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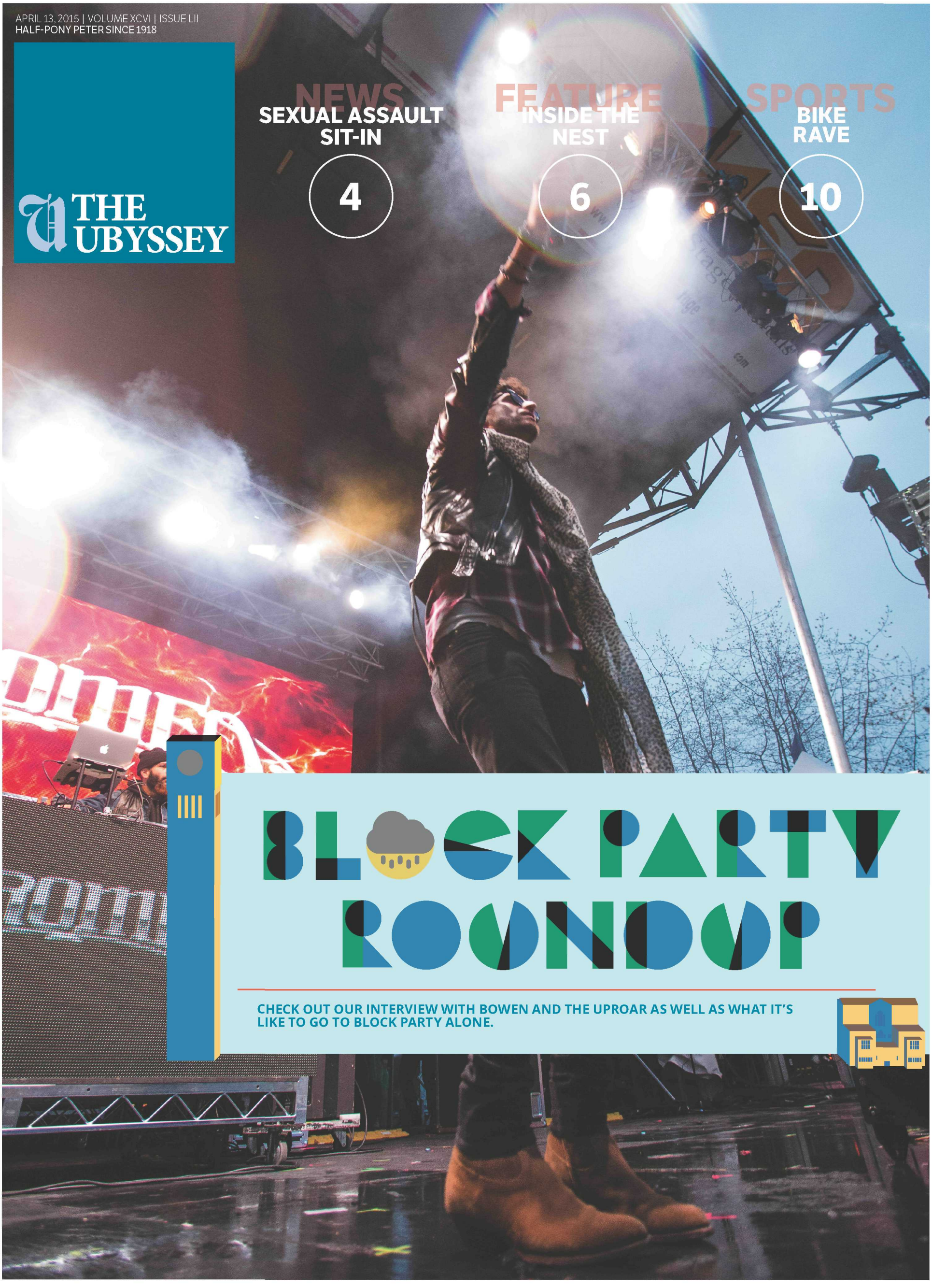

BLOCK PARTY ROUNDUP

CHECK OUT OUR INTERVIEW WITH BOWEN AND THE UPROAR AS WELL AS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO GO TO BLOCK PARTY ALONE.

EVENTS // THIS WEEK, CHECK OUT ...

MONDAY / 13

COMPOSERS' CONCERT

7:30 P.M. @ BARNETT HALL

Featuring some of UBC's best and brightest musical talent, take a chance to relax before exams start by listening to performances by student musicians and composers. *Free*

TUESDAY / 14

TERM TWO EXAMS START

8:30 A.M. @ UBC

It's the most wonderful time of the year. Load up on your favourite caffeinated beverages and get ready to hit the books to make up for that not-so-great midterm grade you received. *The cost of your tuition.*

WEDNESDAY / 15

VIRTUAL REALITY

12:00 - 1:00 P.M. @ NEVILLE SCARFE

As part of the Technology in Transit series, the Faculty of Education will be giving a demonstration of Google's Cardboard virtual reality technology. If it lets us escape the grim reality of our basement office, we're on board. *Free*

ON THE COVER

I got so, so funky.
- Photo Cherihan Hassun

Want to see your events listed here? Email your events listings to **ourcampus@ubyssey.ca**.

THE UBYSSEY

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OUR CAMPUS // ONE ON ONE WITH THE PEOPLE AND BUILDINGS THAT MAKE UBC

PHOTO TIM HOGGAN/THE UBYSSEY

English literature and microbiology major Al Shaibani is one of the most involved people on campus.

Al-Hassan Al Shaibani is UBC's Renaissance Man

Leo Soh
Senior Staff Writer

A degree from UBC consolidates years of study at the institution. For Al-Hassan Al Shaibani, however, receiving his degree will also signify the end of five years of intense involvement with the campus community.

Al Shaibani hails from Baghdad, Iraq, and is now completing his final year of study at UBC. However, he has spent time in various countries around the world, and considers himself a truly global citizen.

"Growing up, I didn't spend more than two years in one country. I was always moving around, and got to experience a lot of international places. I also picked up a few languages along the way."

> **There were a few things I needed to do before I graduate in order to feel complete."**
>
> **Al-Hassan Al Shaibani**
> Fifth-year microbiology and English literature student

Jordan, Panama, Switzerland, South Africa and Dubai are some of the places Al Shaibani has spent time in. Having completed high school in Dubai, Al Shaibani spent a gap year in Montreal and came to UBC.

"Before coming here, I had no idea what I wanted to study, but I did know I was interested in biology. I entered the Faculty of Land and Food Systems studying animal biology, and going into vet school was my intention." But BIOL 112 influenced Al Shaibani to such a degree that he decided to change majors.

"I just realized that I love viruses and bacteria."

However, Al Shaibani's academic interests diversified in second year, and he is now graduating with a double-major degree in microbiology and English literature.

For Al Shaibani, the 2014/15 academic year has been what students affectionately refer to as a 'victory lap', a year spent studying at UBC for more than purely academic reasons. "There were a few things I needed to do before I graduate in order to feel complete."

That Al Shaibani felt certain tasks were left unfulfilled at the end of his fourth year is quite ironic. During his time at UBC, Al Shaibani has been extremely involved.

> **I have 42 ties, but I never wear ties, and I have 13 bow-ties."**

It all began in first year, when Al Shaibani was a first year living on campus.

"Coming into Vancouver not knowing anyone was sort of scary. And so I found that community a really helpful and positive one."

Al Shaibani wanted to become more involved with the residence community and applied to be a residence advisor. He spent his second and third years as an RA at Vanier, and his fourth year as a senior residence advisor at Walter Gage Residence.

"Through becoming involved with residence, I became involved with a few other things along the way. One of the things was the Student Leadership Conference." In his third year, Al Shaibani was a part of the planning committee, and returned in his fourth year to manage the conference logistics. This year, Al Shaibani served as the co-chair, heading the planning committee.

A recent involvement for Al Shaibani has been the Collegia program, the 'home of commuter students.' "I thought that since it's my fifth year and I wanted it to be a little different, I decided to live off campus. And so I thought, 'I'm a commuter student, and I want to work with commuters,' and so I became a Collegia advisor."

Al Shaibani has also been instrumental in turning the Bike Rave into an annual tradition at UBC. "It's a rave that moves around campus on bikes with lights and glowsticks and music. It all ends at the Buchanan courtyard where we have a dance party." This year's Bike Rave 3.0, delayed until April 9 due to rain, was the biggest ever.

Although Al Shaibani greets many people while walking through the streets of UBC, not all of them are acquaintances acquired through involvements. Instead, most of them stop to ask Al Shaibani why he has donned a bow tie on a seemingly innocuous school day. The answer is simple: Al Shaibani always wears a bow tie. "It started as this random thing; it became a sort of a signature. It's one of those things that gets people to start conversations [... and] opens up so many more conversations." His closet now incorporates many, many bow ties. "I have 42 ties, but I never wear ties, and I have 13 bow-ties."

One of the most important things that Al Shaibani has learned at UBC is that the right balance of school and life is integral to success. "You cannot manage your time, you can only manage yourself. UBC as a university has an equal focus on learning inside the classroom and learning outside the classroom. There are things that I did outside the classroom where I gained skills I would have never otherwise learned. ... Public speaking, presentation or how to plan an event ... are really key skills that will help me later on that I don't think memorizing microbes would have helped."

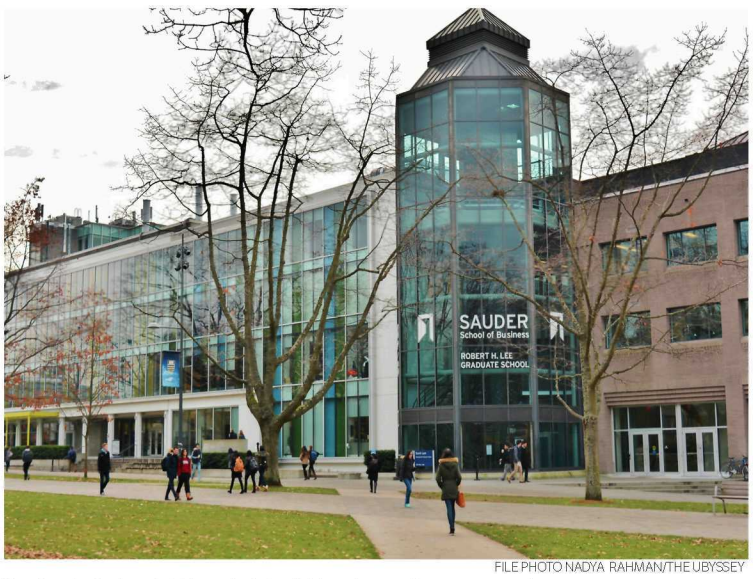
Another factor that shaped Al Shaibani's degree has been the people he has encountered at UBC. "I'm leaving with this whole set of friends that I wouldn't be able to imagine my degree without. I think it would have been very easy to go into my faculty, do my major, get to know my classmates, and leave. But through doing involvements and working on campus, you get to know people who are so, so weird and random and different from you, and I love that."

Al Shaibani left this advice to students looking to get as involved as him.

"Apply for everything. Go put your name out there. There are a lot of people applying for different positions around campus, so it does get competitive, but if you apply for everything you will end up with something."

BUISNESS BLUES »

Schedule changes may cause Sauder students to take Friday classes starting in September



FILE PHOTO NADYA RAHMAN/THE UBYSSEY

Sauder students might have to take Friday classes like everyone else.

Joshua Azizi
Senior Staff Writer

Some Sauder students will soon have to give up their no-class Fridays.

Previously, Sauder classes were scheduled twice a week on either Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays. Due to scheduling changes, there will now also be courses that meet twice a week on either Mondays and Fridays or Wednesdays and Fridays starting in September 2015.

By adding classes on Fridays, Sauder is aiming to optimize classroom space within the Henry Angus building, as well as accommodate for the continuing growth of the Commerce faculty.

"Our programs have been growing over the years, and we are essentially running out of classroom space" said Pamela Lin, Sauder Undergraduate Program assistant dean and director. "By scheduling classes to include Fridays, it allows us to increase capacity by about 25 per cent."

Lin also said that the scheduling of Friday classes means that fewer courses will be scheduled on evenings and weekends. Additionally, the new scheduling doesn't restrict Sauder students from taking certain electives and arranging their schedules to not have class on certain days.

"If students think 'oh I'm just going to try to avoid taking classes on Fridays,' then they'll probably not look at any electives that meet on Monday-Wednesday-Fridays," said Lin.

By including Friday classes, this can increase Commerce student initiatives to take electives with Friday classes. That said, the inclusion of Friday classes could be disruptive for students who could use the extra day for schoolwork, projects, extracurricular activities or family time.

"Sauder students are very busy and they have so many commitments, so Friday was just a really great day to get things done," said second-year Sauder student Tina Tsai. "In Sauder there are group projects, and people have different schedules. It's very hard to find a time and a day to meet up together to work on our projects, so having the whole Friday to work on our projects together was really convenient."

Still, Tsai pointed out that the revised schedules can be of some benefit.

"I think they made the change so that it fits people's schedules better," she said. "There are a lot of students and different conflicting schedules."

According to second-year Sauder student Kimberly Wong, the addition of Friday classes might also be problematic for students who used the extra Friday and Thursday nights to attend networking events.

"There were conferences where I would go to if it was on Friday and that was kind of nice. I didn't have to worry about other courses being in the way, or missing them," said Wong. "If there's a big networking event or something they wanted a lot of students to go to, then they'd know they're not crushing half the student's dreams."

As a result of the scheduling change, events such as conferences, networking events or non-academic programming may have to be pushed into the evenings or weekends.

Despite this, Wong pointed out that the inclusion of Friday classes may be beneficial for students who had to take classes from other faculties on Fridays anyway.

CRIME »

Dead body found on Norman McKenzie House property, RCMP calls death 'suspicious'

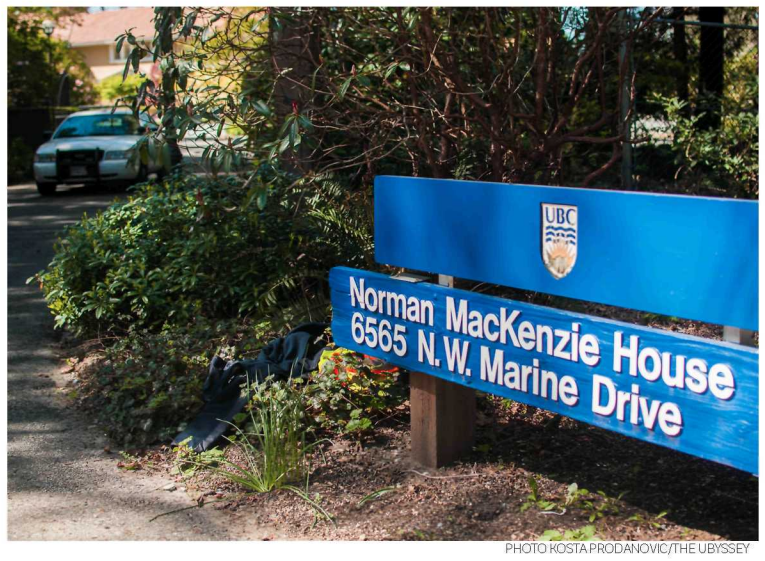


PHOTO KOSTA PRODANOVIC/THE UBYSSEY

A body was found on the property of UBC President Arvind Gupta.

Veronika Bondarenko
News Editor

The RCMP have called the death of a man found on campus suspicious.

At 12:30 p.m. on April 9, the RCMP found the body of a dead man on the property of the Norman McKenzie House, which is the residence of UBC president Arvind Gupta. The name or age of the man have not been released.

The Norman McKenzie House is located on Northwest Marine Drive, next to the UBC Museum of Anthropology, and occupies a fairly large part of the University Endowment Lands.

Barry Eccleton, Director of Campus Security, said that the RCMP was continuing the investigation to find out the details surrounding the death and directed all questions to them.

"The RCMP are on scene, are investigating it," said Eccleton. "A bit more info will come."

According to RCMP Corporal Brenda Winpenny, a release that describes the details of the death will be available once the investigators determine the cause of death.

"The investigators have deemed the death suspicious in nature and have solicited the assistance of the Lower Mainland Specialized Units to assist with the investigation," said Winpenny in a media release.

President Gupta is currently on a trip to China that is meant to attract more international students to UBC. Winpenny said that the death was not related to the president's family.

Want to cover the news? Send us an email. news@ubyssey.ca

THEFT »

Agora Café raising funds after break-in that caused $685 in stolen funds

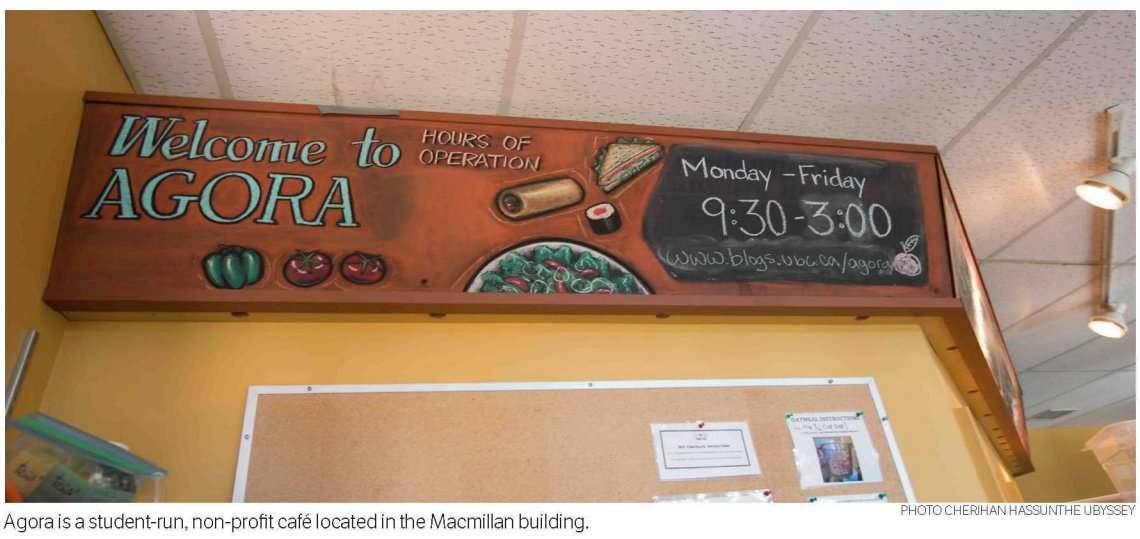


PHOTO CHERIHAN HASSUNTHE UBYSSEY

Agora is a student-run, non-profit café located in the Macmillan building.

Veronika Bondarenko
News Editor

Agora Café is planning to increase their security after a break-in that occurred during Easter Weekend.

On Tuesday, April 7, Agora Café's finance manager came in for her shift after the long weekend. Upon entering the organic cafe in the basement of Macmillan Building, she discovered that the all the doors were unlocked and that the locks on the lockers were missing. A total of $685 was stolen from the restaurant.

According to Katie Mack, general manager of Agora Café, two out of the four lockers contained money in them. One had the daily cash flow of $100 while the other had envelopes with $500 of extra funds to which only the finance manager has access. The thief also took $60 from the cash exchange, but did not touch the cash register or the tip jar.

"The total money that was stolen was $685, although, unusually, they left our tip jar," said Mack. "We had a bunch of change in it, I guess they didn't want the change."

After the break-in was discovered, Agora's staff called Campus Security and the RCMP. Mack also said that the RCMP found evidence of forced entry, with crowbar marks on the latch of the door.

Upon recommendations from the RCMP, the staff is considering installing a deadbolt and security cameras. They are also no longer storing money in the lockers.

"That was the big thing that the RCMP told us that they wanted us to do, to make sure just to deter people from trying this again and making the café itself more safe for our volunteers again," said Mack. "Knowing that it can be easily broken into is kind of scary."

Stephanie Goh, Agora's other general manager, said that the café's deficit budget will ensure that the operational costs are covered, but the loss has still been a setback for the organic café.

"We're a non-for-profit, so all of the workers are students and volunteers, so all of the money we make just goes towards things like operations and the supplies that we order for our function of the café," said Goh.

Both Mack and Goh suspect the break-in to be an inside job, as someone would need to be very familiar with the café's backroom and know that the money was stored in the lockers.

"We think that it was either a volunteer with us or someone that knew the café very well," said Mack. "These are the only people that could have broken in and would have left the cash register untouched."

Agora has a total of over 70 volunteers working at the cafe throughout the year. During the month before the break-in, $20 would also consistently go missing from the daily revenue twice a week and had stopped once the staff changed the locks on the finance locker.

Barry Eccleton, Director of Campus Security, confirmed that a break-in had occurred and that the RCMP were looking into the investigation.

"It was discovered on Tuesday morning when the staff returned," said Eccleton. "There were some lockers that were broken into and an amount of cash that went missing."

Mack also said that Agora's staff have started a GoFundme campaign to recuperate some of the losses and have already raised over $400 in funds, mostly from members of the Agora community.

ACTIVISM »

Students stage sit-in to draw attention to sexual assault, rape culture

PHOTO VICTOR HOGREFE/THE UBYSSEY

Students sat out on the top floor of Koerner's Library to express their frustration with the university's response and education around sexual assault.

Mateo Ospina
Senior Staff Writer

A group of students organized a sit-in protest to draw atttention to the issue of sexual assault on campus.

On Friday, April 8, the administration met with dozens of students outside of UBC president Arvind Gupta's office on the seventh floor of Koerner Library for the "SIT IN AT UBC: Acknowledge Rape Happens" event.

Members of the Women's Centre and other UBC activist groups marched from the SUB to the president's office in Koerner Library in order to share their grievances about how the university handles education around sexual assault.

Leaders of the Women's Centre collective began by explaining their frustration at current campaigns around sexual assault such as the Don't Walk Alone posters that have been put up throughout the university.

"We're sick and tired of the same old trite rhetoric of don't walk alone," said one of the collective's representatives.

In President Gupta's absence due to a trip to China, the university sent UBC VP Students, Louise Cowin, to address the students' concerns.

"The university would like to work with you in cooperation and collaboration to ensure that your needs are met," said Cowin. "We have made significant efforts to create, to identify and educate on what sexual assault is."

Cowin's speech, focusing on the unity between students with a desire to bring change and the university's willingness to act, was met with criticism from student leaders.

Kelly Gerlings, a fourth-year Arts student, recalled her involvement with the IAmAStudent movement, where the university outwardly stated that they were willing to work with students while none of the needs were actually met.

"They are not connected to the student experience whatsoever. They don't see us, they don't hear us," Gerlings said. "I'm not convinced the university will actually do anything."

As with UBC's response to student concerns about tuition and residence fee increases, many of the students felt neglected by how the university attempts to combat the issue of sexual assault on campus. They wanted to be more involved in the decision-making and consultation processes when it comes to policy changes.

This year the students assembled a list of specific goals they wanted the administration to address. These include funding for an independent sexual assault survivors group and increased training for residence advisors and Frosh leaders.

Emily Monaghan, a second-year Arts student, believes that the Women's Centre has learned from their past experiences with activism and communication with the administration.

"Last year we wanted to exert our rage collectively, we wanted to create visibility," said Monaghan, of the protests that occurred following the string of sexual assaults on campus in the fall of 2013. "This is specifically addressing the administration. We narrowed our scope, our reach was more direct and coming with a clear list of demands is more productive that way."

Throughout the morning, students met the administration's rhetoric of meetings and working together with requests for specific dates and promises from the university.

Students also criticized UBC's policies on the education around sexual assault and their attempts to claim a campus safety that does not align with the experiences of students.

Alexis Wolfe, a second-year Arts student, said that the university's emphasis on how safe the campus is does not line up with the sexual assault statistics.

"The university is creating a product to sell to women's parents," said Wolfe. "It's very clear that they're trying to sell this package of safety, that sexual assault is on the decline. It's not true, women don't feel like they can go anywhere."

Members of the Women's Centre collective also pointed out that during many first year orientations, there will be discussions about safe sex and distribution of condoms and lubricants, but less emphasis placed on educating students about what constitutes sexual assault and where to report it.

The Women's Centre hopes to push the university to address these issues by lobbying for self-defence training for women and LGBTQ students and providing education sessions.

Anne Kessler, the outgoing AMS VP academic, came to the event to observe the discussion. She also mentioned that the AMS supports student movements and their right to address the administration.

"As a current exec on AMS I think that [sexual assault] is something we should be talking about," said Kessler.

Student activists noted that one difficulty in getting the attention of the university lies in the fact that the majority of students rarely appeal to the administration for change. Though some mentioned that the administration's will to listen should not be based on the numbers of students that appear at events, many expressed their desire to see a future where activist groups collaborate in order to create stronger coalitions.

Gerlings also said that student activists hope to see greater numbers and more support from their campus in addressing student issues in the coming year, with resource groups and student activism networks assisting one another.

"We need to get more people together," said Gerlings. "Then, we can bring everyone together and keep that pressure on the university."

MEDICINE »

Pilot project for free, on-site oral cancer testing comes to select pharmacies

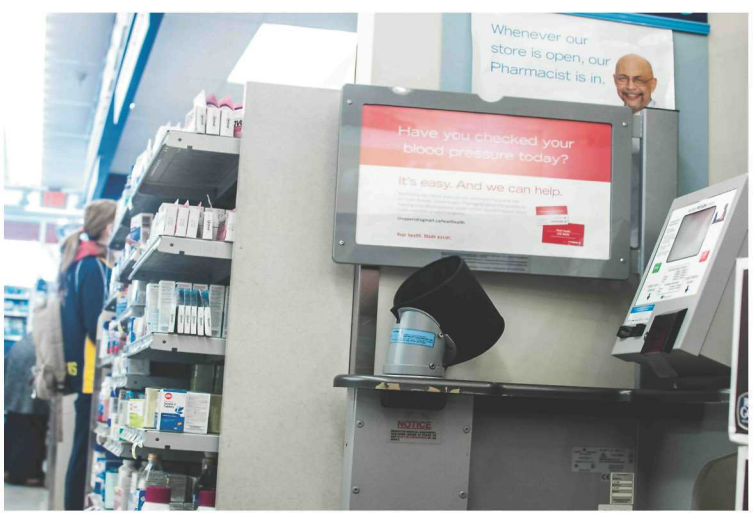


PHOTO KOSTA PRODANOVIC/THE UBYSSEY

UBC Dentistry and London Drugs are trying to bring oral cancer screening to pharmacies.

Emma Partridge
Staff Writer

Members of UBC Dentistry have helped a unique cancer screening pilot project become a reality.

London Drugs is launching a project that will allow pharmacy customers to be screened on site for oral cancer. The program will use visually enhanced lesion scope (VELscope) technology to look for possible abnormalities.

"The VELscope essentially is used as a way, akin to enhance[ing] the vision," said Samson Ng, a clinical assistant professor at UBC Dentistry. "It's essentially just an additional tool to highlight the area of potential problems."

Ng has helped London Drugs define the parameters of the program in terms of what needs to be done logistically and administratively. Other UBC Dentistry students and hygienists will be aiding with the screening itself.

"We're helping provide some volunteers to assist with the screening, so these are graduate dental hygienists or dental hygiene students from UBC," said Denise Laronde, an assistant professor at UBC Dentistry,

The VELscope technology emits a bright light when inspecting the mouth. Healthy tissue will appear bright green while unhealthy spots will appear darker and start to glow when there is potential problem. The screenings will be available to all, but will mainly target patients who are at higher risk of developing oral cancer.

"They would target patients who are at risk," said Ng. "Because, in [a] pharmacy setting, they know quite a bit about the patient's history, the medical history."

Laronde also said that, as helpful as the technology is, these on-site screenings are not a comprehensive cancer assessment and VELscope alone is not a diagnostic tool. In cases where cancer is suspected, the patient will be referred elsewhere for further examination.

"It's by no means diagnostic," said Laronde. "In some cases it'll help [clinicians] maybe with their decision-making on whether that person has to be referred forward for further follow up."

According to Ng, one of the main benefits of doing this type of screening is increased awareness.

"Our hope is, through the activity, to enhance the public awareness of oral cancer and also as a channel to explore or to discuss about the risk factor reduction with the patient," said Ng.

As with any cancer, early detection results in better outcomes for the patients. Oral surgery to remove the cancer once it has progressed can be debilitating. Awareness of the disease and its symptoms is therefore key, given that the Canadian Cancer Society statistics estimate that that around 4,300 Canadians will be diagnosed with oral cancer this year.

"Raising awareness is very important because, you know, not a lot of people know about oral cancer," said Laronde. "I've had people say, I didn't know you could get cancer in the mouth."

If the pilot goes well, the project will be expanded from approximately 18 London Drugs pharmacies in B.C. to the rest of the country.

ILLUSTRATION JULIAN YU/THE UBYSSEY

LAST WORDS //

PARTING SHOTS AND SNAP JUDGEMENTS FROM THE UBYSSEY EDITORIAL BOARD

THE END OF AN ERA

It's Wednesday night, you're already tired of school and it's too far away from Friday, it's exchange night for the Greeks and you are really craving a cheap T-Bird lager. Perfectly situated on campus, the Pit has always seemed like such a perfect place to wind down after a hard Monday and Tuesday.

For the last two years I have gone to the Pit almost every single Wednesday. In all that time, there have been certain things that I have noticed remain pretty consistent:

- You can never have a beer at the pit without spilling at least a little bit of it.
- The closer you are to the pillar on the dance floor, the closer you are to hooking up with someone.
- The T-Bird lager makes you feel like pit in the morning.
- DJ Good Spin playing the same playlist EVERY GOD DAMN TIME (this includes Ignition, Don't Stop Believing and Get Low)
- Waiting just as long in the beer line as you did to get in.

And that's just to name a few.

Last Wednesday as I walked up the stairs to the smokers pit and left the music fading behind me it finally hit me that this might actually be the real LAST last Pit Night in the old sub. By a twist of fate, just a week before I had met the AMS president from the year 1962, the one responsible for the beginning of the Pit era. Talking to him about how it all started and in exchange me telling him how it was now showed me just how much the Pit has shaped the social lives of UBC students.

The Pit has offered many great memories and horrible mornings, but I'm not going to lie I am absurdly excited for a new Pit with sky lights.

BLOCK PARTY WAS WET, BUT WILD

The weather for Friday's Block Party was less-than-ideal, with grey skies, chilling winds and frequent showers marring an otherwise cheerful occasion.

Overall, though, the event ran smoothly — from what we could see — and other than a higher-than-usual incidence of shattered phones (pavement has a tendency to do that), there were no major problems. The acts ranged from adequate to outstanding. Though people weren't thrilled about the cold, it seemed that by the end of the night, the combination of dancing, thousands of bodies packed together in front of the stage and the cheerful atmosphere meant that people came to embrace the drenched clothes as part of the experience.

We were particularly impressed by Tokyo Police Club and Yukon Blonde's performances, with the latter proving more successful than many of its counterparts from previous years in drawing people toward the stage quite early on in the night.

All-in-all, despite being held in a parking lot and having had pretty awful luck with the weather, the 8th Annual Block Party was a night to remember (though for a few, possibly a night they want to forget).

OUR RESIDENT SAUDER STUDENT ON FRIDAY CLASSES

NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!! WHYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY?!"

COUNCIL SQUABBLES

If the last AMS Council meeting showed us anything, it's that the society's entire executive evaluation system is one hot and unprofessional mess. After President Tanner Bokor was formally reprimanded for an agitated phone call he made to members of the Oversight Committed, he forfeited his share of the PAI allocation and asked to withdraw from the performance evaluation that comes with it. Council denied his request on grounds that executives should not be able to just opt out of the evaluation by refusing their bonus.

So many problems, so little space. Despite what some of the Councillors have said, the current PAI allocation is meant strictly to distribute bonus money by looking at how the executives have reached their goals. While we agree that people who hold public office should not be able to drop out of a performance review, PAI should also not be the only way to examine performance. If the sole way that the AMS is holding its executives accountable is through this pot of $5,000, it's clear that something needs to change. Here's a particularly wild idea: independent reviews at other times in the year.

But can we also talk about the fact that members of the Oversight Committee (as in, other Councillors) will be evaluating the performance of the execs and distributing PAI allocations? Peer review is important, of course, but the fact that it is the only type of evaluation the execs go through only serves to hammer home the need for professional reviews that are independent of bonuses. As has been seen in several past years, the risk of personal politics and intra-Council pettiness coming into play rises substantially when you have students evaluating other students and the possibility of getting a larger share of $5,000 dangling over executive's heads.

We hope this is not what provincial and federal politics is like, but we are also not holding our breath in the expectation.

NATALIE MORRIS
Advice Columnist

"I keep getting emails about course evaluations. Is this even necessary? It doesn't make sense that we can't fill them out after final exams, so what's the point?"

If you have a TA, sessional instructor or new professor, these course evaluations are actually extremely important to their career at UBC. These course evaluations are a good indication for their department on how they are doing, how the students feel about them and if they should be hired on again. Your reporting bad teachers and classes really help the department decide what is working and what (or who) isn't.

As for professors, if may seem like the decision to keep them is already made, but professors that are hired for teaching rather than research are more influenced by these evaluations than you think. There are bonuses and raises that are heavily dependent on their teaching evaluations. Research-focused professors are subject to this as well. Even if they are on contract, your input has real effects on your professor.

That being said, even if you don't have strong opinions about your professors or TAs either way, just filling out the evaluations says something to the department. I've heard before that the completion rate for classes average at about 20 per cent. That's not great.

So fill out your evaluations, even if you're pissed that you can't put any information about the final exam, which is understandable.

But let's be honest, would you really fill the evaluation after you finished your class? No — if you're anything like me, you purge your mind after finals. I try to never think about how my classes went after exams, so my evaluation wouldn't be any use — if I managed to force myself to fill them out.

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Elections BC is administering the vote-by-mail plebiscite from March 16 to May 29, 2015.

You can vote if you are:

- A Canadian citizen
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- A resident of B.C. for at least six months, on or before May 29, 2015
- Registered to vote in B.C.
- Living in Metro Vancouver

You can ask for a voting package to be mailed to you by calling 1-800-661-8683 or online at elections.bc.ca/ovr. You can ask for a voting package until midnight on Friday, May 15, 2015.

Elections BC **must** receive your completed ballot package **before 8 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2015.**

Visit elections.bc.ca or call 1-800-661-8683 for more information.

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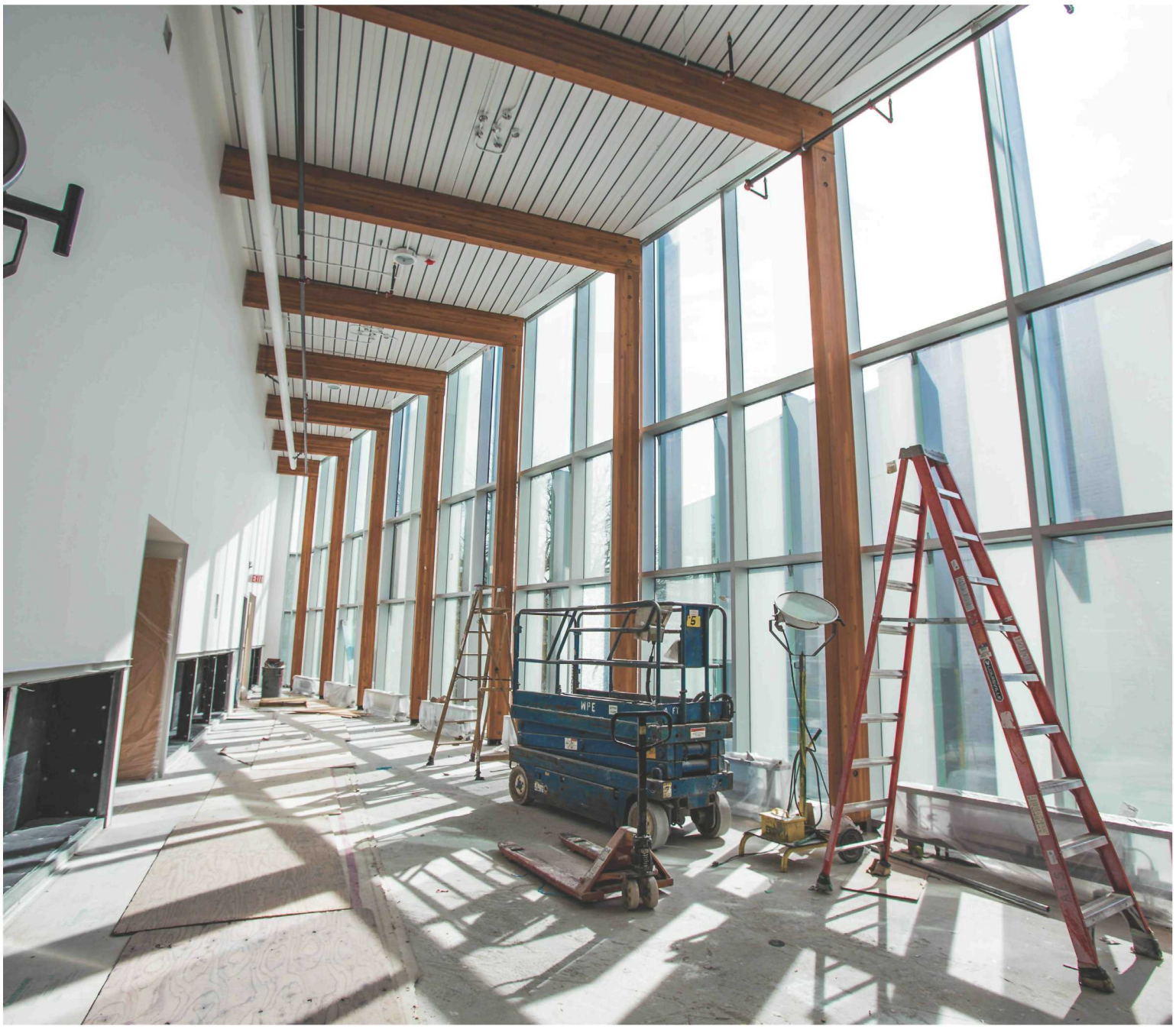
AMS STUDENT NEST

BY LEO SOH

An in-depth insight into what really contributed to the long delays in the building's construction.



MICHAEL KINGSMILL
AMS DESIGNER

"It was a combination of functionality, cost of renovation, and what would happen to the society during the renovation."

THE QUESTION

Barring any new setbacks, the new SUB, formally named the AMS Student Nest, will be opening before summer is upon us. So, how has the AMS financed the project, what were the setbacks really all about and is the Nest going to live up to expectations?

FINANCES

With the building lifespan of the current SUB drawing to a close, the AMS had three options moving forwards: full renovation of the existing SUB; part renovation and part expansion into University Square; or the construction of a new building on University Square. The cost for each option was roughly the same, and the AMS Council unanimously agreed upon the third option in 2008. According to AMS Designer Michael Kingsmill, "It was a combination of functionality, cost of renovation and what would happen to the society during the renovation."

THE PLAN

The passing of a student referendum in April 2008 allowed for an incremental increase in student fees to raise the $80 million needed for the project. The AMS was then able to move forward and develop the detailed program and design for the new SUB project, and complete a set of legal documents with UBC.

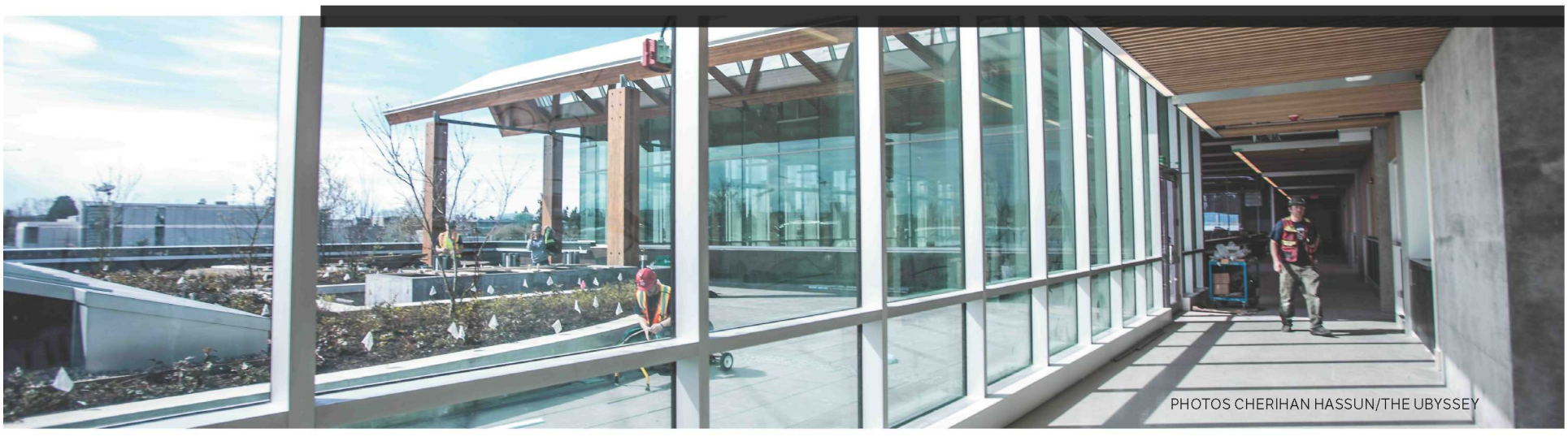
THE BUDGET

$80 mil from student fees – given to UBC Properties Trust

- Protected pools of money for AMS use – AMS Cost Centres
- $80 yearly fee per student starting in 2008
- Increments start when building opens (+$10/yr) and cap at $100
- Money initially loaned from UBC at 5.75 per cent interest

$25-26 million in donations from UBC

- Any additional donations do not increase the total budget; goes towards repaying the university's donation



PHOTOS CHERIHAN HASSUN/THE UBYSSEY

LOOKING FORWARD

Inspired by Build Simon Fraser University's implementation of external funding, the AMS is exploring options that will decrease overall costs of building the new SUB.

According to AMS VP Admin Ava Nasiri, transferring the AMS's loan from UBC to an external bank, such as BMO or TD could decrease the interest on the $80 million loan from the current 5.75 per cent to 3-4 per cent, which over the decades could save the AMS anywhere from $6-26 million. Nothing has been confirmed, but the AMS is striving to improve funding options.

DELAYS

With so much custom design, minor changes have a huge impact on the overall momentum of the project. The construction teams are working at full capacity, but there is a shortage of specialized teams and several setbacks with potentially high costs have limited progress.

Although there has been comprehensive coverage of the delays themselves, the public has not been offered a narrative of what's been going on behind the scenes.

CONSTRUCTION STRUCTURE

Many students blame the AMS for the delays, but the internal structure of the project team is much more complicated.

The AMS are in conversation with the UBC Properties Trust (UBC PT), who maintains direct contact with DIALOG (design & coordination) and BIRD Construction, who are responsible for the management of the drywall, electrical, and construction teams.

Due to the unique nature of the Student Nest, many of DIALOG's designs cannot be implemented directly, and the construction team constantly finds themselves needing to make minor changes to the design. The problem, then, is that every one of these changes needs to be approved by the AMS and the UBC PT, and this causes huge delays in construction. To quote VP Admin Nasiri, "It is a cancer that won't go away."

The construction team is now getting ready for the occupancy walkthrough, planned for end of April. AMS Designer Kingsmill likens the preparation to studying for an exam. Pre-walkthroughs include testing the smoke evacuation system by setting off a smoke bomb in the Agora. If the occupancy walkthrough is successful, the AMS will acquire a certificate of occupancy and they will be able to finally open the Student Nest.

The AMS Student Nest features a significant amount of wood finishing, and several construction delays have occurred due to the complexity of implementing them.

CONSTRUCTION ISSUES

Fins on the Nest (October 2014~)

The fins on the outer surface of the AMS Performance Centre have contributed significantly to delays. According to Nasiri, the construction team faced a potential $500,000 overage in implementing these, and were forced to change their approach. The fins are now being machine-built and finished by hand. Each fin requires three to four lifts to install, which only adds to the difficulty. Kingsmill described the issues further, "the height of the ceiling made it impossible to work on ladders, so we've had to work on scissor lifts and on boom cranes." Due to these complexities, construction has been moving at a snail's pace.

Wood Inset Stairs (December 2014~)

The stairs in the basement of the Student Nest were initially designed to have wooden tips, but this led to complications. Extra effort would be necessary in molding the cement portions of the stairs in order to fit the wood inset design, and this could have led to an additional cost of $60,000.

The main contribution to delays was the sheer amount of coordination required to implement changes. As Kingsmill describes, "Every change order has a flow, and that flow takes it across many people's desks."

After much consultation, the AMS and UBC Properties Trust decided to use plywood. According to Kingsmill, "It'll be much more expedient in terms of the hours involved and the amount and type of materials."

Fire Safety Consultation (March 2015)

Due to a discrepancy between the plans that had previously been laid out for fire sprinklers and the consultant's interpretation of the fire code during a recent walkthrough of the building, a late-April/early-May opening of the AMS Student Nest has been jeopardized. A small issue like this is more harmful than it seems as it inhibits the management from resolving larger issues.

The delays have been extremely frustrating not only for students, but for all parties involved, especially the AMS. The first delay in construction pushed the opening date to January 5, a date the construction teams were fully confident would work. When they received a notice of delay in October, the AMS were extremely disappointed. Nasiri said, "we were crushed; it was a lot to digest for the AMS."

The earliest possible opening date, according to Nasiri, is sometime in mid-May. However, the AMS is hoping to give students the opportunity to tour the Student Nest during and after finals and the construction teams are prioritizing the completion of public spaces over areas for more exclusive use, such as the AMS Council Chambers and the Perch. Exactly when the Student Nest will be ready to open its doors is unclear, but it may finally be time to put away our cynicism and get excited for the new SUB.

WE'VE WAITED AND WAITED; IT HAD BETTER BE GOOD.

Despite the numerous disappointments, the building itself is truly exciting. The AMS Student Nest hopes to deliver a fresh SUB experience for students with five floors, each with a distinct identity. The lower floors provide public space for general use, and the upper floors feature spaces for more exclusive use.

BASEMENT — CONCOURSE AND THE PIT

The Nest's design allows for so much natural light that students many not even notice that this is the basement floor, but it is definitely below ground level. This level has the Agora, the main concourse, and is a place to chill, eat and mingle.

The new Pit, which has been completely revamped into a lounge/nightclub and given skylights, will also be located here. With TV's in every stall and a large media wall, or a mural-sized TV, the Pit has been given a definite upgrade. Skylights provide natural lighting to the new Pit, and will contribute to the fresh atmosphere.

The basement and level one host the food outlets. The variety of foods has improved, and the businesses have transformed into avant-garde fast-casual dining experiences. Furthermore, all of them, including the Perch, will be accepting the UBC Card as a form of payment.

Another cool feature will be Timber the tree, which will interact with its environment by, for example, drooping its branches during quiet times and spreading its arms during busier hours.

This floor will also house the Clubs Resource and Sustainability Centre, which will be the pinnacle of sustainability in the Student Nest.

By teaching students and clubs more sustainable practices and through programs such as equipment rentals for clubs, the CRSC will hopefully raise the already high standards for sustainability at UBC.

LEVEL ONE — SPY ON THE BASEMENT OR LOOK UP AT THE NEST

This floor offers a view down into the Agora, and also features some concourse space, where students will be able to hang out, eat and study.

Level One will also be the new home of AMS services Speakeasy and Safewalk, as well as the campus radio, CiTR.

As the Basement and Level One host the food outlets, expect heavy traffic on these floors during lunchtime. But don't fret; live music will be playing, so waiting in line for lunch should be more enjoyable in the Student Nest.

LEVEL TWO – REVAMPED MULTI-PURPOSE SPACE

With large bookable rooms, the Great Hall, the AMS Performance Centre and various other multi-purpose spaces, this floor will serve as the main level for events of all sizes.

The Art Gallery will be renamed the Hatch and moved to this level in the new SUB.

The Ubyssey's new office will also be on this floor, meaning the editors will finally be able to intake Vitamin D at work.

Students will be happy to find seven pocket lounges dispersed throughout the building on levels two to three. Each pocket lounge features a unique theme (e.g. music/hi-tech) and has a sink, couches and other useful utilities.

LEVEL 3 – AMS AND CLUBS

Lots of current club offices are dismal places, and many clubs are looking forward to an upgrade. This floor is exactly that. With several clusters of club offices, each connected with a common lounge space, this floor will definitely improve the quality of life for many club executives. The addition of what Kingsmill describes as "a truckload of new club lockers" will help as well. Level 3 also houses the AMS governance offices.

LEVEL 4 – FINE DINING, LONG MEETINGS AND A ROOFTOP GARDEN

The only drawback to the design of this floor is that, to get to the beautiful rooftop garden and Perch restaurant, you have to climb up five flights of stairs. Or, if you detest walking, take one of the three beautiful glass elevators.

In case you missed it, yes, there is a stunning rooftop garden. Kingsmill said, "It was almost like how could we not come up with the idea. Rooftop gardens are the soup de soir of sustainable buildings."

Students may want to join the Rooftop Garden Club and supply the Perch with (very) locally grown ingredients.

Many students will likely find themselves on this floor enjoying the view, possibly dropping in on meetings held in the Forum, the AMS's new council chambers, or relaxing in the Grad Student Society lounge.

Being alone at Block Party doesn't suck

Keagan Perlette
Staff Writer

Sometimes friends cancel on you. Sometimes you're just awkward. Sometimes you get a last minute media pass and the event sold out weeks ago and no one can get time off work, so you have to go it alone.

I wasn't even planning on going to Block Party, but there I was watching the rain come down hard on the bus windows as I rode to the parking lot on Agronomy road, one beer and one cooler in. I felt a vague sense of dread: I would be alone, but it was also raining, which meant that perhaps everyone would leave and there I would be, standing in front of a huge stage, soaking wet, tipsy and all by my tiny self.

When I got past the fence, I wove my way into the VIP section, furiously texting a friend who said that she might be there. This is nearly impossible at Block Party because you can say "the tent" but do you mean the first aid tent? The beer tent? The sound board tent? I couldn't get ahold of her, the other impediment being borderline inebriation on both our parts. I grabbed another beer and stood shyly with some people I recognized and made small talk.

A disgruntled acquaintance poured his beer into mine and went home. Suddenly, Tokyo Police Club struck the first few chords of their opening song and everyone crashed towards the stage, hands in the air.

It wasn't hard for me to squeeze my way in to the very, very front, pressed tight against the barrier, a whole sea of people pressing on my back.

I've been waiting to see Tokyo Police Club since I was 13 and I was not disappointed. The two girls next to me were clearly just as enthralled. They sang every song to each other at the top of their lungs even though they were at the mercy of the heaving crowd. TPC didn't hold back. As the drizzle continued to pour, their passionate performance kept everyone dancing and singing along. David Monks, lead singer and bassist called out a guy in the front row on his tank top. He was bringing us the sun, we should all try to be more like him, and the crowd erupted in an impromptu chant "TANK TOP GUY."

I watched a girl lose her shoe as she was lifted into the hands of a waiting security guard, and a dude in a safari hat float over the crowd. I hated to hear Monks say that they only had one more song for us, I wasn't ready to leave my cozy spot at the front of the stage, I wanted to feel the energy of the crowd forever.

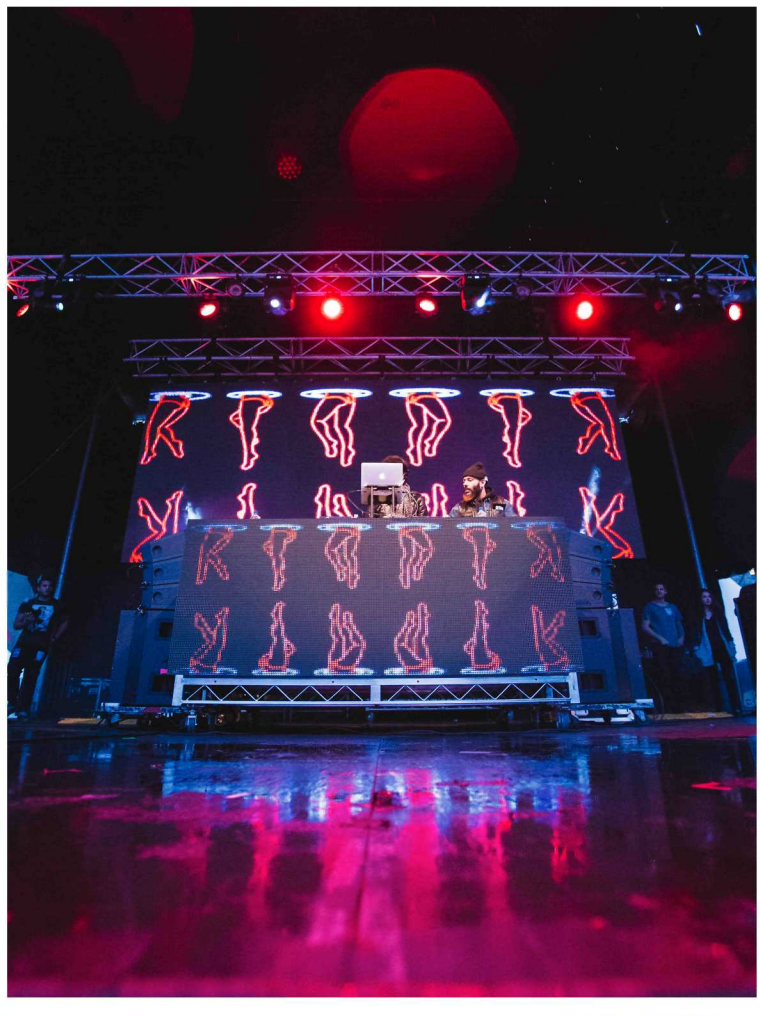
I pushed my way back out of the crowd just in time to get a FaceTime call from my friend who I was supposed to meet. I couldn't hear a word she was saying, but just behind her was the purple Super Thai food truck. Once we'd hugged it out and purchased some food, we wandered back over to the stage. That Thai food was so delicious that when a random girl passed me in the crowd and asked for a bite I was obligated to say yes. Everyone should have tried that Thai food.

The sky was turning to peachy sunset and suddenly it was dark and it was raining hard and Chromeo was on and everyone was dancing in one rain-soaked wave. Plastic ponchos didn't stop people from tangling themselves up in one another. My glasses fogged up and I couldn't see anything but the coloured stage lights reflecting off of the raindrops as they drenched the crowd. I quickly lost my friend in the frenzy and, of course, my phone died. It wasn't hard to find other people to dance with, everyone was all smiles and shouts and open arms. Chromeo even played their hit "Jealous" twice, although don't quote me on that because by that time I was too wrapped up in dancing as hard as I could and screaming lyrics to the blue and red illuminated sky.

I was genuinely sad when the crowd dissipated, the way home was the worst part of the night. "Jealous" was stuck in my head for the rest of the night. As the streetlights passed on the bus ride back, I realized that this was the only time I felt alone all evening.

BLOCK PARTY ROUNDUP

check out ubyssey.ca for more



Bowen and the Uproar performed their biggest show yet

PHOTO COURTESY PATRICK GILLIN

Rain or shine, Bowen and the Uproar sought to bring great music to students.

Gabriel Germaix
Senior Staff Writer

"If the crowd is having a good time, we are having the best time on the planet," said Chris Goodwill, third-year English major and guitarist of Bowen and the Uproar. He made it clear that the collective was a "live" band. Fortunately for him and his fellow musicians, that is exactly what was asked of them when they performed at Block Party.

Bowen and the Uproar got its ticket to perform at Block Party by winning this year's Last Band Standing competition.

"On the final night, we ended up winning the competition by one vote, so it was very very close," said Goodwill. The band was created in the fall by merging musicians from two former bands, Rebel on a Mountain and Young Pacific.

The merger united two experiences of live music and the new band quickly established its taste for interactivity with the crowd. "We like to include everyone, we like to talk, we like to introduce ourselves to the crowd," said Goodwill. "I have never been in a band like this before, where it has been so much communication with the people who are coming to see the show."

The band's signature style has to do with clap-along rhythms and sing-along lyrics. "I would definitely say it is quite "pop-y." Of course we do not stick to the standard pop song," he said. "We include a lot of very melodic, catchy vocals and lyrics." The six-piece band includes a trumpet and a keyboard to boost the traditional "drummer, bassist, guitar, singer" formation, and hopes to make people cheer no matter how early they play or how bad the weather is.

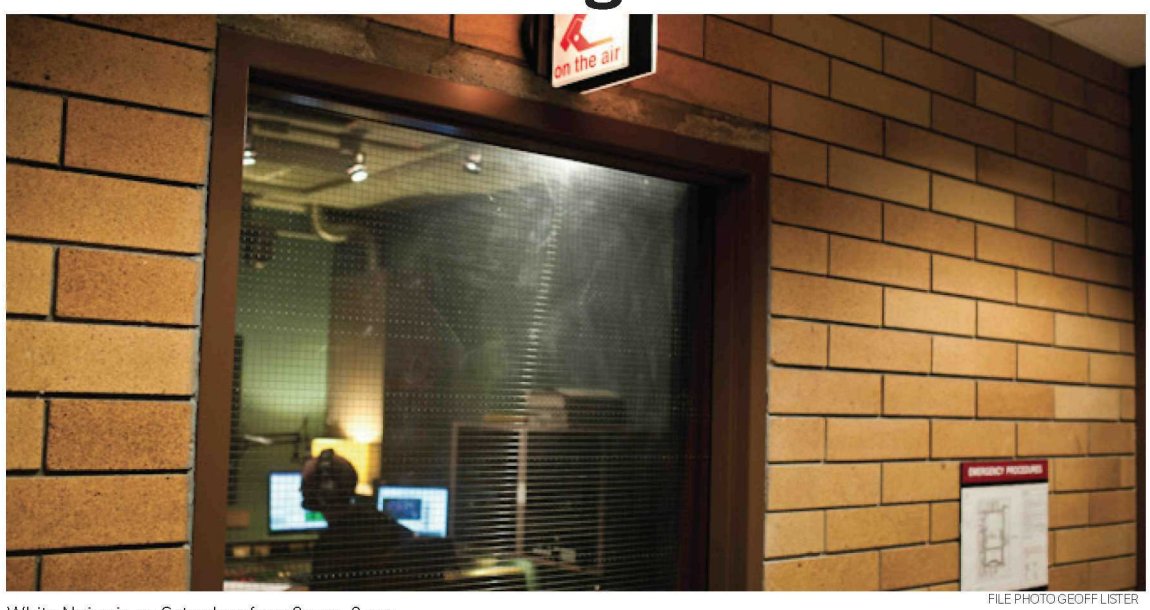
The looming clouds could remind people of the 2013 Block Party. But in the eye of Goodwill, even the rain can't stop students from having a good time. He was in the crowd that year, for his first Block Party.

"It was an example of very good UBC school spirit. Everyone, despite the bad weather, showed up, had a great time.... To me it was the launching point for the rest of my UBC career."

PHOTOS CHERIHAN HASSUN/THE UBYSSEY

COMEDY »

White Noise brings satire to CiTR



FILE PHOTO GEOFF LISTER

White Noise is on Saturdays from 8 p.m.-9 p.m.

Chole Lai
Staff Writer

After an intense debate, a Norwegian heavy-metal rocker turns into a demon and devours his opponent. The Chinese national soccer team improves its game by allowing child labourers to practice with the soccer balls they're manufacturing. An Olympic team of corporate CEOs goes for gold in the ultimate Union Crushing event.

Confused? You need to tune in to CiTR's satirical comedy show, White Noise.

Hosted by the eccentric, fictitious Richard Blackmore, voiced by UBC undergrad and show creator Simon Welton, White Noise features "intentionally absurdist" sketches designed to provoke conversations about the real-world issues behind the tropes it employs.

Welton, originally from England, was drawn to Vancouver by its thriving comedy community and calls stand-up comedy "the greatest drug you'll ever try."

But it wasn't enough. Chafing against the limitations of the form and determined to build a more meaningful framework for his incisive sense of humour, Welton came to UBC and enrolled in philosophy, with a minor in psychology.

"The idea being that it covers the human condition," he said, "so that when I write, I have something to say."

White Noise is built on Welton's original content, and performed by himself and his cast: Victoria Bass, Marianna Mattes, Connor Nechelput and Sierra Wylie.

It is an unexpectedly diverse group. Bass, for example, is a graduate of The Juilliard School and was once a professional cellist. She now conducts research in UBC's chemistry department while fulfilling the prerequisites for her application to medical school.

"I just decided to stop doing the thing I happened to be good at, and try to do the thing I actually wanted to do," she said.

While Bass may be serious about becoming a doctor, her love of comedy is equally undeniable. She and local improv actress Raquel Belmonte host a podcast called The Bacheloreats, in which local improvisers and stand-up comics are invited to dinner parties featuring unconventional food items. Bass will also be performing in The Imaginary Invalid, Molière's famous comedy, at the Jericho Arts Centre this summer.

Mattes, who identifies herself as "Aquarius sun, Libra moon," writes her own comics, and names Louis CK as her favourite comedian, seems destined for a similarly unpredictable career path. Although her admission to UBC's BFA acting program initially felt like the natural choice for someone who had long dreamed of being an actor, she finds herself increasingly drawn to other art forms.

"The more I make myself work at theatre, the more I love visual arts, music and film," she said. In a dubious British accent, she continued, "White Noise has become a core part of not only my shed-jool, but my heart."

The show is divided into two parts: the first half hour is filled with sketches in the form of debates, interviews with fictional characters and sporting events. The second half is billed as an after show, and features interviews with cast members or local comedians. Anyone considering a career in comedy will find this portion particularly valuable, as it offers insider advice from professionals and up-and-comers on breaking into the scene, finding good venues, personal philosophies and anecdotes about life on tour.

Several big names have already joined Welton in the booth, notably Kelly Dyer and Ed Hill, the latter recently named "Best Vancouver Comedian of 2015" by the West Ender magazine. Byron Bertram, another critically-acclaimed comic, will be on the show in May.

With six gleefully irreverent and surprisingly informative episodes under its belt, and so much more to come, White Noise may be just the thing to keep you sane and silly during the end of the semester.

THEATRE »

Love, Lust & Lace to be performed to raise funds for theatre trip

Jamie Dee
Contributor

Love, Lust & Lace debuted back in October with an astonishing wave of positive feedback from the audience. Now, the 2016 BFA acting class is bringing the show to Axis Theatre to raise funds for the shows' performance at the Edinburgh fringe Festival.

On stage April 24 and 25, UBC's 2016 BFA acting class, in collaboration with the Axis Theatre's artistic director, Chris McGregor, returns the heartening stories of love and friendship for two very different sisters.

What started out as a mere class project turned into one of the greatest joys for the cast and a memorable experience for the audience. The performances are heavily improvised allowing for audience participation.

Elizabeth Willow, who portrays Columbina, conveys the story came to life from "stalk characters with set characteristics, movements and vocal types," to characters with unique personalities and relatable experiences for the audience. The story centres on two sisters, Columbina dreaming of love and family while the naughty Smeraldina dreams of adventure and promiscuity. It tells the story of Il Capitano's (Francis Winter) struggle to win the heart of Columbina and how Smeraldina (Selene Rose) and the girls' father Pantalone (Meegin Pye) have schemes to foil this growing relationship.

"Two different desires that anyone could have," said Willow as she further explained how the play touches on issues of sexuality and gender, with underlying aspects of female liberation and empowerment. This Commedia dell'Arte performance is sure to keep the audience laughing from the clowned cast's performance and "make people question on judgments and why society assigns the label naughty and nice," said Willow. The performance ends with a Burlesque number, choreographed by Kelsey Ranshaw and Elizabeth Willow, you're sure to enjoy.

The performance has been admitted to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for the summer of 2016 in Scotland. The April 24 and 25 performances will be held in order to fundraise for that event and to fund the cast's planned Fringe tour across Canada, specifically in Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton and Montreal.

"Our arts are well-renowned and very important and it's more of getting UBC's name out there as a theatre school," said Willow when asked how this fundraiser and the possibility of an across Canada tour was important for UBC's theatre department.

The fundraiser will host musical performances by DJ Laz3rd, solo act Baron Vaughn Swenson and the Car Alarm Party band, featuring Nathan Cottell. There will also be a 50/50 draw and a silent auction with awesome prizes, such as tickets to different theatre companies, art works by Canadian artists, unlimited yoga passes for a month and many more the audience can bid on.

"It's one of those stories that is, as much as it is a comedy and ridiculous, it's also very heartfelt," said Willow. "People can just expect a lot of laughs and genuine enjoyment in two nights of music, theatre and arts."

Love, Lust & Lace *will be performed at UBC Theatre's April fundraiser at Dorothy Somerset Studio April 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at $15.*

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MUSIC »

Rappers Without Borders, the hub for hip-hop culture on campus

PHOTO COURTESY RAPPERS WITHOUT BORDERS

The club's name was inpsired by the organization Doctors Without Borders.

Mariam Baldeh
Contributor

UBC AMS club Rappers Without Borders is the club for students who are fuelled by a love of hip-hop, passionate about spitting rhymes and driven by a desire to make a difference.

The club was formed in September 2013 by two friends: Dylan Perdue, currently a fifth year integrated Engineering student and Barnabas Caro, now a political science graduate. It aims to bring together UBC's hip-hop community and provides a platform for students and local performers to showcase their skills and have fun sharing the art they love.

"There's never really been a centre for rap or hip-hop here on campus. There's no UBC rap club," said Perdue, who is the current president and teaching coordinator of the club. As teaching coordinator, Perdue is responsible for running the hip-hop workshops that take place on Wednesdays in the SUB.

"We have freestyle tutorials and go over basic elements of rhythm, rhyme schemes and vocalization and so on. Anyone can drop in for the workshops," he said.

On Freestyle Fridays, members reconvene for a fun night of freestyling and recording tracks, which are then posted onto SoundCloud.

According to Perdue, Rappers Without Borders' mission is to raise funds for the Doctors Without Borders organization, which was also the inspiration behind the club name.

"We wanted to take the focus away from the personal, material gain that is a common trend within rap," said Perdue. "We wanted to put the spotlight on the art itself. The reason that I'm so into it is because I think it's a really cool art — the way that language is used and manipulated to evoke certain feelings and allow you to express certain things."

On April 2, the club collaborated with the UBC EDM (Electronic Dance Music club) to host a hiphop night at the Pit with entry by donation, where they raised approximately $250. The event repertoire included seven short rap sets and one slam poetry set, and had an overall great turnout.

Perdue said that the club will be planning more events in the near future in order to raise more money for a strong end of the year donation to the organization. He also said that the club's website has recently been finished and anyone can go to rapperswithoutborders.org for more information about the club, or just to listen to some of the cool freestyle tracks.

"The site's going to be a hub for anything hip-hop related happening in Vancouver, with a focus on UBC," said Perdue. "Music made by student artists, events happening in Vancouver and anything interesting related to the world of hiphop will be posted."

Bike Rave 2015

Koby Michaels
Senior Staff Writer

Add bikes, neon lights, glow sticks and electronic dance music together and what do you get? The perfect pre-finals stress relief, otherwise known as the UBC Bike Rave.

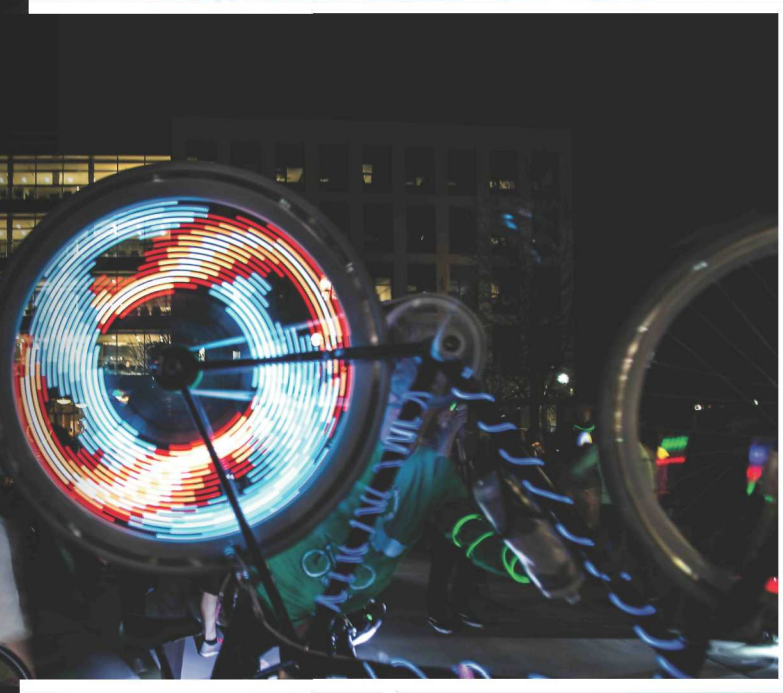
The Rave is "a celebration of music, lights and dancing, really aimed at promoting sustainability on campus," explained cofounder Josh Compagna. This year's Rave, the third, was the biggest ever, thanks to partnerships with multiple campus clubs and organizations like the AUS, SUS, AMS Bike Coop and UBC EDM, and with corporate sponsors Clif Bar, Happy Water and Dominoes, among others.

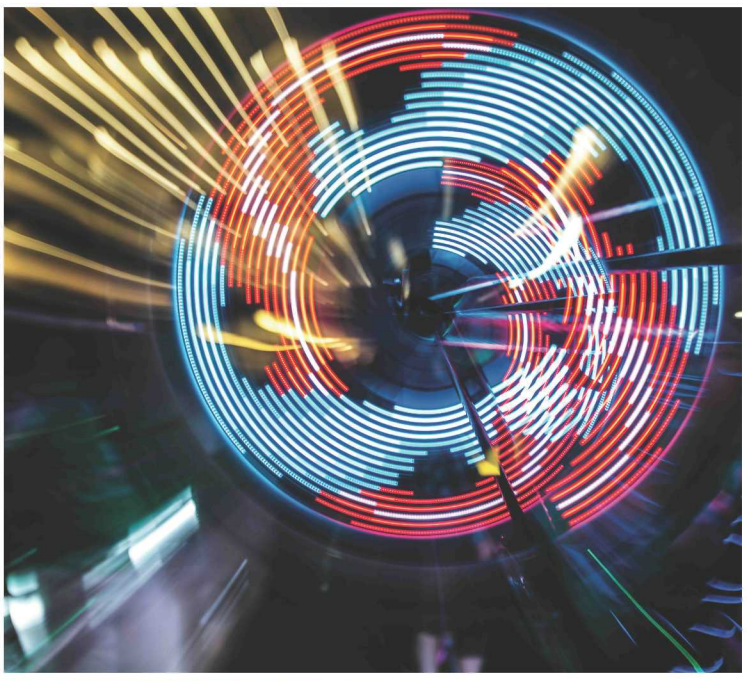
The event started in front of Koerner Library, where participants decked out their bikes, and themselves, with glow sticks, neon lights and ridiculous clothing to the throbbing beats of the UBC EDM DJs. The Rave travelled from location to location, touring most of campus, by any means of non-motorized, wheeled transit. Bikes, scooters, skateboards, streetskis (think cross country skis with wheels) and one cheating raver who rode a motorized longboard all join the throng of neon dance warriors. All the while music blares from speakers haphazardly attached to bikes. At each location, ravers dismount and turn up; dancing, chilling and enjoying the spring night.

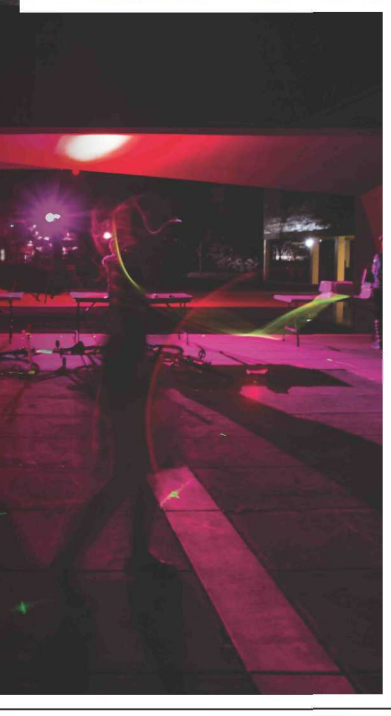
This year's event saw ravers of all ages and walks of life, just as Compagna and cofounders Brandon Parker, hoped to see. "We've tried to make it as inclusive as possible," said Compagna. "One of our big priorities this year was to get [free] rental bikes." Parker added that while the event looks to promote bike culture on the whole, they also wanted to highlight cycling resources on campus like the Bike Kitchen and Bike Coop.

Bike Rave also hopes to be a springboard and example for UBC students and the community. From video production to event planning, Parker and Compagna want to promote campus involvement and projects. The two hope to see other students start events and initiatives to improve the campus community and urged people to apply for UTown grants.

In the end, Parker and Compagna wanted to put on a fun, unique and exciting event for all UBC community members.







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T-BIRDS 5-ON-5

TENACIOUS THIRTEENS

	NICK SPILLMAN Baseball	MARGARITA SISON Softball	LIAM FANNIN Field Hockey	LAURA MACTAGGART Volleyball	CARSON WILLIAMS Football
1. Why did you choose jersey number 13?	I don't really know how I landed on 13, definitely not because of A-Rod. I just saw it and thought to myself "hmm, that's not bad," so I took it.	I ate 13 chicken nuggets and hit a walk off home run in the 13th inning when I was 13 years old. It was a sign.	Brian O'Driscoll, one of the greatest Irish rugby players of all time, wore 13 and he was one of my heros as a kid. That's why I chose the number.	Because it is seemingly unlucky for most people, but I thought I could make it lucky for me.	I lost a bet that I could stand in the cattle pen for 30 seconds when I was 10, and I stuck with it.
2. Do you have any lucky charms or superstitions?	My main lucky charm is this necklace that I got for my second grade communion. I can't remember the last time I took it off.	Clearly I gotta eat 13 nugs before a game so I can pop the chain on my home run trot.	I don't have any charms or superstitions. I just make sure I have a good warm up and feel good before a game.	My good luck charm is a stuffed dragonberry (the fruit) dressed in a lion costume. My team has seen that one out many times.	I always get dressed in the same order before a game, left side goes on first. But no lucky charms.
3. What's the most unlucky thing that's happened to you?	I ended up breaking my wrist during my hockey game, which forced me to miss the majority of [a] Team Canada game (later that day).	This one time where I don't get a senior year 'cause my team got cut ...	I don't really consider myself unlucky. Everything has a cause and an effect.	I would say that it was pretty unlucky when my "mild ankle sprain" turned into three ruptured ligaments and a dislocated tendon.	Having a DB actually catch a pass I threw.
4. What is something you are embarrassingly bad at?	Let's just put it this way, I love to sing, but people don't love when I'm singing around them.	Riding my bike through Main Mall. There have been 13 casualties.	I'm pretty tone-deaf so my singing is pretty terrible.	I can't twerk. No matter how hard I wish, how it looks in my mind just doesn't translate into results. I'd be so much cooler if I could twerk.	Driving with my eyes closed.
5. What would you like to have 13 of?	I'm pretty broke, so I wouldn't mind having 13 dollars.	I would like to have (at least) 13 more softball seasons at UBC.	I would like to have 13 pounds of chocolate digestive cookies. I love those things.	I want 13 trips to Disneyland. 'Nuff said.	Logs.

SOCCER »

Chris Serban is on track to WFC2 success

Thunderbird Serban will play this summer for the Whitecaps' USL development team. PHOTO CHERIHAN HASSUN/THE UBYSSEY

Soren Elsay
Staff Writer

For years there was a link missing in the local soccer scene between promising youngsters and the full-blown MLS, the highest level of soccer in North America. When the creation of the Whitecaps FC2 team was announced last fall, there was a hope that it would work as a developmental springboard for promising young players and their careers. For Thunderbirds right back Chris Serban, this is exactly the case. The reigning CIS Rookie of the Year was away at U-20 World Cup Qualilfying with the Canadian U-20 National team in January when he was approached by Whitecaps FC2 assistant coach Steve Meadley about signing with the newly created club.

"When I got back [from the U-20 qualifying] I got a call informing me that they wanted to sign me," said the 19 year-old Calgary native. "Obviously, I was very excited, and I immediately took the offer and just jumped to it."

Before joining WFC2, Serban was an integral part of the UBC Thunderbirds team as a freshman. The right back started 11 of the 12 regular season games and played all but 16 minutes during those starts. He was part of a back line that surrendered a league low seven goals during those 12 matches on route to being named the best rookie in the country. Serban attributes much of his recent success to Thunderbird head coach Mike Mosher, who pushed the youngster every step of the way.

"He's always encouraged me and kept pushing me forward to become the best player I could be," said Serban. "I remember I was going away for the U-20 national team camp during the exam break, and [Mosher] set up special training times just for me even though our season was done.

This strong bond will only grow as Serban is eligible to return to the Thunderbirds this fall, even though he has signed a pro contract. With the Whitecaps FC2 season ending in early September, things line up nicely for both Serban and the 'Birds, who will benefit greatly from the return of one of their most dynamic players.

In the mean time, Serban will continue his quest of cracking the Whitecaps first team MLS roster by continuing to put in work with the WFC2. A natural right back, Serban has seen time at left back with his new team, which has forced some adjustments.

"I think just improving so I'm completely comfortable being able to use any foot at any time," said Serban.

"And of course working on my physicality and being able to match the strong guys that they have in the MLS."

Serban's development is a strong sign for all the programs involved. Whitecaps FC2 has a poster child for its plan to develop promising local prospects, and Mike Mosher's Thunderbirds have yet another success story to add to their impressive run as a program. For the youngsters hoping to follow in Serban's footsteps, he has a simple message:

"Work your hardest, always be focused, don't take any training lightly."

After years of following this mantra, Serban has himself a pro contract, and finds himself on a path that most 19 year olds can only dream about.

2015 Big Block Award Winners

'Bus' Phillips Memorial Trophy
Winners: Coleman Allen, Conor Lillis-White

Marilyn Pomfret Trophy
Winner: Maria Bernard

Team of the Year Award
Winners: Women's cross country, men's swimming

Bobby Gaul Memorial Trophy
Winner: Luc Bruchet

May Brown Trophy
Winners: Savannah King, Kris Young

Rookies of the Year
Winners: Marcus Davis, Lauren Logush

Thunderbird Athletes Council Performance Award
Winner: Coleman Allen

Arthur W. Delamont Award
Winner: Steve Tuckwood

Carolyn Dobie-Smith Award
Winners: Nathan Wong, Beth Rizzardo

Kay Brearley Service Award
Winner: Jennifer Schutz

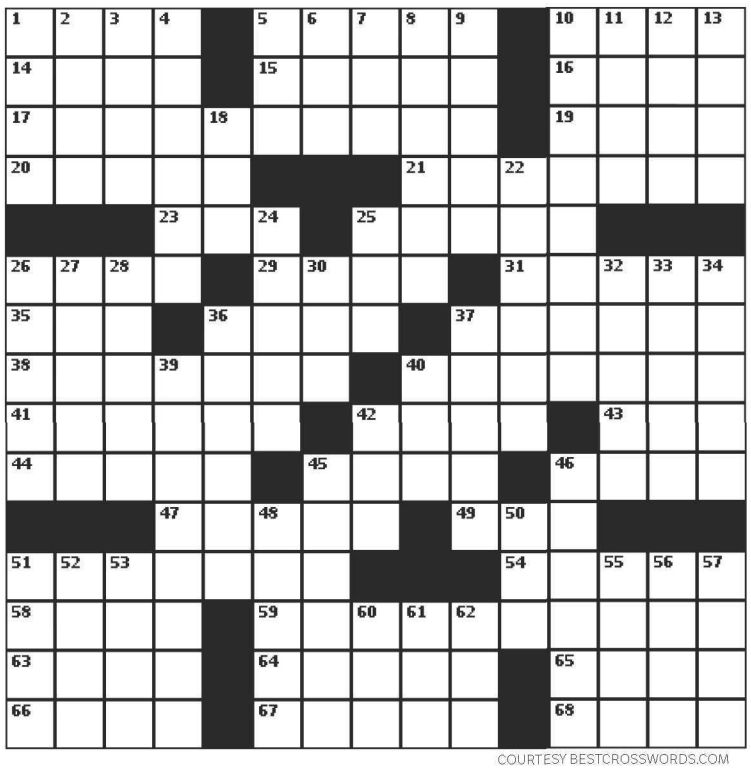
Thunderbird Athletes Council Buzz Moore Leadership Award
Winners: Ian Perry, Colleen Nesbitt

Congratulations!

Photo of the Day

Long exposures and reflective water on campus combine for great visuals.

PHOTO NAVREET SINGH DHALIWAL/THE UBYSSEY



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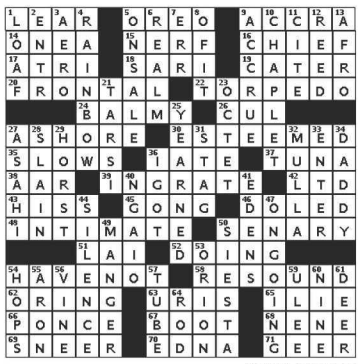
APRIL 9 ANSWERS



APRIL 9 ANSWERS

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ACROSS

1- "Hard ___!" (sailor's yell)
5- Numbers game
10- Aromatic fragrance
14- Group
15- Fencing blades
16- "The Time Machine" people
17- Person skilled in accounting
19- Colleen
20- Now you ___...
21- Most strange
23- Equinox mo.
25- ___ Grows in Brooklyn
26- Guitarist Atkins
29- Records
31- Halt, salt!
35- ___ Tafari (Haile Selassie)
36- Unclothed
37- Syrian city
38- End result
40- Oakland outfit
41- Tempestuous
42- Gillette brand
43- Rocker Ocasek
44- Photographic tone
45- Nabisco cookie
46- Nick and Nora's pooch
47- Sleight of hand
49- A Bobbsey twin
51- Proceeding by tens
54- Play for time
58- 007's alma mater
59- Free from errors
63- Humorist Bombeck
64- Civil rights org.
65- Mother of the Valkyries
66- Bargain
67- Facial expression used by Elvis Presley
68- 20th letter of the Hebrew alphabet

DOWN

1- Turkish titles
2- Ornamental fabric
3- Suffix with exist
4- Self-centered person
5- Author Deighton
6- Decide
7- Leaves in a bag
8- Principles
9- Blender brand
10- Had faith
11- Winglike parts
12- A pitcher may take one
13- Fog
18- Salt Lake City player
22- Objects from everyday life
24- Feathery
25- Period of human life
26- Crucifix
27- High-toned
28- Bar, legally
30- Lyric poem
32- Copycats
33- Nautical pole
34- Puccini classic
36- Polite refusal
37- Brother of Moses
39- Felon
40- Road with a no.
42- Circle segment
45- Person in the petroleum industry
46- Deer horn
48- Profits
50- Sun Devils' sch.
51- Act
52- French 101 verb
53- Deep sleep
55- Bern's river
56- Former Fords
57- Jacob's first wife
60- Fannie ___
61- Very skilled person
62- EMT's skill