

THE

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UBYSSEY

TAs fume about one-sided e-mail

by Chris Shepherd
NEWS EDITOR

A mass e-mail recently sent to UBC students and staff about the teaching assistant (TA) labour negotiations has drawn much criticism from TAs and the two major student governments on campus.

The TA Union, the Alma Mater Society (AMS) and the Graduate Student Society (GSS) are upset with the university and are accusing it of using its resources to campaign against the TAs

with the February 27 e-mail.

"That was a blatant propagandist e-mail that went out," said TA Union President Alex Grant. "Not in any sense informational. It was just using their power to try and subvert what we're trying to do."

The e-mail was sent to around 30,000 students, 3500 faculty and 5000 staff by Lisa Castle, associate vice-president, human resources. Castle is in charge of the collective bargaining process for the university.

Student government and the TA Union feel that UBC was mis-

representing facts when they said UBC TAs are the third-highest paid TAs in the country. UBC calculated wages annually, but TAs say their per hour wages rank tenth out of 15 Canadian universities, lower than both SFU and the University of Toronto.

Scott Macrae, director of public affairs, said the e-mail was merely intended to keep the university community up-to-date on events that impact faculty, staff and students. He said that e-mails like the one sent last week represent the views of the senior administration of the university.

But GSS President Brian de Alwis felt it was a deliberate attempt on the part of the university to turn students against TAs. "It was biased," said de Alwis. "It was presenting a situation that wasn't factually correct."

Macrae countered this, stating that the e-mail was factually correct.

"We may disagree on the way to put things," he said, "but when the university says that these TAs, on an annual income basis, are the third-highest-paid in Canada, we stand behind that statement."

AMS President Oana Chirila said that it was unfair for the university to use the broadcast system, because they are the ones that control it.

"Broadcasting e-mail, they're the ones who are in control of it," said Chirila, "so to present [their] side of negotiations of all things...is most definitely inflammatory."

Macrae agreed the e-mail did present only the university's side of negotiations, but added that "those broadcast e-mails are not meant to be an open forum."

De Alwis added that the tone of the e-mail was similar to newspaper ads the university had placed in *The Vancouver Sun* and *The Province* last month.

The university spent \$55,441 in February on ads detailing its stand on issues with the labour conflicts facing UBC, money which several students at a recent labour forum felt could be better spent on TA compensation.

Macrae said that the university chose to communicate with the ads it did because there are many people outside of the UBC community interested in what happens on campus. "We need to recognise that there are a lot of people in the larger community who are wanting to know what is going on here."

Some students didn't appear to be bothered by the university's e-mail.

"I guess I don't have too much of a problem with it, but I think that this is a positional dispute so the other side should certainly have an opportunity to spread their opinion as well,"

See "E-mail" on page 4.

Hot streak to Halifax



INSIDE OUT WITH JOY: Brian Host, the happy giant, cheers as UBC wins CanWest. Pages 6-7. NIC FENSOM PHOTO

AMS reluctantly joins war debate

by Kathleen Deering
NEWS EDITOR

The Alma Mater Society (AMS) irresolutely passed a motion to take a stand on a possible war against Iraq at last Wednesday's Council meeting. Roughly half of councillors abstained from voting, and one voted against.

Members of the Coalition Against the War on the People of Iraq (CAWOPI)—a UBC student group with hundreds of members, formed in September—brought the motion to council. Dave Quigg, a member of CAWOPI, said he was very pleased with the AMS's support.

"I think it's a wonderful step in a new direction that, hopefully, this more progressive slate in the AMS will be taking," he said. "[It's] really opening up a global awareness [and] working in solidarity with global struggles that certainly affect us all locally."

Members of CAWOPI brought 2000 signatures to the AMS from students who said they do not support any war on Iraq.

Newly-elected Vice-President, Academic, Laura Best was in favour of the motion. "I think it's really important that students all over the world, not just at UBC, stand with students in Iraq," she said. "It's really powerful that the AMS passed [the motion], since so many universities have passed these kind of motions."

Several cities in North America, including Vancouver, also recently passed a resolution opposing Canada's involvement in any military action against Iraq unless authorised by the UN and Canadian laws.

The motion before the AMS was amended from its original version because some councillors were uncomfortable labelling UBC as an "anti-war campus" and wanted to emphasise their opposition to "US-led" use of force and sanctions

THIS ISSUE:



CULTURE: Plays and tunes! Van city gives 'er. Pages 7, 12.

EDITORIAL: After the celebrations Olympic fever runs cold. Page 10.

FEEDBACK@UBYSSEY.BC.CA
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in Iraq.

The first version of the amended motion implied the AMS would support a war if it was supported by the UN, said Best. "People from [CAWOPI] were concerned because they felt it changed the spirit of the motion."

Members of the anti-war group said they would prefer to withdraw the motion rather than espouse a

See "Stand" on page 4.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE FORUM CAUSES CONTROVERSY

by Chris Shepherd
NEWS EDITOR

A Friday forum about Palestine and Israel drew a large audience of students and non-students, but several on-campus Jewish groups are unhappy with the way the discussion was carried out.

Organised by the UBC-NDP club, the forum was advertised as "Beyond the headlines: Palestine and Israel."

It was created to dispel perceptions about the Palestine-Israeli conflict organisers believed were being circulating around campus.

"We just wanted to show why there is an intifada, why there is an uprising by the Palestinians," said Camilo Cahis, president of the UBC-NDP club. "None of that has ever been discussed, really, on campus."

See "Forum" on page 4.



SPEAKING HIS MIND: Svend Robinson spoke in support of the Palestinian people last Friday. CHRIS SHEPHERD PHOTO

CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

SUMMER CAMP COUNSELLORS ON CAMPUS INTERVIEWS FOR PREMIER CAMPS in Massachusetts. Positions available for talented, energetic, and fun loving students as counsellors in all team sports including Roller Hockey and Lacrosse, all individual sports such as Tennis & Golf, Waterfront and Pool activities, and specialty activities including art, dance, theatre, gymnastics, newspaper, rocketry & radio. **GREAT SALARIES**, room, board, travel and US summer work visa. June 21st-August 17th. Enjoy a great summer that promises to be unforgettable. For more information and to apply: MAH-KEE-NAC www.campmkn.com (Boys): 1-800-753-9118; DANBEE www.danbee.com (girls): 1-800-392-3752. Interviewer will be on campus Tuesday, March 4th - 10am to 4pm in the Student Union Building (SUB) - Rooms 214 & 216.

TEACH ENGLISH OVERSEAS! One-day TEFL workshop. Mar 15. 1-866-912-4465. www.gototeach.ca

Volunteer Opportunities

HEALTHY, INJURY-FREE INDIVIDUALS BETWEEN AGES 20-45, who do not exercise more than 3 hours a week, are required to participate in a study sponsored by Canadian Space Agency. Study requires approx 15 hrs of testing over a max of 10 days. Participants will be given a lower extremity exercise program. An honorarium, not to exceed \$250, will be paid for travel expenses. Call 604-822-0799

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Announcement

UBC MEDICINE PRESENTS "THE RUN FOR RURAL MEDICINE" Sun, Mar 23. For info & registration details, go to www.ubcmedicine.cjb.net/2005/run

2003 WOMEN'S CAREER DAYS: Mar 6, SUB, Valuing diversity & celebrating women's leadership. Details: www.womeninleadership.ca. Presented by Women in Leadership Foundation & AIESEC UBC.

LET YOUR SPIRIT GROW ART EXHIBITION: Spiritual Expressions in Art. Mar 3-8, 10am-7pm, SUB Art Gallery. Sponsored by UBC Chaplains + Murrin Fund. Free admission.

STRUGGLES IN RELIGIOUS IDENTITY: IS CHRISTIANITY A VIOLENT RELIGION? The Dodson Room, Main Library, Mar 10, 4pm. Speaker: Dr. Miraslov Volf, Henry B. Wright professor of Theology, Yale University Divinity School. Sponsored by UBC Graduate & Faculty Christian Forum.

AMNESTY UBC'S 8TH ANNUAL STUDENT CONFERENCE: MAR 8-9. Topic: Conflict & Human Rights. Cost: \$30. 2 full days of exciting speakers & workshops + food, registration package & a bonus T-shirt. Contact Gabrielle at amnestyubc@hotmail.com or 604-988-8438 to register.

ATTENTION ALL HISTORY UNDERGRADS GRADUATING THIS SPRING: Please take your grad photos at: Evangelos Photography, 3156 W. Broadway, 604-731-8314. Deadline: March 15.

CHINESE VEGETARIAN LUNCH/BUFFET EVERY TUESDAY from 12:30-2:30 at International House (1783 West Mall). All welcome.

FRONTIER COLLEGE, A NON-PROFIT LITERACY ORG'N, NEEDS USED BOOK DONATIONS for an upcoming fundraiser. There are drop-off boxes at Speakeasy (SUB ground), Resource Groups Commons (SUB upstairs) & Cage Commons. 604-713-5848.

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PLAYSTATION 2 FOR SALE + VF4. \$275 obo. 604-874-9016 or jmhiga@interchange.ubc.ca.

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Extra Curricular

BIRDWALK ON CAMPUS EVERY TUESDAY. Meet at the Flagpole (above Rose Garden; by Chan Centre) at 12:30pm. For info or to get on mailing list, contact Christina: struik@interchange.ubc.ca.

Services

THE BIKE KITCHEN: Campus Bike Shop. Full-service, non-profit, good times! Used bikes, accessories, repairs, shop & tool use, bike repair instruction. Located in SUB basement. Call 82-SPEED.



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For more information, visit Room 23 in the SUB (basement) or call 822-1654.

'tweens What's going on between classes

Art

Let Your Spirit Soar at the AMS Art Gallery, SUB first floor, until March 8.

The UBC Chaplains Association presents spiritually inspiring artwork by eight local artists. Artists will be present in the gallery on a rotating basis throughout the exhibition.

Peace

Anti-War Rally at the Goddess of Democracy, outside the SUB, Wednesday March 5, noon.

The Coalition Against the War on the People of Iraq is planning a rally with speakers and music to protest a potential war against Iraq. Coincides with protests at universities around the world.

Job hunting

Summer Job Fair in the SUB Main Concourse, March 4 and 5.

We know, kinda sick to start thinking about work this summer while still in the throes of midterms. But hey, work brings money and money can bring fun. There'll be workshops and employers aplenty. Come meet your potential overlord for the next four months.

Jokes

Laffs at Lunch in the SUB Norm Theatre, Wednesdays, noon.

These people will try and make you laugh. Be happy that you're not up there. Eat your lunch. ♦

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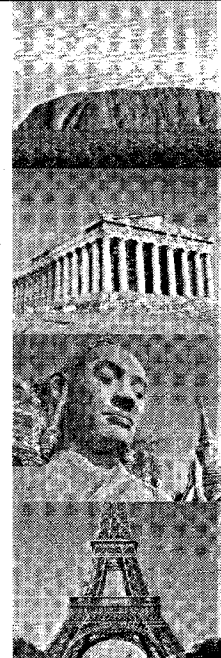
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Staff Meeting Agenda Wednesday 12pm SUB room 24	the Ubyssy angular since 1978	1)Intro 2)T-shirts 3)Membership 4)Women's Issue 5)Colours Issue	6)Ultimate 7)Spoof 8)Ungrammaticle 9)Other business 10)Post mortem
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WOMEN'S CAREER DAYS

Valuing diversity. Celebrating women's leadership.

Law Enforcement Info Session
11:30 am - 12:30pm SUB Auditorium

ABORIGINAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP
1pm - 3:20pm SUB Auditorium

Provides a sensitive and uplifting approach to leadership that empowers women to create a future that gives them reason to celebrate. RSVP ubcregister@hotmail.com

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP PANEL
3:30pm - 5pm SUB Auditorium

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All events are FREE. For more details visit:

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March 6

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Cecil H. and Ida Green Visiting Professor

ELINOR OSTROM

ARTHUR F. BENTLEY PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON

SERIES: BEYOND PANACEAS AND QUICK FIXES

MANAGING RESOURCES IN THE GLOBAL COMMONS
Saturday, March 8 at 8:15pm
Woodward IRC2 VANCOUVER INSTITUTE LECTURE

CROSS-CULTURAL EVIDENCE FOR THE SUCCESSFUL GOVERNANCE OF COMMON POOL RESOURCES
Monday, March 10 at 12:00pm
Forest Sciences Centre 1003, 2424 Main Mall

RESILIENCE OF ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS
Tuesday, March 11 at 7:30pm
Graham House, Green College

THE GOVERNANCE OF URBAN ECOLOGIES: WHY CONSOLIDATION IS NOT A PANACEA
Thursday, March 13 at 12:00pm
Woodward IRC1, 2194 Health Sciences Mall

Please Clip & Save! FREE PUBLIC LECTURE!

'Cruelty-free' undergrad labs end use of live animals

UBC Med School to phase out use of live pigs by fall

by Jonathan Woodward
NEWS WRITER

UBC Faculty of Medicine undergrad students won't be putting live pigs under the knife this fall. A report commissioned by UBC Dean of Medicine Dr John Cairns has recommended eliminating the use of live animals for training procedures.

The recommendation will be implemented for September 2003 classes.

Each year, students operate on about 25 anaesthetised pigs for practice in procedures such as chest tube insertions and tracheotomies. High-tech simulations designed by UBC's Centre of Excellence for Surgical Education at the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) will replace the lab.

"These laboratories are ones where the skills can be gained by the use of robotic techniques, abattoir materials and simulations," said Cairns. "We've moved pigs out of the undergraduate program and it will not compromise their education in any material way."

Fourth-year UBC Medicine student Ian Wong was skeptical about the difference between plastic, pigs and humans.

"There is no way to find landmarks in plastic tissue," he said. "While landmarks will be different on pigs and humans, they are there and can be used. It doesn't matter if it's a bleeding pig or human, our job is to just stop the bleeding."

"With pigs, the acuteness of the situation is the same," he said.

Surgical doctors will still practice extensively on live animals in graduate school, Cairns said.

"Our focus is to ensure that we have highly-skilled practitioners to operate on a person. I think, in reality, neither [simulations nor animal labs] really prepares students," he said.

"While it is important to learn everything you can before you work on a human, where they actually learn is in the setting of real human beings."

A large factor influencing the decision was the availability of effective technologies for simulation. Haptic technologies provide "phenomenally accurate simulations for the feel and touch," Cairns said.

A combination of a computer screen interface and responsive rubber skin attempts to stimulate every aspect of suturing, down to the pop of the needle. "It feels like you're stitching

skin," said Associate Dean Dr Angela Towle.

The report on animal use was commissioned as a response to pressure from animal rights groups. The *Physician's Committee for Responsible Medicine Magazine* refers to the use of simulations as "cruelty-free education," and laments that "UBC continues to use animals despite growing public opposition to such practices."

Animals used are treated according to standards consistent with Canadian law, veterinary practice and the animal use committee at UBC.

"Still, every time this pressure comes, it behooves the Faculty of Medicine to consider what the best course is to take in order to produce physicians who can look after patients effectively. That's our goal," said Cairns.

UBC is one of the last universities in Canada to still use live animals and is part of a shrinking group that includes McGill University.

"As a veterinarian I don't think you can adequately train someone who is doing an emergency procedure where the procedure you're doing will have an effect on the animal—with a dummy," said Dr Richard Latt, director of the Animal Resources Center at McGill.

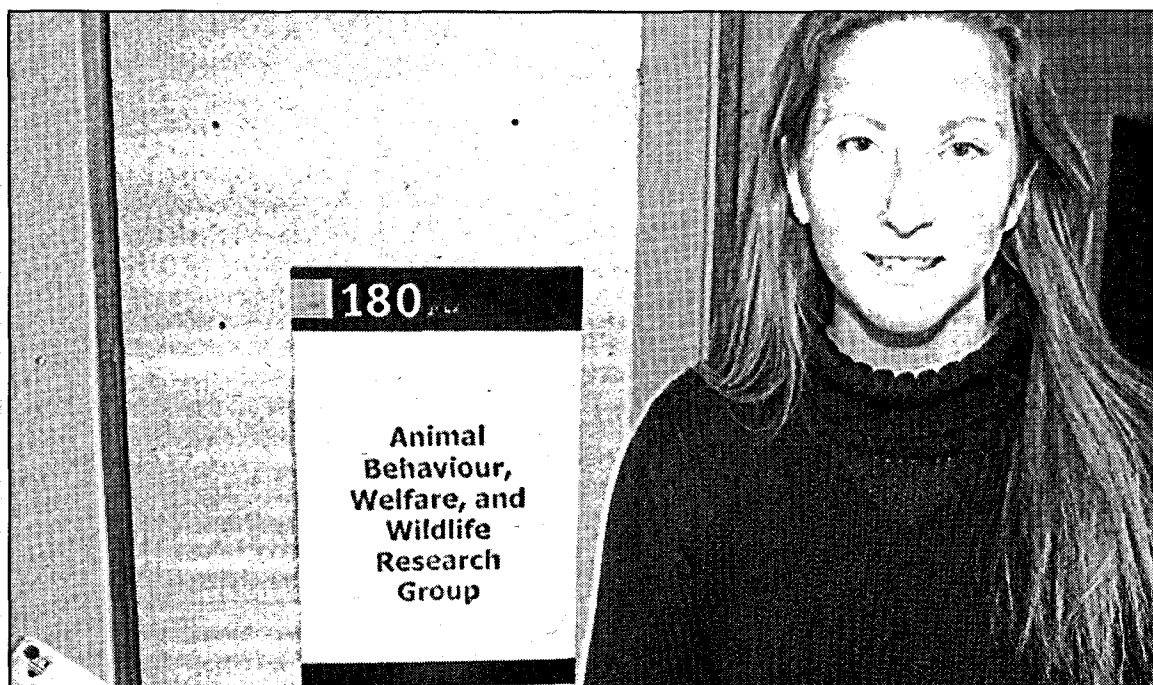
"You're training medical personnel to react quickly to a patient coming into an emergency room [and] how to properly place a chest tube or a [tracheotomy] tube or something like that," Latt said. "If you put the trach tube or chest tube in the wrong place it's certainly going to have an adverse affect on the patient. And I'm not sure how you can simulate that in a model."

Wong ultimately agreed on the need for experience.

"The biggest concern for most Med students is that, at some point, there is a first time that you will operate on a human being. The more times you practice, the better. Our biggest fear is hurting someone's mother or daughter. Animal labs have given me confidence," he said.

UBC will co-operate with VGH in its fundraising from private donors, the health care system and a number of private companies. The machines will be evaluated in a surgical setting.

"The objective in all of this is to produce physicians who can look after patients properly. That has always been our main goal," said Cairns. ♦



ROOM 180 Not as ominous as room 101. The human in the photo is Sara Dubois. NIC FENSOM PHOTO

Helping the little animals

UBC grad student helps animal rehabilitators share knowledge

by Brooke McLachlan
NEWS WRITER

Graduate student Sara Dubois always wanted to work with animals but didn't know exactly how, until she found the UBC Animal Welfare Program (AWP) in the department of Agricultural Sciences.

Her hard work is now being recognised, as the Vancouver Foundation and the AWP have jointly awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Wildlife Rehabilitators Network of BC (WRN). This means Sara can apply her research to educational projects to benefit the wildlife rehabilitation community.

Dubois feels that the province has been neglecting animal rehabilitation. "The government mandate is for the conservation of species, not for wildlife rehabilitation," she said.

"The government feels that one animal is not going to affect the population so they won't fund it. It's up to the public."

Sara's Master's thesis involves a survey of wildlife rehabilitation in the province. She interviewed animal

rehabilitators and collected data about different wildlife species, such as the kinds of injuries they typically suffer and how long it takes before they are released.

The purpose of collecting this data was to assess animal rehabilitator training needs in the province. Dubois hopes to help create a BC-based training facility for animal rehabilitators.

Elizabeth Thunstrom, president of the WRN of BC, praised Dubois for her work with people around the province.

"Sara has been very effective in reaching out to people, in an area that can be very personal to them," Thunstrom said.

The WRN is a non-profit organisation that includes rehabilitation facilities and other animal care personnel. The WRN also attempts to foster cooperation with the government and international agencies.

David Fraser, one of Sara's professors in the AWP, explained that wildlife rehabilitators in BC and world-wide tend to work in isolation in remote communities without much communication.

"Sara is helping to better meet the needs of rehabilitators by seeing where they agree and disagree, and what common goals they have," he said.

Sara's research is helping to cre-

ate a network with which rehabilitators can pool information and resources. No local training course for wildlife rehabilitators exists at this time in the province, and Dubois feels this should be remedied.

"It would be nice to have a BC-based course...Part of the grant will be used to see how feasible it would be to set one up in BC," Dubois said.

Wildlife rehabilitation is not funded by the government and is heavily reliant on public donations. There are currently only about 40 BC wildlife rehabilitation facilities in BC.

In the future, Dubois would like to use her expertise to become a liaison between provincial and federal governments and non-profit wildlife organisations. Dubois is eager to provide rehabilitators with additional tools to help treat sick, orphaned or injured animals.

"They are pretty amazing," Dubois said of the rehabilitators. "They dedicate their whole lives and often times their own savings to the cause...I'd like to help them."

Sara's goals may not be far from achievement.

Fraser said Sara's work is "not just unique to BC, but...it is the first time someone has used this interviewing approach to identify and meet the needs of wildlife rehabilitators." ♦

Breakfast of champions

by Sarah Conchie
SPORTS EDITOR

As the sun was rising and a crowd of 1000 sipped coffee at the annual Millennium Breakfast, an athlete turned to her neighbour and whispered, "They might as well put up electric fences around all Canadian athletes."

It was a response to UBC President Martha Piper's emphatic speech, given just before Dick Pound—former vice-president and current member of the International Olympic Committee, and the chancellor of McGill University—ascended to the podium at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre Friday morning. Pound, after commending UBC for its "inspired choice of Dr Piper as your leader," touched on the issue of keeping athletic talent in Canada and encouraged the sleepy but well-dressed crowd to fight to bring the 2010 Winter Olympics to Vancouver and Whistler.

The 2010 Olympic bid and retaining Canadian athletes were both on the menu at the annual Athletics fundraiser

"Regarding the 2010 Olympics," Pound concluded, "let's get it and kick some ass. We can do it better and bigger than anybody else."

Pound said afterwards that, although conflict-of-interest rules meant that he could not vote on bids for the 2010 Olympic, he would be doing some major campaigning for the Vancouver/Whistler bid.

"What I will be doing is running around nibbling on everybody's ears to say what a great bid it is. I think people will understand that." The Olympic legacy, he added, would benefit UBC immensely through world-class athletic facilities.

"UBC should put on its elbow pads and get in there and say, 'We can help in a great big way.'"

While the event was festooned with Olympic logos and bid supporters, UBC Athletics Director Bob Philip added another future competition to the wish list.

In the varsity video montage, Philip said that he looked forward ten

years to when UBC would compete in the NCAA, the university athletic league in the US.

"It's nine now, because that video was made last year," said Philip afterwards. "Our goal is to play varsity sports at the highest level, and the NCAA is the highest level right now."

The NCAA's current bylaws state that a university must be US-based to compete, though Philip thinks that if UBC was allowed in, they could offer better scholarships, ultimately keeping the top Canadian talents on home soil.

"If you say to me, what's your dream for the next ten years, that's it. Whether it happens or not—like, [UBC swimmer] Brian Johns was quoted in the paper as saying, you have to have a realistic goal and a dream goal. Is it realistic? I don't know yet, because the ground rules haven't been set yet for us to apply. But idealistically, I would love to be watching our basketball team play UCLA." ♦

RANT

The Ubyssy's fifth annual literary competition is back

We are currently accepting submissions for the following five categories:

Long Fiction (1000-3000 words)
Long Non-fiction (1000-3000 words)
Snap Fiction (under 1000 words)
Snap Non-fiction (under 1000 words)
Poetry (under 20 lines)

Submit your entries to SUB Room 23
(The Ubyssy's Business Office)

Deadline is March 21st, 2003 at noon

Winners will be published in the April 4th issue of The Ubyssy

Check www.ubyssey.bc.ca for submission guidelines

Send your questions to ubysseyrant@hotmail.com



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Wednesday March 12 . Brassmunk . Motion . Capoeira Aché Brasil
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Enjoy a summer that promises to be action-packed and unforgettable!

"E-mail" from page 1.

said graduate student Michael Zelmer.

The AMS and GSS both plan on posting a TA response to UBC's e-mail to their constituents. The GSS sent a message to its own listserv, which reaches between 1600 to 3500 grad students. The AMS will post a similar response to its AMS Interactive listserv, which has around 1800 students on it.

"Stand" from page 1.

UN-supported war. A recess was called and Science Undergraduate Society President Reka Sztopa drafted a new version, which was subsequently passed.

Several members of Council publicly stated their opposition to the motion. Dan Grice, an Arts representative said that while he doesn't believe the AMS should necessarily take a neutral stance, he believes it is not justifiable to engage in foreign policy discussion.

"The only government who should [engage in such debate] is the federal government," he said. "It's our job to promote student causes, but not necessarily to support them. It also weakens our ability to facilitate between different groups around campus."

But Quigg said he believes students have a responsibility to take an interest in global issues and that the 2000 students who signed the petition speak for themselves. "As students, we are essentially the minds [of the future], and we are here to form a new future and, hopefully, a better future for our world," he said.

"Forum" from page 1.

and we just wanted to take the opportunity to do so."

Arash Ben Shaul, president of the Israel Advocacy Club, was not happy with the choice of speakers in the forum. "They were all like-minded," he said. "There was not any form of diversity of opinion."

Cahis said the speakers were brought in because they were all excellent speakers on the topic of Israel and Palestine.

"What we were trying to do was not address the effects of the bombings or what should be done," Cahis explained. "We were just trying to present what is actually happening right now."

The speakers at the forum were Svend Robinson, Libby Davies (both are NDP MPs and both have visited the Middle East), Dr Gabor Mate (a physician and member of Jews for a Just Peace) and Khaled Barakat, who is from Palestine.

The audience quickly filled Angus 226 and UBC Security was on hand to ensure that the room was not filled beyond the fire safety regulations.

A large portion of the audience (between 20 to 50 per cent) were non-students and organisers asked for them to volunteer to leave to make room for students. Only a few people left the room and around 40 people waited outside.

Cahis was surprised at the turnout for the forum. "[We] purposely kept advertising on campus to avoid this," Cahis said of the large audience.

He had hoped to have students as the audience to facilitate discussion. "It made the atmosphere very charged," he said of the large crowd, "and there was some heckling, unfortunately."

The speakers each addressed the current situation around Israel and Palestine, focusing on the treatment of the Palestinian people.

Both governments are hoping that the university will allow them to post a message to the same broadcast system that was used to send the original message.

The TAs will continue their strike action today, picketing the Law building from 7am to 5pm. Updates on TA strike action are updated daily at 5pm at www.cupe2278.ca. For the university's releases on the labour issues see www.ubc.ca.

"Certainly for our future, for a peaceful world—which I'm sure all students at our campus want to have—I think that global issues should definitely be a part of the AMS."

Oana Chirila, AMS president, said there were many concerns from students who felt they weren't adequately consulted on the motion and from councillors who weren't sure if it was within their mandate to lend support to such a controversial global issue. "It's very indicative of how students felt," she said about the large number of abstentions.

She said that, although the AMS sometimes takes stands on social issues not necessarily directed related to the university, this particular issue has been the subject of much debate.

"I would hate to alienate students who feel one way or another," she said.

March 5 is a worldwide day of action for universities to show their opposition to war in Iraq. UBC will be participating, Quigg said, with a "party for peace" near the Goddess of Democracy outside the SUB. Music and speakers are planned.

Several times throughout the forum almost half of the members of the audience held up identical signs with the words "I disagree" printed on them.

Robinson drew the first use of the signs as he talked about UN resolutions that show that the Israeli presence in the area is illegal. Robinson said that there must be an end to the occupation, a dismantling of the illegal settlements and recognition of UN resolutions. It was at that point that several dozen audience members held up their signs, catching Robinson off guard.

The signs were organised by the Israel Advocacy Club as a way to quietly oppose what was being said.

"Our concern on campuses in Canada...is the form of violence, the form of non-democratic forms of interaction...that is being imported from the Middle East," Shaul said, referring to a September 9, 2002 event at Montréal's Concordia University, where former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was scheduled to talk. The event was cancelled when hundreds of pro-Palestinian demonstrators surrounded the building where Netanyahu was supposed to speak and eventually clashed with police.

Shaul said that the signs were "to keep this event as non-violent as possible, even though this was an event that the anti-Israeli side formed against us, that is why we came up with the placards 'I disagree.'"

Cahis—who is Jewish—firmly denied that the event was anti-Israel. "This forum was completely consistent with NDP policy, and NDP policy clearly states a viable Israeli and Palestinian state."

"We're not trying to say that the Israeli state shouldn't exist or anything like that," emphasised Cahis. "We are just calling that Israel follow UN resolutions...and calling for their withdrawal from the occupied territories." ♦

"Why is it such a big deal?"

UBC hosts public forum on gay issues in schools

by Hywel Tuscano
NEWS STAFF

The audience attending a UBC-hosted forum at Robson Square last Tuesday found that teaching about queer issues in schools is less simple than they had hoped.

The topic of the public forum, moderated by CBC Radio host Hal Wake, was "Talking about gay issues in schools." Speakers questioned the viability of implementing workshops or curriculum in Lower Mainland schools about accepting queer lifestyle.

The forum began with the short film *It's Elementary*, a documentary by Debra Chasnoff that takes a look at how educators have addressed queer issues in classrooms in San Francisco.

Discussion was opened after the film to a panel consisting of Fontaine Ma, a senior high school student who founded the gay/straight alliance in Richmond; Debra Sutherland, a Burnaby high school teacher and doctoral student at UBC focusing on anti-homophobia and social justice education; Michael Grice, vice principal



OPINIONS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: (Left to right) Moderator Hal Wake and panelists Fontaine Ma, Debra Sutherland, Michael Grice, Myra Ottewell and Karen Litzke discussing the possibility of teaching queer issues in classrooms. **HYWEL TUSCANO PHOTO**

of Pinetree Secondary in Coquitlam; Myra Ottewell, a teacher at Queen Elizabeth Secondary in Surrey; and Karen Litzke, a writer about education issues for the media.

Speakers discussed whether educators should be presenting gays and lesbians in an accepting and positive light or simply a tolerant one. Educators must deal with the possibility of teaching values contradictory to those held in children's homes.

Sutherland said educators should tell children with intolerant backgrounds, "Your parents did not have the benefit of the education that you are getting and access to the same information. It is possible that if they did, they would not have the same point of view now and that's part of what we're trying to do now."

Grice supported this sentiment and felt it was the role of educators to teach children about acceptance.

"It is not about presenting one agenda and presenting all others as

wrong," said Grice. "It is about the process of educating all of our students. It is about accepting, it is about listening, respecting. The younger generation is going to find it easier to be open with who they are."

However, Ottewell and Litzke were skeptical about celebrating a lifestyle in the classroom that children were possibly taught not to accept.

Ottewell, who feels her Christian background does not necessarily promote acceptance of homosexuals, instead discussed "tolerance" and "respecting our individual differences." She said she felt that "sexuality is to be expressed inside marriage."

An audience member pointed out that the right to marry was currently unattainable for homosexuals in this country.

Litzke questioned the effectiveness of the programs in schools when she believed these issues were

mainly the problem of adults.

"A lot of adult homosexuals are living closeted lives and then pushing to create a more open environment in schools in the hopes that it will enable [those adults] to live more open lives. This is, for me, a way of shifting the burden of being an adult onto the children," said Litzke. "I wonder if these kinds of programs will achieve anything that wouldn't be achieved if all the people in our lives who are homosexuals lived their lives openly."

But a report by the Vancouver Police Department shows that homosexuals are four times more likely than heterosexuals to be victims of hate crime, making it unsafe to live openly.

Ma, who has run many workshops on homophobia, found workshops very helpful for students that otherwise had no other exposure to homosexuality.

"Homophobia is less addressed in

schools and holding these workshops has been effective in educating people. While people are willing to come out and hold these workshops, they face problems with the administration, the district and concerns of parents," she said.

The audience directed most of their comments and questions towards the more conservative members on the panel—Ottewell and Litzke.

"Homosexuality is not an issue solely dealt with by adults. If kids are not safe in schools where do they go? Kids are and should be able to come out earlier and earlier these days as acceptance and awareness grows," said one audience member.

Sutherland acknowledged that Canada has not done much for the rights of homosexuals. "In Canada we do take some pride in the kind of country we are evolving to be, but on the issues of gay and lesbian rights we are not very far along." ♦

High-speed network opens the web even wider

by Michael-Owen Liston
NEWS WRITER

BCNET, which launched a multi-million dollar network last fall released its first audit on the network. The results show that while connections to the internet are not greatly changed, connections between universities are much improved.

The "real news," said BCNET President and CEO Michael Hrybyk, is when institutions on the network work with each other.

"Unrestricted access on the high-speed network is restricted to [connections with] other universities...when your packet is bound for the rest of the internet it [still] goes over Shaw, Telus or Bell to the rest of the world," he cautioned.

The Optical Regional Advanced Network's (ORAN) fibre-optic cables enable users at BCNET's member institutions—UBC, SFU, BCIT, UVic and UNBC—to connect with each other at speeds of up to one to 10 gigabits a

second or faster, said Hrybyk.

ORAN is also linked to the nation-wide CANARIE network and similar connections can be made across Canada and around the world.

Although gigabit-per-second connections will remain beyond the reach of typical desktop computers, any inter-campus connections should experience a "noticeable" improvement, Hrybyk said.

UBC's TRIUMF institute has already been reaping the benefits of ORAN to make some news of its own, said Dr Corrie Kost, head of TRIUMF's Computing Services group. Recent work between TRIUMF and the world's largest particle physics centre, the CERN Institute in Geneva, Switzerland, have "set some remarkable records" in data transfer speed, said Kost, adding that ORAN played a vital role in doing so.

"In just a few years, some really big experiments will be running on the world's largest accelerators being built at CERN, generating

massive amounts of data," Kost said, explaining why the "need for speed" has become so acute at research hubs such as TRIUMF.

Both Hrybyk and Mark Zuberbuhler, the executive producer and director of UBC IT Services' Teletudios department, are excited about ORAN's potential to bring a new level of speed to a wide range of activities on campus.

Zuberbuhler's Teletudios provides new media production on campus—including documentary, promotional and educational webcasting—and he is excited about the future of more ambitious ventures in advanced video-conferences and online course delivery.

"Up to now, network congestion has been problematic for bandwidth-hungry media," said Zuberbuhler, who expects the utilisation of "rich media" in educational and research projects to grow substantially.

"We're hoping too, that the instructors will pick this up as a way to collaborate," noted Hrybyk. An innovative distance-educational

medical program run by UBC at UNBC and UVic is already in the works.

Hrybyk is also keen to suggest that the door is now open for developments like 3-D video-conferences, which would save time and money through reduced travel, while providing a richer experience than a long-distance call.

For the time being students who want to make a long-distance call to another campus should avail themselves of ORAN's ready-to-use resources and make a "internet call" instead, urged Hrybyk, who suggested users think of networks like ORAN and CANARIE as a "no charge or pre-paid" airline for data.

"We fully support all research that uses the ORAN, whether it is for simple communications such like e-mail, or for more bandwidth-intensive projects," he said. "There's an opportunity for [youth] here, and it should be explored," he said, and added optimistically, "I'm hoping that there's some academic pursuits thrown in there, too." ♦

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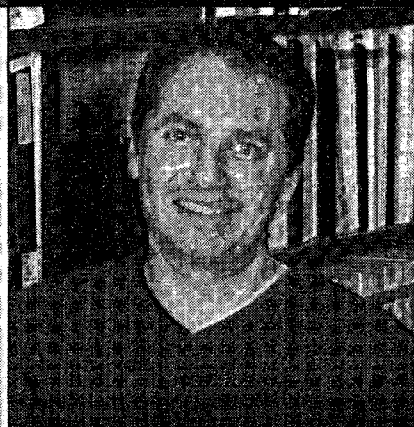


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THE UBYSSEY

Canada West conquest



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: The Birds celebrate their 82-79 win over the Alberta Golden Bears Saturday night, winning their first Canada West title in seven years. They qualified for a national spot the night before with an 82-69 victory over Regina. Below right, UBC head coach Kevin Hanson, who played for UBC at the 1987 National Championships. **NIC FENSOM PHOTOS**

Final Four: The numbers behind the weekend

Canada West basketball championship trophies at UBC: 6
Technical fouls in Saturday's Gold Medal match: 3
Technical fouls called on UBC this year: 2

Streakers: 0
Beefy security guards barring streakers from the court: 17
Trinity Western fans: 2000
RCMP officers: 2
Number of times the Alberta Golden Bears fouled

Kyle Russell on Saturday: 12
Points Russell made off of free throws: 19

Players who fouled out of Friday night's TWU vs. Alberta match in the final minute: 3
Times the word 'memorable' appears in media releases and *Ubysses* articles (before editing): 6

Former UBC point guards in attendance: 1 (Paul Naka)
Little kids who fell asleep during Saturday's game: 2
Ubysses editors and staff in attendance: 7 ♦



Fait accompli

In a shocking three-set match, the University of Sherbrooke women's volleyball team knocked the UBC squad out of medal contention in the very first round of the National Championships Friday. The Birds, who claimed bronze at the Canada West championships and were ranked first or second in the country

The ultimate lift ticket

The men's and women's alpine ski teams head to Lake Tahoe, California this week for the USCSA National Championships. Held from March 3 to 8, the downhill skiers will be racing on Northstar mountain, and likely watching some of the snowboard and

cross-country championship action as well. The men's team, led by Paul Boskovich and speedy newcomer Trevor Bruce, will compete for the first time since 1997, and are hoping to better their bronze performance six years ago.

Standing wave

Brian Johns, the UBC swimmer who broke a world record last weekend at the CIS national swimming championships, can't get a certain song out of his head. After being named the CIS athlete of the week for his performance, Johns resumed his normal schedule, pausing only to attend the annual Millennium Breakfast last Friday morning. Mahlalela said he recognised that it is a contentious issue for some, but thinks the games are still a good idea. Mahlalela has no plans to change the way things work. "It'll be pretty much status quo—just kind of improving on everything we have done, and really just getting some credibility to the organisation," he said. ♦



No surprises here, folks

New Thunderbird Athletic Council President Jama Mahlalela says that his organisation has thrown itself wholly behind the Vancouver/Whistler 2010 Olympic bid. Schmoozing and selling the varsity pin-up calendar at the Millennium Breakfast last Friday morning, Mahlalela said he recognised that it is a contentious issue for some, but thinks the games are still a good idea. Mahlalela has no plans to change the way things work. "It'll be pretty much status quo—just kind of improving on everything we have done, and really just getting some credibility to the organisation," he said. ♦

by Rob Nagai
SPORTS WRITER

Thanks for the memories. The Canada West championship trophy now belongs to the Thunderbirds after a memorable night that saw veteran guard Kyle Russell score a career-high 43 points.

Starting with the eighth-ranked University of Regina Cougars, the Birds rolled through Friday, thundering onto centre stage with the memory of two early season road victories over Regina fuelling their performance. This time they would experience Friday's 80-69 win at home in front of a sold-out UBC crowd.

Just looking at those flags, just seeing the past in this gym, you just want to be one of those who put one up there," said UBC point guard Karlo Villanueva of his inspired performance after the game.

"There were some real contributors tonight," stated Head Coach Kevin Hanson. "I thought Karlo had an outstanding game. Especially in the first half—he dictated the tempo of the game. He scored his transition hoops. For someone five foot two, he just played a tremendous game."

Friday's victory over Regina clinched a berth for the Thunderbirds in the national spotlight. The last time the UBC men's basketball made an appearance at the Nationals was 1996. They lost to the Alberta Golden Bears, one game away from the gold medal round.

With the pressure off for the national bid, the only thing riding on Saturday's game was seeding into the national tournament, and a nice shiny trophy.

The Birds squared off against the defending national champions, this year's incarnation of the Alberta Golden Bears, in front of 2500 fans on Saturday night.

Splitting their first match-up of the season back in November, Alberta (#2) and UBC (#3) had fought all year for dominance in the Canada West Conference.

With Alberta winning the tip-off Saturday night, it was clear to see that a UBC win would not be as easy as the previous night's victory over Regina. Playing without the indomitable Phil Scherer—who was injured Friday night—Alberta was still aggressive, resting its offence on forward Mike Melnychuk, who scored 11 of

Alberta's first 13 points, including three three-pointers.

By the 15-minute mark the Bears were up 17-10. But Kyle Russell, in his last performance in War Memorial Gym as a Thunderbird, quickly turned the game into a fitting farewell.

With five minutes left to play in the half, Russell hit rookie Casey Archibald with a long distance pass spanning the entire court. Archibald finished with a lay-up, and sent the Birds on a six point run to tie the game at 31. Archibald then sunk a long jumper in the closing minute, putting UBC up 44-39.

Alberta hung on, however, and just after the ten minute mark in the second half, an inside jumper by Melnychuk put the Bears ahead by one point.

The Bears continued to stretch to their limits to keep ahead of UBC, but Kyle Russell was already soaring. He notched a game total of 19 points from behind the free throw line, and led the Birds to a six-point lead in the last five minutes of the game. Although Alberta managed to bring it back to a single point, they desperately fouled rookie Casey Archibald in the final seconds, and UBC won the match 82-79.

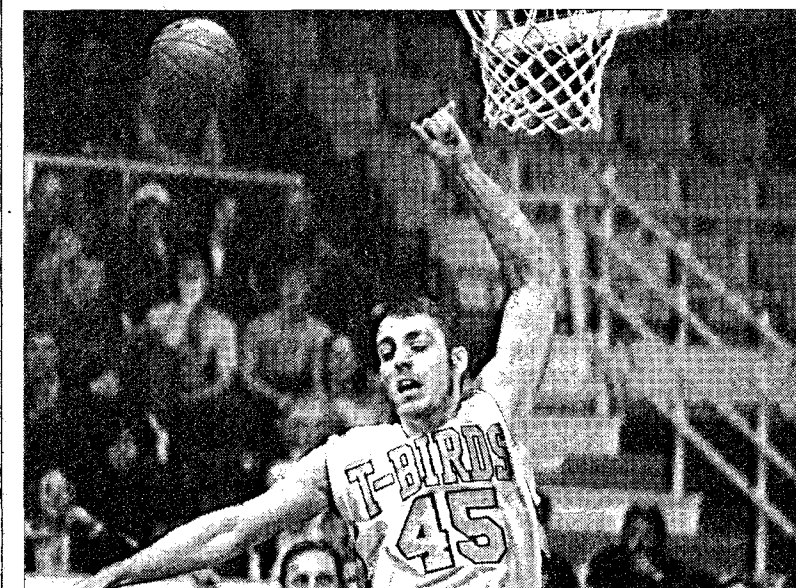
"Last year at the national championships, Kyle and I sat down at centre row. He was receiving an All-Canadian award and we went and watched one of the games," said Hanson as the postgame celebration began. "He just turned to me and said 'Coach, we got to get here next year.' Tonight's performance: Kyle got us here. What a memory he left for the fans that came and watched."

Archibald, last year's top high school player, posted an impressive 19 points, hitting several key shots including sinking the final two free-throws.

UBC's occasionally apathetic fans stayed on their feet long enough to see Russell and company cut the net from the hoop to end a terrific 15-5 season. A Canada West championship banner will be raised in their honour in the War Memorial Gym.

"Forget about me," said Russell afterwards, but anyone who saw Kyle even once in his career on the Thunderbird court knows how hard this will be. ♦

The team has a week to savour their new title before flying to Halifax for the CIS National Championships.



LAST MINUTE MASTER: Forward Pat McKay sent UBC into the Final Four with a jumper over TWU last weekend for a 69-67 win. This Friday, McKay had 17 points and 9 rebounds. **ROSE BOUTHILLIER PHOTO**

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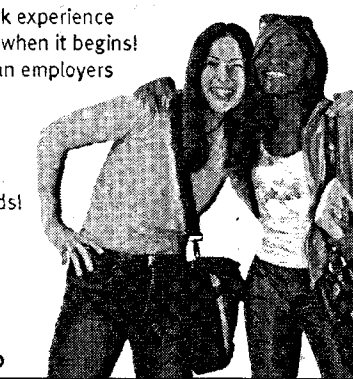
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STUDENT LEGAL FUND SOCIETY NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TAKE NOTICE that an annual general meeting of SLFS -- Student Legal Fund Society (the "Society") will be held at Room 179/81 of the Curtis Law Building at UBC, on Thursday, March 20, 2003 at the hour of 12:15 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. To receive the report of the Elections Administrator.
2. To appoint or waive the appointment of auditors.
3. To receive and consider the financial statements of the Society for the year ended and the report of the directors to the members.
4. To consider special resolutions to amend the Society Bylaws related to issues including but not limited to quorum, appointment of officers, amending provisions, authority to initiate funding, and general proceedings of the Society.
5. To transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting.

TAKE NOTICE that any student of UBC who wishes to become a member of the Society, and is eligible based on the Society Bylaws, can immediately become a member by providing the Secretary with their name and registered address within 30 minutes of the meeting being called to order.

Student Legal Fund Society
Phone: 604-827-1208
Email: slfs@slfs.org

Address: Box 70, 6138 SUB Boulevard, Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z1

HOW GREEDY ARE THE TAs?

Are UBC's teaching assistants really the third highest paid in Canada? Then why are they turning their noses up at an even higher salary, and disrupting everyone's education by going on strike? They just walked out on the university's negotiator, just left him sitting there, when he was offering them an extra thousand bucks. Unbelievable!

That's the message I got from an email sent by UBC's Human Resources Associate VP Lisa Castle, last Thursday. I later found out that over 40,000 other people on campus had got the same email. I would tell those 40,000 people that this story of the TAs and UBC is distorted and clever propaganda. That its clear intention is to crush the bargaining power of just 1600 student employees at UBC by using the overpowering weight of the university's administrative resources. But I don't have the power to send my own point of view to 40,000 people at the click of a button. I have enough trouble photocopying 300 newsletters.

If you believe, as the AMS and GSS do, that this one-sided use of the email system by the university was unfair, then pause for a minute and let me tell you the other side of the story. I should confess here that I do the communications for the teaching assistants union. But I'm a student here at UBC, just like most of you.

So are we the third highest paid TAs in Canada? Do you really think we would be striking if we were? Our hourly rate of pay ranks 10th out of 15 among Canadian universities. Lisa Castle's letter compares us to places like U. of Toronto. Toronto TAs earn 34% more than us. But we're not even asking for that. All we want is pay parity with SFU. They are only one position above us in the pay rankings – 9th out of 15. But they earn \$2.75 an hour more than we do, and rising. UBC offered us 3%, 4%, 3% increases for the next three years. This is the trumpeted "ten percent". What is this worth? Well, it simply matches annual inflation of 3.5% (Statistics Canada). It makes no difference at all to our ranking in the market.

How does HR come to the conclusion that we are 3rd? Because we work 35% longer hours than TAs at nearly every other university. Multiply a low wage by a lot more hours, and you get these apparent riches.

Did we walk away from mediation? Well, we showed up at the usual negotiating room in the BC Labour Board offices last Wednesday, eager to hear the administration's new offer. But they did not come to talk about it. They just sent a message. We waited around until 5pm then went home disappointed. We are always ready to talk.

Yes, we did turn down the offer they made, although we were unable to look for middle ground because they weren't there. And the reason for this is simple. Pay increases are meaningless unless they are accompanied a willingness to discuss tuition assistance. This is because TAs are in a rather odd position: teaching is a job for which we receive a salary, and it is also a method of funding given to us by the university – funding on which graduate students depend, because we study 12 months a year.

Since it is the same body (UBC) both giving and taking away the money, then what we actually live off is the difference between what UBC gives and what UBC takes away (currently about \$6000 a year). Anything they give us is meaningless if they take away more than they give. Right now, they are taking away 16% more than they give. The only guarantee we have to prevent this, is to have tuition assistance in our contract as well.

And indeed, up until last August, we **did** have guaranteed tuition assistance from UBC. Then they took it away. We have always been willing to talk about tuition assistance in our new contract. UBC have remained intransigent, stating obstinately that they will not negotiate on this point. It is UBC's refusal to even talk about this issue that has caused the strike to drag on.

We are sick of this strike. We just want to go back to our education. Our supervisors are sick of this strike. Our students are sick of this strike, and it is unimaginably hard for us to know that we have been forced to affect the undergraduates we are responsible for in order to get a fair deal. We want to go back to teaching. But we have been forced to carry on striking, because UBC will not even discuss the link between the cost of tuition and the value of our wages. We're angry at them. We think you should be too.

And please pass this on to other people. There are still over 35000 individuals who won't be able to hear this point of view.

FED UP WITH THE STRIKE?

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Playing with memory

Tale of apartheid proves timeless

PLAYLAND
at the Pacific Theatre
until Mar. 22

by **Shireen Nabatian**
CULTURE WRITER

"Forgive me or kill me, that's the only choice you've got," says Gideon to Martinus during the heart of "Playland."

In this intense two-man drama taking place in 1989 South Africa during apartheid, Gideon is a white ex-corporal played by Cecil Hershler. Martinus is a black security guard played by Tom Pickett.

Playland is the travelling amusement park where the play unfolds. Gideon comes to Playland in an attempt to forget his troubles and enjoy New Year's Eve and meets Martinus at the gate on his way in. They talk, then Gideon enters Playland. He comes out to find Martinus again, and they talk and talk until all their ugly demons come to the surface, and Gideon challenges Martinus to make this difficult choice.

The content of "Playland" is not light; as the director says in her notes, "Athol Fugard's plays are about desperate people in desperate situations." This play is no exception. Fugard, a white Afrikaner, grew up in South Africa during apartheid and travelled all around the continent and even sailed around the world, which apparently gave him deep insight into the workings of peoples' hearts and minds.

The play is not only about the relationships between whites and blacks under an 'apartheid' regime, it is about our relationships with our own selves and our past actions and sins, and how we go about living with ourselves. Do we combine our anger and our unwillingness to forgive, con-

demning ourselves to living in isolation from one another? Or do we make the leap to forgive ourselves and those who have done us wrong, so that we might live more meaningful lives where trust, love and hope are possible?

"Playland" is a success in that it gets the audience thinking about these issues of cleaning one's inner environment to create peaceful interpersonal relationships (and the timing is certainly impeccable given the pending war on Iraq). During the second half of the play, when the two characters' pasts are revealed, the tension is palpable to a point where the audience is totally drawn in and all the energy of the little black box theatre is concentrated on the stage.

Unfortunately, it takes the entire first half of the performance to get to that point. Magnetic tension could exist from the time the lights come up. Hershler and Pickett have trouble establishing a relationship at first, which makes the play hard to follow, and the blocking is rather awkward with plenty of purposeless shuffling. However, these are the only criticisms, and both problems nearly disappear halfway in. Hershler and Pickett's South African accents are consistent and the acting itself



is remarkable, especially given the challenging nature of the characters, laden with guilt, self-hate and a desire to stay alive despite what realities the characters have chosen for themselves.

If you need comic relief from writing term papers, don't go see this play. If you're interested in post-traumatic stress syndrome, interracial relations, South African history or matters of the heart that concern every individual at some point in their lives, "Playland" will certainly give you a lot to think about, and a lot to be grateful for. ♦

ams INTERACTIVE

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ams referendum

The AMS would like to thank all students who voted in the U-Pass & Sexual Assault Support Services Fund Referendum. Over 10,000 students voted in favor of the U-Pass and close to 6,000 students voted in favor of establishing a Sexual Assault Support Services Fund. In both cases, a clear majority of those voting cast their ballots in favor of the Referendum questions and quorum requirements* were met.

The \$20 a month U-Pass will be implemented in September, 2003 (\$15 for students in UBC housing). Also, all students (except those who choose to opt-out) will pay \$1.00 a year towards the Sexual Assault Support Services Fund.

Please note that AMS Referenda are binding on all students if they meet quorum and majority criteria.

*To meet quorum requirements in a Referendum, the number of Yes votes must be equal to or greater than 10% of the "Day Student" population. Day students are students enrolled in at least one day course on campus.

In this Referendum, the Elections Administrator determined quorum to be 3,654 students.

sus referendum

Vote online - March 1st to 7th

The Science Undergraduate Society will be running an online Referendum from March 1st to March 7th asking students in the Faculty of Science to support an increase in their Science fees in order to build a new Science Student Centre.

The centre will provide a social space where 6,500 Science students will be able to study, relax and socialize.

It will include:

- roof-top patio
- a lounge
- private study/group study and meeting rooms
- internet terminals
- print/copy facilities
- lounge and study areas
- a kitchenette

The Referendum Question will read as follows:

"I support a \$10 increase in my Science Undergraduate Society fee, from \$12 to \$22, allocated to the creation of a Science Student Social Space (\$9) and to an increase in club funding (\$1)."

Go to: www.sus.ubc.ca to vote!

discussion board

This is your chance to have your say! Sign up now and post your thoughts on a variety of topics related to student life, the university, the AMS, and the world outside. Make your voice heard!

Visit the AMS discussion board online at www.ams.ubc.ca. To suggest a discussion topic, e-mail feedback@ams.ubc.ca.

sub renovations

Something is happening in the SUB Lower Level - a major renovation to significantly increase social space. Visit the AMS website at www.ams.ubc.ca and click on the renovations icon to take an interactive tour of the new space.

ams jobs

Do you want to implement changes at your university, learn about your field of interest, work with fantastic people, while working part-time without having to go off campus? We are hiring Vice Chairs and Commissioners for: Student Administrative Commission, Finance Commission, University Commission, and External Commission.

These are just some of the opportunities that await you at the AMS. We are also hiring Service Coordinators, Student Court members and an Inside UBC editor and graphic artist. Please check our website for more details on these positions. www.ams.ubc.ca.

events

AMS and XFM presents:

UBC's Battle of the Bands - featuring local UBC talent. Every Thursday in March at the Pit Pub. Come out and support UBC bands as they fight their way to the top!

Storm the Wall

March 31 - April 4. Register by Wed. March, 26

Be a part of the biggest Intramural Event in North America. Join the other 2500 UBC students as they swim, sprint, bike, run, and climb over a twelve-foot wall. This is a UBC experience that is not-to-be-missed!

Combining teamwork, strategy and communication, teams work together to "Storm" the 12-foot wall. Sunny days, great music, food, entertainment, lots of great games, prizes, and of course the two walls combine to make Storm the Wall THE event of the year. Everyone can do it! New to this year is the Recreational division, in which participants will get a bit of a helping hand over the wall.

Storm Cage: The Survivor Challenge!

March 31 - April 4 • Applications due: March 12

Two, 10x10 cages will house 16 UBC students for 96 hours of competition. Cage competitor's will have their mental, physical, and emotional limits tested throughout the competition. With only a few clothes, a sleeping bag, and 1 luxury item, contestants will have to outwit and outplay their fellow contestants to become UBC's Storm Cage champion. The winner will receive a trip for two to Europe.

AMS Summer Job Fair presented by AMS Joblink and Conference Facilities

March 4th & 5th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Main concourse level of the SUB.

Lots of exciting employers will be here, giving presentations and scouting for new talent. Bring your resumes and get ready to put your best foot forward. AMS Joblink will also be holding workshops in room 205 at 11:00 am, 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm, today (March 4th) to help you with resume writing, and interviewing skills. Get set to get the job of your dreams this summer!

For more information, contact Joblink at: 604-822-JOBS or Jane Kim at: 604.822.3465

THE UBYSSY

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2003
VOLUME 84 ISSUE 29

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The Ubyssy is the official student newspaper of the University of British Columbia. It is published every Tuesday and Friday by The Ubyssy Publications Society.

We are an autonomous, democratically run student organisation, and all students are encouraged to participate. Editorials are chosen and written by the Ubyssy staff. They are the expressed opinion of the staff, and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Ubyssy Publications Society or the University of British Columbia.

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Emily Chan sniffed the air. It was a good day for hunting. Tejas Ewing laughed at her and said, "I think you're smelling Anna King!" Sarah Conchie slung the 30-06 rifle over her shoulder and turned to Jesse Marchand, who said, "Them that Aman Sharmas are ugly, but they're good eatin'!" Parminder Nizher and Michael Schwandt looked at Kathleen Deering incredulously as she proceeded to rub moose urine all over herself. "It's supposed to attract the big bulls," she protested. No moose showed up, but all of a sudden Chris Shepherd and Duncan McHugh burst out of the forest, thoroughly aroused. Megan Thomas tried to stop them, but only the grunting of Graeme Worlty could satisfy their desires. Then, in the Nic Fensom of time, Michael Owen Liston squeezed the trigger and dropped the huge beast. Shireen Nabatian and Michelle Mayne descended on the kill, tearing into the flesh with their teeth. Vampyra Dracules restored order, and directed Rob Nagai and Rose Bouthillier in skinning and gutting the animal. Jonathan Woodward bathed himself in the entrails, while Hywel Tuscano and Laura Blue watched in perverted fascination.



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The Olympic nightmare

Members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) are in town this week, checking out Vancouver and Whistler before a big meeting in Prague this summer, when the IOC will award the games to either Vancouver/Whistler, Salzburg, Austria or Pyeongchang, South Korea.

The presence of the IOC, along with the results of Vancouver's February 22 Olympics vote, where 64 per cent of voters supported Vancouver's bid, has made the city a little crazy. Anyone who's tried to read *The Vancouver Sun* or *The Province* or had the misfortune to end up on Robson Street Sunday afternoon knows what we're talking about.

So, in response to *The Vancouver Sun*'s "25 reasons why Vancouver is a Winter Olympics city," published yesterday in the *Sun*'s "Olympic dream" supplement, we offer "25 reasons why it might not be so cool for Vancouver to be a Winter Olympics city."

1. We haven't even gotten the Olympics yet and already the city is fucking littered with 2010 posters and billboards. Seven more years of that; no, thank you.

2. Sixty-four per cent (the number of people who voted yes in last week's Olympics plebiscite) of 46 (the percentage of eligible voters who cast ballots) is less than 30 per cent, which isn't such a stunning endorsement, is it? Or maybe some of us are still a little surprised the vote went the way it did.

3. We're still not convinced that the Olympics are worth the cost.

4. As if those brats in Whistler need anything else to be smug about.

5. With the exception of the speed skating oval, Calgary's Olympic facilities are sitting vacant and unused. Vancouver, BC and Canada have better things to be financing than a bobsled track that's only going to get used for a couple of weeks in 2010.

6. As if the price of 99 cent pizza isn't going to go through the roof. That's a fate we are not willing to face.

7. Olympic theme songs always suck. Ditto opening ceremonies. And in BC Place, barf.

8. Potential tickets prices have been rumoured to be astronomically high. Vancouverites will be expected to pay for the games, put up with droves of obnoxious tourists and, at the end of it all, they won't even be able to attend the events. Two words: raw deal.

9. The IOC are a bunch of freeloaders. Not only do they get to tour the world, trying out ski



hills, etc., they've cut TV revenue percentages for the host city from 49 per cent to 40.

10. The people who are most fervently backing the bid are also those who stand to make the most money if Vancouver gets the Games. Are these the people to whom we want to entrust a huge windfall of tax dollars?

11. Track and field is so dull. Oh, winter Olympic Games? Okay, the biathlon is so dull.

12. It will rain for the duration of the games. Not snow, rain. We will look foolish, and the Norwegians will all laugh at us for even trying.

13. Just think of the infinite merchandising tie-ins that will bombard us. Official Olympic burgers. Official Olympic cars. Official Olympic beers. Official Olympic cock rings, in sets of five...it's just too much!

14. What's going to top the Calgary Olympics getting the Jamaican bobsled team? Nothing, that's what. Why should we even bother trying? Unless Guyana has something in the works...

15. To pay for the resulting Olympic facilities at UBC, students will have to pose nude for their

own fundraising calendars, following the shining example of the Thunderbird Athletic Council.

16. The US hockey team: kleptomaniacs, all of them. Trust us. We know a guy.

17. Fake sports: honestly, ski ballet?!

18. Forget that nice, romantic picnic in one of the many rest stops along the Sea to Sky Highway. Even a little nosing will be roadside entertainment for the thousands stuck in traffic on the way to the Super G.

19. Canadian. Hockey. Fever. Boring.

20. Corrupt figure skating judges. Until the dust from that whole French-judge-with-ties-to-Russian-mafia fiasco has settled, we just won't be able to enjoy a triple toe loop for its true beauty.

21. Who wants to give the engineers that kind of potential for Beetle-wielding mayhem? Not us.

22. "Where are the igloos?"

23. Your rent is going to skyrocket.

24. Perhaps when our provincial government isn't running on a deficit of \$3.5 billion, BC can try bidding for expensive and unnecessary sporting events.

25. Did we mention the 99-cent pizza thing? ♦

LETTERS

Towing safety away from Gage Towers

On Friday, I parked my car at Gage residence at UBC, in what I thought was a friend's spot. I returned two hours later to my car to realise I had locked my keys inside, including my house key. Moreover, I had not brought my wallet with me, and had no money to get home. As I was bitterly lamenting my misfortune, I noticed a tow-away notice on my windshield; evidently I had parked in the wrong spot and was about to be towed.

I ran inside to seek help from the two front desk attendants in the Gage lobby. I explained the situation, and that if my car were towed, I would be stranded, alone in the dark, with no money whatsoever to get home, and no keys to get into my home. Unfortunately, they said, they could not help me.

I returned to my car to find the tow truck hoisting my car. I explained my situation to the tow truck driver, telling him about my honest mistake, and that I would be stranded if he towed me. I begged him to please, at least open

my car door and give me my keys so that I could return home tonight. He refused. He told me I had to pay him \$78 to drop the car.

I re-iterated that I had no money with me. He tried to bargain with me to \$42.80, he said he would make me pay, but he was doing me a "huge favour." I explained again I couldn't pay anything. He asked me if there was anything "of value" inside my car that he could take instead of cash. There was nothing. He then continued to hoist my car.

Finally, I totally wiggled out. I jumped onto the back of my car, and started yelling at the attendants around me. "Can you believe this guy is going to tow my car, with all my keys inside, with no money to get home, and leave me stranded alone in the dark on campus?" I yelled. People stared out of their windows, but nobody came to help me. Hysterical, I yanked off my Nike running shoe and waved it at the tow truck driver. "Do you want my shoes?" I yelled. "They're Nike! They're

new!" No deal, he said. "I'm just doing my job, lady," he explained.

One of the front desk attendants I had spoken to earlier came out to talk to the tow guy. She walked out, confirmed to the tow guy that I was parked illegally, and told him to tow me immediately. Then she walked back into Gage. She didn't even look at me. Finally my friend walked by and loaned me \$42.80. The tow guy opened my car, gave me my keys, and drove off.

I went back to the front desk to talk to that attendant. I complained to her that she had been willing to knowingly leave a young woman stranded alone on campus in a dark parking lot, with no money to get home, and no keys to enter my house. She said that it was my fault for parking illegally. "I'm just doing my job," she said, and that if I had a problem, I could complain to her supervisor.

So that's what I'm doing. I can't believe that not a single person, save my friend walking by, had lifted a finger to help me. I can't believe that two individuals were content to strand a young woman alone on a dark campus

notorious for sexual assaults. I have a problem with people who abrogate their human responsibility to aid others in crisis by hiding behind the authority of their jobs. No, you're not just doing your job. You're a human being. Human beings help each other out. You two seriously endangered my safety, and it's not okay. It's not right.

To everyone else out there: you always, always have a choice to make in these situations. You can make the choice to help a person in need, or you can avoid your intrinsic responsibility as a human being, a member of a community, and just leave them to whatever fate might dole out—perhaps I'm being dramatic here, but I could have been raped, mugged and/or killed that night, if I had been stranded. I've been a residence advisor—it happens. More often than you'd think. It can be avoided.

To Drake Towing and the UBC Department of Housing & Conferences: Think About It. ♦

—Jo McFetridge is a sixth-year Arts student

Hey, here's a coincidence...

In response to the letter in Tuesday's edition of the *Ubyssy* I have taken the liberty of listing the *Webster's Dictionary* definition of coincidence: Occurrence together apparently without reason.

I fail to see how the "coincidences" you listed in your letter, "U-Pass's odd coincidences" (Feb. 25), comply with this definition.

PERSPECTIVE opinion

You seem to be stating that certain events occurred in order to hinder the No campaign. One of these events was a problem with the computers in the SUB. I am sorry, but did the computers not allow you to click on No? Both Yes and No voters had to register their choice online, and unless you are suggesting that Yes voters have more access to computers than the No side (which is entirely obtuse), your point is completely moot.

You also seem to believe that the mandatory nature of this program is a coincidence. Now quickly refer to the above definition once more before we go on. The reason the \$20 fee is mandatory is because the program would not be financially viable if it was not. You probably missed this when you were driving around in your car, but TransLink employees went on strike two summers ago because their employers could not afford to pay out the full-time wages and benefits that any individual needs to survive and support a family in our province. TransLink is not a financial juggernaut that sleeps on a bed of student-paid twenty-dollar bills each night.

It is too bad that the posters you and your sister made were ripped down, but according to the Alma Mater Society (AMS) many posters were removed because they propagated misinformation surrounding the campaign. Perhaps if the No side felt as strongly as you suggest they did, they should have organised a proper campaign, which, by the way, would have been funded by the AMS. Laziness and ignorance are not very stalwart excuses for the No side's lack of proper information dispersal.

It is true that TransLink does not offer optimal service. At times it is "poor and slow," as you put it. Still, the fact remains that many of us ride the bus because we cannot afford to do anything else. The U-Pass allows us to put the hundreds of dollars saved towards the rising costs of education and general living. Perhaps, Shannon, you need to address the coincidences that afforded you the luxury of access to a car before you impinge your upper middle-class conspiracy theories on the rest of us. ♦

—Dave Gaertner is a fourth-year Arts student

Clarifying the TAs' position

As a PhD student and teacher's assistant (TA), I feel a letter to the editor published in the Feb. 28 *Ubyssy* ("Rising Tuition Necessary" by Devon Cooke) warrants a response.

I agree with the author that the TA Union could do a better job of explaining its stance. One must keep in mind, however, the tremendous mismatch here: the UBC administration has a generously funded Public Affairs department to pump out whatever propaganda it wishes, along with broadcast e-mail privileges. The TA union has a Communications Committee who is a graduate student in zoology.

The reason the TA union has been characterising tuition increases as a pay cut is because they amount to nothing less—our employer pays us our salary, then takes as little as one third of it back. Because graduate school is a full-time, year-round endeavour, there is little opportunity for us to make money elsewhere, and many departments, especially in Arts, are in no position to offer us any other source of income. If our tuition increases by \$600, that's \$600 out of our pockets.

Along with the TA contract which, expired at the end of August, the union negotiated two letters of understanding with the administration. These gave us partial rebates against the Alma Mater Society (AMS) health plan (\$100-130 per year) and against tuition (50 per cent of any increase). Tuition was increased the day after these letters expired, and their status as being separate from the contract prevented them from staying in force.

TAs have, as mentioned above,

been without a contract since the end of August, and we have been trying to negotiate with the administration since July (note that it is illegal to strike while a contract is still in force). Because of various vacations and an insistence that all negotiators be present, the administration did not talk with the TA bargaining team until the end of September, then missed one meeting and cancelled three others before mid-November. At that time, their chief negotiator left for a seven-week tour of Brazil. The administration did not even make its position known to the union until mid-January, in mediation, and most recently called us to meet with the mediator before phoning him with their latest offer. They refuse to discuss anything with the word 'tuition' in it.

The administration has chastised the union for asking to bargain tuition protection for only a fraction of the student body (no doubt our bargaining team would be pleased to negotiate it for everyone were they able to). This is a strikingly hypocritical stance given their announced intention to rebate tuition fees for many PhD students in years 1-4, but not for students in Master's or other graduate degrees. (If this proposal is passed, tuition protection would become moot for 25 per cent of TAs.)

I encourage Devon, and any other readers, to ask those of us walking in circles should they need any further clarifications. We don't bite.

Really. ♦

—Darren Peets is a graduate student in physics

THE COLOURS ARE COMING! THE COLOURS ARE COMING!

The annual issue to celebrate multicultural issues and the elimination of racism needs contributions of any kind, from articles to photos to artwork.

So if you are interested, please come to the meeting on Wednesday the 5th of March at 2pm, in Sub room 24 (in the basement).

Or, e-mail coloursubc@hotmail.com with any ideas or to volunteer your help. The deadline is March 11th!



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The Rev revs it up

Horton heats up an amazing party

THE REVEREND HORTON HEAT
with Unknown Hinson
at the Commodore Ballroom
Feb. 22

by Vampyra Draculea
CULTURE WRITER

With its vintage feel, the Commodore Ballroom was the perfect venue for the nouveau retro punk-edged rockabilly music of the Reverend Horton Heat.

Whenever artists start off as apparently fictional characters, they can get away with much more than so-called serious artists, as evidenced by opener Unknown Hinson. He started off as a character on his own mock-reality public access TV show in Charlotte, North Carolina, a ne'er-do-well hillbilly singer-guitarist always trying (and failing) to evade the law, while taking his music to an ever-widening circle of clubs and gaining a cult following throughout America. Here, in his Vancouver debut, he started the night off with some of his wickedly funny songs that take our Northern stereotypes of life in the South to a ridiculous extreme. For those who weren't there, here's a few sample song titles: "I Can't Believe You're Pregnant, Again," "You Ain't Callin' The Law On Me," "I Ain't Afraid of Your Husband," and the slow country ballad "Your Man Is Gay" (dedicated to a couple in the front row who Hinson later thanked for being such good sports). Quite the showman, as evidenced by his interplay with the audience, Hinson drew more and more interest as the set progressed until there were about 300 people standing on the floor in front of the stage.

Unknown Hinson is one of those loved or loathed artists. You either get the joke and laugh hysterically, or you're offended and want to lynch him. Even if one fell into the latter category, one would still have to be wowed at the guy's talent—I was amazed at just how great his guitar playing is, from the first riffs right

through to the instrumental jam that ended his set an hour later. And he seems to be equally comfortable in many genres: country, bluegrass, blues, rockabilly and rock.

About 30 minutes after Unknown Hinson, the Reverend Horton Heat hit the stage in a full-blown assault with "Reverend Horton Heat's Big Blue Car." The master of the segue, the Reverend didn't stop until eight songs later, when a minor technical issue forced a short break, then he launched back in with "Loco Gringos Like a Party."

As one can always expect with the Reverend Horton Heat, the band's playing was excellent; the speed, power and intricacy of their musicianship would blast most speed metal outfits right off the stage. One of the other joys of seeing the Reverend is that it's always fun—no sneering snotty rock star angst attitudes or songs complaining how much life sucks to be found here. Even songs referring to divorce and heartache, like "Galaxy 500," still have an upbeat outlook. As the Reverend has been known to say, he usually only writes about the joys of life: good food, friends, cars, love, sex, parties, etc. No wonder the band loves their music and performing it as much as the fans love listening to it. They played most of their well-known songs, keeping the crowd cheering on the floor. The vibe of the show was one big happy party—people were dancing, cheering, laughing and enjoying the music. I'm sure the party could have gone on for a few more hours were there not laws against that sort of thing.

I don't know what all else to say about the Reverend Horton Heat, other than you've got to experience his show for yourself. (He should be back in a few months—he usually is.) During the break before the encore, I was trying to think of the last concert I'd been to that had been this much fun, and even with all my other favourite bands, I couldn't really come up with one that could quite surpass Unknown Hinson and Reverend Horton Heat. I guess that says it all. ♦

Kneel to all Neils!



EVEN BETTER THAN THE REAL THING: Neil Diamond impersonator Nearly Neil brought his elaborate cover act to the Vancouver's Commodore Ballroom last Saturday, March 1. A reasonable facsimile of the ageless New York legend, the doppleddiamond ran through all of the dozens of hits. Even his between-songs banter was flawless. MICHELLE MAYNE PHOTO

UBC Israel Awareness Week

Monday March 3	Tuesday March 4	Wednesday March 5	Thursday March 6	Friday March 7
Informational Display at the SUB.	Vegetarian Israeli Style Lunch	Vigil for Victims of Terrorism @ Hillel House	Multi-Faith Panel on the Religious Significance of the Land of Israel	Informational Display at the SUB.
Anti-Defamation League R. Director Brian Goldberg on the topic of Anti-Semitism masked as Anti-Zionism 2:30-4:30 SUB 211	12:30 @ Hillel House Also... Israeli Folk Dancing, Israeli Music and Israeli Market	Vancouver Sun Editor Fazil Mihlar on the topics of Stemming the Tide of Islamic Fundamentalism 5:30-7:00 SUB 205	10:00-12:00 SUB 212A	JNF President Ran Bogg on the topic of the Political History of the Land of Israel 11:30-2:00 SUB 211

March 3-7, 2003