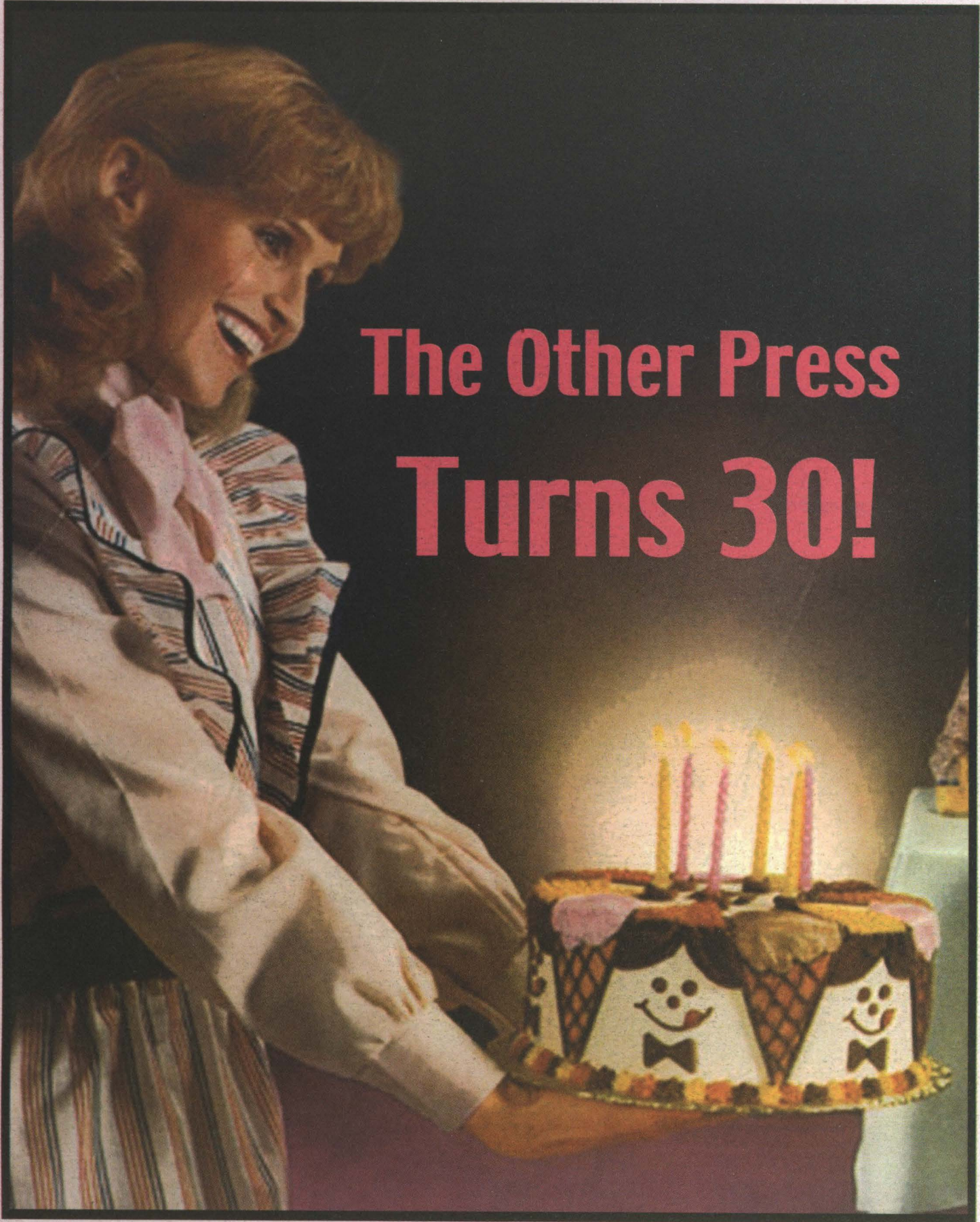




# the Other Press

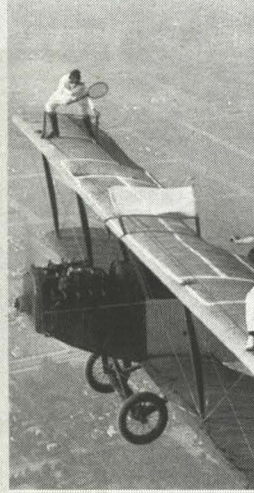
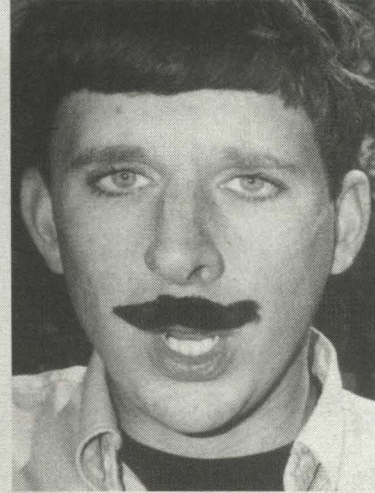
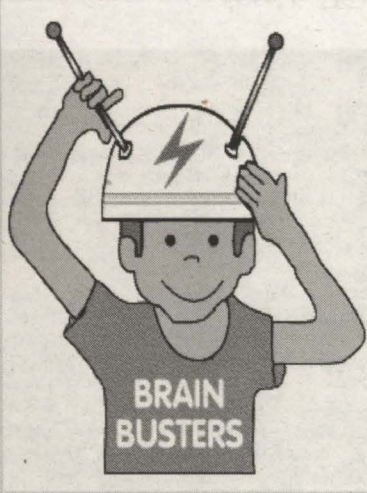
LETTING THEM EAT CAKE SINCE 1976



**The Other Press  
Turns 30!**

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THE OTHER PRESS - PUBLISHED SINCE 1976

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The Other Press is Douglas College's autonomous student newspaper.

The Other Press is run by 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.

All images are copyright to their respective owners.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The weekly deadline for submissions is Wednesday publication the following Wednesday. Letters to the Editor, vacant sections, and "time-sensitive" articles (weekend news, sports, and cultural reviews) will be accepted until Saturday noon and can be submitted to: othereditor@yahoo.ca

All other submissions should be forwarded to the appropriate section editor. Please include your name, phone number/email address, and word count. Submissions should be submitted via email as an MS Word.doc attachment to the editor.

The Other Press is run by a collective, which means that all decisions are reached via a democratic voting process. Membership in the voting collective is open to all students who have contributed to at least two of three issues. Those interested in joining the Other Press should contact the editor at othereditor@yahoo.ca

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Features  
opfeatures@gmail.com

Opinions  
opinionssubmit@hotmail.com

# MAILBAG

**Open letter to All Students:**

This letter is to inform you of issues involving your Students' Union and your Students' Union fees. DSU Student fees are being collected but not handed over. Students must pay Student Union Fees each semester at registration time. (For example, a student taking 12 course credits will pay \$51.90 to the Students Union). As required by legislation, these fees are collected by the College and normally transferred to the DSU.

Each year, the College collects approximately \$960,000 in Student Union fees. In normal times, approximately \$120,000 of this is transferred to the Canadian Federation of Students and \$840,000 is transferred to the Douglas Students' Union. The DSU is required by law to have an independent financial audit each year and make the audit available for all students to review. This requirement of the College and Institute Act exists to protect students and to ensure that you know how your money is spent.

In May 2005, however, the College discovered that the DSU had been sending false statements to the College Board. In each of the previous four years, the DSU had sent a letter stating that they had complied with the law by making audited financial statements available to students. This was not true. The DSU had not had financial audits completed. Responding to this misrepresentation by the DSU, the College Board stopped the transfer of funds to the Students Union. Funds would be transferred when the DSU Representative Committee could prove that audits were completed and the Representatives could demonstrate to students that financial controls were being followed.

Since May 2005, some audits have been completed. The audited statements showed that normal financial controls were not in place. Auditors could not verify adequate checks and balances for cash handling. Allegations of wrongdoing and financial mismanagement caused the DSU to hire a forensic auditor to conduct a review. That review, concluded in April 2006, reported several significant problems which are yet to be addressed. In the meantime, DSU has gone to the court to compel the College to release their funds. We have instructed our legal counsel to seek directions from the court with respect to the handling of those funds.

This situation has been further exacerbated due to controversy surrounding the results from the April 2006 Representative Committee Elections. Two different slates claimed victory over some positions; and as such the College Board and Administration have been uncertain who the duly elected student leaders were.

**Medical and Dental Health Insurance**

In June of this year, the College Board could see that there was a significant risk that the Student Health and Dental Insurance plan could not be administered resulting in students losing this benefit. Many students rely on the plan's medical and pharmaceutical coverage, so the Douglas College Board decided to step in and administer the plan so students were covered. The plan continues to be the DSU plan and the details of coverage and fees will continue unchanged until a duly elected DSU Representative Committee is in place and puts the DSU's financial house back in order.

**Conclusion**

College administrators have worked hard to minimize the impacts on students. Many issues exist that cannot be resolved or taken care of until the DSU is functional and complies with the College and Institute Act and with the Provincial Society Act. We are aware of many bills, financial obligations and even a large mortgage that are outstanding.

The College Board will continue to offer assistance to get the DSU back on track. However, the DSU is an independent student society that is not under the control of the College Board and there is little the College Board can do on its own to resolve these issues.

If you have questions or comments you are welcome to contact me at [jensenb@douglascollege.ca](mailto:jensenb@douglascollege.ca)

Sincerely,  
G. Blaine Jensen  
Vice President  
Educational Services  
Douglas College



## Happy Birthday To Us.

Trevor Hargreaves, OP Editor in Chief

Yup, it's true. The Other Press just turned 30. Ironically, I too reached this age milestone a few months back, which doesn't do much to discredit the rumors that I've been working here since the paper began. If I'd been conceived in the darkroom, and raised in the tender arms of the ever-changing OP staff, it would have made for a hell of an upbringing. In truth, I started here as a contributing cartoonist way back in the distant grungy year of 1995. Adorned in plaid and sporting a regrettably long and curly haircut, I was a picture of Seattle fashion (as the vintage student card in my wallet will attest).

Over the years, I've left to attend a variety of post secondary institutions, have lived and worked on foreign shores, and have partaken in the common plight of the proletariat known as the day job. But despite all of these milestones, my connection to this publication has endured. After a two-year stint in England, the first thing I did upon returning was eat some decent pizza. But the second thing was to swing by the OP office to see what was new and exciting. As memory serves, I was immediately drafted into making some cover art-work for the issue they had on the go. For as much as staff here may change from year to year, one thing remains a constant, and that's the fact that we love helpful volunteers.

So here I am over a decade later, still working at the same publication I started at when I was 18 years old and still slugging through yet another selection of courses. It's like a scene from Clerks 2. But while tuition fees have tripled, (as has my body fat index), the true nature of the Other Press remains a standard. It's a place to pick-up some journalism skills, make friends, and experience strange events that will be with you for years to come. In the 30-year history of this newspaper, it's always reflected the voice of Douglas Student. And the content that makes up our pages from week-to-week reflects the issues that concern the student writers.

One thing I can certainly attest to is the rapid evolution of print technology. In my early days here, we used to gather as a collective and piece together the newspaper using a printer, background flats, scissors and hot glue. Then it would be raced across town to the printer who would basically take a photo of each page, then convert the film into press-ready sheets. Today, things are vastly more streamlined. The paper is designed using a variety of software including Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, Illustration and Quark Express. When we are done, each page is made into a PDF and uploaded via FTP (File Transfer Protocol) directly to our printer's server. Yet despite all of this technology, a typo is still a typo.

To celebrate our 30th Anniversary, we debated what to do. At first, we considered putting together a big theme issue like we did with our 25th. But for such a milestone, we felt it would be better to celebrate over the course of the year. So starting next week, we're featuring two new columns. The first one is titled *This Week In OP History*, and features a story from a back-issue in the midst of our sordid history. The second column is titled *Blast From The Past* that features a different OP alum contributing each week. In an effort to properly reflect what a bunch of wildcards these characters are, I'm not giving them any structure other than to write 350 words or so. What we'll get is anyone's guess, but I bet it'll be pretty interesting.

So as I wrap up here, I'd like to give a quick shout-out to all the greats that have worked at the OP over the years. The paper is really just a product of those crazy minds that put it together. Plenty of our ranks started out on campus taking random classes, and eventually found their way to becoming fulltime journalists. So if your classes this semester just aren't doing it for you, drop by at one of our weekly Thursday night at 6pm meetings, maybe we can lend a hand.

And for god sakes, if I'm still here to celebrate the 40th anniversary, come down and hit me.



## Douglas College Set for Expansion New Courses and Programs Campuses a Cutting Edge

Nicole Burton, OP News Editor

Douglas College has recently added several programs and academic opportunities to the table for students to pursue.

For the first time ever, students can enroll in a full Bachelor's program in Nursing and Psychiatric Nursing at the school. There are now for a total of 6 different full BA programs available at Douglas College within the last three years.

According to Brad Barber, director of Douglas College Communications and Marketing, the new additions are already getting a good response, with 67 new nursing students enrolled this semester.

More will be added next year, as new programs and courses are in the works. This will include an opportunity to get a Bachelor's in Business Administration, with options of specializing in either Accounting or Finance; a Bachelor's of Physical Education, as well as other citation courses for degrees related to Social Work.

One course in particular, called "Co-occurring Disorders" is a first of its kind in the province. It will give students more information and training in social work that involves work around people affected both by drug addiction and a mental illness.

Besides Nursing, Douglas' most popular programs are currently in Sports Sciences, Child and Youth Care, Childhood Education, and several transfer credit courses like Criminology and Psychology.

## B.C. Tuition Fees Higher Than National Average Statistics Canada

Policy of yearly increases means tuition fees will continue rising, CFS says

Julie Chadwick, The Navigator (Malaspina University-College)

NANAIMO, B.C. (CUP)—A report released by Statistics Canada Sept. 1 revealed that university students in British Columbia's tuition fees are over \$600 more than the national average.

According to the Canadian Federation of Students, this is a result of a government-implemented fee increase policy that saw the rate of tuition pegged to the rate of inflation.

Over the last four years, tuition at B.C. public and private post-secondary institutions have more than doubled, said Canadian Federation of Students spokesman Shamus Reid.

"Now, with a policy of yearly increases in place, students can expect to pay more and more than the average Canadian, for the foreseeable future," he said.

Until 2002, there was a freeze on tuition fees for students. The government then deregulated fees and it was subsequently the jurisdiction of universities and colleges to set the rates of tuition. In 2004, the government implemented a cap on tuition fees, tying increases to the rate of inflation.

However, Reid argues that the cost is already too high, and increases at the rate of inflation will mean students will pay a combined \$18 million more this year.

"In every other area where government regulates prices, the policy is designed to ensure that costs remain affordable, improving access to a necessary service," said Reid. "The B.C. government's tuition fee policy throws that logic completely out the window by setting the price of education far too high for ordinary British Columbians."

While B.C.'s economy is booming right now, Reid says that this does not mean more money in students' pockets, as pay rates have not increased.

Students may not have more money, "but the B.C. govern-

ment does, and has the fiscal capacity to reduce fees." According to Reid, it would only take \$92 million of the government's reported \$3.5 billion surplus to reduce fees for students in B.C. by 10 per cent.

The CFS will be lobbying for this fee reduction as part of their long-standing campaign to reduce tuition fees for students. They are also lobbying for more accountability and transparency within the federal government — namely through the creation of a Minister of Post-Secondary Education to oversee funding issues and ensure fees are still affordable for the majority of students.

"Ideally," said Reid, "the federal and provincial governments would see they have a responsibility to provide people of B.C. and Canada with education. Primary and secondary schooling were initially provided for free because it was seen that people needed education to compete in the workforce and to have a functional economy."

Reid said that with an estimated 70 per cent of all new jobs in Canada requiring some post-secondary education, it is becoming a necessity for the government to provide affordable options for people seeking to enter the workforce.

"In the best-case scenario, [post-secondary education] would be free, as it is becoming more and more of a necessity to work. I don't expect this to happen tomorrow, but it is possible within a balanced approach over coming years that would see sustained tuition fee decreases."



# douglas in numbers

8670  
Number of students currently enrolled at Douglas College for the Fall semester

1.6%  
Decrease in number of students enrolled from last semester.

3.6%  
Percentage increase of tuition fees, on average, for students in B.C. this Fall.

31%  
Number of Douglas students who attend at least one course at David Lam

\$321.95  
Cost of a regular 3-credit course at Douglas College this semester, including fees and service charges

478,196,390,125,126

845,451,156 1,28,674,73350

1,320 4,845,245,120998,548,129

845,248 41,451 785,687

106,015 5,721

848,459,16221 \$445,4515 45,9

7,000 7,5

,230 7,897,784 7,521,987

627.317

## SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE WITH CUBA, VENEZUELA, & BOLIVIA

FREE EVENT

Celebrating the gains.

Confronting the challenges

10 am - 7pm

Cultural Celebration 7pm - 10pm

Sept. 30th, 2006

Practicing Solidarity  
FREE THE CUBAN FIVE!

Unitarian Church of Vancouver  
949 W. 49th Ave. (at Oak Street)

For Registration, or for More Info: MAY 20th COALITION  
bcmay20demo@yahoo.ca | 778-882-5223 | 604-732-5197

AMERICA LATINA IN DIA, Anti-Capitalist Community Forum, Anti-Social Skating, Ben Anders Union, Canada-Bolivia Solidarity Committee, Captains Students Union, Coalition of Concerned Citizens - JK Burnett Secondary, Code Pink Women for Peace, Collective Perspectives, Columbia Solidarity Committee, Communist League, Community Solidarity Coalition - Victoria, Cuban Unity Peace Group, DND/RCRC, Douglas College Anti-War Club, Ecumenical Task Force for the Americas, El Bar de las Sierras, Fightback, Free the Time Newspaper, Free the Cuban 5 Committee - Vancouver, Free the Cuban 5 Other Courtney, Group of Believers and Friends of Political Prisoners in Mexico, Hands off Venezuela, Hospital Employees Union BC, Iranian Ethical Against War, Kamadian Post-Kids, Kitchikan Peace Group, Kite New Year PPH, Kool Magazine - VBC, Koolmag, School of Working, La Tercera Lucha Americas Collective, La Travesia Newspaper, Langara Students United Against War and Occupation (LSTU), Langara Student Union, License to Action, Lisa Barrett, Bowen Island Councilor, Frank Iberthal - Hip Hop Artist and Indigenous Activist, PIRADO - SFU Club, Michael Labovitz - Professor Emeritus of Economics SFU, Michael Neveken - Writer, Mexico Newspaper, Publication Against War and Occupation (PAWO), Odele Chart - Hip Hop Artist, Okasaki - Artist, OZT - Hip Hop Artist, Victor and Indigenous Activist, Other Campaign Vancouver (O) Organizations in Solidarity with Mexico, Our Community Bikes, Partners for Peace, Poets Against War, Republic Newspaper, Shalvethel BC Newspaper, Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Church, Sounds & Furia Productions - Vancouver, Student Issue - Highland Secondary, Students For Peace - Nanaimo Secondary, Tim Lewis, former Vancouver City Councilor, UBC NRC Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq Internationally, UBC Social Justice Centre, Vancouver Community in Solidarity with Cuba (VCS), Vancouver Internationalist Solidarity Circle "Bob Everton", Victoria Solidarity with Venezuela, Vancouver Solidarity Society, Vancouver Youth Council, Work Less Party, Working 18, World Community Development Education Society, Youth Third World Alliance (Y3WA)

# Student Week against war & occupation

2006

US/UK OUT OF IRAQ! CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN!  
ISRAEL OUT OF LEBANON & PALESTINE!  
SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS!

October 16th - 27th

Two weeks of events on campuses across the Lower Mainland leading up to a weekend of antiwar action!

A full calendar  
of all campus  
events is  
coming soon!

Check the website for details:

SATURDAY, October 28

International Day of Action Against  
the US in Iraq, and Cross-Canada Day  
Against Canada in Afghanistan.

SUNDAY October 29

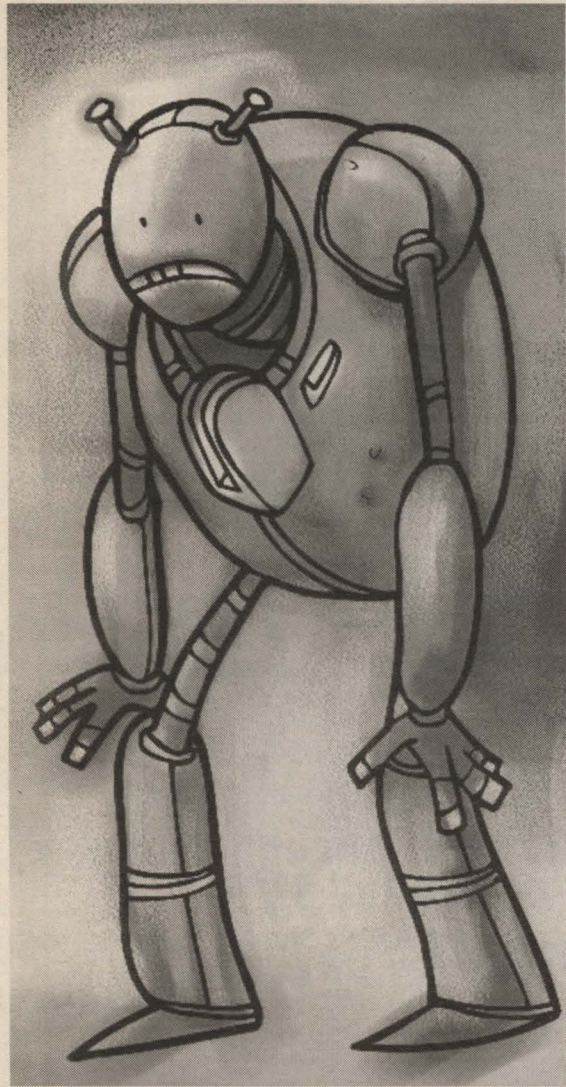
Free all-day antiwar  
conference on building an  
effective anti-war movement

Organized by Mobilization Against War & Occupation - MAWO  
mawovancouver.org (604) 322-1764

# Song of the Week:

## "Paranoid Android" by Radiohead

Patrick Mackenzie, OP Contributor



The purpose of this column is to take a song from popular music and examine it both for its content (musical structure and words), and how it relates to the world surrounding it. I see no reason why "pop" music cannot stand up to analysis as a cultural artifact. Not that this hasn't been done before, but I thought that "Song of the Week" would make for a good column idea and hopefully generate a discussion amongst those who take the time to read it.

"Paranoid Android" by Radiohead is ugly music for ugly times. Almost ten years old, it still resonates within our sad and peculiar epoch. When I say ugly, I'm not suggesting that the song is unlistenable, but it hardly fits the mold of popular music. "Paranoid Android" is musically and lyrically all over the place. Perhaps because the words are coming from at least two distinct points of view, possibly more. "Paranoid Android" goes through a series of musical stages – kind of like a symphony from hell – rather than following the blueprint of a verse followed by a chorus, repeated a little, and then followed by a bridge.

So what is the song saying? As in so many of Radiohead's songs, the words are morally ambiguous—Radiohead, or Thom Yorke at least,

is not interested in providing answers. It seems that a necessary condition of being in the world is to be confronted with the possibility that there is no meaning or purpose for existence. Radiohead, then, can be thought of as providing a compelling soundtrack for an age fraught with anxiety.

Not surprisingly the most salient feature of "Paranoid Android," both lyrically and musically, is fragmentation. At least two distinct points of view, first person and second person, are presented in a morass of seemingly disjointed music. With the opening lines, "Please could you get some rest? / From all the unborn chicken voices in my head?" the speaker is presented with a dreary image of fatigue and implied paranoia. The backing music of acoustic guitar and grinding percussion sounds like the insomnia experienced by someone clawing themselves at three o'clock in the morning. Soon following these lines, an alternative sentiment is voiced by the second speaker who says, "When I am king you will be fit to be put on the wall / with your opinions which are of no consequence at all." Who is saying this? Does the speaker believe them, or are they steeped in irony? Are they offering some social commentary on the fragmented nature of the modern individual? Like in so much of Radiohead's music, there is no moral or authorial center to the words so trying to answer these questions is a challenge if not pointless. However, it is this very lack of moral surety that makes the song so compelling. And if this is the case, why has Radiohead become the success that it is? Perhaps they are just giving voice to what so many of us have always felt—that the world is unknown and broken.

The song picks-up and becomes electric guitar-driven, discordant and violent, with a rush of words: "you don't remember, why don't you remember my name? off with his head man. Why won't he remember my name?" After this bit of mayhem, "Paranoid Android" falls into a dirge where the speaker pleads for rain to come down "from a great height." Perhaps this part of the song can be thought of as a musical respite from the terrifying realities of a fractured world and the people that are coming to inhabit it. Eventually, the guitars and violence and separate voices return and the song ends with an abrupt slam of amplified dissonance.

Can this six minute and twenty-three second rollercoaster song be gotten to mean anything? It seems to me that "Paranoid Android" derives its meaning from the world it exists in rather than try to explain anything, the song exists as a reflection. And the world it reflects is simultaneously cruel and longing for some apparently unobtainable state of grace. The psychopathic strain running through "Paranoid Android" that at least one of the voices appears to advocate. But in the song, as in the world sometimes, any attempt for grace is crushed.

So much of what occurs in the world cannot be gotten to make the remotest sense. Random death caused by a shooting in a school, the deaths of innocent civilians bombed to sleep. But it seems that the perpetrators of such intolerable violence, both in the mainstream and on the fringes, emerge from cultures committed to ideas of superiority and inferiority, inclusion and exclusion. And from these oppositions we are given a necessarily fragmented world.

The situation presented in "Paranoid Android" seems to be like the world we've created where isolated people competing against one another, holding each other suspect. Should you be surprised then, when individuals commit random acts of violence against a world they have unconsciously or not, excludes them? This is not to suggest that individuals should be absolved of their crimes or that society is solely to blame, but, as they say, violence begets violence. In a quote from another song, "the world we're living in is mean and it's built on sheer denial." In the end, "Paranoid Android" is just a song and should not be seen as an attempt to explain the world, and yet it compels us to look at ourselves and the place we occupy. The picture of society is a dark one wrought by individuals willingly caught up in the illusion of hope and fear. Perhaps it's time to get over it.

# Funkier Columbia versus Traffic Nightmare

Ed Ronald, OP Contributor

On September 29<sup>th</sup> the City of New Westminster will begin their newest experiment on Columbia Street and we at Douglas College will have front row seats to see how it turns out. The city hopes the changes will create an atmosphere more along the lines of Granville Street in downtown Vancouver instead of just being a continuation of Surrey's King George Highway. Columbia will be reduced from four lanes down to two, between Begbie Street and Elliot Street. The plan is to make the street more pedestrian friendly in a style similar to what Langley has done with their newly renovated downtown core. The new Columbia will feature back-in-angle parking, doubling the amount of stalls, and will provide for safer loading of vehicles, and create better sightlines when pulling out. This style of parking is already in place on Tenth Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues.

I for one really hope the plan works. The downtown of New West has character, you can't say that about a lot of places in the Lower Mainland. Where generic big-boxers have invaded, they have standardized the landscape, and the malls and cities contain the same. Columbia Street is peppered with interesting shops and funky places to eat and drink. I think that the downtown has a real bohemian quality, and a potential similar to Commercial Drive in Vancouver. Speaking of the Drive, I have read that residents of that area would love to see the traffic reduced there the way it is being done here in New West. So, cool places to hang out on Columbia and less traffic. What could go wrong?

The other side of removing two lanes along Columbia is where the traffic will spill into, with the already clogged streets in New West., it could become a parking lot during rush hour. There's a good chance getting in and out of the city by car will become more of a nightmare for drivers than it already is. When Langley made its downtown pedestrian friendly, the by-pass was there to accommodate the spill off traffic. New Westminster's plan may just end up taxing the streets of drivers to the point of negating any improvement to the downtown. It wouldn't

do a lot of good to have a new pedestrian friendly Columbia Street to walk around if motorists and locals alike are frustrated by a resulting rush hour.

That said, I can't wait to see how the experiment turns out. I'm cheering for the changes. Some of you who drive here from outside the City might not feel the same way. Of course, if you live in New West and walk to school.





**Left Overs**  
Iain Reeve, OP Assistant Editor

## Dawson Shooting Exposes Media



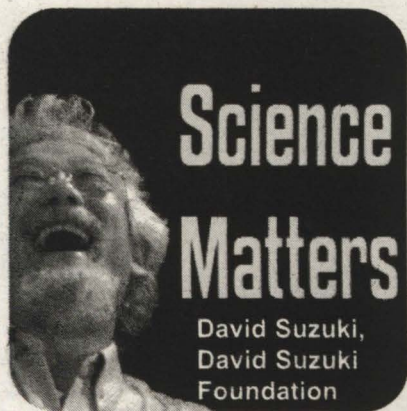
In the last seven years, since the shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado, several shootings have occurred at high schools in North America. In each instance young men, with a high level of social isolation, and limited personal relations have chosen to take out their societal rage on groups of innocent people. Often it has been a way to exact revenge on those who isolated them, often, as with the current case, the choice of a school seems more random. It seems, however, that every time an incident of this nature occurs, the media seems intent on blaming a single source for these complex, individualistic crimes.

Michael Moore's documentary *Bowling for Columbine* did a good job of displaying the various pariahs who the media tried to pin the blame on. Very little has changed in subsequent shootings, explanations have become even more unitary and absurd. Also, social activists of every ilk have attempted to utilize shootings as political capital for their campaigns against everything from rap music to video games. In the case of Kimveer Gill, the Dawson College gunman, the target has been his weblog on [www.vampirefreaks.com](http://www.vampirefreaks.com), a goth oriented blog site. Despite his blog containing signs of depression, glorification of violence, and paranoia, the media seems intent on blaming the shooting on goth subculture.

The problem with mainstream media's coverage of this and similar issues is that the vast majority of people at the major newspapers and television stations are too old to really under-

stand modern internet-oriented youth subcultures. If every person between the ages of 14 to 26 who writes in their blogs about depression, paranoia, hating the world, or taking revenge was listed as possible killers, the list would register in the thousands. Millions of people listen to violent music, millions of people play video games, and millions of people blog about being depressed. Attacking subcultures that stand apart from society only serves to distance them further, increasing the possibility that their members will become disenfranchised and resort, in rare cases, to violence.

Like all crimes, there is no singular explanation for why this happens. One user of [www.vampirefreaks.com](http://www.vampirefreaks.com) engaging in a serious crime does not implicate the site anymore than it implicates the school he went to, the neighbourhood he grew up in, where he worked, or what shoes he wore. These are multifaceted problems with multifaceted solutions. It should be the role of media to open dialogue over what some of the sources may be, and how they may be solved. Their roles should not be to sensationalize and point to dramatically convenient, but irresponsibly erroneous, conclusions. Older members of the media should admit their naiveté on issues of youth culture and employ those who understand. The alternative is not just poor news, but it misleads people on the path to finding solutions.



## Big game can help protect ecosystems from global warming

Polar bears aren't exactly living large these days. Not only is their habitat shrinking due to global warming, but so are their genitals—thanks to industrial pollutants.

A paper published in the online edition of *Environmental Science and Technology* detailed the bears' most recent plight. Researchers with the National Environmental Research Institute in Denmark looked at the genitals of 100 polar bears from Greenland and found that the higher the levels of certain industrial pollutants in their systems, the smaller their genitals, and therefore the less likely they were to be able to successfully reproduce.

Polar bears ingest these toxins from the fat of seals and other marine mammals. Although areas of the Far North, like Greenland or Canada's Arctic, may seem pristine and far from polluted cities, long-lasting toxins are carried there by atmospheric and ocean currents. Once there, they accumulate in the food chain, eventually concentrating in the fat of marine mammals.

While dramatic stories about shrinking genitals may make headlines, far less attention is being focused on the role of top predators, like polar bears, in the overall functioning of an ecosystem. That role is actually essential. If these large carnivores disappear, it can dampen the entire ecosystem's capacity to adapt to change—especially big changes like global warming.

On the surface, losing a big predator might seem beneficial for other creatures in an ecosystem, which would otherwise be preyed upon by the giant carnivores. But the impact of big predators is much more complex. In nature, every creature has a role to play, and the presence of large carnivores act as a top-down influence that can benefit the entire food chain.

A recent paper published in the journal *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* provides an excellent example of this function. Researchers looked at the effect of wolves on the food chain in Yellowstone National Park. The gray wolf had been driven to extinction in the park in the 1920s, but was reintroduced in 1995. Before their reintroduction, elk mortality in the winters

had been dropping because winters had been getting shorter and less severe—likely due to global warming. This meant that less and less carrion was available for scavengers like coyotes, eagles and ravens, which depend on carcasses for food.

However, once the wolves were established, they became the primary source of elk mortality throughout the year—increasing the availability of food for carrion-dependent scavengers. Computer models of food chain dynamics, coupled with empirical evidence, have enabled researchers to conclude that, "the presence of wolves will enable scavengers to adapt to the effects of global warming over a larger timescale than if the wolves were absent."

In other words, top predators like polar bears or wolves can help entire ecosystems adjust to a changing climate. The paper concludes: "Their results clearly show that restoring top predators could be crucial for buffering the effects of global warming and also for reducing uncertainty in an increasingly unpredictable and warmer world."

Large carnivores are under increasing pressures from global warming, agricultural and urban expansion, unsustainable hunting, logging and pollution. They also tend to reproduce slowly, and they need large spaces to survive. But if their presence can act as a buffer against change for entire ecosystems, then it makes practical sense to be working to conserve them and restore their abundance.

That isn't happening right now. Carnivores, including polar bears, which are at the top of food chains, have been routinely rejected for listing under Canada's Species at Risk Act, in spite of the recommendations of the scientific body responsible for Canada's threatened species. As is usually the case with this toothless legislation, politics trumps science. That has to change, because protecting large predators may prove to be an effective way to buffer entire food chains against the growing threat of global warming.



## This Week in OP History

J.J. McCullough, OP Contributor

In honor of the Other Press' 30th anniversary we'll be featuring a new column titled "This week in Other Press history." Each week I'll be profiling notable stories from newspaper's rich past. Today we look at one of the oldest surviving issues in the C Press archives, **September 26, 1977.**

### Top retro headline: "French Immersion 'Fantastic'"

These days most of us tend to take bilingualism for granted. We take French elementary school and ignore it on our cracker boxes. Back in 1977, however, the push for bilingualism was still a relatively new and exciting development.

The September 26 issue of the Other Press features a breathless interview with Douglas student Lori Anna Latka, one of the first students to enroll in the federal government's new-fangled "French immersion" initiative. As part of the program, Latka spent weeks in Quebec with her classmates, and the interview is full of stunning insights. The result: "People of Quebec live differently than we do in many ways," she declares. For example, "the styles of clothing there are much ahead of ours, as they tend to follow the New York trend: tight jeans rolled up, straight leg pants; styles that are just touching the West Coast." Surely many readers were jealously swooning at the revelation.

But speaking French isn't just a fun excuse to travel. Apparently there is quite a demand for bilingual Canadians in the 1970's. The Other Press notes that federal civil servants will soon be eligible to receive an annual bonus of up to \$600 per year if they can pass the French oral exam. Nowadays unilingual Canadians probably just wouldn't be hired. It was truly a simpler time.

### Bottom retro headline: "Douglas student president blasts education minister"

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

Starting next week, this column will feature a different special guest writer each issue, picked from the prestigious ranks of the OP Alumnus. We've tracked down some of our past staff writers and begged, borrowed, and sometimes bribed them to submit content. What will this section be about? We have no idea! We're excited to read it as you are. Be



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# Education Well-Worth the Investment

Racquel Foran, OP Contributor

I feel compelled to express my lonely opinion—I do not think post-secondary education in Canada is overly expensive. There I said it, have your hissy-fit and get over it.

Complaining about the cost of tuition has become a standard protest at colleges and universities around the country, and Douglas College is no exception. It's pretty easy to get students rallied around. Nobody likes parting with their hard-earned dollars, and school just isn't the tangible return on investment that people are used to these days. As a result, there's a large consensus that post-secondary education is too expensive.

I have a hard time sympathizing with student protesters, especially when they have cell phones jammed in their faces, MP3 players stuffed in their ears, and designer running shoes adorning their feet. Before students complain about the cost of post-secondary education they need to consider their financial priorities.

Tuition should not be viewed as an expense, but rather as an investment. As with any investment, you're likely to acquire debt at the outset in order to get a better return in the long run. It's been proven that the lifetime earning potential of someone with a post-secondary education vastly exceeds that of a high school graduate. Twenty thousand dollars spent on earning a bachelor's degree today translates into a lifetime income of \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000 more than if you had not gained that education. I can't think of any other financial outlay that would earn you anywhere close to this kind of return on investment. It's debt well worth incurring.

Students also need to consider what it is they're asking for—more money from government. We need to remember that the money we are asking our government to spend ultimately comes from our own tax dollars. If the government spends more money on funding post-secondary education, sure as shootin' they will take that money from us somewhere else. I would much rather see our government pour money into the public school system, ensuring that every child has an equal opportunity to graduate from high school. Then, when these young adults graduate from the public school system, it should be their own hard work, drive and ingenuity that gets them through post-secondary education.

I believe gaining a professional designation should be difficult. I don't think post-secondary students should necessarily have the luxury of attending school without having to work. Work experience is life experience, and this is a vital part of education as well. Having to balance multiple responsibilities and be successful at them all is part of life. Once we graduate from high school, it is a fast track to reality. Stuff is expensive. Life is hard. Things often aren't fair. But experiencing all this is as important to one's education as sitting in a lecture hall. If getting an education were cheaper, easier, would it be as valuable?

Many people who started out poor in this world have gone on to achieve great things, and many rich people have failed in both academics and life. The cost of an education alone does not determine success or failure. Hard work, sacrifice, and commitment are much more likely to see you through life's challenges than a few extra bucks in your pocket are.



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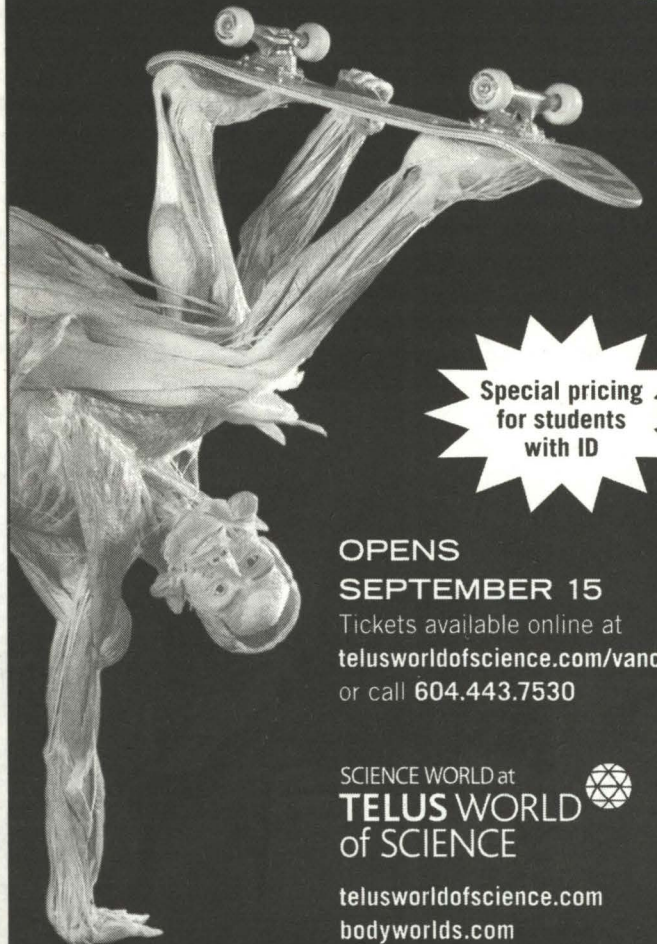
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# LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE

Kevin Lalonde, OP Arts & Entertainment Editor



Dysfunction in the family seems to be a popular theme in North American film, presumably because filmmakers believe that every filmgoer can identify in some way with the issues that these unstable families have to deal with on the screen. *Little Miss Sunshine*, directed by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, explores the difficulty and trauma faced by one family as they race to California in a busted-ass VW bus for a children's beauty pageant, frighteningly titled *Little Miss Sunshine*.

I have to admit that the film's primary appeal for me was the amazing ensemble cast, featuring Toni Collette, Greg Kinnear, Alan Arkin, and particularly Steve Carell, as well a newcomer Paul Dano. But by the halfway mark of the film, it was youngster Abigail Breslin who sucked me into the deep abyss of dysfunction.

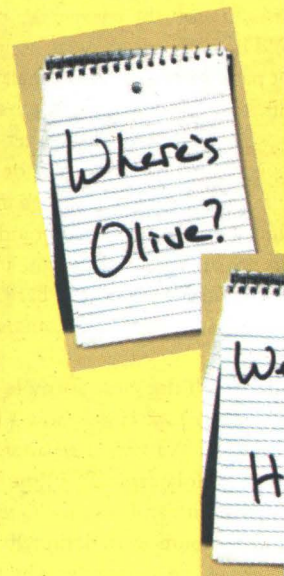
So what makes the Hoover family so dysfunctional? Well, Richard (Kinnear) is a maniac obsessed with his own failing motivational nine step program to success, and has no room for losers. His father (Arkin) is of an advanced age, and copes with his immense anger with unending profanity and a nasal addiction to heroine. Richard's wife Sheryl (Collette) is wracked with stress and seems as though she may have a coronary at any moment. Sheryl's brother Frank (Carell) is the number one pre-eminent Proust scholar in the United States, and has just slit his wrists after a gay love affair with one of his grad students goes sour. The Hoovers' 15 year old son Dwayne (Dano) hates his family, and has taken a strict vow of silence until he

escapes his suburban hellhole by joining the Air Force, and does nothing but read the newspaper to pass the time.

Seemingly, the only hope for the Hoover family is young Olive (Breslin), the cute and wonderfully enthusiastic candidate for the Little Miss Sunshine pageant. As the family careens toward implosion in Richard's death-on-wheels vee-dub van, Olive's fantastic, "golly-gee" performance keeps the viewer from wanting to break down and sob with the Hoovers.

It's not like Breslin is making up for poor performances from her more experienced colleagues, however. In fact, each of them does notably excellent work at stretching a relatively normal person's common sense and natural personal boundaries. Few films of the last several years have had the same ability to produce such empathy in their viewers. *Little Miss Sunshine*, but don't be confused: *Sunshine* isn't as much a tear-jerker as it is a riotous comedy. It's an example of the value of the strength of family bonds. While watching the film I never wished I'd been born into such a mentally unhinged family, but it did make me appreciate my own relationship with my family, and appreciate them just a little bit more.

Incidentally, if you're a parent of a child who looks a sure candidate for the beauty pageantry, by the end of the film, *Little Miss Sunshine* will definitely make you want your support for such an endeavour. Seriously.



# Red Hot Chili Peppers w/ Mars Volta, September 14 (GM Place)

Orange Hot Hailey McCarthy-Goode, OP Contributor

of the most interesting live musical acts joined together Thursday in a portrayal of where rock came from and where it is soon to go. The veterans of funk and roll, the Red Chili Peppers, delivered a sound performance while The Mars Volta, conversely, delved into their fresh new tracks with charisma.

With the new release of The Mars Volta's sophomore studio album *Amputechture* the set list was profound and varied. The set encompassed so much more than music, it seemed theatrical in a way. The band used their unique textures to join old songs with new songs by creating musical interludes to form a continual hybrid of fan and band favourites. The Volta, led by Cedric Bixler Zavala and Omar Rodriguez-Lopez, infused their show with charisma and an undeniable mix of technicality and originality which seemed to ooze from their instruments and their bodies. Cedric's stylized dancing, which includes convulsing, twirling, jumping, and humping, is now a coveted dance style which many new age rockers

have come to elaborate on in their own ways, as seen at many underground concerts.

If you were to look in the dictionary under the word "Freaky Style" you would see the faces of the four members of the Peppers. However, Thursday night was not their greatest display of the funk we all know can be inside them, or used to be at least. It's understandable that the Chilis have passed the pinnacle of their musical careers, with millions of fans, over ten albums and countless hit singles. With the abundance of practice over the years it was expected that they'd rock the socks off the sold out show at GM Place, but deliverance did not come. Their segment of Thursday night's show, however, did deliver an expertly designed light and image show which had reputedly never been seen in North America before that night.

Regardless, the sparks and magnetism just weren't there. John seemed extremely distant from Flea and their duets were few and far between. Stage chemistry between the four members seemed to be falling apart, every piece in their own little world. The band seemed somber, and their set list included many of their less-uppity hits, only lightly touching on their old funky days with "Me & My Friends" and "Give It Away."

The Peppers played a safe set of songs mainly from *By the Way* and their recent double disc *Stadium Arcadium*. Surprisingly, they played a track called "Don't Forget Me" which turned out to be absolutely epic. The highlight of the Peppers set was when John Frusciante melodically sang a miraculous cover of Simon & Garfunkle's "For Emily, Whenever I May Find Her." A tear-jerking and lighter-flicking number, no doubt worth burning your thumb for.

The Peppers exited the stage to fans screaming, clapping, and stomping for more, but soon could not avoid the call.

They encored with "Give It Away" (the funk element) and an absolutely phenomenal twenty minute jam session which welcomed Omar Rodriguez-Lopez to the stage. Unfortunately, this left Tony Kiedis (frontman of the Peppers) to stand idly and watch. Flea danced and played by himself. Frusciante and Rodriguez-Lopez were absolutely enthralled with each other and matched perfectly, but this showed the Mars Volta was still the spotlight of the night because they brought back the heavy weight charisma stealer, Rodriguez-Lopez, who finished the evening with a supersonic riff from his scarred guitar.



# The Dears - Gang of Losers (V2 Records)

Chelsea Mushaluk, OP Contributor



The fact that *Gang of Losers*, the title of the new Dears record, sounds like it could be a Morrissey song is no coincidence. In fact, once you get past the minute and a half of ambient noise that is "Sinthtro," the first track, the band launches right into a Morrissey-esque pop number. "Ticket to Immortality" is a great song, as is the next one, "Death or Life We Want You," but they're fairly indicative of what's in store for the other songs on the album. Gone is the grandeur of the previous record, strings are kept to a minimum, and singer Murray Lightburn's voice is far more harnessed here than it was on tracks like "22: The Death of All the Romance" from *No Cities Left*.

The Dears follow with the same formula on *Gang of Losers* as they had with *No Cities Left*. Here's how I know this: the first line of the review of *No Cities Left* by staffers at the illustrious Pitchfork reads "Holy crap: it's a time-traveling Britpop record from 1995!" And it's still true for *Gang of Losers*. The influences for the first album were definitely '80s and early '90s Britpop. This leaves me to wonder why they would still choose to bite Morrissey, Pulp, and Blur on the next record. Instead, *Gang of Losers* is more listenable, more poppy, and a lot more accessible than the first. "Hate Then Love" is a

straight-up pop song, and it's really good. So while their influences may be the same, they're just from different eras. If *No Cities Left* is like Morrissey's *Kill Uncle* [Editor's Note: Unlike *Kill Uncle*, however, *No Cities Left* is actually pretty good], then *Gang of Losers* is *Ringleader of the Tormentors*.

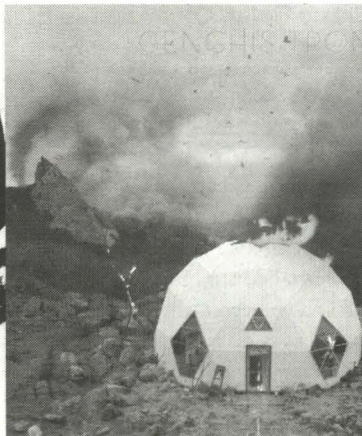
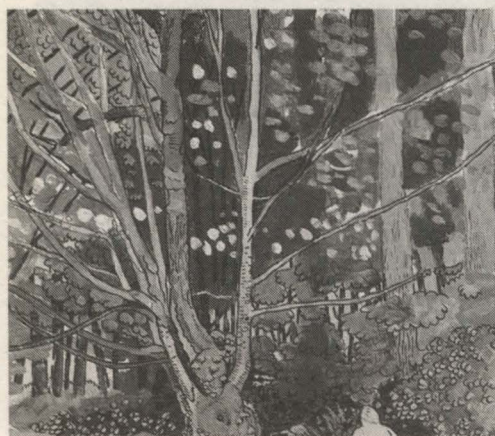
You'll have to excuse my Morrissey comparisons, there are others that could be made, but the similarities are just so striking. I do love the poppiness of the album; it harkens back to *Parklife* and really good Smiths. It didn't take too many listens to dig the new style of the Dears; if you like British pop and post-punk you'll like this record.

Oh, and as much as I don't want to ruin the surprise, there's a bonus track. It is aptly titled "Bonus Track," and doesn't stray too far from the Britpop formula that Murray Lightburn has tried to perfect with this record. The Ibi Kaslik quote inside the CD booklet tells us something about the lofty goals that Lightburn had for this record "And we need these songs, this album, too: if only to counter the world's indifference, and soothe the inner loser that thrives on all our worst fears." I don't know about countering the world's indifference, and maybe I am soothing my inner loser, but hey, this is just a good pop record.



# Stuff I've Been Listening To

Luke Simcoe, OP Trendsetter



**Downloaded:**

- Chad Van Gaalen – *Skelliconnection*
- Ratatat – *Classics*
- Be Your Own Pet – *Be Your Own Pet*

**Listened To:**

- Genghis Tron – *Dead Mountain Mouth*

**Chad Van Gaalen – Skelliconnection**

Rumour had it that Chad wanted to craft an album of “nothing but experimental piano compositions with drum machine accompaniment” as a follow up to 2004’s acclaimed *Infinibeart*. Instead, for reasons unknown to mere mortals (but perhaps at the request of SubPop), He simply returned to mine his monstrous cache of unreleased material and present us with an album that’s basically *Infinibeart* part deux. The album lacks the instantaneous hook and draw of “Clinically Dead,” but there’s plenty here for fans enamored with Chad’s eclectic arrangements, pretty voice, awkward, but successful attempts at rock songs, and lyrics like “nervous systems make me nervous.” In closing: ‘experimental piano...’ WTF?

**Ratatat – Classics**

We can’t be on every bandwagon before it comes to town, and admittedly I missed the first Ratatat wave that followed their self-titled debut and opening slot on Interpol’s first major tour. Anyways, Ratatat is back with *Classics*, another album of impeccably produced beats accompanied only by electric guitar. *Classics* suffers from the same lack of variety as their previous full-length, but when the boys wake up with a good hook, like the slide guitar ‘chorus’ and cougar howl sample of “Wildcat,” or the booty shaking bass line and frenetic licks of “Loud Pipes,” it sticks right to the inside of your brain and nails your ass to the dance floor.

**Be Your Own Pet – Be Your Own Pet**

I have two ways of introducing this album, and I can’t decide on which one to use, so I’m going to give you both of them. You can take the one you like and just forget the other one ever happened. Here goes...

You won’t ever catch me saying that Sonic Youth isn’t a great band, but for most of their

career they could take a dump on circular pieces of vinyl and it would be met with site critical acclaim from all the right places. So, I was skeptical when Thurston Moore

up to hock a bunch of bratty 17 year-old kids from Nashville called Be Your Own

Or...  
Poor Kathleen Hannah. Like Eddie Vedder before her, and Dylan and Neil Young, she has one of the most oft-imitated singing styles of the day. On the upside, Vedder, who witnessed the likes of Scott Stapp and the woeful Chad Kroeger ape sound, Hannah has seen the delightfully bratty sing-shout stylings that she brought and Bikini Kill inspire a generation of perky young girls to form some pretty good

Anyway, what both of those intros boil down to is that despite the hype and the mess, I like BYOP. The album is an urgent, sexy mess of sassy vox and fuzzy guitar over 15 tracks that take a mere 30 minutes to reach climax. Think The Yeah Yeahs imagine what life would be like if Karen O drowned her misery in sugar instead of because she wasn’t legal.

**Genghis Tron – Dead Mountain Mouth**

Genghis Khan was a Mongol warlord known for his cannibalism and savagery. *Tron* flick from the 80s, renowned for its cutting edge special effects. Genghis Tron combines grind-core, which I can imagine Khan listening to as he devoured the flesh of his with electronica, the basis for much of the *Tron* soundtrack, hence the name. I saw Pic recently, and it was like going on an incredible first date with someone who has but all equally cool, multiple personalities. Just as you got hooked into an ambient groove, you were snapped out of it by a grindcore spazz-attack, which just as quickly into a math-rock breakdown punctuated by occasional synth-pop bliss. The crowd whether to dance or violently mosh one another to death. Anyway, I’m probably off count, so although Genghis Tron may be a bit abrasive for some, I think they’re straight gates with something entirely original. And that, my friends, is far more refreshing blood of a thousand mighty foes!

Luke Simcoe is a senior marketing executive at Sony USA, and is presently completing work on an autobiographical novel entitled *Uncertain Death: The Kayaking Adventures of Ron Ho*



## How To Manage Your Workload

Brady Ehler, OP Features Editor

Many of you are new to college, and as such may not know what will be expected of you in terms of study habits and managing your workload. Odds are that if you had good study habits in high school, you will have good study habits in college. If you didn't have good study habits, you may have done fairly well regardless. Unfortunately, unlike in high school, it's a lot harder to get decent college marks without studying.

If you do have bad study habits, take heart, because it's never too late to develop good ones, even if you've been out of school for a few years. Just read on, and follow these simple instructions. There is no substitute for putting in the study time—and you will have to put in plenty, but there are some tactics you can use to lighten the load. Read on and I will attempt to enlighten with some advice and tricks of the trade.

As soon as possible, you should familiarize yourself with the prerequisites you will need to acquire your degree, or properly complete your first two years before going to university. You can do this by going online and figuring it out for yourself, (you can go to: [douglas.bc.ca/cal-hm/programsandcourses.html](http://douglas.bc.ca/cal-hm/programsandcourses.html) as a starting point) or you can make an appointment at the registrar's office, (or just walk in) and a staff member will show you what you need to know.

Knowing exactly what you need to take and how many electives you are permitted can be helpful for balancing your course load. If you are taking four courses for example, try to arrange your schedule for two hard courses and two courses that are easier, or require less homework. Think Arts or Social Sciences. Creative Writing 1101: Introduction to Writing Poetry is a good example of a course with a light homework load. First year Sociology courses require more homework, but are easy courses overall. Your trump card is Theatre 1110: Acting for the Stage Level I. This course requires virtually no homework and is easy as Sunday morning.

Perhaps for some reason, you cannot balance your course load, or perhaps college is a little frightening, and you don't want to rush into it full bore like a Viking berserker into battle. Remember, you don't *have* to take five courses right away. You can always start with less and see how well you manage your work load. You can also make up the credits by taking a class or two during the summer.

The most important thing is that you don't overburden yourself. Many students try to take on too much, too quickly and end up paying for it in the long run. Whatever you do, if you are taking a full course load, do not try and hold a job. Many teachers will tell their first year students about former students that have tried to balance five courses with a part time or even full time job, and boasted of their incredible fortitude only to crash and burn in a few weeks. Heed your teacher's advice. There are only so many hours in a day, and you can only forgo sleep in favor of homework for so long until you start hallucinating. If you try to work while taking a full course load, you will most likely either end up getting fired from your job, getting bad grades, dropping courses, or failing them.

If you *need* to work, while going to school, it is wise to take fewer courses. However, if you cannot take fewer courses, then you may want to consider taking night courses. Night classes start at 6:30 and end at 9:20, so they rarely conflict with most people's work schedules. Also, they only require you to attend one class per week. The classes are slightly longer, but you only have to go once a week! Not all courses are offered at night, but most of the popular ones are.

Remember, you have full control of creating a schedule that works for you. If you are not a morning person, you can usually get away with creating a schedule doesn't require you to come in until the early afternoon. If you are a night person, you can always load up with night classes. If you prefer to fill some days with courses to create more free days for you to focus on homework, you can do that too. Don't feel you need to start at 8:00 every day and space your courses out equally from Monday to Friday. Create a schedule that works for you. Granted, sometimes taking the courses you want to take can mess up your ideal schedule, especially in your first couple semesters, when you won't always have first pick, but you usually work out a reasonable compromise without too much effort.

Many new students have a tough time with their first few essays. I highly recommend taking English 1130: Academic Writing as soon as possible. This course will show you step-by-

step how to research and write a well-written essay. If you are confident in your writing skills, but are not so sure about your research technique, it's a good idea to go to the library and ask librarian to show you how to use the library resources.

If after a few weeks of classes, you are doing your best, but feel you aren't doing as well as you'd like to, then you may want to make an appointment at the Learning Centre. At the Learning Centre, you can schedule 50 minutes sessions with peer tutors that can help you with math, reading, writing, English, and study skills. Specialized tutoring of course concepts may or may not be available depending on the tutors available. Staff members at the Learning Centre are friendly and helpful, and the tutoring is free for Douglas college students, so don't hesitate to swing by if things are getting overbearing.

If you need help with a specific course that is outside the expertise of the available peer tutors, or if you feel you don't require tutoring, but need help with a course project, you can always get help directly from your teachers. Most teachers have set office hours, for which time students can schedule appointments, or simply drop in. The great advantage of going to a college is the availability of the professors. Most of them are easy to get a hold of, and are happy to help with your academic problems.

If you are having bad luck with your professors, or just want to find out which ones give the best grades, you can check them out before you sign up for their classes by going online and seeing what other students have to say at [www.ratemyprofessors.com](http://www.ratemyprofessors.com). This site can be useful, but take the ratings with a grain of salt. Sometimes the reviews are unfair or inaccurate. Commonly, students who don't study and get bad grades will give their professors bad ratings out of spite.

There are many things you can do to help you be successful in college. However, there is no substitute for studying. Try to set aside some time every day, (or at least weekdays) even if it's only for an hour. Even if you don't get much work done, it will get you into the habit of studying consistently. Take notes in class, and read your textbooks if you wish to do well. Take notes from your texts and combine them with your lecture notes if you wish to do better. It is important to set aside enough study time to get all of your work done; if you don't study regularly, you probably won't do very well on exams, no matter how much you try to cram in the 24 hours before the your test.

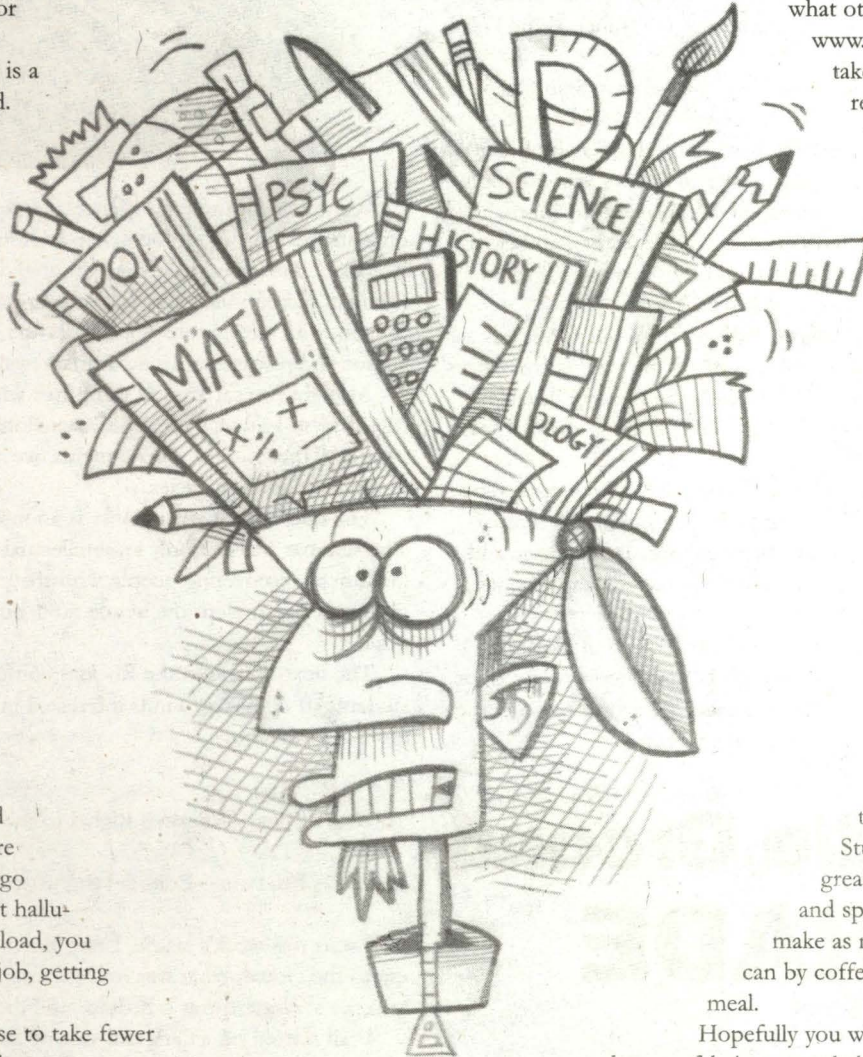
When studying, it's best to find a quiet place without distractions. If you don't want to study at home, there are several places in the college that fit the bill. If you go to the New West Campus, the bottom floor of the library is good, but the top level is better, vice versa in Coquitlam. The Student's lounge in the Student's Union Building is a great place to study with other people; it is usually quiet, and sparsely populated, but you and your study group can make as much noise as you want. There is also a store so you can buy coffee or snacks and a microwave so you can heat up a meal.

Hopefully you will never get to this point, but if you find yourself in danger of being overwhelmed, there is one last tactic that may help you. I call it the Resident Evil Technique. In the popular videogame, *Resident Evil*, the player controls a Special Forces agent that runs around solving puzzles and shooting zombies.

Sometimes, while playing *Resident Evil*, you will find yourself surrounded on all sides by flesh eating zombies. The zombies are approaching slowly, but there seems to be no end to the horde. If you lose your cool and freeze up, you will be eaten. If try to run, you will be eaten. If you aim poorly, you will be eaten. The only way to save your skin is to stay calm and shoot the nearest zombie until it dies, then shoot the next closest one until it dies, and so on.

The same principal applies to assignments; stay calm and focus on the next assignment due. When that is completed, move on to the next one, and so on. If you lose your cool and fall apart you won't get eaten by zombies, but you'll fall behind and start to lose marks—and it's a slippery slope!

Hopefully I haven't scared you. It's really not that hard to get by with decent grades, especially if you're organized. Really, by the end of you two years at college, you'll be a pro...until your first semester at university.



## Poland's in the Rockies

Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love my Identities

Kinia Adamczyk, The Link (Concordia University)

MONTREAL (CUP) This is my account of twelve intellectually stimulating days and eleven sleepless nights. The setting: Alberta's beautiful Rocky Mountains. The cast of characters: a Newsweek senior editor, a Globe and Mail journalist, art scholars and 33 students. Those twelve days were filled with history, literature, politics, and friendship. The theme: thinking about my identity as a first-generation Polish immigrant in North America.

The other students and I embarked on a journey to discover more about our common background at the second ever "Poland in the Rockies" conference. We shared not only an interest in "Polish things," but also questions about the complexity of identity.

"I found out that I am not alone," said Eric Bednarski, a 29-year-old documentary filmmaker from Nova Scotia, "[and] that there are many other people like me out there... born-again Poles with a dual Polish-Canadian identity—educated and assimilated Poles that still have a strong connection to Poland."

We held our breaths as we got a first-hand account of the '80s anti-communist movement in Poland from Adam Szostkiewicz, a journalist and political activist. This former political prisoner now writes freely for *Polityka*, something of a Polish version of Maclean's magazine. During solidarity times, it wasn't unusual to get shoved into a truck and to receive a good beating just for wearing the movement's pin.

Andrew Nagorski, a senior editor at *Newsweek* said, "If [a program] like this had been offered at the time when I was a student, I'm sure I would have jumped at the opportunity."

Between lectures, we sat on the grass in the shade, laughing at some of Nagorski's reporting anecdotes from around the world. He gained international fame after Soviet authorities expelled him from the country in 1982 for his "enterprising reporting." He launched the Polish edition of *Newsweek* in 2001.

We shared laughs, but also feelings of sorrow, as we looked back at the past. Stan Oziewicz, a journalist at the *Globe and Mail*, told us a story of his father, a Second World War bomber pilot. After fighting under the Allies, Mieczyslaw Oziewicz felt like hundreds of Poles betrayed by the Yalta Agreement, under which Poland's faith was handed over to Stalin's Soviet Union.

"It was particularly painful and bitter for people like my parents," explained the journalist, "who, while Hitler's forces were storming through Poland's western frontier in September of 1939, were later rounded up from their homes in eastern Poland and sent by rail boxcars to Stalin's slave-labour camps in northern Russia and Soviet Central Asia."

But it wasn't all sitting back, listening to stories. Sweat was dripping from our foreheads as we tackled the translation assignment proposed by Bill Johnston, one of the leading translators of Polish literature in North America. We discovered the challenges he faces every day as he tries to preserve the cultural references of the works he translates whilst keeping them accessible to English readers.

Learning more about Polish literature was one the most important parts of the conference to many of us. "The [day that featured a] focus on language and culture through the lens of Polish literature was a very interesting day of lectures for me, precisely because language and our definitions are so intricately tied with our identity," said Kasia Wisniewska, who recently graduated from English literature at McGill.

The romantic in me thrived as we watched the only colour pre-war footage of Poland in the short film, *Land of my Mother*, narrated by Eve Curie, the daughter of scientist Marie Curie. Through her bright red lips and French-salted English, Curie gracefully guided us through the still undestroyed monuments of Warsaw, Gdansk and Krakow, and others.



We watched in solemn silence as a participant of the program, Alexi Marchel, performed a dramatic reading about the inside a Gestapo Prison in 1942-44: "The Letters of Krystyna Wituska." This young woman, although condemned to death after being captured by German secret police, was full of life, warmth and optimism. "I am first a human being, only then a Pole," wrote Wituska in one of her letters, which were translated from Polish by author and researcher, Irene Tomaszewski.

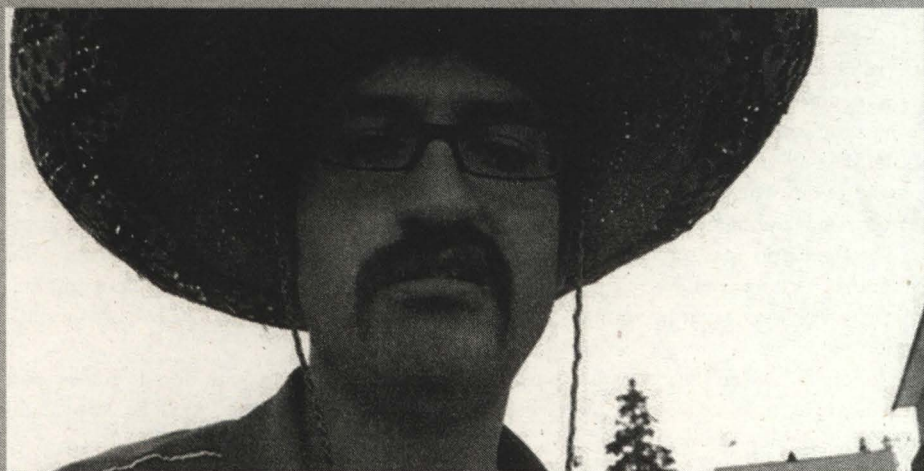
At night, we sat around campfires with the speakers, talking about the Kaczynski family (the current leaders of Poland), Jagiellonian University's beautiful library in Krakow, and the future of the country. Those nights, we also sang, danced, and filled the time laughing at our cultural idiosyncrasies.

The question of my identity is an internal battlefield I've been leading for the last few years. The seminar was not only an intellectual journey, but also an opportunity to accept my identity by discovering people who share similar experiences, interests, and a common ground. I barely slept the whole time, but who needs sleep when you're celebrating peace?

The next Poland in the Rockies conference will be held in the summer of 2008. If you are a student of all backgrounds interested in *Polish things*, visit [www.polandintherockies.com](http://www.polandintherockies.com) for more information.

## Seeking Middle Ground THE TRADE

Travis Paterson, Opinions Editor



To Brady Ehler—Editorial Rights to the Opinions Section of The Other Press

To Travis Paterson—Editorial Rights to the Features Section of The Other Press

As I start this week's article, I feel like the indie rocker at the end of a set, quietly talking to the crowd, "that was my last song, this is my encore, thanks a lot." Only two weeks into the semester print schedule and the line up at the Other Press has been shaken up.

It all started on a dark and stormy September night. Current OP editor Trevor Hargreaves, and previous editor Colin Miley, together, put their best feet forward by talking and spilling their thoughts in a musty Vancouver tavern. The resulting decision would forever change the lives of those involved. As a result, unleashed and free to roam the streets of New Westminster are the raw and inviting opinions of Brady Ehler, previously held back by the restrictive conventions that define the Features section.

As for me, this is my denouement. A mild mannered hockey-nut disguised as a writer, but, I will aim at the new and exciting features of Douglas College and the world, bring it to you every week, but in more depth, and with bigger pictures. In my time as Opinions Editor, I sought that which eludes us most in the daily fight—I sought the middle ground. As Features Editor, I will not relinquish my quest to seek the middle ground. Instead, I shall channel the excitement of new things into a balanced attack.

The best part is my own personal excitement about the change in positions. My first feature will focus on the World Hockey Association's newest league, the WHL West Hockey League, and their local affiliate, aptly titled the New Westminster WHL.

## CFL Players Fined for Temper Tantrums

Stephanie Smith, OP Sports Editor

After only one game in the CFL, Ian Allen already has to pay up. Allen, who made his Montreal Alouettes debut as offensive tackle Saturday against British Columbia, was fined, along with BC Lions linebacker Carl Kidd. The fines stem an incident en route to the dressing room after the game. Both players were allegedly fined \$300.00, although the CFL did not disclose the amount in its written release.

Allen was punched twice in the face by Kidd following Montreal's 36-20 loss. He sustained a cut lip. The Dressing rooms at BC Place are across the hall from one another, meaning that they players enter and exit from the same tunnel.

Early yesterday afternoon, following the Alouette's practice, Allen had yet to be notified by the CFL of his impending fine, and was sceptical that any fine would be issued at all. "For what? He punched me," said Allen.

This week Carl Kidd explained his side of the story to a Vancouver radio station. "He was running his mouth off the whole game." Kidd told the Team 1040. "Then he practically used a swim move to get to me after the game. I wasn't trying to start a fight. I was trying to defend myself."

Told of Kidd's comments, Allen sounded doubtful. "Wow. That's completely bogus," he said. "I don't know what to say. The game was over. 'Fuck you' he kept saying. The next thing I know, he punched me in the mouth. I never had a chance to retaliate."

Allen and Kidd were not the only CFLer's to be fined this week. Edmonton Eskimo linebacker A.J. Gass was fined for a kicking incident involving Hamilton Tiger Cat Brock Ralph. Gass claims that he regrets the incident, but goes on to say that Ralph better keep his head up the next time the two teams meet.

The incident began when Ticat quarterback Jason Maas took his time taking a knee to run out the clock. Usually quarterbacks are given a free ride from the defence as long as they take a knee right away. But Maas's failure to do so prompted Eskimo defensive lineman Adam Braidwood to flatten him on the next play. This prompted Ralph to try to take out Braidwood's knee, thus leading to Gass kicking Ralph while Ralph was on the ground after the game ended.

"We expected a fine and that's exactly what we got," head coach Maciocia said. In Hamilton, Ticats general manager Marcel Desjardins said he doubts there will be a repeat of last week's fireworks when the teams clash at Commonwealth Stadium. "I think (Gass's) reaction on the field was instantaneous and based on losing a game they felt they should've won," he said. "I know A.J. Gass has said some things since then, not maybe in a threatening manner but close to that. I'm sure the league is aware of it and will keep tabs on it."



## Yankees Clinch Ninth Straight AL East Title

Stephanie Smith OP Sports Editor

Last Wednesday night, about 30 minutes after losing 3-2 to the Blue Jays, the Yankees sat and watched the Twins finish off the Red Sox, 8-2, on the big-screen television in the visitor's clubhouse at the Rogers Centre. That was when the party began. Corks were popping and champagne and beer were flying through the air as the Yankee's celebrated the fact that they had just clinched their ninth straight American League East title.

"When the Twins got three runs in the top of the ninth, everybody grabbed a shirt and hat," said Mike Mussina, sporting a soaking-wet AL East championship T-shirt and backwards hat. "[Manager] Joe [Torre] gave his little toast to congratulate us on our accomplishment—then we had a little fun." "I just congratulated them, toasted them and told them how proud I was of them," Torre said. "It was simple."

The celebration looked the way any team celebration would, considering the outcome of the season. Strange though, considering the fact that the Yankee's have been in this situation for almost a decade straight. But each new year, each new season, brings new players who have yet to have a taste. Players like Bobby Abreu and Melky Cabrera. "This team always goes to the playoffs, so you always want to be part of this," Abreu said. "This is what it's all about; winning and celebrating."

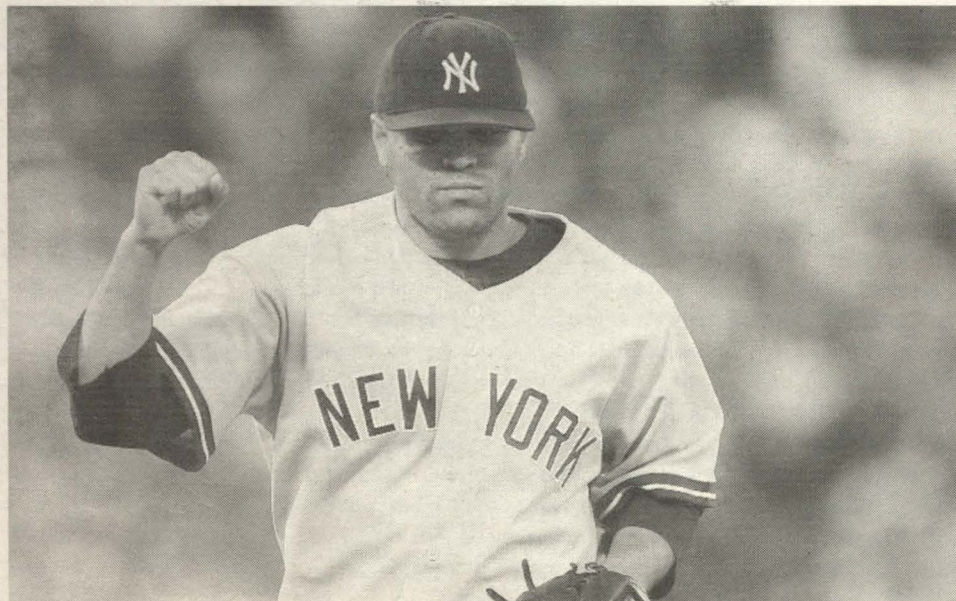
New York is now 92-60, holding on to their slim lead over Detroit for best record in the AL. The Yankees will likely take on the AL Wild Card in the Division Series, with the Twins and Tigers looking like potential opponents. During the final 2 innings of the Twins-Red Sox game, the Yankees were watching close. "We were also scouting the Twins now, too, so we were seeing what their pitchers were doing," said outfielder Johnny Damon. "They're on fire right now; they could be the hottest team going into the postseason."

Regardless of whom the Yankees play in the first week of October, their goal will be to advance further than they have in each of the past two years, when they were knocked out before the World Series. "We need to make this postseason a lot longer than it's been for us," Torre said. "This ballclub has a nice mix of youth and veterans, so hopefully we're poised to do something special. Whoever we have to face is going to be a battle for us, but we're certain-

ly ready to do it."

"There's so much togetherness here; we support each other, and I hope I can be a part of helping this team win a championship," Damon said. "I want to get a championship for Giambi, get a championship for A-Rod, get a championship for Donnie Mattingly and whoever else has never won one. There's a lot of work to be done."

"The Yankees' nine straight division titles now ranks as the longest active streak in the Majors. It just doesn't get old doing this, as many times as we have," Mussina said. "Hopefully we'll get to do it a few more times before the season is over."



## Royals Continue to Roll

Douglas College Athletics

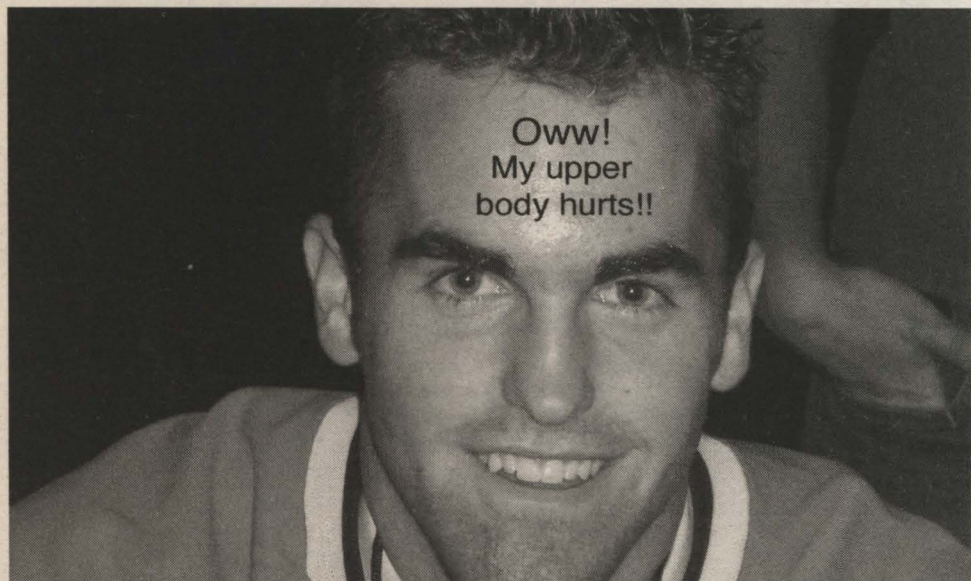
The Douglas College soccer teams continue to roll as they were victorious over the Kwantlen Eagles this past weekend. The women's team have started the season strong as they continue to impress with a 3-0 record and sit tied for first place in the league with last year's National Champions, Langara College. This weekend they took care of business by defeating the Eagles by a score of 4-0.

The men's team had to grind out a 3-2 win over the highly touted Kwantlen Eagles. Nearing twenty minutes into the game, Royals' defender Junaid Rasheed, was assessed with a red card forcing the Royals to play a man short for over 70 minutes. Falling behind early, the Royals rebounded behind last year's national tournament MVP, Casey Wilson, who scored the tying the goal on a free kick.

The goal was then followed up by returning midfielder, Andrew Bowler, who put the Royals up for awhile until the Eagles knotted the score once again at 2-2. With only five minutes remaining in regulation time, fourth year veteran Robby Toor, scored what was to be the game winning goal. "It was a character building win," said Head Coach Joe Ormerod. "The boys really had to dig in to get this win." Both Royals' teams return home this weekend in their home opener against the Okanagan Lakers on Saturday and TRU Wolfpack on Sunday.



Our soccer team is better than Kwantlen and Langara. In your face B\*\*CHES!



Oww!  
My upper  
body hurts!!

## Exhibition Games Begin... And So Do Injuries

Stephanie Smith, OP Sports Editor

To my great joy, hockey pre-season exhibition games started this week. For some teams it has been a way to test out new players, to test the endurance of prospects, to renew rivalries, to test out new line combos and for some just to get players back into game shape. However, sometimes things go wrong. Wednesday night the Pittsburgh Penguins faced the Philadelphia Flyers in pre-season action. The Penguins were set to debut star forward Evgeni Malkin, a player the hockey world has been clambering to see. However, this highly anticipated debut did not go as well as it was intended to.

The Russian centre suffered what is being called an "upper body injury" after a violent collision with team-mate John LeClair. Malkin had just finished making a pass to LeClair when LeClair missed a scoring chance and crashed into the boards behind the net, taking out Malkin. Malkin catapulted over LeClair and lay unconscious on the ice for 3-4 minutes. He was helped up off the ice when he regained consciousness and seemed to be favouring his left arm. He did not return to play the rest of the game.

"Malkin made a great pass but I caught an edge and lost my balance," explained LeClair, of the injury. "It's disappointing to see a rising star get hurt like that. Hopefully it won't be too serious." Penguins team-mate Sidney Crosby said, "It's never fun to see that happen, especially in his first game. Hopefully we'll get him back soon. He looked good out there, even on the play he got hurt. He looked real comfortable playing at this level."

## Douglas Sports Corner Calendar of Upcoming Games

### Men's Basketball:

Home game vs. Alumni. Game takes place in New Westminster Saturday Sept. 23 7:00pm.

Away game vs. WU Spartans. Game takes place in Langley Thursday Oct. 5 - 6:00pm.

Away game vs. UCFV Cascades. Game takes place in Abbotsford Friday Oct. 6 - 7:00pm.

### Women's Basketball:

Home game vs. UCFV Cascades. Game takes place in New Westminster Friday Sept. 29 4:00pm.

Home game vs. Alumni. Game takes place in New Westminster Saturday Sept. 30 5:00pm.

Away game. Capilano Tournament. Games take place in North Vancouver Friday - Sunday Oct. 6-8.

### Men's Soccer:

Home game vs. TRU Wolfpack. Game takes place in Coquitlam Sunday Sept. 24 2:00pm.

Away game vs. Langara Falcons. Game takes place in Burnaby Saturday Sept. 23 4:00pm.

Away game vs. Langara Falcons. Game takes place in Coquitlam Sunday Oct. 1 3:00pm.

### Women's Soccer:

Home game vs. TRU Wolfpack. Game takes place in Coquitlam Sunday Sept. 24 12:00pm.

Away game vs. Langara Falcons. Game takes place in Burnaby Saturday Sept. 23 4:00pm.

Away game vs. Langara Falcons. Game takes place in Burnaby Sunday Oct. 1 12:00pm.

### Men's Volleyball:

Jr. Boys Tournament. Home games take place in New Westminster Friday - Saturday Oct. 6 - 7

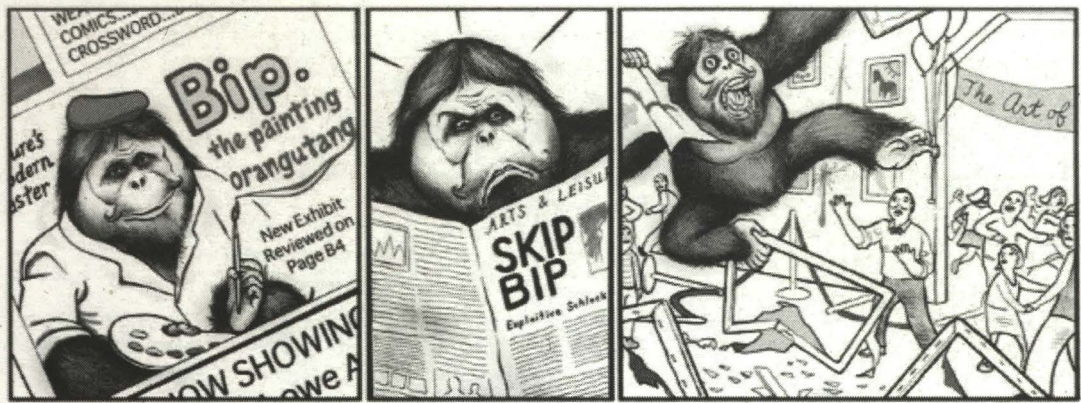
### Women's Volleyball:

Senior Girls Tournament. Away game vs. Coquitlam. Game takes place in Coquitlam Friday Sept. 29 and Saturday Sept. 30.

MacEwan Tournament. Away games take place in Edmonton Friday - Sunday Oct. 6 - 7



# COMICS



Major Studio Production by Vince Yin



<http://majorstudioproduction.blogspot.com>



# FUNNY PEOPLE WELCOME!

The Perry Bible Fellowship by Nicolas Gurewitch <http://pbfcomics.com/>

# Driftwood

Laura Kelsey, OP Contributor



Firm, streamlined features  
caught up in a swirling storm  
Branches fall  
Chemically induced nature system  
destroys nature  
and the broken nails  
in the middle of it all  
continue to catch on everything  
that they can  
Perhaps, they too are just attempti  
ground themselves  
The hail begins to pelt  
bodies that would soon welt  
All will not be calm this night  
Windows shivering  
with the fussing gusts  
of an angry wind that will not rele  
Rain gliding cars outside  
reminiscent  
of the ocean's waves  
that rolled across my ears  
as I drifted off  
amongst driftwood  
in a tent on the beach  
The storms had been subtle  
then  
Now, at full bore  
invading sleep  
that they welcomed  
before

This poem is from Laura Kelsey's  
"Passion before Perfection," which  
ordered from [www.laurakelsey.com](http://www.laurakelsey.com)



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# SEXY SEX WITH DR. SEX

Dr. Steven Sex & Dr. Marilyn Fairchild



Every week the OP's resident sex experts and happily divorced couple answer your questions. If you want to have a question answered by our sexperts, send an email to [dr.steven.sex@gmail.com](mailto:dr.steven.sex@gmail.com). You can keep your name confidential in fact, for legal reasons, we'd prefer it that way.

Dear Dr. Sex and Dr. Fairchild:

I'm a student, but my partner works, usually up to 12 hours a day. When he comes home at night, he's never in the mood. He always says he's too tired. It's not that I don't believe him; he's not very attractive, so I'm fairly sure he doesn't have a lover. Either way, we haven't had sex in four months, and I'm pulling my hair out! What should I do?

Susan Unsatisfied in Surrey.

Dr. Sex: Well you're certainly not the first person to complain about this kind of thing, Unsatisfied.

Dr. Fairchild: I'll say.

Dr. S: What I mean is that many couples these days are finding difficulty in making time for intimacy. His work must really be consuming him if he never makes it home to defrost the freezer before bed.

Dr. F: Especially if he has a secretary.

Dr. S: It's not his fault if his work colleagues pay more attention to him than his partner, Marilyn. After all, he's clearly the one bringing home all the money for those "therapeutic" spa visits over at Dr. Rothchild's clinic.

Dr. F: And maybe if her partner did more than the occasional "thrust-grunt-thrust-moan-smoke-sleep" routine, she wouldn't need attention from a specialist.

Dr. S: Rothchild is a proctologist, you wombat.

Dr. F: Maybe, but she certainly knows how to please a woman. Have you suggested he take some time off from work to go on a romantic vacation, like a ski trip to the mountains?

Dr. S: That only works if you actually bring him with you, butthead. It doesn't help much if you leave him at a gas station in Banff.

Dr. F: It couldn't have been that bad. After all, you did "banff" the girl behind the counter. By the way, has she graduated from, tee hee, hairdressing school yet?

Dr. S: Eat it Marilyn. See you next week.

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Vancouver Support group for stutterers. Every alternate Friday, 7-9pm. Room 4310, New West campus. For more info, contact Mary Rose Labandelo: 604.526.1735.

### Wanted

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AVID HALO 2 PLAYER. Need to have Halo2 game and XBOX Live. Please contact by email. Jamie Campbell. [Jamie.Campbell12345@hotmail.com](mailto:Jamie.Campbell12345@hotmail.com).

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