

The Debunker

March 5, 2007
Volume 1- Issue 2

The History Student Newsletter
Take a break from those essays, read the Debunker!



On this day in History:

March 5, 1956- US Supreme Court upholds a ban on racial segregation in state schools

March 6, 1957- Ghana celebrates independence

March 7, 1876- Alexander Graham Bell is granted a patent for the telephone

March 8, 1911- International Women's Day is celebrated for the first time

March 9, 1796- Napoleon Bonaparte marries his first wife, Josephine de Beauharnais

March 10, 1964- The Ford Mustang is first produced by the Ford Motor Company

March 11, 1985- Mikhail Gorbachev takes over as leader of the Soviet Union after the death of Chernenko

March 12, 1930- Ghandi leads a 200 mile march to the sea in defiance of a British salt monopoly

March 13, 1781- William Herschel discovers Uranus

March 14, 2004- Daniel Tammet beats the European record for memorizing, recalling Pi to 22,514 digits

March 15, 1956- Broadway musical *My Fair Lady* opens in New York

March 16, 1953- Marshal Josef Tito becomes the first communist head of state to visit Britain

March 17, 1861- Kingdom of Italy proclaimed

March 18, 1989- A 4400 year old mummy is found in the pyramid of Cheops

March 19, 1970- West Germany's chancellor Willy Brandt meets East Germany's leader Willi Stoph for the first time since the country was divided

Letter from the Editors

Devotees of the History Department,

Wow, look at us go, already on the second issue. This issue is about intellectual and cultural history. It is important to know this stuff, if you want to know why it's important look at Amanda's article on the next page. If you don't want to know why then you should ask yourself, what did culture ever do to you?

We're entering the home stretch in the semester now. Many people have papers, presentations, and exams coming up so this issue features a **BRILLIANT** article on PowerPoint presentations that should make them easier for both you and your audience. Taking a little time to read it will save you from being burned in effigy by frustrated students. Regular features like "This Day in History" and the thematic course list remain. If you had submitted us comments or questions you would have been looking at a "letter to the editors" column, but you didn't, so maybe consider it this time.

Next issue will be out by the 19th of March, so if you want to submit something, have it in to us by the 15th. The next theme will be Military History so if you're a military historian show us the goods! If you hate military history tell us why. Next issue will be a fight between Amanda and Kim since Kim loves Military History and Amanda thinks its lame (super lame.)

So now that the editors are no longer speaking to each other, this note can no longer continue.

Amanda and Kim

What do you know about your professor?

Who was in a heavy metal band in college?

(Answer on Page 4)

- A) Robin Anderson
- B) David Milobar
- C) Geoffrey Spurling
- D) Chris Leach



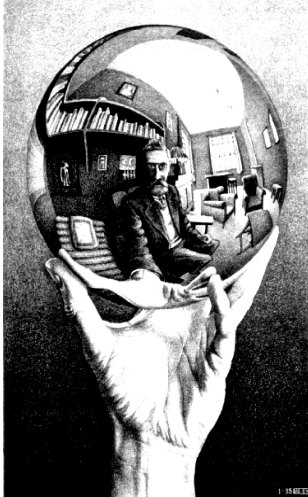
Upcoming Events

- ◆ Pub Night
- ◆ Roundtable with Jim Daems
- ◆ Distinguished Speaker
- ◆ Roundtable with Molly Ungar and Barbara Messamore
- ◆ BC Worlds Conference

Submit!
Submit!
Submit!

Email:

Hi.stu.new@gmail.com



*“Debunking
historical myths
and creating
cultural myths
since 2007.”*

Intellectual/Cultural History

By Amanda Schaap

Intellectual history and cultural history are two interrelated schools of historical thought. Intellectual history may be considered in part as the history of ‘isms.’ This is not completely accurate but intellectual history does examine the different (and sometimes conflicting) schools of thought that have emerged in our society. Rationalism, romanticism, modernism, structuralism and existentialism are some of the different theories that can be examined in an historical context. The history of culture is important when looking at intellectual history as they interact with each other. New ideas are often formed as a response to something, and looking at the culture in which a theory was conceived can lead to a more complete understanding of the reasons behind its inception. Cultural history is often a combination of history and anthropology, and looks at the popular culture of an era. To understand the motivation behind historical events, it is important to understand the way people thought. It is interesting to note how people understood class, cultural identity, race, power, gender, roles etc., and also to see the impact new ideas (socialism, for example) had on different members of society. Knowledge of the intellectual and cultural history surrounding an historical event, can lead to a better understanding of its origins and impact on society.

BC Worlds Conference

April 27-29 2007

By Kim Unruh

So we’ve bogged you down with why you should attend a conference, so if you are interested the BC Worlds is one that is coming up soon, and close to home. BC Worlds is put on by UCFV and indeed, two of our very own History department Profs are organizing and planning the 3 day event. BC Worlds is going to have a general theme of, well, British Columbia. It will look at different perspectives on BC past and present, internal and external. This is not a conference directed to history students alone. Speakers are included from many different departments, from History to Linguistics, from English to Political Science. The conference begins April 27th at 6:30 with an opening ceremony and a talk by keynote speaker Hugh Brody. Registration is \$90 for students and this includes wine and cheese welcome, lunch and dinner on Saturday, and the numerous coffee breaks. Some examples of topics are *“Assimilate and Become Canadians!”* on residential schools by presenter Ashleigh Androsoff from U of Toronto and my personal favourite *“The Meaning of Sasquatch”* by Lukasz Albanski who is coming all the way from Poland. You can register to attend online by visiting the site: www.ucfv.ca/history/BCWorldsConference.htm

Taking Grad School Off It’s Pedestal

By Sheryl Appleby

In the past, when people have asked me if I might go on to graduate school, my response was always a hesitant and unconvincing “maybe.” I was sure that I was not smart enough and the idea of presenting my research, from defending my Masters’ thesis to graduate conferences in general terrified me. I have a hard enough time making a 10 minute presentation in my undergraduate classes to people I kind of know, no way was I getting up in front of people I’d never met. But that feeling is gradually changing due to the demystifying effects of attending some of the very conferences that had terrified me.

I was fortunate enough to attend the Qualicum Graduate Conference this year, along with some of my colleagues and professors, and the experience was nowhere near as formal and frightening as I had expected. The presenters were not amazing geniuses or fantastic orators; they were just university students like you and me. Some of them spoke too fast of stumbled over words and lost their places from nervousness. Others literally read their research paper to us word by word from the page in front of them. To be sure, there were those who were either naturally gifted public speakers or who had so much experience that they seemed completely at ease, but I have encountered that kind of person in my 100 level classes too. The audiences were respectful in their questions and comments, and showed a genuine interest in helping the presenters to improve and further their research. The party was not bad either, for a bunch of history geeks... we did manage to get kicked out of the hotel room where the party started out anyway. So, I would advise anyone who has any interest in graduate school to get out to a few conferences, meet your fellow historians, and rid yourself of the myth that grad school is only for the genius.

Guidelines for Non-Horrid PowerPoint Presentations

by Amanda Schaap

For some students, the thought of getting up in front of a class and doing a presentation can be terrifying. If you are a history student, which is a reasonable assumption considering you are reading this, presentations become increasingly common as you move into upper level history courses. One of the easiest ways to pull off a quality presentation is to use PowerPoint, but there are a few points to consider before you power up that computer. (Bad pun!)

Most of you have suffered through an awful power point presentation, so keep that in mind as you create yours. You should use a neutral background with a contrasting colour for your text, so people can actually read what you've written. The same goes for font style (pick something legible!) and font size. 20 is probably the smallest font size you should use to keep things short and readable.

This leads to another consideration: do NOT put your entire presentation, word for word, on your PowerPoint! Select a couple of keywords or a short sentence, and then elaborate on the point during your lecture. If you put your entire presentation on your slides, people will be trying to copy notes, and you will have to stop and wait for them to catch up before you can continue on with your points. Also, there is nothing more off-putting than an entire slide full of text, which is then read out word for word. Torturous!

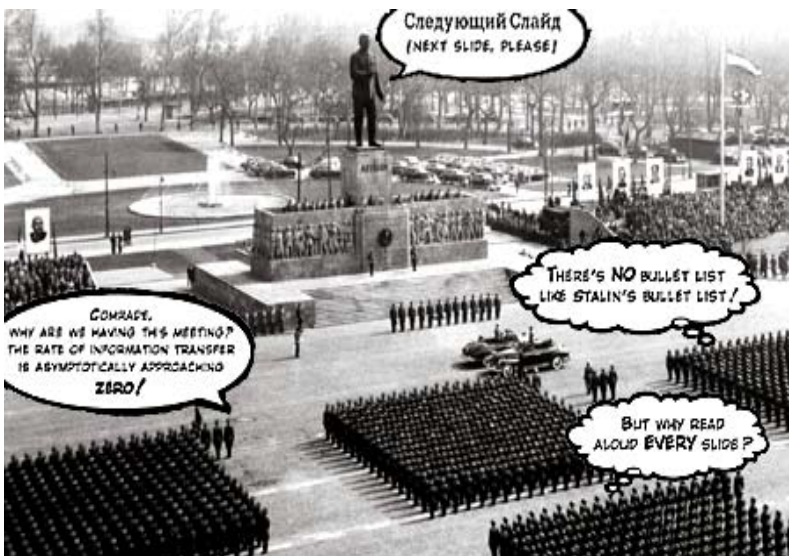
Include fun, relevant images, interesting or funny (if applicable) quotes, and key points. Don't read off the screen, read off of the monitor. Learn how to turn on the projector before you need to begin to limit any embarrassment, and try (try!) to engage with your audience. They don't like presentations any more than you do, so try to make it compact and as interesting as possible.

If you follow these simple guidelines, you should be able to create a presentation that your professor will like and which will keep your fellow students awake and listening. (Or, at least awake.)



The Importance of Being Earnest (Or of Doing Your Readings)

As the semester progresses, some of you may find it more convenient to skip your readings and hope for the best in class. This usually results in uncomfortable silences whenever a professor asks a question, and a less than stellar discussion period. Readings can be tedious, there is no doubt about that, but it is important to have at least a basic knowledge about what was discussed so that you can look like you pay attention in class! Personally, I never used to do my readings, and I could never figure out why everyone always knew the answers in class and I never did. Magically, when I started doing my readings, not only was I able to competently contribute in class, my grades improved as well. Seriously, all you have to do is read. I suggest before bed, or on the bus, or if you work, during your lunch break. If you definitely do not have time to complete the entire assignment, read the introduction and conclusions of articles or chapters so you at least know the main points. Reading the first and last sentence of every paragraph can also save time, if necessary. As a history student, you'll be doing a ton of reading anyway. You might as well read at least one of the assigned readings per week and be able to score some participation marks and look smart in class.



Upcoming Events:

UCFV

History Student
Newsletter

Submit to Us!

Short Articles

Topics You'd Like to See

Questions

E-mail:

Hi.stu.new@gmail.com



March 13: Roundtable with Jim Daems
Title: "'A Righteous Judgment of God': English
Representations of Irish Atrocities, 1641-1655"
Location: Board Room, A 225
Time: 4:00 - 6:00PM

March 20: Distinguished Speakers Series
Dr. John Conway: UBC Professor Emeritus
Title: "The Teaching of Contempt: The Christian
Churches and the Holocaust"
Location: B101
Time: 5:30-7:00 PM
**Note: From 2:30-3:30 Dr. Conway will give a talk on
his career: "How My Mind has Changed" in the
Board Room A 225**

March 22: Pub Night for Students
Presented by AHS
Location: The Yorkshire Rose- 33785 Essendene Ave.
Time: 7:30-10:30 PM

March 27: Special Roundtable with Barbara
Messamore and Molly Ungar- Book/Journal Launch
Title: "Biography and History"
Location: Boardroom, A 225
Time: 3:30-5:30 PM

Volunteer Opportunities

The MSA Museum is always looking
for volunteers. Different
opportunities exist. If you're
interested email:
mail@msa.museum.bc.ca

BC Worlds is also looking for
volunteers for April 27-29 2007 in
Harrison. If you are interested
contact:
bcworlds@ucfv.ca

If you like Cultural and Intellectual History consider these:

HIST 220: Seeing Canada's History
HIST 308: European Culture and Ideas: 1400-1789
HIST 324: Canadian Culture Since 1945
HIST 408: Liberty and Authority in 19th Century
Thought
HIST 424: Modernism in Canada: 1900-1939
HIST 485: La Belle Epoque: Sex, Psyche and Society
AH 101: History of Western Art to 1400
AH 102: History of Western Art 1400-present
AH 203: History of Posters: The Art of Persuasion
AH 205: Art Practices and Popular Culture I
AH 210: Art Practices and Popular Culture II
AH 311, 313-316: Arts In Context *various topics*
AH 340: Fashion Art/ Fashion as Art
AH 341: Addressing Clothing Piece by Piece
PHIL 110: Morality and Politics
PHIL 120: Knowledge and Reality
PHIL 240: Faith and Reason
PHIL 250: History of Western Philosophy: Ancient
PHIL 251: History of Western Philosophy: Descartes to
Kant
PHIL 252: History of Western Philosophy: Kant to
Sartre
POSC 100: Introduction to Politics
POSC 120: Ideology and Politics
POSC 311: History of Political Thought I
POSC 312: History of Political Thought II
RLST 201: Religions of the West
RLST 202: Religions in the East
SCI 400: History and Philosophy of Science
THEA 201: History of Theatre: 20th Century
THEA 202: History of Theatre: 19th Century
Note: These courses do not represent a program, and may not
satisfy your degree requirements.



History 408... With Style!

By Alisa Webb

Do you love Marx? Shelley? Have you read excerpts from Burke, Mill, Wollstonecraft, and Freud in other classes and thought, I would really like to read more of that? Are you interested in the intellectual roots of American democracy, as expressed by Tocqueville? Does the thought of being able to quote Nietzsche excite you? Have you always wanted to explore how the issues of liberty and authority coexisted in nineteenth century thought? If so, then History 408 just might be the course for you! Each week we engage with prominent thinkers who sought to make sense of a changing world, push the limits of liberalism and individualism, and explore humanity's place in society.