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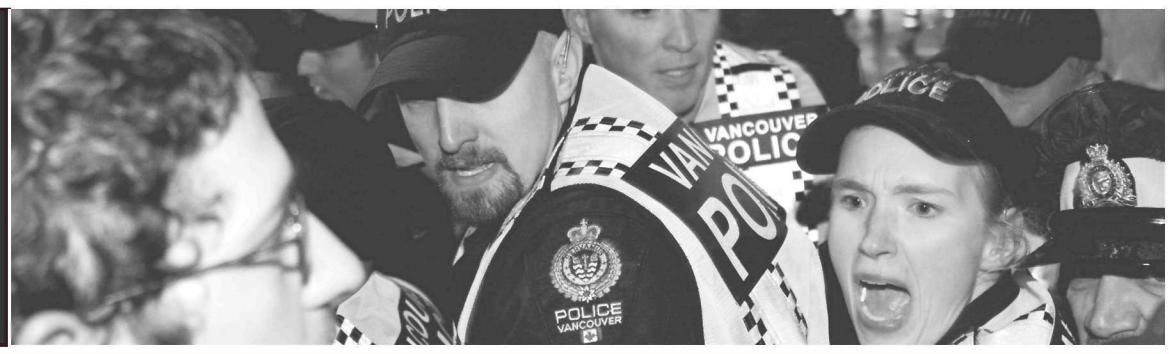

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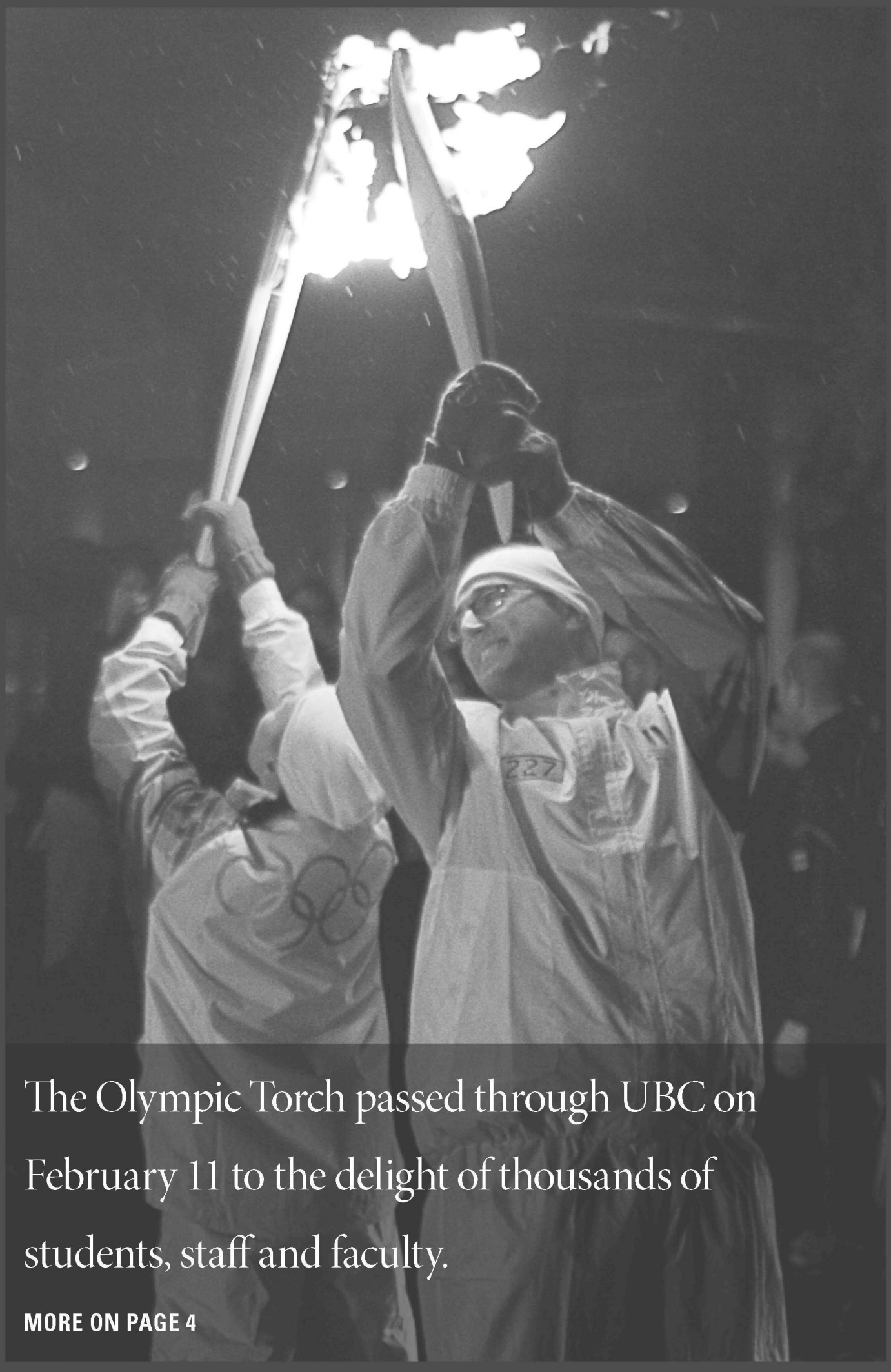
The Olympics are here



The Olympic Torch passed through UBC on February 11 to the delight of thousands of students, staff and faculty.

MORE ON PAGE 4

GERALD DEO PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

MONDAY 2010.02.15

WEATHER @ UBC

16 SHOWERS
17 SHOWERS
18 CLOUDY

7:21 SUNRISE
5:33 SUNSET

CANADA MEDAL COUNT

G	S	B
1	1	1

OLYMPICS BRIEFS

UBC STUDENTS AND STAFF CREATE OLYMPIC PODIA

UBC built all 23 medal podia for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

According to *UBC Reports*, the university's Centre for Advanced Wood Processing created the Olympic podia and 100 wooden metal trays.

The project used BC grown trees donated from 23 community forests in the province. The designs are meant to symbolize the importance of forests to the province.

"It is really interesting; it's really pushing the edge to see a new, interesting design out of local wood species," said Andrew Pershin, a graduate from UBC's Wood Products Processing program.

FIVE WINNERS FOR UBC'S OLYMPICS DIGITAL CHALLENGE

Students from around the world have won UBC's Global Minds Challenge.

The competition allowed students and teachers in Kindergarten to Grade 12 to use digital technology to promote the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The top two submissions were awarded $2010. An example of a winning project was an online wiki and blogs that a group of students from Regina created to share information with students in countries such as Argentina and China.

The contest is to become an annual international competition.

HERITAGE MINISTER UPSET WITH LACK OF BILINGUALISM

James Moore, Canada's Heritage Minister, told *The Vancouver Sun* that he was "disappointed" with the lack of French at Friday's Opening Ceremonies.

"They were beautiful, they were spectacular on television, but there should have been more French," Moore said. His ministry put $20 million towards paying for the ceremonies.

WOMEN PREDICTED TO LEAD MEDAL COUNT

Bob Hindmarch, former Athletics Director at UBC and General Manager of the first national Olympic hockey team, has predicted that the women will lead the medal count at this year's Games.

Hindmarch told *UBC Reports* that "we'll win medals where we don't think we will," and that "women will win more medals than men."

CAN'T WAIT FOR OLYMPIC UPDATES? FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!

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FEBRUARY 15, 2010
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LEGAL

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

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CONTRIBUTORS

The Ubyssey staff had another drunken party and woke up in Thailand. Paul Bucci and Samantha Jung rode off into the jungle on an elephant, though the bumpy ride upset their stomachs. Andrew Bates, Lewis Kelly and Tagh Sira had a bad bout of tom yum they bought on the street. Virginie Menard wandered to her old high school, gleefully dragging Gerald Deo, Justin McElroy and Katarina Grgic with her. Michael Thibault, Keegan Bursaw and Geoff Lister, went to take photos of the famous Emerald Buddha near the Grand Palace. Tara Martellaro, Krittana Khurana and Chibwe Mweene ended up in a music video being filmed outside of Paragon Mall. Kasha Chang and Austin Holm went to a bar and were being served by pretty bar women who may not have been actual women. Kate Barbaria decided to test her Thai kickboxing skills on Jonny Wakefield, who took it like a gentleman (his hospital room was very spacious). Trevor Record spent his time relaxing on a beach in Phuket while Alex Leckie served him drinks. Annika Westphal had to bail Brendan Albano out of jail after he tried to buy mushrooms from a motorbiker. Amrita Parmar lost her passport and was stuck at the embassy, and Joanna Chiu and Hannah Lorena got lost at the weekend market and spent the rest of their lives selling monkeys in cages and dried papaya.

Canadian University Press

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EVENTS

CLASSIFIEDS

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Men's Rugby Calendar. 12 months. 12 pictures. $15/calendar. All proceeds go to the UBC's men's program. Contact *benjones.eng@gmail.com* or call at 604-8386400.

ONGOING EVENTS

UBYSSEY PRODUCTION • Come help us create this baby! Learn about layout and editing. Expect to be fed. • *Every Sunday and Wednesday, 2pm.*

BRIGHT LIGHT TO SHOWCASE ART AND EVENTS DURING THE 2010 WINTER GAMES • A series of temporary public art works and events during the Vancouver 2010 Olympics and Paralympics will feature a collection of 14 commissioned projects during the 2010 Winter Games. The project is a joint effort of artists and arts organizations based in the Downtown Eastside, who are collaborating to produce installations and events that will light up the neighbourhood and showcase the community's cultural vitality. • *Runs until Sunday, Feb. 28, all day, Carrall Street Greenway.*

***TANTRAMAR GOTHIC* ART EXHIBIT** • Regent College Lookout Gallery presents *Tantramar Gothic*, a collection of work by Dan Steeves. • *Mon.–Fri. 8:30am–5pm, Sat. 12pm–4pm, Regent College, 5800 University Blvd., runs until Monday, Mar. 1.*

CHEER ON CANADA CIRCLE • Follow the athletes on our 72" projection screen in our special Cheer On Canada Circle. Come with your colleagues, bring your lunch, meet new friends, trade pins and watch Canada win! • *Feb. 15–26, 12pm–1:30pm, UBC Bookstore, 6200 University Blvd.*

EXTENDED UBC BOOKSTORE HOURS • UBC Bookstore will have extended hours for the Olympics. • *Feb. 11–26, 9:30am–6pm, 6200 University Blvd.*

MONDAY, FEB. 15

OLYMPIC ICE HOCKEY • WOMEN'S PRELIMINARY—SWITZERLAND VS. CANADA • Cheer on Canada's female hockey team as they face off Switzerland in the women's preliminaries. • *2:30pm–5pm, Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre (formerly UBC Thunderbird Arena), gates open two hours before the scheduled start time.*

SUNDAY, FEB. 28

BIG SCREEN VIEWING OF MEN'S HOCKEY AND CLOSING CEREMONY • Part of the More Than Gold Westside Events, we are inviting you to watch the Men's Hockey final and the closing ceremony to the 2010 Olympics on the big screen. All are welcome. • *Hockey 12:15pm, ceremony 5:30pm, Regent College, 5800 University Blvd.*

Youth leaders welcomed for Truce

GERALD DEO PHOTOS/THE UBYSSEY

Indigenous youth leaders from across Canada were welcomed to the Vancouver Public Library this Thursday by Governor General Michaelle Jean as part of the 2010 Olympic Truce.

Joined by Prince Albert of Monaco and Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo, the youth shared their stories as part of a dialogue with the Governor General, who was welcomed by the host nation with both a traditional dance and a modern one. In turn, her speech affirmed the necessity of Native youth empowerment, for their communities and for the entire nation.

The Governor General is the patron of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Truce, which has attempted to take a grassroots approach to encouraging peace, mutual understanding and cooperation among youth leaders to create a more compassionate world.

—Gerald Deo

NEWS BRIEFS

CANADA HOUSE OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

Canada House is a location at every Olympics that houses the friends and families of Canadian Athletes.

This is no different for the 2010 Games. Athletes' families from across the country have converged to take up residence on the upper floor of The Bay, this year's Canada House.

Canada House is a sanctuary that allows Canadian athletes to spend time with their loved ones who are not allowed into the Athletes Village.

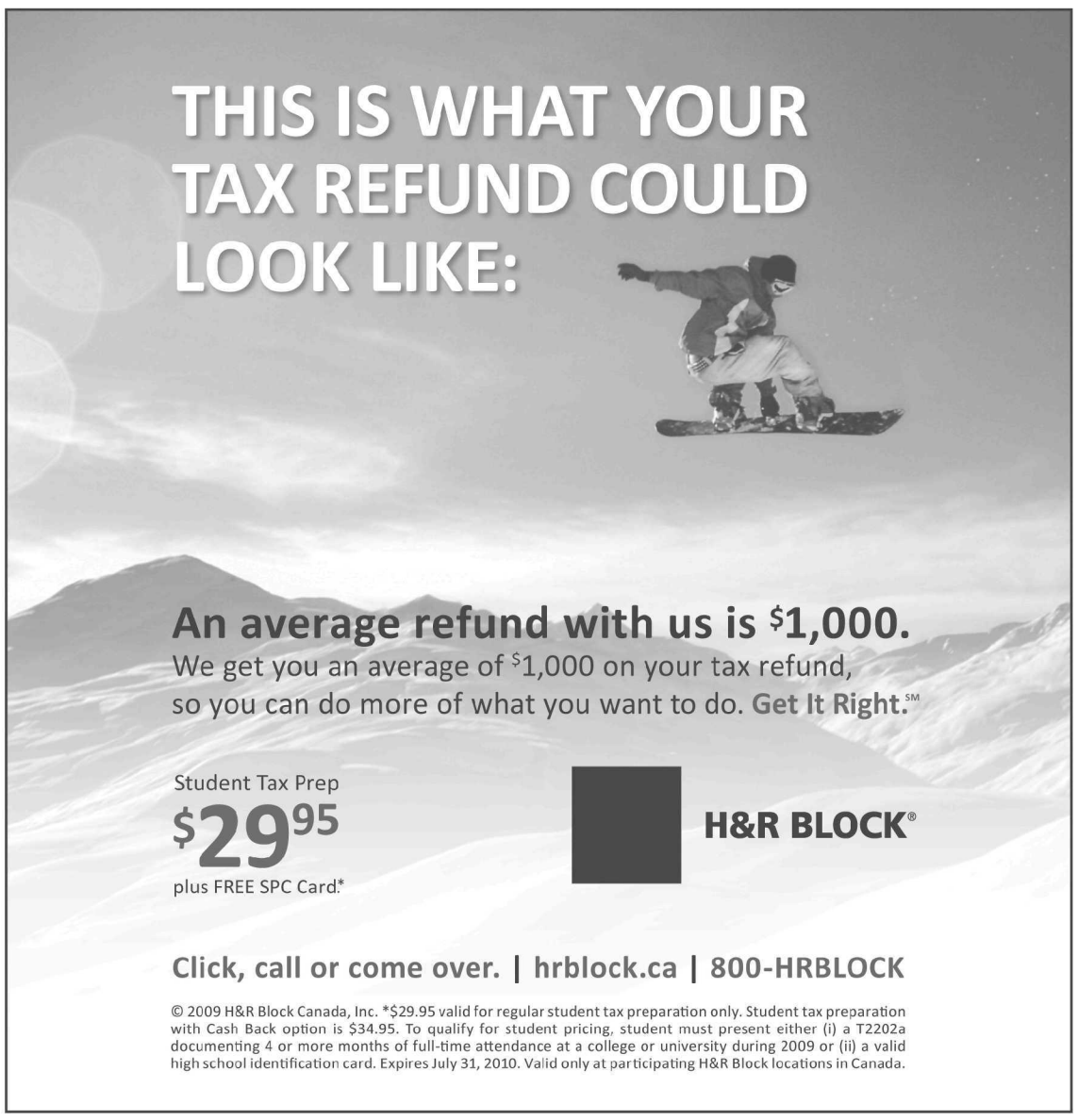
The opening of Canada House began with an angelic performance from The Canadian Tenors who serenaded the crowd with our national anthem.

Their rousing performance was followed by the unveiling of the Canadian podium jacket. This is the jacket that any Canadian medallist will wear when they take the podium.

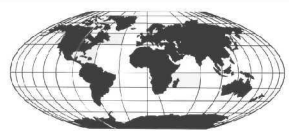
The podium jackets will be signed by the athletes and auctioned off over the next few months. According to Chris Rudge, CEO of the Canadian Olympic Committee at the opening of the House on Thursday, "they will help raise funds for all our Canadian athletes."

Rudge commented on how Canada House has been seen as the "drunk house" at previous Olympic Games, but that it will be different in Vancouver. "We were the drunk house, now we've passed that over to the Dutch at the Heineken House, and Sochi [House]," he said.

—Tagh Sira



Teach English Abroad



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Le Guellec impresses in biathlon

Olympian Jean-Philippe Le Guellec is the only male Canadian competing in the biathlon—but he's not worried. **COURTESY OF TIM HIPPS**

TAGH SIRA
olympicseditor@ubyssey.ca

Jean-Philippe Le Guellec is the only Canadian male biathlete competing in all of the biathlon events in this Olympics—and he has not disappointed yet.

When asked about why he was the only Canadian in the field he said, "I'm not sure how the politics worked, but it's definitely frustrating that there weren't more of us out there."

Le Guellec started in eighth position Sunday morning. After his first lap he shot all five of his targets successfully, placing him in the lead with a total time of 8:04.1.

All of the other competitors were chasing him for the rest of the course. Le Guellec cleared his second round of targets, missing only one shot but starting to fall behind.

Then the weather came in. Just after Le Guellec completed his race it started raining and then snowing on the track—making it even harder for the other biathletes to catch up to his time.

It gets a lot harder to shoot in snowy conditions since it is hard to see the target, and that is exactly the problem athletes ran into Sunday, when almost all of them missed at least one shot.

As well, skis can't be changed during competition, and the changing conditions made it harder to ski since they were using ski wax designed for warmer conditions.

In the end, Vincent Jay from France took the top spot with a total time of 24:07.8, and LeGuellec finished sixth with a total time of 24:57.6. Le Guellec qualified for the Sprint and will be starting 50 seconds back from Jay on Tuesday.

IOC opens investigation on luge track in wake of tragedy

TAGH SIRA
olympicseditor@ubyssey.ca

After the death of Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili on Friday in a tragic training accident on the final turn (Turn 16) of the course, the IOC immediately opened an investigation.

After interviewing a former course technician from the Lake Placid Luge site, *The Ubyssey* learned that the safety precautions taken in the construction of this track were very minimal compared to the American site.

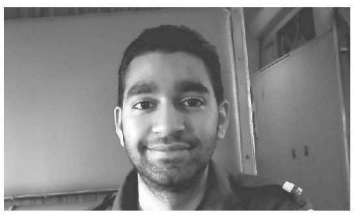
The wall on the final turn was only three feet high compared to almost five feet at Placid, which is also a slower course.

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili said that the decision of Georgian athletes to continue in the Games was "the [right] one because the Olympic movement is all about perseverance."

When asked if he believed that this accident could have been prevented, Saakashvili said, "it's precisely up to the inquiry to determine what has happened, but I heard this on television, that this [accident] was because of human error, and I believe that any human error should not lead to the death of an athlete."

The investigation has not yet concluded, but changes have been made to the competition, including lowering the start positions to reduce the total speed and raising the wall on Turn 16.

Weekend wrap-up



TAGH SIRA
olympicseditor@ubyssey.ca

Working alongside all the other media outlets, I have seen the extremely hard work that goes into professional sports writing. There's a constant barrage of press conferences, and an endless scramble to make it to the media buses to attend competitions, all the while trying to photograph and write what is going on. It makes for a steep learning curve.

Many countries have athletes competing in only a few events, which makes it a lot easier to focus on the latest developments. The Chinese will focus on speed skating and figure skating, the Norwegians will focus on biathlon, the Jamaicans will focus on bobsled—scratch that, the bobsled team failed to qualify this year. But *The Ubyssey* only has yours truly, and I don't need to tell you how many athletes Canada has at the Games.

The death of Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili on Friday is on everyone's minds. But at the events themselves, spirits have been high with records poised to be broken.

Canada saw its first medal on Saturday with Jenn Heil picking up the silver medal for women's moguls. At a press conference Saturday night, Heil said that "Canadians can be assured that the gold medal is coming on home soil. [We] have such a strong team."

Heil was right in her prediction. Mogul skier Alex Bilodeau won gold in his event with a score of 26.75, beating out Dale Begg-Smith, a former Canadian turned Australian, by 0.17 points. Canadians Vincent Marquis and Pierre-Alexandre Rousseau finished fourth and fifth, respectively, in the same event.

Canada saw its first medal on Saturday.

Jean-Phillippe Le Guellec came in sixth place in the biathlon sprint on Sunday—a Canadian best. And Sam Edney tied an old Canadian record by placing seventh in the men' singles luge.

Sunday evening, Canada picking up two more medals in women's 3000m speed skating. Kristina Groves pulled in the bronze medal for Canada with a time of 4:04.84—only two seconds back from the top spot. And our first home-turf gold medal came when Alex Bilodeau won men's moguls.

As of Sunday night, Canada has three medals, leaving us in third place for total medal count. With many more medal contenders yet to compete in the upcoming week, we can expect to see that total climb higher each day.

Despite disappointment, Heil pleased with silver

ANDREW BATES
western.bureau@cup.ca

Over the last 24 hours, anyone who can get close enough has asked Olympic moguls skier Jennifer Heil asked how she feels about winning silver when everyone had hoped for Canada's first gold medal at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

"I really don't see the difference in value of an Olympic medal, whether it's won on Day 1 or Day 10. We're going to have our medal," she said in a press conference. "I had gold in my sights... but I do really feel like I won silver."

She has echoed those sentiments in many interviews, but the expression on her face when asked if she wished people would talk about the medal she did win, rather than the one she didn't, betrayed a sense of fatigue about the topic.

"Absolutely," she said. "We're gonna win lots of medals, I think it's important that we celebrate absolutely every day of the Games."

Heil had been identified as a hopeful to win Canada's first Olympic gold medal on home soil; the country's athletes did not win gold at previous Games in Montréal or Calgary. Second-last in the skiing order, her score of 25.69 looked to be enough to clinch the top spot—until Hannah Kearney of the US closed the competition with a score of 26.63.

"I laid down a great run... [then Kearney] came down and laid down the run of her life. That's sport," Heil said. "I think we saw the best of sport last night."

KEEGAN BURSAW PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

Her teammates also experienced some frustration. "It was a bit of a bittersweet Olympics for me," said Kristi Richards from Summerland, BC. Richards crashed halfway through the course, only to get back up and execute an impressive final flip. "I couldn't have been more prepared. The course was amazing," she said. "When I crashed, I actually got a second start....I got to get the crowd excited once again and do the trick that I had been training to do and do my dream run, really, with a little bit of a mistake."

The focus among the whole team was about being able to be there and to do their best, and teenage skier Chloe Dufour-Lapointe had a lot to celebrate after placing fifth. "I'm living on a cloud," she said in French. "First games, fifth place is extraordinary for me as an eighteen-year-old."

Heil said that the goal for everyone now was just to celebrate and enjoy the Games. "This moment in time, it's such an exciting time for sport in Canada. Our team is so strong, we're going to win so many medals, and we just have to go out and celebrate... what competition is all about," she said.

"I feel so honoured and privileged to chase my passion."

Torch leaves lasting impression on UBC

SAMANTHA JUNG
news@ubyssey.ca

Students, staff and faculty alike braved the cold and rain as the Olympic Torch passed through campus Friday night.

Thousands packed the streets—and buildings with good views—for hours across campus dressed in red and white, waiting for the arrival of the flame.

"It's a once in a lifetime thing, you don't see it on your campus that often," said first-year Arts student Jaidev Subaiah.

The torch started at West Mall and Thunderbird Boulevard just before 6pm, and traveled north along Main Mall to University Boulevard where spectators were lined up on both sides of the street to catch a piece of Vancouver history.

Cheers emanated through the crowd as torchbearer and UBC alumna Lena Ling passed the torch to Scott Tabachnick on University Boulevard.

It was a festive scene for hours at the muddy and newly beautified centre of campus. Bands, cheerleaders and troubadours entertained the crowd of close to 2000 that had congregated at the main celebration zone, but most stayed close to the road, angling for the perfect position to see the flame pass.

"It was really amazing just seeing it," said Matthew Paine, a third-year Applied Sciences student. "I can't believe it's actually here."

Not everyone was pleased with the torch coming to campus.

"I feel [the Olympics have] been hijacked by the athletes," said Bryce Beckett, who was visiting campus to see the torch relay. "[I'm] pretty pissed off about the freedom of speech shit going on, where people are not allowed to speak down against the Olympics."

A group of protesters, including outgoing AMS President Blake Frederick in his final full day in office, marched around the torch route carrying signs and shouting. While their protest was peaceful and their impact minimal, some were not pleased with their presence.

"When they say UBC students don't want the torch, that's not true," said Christine Johnson, a first-year student in Human Kinetics.

UBC estimated the total attendance at 10,000 for the relay at UBC. The torch continued to 10th and Sasamat, where a celebration site was set up, before heading Downtown. Students on University Boulevard stayed to watch performances by indie band Said the Whale and the UBC Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

Lena Ling runs the torch towards Scott Tabachnick along Main Mall. **GERALD DEO PHOTO**/THE UBYSSEY

Shannon Smyth ends her leg of the relay and hand the flame off to Dr Charles Scudamore.
KEEGAN BURSAW PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

Dr Charles Scudamore runs alongside flag-waving fans.
KEEGAN BURSAW PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

Students take their protest around campus.
MICHAEL THIBAULT PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

Protesters wore a variety of signs.
MICHAEL THIBAULT PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

Thousands turn out to Opening Ceremonies protest

Friday's anti-Olympic demonstration makes its way to BC Place to protest the opening ceremonies. **MICHAEL THIBAULT PHOTO**/THE UBYSSEY

JONNY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@ubyssey.ca

Several thousand people gathered in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery Friday to protest the opening of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. Organized by a variety of anti-Olympic coalitions, the demonstration, called "Take Back Our City," reached a peak attendance of about 5000, according to some estimates.

After speeches and music, the protesters marched towards BC Place Stadium chanting "Homes not Games," "No Olympics on stolen Native land," and "This is what democracy looks like." The march was stopped by VPD officers at Robson and Beatty, with BC Place less than a block away.

The protest was mostly a tense standoff, but at 6pm police and protesters began pushing against one another. A large group of the protesters returned to the VAG about an hour afterwards, while others stayed by BC Place. The protest dispersed peacefully at around 8:30pm. There were no arrests.

Protesters felt that their voices were being heard.

"If we don't agree with these Games, it's important for us to say it. The most important thing is we are here, and the government of Canada is taking notice of that," said Nora Jameson, Vancouver resident and attendee.

Police hold assault rifles, make seven arrests as protest gets ugly

Protesters and police face off on West Georgia. **MICHAEL THIBAULT PHOTO**/THE UBYSSEY

ANDREW BATES
western.bureau@cup.ca

As many as seven people were arrested after violence in Vancouver during the 2010 Heart Attack protests on Saturday, according to Constable Janna McGuinness of the VPD.

The BC Civil Liberties Association claims that there were at least 13 arrests, but McGuinness said she is only aware of protesters who have been charged, not any that were detained but then released. "There could have easily been [more arrests], I have no idea," she said. "This was a large, dynamic situation."

She mentioned that the response was led by the same crowd control unit that covers many different types of events per year, but many officers wore helmets and carried shields and assault rifles this time.

The protest made its way across town, marked by sporadic violence such as defacement of newspaper boxes and broken glass. Police attempted to contain the protest rather than to stop individual acts of vandalism.

Protesters were surrounded at the intersection of West Georgia and Bute, and the demonstration was held in place until a police line opened. A group split off, only to be contained again a few blocks away. The activists accused Canada of becoming a police state. There was some tension, but participants and observers alike dispersed after some sort of agreement had been reached between protesters and police.

"They also said that that they have us on camera, we have them on camera," a protester yelled in a call and response at the crowd, "and if we meet again, they may make arrests, but we have the right."

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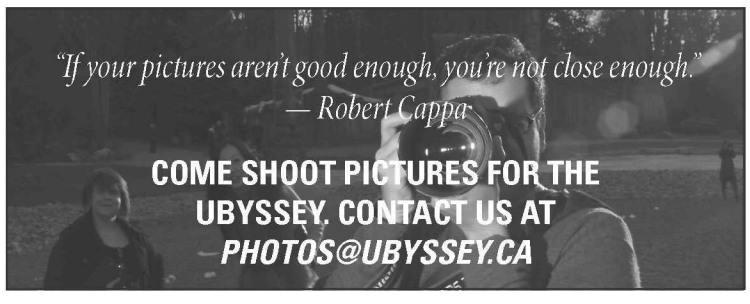


CAMPUS

COMPILED BY SAMANTHA JUNG » news@ubyssey.ca
AND JUSTIN McELROY » sports@ubyssey.ca

WEEKEND UBC SCORES

B-BALL

WOMEN VS TWU: WIN, 66–58
PLAYOFFS: QUARTERFINALS IN VICTORIA

MEN VS TWU: WIN, 90–83
PLAYOFFS: QUARTERFINALS VS LETHBRIDGE

VOLLEYBALL

WOMEN @ SFU: WIN, 3–0
PLAYOFFS: BYE WEEKEND

MEN: SEASON ALREADY OVER. DID NOT MAKE PLAYOFFS

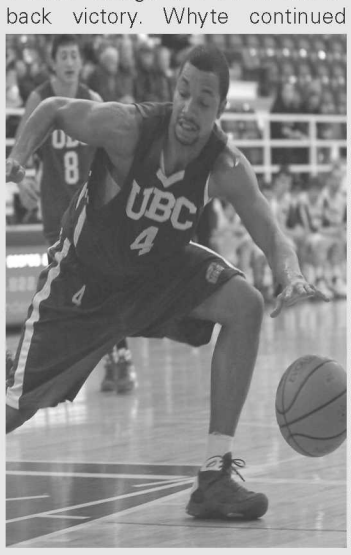
HOCKEY

WOMEN VS CALGARY: 1 WIN, 1 LOSS
PLAYOFFS: DID NOT QUALIFY

MEN VS ALBERTA: 1 WIN, 1 LOSS
PLAYOFFS: DID NOT QUALIFY

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

JOSH WHYTE BASKETBALL | This week's first Athlete of the Week is Josh Whyte of men's basketball. The fourth -year guard was a huge part of the team's two wins over the rival Vikes from the University of Victoria last week. After getting into foul trouble in the first half of Friday's game, Whyte terrorized the Vikes for 13 second-half points, ultimately leading the T-Birds' charge in a 78-72 comeback victory. Whyte continued his scoring touch into Saturday's game where he dropped 28 points with 3 assists on a Vikes team that had no answer for the Thunderbird offence. The win was especially significant for the team as they clinched first place in both the Pacific Division and Canada West Conference, ensuring that they have home court advantage throughout the playoffs.



KEEGAN BURSAW FILE PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

BLAIR BANN VOLLEYBALL | Our other athlete of the week, Blair Bann, is one of the co-captains of the men's volleyball team. A fourth-year Human Kinetics student, Blair has been a spark plug all year long for the T-Birds squad, providing an unparalleled statistical defence for the team. Although the team has been knocked out of playoff contention, that has not stopped the Senior B National Team Member from obtaining a CIS high 252 digs and 3.76 digs per set, leading all competition in those categories, proving that he is a dominating force as a libero. Expect another exceptional showing from this outstanding player in the 2010/2011 season.

GEOFF LISTER FILE PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

NEWS BRIEFS

UBC ESCAPES PAYING $4 MILLION PARKING FINE

UBC does not have to pay for the $4 million that they doled out in parking fines, reported *The Province*.

This means that motorists cannot get a refund for the parking fines that the university collected. The BC Court of Appeal ruled that it is legal for the provincial legislature to enact a retroactive law that strikes down the Supreme Court's original ruling that the fines were unlawfully collected.

The lawsuit began in 2006 when Vancouver chartered accountant Daniel Barbour filed a class-action lawsuit against UBC after his car was impounded and was ordered to pay for alleged parking violations.

STUDENT NAMED NOTABLE BC ENTREPRENEUR

Maryanne Mathias, a MBA student at UBC and local fashion designer, was named the BC Student Entrepreneur for 2010 by Advancing Canadian Partnership (ACE), reported *The Vancouver Sun*.

On March 5, she will represent BC in a regional business competition. Her clothing line can be found in Gastown at Two of a Kind.

UBC RAISES $3700 FOR HAITI

UBC Food Services, with the help of students, has managed to raise $3738 for Haiti relief.

Donations were collected in the form of tips at food outlets inside the SUB over four weeks.

The money will go to the "Humanitarian Coalition," which is comprised of Oxfam Canada, Canadians Save the Children Fund and Care Canada.

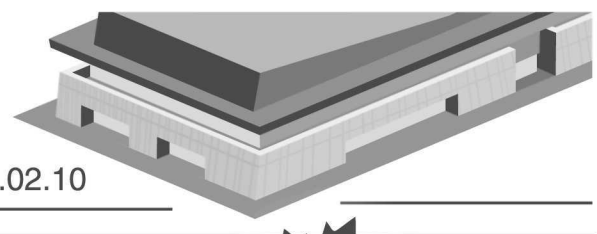
FREDERICK FAILS TO SHOW FOR FINAL MEETING

Outgoing AMS President Blake Frederick chose not to show up for Friday's AMS Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Frederick said that he was attending an Olympic protest instead.

He passed along his president's report, which was critical of this year's Council and the new executive. Those present at the AGM voted to reject it.

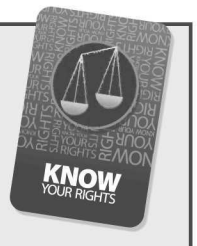
ams student society | Insider weekly
a weekly look at what's new at your student society 15.02.10



amseventsubc.com

THE SUB IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS DURING THE OLYLMPICS!
For a detailed list of outlet hours and closures
w w w . a m s . u b c . c a

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!
As a UBC student, how are the Olympics going to affect you?



Knowledge is power: if you know what your legal rights are and how they work, you can better understand and protect them, and protect and respect the rights of others.

Pick up your **"Know Your Rights"** information card at the AMS Speakeasy desk, available now through March 2010.

Brought to you by the Alma Mater Society, your student union at UBC.
For more information: www.ams.ubc.ca

Have a dispute with the university?
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http://www2.ams.ubc.ca/index.php/student_government/category/ams_ombuds_office

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For full hours visit www.ams.ubc.ca

The Gallery Lounge will be closed from Feb. 13th to Feb. 28th

FREE TICKETS
100 free tickets/week for any **UBC Athletic Event** at the **Outpost** First come, first serve.

VOLUNTEERS
AMS Safety Office is looking for volunteers to be part of "Safe-Team." Successful applicant will be provided with First Aid training. For further info or to apply, email **safety@ams.ubc.ca**

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IDEAS

DO YOU CARE?
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feedback@ubyssey.ca

EDITOR TREVOR RECORD » ideas@ubyssey.ca

YOU SAID IT

IN RESPONSE TO "TRAFFIC DISRUPTED, TORCHES LIT AT ANTI-OLYMPIC PROTEST [FEB. 23, 2010]":

I sincerely hope the VPD and any other security personnel teach these lawless idiots a lesson on not disrupting others' lives.

—Timmy Wong

Hey Tommy, your comment comes off as a bit ignorant in that one of the grounds for organizing the rally was a call for security personnel and VPD to "not disrupt others' lives."

—janet

Our new hero. **GERALD DEO PHOTO**/THE UBYSSEY

EDITORIAL

PROTESTERS LOSE THE UPPER HAND

Good job to the protesters who were at the 2010 Heart Attack demonstration. Your display yesterday killed any chance for peaceful and and productive protests to matter for the remainder of the Olympics.

Chanting "Fuck the police," breaking windows, scaring bystanders and generally doing your best to get arrested doesn't endear you to anyone except those who already fully support you. For those there for the Olympics, it comes off as stupid. For those who held contempt for the anti-Olympics groups, it will justify any sort of draconian reactions the police take against protesters from now on.

There's also those who are against the Olympics but want to express that peacefully and without destruction. They were the real losers yesterday, because their message will now be clouded for the rest of the Games.

Many of us were at Friday's "Welcoming Committee" protest, which was—for the most part—fun and peaceful. It got a number of points across, from the high Olympics costs and the money that has been funneled from important social programs to the poor practices of the planning committee.

These are valuable messages that could have been communicated to the world again and again during the Games. Now, the narrative has changed. It's all about thugs with no respect for the rest of the city, and police on constant guard, patrolling the street like legionaries.

Two protests scheduled for Saturday were called off, and doubtless many more will be curtailed as well. No doubt the Olympic Resistance Network and many of their supporters will use this as proof that the police are fascist, the Games are corporate, Olympics fans are conformists and all that wonderful rhetoric. But that sort of language only works for the public if you remain peaceful. Thanks to Friday, protesters of all stripes have lost the upper hand in public opinion, and they won't regain it for the rest of the Games.

THANKS, TO ALL THE HARDWORKING BUS DRIVERS

As students whose primary mode of conveyance is public transportation, when we heard TransLink's initial estimate of two-hour waits to catch a ride during the Olympics, we were pissed.

So far though, it hasn't been nearly as bad as expected. Sure, you couldn't say taking the bus has been a pleasant experience. Buses are crammed and riders are bound to get all sorts of international sweat on them as they move about the city. But we've been getting to where we need to be in a fairly reasonable amount of time, with minimal wait periods.

We would like to salute the bus drivers, who have been consistently packing their buses far over capacity trying to get everyone on board, even when this is clearly in defiance of company policy. Yesterday, one of us saw a TransLink supervisor kick several people out that the driver had managed to cram onto an already full bus. Sure, it may not be comfortable to ride squeezed against the front windshield while having to keep your head tilted to the side so that the driver can see the rear view mirror. It's still better than the blinking "Sorry, bus full," announcing you missed your last chance to get to where you need to be.

So thank you, drivers. Your extra effort is making this ordeal much more bearable than we expected. And to all you fellow transit users: If you're standing near the door and someone behind you is trying to get out, just get off the bus, let them out and get back on. And please, take your backpacks off and make new friends with the person from a far-off land you're forced into close quarters with.

TOO SEXY

AUSTIN HOLM & KASHA CHANG
toosexy@ubyssey.ca

Athletic Readership,

The Olympics have arrived, and with them, a horde of tourists. Having our fair city occupied by a combination of corporate interests and foreign sports fans has annoyed some, titillated others and confounded many more.

Regardless of your stance on blowing an insane sum of money in a base display of nationalism and greed when this city has been slashing funding for social programs*, I think we can all agree that the discussion has grown somewhat tiresome. We've been forced to listen to repetitive, non-constructive dialogue, yet key issues of how the Games will affect UBC students have gone not only unanswered but almost totally undiscussed.

Thus, *Too Sexy* has decided not to run a letter today, but rather to tackle this issue head on: what's the best way to sleep with as many hot foreigners as possible during this brief boom in tourism? We're going to need a game plan.

PREPARE YOURSELF

Preparation will take more than getting your hair styled or wearing your lucky underwear. This is the Olympics, the best from all over the world are here and they're all trying to get laid. You'll have to be at the top of your game if you want to get up on that podium.

The main advantage that UBC students should be able to claim over the Olympic athletes we'll be competing against will be our knowledge of the terrain. No matter how many hot Swedish skeleton athletes you're competing with, remember that this is your home track.

You may wish to wear a tiny Canadian flag to let tourists know that you're from around here and start conversations. Nothing ostentatious though. Face paint ranks up with sweater vests and pocket protectors in terms of salting game.

CHOOSE YOUR TARGET

Lost tourists are easy to start conversation with, but don't forget that almost anyone on vacation wants to meet some fun locals who can show them around. We're a country known for our politeness, so it's not inappropriate to say hello or have some fun with our guests.

Once you've found someone who really fires your starter pistol, don't let the chance get away. Too many international relations have fallen apart over a moment's hesitation. *Carpe diem* and finish what you set out to do.

INVITATION TO ADVENTURE

Having made contact, it's time to put your environmental knowledge to use. Vancouver is such a beautiful city, we're sure you all have your own ideas about how to showcase it to your lover from across the sea. But just in case you don't, we'll give you ours:

Watching the sunset from the stairs behind the Museum of Anthropology? BAM. You just got laid.

Going to the Jupiter Café to drink and sing karaoke, then stumble down to the beach to party all night? BAM. You just got laid.

Displaying your taste and culture with a night of poetry at Café Deux Soleils? BAM. You just got laid.

Watching the sunlight play through the early morning mist as the sun rises over a panoramic city scape from that unnamed park near Collingwood and 16th? BAM. You just got laid.

And failing these: Going to the New Amsterdam Cafe to get stoned? BAM. You just stopped caring about getting laid.

SEX

At this point, your foreign fling's underthings should be either soaked through with regulation Olympic-sized passion or mysteriously missing. Get in there and make Canada proud. And for the sake of international diplomacy, play safe.

That's it for this week. Send questions and liquor to toosexy@ubyssey.ca *or our webform at* ubyssey.ca/ideas.

** Can you guess our stance?*

PERSPECTIVE

PROTESTS HAVE NOT BEEN JUST ABOUT FREE SPEECH

ALEX LECKIE
Contributor

In June 2003, John Furlong, then CEO of the 2010 Olympic Bid Corporation for Vancouver, described the Olympics as a "powerful platform for building a better world through sport." Furlong was echoing the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) official philosophy, Olympism, which hopes to "place sport at the service of the harmonious development of man [sic], with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity."

Furlong's comments may sound a bit inconsistent for those who have been living in Vancouver. It's hard to see the universal good of the human race being promoted. With the illustration of a few examples, it becomes clear that these contradictions now define these Games.

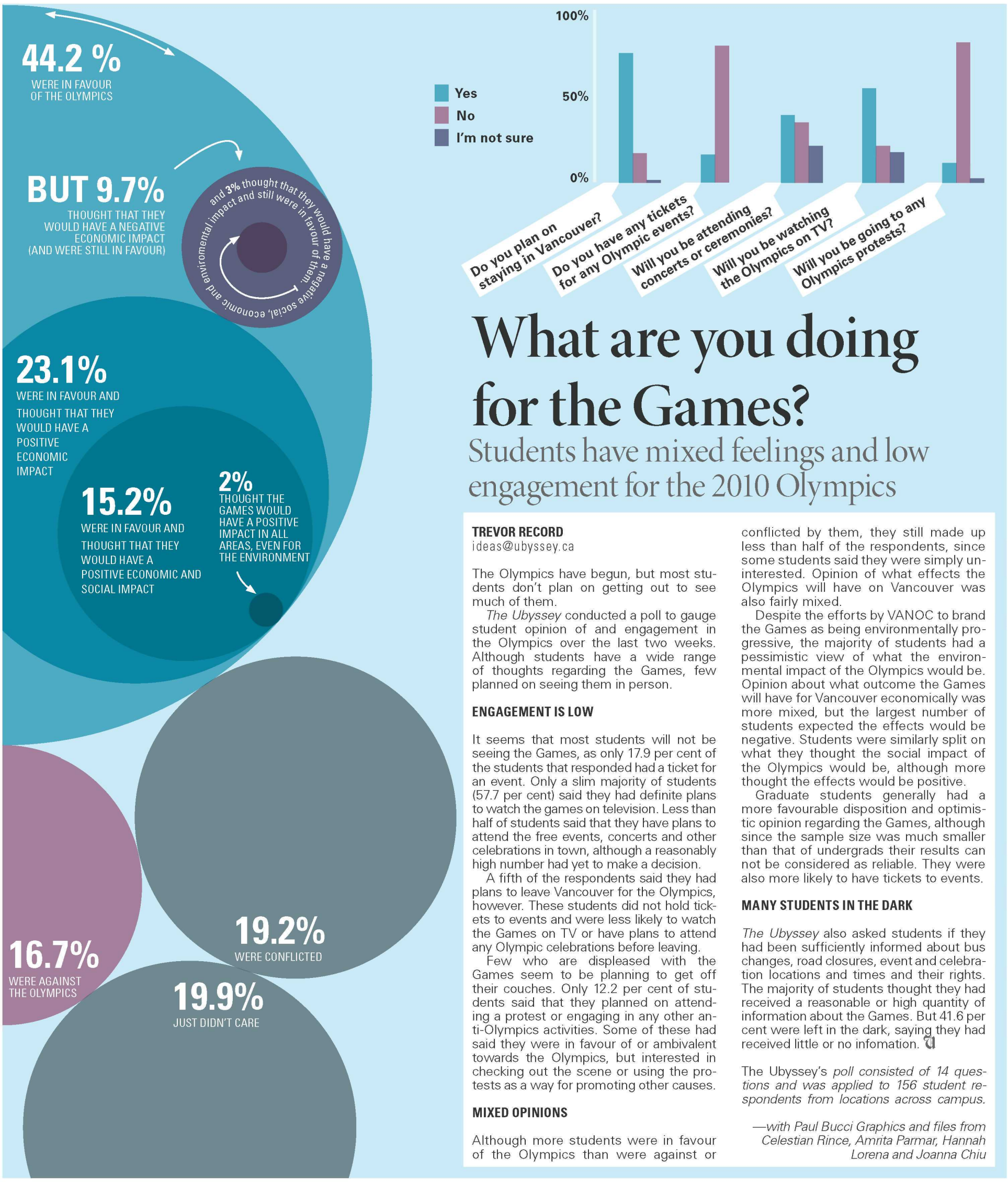
The brand of the Olympics and its multinational sponsors is to be consumed on every street corner and bus ride. The walls of the Granville Skytrain station are covered with ads in which the red and white of Coca-Cola's brand is indistinguishable from that of Canada's hockey team. We are intended to ignore, presumably, the illogic of companies like Coca-Cola and McDonald's having anything to do with the pinnacle of athletic performance. One begins to wonder whether the fans behind the boards are cheering for a country's brand or a soft drink's. The real question is where the difference lies between the two—consumption of the Olympic brand has become a characteristic of citizenship.

In September, VANOC and the provincial government tried to introduce this notion into the BC elementary and secondary curriculum, having already secured post-secondary with the inclusion of UBC as an Olympic venue site. While slashing $130,000 from the provincial school sports budget, the province introduced the 2010 Spirit School program. At a cost of $500,000, the program was designed to encourage classrooms to embrace the Olympics. This program was criticized for its obvious political overtones, and the accompanying cuts made it seem like a failed bribe attempt.

For another example of Olympic contradiction, we can look at the security for the Games. An event meant to bring people together from across the world for the enjoyment of sport now has a security budget which may go over $1 billion, one-sixth of the total cost of the Games. To provide some context, this is the amount initially estimated for the total cost of the Games when Vancouver won the bid in 2003. Passing through airport-like security is required to get into certain parts of the city, including Granville Island and parts of downtown. This may all be standard order for a post-9/11 world, but it begs the question of what exactly we are bringing together for the next few weeks.

If the Olympics have brought anything together, it is political groups in opposition to it. This is the most inconvenient discrepancy for VANOC and the City of Vancouver. The BC Civil Liberties Association, No One is Illegal, the Impact on Community Coalition, the Olympic Resistance Network and even a union or two have collaborated in an onslaught of critiques against the Olympics. However, the dominant anti-Olympic message being peddled by newspaper and television media is that regarding free-speech.

Many of these anti-Olympic groups have taken to political analyses against larger issues surrounding the Olympics such as colonialism, corporatization and poverty in Vancouver. The Olympics-sponsored media outlets paint these groups as merely defenders of liberal rights of free speech. However, there is a broader question that I identify within these groups: if states and corporations can so callously choose how and when citizens' rights are exercised, then why should we rely on these powers to grant them in the first place?



What are you doing for the Games?

Students have mixed feelings and low engagement for the 2010 Olympics

TREVOR RECORD
ideas@ubyssey.ca

The Olympics have begun, but most students don't plan on getting out to see much of them.

The Ubyssey conducted a poll to gauge student opinion of and engagement in the Olympics over the last two weeks. Although students have a wide range of thoughts regarding the Games, few planned on seeing them in person.

ENGAGEMENT IS LOW

It seems that most students will not be seeing the Games, as only 17.9 per cent of the students that responded had a ticket for an event. Only a slim majority of students (57.7 per cent) said they had definite plans to watch the games on television. Less than half of students said that they have plans to attend the free events, concerts and other celebrations in town, although a reasonably high number had yet to make a decision.

A fifth of the respondents said they had plans to leave Vancouver for the Olympics, however. These students did not hold tickets to events and were less likely to watch the Games on TV or have plans to attend any Olympic celebrations before leaving.

Few who are displeased with the Games seem to be planning to get off their couches. Only 12.2 per cent of students said that they planned on attending a protest or engaging in any other anti-Olympics activities. Some of these had said they were in favour of or ambivalent towards the Olympics, but interested in checking out the scene or using the protests as a way for promoting other causes.

MIXED OPINIONS

Although more students were in favour of the Olympics than were against or conflicted by them, they still made up less than half of the respondents, since some students said they were simply uninterested. Opinion of what effects the Olympics will have on Vancouver was also fairly mixed.

Despite the efforts by VANOC to brand the Games as being environmentally progressive, the majority of students had a pessimistic view of what the environmental impact of the Olympics would be. Opinion about what outcome the Games will have for Vancouver economically was more mixed, but the largest number of students expected the effects would be negative. Students were similarly split on what they thought the social impact of the Olympics would be, although more thought the effects would be positive.

Graduate students generally had a more favourable disposition and optimistic opinion regarding the Games, although since the sample size was much smaller than that of undergrads their results can not be considered as reliable. They were also more likely to have tickets to events.

MANY STUDENTS IN THE DARK

The Ubyssey also asked students if they had been sufficiently informed about bus changes, road closures, event and celebration locations and times and their rights. The majority of students thought they had received a reasonable or high quantity of information about the Games. But 41.6 per cent were left in the dark, saying they had received little or no infomation.

The Ubyssey's poll consisted of 14 questions and was applied to 156 student respondents from locations across campus.

—with Paul Bucci Graphics and files from Celestian Rince, Amrita Parmar, Hannah Lorena and Joanna Chiu

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