



# the other press

free

MAY, 02



"Stupid White Man"  
Michael Moore



A Broad's  
eye view



World Cup  
Predictions

# New Music West

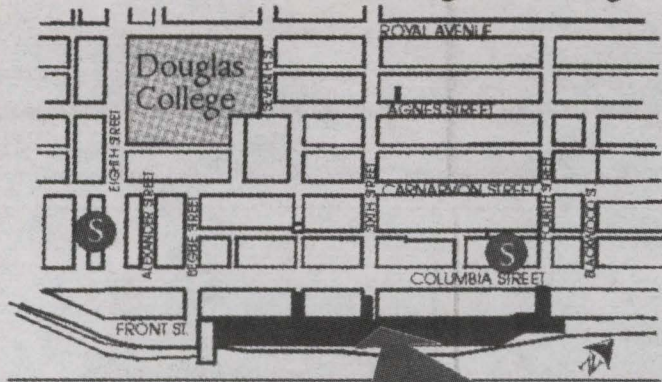
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*The Other Press* is run as a collective and is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly (as a magazine) during the summer.

We receive our funding from a student levy collected every semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue.

*The Other Press* is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a cooperative of student newspapers from across Canada. We adhere to CUP's *Statement of Common Principles* and *Code of Ethics*--except when it suits us not to.

*The Other Press* reserves the right to choose what to publish, and will not publish material that is racist, sexist or homophobic.

Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary.

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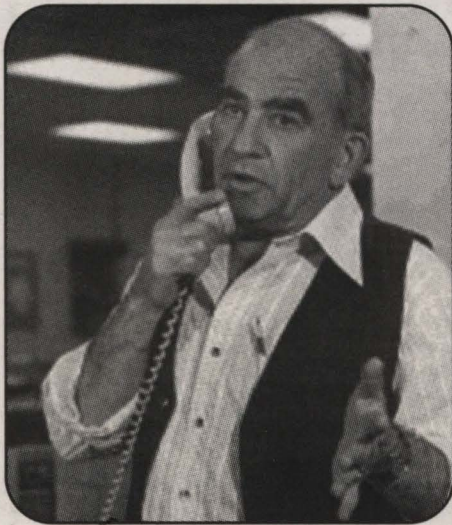
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# From The Editor



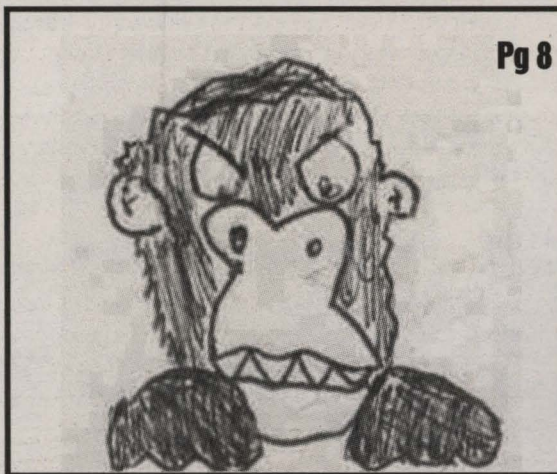
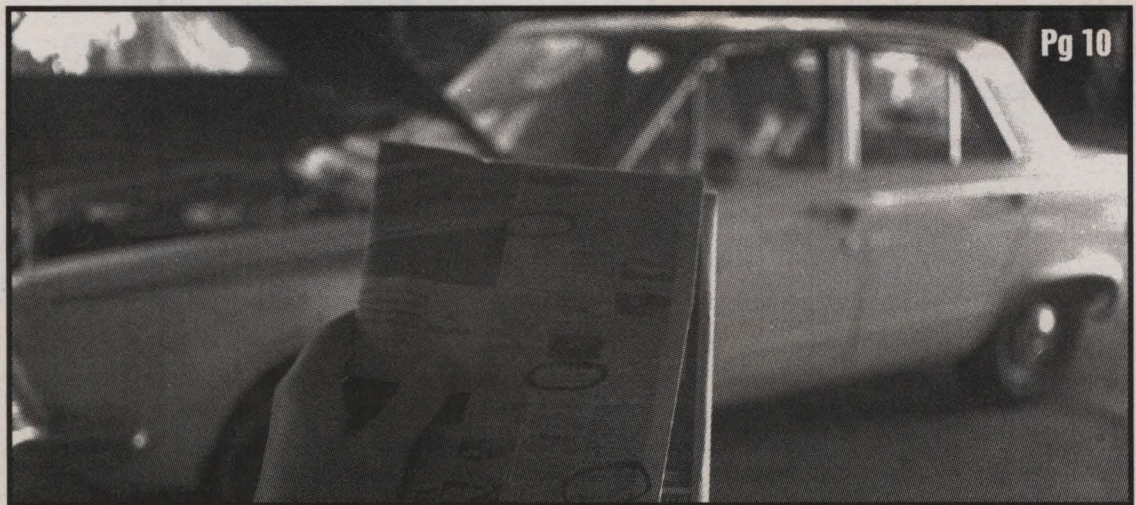
**Editorial**  
By Adam Honsinger

Greetings, and welcome to the first of four summer issues of the Other Press in a swank and exciting magazine format. I have recently taken over as the editor here at the OP and have launched my tyrannical dictatorship inspired by the hard-nosed journalistic approach of my mentor, Lou Grant. Although the paper remains autonomous and ultimately run by the collective, I hope to bring a sharpened sense of accountability tempered with a soft-boiled friendliness to the paper's organizational culture. Accountability to you the student body, and friendliness to those who work so diligently to pull off the miracle of publication each week, or, as is the case through the summer semester, each lazy month.

As many student papers do, the OP has oscillated through the years between hard times, skeletal staff and prosperity. I feel that the Other Press is moving into a new season of graphic, journalistic and literary integrity. If nothing else we hope to make the paper look good and this vision includes a higher profile, expanded distribution, and some exciting new editorial features—in short, more adjectives. Throughout the summer, we will be brainstorming and experimenting with new concepts and ideas so that (theoretically) by September we will be a finely tuned production machine.

I would like to extend a gracious welcome to those who have recently joined the OP roster, as our team expands to meet the goals of this blossoming vision, and thanks to you for picking the paper up. We are located downstairs in room 1020 and if the door is open come on in, and if it is closed, knock. We welcome your feedback and look forward to entertaining, stimulating and informing you throughout the semester.

Sincerely, Adam Honsinger, Editor



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# Changes to Fees and Programs

**By Eileen Velthuis**  
Features Editor

Facing a budget deficit of \$3 million this year and a possible \$3.5 million next year, Douglas College is forced to make some changes to fees and services.

The College is required by law to balance the budget, and the way they plan to do it is simple—increase revenues and reduce operating costs. Some of the recommended fee changes include a tuition fee increase of 30 per cent in September of this year, with the possibility of a similar increase the following year. At Douglas College, a three-credit course costs \$132—BC currently has the second lowest tuition fees in Canada, after Quebec. The increase would mean that a three-credit course will cost \$172 in September—full-time fees will jump from \$660 to \$860 for a five-course load. “Raising fees and restructuring programs are not decisions we take lightly,” said College President Susan Witter.

The College will also be charging a new Registration and Service Fee of \$30 per semester, which will cover the cost of services that students currently aren’t billed for, and will include the fee for student cards. There will be other minor fee changes as well, such as a reapplication fee of \$25 for

students who have not attended the college for three consecutive semesters, and for changes to the cost for transcripts.

Some of the program and service changes coming to the College include the closure of the Thomas Haney Campus in Maple Ridge over the next two years. University transfer courses will be relocated to the David Lam



Campus in Coquitlam effective in September 2003. Thomas Haney students will be accommodated in Coquitlam and New Westminster, and faculty will be transferred as well. School District 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) Board Chair Judy Dueck said that while she was disappointed that Maple Ridge will no longer have a Douglas College campus, that “On the positive side, the school district may be able to accommodate

the expansion of Thomas Haney Secondary from 950 to 1,200 students by using the Douglas College wing.”

Other major changes include the elimination of the position of Vice President of College Development, the elimination of staff positions in Systems and Computing and Afternoon Mail Delivery, the closure of the Habitat Restoration Program, and the restructuring of the Office Administration and Science and Technology Programs. While program closures and restructuring may be a necessary move for the College, prospective Douglas student Amanda Johnson is discouraged. “They’re closing the program I wanted to get into. I don’t know what I’m going to do now.”

In order to lessen the negative impact that fee increases and program reductions will have on some students, the College is also recommending that of the revenue received from the fee increases, \$250,000 goes toward student aid, \$125,000 towards student employment on campus, \$250,000 towards technology and equipment replacement, and \$250,000 towards the addition of 1,750 new student seats in University Transfer areas this year.

“Developing a balanced budget has been very difficult this year. We have worked hard to limit the impact on students and employees,” Witter said.

# Government promises to help double grads

**By Eileen Velthuis**  
Features Editor

The Provincial government announced on April 15 that they will fund 825 new high-tech student spaces in BC’s post-secondary institutions.

BC Premier Gordon Campbell said that it’s “part of our New Era commitments to increase post-secondary access and help build the fastest growing technology industry in Canada.” The government has vowed to help double the number of graduates from computer science and electrical and computer engineering programs in the next five

years, by funding the 825 new spaces this year. The province must then create 3,400 new spaces in the next four years in order to double the annual graduates from high-tech programs.

Government funding for the new spaces will be shared between BCIT, UBC, SFU, UVic, UNBC, Kwantlen University College, Malaspina University College, Okanagan University College, the University College of the Fraser Valley and the University College of the Cariboo. The total government investment will be \$150 million over the five-year period, or \$12,000 per full-time equivalent undergraduate student and \$20,000 per full-time equiv-

alent graduate student.

The announcement followed a new program declared on March 15 to double the number of medical school students in the Province within the next three years, bringing the number of medical school spaces up to 224 and adding 1,400 new spaces for nurses and care aides.

There is a high demand for well-trained professionals in BC. Advanced Education Minister Shirley Bond added, “We want to make sure our post-secondary resources are closely linked to the needs of students and our province.”

More information about high-tech education in BC is available online at [www.bcuniversities.ca](http://www.bcuniversities.ca)

## Treaty Referendum

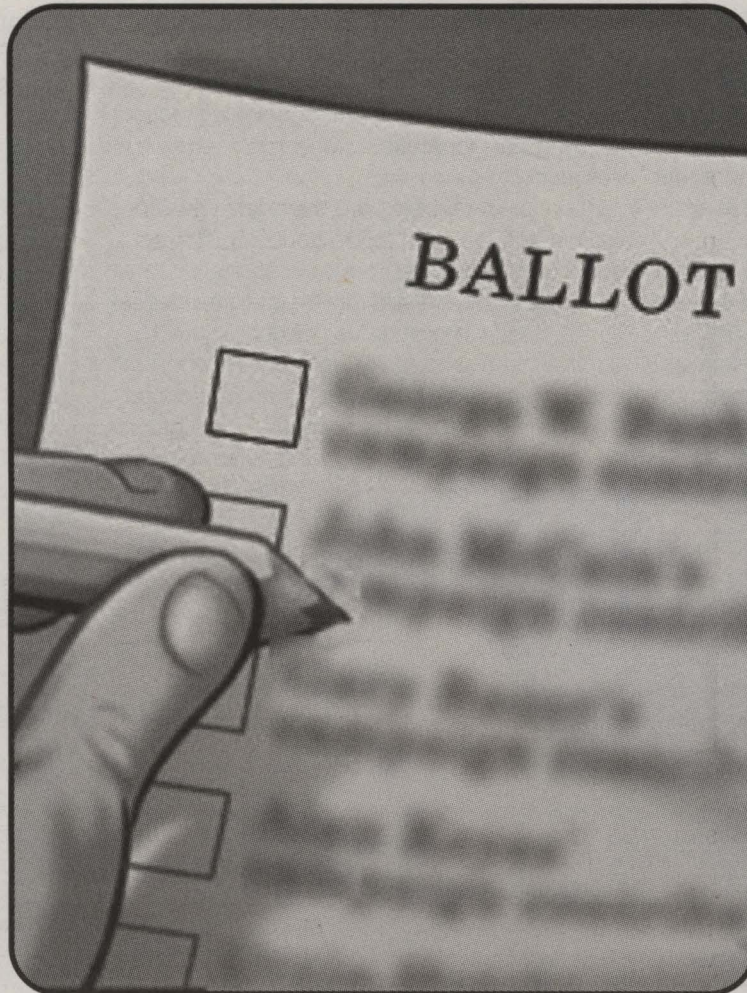
**Tom Mellish**  
OP Staff Writer

It is fitting that the ballot in the public referendum on the First Nations treaty settlement arrives at our door in a yellow envelope. In the referendum voting process there is no abstaining option, and no room for neutrality if you don't know the issues. The background information in the package and at [www.treatyreferendum.ca](http://www.treatyreferendum.ca) was sorely meagre ([www.bctreaty.net](http://www.bctreaty.net) fills in most of the blanks, and its content is highly recommended).

The disassociation of BC from its indigenous population is obvious. Our colonial perception—simply by sewing a maple leaf onto our baggage—is that we'll get better treatment than an American. Our perception is that BC reserves have become ghetto-like pockets where the First Nations survive.

One isn't told that the colonial government of BC took away from the indigenous population the right to acquire Crown land, reduced the size of their reserves, denied that they had ever owned the land, and paid no compensation for the loss of traditional lands and resources. It is no wonder they remain skeptical and disillusioned; they were cheated, literally robbed by the colonial government.

The new myth of "supernatural" BC, that it is as pure as the driven snow, is bullshit. No matter how many roads are built, how many landscapes changed, it will remain that BC is a province built upon treachery and deceit. Denial of responsibility is how most British Columbians sleep at night as they build their hypocrisy on the backs of atrocity. Guilty by association, no measure of propaganda expounding the glossy multi-cultural ad campaign of BC's potential, rather than what has been and is, will ever erase the fact of how this



province was stolen. Conquest—the great and horrible plough of assimilation. Conquest made this country, this province, and this place out of the domination of another culture. The self-aggrandizing white axiom, "Go West Young Man" is cacophony to the roar of injustice that nearly wiped out the people who were here before you or I.

In the end it's going to take nothing less than a whole heap of compassionate listening to do this fairly. Compassionate listening is the key to this lock. No amount of force will open the way between us. The tripartite process, of federal, provincial, and aboriginal—is all well and good, but I'd like to press for an impartial rather than a provincial representative: a mediator, who is neither Canadian, nor First Nations. In the end, if all goes well, cross-pollination will populate North America with Golden children. We, the mixing pot—two branches of the same tree—will look back on our ancestors who had a terrible falling out, and hopefully learn from our mistakes.

## The Holy Trinity: cover-up, deny, and scapegoat?

**Beverly Greene**  
OP Contributor

A few weeks ago, I woke up in another century. The fact that I was getting my news from a nifty little invention called a TV should have been a sure indication that I was still firmly in the new millennium, but the voices I heard weren't from my time. No, their tired old rhetoric was certainly a bad flashback to a time I thought we had left behind.

It has recently become public knowledge that the Catholic Church has been covering up decades of cases of child molestation by their priests. In order to avoid bad press, Church officials failed to notify the proper authorities, instead opting to simply relocate the offending priest to another neighbourhood where they continued to have access to children. As a result, hundreds, if not thousands, of boys and girls have been traumatized for life. Now that their dirty little secret is out and people are demanding an explanation, what reason have they offered? "The fags did it!"

The Church is once again behind the times, ignoring scientific knowledge that disproves their common reframe: Studies have repeatedly found that heterosexual men are far more likely to molest children, either male or female, than gay men are. Despite this fact, the Church claims that gay priests alone molested those children while ignoring the fact that it failed to act on its own supposed belief.

When repeated allegations were made, the offending priests were not denied access to children, or turned over to the authorities, or removed from the priesthood all together. Instead they were simply relocated. If the Church truly believes that only homosexuals who had infiltrated their ranks would molest children, why weren't these priests removed immediately? After all, gay men are supposedly not knowingly allowed in the priesthood. Why is it only now, in the face of public outrage that the Church is demanding the removal of gay priests to deal with this horrific situation? (And how exactly does posthumously removing Rev. Mychal Judge (the gay priest who died in the September 11 terrorist attacks while performing his ordained duty),

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# The Sides of Herbicides

**Greg Berg**  
OP Contributor

Our greatest efforts to control nature have been made in the past twentieth century. The capabilities of that industrial century made it easy to do so with the mass production of goods. With the arrival of the twenty-first century came hope for change, but it has yet to materialize. But when it comes to the use of pesticides and herbicides, change is needed as soon as possible.

I've been a homeowner for two years. I looked forward to having my own yard in order to grow a garden to feed my mind and stomach. As with any new experience, you will make mistakes. For the care of the lawn I bought a weed and feed mixture in granular form. They are available everywhere and considered to be the best answer to a healthy lawn.

When it came time to read the directions for use I became suspicious. Cautions of severe skin irritation and fume inhalation were boldly printed on the bag. Any product should be questioned that claims to be healthy for one thing yet dangerous to another. And dangerous it was. A chemical called 2,4-D was the main ingredient.

Even with the little I knew about this compound I knew it carried a dark history. Claims of being a carcinogen by several agencies are not uncommon. These accusations are countered by manufacturers stating their product is perfectly safe. Though, in at least one case, a forestry worker in the U.S. died as a result from direct exposure to 2,4-D resulting in compensation for his wife.

Another concern stems from how close children play to an area where 2,4-D has been used. Some consider this a link in developmental problems due to the developing immune systems children have. Their systems are simply not strong or capable enough at a young age to deal with the toxicity. I decided these were risks I was not willing to take to rid myself of a few dandelions. Many people still do though, and with the arrival of summer the feed sales are sure to increase. In early spring every year chemical companies courting farmers reappear with the latest in weed control. They are constantly changing their

products because weeds continue to adapt. Genetic engineering is the latest development in weed control as chemicals are paired up with a specific genetically modified seed. In many cases the chemicals are getting stronger in order to be effective. This continuous attack kills natural organisms in the soil and pollutes our waters. By continuing such large-scale practices of chemical application we are defeating ourselves in the process.

Chemical treatments are short-term solutions (something we tend to be good at) and not a sustainable practice. Past civilizations, such as the Mayas, existed and thrived for three civilization periods without the use of chemicals. They survived bad crop years and thrived when the season was good. No different than we do today.

The dividing difference was that the natural order was not upset and diversification played a key role. The Maya's system of agriculture used the support of different species of plants in order to be self-sustaining.

The fact that broad leaf varieties of weed are so popular today is likely our doing.

With higher concentrations of Co2 in the air, broad leaf varieties will naturally take advantage. As an example, a stem of wheat will never outperform a broad leaf plant, which can absorb more Co2 and sunlight due to its design. This is seen as a reason to the proliferation of weeds as a product of an environmental condition bred in the past century.

A combination of new and ancient agricultural methods could go far in alleviating some of the strain on the land that produces our food. Subsistence farming in place of market systems could allow us to grow only what is needed to make way for sustainable, rotational growing practices. We have a long way to go but the more we learn, the more we can change the way things are done.

Getting back to my lawn, a person might ask, "What's the big deal, it's only one lawn." But when you consider how many lawns are potentially using the same products, it adds up quickly. For most regions these chemicals are entering our soil and water sources all at the same time. It is asking too much of our earth to absorb. So where does that leave us, when it's our food, our land, and water? 'Cided ...



## The Holy Trinity

continued from page 5

from the priesthood simply because of his sexual orientation help anyone?)

By untruthfully laying the blame at the feet of gay men, the Church continues their policy of denial. Denying that little girls were molested in great numbers and harmed by the Church's unwillingness to do the right thing and stop these robed monsters. While many of the reported cases were against boys, sex crimes against women continue to be drastically under-reported. As a result, some experts are saying that there may be as many, if not actually more, female victims. Still, the Church blames men they say have an "unnatural affection" towards other men for these crimes.

Gay men, as well as lesbians, serve as clergy in many of the world's religions, yet it is the Catholic Church alone that is being accused of knowingly harbouring and covering up for child rapists, not only in the U.S., but also in Ireland, England, Australia and Canada. If their excuse were valid and gay priests are responsible for the decades of abuse ignored by the Catholic Church, why aren't churches, where there are more gay clergy members having the same problem? Because the real problem isn't gay priests at all, but the Church itself. The Church has simply fallen back on its old bag of tricks, calling for yet another witch-hunt in order to deflect attention away from the Church's responsibility for its own actions, or in this case, inaction.

Scapegoating is hardly a new practice for the Catholic Church. Throughout the centuries, the Church has disliked a long list of people and blamed them for everything from child abuse to natural disasters. Accused of doing the work of the devil, women, Pagans, Protestants, the mentally ill, and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons, to name a few, have been targeted. In the name of "God," millions of people have been murdered, raped and tortured. Despite the flood of blood (surely enough to engulf the Vatican), the Church still hasn't learned from its own mistakes.

For hundreds of years now, the Catholic Church has continued to hide its head in the sand, childishly covering its ears and screaming, "The Church is God's vessel and as such, infallible. The devil is responsible, not the Catholic Church!" While the human race has continued to learn and evolve, albeit at an amazing slow pace, the Church continues to pick fights in the playground with the "different" kid, hoping no one will notice their own faults. At a time when we're becoming increasingly conscious of the devastating effects of childhood bullying, it amazes me that we don't see the obvious effects of this institutionalized version.

# A Broad's Eye View

**J. A.L.**  
**OP Columnist**

Hello. For those of you accustomed to flipping to Opinions and scouring the pages for Exile on Main Street, you may be confused. While my name, like my predecessor, is also Jennifer—I am hoping this is where the similarities end. I mean, this column will be **TOTALLY** different. Here, you will find a uniquely—slightly off-colour, often sex-obsessed—feminine perspective of the world. So where do the differences lie, you may ask. To this I say, “E-x-a-c-t-l-y.”

Anyhoo, you dear readers, now have the opportunity to read my inner-most musings on a regular basis; sniffer's row seats to the show of my life, if you will. In this column you will find stories about me, stories about people who irritate or impress me, stories about people who know me and stories about people who should know me. Now, you may be thinking to yourself, “Why in the hell would I want to read about this dumb broad?” You may even be entertaining the notion of disregarding this column, just to piss me off. That, my friends, would be a terrible mistake. Think about it for a moment. A person this obsessed with self is bound to frequently make an asshole of herself. Now, who doesn't enjoy the antics of an asshole? Please! Allow me to sweeten the deal. I am shamelessly honest about myself, revealing details you may wish you never knew. If you can figure out who I am, when you see me in the halls you can snigger, point and laugh—whatever floats your boat. It gets even better—I am a student, I am poor and I have issues. I'm just like you, only better, because I have my own column!

Here is a list of ten unsolicited facts about me (in random order):

I am old. (Younger than 30, older than 28.)

My favourite drink is Johnny Walker Black (on ice).

My favourite politician of all time is Bill Clinton—hands down (and on my knees).

My date-rape drug song is “Secret Red Canoe” as performed by Martin Tielli.

The one person I would want to spend one night of raucous partying with is Dean Martin.

I hate to cuddle after sex—but I do like a Super Big Gulp and cab-fare home.

I was a vegetarian for 6 weeks in 1990.

I masticate meat, and how! Sounds dirty, but look it up (you'll be disappointed).

Despite my foul language, I do think that a

lady should be a lady. i.e., no bodily functions performed in front of a man. Period.

I have an unrelenting, dirty little crush on Alan Rickman. I love you, babe.

So there you have it. I cannot promise you journalistic integrity or any brand of integrity

for that matter. But, I promise you I will show up. And really, sometimes that's all we can hope for, isn't it?

Send your warm fuzzies or cold pricklies to me at:

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



# The Final Rant and Rave

**Tanya Howe**  
Opinions Editor

Graduation time is almost here and so ends my Douglas College experience and my rein as the Opinions Editor at the Other Press. It was nice to have a year to rant and rave to you, dear readers. For the most part, you were a passive bunch that didn't send me any hate mail (or love mail, for that matter!). So either no one read my column, or you did, and didn't care what I had to say. Either way, I got to say what I wanted and publish a hell of a lot of swear words. There are not too many places you can publish graphic rants and raves.

For my final column, I have decided to drain my rants and raves archives with the things I meant to write about but never got around too. I present my top five:

#5 People who take forever at a bank machine. Once you are done, move along and let the rest of us go about our business. You can walk away from the machine and look at your bank statement. You don't have to make me stand there and watch you try to figure it out. I have things to do and one of them is banking, so move it!

#4 Line budgers. I hate these people. In fact, I've been known on occasion to trip a person or two who have budged in front of me. After waiting forever in line, I tend to get a little irritable when someone thinks they can bypass the wait by stepping in front of me.

#3 Perfume and colognes are outdated. They served a purpose in the day of barn dances but now a days we have deodorant so why spray on the extra scents? There is nothing worse than getting on the SkyTrain and having my eyes start watering because the chick beside me dumped a bottle of au du crap on herself. And by the way, many people have allergies to unnatural scents, so do us all a favour and

throw out the smelly shit.

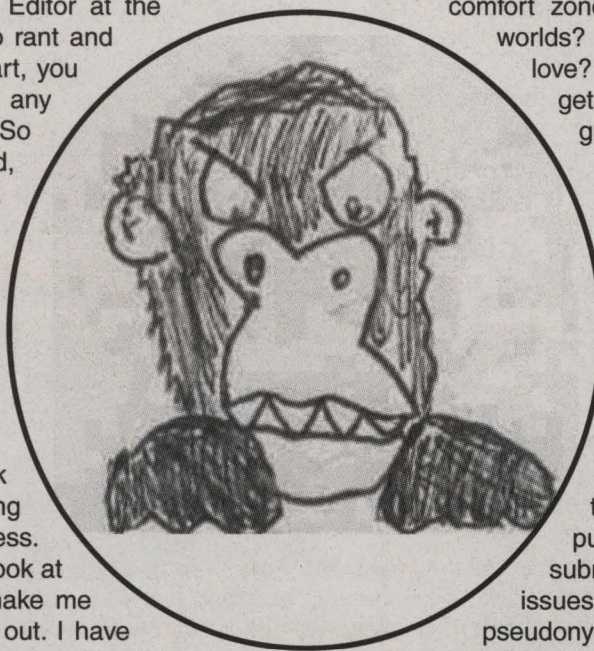
#2 Cheaters suck. Guys who cheat on their girlfriends are cowards and the women they cheat with are idiots. If you really want to screw a bunch of people then why carry on a steady relationship? Is it a comfort zone or are you just wanting the best of all worlds? Why cheat and hurt the one you claim to love? And my biggest question is, how do women get sucked in by a cheater? You know he has a girlfriend and all he wants from you is to conquer and fuck you—what do you get out of it? If you ask me, the guy is dirty and damaged goods. (I mean dirty as in repulsive.) Cheaters are like heavy-duty alcoholics, they never change and they are a mess to deal with.

#1 And my biggest annoyance is? Students who don't take advantage of their college newspaper. For crying out loud, when are you ever going to get a chance to rant and rave and swear about the things that annoy you? There are three campuses for Douglas College and not many of you submitted anything. Seriously, everybody has issues, so why not write about them. Go under a pseudonym if you are scared of what your friends will think of your lunacy. It is not hard to write 500 words of what

you want to say, when you write thousands of words for instructors on what they don't want you to say. You have this outlet to publish your thoughts, so use it. You pay for it with your student fees, so get your moneys worth.

Well, I guess this concludes my time and rants at the OP. I hope some of you will consider writing for the paper in the future and be kind to the new Opinions Editor, Erin Culhane. She is a great writer and will take the section in a whole new direction. I wish her the best and hopefully more people will contribute in future issues.

Take care, it has been a slice.



## Science Matters

### Diseases of the poor need attention

**David Suzuki**

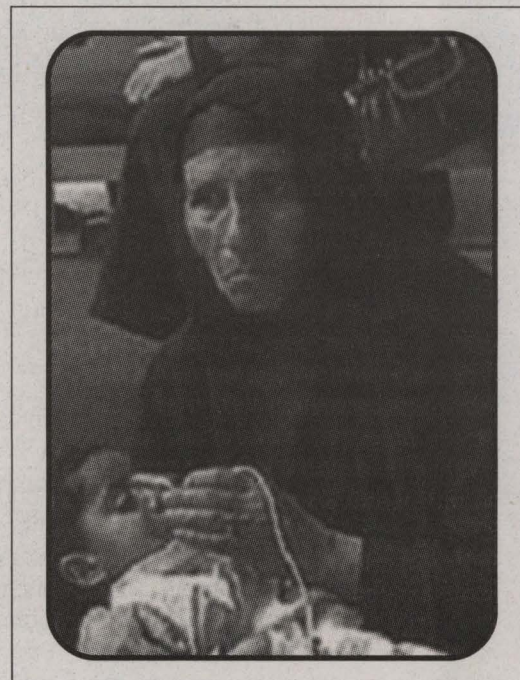
Disease research is always a hot news topic. That's only natural—we're all scared of getting sick. Cancer and heart disease are the developed world's biggest killers, so they receive the most air time. But the developing world faces a host of different diseases that don't get the public attention or the research dollars they desperately need.

Consider three of the biggest killers in the developing world - malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 40 per cent of the world's

population is at risk from malaria and in some areas of Africa, 80 per cent of the children are infected with malaria parasites. Only 20 per cent of those who suffer from tuberculosis receive high-quality treatment. And 30 per cent of sexually active young people surveyed in 22 developing countries had never even heard of AIDS or how it is transmitted.

These statistics underlie a grim death toll. Every year, more than 800,000 young children die from malaria, two million people die from tuberculosis and three million die from AIDS. The United Nations has developed a global fund to fight these diseases, but it falls short of its needs. Right now, it is receiving just 11 per

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## Science Matters

continued from page 8

cent of the \$8 billion needed to adequately tackle the problem.

Meanwhile, other diseases are surging in the developing world. Dengue fever, for example, is now found in more than 100 developing countries. Carried by mosquitoes in tropical and sub-tropical areas, dengue is not often fatal, but causes a high fever, headache, limb and joint pains that have earned it the nickname "break-bone fever."

Unfortunately, dengue victims can also develop a complication called dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) which, without proper treatment, can be fatal more than 20 per cent of the time. DHF causes a high fever for up to seven days, convulsions and even circulatory failure. This complication used to be rare, but since 1970 epidemics of DHF have increased four-fold.

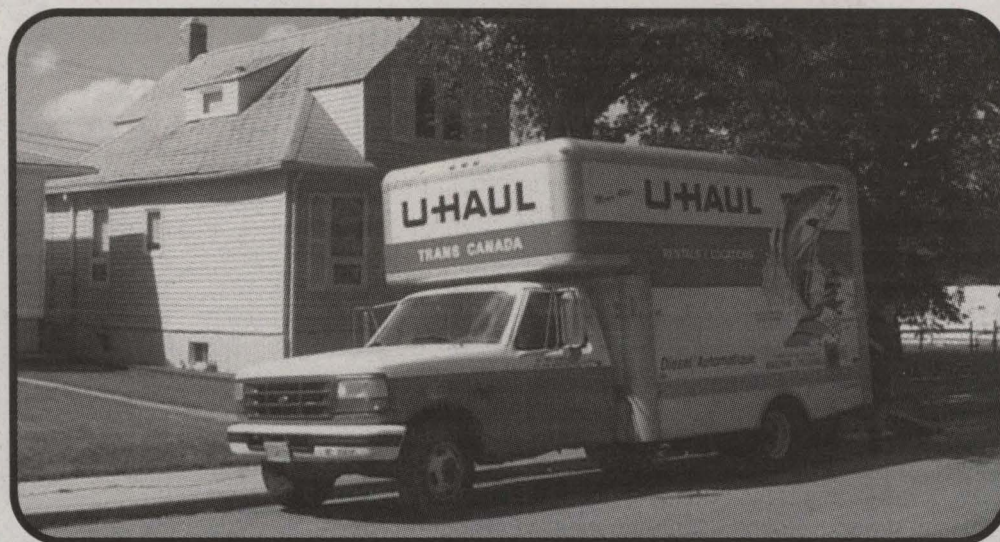
The WHO estimates that every year 50 million people contract dengue fever (although it often goes unreported) and 2.5 billion people are at risk. About 500,000 people, mostly children, require hospitalization for the DHF complication. Although these numbers don't compare to malaria, their continued increase has public health officials particularly concerned. Earlier this year, the WHO passed a resolution urging member states to commit to better funding for prevention and treatment, including a vaccine.

Dengue is proving to be a formidable opponent. Urbanization in the developing world has created dense living conditions, allowing the disease to spread more easily. In addition, dengue is not caused by just one virus, but by four different strains called "serotypes." Creating a single, effective vaccine has proven elusive because fighting off infection from one of the serotypes does not confer resistance to the other strains. In fact, exposure to a second or third serotype makes the victim more likely to develop the potentially deadly DHF. According to an article in the journal *Nature* this is a serious threat to infants, because they can receive antibodies against one strain from their mother's milk, then be infected with another serotype from a mosquito bite increasing the chances of developing DHF.

Funding for malaria research pales in comparison to funding for many "western" diseases. And funding for dengue research pales in comparison to research on malaria. Yet these diseases infect tens of millions every year. Treatment and prevention measures are available, but once again, money is the sticking point. In the wealthy, modern, globalized world of the 21st century, this seems particularly unjust.

To discuss this topic with others, visit the discussion forum at [www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org).

# Moving day



Kerry Evans  
OP Contributor

A week before moving day the telephone stops ringing. It is not because your phone has already been disconnected, but because your "friends" are in the beginning process of dodging you. No one likes to help people move. I admit that even I hate helping people move, but when your friend needs to move, you suck it up and just do it. That's what friends are for, right? Helping each other move comes with the territory.

I should divulge that since I moved out of my parents' house nine years ago. I have (as of this past weekend) moved 13 times. So I can understand that my friends are sick of moving me, but frankly I am sick of their problems too, but that's just the way it works. Friendships shouldn't have conditions. It seems like the same friend will only move you twice, only go through two break-ups with you, and only babysit your kids a certain number of times. Whoever made these rules should be shot. I am clearly a high-maintenance friend, as I seem to move twice a year, break-up twice a year, and need a babysitter twice a week.

Ahhhh moving day. My poor dad has moved me ten of the 13 times. This time he said that he is never moving my hide-a-bed again. We always forget to tie the bed inside, so it falls out—usually in the elevator or some other impossible place. He said if I move again, the couch will be the next tenants' patio furniture or I better scrape together money for a real moving company. He reminded me every few minutes that he was losing out on \$25 an hour at some other job. Profanities were used often.

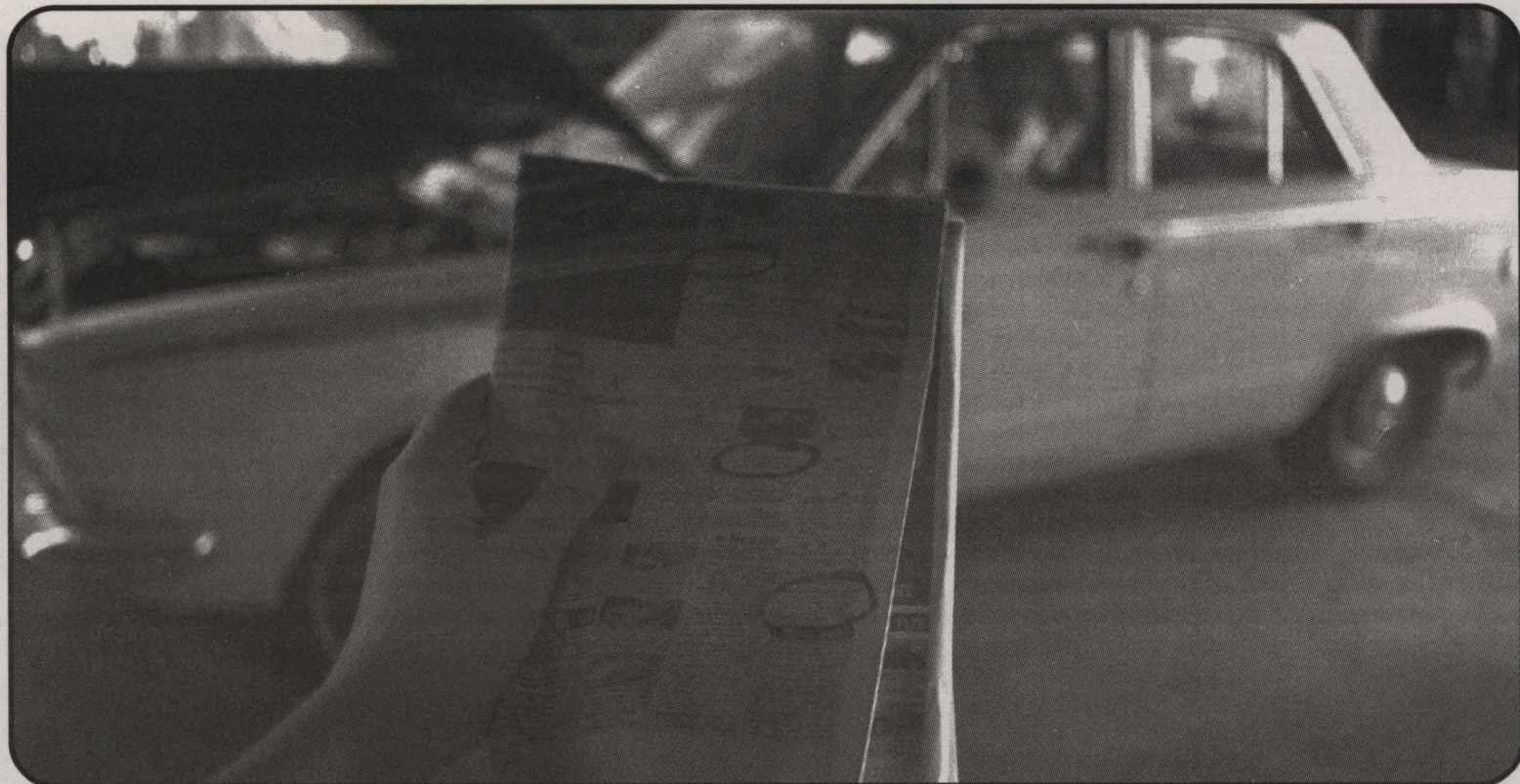
This time, the unsuspecting helpers were my friend Jennifer and her husband. Her husband clearly wasn't thrilled and had probably been duped—his wife making some elaborate promises of good things to come once the move was complete. As I spoke to her on the phone the night before the big day, I listened as she reassured him that I was all organized and the move would be a snap. I snickered silently within. The fools! I don't think that I have ever been organized in my life. Clearly they are delusional. They've been to my house. Did they expect a miracle? In retrospect, they were my miracle. Only an eight-hour move! Without them, it would have been 16.

Another friend of mine was going to help, but she always says that later would be a better time. I am still waiting for later to come. There are still 30 boxes that need unpacking and, as much as I pray, they aren't going to unpack themselves. She is moving in a month, and she asked me to save her the boxes. I will make sure to tell her where our recycling bin is.

Have you ever cleaned an oven? Yeah, me neither. When I had to go back and clean my old suite, my other friend got stuck with that job. Don't jump all over me—I did the fridge and it was equally disgusting. Note to self: get real cleaners next time. I did pay my friend a handsome amount to do the dirty work, but in the process I still subjected her to it. She said next time her fee is going up.

I have decided that I am not moving again until I have a rich husband. So never.

## The truth behind classified ads



**Erin Culhane**  
OP Contributor

If you're in the market for a long-term headache, wasting time and general misery, might I suggest buying a used car? When ICBC informed me that my car was a "total loss" after being rear ended, I took to the classifieds.

It is important to keep in mind that the people that place classified ads for used cars are generally liars. While a little white lie may seem harmless enough, I wasted many hours going to see cars that weren't even close to the ad's description.

I don't quite understand why people misrepresent their cars, because it's not as though they aren't going to be found out. I liken the typical car ad to me placing a personal ad that says: SWF, 36-24-36, blonde, petite, early 20s. Wow, don't I sound all tiny and perfect. But my date might be a little perturbed when he sees a 5'10" redhead, pushing 30, with a waist that hasn't seen 24 inches since Grade 2. So what's the point of lying?

Here's a few of the most popular car ad lines:

- Low Kilometres: Since when does an odometre reading of 268,000 constitute low kilometres?
- Immaculate condition: Careful with this one. What one person calls immaculate, can often be more accurately described as rust on wheels.
- Good condition: You know what good condition gets you? About 86 different stains and some rancid odours. A few of the cars I saw were just nasty. It might have been a rotten piece of fruit, or dirty socks, or maybe urine. I'd have to wait for the toxicology report to know for sure.
- Needs minor work: Unless you're handy, don't even bother. "Minor" could mean the transmission (and I've heard its function is quite important to a car).
- Lady driven: This is my favourite. Ladies are so dainty and careful,

and treat their cars to regular oil changes and tune-ups. Anything less would be against the rules of being a lady. Watch out for ads that say "gentleman driven" because those gentleman drivers are bad news. They drive hard and fast with no regard for regular maintenance of their cars.

- Fun to drive: Is that guaranteed? Well, gee if it's fun to drive then I'd better buy it, because that's where I look for my fun, behind the wheel of a car. But wait, can I have fun driving if I'm a "lady driver"?

The silliness and lying isn't just in the ads. Some people continue to misrepresent their car over the phone. When I called about one "lady driven" ad, I asked the seller if there were three seatbelts in the back of the car. She assured me there was, so off I went to Mission to see the car, and wouldn't you know it, the third seatbelt had disappeared. I don't think wasting my time is a very ladylike thing to do.

I became a bit of a liar myself when examining the cars. I'd open up the hood and take a look at the engine, the motor (and whatever else is kept under there). I'd nod, rub my chin in deep concentration as though I had any clue about what I was looking at. I'd ask questions with unwavering authority. "When was the timing belt replaced? What's left on the front brakes? Can I see written confirmation of these 'regular oil changes' of which you speak?" I may not understand the function of the constant velocity boot, but that didn't stop me from demanding to know when it had last been replaced.

After three weeks of searching I finally found a car on the weekend—right here in Maple Ridge. The seller had every oil change receipt and invoices for all work done. It may not be beautiful, but I'm just thankful the whole process is over. I guess if I had to describe my new wheels, I'd say:

Convertible sports car with low kilometres, no scratches, fully loaded, a riot to drive, four seatbelts in the back.

That's about as accurate as my personal ad.



# CD Reviews

## Custom

Tyler Bradford  
Culture Editor

Fast  
(Artist Direct)

The music on *Fast* is, for the most part, pretty boring. It's the sort of tepid modern rock fare that tragically seems to appeal to the musical tastes of a lot of teenage males these days. The album sounds like the Fun Loving Criminals if their sense of humor were replaced by wry sexist cynicism. At least Custom (aka Duane Lavold) has a cool voice—almost an amalgamation of Joe Strummer of the Clash and Mike Ness of Social Distortion. Backed by Billy Howardel and Josh Freeze, both from A Perfect Circle, and Duncan Shiek, the album is smooth and polished and ready for the radio. I'd write more about the album, but its blatant misogynistic attitude made me want to throw up, so I turned it off half way through. It's that good.



## Phantom Planet

Tyler Bradford  
Culture Editor

The Guest  
(Epic)

*The Guest* is a nice album. It has sickly sweet pop-hook melodies that make you want to sing along, it has some chunky guitar riffs in the right places, it features (fairly) intelligent lyrics and three-part harmonies...what's not to love? Well, other than the fact that Weezer, Travis, Sloan, and every other power-pop band on the radio have already trod down this path before. But really, it's nice. You'll even find yourself humming the songs in the shower.

The album starts off with the sugary summertime goodness of "California" and its infectious chorus and then slides downhill from there. The band is at its best churning out pop hooks and high calorie goodness; songs such as "Hey Now Girl" and "One Ray of Sunlight" may not be breaking any new ground, but at least they're honest and not full of pseudo-angst. When the group ventures outside the land of delectable harmonies and sweetly innocent themes, they come up with mixed results. The low-key ruminations of "Turn Smile Shift Repeat" find songwriter and lead singer Alex Greenwald walking down the same dour path as Thom Yorke, but with less success. After the bright and cheery opening tracks, the album disappointingly ends poorly with the dissonant clanging of "Wishing Well" and the death whimper of "Something Is Wrong".

Curiously it's hard to imagine this quintet ever making it out of the pack if it weren't for the fact that they're comprised of actors (Jason Swartzman of *Rushmore* fame plays the drums) and models (lead singer Greenwald was featured in GAP ads) to give them a buzz. Still, you shouldn't hold it against them, the music's nice even if it doesn't break any new ground.



# Taking culture off the table

## Canadian initiative promotes cultural diversity in spite of globalization

Justin Olynyk  
The Manitoban

(cup)Discussions about the effects of globalization tend to focus on economics, human rights or the environment. This norm is beginning to change because of a Canadian-led initiative by the International Network for Cultural Diversity (INCD), which calls for rules for arts and culture in a global economy.

"If you're going to write rules for investment, intellectual property, capital flow and investor's rights, you must add rules and parameters for other vitalities of life, including culture," says Toronto actor and INCD member R.H. Thomson.

The effect of globalization on the arts and individual artists is a relatively new issue on the international scene. It was first discussed at a conference hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Stockholm in 1998.

This led to the formation of two organizations—the International Network for Cultural Policy (INCP) in 1998, which creates dialogue between cultural ministers from various governments, and the INCD in 2000, a non-governmental organization based in Ottawa. The INCD has over 400 members (various arts organizations and individual artists) from 52 countries.

Many countries are worried that if trade in cultural products were unrestricted, countries that already make mass market cultural products would gain a large share of these new markets. This would hurt local artists and ultimately local cultures and could eventually lead to these cultures dying. The INCD is committed to countering the homogenizing effects that globalization can have on local cultures. They hope to develop a framework that would give individual nations the ability to protect the diversity of their culture.

"This is a treaty or instrument that says: here's the realm of culture that is vital to every people and every different cultural group in the world. We will pursue whatever policies we need to promote the riches of the world's culture and the [World Trade Organization] can't impinge on this set of agreements of culture," says Thomson.

Although Thomson acknowledges that Canada is currently the second largest exporter of English language TV in the world (behind the United States), he still believes Canada's cultural industries would be hurt by unrestricted trade of cultural products.

"Some sectors have benefited from free trade, but culture will absolutely lose. Canada doesn't have the economies of scale in this country to make TV, film, broadcasting or recording work, so governments have put in place structural adjustments like CanCon and tax credits—all the things the Americans hate."

Because of Canada's proximity to the United States, the Canadian

government has long been concerned about loss of cultural identity, especially since World War II. Even with subsidies to artists, restrictions on foreign ownership and Canadian content regulations, American content continues to dominate sales of music and movies in Canada.

In the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), there is a weak exemption for culture. This exemption has been challenged several times by the United States, including a 1997 WTO ruling about split-run American magazines being sold in Canada.

The WTO ruled that "measures to protect cultural identity [is] not an issue in the present case." But now, countries like the United States, Brazil and India, which produce large numbers of movies and television programs, want the audio/visual sector—the most lucrative cultural industry—to be on the negotiation table.

Even though the Canadian government has long supported the arts in Canada, INCD administrator Alexis Andrew has recently had some doubts about the Canadian government's commitment to the arts. She fears that the arts could be used as a trade off issue in WTO negotiations.

"In [the 1999 WTO conference in] Seattle, Canada argued for cultural diversity in the ministerial notes. In [the 2001 WTO conference in] Qatar, Canada didn't mention arts," says Andrew.

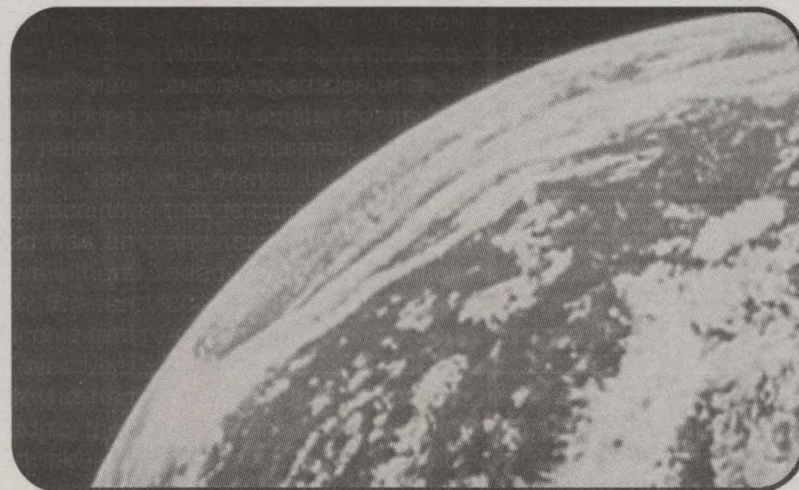
Because of this concern, Andrew believes that culture must be negotiated separately from other trade agreements. "Artistic expression can't be on the table with tradable commodities. There have to be rules that guide

the international exchange of artistic content," she argues.

However, in spite of the obstacles, Thomson remains optimistic. "If we pull this off, it will be an enormous accomplishment because it will be a template for what other parts of human life can do not to be ground under rules from the WTO," says Thomson.

For more information on the International Network for Cultural Diversity, visit [www.incd.net](http://www.incd.net)

**"Even though the Canadian government has long supported the arts in Canada, INCD administrator Alexis Andrew has recently had some doubts about the Canadian government's commitment to the arts."**



# Moore misses the mark

Tyler Bradford  
Culture Editor

Michael Moore  
April 23rd  
Vogue Theatre

Lining up for the free "lecture" by social activist, comedian, author and documentarian, Michael Moore was rather reminiscent of the bread lines in the communist regime of the USSR. You know, the ones where they waited in line all day for a loaf of bread and a block of cheese. Like the USSR's socialism, the free lecture sounded like a good idea, but in the end, it was rather disappointing.

For those who aren't familiar with Michael Moore, he burst on the scene in 1989 with *Roger and Me*, a documentary that looked at labour injustices in the automotive industry and asked Roger Smith, chairman of the world's largest corporation, General Motors, how he could turn Flint, Michigan (Moore's hometown), "into a ghost town." The film won numerous awards and offered Moore the opportunity to create films, television, and books that sought to uncover corporate and government hypocrisies, injustices, and flat-out lies.

From there, Moore has gone on to win an Emmy for his TV show, *TV Nation*, and was nominated for an Emmy for his last foray into television, *The Awful Truth*. In addition to his current book *Stupid White Men*, which prompted Moore's visit to Vancouver, he also wrote *Downsize This* and co-wrote *Adventures of a TV Nation*. Also to Moore's credit is the film *The Big One*, a film that took Nike to task for hiring children to make its shoes.

The lecture sponsored by the UBC Bookstore and Harper Collins, was a free event with tickets being handed out to eager fans starting at 5:30, doors opening at 6, and Moore scheduled to hit the stage at 7. If only it had been that easy. Arriving at 4:30 in the afternoon placed this reviewer roughly 500th in the line. By the time tickets were given out an hour later, roughly a hundred folks had joined friends and "butted" in line. No worries here of course. Shitty for the folks at the end of the line who ended up without tickets though.

All was good (except for the cacophonous David Byrne blaring from the loudspeakers) once the audience entered the Vogue as we waited in anticipation for Moore to take the stage. Disappointingly, at 7:30, half an hour



after Moore was scheduled to take the stage, one of the organizers informed us that Moore had been delayed and was currently "on the Oak Street Bridge." Moore finally took the stage at 8:30 after most in the crowd had been waiting for four hours or more.

The lecture was in support of Michael Moore's recent book *Stupid White Men*; a book that may be Moore's most remarkable success. Sadly, his recent visit to Vancouver was anything but. After the lengthy wait, Moore finally took the stage and launched into a talk that included a rant about U.S. President Bush's links to the Taliban and praise for the librarian whose email campaign helped *Stupid White Men* finally get published.

While the first hour was okay, consisting of a melange of political satire, unbacked statistics and heady self-righteousness, the remainder of Moore's lecture seemed to implode as the heavy-set left-winger lost control of the crowd. By responding to heckles from extremists in the crowd, it started a downward spiral where it was unclear who was in control of the lecture. At that point, many in the crowd (including your reviewer)

left the Vogue.

At a time when the U.S. public remains strongly supportive of the Bush administration, his book has stood atop the New York Times bestseller list in the U.S. for over a month, as well as topping the best-seller list here in Canada and over the pond in the U.K. This is especially impressive considering that it comes at a time when U.S. Republican leaders are using Bush's popularity to equate any criticism of U.S. policy with treason; Moore's success should be a reason for any democracy-lovers to cheer.

The overwhelming response to *Stupid White Men* is something Moore latched onto during his talk, but rather than using it as a stepping stone to greater discussion he chose rather to beat his chest with how many copies of the book had sold and how great it was. While most in the crowd understood his appearance was in promotion of the new book, it came as a disappointment that Moore, one of the most recognizable socialists in media, did little to offer direction for the many young activists in the crowd, but rather used the forum to have a few cheap laughs and to shill a book.

# What's on around town (May 15 – June 12)

**Tyler Bradford**  
Culture Editor

**Concerts:**

Ahhh...the summer concert scene! We are approaching that time of year when there are plenty of artists on tour.

May 16 finds OP favourite Rich Hope taking a break from his band John Ford to play a gig at The Main. Also that night Atlas Strategic and Nicely Nicely rock out at Ms. T's. If you want to shake your ass on the 16th rather than rock out, DJ super-god Mark Farina spins at Sonar in support of his new album.

Local hip-hop duo Swollen Members play two gigs at the Commodore May 18: One show in the afternoon for those underage and one later that evening for those who want to drink. From what I heard of the debauchery that took place back stage at Arts County Fair, you might want to keep your teenage girls at home though.

Monday May 20 finds folkie Beth Orton at Richard's in support of her latest album while Tuesday May 21 offers up some tough decisions as Cornershop (Wow! They're still together?) plays a gig at Sonar for those of you into eastern influenced beat heavy alt rock. Meanwhile Frank Black and the Catholics play at Richard's that night as well. May 22 finds the Cash Brothers at the Railway while the next night, May 23, my favorite local female singer Carolyn Mark is at the Railway Club.

May 24, the hugely popular Dave Matthews Band plays GM Place with New York jazz groovers Soulive opening. Soulive's new album is pretty mediocre, but their live stuff is always off the hook, so get there early. Of course if you're not going to that frat party, you should think about checking out "Hockeypalooza 2002" at the Commodore (also on the 24th) featuring the Hanson Brothers (a.k.a. NoMeansNo, shhh...), Real McKenzies and the Gay. The keyboardist for the Gay makes me drool and the band rocks, so go for the opener and stay for the rest.

Vancouver is quickly becoming the home away from home for Blackalicious' as they play (yet another) gig at the Commodore on May 26. No complaints, they're the best hip-hop has to offer. Meanwhile Brittany Spears performs at the Pacific Coliseum on May 28—I can't think of anything witty to say.

"I like big butts and I cannot lie, you other brothers can't deny..." Damn. Back from retire-

ment Sir Mix-a-lot plays Area 51 out in Chilliwack on May 30. It's worth the drive. I swear to [G]od. June 1 finds the ultra hyped Hives playing a gig at Richard's with Mooney Suzuki (who's new album, Electric Sweat, is tasty and delicious) with local punk rockers the New Town Animals opening.

The reigning king and queen of rock, grace Vancouver as the White Stripes play a sold out show at the Commodore June 9. If you are an indie rock fan and don't have a ticket you are shit out of luck and really one has to wonder what rock you've been living under. I mean it's one thing to miss a show at the Pic, but a hyped up show at the Commodore?

Are these guys still alive? The Eagles have once again put their personal differences aside to milk their fans for a little more cash as they play GM Place on June 12. Perhaps a better (and a whole lot cheaper) choice for the evening would be Queen of the Stone Age at Richard's.

**Movies:**

Ahh...summer, the time for the blockbuster films to start pouring out of Hollywood. Turn off your brain and enjoy some big screen escapism. *Spiderman* was the first out of the chute, but the next Stars Wars vehicle *Attack of the Clones* opens May 17. Young Darth and Natalie Portman getting it on, Obi-Wan, and clones...let's hope they leave Jar Jar outta this one.

At Pacific Cinemateque, from May 22-26 is DOXA, the Documentary Film and Video Festival. For full details (including films and times) check out the website: [www.cinemateque.bc.ca](http://www.cinemateque.bc.ca)

At the Ridge Theatre, on weekends until May 26 is Spike and Mike's 25th Anniversary Classic Festival of Animation. Not to be confused with the Sick and Twisted show, this show features the best in classic animation from the past 25 years. Check out: [www.ridgetheatre.com](http://www.ridgetheatre.com) for more info.

As always, be on the lookout for cool films at The Blinding Light!! and Criminal Cinema (aka The Fox Theatre) Check out: [www.blinding-light.com](http://www.blinding-light.com) and [www.criminalcinema.com](http://www.criminalcinema.com).

**Theatre:**

*Mom's the Word*, the international hit comedy about how having children has changed the lives of six women, runs at the Arts Club

Theatre (on Granville Island) until July 6. Agatha Christie's classic whodunnit *The Mousetrap*, celebrating it's 50th anniversary, opens May 22 at The Stanley and runs through July 21. Both are presented by the Arts Club Theatre with tickets available through Ticketmaster.

The Surrey Arts Centre Theatre presents Bernard Slade's *Romantic Comedy* from May 15-28. A romantic comedy (duh!) filled with witty one-liners, dry humour, and physical comedy, the play follows the romance between arrogant, self-centred and sharp-tongued Jason Carmichael, and mousy Vermont schoolteacher and budding playwright Phoebe Craddock as they carefully keep their feelings a secret, but only from each other. For more info call 604.501.5566

**Ballet:**

Ballet BC presents the world premiere of John Allyn's *Orpheus* at the QE Theatre May 23-25. Based on the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, in which Orpheus, a young poet and musician, travels to the underworld to search for his dead wife and the challenges he faces in trying to bring her back to the surface. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

**Literary:**

Respected geographer, environmental planner and essayist Gordon Brent Ingram will be reading at Little Sister's on May 16 at 7pm as part of the Xtra West reading series. He'll be speaking about the trinity of homosexuality, homophobia and urban design.

**Comedy:**

*Puppetry of the Penis*, starring Simon Morley and David Friend doing "genital origami", runs at the Vogue until the 26. They shape their penises into pelicans and windsurfers. Uhh...ouch.

Dour funnyman Steven Wright performs at the Orpheum on May 15, while gay comedienne, Ellen Degeneres performs a stand up comedy show at the QE Theatre May 31.

As the culture editor for the OP, I am always on the lookout for new writers and new events to check out. If you're interested in writing I can arrange free tickets to movie and theatre premieres, as well as free CDs and books for you to review

E-mail me at: [submit\\_to\\_culture@yahoo.ca](mailto:submit_to_culture@yahoo.ca)

# New Music West 2002

**Tyler Bradford**  
Culture Editor

New Music West  
May 8-12

1400 artists applied for New Music West this year.

1400. It's rather awe-inspiring that so many musicians are pursuing dreams of a career in music. And everyone involved with the festival, from the bands who made it and those that didn't but still attended, to the staff, volunteers, media and record label A&R reps, came together over this past May weekend to celebrate the excitement of these dreams coming true.

For the uninitiated, New Music West started in 1987 as The Rock Conference, an annual event that would showcase local up and coming artists in concert with established acts. Maureen Jack organized the event and nurtured it through its early years, until 1992 when Jack changed the name to Music West. At that point the annual festival took a major leap forward in popularity amongst both the fans and the music industry, as it grew to not only showcase new music, but also include a conference and forum for artists. In 1998 the festival was taken over by John Donnelly, who worked hard to bring the festival even more credibility and changed the name (once again), by adding "New" to Music West.

This year, the festival changed hands once again as Frank Weipert, Umeeda Switlo, former CFOX DJ David Hawkes and talent coordinator Tara McDonald came together to put on one of the best (and most successful) New Music West's in recent memory.

This success is greatly hinged upon the fact that so many artists applied – double the number from last year; partly due to the organizer's switch to a much simpler electronic submissions format. In years past, artists were required to send a demo by mail to the selection committee, which was often expensive as you needed to pay for the hard copy demo as well as courier fees. Whereas, this year, acts only needed to upload a few tracks to the internet and send in their fee. Unlike years' past, the new process also allowed for direct feedback to the artists through secure online forums. While the system is still imperfect (many artists who didn't make it complained of overly critical comments from judges, and in a few cases, not hearing back at all), the majority of people involved felt it was a superior system and far more efficient.

The showcases, which are still the core of the festival, ran Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and were outstanding with few complaints other than a few late starts and venues that were at (or in some cases over) capacity and sold out. Even then, with 250 bands at over 37 venues around Vancouver, one could always move on to another venue and check out a new act that may be better than the one you meant to see. For a full rundown of my musical misadventures at showcases across New Music West check out my NMW02 notebook on the next page.

Friday afternoon, the conference section of New Music West

opened at the Commodore Ballroom with keynote addresses by local rocker Matthew Good and Gene Simmons of Kiss. George Stroumboulopoulos of Much Music was the host for the event and gave a nice introduction to Matthew Good, describing him as a musician who is unafraid of what is on his mind. Good, who talked about artistic vision and staying true to one's self in an often confusing industry, stressed the importance of finding a marriage between making money and keeping your integrity, but unfortunately his speech was at times convoluted and self-righteous. His subtle slagging of bands that have found more success in the business than his former group came across as bitterness, while his constant name and quote dropping came across as elitist, which is too bad as his talk was a good counterpoint to the presentation given by Gene Simmons that followed.

Gene Simmons, the legendary leader of Kiss, a band known more for their spectacle, merchandising and back stage antics than their rock anthems, came out to tell the crowd that "it's all about the money", but not before a video montage of statistics and propaganda on the merchandising machine that Kiss has become blew us away. (Did you know that Kiss once sold \$1.2 million dollars worth of merchandise at one show at the Tokyo Dome???) While Simmons didn't win over too many fans with his sexual innuendos and crass attitude, his talk was filled with an honesty and truthfulness that one couldn't help but respect. He focused on trying to get bands and artists to go into the music business with their eyes wide open, as it is just that, a business. Simmons emphasized that you need to be honest with yourself and that many need to realize that once you start to perform to an audience, you're not just an artist anymore, but rather an entertainer. Early on in his talk, he singled out a female photographer in the crowd, who told him, "You make it hard to be a women in this industry," to which Simmons smirked and replied "Honey, you just make it hard." While his speech hit home with many, his lewd remarks and indifference towards many moral issues undermined his stature and credibility.

After Simmons, who was mobbed for pictures and autographs, was a two-hour "A&R in the Round" session in which artists had the opportunity to talk with 25 representatives from various record labels from (Sony, Universal) all the way down to the lesser known independent labels such as Endearing and Mint. While it was fun to watch all the hungry artists trying to make their mark with the various A&R reps, I couldn't help but think of cattle being herded to slaughter. After the "A&R in the Round" session, there was a short "Songwriters in the Round" session featuring Tom Wilson, Fred Eaglesmith, John Harlan and a guest appearance by Colin James in which the songsmiths talked about their craft and what inspires them. Disappointingly not many stuck around for the songwriter's session which contained one of the funnier quips from Eaglesmith, "I think every song's a hit, other people just don't hear it that way." And for me that summed up what an artists' attitudes should be, as in the end, music is about making yourself happy, not about making money, no matter what Gene Simmons tells you.



## Everywhere I go the kids wanna rock: The Lone Wolf's New Music West notebook



The Organ

**Tyler "The Lone Wolf" Bradford**  
Culture Editor

New Music West  
May 8-12

Wednesday May 8  
Fox Fest2  
GM Place

FoxFest2 opened New Music West on Wednesday night with a majority of bands that get regular airplay on CFOX. While the five main-stage acts were not really part of the New Music West flavour (or perhaps it was the venue) the three side-stage acts all seemed to play with the less-than-polished desperation that is a trademark of bands trying to make their mark.

### 5:30pm – Goldfinger

Opening the festivities was Goldfinger, a veteran pop-tinged 3 chord power punk band that has been around the scene for a long time, so long in fact, I'm sure lead singer John Feldman was playing guitar in So Cal before headliners Sum 41 were in high school. No matter, the band got the young crowd frothing in a sea of pogoing bodies to hits old and new alike.

Lone Wolf rating: 8/10

### 6:00pm – Gob

Local pop-punks Gob kept things kinetic with a high energy set that featured hits, 'No Regrets' and 'Paint it Black' and a guest appearance by Sum 41 bass player Cone. In a weird moment, the lead singer encour-

aged the crowd to "Show me your metal!" in reference to the devil horned symbol. I'm sure if anyone who frequents the Cobalt had been there they would have launched him across the arena, but thankfully the crowd was full of 13-20 year olds who wouldn't know real metal if Dave Mustayne dropped by their parents home for Sunday dinner.

Lone Wolf rating: 8/10

### 6:30pm – Autopilot Off

After Gob, across the arena at the "B Stage" were newcomers Autopilot Off, who apparently have a big single on the Fox. They were nothing special, just generic pop-punk without any lasting hooks to warrant any more than these two sentences.

Lone Wolf rating: 5/10

### 6:50pm – Edwin and the Pressure

In what was the worst performance of the entire 5-day festival, Edwin and his band, the Pressure actually inspired the young audience to toss soft drink cups at the stage. Ever the rock star poseur, Edwin offered to meet up with the hooligans responsible after the show and shove his fist down their throat. Real classy. On top of his engaging crowd interaction, Edwin and the Pressure proved themselves to be the most banal, tinny sounding rock band perhaps of all time.

Lone Wolf rating: 0/10

### 7:20pm – WDC

Recent local CFOX Seeds winners WDC played an okay set of nü-grunge, complete with a singer who sounded a little too much like the late Layne Staley. In one of the funnier moments of the night, he attempted to crowd surf (a la Eddie Vedder) only to have the crowd drop him.

Lone Wolf rating: 5/10

### 8:10pm – Sloan

After three straight bands that seemed to put the crowd to sleep, "the beast from the east", Sloan took the main stage to get the energy level back up. Rocking through a setlist that included hits predominantly drawn from their last three albums, including 'The Other Man' and 'The Good in Everyone' the boys from Halifax played a strong, if not overly inspired set.

Lone Wolf rating: 8/10

### 9:00pm – The Full Nine

Back over at the side stage, local act The Full Nine played a loud set of aggro-rock that saw the mosh pit get a little ugly at times. Sadly, while the band has the anger to get a mosh pit going, their lyrics still leave quite a bit to be desired, with their big hit, 'Do you wanna get high', featuring the repetition of that line roughly 50 times in four minutes.

Lone Wolf rating: 4/10

### 9:30pm – Sum 41

After a quick non-musical appearance by Chad Kroeger, headliners Sum 41's intro had all the theatrics of their metal heroes, Iron Maiden, including a laser light show and pyrotechnics. While their pop-metal is sure making a dent in radio play, and their live show is a highly energetic affair, their childish attitudes and toilet humour were only saved by their bubblegum flavoured metal tunes, "In Too Deep" and "Fat Lip", to which you just can't help singing along.

Lone Wolf rating: 8/10

### Thursday, May 9

Walking down Granville Street on the first night of the New Music West showcase, one couldn't help but feel the excitement in the air, especially passing all the crazed Puffy Ami Yumi fans lined up outside the Vogue.

### 7:30pm @ Luvafair – Crystal Pistol

After a late start Crystal Pistol scorched



Mint Records bash at Video-In



the Luvafair stage with glam-influenced metal. Not only did they dress the part, but their heavy power chords and loud raucous rawk, fit perfectly in at Luvafair, with it's steel fence and cheap drinks.

Lone Wolf rating: 6/10

**8:00pm @ The Pic – The Organ**

This five piece all-girl-group, played a tight set of moody 80's pop that you'd expect to hear in a "cool" Molly Ringwald movie. Super catchy and layered with the melodious backing of – surprise! – the organ.

Lone Wolf rating: 7/10

**8:30pm @ The Roxy – The Ashes**

Have you ever wondered what Train would sound like if Pat Monahan had a bad voice? Me neither, but I got to hear it anyway with The Ashes. There cheesy 80's ballad influenced modern rock seemed to be primed for A&R reps and CFOX alike.

Lone Wolf rating: 3/10

**8:45pm @ The Royal – Stabilio Boss**

Arriving mid set, Stabilio Boss seemed to have a packed early crowd in the palm of their hand with their rhythm driven acoustic pop-rock. Judging by the number of crowd members singing along they must have a hit on X-FM or something.

Lone Wolf rating: 7/10

**9:00pm @ Luvafair – Hot Hot Heat**

Damn! The boys of Hot Hot Heat put on a, well, hot show at the Luvafair. Even if their songs are a little manic depressive at times, their beat driven art-rock sure was getting the crowd sweating, especially when they kicked into '5 times out of 100'. Hot Hot Heat. You're damn right.

Lone Wolf rating: 9/10

**9:30pm @ The Pic – The Waking Eyes**

I sprinted the whole length of Seymour Street from Drake to Pender and just caught the last two songs by Winnipeg natives, The Waking Eyes. And Rusty and the boys had the crowd surfing with their Pet Sounds era Beach Boys rock.

Lone Wolf rating: 8/10

**9:45pm @ The Vogue – Puffy Ami Yumi**

There was not a show more hyped than this on the New Music West bill and you know what kids, this band deserved all that hype and then some. Puffy Ami Yumi proved that there are still rock stars and not the leather pants poseurs you see everywhere, but honest to goodness artists who can send the whole crowd into a frenzy. The seven piece from Japan play a version of pop that's equal parts The New

Pornographers, Abba and Sum 41. While the sold out crowd was mainly Japanese, the NMW delegates and media at the back of the venue were in complete shock at how frenetic the show turned out to be.

Lone Wolf rating: 10/10

**10:20pm @ Luvafair – The Spitfires**

"...Thanks and goodnight." Damn Puffy Ami Yumi made me miss one of my favourite Vancouver acts. Oh well, The Spitfires play again May 18 at the Pic.

**10:30pm @ The Penthouse – Billy the Kid and the Lost Boys**

The female fronted punk trio played a fast honest set of generic punk at everyone's favourite strip club, the Penthouse.

Lone Wolf rating: 6/10

**11:00pm @ The Pic – Moneen**

Honest Mr. Bouncer, I'm media. Toronto emo-core hype Moneen played to an over capacity (and very sweaty and squishy) Piccadilly Pub. Their feedback drenched visceral rock was great, but the shoe-gazer crowd was a bit mystifying.

Lone Wolf rating: 8/10

**11:30pm @ Ms. T's – Lo-Fi Love**

Funky grooves, but emotionless rhymes made for a bit of a disappointing show from Lo-Fi Love who apparently rock it out in the valley pretty regularly, but couldn't even get the crowd off their ass at Ms. T's.

Lone Wolf rating: 5/10

**Midnight @ The Brickyard – Las Vegas Crypt Keepers**

Cool name. Too bad the lead singer was absent for 30 minutes and most of the delegates and media left. Talking to the band the next day, apparently he did show up eventually and they had a good set. Too bad no one was there to see it.

Lone Wolf rating: 0/10

**1:00am @ The Penthouse – Radiogram**

Like a gorgeous goodnight lullaby, Vancouver's premier roots/alt. country act, radiogram played a beautiful set of tunes mostly drawing from their recent album All the Way Home. The exhausted crowd was appreciative of the sleepy tunes and lead singer Ken Beatie's pole dancing antics.

Lone Wolf rating: 9/10

**Friday, May 10**

I really wish I could give better reviews for Friday night's shows, but I was pretty shit-faced, so this is as good as I can make out from my Notebook.

**8:00pm @ The Pic – The Ewoks**

Sigh, I love Zsofi, the Ewoks lead singer, but this trio is, uhh, well at least they were having fun up there, and they did get The Nasty On lead singer Jason Grimmer up for a quick Happy Birthday if nothing else.

Lone Wolf rating: 6/10

**9:00pm @ The Pic – The Cinch**

Mmm...Catchy rock and roll. I'm sold.

Lone Wolf rating: 8/10

**9:30pm @ The Cobalt – One Nine Hundred**



Sweet harmonies with Young and Sexy

Whew. This Calgary based piece sure has a lot of anger. Nothing special, just metal influenced modern rock, but they played hard.

Lone Wolf rating: 7/10

**9:50pm @ Video In – All State Champion**

Emo Rules! Too bad they had just finished when I got there, at least that's what my notebook says.

**10:00pm @ The Commodore – Sense Field**

Over Capacity. They didn't let an A&R rep in from Sony either so I didn't feel that bad. Plus Sense Field has been getting plenty of airplay of late, so they should be coming back this way pretty soon.

**10:15pm @ The Sugar Refinery – Jonathan, Inc.**

Radiogram has been getting so much hype of late, that it's easy to forget that Jonathan Anderson has a band of his own, but Anderson's beautifully melancholic rock sure wowed the crowd at Shug.

Lone Wolf rating: 8/10

**10:45pm @ The Royal – LOCO**

I met the boys of Winnipeg's LOCO the night before while waiting for Las Vegas Crypt Keeper at The Brickyard. Nice guys. On stage at the Royal they seemed like anything but; covered in day-glo body paint this metal quintet scared the shit out of me with their intense style and their unintelligible lyrics.

Lone Wolf rating: 7/10

**11:00pm @ The Penthouse – Holly McNarland**

Over Capacity. There were even cops there.

**11:10 @ The Pic – The Weekend**

Over Capacity. This was no good. Sigh, when in doubt go pound on the back door. Big thanks to Dustin from Hot Hot Heat for letting me in. London, ON natives, The Weekend sure had the crowd getting down, dirty and dancin' to their keyboards and crunchy guitars.

Lone Wolf rating: 9/10

**Midnight @ The Pic – The Constantines**

The Constantines came into the show with a lot of hype, and while they put on a strong set (from what I can recall), it just didn't quite live up to the billing that there live show was up there with Trail of Dead and The White Stripes.

Lone Wolf rating: 8/10

**Saturday, May 11**

After Friday night's debauchery, Saturday night was not going to be a night of bar hopping and heavy drinking like the previous two evenings, so perusing the NMW grid Mint Night at Video In seemed like the best choice for an evening of musical bliss. My only question about my night at Video In is: Where did all these genetic mutation tall guys come from? Especially the one's who want to stand up front?

**9:00pm – The Organ**

Hey, I saw this group already. Now they're doing the sequel to the cool Molly Ringwald movie.

Lone Wolf rating: 7/10

**9:30pm – Tennessee Twin**

Cindy Wolfe and her all-star crew played a beautiful set of catchy country twang complete with a duet with Big Hamm (from Canned Hamm). Awh shucks.

Lone Wolf rating: 8/10

**10:15pm – Operation Makeout**

Wow, what a difference five months makes. Back in January replacement bassist Jesse, didn't seem like that good of a fit for the band. However, since touring for a while and being in the studio working on their upcoming release Operation Makeout has only gotten tighter, with a more coherent sound. I still think Jesse should let Anna cover the vocal duties, but that's another story.

Lone Wolf rating: 7/10

**11:00pm – Duotang**

Everybody's favourite mod duo ripped it up as the crowd got down as Duotang (w/ Rusty from the Waking Eyes) blazed through a furious set of rock and roll that featured 'Chameleon' and 'Top Drawer Winelist'.

Lone Wolf rating: 9/10

**11:45pm – Young and Sexy**

All the kids love Young and Sexy. Their songs have sweet sounding pop-rock beauty and songs such as 'Sister Samurai' sure gave them the chance to rock out, but the harmonies between lead singers Paul Pittman and Lucy Brain just don't quite mesh all the time and the result is often not quite as sweet as one would like.

Lone Wolf rating: 7/10

**12:30am - Volumizer**

Missed most of this as I was outside.

**1:15am – Mark Kleiner Power Trio**

I wonder if Mark Kleiner will ever become a minister. He abandoned his former band Jungle to follow his "calling", only to come back and make the recently released Love to Night featuring Pete Mills from Flash Bastard and Kurt Dahle from the New Pornographers. Like the album, the performance was rawkin' and fun, filled with showmanship and too much of Mills trying to be the rock star he's not, but in the end Kleiner's pop-rock sensibilities and sense of a good time won out and ended this reviewer's New Music West experience on a high note. Lone wolf rating: 9/10



Mark Kleiner Power Trio rockin' out at Video-In

# Combat Fratricide: What it is. What it isn't.

**Sven Bellamy**  
Features editor

Fratricide is defined as the act of killing one's brother or sister. In a combat situation fratricide is the act of killing one's allies. Recently in Afghanistan twelve Canadian soldiers became the first Canadian casualties since the Korean conflict of the 1950s. Unfortunately they died because an allied soldier misunderstood what was going on. Having perceived a threat, not able to clearly confirm the target, acted on an impulse to drop a laser-guided warhead, which just happened to be on allies participating in a live-fire night training exercise.

A tragic incident, which has strengthened beliefs of those opposed to the war as well as those who support it. Supporters focus on the dangers of war, the inevitability of casualties, and how in every war mistakes are made. Those in opposition to the military action point at the incompetence of military command and the soldiers; calling for troops to be withdrawn, sometimes sinking as low as to make jokes about the soldier who made the mistake. Emotions run amuck.

All of these stories can be extracted from mainstream media sources, both here in Canada, and around the world. However, there is a perspective that has not been presented. It is the perspective of the soldier in the middle of combat. The one who knows something has gone horribly wrong, and that a terrible mistake has been made. It is the soldier who pulled the trigger, killing allies, or it is a survivor who witnessed the incident. These soldiers carry scars away from the battlefield. Scars caused by horrific mistakes, unimaginable by any civilian not involved in armed conflict; scars that can last a lifetime.

The following two stories are from soldiers who were directly involved in friendly fire incidents. The first comes out of the Vietnam conflict, and the second from the Gulf War. They are both stories that help reveal the grim reality that is War.

**Claymore Alley**

Jeff Drake was involved in a friendly fire

incident during his first combat experience in Vietnam. The story here is a paraphrased version of his work. The original work can be read on-line at: <http://grunt.space.swre.edu/claymore.htm>

Jeff Drake spent two full tours of duty in Vietnam. 17 months stationed at a communications station that relayed information between the northern and southern portions of South Vietnam. His first combat experience found him on recon patrol moving slowly along a reddish muddy track of the Vietnamese central highlands. Thick green foliage and bright sunlight filtering through the jungle canopy created surreal images, tricking the eyes into seeing phantoms and mirages, the sounds of the jungle emphasizing the dreamscape. The soldiers lived with a persistent reality that at anytime the enemy might be lying in wait, lining up rifle sights, begging to end life. Enemy soldiers were not the only threat. Antipersonnel explosives placed strategically along trodden trails triggered by tripwires could end life suddenly. The knowledge that death was always near and unpredictable caused adrenalin surges, heightening senses and tightening muscles. Being stealthy and alert might be the only real way to survive the jungles of Vietnam.

Jeff recalls the Sergeant signalling a stop and the security platoon settling down for a break. As Jeff lights up a cigarette a truck mechanic by the name of Dave Fry asks to switch places with him so he can be closer to the Sergeant. Dave had wanted a taste of jungle patrol and the company Captain had been convinced that this patrol would be safe. Jeff hesitates fully aware the mechanic shouldn't be out in the jungle at all, but acquiesced as the Sergeant nodded he should make the switch.

As the platoon sergeant signalled a move-out, Jeff drags back the last few hits of his cigarette. The platoon is searching for sensing devices hidden in the jungle. The devices had been placed to monitor troop movements. The security platoon's mission was to locate the devices, change the batteries and retrieve any recorded data. These types of missions often ended in futility, as the devices inevitably became lost in the thick



Claymore mine

jungle foliage. This knowledge that a mission was going to be futile often lead to frustration while on patrol. Why should they be risking their lives on some equipment that would end up being lost or broken, or both?

The sound of the birds and monkeys had disappeared, leaving only a sense of foreboding danger. Jeff's skin began to crawl. The platoon moved stealthily forward until Joe, the Sergeant signalled a stop. The platoon dropped low.

In a sudden rush of movement the Sergeant disappeared into the brush ahead, followed by Dave, the tag-along mechanic. Jeff barely had time to crouch behind some jungle foliage when an explosion threw him to the ground, leaving him stunned, ears ringing and brain rattling inside his skull. Mind racing, the thought of an ambush is the only thing he could think of.

If it was an ambush, nothing else was happening. No small-arms fire. No tracers zipping overhead. No more explosions. But over the silence someone was screaming for their mother. It didn't take long for the members of the platoon to realize that one of their own had been hit. The realization that a single explosion, with no further attack meant only one thing; one of the two soldiers who ran ahead had tripped a mine. As seconds ticked by and no other signs of attack followed, Jeff and another squad member began to inch forward. Jeff's squad-mate Lou took the lead. "Christ they're screaming like a little kid,"

## Combat Fratricide: what it is. What it isn't.

someone said from behind. Fighting an urge to be sick and the terror of setting off another mine, Jeff numbly followed Lou.

The screams become louder as the two crawled closer to the source, finally finding Dave, lying on the ground both legs bent at the knees, ninety-degrees in the wrong directions; bones sticking out jaggedly with blood spurting from several points. Dave's combat fatigues are perforated with holes. Blood covered everything, red, shiny and sticky. Dave's screams turn to moans. It is difficult to imagine that people can bleed like that. Someone signals that the Sergeant's body has been found, dead.

Jeff moved off to the perimeter while the other members of the platoon attempt to comfort Dave, and then realized that if the two hadn't switched places, it might have been Jeff lying there in the red mud.

Staring at a group of trees Jeff noticed something was not right, but as he raised his M-16 rifle, disengaging the safety, a small bare-chested man jumps out yelling, "ARVN, don't shoot!"

South Vietnamese soldiers began stepping out of the jungle, and Jeff begins to realize what has happened. The reason there was no shooting, was the American platoon had walked into a friendly ambush. The ARVN hadn't been able to warn the Americans in time.

Dave was flown to emergency care facilities, while the rest of the platoon received orders to head to base. Jeff was left to contemplate all that had just happened. Why didn't the ARVN soldiers warn them about the ambush site? They must have seen the Americans coming. They were supposed to be on the same side.

### Assault on Umm Hajul

The following story is an excerpt from an American tank commander, Captain Bo Friesen, who witnessed and spoke out against an attempted cover-up of a fratricide incident during the Gulf War. This portion of Captain Friesen's story occurred on the morning of February 27, 1991. The full text can be viewed at: <http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/Quarters/2061/frat1.html>. What follows is a paraphrased version of that story.

The Nighthawks tank platoon had been spearheading Operation Desert Storm, commanded by Captain Bo Friesen. What they had been doing to this point during Desert Storm was chasing ghosts. They had expected heavy resistance based on Intelligence reports, but every report had turned out to be false. Up to this point there had been no



Tank commander Captain Bo Friesen

bunkers filled with Saddam Hussein's battle-hardened National Guard, only vacant military installations and burned out husks of military vehicles, gutted by anti-armour attack planes.

The Assault on Umm Hajul had been a deviation from the original orders. Someone higher up the military food chain had made a decision to attack this airfield where a large portion of Iraqi National Guard were supposed to be fortified. The tank commanders were told to expect tough resistance, the Iraqi's dug-in heavy bunkers and protected by minefields. A North to South grid-line coordinate was given out. Everything beyond that line should be considered an enemy. The tanks would roll out at 1930 hours.

By 2200 hours it had started to rain. For a part of the world that was only supposed to get two inches of rain a year, it had rained an awful lot. Sometimes torrential rains would fall at night leaving several inches of mud. Then during the day, the sun would bake the earth leaving it cracked and dry by the following evening.

2300 hours saw the passing of the front line. Now in enemy territory Friesen ordered

the group to keep it's weapons on safe, but remain on high alert. The rain had continued, soaking through his raingear. Sometime after midnight the rain had let up, and just before 0100 on February 27 the combat tank group came into range of the airfield at Umm Hajul.

Friesen requested clearance to enter the field. The order was granted and as his units formed up in a defensive formation, the driver called up, "I see dismounts." A short pause, "1200-metres."

Friesen patched into the thermal optics network. Two or three figures appeared glowing green through the night-optics goggles. He gave the orders to maintain monitoring, requested advise from command and requested backup. The reply came that a command unit was coming in to back up the tanks. Friesen kept his group on surveillance. The green figures continued to move away finally entering into what appeared to be a building. Friesen put in another request this time to ask permission to fire some warning shots in an effort to get the targets to surrender. Again permission was granted. Safeties off the tanks fired off twenty rounds of high explosive 25mm machinegun ammunition,

## Combat Fratricide: what it is. What it isn't.

tracers glowing green and disappearing into the horizon as they punched into the night sky. The figures emerged from the low building and took cover in protected positions. A report came in, "They're firing at us."

Friesen adjusted the night-imaging goggles and could see tracers being fired towards the Bradley tanks. "Return fire, suppression only." High-explosive machine gun rounds punched into the sides of the building and over top of the positions where the hostiles had taken cover. The approaching command squadron's high-frequency transmitter cut in over the tank squadron frequency, drowning out Friesen's commands to ceasefire. Through his night vision optics Friesen witnessed one figure moving away providing support for a second, apparently wounded figure. A fire burned brightly from the building, ignited by the explosive machine gun rounds, illuminating the scene even further. The command unit was issuing orders for scouts to move in. Friesen tried helplessly to countermand the order, but the frequency of the tank transmitters was no match for the radio power of the command vehicle. Without warning Friesen witnessed a burst of machinegun fire rip through the body of the figure who was supporting the wounded figure. Blood and body parts exploded in green hues as the 25mm explosive rounds tore through flesh, bullets seeming to drag tails of green blood. The figure lurched of its feet, landing lifeless on the ground, the second figure falling with out support, knocked roughly to the ground.

"Cease fire goddammit," screamed Friesen into his comset. It was too late.

The command vehicle arrived shortly after. Scouts were deployed. The building burned, increasing into an inferno, bodies began scattering from the building, which suddenly exploded, throwing bodies recklessly in every direction. Someone was shouting over the radio, "They're all dead. They're all fucking dead!"

As the scene cleared, bodies which had been strewn haphazardly began picking themselves up. American kevlar helmets became visible through the night optics. Reports began coming in from the scouts. The dismount that had been killed was an American infantryman. There were others wounded by the fire and explosion. Friesen looked at the faces of his crew, all pale and sunken; stares of sickly disbelief over what had just transpired. Questions of who had fired the killing burst? Why hadn't they been informed this airbase had already been captured by allied forces almost twen-

ty-four hours earlier? This was to be the beginning of a long battle for Captain Friesen, as he fought a cover up of what happened that night at Umm Hajul.

### In Summary

Friendly fire is not uncommon in combat. Statistics from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Vietnam Veterans Association, the UN, and the US Department of Defence reveal a correlation between incidents of friendly fire and technology. As technology increases, so do friendly fire incidents. In the First World War, 21% of casualties were due to friendly fire. During the Gulf War those figures had climbed to almost 50%. The only aberrant statistics are those given by the US Department of National Defence, which gives lower figures. There are several possible reasons for this. One reason is concerned with the statistics of injury versus fatality; perhaps the US DND only quotes incidents resulting in fatalities, explaining the lower figure of 20% friendly fire casualties during the Gulf War compared to the other sources that claim close to 50% friendly fire casualties.

The following is a list of friendly fire incidents that have occurred in Afghanistan since the invasion in October of 2001:

-Red Cross warehouses were bombed October 16 as they were in a compound believed to be also used by the Taleban. The report said that the International Red Cross had failed to include the facility in a list of its facilities. The site was bombed a second time on October 26.

-In November 2001 a UN Convoy was damaged by debris from bombing. The report said that the convoy "was not travelling on the days for which it had requested and received clearance."

-An inquiry continues into a December bombing from a US warplane that left three American and six Afghan allies dead, and another 20 Americans and 18 Afghan allies wounded.

-March 2, 2002 Chief Warrant Officer Stanley Harriman was killed in what was first said to be an enemy mortar attack

during the opening offensive in the Shah-e-Kot valley, but it was later discovered his death was a result of a miscalculated attack by an American attack plane.

There are ten other incidents that may or may not be friendly fire. These have all been labelled: Under Inquiry.

Friendly Fire: What it is. What it isn't.

In times of combat, the majority of friendly fire incidents can be directly linked to lack of communication between soldiers on the battlefield with command centres, decisions made by command who are often far away from the actual battle, soldiers being so wound up with the knowledge that they are in a situation that means kill or be killed, and of course instances of mistaken identity. Friendly fire incidents are not a reflection of incompetent soldiers. They are not a reflection of levels of ability, and it is disturbing that jokes are made about such horrible tragedies. Friendly fire has always been a part of war, but as technology increases, and people can be killed from miles away with faces never being seen, the stats will continue to climb, and soldiers will be left to live with the knowledge that they downed a friendly. So long as there is war, people will die in horrible ways—above all else, let's remember that.



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# Jack Cullen:

## Remembering radio's irreverent rascal

**Brandon Yip**  
OP Contributor

Vancouver has lost one of its radio greats; Jack Cullen died April 27 of heart failure at the age of 80. The long-time host of CKNW's *The Owl Prowl*, going to bed listening to Jack Cullen became a nightly ritual, as the music he played consisted of big band jazz and pop. He had a penchant for rum and loved to take remote broadcasts to the extreme, including a famous 1959 on-air segment on CKNW—where he swam naked at the YMCA.

He was also renowned for bootlegging concerts, recording performances given by Louis Armstrong, Harry Belafonte, Frank Sinatra, and the Beatles. He interviewed some of the biggest names in show business: Jack Benny, Nat King Cole, Sammy Davis Jr., Bob Hope, and Marilyn Monroe were among the many. And his record collection was astounding, having one of the largest in North America.

John Francis Cullen was born and raised in Vancouver on February 16, 1922. After graduating from King Edward High School, he joined the Royal Canadian Navy—becoming a radio operator during the Second World War. His broadcasting career began at Vancouver's CKMO where he hosted *Pacific Patrol*, which ran from midnight to dawn. He eventually moved on to CKNW, where his *Owl Prowl* show would become an institution for five decades.

David Geddes, former programming director for AM 1040 and who now is the media consultant for TransLink, says Cullen had a tremendous spirit. "Jack was brilliant. He was a great guy, a true legend in his era. It's a terrible loss. He was one of those people who loved life." In October 1999, when Geddes was still the programming director for AM 1040, the station revived Cullen's *Owl Prowl* show—after he had been fired by CKNW five months earlier. "Jack, of course, never came into the studio," Geddes said. "He just supplied tapes to us. But eventually his health became a problem."

Norm Pringle, former CKDA disc jockey in

Victoria remembered Cullen's eccentricity. "The first time I met Jack was next door to CKMO on Robson Street," Pringle said. "He was on CKNW (in New Westminster) at this time and had a satellite studio in Vancouver. The studio looked more like a junkyard for old 16 mm and 35 mm projectors. Tapes were



Jack Cullen

whirring everywhere. The projector was shining on a wall and Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers were singing and dancing and Jack was dubbing off the music. Highly illegal, I said.

"There was a bottle of Jack Daniels sitting on the shelf. 'Have a drink Norm,' said Cullen, as he was climbing out on the roof to give a weather forecast. What a talent! What an original, a pioneer in fun shock radio. Vancouver will miss him."

I never did meet Jack Cullen, but I had the fortunate opportunity to interview him over the phone. In July 1999, I began writing a

manuscript about Elvis Presley. Two months earlier, Cullen was let go by CKNW for budgetary reasons. However, he returned to the airwaves later that fall, when his *Owl Prowl* show appeared on AM 1040. On September 30, 1999, I called the station and left my name with the receptionist, telling her I wanted to get in contact with Cullen. The next day Cullen left me a message on my voice mail. I was surprised that he responded so quickly. I called Cullen at his Burnaby home, told him I was writing a book about Elvis and wanted him to share his thoughts about the King.

Cullen told me that he was not an Elvis fan, saying, "I don't think I would be of much help. But good luck to you." Our conversation ended. I thought about what Cullen had said, and then I called him back an hour later. I said to him, "You told me that you wouldn't be of much help to me. But I think you would be of great help." I explained to Cullen that his dislike for Elvis would give a different perspective to my manuscript. He agreed and was nice enough to answer some of my questions.

During our conversation, I asked Cullen about his weekly record column he had written for *The Vancouver Sun* in the 1950s. He was impressed. "You remember that? God, that was years ago! Good research, very good research!" In 1955, Cullen played his first Elvis record on the air. The song was "Milkcow Blues Boogie". Cullen hated it. "When I played it, I said, 'What kind of garbage is this?' and immediately pulled the record off halfway through the song."

Cullen gave his reasons why he never warmed up to Elvis and rock 'n' roll. "I'm more into jazz, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, and Frank [Sinatra], and all that sort of stuff...I always resisted rock 'n' roll, all my life. All my life, I've resisted it. It's music built on percussion, rather than melody, and it incited riots. It's still particularly these days [corrupt]; it's a violent form of music. I come from the old school."

In the 1950s, Cullen had his own record store in Vancouver at 10 East Hastings at Carrall and shared a memorable story about

## Jack Cullen: Remembering radio's irreverent rascal

his colleague and good friend, Red Robinson. "I had a disc cutter; so one time I made records of Elvis singing 'Ready Teddy' on The Ed Sullivan Show," Cullen said. "Red Robinson and I were competing with each other at that time. Red had been receiving phone requests to play 'Ready Teddy' on his radio show because his listeners had heard me play the song on my show.

"So, Red sent a kid into my record store to buy a copy of 'Ready Teddy.' However, in the middle of the song, on the instrumental portion, you can hear my voice saying: 'This record is available at Jack Cullen's record store.' And Red played it without auditioning it. It went on the air! That's one of Red's favourite stories!"

At the end of our interview, I told Cullen I was unhappy with CKNW's decision to dismiss him and that I was one of his biggest fans. Cullen, in his usual wit and charm replied, "So, you're the one!"

I did talk to Jack Cullen one more time after our interview, but it was under somber

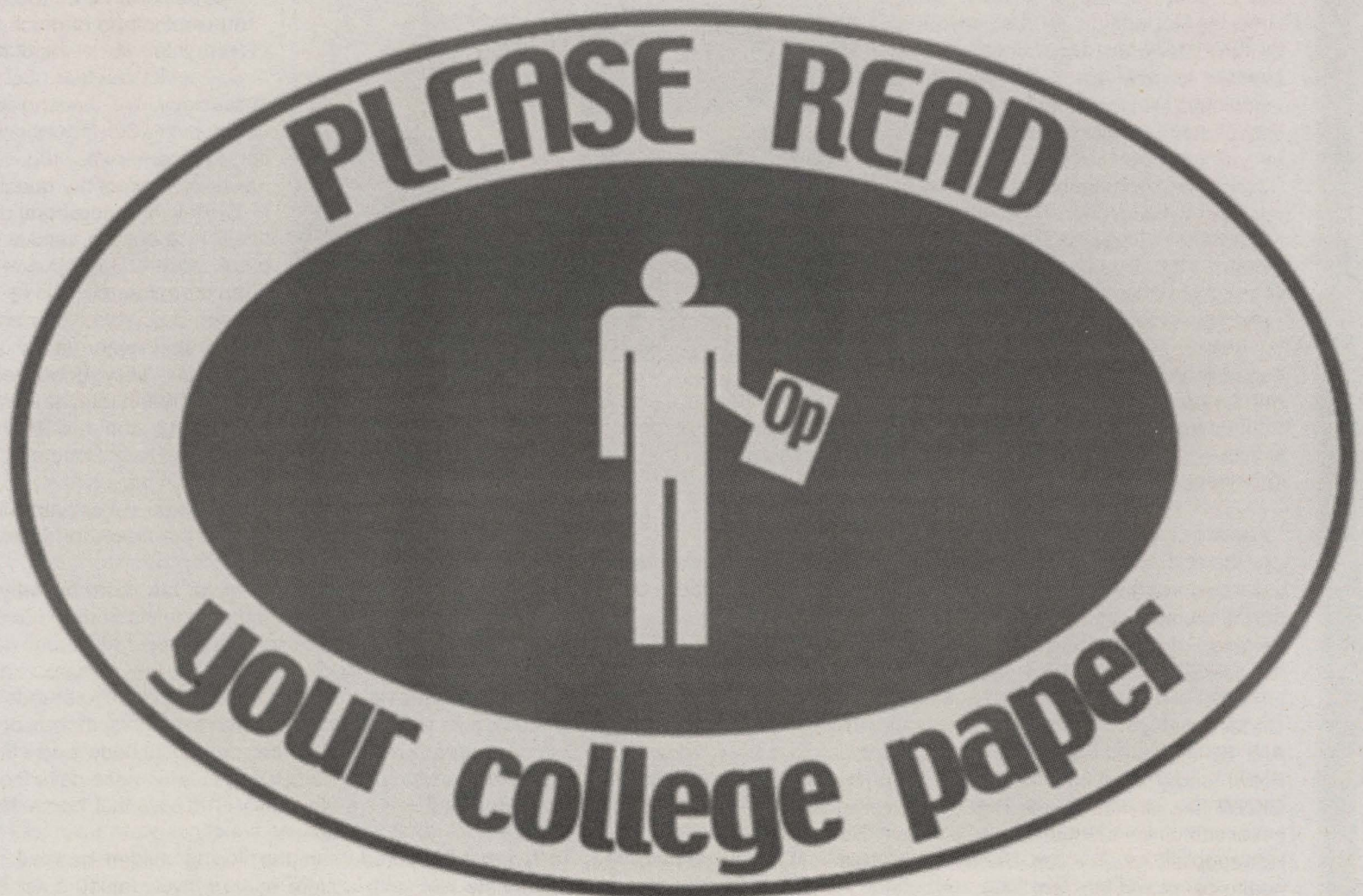
circumstances. In December 2000, he was ill and had been in hospital. I called his home to say hello, and a family member answered. I asked for Cullen and he eventually came on the phone. I asked him how he was doing. He began to cry as he told me his son, John, had recently died. I expressed my condolences to him and his family and thanked him for the interview he gave me. Cullen said, "That's very kind of you to call."

On May 1, CKNW's The Agenda with Jon McComb had a three-hour tribute to Jack Cullen. The next day, a memorial service was held at the Shrine Temple in Burnaby. Over 400 people attended that included Cullen's friends, family, and a large contingent of the Vancouver media—who were relegated to standing. Some of the attendees included radio personalities like Gary Bannerman, Dave McCormick, John Ashbridge, Brian "Frosty" Forst, George Garrett, Bill Hughes, Rafe Mair, Neil MacRae, Norm Grohman, Phil Reimer, John

Tanner, Joy Metcalfe, and Vic Waters. Also paying their respects were politicians Grace McCarthy, Ed Lawson, and Don Bellamy. In the corridor, photos and a giant scrapbook of Cullen's accomplishments were on display.

The mood of the service was kept upbeat with humorous anecdotes given by Lorne Cullen, Bill Hughes, John Ashbridge, Sev Morin, and Red Robinson. Ashbridge recalled walking into Jack Cullen's office one time and noticing "a plastic urinal." He also witnessed Cullen separating tape with his teeth and then stapling the two together "because he couldn't find any splicing tape or razor blades to cut it."

Jack Cullen was a legend in his time. Though I was not around during the majority of Cullen's career, I enjoyed listening to him in the 1980s and 1990s. He will be remembered for the decades of entertainment he provided to thousands of households, who let Cullen soothe them to sleep. One of the great icons in radio is now gone,



# Taking on the Golden Arches

## McLibel defendant shares tales of the longest court case in British history

**Michelle French**  
THE MANITOBAN

(CUP) - It's not easy being a multinational corporation like McDonald's, with a constant flow of anti-globalization activists condemning their business practices. Some companies appease, others ignore their critics and still others spend millions advertising kinder, friendlier images of themselves. McDonald's is in the business of suing critics for defamation.

"We put McDonald's and McWorld on trial," exclaimed an enthusiastic Dave Morris, the former defendant in the infamous McLibel UK court case, to a group of rapt activists and students in a small classroom at the University of Winnipeg.

He should have a chip on his shoulder. Morris, along with fellow London Greenpeace activist Helen Steel, were sued by McDonald's in the early '90s for their involvement in a Greenpeace-initiated anti-McDonald's leafleting campaign. When the judge delivered his 800 page verdict on June 19, 1997, Morris and Steel owed McDonald's 60,000 lbs in damages.

They haven't paid. They are also involved in taking the British government to the European Court under charges of unfair libel laws.

In spite of debt and years of legal frustration, Morris has been charming students and activists in North America with his positive disposition, preferring to interpret the story of his conviction as a success both for himself and international anti-corporate activists, as he engages in a series of post-conviction talks in Winnipeg, Houston and Chicago.

### The McLibel trial

In the mid-1980s, London Greenpeace adopted a negative stance towards corporate influence and what they deemed exploitative business practices. London Greenpeace began to target McDonald's, distributing thousands of leaflets entitled "What's Wrong with McDonald's—Everything They Don't Want You to Know" as part of a broader educational campaign against the multinational food industry.

"McDonald's symbolized the direction in which the [food] industry was going," Morris explained.

Morris links the food industry with such issues as the production of cash crops for export and its correlation to Third World poverty and environmental degradation. He also points to over-packaging, nutritional liabilities in fast food, false and promotional advertising to children, animal welfare practices and labour conditions in service and

production facilities.

Although the campaign was very popular with the public, McDonald's issued legal writs and successfully received public apologies from groups that raised concerns including the BBC, newspapers, vegetarian and student groups and trade unions.

Greenpeace was the last to be sued by McDonald's in 1990 because—Morris suggests—"they thought that we were the most likely to actually fight a case."

With no legal aid, Morris and Steel defended themselves to "protect the public's right to criticize the rich and powerful."

In spite of McDonald's forecast of a quick, victorious show trial of three to four weeks, McLibel ran longer than anyone predicted: the trial began in June of 1994, became the longest libel trial in British history in March of 1995, the longest civil case in December 1995, and the longest trial period in English history in November 1996.

In the end, McDonald's won the case and the defendants were ordered to pay the company 60,000 lbs in damages.

### Successful defeat, unsuccessful victory

Victory is sweeter for some than others. The McLibel trial may have ended successfully for the company, but not before over 130 witnesses—some topical experts—from both sides of the issues, explored the effects of McDonald's operations on human health, the environment, animal welfare practices, the Third World and labour.

Top corporate executives from the UK and the U.S. were also forced to testify.

According to Morris, who claims that British libel laws are biased in favour of

"the rich and powerful," he knew from the outset that the judge would rule in favour of McDonald's, but it didn't matter. Breaking down the company's "idiot propaganda to try to get to the truth and make them admit it," was London Greenpeace's main objective.

The High Court in London issued some very damning statements regarding McDonald's core business practices. In his ruling, Justice Bell stated that McDonald's "exploits children" through advertising, that they are "culpably responsible" for cruelty to animals because of their influence over the process that animals undergo and suffer, that the company's anti-union stance and blanket minimum wage employment strategy helps to depress existent low wages in the fast food industry and that McDonald's food is "high in fat, saturated fat, animal products and sodium" and that "advertisements, promotions and booklets have pretended to a positive nutritional benefit which McDonald's food ... did not match."

But despite these statements, Morris says that his victory was shallow. "Despite what we won, no sanctions were taken out whatsoever. They weren't ordered to stop exploiting children or fined," he said.

Other issues, such as McDonald's involvement in rainforest depletion, Third World poverty and increased risks of cancer, heart disease





and food poisoning among McDonald's consumers, were rendered irrelevant in the case. The logic: McDonald's successfully argued that the London Greenpeace fact sheet implied that the company was directly responsible for the aforementioned ailments. The judge ruled that all of the comments in the controversial fact sheet, minus one, had to be proven by primary sources.

Morris claims that the fact sheet was meant to criticize, on a more general level, multinationals and the food industry.

Despite losing the case on account of semantic interpretations, Morris is positive. "As far as we were concerned, we were completely successful in what we were able to establish in the court room."

He explains further, "We knew that if we could get them to make concessions and admissions in our favour, then that would strengthen our whole case. And that's what happened."

As for the money, Morris doubts that a company that annually generates \$32 billion, would have the gall to issue demands under media spotlights.

**The telling of the McLibel tale**

"McDonald's strategy of censorship was completely defeated," beamed Morris. He pointed out that the court case has garnered international attention: What began as a small leafleting campaign has grown—millions of leaflets are regularly distributed by activists around the world.

"Now McDonald's is a symbol of what's wrong with our society. That doesn't happen by accident, that happened as a result of tens of thousands of people around the world, stepping up the campaign against McDonald's."

After the telling of the now fabled McLibel trial wound to an end, Morris described a bit about his continued activism in North London, and the importance of grassroots movements.

According to Morris, the McLibel case was a small experiment in local and global activism. "It was probably the first and only case in the world where a multinational corporation, in fact a whole industry, was on trial in a public case and, at the same time as all that legal stuff, there was a support campaign, mastering of grassroots, leafleting and protesting and campaigning," he said.

"Often it seems hopeless to face up to these very powerful and influential institutions and what they are trying to get everyone to believe. But actually, everything that people do is having a long-term effect," he added.

Morris says the fruition of labour, environmental, peace, feminism and other movements in the last 10 years is a positive step towards challenging the practices of both McWorld and governments.

"I'm just here to tell our story and give encouragement to people. All over the world, we're fighting the same battle."



**McFacts**

It is estimated that one out of every eight workers in the U.S. has been employed by McDonald's; the average length of employment being three months.

Annually, the company hires about one million people—more than any other American organization.

McDonald's employs about one million migrant farm workers and about 3.5 million fast food workers in the U.S.

McDonald's opens about five new restaurants every day, at least four of which are overseas.

The restaurant owns approximately 21,000 stores in over 100 countries.

**McUnion struggles**

More so than any other American industry, the fast food industry pays the minimum wage to its workers. McDonald's is no exception.

Over the past three decades, the real value of the wages paid to restaurant workers has declined, while the earnings of restaurant executives has risen — with average bonuses of \$131,000.

In the 1960s and '70s, McDonald's workers in the U.S. attempted to form unions. The company responded by sending in "flying squads" of managers and corporate executives to defuse the momentum. The most recent example of this took place in Canada, where McDonald's workers in Montreal attempted to organize. McDonald's shut down the restaurant.

**McActivism**

The McLibel case can be correlated with a mushrooming of anti-McDonald's activism around the world.

The company is the subject of a plethora of leafleting, especially on October 16—which is Anti-McDonald's Day.

Occupations of new restaurants have occurred—residents of Hinchley Wood organized a 552 people occupation of a proposed McDonald's site.

French farmers have demonstrated en masse—the largest protest drew a crowd of 30,000.

The public has also taken issue with McDonald's use of refrigeration chemicals (linked to global warming), the sweatshop production of McDonald's toys in China, the animal welfare standards of McDonald's chickens, advertising to children and the threat to human health posed by beef-related diseases and genetically-modified animal feed.

The violent destruction of property has also risen in recent years:

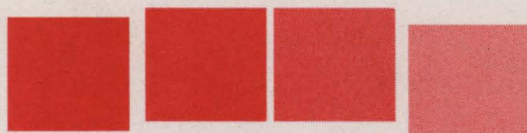
1. In 1999, Belgian vegetarians set fire to a McDonald's in Antwerp.

In 1998, bombs destroyed a McDonald's in St. Petersburg, Russia, two McDonald's in suburban Athens, Greece, and a McDonald's in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

In 1997, a McDonald's in the Cali, Colombia was bombed.

In 1996, a crowd of four hundred Danish people looted a McDonald's in Copenhagen, set fire to its furniture and burned the restaurant to the ground.

— With files from Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser and [www.mcspotlight.org](http://www.mcspotlight.org)



# World Cup 2002 preview

**Malminderjit Singh,**  
OP Contributor

The moment the entire soccer world awaits every four years is finally here. World Cup 2002 will kick-off at the end of this month in Japan and Korea. This particular tournament is significant as, for the first time in the tournament's history, two countries are co-hosting the event. Perhaps even more remarkable is the fact that the tournament is being held in Asia for the first time.

The World Cup gets underway on May 31 with a game between defending champions France and debutantes Senegal. Both teams have been drawn into Group A alongside Denmark and Uruguay. France will be the obvious favourite to advance into the next round, but the question here is who will occupy the second spot in this group. Denmark, who made an impression at the last World Cup, will be looking to repeat that feat. However, without the Laudrup brothers and inspirational goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, their squad looks incapable of moving into the second phase. This is mainly because they will be facing stiff competition from rejuvenated Uruguay.

The Uruguayans impressed during the Copa America and the South American qualifying group, and will be looking towards the individual talents of Diego Tristan, Gustavo Poyet, Alvaro Recoba, Fabian O'Neill and Daniel Fonseca to guide them through. On paper, they look mighty impressive but it remains to be seen if all their star players can gel together as a cohesive unit.

For Senegal, it is predestined that their World Cup romance will be short-lived. Their inexperience will be their greatest weakness in a group consisting of tournament regulars. So, it seems likely that France and Uruguay will qualify for the second round.

Group B seems more evenly balanced as all four teams play an exciting brand of soccer. Nevertheless, Spain remains the favourite to advance into the second round, but will no doubt face stiff competition from the other teams. Paraguay and South Africa produced some great results in the previous tournament and no doubt will pull off some shocks and upsets. Though Slovenia is a newcomer to the World Cup, their style of soccer will make up for their inexperience. The feeling is that Jose Chilavert, Paraguay's charismatic goalkeeper and captain, will lead his nation to the next round, along with Spain.

Group C consists of Brazil, Costa Rica, Turkey and China. The Brazilians, who are also some bookmakers' favourites to win the tournament, should win this group easily. Meanwhile, China and Costa Rica will not be able to overcome the challenges of Brazil and Turkey. The Turks possess strong attacking power,

and the likes of Hakan Sukur will provide them with great goal scoring opportunities.

As for Group D, Portugal will face stiff competition from South Korea to top the group. Poland and the USA will find the silky skills of the Portuguese and the home ground status of the Koreans too strong for their liking. Both Portugal and South Korea have been tipped by soccer pundits to do well in this competition.

Group E provides a closer battle between the teams. Many have branded Germany as "have beens" and may not even qualify from the group stage. With Ireland and Cameroon in outstanding form, they shouldn't have a problem overcoming Germany and Saudi Arabia.

Group F, this year's version of the "Group of Death," promises to be explosive. This group arguably pits the tournament's four most exciting teams: England, Argentina, Sweden and Nigeria all are favourites to win the tournament. Sadly, only two of them will proceed past this round. It is anybody's guess as to which two teams will make it. The Argentinians have enough firepower throughout their squad to guide them safely into the second round. Of course, everyone would love to see the soccer world's favourite team England advance to the second round. However, Sweden and Nigeria will provide England with plenty of compe-

dition, as any one of those teams could move on.

Group G consists of Italy, Mexico, Ecuador and Croatia. Italy has perhaps the most creative team in this World Cup with the likes of Francesco Totti, Vincenzo Montella, Alessandro Del Piero and possibly veteran Roberto Baggio. However, Mexico and Croatia could both make their vast experience and skill count, and they will all definitely prove to be a handful for Ecuador. Croatia's excellent third place finish in the last World Cup will be the driving force behind the team as they look to better that performance. Croatia will therefore qualify for the second round, together with Italy.

In Group H, co-hosts Japan will be looking to cash in on home crowd support to top the group. However, they are likely to face a tough challenge from Belgium and Russia. Tunisia, though under-rated, may well prove to be the dark horse of the tournament. Still, the experience of the Russians and Belgians means that both of them will compete for the runner-up spot in this group.

Of course, these predictions are based upon the strength of the teams on paper, and on their past performances in the World Cup. In soccer, though, anything is possible and upsets are highly likely. Here are my predictions for the World Cup, regarding which teams will be victorious in each round, and which players could impress:

## World Cup 2002 Predictions

### 1st Round:

#### Group A

- 1) France
- 2) Uruguay
- 3) Denmark
- 4) Senegal

#### Group B

- 1) Spain
- 2) Paraguay
- 3) Slovenia
- 4) South Africa

#### Group C

- 1) Brazil
- 2) Turkey
- 3) China
- 4) Costa Rica

#### Group D

- 1) Portugal
- 2) South Korea
- 3) Poland
- 4) USA

#### Group E

- 1) Ireland
- 2) Cameroon
- 3) Germany
- 4) Saudi Arabia

#### Group F

- 1) Argentina
- 2) England
- 3) Sweden
- 4) Nigeria

#### Group G

- 1) Italy
- 2) Croatia
- 3) Mexico
- 4) Ecuador

#### Group H

- 1) Japan
- 2) Russia
- 3) Belgium
- 4) Tunisia

### Semi-Finalists:

Italy, Argentina, France, Brazil

### Finalists

Italy vs Argentina

### Champions:

Argentina

### Players to watch:

Hernan Crespo, Micheal Owen, Steven Gerrard, David Beckham, Francesco Totti, Zinedine Zidane, Thierry Henry, Romario, Rivaldo, Luis Figo.

### Predicted top scorers:

1) Hernan Crespo 2) Thierry Henry 3) Micheal Owen 4) Romario 5) Christian Vieri

# Rockin' the box

## A Preview of the Western Lacrosse 2002 Season

**Patrick Witwicki**  
Sports Editor

The sun is shining, the snowcaps are starting to melt, the Canucks are once again golfing, and spring is finally here. So, that means it's time to get outside and start gardening, right?

Nope, think again. It's time to watch Canada's other indoor sport, lacrosse. True, many of us (including yours truly) only discovered lacrosse for the first time with the introduction of the Vancouver Ravens, but in reality, the National Lacrosse League, in which the Ravens participate, are stacked with players from the Western Lacrosse Association (WLA). But this time around, during the summer months, we get to watch these players almost every day. And for rabid Salmonbellies and Adanacs fans, it doesn't get any better than this.

Last year, the Coquitlam Adanacs won the Mann Cup, and are the favourites to repeat, but don't expect Victoria, who went undefeated last season before falling in the playoffs, to let Coquitlam walk to an easy title. And while the Salmonbellies promise to be better this season, Maple Ridge, a young up-and-coming team, could surprise this year. So, without further delay, here are my predictions for the season, bearing in mind that the final rosters (at press time) are still to be determined.

### **Coquitlam Adanacs**

Predicted finish: First place, 15-5  
Last year: Finished 12-8, 2nd place, won Mann Cup

The Adanacs pulled off the biggest upset last year, when they knocked off the undefeated Victoria Shamrocks in six games. They rode that momentum into the Mann Cup final, and succeeded in beating the Ontario finalist, Brampton, in a tough 7-game series. Coquitlam is determined this year to prove that last year's run wasn't a fluke.

Many of the players that led the Adanacs to the Promised Land will be returning. Also, proving that the theory "the rich get richer" is

probably true, Coquitlam has lured two stars from the Ontario league. They hope these acquisitions will compensate for the loss of Colin Doyle, who has decided to remain in Ontario, and Dan Stroup, who is considering retirement. 2001 second team all-stars Pat Coyle and Curt Malawsky are expected to return. Coquitlam will be tough to beat, and will once again probably find themselves

last year's upset.

### **New Westminster Salmonbellies**

Predicted finish: Third place, 12-8.  
Last year: Finished 10-9-1, third place, lost in semi-final to Coquitlam

The Salmonbellies were a young, streaky team last year. Fresh off the huge trade with the Thunder last season, the 'Bellies were able to restructure and build a team for the future, while taking a stab at the playoffs as well. This year, they expect to be more experienced, and hope it will lead to a better regular season record, and success in the playoffs.

Most of their 2001 squad will be back, including all-star goalie Matt Disher, forward Peter Morgan (who also made the all-rookie NLL team as a Vancouver Raven), and Kevin Stewardson, who missed most of last season with a knee injury. New Westminster has also acquired Mat Giles and Shawn Parnell from

the Ontario league, who both played for the Montreal Express during the past NLL season. If either the Adanacs or Shamrocks falter or suffer major injuries, the Salmonbellies could finish as high as first. Then again, New Westminster could just as easily falter and miss the playoffs completely. However, it is expected that New Westminster will once again finish in third place, but this time will make some noise come post-season.

### **Maple Ridge Burrards**

Predicted finish: Fourth place, 9-11.  
Last year: Finished 4-16, last place, missed playoffs.

Well, at least they're doing something right. After yet another disastrous season where the Burrards missed the playoffs for the third straight season, they decided to completely rebuild. They secured two picks in the first round of the WLA draft, and stocked up on future all-stars Jordan West-Pratt and Brad Rennie, both from the Port Coquitlam Saints. They have also hired Norm Baker as their new head coach and are hoping his previous WLA experience can finally help the team get



back in the WLA final, this time as the favourites.

### **Victoria Shamrocks**

Predicted finish: Second place, 14-6  
Last year: Finished 19-0-1, first place, lost in WLA final to Coquitlam

Fans in Victoria are probably still shaking their heads. How could a team that didn't lose all year choke in the finals against an upstart team from Coquitlam? Yet, that is exactly what happened, and once again proved the theory that a great regular season doesn't mean squat in the playoffs.

Victoria hopes to have the 2001 WLA leading scorer Ted Dowling back in the fold, who also had an outstanding season with the NLL Montreal Express. Other all-stars Kaleb Toth, Matt Roik, and Chris Panos also expect to be back. However, with Coquitlam's additions, it is expected that Victoria may take one step back during the regular season, even though they will probably battle the Adanacs all year for first place overall. Personally, I think Victoria is probably already looking beyond the regular season, determined to avenge

back into the playoffs. And if the young team manages to find early chemistry, they should be able to snag the final playoff spot, albeit in a battle with Burnaby.

However, not everything is wonderful out in the Ridge. Vancouver Ravens leading scorer and all-star Chris Gill has requested a trade to a contender, but so far, the trade offers have been rather weak. Two of their other players have decided to retire, and Pratt and Bryan Poole will not be able to join the team until at least four games into the season, due to commitments with their U.S. universities. Regardless of what happens this season, the future is finally looking brighter for the Maple Ridge Burrards.

#### **Burnaby Lakers**

Predicted finish: Fifth place, 7-13.

Last year: Finished 9-11, fourth place, lost in semi-final to Victoria.

As opposed to the future of the Maple Ridge squad, Burnaby's plight appears to be the opposite. After a few years of relative success, the team has not made any improvements from last season's squad, and in fact, has lost a few players. Management is probably relying too much on their third pick overall, Spencer Martin.

However, the Lakers do still have experience, and if the young Maple Ridge squad can't pull it together this season, the Burnaby squad will squeak into the playoffs, only to get swept in the first round by either Coquitlam or Victoria.

#### **North Shore Thunder**

Predicted finish: Sixth place, 4-16.

Last year: Finished 5-15, missed playoffs

The Thunder franchise would rather forget about last season. They sacrificed the future by trading away several draft picks to acquire Derek Malawsky from New Westminster. And while Malawsky held up his end of the bargain, battling for the league title in scoring with Dowling of Victoria, the rest of the team faltered. In addition, the WLA's experiment into the Okanagan failed, and the team has moved back to North Vancouver. Unfortunately, North Shore lacrosse fans won't be happy with what they get to see. The Thunder has barely made any changes, aside from two draft picks in the first round this year (2002). Shawn Cable, drafted second overall, and Josh Joseph, chosen sixth, may help the Thunder in the long run, but probably not this season. The only thing Thunder fans can look forward to is the 2003 draft, where the team will most definitely get first pick overall—unless, of course, they trade it away again.

## OP JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

#### **Distribution Co-ordinator:**

Duties—Pick-up and deliver paper to designated stands in New West and Coquitlam. Maintain the stands by keeping them clean and stocked.

Qualifications—Must have reliable vehicle, must have a driver's licence to operate said vehicle, and must understand what the word "punctuality" means.

#### **Promotions Co-ordinator:**

Duties—Expand the profile of the paper by spearheading promotional campaigns, both within Coquitlam and New West.

Qualifications—Enthusiasm, imagination, gusto and be an unemployed telemarketer or have a degree in marketing strategy.

#### **Coquitlam Correspondent:**

Duties—Liaise with New West co-ordinators regarding stories and events at the Coquitlam campus. Provide copy, ledes, and information for each issue.

Qualifications—Must be a student at the Coquitlam campus, must be passionate about rectifying the fact that The OP rarely has any Coquitlam-based stories.

#### **Sports Editor:**

Duties—Attend and report on local, college and professional events. Provide the paper with copy and edit submission, for the sports section.

Qualifications—Interest in Douglas College sports and capable of doing dressing room interviews with eyes closed.

All positions include a bi-weekly stipend. Drop off your resume or simply drop by the Other Press office for details.

# At a glance:

## The sports scene for the summer



**Patrick Witwicki,  
Sports Editor**

Ah, it's just a typical summer semester at Douglas College. What's happening with the college sports teams? Pretty much nothing. By the time this issue goes to press, the baseball season will be wrapping up, the golf team will be playing one or two final tournaments, and students will be too busy hanging out on local patios at nearby establishments to really care. But that doesn't mean you have to ignore what's going on in the sports world. The Vancouver Whitecaps begin their season this month with various home games, including two dates against nearby rivals Seattle. The BC Lions get going in July, and single "A" baseball at the Nat is well underway. Locally, for you rabid lacrosse fans, make sure you support the Salmonbellies here in New West, and the Adanacs in Coquitlam. Don't forget Junior Lacrosse also takes place in both cities!

And of course, starting on May 31, the most

prestigious tournament of all, the World Cup, gets going in South Korea and Japan (see preview on page 26). As an added bonus, yours truly will be reporting on the tournament live from Japan over the next two months.

### Some important dates to remember:

**Thursday, May 16 (WLA):** New Westminster Salmonbellies host the Coquitlam Adanacs in their home opener at Queens Park Arena, at 7:45 p.m.

**Sunday, May 19 (A-League):** Vancouver Whitecaps host nearby rivals, the Seattle Thunder, at Swangard Stadium, at 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, May 23 (WLA):** New Westminster Salmonbellies host the Victoria Shamrocks (last year's undefeated team) at Queens Park Arena, at 7:45 p.m.

**Sunday May 26 (A-League):** Vancouver Whitecaps once again host Seattle at Swangard Stadium, at 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, June 15 (WLA):** Coquitlam

Adanacs host New Westminster at the Coquitlam Rec Centre (Poirier Street) at 7:45 p.m.

**Thursday, June 27 (WLA):** New Westminster Salmonbellies host Coquitlam at Queens Park Arena, at 7:45 p.m.

**Friday, June 28 (A-League):** Vancouver Whitecaps host Canadian expansion team from Calgary, at Swangard Stadium at 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, June 28 to Monday July 1:** Annual Beach Volleyball tournament at Golden Spike tournament in Port Moody (come watch your favourite sports editor play!). Drinks are extra.

**Saturday, July 6 (WLA):** Coquitlam Adanacs host the Victoria Shamrocks (rematch of last year's final), live from Coquitlam Rec Centre, at 7:45 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 9 (CFL):** BC Lions host the Toronto Argonauts in their home opener at BC Place, at 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, July 18 (CFL):** BC Lions host the Hamilton Tigercats at BC Place, at 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, July 26 to Sunday, July 28:** Molson Indy, live from the Plaza of Nations. (Note the new date.)

**Saturday, July 27 (WLA):** Coquitlam Adanacs host New Westminster at the Rec Centre, at 7:45 p.m.

**Thursday, August 1 (CFL):** BC Lions host hated rivals, the Calgary Stampeders, live from BC Place, at 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, August 2 (A-League):** Vancouver Whitecaps host the team from the city we love to hate, Toronto, at Swangard Stadium. Starting time: 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, August 15 (CFL):** BC Lions host the expansion Ottawa squad at BC Place, at 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, August 21 (CFL):** BC Lions host the Montreal Allouettes, BC Place, at 7:30 p.m.

**Monday, September 2 (A-League):** Vancouver Whitecaps conclude their regular season, by hosting the Portland Timbers, Swangard Stadium, at 7:30 p.m.

As usual, I welcome submissions from writers on all sports subjects (even baseball!), but do remember that during the summer, we only publish once per month. You can email me your submissions directly to [iamsportsman@yahoo.ca](mailto:iamsportsman@yahoo.ca), or contact me for information at [ozjunkiepat@hotmail.com](mailto:ozjunkiepat@hotmail.com).

# Tough decision, "junior"

## BCHL or WHL? Who's better? An in-depth look at both leagues

**Patrick Witwicki,  
Sports Editor**

The feeling is intense. The crowd cheers every move, every play. A tall, lanky winger for the Coquitlam Bantam AAA team crosses the opposing blue line. He shoots, he scores! The building erupts, as Coquitlam takes the lead for the first time in the game. And there's a lot riding on this game: the winner will move on to the semi-final of the Port Coquitlam Spring Break Bantam hockey tournament. The loser goes home.

In some cases, there may be more on the line for that tall, lanky winger who just scored. Because, in the crowd, there are more people than just mommy and daddy watching. Scouts are also present, representing various Major Junior hockey teams, some from BC, some from the U.S. The Bantam hockey draft is approaching, and teams in the Western Hockey League (WHL) are trying to find the next star: a player they can build their team around, and in the process, maybe help that player reach the ultimate destination: the NHL.

But players also have another choice. They don't have to necessarily submit, and go directly to the WHL. Some players, due to family or school commitments, don't have that luxury. But others choose to try their luck in the British Columbia Hockey League (BCHL).

Ultimately a talented hockey player faces a tough decision once he reaches the golden age of 14. WHL or BCHL? Which league is better? Is there a difference? Could a player make a mistake choosing one league over the other? Or, could a less-talented player be making a major mistake by choosing hockey over an education?

Ron Boileau, president of the BCHL, has been involved with Junior hockey for a long time. Originally, he started out as a volunteer with the New Westminster Bruins of the WHL, and spent some time with the Delta Flyers of the BC Hockey League. Now, as acting president of the BCHL, he openly proclaims his love for the job. "I'm kind of a one-man show," he says. "I do everything from stats to P.R." After a brief reflection, staring

briefly into space, he adds, "It's probably a four-person job." In addition to his "four-person" job, he is also somewhat of a historian. In his possession, he holds every NHL media guide dating back to 1932, and also has statistics extending back to the early 1900s. The BCHL media guide, also compiled by Boileau, is gigantic and impressive, and at first glance an outsider would think that a large publishing house in Vancouver took care of it. Not so. He compiles all the stats, figures, and player information on his own, on an annual basis.

Since Boileau took over as president 12 years ago, the BCHL has enjoyed a complete turn-around. "As a league, we should draw

sion teams in Coquitlam and Salmon Arm also enjoyed excellent attendance in their inaugural seasons.

The only black mark, of course, is the pending move of the Burnaby Bulldogs franchise, which will try a season in Port Alberni for the 2002-03 campaign. The team noticed a definite decline in attendance, and blamed the occurrence on the arrival of the WHL Vancouver Giants and the expansion franchise in Coquitlam.

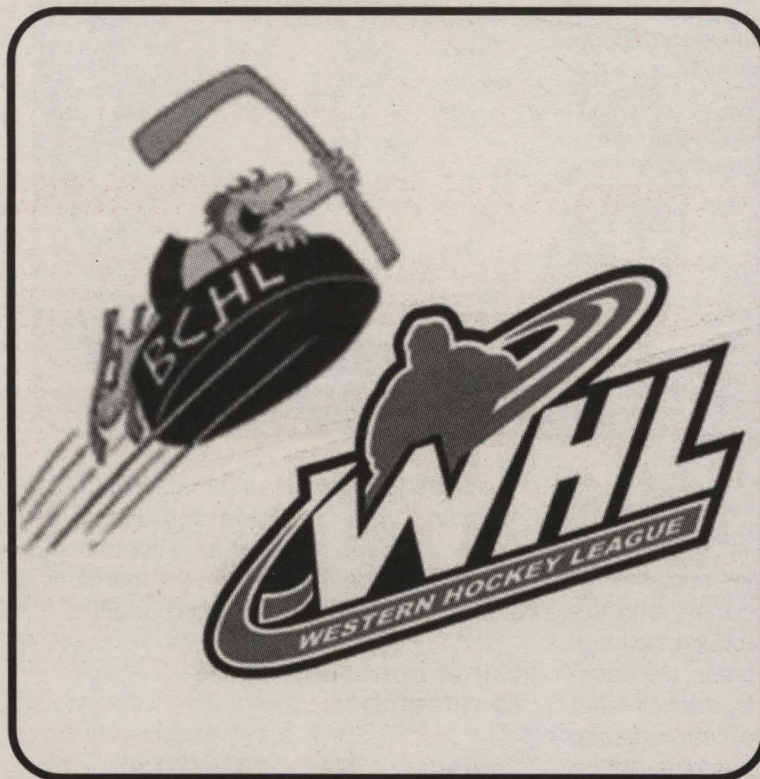
Despite this, Darcy Rota, president and general manager of the Coquitlam team (and a former coach of the Burnaby team) is convinced his team will survive in Coquitlam. "Our goal (this season) was to make people aware of the team. We got involved in the community, and we have to keep that up. We're building something here, and we have to build it with support from the Tri-City community."

So, currently the BCHL is quite strong, despite the lack of promotion from the media standpoint. Boileau believes that success at the national level has led to the rising popularity of the league. "We have won eight out of the last 16 championships," he says proudly. And the individual teams are also popular, especially in smaller markets, where the BCHL team is the only "game" in town. Small towns like Quesnel or Chilliwack can have a junior team, and expect a good crowd almost every night. The tougher sell is in bigger markets where others sports teams, like Vancouver or Prince George, exist.

And player recognition also helps. Current NHLers like Paul Kariya or Brett Hull, both successful at the

NHL level, played their junior hockey in the BCHL before heading to a US college. And BCHL grads have also had success across the border, winning the Hoby Baker award (best collegiate player), like Brendan Morrison. Still, the perception that the BCHL is inferior to the WHL, or can be considered as a "farm" league is one that the BCHL must work hard to eradicate. "We have to continue to improve our marketing," says Boileau. "So, we're perceived, but that's all it is. Most of our fans know what we're about."

The WHL is considered by many to be the



over 600,000 people this year, not including playoffs. That will be the most ever. Teams are doing a great job of marketing, despite the fact there hasn't been a single story about us in the Vancouver Sun or Province," he says.

The league had 16 teams this past season, and will expand by one more, as Williams Lake joins the league in time for next season. That's a far cry from the nine teams that existed in the league when Boileau first began his stint as president. "Our attendance is up in many markets," he admits, pointing to towns like Nanaimo and Prince George. And expan-

## Tough decision, "junior"

elite junior hockey league in BC. This league has also expanded over the past decade, to the point where it now has a separate BC division, with five teams in Kamloops, Kelowna, Cranbrook, Prince George, and Vancouver. The newest franchise on the block, the Vancouver Giants, completed their inaugural season, and like most expansion teams, struggled to find victories. Even so, WHL franchises in general operate with much larger budgets than their BCHL counterparts, and are able to send their scouts all over the province, hungry to find new talent to help turn their clubs into winners.

Sean Kelso, director of media relations for the Giants, is convinced the Bantam draft is great for hockey. "Ten years ago, teams [in our league] could only afford one scout. Now, most teams have 10 regional scouts, and it's evolving every year. That's how we're going to develop our team." The Bantam draft has increased to the point where now the event can last up to 10 rounds. Young 14 year-olds all around BC have an opportunity to become the property of a WHL franchise. These WHL clubs all have protected lists, and once a player is on their list, that particular player cannot go to another WHL team unless they're traded.

So, when a 14 year-old is drafted, he basically has two choices: he can agree to play with that club, or he can instead go to a BCHL team. The WHL doesn't hide from their mandate, which is to develop their players for the NHL. And Kelso fully believes that the WHL is the best opportunity for these hockey players to enhance their skills in an effort to one day reach their goal, and make the NHL. "This level of hockey is spreading," he says proudly. "The popularity (of hockey) is only beginning. With our success at the Olympics, including the women, the sport will continue to grow. We're pretty well spread out around BC." He is also convinced that the popularity of junior hockey in general will continue to grow. Their league also experienced record crowds, and they expect the number to reach 2.7 million when the season comes to a conclusion.

Despite this alluring carrot, young hockey players still have to be wise in their decision. Agreeing to play in the WHL doesn't guarantee you'll even get drafted by the NHL, never mind getting to play. Some players develop quicker than others, and that is why the BCHL isn't such a bad decision. For some players, it's actually a better option. "Kids in minor hockey, when they reach that age, have a tough decision," says Boileau. "If they go and play one game in the WHL, they kiss that US scholarship goodbye."

Yes, education can factor into a player's

decision. BCHL teams don't have protected lists. Instead, it's up to individual teams to market themselves, and send out invites to players to attend their evaluation camps. And their camps can be quite diversified: rookies, former WHL players, cuts, or players returning for another season. Naturally, every team is different, and expansion teams like Coquitlam and Salmon Arm have to work even harder to build their team. Still, for most players, there is a different "carrot": a chance at a US scholarship, and an education.

In their League Mission Statement, the BCHL claims: "We are committed to providing players with the greatest possible competition, opportunity, development and exposure, in order that they are best able to achieve long term success on an athletic, personal,

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and academic level." Boileau adds, "The ones who are most successful in life are those with a good education. A US scholarship can set you up for life if you are a decent hockey player. They have alumni associations to set you up with a good job once you graduate." He points to the success of current Vancouver Canucks assistant manager, Dave Nonis, a BCHL grad who didn't quite make it to the NHL. However, Nonis completed his education, and now holds an excellent job with an NHL club, and could very well be a general manager in the near future.

The WHL also offers a chance at an education, albeit a Canadian one. The league offers a \$2500 scholarship at the end of each season to their players who are interested in attending a Canadian university. The only drawback is if a player signs a professional contract, even if it's with an East Coast league team. "Once those players sign that contract," says Boileau, "they kiss that (scholarship) money goodbye." Kelso doesn't seem to think that's a problem. "Players know that coming in. Our goal is to develop our players and help them get better." In all honesty, the

WHL is run more like a business, whereas the BCHL is run as an opportunity. Still, all levels of junior teams only succeed when their building is full, and their team is popular. If attendance lags, the team could get moved, like Victoria a few years ago in the WHL, and more recently, Burnaby in the BCHL. And how much attention does a player get from NHL scouts, if the building he's playing in is empty?

The future of junior hockey looks bright. Attendance continues to increase at all levels, and more and more kids are signing up for minor hockey. Many associations in the Lower Mainland like Coquitlam have waiting lists, with both boys and girls eager to lace up the skates and hit the ice. The WHL will increase by one more team in time for the 2003-04 season, when Everett is added to the U.S. division. The BCHL, as mentioned, will be at 17 teams when the puck drops this September. And both leagues believe, for the time being, that further expansion is probably on hold. "Our expansion needs are over," says Boileau. "We're limited by arenas. I mean, look at Nelson. They have a great market, but no rink."

The WHL is basically in the same boat. "I think we're maxed out," says Kelso. "We have to make sure the teams in (current) markets are solid." In a sense, more improvement has to be made at the grass-roots level to ensure junior hockey maintains its current perception. Naturally, Canada's success at the Olympics helps. Canadians are once again excited about hockey, and by the looks of it, enrollment at the minor league level will continue to grow.

As for the present future, Kelso is working hard preparing for the Bantam draft. Vancouver ended the season with a brutal 20-game winless streak, and he agrees that the team has to perform better on the ice to ensure the large crowds continue to fill the Pacific Coliseum off the ice. Meanwhile, Ron Boileau intends to move to Penticton during the off-season, where he will have more room to store his memorabilia. He has no intention of leaving his position, however. "I would do it for free if I didn't need the money to support myself," he says, smiling.

Back at the rink, regardless of the outcome, minor hockey players, similar to that tall, lanky winger of Coquitlam, will always face the same dilemma: BCHL or WHL? Really, is there a difference? Everyone has opinions, and every player has different ideas of what's best for them, but in reality, British Columbians love their hockey, whether it's BCHL, WHL, or the NHL, and that's the bottom line.

# THE ORACLE

## The language of astrology

For thousands of years astrology has been providing individuals with insight and guidance. The subject of Astrology is vast, and though a lot of it can be quickly filed under G, in my personal view, astrology has serious merit. Astrology reveals an order in the universe; it does not predict, but rather suggests character strengths and weaknesses. Our relationship with the stars can reveal our subtle tendencies and provide insight into our cosmic journey.

The 12 signs, ten planets, five aspects and four angles compose the basis of the astrological foundation. The Sun represents the self and its expression; Mercury—thinking, thoughts and communication; Venus—feelings and desire; Moon—emotions and moods; Mars—will, action and movement; Jupiter—higher thoughts and expansion; Saturn—structure and discipline; Uranus—energy and change; Neptune—depth of thought and dreams; Pluto—transformation and renewal. My hope, if nothing else, is to inspire you to discover your own personal relationship with the beauty and mystery of our solar system.

### Aries

Adventures are what you are all about. Be confident, energetic, dynamic and encouraging. The art of conversation is highlighted this month. Be aware of how you approach those close to you. Remember the glory of co-operation and your nobility will shine.

### Taurus

Be secure that May and June will provide you with a chance to grow more deeply than ever before. For months you have been faced with change; this has offered you the opportunity to develop different kinds of relationships internally and externally, based on trust and compassion. Let your nurturing side show. Plant your seeds with knowledge and wisdom. Your patience always pays off.

### Gemini

The duality of Gemini has merged. Talking and communication are at the forefront. Stick to your decisions. Learn to be disciplined and finish all your projects one at a time, and don't forget to relax and learn. Writing down your thoughts may provide the insight you seek. Now is the time say everything you ever wanted to.

### Cancer

Fortune, expansion, luck and growth have been by your side. Your hard work is paying off. August

1st marks a new beginning; your shell is coming off. Look within for love and compassion. Allow your creativity to manifest. Say what you feel and trust your perceptions.

### Leo

Summer is coming, time to party and have fun. Your boat is docking. Remember to be open-minded and remember that advice is only that—say thank you, consider it, and then decide for yourself. You feel more talkative now than usual, but let oth-

your mind, or it will master you.

### Libra

Gentle, caring, balanced. Spend some time with yourself. Your friends can manage without you right now. It is a good time for an impulsiv indulgence. Enjoy the ride and have fun.

### Scorpio

Stubborn, persistent, deep and unyielding. Your greatest service is to humanity. Your power can heal the wounds of life to regenerate and rejuvenate the emotional body. Your insight will provide you and others with ideas and solutions to the common problems of life. Be open and trusting, bridge the gap between positive and negative to discover the secrets of existence.

### Sagittarius

Test the theory of your life philosophy: if it's working you're on track. There are still a lot of discoveries to be made. The art of life seems to be most on your mind. Keep on knocking, the doors are opening. Be aware that unless you can split yourself (I bet you have tried) it's one door at a time. Now is the moment to start your life fresh. You are being guided. The full moon May 26 will provide a key.

### Capricorn

Down to earth, respected and secure. The month of Taurus is always refreshing for you. The growth and freshness of spring moves you to accomplish your goals with greater vigour. Your footing is firm. Concentrate on your family a little; they would like your attention and caring.

### Aquarius

Like Libra everything is smooth. Remember your true purpose and keep on being open-minded. Start a personal growth club or something like it. You are for the people so get the people, together. You have the gift—use it. Do something different and your ideas will be recognized.

### Pisces

You are sensitive and compassionate. Now is the time to speak up about the injustice happening in your environment. Consider that what you say will make the difference. Courage and power are behind you. Ask your Scorpio friend how—they love to help as long as they are appreciated, so say thank you. Use the resources of books and writing to get the story and message across.

Send comments, concerns and questions. schoolofthoth@yahoo.com



ers have the spot-light from time to time. Great work can be accomplished now.

### Virgo

Be patient. You are being tested. Release your tendency to criticize yourself and others. Put to rest your overactive mind and concentrate on the solutions instead of the problems. If there is a lot of stress for you, choose it to be motivating and explore new ways of expressing yourself. Master