

SUMMER SUPPLEMENT

PAGES 6-9

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ABOUT THE LINK

The Link is the British Columbia Institute of Technology's student newspaper. Published biweekly by the BCIT Student Association (BCITSA), The Link circulates 3,000 copies to over 46,000+ students, faculty, and staff.

THE LINK

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PHOTO of the WEEK



In celebration of 100 years of distinction in public health protection, the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspection donated a tree to BCIT to acknowledge the environmental health program for its educational contribution to public health.

Wini Lao

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

What are your plans for the summer break?



TROY KELLY
Computer Systems Technology

"Summer job, just the standard thing to do to pay off those student loans."



ADAM OLARTE
Financial Management

"Take one course here, chill with friends, eat, work out."



DANIELLE CHANPONG
Real Estate

"To get a job right away after graduation!"



JENNY TREVIS
Nursing

"I'm taking courses. And working."



New student representatives pose for a victory shot.

Neetu Garcha



President-elect Rebecca Davidson moments after being elected

Neetu Garcha

Newly elected student representatives excited to take office

BCIT Student Association sees reduced voter turnout despite high number of candidates

NEETU GARCHA
News Editor

Despite low student engagement, the BCIT Student Association (BCITSA) has a new council eager to take office following the election on Friday, April 19.

Incoming president Rebecca Davidson won in a landslide with 1,126 votes, more than double the combined number of votes for the three candidates who also ran for the position.

PJ Krider came in second with 336 votes, followed by Kevin Hipolito with 156. The fourth-place presidential candidate, Triston Gillon, had 37 votes.

Davidson said she had been vying for the position of president since current president Daniel Huh took office last year, and was confident she would reach her goal.

"I guess I got a little ambitious and confident, but I actually turned down a job a month ago for the summer," Davidson told *The Link* just minutes after it was announced she would be the incoming president.

"It's awesome that I'm going to be here [at BCIT] for the summer because I knew I really wanted it and I couldn't take a job that was going to make it so I couldn't be here," said Davidson.

Eirene Cloma was another landslide winner with 849 votes for the position of vice

president of student affairs. Cloma was creative in her campaigning and said she was remembered by her unique approach, which included the creation of a rap and accompanying music video.

"The way I campaigned, I tried to keep it as paperless as possible," said Cloma. "I made a video and then I made a website as well, so I tried to kind of speak the language of the students."

Marwan Marwan, who serves dual roles as the current vice president of student affairs as well as chief returning officer said the election was positive overall because of the number of candidates that ran.

However, Marwan said that he was not as happy with the voter turnout and student engagement during the campaigning period.

Davidson said she had been vying for the position of president since current president Daniel Huh took office last year.

"BCIT students are not engaged, which is really sad and I think this is reflected in the [voting] numbers," said Marwan. "It's actually really sad, there's definitely voter apathy and lack of interaction and lack of involvement."

In an interview with *The*

Link, Marwan described the campaign period as both exciting and heated at times.

"We received a few complaints from students regarding the way candidates were doing some of the campaigning and the election committee looked at everything and evaluated it," said Marwan.

Marwan said issues included complaints about posters being torn down, and some voters expressing that they felt misled or misinformed.

Marwan attributed low voter turnout to the fact that elections are held during final exam period, BCIT's heavy workload, and current executives who he felt did not do a sufficient enough job making the campaign more visible — something he hopes is remedied in the future.

"If you combine those [issues], you create an environment where students don't care because we're not reaching out to them or don't care because they're just overworked," said Marwan. "I think we're all accountable for this."

According to the incoming president, there will be a transition day, where current executives will impart wisdom on the incoming executives.

"It will be a day where we spend four hours with our current executive and we just go through things they wish they knew when they first started in office," said incoming president Rebecca Davidson.

The incoming executive and council members will spend the next month preparing for their new roles and will take office on June 1.

PRESIDENT	VOTES
Rebecca Davidson	1,126
Triston Gillon	37
Kevin Hipolito	156
PJ Krider	332
VICE PRESIDENT, ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE	
Brad Johnson	951
Ryan Markloff	298
VICE PRESIDENT, EXTERNAL	
Mike Hanson	975
Martin Javier	354
VICE PRESIDENT, CAMPUS LIFE	
Yasamin Alami	1,031
Allan Brigden	191
Jared Goring	120
VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENT AFFAIRS	
Eirene Cloma	849
Tyler Hlynsky	138
Joseph Hou	338
CHAIR, SCHOOL OF BUSINESS	
Jay Jung	462
Dominka Pilat	178
CHAIR, SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES	
Michael Nguyen	77
Alicia Parayno	129
CHAIR, SCHOOL OF ENERGY	
Tariq Shobab	166
Daniel Yen	91
CHAIR, SCHOOL OF TRANSPORTATION, CONSTRUCTION & THE ENVIRONMENT	
Tony Atkins	93
Xiaochun Cao	15
Emily Pawluk	128
Ramiza Rafeeq	215
Jeremiah Tantongo	62
CHAIR, SCHOOL OF COMPUTING & ACADEMIC STUDIES	
Hung Le	579 YES / 80 NO
CHAIR, AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS	
David Barkham	56
Daniel Sumano	125
CHAIR, DOWNTOWN CAMPUS	
Emilio Da Silva	54 YES / 8 NO

Electronic textbook sales low at BCIT

Cost and format differences might be making electronic textbooks an unattractive option for BCIT students

OLSY SOROKINA

The Link

Electronic book sales have been consistently low across post-secondary schools in BC, and BCIT is no exception.

Electronic versions of textbooks have been offered at BCIT for a few years now, but numbers show that students still prefer the traditional, paper-based textbooks to the electronic version.

BCIT bookstore course materials buyer Rebecca Scott says that while the electronic book sales for the past fiscal year have gone up 25 per cent, they make up a very small part of the overall book sales.

"We keep hearing about how everyone wants digital and electronic, and there is

certainly some sales activity, but it's not like everyone wants digital," Scott told *The Link*. "The e-book sales were less than \$100 000, which would be about two per cent of the overall sales."

Scott explained that while the electronic textbook trend is not picking up at other post-secondary bookstores either — averaging five to six per cent of overall sales — low numbers at BCIT may be partially the result of the institution's large trade sector.

According to Scott, most trades programs use modules instead of academic textbooks. The modules are binders that contain lessons and exercises — students are required to have a hard copy.

"It actually wouldn't make sense to have them in an e-book version because they are workbooks," Scott explains. Electronic versions of the modules would still require students to print parts of the books, defeating the

main purpose of paperless e-books.

Another reason Scott feels electronic versions of textbooks are not as popular among BCIT students as paper-based textbooks might be the lack of a consistent format across different e-book publishers.

"There are ones that are just a PDF version of the paper-based version in its entirety, and then you can get an e-book version that's interactive," Scott explained. "There's not much standardization for the industry and it gets more confusing for everybody."

In addition to format issues, students cannot browse electronic textbooks as they can with the paper-based versions.

E-book publishers offer different ways to get their books: some offer cards with access codes, while others redirect the students to a website where the books are sold.

Scott says this inability to see the product makes students hesitant to pay the hefty price for an e-book.

"As a bookstore, it is a bit difficult for us when this is what we're selling, the student then wants to know what the e-book looks like," Scott says. "It's difficult for us to help a student when we really don't know."

“Low numbers at BCIT may be partially result of the institution's large trade sector.”

Finally, the cost of electronic textbooks is not much kinder on the student budget than paper-based books.

While most students expect the less tangible product

to be less expensive, Scott explains that in reality they are only about two-thirds of the cost of a paper-based version due to the content:

"It's not huge savings, especially if the student is then going to find that they need to print out a lot of these pages."

Despite the current situation, Scott remains optimistic about the future of the electronic textbook. She says that instructors in the schools of business and health sciences at BCIT have also been requesting more electronic textbooks to be available to their students.

Scott explained that the bookstore has been making a concerted effort to add more electronic textbook titles to their virtual shelves in the past academic year. And with the increasingly common use of tablets and smartphones in the classroom, the electronic textbook might just make a comeback at post-secondary bookstores yet.



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Staycation 2013: *The Link's* summer arts guide

Keep cool this summer with these hip happenings

JESSE WENTZLOFF

Culture Editor

So. School is wrapping up and it's almost time for summer break. Too bad BCIT's tuition and rigid payment structures mean you'll be working all summer instead of flying off to beaches, festivals, and European backpacking odysseys.

Fear not! *The Link* has you covered for everything you need to spend a summer stuck in the lower mainland.

Let's be honest. It could be a lot worse. You could be in Edmonton.

LOCAL MUSIC

You've missed Coachella and even a trip down to Sasquatch is going to cost you a month's rent — tough to justify when you're already eating ramen three meals a week and asking your relatives for their old pennies.

Why not save yourself the time and money? Check out some of the fantastic festivals and outdoor concerts lined up right here in the Lower Mainland instead!

Folk-rockers Mumford and Sons are headlining festivals across the continent this summer, but you can catch them outside in Surrey's Holland Park on May 24 before they head down to the Gorge for Sasquatch.

Trying to capture some

of the flair and theatricality that comes with out of town festivals? Rogers Arena will be jam-packed this summer with concerts from Justin Timberlake and Jay-Z, One Direction, New Kids on the Block, Fleetwood Mac, and many more.

If you go to a festival for the vibes instead of the music, The Vancouver Folk Music Festival or the Burnaby Blues and Roots Festival might be more up your alley. Both offer a great opportunity to pack a blanket and picnic lunch, set up on a prime piece of grass and let the festivities unfold around you. Don't forget your hula-hoop!

You can impress friends and acquaintances alike with your encyclopedic knowledge of the music scene.

And if, like me, you scour festival line-ups to find the most obscure bands so you can impress friends and acquaintances alike with your encyclopedic knowledge of the music scene, you're probably best off checking out Music Waste from June 6 to 9 or the Khatsalano Music and Arts Festival on July 13.

The Khatsalano fest is a day-long block party on West 4th Avenue featuring some

of the region's better-known and more commercially successful local talent — and it's free. Spend a day popping into stores along the boutique-heavy street and taking breaks to watch a couple great bands.

If you really want to dig deep though, Music Waste is the place for you. The four-day festival features some of the city's best emerging talent, experimental artists, and DIY punk rockers. With shows taking place in venues across Vancouver, \$5 will get you into any show, or you can snap up an advance pass for the same low price.

FILM

The great thing about summer movies is that you don't have to go any further than your local movie house to be a part of a cultural phenomenon that often eclipses the mere tens of thousands who crowd into any particular music festival.

Summer in Hollywood always heralds the arrival of the biggest-budget, most-anticipated films of the year, and 2013's season is no exception.

It wouldn't be summer at the cineplex without superhero movies or sequels, and this year's flock includes both in droves. We'll see a reboot in *Man of Steel*, a sequel to *Kick-Ass*, the third installments of the *Iron Man* and *The Hangover* franchises, and a spinoff in *The Wolverine*, which is also a sequel of sorts to *X-Men III: The Last Stand*.

The end of the world and its many permutations will continue to fascinate moviegoers with apocalyptic flicks — whether it's an end-of-the-world pub crawl in *The World's End*, a bunch of celebrities locked in an apartment as society crumbles in *This is the End*, or Brad Pitt leading the battle against zombies in late-to-the-table genre flick *World War Z*.

It wouldn't be summer at the cineplex without superhero movies or sequels.

Nerds can get their sci-fi fix with CGI-heavy blockbusters *After Earth*, *Elysium*, and of course *Star Trek Into Darkness*, and fill the giant-fighting-robot-shaped void left in the absence of a new Transformers or even Voltron movie with Guillermo Del Toro's *Pacific Rim*.

THE REST

The return of summer also means the return of glorious, glorious food trucks. These mobile sustenance providers range from fresh takes on old favourites like Mom's Grilled Cheese to extensions of sit-down restaurants like Tacofino and La Brasserie, and are scattered across Downtown and East Vancouver. No word yet on plans to resuscitate the

weekly food cart festival held at the now-defunct Waldorf.

One of Vancouver's great summer traditions is Bard on the Beach, a Shakespeare festival held every year at Vanier Park in Kitsilano. This year's lineup is highlighted by a 21st-century take on *Hamlet*, so if you haven't thought about old Bill since high school, now is the perfect chance to catch his signature work, and maybe grab a tan while you're at it.

The glut of superhero and comic book movies this summer will be nicely complemented by a rash of comic, anime and videogame conventions in our fair city.

Two conventions with confusingly similar names, Anime Evolution and Anime Revolution are apparently bitter rivals and will be striving to outdo each other at every turn — good news for fans. If you're up for a drive to Seattle, Sakuracon is one of North America's premier nerd culture conventions, featuring industry panels, social events and of course, sexy nerds in revealing costumes.

It's a tough fate, being stuck in our beautiful city all summer, but with *The Link's* help, you'll have a season worth bragging about to the friends who spent their student loans gallivanting abroad. Catch a movie, hit up a couple local shows, and maybe even take in a play — you'll feel more cultured than if you had spent four months on the beaches of Europe.



Last year's Bard on the Beach was a hit with *MacBeth* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Darlene Foster



Fans dress as video game characters at Anime Evolution.

David K



Dave Lichterman

Summer festivals let music fans show their love

Sold out, full of sell-outs, so shell out

THOMAS MOLANDER

The Link

Line-ups for this summer's music festival season are now being unveiled, bringing with them the inevitable yearly waves of excitement and cynicism.

Criticisms of large music festivals are widespread and mostly valid. Artists like Mumford and Sons, The Black Keys and The Flaming Lips show up on almost every line-up, year after year.

Festivals are massive advertising machines for telecommunications, alcohol, and other big corporations — and there's certainly no shortage of barely-teenagers putting every substance under the sun into their lungs, mouths, noses, and veins.

Yet these festivals have become a big part of the music industry and our culture as a

whole. Hundreds of thousands of music lovers will attend music festivals this summer to camp out under the stars, crowd around stages, and make lifelong friends.

Hundreds of bands will reach huge, receptive audiences for the first time, giving their careers that jump-start that can be so hard for artists to find.

“The summer music festival scene is a huge, ugly, wonderful beast.”

The summer music festival scene is a huge, ugly, wonderful beast that, love it or hate it, is a vital part of how today's world shows its appreciation for music.

In terms of local festivals, this year's Squamish Valley

Music Festival has excellent value, with a good mix of big artists and local talent for only \$150 if you grab an early-bird pass.

Stoner-rock titans, Queens of the Stone Age and quirky New York natives Vampire Weekend are headlining the festival. The lineup is sprinkled with hip-hop artists like Macklemore and Childish Gambino. Canadian indie rock artists like Dan Mangan, Yukon Blonde, and Said the Whale round out the line-up.

Squamish's festival hasn't been around long (its first year was 2010) but it has flourished into an eclectic and exciting festival in its short lifespan. This year's edition of Live at Squamish runs from August 8-10.

Other local music festivals worth paying attention to are the Vancouver Folk Festival and the Burnaby Roots and Blues Fest, headlined by Blue Rodeo this year.

Just south of the Canadian

border is Sasquatch, one of the bigger music festivals in North America, from May 24-27. Sasquatch is famous for featuring the best in Pacific Northwest music, a ridiculously picturesque location at the Gorge Amphitheatre, and for its wild campsite parties.

“Hundreds of bands will reach huge, receptive audiences for the first time.”

This year's line-up features The Postal Service, who reunited after a long hiatus. Icelandic post-rockers Sigur Ros, Australian buzz-kings Tame Impala, Canadian electronic pop star Grimes, and plenty of solid hip-hop acts like Earl Sweatshirt and Killer Mike are also spotlighted.

The major summer music

festival in the Southern USA is Bonnaroo, which takes place in Manchester, Tennessee and garners over a hundred thousand attendees a year.

This year's Bonnaroo is heavy on artists that were big from the 1960's up until the 90's, featuring Paul McCartney, Tom Petty, David Byrne of The Talking Heads, ZZ Top, Weird Al Yankovic, and Billy Idol, and big 90s artists like Bjork, Wilco, and Wu-Tang Clan.

This only scratches the surface of the music festivals taking place across North America this summer. Sled Island takes place in downtown Calgary and is a showcase of local and international music talent that brings out around 20,000 music fans a year.

Further east there's Osheaga in Montreal and RBC Royal Bank Bluesfest in Ottawa, both of which consistently draw big names and huge crowds.

With so many festivals over the coming months, there's truly something for everyone.

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Get outside, but stay inside your budget

Five summer outings that you just can't refuse

ANGELINA THEILMANN

Assistant Editor

Summer's on, the days are long and sunny, and you just want to get outside. You want the best summer ever, but typically, you have no money to speak of.

Lucky for you, amazing outdoor adventures await within a reasonable radius of the Lower Mainland, using either transit or carpool. There are too many to describe, but here are five suggestions that won't let you down... or leave you down and out.

Hike The Chief

First thing's first: If you haven't done The Chief in Squamish, go do it. It's in Stawamus Chief Provincial Park, which also boasts attractions such as Bridal Falls (a towering waterfall) and mountain-goat-like climbers on sheer rock walls.

I have done The Chief twice in my life and both times I couldn't stop talking about the amazing view, especially because the colour of the water at the foot of Howe Sound is honestly worth the hike.

There are three ways to top The Chief. I am familiar with one that is "Grouse Grind-esque," though slightly less intense, though some parts require some rope climbing. There are lots of cute dogs, and it's good to do this hike in the morning because it gets busy with locals.

A highlight is the peanut-sized chipmunks at the top who will try to steal your trail mix. They are so quick!

Beach volleyball at Spanish Banks

If you have a volleyball net — or even if you don't — head to Spanish Banks to play. Picture a blue-sky day, a slight breeze, and long sandy beaches near UBC. Someone is flying a kite nearby, portable barbecues are cooking, and it's the best day ever.

There are a number of permanent wooden posts that are first-come, first-served. On a busy summer day, you may have to vie for two posts for your net, but it's not impossible and people are often happy to have you join



Once you get to the summit you'll know why they call it The Chief.

Angelina Theilmann

their game. It's questionable whether you want to swim in the freezing Pacific, but I do, and it's refreshing! There is usually enough parking if you play enough musical cars. Or, the bike trail links to the wide network of bike trails around the city.

Lucky for you, amazing outdoor adventures await within a reasonable radius of the Lower Mainland.

Walk around Killarney Lake, Bowen Island

This one is great because it's an island trip! From downtown Vancouver, hop a bus to Horseshoe Bay. Time it to catch the ferry to Snug Cove on Bowen Island as a foot pas-

senger. From there, you are walking distance from your destination, Killarney Lake. Although you are practically no further than a Sasquatch step from Vancouver, you should feel miles away. This trip is great for a picnic lunch.

Bring your bathing suit for a dip in the ocean. I am sure the local pub would be happy to reward you for your hard work, too.

Hike through old growth forests at Echo Lake

Next up, I am dying to visit the Echo Lake old growth forests near Aggasiz. They're about two hours driving from Vancouver city centre.

If you haven't heard about Echo Lake, but you love lowland ancient rainforests and eagles, then I'm pleased to introduce you. Petitions to "Save Echo Lake" voice desire to ensure the forests are protected, and for good reason.

When the salmon run, the area is said to host the largest concentrations of bald eagles

on the planet. After their sushi, the eagles roost in the old growth forests. For a chance to seriously restore the quality of oxygen in your lungs, this area sounds amazing. Why not sign a petition while you're at it?

Note: Make sure you don't end up at Echo Lake near Kamloops — use Google Maps!

Although you are practically no further than a Sasquatch step from Vancouver, you should feel miles away.

Bike to Steveston and Finn Slough

Ride your bike to Steveston fishing village on the south end of Richmond. The same dyke that keeps the arms of the Fraser from flooding the city of-

fers an extremely flat, packed gravel bike route tracing north, west and south edges of Richmond.

You can throw bikes on the Canada Line and unload at Aberdeen station to start 50 metres away from the dyke. If you're more industrious, bike over the Canada Line Bridge and follow a bike route all the way. Ride past the shiny Olympic Oval, spot the hovercraft base, and spy a floatplane taking off.

Count seals, old farmhouses, coyotes, red-winged blackbirds, and herons hiding in the marshland. Also, a million dollars if you find the cows that graze in the marshland. When you end up at Steveston, reward yourself with Timothy's frozen yogurt.

Note: If you're a keen biker, continue past Steveston to find the historical community called Finn Slough (pronounced *sloo*). A former fishing community, it is a cluster of small sheds and float-houses that sit on the Fraser River.



NAME
Daniel Khatkar

AGE
23

PROGRAM
Bachelor's of Technology

SPECIAL SKILL
Preventing cyber attacks

Ervin Cho

One student reflects on his time at BCIT



As graduation rolls around, one student reflects on his time at BCIT

CHRISTINA GHUMAN
The Link

The only stress BCIT student Daniel Khatkar has to worry about these days is his May 1 graduation application deadline.

It's been a long four years in the Bachelor of Technology program, and Khatkar is looking forward to graduation. As his semester winds down, he finds he has a lot more time on his hands and isn't sure what to do with it.

"I'm just bored now. At BCIT, I was constantly on the go, and didn't have any time for any extracurricular activities," Khatkar explained. "Now that it's coming to an end, I feel like I have nothing to do."

While completing his practicum at Wurdtech Security Technologies, Khatkar was fortunate to be offered a six-month contract and has his education at BCIT to thank for preparing him.

"Everything you hear about BCIT is true. The work environment is so intense. When

I started my practicum, it was completely different," he said. "The work environment was so calm and relaxed — I wasn't used to it all."

Although he finds that work environment in industry is a little slower than BCIT, he's thankful that BCIT helped strengthen his work ethic, especially compared to his other school experiences.

"I started off going to Kwantlen, but it wasn't a really good learning environment for me," he recalled. "I think BCIT really helped me develop a strong work ethic, which is important in this industry."

"I've been a computer geek my whole life and it's just exciting to start getting paid to do what I love."

Since starting at BCIT, Khatkar has developed both strong work habits and equally strong friendships. One of the things Khatkar is going to miss the most at BCIT are the friends he's

made in the last four years.

The one thing Khatkar says he won't miss is the student life, which is probably because he never really got a chance to get involved with it.

"I basically just came to school, did what I had to do, and left," Khatkar lamented. "Everyone is just so busy, the course load is too much and too intense to have time to get involved with on campus activities."

As Khatkar nears the end of his degree, he says that he still has the same excitement and passion as he did when he first began.

"I'm really excited to start my career. I've been a computer geek my whole life and it's just exciting to start getting paid to do what I love," he said. "BCIT met all my expectations."

With convocation approaching in June, Khatkar looks forward to all the new changes the future has to offer, and leaves future BCIT students with one bit of advice:

"Just be ready to really work hard at BCIT, and don't get turned off by the course load," he says. "It either gets easier as you go on, or you just get used to it, either way, it's really not that bad."

BCIT is relentlessly uncool

I completed half my program and all I got was this lousy column

THOMAS MOLANDER

The Link

I remember my first day at BCIT, last September. It was orientation day and I was late, running down Willingdon, my new backpack thumping against my back and my forehead getting sweaty.

Upon arrival, I received my student card. I could hear a faint chanting. And drums. It got louder as I approached the gym door until, as I walked into the gym, I was confronted with hundreds of chanting, clapping, drumming students. They were getting pumped up on the upcoming semester via tribal chants, I guess, and I just kind of watched them in awe.

Listen: BCIT is relentlessly uncool.

The BCIT student will say, "What's uncool about quick graduation and high job placement rates?"

And yes, that's true. BCIT is unpretentious and hardworking. It's ugly and uncomfortable, but that makes sense because most people here are looking to get in and get out as quickly as possible without having to worry about cheering for a school sports team.

I walk around in a hoodie and jeans feeling dressed up. I once heard a guy doing Nickelback covers on an acoustic guitar in the campus pub. (This, I hope, would not fly on other campuses.)

For me, the first of two years in broadcast journalism is wrapping up. It has been memorable, to put it lightly. I have spent so much time with my classmates that it makes me feel uneasy how well we know each other. Eight courses per semester is crazy, no matter who you are. Throw in countless assignments, meetings, extra assignments and projects, and work-study too. Sometimes it feels as though I never leave school.

Places like Professor Mugs have kept the BCIT campus interesting. For example, during one of the first weeks I won a

sausage-eating contest and proceeded to vomit it back up after I had collected my prize.

More recently, I participated in a trivia night put on by this very publication. Sure, the bar closes at like, nine. But this attempt to be "fun" against the odds is totally endearing and hilarious in its futility.

I biked to school almost every day. So many people live within biking distance of BCIT and choose to drive instead. This confuses me. Biking will help you get into terrific shape, and you don't have to worry about parking or traffic. And it's an experience.

On a sharply cold day, hopping on the bicycle and flying full speed down Royal Oak or whatever, you feel alive, sky opening up above you. Pulling into school and locking up your bike you feel out of breath and awake. And usually wet. I bring a change of clothes.

One of my favourite things about new experiences is contrasting what I expected against what I got. What I'm looking for in an education is expansive and all-encompassing. This runs very contrary to what I think BCIT is looking to provide me: JOBS JOBS JOBS!

“I won a sausage-eating contest and proceeded to vomit it back up after I had collected my prize

BCIT may not be vibrant or fun or care about culture. They may occasionally pull strange moves like tribal pep rallies, or wrangle up a bunch of dogs for people to pet to unwind.

Still, there's something inspiring about being surrounded by people who are driven to make something of themselves, even at the cost of a normal social college experience. And one other compliment I can pay to BCIT is that I'll be back for more next year.



Artist's re-creation

Ervin Cho

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Cruising into *Oblivion*

Tom Cruise's latest ode to extra-terrestrials thick on aesthetics but thin on plot

JESSE WENTZLOFF
Culture Editor

As the lights dimmed at the press screening of *Oblivion*, Tom Cruise's latest multi-million dollar science fiction vehicle, the lady to my left scrambled frantically through the settings on a touch screen.

We had just been told, for the 15th time, to make sure that our cell phones were turned off, with a little more force than might be deemed pleasant. She was too slow to avoid the night-vision scope (no, really) of a suit-wearing security guard who boomed authoritatively across the theatre for her to "Power down the device!"

They really didn't want anyone to bootleg this movie. I'm not sure they should have bothered.

Don't get me wrong — *Oblivion* is a gorgeous, visually-arresting movie, but that's about it. It's pure audio-visual spectacle, and really not worth seeing outside of a theatre environment.

The striking aesthetics and impressively executed visual effects hold up a film with a disappointingly convoluted, predictable plot and lazy, cornball dialogue. To the chagrin of

Scientology disbelievers everywhere, Tom Cruise turns in another solid performance.

Much like 2007's post-apocalyptic romp *I Am Legend*, the most engaging part of *Oblivion* is the first third of the movie, as our hero Jack Harper explores the bleakly beautiful landscape of an earth devastated by tidal waves and earthquakes in the wake of the moon's destruction by an interstellar menace.

Bits and pieces of American landmarks are scattered about the hills and canyons that make up Harper's planet, from a crater that is at least 20 per cent Pentagon to a makeshift radio transmitter made from the ruins of the Empire State Building.

“It's pure audio-visual spectacle, and really not worth seeing outside of a theatre environment.”

Tom Cruise navigates the ruins of 21st century Earth with the aid of some slick computer-generated gadgets that take their cues from Apple's signature white plastic and brushed-aluminium aesthetic. The shiny surfaces highlighted by glowing

blue and orange lights contrast nicely with the gritty, weathered look of what's left of Earth.

While director Joseph Kosinski does a fantastic job of introducing viewers to his world, *Oblivion* begins to fumble as the story picks up. The major events of the film are pushed into motion through a series of would-be twists that are cliché and overdone, and it's hard to suspend disbelief when supposed revelations are so clumsily telegraphed.

Oblivion is also chock-full of groan-inducing lines emphasized by the heavily reverberated drums and synths of M83 frontman Anthony Gonzalez' over-the-top score.

You could hear the audience's eyes roll when, sealing Julia (Olga Kurylenko) into a cryogenic stasis chamber, Jack Harper whispers, "Dream of me."

While the face-palm worthy dialogue and tenuous plot drags down an otherwise intriguing premise, *Oblivion* is as worthy of your hard-earned dollar as anything else in the multiplex.

The adventurous first act is an exhilarating look into a fascinating, dystopian future, and the fast paced action scenes move the rest of the film along quickly enough that its flaws are forgivable.

OVERALL GRADE: C



It's possible that Kid Cudi smokes pot.

Courtesy of GOOD Music

Kid Cudi experiments with anger, igniting a whole new sound

Indicud is more of a passion project than something for the masses

SARAH SANGHA

The Link

Just when it seemed like Kid Cudi was actually on the moon, he's back, with a new album that stays true to his progressive sound. Cudi has released *Indicud*, which at first glance seems to offer the same sort of chronic-laced rhymes as his first disc, *Man on the Moon*.

However, *Indicud* has a decidedly more somber tone. From its opener "The Resurrection of Scott Mescudi," to the closing "Flight of the Moonman," the album is a series of battle songs in which Cudi explains how he died and came back.

Cudi's current discography is cyclical, starting out as the story of a kid who never belonged, reached acceptance and no longer wants to belong to the clusterfuck that is the music industry.

Indicud is Cudi's rebellion from the reality that he set out for himself. He expresses his isolation and pain song after song in his now infamous sing-song rap style.

Can we just take a moment to appreciate that none other than

Michael Bolton is featured on "Afterwards"?

It is the unlikeliest pairing since Elton John and Eminem, and hearing Bolton sing "Bring your friends/ we should go to my home/ afterwards, girl come on" makes you long for the sound of nails on a chalkboard.

Bolton aside, the rest of the album does boast some decent features. Current hip hop golden boy Kendrick Lamar adopts Cudi's explosive themes on "Solo Dolo Part II," and Cudi enlists A\$AP Rocky and frequent collaborator King Chip on "Brothers."

King Chip really shines

“Can we just take a moment to appreciate that none other than Michael Bolton is featured on “Afterwards”?”

through on this album. He is featured on the album's best song, "Just What I Am," which is undoubtedly the catchiest with the stoner set.

Despite a chorus of "I wan-

na get higher/can you get me higher," both Chip and Cudi are speaking of a much higher power and it emanates through their lyrics, with King Chip's "ain't no such thing as Satan/evil is what you make it" being especially profound.

As the album draws to a close, Kid Cudi seems to be drawn to his own sadness, reveling in it, even deeming himself "The Lord of the Sad and Lonely." The song is more boastful than truly sad, but there is one moment near the end of the song where Cudi addresses the depression that has plagued him the last few years. He thanks his fans and asks that they smoke some good weed for him.

While "The Lord of the Sad and Lonely" is the most direct mention of his mental health problems, the entire album is his recognizance of the past few years, his admittance that there was a problem and that it's a problem that many people can relate to.

Those who understand Kid Cudi will appreciate and love this album, and those are the people he has made this for.

Songs to listen to: "Just What I Am," "Red Eye"

OVERALL GRADE: B-



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Showtime is over for the Apollo Ghosts

Heroes of local indie scene hang up the skates

THOMAS MOLANDER
The Link

Apollo Ghosts are a band that have carved out a devoted following in a city of music snobs. The quartet, who stylistically fall somewhere between jangle-pop and lo-fi punk, have put out three full-length albums and a handful of EPs and singles.

Along the way, they've played countless shows in and outside of Vancouver, and even received a nomination for the prestigious Polaris Prize in 2010. Principle songwriter and front man Adrian Teacher feels weird about that nomination.

"The Polaris thing was strange. In a nutshell: the real prize is writing the songs and performing them in front of an enthusiastic audience. That has always been the real, truthful thing."

Vancouver audiences have connected with this attitude.



Courtesy of Apollo Ghosts

Teacher reflects on the band's beginnings, admitting that he didn't have particularly ambitious hopes.

"There were never any bigger or loftier goals than to play a few shows and maybe put out a record. We played in front of about five people at the Princ-

eton and got heckled at our first show, and now we're playing our final show at the Rickshaw theatre. This totally blows my mind. It got way bigger than any of us ever expected," he said.

This Rickshaw show, set to take place on May 10, will be

the band's last. The venue, Teacher explains, comes with its upsides and downsides.

"Originally, this was just going to be a regular show at the Rickshaw. But then I decided to end the band. Ideally, this would have been an all-ages event. I feel bad because some

younger kids have e-mailed to say they won't get to see us. But hey, I expect that the night will be pretty magical."

While Apollo Ghosts are, as a band, disappearing from the Vancouver music scene, its members will continue making music under different guises. Bassist Jarrett is playing in the band Tough Age, and guitarist Jason Oliver plays in Collapsing Opposites.

Teacher explained that drummer Amanda Panda is "learning world beats on the drums with some crazy book she got out of the library."

As for Teacher himself?

"I have something else in the works but it might be awhile before I debut anything. Not really sure. Maybe that's it for me?"

A band's final show is a bittersweet combination of celebration and departure, where smiles and tears are interchangeable. Though a staple of Vancouver's live music scene is removing itself, the legacy of Apollo Ghosts will be kept alive in our iPods and memories.

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Courtesy of the Vancouver Maritime Museum

Art of the Sailor leaves its mark on Vancouver

Latest Vancouver Maritime Museum exhibit explores the nautical origins of a popular body art form

OLSY SOROKINA

The Link

Over the past century, body art has made a fascinating journey from taboo to trend in Western society. The ink that covered a select few on the fringes of society can now be seen on anyone with enough bravery and money to afford it.

Explorers of the sea were among the first people to popularize the use of body art in the West as European sailors adapted the Polynesian practice of decorating their skin with ink designs. Tattoos let mariners commemorate a journey and mark an experience.

Tattoos and the art of scrimshaw — carvings or engravings made on bone or ivory — were a way to create permanence in the ever-changing lifestyles of seamen.

Vancouverites can now share some of the experiences of modern-day sailors at the Vancouver Maritime Museum's exhibit *Tattoos & Scrimshaw: The Art of the Sailor*. The exhibits showcase popular sailor body art and scrimshaw, both used to depict life at sea.

Curator Patricia Owen says the two art forms are highlighted together because of common

themes found in both.

"A part of the exhibit is that relationship. They were similar: the techniques were similar, the imagery was similar," Owen told *The Link*. "Sailors, they often do what they'd see: you got the ships, you got the anchors, the rope, so you'd see that similarly on scrimshaw. There's definitely a link there."

Photographer Kathryn Musallem compiled an impressive collection of photographs depicting modern-day sailor body art over the past five years. But even though the pictures are recent, marketing officer for Vancouver Maritime Museum Jen Hill says the images depicted are timeless.

"[The sailors'] haircuts haven't changed, their uniforms haven't changed in two hundred years, their tattoos haven't changed in as long, so you can't tell if these were taken in the 1940s or 1960s, or 2012."

While the imagery in sailor body art has not seen many changes over the years, the same cannot be said about public opinion. What was a way to recognize a fellow sailor or a former prisoner has turned into a widespread method of permanent skin decoration.

Chris Hold, a local tattoo artist and one of the main contributors to the *Art of the Sailor* exhibit, says it has been a positive change.

"Before, having a tattoo denoted that you were part of something very fringe, and now

it's not, which is great for humanity, because humans always wanted to decorate themselves in permanent and semi-permanent ways. That it's not as taboo, I think, is healthy for the expectations we have for how we're supposed to look," Hold said.

"You can be okay making decisions in what your skin looks like now, which seems like an obvious thing, but [it] isn't."

Although tattoos have become more socially acceptable, many designs pay tribute to the origins of body art in the Western world. Hold says there is a noticeable cycle in popularity of several traditional nautical designs.

Tattoos let mariners commemorate a journey and mark an experience.

"Lately it's been one of four: a swallow, an anchor, a tall ship or a mermaid," Hold told *The Link*.

While most people nowadays do not get a swallow tattoo with the purpose of showing off their sailing experience, Hold says this type of cultural appropriation of the sailor tattoo is not a new practice.

"Cultural appropriation for sailor tattoos by people who are not sailors has always been happening. The imagery that people wear wasn't always just exclusive to sailors,"

Hold explained.

Even though sailor tattoo art has been appropriated by people of all ages and occupations, some designs remain off-limits for the general public. For example, any tattoo that identifies the rank and file of a naval officer is still taboo. Hold explained that some types of tattoos can even be dangerous for people to display.

"It's amazing that something can continue to have that power, and not be diluted by abuse or dispersion into polite society," Hold said. "I think there's something very mystical and dreamlike about that incredible power of a symbol to carry a fear like that."

The power of the symbol has been drawing Vancouverites to educate themselves on the art of the sailor. Owen says the exhibit is one of the most popular ones Vancouver Maritime Museum has ever had. Exhibits at the center of attention also surprised the curators.

"It's put a highlight on the scrimshaw, which is funny, because we all thought that it would be the tattoos that got everybody in, and it's the scrimshaw that took the spotlight there," Owen said. "But we're hoping it'll swing back to the body art, and the role of the sailor in how it has evolved."

Tattoos and Scrimshaw: The Art of the Sailor is open to the public at the Vancouver Maritime Museum through October 13, 2013.

LOCAL EVENTS

April 25-26

History of Vancouver

Sex Workers lectures

Museum of Vancouver

Back in the 1930s, downtown Vancouver was known for its numerous brothels and gentlemen's clubs. Museum of Vancouver invites the public to explore Vancouver's naughty past with lecture series on history of sex workers.

Both retired and currently employed sex workers will join the conversation to share their perspective and answer questions about their work. Vancouver history buffs will also have a chance to stroll the same streets as some sex workers did before their eviction in the 1980s at the West End tour.

May 2-4

Vancouver International

Burlesque Festival

Various venues

What better way to celebrate the end of classes than watching beautiful burlesque performers show off their enormous ... talent at the eighth annual International Burlesque Festival?

In case the promise of watching attractive people dance is not enough, the festival also features a comedy performance and a live rock'n'roll band playing alongside sexy dancers.

May 17-September 8

Vancouver Chinatown Night

Market

Chinatown

Ah, Vancouver summers: Rain is in the forecast for only half of the week, parking around the beaches is impossible to find, and all the part-time jobs are taken by broke university students. But it's okay, because Vancouver's prime spot to buy five pairs of socks for \$10 is back!

Vancouverites and visitors alike will be able to visit Chinatown for their favorite street foods, odd fashions, and fancy iPhone covers — all without having to face the blinding sun rays known to be so cruel to our pale, sickly, monitor-tanned skin.

Need more reasons to check out this annual event? Two words: Potato Tornado.

Stay classy, BCIT, and don't do anything I wouldn't do or write about — because that stuff isn't fun anyway.

— Olsy Sorokina

Leave it to Bieber

The Reverend offers some words of wisdom on Justin Bieber's Anne Frank gaff

REV. TIM TULLOCH

The Link

Dear Justin,

I'm telling you this as a friend. You need to start listening to your publicist. Don't have one? Here's my card. It's not that you're not a great musical talent or that there is anyone who hasn't heard about you. It's to avoid gaffs like the one you had earlier this month.

Now, I'm pretty sure you thought that it was a harmless when, walking out of the Anne Frank's former house, you remarked that it was "truly inspiring." That's the Beibs we all know and love, the one that melted our hearts with "Baby"... Let's continue.

You followed that sentence up with, "Anne was a great girl." First mistake, Justin, is assuming a first-name basis with one

of the most iconic Holocaust victims. I get that you're trying to put a fresh spin on an old subject... but then to follow it up with "great girl"?

I know your mind is filled with other things like the next concert, signing your name, making millions, and acting like you're still a kid. Having a plethora of words on the tip of your tongue is difficult.

Tip one: never use the term "great girl" to describe a Holocaust victim... or anyone older than you... or someone who died 50 years before you were born... or anyone who has ever been through any sort of genocide (in case you decide to tour Rwanda).

Here's the last sentence you made and arguably the most controversial: "Hopefully she would have been a Bieliber."

...
"Duuuuuuuuuude..." cried the rest of the world.

Right now, I'm sure you're thinking that you've done nothing wrong; Marie Antoinette thought, "Let them eat cake

instead" was a perfectly harmless statement. Don't know who Marie Antoinette is? That's cool. Wiki it. French revolution, beheadings, no world tour.

The point is that the statement comes across as ignorant, dawg!

Again, here's where I can help. I understand that if everyone who ever existed became a Belieber, as your publicist, I would be all over that like a killer whale on a seal. Jesus Christ, Buddha, Abraham Lincoln, Ghandi — all Beliebers — amazing.

The thing is, you come across like a huge, self-centered tool.

Instead, you say, "What Anne Frank went through and how she persevered is an inspiration to all of us."

Just saying, Beibs. Hang in there, issue an apology tweet, and move on. You'll make it through this and when in doubt, holla at your boy!

Rack 'em & YOLO,
The Rev.

Top Down

Rodney Dickinson



FAUXROSCOPES

with Mystical Mama Angie,
semi-certified astrologist



ARIES (March 21 – April 20)

Like pails of cherries in the sun, there's always pits in summer fun.

But like lemons into lemonade, a pit into a beach fire can always be made!

TAURUS (April 21 – May 21)

A kayak helps us humans float, and paddleboards are like flat boats.

So make some time to walk on water, especially when the days are hotter.

GEMINI (May 22 – June 21)

Hikes and bikes are now in season. (And swimming too! Don't say it's freezin'!)

So get out there and use your gear, and don't forget to bring the beer!

CANCER (June 22 – July 23)

Summer nights mean lots of things, from quiet times to summer flings.

But whether on the beach or in the bars, be sure to watch for shooting stars.

LEO (July 24 – Aug. 23)

Food grows fresh in summer season - not makin' use is worse than treason!

So aside from wearing your bikini, go find beans and big zucchini!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 – Sept. 23)

Summertime and livin's easy, but sometimes summer's cool and breezy.

So if you're chilled just look for 'hot', in sauce and tubs and friends you've got.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 – Oct. 23)

Go barbecue with all your crew, and play in ocean 'til you're blue!

But grills and buoys with all you do, don't forget 'bout safety too!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 – Nov. 22)

Like a crab you hide away from sun, which some may say makes you no fun.

But like a snappy happy crab in sand, the summer is your wonderland.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 – Dec. 21)

If summer's got you feeling glum, go and find your inner drum.

Music festivals are more than here, and it can be free - just volunteer!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 – Jan. 20)

Like dolphins swimming near a ferry, be playful, splashing and get fresh air-y.

But slippery dolphin is not a pet, so your summer will be wild, we bet!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 – Feb. 19)

Whether stuck inside or on the beach, enjoy the fruits within your reach.

This means picking berries with your friends or catching rays when working ends.

PISCES (Feb. 20 – Mar. 20)

Patient Pisces, always last, your stars are moving very fast.

With winter doldrums way in the past, these summer months will be a blast!

**Do you draw comics? Write satire?
Send anything that will make us laugh!**

contribute@linknewspaper.ca