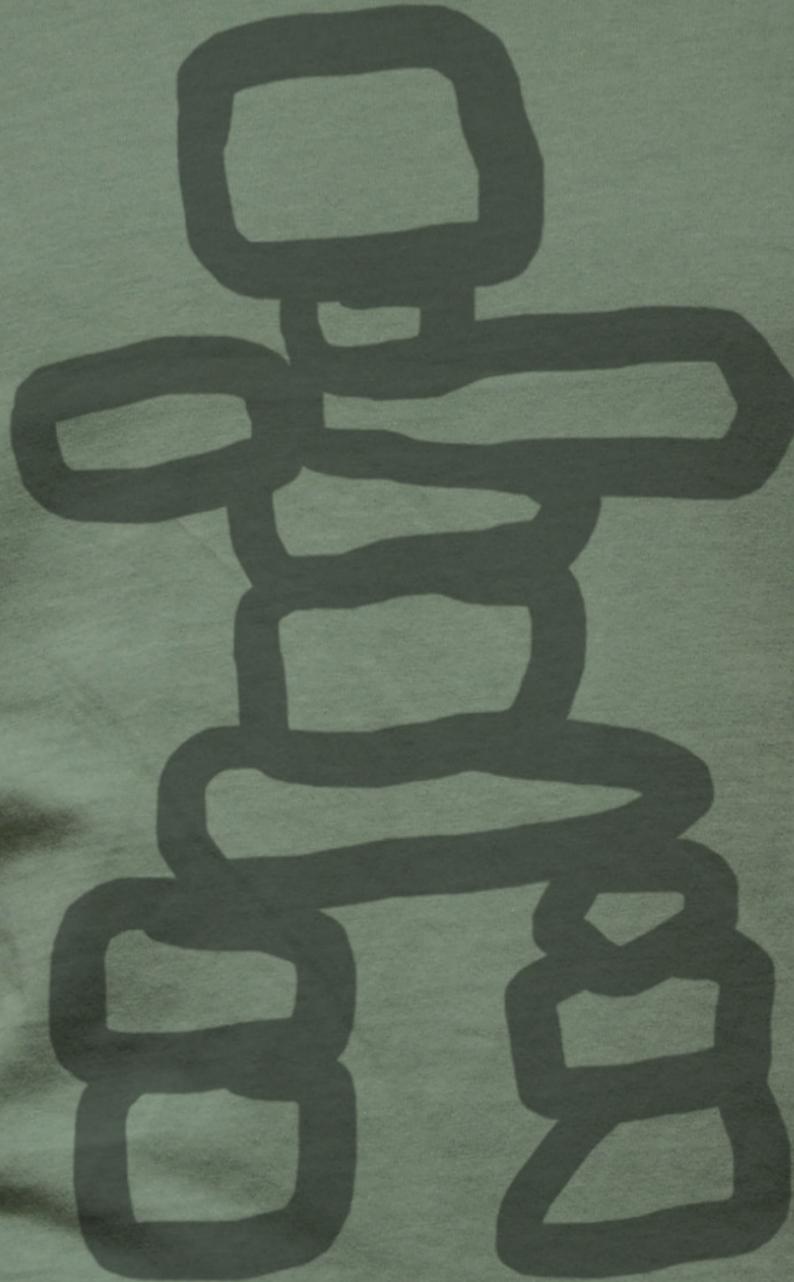


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# THE PEAK

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY



## Culture for Sale

Discussing the commodification of  
Aboriginal heritage



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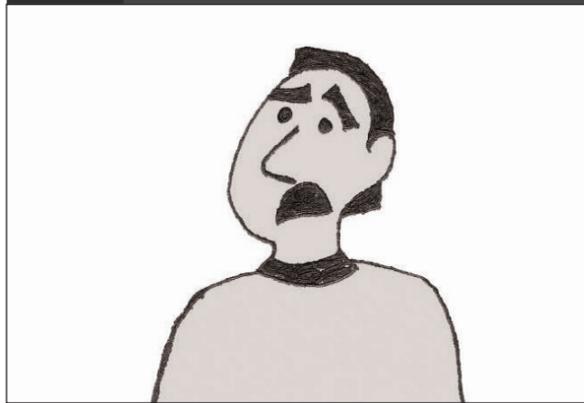
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New Peak Podcast



# THE PEAK

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8888 University Drive  
Burnaby, B.C., Canada V5A 1S6

Peak office is located on the second floor of the Maggie Benston Centre, underneath Higher Grounds coffee shop.

Come write for *The Peak*! Find out more at our collective meetings, Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. in MBC 2900.

### WWW.THE-PEAK.CA

### HOW THE PEAK WORKS

*The Peak* is the official student newspaper of Simon Fraser University and is published every Monday. *The Peak* is a registered non-profit society under the Society Act of British Columbia and is funded by a student levy and governed by a board of directors. Editors are elected on week 10 of each semester to hold a position for the following semester. Any SFU student can run for an editorial position. Eligible voters are anyone who appears in the masthead for two of the preceding thirteen issues. Notice of the time and place of the election will be posted in the ETC section of *The Peak* in advance.

### SUBMISSIONS POLICY

*The Peak's* editors reserve the right to edit all submissions for length, as well as stylistic, grammatical, and legal guidelines. *The Peak* also reserves the right to reprint submissions at any time, in both written and electronic formats. All articles published in *The Peak* will be published online at [www.the-peak.ca](http://www.the-peak.ca). *The Peak* will not publish content that is sexist, racist, or otherwise hateful or prejudiced.

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Off-campus subscriptions to *The Peak* are available for \$56 per year. Requests should be addressed to *The Peak's* business manager.

*The Peak* is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a national organization of Canadian student newspapers.

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CANADIAN  
COMMUNITY  
NEWSPAPER  
AWARD 2013

SFU POLITICS

# Forum a better choice for SFU politics

More students reached, more problems solved

**Kyle Acierno**  
SFU Student

I was on the board for two years and would like to add my two cents about what Moe needs to know. But before starting, I will give some background on the SFSS. The board is composed of the president and five executives, eight faculty representatives, and two at-large representatives (at-large means they can do anything or nothing).

The structure and working hours allotted to the board means the president and the executives spend a lot of time together. Either they love each other and are able to conspire and carry out plans behind closed doors (like the past couple years) or they do not get along and do nothing but spend their days bickering and backstabbing.

Faculty representatives work half the time and are generally half as informed. They each get one vote even though the Arts rep has 10,000 students in his or her faculty and the Health Sciences rep has less than 700. Until recently, there were no faculty student unions and the only methods to represent faculty constituents were to attend

a plethora of department student union meetings all over the university, send out mass emails that are usually deleted with a passion, or go to the pub every night and exchange words with other patrons. With all this running around, faculty reps get left out of the everyday politics of the SFSS, meaning the president and executives wield an extreme amount of power.

## Faculty reps get left out, meaning the president and executives wield extreme power.

The fact is that the board answers to no one. Although students, members of Forum, the rotunda groups, and even staff are welcomed to participate in the SFSS committees, it is very easy for students' wishes to fall on deaf ears.

This is not just due to poor postings of meeting times and places, but also because whether a recommendation comes from Forum (which is composed of all department student unions and constituency groups) or from one of the many SFSS committees, it is just a recommendation. There are absolutely no checks and

balances. This explains why the board could lock out the union, construct a student union building levy, and place a former board member and founder of Build SFU in a \$60,000/year position with little to no student input.

So the problem is obvious — the board is accountable to no one except themselves. I have a simple solution that will involve more students, institute a more democratic system, and help solve many of the problems plaguing student politics at SFU.

Give the power back to the students by empowering Forum! Forum is the only truly representative student body at our university, and the board should be accountable to the students elected to serve its chambers. This would involve a three-step process: first, establish Forum as the ultimate decision making body. Second, ensure every member of Forum is involved in at least one committee. Third, eliminate faculty representatives and redistribute their earnings to the members of Forum or remove the stipends all together.

This form of student government is not just employed at more mature universities like UBC, McGill, and Queens University, but used to be the way the SFSS was governed. So Moe, if you are looking for more ways to get students involved and improve the student experience at SFU, here is your answer. **P**

### Web Comment of the Week

#### Jessica Martin on "Prevalence of abortion undermines a mother's rights"

Birth is never 100% safe. A prolapsed uterus can cause you to bleed to death. You may require a episiotomy (being cut open from vagina to anus). And even if you survive, there are no guarantees that you will not experience complications later on.

Modern medicine, with its medical interventions (and more prenatal vitamins than we can shake a stick at) gives us some illusion of safety, but the fact is, pregnancy takes its toll on overall health no matter what, particularly for people with other medical conditions. All the medical care in the world does not erase this risk.

Yes, indeed, how privileged can you get, that none of this is real to you? How delusional can you be, to believe restrictions on abortions will not have deadly consequences for women?

Mothers' rights were never undermined in the story above, the doctor could not force your friend to have an abortion. Conversely, women should not be forced to give birth.

### txt msgs + tweets

Send your short TXT MSGS to (604) 862-8050, email [production@the-peak.ca](mailto:production@the-peak.ca), or tweet @peakSFU. Entries include public tweets about SFU.

\*\*Please include TXT in the email subject line. The Peak will not print submissions considered to be sexist, racist, homophobic, or attacks of a personal nature.

» @nathanlobo\_: Is there a Starbucks on burnaby campus yet?

» @zedshan21: Burnaby Sfu seems like it should be a map on halo. #prisonmappack

» @addelica: Finally got some sort of graduation confirmation email and I feel like a million bucks #SFU

» @firstkisses: My prof is great: "Count the syllables in this line. Congratulations,

you've all fulfilled your quantitative requirement at SFU!"

» @Anteela9 May: Think I'm the only person on #sfu campus not trying to avoid the bears. #sorta #butnotreally

### PEAK SPEAK

## Q: Are you involved in any clubs on campus?

P.09

"I'm involved in Lonely Club. The first rule of Lonely Club is to never love anyone."

**Ben Temple**  
3rd year political science



"I'm heavily involved in clubs. I started with the Student Marketing Association and then moved onto the Intercollegiate Marketing Competition. And my last gig was with the Human Resources Student Association."

**Mike Wong**  
4th year communication



"I'm involved in Residence Orientation and a bunch of clubs."

**Kiri Donesley**  
4th year criminology



"Yes, I've just finished my co-op term working for Career Services. And I've also been working for Entrepreneurial Hub at SFU, and gotten really involved. So co-op has really submerged me into involvement at SFU."

**Sage Testini**  
4th year communication



"I have never really been to this campus until Wednesday. So no."

**Sydney Paddon**  
3rd year visual arts



## GOING NATIVE

# Symposium discussed commodification of native culture

IPinCH discussed issues of Aboriginal exploitation and ownership



**Leah Bjornson**  
Peak Associate

In Canada, because of its people's multicultural nature, it often becomes second nature to borrow from other societies when creating an idea of what it is to be Canadian. Nevertheless, this "borrowing" may become problematic when significant economic advantages are at play or when harm is caused to another society.

This topic was discussed by international scholars at the Intellectual Property Issues in Cultural Heritage: Theory, Practice, Policy (IPinCH) symposium on "Cultural Commodification, Indigenous Peoples & Self-Determination," held at UBC during the first week of May.

Directed by SFU professor of archaeology George Nicholas, IPinCH is composed of a team of 50 scholars and 25 partnering organizations that is working "to explore and facilitate fair and equitable exchanges of knowledge relating to archaeology."

The issue at hand is that of commodification of indigenous culture, and is one that tends to hide in broad daylight. In the hundreds of tourist shops that line downtown Vancouver and elsewhere, one can easily find native artwork such as Inukshuks and indigenous designs. The problem arises when one attempts to discern who these designs should be attributed to, and whether the individual or the larger native community is responsible for deciding if they can or cannot be used.

The symposium was the most recent of IPinCH initiatives, such initiative has been held for over five years. They have covered topics such as cultural resources and intellectual properties of indigenous peoples, as well as vulnerabilities and exclusion in globalization, and have taken place in cities as remote as Hokkaido, Japan. Nicholas spoke with *The Peak* on the importance of addressing



The symposium explored the appropriation of aboriginal culture and symbols into widely available goods.

Vaikunthe Banerjee / THE PEAK

these issues of commodification of indigenous heritage.

"One of the great challenges that the consumers face is, you go into any gift shop, any airport, any gallery, and you want to find a gift for someone which has a northwest design on it . . . [but] it's very hard for the consumer to make choices or even know where things come from. One indication is a tag with the artist's name, but that company who purchased the right to make that design could be producing them in China."

**"The thought is that the native peoples are going extinct, and therefore it's ok to use these images."**

George Nicholas,  
IPinCH project director

A recent example of commodification of indigenous heritage was at the 2010 Olympics, when Canada chose to use the

Inukshuk as its logo. When the 2010 committee was looking for a logo, they received permission to use the Inukshuk from several Inuit communities, but not all Inuit groups agreed. The question becomes one of who has the rights to give permission to a symbol, and is further complicated by the fact that a symbol can be general to a broad culture, making it difficult to know which — if any — community can make decisions for an entire culture.

Aside from economic rights, use of indigenous images can cause other kinds of harm that Western minds may not consider. "One of the dangers with all of this is that these [Inukshuks] were originally limited to the Arctic and they had significant meaning for the native people," explained Nicholas. "Now you go into a gift shops and see hundreds of them, and as a result of this mass production they have lost their meaning."

"The thought is that the native peoples are going extinct, and therefore it's ok to use these

images," Nicholas continued. "But in actual fact, these people are vibrant and very alive cultures . . . These are not just images, but these [cultures'] spiritual beings may be actually embedded in the designs according to native people. That can be very inappropriate spiritually."

Nevertheless, not all commodification is harmful. Some groups do want to share their culture, but do so by working with museums to present the stories they want to be told on their behalf, not by allowing companies to use their traditional images.

In an attempt to give native communities more of a say in how their designs are used, IPinCH is assisting in the development of traditional licensing. First presented in the IPinCH public session by Kim Christen of Washington State University, traditional licensing provides a series of labels (creative comments) to a product, which stipulates how a product can be used, for example if it is for educational or commercial purposes.

Although this licensing is a step in the right direction, copyright, trademark and patents have been very ineffective in dealing with the use of heritage images. According to Nicholas, such policies "are based on western models of individual creativity, not in terms of communal ownership of ideas. These are meant to prevent economic harm, whereas for indigenous societies this is not only an economic value, but also a cultural and spiritual values, and so there are more harms, spiritual and cultural, that can happen when it is used in a commercial way."

It is all the more important to educate the public about the harms of using intellectual property without permission. On the IPinCH site, visitors can find a series of educational opportunities which include booklets and other materials for teachers, YouTube and educational videos, and podcasts.

"We're not about curtailing the flow of knowledge," said Nicholas. "We're simply about making the flow more equitable and fair." P

## ENGAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT

# SFU announces Community Engagement Centre in Surrey



The proposed Community Engagement Centre will be located on the fourth floor of the Surrey City Centre Library.

Province of British Columbia / Flickr

TD Bank Group donated \$750,000 towards the creation of the centre

**Leah Bjornson**  
Peak Associate

There was cause for celebration on May 3rd when TD Bank Group announced that it was donating \$750,000 to SFU Surrey's proposed "community engagement centre," to be located at Surrey City Centre Library.

At the centre's unveiling, SFU President Andrew Petter expressed hope that the centre would, "enable the university to strengthen its connections with Surrey's ethnically diverse and growing population. The centre will connect children, adults and local organizations with SFU students, faculty and staff in meaningful ways that will enhance the quality of life for residents of the community."

The new home of the SFU Community Engagement Centre will be found on the fourth floor of the Surrey library, and will be a place where new Canadians can participate in workshops and courses aimed at inspiring these citizens to pursue post-secondary education with SFU.

The centre will also provide SFU students and staff with opportunities to become involved with their community through programs like Friends of Simon Fraser, which according to their website, "recruits, prepares, and assigns university students as literacy tutors in the Lower Mainland, particularly with [newly immigrated] K-12 students."

The creation of the centre falls within SFU's Community Engagement Strategy released at the end of last year on December 29, 2012. The document outlines the university's strategy to become "Canada's most community-engaged research university" over the next three years. To assist in the pursuit

of this goal, the Strategy proposes certain objectives, such as integrating community engagement in its academic and research goals and plans.

Installing the program at Surrey Campus additionally served the plan by "maximiz[ing] the capacities of [SFU's] three campuses to enhance the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities locally and globally," but the choice of campus means more than just an even distribution of SFU services.

In 2006, there were 150,190 immigrants living in Surrey. New immigrants comprise 19.4 per cent of Surrey's total immigrant population, edging out Metro Vancouver's rate of 18.2 per cent. These numbers become more significant when paired with the statistic that the immigrant population in Surrey has increased by 67 per cent between 1996 and 2006. BC's overall immigration rate pales in comparison, increasing by a relatively

meager 23.9 per cent. Because immigrants are the target demographic of the Centre's services, it makes sense that the program would be initiated on the campus most closely located to those immigrant populations.

**"The centre will connect children, adults and local organizations with SFU students, faculty and staff in meaningful ways."**

Andrew Petter,  
SFU President

SFU's Community Engagement Centre was made possible by the large donation from TD Bank Group. The project was unveiled on the morning of May 3rd at the proposed site for the project, Surrey City Centre Library, at 10am. At the event, Frank McKenna, Deputy Chair at TD Bank Group, spoke to the importance

of community involvement for the corporation.

"We are proud to open this new centre in Surrey, one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in Canada," said McKenna. "At TD, it's important to us to give back to organizations that make a difference in the communities where our employees live and work." Over the past five years alone, TD's corporate donations to various causes have exceeded \$300 million.

For SFU students, the centre creates another chance to become involved in the community. Brittany Burrill, a tutor with Friends of Simon — which will have home in the new centre — was quoted in Surrey NOW last week expressing her enthusiasm for the new space: "Through working as a tutor with Friends of Simon, I know the value of being involved with the community. I was able to build beyond textbook knowledge and what was required in my classes in order to experience helping real students." **P**

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## RESEARCH NEWS

## International research team links gene to cancer susceptibility

Study identifies those with gene variant as more at risk for breast and ovarian cancer



**Kristina Charania**  
Peak Associate

Dr. Angela Brooks-Wilson, SFU biomedical physiology and kinesiology associate professor, is one scientist among 448 others who have collaborated on an international study linking variations in a particular gene to increased susceptibility to breast and ovarian cancers.

"This paper is a huge success in terms of international cooperation. That's what's really remarkable about this research," says Brooks-Wilson, who is also head of a cancer genetics laboratory at Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre.

Published online in the journal *Nature Genetics*, the group's work is comprised of 140 smaller studies conducted globally as part of the Collaborative Oncological Gene-Environment Study (COGS) consortium. Each study looks at genes, the differences in gene sequences between individuals, and the effects its diversity has on a disease of choice.

Brooks-Wilson acted as the genetic investigator for a small research group of epidemiologists and biostatisticians conducting OVAL BC (Ovarian Cancer in Alberta and British Columbia Study), one of the many studies examining the link between ovarian cancer and several genetic and environmental variables.

"Several groups in COGS were interested in the TERT gene," said Brooks-Wilson. "Several groups chose genetic markers in that gene. When that happened, the agreement was that researchers would share the analysis with each other, and the writing of this paper."

The TERT gene encodes an

enzyme called telomerase reverse transcriptase, a molecular helper that is essential to the formation of telomeres, the DNA repeat sequences that cap the ends of chromosomes and protect them as cells replicate.

"Telomeres are like molecular clocks for cells, because each time a cell divides, they'll shorten a little bit. When you examine the telomeres of older people, they are shorter than those of younger people," says Brooks-Wilson. "When your telomeres become too short and the cell works properly, the cell is supposed to go into a senescent state where it won't divide anymore but still do its cellular job to some extent. If senescence fails to happen, you will encounter problems like cancer."

Because up to 80 per cent of telomere length is genetically determined, analyzing the independent variants in the TERT gene is essential to understanding the science behind hereditary increases and decreases in cancer susceptibility and forecasting

who is more likely to be afflicted.

To examine if differences in TERT loci affected cancer predisposition, the COGS collaboration evaluated 104,000 women in breast cancer studies, 40,000 women in the ovarian cancer studies, and 12,000 people carrying BRCA mutations that cause hereditary breast cancer.

### The global study evaluated 104,000 women in breast cancer studies and 40,000 women in ovarian cancer studies.

In the breast cancer groups, susceptibility to the disease was sampled from the general population having these cancers and a special set of women who were carriers of known BRCA mutations.

"In some circumstances and particularly with these types of

studies, you really have to pool together with the community," says Brooks-Wilson. "Think about all of the background checking and past research needed in order to characterize women who are BRCA mutant carriers. It's a lot of work, and you need really high numbers of cases and controls to examine factors that are this small."

The results found an approximate cancer risk increase of 10 per cent with a handful of TERT variants. Although this is only a small difference from the general population, the group's numbers are conclusive thanks to their large sample numbers.

"When people band together, they gather results that are far more conclusive than they would be if you had conducted experiments alone," says Brooks-Wilson. "It would be so confusing if you had our 52 breast cancer studies produce 52 small, inconclusive papers. With large-scale studies, you get much more convincing data that is more definite and trustworthy than it would be in smaller studies." P

## UNIVERSITY BRIEFS

#### SFU researchers receive new grants

Teams led by Simon Fraser University researchers Fiona Brinkman and Cenk Sahinalp will use Genome Canada grants in order to create tools to analyze the DNA of cancer patients. The funds stem from Genome Canada's 2012 Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Competition, which distributed money to 17 projects across Canada. Alongside the Public Health Agency of Canada and BC Public Health Microbiology and Reference Lab, Brinkman's team will work on new ways for health investigators to use and share genomics information. Sahinalp's team will use a method called compressed sensing/sparse recovery to investigate the role of alternative splicing in cancer and will work with the Vancouver Prostate Centre.

*With files from SFU PAMR*

#### BC government offers ideas for universities to save money

To combat the recent \$46 million funding cut to post-secondary education the BC government has created the Post Secondary Administrative Service Delivery Project. It outlines ways that British Columbia's numerous universities can cut costs, including combining things such as information technology, purchasing, and libraries. The main idea is that more favourable rates can be achieved if multiple universities are combined in one contract. The project is similar to BC Campus which creates products like ApplyBC which helps streamline the university application process.

*With files from The Ubyssy*

#### U of A eco-car held up at American border

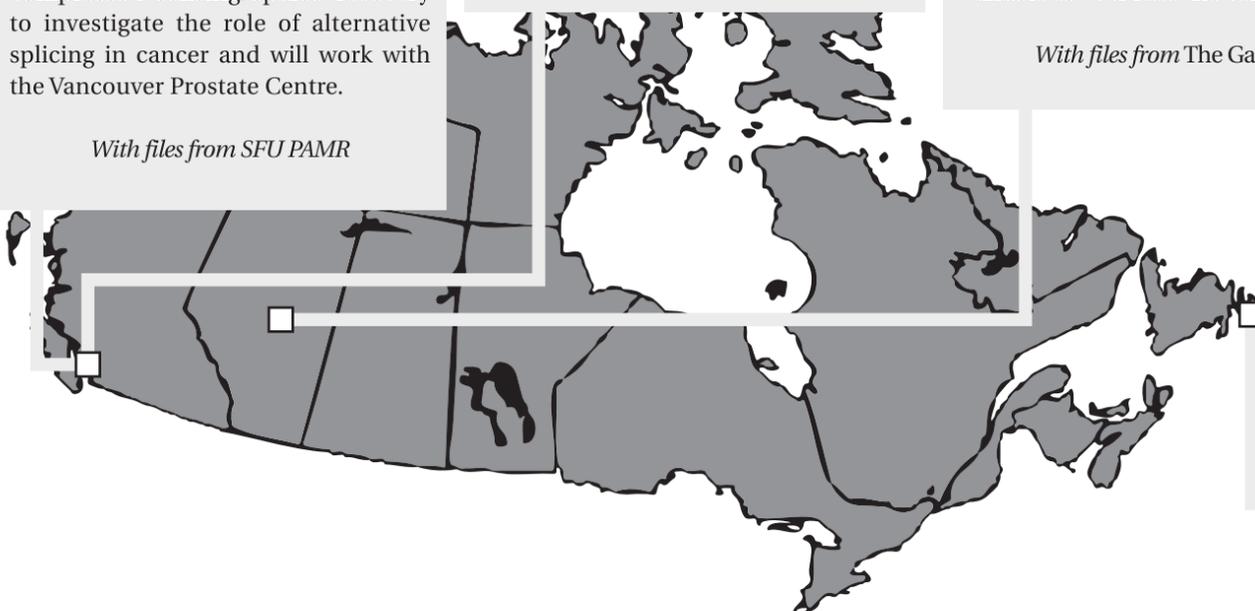
A University of Alberta team hoping to compete in the Shell Eco-Marathon competition had their dreams dashed as the car was not able to make it through customs. According to the team, Affiliated Custom Broker Ltd. (the company they chose to get the car into the US) was unaware of some of the rules around importing vehicles. The main issue overlooked was that the package did not have EPA approval, which is required 30 days prior to shipping. Six of the 11 team members will be graduating this year meaning that they will be unable to ever race the vehicle.

*With files from The Gateway*

#### Tuition freeze to remain for students in Newfoundland

The provincial government of Newfoundland and Labrador has, in their new budget, decided to maintain the tuition freeze for students at the Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) and the College of the North Atlantic. This decision is largely a result of both MUN's Student Union and the Newfoundland and Labrador branch of the Canadian Federation of Students lobbying to keep the freeze in place. In addition, Joan Shea, the Provincial Minister of Advanced Education, also sees affordable post-secondary education as a priority for the government.

*With files from The Muse*



By Graham Cook

DOWN THE PIPELINE

# SFU study criticizes Enbridge's risk assessment for Northern Gateway Project

Tom Gunton says the risk of oil spills is much greater than Enbridge has predicted



**Alison Roach**  
News Editor

A recent study published by Dr. Tom Gunton, director of SFU's School of Resource and Environmental Management, projects that the number of tanker and pipeline oil spills for the Northern Gateway Pipeline project will be much higher than Enbridge's own estimates.

The report, which was released May 2, concludes that the chance of a marine tanker spill over the 30 to 50 year life of the project is between 93 and 99 per cent. The \$6.5 billion project plans to put a pipeline through northern BC and a marine terminal in Kitimat.

Aside from marine tanker spills, the study also found that the number of pipeline spills along the 1,160 kilometer pipeline would be up to 15 pipeline spills per year, while Enbridge estimated only one spill every two years.

Using Enbridge's collected data of pipeline spills from 2002 to 2010, Gunton claims there are 28 deficiencies in Enbridge's risk assessment model, leading the corporation to underreport the number of tanker incidents by between 38 and 96 per cent.

"The data set on which they relied on is known to underreport the number of accidents and incidents, and they made no correction for that," said Gunton.

After pinpointing these 28 deficiencies, Gunton then tried to address them by using alternative methodologies, namely the US Oil Spill Risk Model — the standard model used by the US government to assess oil projects. Enbridge has stated they did not use the US assessment model because it doesn't take technical advancements that mitigate risk into account.

"We used that model to

estimate marine oil spill risk, and based on that, the model shows that there is a 95 to 99 per cent chance of a tanker oil spill from the Northern Gateway Project, over the operating life of the project," explained Gunton. Enbridge has forecasted one tanker spill every 250 years, while Gunton using the US model has forecasted a tanker spill every 7 to 17 years.

The current cost estimate of a major oil spill is between \$5 to \$22 billion. There is also a cap of \$1.2 billion on compensation that's provided under various programs, meaning that in the case of a major oil spill, the majority of the cost of clean-up and damages would be borne by government and the impacted parties.

## Gunton's study found that the pipeline would have up to 15 spills per year. Enbridge has estimated one spill every two years.

Enbridge has declined to accept liability for damages caused by tankers spills and pipeline spills, another issue that concerns Gunton. "People keep asking the question: 'Well if Enbridge is so convinced that there's no risk, then why are they unwilling to accept the cost of the damages?'"

In the case of a recent Enbridge pipeline spill in Michigan, the damage costs will exceed a billion dollars. A tanker spill would have much more impact than a pipeline spill.

Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines has since responded to Gunton's study on their website, with a post entitled, "Flawed study, flawed conclusions." The main concern pointed out about the study is that the information contained in the report was not presented during the Northern Gateway Joint Review Panel (JRP) process, a process that puts potentially environmentally hazardous projects under public process where the panel members receive and consider all the information on record.

However, Gunton says this claim is inaccurate. "We did actually submit much of this evidence to the hearing process over a year and a half ago. It was subject to cross-examination, and Enbridge raised no concerns about this evidence at that time," said Gunton. He has acted as a witness for the Coastal First Nations organization during the JRP process.

The evidence in the report was updated based on more recently released information, and Gunton stated that it was released as soon as it was completed. This new information will not be admitted to the JRP process, as all evidence was required to be submitted a year and a half ago.

"The JRP is going to be forced to make a decision on this project based on inadequate scientific information on the risk of oil spills," said Gunton. He also pointed to problems within the Canadian regulatory system for projects such as this as well as this problem in the JRP process for allowing this sort of discrepancy of scientific analysis.

In Canada, the risk assessment for a project such as the Northern Gateway Project is done by the project proponent, in this case, Enbridge. "In the United States this would have been done by independent scientists, who don't have a potential conflict of interest in promoting the project," said Gunton. "That's certainly what we need in Canada."

John Carruthers, president of Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines, has publicly dismissed Gunton's report, saying that it does not take into account new technologies, and that bodies such as Environment Canada, Transport Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, and the Department of Fisheries have all reviewed and accepted the Enbridge methodology, according to *The Vancouver Sun*.

Gunton countered, "The problem is there is no accepted methodology in Canada like the United States. This is the first major project that we've looked at that involves major tanker traffic." P

Enbridge says . . .*	Gunton says . . .
"The spill probability numbers are inflated: the author uses oil throughput volumes that are nearly 40 per cent higher than those applied for in this project which also inflates the number of tanker transits using these inflated volumes."	"We actually used the volume numbers they applied for, provided to us by Enbridge. We do a sensitivity analysis with higher volume numbers, which are that numbers that Enbridge says are the designed capacity of the pipeline. We do the sensitivity analysis with higher numbers, but the basic analysis is using the numbers provided by Enbridge."
"The pipeline failure frequency methodology adopted by Mr. Gunton is flawed, and does not approximate what would be deemed a best practices approach to the scientific risk analysis of a modern pipeline system."	"The US Oil Spill Risk Model was just recently updated and incorporates impact of mitigation measures such as double-hulled tankers and uses of tugs in high risk areas."
"Mr. Gunton based his failure frequency analysis on a small subset of historical failure incident data. Why would he limit the source of his data to two pipelines with incidents not reflective of the industry experience and not reflective of the new technology proposed for Northern Gateway?"	"The pipeline statistics we used are based on Enbridge's pipeline system, which Enbridge says does exhibit best practices, in management best safety practices. It is a relatively new, and what we're using is Enbridge's actual performance over the last 10 years, and we've seen no improvement. We see no reduction of risk over that period in Enbridge's own statistics."
"We question why Mr. Gunton chose to exclude this report from the JRP process when he has had ample opportunity to submit evidence through his longstanding relationship with registered intervenors Coastal First Nations. He could have also tested our risk assessment evidence through this lengthy, rigorous and transparent process, however, both he and Coastal First Nations chose not to."	"Much of the information in the report was submitted by us as evidence in the JRP process in December 2011, and was subject to cross-examination by Enbridge in September 2012. The evidence is uncontested. What we did was updated and did more research based on more recent information, and that's what this report is based on and it was released as soon as we completed it."
*Taken directly from Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines website	

Because it's not called an artspaper . . . [news@the-peak.ca](mailto:news@the-peak.ca)

## MEDIA NEWS

# Interview series tells the stories of homicide survivors



From left to right: SFU criminologist Brenda Morrison, SFU alumnus Brent Stafford, and SFU criminology master's student Cristina Pastia were all involved in the making of the series.

SFU PAMR / Flickr

*Aftermath of Murder: Survivor Stories* aims to renegotiate the territory between media and murder

**Dharra Budicha**  
SFU Student

SFU alumnus Brent Stafford hopes his engaging multi-video series will raise public awareness of the relatively untold stories of homicide survivors. Stafford, a master's graduate of SFU's School of Communication and CEO of Shaky Egg Communications, his communication consultancy firm, recently produced *Aftermath of Murder: Survivor Stories*, an initiative of the BC Victims Homicide (BCVOH) group for Canada's National Victims of Crime Awareness Week, which ran April 21-27.

A series of exclusive interviews with homicide survivors and members of the support and

justice community, *Aftermath of Murder: Survivor Stories* aimed to "go behind the headlines as survivors share their stories about the loss, grief, trauma and hope for healing in the aftermath of murder." Between 2007 and 2011, Stats Canada estimates that 493 homicides in BC directly impacted the lives of 60,000 people.

**"Rarely do we get a picture of the survivors."**

Brent Stafford,  
SFU alumni and CEO of Shaky  
Egg Communications

Participants in the series include SFU criminologist Brenda Morrison, speaking on the importance of restorative justice in helping heal homicide survivors, and SFU criminology master's student Cristina Pastia, who lost her parents five years ago to murder in Romania.

After experiencing considerable outreach for survivors, what

compelled these participants to take part in this series was the desire to share their experiences as "part of their healing," Stafford explained.

"It was surprising how open they were about their journey through trauma. Some felt that healing was unachievable, and they were quite frank about it . . . [but now] they feel the project as a whole has renewed their faith."

All five of the homicide survivors interviewed speak on how the media influenced and continues to influence them in their processes of healing.

The series, which can be viewed in its entirety online, is "a way to get back," said Stafford. A 25-year veteran television news producer, Stafford highlights that the media plays a significant role in not only the portrayal of murder crimes, but also the ways in which homicide survivors deal with the trauma of losing a loved one.

"I'm very well aware of how the media profits from murder coverage . . . and tends to focus on the murder event and grizzly details

and court trials and offenders," he continued. "Rarely do we get a picture of the survivors."

"The media is a double edge sword", Stafford adds. "If you have a murder, the media can often have a very positive role in terms of the investigation and finding the killer. On the other side, the media's voracious appetite for details of the murder can cause a significant amount of trauma for survivors."

**"We specifically built the program to provide stories that mainstream media doesn't provide."**

Brent Stafford

*Aftermath of Murder: Survivor Stories* is an attempt to help survivors regain control of such situations. Under conventional procedures, Stafford says, the media

will often go to third party members to get some kind of reaction to a murder if the family chooses not to provide a representative to speak to the media. "It's critically important that victim survivors drive the bus when it comes to the media," Stafford added.

Stafford said the main challenge in producing the series was "negotiating the different news values . . . because the audience is different and the goals and strategies are different as well." With media partners such as *The Province*, balancing values for high levels of viewership, yet staying true to the series' purpose, proved possible.

"The school of communication is a dialectic school", he concluded. "It focuses on language and the power of language as a communication tool more than a definition. Working alongside dialectical critical thinking . . . and negotiating the need to attract viewership, we specifically built the program to provide stories that mainstream media doesn't provide." P

**WANT TO WRITE IN THIS SPACE?** Two columnists are elected in week 11 of each semester. Keep your eyes on the ETC section of the newspaper for election dates and times. Anyone can run!

**CLUB CRAWL**

## University life: are you involved?



Finding a club or group that is right for you can be a challenge, but is totally worth it when you do.

Mark Burnham / THE PEAK

Why your happiness at SFU is determined by you

**Leah Bjornson**  
Elected Columnist

It's easy to go through life at SFU while remaining relatively unseen. Riding the rickety road up to Burnaby campus, sitting at the back of classes, then heading home as quick as you can to escape the grey of the mountain. This was my reality for the first year and a half I attended SFU. This is what life was like before I realized how important it was, not for my school, but for my own happiness, to connect with my campus.

It must be strange for new university students to transition to higher education. Especially if you live off campus, the busy hallways and spacious lecture halls can be intimidating. Personally, I was kind of the kid in high school that did everything: student council, grad council, sports, and other clubs. Then all my friends went to UBC or ventured out east, and I went to SFU.

Maybe I was burnt out from high school or maybe I just wanted to make sure I passed my first semester, but whatever it was, university became just a rigid schedule of classes. As I drifted by my first, second, and

third term on the hill, I began to question the idea that university would be the "greatest years of my life."

I kept hearing stories from friends about what frat they'd joined, or how they were training to lead Frosh week, and I wondered: why can't I find somewhere I fit as well as they do? I tried to get involved, to "engage SFU" as President Petter might put it.

**I began to question the idea that university would be the "greatest years of my life."**

I'd gone out to the Rugby team for a few practices, but a hectic class schedule and long commute from North Vancouver stifled my enthusiasm. Again I tried to help out with a club when I began to speak with World University Services of Canada (WUSC) at SFU, but my help never reached much further than my good intentions.

Things changed when I started writing for *The Peak*. It finally felt like I had somewhere to call home on campus, other than the stool in West Mall overlooking the mountains. That was also when my thoughts seemed

to cement: university has the potential to be the best years of your life, but only if you are determined to make them so. Opportunities, and especially those which really speak to you, don't always arrive at your doorstep. Therefore, it's up to you to reach out. Joining a rugby team or WUSC was obviously not the right fit for me, but over time I was sure to find comfort within one of the myriad of groups and clubs at SFU.

Clubs are important for university students for many reasons. While it's always possible to work up the courage to make new friends in tutorial or lecture, I find that these friends can quickly turn into "Kin 140" buddies, or "Pol 241" buddies; the class ends and we part ways, perhaps meeting again in future courses. When you join a club, not only are you participating in an activity you enjoy, but you're making connections with other students who share the same interests.

This semester, my column will attempt to shine a light on the numerous ways we as Clansmen connect to our community and to each other through the multitude of lesser known or underrepresented opportunities at SFU. Maybe you'll be inspired to join a club of your own. Maybe you'll find that cliché university friend who shows up when you're married in 20 years to wreak havoc, *You, Me and Dupree* style. Maybe you'll find a club you love as much I love *The Peak*. **P**

**WOOHOO**  
Rush



Tara Nykyforiak

Recently inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, what band could make Canada any prouder than Rush? Masters of the heavy and all that rocks, nothing is sexier than a three-piece that practices strong values both on and off the stage. Sure they aren't swiggin' back whiskey after every show, but they've got better things to do like reading Tom Sawyer and journeying into the realms of 2112. With their long

hair and handlebar mustaches, Rush proves looks don't have to matter to be successful — a good example for all of you cynical of the music industry today. With a career spanning four decades, Rush beats out all of those fly-by-night-ers like Justin Bieber and that "Call Me Maybe" girl. For these reasons and more, Rush will always be the band that's closer to the heart.

**BOOHOO**  
Being Rushed



"Hurry up!" "Get a move on!" "Hustle! Hustle! Hustle!" Being rushed sucks, and I'm not just talking about a quickie. Demands to "go faster" and to "be quick" are never nice, and can make you want to punch the other person in the face. With a gazillion things to do every day, it's impossible to live life not feeling rushed. Just when you want to take it easy and smell the roses for once,

you have someone or something pushing you along. From bosses to coaches to other drivers on the road, the need for speed hangs constantly over our heads. And just at those moments we want something rapidly moved along, someone is there standing in our way. But God forbid you tell them to "liven the pace" unless you want a mouthful of "chill the fuck out." **P**



**PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS!**

**opinions@the-peak.ca**

## EDITOR'S VOICE

# Having lots of free time is the worst



Ticking away the moments that make up a dull day.

Ben Buckley/ THE PEAK

If idle hands are the devil's playground, I'm see-sawing with Satan right now and hating it



**Rachael Braeuer**  
Features Editor

Sixteen hour work days, seven days a week for two months with a week or two of rest may sound like hell to most people, but to me it sounds like the ideal schedule.

A lot of my friends have graduated and lead normal adult lives where they go to work for a reasonable amount of hours every day, and come home to do just enough self-care and household tasks to keep up to date and sane before awaking the next day to

have a balanced breakfast and do it all over again. I don't get how they do it.

**I can't just do laundry, I need to do the laundry olympics ten hours before I get on a flight for which I've yet to pack.**

Does updating the world with every instance of your daily progress help? Maybe, it sure seems to. I feel like I'm bombarded daily with all of my friends' "achievements." "Cleaned the house, made dinner, read half my book and in bed ready to take on the world again tomorrow!"

While fulfilling a month in one go because you managed to cram

a month's worth of cleaning into one day is dandy, shit like that just doesn't cut it for me on the daily. It's not that wearing clean clothes isn't a worthwhile pursuit, it's just that if it's not a challenge, who cares? I can't just do laundry, I need to do the laundry olympics ten hours before I get on a flight for which I've yet to pack. Only then is it worthy of my time.

I handed in my last paper a few weeks ago, and while the first bit of doing basically nothing except watching shitty TV, going to the gym in some sad attempt to make up for the last half a decade, and drinking too much on the weekends was fun, I'm now finding myself with a lot of free time and not enough worthwhile activities to cram into that time. This would make most people rejoice. Me? I'm miserable and don't want to complete the few must-do's still present in my life.

For the last seven years I've been working at least one job and going to school. At the most, I was working three jobs, paying for school, rent, car insurance and expenses out of pocket and sleeping about five hours a night, and frankly I liked it that way. There was no room for error or self-doubt, there was no "last minute" because there were no spare minutes to waste to begin with.

**I don't just wear the proverbial hair shirt, I made it myself on my lunch break while also reading some Judith Butler.**

There wasn't even a question of making a schedule. I got shit

done because I had to.

Self-care involved singing loudly to my favourite songs while washing the dishes. Alone time was grocery shopping at 11:30 at night, roaming the aisles free of the idiots who drive grocery carts as well as their SUV's and whose shitty babies were at home, getting ready for another day of screaming in public while their parent(s) texted their friends about how much they accomplished that day.

I don't just wear the proverbial hair shirt, I made it myself on my lunch break while also reading some Judith Butler.

You might read this and think I'm crazy, and honestly you're probably right. I should be enjoying all of my new freedom to its fullest. I'm sure some of you reading this would kill to have my "problems," but I'd kill to have yours. Freaky Friday, anyone? **P**

BS BA

# Time to teach turning degrees into jobs

Post secondary cannot just be education for education's sake

**Stephen Power**  
The Muse (Memorial University)

ST JOHN'S (CUP) — Entering the final year of my undergraduate degree, I am thankful for the practical abilities I have been taught over these four years. I know how to write a resume and a cover letter. I know that employers generally don't hire prospective employees that don't bother to sell themselves. These skills, a few of many that I picked up over my academic career, will serve me for the rest of my life.

Those who boast the liberal arts point to a number of other benefits that, although intangible, allegedly serve students in becoming better citizens. Adam Chapnick, an associate professor of defence studies at the Royal Military College of Canada, argued along this line in a recent online column for *University Affairs*, an online magazine centered on post-secondary education.

**Many of these students are ill informed as to how valuable their BA really is, especially when it isn't supplemented with volunteer and other extra-curricular work.**

"If only they understood that the value of a liberal education cannot just be measured in dollars and cents," goes the traditional "lament" of liberal arts supporters, according to Chapnick. "What about the role of the arts in promoting democratic citizenship? In fostering critical thinking? In creating the entrepreneurial spirit that is so necessary for innovation?"

What about all these things, indeed. I'm proud to say that I do understand these values, having gone through a fairly broad cross-section of what the university has to offer in the liberal arts. These courses — English, history, philosophy, political



You have the knowledge but will you have a job?

Uniinsbruck/ Flickr

science — all did well to tutor me on these subjects.

Critical thinking? No problem — I can crank out literary criticism without breaking a sweat. Democratic citizenship? I can talk for hours (to anyone foolish enough to listen) about the myriad of flaws infesting our current system of governance, on all levels.

I'm not attacking the value of these skills; Chapnick has a point in his mention of the development of an "entrepreneurial spirit." Students are done a disservice, however, when these skills are not coupled with the

knowledge necessary to apply them outside of academia.

It is here that the reality of the needs of students comes up against the values of academics that value learning for the sake of learning. Most students, and even most liberal arts students, envision some sort of job or other kind of employment existing at the end of the post-secondary rainbow. Many of these students, however, are ill informed as to how valuable their Bachelor of Arts really is, especially when it isn't supplemented with volunteer and other extra-curricular work.

These students need to be taught early, and the best place to do so is where they spend most

**Students are done a disservice when these skills are not coupled with the knowledge necessary to apply them.**

of their time interacting face-to-face with university employees: the classroom. More connections

need to be made between course curricula and extra-curriculum resources that provide hands-on learning experiences and opportunities to network with employers in a student's field.

To make this possible, academia needs to change to meet the needs of the students that it serves. Professors and university administrators can no longer prioritize the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. This desire, however noble, must be balanced with the need to help students build opportunities for themselves when they graduate into the real world. ▀

Got the elections blues, SFU? Feel like you're just picking between the lesser of four equally dull evils? Worry not fair citizens! We found 12 alternative parties to float your vote if you're not a fan of Dix, Cumming, MILF-y Clark, or relatively unknown Stark and compiled them all into a handy guide that isn't nihilistic in the least. After all, nothing sends a message to big government to watch itself quite like voting for a party that doesn't even have a website.

# Eringo

## A rough guide to BC's alt

Written by **Rachel Braeuer**



### BC Excalibur Party

Avast ye scoundreles of oure faire launde. Lookest thou fore a partye based on truthe, honore and justice? Well, look no further. The Excalibur party has your back. When they're not too busy Vaguebooking (with their language set to pirate, obvs) the party promises to cut PST by two per cent over the next four years and remove it from the sale of used items, provide rail transit between Chilliwack, Mission, Abbotsford and Hope, ban salmon farming and fracking, as well as promoting alternative healthcare plans.

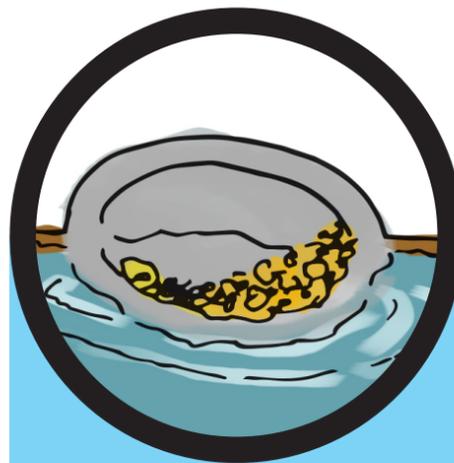
*Vote for them if: you're really into Renaissance fairs, you think the prices at Value Village are just too steep, and / or if wherever you go people ask "who smells like patchouli?"*



### BC Refederation Party

As its name suggests, this party is looking for the eventual refederation of Canada, presumably because everything was OK in the world in 1867. Their philosophy stems from the work of Richard Moore, as outlined in his book, *Escaping the Matrix*: "If a movement makes demands, then it is admitting that power resides elsewhere. If a movement creates solutions, then it is asserting its own power." Their plan for BC's power assertion is summarized as their copyrighted "TheRefedPlan" or the 1,2,3 [sic] Plan, which focuses around a lawful tax revolt, veto power for British Columbians and the right for BC to refuse disallowance by Ottawa. So basically they want each province to be its own entity, and they're starting with BC.

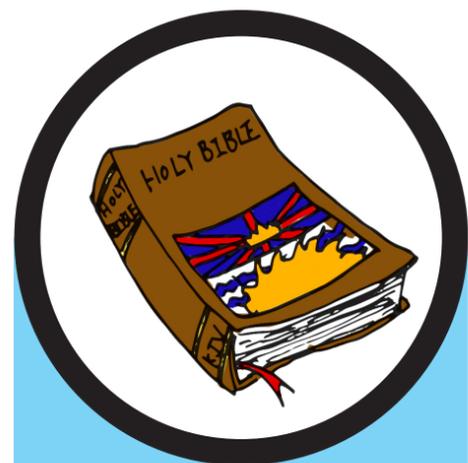
*Vote for them if: you've ever wanted to throw tea into English Bay, you just really want to take that blue pill, and / or you think our license plates should say "representation without taxation."*



### Advocational International Democratic Party of British Columbia

Global News calls it "the richest political party you've never heard of." The Advocational Party has raised over \$4 million in assets since their creation in 2006. However, the party has only two candidates running in small districts this election, this is the first time anyone has ran in the past two elections — the minimum necessary for the party to avoid being deregistered as a political party. According to a document released by Johanna Zalcik, one of the two candidates running, the party "believes that the government might best serve the citizens of a nation by becoming a republic and dividing democratically elected representatives into two separate government bodies with distinct advocational roles: 1) an elected Lower House and, 2) a selected Upper House (a Senate)." So basically they're passionate about governmental reform, which is why their activities have been limited to investing their assets in precious metals, not like, advocating for the public.

*Vote for them if: the theme from Team America really speaks to you, all your savings can be measured in gold bars, and / or if you just really hated the royal wedding.*



### Christian Heritage Party of BC

The CHP BC's main objective is to "restore and preserve our Great Canadian heritage, granted by our Creator, which is the foundation of our democratic system of government, in order to bring effective and accountable government to British Columbia." Quick, change the history textbooks, we seem to have democracy because Sky Man gave it to us! Based on traditional Christian values, the party believes in the importance of traditional learning methods (aka private faith-based education), traditional families (aka a man and a woman and definitely no abortions), and wealth creation above wealth redistribution. They also want negotiations with First Nations groups to move forward, ideally getting rid of the Indian Act altogether, so that "our Aboriginals [can] take their rightful place alongside other British Columbians, fully equal to all other British Columbians in all respects," which is a nice way of saying get rid of Aboriginal rights and land claims.

*You should vote for them if: you believe it's Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve, you don't see a problem with calling Canada's First Nations "our Aboriginals," and / or the Conservatives just aren't conservative enough for your liking.*

# e Fest

## Alternative political parties

/ Illustration by Eleanor Qu



### BC First Party

Citing its roots in the fight against the HST, BC First is looking “to build methodically and carefully lasting change in government . . . to create a new system that builds a coalition of MLA’s, who are directly responsible to their constituents.” Ultimately they’re hoping to achieve a “Hybrid Swiss System” which basically means they want to move towards a direct democracy where any citizen can change any law or make amendments to constitution through referenda. Immediate changes they’re trying to make include regulating genetically modified food, eliminating hospital wait lists, and getting rid of bridge tolls. If you have questions about any of this, the party’s leader can be found “campaigning throughout his riding of Vancouver-False Creek . . . making history by connecting with voters from his 10-speed bike.”

*Vote for them if: You still haven't forgotten the HST, you really think this whole fixie trend is going nowhere fast, and / or you can never remember if produce codes starting with 8 or 9's mean GMO.*



### BC Marijuana Party

Twist up a link, bro! The MJ party is perhaps BC’s best known alternative party, advocating to the legislation of marijuana. The Party’s leader, Marc Emery, is currently serving a five year sentence in a US federal prison for selling cannabis seeds. In the 2009 election, the party still ran two candidates so they could maintain party status, but in every riding, even those they were running in, the party endorsed the local Green Party representative. The party’s website just links to Marc’s wife Jodie and his website, Cannabis Culture, so it’s looking like the Marijuana party is just passing the Dutchie this round.

*A vote for them might look like: voting for the other green party, smoking yourself so stupid you can't leave your house for a week because you're too paranoid, and / or ripping up your voter card and using little strips of it as "filters" in your joints.*



### Communist Party

“Isn’t that just the NDP?” Good one, idiot. The Communist party, unsurprisingly, is advocating for a socialist Canada by uniting the “most politically advanced and active members of the working class and of other sections of the people exploited by monopoly.” If you’re left-leaning, the party’s platform shouldn’t be too surprising or offensive, including buying more buses, stopping fracking, taxing the wealthy and corporations more, decreasing tuition fees, and ensuring all schools adopt protective policies for LGBTQ teachers and students. Sounds pretty good. Maybe a little too good. Like, maybe unsustainable outside of a theoretical context. I don’t know, let’s ask Cuba.

*Vote for them if: red is your colour, you're really into sharing, and / or you wear a Che Guevara shirt everyday.*

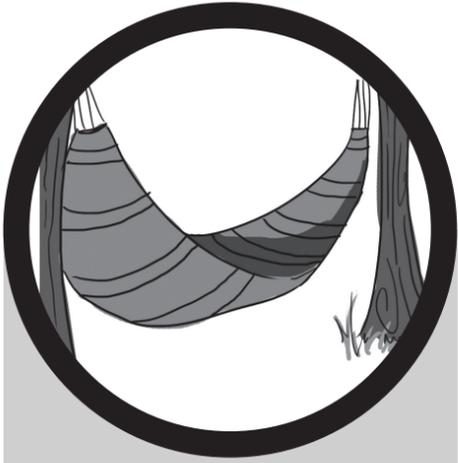


### B.C. Vision

“Join us and you will join a revolutionary change that is the need of the hour for British Columbia,” says the BC Vision party’s website, after what looks like angelfire graphics and photos of the party leader, Jag Bhandari. The party talks a lot about connecting three generations; making use of technology; keeping BC beautiful; having upto-date [sic] medical facilities; and running a bunch of local races like the Sun Run to keep fit. The party’s actual platform, as well as their political message, is available in the form of a song on their website (yup), the major tenet of which appears to be “Chak de Fattey” which is “a Punjabi motivational phrase that means ‘just do it’.”

*Vote for them if: you're really in to Bollywood music, you own a "no fatties" T-shirt, and / or Nike is your favourite sporting goods brand.*

**Flip me to see more alternative political parties...**



**Work Less Party of BC**

Born out of research in Europe that demonstrated a shortened work week produced a happier more socially conscious and involved populace, the Work Less Party has been advocating for a 32 hour work week and for worker's rights in general since 2007. Other interests include carbon footprint reduction, and increases to minimum wage (necessary to offset a reduction in hours worked). The party had some trouble filing necessary documents by deadline and voluntarily deregulated federally, but maintains status in BC. According to a close friend, they also know how to throw a damn good party.

*Vote for them if: Eight days a week is your least favourite Beatles song, you would actually use that extra day off a week to participate in culturally important events for BC, and / or you want to make Rebecca Black's contribution to musical history no longer applicable in BC. Everybody be working for Thursday.*



**New Wave Party**

Surf's up, brah! No really, their slogan is "catch the wave . . . for change" overset on a photo of someone surfing. The New Wave Party believes that democratic representation is on the decline and that politicians should be held accountable for their platform claims and actions. While other parties talk about moving towards a true democracy and then have a bunch of their own pre-determined goals they hope to achieve once elected lined out, the New Wave Party wants to represent you and your vision of democracy. That's it. That's their only claim. There isn't even a candidate named on their website.

*Vote for them if: you've always wanted to be on The Dating Game — which leader is behind door number two? — you're most concerned about candidate's ability to hang ten, and / or Talking Heads for life! Burning Down the House!*



**Reform Party of BC**

Unrelated to the former federal Reform Party of Canada, the Reform Party of BC is a neoconservative party who had two candidates elected to the legislative assembly in '96. They've been around for more than 25 years, working to "bring clarity, transparency and accountability . . . to the citizens of British Columbia." Their platform includes income tax reform, "fake Olympic debt" reconciliation, recovering public equity in BC Investment Management Corporation, a public sector pension fund that benefits BC Hydro and BC rail (to name a few), and driving a provincial enactment of the 1960 Canadian Bill of Rights

*Vote for them if: you think the Olympics was an inside job, you're worried about pensions, and / or who needs modern rights and freedoms for minorities anyway?*



**Helping Hand Party**

This party's mission is as cute as their name: "helping those in need" because "helping others unconditionally provides a meaningful existence." Unfortunately their logo isn't two kittens holding paws. Some of the goals they list on their Facebook page (which doubles as the party's official website) include reducing post-secondary tuition by 50 per cent, reducing the cost of childcare in BC to \$10 per day, decriminalizing marijuana, restricting senior's use of slot machines, and merging Washington ferry service with BC ferries to save costs. It's an interesting smattering of issues for a platform to include, but without any context it seems more like a list of things Canada needs your uncle you see twice a year might post to Facebook between Bejeweled Blitz benders.

*You should vote for them if: you took the Girl Guide mantra "lend a hand" very seriously, you can't live without checking Facebook every five minutes, and / or you're sick of picking up Grandma from the casino because she blew her handydart money on craps. ♣*

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FILM REVIEW

# The fragmented life in *To the Wonder*

Terrence Malick's most recent effort is more poetry than narration



**Will Ross**  
Coordinating Editor

Now that *The Tree of Life* is well behind us, Terrence Malick's rep as the most radical director in the mainstream seems to have held firm. That's a difficult, even paradoxical label to live up to, but I doubt anyone expected the reclusive tastemaker to give a damn about living up to anything but himself, and his follow-up *To the Wonder* confirms that in abundance.

It is at once the most radical extension of his impressionistic style to date as well as his smallest, most restrained work, a film

with near-total confidence in its formal power, largely foregoing dialogue and plotting in favour of narratively disconnected micro-vignettes of characters' day-to-day lives.

What story there is centres largely on Marina (Olga Gurlyenko), a French mother and divorcee who meets Neil (Ben Affleck), an American environmental surveyor who brings her and her daughter back to America.

Neil is suspicious of strong emotions and commitment, and so his relationships are in flux; after a falling out with Marina, he falls in love with Jane (Rachel McAdams), a quieter rural woman. A subplot that follows a lonely and conflicted priest (Javier Bardem) is mostly-unrelated to Neil's story on paper, but fits perfectly into the fabric of the film (this is, after all, the director who successfully interpolated

the birth of the universe into a suburban coming-of-age story).

All the details of story and emotion — like one character's feelings of suburban suppression, or a central breakup — are handled with extreme ellipsis; but though major events often occur off-screen, it's never hard to understand what has happened. But the real emotional heavy lifting is all done by the gentle slashes of the cutting, Emmanuel Lubezki's light-as-a-feather steadicam cinematography, and perhaps above all else the meticulously expressive sound design by Erik Aadahl.

It's a risky strategy. Malick is, now more than ever, more poet than narrator, and poetry depends on a near-alchemic mix of abstractions that not all filmgoers are sensitive to. The film is an experience in immersive sensitivity, one that delivers us the characters' fears and hopes and

implacable inner demons. They move through a world that provides lush beauty and tragic degeneration by turn — sometimes both at once — and struggle with how to find constancy through the unseen and oft-unfelt presence of a Christian god.

**Malick is, now more than ever, more poet than narrator, and poetry depends on a near-alchemic mix of abstractions that not all filmgoers are sensitive to.**

But the film's psalmic mode is only one of the ways it interfaces with its themes of the search for constancy in a changing and impermanent life. Most important

is Aadahl's aforementioned sound design, which is surprisingly quiet in *To the Wonder*. If criticisms can be made of the uniform beauty of the film's visuals, surely those must be tempered by the way the accompanying sound reconfigures those images.

Those reconfigurations, more than Malick's famous use of voiceover or classical music, are the key to the film's impressionistic power. Foreboding tones and sucked-out soundscapes over a beautiful image of a carnival allows us to see that ordinarily joyous vision of life in motion as the character does in that moment: as a harbinger of life's frightening speed and unforeseeable fractiousness.

Such is Malick's cautious optimism that when characters pass through these moments of doubt and dilemma, they can still turn their heads and see wonder. **P**

THROWBACK FILM REVIEW

## A Perfect Getaway is form turned inside-out

If you haven't seen it before, consider checking out this psychological B-movie

**Will Ross**  
Coordinating Editor

*A Perfect Getaway* does not occasion the sort of cult one might expect from a cursory overview: it is a psychological thriller B-movie about three couples on a Hawaiian hike who begin to suspect they are being targeted for murder. Its stars are best known for the *Thor* and *Resident Evil* movies; and its writer-director's most notable prior achievement was the *Riddick* franchise of sci-fi action movies. One might expect a cult to develop out of adrenaline excess or a glut of memorable one-liners.

The tiny yet intensely committed contingency of *Perfect Getaway* devotees (mostly Toronto film critics) do not love it as a popcorn-munching candidate for the Midnight Movie cycle. They love it as a form-shaking masterpiece.

That's not to say it's not a rousing film. Its slowly-stoked tension

and eventual explosion between the couples is amply entertaining. As the couples move along the trail to an exotic beach, suspicions between them and the audience slowly build after they find news reports of pair of murderers killing newlyweds. The meeker honeymooning yuppies Cliff (Steve Zahn, best of a sensational ensemble) and Cydney (Milla Jovovich) are especially nervous.

But after the film slowly burns through its first hour, the story explodes. A hyper-extended flashback, complete change of tone, and total reshuffling of both the audience's and character's allegiances send the film careening off the rails. The important thing is not so much the twist itself — it can be guessed, in broad strokes, well before it happens — but the character motivations behind it.

See, *A Perfect Getaway* is really about movies, and our reasons for consuming, trusting and escaping to movie narratives. It deliberately shatters its own style and character psychology, and flouts the conventions and rules of screenwriting to comment on the fickle and creepy wish-fulfillment of film spectatorship. It even manages to have its cake



The violent, pounding climax plays not as a sarcastic parody of action or horror movies, but as a genuinely gripping thrill-ride.

Photo courtesy of aceshowbiz.com

and eat it too: the violent, pounding climax plays not as a sarcastic parody of action or horror movies, but as a genuinely gripping thrill-ride.

Only one character in the film is in constant mastery of the narrative his life takes; in such control of his metaphysical state that he feels he controls the terms of his existence (and in one beachside freeze-frame, it's suggested that perhaps he really can.) When

one considers that each segment of the film is completely different from each of the others, and the multitude of possible realities — is the ending the logical conclusion of the story, or how one of the characters wish it would conclude? — the number of narratives one can perceive in a single viewing rapidly multiplies.

If that seems terribly cerebral, more like a structural tease than the "gripping thrill-ride" I

mentioned . . . well, need those things be mutually exclusive? Hell, are they even that different in the first place? The whole pleasure of the "twist" is that it forces us to review a perspective that was right in front of us, but that we missed. Teasing apart the implications of *A Perfect Getaway*'s central revelation is the fun of it, and all the better to do it during such ball-bustingly original and entertaining cinema. **P**



## Album Reviews by Max Hill



Artist: Vampire Weekend  
Album: **Modern Vampires of the City**

Let me begin this review by admitting that I don't like Vampire Weekend. No, scratch that — I *didn't* like Vampire Weekend. Don't get me wrong, I love when educated white 20-somethings co-opt African rhythms in order to sell pop records. But lead singer Ezra Koenig and the band's pretentious post-graduate approach to popular music always struck me as a little anonymous. Despite their unique sound, Vampire Weekend's music never struck me as anything more than middle-of-the-road fodder for iPad commercials and indie radio stations.

*Modern Vampires of the City* changed my mind. Maybe it's the band's reluctant farewell to its Afrobeat crutch; maybe it's their new tendency

towards experimentation on tracks like harpsichord-sweetened "Step" or pitch-shifted "Diane Young", but the album feels more varied than any before it.

As he bids farewell to his turbulent 20s, Koenig's lyrics have shed their Ivy League references in favour of a broader scope of experience. He waxes poetic over adulthood and city life without sacrificing his hyper-literary style, and comes off as more clever and less condescending in the process.

Tracks like "Finger Back" and "Worship You" are as sugary sweet as any of the band's previous singles, but instead of grating on repeat listens, they seem to deepen and reveal new layers. In particular, drummer Chris Thompson and bassist Chris Baio are in fine form during the album's faster-paced moments, which come off as more focused and propulsive than ever before.

For a band as popular and well-liked as Vampire Weekend, there are basically two routes from which to choose: either plunge into the mainstream deep end, like Modest Mouse and Interpol before them, or reinvent themselves entirely.

*Modern Vampires of the City* chooses the road less traveled, and it makes all the difference. The album is both their most experimental and easily their strongest. Vampire Weekend has left behind nearly every aspect of their sound that earned them their initial hype, and for the first time, I feel like I recognize them.



Artist: Savages  
Album: **Silence Yourself**

British post-punk quartet Savages aren't fucking around. The female foursome, characterized by lead vocalist Jehnny Beth's Siouxsie Sioux wail and Ayse Hannan's swaggering basslines, sport a sound inextricable from their influences. It's nearly impossible to listen to the band's debut LP, *Silence Yourself*, without hearing the ghosts of Gang of Four and Joy Division.

However, instead of coming off as a spiritless rehash, Savages' sound is aggressively modern. By employing a style designed to comment on the artificiality and emptiness of society in the 80s, the band manages to say something unique and original — and, arguably, just as compelling — about society today.

Beth's vocals are deep and unrelenting. Her whispered refrain in "Husbands" and broken balladry in "Waiting For a Sign" speak to her confidence as a performer and conviction as a social commentator. However, much like the post-punk legends of yesteryear, Savages' greatest asset is its rhythm section.

Acting more often than not as the band's background vocalist, Hannan's insistent, Peter Hook-style bass playing pumps blood into Savages' veins, while Fay Milton's propulsive drums follow along steadfastly, a percussive call-to-arms. Gemma Thompson's guitar seems to revolve around her bandmates, choppy and aggressive, almost argumentative. The band's chemistry is astonishing, considering their short time together. Each member seems to play off of one another, resulting in a compelling, powerful sound that challenges but never overwhelms.

Despite its austere lyrical content, *Silence Yourself* is an inviting and immersive listen. Savages make their political statements and disillusioned fury seem universal by letting their invigorating musicality speak for itself. By pairing their observant and relentlessly opaque lyrics with jagged, exhilarating post-punk, Savages have made one of the most exceptional debut records in recent memory.

### Throwback Review



Artist: Kate Bush  
Album: **Hounds of Love**

*Hounds of Love* begins with the sky and ends with the water. Not unlike David Bowie during his Berlin trilogy, Kate Bush split her

1985 masterpiece *Hounds of Love* into two sides: one is propelled by inventive synth pop, the other submerged in atmospheric ambience.

Having eluded the public eye after the mixed reception of her previous album, *The Dreaming*, Bush seems to strike back at the commercialization of her image. Though singles like "Cloudbusting" and "Running Up That Hill" are among some of Bush's best-known and most accessible work, they're far from the usual radio fare: The former examines the relationship between psychoanalyst Wilhelm Reich and his son, while the latter explores masculinity and femininity within the confines of a romantic relationship.

On the other hand, *Hounds of Love's* more avant-garde passages are always grounded by the emotional honesty of Bush's lyrics: "Every gull seeking a craft / I can't keep my eyes open / Wish I had my radio / I'd tune into some friendly voices," she sings on "And Dream of Sheep," the tender emotional ballad that opens the album's

second side. Individually credited as *The Ninth Wave*, the album's profound part two is permeated by a haunting sense of desperation, given weight by Bush's uncharacteristically measured vocal delivery. The lack of form and complexity throughout *The Ninth Wave* complement Bush's more accessible tracks perfectly — the muted, melancholic yin to Side One's mellifluous yang.

As much a comment on her own celebrity as an elaborate double concept album, *Hounds of Love* seems to highlight the duality of Kate Bush as the introverted eccentric and Kate Bush as the theatrical pop star. Both sides are given equal weight, and by closing track "The Morning Fog," Bush seems to have reconciled the two into a singular, unique identity.

Like the tumultuous decade that spawned it, *Hounds of Love* is schizophrenic and multi-faceted, but Bush's skill as a songwriter and tender approach as an artist unite its many themes into a singular work of art that stands among the greatest and most enduring albums of the 80s. **P**



Meow-er music, plz.

arts@the-peak.ca

# In Review: DOXA Film Festival

This year's documentary film festival shows its artistic side

Max Hill  
Peak Associate

Documentary films aren't always considered artistic or creative: they tend to be categorized as straightforward, didactic and anonymous, not unlike a news article. The Documentary Media Society, a non-profit organization based in Vancouver, would beg to differ. Now in its 12th year, the Society's DOXA has become one of the foremost documentary film festivals in Canada, running from May 3–12 each year. Mixing short and feature-length films ranging from the politically charged to straightforwardly entertaining, the festival has aimed to redefine the typical definition of a documentary film.

This year's festival was headlined by *Occupy: The Movie* (dir. Corey Ogilvie), which focuses on the Occupy movement, an international protest movement which took aim at social and economic inequality. Other notable films

included *Human Scale* (dir. Andreas Dalsgaard), which explores the work of urban visionary and architect Jan Gehl; *Good Ol' Freda* (dir. Ryan White), which focuses on Freda Kelly, former secretary for The Beatles; and *The Mechanical Bride* (dir. Allison de Fren), shedding light on the increasingly popular trend towards mechanical sex dolls and their effect on societal views of femininity.

The festival also offered several special programs, including their Rated Y For Youth program, which allows high-school age students a chance to attend the festival, and features films seeking to increase social awareness and inspire appreciation for art in young people. The Justice Forum program featured films which focus on issues of social justice, such as gentrification and racism. The aim of the program, according to the festival's

website, is "to facilitate active and critical engagement, create space for dialogue, and sow the seeds for social change." The Philosopher's Cafe program pairs selected films from the festival with philosophical discussion topics, and gives audiences a chance to actively engage with the subjects of a wide variety of featured documentaries.

A staple of film culture in Vancouver, the DOXA Film Festival is one of the most interesting and varied film festivals the city has to offer. Although many of the films require membership in the Documentary Media Society, the Rated Y For Youth program — which included the headliner, *Occupy: The Movie* — gave SFU students and other Vancouverites a chance to learn about a wide variety of subjects, and to expand their understanding of the documentary film format in the process.

## 1 Wrong Place Wrong Time

Documentary tells story of victims, not killer



Ljudmila Petrovic  
Peak Associate

On July 22, 2011, the world was shaken by the news of the Norway shootings. The first of the two attacks, a car bomb explosion, claimed eight lives and resulted in another 209 injuries. The second target was a youth camp, where the gunman opened fire and killed 69 youth, injuring 110.

In the wake of several tragic shootings in the past several years, the question has emerged: why do we only look at the crimes and the killer? Why don't we talk about the victims? In *Wrong Time Wrong Place*, director John Appel does just that.

Anders Breivik — the individual responsible for the crimes — is never mentioned, and his face is shown only once; even then, it is in the context of his trial and its effect on the



When it comes to tragic shootings, why do we only look at the crimes and the killer? Why don't we talk about the victims?

Photo courtesy of DOXA Festival

father of one of the victims. The documentary focuses exclusively on weaving together the stories of the survivors and of the victims' families.

There is the man who lost his son in a base-jumping accident and then suffered even further when he was in the first explosion. There is the man who worked in that same office building, but took the day off to go base-jumping — a decision that saved his life.

There is the young woman from Georgia who was the last victim in the second shooting. Her best friend — the two usually being inseparable — was, through a twist of fate, in the washroom hiding with two other youth attending the camp during the shooting. The film follows the victim's parents at length: the mother, clad in black, weeps and speaks of Georgian prophecies, while the father, proud but with a

quivering lip, angrily shakes his head and says: "If he had not done it, nothing could have killed my daughter."

There is the political activist from Uganda — one of the three youth that survived by hiding in the bathroom — who was two months pregnant at the time. By the end of the documentary, she has given birth to baby Michael, named after the angel she is sure was watching over them.

The thread that strings all of these stories together is that of resilience: of the families that have been lost and of those that have survived. The human lives portrayed in the film — both those that remained intact and those that were taken away — were made to seem frail; a recurring theme was "what could have happened" had the person left two minutes earlier or had made some other seemingly small and meaningless decision.

As the credits rolled, I looked around the theatre at the faces of the other audience members: those people that weren't wiping away tears were stunned and thoughtful. It makes you think about how closely intertwined our lives and choices are, and how fleeting every moment can be.

The film is framed by a violent and tragic shooting, but there is no trace of anger or retribution in the interviews; rather, it is a film about overcoming calamity and about staying strong, and guaranteed, you will leave it with the overwhelming urge to call the people in your life with words of love. **P**

# 2 East Hastings Pharmacy

The reality of DTES pharmacists

**Ljudmila Petrovic**  
Peak Associate

*East Hastings Pharmacy* is Antoine Bourges' first feature film, focusing on a methadone pharmacy in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. It combines professional actors — such as the one playing the pharmacist — and actual patients playing a sort of cameo role.

Methadone programs are prescribed as part of recovery from heroin addiction, and the province's regulations of these pharmacies call for strict guidelines, including meticulous records of prescriptions and having pharmacists witness each and every patient drinking their methadone.

The film manages to successfully capture the monotony of the pharmacy's daily routine, as well as the instances where individuals become irate.

The pharmacist gets to know

the patients by their first name and dose of methadone, and they are usually friendly to one another; what Bourges portrays through the character of the pharmacist is the exhausting nature of helping professions, especially in an area as marginalized as the Downtown Eastside.

Yet, at under an hour, the film only seems to skim the interactions within the community — both between patients and with the pharmacist. There are several instances where we glimpse into interpersonal relationships and we see laughter or moments of bonding, but for the most part the audience is left with a framework and a mere hint at the atmosphere of this type of pharmacy — which is really all that a documentary of this length can hope for.

It illustrates BC's regulations of the methadone pharmacies and some of the barriers and downfalls, but the director missed many opportunities to delve deeper into the heart of the community and the personal stories of the various people coming into or working at the pharmacy.



Methadone programs are prescribed as part of recovery from heroin addiction.

Photo courtesy of DOXA Festival

As far as an artistic analysis of the issues in the Downtown Eastside, it does not create dialogue.

That being said, the specific issues surrounding regulations of methadone programs are not often

looked at through this medium and the film is well-shot, and despite its downfalls, it's worth a watch. **P**

## PEAKWEEK



Nicli Antica Pizzeria is offering up three craft beer and pizza pairing dinners through the month of May, starting with one on May 13. For this first dinner, they'll be pairing up with local brewery Parallel 49. The hand-crafted Neopolitan-style pizzas will be paired with brews that showcase and compliment the pizza's flavour profiles. The dinners will start at 8:30 p.m. and will feature four different pizzas plus dessert and a beer from the featured brewery, costing only \$45 per person.



The Astoria is bringing back *The Dark Eighties*, a night to indulge in your love of The Smiths, The Cure, Depeche Mode, Sisters of Mercy, Echo and the Bunnymen, and Siouxi and the Banshees. DJs Nikki Nevver, Virginia Frazer, Szam Findlay will be spinning all night long, unearthing the inner 80s goth in you. There's no cover, and drinks are named after your favourite heartthrobs, including a shooter called Morrissey's Tears. There's also a pool table and pinball games!



The Troika Collective presents *Chernobyl: The Opera*, coming to Carousel Theatre Studio and running from May 14–19. The piece for cello, accordion, guitar and voice focuses on the nuclear reactor disaster at Chernobyl in the Ukraine in the late 20th century. Composer Elliot Vaughn has created a hauntingly beautiful backdrop for the stories of survivors of the meltdown of the nuclear reactor, as well as those who have chosen to resettle in the region following the disaster, despite the health risks. The text is taken from a collection of interviews and sung by an ensemble of seven vocalists. Tickets are available at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) or at the door.



*SAD Mag* presents MAD MAD WORLD, a tribute to new wave and electro-pop. The dance party is taking place at the Remington Gallery, and will be headed up by local musicians and artists, including The Kingsgate Chorus, City of Glass, and a DJ set by Phil Intile of Mode Moderne. Next door, The Gam will be showing a sneak preview of the artwork from the next issue of *SAD Mag*. Hint: several bands were given disposable cameras to bring on tour.



Every Thursday and Saturday *Forbidden Vancouver* offers a *Prohibition City* tour, taking guests along a tour of historical Vancouver and mapping out the rise and fall of the prohibition. Part of the tour are respectable hotels that were once illegal drinking dens and the alleyways where the blind pigs once hid. You'll hear stories about Vancouver's prohibition-era mayor, L.D. Taylor, showgirls, and the most successful rum runner. The prohibition laws, while short-lived (only lasting until 1921) were so strict that bootlegging and speakeasies stuck around until the 1950s. Sign up for a tour at [forbiddenvancouver.ca](http://forbiddenvancouver.ca)



A sunny day at SFU Burnaby, for once.

Siyavash Izadi / **THE PEAK**



Siyavash Izadi / **THE PEAK**



Siyavash Izadi / **THE PEAK**



## BECOME AN EDITOR AT THE PEAK!

*The Peak's* editorial positions are all elected once per semester, and we have two positions still available for Summer 2013.

**ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR:** Wrangle contributors, research stories, conduct interviews, and write the news. This position assists the News Editor in finding stories important to SFU students and ensuring they get reported on. A good fit for anyone with strong research, interview, and writing skills. Paid \$190 per issue. This is an elected position; to nominate yourself, fill out a questionnaire and submit it at the *Peak* offices by 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15, at which time candidates will be able to speak about their qualifications and answer questions. Voting will then last until Wednesday, May 22.

**WEB PRODUCER:** Take the reins of *The Peak's* web presence! We're looking for someone who can harness their web design, visual design, and

WordPress skills to make changes and improvements to *the-peak.ca* on a weekly basis. We want to have the best web site of any Canadian student newspaper. This is an excellent opportunity to gain valuable experience while making money. This is an elected position; to nominate yourself, submit a questionnaire at the *Peak* offices by 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22, at which time candidates will be able to speak about their qualifications and answer questions. Voting will then last until Wednesday, May 29. The Web Producer will be paid \$190 per issue.

**QUESTIONS?** For more information or to obtain a questionnaire, contact [coordinating@the-peak.ca](mailto:coordinating@the-peak.ca).

**PEAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS** meetings are scheduled the last Wednesday of each month. Contact [david@the-peak.ca](mailto:david@the-peak.ca) for details.



## This week's Peak Humour

is made from 100% recycled material from the Tonight Show with Jay Leno

A Comic's Comic / Brad McLeod (SFU)



*"Come on, Steve! I know your wife died this morning, but this is the world's smallest violin! I thought it would cheer you up!"*

### CAMPUS NEWS

## Math department offers "Fractions 101" in order to appeal to lowest common denominator

BURNABY — SFU's Mathematics is holding a brand new course this semester on the subject of fraction and although it's been criticized by some as being too simplistic, the department hopes that it will attract students who wouldn't normally take math.

"Our department has been struggling to keep up our numbers recently, and stupid math jokes alone aren't really helping us reach out to average students," explained Dr. Lorne Smith, who's been assigned the new class this semester "We're hoping that teaching fractions can help attract dumb art students who might be intimidated by calculus or linear algebra, especially when we cover 'the fractions of Two and a Half Men' during week 5."

While the course is expected to drastically increase the Mathematics department summer numbers, the English department is receiving some residual benefits as this article's headline is now required reading for a new 300-level course on 'bad jokes.' P

## PEAK HUMOUR CLASSIFIEDS

### JOBS

SFU's Communications Department is seeking a motivated, hard-working graduate student to work as a Teaching Assistant for a 100-level class. Applicants must NOT BE FLUENT IN ENGLISH, must speak with a HEAVY ACCENT and of course, must have a VERY LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF COURSE MATERIAL. Social skills and interest in subject matter are NOT REQUIRED but having a total disdain for helping students and punctuality are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.

*To apply please send your resume to us over a series of tweets. I know it's terribly inconvenient but what are you going to do, Twitter is the future of communication.*

Starbucks is hiring delusional young people to work part-time as baristas while they hopelessly pursue a career in a creative field. Hours are flexible and leaves are permitted if your funk-soul fusion collective has to go on tour.

*Come in to any Starbucks and fill out an application, we have locations at... Hey look! There's one beside you!*

### FOR SALE

Looking to buy used textbook but hate the convenience of shopping online! Come buy them from me! I've got all the slightly wrong editions of most of the books you need and will try to sell them for a lot more than they're worth!

*Call Jody at 555-123-4567 between 3:00-3:01p.m. on Wednesdays or 6:00-6:10a.m. on Sundays and I might answer.*

### PERSONALS

Undeclared 4th-year student seeking long-term, committed relationship with an outgoing, vivacious woman. Actually, no, looking for a sweet and shy girl for a casual get-together. No, wait, I'm looking for someone who's pretty quiet and reserved but who's still vivacious for a casual but committed fling... is that possible? Because that's what I want. No it's not, I want a strong Latino woman to go bowling with. No, that's not it. Shit, what do I want? You know what? Forget it, I don't need a girlfriend yet. I'll get it together next year for sure though.

*Call Dan at 555-123-5678, wait that's my old number, try 555-678-9012... or actually just call both I still haven't thrown away the old one anyway.*

## STEER QUEER

# Despite recent tolerance trend in sports, Cloverdale Rodeo to remain a closeted gay rodeo

Local gay rodeo expected to continue living a lie



**Brad McLeod**  
Not His First Rodeo Report

CLOVERDALE — Despite the growing trend of “acceptance of others” in sports, organizers of the Cloverdale Rodeo are still claiming that their event is “not a gay rodeo,” indicating that the rodeo will remain in the closet when it opens this weekend.

Although the sports landscape is changing rapidly with NBA player Jason Collins becoming the first openly gay active North American major league athlete, and persistent rumours that even an NFL player might soon come forward

as being *non-homophobic*, apparently not every athlete or sporting event are ready to be honest with the public.

“We’re just not a gay rodeo, those are part of a totally separate association that we are not affiliated with,” claimed an organizer of the Cloverdale Rodeo, furiously trying to cover up the event’s true nature, “We’re a good old-fashioned family rodeo, we don’t have any problem with gay rodeos but that’s not what we are.”

While these lies may have been enough to satisfy most rodeo-goers who just want to keep their heads down and pretend that there aren’t any closeted rodeos around, others have spoken out in support of the rodeo just coming out already.

“I’ve been to that rodeo and I can tell you without question that its not being honest with

itself,” explained Joe Sherman, a gay rights activist and self described owner of a Gaydar system “Have you seen the kind outfits people are wearing at that thing? Tight shirts, skinny

**“I can’t believe that the place I go to watch wholesome things like barebacking, bull riding and team roping could also be involved in gay activities!”**

**Local Pastor**

jeans, chaps . . . mind you I’ve never been to any other rodeos but I can’t believe that any straight men would honestly

dress like that.”

While *The Peak* can neither confirm nor deny the dressing habits of heterosexual men at rodeos, even the mere possibility that the Cloverdale rodeo could be a gay rodeo has been enough to set off some vicious comments from Christian fundamentalists excited to be given an opportunity to be angry.

“If what I think I might have heard could be possibly true is indeed correct, then the Cloverdale Rodeo might possibly be walking in direct opposition of God,” explained Michael Patterson, an upset Surrey pastor. “I can’t believe that the place I go to watch wholesome things like barebacking, bull riding and team roping could also be involved in *gay activities!*” Aside from a few negative reactions from some non-progressive cowpokes, most people have

shown either indifference or support for the rodeo whether it comes out or not.

“What do I care if a rodeo is gay or not?” asked one man *The Peak* spoke to on the streets of Cloverdale “I don’t care what it’s sexual orientation is, as long as it’s an entertaining, competitive, high-level event with only white people, I have no problem with it.”

While the rodeo’s coming out could have offered great publicity and served as an excellent deflection away from any animal rights concerns, those in charge of the rodeo have continued to deny the truth by grasping at straws by saying that the event “isn’t a gay rodeo, it started in 1945 which is before gay rodeos even existed, so there’s no way they could ‘come out’ whatever that means, I don’t even understand.” P

## WORD ON THE STREET

## Q: Who are you planning on voting for this Tuesday?



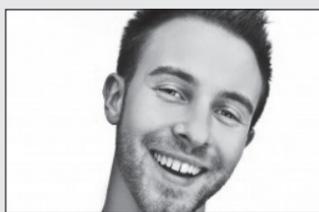
*I’ll probably just vote for whoever has the coolest name. That’s what I did last time and thanks to me we now have a ‘Stephen’ as our prime minister!*

Michael Smith  
Uninformed Voter



*I’ve done my research and I can tell you without any hesitation that I’m voting ‘Code Red.’*

Stephanie McNeale  
Democratic Patriot



*Crispy Clark.*

Martin Wingles  
Thinks there’s a candidate named ‘Crispy Clark’



*Wait, we have more than one choice?*

Sun Min Yoo  
North Korean Immigrant



*Well, I want our economy to grow and our kids to be left without a massive debt. Of course, I’m voting ‘Code Red.’*

Tom Brown  
Doesn’t realize that ‘Voltage’ would be better for the economy

## SFU Heritage Moment

*May 8th, 1966*

Succumbing to public pressure, SFU’s athletic department finally changes nickname to the more conventional ‘c’ spelling.

**This section could use more content not written by Brad McLeod.**

Please send in comics and humorous writing to [humour@the-peak.ca](mailto:humour@the-peak.ca)

## POINT

**I can't believe the Canucks lost, this is the worst thing that has ever happened to me!**

**Joseph Stephens**  
Upset Hockey Fan

I can't believe this has happened. Out in four games? Not even a single win? This has got to be the most upset I've ever been in my entire life!

Now, I know I haven't always been the best fan . . . I know I've ignored the Canucks sometimes . . . only half-paid attention during regular season games, never bothered to learn that new defenceman's name, hell, I still don't know even which Sedin is which, but I still love them, you know.

**They were the most important thing in the world and now they're gone!**

And now I'm going to have to live without them for 5 whole months? What the hell am I going to do? Sure, I might have criticized them from time to time this season but I didn't want them to go away so soon!

I've dedicated so much of my life to this team and they've sacrificed so much for me.

And now, I'm lost. What am I supposed to do without them? Watch basketball? Soccer? One of the remaining dozens of hockey games between other teams? Literally anything else I want to do?

I can't believe how much it hurts to not have them around! I feel like a part of me is missing, almost like I've lost a close friend or relative!

God this is the worst pain ever! Why couldn't you have just hit that empty net in game 2 Burrows? Maybe then the Canucks could still be with me and I could just go back to being happy without the burden of your loss weighing over me, haunting me!

They were the most important thing in the world and now they're gone! This is definitely the worst thing that is EVER going to happen to me!

## COUNTERPOINT

**Oh, then I guess this is a good time to tell you about your father...**

**Dr. Paul McKritch**  
Doctor at BC Cancer Institute

Hello Mr. Stephens, I've been trying to get in touch with you for about a couple of days now. This is really hard to tell you but it seems like now is as good of a time as ever.

Your father is dead.

I know you've been very busy recently and haven't been able to come visit him but his health quickly deteriorated in the last week and we lost him.

He seemed to know the inevitable was coming too, and was acting very sentimental. He kept telling stories about his life that he said he had never told anyone before. He tried calling you to say a final goodbye at seven o'clock Monday but I guess you must have had a really important meeting or something because you never answered.

Anyway, he told us about your guys' relationship and how you never really connected, and he really wanted to fix that before he died but I guess that's impossible now.

And then, on Wednesday the cancer moved into his brain. It's hard to say what exactly

happened; we thought we had it in control. I guess we must have just made a tiny mistake. You know, it was kind of like that game 4 overtime goal Cory Schneider let in.

**He tried calling you but I guess you must have had a really important meeting or something . . .**

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to bring up a touchy subject and I can see that you realized how upset you are about your father's passing when I said that.

Your dad loved you Joseph. He would've been delighted to have seen you before he died but he asked us to pass on this message.

He said, "Dear Joseph, I am so proud of you. You really have grown into a handsome, wonderful, mature adult who really has his priorities straight in life. I love you." P

## SFU Backhanded Compliments

SFU

This is a social project intended to counteract POSITIVITY at SFU.

E-mail a backhanded compliment to [humour@the-peak.ca](mailto:humour@the-peak.ca) and we will publish it anonymously.

**To the person who asked the professor at the end of my History 204 lecture if there were going to be tutorials during the first week:**

"Thank you for reminding the professor to tell us that we in fact did have to go to tutorials this week. He said that he had completely forgotten about them and that if you hadn't reminded him we would've had the first week off. Thanks for looking out for everybody and making sure that I didn't have to spend a whole extra week sleeping in on Fridays."

**To the girl on the 135 bus in the red jacket and blue shorts:**

"I was having a really long, terrible day until I got on the bus and got to hear your music blaring out of your headphones. Listening to whatever Lady Gaga song you were playing come through your tiny, shitty speakers really saved me from accidentally falling asleep and catching up on some of the sleep I missed last night."

**To Nathan Antonio:**

"Last night I thought I was going to have to just stay home and watch TV all by myself without having anyone barge in and tell me how much Frasier sucks, then change the channel and eat all the leftover chinese food I was saving for lunch tomorrow. Thanks, buddy!"

# Activism is on a dangerous crash course

Written by Cedric Chen  
Photo by Vaikunthe Banerjee

I've been an activist ever since I was a high schooler in China. Although activism in China is largely underground and therefore very different from activism in North America, the aim is the same: to make this world a better place for more people. After I came to Canada, I decided that it was time for my underground activism to come above-ground, so I joined Greenpeace and became a volunteer. Later, I joined Occupy Vancouver. For these past six years, I've been working hard and doing whatever I can to spread the word that a better world is possible. However, there have recently been quite a few incidents that got me rethinking what has been going on in the various activist movements I follow, and my conclusion is honestly sad: it's on a crash course.

The most vital sign of a movement's decline is that many activists, even activists from the same front, have started turning their guns at each other rather than keeping their guns aimed at their common enemies — be it the big corporations, big real estate developers, the government(s), etc. To make things more disheartening, they didn't do so because some activists decided to join the enemies, but simply because they have different opinions regarding how their common goals can be achieved. The first time I experienced this was in an online discussion about a BC Green Party's proposal that suggested TransLink should increase fare check density. I said I thought that was a brilliant idea, since I'd had enough of TransLink sucking fare payers' money to compensate the loss to fare-evaders, but someone immediately retorted, "What the hell is wrong with you?" I suppose she didn't know that I'm also a strong advocate for TransLink to undergo financial reform, but regardless, is this any

proper way to treat a fellow activist?

This phenomenon intensified when Occupy Vancouver started its encampment at VAG and got worse after Occupy Vancouver was evicted. While the moderators tried their very best to provide a platform for a variety of people to advocate for how we can improve the world, there were always those who enjoyed interrupting the speakers for the sake of hearing their own voices. While they've got their points, is it really so difficult to give someone that is not from the one per cent some basic respect? Although I didn't agree with all the speakers, I never interrupted any of them. When *Occupy: The Documentary* was premiered at Rio Theatre, I met someone who left Occupy Vancouver before the exodus following the Ashley Gough accident. He told me, "The alienation in Occupy Vancouver forced me out." This is a warning sign that shouldn't be overlooked.

There appears to be doctrines specific to individual movements that not only can one not break, but also not question. If you disagree with any of them, you're a troll, and/or there must be something wrong with you. If you don't agree with that transit services should be absolutely free, you're a troll. If you believe in even the most modest form of nationalism, something's fucking wrong with you! Even if you argue that TransLink must undergo financial reform, and even if your form of nationalism is simply for the preservation of your already-endangered cultures and languages without declaring that any culture is supreme while others are sub-prime, something must be wrong with you and other activists therefore have free reign to yell at you all they want!

While I understand that dissenting voices make many activists anxious, it's extremely

vital for all of us to keep digging for more background knowledge about any statements made by activists, especially those on our side. If someone believes in modest nationalism because he grew up experiencing his native culture being overwhelmed by a foreign culture, we should not shoot first and ask later. When others say "What the fuck is wrong with you?!" they're wasting energy bringing down their peers instead of focusing that energy on effecting change. No wonder we can no longer gather the momentum that we used to have.

Not many people like to be compared to communists, but in this case communist parties offer us an apt comparison. When socially-minded movements begin to fight internally rather than externally, the forces they originally rallied together against easily usurp their power. After the Big Purge, the Nazi forces were able to strike into the Soviet Union and kick the Red Army in its groin for three long months; after Khmer Rouge slaughtered hundreds of thousands of intellectuals, the Vietnamese army was able to bulldoze into Phnom Penh within one month. Similarly, the activists are weakening not the oppressive forces, but themselves. The one per cent can only benefit from these divisions forming within our ranks.

This trend is dangerous for sure, but the cliff is still a ways off. If activists stop tagging everything they don't like as "the one per cent's crap," even if it's the opinion of someone within the movement, and start respecting a variety of voices instead of just those that adhere to a strict doctrine, there's still hope for Occupy to make real change in the world. It's time to recalibrate and aim not at one another but the oppressive forces we came together to oppose in the first place. **P**

