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What's so great about Diversity?

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People are diverse and it's good to recognize our individualism.

What about Nelson and Cranbrook? What makes these communities so different?



Sarah Burwash, 15, Rossland

Scratch

Scratch

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COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

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Become a SCRATCH writer or
photographer. It's great work
experience and you'll see your
name in print (now, that's cool) Let
Stacy Barter know sbarter@cbt.org
or 1-800-505-8998

editorial: Diversity is part of living here

By **Christy Anderson**, 29, Rossland

There are so many ways to talk about diversity, it's hard to know where to start! For those of us lucky enough to call the Columbia Basin home, we not only talk about diversity...we live it! That's why we thought it would make a great theme for this third issue of SCRATCH.

We experience diversity on a daily basis. Why don't you look exactly like all of your friends? How come you might be of Scottish descent, but your best friend's family came from India? Why is it that not everyone listens to the same music or likes to do the same things? Why is it that Cranbrook is a different city from Nakusp? Why is Trail so different from Invermere? How can the Kootenay region be so different from the Okanagan?

Diversity. Driving home from the last Columbia Basin Trust Youth Committee meeting held near Radium, I had a real taste of it in geographical terms. When you drive across the vast terrain that we call the Columbia Basin, you get a chance to see just how DIVERSE our area truly is. We crossed not one but TWO mountain passes, watched as mountainous wooded areas gave way to rolling farmland which changed again to mountains; then back to the valley bottom and lastly made one last climb to my home in the Alpine City. What an amazing place we live in! I think you would be hard-pressed to find another region that is similar in size, and yet houses so many incredible natural features.

Diversity. It's what sets us apart from other people and other regions found here on Planet Earth. As musicians Groove Armada sing: "If everybody looked the same, we'd get tired of lookin' at each other." We need to celebrate diversity and celebrate all the wonderful ways that we are different from other people. Respect the things about yourself that separate you from other people! Respect others who are different from you! In this very multicultural region we live in – the Columbia Basin – we live and breathe "diversity" and should continue to be very proud Canadians.

The Diversity Issue

Got something to say about diversity in the Columbia Basin? Post your comments on www.scratchonline.ca. Click on Discussion Boards and let us have it! Your comments could be published in the next issue of SCRATCH.

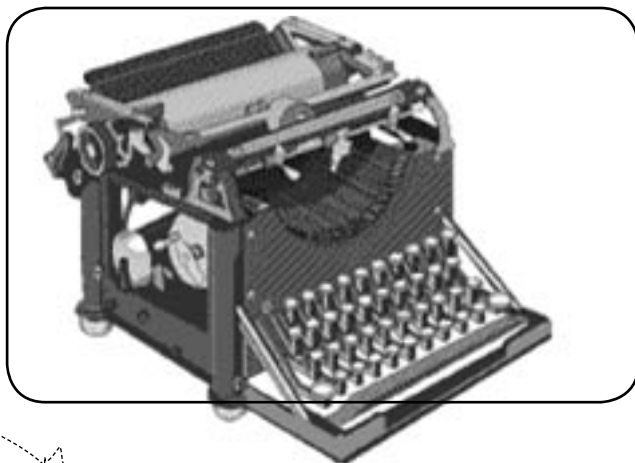
diversity
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Been to
www.scratchonline.ca
lately? Check out all the
groovy changes.
Click Now!



Kyle Verigin, 14, Winlaw

Letters etc.



I just finished reading the on-line mag and I'm really impressed with how much it's evolved over the last while. It looks awesome.

Posted by Randy Thomas

Ya know what? I was thinking about SCRATCH and how totally cool it is and I thought, "Why is it so cool?" And then I realized that it's cause of all the really cool stuff that we submit. So nobody ever stop being cool!

Posted by Aaron

What is with cloning? Why is scientist's spending money on this when they haven't even found a cure for cancer, aids or MS? I don't see the point in being worried about a cloned sheep that dies when they can't even cure cancer. To me, this seems absurd.

Posted by Chopper Pie

The world is only increasing. This means that more technology, more specialized jobs, more education. Plus they have to weed out some people for some jobs too. But, yeah that all makes sense. Everything gets bigger from how long you live to how big a pop you can get at 7 - 11. It's insane and yes, very frightening. We're the generation who's gotta deal with it too. Posted by Bek

Reply - How big of a pop CAN you get at 7 - 11?
Posted by Jessie

OPINIONS

Diversity of the People

By Will Doyle, 16, Golden

The Columbia Basin is a place rich with beautiful mountains, bountiful rivers and lakes. But its most outstanding commodity is its people. People of all races, cultures and backgrounds come here and live together to create diverse communities. People come to this area from all over the world to work in many fields. These people settle here and raise their families, sharing their culture and history with each other.

This creates an exceptional learning environment for Basin youth. We are exposed to many different ways of life; this leads to a greater understanding of the world. For example, youth have the opportunity to talk to and live with First Nations people like the prominent Ktunaxa Nation throughout the Basin. Without this exposure to other cultures, the Basin's youth would be at a loss because the world we see would only include our family, and our own traditions. The Columbia Basin is for the better because of its broad cross-section of people and cultures.

Life with FAS

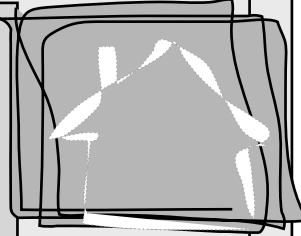
By Garth Galligar, 17, Golden

Life for some children could be difficult depending on the type of problem they are living with. Some are born with attention deficit disorder (ADD) and some with cerebral palsy. Some of these syndromes are mostly visible where others have no physical features. Others may think that it's an average person but that person may have unusual social behaviours and may be having trouble living life. Some of these everyday troubles may be short-term memory and poor eye-hand coordination. Some people may have heart defects where others have scoliosis. This is the life of a **FAS - fetal alcohol syndrome** - child. As they become an adolescent the problems become more severe. Adolescents with FAS have difficulty with abstract learning, have poor problem solving abilities and can't use trial and error in new situations. Problems with their families start because FAS kids have no concept of money at all. All of these problems are caused by one thing. FAS is a serious thing. It isn't something to laugh at. There are tons of kids out there with FAS. People don't have a choice whether they have it or not. It's really a choice the mother has to make. All the pregnant women out there should make the right choice and that choice is not to drink alcohol or do drugs while you are pregnant. If we work together we could put an end to this. The whole thing could be stopped but the pregnant mothers out there must be willing not to drink alcohol or do drugs while they are pregnant... I want this whole thing to stop.

I am a Doukhobor

By Page Strelaeff, 18, South Slokan

- In 1785, Archbishop Ambrosias of the Russian Orthodox Church referred to them as Dukhobortsi. The term literally means spirit wrestlers—the church official intended it as a derogatory label meaning these people were struggling against the Holy Spirit.
- On June 29, 1895, some 7,000 Doukhobors burnt all of their weapons as a symbolic act, saying that they would never take the life of another human being. This day in history has now been named The Burning of the Arms.



Many people have a faith, a belief or a religion. I can say that I have all three, but unlike some people, I can say that it is also a way of life. Being a Doukhobor not only means prayer meetings and singing psalms, but it is also a part of each and every person. It is how you live your life, how you treat your neighbours, how you choose to handle conflict. Because there has been such a struggle throughout our heritage, many Doukhobors feel a strong sense of pride and a strong connection



to each other. We have always been proud of where we came from, even through the times that others were not. Not only is being a Doukhobor a way of life, a belief and a faith, it is also a community. The Doukhobor community is a community that anyone, Russian or not, can rely on for help, for support and for comfort. People know this, and come from all over the world to see us, to know us, or simply to hear us sing, and to rejoice, and to share in who we are.

Between 1908 and 1913, about 5,000 Doukhobors settled in the valley at the confluence of the Columbia and Kootenay rivers, near Castlegar. They settled here after the Dominion government of the day reversed the land settlement policy and they were forced to forfeit their hard won Saskatchewan settlements.

Being a Doukhobor is what defines me as a person, just as much as my personality and my actions define me as a person. I suppose it is safe to say that my personality and my actions are based on the ways that I was taught as a child. I may not attend prayer meetings every week, though I used to as a child. It is still the main influence in my life, because of the community bonds and my wonderful family bonds. We have an incredible story of struggle, turmoil, pride, perseverance, and most of all, love.

For more information about Doukhobor life visit:
Doukhobor Village Museum in Castlegar at www.kdhs.kics.bc.ca or
Doukhobor Homepage www.doukhobor-homepage.com

W E I R D F A C T S

In Somalia, Africa, it's been decreed illegal to carry old chewing gum stuck on the tip of your nose.

More than 50% of the people in the world have never made or received a telephone call.

Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.

Self-Made Stereotypes

By Trisha Elliott, 25, Nelson

The Columbia Basin is not known for racial diversity, but it is known for its "colour." What type of colour is this you ask? I decided to interview some of the different types of people I came across in Nelson and Slocan. Each person was asked to come up with their own personal label, and after much humming and hawing, the results are in. My findings tell me that while we are a community of diversity, some qualities are universal.

The Hip-Neck

Name: Chris O'Gorman

Age: 28

Spotted at: a Nelson back alley

Job: Cabbie

Favourite item of clothing:

My cowboy hat

Favourite current band: The Toques

What is always in your fridge? Beer

Words to live by: "Freedom begins between the ears."



The Outdoors Enthusiast

Name: Ryan Copeland

Age: 25

Spotted at: W.E. Graham School in Slocan, B.C.

Job: CAP Youth Intern

Favourite item of clothing: Jeans

Favourite current band:

Modest Mouse

What is always in your fridge?

Cheese

Words to live by: "Dream as if you're gonna live forever, but live each day as if it's your last."



Embrace Diversity right here at home

By Chelsea Deyaeger, 18, Nelson

When I think of the Columbia Basin, I think of diversity. I think of cultural, ethnic, religious and subcultural diversity. When I think of my friends and the people that surround me, I am reminded of all the unique qualities I have come to love about them. Having lived in the Kootenays for ten years, I have met some of the most interesting and open-minded people there are. I have come to realize how much I value having people of different backgrounds and life values influence me. Looking closer at the Kootenays, I realize how many different subcultures I am encircled by and the unique ways of life I can learn from.

I have also noticed that on a regular basis people from the Kootenays seem to forget the diverse environment we live in. People seem to forget the diverse communities we are surrounded by. This is to remind you. Open your minds and your hearts to all the diverse people around you and embrace their way of life—do not judge it.

stereotype \ n - an unduly fixed mental impression, a conventional idea or opinion or character etc.

The Good Ol' Boy

Name: Wayne Elliott

Age: 48

Spotted at: The Hungry Wolf Café in Winlaw, B.C.

Job: Electrician

Favourite item of clothing: Jeans

Favourite current band: Nitty Gritty Dirt Band

What is always in your fridge?

Veggies that turn to ink

Words to live by: "They say that it takes all kinds, but that ain't true; it's just that we GOT all kinds."



Au Naturel

Name: Julia Delaney

Age: 22

Spotted at: W.E. Graham Community Services in Slocan, B.C.

Job: Youth Employment Outreach Facilitator

Favourite item of clothing: Jeans

Favourite current band: Pearl Jam

What is always in your fridge? White wine

Words to live by: "Don't lose the wonder."



Streeter

By Paula Schmidt, 22, Trail

What makes the Columbia Basin diverse, and what about that diversity makes life fun for you?

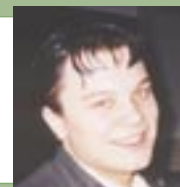


Tom Proskow, 22, Trail

The Columbia Basin is not as conservative. They're more open and tolerant of different lifestyles and cultures. It's a bit more free and laid-back. There's not the same kind of division or segregation. It's not so socially split, with one group over here and another over there. You don't have to try and impress people—you can be yourself.

Brian D. Turner, 18

There are a lot of different people here, lots of different cultures that give different personalities from different backgrounds. This is an outdoor area, so you've got the "quiet" thing going on. It's fun because we have a lot of intelligent people in the area, lots of talent. There's everything here: acting, swimming, archery, hockey, lots of activities.



Kara Wright, 19, Warfield

This area is diverse because of its culture and outdoor recreation. I've gotten to experience the great outdoors mountain biking, snowboarding and whitewater rafting.

Natalie Bowie, 18, Rossland

We're diverse, not only in people and background, but with rich wildlife and landscapes. It's different from the city—the city has a lot of different cultures, languages and people, while we have more wildlife and are rich in other things. It's more exciting and enriches us with knowledge about the natural world.



Brodie Thomas, 18, Warfield

There are so many different cultures and visitors from all over the world. Lots of people come here for the outdoor activities. There's the huge Italian population in Trail, the Russian population in Castlegar, and Nelson has a big art culture. We have everything jammed into a small area. You get to meet so many different people and hear different life stories that have happened to them. Their experiences are interesting to hear about.

Cecilia Irvine, 19, Fruitvale

We have a lot of different people and different recreational activities. There are a lot of alternate schooling choices here as well. We also have a great selection of restaurants. It's fun to meet lots of interesting people, to hear about their different experiences and to learn from them and teach others about your stuff, too.



Statistics Don't Lie. The Basin is a Diverse Place

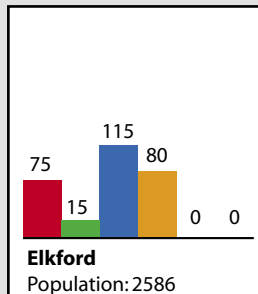
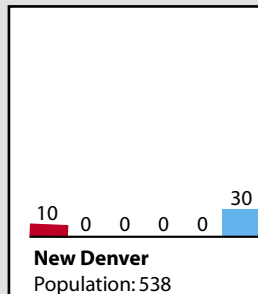
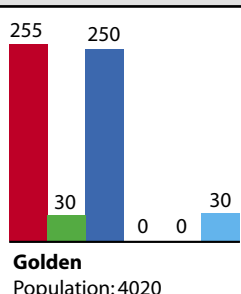
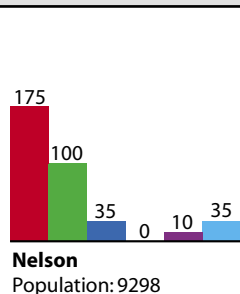
By Brian W. Lawrence, 22, Nelson

Check this out!

Diversity is present throughout the Columbia Basin. Cultural, political, sexual—you name it, it's there. But no diversity is quite as noticeable as the visible minority population—local residents of races other than caucasian. With dozens of communities in the region, it would be difficult to show the racial diversity of all in a reasonable amount of space. These statistics are from communities at each end of the region, taken from the 2001 Census results at Statistics Canada's web site, www.statcan.com. Visit there to find complete results for these or your own community.

the key

- Aboriginal: ■
- Chinese: ■
- South Asian: ■
- Filipino: ■
- Latin American: ■
- Japanese: ■



Got something to say about cultural diversity in the Columbia Basin?
Post a message on the scratchonline.ca discussion boards.

BC/DC

AC/DC Never Looked This Good

By Trisha Elliott, 25, Nelson

Born out of a Ymir bush party, Nelson band BC/DC pretends to be nothing other than 100 per cent rock 'n' roll ripoffs. The band performs AC/DC tributes from the Bon Scott years, and their shows have cultivated a Kootenay cult following. From the mousy librarian to the free hippie, no show-goer leaves without embracing their inner rocker.

I caught up with lead guitar man, Angus Hung, 29, a man known for playing guitar on his back in a tie and suit jacket.

T. So, Angus, how does it feel to be the spring chicken in the barnyard of BC/DC? Do you think you have the most energy?

A. If you're referring to my age, I don't feel terribly young. In fact, when I drag my arse out of bed after a BC/DC show, I feel about 68 years old. It really beats the snot out of me. But for the love of rock 'n' roll, I gladly get back in the van and head out on the road for the next show. Energy-wise, I don't know where it comes from. Some people like to artificially enhance their energy, but I just love to rock so much that it just pours out of my glands. It's like being possessed. I have endless amounts of superhuman power and energy.

T. Does being in a rock band keep you young?

A. I'm in three right now and it just makes me tired. You're only as young as you want to be. I'll be dead soon, but that won't make me stop playing music, because music is me. Nor will I stop being a clown. As long as you're still learning and having fun, then you are young.

T. Give me the profile of a typical BC/DC groupie.

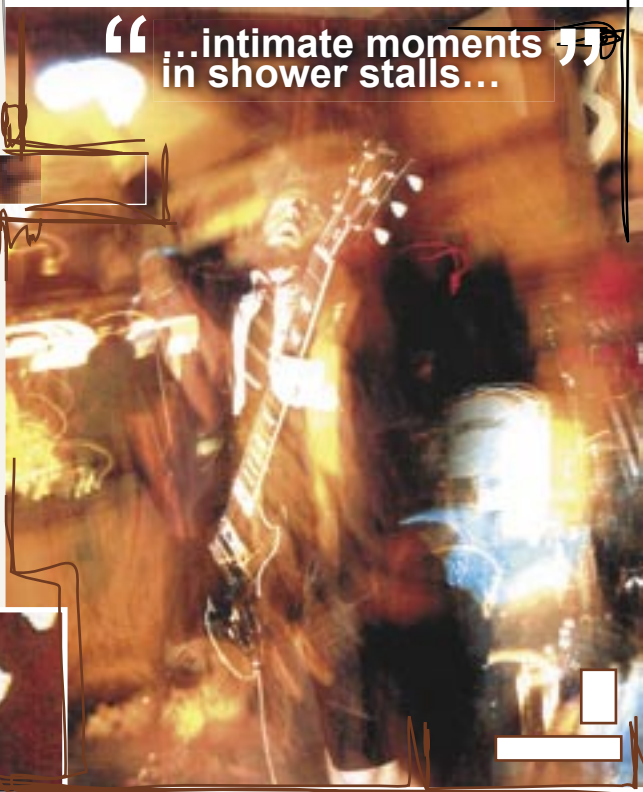
A. Three hundred pounds, full beard, cork boots and a leather hat.

T. Does your band add to the diversity of the music scene in Nelson, or is this just same ol' same ol'?

A. BC/DC adds to the economy of Nelson. Before we came along there was very little hard rock in the area. But now people are accepting their roots. It's not all about peace, love and drum circles.

T. I see...Tell me a little bit about this "rockumentary" dealie you've been working on.

"...intimate moments in shower stalls..."



A. Well, it's called "Re-Voltage." It's a documentary on the life and times of the biggest band in the history of mankind. Oh...wait a minute...that was a different movie. It basically captures a year in the life of BC/DC. There's road footage and live stuff, as well as some intimate moments in shower stalls, girls' washrooms and barbecues. Our motto sums it up: "If you can't laugh at yourself, we'll do it for you!"

T. Party on Angus!



"It's not all about peace, love and drum circles."



We know there are lots of great local bands out there. Got one you like? Know about something cool going on in the arts in your community? Got an arts & culture story idea? Send it to us for the next issue. Let SCRATCH know.

www.scratchonline.ca

Get a job... get lots of jobs!

By Brian W. Lawrence, 22, Nelson

When people ask me what I do for a living, I tell them. "I'm a freelance writer," I say. But that's not quite accurate. Actually, it's rather inaccurate. To be perfectly honest, less than half my income comes from writing.

So I'll admit it now—I have another job. The chance that you'll see me pounding away at my keyboard is probably equal to the chance that you'll catch me scrubbing a toilet or swinging a mop. Why? Well, you've probably guessed by now, but it's because I'm a janitor as well. I know it sounds strange—instead of sitting at the computer writing the next Pulitzer-winner, I'm out at night, picking up after people who can't tell the difference between a wastebasket and the floor.

However, as someone once told me, if you choose to live in Nelson, you do whatever it takes to stay here. Living in Nelson means embracing diversity—right down to making money. And since—for now, anyway—I'm choosing to stay in my hometown rather than advance my writing career elsewhere, I don't limit my definition of work solely to writing. I have branched out into photography, and I house-and pet-sit for vacationing Nelsonites.

The variety is fun. Rather than devoting my time to only one thing, I can develop new skills that help me continue to branch out in other areas. That doesn't mean it's always easy, though. For example, although I'd

previously taken hundreds of photos while freelancing for the Nelson Daily News, I was really nervous before my first photo shoot—publicity shots for someone to take to a casting director. Would the film wind properly? Would I have the shutter speed set right? Did I actually know what I was doing?

Despite my initial reservations, the pictures turned out okay. In reality, it wasn't as hard as I had imagined it might be. But the important thing was that I was willing to try it. Willingness is an important quality when it comes to diversifying and learning new skills. But I mean much more than being willing to do it right the first time. You also have to be willing to accept failure. After all, we can learn from our mistakes and correct them in the future.

And if you do that, you may find yourself becoming skilled at something you never imagined possible. Even if the skill isn't something you can use full time, it may be possible to use your skills occasionally to supplement your regular income.

So, don't choose to swing a mop or write a story or take a photo—do it all. Your work will be more fulfilling, you'll learn more and have plenty to offer any employer.

You do
whatever
it takes to
stay here

Do it
all

Rant and

Post yours on the scratchonline.ca discussion board

Have

I hate people who are like, "Oh you are not cool because you don't like the exact same music I do." They are silly. If everyone liked the same kind of music, then life would be boring. BORING. Posted by Sharon

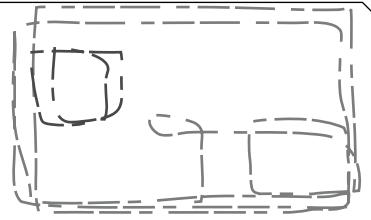
I think teens in the Kootenays need an after school hang out where they can learn new stuff from others and just have jam sessions and hang out. Posted by Brandy

Hiphop is the name of our collective consciousness towards self-improvement. In a spiritual sense, hiphop cannot be (and should not be) interpreted or described in words. It's a feeling, an awareness, a state of mind. Posted by James

By Brian W. Lawrence, 22, Nelson

Streeter

What are the two most important qualities that employers look for?



Mark Zeabin, 27

Confidence. Good speaking skills. Employees are dealing with other people. They need to sell themselves.

Landon Marsden, 22

Trustworthiness. Showing initiative. They should do more than just their job, and put themselves into it.



Jordan Brulotte, 21

I believe a good employee would be honest and have a good work ethic.

Deanna Taylor, 23

Knowledge and skills. Experience. Employers look for someone experienced; they don't want someone who doesn't know what they're doing.



Carly Morin, 18

Friendly and outgoing. Responsible. They want people to go in and like the service.

What job skills are good to have?


Submitted by Job Links in Cranbrook

According to HRDC (Human Resources Development Canada), employers are looking for academic skills such as the ability to communicate, to think and to learn. They are also looking for individuals who have personal management skills. These include: demonstrating positive behaviors and attitudes, being responsible and being able to adapt to new situations. Finally, they look for teamwork skills. Being able to work with others goes a long way in the workforce. We always suggest to our clients that being a good worker means being an asset to an organization or business. This entails being well-rounded and recognizing your own individual characteristics that would be useful on the work site.

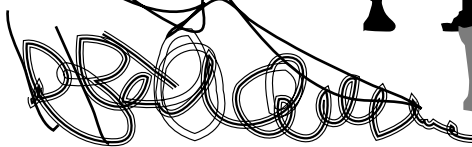
What about weird jobs?

You would be surprised at the jobs we come across here at Job Links in Cranbrook. The traveling carnival was recently hiring. A popular choice of many young people who wish to hit the road in search of a little adventure. An indoor fishing rod demonstrator was another job that really caught our eye. Many people don't realize that to be a pet psychic you don't actually need experience. Apparently, it just comes naturally.

Submitted by
Job Links in
Cranbrook, BC



Finding Reason



By Heather Lea, 28, Revelstoke

Don't stop living...

Whatever you do in life, it is impossible to avoid risk. Driving, walking, eating—risk is an inherent danger that you are sometimes aware of and prepared for and sometimes not.

With the incredibly unfortunate events that have sadly put Revelstoke on the map this past winter, words like “backcountry skiing” and “avalanches” are now household vocabulary. It's too bad, however, that the beauty of this winter activity has suddenly turned people's dreams of the sport into nightmares of paranoia and panic.

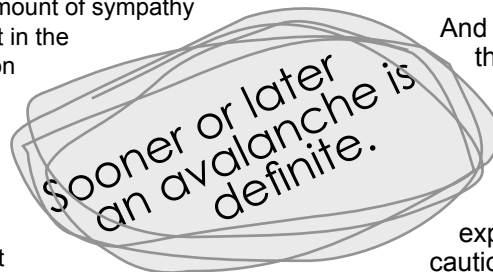
Following the deaths of the seven Strathcona teens, the outcry to “do something about the senseless danger” became more than I could comfortably listen to. Of course, I have a huge amount of sympathy for the families and friends, but in the midst of all the voiced confusion and fears now so very evident, I would sleep better at night if I could make a few points myself.

Firstly, I feel it is very important to realize that, yes, 14 people have lost their lives, but if not for school programs like the Strathcona-Tweedsmuir school and other outdoor-ed programs aimed to educate the young and the older, there would be deaths a hundredfold in comparison every season. For the seven who died, thousands have lived incredible outdoor experiences due solely to backcountry education. It would be more than just a shame for such programs to become obsolete in schools because of misunderstandings and emotions.

Next, HUNDREDS of people per season, myself included, use Balu Pass trail because of the comparative safety of the route. I wouldn't want to go up there any other way. Thus, it irks me to know that people are pointing fingers at the skilled professionals for taking these kids there, looking for answers, looking to blame. The trail is the main source of access for a variety of other routes in the area. It has its hazards, yes, but look around you right now. How many warning and caution signs do you see? Hazards are in your backyards. This accident was a horrible freak-of-nature event. Such events have happened and will continue to happen as long as we walk and breathe. To use a morbid cliché, it's the “wrong place at the wrong time” scenario. In Peru, the town of Yungay was buried by an earthquake-provoked avalanche, killing tens of thousands of the town's inhabitants. Are we made to

question why there was ever a town begun in such a danger zone in the first place? Of course not. Not in a million years would half a mountain of rock and ice come barreling down a valley to cover a whole town. Right?

Well, here in Revelstoke, sooner or later avalanches will happen. We know enough about them to prepare ourselves and our highways for the inevitable. The many men and women employed by Parks Canada, the Canadian Avalanche Centre, the highways department and more spend their life's work trying to solve the many moods of Mother Nature. But it is impossible to predict when nature strikes. These kids were NOT put in unnecessary danger. What happened was out of any human control.



Sooner or later an avalanche is definite.

And so it bothers me to hear the news these days. How do we ever hope to propose and follow through with ideas of regulating backcountry access? Do we really hope to control Mother Nature? How much more regulating do we expect? I personally have always felt cautiously advised while ski touring in

Rogers Pass or elsewhere. There are always postings of the avalanche danger for that day. So guess what? If we propose to “close” the backcountry of Revelstoke, of British Columbia, of Canada, of all mountainous areas and therefore anywhere left with any beauty, why don't we take it a little further and close the Alps, the Himalayas, EVEREST? The highest mountain in the world has claimed many a life, and some of those lives needed only a fat cheque book in place of alpine intelligence. Here in Revelstoke, a comforting majority of enthusiasts visiting our wilderness have some degree of backcountry education at least.

And aside from the logistical gong-show we can expect from trying to “regulate” the backcountry (What was that about cutting budgets? How many staff will we need to man the closed areas?), keeping people from the backcountry can only make matters worse. Can you imagine how much more enticing the snow looks now? What did you do at the ski hills when you were a kid and the sign said, “Ski area boundary...Do not cross!” So I ask of you to please try and look objectively past emotions and bewilderment, past finger-pointing and blame-laying. Nothing can be gained from attempting to manage nature. We can only continue to offer education to those who seek the thrilling, life-changing experiences only the mountains can give.



WE'RE BASICALLY ALL THE SAME

By Diana Chang, 15, Elkford

Diversity in races and cultures is a good thing. Without diversity, our society would be plain and dull, lacking any kind of depth. Imagine if everybody had the same skin, hair and eye colour, and if everybody had the same beliefs and ideas. Then the world would be a very boring place to live in. All the different colours, shapes and sizes of people make society interesting.

People should not discriminate against other people just because they look a little bit different or they believe in different things. For example, how would you feel if someone harassed you every day, making your life miserable, just because you had white skin or blue eyes? Or if you had brown skin or brown eyes? Either way, it makes no difference. People should not change their skin or eye colour just to please other people. (Well, they technically could change their skin or eye colour, but let's not go there.)

What difference does it make if somebody's skin is just a little bit darker or lighter than your own? We are all still human beings. We all have eyes, a nose, a mouth, hands, feet, etc. We are all made of cells, we are mobile, we perform complex chemical activities within our bodies, we grow and develop, and we respond to things in our environment. We all need food, **water, oxygen and a living space. We all cry and laugh about the same things and dream and hope for a better future. So what makes one human being so much different from another? Not much. Everybody should be treated with respect because, in reality, we are all basically no different from each other.**

Italians - Trail's history and future

By Jen Palmer, 16, Trail

Throughout the Columbia Basin, there are many different cultural groups from around the world that have influenced the way of living and the values and shaping of the towns and cities in this area. In Grand Forks you have the Russian population; in Kimberley, the Bavarians; and in Trail, the Italians.

The majority of the Italian community, which makes up more than 50 per cent of Trail's population today, came to Trail before and after World War II to work for Cominco and the Canadian Pacific Railway. Italian immigrants, being family-oriented and finding many opportunities for work in the Trail area, sent word back to Italy to family and friends, which resulted in more and more Italians coming this way.

The strong Italian ethnicity has become part of Trail's culture, with the internationally recognized Colander restaurant being the most well-known symbol. Italian heritage is also evident throughout the community with the various pasta houses, bakery shops, and restaurants, and is widely celebrated. In addition to the cuisine, the Italians brought with them a love of music and gardening, along with traditions such as the annual grape-stomping and spaghetti-eating competitions. When driving or walking through Trail, you see many gardens and rock walls which reflect

Italian influence as well.

This year a new annual celebration of Trail's Italian

"The strong Italian ethnicity has become part of Trail's culture"

Heritage and Culture, Festa Italiana, is being organized for September 18-21. Events such as a Tubby Tenor Talent Show, Gala Banquet, Italian Film Fest, Bocce Tournament, Italian Fashion Show, a Farmer's Market, and Wandering Italian Musicians Downtown will be taking place to celebrate the unique Italian contribution to the community.

Share your stories that celebrate the influence of various ethnic backgrounds in your community.

post your stories on
scratchonline.ca

THEIR MASKS

By Monica Narula, 16, Nelson

They walk around with
Masks.
They think that people don't notice.
I do.

I know.

They'll never be real.
Not to the world,
Not to themselves.

How can they?

When they have no opinions
Of their own.
But if I hate it so much
Why do I keep hesitating to take my
mask
Off?

I will
Throw mine
Away.

Legal Poison

By Lindsey Swales, 26, Meadow Creek

Tiny particles of fibreglass in my charcoaled lungs
Blood rushing fast
Cells at work trying to repair damage
I am dizzy.

Creamy coloured smoke forms a beautiful cloud
Burning bits of a red glow die into gray ashes
First bold and then weak
My eyes are fixed.

A stale scent lingers sickening my delicate senses
Disgusting yellow stains on my fingers
My chest netted with phlegm
I tire quickly.

Elegant looking slims at the end of long fingers
Sulphury smell from a match in the early morning
A companion for my coffee
My hands are content.

Remnants of piggybank, smashed in a deprived state
Lost shine of newness
Tainted breaths steal minutes from my life
This desperate addiction.



Scott Carlson, 23, Castlegar



BOUND IN A NUTSHELL

By Cheala Cote, 26, Slocan

He held the ball in his small pale hands, squeezing it as tightly as he could. He looked between his fingers at the pale pink rubber and saw that he wasn't denting it at all. Relaxing his grip, he threw the ball to the ground, tilting his head to watch it bounce. If he looked hard enough he could see the ball flatten on one side as it hit the ground, not so much as it hit the wall, and again as it hit the ground before he caught it. He thought about it as he held it in his hands. Looking at his fingers, he put the ball on the ground. They weren't very big, and the little one was sort of stuck out sideways. He remembered it being hurt—he couldn't remember how—but he did remember it had really hurt. He decided his hands were the problem; they just weren't strong enough to flatten the ball. The ground was strong enough; cement was very strong.

He bent, picked up the ball and held it; he liked the squeaky feeling it made as he rolled it around in his hands. Throwing it at the ground, he watched carefully as it flattened on one side, hit the wall and started back, but it went wonky and instead rolled toward the fence. He ran to stop it. Once he got to the whitewashed boards he could see the ball, but there was no way he could reach it. Now in the front yard, he sat down, staring at the ball. He sighed heavily, then looked at the back door out of the corner of his eye. He couldn't see anyone through the screen. Just as his eager fingers closed on the ball, he saw a shadow fall across the lawn, and other fingers closed around his thin arm.

"What are you doing in the front yard?" His mother's voice was angry, but mostly it was tired. She dragged him half running and half stumbling into the house. "You know the rules." She dragged him the rest of the way to his room, shoving him inside. Standing in the doorway, she looked at her son. Her face was lined, not with age but with abuse, both self and tolerated. She was very tired; he could see it in her face every time she looked at him—tired and confused, angry and guilty all at once. She turned and left, locking the door behind her.

"His mother's voice was angry, but mostly it was tired."

"He had once asked his mommy how old he was. She said she thought he must be about five years old."

He was sad. He knew he wouldn't be allowed outside for a long time—'til Mommy forgot about this time. He did know the rule, and he even knew why he wasn't allowed in the front yard. It was because people might see him, and when people saw him they looked as if they had been hurt. When they saw his bruises they looked as if they were going to be sick. This he didn't understand. He knew his bruises hurt him, especially when he first got them, and sometimes they hurt so much he felt as if he was going to be sick, but he knew his bruises didn't hurt other people. His mommy's bruises didn't hurt him; he was sad she had them, but they didn't hurt. He poked his arm with a thin little finger. That was going to be a bruise tomorrow—where Mommy had grabbed his arm. It was already red.

"When they saw his bruises they looked as if they were going to be sick."

He looked again at the ball in his hand, thinking about how it flattened when it hit the strong cement. He threw it on the floor, but carpet wasn't as strong as cement and the ball just rolled away. Maybe when he was older he would be stronger. He wondered how old he would have to get before he could flatten a ball with just one hand. He had once asked his mommy how old he was. She said she thought he must be about five years old, but that was a very long time ago in his mind. The leaves weren't even off the trees and snow had come since then, so he decided he must be at least eleven by now. He put the ball away and decided that he would try again when he was older, maybe when he was thirteen. He looked out his small window and saw that the sun was still on the other side of the house. It wasn't time to eat yet. It would be a very long time—if Mommy remembered.

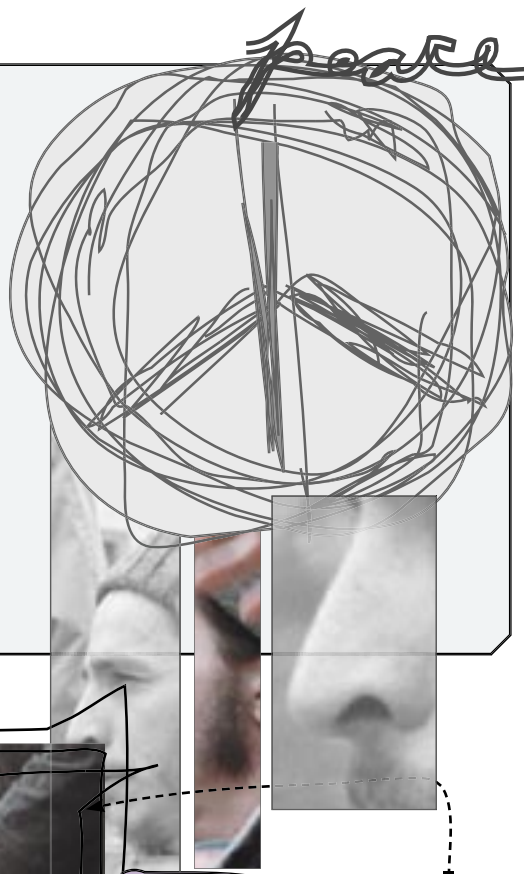
He went to his bed and lay down; he would go play 'til Mommy came. Closing his eyes, he concentrated as hard as he could on nothing at all, which was very hard. He felt his toes tingle, but when he thought about his toes tingling, they stopped. He had to start again. Soon his toes were tingling but he pretended not to notice, and soon he couldn't feel his toes, the hurt on his arm or the knot in his belly. He looked at the ceiling of his little room and saw the neat round door just big enough to let him through right where it was supposed to be. He looked back at the boy lying on the bed and saw the bright silver chain that ran from the boy to him, right into his belly button. Turning the doorknob, he left, knowing he was going to a place where everything was okay.

Read the rest of Bound in a Nutshell online at
www.scratchonline.ca/zine

9 THOUGHTS ON HOW YOUTH CAN ACHIEVE WORLD PEACE

By Cecilia de Groot, 20, Revelstokoe

- ① We cannot change others, but we can change ourselves; live a life and have an attitude that people can learn from.
- ② Don't be afraid to stand up for what you believe in.
- ③ Smile: you'll cheer yourself up, and others, and more than likely it will spread when passed along.
- ④ Show kindness to everyone.
- ⑤ Be accepting, understanding and non-judgmental.
- ⑥ Don't discriminate.
- ⑦ Say no to racism.
- ⑧ Be a role model to the world.
- ⑨ Forgive. Nobody's perfect.



Kathy Kiel, 23, Nelson



Many youth took to the streets of Columbia Basin communities in an effort to spread the word of peace and to denounce the U.S.-led attack on Iraq. These three youth positioned themselves with their peace drums on a Nelson corner to serenade the peace activists.



Kyle Holland, 18, Cranbrook



Columbia Basin Geography 101 - It's a diverse landscape

Joe Sewell, 17, Elkford



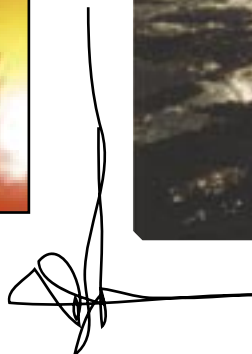
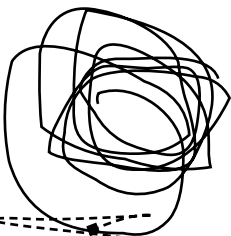
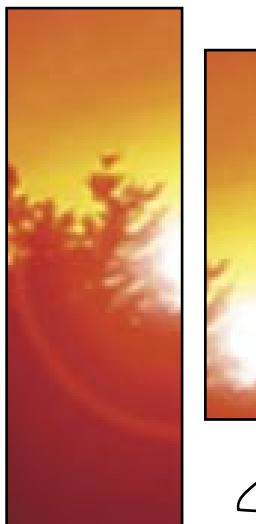
By Sandy Detillieux, 21, Castlegar

Since it is the International Year of Fresh Water, I'll start with just that—water.

I live in Castlegar where the Kootenay River meets the Columbia River. This confluence is absolutely amazing if you take the time to learn about the paths of these two major rivers.

The Kootenay River begins its journey high in the Rockies in Kootenay National Park. From there it runs south past Canal Flats. Speaking of Canal Flats... Columbia Lake, the headwaters of the Columbia River, is located near this town. In fact, there was once a canal connecting the two rivers at this site. Canal Flats—imagine that!

To make a long story short or, uhhh, less long... The Kootenay runs south across the American border then returns north into Canada. The Columbia, however, runs north before changing its mind and turning 180 degrees for the south. On its way it picks up all the water from the Kootenay and carries it into the U.S. for a second time.




The Columbia River is 2000 kilometres long, making it the third longest North American river that reaches the ocean. Take a minute to appreciate the fact that it still reaches the ocean, unlike some major rivers that dry up due to over-consumption before they make it to the coast. This is the most dammed, or hydroelectrically developed (let's keep this politically correct and non-offensive), river system in the world.

All aspects of geography in the Columbia Basin are totally spectacular due to the diversity of landscapes. Two major mountain ranges, the Columbias (composed of the Monashees, Selkirks and Purcells from west to east) and the Rockies fill the basin. Beautiful valleys, such as the Slocan Valley in the West Kootenays, are found between and among each of those mountain ranges. Parks including Yoho National Park and Valhalla Provincial Park provide pristine habitats and outdoor playgrounds. Ecosystems range from dry grasslands in the East Kootenay Trench (between the Rockies and the Purcells) to wet interior rainforests found around towns like Nelson and Revelstoke, and of course my personal favourite—alpine tundra found on top of all those big mountains.

It's no wonder that the people of the basin are so diverse considering the striking diversity of our region.



Brian W. Lawrence, 22, Nelson

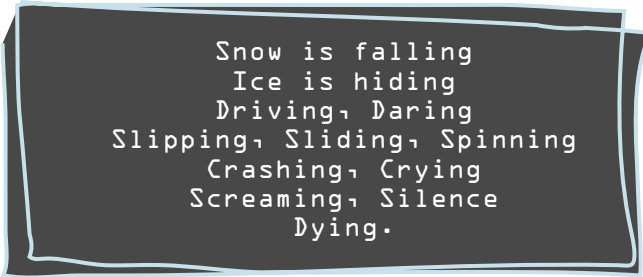


anything can
happen to
even the most
experienced
driver



Life And DeATH

By Caitlyn Perry, 18, New Denver



Snow is falling
Ice is hiding
Driving, Daring
Slipping, Sliding, Spinning
Crashing, Crying
Screaming, Silence
Dying.

We were driving to Vancouver and then catching a flight to Barra de Navidad. Full of anticipation for our vacation, I was oblivious to the world around me. The roads were bare and appeared to be clear. My dad was driving – the person that I trusted the most, especially behind the wheel. But Dad never saw the ice. I felt the truck losing control, sliding on the treacherously slippery highway. As much as I tried, I couldn't wake myself from this nightmare. I screamed but only heard silence. It was **a painfully loud silence.** My body tensed with terror. Our truck spun around, around and around. It crossed the centre line: **the thin yellow line between life and death.**

Out of the corner of my eye I glimpsed the smaller brown truck careening toward us. I could not see the faces, only their truck colliding with our big green Ford. The brown truck's front end hit at the passenger side where my mom was sitting. The impact was much worse for the people in the smaller brown truck. Our passenger door flew open from the tremendous impact, and **the only thing that stopped Mom from flying out the door was her seat-belt. All this happened in an instant, but it is an instant that I will never ever forget.**

My parents and I are all alive and walked away with a few scratches. But the other driver was not so lucky. He died. His wife was physically fine, but we can only imagine the pain she was in from **the loss of her husband. To this day** I wonder about his lost hopes and dreams. I also wonder if he had children, and I think about how awful that would be to lose my own dad. My family still went to Mexico, although our lives are forever scarred by this fatal accident.

Now a year later I am 16 and have my own driver's licence. I no longer trust any driver, because I have learned that anything can happen to even the most experienced driver. I have my own car, and I love the freedom of being self-dependent. Driving still scares me a lot, but it is something that I must face everyday. I am still haunted with the image of a gray blanket being pulled over the man's dead body after our accident. I also still see scenarios of crash scenes at every bend in the road. I am no longer oblivious to how thin the line is between life and death.

THEIR MASKS

By Monica Narula, 16, Nelson

They walk around with
Masks.
They think that people don't notice.
I do.

I know.

They'll never be real.
Not to the world,
Not to themselves.

How can they?

When they have no opinions
Of their own.
But if I hate it so much
Why do I keep hesitating to take my
mask
Off?

I will
Throw mine
Away.

Legal Poison

By Lindsey Swales, 26, Meadow Creek

Tiny particles of fibreglass in my charcoaled lungs
Blood rushing fast
Cells at work trying to repair damage
I am dizzy.

Creamy coloured smoke forms a beautiful cloud
Burning bits of a red glow die into gray ashes
First bold and then weak
My eyes are fixed.

A stale scent lingers sickening my delicate senses
Disgusting yellow stains on my fingers
My chest netted with phlegm
I tire quickly.

Elegant looking slims at the end of long fingers
Sulphury smell from a match in the early morning
A companion for my coffee
My hands are content.

Remnants of piggybank, smashed in a deprived state
Lost shine of newness
Tainted breaths steal minutes from my life
This desperate addiction.



Scott Carlson, 23, Castlegar

WORD

The written WORD

Self-Inflicted

By Roxanne Pocha, 18, Cranbrook

I have now entered a world of pain,
the intense feelings could drive you insane.
The cuts, the bruises, the broken bones,
the screeching screams, the painful moans.
Suddenly, I feel a burning, sharp pain,
like someone is ripping out my veins.
Sliced at the wrists and up my arm,
my screaming voice echoes like an alarm.
It burns, it stings, I'm starting to get weak,
I can't feel my body, I can't even speak.
As I lie motionless on the floor,
I hear someone scream and slam the door.
It's dark, it's cold, I can see my breath,
and it was all caused from a bad trip on meth.

Dance of the Earth

By Marie-Claire Findlay-Brook, 15,
Invermere

An explosion of light blinds me
for a moment. In the darkness I can feel
the pound of loud music; the hallucination of
colours dances in my eyes. I yell, trying to
hear myself over the sounds that overwhelm
me. This giant mass that swallows me
whole in their mouths of gaping excitement.
Consumed by a choir of empty bodies, beating
and pulsing together. Then beside me,
a figure flies into the sweaty air and with
a graceful land he whirls into a craze-filled
dance. His arms meet the sky and his head, a
blur of perspiration, never stops moving.
He is not smiling, singing or laughing,
he is focused, focused on living. I
watch him like the earth among the stars,
not as bright but more real. He dances for
himself, only himself; and then, as I feel the
beat of a new song, so do I.

weird facts

In ancient Egypt, priests
plucked every hair from
their bodies including
their eyebrows and
eyelashes.

Our eyes are always the
same size from birth but
our nose and ears never
stop growing.

Women blink
nearly twice as
much as men.

Rant and

Post yours on the scratchonline.ca discussion board

Rave

I don't care if you are black, brown, yellow, green with orange polka dots. I don't care if you come from India, Asia or Alpha-Centauri. I don't care if your dating preference is male, female, both, neither, or tuna fish. **If you** treat me with **respect** and don't force **me** to agree with you on your views we will get along fine. Posted by Matt Kitt.

Cool Adult



Rachel Elkey, 29, Cranbrook

If you know someone who is doing positive stuff with youth, tell us! We'll make them an official "Cool Adult!"

Jacquie Harris, left, and Heidi Kitt staff Job Links, a youth employment centre in Cranbrook. The centre is a program of Cranbrook's Boys and Girls club and is funded by Human Resources Development Canada. Check out www.joblinks.bc.ca or find the youth employment centre nearest you by going to www.scratchonline.ca and searching in the directory.

Submitted to scratchonline.ca by Erin Schulz

I would like to nominate Jacquie Harris and Heidi Kitt from Job Links in Cranbrook. They are doing lots of progressive things in the community and making it easier for youth to not get discouraged in the elusive quest to find employment. They keep the Job Links environment light and friendly. They go well out of their way to help where they can. It's about time for them to get the recognition they deserve.

Heidi says she likes working with youth because they are very creative, and it's great to see the transformation from hopelessness to "I'm on the path to something!"

Jacquie says the youth she meets at Job Links "energize" her. "They aren't jaded and they want to do things, be co-operative and stand out at the same time. Plus they show lots of initiative."

www.scratchonline.ca

Healing through Diversity & Happiness – Can it be?

By Aaron Banfield, 21, Nelson

This issue of SCRATCH is about diversity. The last issue was about activism. I'm going to tie the two themes together by describing a type of activism that isn't typically thought of, which is one of the meanings of diversity, I guess.

I want to save the world. I've decided to become a doctor of Chinese Medicine. In this essay I'm going to attempt (that is what "essay" means, after all) to explain my perhaps puzzling decision.

My decision came from a progression of realizations.

Realization one: The world is in a pretty messy state right now. Some people just get this, some people just don't. I've never really been able to figure out what the deciding factor is. Whatever you think, however, you'll probably agree that...

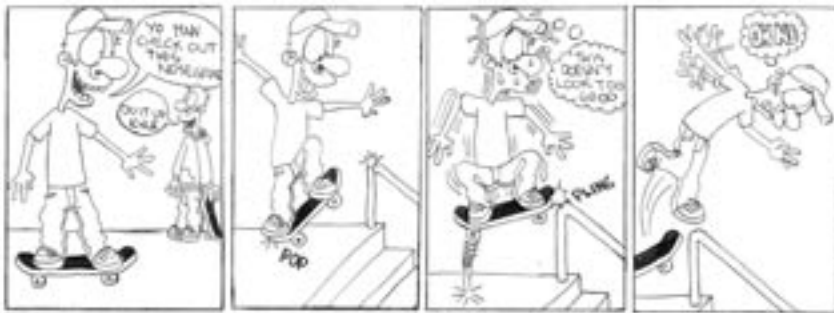
Realization two: The primary influence on the state of the world is human civilization. We can alter the environment in pretty much anyway we want, and we're energetically extremely influential, if you believe in that sort of thing. A lot of people stop here at realization two and start raging against The Machine. I was there for a while. It's pretty disempowering and frightening, really, to imagine yourself up against some monolithic, ubiquitous, abstract monster of a system. There are so many manifestations to try to fight. After a while it just seems hopeless, but what else can you do? Well, I thought a little more and realized...

Realization three: The primary influence on human civilization is humans. This seems pretty freakin' obvious but is very important and deserves thought. Humans build machines and set up systems in order to help them achieve their goals. It's like the National Rifle Association says,

"Guns don't kill people, people kill people." Guns are a great way to do it, sure, but the guns themselves don't really care what they happen to be pointing at. To further the analogy, if you snapped your fingers and made all the guns disappear, people would just build more, and they'd do it pretty quickly, and in the meantime they'd bonk each other with clubs. This would seem to indicate that...

Realization four: Most humans are in a pretty messy state right now. I used the analogy of brutish—"I'm going to get my way, and if you're in the way of me getting my way I'm going to hurt you, and if my way itself ends up hurting you I really don't care"—types of people. These types of folks seem to be in charge these days, but if the sullen, bitter, stagnant in a way—"everything sucks and everything's really hard to do, and everything would be good if only we lived in an absolute utopia tomorrow or the day after at the latest, and did I mention that everything sucks?"—types of people that I often encountered in the protest movement and to a lesser extent in the social justice field somehow managed to work their way into running the show, we would be just as screwed as we are now. Differently screwed, but still pretty badly off.

So, it occurred to me that the only way to effect real positive change in the world is to heal people. Healthy, happy people would create healthy, happy systems and from these healthy, happy systems would spring a healthy, happy world. I think Lauryn Hill put it well when she said, "Love ourselves and we can't fail to make a better situation." It will take a long time, certainly, and there may not be enough time, but I don't see how this can do anything but help.



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Kyle Verigin, 14, Winlaw



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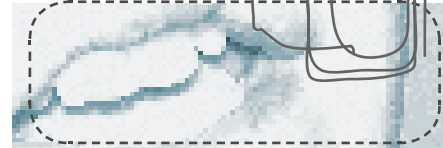
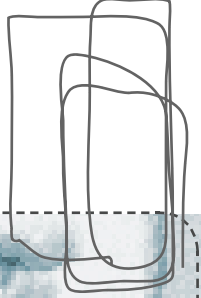
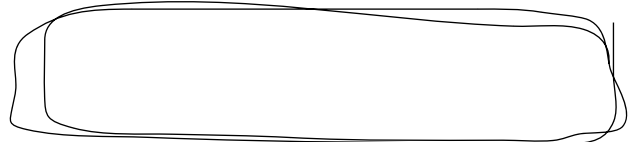
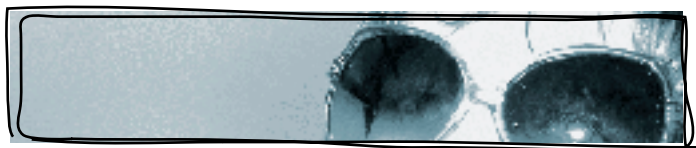
BRAIN ROBBERS

By Michael Kootnikoff, 18, Nelson

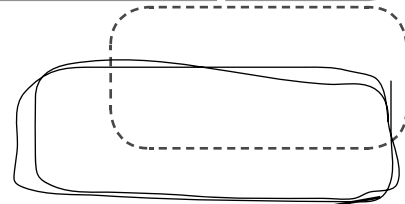
Brain robbers are people who drain the youth,
They teach them what's cool with no proof,
They steal the children's minds and turn them towards fashion,
Style and magnitude become their only passion,
Taking away our youth by making a social trap.

Cool is today, yesterday is out,
That's all these kids are left to think about.
Their minds are taken off of good ol' fun or politics,
Next they think about which star they want to be with,
Be like,
In spite of the fact of a purely physical attraction,
There's no mentality involved, the prime negative reaction,
That's the way the robber's trap works,
Everyday like clockwork,
Millions of youth turn on the TV,
They get sucked in, while eating din,
They don't fight it,
They just plea.

A television is just a big black box,
Behind it are packs of black-suited, rabid dogs,
These people who program the minds create a thick fog,
Next time look, and really really try to see,
Open up your mind, don't be blind,
Use your third eye, to sense what's right,
From the media men, try to flee.
Turn that evil black box off,
Run outside like a free fox,
Let your imagination take flight,
With your mind, find the light,
And once again, you can be free.



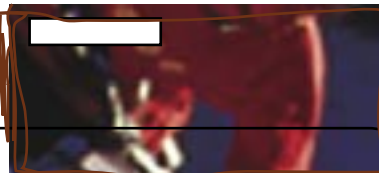
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Scott Carlson, 23, Castlegar

Mountain Biking

It's part of living here.



By Derek Chambers, 21, Nelson

So why is mountain biking so great in the Columbia Basin? Well, it only took one day to convince me to move all the way across the country to live here. It wasn't just the ill 4000-foot descents or the mind-blowing craftsmanship of the five-stack teeter-totter. It was the smell that filled the air as I rode down the main street in Nelson, B.C.—Baker Street to be more specific. The name says it all. I sat down near a coffee shop to take in the surroundings, and before I knew it, I was invited by a total stranger to go for a vehicle drop. This was not only my first ride in the Kootenays, but it was the beginning of a great new friendship.

From that day forward my only mission was to finish my race season, go back home to Ontario, quit my job and move out to Nelson. I think it was the best decision that I've ever made. What I didn't realize was the impact this move would make on my life, not only as a mountain biker, but more so, on my attitude toward life.

For most people in the Columbia Basin, mountain biking is as much a part of life as skiing is in winter. It's something you do when the snow melts; it's the new passion of the coming season.

Having a seemingly endless list of the top trails in the country, if not the world, and having them all in one area, makes the Basin one of the most sought-after riding destinations on the planet. We have it all, from gnarly fall lines to super fast rolling descents. Oh yeah, and don't forget the mind-blowing hucks along with mind-blowing stunts...this place has it all. And on top of having the best terrain, the top trails, and some of the top riders, this place has virtually no attitude. It simply doesn't get any better than this place.

Most people don't and never will understand all the reasons why this place is so special, but it only takes one visit to the Basin to make you realize how special a place it really is. This place isn't for everyone, but for me, the Kootenays will be home for the rest of my life.



Shawn Denny, 24, Nelson

If you love mountain biking, check out these upcoming events:

Glacier View Grand Prix Road Champ
New Denver
Aug 9
jhartley@mdi.ca

Torque Baby Challenge
Kimberley Alpine Resort
www.skikimberley.com
Aug. 16-17

find out more about these and other
events at www.cycling.bc.ca

Mount 7 Psychosis Race in Golden

www.pinkbike.com
June 21 & 22

Rossland Gravity Festival
www.gravityfest.com
July 4, 5, 6

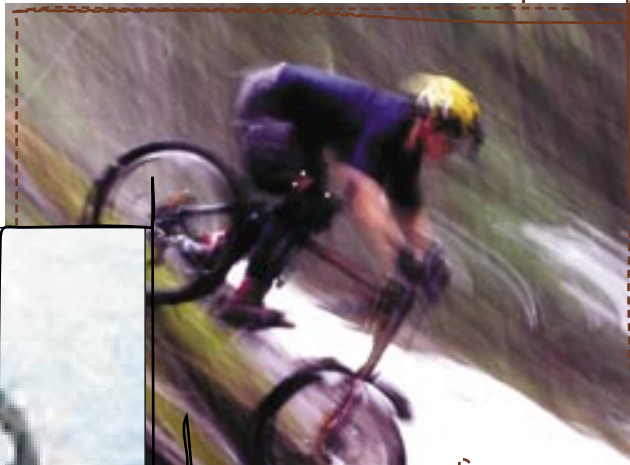
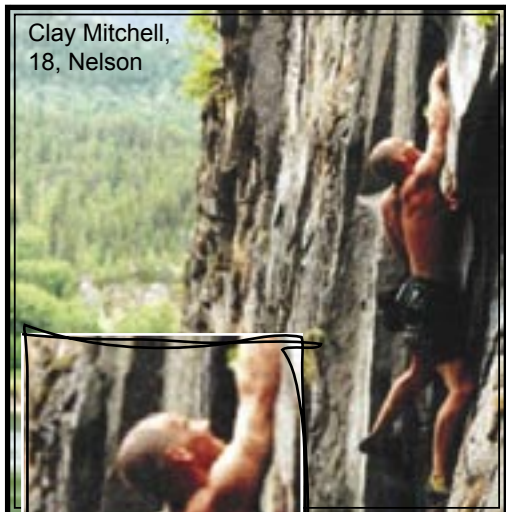
Terminator Downhill Race in Golden
Kicking Horse Mountain Resort
www.kickinghorseresort.com
July 12-13

Canada Cup in Fernie
www.fernie.com
July 26 & 27

Transrockies Challenge
in Fernie
www.fernie.com
August 10

So much to do. So little time.

Clay Mitchell,
18, Nelson



Shawn Denny, 24, Nelson

Living in the Columbia Basin means there are tons of cool things to do. Rock climbing, swimming, and mountain biking are just the beginning.



Clay Mitchell, 18, Nelson



We want to hear about your adventures so send us your stories and photos about life in the Columbia Basin. Go to www.scratchonline.ca and submit them on-line. See page 2 for snail mail instructions. They could be published in the next issue of SCRATCH.

She Shoots, She Scores

By Kathy Kiel, 23, Nelson

Beth DiBella is breaking the rules: It's not every day you'll see a girl skating with the best of the best in full-contact boys' hockey. But for 16-year-old Beth DiBella, she couldn't think of anything better. The Nelson resident adds diversity to the Nelson Midget rep AAA team not only with her ponytail that dangles from underneath her helmet but also with her quick, agile style. The Grade 11 defense player has been in the sport for five years.

Way to go Beth!



Do you know someone who is breaking the rules and doing something positive? Tell SCRATCH.

Drink this up...

By Kyle Holland, 17, Cranbrook

On March 28 and 29 the H2Open, a Youth Water Forum brought together a hundred youth from around the Columbia Basin. The purpose of the forum was to discuss water issues in the Columbia Basin. The youth attending the forum ranged in age from 15 to 29. The main purpose of the forum was to educate youth about the issues surrounding fresh water in the Basin. This was done by, bringing speakers representing BC Hydro, the Columbia Basin Trust, and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO who presented on fresh water issues. The young people who attended the forum left with a greater understanding of the issues surrounding water in the Columbia Basin and the forum also gave them the opportunity to discuss fresh water issues in their communities.



H₂Open



Rant and

Post yours on the scratchonline.ca discussion board

Rave

When you download music, you **hurt** everyone involved. The artist will not be as motivated to create because **they know** their songs will be stolen as soon as they are released. Sometimes even before. Recording companies jack up prices. Retailers jack up prices too, even on stuff like blank CDs that might not be used to pirate music. And **YOU** the consumer, get a lower quality product, and the moral burden that you are propagating the electronic crime business.

Posted by Crime Stopper

Why do they put hot dogs in packages of 8 and buns in packages of 10 or 12? I don't get it!

Posted by Gerry

Win Stuff!

That's right you could win stuff just by going to www.scratchonline.ca.

A new contest will be running every few weeks and you could take home some cool scratch stuff.

All you have to do is use the website and follow the contest instructions. What are you waiting for?

Scott Carlson, 23, Castlegar



Rant and Rave

Post yours on the scratchonline.ca discussion board

I **think** it's important to have diversity in the work place. I find it a lot **more** enjoyable to work **with** people who are **different** that I am. I enjoy learning about different **perspectives from** different people. Work is a place where most people spend a lot of time. **Diversity** often makes the work place more exciting. When everyone has the same views it often leads to a very dull day. Posted by Kyle

Join the Columbia Basin Trust's Youth Committee!

Be part of organizing SCRATCH and other cool youth projects! You'll gain great experience, meet lots of cool people and be involved with issues that are important to young people (15 - 29 yrs.) from across the Basin. Interested? Applications will be available on www.scratchonline.ca in late May for positions starting in fall 2003.



Columbia Basin Trust Youth Committee members traveled the Columbia Basin to deliver SCRATCH to youth. Who could resist a picture in front of the world's biggest truck in Sparwood? Send us a picture of you reading SCRATCH at your favorite place in the Columbia Basin.

Need money?

The Columbia Basin Trust has mini-grants available for youth led projects for people aged 15 to 29.

Contact Stacy Barter at sbarter@cbt.org or 1-800-505-8998 for more info.

WEIRD FACTS

A spider's silk is stronger than steel.

The longest substained flight of a chicken was 13 seconds.

Rant and

RAVE

Post yours on the scratchonline.ca discussion board

Body Piercings:

Hey there boys and girls! I just thought that I'd let you in on the newest fad in the country! Piercing your insides. Sure it costs more, but you don't have to walk around looking like some kind of freak. And just imagine how impressed people will be when you proudly announce that you have a pierced liver!

Posted by Jason

Hey There. I don't believe you fully understand piercings or what they may stand for. I'm, a proudly pierced "freak" with 14 on my body. Perhaps you should try to understand it instead of bashing it. Signed, freakishly pierced chick.

Posted by Leslie Ann Gurley

Everyone has their opinion and that's that.

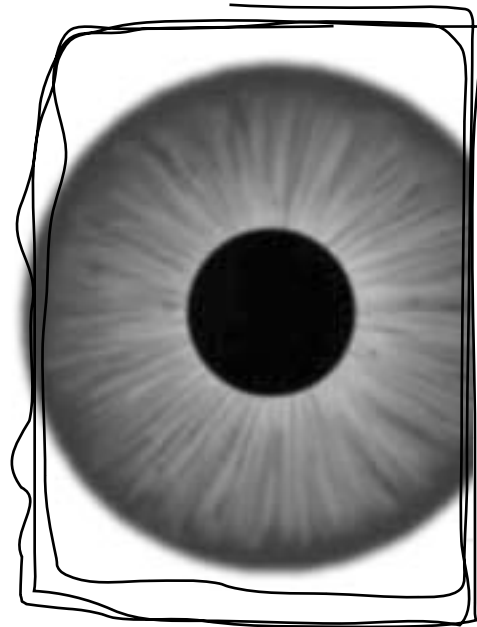
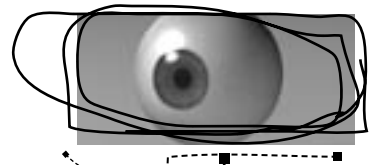
Posted by Maureen

Toilet Paper has two sides for a reason, you know!

Toilet paper has two sides. When you finish with one side, just flip it over and Wa-lah! Just like new. Posted by Alice

Reply - OK, that is the most disturbing thing I've heard in my life. Not to mention the unhygienic thing you could possibly do. It's like, "Oh look I am done with the one side, now I'll stick my hand in the crap on the other side but at least my crack is clean!"

Posted by Gidget Pottyush



scratch it

The name scratch makes me think of hiphop whenever I hear it. But I can never find any information about hiphop on the site. Am I just not looking hard enough?

Posted by Karl

Reply - You're right, there's no hiphop info on scratchonline.ca yet. But hey, you can post links in the directory section of the site or talk it up on the discussion boards. So help us out! Send links to moderator@scratchonline.ca or maybe submit an article of the next issue of the magazine.

Posted by Kyle

COOL ADULT



The Destination Imagination Team from J.V. Humphries in Kaslo is (left to right) Cool Adult and Coach Patty Axenroth, Danielle Vetrov, Julia Axenroth, Adjala Thomson-Kurz, Savanna Funk, and on the bottom is Meghan Valouche.

Submitted By Julia Axenroth, 15, Kaslo.

Destination Imagination is an international creative problem-solving program for youth.

To put it simply, we create plays. We have a coach or "team manager." We are the most lucky team, because we have an absolutely amazing manager. Patty keeps us together, offers encouragement when we are all fed up, surprises us with treats, always puts us first and finds time for us, and helps us be the very best we can be. Patty takes us to theatres to learn how it's "really done," finds specific people to educate us on any topic we need information on, and always, always encourages us. She is an amazing person, one of a kind, no doubt. Talk about a cool adult.

www.dini.org

Accepting Sexual Diversity

Sexuality is an aspect of diversity in any society. For some people, their sexuality is clear. For others there is a time of reflection, and exploration. And coming out can be a risk for anyone, especially young people who may find they don't have support from their friends or family. They may even be harassed or not taken seriously.

Many gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgendered or questioning (GLBTQ) youth are at a higher risk of depression, suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, homelessness and dropping out of school. So, sure, coming out may be a risk but staying in the closet can be risky too.

It's important to talk with someone you trust, check out your youth centre or some of the local resources.

Safe Spaces Supporting GLBTQ Youth

Safe Spaces is a project that provides direct support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans-gendered and questioning youth living in Nelson, Trail, and Castlegar. It's an outlet for youth to openly explore their identity and sexuality in a safe and accepting environment. The goal is two-fold: to provide an opportunity for all people living in the tri-city area to gain a better understanding about the serious issues queer and questioning youth face in their schools and communities, and to foster respect, compassion, visibility, and a supportive environment for sexually marginalized youth. For more information call Shannon @ 354-1664 or 1-800-421-2437

Resources

GLBTQ Youth Drop-Ins

Outlet Nelson	Shannon Isaac	1-800-421-2437
Outlet Castlegar	Liz Hardwick	1-800-342-6502
Outlet Trail	Cindy Cropley	1-888-414-1555

Local Web Sites

www.rainbowrockies.com
www.queerkootenays.com
www.ankors.bc.ca

Crisis Line

Information and support
 1-800-515-6999

Other Resources

Pride Line BC
 Information & Support
 1-800-566-1170

BC Human Rights Council

Information about discrimination
 1-800-663-0876

Parents, families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Gloria Smee
 1-250-365-4826

What can you do?

If a friend tells you they are gay, lesbian or bisexual...

- Believe them.
- Recognize it's an act of courage to tell you.
- Continue to be a friend, same as before.
- Respect their confidentiality.
- Don't judge.
- Don't worry that your friend may have feelings for you that you do not share.
- Educate yourself about the gay community.
- Don't allow your friend to become isolated.
- Direct them to one of the resources listed.

SUMMER JOBS CAN BE MORE THAN FLIPPING BURGERS

By Jennifer Eunson, 18, Cranbrook

Excerpted with permission from the Ktugqakayam, published by the Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council.

"I learned more about Canada than I had learned in my Grade 12 geography class! It was a learning experience that I will remember all of my life."

Last summer Jennifer joined the Young Canada Works Biodiversity Team. She spent the summer doing fieldwork - measuring tree height, diameter and locations as part of a project to gather biodiversity data in Kejimikujik National Park in Nova Scotia

Here's what Jennifer has to say about the experience:

I had a great summer. I recommend applying to Young Canada Works to everyone. It is a real learning experience and something no one will regret. I learned about the other side of Canada, different cultures, people and what it was like to live away from home.

Going through the on-line application process, three phone interviews and traveling across the country were also part of the learning experience. To prepare for the final phone interview I printed all the information I could find on the park through the internet and memorized as much as I possibly could. I tried to learn the names of the trails, mountains/hills and lakes in the area. I received a call about a week later offering me a spot on the team. I was so excited and I was ready to go in no time.

I was really lucky to go to Nova Scotia because I never thought about going there before. Besides seeing pictures or hearing about Nova Scotia, I knew very little. The weather, forests, history (Micmac, French, English), the beautiful shorelines and beaches, the Atlantic ocean, the settlements, the diversity of the cultures were all introduced to me and I plan on going back to Nova Scotia again.

This program gave me the opportunity to explore a field I may not have thought of before as a potential career (environmental studies/natural resources). Check it out for yourself and have fun!

Young Canada Works Program:



The Planet is Fine

The earth has been through earthquakes, volcanoes, plate tectonics, continental drifts, solar flares, sun spots, magnetic storms, the magnetic reversal of the poles, hundreds of thousands of years of bombardment by comets and asteroids, and meteors, worldwide floods, tidal waves, worldwide fires, erosion, cosmic rays, recurring ice ages and we think some plastic bags and some aluminum cans are going to make a difference?!?

And let me tell you something about endangered species. It's just one more arrogant attempt by humans to control nature. It's arrogant meddling. You are interfering with nature. Over 90% (or way over) of all the species that have ever lived on this planet are gone. They're extinct. We didn't kill them. They just disappeared.

Posted by Joe

Read the rest of Joe's opinion on-line at www.scratchonline.ca/zine

More SCRATCH...

The next issue of SCRATCH will be on the environment. Got something to say? Got an opinion? Want to see an article on something? Tell us. We're itching to know. Go to scratchonline.ca. Click on Discussion Boards and select **Next Issue of SCRATCH**.

www.scratchonline.ca

The Last Word is yours

Diversity sucks

By Aaron Banfield, 21, Nelson

What's so great about diversity? It sure complicates things. Wouldn't it be nice if you could go to any country in the world from Russia to Africa and walk into a restaurant, talk to the person wearing a visor and stripy shirt, and say, "I wanna burger and a shake," and boom, they'd bring it to you. Then you'd give them a nice ten-dollar bill with some peacekeepers on it and go back to your Holiday Inn to watch King of the Hill. Wouldn't it be nice? You'd never have to learn anything or try anything new, and you would always be comfortable no matter where you went, 'cause it would always be just like home and everyone would be just like you.

You know what bugs me? **Well, a lot of things, but right now I'm thinking about French movies. I knew this girl who was into them, and she took me to see one. Okay, first they speak French, which nobody speaks anymore anyway, and they should just get with the program and learn English like everyone else. I'm sure I don't even have to tell you about subtitles and their extreme "suckage."** Then, all the people did was talk and then everyone died at the end, I think. Something weird and stupid happened, anyway. And everyone there was like, "Oh, you just don't see movies like that here," and I was like, "Yeah, 'cause we make movies that are actually interesting and make sense." My friend said that some people like to watch things that are just people talking—I think she called them "character studies" or something, 'cause it gave them "insight into the human condition." I was like, whatever. I can get that from Springer, and it's actually fun to watch.

I don't know about you, but I *hate* Golden Delicious apples. None of my friends like them either. Why do they have those things? They just take valuable store space away from McIntoshes. I asked the store guy, and he said that McIntoshes get some disease that Golden Deliciouses don't, so we need them even if they taste like soap because then there'd be no apples at all. I was like, whatever. Who wants crappy apples? Horses?

What's so great about diversity?

You know what bugs me?

Hey, you! You probably can't read this 'cause you still want to speak "Bulungi" or "Czecho-Republican" or whatever, but maybe someone in the employment office will read it to you. Stop being so different! It's really confusing! You're in Canada now, so get with the program! Like, I went to Chinatown a while ago, and I got totally lost. It was scary! I couldn't understand what people were saying, and all the signs just had this weird graffiti on them! What's wrong with you?! Don't you have any respect?

Anyway, diversity is really lame. I don't know why people think it's so important. Maybe they like being scared and confused. I think the world would be a much better place if everything was the same, 'cause then I'd never have to change or learn or adapt, 'cause those things are hard. I mean, evolution could stop if we just put our minds to it, and wouldn't that be just so nice? **Thank you.**

Anyway,
diversity is
really lame.

What do you think? Do you agree? Post your comments on the scratchonline.ca discussion board.

scratchonline.ca

WITCH



What's so great about Diversity?
Get a job. Get lots of jobs.
Mountain Biking -- it's a way of life.
BCDC offers up re-voltage.