



Perspectives Perspectives



humor
[幽 默]

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"What the heck is Perspectives?"

While taking part in several activities for *Perspectives* in summer, we, the crew of "Perspectivesians", were repeatedly confronted with the question: "What the heck is *Perspectives*?" (*Perspectives* sounds like a design company; or perhaps a service hotline). Which is why I am going to talk about *Perspectives* in this first issue, just in case you readers are asking that same question.

"Perspective [count noun] a particular attitude towards or way of regarding something; a point of view."

To provide readers with different voices and viewpoints from people of different cultural and racial backgrounds in Vancouver has always been the essence of *Perspectives*. This year we want to reinforce this aim further by adopting a new theme-based approach. From now on, each issue will focus on a particular theme. In this first issue we have chosen "Humor". We want to discuss this theme from social, political as well as campus viewpoints. Read "Feature Presentation" and you find a range of different views on "Humor"—something to refresh you and cheer you up.

Of course, just having our own perspectives would be far too narrow. Never will we forget to include your voices—our "Open Forum" is a space for readers to contribute ideas, beliefs and thinking, so that we can widen our horizons as well.

"Colors of Maple" has rejuvenated and become a site in which different cultural viewpoints are gathered. Our columnists are pouring out their thoughts to us in "Reflections."

"Perspective [mass noun] true understanding of the relative importance of things."

Apart from publishing the paper throughout the academic year, we also have a sense of perspective about what we should do for the well being of our readers and our newspaper. Our promotion this year is the second anniversary of the Flight Of The Imagination Writing Contest. The theme for the contest—"Tofu Conspiracy." What? How can a cube of tofu become a conspiracy? How could this be our theme? Interesting, eh? Then don't forget to keep close track of future announcements.

In essence, *Perspectives*, relies on two fundamental things: encouraging readers and dedicated

staff. I consider myself very lucky this year to have a crew of tireless and extremely cheerful people to work with. Should you be interested in sharing our joy and fun (not to mention, hardship, sweat and tears), don't forget to visit us at the Clubs Days.

"ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense of "optics"): from *perspect-* 'looked at closely', from the verb *perspicere*, from *per* 'thorough' + *specere* 'to look'."

Perspective also means to see thoroughly, things happened in the past, at present and more importantly in future.

One steaming August summer day, I was drinking Soya milk at a restaurant at Goldfish Lane, Wangfujiang, in Beijing. My mind hovered over some questions—the future of *Perspectives*, of my motherland and myself. Being a Hong Kong Chinese in a Taiwanese-run restaurant in Mainland China, I felt my heart absurd, deep and heavy.

Three places, one race, ten thousand diverging perspectives.

In this summer, the news about the two sides of the Taiwan Strait never once cooled down. Good or bad. Love or hate. The future of Mainland China and Taiwan is no less smoggy than the blurring sky of the capital city.

Perspectives is looming towards the new millennium. I have the privilege of working with this great team and this paper across two millenniums. Your support, criticism and encouragement lay the path for *Perspectives*. Thank you, and welcome!!

《瞻報》不經不覺，已渡過八年寒暑。有幸為今年總編，能跟讀者聊聊天。與友人談及本報時，他們都皺起眉頭，且問：「瞻是什麼意思？」「瞻又怎樣讀呢？」一群瞻報人，聽了不禁有點毛毛。有見及此，借用「編者話」為大家解惑。

● 觀察。《爾雅·釋詁下》：瞻，視也。 郭璞注：謂察視也。

瞻一解觀察。作為卑大的中英文報，《瞻》用明眸去觀察身邊的種種事物。今年的《瞻》有別於昔，改用以主題為中心的報導。本期以幽默為題，我們從不同的「瞻角度」，以社會、政治及校園三個層面去幽大家一默。

當然單單有《瞻》的角度是不足；故此，今年增添了「自由專線」，讓讀者投稿來表達其看法及文采，好令我們的觀察點更廣泛。另外，「楓影」繼續用多元文化角度，去檢視這片楓葉國土。「思果」則是我們專欄作家

爬格子、吐心絲的地方。

● 《說文·目部》：瞻，臨視也。

瞻另一解作向下看。編者向下看，是一班熱心、精明、面子厚的同伴，叫人雀躍。在七、八月暑天，大家香汗淋漓地洗車；羞人地蹬商戶的門釘；無倦地出席馬拉蟲式的會議。再向下看，是《瞻》的總後盾：會員。想成為其中的一份子，在 Clubs Days 別錯過我們的影子！

● 《楚辭·離騷》：瞻前而顧後兮，相觀民之計極。

瞻又解作向前看。除了出版報紙外，我們再舉辦徵文比賽，主題為《豆腐陰謀論》。豆腐與寫作如何扯上關係？有什麼陰謀之處？蠢蠢欲揮筆的你，請留意《瞻》的動向吧！

往前看多一點、久一點，發覺前瞻將來對一份報紙、對

人生、對國家走向亦重要。

八月的陰霾滿天的早上，我在北京王府井大街的小店，喝著豆腐腦，心裏盤算著：《瞻》的「編者話」如何寫？這年計劃如何？想到自己，以香港中國人身份在中國大陸首都的台灣食店中，總不其然有點疙疙瘩瘩。血一樣濃，心卻四散。念及祖國的前路，聽到海峽兩岸不絕耳的消息，或明或暗、或愛或恨，叫人心裏戚戚然。前瞻祖國，像古都的霧迷濛。

瞻前顧後 - 《瞻報》在過去八年給讀者不少回憶；不久後更步進另一千年。難得能為《瞻》幹上兩個千年，容我請讀者顧盼過往，與我們共瞻未來。

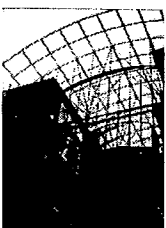
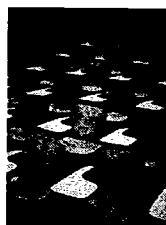
瞻，何也？

徵

"自由專線"專欄歡迎投稿，文體不限，字限五百。投稿者請於稿件上清楚列明筆名，真實姓名，及聯絡電話；送交至本報辦公室。稿件一經刊登，恕不退還，請自留副本。

Creative submissions wanted!! Submissions considered for publication will be posted in the "free style" section. All submissions must be original, unpublished work that includes the name and contact number of the writer. All items received become property of Perspectives.

WANTED



humor

[幽默]

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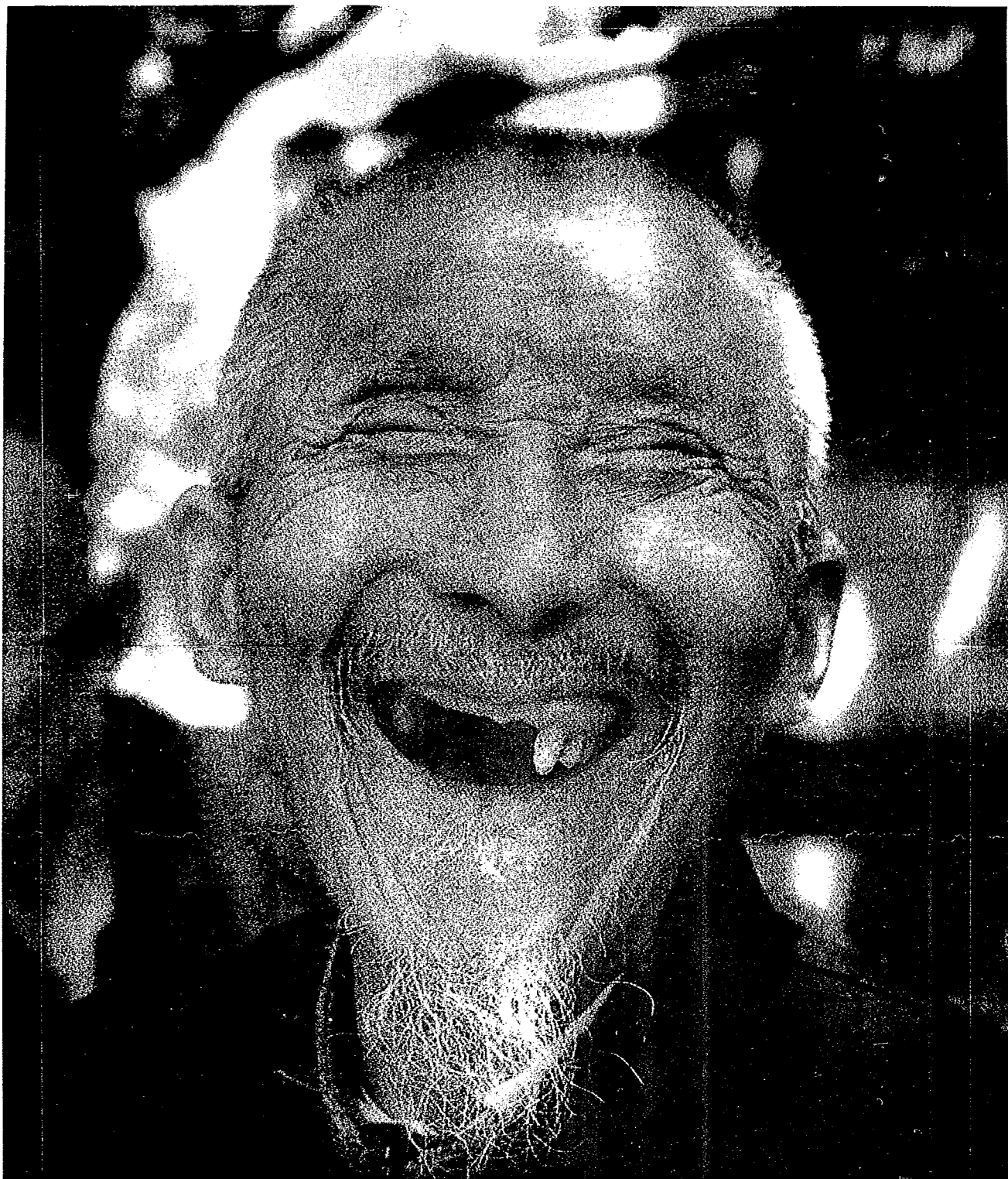
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[Karen Lung | Elaine Ting | Vicky Chan]

[Joyce Cheung | Wincy Chan | Emily Lai]



For those who have seen the movie "Patch Adams," you know that **humour** can be the best medicine in life. Tension, stress and anxiety can be 'cured' with a good laugh. So, to start the academic year off, we decided to offer and show you three ways to give you a laugh, a smile, or just a lighthearted snicker to lead you into the start of another (or your first) academic year. Whether being full-time, part-time, or having no-time to find respite in this hectic and busy world, we hope you enjoy our first issue, and many issues to come.

幽默

大師林語堂先生曾道：「幽默是淡的，諷刺諷刺是尖利的。世事看穿，心有所感，用輕快筆調寫出，無所掛礙，不作聲調，不帶泥作道學模樣，不取士大夫之習態，不博庸人之歡心，自然幽默。」
不以上「自然幽默」的境界，相信有不少人正嚮往著一掃往著無所牽掛的生活，嚮往著用笑聲解決一切困惑。今期本報就以幽默為題，嘗試從社會、校園及文娛三個與大學生息息相關的範疇來體現幽默；雖然跟「自然幽默」還差一段距離，但至少可以有開學一片苦惱和憂鬱中博得大家一笑。

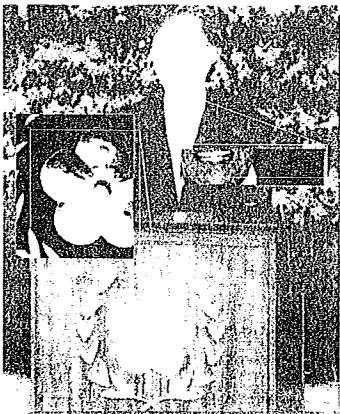
祭壇演義

本故事純屬虛構，如有雷同，實屬不幸。

特區二年，區亂民慌。某夜，董知縣憑欄眺望，正在為國家社稷憂心。忽聽一聲冷笑：「小女子惱為名。知縣大人所殺，大人緣何來？」董知縣兩眼為帶，遮的女子連呼：「饒性命，本府也索命。」董知縣本了性，判官！」董知縣命頭狗命，卻原來是惡夢一場。董知縣從容自在。我望塵莫及，看來不需上董知縣抵達京城時，發現朝廷正六為神無主，伯伯下凡指路。突，上你至。

「諸位勿慌，小妹剛才在尖閣群島標，爺可別疑心。」李海峽風起雲湧，李島主涉水而來，眾臣又慌忙把風吹。島兒來？是吃了新識內亞的閉門羹，到還是貴府停了電所以認不出道途？李島主問：「小弟弟前公務纏身，不美少，姊請安，還望恕罪則個。」李島主說：「恨麼？」李島主其其艾艾的說來：「這個。。。」

江核心見二人「姊姊」長，「小連李格」短的，對自己愛理不理，只得揮手暗叫不妙；此時，身披英格蘭主暗中的克幫主腳踏老鷹飛至。



主一面品嚐法蘭西香檳，一面口啖德意志肉腸。

他慨嘆：「為了天下蒼生，我必一斬奸殺邪，存斯大義。至於武備，白須日精月進，建火炮，練水師，上天下地，務使非妄之徒膽喪，不臣之輩心寒。如今滄海橫流，暴暴相逆，若我不尊義，誰將尊義？唉！只恨我心照明，為何明月照溝渠？」

美少女連忙軟語安慰：「大哥，你忘了我嗎？我會永遠支持你的。」克幫主精神一振，把大堆利刃交給李島主，並低語：「我給你送的東西來了。」

江核心見事態不妙，向朱姬打了個眼色，朱姬無奈地向克幫主拋了個媚眼道：「你這個狠心的冤家，我不信誓旦旦？你忘了跟妾身曾在花前月下信誓旦旦？」克幫主接過了李島主的貢品後，忙道：「朱妹，一個中原的誓言，我沒有一天不記著。」朱姬睨了美少女一眼，沒眼：「你經常拈花野草，我怎放心得下，加上你幫中手下泰半仇視我……」說時遲，那時快，第一淑女忽然從天而降，一把扭住克幫主的左耳：「存天而美幫中還把我的臉掉得不夠，竟然尋歡尋到東方來？看我怎樣回家整治你。」克幫主無奈只得跟第一淑女乘鷹而去。美少女沒趣地挽了李島主的手，也乘亂溜走了。

見外敵暫退，臣群中有人罵了幾句「賤婦」。朱姬充耳不聞，塞了一包藥草在「賤婦」手中：「吃了這株忘情草，便是天大的事，你也可以忘掉。我亦是全賴這株忘情草，才能把十年前的大事忘得一乾二淨。」董知縣依法而服，自此果然心無憂，以至「殺局」也能心安理得，此乃後話，且按下不表。

欽天監見此番升壇作法竟鬧了個翻天覆地，嚇得連忙投奔怒海，舉帆迎向楓國。一眾朝廷命官見天色已暗，便分別打道回府。

就像過去許多許多的晚上，一個拖著沉重步伐的老婦正咬緊牙關地清理遺留在祭壇上的穢物。一陣清風吹過，除了為凌亂不堪的神檯添上了幾分淒涼外，還撥動了那老婦頭上僅餘的幾根白髮。

Protest against Headline

3:30am, Vancouver – Early today in front of Vancouver City Hall, situated on Cambie Street, a newspaper boy decided to shout out the headline of *FunnyNews*. The police soon arrived to see what was going on with the newspaper boy.

The aggressive youngster, also known as Tabloyd, claims that everyone should have a right to know about the firsthand news in British Columbia. Joked Tabloyd, "There will be no taxes in Canada from now on." After the police's warnings, the Tabloyd stood there without shouting and raised the newspaper with its headline shown to the public.

Soon after, a beaver and an infant soon arrived to the scene carrying signs. They protested that their story should be making the headlines of *FunnyNews*. The beaver, by the name Laydolph, says that since the beginning of civilization, his ancestors have been cutting down lumber and building dams. A while back ago, Laydolph was unemployed because of the increases of technological advances in society. Now, finally, after several years of waiting, Laydolph finally has a job at Stanley Park of which his position is to be cute and act friendly to young children. "It's better than having nothing to do. It's unlike me, but it's a job." When asked about his protest Laydolph responded, "My life's a joke and me getting a job in BC is a joke. Shouldn't I be making headlines?"

Beside Laydolph sat a baby with a sign in his hand reading, 'I've a Pension'. When asked for a name, the baby's mother answers by the name Nyeve. Nyeve is only a year old and can only communicate in baby terms. The mother however, is able to understand every thought of Nyeve and so questions were given to the mother to answer by. Known as Mrs. Reelistik, she says that Nyeve was watching television and suddenly a news broadcast of the newspaper boy (Tabloyd) appeared. Soon after, she just could not stop Nyeve from coming to the scene. Nyeve seems to be saying that chances of him receiving an old age pension is worthy enough to be reported in *FunnyNews*.



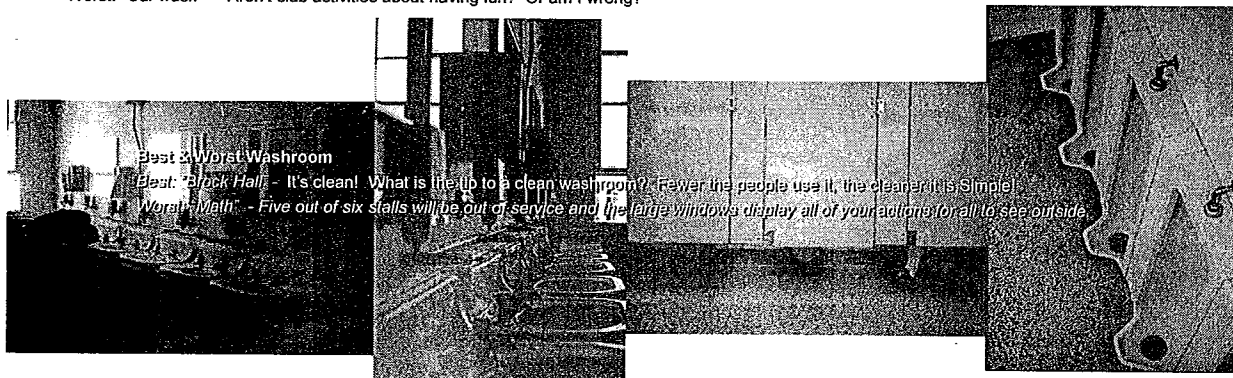
The Campus Yardstick

歡迎光臨卑斯大學！適逢今期是新學年的第一期，我們特意為大家炮製了「卑大求生指南」。希望令新同學早日適應大學生活，亦令高年級同學對本校有更深入的了解。

Best & Worst Club Activities

Best: "Beer Gardens" - If you don't know what this is or never attended one, then boy do you need a life! In the magazine of Maclean's university guide, UBC is best known for the beer gardens. Although it's just a party with drunken idiots complaining and whining about how UBC sucks, it's a pretty good stress-relief on a Friday night.

Worst: "Car wash" - Aren't club activities about having fun? Or am I wrong?



Best & Worst Washroom

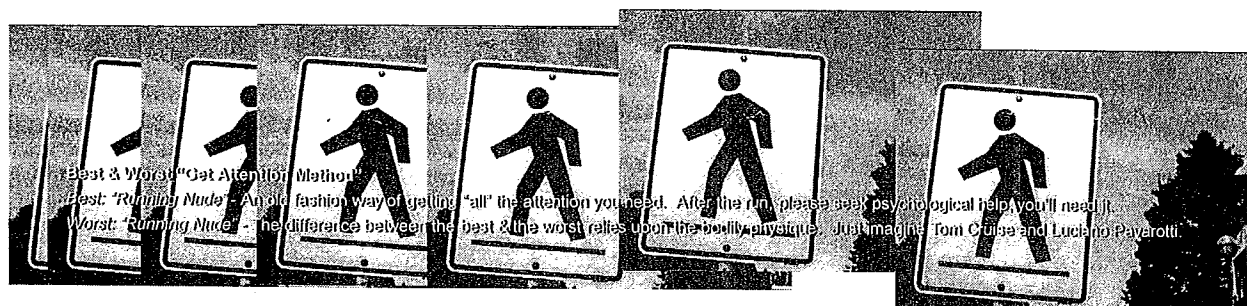
Best: "Block Hall" - It's clean! What is the tip to a clean washroom? Fewer the people use it, the cleaner it is. Simple!

Worst: "Math" - Five out of six stalls will be out of service and the large windows display all of your actions for all to see outside.

Best & Worst Place to Break-up

Best: "Library" - Noise, unwanted language, violence and murder is prohibited.

Worst: "Chem Lab" - Acid, base and all other corrosive and reactive chemicals are available.



Best & Worst "Get Attention" Marathon

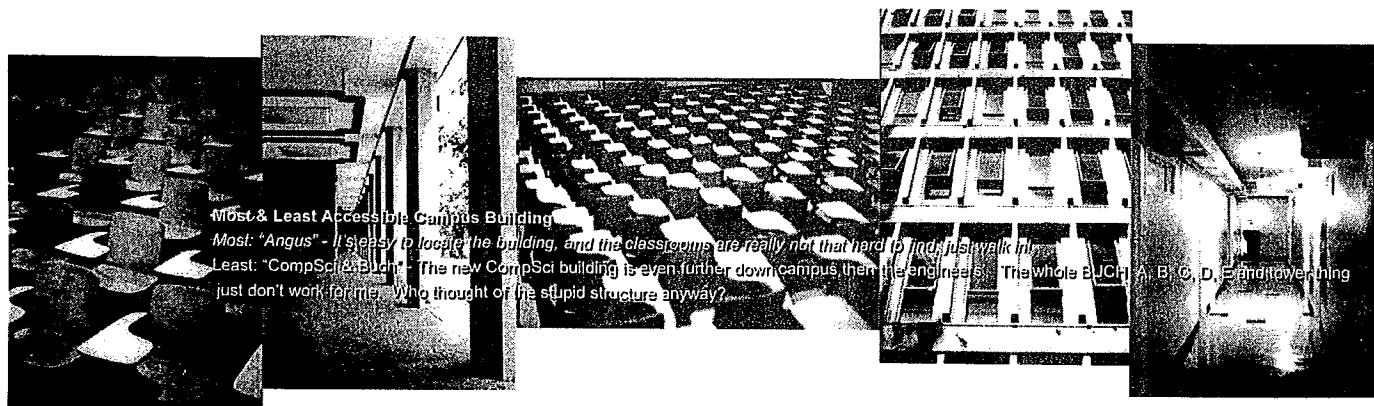
Best: "Running Nude" - An old fashion way of getting "all" the attention you need. After the run, please seek psychological help, you'll need it!

Worst: "Running Nude" - the difference between the best & the worst relies upon the body physique. Just imagine Tom Cruise and Luciano Pavarotti.

Best & Worst Way to Study for an Exam

Best: "Don't Study" - Believe me, if you pay attention in class, read through the materials every night and understand the concepts, studying will be useless by that time.

Worst: "Study" - The price to pay for skipping the day and partying the night away. Don't try to believe in being able to cram a whole semester of information into the brain in one night or even two nights! Even if you did, you won't have the energy to write the exam the next morning.



Most & Least Accessible Campus Building

Most: "Angus" - It's easy to locate the building, and the classrooms are really not that hard to find, just walk in!

Least: "CompSci & Buch" - The new CompSci building is even further down campus than the engineers! The whole BUCh (A, B, C, D, E) and everything just don't work for me. Who thought of the stupid structure anyway?

Best & Worst Food

Best: "?" - Ever heard of good campus food? No! If you have to choose something then I'll have to vote for the hot dog stands. If you don't like hot dogs then the best solutions are eat out or pack your own food.

Worst: "Y & Y" - Since I'm writing for a Chinese newspaper and I'm Chinese myself, I have to say the Chinese food in Y&Y sucks! Besides the fact that the food looks like some overnight leftovers, there are no way people can call those "things" are Chinese food.

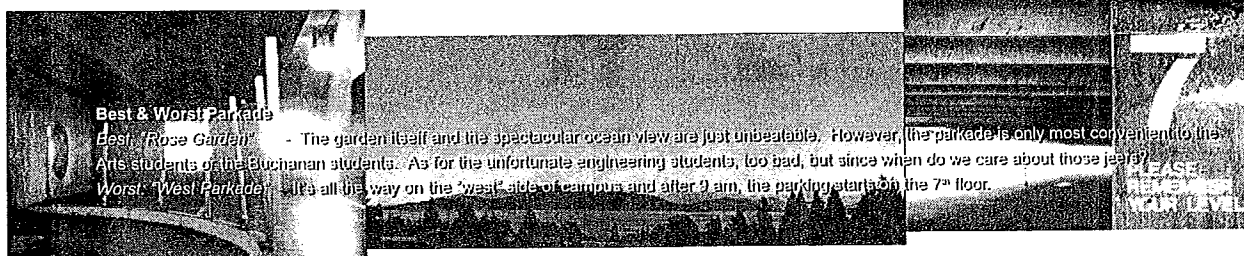
卑大求生指南

Welcome to this year's first issue! As new students, or returning students who haven't really explored UBC, your "knowledge" of the campus is limited. So, to help you decide on certain matters of importance, here is a helpful guide you may want to refer to from time to time:

Best & Worst Way to "Raise" Your GPA

Best: "Peanut's Butter" - Be inseparable with your professor. Be there for him when he needs you and be there for him when he doesn't want you. Camp outside his office if necessary. Eventually he will give in to the force.

Worst: "Lame Reasons" - Please don't give the reasons you used in high school. Things like my dog ate my homework don't work anymore. If there's a prof who buys into that, please contact me ASAP.



Best & Worst Parking

Best: "Rose Garden"

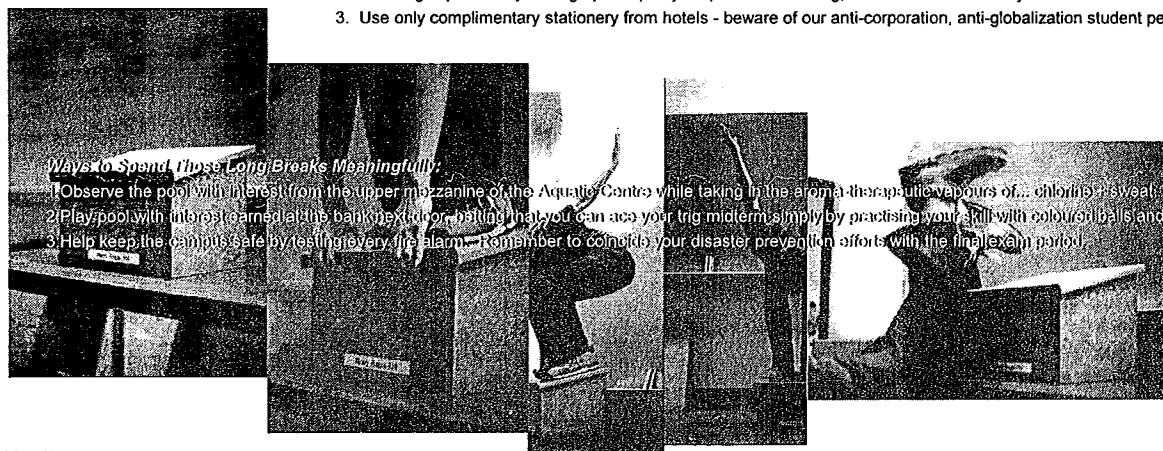
The garden itself and the spectacular ocean view are just unbeatable. However, the parkade is only most convenient to the Arts students or the Buchanan students. As for the unfortunate engineering students, too bad, but since when do we care about those people?

Worst: "West Parkade"

It's all the way on the "west" side of campus and after 9 am, the parking starts on the 7th floor.

How to Save Cash/Credit:

1. Look for fridges in your Undergrad Soc office and place your carefully pressed bills and credit cards inside with the sign "open in 2999."
2. Cut living expenses by setting up camp in your preferred building, where the heat is always on and the washrooms are always running.
3. Use only complimentary stationery from hotels - beware of our anti-corporation, anti-globalization student peers though.



Ways to Spend Those Long Breaks Meaningfully:

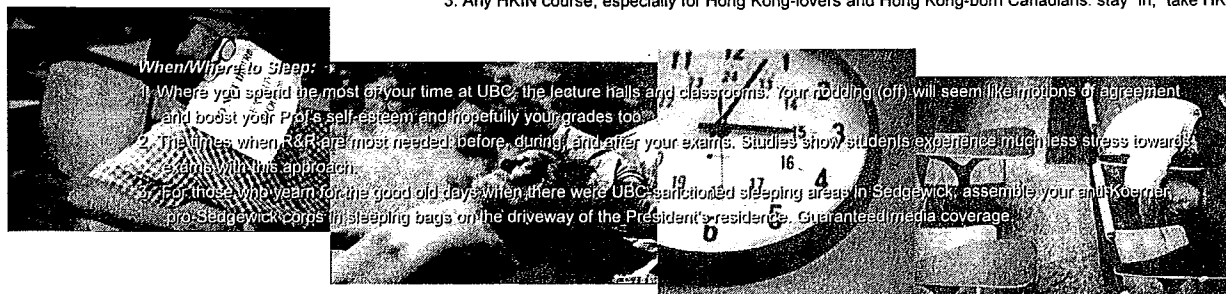
1. Observe the pool with interest from the upper mezzanine of the Aquatic Centre while taking in the aroma-therapeutic vapours of... chlorine/sweat.
2. Play pool with interest earned at the bank next door, hoping that you can ace your trig midterms simply by practising your skill with coloured balls and angles.
3. Help keep the campus safe by testing every fire alarm. Remember to coincide your disaster prevention efforts with the final exam period.

Ways of Breaking Writer's Block:

1. Visit the psych-ology department and experience their exciting experiments. Beware of the hidden XXX content of the surveys, or you may unknowingly divulge your inner-most fantasies.
2. Ask your friends about what their topics are. Have extra cash handy.
3. Rush out onto the lane when cars exit your nearest parkade; expect to break a little more than your writer's block.

Courses for the 99/00 School Year:

1. SOCI 100 (007) due to its catalogue number of 18888. ("Eight" in Chinese sounds like "prosperity.")
2. HINU 309, which our resident fortune teller calculates to be lucky for the year of the rabbit. Please read disclaimer.
3. Any HKIN course, especially for Hong Kong-lovers and Hong Kong-born Canadians: stay "in," take HK IN.



When/Where to Sleep:

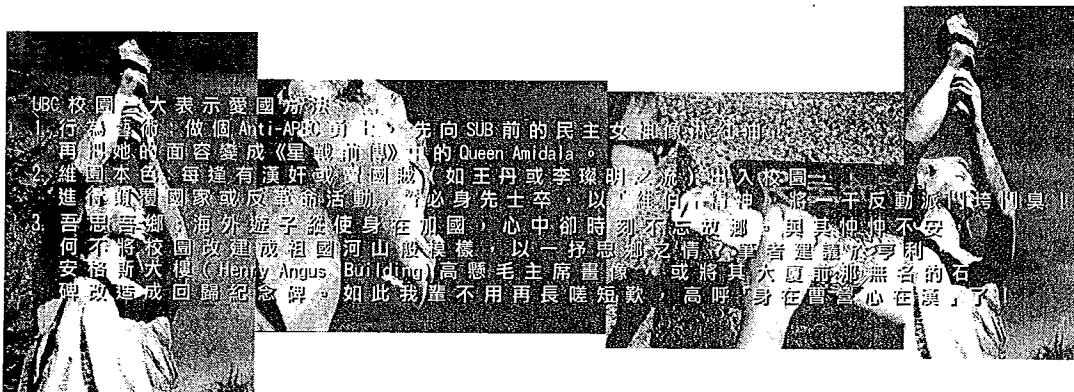
1. Where you spend the most of your time at UBC: the lecture halls and classrooms. Your nodding (off) will seem like motions of agreement and boost your Prof's self-esteem and hopefully your grades too.
2. The times when R&R are most needed: before, during, and after your exams. Studies show students experience much less stress towards exams with this approach.
3. For those who yearn for the good old days when there were UBC-sanctioned sleeping areas in Sedgewick: assemble your anti-Koerner, pro-Sedgewick corps in sleeping bags on the driveway of the President's residence. Guaranteed media coverage.

Gazing Spots for the Politically Incorrect You:

1. Pre-exam, at the Hebb Theatre. With strawberry sundae in hand, silently jeer at your peers viciously cramming as the clock ticks.
2. Our libraries. As literacy declines in the world, readers (i.e. those of us who are actually able to read) will soon become extinct. Libraries will be historic sites, so you should simmer in the sights of libraries while you still can.
3. Revel in the majestic beauty of the Mair library clock tower, the phallic symbol appearing on so many postcards that will serve to unite UBC students and alumni from far and wide... oh UBC... it stands on guard for thee...

UBC 三大「目及」o野聖地

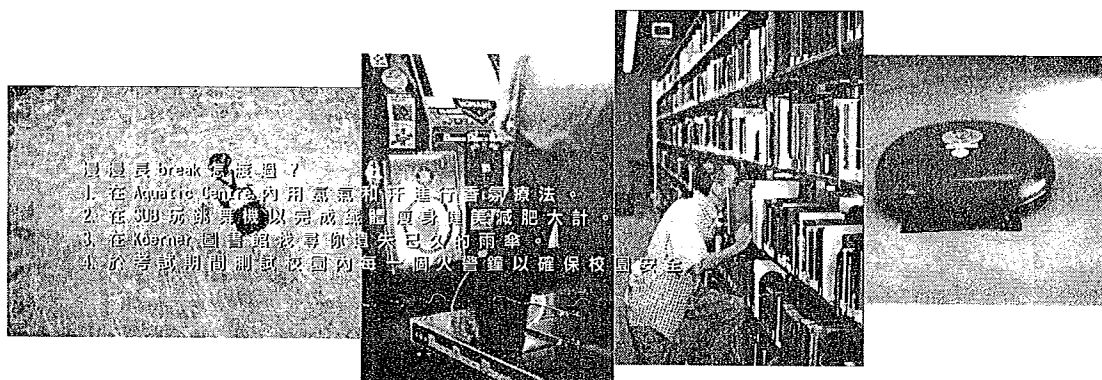
1. 考試前的「乞」劇場 (Hebb Theater): 一邊拿著一客冰凍的草霉新地，一邊欣賞臨急抱佛腳的考生汗流浹背地鋤書，乃夏日消暑妙方。
2. 「頤」圖書館 (Main Library) 前的鐘樓：在擁有無敵大海景的鐘樓上俯瞰全校景色，一望無際的海洋，萬里無雲的天空。能目睹如此美景，試問你我怎能不贊嘆造物主之神奇？
3. 天體「爛」灘 (Wreck Beach) :「你又曬，我又曬，剝晒衫褲剝晒鞋」.....



UBC 校園三大表示愛國辦法：
 1. 行為藝術：做個 Anti-APED 勇士，先向 SUB 前的民主女神像倒油，再將她的面容變成《星洲前報》中的 Queen Amidala。
 2. 維護本色：每逢有演好或「國賊」（如王丹或李璽明之流）出入校園，進行顛覆國家或反革命活動，務必身先士卒，以「維伯」精神，將一千反動派們趕回臭山！
 3. 吾思吾鄉：海外遊子縱使身在加國，心中卻時刻不忘故鄉。與其悵悵不安，何不將校園改建成祖國河山般模樣，以一抒思鄉之情？筆者建議於亨利安格斯大樓 (Henry Angus Building) 高懸毛主席畫像，或將其大夏前那無名的石碑改造成回國紀念碑。如此我輩不用再長嘆短歎，高呼「身在曹營心在漢」了！

UBC 是年三大科目心水大熱

1. 社會學 100 (SOC1 100 Section 007)：科目號碼一八八八八，好彩頭！
2. 北印度語 305 (HINU 309)：HINU 309，全字十四劃，屬金，今年乃己卯年，肖兔，是為金兔吉祥，紫氣東來。
3. 任何一科人類動力學 (HKIN ---)：想做一個 in 的香港人，take HK, IN！



身體長 break 短過嗎？

1. 在 Aquatic Centre 內用蒸氣和汗進行桑拿療法。
2. 在 SUB 游泳場以完成蛙、蝶、仰、自、潛泳五大計。
3. 在 Koerner 圖書館搜尋你遺失已久的雨傘。
4. 於考試期間測試校園內每一個人警鐘以確保校園安全。

校園省錢大法

1. 將所有現金，信用卡存放在 Undergraduate Office 內的雪櫃。但請提防被人誤作精神病者。
2. 省租大法：在校園選擇一背樓面海的風水吉地露營，閒時到 Main Library 前的噴泉梳洗。
3. 省學費大法：在死線前 drop 掉所有科目。
4. 不再光顧 UBC Bookstore。
5. 只用各大學會「借出」的文具。



何時何地好睡覺？

1. 教室：你的點頭的角動作有可能提高講師的自信心和你們的成績。
2. 眼鏡非重戒統計：在考試之前、期間和之後不斷睡眠者，減少考試壓力。
3. 參加校園的雪修小組。
4. 當以上通則未能滿足你時，可嘗試 Koerner 圖書館的桌底，以能睡能使人仕為佳。

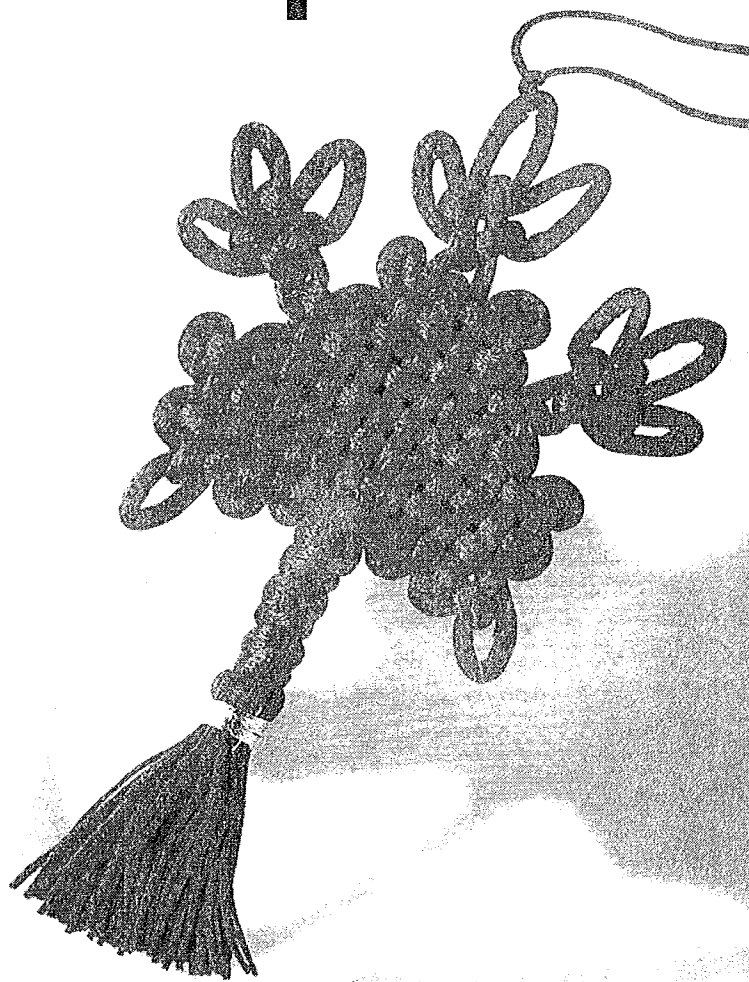
分數接近墮落邊沿時怎辦？

1. 心理系同學可自薦成為實驗白老鼠。
2. 轉換課程，如 General BA 之類（前途不是本欄探討的範圍）。
3. 問同學！請先預備足夠現金。
4. 在 Parkade 內玩成龍式飛車特技，保證令人精神爽利。

除了搵雨，《瞻》還有何用？

1. 宿舍滅鼠：用《瞻》將其消滅！
2. 課室座椅太硬？《瞻》啦！（以不穿白褲為佳）
3. 支持環保，將《瞻》循環再用。
4. 向講師表示課程沉悶，將《瞻》擋在面前（睇《瞻》，更悶。）
5. 在 Biology Lab 解剖魚類生物之後，用《瞻》將其包起。

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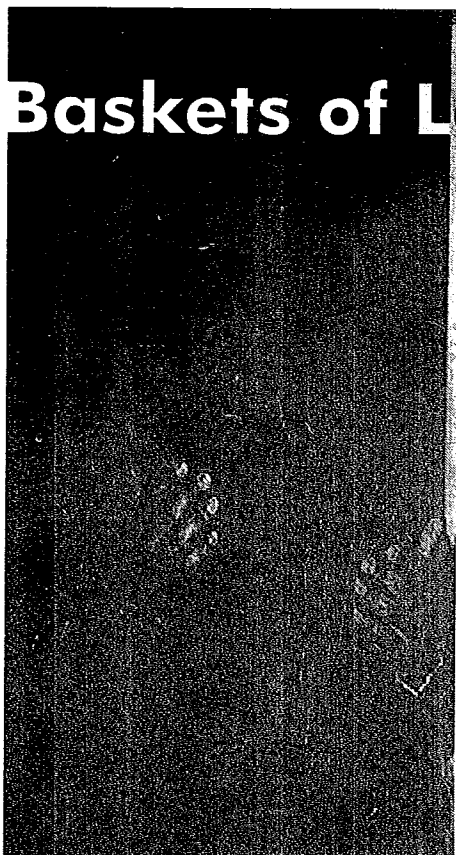
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AIR CANADA

楓葉航空

Baskets of Laughs to Take Home



Many would agree that Vancouver has its own West Coast identity. Aside from our very laid-back and carefree culture; there also comes a very distinct sense of humour. Vancouver humour can easily be seen on shows like *Double Exposure* or, even heard on the local radio stations like Z95.3 or 99.3 The Fox. For live performances, the comedy scene is thriving thanks to the Vancouver TheatreSports League.

The Vancouver TheatreSports League is an internationally recognised theatre company. Since its establishment in 1980, it has evolved into a professionally managed, full-time theatre company. To date, the League's group of actors and improvisers has performed to over 200,000 people. The actors skillfully combine the elements of live theatre with quick wit improvisation to successfully perform a show.

For those who are new to TheatreSports, it is a live show consisting of two teams of actors that compete against one another. The actors take suggestions from the audience to create a humorous show that is later scored by three judges. The three judges are randomly selected from the audience.

There are some basic rules though. The competing teams must abide by the rules and regulations that are enforced by the League's referee who is present throughout the show. Some basic rules include: keeping the scene within the given time period, and no blocking or wimping. Blocking is when an actor deliberately cuts the scene. Wimping is when an actor refuses or wimps out of a scene. Furthermore, the referee has the authority to add or subtract points if he or she finds the scene to have a higher degree of difficulty or if the improviser has performed something of an offensive nature. The referee also has the authority to place an actor inside the penalty box for a time based on the nature of the offence.

Classic TheatreSports skillfully combines live improv with the competitive element of sport. TheatreSports is a very competitive form of theatre. The actors must maintain excellent communication with their team-mates, be quick-witted, and most of all—they must perform good, funny, understandable humour to please the audience. Recently, we were able to interview some members from team Johnny Quest of the Vancouver TheatreSports League.

When we were first introduced to the three actors, Dan Joffre, Ian McDonald, and Scott Owen, it felt that they were indeed stage performers. Throughout the interview, the actors were very easy going and carefree. Their on-stage identities would subtly appear and re-appear during the interview. Perhaps a criteria for being a good improviser is that their own identity is one of an off-centre character. Ian McDonald commented that the characters that he portrays on stage is merely an extension of himself. However, a winning team consists of more than just funny people.

Dan Joffre emphasised the importance of teamwork. One of the aspects of winning would be the importance of a good group dynamic. He recalled several "perfect moments" on stage when the team was able to execute a perfect scene. The actors understood and expected what the other was going to say. He emphasised the importance of listening to his teammates off and on stage.

Another winning tip would be the relevance of current events. Because the show relies on the audience to make suggestions, thus creating the scene, the players must constantly be up to date with the latest pop culture. When they aren't acting, they would be watching new releases at the cinemas, reading newly published titles, and even keeping up to date with children's programs like *Teletubbies* and *Pokemon*.

Improvisation is a form of theatre. Some actors see it as a challenge. Some good actors are good at performing scripted dramas and comedies; while, some excel at improvisation. Scott Owen added that improvisation existed even during

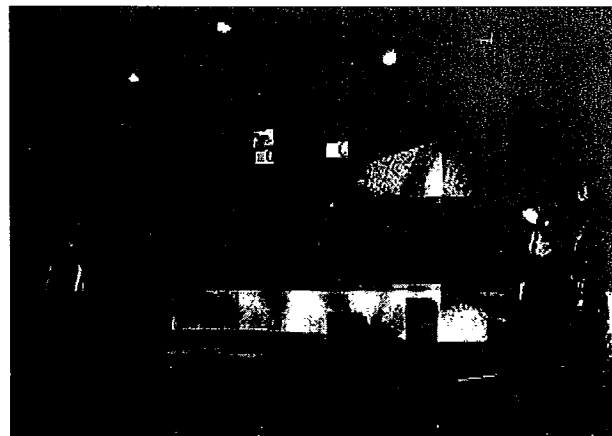


Shakespeare's time. He commented how improvisation was the beginning of it all. Film scripts, stand-up comedy and other comedic performances often begin with improv roots. Improvisation is a form of theatre that continues work well not only because the actors find it challenging; but, because the audience is very receptive to it.

After watching a Classic TheatreSports show, we realised the importance of the audience. Like any other live performance, the quality of the show is dependent on how receptive the audience is. Good suggestions from the audience make the beginning of a good show. The actors enjoy pushing the envelope and seeing how far can they go to entertain their audience. Audience laughter feeds off one another to create a very enjoyable and entertaining atmosphere. The actors we interviewed suggested that the crowds even enjoy watching the players crash with a good skit because that just makes the scene even funnier. The Vancouver TheatreSports League successfully explores the area of comedy that marks the difference between funny and offensive. Members of the audience are not spectators; rather, they are participants of a very entertaining performance.

The Vancouver TheatreSports League offers a wide variety of services besides live productions. They offer workshops for future actors; corporate training; and school & community tours. Their performances are held at the Arts Club New Revue Stage at Granville Island. Further information regarding the Vancouver TheatreSports League can be found at their website, www.vtssl.com; or, by telephone at 738-7013.

主題 + 地點 + 幽默 = 戲劇運動



戲劇運動(Theatresports)是即席演繹的笑劇比賽。比賽中兩隊演員跟據觀眾提出的主題和場地即場編寫笑劇，然後由三名觀眾評審其娛樂性。每次比賽約為90分鐘。在每隊演繹大約八至十個主題後，由較高分數的隊伍勝出。由於比賽氣氛濃厚，所以原創者 Keith Johnstone 把這類笑劇叫作運動。比賽時觀眾為演員歡呼打氣，有時甚至把浸濕的海綿扔向演員，狂熱程度猶似球賽中的狂熱。

原來當大談笑言的 Dan Joffe 遇上了沈穩穩重的 Ian McDonald 和風趣瀟灑的 Scott Owen，竟可變成一個雅趣不少、年青戲迷的怪組合。這隊名叫 Johnny Quest 的隊伍，參加了一年一度的戲劇運動淘汰賽，在過五關、斬六將後，進入了準決賽的階段。鏖戰在即，竟直不改容，於賽前和我們侃侃而談起來。

「戲劇運動的難度在於需即席編作。」Ian 說：「只要留意時下潮流文化及世界新聞花絮，便是最好的準備工作了。」Ian 的眼光落在他的隊友身上，然後繼續道：「隊員之間的默契是整個表演中的靈魂。互相聆聽、互相配合和互相信任是演出成功的不二法門。」

Dan 接著說：「當隊友們在靈光一閃之際做了一些無厘頭的舉動，和自己先前的言行相配合而擦出火花，帶領自己更能揮灑自如地演下去。在這天衣無縫的一刻，一切彷彿都是完美的。我稱之為完美時刻(perfect moment)。」

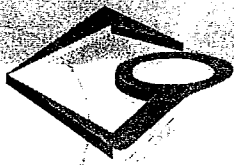
戲劇運動可追溯至十一世紀的歐洲，由當時的挪威海軍發明，以在長途的航程中解悶。其後因演員互相疏離而中斷。1978年由士加利大學的 Keith Johnstone 發覺改編成現在的戲劇運動。戲劇運動流行於世界各地，包括加拿大、德國、瑞典、荷蘭、澳洲、紐西蘭和南非。每個國家有自己的一套規則和表演形式來迎合其文化及觀眾，通常每隊有一至五人，輪流提出主題挑戰對方，再由觀眾提出該戲的背景，然後演員便須即席揮毫：例如在鬥獸場上演一場離婚的一幕。戲劇運動的最終目的是娛樂，所以觀眾的笑聲是得分的一大要素。阻礙劇情進度(blocking)和猶疑失誤(whimpering)則犯了戲劇運動的大忌。

如果觀眾提出的問題太刁鑽、太不兩所以時，怎麼辦？「也沒有法子呀，只好斷章取義地將題目曲解，拆亂地東一塊西一塊的拼成一個故事，加幾錢肉緊，添幾分笑料，觀眾看得高興，便不介意不切題了。」Scott 邊笑邊說。

戲劇運動和一般戲劇的不同處在於那即興演繹的意外效果。演員把自己投入劇中的角色，然後圍繞「當時」的時間、地點、人物去創造一個令觀眾啼笑皆非的故事。演員在台上須把自己抽離現實，不想過去將來，放開懷抱地演活那個角色，才能令觀眾投入。

「我們的角色在不知不覺間流露著朋友、公家人物、甚至是自己潛在的性格。」臨行時 Ian 猶有餘韻：「表演時我毫無思索的空隙。我只集中那一刻表演中的我，過去和未來都管不了！」

戲劇運動能夠流行起來，全因它能讓人拋開過去，盡情現在，懶理將來。這或許是不少現代人的生活寫照。



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一張國慶日海報這樣大膽地宣揚：我們應該以身為一個加拿大人而感到驕傲，因為...

如果這張海報是用作向考慮移民加國的人士招手，我還可以理解。可是對於一個地道的加拿大人來說，卻難免覺得奇怪。難道加拿大人不應該為自己的身份而感到驕傲嗎？我們還要尋找證據來說服自己麼？

可能當你聽過以下幾位省長對於加國的意見，你也會開始懷疑。紐芬蘭省長 Brian Peckford 在1979年曾道：「這個國家有兩樣東西把人們扣在一起：一是大家都討厭極端航空的咖啡；二是誰都不喜歡安省。」大家都不得不承認他的說法有點根據，尤其是當安省省長 David Peterson 也說過：「這個國家能夠團結是因為大家都討厭安省；安省能夠團結是因為大家都討厭多倫多；而多倫多能夠團結，都是因為大家都討厭 Bay Street（多倫多交易所的所在地）。」你也許會感到這種互相討厭的態度，實在有點問題吧！

最該死的說法要算是：「加拿大最特別的地方就是她的缺點。」首相 Mackenzie King 在1936年說過：「有些國家有太多的歷史，而我們則有太多土地。」

某程度上來說，加拿大遼闊的版圖把人與人之間的距離拉遠。當你欣賞過一些作品如「Boy Meets Girl in Winnipeg and Who Cares?」（作家 Hugh MacLennan 在1960年之作），或「If You

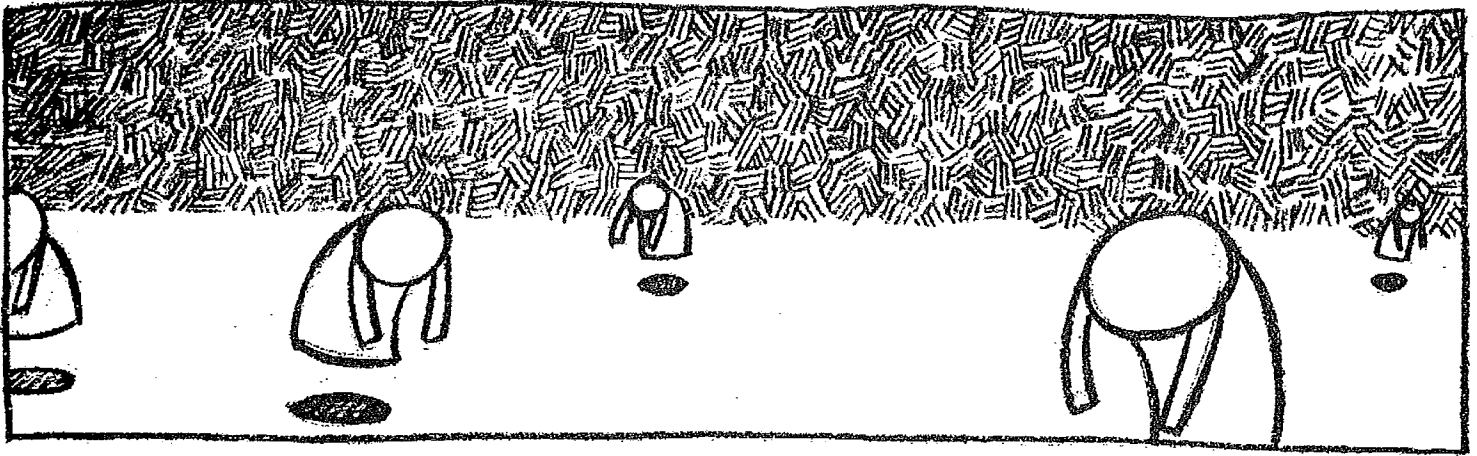
e So Good, What Are You Doing in Saskatoon?」（一套80年代初在大平原省份非常受歡迎的戲劇），相信你也不會否認這一點。在眾城市市，愛民頓所得的評價最差，Mordecai Richler 在1976年說過：「愛民頓像暗瘡一樣令人難以忍受。」卡加利市長 Ralph Klein 更說：「愛民頓並非世界的盡頭，但是可以在那裡可看到末日的影子。」

最令人頭痛的是加拿大人喜歡把自己和美國人作比較。「如果不是為了抗衡美國，加拿大沒有存在的理由。」在眾多加拿大人的定義中，這個要算是最為有力：「加拿大人是一群為了二千萬個不同的理由，而拒絕成為美國公民的人。」

有趣的是，正如導演 Robert Lepage 在1990年所說：「加拿大人只有在流落異鄉時，才會喚醒對祖國的歸屬感。唯一能夠將兩個從溫尼伯和魁北克來的人連繫在一起的時候，就是當他們在維納斯馬可廣場相遇，一起品嚐意大利咖啡的那一剎。兩人忽然間又有了共同之處來。」

大概只有 Oprah Winfrey 對加拿大人至為讚賞：「我們每星期收到超過三千封來信。不少是從加拿大寄來的。加拿大人不會像美國人一樣，寄些電費單來要我們替他繳付，也不會寫些粗鄙的會覆給我，這是最為欣賞的。」

原來，我們也有一些值得自豪的地方。



People Say the 'Darndest' Things About Canada

There is a Canada Day poster that boldly states, "We have good reason to be proud of being Canadian!" And then it goes on to say "Here's Why!"

Now, I can understand this poster being given to immigrants applying for citizenship, but it seems a bit odd for it to be given to your bonafide Canadian. Shouldn't a Canadian already be proud of being Canadian? Do we need to prove it to ourselves?

You might think so when a premier says, "Two things hold this country together. Everybody hates Air Canada coffee, and everybody hates Ontario" (Newfoundland premier Brian Peckford in 1979). You can't refute a certain truth to it when Ontario premier David Peterson said, "The thing that keeps this great country together is that everybody hates Ontario; and the thing that keeps Ontario together is that everybody hates Toronto; and the thing that keeps Toronto together is that everyone hates Bay Street [where the TSE is located]." You might think there's a problem when everybody hates everyone.

It is perhaps most damning when Canada's most prominent feature is considered a flaw, "If some countries have too much history, we have too much geography" (Prime Minister Mackenzie King in 1936).

To some extent Canada's vast 'dominion' makes Canadians feel distant toward one another. How can you dispute it with titles like, "Boy Meets Girl in Winnipeg and Who Cares?" (Hugh MacLennan—novelist, 1960), and "If You're So Good, What Are You Doing in Saskatoon?" (Title for popular Prairie drama of the early 1980s). Edmonton probably gets it

the worst with comments like, "Edmonton, like acne, is to be endured" (Mordecai Richler in 1976), or "Edmonton isn't exactly the end of the world, but you can see it from there" (Calgary mayor Ralph Klein).

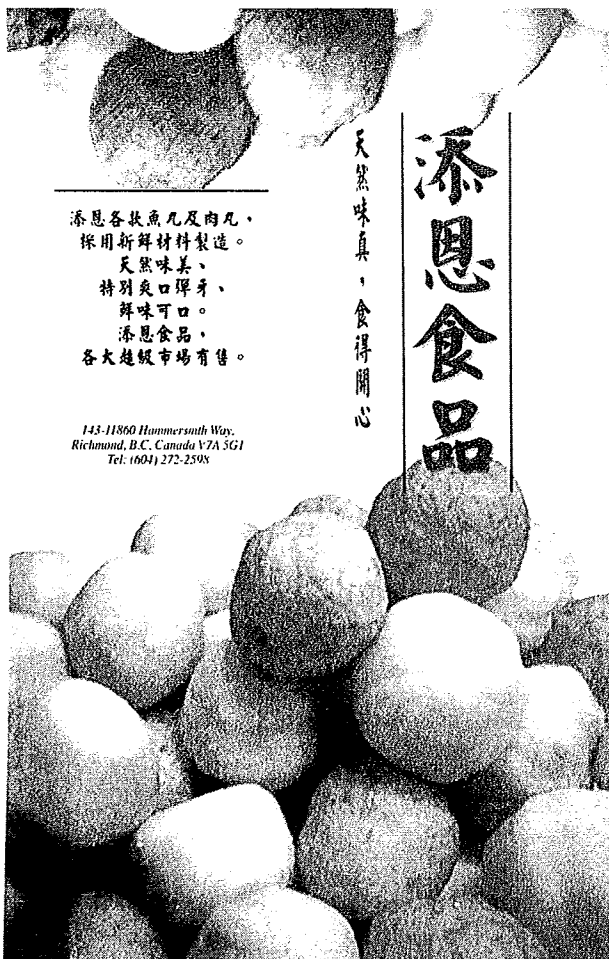
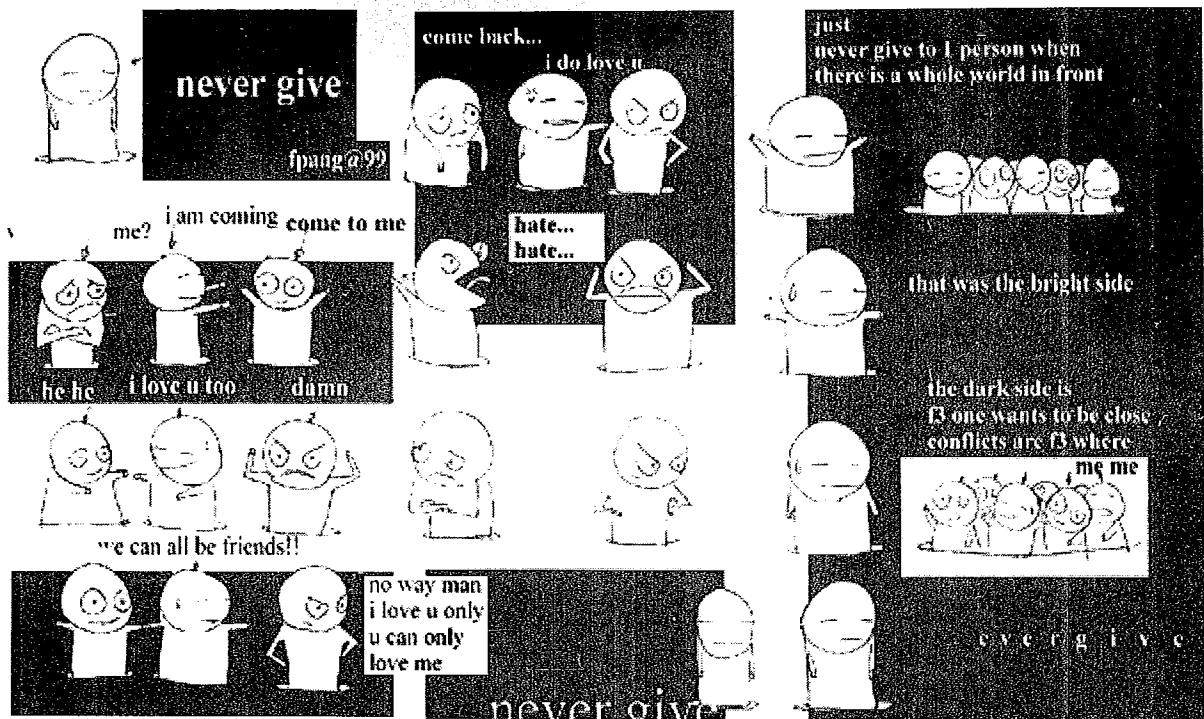
What is perhaps most difficult about Canada is the fact that Canadians tend to compare themselves to Americans. For, "without at least a touch of anti-Americanism, Canada would have no reason to exist. Of all general definitions of the Canadians this is the most nearly valid: twenty million people who, for anything up to twenty million reasons, prefer not to be Americans."

But a funny thing about Canadians is that "Canadians don't feel part of this country unless they're out of it. There is nothing to link a person from Winnipeg with someone from Quebec, unless they're in Venice together, sitting in St. Mark's Square, drinking cappuccino. Suddenly, you have something in common" (Theatre director Robert Lepage in 1990).

Oprah Winfrey probably said the best thing about Canadians, "We [the Oprah Winfrey Show] get 3,000 letters a week, a lot from Canada. One thing about Canadians, they don't mail me their electric bills and ask me to pay for them—like some Americans have—and don't send me dirty responses when I don't. I love that."

Now there is something to be proud of, eh?

Bibliography: Olive, David. *Canada Inside Out, How We See Ourselves, How Others See Us*. Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 1996.



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The future will be the past and the past was the future

By Jenny Beckmann (winner of Flight of Imagination Writing Contest)

Monday, March 29, 2009.

I am here again, at my favorite place to go, the museum of the 1900s. It is weird to imagine these people living like this so long ago. It is even weirder to imagine why they thought their society was so superior and advanced. It never fails to make me chuckle over how they called it the "computer age." Those bulky microchips! However, I am getting off topic. My assignment was to write about something that really fascinates me and the 1900s it is. It is staggering to consider all that happened in that tiny space of 100 years and yet they seemed not to have come that far at all. It seems tiny, wobbling baby steps were taken to get to the millennium. Just think, two world wars, did they not learn the first time? Nuclear bombs! Why would anyone wish such destruction on fellow humans? Cancer, AIDS, how did these people live so long without cures? Again I digress, let us start at the beginning...

The first rooms I come to after entering the museum are called the dark ages. I once heard a period of time hundreds of years ago called the dark ages, but truly, no time seems as dark as these years. World War One and World War Two gripped the earth with such terror. The first one was called "the war to end all wars," what happened there? As I gaze into the photographs of soldiers smiling bravely and wives and children waving proudly I am filled with a gut wrenching feeling because I know what is going to happen. They are all going to die, your son, your father, your husband, and your brother. You will never see them again. I want to scream at the happy faces waving flags in the pictures to stop and do not let them go. They are never coming back. Never coming back, that phrase echoes in my head. I shake it out and hurry from those rooms. I can not bear to think about those wars. 1914-1918, WWI. 1939-1945, WWII. Why could no one see what they were doing? Why did leaders such as Hitler even have that much power? Such things could never happen nowadays with our World Council. Especially after WWII. Of course, they say that hindsight it always 20/20, but really, could people such as Bill Clinton not see the Middle East for what it really was? The next world war just waiting to happen. Luckily though Saddam Hussein was stopped and in 2004 war was finally outlawed and seen as treason against the World State.

The next rooms I enter are the rooms of enlightenment. These are much more inspiring and do not come with nearly as much pain. The words "once small step for man, one giant leap for the mankind" are emblazoned over the doorway. I like this saying, although it really had nothing to do with the 1900s. Their steps seemed so insignificant now. It would have been strange to live in a world where life on the moon and mars seemed like such a big deal. I guess people from the 1960s, or even the 1990s would find

daily commutes from the moon to earth an amazing feat, yet now thousands go to work like that everyday. It is also unbelievable to imagine life without computers and the Internet. How did they even function? When I hear about how they had to connect through telephone lines, then cable lines I wonder did it not ever occur to them that wireless was the only way to go? I guess they were on the right track with cellular telephones, but why did they not extend it a little bit further? World wide satellite hook ups make our lives so much easier now. No connecting times, we are always hooked up and satellites never go down, signals can never get lost in cyber space. At least they came up with the internet I muse as I wonder through the rooms, which is surprising I think when you look at the machines they had to deal with. What big, bulky, inconvenient computers! They thought that their laptops were so hi tech, what would they have thought about our hand held, palm size, voice activated models we have? Probably would have taken them for granted, as I am sure we are doing now. Enough of this, let us move on to the next stage.

The final rooms are the rooms of medicine. Here is where we learn about the major killers of the 1900s. I do not know how people survived with so many diseases floating around. Cancer, AIDS, sound absolutely terrifying and even these things called the Cold and the Flu. With such an unsanitary world, I am surprised the entire human race did not die out. I guess though, like all problems that seem to present themselves to mankind, it is only a matter of time before they win or the problem is solved. Cold and flues are obsolete and the children are vaccinated for Cancer and AIDS in kindergarten. Our entire world is so much cleaner now. There is no such thing as pollution and special chemicals released into the atmosphere patched the ozone. Daily sanitizing sprays over cities also help to keep us clean and healthy. The average life span back then was around 80, now it is 112. At 80, your life has barely begun!

This look back on the 1900s barely scratched the surface of things. So much could have been written about this society that presumed to know everything. They played with fire and lost. After WWII and the nuclear holocaust that followed the new generation was left to pick up the pieces. We do not presume to know everything like our forefathers and we do not attempt to tamper with laws of nature that are irreversible. I always wish though I could have told them about the potential they really had and how much better things could have been if only greed had not got in the way so often. I guess it is useless to wish though. The 1900s were a great learning experience for us because every great masterpiece needs a rough draft. That society showed us what can happen when we do not take care to watch ourselves and presume too much. I wonder though, in 100 years who will be studying us. In 100 years, whose rough draft will we be?

問與答 羽騰

人生本是一場問答。二十歲之前，假設你還有興致在學校唸書的話，你必須牢記各種問答竅門，和老師們的心謀腹略，好能在考場上答其所問；更要做到問雖無稽，答必有自，逼迫那些操你生死大限的人無疵可摘，饒你一條狗命。這類問答，是機械式的一問一答（有時無奈要一問多答，但博同情），是人生的第一境界。肯定的問，理想地對答，一切有如判官審案，那容你閃爍半分？答其所問，起碼保你免受三十板皮肉之苦。

二十年的艱辛，使「答其所問」這個教條完全支配了你的信念、你的思維。可恨的是，當你的唸書興致消失或被逼消失的時候，你開始發覺守了二十年的行為令你吃盡苦頭：你的同事問你今年加薪如何，並不真的關心你會否為此多找一份兼職；你的朋友問你兒子讀書如何，並不真的關心他比自己的廝厘頭聰明多少；你的老闆、你的姨媽姑爹，問你這、問你那，也全不在乎你答得有多誠懇有多肯定有多苦衷有多屈。你漸漸感到答得越多，安全感越少；答得越死，危機感越生。你於是決志向國家領導看齊，或至少做個外交部發言人，無論何時何地何物何人，你都當作召開記者招待會一般「答非所問」。這個人生第二境界，令你照鏡的時候，也明顯的語無倫次起來。判官走後，你大方地將靈魂交託，甘心癡人夢呓，漫步橋上那堆不大連貫的楊花。

如是者又過了四十年。一頭斑白、兩鬢星霜，多少是非成敗，早隨問與答去了。答了這大半生，有甚麼問題未見過？也許，你沒有奧底？斯（Odepus）那樣聰明，答不上「早上四足、中午二足、黃昏三足」一類怪問；也許，你沒有司馬遷那樣堅毅，窮究天地古今，答出一個「一家之言」來；也許，也許你根本不知何問何答，就混混沌沌的虛度了一個甲子，自動成了耳順之人。唉，人生問答，算吧，賢的是他，思的是我，就「不問不答」好了。

晚清王國維曾說，學問有三個層次。其實，學答也須經歷這三層。只是許多人，只懂學問，不懂學答罷了。



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寫意天空二千年徵文比賽 -- 比賽規則

參賽文稿須為參賽者創作，並且從未向外發表。

本賽分設中、英文兩組：參賽者需在以下兩組主題中各選其一項，然後利用所選的兩組題目寫一篇具創意的作品。

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|------|-----|
| 和平 | 椅子 |
| 陰謀 | 豆腐 |
| 關係 | 車牌 |
| 絕世天劫 | 老鼠 |
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- 三．短篇小說：字數限於二千或以下。

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The Flight of Imagination Writing Contest 2000

The contest is divided into English and Chinese divisions. Entrants are to choose one subject from each of the following two lists respectively:

List One

Peace
Conspiracy
Relationship
Armageddon
Money

List Two

Chair
Tofu
License Plate
Mouse
Ping Pong

Having chosen the two different subjects, entrants have to write a creative work based on them. The creative work may be of any kind of the suggested styles:

- 1) Poetry: any poetic style is acceptable [not more than 100 words]
- 2) E-mail style: to be written as email and sent to perspectives@bctel.ca [no more than 500 words]
- 3) Short story [no more than 2000 words]


Creativity is the most important element in marking. In each writing-style category of both English and Chinese divisions, a winning piece will be chosen. There will be six winners in total for all Chinese and English categories.

Deadline

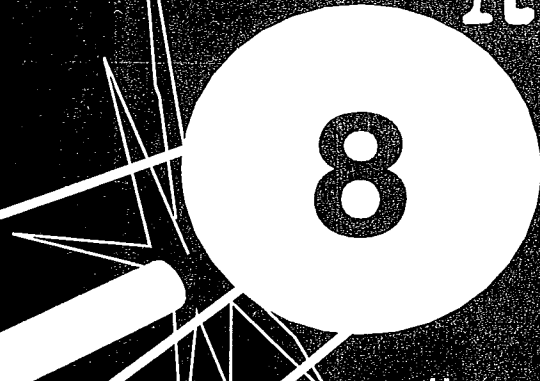
- Submission deadline for the contest is on February 14 [counted on the postal date]
- No late submissions will be accepted.

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Going to Tokyo: Newbies Take Note.

For those of you who have never traveled to a major international city, you may become overwhelmed by the sheer size and scope of the environment you are entering. Tokyo is no exception.

When you first arrive in Japan, you may be comforted by the unique scenery as you approach Narita Airport. The interesting contrast between Vancouver and Narita can easily catch one off guard. Leaving Vancouver, you can see the whole Lower Mainland virtually covered in urban development. As you take-off towards the East, you see the buildings in Richmond shrink smaller and smaller, your view of the city becoming ever more broad. If you keep your eyes to the ground, you will begin to see Highway 99 that cuts through from Richmond to Ladner until you see the road disappear under the Fraser River in the George Massey Tunnel. Your view constantly changes as the plane begins to turn towards the Pacific, on its way to one of the most dynamic places on earth.

Narita, however, is nothing like Vancouver. Once you reach the Japanese coast, the main thing you will find are rice fields, and manmade hills and forests scattered around the region. As you maintain your gaze on the straight rows of fields, your eyes will shift to find a twisting road that is surrounded, haphazardly as it seems, by buildings and houses that constitute a small village.

When you land in Narita, the airport seems surprisingly quiet. Despite being an airport that moves over 23 million international passengers a year (excluding domestic flights, according to an 1994 statistics report), everything seems set up for a calm arrival. The small looking village, the relatively quiet airport—it would make you feel like you're travelling to a quaint BC town than a major metropolis.

Although, your perceptions may begin to change when you notice that you are arriving at Narita's second terminal. If you had done some travelling research, you would know that Narita is ranked as one of the worlds 10 ten most busiest airports. Once your plane arrives at the terminal, you will also notice that the airport gate you arrived in is actually an annex to the second terminal and you have to take a short shuttle train (something similar to Skytrain, but much older) to the terminal building.

It is definitely to the developers' credit that Narita provides such a calm arrival from the frantic pace of Tokyo. Once you have finished going through customs, you can either take a limousine bus or a train to take you to the center of Tokyo, both of which provide a comfortable ride, preparing you for the quick pace that defines Japan's major metropolis.

Of course the busy-ness of the city will depend on the time of day you arrive, but for the bulk of the day, Tokyo is always busy, especially Japan

Rail's (JR) Tokyo Station. If you take the Narita Express from the airport to Tokyo, you will find yourself right in the middle of the transportation system in the city. Tokyo station is where virtually all the trains come and go to bring you to your destination. All the *shinkansen*, or bullet trains, are there, taking you in any direction, to places as close as Nagano, to more historic places like Kyoto, or other cities such as Osaka, and all the way to Hiroshima or all the way North to Hokkaido. While I have not counted, there are at least 50 trains that take you to where ever you have to go, half of those are the bullet trains, and half are the various subways and passenger trains taking you to the various regional cities inside Tokyo.

If you plan to travel around Japan, it is best to get a Japan Rail Pass, which allows you to travel on any JR train for the price of the pass. Its price is based in yen (Japan's currency), so the price in Canadian dollars will of course fluctuate. Nevertheless, it is worth getting at least a seven day pass (if you are planning to stay that long or longer), and just go to various places both inside Tokyo and around Japan. For example, the round trip from Tokyo to Hiroshima (about 10 hours there and back) already 'pays' for the travel pass. One thing that can be extremely valuable for English travellers is to buy a travel mapbook that has all the Japanese names of stations and landmarks romanized (kanji translated into the alphabet). Otherwise you will be stuck trying to remember all the Japanese characters that make up the name of each station.

The biggest question is whether you will need to know basic Japanese. Of course, if you know some Japanese, especially if you can read Hiragana or Katagana, it will be easier for you to handle travelling on your own, or with a companion. A simple rule of thumb is, the farther from the centre of Tokyo you get, the harder it will be for you to find someone that speaks 'some' English. Most employees inside huge department stores (and I mean huge—one store easily being four to five times larger than a regular The Bay store) will know basic English phrases, and there will be some English on signs and windows.

Going to Japan is anything 'but' a vacation. It is an adventure for your average Canadian. Of course it doesn't come cheap. Transportation costs alone (flight, train, bus, taxis) can cost you CDN\$1700 alone. But the experience can be breathtaking if you've never been to such a place. There is nothing that puts things into greater perspective than to travel and find out for yourself, which city you love best and consider to be home.

UBC Hates YOU

You knew it at the back of your mind. She's been dropping your hints all year, from the first day you step into this campus, yet you always dismiss the thought as ridiculous or paranoid. Maybe you've never consciously thought about it. Or maybe you just don't want to think about the implications if it turns out to be true.

Pesky parking security? We're environmentally friendly! Silverfish-infested dorm rooms? What proud history we endow! You've had better dog food than what's served at SUB? Bet your dog food ain't as nutritious as this! Totally clueless TA's? Well...uh.... Humanitarian aid to the less intellectually-gifted! The rationalization can go on and on, if so you choose.

But someday, you'll run into something more serious than moronic TA's. Try graduating. Your graduation requirement is longer than a legal contract. Go see academic advisors? Good luck. It's not so much that they're incompetent, but when they screw you up you can't hold them responsible for their incompetence. But even before you ever get to see your advisor, try getting past the department secretaries. In my department, in addition to being obnoxious and detestable, they tell you the week's advising is full if you call later than 10am Monday morning. And if you're lucky enough to get an appointment, it'll likely be three weeks to date. If this is an attempt to alienate the students from burdening the admin with advising work, it's as successful a campaign as it can get. If you mind so much, go away.

Funny, since that's exactly what our standard academic punishment – the infamous Dean's Vacation – does. You get so sick of UBC that you've failed half her courses? No prob. She'll send you away and make sure you don't come back for a year, hopefully never. You think this will never happen to you? But now, thanks to some ingenious admin planning, you don't have to fail a year and they'll still kick you out of your program! This year in some programs they start barring people from taking core courses if their GPA drop below 65. So what are you supposed to do if you had a 60% average the last couple of years? Take four semesters of first year philosophy courses until your boost you mark up to 65? It is amazing how some of the brightest research minds in Canada make the dumbest rules on earth.

I'm not always critical of the admin pukes; it's probably not their intention to alienate you – they're just incapable of making it otherwise. By now you should know how to swim and maneuver past expression-impaired faculty, apathetic department staffs, draconian parking regulations, and any other driftwood that happens to block your way. If you don't, according to university policy, you deserve to sink. With that in mind, go on and have a wonderful semester.

If it makes you feel any better. You're not the only one. She hates me too.

"You have a secret admirer whom you are not aware of."

"Hah! What a joke!" My friend threw the piece of paper in front of me, and started eating the remains of the fortune cookie. I took a look, and then said to her, "What is so funny about it?"

"Well, that certainly doesn't apply to me."

"And why not?" I snapped.

"Do you know something that I don't? Who is it?" Her eyes brightened with anticipation.

"Well, it says 'secret admirer', so of course it is a secret!" She gave me a little punch in the arm, and then continued laughing.

She might think that it was funny, but let me tell you, manufacturers of fortune cookies are smart. Since the manufacturers know quite well that they really cannot tell fortunes, they make the cookies so that most of the messages contained within are general, so general that they apply to virtually everybody. The above message, therefore, is no exception.

My mother once said to me, long before I had any experience of being admired, that there would always be someone loving you, you just might not know it. Innocent as I was then, I asked, "What if you are really ugly, or maybe really mean?"

"There used to be a Chinese saying, which says that 'the smelliest statue in the world will still find its worshipper who has lost his sense of smell'. So, my dear, your time will come."

Love is something that is felt, and not told. People nowadays are so fixated on hearing the words from their lovers, so that they will be reassured that the love exists. However, as one grows, one begins to realize that the words get easier and easier to say, and up to a certain point, the words become just words, like "how are you", or "today is a nice day". You can easily blurt these out without any feelings attached. The tough part is to be able to feel it without it being said.

Nowadays, it is becoming more and more difficult to feel loved. Everyday chores and worries clutter up most of our minds, leaving virtually no room for imagination. However, as you are reading, take a moment to close your eyes and imagine that you are being loved by someone, somewhere out there. You do not have to know the name. You do not have to know the place. Just know that love is all around you. It is kept a secret because it wants you to feel, without being told.

I am NOT a Student

I always had a childish dream. But as silly as it was, it might be shared by many people, perhaps you as well.

Ever since I began schooling, there's not a day when I didn't think about finishing school and becoming a professional: a "white collar" working at downtown. Working professionals in downtown had always represented something elegant and respectable to me ever since I was a little girl. To me, they meant maturity, freedom from parental control, and financial independence. With this in view, I was anxious to get out of school and so looking forward to the day when I joined the "white collar class".

Simply put, I just wanted to finish school ASAP. I just wanted to get rid of the "student" title.

This urgency was not driven by the fact that I did terrible at school, or I was the enemy of the class, despised by both professors and classmates. Like the majority of you, I was just an average student with an average GPA and an average appearance.

Sometimes I simply felt exhausted by school life. Maybe you had such a feeling once in awhile too. Having been in school for all of my conscious life, I felt the need to do something different, something that would bring some new colour to my life before I bored myself to death.

On September 7, the day after the Labour day weekend, I got up at 6:30am as usual and prepared myself for another busy day. I brushed my teeth and styled my hair. I walked into my closet and chose the clothes that I would wear on that day. And, instead of choosing jeans and a fashionable T-shirt for school, I chose a simple blouse and a dress skirt. Later, I put on a black blazer as well.

I was not going for a job interview on the first day of school, or I had to do another presentation. Instead, I was going to work in downtown. I already graduated from UBC in May and all of my friends now were either working or finding jobs, whether they were in Vancouver or Hong Kong, where most of them were at this moment. As for myself, I was lucky enough to land myself a job in a prime location of downtown Vancouver.

It's true that my childhood dream had finally realized, but I had to admit that being a working individual at downtown is far less glamorous than it had always been in my imagination. Although I'm more financial independent now and don't have to stay up late to finish homework or prepare for exams, ironically I feel more stressful and tired than I was a student. Why? It's a long story, but I'm going to tell you what I have to face every day at work....starting next issue.

Beyond the Curve

Beneath a sanguine sky, the town peeks over some tall palm trees that outline its perimeter. Moving closer you would see a tram rocking slowly through the valley of concrete high-rises. Ding. Ding.

I look out to the street from the upper deck of the tram and through a chink between two buildings, I catch a glimpse of the sea. The silken tranquility of the water complements the serenity of the upper deck. I treasure every moment of it. The stop lasts only for few seconds; the light switches green, and the tram charges forward again.

As the tram moves slowly along the narrow street, I spot an old man sitting alone on the edge of a stone sculpture. He looks like the type of seaman that is found in storybooks. He has a weather-beaten face, light up with a pair of shrewd eyes that stare quietly at the people that walk pass him. Whenever the tram passes by, he is there at the same spot.

I have always pitied him for having to lead such a meaningless and boring life. Why can't he be like the old guys down in V___ Park who do Tai Chi in the morning and play chess in the afternoon? But I suddenly start to admire him.

Looking far from a distance, I discover that his presence clashes with the prosperity and dynamism of our city. Maybe he once was a sea cap-

tain sailing in the sea and discovered what's far around the curve of the earth—his back. He has found himself and he knows the role that he wants him to play in the world.

He does not have to worry about the contingencies of everyday life yet he lives on, maybe with less, but enough. We might spend a lot of time searching for or creating an ideal lifestyle but only discover at the end that just being alive is dynamic and exciting. Each individual is like a grain of sand in the beach. Some sand might shine particularly bright when the tide ebbs. However, when the tide rises again, there is no difference among them.

The tram moves on and the old man seems to be getting smaller and smaller. I look around and discover that the entire upper deck is packed with passengers. In the warmth of the setting sun, the circle of life through which we move seems suddenly very small. I take a deep breath and look outside again. The sea. The water that has no edge is nevertheless close and intimate. The Spirit hovers in the twilight fog as the city envelops in a wet blanket that hides its sparkling features.

當陽光灑在山坡上

他出身於客家農村，是家裡的長子，上有一個姊姊，下有六個弟妹。農村日子非常清苦，他從小懂事、勤奮上進，沉默而寡言。老父老母忙於農耕農忙，家裡的弟妹姊妹稱他一聲「大哥」，視長兄如父。考上省中的那一年，父親賣了家裡的老母豬來給他買了輛腳踏車，讓他可以騎著車到鎮上的學校去。愛護弟妹的他疼惜弟妹磨破的鞋兒，就常騎著腳踏車載送他們。

他大姊遇上大姊夫的那年，由於兩家姓同一個名，犯了老傳統的忌諱，家裡的阿公不願答允這樁姻緣。大姊與姐夫於是求助了鄰村戶政事務所的徐老來說媒。公正聞名的徐老見這對年輕佳偶恩愛情堅，便誠懇地說服家裡的老人家成全了這段良緣。他家和徐家的來往也因此越來越密切。弟妹姊妹老愛上徐家作客，找徐老的女兒、兒子玩耍。徐家小女兒阿春姊姊就常像小領袖般領著這班小娃兒玩。

這天他騎著腳踏車來徐家接弟妹姊妹回家吃晚飯，踏在這夕陽相印的土石路上。路旁的稻田迎風盪起一波波的穗浪，空氣中有那般甜甜的稻麥香，腳踏車滾著砂石康坑康坑的響。到了鄰村，他駐足在徐家的院前，看著玩得樂透了的弟妹姊妹，但他的目光卻不禁停駐在那女孩阿春陽光般的笑靨上。聆聽著院裡的笑語，思索著這般快樂、這般愛笑的女孩，他的嘴角不覺也隨著上揚。日日月月，時光如梭，女孩的笑容如春天的陽光灑滿他的世界，他的沉穩如緩煦的山峰給她最結實的依靠。

多麼平凡無奇的一個邂逅啊！我輕笑，問了幾十回，答案始終是嗎這般淡淡而甜甜的，就像老家鄉下的空氣一樣。主角和阿春如今都是半百的老夫老妻了，然而他們依然是我的陽光、我的依靠……。

<<音步>>

古典英詩，大可無韻，卻不可無律。十七世紀英國文豪米爾頓在失樂園的詩序中，便曾力詆詩韻為俗手蛇足，徒為掩飾劣作而添。但於詩律卻示聞片言相許，而畢生創作，亦無逾雷池半步。其實，輕者抑、重者揚。抑揚交錯。英文句子自有一套天然的音律，只要稍為節制一下，即可入詩。

學寫格律詩，便要老老實實的從音步學起。一行「抑揚五音步」橫列眼前，管你熱血如何沸騰，也得「抑抑抑抑抑抑抑抑抑抑」咬緊牙關熬過去。在亞當與夏娃含笑顧盼之際，在夕陽與西風帶恨徘徊之時一你都无法突破「傻瓜傻瓜傻瓜傻瓜」的詛咒。這個伊 莎白一世時代的陰魂，跟定你了。

兒時學步的各種慘痛經歷，在一抑一揚之間迫你重溫。你曾眼見媽媽手中那輛精緻的玩具車，像懸在驢子額前的紅蘿蔔般捨你而去。你使勁，你掙扎，一雙軟弱的腿勇敢地邁開了你人生的第一步！當你苦思冥想，將好一部字典幾乎翻破了的時候，你好像終於抓住了媽媽的手，只消踏上了這塵卷的一個音步，就大功告成了！

你踏上了這一步，彷彿人生的抉擇都是在沙漠做的。你無法原諒這小小的音步竟將一尾流星寫成一場「落大雨、水浸街」的鬧劇。響亮的一步把你從海市蜃樓中驚醒。你還記得，你失手之後，那張小白臉怎樣漲紅起來，兩顆眼珠怎樣定定的望著媽媽一和媽媽手中那輛精緻的玩具車一你想哭。然後，一群親愛的姨媽姑爹都在笑你。

傻瓜。

大海●沙紙●冰淇淋

莊子秋水篇有云：

「天下之水，莫大於海，萬川歸之，不知何時止而不盈。」

意思說，天下間的水源以海洋為最大，四方八面的泉源均流向大海，不知什麼時候才會停止而又不曾滿溢。

大海答曰：

「吾在於天地之間，猶小石木之在大山也。」

意思說，大海處於天地間，猶如大山裡的一顆小石木梢，微不足道。

「夫千里之遠，不足以舉其大。」

千仞之高，不足以極其深。」

故即使有千里那麼遙遠，都不足以顯示天地間之廣大無垠；

有千仞（古代量度單位）之高，亦不足以極盡其深無邊際的境界。

有沒有想過我們上大學，究竟為的是什麼？

為的是真正的追求學問，抑或是過眼雲煙的讀書考試；為的只是一張沙紙，寄望作為日後通往康莊大道的通行証？

有些人真的很懂得為自己將來打算，積極參與大小形式的學生會組織，廣交各式各樣的人，不但擴闊了社交圈子，豐富了人生經驗，亦學習了不少待人接物的藝術，成為人人眼中的領袖、模範。可是，有些人漸漸的養成一副社交嘴臉，儘管常常臉上堆滿笑容，又到處表現得彬彬有禮，總給人一種格格不入的感覺，彷彿做每一件事情背後都隱藏著一個不可告人的動機，越是表現得大方得體，越是顯得其深謀大略。熟諳「知己知彼，百戰百勝」的道理。

做學生，又何必如此認真？君不知在大學人海中浮沉數載，營營役役以後，出到社會，又是一個新開始。與其處處戴上真假臉具，穿上防彈戰衣，倒不如坦胸露背，最少讓自己及四周的人都免費淺嚐冰淇淋，享受一番。

李樹坤書院

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無心

還以為今年夏天，可以安坐炎熱夏日之下，充份利用熱空氣與凍檸茶的溫差，無奈豔陽未到，秋風先至。不見萬里晴空，只聞淒風冷雨，不免影響心情。

我不抗拒情緒低落。總覺得，人越失意失落反而越清醒（若然不借酒消愁的話）。或者人在潛意識裡或多或少存在自虐傾向，因而每當情緒陷入低潮，便不由自主地靈臺清晰，好讓疼痛的感覺更能深入胸臆，然後越痛越清醒，越清醒越痛，循環不息。反之，若是在心花怒放時，難免讓警覺性和觀察能力也鬆懈下來：笑得陶醉之時，笑不露齒，眼邊不開，身畔諸君的一顰一笑也變得模糊起來了。

然而，從來只有人用錢買醉，又甚至傾盡所有去尋夢；何嘗有人願意付出一粒糖（或其他任何東西）去換一時三刻的清醒？

說起來慚愧：祇因今天不放晴，竟可一口氣發出這許多嘮叨，悶煞各方讀者，懇請見諒。不過，秋風秋雨，哀思愁腸，卻正好切合專欄主題。

好像還未談到專欄主題。很簡單：分手。

有人覺得，只要結局未揭穿，一切便會如願，所以最好不必結局；不結局，便可冀望明天會更好。但我卻覺得，結局才是故事的精髓所在。一個故事，縱然有再精彩的情節，再緊湊的高潮，倘若沒有結局，必然會提心吊膽，怕有一日好事會變壞；而假若草草收場，又彷彿若有所失。雖然，不是每個結局都美麗，而美麗的結局，儘管可以扣人心絃，可以瀟氣過腸，但又未必完滿，更往往不是有情人終成眷屬。

筆者想搜羅的，正是那種不甚美滿的淒美結局。

結束，不如選擇最繽紛璀璨的時候。總覺得這樣可以將最美一刻定格，再從回憶中剪割下來，然後放進玻璃標本盒或者夾萬裡頭。故事不再有如果，不再有將來，最大好處是不再有惡化的機會。

聽來，似乎更像變態殺手的獨白。

理想人生

怎樣才算是理想的人生？是每天不懈地尋求真理，如果你是基督徒；是致力保護地球，如果你是環保份子；是不斷地拍些把人悶死的藝術片，如果你是王家衛。但，對我而言，理想的人生有另一意義，就是能夠做自己想做的事情。

能夠做自己想做的事情並不簡單，也不容易。例如：你知道老虎是瀕臨絕種的動物，有天你在藥材鋪見到有位男仕在買虎鞭。身為九十年代的知識分子，你很想勸令各國嚴懲非法販賣珍稀動物的無良商人，並捐上億八億給保護動物的團體，你做得到這件你想做的事情嗎？我便無能為力了。

又例如：你看到釣魚台上那未經中國人民同意而建造的燈塔。身為龍的傳人，你很想毀了它，再派三四首軍艦到釣魚台宣示主權。你做得到這件你很想做的事情嗎？我便無能為力了。

你喜歡的會有幾個

仍記得曾聽過一首歌，歌詞其中一句是這樣的：「按捺不住叫做脆弱，吶喊很久叫做沉默。」當時我想來想去也不明白其中的意思。上半句勉強還可以猜得出它的道理，下半句卻是抓破頭皮也不解不通。吶喊怎可以算是沉默？當年只是中學生的我，便求教於鄰座的「智者」（同學）。換來的答案是：「填詞人的人生經驗比我們多，閱歷比我們豐富，我們現在未能領略箇中道理也不出奇。」雖不至使我茅塞頓開，卻也有道理，不得不同意。

數年後，我需要駕車上學，車程要半個小時。每天有整個小時花在上車上，很自然地會放些音樂來輕鬆一下。播的都是流行曲，一盒錄音帶天天都唱著同樣的歌。漸

漸，我發覺自己對那些重覆又重覆的旋律感到厭倦，甚至可以說是失去了感覺。不但沒有了初聽時的興奮，連聽熟了後應有的共鳴也消失了，剩下的只有麻木。音樂只是一陣在耳邊吹過的風，聽而不聞。

在收音機再次聽到那首歌，猛然發現對歌詞有了新的體會。「吶喊」了很久的歌聲，最後變得「沉默」了。

當每個政治家都在說話的時候，人民覺得總統作假證供不是怎麼一回事。當每天都有血淋淋的新聞圖片出現在報紙頭版的時候，讀者就會以為沒有不妥。這種適應能力，難道是與生拘來的？我不禁趕快把那音樂碟壓罷了。

請你不要老

跟父母越久不見，越害怕再見。

每次去接機，都怕他們又再迎面走來卻認不出自己，要我獨個兒在人群中狼狽地叫喊。

更怕發現他們瘦了，頭髮白了，皺紋深了，還有見到那張笑中帶淚的面容。

曾經有一段時間，我經常爬到媽媽的身邊，撥弄她長長的曲髮，然後小心翼翼地把它白髮一根根的拔去。這項親子活動一般可以花上半個下午。

如今，她的頭髮稀薄了。白髮多了，白不能光坡，還是到理髮店染個流行的顏色比較適宜。

離家升學那天，我在臨走一刻跌進了爸爸的懷抱。是那個滄桑的身軀為我阻擋了許多年的風雨，然而躲在那兒流淚還是長大後第一次。

有時候，真希望看見的是小時候抬頭望見的那張年青的臉。

傻子

每個人都是另一個人的傻子。有時候，你會莫名其妙地對某人著迷，心甘情願地為他作任何事；為他傷神，對他容忍。縱使那人未必接受你的付出，甚至將你呼來喝去，而身畔人亦對你的行徑不明所以，但你仍會繼續沉迷下去，如入無人之境。別人說這是痴情，我卻道這是前生種下的情債。

看電影《海上花》，戲中人洋務官王蓮生與沈小紅是相好。蓮生為小紅還債，給她穿的吃的用的一樣不缺，甚至像紳士一樣替她添飯、裝鴉片煙，未了還要受她的氣。他明明是客人，明明佔了上風，可是，縱使小紅再無理取鬧，他還是要她、寵

她。鏡頭內產生的友人不明白為何他要對這個女人百般討好，鏡頭外的我亦大呼：「這不是付錢買難受吧？」試問，這不是前生的債又是甚麼呢？

但是，負債再多也有清款的一天。沒有任何東西是理所當然的。云云眾生，為何要對你獨鍾呢？如若你試過愛人而無所得，你會知道在某些時候，愛可以是很奢侈的。別人愛你是給予，把愛收回就是你的損失了。因此，不接受別人的愛不要緊，但千萬不能將之糟蹋，更不要看不起愛你的人。懂得愛和願意去愛的人是值得尊重的，不要讓他們成為傻子。

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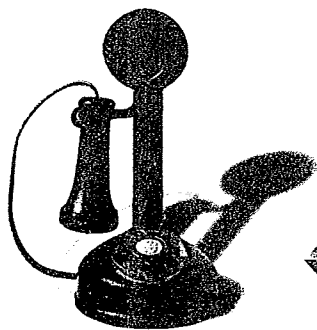
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