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The Student Newspaper of the British Columbia Institute of Technology

The Link

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

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LINK LETTERS POLICY

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 Your name, affiliation with BCIT and a telephone number to contact you (which will not be published) must be included.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

Campus Events

Tuesday, December 4

Toastmasters Int'l. SA

council Chambers, SA

7:00am.

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

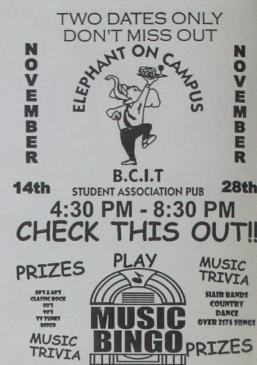
Wednesday, November 21		
BCIT Christian Club.	Wednesday, December 5	Tuesday, December 25
Bible study & worship. 11:30am. SW1-2005. Contact Pastor Calvin 451-	Electronic Engineering Technology: Last day to withdraw and receive a	Christmas Day. BCIT Closed.
4568.	'W' on transcript for Term B courses.	Wednesday, December 26
Canuck vs. Pittsburgh Penguins pay per view	BCIT Christian Club.	Boxing Day. BCIT closed.
game at Elephant of	Bible study & worship.	
Campus.	11:30am. SW1-2005. Contact Pastor Calvin 451-	Monday, December 31
Thursday, November 22	4568.	New Year's Eve. BCIT Closed.
Recreation Council Social.	Thursday, December 6	
	Intramurals end.	Tuesday, January 1
November 27-29	Recreation Services	New Year's Day. BCIT Closed.
EcoXmas: a Christmas crafts fair with an environ-	Drop-In programs end.	Wednesday, January 2
mental bent. Great Hall,	Friday, December 7	
SA Campus Centre.	Technology Entry: Last	Classes begin for most programs.
Tuesday, November 27	day of classes.	Electronic Engineering
Toastmasters Int'l. SA council Chambers, SA	December 10-14	Technology: Classes resume.
Campus Centre (SE2), 7:00am.	Examination week for	
	most Technologies.	Technology Entry: Registration and
Wednesday, November 28	Friday, December 14	Orientation.
BCIT Christian Club. Bible study & worship.	Electronic engineering Technology: Last day of	Medical Radiography: Level 1 Student
11:30am. SW1-2005. Contact Pastor Calvin 451-	classes before Christmas Break.	Orientation.
4568.		Thursday, January 3
Music Bingo at the	Group Fitness ends.	Level 2, 4, 6 & 8 Fee
Elephant on Campus.	Last Day of operation for	Deadline for Winter
4:30 to 8:30pm. Win prizes.	SA offices and services until January 2.	Term.
Tuesday December 4	Saturday December 22	Medical Radiography:

Saturday, December 22

Fall term technology grades available on the Campus Centre (SE2), BCIT website.

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve.



Workstudy positions are available with the Student Association



Drop by the SA Office or call 604-432-8549 for more information.

S WEEK'S CFML HOT 20 THE WATCHMEN Absolutely Anytime POWDERFINGE Waiting For The Sun TRAVIS Side Advertise in DAVID USHER Alone In The Universe WEEZER Jl Island In The Sun SMOOTHER East Side EVE 6 Here's To The Night The Link BETTER THEN EZRA Extra Ordinary AMERICAN HI-FI Another Perfect Day LONG BEACH ALLSTARS Sunny Hours CAKE Short Skirt/Long Jacket U2 Stuck in a Moment You Can't Get LIVE Call 432-8974 13 Overcome CRANBERRIES Analyse GORILLAZ 19-2000 for rates DAVID USHER Black Black Heart or more information POF Wild BARENAKED LADIES 18 Falling For The First Time LIFEHOUSE Sick Cycle Carosoul 20 GARBAGE Androgny TUNE US IN AT HOME ... PICK UP YOUR *FREE* CABLE SPLITTER IN SE-10 (BROADCAST CENTER)

Level

Deadline.

January 7-11

3 & 5 Fee

Electronic Engineering

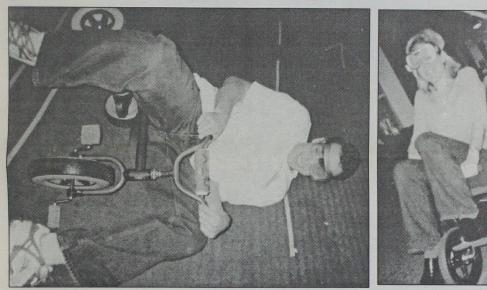
Technology Exams.



Hammering out a few mid term

KIM CHOINIERE PHOTOS

Alcohol Awareness Week



SA execs Joel Peterson and Holly Cunningham demonstrate the thrills and spills of tricycle racing in the Great Hall while wearing fatal vision goggles. PAUL DAYSON PHOTOS

BCIT's Marketing Association dumps it's old Yankee name

ast summer the Marketing Association changed their name. Formerly known as the BCIT American Marketing Association, the organization's board decided to rename itself as BCIT Marketing Association.

The association had three reasons for the change. They wanted it to be clear that they are Canadian, they felt that some students were discouraged from joining because it was an American organization, and all their fundraising, networking, and organizing is undertaken in Canada

he BCIT Marketing Association has held two successful events in recent weeks. The first was a Martini Mingler, held November 1 at the Earls on Kingsway. It allowed marketing students to network with industry professionals in a social atmosphere.

The second event was a talk by two industry professionals, one being entrepreneur Mike Donald of Concord National and the other research director Mari-Lou Shoulak from Z95.3 radio station.

The marketing association exists to give marketing valuable knowledge and contacts in their field and to have a good time. Their activities over the year include raising money for charity, bringing in industry speakers, teaching students how to market themselves, and throwing large parties to raise money to finance their activities.

In the spring the Board of Directors

will be travelling to Florida to compete against other student marketing associations from across the US and Canada.

This year their beginning of term party at Mavericks raised over \$3,000 for Shinerama. They are planning a similar but larger party at the Plaza of Nations for Christmas. 'Shiver' is to be held at the Plaza of Nations and the plan is to sell 1,600 tickets. Tickets will be available on campus in the Great Hall, and will also be available through ticketmas-

Although the club is primarily directed towards students in the Marketing Program, any student is welcome to join. If you are interested in joining the club, their website is

Alcohol Awareness week a huge SUCCESS

SA Council Notes Cameron Rankin

CIT Student Association held its last council meeting of the 2001 school year on November 19, 2001.

Joel Peterson, SA vice-president of Student Affairs, said that the Alcohol Awareness week, held at BCIT's Burnaby campus on November 5 to 9, was a success with the car bash raising approximately \$200 for the Student Assistance fund with the Provincial Government matching those funds.

The drunken tricycle event was a huge success and drew a large crowd with only one tricycle being damaged. The tricycles that were used will be donated to the BCIT davcare.

The chug and chuck was also a success with a large crowd attending and the winner being awarded a leather jacket.

Peterson also attended the Portland Leadership Conference as the BCIT Student Association's Representative. Peterson recommended that BCIT not attend the conference next year as he said the conference was slanted to American Schools and he was disappointed in the conference overall.

SA president Brent Morris reported the negotiations for implementing the Student Health Plan are progressing satisfactory.

• SA Vice-president of Public Relations and Marketing Alfredo Rolando reported that the poppy drive held on campus for Remembrance Day was a success.

· Marie Halfnights, the SA vice-president of Finance and Administration, reported that the SA was holding a "Coin for Food" drive to benefit the foodbank and she is looking for student volunteers.

· Morris also went through "Roberts rules of Order" for meetings to familiarize the council on what they are and what their purpose was

· A Motion was carried for the SA to purchase Approximately 16 Mats at \$40 plus tax for student councilors to sit on during council meetings.

The next SA student council Meeting will be held on January 7, 2001.

Corrections to last Council Notes:

A motion to approve \$3600 in funding for shelving for the daycare on campus was tabled, not approved.

BCIT and the SA signed a food services agreement on November 2. This concludes a six year legal dispute.

Former UN aid coordinator speaks out over sanctions against Iraq

3) CONVENTION (IV) RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR

Signed at Geneva, 12 August 1949

Article 54 - Protection of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population

1. Starvation of civilians as a method of warfare is prohibited.

2. It is prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as food-stuffs, agricultural areas for the production of food-stuffs, crops, livestock, drinking water installations and supplies and irrigation works, for the specific purpose of denying them for their sustenance value to the civilian population or to the adverse Party, whatever the motive, whether in order to starve out civilians, to cause them to move away, or for any other motive.

BRUCE MCTAGGART Link News Reporter

Hans von Sponseck is the former UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator in Iraq. He resigned after a 32 year career with the United Nations to protest the sanctions against the civilian population. He was the second UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator in Iraq to resign over this issue. In his opinion the sanctions imposed against Iraq are in violation of the Geneva Convention and constitute a crime against humanity.

Since 1991 an estimated 750,000 children have died in Iraq. Many of these deaths are the results of the sanctions that the UN Security Council has imposed on Iraq. They are also the result of the deliberate policy of the United States to destroy the water supply of the country.

The sanctions were first imposed on Iraq after the Iraq-Kuwait War in 1990. The sanctions are supposed to be in place until the UN has verified that there are no longer weapons of mass destruction in the country. Hans says that this verification

will never be achieved as it is impossible to prove that the country does not possess these weapons.

The sanctions say that the only external trade that the country can have is the Oil For Food Program. The program allows Iraq to export a limited amount of oil. The revenue from this is placed in an account which is managed by the UN. From this account is deducted the expenses of the UN and war reparations. The remainder is used to buy essential items for Iraq.

The revenue from this program means that there is \$252 per year per person in Iraq. The rest of the economy has shut down.

The sanctions also ban the importation



of any materials that could conceivably be used by the Iraqi military. This means that items such as pencils are not allowed into the country because they contain graphite, a substance which has military applications.

Other items which are banned from Iraq are textbooks, all computers, components for water treatment and sewage plants, and medical supplies.

The result of this has been that Iraq has gone from being the most technologically advanced country in the Middle East to being one of the least technology advanced.

Von Sponseck came to Vancouver on November 5 this year to help raise support

for ending the sanctions. He spoke at a public meeting at Christ Church Cathedral to a crowd of one thousand people.

While UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq Hans spent a year touring the country and concluded that the sanctions are a crime against humanity. When he reported this to the United Nations he was attacked by the United States as not being credible. They told him he had no business speaking out. According to von Sponseck the sanctions are in place not to force Iraq to disarm but instead to destroy the economy and society of Iraq.

Von Sponseck says that the sanctions have worked to strengthen the hold that Saddam Hussein and the Bathist Party have over the country. He says that the middle class has been destroyed and that the only people that have any money are Bathist party officials and black marketeers. In his view, sanctions have been hurting the people who were already the victims of Saddam Hussein.

In his travels through Iraq von Sponseck often visited former members of the middle class in their homes. He said the country is full of large homes that are empty. The reason is that the owners have been forced to sell all their possessions and furniture for food.

Since resigning from the United Nations von Sponseck has been travelling around the world speaking to groups and trying to raise awareness of this issue.

He was brought to Vancouver by the Campaign to End Sanctions Against the People of Iraq (CESAPI). CESAPI is a Vancouver based group that has been working to end the sanctions. The can be reached at (604) 942-2184 or by email at cesapivan@yahoo.com.





KELLY HOLLOWAY Canadian University Press

TORONTO University of Toronto professor who was spied on by the secret service fears a renewed crackdown on dissenting vices, echoing concerns of professors across Canada who say university administrators are doing nothing to protect faculty from government snooping.

John Gittins was one of two U of T geology professors spied on by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) between 1986 and 1990. He says current policy with regard to government spying is toothless and desperately needs to be revised in wake of the new anti-terrorism legislation the federal government is poised to enact.

"My colleagues who are still currently employed in the university might be advised to look at this policy and say 'do I really believe that assurance?'," Gittins said.

The topic has become a top priority in discussions among faculty across the country, according to the organization that represents Canada's professors.

"There's a generalized discussion at universities all over about whether there's going to be a return to some of the less tolerant periods in the past like the cold war years and like the McCarthy period," said James Turk, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

"If faculty members or students are having to look over their shoulders wondering if there's a CSIS informant in their midst it can make people reluctant to speak freely, and the essence of a university is a place where people can speak freely and argue different views."

An agreement signed with CAUT in the 1960s says CSIS cannot spy on university campuses without the consent of the solicitor-general, the federal minister in charge of the RCMP and CSIS.

The agreement was added to by a 1995 U of T policy which, when announced, was supposed to protect professors, stating "disclosure of personal information con-

1960s: CSIS undertook that they would have no undercover agents on university campuses unless they had specific and prior authorization from the solicitor-general. Agreement was ratified by the Pearson government and confirmed by governments in the 70s, 80s, and most recently 1996.

1986-1990: Isabel Laurence was an informant for the RCMP and CSIS at the University of Toronto. She was secretary to geology professors Anthony Naldrett and John Gittins, who were suspected due to contacts with scientists in former Eastern-Bloc countries during the Cold War period.

tained in university records should be regulated in a manner that will protect the privacy of individuals who are the subject of such information."

But Gittins does not feel comforted.

"It rather smacks of empty words," he said. "Where are the teeth in it? It doesn't say anything at all about disciplinary action.".

Gittins says that contrary to a U of T public affairs report that said the university did not fire the spy for fear of a media scandal, he was positive that that was exactly the case.

'There's no doubt about it," he said.

CSIS spokesperson Chantal Lapalme says investigations at universities require senior level approval, "and in some situa-

Laurence provided copies of their private letters and telexes to CSIS during her time there, but found that the research they were conducting was legitimate.

1989: Isabel Laurence tells her director at the University of Toronto of her position as an informant.

1990: Gittins and Pearson are informed of Laurence's spying. Human Resources director at the time, Micheal Finlayson, gives her a job at U of T's human resources department. tions when it involves direction of human sources and the use of intrusive devices, then ministerial approval is also required," she said.

"We don't report to the public, so we wouldn't report to campuses."

Angela Hildyard, U of T's vice-president of human resources, commented on the university's role in dealing with requests for information.

"If it's a matter where they come to the university and say 'we want to observe and follow somebody and check what their doing," we would have to have a subpoena or something that would obligate us under law to allow that to happen."

Lapalme assured that CSIS activity is sensitive to the special considerations of academic and personal freedom in a university setting.

"We don't investigate activities that constitute lawful advocacy, protest and dissent, unless carried out in conjunction with threats to the security of Canada," said Lapalme.

Turk raised concerns over current erosions of the Canadian privacy act, and Bill C-36, in light of what happened with Gittins and his colleague. "All of those things are being justified in the name of September 11 but to what extent do we sacrifice the things that we allegedly value in order to defend the things that we allegedly value."

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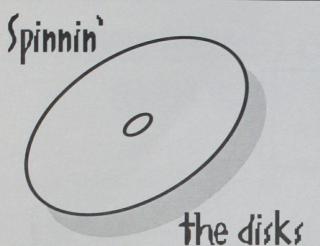
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Canadä



Love and Kisses from the Underground Handsome Devil BMG

The sound of Handsome Devil can be compared to Goldfinger, Blink 182, and going out on a limb Stone Temple Pilots. The tunes are really catchy and mainstream. The music is not heavy and you can actually make out what the singer is saying. Love and Kisses from the Underground is a good CD to introduce someone to Punk music.

Bleed America Jimmy Eat World DreamWorks

Bleed America, Jimmy Eat World's 4th album, is great. It's an album and a band, that stands out on its own. With a mixture of punk and rock this album can be listened to by a diverse group of people. Songs like "Sweetness", "Hear you me", and the title track "Bleed America" show the bands staying power.

Definitely one of the better discs

Five Live Universal

of the year.

Five is definitely a different angle for Live then their last album. It seems as if they jumped from melodistic to a heavier sound. The majority of the songs are fast with bold guitar and powerful lyrics. Yet, they still sound like themselves. The main highlights of the CD are "People like you", :Call me a fool", and "Hero of love".



The good answers A look at writer-director Damien Atkins

PHOEBE WANG

The Ubyssey, University of BC

It's an elusive state that so many stumble against, miss and fleetingly embrace. First there's the alarming prospect of deciding. Then there's the right attitude.

Atkins' risks are the kind that — at first — don't seem risky. "Success is a state of mind," he says. That makes too much sense to sound subversive.

Since his youth, writer-actor Damien Atkins' love has been the theatre, which he always approached professionally. And Atkins is right on target.

There's a tendency to focus on age when talking about Damien Atkins. It's not every day that an oh-so-young 25 year old is awarded \$25,000 for his first full-length play, Good Mother. Or that it premiers at the Stratford Festival.

Atkins has also staged two other shows, Miss Chatelaine and Real Live Girl; received a diploma in Theatre Arts from Grant McEwan College; and boasts a long list of acting credits.

In the glarelight and mirrors of a small dressing room, Atkins is in his proper atmosphere. A few evenings before opening night, the backstage is a distracting and noisy place. Despite that, maybe even because of the activity around him, Atkins responds attentively and readily. There's an even, modulated polish to his manner that shows his ease with public speaking.

"Do y'know what I mean?" he keeps asking, needing to affirm that he's being understood. But you always know what he means because his answers are so unerringly appropriate.

To Atkins, success is a personal, not a public, thing. It's this attitude that brought him to this dressing room. According to Atkins, there's a tendency to confuse success with results. At the moment you decide what you love to do, "the end result becomes irrelevant."

Atkins already knows that being able to devote his energy to acting and writing is the real measure of success. It is that disregard for the "end result" that makes him successful.

Pointing out the tendency to think there's a set formula for achieving results, he says, "that's the question everyone wants to know, how does this happen?"

With Atkins there isn't a single answer. His early start may have something to do with it. He acted and appeared in profession-



al productions at a young age, moved from his parents' home at the age of 16 to study theatre at college, and at 18 he continued his career.

"I was single-minded from a really young age," he says. Commitment is a valuable lesson to learn at any age, but if it's taught at a young age, it's even more of an advantage. "If you fall in love with something at such a young age as I did, you become quite focused when a lot of people haven't decided yet what they want to do."

Atkins says he's "still in training". He may have worked hard in his formal education, but he sees that as part of taking responsibility for his development. "I worked hard before I went to college and I worked hard after," he says.

He's already the youngest playwright to have a play premiere at the Stratford Festival, yet to Atkins, that privilege was also a risk. Aware of the size of the festival, he was anxious about keeping a voice in the production.

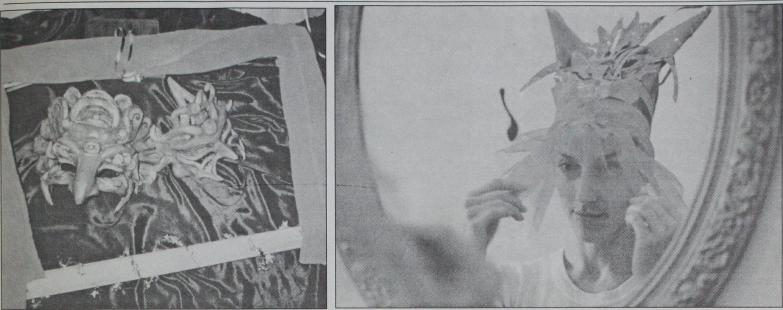
It was also a slightly frightening enterprise, rife with 'what ifs.' Atkins remembers his anxiety: "What if the the critics don't like it. What if the audience doesn't like it? What if it doesn't sell? Will I get a reputation? In the end you realise that all of those things kind of irrelevant," he says.

Remaining in Canada is yet another example of the kind of understated risk that Atkins often takes. He's especially excited by his home country's "particular unique tradition in theatre. There's the breadth of work, quality of work, and the quality of people to work with here, and I haven't exhausted those by any means yet. I love it here, there's lots to do here," he says exuberantly.

Risk is a basic philosophy of Atkins. "You've got to write something that hurts you, something that challenges you. The writer has to go through some form of the experience that he's hoping that the audience or the reader will go through, so that the journey that the audience takes is as fresh and surprising as it was for you."

Atkins' next few years are filled with projects. He mentions that each of his previous projects have been a different form of storytelling. And Atkins is not going to stop experimenting. He's trying to return to his first love, the short story. He's also been asked by Stratford to write a play about the 19th century abolitionist and writer, Fanny Kemble. Another recent project is a new play about gay rights and porn. Then there's acting as well. Atkins keeps pushing.

"We decide that people have certain limitations. Oh, you can't do that. It's always a shock to us when someone kind of proves the rule wrong. Y'know what I mean?"



ECD-N-Mas fair to hit BCIT Nov 27-29

PAUL DAYSON Link Managing Editor

The winter break is just around the corner-with it comes the season of gift giving and the task of finding presents for all your loved ones.

If you feel pressed for time can make a quick stop between classes at the EcoXmas Fair in the Great Hall on November 27-29 pick out some gifts and do the earth a favour in the process.

The fair will feature the normal Christmas crafts, but has an environmental bent. Among the vendors will be a number of artists who work with recycled or reused materials.

Oliver is an artist who does seminars for children, showing recycled materials such as marionettes or bird feeders out of plastic bottles, jumping frogs out of film cannisters and puzzles out of peanut butter jars.

He also offers a creative recycling book with over 50 project ideas.

Larissa is a dancer who first began making masks for her own performance company. Now she does custom orders for others.

Talking of one mask she gave as a gift to a friend she described his reaction. "He was floored," she said. "He was like a little kid when he got it."

The masks she builds are constructed from simple materialsbrown paper bags, clay, pieces of old jewelry, fabric and glue-

them how to make toys out of and are painted with watercolours. Each mask can take from three to four days to make.

> Ocean works with found objects building mostly furniture projects such as cabinets and tables but also makes art for walls and smaller pieces.

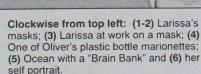
> "It's all original. I don't do it twice," said Ocean. "I find stuff and then I have to find the other pieces that fit with it."

Among the pieces she will be bringing to the EcoXmas Fair will be some of her "Brain Banks" — savings jars made from dolls heads.

Many of the artists will also be demonstrating their techniques during the fair.







PAUL DAYSON PHOTOS



Media group tackles consumerism

STEPHEN HUI Canadian University Press

VANCOUVER any people will defy the urge to spend money this Friday as an act of resistance against consumerism.

Individuals around the world will temporarily disengage themselves from consumer culture by participating in a financial fast to celebrate the eighth annual Buy Nothing Day, originally launched by the Vancouver-based Adbusters Media Foundation.

"We wanted to kick up a fuss and generate a debate about sustainable consumption," said Kalle Lasn, editor of Adbusters, a magazine published by the foundation.

Lasn observes that although industrialized countries comprise just a fraction of the world's population, they are responsible for exploiting the vast majority of its resources.

"The mother of all environmental problems is over-consumption in the First World," he said. "First World people are in denial."

The scale of Buy Nothing Day has expanded since its inception in 1993 to that of an international and widely celebrated event. Lasn attributes the event's popularity to the Internet; the foundation began promoting Buy Nothing Day on the Web in 1996.

says the g r o u p soon realized it was onto something.

He

"There's something about the words 'Buy Nothing Day' that tends to stop people in their tracks."

Lasn notes that this year's observance has been affected by the events of Sept. 11.

"This is the first time that leaders like President Bush have said, 'Go out and buy'," Lasn explains. "They have created a feeling that it's unpatriotic not to consume. So this is the first time we are going against some worthwhile enemies."

Lasn views Buy Nothing Day as a form of "culture jamming" — a means to subvert our heavily corporate and media-driven culture. He declares: "Culture jamming involves people who don't like consumer culture and look for all sorts of ways to jam it up. We find ways to make [consumerism] bite itself

in the tail." The foundation has repeatedly attempted to purchase air time for anti-consumerist "un-commercials" on the three largest U.S. television networks, without success.

However, it has managed to air a few ads on CNN Headline News. Lasn hopes to secure a spot on Inside Politics — a program on CNN's main channel — during the week of this year's Buy Nothing Day.

Lasn says the event should have special significance for university students. He says time spent on university campuses has lead him to worry that many students "don't get it."

He says he is troubled by the political indifference displayed by many students

these days, claiming that it generally takes an issue of clear self-interest, such as tuition fees, to mobilize them.

"When it comes to green politics and media decentralization, students are [apathetic]."

Nevertheless, Lasn is hopeful about future student involvement in the processes of achieving social change, and cites the anti-globalization movement as an example.

"The Battle of Seattle was the beginning of a new political youth movement," he said. "I feel optimistic that Buy Nothing Day, and culture jamming in general, will become a force to be reckoned with."

However, Kevin Evans, vice-president of the Retail Council of Canada, disputes the need for anti-consumerism at all.

"It's obviously an individual's choice as to whether or not they shop," he said. "If people didn't want to purchase what retailers have to offer, we wouldn't have stores, would we?"

Still, Evans does not completely write off Buy Nothing Day.

"Perhaps part of the value of a day like that is it gives people an opportunity to reflect on their consumption patterns. If it does that, I suppose it's a good thing."

Buy Nothing Day is celebrated the day after the U.S. Thanksgiving, typically America's busiest shopping day of the year.



NOVEMBER 21, 2001