

**RHODES SCHOLAR  
FROM CAMPUS**

An economics student wins a prestigious full-ride scholarship to Oxford.

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**NOTABLE  
BRITISH COLUMBIANS**

Province sets aside \$100,000 for book on history of Chinese Canadians in B.C.

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**UBC ON  
THE HOBBIT**

Film prof leads new research on Peter Jackson's famous fantasy film.

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**NEW COACHES** Blake Nill and Marisa Kovacs take over T-Bird football and women's soccer. **P9**

**BACK TO THE  
GRIND**

TERM TWO HAS BEGUN AND SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION



## RESEARCH »

# Cardiovascular disease researchers developing anti-aging skin treatment

**Scott Jacobsen**  
Contributor

UBC Pathology and Laboratory Medicine professor David Granville made a chance discovery that may lead to the creation of a drug to defy skin aging.

Granville researched the effects of Granzyme-B (GzmB) on atherosclerosis, an artery disease, and heart attacks. His research coincidentally found resistance to skin aging.

"Essentially, my research is focused on aging and blood vessel health in the context of atherosclerosis, which causes heart attacks and strokes," said Granville.

"As we aged mice, when this gene was knocked out, we were finding an unusually good benefit to the skin."

According to Granville, skin with more GzmB looked older in the experiments upon mice, while skin with less of the enzyme looked younger.

"It is one of those exciting times as a basic scientist. Sometimes, this is ignored," said Granville.

"In research these days, there are these sort of serendipitous discoveries in different areas that were unexpected."

Granville said that sunlight causes 80 to 90 per cent of aging in the skin.

"We wanted to study this in more detail because a study had come out showing that Granzyme-B could be induced by ultraviolet light in skin cells."

Granville's research team worked with experts in the

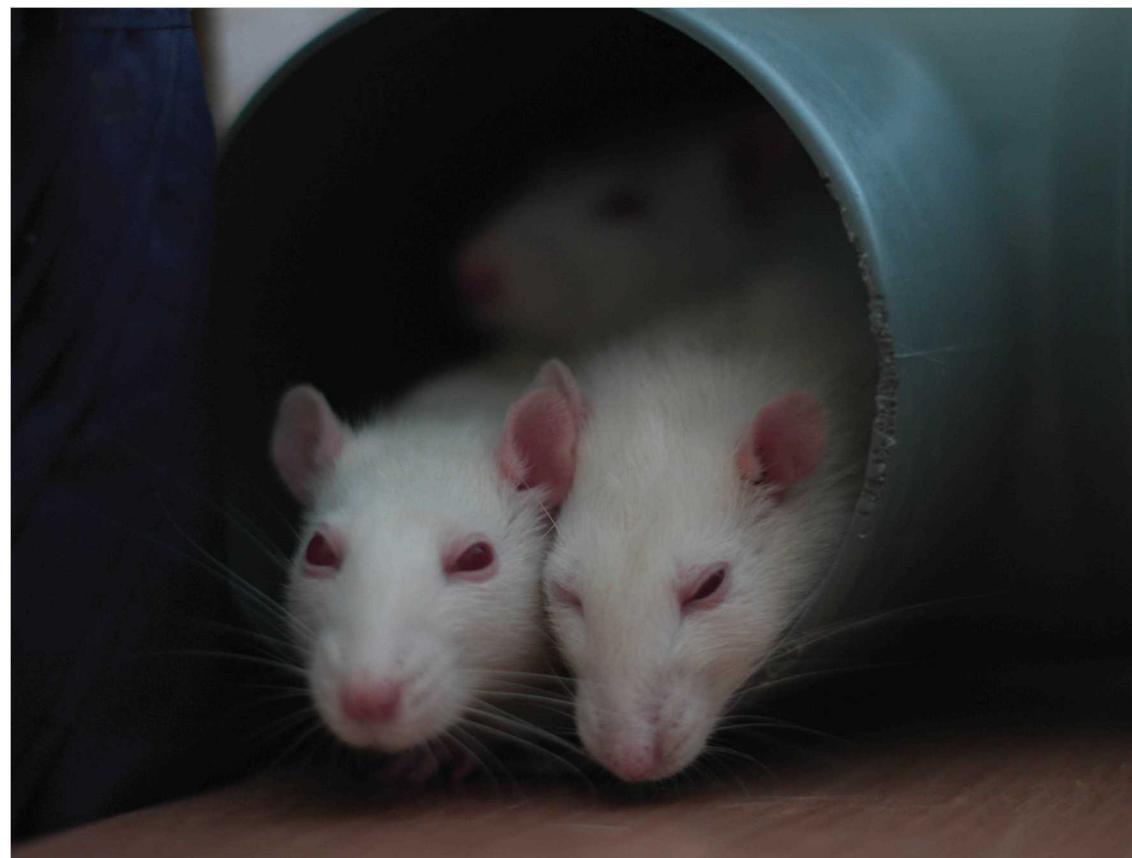


PHOTO BULYONKOVA/Flickr

David Granville and his team of researchers found that blocking Granzyme-B can reduce aging of the skin.

biological application of engineering principles to develop a solar-simulated light box, using bulbs that mimic the ratios of ultraviolet radiation in sunlight.

"We exposed the mice for 20 weeks, just three times a week,

to very low levels of sunlight," Granville said. "They were exposed to three minutes of light. Temperature is all regulated, so [it] did not go up.... We looked at the skin. There was a marked difference in wrinkling that was evident on the

mice with Granzyme-B compared to those without Granzyme-B."

He explained skin aging in further detail, pointing out that the skin's collagen becomes "lost and disorganized," and its quality becomes reduced.

According to Granville, many cosmetics simply throw collagen at the skin in hopes of restoration of the aged skin. He said this is ultimately ineffective.

"The body produces collagen and assembles it in a sort of basket-woven form, very similar to looking at a blanket. That requires other proteins as well. Obviously, things that would hold it together like the nails and brackets that would hold together a wall," he said.

Granville's research may allow for the creation of a drug that could block the aging enzyme. He formed viDA Therapeutics, Inc. in 2008 to research and make such a product.

"We're excited about the fact that if we inhibit the Granzyme-B, we could inhibit this degradation and loss of organization of the collagen that holds the skin intact."

Granville said there are also important health implications of GzmB.

"With respect to people in long-term care facilities, I've been working with the wound-healing clinic at St. Paul's Hospital," Granville said.

"We're hoping that by inhibiting this, and allowing, we might be able to increase the tensile strength of skin and prevent this skin tearing that occurs, plagues these patients in long-term care facilities."

Granville hopes his research will be used for benefits beyond better-looking skin.

"We're not hoping to become cosmetic experts," he said. □

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Pascal Spothelfer leaves UBC**

Pascal Spothelfer, UBC's former vice president of communications and community partnership, has left his position at the university.

Spothelfer, who has previously served as president of B.C. Technology Industry Association, CEO of Spectrum Signal Processing and CEO of NovAtel Inc., took on his role at UBC in March 2012.

According to UBC spokesperson Susan Danard, Spothelfer left his role on Dec. 5 2014.

Danard also said that Barbara Miles, VP development and alumni engagement, will take on interim responsibility for Spothelfer's role while the university starts looking for a replacement.

UBC did not comment on why Spothelfer's left.

**Animal research report released**

UBC has released its most recent animal research report. In 2013, UBC used 216,450 different animals, including mammals, fish and rodents, for laboratory research.

While the total number of animals used decreased by five per cent since 2012, the number of animals used for Category D research, which is rated as causing moderate to severe distress or discomfort to the animal, increased by 2.55 per cent. 63 animals were used for Category E research, which is the highest category on the invasiveness rating scale, which is a 0.01 per cent decrease since 2012. Animals that were used for Category D and E research accounted for 32.83 per cent of total animals used.

A more detailed article on this report will be published in our upcoming issue. □

**ACADEMICS »**

# Economics student awarded Rhodes Scholarship

Logan Graham is headed to Oxford next year to study sustainable economics

**Veronika Bondarenko**  
News Editor

UBC student Logan Graham is one of the 11 Canadian undergraduates selected to receive the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship.

Graham, who is a fourth-year honours economics student, has dreamed of attending Oxford ever since a trip to Europe took him there when he was 10 years old.

Now he will have a chance to complete his postgraduate degree in economics at the university on a full scholarship, which is valued at nearly \$150,000.

While words of congratulations from family and friends flooded his phone and Facebook inbox, Graham said that the surprise of being selected is yet to fully sink in.

"It's been something I thought about for a while," said Graham. "To actually have it happen is truly incredible and truly humbling."

During his time at UBC, Graham studied business and philosophy before finally settling on economics.

He also started the Social Enterprise Club, which provides peer consultation and support for students who want to start businesses that are geared towards social impact.

While at Oxford, Graham hopes to deepen his knowledge of sustainable economics in order to eventually either work for the United Nations or start a business that fosters social and environmental change at a global level.

The biggest problems of our time are going to be climate



Logan Graham is one of the 11 Canadian students selected for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship.

change, poverty, inequality and sustainable human living in cities and out of cities," said Graham.

"What I'm passionate about doing is using economics to solve those problems."

According to Graham, the idea that profit and social change are necessarily incompatible is one of the most common misconceptions about business.

"A business is an organization of humans establishing a service

that provides someone some value," said Graham.

"It's just about shifting that value and doing it sustainably."

Graham will start at Oxford in late September, after first heading over to Ottawa in the summer for meetings between all the Canadian Rhodes scholars.

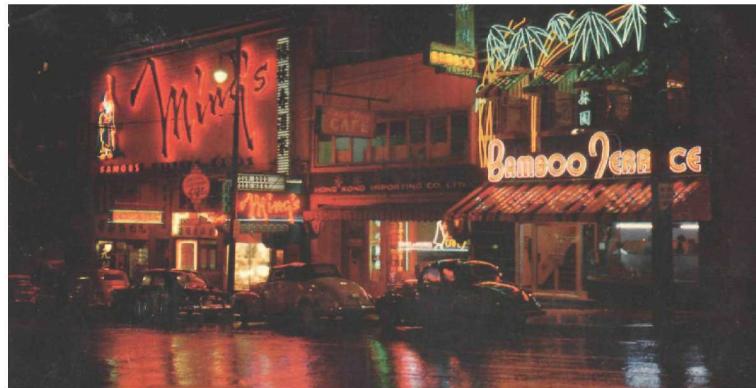
As his excitement for the fall is starting to mount, Graham also hopes to take advantage of the time that he will spend at the

university to surround himself with people who will inspire him to continue learning and questioning his preconceptions of the world.

"It's the most incredible of scholars and young people in the world, so I want to learn everything I can from them and especially complement myself with people who don't think like I do and who don't have the experiences that I have," said Graham. □

## HISTORY »

## Province to publish book commemorating history of Chinese Canadians in B.C.



The province has commissioned a book that celebrates the achievements and contributions of Chinese Canadians to B.C.'s history.

**Scott Jacobsen**  
Contributor

The province of B.C. has set aside \$100,000 for a book that celebrates the achievements of eminent Chinese Canadians.

The book, which follows an official apology to the Chinese Canadian community from the province in May 2014, is meant to highlight underrepresented aspects of B.C.'s history and make amends for a number of racist policies that were implemented against Chinese Canadians in the past.

UBC history professor Henry Yu said that the publication of such a book is meant to provide a more comprehensive history of Chinese Canadians in B.C.

"The focus should obviously be, in the legacy, addressing a lot of the anti-Chinese legislation, and a lot of things were done to the Chinese in terms of racist legislation, exclusion, head tax," said Yu.

Still, Yu said that the book is meant to also celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of Chinese Canadians to B.C.'s history rather than solely focus on the discrimination that they faced.

"There's a long history of anti-Chinese legislation, discrimination, and racism, but there's also this long, enduring, and very under-told story of what the Asian Canadians were doing in British Columbia," said Yu.

As an example, Yu explained that from the time the British first came to B.C. in 1788 with the John Meares expedition, there were also many Chinese on the ship who helped build the fur trading fort in Nuu-chah-nulth territory and establish the B.C. that we know today — a fact that is commonly overlooked in history books.

According to Yu, the book and the project are highly important, as the history of B.C. that most people know today does not often focus on the broad spectrum of communities who lived here.

"We need a much more rounded common history," said Yu. "For instance, the long history of relationships between Chinese Canadians and First Nations was often ignored because 'pioneer histories' of British Columbia usually focused on European migrants."

The book will be approximately 150 pages long and bring to light interesting stories, photos and documents related to the history of notable British Columbians of Chinese descent.

While the exact details of what the book will look like are still being established, Yu looks forward to seeing how it will present stories about Chinese Canadians as part of the larger history of B.C.

"We can create a 'usable past,' that we can help us live together moving forward," said Yu. "It's not about just looking backward. It's also about looking forward."

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## ECONOMICS »

## Sauder prof says low oil prices part of worldwide trend, but long-term economic effects uncertain



According to Professor Anming Zhang, the world economic crises are likely affecting low oil prices.

**Scott Jacobsen**  
Contributor

The recent drop in oil and gas prices in Canada is shaping up to be part of a larger, worldwide trend.

Anming Zhang, a Sauder professor who focuses on transport economics and policy and industrial organization, said that the major factors in the drop in oil prices have to do with global supply and demand.

According to Zhang, the recently decreased prices for oil in Canada come from the nose dive in the crude oil prices worldwide since 2014.

"In July 2014, the crude oil price reached around \$108 USD per barrel," said Zhang. "If you look at today's price, it's \$53 per barrel. It is half of what he had a half-year ago. Canada will just follow that."

Zhang also said that the world economic crises, including the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, the 2011 European Debt Crisis, and the reduction in growth of the

Chinese economy, could also all be attributed to the low oil prices.

"On the demand side, there's some slowing down in the world economy and trade, international trade, and the world GDP over the last few years," said Zhang.

As an example, Zhang said that the drop of China's GDP from 10 per cent in the early 2000s to seven per cent now had its effect on the price of oil and gas.

"The demand side has been dropping," said Zhang. "Naturally, economic activity is slowing down, and demand for oil has been going down as well."

According to Zhang, there are a number of theories that try to predict the future economic consequences of the drop in oil prices.

Zhang said that the price decrease could create problems for the Russian economy, which is heavily dependent on its oil and gas sector.

"60 per cent of the [Russian] government revenue is from the oil and natural gas activities,"

said Zhang. "This will put a lot of pressure on Russian economy."

As the big drop in oil prices came quite unexpectedly for many Canadian customers and companies alike, the effects that the drop will have on longterm prices, including the fuel surcharges that plane companies currently charge passengers, are still uncertain.

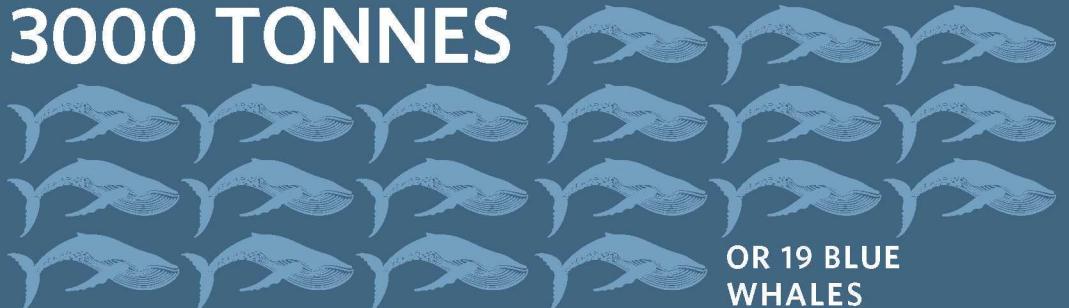
"Essentially, the price of oil dropped too quickly," said Zhang. "It's been a shock to the airlines, and they're wondering if the price might go up again soon. Things are still uncertain, so they're being cautious in case it's only a temporary drop."

Still, Zhang also said that it is unlikely that plane companies will get rid of the fuel surcharges altogether, as the global demand for oil and gas is still disproportionate to the supply.

"The airlines will most likely decrease the surcharges — but not get rid of them altogether," said Zhang. "That would only be if the price of oil stayed this low for a long time — which I doubt."

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# Cult cinema prof leads research on fan favourite



Ernest Mathijs teaches the popular film studies class on cult cinema.

**Kaylan Mackinnon**  
Contributor

UBC's cult film professor is leading a new research project on fan favourite fantasy film trilogy *The Hobbit*.

The *Lord of the Rings* novels, followed by the movie series, were a world phenomena and the recent *Hobbit* trilogy has also captured the attention of audiences around the globe. One of these audience members is scholar and cult film professor Ernest Mathijs. Curious to define the word fantasy and examine the influence these stories have on different people around the world, Mathijs is now one of the main coordinators on the Worldwide Hobbit Survey Project.

J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* are considered masterpieces and the films exemplify their lasting effect on the world of literature and film – ultimately grabbing the attention of scholars across the globe. Currently, 146 scholars have collaborated to release a worldwide *Hobbit* trilogy project online. Mathijs is one of the coordinators. Other well-known scholars include Eric Maigret in France, Alberto Trobia in Italy, Katherine Larsen and Lynn Zubernis in the United States and Annette Hill in Sweden.

This survey consists of about 20 general questions and is available to *The Hobbit* audiences online. Why you might ask? The scholars aim to gather a global understanding of just what these films and fantasy mean to audiences.

"People allow these films to play a role, the way you let food play a role or the way in which you let music play a role to orient yourself in your culture and in your community. Fantasy seems to be fulfilling the same role and that's something we want to test, particularly because fantasy didn't used to have that role. It was

always seen as, you know, childish, fairy-tale like," said Mathijs.

"It was something you would engage with when you were in your adolescence and then you grow out of it because fantasy was not serious. I think that has changed. I think fantasy has now become more serious and it's taken more seriously than ever before."

A similar survey was done in 2003 on the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. However this new survey on *The Hobbit* is available in 35 different languages. The researchers are hoping to receive 50,000 responses with this survey.

"I should confess I'm not the biggest fantasy fan myself but I'm intrigued by the appeal that fantasy has, and it's something that I sometimes struggle to understand," said Mathijs.

To further his understanding of what fantasy means to people around the world, Mathijs invested his time in this survey. Why these films and not others, such as *Batman* or *Harry Potter*? As Mathijs mentions, it's because of the occasion and the time span that these films have over others. *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* are cross-generational given that they have been around for so long.

"In spite of the entire spectacle, there's a deep yearning with these characters that reach audiences, even ones who aren't fans," said Mathijs.

"There's a deep yearning to feel belonging, because we're all connected. That's what's so great about fandom."

Once the survey is finished and the data is collected, it will take the scholars approximately seven to eight months to analyze the data with the help of computer engineers and software. The data will then be released online to allow for independent analysis and interpretation.

The survey will be available online until May 2015 at [www.hobbitproject.org](http://www.hobbitproject.org).

## REVIEW »

## To see or not to see: *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*



PHOTO ANUP SHAH/Flickr

*The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* has topped the box office since the weekend of Dec. 19.

**Lawrence Neal Garcia**  
Senior Staff Writer

Perhaps the best thing that can be said about *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* – the third installment in Peter Jackson's overextended Tolkien adaptation – is that it's finally over; although at 144 interminable minutes, the film certainly takes its time in getting there.

Incorporating incoherent action, absurd set-pieces and cameos aplenty, *The Desolation of Smaug* plays out like bad fan fiction – and like the worst of its kind, it doesn't just fail to stand on its own terms, it retroactively diminishes the lofty standards set out by the original *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

The film starts out ably enough, dispatching the dragon Smaug (Benedict Cumberbatch) in just a few minutes; but it quickly devolves into the kind of indulgence that characterized both *An Unexpected Journey* and *The Desolation of Smaug*. The plot of its source material is stretched far beyond reason, which wouldn't be so bad if its handling wasn't also unbearably clumsy. Its plot mechanics and characterization are inept (some characters seem to serve no other purpose than to point somewhere on-screen and describe what is already happening) and the CGI-heavy spectacle that once seemed awe-inspiring now plays out as incredibly stale (to say nothing of its visual style and framing, or lack thereof). Perhaps the

only remaining glimmer is Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman), who manages a few genuine moments, although he too is inevitably drowned out in the soulless spectacle of it all – ironic considering he's also the titular character.

When Jackson accepted the Best Picture Oscar for *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* back in 2004, he joked about fantasy being an f-word in Hollywood; three films later, *The Hobbit* is now not just fantasy, it's also a failure. Viewers may be compelled to watch *The Desolation of Smaug* out of a sense of loyalty to Jackson, or to obtain some sense of closure from the previous installment. Unfortunately, this trilogy was at least two films too long. Here's hoping that Jackson leaves *The Silmarillion* alone.

## Notice of Development Permit Application - DP 14027

### Public Open House University Boulevard - Site B

You are invited to attend an Open House on Wednesday, January 7 to view and comment on a mixed-use development proposal for University Boulevard - Site B. Plans will be displayed for a new 6-storey mixed use building with retail/commercial uses on the ground floor and 5 storeys of residential rental accommodation for students, faculty and employees at UBC.

Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Place: War Memorial Gymnasium Lobby, 6081 University Boulevard



Representatives from the project team and Campus + Community Planning will be available to provide information and respond to inquiries about this project.

The public is also invited to attend the Development Permit Board Meeting for this project to be held on January 21st from 5:00-7:00pm, at the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS) Policy Labs A+B, 2260 West Mall.

For more information on this project, please visit: [planning.ubc.ca/vancouver/projects-consultations](http://planning.ubc.ca/vancouver/projects-consultations)

#### For further information:

Please direct questions to Karen Russell, Manager Development Services [karen.russell@ubc.ca](mailto:karen.russell@ubc.ca) 604-822-1586

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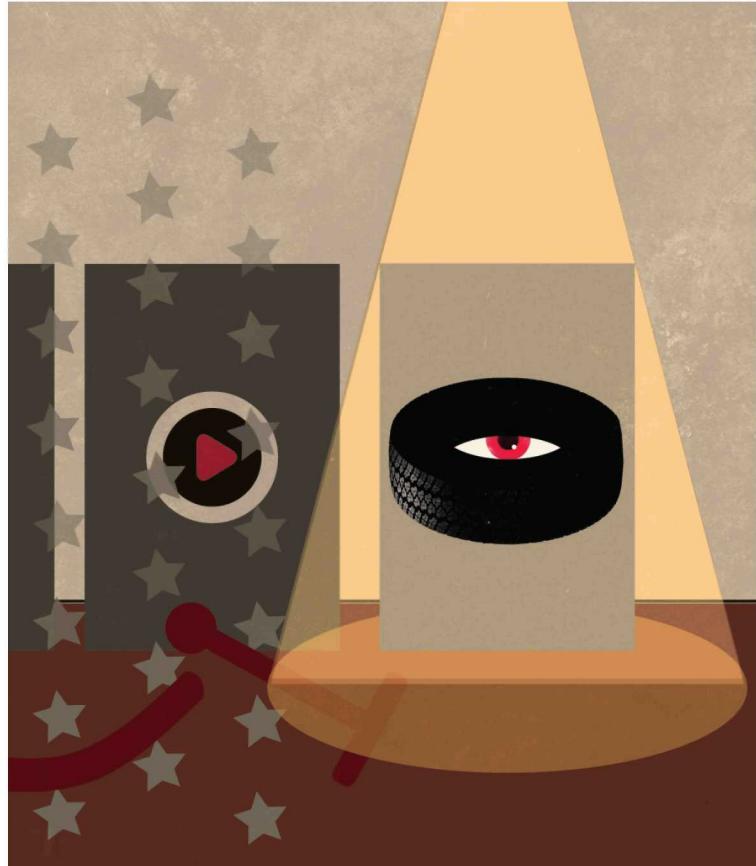


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NETFLIX»

## Bottom of the Queue: Rubber



Rubber is a film about a self-aware tire.

**Sam Fruitman**  
Staff Writer

*Rubber* (2010) is a surprising film. And not because of its incredibly bizarre plot, which involves a telekinetic tire that kills people. It's surprising because it actually works — sort of. The film, from director Quentin Dupieux, tells the charming tale of Robert (the previously mentioned tire), as he embarks on a soul-searching journey of self-discovery while a group of self-aware spectators observe his blood-soaked rampage from afar. Confused? Don't worry, we were too.

While on the whole the film can be painfully aware of its own self-indulgence, there are a few moments where this awareness hits well and is actually pretty funny. You have to applaud a film that can make you feel something for a tire.

The spectating audience provides the backbone for the self-re-

flexivity of the film, intermittently chiming in and commenting on the incoherent plot. And boy, is it incoherent. The tire has it out for anything that has a pulse (and the occasional beer bottle). As to why? Your guess is as good as ours, but that's not to say that the film doesn't have its high points. Some very pleasing cinematography and some even more pleasing head-exploding bring pleasure to an otherwise painful film. The score isn't bad either, only fading in when it needs to.

One standout moment of the film is the opening monologue that pays homage to "no reason." While some will argue that this is a cheap way to excuse the garbled plot, it acts as a warning to viewers. This is a weird film.

The bottom line: *Rubber* has got some eye-catching cinematography, some very satisfying gore and a cool minimal score. Is that enough to make up for an incredibly convoluted plot? We'll let you decide. □

## Culture Vulture:



New to the Helen Belkin Art Gallery this semester is an exhibit from artist Tom Burrows. His work has included pieces using video, sculpture, performing arts, painting and more. The opening reception will be held on Jan. 8 from 8-10 p.m. with an artist talk on Jan. 10.

More info at [belkin.ubc.ca/current/tom-burrows](http://belkin.ubc.ca/current/tom-burrows)

On January 29, as part of the Cinema Salons hosted by the UBC Library, the 2005 film *Cigarette Burns* will be played at noon and hosted by cult and horror film aficionado Ernest Mathijs.

Cinema Salons are held once a month and feature films found in the Videomatica collection the university acquired last year. □

FILM»

## From the Vault: *Irma Vep*



FILE PHOTO GEOFF LISTER/THE UBYSSEY

Irma Vep's director Olivier Assayas' most recent film *Clouds of Sils Maria* was a part of this year's Vancouver International Film Festival.

**Lawrence Neal Garcia**  
Senior Staff Writer

In recent years, French director Olivier Assayas has dabbled in a variety of genres: sweeping historical epic (*Carlos*, 2010), semi-autobiographical coming-of-age film (*Something in the Air*, 2013) and most recently a meta-textual backstage drama (*Clouds of Sils Maria*, 2014); and while all three demonstrate a desire to experiment, none are as thrillingly experimental (or accomplished) as Assayas' 1996 film, *Irma Vep*.

The film stars Hong Kong actress Maggie Cheung (playing herself) who finds herself at the centre of a disastrous remake of Louis Feuillade's silent French classic *Les Vampires*, helmed

by an aging French director (Jean-Pierre Léaud, of *The 400 Blows* fame). Over the course of the film, and without knowing a word of French, she becomes friends with the costume designer Zoe (Nathalie Richard) who develops a crush on her, is asked to comment on the state of modern French cinema, witnesses the director having a nervous breakdown and prowls around the hotel in her costume: a black skin-tight, latex catsuit.

As difficult to summarize as it is pleasurable, the film manages to be a chaotic backstage drama, a critique of (and love letter to) the French film industry at a time, and a post-modern ode to the possibilities of the cinematic medium. Discussing the film in such detail makes it sound

pretentious, but what Assayas manages is the astounding feat of wrapping these cerebral, weighty ideas in a heady, inventive rush of pure cinematic fun. After all, how can a film that involves Maggie Cheung skulking about in a catsuit be boring?

Even a decade later, *Irma Vep* still plays out as distinctly avant-garde — an unparalleled experimental achievement that is as thematically dense as it is fun to watch. The original poster quotes *The Village Voice* with two pithy words: "SUPER COOL." We can't help but agree.

*Irma Vep* can be found — amongst many others — in UBC's Videomatica collection. If you wish to take out a film from the collection, visit Koerner Library's circulation desk. □

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## 2015 CULTURE EVENTS

<b>Screening of <i>The Punk Singer</i> and Q&amp;A with Amber Dawn</b>	January 12 More info @ <a href="http://thepunksinger.com">thepunksinger.com</a>
<b>Tom Burrows Exhibit</b>	January 9-April 12 Belkin Art Gallery
<b>Screening of <i>Stalled</i> and discussion with writer Meghan Gardiner</b>	January 20 IKB
<b>Naked Cinema</b>	January 26-27 Norm Theatre SUB
<b><i>The Bacchae 2.1</i></b>	January 22-February 7 Frederic Wood Theatre
<b>Queer Strategies in Modernist Poetry: From Rimbaud to Stefan George</b>	February 5 5-6 p.m. St. John's College
<b><i>The Marriage of Figaro</i></b>	February 5-7 Chan Centre
<b>Concert at the Belkin with UBC Contemporary Players</b>	March 6 Belkin Art Gallery
<b><i>The Triumph of Love</i></b>	March 19-April 4 Frederic Wood Theatre

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## FASHION »

# 2015 FASHION TRENDS

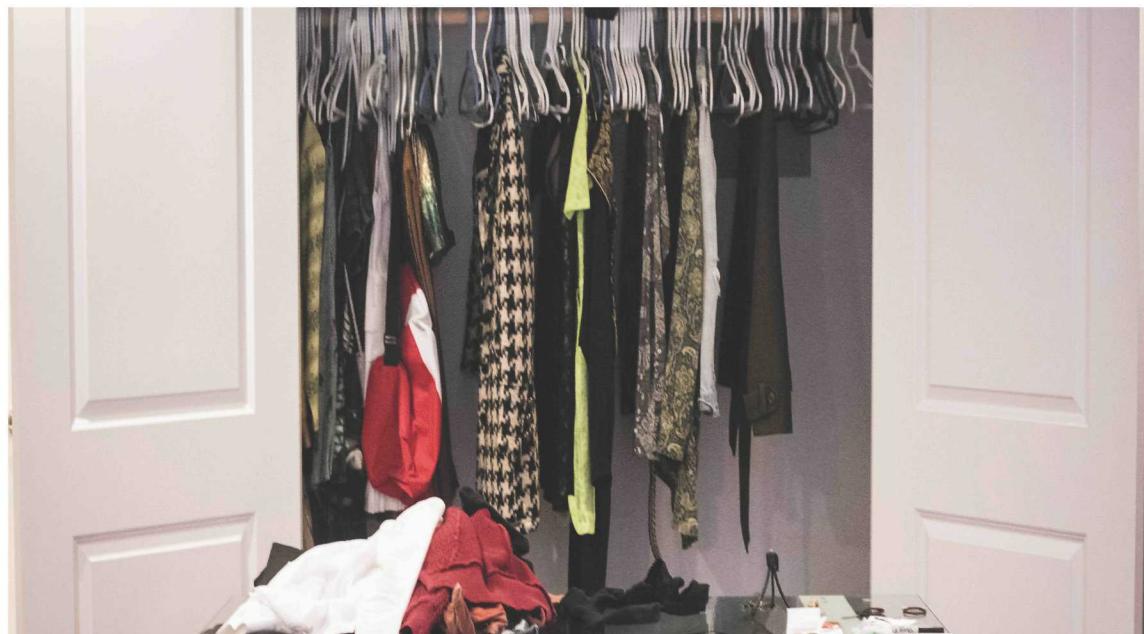


PHOTO CHERIHAN HASSUN/THE UBYSSEY

A new semester can mean a new wardrobe for the fashion forward.

### Kaylan Mackinnon

Contributor

Fashion constantly changes and back-to-school trends continue to be a hot topic. Every city has their own styles and university campuses are no different. What styles should UBC students be on the lookout for? The sunshine may not be out much during those dark and rainy Vancouver winters but who says your outfit can't stand out?

Students often go to school comfortably dressed for class, but this doesn't mean they can't do so fashionably. A trend that has recently started to kindle, especially on the West Coast, are blanket scarves. These are beautiful yet comfortable and work well as an accessory to almost any outfit. They're great for keeping you warm during those rainy Vancouver winters.

Another item that will help keep students comfy and fashionable in class is denim. It's going to be a continued trend in 2015. Denim will be everywhere from jeans to dresses to jumpsuits.

The 90s seem to be back in full force with denim, rave-inspired colours and punk grunge styles taking over the runways. With this in mind, combat boots will continue to be a must for the year of 2015, bringing punk grunge back into day-to-day style. Classic ankle boots, which are simple and go with most outfits, are also popular. Heels were a common sight in 2014, but labels such as Chanel see grunge-inspired flats and boots as the new footwear trends in 2015.

From the lips of designers Yves Saint Laurent and Isabel Marant, leather will also be making

a comeback — to go with those combat boots. So for those of you who secretly love your leather pants that you were too afraid to wear out in public, now is your chance.

Personal appearance is important, including hair. In 2014 men at UBC were spotted rocking what is now known as the 'man bun'. It worked for a while, but with a New Year starting, it may be fading out.

Fashion gives you the freedom to be creative and it allows you to express yourself. Despite whatever trends might be taking over in 2015, try them or don't, but wear what's true to you.

There are oceans of clothes out there to be worn and seen, so allow the West Coast fashion scene to flourish into something great. ☺



Blanket scarves are perfect for those who love to fall asleep in class.

PHOTO CHERIHAN HASSUN/THE UBYSSEY

## LAST WORDS »



Think twice before hitting the snooze button — it's costing you.

ILLUSTRATION JULIAN YU/THE UBSSEY

## LAST WORDS //

PARTING SHOTS AND SNAP JUDGEMENTS FROM THE UBSSEY EDITORIAL BOARD

### BACK TO SCHOOL BLUES DON'T MEAN YOU SHOULD SKIP CLASS

Back to school heralds the obvious return to classes, but also the unwelcome reappearance of early mornings and homework — for some, resulting in a serious case of the back to school blues.

Vacations are great, and important for everyone's health and sanity, but before you sleep in through your first class back, give a thought to the fact that you're (hopefully) at UBC to get an education — and you're paying big money to do it.

It might seem like it's no big deal to skip the occasional lecture — and that's probably true — but even though you may be able to coast through a course without going to classes, or maybe even get a good grade, you're still missing out on whatever that professor has to say on a subject to which they've (more or less) dedicated their life. Not to mention that domestic tuition works out to around \$20 per class.

That's not to say that you can never miss a class. Just keep in mind that you can get a lot more out of UBC than just a piece of paper with your name on it, if you put in the time and effort.

### MACINNES PIT IS A FANTASTIC "WELCOME TO UBC" MONUMENT

While most students were at home for the holidays, construc-

tion crews were hard at work creating an even larger, more desolate wasteland out of what used to be MacInnes Field.

The former field, best known as the site for day drinking in the sun at Block Party, has become a giant eyesore. Crews even put up two levels of fences around it and created roundabout detours to the SUB for good measure.

This hellhole that greets the thousands of students who bus to UBC everyday will be the site for UBC's new Aquatic Centre. After that is open, the current Aquatic Centre will be torn down and replaced with a field — also known as 'the old switcheroo'.

While construction has been a mainstay of UBC's campus recently, the state of MacInnes Field is particularly off-putting. Yes, in the long run, the new Aquatic Centre will be bigger and better and there will eventually be another field that students drink beer and throw Frisbees on.

But for now, we're stuck without a field, and with an even more overwhelming sense of despair every time we use the bus loop.

### BLAKE NILL COULD BE A TURNING POINT FOR UBC FOOTBALL

After the team missed the playoffs this year, UBC fired coach Shawn Olson and brought in Blake Nill. He has a history of running winning programs, but he also comes with a big price tag by T-Bird standards — \$140,000

a year — almost 50 per cent more than Olson's salary.

At the press conference announcing Nill's hiring, one of the first things he said was that if UBC wants to compete with football programs like Laval, the program needs to spend more on coaching and equipment. At the same conference, he said he made his goals for the program clear, and gave UBC multiple chances to forget about hiring him as a coach. But UBC seems to be on board with Nill's brand of football.

While the money itself won't solve all of team's problems, it should help.

At his former job with Calgary, the Dinos trounced UBC twice, with an aggregate score of 126 to 17, though Nill wasn't at the second game because he was suspended for comments in a previous game. He was also suspended for in-game comments in 2010 and was accused of running up the score in a 2001 Saint Mary's victory over Mount Allison 106-0.

But Nill has a reputation for rebuilding programs, and UBC definitely needs some rebuilding right now. UBC hasn't won a Vanier Cup since 1997.

Nill's led teams to seven Vanier Cup games, pulling out two wins. UBC should not have been a 2-6 team with the level of talent they had this year. Nill's hiring also raises the chance that some Calgary players will follow him to UBC. The team has a lot of rebuilding to do, and Nill could be the one to do it.

reduction plan. It will also help to address income inequality, a growing problem in B.C. According to UBC professor Nicole Fortin, minimum wage increases are often the only way low wage workers see a raise, yet the cost of living goes up, up and up. Without a lift this alarming gap will grow even more quickly.

Finally, in contrast to your editorial suggestions, there is no evidence to suggest that businesses will lay off workers if the minimum wage is increased. It didn't happen the last time B.C. raised minimum wage (despite business groups claiming the sky would fall). Further, a recent cross-Canada examination of the issue just showed that there was little, if any, connection between minimum wage increases and employment levels.

There is a lot of fear-mongering about the negative impact of raising the minimum wage. However, when examining the facts, those fears just don't add up.

Supporting the campaign to increase the minimum wage is a no brainer. No one who works full time should be living in poverty in a province as wealthy as B.C.

Sincerely,  
Shanee Prasad

Shanee Prasad is a member of the BCFED (B.C. Federation of Labour) Young Worker Committee.

## ADVICE »

## Ask Natalie: On keeping your New Year's resolutions and making the most of 2015



**NATALIE MORRIS**  
Advice Columnist

That's why most people give up on their resolutions. You won't always keep your resolutions but that doesn't make your ability to reach it lessened.

Of course I am always here to encourage you because you are the best and you can do that thing you want to do this year. YOU CAN DO IT! Happy New Year's — and you got this!

*"Dear Natalie,  
I hope your winter break was better than mine. I got dumped, drunk and cried after the ball dropped. How do I make this year less terrible than 2014?  
Signed,  
Sad and Lonely"*

Dear Sad and Lonely,

I'm sorry your year ended on such a bad note. Just remember that the New Year is a time to put a new foot forward. And that new foot is a step out of the pain and unhappiness that was 2014 and taking you into the new and undiscovered territory of 2015.

While it may sound corny and unhelpful, remember that you make your own happiness.

Use this new year to decide how your year is going to be. Surround yourself with happy friends and understanding gal-pals. Surround yourself with positive feelings. Tell yourself everyday that you are worth the best.

Take some time to focus on you. Revamp your studies, interests, look, anything! But remember who you are.

Use this time to explore things you wanted to before. Look into exciting things like hiking, painting or (in honour of winter) skiing. Lynn Canyon on the North Shore offers beautiful, free, easy hiking. It has enough really big trees to make nature-lovers swoon.

Whatever you do, don't just lay in your bed thinking about how much 2014 was the worst. Get out there and think about how great 2015 will be.

Also know that depression is a serious issue and you should seek help if you need it. There is no shame getting help. Look into UBC Counselling Services which offers free, confidential counselling for UBC students.

*Need advice? Write to Natalie at asknatalie@ubyssey.ca and have your questions answered in an upcoming issue.*

## LETTER »

## In response to "Minimum wage increase has pros and cons"

**SHANEE PRASAD**  
Letter

As a student newspaper, *The Ubyssey* knows well the struggle students face when trying to get an education.

Many students hold down part-time jobs while they are studying. Few students are lucky enough to make it through post-secondary education without crippling student debt. A real, tangible increase to the minimum wage, would make a huge difference to students struggling to make ends meet.

But increasing the minimum wage is not just about helping students.

In the big picture, an increase to the minimum wage is an important part of a poverty

reduction plan. It will also help to address income inequality, a growing problem in B.C. According to UBC professor Nicole Fortin, minimum wage increases are often the only way low wage workers see a raise, yet the cost of living goes up, up and up. Without a lift this alarming gap will grow even more quickly.

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Supporting the campaign to increase the minimum wage is a no brainer. No one who works full time should be living in poverty in a province as wealthy as B.C.

Sincerely,  
Shanee Prasad

Shanee Prasad is a member of the BCFED (B.C. Federation of Labour) Young Worker Committee.

# Have strong opinions?

Want to weigh in on a UBC-related issue, or respond to one of our articles or editorials? Write to aerhardt@ubyssey.ca with your letter. Write it first or chat with our editor to determine word limits and suitability.

FOOTBALL »

# Blake Nill takes the helm of UBC football



PHOTO: WILL MCDONALD/THE UBYSSEY

Nill is the former coach of UBC rival Calgary Dinos.

**CJ Pentland**  
Senior Staff Writer

The UBC Athletic department stressed competitive success in the job description for a new football coach, and the man they've brought in is no stranger to that. Blake Nill was announced as the 18th head coach of the UBC football program on Tuesday afternoon, a day following Nill's resignation as head coach of the University of Calgary Dinos. The move comes in response to Shawn Olson being relieved from his duties as head coach two days after a disappointing 2-6 season ended.

Nill heads to Point Grey as one of the top CIS football coaches in recent memory. The 52-year-old spent nine years at the helm of the Calgary Dinos, winning six consecutive Canada West championships from 2008-2013 and appearing in three Vanier

Cups. Prior to Calgary, Nill was head coach at St. Mary's University in Halifax and won two Vanier Cups in 2001 and 2002, also appearing in two more finals. His career regular season and playoff record as a CIS head coach is 130-47, and many of his former players can be found in the CFL.

"When I first learned about the opportunity here, I felt it paralleled my previous three opportunities that I have taken throughout my career, [where] I have left very established programs ... and I decided to come to another program which I felt had the potential to reach that level," said Nill, who said this was the hardest he had ever been pursued by a school. The coach said he has two hopes for his players: for them to graduate, and for them to have a shot at a championship ring.

Entering his 18th season as a CIS coach, Nill already has

familiarity with the T-Birds, having squared off against them 15 times with the Dinos and posting a 13-2 record. Though Nill spent the past eight years tormenting UBC from the opposing sideline, he looks forward to changing the team's culture and building the Thunderbirds into a dominant program that can take home their first Vanier Cup since 1997.

"I can honestly say that this may be the most talent-laden team that I've taken over previously," said Nill. "I think it's more or less installing a new culture of work ethic, of speed, of strength, of accountability and once the kids realize that they need to be accountable to themselves and their teammates, I think you'll see a change fairly quickly." He believes that five years is the time needed to get a team where they need to be, but that results could happen sooner; in St. Mary's it happened in

two, and in Calgary it happened in four.

Nill also stressed the importance that revenue plays in the success of a program both on and off the field, especially with the cost of running football programs becoming more expensive. He mentioned the need for third party funding, and Managing Director of Athletics Ashley Howard also talked about how partnership played a big role in where the football program is today — specifically mentioning alumni David Sidoo and Peter Bull.

Fourth-year linebacker Yianni Cabylis first heard the news the day before the official announcement when he got a phone call from his teammates while studying, and the initial reaction for him and his teammates was excitement. The firing of Olson came as a shock to him and many of the T-Birds, but he understood that changes can be made and is now enthusiastic about going in a new direction with Nill.

Cabylis had previously met Nill when exploring options after his junior football career ended, and describes him as a player's coach who also requires the player's respect in return.

"Coach Nill's track record speaks for itself," said Cabylis, who has one year left with the T-Birds. "He's a proven winner, a proven coach, and we're all very excited to have him here and get the ball rolling."

Nill realizes that he has a lot to do to help turn the UBC football program around, but assured those at the press conference that he wouldn't have taken the job if he didn't believe that the program is ready to take the next step.

"The reason I left is that I thought it was time for me to look forward to the next tenure. I'm looking forward to living in Vancouver — I'm looking forward to reaping the talent to establish UBC as the number one option for kids out of British Columbia." □

SOCCER »



PHOTO COURTESY UBC ATHLETICS

Kovacs succeeds Andrea Neil as head coach.

## Marisa Kovacs named women's soccer head coach

**Jack Hauen**  
Sports and Rec Editor

UBC Athletics announced the hiring of Marisa Kovacs as head coach of the UBC Thunderbirds women's soccer program on December 19. She succeeds Andrea Neil, the former Team Canada member and Vancouver Whitecaps Hall of Fame inductee. Kovacs definitely has some big shoes to fill, but she has racked up a few coaching accolades of her own.

The new Thunderbird head coach has previously coached at the University of West Georgia, where she began as a graduate assistant coach in 2004 and was promoted to head coach in 2006, holding the position until 2012.

Kovacs developed many outstanding players during her time at UWG, including one All-American, two Gulf South Conference Players of the Year, four All-Region Performers, six Academic All-Conference players, 16 All-Gulf South Conference players and 61 Gulf South Conference Academic Honor Roll student-athletes.

Last year, Kovacs was named an assistant coach and head scout for the SFU men's soccer team. In Kovacs' two seasons with SFU, the team made it to the national semi-final round in 2013, as well as the NCAA Div. II championship tournament twice.

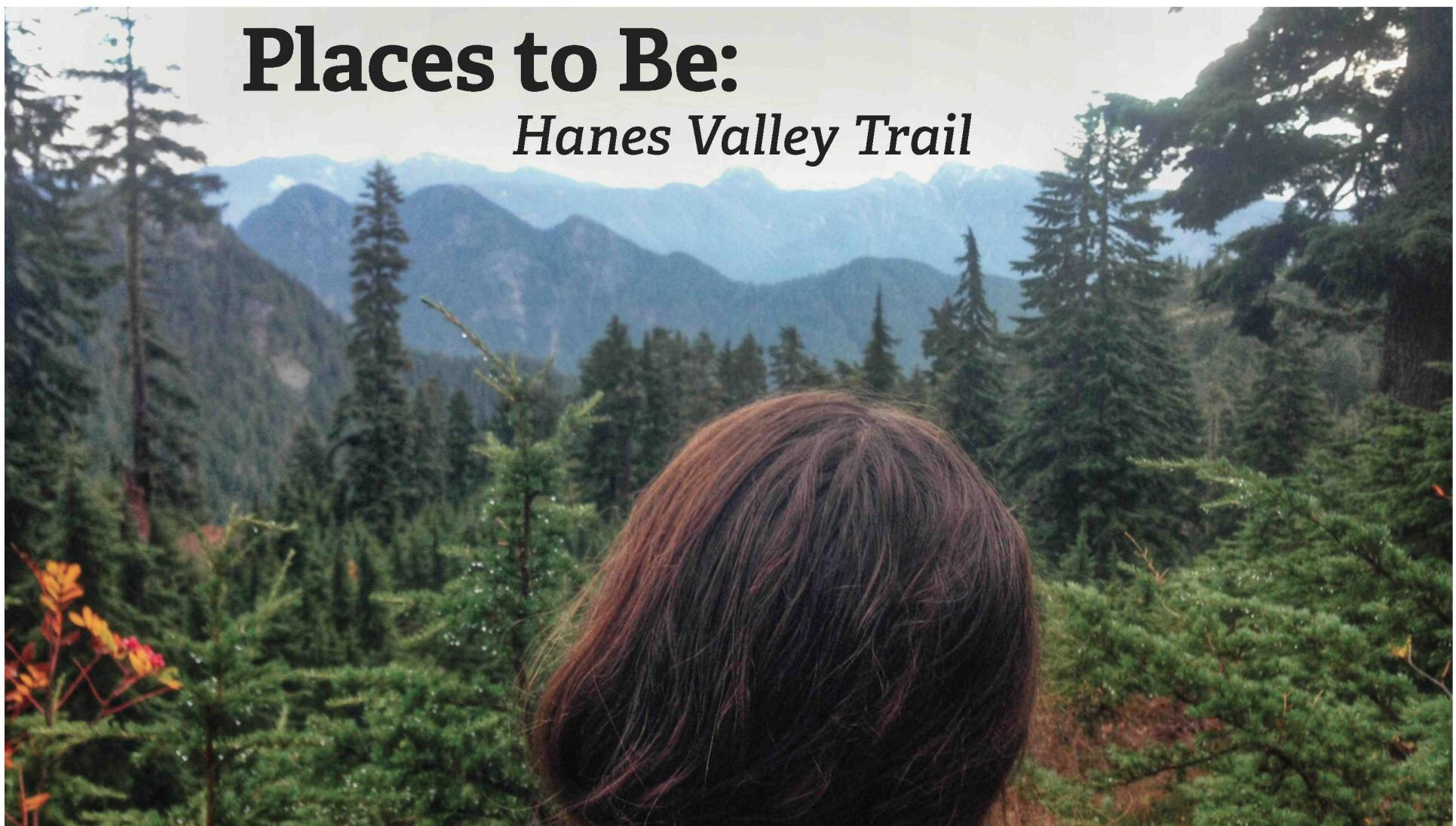
Aside from her coaching experience, Kovacs was a four-year starter at NCAA Div. I Coastal

Carolina, and a four-time Big South All-Conference team member. She also took home the league's Freshman of the Year award in 2000.

After her varsity career, Kovacs captained the W-League's Toronto Inferno and played for the London Gryphons, before joining the Windsor Border Stars in 2005.

Kovacs looks to be a promising addition to the team, but she has her work cut out for her next season — she takes the helm of a UBC women's soccer team that didn't live up to expectations this season, finishing with a 6-4-2 regular season record and a 3-1 quarterfinal loss to Trinity Western.

Kovacs begins her Thunderbird coaching career on January 8. □



A hike up a steep, slippery trail paid off with a breathtaking view of the North Shore mountains.

PHOTOS KOBY MICHAELS/THE UBYSSEY

**Koby Michaels**  
Staff Writer

Something's wrong with this picture: pitch black. Raining. 5:30 a.m. Saturday morning. Dorm room. Why is a university student voluntarily waking up, quite literally before the sun, on a Saturday? They should be going to bed, if anything, from a drunken night of partying, sleeping until 2 p.m., and spending the day avoiding studying just to do it all over again the next night.

That is exactly what I'm thinking. Actually, I don't think I'm even capable of thinking at 5:30 a.m., but somehow I have the presence of mind to shut the alarm clock off and roll out of bed. I manage to keep myself from crawling back under my blanket and into the fantastic realm of sleep by telling myself it will be worth it.

It was worth it.

Enough about my awakening issues. This is, after all, about a hike. I just barely make the bus, sitting down next to Sashka and Jackson. We take the 14 to the ferry, then hop onto the 228. The sun just rises above the horizon as we get off at the road that leads to Lynn Headwaters Regional Park. Here we meet up with Tianna, the trip leader, and the rest of the group. We woke up and bused an hour and a half to hike just under 20 kilometres on the Hanes Valley Trail, which runs from Lynn Headwaters, around and up Grouse Mountain, and then down

the BCMC trail, the lesser-known sister trail of the infamous Grouse Grind. Crazy, I know.

It's a very strange experience, hiking through peoples' backyards to get onto the trail. Normally, you have to drive hours on a highway, away from all civilization, before you can go hiking. In Vancouver, just jump on the bus and get off where you see some trees. We hike up the road to the trailhead and then hike along a stream. As we go deeper into the woods, it seems like we are walking back in time. A heavy fog sits between the tall evergreens; ferns line the muddy, rocky path. I fully expect a dinosaur to cross the trail any second. Luckily, none do.

The trail crosses stream after stream; as soon as we jump from rock to rock, cheering when we get across with dry socks, we hear the next one. Between streams we have to dodge flocks of trail runners.

After two hours, the terrain is too rough and too far from civilization for the trail runners. Here, there is no difference between the trail and the streams. They have taken over, deciding that the trail was a great place to run through. So much for dry feet.

The trail wanders up and down hills, over streams and through muddy puddles for another hour before we encounter a problem. Tianna had warned us that in her pre-trip readings she had heard of a river we had to cross. The hope was that the water level would be low enough that we could just wade across; needless to say, it wasn't.

We came to a pile of logs stretching across a roaring rapid, dotted with three- to four-foot drops and large, jagged boulders. It was as if an oversized family of beavers had made their home here. The kayaker in me itched to jump in a boat, run the rapid, and then simply hop out on the other bank. The hiker in me was slightly more stumped.

We somewhat democratically decided to try the precarious crossing and proceeded to straddle the logs and scoot our way across, ever so gracefully. It did leave us all with fashionable wet pant bottoms. Then it was back to the muddy trail.

My stomach growled — it was time for lunch. And my hunger couldn't be more perfectly timed, since the trail opened up into the valley and a spectacular view. For the first time all day, the clouds and rain cleared and the sun illuminated the mountains that encircled us.

We took our lunch on the emergency helicopter landing pad and discussed the next, and most challenging, part of the hike: the rock pile. To get out of the valley, and over onto the ridge over to Grouse, we needed to climb 400 metres of loose rock up the gully between Crown Mountain and Goat Mountain.

The rocks groaned, threatening to slide away under my boots. Every minute or two you could hear some rocks tumble out below someone else in the group. There were two main strategies: carefully choose every hand and foot hold and slowly pick your way up the stable rocks or

just sprint over sliding rocks until you reached a stable one, take a breather and then run for it again. I elected the second strategy, to limited success. But everyone made it to the top and in one piece, so we continued on.

We'd been hiking for over five hours at this point and my legs were feeling it. But there was little to do but keep moving and unfortunately the trail didn't relent. A steep trail, tangled with tree roots led to a slab of slippery rock, to which the only way up was grabbing onto the chains anchored into the rock and holding on at a 45 degree angle and slowly walking up.

All that hard work paid off with a spectacular view of the North Shore mountains. It continued to pay off when we reached the Grouse Mountain lodge and cold beer.

In our muddy, smelly hiking gear, we tromped into the restaurant on top of Grouse and ordered beers. They were cold and crisp, refreshing and rewarding. Food always tastes better on top of a mountain, and beer tastes even better than that. But the day wasn't over, and we had to say a painful goodbye to the comfortable booths and fully stocked bar to keep hiking.

My one measly beer caused me to hiccup, to the amusement of the group, the entire way down the BCMC. It had been a long day and we were all eager to sit on the bus, shower and replenish lost calories, so we took the trail at a controlled fall. By "controlled fall" I mean the hiking technique

of taking the trail down as fast as possible without wiping out. Everyone slipped and managed to catch themselves at the last second. But the speed paid off and in no time we strolled onto the waiting bus. At this point, I would like to issue a formal apology to anyone who encountered our VOC group on the Vancouver bus system on the afternoon of October 18, 2014, for the horrendous smell, vast amounts of mud and dripping backpacks. I am truly sorry, but hey, how else were we supposed to get home?

As a UBC student, professor or employee, you have access (on public transit, no less) to some truly spectacular hikes and wilderness. Take advantage! Do the Grind. Hike in the Lynn Valley Watershed. Explore Capilano Canyon. Vancouverites realize what an amazing city they live in, but they sometimes fail to realize what lies just outside its limits. Hike, swim or explore, it doesn't matter — just get out. But before you do, take a few minutes to plan and prepare. You wouldn't want North Shore Rescue having to fly in after you.

Sadly, a few months ago one of North Shore Rescue's caches of search and rescue gear was stolen and destroyed by vandals. All of the stolen and destroyed gear was donated, expensive and used to save lives. So when you get back from an adventure, think of giving back a little, either by helping to maintain the trail, donating to NSR, or raising awareness by conservation.



# Photo of the Day

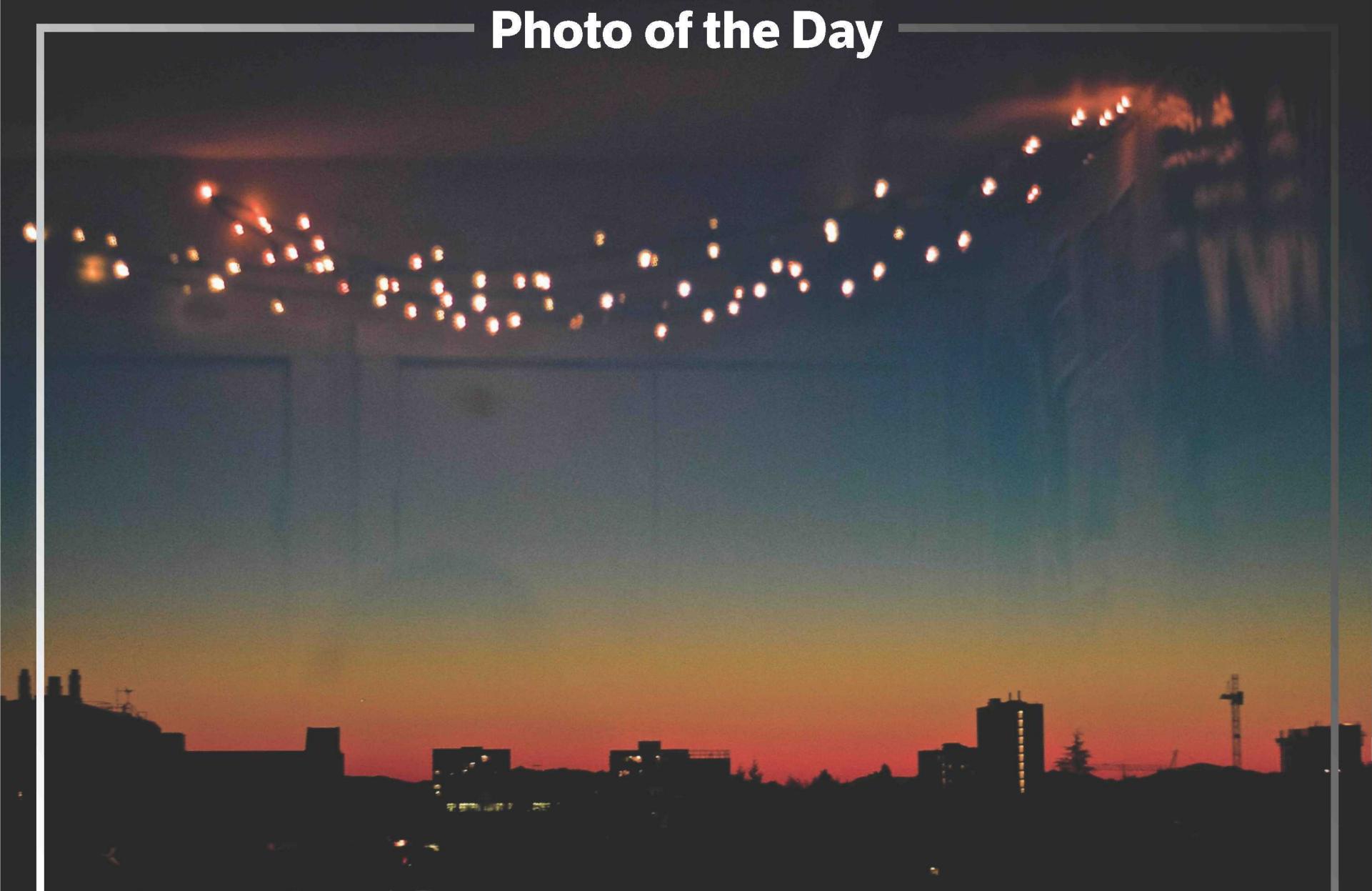
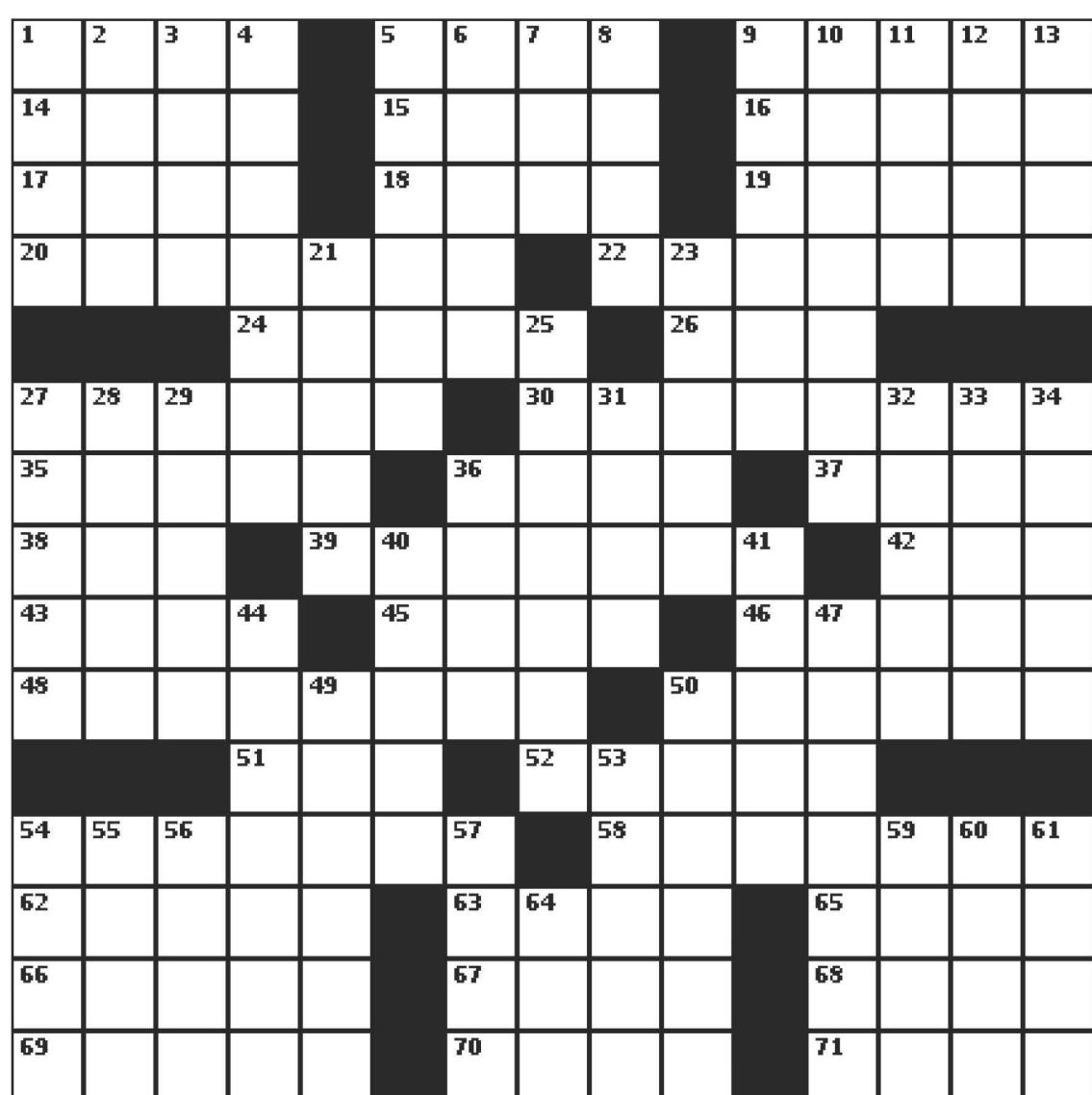


PHOTO JENNY BREWER

The UBC skyline from a dorm room window over the holidays.



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## ACROSS

1						1	9	5
6			2	4			1	
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- petal, e.g.  
 5- Soak up  
 6- Christine of "Chicago Hope"  
 7- Stomach, Asian, or Hong Kong  
 8- Choir member  
 9- *de corps*  
 10- *Soup made with beets*  
 11- K-6  
 12- Hindu music  
 13- 1982 Disney film  
 21- Unit of frequency  
 23- Chilean pianist Claudio  
 25- Incessant  
 27- Earthquake  
 28- Liquid waste component  
 29- Papal seal  
 31- *about (approximately)*  
 32- *Ancient Greek colony*  
 33- Snooped (around)  
 34- Stare angrily  
 36- Gutter locale  
 40- Makes  
 41- A bit, colloquially  
 44- Like the tiny mouth of a sponge  
 47- King's staff  
 49- Except if  
 50- Gold coin of ancient Rome  
 53- Book of maps  
 54- Brit's exclamation  
 55- Trifing  
 56- Graph prefix  
 57- Slippery swimmers  
 59- Tent stick  
 60- Historical chapters  
 61- 1996 Tony-winning musical  
 64- Regret;

## DOWN

- 1- Clublike weapon  
 2- Met highlight  
 3- River to the Moselle  
 4- Photo of a raindrop on a rose



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