

BLUE PILL, RED PILL...

EDITORIAL

By: Richard Chu, Associate Chief Editor

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With the end of the academic year approaching, I find myself in the position of deciding what to do for my future. For some, the future does not look very different from the present: students will still be taking classes in the summer, and will be taking classes in September. But for others like myself who have finished, the future is unpredictable, or at the very least, unclear.

Some may state the opinion that my lack of clarity is the result of my 'artsy' academic background; having received a BA, I am now qualified to serve mochas and espressos at the nearest Philosopher's Café. But contrary to popular belief, my uncertain future isn't about finding that high-paying job or that fulfilling career. It's more to do with something less materialistic: "What public service can I do next?"

It has become somewhat of a habit that I do a lot of things for nothing. Perspectives is something that definitely fits the bill. Why the heck would I spend hours and hours contacting coordinators, reporters, or translators, or writing and editing articles-all for nothing?

The reason is simple: Perspectives has been a publication, and more importantly, a student organization, that I believe gives students the opportunity to make a difference by sharing their stories, and informing the community. It gives students the chance to explore parts of the community that they might otherwise not explore on their own. After all, who, out of their own volition would go ask 'The Bra Guy,' "Do you like your job?" or ask a stripper why she does what she does (and not get arrested for it)?

Of course, some people would say (and have said), that working in Perspectives is a waste of time because, "Nobody reads Perspectives." Well, maybe some people don't read Perspectives, but nobody said Perspectives was for everyone. Perspectives is a unique publication for the curious, open-minded individual who wants to explore, with our reporters, sides of society from a uniquely bilingual, English and Chinese perspective. This 'angle' alone can turn people off (the Chinese is enough to turn people off), but if that happens, there isn't anything we can do about that.

Perspectives, now completing its ninth year of publication, has its own confident voice and direction which will only grow with time.

Whatever the critics say, I can say with absolute conviction that Perspectives has been a positive influence and a great experience during my stay at UBC. Through my columns

and articles, and through working with all the exceptionally talented reporters, editors, graphics designers, layout personnel, administration people, and Editors-in-Chief, I have come to have a particular understanding and appreciation for the cultural diversity that exists around me.

And so, as I complete my tenure in Perspectives, and move on to that next stage of my life, I am left asking myself, "What can I do now? What else can be this fulfilling, this memorable?" Well, I'm taking the red pill, and moving on from there.

Be seeing you in the real world.