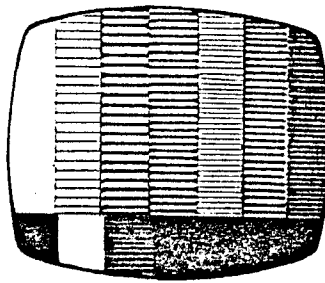


12C5 | TWELVE C - FIVE



Summer of '86

The official newsletter of BCIT-TV's Grads of '86

"Keeping a finger on the sync pulse of life in the 'real world'."

It was nearly ten thirty on a lonely Burnaby evening as I pulled my key from the lock and stepped into my darkened apartment. Across the room, a tiny red LED flashed in silent greeting. I smiled; the machine had done its job.

* * * * *

I recognized the voice immediately. "Hi Jim. This is Mike from Prince George...". It was Mike from Prince George. He was calling free of charge from a hotel. I could hear party voices in the background, and as his message continued, I saddened in the realization that I was listening to a call I could not return. Beneath my breath I cursed the limitations of the machine. God knows how many times you could call without getting through. And it wasn't just me. What was to prevent the same thing from happening over and over as other members of the class tried in vain to keep in touch? "It's just no good," I muttered. "There's got to be a way to keep this horrible tragedy from ruining our lives."

That's when it hit me. It struck without warning--a spontaneous flash in the neural synapses of the cerebral cortex. So violent was the shock that I physically bolted to attention--wrenched by the reflexive spasm. I spoke involuntarily...without thinking...automatically verbalizing the thought that had exploded in my mind like a Type I supernova: "HOLY SHIT, I'M SUPPOSED TO BE WRITING THAT STUPID NEWSLETTER!!"

** ** * **

So welcome to 12C5...the debut issue. Read it. Keep it. Frame it. Treasure it. Someday it may be a collector's item. (Yea right--a garbage collector's item.)

12C5 was supposed to be just an interim title until someone came up with a better one, but now I'm beginning to like it, so it's in for the duration. Best thing about "12C5" is that it stands for the whole class (from Andreson and Boniface to Williama and Williamson)--and that's the idea, to give us all a chance to talk to each other. So submit to it; be submissive! (Could be a nice change from the leather straps and leg irons....) Feel free to send me almost anything: jokes, questions, pictures, clippings, fiction, poems, articles, recipes, classifieds, de-classifieds, greeting cards, drawings, quotes, postcards from Kabul...you name it, I'll print it. (Probably verbatim, so be careful what you say.)

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(CURRENT TO JULY 1986)
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What I don't want is for this thing to become "Jim Failes un-
dresses the misses." [Whoops! A little typo there. That's
supposed to be "Jim Failes addresses the masses."] We don't want
that. At least, we don't want the latter...so let's all get to-
gether and make 12C5 the best stupid newsletter in the history of
this (or any other) universe. Seems like a realistic goal....

Burnaby gets movie studio

← Old news is
good news!

"I feel a little as though we've just won an academy
award for the best location for a film production centre in
Canada."

That was Burnaby mayor Bill Lewarne's reaction to the
June 26 announcement that the former Dominion Bridge

By KAREN ROMELL

building at Boundary and Lougheed has been chosen by
the B.C. Development Corp. as B.C.'s new film production
centre.

The long-awaited announcement was made by Industry
and Small Business Minister Bob McClelland in the
massive building, now being decorated as an underground
mine set for the soon-to-be-filmed movie, Tripwire.

McClelland said calls will be going out till July 28 by the
B.C.D.C. for proposals on the lease and operation of the
building, which will be initially developed as an effects
stage.

Some \$3 million worth of upgrading will take place to bring
the building up to safety and fire standards, he added.
Later planned developments include production offices
and a sound stage which will be run by the private sector.

The announcement ended months of speculation over
the proposed studio, which has been urged by B.C.'s
burgeoning film industry to accommodate increasing
numbers of American film-makers who are coming to the
province to take advantage of our technical expertise,
breath-taking scenery, and low Canadian dollar.

The Dominion Bridge site has been used in film produc-
tion for several years. A total of 70 movies have been shot
there, including Iceman and Runaway.

McClelland told a crowd of provincial, film and media
representatives that the film industry annually con-
tributes over \$140 million to the gross provincial product
and provides 3,200 direct jobs. The new studio, he said,
will bump gross provincial revenue over the \$200 million
mark and provide 1,000 more job opportunities.

Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister and Burnaby
Willingdon MLA Elwood Veitch said that, while the new
facility will not mean Burnaby will change its name to
"Burnabank," it has the potential "to become one of the
great film producing capitals in North America."

(from Burnaby Now)

Parody a hit

Scripps Howard News Service

LOS ANGELES — This year's
candidate for the most offbeat,
most outrageous and funniest
new show is ABC's Sledge Ham-
mer!

Unfortunately, it is almost
guaranteed to get killed in the
ratings.

The reason it won't survive is
its time slot: 8:30 p.m. Fridays
against the second half hours of
Dallas and Miami Vice. Ouch.

Unless the program is moved
— or ABC shows unusual
patience with it — Sledge Ham-
mer! is history almost before it
gets on the air.

Everyone wails about there
never being anything new or dif-
ferent on television. Well, a par-
ody of macho movies certainly is
different. And funny. Let's hope
people get the joke.

David Rasche is Hammer, a
man who talks to his .44 Magnum,
a man who blows up a building
holding a sniper on his way to
work, a man who fires warning
shots over the heads of jaywalk-
ers, a man who has a purse
snatcher beat himself up to avoid
charges of brutality.

There's a lot of physical, ridicu-
lous humor in Sledge Hammer!,
as well. One bit in the pilot has
Hammer tossing a paper airplane
idly at his fuming boss; the plane
sticks in his boss' hair and stays
there through the rest of the
show.

While much of the humor is as
obvious as that, much isn't.
Rasche said the show isn't just for
children. "This is more grownup
humor," he said.

"Yeah, I think adults will get the
subtle jokes like paper airplanes,"

added Alan Spencer, who created
the series.

Spencer, who calls the series
"this piece of dementia," is 26 and
has been writing for television
since he was 17. His favorite show
growing up was Get Smart.

Sledge Hammer! clearly has its
roots in the earlier series. In fact,
Leonard Stern, who created Get
Smart, has been brought in as a
consultant to the series.

The obvious recent compari-
son is to Police Squad, a short-
lived series created by the men
who made Airplane! Spencer said
that show was a joke-a-minute
with little characterization.

"This sounds absurd, but
there's a bit more reality to this
show," Spencer said.

The true reality is the competi-
tion.

Watch
for
this
@@
→

(from The Province)

GRAD A DRAG?

BORING??? BORING? I hardly think so. I heard through the grapevine that a certain member of our class (initials S.B.) thought our Grad ceremonies were boring. I for one am shocked. Mardi Gras it wasn't, but it wasn't boring either.

The blue carpets were both lovely and functional, helping to contain the smell of sweat permanently imbedded in the gym floor. We were herded around the back of the stage, and our "moment of glory" consisted of filing past six people and shaking six hands. I recognized only one person at the end of one of these hands--Brian Antonson.

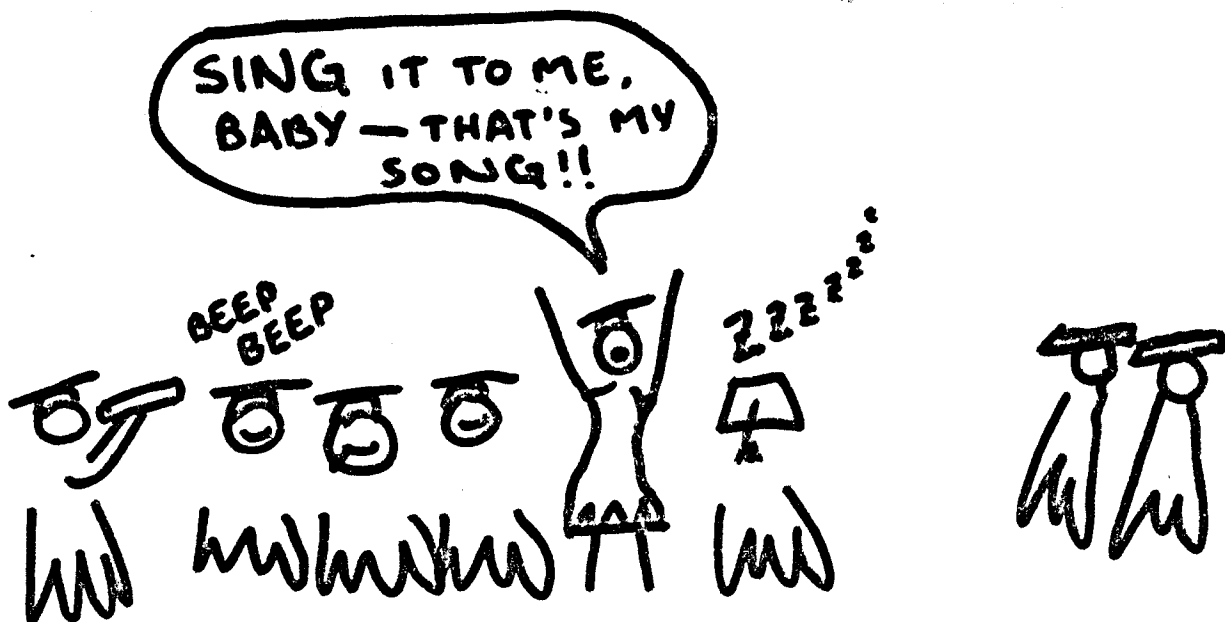
Throughout the ceremony, Tom's beeper went off every few minutes. He said his boss needed help on a technical matter (wink, wink), but this reporter learned that he had paid his mother to phone him and set it off. This new subtle form of Networking convinces people that you are a busy person-on-the-go so they want to meet you and offer you jobs. Not to be outdone, Vic and Doug snuck out of the room to phone their mothers. And so the competition began. At one point their beepers were going off so often that the P.A. system had to be adjusted to deal with the interference.

When Brian D. came to the podium the announcer saw his toothpick, thought this was some sort of clue, and mistakenly announced the Pulp & Paper Science Awards.

In the closing laser show they played "She Blinded Me With Science." At this point Carol Pears lost control of herself, stood up on her chair and shouted "SING it to me Baby--that's my song!" She then offered members of the Robotics option a peek under her robe for five cents each. She was physically contained by Lockie, who was later seen at the reception giving her a nickel.

So you figure it out--carpeting, robes, beepers going off...BORING? HA!

- R.S.



Not long ago, I went for a walk through the streets of my hometown. It was a cold and cloudy January night, and I walked quickly along the frozen gravel shoulder just to keep warm. It was so quiet I could hear my own breathing. I looked carefully at the darkened neighbourhoods as I passed through, and a familiar feeling came over me.

My life, it seemed, had gone stagnant. I was going nowhere--unemployed for half the year, and unhappy with my seasonal job. There was little to look forward to. I needed to get out.

This was hardly a new thought; in fact, I had already planned a method of escape. I'd decided to go back to school--to take a Broadcasting course somewhere: NAIT, Mt. Royal, BCIT...I had several applications out. This would be a good change in my life; Broadcasting had fascinated me for several years. Admittedly, I did have a few qualms about returning to school at the "advanced" age of 25. And I had never survived a full post-secondary course load before...but now I felt ready. Under my breath I murmured a secular prayer of hope that soon my life would change.

OK, so it all sounds a bit hokey now, but that story ↑ is absolutely true. I suspect that we all had some sort of hopes that two years of TV Production at BCIT would change our lives. Well, here we are a couple of years older, and able to look back at the whole thing with a little historical perspective. Right? Right???

12C5 put the following question to a random sample of 12C5'ers: KEEPING IN MIND THE HOPES THAT YOU HAD TWO YEARS AGO, HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW ABOUT YOUR TERM IN TV PRODUCTION AT BCIT?

"I really don't know, I have mixed feelings about it. Like--getting my diploma was all exciting, but when I think of the time and the money I've put into it and the fact that I don't have a [related] job right now, it sort of makes me wonder if I wasted my time. As soon as I get a job, maybe I'll be changing my tune--I'll be out running around, "Oh yea, definitely worth it. Go get an education..." and all of that. But right now all I've got to show for it is a piece of paper--and that doesn't mean a helluva lot when it comes to paying the rent."

TRACEY SMITH

"I feel that it was a good introduction to my interest in the field of production, and it was good basic training. However, my interests and aims weren't quite the same after a year as they were at the beginning. I gradually changed my thinking about the schooling at BCIT in the respect that I didn't think two years would've done me as [much] good as going out and getting a job...which was true."

DAN WILLIAMSON

"My hopes have already been exceeded by what I'm doing. I didn't think I'd be even working in the position I am now for at least a couple of years--and without [the BCIT course] I wouldn't be here. The only reason I got here was through the practicum; there's too many other people out there looking for jobs too, at the same place. And they would have somebody else in here."

ROGER WILLIAMS

"BCIT taught me the basics of what I needed to know. I was just a little disappointed in how much I learned--I thought I would've learned more. And now being in the industry for, oh, a whole six months, I find that it did not really prepare me to go out in the industry. There's a lot that I've learned on my own...up here."

MIKE CLOTILDES

"I don't think I'd be where I am today without it. [But] I don't think that we were prepared for the kind of job market that exists today--I think they're probably a couple of years behind. There's very little production being done at the stations now, so I think that they did not sufficiently market the business side of what we're doing. And I also don't think that you can teach most of what they tried to teach us in a classroom anyway, y'know. I think that the only way to do it is to get... dirty. But that's so easy to say. They can try--and they didn't do a bad job."

BRIAN DePAOLI

"Sppppp!! I was doing great up until December, and then I got sick and--what can I say--after that it went downhill. It was fine until then--I was having a lot of fun. It's too bad that everyone had left in March. I think, as I got better, I would've gotten more out of the last two months if people had been there [doing productions]. If I'd known I was sick in January, y'know, I should've taken a year off. However, that's life."

SHIRLEY PARSONS

"The public demands certainties.... But there are no certainties."
- H. L. Mencken

"The public is a bed sore."
- Vern Braun

The debut issue of 12C5 is complimentary. (I realize that many of you think it's insulting, but you're wrong...as usual.) This will be the LAST freebie. Production expenses, you understand. So, instead of costing you nothing, future issues will cost you next to nothing!

I had originally intended to crank this thing out four times a year, but it seems like the majority of class members I talk to think that that would be a little hard to take. So be it. Let's go for twice a year; this should cut costs in half (right?). Well, it all adds up to a shocking



YOU

let's see
stamps
photocopies
i.d. phone calls
paper
staples
typewriter
cartridges
psychiatric
bills
\$2.50
/yr.

However, heh-heh-heh, you are all on my current mailing list. It is your responsibility to let me know if you wish to cancel. If you don't, I'll not only send you upcoming issues ad nauseum, but I'll also demand payment! So...y'all have a few months to make up your minds. But don't procrastinate. There will be no extensions. You'll be marked as absent if late. **YOU'RE IN THE BROADCAST INDUSTRY NOW!!**

If any of this is out of date, I'm sorry--but it's your own damn fault for not keeping me informed!

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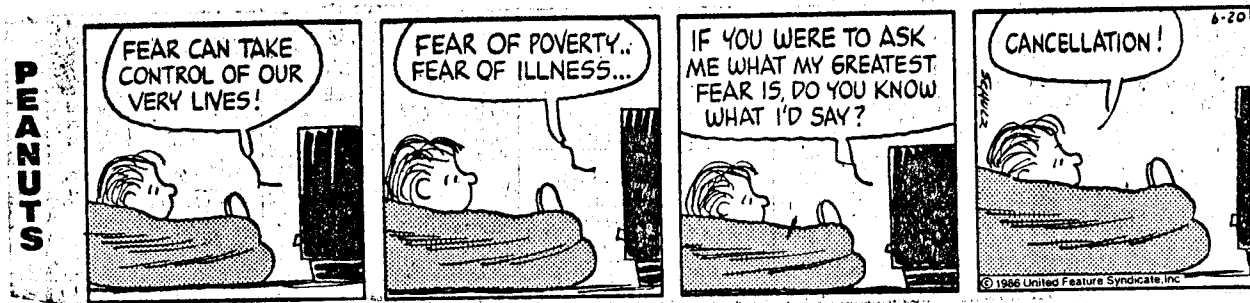
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DE-Classified

VERN IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP EDIT 3/4" FOOTAGE FOR THE VIDEO YEARBOOK. CALL HIM AT HOME, 430-2704.

AMY SUGGESTS A 12C5 GET-TOGETHER FOR OKTOBERFEST. SOUNDS LIKE FUN! ANY SUGGESTIONS?

NASONIA
(courtesy of Delo)

JIM F. IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO, AND/OR HELP WITH, THE NEWSLETTER. OPERATORS ARE STANDING BY AT 430-5875.

"The duck went WOOF."