LH367 W4

DOOT DOOLA DOOT DOO...
He's even weirder in person.
PAGE 9

USHER THE FLUSHER
Bathroom attendants at a club near you.
PAGE 7

THE OSCARS ARE TRIVIAL?
We list the things that happened during the pretentious four hour ceremony. PAGE 18

The Ubyssey

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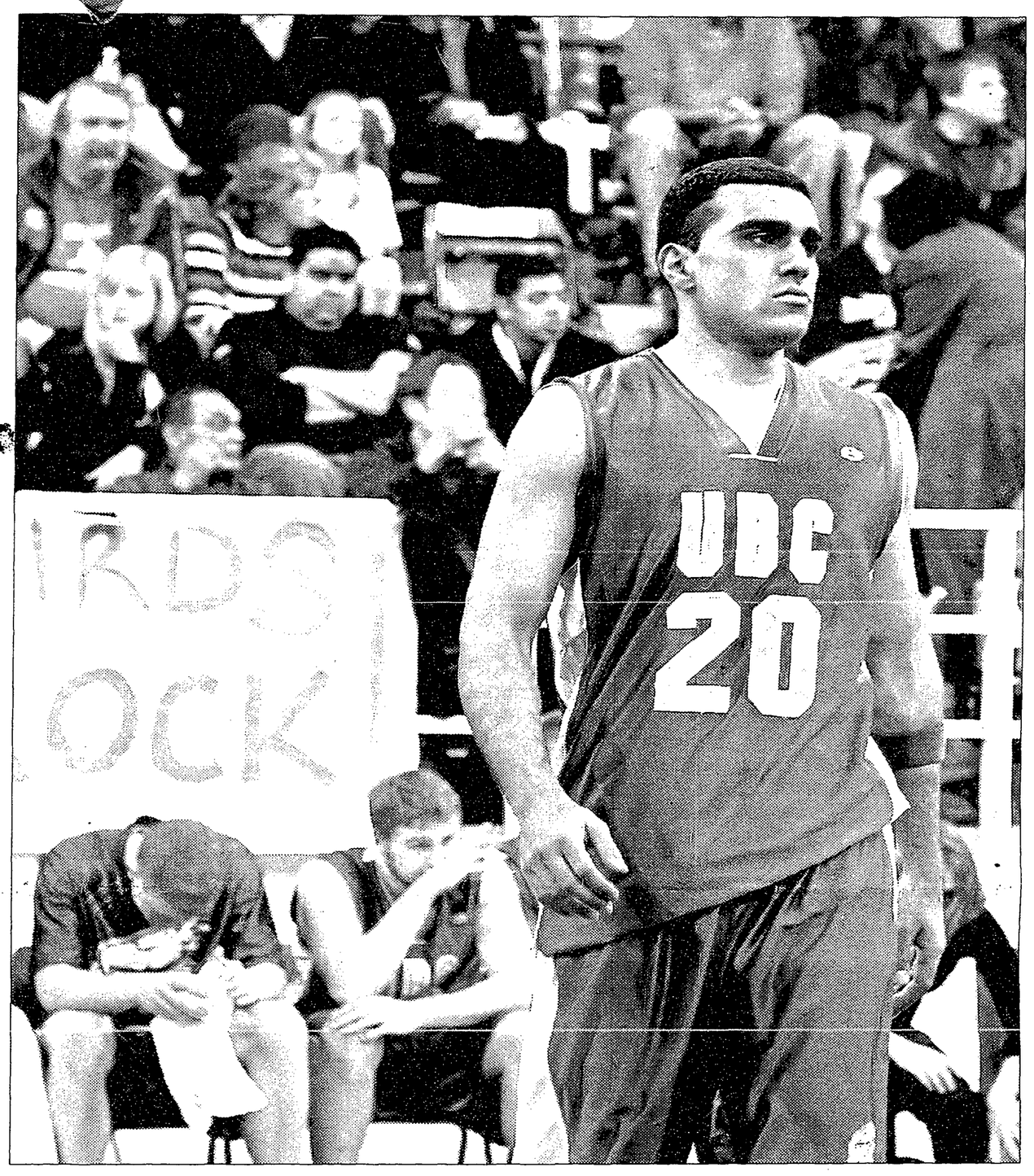
TUESDAY, 7 MARCH, 2006

Crushing on a certain someone? since 1918



Canada West Finals wrap-up at UBC

Thunderbird Pasha Bains hit the court over the weekend. Despite losing to UVic, UBC still earns a berth to the National Championships in Halifax. Full story pages 10-11. **JOHNSON LEE PHOTO**

TA strike vote passes

No job action without membership consultation, says TA union

by Paul Evans
NEWS EDITOR

Teaching assistants fired a warning shot at the University last week when they voted to authorise their union, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) local 2278, to initiate a strike.

Although the vote means the union can now legally serve the University with a strike notice, according to Sarah Roberts, chair of the bargaining committee for CUPE local 2278, union protocols require them to go back to the membership before job action can actually occur.

"What this vote means...is that we want to send a message to the University that our members support us at the bargaining table," she said.

The result of the strike vote was 80 per cent in favour of a strike, with a voter turnout of 45 per cent.

Teaching assistants at UBC have been without a contract since August 31 and are currently in negotiations with the University. The lack of progress made was the driving force behind the vote, explained Roberts.

"That's our real hang-up, that our negotiations aren't moving forward," she said.

Roberts claimed that if the University doesn't offer graduate students enough money to be teach-

See "Strike" page 2.

AMS meets with MLAs

by Michael Kenacan
NEWS STAFF

An Alma Mater Society (AMS) document titled "Building the Partnership" was the basis for a weekend of discussion between two-dozen members of the student society and the provincial government.

The summit took place in Victoria on the last weekend of February, and the student society executive was pleased at what was accomplished.

"We demonstrated we are willing to work with [the provincial government] in finding solutions to post-secondary education in the province," said AMS VP External Ian Pattillo.

The principles in the partnership document included recommendations for a national dialogue in post-secondary education, a dedicated post-secondary transfer payment to provinces and an immediate cap to tuition with a gradual reduction from the current 28.5 percent share of post-secondary costs that students pay to the 20 per cent that existed in 1990.

See "Lobby" page 2.

First Nations Longhouse S-Takya daycare shutdown

Closure leaves children displaced, parents asking whether alternate solutions were sought

by Eric Szeto
NEWS EDITOR

Catherine Bennington doesn't know what she's going to do with her three-year old granddaughter when the only Aboriginal daycare on campus closes next month.

"I'm distraught," said Bennington, an administrative assistant at the Centre for Teaching and Academic Growth. "There is no daycare for the kid. I don't know what [UBC is] doing and I'm irritated."

Last month, UBC announced that the S-Takya daycare, located in the First Nations Longhouse, would be shut down on April 30 because it could no longer sustain its $40,000 annual deficit.

Most of the children at S-Takya will now be put on wait lists for campus childcare. Children of Aboriginal parents affiliated with UBC will be made a first priority, although wait lists can range from 12 to 18 months.

Three of the daycare's children don't have parents affiliated with UBC and will be left to find childcare elsewhere because of a UBC mandate which only allows for children of students, staff and faculty to attend campus daycare.

Bennington is one of those people left searching. Although she is a UBC staff member, she won't be able to get her granddaughter Emma on a waitlist because she doesn't have full custody rights.

Despite the groundswell of outrage from parents, UBC officials have stated that they have been left with no choice.

Richard Vedan, director of the First Nations Longhouse, regrets having to close the centre, but explained that the daycare wasn't fulfilling its mandate.

"Of the limited money I get, the majority of the money is being taken up by subsidising the childcare program for non-Aboriginal students. In fact, in several instances non-UBC students."

The daycare, he said, was supposed to be accepting only children from Aboriginal parents affiliated with UBC, but because of consistent enrolment shortfalls S-Takya admitted children of parents who weren't affiliated with the University into the program.

"I have a mandate to provide services to Aboriginal students...if you get down to it, it's a misappropriation of funds," said Vedan.

Many of the parents, including Mike Wolf, whose four-year old daughter Holly is enrolled at S-Takya, disagree.

UBC has been unreceptive to alternative solutions in keeping the centre open, he said. It's a callous solution, he added.

WHERE IS THE LOVE? Children at the S-Tayka centre will be searching for a new daycare next month. **JEAN CHRUMKA PHOTO**

"I'm quite angry about it," said Wolf's wife, Debby, a UBC hospital worker. "It was very sudden. It's so much a part of the Longhouse and the philosophy of the First Nations culture to have children involved like that. It doesn't make any sense to me."

See "Daycare" page 2.

TA's went on strike in 2003, ordered back shortly after by provincial government

"Strike" from page 1.

ing assistants, it might translate into top students not wanting to come to UBC. This will have negative consequences towards research and teaching at the University, she added.

"As students we are concerned about the education this University is offering...but at this point it's becoming an unworkable environment here," said Roberts. "All levels of the University are starting to suffer by our inability to recruit good graduate students."

UBC Director of Public Affairs Scott Macrae said that contract negotiations with the union are ongoing and didn't want to comment on specifics.

"Those discussions really remain at the table at this point," he said.

According to Macrae, the union and UBC are set to meet today for contract deliberations.

"As long as people are talking there's always the mutual hope that they'll get to a satisfactory conclusion," he commented, adding, "We're still talking."

Teaching assistants went on strike in early 2003 but were legislated back to work by the provincial government on March 12 of that year.

Roberts said she was optimistic that a contract can be agreed upon and a strike avoided.

"The last thing anyone wants to do is go on strike," she said. "I really hope it doesn't come to that."

Lobbying efforts in Victoria a sucess, according to AMS execs

"Lobby" from page 1.

Additionally, the proposal advised that tuition increases and student financial assistance should be indexed to the Consumer Price Index and that there be guaranteed minimum funding levels for post-secondary education.

Patillo added that the partnership document was simply a summary of a previously published AMS document.

"We didn't meet Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell because he was in Ottawa," former AMS VP External Jessica Klug told *the Ubyssey*, though she and the other AMS representatives convened with over fifty MLAs, deputy and assistant deputy ministers.

Among those were ministers Colin Hansen (Economic Development), Stan Hagen (Children and Family Development), Pat Bell (Agriculture and Lands) and Rick Thorpe (Small Business). The AMS delegates also met with the assistant deputy minister of advanced education, Tom Vincent, as well as advanced education critic Gregor Robertson.

"Everyone had three to four meetings a day, a lot of them successful," asserted Klug.

The province was grateful for the information exchanged at the gathering, and seeks more in further consultations.

"[The government] are all on board and we're going to be following up with them, giving them more information, which they are very interested in," assured Klug.

Both Klug and Pattillo shared a positive outlook of the results from the consultation in Victoria.

"I think we've explained some pretty clear goals in education, namely restoring funding, and reminded the province that UBC has around half the post-secondary population in the province, so when something happens to post-secondary education students, we need to be consulted," said Pattillo.

Klug believes that for "a lot of MLAs, post-secondary education isn't on their radar, and by bringing [attention to] that..is important to us. We did so and are planning on doing this one or twice a year to keep it there."

That same weekend, former AMS President Spencer Keys was in Ottawa at a first minister's conference, something Keys described as "a stakeholders meeting for those involved in post-secondary education."

While Keys did not meet with the BC Minister for Advanced Eduation, he did meet with Deputy Minister Moura Quayle.

Keys' specific goal at the conference was to push for a pan-Canadian accord on post-secondary education that would identify common values and objectives to achieve those values.

"The premiers...were very amenable to [the student proposals]; that was certainly encouraging," declared Keys, continuing, "the idea that we need some sort of national strategy was very well accepted.

UBC claims it could no longer sustain its $40,000 annual deficit

"Daycare" from page 1.

"Why all of a sudden?" she asked.

Her husband, she noted, would have to take time off work for stay at home to take care of their child as of May 1.

Nancy Fischer, a single parent studying education at UBC, mirrored the Wolf's criticisms and wondered whether any alternative solutions were sought out.

Sad and disappointed, she hasn't found anyone to look after her three-year old son Zachary yet.

"It's hard to find anything around UBC," she said.

Darcel Cotton, director of UBC Child Care Services, said she faces difficult challenges as overseer of the 17 daycares on campus.

"My obligation is to support the University...My service has been defined to do that for students, staff and faculty," she said.

Currently, all 350 childcare spaces at UBC are full. While there are projects underway to expand services, it will be at least five years before another 300 spaces are added.

Cotton shifted criticism towards the varying levels of government.

"The problem is the partnership [between UBC and the government] is not working. S-Takya is an outcome that [shows] the partnership is not working."

"[S-Takya] tried really hard," said Cotton. "They have a difficult space; it doesn't have enough space to make it viable."

Vedan didn't dispute the challenges parents will face.

"I don't think anyone's pleased including myself," Vedan admitted. "One can justify it, but one certainly can't feel good about it."

'TWEENS

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March 7th, 1-3 pm
Come out on Tuesday to discuss the new era of war and occupation and what it means for students, for women, and for oppressed people. The keynote speaker will be UBC Women's Studies professor Sunera Thobani.

Judaism vs. Confucianism
Asian Centre, Auditorium
March 8th, 5 pm
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Free meditation workshop
Asian Centre, Room 604
March 9th, 7:30 pm
Call (604) 875-1702 to register for this introductory workshop, first in a series of beginner classes.

CORRECTION
In the March 3, 2006 issue of *the Ubyssey*, we incorrectly reported in the article "Women and men join the Sista'hood" that the Reel Sista's Film Festival is on March 27th. It is actually on March 11th. *The Ubyssey* regrets the error.

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

SPORTS CAREER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2006. Follow Your Dream. Want to meet leaders in the sports industry? Sports Career Management Conference 2006- a two-day conference featuring the Presidents of the BC Lions, Vancouver Whitecaps, Vancouver Canadians and more! March 31st-April 1st @ UBC Robson Square. Visit www.mjlevents.ca for more information.

FREE PUBLIC FORUM on Women and Migration. Saturday March 11 @ VCC (250 W Pender st) 12:30-5pm, Room 420. Panel discussion and action planning- free admission, everyone welcome! info: www.amnesty.bc.ca

PICKET ACTION Against the Canadian Occupation of Afghanistan! Canada Out of Afghanistan! All Troops Out Now! 12:00 NOON, Monday March 13. Canadian Forces Recruitment Centre-1070 W. Georgia. for more info: 604-322-1764 cawopi_ubc@yahoo.ca - www.mawovancouver.org

ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY of the Invasion of Iraq: Global Weekend of Action Against War! March 18- War No More rally and march against the War in Iraq organized by Stopwar.ca. 11:30 at Seaforth Park! Rally 1:00 at the Vancouver Art Gallery

MARCH 19 All-day antiwar conference organized by Mobilization Against War and Occupation Against the Imperialist War Drive for the self-determination of all opressed nations. topics from Iraq, Afghanistan to Iran and more. Britannia Community Centre (Commercial Drive) 10-6pm www.mawovancouver.org 604-322-1764

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The Ubyssey

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coordinating@ubyssey.bc.ca

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news@ubyssey.bc.ca

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culture@ubyssey.bc.ca

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EDITORIAL OFFICE
Room 24, Student Union Building
6138 Student Union Boulevard
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
tel: 604-822-2301
fax: 604-822-9279
web: www.ubyssey.bc.ca
e-mail: feedback@ubyssey.bc.ca

BUSINESS OFFICE
Room 23, Student Union Building
advertising: 604-822-1654
business office: 604-822-6681
fax: 604-822-1658
e-mail: advertising@ubyssey.bc.ca

BUSINESS MANAGER *Fernie Pereira*

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One day Boris Korby was walking through the park when he found a Bryan Zandberg on the ground. He picked Bryan up and hurtled him at Eric Szeto like a spear. Paul Evens and Claudia Lee seeing this phoned the police. The dispatcher Michelle Mayne sent officers Jesse Marchand, Mary Leighton, Ada Chen and Colleen Tang to apprehend the suspect, but before they could get there Megan Smyth and Simon Underwood made a citizens arrest while Yinan Max Yang took pictures. Boris shared his prison cell with fellow convicts Catherine Hart, Matt Hayles, Andrew MacRae and Carolynne Burkholder. On the day of his trial he was escorted to court by Bailiff Alia Vharssi who handled him roughly. Cheata Nko prosecuted the case with great zeal, while Candace Mokada typed the record. Levi Barnett did his best to defend the suspect, but thought the case was lost. Until the jury made up of Aluiva Lo, Mary Leighton, Champagne Choquer, Johnson Lee, Micheal Kenacan, Yalin Lin, Benhamin Groberman, Erik Lauder, Peter Wawen, Jill Orsten, Peter Clark, Melissa Woodside, Ruetzen Heredia, Kiam Mintz Woo, Greg Ursic, Maxwell Maxwell and D WinterWhite had to let him off because they realized that Eric Szeto was just fine because, "You can't hurt steel."

EDITORIAL GRAPHIC *Yinan Max Wang*

Canadian University Press

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Damage control, Coca-Cola style

Alleged ethics violations spur national Coke ad campaign

by Eric Szeto
NEWS EDITOR

After a slew of campus wide bans of their product in the United States over the past two months, Coca-Cola has launched a national ad campaign to repair their tarnished image and prevent further boycotts.

The ads, which have run in *the Ubyssey* and several other university papers across Canada, address specific allegations: human rights abuses at a Coca-Cola bottling plant in Colombia and hazardous environmental practices and water rights violations in India.

Skeptics, however, are questioning the timing of these ads.

"It's clearly an attempt by Coke to stop the boycotts that are going on across the country," said Scott Gilbert an executive at the University of Guelph. "It's Coca-Cola propaganda in an attempt to save their ass from student boycotts."

Executives at the University of Guelph's student government recently voted against renewing their exclusivity contract with Coke.

Richard Girard, a worker at the Polaris Institute, an Ottawa based think tank, reaffirmed Gilbert's statements, calling the ads "hot air."

"I don't know how many people they expect to believe them but they feel like they have to do that to combat the very successful ongoing campaign against their company," he said.

Nicole Zlonkevicz, editor-in-chief of *the Michigan Journal*, Michigan University's student newspaper, defended Coke's decision to publish these ads.

"I think Coke has every right to defend themselves and the University has every right to pull their contract until they discover more," she said. "It's a tough call to make because it's just allegations."

Although Michigan University recently suspended Coke products from their campus, Zlonkevciz felt that the ads were good because they brought to light both sides of the issue for students.

Kari Bjorhus, a spokesperson at Coke denied that these ads were an attempt to sway public opinion. Rather, she said, "it's an opportunity to provide information to students and administrators that they might otherwise not have about how a company like the Coca-Cola company approaches water stewardship."

"I don't think we're doing this as a part of any sales plan," she said, responding to the potential loss in revenue.

It is estimated that another 40 student governments in the US are pursuing similar courses of action to the ten American universities—most recently Michigan University and New York University—that have banned or suspended Coke products from being sold on their campuses because of these allegations.

The University of Guelph student union executives as well as York and McMaster University's student unions are the only three Canadian schools that have voted to sever or not renew their contracts thus far.

Exclusivity deals with universities across North America may be further jeopardised if an independent assessment commission's report, aimed at investigating these suspected human rights violations, do not exonerate the bottling giant.

The independent commission, which Coke has refused to sign on to, was formed in 2005 after numerous complaints of ethics violations were brought forth by union workers in Colombia. Members of the commission include the Workers Rights Consortium, the Fair Labor Association, the Center for International Solidarity and numerous student unions in North America, including UBC's Alma Mater Society (AMS).

As for UBC, currently in its second last year of the ten-year exclusivity deal, the findings of the investigation may have serious repercussions for future negotiations.

AMS President Kevin Keystone did suggest that the University would be hesitant to outright ban Coca-Cola products on campus, however.

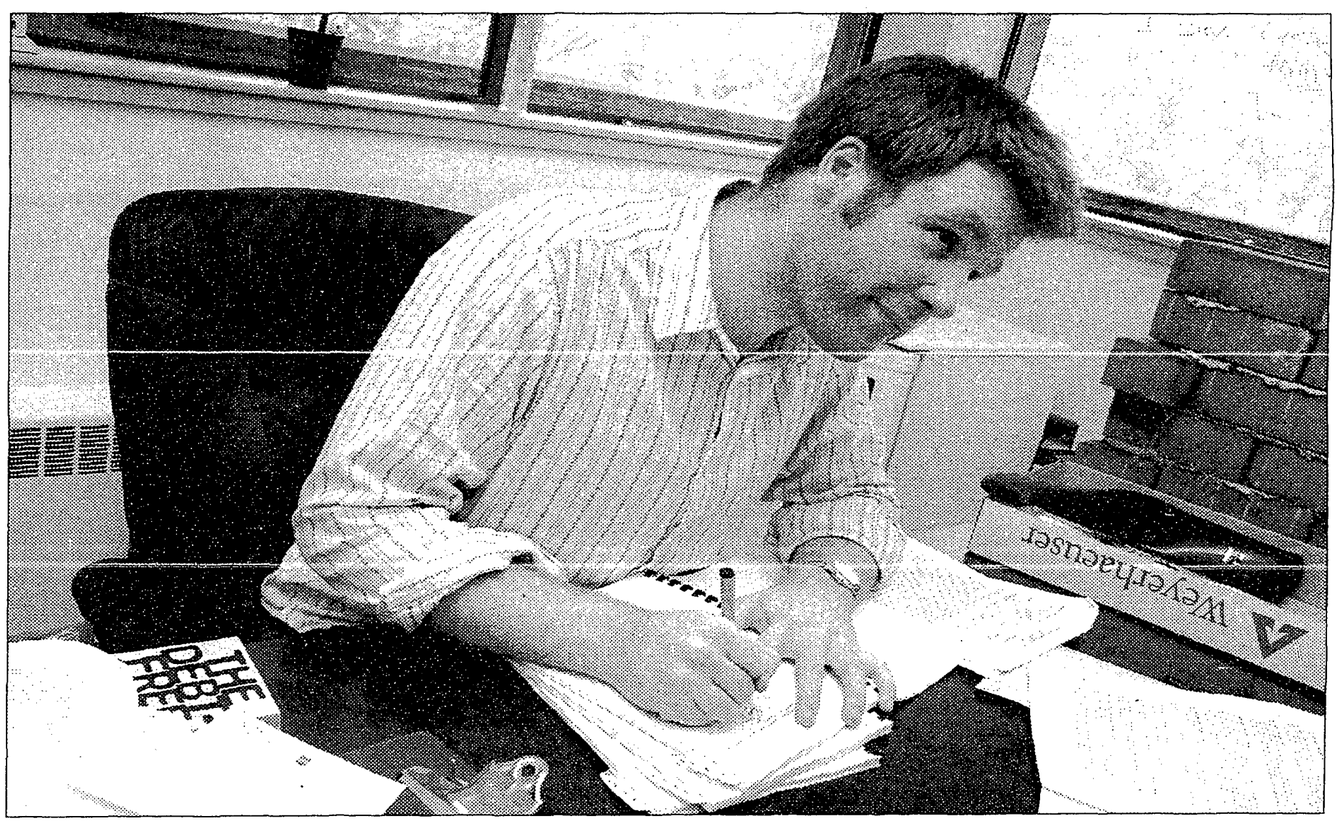
"Aside from outright banning, which is extreme, I think that the University and the AMS will be thinking twice before it signs an exclusivity deal with any multinational cold-beverage supplier," stated Keystone.

There are currently 18 other universities in Canada that have exclusivity contracts with Coca-Cola.

Further hurdles for Travel Cuts settlement

U of A student union president's comments create controversy

by Chloé Fedio
THE GATEWAY/UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



IN LIMBO? Recently settled Travel Cuts lawsuit may not be so settled after all. MICHELLE MAYNE PHOTO

EDMONTON (CUP)—The drawn-out Travel Cuts dispute is facing yet another delay after the University of Alberta student union President Graham Lettner made controversial statements about the recent pre-trial settlement.

In the February 28 issue of *the Gateway*, Lettner said, "it's clear in the settlement, and it's clear in the work that we've done, that the plaintiffs were wronged in the past," adding that the agreement was a matter of vindication.

"The statements are false and a fundamental violation of the agreement," said Executive Director of the Canadian Federation of Students-Services (CFS-S) Philip Link.

"I think we need an unequivocal retraction from Graham Lettner—an acknowledgement that the statements were false in every way. Not just that they were false, but some acknowledgement that that wasn't the basis on which we were settling, and that the settlement states nothing of the sort."

Last week, an out-of-court settlement was reached regarding ownership of Travel Cuts. It provided a newly created non-profit organisation—of which plaintiffs will be members along with 12 other student unions—with a 24 per cent share in the company. Link said that CFS-S was "sufficiently satisfied" when the agreement was made.

"We were comfortable in agreeing with a settlement, but not a settlement whereby the plaintiffs can make these sorts of false claims about what the settlement means and how it should be viewed, because in no way are we in any way saying that there was wrongdoing by us or Travel Cuts, and that was explicit in this settlement," Link said.

After learning of the comments, CFS-S released a statement yesterday stating that Lettner's "false statements" violated the terms of the agreement and may result in its cancellation.

"In the settlement, we're not to contradict the joint statement to the extent that we did; it shouldn't have been done," Lettner said. "There's no appropriation of blame or wrongdoing to the plaintiffs or the defendants in the agreement, so that's what they're taking issue with."

Travel Cuts was originally owned by the Association of Student Councils-Canada (AOSC), now a dormant organisation, which passed along its assets to CFS-S in 1987.

Years later, a dispute arose between CFS-S and four plaintiff student governments from the University of Alberta, University of British Columbia, University of Western Ontario and Queen's University—which were members of AOSC, but not CFS-S-pertaining to the ownership and operations Travel Cuts.

The lawsuit was originally filed by Western University Students' Council in 1996, accusing CFS-S of illegally transferring the company, and asked for its full benefits, including free International Student Identity Cards (ISIC) for all undergraduate student associations across Canada, whether they are part of CFS-S or not. However, Link disputed this claim.

"It was only because the plaintiffs—a decade later—came up with this scheme to try to reverse that, basically relying on this technicality that the motion, back in 1987, directed that the transfer be completed by 30 June, 1988, and that it wasn't," Link said.

He went on to say that the only problem with the transfer was that it wasn't completed within the AOSC's prescribed timeline.

"The only wrongdoing is that this group of student unions has leveraged this portion of the ownership, and it's because we're thinking of the best interest of the company, and what's in the best interest of the company is remaining on the UBC, U of A and Western campuses, and that wasn't necessarily going to be the outcome when we won the suit in court," said Link. "But the notion that these guys were wronged is a joke."

Lettner responded to *the Gateway* in writing about his controversial comments. "The settlement contained no acknowledgement of wrongdoing on either side, and no admission of liability by the plaintiffs or defendants," Lettner wrote.

"I think other than publishing exactly what we have there, there's no need to follow up further," he later said. "That closes up any miscommunication that was made earlier on in the February 28 news edition, and we're going to leave it at that."

YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO

Great northwestern hope to be revealed in 2007

by Eric Szeto
NEWS EDITOR

With almost all multimedia entertainment using digital media nowadays, it's no surprise that the Great Northern Way Campus (GNWC) received a $40 million vote of confidence from the provincial government.

"We're jubilant," Denis Pavlich, co-chair of the Board at GNWC, said of the multi-million dollar dole out from the provincial government during their recent budget announcement, adding that this money will be going towards building a world-class digital media centre.

GNWC, conceived in 2000 by UBC, SFU, Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design and British Columbia Institute of Technology, is set to open in 2007. According to their mission statement, GNWC is an institution dedicated to urban sustainability and digital media.

Companies such as Mainstream Entertainment and Radical Entertainment, all of which have spawned in BC, will be taking active roles in the school.

Electronic Arts Canada—one of the biggest video game developers in the world—will also be heavily involved.

The school, Pavlich said, should further strengthen the already burgeoning local digital media industry and continue to make BC a leader in the world.

"There isn't anything in Canada at all in this area," said Pavlich, "and there are very few very top notch programs in the world."

"It is a significant sum of money so it's recognition that the industry has reached a sufficient degree of maturity that it warrants that type of investment."

Teaching sustainable behavior by using digital media technologies will be fundamental, said CEO and president of GNWC, Bruce Chapman.

The synergies that exist between urban sustainability and digital media will be fully explored, he added.

"You can use digital media technologies and products to encourage sustainable behavior. You can do virtual reality simulations of situations and you can build a building using virtual reality."

The 8.9 hectare campus, located in East Vancouver, hopes to have its first class of graduates in 2010. Pavlich said applications for the school should begin by this summer.

"It's a wonderful blend of the science and the arts, in the transformation of culture in the current age we live in," Pavlich said.

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UBCtalk.com launched

Online community seeks to bring students together

by Yalin Lin
NEWS WRITER

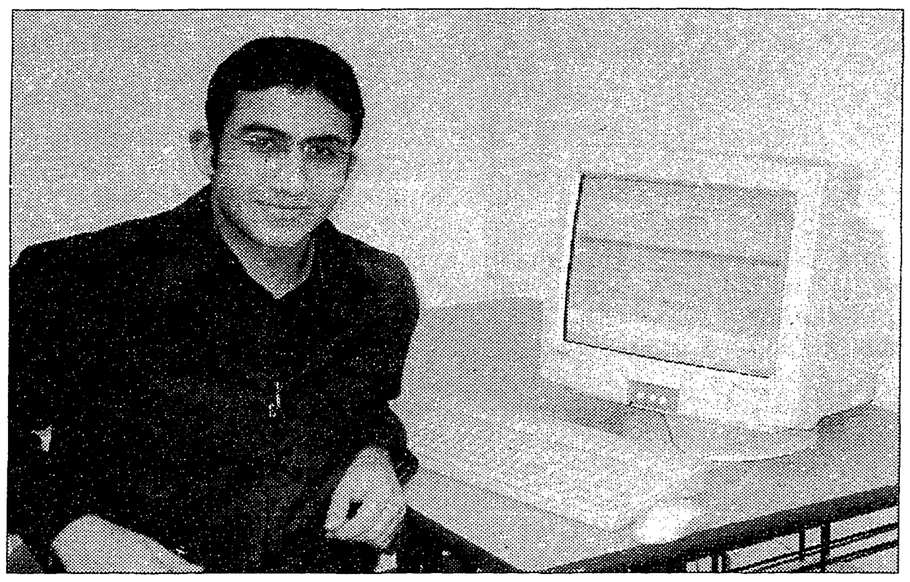
For students looking to stay connected with friends and fellow students across campus or who just need another distraction from writing papers, UBCtalk.com, a new independent website forum created by a UBC student, has the answer.

With the motto "making UBC smaller one post at a time," UBCtalk.com, in its third month of operation, is following in the footsteps of other online communities like Livejournal.com, Facebook.com and Myspace.com.

"What you have is a growing campus with diminishing student relationships with professors and each other," said fourth-year psychology student and founder of UBCtalk.com, Sam Khajeei. "UBCtalk.com is attempting to counter this phenomenon," he added.

Free for all students to join, the forum is a venue for UBC students to compare notes on all aspects of university life. The UBCtalk.com forum "offers topics such as professor ratings, housing for rent, faculty talk, club talk, buy and sell of books and many more all specific to UBC," explained Khajeei. One feature he said the website won't include is a UBC dating service.

Khajeei also hopes that members will also take advantage of the website to get information on prospective majors from their peers already in the programs. "Since there are many members who have done this major or considered it, you would receive answers from many experienced people with different points of view," he added. Marketing UBCtalk.com has been the biggest challenge so far, explained Khajeei.



UBCTALK: Friends are just a click away. **YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO**

"I would love to see about a 1000 members on the board in the near future...since a forum is only as resourceful as the members within it," he said. Currently, with only around 63 members, the UBCtalk.com team is working hard to have the website listed on major search engines, and advertised on CiTR radio to boost that figure.

In comparison to other online resources, UBCtalk.com developers said that it provides the services of all those websites and more all in one site.

Unlike its Livejournal distant-cousin where postings of various topics are mixed in a hodgepodge fashion, postings at UBCtalk.com are organised into their respective headings for easy navigation and search. Whereas Livejournal is more blog oriented, "I believe UBCtalk.com will be more personal and direct than Livejournal. Members can communicate with each other live in real time," Khajeei elaborated.

Furthermore, "UBCtalk.com is a non-profit organisation set up for students. It will remain non-profit. There are too many things on campus that take money from students already," Khajeei said. ■

Break-ins rock the Bike Co-op

Improved security measures forthcoming, says AMS

by Jesse Ferreras
NEWS STAFF

A recent string of break-ins have prompted a call for more stringent security measures at the Alma Mater Society (AMS) Bike Co-op.

Located in the basement of the SUB, the Co-op experienced two break-ins within weeks of each other.

According to Yvonne Fung, volunteer coordinator and director-at-large on the Co-op's Board of Directors, the first break-in happened sometime in the middle of the night on January 11.

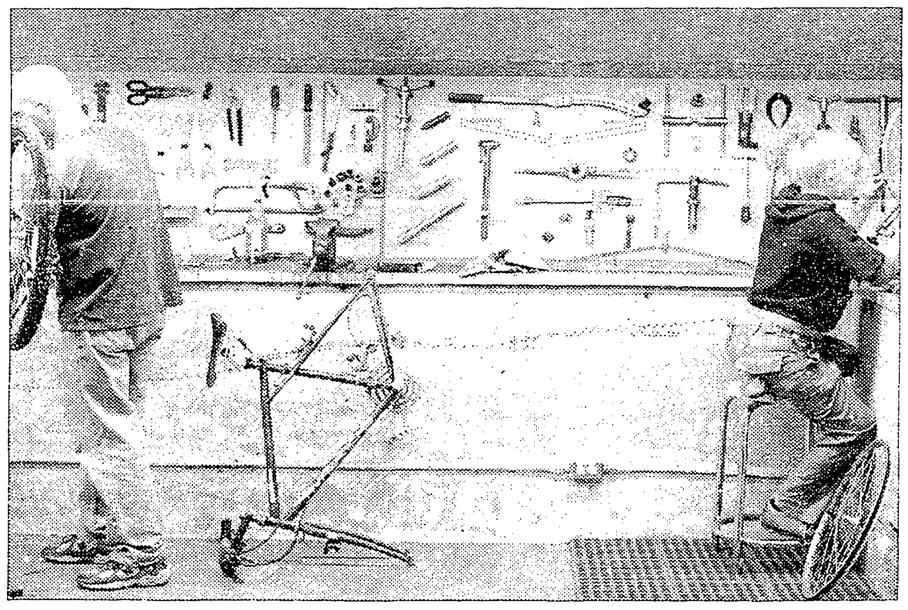
"I left at 9:30...so it was late at night," said Fong. "It must have happened sometime between 9:00[pm] and 8:00[am] the next morning."

The first break-in occurred when the perpetrator threw a brick through the window and broke in, taking two bikes estimated at a combined value of $7,000.

Security measures taken by the Co-op have included the installation of steel grates upon the windows of the front door—measures that occurred following the second incident.

"[After] the first burglary, we did not respond quickly enough," admitted Billy Smith, a manager at the Bike Kitchen, explaining that the second break in occurred on the day before the grates were scheduled to be installed. "The second time, we did not hesitate."

While the issue of property value in the Bike Co-op is a matter of serious concern, there is also consideration for the safety of the entire SUB, as the front door to the Co-op space provides an entrance to the rest of the building, said Andrea Smith, a senior staffer with the Bike Co-op.



REPAIR WORK: Bike mechanics work in the Bike Kitchen of the AMS Bike Co-op. **YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO**

"The [AMS Bike] Kitchen and the Co-op don't want to be a drain on the AMS," she said. "We're very grateful for the space and we feel that a secure front door is part of the space, given that it's basically an exterior front door to the SUB."

Smith professed concerns that the almost-hidden front door's location, made it easily accessible to miscreants.

"The door is at the bottom of a tunnel basically where it is protected from vision of anyone. We don't have a ramp, which would also improve the sightlines and would make the space wheelchair accessible," she added.

A newly transitioned AMS executive likewise expressed concern about security issues related to the Co-op entrance.

"It's obviously a safety concern if you can get into the SUB through the Bike Co-op," said VP Admin David Yuen. "It's not just a security issue for the Bike Co-op—if they can get into the SUB it is a concern for the AMS."

Besides the installation of the front grates, the Bike Co-op also hopes to install a new alarm system from possible monies set aside by the AMS, said Smith. In the meantime, the AMS has plans to increase security at the Co-op.

"It was discussed as part of a meeting of the Finance Commission on January 24th," said AMS President Kevin Keystone.

"We'll ensure this doesn't happen again." ■

New freelance union to counter 'buyers' market'

Journalists make an effort to mobilise in order to improve working conditions and pressure media owners to raise wages in a bloated market

by Giuseppe Valiante
THE LINK (CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY)

MONTREAL (CUP)—Representatives from the new Canadian Freelance Union (CFU) tried to recruit over 25 journalists from Montreal last Wednesday to create a strong national alliance of writers to mobilise and pressure publishers to raise their wages. The meeting focused on how media owners are able to pay lower rates, as the market is saturated with writers.

"[Publishers] are screwing us because they can," said Michael O'Reilly, CFU President.

O'Reilly fielded questions with CFU members Gordon Graham and Peter Murdock from skeptical and supportive audience members who shared one common concern—they wanted to be paid more for their work.

Graham—a founding member of *NOW Magazine* in Toronto—explained that to cut costs, publishers lay off full-time writers. This forces them into freelance work where salaries are more meagre and benefits are nixed.

> "IF YOU WANT TO WRITE FOR A LIVING, GO AND STUDY WHAT YOU WANT TO WRITE ABOUT AND THEN GO OUT AND WRITE ABOUT IT—DON'T STUDY JOURNALISM,"
> *–Jason Gondziola*
> *Concordia philosophy student*

"This is a historic time," Graham said. He believes that the interests of full-time and freelance writers are now the same. "Increase freelance rates and [publishers] will stop cutting [full-time] jobs," he said.

"It's a buyers' market," said freelance journalist Jason Gondziola, former editor at *The Link* (the student newspaper at Concordia) and currently the executive producer at CUTV. He agrees that Canada's writing market is saturated, but doesn't necessarily see this as a reason to start up a union.

"I'm not against the idea," he said, "but [starting a union] is a difficult thing to do."

He said that the CFU would essentially have to recruit all freelancers in the country to effectively put pressure on media owners.

Gondziola claims he's been paid fairly well for the work he's done for a plethora of publications like the *Montreal Mirror* and *The National Review of Medicine*.

Established freelance journalists aren't the only ones that are bearing the brunt of a competitive and flooded pool of local and national writers according to Gondziola. Journalism graduates may also be facing a tough future when it comes to graduation time, he said.

Jobs are being cut in newsrooms across the country and fewer writers are able to publish their work, resulting in fewer opportunities, acknowledged Gondziola. Lack of jobs and what O'Reilly calls "poverty wages" are some of the issues that journalism graduates will inherit when they enter the workforce. According to O'Reilly, aspiring journalists are being lied to by their departments.

He accused universities of taking advantage of "an attractive program", believing that it isn't fair to journalism students because they "aren't being told what their real prospects will be once they graduate."

Barbara Black, editor of *The Concordia Journal*, said that journalism departments want to encourage students but cannot hold their hands.

"It's not [the journalism department's] role to find jobs for their graduates. Success in journalism depends a lot on the initiative of its practitioners," she said.

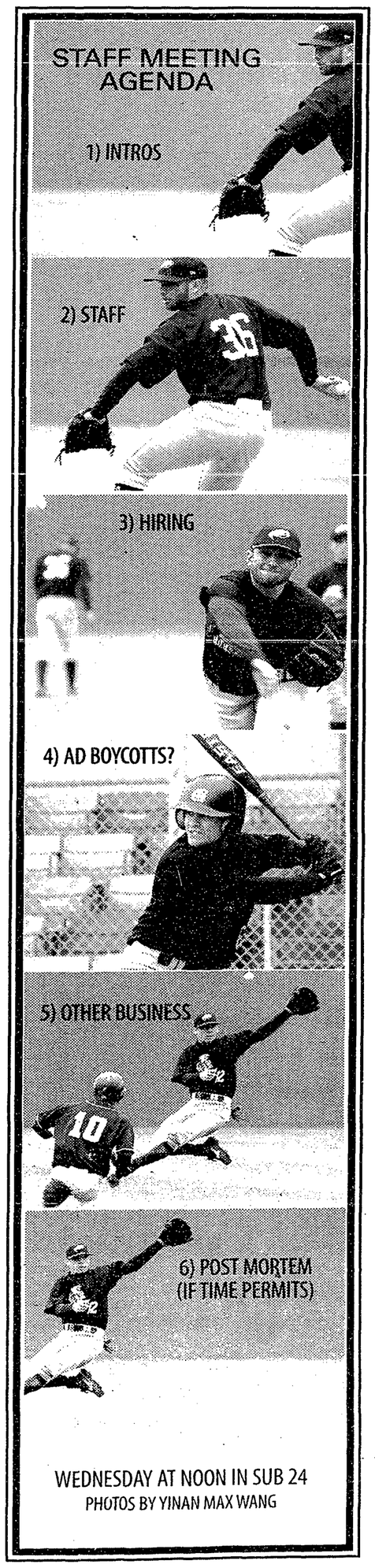
Gondziola, a Concordia honours philosophy student, doesn't agree with studying journalism as an academic discipline.

"If you want to write for a living, go and study what you want to write about and then go out and write about it—don't study journalism," he said.

A journalist's pay does not necessarily depend on what degree they receive. The union seeks to network between all aspiring journalists, regardless of their background.

Graham sees the process of trying to raise freelance rates as similar to knocking down a large wall.

"You have to tap here and there," he said. "And if enough people tap, the wall will come down."



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MARCH 4

Undergrad Research Conference
9:00AM to 6:00PM
This conference celebrates the contributions of undergraduate research at UBC by providing a unique forum that exemplifies UBC's commitment to undergrad curricula. Keep your eyes on www.research.ubc.ca/UGConf.aspx for updates!

Vancouver Institute Lecture – The Best Ideas You'll Hear Tonight
8:15PM
Bernie Lucht, Executive Producer of CBC Radio's Ideas program, has won many awards and received national and international recognition. He will talk about the show, how it began, how it evolved, and some of the characters involved. Visit the VI website http://psg.com/~ted/vaninst/ to see their full line up of lectures.
IRC Bldg. – 2194 Health Sciences Mall

MARCH 6

Forestry Research Day
12:00PM to 8:00PM
The faculty is hosting a poster session by graduate students and a feature presentation by Dr. Peter Arcese, Professor, and Co-Director, Centre for Applied Conservation Research. More details at www.forestry.ubc.ca/research/talks.html.
Forest Sciences Centre Atrium – 2424 Main Mall

UBC Health Clinic Grand Opening
Daily March 6 to 10, 12:30PM to 1:30PM & Wednesday evening 6:00-7:00PM
UBC's Health Clinic is announcing their Grand Opening to showcase their brand new facilities. Meet the care team and tour the state-of-the-art facility. Refreshments will be served. Daily event info at www.familymed.ubc.ca or call 604-822-5431.
David Strangway Bldg, Suite 300 - 5950 University Blvd (above Shopper's Drug Mart)

Traffic & Vancouver: Approaches, Solutions, and Futures
Reception 5:30PM to 6:30PM
Presentation 6:30PM to 7:30PM
Vancouverites, like residents in other major North American cities, face increased lost time, pollution and accidents from growing traffic congestion and reduced mobility. Join Sauder School of Business faculty members and TransLink as they discuss solutions to these issues. More info available at 604-822-6801 or email alumni@sauder.ubc.ca.
UBC Robson Square, Room C100 – 800 Robson St.

Internationalization & Education: Perspectives, Practices, Issues & Controversies
6:30PM Poster Session
7:30PM Lecture
Join two excellent researchers as they open and expand your knowledge of education in other parts of the world. Maureen Kendrick will focus on education initiatives in three Ugandan communities and Handel Wright will speak about "Researching Multiculturalism in New Times." This is a free event open to everyone. Visit www.educ.ubc.ca for more details.
UBC Robson Square Theatre – 800 Robson St.

MARCH 7

Now What Do I Do? Career Opportunities After Graduate School
1:00PM to 4:00PM
The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences will focus on Graduate Students and assist them as they explore their career opportunities after graduate school. Get answers to questions like: How did I get here? What was I missing? What do I wish I had known? Refreshments will be served. Go to www.pharmacy.ubc.ca to register.
St. John's College – 2201 Lower Mall

The Battle Against Infectious Disease
7:00PM to 9:00PM
SARS, Mad Cow, Bird Flu, Super bugs, TB, Influenza, Pandemic.... What are we doing to keep ahead in the fight against infectious disease? Join Dr. John Blatherwick, Dr. Janet McElhaney, and Dr. William Bowie for a closer look at managing outbreaks, influenza, antibiotic use and resistance. To learn more visit www.vchri.ca.
Vancouver General Hospital – 899 West 12 Ave
Cordula & Gunter Paetzold Health Education Centre in the Jim Pattison Pavilion

Science of a Changing Planet
6:00PM to 8:00PM
Understand the fascinating science behind Earth's ever-changing state. This series of short talks featuring UBC-based research on problems and solutions associated with our rapid climate changes and ways you can realistically reduce GHG emissions. Everyone is welcome. For more details call 604-822-2624.
UBC Robson Square Theatre – 800 Robson St.

Green College Lecture
5:00PM to 7:00PM
"The Changing Social Contract of Health" talk by Dorothy Porter, History of Health Sciences, and Chair, Department of Anthropology, History and Social Medicine, University of California San Francisco. Limited seating. www.greencollege.ubc.ca.
Green College – 6201 Cecil Green Park Rd.

MARCH 8

Sci-Trek Science & Research Trade Show
10:00AM to 4:00PM
UBC Supply Management presents Sci Trek to all Faculty and Staff. Check out this amazing science and research related Tradeshow, visit UBC's Major Suppliers, discover new scientific products and services and make new contacts at this event. www.supplymanagement.ubc.ca
Life Sciences Centre, West Atrium - 2350 Health Sciences Mall

Venture into UBC Research Developments
5:00PM
Discover the new companies being generated by UBC research and find out how they are being supported by our first UBC Entrepreneur-in-Residence, Gary Albach. . . let the Add Venture begin. Check out www.uilo.ubc.ca for further details.
UBC Robson Square, HSBC Hall – 800 Robson St.

Ingredients for a Healthy City
6:00PM to 8:00PM
Rob VanWynsberghe and others will talk about issues of sustainability and community as they relate to Vancouver's development towards an Olympic host city. This is a free event and due to space limitations, pre-registration is required via their website: www.wuf3.ubc.ca/program/living.html
UBC Robson Square Theatre – 800 Robson St.

MARCH 9

Obstetrics & Gynaecology Academic Day
8:00AM to 5:00PM
UBC Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynaecology Annual Academic Day is the opportunity for clinical trainees and graduate students to present their ongoing and/or completed research to the University. To register or find out more, visit the website at www.obstgyn.ca or contact Lisa Caitulo at 604-875-2171.
Women's Hospital, Chan Auditorium – 4500 Oak St.

UBC Discovery Tour
3:00PM to 5:00PM
Discover what UBC has to offer. This is a unique tour is the first of its kind. Participants will receive a guided tour using technology from their cell phones or iPods – so bring yours! The podcast will be available for download prior to March 9 – we'll keep you posted at www.research.ubc.ca. Highlights include:
* The Faraday Presentation in the Hebb Theatre - an entertaining look at Physics Principles
* A presentation in the new Life Sciences Building by the Ubiquitous Computing Group
* A guided tour of the UBC Space telescope
* A draw for Apple iPods. This is an excellent opportunity for students to discover UBC in a fun and exciting way. Many of the tour stops are brand new facilities that the public normally would not be able to access.

Best of all, it's FREE! Pre-register with Kally Basra at 604-822-6010 or kally.basra@ubc.ca.

Celebrate Research Week Gala
5:00PM to 9:00PM
This spectacular event celebrates selected research award winners and recognizes their outstanding achievements - highlighted with video vignettes. The program also includes special performances by UBC School of Music and UBC Opera. This is a free event and pre-registration is required. Contact Kally Basra at 604-822-6010 or kally.basra@ubc.ca to order your tickets.
The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts – 6265 Crescent Rd.

Planners for Tomorrow
6:30PM to 8:30PM
Who should be the planners for the cities and towns of tomorrow? What should be their knowledge, skills and attitudes? Join the us to hear initial results and contribute to advancing the dialogue. Engage anytime at www.plannersfortomorrow.ca.
UBC Robson Square, Room C150/180 – 800 Robson St.

MARCH 10

Workshop on Future Wireless Systems
8:30AM to 5:00PM
Dr. Salim Hanna from Industry Canada and Dr. Andy Molisch from Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs will give keynote presentations on ultra-wideband wireless technologies. More details visit http://bul.ece.ubc.ca/workshop.html or call 604-822-3237.
Kaiser Bldg. – 2332 Main Mall

Engineering Open House
10:00AM to 4:00PM Friday & Saturday
Say the word "doctor" or "lawyer" and an immediate picture springs to mind of what these careers entail. Now try "engineer." It's a little harder, isn't it? Join us and learn about the exciting and diverse world of engineering at the free Engineering Open House. Visit www.apsc.ubc.ca for complete details.
Kaiser Bldg. – 2332 Main Mall

AERL Official Opening
2:00PM to 5:00PM
Everyone is welcome to attend the grand opening of the Aquatic Ecosystems Research Laboratory (AERL), an exciting new building that encourages and enhances the collaborations between natural and social scientists. There will be demonstrations and presentations of research, results and innovations. For more info call 604-827-5547.
AERL – 2202 Main Mall

MARCH 11

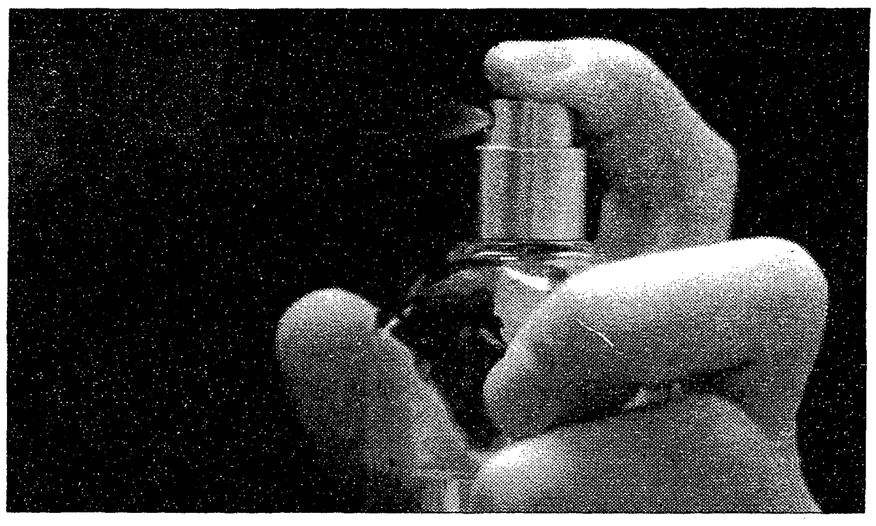
Diabetes Research Forum & Webcast
10:00AM to 12:00PM
A free public research forum where leading UBC researchers in the field of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes speak on their current research. Seating is limited so those who are interested should call Canadian Diabetes at 604-732-4636 to reserve a seat. If you can't attend in person, you can still take part by logging on to www.ikebaiberlearningcentre.ubc.ca.
Life Sciences Centre, Theatre 2 – 2350 Health Sciences Mall

Excellence in Research Lecture – Accelerating Sustainability in BC
8:15PM
The Vancouver Institute presents Dr. John Robinson, Director, Sustainable Development Research Initiative at UBC. Find out about the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS) and it why it will be the most innovative and high performance building in North America. Visit the VI website http://psg.com/~ted/vaninst/ to see their full line up of lectures.
IRC Bldg. – 2194 Health Sciences Mall

CELEBRATE UBC RESEARCH

The man in the can

How to make money with no previous bathroom qualifications



Sean Roberts walks downtown at 10:30 on a Saturday night. He's over six feet tall and built like a trim rugby player. His dark brown hair is cropped short except for a blond tuft on the back of his neck, a modern mullet.

He wears black jeans and white leather shoes, a black dress shirt with lime-green pinstripes and carries a pink and grey 80s gym bag over his shoulder.

He stops at 751 View St., shakes hands with the bouncers at Red Jacket, then skips the line and walks up the staircase to the second-level club. Upstairs, he gives a wink of his blue eyes to the coat check girls and nods at security. He waves at the bartenders as he passes the bar and a 400-gallon fishtank on his way to work.

The walls in the men's washroom are ox-blood red with a black tile border. A large, gilt-framed mirror hangs over two sinks. Two toilet stalls sit on the left; four urinals stand to the right. Sean places cologne, hair products, paper towels and a tip jar on the countertop beside the sinks and sits on a stool by the door, ready to make some money.

"Every night there's that moment, the initial rush when everyone has to piss around 11," he says. "And I'm there for them, I give them towels."

"I just kind of snuck in the back door, I had no previous bathroom qualifications," Roberts says. He knew about the position because a friend of his was quitting it.

The expectations co-owner Damien Cownden gave Roberts when he was hired were simple: show up on time and buy your own supplies. Roberts mans the bathroom from 10:30pm to 2:00am every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. The club pays him minimum wage and he keeps his tips. "On a good night he could make as much as the bartenders," says Cownden. This implies an average of $75 to $200 per night.

While he saves his tips, Roberts uses his minimum-wage paycheque to cover the costs of supplies. "I have nice paper towels, really nice ones. I buy them from Costco now because I've found they're the biggest, best and most absorbent. If you buy the cheap ones they're so thin you have to give two away. I think people would tip more if they knew I had to buy paper towels," he says.

Roberts also supplies hair products, which he gets at a discount from GEMI hair salon in exchange for word-of-mouth promotion and distributing business cards. He says the most popular hair product is wax, but

> "EVERY NIGHT THERE'S THAT MOMENT, THE INITIAL RUSH WHEN EVERYONE HAS TO PISS AROUND 11, AND I'M THERE FOR THEM."
>
> *–Sean Roberts*
> *Bathroom Attendant*

he also has hair spray, mousse, rubberiser and cream for anyone who needs it. Everyone has his own technique, says Roberts. The hair tweakers are some of his favourite clients.

"This one guy, he wets his hands, messes up his hair, and then puts it up into a mohawk. He doesn't even put any product in it, but I know he's good for five bucks. Another guy comes in and he'll wet his hand and pull back his hair really slowly and then flick it forward so it looks like the wind's blowing at him from behind. It's such a trademark move."

Roberts gets some free bottles and sample-sized cologne from a woman who works at the Bay, and he pays for the rest. The bathroom is stocked with Crave by Calvin Klein, Diesel, Hugo Energize, Issey Miyake, and Dolce & Gabbana cologne—his most popular product.

"One of my favourite moves with the colognes is when guys spray it twice on their neck and then one, for her, down the pants," he laughs.

He also supplies mints. Guys ask him for condoms and he'll supply them if he has any. One night a client started laughing when he saw that Roberts had condoms. "He said 'You even got rubbers. Well, I'm going bareback tonight anyways; I know where that pussy's been.'"

Roberts also keeps orange-scented room spray in his arsenal to keep the washroom smelling fresh. "Last week I had so much spray going on, one guy said, 'Fuck, this smells awesome in here. So fresh and fruity.'"

There are only two clubs in town with bathroom attendants: Red Jacket and Sugar. Cownden co-owns and operates both.

Cownden has been in the nightclub business for over six years and all of his clubs have had bathroom attendants. He says he got the idea working in clubs in Florida and visiting clubs in Beverly Hills and Los Angeles.

"In a lot of other places, it's commonplace. I wish it would become more of a trend in Canada," he says.

Some Victoria nightclub managers think otherwise.

"It's not really cost-effective," says Aragon Pawson, assistant manager of Hugo's Grill & Brewhouse. "Plus, it can be kind of freaky for some people who just aren't comfortable with it."

Pawson says he sees a place for attendants in high-end establishments, but that Victoria doesn't have the demographic to support the service. "There aren't very many millionaire tycoons in Victoria," he laughs.

Cownden says the main reason Red Jacket has bathroom attendants is for style. "My opinion is that the best way to judge an establishment's aesthetics is by its washrooms," he says. He also relies on his attendants for safety and security measures.

Roberts supplies a service; he also observes a lot from his perch on the stool.

On a Thursday night, the crowd is mostly young, broke university students. These are Roberts' least favourite clients because they don't tip well, get rowdy and cause trouble. They often slam a mickey of booze before they come to the club so they don't have to pay for pricey drinks at the bar.

There is a zero tolerance policy for 'pukers,' who are frequent on these nights, and security stands by the bathroom ready to kick them out.

This crowd is loud and obnoxious, and likes to give high fives. "That's another thing you get a lot of—guys who want to give you high fives and shake your hand, and you're like, 'Wash your hands first buddy and then we can do all of those social rituals.' I'm a chronic hand washer in there, too. I'm washing my hands every couple of minutes."

Friday nights have a hip-hop theme and tips are still on the smaller side, so Roberts has to be extra charming. He says a client is more inclined to slip him a bill if he goes the extra mile and remembers his name.

Saturday nights are the best nights for tips because it's an older crowd. "Everybody's working for the weekend," he says. These are the nights he makes connections and gets some of the best perks. Clients have offered him free Helijet rides, tickets to events at the Victoria Conference Centre and

> "IT CAN BE KIND OF FREAKY FOR SOME PEOPLE WHO JUST AREN'T COMFORTABLE WITH IT."
>
> *–Aragon Pawson*
> *Assistant Manager*
> *Hugo's Grill & Brewhouse*

fruity drinks he wouldn't normally buy for himself.

Aside from making money and keeping guys coiffed and smelling good all night, Roberts gets a different perspective working at the club as opposed to drinking there.

"When I went to the bar before, I was trying to go to meet girls, but when you're working, you see your competition. Now I know every sort of guy, every character I'm up against. You see how absolutely drunk most of these guys are and I think a lot of these guys could take a lesson from working in here and seeing themselves. It's kind of scary."

Just as scary as the drunken guys are the girls who are wasted and desperate for a hook-up. Roberts calls them stragglepusses. "You can pick them out too. They are just going around the bar like animals looking for a lay. It's true! Un-PC maybe, but stragglepuss is a reality."

There's no attendant in the women's washroom to get the drunken stragglepuss kicked out before she gets into trouble. Cownden says he tried it at Sugar, but the girls didn't tip the attendant.

"Women generally do not tip as well as men, it's not a prejudice, it's just a fact of the industry," Cownden says. He estimates that the women's attendant made a twentieth of what the men's attendant makes in tips.

While some of Roberts' clients tell him they think he has the worst job ever, he says it's the place to be.

For Roberts, working the bathroom is just another way to save up some money while in his fourth year of an English degree at UVic.

He is hoping to save some money so he can go traveling again, perhaps to take up where he left off as a self-proclaimed fraudulent English teacher in Taiwan. "I was just a drunken backpacker," he admits. For now, working during prime party-time is helping Roberts save the dough. "It's not worth it to me if I'm not doing this as a means to my end."

— text by Amanda Leier
The Martlet/University of Victoria
photo by Yinan Max Wang

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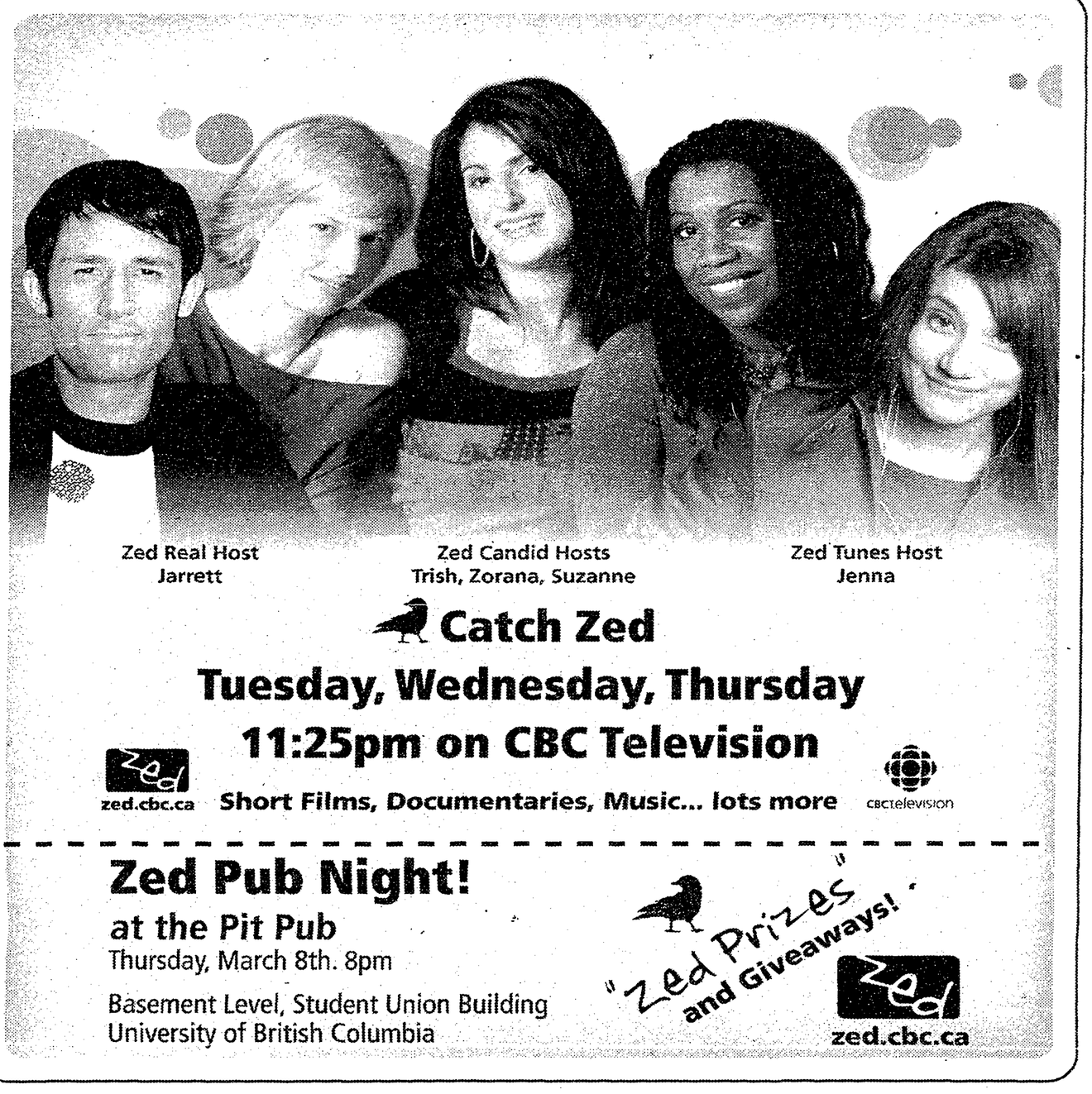
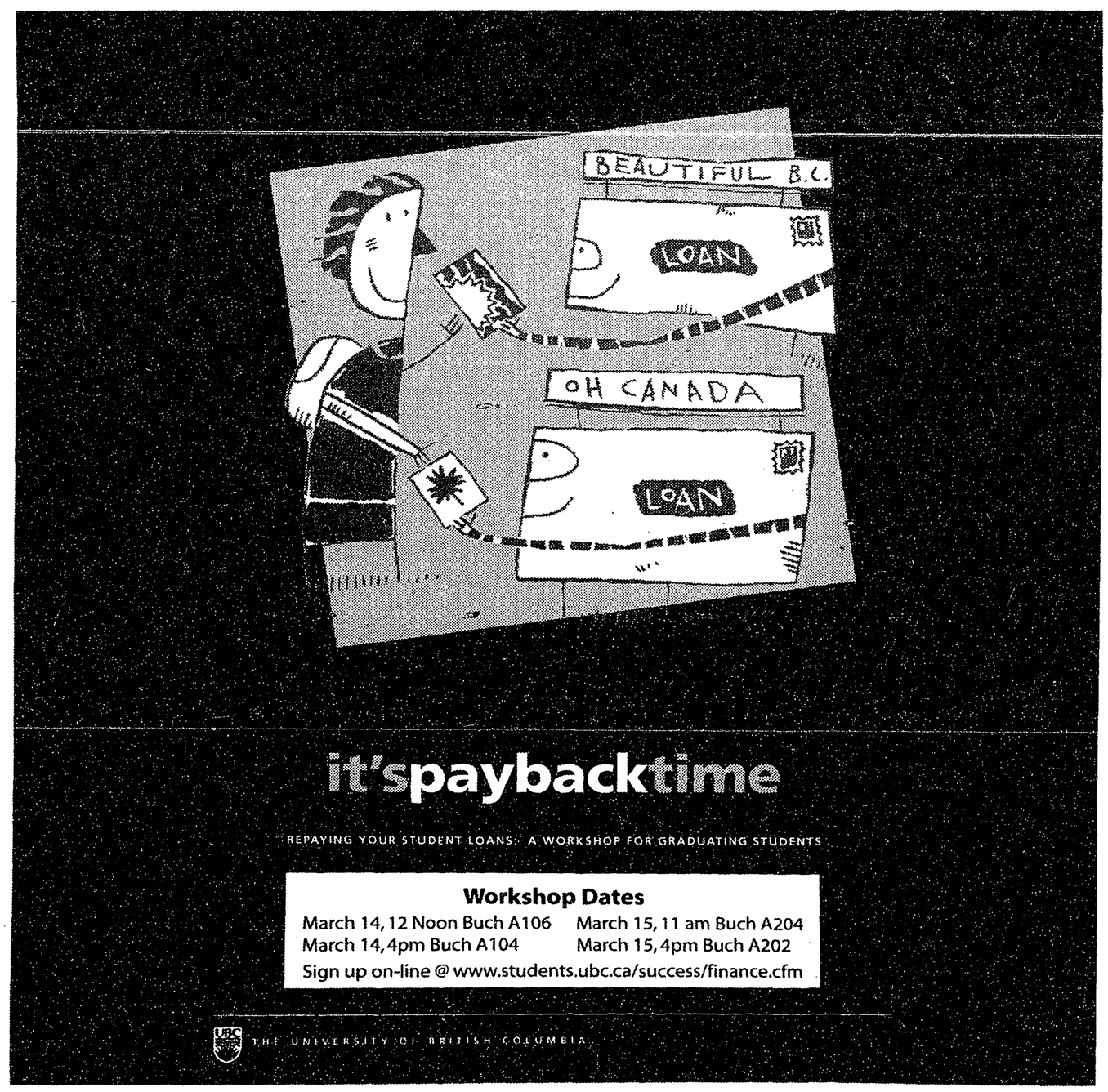
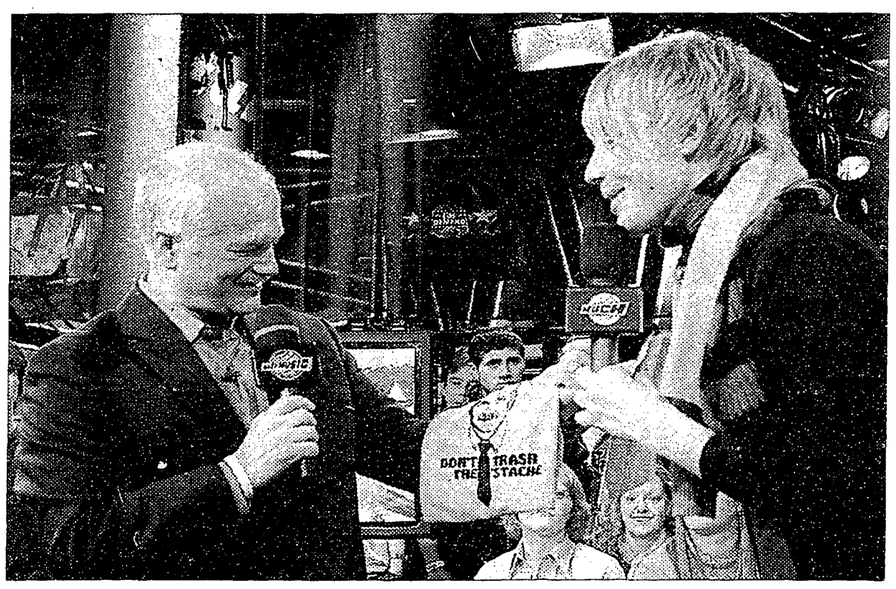




Outfitting the body politic

Former RTA student uses T-shirts, pins and puns to stir up interest in federal politics



JUST DON'T TRASH THE 'STACHE: NDP Leader Jack Layton gets served by Much Music VJ Devon Soltendieck. **DAVE WEATHERALL PHOTO**

by Emily Bellavy
THE EYEOPENER (RYERSON UNIVERSITY)

TORONTO (CUP)—Mark Shyzer has voted in only one federal election, but he's still sticking it to seasoned politicians.

Shyzer, 22, sells political pins and silkscreen T-shirts on his website, bawdypolitic.ca. He created the site last June, shortly after dropping out of Ryerson's Radio and Television Arts program.

His designs feature drawn headshots of Canadian politicians with corky puns drawn from the political drama that unfolds on Parliament Hill.

One of his bestsellers features Belinda Stronach and text that says "Stronach enough to be my lover."

It stirs up memories of Stronach's failed relationship with current Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay, Shyzer said.

"I think that having that surface interest in the cosmetics of politics is sort of the venue through which I got all my information for politics for this election," he said.

"It's more interesting to hear about Belinda Stronach's relationship instead of Jennifer Garner's relationship because...you might learn something about politics along the way."

> "WE WERE TALKING ABOUT HOW UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WOULD BE AT FIRST THE BEST PEOPLE TO MARKET BECAUSE THEY'D THINK CANADIAN POLITICS SHOWN IN A FUNNY WAY ON THESE T-SHIRTS WAS COOL."
>
> *–Renee Goulet*
> *Ryerson student*

Renee Goulet, 24, was Shyzer's roommate when Shyzer began posting the designs on his online journal for laughs. The designs appeal to youth because they're so tongue-in-cheek, she said.

"We were talking about how university students would be at first the best people to market because they'd think Canadian politics shown in a funny way on these T-shirts was cool," she said.

But bawdypolitic.ca is generating interest among experienced politicos, as well. Shyzer said that

> "I THINK THAT HAVING THAT SURFACE INTEREST IN THE COSMETICS OF POLITICS IS SORT OF THE VENUE THROUGH WHICH I GOT ALL MY INFORMATION FOR POLITICS FOR THIS ELECTION."
>
> *–Mark Shyer*
> *Creator/Designer*
> *bawdypolitic.ca*

he received about 100 shirt orders for the Jack Layton T-shirt, which reads "Don't trash the 'stache," the day after an NDP post-election celebration.

Layton was also given his own copy of the shirt while appearing on MuchMusic.

Shyzer's products may appeal more to the politically aware than to apathetic citizens, said University of King's College student and bawdypolitic.ca customer Rebecca Blair.

"I don't know if T-shirt slogans will ever entice people to become involved, but it's certainly a reward of sorts for involvement," she said.

"The Paul Martin T-shirt wouldn't be nearly as clever to someone who didn't know what he had been involved in to deserve the slogan 'Scandalicious.'"

Like a celebrity's 15 minutes of fame, the designs have a brief shelf life.

"I want to keep up with the designs as people come in and leave...the Carolyn Parrish design is probably going to be retired because she hasn't done anything outrageous in the last little while," Shyzer said.

One of his plans for an upcoming shirt and pin design is to feature Governor General Michaëlle Jean, he added.

Five and a half hours of Nard crammed on two DVDs

Do the hip flip with the Human Serviette tonight at the Norm—doot doola doot doo...doot doo!

Norm Theatre
Tonight, 7:29 pm

by Maxwell Maxwell
CULTURE WRITER

In Canada, there are certain things that must inevitably be explained to perplexed foreigners. Why is it so cold here? What, exactly, is a toque? And most importantly, who the fuck is Nardwuar the Human Serviette?

The last question is the hardest to answer. Nardwuar is a personality above all others, a bespectacled, bizarrely-dressed force of nature who, in between promoting rock shows, broadcasting his own radio show on CiTR 101.9FM, and interviewing the world's most famous rock stars, appears sporadically on MuchMusic to bewilder celebrities for our amusement.

Obviously, Nardwuar the Human Serviette is not his birth name, but since 1986, it has been his legal one. Nardwuar's appeal lies in his interview style: he comes off as a zany, one-dimensional Tom Green type, but underneath his hideous plaid hat lies the grey matter of a brilliant and highly dedicated gonzo journalist. The silly name, ridiculous clothes, and weird stunts (Paul Martin agreed to do the Hip Flip(TM) with Nardwuar, Jack Layton said he might, and Stephen Harper flat-out refused) distract from the fact that Nardwuar researches his subjects more than most journalists around and has an incredible knack for asking exactly the right question to make great TV.

It is with this dedication to being entertaining that Nardwuar has released his first DVD. After twenty years of loud music, gonzo journalism, and seriously pissing off his idols, Nardwuar has reels of material to choose from. His approach seems to have been to include it all.

> HE COMES OFF AS A ZANY, ONE-DIMENSIONAL TOM GREEN TYPE, BUT UNDERNEATH HIS HIDEOUS PLAID HAT LIES THE GREY MATTER OF A BRILLIANT AND HIGHLY DEDICATED GONZO JOURNALIST.

Doot Doola Doot Doo.. Doot Doo!, titled after the unorthodox question (and puzzled response) Nardwuar uses to conclude his interviews, consists of five and a half hours of Nard crammed into two DVDs, along with an entertaining little pamphlet which gives some of Nardwuar's history. We get both of Nardwuar's MuchMusic specials, live footage of both his bands (The Evaporators and Thee Goblins, who, yes, really do spell their name like that), and enough random footage of Nardwuar confusing, embarassing, upsetting, amazing, and confounding famous people to boil your eyeballs out. There is, of course, even an interview with Nardwuar himself.

In his own inimitable style, Nardwuar has interviewed pretty much everyone over the past decade or so who has mattered. Gorbachev, Kurt Cobain, GWAR, Gene Simmons, Snoop, Franz Ferdinand, Jello Biafra, Dan Quayle, and Michael Moore are all subjected to Nardwuar's journalistic intensity (and, according to Henry Rollins, his halitosis), and the results range from hilarity to political scandal. Watching the DVD for a few minutes, we can see Quiet Riot steal Nardwuar's hat, GWAR crack up laughing, and Jean Chretien's infamous reply to the question of maced student protesters, telling Nardwuar that "for me, pepper, I put it on my plate."

Perhaps the only problem with the DVD is its overabundance of content. So many interviews can get bewildering after a while, and Nardwuar himself can start to grate after the first four or so hours. Still, the DVD is an excellent package, and certainly has enough Nardwuar to satisfy even the most rabid fan.

Doot Doola Doot Doo... Doot Doo! is released March 7 at a special party in the Norm Theater at UBC. Nardwuar himself will present his favorite clips, and both his bands will play. Admission is six dollars, and well worth it.

THE UBYSSEY Community Contribution

$3,000 AWARD

The Ubyssey feel that we should be doing our most to recognize and encourage activities and events that develop and strengthen a sense of community on campus. On our 80th anniversary in 1998, we established a $50,000 endowment that will fund the Ubyssey Community Contribution Award. This annual award recognizes returning UBC students who have made a significant contribution to developing and strengthening the sense of community on the UBC campus by:

1. **Organizing or administrating an event or project, or**
2. **Promoting activism and awareness in an academic, cultural, political, recreational, or social sphere.**

The award is open to all returning, full-time UBC students, graduate, undergraduate and unclassified in good standing with the Ubyssey Publications Society. For the 2006-2007 academic year, we will award a $3000 award for a project. Deadline will be April 7 2006 and the award will be disbursed to the successful candidate in early September 2006.

Nominees for the award will be judged on:

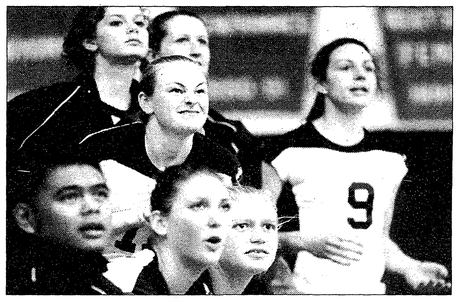
1. **The impact of the contribution made - the number of people involved or affected.**
2. **The extent of the contribution - the degree to which it strengthens the sense of community on campus.**
3. **The innovation of the contribution - preference will be given to recognizing a new contribution over the administration of an existing one.**
4. **The commitment of the individual to UBC as a community.**

Nominations should include a cover letter by the nominator, either an individual or a group, briefly stating the nature of the contribution made, the individual being nominated, contact information of the nominator and the nominee and a letter (approximately 500 words in length) describing the contribution made and how the above four criteria have been met.

Students are welcome to nominate themselves, but those doing so must attach a letter of support from another member of the campus community. The award will be judged by a committee chaired by a representative of UBC Student Financial Assistance and Awards office and members from various parts of the campus community.

Deadline for submission of completed nominations should reach the Ubyssey, Room 23, SUB, no later than Friday, April 7, 2006.

For further information, please contact Fernie Pereira, Business Manager, The Ubyssey, at (604) 822-6681 or email: fpereira@interchange.ubc.ca



VOLLEYING FOR GOLD: The UBC women's volleyball team won silver at the CIS nationals. YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO

BIRD DROPPINGS

V-Ball women bring home silver

The women's volleyball team couldn't quite pull off a CIS championship title in Calgary over the weekend. UBC played against Laval in the final game and after coming out strong the T-Birds lost to the Rouge et Or 3-1.

The UBC women came home from Nationals with silver last year as well. Shelley Chalmers finished the game with 12 kills and seven blocks for UBC, earning her and teammate Emily Cordonier tournament all-star status. Calgary pulled in the bronze. After an impressive 19-1 regular season UBC is happy to hold the Canada West title.

Just before heading off to Calgary for Nationals, Doug Reimer was named CIS coach of the year. This is the fourth time Reimer has received this honour, but only the first time as coach of the UBC Thunderbirds.

Swimming to the top

Last week Brian Johns was honoured as the CIS-VIA Rail athlete of the week. Johns is a fourth year UBC T-Bird swimmer who has pulled in seven gold medals this season and helped to lead the men to their ninth straight CIS team title at the nationals held during the end of February. John has showed his drive and determination by setting two CIS meet records, in the 200m freestyle and the 4x100 medley relay. Johns has accumulated 26 gold medals in 27 races at nationals so far in his career.

After earning swimmer of the year awards for both the 2001-2002 and the 2002-2003 season, Johns headed off for his second Olympic appearance in 2004. Up next for Johns is the Commonwealth Games in Australia.

Play ball!

This past weekend the UBC baseball team opened NAIA Region I play by winning 2-1 and 8-5 in a doubleheader against Albertson College.

Puck awards

Denfenceman Haleigh Callison, forward Kelly James and goalie Lisa Lafreniere of the UBC women's hockey team have all been named to the Second All-Star Team. Callison, the team captain had an impressive offensive season leading with 12 points in 20 games. James racked up 17 goals in 20 games, the most recorded by a T-Bird. Lafreniere played more minutes and made more saves than any other goalie in the conference.

Men's volleyball honoured

Richard Schick, the UBC men's volleyball coach was named Canada West coach of the year after helping the T-Birds to a 12-8 regular season. The Thunderbirds finished the conference season with a 5th place national ranking.

Right side hitter Andrew Bonner was awarded Second Team All-Star honours after gaining a reputation as one of the most fiery and talented players in the country. Bonner averaged 3.9 kills per game for the T-Birds.

T-Birds run hard

Two UBC track and field team members met the 2006 NAIA championship entry standards this season. Derek Vinge and Nicola Gildersleeve will be representing UBC at the championships in late May in California.

T-Birds race the slopes

The UBC alpine ski team recently returned from the regional championships in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. UBC's Trevor Bruce and Jamie Finlayson helped the men's team to a 2nd place finish within the region. Andrea Lustenberger and Katie Benjamin pulled in respective 7th and 10th place finishes for the women. The UBC women placed 2nd in the overall team event. Both the men and the women head to Maine next for the national championships.

Women's B-ball recruit

Devan Lisson of Fredericton has confirmed her intentions to play for the UBC women's basketball team in the upcoming 2006-2007 season. Lisson is a six-foot guard currently acknowledged as one of the leading high-school players in the country. The 17 year old was in high demand and many CIS schools across the country inquired as to Lisson joining their programs. NCAA league schools in the US were also interested in claiming Lisson as an addition to their teams. Lisson wanted to stay in Canada and chose UBC because of the strong competition within Canada West and the opportunity to receive a high-quality science based education from the University. Recently named the player of the year in the New Brunswick Southwest Conference, Lisson's current coach says she is one of the top players he has ever worked with during his coaching career. In both 2003 and 2004 Lisson attended the junior national team camps. UBC women's basketball coach, Deb Huband, is excited to receive a player of such high calibre.

Thunderbirds clinch berth at Nationals

UBC squeaks out 73-72 win over Saskatchewan during first game of Canada West Final Four

by Benjamin Groberman
SPORTS WRITER

The men's basketball team came into the Canada West Final Four with two goals in mind; one, to clinch a birth at the National Championships, and two, to win the Canada West title.

On Friday night, before 1,600 fans, the T-Birds accomplished goal number one, battling through adversity to outlast a determined University of Saskatchewan team 73-72, guaranteeing them a spot at the National Championships.

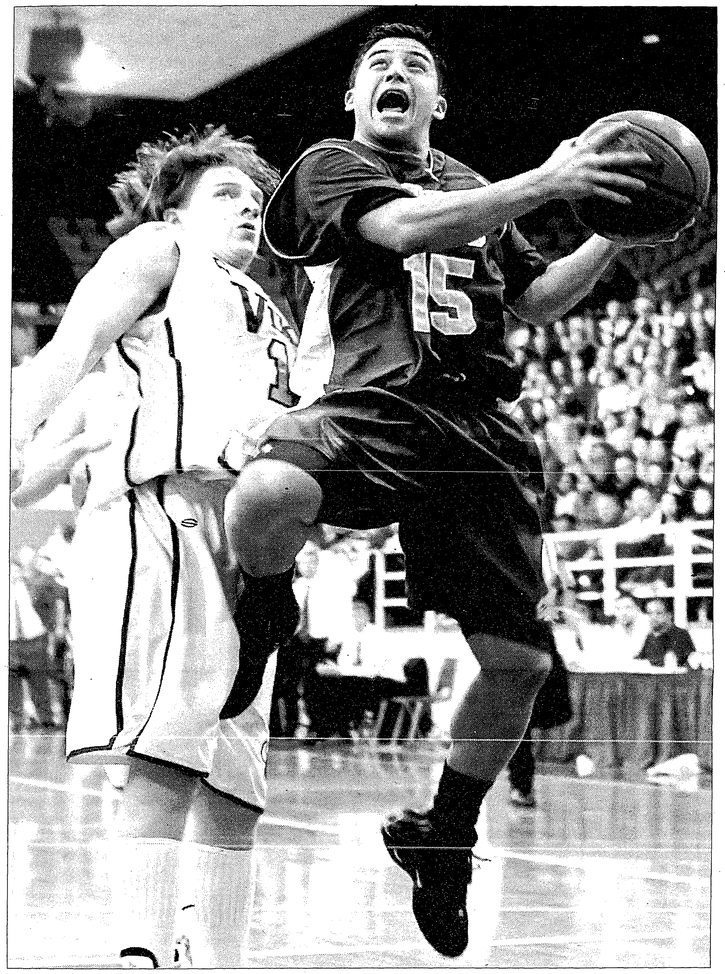
The game was close, but the Thunderbirds didn't do themselves any favours from the free throw line, going a paltry nine for 22 from the charity stripe, "It's been an issue all season," UBC head coach Kevin Hanson said after the game. "We have a good one; we have a bad one; we have a good one, and we have a bad one. Guys just have to focus, we have to get some more time in there; we certainly don't dwell on it, because it can play head games with the shooters."

Thanks to an emphatic, last-second shot-block by guard Chad Clifford, the 'Birds' poor shooting will not stop them from making the trip east to compete for a National title, "I thought it was a clean block," said Clifford of his last-second heroics. "I was just fortunate enough to be out there to make a play like that happen."

Free-throws were not the only obstacle the T-Birds overcame on Friday night, they were also forced to finish the game without two key players, Matt Rachar and Ryder McKeown, who both fouled out of the game.

McKeown expressed his disappointment with his inability to be there for his team late in the game, "It's just the worst; you feel helpless, you feel like what it must be like to be a coach, or be a fan. And you just want it so bad, but you can't do it for them, so you just have to trust your teammates." Clifford reaffirmed McKeown's trust in his teammates, "I gave Chad a big kiss on the cheek after that game," said McKeown.

The T-Birds seed at the Nationals was determined in the Canada West final on Saturday and while they fell short, they can take pride in the fact that they still have a chance to win the National crown, "I'm really happy for the seniors, especially for Ryder [McKeown], Jordan [Yu], and Pasha [Bains]" noted Coach Hanson, who, earlier in the week, was named Canada West's Coach of the year. "That they get a chance to go to the National Championships their last year. It's a life-long memory for them."



VIKES BATTLE TO THE TOP: Jordan Yu jumps up for a basket during this past weekend's match-up between UBC and UVic. Yu pulled in a total of 22 points over the course of the weekend. JOHNSON LEE PHOTO

T-Birds drop Can West title to Vikes

UBC men's basketball record tarnished

by Erik Lauder
SPORTS WRITER

The UBC T-Birds men's basketball team was upset 84-74 by the University of Victoria Vikes in the gold medal Canada West final on Saturday night.

Playing on their home court at War Memorial Gym, the UBC squad failed to match the Vikes' tenacious defense or their second half shooting, allowing UVic to control the game and hang on for an easy win.

T-Birds guard Casey Archibald—recent Canada West MVP—led the way for the T-Birds, scoring 23 points, while Brandon Ellis scored 22 points for the Vikings, including a number of clutch three pointers in the second half.

The game started slowly, with neither side gaining a decided advantage on the scoreboard. UBC guard Jordan Yu heated up towards the end of the first half, draining ten points, including a huge three pointer from well beyond the arc as the shot clock expired. Three pointers by Archibald and T-Bird guard Pasha Bains—recently named to the all-stars team—helped UBC build a 34-31 lead going into the second half.

UVic charged out of the gate in the second half, going on a 6-0 run, before Bains tied the game with a tough three pointer. However, the Vikes continued to press, building a comfortable ten point lead with ten minutes to go.

Ellis took over the game for the Vikes in the second half, dropping three pointer after three pointer in front of Bains, whose play in the rest of the second half was hurt by poor shooting and sloppy defence, before he fouled out in the final minute.

Casey Archibald attempted to lead a UBC comeback, scoring 15 points of his 23 point total in the second frame, while UBC forward Ryder McKeown played solid defense down low, while chipping in 14 points for the game.

UVic Forward Jacob Doerksen was also strong in the post, racking up 18 points.

The loss tarnishes what was otherwise an incredible season for the number two ranked men's Thunderbirds, which saw them go 20-0 in regular season play, winning the first games of the Canada West Pacific division over the Vikes, before falling to the same team in the final.

Despite the loss, UBC, along with UVic and the University of Saskatchewan qualified for the CIS Basketball Championship in Halifax, as the three Canada West representatives. The National Championships run from March 16-19, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where the Canada West teams will be joined by representatives from Eastern Canada.

SFU suspends aquatic team over hazing

by Bryna Hallam
CUP BRITISH COLUMBIA BUREAU CHIEF

VICTORIA (CUP)—A series of games at a party led to the suspension of Simon Fraser University's champion dive and swim team days before they were to defend their national titles.

The incident, which took place in September 2005, saw senior members of the aquatic team singling out junior members to perform a number of acts, including describing sexual fantasies involving other members of the team and being photographed in sexual positions while wearing their team uniforms.

Nello Angerilli, the school's acting associate vice president for students, said that while the events were "by and large physically harmless," they constitute hazing.

"Because we have a very strict policy on [hazing], which is explained to all members of the swim team...the recommendation from recreation and athletics was we had to deal as strictly as possible with this event," said Angerilli. Revoking their ability to compete is meant to send a "very strong message that we're serious about this."

As a result, the team did not compete in the North America-wide National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics championships in St. Louis, Missouri last week. The men's team was the defending champion while the women's team was 2005's runner-up.

In total, 19 members of the team were suspended, including the junior members who were hazed. Three members absent from the party were not suspended; however, they chose not to compete in the championships.

Angerilli said the decision to suspend the junior members of the team was difficult, but that the policy is clearly explained to all team members.

"The junior members are specifically told they should not participate in hazing because they are the targets," he said, "and our view is that eliminating the targets of hazing would make it much more difficult to conduct one of these things. They were told when they're presented with a case or a situation where it looks like there is going to be some sort of induction ceremony beyond what the university sanctions they should refuse to participate."

According to Angerilli, the response from members of the team is varied: some have said they recognise they did the wrong thing while others believe the university has no business in what was a private party.

"Normally they'd be absolutely right," said Angerilli, but noted it was very clear that these were not random invitees and that the junior members were in their uniforms.

> THE INCIDENT, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN SEPTEMBER 2005, SAW SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE AQUATIC TEAM SINGLING OUT JUNIOR MEMBERS TO PERFORM A NUMBER OF ACTS, INCLUDING DESCRIBING SEXUAL FANTASIES INVOLVING OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TEAM AND BEING PHOTOGRAPHED IN SEXUAL POSITIONS WHILE WEARING THEIR TEAM UNIFORMS.

The University first became aware of the incident when head coach Liam Donnelly received an e-mail on January 19 that was allegedly from one of the assistant coaches, who has since said in a sworn affidavit that he did not send it.

Angerilli said the fact that the e-mail was sent at all suggests the hazing had a negative impact and that the group might not be solid as a team.

Two years ago, the aquatic team had what Angerilli called a "behavioural problem" that resulted in a training session on what hazing is and why it's a bad idea and inappropriate behaviour for teams. The organisers of this year's event had all gone through that training.

In the future, SFU plans to "broaden and deepen" the training given to athletic teams in order to prevent other incidents.

UBC womens basketball wins 2nd spot in final Canada West standings

Team plans to improve ranking at the CIS national championships in Fredericton this weekend

by Megan Smyth
SPORTS EDITOR

The UBC women's basketball team grabbed a berth to the CIS national championships during Friday's 60-55 win over Winnipeg. But unfortunately the T-Birds weren't able to outplay the Saskatchewan Huskies on Saturday and subsequently only grabbed the silver medal in the Canada West division.

On Friday, the Thunderbirds took on the Winnipeg Wesman at War Memorial Gym to play an action-packed game right through to the final minute of play. UBC's Kim Howe shot a three-pointer to give the T-Birds a three-point lead as the clock ticked down.

McGuiness played a major roll in the T-Birds' play during Friday's game. She pulled in 28 points overall and brought UBC up to a 55-55 point tie during the last minute of the game.

The T-Birds kept up the pace and were able to secure themselves a spot at nationals with their win over Winnipeg.

The battle between the Thunderbirds and the Saskatchewan Huskies on Saturday night seemed more like a game of catch-up for UBC.

Although UBC went into the second half with a five-point lead, they were not able to hang onto this advantage and the Huskies were able to pull off a 70-65 win, bringing the Canada West title home to Saskatchewan.

The T-Birds' loss can be attributed to some sloppy passing and many missed rebounds. "I think defensively they got us out of our rhythm," said coach Deb Huband. "We got out-rebounded," she said while noting that UBC has been fairly strong on rebounds throughout the season.

Even though UBC guards Cait Haggarty and McGuinness tried to pull up the score for the T-Birds with some last minute three-pointers, the outcome of the game was already determined.

"[When] the game is on the line, we want to try and get back in, see if we can get ourselves in a position to win the game. I think we came close, but not quite close enough," commented Huband.

"I think [the end of the game] is a critical point for us to come together as a team and we were able to do it to a certain extent, but not as much as we needed to," explained Haggarty.

Along with McGuinness and Haggarty, UBC's Kelsey Blair was another top point-getter, with 11 points overall during Saturday's game. Blair was recently named a First Team Canada West All-Star due to her performance throughout the season.

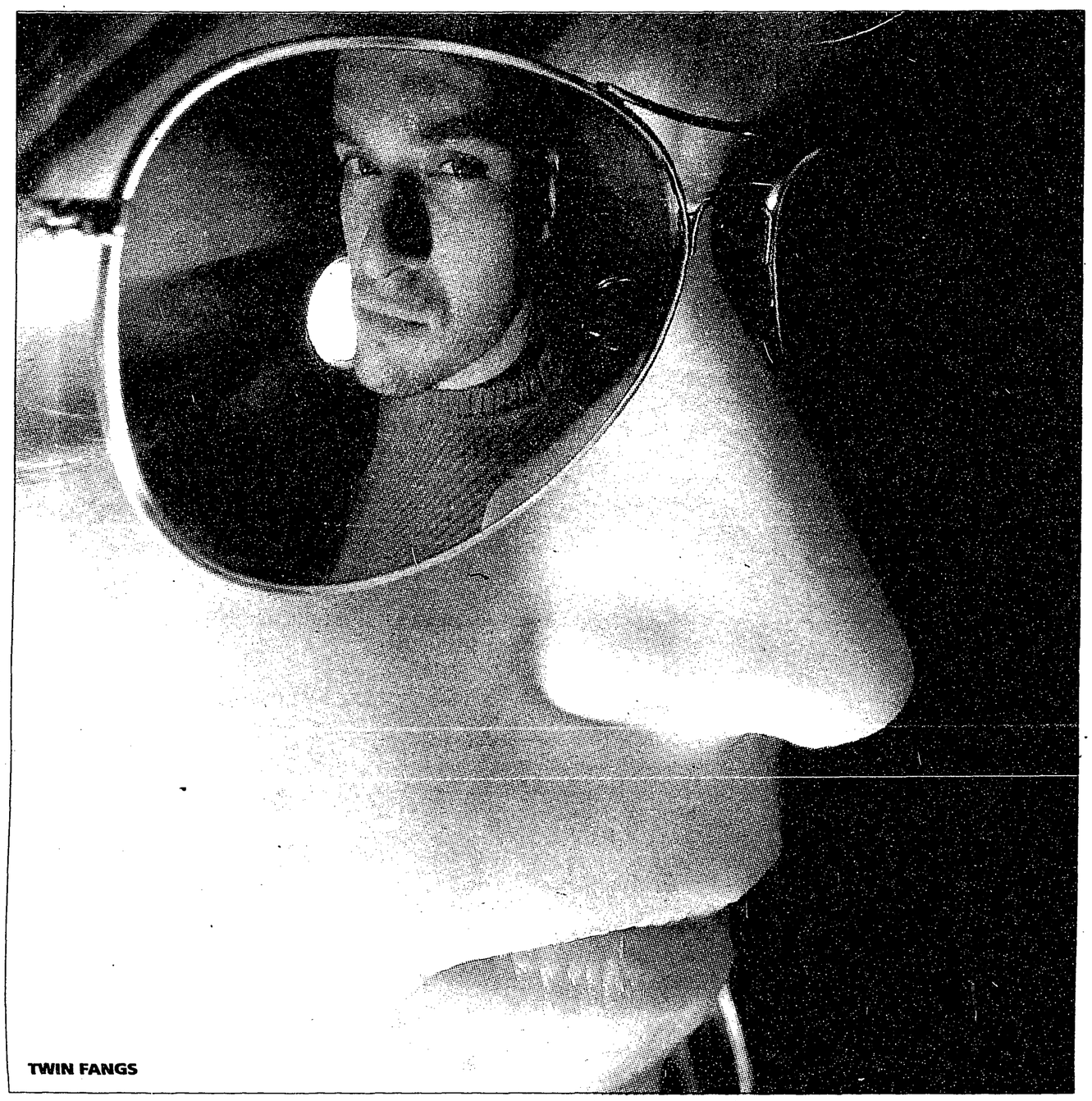
UBC was able to pick up the pace near the end of the second half and, in the spirit of good sportsmanship, never gave up hope or showed their displeasure with the loss. "We showed some good character battling it out until the end," said Huband. "Saskatchewan is a good team and they're very deserving of the win."

"I think [Saskatchewan] executed their offense really well," commented McGuinness. "They gave us a lot to deal with defensively. And offensively it was hard at times to get everyone on the same page and moving."

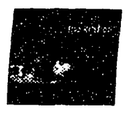
The T-Birds left for the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton yesterday and will be playing their first CIS national games later this week. In the 2003-2004 season UBC won the women's basketball national title for the first time in three decades. The team has high hopes this year; Huband stated that UBC is going into the championships with a positive mind frame and will see what they can do to represent Canada West.

YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO

Ashcroft sets fangs into glamourpuss starsailor slave in the kitchen



TWIN FANGS



THE KITCHEN
The Kitchen
www.kitchenmusic.com

by Peter Clark
CULTURE WRITER

I was excited to hear that Vancouver locals The Kitchen recently pressed their first professionally-mastered full-length because it's a treat to be able to hear all the intricacies of their music that you miss in their (otherwise excellent) live shows.

The self-described "funk, rock and soul" band proves just how well such a blend can work on this disc, utilising funk-ass riffs, breaks, bass lines and melodies to make you wanna put on your dancin' shoes. The album varies from the slow-rolling grooves of "Come On" to the soulful wiles of "Flying" to the body-moving rhythms of "No Fakin'".

But these boys don't just know how to write an excellent song—they're also damn fine musicians. The band's singer, Josh Hundert, is the star of the band, emitting a voice you'd expect from a man at least three times his size and The Kitchen's stylings range from dancehallish rapid fire to crisp-toned crooning. With both an acoustic and electric guitar in the band, the melodic potentials of the songs are fully exploited on the disc. The band's rhythm section, which gets a chance to show off on "This Message," propels the funk forward in every song.

So if we could manage to drop our post-punk power-pop pretences for a moment, I'm confident we'd all be able to discover a solidly talented act with a sound entirely its own in our city's The Kitchen. They play with Freeflow and Smaq-u2 at The Lamplighter on Friday Mar 24. I'm expecting yet another good show, and I'll tell you right now that you can do the same.

RICHARD ASHCROFT
Keys to the World
EMI/Parlophone

by Mai Bui
CULTURE STAFF

Richard Ashcroft, former singer-songwriter from the Verve, has graced the music world with a third solo album, the artistically ambiguous *Keys to the World*. As with his previous projects, the Brit pop-rock master makes exceptional use of orchestral refrains (courtesy of the London Metropolitan Orchestra this time around) to add a dash of colour to the raw, distinguished vocals. Unfortunately, *Keys to the World* is often marred by bad poetry and bland tunes.

Nothing makes this more apparent than the empathetic ballad, "Words Get in the Way." Besides reeking of an attempt at REM's "Everybody Hurts," it also contains such laughable lyrics as "if you want it/oh yeah I've got it/words, they just get in the way." What ever happened to the Ashcroft brand of anguished eloquence? Words never used to get in Ashcroft's way; at least not to the extent that you'd think he's taking poetry lessons from an R&B artist.

I am similarly unable to take the album's first single seriously. "Break the Night with Colour," a mid-tempo rocker reminiscent of Green Day's uninspired "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," pillages a similar melody line in the verse and proffers lame metaphors about traveling down the lonely road of life. To be fair, Ashcroft walks down "corridors of discontent" instead of a boulevard, but you get my drift.

And yet, a handful of well-crafted tunes hint that Ashcroft might still have it in him. The album opener, "Why Not Nothing?" is a decent, microphone-eating, anti-establishment anthem. "Sweet Brother Malcolm," when enjoyed between stereophones in a dark room, might be described as 'haunting.' However, the album's saving grace is the second track. "Music is Power" is full of laid-back grooves made sweeter with an orchestral sample from Curtis Mayfield, a pleasant throwback to the glory days of "Bittersweet Symphony."

But as for the rest of the tracks, they are so unmemorable that I am hardly able to distinguish one song from another, despite having listened to each at least five or six rounds. Much like the album itself, Ashcroft's compositions are neither brilliant nor terrible. Ultimately, *Keys to the World* lacks the staying power achieved by a one-two punch of lush melodies and poignant lyrics, a potent formula the musician once perfected, but appears here to have since neglected.

SLAVE TO THE SYSTEM
Slave to the System
Spitfire Records

by Rueben Heredia
CULTURE WRITER

Slave to the System is sort of a superband. Featuring members from the popular progressive metal band Queensryche, and the (sort of) popular hard rock band Brother Cane, the System's self-titled debut was definitely rocking enough to inspire this closet metal-head to air-drum and head-bang along to a good number of the tracks.

Fans of 90s rock bands like Soundgarden should get a warm fuzzy feeling of nostalgia from tracks like "Cruise out of Control" and "Rag Doll"—on which vocalist Damon Johnson sounds so much like Chris Cornell that I had to go check to see if my copy of Superunknown was playing instead.

The best track on the album is the title track "Slave to the System," a relentless, palm-muted assault on the senses, with a blistering solo by Kelly Gray that truly displays his prog-metal background. The lyrics are, as the name suggests, typical non-conformity fare, and aren't especially deep or meaningful, but are catchy and fun to sing along to.

Scott Rockenfield (a cooler last name surely does not exist), the Drummer for Queensryche, plays quite tastefully in slower songs like "Abyss" and "Live this Life," while absolutely ripping it up on the kit in the song "Ruby Wednesday" and "Rag Doll"; props must be given to him for the inclusion of tabalas in the intro to the aforementioned "Rag Doll."

In the song "Leaves," the System pulls out the psychedelic guitar tones for an inspired outing that could have been a Pink Floyd tune were it not for Johnson's vocals—that or maybe the trippy visualisations on Windows Media Player got to me. The final song on the album, "Walk the Line," is mellow, atmospheric, and most importantly, a perfect album-closer; it manages to be heavy without using distortion, and the lyrics give a sense of closure to the listener (Now I leave here/and close the door to this room one more time/ I feel the warm sun/ It holds me close as I walk down the line.)

On first listen, this album left me underwhelmed; but after repeated listens, I truly started enjoying some of its subtleties. I recommend it to fans of Soundgarden, Velvet Revolver, or Audioslave, and to anyone who misses the 90's and wants to be taken back to a time when Nickelback clones and The Killers didn't dominate the airwaves.

GLAMOURPUSS
Bluesmans Prayer
NorthernBlues Music

by Peter Warren
CULTURE WRITER

Everything about Glamourpuss' new CD *Bluesman's Prayer* is very...eclectic; so words don't come easily. 'Course I guess that's what happens when a bunch of baby boomers from New Brunswick all hit their mid-life crises at the same time and decide to form a blues band.

As weird as it is, I like this CD. It strikes me as the kind of thing that would be great to listen to on an endless loop following a particularly bad breakup. These days, it's rare to be able to listen to music and think, "hey, these guys love what they're doing." Glamourpuss pulls this off instantly.

From the first note you can feel the band's passion. Blues, talent, and passion are a combination that is difficult not to enjoy. However, I get the feeling that these guys enjoy reveling in their own strangeness. I'll admit that the sudden addition of a pipe organ made me do a double take. I was also unprepared when the band decided to explore their Acadian roots and started singing in French. But the experimentation is truly fun to hear, and you can't help but wonder what these guys are going to try next.

My only real complaint is with the CD's technical aspects. This album skips a few times. It's brand new with no visual scratches, and I tried it out in several different players so I'm forced to conclude it's probably the studio's fault. However, I'm no audio snob so I can easily overlook this. Unless you're one of those people who spends an hour making sure your stereo's bass is set to the optimal level it won't bother you.

I can't listen to this CD without getting an urge to collapse in some hole of a bar with a bottle of cheap scotch; but since it's a blues album I guess that's kind of the point.

STARSAILOR
On the Outside
EMI

by Melissa Woodside
CULTURE WRITER

On the outside, the third album from British band Starsailor's created much excitement upon release. But anyone who is expecting a Coldplay-esque sound, brace yourself—you may be pleasantly surprised. Unlike Coldplay, Starsailor brings an edgier collection to the fore, with heavy lyrics through and through.

Singer James Walsh takes the lead vocals with catchy melodies in the background that can resonate in the mind long after the songs stop playing. The band wrote their own songs and recorded them live, which adds to the intensity level.

Along with the sense of "urgency" in the songs, I found this Starsailor mix to have a relaxing element as well, switching from soft songs to fast songs and back again. And if you listen closely to the lyrics, they have a surprising amount of substance behind them. Politically charged statements like "a war for corporate glory re-told as a fairy story" find their way into the second track. But the thought-provoking lyrics manage to deal with subjects outside of the realm of politics as well, mulling contemplative observations on general aspects of life.

It is relieving that some artists can still manage to have their music express deep feelings or ideas without taking away from the overall aesthetic sound. And I took solace with the words with which Walsh closes the album: "little one/do not fear/the ways of the world will soon be clear." Once again, the lyrics fit perfectly, concluding all the lyrical questions and statements brought up during the course of the album.

TWIN FANGS
Street Sweeper
Rectangle Records

by Jill Orsten
CULTURE STAFF

Twin Fangs is a punk group from Edmonton. It consists of but two members, Paul Coutts (formerly of The Primrods) on guitar and vocals, and Penny Tentiary on drums. The album was produced by the noteworthy Rectangle Records (try "7 and 7 is").

The duo has a lot going for them. The music sounds pretty rockin' but something's moldy in the bread-box. It's not the goal of this *Ubyssey* writer to tear their new CD apart. *Street Sweeper* is kinda good, but it's just not my cup of tea.

You see, a song will begin rather nicely and just when you're about to dip in your gingersnap cookie (read: rock out) Mr Coutts comes along and opens his mouth. Truthfully, he's a little monotone for my tastes, which is oddly enough a strong selling point for some listeners. The lyrics are a little Nirvanaesque—nice phrases and pictures—but lacking in coherency. That said, I have a feeling that this band would be excellent live. And perhaps with some vocal polishing they could be a great band.

AMS INTERACTIVE

www.ams.ubc.ca

Events Calendar

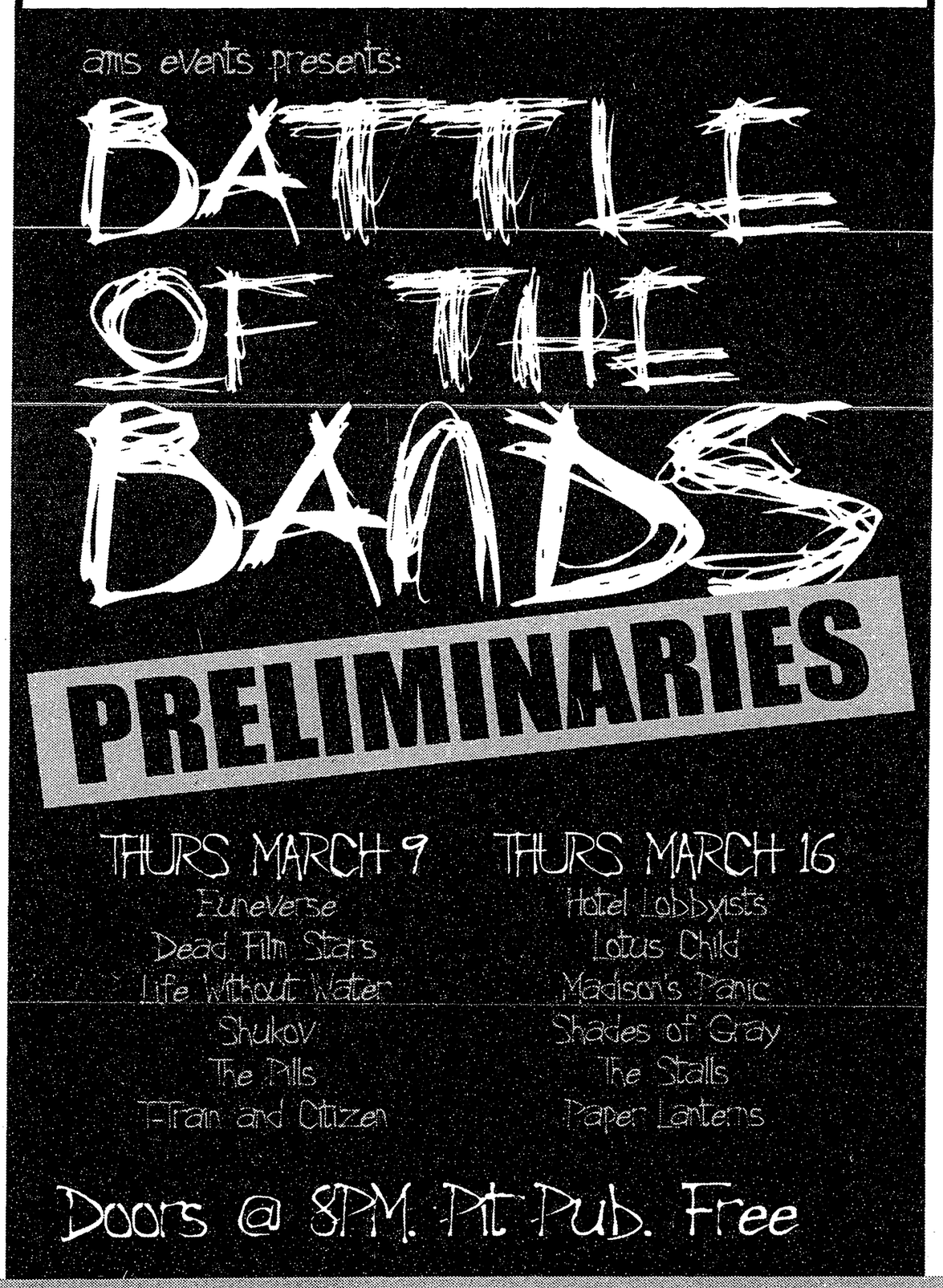
Tuition is Going Up- Tuesday at Noon - Conversation Pit

The AMS presents **Tuition Consultation 2006-07** with VP Students Brian Sullivan. As you may have come to expect, the University intends to increase tuition again next year. The nature and scope of this increase is 2 percent, as directed by the provincial Government following a few years of skyrocketing rates. The cap covers all programs: professional, differentiated and undergrad, but does not extend to international students. The proposed tuition hikes go for Board of Governors approval this month, prior to which the University consults with students in order to have our input. Please join the AMS in making this consultation meaningful and effective. Today at Noon in the Conversation Pit, VP Students Brian Sullivan will be presenting a breakdown of the increases and allocations and taking questions from the floor.

Tuition Increase: Have Your Say and Win a Meal at any Fine AMS Restaurant Tuesday on the SUB Concourse and Wednesday by the Goddess of Democracy (that's the South side of the SUB, outdoors) the AMS will be soliciting student feedback about the proposed tuition increases and raffling off shameless promotions for our food outlets.

AMS Job Fair.2006!

"Bring your resumes and meet your future employers"
Introducing UBC students to prospective employers for part-time, summer, full-time, work abroad and post grad opportunities.
March 15th & 16th. Main Concourse - Student Union Building. 10am to 4pm



The Most Serene Republic

Saturday March 11/06. The Pit Pub
Doors @ 8pm. Tickets $10 available at Ticketmaster, Zulu & Scratch

Romeo Dallaire at the Chan Centre. Sun. March12.06

A true Canadian hero and an outspoken leader for the 21st Century, Lieutenant-General Romeo Dallaire has worked to bring an understanding of post traumatic stress disorder to the wider Canadian public. In 2002 he received the Order of Canada and was awarded the Governor General's Award for his book *Shake Hands With the Devil*
The Chan Centre :: 8PM :: Tickets $29.75 adults, $19.75 students available at Ticketmaster

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Thursdays: CITR
Fridays: Top 40
Weekends: Bands and fundraisers

THE PIT PUB UBC

Help Wanted

AMS Insider Editor and Graphic Designer

The AMS is looking for a dynamic Editor and Graphic Designer to produce the 2006/07 AMS Insider, a student agenda and information guide with a distribution of more than 40,000. We're looking for creative, innovative, and hardworking enthusiasts who can work well as part of a dynamic duo and thrives under pressure. Together they determine the overall tone, theme and style of the publication. Must be a team players, work well under pressure, have strong interpersonal skills and the ability to take initiative and work with minimal supervision.

Editor

The editor is responsible for: soliciting, writing and editing content to make the publication as informative and relevant as possible to broad range of students and users of the agenda Works with the Communications Planning Group in proofing, editing, and making changes as needed.

Need demonstrated writing experience – either through published articles, works, or samples of editing. Must be computer literate in MS Office and Internet research, meticulous in fact-checking, proof-reading, and editing. Prior publication experience or editorial experience an asset.

Graphic Designer

The graphic designer is responsible for pre-press production of the AMS Insider, including graphic design, layout, advertising placement and assistance with photography; liaising with printer/publisher to ensure delivery based on production timelines and for providing final delivery of materials electronically. Works with the Communications Planning Group in making final layout changes and ad placements.

Demonstrated creativity and innovation in graphic design experience – portfolio required for interview candidates. Must be computer literate in MS Office, PhotoShop and Illustrator. Additional experience in PageMaker, Quark XPress, Adobe InSuite an asset. Minimum 2 – 3 years' experience in the graphic design field, specifically working with publications.

Both positions are full-time between 35 – 40 hours per week, April to August 2006 with several days in September for distribution. Flexible hours may be negotiated, although a considerable amount of time is spent in the AMS offices. $4,000 during pay period plus $500 for completion and $500 for distribution

See www.ams.ubc.ca for complete job descriptions and application details.

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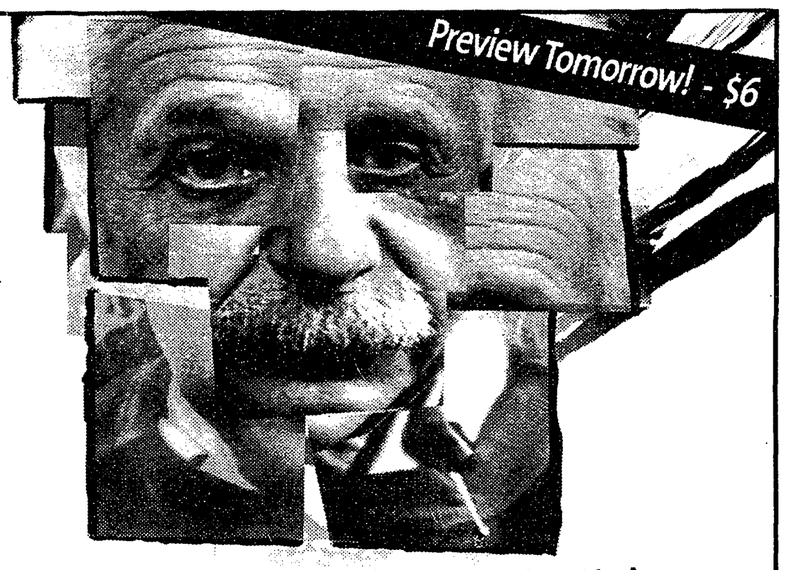

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A monster you'd like in your closet

HERE BE MONSTERS: A CARNIVAL OF THE ARTS
Performance Works Theatre
March 8-18

Think you're pretty good at improvisation? Have years of on-the-spot excuses for late papers fully developed into elaborate stories with subplots and secondary characters? Could you create an award-winning play from an inspiration package containing a picture of a corpse with a dissected hand, a sound cue of a heart rate monitor flat lining, a crushed muskrat pelt, and the line "Who is Susan and why is she so lazy?" Yeah, that's a bit more tricky.

But it's exactly what the Theatre Melée troupe did last year in their improv show entitled "Theatre Under The Gun." The fifteen-minute improv was such a success they developed it into a full-length dark comedy, which was a sell-out at last year's Fringe Festival. And now it's back, headlining the carnival of the arts known as *Here Be Monsters* and described as a two week showcase of "all the bizarre, hilarious, disturbing and beautiful that Vancouver's dynamic independent theatre scene has to offer."

The idea was conceived three years ago by 'improv guru' Keith Johnstone, and Jeff Gladstone, co-creator of "Lazy Susan" and "Theatre Under the Gun" veteran. Owing to some inter-theatre legal difficulties, Johnstone was receiving some bad press, Gladstone explained. "Keith Johnstone was a dirty word at the time. People were saying he was crazy; he's lost his mind. He was a bit of an enigma."

So when they were thinking of a title for their new improv workshop, the line "here be monsters," from one of Johnstone's books, seemed to fit. It was a comment on the tendency to downplay spontaneity because "crazy thinking makes crazy people." According to Gladstone, the chance to see Johnstone's work should attract anyone at all interested in improv:

> "THE POINT OF HAVING THE SPIRIT OF A CARNIVAL AS OPPOSED TO A FESTIVAL IS THAT IT'S A SAFE PLACE TO CREATE AND EXPLORE."
>
> *–Jeff Gladstone*
> *Theatre Melée troupe member*

"His work is fundamentally different to anything you'll see at other improv places like Urban Well; it's totally unique."

Coming from a theatrical background, Gladstone feels that improv has been highjacked by the stand-up comedy community, creating a joke-a-minute formula. "We're trying to get at the fact it's still theatre; you need comedy and tragedy together."

Here Be Monsters also aims to challenge traditional notions of theatre, like caring about what the critics think. "The point of having the spirit of a carnival as opposed to a festival is that it's a safe place to create and explore," Gladstone explains. "The focus here is on support and creativity, not judgement. It's fun, vibrant and engaging. There's no right or wrong, good or bad."

Look out for the future Lazy Susans in this hotbed of thespian creativity, and you'll get the chance to vocalise your opinion. Aiming to offer something unique to the theatre scene, "Showoff" (Theatre Under the Gun reloaded) will be giving audiences the chance vote for the best piece of improv, which will then be remounted as an opening act for Lazy Susan the following week. The best pieces will also be developed into a full-length performance to show next year. "There are a lot of good avenues to develop playwrights, but there's not really an institution to develop ensemble creations in the same way," Gladstone explains.

As if you needed any more convincing, *Here Be Monsters* is aimed at the younger generation of theatre-goers, so tickets are cheap for students—$25 for an all-events pass. Other features include Johnstone's workshops, elimination-style improv Micentro Impro, and a Flaming Lips Listening Party. So if you fancy some cheap, high quality independent theatre, get down to Performance Works on Granville Island from March 8-18. Or check out http://festival.monstertheatre.com/.

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Chutzpah dance confessions

DANCE, LITTLE LADY!
Jewish Community Cultural Center
March 8-9

by Kian Mintz-Woo
CULTURE WRITER

Conrad Alexandrowicz is the choreographer/director for "Dance, Little Lady!" coming to the Norman Rothstein Theatre at the Jewish Community Cultural Center March 8 and March 9 as part of this year's Chutzpah! Festival.

"Dance, Little Lady!" is a comical dance performance about the demands upon female dancers in the patriarchal society of Western culture. Many actual stories of the performers were incorporated into stand-up comedy style routines.

Ubyssey: What is it that originally grabbed you about dance and physical theatre?

Conrad Alexandrowicz: Dance has been in my family for a long time. But it wasn't until very late that it hit me. It hit me like a lightening bolt. Men could be dancers.

U: How were you inspired to choreograph and create "Dance, Little Lady!"?

C: I realised a number of years ago that if I was a woman I couldn't have had the success I've had in becoming a dancer and a choreographer. Since there is such a shortage of men in dance, it is much easier for men to succeed. This piece came from that inequity.

I approached a number of people with whom I wanted to create a piece. We worked together from their stories. This is about the abuse that people put their body through in order to succeed in dance. Some of that is inevitable and you need some people who have specific physical features to fulfill the art form. But what happens to the individuals as the result of this process?

The text came from different people and their stories. The script is basically a play script but the results are very confrontational.

> "I REALISED A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO THAT IF I WAS A WOMAN I COULDN'T HAVE HAD THE SUCCESS I'VE HAD IN BECOMING A DANCER AND A CHOREOGRAPHER. SINCE THERE IS SUCH A SHORTAGE OF MEN IN DANCE, IT IS MUCH EASIER FOR MEN TO SUCCEED."
> *–Conrad Alexandrowicz*
> *Director and choreographer*
> *"Dance Little Lady"*

U: How was the concept of chutzpah added to this version for the festival?

C: Well, I feel that this play has always been about chutzpah. If chutzpah is being courageous, or nervy, this is a piece about being nervy about your goals.

U: Since "The Wines of Tuscanny," you have begun to be widely recognised in critical circles with awards. How do they influence your writing? What value do these awards have for you?

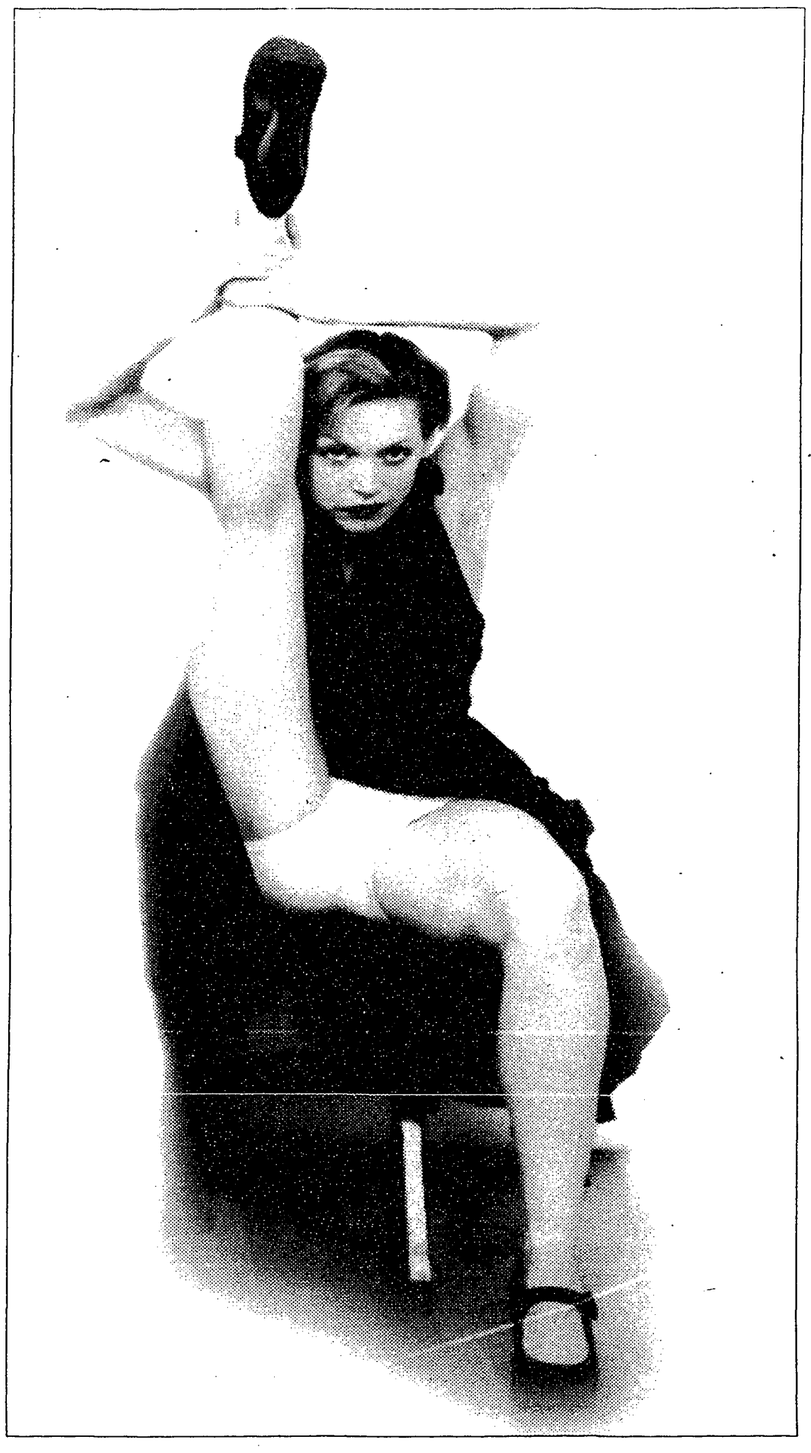
C: It hasn't influenced my writing at all. Every time you write you feel like it's the first time. It's terrifying every time you enter. The awards are only momentary gratification. People forget about them really quickly.

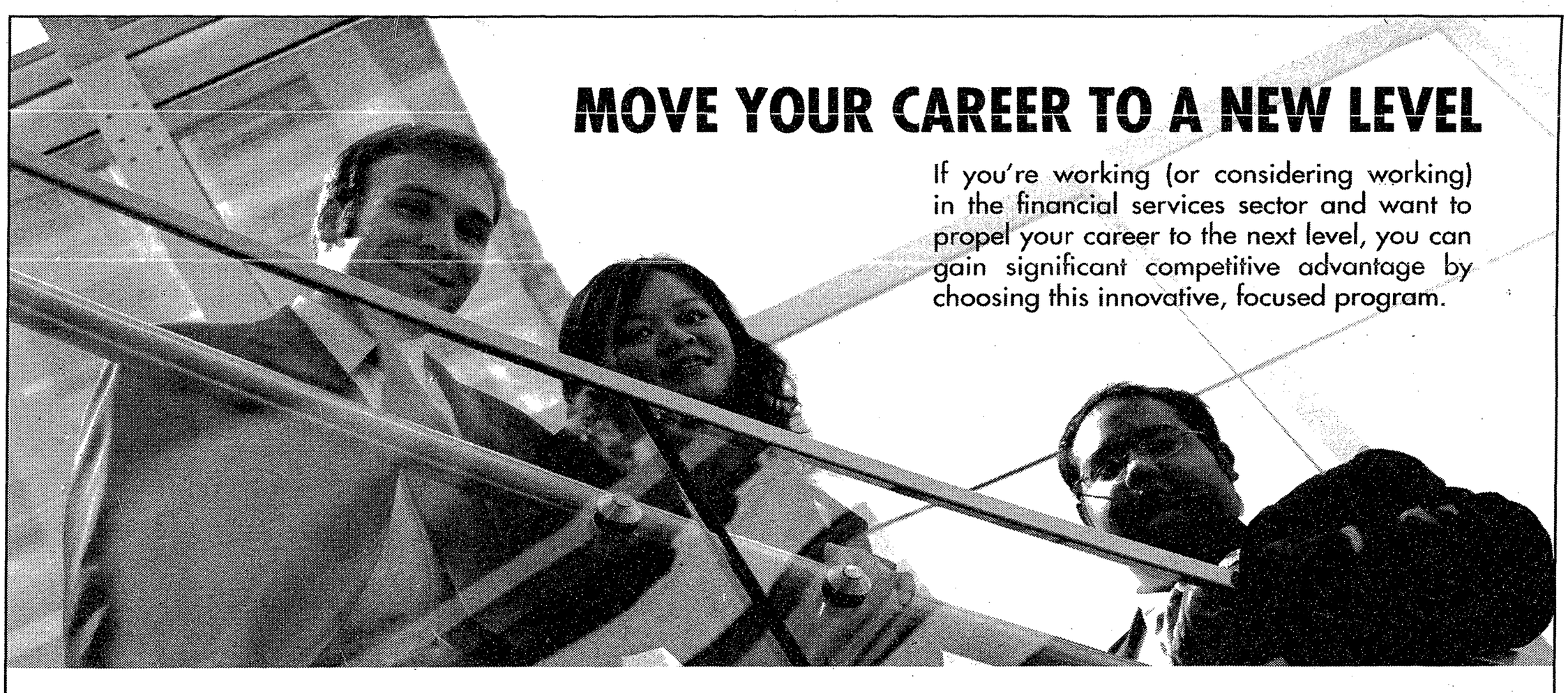
Actually, [awards are] a trap. They make you feel like you should have more of this or more of that. So you just have to accept them and put them in their place, literally you put them on your shelf, and that's it.

"Wines" was satisfying because it had legs and it went somewhere. [It was produced in several cities in Canada, as well as the United States.] "The Singer Falls Silent," which won the Jessie award for Innovation [2004] was particularly sad because it died. I hope I can say this but it died artistically the way a child dies. The legs got taken away from it.

Usually I don't write issue-based work but I'm a storyteller and I tell whatever needs to be told. I think this piece connects with the zeitgeist. I'm very happy we are able to do it again.

The Chutzpah! Festival is a celebration of Jewish artistic theatre and performance and it is being presented until March 12 by the Jewish Community Center [950 West 41st Ave. (at Oak St.)]. Information and schedules can be found at www.chutzpahfestival.com or through their ticket office at 604-257-5145. ■





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The Coca-Cola Company and its worldwide bottling partners have a genuine commitment to adequate and equitable access to water. Water is vital to us all, and there is much work to be done to enable safe drinking water access and protect the watersheds that sustain life.

Our Commitment.

We are committed to help protect and preserve water resources – and that commitment begins at home, in our operations. In 2004, we improved our water efficiency by 6% across our global bottling plants. Everyday, we continue to work hard to reduce the amount of water we use, and 2005 results will be reported in detail in our forthcoming annual environmental report.

Making a Start.

With the guidance of environmental and public health leaders, we have begun to see where and how we can help make a difference to this global challenge at a local level. By forging long-term partnerships with the United Nations Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and others, we are actively working with communities and addressing our responsibilities to do our part.

- **In India,** where we have faced allegations about groundwater depletion, we have redoubled our efforts on water sustainability through investment in "rainwater harvesting" in many of our plants. Today, we return a substantial portion of the water we use to local aquifers. We've also partnered with local communities to set up rainwater harvesting projects that benefit the people who live there, including a recent initiative in Lucknow.
- **In Mali,** in partnership with USAID, we are starting to address community water needs by installing well hand pumps at several locations throughout the country and by working with community groups and micro-entrepreneurs to improve water access in Bamako.
- **In Kenya,** as with most of the African continent, many schools lack access to safe water and adequate sanitation. The greatest burden is born by girls who are often forced to drop out of school. With the Millennium Water Alliance and CARE, we are introducing Safe Water Systems in primary schools in Nyanza province.

For The Coca-Cola Company, this is just the beginning.

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Coca-Cola publishes a public report about the company's environmental challenges and progress every year. To see a copy of our most recent Environmental Report, visit www.environmentalreport.coca-cola.com.

For The Coca-Cola Company
Jeff Seabright
Vice President, Environmental & Water Resources

To learn more about The Coca-Cola Company's operations, visit www.COKEFACTS.org.

The Coca-Cola Company

Headbangers are people too

METAL: A HEADBANGER'S JOURNEY
Tinseltown

by Greg Ursic
CULTURE WRITER

In high school, everyone gave a wide berth to the headbangers. With their unkempt manes, pencahant for illegal substances and Judas Priest regalia, they engendered fear. Sam Dunn and Scot McFayden—the duo behind *Metal: A Headbanger's Journey*—tackle that ascripted image and in the process provide a fascinating look at the subculture of fans of one of the most maligned and underrated genres in music.

But pitching the documentary proved to be the first stumbling block.

"We really had no idea what we were doing" McFayden admits. "We'd never made a film before and it was a huge subject we were trying to tackle and they [studios] were like 'How are you going to do that?' and we're like 'look, it's all in the book, we've got it all here' [points to an imaginary book]."

A mischievous grin crosses Dunn's face "It was a long process of working people over—a lot of headlocks, and noogies." Their optimism eventually won them converts and it was simply a matter of lining up the interviews. How hard could it be?

McFayden grimaces. "It was much more difficult than we thought. Everyone always wants to know 'Who do you have [to interview]' and we'd say 'well, no one'." After several false starts, they went back to Ron Smallwood [Iron Maiden's manager] who wrote several letters of introduction. "[Smallwood] was definitely a catalyst to getting us the big names," says McFayden.

We learn soon on in the doc that had it not been for a fortuitous fluke, Metal may have remained an unknown art and Black Sabbath might still be a jazz-blues band.

"Tony [Iommi from Black Sabbath] came up with this cord [the infamous tritone also known as "the devil's note"] that gave this eerie sound," says McFayden. "The hair stood up on his arms and he said 'that's evil' and then they had to kind of create lyrics that matched". *Sabbath* combined the sound with the powerful imagery that has come to define the genre. It's ironic that *Sabbath* is still credited—wrongly—for having popularized one of its most enduring symbols.

"Who can think of Sabbath" Dunn asks "without an upside down cross? But we looked at all the albums and we couldn't find any. [But] the fans wanted a Satanic band [because] Satan is cooler than God, end of story, evil is always more interesting."

That mindset has lead to more than its share of problems: the resurgence in evangelical Christianity has led to renewed attacks on metal, including several lawsuits against bands for supposedly inciting fans to violence. Unlike the high profile offensive of Tipper Gore's Parental Music Resource Centre in the 1980s, opponents have adopted a more insidious approach.

"Albums sold in Wal-Mart," McFayden explains, "have a number on the back of the CD saying 2 or 3, so you have versioning without the public knowing." Dunn shakes his head in agreement: "Like Dee Snider says 'It's worse when you don't know.'"

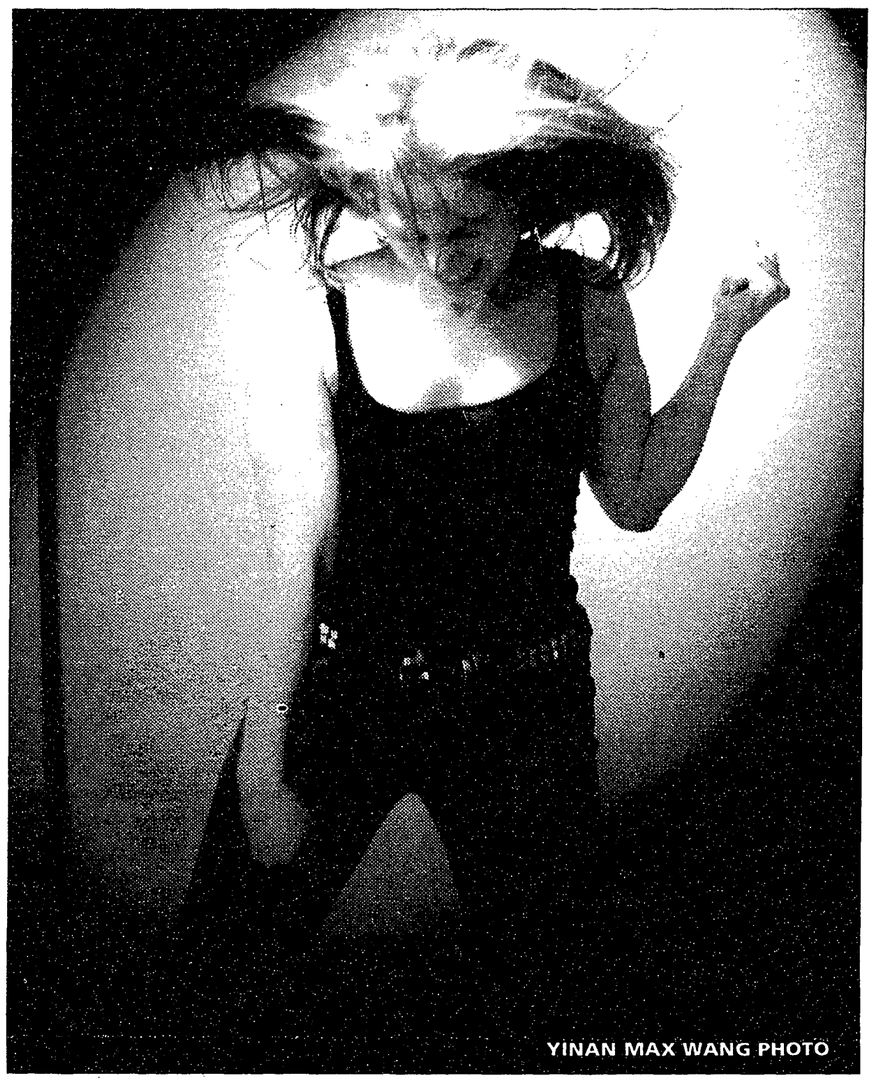
Dunn suddenly turns the tables on me. "Did you like the film?" he asks. I blurt out that I thoroughly enjoyed it. Not wanting to sound like a witless sycophant, I expand upon my praise.

"I thought the heavy metal ladder [an amazingly detailed family tree that tracks all the metal bands and categorizes them] was great, but it was never on-screen long enough and isn't on your website. Are you trying to torture us? And will it be on the DVD?" I ask.

Apparently I'm not the first one who was awed and frustrated. "Everyone's been asking us [for the tree]," says Dunn. "Our plan was to do something interactive With the DVD where you can move it around. It became much more than I ever imagined, which is great. Even non-metal fans are curious to know how this thing fits together."

One thing that's missing from the documentary is the stereotype of the headbanger. Dunn's parents consider him (he has an MA in Anthropology by the way) to be the anomaly.

"They're like 'you played on the basketball team, you were valedictorian, you were well rounded'...and I'm like 'you know what, I'm not as much as an exception as you think I am.'"


YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO

Dunn is quick to point out the "grain of truth in every stereotype, but it's only a grain." He adds: "we filled out the rest of the sandbox."

So what do they want audiences to take away from the film? After a few moments reflection, Dunn offers, "It's about, reshaping people's perspectives about metal and presenting it in a way that they hopefully haven't thought about." McFayden lets a fan at a post-screening Q&A have the final word.

"In Halifax a guy got up and said, 'Thanks for making a film that for once didn't make us look like freaks!' The way he said it—he just stood up and said it—that was such a visceral response and just summed up the movie."

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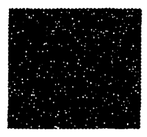

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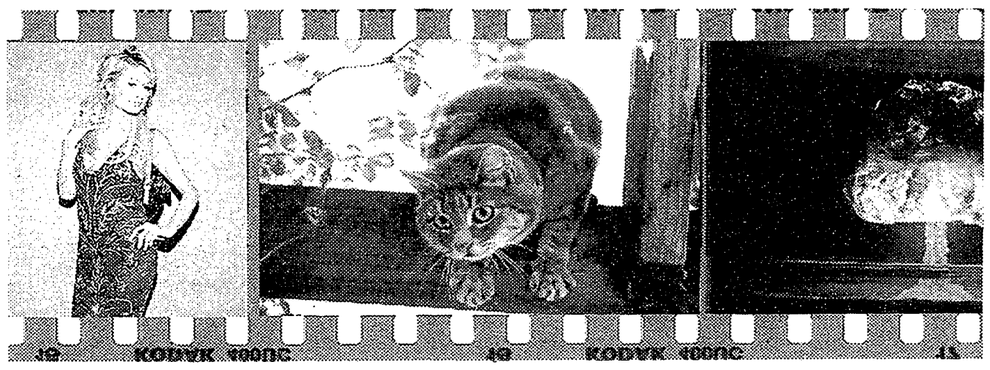
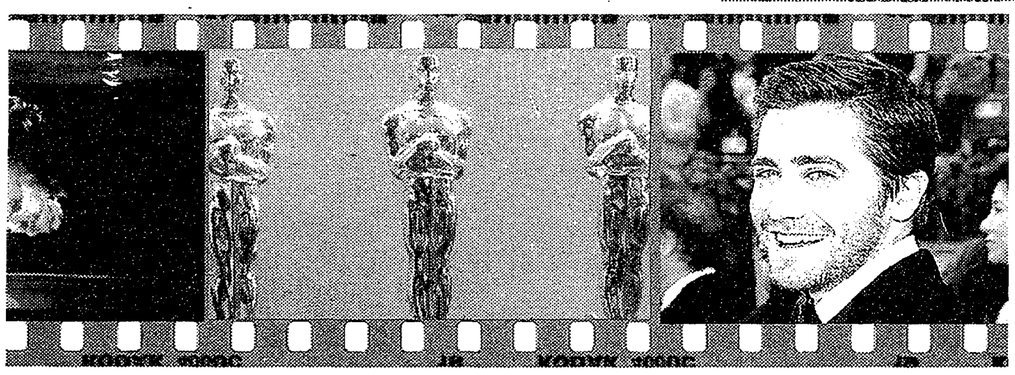




While you were watching the Oscars

While many people's eyes were glued to the small screen last Sunday, entranced as the big screen idols preened and fawned at the biggest Hollywood wankfest of the year—the Oscars—the rest of the world didn't stop turning. In fact, while Charlize, Reese, and that girl from *Dawson's Creek* donned their diamonds, curled their hair, and applied tear-hardy mascara, a man was set on fire, the US government applied further pressure on Iran to stop producing nuclear weapons and a number of German cats were cruelly abandoned by their owners. The list goes on. So in case you spent most of Sunday following the Oscar action—perhaps laughing as Jennifer Garner almost fell on her face?—we're here provide a short list of some of the other goings-on in the world that day.

Man set on fire

While we might wish that Naomi Watt's skin-coloured creation had gone up in flames before she had the chance to fugly up the Oscar stage, one man in Boston Massachusetts really did find out what it was like to be set on fire Sunday night.

The 30-year-old homeless man was asleep in a park when two miscreants began kicking him and later returned to drench his pants in flammable liquid. The mayor has pledged that the assailants will be found and prosecuted.

Ethnic cleanser commits suicide

Milan Babic, convicted of ethnic cleansing during the Balkan Wars, committed suicide Sunday evening. Three weeks earlier he had acknowledged his remorse for the crimes stating it was a "pain that I have to live with for the rest of my life."

We find it hard to say that any of the Oscar losers can chalk up their experience as being anywhere similar to this type of anguish.

$67 billion BellSouth buy out

AT&T expanded their telephone empire by spending $67 billion to merge with BellSouth Corp. Already owners of most of Cingular, AT&T hopes to buy out the rest of the telecommunication companies and streamline management across the boards. This makes AT&T the leading market share owner, controlling assets of $165 billion. The next highest is a company called Verizon, coming in at $99 billion.

If the box-office revenues of the top Oscar movies *Crash, Walk the Line, Capote, Syriana, The Constant Gardener* and *Brokeback Mountain* were to merge the paltry amount in comparison would still be $164 billion short of the wealth of BellSouth.

Nota bene: Dolly Parton's ongoing plastic surgery expenditures may have cost as much as the BellSouth buyout. But who's counting?

Muslim cartoon protest

Just as Joan Rivers was preparing to make her protest list of worst-dressed on the red carpet, 50,000 protestors gathered in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi to further protest the continued publication of the controversial cartoons that began in Denmark. They were joined by 20,000 protestors who flooded the streets of Turkey.

Idiots dump cats to prevent World Cup cancellation

After a tomcat was found to have bird flu last week, many Germans fear that their pets may also have the deadly virus. While people were warned to keep their pets indoors, many just dumped their feline companions at the local animal refuge, claiming that the animals were loose strays. According to reports, the discovery of bird flu in the area might, possibly, maybe, in an extreme case, cause the World Cup finals in the country to be cancelled.

At the Oscars however, Americans seemed to continue to support their animal friends, especially those of the foul variety as Paris Hilton strutted in her hideous peacock-feathered dress.

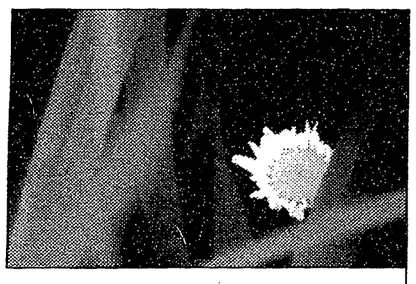
US gov't warns Iran about nukes

On the same day that Jon Stewart made jokes about tearing down the giant Oscar statue on the stage of the Kodak Theatre in order to bring democracy to Hollywood, the US government issued further warnings to Iran, telling them to stop their nuclear program. This latest pressure precedes a 35-nation international Atomic Agency governing board meeting.

This was just a few hours before Canadian writer and actor Paul Haggis (of *Due South* fame) had his mic cut off and the lights turned out as he delivered his acceptance speech for the best original screenplay, for the movie *Crash*.

Ah, if only we could do the same with those pesky nukes. Then we'd have a lot more time on our hands for—you guessed it—next year's Oscars. ■

ASK COACH STEPH



Ask Coach Steph is a bi-weekly advice column appearing in *the Ubyssey*. If you have a question pertaining to life management, career preparation, self actualisation or just need general advice email steph@visionswithoutborders.ca.

Stephanie Tait is a Personal and Professional Leadership Coach who works with young professionals helping them create the lives and careers they truly desire. Visit www.visionswithoutborders.ca for more information.

Dear Coach Steph,

You wouldn't believe how much I have on my plate right now—it's insane! Full-time school, part-time work, volunteering, you name it. You can pretty much forget about the social life (let alone love life!). I honestly have no idea how I'm going to get it all done. I know we're nearing end of term and all, and I should just suck it up, but I've just got so much going on this year I'll be lucky if I can even crawl across the finish line! Any advise to help me make it through?

—Cheers, Fran

Dear Fran,

Many people think their stress is caused by external forces, such as their workload and other day-to-day responsibilities. And it's easy to believe that if you just got rid of these things then you'd find the peace of mind you're looking for.

But have you ever passed a test, signed off from a work shift, or even completed a really major project, and still felt stressed? I sure have. Why is this?

Our stressful feelings are created by our thinking. They are created by internal forces, not external ones. If you think overwhelming thoughts, you'll feel overwhelmed. If you think about something stressful, you'll feel stressed. It's that simple. While your busy life may seem like the culprit to your stress, it's really how you think that creates the feelings you're having.

Try it out yourself. When you start worrying about not having enough time for all you've got going on in your life, notice what you are thinking. Any similarities? Chances are, your physical reality is simply a reflection of how you are thinking about it.

Your stressful feelings can feed into you thinking even more unproductive thoughts, such as how you're always behind schedule or never have enough time. These thoughts will give you added stress, make you more overwhelmed and stop you dead in your tracks (keeping you from even crawling across the finish line, for example!).

Here's how to break the cycle:

1. Be guided by your feelings. When you notice yourself feeling negatively, check in with what and how fast you're thinking.

2. Upgrade your thoughts. When you identify which thoughts are producing negative feelings in you, stop thinking them. Adopt a more resourceful and empowered mindset by consciously choosing which thoughts you will give energy to.

3. Live in the present. You've got a lot going on in your life right now. But working faster and harder will only create more stress and when this catches up to you, less productivity. Rather than thinking about everything you've got to do, focus on the one thing you're doing in that moment.

Learning how to eliminate your stress by managing your thoughts takes time and practice. Don't beat yourself up in the process of learning. Otherwise, you're right back where you started! ■

STREETERS

IF YOU COULD CREATE YOUR OWN AWARD, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHO WOULD YOU GIVE IT TO?

"Silliest drunken nightmare. The award would go to Emily Angus—she broke her finger."

—Nicole Hartman
Biopsychology 3

"The coolest person. And I'd give it to myself."

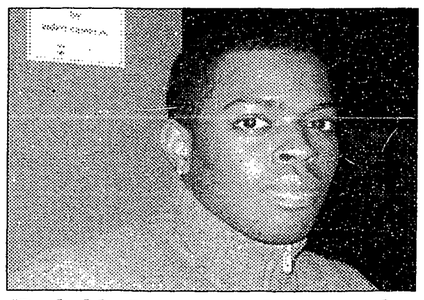
—Kent Rahman
History 3

"If it was a touchy and sentimental one I'd give it to my parents."

—Victoria Lai
Biology 2

"How about an award for research in environmental studies? Who would I give it to? Suzuki comes to mind."

—Sonya Wynnyk
Linguistics
ESL certificate



"Probably Greatest Pit Pub star of all time. To Ryan Glanville. I think he's chalked up the most hours in the pit ever."

—Sam Boateng
Biology 4

—Streeters coordinated by Simon Underwood

More truth in the title than most films

TRISTRAM SHANDY: A COCK AND BULL STORY
Now playing

by Peter Warren
CULTURE WRITER

Strong acting makes this a hilarious character piece. Which is good, because it has absolutely no plot.

This movie is about people making a movie adaptation of the supposedly unfilmable novel *Tristram Shandy*. Anyone who has ever read the novel knows that it doesn't exactly follow the traditional plot-based framework found in most adaptations. At times, *Shandy* is so plotless it is borderline psychotic. And the film does it absolute justice. The story is bizarre and disjointed, but that's the whole point. Laurence Sterne's neurotic characters blend quite nicely with the modern addition of self-absorbed actors.

Actor Steve Coogan is absolutely masterful. One wonders how far his acting abilities can be stretched as he plays the smug Tristram Shandy, the neurotic Walter Shandy, and a rather paranoid version of himself—and occasionally all three in one scene. It's almost impossible not to laugh at this man. Whether he is pretending to have read the novel his movie is based on, or trapped, naked, upside-down in a giant plastic womb, he is certain to greatly amuse.

The combination of time periods seems a bit strange at first, but it becomes clear that it is necessary to make the story understandable. The characters arguing on the set explain some of Sterne's obscure jokes and human commentary. They also allow for amusing comparisons between experiments on Pavlov's dog and sex in the eighteenth century.

The one weak aspect of this movie is that the scenes based on Sterne's original work are superior to those set in the modern world. At times one wishes that they were watching the fictional movie being made rather than the movie within a movie. Luckily the cast is so strong that it quickly becomes apparent that they are ridiculous no matter what century they are in. This film is not to be missed. ■

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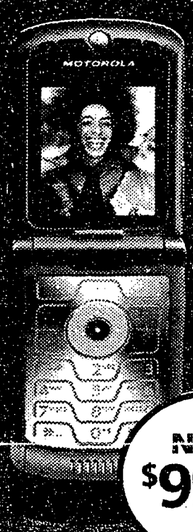
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The sexual gospel according to John

Sex party leader discusses the politics of lust with *the Ubyssey*

by Carolynne Burkholder
CULTURE STAFF

John Ince knows sex. For the past 25-years the former lawyer has dedicated his life to sex activism, advocating a sex-positive position that he believes will combat social inequality.

Although he has "always had a fascination with sex," Ince began his sex-positive campaign in the early 1980s after realising that sex activism was a natural extension of environmentalist principles.

"Until a culture heals the sexual wound, it will never deal with the environment," he explained.

Over two decades later, he is the leader of the Sex Party, a political party that fights for sex-positive policies; the author of *The Politics of Lust*, a thought-provoking look at human sexuality; and the co-founder of a local store selling erotic material, *The Art of Loving*.

Despite his accomplishments, Ince still has many goals to increase society's sexual awareness.

"It's about communicating more openly about sex, it's about being less inhibited sexually," he said. "Most of us eat a bland diet. If our sex life was compared to our eating life it would be described as a continual meal of meat and potatoes."

But sex, to Ince, is more than just what happens in the bedroom—it has a political dimension as well.

"It has to do with decreasing inhibitions and expanding our erotic potential, but it also has political significance," he explained. "I'm not just working to make society happier sexually. It's to make society more democratic and egalitarian."

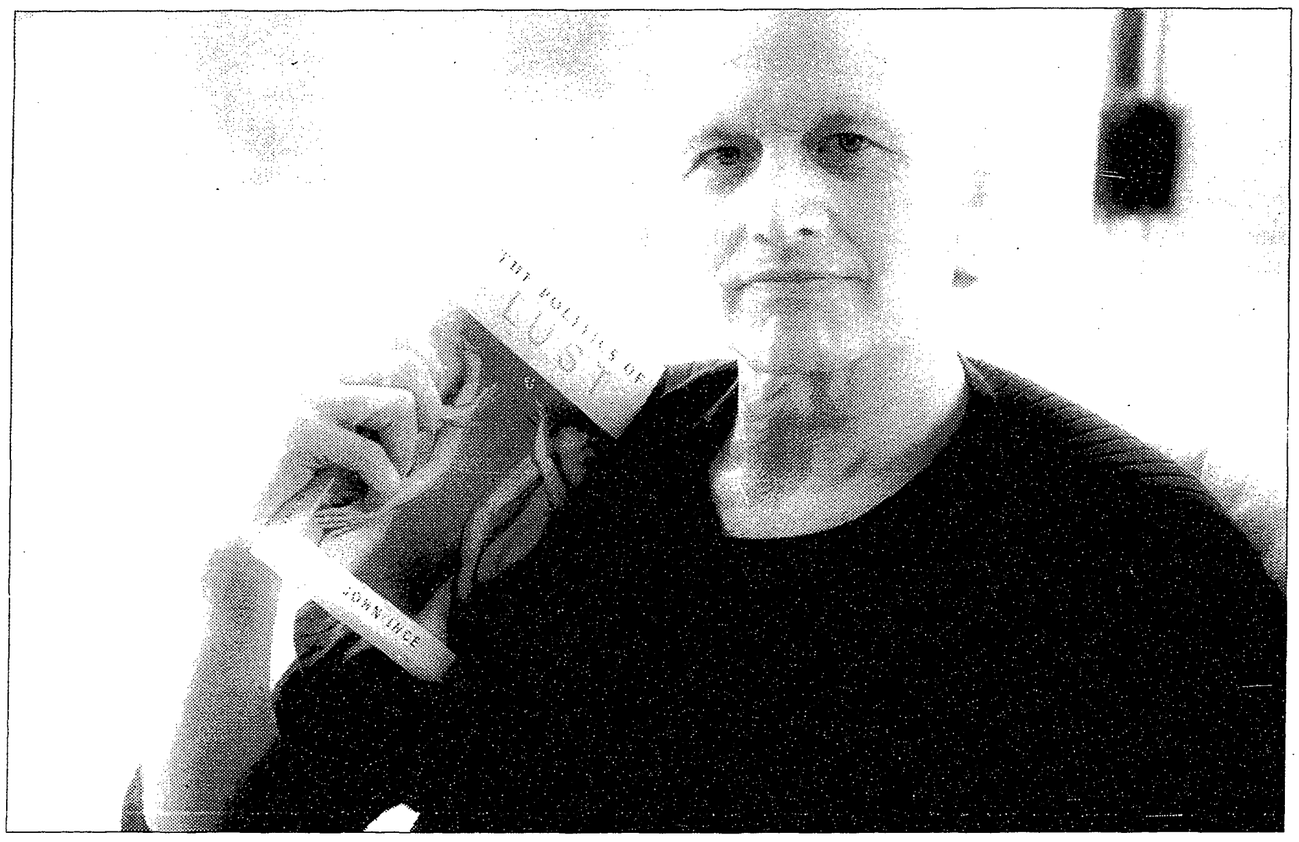
Ince outlines his views in *The Politics of Lust*. "It argues that the more fearful a society is about sex, the more it will embrace social inequality," said Ince. He adds that in cultures where sex is feared, the status of women is lower, racial and economic divisions are more prevalent, and there is more homophobia.

"The last prejudice that any developed democracy deals with is the prejudice against sex," said Ince. He believes this to be the case because sexuality is truly universal:

"The wider a prejudice is in society the harder it is to see."

Ince and his colleagues at the Sex Party are working to combat these prejudices.

Specifically, they advocate "getting rid of sex negative laws and social policies in our media, in our law, in our church policies, in our schools. And then more comfort on a personal level...ultimately so people could be more creative and experimental."



LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX: Lawyer, journalist, business-owner, author, and sex advocate, John Ince is one of Vancouver's most respected sexperts. **YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO**

Ince is also developing a comprehensive sex-positive curriculum for high school students. Currently, "sex education is really aimed at harm reduction, not pleasure enhancement," he said.

He also protests the lack of media coverage on sex, the censorship of sexual language and advertisements, and especially the digitisation of genitals on newscasts. He compares this to "digitising the head of a Muslim because we don't want to see a head scarf." Ince believes that "concealing a part of the body conveys a toxic message about it."

After 25 years, sex still remains a priority for Ince.

"Sex is so much more significant than just orgasm and arousal because really we're playing at the core of culture," he explained. "That is why I'm so fascinated by it." ■

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