UBC Archives Serial

Page Friday

Le Front de libération du Québec veut l'indépendance totale des Québécois, réunis dans une société libre...

Tu te souviens?

THE UBYSSEY
October 6, 2000 Volume 82 Issue 9
A lesson learned since 1918

SHRUM BOWL: UBC vs SFU—TONIGHT

see page 6

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Announcement

THE GENETIC TAKEOVER – directed by: Karl Parent and Louise Vandelac. Video fundraiser & Bzzr Garden. Fri. Oct 6, 8pm SUB 212. $5 waged, $2 unwaged. UBC International Socialists Club.

WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE WORKSHOP – Oct 14&21 10am-3pm, SUB 205, You do not need to be physically fit to take this course! Register @ Subcetera in the SUB by Oct. 12, space limited. $30 for both days, sliding scale for students.

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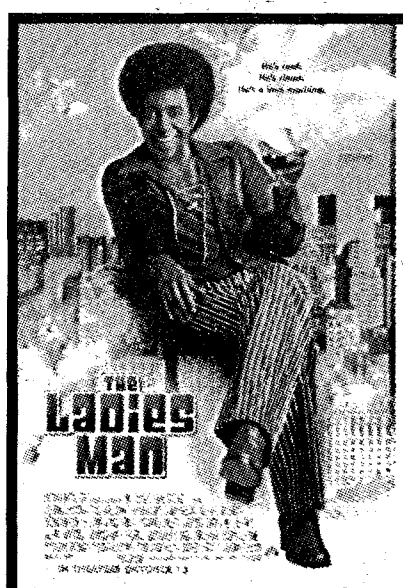
THE UBYSSEY

would like to congratulate Holland Gidney and Ernie Beaudin for their successful election as production manager and online coordinator, repectively.

Now get to work, *minions.*

—the staff of the ubyssey



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IN THEATRES OCTOBER 13TH

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This presentation was made possible through the generous assistance of the Chan Endowment Fund of the University of British Columbia.

THE VANCOUVER SUN

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Thirty years later

almost ready for publication.
War Measures Act rea
WAR MEASURES ACT
Public Order Regulations,
3. The group of persons or
association know as Le Front
Liberation du Quebec
threats with bombs
Page 16
the Indians. We are in solidarity with the American
and Puerto Ricans who are fighting yankee
finally found a use for the belltower.
FLQ manifesto a
The following is a translated version of the
Front de Liberation du Quebec.
FLQ delays Cross' execution
THE UBYSSEY
MONTREAL (CUP) -- The Quebec Provincial police and
struggle between the government RCMP rounded up 25 FLQ
and police officials and the Front members and other radical and
de Liberation du Quebec has revolutionary separatists.
"The name and picture of the
informer which led police to the
last FLQ cell must be made
public."

The recent death of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has shifted the attention away from his politics and onto his persona. But even as the country mourns, this week marks the 30-year anniversary of the October Crisis, one of Trudeau's defining moments as a politician. And for those who were there, remembering what happened is vitally important.

by Pascal Faucher
Montréal Campus

MONTRÉAL (PUIQ)—At the time of the events of October, 1970, the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Québec's people's university, was so close to the people and the people's movement, that the authorities thought it was best to muzzle it. Those at UQAM who witnessed the October Crisis now look back at it, 30 years later.

Some people remember this time because of the terrorist acts committed by the Front de Libération du Québec (FLQ), the radical workers' party that planted over 80 bombs in the province and claimed six lives. Others remember it simply because they could not celebrate Hallowe'en that year.

UQAM was founded in April, 1969, and offered its first courses that fall. So for their part, the architects of the new university remember that the October Crisis led to the closure of their year-old campus. This was an event that deeply affected the very heart of the new institution.

A cradle for all sorts of revolutionary movements, UQAM, which had barely celebrated its first birthday, found itself at the heart of the Crisis. A couple of UQAM students, Jacques and Louise Cossette-Trudel, were part of the Libération group that kidnapped the British diplomat James Richard Cross on October 5, 1970 from his Westmount home. The next day, it was at UQAM's Lafontaine Pavillion where the first FLQ communiqué was delivered.

The FLQ specifically demanded the liberation of FLQ members imprisoned for their militant activities, the rehiring of 450 truck drivers laid off by Canada Post, and the equivalent of $500,000 in gold bullion. More generally, the FLQ called for the emancipation of all the Québécois people whom, the FLQ claimed, were oppressed by the social and economic conditions in Québec. In a particularly Canadian twist, the communiqué also demanded that the FLQ manifesto be read on Radio-Canada, the Québec equivalent of CBC-TV.

Heavily influenced by left-wing ideas, UQAM tended to sympathise with the FLQ's demands right from the beginning. On October 16, an assembly of professors offically supported the FLQ manifesto, while students voted to go on strike. Of course, a strike was completely unnecessary—in light of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's invocation of the War Measures Act the night before, the RCMP ordered the university closed. Its doors remained shut for five days.

"The first thing the authorities hit was UQAM. They said it was 'full of terrorists,'" remembers Jean-Paul Lafrance, a professor of communications, who was hired in 1969.

"They claimed to have found two students with knives. Knives! We were very insulted."

Louis Gill, a professor of economics and the first vice-president of the UQAM faculty association, recalls being thrown out of his office by plainclothes police officers who had come to lock the university gates. For his part, political science professor Jean-Marc Piotte, a former militant Marxist, witnessed police interrupt his lecture to arrest his teaching assistant.

After the War Measures Act was invoked, 6000 soldiers soon descended upon the city to lend strength to the police. Until April 30, 1971, civil liberties were suppressed, public meetings were prohibited, and police were authorised to detain anyone for 21 days without a warrant.

"During the occupation, professors panicked," remembers Piotte. "Some of them left for the country to hide. The government believed that there were thousands of FLQ members in the province. In reality, there were never more than 25!"

The War Measures Act meant that the usual Canadian civil liberties were suspended. Anyone believed to be linked to the FLQ could be rounded up without a search warrant, and incarcerated without the right of habeas corpus—465 people were rounded up in this way.

"The army had to keep people calm," says Piotte. "Prime Minister Trudeau wanted to break the sovereigntist movement and all those who were involved in it."

The FLQ manifesto was read on television, and on October 10, the Québec Minister of Justice guaranteed the kidnappers safe passage to anywhere in the world in return for Cross' release. But, incensed by the government's apparent lack of action over the FLQ's first set of demands, a second FLQ group kidnapped Pierre Laporte, Québec's deputy premier and minister of Labour and Immigration, from his suburban home. This time around, the FLQ demands were similar to the first set, but Premier Robert Bourassa stalled, trying to buy time to convince the terrorists to release his colleague.

This tactic proved to be a mistake—Laporte was found strangled seven days later in the trunk of a green Chevrolet near the St-Hubert military base. After the death of the minister, Québécois public sympathy for the FLQ diminished considerably. The UQAM professors were no exception.

"The FLQ was a mistake. Terrorism isn't justified where democracy exists. The violence only helped feed the conservative atmosphere," said Jacques Jourdain of the political science department, who is one of the organisers of an October Crisis colloquium taking place at UQAM today.

Robert Comeau, a former FLQ member and now a history professor, is also critical of the movement to which he once belonged.

"In hindsight, I would say that the FLQ was a dead end," said Comeau, who once helped draft the FLQ communiqués. "After the death of Pierre Laporte, I quit. Terrorism can never be effective because those in power always have more means."

Comeau cites police surveillance as an example of these means. "The police had UQAM under surveillance. I thought that a car was always following me. In fact, there were 14! I discovered in 1980 that I had been under electronic surveillance for ten years, in my office, my house, and my car." Comeau was also spied on for two years by Carole de Vault, who lectured at UQAM, and for eight more years by one of his friends.

Today, the events of 1970 are hardly taught, Comeau laments. "Even after 30 years, the October Crisis is a taboo subject. Historians avoid delicate subjects, those that are too political."

In an effort to revive the memory of this important chapter in Québec's political history, this month he is re-editing a book about the Crisis by Francis Simard, one of Laporte's kidnappers.

Because behind the violence, there were ideals. "We wanted to form a true workers' party, separate from the Parti Québécois, to raise people's awareness of exploitation, of domination by big business. Not to turn over the government, nor to take power, but to stir things up." On this count at least, the FLQ can claim that it accomplished its mission. ❖

–translated by, and with files from, Nicholas Bradley

October Crisis Timeline

October 5, 1970: British trade commissioner James Cross is kidnapped from his home by FLQ members. An FLQ communiqué gives authorities until noon on October 7 to meet its demands.

October 7: Police make early-morning raids on areas known and suspected to be frequented by the FLQ. Thirty suspects are arrested, but released later the same day. The FLQ extends its deadline for another 24 hours.

October 8: The FLQ manifesto is read in its entirety on the Radio-Canada TV station.

October 9: Police reveal the identity of a suspect in the kidnapping. The FLQ gives a final deadline of 6:00pm the following day, warning that Cross will never be found again if the demands were not met.

October 10: Québec Justice Minister Jérôme Choquette announces that the government will not meet the FLQ demands. However, the federal government guarantees the FLQ kidnappers safe passage to a foreign country in return for the safe release of Cross. The same day, Québec cabinet member Pierre Laporte is kidnapped from his home by the FLQ. The FLQ warns that it plans to kidnap Premier Robert Bourassa as well.

October 12: Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau summons armed troops to Ottawa and Montréal to guard potential targets of the FLQ. A letter from Cross is found along with another FLQ communiqué, saying that he is confident that he will be released if the FLQ's demands are met.

October 13: Trudeau's infamous "Just watch me!" quip, offered in response to a journalist's question about whether he will invoke the War Measures Act. According to Trudeau, only "weak-kneed bleeding hearts" would be reluctant to take these steps. Potential political targets are accompanied into the House of Commons by armed troops.

October 14: A group of prominent Québec figures, including Parti Québécois leader Réné Levesque, support an exchange of FLQ prisoners for the hostages.

October 15: The Québec government calls in the Canadian army. Bourassa rejects the FLQ demands, but offers safe passage out of Canada for the kidnappers in exchange for Cross and Laporte. The Québec government also recommends parole for five prisoners the FLQ wants released.

October 16: At 5:15am, it is announced that Trudeau has invoked the War Measures Act, the first time that Ottawa has done so during peacetime. In pre-dawn raids, 242 people are arrested.

October 17: Laporte's body is found. An autopsy later reveals that he was choked to death with a religious chain he wore around his neck.

In early December, 1970, Cross' captors are found. They are given safe passage to Cuba, and Cross is released. Laporte's kidnappers are found four weeks later, and are tried for kidnapping and murder. ❖

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October 6th 5:00pm Consulate General of Japan
October 12th 12:30pm SFU Harbour Centre, Rm. 2215
October 17th 2:30pm TWU, Reimer Centre, Alumni Lounge
October 17th 4:00pm UNBC, Conference Centre, Rm. 6-205
October 19th 12:30pm UBC, Asian Centre Auditorium
October 19th 3:30pm UVIC, Clearihue Bldg., Rm. A201
October 23rd 12:30pm Okanagan UC, Student Services Centre, Rm. 102
October 24th 12:30pm UBC, Arts Bldg., Buchanan Rm. B226
October 26th 12:30pm UCFraserValley, Bldg. A, Rm. A252
October 27th 12:30pm MALASPINA, Bldg. 300, Rm. 303

Print calendar to go?

UBC might choose Web-only edition

by Cynthia Lee

A university proposal to phase out the printed version of the UBC calendar to have primarily online access for the publication is receiving mixed reviews from students.

"We're considering not distributing the print calendar to students provided that we can provide them with the information they need in a timely and effective format," said Angela Runnals, assistant registrar of Secretariat and Publication Services.

RUNNALS

Runnals said that the online version of the UBC calendar is easier for "people to find what they're looking for because of the nature of the Web."

But first-year Arts student Anna Morelos said she prefers the printed version of the calendar because she finds it easier organising her classes with it.

Other students, like Chandan Khaira, are concerned that not all students have online access.

The first-year Human Kinetics student said she personally has access to the Web, but "for people who don't, it might be a problem."

Runnals, however, said that, in the past, she has received many comments that the calendar in its print form is difficult to read.

"We've always received comments and feedback on the size and complexity of the print calendar," said Runnals, who explained that this is because the calendar serves not only UBC students but also prospective students and faculty.

"All of these people have slightly different needs. Essentially, the print calendar just gives everybody everything," she said.

And second-year Nutritional Science student Edmund Lai, said he would not mind if UBC took the calendar out of print.

He said he finds the online version of the calendar "much easier to access" and said that students without Web access at home could use the Internet on campus.

Runnals said that students' online accessibility will be addressed over the next two months during consulation with students and other calendar users such as faculty, high school students, colleges and career centres.

If the plan goes ahead, Runnals said the university will save the cost of printing and distributing the print calenders. UBC spends $120,000 on the 60,000 calendars published annually.

"That money would go into direct services for students," she added.

While the calendar in its current form will likely be phased out, Runnals said that UBC may still publish smaller, customised calendars, which could include separate versions for undergraduate and graduate students. ❖

Nuclear arms still a threat

US anti-ICBM system may re-ignite arms race

by Jason Steele

Even though it's been over ten years since the end of the Cold War, the threat of nuclear conflict persists, international relations lawyer Penelope Simons argued at a lecture held at UBC this week.

"We still live under the threat of intentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons," said Simons, who specialises in issues related to nuclear disarmament, international human rights and human intervention.

Simons and Alyn Ware, a well-known peace activist, lectured Tuesday about the need to abolish nuclear weapons—a lecture which comes at a time when the issue of nuclear arms is resurfacing at the forefront of political discussion.

In 1996, the International Court of Justice all but ruled the use of nuclear weapons illegal.

"The court found that the threat of using nuclear weapons is generally contrary to the rules of international law...and in particular to the principles of humanitarian law," said Simons.

The court, however, could not decide whether the use of nuclear weapons would be illegal in an extreme case of self-defense.

Eight states in the world currently possess nuclear weapons, including the United States, Russia, Israel, Pakistan, and India. Over 40,000 nuclear weapons exist in the world, of which over 21,000 are believed to be operational.

"Probably the worst thing that the nuclear weapon states are doing is that they continue to rely on nuclear weapons as a fundamental part of their national security policy," she said.

As an example of this, Simons cited the US proposal to develop a National Missile Defence (NMD) system to prevent what the US refers to as rogue states—such as Iraq and North Korea—from developing and using nuclear force against most of North America.

If constructed, the NMD system would function to intercept any Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles before they reach any North American target.

Both Simon and Ware said they believe that an operational NMD system would lead to a new arms race, and point out that the system has failed in numerous test runs.

In fact, the NMD has come under heavy criticism from not only Russia, but many US' allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Simons asserted that the system contravenes treaties between the US and the former Soviet Union established during the Cold War and jeopardises future strategic arms reduction treaties.

A spokesperson at the Bureau of Arms Control, a branch of the US State Department, has refused to comment on the US policy on NMD until after the US presidential election in November.

According to the spokesperson, US President Bill Clinton has reserved any decisions about NMD for the incoming president.

US State Department publications, however, have outlined support for NMD.

In early September, Avis T. Bohlen, the assistant secretary of state for arms control, said before a government subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs, and International Relations, that he continues "to believe that an effective NMD system can be developed and deployed within the context of resolving the concerns of our allies and the objections of Russia." ❖

AUS space programme prepares for phase two

by Alex Dimson

While Arts students voted to build a new Arts Student Centre in last week's Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) referendum, several issues still remain before construction can begin.

Students voted in favour of increasing their student fees by $6, almost all of which will go towards the Centre. The referendum results remain unofficial until ratified by the AUS.

FAST

But the AUS has yet to negotiate with the university for the use of the Buchanan building location proposed for the centre.

Project organiser Jonathan Fast said that the AUS would like assurances from the university for space to call their own.

"The fact is students are putting in a significant amount of money and we want our interests protected."

Byron Hender, executive coordinator in UBC's VP Students office, said that he understands the students' demands, but the university will not give the space to the students unconditionally.

"We would obviously give them dedicated use of that space. I don't know what the terms would be," he said, adding that part of UBC's mandate is to improve social space.

The Centre, which is estimated to cost between $600,000 and $700,000, will be a 5,800 square-foot complex on the main floor of Buchanan building's D-Block. A lounge, a bar and bookable space are among the planned facilities. ❖

UBC's Nobel laureate passes away at 68

by Alex Dimson

Throughout his life, Michael Smith was praised for his work in cancer research. The Nobel laureate and UBC professor–who himself suffered from a form of the disease–passed away Wednesday night.

Smith, who was the director of the Genome Sequence Centre (GSC)–a research facility jointly managed by UBC and the BC Cancer Agency–died of leukemia at Vancouver General Hopsital. He was 68 years old.

Steven Jones, the head of bioinformatics at the GSC, said that Smith's death came as a surprise.

"Everyone is just shocked. No one was expecting this," he said.

Jones said that Smith was working at the facility until the second half of last week, when he was admitted into the hospital. Smith had known for the past two years that he was suffering from cancer.

Barry McBride, UBC's vice-president, academic and provost, said that Smith had been seriously ill for the last month and a half.

"We've lost a wonderful colleague, a man of great wisdom and energy who is dedicated to seeing science develop to the very highest level on this campus," said McBride. "UBC's lost an incredible friend and a wonderful scientist. He had a lot more to contribute, so it's a great loss."

Smith, who was born in Blackpool, England, joined UBC in 1966 after receiving his PhD from the University of Manchester.

As a UBC professor of biochemistry, Smith won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1993 for developing a method to reprogram the genetic cells found in genes.

Indira Samarasekera, UBC's vice-president research, says that Smith's death is a big loss to the field of genomics.

"His passage at this point is a huge loss, we have been deprived of his ongoing leadership in a field that he helped shape and further over his life's career, so [the death]'s very, very untimely," she said.

"His work really launched a new era in genetics research, which will be his legacy and it's leading the way to new treatments for life-threatening illnesses."

Samarasekera says that Smith's winning of the Nobel Prize was instrumental in the creation of Genome Canada, a $160-million research fund shared by five research centres around the country, including one in Vancouver.

But Barbara Kiminsky, chief executive officer of the BC/Yukon division of the Canadian Cancer Society, said that Smith's death will not necessarily reduce the quality of cancer research being done in BC.

"Michael built around him a wonderful team in the [GSC]...He has other researchers who will do very excellent work. They have enough internal capability to not be dependant on one single individual. I don't think that any one need worry that the excellence of cancer research will not be there."

Kiminsky, who knew Smith personally, said that despite his prestige, he frequently volunteered to attend events held by the Cancer Society and was always "very approachable."

"People know him for his Nobel Prize...but any one of us who knew him found him to be a wonderful person."

The GSC is a part of the Centre for Integrated Genomics, which has received substantial government funding since its formation–including a recent $28-million grant from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation. The GSC studies the use of genomics in identifying and preventing cancerous cells.

Smith's work–which focused on attempting to identify specific genes associated with cancer–is occasionally associated with the Human Genome Project, a comprehensive project which aims at explaining the information contained in every one of the approximately three billion genes in humans.

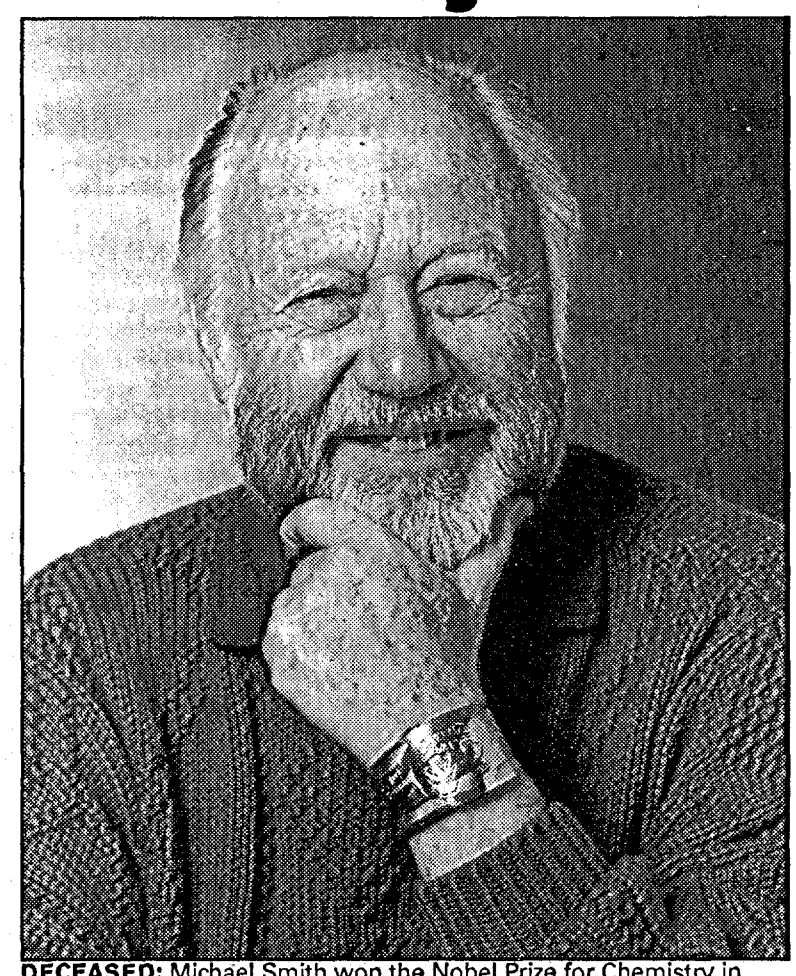
Simon Sutcliffe, president of the BC Cancer Agency, who considered Smith a close working partner, says that Smith was driven by the belief that genomics could be a key tool in the fight against cancer.

"I think Michael had a crusade to see genomics answer some really crucial questions in health care," he said. "And I think he had a really genuine wish to see that take place in cancer medicine in part because of the enormity of the problem and in part because of his own personal experience."

Sutcliffe said he would miss Smith, who he described as "enormously friendly and, in the truest sense of the word, an ordinary person" in spite of his intellectual achievements.

"However, being an oncologist and being on a background of a lifetime with cancer, I've come strongly to the viewpoint that you enjoy people while you have them and it has been a tremendous reward to know Michael, to be able to share thoughts, activities and creative directions with him," he said.

"I mourn not so much the loss as the loss of opportunity to keep doing that." ❖



DECEASED: Michael Smith won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1993 after having developed a method for reprogramming genes.

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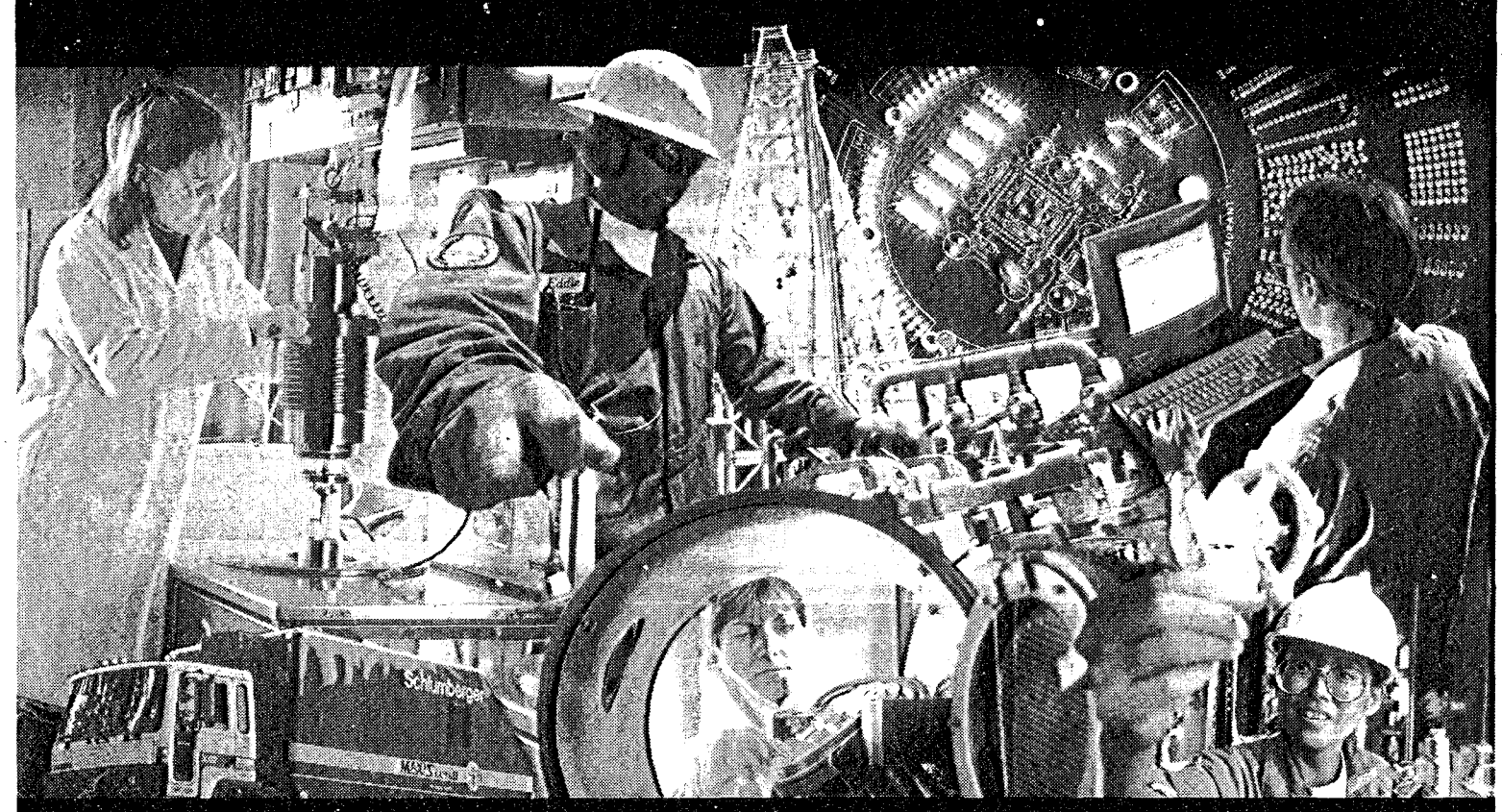

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OPENS IN THEATRES OCTOBER 13TH

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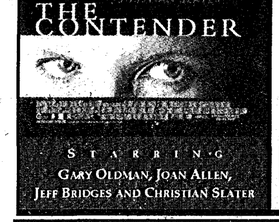

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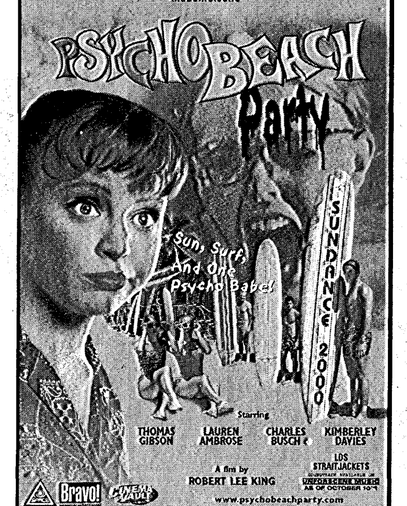

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Not just another quarterback story

UBC quarterback Shawn Olson's teammates call him pretty boy.

His opponents call him a tough son of a bitch.

His coaches call him the nicest guy they've ever coached.

They may all be right.

by Bruce Arthur

If you were going to write The Quarterback Story–you know, the story about the square-jawed, good-looking, tough-guy-with-a-heart-of-gold quarterback, the golden boy who single-handedly wills his underdog team to win the championship–then Shawn Olson would be a pretty good guy to start with.

But give us a break. And besides, the Birds' season has been less than a fairy tale so far.

Almost everyone who meets Shawn Olson likes him. It's understandable–he's good-looking, charismatic, and honest. He's got a ready smile, an infectious laugh, and a wicked sense of humour. He's The Quarterback. He's a star.

Or at least he's supposed to be. Since he came to UBC in 1996, he's been overshadowed by star running backs: first Mark Nohra (the 1997 Hec Creighton winner as the best football player in the CIAU) and then Akbal Singh (a Hec Creighton nominee in 1998 and '99).

This was fine with Olson, but nobody seemed to notice that during UBC's run to the Vanier Cup in 1997, he was arguably UBC's best player in the postseason. With Nohra sidelined with a knee injury in the Canada West final, Olson threw for a career-high five touchdowns, one fewer than his regular season total. Over three playoff games, he amassed 836 passing yards and threw for eight TDs. But Nohra, who came back from his injury to dominate the title game, was the story. No problem.

But this year was supposed to be different. It was supposed to be Olson's year. He was ready for the pressure, loves it actually, and his stats were supposed to go through the roof. He was supposed to earn an invitation to a CFL training camp. Well, it hasn't exactly gone that way so far.

"We're basically a skeleton of the '97-'98 teams, and it's tough," Olson says.

But he won't point fingers. He won't make excuses.

But he easily could. He's seen his favourite and best receiver, Brad Coutts, go down with a knee injury. His offensive line lost two starters and is now both young and on the small side. He's had passes dropped and he's been hit harder then he's ever been hit in his life. But hey, he says, that's football.

"I mean, sometimes it feels like everything's falling apart around you, but in that game, that's when you have to rise up and have other people step up," he says. But he acknowledges that this hasn't been the year he'd envisioned.

"I would love to put up all kinds of gaudy stats and go 8-0 and 3-0 in the playoffs and win the Vanier Cup–but that's storybook, and life's not that easy."

It would be easy to blame his team's inexperience or injuries for his lack of those flashy numbers. He's 74-for-144 for 1006 yards, with eight touchdowns and two interceptions in five games. Good stats, but not great, and certainly not eye-popping.

But Olson points to St. Louis Rams quarterback Kurt Warner, who went from bagging groceries to being the best QB in the world in just a few years. "You can always take something from every experience and put a positive spin on it," says Olson.

So instead of laying blame, he's just gone back to work. He's seventh in the conference in rushing yards, and first among quarterbacks, with 39 carries for 219 yards and two touchdowns. And since throwing those two interceptions in the rain-drenched season-opening loss to the University of Manitoba, he hasn't had a pass picked off. So far, in his fourth year as a team captain, he's succeeded in keeping things in perspective, and keeping things on track. But it hasn't been easy.

Four years ago, Shawn Olson thought that his job as UBC's starting quarterback might already be over. He was the boy wonder, the hotshot QB who'd come to UBC after four years and three BC junior championships with the Surrey Rams.

Halfway through his rookie season at UBC he was tapped to replace the struggling Jason Day at the pivot. But midway through his second year, halfway through a miserable game against Manitoba, Olson was yanked for the first and only time in his career. The Thunderbirds led only 1-0, and after backup QB Dan Delong came into the game and led UBC to a 32-0 win, the quarterback controversy was officially on.

"It was almost like role reversal from the year before where I stepped in for Jason Day," he says, seriously. "I did feel like Jason Day."

Olson sat and watched, feeling useless, until the last drive of the next week's Shrum Bowl against Simon Fraser University. Delong struggled in that game, however, and the next week, Olson was once again the starting quarterback. Since then Delong, with his superb athletic ability, has become a slotback. And since then, it's pretty much taken a stretcher to take Olson out of the game.

"I have a tendency to not report injuries," he laughs. "My girlfriend's been telling me I'm going to be a decrepit old man, and I tell her I already am." He's the oldest player on the team at 26, something his teammates razz him about.

"In a [team game show] take-off, the answer to the question 'What was significant about 1952?' was that that was the date that Olson was born," deadpans defensive back Simon Quinto, a colt at 24.

Behind the razzing is real respect. He's the unquestioned leader of this team. And it's not like he hasn't earned a stretcher or two this year. September 8, against the University of Regina, Olson got hit by a helmet under the chin just minutes into the game, so hard that he lost a molar and received what was later diagnosed as a slight concussion.

"I didn't know where I was, what was going on, all I knew was I had a chunk of tooth in my mouth," he laughs.

Later in the same game, he took off on a spectacular scramble that ended in his attempt to hurdle an unfortunate defensive back, who was flattened by Olson's knee to his helmet. During the collision, Olson pulled both his groin muscles, but he gained an extra five yards. He played the whole game.

He's also sprained his throwing shoulder and nearly broken his left wrist–the cast got exploded in a puff of white smoke by a practice pass. Plus there's the usual football bumps and bruises that everyone plays with.

"He is very, very tough," says head coach Jay Prepchuk.

His fearlessness doesn't always help, though–in last year's season-ending loss to the University of Saskatchewan in the Canada West final, he took off on a scramble with 13 minutes left and took a Huskie helmet to the sternum that finished his season.

"It felt like my whole chest was collapsing," he says. "I couldn't hold my shoulders up, and I was caving in." He watched his backup, Phil Deeks, move the Birds within striking distance before throwing an interception in the endzone.

Not that Olson is bitter about not playing the rest of the game. "I think maybe it would be an arrogant comment if I said 'yeah, we would have won that game.' I mean who knows–it could have ended up differently, but I thought the guy, Phil Deeks, came in there and he was basically one pass from winning that game."

You'd think that the 3-2 season's been a nightmare for Olson, especially after three seasons on heavyweight teams. And he admits that two weeks ago he experienced "probably the worst football game that I've been involved with as a player," a 23-12 loss to Alberta.

But then last weekend, the team dragged itself to Saskatoon, where Olson had never won, and thumped Saskatchewan 44-21. Olson threw for 261 yards and three touchdowns. The Comeback Story

And despite all the injuries, he hasn't missed a down all season. In fact, he's been playing with a broken bone in his right wrist for the last 15 years–a Tough Guy Quarterback Story if there ever was one.

Of course, hand-in-hand with The Tough-Guy Quarterback Story is the Heart-of-Gold Story. Shawn Olson is resolutely in love with his girlfriend, he's generous to a fault with his time, he loves his mother, his father, and all five of his older sisters. And his job the past two years? Straight out of central casting. He works as a relief worker at a group home for mentally handicapped people. He got bought out of his soul-sucking job at Save-On-Foods for $12,000, after seven years of gritting his teeth ("I would have left for a bag of donuts," he laughs), and fell into a job helping people that happens to pay pretty well. And of course, he loves it.

"It's a lot of fun, actually, if you take these guys, a lot of them are like 60 years old or 25 years old, and they have a wide variety of disabilities, but they just get such enjoyment out of life–[I love that] we just experience little things in life that maybe everyone takes for granted, and are pretty special to them. And it definitely gives you a different perspective on things. I'm pretty lucky to have the job."

It goes on and on. He's a solid B student majoring in History and minoring in English. His girlfriend, Julie, tells him he understands women ("It's a side effect," he laughs hard. "How can you not understand women when you [grow up living] with six women?")". He's humble, but confident: "If you're good at anything, people are going to know you're good, and you don't need to be telling them that you're good," he says.

He calls Julie the coolest girlfriend he can imagine having. He's got more friends than last week's lottery winner, and for God's sake, when you ask him what his worst attribute is, he gives what from most people would be a job-interview answer–"I think the worst thing about me is I try to do too much."

This guy's story suits the Heart-of-Gold Quarterback Story to a tee. Maybe too well, you think to yourself.

"But he *doesn't* cheat on his girlfriend. He *does* work with handicapped people. He's like a model person or something," says wide receiver Bill Chamberlain, Olson's best friend on the team.

"I can't think of a bad thing to say about the guy," says wide receiver Scott Rintoul "Yeah, he's too good to be true. An apple-pie kid."

"I have nothing bad to say about him other than the fact that he's old," Quinto quips.

Hold on. Someone has to have *something* bad to say about this guy.

"I don't want to be all platitudes," starts soft-spoken quarterbacks coach Peter Ohler, who has a reputation as a straight shooter. Really? Tell us something other than all the platitudes we've already heard, please.

"But really, I tell all my friends, and my family, that in all the years I've coached that I would put Shawn right at the top of the list [as a player]."

Are you kidding?

"If I can sum it all up, in 37 years of coaching, I seriously have never worked with someone who I've enjoyed spending the time with more, and that's the truth."

Forget it.

Since that benching three years ago, Olson's barely seen Shrum Bowl action–he sat to rest injuries both times. So with the Shrum Bowl coming up this Friday, Olson wants to play.

"I hope I get to play long enough to win, because in four years here I've played maybe three and a half quarters in the Shrum Bowl."

As for the pros, Olson doesn't think that this season's going to scare them off. He's been blitzed like absolute crazy, but he's hung in, even thrived.

Ohler played in the CFL and thinks Olson's got what it takes.

"I think if a team will give him a serious look, rather than a quote-unquote Canadian quarterback look, then he can play," he says.

"Out of what I've seen in the CIAU, he is the best quarterback in Canada," says Rintoul.

"I know I can play in the CFL. I know it," Olson declares. "All I need is someone to give me a chance." He's the hardest-working man in football, some people say. He could do it.

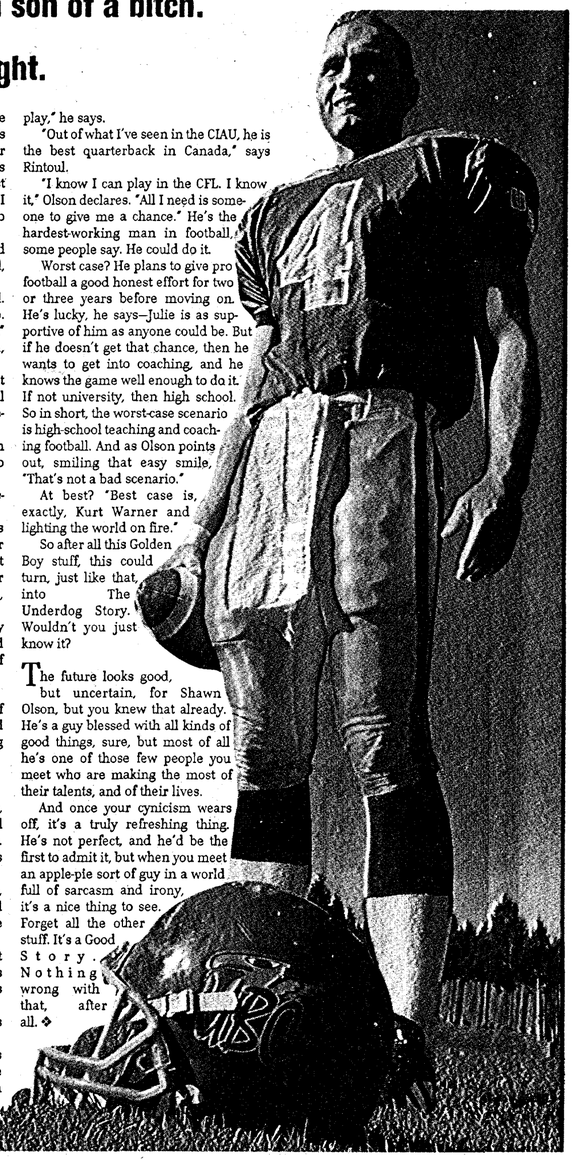
Worst case? He plans to give pro football a good honest effort for two or three years before moving on. He's lucky, he says–Julie is as supportive of him as anyone could be. But if he doesn't get that chance, then he wants to get into coaching, and he knows the game well enough to do it. If not university, then high school. So in short, the worst-case scenario is high-school teaching and coaching football. And as Olson points out, smiling that easy smile, "That's not a bad scenario."

At best? "Best case is, exactly, Kurt Warner and lighting the world on fire."

So after all this Golden Boy stuff, this could turn, just like that, into The Underdog Story. Wouldn't you just know it?

The future looks good, but uncertain, for Shawn Olson, but you knew that already. He's a guy blessed with all kinds of good things, sure, but most of all he's one of those few people you meet who are making the most of their talents, and of their lives.

And once your cynicism wears off, it's a truly refreshing thing. He's not perfect, and he'd be the first to admit it, but when you meet an apple-pie sort of guy in a world full of sarcasm and irony, it's a nice thing to see. Forget all the other stuff. It's a Good Story. Nothing wrong with that, after all. ❖



Shrum Bowl XXIII

Who: The UBC Thunderbirds (3-2 in the CIAU Canada West Conference) vs. The SFU Clansmen (1-3 in the Columbia Football Association).

Where: Thunderbird Stadium

When: Friday, October 6, 7pm

A little history: The Shrum Bowl came into being after UBC joined the Canada West Conference in 1966. In 1967, the Clansmen won the first grudge match against a weaker UBC team 32-13 in front of 15,000 fans at Empire Stadium. Other than the third Shrum Bowl, which ended in a tie when pelting rain forced the officials to halt the game, SFU has consistently outmatched its cross-town rivals until the 1980s.

At that point, it was payback time for the Birds. The UBC teams during the 1980s made it to the Vanier Cup finals three times, and won the national championship twice. The Shrum Bowl was no longer a foregone conclusion.

Today, the overall record is 11-10-1 in the Clan's favour. Last year, the Clansmen broke the overall tie and took home the Trophy after beating the Thunderbirds 41-14 at SFU's Swangard Stadium. The year before that, UBC won 11-9 at Thunderbird Stadium.

Although the home team gets to play by their rules (SFU plays American rules football with four downs and UBC plays Canadian with three downs), the homefield advantage hasn't proved to be too important recently. Over the past five years, UBC has won two games at home and two away, and SFU has won three at home and three away.

The prediction: SFU has shown that they have a good running game so far this season, with Mike Vilimek gaining 418 yards in three games and Marchi Gabriele rushing for 314 in four. But they've lost two key players from last year, quarterback Terry Kleinsmith and linebacker Kent Ring. UBC's passing game is far superior now, and if the Birds defence can control the rush, then they should win.

But last year we said UBC would win 18-9, and they lost 41-14. So who knows what will happen–especially if it rains and Olson can't get a decent pass off? Throwing caution to the wind, and hoping the sun will shine down, here's our prediction:

UBC 29
SFU 12 ❖

BIRD droppings

Men's Hockey

The UBC men's hockey team will face Mount Royal College twice this weekend at Thunderbird Winter Sports Centre at 7:30pm Friday and 4:30pm Saturday. The Birds start their regular season at home on October 13 against the Brandon Bobcats.

Women's Field Hockey

The defending CIAU champions will be spending their Thanksgiving long weekend in Edmonton, where they will face all the Canada West Conference teams in the second round-robin tournament of the season. The Birds tied two games and won two games at the first tournament in Calgary two weeks ago.

Women's Volleyball

The Birds head to Winnipeg for the Winnipeg/Manitoba Tournament–an early chance to size up the competition in this year's Canada West Conference.

Cross Country

Members of the UBC Cross Country team will spend Thanksgiving in warmer latitudes. They are off to California for the Stanford Invitational this Saturday. ❖

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Violent Irish comedy delights

by David Isaac Strasser

AT THE BLACK PIG'S DYKE
at Studio 58
Until Nov. 2

The Middle Ages in Ireland gave rise to a form of play, usually involving a moral lesson in which a company of straw-masked 'mummos' would go from house to house during the Christmas season and perform their plays.

Bringing an element of laughter and sardonic commentary, Studio 58's *At The Black Pig's Dyke* tells a haunting and lyrical tale about Northern Ireland through the narration of these straw clad mischief-makers who speak and sing in rhyme.

After hundreds of years of oppressive violence in Northern Ireland, the never-ending religious conflict continues to hold its people hostage. Playwright Vincent Woods conjures this ancient Irish myth to explore the cycle of violence in his country, as well as one family's tragic end.

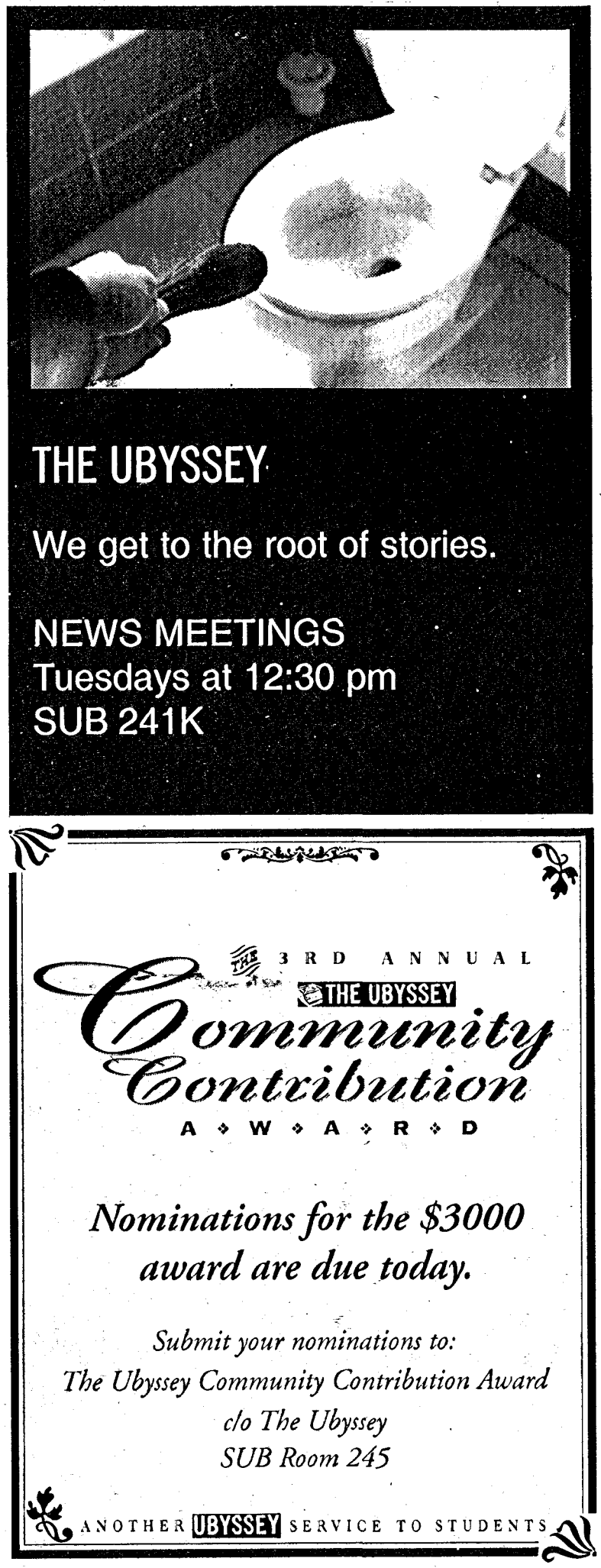
Upon entering the theatre, the simplistic rural set, with its straw walls and wooden frame, seems amateurish. Within one scene, however, the set turns into a mysterious gateway between the mythical and the mundane.

Director Katrina Dunn, the artistic director of Touchstone Theatre, collaborates with set designer Yvan Morissette, collaborate to address a problem of our time in an imaginative and compelling way.

Despite some overemphasis on sexual innuendo and unnecessary sensationalism, the play never fails to occupy the well's edge. Dunn uses some original blocking to transpose the cinematic realm onto the stage. She also pleasantly surprises the audience with a surreal slow-motion sequence that escapes the bounds of contemporary rules regarding film/theatre integration.

Above all, the performance is stolen by the comedic acting of Emella Symington-Fedy and Clarence Sponagle, who play the roles of Miss Funny and Tom Fool. The calibre of their performances make up for the acting of some of the Irish peasants.

At the Black Pig's Dyke is not only a great Irish myth–it is also a lesson in the country's historical strife. If some leeway is given for the amateur folly of aspiring actors, then the play is a worthwhile visceral and visual escape from the redundancy of most modern apartment-centred productions. ❖



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Cynthia Lee and Alex Dimson had been in the basement for three weeks, not daring to leave. They were well aware that Daliah Merzaban and Tristan Winch were keeping tabs on them from the building across the street. Tom Peacock was arrested for having possible explosives and Holland Gidney was interrogated because she had been seen delivering a pizza to the building. Michelle Mossop and Tara Westover just barely avoided being hurt when a car bomb went off in a nearby metro station. Nicholas Bradley led the investigation, and Dan Silverman and Duncan McHugh debated the situation in the provincial legislature. Graeme Worthy, Laura Blue, Jason Steele, and Bruce Arthur all did their best to live their lives as normal, while Greg Ursic was an outspoken critic. Stanley Tromp, Rob Peters, and David Isaac Strasser all watched the CBC coverage from the safety of Ontario, while Helen Eady decided to get away from it all and go climb Mount Logan.

COVER PHOTO
Tara Westover

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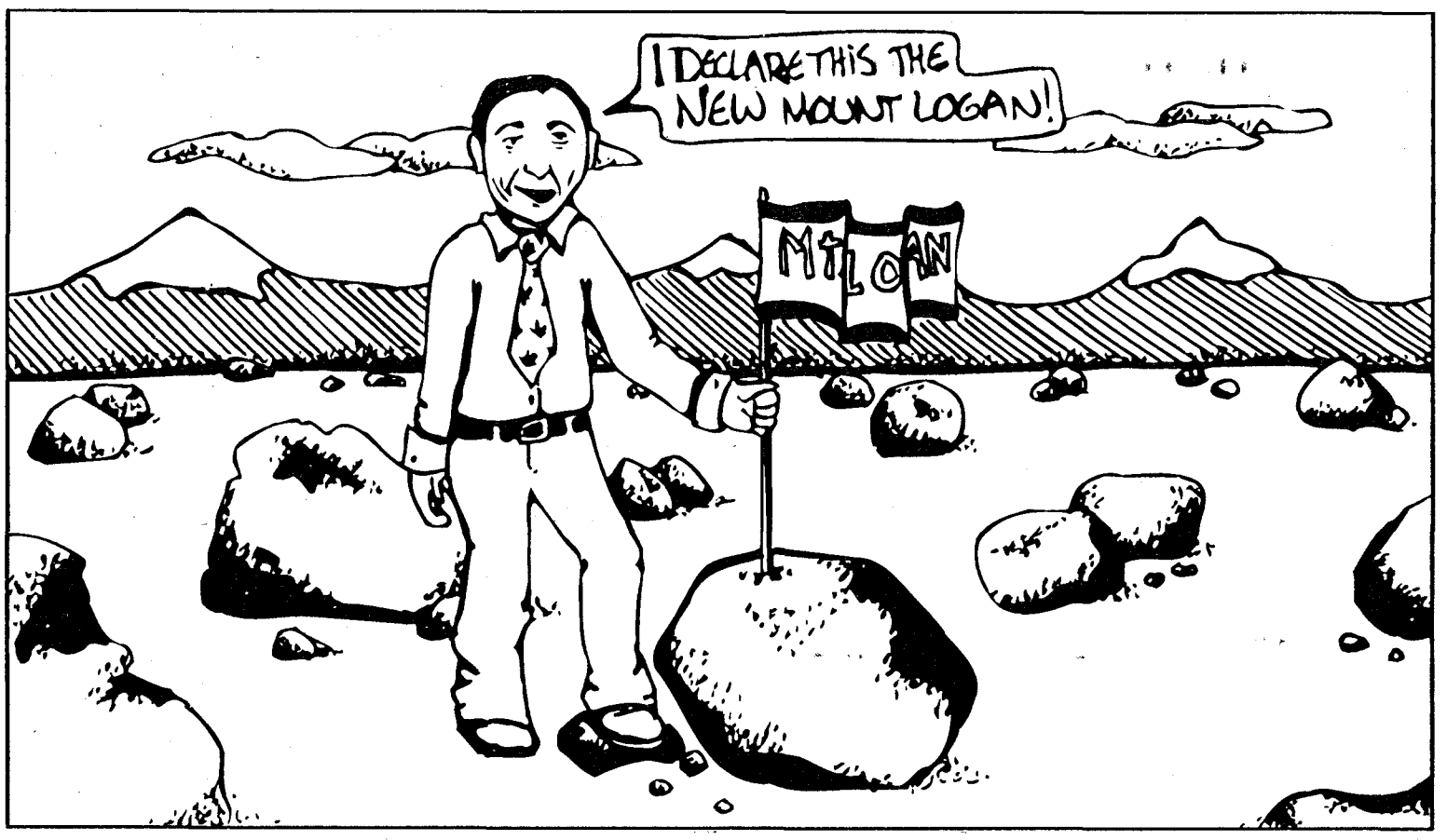

A mountain by any other name...

We will remember Trudeau, no matter what. But does anyone remember Sir William Logan?

Significant people in Canadian history, such as Logan, might not have had a direct bearing on our lives, or the lives of our parents, and we might only have a general understanding of the part they played in building our country. Still, they are important.

Mount Logan might not be across the Ottawa River from Parliament, and it might not have played as significant a role in the history of this country as, say, the Fraser River, but it is important.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien decided, in a fit of posthumous Trudeaumania, to rename Canada's highest peak after deceased former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Never mind that the mountain already had a name, one with historical significance–an election's coming.

But Mount Logan is no molehill, or a secondary street running through downtown Montréal. Mount Logan is the highest mountain in Canada. Nevertheless, the country's political leader renames it without so much as a second thought.

Trudeau's highest political priority was maintaining a unified Canada. "My father's fundamental belief never came from a textbook. It stemmed from his deep love and respect for and faith in all Canadians," Trudeau's son Justin said at his father's funeral.

Such love, respect, and faith in country could only come from someone well-schooled in the history of what makes Canada so unique, the fact that it was first a nation of discovery–a nation literally carved out of an unforgiving wilderness by explorers like Logan. Making Canada took all types–not just charismatic politicians. Trudeau knew this. Chrétien, it seems, does not.

With this latest political stunt, Chrétien has displayed an unconscious contempt for the history of Canada, and the importance history plays in unifying our sparsely populated stretch of the continent.

In essence, the renaming of Mount Logan alienates the outlying regions of Canada, a cultural decision made arbitrarily from Ottawa. One wonders how long before the Fraser River becomes the Allan Rock River.

The media frenzy that has surrounded Trudeau's death, and the paparazzi portraits of famous mourners, clearly show the celebrity status the charismatic Trudeau enjoyed.

Above all, Trudeau had idealistic visions for Canada as a nation. As one biographer put it, he ruled from the realm of ideas–something current politicians rarely had the gumption to try.

Trudeau's legacy: repatriating the constitution, reforming divorce laws, liberalising the laws on abortion and homosexuality, guaranteeing bilingualism in the civil service. For these he has received extraordinary recognition.

Trudeau's eminence in Canadian politics isn't arguable. Something should be named after him, no doubt. But the highest peak in Canada already had a name, and a fitting name at that.

In the eulogy written for Logan in 1875, it said that "no man has done as much to bring Canada before the notice of the outside world and no man is more deserving of being held in remembrance by the people."

For all of his contributions to Canadian geology, and the history of Canada, naming a mountain peak–even the highest peak–after Logan seems fitting and appropriate.

Yes, Trudeau was easily the most charismatic and one of the most respected prime ministers in Canadian history, but renaming one of the most significant and recognised geological monuments 125 years after it was originally named seems to show a Canada wrestling with its past.

Place names are things with which all Canadians can identify. The names evoke our cultural heritage; no matter which cultural group we belong to, they unify us through our shared history. But the PM, without a backwards glance, has cast off the recognised name of our tallest mountain.

BC had plans to name a less significant, as yet unnamed mountain in the Kootenay region in honour of Trudeau and his son Michel, who died almost two years ago in an avalanche near the Kootenay Glacier. This modest proposal would have made much more sense.

Trudeau had a lot of flair, and he wasn't a fake. He shared Chrétien's inclination of saying exactly what was on his mind. The difference was that Trudeau never tripped over his feet in an effort to commemorate anyone. ❖

letters

Lorraine to Martha: Rename the Rose Garden after Pierre!

I have just read the letter of tribute to Pierre Elliott Trudeau by Patrick Bruskiewich ('Heavy PETting' [Oct. 3, 2000]). In the letter he suggests we rename the Rose Garden in honour of Pierre Elliott Trudeau. It is a wonderful and very appropriate idea.

Dr. Piper, what do you think about (it) this idea?

–Lorraine Beckett
Admin Secretary
Plant Operations

PISSED OFF?

JUST PISSED?

WRITE A LETTER

FEEDBACK@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

Vancouver Film Fest continues

SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE
played at the Vancouver International Film Festival

It's a novel idea–a horror movie about the making of a horror movie. Well, almost a horror movie. Director E. Elias Merhige creates an interesting mix of comedy and terror in his respectful parody of vintage horror, *Shadow of the Vampire*.

John Malkovich plays FW Murnau–the eccentric, gay, self-acclaimed genius film director of the 1921 classic, *Nosferatu*. His art, Murnau believes, justifies Machiavellian ethics–he enters into a Faustian pact with the vampire Count Orlock (Willem Dafoe), promising the film's lead heroine in exchange for his "acting" services.

Murnau presents the count to his cast and crew under the guise of Max Schreck–an ultra-committed method actor completely immersed in his role. Murnau explains to his colleagues that Max will live the part of the count, residing on set in the castle and staying in make-up for the entire shoot. People become suspicious, however, when the count's eccentricities begin to surface and crew members disappear.

A bad German accent notwithstanding, Malkovich is outstanding. He brings to the role the obsessiveness and subtle dementia that it demands. Eddie Izzard, playing the lead actor opposite Count Orlock, is a good bad actor. He skillfully overacts a convincing silent film performance.

Dafoe is easily the most prominent star. He plays a Count Orlock that is simultaneously creepy and comic, even cute. In one scene, for example, Orlock joins the producer and writer as they enjoy a stiff drink after a day of filming. He immediately snatches a liquor bottle and starts pounding back copious amounts of the devil's brew. He begins a chilling monologue, and in mid-sentence, grabs an unfortunate bat, bites its head off, enjoys a meal, and then continues on. When he leaves, the two men marvel at Schreck's acting ability. It's funny, yet kind of freaky.

If you're a true horror fan, you'll probably be disappointed. *The Shadow of the Vampire* offers little in the way of blood and guts. It does, however, offer a well executed rendering of an original and difficult concept. ❖

–Rob Peters

THE FEATHERS OF PEACE
played at the Vancouver International Film Festival

While many people have espoused the doctrine of "turning the other cheek"–Martin Luther King, Mahatama Ghandi, Buddha–you need only to turn on CNN or pick up a newspaper to see that it is a distant goal at best. What happens then when a people "sticks to their guns" in the face of threat and refuses to fight? *The Feathers of Peace* serves as a graphic example.

In 1791, the *HMS Chatham* stumbled across a previously unknown chain of islands 900km north of New Zealand. During the crew's initial encounter with the inhabitants–the Moriori–one of the tribesmen was accidentally killed, a harbinger of things to come.

A pseudo-documentary–all of the actors' dialogue is taken directly from the oral histories of those involved–*The Feathers of Peace* chronicles the consequences of the Moriori's decision to adhere to "Nunuku"–a zero-tolerance, non-violence philosophy adopted after years of internal strife. Over the span of a decade, they would be overrun by traders, who brought disease. The Moriori were then nearly obliterated by the warlike Maori who embarked on a campaign of genocide and slavery.

Although the film suffers from trying to be too artistic, and attempts to make the film look old are laughable, the message comes through clearly: might is right. Indeed, this concept is later used in court to deny the Moriori legal redress in land claims negotiations–since they allowed themselves to be conquered, they gave up all rights. The matter-of-fact accounts of the Maori at trial, casually discussing mass murder and absolving their actions by quoting their warrior code, is truly unnerving. Even more disturbing is the realisation that someone, somewhere, is making a real-time documentary of this very subject as I write these words. ❖

–Greg Ursic

GOYA IN BORDEAUX
played at the Vancouver International Film Festival

The lives of painters have long been an irresistible lure for the movies. *Goya in Bordeaux*, may be the finest and most satisfying portrayal of a painter's life ever made.

The film begins and ends with a hypnotic guitar tune, and the image of a slaughtered bull on a chain. The bull eventually morphs into the face of Francisco Jose de Goya y Lucientes who is lying in his death chamber at his home in Bordeaux, France.

As Goya recounts the story of his life to his young daughter Rosario, the story shifts backwards in a series of flashbacks, blending the historical events of Goya's turbulent life with stunning full-scale recreations of his paintings.

The film moves from Goya's early days in Charles IV's corrupt court to Napoleon's brother Joseph Bonaparte's bloody rule over Spain, which inspired Goya's series *The Disasters of War*. As he drifts between consciousness, memory and dream, Goya is haunted by the image of his former lover, Cayetana, the Duchess of Alba, who was poisoned in a court intrigue.

The famous cinematographer Vittorio Storaro captures the style of Goya's paintings, creating fabulous light and colour contrasts, bold and subtle designs, and textures you could almost touch.

The acting fully sustains the illusion of a past epoch. In the hokey Hollywood biopics of Michaelangelo, Toulouse-Lautrec and Van Gogh, you're always aware that an American actor is impersonating a European artist. But Francisco Rabal *is* Goya.

After making films for 40 years, director Carlos Saura takes a pile of risks–staging the paintings using the Catalan-based "action theatre" group La Fura dels Baus against a studio backdrop. The purity, simplicity and grandeur of his style, carries the viewer forward on waves of emotion.

Goya in Bordeaux is the best film I've seen at the Vancouver International Film Festival. I have no complaints, except I wish it were longer. At one hundred minutes, the film feels too short to chronicle such a heroic life. ❖

–Stanley Tromp

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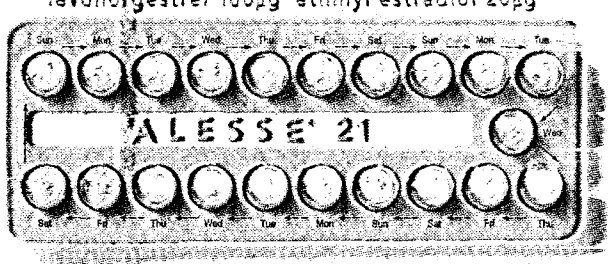

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