

Panarticon

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Don't picket—vandalize. Don't protest—deface. When ugliness, poor design & stupid waste are forced upon you, turn Luddite, throw your shoe in the works, retaliate. Smash symbols of the Empire in the name of nothing but the heart's longing for grace.

--Hakim Bey, "Chaos: The Broadsheets of Ontological Anarchism"

Gordo, The Green Zombie

"A New Error in BC" is the name of CUPE's "Strong Communities" pamphlet featuring the wickedly satiric cartoons of the *Straight's* Dirk van Stralen. Obscenely drawing the shits of politics is a time-honoured tradition, and van Stralen hones his acidic mind & sharp pen to depict Gordo as a frothing, sharp-toothed, and electrified green zombie. As the evil creation comes to light from privatized electricity, the MLAs / corporate whores grovel with enthusiasm: "He has the brain of Ralph Klein!" "The gall of a Socred!" "The heart of Mike Harris!" & "The tongue of a leech!" Zapped Zombie-Gordo has no memory of his election promises... The pamphlet lays out a double-page spread of the destruction being wreaked upon this province by the cold-hearted ineptitude & cruelty of the Liberal government, complete with boarded up social housing (New Business & Convention Centre with Casino!), a medical clinic (All Major Credit Cards Accepted!), Treaty Referendum Headquarters (Vote Yes to Divide Your Community!), Texans shooting bears—kudos to van Stralen and CUPE for taking on the Liberal muck machine with a frontal assault. www.cupe.bc.ca

April 1st is Doomsday: No Joke

April 1st is when this province will look back in its history of the Dark Gordo Era, and pinpoint the exact date from whence the flood of crime began, the day when welfare was cut on average by 15%, when applicants waited three weeks, when single mothers had to work once their child turned three. The result? An increase in property crime & muggings & a boom—a desperate bid, for the majority of thieves are strung out and starving—for the thriving "Bar Shopping" scene (March 24th *Courier*). Frank Gilbert of DERA: "We are already starting to see a new level of desperation on the street and if the police and merchants think they have a problem with stolen property being sold in the bars around here—well, I hate to say it, but they ain't seen nothing yet."

Signal and Noise

The Video-In's Signal and Noise festival of experimental audio & video (March 21-24) collected an eclectic array of work by underground / contemporary artists. Curated by Jen Weih, there were too many exhibits to mention, but certainly highlights included post-9/11 guerilla media, ssiess's "Baby" installation in the bathroom, the numerous film shorts including the poignant "The Fine Arts" by Emily Vey Duke & Cooper Battersby, Susan Schuppli's "Eavesdropping" installation—comprised of alternatively arresting and banal, yet always fascinating, found-sound answering machine messages—and Luis Jacob's "Ten Attempts at running into a wall, with commentaries" (self explanatory pomo humour). But all of this is reductive and I missed a good number of films; and there is no room to mention the hundred or so audio short works picked for the listening booths including work from Halifax's Andrew Duke and Winnipeg's Ken Gregory. So, don't miss the next Thing, which is...

Link-Age: Vancouver New Music

Giorgio Magnanensi, the new Artistic Director of VNM, has positively shaken things up with events featuring the experimental electronic & turntablist underground, starting with the “Mixtophonics” series at the Havana. The Vancouver New Music Festival “Link-Age” (April 19-21), embraces this spirit by combining the traditional avante-garde with underground electronics through the unlikely—yet pertinent—theme of music from the “Soviet repressed” Baltic countries. It is through this theme that Magnanensi hopes to enlighten Canadians of the potential of (their) cultural diversity—something which he observed to me many months ago. The two primary composers of the festival are Vancouver’s Allison Cameron—who describes her work as “experimental...this ‘attitude’ is essentially political (whether conscious or not) and it establishes the inherent social nature of musical activity”—and Estonia’s Udo Kasemets, who works in a wide range of mixed media, sound texts, electroacoustics, & open forms. Of particular interest is Kasemets’ “Future Is Past Now,” a conceptual script for six electronic musicians which will be performed April 19th at the VECC (10pm)—to be honest, I am involved in this weird concoction and results should prove disturbingly engaging. But that is not all: an installation of the Silophone by Montreal’s [The User] at the Western Front; an “e-lounge” every night at the Video-In; performances by the Helikon Ensemble, Gallon Drum, the CBC Radio Orchestra—the last remaining radio orchestra in all of North America—“Saxophilia;” piano sonatas from Stephen Clarke... To eat the whole schedule: www.newmusic.org. Tickets: 604 280 3311. Info: 604 633 0861.

Danish Global Warming

Anyone who doubts the danger of global warming should be immediately sterilized—they are counter-productive to survival. A huge chunk of Antarctica recently splashed into the sea, so wake the fuck up. There is more smog than ever in Vancouver on this fine sunny morning as I sit here and type, which makes me ask: what the hell is wrong with the Danes? Take Hans Henrik Ramm, who believes that responding to global warming is a “precautionary” measure advanced by political agendas of the Left. WHAT? Of course the agenda is political, as long as politics has something to do with living collectively for mutual benefit—the *polis*—which amounts to asking: do we massacre & destroy the entire goddamn planet or not? Ramm’ answer is the “wait and see, and is it really worth it?” approach mixed with polemics & hasty “scientific conclusions.” Then there’s Bjørn Lomborg. He at least believes in global warming, but figures that it would be better to give the money to the poor—using figures from the despicable World Bank—instead of making the Kyoto Protocol work, which amounts to the chimera of colonial/imperialist humanism / anthropocentrism which has driven the world to the brink of annihilation. Not to mention that the practicalities of his argument include the participation of the US, which has no interest in helping the world’s poor unless it involves amphetamine-slavery in a sweatshop making Nike shoes; furthermore, the US is trigger-happy and wants to increase their bomb budget. *The solution is clear: ratify and give teeth to the Kyoto protocol.* The “wait and see” approach is the Christian theological paradigm; the “is it worth it?” approach redefines “worth” to equate only monetary gain, investment in symbolic nothingness; the “give money to the poor” approach skirts the issues with dogmatic humanism.

Until... !

