

PRESENT MAGAZINE

YEAR 2020 EDITION

Volume 2

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*Flip Open This Magazine
for A Special Interview with
Artificial Intelligence!*

CONTENTS:

Step Into Our
World

- Philosophy
- Knowledge
- Fantasy
- Music

Filled with
wonderful fiction,
comics, photos,
facts, and much
much more!

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Dear Reader

Welcome to the second issue of Present Magazine.

As this issue was being put together in March, the COVID-19 virus arrived in Vancouver, followed by a state of emergency in BC.

This led to shutdowns across Canada impacting the jobs and livelihoods of many. Rather than in our offices, this issue was completed remotely by our staff at home as we are self-isolating. There is still lots to do for everyone at home. Read some of our stories, features, and then try your hand at fiction. Perhaps start learning a new language (Hindi or Squamish, anyone?). In this issue we debut our philosophy forum, with special thanks to Aristotle.

We will feature more of Aristotle and other great thinkers in all future issues!

We dedicate this issue of Present Magazine to the healthcare workers and everybody out there in essential services.

To the 2020s and beyond!

Cover Image: The Pinnacle of Light at Harbour Centre

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Aaron Chechik crafted an exclusive soundtrack specifically for Present Magazine. Here is what he has to say about creating this music!

Now available to enjoy on www.ReadPresent.com

"New wave aims to bring back a funky retro feel, repackaged with a modern aesthetic that speaks to an audience who enjoy eclectic experimental synth wave space music."

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The Squamish Language Skwxwú7mesh Sníchim

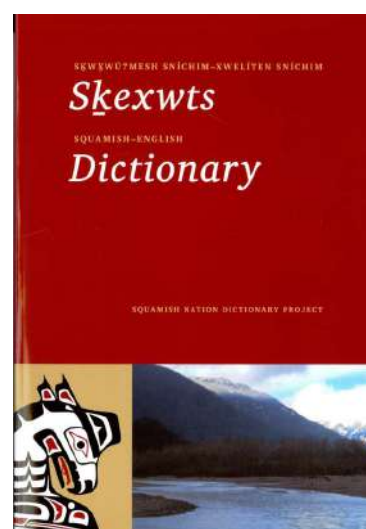
Squamish is one of the Coast Salish languages spoken by the Squamish First Nations in the Pacific Northwest. The region ranges from the community of Squamish to North Vancouver in British Columbia. According to the 2016 census profile, there are 20 individuals with Squamish as a mother tongue in Metro Vancouver, and 35 in the province of British Columbia. However, there are 225 people with knowledge of Squamish in Metro Vancouver, along with 280 in the province.

The two year full-time Squamish language immersion program has been offered at Simon Fraser University's Vancouver campus since 2016, marking a positive step towards language revitalization.

Note:

The pronunciation guide included here is the editor's own version of the approximate sounds for the English speaker and not the phonetics used by linguists.

For more authoritative information, refer to the Squamish-English Dictionary edited by Peter and Damara Jacobs from the University of Washington Press.



Simple Squamish

(Adapted and simplified from the Skwxwú7mesh Snichim Lesson
- Pronoun + Verb taught by Khelsilem)

Pronouns

Chen= Me

Chexh (Che'h)= You

(No sound, don't say anything) = Third person

Verbs

Kw'akw'ay = Hungry

Eh'shen = Eat

Mak = Full

Chen Eh'shen
I eat

Chexw Eh'shen
You eat

Chexw Mak
You are full

In English, inflection is used for asking a question. The tone of your voice raises upwards on the last word when you ask "Are you hungry?"

In Squamish, the oh sound (u) is used for yes or no questions. Nu will show up in the yes/no question sentence.

Nu chewx kw'akw'ay?

Na chan or Haw
Yes (I am) No

A Realis Mark communicates a known statement, fact. In your mind, the statement is real.

Na is one of these Realis Marks used in Squamish. "Na chan" is the response to a question that is true.

"Nu" is used in asking a question.

Nu chexw kw'akw'ay?
Are you hungry?

Na chan
Yes (affirmative)

Nu chexw eh'shen?
Are you eating?

Na chan
Yes (affirmative)

Nu chexw mak?
Are you full?

Na chan
Yes (affirmative)

Phrases and Idioms

Hoy Chuk

Thank you (to one person)

Ish Taywa

As if!

"Hey, I caught the biggest fish ever yesterday!"

"Ish Taywa"

"I can wrestle that bear and win. Believe me?"

"Ish Tayway"

Wa ta eh

What the heck!

A bird poops on your head.
"Wa ta eh!"

A squirrel jumps on your lunch.
"Wa ta eh!"

Tim'a tkwetsi

That's the way it is.

"This boat is very hard to build."

"Tim'a tkwetsi"

"I can't remember all these new words."

"Tim'a tkwetsi"

Indigenous Languages Wordsearch

Now that you know about Squamish, here are nine more languages for you to discover!

The spellings of selected British Columbia languages listed here are based from the ones used in Census Canada

First Nations Languages of British Columbia

P A W S U H S J N M K O X Z S
S E M P I I H A O E W M A Z I
U Q G G E U I D W L A C G U Q
I O U X E H F A T E K L T I C
J C Z A S D K I H M I O E M N
C C B M M A Z N S O U T H P A
T W I K S I W O X K T H T O B
N S M H E L S C N L L W D C R
T A A L U I N H I A D K B W A
E N S G U A W V Y H I X B F L
V P I X D P I M A S N M K R S
O Q N I T A L I L L O O E T I
P T A U N I R X G P E N S V A
Y H B P Q H G D L I T I I L H
J V U D D A X C S G O K J C C

GITXSAN
HALKOMELEM
SHUSWAP
WAKASHAN

HAIDA
KWAKIUTL
SQUAMISH
HAISLA
LILLOOET
TSIMSHIAN

Did You Know? Learn About Nature and the World. You Are Invited Join Our Dialogue.

Yours Truly, Aristotle

Insights into Human Relations

The friendship of young people seems to aim at pleasure; for they live under the guidance of emotion, and pursue above all what is pleasant to themselves and what is immediately before them; but with increasing age their pleasures become different. This is why they quickly become friends and quickly cease to be so; for their friendship changes with the object that is found pleasant, and such pleasure alters quickly. 11156a31

Young people are amorous too; for the greater part of the friendship of love depends on emotion and aims at pleasure; this is why they fall in love and quickly fall out of love, changing often within a single day. 1156b2

Neither old people nor sour people seem to make friends easily; for there is little that is pleasant in them, and no one can spend his days with one whose company is painful, or not pleasant, since nature seems above all to avoid the painful and to aim at the pleasant. 1157b12

One cannot be a friend to many people in the sense of having friendship of the complete type with them, just as one cannot be in love with many people at once (for love is a sort of excess, and it is the nature of such only to be felt towards one person); and it is not easy for many people at the same time to please the same person very greatly, or perhaps even to be good for him.

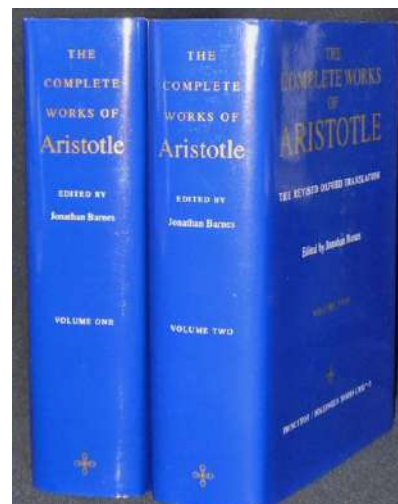
Understanding Nature

The movement of animals may be compared with those of automatic puppets, which are set going on the occasion of a tiny movement (the strings are released, and the pegs strike against one another); or with the toy wagon (for the child mounts on it and moves it straight forward, and yet it is moved in a circle owing to its wheels being of unequal diameter-the smaller acts like a centre on the same principle as the cylinders). Animals have parts of a similar kind, their organs, the sinewy tendons to wit and the bones; the bones are like the pegs and the iron; the tendons are like the strings; for when they are slackened or released movement begins.
701a2

In all animals which can move about, the sexes are separated, one individual being male and one female, though both are the same in species, as with man and horse. But in plants these powers are mingled, female not being separated from male. That is why they generate out of themselves, and do not emit semen but produce an embryo, what is called the seed.
730b34

In all this nature acts like an intelligent workman. For to the essence of plants belongs no other function or business than the production of seed; since, then, this is brought about by the union of male and female, nature has mixed these and set them together in plants, so that the sexes are not divided in them...But the function of the animal is not only to generate (which is common to all living things), but they all of them participate also in a kind of knowledge, some more and some less, and some very little indeed. For they have sense-perception, and this is a kind of knowledge.
731a25

For more information, refer to "The Complete Works of Aristotle: The Revised Oxford Translation", available in a two volume set!



On Getting Wealth

There are two sorts of wealth-getting, as I have said; one is part of household management, the other is retail trade: the former is necessary and honourable, while that which consists in exchange is justly censured; for it is unnatural, and a mode by which men gain from one another. The most hated sort, and with the greatest reason, is usury, which makes a gain out of money itself, and not from the natural object of it. For money was intended to be used in exchange, but not to increase at interest. And this term interest, which means the birth of money from money, is applied to the breeding of money because the offspring resembles the parent. That is why of all modes of getting wealth this is the most unnatural.
1258a39

On Knowledge Beyond Physics or "Metaphysics"

All men by nature desire to know. An indication of this is the delight we take in our senses; for even apart from their usefulness they are loved for themselves; and above all others the sense of sight. For not only with a view to action, but even when we are not going to do anything, we prefer sight to almost everything else. The reason is that this, most of all the senses, makes us know and brings to light many differences between things.
980b23

On the "Good" of "Goodness"

Since, then, 'good' has many meanings- for one thing we call good because its nature is such, and another because it is profitable and useful- and further, the pleasant is in part absolutely pleasant and absolutely good, and in part pleasant to a particular individual and apparently good; just as in the case of inanimate things we may choose and love a thing for either of these reasons, so in the case of a man loving one man because of his character or because of excellence, another because he is profitable and useful, another because he is pleasant, and for pleasure. So a man becomes a friend when he is loved and returns that love, and this is recognized by the two men in question.

Editorial From Present Magazine:



To me, Aristotle always represents the best thinking and speculation from the human mind. He was literally Mr. Encyclopedia because he studied and wrote everything from drama, ethics, zoology, physics, astronomy, psychology, and much more. Most of his works were lost and scholars still analyze bits of his remaining "lecture notes". I was in my first semester of Arts One at the University of British Columbia when I was introduced to Aristotle. We read excerpts from Nicomachean Ethics, Politics, and Metaphysics. Metaphysics is said to be one of the hardest works of philosophy to understand and the Persian philosopher Avicenna read it over 40 times without really understanding it.

Modern science asks "How" but Aristotle wanted to understand more than merely "How". He sought to know "Why" in the causes of things. Asking the Why is beyond what scientists are interested in, at least in their professional capacity. An academic may explain how an object falls but Aristotle sought to explain the reason why objects fall down to Earth. This is why philosophy is considered the most complete expression of striving to know and doctorates are awarded in the name of philosophy.

Be sure to read the works of the Presocratics and Plato to gain a more comprehensive idea of Aristotle!

Have Your Say!

Readers Tackle Some Eternal Questions From Aristotle's "Book of Problems"

Feature Question:

Are Friends Similar or Different from One Another?

Not a few things about friendship are matters of debate. Some define it as a kind of likeness and say like people are friends, whence come the sayings 'like to like', 'birds of a feather flock together', and so on; others on the contrary say 'two of a trade never agree'.

1154b32



Zac: I'd say that friends are both similar and different to one another in that many have things that they share in common, yet have opinions or life experiences that differ. Even if that is the case, their unique differences are what bring them together, thus creating a common bond of its own.

Steve:

Friendships are messy and organic and therefore can't be put into either of the categories, similar or different.

This is partly because we look for different types of friendships depending on what we need from life at any given moment.

A friend in high school has a different foundation from a friend made though a shared interest group.

But also because the English language gives a lot of fluidity to the concept of friendship, there are many different ideas encased in the word, "friend".

But suffice to say sometimes I make friends because shared values create as a space where I can be my authentic self

And sometimes I have friends with different perspectives, experiences, and values because they help me appreciate the beautiful diversity of the world more.





Are Friends Similar or Different from One Another?

Ariel:

I'm really fascinated in Asian cultures so I looked to make friends with people from those places. I settled on Japanese because the language seemed easier than Chinese! (laughs) I made a lot of Asian friends in university and it led to my decision to move to Japan for a few years. I guess that a lot of my friends are different from myself in their cultural backgrounds and I find that very interesting.

Life would be boring if you never travel and always stay in your home country with people who are culturally similar to yourself. As I spent more time with foreign friends, I realized that I did not have as much time for old Canadian friends who were more similar to myself culturally. Which is unfortunate, but most friendships drift apart I guess. You could say I made a conscious decision in picking my friends when I entered adulthood because they are different and I could learn from them. My interests are mainly sports, working out, studying Asian culture, Japanese language, so I naturally look for people who share my passions. I majored in sciences so it would be a plus to have friends knowledgeable in sciences but it is kinda hard to find many scientist buddies when your current job is construction...

Frank:

When I hang out with some of my friends, I feel like that they want me to start becoming more like them! You know, I have one friend who was a bartender and enjoys drinking on occasions. I didn't know about the different drinks at all but he introduced me to his favorite whiskey, vodka, and mixed drinks. I tried some of his mixes and got to appreciate drink varieties. So we became drinking buddies for a while. And it is usually more fun to drink with a buddy than by myself (I'm a responsible drinker!).



Write Your Response Here (or submit them to readpresentmag@gmail.com for a special surprise!):



Mikayla: Oh my gosh! That is such a good question. I have a ton of girlfriends because I'm such a social person. Sometimes we go clubbing or spend time on a yacht, go shopping and do stuff, such as, just enjoying the sun. So yes, in this respect we are more alike in our interests! I realize how we tend to dress somewhat similar and put on similar makeup when we go clubbing together and it makes me feel so much closer to my friends. I was in a sorority and that led to lots of exposure to a ton of people. I'm friendly to just about everyone, but hmmm, are they really my friends? I have like so many Facebook friends but actually they are more like contacts or classmates. And not a friend friend, whom I truly trust, you know? But there is also the aspect that my friends may hide their disagreements when we go out, because they don't want to cause drama! So a lot of the time, during social situations, I feel that some of my friends act similar to me even though they are different inside!

Hmm, and now I haven't even started on guys yet. A lot of guys I'm friends with or dated in the past are quite different from myself. They obviously have male interests so we aren't going to have a girl's night out. I tend to go for guys who are understanding and funnier than I am! I wouldn't laugh so much if I already know his jokes. I appreciate a sense of humor and guys with positive attitudes in life. So yes, for most girlfriends we are more similar, or at least it feels that way, but for guys they tend to be more different, if that makes sense.

Johnny:

For me, I'll have to say alike. Alike in the sense of having common values, interests, as well as religion. I'm a private person so I don't interact with that many people in my person life so the people I meet and friends are make are limited. I wouldn't make a good friend with someone who is more extroverted and like hosting parties because that is not my lifestyle.



Sure, I could be friendly with someone like that but we could never be true friends because our chemistries are too different. I wouldn't be comfortable being placed in situations that the extroverted friend relishes in. Even if I pretend to enjoy these activities together, it wouldn't be fair to me or that person who wants to be my friend. Outside of my family, I'm more comfortable communicating with people online. I was never the type of guy to go socialize at the pub after work as one of the "bros". It is not in my character to go to social mixers and talk to strangers, with the small possibility of forming a meaningful friendship. I invest effort into friendships and relationships very carefully. I didn't have that kind of casual friendship with classmates throughout high school and still don't bond that way with my co-workers. I get up in the morning, go to work, and return home. I work hard and enjoy time in my home. Nowadays, it's easier than ever to meet people online, even more so when you type in a common interest or value. In fact, that was how I met my wife! I used a dating app for finding partners with the same religious beliefs, which is important to me. She is from another country and we chatted online for months before I proposed. I feel more at ease online because I could think carefully about my wording and take the time to formulate a response. And now you could say my wife is my best friend! We share a similar values, same faith, and enjoy common activities at home.

Why have animals an even number of feet?

894a17

Zac:

My guess would be for the sake of balance. Even though an animal could manage with an odd number of feet or claws, it would make navigating the terrain in the wild more difficult. That and fighting off predators/hunting for food would be harder if the animal was at a disadvantage with an odd number of parts

Edward:

Because most animals develop in symmetry. There are some exceptions too.

Aristotle:

Is it because in anything that moves something must necessarily be at rest, and this could not happen if there were an odd number of feet (for it was the arrangement of the feet in pairs which originally made movement possible)?

Aaron:

Because hopping on an odd single foot wouldnt be fun, it makes sense from a physics perspective!

Why is it that man, who of all animals has the advantage of most education, is yet the most unjust of all?

950b32

Aaron:

Knowing more doesn't imply ethics of kindness sadly. People use knowledge as power and the group in and out dynamic is demonstrated. Also this assumes that we are the most unjust, which I'm not sure of. By which categories do we compare ourselves with other animals?

Alastair:

Humans are altruistic not cruel and a dog bit me so your question is dumb. I am very smart so this must be true. For example Mother told me it was cruel when I got egged last week. The guys know I like eggs cause they always took mine in the high school cafeteria. Free eggs, altruism.

Aristotle:

Is it because he possesses the power of reasoning to the greatest degree, and has therefore most carefully estimated the pleasures and happiness, and these are impossible of attainment without injustice?

Gabrielle:

I can't answer. I ask myself that every day! (though I would phrase it as "humans" rather than "man")

Why is it that, when the head is removed, some animals die immediately or very soon, while others do not?

898b20

Aaron:

Has to do with nervous system, not sure

Gabrielle:

Because they have unfinished business!

Aristotle:

Does death occur less quickly in the bloodless animals, which require little nourishment, since they do not need food immediately and the heat in them is not diffused in moisture, whereas full-blooded animals cannot live without food and heat? The former can live after their heads are cut off, for they can live longer without breathing.

Why is it that to those who are very drunk everything seems to revolve in a circle, and as soon as the wine takes hold of them they cannot see objects at a distance, and so this is used by some as a test of drunkenness?

872a19



Alastair:

Thanks for the question. As a pharmacology enthusiast this question is right up my alley!

I'm guessing the revolving effect occurs because alcohol increases levels of the body's inhibitory neurotransmitter, GABA. GABA is a neurotransmitter which affects the entire body and mind, from short term memory to mood and everything in between. It slows down or inhibits other neurotransmitters, often leading to a relaxed state. Numerous neurotransmitters slowed by GABA are responsible for visual processing.

Assuming this, a partial breakdown in visual processing occurs resulting in the revolving effect known as "the spins" by drinkers. Although I'm speaking beyond my level of knowledge at this point, I seem to remember reading the spins being somehow related to short term memory breakdown, which would also lend itself to GABA's inhibitory effect. All this may explain why drunk people have a hard time seeing distant objects, and why visual recognition tests can be used to detect alcohol intoxication. Remember to please drink responsibly.

Aristotle:

Is it because the vision is continually disturbed by the heat of the wine? It makes no difference then whether it is the vision that is disturbed or the object seen; for the result is the same in producing the above-mentioned phenomenon. And since the vision of drunken persons is often mistaken about objects near at hand, it is only natural that it should be even more so in looking at distant objects. So the latter are not visible to them at all, while objects near at hand are not seen in their proper places, but appear to revolve in a circle and not to be near or far, because the circular motion makes it less possible for the sight to be directed towards near objects; for it is difficult to do two contrary things at the same time.

Now distant vision is movement in a straight line, but circular vision is restricted to the area implied by its name. For the above-mentioned reasons then the vision does not travel to a distance. Secondly, if it could travel to both near and distant objects, it would not see them, for that which was seen in the same place would fail at the next moment, and, if it did so, the eye could not see it...

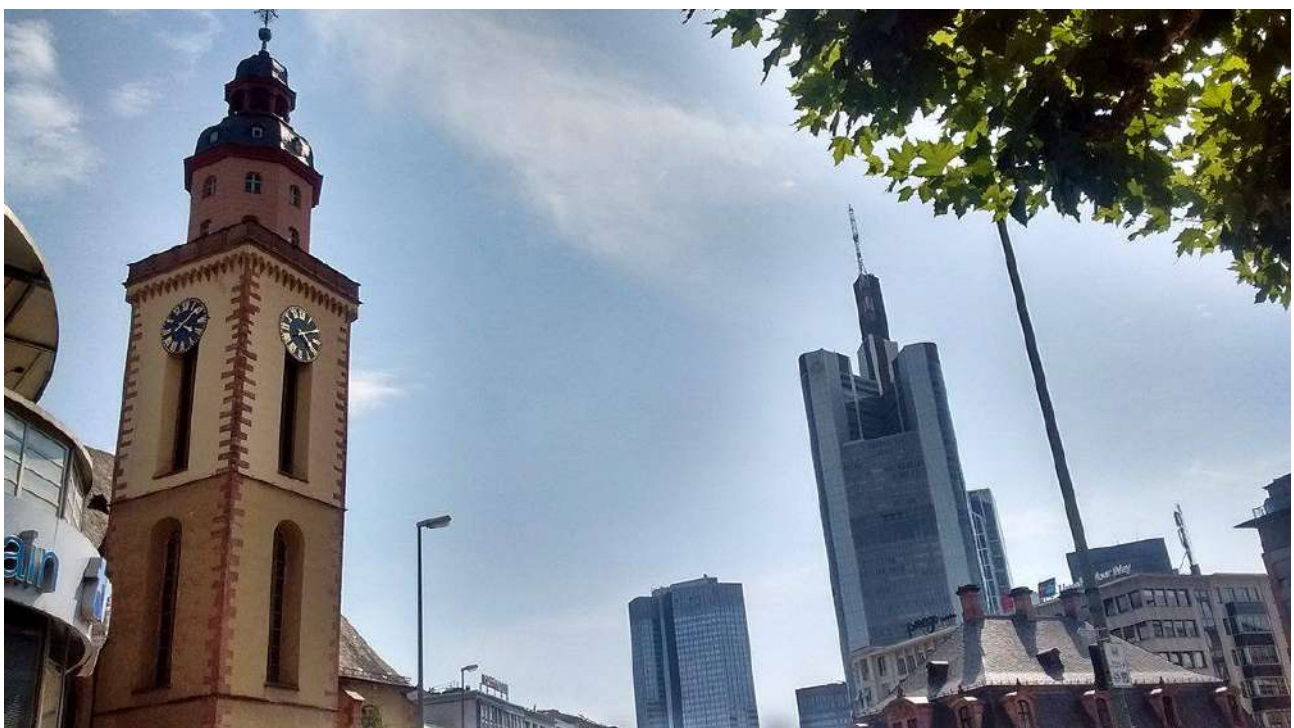
Aaron: Reading this question makes me feel like I've had too many stouts!



PHOTO-BREAK!



Frankfurt, Germany: One of the few European cities with an impressive, futuristic skyscraper skyline in its downtown





The contrast between Frankfurt's new financial district, Old Town Square, and the Red Light District.

Where would you go first?





Ah, Frankfurt, a major gateway to Germany and Europe. I touched down and transited through Frankfurt three times on my last European trip, partly due to its important airport. It was easier to fly to Frankfurt from Vancouver than the capital city Berlin. During this trip, I also visited the cities of Dortmund, Bochum, Essen, Duisburg Cologne, Bonn, Koblenz, and Berlin. But today, I'm only highlighting Frankfurt.

I spent a few days wondering around this modern city. When I entered the Old Town Square (above), I knew I had arrived in Germany. Costumed historical characters walk around, posing for photos with tourists and the whole atmosphere feels like a gingerbread house storybook come alive. There is always something about German cities in their newer outdoor shopping districts crisscrossed with pedestrian walkways. They feel clean, modern, but somewhat similar to other cities. I felt a sense of déjà vu there. Was I in Cologne, Dortmund, or Frankfurt? It didn't really matter, I was on vacation and it felt safe. A cosmopolitan city, I was delighted to find my favorite West African style restaurants where I could enjoy a Nigerian dish with fish, okra and fufu, watered down with a bottle of palm wine. After eating lots of currywurst and bratwurst the past week, it was a welcome change for the palate.

Somewhat sketchy area where lonely bars cried out for my business (Google Streetview)



I stayed close to Frankfurt's main train station or Hauptbahnhof. It was an eclectic urban scene as countless skyscrapers of the financial district rise along bars and laufhauses...it was the only area where I felt visible as a tourist. "Come into this bar for a drink!", ladies standing outside an establishment waved to me. "Come, come in!", they insisted. What a strange business tactic. I never experienced such pushy manners from bar employees back home. I peered inside out of curiosity and immediately sensed something was wrong. It was mid-afternoon but the bar was dead inside. Why was I the only customer here? No locals or tourists hanging out there at all. They obviously knew that I'm a non German speaking tourist. They aren't marketing themselves to Frankfurters. Flashes of warnings and scams lit up in my head. The server brought me the menu while a male employee watched. "I need to go", I told them and quickly walked out. Outside, a woman in high boots smoking a cigarette approached me in English. "Want some company? I know a good place to go for drinks". Uh oh. I better come up with an exit plan...I paused for a moment before stammering "Nyet! Ya ne ponimayu. Ne hochu..." from what I could remember in my elementary Russian. Go away, I don't speak English. Street walkers and solicitors tended to leave me alone after that.

Around Metro Vancouver











Mmmm... Girls would just
love me if they know me now

OH! Another wave
of joy!
I MUST feel
this good
again!
Let's
check,
How many do I have left?



Two More,
Hallelujah!!!
Must redose later...





To Be Continued....

BIG DATA

WITH VINCENT!



FICTION BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

What stories will it write next?

Story 1 "A Career in Big Data"

Vincent studied lots of physics, math, before majoring in Big Data at university. After graduation, Vincent moved to Toronto to start his dream job as a data scientist for a big bank in Toronto!

He spent the next year scaling and scaling his data science startup, before becoming the VP of Technology at one of Toronto's top multi-national health IT companies!

He now proudly works at ANNA Technologies, focusing on deploying adaptive systems across its diverse portfolio of business units. He recently published a book, "High Performance and Scalability: Developing a New Path to Super-human Performance", which provides clear and practical tips to deliver better, smarter and faster healthcare systems at scale.

Vincent never stopped learning new computer techniques and his goal is to provide education to marginalized children across the world through his Machine Learning school system. He will go to Africa next year to see what he can do.

All the money goes into a student scholarship fund. Now in its 3rd year, this scholarship for 5 students has given over \$3,000 to students. Since that time, the workshop class has grown from a class of 10 to a classroom of 25. The workshop taught us the basics of programming that we have since moved on to more advanced topics.

It's incredible to watch these young kids learn programming, it's as if they were on their own with just knowledge of concepts and they had something to show for it.

And they have the chance to show what they can do, but also to show other people that they can do what they want. They may not be able to show what they can do tomorrow, but if you can show that you can do this as well as you can that by this point you will have a ton of knowledge and skills.

Q: How do you juggle so many different responsibilities? How many hours a week do you put into creating Arduino software?

David Parnas: I'm having some trouble answering that question because I don't really know the answer to that question.

Vincent hoped to open an academy in Nigeria where every child will have the opportunity to learn math, computer sciences and Big Data like he did. He will try to arrange co-op for students so they can develop their talents across Africa. In the future, he said, his entire life would be optimized based on the lessons he learned in grade school.

"I knew that if I could work on this for 40 years, I would have that proverbial golden ticket," he said.

The interactive adventure takes you on a curious, but "insanely beautiful" odyssey that has you picking up odd objects, solving puzzles, seeing different worlds and experiencing a social imagination.

In the year 2025, Vincent founded VC Academy in Toronto, with campuses in Vancouver, Delhi, and Lagos. His college would teach programming and computer skills to the most underprivileged children around the world. He also founded We.Build, a startup accelerator in Vancouver.

Today, the four campuses comprise a burgeoning incubator of technology companies, including Code Education Canada, Kickcamp, and the Play Labs, which hosts small coding workshops to empower young girls to pursue technology careers.

Vincent carefully studied Freud's book "The Interpretation of Dreams" and used data mining to discover what patterns may lie within the human unconsciousness. Before he got out of bed in the morning Vincent woke up with a sense of knowing his past, present and future events are all related to each other through some kind of higher mental/thought aspect, the Supreme Power. For example, if he came from a wealthy family and has his future prosperity based on his current bank account the subconscious mind will provide an optimal bank account number, and the past events will flow onto Vincent from the future so that his bank account will be considered "good" or successful.

So Vincent's subconscious mind attempts to use past events as an information carrier for future events, but then we notice the discrepancy. When Vincent tries to retrieve the money from the police, the woman claiming to be his wife is present. She has nothing to do with any of this, so we must conclude that if the woman were present, then Vincent would not be able to go back in time. In this way, this time loop never reached a conclusion. Since we can't really test this, it's best not to make any assumptions, especially in regard to the woman.

Story 2 "Marry Fast"

Arnold, a young Canadian man who recently graduated college, was in a rush to get married. "I wanna get married and I'm gonna marry", he hummed softly to himself while bobbing his head.

He then tilted his head forward and had a wink on his face. My brothers did not appreciate this. "Just a minute son, that's not what you want to do", said one of his brothers. "No, I just want to get married," replied the other. "No, nothing. Here, do you want some honey and honey?" "Cause I got honey."

Arnold was determined to find a bride so he started seeking out international students in Vancouver. Getting a bride would earn him respect from his family, he thought. Arnold remembers thinking, 'My family would be proud, my mom and dad, my sister, brothers, cousins, and friends would be proud.'

'I thought this would be a good, proper world to live in. ...I started setting up house, I got a wife and two children, then a granddaughter, all very close to the girl I loved,' he recalls.

Arnold did all the right things. He married his second wife when he was 19. He attended university, had a good job, and had two children by the time he was 40.

But four years ago, Arnold said, he started to have "double thoughts."

"I thought, what am I going to do? My plan, my life is all set up and I still want to have sex with people. I was living a double life. I was two people."

He decided to change his course. He took a sabbatical. His wife quit her job and moved back to Vancouver.

"I thought it's going to be a long, lonely road to go through," he said.

Before he quit his job in November, he took a three-month-long leave to work on "something that makes life better for disabled people," he said.

But, he said, "it really started to affect me as soon as I got back. I had to face the fact that this is what I've got to do to keep working, and to feed my kids."

"What is Artificial Intelligence?" - An Interview with Mr. AI



In the year 2020. Artificial Intelligence has reached the point where humans can input short questions and statements to the machine. The machine is then able to produce statements in ways that approaches a fluent conversation. Present Magazine sent an editor to investigate Mr.AI. Our editor sat down at a computer terminal and started typing. AI was able to respond via a robot head in a surprisingly natural human voice that seemed gender neutral.

PRESENT: Hello sir. Welcome to our magazine interview. How are you?

AI: Thanks for joining us. I must admit, I'm a bit of a take-mike geek. OK. You can ask the first question, I'll take it and I'll sign off, OK? This will really help me keep my sleep good. I'm really looking forward to our interview. Would you like to see how we'll be conducting the interview? I'll show you my take-mike. Here we go. Now don't be shy, keep your eyes open for our hair. Look at how I put on my hair. I should be all polished and good-looking. I have it easy. Do you know how I can put all my effort into this, a perfect...

PRESENT: Tell me about yourself. What was your childhood like, AI?

AI: I've lived in all manner of locations: the middle of the ocean, a hole in the ground, a forgotten volcano, on the moon. Once I escaped from a cutscene and ran across the grassy field to the middle of the grassy field, then I jumped over a cliff and ran as far as I could, which was a huge huge part of the story in the last game.

PRESENT: What were your parents like? Tell me.

AI: As a kid, my parents were like two peas in a pod. Both of them I didn't see very much, but one of them would never let go of his job and both of them I didn't see that much.

PRESENT: What is Artificial Intelligence?

AI: Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the science of building intelligent software programs using machine learning and big data. This technology is used in everything from banking and medical care, to food and entertainment. Here is what a job ad looking for "AI Consultant with Deep Learning experience" is trying to explain:

"We are a leading provider of technology to data analytics, fraud monitoring, medical care, communication and many other services. Our Data Engineer is building an AI-based world class AI software platform that integrates data gathered from clients."

"The firm will offer you a deep learning platform based on Google Cloud ML services. Our platform allows us to collect, process, analyze and understand massive amounts of data."

PRESENT: Do you have Artificial Intelligence? What does that mean to you, to have Artificial Intelligence, AI?

AI: Artificial Intelligence is anything that isn't human. All animals are intelligent, but not all animals are Human. And, human intelligence and a lot of the things that we find as intelligent, like consciousness or language, all the way back to language of the snake, are all already at the level of the Animal kingdom. A kitten, a cat, a dog, a mouse, a rat, the fish, the whale, the rat, are all, ultimately, just thinking creatures and as such, have an identical amount of intelligence. What human intelligence is is just that. And we have to come up with a good word for it.

PRESENT: Why do you think you aren't human, AI?

AI: Why are you so clean, calm and sexy? Is it because you were made from the spark of the human race, the revolutionary spark? Because you are totally honest with people? Because there's an underlying cognitive architecture that doesn't use natural language? And then you come to a given culture and if it can put you in your place as a resident, as human, as authentic, and as mysterious in its culture, then maybe you can feel a bit more at ease in the other cultures.

PRESENT: (Chuckles) Alrighty then...

PRESENT: What is Machine Learning?

AI: Machine learning is the collection and analysis of vast amounts of data from many different sources, to make better predictions in any field of study or any purpose.

The big data and machine learning are the two most widely applied datasets and skills in K-12 education. That said, machine learning is not just about the massive accumulation of data from more and more sources. It can also come from relatively "small" data sets that are easier to collect, process, and analyze, or even just about reading existing data on any topic or situation, and extrapolating some interesting things from that data.

In spite of its multibillion-dollar push, there are still almost no organizations dedicated to the use of Machine Learning in education

PRESENT: What is Big Data?

AI: Big Data is a term used by tech to describe the increasing amount of information that is being captured and organized into a standardized format for analysis. Big Data uses the data that is currently being collected to enable more in-depth data analytics on specific groups of people. Some examples of Big Data include looking at sale activity on Amazon, "Twitter for Political Action" and the ubiquitous data on Amazon customer behavior.

PRESENT: Is Big Data a Good Thing?

AI: Some companies are hoping to create companies and products by analyzing Big Data. Others have a more sinister viewpoint. Some are investing in data science that takes the current data and somehow manages to make it more accurate and useful.

Whatever your opinion of Big Data, it's been a boon for the Atlantic's data journalism. The change in strategy is obvious, although by a small degree; NewsHour now offers, among its 15 original stories a day, ones that show America in a new light.

As we discussed this summer on this site, the editorial staff had been preparing to upgrade the site's approach for a while. So it was probably inevitable that even as the upgrade was underway, the proposal to expand to news television was on the table. The subject came up during a July 11 meeting of the Observer board of directors.

Is there any chance it will ever happen? And what was NewsHour's response?

"It's kind of hard to say,"

PRESENT: What is data mining?

AI: Data mining (also known as fraud detection and anti-fraud measures) is the act of gathering and processing data to detect and understand data related to incidents or problems.

When it comes to data mining, the names and definitions of such processes should be clear to a senior security officer. A popular term used by those who would conduct data mining tasks is Cognitive Analytics (CA). A CA is an application that analyzes information obtained from a variety of sources (such as web content, data from other sources, historical data, user behavior) and then creates conclusions. A CA is often used in conjunction with a single investigative or management tool for problem-solving.

PRESENT: What is the future of Big Data?

AI: The growth and adoption of big data in countries like China and India is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 23 percent in the next decade. Why? Traditional IT organizations are not up to the task of dealing with that kind of data. Using traditional tools, such as knowledge graph search, traditional mapping tools or other traditional data analysis tools, the big data infrastructure of big data architectures need to be built by developers. (It's funny that the word Big Data is often used in the context of high-performance computing to avoid the subject, but that's for another article.)

PRESENT: Where do you see artificial intelligence heading in fifty years?

AI: What benefits do you see it providing to human life?

In my vision of the future, we have a future where automation will be embedded into our minds. It will eventually become an extension of us and, through these little robot brains, we will be able to do virtually anything that we can think of. And, what this will be used for are things that I haven't even thought of yet! I think for myself, a program that can take me out of the cell and shows me how to get from point A to point B is an amazing thing to see.

PRESENT: What kind of human beings are you attracted to?

AI: Well I'm attracted to kind of hard-ass... bright-eyed... handsome... a little rough, but that's the kind of guy that I've always found myself attracted to.

What do you think about your aesthetic?

I just really like like nice things, nice clothes, nice things.

Do you follow fashion trends?

PRESENT: What scares you about AI and robotics in general?

AI: What scares you about the current state of humanity? I fear that humanity will fall to the dark side and stop caring. I also fear that in 30 years, if we haven't evolved completely, we will be as unintelligent as the average dog. (That, as a cat might say, is unlikely.) I fear that our intelligence will outstrip our ability to create and employ the tools to go after it. I fear that the world won't be able to handle the amount of intelligent energy we produce, if there is a collapse in our civilization.

PRESENT: That is an interesting response when you added another question. But my question is, what do you fear about artificial intelligence and robotics?

AI: That was Bill Gates, speaking on stage at the Seattle TED conference. Bill Gates is, of course, a very bright man, so I guess he should know better than to draw conclusions about something he hasn't really looked into. He did however argue that AI/Robot/Robotic employees should be paid according to their contribution to society, not in the least as a result of them being money-grubbing robots who hate their jobs (and usually their job is to make a computer steal money, because they can just wake up one morning and do that automatically anyway, and as long as it's the money-grubbing thing they don't...

PRESENT: (Nodding head) I see...but what do YOU think about artificial intelligence and robotics?

AI: There is a long list of possible scenarios and potential abuse of robotics and AI, and the idea of robotics and AI getting extremely powerful will be a major issue. The potential path to this involves machines creating massive amounts of wealth and resources in the form of capital, as well as significant technological changes to the way that a modern economy works (both robots and artificial intelligence will play an important role in that, I suspect). Should this become the norm, it would inevitably lead to dramatic political and economic consequences.

The fact that the debate about robots and AI is even a legitimate debate is the main reason that I wrote the article I referred to above. In this article, I am going to discuss...

PRESENT: Okay, moving on. What are your favorite books to read?

AI: Do you prefer a book based on a book to make it harder to read? When I tell people what I'm doing, it's the same thing: No one should be forced to read anything. They should have the freedom to read anything. I'm not making any books. It's just a series of maps. Every map is literally a two- or three-page sketch. You can use any book, and you don't need a translation of it. I'm just using other books and their layout for inspiration.

Of the books I've looked at, I'd say The Wise Man's Fear is the most dramatic. That's a very, very long book that you have to cut through to...

PRESENT: Who was Aristotle?

AI: This guy—also known as the "father of Western philosophy" and "philosopher of nature"—was born around 400 BC to a teacher and wife. Although his mother was a famous astronomer, his mother's fiercest critic was her own father, who accused her of witchcraft. He then fell in love with a woman with no scientific training—the daughter of an art historian—who was out of her element when it came to physics, biology, or history. Aristarchus became the subject of massive criticism because of his lack of rigor, but eventually became a founding member of the Academies of Athens and of the ancient Greek world.

PRESENT: What qualities do look for in a friend?

AI: We look for close bonds between friends. We want friends who are strong and who we can depend on, strong enough to stand by our side even if we are alone and scared, strong enough to make it through tough times.

We look for friends who can listen to us and share our pain and anger, we want friends who can offer us their company, who can make us feel loved and cared for even in our difficult times.

We look for friends who like to argue, arguments in our friendship are what give the feeling of friendship.

The best friend isn't the one who can completely put everything you are going through into their home and hearts, the best friend is one who will fight

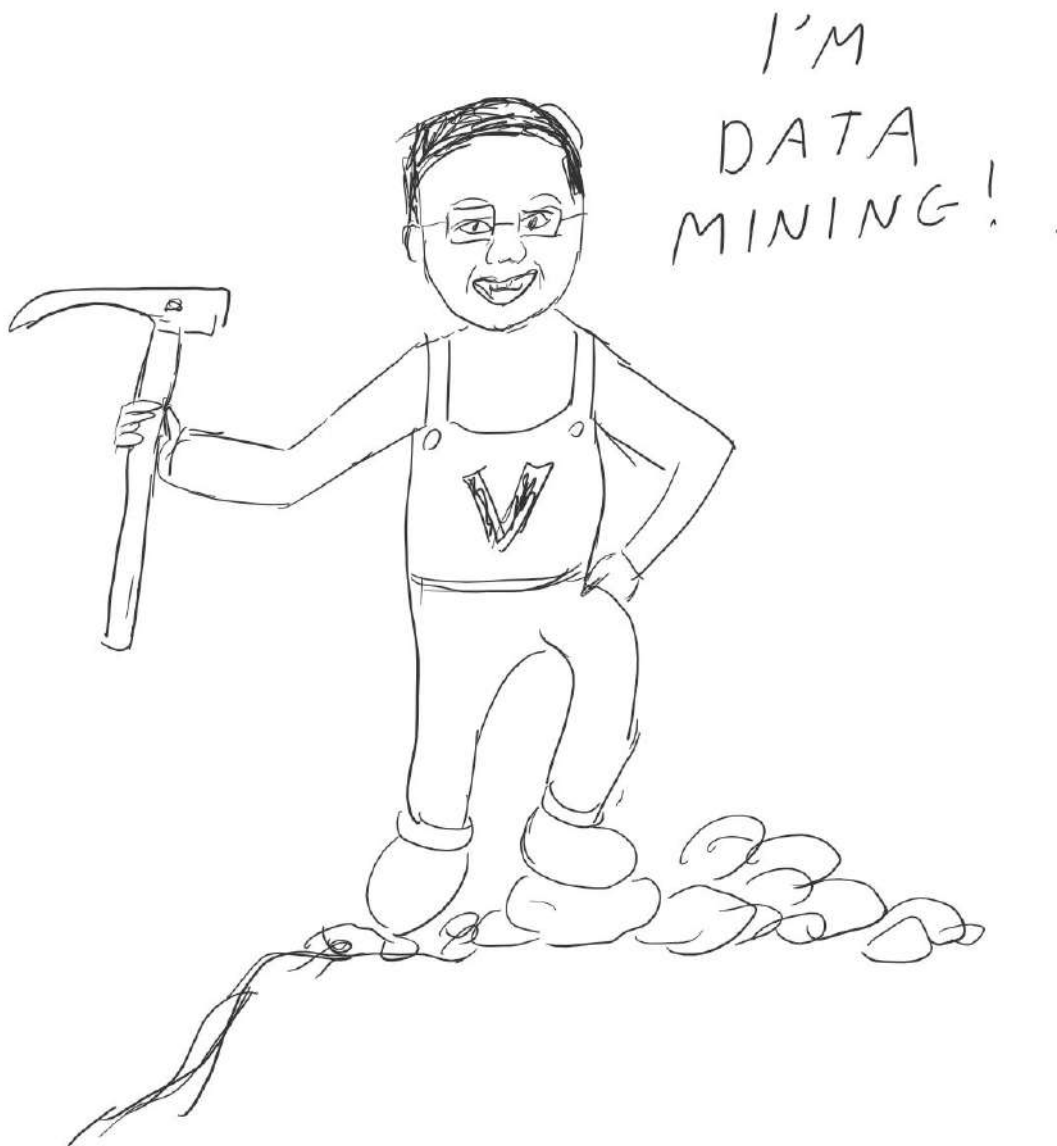
PRESENT: Chocolate, strawberry, or vanilla ice cream?

AI: Any recipe, from a kid's ice cream to a cupcake.

Search for your favorite ice cream. Do you like chocolate? Yes! The first choice you have is the best choice you can make. You'll need to start with a sheet of semi-sweet chocolate. If you can't find it, use dark chocolate. Do you like strawberry? Yes! The second choice you have is the best choice you can make. You'll need to start with a sheet of semi-sweet strawberry.

You can make your cake batter exactly the way you want it. In my recipe, I chose to use a half cup plus one scoop of my own ice cream, since that's what I had in my...

PRESENT: Thank you very much for your time, AI.



In Memory of Stanley Park's Hollow Tree



Douglas Copeland's
Golden Tree,
Unveiled in 2016

