

APRIL 2015

BCIT & BEYOND

Link

magazine



ON POINTE

Former ballet dancer Alex Lee is familiar with flexing arches, but how about designing them?

ROAD TRIPPIN'

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

DO YOUR TAXES

THE PATH OF TOTALITY

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

RECORD STORE DAY

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BCIT **SA** | Student
Association
enhancing student life

Magazine **BC**
association of



THE FINAL SAY



And just like that, the year comes to an end. It seems like just yesterday we were laying out our first issue, short staffed, under the beat of the August sun.

Years ago, when I was in the scouting movement, they drilled a simple concept into our impressionable minds – always leave the place better than you found it. I'd like to think that with this year of *Link* we've managed to do just that.

Of course, that success was only possible due to the contributions of so many. I want to thank all of the amazing students who let us splash their faces on the cover as the focus of our Student Spotlight. You inspired us creatively, while helping us tell the true story of BCIT: that it's a place of new beginnings, and a waypoint on many very different roads.

I want to thank our writers for producing some excellent work, and never shying away from hot topics, whether they be Syria, feminism, or doctor-assisted suicide. I want to thank our creative team who've transformed this publication from a dreary student newspaper to one sexy looking magazine.

And of course I want to thank you – the reader. Because obviously this whole exercise would be pointless without you. Thank you for cleaning out the newsstands so quickly. Thank you for sharing our work with your friends.

So now we pass the torch. Who will fill this space next year? Maybe it will be you? Like a fever dream, *Link* is nothing more than the product of your minds. So pick up that pen and get writing. We're nothing without you.

— Simon Little
Associate Editor
twitter: @simonplittle



What a whirlwind year it's been. As I end my time with *Link* magazine, I must note that it's fitting I'm ending with graduation in my midst. Thank you to the friends and acquaintances I've made during my time at BCIT. I include my supportive instructors among them.

The one thing I take away from *Link* is to never be afraid to put pen to paper; fingers to a keyboard. Write with conviction, emotion; write to share knowledge with the world. We've become a world so engrossed in the 'go, go, go' of it all that the art of writing is losing the very thing it should be seen as: an art.

I strongly believe the bar was set high this year with the quality of pieces submitted by writers. At one point we even had the most writers featured in an issue since *Link* came into existence. Even with the high number, the quality of the material pumped out was absolute gold.

Thank you to our writers for reminding me why I went into journalism: to tell stories. Thank you to those who worked behind the scenes – from our Campus Print and Copy Centre, printing, cutting and assembling magazines, to the staff at the BCITSA offices who always welcomed us in with a smile. Thank you to the entire editorial and layout team for putting together issues that touched so many shades of fact and opinion.

As for me, I'm looking forward to what lies ahead. I'll be on the airwaves with CKNW News Talk 980, so you may spot my voice every now and again. Concurrently, I look back at my time with *Link* as a fundamental learning curve in my pursuit of being a reporter. Thank you to everyone who affected that journey in any way, shape or form.

— Ria Renouf
Associate Editor

GERMAN ENGINEERING Functional Art On Campus Embraces Connection

What started as the idea of one classmate, was realized this past March in the form of an art piece. Over a span of about two years, one student's dream of taking part in an exchange program grew into something more.

"A student came to me asking for an opportunity to do an exchange program in either Australia or Canada," Thomas Kaurtz, an instructor from Hildesheim University (or HAWK for short) tells *Link* magazine. "We were trying to find a university, and there was an opportunity at BCIT. Around the same time, a teacher at BCIT had written to the Canadian Embassy in Germany, also asking for an exchange opportunity. The two schools got in touch, we liked each other, and we sent a student to Canada."

While the German exchange student was at BCIT, she pitched the idea of creating an exchange art piece. HAWK Professor of Applied Sciences, Gunter Weber says it turned into a way to inspire the students to experiment with different ideas in small groups. They eventually chose a design that aspired to bring students together.

"It's called the Connection Lounge," says Kaurtz. "We want to bring people together, not only from Canada and Germany, but also from other countries and other disciplines."

BCIT Architectural Science student Michael Nguyen, and HAWK student Michael Blanke both helped assemble the art project in BCIT's Great Hall. Nguyen says the final project will carry on into the future by connecting students, staff and visitors alike.

"The idea we started with was 'recharge.' Recharge is like electronics; with this, with the world right now, there's a lot of new technology. So students would want to charge their phones, laptops... and we connected it to the idea of the embrace. It's the whole aspect of embracing each other as fellow counterparts."



To see photos from the construction of the Connection Lounge, visit linkbcit.ca

Blanke says the team was, indeed, a team in picking the design. "We chose the circle because if you embrace each other, we're as one." Blanke is also amazed at what one student's thought blossomed into. "One student... she had a little idea. 11 months later, we're at BCIT with 48 students involved in this project, and six tutors. So that's one little idea. That's amazing."

And Nguyen agrees. "Working with two different countries, two different time zones... that was a great experience, a big experience."

The BCIT students involved also plan to leave their mark on the German school. In May, a handful of them will be taking a trip to help the students at HAWK's put their pavilion together.

— ria renouf

UKRAINE DAY April 30th in The Great Hall 10:30AM — 2:30PM

Over 1 million people are refugees from the conflict in Ukraine. Here at BCIT, many students and staff have family that are directly affected by this conflict. A group of them have gotten together to help raise money for the ongoing relief efforts for the people in greatest need.

Ukrainians at BCIT in conjunction with the BCITSA are sponsoring an event to raise money for the MCC Ukraine Appeal on April 30th. Ukrainian food and entertainment will be available during the lunch hours as they ask for your help by donating in supporting the refugees in Ukraine.

For those wishing to volunteer, please contact Ron Kessler (rkessler@bcit.ca).

ABORIGINAL CULTURE CLUB New Group A First For BCIT

A new BCIT club is emerging next term and it is bringing with it an abundance of cultural history and elder guidance. It will be the first Aboriginal club the school has ever had.

Vice-president of the club, Jordan Waunch, says the group aims to connect students who are interested in learning about traditional Aboriginal teachings as well as attending different events throughout the year. "We have big ideas," said Waunch. "We are laying the groundwork for this club for future generations of students."

With over 1,400 Aboriginal students at BCIT, Waunch and the rest of the executives are thrilled to have a club where First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and non-Indigenous students can share a platform to connect with their heritage and learn more about other cultures.

The club hopes to establish a strong foundation with the community, focusing on outreach beyond the school and aiming to connect with high schools and other post-secondary institutions through workshops and events.

As part of their initiatives, the group wants to make cultural activities a big component of their agenda, bringing in elders to share their knowledge. "A really big part of Aboriginal culture is to have the elders of the community come in and teach the youth," said Waunch. "So there's many elders that are very interested right now in teaching carving, basket weaving, and traditional dance. And as we progress, we can go into many more artistic means, such as traditional medicine and cooking."

The VP also explains the club will focus on fundraising for charities as part of their outreach plan. Their first fundraising event will take place from April 9th to the 16th. The club, together with the Aboriginal circle, will be accepting canned food donations. Students can take the cans to the Aboriginal centre in SW1.

If students are interested in joining the club, they can email aboriginalclub@gmail.com for more information and updates.

— estefania duran

LGBTQ ON CAMPUS

Students Seek To Reinstate Inactive Club

Many schools offer safe spaces for LGBTQ students who may feel vulnerable and lonely, especially if they have left home for the first time. But what about at BCIT?

A club for those in the LGBTQ community did exist at one time, but it's not active at the moment. The Student Association's Amy Smith says the courseload is what rendered it out of commission. "The challenge was in getting students to organize events and take on a leadership role," she says, "which is always a huge challenge at BCIT due to students' schedules and the disconnection with part-time students."

However, BCIT student Alex Kral is working on laying the groundwork for a club to be up and running within the next school year. Kral came to BCIT in January to start the Medical Laboratory Science program. She says nothing is wrong with BCIT, but something is missing.

"It isn't that BCIT is friendly or unfriendly towards LGBTQ issues or students, but just increasing the visibility of our community can make being on campus feel much more LGBTQ friendly."

Other LGBTQ students at BCIT, like Kimberly Schoenberger, agree that this image could stand to change. "I think often, with BCIT being so trade centered, it can be isolating for people who identify as queer, or whatever they may identify as in the LGBTQ community," Schoenberger says. "It can also be really helpful to see that there are others and have that space where you can go and be safe and find people who are like yourself in the space that you are studying."

Kral was previously active in volunteering and fundraising in Pride on Vancouver Island, and has never shied away from helping organize events within her community.

— montana cumming

A QUICK CHARGE

EV Charging Stations On Campus

By now everyone has seen the wing-like structures of the Energy OASIS project—a set of solar panels hovering over staff parking lot P-7. Construction on the project wrapped last year, adding a new power source to the school's Smart Microgrid program, which aims to help develop tomorrow's responsive power grid.

Tucked under the Oasis's awning are two Level-3 (DC Fast Charge) and two Level-2 electric vehicle chargers. And they're free to use—if you catch them at the right time. Microgrid researcher Clay Howey stresses that the chargers are part of a research program, and as such aren't always online.

"We don't advertise them because at any time the system may be down- and we don't want people to be inconvenienced," he says. "But that said, 99% of the time since last March those stations have been operational."

The OASIS chargers bring the campus total to over a dozen -- though Howey says what makes them unique is their connection to the solar array above. He says the scope of the project is huge, gathering data on the entire chain of the power system.

"There's all kinds of data," he told *Link*. "How much energy we can harvest from the solar panels, the efficiency of the lithium ion storage system—the charge characteristics of the various electric vehicles."

That data will help future planners and engineers design electric cars and infrastructure, along with next generation power grids.

Until then, enjoy the free charge. 99% of the time.

— simon little

LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD

BCIT's Disability Resource Centre

At any given time 10-15% of students in post-secondary studies have disabilities. At BCIT, the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) in any given term, assists between 800-1000 students with their studies and exam accommodations; of those, over 85% have hidden disabilities. Learning disabilities and mental health issues make up the largest amount of users.

According to BCIT DRC Coordinator Cheryl Sokol, over the last 5-6 years, the number of students with autism spectrum disorder accessing disability resources in post-secondary institutions across Canada has more than doubled. The main reason for this is because services for people with disabilities have greatly improved over the last 20 years. Accommodations are more advanced now than before.

Sokol also notes: "People are more aware of the need and duty to accommodate students in the school system with disabilities as well as any other public venue. To have your disabilities accommodated is a legal duty for BCIT and any other post-secondary institution, so it would be good to see people with verifiable disabilities be able to come in and have what they are able to have, because it is the law."

However, they aren't able to diagnose people at the DRC, so students must be referred out for testing if they have a disability. An assessment is intensive and expensive—costing from \$1500-\$2400. There are many students who still don't know about the Disability Resource Centre, so they are working to improve better communication between the centre, instructors and students.

If you would like more information on the Disability Resource Centre visit:
www.bcit.ca/drc/

— sally barber

A BOUNTIFUL CROP

BCIT Labs Turn Breadfruit Into Bug Repellant

It's hard to believe that a unique cash crop that aids developing countries can also be used as a powerful repellent against the year-round annoying mosquito.

Dr. Paula Brown and the Natural Health and Food Products Research Group (NRG) at BCIT have recently uncovered a complex chemistry in breadfruit that acts against these bloodsucking insects. "Our investigations into this area are in the preliminary stages," she says. "What we have determined thus far is that extracts from the inflorescences have repellency activity against mosquitos; but we have a lot of work to do."

Her 13-person crew is one of the three big research groups at BCIT. In collaboration with a team from UBC-Okanagan, they also worked closely with the Breadfruit Institute at the National Tropical Botanical Garden of Canada.

"Working with these teams is vital to our research. [UBC-O's] Dr. Mark Rheault's research program on natural insecticides brings a wealth of experience and novel bioassays to the project," reminds Brown. "Without these partnerships, the full potential of this research project could not be realized."

A breakthrough is how to describe this unusual mosquito repellent, but Dr. Brown says that the job is not done yet. For students involved, this exposes them to many disciplines and environments that could further their careers, preparing them for the various industry sectors that have their eyes on the same research.

"This project is ongoing. We began with some preliminary experiments a couple of years ago and are exploring increasingly more specific aspects of the chemistry and its activity," Dr. Brown further added that this project alone will continue for the next 3-4 years. The ultimate goal for her team is to help all Canadians achieve the potential health and economic benefits afforded by these healing plants.

— kyle balzer



*“I wanted to
pursue something
and just go
for whatever I
wanted.”*

ON POINTE

Alex Lee didn't grow up in the most tolerant town, making his decision to be a ballet dancer that much harder. But as we found out, no challenge is too great for this distinguished dancer, who's now faced with the decision to leave dance behind and start choreographing his own steps through BCIT's Architecture program.

words **Tarrah Harvey**

photos **Yinan Shi**



When did you start dancing, and how did you get involved in ballet?

My mom put me in dance classes when I was a kid, but I never actually took it seriously, I just did it because my mom made me do it. It wasn't until I was 16 that I started taking it seriously. I wanted to dance, I wanted to be good and I wanted to go dance in Europe and become a professional dancer.

So what was it that made you decide to take ballet seriously?

I think when I was 16, that was the year that I was going through my rebellious stage. I also came out to my parents that year and they were really chill about it. I think I was more comfortable with myself to allow myself to pursue something that was considered feminine, especially growing up in a redneck city like Edmonton. I hated the world then, I wanted to prove people wrong, I was naïve and I wanted to pursue something and just go for whatever I wanted.

How competitive is the ballet world?

Very competitive. It's a dog-eat-dog world. And that's part of the reason why I didn't want to pursue it any longer. A lot of dancers will do what ever it takes to get to the top because it's so hard, especially for female dancers. It's very difficult for them to become famous or to become prima ballerinas.

What would you say is the biggest misconception about ballet?

That it's easy. It's not easy. It's very hard, not just physically but mentally. Dance is like a mind-game for other dancers. You're always trying to intimidate the other person who's in the audition, trying to scare them, because it works. Physically it's strenuous, if you're injured your career could instantly be taken away. There's always going to be someone better than you, you have to keep that in mind, and as you get older you have to accept that the younger dancers are going to take your place.

When did you start thinking that Architecture was something you wanted to pursue?

In high school... I was doing research for a socials project at the same time and there was a video about Columbia and how some people live in sewers because they can't afford homes. And it's really bad there because the police officers throw bombs into the sewers to kill them. And it just really reached to my heart. It's so unjust for these people to be killed just because they have no homes, they can't afford it, that's not fair. That's when I wanted to design homes, I was like, I have to build homes for these people.

So how has the transition from the studio to the classroom been?

It was difficult. Classes were definitely

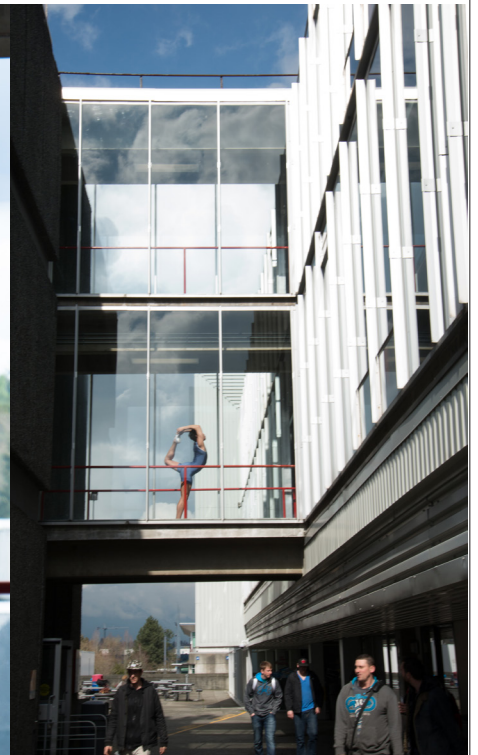
not like high school that's for sure. The homework load was a lot, there was so much to do. And then quitting dance was really really hard for me. I was offered a full-time scholarship to train in New York, I turned it down. Part of me still wonders if I could've gone the distance, but part of me also knows that it's unrealistic. A dancer's career is very difficult, it's almost impossible for you to do very well.

Have you found any of the qualities you gained from ballet have helped you in architecture?

Hard work, creativity, artistry, and being original. Ballet has a structure to it, but at the same time there's the artistry to it. When you're a dancer you find ways to be creative, that's what makes you an artist. And in architecture there are rules, there's structure to it, but also at the same time there's room for creativity. I love pillars, and I want to design a pillar that has angels around it, spiralling up the pillar and holding it at the top.

Do you have any regrets?

I can't say I do. I'm still finding my way in life I think. I'm at the point also in my life where I'm just going with the flow. I don't want to plan too far ahead. Again, I just go back to the whole idea of training in New York, I wonder how far I could've gone, could I have gone all the way? I have been fortunate enough not to get injured severely, so I wonder if I could've done it.



**“When you’re a dancer
you find ways to be creative —
that’s what makes you an artist.”**



POETIC LICENCE

A place for poetry in the 21st century

by calvin a jay

*If you don't have the
courage to say something,
write it down.*

April is National Poetry Month all across North America, and will celebrate the likes of famous poets, their poems, as well as the art form itself. But why is it so important to recognize something like poetry nationwide, in a world where the English language seems lost? Is it still relevant? What has poetry even done for the world? Is it really just a pretentious, hipster-friendly sob story? The answer is in between the lines.

The English language isn't lost. It's just changing. Just as it has, is, and will do until the end of time. With that, brings change to the literary form, altogether. Not to contradict myself, the way poetry had been written for hundreds of years did change in articulation over the centuries. However, the same style of a structurally stable, building-like poetry stuck around until a man named Walt Whitman came along. Whitman published his famous poem, "Leaves of Grass" in 1855.

From there, poetry as the world had known it, saw a significant breakthrough. No one liked it. It was full of intrepidly honest confessions that left critics and scholars sore. A little while later, a fellow named Allen Ginsberg published *Howl and Other Poems* in 1956. (sidenote: April is also the 60th anniversary of *Howl and Other Poems*). His style derived a lot from Whitman's, and was polar opposite to the works studied in universities. Ginsberg, blended free verse and performance art to his style, and thus, slam poetry was developed.

This seems to be the way poetry is progressing towards. The act of seeing someone perform their truths with such fervent honesty is enthralling, and can remind one that we are still human, and are able to feel in amongst this de-sensitized world. Tasha Receno is a young and prominent slam poet from Vancouver, and agrees that observations like Poetry Month are important.

"People don't often think about the root of things. We live in a world where we are constantly having to speak different 'versions' of English so as to suit whatever situation we find

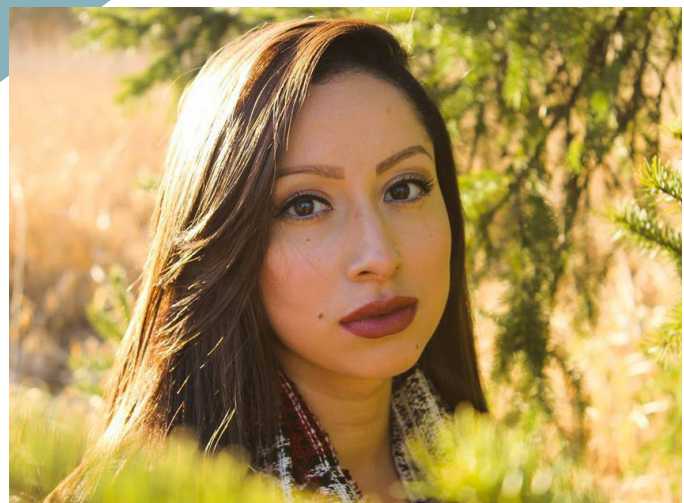
ourselves in. Delving into poetry month, and learning the different ways people have adapted the English language to fit their poem, and to make it work for what they are trying to express, is so interesting to me."

Poetry is incredibly liberating for its inspiration of free thinking. It inspires people to get inspired. To dream and romanticize, to paint colour in a grey world. Some argue the relevance of poetry, but in this world of failing human vs. human interaction and communication, it's never been more necessary. The generalization of people is what leads to social issues. Poetry gives people their own voice and the power to speak up and promote their individualism. Tasha says she finds poetry to be the easiest way to make sense of moments, feelings or issues.

"It came to me at a time in my adolescence when I didn't know how to speak out about certain issues, so I wrote instead. It was my scapegoat, a safeguard of sorts. It then became the answer to a lot of questions I had. I find myself starting to write and then writing things I didn't even know I felt or thought or wondered. I think that if more people actually sat down and were willing to write and confront their feelings or thoughts about not only themselves but the world around them, then the world as we know it would be so different."

Poetry isn't going anywhere. It's an art form that is popular because of its truthfulness. By expanding it into performance art like slam poetry, people can relate, come together, and learn to understand one another. It's a free form that requires a free thought – something that is interpreted differently by every individual, and *that* is something worth celebrating.

Connect with Tasha Receno and her poetry,
on YouTube or twitter: [@tasha__xo](#)



“Poetry gives people their own voice and the power to speak up and promote their individualism.”

— Tasha Raceno



ADVICE

for the wicked

In honour of Easter weekend, **Sarah Morden** asked the Easter Bunny to answer some of your burning questions. To those who submitted, thank you. There were some interesting questions to say the least and our good friend Bunny has had to see the campus counsellor, but Bunny made sure to answer before breaking down in tears.

Bunny,

I'm a 24-year-old woman attending BCIT and am going to be graduating from Marketing in June. This is a dream come true, but not for me. My parents started watching *Mad Men* on Netflix and have had this dream of me wearing tweed skirts and writing copy on an old timey typewriter ever since. My dream veers slightly from this course though and this is where I need your help.

My goal *does* involve men giving good natured pats on the rear, but it is because I am giving them a lap dance and they will be escorted out by the bouncer shortly. I want to be a stripper. Like a take-all-my-clothes-off-and-swing-upside-down-for-twoonies-on-a-Wednesday type of stripper. How do I make my parents see that I can use my Marketing diploma in other ways than selling hands-free soap dispensers? (*you are washing your hands after, why can't you touch the dispenser?!*)

Please help!

Sincerely,
In need of a thong – not advertising

Dear: TNA

I think you need to hippity hop on down to the meadow and find some field mice to make friends with.

Surely there will be duckies and flowers galore for you to enjoy and maybe, just maybe, you'll find a special treat or two hidden in a secret spot just for you. A carrot-shaped toy for your chocolate basket (send me a vid).

All the best and Happy Easter!

Love forever, Bunny

Bunny,

I need your help with a broad I've been scoping at the gym. I lift—like alot—and I know she notices. She's going hard on that elliptical and I can imagine that stamina can keep up with me because I'm at the gym all the time and I'm pretty fit. I need a chick who is a lady in the streets and a freak in the sheets, if you know what I mean. I know we would work; she uses the same protein powder as me and always remembers to do legs.

How do I approach this babe and let her know I want to spot her sets?

Help!
DudeBroDude

Dearest DBD,

Go to sleep and when the mist of the morning clears, and you open your sleepy little eyes, a new world full of life and love will be waiting for you! Run downstairs in your jammies and you'll experience the joy of Spring and rebirth. I spent extra care at your house hiding all the special goodies because you've been such a good boy this year.

Psych ... wipe down your equipment and maybe I won't shit in your sink.

- Bunny

If you have a pretend question you'd like us to ask a mythological creature on your behalf, or if you just want to complain about this silly little article, tweet us @LinkBCIT.

DID YOU KNOW?

Q: What does the BCITSA do for you?

- a.** Run 3 Stand Stores, Geared Up, Campus Print, Childcare Centre & Professor Mugs
- b.** Offer Career Services; consultation, workshops, Industry Days
- c.** Provide your Health & Dental Program while at BCIT
- d.** Advocate on your behalf for personal and student wide issues (i.e. U-pass)
- e.** Provide study and lounge space on all campuses
- f.** Support over 30 student clubs
- g.** Provide fun events to enhance student life
- h.** All of the Above



BCITSA STUDENT ELECTIONS

TAKE

2! min

VOTE!

April 13 -17 ^{2pm}
Questions? elections@bcitsa.ca

[@my.bcit.ca](https://my.bcit.ca)

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MEDICAL MARIJUANA

BY RANA SOWDAEY

IN YOUR BACKYARD

In Whonnock, British Columbia, a rural community on the east side of Maple Ridge, a construction site over 40,000^{sqft} is being built off of 272nd and Bell Avenue. The greenhouse going up is called Tantalus Labs. It could potentially become one of the biggest medical marijuana production sites in Canada.

The residents of Whonnock are infuriated. They're concerned about the smell, waste, water, energy management and traffic around a medical marijuana operation.

"It was a gorgeous piece of property," says resident Peter Janis. "There were cows on it before, there were barns right next to the river and there was a salmon ridge stream. Next thing you know, this thing is starting to construct. Why would that be in a neighbourhood? It's roughly half a block in size, virtually right across the street from a monastery school."

I went to the site. There are a good number of houses in the area among the naturally treed and hilly landscape. The location is about four kilometers away from the elementary school. Two and a half kilometers away from a church.

In actuality the property—now owned by the company—is double the current construction site. Once completed, according to Janis, Tantalus Labs will produce enough marijuana to supply 500,000 medical patients per year. "You do the math—it's astounding what they're going to be doing in this place."

The company hasn't yet been granted its full license to produce or sell marijuana by Health Canada, but they're clearly optimistic.

When many people think of a cannabis cultivation facility, they think of a grow-op and they think of a really odorous, unhygienic, disgusting situation that no one wants in their backyard. "Our concerns are multiple," underlines Janis.

Managing Director of Tantalus Labs, Dan Sutton has heard the town's concerns and believes they're legitimate. "If it was happening right next door to you, you'd have the right to ask questions and have some legitimate concerns." But still he insists things are different with his company.

Number one on Janis' complaint list is water usage and contamination. Is this huge facility sharing water with the rest of the community? The short answer is no. "We've dug a well on our property that actually goes 600 feet deep into the earth," clarifies Sutton. "All the other wells are 100 feet deep, so we've tapped a water table that no one else is on."

Janis' second concern is lighting. "24 hours a day, 365 days a year and all of a sudden we have a penitentiary in our neighbourhood," he said. Though Tantalus doesn't actually run their lights 24/7 informs Sutton. "Cannabis requires different lighting environments in different eras of its cultivation cycle... At dusk and dawn we'll have some lighting that we'll use in about 15% of our facility and that lighting will be shielded by blackout curtains."

"24 HOURS A DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR AND ALL OF A SUDDEN"

Finally: odours. Specifically when the marijuana facility is the size of two football fields. But Sutton says they're implementing a unique odour filter and they're: "committed to that with the district of Maple Ridge and also with Health Canada and we're really excited to implement that for the first time in the world."

Spencer Bailey is a Toronto-based lawyer who deals with medical marijuana companies in terms of regulatory compliance and licensing. In respect to the location of Tantalus, Bailey says, "it's something that's been a concern all across the country."

One of the driving forces for this new set of medical marijuana regulations is community safety. While under the older regulations, police and fire chiefs have insisted on the dangers of theft and fires in homes with grow operations.

"In response to these dangers we have new regulations that are saying, well, these are things that should be a little bit more industrial," Bailey says. He adds there are mandated laws and regulations placed by Health Canada but in terms of location there aren't specific rules. "Companies have been doing it in all different ways... some are going to be close to residential areas and it's going to cause some local backlash."

"The nature of the cannabis space is that we're very much in transition from older methods of production of being stealth. They weren't purpose engineered specifically to cultivate cannabis," said Sutton.

He thinks that it's just the production system that hasn't caught up. "Shoe horn[ing] an agricultural system into a warehouse or basement environment is a suboptimal environment in which to grow plants." We wouldn't grow tomatoes in bunkers, he explains.

Bailey also agreed that the market is legitimizing. We see cultural change and openness coming from within Canada. The federal Liberal party for instance have posted the legalization of marijuana on their platform, giving a hand up to people who use medical marijuana as medicine and want it to be seen as something legitimate and not something villainized.

"If the direction that cultural opinions are going is to complete recreational legalization, than that's good for the economy as well as for people's individual liberties," added Bailey.

Janis, among many Canadians, see a greater potential harm to society. He doesn't think the premise of legalization will solve any problems, rather it can be an addictive and unproductive trap. In his views, taxing it won't stop people from growing in unsafe ways.

"Let's not kid ourselves. This [facility] is not meant for people who need medical marijuana, this is because there's an anticipation that it's going to become legalized like booze and therefore taxed and controlled." Janis thinks it's too easy to grow.

In Canada though, it doesn't look like marijuana will be legalized for recreational purposes anytime soon. In the US individual states have more power and more jurisdiction to legalize marijuana, whereas in Canada, it's up to federal law.

The current Conservative government has supported a campaign against recreational marijuana. Bailey says, "It's a part of the Liberal platform so you would probably need a Liberal majority and a couple years for those regulations and statutory changes to be agreed upon and written up and then make it through the law making process."

Medical marijuana companies then will probably stay within boundaries in terms of production. "I would say that we're quite a long way off legalizing recreational marijuana," said Bailey.

Alaska legalized use of recreational marijuana last month. Washington and Colorado gained so much money in tax revenue from marijuana sales that they had to return some of that money to citizens.

In Vancouver, we see dispensaries strewn across the city. In March this year, the first company to sell recreational marijuana candy, oils, and chocolate to a US market started trading on the Canadian securities in Toronto, along with 13 other medical marijuana companies who have long been on the TSX.

With a bit more time, it looks like we're on our way to a true acceptance of cannabis culture. Perhaps distrust and caution are really only the best parents of security.

WE HAVE A PENITENTIARY IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD."

YOU BE TRIPPIN'

BY CALVIN A JAY
SIMON LITTLE

Vancouver is beautiful. But after all the rain, crows and congested roads of the city, you can find yourself singing those landlocked blues. So roll down those windows, crank that music, take out that disposable film camera, and hit the road Jack!

Hold up there Kerouac! There are a few things you're going to need to know.

First of all, you need a bunch of cool people. If you're having trouble locking down enough people to commit (very common), then bite the bullet and even ask their significant other to come. See the trick is, to invite enough people that the gas bill can be split multiple ways. So the more people rocking out to Paul Simon's *Graceland* in the back seat, the better.

Make sure to lay down the ground rules for bathroom breaks as well. The worst thing is when you're half an hour past a gas station, and somebody says they have to go. Everyone needs to 'go' at each pit stop, whether they have to or not.

This being said, part of the fun is getting there! Stop, smell the roses. See a great place for a picnic and a nap? Go for it. But make sure to give yourself enough time so you're not driving too far into the night. If you're not very familiar with the highway, or driving them in general, it's best to avoid the red eye. We need you back in one piece.

Having trouble figuring out where to go? No problem, *Link* has got you covered. Here's a couple of ready-made BC road trips that are perfect for the common student. These roadies aren't too dreary on gas, and not long enough to make your boss suspicious of your 'I have the flu' cover-up story.

We asked you:

"What's one thing no roadtrip is complete without?"

"A good selection of mixtapes"

— Minika Koch Waber

(mixtapes??? Seems Minika left for a roadtrip in 1995 and never looked back.)

"A map.

And someone who can read a map."

— Jen Arlidge

(you're only as good as your co-pilot)

"Beef jerky... and a tolerance for your travelmates' farts."

— Ross Flemming

(Two words Ross: power windows)

"A can-do attitude and positive vibes."

— Cole Dion

(Sure, until you're changing a flat on the shoulder and you're up to your ankles in water bottles full of trucker piss. Jus sayin')

SUN PEAKS

When this legendary ski hill sheds its winter coat of snow, it turns into a beautiful, back country paradise. Either stay at the lodging in the village, or camp by the shore of one of the many beautiful lakes around the area, like Knouff or Community lake, just to name a few. What's brilliant about Sun Peaks is that you rest in the luxury of a ski lodge, but still get off the beaten path while remaining in your backyard.

Getting there: Approx. 4hrs / 400km.
#1 Hwy > #3 Hwy > #5 Hwy > Todd Mtn Road.

BANFF

Snuggling between the BC and AB borders is this completely, and absolutely mesmerizing place. This little city is nestled in the arms of a national park. Surrounded by endless, pristine, wilderness, this place can offer you everything – from camping, to hang-gliding. And if you want the best of both worlds, Banff has got a pretty awesome night life. There's always a band in town, a round of craft beer, and a mix of interesting tourists and travelers from all around the world. It's a little longer of a trip, so if you need a halfway flop house, hit up Revelstoke, they'll take care of you.



Getting there: Approx. 8.5 hrs / 838 km.
#5 Hwy > #97 Hwy > #1 Hwy.

CAPE SCOTT

On the remote, North West tip of Vancouver Island lies one of the most unspoiled, wild, and rough corners of British Columbia. Cape Scott Provincial Park is home to the North Coast Trail and some great camping. It's also a killer road trip, combining some great highway hours with fun stops, *and* a ferry ride (aka, the proletarian cruise line). After you've enjoyed some illicitly smuggled boat beers (*not the driver*), hit the island highway North. You can make a quick pit stop in Coombs if you want to see the famous Goats on the Roof before settling into the rhythm of the road. On the way up you'll get an idea of just how big Vancouver Island is, along with some gorgeous scenery. Be advised, Cape Scott is a genuinely wild and rugged park, so if you visit make sure you plan and pack accordingly.

Getting there: 9 hrs / 525 km.
Hwy #99 > Nanaimo Ferry > Hwy #19 >
Port Hardy > Series of smaller roads
(Google it!)

NELSON

British Columbia's beating hippie heart, Nelson is like Commercial Drive if it was a small town. Nestled in the spectacular mountains of the Kootenay region, it's surrounded by hot springs, hikes and camping spots. If you're a festival goer, it's also about an hour from Shambhalla. The drive is one of the best — the No. 3 (Crowsnest) highway twists and turns through Manning Park, Osoyoos and some very remote mountains. Great pit stops in weird ghost towns like Hedley, the taxidermy infested 'Prospector Pub' in Rock Creek, and fresh fruit heaven in Keremeos. Great swimming holes too, including Bromley Rock (cliff diving) and a trestle bridge you can jump off of in the Kettle River Recreation area.

One of BC's best road trips.

Getting there: 8-10 hrs / 660 km.
Hwy #1E > Hwy #3 > Hwy #3A

UCLUELET

Just south of Tofino on the island is the little town of Ucluelet. Tucked down in the toes of Pacific Rim National Park, this little fishing town is quiet, and far away from the construction headaches of Willingdon Ave. This roadtrip is ideal for those folks who don't do too well in long car rides (I'm talking to you, tall people!). The ferry ride in between makes up a good portion of the actual sitting time, and provides some brilliant sight-seeing that'll just get you even more stoked to get to the coast.

Getting there: Approx. 5.5 hrs, 267 km.
#99 Hwy > Horseshoe Bay Ferry > #19 Hwy > #4 Hwy





Cathedral Grove (instagram: @dannypampersand)

VICTORIA ——— to ——— TOFINO

Sally Barber returns to Vancouver Island and rediscovers that it's not always where you're going, but how you get there.

It was spring break and we were deciding where to go. We only had a week, so had to choose wisely. Skiing? We had Whistler passes, but there wasn't any snow with the warm winter. Go to the States or Hawaii? Our dollar wasn't going far anytime soon. But there was one place we hadn't been to in a long time and it is one of the best kept secrets: Pacific Rim National Park Reserve on Vancouver Island.

I hadn't been there in about five years, but I fondly remember the last time I went. My now-husband proposed to me on my favourite beach there at Schooners Cove. A hiking trail leads you on a boardwalk through a magical rain forest, before you end out at a wide secluded cove at the North end of Long Beach. Once on the beach, you can walk for what seems like forever, exploring the rugged western coast line. At low tide, rocks can be explored for sea life—star fish, mussels, green anemones and more.

Travelling the world, I have experienced the beauty of many countries: Australia, India and Thailand to name a few. But nothing has ever compared to the majestic beauty of our west coast; the

centuries old rain forests, white-capped mountains and kilometers of natural beach. To me, nothing beats walking or kayaking along stretches of coastline, the sound of the surf, surrounded by mountains.

And there's solitude. You could walk for an hour and only bump into a few people. So we decided to head out. We packed our car, loaded it up with our bikes and dog then we were off on another roadtrip.

Our plan was to take a ferry over to Victoria, stay a few nights and then make our way up the island to Tofino. While in Victoria, we took the road less travelled biking along the Galloping Goose Trail and enjoying Dallas Road Beach. We then headed up towards Nanaimo. The drive would be about two hours and take us by some beautiful countryside. The town of Chemainus, infamous for being 'the little town that could' with its impressive murals, is along the way and worth a stop.

Passing through Nanaimo, we then continued west on the highway, stopping at Coombs, famous for its Goats on the Roof. It is now quite a shopping complex

and always popular with tourists for a quick stop. After buying necessary road trip snacks (aka: junk food) we hit the highway.

One of the best highlights of the trip comes just before Port Alberni, at the heart of a 400-year-old old-growth rain forest—a place called Cathedral Grove. Part of McMillan Provincial Park, the 157 hectare stand of ancient Douglas Fir, draws visitors from all over the world and is easily accessible from the road. In 2007 Cathedral grove made the shortlist on CBC television's competition, Seven Wonders of Canada. Walking through this wonder of woods, you begin to appreciate the history of this vast forest and the aboriginals that lived there hundreds of years ago.

The distance from Port Alberni to Tofino is about 126 kilometres, along a very twisty scenic road and takes close to two hours. We finally pulled into our hotel near Tofino in the evening – just in time to enjoy the sunset and walk along the beach.

I could finally experience the crashing waves, look off into the distance and imagine seeing Japan.

TAXTIME

Students already have enough finances to try and balance throughout the school year. Tuition, textbooks, food, rent—the list never seems to end. And then, at this time every year, the dreaded “T” word comes around. Taxes. The important thing to remember is to not get intimidated and know that there are many options out there to get your taxes done. **by jessica fedigan**

THE BIG GUYS

You may have the patience and time to do them yourself, and that's great for those who can, but for the rest of us, there's experts like H&R Block. They offer a free online filing system, or you can also do them the old fashioned way, by hand. H&R Block has a student rate. They charge about \$40 but don't rule out the convenience factor. H&R Block will give you your tax refund on the spot, however, they will take a certain percentage away from you for giving you the money right away. If you have the patience to save that percentage, the government will usually direct deposit your return right into your bank account within 8-10 business days. If you don't have direct deposit, you can expect to wait about two weeks before you see any money.

MOM and POP

You can try and shop around. Some accounting firms will do them for a cheaper price. Of course it all depends on how many slips and documents you have, but most places are willing to give you a break if you are a student. And it never hurts to have family or friends who would be willing to do your taxes in exchange for a favour.

OOPS, I FORGOT

The penalty for not filing your taxes is 5% of your monthly balance owing if you miss it all together. You are also charged 2% of your balance owing for each full month your return is late. If you've forgotten for more than 1 or 2 years, you will be charged 10%. So it's probably in your best interests not to miss it!

BCIT's FMA CLUB

BCIT also offers a free service for students which is put on by the BCIT Student Association and the Financial Management Association. Don't worry, they work with trained volunteers from the CRA who make sure there aren't any major mess ups. You can find it on the SA's website, or contact Amy Smith: asmith@bcitsa.ca

It all depends if you want to keep your sanity or not—to do your taxes on your own or pay someone to do them for you. Either way, don't forget to file by April 30th!



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RECORD STORE DAY

APRIL 18
2015

A VINYL REVIVAL

BY SAMANTHA PINTER-THOMPSON

If you're reading this in 2015, it's very likely you've listened to music on a computer, a smartphone or an iPod. However, against all odds, the music technology of your parent's generation is coming back in a big way—and I'm not talking about 8-tracks. Vinyl records have entered a renaissance, and we're here to give you the lowdown.



As big box music stores have been closing down left, right and centre, independent record stores have been thriving. According to owner of Vancouver's Neptoon Records, Rob Frith, the record resurgence has been going on for about a decade and shows no sign of slowing down now. He attributes much of the growth to Record Store Day, coming up this year on April 18.

Record Store Day is an annual event which began in 2007 and has built steadily every year since. There are now thousands of participating stores spread out across every continent (except of course Antarctica), including many in the Lower Mainland.

How it works is labels release limited edition titles exclusively to independent record stores, and those records are sold for one day only. This is your chance to snag a limited edition release from many of your favourite artists. This year's Record Store Day offerings span hundreds of titles including classics like Jimi Hendrix and David Bowie or new favourites like Kid Cudi and The Black Keys. Browsing through the list you'd be hard pressed not to find something unique or surprising.

Many stores also have in-house performances, autograph signings and other special events. Frith says Record Store Day gives independent music shops an upper hand over major corporate retailers.

"We get all this business of mainstream customers who would only shop at a mall or downtown at a big-box store, all of a sudden starting to come to smaller stores because they could get these things and lining up to get them."

"The people that we deal with more in our store are people that are always seeking out something new, trying to find something different, are interested in finding stuff. Another thing too with records, when DJs did help make the vinyl thing come back to the younger people, a lot of people all of a sudden were interested in their parent's record collection. They had an instant record collection there... and that helped to educate quite a few younger people into different types of music."

Now that CDs have all but faded away in favour of digital, what has made records fashionable again? According to Frith, at the end of the day it comes back to the music: "That sound you can't download."

Record Store Day also gives artists a chance to connect with fans and give back to community record stores. The ambassador for Record Store Day 2015 is none other than Foo Fighters frontman Dave Grohl. In a statement, Grohl said he found his calling in a record store and that, "their importance to our next generation of musicians is crucial."

Frith now manages Neptoon Records alongside his son, Ben. While most people will never go into the record business with their parents, Vinyl is something that can be shared between the generations.



CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

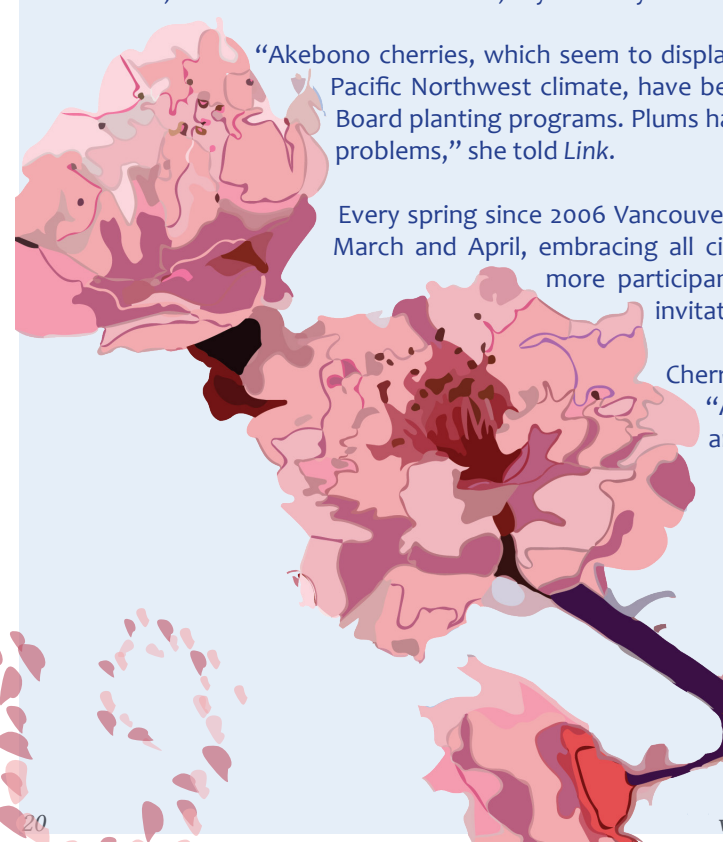
By Sally Barber

At this time of year, Vancouver parks and streets are lined with the billowy display of cherry blossoms. Vancouver is home to over 40,000 cherry trees, lining the streets and in parks. For over 60 years Vancouverites have been enjoying these flowering trees and there is a history behind it.

The Japanese name the flowering cherry 'Sakura.' It could be said that it symbolizes the national character of the Japanese. Every year in spring, the Japanese have cherry blossom viewing or Sakura Festivals with families and friends picnicking under the beautiful trees. Many of Vancouver's cherry trees originated as gifts from Japan.

In the early 1930's the Vancouver Park Board was presented with 500 Japanese cherry trees by the mayors of Kobe and Yokohama. They were for planting at the Japanese cenotaph in Stanley Park to honour Japanese-Canadians who served in WWI. About 20 years later, 300 more were donated by the Japanese consul, Muneo Tanabe, and reported as 'an eternal memory of good friendship between our two nations. Many of these trees were planted in Queen Elizabeth and Stanley Parks. The number of flowering trees planted continued to increase since the plum, cherry and crab apple trees were less intrusive than others like the elm or maple with bigger roots and canopies.

In 1990, nearly 36 percent of the 89,000 trees were the flowering plum and cherry trees. The most common species was the Kwanzan flowering cherry and the Pissard plum. But Carol DeFina, of the Vancouver Park Board, says the city is moving away from the latter.



"Akebono cherries, which seem to display superior performance in our rainy Pacific Northwest climate, have become much more prevalent in Park Board planting programs. Plums have been de-emphasized due to root problems," she told *Link*.

Every spring since 2006 Vancouver has held a Cherry Blossom Festival March and April, embracing all citizens of all ages. Each year draws more participants and programs, such as the haiku invitational poetry contest, and plein-air blossom painting.

Cherry scouting activities also go on throughout the festival. The VCBF site states: "Anyone can be a cherry scout. Scouts volunteer city-wide to regularly observe and report on what's in bloom."

Cherry blossom viewing has come about three weeks early this year and some events for the Vancouver Cherry Blossom festival have been re-scheduled. For a full list of VCBF activities, visit www.vcbf.ca

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 54 different varieties of flowering cherry trees in Vancouver, with over 40,000 individual trees.
- Cherry blossom is believed to be native to the Himalayas.
- Many of the varieties of cherry blossom have been cultivated for ornamental use and do not produce fruit.
- Many of the early blossoming trees are plum and not cherry.
- You can be a cherry scout!

FILL YOUR BASKET WITH THE TRUE MEANING OF EASTER

by kyle balzer

Christmas has Santa Claus, but Easter has a bunny! For those who still believe in the creature who brings various colour-coated eggs, it might be time to stop giving into the clichés and start understanding the true roots of this holiday.

We see all the advertisements on television, pressuring parents to buy more chocolate for their children to add to their secret, unfinished Halloween stash. They are then encouraged to go on a treasure hunt, just like our cotton-tailed friend. It seems as if nowadays we focus our attention on the mainstream stereotypes than what this weekend is truly about.

Like most holidays, Easter is about family, friends, and food on the table, but arguably the more important 'F-word' that tends to be overlooked is: forgiveness. Believe it or not, this act of respect and appreciation was the very basis

of Easter, all because one man decided to give up His life so that His people may live an everlasting life.

I understand that Jesus may not be someone who you think about at the dinner table or when you go to bed at night, but His sacrifice and willingness to leave this earth is an act of forgiveness that no one can duplicate. Fact of the matter is, Jesus paid the ultimate price and defied all the odds when he arose on the third day—Easter Monday.

So if you're in need of some understanding, I could just tell you to pick up a Bible, turn to the book of Luke, and read Chapters 22-24, but instead I'll encourage this: While enjoying the long weekend away from the classroom and consuming those chocolate-covered treats, we should be kind, compassionate, and forgiving of those around us. That, Charlie Brown, is what Easter is all about.

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With March's
recent solar eclipse and a
looming lunar eclipse April 4th
(visible from Vancouver) we've got
'sky shadows' on the mind. There's
no denying that the spectacular astral
phenomenon affects humans deeply.
*What power is strong enough to blot
out the sky?* We look back at the
forces – mystical and scientific –
behind the Eclipse.

THE PATH OF TOTALITY

BY DEBORAH POWER

MYTH AND MYSTERY

ANCIENT GODS AND UNKNOWN FORCES

There are many records throughout history of ancient human reactions to these celestial mysteries. It is difficult to imagine now, but some old beliefs purported that witches were stealing the moon during an eclipse, or that it was an evil portent of things to come. Regardless of which story or myth you might read about, all involve some sense of extreme foreboding.

BATTLE FOR THE SKY

The Vikings had their own term for apocalypse - *Ragnarok* - and they believed that two wolves would bring it about. Skoll would chase down the Sun and eat it and Hati took on the Moon. The job of the people left on Earth was to make as much noise as they could to scare the wolves away.

SKY BEASTS OF THE ANCIENT AMERICAS

In ancient Mayan culture, the belief was that the planet Venus was the attacker of the Sun, complete with wasps and stinging insects flying through the sky to assist. The Pomo Tribe of First Nations in the American Northwest holds an ancient belief that eclipses are caused by a bear that had gone for a stroll on the Milky Way. The bear met up with the Sun and had an argument about who would pass first. In the fight, the Sun is temporarily blotted out. Apparently the same bear gets in tussles with the moon too.

LASTING LEGENDS

To this day some old beliefs hold fast. For example, there are still expectant Hispanic women who will refuse to watch an eclipse out of fear that an eclipse is a bite on the face of the moon. If a mother watches it, the same thing would happen to her baby, resulting in a cleft lip. For protection, the mom must carry something metallic, like a safety pin, on her underwear.

MODERN 'MAGIC'

THE INVISIBLE SCIENCE BEHIND THE ECLIPSE

In reality eclipses are, in essence, an accident of nature. Solar eclipses are so spectacular to the human eye because—impossibly—the Moon and the Sun appear almost the same size. In reality the Sun is much further away than the Moon, but much larger. Just as for solar eclipses, lunar eclipses can be partial or total, depending on whether the light of the Sun is partially or completely blocked from reaching the Moon.

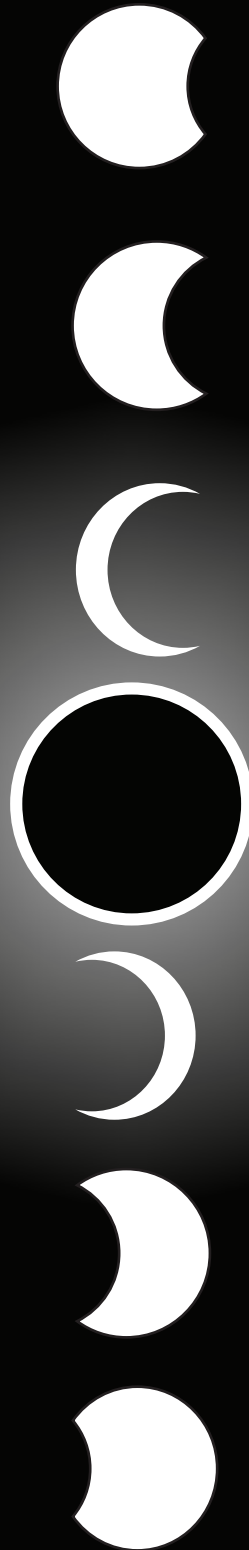
ORBITAL MECHANICS

The Moon orbits the Earth once a month and eclipses happen when it lines up exactly with the Earth and the Sun. Solar eclipses occur at New Moon, when the moon is between Earth and the Sun. Lunar eclipses occur at Full Moon, when the Earth is between the Sun and the Moon. Eclipses do not take place every month because the orbits of the Moon and Earth are tilted at an angle.

Most of the time, the line-up is not precise enough for an eclipse. The shadow cast upon Earth during an eclipse is called 'the path of totality.' This is the span of space in total eclipse. As the Earth moves, this shadow moves too - at 2250km per hour.

SEASONS OF THE SUN

There are more eclipses than people are generally aware of. There are at least two eclipses of the Sun each year, though most are partial. And there are at least two eclipses of the Moon each year, though a proportion of these are only penumbral (when the Moon is not seen to darken by very much). There can be as many as seven eclipses (solar and lunar) in any one year. In 1935 there were five solar eclipses - four partial and one annular. On average, there is a total solar eclipse visible somewhere about every 18 months. However, from any one location on Earth, total eclipses take place on average only once every several hundred years.



THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR BCIT!

We spent a lot of time together this year, delving into the student stories, news and culture that make this school so unique.

We thank you for sharing your stories with others and we thank everyone who chose to spend a little time each month reading this magazine.

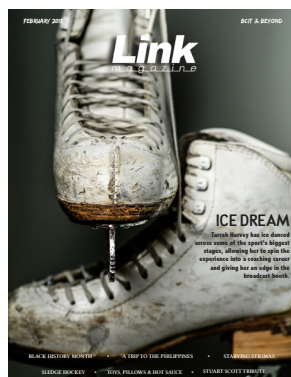
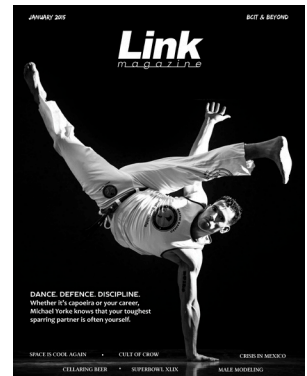
Next year will see a whole new wave of students and stories, and yet so many still remain to be told.

If you are interested in contributing, or simply have a story that just needs to be told, please write to us at:
editor@linkbcit.ca

BCIT AND BEYOND
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INTELLIGENT TIMEPIECES

Let's face it, when you see someone with a wristwatch these days, it's usually a case of fashion over function. Well beam me up Scotty, because watches are about to enter a whole new renaissance and it's only a matter of time before we're all rockin' these rigs on our wrists.

by jon hall



PEBBLE STEEL (\$230) FUTURE SHOP

Like its predecessor, the Pebble Steel uses e-ink to render its watch face, meaning it's easily read in broad daylight like an e-book. While its innards may be older (it can only handle eight apps at a time), it's water resistant, has a pedometer, and you can download custom faces. Bonus: you only need to charge it twice per week.

SAMSUNG GEAR 2 (\$280) BEST BUY

Samsung's revision to the Galaxy Gear is a big improvement over its predecessor, increasing battery life to a couple days and vastly improving the UI. Its construction still leaves a lot to be desired – its camera is on the edge of the watch, so if you want to take a picture you can't really see what you're taking a photo of.



MOTO360 (\$280-\$330) BEST BUY

Said to be the best looking 'Android Wear' smart watch, the Moto360 is pretty barebones. Other than the wireless charging stand, you're buying similar technology to the Pebble Steel – meaning the super-fancy watch theme you got from the Android Store might slow it down. Not to mention its battery life is wildly unpredictable with reports as low as 11 hours.



APPLE WATCH (\$450-\$22,000) APPLE

Though not technically out yet, we'd be thrown to the wolves if we didn't mention Apple's proposed entry into the Smart Watch arena. Its base model (the Sport) is no slouch; boasting a small Retina display as well as a heart rate sensor. Its projected battery life is not unlike a regular smartphone: 18 hours. Even Apple's mighty watch reminds us of modern technology's 'ABC' rule: Always Be Charging.



NHL 2014/2015 SEASON:

Anything but Normal

We may see the defending Stanley Cup champs bounced out of a playoff spot, no 90-point scorer, and a goalie take home the Hart Trophy as league MVP come season's end.

Favorites out of each conference heading into the playoffs should be the Rangers in the East and the Ducks in the West. The Rangers are a complete, skilled and motivated team, having lost in the Stanley Cup finals to the Kings last year. What they have on the other powerhouse East teams, the Canadiens and the Lightning, is all these three components put together. Meanwhile, the Ducks, having disappointed in the playoffs in recent years, will be focused to make a Cup run and their roster is as deep as they come. Look for the Ducks to pull away from the Blues and Predators as the best in the West.

What might be most surprising is if both the Bruins and Kings are bumped out of a playoff spot, the Bruins being the defending Presidents Trophy winners and the Kings being defending Cup champions. This has never happened in NHL history.

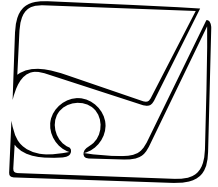
Another looming first in the NHL— Sidney Crosby is on pace to lead the league with 84 points. Crosby leading the league in points is nothing new, but in a full 82-game season this would be lowest point total ever. Currently the record belongs to Stan Mikita, who led the league with a mere 87 points in 1967-68. Cue another dead puck era?

And finally, amidst all the miraculous runs put on by goalies this season, none have done it better or more consistently than Carey Price. Price leads the league in all major goalie statistics and is doing so on a Canadiens team that was first to 100 points and has no captain. Only seven times in league history has a goalie won the Hart Trophy as league MVP but it's fairly easy to see why skeptics think Carey Price could pull it off this season.

— colton davies

THE RISE OF CANADIAN GOLF

Early Signs Of What the Future Holds for the PGA



Not since the early 2000s has the golfing world seen more Canadian-presence on the PGA Tour than it has in recent years. Even as recently as the 1990s, finding one in any tournament was like searching for a needle in a haystack.

In 2003, Mike Weir paved the way for our nation by winning the Masters, becoming the first Canadian to ever win one of the four major tournaments. He was, and still is, the face of Golf Canada and clearly his win inspired recent players to achieve the same.

In the case of two young, talented golfers from Abbotsford, Nick Taylor and Adam Hadwin have added to the ever-growing realization that Canadians don't just play hockey 24/7. They both graduated last year from the Web.com Tour, golf's premiere development circuit, and have now joined a handful of maple leaves on the Tour.

Nick Taylor, in his rookie season, took advantage of the recently perfected 'Wrap-Around' season of the PGA Tour by winning the Sanderson Farms Championship last November in only his fourth career start. His winning share: \$720,000! The Yale Secondary product has made 13 tournament appearances so far and currently sits 39th in the playoff rankings.

"Canadians don't just play hockey 24/7"

Adam Hadwin, on the other hand, grew up competing against Taylor in high school. The Robert Bateman Secondary graduate won twice on the Web.com Tour, accumulating the most money of any other competitor in the 2014 season, thus receiving the honour as the top graduate moving up to the big leagues. His best finish so far has been a tie for 10th at Justin Timberlake's tourney last October and currently holds more than \$300,000 in earnings this season alone.

Walking the links that legends like Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, and Tiger Woods have walked is a dream that these young men have thought of for years; hoping to someday have their names engraved on golf's greatest trophies and perhaps compete in major international events, like this year's President's Cup in South Korea or the 2016 Summer Olympics in Brazil. Taylor and Hadwin are following a dream set forth by other Canadians in the game, from George Knudson to Stephen Ames; from Dave Barr to Graham DeLaet.

The new crop of Canadian golfers are ready to show the world they are not competing because they can, but because they know they are a force to be reckoned with.

— kyle balzer

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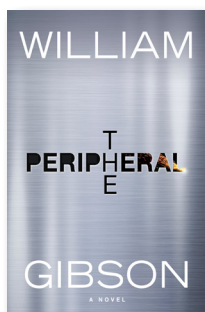
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The Peripheral
William Gibson
(G. P. Putnam's Sons)

If you don't know William Gibson, here's the crash course. The man is basically one of the architects of the 21st century – his 'cyberpunk' sci-fi novels of the 1980s gave us the word 'cyberspace' and the words and pictures to imagine an internet and globalized world. It's often said the best sci-fi uses the world of tomorrow to address the concerns of today. Gibson does it in spades. But his carefully textured pictures of a just-beyond the horizon future always end up feeling prophetic. Pick up his *Sprawl* and *Bridge* trilogies and you'll see what I mean. He dreamed up the 'net, space tourism, and corporate AIs in the 80s, Google glass (but better), carbon-paper bicycles, and 3D printers in the 90s.

Now he's back with his first truly visionary novel in more than a decade, and he's working his magic again. Jumping between a gritty, post-industrial US where people play videogames for a living and a slick but weirdly empty post-scarcity London, *The Peripheral* plays with some big themes. Identity in a world where we've left the body behind. Politics in a world where states barely exist (right down to rock star diplomats committing acts of war as a live-streamed event). Oh, and throw in one of the more meditative looks I've yet seen on the collapse of the Western world.

With Gibson though, the best bits are always the texture. Sure there's a rip

roaring plot line with some big time ideas on the line. But it's the details that make his writing so vivid. The peripheral gives us a real estate battle over the earth's newest continent (a trash-plastic island in the Pacific Ocean), a PTSD war vet who never quite recovered his humanity after all the implants, and a blue collar South with an economy based on meth and stolen intellectual property. Not that far fetched.

You don't have to be a hard sci-fi lover to get into this book. You just need to like to imagine the world the day after tomorrow. Or maybe the one after that. Because more often than not, in hindsight, Gibson's novels read like altered-history, not fiction.

- Simon Little

LISTEN



Singles
Future Islands
(4AD records)

Okay. This album isn't *that* new. In fact, *Singles*, has just celebrated its first birthday after being brought into this world by Future Islands. But, I just had to yell at everyone about this album, because it's one of my favourites of the half decade. Of all the album reviews I've done this year, *Singles* stands out the most. Samuel T. Herring, the band's writer and vocalist, has a unique way

of utilizing his vocal technique. At times, it sounds like he's created characters in the story of a song, moving between low growls, to preachy blows. Speaking of preachy, each track on this album sounds like a sermon. The balance of hope in Herring's vocals blends with obnoxious synth hooks, and New Order-like bass melodies to create an original sound. This band is really good. And this

album has propelled them up the *Pitchfork* and *Rolling Stone* ranks to absolute alt/indie stardom. Pick your own from *Singles*, bliss out, and be ready to start googling the intrepid lyrics that Herring sings of. They'll have your head spinning.

- Calvin A Jay

WATCH



Cinderella
(dir. kenneth branagh)

As if by fairytale perfection, this version of the story was released 60 years after the original cartoon. They gave it some time, and did it better.

I respect the timelessness of the original (which came out in 1950, so take my words with a grain of salt), but this reiteration foregoes jumping in in media res and gives us a good glance into Ella's world as she grows into a young woman. I see this version having taken the best of the original cartoon, and combining it with Drew Barrymore's *Ever After: A Cinderella Story* (1998).

The writing is solid and the acting is mostly well-done. I didn't recognize Cate Blanchett as Lady Tremaine; I felt both sorry for her and hated her all at once. Helena Bonham Carter, though minimal in her role as the Fairy Godmother/Narrator, brings good comic relief.

Where I take issue with the film is how delicate Lily James is (in some scenes) as Cinderella. Though enchanting, and though she mostly fits the role, some audience members made gagging noises when she delivered certain lines. There's a strong Cinderella, and there's a victimized

one – she may have been straddling the latter side a bit too much. I've also yet to see a prince portrayed charmingly. Richard Madden (Prince) was mediocre – but then again, he's not the main character.

I think it's worth the watch in theatres. At least you can catch a midnight showing and not turn into a pumpkin.

— Ria Renouf

The Indie Beat

w/ Mat Paget

There's a lot more to video games than just Call of Duty and Grand Theft Auto, but most people don't realize that. I'm here to introduce the unaware masses to a type of game that's setting the world on fire, whether it knows it or not: the indie game.



For more on what's hot in video games, follow @MatPaget on Twitter.

ORI and THE BLIND FOREST

(moon studios)

PC / XBOX ONE

Ori and the Blind Forest may be one of the most beautiful games I've ever seen. With its use of hand-painted visuals, and a palette that boasts a wide variety of colours, this game astounds me every time I explore its beautiful, diverse world. Thankfully, its visual beauty is matched in quality by a masterful soundtrack and its own gameplay. You control Ori, a cat-like guardian spirit, as you run and jump around the dying forest of Nibel. It's Ori's job to restore light to the dying forest, while avoiding Kuro, the evil owl that's cast the forest into darkness. The gameplay consists of challenging platforming sections, puzzles, and combat with some of the less-friendly forest creatures. The controls are tight and feel like they should, whether you're running through a tough area, floating down a treacherous chasm, or swimming in crystal clean water.

While traversing the gorgeous world, you'll come across various paths and areas that will be just outside of your reach, only accessible once you've obtained new powers. This requires the player to go back to past sections with said powers in order to proceed. It's a common concept used in many beloved games including *Super Metroid* and *Castlevania: Symphony of the Night*; it's a concept I love a whole lot, especially when it's as much fun playing the game as it is here. Everything just comes together so well in *Ori and the Blind Forest*, making it one of the best games I've played in a long while.

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