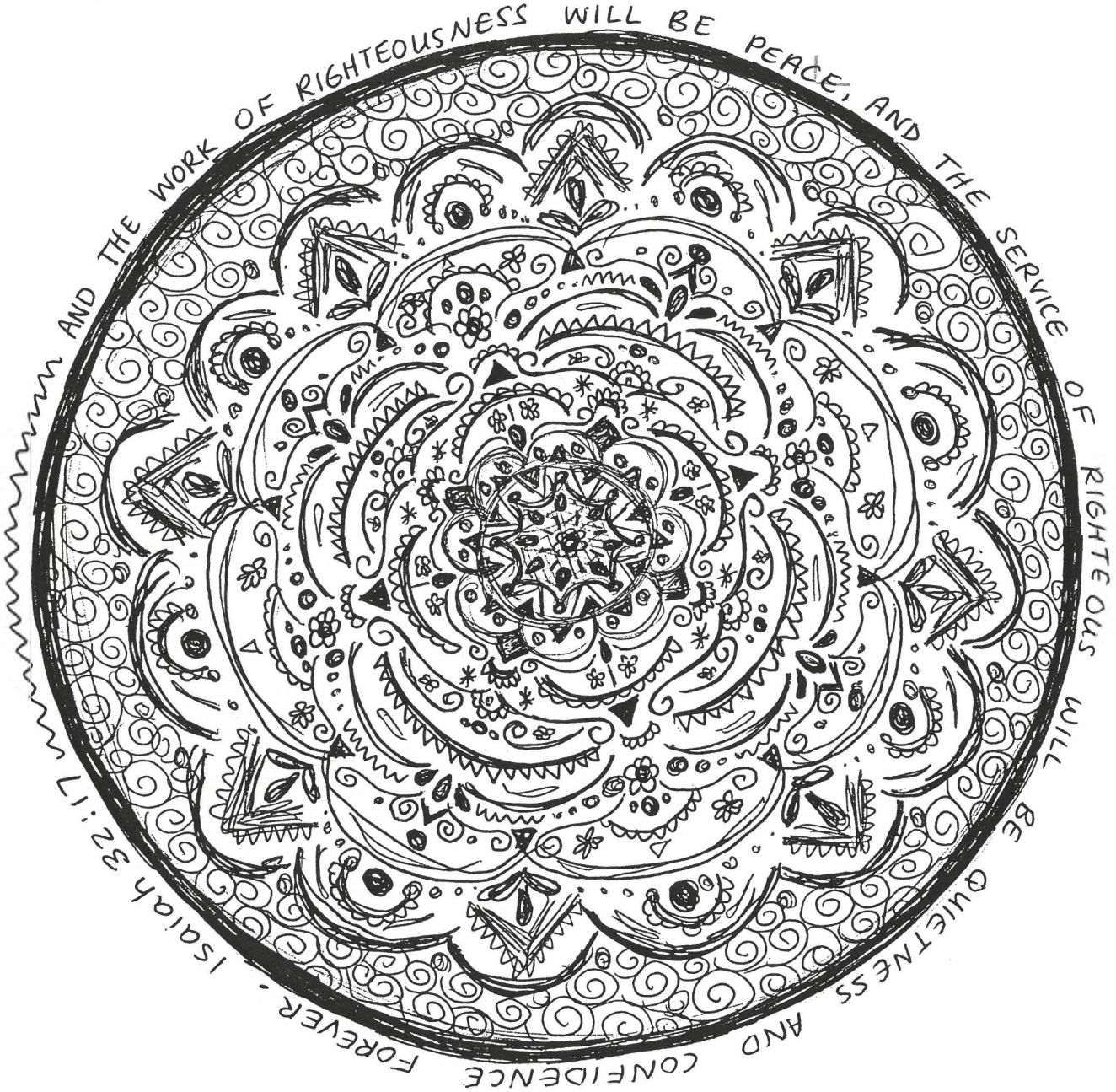
TYNDALE UNIVERSITY

3377 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, ON
M2M 3S4

TEL:
416.226.6620
www.tyndale.ca

The New Apocrypha (Ontario Bible College) (November/December 1998)

THE NEW APOCRYPHA



NOV/DEC 98

APOCRYPHA

YESLER WHY

Well, another issue is finished and it will be the last for the semester. I hope everyone has enjoyed the Apocrypha so far in some form. There are once again people to thank. First Elizabeth Davey for taking the time to faculty advisor, for everyone who has contributed, and especially those who have regularly given of their talents. Once again, I am always looking for new material so if you have poems, articles, short stories or whatever, please give them to me, Dave Johnston at box 619. You can reach me at 226-6380 ex 2401. I hope everyone has a very refreshing and holiday growing in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

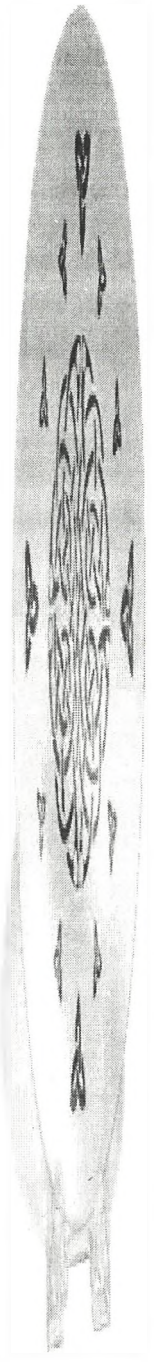
PS Don't be too late with papers!! Don't abuse our professors grace

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR...

If you haven't noticed I've decided to combine the November and December issues of the New Apocrypha. For me this comes at quite possibly the worst time of the year. Its essay time, and right now I have one waiting on the back burner for me. But I have no right to complain as everyone else has responsibilities to deal with on top of their courses here at Tyndale. I have to keep reminding myself of this so I don't start to whine.

Anyway, November seemed to just disappear. I swear we haven't had it yet, and that we've skipped it just to hurry along Christmas. That's capitalism for you.

Remembrance day went by with more recognition this year, which was nice to see. Perhaps it was that Tom Hanks flick that grabbed peoples attention. If that film reminded me of anything it was that war is messy business and really in no way desirable. It also seems to me to be an ethical riddle that is not easily solved. Ideally war should be avoided at all costs.



The absolute massacre involved strikes too deeply to look fondly upon its outcome. Yet, as 'history' has shown us the harsh reality is that there are issues far to difficult to simply make black and white decisions about engaging in these kinds of actions. Sometimes there are Hitlers who are committing hideous acts and must be stopped. Sometimes perhaps you need to applaud the efforts of a Dietrich Bonhoeffer for being involved in a plot to assassinate him. Nevertheless remembering the sacrifice of millions of men and women is important. For respect to them and to remind ourselves that this kind of sacrifice is toll war demands, and that it should not be engaged in if at all possible.

From that reminder our calendar shifts to a season of celebration. Christmas comes and sucks our energies into indulging our economy's thirst. It is the season of giving, but someone's making out pretty well in this whole deal. It is probably best to recognize and celebrate Christ, God's gift and sacrifice for us in this Advent season. Yet it's remarkable (perhaps not) that Christ hasn't escaped the clutches of mass marketing either. Merry Christmas everyone.

Response of the Western Right Wing, Conservative Christian
a.k.a.
The Resident Red Neck

It's some weeks after the last Apocrypha came out and I have had an opportunity to sit in on the "Arts Forum" and listen to some poorly assembled arguments, on both sides of the proverbial fence.

Firstly, I would like to clarify that with Mr. Capolongo's art and depictions of the decline of western civilization I had no complaint.

That said, I have just a few things I would like to get off my back and onto the backs of my fellow Christians.

In the third paragraph of the article, Mr. Capolongo says: "Was it truly worthy of the attention of at least five newspapers and one radio station?" Good question Mr. Capolongo; Who contacted the papers and notified them of the situation? We have gone through other "controversial" situations and the media dog yawned. It seemed, for the most part, that the media involvement on campus was to your benefit. However, even you, in your meeting with the students on Wednesday, Nov. 18, indicated your discontent with having been "miss quoted" in one particular article. Correct me if I am wrong, but is this not a case of Contradictory appreciation...?

The media seem very beneficial to you and your art when they are writing in your favor but they take on an entirely different character when not painting you in bright praiseworthy tones.

This brings me to my second point, one of censorship. Please try to follow this, everyone.

In the forum last week, Mr. Capolongo all but admitted his purposeful censorship of certain photos of his work that he indicated he was aware of their controversial nature and so omitted their presence so to secure the showing at the school. This, for me at least, brings into question the integrity of the person presenting himself as an authority on what the nature of certain paintings. He admits to being aware of problems that could be caused by the very pieces that he chose not to show to the school before securing the showing. How then do I look at your statements that "an image with absolutely no sexual allusions" was taken down? Is this "self censorship" or determined manipulation for personal gain?

Why is it that a big word like 'vernacular' means the language of the people? Who has ever heard of that?

RESPONSE CONTINUED...

Pardon me if I am perhaps a little cynical, but he goes on to say that "Temptations" was "By no stretch of the imagination sexually suggestive...". Frankly, I find the female body bare breasted and displayed with scant clothing(as in pornography and the media) quite sexually suggestive.

I appreciate Temptations for the message that it was conveying, but I can also appreciate that a young man could have great difficulty in not "sexualizing" images that were handed out to him as he went to the chapel. In painting this depiction of the worlds temptation, we have to be careful not to force the issue of freedom of expression if it ends up mostly causing distraction and dissension amongst the body of believers.

In the second to last paragraph of the article, Mr. Capolongo states that it was only students who complained. And in an earlier paragraph he indicates that it was only one student that sexualized the image. As we heard in the forum, however, it was more than one student that had problems with Temptations and there were staff, faculty, students and other constituents that had difficulty with the content of some of the paintings.

Now, It wouldn't be fair to the journalistic endeavor if I didn't address issues on both sides of the fence.

Hopefully, the school and particularly those responsible for the art in the school have learned a lesson from this endeavor. Much of this controversy and hassle could have been avoided had the people responsible required that all pieces be viewed prior to allowing an exhibition. This is not to eliminate the showing of provocative and challenging pieces, but so that both parties can be better prepared to deal with the issues before problems arise and perhaps through better placement in the school, lessen the negative effects of more "controversial" paintings or art.

Finally, Why does "Good Art" have to force us to think or challenge what and how we believe. One of my favorite artists is Robert Bateman. His depictions of nature are amazingly life like and very pleasant to look at and yet do not cause me to wrestle with thought, emotion and spirit in order to appreciate it.

Could we agree that "Good Art" is fairly subjective to the viewer (barring obvious artistic ability, I can't draw a horse to save my life) and that content/intent are not included in what denotes "Good Art"?

Okay, I'm a little long winded, but I think that I am finished now. If you find anything I have said in this article is offensive to you, please feel free to write me a letter and give me what for. I can take it.

-Jeff Beamish

POETRY

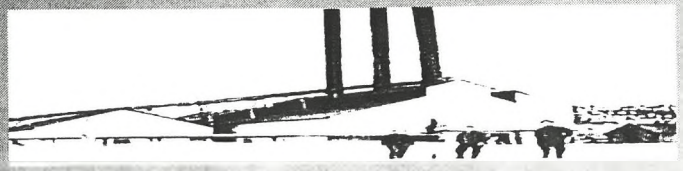
To Be

To be is to laugh
Sweet diversion
Caused by the ever-
gladden innocence
Something left; unsaid
unknown
Tender, yellow freshness of youth

To be is to cry
The murky, red mire
The seeps from the
Slippery union of
Fantasy and reality
Which always yields
emptiness
Sitting on the right
Shoulder of shame
alone

To be is to fly
Gathered courage erupts
Through overcome pain
Soaring above all once
Known and experienced
On the wings greater
Than simply identity
The lightness of true
Freedom
Known only to those
Who have wept bitterly

(continued...)



To be is to die
The much despised death
That all apparent life abhors
But what does the tree
Know of the forest
Or the river the ocean?
To pass all that is
Command from
laughter
tears and
success
To the one who gave the
Gift of perfect slavery
my identity
That is to be

Flow
Jeff Bradley

I lost Track
of footsteps I was walking in
I lost balance
and feel into sin

the waves then engulfed me
dragging me into the depths
my mind devoted
to count my last breaths

atop the waters you were walking
amidst the violent storm
oddly you retrieved me
and brought me back to shore

I sought the foot holes once I followed
but they'd been washed up by the sea
no longer I may have direction
but follow faithfully

"I CAN'T I'M TOO BUSY"

-Kathy Vanderlaan

Let me tell you, I honestly hate this phrase. Hate is a strong word, but I want to express something that bugs me.

This world is so busy. It's so fast-paced. Everyone wants everything to come so fast. There's hardly any patience. Driving is just one example of this. When someone is on our way for two seconds, we go crazy (I admit, I'm one of these people sometimes!). There's so many things to do these days. There's so many things on peoples minds. Schedules, organizers, 'to do' lists, are seen in peoples homes offices and schools.

Now I'm not saying that these things are bad. They are very useful. I do understand that people have things to do, places to go, people to see, etc. What bothers me is when people get too busy and caught up in all that they have to do. God gives us things to do and gifts and talents to serve him, but when we get too busy we lose focus on what we are supposed to be doing. People rush through life missing the small things, the fun things. Sunsets, watching kids play, watching animals, going for a walk, and writing letters and e-mail to keep in touch with friends are just examples of small things that people can enjoy. Now maybe you don't care to do these kinds of things, and that's okay. All I am saying is that people need to slow down and stop to look at their life and appreciate what they have. We shouldn't be taking things for granted and thinking they will always be there. Look at the beauty of Gods creation.

Sit down and talk to people and enjoy being with them. Take someone you love out for coffee or dinner, or whatever. It sometimes bugs me when friends say they're too busy for other friends. All it talks is a quick phone-call to say hi and a quick e-mail or letter to ask how one is doing. No one should be too busy to spend a moment with anyone. When people put the business of their life ahead of their family, friends and other people in their lives, that's when they need to think about what's really important to them. Last year at school I had too much on my plate, and I went crazy. It was a very hard year. I didn't want to be so busy this year, so I was involved in less things. Sometimes its hard to say no to something, but from what I've learned you just have to sometimes!

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope it makes you think.

Music Reviews

One-21: When The Dragon is Finally Laid to Rest- Bulletproof

Intelligent lyrics, and darn fine punk rock. Another album I've since slipped into the regular rotation. One-21's debut disc for Bulletproof is a fine example of how hard these punk rawk kids from Philly can rock! Not rock in the same way Voivod would, but rock y'know. The production on this is slick, all the levels come through way too clear - and the songs are amazing! Sara Merritt from the Pink Daffodils shows up and does some vocals on the song "Accident", the male/female vocal trade off works well...There should be more girls in punk rock! More than encouraging lyrics, the band really shows where they're at. The track "Hardcore" brings the following into question, "Hardcore for Christ / Not hardcore for a scene / Hardcore for Christ / Live for eternity / What do you live for?" This really hit me y'know. I won't go into full detail of why this lyric stuck out to me because I think Dave wants me to keep these relatively short. But if you're interested in what I have to say, email me at Anyway, One-21 is a fine punk rock band that you must hear...Granted, if you don't like punk rock, you'll think it sucks. One 21 / PO Box 6668 / Philadelphia, PA. /

Ceasefire: Oppression, Toil, and Friendlessness-Boot to Head Records

Oh my goodness, this album is good! Australia's Ceasefire are amazing! I haven't stopped listening to it since I got a copy. Of course, seeing as how I've been raised on punk rock and hardcore music that has come out of the East Coast/New York City area, this 7 song EP, plays on all my senses. Fast, old style hardcore with plenty of gang vocals and the odd breakdown to make the kids dance. A personal highlight is that the almighty Lou Koller - singer from one of my favourite bands, Sick of it All, does guest vocals on the track "Sister" along with Russ Riddance - from the band Good Riddance. Those are two huge names in hardcore. My guess is that if you have people like that showing up on your album, than your doing something right. I also heard that Ceasefire was approached by Agnostic Front to join them on tour, but they had to decline...unfortunate. It's encouraging to see a great band such as this, who are completely up front with their faith get so much respect from the hardcore community. It shows that people are listening. Buy this! Here is the address/phone number/email address, you have no excuse. Boot to Head / PO Box 9005 / Portland OR. / 97207 / USA. (503)-833-0710

The MerbabiesIndioJackson/Rubio

This is another fine album from the kids at Jackson/Rubio. Decent indie rock in the vein of Dinosaur Jr., with kind of a more country-ish vibe going on. This album won me over with songs that are just too darn catchy. Melodic anarchy fused with hooks, that are...well, that are just good hooks, doing what hooks are supposed to do I guess. Track number 2, "The Fix" had the same effect on me that Pedro the Lion's "Whole" had on me, there is a lot depth to lyrics on this disc. If you heard the first Merbabies album - which you should have, they had it in the bookstore forever! Than your at least a little familiar with what this band is about, solid lo-fi rock and roll with songs that you can't help but fall in love with, and perhaps make you cry. I feel like a cowboy.

The Danes: We Were Sent For-The Red Crown Record Empire

Whatever you want to call it, The Danes serve up a nice blend of sonic driven rock and roll. Heavy on the space rock vibe. Every time I hear somebody talking about this band it always seems to involve them playing a show with Tripping Daisy (Weird). Anyway, We Were Sent For is a great record by a great band. Everything is so layered, and ethereal...if I can use that word. This album could possibly fit into the category already occupied by such stellar outfits as The Flaming Lips, Sianspheric, and Starflyer59. Songs that are crafted so nicely but tend to explode with an overwhelming wall of guitars and various effects that will make you weep with joy. I like noise...this is noisy. Props to Red Crown for putting out such amazing stuff.

I'd like to know what kind of music you listen to, email me and let me know what you listen to and why or why not you like or dislike the reviews or bands that have shown up in the New Apocrypha. Love, Dave

WHY COMPUTERS MAY DRIVE US TO INSANITY

A couple weeks ago there was an open forum in which Bruno Capolongo and John Franklin were the guests. They fielded questions concerning Christianity and the arts and particularly the issues surrounding the illuminations exhibit. Well, after that the final piece of the article was supposed to appear in the New Apocrypha. I'm sure most of you are wondering what happened to the second half of that article. Well it's a strange and particularly frustrating story. In short, the article was lost due to computer failure. My roommate Doug has gone through the same trauma and is ready to revert back to papyrus.

Bruno has asked me to print the following e-mail that is an explanation in his own words explaining the situation. Anyway, here it is…

David;

You will be glad to know that I was up 'til 4am last night working on the article, and up again at 7:30 today, working 'til about 11:30 am before going off to do something else. The article was at that time very nearly complete, about 8.5 pages it was I think (of course, that would have been edited by you to fit the space you have in mind). Days of reading and research, some of the best writing I've ever done. But then, it was not really writing, since it was all stored on disc. About 15 minutes ago I fired up my PC to proudly polish off this fine document when I experienced difficulty actually accessing it, or any of my files for that matter. I could not understand what the problem was, and I still don't. So I began to try to find my way out of this strange jam. Eventually I did, and was able to access all my files. All but one.

You know, I've always wondered how it could be possible for someone to 'lose' a document on their computer so easily, and how upsetting that must be, especially when so much work went into it. Earlier this year I heard of how a friend of my wife lost about five years worth of Doctorate work in a fire. All her work was stored in her computer memory and disks. There were no hard copies. That must be nothing less than traumatic and devastating, perhaps words can't describe. I am keying in the letters that make up the words to this email in a really delicate frame of mind right now, something between utter madness and fury and a very thick and fragile peace. And somewhere in the back of my mind is that faint hope that maybe I'm wrong, maybe when my wife comes home from work she will almost magically find that precious document somewhere in this machine. Denial. Like a tragic accident that you are hoping is just a dream. Tomorrow I have a huge meeting with representatives of a major corporation as well as a private collector. Preparations for this are considerable, and will probably keep me awake late tonight as well. There is simply no way that I can produce and deliver an acceptable article between now and then. I'm sure this puts you in a jam. Now what? I don't know. Perhaps if I was not so terribly exhausted I would not have accidentally deleted so many hours of toil. It boggles the mind. Thank God it is not that easy to launch a nuclear device. Well, I sure hope its not anyway! This is truly humorous, in a black sense. You know, there is no way for me to see how something good could possibly come of this. Keeping in mind that Scripture tells us that all things work out for the good for those who trust God. But then he works in wondrous ways. For now I suggest you print this email where you would have printed my article. It would at least explain, in my own words, what has happened to Article #2.

Idolatry?

Dave Johnston

In recent years I have slowly become worn out on evangelical language. After growing up in the church from day 1, I have been immersed in a certain way of speaking, using certain phrases and theological catchwords. Now, at age 21, I'm frightfully sick of them. They have lost there luster and ring hallow in my ears. Perhaps I'm alone here, so I won't risk making any sweeping blanket statements that would prove far too general. So I will simply relate how this issue has effected me, and those of you who can relate to me will relate me.

I think the biggest apprehension about discussing this is that I feel guilty. I feel that being burnt out on evangelical lingo is somehow incriminating and that I was some kind of heretic. But I was continually left dry by the repeated use of the terms I've heard over and over again. It was almost as though over-exposure had marred my ability to appreciate the terminology we so frequently use. Consequently my lived faith had become dry. This was frustrating.

What made my dilemma more worrisome (at the time) was that I was beginning to find new life that was like a breath of fresh air in the visual Icons of the High Anglican Church I had begun to attend. Through my experience up until this point I was heavily under the impression (from much evangelical pressure) that this was either wrong, or at least highly questionable.
What I failed to realize (and I think what many people do) is that this is an unfair bias towards a particular form of expression and communication. The bias expressed that linguistic expression was fine and good, but visual expression was idolatry. What needs to be recognized is that evangelical grammar is as simply a form of expression the same as a painting or sculpture. A word is a functional tool, the same as art is a functional tool. Both are forms of communication. The linguistic expression, "Christ was crucified for sin", does not contain the essential nature of that empirical act. Likewise a visual representation of this does not attempt to contain that event. Both simply want to communicate something, and saying one is bordering on idolatry while the other is not is a warped bias towards linguistic representation. Neither of these is idolatry. But as the Israelites set up the Golden Calf as God perhaps we can do the same. Most evangelicals would recognize the error in giving worship to a statue, but perhaps we are more prone to set up language as an idol. To let our evangelical propositions go on a holiday and take on a sudeo-life of there own.

This positive viewpoint of visual communication is hardly uncommon or out of place in the history of orthodox Christian reflection. Throughout the middle ages an illiterate peasant class depended upon these forms of communication in order to familiarize themselves with the stories of their faith, and in Eastern Orthodoxy Icons play a central role in the life of the believer. These visual forms were considered to be as valuable as written scripture to proclaim 'divine truth'.

I guess the moral of the story is that we need to recognize the validity of a broader scope of tools through which to express our faith. That has at least been my experience. And if it is yours perhaps these are avenues you can look into.

Doug Nagy and his Christmas Cartoons. Viva Viva

I WANTooo A PUPPY!!

A PUPPY!! HEH! HA!! PUPPY!! PUPPY!!

Puppies

PuPoooc Puppy Daddy

Puppies lonely!! AC/DC

Puppy?

Another Puppy!!! I love you Puppy!!

New Puppy #5

"Happy Holidays"

Shy Puppy#1

Regular Puppy2

old fuzzy Puppy #3

Cyborg Puppy #4