THE UBYSSEY

PAGE FRIDAY

Vol. LXXXVIII No 21 | www.ubyssey.bc.ca | Friday, 17 November, 2006 | Creepy neck caressing since 1918

Reduce, Reuse, Remember

Pulling the blindfolds off waste disposal in Vancouver.
Pages 6 & 7

Bond is back

Daniel Craig invests some brawn and brains into 007.
...Page 3

A glimpse of what's next

Brent Malish, future face of the T-Birds, talks life on and off the basketball court.
...Page 9

VP Academic resigns

Lorne Whitehead steps down to fill new teaching enhancement position.
...Page 12

an experiment

drain all happiness

Craig marks welcome return to Bond's roots

***CASINO ROYALE* opens today**

by Greg Ursic
CULTURE WRITER

According to etiquette mavens, one should avoid discussing religion or politics in polite company. They may wish to add "favourite Bond" to the list: raise the subject with any group of cinephiles and you're sure to get a "spirited" response. The announcement that MGM was dropping Pierce Brosnan for Daniel Craig sparked a firestorm of protests among Bond fanatics and spawned anti-Craig websites. The mainstream press stepped in with editorials berating the studio for tampering with the "tried and true formula," with some suggesting that "Blonde Bond" could sink the 50-year-old franchise.

Take a pill people!

Having achieved his 00 designation, which imbues the holder with the discretion to kill in the course of his duties for Queen and Country, James Bond is ready for his first assignment: he is tasked with bankrupting "Le Chiffre" (the Cypher) in a poker tournament. Le Chiffre, it seems, is a self-styled financier for fanatics, or a banker to the bombers, who provides money laundering and investment services to terrorists around the world and MI6 is itching to close in on his operation.

Bond is a novice to the spy biz who lacks the polish of his contemporaries. He's considered self-absorbed and reckless, little more than a blunt weapon. He's accompanied by the beautiful yet brainy Vesper Lynd (Eva Green), who is on hand to ensure that the treasury's cash isn't squandered.

In spite of the fact that the last Bond movie earned more than any of its predecessors, the progeny of creative producer Albert Brocolli felt that the character had become overshadowed by gadgets, special effects, coiffed hair and product placement. So for the 21st film in the series they chose to return to *Casino Royale*, the first Bond novel.

Any doubts about Craig's ability to fill Bond's shoes are quashed within the first few minutes of the film: he gives what may well be the best performance of the six actors who have tackled the role. Craig's Bond isn't a wannabe model. He possesses a boxer's demeanour in actions and appearance, yet there is a hint of vulnerability beneath the bravado.

Mads Mikkelsen is almost blandly subdued as Le Chiffre, if not only for his penchant for weeping blood, until his darker side is unleashed in the tournament's aftermath.

Judi Dench's return as M is marked by an expanded role in keeping with the tone of the film. Her character has a caustic edge and prefers expediency over decorum (translation: she's a ball buster.)

I also enjoyed Green's performance as Vesper Lynd. Astute and pragmatic, she doesn't fall for Bond's charms and knows when to use her looks to her advantage. And unlike previous paramours, Lynd does not bounce around in scanty outfits. I enjoyed the snappy chemistry between Craig and Green: it felt uncomfortable at times, not unlike real relationships, and set the template for any inevitable future relationships Bond will have.

But it's the action that impressed me most.

Unlike its predecessors, there are no invisible cars or overblown CGI to distract the viewer. From the opening free running sequence, it's clear that the action has been stripped down to its barest components. I appreciated the fact that there was no attempt to sanitise the violence: when Bond emerges from a scrap heap, he's bloodied and bruised. And when he takes someone out, it's up close, personal and messy. Despite his protests to the contrary, killing clearly takes an emotional toll.

In spite of the pluses, I found myself underwhelmed by both the soundtrack and the opening montage. The 140 minute run time was in need of some judicious editing, particularly the middle section which dragged on considerably. There's also the matter of the never-ending endings, or *The Return of The King* syndrome as I like to call it: there were literally three times when I thought the film was over and at least one of the "endings" could have been excised.

Finally, it's obvious that the writers who worked on the Brosnan Bonds had too heavy a hand in the script—if the producers really want to break new ground with the franchise, they need to bring in fresh writers. Thankfully, there were enough of Paul Haggis's trademark witticisms—he was brought in to help with the script—to keep things amusing.

Regardless of one's preferences, *Casino Royale* is a substantial, engaging action film that boasts some clever humour, solid performances—most notably Craig's rough and ready Bond—and lays the groundwork for further exploration of the character. All the studio has to do now is to convince the legions of Bond fans that breaking the mould is a good thing.

VAG's new perspective idealises Emily Carr

***EMILY CARR: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON A CANADIAN ICON* at the Vancouver Art Gallery until January 7**

by Peter Clark
CULTURE WRITER

The Vancouver Art Gallery (VAG) makes its best efforts to attract exhibitions that expose international culture or freshly examine local phenomena. They are, for the most part, novel and original, and one rarely sees the same thing twice. The exception to this rule is the repeated exhibitions of Emily Carr. It is rare that you step into the VAG at a time when there is no Carr on the walls, unless perhaps they are in the midst of setting up for her next exhibit. She makes up the largest single chunk of the gallery's collection and it's hard to blame them for trying to take advantage of this.

But does the public really need to see more?

To be sure, curator Ian Thom has attempted to present Carr's work in a manner that has never been done before. The structure is based around three sections. The first reproduces parts of the 1927 exhibit in Ottawa that introduced Carr's painting to the Canadian establishment and combined it with various Group of Seven painters. Her paintings have been shown alongside artifacts representing a veritable mishmash of the artistic traditions of First Nations peoples.

The second section identifies Carr's modernist tendencies, describing her time in France in 1911—1912 and her embrace of the style of European Primitivists such as Gauguin and Matisse. The last section presents Carr, the individual, as a multi-faceted figure by reproducing some of her autobiographical material, presenting her role as cultural tourist, and of course, displaying her stern and confident late-life self-portrait. All three sections arrange her work in manner not seen before 1927 and combine VAG-owned works with those from collections across Canada.

The subtitle, "New Perspectives on a Canadian Icon," teases the gallery-goer with the hope that they will learn things they don't know about BC's most famous artist. It implies creativity, critique, and even controversy. However, it still idealises her work, neglecting to mention highly critical analyses that have been prevalent since the 1980s.

Emily Carr has been criticised in the past two decades for presenting a simplistic and inaccurate, if not ignorant and erroneous, view of Canada's indigenous peoples to the public. The popular belief across North America during the period of Carr's work was that First Nations cultures were tragically dying off as a result of supposedly natural laws of "Social Darwinism." The professed goal of much of Carr's work was to document the last vestiges of these "primitives" and their unadulterated cultures. Her paintings thus propagated this viewpoint. However, the truth of the matter was that at the time, Carr's own government was suppressing the traditions of First Nations cultures through such acts as banning the potlatch ceremony and forcing children into residential schools.

Surprisingly, the VAG's "New Perspectives" exhibition does not make mention of these issues. An untrained viewer is left thinking that the collected melange of various First Nations artwork presented alongside painted documentations of "disappearing" cultures is a natural one. It is never pointed out that the pottery that Carr decorated with First Nations imagery and sold to tourists was highly exploitative and misrepresentative of cultures that never used pottery. After exploring the gallery space, viewers are left ignorant of the contemporary issues surrounding Carr's work.

Perhaps it is not the gallery's job to make analytical conclusions for its viewers. However, when one considers that the average viewer is a casual observer, the danger behind presenting work with socially complicated implications should be clear. That being said, to anyone aware of these implications, the exhibition provides ample opportunities to see them at work, and can help create a fascinating exercise. This show could be just another in a long line of Emily Carr exhibits, but a viewer armed with a critical mindset may well be able to find meaning and merit in their experience of her work.

Look on the bright side of life

***STRANGER THAN FICTION* now playing**

by Alec Young
CULTURE WRITER

Most people have someone—mother, best friend, dog—that knows them better than they know themselves. This is all too true for Harold Crick in *Stranger Than Fiction*.

From *Finding Neverland* director Marc Forster, the film stars Will Ferrell as Harold, an IRS taxman whose life is pitifully mundane. He lives alone, doesn't like cookies and his favourite word is "integer." But when he discovers that his life is the subject of a novel being narrated to him by a mysterious authorial voice (Emma Thompson), Harold learns that the novel is about to end with his tragic and imminent death.

To change his fate, Harold enlists the help of literary professor-turned-metaphysical sleuth Jules Hilbert (Dustin Hoffman). His advice is for Harold to try and disrupt the plot line by changing his life. He takes the advice to heart and begins learning to play the guitar and pursuing love with Ana Pascal (Maggie Gyllenhaal), a baker he is assigned to audit for tax fraud. In a particularly clever touch, we also see Harold go to the movies to see Monty Python's *The Meaning of Life*.

It is strange to see Will Ferrell tone down his performance from over-the-top comedy. His greatest talent remains the art of ludicrously deadpan comedy. I challenge anyone to listen to him tell Gyllenhaal that he ogled her "only as a representative of the United States government" and not crack up.

As for the other actors, Emma Thompson has a lot of fun portraying the deliriously eccentric author who spends much of her time envisioning gruesome deaths for her characters, and Hoffman is solid as usual. Gyllenhaal does a dizzying character turn in the middle of the film, going from an anti-establishment left-winger to a sugary sweetheart who offers Harold a batch of homemade cookies in the course of a single scene. Harold manages to tame the sweet-yet-spunky owner of the Uprising Bakery with almost no effort. This is a problem, but then again, inexplicable romances seem to be the cardinal sin of most American comedies. Besides, Gyllenhaal has enough charisma that we can forgive it this time.

This is a charming comedy that deals with the inevitability of death and the pursuit of life, but not at the expense of having some laughs along the way. Even if metaphysical comedies are not really your thing, this one is worth checking out.

Teach English Overseas

- Intensive 60-Hour Program
- Classroom Management Techniques
- Detailed Lesson Planning
- Comprehensive Teaching Materials
- Internationally Recognized Certificate
- Teacher Placement Service
- Money Back Guarantee Included
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

OXFORD SEMINARS

1-800-779-1779 / 780-428-8700

www.oxfordseminars.com

THE UBYSSEY

shamelessgiveaway

Subject to classification.

Free UBC Screening!

THE FOUNTAIN

Tuesday, November 21st at 7:30 p.m at the Norm Theatre in the SUB.

IN THEATRES NOVEMBER 22

While quantities last.

WWW.UBYSSEY.BC.CA

Newspaper Anagram

How many words can you make out the word "newspaper"?

If you can find more than 101 words—reigning champion Carolynne Burkholder's grand total—come into the *Ubyssey* office and Carolynne will buy you a **chocolate bar**.

Here's a few to get you started...

The Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Certificate Program is for university graduates who want to teach English. It is a 120-hour program featuring both theory and practice.

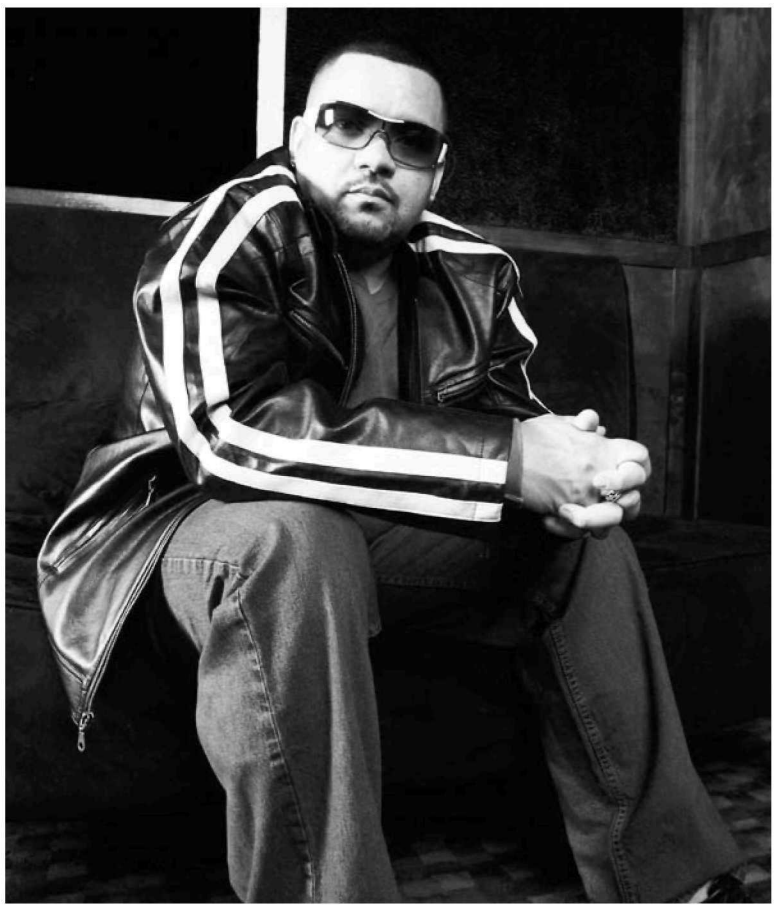
The TESOL Certificate Program is taught by professional teacher trainers who are considered to be among the finest in Canada. Graduates receive the TESOL Certificate from Vancouver Community College and qualify for national professional certification from TESL Canada.

Program Dates: Jan. 15 - Feb. 9, and April 30 - May 28, 2007

For more information and to apply call **604.443.8665** or visit **www.tesol.vcc.ca**.

Centre for Continuing Studies School of Music Centre for Technology Centre for Design School of Arts and Sciences Centre for Business Studies School of Health Studies School of Language Studies School of Hospitality Centre for Transportation Trades School of Instructor Education

Vancouver Community College



Acosta quick on trigger

GEORGE ACOSTA
All Rights Reserved
Moist Music

by Jesse Ferreras
CULTURE EDITOR

Trance is one of the most reviled musical genres in existence today. With superstar DJs under its banner such as Tiesto, Paul van Dyk and Ferry Corsten, it is often blamed for killing the collective spirit of the rave that was so prevalent in underground party circles in the late 90s and the early millennium. It is now subject to intense criticism and sometimes outright hatred on blogs and electronic music sites. As such, anyone who grew up on the rave scene and had the privilege of experiencing the drug-infused Bacchanals will come down on George Acosta's new album *All Rights Reserved*. The US DJ, ranked 214th on DJ Mag's 2005 list, has compiled a collection of tracks featuring trance luminaries such as Solar Stone, Gareth Emery and the Thrillseekers. The result is certain to infuriate the purists raised on rave, but those who have stuck it out and indulged in the phenomenon of the superstar DJ will be certain to warm to Acosta's collection.

A great trance album builds up a powerful sense of euphoria that reaches a giant climax right at its conclusion. Acosta, however, opts to peak right at the outset of his two-disc compilation, opening with a characteristically light introduction, of Airbase's "Escape," before the collection's beat is established 40 seconds into the first CD. The track gets things moving effectively enough and forms a nice segue way into Silent Electro's Polarity, the second track, which has to tone down the elevated, epic sound of the opener. This track is more bass-heavy than the previous one, and gets the energy pumping just hard enough for one of the album's greatest tracks, and an unfortunately early climax, DJ Precision and Terry Bones's "Another Situation." Though not particularly distinctive from similar tracks by other artists, its aim is to get the listener dancing, and more than almost any track on the compilation, "Situation" does it best.

Unfortunately to the detriment of the rest of the CD, which does not match the momentum built up at the start. Gareth Emery and Jon O'Bir's "No Way Back" comes close, but falls short of the standard set by the first three tracks.

The same is true of the second disc, which opens on a high with the hard trance-inspired "By Your Side" by the Thrillseekers, then tones down the pace a little with T4L's "Perfect Blend," and finally hits a climax with Solarscape's "Alive." Like "Another Situation," "Alive" hits a euphoric note more than any other track on the second CD, thanks in part to the added effects of female vocals, which help to carry the listener away. But the rest of the album, including Acosta's original tracks, pale in comparison. The artist's remix of New Order's "Blue Monday" stands out for pure nostalgic value, but its charm dies out very quickly.

Ultimately, Acosta's "All Rights Reserved" has some memorable tracks but falls victim to the trend of placing its most euphoric tracks at the beginning of the album. That trend can largely be blamed on DJ Tiesto, who used that very technique for 2004's "Just Be." The concept of a journey through the compilation is central to the enjoyment of a trance album, and while Acosta gets the blood pumping effectively at certain points in both discs, you don't get the impression of a journey as you get from the right organisation of tracks.

All Rights Reserved is certainly worth checking out, and its tracks would be right at home at any club night, but one who is looking for trance music to carry them away would be better suited to Armin van Buuren's latest *A State of Trance* compilation.

Chicks'

DIXIE CHICKS: SHUT UP AND SING
now playing

poetry shoots *Bullets*

GOTTFRIEDSON

OUT OF MIND, BUT NO LONGER OUT OF SIGHT

Vancouver's garbage crisis re-examined after years of turning a blind eye

text by Myles Estey, photo by Oker Chen

In an era where lip service is the dominant form of taking environmental action, catchphrases like "going green" and "environmentally friendly" get tossed around so frequently that it's become easy to believe them to be true. Sure, we hear the Doomsday reports on the big topics like global warming, air and water pollution, species extinction, and resource depletion, but by and large our lifestyles remain more or less unchanged, and problems persist relatively unchecked. Environmental issues like waste management don't even get any airtime anymore and thus persist with even greater voracity with little awareness about them. Suspiciously sparse in the green movement is any thorough discussion of the waste our society creates—an unstoppable deluge of garbage we pack into little green bags every day of our consumptive lives.

The 1980s saw a brief wave of revolt against landfills: classrooms and news segments alike shocked us with images of bulldozers plowing through refuse under a cloud of one of nature's most putrid opportunists, the garbage seagull. Some of the harsh realities of the bigger environmental issues like climate change still had yet to develop sufficient evidence of human culpability to be seriously discussed, so there was ample room to focus on tangible, visible problems like giant piles of rotting shit. Now with sporadic, disastrous weather, shrinking oil reserves, and ever-dwindling numbers of species and natural habitats, the empirical proof that the stability of our planet as a whole is on shaky ground is more than apparent. As such, the methods by which we deal with our garbage has fallen a few notches off the chain of importance, left to stagnate out of sight.

In all fairness, the problem really begins with the fact that general concern over environmental issues in popular public discourse nowadays—not just on waste management—appears to have slipped off the radar entirely. It seems that by and large, most of us are in a bit of a lull—altogether loath to the idea of actually caring, let alone doing something—about the environment. Green was the new black for while, but now it's become *so* 1998. The current black seems to be something more akin to accepting the global environment's disastrous plight and not doing anything about it. And with this, waste management, maybe more so that other "high profile" environmental causes, seems to have fallen deep into the realm of nonchalant complacency. We don't hear or see much of it, and thus we assume it's fine.

One of the pivotal problems propagating our world's inability to deal with or even acknowledge the ecological catastrophe waste management has become can be explained by a simple axiom: humans do not like dealing with their waste. We have conditioned ourselves to like things shiny, clean, new and if possible, delicious and we are willing to pay top dollar for all that. When we are done with them, we are *done* with them. They go in a bag, in a box, down a toilet, onto a truck and just generally away from us and that's what matters. Gone, gone, gone. A little water and antibacterial soap will wash our hands of the issue.

To this tune, the waste we create serves as an ugly metaphor of our cumulative laziness, lack of foresight and our inability to enact positive change. As we go on consuming haphazardly, we leave behind a seeping, growing sea of diapers, apple cores, tuna fish sandwiches, paper clips and discarded toys floating in a the small sea of orange juice and liquefied kidney beans—a legacy of unthinkable stagnancy and oversight, tucked safely beyond our gaze down a rural road marked by the innocuous sign "County Landfill."

THE OSTRICH AND THE DUMP

To those familiar with the mythology surrounding African birds, our society's general attitude towards waste adheres strongly to stereotypical 'ostrich philosophy': if we can't see it, then it is simply not there. Admittedly, modern research indicates that it's unlikely ostriches actually behave this way, since they'd consequently have a low chance of continuing to scale the evolutionary rungs. The fact that this strategy has never really worked for anyone, even ostriches, further underscores the futility of adopting such a practice of irrational nonchalance. But it is, without exaggeration, our society's primary method of dealing with waste and it shows no sign of undergoing a rapid change anytime in the near future.

Currently, Toronto is demonstrating exemplary aptitude for mimicking the ostrich adage. Seduced by what must have been some very compelling business strategising, Toronto politicians have adopted a multi-year waste removal plan that breaches both provincial and national boundaries in an effort to erase any local, physical evidence of waste.

Approximately 400 tractor trailers head to Michigan every day, brimming with solid waste of all sorts, while another dispatch is sent to northern Québec where processors deal with what has been designated organic waste by Toronto's green bins. Their waste management mandate seems pretty simple: get it out of here.

Vancouverites, similar to most other Canadians, are quick to take the moral high ground on this and give the customary scoff of indignance against the "love-to-hate" city (which many of us have never visited.) Hearing statistics like these, you can almost hear the incredulous tone of West Coast natives sipping a freshly steamed latte, "those careless heathens over there! Disgusting, pawning off their garbage like that!" But just like Torontonians and pretty much everyone else in our society, they throw that little paper cup (with its trusty heat guard and plastic lid), the wooden stir stick, the sugar and creamer packets and the three napkins they took "just in case" into the garbage and go about the business of their own ostrich-blinded day.

As ridiculous and despicable as Toronto's garbage trade appears on paper, it really doesn't differ all that greatly from Vancouver's strategy, or any other major municipalities' plans, for that matter. Cache Creek, the collective hiding spot for the majority of GVRD waste, lies approximately 350 km outside of Vancouver, conveniently beyond the scope of our vision. Being the primary storage facility of the region's waste over the past 16 years, it too welcomes a number of trucks: approximately 50 double-length haulers drive there every garbage day, with most of the rest going to the Burnaby incinerator for our other favourite way of making things disappear: burning them.

But like all unsustainable ideas, change must soon come to fruition. Cache Creek is into its final two years of operation and the GVRD has, to date, accepted 23 proposals for an alternative means of ridding ourselves of the our packaging, leftovers and now-useless things. It is time to move forward.

IS RECYCLING ENOUGH?

Like most cities, Vancouver has had a fairly decent recycling program for quite some time now. Blue boxes, grey boxes, yellow bags, yard trimming bags, backyard composters, and paint and battery exchange centres keep Vancouver compounding the problem at a slower rate than if we were to ignore it entirely.

But Heather Spiegelman, president and co-founder of the Product Policy Institute takes the matter further. "We need to wake people up from the la-la land where they think they are solving the problem with a blue box," she stressed. Our simple recycling program cannot keep up with the full-on waste production we insist on maintaining.

Spiegelman's argument is that even with blue boxes at every house and every tenant understanding their necessity, this is not enough to stop people's wasteful patterns. "If you introduce recycling, the next obvious step is to make it [legally] mandatory...I think what the city needs to do better is draw convenience away from throwing [things] out and make it mandatory to recycle." As it stands, blue boxes and the like may abound, but when convenience calls recyclable products still end up in the thick green bag.

Spiegelman argued that our habits with waste are drawn from a long legacy of thinking that anything we don't need or want can just go off and be burned or buried without any significant problem. "We are fighting 100 years of trucks coming to take away anything from the curb, 100 years of conditioning," she said. This ideology persists today, but with increasingly dangerous consequences.

"These days, things are going to landfills...that [did not even exist] when landfill techniques were developed," she said. Speigelman reminded us also that piling all these goods together creates a potential time-bomb: chemicals and compounds rotting away that were never meant to be side-by-side are sluicing together into unpredictable mixtures. The consequences of this are unknown as of yet, but time will soon tell the tale.

What she ultimately argues for is a stronger campaign towards waste diversion and improvement of recycling capabilities in Vancouver. She is most adamant about diverting organic materials into being processed in industrial-size composters, a technique Toronto, the Maritime provinces and much of northern Europe have had in place for several years now. Changes like this are necessary to move towards a more functional and responsible means of minimising the amount of our gross waste. But this is a lot easier said than done.

Mike Stringer, a Senior Engineer in the Waste Policy Department of the GVRD provided an outline for some of the entrenched problems a city faces when trying to enact changes to this kind of legislation. "Our current program diverts an estimated 80 per cent of recyclable containers from landfills allowing them to be processed then later reused." Stringer also mentioned the city's policy to reject truckloads with more than ten per cent cardboard, a law that echoes a number of other initiatives that focus on Number Two in the good old 'Three Rs' mantra of waste management: reduce, reuse, recycle. These include subsidising backyard composters, utilising residual methane gas from landfills to create energy and harnessing energy from incinerating waste.

While Stringer praises the institution he works for, he's also quick to highlight some of the fundamental limitations of dealing effectively with waste in a city. To a certain degree, he explained, "the municipality is only responsible for coming to the curb and picking up the garbage."

Stringer pointed out that cities can have effective means of dealing with waste once it is produced, but even the most efficient methods can still do precious little in rectifying the two most persistent obstacles of waste management: first, that our producer/consumer society creates so much waste to begin with, and second, that the 'best' methods of dealing with our waste do not always fit into our economic paradigm.

Like all environmental problems, the almighty God we have made out of "economic efficiency" remains a persistent thorn in the side of responsible waste management. To return to the Toronto/Michigan garbage-shipping example, much of the weight in the policy-making process comes down to, as always, money. For Toronto to ship the waste to Michigan costs on average $63 per tonne. Ontario landfill sites incur costs of up to $85 per tonne. Conversely, incineration in Ontario tends to cost approximately $170 per tonne and recycling costs between $85 and $103 per tonne. Unfortunately, the ostrich technique is the best buy. In some ways, it pays to not care, while conversely, it's expensive to act responsibly.

'Economic efficiency' has a stronger impact on limiting recycling initiatives than you might think. "Everything is recyclable," Stringer explained. "Even Styrofoam is recyclable—but the problem [is] that there is simply no market for it or for other similar products." Recycling needs to be cost-effective in order for it to be accepted into municipal practice and as it stands right now this is simply not the case. Stringer continued, "in this regard we are dependent on the private sector—until the public and private sector want to fund the multi-million dollar processing plants, we can't do anything about it...We have picked all the low hanging fruit of recycling materials, the easy ones like metal, glass and certain plastics, materials that have a built-in market." The rest will go on being thrown away until it becomes cost-effective to do otherwise.

According to Spiegelman, the current laws—or lack thereof—in the garbage industry do nothing more than provide free license for our society's greatest landfill contributors to create waste as much as they want. With effective legislation and enforcement producers could be made to produce in accordance with standards designed to minimise the output of non-recyclable products. But as it stands now, she explained, approximately 90 per cent of all disposed garbage heading to the dump has a brand name on it and often originates from a foreign country. Producers are largely left to their own devices to decide how they manufacture, package and dispose their products. It almost goes without saying that this strategic free-for-all rarely boils down to anything more than the cheapest way of dealing with the problem, which essentially leaves us all in the dumps.

MOVING TOWARDS CHANGE

Without any real public pressure to jump-start or overhaul the waste management infrastructure, city officials aren't all that motivated to make the first move. Legislators need to feel it is important to their electorate before they go after major producers and demand changes or take on massive, multi-million dollar projects like citywide composting. Real consideration of the critical flaws of our waste removal techniques has, for whatever reasons, more or less disappeared as a major issue of importance to the average citizen to our collective peril.

The issue of waste needs to be met head-on. Real action needs to be taken to curb the problem of the excessive waste we produce every single day. Options exist for greatly limiting our gross output, but few of them can be supported with public complacency. Changing something as entrenched as legislation to force manufactures to create easily reusable or recyclable products would take a large amount of money and energy. And with nobody all that interested in addressing the problem, it seems unlikely money and energy will materialise and the policies will change themselves.

With Vancouver on the verge of making a major decision in how we will be dealing with our waste now is an appropriate time to start talking again. Progressive disposal and diversion techniques throughout Canada and the world offer promising options for dealing with our waste in more effective manner and there are many notes to be taken.

Hopefully, addressing new means of dealing with waste will play a role in waking people up to the fact that in our era, being duped by our city's waste disposal disappearing act has to stop. With attitudes that choose not to see the brown piles of slop we leave behind us in the wake of our progress, it is time to stop acting like ostriches and start acting like the thinking human beings we actually are. ❷

Rock Paper Scissors

Masters of Digital Media

Open House,

www.gnwc.ca/mdm

THE FUTURE OF UBC MEN'S BASKETBALL LOOKS BRIGHT

by Sukhi Atti
SPORTS WRITER

UBC men's basketball rookie Brent Malish was one of BC's most heavily recruited high school players last year. The former Langley resident and Brookswood Secondary standout is thought by many to be the future of the T-Birds program, and with an expansive resume that already includes representing his country at the international level, the future of UBC basketball looks bright.

This past summer, the stellar forward was a member of the U19 Canadian Junior National team and played in the FIBA World Qualifiers in Dallas, Texas against the likes of teams such as Brazil, Puerto Rico and Argentina. At such a young age, international experience is hard to come by, and it has only made his transition to university ball that much smoother. "All of the international players were big guys who had good fundamental and skill-oriented play. It was good to get exposure playing against so many versatile and all-around talented guys," said Malish.

Malish credits much of his success to strong fundamentals and his simple style of play. With a stat line of 32 PPG, 16 RPG and 7 APG in his senior year at Brookswood, Malish had recruits from NCAA Division I and II schools like Idaho, Portland, California-Irvine and Boise State knocking at his door all throughout grade 12. And if his stats don't say enough about him, this will: Even at 6'6'' and 205 lbs, he is versitile enough to play every position on the floor, something rarely found in a player his size. Brent commented on how his versatility benefited his U19 team at the FIBA tournament. "I was sixth man on the team, and I came onto the floor for anyone who needed a break. I even filled in for the point guard if he needed to come off. Everyone in international play is able to play any position and that's why I was able to contribute to the team.'

Malish says that comfort, the coaches and the academic reputation were the main reasons why he chose UBC above Division I destinations down south. "I wanted to go to a good academic school and I wanted to play for the coaches at UBC." His long-term goal has always been to be involved in the national program at the senior men's level in Canada, and the coaches at UBC have a lot of experience at the national level and are willing to help him attain his goal. The American coaches, on the other hand, might not have been as passionate or as encouraging of his development in this area. "[Assistant coach] Randy Nohr knows my game very well and he's constantly reminding me of what I need to work on and what I do well; overall the coaches are just great guys and I wanted to play for them."

Like most first-year athletes at UBC, Malish admits that balancing athletics and academics is a challenge high school didn't really prepare him for. Varsity athletics are a big commitment that most non-varsity athletes fail to understand. A typical day for Brent starts with him rising at 7:30am, heading to class, then to a personal workout with a coach, then back to class, then to the weight room, then to class again, then to the team practice. The day ends with a little time for homework before nodding off to sleep. Taking into account the team is on the road every other weekend for games all over Western Canada, you realise just how much is expected of UBC's top-tier athletes. Brent is currently in the Faculty of Arts but has business endeavours in mind for the future and is looking to transfer to the Sauder School of Business within the next year or two.

This season, Malish has high expectations for his team and for himself. "My team goal is to win a national championship for this school and for these coaches, and my personal goal is to improve everyday." Brent has fit right in with head coach Kevin Hanson's system this year, drawing on similar experience in an up-tempo style of play in his international experience on the U19 junior national team.

The best thing about Malish is that while he could be basking in all the attention and fanfare surrounding his debut this season, he's not. He is confident, but has a genuine modesty about him. He is one of those people who has an authentic love and determination for excelling in the game. Not bad qualities for someone who may very well be the face of UBC basketball one day. Upon Malish's initial commitment to UBC, Hanson was quoted as saying to fifth-year Thunderbirds captain and CIS All-Canadian Casey Archibald, "Here's the perfect guy to pass the torch to when you're done." With this torch, the future of UBC basketball remains bright indeed.

Malish and the Thunderbirds are in action this weekend, putting their undefeated (6-0) conference record record on the line Friday and Saturday night against the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba. Game time is 7pm at War Memorial Gym.

YOUR GROUP PLAN FOR STUDENT HEALTH

Don't Forget to Submit Your Health & Dental Claims from Last Year

Important notice for students who were enrolled in the AMS/GSS Health and Dental Plan in 2005-06

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CLAIMS FROM LAST YEAR (for students covered in 2005-2006)
All health and/or dental claims incurred on or before August 31, 2006 (for the 2005-06 policy year) must be received by the insurance company **(Sun Life)** by **November 30, 2006**.

In order to ensure that studentcare.net/works can transfer your claims by the deadline, they must be dropped off at the Health & Dental Plan Office **no later than Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2006**. If you're mailing claims directly to the insurance company, please leave adequate time for delivery. The address for Sun Life is recorded on the back of all claim forms. Claims received after the deadline will not be reimbursed.

Claim forms are available at **www.studentcare.net**.

AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan 2006/2007

WWW.STUDENTCARE.NET
Take Good Care

Alma Mater Society of UBC
UBC Graduate Student Society

www.studentcare.net
Health & Dental Plan Office
Room 61, Student Union Building, Lower Level
6138 SUB Boulevard, Vancouver, BC
Toll-free: 1 877 795-4421

studentcare.net/works

1996-2006 10 years serving students

We've been Tooped!

POSSIBLE REASONS FOR UNANSWERED PHONECALLS

Dear Stephen Toope,

As the official student newspaper here at UBC, we're appalled by the wall of silence we've encountered every time we've tried to talk to you. You have been the UBC president for almost five months and we have yet to secure an interview with you—and it isn't for lack of trying.

In your welcoming address you said, "it is through social interaction that most great intellectual advances are made."

Funny considering that you have been anything but socially interactive and have hardly helped to foster student engagement.

As you know, the National Survey of Student Engagement recently demonstrated that UBC students are anything but engaged. UBC scored lower than the benchmark in five out of five categories for senior students and three out of five for first-year students.

Here's a tip: part of engaging and encouraging learning initiatives is to actually interact with the students—what better way to do this than through the student press?

Other members of your executive team have promptly answered our numerous requests for interviews this semester—among them, VP External Dennis Pavlich, VP Students Brian Sullivan, VP Research John Hepburn, and former VP Academic Lorne Whitehead. We haven't had a reason to contact the final member of your upper circle, VP Finance Terry Sumner, but former editors assure us he is as forthcoming as the other vice-presidents.

As an example, if you read *the Ubyssey*, you will remember the story "Teacher evaluations to be made available to the public," [Oct. 24]. Sullivan replied to our reporter within three hours with all the information she asked for and even suggested three other sources she should talk to.

Similarly, for our story "New College for interdisciplinary studies worries student senators," [Oct. 11] Whitehead not only replied to our reporter within her 24 hour deadline, but also made an effort to advance her story.

John Hepburn was also readily available for a last-minute comment regarding UBC's withdrawal from the annual *Maclean's* ranking system in September.

Admittedly, you are ranked one step above the aforementioned administrators, but this doesn't give you the privilege of ignoring the student press.

President of Simon Fraser University, Michael Stevenson and President of the University of Toronto, President David Naylor have made themselves available to *the Ubyssey* within the last five months. In fact they responded to us within the same day. It reflects terribly on our school when other university presidents will talk to us, and yet our own gives us the cold shoulder time and time again.

Admittedly, Martha Piper did not set the best precedent. Last year she only spoke to us once, but once is better than the resounding silence we have had from your office thus far. At the very least, in the first month of her term at UBC, she contacted our business manager to ensure that copies of *the Ubyssey* were delivered to her office every Tuesday and Friday.

We are not, however, directing the blame at you alone. A busy man such as yourself obviously does not work without assistance, so this letter is also addressed to your staff in the president's office—particularly to whoever answers your phone.

Every time we have attempted to contact you we have been brushed off by your staff who repeatedly tell us to contact Public Affairs Director Scott Macrae or redirect us to his line automatically, sometimes tersely scolding us that Macrae is the one who handles all media affairs. We're to take Macrae as the "mouth of Toope" when we really want comments from the president directly.

Although Macrae is very capable and helpful most of the time, we never manage to secure an interview with you. This is in direct contrast to all other members of the upper administration. They don't make us go through Macrae at all. They all take our calls personally.

Our request is a simple one: stop talking about engagement and start becoming engaged. Answer a call and talk to us.

—Sincerely,
the Ubyssey

Streeters

What do you think the UBC president does day to day?

—Johnny
Engineering Physics, 5

"I have no idea."

—Vanessa Yee
Arts, 1

" I have no idea. I really don't know what they do."

—James Perreaux
Theology, 3

"He probably sits in his office all day...I would guess that he makes some decisions...meets with some important people...looks out for University."

—Garrett Johnson
Economics, 4

"There's certain things he has to do...chair the funding committee and the Senate. You have to come up with a vision and hold the University to it. Other times you're just begging for money."

—Brandon Walker
Civil Engineering, 2

"I would imagine that he interacts with all the people who are doing construction... connects with all the deans...goes for long walks along Wreck Beach."

—Coordinated by Paul Bucci and Kasha Chang

PERSPECTIVE

Apology to Haircut

by Christopher Willard Pryde

This letter is addressed to the slim, 5 foot 11 inch, 20-something, white, dark-haired fraternity member, hereafter referred to as "Haircut."

Haircut, we met recently but were not properly introduced. I am Christopher Willard Pryde. Shortly before 5pm on November 15 near the Forestry building on the Point Grey campus you stepped out in front of my car. I was not racing to get somewhere nor was I behaving so irresponsibly as to be on the phone or otherwise distracted and my headlights and wipers were on. I didn't see you until you were in front of me. As I write this I imagine the grievous circumstances in which we would both find ourselves had I not managed to stop.

It is unlikely that you heard my genuine expression of regret, Haircut. Although I tried more than once, you were understandably preoccupied with making sure that I could hear the very important point you were making and I agree—"IT IS A FUCKING CROSSWALK!"

Having had a few hours to reflect on the incident, I wish to offer an apology. I am sorry, Haircut; you were right and I was wrong. But there is more that I need to express to you. You have enlightened me and for that you have my unending gratitude. You have shown me a new and correct perspective on what it means to be a pedestrian—your perspective.

When I started driving in 1983 I made some foolish and grossly careless decisions. Thankfully, for most of us this is a phase through which we live to look back and laugh. In my case, I also look back at it quite critically and it has made me both cautious and judgmental of those with whom I currently share the road (that includes you cyclists who don't know how to ride.) In fact, with each passing year, driving becomes an increasingly stressful chore for me. As a result, I seldom drive anymore unless it is impractical to use my bus pass or my bike. To be blunt, I hate driving.

It will not yet be obvious that all of that is germane to the point of this perspective because my attitude as a driver has manifested itself not only in stress when behind the wheel but also when I must navigate my car-centric Fourth Avenue neighbourhood on foot. Until this day, when you, Haircut, delivered my epiphany—pedestrians have rights.

No more will I coach my children to establish eye-contact with the driver as they move through intersections on their way to school. Never again will I delay a trip to the grocery store with needless waiting at the crosswalk until traffic has come to a halt. Your heroic example has taught me that the onus is on the driver to yield the right of way to me. And I intend to exercise that right.

I will be strong like you, Haircut. I will exercise my right at all times without cowardice or compromise. Like you, I will exercise it as night falls while wearing dark clothing. And like you, I will not falter when I encounter unlit crosswalks in weather so exceptionally bleak one might think it was from a poor screenwriter's imagination.

So lead on, Haircut, and I will fall into step with you angrily and deliberately out into traffic. Even if some drunk speeding back to Whalley from Wreck Beach in his girlfriend's tricked out Chevy Cavalier stomps on the brakes late and slides right on top of my ass, I will take console in being flat-out right.

Rest assured that I will never give up your good fight, Haircut, even if I have to learn to walk again to resume the battle. Even if I have to rehabilitate the motor skills of one hand to the degree that I can manipulate a joystick, I will get back behind you as a member of your irreproachable army of pedestrians. And when I do, I intend to program my speech synthesiser to demand my rights, with your battle cry: "IT IS A FUCKING CROSSWALK!"

—Christopher Willard Pryde
is taking a Master of Educational Technology at UBC

CUS

Vice-President Academic resigns

Whitehead will fill new position being created to enhance quality of teaching and learning at UBC

by Carolynne Burkholder
NEWS EDITOR

After only two years as UBC's Vice-President Academic and Provost, Lorne Whitehead announced his resignation last Friday.

Effective immediately, Whitehead will be UBC's Leader of Education Innovation—a new position created to improve the quality of teaching at the University.

"The President and I have agreed to what I feel is a very exciting change," said Whitehead. "UBC has a number of initiatives that we're getting ready to blast off on. What's missing is someone to coordinate, innovate, strategise, fundraise and get the resources aligned to really make this happen."

These initiatives include Students Horizons in Education (SHINE) 2010 and the Carl Wieman Science Education Initiative—both which attempt to enhance the quality of teaching and learning at UBC.

Whitehead's resignation comes a few weeks after the results from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) were released.

This survey ranked UBC significantly lower than other schools in all five areas of student engagement using data collected from students in their senior year: academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student and faculty interaction, enriching educational experiences and supportive campus environment.

For first-year students, the other data set studied by NSSE, UBC ranked lower than other large research-orientated Canadian universities in three of the five categories. UBC was comparable to its peers in enriching education and active and collaborative learning.

In all categories, UBC ranked much lower than similarly-sized US institutions—the greatest gap putting UBC 12.3 per cent lower in student and faculty interaction in students' senior year.

"According to the NSSE survey if you compare UBC to other universities, we appear to be not as good," said Whitehead. "I don't think we have perfect measures on those topics...but of course on any measure we'd like to appear the best."

Jeff Friedrich, AMS VP Academic, said the AMS is very concerned with the NSSE results.

"The results were fairly disturbing," he said. "The University is not meeting its goals in providing a good undergraduate experience."

"I hope our future VP academic will make a commitment to making teaching and learning a priority at this University," Friedrich continued. "There's some room for growth in that area and I think the NSSE survey speaks to that."

Whitehead, who completed all three of his degrees at UBC, agreed that there is work to be done to improve the undergraduate experience at the University.

LORNE WHITEHEAD: Former VP Academic now holds UBC's newest position. OKER CHEN PHOTO

"I think I received a wonderful education here, but that doesn't mean we can't do better," he said. "I think UBC has the chance to take the lead. If I can play a small role in that, I will be very pleased."

President Stephen Toope spoke about Whitehead's contribution to the UBC community at the Senate meeting on Wednesday evening.

Although Toope emphasised that Whitehead's resignation is a great loss to the executive team, he said that the University will benefit from Whitehead's new position and his dedication to improving the quality of teaching at UBC.

George Mackie, formerly the vice provost and associate vice-president, was appointed the acting vice president academic and provost until the position is filled.

Islam Awareness Week

President of the Muslim Students' Association Hesham Alsalman spreads the word about Muslim culture during Islam Awareness Week. The event was sponsored by the MSA and ran from November 14 to 16. OKER CHEN PHOTO

OKER CHEN PHOTO

UBC top ranked for vegetarians

by Carolynne Burkholder
NEWS EDITOR

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) have named UBC one of the most vegetarian friendly colleges in Canada.

"We keep track of schools that are excelling in providing healthy, humane options for students," said Pulin Modi, the college campaign organiser for PETA.

The 15 Canadian colleges were selected through input by PETA's Street Team—a group of people who promote animal rights at the grassroots level—and through PETA's profile on MySpace and Facebook.

According to Modi, UBC students noted the diverse options for vegetarian cuisine on campus, such as chop suey with tofu, black bean sloppy joes and lentil curry with spinach.

"This is good because it shows it's not just one kind of food, it's a variety of high quality options," said Modi. "The variety would appeal to non-vegetarians, so they're more likely to want to try these foods."

Andrew Parr, director of Food Services, said he was pleased to hear that UBC had made PETA's list.

"This wasn't a direct strategic goal, but a reaction to our marketplace," said Parr. "I think—very stereotypically speaking—that west-coasters are more in tune with natural eating than many other areas of Canada."

Parr said Food Services has particularly focussed on increasing their vegetarian options in student residences.

"There's a large number of vegetarian options that vegetarians and non-vegetarians are enjoying in the residences especially," he said. "The changes that we've made have been very positively received."

But third-year geography student Allison Savigny said she wishes there were more choices for vegetarians at UBC.

"There are definitely vegetarian options, but there's not a lot of options for healthy meals with lots of protein," she said.

McMaster University topped PETA's list as the most vegetarian friendly Canadian college.