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TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2000

UBC Archives Serial

More money for education

by Nicholas Bradley

VICTORIA—As expected, the new provincial budget extends the tuition freeze for another year, but it also includes additional funding for post-secondary education in BC.

The budget, announced yesterday by BC Minister of Finance Paul Ramsey, increased funding to BC's universities and colleges by \$85 million—a jump of 7.5 per cent over last year's spending figure—and confirmed that tuition fees in BC will remain at their current levels.

"The freeze has helped enrolment grow faster in BC than anywhere else in Canada," Ramsey said in his speech to the Legislative Assembly.

"Enrolment is growing throughout the province, reflecting our commitment to provide quality education and opportunities in all regions," he continued. The new advanced education funding will

"Enrolment is growing throughout the province, reflecting our commitment to provide quality education and opportunities in all regions."

be granted to post-secondary institutions to help offset the cost of the tuition freeze, to increase core funding, and to pay for new courses.

"One of the focuses [of the budget] is investing in vital services, including education," Ramsey told the media yesterday.

Of the \$85 million, \$39 million will go towards creating over 5000 new spaces at universities and colleges. A ministry official explained that these spaces have not yet been allocated to individual institutions.

The new funding has not yet been divided among BC's various schools, although some has been earmarked for Royal Roads

**—Paul Ramsey
BC minister of finance**

University and the Technical University of British Columbia (Tech BC).

A capital development fund of \$133 million will go towards university infrastructure. A ministry official said that although Minister for Advanced Education Graeme Bowbrick will announce new projects at a later date, approximately \$97 million of this fund will be allocated to ongoing care and maintenance projects. Another \$117 million will go to research infrastructure.

The budget received an enthusiastic response from provincial student and university organisations.

"This budget is a great-news budget for students," Mark Veerkamp, BC chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), told *the Ubyyssey*.

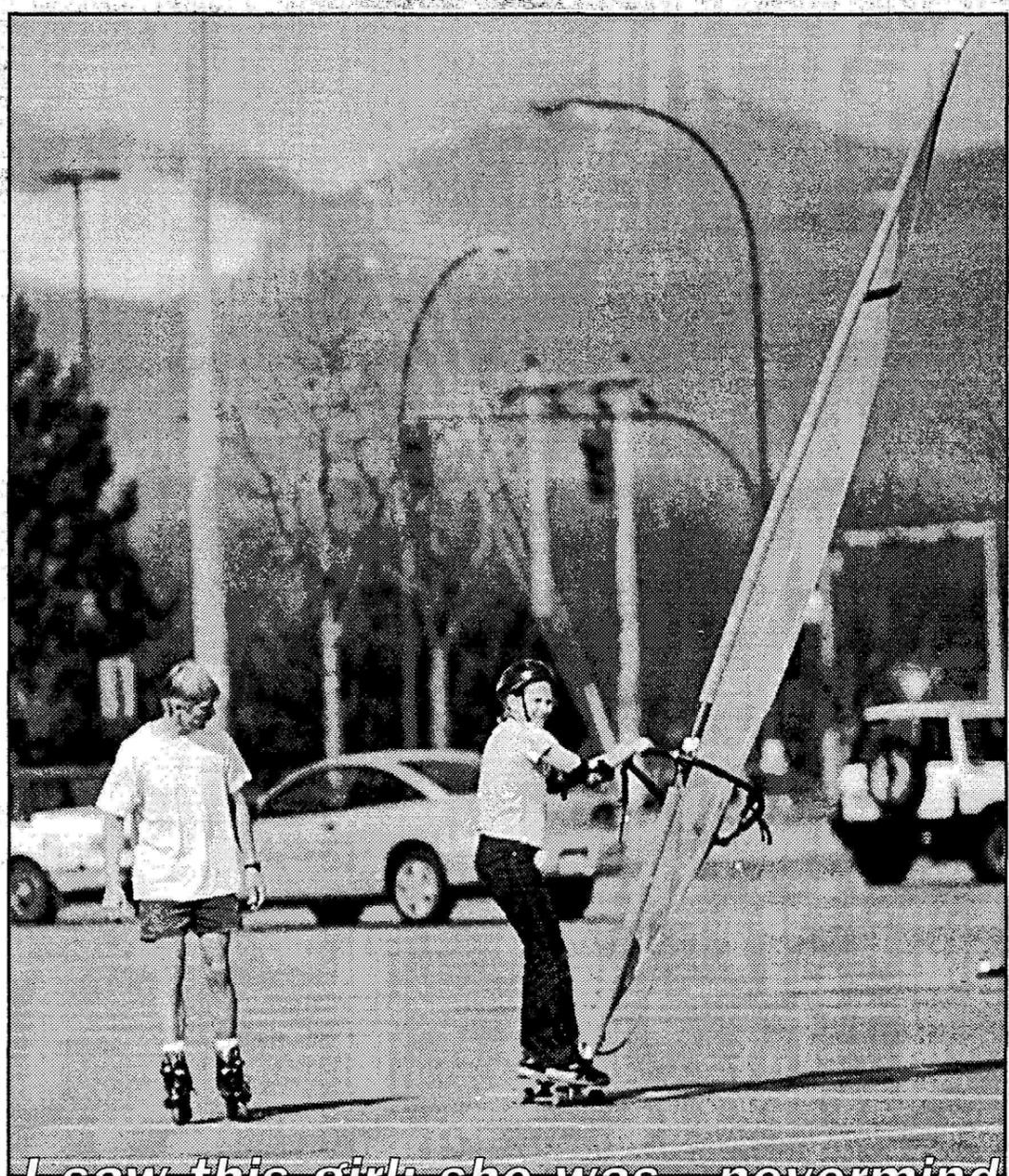
"The tuition fee freeze has been the most important policy for improving access to post-secondary education, and we're glad to see it continued in this budget, and also glad to see that there's more spaces in the colleges and universities," said Veerkamp, who added that although he expected the tuition freeze to continue, the number of new spaces was far beyond what the CFS had called for.

Douglas College's Neil Nicholson, of the Advanced Education Council of BC, agrees with the CFS that the 5000 new seats is a positive development, but notes that more spaces will be needed in the future. He hopes to see an additional 4000 spaces created each year in order to fulfill the demand. Nicholson suggested a cost of \$45 million per year would be necessary to accommodate these new seats.

Maureen Shaw, president of the College Institute Educators' Association, BC's largest post-secondary education union, is also pleased with the budget.

"When you consider we have colleges and institutes and university-colleges throughout the province in 110 communities, it

see "Ramsey" on page 2



I saw this girl; she was...nevermind

SATURDAY was a beautiful, bright, sunny day. At around 2pm, some people were having lunch, some were having breakfast, some were still sleeping off hangovers. Some people were buried away in the library starting term papers, some were playing frisbee in the park, some were snowboarding up at Cypress, some were mountain biking up at Seymour and some were riding skateboards with sails on them across the B-lot. **TARA WESTOVER PHOTO**

BC increases spending

by Nicholas Bradley

VICTORIA—British Columbia's new budget brings the province new funding for social programs, tax cuts, and an increased deficit.

What the government is touting as an "open and transparent" budget includes increased spending on health care and education, and introduces tax cuts, aimed primarily at the middle class.

"We have chosen a moderate course that bal-

ances the priorities of British Columbians," BC Finance Minister Paul Ramsey said at a press conference held yesterday in Victoria.

Ramsey admitted that the debt is rising, and that the budget has a deficit of almost \$1.3 billion, but said that this deficit is better than the target the government had set, and that the debt is at a manageable level. He did not say whether there would be any debt-reduction strategies announced in the future.

see "budget" on page 2

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"Ramsey" from page 1 means more students will be able, everywhere, to get post-secondary education," she said.

Shaw applauded the creation of 400 new nursing spaces, but noted that areas such as trades training and English as a second language programs need to be included as well.

"This goes a heck of a long way," said Robert Clift, the executive director of the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC,

which represents academic staff at the province's four universities.

"Now that they've done it once, hopefully they'll do it again next year, and we'll get the rest of the way [there]," he said, calling for further financial support of post-secondary education in future budgets.

Clift emphasised, however, the need for the province to support university research. Details of such support were not made clear in the budget. ♦

"budget" from page 1

Much of the announced tax cuts, however, come as a result of tax cuts introduced by the federal government in its own recent budget. The provincial budget adds \$50 million in cuts to the \$175 million reduction in provincial taxes created by Ottawa, and will add another \$75 million next year.

In addition the new budget promises a small-business tax reduction, tax credits for the high-tech sector, child care funding, and several multi-million dollar health care initiatives.

The Hospital Employees' Union was supportive of this funding, and applauded Ramsey's insistence that BC would not adopt a privatised health care system.

Not everyone is pleased with the budget, however. Karen Wristen of the Sierra Legal Defence Fund is highly critical of a \$6 million reduction of the budget of the Ministry of the Environment, which she argues will be crippled by the cuts.

"It means that effectively they've got no money left at all for enforcement," said Wristen, who had hoped for new tax strategies that would help clean up the environment.

"We'd certainly expected a lot more of this government," she said. ♦

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Manitoban newspaper shut down

by Dave Leibl
Manitoba Bureau Chief

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Some students at the University of Manitoba say that student leaders acted too aggressively when they passed a motion that will effectively shut down the school's student paper, *the Manitoban*.

Earlier this month, the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) voted in favour of dissolving the autonomy agreement between the union and the newspaper.

After a forum held by the student union, architecture major Darrel Ronald said that the student union's move to dissolve the agreement "assaults [students'] right to freedom of speech."

Ronald, co-founder of a group called Students at Large, says the group wants student union councillors to reconsider the motion.

"We demand the immediate and complete reinstatement of the current autonomy agreement, given that UMSU presented and passed this motion both unjustifiably and illegitimately," he said.

Student union President Steven Fletcher says that the move was made in response to the concerns of several faculty associations, student presidents, and a student group named "the Association for the Improvement of the Manitoban" (AIM).

Romel Dhalla, a member of AIM, says that councillors have made a "good move" in deciding to terminate the autonomy agreement.

Dhalla—last year's Faculty of Arts student president—said last year's *Manitoban* staff attempted to "demonise" and "discredit" him, and believes a new agreement could prevent a similar incident from reoccurring.

"I think the [current] autonomy agreement doesn't provide for certain restrictions on 'Toban staff who go too far,'" he said.

The motion stipulates that *the Manitoban* will lose funding and support services from UMSU, and will be required to vacate its office space no later than April 8.

One week after the motion was passed, the student union scheduled several forums billed as opportunities to assist in the creation of a new agreement with the paper.

But students at a forum on March 14 instead asked Fletcher to explain why UMSU had taken the drastic measure of terminating the agreement already in place.

Discussion was interrupted several times as students applauded demands for UMSU to overturn the motion.

Fletcher rebuffed calls to restore the agreement, but he says students who oppose the motion aren't being ignored.

"Their voice was absolutely heard," he said. "We're going to try and incorporate their point of view into the agreement."

Fletcher says he needs more input to accurately gauge students' opinion of *the Manitoban* and the autonomy agreement.

He added that five more forums have been scheduled across campus.

Manitoban editor-in-chief Kevin Matthews says he is glad to see students voicing their concerns over the motion.

"UMSU maintains that they were representing University of Manitoba students in trying to contravene the agreement," he said. "From what I've seen of these forums, students are letting UMSU know that they weren't representing their interests at all."

"UMSU wants suggestions, but what they are getting is an expression of students' shock and mistrust of their actions." ❖

Entrance GPA may rise

by Vanessa Ho

A proposal to increase grade point average (GPA) admission requirements may make it more difficult for college transfer students to attend UBC.

UBC is planning to raise the GPA requirements for college students from 2.8 to 3.2. GPA is a commonly-used grading system that ranks a student's grades between zero and four—four being equivalent to an A.

The change will affect college students transferring into such programs as second- and third-year Arts and Sciences. Comparatively, Simon Fraser University has set its GPA requirement at 2.7.

UBC Associate Registrar Mary Cooney said the change is a result of too many applicants for too few spaces available for college students. UBC anticipates an increase of up to 20 to 30 per cent in the number of applicants this year.

Last year, 1700 students applied for the 455 spaces available for transfer into the second-year Arts program. The number of applicants also increased from 1330 the

previous year.

The story is similar for students applying to the faculty of Science, where there was a 19 per cent increase in the number of applicants in the last year.

College students, however, think the proposal will discourage new students from attending UBC.

Langara College student Samantha Tse, who has applied to the third-year Arts program, said the new standard is unrealistic. "It's unfortunate but I will look elsewhere," she said.

Stephanie Callaghan, also a Langara student, agrees. She said she would look at attending school elsewhere if the GPA requirement were to be set at 3.2.

"If UBC wants to raise it to 3.2, then they will probably miss out on a lot of great students," she said.

But Cooney said the new GPA requirement may be temporary and could decrease.

"It means the students with the higher grades are sure of getting [in], but we can't admit at a lower GPA right now until we know how many applicants we have and

where the GPAs have fallen," she said.

"We hope it won't stay at 3.2," she added.

Administrators at colleges across the Lower Mainland say they would be worried if the GPA requirement was raised permanently.

"I would have a concern because that definitely would cut back on the number of students transferring," said Trish Angus, registrar at Douglas College.

Penny Noble, a spokesperson for Langara College, agreed, adding that the proposed GPA change will cause students to feel more stress and pressure to do well, which may have an impact on Langara's student support services.

According to Mark Veerkamp, BC Chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students, one solution to the problem may be to increase the total number of spaces available at universities through provincial government funding.

Veerkamp said he hopes that increasing the number of spaces will lead to a decrease in the GPA entrance requirement for college students. ❖

Loan information still unclear

by Chris Bodnar
Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP)—Neither government nor banking officials can provide key information about Canada's student loan system, a Canadian University Press (CUP) investigation has revealed.

Earlier this month, three of Canada's largest banks—the Royal Bank, CIBC and Scotia Bank—announced they were no longer administering the Canada Student Loans program for the federal government, citing monetary losses and lack of financial guarantees from Ottawa for loan defaults.

But immediately following the announcement, conflicting reports began to circulate about the real cost of the program and the true demands of the banks.

Media reports said the loan system cost anywhere from \$1 billion to \$1.8 billion a year to administer. And questions about the true number of student loan defaults were rampant, as critics accused the banks of inflating the default rate numbers. Clarifying details with those involved has proven very difficult.

"That sounds like an industry number. Have you called the Canadian Bankers Association?" asked CIBC representative Shannon Bonus, when asked how many student loans the banks financed.

But when CUP contacted Sharron Wilks of the Canadian Bankers Association, she replied that only Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) and the banks involved keep these numbers.

Meanwhile, Steve Dyck, a representative from the Royal Bank, said the default rate on student loans is at 27 per cent, citing HRDC figures he said that he saw—the same figures that have been reported in the media.

When asked how much the banks spent in administering the program, Dyck wouldn't commit to numbers.

Upon suggestion that some media outlets reported the amount to be \$1 billion, he responded, "I don't know if that's an accurate number."

The government did not provide much more information than the banks.

Gino Trifiro, an HRDC spokesperson, told CUP he didn't know how much the student loan system cost the banks to administer.

"We can't calculate the cost last year because we were not administering the system," he said. "What we can say is that starting August 1 we will have to raise the capital to run the program, and that is \$1.8 billion."

Government critics say that the system is likely losing money.

"This program was a disaster and the banks realised the situation wouldn't improve," said Henri Sader, a researcher for New Democratic Party MP Lorne Nystrom.



BLOWN IN THE WIND: The track team was fast, but, sadly, not fast enough. Cuts to the team plus a drunken frat party meant a sad demise for the fleet of foot. The frat boys proudly displayed the fruits of their bloody spree. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

Accurate loan default rates are also hard to come by.

The latest figures from Ottawa show 80 per cent of students repay their Canada Student Loans without incident, while 13 per cent repay their loans after defaulting at least once.

In other words, 93 per cent of students eventually repay their federal loans.

These numbers, however, date back to 1995—the same year Human Resources Development Canada transferred the loan system to the private sector. The banks have not since released conclusive data to indicate the current default rate.

Student leaders, meanwhile, say they are pleased the government will begin administering the loan program rather than the banks, but add that the lack of concrete numbers on the program is problematic.

"From our standpoint, the lack of information on this only shows the lack of transparency in the student loan program," said Michael Conlon, national chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Such figures as the cost of administering the student loan program were public information until 1995 when the student loan program was given to the banks to administer. ❖

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UBC Ultimate champions look to win US nationals

by Naomi Kim

The UBC men's and women's Ultimate teams are vying for the ultimate prize.

After winning the Canadian National Ultimate Championships during their fall season, both teams are looking to continue their success down south in the US college nationals—the highest level of competition available to disc-flickers—and dominate the Ultimate world.

The teams play under the College Division of the American-based Ultimate Players Association (UPA). The US college series runs from April to the end of May, with the 2000 UPA College Championships taking place in Boise, Idaho from May 26-28.

But to get to the top, the teams will first have to win sectionals, then finish in the top two in regionals before reaching the US nationals. UBC plays in the Northwest section which includes British Columbia (UBC and the University of Victoria being the only Canadian teams), Alaska, Washington, and a small section of Oregon.

UBC will face some tough US competition, but they are a strong team. The women's team has won their section every year since the team started four years ago. The team has qualified for US nationals for the past two of three years. Last year, the women finished in fourth place and were the only Canadian team there. This year, the team is ranked second out of over 100 US colleges.

Regionals will basically be an early glimpse of what to expect at nationals. The Northwest is the biggest and toughest region—which also includes California, Oregon and Washington—because all of the best teams are in the West. For the women, their biggest rivals are Stanford University, the University of Oregon and the University of California at Davis.

"It's like those teams always vie for the two [US national qualifying] spots," said Lara Mussell, one of four co-captains on the team.

They'll face the best competition in the US, but they're optimistic.

"Our goal is to win US college nationals," said co-captain Wiljo Captein, now in her third year on the team.

"Our chances this year are really good," continued Mussell, "because we've had a core group of girls that have been growing with the team over the past few years...that's why our goal is so high. But not..."

"...unattainable," finished Captein.

Their 7-0 UPA record is reason enough for their confidence. Included in those wins are victories over Davis and Stanford. Earlier this season, UBC participated in the annual Stanford Invitational, featuring some of the toughest competition in the country. UBC won the tournament this year, and took the title away from Stanford, the host and reigning champion. It was a first for UBC, but that was not all the women accomplished.

"It was a pretty big deal that we won," explained Mussell, "because we were the only Canadian team. It's the first time a Canadian team has won and it's the first time that Stanford didn't redeem their title."

On the men's side, this season could prove to be one of the biggest as they try to qualify for the US nationals for the first time. UBC, the only Canadian men's team, is ranked 22 out of over 100 American teams and their record is 3-3. They recently won a tournament in Oregon in which they faced competition from other teams in their region.

And hopefully the tournament will be a good indication for how the team will perform at regionals, where they will compete for spots with Stanford, Santa Barbara, and Oregon—Northwest teams ranked in the US top ten.

Despite the sports popularity in Canada, there is more funding in the States with schools even offering Ultimate scholarships.

Ultimate is probably one of the lowest maintenance sports, with cleats and discs being the only necessities. The UBC team received sponsorship by Gaia, who provided their practice uniforms. This year, the team's game uniforms were provided by Concrete Graphics.

The largest expense for the team is travel, since all of their tournaments are in the States. In addition to money out of their own pockets, the key for the team is fundraising.

"We do all our own fundraising," said Mussell.

The team is able to raise about 25 per cent of their costs through raffles, pub nights and selling discs.

Right now, the team is fundraising for their upcoming trips to sectionals and regionals.

There is little doubt that a trip to Boise, Idaho is also on the minds of the women's team that has consistently finished well in the UPA.

"Every year we keep getting better and better," said Mussell. "I'm not surprised by the success because of that core group of girls that we've got growing with the team."

Many of the original team players will be graduating this year, giving them even more incentive to finish well in their final year on the team. The large turnover will be the first for the fairly new team, but some strong players will remain, including players on the practice roster.

Both men's and women's teams have a good chance of qualifying for the US nationals, and if there's a time for the women to win it all, it's this year. For the many graduating players, they'll definitely want to go out flying.

After all, nothing less than the sky's the limit. ♦



NOT YOUR AVERAGE FRISBEE GAME: UBC Ultimate player, left, gets the disc past a University of Victoria player. UBC won 13-7 against the Vixens on Saturday. In an earlier game, UBC defeated a Vancouver club team 13-2. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

High school's best come to UBC

by Naomi Kim

Grade 12 athletes from all over the province found their way to UBC for an all-star sports Saturday. The weekend was a chance for BC All-Star high school football and basketball players to play on Point Grey turf, and for some, it won't be their last.

If any of the UBC coaches have their way, we'll be seeing at least a few of these rising stars around campus next year.

The Senior Bowl gathered the top 120 BC high school football players at Thunderbird Stadium. Coaches from UBC and SFU, in addition to coaches from Queen's, Alberta, and McGill were on hand to watch the game.

Team Blue demolished Team White on the ground to win 21-10. Blue finished with 157 yards rushing compared to White's 30 yards—including just one yard in the second half.

Sporting a UBC baseball hat, 5'9", 189 lb. linebacker Adam Smith from Delta is one of the UBC recruits who made a commitment early on.

"I just really liked the idea of playing for Vanier Cup," said Smith. He also got along well with the UBC coaches over the weekend and says he looks forward to playing for them.

Vancouver College product Sean Hepple, a 6'4", 205 lb. defensive lineman will also be coming to UBC. He plans on eventually becoming a teacher, and his reasons for choosing UBC hinge around the strong academics and the good football program.

"Close to home but far enough that I get to live in res," he added. "And the coaches here are very competent coaches, I think that's the problem at some of the other universities."

"After this, the big push for us as far as recruiting [which started in August] is now putting on the squeeze," said UBC defensive coordinator Noel Thorpe, who coached the defensive backs on the blue team. "We identify which guys we want and we want to make sure they're coming to our place."

Also taking place on Saturday was the BC high school basketball all-star game at War Memorial Gym.

The girls took the court first and the Red Team, which came up from an early small deficit, sealed their win with a long pass to Duchess Park guard Laura Foster with eight seconds remaining.

It was the players' last game as high school students, and many have not committed to a post-secondary school yet. Those who have committed had different reasons for their choices.

"I didn't have any interest in CIAU schools," said Devon Campbell, who wanted to play in the NAIA and committed to SFU earlier this year for that reason. Recently however, SFU abandoned the NAIA to join the CIAU. "Circumstances changed a little bit, so I hope to still go there...that's the plan right now," said Campbell.

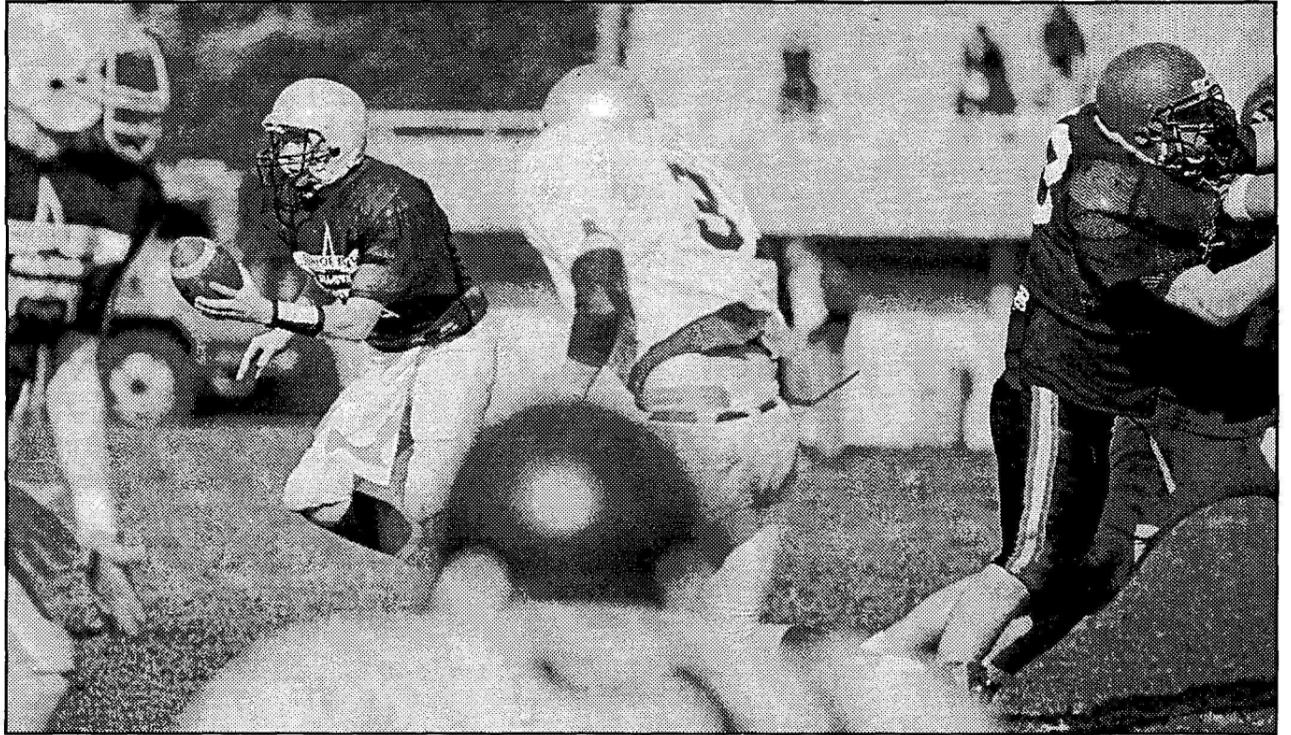
The boys' game followed the girls' match. It remained tight throughout, and was tied at 103 with just over a minute remaining. Then, 6'3" Yale Secondary guard Adam Friesen scored from the top to bring the Red team ahead, and with less than 12 seconds left, 6'3" Oak Bay guard Chris Trumpy nailed his two free throws for the Red to end the game 107-103.

"You get to meet all the guys you wanted to kill during the season and be friends again," said Blue Team co-MVP guard Karlo Villanueva from Richmond Secondary School about the game. He stands at least five inches shorter than his listed 5'9" and is not sure where he'll go next.

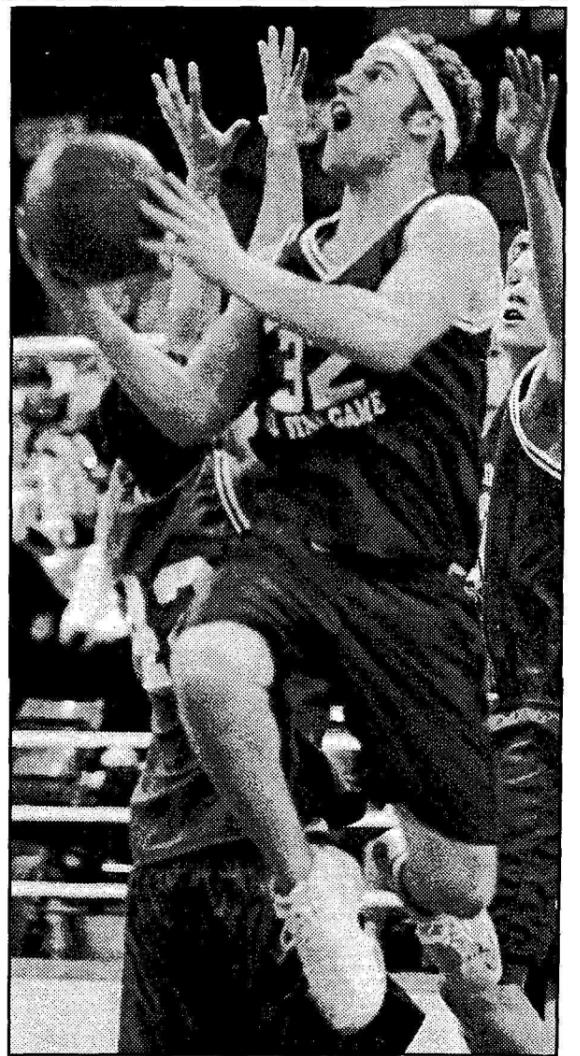
Nathan Ashmead, a 6'6" forward from Stelly's Secondary School in Saanich is considering UBC. He had received a tour of campus earlier in the day.

"I'm looking here. I'm also looking at UVic. I've applied to both schools," said Ashmead who has not yet decided between what he considers are both excellent schools with excellent basketball programs. His decision will basically come down to whether he "want[s] to go away or stay home."

Former UBC head coach Bruce Enns considers Friesen "the best player in the



WHICH WAY? BC's best high school athletes head in every direction after graduation. Some to UBC, some to the States, many still undecided. Above, Blue team quarterback gets his hand on the ball in Senior Bowl play, winning 21-10. On the courts, the Red teams won in both the men's (107-103) and women's (84-81) basketball action. Blue team forward Paul Marr goes up for the basket, right. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO



province," who he recruited earlier this year. The Fraser Valley and BC All-Star set a new scoring record at the provincial championships and leads the all-stars with 33 points per game. He also maintains an A-plus average in school.

His commitment in January was secure, but he admitted that his consideration has changed since Enns announced earlier this month that he was leaving UBC.

"I still would like to come here but just with the new coaches," he said, pausing. "It's still one of my top choices."

Like the other recruits, he wants to go to UBC partly because of its good location. And while he is still waiting to see how the coaching situation turns out, Friesen and many of the other senior athletes at this weekend's all-star games agree that UBC's academics are a definite drawing point.

"This school is good for education," said Friesen. "So I couldn't see any real negatives." ♦

Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA on Friday.

MEN'S SOCCER

The men's team played in the annual Spring Cup tournament in Victoria and had a practice on their endurance in two overtime games.

Saturday, UBC played against SFU with midfielder Aaron Keay scoring the only goal for the Birds in a 1-1 regulation time tie. The game went to penalty kicks with UBC coming out victorious 5-4. Sunday, UBC lost in the final to UVic. UBC midfielder Danny Haggart scored for the Birds, but the game was lost after double overtime for a final score of 2-1.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

UBC went to Victoria over the weekend and took the Spring Cup from the host Victoria Vikes.

After defeating SFU 2-1, the Birds played UVic and won 3-2 with goals from forward Rosalyn Hicks (2) and fifth-year midfielder Lyndsey Burkinshaw.

BIG BLOCK

At the 79th Annual Bird Block Award Banquet, UBC athletic accomplishments were awarded at the Hyatt Regency on March 23. Jessica Mills and Guy Davis took home the top honours of UBC Athletes of the Year.

The Marilyn Pomfret Trophy for the female athlete of the year was a talent-filled nomination category, but Mills, the UBC all-time leading scorer and two-time CIAU First Team All-Canadian and Royal Bank Academic All-Canadian won the award. This season, she led the women's basketball team in scoring and rebounds in addition to finishing her first year in medical school.

The Bobby Gaul Trophy for the graduating male athlete of the year went to Davis who, after missing the first half of the season with an abdominal hernia, blasted his way up the CIAU standings in kills and helped the men's volleyball team defeat two number-one ranked teams and drastically climb the CIAU team rankings. The Birds went on a second term reversal and racked up the wins, just one win short of making the national championships in the wildcard spot.

The Thunderbird Team of the Year was really the teams of the year. The Du Vivier Award were the national champion women's field hockey team and men's and women's swim team. In addition to winning the CIAU title this year, it was the second consecutive championship for the women's field hockey team. For the swim teams, they became the first UBC and CIAU three-peat double champions. ♦

BIRD
droppings

BASEBALL

The UBC baseball team played against Central Washington University (CWU) in Ellensburg, WA over the weekend, losing both games of the double header 7-6 and 10-9.

The team will have a chance to rematch against CWU this weekend in two double headers, one on Saturday, and one on Sunday. The Birds will also play



HEY CULTURE WRITERS!!
last meeting of the year
today 1:30 get food
bid adieu

sigh

Trust No One.

**BETTER DEAD THAN RED:
PARANOID PROPAGANDA CLASSICS**
at the Blinding Light!!
Mar. 24

by Calum MacConnell

Concerned about the commune your neighbour has formed? Need to protect yourself from a ground-level atomic blast? Planning a vacation to Cuba? To address these and other such issues, the United States produced a few "educational" films to enlighten the populace and show citizens the reality that they need to see.

Better Dead Than Red revealed a collection of rare, short films produced by Hollywood and the government during the 1950s, '60s and '70s. These films were designed to promote hatred for "the enemy" and patriotism for the country. The films, put together by Karl Cohen, demonstrate the paranoia present throughout the last century. This presentation was a bizarre mix of propaganda, public safety announcements, military educational videos and advertisements promoting the wholesome, healthy American way of life.

Several of the short films were cartoons from the World War II era, designed to influence younger generations. Imagine wholesome Saturday morning cartoons with mild-mannered reporter Clark Kent taking a trip to Shanghai and then, at night, wreaking havoc on the Japanese army as Superman. Or Bugs Bunny traveling to the Pacific islands and handing out ice cream bars to Japanese soldiers—with US army-issued hand grenades inside them. Even Walt Disney created cartoons, with Donald Duck beating up Nazis and promoting the slogan "Pay your taxes to sink the Axis." The manipulation of the young through this medium seemed like a great idea. Subliminal influence at its best.

"Hitler Lives" was a short that informed the American people not to turn their backs on the Germans. It told the average American that it was genetic for Germans to want to rule the world. The film then proceeded to cite historical "evidence" of previous campaigns of terror that had occurred underneath the fist of the Germans. Even Latin America was not spared from this onslaught of paranoid propaganda. One film had "in-depth" footage of Fidel Castro and his dark associations with the Soviets and Red China.

The collection moved on to those oh-so-lovable ads of "Suzie Homemaker" and how wonderful it was to be a housewife. Even the US vice-president was on television, telling the young Americans to stay in school, because that high school diploma will get you a good paying job. After all, that is what every American wants.

The presentation of this paranoid propaganda was excellent. It showed the audience the absurdity of the information that was being spread to the population at these times. Karl Cohen did an excellent job of combining different pieces to form a unique visual product. These shorts show the way the government has tried to change human perspectives. It shows how they are watching us, how Big Brother is watching our every move. Beware: loose lips sink ships! ♦



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THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS TALK

Basic Black is the stuff your parents laugh at.

A wacky potpourri of off-beat music, comic sketches, and non-conventional interviews (with skunk control officers and transvestite bikers), *Basic Black* on CBC Radio One is the epitome of middle-aged humour.

Hosted by Arthur Black, the show's latest quirk is "The Lonely Socks Club," which involves giving single socks that have lost their mates a shot at happiness.

Sensing a cry for help from single socks, Black launched the nation-wide search back in January. The goal has been to reunite argyles, sports, bobbies, and knee-highs whose significant others have disappeared without a trace.

The response has been overwhelming. Throughout the country, listeners of his show have been hopping to Black's request, sending in their sad, single sock in hopes of finding their counterparts.

With Black acting as the custody judge, owners duke it out on his show to see who gets to keep the pair and who doesn't.

"It can get ugly," explains Black as he begins to give me a tour of the station. "People get really into it and want their socks back. It's just plain goofy." I ask him where on earth he conceived the concept of The Lonely Socks Club.

"It's a spin-off from the website, the Bureau of Missing Socks," Black explains. With the website in tow, the show did their first match-up in January, thinking the segment would just be a temporary affair. But boy, were they ever wrong.

"We get hundreds of socks every week!" he exclaims. "I thought that after the third week people would be like 'Okay, forget the socks, they're really boring and stupid.' But we haven't had any complaints," Black says in modest disbelief.

He opens the door to his office only to reveal every type and colour of sock imaginable choking his office. Striped socks, slouch socks, and even those socks with the little ball on the heel—you name it—Black's got it hanging on either the ceiling or a bookshelf. It's sock heaven...or hell.

"It's amazing the variety of socks out there—even in white socks," says Black, as he stops to point at a wall coated with white socks that, well, don't quite match.

It seems as though everyone can relate to missing socks, says Black. Consequently, Black's "Lonely Socks

Club" has received conspiracy theories as to how socks disappear (some claim it's aliens), has produced "sock penpals" between listeners, and has led to the kidnapping of one of Black's socks.

"These guys from Nova Scotia wrote in saying they had stolen my sock and they were holding it hostage," says Black. The kidnapers, known as "The Hosers," have been making radical demands. One involves the acquisition of an x-ray of CBC Newsworld's Colleen Jones' ninth superfluous bicuspid (because "she has very prominent bicuspids").

We slump into some oversized couches in the com-mo-dious cafeteria. Black eyes the line-up and suggests we wait until it clears up before we order our lattes.

"My sock is now safe," explains Black with relief. "A group known as the Sock Liberation Army attacked the Hosers' bunker and have retrieved my sock where it's now going through rehabilitation and will be returned shortly." Black shakes his head.

"It's getting nutty. It keeps evolving in its nuttiness," his voice trailing off into a mumble amidst the noises of the espresso machine. "I've been doing this show for 16 years and I'm still trying to figure out what the heck it's about." He pauses to see if the coffee lineup has disappeared. The coast is clear. We get up and order our drinks.

"A listener once said 'CBC is the glue that holds this nation together,'" he chuckles, "and *Basic Black* is like sniffing that glue." ♦

by *Michelle Mossop*
UBC



HANGING THEM OUT TO DRY: Arthur Black stands in a maze of socks, a result of "The Lonely Socks Club." TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

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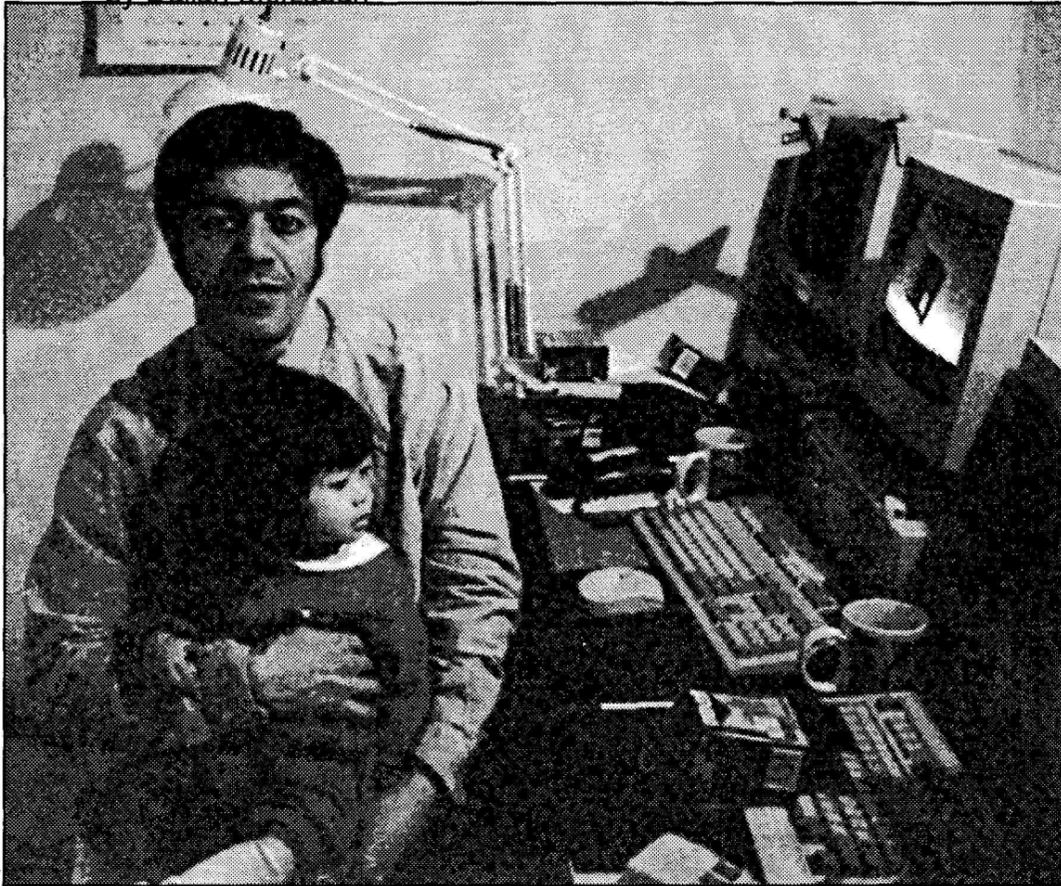
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*NEW CLIENTS ONLY

Seven years in limbo

Lucio Muñoz wrote one forestry thesis, then another. His research has been described by some as cutting-edge. Why doesn't he have a Ph.D yet?

by Daliah Merzaban



SEVEN LONG YEARS: Lucio Muñoz, seen above with his daughter Lucia, will be taking UBC to court for his treatment during his time as a grad student between 1993 and 1998. He claims that his time at UBC was replete with total procedural failure, and that he should have had his Ph.D as far back as 1996. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

ALL LUCIO MUÑOZ WANTS IS TO EARN HIS PH.D DEGREE.

In his townhouse at Hampton Place on the edge of campus, Muñoz has two neatly lined-up piles of folders sitting next to the couch in his living room. They're filled with documents—letters of recommendation, e-mails, written appeals, professional opinions. Over the fireplace are photos of him with his daughter Leticia. In another room downstairs, more mountains of folders are neatly piled on the floor. Muñoz, 44, is anxious to talk about them.

Directly opposite the folders is a row of three computers. He is only using one of these. Each of the other two contain one of two Ph.D-level theses that Muñoz has written since he first came to UBC in 1993. Muñoz considers this an impressive achievement—but he has not yet been given the opportunity to make his formal defence of either thesis.

"The only thing I came to UBC for is my Ph.D," he says. "And the only thing I am looking for is my Ph.D. And I've been working all this time for my Ph.D."

All this time adds up to seven years. Muñoz began studying at UBC in 1993, and since then he has been trying to obtain his Ph.D in Forestry. Along the way, he has found himself caught in administrative and policy loopholes that have left him and his family in limbo—emotionally, personally, and financially. After seven years of fighting the university internally, this week Muñoz will formally launch an administrative lawsuit against UBC in a case that questions the idea of a university's service to its students.

He will argue that he exhausted all reasonable venues at UBC to try to obtain a degree that he believes he should have been granted in 1996. He will argue that the university failed to provide a healthy research environment to support his thesis. Despite the fact that his research is considered cutting-edge in some forestry circles, the university has continually insisted that it is right to deny him a Ph.D.

IT'S BEEN A COMPLICATED JOURNEY FROM THE START.

Born in El Salvador to a poor family, Muñoz began university in 1973 at the National University of El Salvador. It took him nine years to receive his diploma in Agricultural Engineering because for half the time, the university was closed by the army. After finally receiving his degree in 1984, Muñoz worked for a land reform company. In 1986, he was offered a scholarship to do his Master's degree in Agricultural Economics at Ohio State University, and he accepted.

After completing his Master's, Muñoz had to decide whether or not to return to El Salvador. Because of political instability at home, he decided to seek refugee status in Canada in 1988. He lived in Calgary and worked for a company called Western Inventory Services. While there, he married a Japanese woman named Tomoko Murakami in 1991, whom he'd met at Boston University in 1986, where they were both learning English. Muñoz and his wife moved to Vancouver where Muñoz hoped to obtain his Ph.D at UBC. Without one, he believed he would be unable to get a job that employed all of his skills.

Initially, he thought he and Tomoko would be able to have two children, one year apart. Instead they had Leticia in 1993, and waited until 1998 to have their second daughter, Lucia. Tomoko is now supporting the family on her small office assistant's salary. Muñoz thought that he would receive his Ph.D by 1996. He's still waiting.

When he thinks of all that has happened to him and his family in the seven years since he came to UBC, he becomes overcome with emotion.

"I can take a lot of pressure, but not my family," Muñoz says, in tears.

"At one point somebody told me, 'your family or your diploma?' I said, 'without family, I have nothing. And without the diploma I cannot support my family.' I was caught in a situation where I feel there

was no way out."

IN 1993, MUÑOZ CAME TO UBC AND FOUND A SUPERVISOR—Cornelius van Kooten, a Forestry professor at UBC—who agreed to take on Muñoz as a Forestry Ph.D candidate. They agreed to a three-year program in which Muñoz would spend one year studying, the next year applying his knowledge in field work on Vancouver Island, and the third year writing and defending his thesis.

But in January 1995, only a year into the program, Muñoz discovered that van Kooten would be going on sabbatical leave to Europe. As well, no supervisory committee was established despite Faculty of Forestry guidelines stipulating that a full committee must be constituted by the end of the first year of study. It is up to the supervisor to ensure that this happens. As well, no funding was secured to pay for Muñoz's research—something which van Kooten might have assisted him with.

Muñoz was left to find a new supervisor, and the full-time student paying full-time tuition had no office or computer to use—something almost all graduate students are provided.

By March, Forestry Professor David Tait had agreed to be Muñoz's next supervisor. However, Tait considered Muñoz's first research proposal—developed in concert with van Kooten—to be unacceptable and encouraged him to come up with a new research proposal. Muñoz decided to drop his first thesis, despite the fact that he had been working on it since he left Ohio State, and van Kooten had been strongly behind it. In a letter of support, van Kooten praised Muñoz's initial proposal, but worried about whether funding would be available to complete his research on forest resources management. Even though his first focus was theoretical, Muñoz required funding to apply his theory and collect survey data.

"All that time was lost," says Muñoz. "By the time I withdrew that thesis I had practically written the whole thesis. We [were] discussing the whole thesis, not one chapter. [Van Kooten] described how good my thesis was, how good my theory was, how I had been able to develop the whole model by myself and that the only problem was that I couldn't get money." But despite the mistakes that were made, Muñoz adapted himself to the demands.

"At that point I was still positive," he recalls.

Within three weeks of withdrawing his first thesis, Muñoz developed a second. His new proposal centred on a rapid deforestation assessment and planning methodology for Central America, using qualitative comparative analysis. He says that his professors believed that his second thesis was better than the first one.

Suddenly things began to fall into place. Within three months, Muñoz had a full committee to supervise him, he had secured funding to complete research in Central America, and he had Tait as a supervisor.

By the summer of 1996, Muñoz was ready for his oral examination. Despite the fact that he hadn't yet been able to apply his research in the field, he was told by the committee that his theoretical model was strong enough for him to start defending his thesis.

Between April and June of 1996, the committee met several times to aid Muñoz in the completion of his thesis. His Ph.D oral exam was scheduled for June 26, 1996. Only four of the six committee members attended. Two supported his thesis, and two opposed it. Muñoz was given until October to make revisions—a common practice amongst graduate students.

A letter reporting on the results of the examination prepared by Antal Kozak, the associate dean of Forestry at the time, says that Muñoz "did not show adequate depth in any specific area. He is not an economist, a statistician, a forester...and so on. The committee also recognised that his proposal does not actually require that he be of any particular discipline."

For the next few months, Muñoz worked—with the advice of Tait and committee member Peter Boothroyd—on preparing a revised proposal. Muñoz says that the two were pleased with his progress, and he says that he was assured that the changes he made would be approved by the committee. At this point, Muñoz's world began to spin out of control.

Five days after assuring him that three members of the committee had stated their support for his thesis, Tait informed Muñoz that his newly-revised thesis proposal was facing rejection. Tait didn't explain any further, and to this day, Muñoz doesn't know why the decision was made. He had received e-mail after e-mail from committee members in support of his revised thesis. He had received no indications that there were any problems with it. And then all of a sudden, Tait was giving him three options: to withdraw, to improve his current thesis, or to change the entire proposal.

Muñoz says that the news took him by surprise. "I could not believe it. Really I was not there," he says. "At that point, I came to think of the people in the Faculty with little, little, little, little good faith."

When contacted by *the Ubyssy*, Tait declined to comment due to the pending legal suit.

In a memo to John McLean, acting dean of Forest Sciences, Tait indicated that, after reviewing the first three chapters of the revised Research Proposal, the committee "unanimously concluded that the candidate had been unable to provide a focused Research Proposal that would lead to a defensible thesis," and recommended that Muñoz not be admitted to Candidacy.

According to Muñoz and Alma Mater Society (AMS) Policy Analyst Desmond Rodenbour, who has been assisting Muñoz, the omission of an oral examination was the next big policy failure—Muñoz had improved the same thesis that had been one vote short of approval in the previous oral examination.

Kenneth Craig, associate dean of Graduate Studies, suggested that Muñoz should be allowed to present and defend his revised research proposal. He said in a letter to the committee that techniques similar to Muñoz's were successful and were being published. There was a lot of support for Muñoz's ideas.

But after the first negative assessment of his work, Muñoz doubted that the committee would provide him with a fair hearing. "It hurt me because they appear to prefer in the Faculty of Forestry quantitatively-based research, which is fine. [But if that were the case] they shouldn't have taken my thesis in the first place, and that really hurt me."

Muñoz spent the next months trying to find a place for his thesis in other university faculties, such as the School of Planning or the Individual Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program. He no longer trusted the Faculty of Forestry to treat him fairly. He continued to compile research for his thesis.

Muñoz took his ideas to dozens of professors. He obtained dozens of professional opinions of his thesis from faculty members across campus and from Simon Fraser University, as well as from international experts. And many—because over 30 positive responses from UBC faculty alone—saw his research as truly cutting-edge.

"The thesis represents a superior piece of work which...should make a significant contribution to the field," read one letter from SFU geography Professor John Brohman.

"In my opinion, Mr. Muñoz has produced a Ph.D-level thesis on his own combining rapid assessment techniques and qualitative comparative research, which represents an excellent and original contribution to knowledge," writes Daniel Selener, regional director for Latin America at the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction in Ecuador. Muñoz has many more such letters.

But because his proposal covers such a broad range of topics, his efforts to find a new faculty were fruitless. Muñoz began to investigate his options for appeal. After appealing to

the Faculty of Forestry, to the Equity Office, and to the AMS, Muñoz decided to launch an academic appeal to the UBC Senate.

"It was obvious that the Faculty of Forestry was not interested in solving my situation, either formalising my second thesis or to name a committee, so I asked the dean of the Faculty of Forestry to request my withdrawal," says Muñoz.

He could not appeal until he had formally withdrawn from Forestry. In the ensuing academic appeal to the UBC Senate Appeals Committee in 1998, Muñoz, with the help of Rodenbour, outlined in a 23-page summary why he thought he should be granted his Ph.D. The appeal asserts that "the research environment provided by UBC was clearly unreasonable and a violation of the contractual agreement with Mr. Muñoz."

Rodenbour outlined in detail each stage of Muñoz's rigorous academic career at UBC, which he says was "plagued with policy failures and poor academic support." As well, Muñoz asserted that he "no longer has any trust or faith in the UBC academic structure." He says that at every level he had fulfilled his obligations as a graduate student, and that the procedural failures warranted a fairer solution.

"It would be unreasonable to suggest that he re-enter the system that has created such extensive hardship and strife in his life," his appeal continues. The remedy he sought from the Senate Academic Appeals Committee was a Ph.D. That's not what he received.

IN ITS RESPONSE TO MUÑOZ'S LENGTHY COMPLAINT, THE Senate Committee admitted that there were procedural failures.

"You have some serious and valid criticisms of your experience at UBC," the committee told Muñoz in a letter.

"A supervising committee should have been established both to guide you in your research and to assist you in the preparation of your thesis."

But still, the Senate Committee did not believe that granting Muñoz a Ph.D would be the proper remedy. It said a "properly constituted examining committee within the Faculty of Forestry has determined that you did not pass the comprehensive examination and should be required to withdraw. You did not satisfy the Senate Committee that there was anything improper or unfair about that decision."

Rodenbour and Muñoz agree with the vast majority of the Senate Committee's decisions, but assert that Muñoz did not fail the oral exam because a second one never occurred. They believe that this wasn't allowed to happen because Muñoz was caught in a web of policy failures and intricacies, and that the Senate Committee should have come up with alternate remedies to the problem.

"The university has yet to provide any evidence that Lucio ever failed anything," says Rodenbour. Muñoz agrees. He has countless e-mails and letters of support for his thesis, but has never been provided with any firm evidence that his thesis is not defensible.

"During the past several years, no one has come to counter-argue any of my ideas," he says. "Whenever I present something, I support the alternative. So academically I feel very good...If somebody comes academically to show me you are wrong, I would be very grateful."

Meanwhile, other international studies similar to his are being published. Muñoz says that there are numerous books in his line of research. He says companies in Latin America are demanding his work. But he must wait for publication.

"I could have been the first," he says.

After being turned down by the Appeals Committee, Muñoz could have quit. "As anyone who has been in a position to fight the bureaucracy or to fight for their rights against what appears to be insurmountable odds, the tendency is to give up," says Rodenbour. "The tendency is to cut your losses and walk away."

But that's not what Muñoz chose to do. He appealed the Senate Committee's decision to the UBC Board of Governors and to UBC President Martha Piper. In her reply, Piper stood behind the Senate decision, asserting that "the Senate has delegated this authority to the Committee and so it would be inappropriate for me to intervene."

And the university still stands by the Senate's decision.

"The Senate is the superior governing body of the university," says Dennis Pavlich, the university's lawyer. "From the university's point of view, [the decision] is final and we think that the Senate handled the matter very fairly."

Although Pavlich acknowledges that there were policy failures, he argues that the Senate made a fair review.

"In substance, it was a fair process," he says. "The conclusion is entirely defensible."

Muñoz, in despair, is doubtful that there will be any quick resolution. His wife is still supporting their family on her small salary, and Muñoz has considered leaving home, he says. He doesn't want to be a burden on her any longer.

"She gets angry at me and she screams at me. That's fine because I understand it's my fault. I didn't foresee what would happen to me," he says.

The AMS and the Graduate Student Society have supported Muñoz from the beginning. The AMS has devoted \$3000 towards any legal expenses involved in his case.

"Likely the one student who could have put UBC on the map for that has been systematically destroyed by the institution for those unique and innovative ideas," says Rodenbour. "That's a travesty of a societal level and an academic image level for the university as well as a tragedy for an individual student."

HAVING EXHAUSTED HIS OPTIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL, Muñoz took his case to the BC Ombudsperson. He was appealing the Senate Committee's decision not to grant him a Ph.D or to come up with an alternative solution.

After reviewing Muñoz's case, Eileen Diersch, the ombudsman officer, decided not to investigate his complaint, asserting that it was not substantiated. While the Senate Committee did identify procedural failures, she concluded in her report that these failures did not play into the decision that Muñoz should withdraw.

"The university's position was that you failed to meet the standards of the Ph.D program in 1996 and that the university had been within its rights to have you withdrawn," she wrote.

Pavlich says that this just further confirms that the Senate Committee's decision was appropriate.

One more stone in his path. But Muñoz continues to fight.

"We had hoped that [Diersch] would be able to mediate some sort of solution," says Rodenbour. "Lucio has never wanted anything more than to be treated fairly, to have an opportunity to present his work, and to be granted a Ph.D degree based on the value of his research."

continued on page 10

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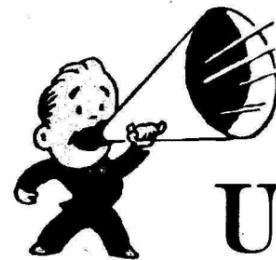


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Upcoming Events

- March 30 AMS Women's Centre
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SUB Rm. 205 1:30 pm
- April 1 Fools Parade
Live Comedy in the Pit Pub
8:00 pm
- April 6 Arts County Fair
Thunderbird Stadium. Tickets available
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- April 6 Pre-Arts County Fair Breakfast
SUB Concourse 9:30-11:30 am
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Show starts at 8 pm*

Late night menu and drink specials

continued from page 9

This week, Rodenbour and Muñoz will direct lawyer Robert Pryer to launch an administrative lawsuit against UBC. They would like the Senate to explore more options.

"A judge wouldn't reverse a decision. The most that could be hoped for would be a referral back to the Senate Appeal Committee for re-evaluation, basically to redo it," explains Pryer.

"Our argument would be that the university did not provide their side of the deal," adds Rodenbour. "They must work with him to live up to their end of the contract."

RODENBOUR CALLS WHAT Muñoz has endured a "David and Goliath" experience.

At every stage—from failing to convene a committee to oversee

Muñoz's first thesis, to failing to provide Muñoz with the opportunity to defend his second thesis, to deciding that there was no other alternative than for Muñoz to withdraw—Muñoz and Rodenbour believe that UBC contravened its obligation to provide each graduate student with a supportive research environment.

Muñoz is willing to settle out of court. He wants to be given guarantees of unbiased judging. But, more importantly, he wants to find a job so he can help his wife pay the bills, and buy some nice birthday gifts for his daughters. But most of all, he wants his Ph.D.

"I tell my wife I'll die, but this research will stay," he says.

"I think that this series of events should outrage students on this campus," says Rodenbour. "It should outrage citizens of British

Columbia who are paying for this institution."

Muñoz hasn't been back to El Salvador since September 9, 1986. It's been over 13 years since he has seen his father and brother. He says his father might die soon.

"If I had been able to get my Ph.D in 1996, the first thing I would have done was go back to El Salvador," he says, more tears welling up in his eyes. He also promised his wife he'd send her to Japan to visit her family, and he'd like to keep that promise. After two hours of talking, Muñoz can only end by reiterating the point he had been making the entire time:

"Since the first day, the only thing I want is to formalise my thesis," he says.

Now it's up to the courts to decide whether that will be possible. ♦

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How to get a Ph.D.:

by Graeme Worthy

- 1) Get a Master's degree, and apply to the Ph.D program. (Sometimes a student can apply directly after being accepted into a Master's program.)
- 2) Secure a supervisor. You are responsible for identifying at least two additional committee members, but the chair of the committee is ultimately responsible for determining the composition of the committee—usually three or more academics doing research in the same field. You will meet with the committee at least once a year.

- 3) The first two years of the Ph.D program are normally spent studying for a comprehensive exam, and taking courses. A 68 per cent average is required to pass the exam.
- 4) Submit your thesis proposal. If your thesis proposal is accepted, and you pass the comprehensive exam, then you become a Ph.D candidate. If not, you will either have the opportunity to rework the proposal, or will be asked to withdraw.
- 5) Research. This takes about three years. Write your thesis.
- 6) Defend your thesis. This consists of two parts: the departmental defense, and normally six weeks later, the university defense. At the departmental defense, your advisory committee proposes minor changes and asks questions. If you pass this defense you go on to the university defense. An external examiner and an out-of-department chair join the committee and you present your thesis once more. After this presentation, the committee decides if the thesis is acceptable.
- 7) If you are successful, your thesis will be submitted to the library for publication. And then there's convocation—you're done. ♦

tal defense, and normally six weeks later, the university defense. At the departmental defense, your advisory committee proposes minor changes and asks questions. If you pass this defense you go on to the university defense. An external examiner and an out-of-department chair join the committee and you present your thesis once more. After this presentation, the committee decides if the thesis is acceptable.

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the Ubyssy 2000-01 Editorial Board Elections

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Todd Silver
Jaime Tong
Tara Westover
Nicholas Bradley
Daliah Merzaban

Cynthia Lee
Naomi Kim
Laura Blue
Melanie Streich
Graeme Worthy
Alex Dimson
Flora Graham
Michelle Mossop
Regina Yung

Daniel Silverman
Jenn Neilsen
Alicia Miller
Joni Low
Miriam Torchinsky
Nyranne Martin
Tristan Winch
Sara Newham

Voting Period: March 27-April 2

Les Farces fantastiques

IT'S A FARCE: FOUR HILARIOUS ONE-ACT PLAYS ABOUT LOVE AND MARRIAGE at Studio 58 until April 9

by Fara Tabatabai

There's something incredibly amusing about people who don't want to get married being forced to against their will. Not to mention the humour inherent in the lives of people who are already married. And that's what the four one-act plays in Studio 58's production of *It's a Farce* are all about—love and marriage, and the hilarious situations that can arise.

The one-acts are all contemporary versions of French plays by such famous playwrights as Molière and Ionesco and they are all, on the whole, pretty damn funny. The first play, *Wood and Viewed* by George Feydeau, opens with a very happy man named Hector (Scott Fee) explaining to the audience that his wife, jealous of what she perceives to be her husband's affair with the maid, has gone to her mother's house, leaving Hector to savour the first taste of bachelor bliss he has had in years. However, before he can settle down to his dinner, a busy Brazilian woman named Emma (Jody-Kay Marklew) bursts in and demands that Hector make love to her—not, of course, because she is actually attracted to him, but in order to punish her husband for all his jealous suspicions. The dialogue is hilarious, but what really pulls the play off is the incredible acting, particularly on the part of Fee. Marklew

is good as well, but she is largely eclipsed by the dynamic energy of Fee, whose physical actions and facial expressions are perfectly timed.

The next play, *Jack, or The Submission*, is unfortunately not nearly as good. Still, there is initially a lot to laugh at in this absurdist Ionesco piece, including a house where the only sitting room is a pile of feces and a main character who refuses to marry a girl with three noses because she "isn't ugly enough." If the play suffers, it's not from lack of acting talent, but rather from the tedious and drawn-out nature of the play itself. Eventually, the absurdity becomes so banal and the jokes so repetitive that the whole thing simply ceases to be amusing.

The last two plays, *A Matter of Wife and Death* by Eugene Labiche and *The Forced Marriage* by Molière (arguably the most amusing and energetic play of the entire production), are both excellent. The acting in both is superb and the situations simply hysterical. Beyond a slight directing glitch in *A Matter of Wife and Death*, which has an otherwise bold and intelligent Gaston (Adam Underwood) crouching down submissively before Erin Monahan's to-the-tee rendition of Viviane, there is nothing negative to say about either of these plays. Really, apart from the slow failure of *Jack*, the entire production is a success.

After all, it's love and marriage that take centre stage here—and there isn't a thing in all the world that has more comic potential. ♦

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Not so slick this time, Casanova

CASANOVA
at the Telus Studio Theatre
until Apr. 1

by Julian Dowling

One thing that's certain about recent UBC Theatre productions, you never know whether you're going to be appalled or entertained. The most recent Freddie Wood production, *Life and a Lover*, about the relationship between Virginia Woolf and fellow Bloomsbury Groupie Vita Sackville-West, featured superb acting. Unfortunately, *Casanova*, Constance Congdon's play set in the 18th century, is an incoherent feminist drama that fails to create much dramatic tension.

Director Gregory Berry chose a conventional seating arrangement, with the audience looking down on the action. However, some scenes occur on a platform that divides the audience, meaning that those seated in the lower half must crane their necks to catch what's going on behind them. Also, without a raised stage, the audience can see behind the wings where the actors waiting for their cues off-stage are clearly visible. All this is distracting and detracts from the overall impression of the play.

Peter Hall as Casanova does a fine job in the lead role, though he doesn't get much support from the rest of the cast. There are too many scenes between the very gay, but not very funny, Bobo (Joshua Reynolds) and Casanova's estranged daughter Sophie (Jennifer MacLennan). Many of the actors play several roles, which wouldn't be so confusing if the scenes weren't so jumbled. The play is a series of flashbacks narrated by the aging Casanova who is en route to the

Dux Castle with his companion, Uta (Heather Redmond). Though it's never made explicit in the play, Casanova has been hired to work as curator of the castle's library.

During the voyage, Casanova recalls the adventures of his youthful self (played with gusto by Zain Meghji). Casanova the younger, plagued by a medical condition that makes his nose bleed periodically, goes to a fortune teller who predicts that he will be loved by many women. Casanova entertains the idea of becoming a priest before his lust for women becomes too great. He begins by seducing Bellino (Alexia Hagen), a choir-boy whom he suspects is a girl. The scenes that follow are smutty snapshots from Casanova's amorous adventures around Europe.

Casanova senior, while traveling with Uta, hears voices in his head which are actually the words of his jaded ex-lover's ghost, Thérèse (An Kosurko). Thérèse tries to warn Uta of her companion's lecherous reputation, and berates Casanova for his infidelities. These scenes are cleverly scripted and well performed.

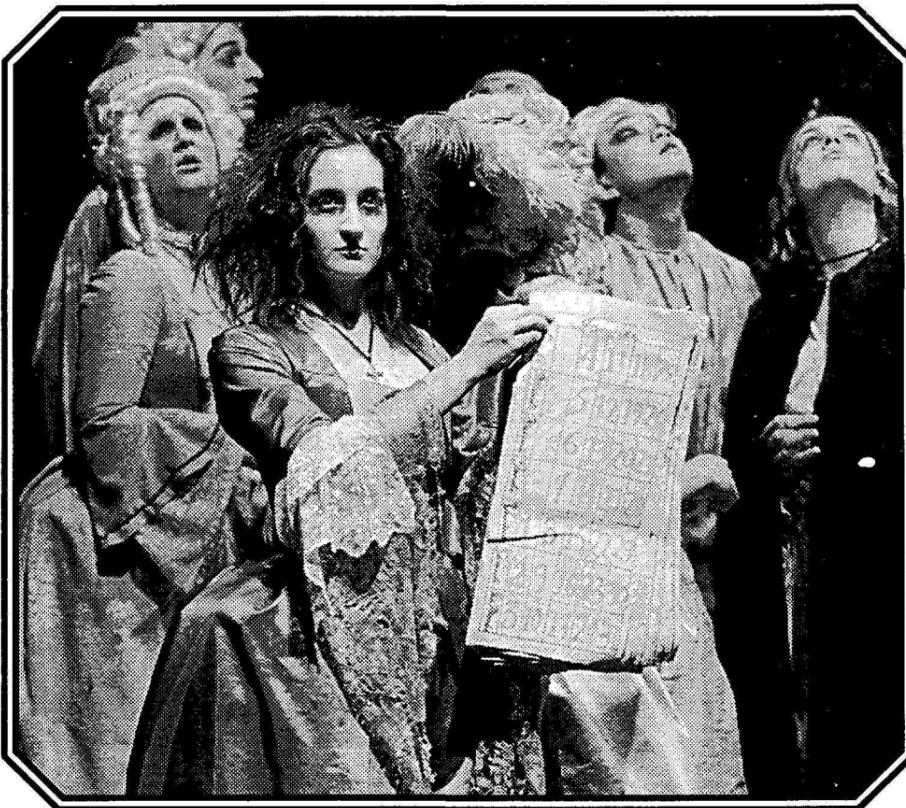
In the second half, Casanova's desperation, arising out of poverty, leads him to service various wealthy women who desire him for his reputation. He convinces Madame d'urfe (Laura Clarke) that he can make her wish—to be reborn as a man—come true if she gives birth to a male child. After Casanova delivers his seed, he takes the money and runs. Another woman, Mademoiselle Charpillon (Heather Redmond), mocks Casanova's pride and is raped as a consequence. After these degrading scenes, the audience is left feeling no pity for

Casanova, who pines for his first love Caterina (Sarah Henriques) whom he spurned years ago.

Casanova is a feminist play that seethes with rage against male privilege and rips apart any romantic notions surrounding Casanova. Even if he was as bad as Congdon makes him out to be, it's a shame that in remembering his adventures, we must deny any possibility that true love can exist uncorrupted by male

infidelity.

On this note, the 1999-2000 UBC theatre season comes to a close. In a year that has seen some great productions like *Crimes of the Heart* and *Life and a Lover*, *Casanova* is one of those that takes on an angry feminist script, and fails to breathe much life into it. Still, with such a deep pool of acting talent in the BFA program, we can look forward to next year's season. ♦



APPALLED OR ENTERTAINED? UBC Theatre's latest play is about a womanising Casanova.

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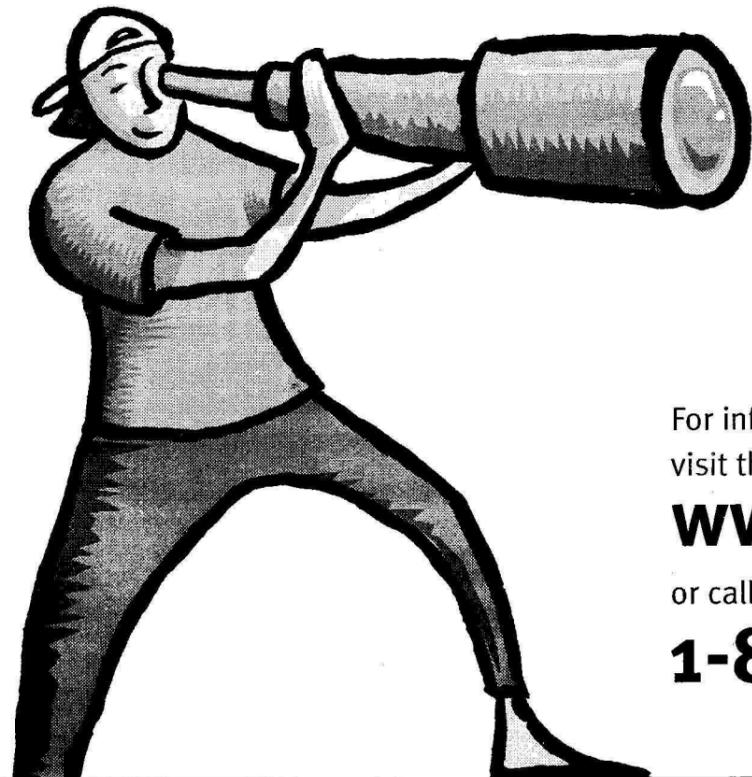
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the Ubysssey

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2000
VOLUME 81 ISSUE 46

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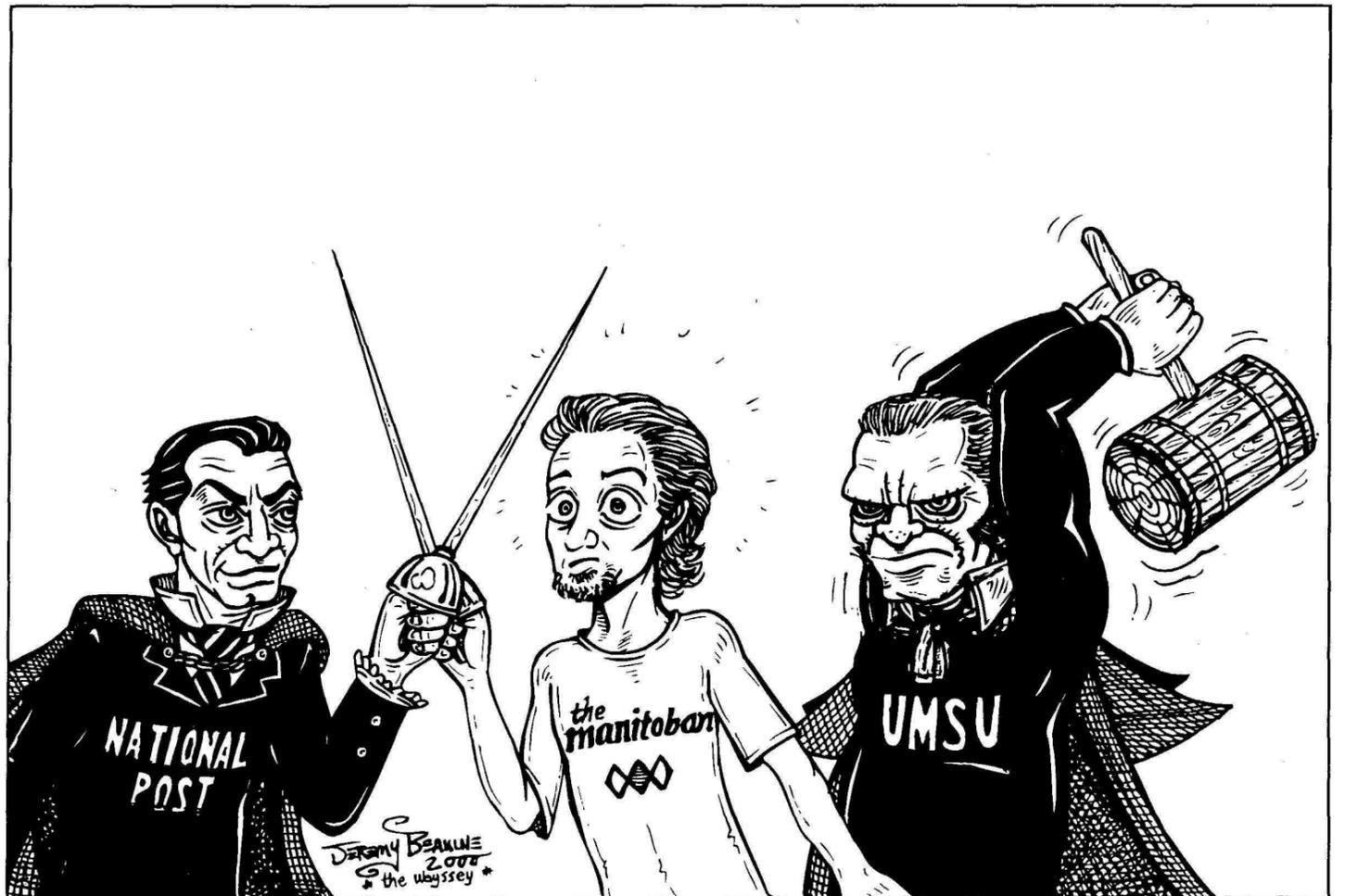
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Nicholas Bradley and Vanessa Ho spotted the Deadies on the horizon. You see Tara Westover and Naomi Kim had awoken the Army of Darkness when they had failed to listen to Calum MacConnell's instructions. None of that mattered now. Michelle Mossop and Daliah Merzaban were in charge of protecting the "Necronomicon," a sacred book of the dead that Jaime Tong and Julian Dowling had made with the help of Fara Tabatabai. Melanie Streich readied her "boom stick" and Regina Yung and Cynthia Lee prepared the flaming arrows. Todd Silver called for the Sword Boy (Graeme Worthy) and Tom Peacock secretly wished he hadn't shaved off his stache. Jeremy Beasline and Lisa Denton were manning Tristan Winch's station wagon, fully equipped and ready to smash some living dead skull, when Laura Blue and Flora Graham presented Bruce Arthur with an extremely nice horse blanket. All the while Duncan M. McHugh roamed the castle, looking for some sugar.



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Hands off the press

We here at *the Ubysssey* have a thing about freedom of the press. For those who weren't here in 1994, this newspaper was once shut down in a political power play. So when another newspaper has its financial and editorial autonomy threatened, we get our backs up.

And it's happening in Winnipeg. *The Manitoban* is the official student newspaper of the University of Manitoba (U of M). And it's good. It's a funny, irreverent, interesting newspaper that has existed for 86 years.

But their student union isn't so impressed. The University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) has long clashed with the *Toban*, which isn't too surprising. Campus politics at the U of M make our own AMS elections look like a kindergarten class, and we have heard the student politicians there have a reputation for power-mongering. *The Manitoban* is the only real check on the student union's activities. So if and when UMSU does something stupid, *the Manitoban* prints in their newspaper that UMSU did something stupid. It makes for a tense situation, sometimes.

So UMSU decided to try to do something about all that negative press coverage. Without consulting *the Manitoban*, they passed a motion in council to terminate the autonomy agreement between UMSU and the newspaper, which regulates the newspaper's funding and keeps the *Toban* and UMSU nice and separate. The motion involves cutting off the *Toban's* funding and giving an order to evict the newspaper from its offices by April 12. UMSU President Steven Fletcher claims that the move was made because of three points: one, a financial statement was delivered late; two, the newspaper had not filed affidavits under the Newspaper Act; and three, for refusing UMSU advertising space, which is specified under the Separation Agreement between the two.

Well, the financial statement came late after an extension had been agreed upon, affidavits had been filed consistently since 1985, and *the Manitoban* contends that the ad copy contained misleading and "defamatory" statements. But even though

Fletcher has said that "reasonable people should sit down and talk this out," UMSU has refused to consult. Why did they act with so little regard for the student and public interest?

It's not like *the Manitoban* hasn't endured enough this year. Even before UMSU decided to try to muzzle them, the *Toban* had to deal with mass dumpings of the *National Post* on campus, which was cutting into their pickup and distribution. So while they've been fighting the *Post*, it seems to us that UMSU jumped them from behind.

All of this amounts to a transparent and blatant attempt to silence a free press that enjoys the support of its readership. And if UMSU had a shred of decency and sense, they'd back off now. Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be the most probable scenario. So we hope that *the Manitoban* takes them to court, and we hope they win this political tug-of-war. While a student union may never stop playing their little games, a free student press is the only way to keep them playing by the rules. ♦

Letters

Tom's article disappointing

Tom Peacock's article, "Prison Issue Volunteers," was published in *the Ubysssey* [Mar.10] and the *SFU Peak* [Mar.20]. We are writing because we want you to know the truth, which was unfortunately, not presented in the portion of the article dedicated to the LINC group.

If one were to extract the comments made by the ex-offenders from the article, it would be very easy to identify the honesty, integrity, and commitment these individuals show in choosing a path that leads away from the wrongs of their pasts to a more positive and prosperous future.

However, these truths are masked by Tom Peacock's condescending commentaries regarding the group and its purpose. Unfortunately, it is the very labels that were utilised in this article (i.e., reservoir dogs, disenchanted carpenters...) that make it so difficult for ex-offenders to come back into their community and change their life for the better—which we all benefit from. For example, Mr. Peacock used the label of "reservoir dogs" (someone who kills with no remorse) to describe the men in this group. Firstly this blatant generalisation of these individuals is false! We find it very disappointing that a young, educated individual could not have the ingenuity to sense the inspiring goodness of this group. Mr.

Peacock entered this group as an outsider; yet no one questioned his presence. On the contrary, we all welcomed him, even though the most intimate and personal issues of the self are shared in our circle of support. It is a shame that Mr. Peacock did not listen with an open mind because an article true to the realities of this group would benefit the community in a positive way. Instead, on his first and only visit to LINC, Mr. Peacock was so quick to report the negative judgments and misconceptions of ex-offenders, which are so predominantly found in today's mass media. The youth of today have to step outside the very traditional ideologies that Mr. Peacock put forth in his article, and open up their minds to

begin to understand the underlying faults of our criminal justice system and its effects on the public (ex-offenders included!).

There are many LINC meetings around the Greater Vancouver area, and we definitely invite you to our group, which meets on Wednesday nights at the Dunsmuir House 7:30-10pm. LINC is a circle of support network where people share and learn as equals. We encourage the public to become active to better our futures together.

Lara Condello,
Rebecca Brask and
Lisa Rubin

"The three sorority jibber-jabbers" (as Mr. Peacock so eloquently labels us)

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