

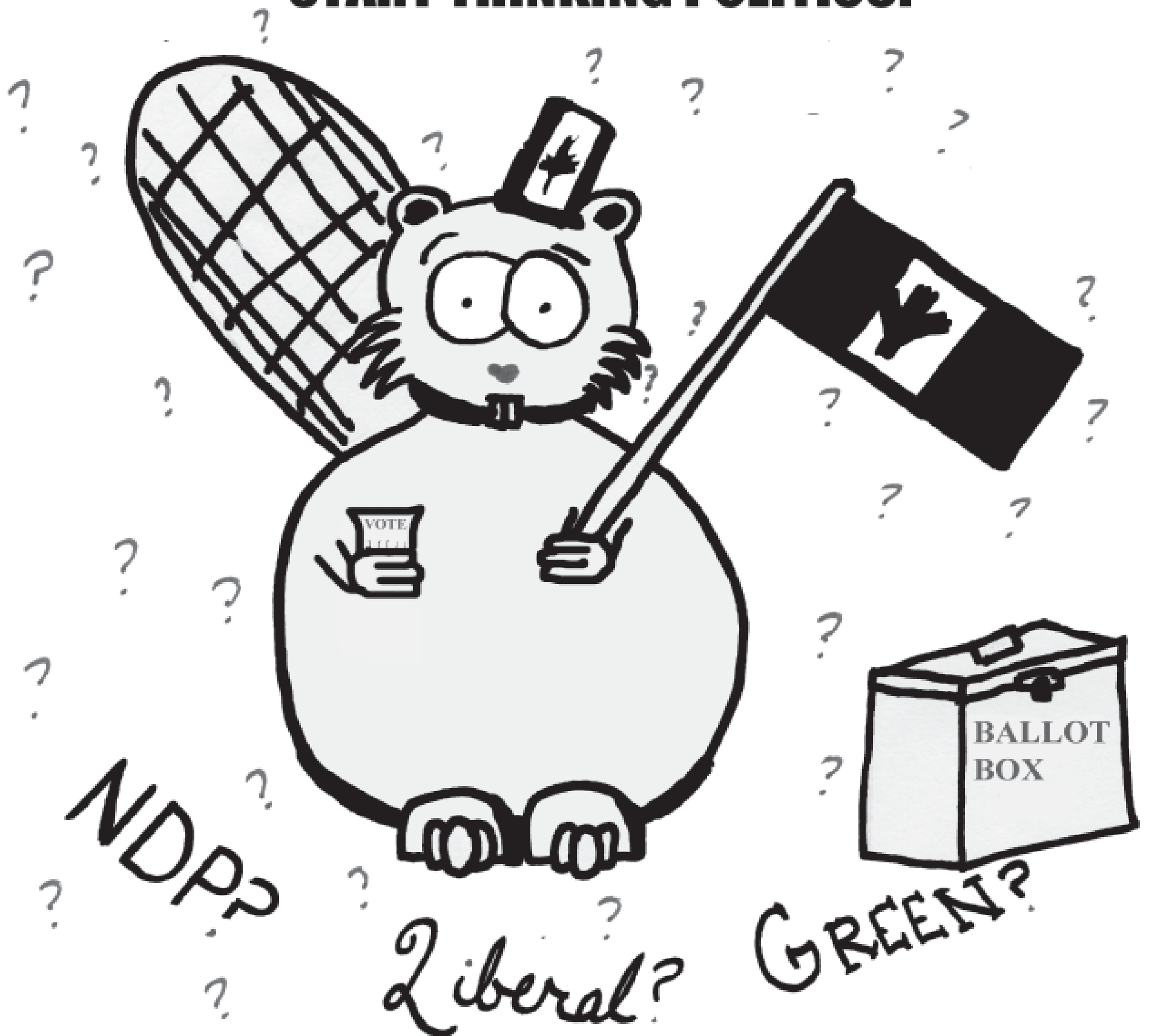


BC ELECTION 09

bob the beaver wants you!

to become more involved in the democratic process!

START THINKING POLITICS!





The Plague of Voter Apathy

Guest Editorialist - Sebastian Zein

Who is our premier? What party does he belong too? Those should be simple questions for anyone in this school but sadly, that is not the case. What I have noticed throughout Middle School and my short time in High School is a disturbing trend of political ignorance amongst fellow pupils. When I was in grade 4, I could name our Prime Minister, his opponents, our premier, his opponent, our MP, his opponents, and our MLA and his opponent. In grade 4. Ask most grade 9s' or 10s' to name a quarter of that list now and you'll get blank stares and remarks like "Wow, calm down dude - how am I supposed to know that? I'm not a nerd!" Note to politicians: this is why we get only a 23% voter turnout in municipal elections and 57% in federal elections.

The solution: As Tony Blair once said, "education, education, education." I believe it is CRUCIAL to get an understanding, at a middle school age, of how our political system works, and a bit about the different types of ideologies. It should be the school's responsibility to educate about how the system works. Then, and only then, once the kid knows those foundations, it is the parent's responsibility to introduce their child to different political views and ideas - or inject the kid with small doses of their ideology. It's better to have parents do that last part than teachers, then the education system cannot be accused of bias (not that there is a prevailing ideology among teachers in this province...)

Some believe there is a simple solution to voter apathy that generates revenue to boot: Compulsory Voting. As per usual with shortcuts, this easy way out is wrong and dangerous. The idea is that if we force people to vote, people will take the time to educate themselves about the choices they have. Yeah right. Let's face the facts here - if one is too lazy to take 10 minutes out of their day once every four years to place a check mark next to a name, they aren't going to educate themselves simply because they're told to. They'll just pick at random, going by whoever they believe to have the 'coolest name' or whoever is at the top of the ballot. Also, if one consciously doesn't want to vote, they'll simply just spoil their ballot with by marking multiple names or scribbling - and no one will go after them. Contrast this with the education solution, where at least everyone would know how the system works. That way you get more turn-out without the random votes.

Now I can natter on and on about the need for more education and parenting, but honestly, if you've had the patience to read this far, then you can probably do some basic research yourself. Google. Wikipedia. There is more on the internet than Facebook! You can even ask your parents! In just a few years, you'll have the power to shape our country's future. Don't just sit there, do something with it! Become informed!

The editorials that appear in this space represent the opinion of the Eddy. They do not necessarily represent the personal views of the writer. The positions taken in the editorials are arrived through discussion among members of the Eddy staff.



POINT COUNTER POINT

Today's Teen Needs Religion



It was recently reported in MacLean's magazine that the Project Teen discovered Atheism is becoming more appealing and religion is declining in today's teens. But today's society (especially teens) needs religion more than ever because it provides a sense of purpose needed in today's rampant consumerism - which is in large part responsible for our economic and environmental crisis. Teens need to know that happiness does not reside at the mall; it resides in helping others who are going through hard times, such as poverty, homelessness or substance abuse. Religion has

always encouraged philanthropy, helping people that are in need of a sense of hope and encouragement that somebody out there cares for them. Some people may resist the rules of religion, such as the Ten Commandments, which western civil law is based on, but if you analyze them, they help keep society in order, healthy and safe. Some examples are: abstinence, a limit of sexual partners and to participate less in high risk activities such as drugs, smoking and excessive alcohol consumption. Sounds like a High School's health curriculum, right? Studies have shown that people that attend church regularly have four times less of a risk of committing suicide, fewer complications in health issues, lower blood pressure and live a longer life. Church attendees also have less of a risk of getting a divorce, resulting in a better household for their children.

Teens that have a two parent home are also less likely to use drugs. Religion also helps youth that are a little shy or insecure about themselves by encouraging them to come out, have fun and make connections with other people during religious activities. Religion is a matter of faith, and if you don't have faith, what do you have? Once you have faith, you find reasons and evidence for it everywhere, even if it doesn't seem logical to others. Most importantly, being part of a religion gives you hope. Hope about your deceased loved ones, your past, your present, your future and especially your afterlife. Religion asks for little, but gives a lot. And with the complex and sometimes corrupt society that we live in in this day and age, religion can bring ease to our troubled minds and help us through the darkest hours.

Strong Morals Without Religion



According to Project Teen Canada, from 1984 to 2008, the percentage of teens in Canada who identify as Roman Catholic or Protestant has shrunk from 85% to a mere 45% while the percentage of teens who identify as atheists has more than doubled, from 12% to 32%. Some people fear that these numbers mean teens are becoming more superficial and less spiritual. But why can't teenagers have strong morals and be good people without believing in a higher being?

people. Just because someone doesn't believe in God or Allah, does not mean they don't have beliefs. An atheist can still see the good things in the world and perform altruistic deeds. They can be kind and generous because they know it's the right thing to do, not because they have a fear of going to hell. This also poses the question, is religion just an escape route? Should believers in faith be permitted to commit sinful acts as long as they go to church and express remorse in confession? Perhaps the fact atheism is on the rise among teens is a positive change. Teenagers are becoming more reliable and willing to take responsibility for their actions.

about someone based on the fact that they are an atheist is just as close minded as what many religious people accuse non-believers of.

An individual's moral values should be based from their personal experiences and lessons in life, not fabricated because a certain faith dictated a set of rules to live by. Despite whether someone chooses to believe or not believe in something, assumptions should not automatically be made about them. Teenagers are starting to turn away from organized religion, but that doesn't mean they are turning their backs on morals and ethics. This recent change is good for our society; there are more differed opinions among teenagers which can teach them to be more tolerant of others' views.

Religion works for some, but not for others. Nobody should be judged for what they may or may not believe in. Some believers in faith assume that atheists are shallow, close-minded, or self-absorbed. Making presumptions

Atheists may not attend church or believe in an all-knowing power, but that certainly doesn't translate in them being shallow or bad



The Eddy has been the independent voice of the students of Riverside Secondary since 1996 and is produced monthly by the Journalism class.

Journalistic styles and standards conform to those of the Canadian Press. The Eddy welcomes letters to the editor. Letters, however transmitted, must be signed and free of libel.

Additional articles, writing, and opinion pieces are accepted and will be published as space allows.

The Eddy reserves the right to edit all submitted material for brevity, and style. Advertisers can reach the Eddy at eddy@sd43.bc.ca or by contacting Riverside Secondary.

Editors

- Front Page Editor.....Tara Macklin
- Op/Ed Editor.....Alexis Boleak
- News Editors.....Alison Mullock, Maya Reddy-Thom, Maegan Matthews
- Entertainment Editor.....Tori Dove
- Sports Editor.....Kate Ronald
- Front Page Editorial Cartoon.....Tara Macklin
- Editorial Cartoon.....Teresa Oikawa
- Advisor.....Mrs. Shong
- Editor-In-Chief.....Tara Macklin

News Staff

- Alexis Boleak, Alison Mullock, Amanda McMeeken, Chad Sigsworth, Emily Nomland, Eric Willmott, Kate Ronald, Lorraine Lidher, Maegan Matthews, Marissa Vaillant, Maya Reddy-Thom, Olivia McMullen, Richard Yu, Rudolf Szekernyes, Shozan Mondwiwa, Tara Macklin, Teresa Ly, Teresa Oikawa, Tori Dove

Riverside Secondary
2215 Reeve Street, Coquitlam, B.C.
Canada, V3C 6K8
(604) 941-6053 local 221
fax (604) 941-2639



Riverside celebrates Earth Day 2009

Maya Reddy-Thom-staff reporter

Earth Day 2009 was celebrated on April 22nd. It was founded in 1970 by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, an environmental activist, as a day to force awareness on the government and industries about what was happening to our environment. At the time, anti-Vietnam War protests, called "teach-ins" were popular in college campuses across the country, so he thought why not organize one on a larger scale, to bring light to the issues surrounding our planet. This was during a time when industry power plants released black smoke and pollution into the air with no fear of legal or environmental consequences. People were burning leaded gas in their cars, and there was no air care. Earth Day was a way to bring everyone together, to fight a problem that affects us all, now

more than ever.

The first Earth Day was very successful. Nelson selected Harvard graduate Denis Hayes to coordinate activities. He along with his staff organized peaceful rallies and protests from coast to coast, and 20 million people participated. The movement was the beginning of today's environmental era, where reduce, reuse, and recycle is a common practice, and clean air is something we strive for. April 22nd, Earth Day 1970 united all the protestors of many issues, from oil spills to pollution to endangered species, who had been fighting for

the same thing, a healthy planet.

Earth Day has since grown into a day to raise awareness about our environmental issues and make change. Today, over 500 million people participate in Earth Day, as well as over 175 national governments, according to the

Earth Day Network website.

Earth Day is celebrated annually, during spring in the northern hemisphere, and fall in the southern hemisphere.

Because of

Earth Day, people all over the world are making changes and educating others about the dangers of climate change. Programs like Lights Out,



Courtesy Of Google

Graphic design depicting recycling



Courtesy Of Ms. Yorke

Students from Riverside's REACH club at the Pitch in For Poco event where they collected 11 bags of garbage from the Coquitlam River.

created in 2005, are educating not only adults, but children and teens, about global warming and the problems it will cause if we don't start living more sustainable lifestyles. Lights Out originated in Canada, but over 10 countries have participated to date, proving that climate change affects us all, no matter where we live.

Riverside Secondary took initiative to help our planet with REACH, the school's environmental club. On Wednesday April 2nd, they organized the second annual Environmental Day Celebration. Everyone was encouraged to wear green and there were games and contests in the front foyer. Also, Riverside aluminum water bottles were sold to reduce the amount of recycled water bottles. The club is always looking for ways to help the environment. Recently, they participated in a project to clean up the Coquitlam River as part of Pitch in for Poco Pride, our city-wide community clean-up effort.

The Earth Day Network and Earth Day Canada are responsible for all our community celebrations and events, but they don't only occur on Earth Day. Earth Day Canada organizes all kinds of year round events that promote sustainability and environmental values, such as runs and tree planting events. They are a registered charity affiliated with over 3,500 community organizations.

It's been 39 years since that first earth day, and a lot has changed; Hybrid cars are becoming more mainstream, our cities promote sustainability and recycling, and people are being educated on the effects our actions have on the environment, but is it enough? Even with all the protests and scientific research coming their way; our politicians are doing little to ease the effects of global warming and we are already living with the consequences. But we can't afford to give up despite government, industry and corporate inaction.



K.Shong/Eddy

Riverside's REACH club (environmental club) posing for a photo at the Environmental Day celebration.

Seven affordable ways for teens to go green

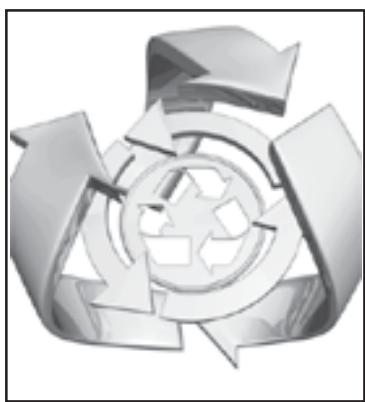
Marissa Vaillant-staff reporter

1. Blackle.com

A website that is digitally linked to Google, so you get all the same search results, but only in black and white. Not only does it save energy that color WebPages waste, but it also gives you a running toll of how many watt hours have been saved; over 1.2 million so far! Replace google.com with the more environmentally friendly blackle.com to start saving energy.

2. Recycle

It seems like an obvious thing, but one would be surprised at how many people do not. Whether it's paper, plastic or tin, be sure to put your recyclables in the proper place. Recycling means a cash return on recyclables (money that you've already put forward buying the product) and less waste in landfills and oceans. Buying recycled products also helps encourage the re-using of these materials.



Courtesy of Photobucket

3. Stop Wasting Water

Water is a precious resource that takes energy to create. Over usage can cause reservoirs to get low and potentially cause drought warnings. Stop wasting water by keeping the tap turned off when brushing your teeth, use a bucket instead of a hose when washing a car, fix drips on taps, shy away from taking baths (over 40 gallons of water fill one tub), and try to take a shower no longer than 4 minutes.

4. Walk

Instead of getting your parents to drive you to school; walk, take the bus, or carpool. Gasoline emits harmful chemicals into the atmosphere that cause global warming and health problems. At least this way we are limiting the carbon output. Consider that since 2000 our Carbon Dioxide emissions have raised an average of 2.9% compared to the 0.7% during the 1990's.



Courtesy Of Google



Courtesy of Google

5. 100 Mile Diet

Encourage your parents to buy locally grown foods that are in season. The energy output to transfer a tomato in winter exceeds its benefits and is wasteful to our limited resources. Eating products grown and produced within a 100 mile radius benefits your local community also by supporting your local farmers and production plants. Visit 100milediet.org to get started.

6. Control Energy Usage

Energy is wasted through out Canadian homes. People forget to turn off lights, so a great way to conserve energy is to turn off lights when you leave a room and unplug appliances when appropriate. Even "turned off" electronics still draw power from outlets. If you're leaving a room for longer than 15 minutes, it's worth it! These changes can also decrease your household energy bill.

7. Get Involved

Many communities and/or schools have environmental clubs that focus on ways to help the community make more environmentally friendly choices. Become involved, knowledge leads to action! Talk to your principal or city council to find one near you. Riverside's own club "Reach" meets on Mondays in room 200 with Ms. Yorke and Ms. Riddell.



Lay down your soul to the God's rock and roll; Metal will take hold



Morbid Angel's lead guitarist, Trey Azagthoth, performing live in Toronto in 2006. Morbid Angel are famous for releasing all of their albums in alphabetical order according to their title.

Eric Willmott, Rudolf Szekernyes - staff reporters

The crowd gets agitated, waiting for about an hour now. Suddenly, a huge blast of light and smoke goes off in one giant pyrotechnic explosion. The sound of guitars and breakneck-speed drumming rings throughout the stadium. The crowd goes wild, gathering to experience a night of heavy metal.

Considered the loudest and most aggressive music showing has around, metal has been around for years, no signs of stopping. No other form of music gathered as many fans or controversy as this genre. Even in its infancy, it was passed off as "trash music". Because of this, metal is considered to be underground music.

But even metal has humble roots, tracing back to the 1960's with bands like **Led Zeppelin**, **Cream**, and **Blue Cheer**. These bands borrowed elements from the blues and (especially in **Deep Purple's** case) Neo-classical music. But any metalhead will surely agree, heavy metal's true birthplace is Birmingham, England, hometown of **Black Sabbath**. "They were like a prototype for all of the bands that followed," said Riverside student Michelle Jacobs, "a blueprint for bands to reference from."

Soon, other bands arose, like **Alice Cooper** and **KISS**, famous for their ghoulish live shows.

In 1980, a whole new generation of British headbangers decided to form bands. Metal came out with a slew of new albums in 1980: **Judas Priest's** *British Steel*,

Motorhead's *Ace of Spades*, and **Iron Maiden's** self-titled debut, among others.

It was called the "New Wave of British Heavy Metal", "NWOBHM" for short, and it dropped Metal's blues roots in favor of classical runs and jackhammer rhythms. Once these imports found their way to American soil, the US took notice and spawned a whole new wave of American metal: thrash metal, death metal, black metal, and so forth. Soon all of America was embracing this music from overseas. All over the world, legions of metalheads, or "headbangers", were rising and embracing this new exciting music and its many forms. For those unaware, a metalhead is a lover of any form of metal music. They are often characterized by their long hair, band t-shirts or jackets littered with band patches.



Courtesy of Google

One of the best guitars out there; the BC Rich is a popular guitar in Metal bands.

Courtesy of Google

The average metalhead is aged 16-24, but most stick with metal for many years. "I still have my vest and pins from my high school years," said Riverside teacher Dave Romani. By the mid-80's, America was swarming with metalheads. Unfortunately with this new metal came a new enemy: it was the P.M.R.C., a group of parents wanting a ban on metal, believing that all metalheads used drugs and were brainwashed by the lyrical content. "Metal music is already fast and aggressive," said Jacobs, "so offensive and scary lyrics just naturally fit in." They were also against the dances performed at metal concerts, like headbanging (vigorously shaking one's head up and down or side to side) or moshing (a dance borrowed from punk music in which people purposely slam into each other). "Parents have always been against something rebellious," said Romani.

The PMRC resulted in the now famous "Parental Advisory" sticker found on most offensive albums today. Ironically, this would be the best thing to happen to metal because once a disgruntled teen saw the warning sticker on an album, they would take it home and then play it to annoy their parents. Once the sticker was introduced, metal album sales skyrocketed.

Metal is also famous for its collaborations and experimentations with other music. One of the first true collaboration was "crossover thrash metal," a fusion of punk and thrash. Another popular fusion was rap and metal, two extremely different genres that blend quite well together. This collaboration spawned 'nu' metal, a music that, along with grunge and death metal, were the biggest genres of the 1990's.

With the new millenium came a whole new resurgence of metal interest, and not only did many old bands return, but a whole succession of new bands emerged.

But why has metal been around for so long? Why only now does it regain the same popularity as its heyday? "In my opinion, the reason is because the old metalheads have kids now, and the kids are learning about it through **Rock Band** and **Guitar Hero** and want to feel what their parents felt," said Jacobs.

Maybe the answer isn't just metal's staying power, but it's ability to adapt with the times. "I don't think metal is getting more or less popular," said Romani, "I just think it's changing, taking different shapes."

Metal is a powerful entity. It can frighten or astound you. It can embrace and express many topics too taboo for any rational human to talk about.

And that's why metal has stayed...and always will.



Demi Lovato re-releases album

Olivia McMullen - staff reporter

Recording artist **Demi Lovato** recently re-released her album *Don't Forget*. The deluxe version of the album features two new songs and a behind the scenes DVD. The original album debuted at number two, beating out **The Pussycats Dolls' Doll Domination**, **Metallica's Death Magnetic** and **Kings of Leon Only by Night**. In the first week alone, it sold 93,000 copies.

Lovato, who is sixteen, has been writing music since the age of thirteen. She wrote the music and lyrics for this album, but had some help with polishing the songs for the album from friends, the **Jonas Brothers**. "I came to the **Jonas Brothers** and I was like umm... I need some help writing stuff just because well, my target audience isn't metal music; my songs needed a polish which is where the **Jonas Brothers** came in," said Lovato.

The deluxe version includes two additional songs which were not on the original. The new songs include *Behind Enemy Lines* which shows how she has grown as an artist. *Le Que Soy* the Spanish version of the song *This is Me* from the Disney Channel original movie *Camp Rock*, which she stars in, shows **Lovato's** paralyzing vocal power. Overall the album shows a side that most don't expect from a young Disney star. Songs like *La La Land*, which she performed at the kids Inaugural Ball this past January for Michelle Obama and her daughters Sasha and Malia, describe how she won't change and will remain grounded, despite the fact she's in Hollywood. The up-tempo song *Get Back* is also the first single from the album; it reveals a desire to get back together with someone. **Lovato** definitely shows that she is wise beyond her years and will not follow on a self destructive Hollywood path of some before her. One of the albums highest



courtesy of Google

Demi Lovato's re-released *Don't Forget* album cover including *Don't Forget* and *Get back*.

points is the song *On the Line*, a duet with close friends and *Camp Rock* co-stars the **Jonas Brothers**, along with the song *Don't Forget* which is an emotional rock ballad about an ended relationship.

The bonus DVD includes a behind the scenes look at Lovato's role in the **Jonas Brothers' 2008** tour. Other DVD features include two of her music videos and a look at her recording session from the

album. **Lovato**, whose 45 city 2009 summer tour is soon to be sold out, remains humble despite all the craziness, stating in a July 2008 interview, "I'm just really busy and people know who I am."

45 Minutes from Broadway to Riverside's stage



courtesy of R.Pope

Riverside's acting 12 class presents *45 Minutes from Broadway*.

Teresa Oikawa - staff reporter

The Acting 12 class presented a George M. Cohan musical on Tuesday, April 28 known as *45*

Minutes from Broadway. The play was written to be "very light and superficial," said acting 12 teacher Mr. Secunda. "It was what people

wanted at that time because of the Depression; things were difficult for them, so they wanted some sort of escapism."

The story began with a director named Richard Foster (Ryan Scramstad) having trouble providing the money he needs to produce the show. When Mona Monroe (Leila Kerves), a star, turns him down when asked to take the lead role, a girl named Mary Collins arrives, hoping for a part in the play. Foster decides to cast her first as a chorus girl, then as the lead role. Meanwhile Legs Ruby (Taz Khandwani), a bookie, hides in the theatre from a mob and, hearing of Foster's money predicament, secretly invests

\$100,000 in the show. Mona was thought to be the one who donated the money, so she decides to go along with Foster's assumptions and with that, blackmail him into getting the role back and to get rid of Mary. Eventually Foster finds out that Mona wasn't the one who invested in the play, thus he gets rid of her for good, rehires Mary, and everyone ends the show with a final song and dance.

Though the style was lacking anything modern, the audience responded well to the story line and easy humor. Lovely harmonies were sung, and there was even a solo sung by a chorus girl (Kyleigh Francks), followed by a well choreographed dance

routine with the whole cast using umbrellas. Secunda seemed pleased with the outcome. "Considering the amount of time usually we would do this mid May, and we do other short projects in February and March before Spring Break. Normally we would have three more weeks, but because of field trips we didn't have the time. Everyone stepped up to the plate really well, and we were able to finish it in record time, we really did," said Secunda. Overall, *45 Minutes from Broadway* was a great success. The play was a nice way to finish the season by leaving a satisfactory mark on the Acting 12 class' finale of performances.

Students set for trip to France

Kate Ronald - staff reporter

The Communications 10 class presented their annual French Immersion play Wednesday, April 29th at Riverside Secondary. The play was widely appreciated and there was a great turn out to support the next segment in the popular plays presented by French Immersion teacher Monsieur Jacques-André Larrivé.

The Communications 10 class centers mostly on philosophy although practices are held for a dramatic portion of the class. However, unlike past years, not all the students had a part in the play. "It came as a surprise for a lot of ex-students," said ex-student Tamana Aurom. "We knew it was going to be different, but no one really knew what to expect."

Rather than present numerous small skits (usually focusing on humor), the group remained on



K.Ronald/eddy

Tabatha Grant singing *La Scène* while Katharina Bleinis dances.

stage at all times presenting philosophic poems, skits and songs. One of the highlights was a song sang by Tabatha Grant while grade 10 student Kathy Bleinis performed an interpretive dance and Chloe Lam played piano. The class prepared for their

May 1st departure for France where they will present their play "Epilogue: Soirée de poésie québécoise" at various areas in France. "The play was a success" said Communications student Joel Kveton. "And we're anticipating that the trip will be the same."

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 Dallas PLUMP!
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 Carol Siranni, Director
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 Gillian Irwin, Artistic Director
 Stained GLASS Adult Choir
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 Turtle Creek Chorus
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 Toni McPherson, Conductor
 Vancouver Chamber Choir
 Jon Washburn, Conductor
 Vancouver City Lights Chorus
 Toni McPherson, Conductor
 Vancouver Lesbian & Gay Choir
 Nicole Hamilton, Director
 West Burnaby United Church Choir
 Marissa Lagoyan, Music Director

courtesy of Carol Siranni



K. Shong / eddy

One of bras showcased in the *Sing for the Cure* show, designed by Emily Bornestig.

Sing for the Cure promotion poster.

Amanda McMeeken
-staff reporter

This past Saturday, April 25th, GLASS youth choir (gay, lesbian, and supportive singing) were the first to host *Sing for the Cure* in Canada. *Sing for the Cure* was first performed in Dallas, Texas in 2000;

it is a concert that raises awareness and money for breast cancer research. *Sing for the Cure* was started by Susan G. Koman, a victim of breast cancer, who was trying to find a way to make the lives of other women with breast cancer better. When Susan's fight was coming to an end, her sister, Nancy Brinker, made her sister a

promise that she would do her best to end breast cancer, and created "Susan G. Koman for the Cure." Since 1982, it has raised over one billion dollars.

Carol Siranni, Riverside's Band, Choir, and Social Justice teacher, along with the GLASS youth choir were the hosts of the show. They were accompanied by more than 200 other choirs and soloists from Texas, Metro Vancouver, Seattle, and Portland. Along with *Sing for*

the Cure, there were other fundraising opportunities for breast cancer going on at this event. One was called the "Brauction," which was run by Riverside Art teacher, Ms. Schmidt. The "Brauction" was a silent auction where guests could bid on over twenty artistically decorated bras by Riverside art students. The themes of the artwork on the bras were varied, including "hope," "love," "courage," "pretty in pink," and many more. Guests were able to bid on these bras at the

show or online, before and after the date of the show. One hundred percent of proceeds from the show, as well as the "Brauction" went to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, the BC Cancer Foundation, as well as the Susan G. Koman for the Cure Global Promise Fund. Aside from the silent auction, there were raffle tickets and door prizes that guests could win. Prizes included a West jet voucher for two return tickets for anywhere that Westjet flies.

Emily Chan speaks at Encompass Conference

Alexis Boleak
-staff reporter

"When I think of my life, I think of the people who have changed me. I think of how they have shaped my personality, my thoughts, my actions; how they have shaped my very being I think of my family and my friends, my teachers and my coaches. I also think, however, of three other individuals who have altered my life irreversibly." This is the opening thesis of Emily Chan's essay entitled, *Forever Changed*. Chan is a grade eleven student

from Riverside Secondary who wrote and read her essay at the Encompass Conference that took place April 17th, 2009 at Heritage Woods Secondary School.

The Encompass Conference is a discussion where participants confront and discuss social justices and injustices. Chan delivered her speech that dealt with how three individuals she learned about through the internet have changed her life. One is a young girl who suffered under China's one child policy and found herself in one of China's 'Dying Rooms.' The second is a young



K. Shong/ eddy

Guest speaker Emily Chan

boy from Sierra Leone who was forced to be a child soldier, and the final individual is a Pakistani woman accused of adultery

without evidence and was almost murdered as a consequence, and left behind with facial disfiguration. Chan keenly felt the injustices in each of their stories. She stated that she has always been interested in social justice and poverty issues; "I always used to make my speech topics based on different types of social injustices."

Apart from her essay, Chan took part in the *Sing for the Cure* fundraiser for breast cancer with the Riverside GLASS youth choir; so it was appropriate she was chosen to speak at the Encompass conference. To be able to create

awareness about these issues affecting our society is a good thing because by making everyone aware of what social justice is, it can help to create empathy and inspiration for ourselves and those suffering around us in situations that are beyond their control.

Many people can change their own lives, but what many might neglect to see is how they can change another individual's life. Emily Chan's essay reveals how she was inspired to help others, and in turn, her essay inspires others.



Put it up!

When I am walking to my sports event and I see some girly girl with her hair down it makes me want to die. All I want to do is walk over and give her a pony tail so she can get her hair out of her face. You're at a sports event playing a sport, your hair doesn't have to look perfect! It just has to be out of your eyes so you can see the ball being thrown at you. Even in gym class, they can't see the ball coming towards them because their hair keeps flying in front of their faces. Tie it back. Now it isn't just girls having their hair down, boys love to have their long locks hanging about too. The worst thing, is when you overhear them talking about how annoying it is when their hair gets in the way. These girls constantly make sure that their hair still looks nice and put it up; however, nobody except for them cares how it looks.

Alison Mullock and Kate Ronald present...

POTSHOTS

TOUGH TALK FOR A TOUGH WORLD

Can it wait?

Every once in a while I am telling a friend a story about my day when I hear a "beep, beep." I continue to tell the story when I notice that they have picked up their phone, the same phone that had just beeped and disrupted the story in the first place. They begin to read the text message that they just received paying no attention to what is coming out of my mouth. Not only have they interrupted my story, but they begin to ignore me by texting back to this person who is clearly more important than me, all the while pretending they are listening to me. If this text message is really that important and you need to text back immediately at least have the decency to ask me if it is okay to text back. Texting somebody while actually having a face to face conversation is just rude!

Locker bay back-up!

The time between classes is always frantic. Everyone is in a rush to get to their next block on time. There are always those students who are running late. The last thing we want to see is an obstacle that's blocking us from our destination, but that's exactly what some kids are presenting. We have a million different places to hang out at Riverside but some students choose to hang out in locker bays, parking themselves right in front of lockers, making it impossible for me to get to my locker without pushing them aside. It's not like the locker bays are comfortable. Go to the cafeteria or the front foyer so I can easily get to my locker and continue on my way. The locker bays were made for lockers, not so you can have another place to hang out with your friends. So move it! (please)





Referendum and Election will be pivotal for BC

Lorraine Lidher - staff reporter

There are many issues that will play a role in the upcoming BC provincial election on May 12: the referendum to change the electoral system, the economy in a recession, and dealing effectively with crime. Gordon Campbell's Liberals are running for the third term in office on the message of "Keep BC Strong." While, the NDP and Carole James are running on campaign of "Take Back Your BC!" The Greens, and their leader, Jane Sterk, are hoping their "Better plan for BC" will attract more voters.

This election, voters will be asked to also vote on the referendum between the current electoral system (first-past-the-post) and the single transferable vote system (STV), proposed by the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. STV allows voters to Rate candidates in order (1, 2, 3, etc...). STV is designed to represent the popular vote more. On May 12



Liberal party leader Gordon Campbell.

voters will choose which electoral system should be used to elect future members to the BC Legislature.

With the recession devastating the economy, the political parties have come up with their own plans to save it. The Liberals plan is to stimulate the economy by lowering taxes on business. They promise to create jobs in mining,



NDP party leader Carole James.

agriculture, film and technology, and to invest in building infrastructure, and open up more trade routes. To help the economy through the recession, the NDP's plan is to raise the minimum wage, remove the six dollar training wage, and lower taxes for small business to adjust for the raise in the minimum wage. They promise to generate more jobs with



photos courtesy of Google

Green party leader Jane Sterk.

infrastructure projects, and invest in skills training.

With the increase in gang violence over the past few months, many voters are looking for a party that will be tough on crime. The Liberals are planning to deal with crime by hiring more police officers and prosecutors, create tougher laws and sentencing, build more jails, and crackdown on gangs and

illegal guns.

To tackle crime, the NDP's plan to fund new police officers, and prosecutors, create tougher bail conditions, new penalties for gun crime, new laws on body armor and armored cars, and expand support for youth and families.

Jane Sterk and the Green party hope to attract more environmental voters to the party with their plan to stimulate the economy by investments in green technology, and a healthy green living platform.

The candidates that are running in Port Coquitlam riding are incumbent Mike Farnworth, opposition Critic of Public Safety, for the NDP, Bernie Hiller for the Liberals and Cole Bertsch for the Green party.

On May 12, voters will decide as to who they want to lead the province through a recession, help reduce gang violence, and create an environmentally sound policy for the future.

Beware! Electronic data is there forever

Shozan Mondiya - staff reporter

For the people who think they can put any type of picture up on Facebook and get away with it, you're mistaken. Many don't realize that what you put on the internet will be there forever. NDP candidate for Vancouver-False Creek riding, Ray Lam, learned this the hard way. He recently withdrew from the current political race because of some allegedly inappropriate pictures of him that were posted on Facebook. He removed the pictures, but it was too late; the pictures had already surfaced on other sites. Lam later said in a press release, "I regret this material and the associated comments that have now become public." He also added, "I do not want this to be a distraction in the election campaign and have advised the party that I am stepping down." (CBC News)

NDP Leader Carole James said Lam showed "a lack of judgment when he allowed risqué photos of him to be posted on a social networking site." James says her candidates have been warned that their private Facebook pages will probably be brought into the spotlight if they contain offensive or inappropriate material. In the age of the internet, screening potential candidate's private profiles is a reality.

Young people today should be cautioned that what they put up on Facebook may seem fine or funny at the time, but may affect their lives in the future. Many people have lost jobs over content on their social networking sites, and pictures they've posted online. Recently an article went on Facebook with the title, "We can do anything we want with your content forever." This article suggests that even if a Facebook account is deleted, the administrators still have the right to do what they want with your old content. This policy, however, is currently under review due to public complaints. The internet is a public domain; people should take precautions because one never knows where a private photo will end up.



courtesy of Google

A cartoon satirizing the perils of living in the internet age.



Down By The Riverside



Who would you vote for and why?



Dana Dempsey, Grade 12

Green Party - "I care about the environmental issues. It affects us all."



Taylor Happy, Grade 11

NDP - "I am very involved in social issues around our community and care about getting people off the streets."



Nikki Prasad, Grade 12

Green Party - "The environmental issues are going to be affecting our generation so it's important that we take notice."



Fatima Aziz, Grade 12

Liberal - "I respect their values and the issues they set out to resolve."



Lisa-Jane Hayfron, Grade 12

Green Party - "They go green to help our economy as well as helping the climate."



Canucks thrill fans with a run for the cup!

Chad Sigsworth-Staff Reporter

After not qualifying for the playoffs last year, the Canucks were looking to make an impact this year, and that's exactly what they did. They won the Northwest Division Title despite losing their top goaltender for 2 months, and a ten game home losing streak. At the end of February, they were twelve points behind the Calgary Flames, but they made up lots of ground and finished two points ahead of them. The Canuck's success this season is based greatly on the play of Alex Burrows and Ryan Kesler; each of them have set career highs in goals, assists and points this season. And the fact that GM Mike Gillis signed future Hall of Famer Mats Sundin to a ten million dollar contract will definitely help in the long run because he gives the Canucks nine forwards that can score goals, giving three very dangerous lines. The Sedin twins also have had an impact; as they each picked up their second 80 point seasons, while the blue line was led by Kevin Bieksa's 43 points and Alex Edler's 37 points. Ryan Kesler and Kyle Wellwood



Roberto Luongo is playing great for the Canucks.

curtesy of Google

led the power play with 10 goals each on the season, while Ryan Johnson really helped the penalty kill with his outstanding job in the face-off circle, and excellent shot blocking ability.

Coming into the playoffs, the Canucks have 4 solid lines, 3 of which can score goals, 6 top quality defensemen, and a world class goalie in net. This is for sure the most complete team since their run to the finals in

1994, and maybe even in team history. And even better, they have played so well, that Head Coach Alain Vigneault hasn't had to worry about the line matchups. He trusts that whoever he puts on the ice will get the job done. And they've done just that. When a coach has this much trust in his team, that's usually a good sign. (It also benefits the players because you're not going to have some players sitting on the bench for long periods of time.) It also keeps your team fresh because there isn't anyone packing in the ice time. This is also the case for many of the previous championship teams.

The Canucks swept St. Louis in the first round of this season's playoffs; the first time in team history. Oddly enough, the last time St. Louis was swept in a series was in 1991 by the Northstars, who went all the way to the finals. The Canucks are now leading the Chicago Blackhawks two games to one in the second series, and with Roberto Luongo in net, and the Sedins finally acting as leaders, this is all shaping up to look like the Canucks will go all the way to the finals and hopefully win the coveted Stanley Cup.

Riverside's track and field team is off to a good start

Maegan Matthews
- Staff Reporter

As the school year comes to an end, so does the track and field season. Although the team was smaller this year than last, the athletes that made up this year's team have become more cohesive.

At the team's most recent competition, the Districts, there were a few events which pleasantly surprised the coaches. Riverside won first, second, and third place in the senior girl's shot-put. The girls who placed in that event from first to third were Vanessa Wattamaniuk, Avisha Henry, and Heather Cowie. Another good surprise this season at Districts was Christian Serban winning second place in the long jump event, despite the fact that he didn't have the time to practice for the event prior to it, and he didn't



Grade 11 student Vanessa Bradley competes in long jump at Towncentre stadium.

have any past experience with the event. Throughout the season, the coaches have had an opportunity to see who some of the rising stars



in each event are. To the coaches, the athlete who stands out the most and really excelled this season in the javelin event was



K. Shong/eddy

grade twelve student, Patrick Hay. New to the team, grade nine student Adam Altwater not only stood out in the shot-put event

but will also be remembered by his coaches as one of their best triple jump athletes. Larry Longman excelled at the hurdles. The top athletes named for the long jump event were grade twelve students Shannon Knight and Christian Serban.

The team's performance at the Districts has resulted in ten students qualifying for the Fraser Valley's as well as five alternates. The Fraser Valley's will be held in Langley on May 11, 12 and 13th. Those numbers are around the same as last year's even though this year's number of athletes has dwindled. "We just hope that they all move forward from the Fraser Valley's on to Provincials," said one of the team coaches, Mr. Barrington. If Riverside goes to the Provincials, it will be held at Swanguard stadium at the end of June.

Riverside's tennis team aims for a good season

Richard Yu - Staff Reporter

The tennis season started just before Spring Break and the regular season ends on May 12th; however, the season ends on May 19th to 20th for the teams with high scores. There are eleven teams in the league and only two from our zone will go on to play in the Fraser Valley Championships. Pinetree and Charles Best are the top two teams and Riverside is in 3rd place now. Through many try-outs, the Riverside team was selected.

Last year Riverside Secondary only had a Junior team, however, this is the first year with a senior team. There are 21 players on the senior team. There are a total of 12 matches, both singles and doubles. When playing another team, 11 sets are played with the same gender and one match is mixed doubles. To date, the Riverside Secondary senior team



Anika Ledoux at a recent match.

M. Matthews/eddy

has played five games. On April 7th, the Riverside Secondary team had their first game which they won against Charles Best by 10 to 1. On April 14th, the Riverside won against Pinetree by 6 to 5. On April 21st, Riverside lost to Terry Fox 7 to 4. On April 28th, Riverside won

against Garibaldi Secondary 10 to 1. On April 30th, Riverside won against Archbishop Carney 9 to 2. If the Riverside Secondary team keeps playing as well as they are now, the tennis season will end for them with a spot at the Fraser Valley's on May 19th and 20th.

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