

the *Link*

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INTERNSHIPS:

Work experience or
worker exploitation?



The Link

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ABOUT THE LINK

The *Link* is the student newspaper of the British Columbia Institute of Technology. Published bi-weekly by the BCIT Student Association (BCITSA), the *Link* circulates 3,000 copies to over 45,000 students, faculty, and staff.

THE LINK

Room 281 - Building SE2
3700 Willingdon Ave.
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3H2

PHONE

604.456.1167

FAX

604.431.7619

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER

John Morrison III
publications@bcitsa.ca
604.456.1167

ADVERTISING SALES

Andrea Lekei
sales@bcitsa.ca
604.453.4072

GRAPHER DESIGNER

Ion Oprea
graphicdesign@bcitsa.ca

EDITOR

Christina Jung
linkeditor@bcitsa.ca

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Chad Klassen (outgoing)
linkeditor2@bcitsa.ca

CULTURE EDITOR

Dave Swanson
linkeditor3@bcitsa.ca

THIS WEEK'S CONTRIBUTORS

Katie Chamberlain, Di Daniels, Errata
Fays, Thorstan Gerlach, Genevieve
Gobeil, Jeff Lagerquist, Gary Lim,
Gordon Newby, Jacob Samuel,
Michael Porfirio, Nathan Tennant,
Julia Whalen

Cover illustration: Ion Oprea

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linkeditor@bcitsa.ca for more
information.

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BCIT offers opportunity to learn in Europe

Opportunities open for students to explore three European countries in July

CHAD KLASSEN

Assistant Editor

It's cold and wet and winter is upon us, but next summer the BCIT International Exchange program is taking students to three different European cities.

The experience is all part of Summer School 2012, when students have the opportunity to travel overseas to Germany, Poland, and Ukraine in July.

"The idea is we send our students to Europe and they complete part of their credentials through our European [university] partners, and we accept the same number of students," says Kominko, who's helped to cultivate 11 partnerships with different post-secondary institutions abroad.

They'll earn six credits studying the business and history of Europe in the summer school.

But the deadline is coming up fast. Students interested in the trip need their formal application into the school of business by January 15th, 2012.

Much focus has been on the 23 students that are currently at BCIT on exchange. The school of business formally welcomed the exchange students by hosting a EuroVision event, bringing cultures together through food, costumes and dance from Germany, France, Austria, Denmark, and Ukraine.

The students are studying



Exchange students from Austria teach pub attendees about their native country.

Genevieve Gobeil

marketing management in the international trade and transportation program.

Maria Lettner is one of foreign students participating in the exchange program that's taken her from Austria to Canada in her pursuit of business management.

"The system at the BCIT is totally different compared to the system at my home university."

- Maria Lettner,
Austrian exchange student

"I want to work in the management sector. I want to manage production, make things more efficient, improve processes and stay in contact with the employees, suppliers, and customers," says Lettner.

She studies production and management at the Upper Austrian University of Applied Sciences and is now in the business operations management program, which Lettner says is quite similar to what's she's been studying back home.

"The system at the BCIT is totally different compared to the system at my home university," she notes. "At BCIT you have midterms, quizzes and assignments. You are always busy. At my home university, we don't have much homework and we have no quizzes or midterms. Everything depends on the final exam, which covers the entire semester. So there is a huge difference, but both systems work very well."

The experience has been enlightening for Lettner, especially meeting Canadians for the first time.

"It is an adventure, staying away from home for such

a long time, being in a big and unknown country. I have never been to a country where the people are so friendly and helpful, that is really amazing when thinking about Canada," she says.

For many of the students that have come to study at BCIT, the heavier course load has taken a toll on some of them, says Kominko.

"They don't have trouble adjust[ing] they just have different expectations," she notes. "That's why the academic culture at BCIT is a new experience for them. But it's different from student to student."

Every semester, the school accepts four students per university, meaning close to 50 are eligible to travel and study in Europe.

For more information on the international exchange opportunities available to students, visit bcit.ca/business/exchange

Write for the *Link* and you WILL get superpowers*



* Did we say superpowers? We meant writing experience, job opportunities, and some plain ol' fun.

BCIT giving to those in need

Students benefitting from generosity around campus as the holidays approach

CHAD KLASSEN
Assistant Editor

The charitable spirit is strong at BCIT, with several campus groups as well as individuals working hard to spread the holiday spirit to those in need.

Gift of choice program bringing joy to families

Twenty-five students and their families are in for a holiday treat, as the BCIT Student Association is delivering personalized hampers for Christmas through its Gift of Choice program.

For the past eight years, the BCITSA has teamed up with Financial Aid to provide support to BCIT families in need over the holidays.

Financial Aid chooses the 25 families, ones they think are the most in need, and submits the list to the BCITSA, which works to fill their Christmas wish list.

"The students who are most in, like those who regularly go without eating or go without essentials like clothing," explains Uconnect Administrative Assistant Jenn Fedyk.

The program is credited to the work of Dr. Verna Magee-Shepard, who contributed to the Gift of Choice in her early days.

The former vice president of student services was a strong advocate of providing students with the necessary resources to excel in their studies and life.

Departments, as well as clubs on campus, pitch in by adopting a family and put together a gift basket that the student can take home to his or her family.

The hampers range from food to toys to clothing and everything in between to ensure the student and family has what they need to enjoy the break.

"It is stuff you generally can't afford, especially students at BCIT because they are already paying for tuition, the U-Pass, and parking," notes Fedyk.

Families range from single moms who do not have the means to provide for their kids, to a married couple and their children who are in need.

Students fill out their wish list through the BCITSA, who tries its best to fulfill it.

"It includes stuff like what size of clothing they wear, what kind of toys their kids like, their favourite colours, what they like to do, stuff

they're missing around the house," Fedyk adds.

The BCIT Marketing Association is the only club on campus to adopt a family this year. It's an organization that prides itself on helping its fellow students.

"The program allows the association to give back to the BCIT community, while using marketing techniques and skills in creating fundraising events," says BCITMA President Kristina Cisnero.

The Student Association also takes donations from students, faculty and alumni, and that money goes towards purchasing items for the hamper.

One BCIT instructor generously donated \$1,000 to the Gift of Choice program this year.

One BCIT instructor generously donated \$1,000 to the Gift of Choice this year. The overall goal is to raise \$5,000 this winter.

Any remaining funds are put into the Emergency Food Fund program, which helps every student, not just families, with food and transit needs all-year long.

If you would like to help out a BCIT family over the holidays, visit the Uconnect Resource Centre in the Great Hall at Burnaby campus for more information.

Students provide clothing for locals in need

BCIT Marketing and Communications students are making a difference for families in Burnaby just in time for the winter break.

The group collected six boxes and two garbage bags full of clothes that will be sent to the Purpose Society in cooperation with the Burnaby Fire Department.

The non-profit organization provides local families with food, clothing and support during difficult times, and is especially in need over the holidays.

Organizer Marisa Forsyth says last year's clothing drive brought in 140 coats for Burnaby residents, and the group has surpassed that number in 2011.

The Marketing and Communications department also fundraised over \$2,000 for the Carroll Nelson Endowment Fund through a silent auction in the Great Hall. All the money's are going towards scholarships for marketing students who excel in their field.

NEWS BRIEFS

Composting program in res unlikely

Students living in the residences at BCIT are disappointed at the lack of a composting program. All 28 suites at Maquinna Residence are home to twelve students.

BCIT Housing Director Tom Moore has tried to implement composting before with little success.

"Composting at BCIT's residence doesn't exist because we have been unable to find a financially workable way to do it, or system that doesn't rely on volunteers, which are chronically unreliable."

Moore added that a worm composting system exists at the Burnaby campus, but is operating at full capacity. Until a cost effective system is discovered, there will be no composting at BCIT Residence.

— Nathan Tennant

Aboriginal Gathering Place opens at BCIT

This month BCIT students and staff celebrated the opening of the new Aboriginal Gathering Place, located in the new Gateway building. This space provides essential services for aboriginal students from small communities to transition smoothly into an urban environment. The gathering place is to provide a "home away from home, a family away from family as well as a sense of belonging," says Coordinator for Aboriginal Services Joanne Stone-Campbell.

The centre offers traditional cultural services such as talking circles and a sweat lodge. These traditional ceremonies are paired with academic assistance in order to provide a smooth transition for students. BCIT Aboriginal Services is unique in that it is accessible to all students and staff, unlike the one located at the University of British Columbia, which is only available to aboriginal students.

The centre is looking to expand its reach to the BCIT community, and have two additional phases planned to be built. However, with no further funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education, and no fundraisers planned in the near future, Aboriginal Services is in need of an additional \$2.6 million in order to complete the project.

— Katie Chamberlain

THE LINK IS HIRING

The *Link* is seeking a paid writer/editor to start next semester. Some writing experience is required. Hours are flexible. Time commitment is approximately 10 hours per week. You must be a current student.

Email publications@bcitsa.ca for more information.

Internet trolls: A primer

GARY LIM

Simon Fraser University

BURNABY, B.C. (CUP) — Deep within the inter-tubes, past the Nigerian princes who desperately need your help in securing their familial fortunes and the spam-bots yammering about discount Viagra and the free iPads you've already won, there lurks a creature fouler than you've likely dreamt.

A creature exiled by the Internet to live only in the darkest and deepest of the tubes. A hideous amalgamation of all that is wrong with humanity, its twisted visage a ghastly stone white, with a horrible, crooked grin framing each one of its enormous malformed teeth. It is the troll.

Now, you may think you know what a troll is: You know it as a fairy-tale creature that

lives to scare schoolchildren and incite other mischief, or perhaps as a mythical Tolkien-esque beast that can't be slain with anything less than a +3 broad sword and a roll of 18 or higher.

[A troll] is a person who delights in inciting anger, exasperation and grief through their online actions.

But you're mistaken. A troll represents everything that is wrong with the Internet; it is a person who delights in inciting anger, exasperation and grief through their online actions.

Whether the troll is spewing a violent torrent of profanity and racial epithets, or engaging in a heated debate it has no real investment in, or even an absolutely stunning display of ignorance, a troll's only goal is to make your day just a little bit worse.

Where do they come from? From what I can tell a troll is born from three parents: The anonymity provided by a computer screen, the natural human tendency to be a dick to others, and the fact we've yet to develop a way to punch people in the face over the Internet.

It is because of their anonymity that no one really knows what a troll looks like, a problem that led to the creation of Trollface. Also called Coolface by some, the meme originated in 2008 on a website called DeviantArt. The Troll-

face most notably appears in crudely drawn four panel comics depicting the artist's frustrations with daily life. Trollface, when used as a person is often accompanied with excessively long and squiggly arms and its signature catchphrase "Problem?"

Trollface isn't merely restricted to people however; in fact it's most common usage is in depicting occurrences that are simply bad luck. In the middle of an important call when your cellphone dies? Trollphone. Spending your first day off from work in weeks sick in bed? Trollcold. Something under a bridge keeps eating your Billy goats? Troll-uh ... troll.

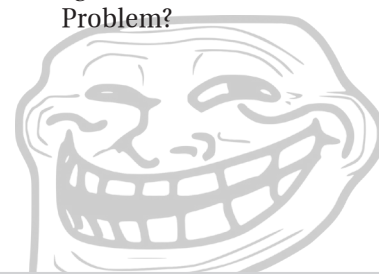
But what's really interesting to me about this is: Why the face? I mean, complaining about your day, week or life in general to a cold uncar-

ing Internet audience is nothing new — blogs have been around since forever. Perhaps, somehow putting a face on our woes makes them more bearable.

Presumably it lets the person trace their troubles back to some sort of malevolent sentence, even if said sentence is only in their head. It might stem from an inability to cope with life's purely random events.

Quite frankly, it could be for any number of reasons. The list is as vast as the human psyche, but the one we know for sure is you just lost the game.

Problem?



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The CBC is under ideological attack

Conservative cuts to the CBC's funding will hurt commercially independent Canadian programming

DAVE SWANSON
Culture Editor

When you are asked what makes Canada, Canada, what iconic symbols come to mind? Many will picture Granville Street during the Vancouver 2010 Olympics — a sea of polite folks dressed as red maple leaf cape crusaders. Maybe you see a bearded hockey player raising Lord Stanley's Cup (unfortunately not Roberto Luongo). You might even conjure up the image resourceful beaver perched on his majestic dam. Yes, these are all prevalent, cliché Canadian images, however, there is one marquee symbol that is as Canadian as it gets: the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

The CBC is Canada's national public radio and television broadcaster and a major player in producing Canadian culture. It uses the majority of its funding, received in the form of government subsidies, to produce original Canadian programming like David Suzuki's *The Nature of Thing*, *Q with Jian Ghomeshi* and *Hockey Night in Canada*.

Currently, The CBC has an annual budget of \$1.1 billion. This may seem like a substantial sum, but when compared to 18 other major western countries Canada only places 16th with \$34 per capita, which is 60 per cent less than the \$87 average. This figure is expected to decrease even further in the near future due

to Conservative government budget cuts. This is a serious problem.

The Harper Tories are hiding behind the classic linguistic guise of right-wing politics, a 'These are tough times and we need to reduce our national debt' mentality. Of course, this is total nonsense. On October 19th 2011, it was announced Irving Shipbuilding Inc. in Halifax would receive \$25 billion to build 21 large combat naval vessels. Could a portion of this money not be used to reduce the debt?

In reality, their suggested five to 10 per cent cut in CBC funding has nothing to do

with reducing debt and is only being framed in such a way to gain public support. Surprise, surprise, Harper has a hidden agenda. The real reason is ideological.

Historically, the CBC has

The CBC is a wounded soldier wielding an antic pistol. It is up against the heavily armed cavalry that is the American media.

been viewed as left-leaning media. The socially conscious programming they

produce and the liberal scope with which they present local and international politics is inherently dangerous to Conservative dogma. Harper knows the media can dictate public opinion and in order to remain in power he needs voters to share his ideals.

When speaking to the Canadian Association of Broadcasters in 2004, Harper said the Conservatives would "seek to reduce the CBC's dependence on advertising revenue and its competition with the private sector." However, in 2008, when the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage released a major

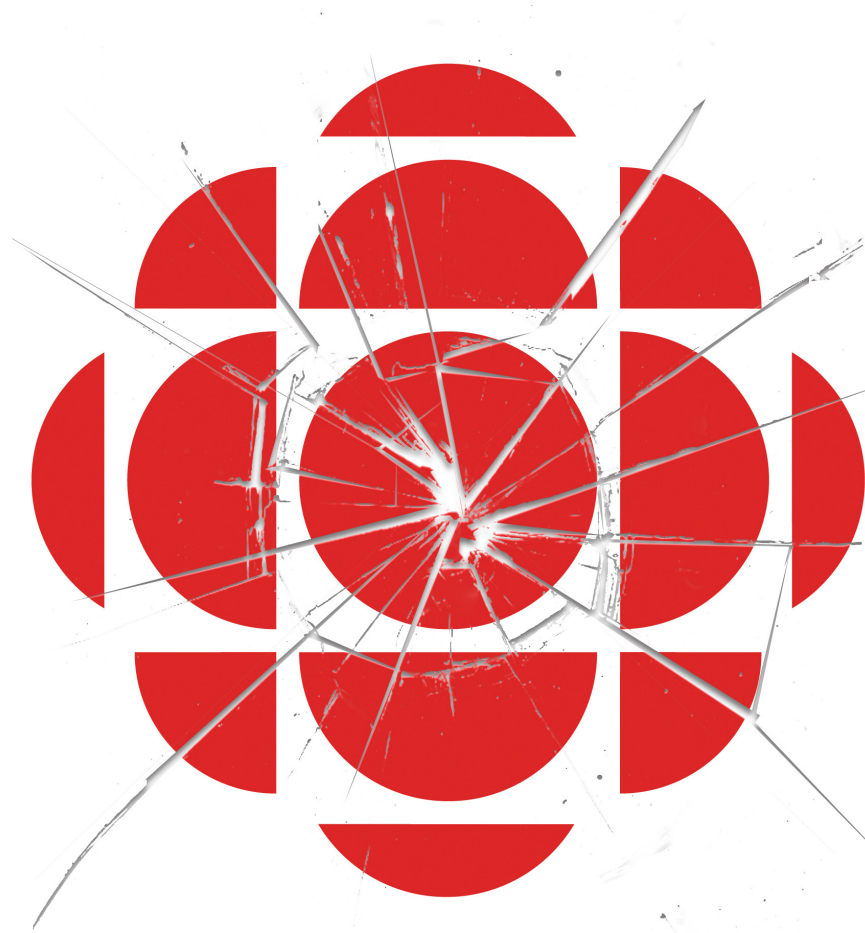
study on the future of the CBC that suggested an annual funding increase from \$33 per capita to \$40 over the next seven years, the Conservative's committee members voted against it.

The Conservatives' systematic and calculated attack on the CBC has been impressive. They cut funding which results in the production of lower quality programming. The Canadian public will recognize this decline, causing them to lose interest in public programming, devaluing The CBC. When this occurs, it justifies further funding cuts.

This will then force the CBC to seek funding from the private sector in the form of advertising revenues, hindering its creative autonomy. The production of commercial and mainstream content will become inevitable and give proponents of funding reductions a basis for which to eliminate all CBC government subsidies, effectively privatizing the CBC.

As of right now, The CBC receives a third of its total revenues from advertisers. If The CBC is forced to obtain the majority or all of its funding from advertisers, it will be detrimental to the Canadian cultural identity.

The CBC is a wounded soldier wheedling an antic pistol. It is up against the heavily armed cavalry that is the American media. If we do not provide it with adequate defence, it will be killed and Canada will succumb to a conservative agenda that is more concerned with protecting its own ideology than the Canadian public.



THOUGHTS?

linkeditor@bcitsa.ca



INTERNSHIPS:

Work experience or worker exploitation?

TORONTO (CUP) — Internships can put some real world experience on your résumé and even land you a job, but some employers see them as an opportunity to get work done cheap. With students desperate to build their portfolios, working for little or no money can seem like a viable option.

The problem arises from the fact that the laws surrounding internships are vague and usually not enforced. In the case of unpaid internships, many students end up working in illegal environments without realizing it.

Andrew Langille, a labour and employment lawyer in Toronto, says that internships have become a major part of the job market transition that young people go through.

“Unpaid internships are being

used as a proxy for entry-level positions and they’re allowing companies to not hire people, but to use a revolving door of unpaid interns to sustain the business and the operations,” he said.

The Employment Standards Act (ESA) has a six-point definition of a legal unpaid internship. Within that definition, it states that an unpaid internship should be the equivalent of a training program and should wholly benefit the intern.

Langille says that internships fall under precarious employment.

“Precarious employment is where you don’t have a lot of ties to the employer; it’s generally on a short-term basis on a contract with the employer. You may not get benefits,” he said. “If you’re making coffee, filing papers, pho-

tocopying, inputting data and so on and so forth, it’s probably not a training program, it’s probably illegal and it probably violates the ESA.”

Bruno Quarless* is a senior journalism student who had a summer internship at a well-known Toronto sports network.

With students desperate to build their portfolios, working for little or no money can seem like a viable option.

“That’s one of the reasons I moved to Toronto, I wanted to work for them,” he said. “Then I found out it would be unpaid, which was OK. Most are, which sucks.”

Quarless was working on search engine optimization content for the network two days per week. During his shifts he would write five to six 500-word stories on major sports while having to include phrases for optimization.

Quarless said he received very little feedback on his work in the four months he was working for the network. He didn’t feel that he gained any benefit from his time there.

“Basically I spent two days a week for four months cranking out 2,000 to 2,500 words of useless bullshit that no one saw, with no byline, no money, and not even something that I would put in my portfolio,” he said.

“I worked at a place that I always wanted to work at — and hated it and became completely disillusioned.”

Despite his negative experience, Quarless can understand why companies would take advantage of free work from eager

students.

“It really does pay off for them. It’s just so hugely disappointing.”

Although the laws are vague and the risk of exploitation is always a factor, internships can be an extremely effective means of gaining real world experience before graduation.

“The thing that’s so good about intern programs is that it gives people a relatively simple way to find out if they want to do this stuff, whether they enjoy it, and whether they are good at it,” said Roger Gillespie, the man in charge of hiring student interns for the *Toronto Star*, which pays its interns.

Gillespie explains that student internships also serve as a way for employers to see potential hires in action before offering a job. He makes it clear that interns should not expect full-time jobs.

“Don’t rely on some notion that you are going to get hired here, because that’s a stupid thing to do,” said Gillespie.

Last year, the *Star* employed 22 interns for their three programs and none were hired full-time. The interns themselves often set the pace of competition for scarce positions.

“Almost no one gets into our program who isn’t prepared to give up a chunk of their life,” said Gillespie.

Outworking your peers isn’t always the challenge, especially if you’re a business student. Some-



times staying focused on monotonous yet important tasks is the most difficult part.

Fourth-year business technology management student Paul Benton interned with CIBC World Markets for four months. After a rigorous three-part interview process, he found himself spending hours in front of an Excel spreadsheet filing reports for traders.

"I would say we were being exploited, but we were paid quite well. Twenty-two dollars per hour is at the higher end of the scale," said Benton.

As boring as it was, the experience paid off.

"Getting a job is a lot easier if you have an internship on your resumé. It's a big part of landing a position after you finish school," he said.

Practical work experience is an important part of a resumé, but arts industries are less likely to pay for your time.

Louis Calabro is a manager of the Genie and Gemini awards for

the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television (ACCT). The ACCT hires unpaid interns for six-month internships. The workers are required to come in for 12 hours per week.

"We're a not-for-profit organization so we don't have a lot of excess cash floating around," said Calabro. "The internship is a way to provide experience for somebody who's maybe just coming out of school or who may be in school at the same time. It's not really meant to be a situation where you're going to be making tons of money."

The ACCT generally hires interns from arts and science programs. The interns' responsibilities range from labeling, filing and boxing things up to putting together screener packages for nominating committee members and organizing information for the nominating committee.

"We function like any production company would on the office

side of things. So I truly believe that does provide a lot of experience," he said.

Langille said, "In the case of internships, whether you're going to get the minimum wage is a big question. A lot of the internships aren't paid."

Unpaid internships are being used as a proxy for entry-level positions.

While internships provide real-world experience before graduation, there are other ways to build a resumé and break into your chosen profession.

"There are other ways to gain professional experience and I find that increasingly many students in the journalism program are working at a professional level almost from day one and keep on doing so even if it's as a freelancer, part-time, or contract, in their summers or

spare time," said Ivor Shapiro, chair of Ryerson's journalism program.

Still, the job market's demand for practical workplace experience is a reality for most Ryerson students.

"This has a wider impact on

society because people are putting off life milestones, such as getting married, moving out of their parents' home, entering into relationships, having kids, buying a house, saving for retirement," said Langille.

"This is a phenomenon that is affecting [current] generations and will affect the coming generations that are entering the labour market."

*names have been changed

Unpaid internships in British Columbia

by Dave Swanson



The legality of unpaid internships varies from province to province. In the case of British Columbia, an internship's lawfulness appears to be defined in reference to the definition of work, employee, and employer.

According to the employment standards branch of the provincial Ministry of Labour, an unpaid internship is only legal if it is completed as a practicum for academic credit.

A representative at the Richmond branch told the *Link*, "If [unpaid interns] are students and hired to do a practicum, then they are not required to be paid."

A company is not required to pay wages if the internship is a volun-

teer position. However, for a position to be considered volunteer by the provincial Ministry of Labour, the work performed by the intern must not be the same to someone else that is a paid employee. The same employment standards Rich-

In British Columbia, an unpaid internship is only legal if it is completed as a practicum for academic credit.

mond branch representative stated, "Even if the employer says that [an intern's role] is a volunteer position — but the person's duties are the same as what an employee would do — then they are an employee

and deserve wages. . . . [The legality of an unpaid internship] all depends on the nature of the duties and nature of the relationship."

The belief that unpaid internships are unethical is largely dependent on who you ask. UBC

Alma Mater Society President Jeremy McElroy believes "90% of the population can't afford to take on unpaid internships so it perpetuates income inequalities amongst students and gives students from

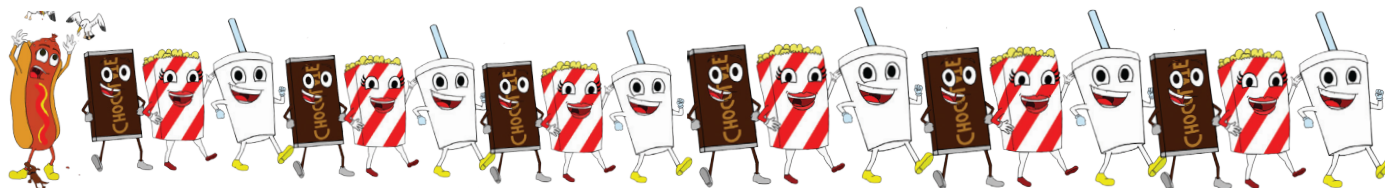
higher income families an unfair advantage in seeking post-grad employment."

Nicole Freeston, an SFU undergraduate, worked as an unpaid intern reporter with the Vancouver Canucks. She believes her experience was invaluable in building her professional skillset.

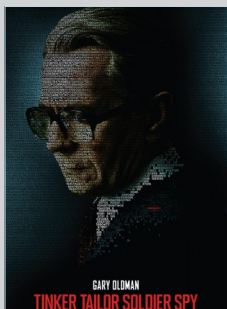
"It turned out to be one of the best experiences of my life. I realized that you can't measure everything in dollars. I gained experience working in a fast-paced media environment where I enhanced my writing, website and photo editing skills. My time with the Vancouver Canucks helped me gain industry connections and a paid internship the next year."

DECEMBER FILM PREVIEW

with Thorstan Gerlach



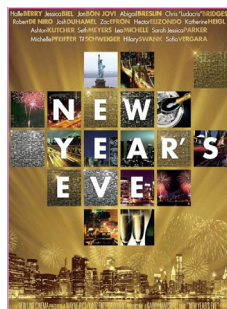
Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy (December 9)



Oscar may just be calling to Gary Oldman for his performance as George Smiley, a disgraced British spy who is hired in secret by his government which fears that the British Secret Intelligence Service has been compromised by a double agent working for the Soviets. The film is based on John Le Carre's Cold War novel of the same name and like the book, expect a thrilling ride.

VERDICT: SEE IT

New Year's Eve (December 9)



New Year's Eve in New York City can be quite exciting but don't count on it in director Garry Marshall's *New Year's Eve*, a film that reunites Marshall and writer Katherine Fugate, who collaborated in last year's *Valentine's Day*. In this ensemble romantic-comedy of intertwining stories of love, heartbreak, and second chances, expect the usual schmaltz and a bevy of A-listers. If *Valentine's Day* was an indication of anything, it's that a score of A-listers doesn't make a movie good.

VERDICT: SKIP IT

The Sitter (December 9)



What happens when three horrible children are placed in the care of the world's most irresponsible babysitter? Hilarity, of course! Jonah Hill stars as the titular sitter who, after a phone call from a hot and horny girl across town, takes the three children on a wild adventure across New York City. Expect a few shallow laughs but not a great movie. David Gordon Green directs.

VERDICT: SKIP IT

Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (December 16)



When the Impossible Missions Force is shut down after being implicated in bombing the Kremlin, Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) and his new team of badasses go undercover to clear the organization's name. *Ghost Protocol* is the fourth film in the *Mission: Impossible* series and it will be interesting to see how the makers of this film bring new life to the franchise. However, with J.J. Abrams writing and Brad Bird directing — and a solid cast to boot — *Ghost Protocol* sounds very promising.

VERDICT: SEE IT

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (December 16)



Robert Downey Jr. is back as Sherlock Holmes as he attempts to catch the nefarious criminal mastermind, Dr. Moriarty — a man who may just be Holmes' toughest case yet. The toughest case for audiences, however, will be sitting through another confusing and hapless Guy Ritchie film. Jude Law, Rachel McAdams and Noomi Rapace who played Lisabeth Salander in the Swedish version of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* co-star.

VERDICT: SKIP IT

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (December 21)



The first installment of Columbia Pictures' movie adaptation of Steig Larsson's Millennium Trilogy, the first book has sold 50 million copies worldwide alone, will be the biggest movie of the year. Directed by David Fincher, the director responsible for last year's masterful *The Social Network*, this American adaptation is sure to make everyone forget about the Swedish movies and propel Rooney Mara — who plays heroine Lisabeth Salander — to stardom. Daniel Craig and Christopher Plummer star.

VERDICT: SEE IT

The Adventures of Tintin (December 21)



Already a huge hit in Europe, where the film premiered in October, Steven Spielberg's take on Hergé's beloved tale of a young intrepid reporter whose pursuit of a good story lands him on a wild adventure. *Tintin* is sure to be a huge hit across the pond as well. Jamie Bell stars as Tintin and Daniel Craig co-stars as the treacherous Red Rackham.

VERDICT: SEE IT

We Bought a Zoo (December 23)



Matt Damon plays a father who moves his young family to the California countryside to renovate and re-open a struggling zoo. This marks Cameron Crowe's first picture since 2005's *Elizabethtown* and, like that film, expect much of the same disappointment. Scarlett Johansson co-stars.

VERDICT: SKIP IT



The cast of NBC's *Community* might not return come January.

NBC

Put *Community* back in, coach!

A mid-season schedule shuffle ruffles feathers

JULIA WHALEN

St. Thomas University

FREDERICTON (CUP) — American television network NBC announced its new mid-season 2012 schedule this month, premiering four new series. One show in particular, however, was missing from the line-up.

Community, a series created by Dan Harmon about a group of students at a community college in fictional Greendale, Colorado, was pulled from its regular time slot on Thursday. *30 Rock*, starring Tina Fey, will return to the line-up to take its place.

"I was extremely disappointed when I learned that *Community* wasn't put on the proposed schedule for last year. NBC is making a big mistake," said third-year St. Thomas University student Liam McGuire in an email.

But McGuire isn't the only viewer upset by the news.

Use of the hashtags "#savecommunity" and

"#savegreendale" exploded on Twitter when the announcement was released, and multiple Facebook pages have been created to protest the network's decision.

McGuire said the hiatus is unfortunate because of the current state of NBC's comedies. Besides *Parks and Recreation*, he said, the comedy pool is shallow.

"I really hope that NBC changes its mind, because this show is too damn good to just give up on. [On] what other show would you have Omar from *The Wire* as a teacher, Chevy Chase being a racist old man who owns a moist-towelette empire and 'Troy and Abed in the Morning?'" McGuire said, referring to the characters' fake morning talk show.

But while *Community* receives high praise from critics as well as viewers, its ratings don't match up with its seemingly adoring viewership.

Ratings website TV By the Numbers showed last Thursday's *Community* viewership dwarfed by CBS's *The Big Bang Theory* — the latter had over 15 million viewers, while NBC's comedy had just under four

million.

Marc Basque, a student at York University in Toronto, said the problem lies in the way our generation accesses media.

“Everyone who watches *Community* (i.e. young people) doesn't have cable.”

"Everyone who watches *Community* (i.e. young people) doesn't have cable," he said in a Facebook post. "We're the streaming and downloading generation. So even though everyone you know watches it, we're not actually helping. We're just enjoying it for free."

In the era of downloading television shows and movies for free, it's possible to forget that networks rely heavily on ratings to decide where shows fit in daily line-ups as well as which ones remain on air.

Cameron McLean, a St. Thomas University graduate, said while he loves the series, its recycled cheerful

message could also explain why it's on the chopping block.

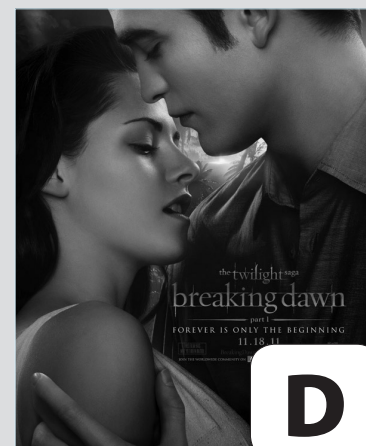
"I feel that a lot of the episodes have a climax based upon inter-group conflict that's resolved by a feel-good speech delivered by [main character] Jeff about camaraderie and why they should stay the course, stick together [and] hang out more," he said. "I think it's a really great show regardless, but the really great episodes are becoming fewer and further between."

NBC hasn't yet released an official statement about the show's shelving, but are allegedly vowing that the series hasn't been cancelled and will resume at a later date. The last episode before the hiatus will be the show's Christmas episode.

McGuire said he hopes that television doesn't lose another quality show like Fox's *Arrested Development*.

"Sometimes I wish shows would stay on the air because of quality and not be solely based on viewership," he said. "If it gets cancelled, I will have no reason to watch NBC on Thursday nights."

MOVIE REVIEW



BREAKING DAWN PART ONE

As I exited the theatre after watching the fourth film in the *Twilight* saga, a friend remarked that what's great about the *Twilight* films is seeing a book you love come to life on the big screen, that these films aren't made to win Oscars but to attempt to bring fans of the Stephanie Meyer's series as personal a relationship with the movies as they had with the books.

If that's the case, I hope to never read those books.

Breaking Dawn Part One sees sexy vampire Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) marry human tomboy Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) in one of the more uninteresting weddings captured on film.

Edward impregnates the virginal Bella. The spawn child they conceive is considered an abomination and the wolf pack — the enemies of the vampire coven — are out to get it.

Director Bill Condon, who has made reputable films like *Gods and Monsters*, *Kinsey*, and *Dreamgirls*, has very little to work with. Condon tries to get the most out of his actors, using plenty of close-ups to try and capture whatever can pass as human emotion. Taylor Lautner, the werewolf-boy who's still in love with Bella, is terrible. He can't act. Lautner delivers his lines with the vitality of a pouting, cry-baby teenager and is arguably the worst part of this movie. And for this film, that's saying something.

If you aren't a devoted follower of the Stephanie Meyer books or of the previous movies stay away.

— Thorstan Gerlach

Twitter 101: Tweeting for beginners

Expert tweeter Michael Porfirio shares some insight for reluctant users to understanding the twitterverse

MICHAEL PORFIRIO

Wilfred Laurier University

Communication has come a long way since the carrier pigeon. In fact, it seems like just yesterday I was talking to my best friend via paper cups with a string in between. Now we have computers and smart phones which allow us to send a mass message across the world with just the click of a button. MySpace gave us some fun for a few weeks, and Facebook continues to monopolize the social networking scene, so where does Twitter come into play? There are only three types of people in the world, those who have Twitter, those who don't, and grandparents.

Those who have Twitter love Twitter, those who don't have Twitter truly believe it is idiotic, and our grandparents still think "twitter" is a dirty word.

"Hold on a sec, isn't Twit-

ter, like, pretty much, like, updating your Facebook status, like, all the time?" Why yes, yes it is generic teen girl; however, there is more to it.

Naturally, we all have our own opinions and most of us want them to be heard. Twitter offers more than the ability to share with your followers what you are eating for dinner, or that it's your little cousin's fifth birthday today, it allows you to express who you are. People are vastly different and that reflects on the type of tweeters they become. Here is my attempt at giving you a better understanding.

The Opinion Tweeter:

This is without doubt the most popular and annoying way to use Twitter. Simply expressing what they hate, love, and why; treating the site as if it is a public diary used to vent their emotions.

The Information Tweeter:

The easiest and quickest way to find out what is happening in the world is through these people. The second they hear something, they tweet it. Between info-tweeters and trending topics (sub-

jects most commonly being talked about), Twitter will be sure to permanently keep you in the loop. You can also follow more specific news sources that are more suited to your interests. (@MTV, @CNN, @Cordnews)

The Comedy Tweeter

There are a lot of funny people out there, some with absolutely hilarious outlooks on life. In the comedy world, Twitter acts as a powerful tool, allowing aspiring comedians to network with each other. Personally, this has always been my cozy niche. My followers are the audience and it is my job to entertain them through humour. Keep in mind Twitter only allows 140 characters per tweet, so jokes must be concise and to the point. From making fun of celebrities, to witty one liners, there are multiple people on Twitter dedicated to making you laugh. (@robdelaney, @meganamram, @thesulk)

The No-Tweeter

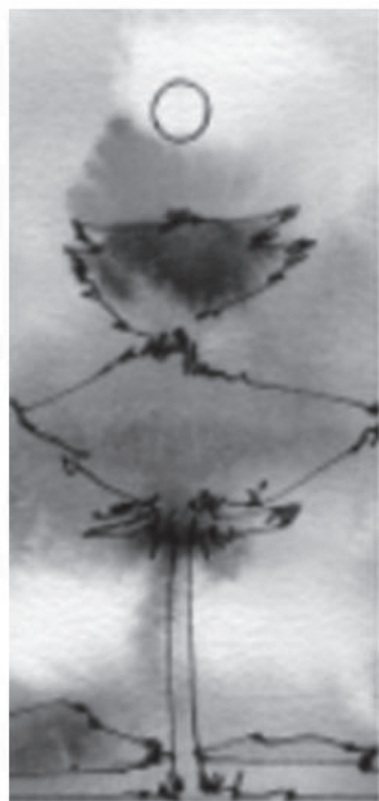
Tweeting isn't for everyone, but that certainly does not mean there is no place for you. The top excuse for not



creating an account is "but I have nothing to say!" Despite that being incredibly false, you don't have to worry about constructing fascinating tweets if you don't want to. Many people use Twitter solely for the purpose of following their favourite celebrities, television shows, and sports teams. (@Ladygaga, @MapleLeafs, @BarackObama)

Once again, this was just to give you a better understanding of the misconceived website. Through experience you will learn

about hashtags, retweets, favourites, and all that Twitter jargon. Just know that the site doesn't primarily consist of Kim Kardashian tweeting about her captivating love-life; it has a lot more depth than that. You may come to realize that Twitter, and social networking in general, is not your cup of tea, in which case I don't know what to tell you. I suppose you can go enjoy reading your so-called "books" or what ever those things are. I'll be in my room tweeting all night if you need me. (It's not what it sounds like Grandma!)



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BCITSA Info & News



Join us for Zen Lounge December 13 & 14

The BCITSA would like to invite all students to our Zen Lounge, taking place over December 13 and 14. Take a quick break between your final exams and treat yourself to a FREE 10-minute relaxing massage or reiki session in the Great Hall. Chill out with a 20-minute Sound Fusion session in the SA Council Chambers on December 14.

Let the expert massage therapists from the PCU College of Holistic Medicine, reiki experts from the West Coast Reiki Centre and the sound fusion experts from Crystal Spirit take your test anxiety down a level and give you the opportunity to change the way you perceive your exam. It's our pleasure to offer you, the student body, this opportunity to make a positive impact on the outcome of your day.



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certification is available
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Resource Centre.

Email uconnect@bcitsa.ca for more information.

zen lounge

Massage therapy,
reiki, & sound fusion

FREE
for BCIT students

Great Hall
Dec 13
11am-2pm

**Great Hall &
SA Council Chambers**
Dec 14
11am-2pm

Uconnect

Executive Weigh-In



A message from BCITSA School of Business Chair Gordon Newby

With the holidays just around the corner, the focus for students has to be final exams. If you're like me, you're wishing that the days were just a little bit longer, caffeinated beverages flowed in abundance, and sleep was no longer a necessity. I encourage everyone to keep at it, ask for help if you need it, and do your best. After all, this too shall pass.

I consider myself lucky to have a solid support system in place here at BCIT. I can't imagine my life at BCIT without the wonderful staff, and the fantastic resources available to myself and to all students. If you're feeling the pressure associated with tests and finals, I encourage you to stop by the Uconnect Resource Centre where you can find a tutor or off-campus resources to guide you through this time.

I would also like to address an ongoing issue on campus. The Student Association is aware of the failing internet issue, and is working diligently with BCIT to fix the problem. Due to the rapid increase of tablets, smart phones and laptops, the current system is being bombarded and subsequently overloading. The most recent update I have received is that a solution is in the works.

On a lighter note, did you know that BCIT has a planetarium? In fact, I am proud to say that BCIT is the *only* educational institution in Western Canada that has one of its own. Built in the 1960s and located in SW3 of our Burnaby campus, it is an amazing sight to behold and I recommend everyone check it out. One of my current initiatives is increasing awareness and usage of this cool, retro space. Hats off to stargazer Bill Burnyeat: operator and cosmic genius.

Wishing everyone a joyful and safe festive season!

BCITSA Annual Sponsors



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Check out the BCIT Student Association's Facebook page for our favourite 'staches of November 2011!

Dr. Verna Magee-Shepherd

Gift of Choice
Holiday Campaign

November 2 - December 9

Contact us if you would like to help students and their families in need over the holiday season.

BCIT

Uconnect Resource Centre
SE2-286 604.451.7087
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BCIT STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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CLOTHING GIFTS BAGS

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GEARED UP

*2nd item must be of equal or lesser value. some restrictions may apply. plus HST.

BCIT STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Dear Di

with Di Daniels (University of Ottawa)

Dear Di,

I know this isn't technically a sex question but my roommates and I feel you're the right person to turn to. This summer, a new guy moved into our house. We all share one shower and take turns cleaning it. Recently, the drain became clogged and we discovered the blockage was caused by some hair and something that looks like semen. We all know better than to masturbate in the shower, so that leaves us with one offender: Our relatively new roommate. How do we confront him about this? And is there a way to be 100 per cent sure it's semen?

—Grossed out in Gloucester

Dear GG,

There certainly is a way to be sure the slimy substance is semen: Take a sample to the lab and test it. Not will-

ing to do that, are you? Of course not. Fortunately for you and your roommates, you can solve this sticky situation without playing Nancy Drew.

You seem convinced there's only one drain-clogging culprit, but you can't really be sure, can you? Showers are the perfect place to fondle the family jewels: You don't have to worry about lubricant, your privacy, cleaning up, or being overheard. Frankly, I'd be shocked if your new roomie was the only one in the house to have succumbed to the temptation of shower sausage stroking.

In the interest of keeping the peace, I suggest you refrain from pointing fingers unfairly. Call a house meeting and discuss the situation without placing blame. Although you've already hashed it out with the majority of the house members, play it off like you haven't so

you don't alienate and isolate the new guy. Let everyone know it's not cool to clean their man pipe in the shower and explain why. After you've made your case, laugh it off and drop it.

Try your best to tackle this issue with taste and tact. For all you know, the goopy white gunk may not even be man syrup—it could be someone's extra rich hydrating conditioner clogging up that drain.

Love,
Di

• • •

Dear Di,

I am boy crazy, but the guys I tend to like are white and I'm not. I'm so scared to go up to a guy who is a different race than I am. How can I figure out if a guy is attracted to non-white women before I approach him?

—Looking for a White Guy

Dear LWG,

I think you'd be hard pressed to find someone who can definitively say, "I am sexually aroused by the sight of any X-coloured person." And if you did happen to meet someone like that, you'd probably be a little creeped out, right? Allow me to elaborate.

When you spot a white dude who turns your crank, is it actually the colour of his skin that gets your juices flowing? Or is it his to-die-for green eyes? His suck-on-me full lips? His razor-sharp cheekbones? I hope you see my point here—the pigmentation of a person's epidermis is not what makes him or her smoking hot. It's the composition of their facial features, their amazing sense of humour, or the way their ass looks in a pair of well-fitting jeans. Sexy skin tone is only one part

of the equation, not the bottom line.

Any hottie worth getting horizontal with will be horny for you because he's bowled over by your beautiful breasts, your phenomenal personality, or your luscious locks—not the fact that you're black, brown, white, purple, or polka-dotted. The moral of the story is this: If a guy is concerned about the colour of your skin, he probably isn't someone you should waste your time with anyways.

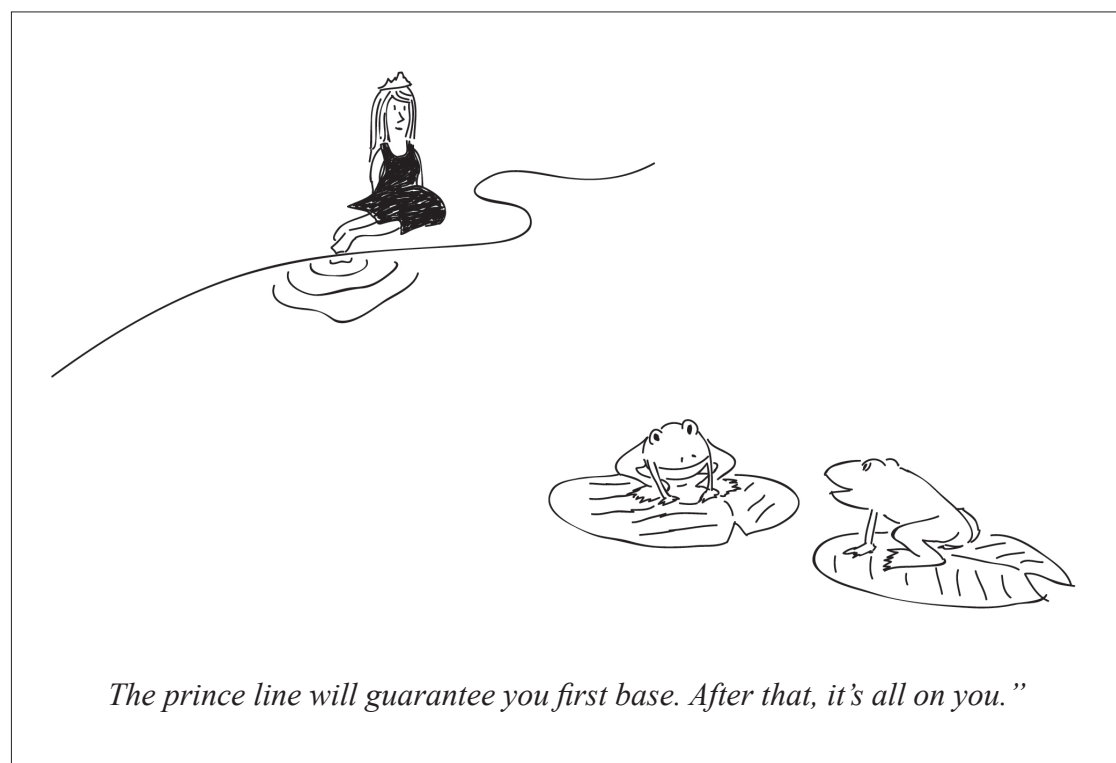
Love,
Di



Post-It Comics - Errata Fays (Link original)



The Daily Snooze - Jacob Samuel (Simon Fraser University)



The *Link* is hiring a sex columnist! Please send a writing sample to linkeditor@bcitsa.ca before January 4 to apply!