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THE UBYSSEY

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Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Volume 86 Issue 3

Students may pay for summer transit program

CARDED: With no summer U-Pass, an AMS program aimed to lower costs for commuters. **ANTON BUENO PHOTO**

by Sarah Bourdon
NEWS EDITOR

A referendum will decide if UBC students will pay to retroactively fund a transit subsidy program that was offered to summer students in July by the Alma Mater Society (AMS).

In the second summer term, 432 students had their Translink passes subsidised after the AMS approved a program to substitute for the four-month absence of the U-Pass, said AMS VP External Holly Foxcroft.

"We worked with the university and Translink to come up with some kind of deal for students which recognised that students in the summer also incur financial burdens while they're studying," said Foxcroft. "There's a difference between paying $20 a month and $63 a month and up to $120 a month."

Students who had purchased two- or three-zone transit passes to commute for summer classes could be compensated so that they only had to pay the amount of a one-zone pass plus a $1 fee, similar to Translink's Faresaver program.

Funding for the subsidies was provided equally by UBC and the student society, with the overall costs totalling $14,226. The AMS' contribution came from a contingency fund, which is reserved for special, one-time projects that don't fit into other budgeting categories, said Foxcroft.

The AMS referendum, which will be held this year, will decide if all students will pay a one-time fee of approximately 50 cents per student to cover the society's expenses. If students vote to oppose the fee, the money from the fund will not be replaced.

However, money from the contingency fund should not have been used for a project like the transit subsidy without prior student consultation, said Richard Davis, a student society representative from the Faculty of Arts.

"The contingency fund is not supposed to be used for these types of things," said Davis, emphasising that the society shouldn't spend the money before it is guaranteed to be replaced. In addition, holding a referendum is costly, said Davis.

"Spending thousands of dollars on a referendum to decide on an issue that was already decided in the summer is a waste," he said.

When asked about paying to cover other students' transit subsidies, one UBC student was unsure.

"It would depend on how [the students] got the passes. If it was just random for trying to feel out how that program would work then I'd pay it," said Mark Trischuk, a third-year Arts student. "But if it was just kind of first-come, first-serve and some people knew about it and some people didn't I don't think I'd want to pay. But it is also only 50 cents, that doesn't seem like very much."

A separate referendum to be held this year will address the question of whether students want a summer U-Pass in 2005. Although the AMS was unable to establish a full summer U-Pass for 2004, surveys completed by subsidy program users indicated that many students would support a U-Pass for 2005, said Foxcroft.

"About 95 per cent said yes they would support a summer U-Pass and the five per cent that did not support it said it was because they were not going to be here next year," she said.

The AMS is in the process of looking at what will be required to bring in a U-Pass program for the summer. Translink is reviewing last year's program to determine how well the program functioned and whether a fare increase will be introduced for the U-Pass in 2005.

Until Translink finishes its review, the referendum dates are unknown, said Foxcroft. ❖

Turf war for McInnes Field

Plans to revamp greenspace get mixed reactions

by Eric Szeto
NEWS WRITER

As plans for UBC's University Town progress, McInnes Field will undergo many changes, including a size adjustment, the building of a new outdoor pool and the potential installation of an astroturf surface.

The University Boulevard Neighbourhood Plan calls for the large greenspace east of the Student Union Building to be lengthened, stretching a greater distance between the new temporary busloop and the SUB.

"McInnes Field gets reoriented," said Joe Redmond, vice president of UBC Properties Trust. "The field actually becomes larger than what it was."

However, the field will no longer span the entire distance between the Student Recreation Centre and the War Memorial Gym. Space will be made for a new outdoor pool, which will replace the Empire Pool, currently located outside the Aquatics Centre.

In addition, an astroturf sports surface may be incorporated into the field's new design, said Redmond.

"There are two schools of thought. One is to replace the natural turf at McInnes Field and put in an artificial field," said Redmond. "Some people from intramurals think that would be great because that field becomes beat up very quickly in the fall. They can get a lot more use out of it."

However, there is also support for maintaining the natural grass on the field, according to Redmond.

"So the question is: is it better an artificial or grass? I think for some reason to keep the grass because it is used for parking sometimes and it is used for barbeques," explained Redmond, adding that with natural plots of land becoming scarce at UBC, preserving the remaining natural fields is important.

"The area will be a precious area in terms of open space," stated Redmond. "It would be nice to have it so that even if [the field] is artificial there's enough natural planting around it whether it's trees and grass or other things, seating areas that make it a comfortable area for that precinct."

McInnes Field is widely used by students as a sports space and event area, and that should be maintained in the future, said Bryan Jung, a 2nd year Law student.

"It's nice because it's in a central area," said Jung. "Can't they astroturf a field somewhere else?"

In a Alma Mater Society (AMS) council meeting on September 2, discussion about the addition of an artificial surface produced mixed reactions.

See "Turf war" page 2.

Relocate or eliminate?

University Town planners seeking student input on the future of grassy knoll

by Dan McRoberts
NEWS STAFF

UBC's landmark grassy knoll, which stands between the old bus loop and South SUB Plaza, will be soon be destroyed to make way for an underground bus loop. University planners may build a replacement, but they say that more input from students is needed on the matter.

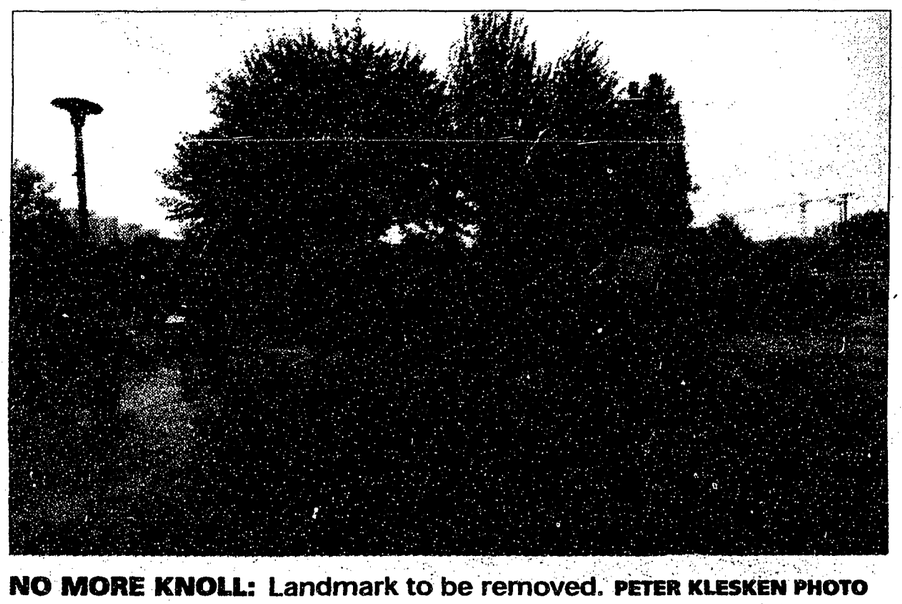
The knoll is part of the University Boulevard Neighbourhood Plan, included in the larger University Town development, said Linda Moore, associate director of external affairs for University Town.

"It's a consequence of the design and construction of an underground transit station," she said in reference to the planned removal of the knoll. "It needs to be at the very least temporarily removed."

As for any plans to replace or relocate the landscaping feature, Moore said that while replacing green space will be part of the architectural competitions, it still requires strong student support to become a reality.

"It depends on the desire for the grassy knoll to stay. We have heard that students really like it," she said.

See "Grassy knoll" page 2.



NO MORE KNOLL: Landmark to be removed. **PETER KLESKEN PHOTO**

THIS ISSUE:

FEATURE: Pot wars
A reporter's first-hand account of the Da Kine raid.
Page 4.

CULTURE: Festival fun
Fringe and kickstART
Pages 6-7.

EDITORIAL: We're keeping our fifty cents
Transit subsidy referendum gets a no vote from *the Ubyssey*.
Page 6.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

UBC FOOD COOP PRESENTS SPROUTS, a student run, not for profit cooperative grocery store. Find snacks, fresh produce, ready-made- meals, baked goods and more on the lower level of the SUB. Open 11-6 Monday to Friday.

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COMPUTER, MONITOR, AND PRINTER FOR SALE. Dell Pentium, Celeron 400MHz, 6Gb hard drive, 64MB Ram, Win 98, Office 97 and a 14inch monitor for $150. Canon BJ2000 with a brand new B & W cartridge also available for an additional $25. Please contact Alexandra at 604 240-4893.

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In last weeks Page Friday in the article entitled "Abstract Myth," *the Ubyssey* referred to Haida artist Robert Davidson as Robertson twice.

—*the Ubyssey* regrets the error.

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*Available only to students who have not opted-out.

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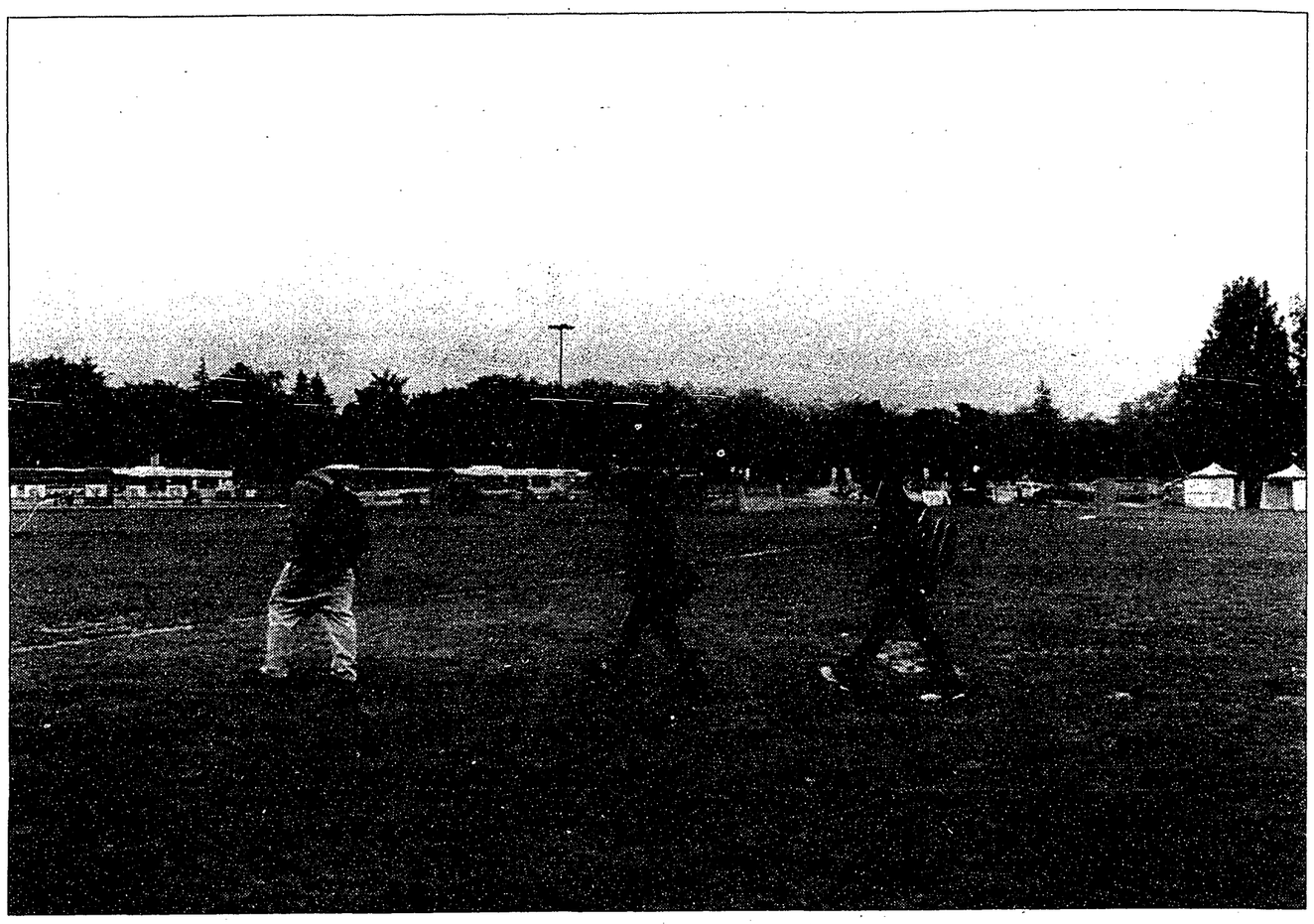


ASTRO-FIELD OF DREAMS: McInnes Field's natural grass may be replaced. PETER KLESKEN PHOTO

Campus space needed for student relaxation

"Turf war" from page 1.

"In general the feedback that I've heard is sort of two part. Advocates for the artificial turf can expand the uses in terms of varsity. It's good thing," explained Brenda Ogembo, the student society's VP Academic. "But I've also heard a little more from students against the turf because once you reinstate some varsity-type turf, then it kind of precludes the use of the field. It might make it not as easy for students to use the turf."

Maintaining a greenspace for student use is important and should be considered in decisions made about McInnes Field, according to Ogembo.

"Given the fact that the grassy knoll is probably being relocated, perhaps McInnes needs then to be preserved," stated Ogembo. "A field next to the SUB where students can relax is really useful." ❖

Student consultation opportunities underused

"Grassy knoll" from page 1.

"It's a question of if there is a lot of interest in it being reconstructed and if so, where."

While the Alma Mater Society (AMS) does not have an official position on the grassy knoll, VP Academic Brenda Ogembo expressed her desire to see some sort of replacement green space created.

"I've raised several times my concerns over the lack of green space and the need for a space for students to relax," she said. "It means a lot to a lot of students, in terms of Storm the Wall and such like...there needs to be a better space committed to replace it."

Ogembo serves on the Public Space Committee, a body that includes representatives from the student body, University Town, faculty and the AMS. The Public Space Commitee arranged a consultation workshop in May to discuss the green space issue. Only 18 people attended the event, which has disappointed Linda Moore.

"We are creating these opportunities, we are committed to consultation and we welcome the input," said Moore, who has high hopes for the follow-up session, scheduled for Sept 18 in SUB Room 200, starting at 9:30 am.

"I'm just hoping that we'll hear from more people...come forward and let us know what is important with the university neighbourhood."

Getting students to care about campus development issues is a major challenge, Ogembo acknowledged.

"I don't think that it's apathy," she said. "It is challenging in the sense that campus development issues are fairly complicated and it's hard to get students to have a point of attachment with those issues."

UBC needs to do a better job of taking student's input into account, according to Ogembo.

"The university has to take that input to heart, not just to consult and then do what they would like to do," she said. "That's part of the point where students think it's futile because you go to these workshops and then where does that information go?

"I think in recent times they've improved. There is always more that can be done as far as consultation is concerned." ❖

'TWEENS

$2.50 Tuesday Karaoke at the Gallery
Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Show up at the Gallery Lounge in the SUB to sing your heart out.

AMS Welcome Back Barbeque
Friday, September 17, 2004

Enjoy live music by Popjoy at MacInnes Field from 1-8pm, remember to bring 2 pieces of ID, and $3 to get in!

Salsa and Flamenco Latin Dance Party
Friday, September 17, 2004

Dance away in SUB Ballroom starting with a Flamenco lesson at 6pm, and a Salsa lesson at 7pm followed by a Latin Dance Party from 8pm until late. Only $3 for the whole night!

Magnifying Mindanao (A Monterona Art Exhibition)
September 7-17, 2004

View some fine art at UBC Institute of Asian Research located in the CK Choi Building (1855 West Mall).

Minority government is good: students

by Megan Thomas
CUP OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF

OTTAWA (CUP) — Student groups are optimistic the first federal minority government in 24 years will be good for post-secondary education after the cabinet wrapped up its first retreat September 8 in Kelowna, BC.

"We're definitely excited about the opportunity that we think it will provide," said James Kusie, national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, a student lobby group. "All parties will have more of a say and every party agrees that post-secondary education is a priority."

The optimism stems from the need for a minority government to find common ground with opposition parties on important issues to survive.

"It will shake up not just the House, but all the committees," said George Soule, national chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, another student lobby group. "It will force the government to find a consensus among all the parties in the House."

> "Hopefully, he will do the right thing, which is to make good on the commitment he made to students."
>
> —George Soule
> National Chair,
> Canadian Federation of Students

Soule hopes the shakeup will allow Prime Minister Paul Martin to move forward with initiatives like establishing dedicated transfer payments to the provinces for post-secondary education, something Martin discussed publicly during the election campaign.

"The fact that he brought that up and that the other parties were pretty solid on education as well shows that he is going to have to do something. Hopefully he will do the right thing, which is to make good on the commitment he made to students," Soule said.

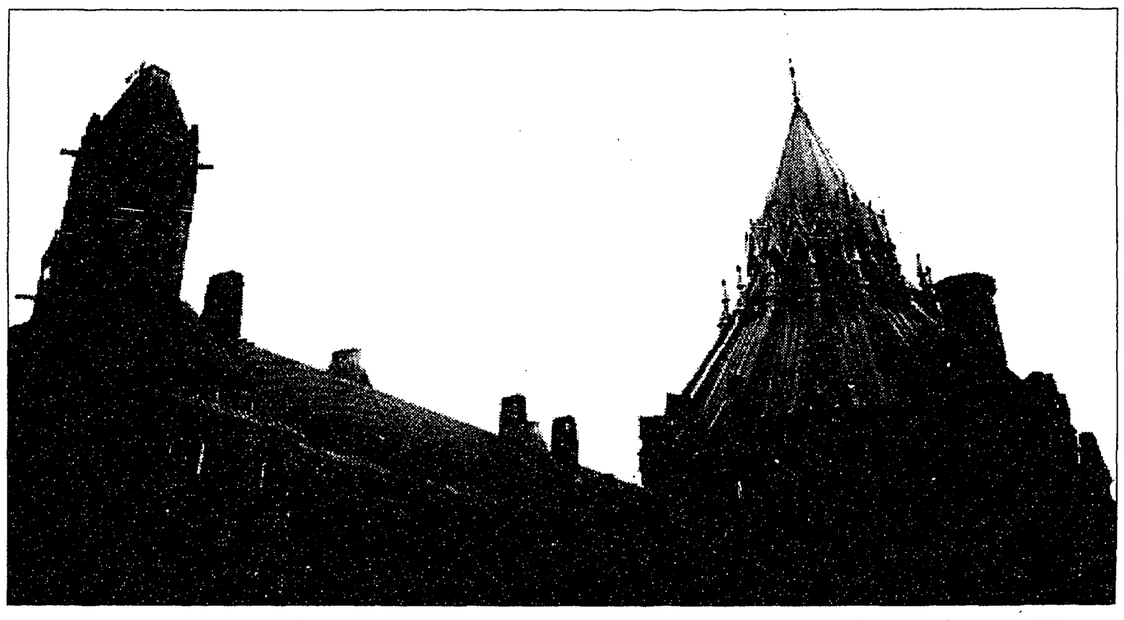
With the Bloc Québécois and the New Democratic Party traditionally supportive of post-secondary education, the Liberals could build consensus and make policy in this area, said Michael Behiels, a professor at the University of Ottawa who specialises in Canadian politics.

"The Liberals will go legislation by legislation, looking for the votes where they know they can get them," the professor said.

But Behiels cautioned major education policy changes from this government are not likely. "There is no going back to the old system of the federal government cost sharing post-secondary education," he said. "You won't see tuition fees dropping."

Instead, federal money will likely be funnelled into the post-secondary system through specific initiatives, such as Canada Research Chairs and Centres of Excellence at universities, Behiels added.

"All of that is in place and I don't see Martin changing much," he said. "I don't see any drastic change in the federal government's role in post-secondary education."



RAUCOUS CAUCUS: Student groups are hopeful the post-secondary system will benefit from the Liberal minority in Parliament. CUP/STEPHEN HUI PHOTO

Any changes will also likely be slow in coming, since minority governments traditionally take twice as long as majorities to pass legislation. "There is a lot more negotiation that has to go on," Behiels said.

How much federal money is available and whether it will go to social programs or to paying down the country's debt depends on the strength of the Canadian economy and the state of interest rates, he added.

"As long as interest rates stay so low, there is really no rush to panic about the debt," he said, adding Martin will likely take the same pragmatic approach to distributing funds as he did while serving as finance minister under Jean Chrétien.

The last minority government, under Conservative Prime Minister Joe Clark, existed from 1979 to 1980 and fell after just nine months, when support for a proposed gas tax waned.

But the current government is not facing an issue that would unite all three opposition parties strongly enough to bring down the Liberal minority.

Instead, Canadians will likely see another quick election, possibly as early as next year, Behiels said. ❖

Palestinian family remains in church sanctuary

Refugee advocates call for appeals process while Ayoubs await answers

by Alex Dobrota
THE LINK

MONTRÉAL (CUP) — The seven months Nabih Ayoub has spent under the fluorescent lights of a Montréal church basement are slowly starting to erode his patience.

"I'm growing very tired," said the 70-year old Palestinian. "I'm growing very tired of being imprisoned in here," he added, clasping his hands and suppressing a sigh.

Together with his brother, Khalil, and his wife, Thérèse Boulos Haddad, Nabih sought refuge in the Notre Dame de Grace Roman Catholic Church on January 28. Earlier that month, the Immigration and Refugee Board had denied them refugee status, despite documented claims that their lives would be in danger should they return to the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp in Lebanon.

Although their lawyer, Sabine Venturelli, filed an application to have them stay in Canada based on humanitarian grounds, the Ayoubs, all approaching their 70s, could be arrested and deported if they step outside the church basement.

So, they remain holed up, rarely venturing outside to get a glimpse of the sunlight. As Immigration Minister Judy Sgro keeps mum about how she plans to revamp the Canadian refugee system, the Ayoubs' fate remains in limbo.

For Janet Dench, executive director of the Canadian Council for Refugees, the Ayoubs' case is emblematic of the failures of the Canadian refugee system. Churches offering sanctuary to refugees are simply making up for the shortcomings of a system that fails those it sets out to protect, she said.

"The system is failing people, and that is why people are turning to churches," she added.

According to Dench, the current configuration of the Immigration and Refugee Board places the fate of refugee claimants in the hands of a single judge and leaves them with little recourse of appeal in case of a refusal.

"The quality of the decision makers varies tremendously," she said. "Board members are appointed through political connections and not on the basis of their competence. If they make the wrong decision, the recourse is very, very limited."

Apart from demanding resident status based on humanitarian grounds, refugees who have been wrongly refused can also apply to the Federal Court or demand a pre-removal risk assessment.

However, these recourses have a less than one per cent chance of success, according to Venturelli, who specialises in refugee cases.

"Basically, if the person who gets to decide on a certain case got out of bed on the wrong side, the refugee's fate is sealed," she said.

Under pressure from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Canadian Parliament passed a law in 2001 restructuring the immigration board and providing an appeal mechanism based on the merit of the claim.

But in 2002, then-Minister of Immigration Denis Coderre refused to implement the appeal division fearing an increase in the number of refugee claims. The immigration board had 53,000 cases to process at that time. This year, the number of cases has dropped to 30,000.

"Denis Coderre promised that the appeal would be brought into effect in a year," said Dench. "It is a promise that hasn't been kept."

And, according to the spokesperson for the current immigration minister, it is a promise that hasn't yet been endorsed by Coderre's successor.

"No decision yet," Francine Bureau answered when asked whether Sgro plans to implement the refugee appeal division as laid down in the law in 2001. "We will be conducting in the months ahead a review of the refugee process. We will have to see what comes out of that."

The heads of the seven Canadian churches offering sanctuary to refugees have already asked Sgro to implement the appeal mechanism.

Popular support is also rising. Protesters picketed Prime Minister Paul Martin's office two weeks ago, and the Coalition Against the Deportation of Palestinian Refugees is organising a September 18 protest march in Montréal.

The Ayoubs, for their part, can do little more than wait.

To pass the time, Nabih plays solitaire. Khalil has discovered a passion for puzzles, and Thérèse studies French from manuals, writing down definitions in her notebook. She hopes this will serve her well if they are granted status.

"We've spent three years in Canada before receiving the deportation order," said Nabih with knitted brows. "Those were the only three years during which we've actually felt like human beings.

"We were moved around in refugee camps for 56 years. I don't want to be moved around anymore. I just want to lie down here and die." ❖

A DIFFICULT SANCTUARY: Khalil Aboud in his temporary home. CUP/ALEX DOBROTA PHOTO

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ONE OF A KINE: This Commercial Drive store was raided Thursday for selling pot. PETER KLESKEN PHOTO

Is this Da Kine of store you want in your neighborhood?

A personal account of the Commercial Drive raid

by Jon Piron
FEATURES WRITER

On Thursday, September 9, I walked into Da Kine, a local pot shop on Commercial Drive that was recently shut down for illegal operations, looking to investigate the details of its closure. I did not know that the police were going to raid Da Kine during the fifteen minute interval I decided to delve into my report. Needless to say, I got quite the story out of it.

Upon entering Da Kine with my partner in journalistic crime, I was immediately stopped by one of Da Kine's employees and asked to sign a registration application requiring intelligence about my age, address, doctor or physician, physical condition and other information, such as what effect cannabis has on my health. Despite the employees' prudence, my friend looked over in amazement and asked, "How can they be doing this openly? I thought it was illegal." Almost as though her conscience had summoned them, the next thing I heard was a cop screaming, "EVERYBODY DOWN! KEEP YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR!" Then a mob of masked raiders rushed through shoving me lightly off to the side. Though they were originally aggressive, this was merely a safety precaution; they soon spawned into an extremely classy and cordial group of people "just doing their jobs."

After taking down all of my information, searching me for drugs and taking a picture of me with a police officer smiling on my shoulder, they told me I was going to be released, but that I was now "under investigation." Being a reporter, I guess I could say that they were "under investigation," too.

I was soon escorted off the premises by two officers (neither of whom could answer any of my questions). There already appeared to be a demonstration starting in support of Da Kine outside. News reporters were everywhere, and so were marijuana activists. Some were shouting phrases like, "This is a perversion of justice," and "Da Kine is the best thing to ever happen to this street. Their competition has driven the unsafe drug dealers back down to East Hastings. Now those drug lords are going to be back here tomorrow." One person stated, "Why don't you pigs go fight the real crime in Vancouver? Ten people are buying crack and heroin on East Hastings right now, but you stay here and flex your muscles on prime-time news making this whole street stop business for your little showdown? Have you ever thought of asking the people? Nearly everyone in this area supports this store being open!" Everyone seemed to agree that Commercial Drive has made major improvements since the opening of Da Kine.

After such a long and crazy day I decided to consult a couple professionals on the topic of marijuana legalization.

First was an old economics professor of mine from the University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Dr Alan Schlottman, who said that when cops fight the supply of drugs they increase the cost of drugs. For lower-income addicts this usually means doing whatever it takes to compensate for this increase in price. An increase in crime almost always results. The only positive economic factor for fighting marijuana is that the increase in price decreases the demand for the drug in the long run. In other words, in the long run people stop starting drug habits that will be too expensive to sustain. Schlottman emphasised, however, that the enormous amount of money to be made, and therefore taxed, if marijuana is legalised, must also be considered. But it's hard to put a dollar sign behind an issue involving the safety of people. Parents are afraid of having even more intoxicated drivers on their streets, which would certainly happen with the legalisation of marijuana, especially since stores such as Da Kine would most likely move to the suburbs.

Another professional, a Harvard trained counselor and psychologist with a strong background in medicine, C. William Coakley, said via email, "Each side [of this argument] will take the position on marijuana's effects as it needs to serve their own interests. What people do in the privacy of their own homes/spaces does not need to be regulated. Drinking, even to excesses, does not become criminal until someone steps into a car and threatens the lives, welfare, and property of others... The effects of smoking one joint can last up to ten days. Thus, the act of smoking pot must be examined in terms of its societal consequences within that term. Does a doctor legally smoking pot on a Saturday night have the right to perform surgery on Monday morning? What about a school bus driver? ...How do I question my stock broker or my insurance agent about his pot usage, if legal?"

Coakley goes on to conclude, "Theoretically, I have no problem with people living their lives freely; I just don't want to pay for their mistakes. My car insurance is way too high because people are allowed to have 20 drinks at a bar before stepping behind the wheel. If there was a way to regulate this behaviour more effectively, I would support it, especially if it meant my paying less for insurance. I don't believe there is an effective method to regulate marijuana usage, which is why I don't support its legalisation right now. Maybe someday when cars, computers, scalpels and machinery are operated by beings who do not feel the effects of marijuana, I might change my mind."

Despite any arguments for or against marijuana legalisation, Vancouver Mayor Larry Campbell said that of his mail pertaining to marijuana, approximately 75% of it is in favor of allowing these cafes to remain open.

Da Kine re-opened for business on Friday, the day following the raid. ❖

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⌘Generates photo ideas

Position papers (like resumes, only funnier) are due by noon on Friday, September 17. They will be displayed in *the Ubyssey* office (SUB Room 24). Hirings will be determined through an election at noon on Wednesday September 22. Candidates should be present and prepared to answer questions submitted by the staff. Tea and soda cookies served thereafter.

QUESTIONS? EMAIL!
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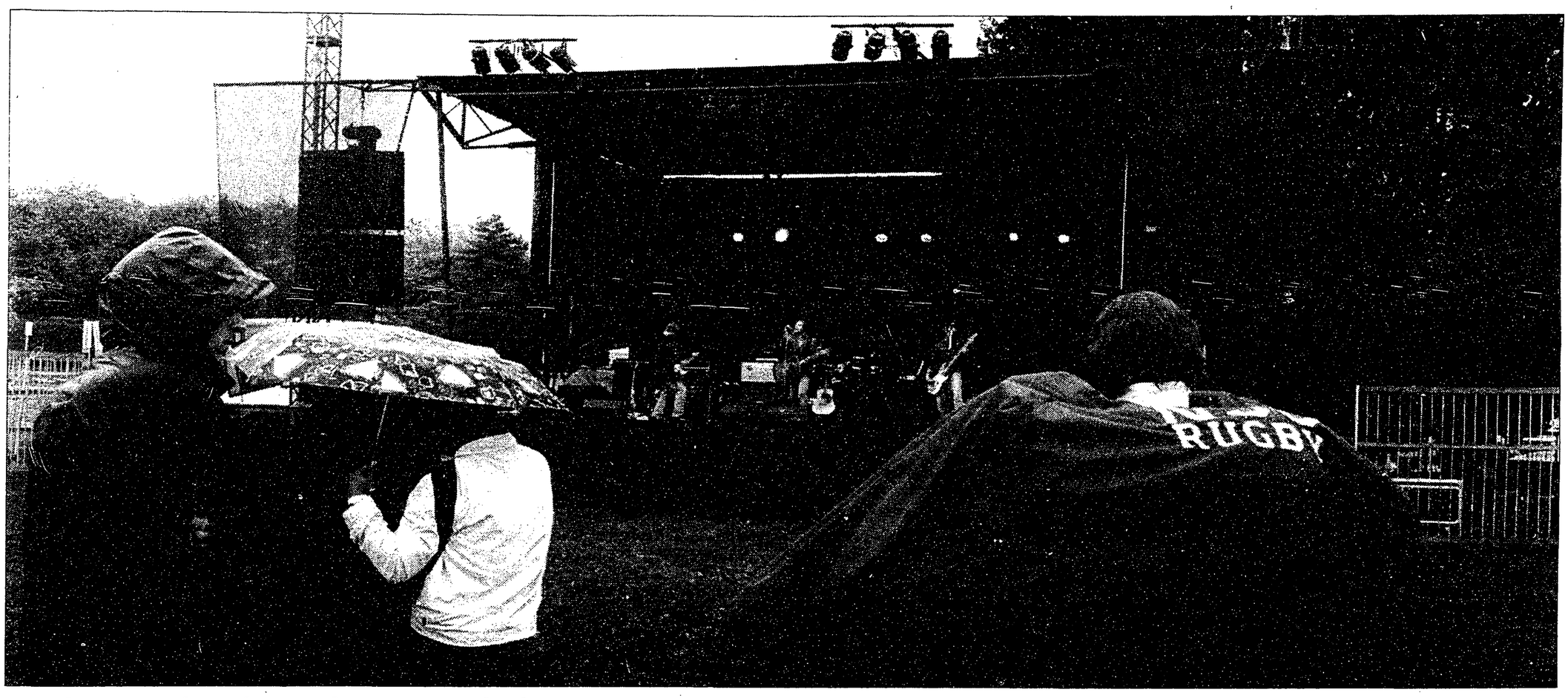


At least the bands stayed dry

While only a few attended the party on McInnes field on Friday night, those that were there had a wet and wonderful time. **PETER KLESKEN PHOTO**

There's nothing weak about this

A PIT OF FUN: The much anticiapted Weakerthans wow new crowd of Pit-goers. **PETER KLESKEN PHOTO**

The Weakerthans
With guests The Doers, The Feminists
Candlelight Sessions at the Pit
Sept. 9

by Jenn Cameron
CULTURE WRITER

Last Thursday I found myself doing something that I swore I would never do again. I was waiting in line to get into the Pit. (I've done it before, and I hang my head in shame.) This time I was in line at 7:30, and the doors weren't opening until 9. By 8:00 the line reached almost to the arcade. Ugh.

However, this night I wasn't in line waiting to get pushed around by halter tops and cheap cologne, because on Thursday the Pit catered to a different crowd. Halters and cologne were replaced by studded belts, numerous piercings, and my favourite accessory, Converse All-Star sneakers. These sneakers were here to see the Weakerthans, an established Winnipeg punk band formed by former Propagandhi member John K. Samson.

With four albums under their belt since 1998, the Weakerthans have developed quite a fan base. The Pit was packed, and I heard that some people came up from the big ol' U.S. of A. Can you imagine, coming from the States to go to the Pit?

The show opened up with a set from The Feminists, who despite lots of energy, didn't grab my attention. The second band, The Doers, brought the show up a notch, with spunk, attitude, and a unique sound that got the crowd more revved for what they actually came for. Either that or I was slowly getting more drunk. Take your pick.

When Samson and his crew finally hit the stage, the crowd was bursting with anticipation, and I could have sworn that the number of people in the bar doubled. As they began their set, I could see what all the fuss was about.

Energy was high, songs were melodic, and lyrics were, well... insightful. The band played loud power chord driven music that really got the masses moving, as well as soft, pleasing songs that I caught a few people singing along to. Everyone was into it for the simple fact that the band just has a sound that gets to your gut.

Samson has a coy shyness about him that makes you like him from the moment he gets on stage till the moment he leaves...ok, so maybe longer. His expression is a smirk with soul behind it, giving him attitude as well as sensitivity.

The Weakerthans have something that most punk bands of this era don't: variety. They don't go with what's expected of them, they're not just politics and noise; their social criticism is tangible and real. The Weakerthans have a sound that is honest. For once, waiting in line to get into the Pit was worth it. ❖

McLachlan basks in audience afterglow

Sarah McLachlan
at GM Place
Sept. 10

by Megan Turnbull
CULTURE WRITER

From the opening notes of the first single "Fallen" off of her new album, *Afterglow,* Sarah McLachlan captivated the crowd at GM Place on Friday night by seamlessly moving through her set of passionate, heartfelt songs. She played all but one of the songs from *Afterglow* as well as classics from her last two studio albums *Surfacing* and *Fumbling Towards Ecstasy.*

A haunting rendition of "Fear," in which McLachlan showed off her incredible vocal range left the audience in absolute awe. Another unique performance was the chilling, stripped-down presentation of "Ice" for which the band all congregated to one side of the stage, creating a cozy, intimate feeling that almost made you forget you were in a stadium. An obvious crowd favourite was Building a Mystery," which came about three quarters of the way through the show and finally got the overly tame crowd to their feet. Once standing, the crowd expressed its gratitude with a lengthy round of applause to which McLachlan smiled and bowed ever so graciously.

From this point on the band kept the audience uplifted with sing-along songs such as "Ice Cream" and recent radio hit "Stupid." A personal highlight, as an ardent Beatles fan, was the beautiful cover of "Blackbird" that she performed with Sean Ashby accompanying on acoustic guitar.

MCLACHLAN

McLachlan released *Afterglow* last winter to a ravenous fan base who had been waiting patiently for new material since her last studio album, *Surfacing,* which came out in 1997. Vancouver fans were tested even further as they had to wait until the last stop of the tour to hear the new songs live.

Patience proved worthwhile as McLachlan and her band treated us to a flawless performance. The band was relaxed, but incredibly tight and dynamic; this is probably due to the fact that some of her band members (including her husband and drummer Ashwin Sood) have been with her for over 16 years.

Sarah McLachlan may have lost some of the alternative edge that she possessed in the early years of her career, but she's gained a maturity and confidence that assures us she's here for good.

In today's music industry of over-produced, pre-packaged pop, it is refreshing to hear a musician whose amazing talent is even more evident live than it is on CD. At the end of the two-hour set, GM Place was filled with satisfied, smiling fans. Would it be too obvious to call this the true afterglow? ❖

Don't cut this fringe!

Ring a ding-dong dandy

One Man Lord of the Rings
at Waterfront Theatre, Granville Island
Sept. 14, 17, 18

Dan McRoberts
CULTURE STAFF

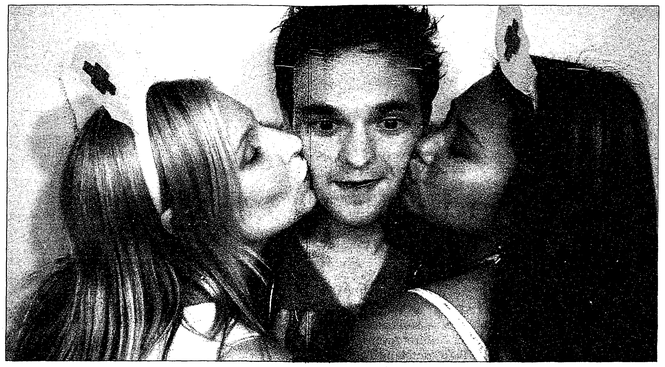
Think of it as Coles Notes on speed. In his latest solo tour-de-force, impressionist Charles Ross manages to condense the entire Lord of the Rings movie trilogy into 70 sweat-soaked minutes. The show is nothing short of spectacular as Ross moves seamlessly through note-perfect renditions of almost every major character from Tolkien's epic.

Clad simply in a black shirt and pants, Ross performed on a barren stage. This simplicity allows the audience to focus on the subtleties of Ross's facial contortions, which play a crucial role in his realisation of certain characters. His greatest strength, however, is the accuracy of his vocal imitations and the fluidity of his transitions between characters.

Ross did not merely take us through a truncated version of the films. He scattered his own comedic observations throughout the performance, even asking that pressing question about the nature of Sam and Frodo's relationship. His take on Legolas drew gales of laughter from the audience, as did his version of several climatic fight sequences.

The night was primarily one of laughter, but Ross demonstrated considerable range in accurately reflecting the more poignant moments from the films. It was no surprise that the audience rose as one to salute his efforts as the stage lights went dark.

Any fan of the trilogy will be sure to enjoy the show and even Gandalf himself had a grand old time Saturday night. Sir Ian McKellen slipped inconspicuously into the audience just as Ross was getting started and soon his distinctive laughter was rattling the rafters. ❖



Big Apple charm

New York Hospital: The Musical
at Performance Works, Granville Island
Sept. 16, 17, 18

by Ania Mafi
CULTURE EDITOR

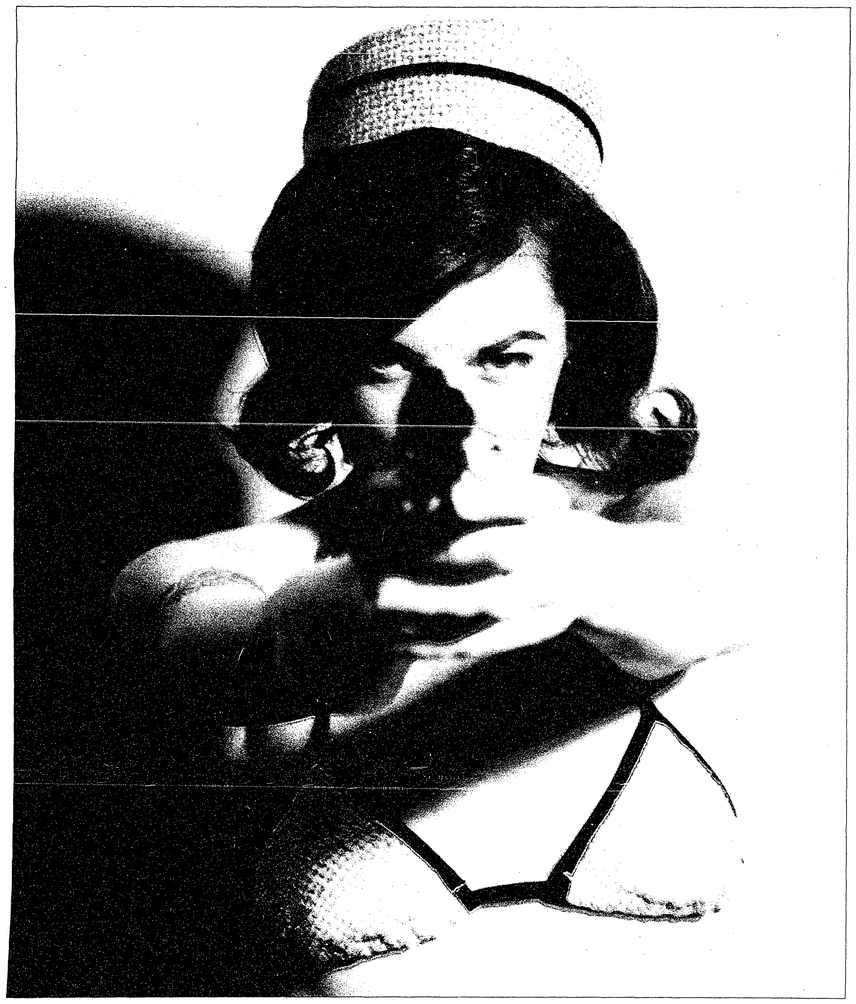
Written and directed by UBC graduate Martin Wong, *New York Hospital: The Musical* proved to be a delightful production, not yet ready for the "Big Apple," but an amusing addition at the Fringe Festival.

The plot revolved around the Bobby, the male nurse's struggle to follow his heart and become a Broadway sensation, while being stuck in a career he finds no interest in. With the other nurses lusting after him, Bobby doesn't swing his stethoscope near anyone but Becky, the virgin surgeon he secretly yearns for. Although the play is rated 14 and up, trust me: this lusting doesn't give this rating any backing, for all you're getting is a few comedic grabs here and there.

Although there is only so much plot development that can happen in an hour, the play could have been more elaborate and less focused on the repetition of the opening show-tune, "New York City Hospital," that was executed by three sexy nurses shimmying across the stage. Cute, but enough is enough already. When a new musical number finally broke up the repetitious jingle, the audience was roaring with laughter to numbers "So In Like" and "Anything But a Man Nurse."

The voices of Alexandria Beck and Shane Kolmansberger, who play Becky and Bobby, are strong, powerful and natural. Beck by far was the most amazing performer in the cast. With a Bachelor of Music in Opera from UBC, Beck demonstrated her wide vocal range and spectacular consistency throughout the show.

Serving as the perfect breeding ground for raw talent to blossom, the many voices of this almost entirely UBC cast are sure to eventually find their way to New York's big city stages. For now, this play will give Fringe goers a laugh for their money, but will leave audiences a little more impressed with the singers than the script. ❖



Bringin' the House down

Say yes to small budget and big laughs

the House of Yes
at the Elliott Louis Gallery, Granville Island
Sept, 14, 18, 19

by Marisa Chandler
CULTURE WRITER

So usually when the Fringe Festival starts I make some vague plans to go and see at least one of the plays because supporting creativity and independent theatre is important etc... whatever, and then I get 'surprised' when the festival has ended and I haven't even managed to find out where or when anything was playing or what any of them were about. It takes too much research to find out where and when things are on, but a show I'm glad I found this year is "the House of Yes."

I love the movie starring Parker Posey, and I love the production I saw of it last year at Granville Island. So I thought this play was worth seeing again, this time at the Elliot Louis Gallery.

"The House of Yes," written by Wendy Macleod, has pretty much everything I would ever want in a script: witty dialogue, intriguing characters, a sense of mystery, sexual innuendo, insanity and even a little bit of historical content (that's right, you might learn something!). I don't want to give away how it ends so I'll stop there.

Wendy Macleod came up with the bizarre plot for this delightfully twisted black comedy when she once saw "We are living in a House of Yes" scrawled in the washroom of a wealthy family, which inspired her to write about amorality and the upper class and basically people who don't ever hear or understand the word "no." Despite its annoying tendency to get people 'thinking,' this play is really wonderful and entertaining. It keeps you on the edge of your seat, even if you already know how it ends.

Unfortunately it's a play that fares a little better when it has a bigger budget (or any budget whatsoever). I also understand that every actor needs to start somewhere, but I would appreciate it if they did it somewhere where I didn't have to see them. There was one actress in particular (Sarah Jane Reiland, playing Lesly) whom I noticed had some trouble enunciating to the first row, let alone those poor suckers three or four rows back (since the venue only has about five rows, at least everyone can see if not hear).

Anyway to make up for lack of funding there was some gratuitous nudity or rather people in their underwear, which you won't see in the movie. Sex sells, so I have to say that getting changed on stage was probably a good idea in this case—screw subtlety. I'm all for more naked people, so I'm not going to complain about that (plus, as a low budget production they may just have not had change rooms?)

Even without a budget this play is pretty great and worth seeing, or at least renting if you, like me, never get around to going to the Fringe festival. In short, don't say "no" to "the House of Yes!" ❖

Continuing creativity

Dynamic artists use unique methods to display art.

kickstART2
at the Roundhouse
Sept. 16-19

by Ania Mafi
CULTURE EDITOR

An amazing festival showcasing the creativity and unique perspectives of artists and performers with various disabilities, kickstART2 hosted at the Rounhouse Community Centre runs September 16-19. The festival is presented by the Society of Disability Arts and Culture (S4DAC), and incorporates dance, theatre, music, comedy and various visual and literary arts presentations.

Featuring 20 BC artists with disabilities in the visual art exhibition "Extrodinary Lives," the exhibit explores how disability is experienced first hand. UBC graduates Neville Grey (BFA) and Margaret Vanderpant (MFA), both pursuing their passion for painting, are also featured in the exhibit.

The festival allows artists to share their experiences, while educating the larger community. As visual artist Nick Supina expresses, "kickstART demonstrate[s] that even when body and brain are broken, the spirit's indomitable will to express itself prevails."

With many talented performers lining the stage, one notably remarkable act put on by the Society of Disabled Artists (SoDA) features two quadriplegic stone sculptors, Alistair Green and Garry Curry. The two young men, both in their 20's, defy the laws of traditional sculpting using new and innovative tools and methods that accomodate to their lives and make this art form accessible. An inspirational journey that has led these two artists to found the SoDA, Green and Curry hope to show other disabled people the tools needed to pursue this art form.

Also offering some workshops such as the Mouth Music Workshop with Pat Rix and the Dance Workshop with Spirit Synott, featured in the above photo, the various displays of art and creativity make this festival one not to be missed. ❖

Nothing to be jealous of

Singing siblings only rival themselves

Tegan and Sara
"So Jealous"
Universal Music

by Alex Leslie
CULTURE STAFF

Some siblings pride themselves on strong, supportive relationships; others suffer from the brand of dysfunction that can only be borne of sharing a one-bathroom house for the duration of adolescence; and still others form bands.

Tegan and Sara belong to the latter ilk, along with such honourable company as (cough) The Moffats and (gag) Hanson. And although Tegan and Sara's latest album, *So Jealous,* left me cold, I can at the very least respect their ability to function together in a musical group, if only because if my sister and I ever attempted to do the same, it would surely end in decapitation, tears, and one very mangled guitar.

Tegan and Sara's earlier work, though not extraordinary, was listenable, for its simple acoustic guitar sounds and two-voice harmonies. They facilely found their niche among those who enjoy finger-snapping and frowning understandingly along to Ani DiFranco. The sister duo's mistake in their latest album offering is that they venture too far from their acoustic, folksy-feely formula. In the same sense that Bob Dylan never needed a synth back-up, and a good ol' hamburger needn't be eaten with Grey Poupon™ mustard.

So Jealous features an odd, off-putting amalgamation of Tegan and Sara's old coffee shop sound with new poppy back-ups. The first track, "You Wouldn't Like Me" (because what sister duo is complete without insecure lyrics?) begins fine enough, with a simple bass guitar line and the sisters' thin but melodious voices, but then—Mayday, Mayday!—a drumset, array of synths and other assorted elements of overly-satisfying, computer-induced sound come crashing in. Abandon ship!

Those who enjoyed Tegan and Sara's previous efforts of folksy duo sound will be sorely disappointed by these new developments. Musical groups should explore different genres, to be sure, but this foray into pop isn't suited to the sisters' strengths.

If I could have one question to ask Tegan and Sara about this album, it would surely be "Why didn't you just leave the damn synths at home and spend more time on your heartfelt lyrics?" That, or: "Sara, are you jealous that Tegan has a way more interesting name than you? Really? C'mon... you gotta be just a little bit jealous." ❖

Jump for joy!!!

... and then write sports.

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gordon.campbell.mla@leg.bc.ca

The start of the academic year is an exciting time for students, staff and faculty alike. It's the time of year when you set goals for yourself, and begin a new chapter in your learning.

I want to wish you all the best in the year ahead. The province recognizes the hard work you've put in to reaching this stage of your education. We're proud of your efforts and we want to do everything we can to give you the opportunities to succeed, right here in B.C.

Here at UBC, we're adding 2,200 new student spaces over the next six years - part of our strategy to create 25,000 more student spaces province wide by 2010. That means more classes, more opportunities and more choices for you to access the courses and programs that you want to pursue.

We're also partnering with UBC to double the number of technology graduates in B.C., nearly double the number of medical school students, and launch a new UBC-Okanagan campus so that students in the southern Interior have increased post-secondary opportunities closer to home.

If you have any questions about the province's post-secondary initiatives, or need assistance accessing the opportunities that are available, please contact my constituency office. Have a great year!

Sincerely,

Gordon Campbell, MLA
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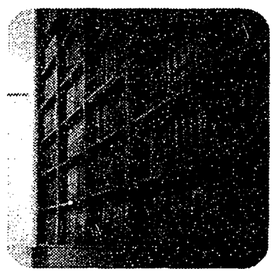

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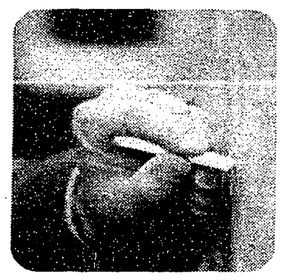

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Soccer season kicks off tonight

Men's and women's T-Birds begin the year against TWU at Thunderbird Stadium. Action starts at 5:30 pm. YINAN WANG PHOTO

Ready to ruck and roll

Women's rugby team set for fall season

by Dan McRoberts
SPORTS EDITOR

The chill of fall was in the air last Saturday as the UBC women's rugby team took to the field for their season-opening Blue and Gold scrimmage.

With head coach Stephen Tong watching from the sidelines, the players dug in and started off on the beginning of their fall trek, one that they hope will end at the CIS Nationals in Nova Scotia.

"I'm encouraged by the numbers, I'm encouraged by the enthusiasm and by everyone's attitude," said Tong, starting his second year with the team. "Reaching the Nationals is our goal... it will be tough because there is only one berth from Canada West."

Last year the T-Birds made it to the tournament for the first time, finishing sixth. In order to go back, the team will have to knock off the five-time defending champions from the University of Alberta.

Third-year prop Kim Donaldson is relishing the opportunity. "It's going to be interesting to play the U of A, they've won Nationals five years in a row but they lost a lot of players this year," she said.

The Canada West tournament will be played in Lethbridge at the end of October and UBC has good cause to be optimistic about their chances.

"This year we have an amazing amount of returning players from last year," said sixth-year forward Lesley McKenzie. "We have a very talented batch of rookies as well."

McKenzie, team captain for the past three years, will miss the initial stages of the season as she recovers from a concussion she sustained while playing for the Canadian national team. Tong is touting McKenzie as an early-season candidate for the Marilyn Pomfret Award, presented to UBC's outstanding female athlete.

"Its an amazing honour," said McKenzie. "I've seen so many amazing female athletes win that award over the past few years... it would be incredible to even be nominated."

Besides the Canada West playoffs, the Birds will also compete this fall in the BC Rugby Union against club teams from the Lower Mainland.

"I'm looking forward to the CIS matches, it's more of a level playing field for us," said Tong. As for the BCRU league, "its going to be a tough year because women's rugby is just improving leaps and bounds at every level."

The first home game of the league season will be played at Wolfson Field on October 2, and Tong hopes to see a good turnout.

"Part of my whole mandate that I've set for myself is to raise the profile of women's rugby on campus," he said. "UBC is an outstanding athletic school and we want to be recognised at the same level within the university as the top sports. Basically success will bring the crowds."

In the meantime, Tong's charges are chomping at the bit. "I love the camaraderie. I love how everyone comes together just working for the same thing," said Donaldson. "It was a slow start last year but we meshed well in the end, hopefully with all the returning players it won't take quite as long this year." ❖

Golf teams buoyed by scholarship news

In a classic case of the strong getting stronger, the UBC golf program has been awarded a grant from the Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA) as part of the organisation's University Golf Support Fund.

The grant includes funds for the expansion of the golf program as well as a $30,000 scholarship fund to attract new recruits. Named after golf great Arnold Palmer, the scholarship will provide six $5,000 grants for incoming recruits.

The University of Toronto was also a recipient of the grant, which is worth a total of $75,000 dollars. Chris MacDonald, the head coach of the UBC women's golf team said that the new scholarship element would be key in strengthening the Thunderbirds.

"The number one reason we lose kids to the States is because of the full rides down there and this grant furthers our ability to compete with those schools on equal financial footing," he said. ❖

Thunderbirds fight till the end

Levesque stars as men's hockey does battle with Canucks prospects

by Dan Morris
SPORTS WRITER

The UBC Thunderbirds played a highly competitive hockey game Sunday night, ultimately losing to the Vancouver Canucks Prospects by a score of 3-1. However, unlike previous games against the Prospects, UBC at many points was the superior hockey team.

The first period began with the T-Birds exhibiting some impressive skating. The Canucks spent much of the time in the penalty box, and though the T-Birds outshot their opponents 13-8 in the period, the stingy play of the Canucks goaltender kept the game scoreless.

The Canucks finally showed their high-calibre offence in the second period. Canucks defenseman Kevin Bieska potted a pretty play at 3:01 of the frame, giving the Prospects the early advantage. However, spurred by the outstanding play of starting netminder Chris Levesque, UBC rallied late in the period, when defenseman Jarrett Winn buried a rebound after a mad scramble in front of the net.

The final period saw an increasingly dangerous Canucks' attack that put Levesque on the spot but he proved to be up to the challenge. With the game deadlocked with seven minutes remaining, the UBC goalie made a tremendous breakaway save. However, the Canucks proved too relentless, and forward F.P. Guenette put the game out of reach with only a few minutes left.

The game marked the debut of a number of new players for the T-Birds, including play-making centre Lance Morrison, and gritty defenseman Brad Zanon, who commented on the team's integration of its new players.

"Everyone has welcomed us with open arms, and our defensive core, which has many new players, is confident and ready to go," Zanon said.

Jarret Winn, UBC's lone player on the scoresheet, mentioned the team's makeover since last season. "We have many younger guys, we have more quickness and energy, so I'm looking forward to the upcoming season," Winn said. "We want home-ice advantage (in the playoffs), and we want to make it to the Nationals."

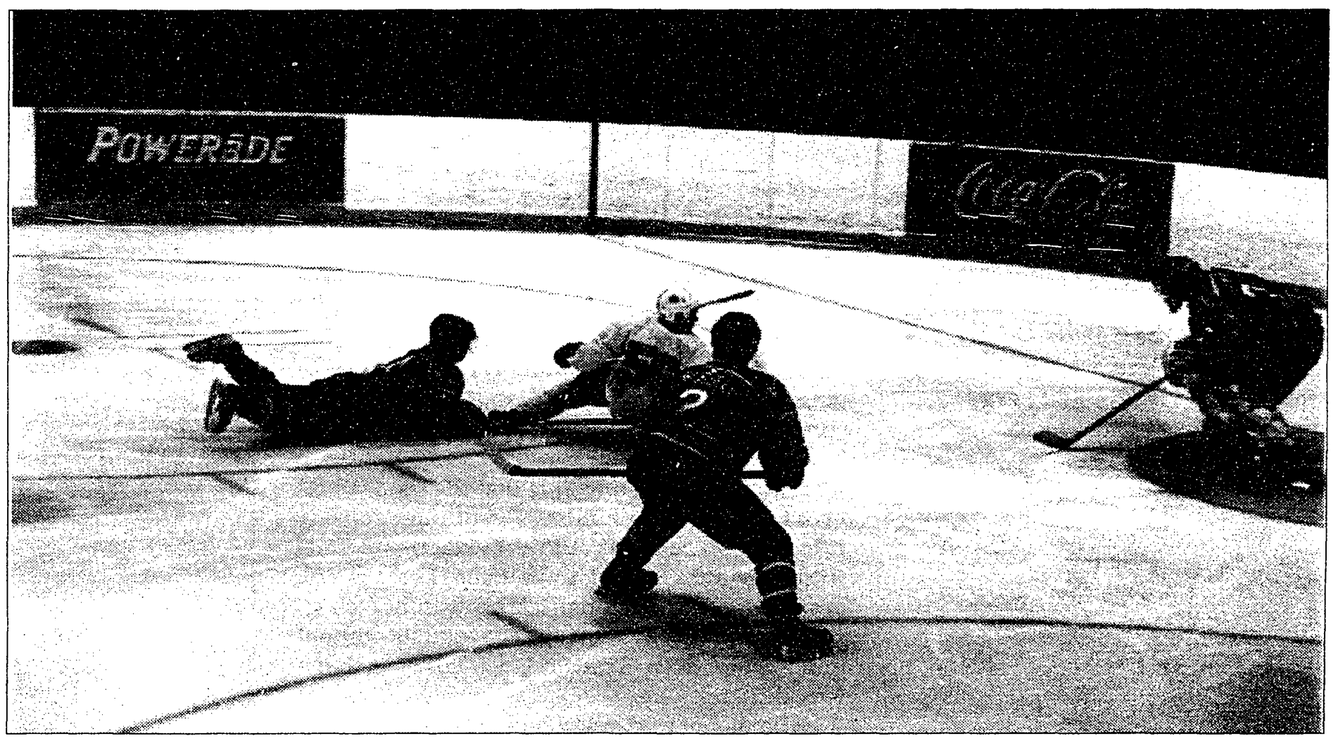
Coach Milan Dragicevic, who is beginning his third season with the club, stressed the team's new strengths. "We have more experience because of last year's playoffs, and also because of our new acquisitions. I think our recruiting class can compete with any in Canada.

"We have a lot of depth, with a goalie [Levesque] and mobile defensemen who I wouldn't trade for anybody. We have a good hockey team, and there's a lot of optimism and expectations for this year. We're expecting to win and we want to go to the Nationals."

The game also marked a change in uniform for one UBC player. Defenceman Chad Grisdale switched sides to play for the Prospects after being invited to Canucks training camp earlier this week. UBC goalie Chris Levesque talked about his teammate's recent invitation. "We had a meeting yesterday, and only found out about it then. It should be a great experience for him."

Levesque was also enthusiastic about being named the starting goaltender for the coming season. "We're working on consistent play and I just need to stop as many shots as I can," he said.

The Thunderbirds now enter the exhibition portion of their schedule, with the first regular season home game coming October 8 against Saskatchewan. With a new core of skilled players and a recent playoff experience under their belt, UBC enters the 2004-2005 season with more optimism and determination than they've had in many years. ❖



TAKE OUT: T-Bird Jarret Winn wipes out a scoring threat as Ryan Thrussell looks on. **PETER KLESKEN PHOTO**

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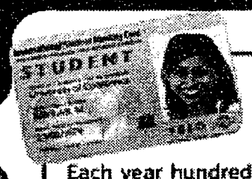

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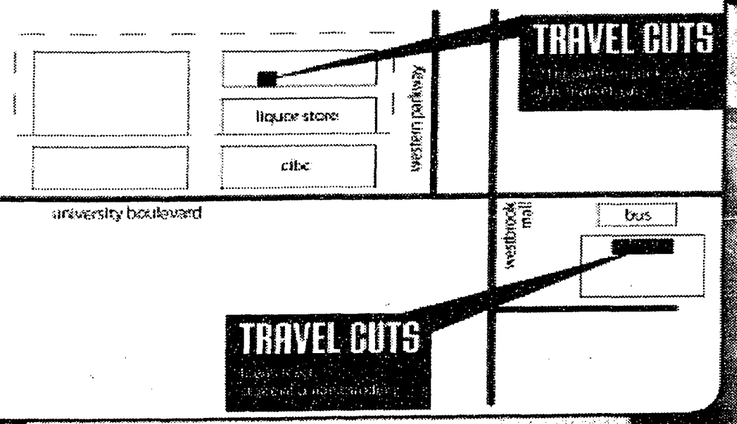

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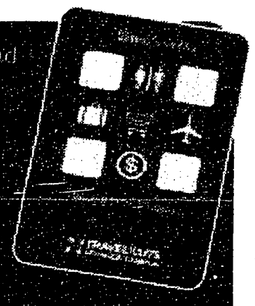

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"Freestyles" are opinion pieces written by Ubyssey staff members. Priority will be given to letters and perspectives over freestyles unless the latter is time sensitive. Opinion pieces will not be run until the identity of the writer has been verified. *The Ubyssey* reserves the right to edit submissions according to length and style.
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Michelle Mayne named her grapefruit Jesse Marchand after watching Sarah Bourdon display superior salsa skills at the Pit during a competition facilitated by DJ Ali Dan McRoberts. Surfacing from her permanent Wreck Beach home, Ania Mafi came to complain of indecent exposure by Alex Leslie. Paul Evans jumped over the chain-linked fence to escape being bitten by Carrie Robinson, conveniently he fell into the arms of Eric Szeto who was standing in a pool of jello. Peter Klesken thought that looked like fun so he stripped down naked and slid yelling, "I love you Jenn Cameron!" Iva Cheung was talking on her cell phone and complained that Jon Woodward was singing the Buffy Musical too loudly for her to hear her conversation with Liz Green. Dan Morris was found last week in a filing cabinet door covered with curry-flavoured chili. Marnie Racker got the urge for chili and so she and Jon Piron started peeling posters off the wall to satisfy their desires. It turns out that Megan Turnbull was hiding in the ventilation systems reading Freud, when Meghan Thomas shot Marisa Chandler in the ear. And Graeme was left out of the masthead again. Poor fresh face.

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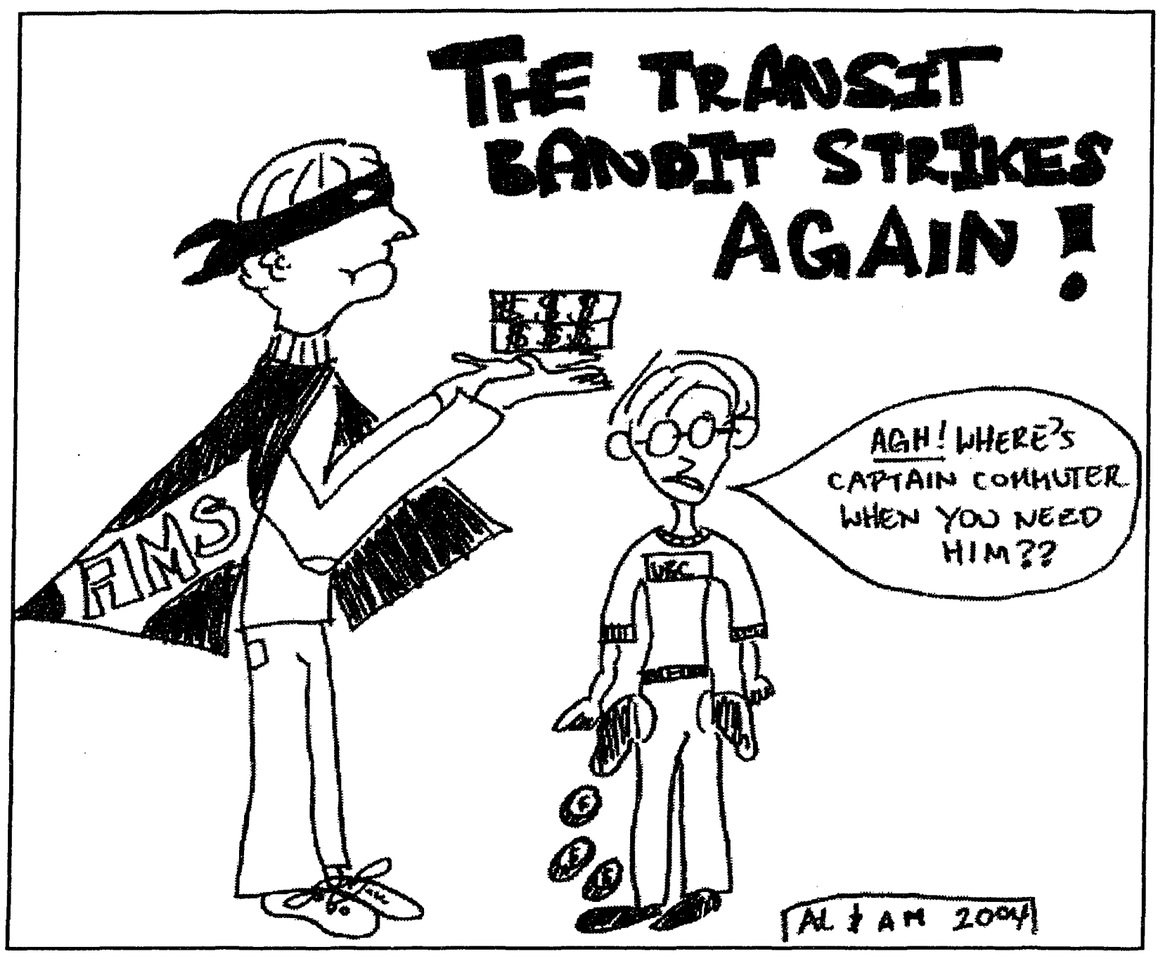
Charge first, ask questions later



It is understandable that the AMS wanted to help summer students with their bus fares. Translink's faresaver program, which allowed students to uprade a one-zone pass to cover three zones for only one extra dollar, was eliminated with the creation of the U-Pass. There was no summer U-Pass in place, so the onus was on summer students to fork over the extra dough to get to campus.

It is also understandable that the AMS would be hard pressed to fund a full summer subsidy program, since the cost to provide all students with subsidies would have been heavy. With around 14,000 students taking summer classes, four months of subsidising students without much help from Translink would have been very difficult.

What is not understandable is the manner in which the AMS is now trying to rustle up the grub for the one-month subsidy program they did end up adopting: by imposing a retroactive fee on all students.

The AMS covered half of term-two summer students' fees while UBC took care of the rest. But the AMS didn't really have the money to pay their share. The money was taken from a contingency fund, which AMS VP External Holly Foxcroft told *the Ubyssey* is reserved for special "one-time" projects. It is ultimately up to the AMS to decide where funding comes from for projects—but why should the entire student body now be asked to recover the costs of a program that benefited only 432 students?

The AMS is confident that students will agree to pay the approximated fifty cent charge to make-up for the summer program. Foxcroft told *The Ubyssey* that she was fairly certain students wouldn't mind paying such a small sum. Maybe some students won't mind. However, the issue at hand is not whether fifty cents will break the wallets of students. The issue is that the AMS, on top of having students pay pre-determined annual fees, feels that it's okay to ask students to reimburse them for student monies they've already spent, without their consent.

Let's make a wee comparison.

Say the federal government were to decide that they wanted to sponsor a program but didn't have funds budgeted to cover it. So they took some money from a contingency fund, promising to hold a referendum to ask Canadians if they would mind putting up a few dollars to replace the money the removed. While those few dollars might be a paltry amount for most Canadians to hand over, the total sum the government would bring in would be significant.

Similarly, the AMS is asking a small amount from each student to account for a large expenditure. Even though this may be a one-time request to UBC's student body, the action sets a dangerous precedent. Students should contemplate their vote seriously. Ruminate, even.

Should students be asked to pay for projects they were not consulted on beforehand? Will this pay-first, ask-later system become a pattern for the AMS? Whose responsibility is it to make up for costs in which students had no say?

The referendum in which students will vote whether to cover the "transit levy" will take place in the near future. Students will have their chance to answer these questions then. ❖

LETTERS

Pie R Squared better fare than McD's

PERSPECTIVE opinion

by Crystal Lee Thomas

I have been an employee of the AMS food outlet Pie R Squared all through my time at UBC. Last week I was disturbed by an article I found in the First Year Issue of *the Ubyssey*. I have just graduated and as a closing note I feel the need to defend the AMS against a poorly researched and poorly written article entitled "Sustenance Unsuitable." The article is an attack on all AMS food outlets and while constructive criticism can be very helpful, the criticism which is offered in this article is unresearched, unsubstantiated and borders on potty humour. The frequency with which Dan McRoberts mentions gastrointestinal explosions leaves me concerned about his health.

In an irresponsible move on the part of *the Ubyssey*, this article was placed on the same page as another article entitled "Yummy and Cheap" in which the author sings the praises of several near-campus restaurants, one of which is McDonald's. I find it unfortunate that these articles are placed side by side, one bashing the AMS (a student run, student owned organisation) and the other praising a multi-national corporation like McDonald's. Throughout the rest of the First Year Issue of *the Ubyssey* there is no mention of the AMS or the services that it provides for students.

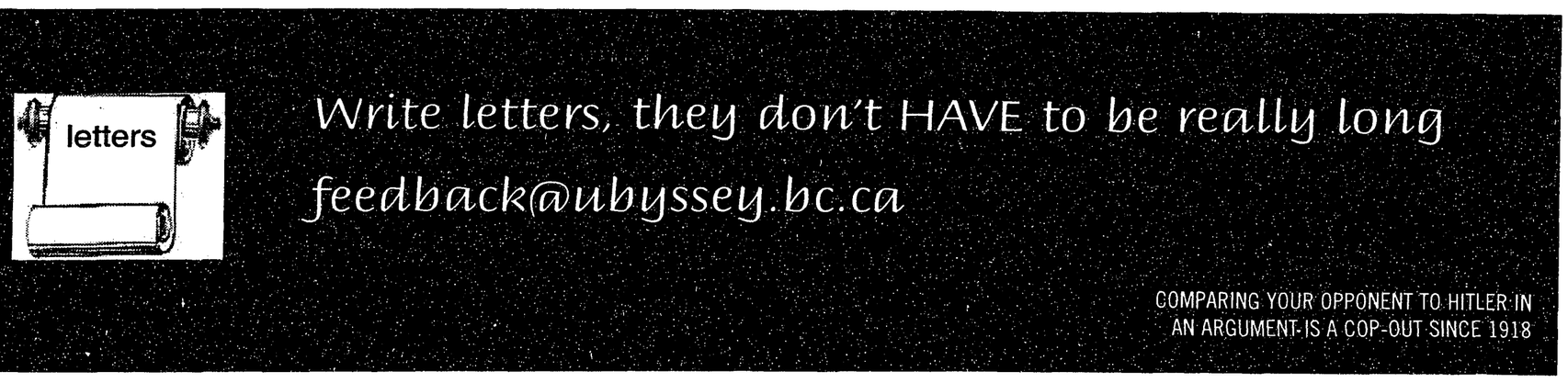
As my experience is with Pie R Squared, I will offer a rebuttal to McRoberts' attack on this AMS outlet. The name of the restaurant in question is Pie R Squared, not Pi R Squared, as spelled in the article by McRoberts. The word pie being a play on words in reference to a pizza pie, get it? As well the price of a slice of pizza at Pie R Squared is not $2.95, but rather $2.75. Moreover, the profits are going back to you in AMS services rather than into Ronald McDonald's pocket.

McRoberts continues on to complain that the pizza toppings are 'greasy' while the 'generous crust' constitutes an Atkins nightmare. I tend to question the intelligence of anyone who sees the Atkins diet as anything more than a fad. One which disregards all we have learned in the past 30 years about food, health and nutrition. Pie R Squared offers nine types of meat pizzas and eight types of vegetarian pizzas. One can choose a slice from the less "greasy" side of things. Overall, the "greasy" and loaded with carbs argument, is redundant. Pizza is bread covered with cheese: that's what people line up for, that's what we give them.

In a time when commercialisation and private business is rapidly creeping its way onto our campus we should be more supportive of our student-run organisations than ever. If you are working at McDonald's and need to leave a bit early to make an exam do think that your boss will care? Do you think that the fast food outlets moving onto campus will volunteer to heed to the environmentally friendly practices which have been adopted by the AMS? The AMS is not perfect. Just as with any organisation, changes must be made, as all businesses must change with the times. This said, if we want to have any say in these changes or in how the profits derived from our student loans are going to be used, we need to support our student run organisations.

If you have a problem with how the profits derived from your Big Mac are being spent you are out of luck, but if you have a problem with the AMS, bring it up at an AMS Council meeting. Everyone's welcome, and I've heard they serve free pizza.

—Crystal Lee Thomas is a former employee of Pie R Squared and a 4th year BA student



Senator John Kerry is not "a worthy candidate for the presidency" and has only himself to blame

PERSPECTIVE opinion

by Joel McLaughlin

The Ubyssey's editorial on the US Presidential campaign falls short in its analysis of Senator John Kerry's implosion. First, the editorial labels the claims of the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, "false" without any evidence whatsoever. Kerry's story that he spent Christmas of 1968 in Cambodia is nothing short of a lie and Kerry's campaign has admitted the possibility that the wound for which he was awarded his first Purple Heart may have been "self-inflicted." These are two of the key claims of the Swift Boat Vets. John Kerry's own biography contradicts his public statements on being under enemy fire during the first Purple Heart incident. There are over 100 pages missing in Kerry's military records which he won't release on the tenuous grounds that he granted exclusivity to his hagiographer Doug Brinkley. Until Senator Kerry releases those records, we will never truly know if he exaggerated or lied about his service to gain three Purple Hearts and an eight-month early exit from Vietnam.

John Kerry is not a "worthy candidate for the presidency" and it is precisely because of his actions after his abrupt return from the Vietnam War. This is a man who saw combat only to return home and slander his fellow soldiers during testimony to the US Senate. Many American POWs were tortured by their sadistic North Vietnamese captors because they refused to admit to war crimes they never committed; Kerry's testimony only gave the Communists more ammunition. Kerry has since refused to apologise for shredding the honour of his fellow veterans. Fast forward three decades later, and suddenly John Kerry is fashioning himself as a war hero. Is it any surprise that so many of his fellow veterans, including 17 out of 23 fellow officers who served in his division, disdain him so much they are voting for President Bush? The advice to Kerry to speak more about his anti-war past leads me to believe *the Ubyssey* either secretly wants President Bush to win or is not an expert at doling out political advice.

Finally, the editorial misleadingly makes it seem as though the Swift Boat ads are solely responsible for President Bush's big bounce in the polls when in fact it is just one small factor among many. John Kerry has no one to blame but himself for his poor showing in this campaign. Today marks the one month 'anniversary' of the last time he fielded questions from reporters. He has earned a reputation for straddling both sides of many major issues, infamously declaring "I actually did vote for the $87 billion before I voted against it." He was a vocal supporter of giving President Bush the authority to remove Saddam Hussein from power and later said he would not change his vote "knowing what we know now" about the lack of WMDs in Iraq; Kerry has now has taken a page out of former competitor Howard Dean's playbook, calling the Iraq War the "wrong war at the wrong place at the wrong time." To echo a line from the so-called "slanderous" Republican National Convention, John Kerry sees two Americas but in fact America sees two John Kerrys.

President Bush will be re-elected in November because voters overwhelmingly trust him to handle pertinent issues like the situation in Iraq, the war on terror, homeland security, and the economy. John Kerry will be defeated because he has failed to turn the campaign into a referendum on the incumbent, and his shameful record after the Vietnam War makes him truly unfit for command. ❖

—Joel McLaughlin is a 4th year Arts student

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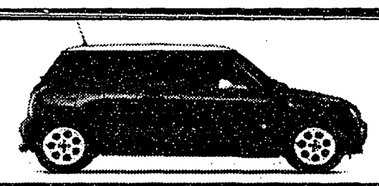

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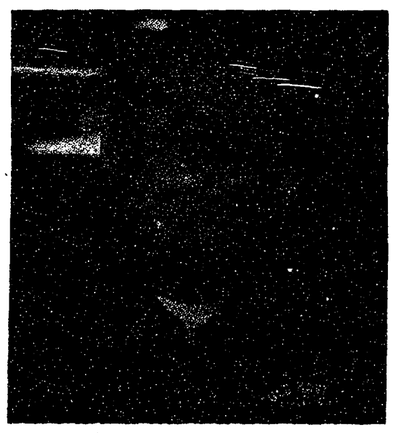
Streeters:

by Eric Szeto
photos by Peter Klesken

Do you think that marijuana should be legally sold in stores?



"It has a commericial benefit if you do it. If it's legalised the government can tax the hell out of it."

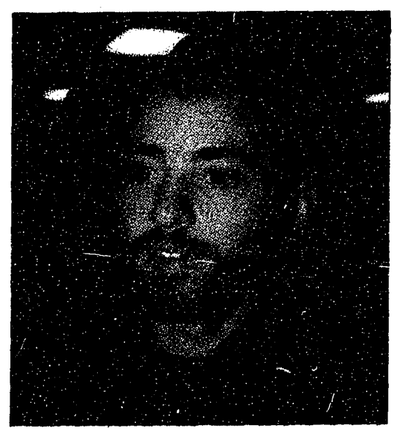
— Ian
Arts 4

"I think they should learn to accept it because it's a pretty big way of life here.

—Brendan Barber
Arts 4

"I really don't care what they do."

—Steve
the surveyor



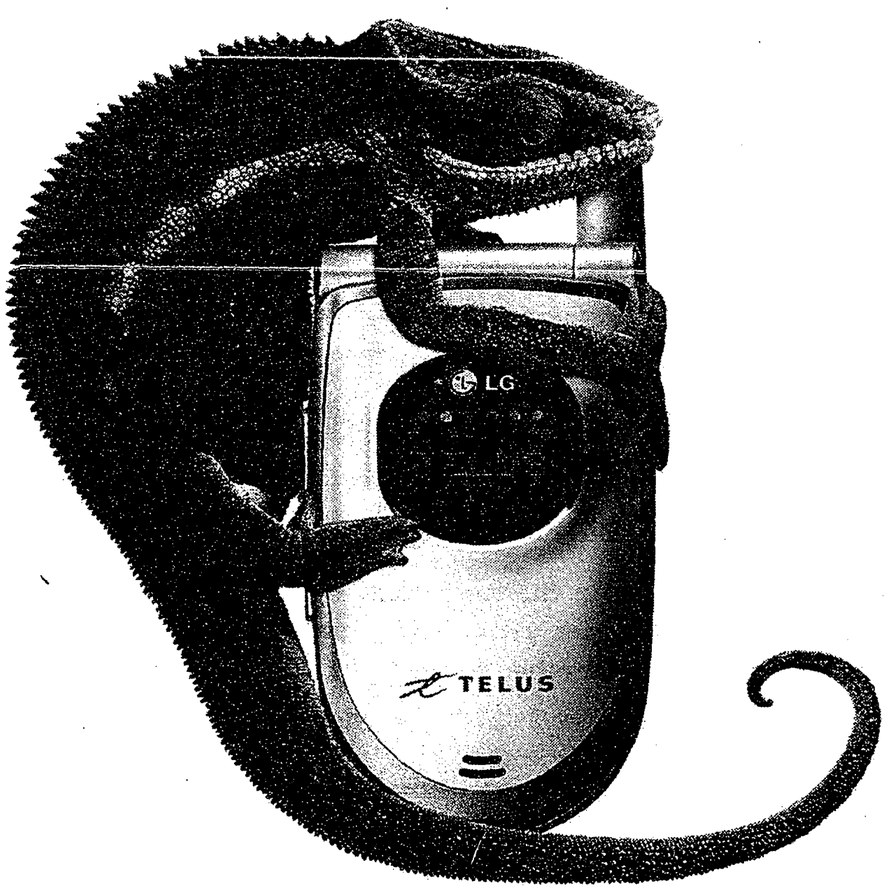
"I don't think they should because so many people would buy it - it would be everywhere. It's already everywhere now but there would be too much of it."

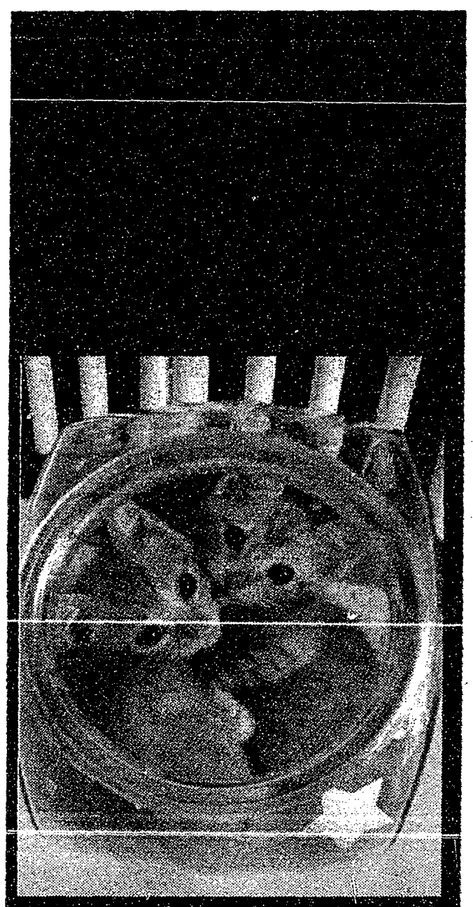
—Nick Angiers
Arts 2

"To be honest I didn't know there was a pot raid. I don't really know why it should be sold in stores. It's still considered to be legally sold for medicinal purposes. So I don't know why some stores think they have the right to sell it. It's basically the same as selling it on the street."

—Anne Stevens
Science 3

At this price, mommy can call whenever she wants. You sissy.





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