

the Link

BCIT's student magazine

Whistler Blackcomb removes age restriction on student pass

DISCLOSURE, pg 10

BCIT bookstore's unique return policy

DISCLOSURE, pg 10



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The Link

Thursday, October 10, 2013
Volume 49, Issue 2

ABOUT THE LINK

The Link is the British Columbia Institute of Technology's student voice. Published monthly by the BCIT Student Association (BCITSA), *The Link* is distributed among five campuses and to over 46,000+ students, faculty, and staff.

THE LINK

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Every now and then, it's time to try something new.

Like, sometimes it seems like a superb idea to add chocolate chips to pancakes. With some butter and some syrup, those babies are sweet!

And other times, the moment to cut your own bangs announces itself (after some wine, typically). Those fuckers stick up for months and you have to explain yourself to everyone.

We are trying something new at *The Link* and have no way of knowing if the result will be pancakes or ugly bangs.

However, this team of three lady editors (plus our tip-top overseer Dan) has decided to strap on our best galoshes and wade into the deep.

We've moved from a newspaper to a glossy magazine (which you are ostensibly holding to read this letter), and there are a few new sections:

THE GOODS: Content list, letters to and from the editor

DISCLOSURE: All news and politics

IN THE FRAME: Culture, concerts, and events – both on and off campus

COMMONS: Relaxed readings, opinions, humour, comics, fauxroscopes

We will still report with integrity and a little bit of bombast, and will continue to serve BCIT students. Your feedback is important, so if you have comments, questions, or concerns, send an email to editor@linknewspaper.ca.

So, onward with glossy publications for 2013/2014! We're all in our second—and final—year, so if this is a bomb we will be gone in April anyway.

Cheers,

Sarah Gray
Senior Editor



2013-2014 STAFF BIOS



SARAH GRAY

Senior Editor

After a certain doughy incident, Sarah Gray decided that the starchy whites of a baker's uniform were not for her.

Her destiny was to deliver news, hot off the press; not buns, hot off the oven rack.

Sarah began her studies in the BCIT Broadcast Journalism program, chasing the latest news and mercilessly exposing injustices.

Sarah started out as a copy editor at *The Link*; the bosses quickly saw that she is the best they will ever have, held on tight, and never let her go.

Sarah is now *The Link*'s senior editor.

She still hates cinnamon buns.

Written by Olsy.



OLSY SOROKINA

Culture Editor

Olsy Sorokina is a beautiful Russian fashionista with a mind that will intimidate with her witty responses and puns.

This girl puts those she loves before herself. She's a good listener and gives solid advice (her degree and research experience in cognition and the brain might have something to do with it).

Olsy has a brilliant mind with a passion for arts.

Her weekly schedule is always packed, not just with a busy BCIT schedule, but also with shows of all kinds. From movies to musical performances, read this incredible writers awesome show reviews.

Written by Neetu.



NEETU GARCHA

News Editor

Neetu Garcha was crowned Miss Penticton, and indeed she is a beauty. But don't let that fool you – this is a journo with a nose for news and an eye for detail.

She was born in Canada, but lived in India as a wee baby. Neetu can speak Punjabi and French, AND excels at English.

In keeping with her Penticton roots, she drives an orange car that has been lovingly nicknamed THE PEACH MOBILE (whether she likes it or not!).

This was supposed to be about how she's a good journalist, but that's obvious. Take her out and find out how awesome she is. She doesn't drink, but can party better than all of us.

Written by Sara.

Rivers Day founder honoured at campus creek he restored

Mark Angelo, passionate campaigner for rivers and retired BCIT educator, was celebrated for his work with the placement of bench next to Guichon Creek.

Simon Little

As volunteers around the globe geared up for World Rivers Day, the founder of the event, Mark Angelo, was at the BCIT Burnaby campus. He was with a group of friends and former colleagues to celebrate a small rivers day of his own, with a bench installed in his honour.

The bench overlooks Guichon Creek, whose restoration was one of Angelo's earliest campaigns.

"The creek was in pretty bad shape, way back then," says Angelo, who has dedicated his career to educating others about Canada's waterways, and who is a member of the Order of Canada.

Angelo and a group of students undertook the daunting task of reviving the damaged waterway. The project transformed a nearly lifeless trench into a vibrant creek.

Guichon Creek, he said, now serves the school in more ways than one. To many staff and students, the creek is a refuge.

But the creek also functions as an important resource for environmental programs at BCIT.

"To have, in effect, a living lab like that right on our campus I think is great," Angelo told *The Link*.

The success of the Guichon Creek rehabilitation laid the foundations for Angelo's work in the years to come.

In 1980, Angelo started BC Rivers Day, which he said is a celebration of the province's waterways. The day has grown to include hundreds of events and tens of thousands of participants around BC.

In 2005, Angelo achieved another major success when he partnered with the UN's Water For Life Decade to expand the event and create a World Rivers Day.

But the seeds of that work are here on campus, according to Angelo.

"To see this global celebration and know that the roots come back to British Columbia, and that some of those roots come right back to BCIT, it's something that I'm very proud of and very ex-

cited about," Angelo told *The Link*.

The bench was originally presented to Angelo at his 2011 retirement on behalf of colleagues and the school, said Bob Gunn, head of BCIT's Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Gunn, a former student of Angelo's, said it was a way to reflect Angelo's legacy of work to bring attention to BC's waterways and promote the school as a leader in environmental stewardship.

"We wanted something natural, something from a sustainable source of wood," Gunn told *The Link*.

It was when Gunn made a connection with Steve Clegg, a BCIT graduate – who now runs a woodworking business that sources salvaged and reclaimed materials – that the pieces came together for Angelo's bench.

Clegg had met Angelo previously on a river cleanup project, and told *The Link* he was inspired by the bench project, which dovetailed with his environmental interests.

Clegg and Gunn worked together on the bench's design and went out together to scout the log used in its construction. Clegg said he was particularly happy with the wood they found.

"It's western red cedar – an iconic west coast species natural in riparian areas," Clegg said.

For his part, Angelo said once the chaos of coordinating a major environmental event with international ties dies down, he looks forward to sitting down to a moment of quiet contemplation by the creek.

"I definitely plan on coming down there with my wife and perhaps even my grandson and having a cup of coffee on that very bench," Angelo said.

It likely won't be too long of a break, though. Angelo is currently finishing a feature length documentary, *River Blue*, set to launch early next spring.

BC Rivers' day is held every year on the last Sunday in September with major events scheduled across the province.



Mark Angelo - Photo courtesy of BCIT

“

To see this global celebration and know that the roots come back to British Columbia, and that some of those roots come right back to BCIT, it's something that I'm very proud of and very excited about.



Whistler Blackcomb removes age restriction on student pass

Neetu Garcha

Mature students benefit after the age restriction has been removed on the Whistler Blackcomb student season pass

With more mature students going back to school to upgrade their skills, Whistler Blackcomb has decided to open up the student season pass program so that older students can enjoy the mountains.

Previously, only students between the ages of 17 and 29 were eligible to purchase the pass. Account Executive for Regional Sales at Whistler Blackcomb, Sarah Haffey said there is a lot of excitement from students since the removal of the age restriction on the student passes.

“Some of these [mature] students may be under additional financial pressure being out of the work force and supporting their family,” said Haffey.

Although Haffey doesn’t have any specific predictions, she does expect there to be an increase in sales of the pass.

First-year student at BCIT Allison Tanner is a big supporter of the student pass and Whistler Blackcomb.

“The pass means huge savings for students,” said Tanner who told *The Link* she wouldn’t want to change anything about her Whistler Blackcomb experience, other than further savings. “The cost

to buy food or drink at the top is a lot, it would be nice if there was a student discount on that.”

Tanner told *The Link* in an interview that she thinks the pass is such a good deal, she recommends it to every student interested in skiing and snowboarding.

“I used to buy the pass when I was at UBC and thought it was a great deal,” said Tanner enthusiastically. “I’m going to buy it again this year as a BCIT student.”

President and Chief Executive Officer of Whistler Blackcomb, Dave Brownlie said more capital is being invested to enhance the existing experiences at Whistler Blackcomb through the addition of two new lifts: the Harmony 6 Express and Crystal Ridge Express.

“This lift expansion clearly demonstrates our commitment to continuously enhance the skiing and riding experience on both mountains,” said Brownlie.

The student season pass for skiing and riding is available for full time post-secondary students purchased before December 2 for \$519, with the exception of four blackout dates from December 27-30.

Previously, only students between the ages of 17 and 29 were eligible to purchase the pass.

Investigation shows that BCIT is the only major post-secondary school in Vancouver that doesn't do returns on used textbooks.

LAURA SHORTT

BCIT bookstore's unique return policy

The joy of spending hundreds of dollars on textbooks at the start of every new term is equalled by very few things in this life – except perhaps sitting next to a crying baby on an eight-hour flight or getting a root canal.

It is a joy that every post-secondary student experiences at least twice a year – more if they take summer courses. If a student drops a course, which frequently happens in the first week or two of classes, he or she will have the added enjoyment of waiting in long lines to return said textbooks to the bookstore.

But as many BCIT students have noticed, BCIT will not return a student's money on certain books.

While BCIT accepts returns on new textbooks within two weeks of purchase, the bookstore does not accept returns on used textbooks. This fact is stated on receipts, in fine print.

Currently, the BCIT bookstore is the only bookstore at a major post-secondary institution within the Lower Mainland that does not accept returns on used textbooks.

It begs the question, why?

BCIT bookstore and Imaging Operations Manager, Edmund Leung told *The Link*, "The mental concept is [that] a used textbook happens on a first-come, first-serve basis. We don't want a situation where students buy used textbooks and then return them for no reason."

Student opinions on campus to the bookstore's policy are lukewarm. First-year Join-

ery Foundation student Dana Nixon told *The Link*, "It really doesn't make a whole lot of sense to me why they wouldn't offer returns on used textbooks."

But what's in it for other post-secondary institutions that offer returns on all of their textbooks, new and used?

Communications Manager for University Community Services at UBC Rebecca Irani told *The Link*, "We offer returns [on used textbooks] because we like to be flexible for the sake of the students. It's something that gives UBC an edge – we try to help students out where we can."

Interestingly, BCIT had a much stricter return policy not that long ago. Leung told *The Link* that up until about two years ago students could not return any textbooks to the bookstore.

Leung admitted it is difficult to estimate just how many used textbooks the bookstore sells to students at the start of each term. He pointed out that while the bookstore does not accept returns on used books, it does offer alternatives for students who want to avoid buying in the first place.

He told *The Link*, "We provide students with a number of options: used textbooks, textbook rentals and the use of e-textbooks online, in addition to selling new textbooks."

Still, BCIT students who decide to opt out of courses who have already purchased used textbooks are out of luck. Perhaps it's time that BCIT rethinks its policy.



The raw, the shocking: THE DIRTIES

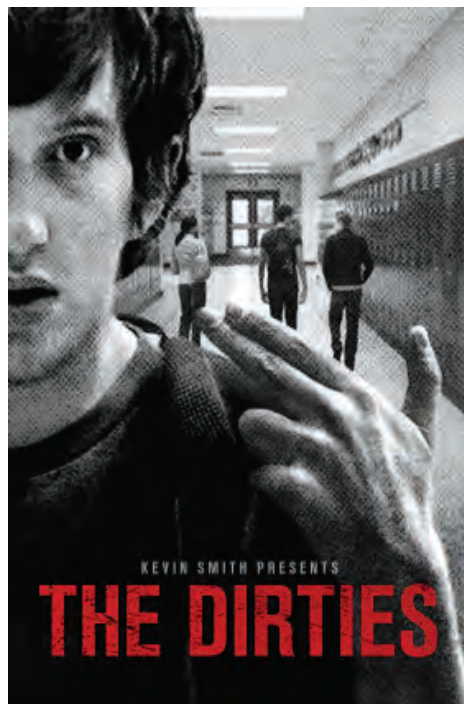


Photo Courtesy of Phase 4 Films Inc.

A lot of time has passed since *The Blair Witch Project* set the standards for 'scary' and 'realistic'. A debut film from a young Canadian filmmaker shows a new form of horrifying realism – the kind that no one sees coming.

The faux documentary follows the lives of high school students Matt (played by Matthew Johnson) and Owen (Owen Williams), as the pair films a violent comedy for class.

Canadian filmmaker's debut tries to get inside the mind of a school shooter

OLSY SOROKINA

For their project, Matt and Owen play badass detectives who hunt down a group of school bullies, *The DIRTIES*.

What starts out as a class project soon turns into a real-life revenge plot against the school bullies. Relationship dynamics between the two friends start changing, as one of them tries to woo a classmate while the other plans a killing spree.

The entire movie was filmed with an HDCAM, with no more than five people involved in the process of filming and editing. No script was used in the making of this film. Instead, each scene had a cue card with an idea, and the actors had to improvise on that idea.

Writer and director Johnson said that this lack of planning was deliberate.

"The reason why we behave the way we do, speak the way we do, is that we did not want any artifice," Johnson shared in a phone interview with *The Link*. "Anybody could have done this – that was part of the idea."

While the fact that just anybody could have made an award-winning film remains dubious, the reason why this plot would strike a chord with many members of Generation Y is its obvious reference to the events of the 1999 Columbine school massacre.

"The Columbine shooting was such a big event in our lifetime," Johnson said. "We are still trying to make sense of it."

The incident stays strong in the collective memory of Generation Y, and how can it not? With every act of violence in an educational facility that followed Columbine, members of both the public and media reopen the discussion of the lives and deaths of Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

Johnson said that the school project idea for the movie's format also came from Harris and Klebold's home videos.

"We all know them as killers, but these videos show a different side of their world," Johnson said. "Parts of them are actually quite funny."

Perhaps to showcase his realization of how common the lives of Columbine shooters have been, Johnson offers a comprehen-

sive study of Matt's character in *The DIRTIES*. Matt obsesses over planning a massacre the same way he obsessed over a school project – he hums along as he adds a name to his kill-list; he jokes around with the camera as he tries on outfits for the big day.

Johnson does not make the audience establish a connection with the killer out of cruelty. While the latter part of the movie shows Matt in the role of a killer, the former paints him as a victim – a victim of his high school social status.

High school bullying and the cult of celebrity are highlighted by Johnson in *The DIRTIES*.

The film demonstrates Matt's struggle through the contrast of the badass detective role in his school project with his real-life spot at the bottom of the high school totem pole.

"Celebrity is a modern phenomenon. Kids are influenced by it, and parents do not understand it," Johnson explained. "It is super, super stressful."

Celebrity to *The DIRTIES* writer means attention and power, which he explains to be the main appeal of the status.

According to Johnson, high schools also have their celebrities, those kids who have more power than their peers.

However, that power is often created by taking it away from those with a lower social status.

With a violent outburst against his school-mates, Matt is striving to regain power, as it has been taken away from him through acts of bullying. "Pursuit of that goal is what drives [Matt] to do what he does," Johnson told *The Link*.

While *The DIRTIES* is not the first to link high school pariahs to violence, it is the first time the message was made clear: school shooters were once someone's friend and former partner in a class project.

Such thorough considerations of what goes on in the mind of a school shooter is what makes *The DIRTIES* different from other movies inspired by the Columbine massacre. So step aside, Gus van Sant – it is time to make room for new filmmaking talent north of the border.

WORD VANCOUVER PUTS A FRESH SPIN ON POETRY



Five bubblegum vending machines were brought out of retirement as part of this year's Word Vancouver event.

RHIANNA SCHMUNK

One of Vancouver's popular literary events returned for another year, with both a new name and a brand new event on the agenda.

On September 12, Word Vancouver – formerly known as the Word on the Street Festival – launched a new initiative, tailored specifically to poetry enthusiasts.

The Automated Poetry Project dispersed the work of forty-nine local poets through five vending machines that had been reincarnated as poetry dispensers. Funds for purchasing the dispensers were raised through a popular crowd funding platform Indiegogo in summer of 2013.

The poems were placed in tiny capsules and were available to purchase for \$2, with all proceeds recycled back into Vancouver's literary community. The dispensers were strategically placed in local coffee shops and bookstores – popular destinations for poetry buffs and curious bystanders alike.

Unfortunately, they were easy to miss, and the \$2 price tag may have been perceived as a little steep for a single piece of paper.

Giving up a toonie, however, was made easier by the chance to win an entire book of poetry along with your original purchase.

To Word Vancouver's credit, the machines made it easy for to feel like a part of the festival and made poetry seem little less stuffy and a little more contemporary – a feat not easily achieved.

HUMMINGBIRD

*From The Song Collides by
Calvin Wharton
(Anvil Press, 2011)*



Photos courtesy of Montana Cumming (left)
and Rhianna Schmunk (above)

This yard is an avian gingerbread house
in a sloping West Coast forest
with terraced banks of garden -
yellow, violet and red, mostly
red that calls the hummingbirds
busy sewing up the morning light,
attaching themselves to temptation,
bee balm and fuchsia semaphore
lures them here

where cats' claws and mindless
leap twist grab from air
becomes the unjust reward.

My complicity unavoidable, flies up too,
locks grip with guilt, proceeds to anger,
ridiculous, I know, to be enraged
simply by cats being cats,
frustrating my attempts to protect birds
with useless belled collars,
limited yard time, supervised like convicts

and then I hear their calls at the door
where I find them staring, almost surprised,
at a now-still vibration of green
which, in my hand is weightless and warm,
its beak a tiny hairpin
partly open, wanting to speak, to sing out
against this undeserved end,
how unfair, how much my fault.

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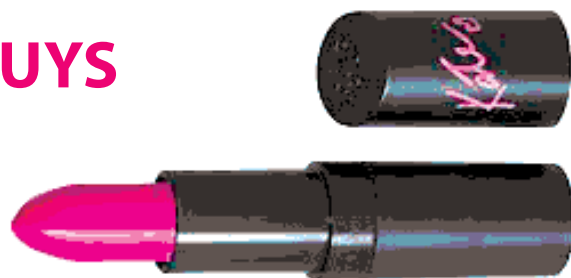
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TOP FIVE BUDGET BEAUTY BUYS

LAUREN SUNDSTROM



For students, budgeting is of utmost importance. Money for tuition, textbooks, gas, and a daily Starbucks take priority over frivolous purchases. Lo and behold, cosmetics end up at the bottom of the list. Fortunately, drugstore formulas have improved drastically in recent years, so there is no longer a need to purchase premium brands. **Here are my top five budget beauty buys!**

REVLON COLORSTAY

This foundation is perfect for long days on campus since it lasts 24 hours and doesn't budge. Seriously. It won't come off until you take it off. It gives medium to full coverage (depending on how much you use), and can be sheered down to light coverage by mixing it with a bit of your favourite moisturizer before applying, giving the otherwise satin finish an added dewiness. With an awesome shade range and wide availability, you can't go wrong with this industrial-strength foundation. **\$18.99, London Drugs.**

RIMMEL LASTING FINISH BY KATE LIPSTICK

One word describes this collection from Rimmel by Kate Moss: chic. The shades are of-the-moment and despite the fact that it's a matte formula, it glides on smoothly and feels light. At four grams, the amount of product for the money you pay is decent and the scent reminds me of sickeningly sweet candy (which I like, though it isn't for everyone). My favourite shade is number 102, a warm pink. **\$7.99, London Drugs.**

L'OREAL 12 HOUR INFALLIBLE THE SUPER SLIM LIQUID EYELINER

The name may be a mouthful, but the results are excellent. The tip is finely tapered and made of felt, allowing for maximum control to create the graphic cat-eye trending this season. Once the formula sets, it stays well and will last through a full day of classes. As an added bonus, there's a concave, slightly textured grip for even more control. This liquid eyeliner is foolproof. **\$10.99, London Drugs.**

COVERGIRL LASHBLAST VOLUME

I've tried hoards of different mascaras, but I always come back to my beloved Lashblast. The super black formula thickens and separates lashes with ease, leaving you with enough control to go subtle for daytime, or luscious for a night out. The plastic bristles on the applicator are innovative, which led competitors to copy the technology, but Lashblast leaves them all in the dust. My only complaint? The large, bright orange tube is tacky and cumbersome. Nobody's perfect. **\$9.99, London Drugs.**

MAYBELLINE FIT ME CONCEALER

This concealer was a pleasant surprise. I stumbled upon it during the summer after I realized my NARS Creamy Concealer was too light for my slightly tanned skin. Not wanting to spend money on another premium product, I combed my local London Drugs and snatched this one up with no regrets. This covers my (genetic) dark circles beautifully, and I adore the wand applicator. Once I set it with powder, it lasts all day! **\$9.99, London Drugs.**

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OCTOBER EVENTS

OLSY SOROKINA



AMPED

Starts October 12
TELUS World of Science

Those who have been to the Experience Music Project museum in Seattle—and wished that similar exhibits would come north of the border—can rejoice: the wait is over! AMPED, the newest Science World exhibition, will explore the science and engineering behind modern-day music-making. Student admission is \$18.50. Maybe they'll throw in a 'free admission' weekend, as they did on the last weekend of September.

BC Beer Awards & Festival

Saturday, October 19
Croatian Cultural Centre

October is BC Craft Beer month. We are blessed to live in a place where it is possible to have a pint of a different local craft beer every day of the month. Find out what beer is best according to experts at the 4th Annual BC Beer Awards and Beer Festival, where beer aficionados and brewers will bond over their favourite hopped beverage. Tickets are \$35, which includes four drink tokens, a 4oz tasting glass, and bragging rights for having tasted the best BC beer.

Vancouver Writers Fest

October 22-27
Various venues

Every October, bookworms flock to Granville Island to meet their favourite writers at Vancouver Writers Fest. This year's run is the largest in the Festival's 26-year history. Authors from all over the world will be involved in readings, public debates, and meet-and-greets. The public will also get a chance to meet five nominees for this year's Giller Prize, a prestigious award in Canadian fiction. Tickets sell out fast, so get yours soon!

BCITSA By-Election Nomination Period

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