Sick and forsaken on the streets

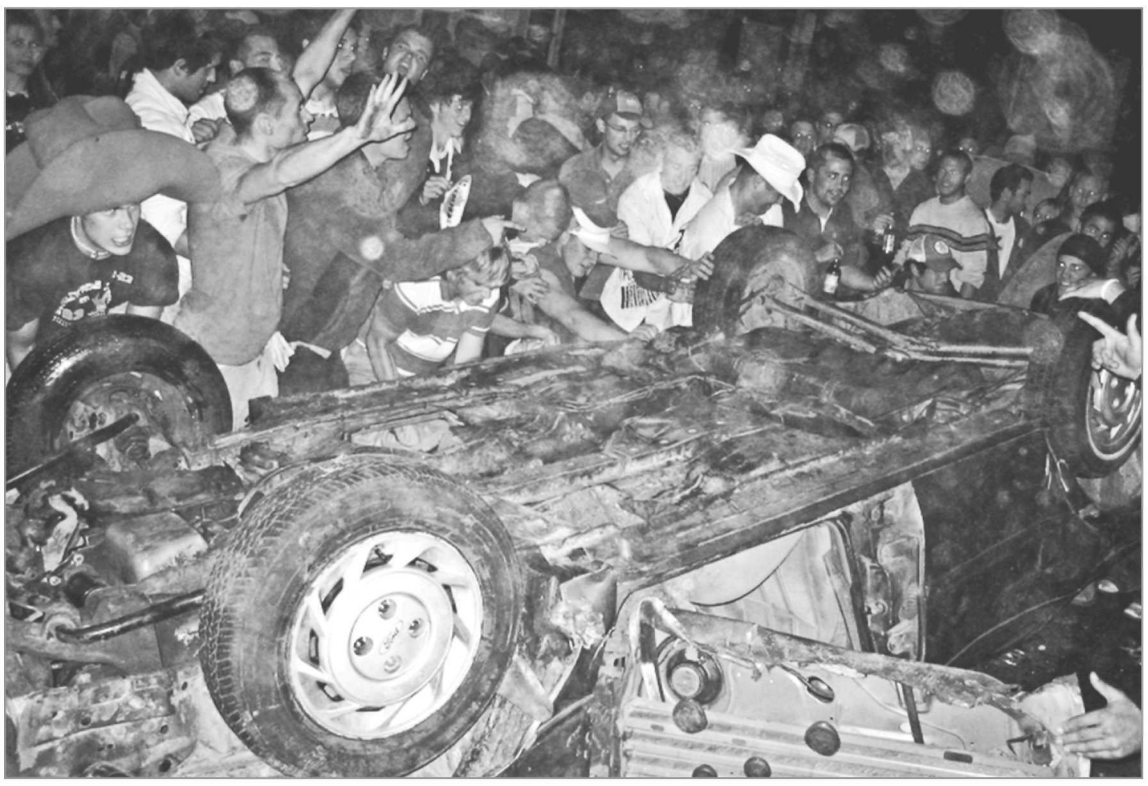
More on page 5

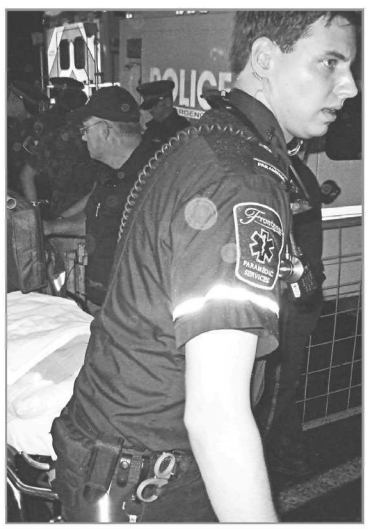
THE UBYSSEY

November 21, 2008 | www.ubyssey.ca
Cel getting groped by club creeps since 1918 | volume xc, number 24
UBC's official student newspaper is published Tuesdays and Fridays

Queen's cancels Homecoming to combat violent street party

Early September parties had grown too large to control





LEFT A car was burned and trashed at the Homecoming this September.
JAIMMIE RILEY PHOTO/QUEEN'S JOURNAL

ABOVE Medics arrive at the scene in Kingston, Ontario.
JAIMMIE RILEY PHOTO/QUEEN'S JOURNAL

BY JOE HOWELL
CUP Ontario Bureau Chief

TORONTO (CUP)—Two riot squads, 138 arrests, more than 600 fines, and 8000 people at an illegal, all-night street party made for a $300,000 policing bill. By the numbers, Queen's University Homecoming this year was a thing to behold.

If you missed it, though, you'll have to wait at least two years to attend the next one.

At a press conference on Tuesday, Queen's University Principal Tom Williams announced that in 2009 and 2010, his school would change the annual fall tradition to a "homecoming-styled" reunion in May.

It's the latest and most drastic step Queen's has taken to battle the massive, infamous Aberdeen Street party that has become inextricably linked with Homecoming.

Though unsanctioned, the bash is always held the same weekend as Homecoming. In 2005, it turned into a riot when people flipped a car and set it on fire, and hurled bottles at police. Last year, one sergeant called the event a "success," with only 54 people arrested.

This year, a 35 year old was hospitalized with life-threatening injuries after being assaulted by a 19 year old from Ottawa in town for the party.

"While Homecoming is not in itself the problem—Homecoming does not cause the Aberdeen Street gathering—I believe moving fall Homecoming is an essential part of the solution," said Principal Williams.

Not all students agree. Leah McPherson, a first-year Queen's student, said that simply a ban or stricter security on the Aberdeen Street party would suffice.

"Homecoming is about the pride we as students get to feel from attending this school and seeing all the brilliant minds who have graduated walk the football field during halftime," McPherson said. "Without that, the school loses connection with the past and current students. We simply become just another university where we are numbers."

Cynthia Cheng, who graduated from Queen's in 2002, was discouraged by the lack of input solicited from alumni.

"I recall getting an e-mail about it, but it was jumbled up with a bunch of other alumni-related news. Really, it sounded like they were going to cancel it no matter what, and just sent out an e-mail to everyone for suggestions because they had to," Cheng said.

She would have liked to see the administration combat the Aberdeen party by moving Homecoming to the winter.

"At least it'll be while school is in session. And because it's cold, it's unlikely people will party on the streets. A spring reunion weekend is just high school-ish," added Cheng.

Some alumni support the decision. Recent grad Thomas Simmons said that while he had been to his share of parties, this is the best decision Queen's could have come to.

"It's no longer about Queen's or school spirit, but just an excuse for people to get drunk and do something stupid. People just want to go to the big party, and that's all there is to it. This once manageable event called Homecoming is ruining the school's reputation and increasingly becoming uncontrollable," Simmons said.

Thousands of people have joined Facebook groups protesting the cancellation of the fall reunion, but Simmons is unconvinced.

"When people say that cancelling Homecoming is a travesty against school spirit and tradition, they really just mean they're going to miss the biggest day-long kegger they've been to. Boo-fucking-hoo."

Terry talks global change

BY ALEC YOUNG
News Staff

This Saturday, the UBC Terry Project hosts its inaugural Terry Talks student conference, where all are welcome to come and hear fellow students attempt to give the talk of their lives. The conference will feature eight UBC students and one alum, who speak on global issues ranging from health and education to poverty and agriculture.

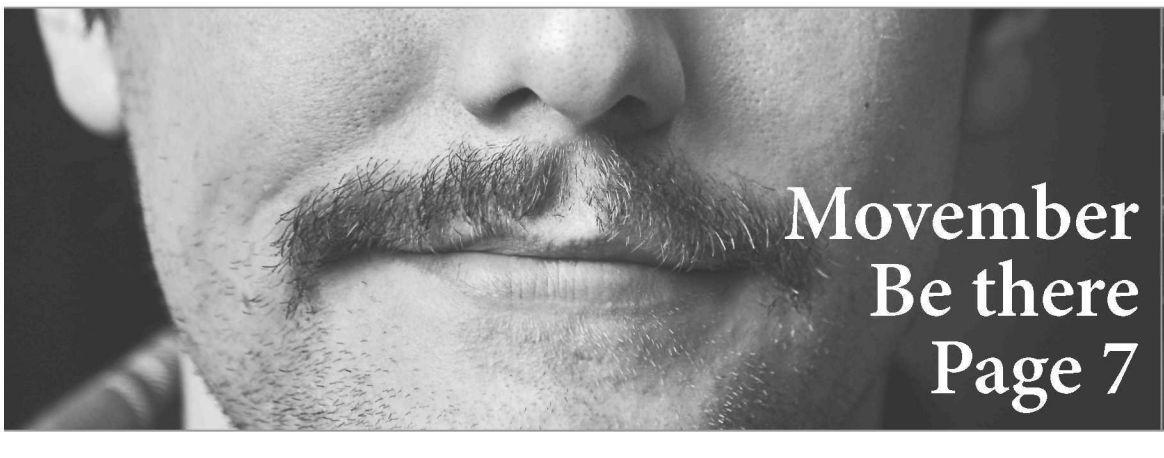
The format of the talks is based on the model of the TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) conference, a high-profile event that attracts notable speakers from Bono to Bill Clinton. Invitees are encouraged to engage with the ideas produced by the talks and help the speaker effect the change they want to see in the world.

The student conference will be held at the Life Science Centre and is expected to draw around 300 people. The Terry Talks are the latest product of the Terry Project, a multidisciplinary collaboration that has also spawned an integrated arts and science course, a guest speaker series and a writing contest.

The Terry guest speaker series is now in its fourth season and has brought world-class thinkers such as Stephen Lewis and David Suzuki to campus.

The project began about four years ago as a collaboration between geneticist David Ng, of the Michael Smith Lab, and Allen Sens of the political science department. Since then, it has grown with the involvement of faculty and staff from a number of different disciplines, as well as the work of a team of hired students who have done much of the leg work in bringing the speaker series to fruition.

SEE "TERRY TALKS" ON PAGE 3



Movember Be there Page 7

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Index

News	1
Events	2
Games	2
Comics	2
Culture	3
Feature	5
Editorial	6
Perspectives	7
Sports	8

Events

If you have an event, e-mail us at events@ubyssey.ca

Ongoing

The Merchant of Venice • Another one of the classics, Shakespeare's masterpiece staged by Canadian theatre veteran Antony Holland • *Nov. 6 –30, Studio 58 (Langara College, 100 W. 49th). Info 604-323-5652.* •

Vancouver Poetry Slam • Poetry slam competition with guest performers • *Every Monday, 8pm, Cafe Deux Soleils (2096 Commercial). Admission $5/3. info 604-215-9230 www.vancouverpoetryhouse.com* •

Stanley Park Halloween Ghost Train • Mortal Coil Performance Society presents a pirate-themed adventure featuring actors, dancers, performers, puppeteers, swordfighters, hat-making, painting, storytelling, and the Haunted Children's Farmyard. • *Oct. 10–Nov. 21, Stanley Park Miniature Railway (Stanley Park). Tix $9/5.50 (plus service charges and fees) at www.ticketmaster.com. more info www.vancouverparks.ca/* •

CiTR SHiNDiG • UBC's own CiTR Radio's battle of the bands. Hosted every Tuesday at the Railway Club • *Ongoing every Tuesday until December 9, Railway Club (579 Dunsmuir). More info at 604-681-1625* •

Free Movies! Cinema Politica @ UBC • Cinema Politica at UBC is a free weekly series showcasing movies that harness the power of film to engage issues relating to the environment, globalization, gender and sexuality, indigenous rights, global health, and student power. • *Every Tuesday, 7pm, Norm Theatre, SUB More info at www.cinemapolitica.org/ubc* •

Comedy at the Soho • Weekly comedy showcase. • *Every Sunday, 9pm, Soho Bar and Grill. Info 604-633-2722* •

The Urban Improv Challenge • A series of improv-comedy challenges. • *Every Monday, 8pm, Chivana. Info 604-733-0330* •

UBC World AIDS Day 2008 • Week-long series of events in order to help educate students and the greater Vancouver community about HIV/AIDS, and also raise money for both local and international AIDS groups. Events: Monday-Coffee House, Tuesday-Networking Fair and Forum and Candle Light Vigil, Wednesday- Film Night- "Yesterday", Thursday-HIV/AIDS Workshop and Club Night Fundraiser Friday- UBC Campus wide WEAR RED Day! • *Nov 17-21 *Throughout the week, the UBC Red Cross will be selling Red Ribbons, Little Travellers, and Red Scarves in the SUB, For more info e-mail us at wad.ubc@gmail.com or ubcwad.wordpress.com/.* •

November 21

Wear Red • Support World AIDS week and wear red • *Nov. 21* •

Canada Music Week • Piano students of Core Hamm present works by Canadian and International composers • *Nov. 21, 7–9pm, Music Building, Recital Hall. Info concerts@interchange.ubc.ca* •

The Forgotten War Against the Chinese North Americans • Dr. Jean Pfaelzer, author of the award-winning book *Driven Out: The Forgotten War Against Chinese Americans* (Random House 2007) and Dr. Patricia Roy, author of *A White Man's Province: British Columbia Politicians and Chinese and Japanese Immigrants 1858-1914* • *Nov.21 @ 8pm in the Fairmont Social Lounge, St. John's College* •

November 25

Tar Sands: The dark side of the Boom • BC Wide Speaking Tour on the Impacts of the Tar Sands on Communities in Alberta and BC. Please join us for a very important panel about the largest industrial project in history that has been devastating the environment and communities in Alberta. This enormous development is expanding across the continent with little to no regard for the eco-systems and communities that lie in the path of the infrastructure. We are honored to have Mike Mercredi bringing a message from "ground zero" of the tar-sands as well as Jesse Kalman providing a broader view of the real impacts of the development and Will Horter highlighting the industrial expansion through BC to the Pacific. • *Nov. 25, 7pm Heritage Hall 3102 Main St, more information please email: hgrewal@canadians.org or call: 604 688 8846* •

If you have an event you want listed, e-mail us at events@ubyssey.ca

Sudoku

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			7		1			5
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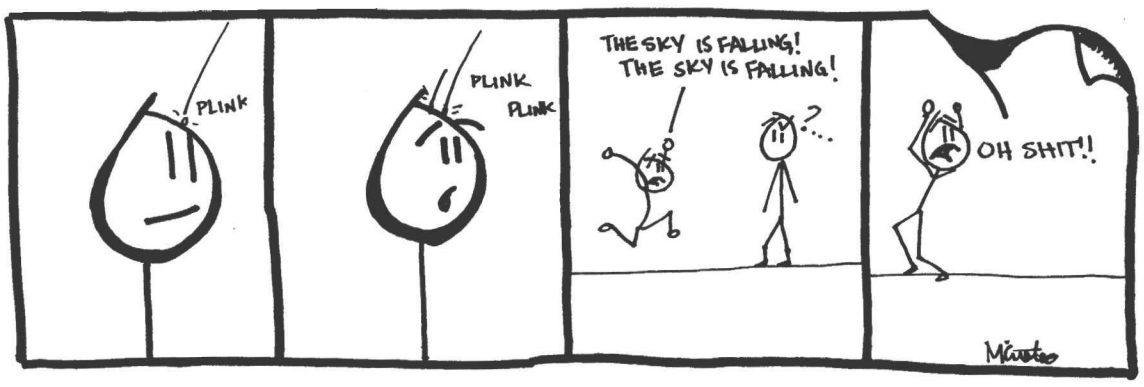
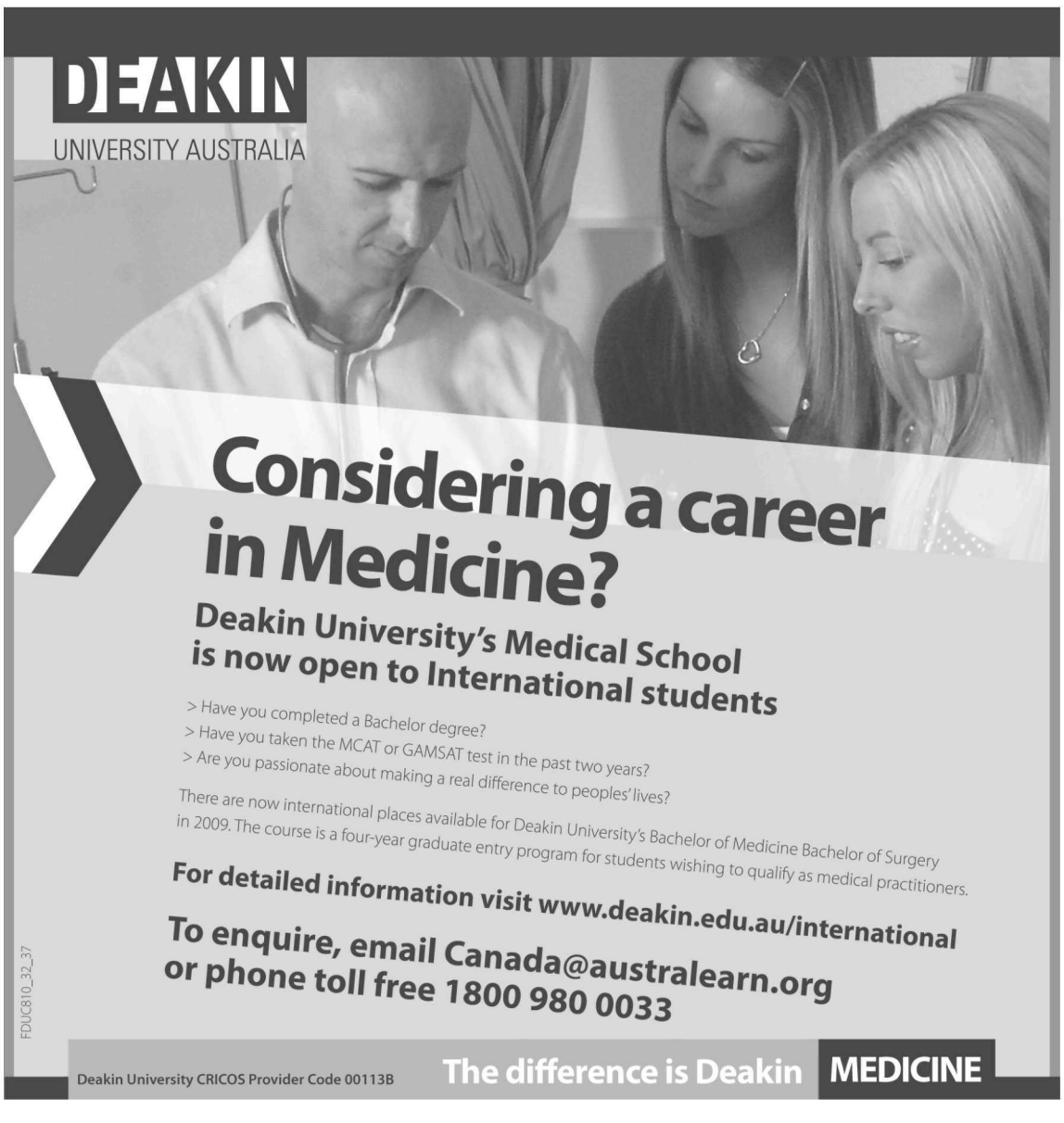
solution, tips and computer programs at www.sudoku.com

HARD # 67

su|do|ku © Puzzles by Pappocom

HEARTLESS ENTREPRENEUR COMIC, BY MARIA CIRSTEA





Classifieds

Events

Charity Arts and Crafts Fair at Regent College.
December 6, 10-4 pm.
Pottery, woodwork, fair-trade items & much more.
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November 21st, 2008
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Letters to the editor must be under 300 words. Please include your phone number, student number and signature (not for publication) as well as your year and faculty with all submissions. ID will be checked when submissions are dropped off at the editorial office of The Ubyssey; otherwise verification will be done by phone. "Perspectives" are opinion pieces over 300 words but under 750 words and are run according to space. "Freestyles" are opinion pieces written by Ubyssey staff members. Priority will be given to letters and perspectives over freestyles unless the latter is time sensitive. Opinion pieces will not be run until the identity of the writer has been verified. The Ubyssey reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. All letters must be received by 12 noon the day before intended publication. Letters received after this point will be published in the following issue unless there is an urgent time restriction or other matter deemed relevant by the Ubyssey staff.

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Contributors

Alec Young found himself the beneficiary of a small fortune following the death of his miserly Great Aunt, Stephanie Findlay. His friend Justin McElroy, a sports fan, convinced him to take his money to investors Joe Howell and Joe Rayment to try and get a baseball franchise started. Within a few months they had assembled a team. Goh Iromoto was the star pitcher, with Valerie Edelman as 1st basewoman, David Zhang on second, Henry Labard on third, and shortstop Claudia Richard. Power-hitter Shun Endo was the catcher, and tricky left-hander Kate Barbaria was in field with the dim-witted baseball savants Kellan Higgins and Kathy Yan Li. But there was one problem. Rayment, whose lust for money is overshadowed only by his lust for music by British bands with singers who wish they were sad teenage girls, had made off with all the funds to Cuba with his teenage supermodel mistress Tara Martellaro. Kyrstin "McBane" Bane, the cigar chompin' private dick who's the tex-mex machine to all the Kenneth John Dodge, was immediate called on the case. She hit up all the regular bar-room slobs for information; Samantha "lead belly" Jung, Paul "woman hands" Bucci, Kalyeena "glassjaw" Makortoff, and Cel "fancyman" Rince. In the end they directed her to Gerald Deo, a photographer for international playboy Dan Haves' "Butts Magazine", managed to give her the key lead in the case. Trevor Record, wrote the very words you are reading now, had made it all up on a Thursday evening.

Canadian University Press

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Drama set in Nowheresville entertains

BY PAUL BUCCI
Culture Staff

Imagine this: you're sitting in your own excrement for days, watching your feet rot and your comrades drop like flies around you. Your commander has disappeared. The enemy is vigorously shelling your position. You are hit with mustard gas, which burns your eyes irreparably, and you get sent home. Once you reach Halifax, you decide to visit your estranged father in Unity, Saskatchewan. When you arrive, you find out that he is dead. As your family in Halifax is also dead, you are forced to stay with a cousin you hardly know. And then things get bad.

Such is the story of Hart (played by Michael Neale), a character in the historical drama *Unity (1918)*, Theatre at UBC's latest endeavour. Hart finds himself in the middle of a small town during the Spanish flu epidemic in the wake of World War I. The flu killed more than 50 million people, which far exceeded the number killed in the war. *Unity* explores a small town's reaction to the war and the flu, telling the story through the eyes of Rose (Becky Shrimpton), a young lady who finds herself grappling with death, love, sex and responsibility.

Rose spends her days diligently knitting socks for those on the front lines, dreaming about the return of her "love," Glen (Kevin Stark), whom she is afraid to write. As her father leaves to work in another town, she is put in charge of her two sisters, Sissy (Krissy Jesudason) and Mary (Tianna Nori). Sissy is convinced that the world is about to end, and is obsessed with sex, scandalously kissing a farmer boy, Michael (also played by Kevin Stark) in the field. Mary also waits anxiously for her love (whom she does write) to return.

As the flu makes its way across Canada, the townsfolk become increasingly paranoid. Masks are distributed and all public gatherings are cancelled. Eventually, the town is quarantined.

The play effectively portrays the mass hysteria of an endangered small town. Townsfolk frantically call the switchboard, asking for advice. No one knows how the flu is contracted, and this frightens them. The town's undertaker, Sunna (Maryanne Renzetti), is cursed and hated for making money as people die. The town quickly descends into a quiet chaos.

As horrible as the situation is, the beauty of the play is actually in its humour, a nice counterpoint to widespread death. Sex jokes are casually inserted into serious scenes—the final dialogue seamlessly flows from questions of existence to crotch jokes and back. Because of this element, the play is entirely watchable. Never before would I have thought that a historical drama set in Nowheresville, Saskatchewan could be good—but it's great.

Unity (1918) ends tomorrow, so get your tickets now. The show starts at 7:30pm and tickets are available at the door.

Actresses Jessica Nelson, Becky Shrimpton and Jocelyn Gauthier take the stage for Theatre at UBC's latest play, *Unity (1918)*, which tells the story of a small town in Saskatchewan that was quarantined during the Spanish flu.
COURTESY OF TIM MATHESON

UBC's first time

CONT'D FROM "TERRY TALKS"

"One of the pragmatic, main goals was to see if there could be some formal ties created between science and arts," Ng said. "You do see that at a lot of schools where there is a combined degree, and at UBC it's quite difficult structurally to get that sort of education."

Ng thinks that while hyperspecialization within a certain field is the norm at most academic institutions, "there's a lot of querying these days as far as the relative merits of that [disciplinary specialization]," especially in regards to solving global issues.

After producing a grant for the project, Sens and Ng spent the next two years exploring the ways in which they could design a course studying global issues from a joint Arts and Science perspective. That course, ASIC 200, launched successfully last year and will be taught again next semester by Ng and Sens. While there are no plans as yet to create further multidisciplinary courses, the potential is there.

"Being discipline-centric... isn't the way to go to solving some of these [global] challenges," said Ng. "But by the same token, there's also these pragmatic concerns because while it might be a great educational experience for a student to get an integrated Science and Arts degree, does that make them more competitive in the job market?"

Punk gypsies howl like wolves

BY KENNETH JOHN DODGE
Culture Staff

If you haven't heard about Gogol Bordello, you should really, really do yourself a favour and check them out. They've been incredibly well received all over the world—they sold out two nights consecutively at the Commodore—and their music has been featured in all sorts of promotional stuff. However, it dwells a bit too far into the realm of the weird to receive much radio play or mainstream recognition.

The show, which took place October 11, was unlike anything this reporter has ever experienced before. The level of energy, the bewildering—and at times fascinating—lyrics, the sound of hard guitar solos, gypsy violins and accordions all flowing together, and the sight of this band of travelers before you was simply staggering.

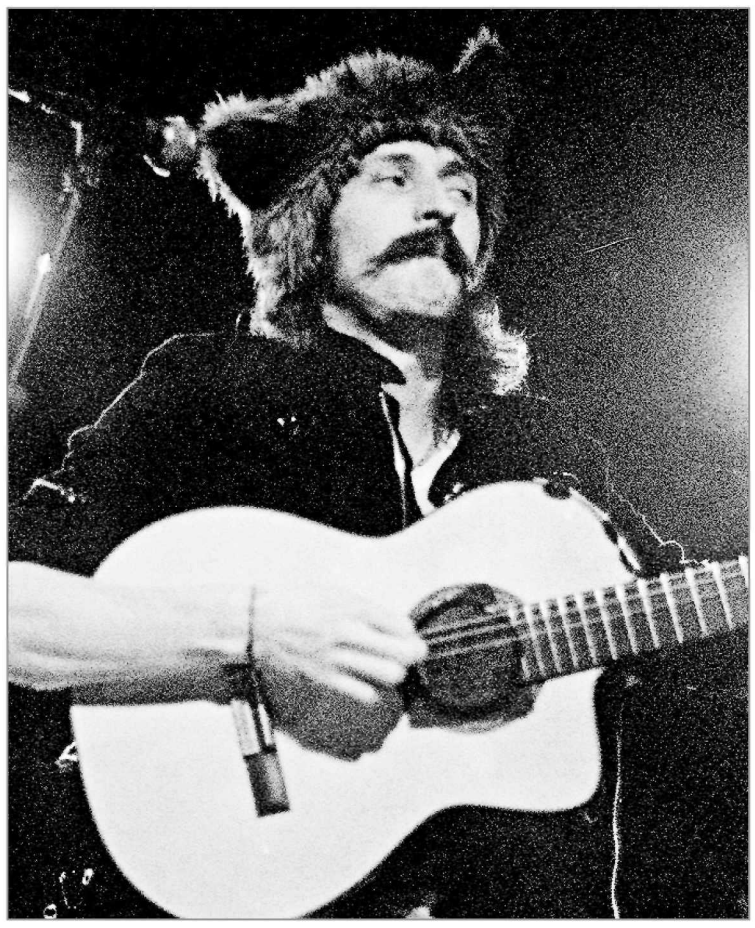
A Gogol Bordello show is no mere punk rock show, but rather a monumental detonation of interbred cultures and sounds. It's like being in the tent while Tchaikovsky has sex with The Ramones, in Kazakhstan, while Liza Manelli does burlesque. Yes, it's part cabaret, part punk, part gypsy and entirely magical. Like a hallucinogen sold by gypsies, this music has strange effects on people.

Take lead singer Eugene Hutz. Few people have the gift of lycanthropy—the ability to turn into a wolf—but once his music started playing, Hutz transformed into a beast before our very eyes. In the middle of their set Gogol Bordello dropped the atomic bomb that is "Not A Crime." Eugene tore off his shirt, got down on his knees, pulled a wooly toque on his head and howled the chorus through a soggy mustache while looking like a werewolf posing as Super Mario. The entire Ballroom swung out of control as this musical vortex filled the ears and confounded the mind.

Eugene shared his "Supertheory of Supereverything," screaming in an Eastern European accent about the Bible and quantum physics while aged violinist Sergey Ryabtsev rocked out on the gypsy violin, flanked by two nubile, young Go-Go dancers pounding cymbals and a timpani. Try to imagine this picture, if you will.

The biggest reaction was to their most widely disseminated piece of Eastern propaganda "Start Wearing Purple," and a large portion of the crowd, decked out in this shade, quickly spun out of control. Other highlights included the deeply philosophical "Think Locally, Fuck Globally," and the oddly touching cultural cross-referencing in "American Wedding," which Eugene led like a true pirate king.

They did all their hits, and for an encore the Go-Go girls re-emerged from the darkness surrounding the stage, for one final epic onslaught of gypsy punk—the ten-minute "Baro Faro." As the drums pounded and the guitar chords spun in circles faster than the drunken punk kids, who were linked arm-in-arm with Eastern European music fans, all semblance of sanity disintegrated as this reporter prepared for a brutal headache that would last for days to come.



Frontman Eugene Hutz adorns wolf ears. VALERIE EDELMAN PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

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SUB 24

NOTICE
OF STUDENT COURT
HEARING

The AMS Student Court will be convening on **Tuesday, Nov. 25th, 2008** at **8:00 p.m.** in the SUB Council Chambers (206) in order to hear the following case:

Was the AMS Council decision on **March 26th, 2008** to not accept the AMS Student Court's ruling in ***Crompton v. Elections Administrator ultra vires*** *(outside their power)*?

Does the Council have the power to chose to accept a decision of the Court?

What is the standing of the Court's decision in Crompton v. Elections Administrator in light of the actions of the Council?

What is the role of the AMS Court with regard to the AMS governmental structure as set out in the AMS Constitution, Code and Bylaws?

Anyone wishing to make submissions at this time should contact the Clerk of the Court at ***adassist@ams.ubc.ca.***

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PURE KNOW HOW

James Blunt plays in a grey suit at GM Place. **DAVID ZHANG PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY**

Blunt brings Brit beat

Crooner lights up GM Place

BY SAMANTHA JUNG
Culture Staff

James Blunt created an intimate and nostalgic atmosphere Monday night, starting his Canadian tour at GM Place.

Blunt played songs from both of his albums, *Back to Bedlam* and his latest, *All the Lost Souls*. His musical style was reflected in his appearance and stage presence. The British crooner came on stage wearing a grey suit, with his bandmates dressed likewise, and it seemed like they were playing on *American Bandstand*. As they played their first few songs, one of which was the radio hit "Wisemen," screens behind displayed a mix of close-ups of Blunt and his bandmates.

Blunt's style is reminiscent of an older time: a mix of raw sound, clear instrumentation with few synthesizers, and simple, definitive beats. Tempo changes and variations in pitch give his songs a more modern style, such as in "So Long, Jimmy."

The crowd seemed to skew to the older segment of his fan base. But everyone, young and old, joined in on hits such as "You're Beautiful," and "High." Blunt talked about a few songs, introducing "No Bravery," a song that was inspired by things he experienced from his time in war-torn Kosovo. He jokingly apologized for a string of "depressing songs," then said "Give Me Some Love" was "a song about drugs," and indeed it was, referring to Valium: "Why don't you give me some love?/I've taken ship-load of drugs/I'm so tired of never fixing the pain."

A highlight of the night was the song "Shine On." Green lasers shot across the vast stadium, reaching all the way to the other side. Other songs made the large arena seem small; for "Goodbye My Lover," Blunt made his way through the crowd to a piano on a platform on the other side of the arena. People crowded around him as he sang the intimate lyrics.

Blunt finished off his set with "1973." Since the song is about a girl who grew up in the disco era, mirror balls rotated above the audience and the screens behind the stage played psychedelic images.

At the end of the night, Blunt displayed photos of spectators who attended his concerts all over North America, to a standing ovation. He took a photo with a digital camera of the crowd, telling us all to "Say sausages!" The night was a lasting memory for both Blunt and the crowd. U

GOH IROMOTO GRAPHIC/THE UBYSSEY

Living on the margins: The connection between mental illness and homelessness

BY ERIN HALE

The McGill Daily
(McGill University)

Montréal (CUP) — "Now, they don't put people in a hospital, which is a good thing, but sometimes it's so intense. Now there's a [schizophrenic man] by himself on the street with nowhere to sleep, eat, taking drugs more than they used to, doing prostitution—but I don't think he even realizes he's doing it," Kim Heynemand said of a homeless man she met on the job.

Heynemand works as a peer helper with the Centre local de services communautaires (CLSC) des Faubourgs Équipe Itinérance (homeless division).

While she might see some of the more extreme cases, the fact remains that many of the 30,000 homeless in Montréal—and thousands more in Québec—suffer from mental health disorders.

In a study of 230 homeless individuals surveyed in Ottawa and Gatineau by the Canadian Institute for Health Information, two-thirds of adult males, three-quarters of adult females, 56 per cent of male youths, and two-thirds of female youth self-reported mental health problems.

The percentages of suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts were also higher than in the general population.

But the way the system is set up right now, shelters and community organizations are fighting a losing battle to help some of Montréal's most vulnerable citizens.

There are only 2865 emergency beds and 1592 transitional beds in Montréal shelters, according to the Centre for the Study of Living Standards. At 3094 beds, that serves only a tenth of the city's homeless population.

What most people don't realize, however, is that a lack of programs and resources doesn't just affect individuals with pre-existing mental health disorders. Living on the streets creates its own stress, and if someone is there long enough, it can lead to serious problems.

Alain Spitzer, director of the St. James Centre in Montréal, notes that while many Montréalers find themselves homeless at some point, he estimates that someone has about three months to get off the street before it starts to really affect them.

Resources are limited for those living on the street. There are shelters and community centres, but many, like the St. James Drop-In Centre, have restricted membership due to budget and resource constraints. While many homeless people do have access to clinics, the drop-in system creates barriers to those people requiring consistent, recurring care.

Dispensing medication might seem like a quick fix: the person takes the drug, feels better, and suddenly has the mental capacity to look for a job and apartment. But while medication does solve some important immediate problems, any good psychiatrist will tell you that even for non-homeless individuals, medication is not enough to treat a psychiatric condition.

CLSC primarily dispenses lithium to patients, Heynemand says, because it only needs to be injected once a week. Lithium, though, is a difficult drug to take—it is linked to acne, weight gain, and a feeling of mind-numbing. It's not surprising that some of CLSC's patients choose not to take it.

Other clinics sometimes hand out hard narcotics in original packaging, which some patients choose to sell, Spitzer says.

Heynemand, however, says that even medication can take a backseat to more immediate daily needs.

"It's hard to make them realize they need to take their medication...but at the same time, taking medication can be hard," she said. "For a guy doing prostitution, taking drugs for five days in a row with a mental disorder, what's important is finding him a place to stay."

Fielding the desire to self-medicate is also a difficult task for people like Heynemand, who work on the street level.

"Sometimes they don't realize their meds work—they stop taking them and do [illegal] drugs as self-medication. If you hear voices and alcohol makes it stop, then you drink more," she said.

The individuals interviewed for this story had various coping mechanisms, such as dogs, boyfriends, pot, cigarettes or alcohol.

One man, Martin, a self-labelled alcoholic, spends his days sitting on Sherbrooke Street, panhandling and slowly sipping beer, because "it helps with the pain in [his] muscles."

Each demographic of homeless people faces their own challenges of how to deal with mental health disorders. Homeless youth—who often use illegal drugs for self-medication—are at a particular risk of resorting to prostitution to get money.

"Working in sex, for a lot of people who take drugs, it's a big part of it. After some point, if you don't find money, you've got to think of it," Heynemand said. "Some do it only sometimes, some as a job. For a lot of people who have borderline [personality disorder] it's a way to find love. Some people just don't care."

But once youth hit their mid-20s, many assistance programs end. And if they're male, even fewer options become available—something Spitzer attributes to society's notion of "women and children first" and the expectation that men can fend for themselves.

Spitzer also links it to the fact that problems like chronic depression have only recently been diagnosed en masse, so there's a whole generation of 40 to 55 year olds who did not receive treatment at key points in their 20s when many mental illnesses develop.

Matthew Pearce, director general of the Old Brewery Mission (the largest men's shelter in Québec) blames the provincial government for the resource strain felt by Montréal shelters and community programs.

"It's important for [people] to understand that the provincial government funds less than 20 per cent. It's the public that supports us. The provincial government does not meet its social or moral obligations," Pearce said. "Shelters in Toronto are 100 per cent provincially funded. We receive $12 per bed, per night, and in Toronto they receive $61 per bed, per night."

This problem also stems from the process of de-institutionalization that occurred during the 60s and 70s. While many view this as a human rights achievement, others say the government has not held up its end of the bargain.

When many mental health institutions were either closed or reduced in size, government funds were supposed to be channelled to community-based or outpatient health programs and other alternative services like subsidized housing or shelters, says Paul Whitehead, a professor in the department of sociology at the University of Western Ontario.

While Whitehead found that money had, in fact, been moved toward the community programs, he admits the absence of a live-in arrangement for patients resulted in more mentally ill homeless individuals.

Should an individual be lucky enough to find adequate mental health treatment and somehow get a leg up—because starting at $560 a month, welfare will hardly cover rent—statistics remain equally dismal.

There is a 10,000 person waiting list for 24,700 slots of public housing on the island. The city also seems set on razing neighbourhoods with more affordable housing to install condos and luxury housing.

The homeless, particularly the mentally ill, are locked into a vicious cycle of limited treatment and self-medication, with access to equally limited, though well-intentioned, community services trying to compensate for a lack of government responsibility. U

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Our view

Who actually spends more than $5 at Blue Chip Cookies?

Blue Chip Cookies, the Student Union Building's reputable cheap coffee place, recently integrated new and exciting Interac technology. Yes, they take debit now. This seemed like wonderful news for most students, who tend to love cheap coffee and hate carrying cash.

But there's a catch. In order to use debit, Blue Chip requires you to make a minimum purchase of $5. Well, shit! That's actually a bit difficult when all you want to buy is a coffee or cookie that's under two dollars. Adding a muffin won't get you there either, unless you're drinking one of those fancy, foamy coffees.

With the $5 minimum in place, the new payment method is very inconvenient. After all, why go to Blue Chip if you're going to spend over $5?

It is entirely legal for them to do this—we checked. And, as you dear readers are surely aware of, it's not an uncommon practice. It is, however, a royal pain in the ass for consumers. Particularly, it's a pain for students, a young generation dependent on plastic cards—and proud of it!

So why did they add the minimum? Well, debit transactions cost retailers about 25 cents, a fee that most choose to absorb for the customer. However, when customers are only charging two or three dollars, it's not necessarily worth it for the retailer to absorb the fee. Especially for a modest coffee shop like Blue Chip, which doesn't have Starbucks's *grande* inflation.

The Delly in the SUB basement also has a minimum, but theirs is $2. And rather than refusing to accept debit on purchases of less than this amount, they make the buyer pay the 25 cent transaction fee (only if the purchase is less than $2).

It's a fair solution. So why doesn't Blue Chip implement a similar system? This time, we at *The Ubyssey* don't have a good answer. What we have instead is a humble request: just ding us the 25 cents, if you have to.

We can stand to lose a quarter. Better that than be forced to buy extra cookies and muffins we're not entirely ecstatic about eating. Because, let's face it, by this time we've waited in the line and, furthermore, we don't want to look cheap by not buying anything.

So come on Blue Chip. You've made a good step in implementing debit. Now make another and remove this $5 limit.

UBC neglects its community

In light of the international economy continuing its merry descent to 1929 levels, companies and governments of all stripes are figuring out how to survive financially in today's climate. UBC is no exception. However, a failure to release information about future steps that the university will take in lieu of the financial freefall is a serious concern. The administration has a duty to inform its community about adjustments made to its endowment, and how they could have an impact on student aid, scholarship and research funding.

President Stephen Toope took the time at last week's Senate meeting to comment—albeit in a limited manner—on the situation. Toope said that the finance operation is looking "very, very, carefully" at the endowment payout, looking to the Investment Management Trust to assess the pay rate.

Canadian universities have historically had high payout rates compared to American governments. UBC's endowment proceeds have gone to the Trek Land Endowment and the Trek Match Endowment funds. The Trek Land Endowment has $72 million, and annual spending is approximately $3 million.

"I think quite frankly, it has caught up with us," Toope said.

The endowment discussion is happening at every university around the world. At Wilfred Laurier University's Senate meeting on Monday, Vice-President Finance Jim Butler announced that an investigation into Laurier's financial position revealed that Laurier will need to find millions of dollars to offset losses in the university's portfolio.

But even before the economic meltdown university endowments were suffering. At the University of Ottawa, funds worth $142 million on May 1 had lost about 10 per cent of their value by October 1. Carleton University's endowment fund, which was at $234 million in September 2007, dropped to $196 million by September 2008. In both cases, the figures don't take into account the battering of the markets in October.

Moody's, a leading financial research and ratings service, recently projected a 30 per cent decline in the value of college and university endowments in the current fiscal year. Assuming UBC follows a similar trend, how the university reacts to the drastic losses is a pressing question that students are owed an answer to.

The revenue stream supports student scholarships, research programs and professorships. Around one quarter of the endowment, 259 million, is designated for student financial aid.

With the recent appointment of Pierre Ouillet as Vice-President, Finance, Resources and Operations, the newest addition to UBC's finance department presents a new opportunity for increased transparency from the upper administration.

UBC should be pressured to release their plans for the endowment and communicate with the community information from UBC Investment Management Trust. What projects or programs are going to be compromised because of the economic climate?

The absence of news from UBC is clumsy negligence of its population. We hope Mr Ouillet can set a new precedent.

by Kyrstin Bain

Letters & Internet Comments

IN RESPONSE TO UBC RESEARCHERS LEADING POST-OLYMPIC STUDY (NOVEMBER 18, 2008)

So, what we have here is basically VANOC paying UBC to research the impact of VANOC. If this seems worrisome, that's because it is. According to the OGI agreement, VANOC will pay UBC in four separate installments to complete the study. But here's the kicker - VANOC can withhold payments at its "sole discretion." This means that if UBC starts research and finds results that VANOC doesn't like, they can pull the funding. Without academic independence, this study is basically worthless.

—Blake Frederick

IN RESPONSE TO EDITORIAL COMIC

Hey, *Ubyssey*,

I've seen firsthand (and heard, *ad nauseam*, secondhand) that an impressive amount of work and dedication goes into your productions, but Friday's opinion page is blatantly half-assed. What editorial hijinks are you people up to that you would allow the publication of something in such bad taste as Maria Cirstea's asinine one-panel condemnation of Alex Lougheed?

I was under the impression that a paper published twice a week would try to focus on current events. A trumped-up scandal that was tired last year is far from topical. At best, it's a cheap shot; at worst, it's a self-sabotaging way to discourage voter turnout. I shouldn't even need to mention that Lougheed is one of the few AMS officials who consistently provides you with information and quotations, and the student body as a whole with a hell of a lot of dedicated representation. Seriously, guys–what the fuck is in your water cooler?

—Kai Green
Asian Studies 4

If you wish to to submit a letter it must be no longer than 350 words. Your identity will be confirmed by phone or by ID from the office. People may email us at feedback@ubyssey.ca.

Streeters

How do you feel about high school graduates needing a higher GPA than a transfer student in order to get into UBC?

Haroon Chaudhry
Commerce 2

"With college, the grades are not comparable....Getting a higher mark in college is a lot harder than getting these high marks in high school....It's actually relative and not simply on the GPA."

Hannah Bock
Arts 1

"Having a lower average makes sense because they're probably doing the same amount of work to get the lower grades that the high school students are [doing] to get higher grades... it seems fair."

Andrew Wilson
Human Kinetics 2

"I have pretty mixed opinion about it....One hand it's a lot better for the community....On the other hand, it's almost like not fair."

Josh Loh
Applied Sciences 4

"I think it's still pretty legitimate because I think there's still a big transition.... You have to work harder.... When you go to college you still have to keep your high mark...I think it's all right."

Sarah Lim
Biology 5

"Actually I didn't know that, because I thought it was harder to transfer than it is to get in from high school. But I guess it's fine either way. I'm fine with it."

—Coordinated by Kathy Yan Li & Tara Martellaro, with photos by Shun Endo

Radical Beer Faction

When the wheels on the bus stop rolling

You're sitting on the bus on a gritty section of Powell Street, when a robotic female voice gently intones that you should be "aware that this bus is a fare paid zone; fare checks may be conducted at any time." Conspiracy theorists notwithstanding, it's shocking to see aspects of Orwellian prophecy come true: whether or not Big Brother (or, in this case, Sister) is actually there, you are still being watched.

What's appalling is that TransLink and the mainstream media keep focusing on fare evasion as a major public policy problem. Even an honest mistake by a candidate in the municipal elections becomes big news. In any case, as this author experienced during a stint living in Paris, what's there to stop people from jumping over turnstiles once installed? Freeloaders do not create undue burdens on Vancouver's transit network. Yet the Minister of Transportation is pushing a multi-million dollar plan to blockade the system with barriers, money that would be much better spent elsewhere.

If there's anything that the RBF understands, it's that the theory of throwing an event seems exceedingly simple, but that the devil is always in the details. How are you supposed to throw a good event when transit levels from UBC drop off sharply at around 7pm, stranding a good portion of your patrons on campus?

You might pause to consider the N17 route. While this is a fantastic service, it essentially serves one purpose: to get campus residents back home after a night of drinking downtown. What about those of us who live east of Granville Street? Does TransLink actually expect us to spend more than twice the time in transit as it would take during the day?

The RBF calls on TransLink to re-implement better night service to campus, particularly from 10pm onwards. Between sky-high rents, forcing people to live farther and farther away, and rising tuition, there are more and more students taking advantage of late-night classes so that they can juggle full-time jobs during the day. Add that to campus revelers and night staff trying to get home. The result: night buses so full you might mistake it for being early in the morning.

It's a no-brainer that the #99 is the busiest bus route in Metro Vancouver. The plan to replace it with a SkyTrain extension is a good one. However, in the meantime, the AMS and the university must support an expansion of #99 service at night, making it later and coordinating it with the night class schedule. By diverting the funds dedicated to fare barriers, TransLink could easily fund these improvements. The solution would be simple, if only the political will were there.

Weekly Ration: Fischer Blonde Lager. From the elaborately carved swing-top bottle to its nourishing taste of Alsatian barley, this French brew exudes charm. It's certainly not the cheapest beer, but it's worth every penny.

Block voting is hurting Vancouver's democratic process

The city needs a single transferable vote electoral system

BY BRUCE KRAYENHOFF
Perspectives Writer

The Non-Partisan Association (NPA) won the last election because the left split the vote between the Coalition Of Progressive Electors (COPE) and Vision, but this election, COPE and Vision went in with a united slate, winning nine out of ten council seats with an approximate average of 51 per cent support to the NPA's 36 per cent, leaving them with nearly no opposition. How did this happen?

We use a municipal electoral system called "block voting," which is arguably even worse than the unpopular first-past-the-post system we use provincially and federally. Block voting is rife with vote splitting so that, as with our provincial and federal elections, election results depend more on which parts of the political spectrum are united than on what voters actually want. Block voting also tends to let the largest block/party sweep all the seats. Fortunately, some voters vote across party lines to ensure that there are a few opposition councillors (or one NPA councillor in this case) to hold the sweeping block (in this case the COPE/Vision slate) accountable.

Vancouver can fix all these problems by adopting the single transferable vote electoral system (STV). Under STV, voters rank candidates first, second, third, etc., so that if they can't get their first choice, their vote will count for their second or third choice. This means people can vote their conscience without fear of vote splitting or wasted votes. STV is also a proportional system, which will ensure that voters get the representation they voted for and that there is always a healthy opposition to hold the ruling party/coalition accountable. By making every vote count and providing more choice, STV may also help improve the abysmal 30 per cent voter turnout of this municipal election.

More locally, Maria Harris won Electoral District A with under 30 per cent of the vote due to vote splitting among the other four candidates, finishing just ahead of Ben West. When electing a single person, a proportional electoral system that represents the diversity of voters' concerns is not possible. However, in the single-member form of STV, instant-runoff voting, can still prevent vote splitting and ensure a democratic result that is not at odds with the wishes of the majority.

Until we ditch our archaic winner-take-all voting systems for sensible electoral systems that take voters' preferences seriously (like STV does), election results will be determined more by who runs than by voters' wishes, and people will not get the governments they want.

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Birds easily tame Cougars

UBC sweep series, only lose one set

BY HENRY LEBARD

Sports Staff

The Men's Volleyball team swept the Regina Cougars this weekend in UBC's home opener at War Memorial Gym. Steve Gotch led the way to victory with 42 kills in two nights, more than half of Regina's total. UBC won Friday night's affair 3-1 (25-21, 24-26, 25-22, 25-13) and out-killed their opponents 59-45. On Saturday, the Thunderbirds proved to be even stronger, winning 3-0 (25-22, 25-19, 25-20).

UBC was the better team on both nights, easily setting up multiple kills past three-man blocks while their opponents had trouble getting kills past two-man blocks.

"We still have to learn how to play with a bit of urgency because the quality of the teams in the Canada West means that almost every night is going to be a dog fight," said UBC head coach Richard Schick.

Gotch started off Friday with three kills, and closed out the match in similar fashion, earning the final three points for the Thunderbirds.

"Steve does a lot for us and we sort of leaned on him at the start, but we are going to need everybody to win," Schick. "To just give the ball to Steve as much as possible is kind of like playing Russian roulette. I would be more concerned if he was the only one to have a good game, but it was really nice to see so many guys do so much for us today."

The Thunderbirds had trouble closing out their opponents, allowing them to string together several points at a time. Fortunately for UBC, Regina made several service faults at crucial times, stopping the momentum.

"We still have to learn how to step up at opportune times, like closing out sets or matches, to be where we want to get to in the conference," Schick said.

The Cougars have no players on their roster listed taller than six-foot-five while the Thunderbirds have eight players above that height. That statistic proved to be meaningful during the weekend doubleheader, as UBC doubles Regina's block total twofold.

"The most impressive stats for me are the low number of errors and our attacking efficiency," said Schick. "We have to realize that when we keep the ball in play and make better choices attacking, it will give us a much better chance. I have been hard on everybody in terms of cutting down errors, and that's two matches in a row now with so few attacking errors which is pretty impressive."

Last weekend's victory moved UBC to 3-3 for the season and fifth in the Canada West standings. Next up for UBC is Trinity Western, who is in second place behind University of Alberta. The Thunderbirds play host November 27 and 29 at 8pm at War Memorial Gym.

Athletes of the Week

BY CLAUDIA RICHARD

Thunderbird Athletic Council

Third-year Melissa Choy has been named Athlete of the Week for her exceptional goaltending skills on Friday and Saturday night against the Regina Cougars. The Cougars were unable to get past Choy on Friday night, making 29 saves for the second shutout of her season. Her focus and consistency kept the Birds strong on the defensive end, helping them win twice. She also made 34 saves of 36 shots the following night. However, the offence couldn't capitalize and the Birds and the Cougars split the weekend.

MELISSA CHOY, WOMEN'S HOCKEY

KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

JOSH WHYTE, MEN'S BASKETBALL

KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

Josh Whyte was voted Athlete of the Week for his strong performance this past weekend for the Birds on the road. The team had a strong showing against the Brandon University Bobcats Friday night, extending their winning streak to seven games with an 87-74 win. Saturday night the Birds took on the Regina Cougars and Whyte led the team with 29 points and six steals. A transfer from UBC rival Victoria Vikes, Whyte led the Vikes to victory against UBC in January of last year and won the player of the game honour. With him on our side and a strong set of returning seniors, the team sits on top of the Pacific Division. See Whyte and the Birds in action this Friday at 8pm against rivals SFU at War Memorial Gym.

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