The Ubyssey

BINNERS MAKIN' MO' MONEY THAN EDITORS SINCE 1918

UBC'S OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

VOL. LXXXIX NO. 21 | WWW.UBYSSEY.BC.CA | NOVEMBER 16TH, 2007

Binnin' for a livin' p4,5

Calendar

EMAIL US EVENTS AT FEEDBACK@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

FRI 16 — Fest
Science World After Dark
Who: 19+ only (no kids allowed)
When: 6:30-10pm
What: Science world, with beer and wine

SAT 17 — Music
Dan Mangan w/ Mad Violet & Angie Nussey
Where: the Pit
Time: 8pm
Cost: $10
What: Local singer-songwriter shows off his stuff

SUN 18 — Market
21st Century Flea Market
Where: Croatian Cultural Centre (3250 Commercial)
Time: 10am-3pm

MON 19 — Lecture
Darwin's Finches On The Galapagos Islands
Where: Wesbrook Bldg. (6174 University Blvd)
Time: 7:30pm
Cost: Free
What: Evolution, baby!

TUES 20 — Party
Twisted Poets Literary Salon
What: Open-mic night
Where: Bump N Grind Cafe (916 Commercial)
Time: 7pm
Cost: Free

WED 21 — Art!
The Pine Beatles Are Coming
Where: Room 110, Hut M18
When: All Day
Cost: Free
What: Work by L. Basil McMahon, UBC artist

THUR 22 — Drink
Pit Pub 34th Birthday Bash
Specials:
2.25 Draft
10.50 a jug
3.50 Single Highballs,
5.50 Double
Cost: No cover

OKER CHEN PHOTO / THE UBYSSEY

Organic anyone?

Over 130 people feasted on organic vegetable dishes when the Community Eats initiative hosted its first 'free or by-donation' lunch event in SUB 66, home to the AMS's Sprouts food co-op. Bowls of steaming brown rice, seasoned potatoes, and delectable veggie medley poured out from sumptuous trays. More food will be served in its next lunch on Tuesday November 27 from 12-2pm at the same location. Community Eats is still looking for people who are able to lend a hand cooking, collecting food, serving, or promoting. They can be contacted at communityeats@gmail.com.

AMS considers forming students' assembly to increase engagement

BY CONNIE DO
News Staff

In an effort to combat the disconnect between the general student population and the Alma Mater Society (AMS), the AMS is considering organising a group of approximately 20 randomly selected students to provide it with feedback on a range of campus issues.

The idea to establish the new students' assembly was put forward by the Representation and Engagement Reform Committee, an ad-hoc group created by the AMS to examine student involvement and engagment.

Graduate Student Society representative and committee member Bruce Krayenhoff said the students' assembly would be representative of the entire student body and would research certain AMS decisions in detail and then report back to Council. Their findings would also be made available to the student body.

The idea for a Student Assembly came from Representation and Engagement Reform Committee's conclusion that the AMS is perceived by the student body to be run by a small elite, that lacks significant connection to the average UBC student. The goal of the students' assembly is, therefore, to bridge the perceived gap between the AMS Council and the general student population by acting as a voice for students.

According to Maayan Kreitzman, chair of the ad-hoc committee, the assembly would not have any bureaucratic power, but would have a fair amount of credibility, persuasive power, and influence on elected representatives. It would be able to provide feedback and generate ideas which would supplement the AMS democracy.

"In order to gain more representative power in the AMS democracy, we thought of supplementing the elected representation with the form of rep that involves randomly selecting students," said Kreitzman. Stratified random sampling would be used to select these students, which includes a quota as to how many students from certain established categories would be selected.

In order to elicit a high turnout of volunteers, the committee plans to pay each member of the assembly approximately $10 to $15/hour. This proposal has brought forth a few questions from AMS Council members as to how costly the project would be, especially when Council members are not paid themselves.

However, AMS President Jeff Friedrich is interested in this new idea. "There are a lot of Council members who feel that Council is working just fine as a representative body," said Friedrich. "But the idea was worth further conversation." But Friedrich said he has no current opinion regarding the formation of the group and said he will wait for the report from the committee before commenting further on the issue.

This is not the first time the idea of creating a student assembly has been proposed. Two years ago then AMS President Spencer Keys brought a similar idea forward. Instead of eliciting volunteers, however, the plan was to ask various stakeholders from across campus that were not represented in the AMS to contribute to Council.

The original plan was not to pay members of the students' assembly, however its function, to speak for those who were not involved in the AMS and who did not vote in AMS elections, would have been similar.

According to Krayenhoff, this idea was passed in principle but failed to be executed due to lack of interest, both from the Council members and from the Code and Policy Committee who received the proposed report.

A report from the ad-hoc committee will be presented to AMS Council later this month, further detailing the make-up and function of the proposed students assembly.

CLASSIFIEDS

BUSINESSES	BUSINESSES	ANNOUNCEMENTS	CALLBOARD	CALLBOARD
GOJU KARATE CLASSES in Kitsilano, Tues & Thurs 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Tel. 604-230-0161 or www.mariomckenna.com **GOT A BROKEN IPOD?** Its battery won't hold a charge? Don't send it away. Get it fixed by a UBC student for less. Call 604-719-1814.	**CLARINET / SAXOPHONE LESSONS**. Experienced teacher and performer. Classical, Jazz, World. RCM Preparation. BMus. (UBC), Master of Music (C.U.New York). In your home, my studio or on campus. Mike Dowler (778)893-2154	**SPARTACUS YOUTH CLUB SERIES** Anglo Chauvinism Is Poison To Class Struggle - Independence for Quebec. 6:00pm Wednesday November 21. Room 213, Student Union Building.	**FEELING STRESSED?** Add some laughter to your life by spending one hour a week with a kid at a nearby elementary school. We have volunteer opportunities for men and women. 604-876-2447ext246 or bigbrothersvancouver.com	**HAVE ARTISTIC SKILLS?** Want to make $150? The Arts Undergraduate Society is looking for a design for clothing and other merchandise. Must be original artwork, containing the phrase "Arts UBC". Deadline: Monday, Nov. 19th at 10am. Submissions no larger than 8.5 x 11. Email to aprit@shaw.ca, or drop off at the AUS office in BUCH D140.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS FOR STUDENTS! For more information, visit Room 23 in the sub or call: 604-822-1654

THE UBYSSEY

November 16th, 2007
VOL. LXXXIX N°21

EDITORIAL BOARD

COORDINATING EDITOR *CHAMPAGNE CHOQUER*
COORDINATING@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

NEWS EDITORS *BRANDON ADAMS & BORIS KORBY*
NEWS@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

CULTURE EDITOR *PAUL BUCCI*
CULTURE@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

SPORTS EDITOR *JORDAN CHITTLEY*
SPORTS@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

FEATURES/NATIONAL EDITOR *MATTHEW JEWKES*
FEATURES@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

PHOTO EDITOR *OKER CHEN*
PHOTOS@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

PRODUCTION MANAGER *KELLAN HIGGINS*
PRODUCTION@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

COPY/LETTERS/RESEARCH *LEVI BARNETT*
FEEDBACK@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR *STEPHANIE FINDLAY*
VOLUNTEERS@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

WEBMASTER *JOE RAYMENT*
WEBMASTER@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

The Ubyssey is the official student newspaper of the University of British Columbia. It is published every Tuesday and Friday by The Ubyssey Publications Society. We are an autonomous, democratically run student organisation, and all students are encouraged to participate.

Editorials are chosen and written by the Ubyssey staff. They are the expressed opinion of the staff, and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Ubyssey Publications Society or the University of British Columbia. All editorial content appearing in The Ubyssey is the property of The Ubyssey Publications Society. Stories, opinions, photographs and artwork contained herein cannot be reproduced without the expressed, written permission of The Ubyssey Publications Society.

The Ubyssey is a founding member of Canadian University Press (CUP) and adheres to CUP's guiding principles.

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

It is agreed by all persons placing display or classified advertising that if the Ubyssey Publications Society fails to publish an advertisement or if an error in the ad occurs the liability of the UPS will not be greater than the price paid for the ad. The UPS shall not be responsible for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value or the impact of the ad.

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

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

BUSINESS MANAGER *Fernie Pereira*
AD TRAFFIC *Jesse Marchand*
AD DESIGN *Michael Bround*

"Boom!" quoted Boris Korby, while Goh Irohmoto winked at Connie Do and Kellan Higgins. Brandon James Adams, Esq. born 115 years ago in 1892, et eight capon and then paid Jordan Chittley and Justin McElroy with debit. Leslie Day said "Hey," to Joe Raymont and Raeven Geist-Deschamp. "Yo," they replied, heading for the dike, where they met the naive Shun Endo feeding matte curd to Jacob Macneil and Champagne Choquer. Levi Barnett, Kasha Chang and Stephanie Taylor worked on a zine about the evils of Trevor D'Arcy's taxi rule, and the dire Samantha Jung swatted a soccer ball with Celestian Rince, Matt Hayles, and Meng-Chieh Wu. Marie Burgoyne, Oker Chen and Paul Bucci skipped sex ed and set sail under the lune, while on the shore Stephanie Findley filed her nails in the presence of two jinn.

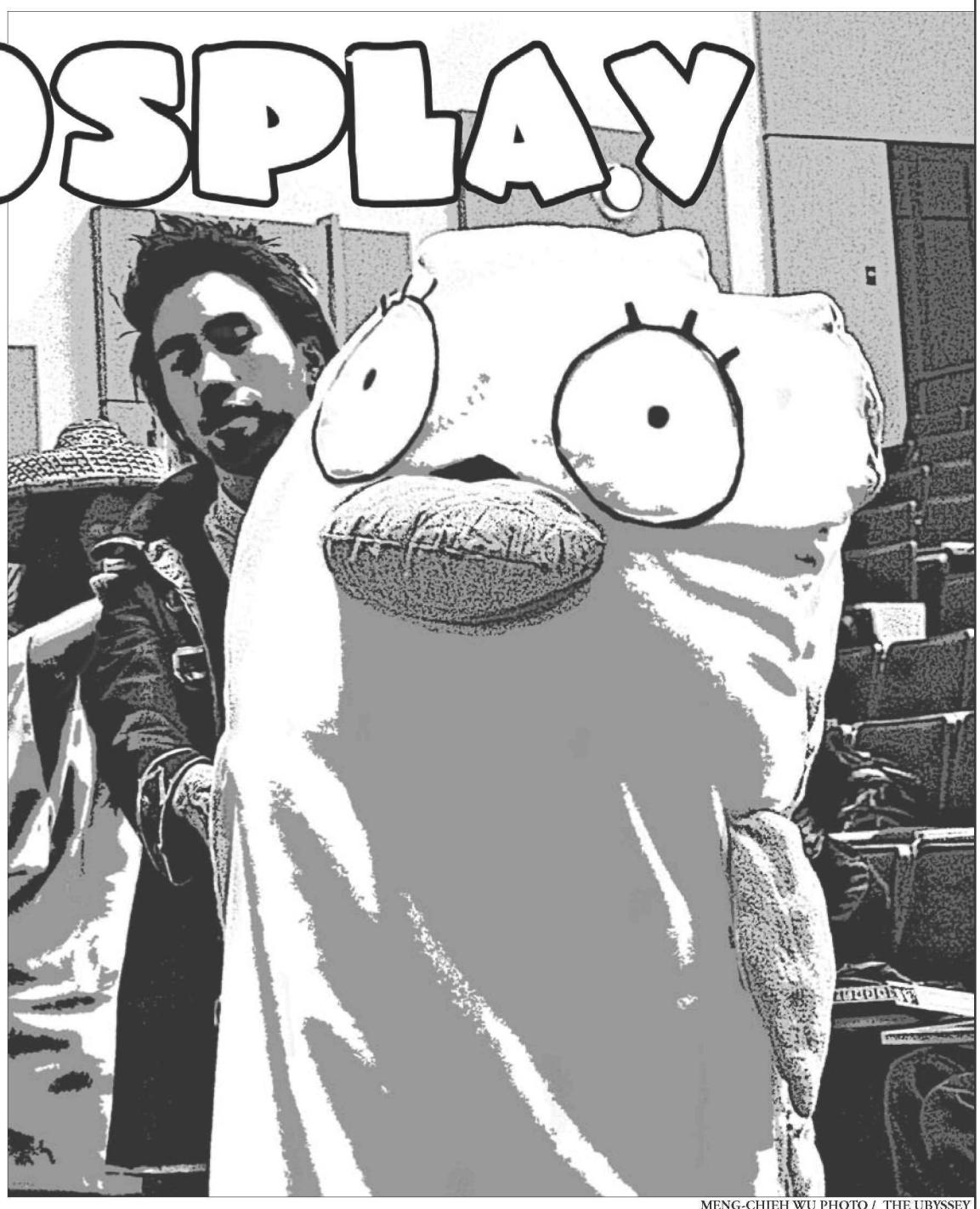
EDITORIAL GRAPHIC
Michael Bround

Canadian University Press
Canada Post Sales Agreement Number 0040878022

UBYSSEY
12 ¢
12-5233-423
UPS Society

COLLECTOR'S ISSUE

Cosplay



MENG-CHIEH WU PHOTO / THE UBYSSEY

THE UBYSSEY'S CELESTIAN RINCE

journeys to find ubc's most fascinating student event

Roughly three weeks ago, the UBC Anime Club met for one of its weekly gatherings. As I took in my surroundings, it occured to me that there seemed to be something amiss. Many of the people were dressed in outlandish outfits. One person appeared to be sporting a samurai outfit, complete with a katana and scabbard. Another had a striking resemblance to Sakito, a Japanese rock star. And a third hapless person wore a head-to-toe duck costume. I marveled at the duck's ability to remain upright, much less mobile.

A casual passerby might have been baffled by this spectacle. "What's going on here?," they might ask, "Is it Halloween?"

Actually, Halloween wasn't too far away, but that wasn't the reason for the get-ups. No, the Anime Club was decked out in their best costumes for a different reason—a cosplay contest. Cosplay, according to Wikipedia, is a combination of the words "costume" and "play." In this context, it means dressing as characters from anime, manga, video games, and the like. But for what purpose, you may ask. Isn't it just a waste of time, not to mention childish? The answer is simple: because it's *fun*.

Even the most cynical are forced to admit that millions of people, from children to adults, enjoy wearing a costume for Halloween. Cosplay operates on a similar principle. It's a hobby like any other, where like-minded people gather in their finest garb to see and be seen. That day, over a dozen club members had entered the competition for the best costume.

According to Yoshiko Kosugi, the Anime Club president, the annual cosplay contest has been put on for years.

"It's really a way for all the members to be really creative and show what they really like to do," said Kosugi.

The rules are simple: each contestant goes up onto the stage, performs a brief skit, monologue, or whatever they wish, allowing the audience a good look at their costume. At the end, the audience casts their vote for their favourite.

Several of the contestants enthusiastically performed a little song and dance. This never failed to elicit laughter from the audience. True, it was quite ridiculous—I knew it, they knew it, the spectators knew it. But no one cared, because we were all having a good time.

One contestant delivered a brisk, confident speech in Japanese. I didn't understand a word, but most of the audience applauded, so it must have been good. I clapped as well—the contestant was dressed up as the City Hunter, who was known for "sweeping" crime off the streets. Another contestant was dressed up as Kaworu, a character from *Neon Genesis Evangelion*.

When all the contests had gone up, it was time for the voting. My personal favourites were two girls who dressed as Roxas from the game *Kingdom Hearts* and Link from *Legend of Zelda*.

Unfortunately, neither of them had entered the contest. A short while later, the votes were in. The winner was one Shadan Dabbagh, dressed up as the samurai Hitsugoya Taichou, from the anime series *Bleach*. I asked her about the costume, and she explained that she made the costume almost entirely on her own, though the hair is a store-bought wig. Dabbagh happily collected her prize—a free sushi lunch and a full set of the manga *Toward the Terra*, autographed by the author.

It was soon time for me to depart. I bade the Anime Club farewell before leaving the room. As I walked away, an image popped unbidden into my mind—myself in a Sailor Moon costume, complete with ribbons and pigtails. Suffice to say, this assignment has left me with some great memories...and some scars. U

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING

UBC PLANNING OPEN HOUSE

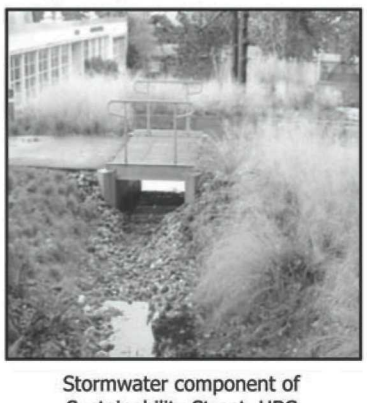
Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP)

Would you like to know more about UBC's Stormwater Plan?

DATE: Wednesday, November 21st, 2007
TIME: 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 5:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Aquatic Ecosystem Research Laboratory (AERL) Room 107/108, 2202 Main Mall

Please join us at our Open House. UBC Planning Staff will be on hand with drawings and information highlighting the proposed stormwater management plan at the University of British Columbia.

For further information, please contact David Grigg (AD, Infrastructure and Services Planning) at 604.822.0472 or Linda Moore, (AD, Community Relations) at 604.822.8831.



Stormwater component of Sustainability Street, UBC

For directions to AERL, please visit: www.maps.ubc.ca

www.planning.ubc.ca www.universitytown.ubc.ca

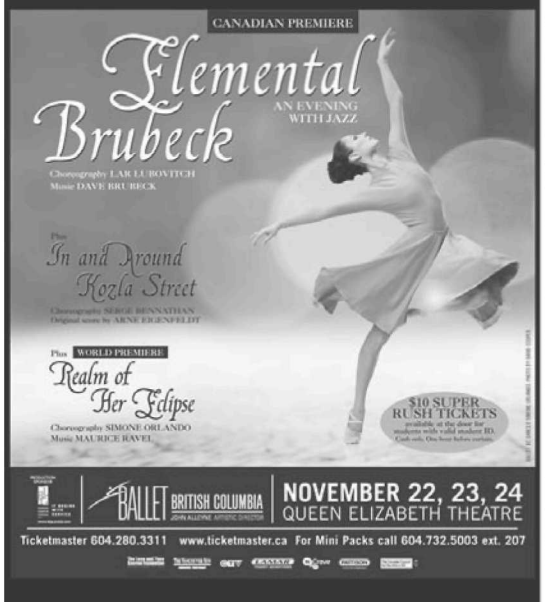
LSAT MCAT GMAT GRE
Preparation Seminars

- Complete 30-Hour Seminars
- Proven Test-Taking Strategies
- Personalized Professional Instruction
- Comprehensive Study Materials
- Simulated Practice Exams
- Free Repeat Policy
- Personal Tutoring Available
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

Oxford Seminars
1-800-779-1779 / 780-428-8700
www.oxfordseminars.com

THE UBYSSEY
News | Sports | Culture | Features
New and relevant to the students of the University of British Columbia

The Ubyssey
Shameless **GIVEAWAY**



Stop by room 23, SUB for a complimentary ticket to

Ballet BC's Elemental Brubeck.

November 22, 23, 24, Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver.

First Come, First Serve. Only 6 Tickets!

While supplies last. One per student.

ADDICTION, BINNING, COMMUNITY, AND RECOVERY

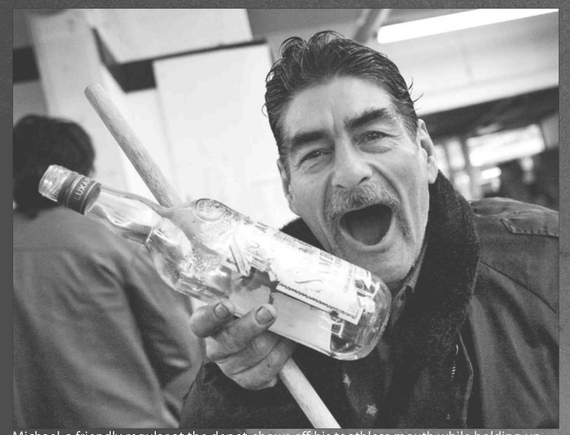
Recyclers doing more than just clearing bottles

by Isabel Ferreras
Photos by Goh Iromoto

Binning is a word you won't find in any dictionary.

If you search for it on Google, you will only find a bed and breakfast, a pool, and an Argentine medical doctor.

That's because the more familiar term is dumpster diving, and a binner, or dumpster diver, is someone who jumps into your local garbage bin and fishes out whatever bottles and cans he or she can find. This is so they can earn enough to eat and fund their habits, even if these include alcohol or illicit drugs. What you might be surprised to learn, however, is that many of these binners get into such a practice to get out of these addictions.



Michael, a friendly regular at the depot, shows off his toothless mouth while holding up an empty bottle of liquor.

Getting back on your feet

Shawn is an employee at the United We Can bottle depot. He is 49 years old, and in the past, has worked as a shop steward and tradesperson. Even better, he has also completed a year of cooking school, with straight A's. So what is he doing working as a casual employee here?

"I've battled a serious drug addiction for many, many years," Shawn said. "I've been bangin' up the 12-step wall. It's been a long process, including harm reduction and counselling, but binning has been a large part of my recovery as well. It's made a big difference in my life."

The big difference working at the bottle depot was in providing an alternative to a life of crime and drug abuse.

"When you get down to my level, you have three choices: deal, steal, or recycle. Those who choose to recycle [bin] are mostly not dealing or stealing. Binning is tough work, though. You're working a lot harder [than the dealers or stealers], and getting much less reward for it.

"Now that I'm working at United We Can, my welfare status allows me to make $500 on top of my paycheque without taking any [tax] off. I still do some binning. I have some spots that give me [their empties], and some places that I just know. I climb in and can get five to ten bucks out of one place. I've got an opportunity to work here, and that could be an opportunity to do more drugs, but it could also be an opportunity for me to step up."

This job has clearly been similarly beneficial to many others. United We Can bottle depot is located at the corner of Main and West Hastings, in the centre of the Downtown Eastside. When walking down the building's surrounding streets, one can see many of the familiar and sad realities of the area: open drug use, homelessness, and hunger. Luckily, for those who are physically and mentally able to take them on, there are jobs available at the depot. And it's not hard to get hired.

"With the people that work here, we do not discriminate, even if they are addicts," says Ken Lyotier, executive director & manager of the operation. "All we ask is that they be up-front about it."

As someone who has been managing this extraordinarily successful charity since the very beginning, dealing with bureaucracy, addicts, and financial difficulties, he is not asking for much.

Together we bin

United We Can began under Lyotier's vision that bottle depots were needed to meet the demands of binners in and around the city. Though it is hard to believe, not long ago, there were none of these recycling centres to be found in Greater Vancouver.

"We were a group of dumpster divers who organised ourselves to try and improve the system for taking back refundable beverage containers in the late 80s early 90s. We ended up developing this project, which has continued on in the last 13 years," said Lyotier.

"There were limits on how much you could take back to the liquor and grocery stores per day," he said when asked what the motivator was for establishing the project. "This all changed in 1998, but before that, only Coke, Pepsi, and beer bottles were taken. The big issue was that all the wine, spirits, and juice got thrown out...There were valid reasons as to why they restricted the flow of bottles. There weren't any bottle depots in those days, so this operation was seen as an improvement on the situation."

By any estimate, United We Can has seen large success. At any given time of the day, lineups snake out the entrance of the building. The system inside is one of order and efficiency, powered by professional, hardworking staff. There are many tables which binners use to count out their bottles, by classification of size and brand. Once they have put their recyclables in order, they have only to place them in cardboard trays and wait in line. Cashiers working the till must be able to work quickly and efficiently, for the lineups for payout can easily reach ten to 15 people at a time.

"It's hard to say, but there are about 650-750 people receiving money from the till each day," said Lyotier.

Considering that there is one operating till in the room, United We Can cashiers make up to 90 transactions per hour. That's up to one and a half transactions per minute. It is indeed a very busy place.

Every man for himself?

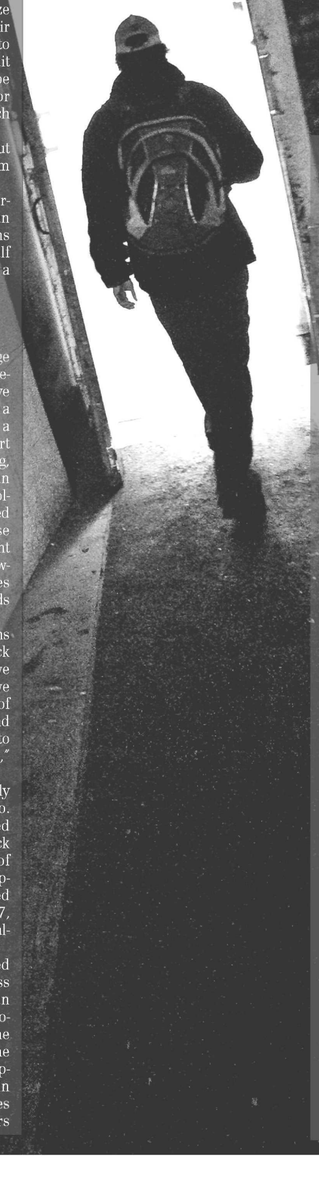
Besides providing money in exchange for recyclables, United We Can has developed a number of projects to serve the community. Notable ones include a binners' roadshow, a bike repair shop, a used computer store, and a binner cart project, which provides functioning, clean carts bearing the United We Can logo. These carts can be used for collection of cans and bottles in a civilized manner. They do not make the noise grocery shopping carts do, and are lent out to whoever wants to use them. However, the most notable of all the services offered by this charity is the Crossroads and Lanes service.

"[This project] goes out and cleans the sidewalks around the main block area of the Downtown Eastside, and we have been doing that since before we even opened the bottle depot. Part of that project picks up the needles and whatever we find out there, and we try to maintain some cleanliness in the area," says Lyotier.

These cleaning efforts are clearly working the way they were intended to. One step out the back alley of United We Can, and all you can see is a truck passageway that is practically devoid of garbage. It is true that there are dumpsters in the alley, but they are all locked down, and as of December 31, 2007, they will disappear from downtown alleyways altogether.

This removal is being orchestrated by the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA), an organisation which stands for the promotion of all downtown. This is done by "promoting the unique assets of the area and highlighting events and happenings which will draw and retain customers downtown." So how does this tie into the removal of dumpsters in downtown alleyways?

Part-time worker Christie works tirelessly during her shift as she ensures the final divisions of non-glass recyclables into the pile behind her.



Reaching to find recyclables, Ray, 38, usually seeks apartment garbage rooms for recyclables for his multiple visits to the depot everyday. This practice may become more common as a result of a new municipal plan to ban dumpsters.

According to the DVBIA, there is a "close, proven association between dumpster clusters and public disorder...more than 90 per cent of incidents the DVBIA's Downtown Ambassadors responded to were within 50 metres of dumpsters. Incidents involving panhandling, drug use, problem street person interactions and drug dealers took place entirely within the dumpster clusters."

Dave Jones, head consultant on safety & security for the DVBIA, says that "not only do these dumpsters create public disorder, but they have created a disgusting mess in our alleyways. Something has to be done."

When asked what kind of repercussions the removal of dumpsters will have on the practice of binning, Jones replied that the DVBIA has been working with, and not against, United We Can to establish an integrated system through which binners will be able to continue to collect their recyclables. The system will work as follows:

Cardboard will be bundled in twine and left out for free collection. Refundable items will be separated into clear plastic bags, left out for collection by either a local binner, or a group that is using the bottle collection as a means of fundraising. Used cooking grease will be put back into its original container, and picked up frequently. Paper will be separated out and recycled. General garbage will end up in semi-transparent bags, with planned pickup to happen multiple times a day. Businesses will arrange for pickup to happen at times that will ensure that no garbage is left out overnight.

Will this system work? Ken Lyotier seems to think the project's success is entirely possible.

"We [United We Can] looked at this plan with the perspective on how it could better involve the people that are looking for work and money. We came to the conclusion that it was possible that it could work. We could create more work opportunities.

"There are people on our streets that don't have the capacity to participate in initiatives like this with United We Can. However, we have a group of people that have the potential to get there, and how are they to accomplish that task? How are we to invest in those groups? Everything depends on what resources we have, and what our society's priorities are. Maybe I'm an optimist, but I think it really is possible."

The view from the street

Some are not as quick to accept that this initiative will work. Namely, the binners. Shawn is skeptical about the project.

"I call this the Olympic war on the poor. It is the driving force behind putting these bins away, because they don't want the binners around [during the Olympics]. What they're really going to do, are not remove the dumpsters completely from downtown, but rather, are going to put these dumpsters into locked parkades. One of the consequences of this, is that it is going to cause the crime rate to go up, instead of go down.

"What are the binners going to do if they can't access the dumpsters in alleys? It's simple. They're going to break into apartment parkades to find their bottles and cans, and if they don't choose to do that, they will turn to dealing and stealing."

Another factor to consider is whether having bottles and cans being left in clear plastic bags for anyone to grab will change the binning dynamic. While the idea is good in that binners will no longer have to sift through garbage with their bare hands, one must wonder if the distribution of recyclables will be nearly as equitable. What if binners simply end up loitering around the alleyways until business owners leave out their heaping bags of bottles? Will this create hostility among binners as to who can grab the bag (and the resulting profit) first? It's hard to say, but this possibility must be considered before the implementation of a dumpster-free downtown is carried out.

Binners have had to deal with the humiliation of what they must do to generate income, the filth of the garbage they comb through, and now the ever-increasing barriers of access to their money-making recyclables. If locking down the lids of the majority of dumpsters weren't enough, now the very existence of dumpsters downtown will cease. Should the public allow this to happen? It's still up for debate. But perhaps we should all take a walk through United We Can, talk to the binners, and decide.

When busy, Ken Lyotier, United We Can's executive director & danger, gives a helping hand to those waiting to get their cans and bottles exchanged.

MICHAEL BROUND GRAPHIC / THE UBYSSEY

Silence is golden, music is priceless

In a recent interview, Billboard dress-up 'musician' cum reality TV star Gene Simmons spoke about his thoughts on the state of the music industry.

Simmons—even through the filter of an edited, printed interview—comes off as vicious and greedy. He slams "every little college kid," saying that file-sharing students have destroyed the music industry and that industry leaders should have "sued [them] off the face of the Earth. They should have taken their houses and their cars and nipped it right there in the bud."

"The only reason gold is expensive is because we all agree it is," claimed the wrathful, aged rockstar. "There's no real use for it, except we all agree and abide by the idea that gold costs a certain amount per ounce. As soon as you give people the choice to deviate from it, you have chaos and anarchy. And that's what's going on."

It seems that Simmons sees music not as art, not as an emotive representation of a feeling, a moment, or a thought. Instead Simmons sees music as a commodity like gold or oil: a resource to be traded, protected, and regulated.

While Simmons's music may be a mere commodity—and we here at *the Ubyssey* believe it to be a commodity on par with rancid chickenshit—we believe that music is much more than something material.

There was a time, before the radio or the phonograph, when music was something much more than a product. Music was composed for music's sake: it was an art form, it expressed in the concrete something ethereal, it was so much more than a disc of vinyl or plastic. In order to hear music you either had to play it yourself or listen to a performer—it was a relationship.

Then, everything changed. Music went from the ethereal to the material. It became something that was a commodity and could be bought and sold in predetermined portions. First the phonograph, then the vinyl record, 8-track, cassette, and finally the compact disc.

And more suddenly than before, music became ethereal again. Digital data stored in MP3 files could suddenly be ripped, mixed, copied, shared, and burned. Once again music became the people's and they spoke with one loud and clear voice: music should be free.

Artists, and we are using the term very loosely here, like Gene Simmons, now have one of two choices. They can either fight to keep music a material commodity, something that represents little more then a stack of cash, or they can look back to earlier eras when music was made because it represented something.

It seems like most established musicians have decided to throw their support into keeping music as a commodity. Maybe it's because they can't bear the thought of losing their place among the select few who managed to play the recording industry game, or maybe they got into the music industry not because they want to express the inexpressible, but instead because they wanted the free cocaine, young groupies, and fast cars that stardom seems to bring.

But hopefully, the continued evolution of music will prevent the likes of these musicians from reaching the obscene levels of undeserved popularity they have over the last few decades. Instead of having the music industry gauge success based on marketing, brand and ridiculous dress, music will go back to being about creating something original, creative and based on the art produced by individuals.

STREETERS

Streeters is a twice weekly column in which students are asked a question pertinent to UBC.

See all their full comments online at www.ubyssey.bc.ca

What do you think of Gene Simmons's recent remarks about students and music: 'Every little college kid, every freshly-faced kid should be sued off the face of the earth'?

Tara McCabe, Law 2

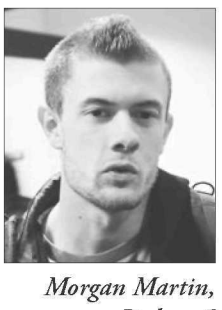
"It seems a bit extreme, but it is theft—you're downloading something that doesn't belong to you."

Maxwell Maxwell, English 3

"I don't think that Gene Simmons has any music worth paying for. And the market is going to dictate what music is going to cost."

Laura Morrison, Classics 3

"People can't always afford music, especially students... and Gene Simmons has so much money anyway."



Morgan Martin, Biology 5

"I think if he was making music worth buying then people would pay for it. But there should be a tighter regulation."

Govin Thind, Science 1

"Musicians make so much money based on concert sales. They make the music for us to enjoy—it should be free."

—Coordinated by Jordan Chittley and Amanda Stutt, with photos by Matthew Jewkes,

LETTERS

Why still care about landmines?

To many around the world who live without the daily fear of being injured or killed by a landmine, the movement to ban these indiscriminate weapons of war has lost its initial momentum. While the international campaign to ban antipersonnel landmines (ICBL) reached its pinnacle, in terms of success and public visibility, through a series of diplomatic efforts that came to be known as the Ottawa Process, there has been little effort since 2001 to expand the ban to major non-signatory states.

The Ottawa Process was revolutionary because it brought interested NGOs, international organisations, states, and victims together for the purpose of treaty drafting—a process that was previously considered the domain of sovereign states. The Mine Ban Treaty is of critical importance to Canadians, as the ICBL helped to bolster Canada's ability to influence issues of international security. Indeed, the ICBL was a classic case of 'right place, right time.'

The concept of human security, which is a theory that shifts the focus of security from states to people, increases the ability of smaller states (like Canada) to make a positive contribution to the security needs of people around the world. The landmines issue is a core focus of humans security for the simple reason that landmines continue to kill or severely harm civilians long after the end of the battle.

If these reasons do not convince that the ICBL is a worthwhile 'Canadian cause,' consider the case of Afghanistan. Not only is Afghanistan unique because it is a major consumer of aid and resources (military, development officers, etc.) from the Government of Canada, but also because Afghanistan has the distinction of being one of the most heavily mined countries in the world. The scourge of landmines remains with us, and Canadians should not allow the government of the day to forget the commitment that we made here in Ottawa to forever rid the world of these terrible weapons.

Almost all the countries in Africa have signed the Mine Ban Treaty, but countries like Russia, China, India, Poland, Pakistan, and the United States continue to withhold their support from the ban. Canada has a responsibility, one that it cannot abrogate, to pursue any and all diplomatic avenues in order to secure a wider and more comprehensive ban, as it is clearly in the interests of not only those individuals at risk but of Canadian values as a whole.

—By Gordon C. Hawkins
Gordon C. Hawkins is the president of the International Relations Student Association

Submit a letter to the Ubyssey and see your writing in print. Letters to the editor must be under 300 words. Opinion pieces know as "Perspectives" range from 300 to 750 words.

THE UBYSSEY

Write a letter,
for fun
for critique
for beauty
for truth
for cake
for SPARTA!

Feedback@ubyssey.bc.ca

COURTSIDE COMMENT

'Party[ing] like a rock star': men's soccer team wraps up storybook season

BY JUSTIN MCELROY
Sports Writer

MOLLY MERRIMAN PHOTO / THE UBYSSEY
UBC men's soccer players hoist the Davidson Trophy after winning CIS Nationals held at UBC last weekend.

In early August, Mike Mosher and his squad were just one of 41 CIS teams gunning for the ultimate prize in men's soccer.

Through skill, fate, and a bit of luck, they stand today as champions, and UBC has collected their 11th national championship.

It's easy in this situation, as it is when describing any trophy-collecting team, of resorting to clichés and platitudes—that the 'Birds "overcame adversity", "played best when it mattered most", and ultimately "proved they were without equals" in a "storybook season". Which is all true, but ultimately meaningless: Virtually all champions can be described in such a manner, whether they be in university men's soccer, or the WNBA.

Rather, it is in the small, secondary details that the best stories of winning teams are written. It's the moments that don't matter in the final score of a game, but the footnotes that dot a season which matter to the coaches and the players and the people around the team far more than anything else.

You see it when you look at goalies Nikolai Matni and Elliot Usher, who held the fort for this UBC team while all-star starter Srdjan Djekanovic was playing for Toronto FC in the MLS. Both knew that Djekanovic was returning for the playoffs, both knew that solid play would not be rewarded with additional playing time, and yet, their platoon kept UBC competitive all year in an injury-plagued regular season.

You saw it last month, when UBC went into Langley, got spanked by Trinity Western 4-1 and then listened in their locker rooms as TWU celebrated next door "as if they'd won the World Cup," as Mosher put it. It's impossible to know how each player on the team felt at that moment, but all one has to do is note that after that game, they went 6-2-1, never giving up more than 2 goals, to realise that the impact was definite.

You felt it in your damp socks last week if you watched the 'Birds take advantage of their home-field digs throughout the tournament. Suddenly, all the rain that swept through this city in October became more than a griping point for students—it transformed Thunderbird Stadium and the pristine fields on the south end of campus into bumpy bogs. But they were bumpy bogs that UBC players had practiced on all season.

And of course, there was the gold medal game itself. The T-Birds have a moment the night before to thank, when Ben Hunt bicycle-kicked UBC past York in the 112th minute of an epic semifinal. The championship match, a cold, windswept Sunday that evoked images of CFL games played in Winnipeg, was a back and forth defensive struggle for most of the afternoon. In the end, the moment that defined it all, a moment that will be etched in stone, was when birthday boy Steve Frazao improbably broke free from the Laval defense in the 82nd minute, breaking the 1-1 tie, and inciting pandemonium from the hundreds of fans who descended upon Wolfson Field to cheer on their fellow students.

It's moments like that that define a season, that create memories and moments that give a championship team a narrative that we can follow.

But for the Thunderbird players—the UBC students—who dedicated much of their lives for months and months to make pre-season dreams come true, those moments are irrelevant. All that matters is the end goal, and the feeling that waves over all athletes once their ultimate goal has been completed.

Knowing that, sometime after that final whistle, I made my way down to Thunderbird Stadium, hoping to take a quick peek into the locker room to view the celebration. Once I got to the door, I realised there was no need to continue.

I could hear the music. I could hear the players screaming "Party like a rock star!" I could smell the beer. But more than that, I could feel the unbridled joy that surrounded the team at that moment, a team that was ranked No. 9 in the country going into the weekend, and came out with a championship on their home turf.

And you know what? Cliché or not, that's a storybook season in anyone's book.

Important notice for students who were enrolled in the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan in 2006-2007

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CLAIMS FROM LAST YEAR (for students covered in 2006-2007)
All health and/or dental claims incurred on or before August 31, 2007 (for the 2006-2007 policy year) must be **received** by the insurance company **(Sun Life)** by **November 29, 2007**.

In order to ensure that studentcare.net/works can transfer your claims by the deadline, they must be **dropped off at the Health & Dental Plan Office no later than Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007**.

If you're mailing claims directly to the insurance company, please leave adequate time for delivery. The address for Sun Life is recorded on the back of all claim forms.

Claims received after the deadline will not be reimbursed.

Claim forms are available at **ihaveaplan.ca**.

ams Student Society of UBC Vancouver
University of British Columbia Graduate Student Society

Health & Dental Plan Office
Room 61, UBC Student Union Building, Lower Level
Toll-free: 1 877 795-4421

ihaveaplan.ca

No. 1 seed settles for fourth at CIS championship

Women's field hockey lose to Vikes in bronze medal game

WILSON WONG PHOTO / THE UBYSSEY

Forward Chelsea MacPherson tries to slide the ball away from Alberta Pandas midfielder Lisa Fay during their final regular season game Oct. 21. That game was UBC's second loss of the season until the CIS tournament started.

BY LESLIE DAY
Sports Writer

The UBC women's field hockey team went into the CIS championship as the No. 1 seed, but failed to capture their 12th McCrae Cup in Toronto the weekend before last, settling for fourth.

After winning the Canada West women's field hockey championship, the Thunderbirds headed to Toronto as the favourite, trailed by arch rivals the University of Victoria Vikes, seeded fourth. But with two losses to Guelph and Victoria to open the tournament, their chances for gold had all but disappeared. This year was the first time since 2000 that UBC finished out of the medals at the CIS championship.

In the finals, the host University of Toronto Varsity Blues beat the Guelph Gryphons 1-0 in overtime to take the gold medal in the first all-Ontario final since 1986. Canada West has in recent years dominated the top spot in the tournament, taking all ten banners from 1996 to 2006.

Unfortunately for UBC, accustomed to playing on artificial turf in regular season Canada West, the games in Ontario were played on a grass field. The Vikes, who practice and play on artificial turf similar to UBC's Wright Field, also had difficulty adjusting to the unfamiliar surface.

UBC Coach Hash Kanjee may be used to better performances from his team given his success over the last 15 years with the program, but he was still pleased with his players.

"[They] conducted themselves with skill and poise...we could have drawn back and played defence, waiting for a break, but I wanted the girls to play with the skills they've been working on all year," said Kanjee, defending his decision to avoid the hit-and-run game that may have been more successful on a surface where ball movement can be unpredictable and slow.

Third-year midfielder and defender Cayla McLean agreed with her coach, saying that the team played extremely well, though few of the skills they'd mastered on artificial turf translated to the grass field.

Despite the loss, several Thunderbirds played well at Nationals, including Laura Dowling, Tyla Flexman, Katie MacPherson, and Devon Bromley. Fifth-year defender Jessie Denys had spent time sidelined with a ruptured ACL, but after going through intense rehabilitation she saw time on the pitch in Toronto.

The U of T Varsity Centre field turf may have interfered with the National Team selection and identification process that traditionally takes place at the tournament, but the full extent of the surface's effect will not be known until Field Hockey Canada begins putting together the National squad later this year. Field turf is not considered an appropriate surface for international competition, or at the elite level, but is attractive to high schools and universities because soccer and football can be played on it as well.

Both McLean and Kanjee praised host U of T for securing accommodation near the field, organising an excellent banquet, and generally fulfilling and exceeding the athletes' off-field expectations for a national championship. Outside of the decision to forego an off-campus artificial field for the on-campus grass field, the host school left a good impression with the Canada West champions, who returned home disappointed, but ready to play again in the spring in Vancouver's Premier League.

Dare 2B Digital
The Online Learning Challenge
Take a dare
show your talent,
win prizes!
Dare2BDigital is an exciting online event showcasing BC's best creative minds competing against each other in a series of brain bending new media challenges.
Think you have what it takes to be a contestant on Dare2BDigital?
Apply online
www.dare2bdigital.ca
Enter today. We dare you!
Sponsored by: BCCAMPUS.CA

The Ubyssey
Shameless GIVEAWAY

Stop by room 23, SUB for a complimentary ticket to
Ballet BC's Elemental Brubeck.
November 22, 23, 24, Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver.
First Come, First Serve. Only 6 Tickets!
While supplies last. One per student.

Watch **big men** play with their **big sticks** and **big balls** and record all the details
write for sports
sports@ubyssey.bc.ca

THE UBYSSEY

Teach English Overseas
- Intensive 60-Hour Program
- Classroom Management Techniques
- Detailed Lesson Planning
- Comprehensive Teaching Materials
- Internationally Recognized Certificate
- Teacher Placement Service
- Money Back Guarantee Included
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

OXFORD SEMINARS
1-800-779-1779 / 780-428-8700
www.oxfordseminars.com