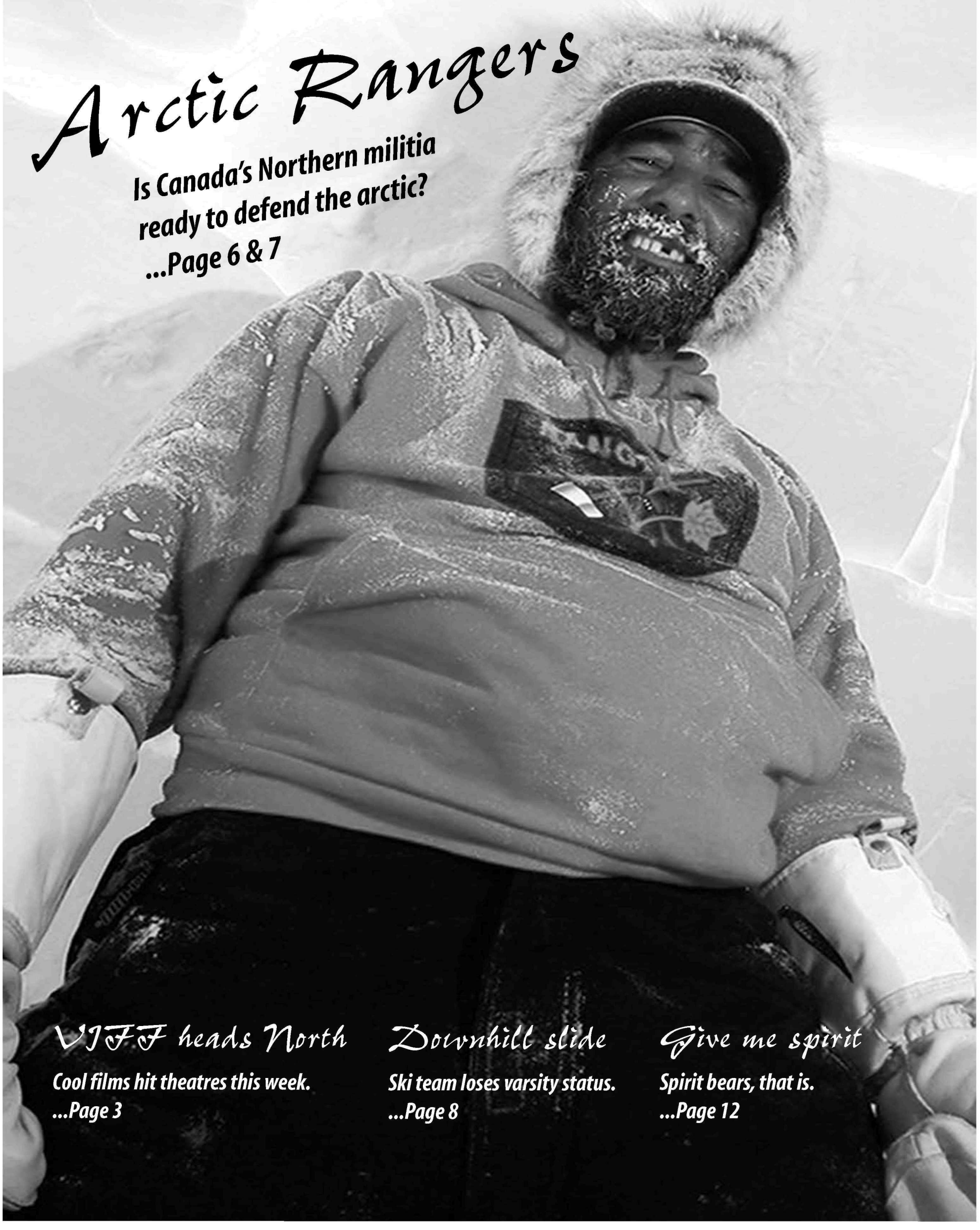
PAGE FRIDAY

Vol. LXXXVIII N°8 | www.ubyssey.bc.ca | Friday, 29 September, 2006 | Struggling against Ken Foster since 1918



Arctic Rangers

Is Canada's Northern militia ready to defend the arctic?

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VIFF heads North

Cool films hit theatres this week.

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Downhill slide

Ski team loses varsity status.

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Give me spirit

Spirit bears, that is.

...Page 12

The natural order of things?

ALL THE KING'S MEN
now playing

by Amanda Stutt
CULTURE WRITER

"I'm gonna keep the faith." So declares Willie Stark (Sean Penn), a man of seemingly unshakable convictions. He is a political underdog who has just been elected governor of Depression-era Louisiana, not by the wealthy and powerful, but by poor "hicks," with whom he allies himself by appealing to their frustrated poverty and speaking their unique dialect. Like an evangelist preaching from a pulpit, he presents himself as an advocate of the poor, an honest and empathetic family man who has struggled himself and knows the plight of the oppressed. Stark speaks to the daily anxieties and obstacles of the poor, while at the same time laying claim to a position of moral integrity as his political mandate.

> "BECAUSE I'M THE WAY I AM AND YOU THE WAY YOU ARE, AND THAT'S JUST THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS."
> *- Willie Stark*

But the audience soon sees Stark's entire ethos deconstructed by the power of his political position. He takes to drinking, engages in a series of extra-marital affairs, knowingly appoints the greedy and corrupt "Tiny" (James Gandolfini) as Lieutenant Governor to 'remind him of how he was almost betrayed' and is accused of laundering money from the State. Corruption is everywhere on all fronts and no one is immune. It is revealed that everyone is in bed with everyone, literally and metaphorically.

All the characters are flawed and angst-ridden, haunted by the past, which is depicted in a series of flashback montages that slowly reveal the true motivations behind the characters' actions. Even the film's tragically romantic subplot between Stark's right-hand man Jack Burton (Jude Law) and Ann Stanton (Kate Winslet), a former governor's daughter, is tainted by political betrayal. Burton is the closest thing the film has to a moral compass but even he gets inevitably tangled in a plot to blackmail the influential Judge Irwin (Anthony Hopkins), who is a close family friend and surrogate father figure. Irwin commits suicide rather than let his reputation be blackened and Burton unwittingly tears his family apart by choosing to placate his political superiors rather than maintain family loyalty.

The relationship between Stark and Burton is confusing and complicated. A frustrated Burton asks Stark why he still works for him, and Stark replies, "because I'm the way I am and you the way you are, and that's just the natural order of things." But it is never revealed what or how anyone really is and thus leaves the audience confused as to what this pronouncement is supposed to mean.

The ending is as ambiguous as the characters' moral fibre. Nobody is ever actually condemned or exonerated; questions that remain unanswered dangle in the air. The central question that remains is whether the characterisation of Willie Stark is intended to reveal the process of an honest man compromising his values at the mercy of corrupt political machinery, or whether he was a rhetorical wizard and propagandist, manipulating the power of his platform all along. This question has no satisfactory answer.

Despite this ambiguity, *All the King's Men* is not about simple entertainment or escapism. The dialogue is sometimes dry, and the plot is multilayered, philosophical, and carries vital political messages that transcend time. The emotional climax of the movie will send chills up any spine: Stark, standing on the back of a flatbed truck in a field surrounded by farmers, promises the awe-struck onlookers that they will get "the roads, bridges, schools and food that you need," threatening to "nail-up" anyone who interferes with the delivery of this promise.

'tweens

AMS Events Quiz Nights
Gallery Lounge, SUB
October 4, 8pm
It's back! Quiz Nights will run the first Wednesday of each month beginning October 4. Join Host Tim for some crazy trivia and lots of prizes!

AMS Events Laffs @ Lunch
Norm Theatre, SUB
Wednesdays @ 12pm
For free laffs, come out to support host Sean Proudlove and a new act every Wednesday. Free pop for the first 100 people.

Day of the LongBoat
Jericho Sailing Centre
September 30, 9am - Sunday, October 1, 4:00pm
Be a part of the largest voyageur canoe race in North America. Join the 250 ten-person teams as they paddle like hell, traversing through a "one of kind" two kilometre course that includes a beach start, a cone pickup, and three big turns.

Utilities BBQ
2040 West Mall
September 29, Friday 11:30am - 12:30pm
Come on out, meet Andy Carr UBC's Loaned Rep and support United Way by having a burger with UBC Utilities!

Piano by Winston Choi
Recital Hall
October 4, 1:45pm - 3:45pm
Free Master class by Winston Choi.

UBC Film Society SINCE 1935
Sept.-Oct. Movies
FRI SEP 29 – SUN OCT 1
7:00 Over the Hedge
9:30 Superman Returns
WED OCT 4 – THUR OCT 5
7:00 Sir No Sir (C-16)
9:30 Why We Fight (C-16)
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For more info, call 604 822 3697 or visit www.ams.ubc.ca/clubs/filmsoc

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

FRIDAY NIGHT COMEDY AT THE GALLERY LOUNGE. Featuring Vancouver's top amateur and professional comedians. Every Friday at 9 p.m. starting Friday, Sept.29. Admission $3.

FORESTRY WEEK SCHEDULE:. Monday ,October 2, Soccer Game with the Engineers, Field directly south of Thunderbird rink, 11:45 am. Tuesday, October 3, Boat Races, Front of FSC, @ Noon. Wednesday, October 4, Beach Clean-up, Meet in front of FSC @ 4:00pm, free food and drink for participants. Thursday, October 5, Debate in FSC room Number N/A @ Noon. Friday, October 6, Loggers Sports, Infront of FSC, 11am. Undercut, Loggers Sports Field, 4-11pm, tix $10 for sale at FSC Noon till 1:00pm starting Monday , October 2.

GOLDEN KEY INTERNATIONAL HONOUR SOCIETY. Congratulations to the new Inductees! DEADLINE TO JOIN in order to participate in the Induction Reception: November 1st 2006. *Can still join after this date. Induction Reception: Saturday November 18th 2006, 1:00 p.m. at the Chan Centre. Local: www.ubcgoldenkey.org & International: www.goldnenkey.org

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Callboard

CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS. Undercurrent is the only student-run national undergraduate journal publishing scholarly essays and articles that explore the subject of international development. Submissions are currently being accepted for the fall issue of Undercurrent until October 1st. Topical papers are accepted from any academic discipline, and may include coursework past or present. Students have six months following graduation from an undergraduate program to submit work. Please consult www.undercurrentjournal.ca for further information regarding guidelines for submissions. Any questions may be directed to contact@undercurrentjournal.ca.

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THE UBYSSEY
FRIDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER, 2006
VOL. LXXXVIII N°8

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Friday night Kath Stewart asked Levi Barnett and Mary Leighton to go to Tracy Mew's with her. They thought it'd be fun to pull a Komal Rizvi and show up Kasha Chang style, dressed in Sarah-Nelle Jackson. However, Alexandra Baird and Andrew MacRae had already started the Faraha Rahman without them, which made them as mad as Andrew Cheng when he runs out of Brett Mattson, Eric Szeto and Matthew Jewkes. They picked up Eva Lillquist and threw her into Aaron Carr, giving them a Kellan Higgins. "That's the last time they'll pull an Amanda Stutt on us again," they said. At the end of the night, Michael Bround and George Prior decided they wanted to pick up Colleen Tang, Isabel Montoya and Carolynne Burkholder to go dancing. So they went to Jesse Ferreras' bar down on Boris Korby Street, and started doing the Peter Holmes twist. Sarah Buck, Melissa Tang and Candice Vallantin were on-stage singing an ode to Momoko Price, Candice Okata and Oker Chen. It was a night Champagne Choquer, Elliott Chalmers and Jesse Marchand would have been proud of.

EDITORIAL GRAPHIC *Michael Bround*

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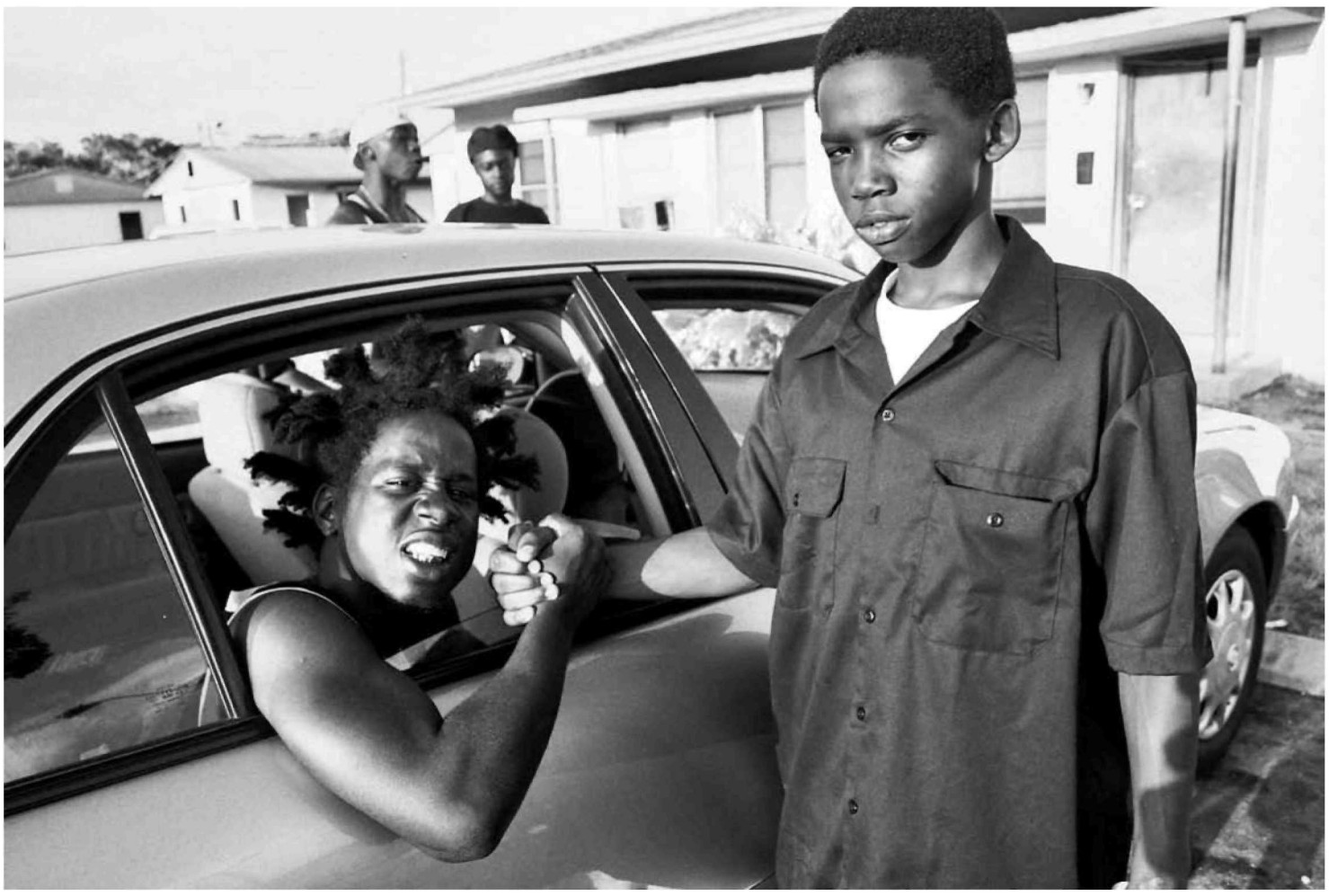
From the 'hood to the battlefield

RAMPAGE
Vancouver International Film Festival opens September 29

by Sarah Buck
CULTURE WRITER



Assault rifles, wounds from battle, the lingering sense that you might die young—it is all a part of daily life, whether you're making your way in a Miami ghetto or waging war in Baghdad. In fact, war in Iraq is probably the nicer of the two options: you stand less of a chance of being shot, with the added bonus that your possessions are less likely to be lifted. At least that's the experience of Elliot Lovett, an American solider in Iraq and subject of the documentary *Rampage*.

Director George Gittoes met Lovett in Iraq while shooting his first film, *Soundtrack to War*. Thinking the real story could be the battleground in George Bush's backyard, Gittoes left Iraq and followed Lovett on leave back to his family's home in Brown Sub, Florida. *Rampage* styles Elliot "the soldier" and his brother Marcus "the artist," aspiring to be a rapper. Denzell, the youngest member of the family and also an aspiring rapper, is "the rising star."

The family portrait that emerges is one of a close-knit group whose mutual support gets them through. There's pure joy on the mother's face when Elliot comes home, and she thanks God for delivering him out of Baghdad. But later in the film she's counting on him to deliver her from despair when a local kid murders Marcus.

Gittoes superimposes a voice-over with shots of the funeral as well as news reports showing four men who attempt to restrain Denzell from throwing himself in front of a truck outside the church. Just a month and a half later, Gittoes flies Denzell to New York City for auditions with top rap music labels. Executives congratulate Denzell on being "way more believable than 50 Cent" since he's seen as much as a rapper twice his age. Though they point out he "ain't been shot yet."

The film is most compelling when Gittoes is driving home the Miami/Baghdad parallels. showing how some young African-American men are "ghetto-trained for survival" before they even go to war. But there are some serious pyrotechnics in *Rampage*, as the film goes off in all directions: a Statue of Liberty street performer dispenses his take on life and how to get through; middle American kids jam with Denzell in Washington Square and expand on the importance of keeping it real. There's even an ancient Australian aboriginal healing ceremony at the director's home in Sydney. All of these scenarios feel heavily engineered by the director.

What's missing is an attempt to get at where this violence comes from, to answer the basic question of why kids are killing each other with AK-47s. There's an eerie scene in which Gittoes asks Elliot how he would react if anyone dared mess with his grandmother. Elliot responds by describing in graphic detail exactly what kind of violence he'd commit against such a person. His grandmother, meanwhile, chortles in delight at this obvious display of love for her.

It seems as though there is no one in *Rampage*, neither the grandmother, nor Gittoes, who has any real insight into how to save the 'hood.

Skateboarding icon pleases on and off the board

Rising Son has thrills for boardheads and skater-haters alike

RISING SON: THE LEGEND OF SKATEBOARDER CHRISTIAN HOSOI
Vancouver International Film Festival opens September 29

by Andrew Cheng
CULTURE WRITER

Rising Son: The Legend of Skateboarder Christian Hosoi showcases the life of one of skateboarding's most celebrated superstars. He is a cultural icon known for his exceptional talent, flare and charisma, as well as resurrecting skateboarding in America in the 1980s. Directed by Cesario "Block" Montano, and narrated by Oscar-nominated actor Dennis Hopper, *Rising Son* captures Hosoi's spectacular rise to the top and his disastrous fall from glory, exemplified by his incarceration for drug trafficking in 2000. His newfound faith in Christianity, however, helps him regain control of his life and find success in the world of skating once more following his release from prison in 2004. Although the narration guides the viewer along, much of the story is told by people in the skateboard community, including pro-skaters such as Tony Hawk, Chad Muska, Eric Koston, and Danny Way, to name just a few. With its slew of pro-skaters, the film naturally attracts the skateboard community but it is also accessible to the average moviegoer and keeps skateboard jargon to a minimum.

Rising Son begins with a brief history of skateboarding prior to Hosoi's rise to fame, and documents his immediate impact once he emerges as skateboarding's superstar. The film links effectively his success with his public persona; not only was he an amazing talent, he was also flamboyant and had tons of style on and off the skateboard. The film truly captures his popularity as a skateboarder in his time and as a celebrity who was famous for his crazy party antics as well as his ability to go to any Hollywood club without lining up. While the film effectively shows the skateboard community's unanimous view of Hosoi as a man of incredible style by showing many pro-skaters describing him that way in various interviews, this segment dragged on too long. It seemed that the point about his amazing style had been made, but the clips of pro-skaters praising his style continued. This part, however, may be welcomed by skaters who are just happy to see their favourite skaters on screen. At the same time, it provides them a chance to hear what they have to say as opposed to see them do tricks like in other videos.

This brings us to another point. Although this video offers an enormous amount of skate footage and not just a bunch of interviews, it isn't meant to get you pumped for skating. The viewer should expect *Rising Son* to be about the life of Hosoi, which is told compellingly, and his impact on skateboarding and its culture. If you're expecting something that'll get you pumped for skating, I would recommend a skate video by Zero instead.

Another reason why *Rising Son* is a fascinating film for many skaters is that although Hosoi was pivotal to the development of vert skateboarding and his impact on its culture in the 1980s cannot be understated, many skaters, especially those who started skating in the 1990s, don't know who he is; his drug addictions and the growing popularity of street skating over vert have virtually taken him out of the scene. These skaters may have heard of him only because pro-skater Chad Muska (a friend of Hosoi's) and Shorty's skateboards started selling skateboards with Hosoi's original "Rising Sun" graphic while he was in jail as a tribute. Muska and Shorty's donated a portion of all sales from the tribute boards to support his legal defense team. It was efforts like these by the skate industry and Hosoi's good behaviour in prison that led to his early parole in 2004.

Since many skaters from the 1990s knew relatively little about Hosoi, and have grown up thinking that Tony Hawk (a legend himself) was the dominant figure in skateboarding, this film can totally change the way they view skateboarding and its history. Given the newer generation's unfamiliarity with Hosoi, this film does a great job of recounting the two schools of skateboarding that existed. In the film, Tony Hawk recounts that one school consisted of Hosoi, representing amazing style, while the other consisted of himself, representing superb technical ability. By discussing this, the film helps viewers better understand the culture of skateboarding in the 80s and gives them a sense of the rivalry between the two skaters who represented two very different things while both had loyal fan bases.

This is a film that tells the story of skateboard legend Christian Hosoi, the one who invented the Christ Air (yes, all you Tony Hawk's *Pro Skater* fans out there who know what it is), to a new generation that is likely to know very little about him. It was a story that begged to be told, and *Rising Son* tells the tale honestly.

The Ubyssey

Longboat victors since 1918

THE UBYSSEY
shameless giveaway

Rising Son

Come on down to room 23 in the SUB to pick up a free ticket to
Rising Son: The Legend of Skateboarder Christian Hosoi
playing at VIFF on Sunday, Oct. 1st at 9:45 pm at the Granville 7 Theatre. We have other VIFF passes too!
Rising Son is a Ubyssey sponsored screening!

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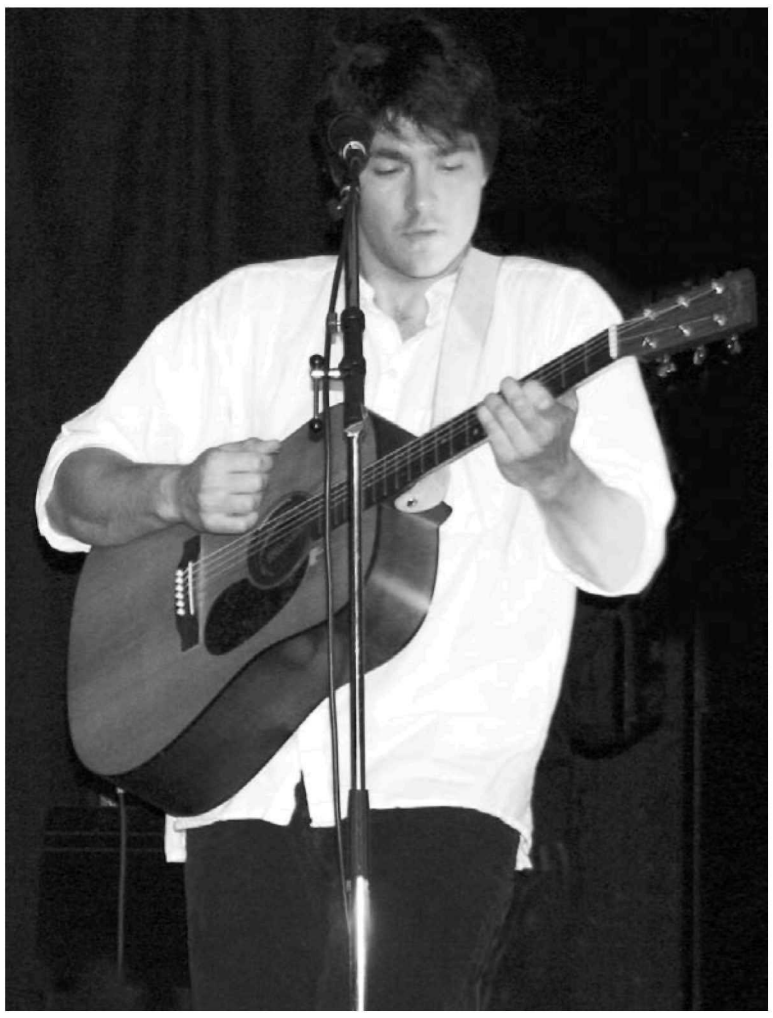
UNIVERSITY of TORONTO

UBC alumnus on the path to indie success



by Megan Turnbull
CULTURE WRITER

Nikola Tucakov is an "indie" musician, but you can ignore the stereotypes. The typical adjectives used to refer to this elite type of musician just don't apply to him. He's not moody, angst-ridden, or even skinny in the "starving for my art" kind of way. He's tall, dark and handsome, and full of energy, enthusiasm and passion for his music. He even has fun advancing his budding music career. His music is catchy, uplifting acoustic rock with a slight reggae feel in its rhythm and attitude. His influences include Simon and Garfunkel, The Police and the Gipsy Kings.

Born in Yugoslavia and raised in Turkey, Nikola and his twin brother, Ivan, moved to Vancouver almost a decade ago to attend UBC. With an education in computers and a breadth of creative talent in both music and acting, Nikola is working himself into a position to launch his career as a musician. He's staying true to the independent model and juggling on-line and media promotions, bookings and songwriting all on his own. When we spoke about the benefits that come along with major labels, he acknowledged that they can be helpful to a start-up artist.

"If I were to get into a big label, one of the five, it's like [a once in a] lifetime experience," he said. "Go with it just for the credentials, but it might not be the best outcome after awhile."

But before I could continue, he changed his tune and passionately expressed his belief in the independent approach.

"But it ca be done, it can be done," he affirmed. "Internet is so strong right now. I'm on YouTube as well, which is really picking up. You can market yourself on-line and also gigging and getting local experience. I'm building up a fan base right now. But independent is a good way to go; and I believe that a musician can pretty much do everything on their own today in the market."

Nikola's first album, *Kuliyana*, was a positive creative experience, but he's anxious to apply all he learned in the process to his next album about which he speaks with steadfast optimism. Before he heads back to the studio, however, he plans to focus on perfecting his live show.

"I've got enough material for another album now," he said. "But instead of recording and then playing them...I want to perform these songs, you know, get them to a level that we like it, the audience likes it and it works, and then record. And I'm really, really excited about the new material. And our performance and also the way we work as a band and arrangements of the songs."

His optimism is definitely warranted, especially since his song "Secrets" was chosen as one of the best 40 songs in last year's "Song of the Year" contest which had a panel of big name judges, including Norah Jones.

Although Nikola is aware of the potential of online audiences, he still believes his key to success is to reach out musically to his local community, and the community on which he is focused is the one here at UBC.

"I do still think that the local community is important," he claimed. "It takes a balance of three things: the writing of the songs, performance and then the managerial. Those three have to be balanced in terms of progressing the career as an independent musician."

He played a Live at Lunch session in front of the SUB and on CiTR at the end of the summer. He hopes to do several shows at the Gallery and the Pit Pub throughout the school year, all of which will surely help build his ever-growing fan base. Be sure to keep an eye and ear open for this charming and promising musician.

Jet Li's final fight kicks serious ass

JET LI'S FEARLESS
now playing

by Aaron Carr
CULTURE WRITER

Watching *Fearless* was a bittersweet experience for me, as I am sure it will be for many long-time Jet Li fans. The knowledge that this is Jet Li's final martial arts film lurked behind each scene, periodically injecting a sense of sadness and odd nostalgia into the eye-popping, awe-inspiring spectacle of what is without a doubt not just one of Jet Li's finest films, but one of the pre-eminent films of the genre.

Li has stated publicly that *Fearless* encompasses the entirety of his philosophy on martial arts, life and Buddhism. In the film, he plays Huo Yuanjia, an historical Chinese folk hero from the late imperial period. In the waning years of the empire, amidst social division and foreign invasion, Huo became a symbol of Chinese strength and solidarity in the face of foreign subjugation.

When Western fighters like the goliath Hercules O'Brien came to China and pronounced the Chinese the "sick men of the east," Huo alone took up the challenge to meet them in the ring. In the film, the fight between O'Brien and Huo is quite spectacular, although it never really took place; O'Brien fled the country before the match was scheduled.

Huo was not always such an ideal figure, however. The bulk of *Fearless* is the tale of Huo's evolution from the arrogant, hard-drinking, self-proclaimed "Champion of Tianjin" to the subdued, humble, self-sacrificing hero of Chinese pride. Director Ronny Yu opens the film with Huo making short work of several Western fighters in a frenetic succession of short, to-the-point fight scenes that set the film's hooks into the audience from the very beginning.

The plot then shifts to Huo's childhood. After witnessing his father lose a match, Huo vows to never lose a fight as his father had. His mind resolved, Huo begins to learn martial arts in secret from a stolen manual. Huo becomes an unrivalled fighter, unbeaten throughout his home province of Tianjin, but the true essence of martial arts still elude him. Arrogant, full of pride and an alcoholic, Huo stumbles into a downward spiral that destroys his family and many others around him. This event sets Huo on a journey—both physical and spiritual—that leads him to a fuller understanding of martial arts as a tool beyond the ego, and the realisation of the existence of something much larger and more important than himself.

While the film's plot is simple and—within the martial arts genre—well worn, the film nevertheless succeeds where many others have failed. *Fearless* is a straightforward martial arts film that does not aspire to the dramatic depth of overblown martial arts epics such as *Crouching Tiger* or *Hero*. Instead, *Fearless* focuses on the simple plot of Huo's growth as a martial artist and a series of spectacular fight scenes to deliver a concise, singular portrait of a man who became an icon of a nation and a philosophy.

The fight scene choreography in *Fearless* is on par with the best anywhere. Master martial arts choreographer Yuen Wo-Ping (the genius behind the iconic fight sequences in *The Matrix, Crouching Tiger,* and *Kill Bill*) pulls no stops, providing a seemingly endless succession of dazzling kung-fu action. The audience is treated to everything from standard hand-to-hand combat, fights on high platforms and with just about every combination of weapons a martial arts fanatic could ask for. And, of course, Wo-Ping delivers yet again. Each fight scene is unique, telling its own mini-story and, of course, draws you to the edge of your seat. For fans of martial arts cinema, the fight scenes in *Fearless* are worth the price of admission alone.

The only fault of *Fearless* is its editing. The North American release weighs in at a trim 103 minutes; the original Chinese version comes in at a healthier 150. An entire fight sequence and all of Michelle Yeoh's scenes were deleted from the North American release. This creates a catch 22 for many martial arts fans: *Fearless* is a movie that demands to be seen on the big screen, yet the deletion of so much material—especially an entire fight scene—left me feeling a bit cheated.

In the end, however, such faults are all too common in the translation of Asian movies to the North American market. Even in its trimmed-down state, *Fearless* is still worth checking out on the big screen. The intensity of the epic fights is diminished on smaller screens, taking much of the film's effectiveness with it since so much of the story unfolds between two people fighting each other to the death. This may not be the deepest martial arts epic ever made, but it's certainly one of the best in recent memory.

Pillocks hearken back to golden days of garage rock

Vancouver band's original work doesn't quite match up to their nostalgic covers

THE PILLOCKS
Perfectly Flawed
Independent

by Brent Mattson
CULTURE WRITER

PERFECTLY FLAWED The Pillocks performing on June 16 at the Anza Club. **JAY SHAW PHOTO**

The Pillocks must have stepped into a time warp that sent them back to the Pacific Northwest in 1989, when everybody was stuck in a time warp that sent them back to the Pacific Northwest in 1966. What the hell does that even mean? It means that people on the West Coast love garage rock and always have, plain and simple. Paying tribute to their 60s rock heroes such as the Kinks, as well as late-70s punk pioneers such as the Clash and the Dead Boys, The Pillocks create something that sounds surprisingly similar in parts to Pearl Jam's latest album sans Eddie Vedder's trademark delivery, and that's not a bad thing by a long shot. Just listen to the punked-out opener and title track "Perfectly Flawed" and PJ's "Life Wasted" back to back to see the similarities.

But do the Pillocks manage to create music as muscular and transcendental as Pearl Jam does? Of course not; if they did, then they would be the opening act for the Rolling Stones and eating continental breakfasts with Bono instead of rocking the local indie scene. However, they are fast becoming one of the Lower Mainland's best kept secrets.

Primary songwriter and rhythm guitarist Steve Ward crafts everyman garage rock straight from the Replacements' School of Second Generation American Punk without the Master's in alcoholism. His songs are fleshed out by sympathetic bandmates who play very tightly and professionally for a supposed garage band. This slickness is due in part to the solid rhythm section, consisting of bassist Achim Kapitza and drummer Greg Williams, who drive the songs forward with powerful grooves even when the beats get a bit complicated. The guitars are tightly controlled riff machines, sticking together and shooting out deceptively simple chord progressions through the rising and falling of the verses and choruses. That is, until lead guitarist Mike Hicke eventually pulls away to play melodic guitar lines to complement the rhythm guitar or just explode from the speakers channeling Dave Davies with ripping solos in the songs "You Decide" or "Coming to Los Angeles" that leave the listener's ears begging for mercy. At the forefront is vocalist Peter de Verteuil, whose singing style has just a hint of punk's usual nasality with enough raspy, mush-mouthed grit in the vein of Paul Westerburg and Joe Strummer to give his delivery a more impassioned maturity than your average pop-punk whiner. Verteuil has a true rock 'n' roll voice: a limited range, a lip-curling growl, a wicked tongue and a heart full of soul.

> THE SONGS HEARKEN BACK TO THE DAYS WHEN BARELY COMPETENT GANGS OF BANDS... REWROTE KINKS SINGLES AND STUFFED THEM UP WITH HOOKS AND ATTITUDE TO MAKE UP FOR LACK OF TALENT.

The songs hearken back to the days when barely competent gangs of bands like Paul Revere and the Raiders rewrote early Kinks singles and stuffed them up with hooks and attitude to make up for lack of talent and compete with the Beatles. It is obvious that the band knows this classic approach as *Perfectly Flawed* is just under 50 minutes of 16 hard-grooving rock tunes that are rarely longer than three and a half minutes, never having time to get boring and leaving the listener craving more at the end every time. The strict song lengths never give the Pillocks a chance to indulge, so there is always the right number of verses, solos that are just long enough and choruses that hit at the perfect moment.

With its slowhand solos and reggae-by-way-of-the-Police verses, "Too Many People Want Peace" slips between harrowing and laid-back as easily as Scott Weiland slips out of his leather pants after a Velvet Revolver show. Besides reggae, the Pillocks try to infuse their songs with other genres, such as "Eight Ball," which sounds like an update on the surf rock that was popular in the early '60s with its groovy guitar riffs and melodic leads over a solid backbeat. It sounds more laid back than Dick Dale but infinitely more rockin' than the Beach Boys. "Judas Cow" is one of the moments on the album where the band tries to get profound, and surprisingly they don't fall flat on their faces where a lot of local bands would. A piece of protest rock, the song is a slow burning, verbose rocker with anti-war/anti-Bush lyrics as blunt as Neil Young's Living with War, even featuring Bush sound-bytes on "Judas Cow" à la "Let's Impeach the President." The quotes seem to flow with the song so brilliantly, it is as though Bush joined the group in the for a studio jam to lay down some neo-con scatting.

The highlight of the album, however, comes just before the album's halfway mark. The Pillocks perform "Coming to Los Angeles," the drug-smuggling tale by folk music royalty Arlo Guthrie, with de Verteuil's vocals delivered like Guthrie with a Johnny Rotten sneer, while Kapitza's Kinks-ish guitar leads replace the original version's hippie slide guitar, adding even more urgency to the freewheeling treatment the song receives. Unfortunately, this song as well as the cover of The Dead Boys' classic "Sonic Reducer," highlights the shortcomings of their self-penned material.

Though the Pillocks have compiled a consistently good collection, they don't quite match the songs they cover.

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CANADA'S NORTHERN FORCE

THE CHANGING ROLE OF OUR CANADIAN RANGERS IN THE ARCTIC

TEXT BY CAROLYNNE BURKHOLDER
PHOTOS BY CHRIS WINDEYER

Armed with World War II rifles and clad in red sweatshirts and red baseball caps, the Canadian Rangers patrol the 3.4 million square kilometres of the Arctic. Although the main duty of this part-time reserve force is surveillance of the Arctic, the Rangers do everything from collecting data to training other members of the Canadian Forces to survive the Arctic winters.

"Like I always say...we are the eyes and ears of the north for Canada," said Master Corporal Pitseolak Alainga, who has been a Canadian Ranger in Iqaluit, Nunavut for 16 years.

As the Arctic ice melts, the role of the Canadian Rangers is changing. With the opening of the Northwest Passage and the government's new commitment to northern sovereignty and defending the Arctic border, the Canadian Rangers have a mission—whether they're equipped for it or not.

THE EYES AND EARS OF THE NORTH

Alainga joined the Canadian Rangers when he was 23. "My grandfather and my father, my uncles and other relatives were in the Rangers," he said. "I got involved when some elders were trying to expand the Rangers here in Iqaluit."

The Canadian Rangers were formally established as a branch of the Canadian Forces on May 23, 1947 when the government was trying to cut back on military spending.

"In the 1940s, when budgets were constrained, the military was searching for some way to have a presence [in the Arctic]," said Whitney Lackenbauer, history professor at St. Jerome's University in Waterloo, Ontario. "It seemed like a great idea to give rifles and at that time just arm bands to the locals in hopes that if the Soviets came and somebody tried to set up little lodgements in the north, these Rangers would hold them off until the regular force came."

This unconventional volunteer militia now has 4,000 members in 165 communities across the north. The Rangers are mostly Inuit who have extensive knowledge of Arctic geography, navigation and survival.

While the activities of Rangers vary greatly, depending on the Patrol Unit, each part-time volunteer shares the mandate to "provide a military presence in those sparsely settled northern, coastal and isolated areas of Canada that cannot conveniently or economically be provided for by other components of the Canadian Forces."

Alainga said the Rangers have a big responsibility.

"We do quite a few things," said Alainga. "We do training on some of the basic first aid and basic search and rescue, but mainly what we do is when there's military presence around here we teach these military guys how to try to survive up here in the Arctic where most of the time it's really cold in the winter and how to build igloos and how to survive some blizzards."

> "WE DON'T HAVE THE CAPACITY TO EXERT A [MILITARY] PRESENCE IN MOST OF THE COUNTRY FOR MOST OF THE YEAR."
>
> –*Michael Byers*
> *Political science professor*

Unlike the other branches of the Canadian Military, who undergo extensive training, the Rangers only have ten days of formal instruction. Lackenbauer said this flexibility is why this project has been successful.

"This is an incredible success story for the Canadian Forces because rather than going in and trying to militarise northern communities in traditional ways—addressing rigid hierarchies trying to assimilate everybody into common patterns of behaviour, which is required for regular forces—instead they've adopted a very flexible approach rooted in accommodation and acceptance of northern practices," he said.

But whether the Rangers' northern practices will be enough to protect Canada in the future is still unknown.

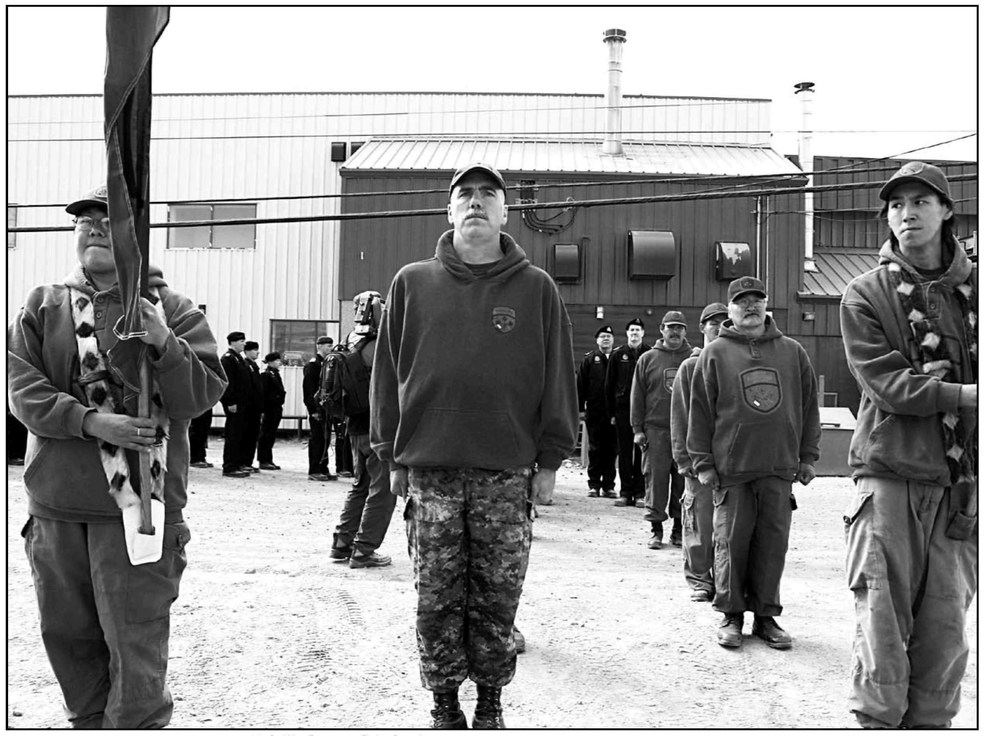
TREADING ON THIN ICE

Five years ago the US Navy commissioned a report on the ice in the Northwest Passage, which predicted that the area would be free of ice during the summer months between 2006 and 2011.

UBC political science professor, Michael Byers said he's concerned about how this significant change will affect security in the Arctic.

"I'm fairly confident that in the summer months the ice will be—if not gone—sufficiently soft and thin to allow commercial shipping in the passage within the next decade or two," said Byers. "And that has pretty serious implications for...security, not just in regards to terrorism, but also in regards to illegal immigration. I'm seriously worried that the Canadian public does not understand the magnitude of what's happening."

Climate change—the result of greenhouse gas emissions trapping heat and warming the earth's surface—is the number one challenge facing humanity today, according to Byers. The earth's average surface temperature has risen 0.6° C since the 1900s. Although this may not sound alarming, it could have huge ramifications for the North. The effects of the warmer weather are most apparent in the Arctic region, which is becoming smaller as thousands of kilometres of ice melt each year.



ON GUARD FOR THEE: Canadian Rangers stand at attention during Stephen Harper's visit to Iqaluit in August.

NORTHERN PROTECTORS: Are the Canadian Rangers ready to defend the Northwest Passage?

According to Byers, it is only a matter of time before a shipping company takes advantage of the trade route that is opening up as the seasons go by.

"It's inevitable; it could happen this week," he said. "There are lots of trap steamers and rusted-out tanks sailing around the world owned by these fly-by-night companies and they're looking at the Northwest Passage and seeing a shortcut that's 7,000 kilometres long. That's a huge amount of money saved in terms of fuel costs, Panama Canal transit fees and time."

"At one point one of them is going to say, 'Heck! If the alternative is bankruptcy I'm going to roll the dice and try the Northwest Passage,'" Byers continued. "It doesn't need to be anything more than a small desperate company and a captain of some rogue vessel just wanting to save a couple thousand bucks. This could happen right now. There is insufficient ice in the Northwest Passage, as we speak, for that kind of calculation to be made by someone who's desperate enough. And every summer it becomes more likely."

Although the opening up of the Northwest Passage has great potential for shipping, oil and gas exploration and mining, it also creates security concerns, something the government is beginning to address.

"The twin impacts of climate change and the recognition of the resource wealth of the North really has started politicians from Martin to Harper saying that we have to be ready to defend our Arctic," said Rob Huebert, political science professor at the University of Calgary. "And by defend they mean we have to have a policy, we have to know what's happening in the Arctic and we have to be able to respond to what's going on."

The government has been talking, but Huebert is concerned that this is all they have been doing.

"I will give Martin credit for initiating the discourse and Harper has continued the discussions, but so far we haven't seen any real action," he said. "One becomes a little bit jaded about the possibility of seeing if change will ever in fact come in."

> "THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE SUCCESS STORY FOR THE CANADIAN FORCES... THEY'VE ADOPTED A VERY FLEXIBLE APPROACH ROOTED IN ACCOMMODATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF NORTHERN PRACTICES."
>
> –*Whitney Lackenbauer*
> *History professor*

Byers agreed that the government hasn't been doing enough to protect our northern border.

"We are the second largest country on earth and 40 per cent of this country is Arctic. We don't have the capacity to exert a presence in most of the country for most of the year," said Byers. "We've been able to get away with this up until now because the ice has always protected our interests. The ice has always provided an impenetrable barrier to foreign vessels and people wanting to enter the North. But with the ice melting we're losing that natural defence to other interests."

WE STAND ON GUARD FOR THEE

In a speech delivered August 12, 2006 in Iqaluit, Nunavut, Prime Minister Stephen Harper emphasised the government's commitment to northern sovereignty and the northern-most branch of the Canadian Military.

"You can't defend Arctic sovereignty with words alone. It takes a Canadian presence on the ground, in the air and on the sea and a government that is internationally recognised for delivering on its commitments," Harper said. "We are determined to expand the Army's presence in the North by establishing a new Arctic training centre and revitalising the Canadian Rangers."

This revitalisation includes expanding the Rangers' numbers to 4,800 by 2008, something that concerns Lackenbauer.

"I think the government is treading on very thin ice with this," he said. "First of all I think they're making promises and commitments that they can't hope to keep. They're really focused on the Northwest Passage and Canadian sovereignty [but] every community along the Northwest Passage that can sustain a Ranger Patrol already has one. So the prospects of expanding it are slim to none."

"The second issue is that within the communities many of the people who want to volunteer and have something to offer the Rangers are already participants in the Rangers," he said. "So in the North there's also concern within Ranger Patrols and amongst the instructors who teach them that increasing the number of Rangers in particular Patrols will actually decrease the skill level because you're going to bring in a lot of people that don't possess the knowledge of the land or the real genuine interest in learning about the land that really gives the Rangers the vitality that it has."

Alainga said he sees some positive aspects in the government's new commitment to northern sovereignty—though he's not sure how it will affect him.

"There are more people [in Iqaluit] who want to become Rangers and what the government thinks right now is a pretty good idea," he said. "But we're the biggest community in Nunavut and it's sometimes really hard for us Rangers to take time off...for training and for our trips on the land."

Alainga added that only certain areas would be affected by the increased accessibility of the Northwest Passage. "In a few places there's going to be a lot of jobs or a lot of activities going on and this is where we Canadian Rangers start helping protect sovereignty," he said.

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DEMOTION: Katie Benjamin is disappointed with the ski team's budget cuts. KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTO

Varsity ski team loses status

by Boris Korby
SPORTS EDITOR

In a move to consolidate one of the largest sports departments in the country, UBC Athletics has decided to cut the alpine ski team's budget by half and demote the team's status from varsity to club, an act that has angered athletes and alumni of the storied sports program.

According to Theresa Hanson, associate director of intercollegiate and high performance sport for UBC Athletics and Recreation, the decision—which also saw nordic skiing and men's field hockey get cut from the varsity roster—is part of a reorganising process that the Department of Athletics is undertaking.

UBC Athletics, she said, is attempting to establish guidelines that will help determine what a varsity sport is. This will also determine the amount of funding a team receives.

"The reason we are doing this is from a sustainability perspective," said Hanson. "We can't continue to provide all the resources for this many teams."

"From a business sense, we have to be able to justify what sports we operate and why, what are the resources that go into those sports, and what are the different categories of sports from which we still provide opportunities to student athletes," added Hanson. "Every sport will be reviewed as part of this whole process."

The decision to relegate the ski team to club status has not been taken well by members and alumni of the program, who have yet to hear a legitimate reason for the decision, according to Katie Benjamin, women's team coach of UBC alpine skiing.

"The main [problem] is we don't understand where the decision is coming from," said Benjamin. "I think what it comes down to is that UBC has never taken the ski team really seriously."

"We're so respected everywhere else except here."

The alpine skiing team competes in the 150 member United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association (USCSA), not in the CIS or NAIA (which don't include varsity skiing among the sports they offer) like the majority of the University's other varsity athletic programs. Both the men's and women's ski teams have consistently finished in the top ten of the USCSA in recent years, however UBC does not recognise the USCSA as an intercollegiate league, which was one of numerous factors behind the decision to cancel the team's varsity status and reduce its funding, according to Hanson.

The ski team's status will be in a state of limbo because the list of criteria for what constitutes a varsity team is not expected to be finalised until March of next year at the earliest.

"At the end of the day, they might not receive [any] funding," said Hanson. "But we felt last year there were some changes in the overall budgets of a few sports that we needed to make at that time. This was one of them. So they are still receiving funding from the department to help. Not a lot, but it's something."

This funding will be in the area of $5,000 for the upcoming season, half of what was received in recent years and hardly enough to fund a team which has already had to fundraise extensively and find its own rides to races just to continue competing, according to Benjamin.

Benjamin also argues that as the only varsity level ski program in the country, if UBC Athletics doesn't change its mind soon, Canada is likely to lose all its remaining high performance skiers to the United States.

"We are Canada's top team, and we have been for a long time," continued Benjamin, "[but] without exception, every single skier in Canada...if they want to continue skiing at the collegiate level, they will go south, and that's embarrassing in light of 2010. It's going to create a sort of brain drain effect on the ski racing community."

For Athletics, the decision to demote the alpine ski team was not one made lightly. "It was a decision at the time that we thought was in the best interest of our department, and Athletics as a whole, and sometimes you have to make some of those tough decisions in the big picture," said Hanson.

According to Benjamin, the ski team has not yet determined what course of action it will take in response to Athletics' decision.

"But the thing I really believe is if we lose our varsity status, we're going to lose our funding, said Benjamin. "Why will alumni still want to contribute to something that's not a varsity team anymore? We already don't get taken seriously as it is, and as a varsity club or as a club, no one will listen to us, no one would care."

WEEK 1	BYE WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	SHRUM BOWL	WEEK 7	WEEK 8	WEEK 9
UBC 22 CAL 16 Thunderbird Stadium		UBC 17 ALTA 18 Edmonton	UBC 33 SASK 35 Sakatoon	UBC vs REGINA Fri, Sept 29; 7:00pm Thunderbird Stadium	UBC vs SFU Fri, Oct 7; 2:00pm Thunderbird Stadium	UBC at SFU Wed, Oct 18, 7:00pm Burnaby	UBC at CAL Sun, Oct 22, 12:00pm Calgary	UBC vs MAN Fri, Oct 27, 7:00pm Thunderbird Stadium

UBC THUNDERBIRDS

Record: 1-2-0 (Tied for fourth in Canada West)

Last week: UBC is coming off its second heartbreaking loss in as many weeks, falling 35-33 to the Saskatchewan Huskies last Saturday. UBC had taken a 33-28 lead with 50 seconds left in the game, before Saskatchewan drove the length of the field and got the winning touchdown with six seconds left in the game.

Who to watch: Quarterback Blake Smelser had best game of the season last Saturday, passing for 295 yards and one touchdown in the victory. Running back Chris Ciezki once again had a strong game for the Thunderbirds, running for three touchdowns and 132 yards on just eight carries, and leads the team with 326 yards in three games.

Coach's comment: "We're tired of sitting in airports. We're really excited to be back playing at home. That's another thing I think is going to help us, we don't have to travel and get on a plane and everything else, and that kind of does wear on you after a while, so it'll be great to be back at home."

KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTO

PREPARING FOR THE BIG GAME Thunderbirds football players practice before Friday night's game. KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTO

Thunderbirds glad to be home

Entering the halfway point of the season, UBC already faces a must win weekend as the Regina Rams, owners of an identical 1-2 record as the Thunderbirds, come to town.

With Canada West powerhouses Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta occupying the top three playoff spots in the conference, UBC and Regina are likely to battle it out for the final playoff berth.

"If we beat Regina this week, and we play down the stretch, we got a great shot of being in the playoffs, if we don't, we could be in some trouble," said Thunderbirds head coach Ted Goveia. "But we're excited about the game."

Regina comes to UBC riding a wave of confidence, having destroyed conference cellar-dweller Simon Fraser 53-16 last Saturday in Regina. The Rams are led by Canada West passing leader Teale Orban, and are looking take advantage of a UBC secondary that has looked questionable at times in allowing four touchdowns over their first three games.

"They've got a great quarterback and a really talented receiving core, so defensively its going to be important that we get to the quarterback and get some pressure on him, and at the same time we need to be able to defend the pass," said Goveia.

Offensively, they ve got a very experienced team on defence, but at the same time I think we match up pretty good, so we re going to look to run and pass on them, and our goal is to get on the scoreboard early.

—Boris Korby

MATCHUP

	W-L	PF	PA	H	A
UBC	1-2	72	69	1-0	0-2
REG	1-2	91	88	1-1	0-1

LEADERS

UBC PASSING

	CMP%	YDS	TD	INT
Blake Smelser	58.7	644	2	2

REGINA PASSING

	CMP%	YDS	TD	INT
Teale Orban	56.8	784	5	0

UBC RUSHING

	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD
Chris Ciezki	34	326	9.6	3

REGINA RUSHING

	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD
Derek Belvedere	40	185	4.6	1

UBC RECEIVING

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Darren Wilson	14	308	22.0	2

REGINA RECEIVING

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Chris Getzlaf	15	214	14.3	2

Canada West Standings:	W	L
Manitoba	4	0
Saskatchewan	4	0
Alberta	2	2
Regina	1	2
UBC	1	2
Calgary	0	3
Simon Fraser	0	3

RAMS

Record: 1-2-0 (Tied for fourth in Canada West)

Last week: The Rams will be heading into Vancouver with confidence. After losing their first two games of the season to CIS top ten teams Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Regina took out its frustration on the visiting SFU Clan, building up a 53-2 lead before cruising to a 53-16 victory.

Who to watch: Regina Quarter-back Teale Orban is the top passer in Canada West, having thrown for 784 yards and five touchdowns in three games, and has yet to give up an interception. Wide receiver Chris Bauman's 100 yard reception against Simon Fraser was one of the five longest catches in Canada West in the last 30 years.

Key Stat: Regina and UBC are tied for the final playoff spot in Canada West. Should they finish the season tied, the team who won the head-to-head matchup will qualify for the playoffs.

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There Are Some Things That Gift Baskets Cannot Fix.

The benevolent two-faced giant

"I am not terrorist. I am not a member of al-Qaeda and I do not know anyone who belongs to this group."

It's a shame that Maher Arar's words weren't heeded until he had spent ten months and ten days in a Syrian prison he claims was only three feet wide and six feet deep. For a period in 2002, he inhabited a prison situated below a grate through which cats would urinate on him. He further described being routinely beaten, tortured and forced to confess that he had gone to Afghanistan and had been in a training camp.

And while his is a story of injustice, another more pressing issue emerges from the fray of misdemeanors and human-rights abuses that Arar encountered. What transpired from the events was a glaring indictment of Canada's two-faced approach to national security.

While many feel that Canada is a citadel, an arbiter of what's right and wrong, after the incident many may see otherwise. In 2001 we went into Afghanistan to dismantle the Taliban because we believed that it was a just cause, and we took a strong stance against the 2003 invasion of Iraq, opposing it because we felt that it was unjust and unnecessary.

With such conviction in our policy, where did we go wrong? In the years following Arar's return home, a torrent of information has been released regarding which agencies knew about what was being done to him in the name of national security.

What was revealed in the numerous reports has implicated CSIS, the US and Canadian governments, and the RCMP. A report released by Justice Dennis O'Connor on September 18, 2006, said the RCMP provided "raw and inaccurate" information about Arar to the US government, leading to his deportation to Syria.

Among the revelations was an incident where the US tried to get Canadian officials to arraign Arar in 2002. They gave the RCMP a choice: handle Arar internally and issue unwarranted charges, or hand him over to US authorities, who would ship him over to Syria where he was likely to be tortured.

By choosing the latter, Ottawa washed its hands clean of any responsibility in the matter—playing the good guy—they conveniently turned a blind-eye to knowledge that serious human-rights abuses were going to be committed by whoever was in possession in Arar.

Even in Afghanistan when Canadian military apprehends Taliban soldiers, they transfer them to American detainee prisons, where there is tacit knowledge that these detainees will likely also be tortured. Former defense minister Bill Graham inexscusably said that the Canadian military didn't have resources to build the facilities to hold prisoners, and therefore their basic rights.

By skewing the lines between right and wrong in matters of national security, we have come out of this issue looking worse than if we had shown some true conviction. What we've shown is that we hold our values close to our hearts, but when we're tested, we either buckle to pressure or are ill-prepared to deal with situations like Arar's or the capturing of Taliban prisoners.

Nothing excuses the violation of Arar's rights. If Canada is serious about doing whatever it takes to protect national security, our governing bodies need to be clear about what they believe to be acceptable. We cannot be against torture and have our law enforcement agencies look the other way when it is clearly happening. Cases such as this one should make our government, the authorities that protect us, and the public question more than ever what we are willing to let slide in order to maintain national security.

Streeters

How do you feel about civil liberties being compromised in the name of national security?

—Jess Laslo
Materials Engineering 5

"I think it's fine. I personally have nothing to hide. If they want to strip-search me at the airport, that's fine."

—Nick Anderson
Music 4

"I don't like it. That's why I moved here from the States."

—Jun Ji
Music 4

"I disagree with it. It kind of seems to me they're using the word 'terrorist' as an excuse to have more control over their citizens."

—Charlie Yao
Engineering Physics 4

"The real issue is how much you're giving up. If you give up too much, you might as well be in a dictatorship."

—Claire Lee
Arts 2

"Listening to people's phone calls is just too much. They can do the satellite thing, but phone calls is going too far."

—Coordinated by Sarah-Nelle Jackson, Levi Barnett, and Alexandra Baird

PERSPECTIVE

Ubyssey continues to be biased

Three weeks into its air campaign against southern Lebanon, the Israeli air force fired a missile into a residential building in Qana, Lebanon, killing 54 civilians, 37 of them children. Televised footage of small bodies being pulled from the rubble was a public relations disaster for Israel and the incident became, in a way, a turning point in the conflict. Many journalists for the first time questioned the wisdom and morality of Israel's campaign, and in some cases called for an immediate ceasefire. Israel's supporters went into "damage control."

Four days after the Qana attack, the first summer issue of *the Ubyssey* was published, and its editorial page dealt with the conflict in Lebanon ("Spinning Heads and Flying Body Parts" [August 2, 2006]). However, there was no criticism of Israel's campaign—not for Qana or any other part of a brutal offensive, which had killed hundreds of civilians and destroyed much of Lebanon's infrastructure. Instead, the paper's criticism was reserved for the media. Its coverage of the conflict, they maintained, had been too biased, too superficial, and too willing to ignore context and the "full account of the whole problem."

If this argument and its timing leads you to suspect a lack of balance at the paper on the Israel-Lebanon issue, we won't disagree with you. Our group wrote an article about a similar imbalance whenever *the Ubyssey* mentioned the Israel-Palestine conflict from autumn 2003 until autumn 2005 ("Ubyssey Presents Unequal Coverage on Israel and Palestine" [January 10, 2006]).

The editorial begins by crediting the media with at least providing us with "basic facts." Their example of a basic fact is that, when Hezbollah abducted two soldiers, Israel launched its "military response" to "recover the captives." But this isn't a "basic fact" at all. One week into the campaign it was already clear that Israel's intention was to destroy Hezbollah in a massive military operation—an operation planned for over a year.

The editorial then turns to media bias, looking first at pro-Israel Western media. This enables the paper to reprint snippets like these: Israel's attack was "a necessary measure," "to declare a ceasefire now would effectively pardon Hezbollah for the crime of waging aggressive war," and "[Canadian] Majority Supports Israel." You would think that the paper would then turn to examples of the opposite bias in Western media, but they turn instead to Arabic media. To *the Ubyssey*, an example of their "bias" is Al-Jazeera's repeated showing of "the destruction [sic] in Qana."

Below the editorial the paper features a person-on-the-street survey, with five students (only three from UBC) asked "Do you think any one person or side is at fault in the current Israel-Lebanon conflict?" In almost every international conflict no one side is 100 per cent to blame—the issue is each party's degree of responsibility. To many Western observers, Israel was mostly at fault for the conflict's scale and destructiveness. By ignoring degree of responsibility, the question is a gift to the pro-Israel side.

We're not surprised. *The Ubyssey*'s current Coordinating Editor once reported on a speech by Israel's ambassador, and the word "terrorists" appeared in a paraphrase and within square brackets in a quote. "Terrorists" is the Israeli government's term for any Palestinian actively resisting the Occupation. *The Ubyssey* could have substituted a neutral term, but didn't ("Israeli Ambassador Puts Canada In the Spotlight" [January 14, 2005]). One of *the Ubyssey*'s News Editors once wrote a 700 word article about Israel's separation barrier ("Building Barriers, Walls, or Fences" [March 17, 2006]) which never mentioned the key fact that the World Court declared the barrier illegal and said it should be dismantled. On the contrary, the reporter gives the barrier legitimacy by writing that it will "span the entire Israeli-Palestinian border." A "border" is a legitimate demarcation. The barrier's zig-zagging route, coincidentally bringing most arable land and water sources to the Israeli side, was set unilaterally by Israel.

For now, Israel's assault on Lebanon is over, but its three month assault on the Gaza Strip and its 1.5 million inhabitants continues. None have been permitted to leave as air strikes, raids and artillery bombardments have caused the deaths of hundreds of civilians. Hospitals cope with the dying and injured using emergency generators, since Gaza's sole power plant was destroyed by the Israeli air force in June. When will *the Ubyssey* use its editorial page to denounce this ongoing crime? A broad range of students pays for the paper; its viewpoint should not be that of a small minority.

—Members of Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (UBC)

Time for us to give a shit about ourselves

by Ian Pattillo

Last week I had the pleasure of sharing a seaplane ride with Premier Gordon Campbell. He commented that it was the lowest he had ever flown on the Victoria-Vancouver route, on account of the lousy weather. He also commented that there are some who believe that the government should wash its hands of universities. In short, give tuition, student financial aid, and all sorts of other controls to the university or college, with government making the odd "contribution."

It was very disheartening to be responded to with this dismissive remark. I was seeking his advice and support on getting new funding established for exceptional graduate students and under-represented undergraduates. In retaliation to his quip I managed to stammer out what a horrible idea I thought it was. Public universities are crucial for democracy in Canada, for our society and even our economy. Students really can't sustain any further financial strains, which would surely be the effect of this move towards privatisation.

Reports are being published every few months that fuel both sides of the post-secondary education (PSE) debate. Some claim that tuition in real terms has not risen at all, others that it has risen (more than doubled in BC since 2001). Others claim that this does affect access, and still more claim that it doesn't. It could leave one very confused about the cost of and accessibility to PSE in Canada. Fortunately we need not rely as heavily on reports and studies as the politicians and administrators. We are students, and we know firsthand the climate for higher learning in BC.

Some stats about us, just so you know that you're not alone: more than 50 per cent of us have graduating debts in excess of $24,000. That number stood at $9,000 in the early 1990s. More than 50 per cent of us work an average of 20 hours per week in order to finance our education. Those of us from the top economic quartile are 2.5 times more likely to be walking the halls of higher learning than those in the lowest quartile. Government investment in PSE, from all levels, has been consistently shrinking for decades.

Do not accept these things as reality. Demand the support of the government, and then we'll see what happens.

There is a culture of apathy on this campus that is breaking down day by day. Last week 800 students and staff gathered at the UBC Farm to show their support for its protection as a valuable resource of this University. I mention it not only because it was an inspiring display of student voice, but also because our student newspaper, *the Ubyssey*, did not deem this an issue worthy of coverage. Had they chosen to mention it instead of, say, toeing the line contained in UBC Public Affairs press releases, you might have felt empowered as a student.

I would charge that it is our responsibility as students to be aware of the issues affecting higher learning. Fundamentally, you are here to learn to think critically—why not be critical of the fact that post-secondary education in this country is becoming more expensive and more elite every September? And while this is happening, did our minimum wage go up? Do the math that your bank account and debt statements have been telling you all along and challenge the fact that you need to mortgage your future in order to get a fair shot, and that this decision is not equally accessible to all. I've been doing this in meetings with politicians, bureaucrats and administrators for the last six months, and it has become rather obvious that I need your help. You up for it?

—Ian Pattillo is the VP external of the Alma Mater Society

Transit etiquette: the dos and don'ts while riding the bus

by Paul Evans

It's becoming a far too familiar scene on buses: a passenger, seated in one of the courtesy seats at the front of the bus, talking loudly on their cell-phone, oblivious to everyone around them including the elderly persons desperately trying not to fall over as the bus lurches forward. Or there is the person wearing a giant backpack with their iPod on full blast standing near the back door, blocking people trying to move past them to make room for others.

Situations like these can be avoided if the most basic considerations of others are observed. The following is a set of guidelines that, along with general courtesy and thoughtfulness, can make the bus ride a more pleasant experience for all.

Cell Phone Conversations

YES

▼ Calling someone to inform him or her that you will be arriving late/early

▼ Important calls that, for whatever reason, have to be made immediately

NO

▼ Calling your friend because you are bored

▼ Dragging on a conversation for as long as possible

▼ Talking loudly (not everyone cares that you have a dentist appointment tomorrow)

Sitting and Standing

YES

▼ Offering your seat to someone who needs it more than you (this is not exclusive to the elderly, but includes those with disabilities, injuries or even people carrying awkward or heavy objects)

▼ When standing, placing your backpack or bag at your feet (to create extra room on the bus and to ensure you don't whack others with it)

NO

▼ Standing at the exit doors if you are not getting off at the next stop

▼ Sitting beside someone when the bus is near empty

Food and Beverage

YES

▼ Drinking from water bottles or other spill-proof containers

▼ Granola bars or other non-messy foods

NO

▼ Consuming alcohol on the bus (it's not only illegal, it's annoying for those around you)

▼ Any food or beverage item that is particularly sticky or odorous (McDonald's counts)

Other Pointers

▼ Don't try and strike up a conversation with someone trying to read

▼ Avoid using portable game devices or playing games on your cell phone; if you must, make sure the volume is on mute.

—Paul Evans is a third-year arts student

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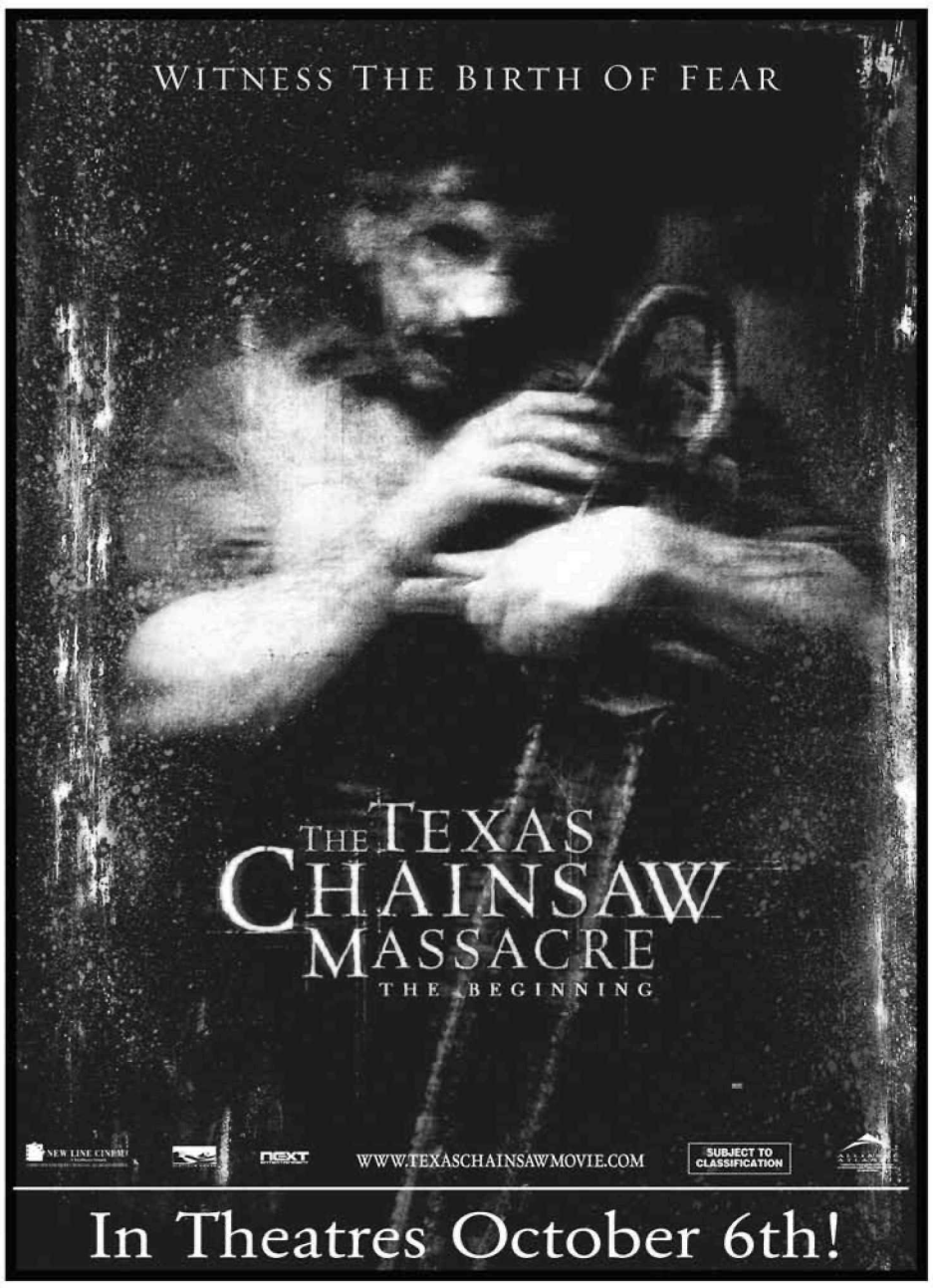

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Spirit Bear Youth Coalition upset over logging

Not enough studies to determine whether logging is threatening to the species, says UBC prof

by Colleen Tang
NEWS EDITOR

Logging in spirit bear habitat has sparked mixed reactions between the Spirit Bear Youth Coalition and forestry experts.

Spirit bears—also called Kermode bears—are a sub-species of the black bear found only in coastal BC. Fewer in numbers than black bears, spirit bears are distinguished by their white fur. According to the Spirit Bear Youth Coalition, heli-logging in the Inlet and Lagoon of the Green watershed will infringe on spirit bear habitat.

"Logging has begun in the last intact habitat of the spirit bear and my organisation...has always attempted to protect...enough habitat to ensure its genetic liability," said Simon Jackson, director of the Spirit Bear Youth Coalition.

"We're entering the rainy season on the BC coast and what that means is that once the rains come...you can't log anymore," he continued. "There's not much time and not much damage that can be done between now and the end of autumn. So that's the good thing. So there will be damage, but it gives us some opportunity...the time for action is now."

Jackson expressed the group's disappointment in BC government's decisions to begin logging while they were still in negotiations.

"We feel we were always negotiating in good faith...I hope that it is a miscommunication between those parties [BC government and First Nations groups] and I hope that now that it's out there on the public record that immediate action will be taken," he said, adding that they have yet to hear back from the BC government over the recent heli-logging.

"This is not about being anti-logging," he said. "This is the last dance of the spirit bear. We have nothing left to lose except the bear."

But UBC forestry professor Kermit Ritland said it's not yet known whether logging will affect the bears.

"You have to be especially cautious about any practice that encourages bear migration, but that's a big unknown what the effect is," he said.

Ritland points out that spirit bears are not much different from black bears.

"There's no uniqueness per se. The actual mutation that comes through their white coat colour may have other effects but we don't know the results of them being somewhat different from their black coat colour even in the same population."

GIVE ME AN S: One of BC's famous spirit bears. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SIMON JACKSON

Before any action can be done for the bears, basic research needs to be done, said Ritland.

"There's no scientific information that would say they're at risk. It's more of a belief system."

The real issue is not knowing what will happen to the bear if large-scale logging occurs, he added. "We don't know anything about migration rates or how much logging will actually disturb the population."

UBC forestry professor Peter Arcese agrees.

"I'm not sure anyone has looked at the survival and reproductive success of white bears in logged habitat versus white bears in unlogged habitats," he said. "I'm pretty sure no one has done that. The opportunity exists to do it...I'm surprised people haven't looked at it directly."

But this bear has social, cultural and iconic values, added Arcese. "It's become the BC bear."

"What I think people are concerned about, and again it's something we don't know, if you cut a big area all at once, you can make it relatively good for bears thereafter because there might be lots of berries for ten, 15 years, but eventually that forest will grow into a dense closed canopy stage and there could be a time where you exclude most of their ground vegetation and that might be a hard time for bears," he added.

According to Arcese, the argument to save these bears would be stronger if they knew what to do.

"I would be really in favour of doing things to help this bear, but I'd like to know what that is and so far there haven't been any studies shown sufficiently what to do to support the population of this bear," said Arcese.

"It's a great idea but you can't just wave your arms, you need to know what to do."

NEWS BRIEFS

FarmAde triples attendance

Attendance tripled at this year's FarmAde, according to Jeff Friedrich, Alma Mater Society (AMS) VP academic.

In previous years their highest attendance was about 250 patrons and this year it was over 800. Friedrich added that they received a substantial amount of donations as well.

The AMS renewed its commitment to the farm earlier this month at a council meeting. The University is currently reviewing the UBC farm along with its overall main development plans.

80-year-old found dead

At 4am Wednesday morning a taxi on Marine Drive near Wesbrook Mall hit and killed an 80-year-old man. RCMP have yet to release details of his death.

New Grant for Law School

The Faculty of Law will receive a quarter-million dollars over the next five years from the Toronto Stock and Venture Exchange operator (TSX).

TSX Group Inc. announced this donation, its first such donation in BC, as part of its plan to expand its influence in the West.

The company hopes that UBC's National Centre for Business Law will conduct research on capital markets in Canada, though it is up to the University to decide.

UBC is also slated to be a part of an upcoming national council of universities, created by TSX Group, that will research and discuss capital policy.

According to TSX, companies in BC make up 31 per cent of the Canadian equities market, representing $120 billion in market capitalisation, which is why they want to promote research on the West Coast.

New light for site

The Conversation Pit has a new coat of paint. Renovations have yet to be completed.

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