UBC Archives Serial

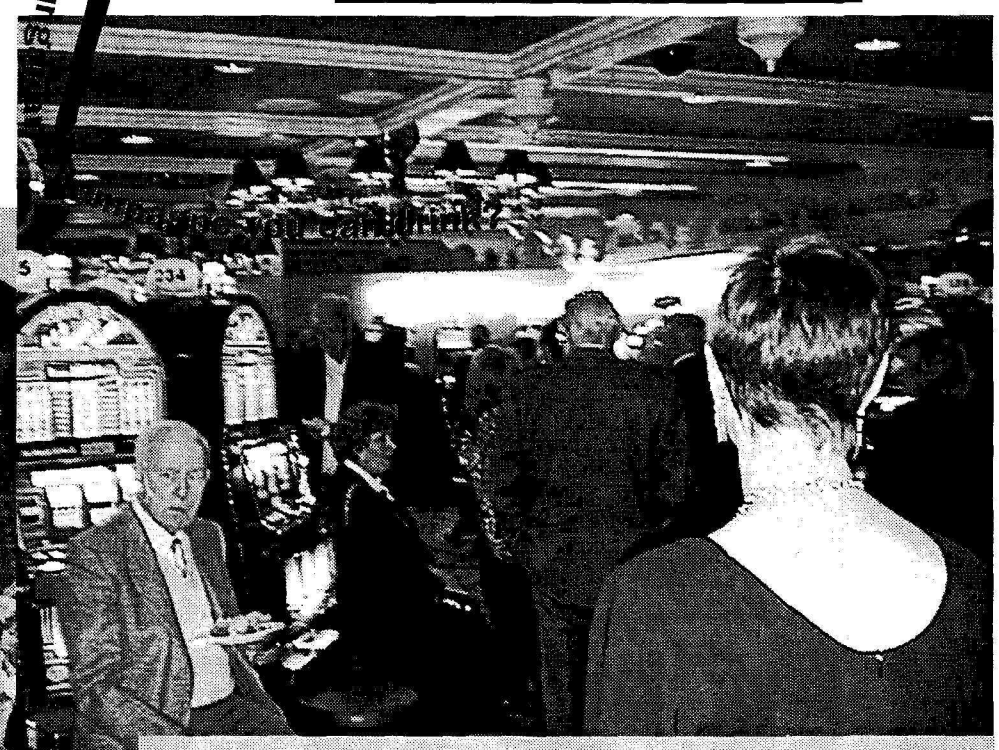
pagefriday
when the cat's away... since 1918
THE UBYSSEY MAGAZINE Friday, November 5, 1999 volume 81 issue 16

The mayor dressed in period custume, arriving in a horse-drawn carriage, and all the free Hurr

Sure. I'd go to New Westminster for that.

A floating façade

by Flora Graham



WRETCHED EXCESS at the Royal City Star riverboat casino. The huge chocolate buffet, pictured left, was just one of several themed feeding troughs available during the casino opening. CHRIS STEWART PHOTO

The event was the opening of the new Royal City Star riverboat casino at Westminster Quay. Docked incongruously next to the old Russian submarine, the ship and its garish period paintjob dominated the bleak surroundings. A brass band's fanfare eminated from a stage on the wharf, while a row of can-can dancers flung their skirts into the air.

After a few speeches by local politicians, the ship headed out for the proverbial three hour tour up the Fraser River. The mighty Fraser was, according to Mayor Helen Sparkes, home to more steamboats in its time than the Mississippi.

The ship's decks were packed full with people stuffed into evening dresses, looking like soap stars who had been left in the sun too long. The theme for women: dresses that don't fit anymore. The theme for men: too much gold jewellery with your initials on it. An appreciated standout was the gentleman who wore a fez with his tuxedo.

Star power was provided by the constable from *The Beachcombers*, that home repair guy from television, and a bevy of other marginally recognisable Vancouver glitteratti.

It was hard to blend in. Even wearing my most expensive suit (ok, only suit) and saying things like "I have to call my broker" a little too loudly didn't help. The people on the top deck talking to their friends on the lower decks on their cell phones pretty much set the standard.

Seeing this rich wedding-cake of a ship docked right in the heart of Westminster Quay, one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Greater Vancouver, it's hard not to consider its social costs. Casino ventures are often presented as being economically beneficial for the surrounding community, but negative, and often criminal elements are drawn to them.

In our own backyard, the BC supreme court recently heard the case of a loan shark, and alleged member of the Big Circle Boys gang, who leant money to gamblers at the Great Canadian Casino in Richmond. He was shot twice, allegedly by one of his own goons.

But it's not only loan sharking and gang style shootings that have traceable ties to the gambling world; suicide rates in gambling cities such as Reno are higher than in non-gaming cities, according to a 1997 study.

And of course, gambling is notoriously linked with addiction. According to a 1993 Gemini Research & Angus Reid Group study, people in BC are second only to Alberta in gambling addiction: 7.8 per cent of people here have been problem or pathological gamblers. Nationwide, a survey of provincial studies by the National Council of Welfare suggests the number of current problem and pathological gamblers may be as high as 1.2 million Canadians.

But the people gracing the ship at the opening were finding it quite easy to ignore such issues.

"Do you think that this casino may have a negative social impact on this part of New Westminster?" I asked one woman wearing a fur-lined evening suit in the sushi line-up

She looked at me quizzically, but her answer was a straight forward: "Uh, no." Then she was distracted by the passing champagne server.

I turned to the man behind her, an imposing man in a dark suit who happened to be a member of the BC Gaming Commission. He commented on the nice high ceilings. and then explained, in a conspiratorial tone, the advantage of such perks: gamblers like to smoke, but you wouldn't want the non-smoking gamblers to leave. They might go out on deck to take a breather, to collect their thoughts, to count their losses.

The theme for women: dresses that don't fit you anymore. The theme for men: too much gold jewellery with your initials on it.

The view from the deck could have been designed especially to keep people inside. As the ship chugged towards the Patullo Bridge, past log booms, parking lots and industrial parks, it began to feel like this ostensibly pleasant evening cruise was just a precursor to something a little more sinister.

Inside, except for a Gamblers Anonymous Hotline sticker on the washroom mirror, there seemed to be no sign of the problems gambling causes. The people at the opening night had lots of money to throw around. Peeling a couple of hundreds off a fat roll didn't seem too painful for the man with the gold rings at the blackjack table. I thought sorrowfully of the twenty bucks I had lost in five minutes at the same table. Would I have to walk home?

But those on the front lines must have seen plenty of people willing to blow their last dollar, right? Another blackjack table was manned by a dealer named Paul, who had worked at the Great Canadian Casinos in Vancouver before training for the Royal City Star. When I asked whether he had ever seen somebody that he thought shouldn't be gambling at his table, he looked as if I had suggested that he split a pair of fours. "No. Never." he answered definitively.

"So it's not like being a bartender where you have to say 'alright, no more for you today?'" I persisted.

"If you want to gamble, you can," Paul said. Well, that seems straight forward enough.

However, it contradicted what Don Mann, the assistant director of gaming operations for the Royal City Star, said to me later as we stood next to a stretch of jangling slot machines. He stated that gambling addiction is "always an issue in the business," and that "all staff have some awareness of problem gambling issues, and how to deal with the concept of problem gambling, and [how] to recognise people that perhaps are gambling too much."

When asked what would be the result if a customer were assessed as a problem gambler, Mann described a "self-barring program."

"Customers that do gamble too much, that know they're gambling too much, we will identify at their request and we will bar them from the casino for a period of time." Sounds like a fool-proof system, at least to anyone who's ever tried to deny a drunk their last call.

If the addicted gambler could not self-identify, Mann added that the staff members "are prepared to observe and watch, and players that are gambling too much are 'spoken to', so to speak. "Apparently though, there is no brig on the ship, just a quiet out-of-the-way room where you can go and think about what you did.

Two days later, the riverboat is still there. In the pallid light of a New Westminster afternoon, it still looked pretty cool, although the giant neon sign on the roof isn't lit up anymore.

One of the pit bosses said that they had over 9000 people there the day before, on their first day open to the public. And it was packed again. The two lounges were practically empty, which was

continued on page 12

CLASSIFIEDS

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SEXUAL ASSAULT RESEARCH. The Anxiety and Fear Laboratory in the Dept. of Psychology at UBC requires female volunteers who have experienced unwanted sexual activity to participate in a psychological research project. If you are interested in helping us or would like more info, please call Nicole at 822-9028. Your phone conversation will be kept confidential, and your privacy protected.

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ESSAYEDITOR.COM provides an affordable way to improve the grammar and wording of term papers.

Announcement

ATTENTION ENGLISH STUDENTS. Want to buy a t-shirt? The English Students Society are selling t-shirts for $15. Call Bonnie at 323-1423.

ATTENTION ENGLISH GRADS! Grad pictures will be taken @ Artona. Call 872-7272 for an appt. Deadline for pictures is Jan. 15th, 2000.

ANSOC T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST. Any design welcome that incorporates the two disciplines. Drop off entries in the ANSO Office or in our Club Office. Deadline: Dec. 4th, 1999. You'll win the best prizes!

GRADUATE CLASS OF 2000. Grad Portrait Appointments for Sittings are now being taken at Artona. Ph: 8727272. Deadline: Dec 31st, 99.

Extra Curricular

STUDENTS WHO WANT TO HELP START AND ORGANIZE A UBC GUITAR CLUB please contact Herman at barnabee@hotmail.com

ANSOC CLUB MEETS EVERY MONDAY at 12:30pm in the ANSOC Room.

SPARTACUS YOUTH CLUB CLASS: Defend China, Vietnam, North Koreo, Cuba. For Worker's Political Revolution to Stop Capitalist Counterrevolution! Nov. 9, 7pm SUB 212.

Miscellaneous

UBC FIRE DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING FOR THE DRIVER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE who helped in an accident at 7:45am on Wednesday, Oct. 13 in SW Marine involving a cyclist. The Fire Dept would like to return a blanket you lent to the cyclist.

ATTENTION 99 B-LINE MORNING RIDERS: PLEASE STOP FARTING ON THE BUS. It's bad enough being surrounded by morning breath - don't add to the foul stench.

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the long and the short of it... Tuesday

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'tweens

a free service for the ubc community

veggie lunch at ubc

The Student Environment Centre presents a veggie lunch every Tuesday at 12:30-2:30pm in the Graduate Students Society Building, penthouse floor.

$4 suggested donation

winter coat drive

The Beth Israel Synagogue is about to embark on its 7th annual winter coat drive. Volunteers wil collect warm coats, jackets, sleeping bags, and blankets to be distributed to social service agencies who deal with those who are in dire straights. Drop off at Beth Israel Synagogue, 4350 Oak Street November 8 to December 6. Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am to 5pm Fri 9am till noon and a special Sunday drop off on Nov 21 from 9am till noon.

Phone 266-2250 for more info

FREE STUFF

THE GREAT ubyssey GIVEAWAY

do this...	...and get this
• make a funny hat out of *the Ubyssey*—and you gotta wear it	• Passes to Top of the Food Chain, movie posters and tickets to a Christmas craft fair!
• submit a Polaroid of yourself hugging a Pit Pub bouncer (Polaroid camera provided in *Ubyssey* business office—photo ID necessary)	• 2 tickets to the Canucks game against the Blues Nov 7! Hockey! Or 2 tickets to the Grizzlies Nov 6 against Denver or Nov 10 against Atlanta. (Only one pair of tickets per photo and per customer, so there.)
• walk into room 245 and sing the song "Yellow Submarine"	• a *Ubyssey* T-shirt in one of four colours!

Hugh "Sgt. Pepper" Stewart has changed my life by showing me that I can have my pepper and eat it too. He's shown me that when life gives you lemons, you have to make them into some sort of Blinding Spray. That, and he was the Beatle I most wanted to lose my virginity to.

Pulitzer-worthy brilliance by Ryan Landis

(He won himself a $25 gift certificate to the bookstore and tickets to a craft fair—pretty cool huh?)

A person may only win one prize per month. *The Ubyssey* reserves the right to withhold prizes. Winners must be members in good standing of the Ubyssey Publications Society. So there. Also, any submissions may be published. *Ubyssey* staffers are ineligible to win.

Just drop by the Ubyssey business office in SUB room 245 to pick up your stuff.

For Fxxk's sake!

just read it

5 Complete Control

How does Buddha manage four term papers? Like hell we know, but Franz Metcalf might.

6 Play to Win

New rules and some roster changes bode well for this year's men's volleyball squad.

9 I fought the Law

Environmental activist group takes the responsibility for vandalism at campus forestry research site

streeters: we asked you:

What do you think the Canadian government should do with the expected budget surplus?

I think they should give it to Saskatchewan farmers and [Canada] should get out of the World Trade Organisation.

—Reid McGonigle
Science 1

I don't think [the national debt] really has an impact on where we're going because we seem to be doing fine and it doesn't seem to be affecting us. Therefore, I think the surplus should go back into social programs.

—Ryan Copeland
Science 4

Cut taxes and give the surplus to education.

—Kim Krusel
Commerce 3

They should put money back into education, put money into reducing the debt, and increase the social safety net.

—Michael Cooper
Science 4

letters:

Health plan information is forthcoming

In the recent referendum, UBC students endorsed the creation of a group health and dental plan in order to provide all students with access to health and dental care coverage at the lowest cost. The principle is simple: everyone contributes a small, equal amount and every member of the community benefits from having access to necessary health and dental benefits. The only exception is to allow students who already have this type of coverage to "opt out," thus avoiding duplication.

There have been posters and pamphlets, in-depth media coverage, and an overwhelming amount of support and positive feedback, yet most students are still uncertain about what the new Alma Mater Society (AMS)/Graduate Student Society (GSS) health and dental plan covers, and how it will affect them. It is important that every student has the opportunity to get the facts straight about the plan, in order to make the service work for them. To ensure that all UBC students have the facts, a major communication initiative will be launched over the upcoming weeks and months by the AMS and studentcare.net/works. This will include an information package mailed to each student, posters around the campus, notices in the campus media, and updates on the web site: www.studentcare.net/ubc.

The information package will be mailed in early December and will include complete details of what is covered, what it costs, how to submit claims, how to access the dental network, and how to opt out for a full refund or coordinate benefits if you are already covered.

As per the referendum question, all students who are members of the AMS will be automatically covered by the health and dental plan. This includes both undergraduate and graduate students, full-time and parttime, men and women, those who are healthy and those who have pre-existing health conditions; there will be no discrimination.

Launching an initiative like this involves a lot of work, not just on the part of the AMS and GSS executives and volunteers who put the plan together and organised a referendum, but also on the part of the students who took the time to understand the benefits and options and make an informed choice. Congratulations and thanks to everyone.

Kristen Foster
Pacific Director
studentcare.net/works

feedback@ubyssey.bc.ca

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UZ JSME DOMA
at the Starfish Room
Nov. 1

by Lawrence Chew

QUEL BRUIT: This Czech band put on quite the show last Monday. LAWRENCE CHEW PHOTO

If Tim Burton ever bet Danny Elfman to write music for a rock band, but told him he had to get Rammstein to perform it on amphetamines, you'd end up with Uz Jsme Doma. While that description is a bit hard to comprehend, believe me, it's not over the top. This Prague-based band has a distinct style of music that can't really be put into words. For their live show, on the other hand, I can think of a few. Fun, energetic and tight all seem to come to mind. Oh yeah, and crackheads. The music isn't so much schizophrenic as it is epileptic.

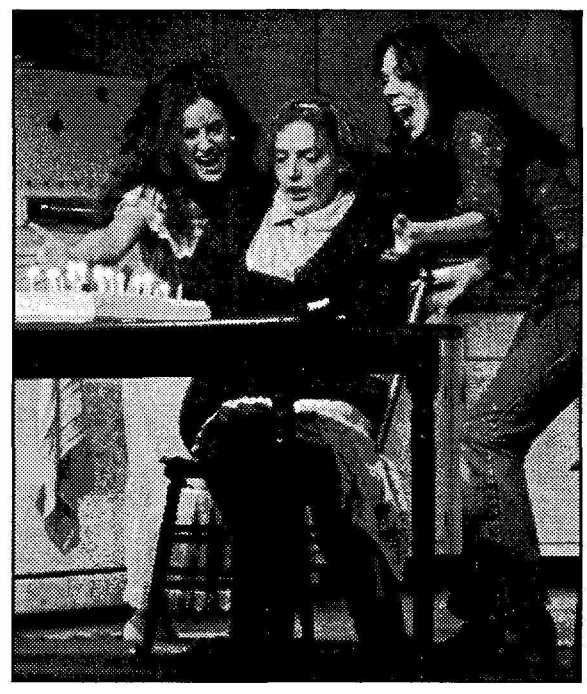
Doma's instrumentation makes them sound like a British '80s pop band with a penchant for film noir. Yet, somehow on stage it all comes together in a glorious event of pure rock. Their tenor saxophonist played quickly, with staccato-tongued notes, while two guitarists and a bassist pumped out a distorted mix of amazingly written and arranged songs. All four of them yelled and sang, sometimes frighteningly deep, sometimes in falsetto and sometimes like Gregorian chant.

The entire time, I couldn't understand a word they were saying, but it didn't matter, because it was entertaining. The drummer sat behind his kit and managed to play what seemed to be a million beats per second, using the tips of his fingers instead of his wrists when hitting his cymbals. In the end, however, they somehow managed to be as tight as anyone could imagine.

The best part about the show was that you *knew* the crowd was into it. As soon as both (boring) opening bands were done, the barren desert that was the dance floor turned into a sea of heads erratically bobbing about. The Czech-hippie girl in front of me moved in as spastic a fashion as the music did, so she couldn't help but look insane. One guy, in a Czech National Hockey Team jersey (Hasek, of course), jumped around with boundless energy in front of the speakers the entire night. I couldn't blame him. I entered the Starfish Room confused and tired. Three hours, fifteen minutes and two encores later, I walked out a believer.❖

CRIMES OF THE HEART
at the Frederic Wood Theatre
until Nov. 13

by Lisa Denton



JUST LIKE HOME: A family reunion of neurotics.

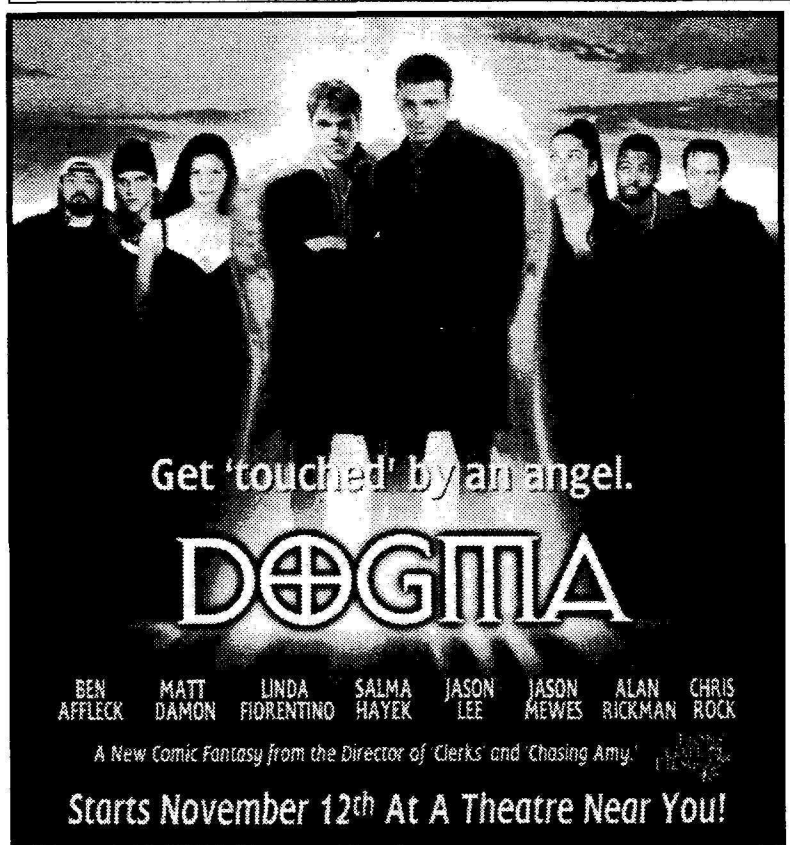
The November wind and rain may be knocking at the door and sending people into the annual West Coast blues, but UBC theatre is shining brightly with its second production of the season, *Crimes Of The Heart.* Beth Henley's play takes us to the warmth of Mississippi during 1974, portraying a family at a time of crisis who must face the emergence of old wounds.

Babe, the youngest sister, has shot her husband and faces the possible fate of prison while the oldest sister Lenny is a sad, depressed spinster, who at the age of 30 appears at least ten years older. In the middle, there is tough Meg who provides most of the comic aspects to this black comedy, including her loud outfits and her overbearing personality. As the play progresses, a number of secrets are revealed about each of the three sisters, including their mother's suicide.

Most of the characters in this play are completely neurotic, which makes this dark comedy laughable. When Babe is attemping suicide during a mental "spell," the audience laughs at her rather feeble try to stick her head in the oven. When nosy neighbour and cousin Chick Boyle drops by to criticise the neurotic sisters, she winds up being chased out of the house by a crazed Lenny, adding to the strangeness of the already very odd characters.

All of the actors are to be commended on their ability to portray atypical southern Americans. Melissa Poll creates a walking freak show as Lenny, while Kathleen Corbett's smoking, drinking Meg is just plain fun. An even more outstanding aspect of this production is the set—the rural kitchen is detailed right down to the calendar on the fridge and the kitschy ornaments on the wall. The actors also eat and drink actual food, including Coca-Cola in glass bottles and a birthday cake at the end of the play. My only complaint is that the running time of this production could have been cut down with the omission of some redundant scenes that stifled the desired tension and dragged the story along.

Overall, a humorous script along with some very solid acting make *Crimes Of The Heart* a very polished production. The warm atmosphere and laughter are sure to keep anybody's mind off of the November blahs, allowing for a little escape to the heat of the Old South.❖



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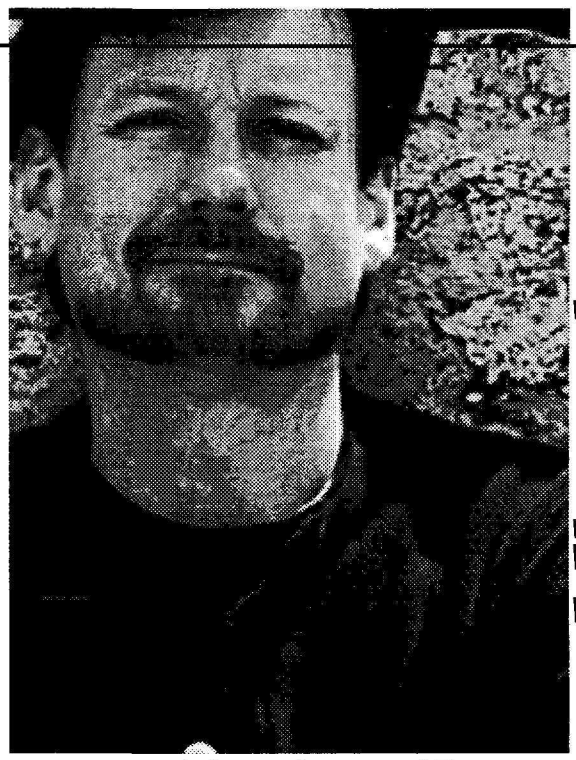

Buddha thang

WHAT WOULD BUDDHA DO: 101 ANSWERS TO LIFE'S DAILY PROBLEMS
by Franz Metcalf
[Ulysses Press]
[distributed by Raincoast Books]

by Jaime Tong

I was in a quandary the other evening—pizza or Chinese for supper? Luckily, I had a copy of Franz Metcalf's *What Would Buddha Do*? on hand. According to Metcalf's entry, "What would Buddha do when deciding where to go for dinner?" Buddha would say, "whether the food is peasant or gourmet...love makes the meal to everybody's taste." So my problem was solved, since nobody who was going for dinner with me was on my hit-list.

I haven't always turned to sacred Buddhist texts for help in my daily life. There was a time when I would dilly-dally and let fate decide the night's menu. But fate is losing its allure—karma's what counts these days.

However, leading a more enlightened life isn't easy. Just ask Metcalf, who still doesn't consider himself a Buddhist. "Buddhism and I have just grown closer and closer over the years, so now I call myself a 'practically Buddhist'."

But wait, isn't that the same as someone who goes to church only when they're feeling guilty? Au contraire, mon ami. Metcalf explains on the phone from California, "I am almost Buddhist in that Buddhism is so much a part of my daily life, and yet, I'm not a member of any particular Buddhist temple or centre right now; but also 'practically **Buddhist' in the sense that, on a practical level, a daily level,** I try to live my life according to Buddhist principles."

Doing the

Seething in traffic? Standing in the rain, wondering when that bus or taxi will ever come? Maybe transcendence lies in a corresponding passsage of Franz Metcalf's *What Would Buddha Do? 101 Answers to Life's Daily Dilemmas* (which actually contains 105 answers, because....who's counting?)

And that's what drew him to writing *What Would Buddha Do*? His entries range from "What would Buddha do when stuck waiting for a flight?" and "What would Buddha do about road rage?" to "What would Buddha do when making a salad?" or "What would Buddha do about that coffee habit?"

Metcalf attempts to bring Buddhism into daily life by "reading" the various sutras, texts and scriptures through a more modern eye. This means an excerpt like this one from a modern translation of the ancient Buddhist text, *The Record of Linji*: "Just be normal, without trying to act any special way. Move your bowels, piss, put on your clothes, eat your food, and lie down when you're tired" simply means that "there is no need to pretend you are not full of shit, both mental and physical," according to the soft-spoken Metcalf.

"Because of my background...I have been able to draw on a very wide variety of Buddhist texts, from early poly-canon dialogues of the **Buddha** to Tibetan Vajrayana texts, Indian Mahayana texts, Chinese texts, Japanese texts and all the way up to words of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso." Metcalf's little book (very portable at 5x7 inches) was the result of culling questions and answers from 38 different texts. When working on his book, he sometimes went looking for Buddhist answers to important questions, issues or dilemmas; other times he had a passage in mind already and just had to find a contemporary question or issue it could refer to.

Even though he's a Buddhist who really isn't, he explains that the guiding principle "was really to include a wide variety of Buddhist traditions, Buddhist wisdom, and to pick answers that really let the different facets of Buddhist wisdom come out.... There really is a lot of surprisingly practical wisdom in the Buddhist texts. They're more current than you might think, considering some of them are over 2,000 years old...."

So, exactly why would a practically-Buddhist write a book about Buddhism? And for whom is it meant? Metcalf elaborates, "I wanted to have a really balanced, open, non-sectarian book so that open, balanced, non-sectarian people could draw on it." As someone who teaches comparative religion at California State University, Metcalf has met many people who are ignorant of different religions.

"People have heard of things, but they don't really understand how they [the religions] work, or the values of that religion. Islam is especially great for that because a lot of the students come in with some very distorted ideas about what Islam is, so it's nice to open them to a tradition that has a quite beautiful and rich spiritual side...but, of course, my favourite is always Buddhism."

Voicing some very Buddhist thoughts for someone who doesn't claim to be one, Metcalf says, "I'm really hoping that the book helps its readers become the Buddhas that they already are, act like the Buddhas that they already are.

"The interesting thing, I think, about the way people are practicing spirituality in contemporary North America, is that a lot of people are trying to be and are spiritual without being religious."

You don't have to be a Buddhist to read or appreciate Metcalf's book, but, chances are, if you weren't striving for Nirvana before you started reading it, you might just find yourself asking *What Would Buddha Do*? more often.❖

PARADE OF LOST SOULS
Oct. 30
Grandview Park

by Andy Barham

Hallowe'en is probably my favourite holiday of the year. When else can ya dress up like some demented monster and have no one notice? I suspect I'm not the only person who loves this strange, spooky evening before **All Saints' Day**.

The spirits of the departed, along with the rest of the gang of demons, witches, and whatever else lurks in the dark shadows of the **Christian** imagination all come out and basically do their thing at Grandview Park, where The Public Dreams Society launches its Parade of Lost Souls just before Hallowe'en. Despite the driving rain and the lowering November night, they're all there, waiting patiently to walk through the dank back alleys of Lower Commercial Drive—monsters, and witches, and goblins, and spirits of the night, and who knows what, parading through the rain.

While I'm waiting for the parade to begin, a rather ordinary looking guy walks past me—only he just happens to have a penis where his nose should be. The organ dangling from his face is even circumcised, and I hate to say this, lads, but his face is better hung than I am. It is probably better than anybody I've ever seen at Wreck Beach, for that matter. It's amazing what plastic surgery can do for a bloke these days. The wonders of science!

There are a lot of other interesting monsters kicking around the park, but the lighting is too low for me to get any decent photos.

Fiddling with the camera and trying to get ahead of the parade for that one great shot means that I see all the weird things the parade must pass through—the souls that died in fear and other ghostly tableaux scattered along the route, out of order, and thus out of context. I finally give up on the camera, and go rejoin the parade.

Public Dreams knows how to put on one hell of a show. And it's a show that, without exception, relies on its own audience to make the show happen. We're talking about serious audience participation, and The Parade of Lost Souls is audience participation extraordinaire. Even if you don't come in costume, you can still participate in the parade. In fact, the parade itself is merely a forum for whatever arcane messages Public Dreams, and its audience, wants to get across. It could only happen on Commercial Drive.

The parade, when it finally kicks off, coagulates at the entrance of the first alley. Shortly after the parade begins leaving the park, the dense mass of lost souls hanging about, waiting for it to begin, join the parade. Despite this, the spirits at the front of the parade are trying to sweep a clear path through the throngs. Eventually, everyone manages to pass through the alley. All along the way, Public Dreams, along with some of the tenants of the alley itself, has erected some pretty impressive Hallowe'en displays. From one of the houses abutting the alley, loud rock music blares in accompaniment to the brass band and the inevitable drummers that are so ubiquitous within the confines of youth culture.

The parade route is well-defined by these displays, as we leave the alley and meander towards the playing grounds of Britannia High School. We pass another park along the way, filled with wailing souls who Died in Fear. Before entering the grounds of Britannia, we must pass through the **Tunnel of Our Fears**—indeed, fear seems to be a predominant theme for this event. But then, it is Hallowe'en after all.

In the playing field, there are staging areas for performers, and tents and booths where one can enter and have an obliging spirit remove one's doubts. The grass is a soggy mess—more swamp than terra firma—and my feet and ankles are soon covered in mud.

ANDY BARHAM PHOTO

But I no longer mind the rain and the wet and the cold. Hell! When did ya last see a horror movie where it wasn't raining through most of the film? We even had a flash of lightning at one point, as though Public Dreams had somehow conjured up the sky for the benefit of all us passersby.

I'll be here again next year, rain or shine. Only this time, I'll be one of the scary ones.❖

feedback@ubyssey.bc.ca

UBC Film Society
Schedule
SUB Theatre
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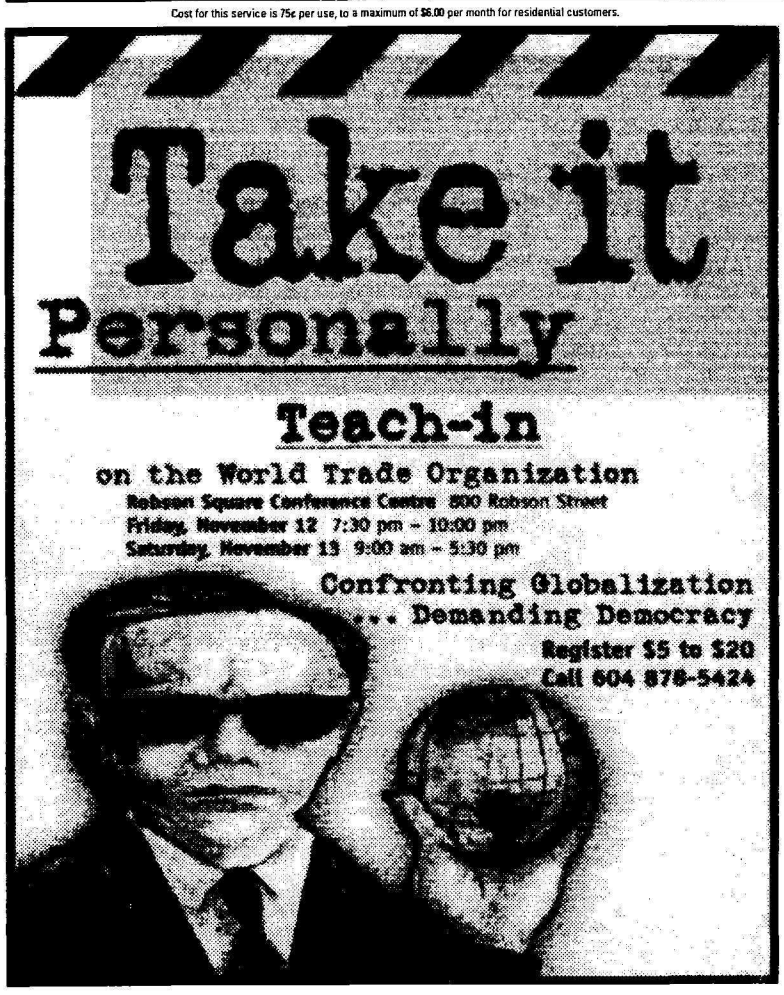

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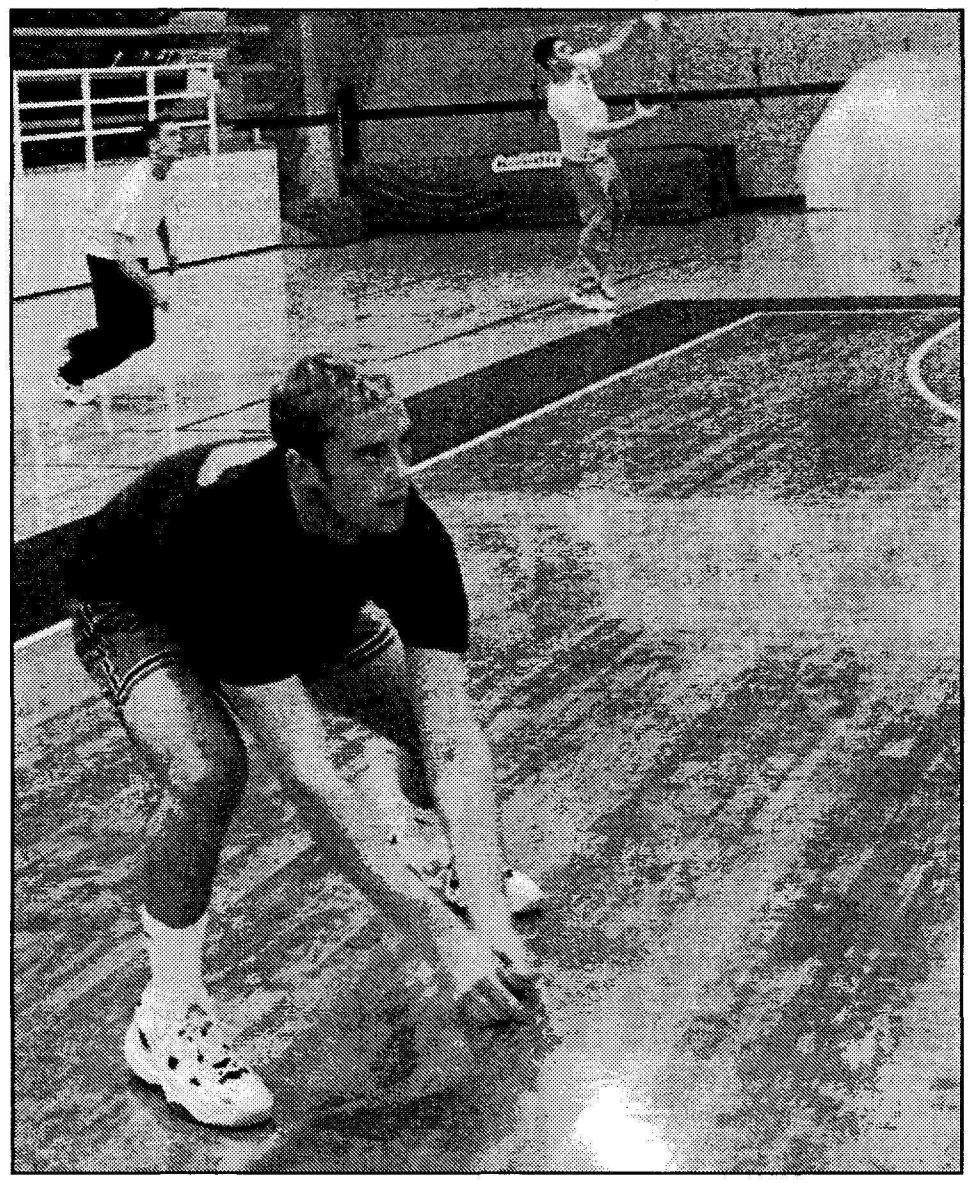
Men's volleyball, the



DIGGING DEEP: UBC men's volleyball team shown hard at practice (above). This year, the Thunderbirds face the challenge of playing with new game rules in the toughest conference in Canada. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

by Naomi Kim

Dale Ohman is probably the last person who you would expect to find volleyball boring. After all, he is the head coach of the UBC men's volleyball team and has been for 23 years now. But even before last season which included several three and a half hour matches, Ohman was ious for change.

"For the past ten yea have been screaming that leyball is getting boring. I antsy waiting for somethir happen," says Ohman.

And the wait is now ove addition to the annual turr of players, the new 1999/2 volleyball season will be start of a new-rules volle which will provide what Oh calls a "definitive two-hour p age of volleyball." The game ideally be more competi more exciting, less predicta and shorter—in other wo marketable for television.

Among the changes to game, the most significant probably be the scoring. testing three different sc methods, the international leyball authorities have se on a five-set rally point sc system to replace the old out system.

Co-captain Jeff Orchard c tioned the new rally point sc system at first, but hasn't fo too many differences so far says he now thinks the cha is probably better for the ga

"It just puts a little r emphasis on each play, w makes it more exciting for players and the fans," Orchard.

"I love it," Dale Oh agrees enthusiastically. " the old system, you could for three hours and get noth [The new system] rewa teams' play much fairer."

After a frustrating fourth place Canada West finish last son, the Birds can certainly use any break that rewards g play rather than simply a win or loss, or what Ohman ca "black and white" game. Last season, the Birds' 5-13 re included four matches longer than three hours and no wins

'99 UBC Sports Hall of Fa

by Naomi Kim

You've probably heard of Akbal Singh. The UBC football running back finished third in all time CIAU individual records for rushing in a regular season, in 1998 and 1999. He was there.

But you probably haven't heard of Jeannie Cockcroft. The UBC high jumper became the most successful female high jumper in Canadian university history by winning an unmatched three CIAU championships in 1983, 1986, and 1987. She was there too.

And they were joined by hundreds of other UBC sports figures—current and former athletes and friends—in an elegantly decorated room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel on October 14. They were all there to celebrate the athletic achievements of the past—fellow teammates who helped build the tradition of excellence in sports at UBC.

In the fifth annual Alumni Recognition and Sports Hall of Fame Dinner, Big Block sweaters were in abundance as were the smiles, laughter and tears in recognising UBC athletes, builders, and teams who excelled in their pursuits during their time at UBC.

In addition to the nine Alumni Awards given, which included the current UBC women's volleyball coach Erminia Russo in her final year as head coach, four inductees were named into the UBC Sports Hall of Fame.

Jeannie Cockcroft sat bouncing a smiling baby on her lap. The gentle-looking woman with plain brown hair sat inconspicuously among the crowd. As I approached her, she stood up to talk, revealing her lanky 6'1" frame. Cockcroft holds the UBC and CIAU records, was three-time CIAU national champion, was a UBC female athlete of the year, and has won gold medals at the Canada Games.

"I'm thrilled to get [the recognition]," said Cockcroft, who in addition to a few more laugh lines, looked just like she did during her UBC days. While at UBC, she attained a Bachelor of and Bachelor of Science degrees. In 1995, she finishe Master's of Library Sciences.

"I finished competing about two years ago," she said. " then I had Connor [her son]. So I'm not doing track right r Next year I'm in masters, so I might be competing in that c gory...It would be fun to aspire to do that." Apologising, rushed away with her wiggling baby.

Over to the right, making his rounds past several tables, ing the occasional wave and chatting away was John Haar. athletic-looking man with white hair was not all that big in s but he certainly held a large and impressive athletic backgrou

During Haar's time at UBC, he excelled in Thunderbird soc football, and baseball and was one of the best all-around letes in UBC's history. In 1968, he led UBC to the Pacific Co Soccer Championships, and then applied his punting and soc skills to football. He was pursued by the BC Lions and Da Cowboys and went to the Cowboys camp after baseball seas However, the whole time, Haar admitted that his "heart wa being a major league baseball player." So he decided not to low through with football and chose to finish his degree and baseball.

"Somehow or another I made it through the sports a made it through school, maybe a little of a miracle," he admit Haar eventually went on to coach for Canada's National Base Institute for 14 years.

As someone who certainly used his time at UBC to a m mum, his advice for others was simple.

"You want to make sure you keep things in perspective—t you're using your athletic skills to get you a high quality edu tion. The education will stand you in good stead for a lot lon than the athletics, and you do control how you do in the edu tion part. But with sports and that, as much as we'd all like be Olympians and play professional sports, some of those c

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With the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Alberta, and the University of Calgary—respective first, third and fourth-place finishers in last year's CIAUs—and the new addition of Trinity Western University to the Canada West, there is no question that the Birds are in the toughest conference in the country.

"It's frustrating when you defeat every other team in CIAU [except for in the Canada West]...we just have to find a way to get out of our conference and to nationals," says Ohman.

UBC's challenge will not be any easier this year with Calgary, Saskatchewan, and Alberta already ranked third, fifth, and sixth respectively in the current CIAU rankings.

As well, the Birds have lost some key players from last season: second team All-Canadian outside hitter Sean Warnes, and two starting middle blockers—Derek Schroeder, and two-time CIAU All-Canadian, TSN Award winner, and UBC graduating male athlete of the year Mike Dalziel. Although Dalziel's CIAU leading service aces and Canada West leading kills will be missed on the team, his presence from the Birds will not completely be gone. He will be behind the bench this year as an assistant coach along with Pat Hennelly and Jude Popp.

Players returning this season are fifth-year powers Orchard and Guy Davis, both co-captains this year. Orchard, seventh in digs in the Canada West last season, and Davis, fourth in service aces, will be looked upon for leadership on and off the court. However, Davis is suffering from a stomach/abdominal strain that could see him out anywhere from a few weeks to the whole season.

Other returning players include powers Cam Secret and Greg Poitras, both in their fourth year, and 6'7", second-year middles Ryan Cawsey and Tyler Manning.

"Last year we had so many talented players on the team, but for some reason, we didn't end up clicking as a team," says Orchard. "And I think that's sort of our strong point for this year. We may not have as deep a talent pool, but as a team, we're quite a bit stronger, a lot closer team."

New but experienced players include fourth-year middles Ken Kilpatrick, 6'4", and Brian Boles, 6'5". Both formerly played for Douglas College and will bring their experience and skill to the Thunderbirds this year. Boles joined the Birds midway through last season, but will play his first complete season this year. Other rookies include 6'8" middle Brooke Day from the Alberta provincial team.

And with right-side Chad Grimm, the Birds are looking to fill the spot left by Sean Warnes. Grimm was at UBC last year, but was out due to an injured shoulder. Now he is back and ready for action and will be one of the most exciting rookies.

"For the past ten years, I have been screaming that *VOLLEYBALL IS GETTING BORING*. I was antsy waiting for something to happen."

—Dale Ohman
UBC COACH

"[Grimm] is blessed with tremendous vertical, and his spike touch is 360cm...He will leave his mark in the CIAU," says Ohman about the 6'5" rookie.

"The strength of our team will be the university experience in...skill positions—people in service reception and outside hitting...This is a strong group and it's the best team feeling we've had in many years," says Ohman.

And the Birds had a chance to test themselves last weekend in their first regular season outing in Calgary. UBC were up against some tough competition from Calgary, a team which Ohman suspects is the "best team in the country" this year. The Birds lost both games.

"It's important to be able to face adversity as a team, and we've bonded with adversity already," says Ohman.

While the game of volleyball has picked up the pace with the new rules, the UBC volleyball teams themselves have never been lacking.

"The neat thing is you think you've seen it all...and then you see something different as a coach," says Ohman, who's entering his 23rd year of coaching at UBC. "We're experiencing a lot of new things this year, with a new mix of players. There's never a dull moment,"

And with a new season, a fairly new team, and new rules, this new men's volleyball year should provide plenty of excitement for Ohman, the players, and definitely the fans.

The Birds' first test at home will be this weekend against Trinity Western. UBC will be battling for every point each weekend as they try to crack into the top three in the Canada West to qualify for the playoffs.

Both UBC and TWU will be looking for their first win of the season to improve on their current 0-2 records. They play at War Memorial Gym on Friday, November 5 at 8pm and Saturday, November 6 at 6:15pm.❖

Guide to new volleyball rules

In an attempt to make men's volleyball games more exciting, competitive, and shorter in length, new international volleyball rules of play alter the scoring system, points for standings, and add a new playing position.

"It's like five matches in one...every set is crucial and there's pressure to perform in every set. You can't take a holiday or relax. You just get to go, go, go until the end," said Dale Ohman, men's volleyball head coach.

RALLY POINT, NOT SIDE-OUT

Rather than the old scoring system of keeping track of who served the ball to determine points, the new rally point system allows a point to be awarded to whichever team wins the rally, regardless of who served. This change serves to shorten games.

The sets go up to 25 points.

FIVE SETS, NOT BEST-OF-FIVE

If implemented on its own, the rally point system could lead to games being too short if one team dominates. However, having five mandatory sets ensures that matches will at least reach a minimum of between one and a half and two hours.

POINTS, NOT ONLY WIN/LOSS/TIE

5-0 victory = 3 points to the winning team

4-1 victory = 3 points to the winning team; 1 point to the losing team

3-2 victory = 2 points to the winning team; 1 point to the losing team

This new points system ensures that all sets are important and will keep standings closer.

LIBERO

"Libero" is the new defence and serve reception specialist position. This player can enter and leave the game during breaks in the action but the player is restricted to the back row and cannot attack, block or set overhand. The new position was created to allow the rest of the team to focus on offence while the Libero passes the ball and plays defence.

For the referee's convenience, the libero wears a different coloured uniform than the other players.❖

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sions are not in your hands. But the education part is. So take care of that, and the athletics part will take care of itself."

Walking around in a Big Block sweater procession was Mike Smith, a tall man with thin white hair and big square glasses, and a cast on his left arm. Smith was number seven of the 1954/55 Eight Oared Crew which started an unprecedented tradition of excellence of rowing at UBC.

As an old film of the 1954 British Empire Games trial from the National Film Board flashed on the screen, cries of joy erupted and tears of remembrance flowed from Moira Block, Mike Smith's sister who was in attendance as a small child at that regatta. Cheers followed as the small-town Canadian boys shocked the world by finishing two and a half lengths ahead of the heavily favoured English crew. The UBC team representing Canada then went on to the 1955 Henley Regatta and finished ahead of Russia, the defending world champions. Block and her husband came from California just for this moment of recognition and she led in the standing ovation for her brother and the rest of the crew.

Smith simply beamed with pride, his glasses shielding his wet pale blue eyes.

"It truly is a great honour and we've had other awards given to us, but certainly, to be recognised by your own university in such a magnificent fashion, is really, truly a great honour," said Smith. He has only rowed once in the 45 years since he left UBC.

The night was also a reunion for the crew; many hadn't seen each other since their time at UBC.

"Those [rowing] days are obviously behind me. And sure, we look back at all the wonderful events that did happen to us. That was a marvellous experience. I think we all think that it, in many ways, started our lives.

"And I'm still active," he said with a wink as he gestured towards his arm, which he broke playing tennis a few weeks ago.

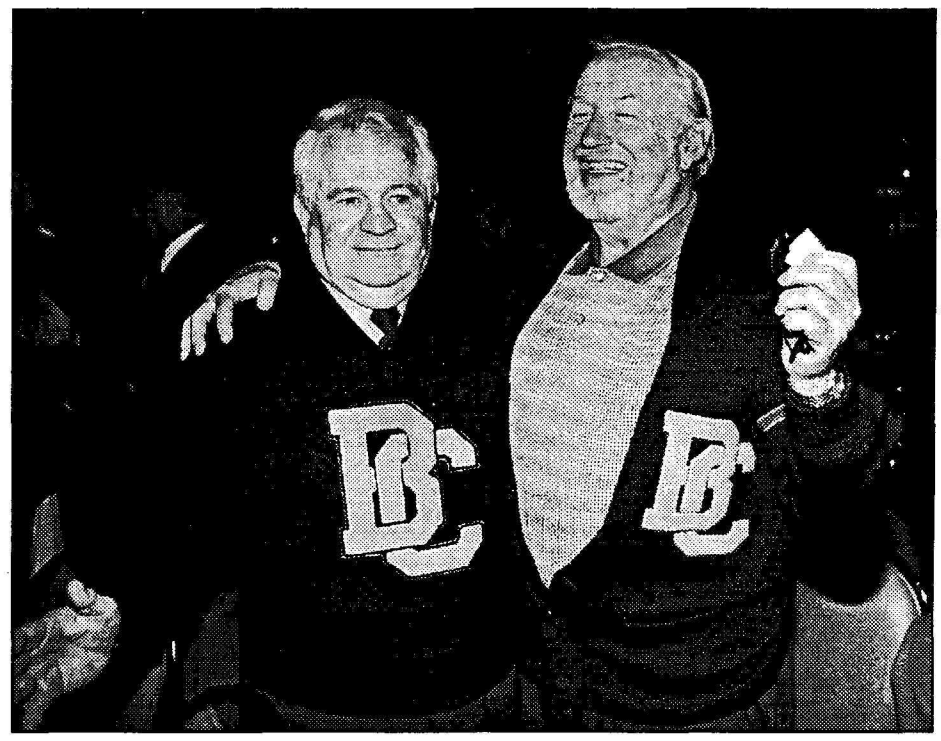
The final inductee was UBC football, baseball, and golf coach Frank Gnup, who passed away of a heart attack in 1976 at the age of 59. His award was received by former UBC and professional football player Don Vassos. Gnup was remembered by his players and many others as a man who brought respect to the UBC football program.

"Frank—he didn't care about wins or losses, he cared about people," said one of his players in the video.

"[Gnup] played a very large part in a lot of people's lives in that room. Certainly, in the athletic circles," said Vassos. "But it was much more than his contribution as a coach or anything. He actually changed the lives of a lot of young people that I know...And he was there to give us the proper direction."

As a coach, as a person, and as an intellectual man who also happened to be an authority on opera and ballet among other things, Gnup's contribution to UBC was acknowledged through a touching video and from fond memories of those present.

Russo, Cockcroft, Haar, Smith, Singh, a crop of current varsity volleyball players and rowers, and numerous other athletes and coaches—the room was filled with the past, present and future of UBC sports. Their accomplishments may or may not be written in the record books, but for some there's still time. And hopefully, 40 years down the road, we'll remember who they were.❖



BIG BLOCK BROTHERS relive fond memories and celebrate UBC alumni and athletic achievements in a classy evening. Present and past athletes mingled at the Hyatt Regency Hotel to honour the UBC Sport Hall of Fame inductees. **JENN NEILSON PHOTO**

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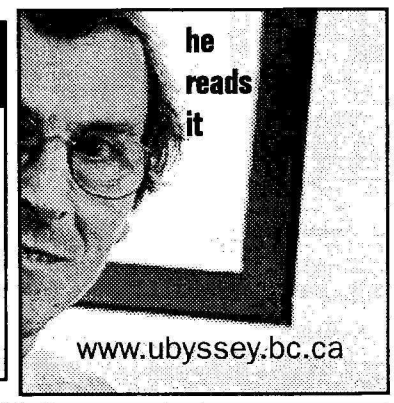

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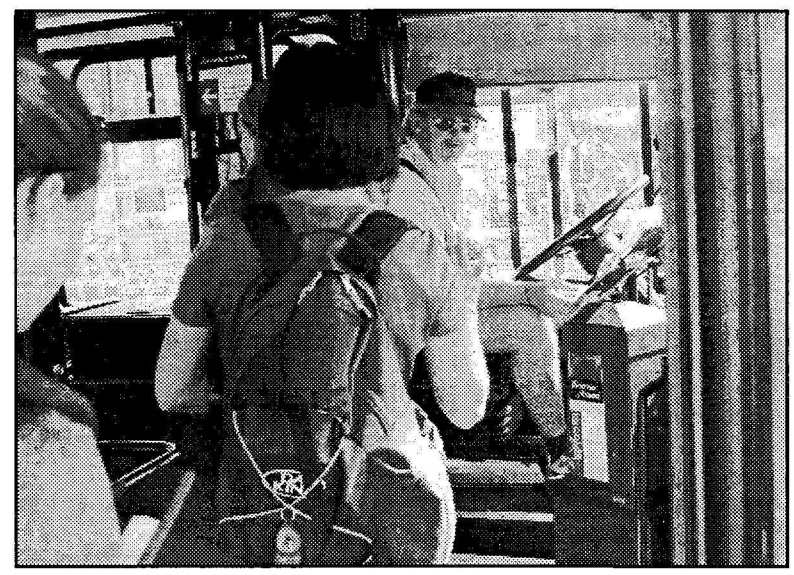
Student bus pass en route



ALL ABOARD: Mandatory bus passes may be on the way for UBC students. TARA WESTOVER/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

by Emil Burdett

Students will head to the polls in an upcoming referendum to vote on whether they will have to pay for a mandatory bus pass, organisers announced at a public seminar last Saturday.

If the plan is approved, both undergraduate and graduate students will pay an approximate cost of $100 per term ($25 per month) for a U-Pass card valid in all three transit zones in the Lower Mainland. Negotiations are currently underway between UBC and TransLink to determine the specifics of the deal.

According to UBC Director of Transportation Planning Gord Lovegrove, a preliminary agreement will be reached in the next several weeks.

"The hardest part is the transit part. It's the most complicated, it's the most costly and it's the most risky because you want to make sure the buses are in the right places if you're paying big bucks for buses," he said.

"The hardest part is the transit part. It's the most complicated, it's the most costly and it's the most risky because you want to make sure the buses are in the right places if you're paying big bucks for buses."

—Gord Lovegrove director of Transportation Planning, UBC

Translink officials agree. At a U-Pass seminar held last Saturday at UBC, Jan Pezarro, TransLink' vice-president of customer service and marketing, expressed concerns about the plan's reliance on buses.

"If I have a little quibble with the U-Pass program...it's overly reliant on buses," said Pezarro.

But according to Lovegrove, the U-Trek program is also trying to accommodate students who don't use transit.

"[Some students] want the flexibility to vanpool, carpool, or ride a bike, or walk, or just stay at home," he said.

Under the cost of the U-Pass card, vanpools of eight or more students will receive parking in campus parkades, while students who carpool will have priority in preferential parking locations on campus.

For cyclists, the $25 monthly charge will go toward paying for bicycle racks. And a planned agreement with UBC Athletics will provide change rooms, lockers, showers and secure bike parking for students who choose to ride to campus.

Lovegrove has also budgeted for a shuttle system of pedi-cabs, electric and natural gas vans, and public bicycles.

Meanwhile, Scott Rutherford, professor of civil engineering at the University of Washington, said at the seminar that raising parking rates is necessary to dissuade students from driving alone to campus.

Alma Mater Society Coordinator of External Affairs Nathan Allen believes that few students will be adversely affected by the program.

"The only people whom this program will hit hard are students who refuse to drive with other people," he said.

Allen's chief concern is whether there will be enough new buses to meet the increased demand.

"If we pay for [the U-Pass] and then they're not putting in more buses, then it's useless," commented Allen.

A referendum is tentatively scheduled for January, but Allen said it might be as late as March.

The U-Pass is designed to meet UBC's objective of reducing single-occupancy vehicle traffic to campus by 20 per cent. This goal is outlined in UBC's Official Community Plan, which governs all development on campus and the surrounding areas. ❖

The Vancouver B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation / Jewish Students Association at the University of British Columbia presents

HOLOCAUST AWARENESS WEEK

Sunday, November 7th

KRISTALLNACHT

A ceremony to commemorate the "night of broken glass" where thousands of Jewish homes and businesses were destroyed.
Professor Richard Weisberg, Floersheimer Professor of Constitutional Law, speaks on:
Legalized Looting: The Victimization of Jews by Vichy France and Today's Efforts to Right That Wrong
7:30 PM, Beth Israel Synagogue, 4350 Oak Street

Monday, November 8th

FACE TO FACE

Moderator: Marilyn Berger, Associate Director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region
A Dialogue to Discuss Hate Propoganda and Racially Motivated Crimes
12:30 PM, SUB Art Gallery, UBC

Tuesday, November 9th

Kindling the Light: Moving in the Shadows

Featuring the art of Linda Dayan Frimer and the poetry of Lillian Boraks-Nemetz
Frimer descends into the darkest periods of Jewish history and personal identity in a yearning to move the shadows of intolerance, prejudice and victimization towards the light of redemption.
11:30 AM, SUB Art Gallery, UBC

Tuesday, November 9th

AUSCHWITZ - MAUTHAUSEN - MELK - EBENSE

Retired business man, David Ehrlich, a survivor of these death camps will talk about his experiences.
Question & Answer Period to follow.
1:30 PM, SUB Art Gallery, UBC

Wednesday, November 10th

BARBED WIRE & BUTTERFLIES

The Hillel Writing Group presents Poetry of the Holocaust
12:30 PM, SUB Art Gallery, UBC

HILLEL

Please visit the Holocaust Awareness Week display in the SUB Concourse and Art Gallery, November 8-12.
All programs are free of charge and all are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Vancouver Hillel @ 224-4748.

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RCMP investigates vandalism at forest research site

by Nicholas Bradley

Police are keeping their options open even after an environmental activist group claimed responsibility for the destruction of hundreds of seedlings at a research station on the south end of campus.

Last Wednesday, seedlings at the research facility for the Silvagen company were destroyed. Initial estimates suggested that 500 trees were damaged, but Dave Goold, chief financial officer of BC Research, Silvagen's parent company, said that the actual number may in fact be three times as high.

A similar incident occurred near Victoria, where approximately 3000 trees were destroyed or damaged at Western Forest Products (WFP)'s seed orchard in Saanich on Hallowe'en night. WFP estimates the cost of the damage at $250,000.

In response to the vandalism, WFP has offered a $25,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of those responsible.

Two days ago, in a media release circulated by local activist David Barbarash, a group called Reclaim the Genes announced that it was responsible for the vandalism at UBC. A different group, the Genetix Goblins, claimed responsibility for the Victoria incident.

Police in Vancouver and Victoria are working together to investigate the matter.

"We have been pursuing a variety of different avenues with respect to this investigation, and this particular individual [Barbarash] who is alleging to be a spokesman on behalf of sort of two splinter groups," said Staff Sergeant Lloyd Plante of UBC's RCMP detachment.

But Plante said the RCMP is still looking into the possibility that the damage was caused by an angry employee or if it was a random act of property damage.

The two activist groups were apparently trying to destroy genetically-altered trees, which is believed to be the first such case in Canada.

However, Silvagen President, Ben Sutton, says that the attack may have been misguided.

"What they've in fact targeted is regular tree selection and breeding for reforestation and it appears to me that they're against that as well...because they say it changes the forest. Well, what changes the forest is cutting it down in the first place, not the kind of selection as is commonly used in forestry breeding, which...is fundamentally different from what is done in agricultural crops."

Sally Aitken, assistant professor of forest science at UBC, agrees.

"I think that people have been shocked to find out that this group seems to be motivated by anti-genetic engineering sentiments, but the trees that were cut down weren't genetically engineered.

"Their actions don't make sense in terms of their own principles," she said.

Silvagen's research was being conducted primarily for the BC Ministry of Forests, and involved physiological assessments of the trees' resistance to stress, such as tolerance to drought and freezing.

Meanwhile, Sutton hopes that Silvagen can replace the seedlings and return to work.

"Our hope is we're in fact able to replace the seedlings that were lost with ones of the same sources, and I think we may be able to do that."

He noted, however, that the company would still incur a loss because of lost work and the time it will take to restart the research. The estimated cost to both Silvagen and BC Research was around $300,000, but Sutton said the exact figure could be slightly lower.

Neither Plante nor Sutton had previously heard of either activist group.❖

ONE OF THOUSANDS: Damaged trees at UBC and near Victoria cost researchers time and money. Activists have claimed responsibility. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

UBC-Telus deal a monopoly, says graduate student

by Stanley Tromp

A UBC Forestry graduate student is complaining to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) about a deal that would make Telus the primary data network supplier on campus.

Geza Vamos wants the CRTC to rule whether the arrangement would constitute an illegal monopoly under federal telephone regulations.

In August 1996, UBC and Telus—which recently bought out BC Tel—announced an agreement-in-principle for a ten-year sealed marketing contract. Under the deal, Telus would be UBC's principal data electronic supplier. Although the fee has not been made public, UBC is expected to earn over $1 million per year. Negotiations to shape a final contract, which requires the approval of UBC's Board of Governors, are ongoing.

But Jim Tom, director of Information Technology (IT) at UBC, said that the Telus deal will not likely create a pure monopoly.

"Students would have the right to choose [a service provider], since in residence they're acting as private citizens, but we would encourage them to use Telus," he said.

However, UBC's other phone lines, such as those in offices, labs, and libraries, would be exclusively Telus.

In 1997, the CRTC ordered local phone markets open to competition, and allowed companies that installed the phone lines to charge a fee to a rival company that uses the lines.

Another graduate student, Brian Sieben, filed a complaint with the CRTC about UBC's phone service.

In November 1995 he complained about the "dreadful" service provided by ResTel, established by UBC to provide phone service to Thunderbird residents after BC Tel refused to do so. ResTel manages phone service for roughly 1000 of UBC's residence lines, with the remaining 6500 handled by Telus.

He complained that in addition to costing more than Telus, ResTel doesn't let users make collect calls or reach an operator. Sieben added that users often can't dial local Vancouver numbers or receive calls because all circuits are busy.

Tom defended ResTel affirming that "there wasn't much of a problem in 1995, and any problems we might have we've since resolved."

The Telecommunications Workers Union wrote to the BC Advanced Education Minister in 1996 to support Sieben's complaint against the ResTel monopoly. UBC's Alma Mater Society also complained to the CRTC.

In 1995, CRTC Legal Counsel Allan Rosenzveig questioned the deal's validity.

"I'm not even sure that the arrangement [UBC] has for its local service is okay," he told *the Ubyssey*.

But according to Tom, UBC doesn't need the CRTC's permission.

"The CRTC classifies UBC as private property, so the CRTC has no jurisdiction over us," he said.

Vamos said he will cite precedents set at Brock and McGill universities. In those cases, the universities imposed exclusive phone networks on residents and ordered Bell Canada to pull out its cables.

Bell complained and in 1996, CRTC Secretary-General Allan Darling ruled in favour of competition, stating that students "should not be required to obtain their telecommunications services from the university."

The CRTC subsequently ordered the universities to open up the markets again.

But Tom said the situations are different here, because ResTel was created only because Telus refused to provide service.

Residents must pay ResTel $10 per month if they want to use another local supplier because, he said, UBC wants to recover costs spent on infrastructure.

The CRTC has yet to rule on ResTel.❖

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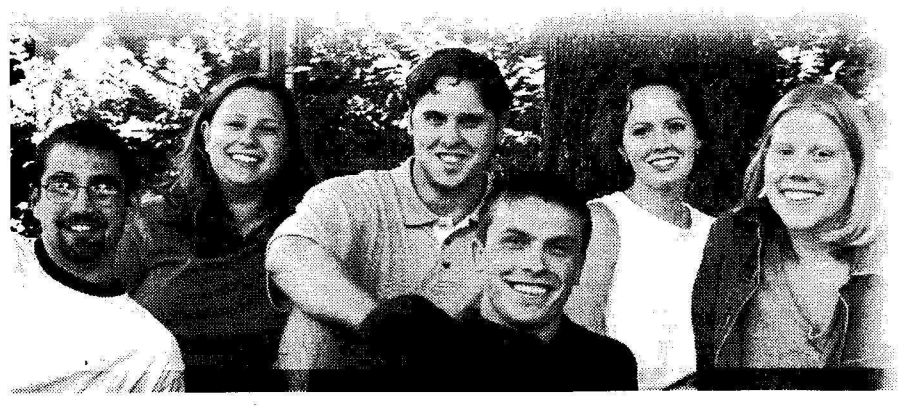
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Giving back what they've taken away

Election time must be coming soon. Paul Martin obviously thinks so. He's giving voters a choice between tax cuts and increased social spending—must be a nice position to be in. He seems pretty pleased with himself these days—and maybe he should be. The Liberals have done a lot with their time in office.

A lot. Since 1993, they've cut $7 billion from post-secondary education. The percentage of the gross domestic product dedicated to post-secondary education, health, and welfare has decreased steadily throughout the decade. In the last fiscal year, the Liberal government cut $2.5 billion from social programs.

And that's not all. Six billion dollars have been cut in transfer payments to the provinces. The payments haven't been this low since 1949. Program spending has steadily declined over the past six fiscal years, even as revenue has steadily increased.

There's more. Tuition fees for students have increased by 45 per cent since 1993, and the average student debt load for a four-year undergraduate degree is now $25,000.

That's quite a track record. And the Liberals still have up to two years left in office before the next election.

Paul Martin neglected to mention these accomplishments when he announced this week that the feds have accumulated a surplus of $95.5 billion.

He neglected to mention that this surplus has come at the expense of social programs. He didn't mention that this isn't a true surplus at all. All he has done is shuffle the numbers around. It's not like he's found the money under a rock or anything—*that* we'd be impressed with.

That $95.5 billion is money that the government took away from social spending. Now, the government is proposing to spend half the money on social programs and half on tax cuts and the national debt.

This "choice" Martin is presenting is really no choice at all. Any spending he plans will only replace the cuts he's already made.

Hey, you say, tax cuts will help me. I pay taxes, I'd like to pay less. Well, the sad fact is that unless you make a decent amount of money—compared to what most students make now—tax cuts aren't going to help you enough to make a difference. And if you make no money, tax cuts won't help you at all. The government has already hurt those in need—students, the unemployed, the sick. And tax cuts only make the problem worse.

If the government had found the money somewhere—in the gutter, in its wallet, under Conrad Black's couch cushions—we'd be happy to see taxes cut. If this was free money, well then cut away. But this is not free money—far from it. And when the tax cuts come at the expense of social programs, and at the expense of those who really need the money, then there is no justification for these cuts. So when the election is called, think twice about where this money came from.❖

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EDITORIAL OFFICE
Room 241K, Student Union Building,
6138 Student Union Boulevard,
Vancouver, BC. V6T 1Z1
tel: (604) 822-2301
fax: (604) 822-9279
email: feedback@ubyssey.bc.ca

BUSINESS OFFICE
Room 245, Student Union Building
advertising: (604) 822-1654
business office: (604) 822-6681
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Duncan McHugh asked him if he had everything he needed. Graeme Worthy reminded him to take his toothbrush, and Nicholas Bradley handed him his wallet. Todd Silver and Flora Graham drove him to the airport with some vintage Tom Peacock blaring on the radio. He stepped out of the car and kissed Tristan Winch goodbye. Back at the office Daliah Merzaban noticed something on his desk and Tara Westover felt a cold shudder run down her back. Lisa Denton looked, and sure enough, it was the plane ticket. Naomi Kim started to giggle and Melanie Streich and Dale Lum joined in. Laura Blue and Andy Barham offered to drive out to the airport, but Lisa Denton pointed out that there wasn't enough time. Lawrence Chew told Jamie Tong he knew this would happen all along. Stanley Tromp said there was nothing anyone could do, and Emil Brudett agreed. Jenn Neilson said that she would never do such a silly thing, and Jeremy Beaulne said he always double-checked. Cynthia Lee just looked sombre as she spoke: "Let this be a lesson to you, Bruce Arthur."

PAGE FRIDAY CONTRIBUTIONS

Close your eyes and try to find your inner Malkovich

BEING JOHN MALKOVICH
opens today

by Duncan M. McHugh

"I have seen things no man should ever have to see."

Thus spoke John Malkovich, playing John Malkovich, in the new film *Being John Malkovich*. The film concerns the discovery of a portal that allows one into John Malkovich's head for 15 minutes before being spit out into a ditch next to the New Jersey Turnpike. This is the ditch in which John Malkovich stands as he announces his unfortunate discovery.

Fifteen minutes earlier, he had entered the portal into his own brain, segueing one of the most absurd and funny scenes in recent cinematic memory. But then, *Being John Malkovich* is rife with bizarre and wonderful moments, making it, if nothing else, a most original and refreshing movie.

The story centres around a puppeteer, Craig Schwartz (John Cusack), who, unable to sustain a livelihood in his underappreciated medium, is forced to take a job as a filing clerk. Here, in his "low-overhead," five-foot high office (the seventh-and-a-half floor), he meets Maxine (Catherine Keener), a broad who has him tongue-tied. This despite the fact that Craig is married to Lotte (a very homely Cameron Diaz), a pet store cashier who brings her job home with her.

It's difficult to delve too deeply into the story without sacrificing the enjoyment of future viewers. Rest assured, things do not unfold conventionally. Entrepreneurship, a love triangle, jealousy and Charlie Sheen all figure in the resolution of the story. Chimp flashbacks, an action sequence through John Malkovich's subconscious and the key to eternal life are all explored.

The joy of this film comes from its originality. Credit must go to first-time feature film director Spike Jonze (a demi-god of the music video world) who manages to keep the proceedings from getting too ludicrous. Kudos to the actors as well (especially the very brave John Malkovich), as they ensure that, even during its lesser moments, *Being John Malkovich* is a supremely entertaining and rewarding film.❖

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women: 11:30am

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all of those who belong to a caucus are welcome to attend, but the ubyssey office will be closed to non-caucus members at these times.

Ship of fools

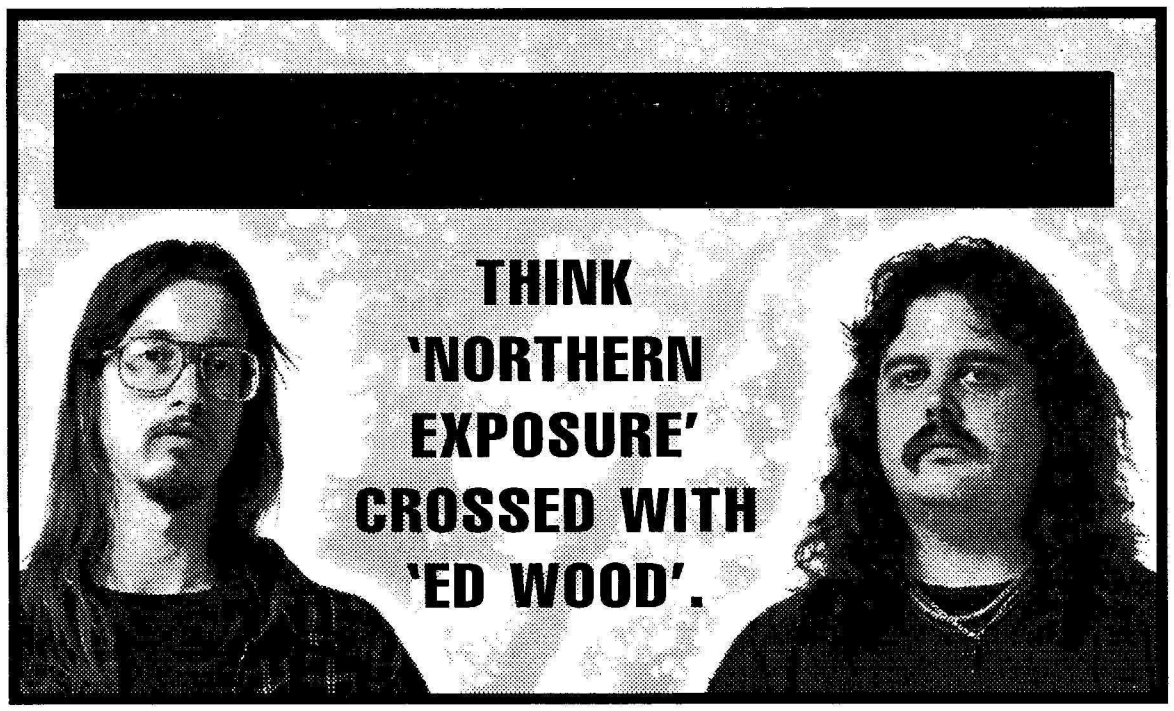
continued from page 1

somewhat comforting—as it was two in the afternoon—but the buffet was also mostly deserted. No time for eating and drinking; it was slots of fun, and low stakes blackjack, for this crowd. Gone were the evening gowns and tuxedos, gone even were the fezzes. These people, like me, were not about to change out of their jeans just for this.

The boat wasn't even going to sail that day. "We're hoping to get it out in the next few days," said the security guard at the entrance ramp, but he declined to explain why. Perhaps only rich people need the glorious scenery of the banks of the Fraser. Certainly no one in the crowd that day would have bothered going outside onto the blustery deck, or looking out the windows for that matter. They weren't even smiling. They were there to gamble.

Despite the fact that this crowd was not as well turned out as the wealthy opening-night bunch, the BC study and a Gallup Poll study in the US have not found any statistically significant link between problem gambling and low income or lack of education. Apparently, if you're a problem gambler, you gamble all you've got, it doesn't matter if it's five hundred thousand or your last five bucks.

After losing twenty bucks during my last visit, I decided to stick to the free learn-to-play blackjack table this time. Sitting there, I felt nostalgia for the glamorous fantasy world I had visited two days before. And I realised that Don Mann's dream of "a formal atmosphere" was not coming true. I think it was when the elderly man across from me pulled his dentures out of his mouth with a squelching sound and put them in his pocket. Jackpot! ❖



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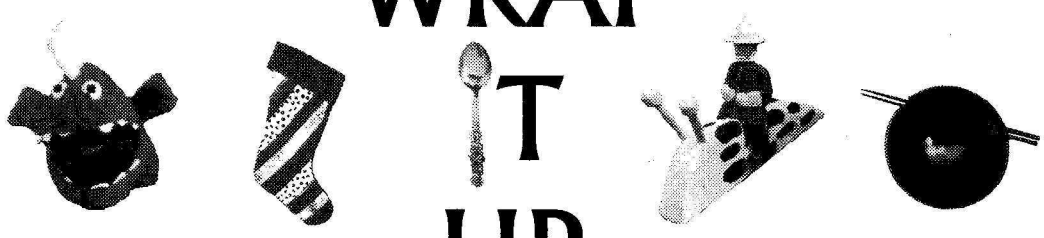

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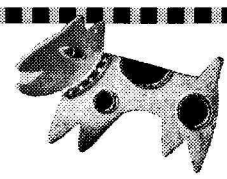

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