PAGE FRIDAY

NOWHERE TO RUN TO...
Youth homelessness in the GVRD (5)

DEALBREAKER
AM730 no longer to carry T-Birds (7)

DAVID IS MAGIC
Copperfield stuns Vancouver audience (2)

VOL. LXXXVIII N°33 | Friday, 26 January, 2007 | www.ubyssey.bc.ca | Labour of love since 1918

THE UBYSSEY

CHOOSE YOUR TOOL

...sample our student government selections on page 6

More than tricks up his sleeve

DAVID COPPERFIELD
at the Centre for the Performing Arts
January 20

by Lucas Johnson
CULTURE WRITER

Summoning cars. Teleporting ducks. Making audience members disappear. Bad jokes. What *can't* this man do?

David Copperfield, the most celebrated magician of our time and likely the most famous since Houdini, astounded audiences once more at The Centre For the Performing Arts last Saturday evening, with such acts as getting a scorpion to pick a random card from a deck and supposedly teleporting to Hawaii and back.

Leaving the magic aside for a moment, Copperfield always manages to make his shows entertaining. Even if you ignore the spectacular feats he accomplishes (hard as that is) you have to admire his showmanship. He jokes around (often badly, but sometimes that's the best way), keeps the audience engaged, makes his magic fun and at times is deeply touching with his stories. Even if the sudden disappearances of audience members aren't enough to entertain you, Copperfield himself makes the show interesting.

That being said, it's impossible to ignore his feats.

When asked for comment, Robert Teszka, 4th year UBC student and amateur magician, said it couldn't be put into words.

"He's the best," he said.

He had no idea about how any of it was done more than I did.

When you watch an amateur magician, even if you can't figure out how they did a trick, you can imagine what sleight of hand might have been used to trick you.

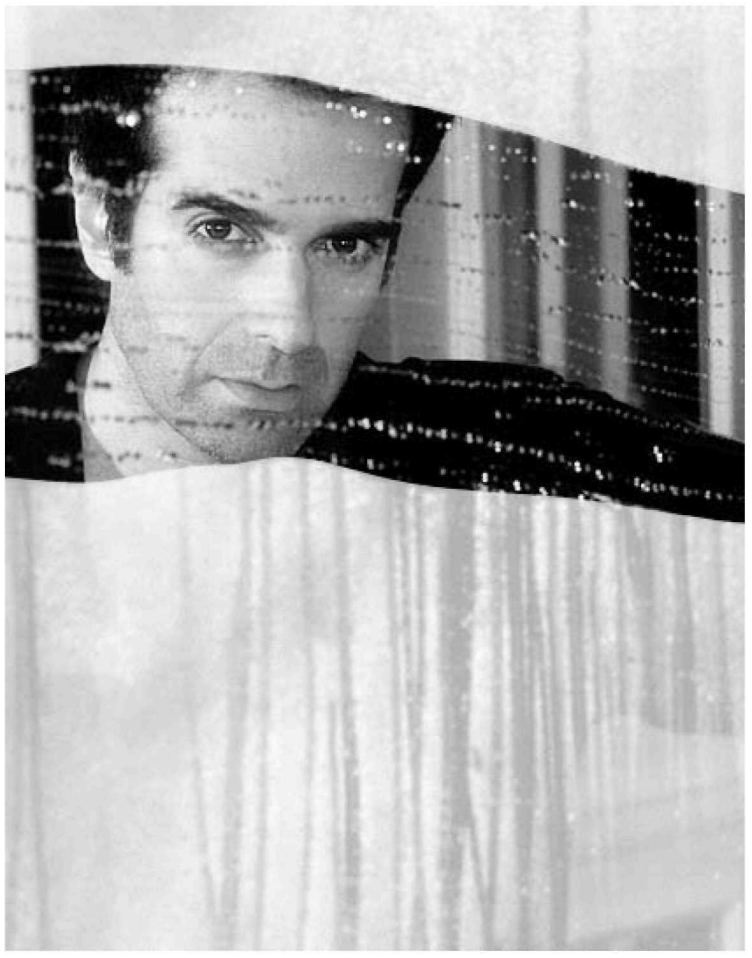
When you watch David Copperfield, however, he leaves no room for such thoughts.

He makes sure that you know every trick is "for real." His selection of audience members is completely random (he throws balls and Frisbees out into the audience, and sometimes has them passed around multiple times) and has several random people choose numbers that appear later in the big acts, which could not have been planned for.

A case in point: he and a young woman teleport themselves to Hawaii. He has a live, continuous feed to a man in Hawaii, which he proves is authentic by getting an audience member to pick a number, then getting the man to say it. He gets two different audience members to write words on an oversized postcard, then takes a picture of several audience members with the postcard. He gets another audience member to pick two letters and write them on his arm.

When he subsequently disappears and then appears shortly afterward on the live feed, he is sure to show both pictures and letters, exactly as they were onstage. When he returns, he brings back a handful of sand.

As if that wasn't enough, when he and the woman disappeared from the stage (and, to be fair, the woman was *not* a random audience member) they reappeared in



a cage over the heads of the audience with people on all sides.

Copperfield has been doing many of the same acts for several years and while little of his material is new, it hardly needs to be. I'd seen many of the tricks before on TV, but I was no better at figuring them out on the night of his performance—nor was I any less amazed.

The most amazing stunt of the night was when he placed audience members around two pillars upon which he made a car appear. Or perhaps when numbers were picked randomly by the audience appeared not only written on paper and recorded on tape, but engraved in license plates, all of which had been locked in a box and in sight of the audience since the start of the show.

There is a definite magic to stage performance—and Copperfield is still its master.

'tweens

Sikiliza: an African Festival
Graduate Student Society Ballroom (6371 Crescent Road)
Jan. 26, 7:00pm
Come for a night of African-themed excitement as part of UBC's African Awareness Week. Listen to music by DJ Fisha, watch the dance-off, and eat West African Cuisine.
Tickets are $10.

Moving Pictures Festival
Cinemark Tinseltown (88 W. Pender St.)
Jan. 25-28
Various films by Canadian filmmakers. Short films such as Break a Leg Rosie by Tara Hungerford, with feature films. Filmmakers will be in attendance on many nights.
Tickets are from $5-$15.

Malaysia Singapore Night
SUB Ballroom, UBC
Feb. 3, 7:00-10:00pm, Dance until Midnight
Come support the Seri Malaysia Club and the Singapore Raffles Club at UBC! Includes a traditional dinner, fashion show, a live band, and dancing.
Tickets to be purchased at the door.

First Impressions Theatre Fundraiser
Deep Cove Shaw Theatre (4360 Gallant Ave, N. Vancouver)
Jan. 26-27, 8:00pm
B.C. folk singer-songwriter Roy Forbes performs songs from his new album. All proceeds go to First Impressions Theatre.
Tickets are $25.

UBC Film Society SINCE 1935
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9:30 Babel (18A)
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CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

THE VANCOUVER LESBIAN AND GAY CHOIR PRESENTS HEAT, A SPICY AND TROPICAL CONCERT showcasing the talents of Vancouver's LGBT community. The concert is at 7:30pm on Saturday, January 27 at St. Paul's Anglican Church. Tickets for students are $10. For more information, check out our website at www.vanlesgaychoir.com.

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Call for Submissions

MULTIDISCIPLINARY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE (MURC): Deadline for submission of abstracts to present at the conference is February 5. Deadline to register for the conference is February 23. http://www.research.ubc.ca/murc

Employment

INDUSTRY SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATES. Application Deadline: January 31, 2007. Participate in cutting-edge arthritis research in an industry setting. Salary: USD $16-20/hr. Airfare and initial visa application costs are covered. For more information visit www.arthritisnetwork.ca

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Extra-curricular

MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE NIGHT 2007. Date: Feb 3, 2007. Time: Food and Performances 6:30 to 10:15pm, Dancing with DJ 10:15 to midnight, Venue: SUB Ballroom, Tickets: $15, All are welcome. The Singapore-Malaysia Night is an annual event by the Singapore Raffles Club and the Seri Malaysia Club of UBC. We are two social and cultural clubs under the AMS. The Singapore-Malaysia Night provides the audience with a night of entertainment including cultural performances and fashion show, a play portraying interaction between Canadian, Singaporean and Malaysian cultures, and a band show. A light dinner featuring traditional Malaysian/Singaporean cuisine will be served. For further information and tickets, contact srcubc@yahoo.ca or smc@club.ams.ubc.ca

To place an ad or a classified, call 604-822-1654 or visit Room 23 in the SUB (basement).

THE UBYSSEY

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It was a dark and stormy night when Michael Bround walked home from school with Amanda Truscott. They cut through the cemetery where they met Samantha Charuk and Amanda Stutt. Sarah-Nelle Jackson and Mary Leighton broke into a dance and Katie Fitzpatrick, Lucas Johnson, and Samantha Jung rose from the grave. Candice Okada and Cheata Nao screamed and ran out into the street and into zombies Kellan Higgins, Simon Underwood, and Andrew MacRae. Paul Bucci, Levi Barnett, Oker Chen, Champagne Choquer, and Boris Korby broke into song and dance dance and were joined soon after by Momoko Price, Jesse Ferreras, Colleen Tang, and Brandon Adams. Eric Szeto led the dance with a beautiful rendition of "It's Raining Men."

EDITORIAL GRAPHIC *Michael Bround*

Canadian University Press
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Hage details a dangerous *Game*

DE NIRO'S GAME
by Rawi Hage
House of Anansi Press

by Jesse Ferreras
CULTURE EDITOR

Media coverage in the Middle East may communicate to us that there's a conflict taking place, but it hardly captures the sounds, the smells or the struggle to survive that is faced by those caught in the middle. That seems to be precisely what Montreal author Rawi Hage tries to convey about his native Lebanon in *De Niro's Game*, a harrowing account of two young men who eke out an existence amid bombs and gunfire in the streets of Beirut.

Hage's first full-length novel is a visceral wonder. Though the narrative is fragmented and takes some adjustment, it is more than deserving of its Governor General's Award nomination. The Western perspective of the Middle East tends to focus too much on the politicians and leaders at the expense of the people caught within them. Hage's novel does not allow you to dismiss the victims of civil war and subliminally ingrains images of their suffering that are simply unforgettable.

Bassam and George are two teenagers who have become desensitised to the violence of the Lebanese Civil War, caught between Christian and Muslim militias after invasion by the Israeli Defence Forces. Fighting among various factions is constant, but the two boys accept it as part of their daily life just as they do the melancholic voice of Fairuz over the radio. Though Bassam and George are best friends, they share different ambitions: Bassam dreams of leaving Beirut, holding up Rome as his idyllic sanctuary from the "ten thousand bombs." In a slovenly and sometimes vicious manner, he attempts to raise the funds to get there. He wants George to come with him, but his friend has made a respected name for himself in Beirut. He works in a casino and assists Bassam in scamming money for his escape, but his cunning and willingness to kill catch the eye of the domineering Christian militia leader Abou-Nahra, whose morality is so thin that he has no reservations about killing neighborhood dogs when rabies becomes a problem.

Though both young men have direction, neither pursues it very effectively. Bassam drifts through the city without purpose, abusing his girlfriend and making passes at other women. George, meanwhile, becomes a drug runner for a French couple before joining the militia and is driven insane by participating in it. Though they follow different paths, both of them drift similarly into a downward spiral along with their society as it becomes vulnerable to more bombings, killings and increased security measures by the military factions. Innocence seems an early casualty of the war, but moral and human decency are not far behind for Bassam and George.

Hage was nine years old when the civil war began, but aging does not seem to have distorted his memories. Hage realises this era through a writing style that alternates between short, blunt phrases that illustrate the characters' gradual jading to the events around them, and flowing, poetic passages that lament the loss of an ancient civilisation that stretches back into ancient history: "Beirut is an ancient Roman city, I thought. There is a city buried under our feet. The Romans also turned to dust. ...I slept above ancient Rome, dreaming, while the city still breathed dust."

Also effective, but not particularly absorbing, are passages that detail people who were wounded by stray gunfire in the city's streets. In one particular passage, Hage describes Bassam's hand turning purple as he attempts to stop a young girl from bleeding to death. One might expect such an episode to cause some emotional and psychological damage to an individual, but it seems to have little effect on Bassam. I found the passage brief and unabsorbing initially, since it is given no attention by the novel's characters once it is passed. But it functions effectively if it was Hage's intention to incorporate irony, a perfectly appropriate device for the subject of war.

Most memorable in the novel, however, is George relating to Bassam the actions he is

SIMON UNDERWOOD GRAPHIC

forced to carry out on the inhabitants of the Sabra and Chatila refugee camps, a massacre now largely buried in public memory. In 1982, Lebanese Christian forces entered the camps and, according to reports, killed anywhere between 700 and 1,000 Palestinians while Israeli forces surrounded the camps. George literally loses his mind as he relates his experience, laughing and swigging alcohol as he tells of killing women and children: "Kamil had cocaine. We sniffed, and we shouted, For Al-Rayess! We rounded up more men against a wall, women and children against another wall. We shot all the men first. The women and children wailed, and we changed magazines and shot them as well. It was their cries that made me shoot them. I hate kids' cries."

De Niro's Game is a powerful account of a war-torn city whose horrors come not from battle scenes, but the descent into depravity by those indirectly affected by it. Hage's prose is startling in some passages, and his style takes some time to get used to. But once you have, you will be led down a disturbing path strewn with images you will never forget.

culture@ubyssey.bc.ca

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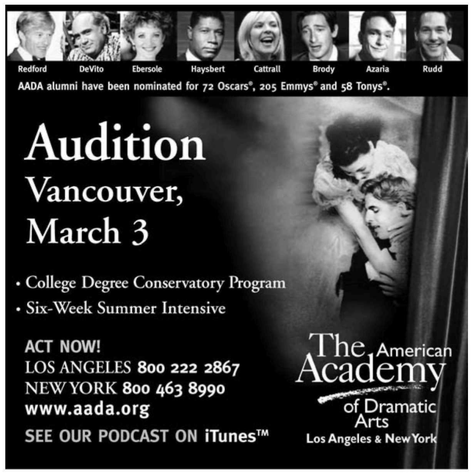

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UBYSSEY PUBLICATIONS SOCIETY

2007 Board of Directors Election

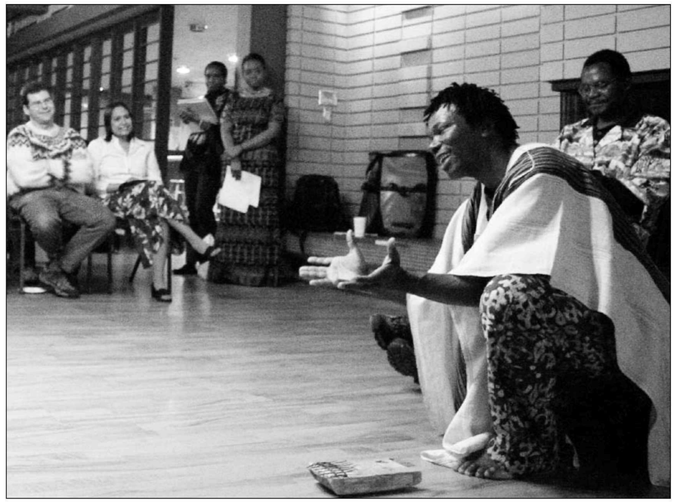
The Ubyssey Publications Society is the organization responsible for publishing UBC's official student newspaper, The Ubyssey. Its membership consists of all UBC students who have not opted out of membership by completing an opt-out form. Members are eligible to run for, and vote in, Board Elections.

The Board of Directors oversees the administrative and business aspects of the paper including advertising, marketing, distribution, the budget and the finances, meetings of the Society, and management of employees. The Board is not, however, involved in any editorial aspects of the paper.

Term is February 2007 to February 2008. Directors attend approximately 20 Board Meetings through the year in addition to serving on Board Committees. No previous experience with newspapers or the UPS is required.

Elections will be held in conjunction with the AMS elections January 24–29+31.

For more information, contact Fernie Pereira at 822-6681.



Africa Awareness Week 2007

Jean Pierre Makosso (foreground) is from the Congo and Constantine Ngara (behind) is from the Faculty of Education. Both engaged audiences with African folklore, combining improvised dance and music as part of the annual week-long initiative to promote the inclusivity of African studies at UBC.
OKER CHEN PHOTO

Historical lean leads *Good Shepherd* astray

THE GOOD SHEPHERD
now playing

by Katie Fitzpatrick
CULTURE WRITER

When I decided to go see *The Good Shepherd,* I convinced a less than interested friend to come with me. Before I left, I decided to do some research, and perused the results of a Google search for a few minutes. I quickly began to realize that this film was perhaps not the best choice. Critic after critic had called it boring and drawn-out. One critic in particular suggested that it would be better to fall asleep in the theatre than to sit through the film. By the time I finally left my place, I had decided it would probably be best to pay for my friend's ticket with one of the movie gift certificates I got in my stocking for Christmas. When I looked up at the show-times at the theatre and noticed that the movie was 168 minutes long, I offered my friend some popcorn as well. To be extra generous I made it a combo.

The feature presentation began with an emotionless Edward Wilson (Matt Damon) slowly and carefully building a ship in a bottle. Certainly not a promising start, but a surprisingly indicative one – the whole film seemed to be director Robert de Niro's personal ship in a bottle. Attempting to document the history of the CIA from before WWII to the Bay of Pigs Invasion seems as equally impossible as the famed magic trick and de Niro's approach seemed just as slow and careful as Wilson's. The film was incredibly well researched, with Damon's Edward Wilson reflecting real CIA cofounder James Angleton all the way down to his taste in poetry. In this way, *The Good Shepherd* is an excellent history lesson. Unfortunately for moviegoers, this relentless pursuit of accuracy often seems to be at the expense of character development. The sheer number of characters means that most go unnoticed and unexplored. At times it becomes difficult to keep track of them all. When the suspenseful moments finally do arrive, it is tough to muster up any anticipation, simply because one is unsure of exactly what's going on.

If the surplus of characters surrounding Edward Wilson is the film's biggest weakness, then the character development of Wilson himself is certainly its greatest strength. The reticent exterior created by Matt Damon makes moments of insight all the more poignant. As Wilson's moral fiber slowly begins to wither his wife Clover (Angelina Jolie) and son Edward Jr. (Eddie Redmayne) are dragged down with him. This takes place in a series of depressing but powerful scenes, all performed masterfully by Damon and Jolie.

As the film progresses, a man is revealed who is willing to sacrifice everything for his country, but we are never shown just why he loves his country so much. Perhaps it is screenwriter Eric Roth's intention to criticise patriotism, much as he did in Steven Spielberg's *Munich.*

As we filed out of the theatre, my friend and I shared our initial reactions. I was still a little shaken up by what I had seen happen to Edward Wilson. My friend simply felt frustrated that it was now 1:30am (the movie started at 10:30) and he had work at 5.

Perhaps De Niro should have attempted to tell the story of one man in the context of the CIA, not the story of the CIA in the context of one man. Then he could have focused on the beautiful and relevant aspects of Roth's script rather than letting it be cluttered up by the surplus of characters and events required to cover an almost thirty-year history. At least then we could have filed out sooner. And I would still be up a movie pass, a popcorn combo and a not-so disinterested friend.

Leaving our children behind?

text by Amanda Stutt
graphic by Michael Bround

The unrecognised plight of the GVRD's street youth

It's ironic that the issue of youth homelessness hits extremely close to home for UBC alumnus Jennifer Mervyn. When she crossed the stage at graduation to accept her PhD, she knew most people in the audience would never guess that she once lived on the street herself. Her story is one of persistence and triumph: after spending part of her teens living on the streets of downtown Vancouver, she transitioned off the street, completed Bachelor's and Master's degrees, married her husband (who she met while on the street) and has since found meaning and purpose in her work researching and advocating for street youth. Her recently released documentary, "Metamorphosis," has been internationally recognised and showcased at numerous conferences on homelessness. The film recognises systemic obstacles youth face in getting off the street and intertwines the voices of youth, police, outreach workers and social services on the issue.

Connecting the dots

Mervyn is currently working as a crisis worker at Surrey Memorial Hospital, which services the entire South Fraser Health Region, including Langley and Delta.

She does mental health assessments and crisis counselling for children and youth, many of whom live on the street. The correlation between homelessness and mental health is striking.

"Between 30 to 60 per cent of homeless street youth have mental health issues," she says.

Every story is different, she says. Many of the street youth talk about family conflicts, parents' substance abuse, dysfunctional family patterns and a lack of structure.

Mervyn says that even when there is a family home to go to, a lot of times there is conflict, and much of street youth drug abuse originates from home.

Mervyn's average day includes counselling youth who have attempted suicide, are experiencing psychosis, or have severe anxiety disorders and depression. "It connects in so many ways with what I did with my research," she says.

"One of my biggest restrictions here is when a youth comes in and they are depressed and they need a psychiatric evaluation or medication, but they are homeless, and they have no place to sleep that night," she said. "There will be kids that come in and they have significant mental health issues and there is nowhere for me to refer them, there is no safe place."

"We see 800 kids a year here...a portion of those kids need homes, not having any place to go. There are nights when we literally have to turn kids back out into the cold, and it's really difficult to provide mental health services when there is no stable living environment," she explained. "It's really frustrating."

No place to go

Mervyn explained that there is desperate need for more resources and funding from all levels of government. She recounts a story that remains one of her most heartrending memories. "I've got a 13 year-old crystal meth addict who walks in here and is 80 pounds and says 'I'm ready to get off crystal meth and I need a safe place to go tonight,' and there's no safe place to send her because all of the detox beds are full," Mervyn mourns. "We are in a really big crisis here."

One of the biggest obstacles hindering the rehabilitation of street youth, she said, is a lack of any kind of drop-in center they can go to for immediate help.

"There's...a ban on opening any other storefronts or centers for social services because [of the belief that] it's going to bring a negative image on our city," she says. So youth, especially ones that come from Surrey, "hop on the Skytrain and go into Vancouver because that's where the drop-in centers are." She believes this is detrimental because "they shouldn't be removed from their communities.

"They need a detox facility that they can go to to get clean and get help and there's no place for me to send them."

Waiting for a detox bed can take weeks and "a lot can happen in a few weeks," she says, recalling when a Surrey youth came in to the crisis centre and they tried to find a safe place to send her, but nothing was available.

"She was murdered the week she came for help."

The outsiders

UBC Professor Rod McCormick in the Department of Counseling Psychology supervised Mervyn's doctoral dissertation on youth homelessness. His research focuses on Aboriginal suicide rates, which connects to general youth homelessness because there is a very high rate of suicide among Aboriginal people. "It is three to five times higher than in most youth," he says, explaining further that "there are problems, social, emotional, psychological, political...[greater] than in the general population...in particular amongst homeless Aboriginal youth."

He believes one of the reasons for this is that Aboriginal youth feel disconnected from society.

"They're caught in between," he says. "Many of them aren't connected to their communities or their traditional cultural ways and they don't feel accepted or connected to mainstream culture where people have nice cars and jobs and so on."

"Adolescence is a particularly tough time," McCormick continues. "If you think in terms of where people get meaning in their life...from spirituality, through relationships with other people, through feeling they're contributing to society in some way...a lot of youth are at the point in their lives where they don't feel connected to any of those things other than [through] their peer group."

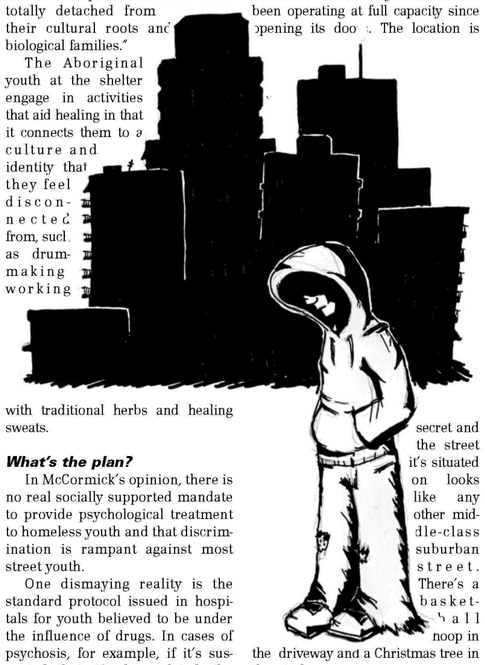
McCormick agrees there is an urgent need for treatment and recovery programs, especially for Aboriginal youth.

Under the Liberal government there were some programs put in place like the 'Urban Aboriginal Strategy,' but under the current government a lot of those services have been cut. Harper did cut a number of Aboriginal programs, he says.

Joelynne Kane, coordinator of the All Nations Safe House in Surrey, re-emphasises McCormick's point about the amplified marginalisation of aboriginal youth, stressing that about 55 per cent of clients that come through the safe house are of Aboriginal heritage.

"A lot of [the youth] come in with feelings of shame around who they are and where they come from, whether they are First Nations or Métis people."

She emphasises the importance of having positive Aboriginal role models that can help them with "reconnecting to their roots...A lot [of them] have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care, totally detached from their cultural roots and biological families."



The Aboriginal youth at the shelter engage in activities that aid healing in that it connects them to a culture and identity that they feel disconnected from, such as drum-making working with traditional herbs and healing sweats.

What's the plan?

In McCormick's opinion, there is no real socially supported mandate to provide psychological treatment to homeless youth and that discrimination is rampant against most street youth.

One dismaying reality is the standard protocol issued in hospitals for youth believed to be under the influence of drugs. In cases of psychosis, for example, if it's suspected that it's drug-related, the mandate of the hospitals "is not to treat them...they just get released. There are very few beds available."

In the past, if a street youth was found under the influence of drugs, there was the option for police to arrest them to get them off the street. But under the current Child Health Act, according to McCormick, "it is not possible to arrest a youth for vagrancy or being found under the influence to get them into treatment."

As the 2010 Olympics draw near, there will be attempts to 'clean up' Vancouver's streets, but McCormick doesn't believe the government will provide alternate housing and may resort to "strong-arm tactics or the Mental Health Act to get youth off the streets temporarily."

McCormick cites Australia as an example where media attention increased awareness about homelessness and mental health issues to generate enough public fear that the government was forced into acting. A few billion dollars was eventually funnelled into mental health services, he says.

For greater Vancouver, the pressing issue is that there simply aren't enough facilities or resources available for homeless youth. "All the shelters are full right now, other than the All Nations Safe House," she says. "There's no shelter for youth. It's very distressing."

The invisible lighthouse

The All Nations Safe House is the only emergency shelter for homeless youth in crisis in the greater Surrey area, an area in great need of shelter for street youth. It is filled to capacity, and according to Mervyn, "it is the only resource I have right now."

Since the house opened last February, it has provided emergency shelter for about 45 youth, and has been operating at full capacity since opening its doors. The location is secret and the street it's situated on looks like any other middle-class suburban street. There's a basketball noop in the driveway and a Christmas tree in the window.

Kane is kind and receptive. She talks about the youth that pass through with pride. "The focus is getting them stable, trying to break the cycle of surfing from safe house to safe house, trying to break the cycle of poverty," she says.

She pours coffee in the kitchen, and there's a weekly meal plan taped to the front of the fridge, which lets the kids know what food will be served and when. "It's important to get them on a schedule and to let them know that there's food here for them."

However, the safe house is not drop-in based. In order to be admitted to the safe house, street youth have to be referred, since that's part of the mandate of its funding source, the Ministry of Children and Families.

"In order to be licensed, there are very strict standards, and it doesn't often meet the needs of the youth. There is definitely a need for a drop-in center for young people so they can be assessed." In order to gain admittance, the youth have to be clean for seventy-two hours, she explains. "We don't detox youth, but if they're coming from detox, we'll take them." Again, the housing problem means that they turn away an average of 30 youth a month because of lack of beds.

The safe house also takes in youth that have drug debts with gangs and are in hiding as well as young women who have been sexually exploited. Kane discussed the danger youth face at the at Skytrain stations in the area. "It's unsafe. They can't even go there without getting beat-up—we've had youth coming back here that have been beat-up and we have to take them to the hospital."

The issues that contribute to youth living on the streets are multi-layered and can't be reduced simply to issues like drugs, which should be seen as a symptom of a greater problem. Kane, for example, has seen youth from affluent families kicked out of their homes because of their sexuality.

Once a youth has left the family home for whatever reason, they immediately face a number of huge barriers which again revolve around housing. "There's a lack of housing and a discrimination against young people to get [it]. Landlords often discriminate against young people because of their age, associating them with not being responsible," she says. "Finding housing is a tough thing. We help them do that as well. The youth population is one of the most disempowered."

Kane says everyone knows the problem of youth living on the streets is out there, but believes there's a double standard. "We can *not* open up centers to deal with the problem and pretend it doesn't exist even though we know it exists and crime goes up, theft...and health costs go up...or we can open a center and say yes, we do acknowledge there's a problem and we're going to do everything to reduce the risk and it's good for everybody."

She discusses the controversy of 'secure custody' in Alberta, where police are empowered to take youth right off the streets if they are found under the influence of drugs and are taken into custody and placed in a 'secure care home,' where they are literally locked up until they are clean and only then are eligible to live in shelters. Kane said that forcing youth into treatment is a controversial issue and has seen instances where it has worked, and where it hasn't worked at all. "There is talk of introducing that into BC." she says.

Shifting the blame

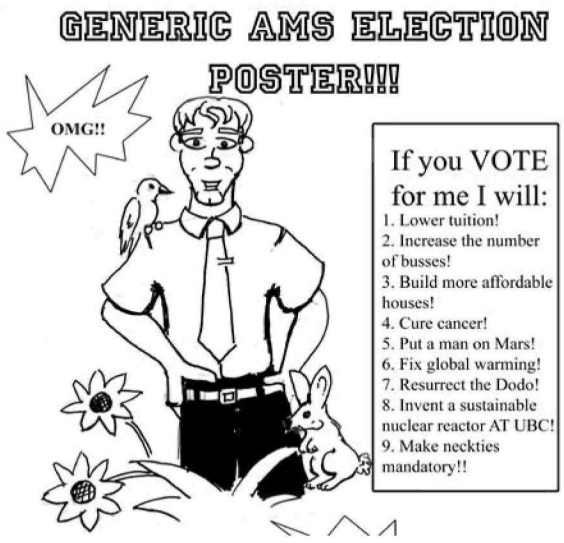
Kane believes street youth get a bad label. "They get blamed, there's a lot of negative media attention on them. Usually if you see anything about [street youth] in the media it's associated with violence."

"I think the responsibility lies with everybody. It lies with the parents, it lies with the schools," she says. "What are we teaching our young people? Are we giving them a sense of belonging?"

She continues: "I think we need to look at our values as a society as a whole. No young person expects to wind up like that.

Faced with these grim realities, it's hard to imagine that there are success stories or that homeless youth can get off the streets for good. But Mervyn asserts that there are "absolutely" success stories.

She, along with the youth profiled in her documentary, are living proof of that.



The Ubyssey's annual slanderous AMS endorsements

Board of Governors (BoG): Darren Peets/Jeff Friedrich

We are beginning with the Board of Governors position because this was the position we contested the most as a group. We unanimously voted that Darren Peets, formerly 'Fire Hydrant,' should get a spot on BoG. He is informed about development issues and knows the ins-and-outs of most construction on campus. We feel that Darren has the capabilities and the knowledge to effectively push through intelligent proposals that could get considered by the other BoG members. Even as a fire hydrant, he was able to come within six votes of winning a seat two years ago.

We also would like to see Jeff Friedrich elected to the BoG. There are some issues about the lack of diverse student voices this may cause because he is also running for Alma Mater Society (AMS) President, but Friedrich argues that the chief representative for students at UBC should have a place on the University's Board.

We tend to agree with Friedrich; it might be a good idea to create a permanent place for the President on the Board of Governors. But we also wonder whether Friedrich will have time to work on both the Board and as President, but only time can tell whether this will be a problem.

AMS President: Jeff Friedrich

While the obvious choice didn't seem so obvious at times, in the end Jeff Friedrich was really the only option for this position. Friedrich occasionally seemed a little too supportive of the current AMS council but he has a wealth of experience.

Friedrich's plans for presidency include zoning certain areas of the campus for private, low cost student housing; increasing traditional student housing; extending the U-Pass program to Lower Mainland colleges and creating a space for the UBC Farm as the campus expands. Friedrich has already made strides to involve UBC students in campus development planning and he promises to keep students involved in campus governance decisions.

Maxwell's calls for change in the proceduraly overcomplicated AMS definitely have merit, but his lack of knowledge, experience and realism when it comes to student politics make him a poor candidate for leadership of UBC's largest student body. If Friedrich gets the job, however, he should find a place for Maxwell in parties and promotions in the AMS.

VP Academic: Bruce Krayenhoff/Brendon Goodmurphy

This was a hard one. We were impressed with Bruce Krayenhoff's first priority: student housing. However, Brendon Goodmurphy's experience and previous ties to the AMS may help make him more effective as a council executive.

And we have Fan Fan. It is commendable that repeat candidate Fan Fan has tried once again to run for the AMS exec position with the most responsibility. But as with year it's the same old story; his platform was unimpressive and out of touch. Sorry Fan Fan. You might not be AMS council material, but you definitely should find your way onto an AMS committee.

VP Administration: We don't care

Honestly, most of us were in favour of Liz Ferris, but she unfortunately dropped out of the race. We were then left with the choice of either Sarah Naiman or Suvina To. Both were unimpressive but they get the job done. If we were to judge them on one criterion, To had the shortest *Ubyssey* supplement write up, so we give it to her for brevity.

VP External: Joel Kozwarski

Joel Kozwarski is the best pick for a couple of reasons. Although he does not have the same AMS experience as the next candidate on our list, Matthew Naylor, he has educated himself on the position of VP External as current VP External Ian Patillo's protégé.

Naylor was also considered but there were concerns about his apparent political allegiances and how it would affect his judgment. Secondly, Kozwarski's ideas are slightly more interesting than Naylor's. This ultimately led to our decision to choose him.

VP Finance: Brittany Tyson

On one hand, Brittany obviously has the background and technical knowledge to perform effectively in this capacity. On the other hand, Peter Rizov has fresh ideas and enthusiasm for the job. But the platform of something new against something old is getting a little, well, old. We can't count how many people over the past few years have ran on that platform. Maybe that stems from a lack of clear ideas, but whatever the case, this is the one position that should require previous knowledge of the position before anyone considers running.

Senate: Tariq Ahmed and Jaspreet Khangura

This was a hard choice to make for *the Ubyssey*. There are five elected members on Senate but we could really only make a choice on two of the candidates.

We've also decided to endorse Daniel Lin, Alfie Lee and Lawrence Song as the remaining three.

[Editors' note: The last three candidates were randomly picked out of a hat.]

Streeters

Is there any AMS candidate you feel passionate about voting for? Why?

—Andela Sterritt
Political Science, 4

"I don't vote. I partipated in the AMS two years ago, trying to get an indigenous seat—but there was so m uch racism, it was such a slap in the face."

—Dale Fan
DAP grad

"I have no idea who's running."

—Darren Watts
English, 4

"No, I have no clue about the AMS."

—Kristen Radatzke
Forestry, 2

"I don't know who any of the candidates are."

—Leyla Law
Science, 2

"The one I think is interesting is the 20 year-old just because it's admirable."

—Coordinated by Sarah Nelle Jackson and Kellan Higgins

PERSPECTIVE

Ubyssey still biased... again

by James Boucher

As Jimmy Carter has discovered, people who speak out against Israel's repression of the Palestinians run the risk of being called anti-Semites. That smear has been a handy tool for pro-Israel hardliners when they want to silence one of Israel's critics and show others what will happen if they speak up. And it must be effective, because relatively few in the West criticise Israeli policies, policies which include land expropriation, extra-judicial killings, state-sanctioned torture, shelling of civilian areas, and the creation of a situation in Gaza in which over a million people are going hungry. And last month UBC's student newspaper used the "anti-Semite" smear against our group, the campus branch of Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR).

One year ago *the Ubyssey* newspaper printed an article we submitted in which we pointed out that whenever they had touched on the Israel-Palestine conflict during the previous two years, they had shown a pro-Israel bias ("*Ubyssey* Presents Unequal Coverage on Israel and Palestine" [Jan. 10, 2006]). We acknowledged that every newspaper article has some kind of bias, but taking a pro-Israel stance ten times out of ten indicated a clear bias, and that was unacceptable in a newspaper funded by every UBC student.

You might think that a serious allegation, supported with numerous examples from *the Ubyssey*, would be something to which the paper would want to respond. Apparently not, though, because *the Ubyssey*'s editorial that day had nothing to say about our article. Rather, it concerned a subject which was in no way so time sensitive that it couldn't have been run in the subsequent issue a few days later. No comment about our article appeared in later issues either, which was too bad, because our group would have welcomed the start of a dialogue on these issues.

We submitted a second article later in the year ("*Ubyssey* Continues To Be Biased" [Sep. 29, 2006]). This examined the paper's coverage of the Israel-Lebanon war, and as with the first article, we supported our allegation of bias with numerous examples from the paper itself. Again, the paper ignored our allegation, despite the fact that its editorial that day was once more about a topic which could have appeared in the next issue.

[Editor's note: the issue discussed in that editorial was the RCMP apologising to Maher Arar the previous day]

One member of our group speculated that the paper's silence indicated recalcitrance on the part of staffers, but she changed her mind pretty quickly when *the Ubyssey's* end-of-term satire issue appeared [Dec. 1, 2006. Can be viewed in the UBC Library's Special Collections room]. Here in the lead article was a response for us, but we were disappointed to find that it consisted of only scorn and ridicule for the notion of bias at the paper. We had made a serious argument and supported it with numerous examples. We had kept the tone of our articles polite and professional. Yet 11 months after our first article appeared and three months after the second, *the Ubyssey*'s only response was simple derision.

Worse was to come inside the issue, where, among a slew of embarrassingly unfunny and mean-spirited satirical articles, is a letter-to-the-editor. It contains several ugly statements (eg. "every year, millions of babies are turned into kosher dog food by the Jewish cabal", etc.), and its author is given exactly the same name as one of two contact persons we gave the paper, with the exception of one changed letter in the name.

Nice smear, *Ubyssey* staffers. A proud moment in the paper's 88 year history. In response to a serious allegation which had been backed up with a lot of evidence, you pour scorn on the allegation, ignore the evidence, and throw slime at one of the persons making the allegation. That's pretty dismal, especially at a university. It also has an air of desperation about it—the same desperation seen among pro-Israel hardliners these days as they face growing international support for the Palestinian cause.

—James Boucher is a member of the Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights

T-Birds trump Trinity

Basketball Final

TWU Spartans at UBC Thunderbirds

	1st	2nd		
UBC: 16-2	59	42	101	Final
TWU: 8-11	37	42	79	

79 — 101

January 25, 2007 — War Memorial Gym, Vancouver, BC

by Boris Korby
SPORTS EDITOR

He might not be Lebron James or Sidney Crosby, but with the looming departure of star guard Casey Archibald next season, Chris Dyck is certainly the 'next one' as far as the UBC men's basketball team is concerned.

The third-year guard netted a UBC season high 34 points—27 in the first half alone—as the T-Birds run and gunned their way to a 101-79 win over the Trinity Western Spartans Thursday night at War Memorial Gym.

On the shoulders of Dyck, it took the Thunderbirds all of three minutes to secure their 16th victory of the season in front of one of the noisiest crowds of the season.

UBC opened the game on a 12-0 run and never looked back, building up a 20 point lead before the game was even ten minutes old. The T-Birds lead never dropped below 10 the rest of the way in the fast paced contest that saw UBC hit the century mark for just the fourth time this season.

"We've got some pretty good perimeter players and this transition game is always a style we've wanted to play," said Thunderbirds head coach Kevin Hanson.

The T-Birds showed league scoring leaders Trinity Western they could run and gun with the best of them in the rare weekday game, netting a season high 59 points in the first half.

"Once Chris [Dyck] got it going in the first half, it didn't matter what they were doing defensively," said Hanson. "He got the open looks and he was able to knock them down."

Dyck, a third-year transfer from the University of Manitoba, said Thursday's game was special.

"I was open a lot and it was just one of those nights where you feel like when you shoot it everything is going to go in," said Dyck. "It was just a fun game to play in."

"[The coaches] have just been telling me to be aggressive and shoot the ball when I'm open...and tonight was one of those nights where it just sunk."

The only downside to Thursday night's game was a first half injury to Archibald, who UBC will obviously be precautious with as the post-season approaches, and may miss up to two weeks.

KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTO

T-BIRDS, AM730 RADIO PART WAYS

UBC dropped to make way for all traffic format

KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTO

by Boris Korby
SPORTS EDITOR

UBC, SFU, Trinity Western and the University College of the Fraser Valley (UCFV) are being forced to look elsewhere in their continuing quest to promote university athletics to the city's mainstream sports audience.

AM730 radio—broadcast partner of the four Vancouver area universities over the past two and a half years—announced last month that it was parting ways with the schools, leaving them scrambling for coverage of the approximately 8-12 basketball games (depending on playoffs) left on the schedule.

The announcement was prompted by the decision to change the station's format to 24-hour traffic coverage, according to Jim Mullin, play-by-play voice for Vancouver's local universities and the man responsible for putting the original deal together between Corus (parent company of AM730) and the group of universities.

Scott Kobus, business development and promotions officer for UBC Athletics, said the University was a bit blindsided by the announcement.

"We had a contract with them for this year. Was there legal action that we possibly could have taken? Most likely, but at the end of the day it's just not worth pursuing," said Kobus, adding that UBC Athletics "doesn't want to work with a partner that doesn't want to work with us."

UBC Athletics, which has had a mainstream radio carrier for football and basketball games for the last five years on AM730 and the TEAM 1040, will be re-examining its coverage status in the new year and will be exploring every option available, including television, continued Kobus.

For now, UBC Athletics has been webcasting regular-season men's basketball games that have been dropped from the AM730 schedule—including last night's contest against Trinity Western—and plans to continue webcasts into the playoffs with Mullin at the helm.

"I'm glad UBC has been supportive after this whole thing broke up," said Mullin. "It seems like the other schools are running to the hills right now."

Mullin said that local universities need to put their differences aside if they hope to receive more than minimal coverage by Vancouver's mainstream media.

"University and high school sports just do not get covered in the mainstream media the way it should in this market," said Mullin.

"You need marketing in place to [receive coverage], you need to be able to sell ads to pay for it, and the most important thing is the individual schools have to put their rivalries aside and start learning how to work together, because this radio thing was the only thing that these schools actually worked together on."

big love
by Charles L. Mee
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Complaceny frustrates HIV/AIDS advocates

by Amanda Truscott
NEWS WRITER

Former mayor of Vancouver Philip Owen critiqued the current situation of HIV/AIDS at a community forum, "The Face of AIDS in Vancouver," on January 15 and stressed the importance of initiatives like safe injection sites (SIS) in preventing the spread of the disease.

"There are 100 of them in the world, but you can't get the local press to say 'this is nothing unique.'" he said of the media's refusal to accept the fact that these sites are not an aberration.

The fact that HIV/AIDS organisations still face continual frustrations due to a lack of funding and political support was made clear at the recent event presented by the International Peer Connection and the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users. Speakers at the forum emphasised the need to remove the stigma attached to people with HIV/AIDS, the need to increase the political will for change and the need for the various groups concerned with HIV/AIDS to work together.

"Over 12,000 British Columbians have become positive since 1985," said Will Small, the forum's moderator and a representative of the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS.

"Is the issue funding? I don't think it's funding. I think it's complacency," said Michael Rekart, director of STD/AIDS Control at the BC Center for Disease Control.

"There are 400 to 500 new infections in British Columbia every year," he added, "and the Olympics are an opportunity to get HIV/AIDS back on the agenda."

Speakers pinpointed homelessness as a big part of the problem. "When you close all the facilities like Riverview...you've just moved people with mental illnesses from the health environment and out onto the street and into the prisons," said Owen.

Street drugs then often take the place of prescribed medication, increasing the likelihood of transmitting the disease through intravenous drug use, he continued. Owen criticised the city's current treatment of the HIV/AIDS problem: "It's not working, it's not effective, and it doesn't make any sense," he said.

PANEL: Numerous experts spoke on the HIV/AIDS issue Janurary 15. **KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTO**

"I've lost well over 200 people close to me," said Glynt Townson, vice-chair of the Board of Directors for British Columbia Persons with AIDS. His partner and family members were the most difficult, he added, stating the importance of including people who have been infected with HIV/AIDS in efforts to prevent transmission of the disease.

"Our definition of positive prevention means that people living with HIV and AIDS need to be at the center of this discussion," he said.

"We are not dead."

Provincial government looks to end education scams

by Eric Szeto
CUP WESTERN BUREAU CHIEF

VANCOUVER (CUP)—The provincial government has begun looking into patching up loopholes that allow for abuse of BC's private post-secondary sector, a review critics have been demanding for years.

Over the next two weeks recommendations by Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell's staff will be presented to protect international students who are defrauded by illegal education operations.

"I intend to make some changes to regulations and policy to governing the private institutions and also ESL institutions as well," he said. "There will be some changes coming early this spring and some later."

While many are lauding the government's efforts, critics feel that this change in attitude was only a reaction to the warnings issued by the Chinese government urging its students to avoid BC's private post-secondary institutions, and appeals by the Indian Consulate General in October to help its Indian students affected by the shutdown of Kingston College.

"The Chinese Consulate General and the Indian Consulate General, they have definitely speeded up the process on which the changes will be made," Coell said.

Most of the attention over the past few months has been directed at Kingston College, the shut down in October when 25 Indian students claimed that their school had been denying them their deserved degrees. Kingston was also caught offering degrees from unaccredited out-of-province universities in London and California for the past six years.

Lansbridge University, under the same group as Kingston College and owned by Michael Lo of the Kingston Education group, was inspected by the province in November when those same students claimed that they were being offered Lansbridge degrees as compensation.

The inspection report was submitted to the minister on December 31 and is currently being reviewed by his staff. A report will be released this spring.

Many feel that the deregulation of the sector in 2002, which coincided with the legislation of the Degree Authorisation Act, is largely to blame for the proliferation of these rogue institutions.

NDP education critic Rob Fleming said the act—the province's way of properly accrediting private post-secondary institutions—has lacked the teeth necessary to enforce these rules.

"Even if you offer a poor education product or even deliberately defraud and mislead students there are no penalties here," said Fleming.

"We've left students high and dry with tens of thousands of dollars," he said, referring to the Indian students who were denied their degrees from Kingston College. "And it's directly related to consumer related protection that was stripped in 2003."

Cindy Oliver, president of the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators, said that BC's private post-secondary sector is a "buyer beware" situation.

"It devalues the credentials that come out of the public system," she said. "It taints the legitimate public post-secondary system which is extremely accountable and transparent and it paints us with that same brush."

She said that as the system stands, it is not accountable to anyone. The Private Career Training Institute Agency (PCTIA), she said, created as a watchdog for the private post-secondary sector in BC, is riddled with conflicts of interest.

Michael Lo, owner of the Kingston Education Group, was appointed to the PCTIA quality assurance committee by the government.

Oliver equated this to "the elephant looking after the room where the peanuts are held."

It is mandatory for all private institutions offering career programs equal to or above $1,000 in tuition and equal to or above 40 hours in duration to be registered with the PCTIA. However, accreditation, which examines the quality of private institutions and their programs, is voluntary.

Coell said that the ministry performs regular audits of private post-secondary institutions and ESL schools to deter illegal operations.

"What I'm hoping to do is create a regime that gives some confidence back to students, foreign students especially because we have such a large number of them coming to British Columbia," he said.

According to the 2005 BC Progress Board report, the province's public and private education secotr annually hosts about 150,000 international students, adding nearly $2 billion to the local economy each year.

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Come to the Ubyssey office, SUB Room 23 today for the tickets.

On January 23 issue in the AMS supplement Alfie Lee's photo was incorrectly put in Lawrence Song's section. Below are the correct photos. *The Ubyssey* regrets the error.

LAWRENCE SONG

ALFIE LEE