

Panarticon

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Democratic rights, if they are to be concrete rights, must be based on the expression of forms of social difference and the freedom of expression and association of oppressed groups. Unfortunately, national security in the Canadian and other contexts operates by precisely attacking the democratic rights of these groups. Kinsman, Buse, and Steedman, "How the Centre Holds," in *Whose National Security?*

COMBAT in BC

The gloves are coming off in all sectors, and one of the most potentially powerful masses—the student population—is awaking once again to fight the bitter war against tuition increases. A singular, insulated struggle, evident when just this past year, the CFS embraced with unbridled enthusiasm Gordo's (false) promise to maintain the tuition freeze. To be so incredibly short-sighted, and not comprehend the *scope* of the current regulatory, fiscal, and governmental changes, is a continual fault of the student movement. For students are often living near or below the poverty line, and *all* policies affect their well-being. The bittersweet tax cut does *nothing* for the average student, who makes little income at all and is usually up to the eyeballs in debt. We've seen the complete destruction of Work Study and job subsidization, programs that allowed the average student—ie not the rich, BMW-owning variety—to achieve a post-secondary education. Students: wake up! The tuition freeze is not the only issue, and not even the greatest threat! Resistance means grasping the network of oppression...

Power to the First Nations

With Stephen Owen's grandiose equation between militant First Nations and Palestinians sweeping headlines, it is time to unravel the roots of this logic. Owen makes good on his justification for militancy: with generations of poverty creating an unsustainable livelihood for many First Nations peoples, it is no wonder, says Owen, that they turn to militant tactics, much like the current plight of the Palestinian people. But Owen's assertion that there is a group who "comes in" and convinces hopeless youth that martyrdom is an option is hopelessly lost. The "militant" First Nations movement is more than a reactionary policy to Canada's "silent" genocide, and it isn't some retro-extension of some long-lost "Warrior Culture" that can be written off in a racist moment of "cultural backwardness." While I cannot speak for what the militant First Nations movement *is*, I give it the fullest respect for being a strong, intelligent movement that sees its goals in a broader agenda beyond simple referendums and treaties. It is a movement of a *people*, a heritage and a land and a value-system, a *society*, that will not rest until its demands are met. For often the demands exceed the understanding of the Eurocentric, North American corporate culture of the consumer. What is at stake here is not simply money, or land-reforms: it is an entirely different *way of being, of living and relating*. Want to learn more? Phone the Video-In (604.872.8337) and ask to book the *Warriors on the Water* video. Then drop by and watch it—for free!

CELEBRATION - Vancouver's Black Crack Part II

As I continue to scour Vancouver's cultural wasteland for the flowers that manage to grow in the cracks of Gordo's pavement, the more I come to realise that there is an entire underground network of healthy foliage—some who have never seen the sun, others sunflowers at this very moment—who are desperately seeding their petals and seeking a sunny field. With every passing Spring, the resilient Northern flora grows one step closer to cracking entire fissures of blacktop. One such hardy flower is the beautiful

debut release from Kris Palesch's **Active Pass** records. (And before I continue, I must comment that the current Vancouver trend of naming tracks and labels after geographic landmarks is a great way of putting us on the map). Stephane Novak, aka **Pilgrims of the Mind**, has created a panoramic deep-house EP that is expertly detailed in its production of sound and groove. With deep basslines anchoring solo, dubby synthesizer riffs and a jazz piano which presides over a strong kick, *Urban Fever* is a stellar record from a mature producer that more than launches this label as a purveyor of music with emotion, funk, and intelligence.

Seattle's Fried Funk + Beyond

Seattle—much like Vancouver—has also launched into the limelight with its fresh labels. The most notable is **Squid Records**, run by the maniacal duo known as **Jacob London**, aka Bob Hansen and Dave Pezzner, whose sense of humour is, without a doubt, the weirdest in the history of house music. With track titles such as “Gutterballs” you’ve just got to wonder what happens to all that BC Bud when it crosses the border. The most brilliant release so far is *Slom Time*. This EP has everything: solid production, a catchy sample—“Keep Cool Baby”—and floor slamming **Random Factor** (aka **Carl Finlow**) remixes, making it a crossover hit for house DJs who want to move into grooved repetition or for techno DJs who want to slam the backbone of the funk. And I can't help but mention a little something from **Craque**, aka Mathew Ross Davis, called the *Trolling for Olives* EP. This East-Coast indie pressing of eclectic, minimal electronica is reminiscent of the diversity that made **Fat Cat** records a sound collector's wet dream. According to soundartist **ssiess**, it is like driving a marshmallow car—not too pleasant, because it is a bit sticky, but still really cool as the rubbery, marshmallow palm trees are dancing outside your sugar-window. Also of note is the stellar **Context 09** by Mexican artist and member of the **Nortec Collective**, **Murcof**. I've been waiting quite some time for someone to redefine minimal techno with dramatic tension, a dose of silence, sampled cello, and stellar production. Well, this record has done that and more...

Up and Coming

Signal and Noise returns to the Video-In March 21st-24th with a welt of experimental audio and video. Watch for **Tomas Jirku** March 29th or 30th—he's a Toronto-based Force Inc/Substractif minimal house and experimental techno artist...check www.shrumtribe.com.

Until Gordo is Gone!