

B.C.I.T. Library



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ARCHIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2000

The

# Link

## SustainAbility Week

- Taking action to preserve a future
- A look at events at BCIT February 1 to 4  
see pages 6 & 7

The Top **10** Enviro stories of the 1990s  
see page 5

# The Link

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

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As a member of Canadian University Press (CUP), *The Link* adheres to CUP's Code of Ethics.

To this end *The Link* will not publish material deemed by the editors or steering committee to be sexist, racist, homophobic or in poor taste.

The views in *The Link* are not necessarily those of BCIT, the Student Association, or the editorial collective.

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#### LINK LETTERS POLICY

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 Your name, affiliation with BCIT and a telephone number to contact you (which will not be published) must be included.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

## Campus Events

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

#### Wednesday, January 26

**Electronics:** Timetable & registration for students on modified programs.

#### Thursday, January 27

**Electronics:** Timetable & registration for students on modified programs.

**Women's Self-Defense.** Contact Rec & Athletics for more information.

#### Friday, January 28

**Electronics:** Registration & orientation for Level 1 students.

#### Monday, January 31

**American Marketing Association Meeting.** 7am. Call 451-6777 for more information.

**Electronics:** First day of classes, Winter Term.

**Beginner's Squash.** Contact Rec & Athletics for more information.

#### Tuesday, February 1

**Sustainability Week: Think about a Sustainable World Day.**

**Toastmasters.** SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre, 7am.

#### Wednesday, February 2

**Groundhog's Day.**

**Sustainability Week: Waste Reduction Day.** Opening event & parade. Childcare kids play the sustainability game with executives from the SA; presentation to winner's of BCIT's Earth Apple Award; Project launches; Open House Sustain-Ability Contest; 10 percent Waste Reduction Target; and Exhibits from the Recycling Council of BC, the GVRD Recycling Works Program, Canadian Business for Social

Responsibility, computer stations loaded with the QUEST game on the Georgia Basin Futures Project and the Ecological Footprint Calculator, and displays. Great Hall, SA Campus Centre. Noon

**Sustainability Week: Honda Insight Display.** Great Hall, SA Campus Centre. 11am - 2:30pm.  
**Sustainability Week: "The Natural Step at BCIT"** A presentation/workshop by Dr. Brian Nattrass, co-author of the Natural Step for Business. Introduction by Mark Angelo. Telus Theatre, SE6. Noon- 2:25pm

**Introduction to Juggling.** Contact Rec & Athletics for more information.

**Tai Chi Begins.** Contact Rec & Athletics for more information.

**SCUBA Lessons.** Contact Rec & Athletics for more information.

#### Thursday, February 3

**Sustainability Week: Transportation Day.** Transportation exhibits of the Honda Insight electric /gas vehicle; electric cars and bikes from the Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association; Go Green Choices / BEST (Better Environmentally Sound Transportation); and the Jack Bell Foundation. Great Hall, SA Campus Centre.

**Aikido.** Contact Rec & Athletics for more information.

**Yoga.** Contact Rec & Athletics for more information.

#### Friday, February 4

**Sustainability Week: Ideas Day.** "Target 2000" 10 percent reduction in waste production by this December. Where are the

opportunities? What are the constraints? What resources are needed? How will we report it? Who's coming? Call 451-7060 for more information. Sponsored by the BCIT Environmental Action Committee.

**Electronics:** Level 2, 3 & 4 Coop fees due.

**Deadline for submissions to the next edition of *The Link*.**

#### Saturday, February 5

**Relaxation Massage.** Contact Rec & Athletics for more information.

#### Monday, February 7

**American Marketing Association Meeting.** 7am. Call 451-6777 for more information.

**SA Council Meeting.** SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre, 5:45 pm.

#### Tuesday, February 8

**Toastmasters.** SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre, 7am.

**Recreation Council Meeting.**

#### Wednesday, February 9

**Next edition of *The Link* hits the stands.**

#### Friday, February 11

**Electronics:** Last day to change sections for students on modified programs.

#### Monday, February 14

**Valentine's Day.**

**American Marketing Association Meeting.** 7am. Call 451-6777 for more info.

#### Tuesday, February 15

**Toastmasters.** SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre, 7am.

Last day to withdraw from Term 'A' courses and receive a 'W' on transcript.

**Electronics:** Last day to withdraw and receive a full refund (less \$200 commitment fee).

**Electronics:** Last day to apply for course credit (exemption) and change registration to audit status.

#### Friday, February 18

**Winter Convocation Ceremonies.**

**Deadline for submissions to the February 23rd edition of *The Link*.**

#### Monday, February 21

**American Marketing Association Meeting.** 7am. Call 451-6777 for more information.

**SA Council Meeting.** SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre, 5:45 pm.

#### Tuesday, February 22

**Toastmasters.** SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre, 7am.

#### Wednesday, February 23

**Edition of *The Link* hits the stands.**

#### Monday, February 28

**American Marketing Association Meeting.** 7am. Call 451-6777 for more information.

#### Tuesday, February 29

**Remember: It's a leap year.**

**Toastmasters.** SA Boardroom, SA Campus Centre, 7am.

## Link call 432-8974 Unclassifieds

**TRAVEL-teach English:** 5 day/40hr (Mar 20-24) TESOL teacher certification course (or by correspondence). 1,000's of jobs available NOW. FREE information package, toll free 1-888-270-2941.

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The Link is always looking for new staff.

We need writers to cover campus news, features, to review concerts, cds, film and theatre. Or just to give the campus community their two cents.

If you'd like to help out drop by our offices behind the video arcade in the SA Campus Centre.

## Sounds of Progress: renovations at the Burnaby Campus Library

Extensive renovations are taking place at the Burnaby Campus Library. Government funding has made it possible to go ahead with these plans although delays have meant that these projects will be done during school term. As well, repairs are being done to the Library's exterior walls with completion expected at the end of February.

Renovations began in December in the Reference Offices on the Upper Floor and completion is expected in mid January. Students will have available to them two rooms for silent

study and one for video viewing. At the same time, improvements are being made to the staff offices in the Circulation Department. Course outlines have been relocated to this area.

The most extensive renovations, with the most impact on students, will be in the Microcomputer Centre and throughout the Lower Floor. These are scheduled to commence at the end of January. Arrangements have been made to temporarily relocate the Microcomputer Centre services to Rooms 301 and 302 on the Upper Floor. Express printing and stand-

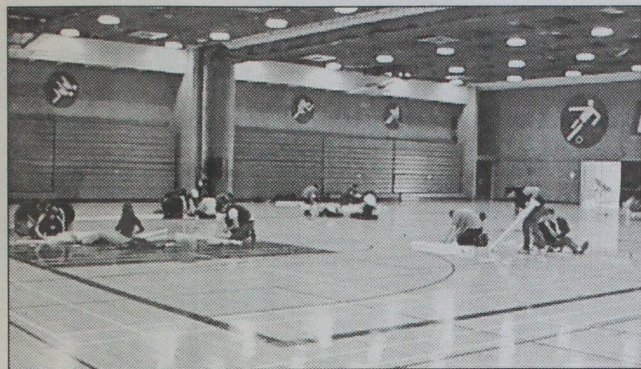
alone stations will be in Room 302 and stations with internet access will be in Room 301. When completed later in the year, students will have access to over 100 computer workstations including an area with personal notebook connections. In addition to four study and presentation rooms, there will be group project rooms for presentations and video viewing, and a student resource room for photocopying and scanning materials.

The Library appreciates the disruption all this activity will have not only on students but also on staff and faculty. However,

given the age of the building and the needs of the BCIT community for better Library facilities, these improvements are long overdue. All regular Library services will continue to be available.

Look for an information display about the renovations near the Reference and Information Desk.

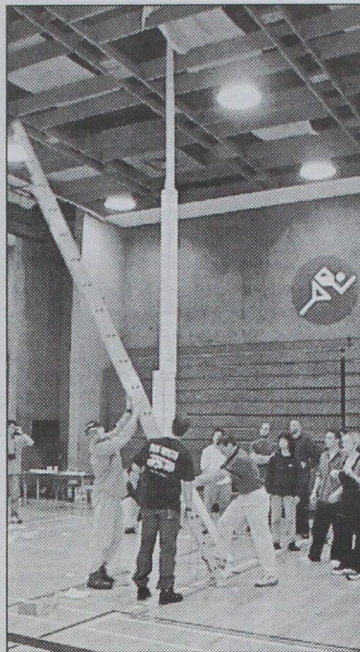
As well, check the latest updates about renovations on the Library's web site at: <http://www.lib.bcit.ca/renovations.htm>



## Winning Faulty Towers Team approaches record

The winners of this year's Faulty Towers competition in the category of tallest tower, Civil and Structural Set B, literally came within inches of beating the record. The tower (right) measured 24' 11". The record for the tallest tower is 25' 11.5".

LYGDEL DE LEON PHOTOS



## Scholarship confuses students

DAVE HAZZAN  
Canadian University Press

VICTORIA

If you received a Millennium Scholarship and you're from British Columbia be careful where you spend it. That's the same money as your standard third- and fourth-year grant, but it's not extra cash.

Many third- and fourth-year students received letters from the Millennium Scholarship Fund - an autonomous foundation created by Ottawa - just before Christmas, telling them they had been awarded between \$2,000 and \$4,000.

But that money was already awarded to them through the province's Grants Program.

Confused? So are the recipients.

"I had heard of the Millennium Scholarship Fund when I was applying for my B.C. loan," said Beth Duncan, a third-year humanities student at the University of Victoria. "In the loan package it said I was applying for a loan, a grant and a scholarship."

In September, Duncan found she got the loan and the grant but there wasn't a word on the scholarship until Dec. 22.

"I got this letter from the Millennium Scholarship Fund and it said I had been awarded \$3,400 or so. So I said 'great, woo-hoo, I got all this money!'" she said.

What the Millennium Scholarship Fund didn't tell Duncan was that the scholarship money was the exact same money as her grant. After doing a bit of research Duncan found out there was no extra money - just what she had known about since September.

When asked whether students had been complaining about the delivery of the program, federal Treasury Board finance assistant Kim Rapagna chuckled heartily, "There are too many [complaints] to mention."

"Each province signed onto the program with individual ideas," said Rapagna.

"It's done within provincial parameters."

The Millennium Scholarship Fund was created by the Federal Government in their 1998 budget, and although the money is from Ottawa it's administered by the provinces.

A form letter sent by the Millennium Scholarship Fund to each recipient does not mention once that the money had already been awarded, or is administered through a provincial grants program.

The B.C. government asked that the Millennium Scholarship Fund be used to fund their third- and fourth-year grants, to complement the first- and second-year grants awarded by the province.

"The letter seems to say you're getting a Millennium Scholarship, in addition to what you normally get from the B.C. government," said University of Victoria Student Society (UVSS) Director of Finance Summer McFayden.

As a result, recipients think

they're getting an extra couple of thousand dollars, when they're not getting anything they didn't know about before.

McFayden - like most people in the UVSS and the Canadian Federation of Students - believes both students and tax payers would have been better served by a national program of needs-based grants.

"[The fund] is full of red tape and heavy on bureaucracy," said McFayden.

"They sent this letter out to toot their horn about the fund, but it's confused tons of people."

McFayden says the UVSS has received more than a few phone calls from confused or broke Millennium Scholarship recipients.

Duncan feels she was lucky in that she didn't spend any extra money, thinking she was \$3,500 richer. But she knows others who weren't so thrifty.

"Tons of people I know got this letter, just before Christmas, and spent the money," she said.

A spokesperson from the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education did not return phone calls.

## The great millennium scholarship robbery

CHRISTIE TUCKER  
Canadian University Press

EDMONTON

There has been a big deal made in the press recently about the new Millennium Fund. The federal government has put \$2.5-billion into needs-based scholarships for post-secondary students, with the first round of awards handed out this month.

Students applying for loans are immediately eligible to receive the scholarships, which average between

\$2,000-\$4,000. A hefty sum for the average student and even more for the average student with loans.

Sounds great, right? In theory, yes.

But the problem is this: instead of beefing up the student loan program - lowering interest rates or deducting some of the debt of already existing loan recipients - Ottawa has, like a deadbeat dad, showed up with \$50 for our birthday after missing child support payments all year.

Since 1994, more than \$7-billion

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## SA Notes

Kathy Boyce

### SA acclaims rep to presidential search committee

The SA appointed a member to the presidential search committee which will look for a replacement for retiring BCIT president Brian Gillespie. Roman Sedlack was acclaimed to the committee. Sedlack is working toward his education degree and plans to become a shop teacher. Happily married, he is the father of one and has another child on the way in the next few weeks. He is active in his church and community and brings with him extensive experience in working with others.

- Prem Gill of CHUM TV made a brief presentation on Chums plan to bid for a new t.v. station in Vancouver. An executive summary was handed out to those present at the meeting and letters of support to the CRTC was requested by council members and those interested. January 27th is the deadline for support letters. Hearings will take place on February 21st and individuals interested in participating in the licensing process are invited to voice their concerns at this time.

- Concerns about overcrowded classrooms are being addressed by both the institute and the SA.

Broadcast students reported overcrowded classrooms. SA executive director Steven Miller has looked into this issue and reported that the number of seats in some rooms were not up to code. This issue is being dealt with currently and it was reported that recently some seats had been removed in keeping up with the compliance and code policies.

Sea Island reps also voiced concerns about overpopulation at the sea island campus. SA presidential will be visiting the Richmond campus in the next week or two.

- Students are reminded to produce their student id cards when using the campus recreation facilities. Intramurals is forming a new wallyball team and interested students are needed to join. A one dollar fee applies.

- Three or four full time students are needed to participate in focus groups for the BCIT web page. The focus group will take place on February 1 between four and six pm where a light meal will be provided. Contact SA executive director Steven Miller at the SA office if you would like to participate.

- Students can now register and pay for courses on the internet via e-commerce.

- Research is currently underway for a campus hair salon.

- Those using the SA room are asked to make posters, etc. on the floor space as the tables have been permanently marked with ink. The SA room is to be left tidy and in the same condition as it was found.

- Residence applications for next year will soon be available to students, alumni and prospective students with confirmed registration. Interested applicants can obtain registration packages from their set reps.

- April 4th is the deadline for nominations for the SA council elections.

The next SA Council Meeting will be held on Monday, February 7 at 5:30pm in the SA Boardroom in the Campus Centre

## The great millennium scholarship robbery

continued from page 3

has been cut from post-secondary and training by the federal Liberals. That is why our class sizes are getting bigger, that's why our library is cancelling subscriptions to important journals and that's why tuition in Alberta is going up for the 11th year in a row.

And now the government is putting \$2.5-billion back in the form of Millennium scholarships. Sure, that money is going to be used to help the financially-strapped students who are already eligible for loans, but what about the students who aren't eligible, who work full-time jobs or whose

parents are wealthy but won't support them?

Since post-secondary education is under provincial jurisdiction, and many provinces, like Quebec, resented the federal government's interference in provincial matters, the Millennium scholarship contracts had to be negotiated with each province individually.

What many governments are doing, then, is withholding an amount equivalent to their Millennium grant from their provincial loan programs. The Ontario provincial government is expected to save between \$60-\$90 million thanks to this devious bookkeeping.

According to a representative of the Ministry of Learning, the Alberta government is putting its savings back into the financial assistance program. But he did not know how much the government was expecting to save from the scholarships.

So if the provincial governments are pocketing their share of the extra funds in the loans program, how can students honestly be said to be receiving as much as we've been promised?

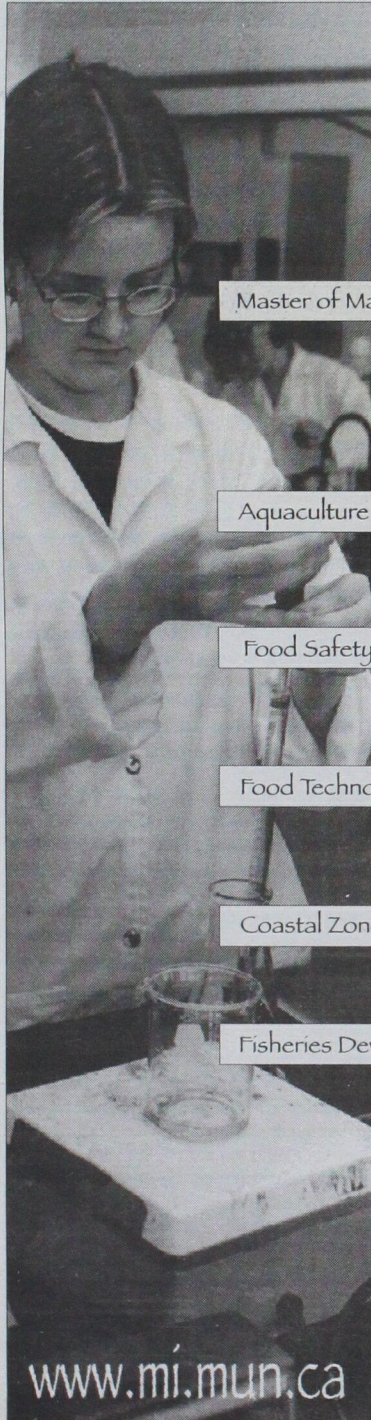
An extra \$2.5-billion for student loans has turned out to be an extra \$2.5-billion for the provinces to use for their own projects.

Whether that extra cash goes towards the loan system is up to them.

Every post-secondary student in Canada has suffered from the education funding cuts made in the mid-'90s, and every student should have a right to benefit from the meagre payback now that it's finally here.

But there is still \$4.5-billion missing from what used to be our post-secondary budget.

Until the money goes back into the basic operating budget of every university in Canada, where it can directly improve the tuition situation and the salaries of faculty, students will continue to be haunted by ever-sliding standards of education, whether or not they get a scholarship cheque.



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Graduates are employed in a range of aquaculture and related fields, including: fish farm management, work as scientists and aquaculture technologists, aquaculture instructors, and work on aquaculture projects in both the developed and developing world.

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Designed to provide a strong technical education in the areas of food safety and food inspection. Graduates work in food production, quality control, food plant inspection services, food analysis laboratories and regulatory agencies.

### Food Technology Advanced Diploma Program

Equips students with the in-depth knowledge and practical skills required to meet the needs of the food processing industry. Graduates are prepared for positions as technologists within the food processing industry.

### Coastal Zone Management Advanced Diploma Program

Graduates gain an integrated view of the issues and alternative solutions to the conflicts arising from multiple uses of coastal zones. The program has an international focus.

### Fisheries Development Advanced Diploma Program

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\*Students entering the programs must have an appropriate diploma of technology, degree or an acceptable combination of work experience and formal education.

## Students needed for Heart and Stroke Foundation 'blitz'

The Heart and Stroke Foundation is looking for volunteers from BCIT to participate in a residential blitz of Burnaby and New Westminster. During February the foundation is hoping to ring six million doorbells across Canada

The Burnaby and New Westminster blitz will be carried out over four days — February 5th, 7th, 8th and 9th. Various corporations are providing the blitzers for three of the days and students are being recruited for the morning or afternoon of Saturday February 5th.

Canvassing sessions will take about two and a half hours and you will be paired with another canvasser so you might want to come with a friend.

"Almost all of us will find our lives effected at sometime by heart or stroke problems whether it is ourself or someone we care about," said Patrick Brophy, the SA's vice president of finance.

For half a century, the Heart and Stroke Foundation has helped to raised money for innovative research that has saved the lives of many Canadians. Today, your chances of surviving a heart attack are double what they would have been 25 years ago. With help and generosity, the hope is to find a cure in the next 25 years.

Community service also looks good on your resume and the blitz could give you the chance to rub shoulders with corporate types or later recognition in the eyes of Burnaby and New Westminster's business community.

Prizes are also being awarded to canvassers and include tickets to clubs, and gift certificates to restaurants and other businesses.

To get involved or for more information call Patrick Brophy at 522-6494 or 432-8605.

Advertise in

**The Link**

Call 432-8974

for rates or more information

DEREK CHEZZI  
Canadian University Press

# The top 10 enviro stories of the 1990s

TORONTO (CUP)

Media coverage of environmental issues began to disappear in the latter half of the 1990s, as newspapers and television stations began to drop environmental reporters from their staff. Who was left to be the messengers for the environmental movement, bringing these stories to readers and viewers?

Rick Boychuk, editor of Canadian Geographic magazine, says environmental reporters have always had a hard time getting readers interested in these types of stories. But he suggests that cutting back on environmental reporters is not necessarily a bad situation. He says every reporter should be thinking about environmental issues when covering any story instead of relegating those duties to a single individual.

"Why not get a beat reporter to write about how a business decision will have an impact instead of ghettoizing environmental stories?" he asked.

With that in mind, here are the top 10 environmental stories of the past decade. In here you'll find stories of triumph and defeat. You'll also find battles that have yet to be fought.

## (1) Genetically Engineered Foods

If you're unfamiliar with Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), it is the manipulation of food genes that highlight the qualities a producer wants, while eliminating the undesirable ones. While this sounds fairly normal - farmers and livestock producers have been doing this for centuries through cross-breeding - GMO is decidedly different because it involves such strange mixes as scientists splicing the genes of fish with those of tomatoes.

One of the world's largest companies involved in gene experiments and seed production is Monsanto. The food giant has created dead end seeds - which produce crops that do not produce seeds for the following year's crop - which they then rent out to farmers who barely eke out a living as it stands.

There is a public desire in North America for labelling GMOs, so consumers may be aware of their presence on the grocery store shelves. All this week, Montreal is hosting a United Nations convention on bio-diversity, where member countries are debating whether to place the issue of food gene manipulation into the hands of the UN or the World Trade Organization (see below).

Canada wants the issue to go to the WTO, not surprisingly since this country would be an exporter of the product. Those who would be on the receiving end want it to remain in the UN's purview so that they may block its entry into their country.

Interestingly, GMO's have only recently earned the public ire, but the issue has been ongoing for several years. Soy was one of the first products to be extensively tested on and produced. And if you don't think you eat soy, think again - it's the top product used as food filler and oil for foods on the store shelf.

## (2) Tuktut Nogait

In December of 1998, the Canadian Senate rejected a

bid by mining companies to reduce the size of Tuktut Nogait, a national park in the Northwest Territories, to allow mineral development in the Hornaday River valley. While the move would have reduced the overall size of the park by only two-and-a-half per cent, it would have cut into the Bluenose caribou's calving grounds.

The Senate's decision upheld the original boundaries established by the federal and NWT government and the Inuvialuit community of Paulatuk. But just barely. In between the time the boundaries had been set two years prior, it was revealed that 20 per cent of the much-coveted mineral deposit was in the park.

The Inuvialuit people and the NWT government were persuaded by the companies that mining jobs were at stake, but after careful deliberation, the Senate did not relent. After all, with 15 per cent of the deposit residing under the Arctic Ocean, that leaves fully 65 per cent of the deposit for extraction. Just how much mineral is in the deposit? It's estimated at four times that of the Sudbury basin, the world's largest economic nickel-copper sulfide deposit.

## (3) Kingston Environmental Lawsuit

In a case study for hope, Kingston, Ontario resident Janet Fletcher won a lawsuit against the municipality of Kingston for knowingly polluting the Catarqui River that flows by the township. In 1997, Fletcher launched her suit under a little-used section of the Canadian Fisheries Act. In December 1998, the case was ruled in favour of Fletcher and the municipality was fined \$120,000. This case is significant because it marks the first time a private citizen has gone after a government in Ontario for an environmental offence.

Through the Freedom of Information Act, Fletcher, in 1991, discovered the environmental problems at a nearby municipal dump-turned-park. Ten years

prior, Fletcher's children had developed skin reactions after spending time in the park. Golfers at a nearby course were beginning to wonder why their shoes were disintegrating - leachates would seep to the surface. And to top it all off, the Ontario government's Ministry of the Environment knew about the problems at the park and the cause. In 1997, Fletcher sought the help of the Sierra Legal Defense Fund and laid charges on the city.

This case illustrates how citizens can make a difference, and more importantly, that our governments are not necessarily looking out for our best interests and we must remain vigilant if we are to preserve our land.

## (4) The World Trade Organization

A global collective of 135 nations that administers and enforces international trade agreements. Some critics argue it is effectively a world government. But few people knew about the WTO - or so we thought. Nobody was ready for the protests that took place this past fall at the WTO summit in Seattle. Protesters were out in full force in a demonstration that was affectionately called "The Battle of Seattle."

But what does a world trade group have to do with environmentalism? Well, their rulings and policies could have detrimental effects on Canada's environmental regulations. Take the furore over Genetically Modified Foods (see above) for instance. By moving the issue into the WTO's jurisdiction, countries that do not want the product will have to choose but to take it or face severe trade penalties.

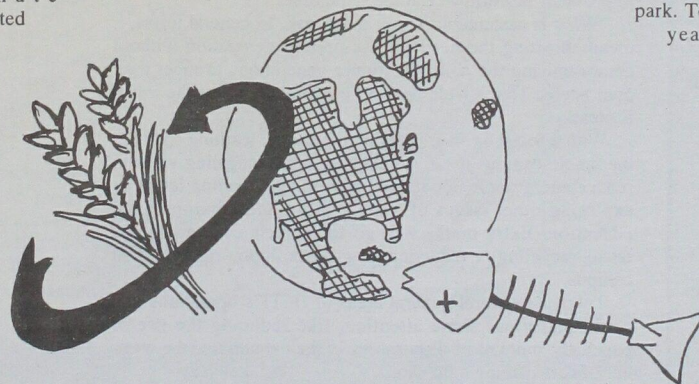
It remains to be seen how the global trade organization will impact the 21st century. The next WTO battle: fresh water exports. (see below)

## (5) The Oceans are Crying

There is a major event taking place in the North Pacific ocean. For years now, tons of dead fish have been appearing on the shores of West Coast communities. What does it mean?

Scientists studying oceans have been pointing out for some time that species are collapsing and then reappearing, before collapsing again. They note there are long-term changes occurring in the ecological "regime" - a term now being coined to explain trends in ocean climate, weather patterns and survival rates of organisms.

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We need writers to cover campus news, environmental news, educational news, features, to review concerts, cds, film and theatre. Or just to give the campus community their two cents.

If you'd like to help out drop by our offices behind the video arcade in the SA Campus Centre.

### Summer Camp Jobs in the U.S.A. Lakeside Residential Girls Camp in Maine Visas Arranged

**Counselors:** Combined childcare/teaching. Must be able to teach or lead one or more of the following activities: gymnastics, tennis, swim, sail, canoe, water ski, arts (including stained glass, sewing, jewelry, wood, photo), dance, music, theatre, archery, wilderness trips, field sports, equestrian.

**Service Workers:** Maintenance, laundry, office, kitchen.  
Non-smokers. June 18 to August 24. Attractive salary (US) plus travel allowance. Send resume (C.V.) including phone number to:

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Westwood, Massachusetts, 02090-0340, U.S.A.  
e-mail: kippewa@tiac.net | tel: 781-762-8291 | fax: 781-255-7167

## SustainAbility Week at BCIT: Schedule of Events

**DAY 1 - Monday, Jan. 31**  
Think about a Sustainable World

**DAY 2 - Tuesday, Feb. 1**  
Waste Reduction Day

**12 noon**

- Opening event and Parade in the Great Hall
- The ChildCare Kids play the SustainAbility Game with executives from Administration and the Student Association in the Great Hall
- Presentation of last year's winners of BCIT's Earth Apple Award.
- Project Launches
- 10 percent Waste Production Reduction Target
- Open House 2000 Sustain-Ability Contest
- Earth Apple Contest
- Plus Exhibits from
  - The Recycling Council of BC and their waste exchange
  - GVRD Recycling Works Program
  - Canadian Business for Social Responsibility
  - And computer stations loaded with... the QUEST game on the Georgia Basin Futures Project and The ecological footprint calculator

**11am - 2:30 pm**

- Displays in Great Hall continue Honda's Insight open

**12 noon - 2:25**

- TELUS THEATRE (SE6) Presentation / workshop: 'The Natural Step at BCIT' by Dr. Brian Natrass - co-author of the Natural Step for Business - introduction from Mark Angelo

**DAY 3 - Thursday, Feb. 3**  
Transportation Day

**11 am - 2:30 pm**

- Transportation Exhibits in the Great Hall
  - Honda 'Insight' - electric/gas vehicle - Honda Insight
  - Electric cars and bikes from Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association
  - Go Green Choices / BEST (Better Environmentally Sound Transportation) - Jack Bell Foundation

**DAY 4 - Friday, Feb. 4**  
Ideas Day

- EAC Sponsored Workshop - Topic: Target 2000 - 10 percent reduction in waste production by this December. Where are the opportunities? What are the constraints? What resources are needed? How will we report it? Who's coming? Call 451-7060 for more details.

**Week-long Displays Open**

- The Tower of Paper
- Greenhouse Gas Display
- What's Your Ecological Footprint?
- Waste and Recycling Display
- The Sustainability Exhibit

# SustainAbility Week

## IMAGINE A SUSTAINABLE WORLD NOW! WOW!



The world is not working well for a growing percentage of the world's population (including most species of plants and animals). Everyone has heard about the accelerating pace of animal and plant extinctions, increasing greenhouse gas emissions and violent storm events, human population growth, etc., but what should be done? What can be done?

We're not operating sustainably, and we need to. It's not just the bottom line anymore - it's the triple bottom line - ecology, commerce and ethics. We need an evolution - a revolution in thinking, in commerce, in our technologies and in our institutions and BCIT could lead it.

We owe it to the generations of the past and the generations of the future. The consequences of our actions today will shape the very future of the planet.

### EXPLORE A NEW SKILL - SUSTAIN-ABILITY

Visit the exhibits and displays during SustainAbility Week on the Burnaby Campus from Feb. 1 to 4th. Exhibits open from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm every day.

For more information call 451-7060 or email ghelten@alternatives.com

## Win cash prizes for targeting Sustain-Ability

If you've got a major project or assignment to complete before Open House (April 7 & 8), there's money - \$1600 in cash - plus other prizes - available for focusing on environmental protection and sustainability!

The drive behind the contest, sponsored by both BCIT's Environmental Awareness Committee and the Student Association, is to help students better prepare for sustainability challenges in their fields of work, and to help BCIT improve its performance at the same time.

"What is sustainable?" you might ask. In general terms, it means meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. That's wide open to interpretation, but the intent is clear.

With a focus on your particular industry, learning space or the whole campus itself, it could mean investigating ways to reduce energy or materials use, increasing recycling levels or exploring other issues of sustainability and environmental education. Extra marks will go to projects concerning the reuse, recycling or reduction of waste/pollution right here on campus.

There are several general areas of BCIT's operations that could really use some attention, like reducing the use of paper, the amount of disposables in the cafeteria or the number of cars coming onto campus.

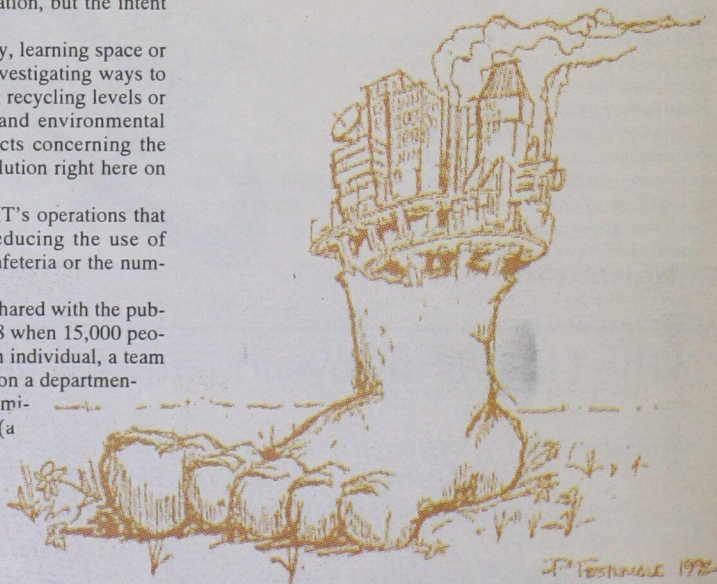
The best displays and projects will be shared with the public during Open House 2000, April 7 and 8 when 15,000 people visit our school. You can register as an individual, a team or an entire department. If your project is on a departmental or programme level, it could also be nominated for BCIT's Earth Apple Award (a staff/faculty award) that will be presented on Earth Day. So, faculty and staff participation is permitted and encouraged.

Check out the following web sites for background information on sustainability that may spark some ideas:

- <http://www.natcap.org/>
- <http://www.naturalstep.org/>
- <http://www.ecobooks.com/ecommerc.htm>
- [www.rprogress.org](http://www.rprogress.org)

Contest entry forms are available at the Student Association office in SE2. For more information, call the Environmental Education Centre at 451-7060 or email: ghelten@alternatives.com.

Greg Helten  
SA Environmental Education



## EDITORIAL

# If you want to be realistic

On the inside, some scientists maintain that damage to the environment, our life-support system, will cause life to be virtually intolerable within 100 years or so. Estimates are that if present trends continue, atmospheric carbon dioxide will be double pre-industrial levels in about 20 years, triggering a global temperature rise of at least three or four degrees

Celsius. Human population will reach 10-12 billion within 50 years, and two-thirds of all plant and animal species will be extinct within the next century. It's all guess work, of course, but the trends are clear and measurable. So what?

Arguing about dates is academic, but it is definitely within our capacity to do something about the situation. Remember the law of diminishing returns? The well-being of the future is in our hands. That's why the administration, from President Brian Gillespie, Education VP Mal Stelck, Board of Governor Members Peter So, Julia Blockberger, Mark Angelo and on down are supporting SustainAbility Week scheduled for next week. BCIT wants to help students better prepare for sustainability challenges in their fields of work. This will, in turn, expand their employable market potential. The first step in working towards this goal is to become aware of the key issues and concepts.

In the broad sense, being sustainable means that we meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In reality, the idea of sustainability can range widely, from dramatic technology or lifestyle changes to simple conservation measures.

You're chances of being employed will be improved if you're well versed in sustainability issues so that they can help employers save money and actually profit by improving energy and material efficiencies, taking advantage of new, 'green' trends and avoiding liabilities.

So, every step we take matters. Are you in marketing? Why not sell sustainable products and services? Are you in Broadcasting? Why not educate people about issues rather than titillate and scare them? If you're a welder, are you protecting the environment when dealing with materials? And if you're in plastics, are you looking for a plastic made from corn, instead of petroleum products? Whatever technology or program you're in, there's a sustainable side to it. Explore it. Exploit it. You will succeed.

Greg Helten



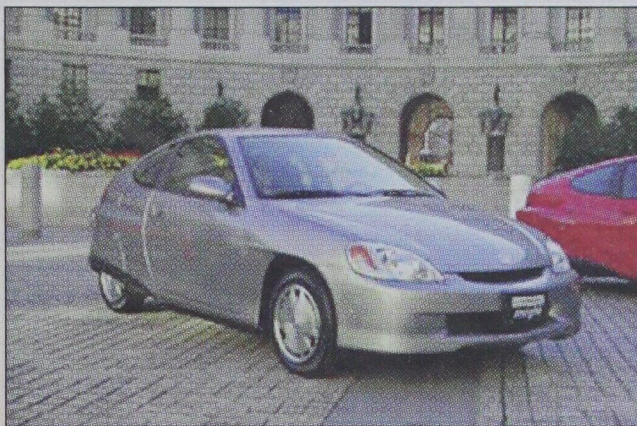
## Car of the future coming to BCIT

The exhaust from the hundreds of millions of gas-burning vehicles in the world is one of the primary sources of the greenhouse gases that is changing the world's climate. Car manufacturers are racing each other to produce viable options to the CO<sub>2</sub>-belching car of the 20th century, and Honda is coming to town first.

The Insight is an indicator of where automotive technology is heading as we race into the Third Millennium. It went on sale in North America last month, and will be the first hybrid-drive passenger car to reach US and Canadian consumers. It's a two-place coupe that achieves 70+ miles per gallon in highway driving and 61 mpg in the city.

According to a report from EV World (that's Electric Vehicle), Honda has married several technologies. Hidden beneath the car's slippery, aerodynamic exterior is an all-aluminum body and frame based on the Acura NSX sports car, itself the first all-aluminum mass production car. The Insight's body/frame makes use of stamped aluminum sheets, die-castings and extrusions, resulting in a car that weighs in at about 47 percent lighter than a comparable-sized Civic.

Honda says the two-seat coupe has a drag coefficient of just 0.25, making it one of the slickest, most aerodynamic cars currently in production. Honda also makes use of rear fender well covers and a rear underpan, both fabricated from lightweight plastics, to help cut drag. Honda engineers filed some 300 patents on the vehicle and its components, which also led to the creation of yet another definition in what constitutes a hybrid-electric drive system. Honda settled on an elegantly simple approach it



Honda's Insight: an electric car for the future.

trademarked as its "Integrated Motor Assist" (IMA) system.

The interior was engineered to meet USA safety standards for side-impact and head-injury protection not set to take effect until the 2003 model year. It also meets Japanese and European safety standards.

In addition to assisting during acceleration, the electric motor/generator can recapture vehicle energy during deceleration and braking to recharge the battery pack. The Insight is a "charge sustaining" hybrid-electric, meaning it doesn't require recharging from an external power source. In short, you don't have to plug it in at night to recharge its 144 Volt, nickel-metal hydride battery pack, which is located in the rear of the car below the cargo deck. Instead, the Insight relies on the passive capture of energy from regenerative braking and deceleration to keep the batteries full.

Most of the motive power for the car comes from its advanced lean-burn, stratified-charge engine, which itself incorporates various lightweight components made of

magnesium, aluminum and special plastics. For example, the intake manifold is a rigid, high-temperature plastic and the exhaust manifold is integrated into the cylinder head. The engine's lean-burn-compatible NO<sub>x</sub> catalyst helps give the car an Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) rating in California and several states in the US Northeast.

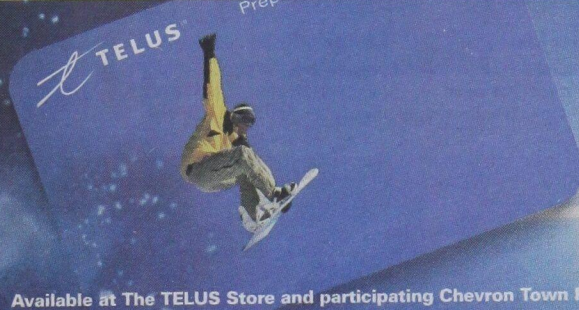
To glimpse the future in low emission vehicles, you can see the Insight, Honda's electric/gas hybrid car, on display in the Great Hall on the Burnaby Campus from Tuesday, February 1 to Friday, the 4th from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm every day as part of SustainAbility Week.

If you're a real auto buff, a Honda rep will be on campus Thursday for Transportation Day, along with a number of electric vehicles from the Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association and displays from transportation groups like Better Environmentally Sound Transportation and the Jack Bell Foundation.

(See <http://www.honda2000.com/models/insight/> for more info.)

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# The top 10 environmental stories of the 1990s

continued from page 5

What they currently believe is that entire species will basically disappear and reappear from certain locations as they travel throughout the ocean. Coastal communities and fisheries are being adversely affected by these disappearing fish. The scary thing is nobody really knows where this is headed and what it all means.

The problem is being examined by Canadian, Russian, United States and Japanese scientists, but they have yet to come to any firm conclusions. What is emerging, however, is a model of the oceans as an evolving ecological system. This is a move away from thinking of oceans as static environment, the same way we look at outer space.

This story has been reported in the West Coast media, while barely appearing in a national newspaper. But it has serious implications about how we look at the fisheries industry and the impact humans have on the earth's seas. More to the point, this theory of "regimes" is only that, a theory. Nobody knows for sure what is occurring, and it's tough to predict not only what will happen next, but if there is an irrevocably deteriorating trend taking place.

## (6) Seal Hunt

For it or against it, the Newfoundland seal hunt has captured the Canadian consciousness like few other issues. This is likely to do with Canada's image on the international scene as a proponent for what some call a senseless and brutal industry.

The hunt itself seems to be taking a back seat to the circus that surrounds it. Cabinet ministers are shooting off at the mouth about the benefits of killing the seals, environmental groups are

howling in outrage into television cameras over the hunt, and Newfoundland residents are trying to make a meagre living out of seal carcass.

The issues, however, are very real. There is very little money to be made in hunting seals right now. The demand for seal-based products is low, the hunt is cruel as people bludgeon the seals to death and there are a lot of seals out on the ice.

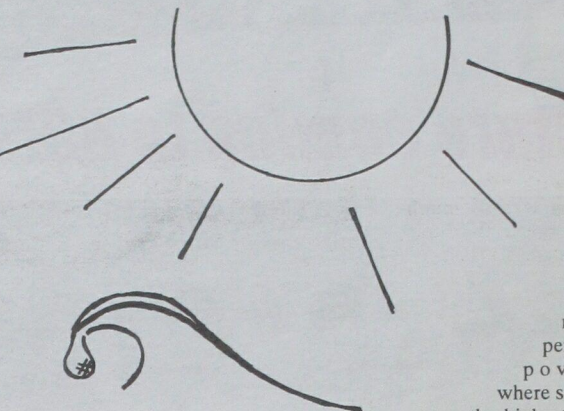
But everyone is profiting from this exercise. The International Fund for Animal Welfare reaps in sizeable donations to fight the hunt. Without it, they would have to find another atrocity to captivate the imagination of people to keep the donations rolling in. Governments, meanwhile, play political games by blaming the depleting fish stock on a bloated seal population.

What will it take for this entire affair to settle down? Probably when one of the groups decides they are too tired to keep up this affair and find themselves another cause to champion, or when the hunters relent and end the annual slaughter. Until then, it's an example of symbiosis with each partner needing the other to continue surviving.

## (7) Climate change

You've heard a lot about global warming. But what you may not know, is that this issue only really picked up steam this decade after bans were implemented on CFCs in aerosol containers, one of the elements attributed to the greenhouse effect. Other factors include emissions from cars and trucks and industrial pollution.

Despite your stand on the global warming issues - some people, notably politicians, still dispute the CFC-greenhouse link - an American study on global temperatures released late last year revealed that 1998 and 1999 were the warmest years in record-



environment; perpetual poverty where some of the highest population growth exists. These are just a few of the effects humans have on their immediate surroundings.

history. Things are so screwed up that at the New York Botanical Gardens flowering trees sprouted their white spring blossoms in December, a full four months before they would normally.

Scientists attribute the change to a number of factors, but are still not sure of the causes. In addition to CO and CO2 emissions, we've been hit recently with the naturally occurring phenomenon in El Nino and El Nina. But there is something longer-lasting taking place. According to scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, water temperatures in the North, West and South Pacific ocean are becoming more extreme, indicating a change of some sort is taking place to unpredictable effect and of unknown origin.

Some scientists theorize this is a natural shift that occurs every 20 to 30 years, changing worldwide weather patterns. But those who contest the theory say it's too early to arrive at that conclusion. What we do know, however, is that a change in global temperatures by even a few degrees either way can have serious repercussions on ecosystems and wipe out entire species.

## (8) Population Explosion

A few seconds after midnight Greenwich time on October 12, 1999, the earth's population hit six billion. Is this a positive or negative record to break? That depends on whom you ask.

The number of humans on planet Earth has an impact on the environment that is difficult to ignore: depleting resources through consumption; industrial and private waste that ruin ecosystems and poison the envi-

say they have in their possession genetic material taken from the animal when it was captured last spring, electronically tagged and then released. While they could only produce a female goat at this time, once DNA is fully decoded through the genome project, any extinct species could conceivably be returned to the face of the earth via a Petri dish.

## (10) Where's the Water?

Water, one of life's primary necessities. Our bodies are made up of more than 70 per cent of the stuff. It's recommended we drink eight glasses of it a day. So it's alarming to discover that we may be in a fight to keep Canada's fresh water in Canada. The WTO is looking at making it a tradable good in bulk quantities, opening the door for companies from the United

States and anywhere else to swoop down, drain our lakes and take it back to their home.

Scare number two. Just recently, a correlation was discovered between the water residents from a community near Halifax were drinking and increased rates of cancer. It appears that a treatment plant in Enfield, Nova Scotia, had a too-high rate of cancer-causing-suspected chemicals used to sterilize the water from bacteria in the water.

Officials explained the health risk was minimal and there was a higher risk of illness if they had not chlorinated the water. Nevertheless, it had some people wondering: just how safe is our water? As more industrial toxins are dumped into our waterways and locally used chemicals, such as pesticides and household cleaning materials, find their way into our water tables, more attention should be paid to just how much untainted water we have left.

Recently, a Vancouver scientist raised the possibility that the salt we use on our roads to thaw ice and washes into our waterways in spring could be carcinogenic.

(Sources: Canadian Geographic, The World Trade Organization: A Citizen's Guide by Steven Shrybman, The New York Times, The Associated Press, Population Research Institute)

## (9) Cloning

A breakthrough in scientific technology took place last decade, when a group of scientists in Scotland announced they had produced a clone of an ewe. They named her Dolly.

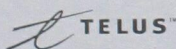
With the Pandora's Box now open, it was not long before researchers began cloning whatever they could, starting with mice and other small animals for use in lab experiments. Last April, researchers in Massachusetts announced they had cloned goats. Then just this month, scientists cloned twin monkeys, one step closer on the evolutionary ladder to practicing the technique on humans.

The environmental impact of cloning is huge: recently, government officials in Aragon, Spain, announced they might be able to clone a rare goat native to the North of the country after the last known specimen of the species died in early-January. Authorities

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# The sound of Moist's hits thrill their fans

MELINA ROUSSELLE  
Link Arts & Culture Editor

Whether Gob, Matt Good, or Moist was on stage, the atmosphere of the crowd was rockin'. The entire floor was sold out and the blues were almost filled to capacity! It seems though the security at the Coliseum has become more anal. No one could get near the floor if they didn't have the correct ticket!

**Concert Review**  
**Moist, The Matthew Good Band and Gob**  
Pacific Coliseum

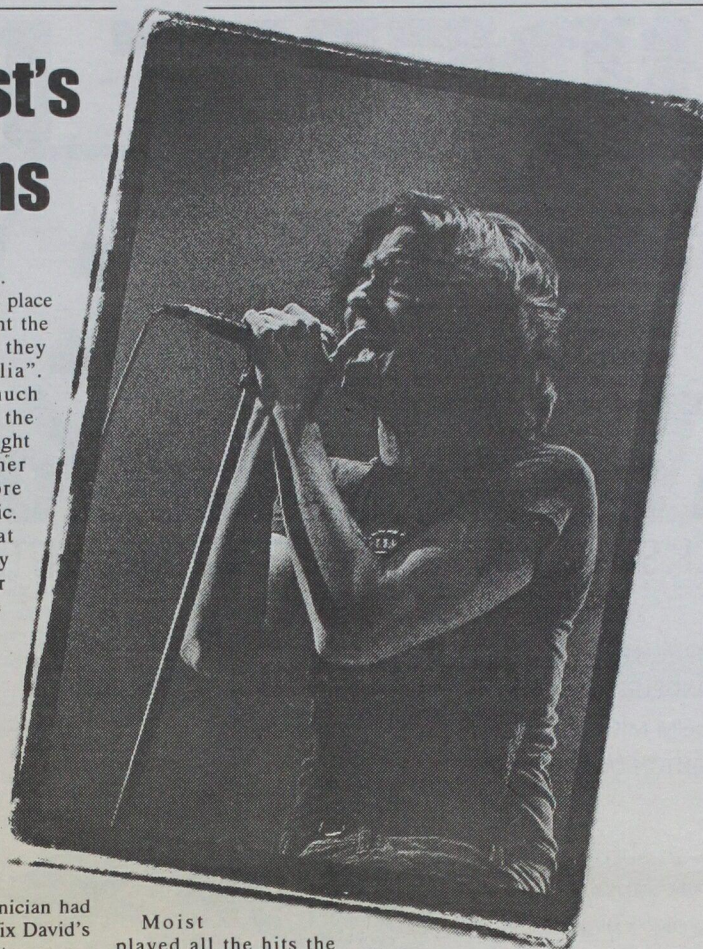
Kicking off the tour in Vancouver, Matt Good was non-stop for his entire set. He had his home city in an uproar for the better part of an hour. He sang hit songs like "Hello time bomb", "Apparition", and "Rico". I love how simple he is. He puts off a good vibe without trying to cheese up the crowd with comments like "I love you guys" and "It's good to play for my home town" and he doesn't jump around the stage and still pulls it all off without being boring. He was the perfect act to get the

crowd ready for Moist...

They just ripped the place up! From the moment the curtain dropped and they opened with "Ophelia". The show was so much more energetic than the one in Victoria the night before. David Usher seemed so much more alive and into the music. The one thing that sucked was that they didn't come out for their second encore like the night before.

Their stage crew got a work out that night. I can't count (or remember) how many times David dragged Mark's mike stand around with him or knocked something or other down. At one point the band's sound technician had to come on stage and fix David's ear set without being hit.

What a night! The big highlight was when David went into the crowd and said he would crowd surf but no one would hold him up. They decided to maul him instead.



Moist played all the hits the crowd wanted to hear including "Silver", "Leave It Alone", "Breathe" and "Push". The night ended with a big bang and glitter shot out into the crowd during "Resurrection" and scared the s\*\*t out of me!

Moist on stage.  
CAROLYN DONALDSON  
PHOTO



Lily, our valued advise columnist, is on a mental health vacation this week. But did leave some brief advice for the beleaguered

"Simplify. Sometimes we all find ourselves over committed. You might have to take a break from a part of your life in order to manage the rest. No when to say 'No, not today,' and get on with what you have to do. It will help minimize your stress levels and keep you sane."

Lily will return next issue to impart more of her sage wisdom.

Letters to Lily can be sent to:

[asklilywhite@hotmail.com](mailto:asklilywhite@hotmail.com)

## ESCAPE BCIT

Northern Pikes  
January 28  
Commodore

Brothers Creegan  
January 30  
Sonar

Blue Rodeo  
January 30  
Commodore

Chris Cornell  
February 8  
Queen Elizabeth Theater

Brick House  
January 30  
Yale Hotel Pub

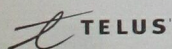
Bruce Cockburn  
February 10  
Vogue Theater

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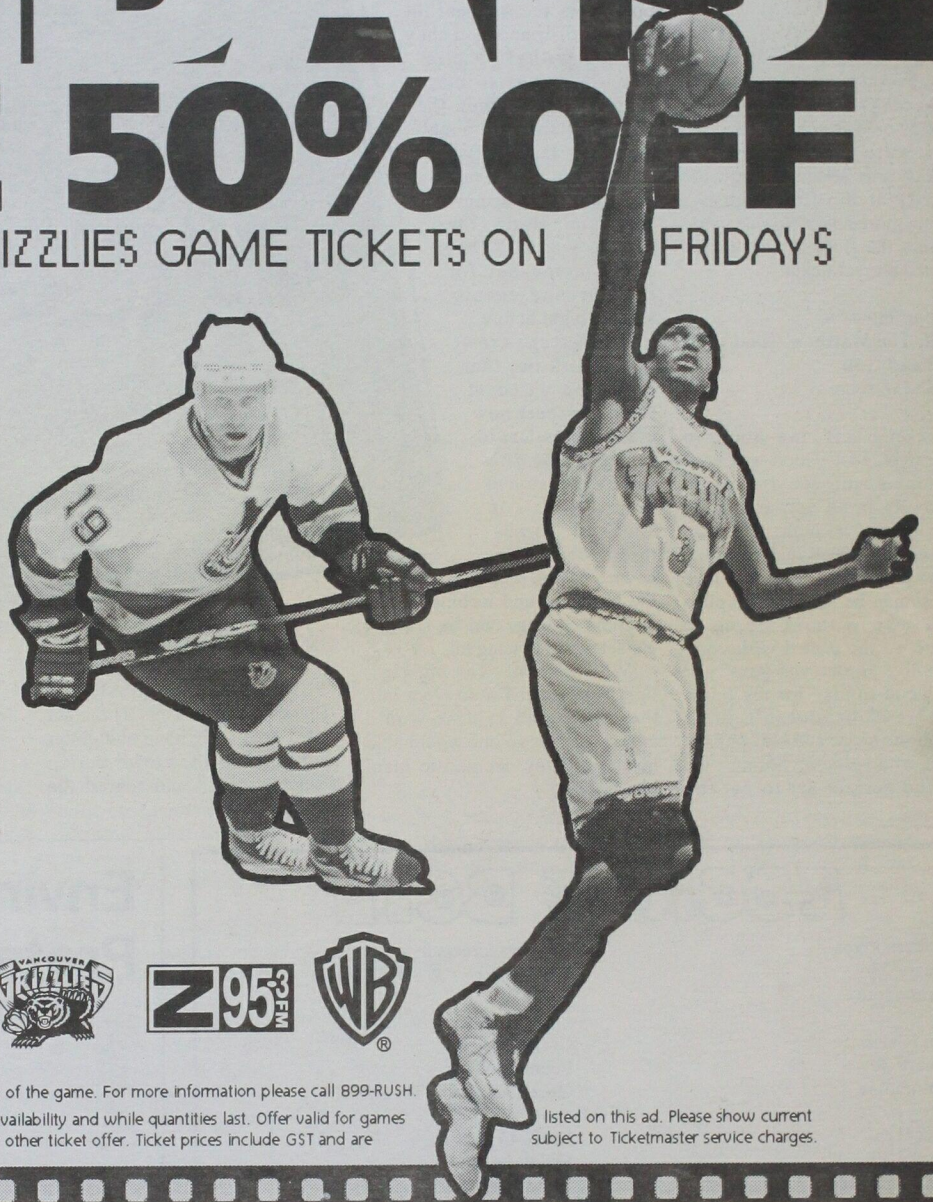
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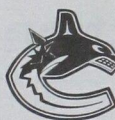
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# The FAQ Zone

Carlos Assuncao

## Roommate Wanted?

**S**tudent accommodation is a singularly unique dilemma that only a student who has been ejected by his/her parents could understand. You can't truly afford to be independent, yet your life is too hectic to put up with anyone else's B.S..

Most students believe that finding that roommate that will simultaneously "be there" when you need someone to share the cleaning, give you a lift, catch your phone messages, etc. and then conveniently disappear whenever you feel the need for privacy or are just plain get sick of the annoying way they breathe. This solution can feel like searching for a needle in a haystack.

The "roommate" choices can feel like the extremes between the guy who will have fifteen of his friends hanging-out at your place cleaning out the fridge and playing video games every day or the hermit who's only form of communication with the outside world is a series of notes posted to her bedroom door, the fridge, your bedroom door, the TV, the ceiling and just about anywhere else you wouldn't expect to find reading material.

On the other hand, living alone on a student's budget usually means in someone's basement, garage or some other space that wasn't originally designed for habitation. This option is not too far removed from living at home, the difference being that you have to come up with a cheque at the end of each month for the privilege.

Even for the socially addicted the idea of having your own living space is appealing, let's face it, having the option of going home to get away from it all is a good thing. The minimum requirements for a private living space on a student's budget are; a separate entrance (so you can come and go as you please), and a private kitchen, bathroom, living-room and any-

where else where you might spend a lot of time (as far as I'm concerned, the only space that should be shared with complete strangers is the laundry room, beyond that it's more trouble than it's worth). For students who actually have to live on the funding provided by student loans and grants, finding affordable living arrangements that meet these requirements can be extremely difficult.

In regards to the first option, finding a roommate, a good tip is to find the roommate first, then find the apartment. You'll find that if you find a place then try and get a roommate, you'll be under more pressure to take the first one that comes along. Also, being the first one in the apartment means that you are taking the lion's share of responsibilities, for you power-hungry types this may sound good, but actually it's a dangerous situation and requires a lot more organizing than if you were to take in a roommate as an equal.

The up-side with this option is that two students can find a better apartment than one can, the creature comforts of any living space grow exponentially with the number of roommates you take in.

To go the independent route takes more leg-work, but less diplomacy and negotiation. When renting living space that is attached to your landlord's home (basement suite), make sure that the landlord is prepared to respect your privacy and willing and able to meet up to the responsibilities of a landlord in terms of maintenance.

Start looking early and your odds of "getting lucky" and finding a great place, at a great price, in a great spot will be increased. Obviously, the good places go first.

The people factor is number one, a leaky tap is annoying, but an insane landlord, roommate or neighbour is down-right impossible.

## Frequently Asked Questions

## Everything you wanted to know about nothing, but were afraid to ask

**T**he universal answer to any question is the phrase "I don't know" or the word "nothing". What are you doing? Nothing. Who are you going out with? I don't know. What's the capital city of Prince Edward Island? Nothing. What are you eating? I don't know. How old are you? Nothing. This one word and one phrase are the sole reason I survived high school.

My parents figured out pretty quickly that everyone and their dog used that word and phrase to answer every question. And they told everyone. You see, I had the joy of being the first born in my family, with the bonus of being the first born in my parents' circle of friends. Naturally when my parents friends saw how cute I was, it spawned a mini baby boom. (My first reaction must have been to roll my eyes and think, "Great. Competition." but I'm not sure because I was only two months old). This also put my parents in the interesting position of reporting to their friends the proper way to do things (now can you see where I got my snobby, do-as-I-say personality?). And this reporting, or should I say broadcasting, put me in the spotlight and completely fucked up my life. The original cliché: blame your parents; it's their fault your life sucks.

So when my parents figured out the word "nothing" answers most questions and the phrase "I don't know" answers the rest, they felt it was their duty to "let the people know". It works out nicely for everyone because the kids are now expected to say "nothing" or "I don't know", and they don't get questioned in the third degree. Everyone except me.

The fourth degree of questions are fired my way. Now that my parents found the disease, they are working double time to find the cure. They try everything they can think of to get more information out of me than just "I don't know." They try ridicule, intimidation, threats, and reverse psychology. Nothing works. And nothing will work, now that I know what they're up to. I intend to beat them at their own game.

When I moved out of the house, it cut their impact on me by about seventy five percent. It was harder for them to reach me, and I avoided phone calls as much as possible. But when I do get snagged by a phone call, I use "nothing" and other one word answers. I know they notice. They feel my coldness through the phone. Why am I so rotten to them? Why do they keep calling? Why?

I'm rotten because I sort of hate them. I mean, I sort of like them too, but I have to follow the cliché here. I blame them for the way I look. I blame them for my lack of financial skill. I blame them for my sta-

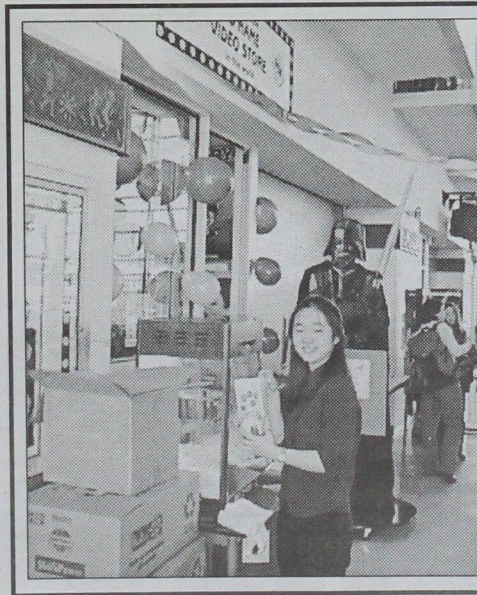
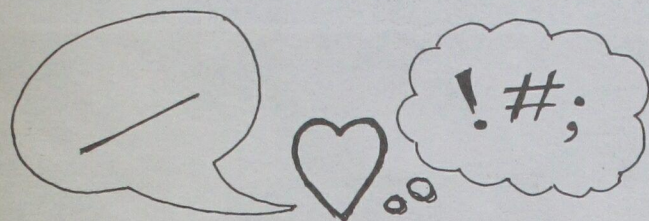
tus as a social outcast. I blame them for bringing me into this hellhole called life. I didn't ask to be born.

It was my cousin who first gave me the idea that it was okay to hate your parents. I remember one day when I was visiting them and we had just come back from the mall. My cousin had just bought a new pair of shoes and was showing them to his dad with enthusiasm, to which his dad responded with, "You paid sixty dollars for that?" I followed him to his room, and he sat on his bed. I asked if he was okay and he said sarcastically, "Yeah, I love it when my dad says he hates my new shoes. Don't you?". At that moment in time, I knew if he could feel like that about his parents, then so could I. I also hated his parents. It seemed only fair, and now they hate me to, but that's a different story.

On the plus side, my parents did bring me into this hellhole called life. I have had some fun. We did go to Disneyland. I got to go to England; it was my grad present. Even sitting at home and laughing at little things like the ugly shirt my mom found in Zellers or throwing burnt cookies outside to find that even the birds stayed away from them. What the hell does this mean? It doesn't make sense anymore.

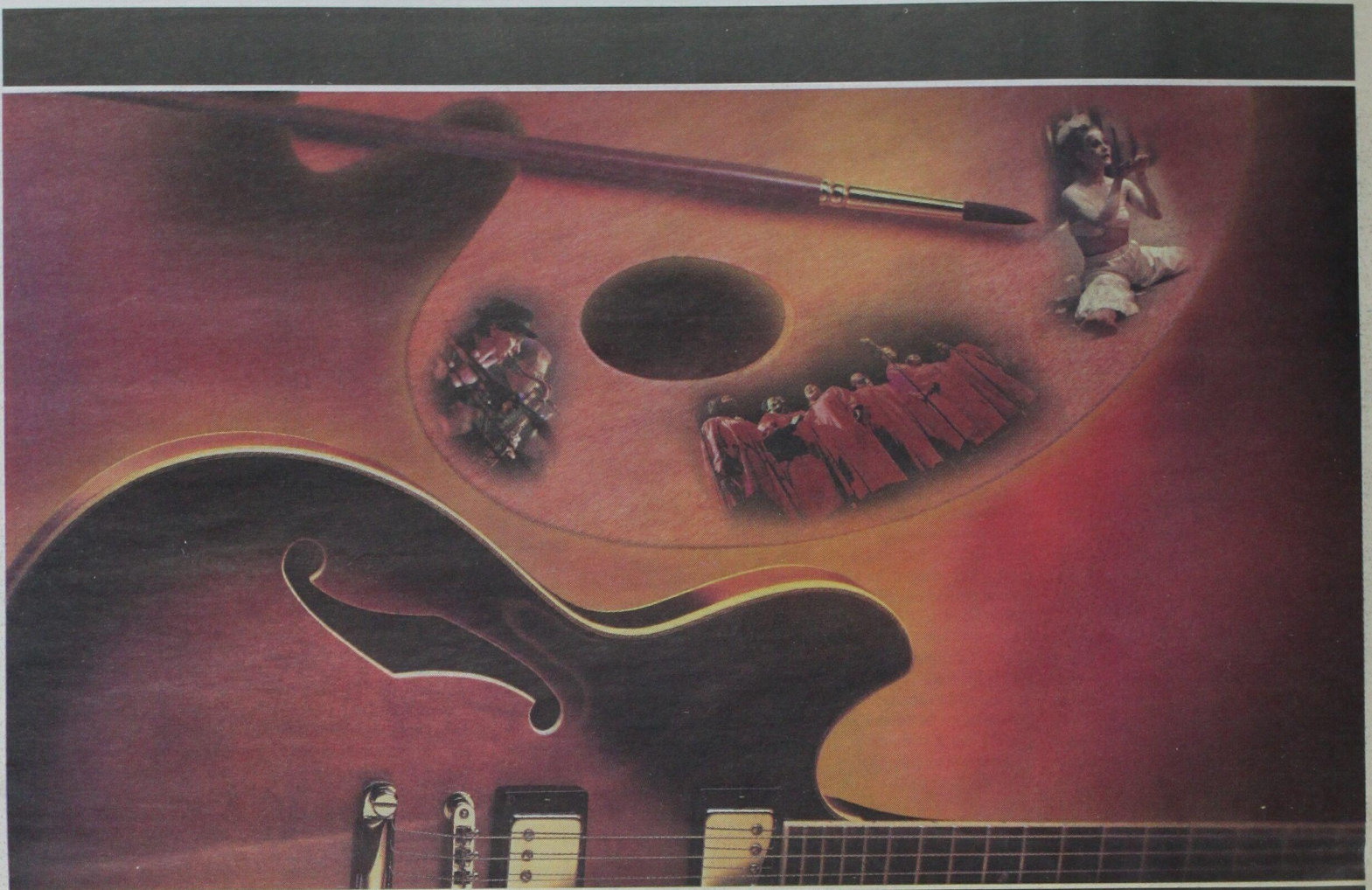
Why do they still bother? Like + hate + like + hate = that other four letter word, love. I hate all this mushy stuff; let's talk about something different. Check out this crazy weather. Can you believe it gets dark so early now? How 'bout those Canucks? I don't know. Whatever.

*the original freak*  
L.S.Pannu



### SA's Video Store holds grand opening

On Wednesday, January 19 the SA held a grand opening for its new video store handing out free pop corn to promote it cheap video rental prices to the campus community. Check it out  
LYGDEL DE LEON PHOTOS



## du Maurier CONCERT STAGE

ROCK AND  
MODERN DANCE.  
HIP-HOP AND  
FILM. ALTERNATIVE  
OR POP WITH CIRCUS  
THEATRE,  
BALLET  
OR STREET ARTISTS.

du Maurier Concert Stage puts it all together and brings your favorite music to life in exciting new ways. It's a totally different take on live performance.

On March 25, top artists **The Tea Party** and **Big Sugar** mix it up with a horn section, contemporary dance, visual arts and other spectacular, innovative artists.

For information and your chance to win an exclusive weekend plus tickets to this exciting show in Whistler, B.C., call toll free: 1-877-8STAGE8 (must be 19 or older and a smoker to enter).

Ticketmaster: (604) 281-4444  
(must be 19 or older to attend)

*Combine the unexpected. Expect the exceptional.*