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...reducing our flow since 1989

Campbell name redeemed by UBCO's premiere xeroscaping rapper

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UBCO student Graham Campbell's rap video about xeroscaping is currently first in BC Hydro's Invent the Future contest. Log onto inventthefuture.com and check out his video.

UBCO students' rap is number one

...in BC Hydro's Invent The Future contest, so far

Aidan Whiteley
Photo Editor

Meet Graham Campbell: UBC Okanagan geography student, climate crusader, and white rapper. Don't let his preppy demeanor fool you, Campbell is involved with a turf war. Kentucky blue grass turf, that is. His video about Xeroscaping, the practice of using plants that require no supplementary watering, is currently sitting in first place in the 20-24 songs category on BC Hydro's Invent the Future contest.

"[Xeroscaping] effectly works with the climate rather than against it", said Campbell. "It is important in the Okanagan because we have this myth of abundance [of water]. The Okanagan [has] a semi-arid climate".

Invent the Future contest aims to engage the youth and broader community in innovative ways to conserve energy and resources. Campbell's song and accompanying video highlights the waste involved in traditional landscaping methods in a humourous and interesting format. He raps, "You don't need that patch of Kentucky blue to have your neighbours looking on like 'hmm that's cool'", suggesting a societal shift away from the praise of nothing but green grass. "To preserve the water we have and use it sustainably is a big idea

and xeroscape gardens is a good extension of that", notes Campbell.

The video is one of those rare examples of class projects that leave the academic realm and move into real world impacts. Started for his Natural Resource Management, Policy and Practice geography class, the video has since received support from the Okanagan Basin Water Board, CBC Radio 1 Kelowna, and the local xeroscaping community. Campbell positioned his video to take advantage of the concept of viral videos, principally the action of passing on through social media and the Internet, a video an individual likes and thinks others will like. To do so he researched effective musical communication methods and formed his video using what he learned.

To vote, register and log-on to inventthefuture.ca and look under the "songs" tab and find Graham Campbell's video, "Xeroscape Gardens". You can vote once per day. Registration enters you to win a \$300 gift certificate to Mountain Equipment Co-op and the winner of the contest will receive up to \$2000 and a week at the Gulf Island Film and Television School.

Check thephoenixnews.com for a link to the video.



Graham Campbell wants to talk to you about gardening

Photo by Aidan Whiteley (The Phoenix)

News at a glance

International



Photo by Cory M. Grenier (flickr)

North Korean artillery attacked the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong on Tuesday, November 23rd. Four people were killed in the attack, including two civilians and two South Korean marines. Fifteen others were injured. The exact motives for the attack are still unclear. The border between North and South Korea is a geopolitical hotspot, and the two countries are notorious for their rivalry. The North Koreans accused the South of "unnecessary military provocation", which may have led to the conflict. US President Barack Obama has criticized the actions of the North, and has sided with the South. It is the most serious altercation between the two nations in recent years.

National



Photo by dawning.ca (flickr)

Dozens of body scanners have been issued to airports across Canada for use by airport security, said the federal government. A total of 44 scanners have been purchased and will be installed in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Halifax. The scanners, which scan through clothing and produce a three-dimensional image of the naked human body, have brought into question issues of privacy. The system, which was tested at the Kelowna airport throughout the last year, can accurately search for dangerous items on a person's body, such as plastic explosives. The scanners are only used on passengers selected for secondary screening and who opt out of the physical body search.

Provincial



Photo by BC Government

B.C. Education Minister George Abbott announced on Thursday, November 25th that he would be entering the race for the leadership of the British Columbia Liberal Party. As premier, Abbott has stated that he would postpone the HST referendum to June 24th, and would raise the minimum wage to an undisclosed amount. Abbott is the second person to announce their candidacy to replace Premier Gordon Campbell in the vote on February 26th of next year. Other prominent liberals are expected to make announcements of candidacy in the near future, including Health Minister Kevin Falcon, Solicitor General Rich Coleman, Attorney General Mike de Jong, and former Liberal cabinet minister Christy Clark.

Local



Photo by Aidan Whiteley (The Phoenix)

The cold spell that has been sweeping over the Okanagan for the last few weeks has been a record setter - according to CHBC news, this is the coldest it's been since 1985, with temperatures dropping to -22 degrees Celsius. The effects of the cold have been felt throughout the city. The Kelowna Gospel Mission has been seeing many more of the homeless using their facility. In the wake of such extreme weather conditions, the Mission has kept their doors open at all hours, and offer comforts like coffee, food, warm clothes, and a place to spend the night. Police have the authority to force people inside whom they have reason to suspect are purposefully neglecting themselves due to mental illness or otherwise.

Campus



Photo by Kelly Nigro (Flickr)

The first bottles of wine to come from the UBC Okanagan campus are in the process of being made by fourth-year biochemistry student Mariana Galata and Associate Professor of Chemistry Cedric Saucier. They are making the wine as an experiment to understand how nitrogen in grape fertilization influences the quality of wine. Soil in the Okanagan area tends to be dry and lacks in that significant ingredient - nitrogen. Saucier and Galata hope to find the right amount of nitrogen to use in growing better grapes. With this information they could possibly help to determine a guideline for fertilization requirements. Saucier expects about 36 bottles of Pinot Noir, and will put some of the batch away to age.