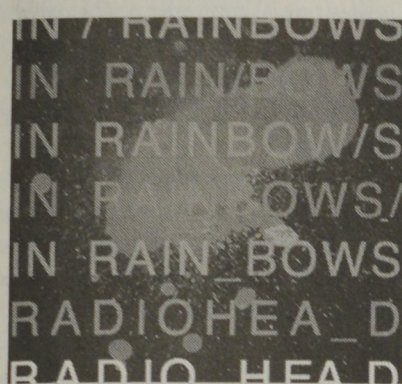


CHSR Top 30 of 2007

Compiled by former music director Andrew Robinson



The number one spot on CHSR's top 30 of 2007 list goes to Radiohead's 'In Rainbows'

Based on frequency of airplay

*Denotes CanCon

1. Radiohead - In Rainbows - Independent/MapleMusic
2. Beirut - The Flying Club Cup - Ba Da Bing!
3. Blonde Redhead - 23 - 4AD
4. * Do Make Say Think - You, You're A History In Rust - Constellation
5. * Holy Fuck - LP - Young Turks
6. * Feist - The Reminder - Arts & Crafts
7. Deerhoof - Friend Opportunity - Kill Rock Stars
8. Electrelane - No Shouts, No Calls - Too Pure
9. * The Besnard Lakes - The Besnard Lakes Are The Dark Horse - Jagjaguwar
10. Thes One - Lifestyle Management - Tres
11. Bat For Lashes - Fur And Gold - Echo
12. * Metric - Grow Up & Blow Away - Last Gang
13. Peter Bjorn & John - Writer's Block - Almost Gold
14. Yeah Yeah Yeahs - Is Is EP - Interscope
15. The Go! Team - Proof Of Youth - Sub Pop



Holy Fuck's LP, 'Young Turks', takes the fifth spot on CHSR's top 30 list

16. Patrick Wolf - The Magic Position - Low Altitude
17. V/A - Dig Your Roots: Creative Jazz - Dig Your Roots
18. Arctic Monkeys - Favorite Worst Nightmare - Domino
19. M.I.A. - Kala - XL
20. Bad Religion - New maps Of Hell - Epitaph
21. Chromeo - Fancy Footwork - Last Gang
22. * The Weakerthans - Reunion Tour - Anti-
23. The Hold Steady - Boys And Girls In America - Vagrant
24. V/A - Si, Para Usted: The Funky Beats Of Revolutionary Cuba Vol. 1 - Waxing Deep
25. * The New Pornographers - Challengers - Last Gang
26. * Neil Young - Live at Massey Hall 1971 - Reprise
27. * Dog Day - Night Group - Black Mountain Music
28. * Julie Dorion - Woke Myself Up - Sappy
29. The White Stripes - Icky Thump - XXI
30. * Baby Eagle - No Blues - Outside

Kernel of truth: the rise of open source

For all you non-techno-geeks, a Bruns writer brings you the low-down on open source technology

by Doug Estey

Whether you're aware of it or not, open source and open content are two initiatives that are changing the Internet — and, essentially, the world — at a rapid rate. Chances are, you've made frequent use of Wikipedia or LimeWire, both of which are based on the open source concept. But what exactly is "open source," and how can it be applied to our daily lives?

The actual phrase "open source" stems from a way to describe source code for software that is made freely available and distributable to the public. It's a development concept that differs from the traditional standard of programming practice exercised by companies such as Microsoft, who follow a "closed source" model.

In simple terms, it means that Microsoft (and others like it) consider the source code of their software to be a trade secret; they don't want anyone else duplicating their work and making profit from it. This all seems to make sense, right?

It did make sense for quite a long time, but in the so-called Web 2.0 sense of community and collaboration (Facebook, YouTube, etc) software developers have started to realize the immense potential of making their code openly available to the public.

Open source software benefits from the knowledge of an unlimited number of programmers, geeks, and enthusiasts across the globe, where its counterpart is limited to the set number of software engineers on payroll. The difference? Let's look again at something major, such as the operating system on your

computer.

Everyone and their dog has used, abused, hated, and loved the Windows operating system from Microsoft. There is no doubt that the software giant has done a lot of things for desktop computing; however, it has been plagued by controversy for years, including court battles about their alleged monopolization of the software industry and constant accusations of the functionality of their "hidden code."

In the end, 90% of computers are running on Microsoft, which is why it isn't uncommon to turn on a TV and see a news story on CBC about the latest computer virus going around — they're more prone to viruses than other systems. Windows Vista is the latest release, and costs anywhere from \$200 to \$500 a copy.

Take it to the other end of the spectrum. In 1991, a student from the University of Helsinki in Finland named Linus Torvalds wrote the very first Linux kernel; that is, the heart and soul of the operating system that would soon change the way many people thought about computing. Unlike Bill Gates, Torvalds kept the source to his kernel open and freely reproducible, enabling (eventually) hundreds of thousands of developers to lend a hand to the project. Today, over 200 popular flavours of Linux are in active development, some of which include over 100

times the amount of code found in a Windows operating system.

Because all of this code is open and accessible, security holes and vulnerabilities are addressed right away. In fact, the longest-running websites on the net are hosted by Linux-powered servers. You may not have heard of Linux, but its popularity is growing, and it's becoming more and more accessible.

So how can you put open source to work for you? You don't need to be

a computer programmer, hacker, or even a geek (not that there's anything wrong with any of those), and you most certainly don't have to do anything as extreme as abandon Windows for something you've never used before. In case you're interested, though, I've compiled a list of some of my favourite open source projects and

why they're so useful.

1. Linux (obviously). Fast, free, no spyware, no problems. It just works. But be warned: it does require some learning and you could seriously mess up your computer if you aren't careful. Not ready to get rid of Windows? Not a problem. Download or order a Linux DVD/CD and boot up your computer with it to test it out before installing. You can even run Windows and Linux on the same computer. Check out www.ubuntu.com or www.sabayonlinux.org for more information on how to obtain

Linux. You can also check out www.distrowatch.com to find out the distribution of Linux that is right for you (I just suggested my favourite two.)

2. Mozilla Firefox (www.mozilla.com). The free, tab-based, pluggable, open source web browser from Mozilla is becoming increasingly popular and is gaining support across the globe. Support for themes and plug-ins (like true advertisement blocking) is freakin' awesome.

3. Pidgin (www.pidgin.im). Pidgin is an instant messaging client (like Windows Live Messenger or AOL Instant Messenger) that allows you to run multiple accounts all in one program. It supports MSN, AIM, Yahoo, Google Talk, ICQ, and more. This may sound familiar if you've ever used Trillian, which is a shareware client with similar features. The difference, though, is that Trillian is ad-supported and closed source. Pidgin has already surpassed it in on many fronts, and, as with many open source projects, it runs on any operating system.

4. The GIMP (www.gimp.org). The GNU Image Manipulation Program (or GIMP for short) is, essentially, an open source alternative to the famous Photoshop. For all you photographers, graphic artists, web developers, and anyone else who doesn't feel like spending \$999 + tax to get started, GIMP is for you. Get the Windows version at www.gimp.org/windows.

5. OpenOffice.org (www.openoffice.org). OpenOffice.org is (you guessed it!) an open source office suite available for most operating systems. Word processing, spreadsheets, drawings, and presentations are all covered, and compatibility with Microsoft Office formats is, of course, a standard feature.

This is all just the tip of the iceberg. Businesses and industries are all beginning to make use of the open source model. Companies like BMW are even taking customer suggestions and feedback into account with their new vehicle designs. The technology world is changing, and as with all change, those who embrace it will benefit the most.

For more information, check out www.opensource.org.

Arts briefs

by Bruns Arts Department

AFRICA-- A new program launched by Tampax and Always, called "Protecting Futures," aims to help school-age African women who drop out of school during their pubescent years. Girls living in sub-Saharan Africa can miss up to four days of school because they lack basic and necessary sanitary protection to help manage their periods, as well as clean and hygienic facilities within the schools. In conjunction with HERO, an awareness building and fundraising initiative of the United Nations, Always and Tampax have donated \$1.4M to help these girls manage their periods and stay in school. "Protecting Futures is making a positive and direct impact in the lives of children living in HIV/AIDS-affected communities in sub-Saharan Africa," said Gabrielle Armand, Executive Director of Communications and Marketing for the United Nations Association of the USA.

MICHIGAN-- "Just because you happen to be a gay man doesn't mean that you don't have to learn how to become one," the University of Michigan declares, announcing its inaugural 'How To Be Gay: Male Homosexuality and Initiation' course. According to the university's website, "This course will examine the general topic of the role that initiation plays in the formation of gay male identity. We will approach it from three angles: (1) as a sub-cultural practice, subtle, complex, and difficult to theorize, which a small but significant body of work in queer studies has begun to explore; (2) as a theme in gay male writing; and (3) as a class project, since the course itself will constitute an experiment in the very process of initiation that it hopes to understand." But it offers a caution: students must already have completed a prerequisite course in lesbian/gay studies, since it will "approach gay identity from the perspective of social practices and cultural identifications rather than from the perspective of gay sexuality itself."

Tim Burton's new film is devilishly musical

'Sweeney Todd' is dark, gruesome — and wonderfully harmonious

by Sarah Skrydstrup
Escalibur (York University)



Helena Bonham-Carter and Johnny Depp star in 'Sweeney Todd'

TORONTO (CUP) -- Moving a story from the pages of a book to the stage is one thing, but to make the transition from story to musical play to film is something entirely different. Tim Burton's vision of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" is definitely an original work, regardless of how many times this play has been remade.

The style and content of this film are clearly inspired by old horror films from the 1920s and 1930s, when the first film version of Sweeney Todd was released in 1936.

Just like the classics "Nosferatu" (1922) and "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" (1920), this version of Sweeney Todd was filmed on a soundstage upon which the world was created. Reminiscent of films from this era, Burton's use of colour in this film is minimal. The occasional contrast between monochromatic darks and vibrant colours makes it the signature whimsical work of Burton. The bright red-orange blood, for example, pops up against the pale Sweeney and the dark set pieces — similar to Ed Wood's pink angora sweater in "Ed Wood" (1994).

For a movie that is about revenge, obsession and, of course, a murderous barber, there is quite a lot of black comedy, but it the piece is also characteristic of Burton's films: tender at times, with that characteristic emotional component.

This is one of the benefits of moving a musical from the stage to screen. The close-ups of actors Johnny Depp (Todd), Helena Bonham Carter (Mrs.

Lovett), and Alan Rickman (Judge Turpin) is highly effective, conveying a large amount of feeling through the facial expressions alone.

Their vocal performances are not to be ignored, either. By casting actors who have no professional singing background, this allows the characters to become more believable, rather than the slick and polished look of a professional singer. Moreover, non-professional singers give the performances a stark and gritty sound that matches the film's grim subject matter.

Stephen Sondheim, the composer and writer of the musical Sweeney Todd, which appeared on Broadway in 1979, also has a part in Burton's film version. This could be misleading to loyal fans who may be expecting an exact replica of the musical version. As mentioned in an interview in New York Magazine, Burton decided to cut "The Ballad of Sweeney Todd", which is said to be the reason why Sondheim wrote the musical in the first place. A lot of Todd's dialogue was cut as well. In the interview, Burton said "It works great onstage, but for a movie it seemed like we wanted to see the story and not be told what we're seeing."

Burton really understands the necessities of shooting a film, and that is a major part of what makes Sweeney Todd great. As with his earlier movies (Ed Wood [1994], Beetle Juice [1988], and Edward Scissorhands [1990]), Burton shows us his ability to be a true auteur.

And he's one of the few good directors out there who can pull off making an R-rated musical.

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