

Box 188 - 6138 Student Union Boulevard Vancouver BC V6T 2A5 <http://www.perspectives.vancouver.bc.ca>

Perspectives 觀點

# Will the Sun Shine Again on IT?

## 資訊科技 何去何從?

BC'S First English-Chinese Student Newspaper

Sept 2001 | Vol 10 | Issue 01



2001—2002 是〈瞻〉報十週年紀念。 In this tenth year, *Perspectives* seeks to cross new boundaries and break old rules. 望能夠突破以往〈瞻〉的框框， to jump into fresh ways of being and belonging.

### 不三也不四

From within and without, people involved in *Perspectives* always get asked "what is the theme or objective of *Perspectives*?" 也許，他們心目中的問題是“可為〈瞻〉報；〈瞻〉報為何。” I struggle with the question 因為根本不能在一言兩語答她/他。 The answer to a simple query faces a convoluted answer rooted in a complex identity.

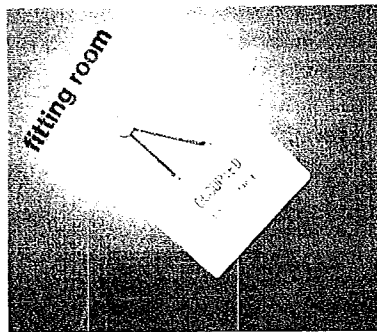
Next time someone asks, we might bounce the question back: what is the theme or objective of any publication appealing to a general readership? The fact that *Perspectives* is in both Chinese and English should not attract constant interrogation. 〈瞻〉們需要勇敢承認自己的不三不四身份，拒絕被屈進別人定的模式匣子裡。 中語英語，不黑不白，勝在灰。 不平凡是好的；無需 keep fit 迎合別人的定義。 We are proud to be neither/nor: 有道，有理，有骨氣。

### 關

門內的馬雖然小，但它卻有兩隻在奔跑的腿，勇往直前。 But *Perspectives* is not alone. We are actively reaching out to other organizations and establishing working relationships. We are about building community, and we are starting where it makes the most sense: the "Chinese" loop of the UBC Student Union Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. 〈瞻〉們不是站在角落眼在鏡子 自戀 / 閉狂。 不！ 〈瞻〉們有誠，有意，成為大家的一份子。

## editorial 編者的話

by > Leonard Chow 周錦麟



## Perspectives: A Year in Preview



### 需要貼地

盼望高飛必需腳踏實地。 But our feet not only need to be on solid ground, we need to bend over backwards and keep our ears to the ground as well. 〈瞻〉報需要耳貼社會與文化，and keep abreast of changes in our community.

On the ground 吸取地道(加 / 華 / 中 / 港 / 臺 / 西)文化。

### 拉闊發論功

In your face and face to face, *Perspectives* will be in here and out there at the same time. 希望〈瞻〉再不限於報，而拉闊成為多種言論的輸送站。 Resources allowing, *Perspectives* may organize poetry readings, visual art shows, live music performances, debates/forums, and skits in the Student Union Building.

On the ground 製造地道(加 / 華 / 中 / 港 / 臺 / 西)文化。

### 背向未來，眼看過去

十週年版〈瞻〉報內的改變無需一一說明， change is good, and hopefully the changes in 2001-2002 *Perspectives* will be good in your eyes as well as ours.

But our backs are to the future and our fronts to the past, looking for lessons to learn from. A salute to those who came before us, 我們的祖宗九代。

Now, take another look at *Perspectives*. 看吧。

**Perspectives is a non-profit English-Chinese bilingual student paper published monthly during the academic year. To be considered for publication, all letters and submissions must be original, unpublished work that includes the name and contact number of the writer. All items received become the property of Perspectives and will not be returned. Perspectives may edit the content of items selected for publication. Articles may be submitted in either English or Chinese to our office in person, by mail, or by e-mail.**

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「此孰吉孰凶，何去何從？」屈原的仰天長問，道出了今日不少電腦系學子的心聲。自從去年網路股重挫之後，資訊科技(IT)行業泡沫化的憂慮，一如如陰雲般籠罩在電腦系上空。究竟IT業是會一蹶不振，還是逐漸走出低谷？筆者走訪了於Orbital 科技公司領導軟件開發小組的Alan，以及就職于獵頭(Head hunter)公司Jenex，具有十多年發掘人才經驗的Jennifer和Allison。行內人抽絲剝繭的分析，無疑成為有關資訊科技的寶貴資訊。

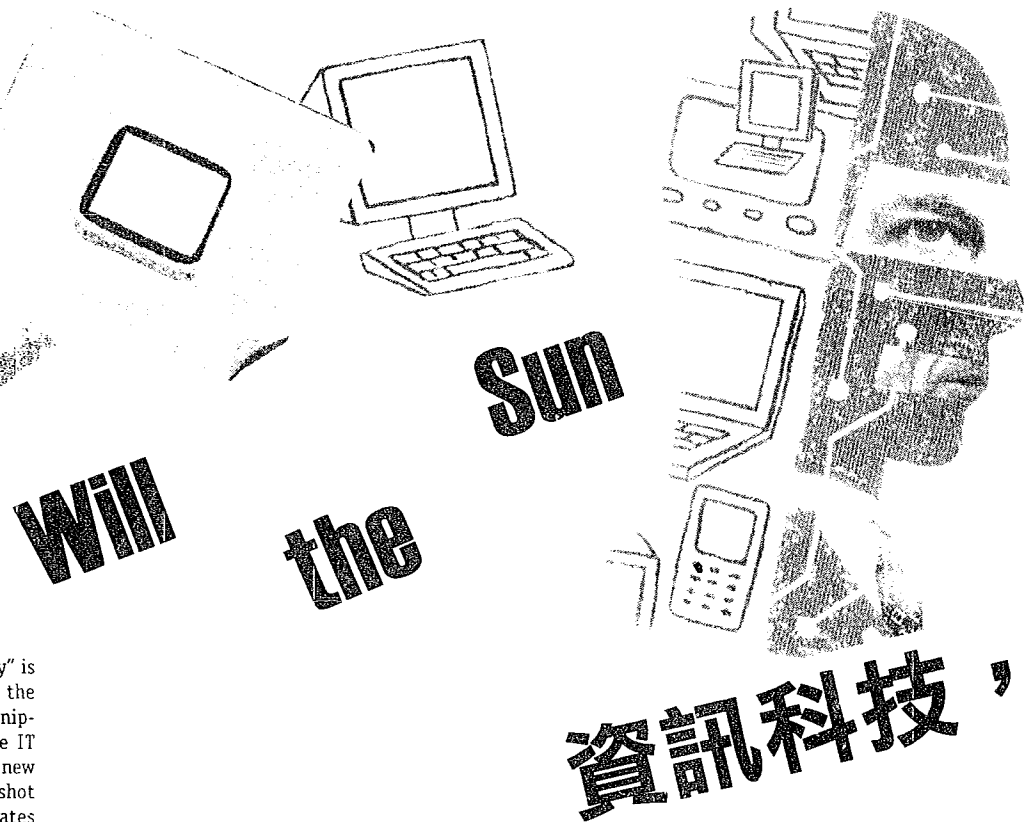


## 絢爛歸於平淡

回顧行業發展史，Jennifer和Allison表示，過去五年間資訊科技業漸趨成熟，在溫哥華的成長亦十分明顯。然而現階段的IT業，在招聘方面確有回落跡象。兩年前，市場大量需要IT專業人仕，求過於供，剛畢業的大學生自然十分吃香。到了現階段則轉向供過於求，IT公司雖然開了很多，請人數量卻已不及以往數年了。

## 黯淡中的微芒

令人欣慰的是，Alan認為蛻伏中的資訊科技已準備蘇醒。看來首先復蘇的將會是美國，而加拿大也應會從中獲利，經濟再度活躍起來。接著是西太平洋國家：新加坡、中國、韓國等；而香港和日本基於複雜的經濟原因，反而會落後一步。另外亞洲IT業的復蘇也會連帶動歐洲。Alan預測：快則今年下半年，慢則明年年初，美國的IT業可能出現強勁的回升。至於溫哥華則情況稍差：雖然新上任的省自由黨政府實行減稅政策，IT業低迷至少還會持續一年以上，才能培養足夠的競爭力。



In the 21st century, the term "IT industry" is no longer foreign to most people. It has become the quintessential buzzword, popping up in media snippets everywhere we turn. And why not? The IT (information technology) industry hit staggering new heights these past couple of years. Stock values shot through the roof and thousands of new graduates stampeded onto the field. While the information-age dream of becoming an "ITer" still inspires multitudes of youngsters, few of them grasp entirely the current obstacles and future prospects faced by the industry. To get the 411 on information technology, Perspectives tracked down some veteran ITers.

As the Technical Team Leader of Orbital Technologies Inc. in Vancouver, Alan Lam has over ten years of experience in the IT/IS software development industry. In his interview, Alan shares with us his personal and professional insights into the IT industry. Jennifer Rigal and Allison Guld are headhunters with Jenex Technology Placement Inc. in Vancouver. Each armed with over ten years of experience, they "hunt" for skilled IT professionals, software/hardware engineers, electrical engineers, and program analysts in search of potential hires for local software, hardware, and chip design companies. Jennifer and Allison reveal some valuable tips for wannabe ITers. Whether you are a protagonist or a spectator in the IT saga, now is the time to find out what's going on.

## The short-term forecast

In Vancouver, IT easily outpaced most other industries over the last five years. Jennifer points out the growing number of high-tech companies rooted in the Lower Mainland. Companies like PMC, Honeywell, and Orbital Tech achieved large-scale expansions during the last couple of years. "The industry actually reached its peak for both employment and business about two years ago," says Allison. Unfortunately, the Asian financial crisis and the collapse of IT stocks jolted the industry from its honeymoon into a prolonged slum. Alan believes that "with the dot-com stock crash last year, the IT industry must need some time to regain the momentum to turn around and to become bullish in the fourth quarter of 2001 or first quarter of 2002 in the States. In Vancouver, the IT industry has gone downward since then. Even with the latest BC tax cut, the IT industry will still be dim for another year, since the government and the unions are not helping the economy in many respects, but they are damaging the economy as a whole."

## The long-term climate

Despite its present slump, most professionals in the IT field still have faith in it. They believe that, with help from the government, IT will live to recover, and thrive, in the foreseeable future. "The key to the ultimate success of the IT industry in Vancouver is to cut the income tax rate much more provincially, to reduce all unnecessary expenses from the economic/business point of view, to encourage business/immigration investment, and to eliminate any strike possibly affecting daily life and economic growth. Then our IT professionals and experts will lead the IT industry to grow unlimitedly in Vancouver. If we can have Vancouver this way, I can personally guarantee that Vancouver will be the best place to live, to invest, and to work since it can be regarded as the paradise," Alan proposes. Jennifer and Allison also believe that support from the government is crucial for attracting skilled IT professionals from all corners of the world to Vancouver. Building Vancouver's skill base will accelerate our recovery and increase our competitiveness globally. In the face of public pessimism, Jennifer and Allison conclude that "belief in technology is the key to success."

## 學生：我們何以適從？

### 省府：是動力還是阻力？

對於省府在 IT 業浮沉中所扮演的角色，幾名受訪者顯然意見分歧。Jennifer 持贊賞態度：現在政府十分支持，IT 業已成為一個長久不變的行業，專才們對工作的選擇也多了。她指出，政府相信科技能帶動經濟步向成功，IT 專業人仕申請移民本省也能快人一步。

反之，Alan 則認為本省 IT 業復蘇慢的原因，很大部分在於政府與工會並沒有輔助經濟。Alan 表示：IT 業要成功的關鍵，是進一步大幅削減入息稅。對商業來說不必要的花費均應減至最低，藉此鼓勵商業與移民投資。另外需要避免影響經濟增長的任何罷工。這樣 IT 業才能在本地無限地成長，令溫哥華變成最適合居住，投資與工作的人間天堂。

然而，一味以減稅刺激 IT 業的做法是否可行？筆者認為有可議之處。省民是否願意讓大企業受益而漠視減稅帶來的赤字高漲，社會福利縮編，基本服務減少？而倘若限制勞工罷工的權利，對整個就業市場難免造成重大沖擊，又如何平衡？此中利弊，似乎並非資訊科技企業單方面所能定奪。

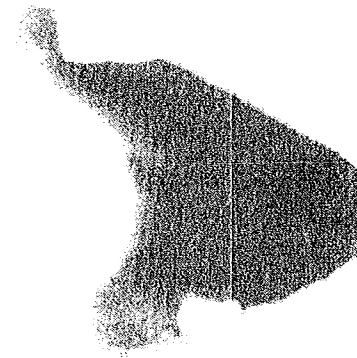
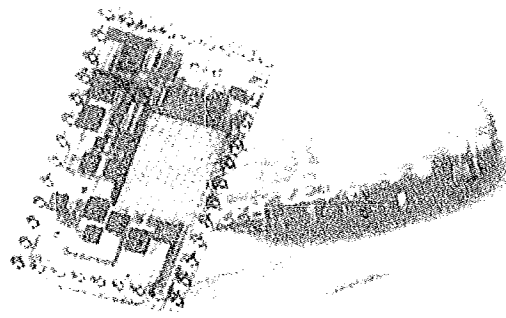
雖然如今 IT 業不景，Jennifer 和 Allison 安慰計算機系的學子，仕實仍然需要入星專業人才，機會還是有的。Jennifer 勸喻諸位同學不必擔心，也不用轉系，只要專心念好主科，前景一片光明。況且市場上仍然需要新力軍：不然數年後誰來接管領導階層呢？而 Allison 建議所有學子參與 Co-op 計劃，因為相關工作經驗至關重要。每年的畢業生何其多，大家應明白競爭之大；想要突出自己，Co-op 經驗，義工服務和優異成績是三樣法寶。另外，作為獵頭者的她們還透露了幾則見工秘訣：應讓公司明白到你能帶給公司的利益，你的長處以及你的商業頭腦。所以奉勸各位學子，單會寫程式並不足夠，要懂得為公司帶來實際利益的程式才能“Bingo”。

### 像霧像雨又像風

俗話說，人算不如天算。展望資訊科技業的前景，畢竟還是有些撲朔迷離。不過 Jennifer 說得好：“我們所能做的只有盡力而為，盡量增值自己，機會一到便能馬到功成。”

Shine  
Again

ON I.T.?



## 何去何從？

### A rainbow after the storm

Not surprisingly, Alan believes the road to recovery will commence in North America. Auspicious winds will in turn improve the climate in Asia and Europe. “By IT prospect ranking, I believe that the States will gain recovery the quickest. Western Canada will benefit consequently. The Asian countries will next gain the upward move in this sequence: Singapore, China, Korea, and Hong Kong, with Japan and others being behind due to many economic factors. Europe will gain the upward move in the subsequent effects as Asia starts to move towards better economic situations. Vancouver will be better following a longer period, perhaps by the fourth quarter of 2002.”

### Fair-weather ITers need not apply

With the industry caught in a difficult period, most high-tech companies are downsizing to reduce operating costs and remain competitive. Large-scale layoffs are no longer a surprise. The ITer-to-be must be prepared to meet rising expectations. Alan advises, “I believe that people who enter the IT industry merely for money and employment will be eliminated from the industry very soon. As more and more people study IT-related fields, competitiveness increases in the IT industry. People in the industry should have the passion and persistence to upgrade their technical knowledge constantly throughout their careers; otherwise, they can never get promoted or will even drop out of the industry to pursue careers in other fields. All the years and effort will be wasted. Only the people who are truly technically skilled and experienced can make it to the top, but these people are scarce.” On the other hand, Jennifer and Allison have encouraging words, “Despite the current hardship of finding employment, new graduates should not give up. They are still in demand since they are the future of the industry.” Technology is here to stay, therefore skilled workers will always be in demand. In a seemingly storms-n-sunshine industry such as IT, adaptability is the key.

### It doesn't take a robot...

For IT positions, **technical skill** is essential. According to Jennifer's and Allison's “hunting” experience, however, other elements such as **experience** and **attitude** also play a crucial role in a company's hiring decision. They stress, “Experience is absolutely highly valued by companies, and therefore co-op, volunteering, and related work experiences are great assets for students when they search for jobs.” Alan adds, “For technical skills to come with experience is important. Therefore a person with experience has the advantage of employment. **Communication** skills are very important as well, since there are always ideas to be discussed and documents to be written.”

(Special thanks to Alan, Jennifer, and Allison for giving so generously of their time and expertise.)

Look out, Vancouver! Maggie Hou and Kenny Wong are fast becoming household names as hosts of *What's On*, a weekly Thursday night program on Fairchild Television that gives viewers the lowdown on what's hip 'n happening in Vancouver, Calgary, and Toronto. Meeting with Maggie and Kenny over bubble teas one breezy Sunday, I find out how these talented nineteen-year-olds manage their lives as typical students while balancing a hectic schedule of hosting, emceeing, acting, volunteering, and doing charitable work.

Sporting baseball caps, T-shirts, and jeans, Maggie and Kenny are as easygoing and charming as they appear onscreen. Maggie, a Public Relations student at Kwantlen University College, works hard at acting, modelling, singing, and entertaining. Although her family does not completely support her involvement in the industry, independent-minded Maggie has stayed dedicated to performing since her debut as an actor: with the National Film Board in 1998. Maggie relates how she almost signed on as the lead singer for a band, and how she has been offered a role in a series produced by TVB the Hong Kong TV station. "The timing was not right. It would've interfered with my education," Maggie says without the slightest tone of regret.

Her real passion lies in studying, and she sees education as the bridge that will lead her to a career in Public Relations.

Kenny also shares Maggie's view on education. "Education is the first priority. Television is just on the side," he says without hesitation. Although his mother encourages his showbiz career, Kenny believes that success can best be gained "through education and not fame." A natural performer who always danced in front of the TV when he was young, Kenny was led to the front of the camera at a friend's suggestion.

His real dream is to help people through his own practice after completing his Psychology degree at UBC. "I don't need a lot of money and I don't need the spotlight. To be able to take care of my family and live a happy life, that is success for me," says Kenny.

When asked whether they have been recognized on the street, both young actors smiled. "I have and I was surprised. The man followed me into an elevator," Maggie laughs. Kenny offers this story: "Someone asked me for an autograph, and I thought it was a joke." They both agree that their friends see them as ordinary people and not as celebrities.

Beyond their television roles, Kenny and Maggie reach out to the community by getting involved in such charity events as the 30-Hour Famine. Both are very modest when asked to describe their accomplishments. "I just do as much as I can and take the chance," Kenny points out. Maggie, a devout Christian, believes that success comes with hard work and places her future in the hands of God. Such mature and sensible attitudes definitely make Maggie and Kenny two of the best role models for today's youth.

Who's on

Catching Up with Teen Talents Maggie Hou and Kenny Wong

# 鄰家的明日之星

English Content: Althea Cheng | Photos: Kenny Ho | 中文內容: Annie Chung | 11 | 何俊傑

在訪問當天，黃子俊(Kenny)和侯佳慧(Maggie)雙雙戴著鴨舌帽出現，外表跟時下青年沒兩樣。與大多十九歲的年輕人不同的，就是他倆均擁有比一般人豐富的表演經驗。

## 充足的裝備

子俊和佳慧現任新時代電視的節目主持，每星期在《螢幕八爪魚》中都可以找到他們。在擔任主持前，他們已經有很多演出機會。子俊曾演出話劇和擔任學生會活動的司儀，其後更因在網上主持節目而被電視台賞識繼而成為電視節目主持人。學唱歌劇歌曲以及受模特兒訓練多年的佳慧，自小踴躍參加多項大大小小的演出和比賽，並屢獲殊榮。

## 刻苦耐勞二人組

Kenny 於卑詩大學主修心理學，平日愛唱歌和打球；而在昆倫學院修公共關係的Maggie則偏愛跳舞和吸收新資訊。除了要面對沉重的學業和沒固定的工作時間表，還要安排時間與家人共聚天倫和上進修課程。對此，兩位年輕人卻絕無怨言。對子俊來說，今天擁有的全是自己努力不懈而爭取回來的，在不影響學業的情況下，決不會放棄。同樣地，佳慧也不會輕易言敗，因為她深信過去幾年所作的準備都是神為她將來的安排。

## 得與失

當上電視主持已差不多三個月，子俊覺得比以前更多機會接觸來自不同層面和背景的人。除了交友圈子廣闊了，隨機應變的能力也提升了不少。佳慧覺得她所得的除了學以至用之外，人也成熟了。自從接納了別人幾番善意的勸告和意見後，她大大減少了初中時代的那種囂張和優越感。當然，有得必有失，為了達成自己的理想，兩名自稱「睡魔」的才「俊」「佳」人得犧牲睡眠時間了。

## 給子俊、佳慧：

最後，祝子俊學業進步，佳慧星途燦爛！

