of Wi-Fi

compatible devices each student has on average.

According to Lamb, in 2010, there were about 1,000 devices coming onto the wireless network per day. That number increased to 3,000 devices in 2011, and 2012 saw a high of over 8,000 devices. So, the challenge comes down to exponential growth in devices.

Lamb looked at statistics from the most up-to-date information, December 11, 2012, when it was likely quieter than

usual given the time of year. He found that in the 24-hour period, there were 6,088 unique mobile devices including smart phones, laptops, and tablet devices accessing the network.

The amount of data traveling over the wireless network in that one day was approximately 721 gigabytes. To put that number into perspective, Lamb says that the average work document is about 50 kilobytes, so that's about 13 million documents.

Have something to say about BCIT's Wi-Fi? Visit linknewspaper.ca to find out how to have your opinion printed in *The Link*.

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Strikes may continue at BCIT

Bargaining will resume this month after the union agreed not to take any strike action during the holiday season

NEETU GARCHA
News Editor, *The Link*

Bargaining between the BCIT Faculty and Staff Association (FSA) and BCIT will resume this month, while the British Columbia Government Employees' Union (BCGEU) also has yet to reach an agreement with BCIT.

BCIT President Don Wright has announced that he supports the strike demands and will do what he can to help send the message to the government, but options are limited.

BCIT does not have a mandate from the Provincial Government to settle the FSA and BCGEU's issues. Therefore, members of the BCGEU and the FSA (and their supporters) are trying to communicate their message to the provincial government.

The FSA decided not to take any strike action during the holiday season.

"We did agree that there wouldn't be any job action again until January 7," said Paul Reniers, executive director of the FSA.

According to Reniers, the FSA has also agreed to enter into mediation beginning January 8, and is confident that there won't be any job action during the mediation period.

"Mediation is scheduled with the Labour Relations Board from January 8 to 11," said Reniers. "We do not expect any job action in that period either, and we'll see where that gets us."

Mediation involves negotiations with the assistance of a facilitator from the BC Labour Relations Board. "A senior mediator from the Labour Relations Board is going to meet with both the parties and basically settle in-between them, trying to find some common ground," Reniers told *The Link*.

The mediation is informal and non-binding and will not produce a report unless there is an agreement between both parties.

BCGEU Bargaining Com-

mittee Chair Richard Schaeffer says an agreement has yet to be reached.

"There was one day of bar-

"There are a number of significant issues that still need to be addressed."

— Paul Reniers,
BCIT Faculty and Staff Association

gaining just prior to the holidays, but we were not successful in reaching an agreement," said Schaeffer.

Reniers and Schaeffer told

The Link that job action is possible, but neither of them are sure when it will resume.

"Through until the eleventh, I really don't see any direct impact on students. After that point, it depends on how that mediation goes," said Reniers.

Reniers says he is glad that four days of mediation are booked because there is still a lot to get through.

"Some issues might fall off the table very quickly, but there are a number of significant issues that still need to be addressed," said Reniers.

For updates on this story as it develops, please visit us at www.linknewspaper.ca or just follow @BCIT_Link on Twitter.

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Visit to China strengthens international partnerships

BCIT establishing a stronger international relationship with its partner institutions

MERIHA BEATON
The Link

A recent trip to China made by two BCIT staff members has strengthened BCIT's international relationship with partner institutions and helped enrich the academic experience for domestic students.

The trip was taken in late 2012 by Tracy Wang, the business development manager for BCIT International, and Pommashea Noel-Bently, vice president of external relations.

The purpose of the visit was to welcome new students enrolled in the international programs at the partner institutions.

"It is the most important event overseas, even more than convocation, since it is hard to get into post-secondary institutions," explained Wang in an email interview with *The Link*.

For nearly 10 years Wang has been working with BCIT International and has been the business development manager for five. She has been visiting the partner institutions since 2008.

"I have witnessed impres-

sive progress that our partner institutions have achieved through partnering with BCIT," said Wang.

Four of BCIT's Chinese partner institutes in Tianjin, Chengdu, Nanjing, and Wenzhou were visited on this trip, and BCIT has established international programs in mechanical engineering and computer system technology in these cities.

According to Wang the number of international students has more than doubled in 2012 in comparison to the number of international students at BCIT in 2007.

"The number of international students has more than doubled in 2012."

The school is now host to 2,035 students from over 86 countries, with students from China contributing to one third of BCIT's international students.

"These partnerships have been of great value to the institute as a whole," says Wang, "attracting international students, generating international revenues, creating a multicultural environment in BCIT

by blending foreign students in our classrooms."

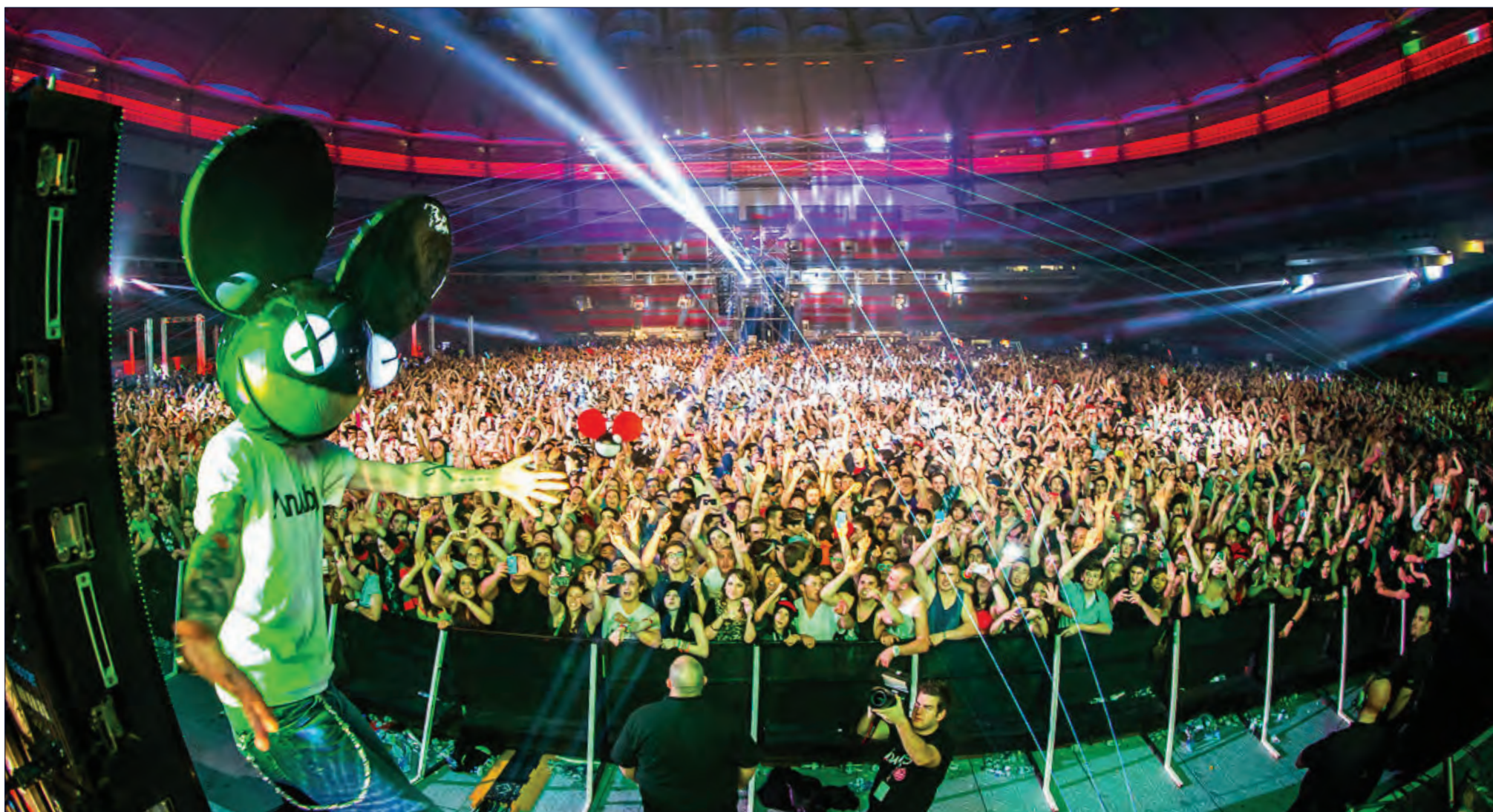
Wang and Noel-Bentley also used the trip to plan for the BCIT Student Ambassador programs scheduled for the summer.

One of these programs allows over 200 BCIT students and faculty members from mechanical engineering, business, and computer technology to participate in a two week program. Students take part in activities such as tutoring and teaching English at one of BCIT's partner institutions in China or South Korea.

"It provides [our students with] the opportunities for acquiring academic, cultural and social experiences," explained Wang.

In the future, Wang and BCIT International plan on strengthening their already existing partnerships with Asia and South America and building an international relationship with other regions such as Indonesia, Thailand and Turkey.

"BCIT now seems to have a mandate to keep up, so that our programs can still be at the leading edge, otherwise our advantages will no longer be sustained within the next five years," asserted Wang.



All photos courtesy of Blueprint Events

Contact festival rocks BC Place

Deadmau5 headlines the biggest electronic dance music festival ever held in western Canada

KEVIN WILLEMSE
Senior Editor

Anyone who thinks that electronic dance music is dead was obviously nowhere near BC Place on Boxing Day.

Those who were enjoyed some of the world's best electronic DJs belting out six hours of the most recognised electronic dance music (EDM) tracks around. Chris Lake, Lazy Rich, Alesso, Nero, and a certain local boy calling himself Deadmau5 kept 12,000 audience members jumping and fist-pumping.

The first-ever Contact festival is the largest electronic music event ever staged in western Canada. A year in the making, Blueprint Events Director Alvaro Prol says that it was about time a festival of this magnitude was put together for Vancouver's house fans.

"It was time to take things up a bit," said Prol. "This is the first time we were able to get BC Place ... we've been work-

ing on it for a year and it took us this long to put all the pieces together to make it happen."

British Canadian Lazy Rich opened the floor with some brilliantly mixed Avicii to settle the locals before handing the stage to Chris Lake, one of the most exciting DJs and producers from the EDM scene in recent years. Next up, Swedish House Mafia's Alesso, opener at Madonna's European MDNA tour, settled into his familiar progressive house and catchy, rock-inspired loops.

By the time Nero came on,

"He is a genius. There's no doubt about it."

— Organiser Alvaro Prol on headliner Deadmau5

the crowd was an undulating mass of sweat and limbs, but that didn't stop the man from driving out some hardcore drum 'n bass and dubstep mixes.

Any act would find it hard to sustain Nero's energy but Joel Zimmerman, also known as Deadmau5, managed to reignite

the crowd just by showing up with his legendary visual set. Familiar tracks pumped the crowd up and got everyone jumping all over again.

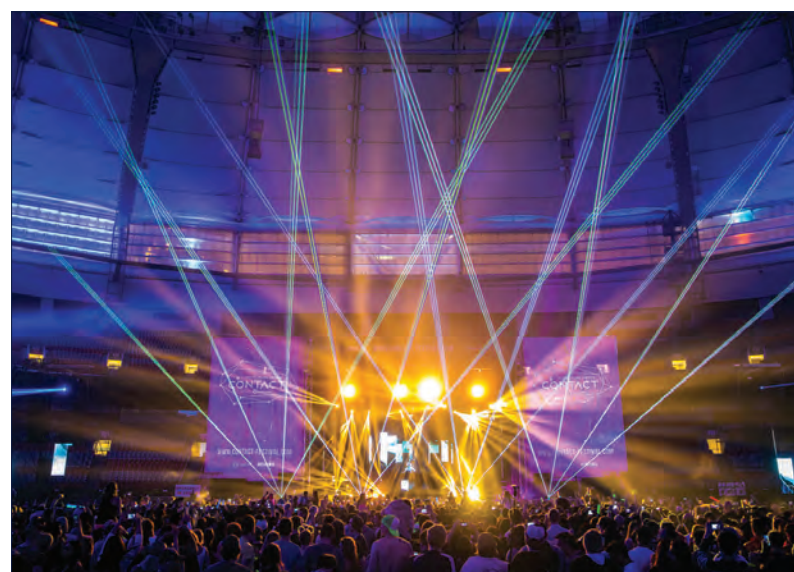
In the last issue of *The Link*, we ran a piece on artists who use gimmicks (which are mostly "meh"). When Deadmau5 puts on his Cheshire mau5head, the world is a better place. The music gets better and you're aware that this is an electronic music virtuoso at work.

"He is a genius," praises Prol. "There's no doubt about it. He has a lot of passion for what he does."

When asked if Contact 2013 is in the works, Prol is quietly confident. The goal of the first Contact was to make it a West Coast event with "a Canadian flag in it," he says, so Deadmau5 was a perfect headliner. He also wants the festival to expand into bigger, better parties and festivals long before and after the actual show.

"I would like Contact to be a Vancouver thing, a BC Place thing, an event we do every year. That's what I would like to see."

Me too, Alvaro. Me too.



Top five albums you may have missed in 2012



Civilized City
Hermetic

After winning 2008's Shindig competition, East Vancouver's Hermetic were somewhat silent for the next four years, playing shows relentlessly but not releasing any new music. That changed this year, as the baritone guitar and drums duo of Eric Axen and Bart Newman released the Survival EP, Goodness Greatness/Murder Ballads single and LP, Civilized City.

Every track on Civilized City fits seamlessly together with angular guitar riffs meshing with syncopated beats and Axen's vocals complementing thoughtful lyrics that touch on everything from young love to cold war politics. Occasional splashes of harmonica, synthesizer and strings add just enough diversity to the duo's sound to keep the Civilized City engaging for its duration. The album itself is also perfectly sequenced, with each track flowing smoothly into the next, making it all but impossible not to listen to the whole thing all at once.



Celebration Rock
Japandroids

Japandroids exploded onto the international indie music scene with 2009's Post-Nothing, but this year's Celebration Rock shot the duo into another stratosphere altogether. Packed with catchy guitar riffs and sing-along choruses from start to finish, Celebration Rock stands as a testament to the band's evolution as songwriters.

Where Post-Nothing's songs and lyrics were relatively simple and repetitive, Japandroids have managed to write more complex and rewarding songs and lyrics without sacrificing any of the direct emotional connection and infectious hooks that characterised their earlier work.

Documenting the fears, regrets, thrills and pleasures that inevitably accompany growing into adulthood, Celebration Rock is more than just Japandroids' announcement that they are here to stay: it's a declaration that despite the worst it can throw at us, life is still worth celebrating.



Attack on Memory
Cloud Nothings

Attack on Memory comes from a very dark place. It's clear that Cloud Nothings' chief songwriter and front man Dylan Baldi was dealing with a particularly rough breakup: the album begins with the refrain, "Give up, come to, no hope, we're rethrough," and doesn't get much more cheerful from there on.

Some of the most powerful music comes from attempts to cope with loss, though, and Attack on Memory is an excellent example of this; even the album title is somewhat prophetic of Baldi's intentions.

Blending pop-punk, grunge and mid-90s college rock, Cloud Nothings tackle the emotional minefield of heartbreak and recovery, subject matter that is immensely relatable to anyone who has loved and lost—and who among us hasn't?



Landmark
Apollo Ghosts

Apollo Ghosts have been kicking around Vancouver's independent music scene for ages, with standout record after standout record, but never quite managing to break through to the next level. Landmark continues both these trends, serving up 15 criminally underappreciated tracks of catchy, jangly, indie guitar rock.

Jumping from straight-ahead rock numbers "I'm In Love With The USA" and "Guitar Brother" to weird, experimental freak-outs like "Days of Glory," the album feels real and raw, with just enough polish to let each track's strengths shine though without feeling plastic or overproduced.

By the time its 38-minute runtime is up, you'll be ready to flip the record back over and start all over again.



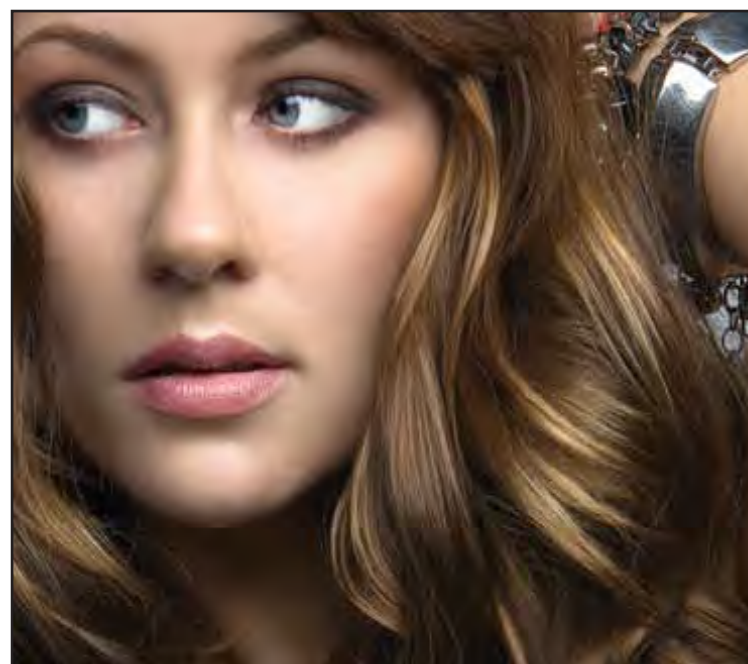
'Allelujah! Don't Bend! Ascend!
Godspeed You! Black Emperor

Following the tour for 2002 album Yanqui U.X.O., politically-charged, post-rock collective Godspeed You! Black Emperor announced a hiatus while their contemporaries pushed the genre further into the mainstream consciousness. The band decided to reform and begin touring again in 2010, picking up where they left off with a new record, 'Allelujah! Don't Bend! Ascend!' late this year.

The album is full of the slow, measured build-ups and powerful, shattering climaxes the band is known for, balancing tranquility, panic, exaltation and despair to create deep, profound emotional connections through instrumental music.

Like the best of Godspeed's catalogue, 'Allelujah! Don't Bend! Ascend!' is best described as apocalyptic, moving from tension to chaos and back into a kind of desolate serenity—maybe the Mayans were simply predicting the long-awaited return of Godspeed You! Black Emperor.

— Jesse Wentzloff



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Vancouver Noir authors John Belshaw and Diane Purvey get into the spirit of their non-fiction profile of Vancouver's darker history.

Courtesy of Derek von Essen

Vancouver Noir tells the tale of crime and corruption and the city's dark history

Two local writers explore the gritty lives of Vancouverites from the 1930s to 1960s

OLSY SOROKINA

The Link

The Vancouver Police Museum is the perfect venue for learning about the city's criminal past, but that's not the only reason Diane Purvey and John Belshaw chose it to host the reading of their newest book, *Vancouver Noir*. The museum, which has formerly served as the Vancouver Coroner's Office and the city morgue, was also one of the biggest sources for their research material.

Written with the same lexicon found in true crime novels of the era, and illustrated with archival black-and-white photos, *Vancouver Noir* transports readers into times of vice and glamour in Vancouver. Uncon-

vinced that the noir phenomenon was unique to American cities like Los Angeles, Purvey and Belshaw describe each noir element — civil unrest, corruption, murder — crucial to the formation of present-day Vancouver.

The Speed Graphic camera, more mobile than its tripod-dependent predecessors, documented stories in the 1930s. In Purvey and Belshaw's portrayal, photographs were effectively used by the press of the noir period in order to "describe a bullet hole, a riot, vice, beauty, deformity, and powerful emotions in ways words could not."

Scandalous headlines did more than just entertain the public: media portrayal of certain parts of the city led to their consequent decline.

"Newspapers would have a series of accounts on smuggling in the harbour, teen suicide, crime, and drug addiction, and

they create a sense in the community that these things are happening all the time," noted Belshaw. Photographs were used to introduce and enforce the "proper" standards of behavior through a display of obvious deviance—sex crimes, gambling, and bootlegging.

Vancouver Noir transports the readers into the times of vice and glamour in Vancouver.

One of the motifs of *Vancouver Noir* is "urban reform, planning as a vehicle of physical and social change." The narrative traces the history of downtown Vancouver as shaped by city zoning plans and social stigma

against anyone with a non-WASP (white, Anglo-Saxon Protestant) background. City Hall's move from downtown and the subsequent marginalization of Downtown Eastside, vilification of Chinatown and Skid Row, and the class division of East and West Ends are explored through excerpts from court cases and newspaper clippings straight out of the noir era.

Despite dealing with heavy subject matter and gruesome images, *Vancouver Noir* is a highly entertaining read. It covers thirty years of history, complete with changes in local government and shifts in the city's geography. The style, borrowed from noir fiction, never sounds contrived. For history buffs and true crime enthusiasts alike, *Vancouver Noir* delivers thrills while revisiting important moments from the city's history.

LOCAL EVENTS

January 5 - February 3 PuSh International Performing Arts Festival

Various locations

The ninth installment of Vancouver's most innovative festival promises to find new ways to challenge attendees.

Over three mid-winter weeks, members of the audience are invited to become readers in a unique Human Library; watch Shakespeare's *King Lear* as interpreted by a Taiwanese theatre troupe; and witness Vancouver writers keep a literary record of their surroundings live at three busy urban locations.

Local artists will be joined by performers from Argentina and Japan to provide an unforgettable experience for their Vancouver audience.

January 18 - February 3 Dine Out Vancouver

Various locations

Despite freezing rain and a bad case of post-holiday empty wallet syndrome, these 17 days are a delight for Metro Vancouver foodies and visitors alike.

With over two hundred restaurants participating, there are many options for a gastronomical adventure fit for any budget: participating restaurants will offer multiple-course meals for a fixed price of \$18, \$28 or \$38.

Those with a deeper interest in the culinary arts can visit many of the festival's special events, be it the Edible Canada lecture series or a pizza-making and beer-tasting night.

January 20 21st Century Flea Market

Croatian Cultural Centre

This flea market is a gem for lovers of rare antique items, vintage art, and junk jewelry. All those items individually displayed and ridiculously priced in funky Main Street vintage shops? Those were probably found for a tenth of the price, rummaging through boxes at yard sales.

You can spare yourself the trouble of having to sort through someone's junk — there's over a hundred vendors offering many desirable vintage treasures for reasonable prices. Just watch out for that aggressive art collector who might just be after the same rare Coca-Cola advertisement.

— Olsy Sorokina

OUR CAMPUS

BCIT helps people break out of poverty with microfinance

Try to imagine your life without finance, without a savings account to safely store your money, without student loans to pay for education, and without insurance for when things go horribly wrong. Yet for many people around the world, this is the unfortunate reality, and it is keeping them trapped in poverty. Is there any way to change this? Yes, it's called microfinance.

Seva Mandir is the largest non-governmental organization in Udaipur, India, and they have added a twist to microfinance. Instead of becoming a bank, Seva Mandir instead organizes people in each village into self help groups, which are essentially like credit unions. They are trained in financial literacy and are given a safe place to save their money.

This pooled money is then lent within the group at low interest rates, allowing members to fund things like tuition for their children, investments for their farms (such as seeds or equipment), small entrepreneurial businesses and shops, and medical emergencies.

This semester, the BCIT Finance Club will be fundraising for Seva Mandir. Students can help the club fund the creation of more SHGs, as well as other entrepreneurial ventures. Please see bcitfinance.com/micro for details.

— Michael Jarosz

New Year's resolutions for the savvy BCIT student

How to *really* make the most of your time on campus in 2013

ANGIE THEILLMAN

Assistant Editor

Love or hate the idea of New Year's resolutions, here are ten you don't even need to think of yourself. All you need to do is try them out!

1. Book an on-campus massage for \$10

Contact Recreation Services for more information, and remember: first come, first served.

2. Use the Uconnect Resource Centre

Awesome staff will give you info on campus events, free cooking classes, health coverage, and more! Not on Burnaby campus? Give them a shout at 604.451.7087 or visit them online at uconnect@bcitsa.ca.

3. Go check out BCIT in their Media page

Every so often, this page is updated and you can see BCIT folk in the world's headlines. It could be you someday! commons.bcit.ca/update/bcit-in-the-media/

4. Use your free gym services!

Take advantage of open gym times, free fitness classes, and of course, the free weight room. Did I mention that this is all free?

5. Discover a new space on campus

Live and breathe in SE1? Check out the NW area. Who knows what you'll find. No time, you say? Pack your lunch and replace the 15-minute Tim Hortons line-up with a stroll into new territory and their eateries.

6. Sign your classmates up for an intramural team

How can you possibly resist dodgeball, floor hockey, or volleyball? It's so much better than studying and isn't a huge dollar investment. Contact Recreation Services.

7. Attend a BCIT Student Association council meeting

Usually only councilors and executives attend, but all are welcome. Maybe you'll even be inspired to run for student government. Ask your set rep for more info.

8. Think green

Email BCITSAstafferIanMorton



Courtesy of Juliet D

on ways you want to go green our campus: events@bcitsa.ca. Or, take action by joining the BCIT Net Impact club. Contact: netimpact.bcit@live.ca.

9. Don't pay more

Your student card earns you valuable discounts on Whistler/Blackcomb passes, car tire and oil changes, Vancouver hotels, and more. Don't forget to ask about student discounts wherever you go! Recreation Services and Uconnect Resource Centre have more details.

10. Contribute to your campus newspaper

The Link wants your photos, your writing, and your funnies! Whether it's news, culture, campus, opinions, or humour, we will pay for your skills and creativity! Email contact@linknewspaper.ca or visit linknewspaper.ca

Have a student resolution that should have made the cut? Think some of these resolutions are dumb? Email campuslife@linknewspaper.ca, comment on stories on our website, or tweet us @BCIT_Link!

BCIT
alumni



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Do you know members of the BCIT community, and in particular BCIT alumni and students, who have distinguished themselves in their lives and careers, and who exemplify BCIT's polytechnic approach to applied learning and research?

BCIT and the BCIT Alumni Association want to recognize outstanding achievers who bring acclaim to our institute.

Nominations for the following annual awards are invited from BCIT alumni and students:

- > BCIT Distinguished Alumni Awards
- > BCIT Alumni Association Outstanding Student Leadership Award

bcit.ca/alumni/awards/daa



Are guns the only effective preventative of mass shootings?

Courtesy of Ibaraki Hyakuri

Gun ban not the answer to shootings

With 300 million guns in the United States alone, how could a ban on guns hope to prevent further tragedies?

MICHAEL JAROSZ

The Link

The tragic school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, is among the latest killing sprees in America. Many citizens and politicians are finally saying enough is enough, and that tough decisions need to be made. But what is the most effective way of bringing about this change?

Obama has proposed an assault weapons ban, while the National Rifle Association (NRA) has proposed armed security guards in every school. If you are Canadian, chances are you agree with Obama's stance, and think that the NRA is crazy. But if you think about it rationally, setting politics aside, the NRA's position has a lot of merit.

Let's start with something we can all relate to: BCIT. What if a madman targeted our school just like in Newtown, or École Polytechnique in Montreal? While Canada already has quite strict gun control laws, it is still possible to legally acquire many types of guns, and illegally get hold of many others.

So who is there to protect us? Our school has 24/7 security, but would that be much help? It turns out that security guards in Canada are not allowed to carry firearms outside of their own home. The only exception is if they transport money in heavily armored vehicles. That's right: the safety of money is

more important than the safety of students and citizens. What good is it to arm only the police, when everyone is already dead by the time they show up?

The idea of schools being "gun-free zones" with unarmed security guards makes about as much sense as declaring a building to be a "no fire zone" and then removing all the sprinklers and fire extinguishers.

Let's also take a look at the oth-

"Gun-free zones" with unarmed security guards makes about as much sense as declaring a building to be a "no fire zone" and then removing all the sprinklers and fire extinguishers."

er option: a ban on gun sales. Simply put, this is nothing more than a feel-good idea with little grounding in reality. First of all, there are already over 300 million guns in the United States alone. A gun ban isn't going to make them magically disappear. Secondly, prohibition doesn't work; you need look no further than alcohol prohibition in the 1920s or the drug wars of today for affirmation.

Want a more relevant example? During World War Two, German forces couldn't prevent the Polish resistance movement (comprised largely of civilians) from arming itself. The Poles designed and produced an inexpensive, home-

made machine pistol that could be made in small workshops by inexperienced engineers. Almost 70 years later, you don't think people could do the same? And even by today's standards, it's about to get a whole lot easier.

One of the hottest new industries right now is 3D printing, a technology set to revolutionise small-scale manufacturing. Gun components have already been printed and assembled into an AR-15, the same weapon as was used in Newtown. The parts were assembled and fired six times before failure; not bad from a \$2,000 machine, and on the first try. What this means is that access to guns and ammunition for the common civilian may become as easy as printing off a downloaded file you got off eBay. Good luck imposing a ban on guns in such a world.

Not to mention that schools in the past have also been attacked with weapons like flamethrowers, knives, and explosives. So, even in a world without guns, schools would still be very vulnerable.

Having said all this, I do support reasonable levels of gun control, like age limits, cooling off periods, background checks, mental health checks, and even pharmaceutical checks. But the reality is that gun control alone isn't going to cut it, especially if we look at the technology (and paranoia) that will be available to us in the future.

With this in mind, the NRA's proposal makes a lot of sense. Because when you really think about it, the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.

The Link pays its contributors!

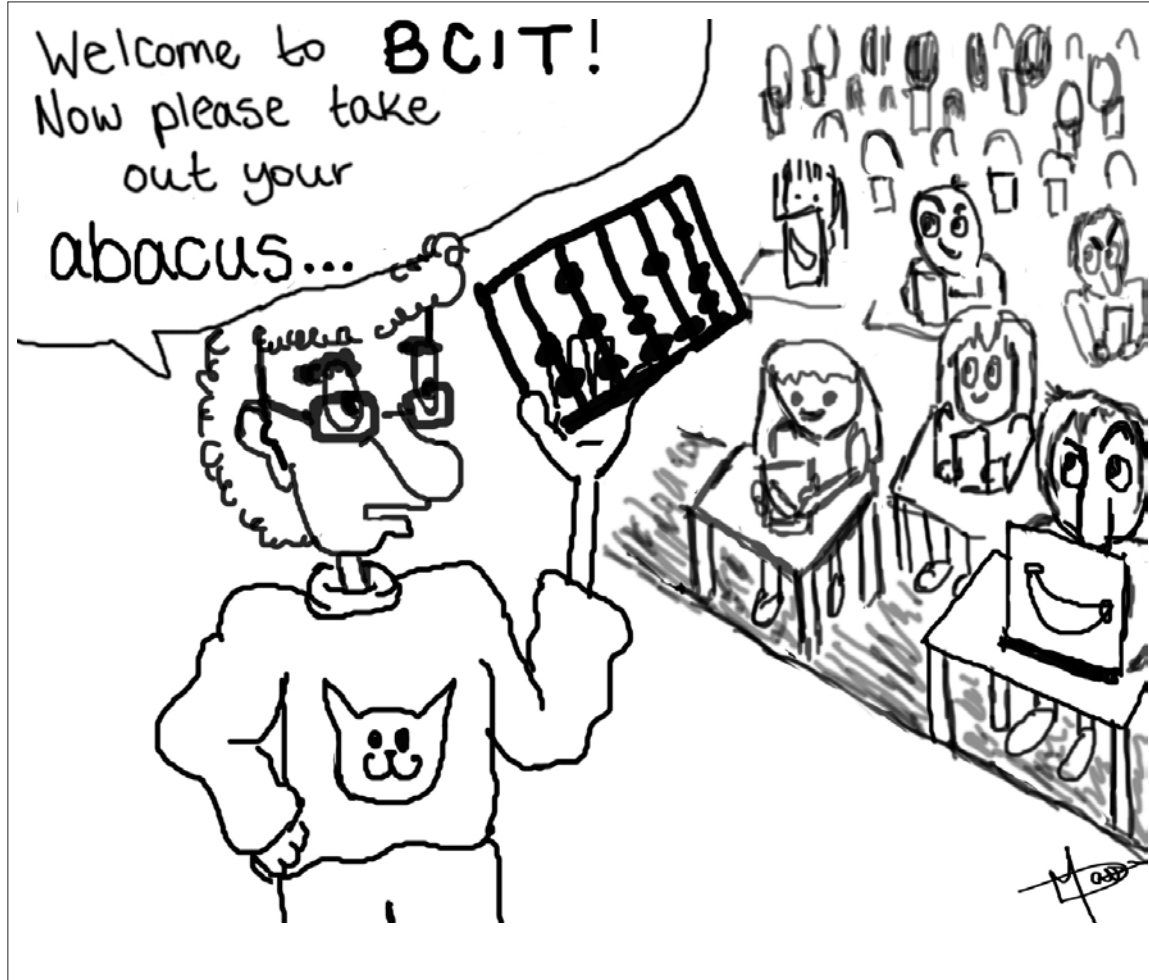


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with Mystical Mama Angie,
semi-certified astrologist



IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY

Oh what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh! Oh wait, that's Christmas. I forgot we're talking about your birthday. Well, hell cowpoke, it's 2013 now, so make this year the sleigh ride of a lifetime. Giddy up!

ARIES (March 21 – April 20)

Lynx is your winter animal, so use your giant snow paws to pad the year with good things. But like a lynx sighting, windows of *snowpawtunity* can be fleeting, so pounce on them. And of course, prey fair.

TAURUS (April 21 – May 21)

Snowy owl says this year will be a *hoot*, Taurus, but *flyer* beware: don't just be a social butterfly. In the words of Muhammed OWLi, you must float like a butterfly, sting like a bee, and study like an owl.

GEMINI (May 22 – June 21)

Rabbit says here's *hoppin'* for long 'ears of prosperity. Like following rabbit in the snow, track your spending. A savvy money bunny now means future happy hou-*hares* flowing with Jackrabbit Daniels.

CANCER (June 22 – July 23)

Babypolar bears *artickled* to be your mascots this year. Get the 2013 ball (offur) rolling by playing in the snow. With *bearly* any white stuff on the west coast, when it does snow, jump on AND in the occasion!

LEO (July 24 – Aug. 23)

Seagulls don't care about the season or the year. They care about scavenger hunts. Remember, it's not *feather* or not you find everything you seek, it's about how you handle the scraps.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 – Sept. 23)

Narwhal is often called the unicorn of the sea, which is pretty wild. As this is your most mystical magical year ever, be that underwater Pegasus. Amaze everyone. Fly, surf, swim. Be a *Gnar-whal*.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 – Oct. 23)

Squirrel says to avoid feeling like a nutcase, hide some nuts, just in case! That's right! Next time you're *buried* in studies, you can rely on strategically placed Reese's products and chocolate almonds, too!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 – Nov. 22)

Winter fish says the scales are tipped in your favour. 2013 is your year to reach new depths. But don't get *caught* up in trying to be the coolest catfish in your school or you'll get *trawl-tally* fucked. Just be *reel*.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 – Dec. 21)

Eagle isn't going to *talon* you if you get high. That is, if you get high hopes for 2013. And if pessimists make you feel bad for your optimism, ease your *eag-uilt*y conscience. Egg-nore them. Do not say *soar-y*!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 – Jan. 20)

Shrew says, "*Holed* on! When was the last time you rodent a postcard to someone! Or, did you return *burrowed* items from friends?" This year, be a good friend. Remember the 'little' things. It's a *moust*.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 – Feb. 19)

Snuffalufagus says although he's not a real animal, you're a real person with real skills. *Tonnes* of them.

PISCES (Feb. 20 – Mar. 20)

Google chickadee's bird-call, if you haven't heard it, Pisces. It's your year to *tweet*, branch out and get the world's attention!

CASH!

FAME!

PUNS!

Send the lulz to
contact@linknewspaper.ca