the summer ubyssey

Marrying interviewees since 1982

volume 12 issue 7 Thursday, August 24, 1995

UBC braces for Big Mac attack

by Andy Barham

McDonald's is coming to UBC.

The fast-food giant will take up residence in a mini-mall currently under construction at the Campus Village, according to local businessman Sandy Chow, who leases the site. The completed building, which will sit on the old Kinko's site, will also contain a grocery store, a photocopy service, and a sub-level food fair.

Rumours of McDonald's coming to campus have been circulating for several months, but the actual fact of its arrival seems to have taken most of the community by surprise.

UBC's manager of media relations Stephen Crombie said he sees no real problem with McDonald's setting up shop near the entrance to campus. "It's really no different than Kinko's Copies, or a bank, or another pizza restaurant or whatever. I suppose if McDonald's sees a market, then they have a right to go in there if they can get permission from whoever's administering the land."

Alma Mater Society president Janice Boyle worries that the arrival of a McDonald's will threaten AMS businesses in SUB, and says the franchise will poorly affect the image of the university as a whole. "I think that having the first thing that you see on University Boulevard coming into campus being the golden arches is really tacky.

"I certainly don't think it reflects the collegiate atmosphere or particularly adds anything to a setting which is incredibly beautiful. In fact, I think it mars it."

Ron Marcu, President and CEO for McDonald's Western Canada Division, however, doesn't see a problem. "I guess, from my point of view–and I'm a little biased–I think it'll look great."

The site is owned by the Provincial Crown Lands Office but is administered by the University Endowment Lands. UEL manager Bruce Stenning said that as long as McDonald's complies with existing UEL by-laws, there is nothing to stop the restaurant from leasing space from Mr Chow.

Many local residents and businesses are unhappy with Chow's plan to bring in a McDonald's. Kathleen Yuen, proprietor of the

continued on page 4

EVERY STUDENT'S DREAM — McDonald's Golden Arches will soon grace the campus of UBC. JENN KUO PHOTO

No income tax on student loans

by Matt Thompson

Students worried over a reported federal plan forcing them to repay their loans through income tax can relax, says Canadian Alliance of Student Associations president Alex Usher.

"It's certainly not happening in B.C. any time soon," Usher said Monday.

Concerns that the federal government was considering further changes to the student loan program were sparked by a story published in the August 14 edition of the eastern Canadian *Sun* newspaper chain. The story was subsequently picked up by both *The Vancouver Sun* and *Province.*

According to Usher, the whole thing was simply a misunderstanding on the part of a Sun reporter.

Usher says the confusion was over Finance Minister Lloyd Axworthy's August 1 announcement that the federal government was still "open for business" on income contingency, a proposal that would link students' loan repayments with their income level.

The Sun jumped on Axworthy's comments as a "scoop," despite the fact that the federal Liberals have said they've been interested in income contingency since Bill C-28, the legislation which introduced changes to the student loan program, was passed more than 15 months ago.

Usher said using the income tax system to have students repay loans is especially unwieldy given recent changes to the student loans program, which transfered responsibility for loan collection to banks.

"[Income tax repayment] only tends to work if your creditor is the government," Usher said. "Under the new bank deals–and this is the same federally and provincially–your creditor is the bank. And I'm not sure why or how you would use the income tax system directly, why you would use crown resources, to recover private debt."

What the government has said, Usher explained, is that it is willing to pursue pilot projects in income contingency with any province that is interested in doing so. So far, only Ontario has shown signs of taking the feds up on the offer.

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Faculty of Arts profs want admissions reopened

by James Conley

Five professors in the Faculty of Arts will forward a resolution to faculty members at a special meeting September 7 asking President Strangway to re-open graduate admissions to the department of Political Science.

Three of the five faculty members responsible for the document currently serve on an ad hoc committee struck by Dean of Arts Patricia Marchak to forward recommendations based upon the McEwen report.

The conclusions of the committee are not yet finalized and discussion is expected to continue into the Winter session. Members of the committee emphasize that their task is to make recommendations for future policy, not to pass judgment on what has transpired in Political Science.

Ashok Kotwal, Head of Economics, insists that his involvement in the drafting of the resolution asking that Poli Sci graduate admissions be reopened and his membership on the ad hoc committee do not represent a conflict of interest. "It is important that the department of Political Science be re-opened. The McEwen report was very badly done, full of procedural flaws. There are allegations without evidence and the department as a whole has been injured. I felt that it was important to forward this resolution," Kotwal said. "The committee is something altogether different."

Ed Hundert, Head of Arts One, also described his roles with the committee and the drafting of the resolution to be unrelated. "The committee is concerned with future events rather than what's already occurred. I feel there is no conflict of interest in being involved in both of them."

Committee chair Herbert Rosengarten, Head of English, was surprised to hear of the resolution. "I wasn't aware that this resolution had been drafted or that these people were involved. When the committee meets this Thursday I'm sure this will be a topic of discussion."

The immediate future of Political Science is undetermined. Kotwal, when asked how he felt the faculty would react to the resolution was unsure. "I do not know how the faculty will vote on the issue but I believe it is important to present it."

Sociology professor Bob Ratner described the response to the McEwen report on campus as a "chilling effect" which people are unsure of how to interpret or approach. "It's critical that this issue be examined by both students and faculty," Ratner said, "rather than be quietly forgotten."

Heidi Peterson, president of the Graduate Student Society, expressed concern at the role of the ad hoc committee in relationship to the problem as a whole. "Why has this committee been established to examine the report when Dean Marchak has come out so strongly against it? The whole thing has the appearance of being stage-managed. I find the idea that certain members of the committee are also involved in the drafting of this resolution disturbing. When the GSS was asked to forward a student representative to the committee, we were asked to provide a student with no other involvement with the issue. I wonder why the faculty weren't asked the same."

Marguerite Chiarenza, Head of Hispanic and Italian Studies, the third member of the ad hoc committee involved in the drafting of the resolution, was unavailable for comment. Fellow committee members Jillian Creese and George Egerton refused comment on the issue.

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Deadline is September 1 for September 6th issue

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(1) Find SUB 241K, or call us at 822—2301
(2) Volunteer to do something, producton, news reporting, photography etc.
(3) Make three contributions to the paper. "editorial functions" as defined in The Ubyssey Publications Society Bylaws.
(4) Read the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society and agree to abide by them.

Come meet the cwazy sex wabbits with The Ubyssey
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Saturday 1pm
SUB 241K

Agenda for Ubyssey Staff meeting:

Friday, August 25, 1995. 12:30 pm

1. Chair & minute taker
2. Show us your vacation snapshot
3. Representing the paper
4. First September issue
5. Reminder about Saturday Production
6. Open House story meeting
7. Staff cards
8. Other business

AMS Update

SUB Renovations

The Renovations Planning Group, in response to numerous comments about the appearance of the building, and in conjunction with more ambitious plans to provide additional student space, undertook an architectural study to reverse the 'tired building syndrome.' To accomplish this study and to define reasonable areas for reworking, given that the building is an ongoing operation, a strategy of splitting the building into precincts was devised with each precinct having its own architectural programme. To maintain the consistency of design intent across these areas, a statement of planning goals and objectives was prepared.

The planning strategies focussed on a building for students, and towards developing a sense of community within the student membership and externally to other groups within society. Specific directions for the architecture of the building recognized the need to provide a circulation structure within and to make possible a building which created an environment free of concerns for physical safety. In Phase One, the AMS was committed to upgrading the lighting and conversation pit areas on the main concourse.

However, funds were far from unlimited and a strategy of reinforcing the best and upgrading the worst was adopted to avoid the modification of quality areas. Presently underway is the work identified as the west side precinct/main concourse renovation. Within the scope of work is the remodelling of the conversation lounge to accomodate a future entry from the west side of the building, a new lighting system which is being fabricated by a local metal artist, a hard-wood floor, refurbishg of sofas and chairs and a fresh coat of paint (it's been 28 years since the last paint job in some areas). Renovations will be completed by the end of September.

A strategy of reinforcing the best and upgrading the worst was adopted to avoid the modification of quality areas.

In refurbishing the public areas of the Student Union Building, we see two distinct needs: to improve light levels for safe activity and to enhance these areas with metaphoric meaning. The two areas identified for lighting improvement are: the active, linear concourse and the quieter, reflective conversation lounge.

We recognize the need to make possible a building free of concerns for physical safety.

Our metaphoric concept is: "Students are on a vital yet difficult developmental journey. Life is transitional and this journey can be difficult. At times the pathway is defined, but it may be uncharted and unknown. The traveller passes through strange places with fear and danger as a companion, yet there are discoveries and revelations along the way. Above all else, there remains hope for the future."

Our response has been to design a series of charts and paths though mythical landscapes which will be precisely executed by a local sculptor.

The suspended dishes in the conversation lounge are overall charts identifying the astral and terrestrial environments. Applied shapes allude to selected areas which relate to the more detailed maps in the concourse.

The lateral troughs crossing the concourse respond to the activity and movement there with complementary rhythms and more precise charts. Here, the pathways of the traveller are shown in detail, as well as patterns and symbols defining places on one's journey.

The kinds of travel in each of these environments vary: Long arcs in outer space, landing zones on the moon, hiking trails over difficult terrestrial terrain, and sailing courses responding to winds on the ocean.

Light is radiant energy which brings life, interacting with users to facilatate progress. All that we know about the universe originates from light, and light guides us on our path through life toward spritual enlightenment. Light is a manifestation of the creative, and symbolizes eternity.

These light modulators are hopeful future-oriented sculptures which will bring an unearthly optimism to the improved Student Union Building. A speakers'platform, a permanent speaker system and a mural commemorating the 'Great Trek' to be completed by UBC students in October, will galvanize this area as the center of student activity.

Members of the Renovations Planning Group:

Am Johal, Chair -	822-3961
Michael Kingsmill, Designer -	822-5000
Michael Blackman, Engineering Rep.	
Lisa Cohen, F & N Sciences Rep.	
Nicola Ashurst, Agriculture Rep.	
Cynthia Wickstrom, Finance Com. Rep.	
Joe Cheng, SAC Rep.	
Ryan McCuaig, Member-at-Large	

Next meeting is at 5 pm, September 7th in Rm. 224 of SUB.

All meetings are open to students of UBC.

ALMA MATER SOCIETY
STUDENT SOCIETY OF UBC

Prepared by your Student Society

Maple trees granted stay of execution

by Charlie Cho

The chainsaws have been silenced. After the removal of twenty-six silver maple trees on University Boulevard, Transportation and Highways Minister Jackie Pement declared a moratorium last Wednesday in response to public outcry.

Kate Roach, the ministry's project manager, will form a board to review the health of the maples. Candidates for the panel include the curator of Van Dusen Gardens, a certified arbourist, a former urban forester, and a botanist.

A public forum on the fate of the trees will be held in mid-September. The forum will include presentations of cross-sections of the felled trees and possible choices for replacements. "It will be an open session for comments and it will be an information session for people who want to know more," said Roach.

According to Roach, independent arbourists who evaluated the trees concluded that fifty-nine were prone to "collapse on their own volition, either from too much weight on the top, stem failure through the main portion of the trunk, or base failure."

Ken McGregor, a certified arbourist hired by the ministry to determine which trees needed to be removed, agreed there are serious problems with them. "The number one hazard is the decay progressing into the canopy where the tree turns into multiple stems," he said. "It's not a matter of the trees falling down, it's weak points where they branch out."

However, Dr. Herbert Kronzucker, a UBC Botany professor whose area of expertise is tree physiology, does not feel that removal of the trees is appropriate. "I'm not saying that there are not individual trees that one could argue for cutting down," he said. "But to bring down an excess of two hundred trees, for dendrological reasons–I will not endorse."

Kronzucker feels that most of the trees could be saved if they were properly pruned. "You have to maintain...a regular pruning exercise, which is necessary every other year, sometimes every year," he said. "Of course, that's costlier than cutting down the entire row of trees completely, which is what they're opting for."

The oldest of the trees are about 75 years old. "Silver maples can get much older than the ones you have on University Boulevard," said Kronzucker. "Silver maple, in its natural habitat, [lives] from 120 to 200 years."

"I'm not saying that there are not individual trees that one could argue for cutting down, but to bring down an excess of two hundred trees, for dendrological reasons –I will not endorse." – Botany Prof Herbert Kronzucker

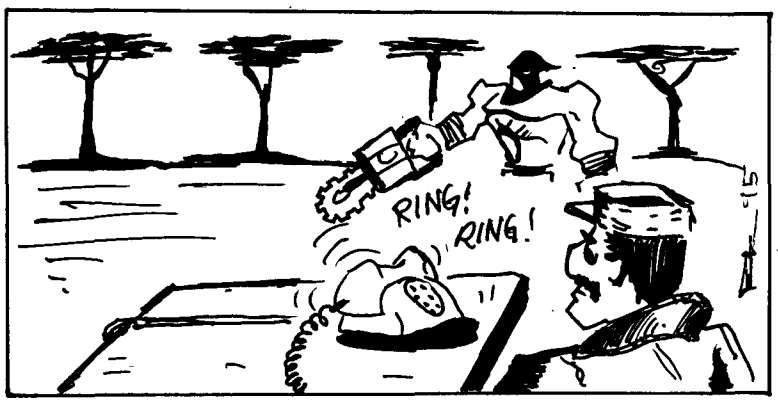
Roach believes that the trees' less than ideal environment will significantly shortens their lifespan to 75 to 80 years. "They've got compacted root systems. They've got nowhere to get any nutrients. No one's fed them for years, fertilized them, or done anything," she said.

She also cautions against pruning the older maples. Pruning exposes the inner tissue of the tree, leaving it vulnerable to other hazards. "We found a number of trees that had termite infestation as well as carpenter ants," she said.

But Kronzucker argued that proper pruning should be part of normal maintenance for the trees. "The trees are doing fine right now. Is [pruning] a shock? Will it kill the tree? In most cases, it will not. If pruning is done properly, it will do nothing to the maple stem," he said.

There are still twenty-four silver maples which are classified by the Ministry as "hazardous or undue risk trees".

UBC Botany Prof Herbert Kronzucker says that the silver maple trees that were being cut down on University Boulevard are still healthy. CHRIS NUTTALL-SMITH PHOTO



Peer Program aims to help international students adjust to life at UBC campus

by Andy Ferris

Newly arrived international students often have a difficult time adjusting to life at UBC. The Peer Program, a volunteer effort initiated by International Student Services, matches these students with UBC peers to help with the transition to life in Canada and on campus.

Karen Hallett, the program coordinator says the program operates as a "buddy system" to provide foreign students with a support network. "Cultural adjustments [are] the really big ones," Hallet said. "There's the daily stuff like life skills, banking, buying bus tickets, finding a place to live.

"All sorts of symptoms arise when you're going through cross-cultural transition, and [students] can become quite severely depressed."

The program prefers undergraduates in their third and fourth years, graduate students, and mature students. One of the goals is to match participants' study areas and hobbies to maximize the benefits for both students. Kitreal Chin acted as a peer to an international student. "What [the program] did was match me up more or less with someone I would be compatible with... Say if I wanted to learn a second language like French I could specify whom I wanted. They would try and match you up with [a French speaker]."

"All sorts of symptoms arise when you're going through cross-cultural transition ..."
Karen Hallett
Peer Program coordinator

Hallett expanded on the benefits for Canadian participants. "There is the immediate reward of volunteering. You're doing something that's extremely useful, altruistic really."

Tomoko Kitayama, a participant in the program in 1990, found the program to be "a very big help. I knew a few people off campus, but not on campus."

Some major changes are planned for this year's Peer Program. The program has received a substantial increase in funding from the university's Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund. Hallett says the added funding will make it possible to bring together as many as 224 pairs, as compared to last year's 25.

"There has never been any funding before for any kind of advertising," says Hallett. "We're trying to really put the push on."

International students will also have their own orientation week for this first time this year. Hallet hopes to recruit a large number of international students there, but adds "it doesn't work if you can't get the Canadian students to be the peer."

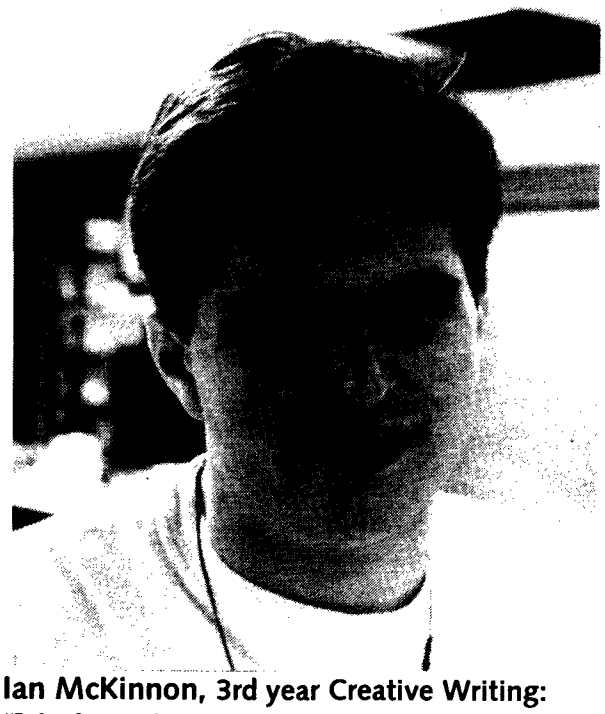
Interested UBC or international students can pick up application forms from International House or call 822-5021.

talking heads

The Ubyssey went out and asked students the following question:

"How do you feel about McDonald's on campus?"

photos by Andy Bonfield



Ian McKinnon, 3rd year Creative Writing: "I think it sucks. We have the AMS outlets which employ students. I don't think there's any way McDonald's is going to employ students and if they do it will certainly be at a lower wage than either the AMS or people who work for CUPE will ever earn."

Lea Anne Brueton, Masters student in Planning: "It sounds good. It's free enterprise, that's the way UBC seems to work, so if it affects Food Services, if it makes them more competitive then so be it."

Cory Fawcett, 1st year Dentistry: "I want my SUBWAY back!"

Hiroshi Matsuzawa, 3rd year Arts: "I think it's good. There's not much cheap eating at UBC. It's not that convenient to classes but it's good to have a variety here."

Jacquie Dyck, 4th year Human Kinetics: "Great! I'll need a place to work when I graduate. Would you like fries with that?"

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Big Mac continued from page 1

Red Star Restaurant cited garbage and litter as a chief concern. Many University Hill residents are also worried over the lack of parking available for the new complex.

Marcu says he's aware of the parking problem. "We'd like to see more parking, but there isn't the parking there, and there isn't much we can do about it."

The only parking in the area is the metered street parking along a short stretch of University Blvd, and the UEL has no intention of allocating more parking space to the developer.

Noise and smell were also listed as potential problems. "We'll have to put up with their sickening stench," said Mary Berk, UBC law student and resident of Acadia Park, a nearby housing project for students with families. "I hate the smell of it."

At least one local resident is pleased to see a McDonald's coming. "They have good food," said Kelly-anne, aged 8, when asked why she liked McDonald's.

The restaurant is expected to open for business some time between November and January.

***The Summer Ubyssey* has finished publishing for this year.**

Fall publication for *The Ubyssey* begins Wedenesday, September 6,1995. Copy deadline for the first issue is Friday, September 1.

other funky things:

*new time: Ubyssey staff meeting: Wednesday, August 30, 1995. 12:30pm

Open House special issue story meeting:

Come, share your ideas. Get funky assignments. We need writers, photogs, graphic artists...

Thursday, August 31, 1:30pm. SUB 241K

Musicolumn

The Verve - *A Northern Soul* [Virgin]

Look, I gotta confess — I'm a real sucker for anything that's even remotely psychedelic. What can I say in my own self defense, except that — well, I sort of grew up listening to the Grateful Dead. Hell, they once played a gig at our rival high school back when I was a snotnosed young punk. Which kind of leads into what I think Verve sounds like. There *does* appear to be a Grateful Dead influence, circa the *Live Dead* album, at work in Verve's music. But then, there are echoes of various incarnations of psychedelia, including, most noticeably, Echo and The Bunnymen. Even U2 circa *Boy* and Pink Floyd, back when Sid Barret was the mainstay of the band, get a bit more than just a look in.

Oh dear, this does rather sound like the band's influences are protruding noticeably through their music. Alas, this is true. But what the hell? It's psychedelic, so who gives a fuck anyway? Not me. I just sit back and enjoy! Pass the cuchie, mon; I've got a midterm in Differential Equations tommorrow and it's time to fry some brain cells ... *- Andy the grate*

Michael Roe – *Safe as Milk* [Via]

Listening to the final, fading notes on the 77s' last album, *Drowning with Land in Sight*, I wondered how long newly divorced 77s frontman Michael Roe could continue subjecting his bandmates to the highly personalized despair that had obviously fuelled his post-connubial writings. He was writing great songs, but were these screams into the void really what the band wanted to say *as a band?*

Apparently Roe himself was aware of this problem, hence this, his first solo album. The subterranean growl of 'The Stellazine Prophecy' recalls the menace of *Drowning*'s 'Snake', but by and large, *Safe as Milk* is a far more melancholic album than anything the 77s ever did. The wistful nostalgia of 'Holy Day' and the sorrowful plea of 'Ache Beautiful' bracket the album and keep its more optimistic elements on a cautious leash (but even these moments of hope, acoustic and ballady as they are, sound downright jaded).

Personal pain *can* make for great art, and at his best, Roe is capable of drawing the listener into his woes and evoking a genuine sympathy, even empathy. But after two albums of this one-sided commisserating, I'm beginning to wonder what the ex-*wife* would have to say.

(By the way, the only edition of *Safe as Milk* available through the Canadian distributors inexplicably omits three of the better songs and screws up the order and the pacing of the rest of the album. Get the 12-song version if you can.)

- Peter T. Chattaway

Wailing Souls – *Live On* [Zoo/BMG]

Wailing Souls' *Live On* soulfully combines the sounds of R&B with traditional reggae. The album's high points are reached during its more danceable tracks.

Live On's most outstanding selection is the funky, lively opener, 'Bandits'; it certainly has the potential to become a dance/reggae classic. The majority of the album, however, focuses on a politically inclined form of reggae delivering messages of inspiration and love.

The lyrics are straightforward and non-metaphorical in typical reggae fashion. 'Don't Give Up' and 'O.K. Corral' depict the struggles of society's less fortunate and the need for change. Wailing Souls' cover songs produce mixed results: their cover of Steam's 'Na, Na, Hey, Hey, Kiss Him Goodbye' is completely out of place on this album, unlike the energetic remake of Paul Simon's 'Mother and Child Reunion'.

Live On will not appeal to everyone, but it should be a delight to reggae fans. *- Janet Winters*

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Opera a surreal package

Lesley Ewen, Vaughn Fulford, and Andrew Johnston star in **The Threepenny Opera.**

The Threepenny Opera

August 25 at Douglas Park; August 26 at MacLean Park; August 27 at Nelson Park

by Martha Niessen

Bertolt Brecht changed the poetic face of Germany with his provocative approach to communication. He broke away from conventional drama by introducing "epic theatre", whereby the songs ("works within the work") and actors would reflect on the characters and the text during their performance.

In Ruby Slippers' rendition of *The Threepenny Opera*, such Brechtian techniques include a chorus of prostitutes who, in denouncing women who don't stand up for their rights, cite an article in the theatre company's publication which asserts that Brecht filched much of his text from a mistress.

Such heavy irony blends perfectly with the play's overall cynicism. Imagine operatic voices singing: "The world is full of shit / That's all there is to it / That's why it's so bloody boring." Overacting and exaggeration combine with blunt vulgarity and jazzy rhythms to create a unique, surreal package of offbeat expression, all delivered in an outdoor setting.

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The Blue Kite
at the Ridge August 25 - 31

by Andy Barham

A blue kite flying overhead is the first image we see, as Tietou (Chen Xiaoman) describes the place where he grew up with his mother. As he describes The Street of the Dry Well, the camera pans down to street level, and we enter the story. It is 1953, only four years after the revolution which brought Mao Zedong to power, and Josef Stalin has just died.

It is a heady time of revolutionary fervour and youthful idealism in the New China, when the great utopian promise of Communism still seems possible. In this respect, the film could be said to carry on where *Fanshen* left off.

Fanshen (which means "to turn over") was written by an American living in the country village of Longbow during and shortly after the revolution. It chronicled the changes brought about by communism, and was itself filled with idealism and hope.

However, Tietou's home is no Longbow; rather, The Street of the Dry Well lies in a suburban district of Beijing. In *Fanshen*, the privations of war and famine are relieved by the revolution. *Fanshen* therefore closes upon the same note of heady idealism *The Blue Kite* opens with.

We first catch a glimpse of high level corruption through Zhu Ying (Zhang Hong), the attractive girlfriend of Shujuan's brother Shusheng (Zhong Ping), both of whom are airforce veterans. Her superior officer insists that she dance for China's leaders. When she refuses, she is first transfered to a menial factory job, then sent to prison. Good looking army women were expected to dance and perform for top officials in the new regime, and Tian Zhuangzhuang is credited with being the first filmmaker to depict such practices (which may also have included the bestowing of sexual favours).

No one in the new China is safe; even Shujuan's older sister, a Marxist-Leninist ideologue who never fails to spout the party line, will herself be humiliated by the Red Guard. Shujuan herself loses three husbands during the tumultuous period between 1953 and 1966, each succumbing, in one way or another, to the vicissitudes of the times.

The film closes with a severely beaten Tietou, now an adolescent, lying on the ground as the camera pans back up to the blue kite, which lies in tatters within the barren limbs of an old tree.

No one familiar with the history of modern China can be ignorant of the violent excesses of the Red Guard during the Cultural Revolution, which may well have been the bloodiest period in post-WWII China. Thus, I'd expected the film to be a lot more violent than it was. Instead, these events were severely understated, director Tian Zhuanzhuang concentrating on Tietou and his family, and how the events affect them personally.

Like some of Hitchcock's better works, this understating of the The Cultural Revolution's violence serves to underscore its tragedy, making it real in a way that the ultra-graphic depiction of violence so characteristic of modern American filmmaking fails to do. At the close of the film, I found myself unable to leave the cinema for a few moments until I could bring my own emotions back under control. The truth is, I felt like crying, despite knowing beforehand that something awful would happen before the end of the movie.

Apart from a few minor quibbles I had with the film — for example, we never really get a glimpse into the character of Shujuan's third husband, Wu Leisheng (Guo Baochang), until shortly before his impending arrest — I can well understand why this film won over audiences in the various film festivals where it played, including Cannes. It *is* an engrossing and moving protrait of a mother and her son during a tumultuous and often harrowing period of recent history.

The Blue Kite underscores the tragedy of the Cultural Revolution.

Desperado
opens August 25 at Cineplex theatres

by Peter T. Chattaway

Made for a mere $7000, Robert Rodriguez's *El Mariachi* was a festival-circuit hit that embodied the best traditions of low-budget filmmaking: surreal dream sequences, experimental camera angles, a tough-talking female role, a tacky soundtrack, and the sort of nihilistic sadism that kills everyone, friend or foe, within a mile of the hero (who does not go unscatched himself). Above all, it had an eye-catching gimmick: a guitar case filled with weapons. The wandering minstrel became a troubadour terminator.

Hollywood shelled out a million or two to buy the film and upgrade it to the 35mm format. Now, with the sequel *Desperado*, comes the *real* makeover. With the money at his disposal, Rodriguez can afford to destroy an entire building or two, crash cars together for a cheap slapstick joke, and flood the screen with (literally) buckets of fake blood.

Most significantly, *Desperado* eschews the Everyman look of *El Mariachi*'s cast in favour of stellar cameos; this big-name approach reaches its climax in the replacement of pudgy, fresh-faced Carlos Gallardo (the original Mariachi, he appears briefly in *Desperado* as one of the Mariachi's sidekicks) with bankable, sensual stud Antonio Banderas.

At least Rodriguez hasn't lost his sense of humour. To be sure, the fast-motion photography and screeching-tires sound effects that halted his steadicam in *El Mariachi* are notably absent from *Desperado* (you can be funny in Hollywood, but not experimentally so), but the action sequences are ridiculously, if enjoyably, over the top (Sam Raimi could learn from this guy), and the minor characters pepper laughs throughout the film.

Let's begin with the most minor of all: Quentin Tarantino's "pick-up guy". Reportedly, Rodriguez wanted to give him a taste of his own gory medicine; frankly, Video Boy gave himself a more significant role in *Reservoir Dogs*. (Along the way, Tarantino gets a chance to walk his shtick and plagiarize yet another anecdote — let's hear it for that lateral dialogue! Now, what was the film *about*, again?) Cheech Marin has a hilarious turn as an irascible bartender, and Steve Buscemi gets the film off to a beautiful start as the teller of tall tales who makes ready the path of the Mariachi; hopping up and down on his barstool as he spins his story, he comes across like a shrivelled Jon Lovitz (in perfect yeah-*that's*-the-ticket Pathological Liar mode) on a caffiene high.

Less funny — though he tries — is *Clear and Present Danger*'s Joaquim de Almeida as Bucho, the sort of despotic druglord who will kill his own henchman as a facetious object lesson to the others. Apparently Bucho is somehow related to the nasties who plagued the Mariachi and killed his lover in the first film, and the Mariachi wants revenge.

Distinctly *non*-funny — apart from the work she performs on the Mariachi's bullet wound — is Carolina (Salma Hayek), the woman from Bucho's past who strikes up an affair with the peripatetic Mariachi. Forget the strength of will that made the ill-fated love interest in *El Mariachi* so interesting: this new girl's looks and sounds far too delicate; her "fuckability" (to use Sherry Lansing's term) is her sole *raison d'etre*. You'll never see *her* forcing the Mariachi to compose a song about castration at knifepoint.

Which brings us to Banderas. When all the wise-cracking sidekicks and gun-toting machismoids are cleared away, the film must ultimately rely on his performance alone, and it works, to a point. Banderas balances his role with some finely introspective moments when he isn't twisting his way through shamelessly choreographed shoot-outs, but at times he gets *too serious*.

For this the blame must go to Rodriguez. *El Mariachi* was a pure exercise in low-budget narrative, unfettered by grand moral statements and half-assed stabs at "redeeming value". It didn't matter who the gunmen were, or why their cartel existed, so long as they were shot. *Desperado* sacrifices this amoral purity by waxing eloquent on the villains' drug trade, and offering stale moralistic commentary on the side. In addition, its final left-field plot twist is a total clunker: it doesn't resonate with *any*thing we've seen in either of the two films.

Not that continuity is a big concern here. The Mariachi left the first film with a motorbike, a docile pit bull, and an affinity for turtles. None of these make it into *Desperado*, and I would not be surprised if this film was similarly ignored by its successors. But when you're paying to see bloody carnage, who gives a fig for consistency?

Beyond Rangoon
opens August 25 at Cineplex theatres

by John Bolton

On August 8, 1988 in Burma, 200,000 people took to the streets to protest three decades of oppressive rule by the Burmese Socialist Program Party. The demonstration was peaceful, but military police opened fire on the students, Buddhist monks, women and children. The death toll numbered 10,000. This happened only a year before Tiananmen Square. But the events in Burma weren't televised, nor were they met with international outrage or sympathy. Instead, they went largely unnoticed.

Elections were held in Burma for the first time in 30 years in 1990. The National League for Democracy won the majority of seats. However, the election results were never honoured and the government is now in exile in Washington, D.C.

Patricia Arquette loses her passport and gets caught up in the politics of Burma in **Beyond Rangoon.**

I learned all this from a pamphlet handed to me after the screening of *Beyond Rangoon*, the new film from John Boorman and the first to deal with the situation in Burma. The handout urges that the Burmese "need help from their friends abroad."

I agree it is the responsibility of free countries to take up their struggle. Making a movie about Burma was probably a good idea. The filmmakers have their hearts in the right place, but the fact remains that the aforementioned pamphlet is far more compelling than the film. Trust me, I've seen them both.

In the first place, *Beyond Rangoon* is not really about the Burmese. It's the story of an American doctor, Laura Bowman (Patricia Arquette), who is traveling with her sister (Frances McDormand) in the Burmese capital of Rangoon. She is mourning the brutal, apparently unmotivated slayings of her husband and son (seen in gruesome, unnecessary flashback).

We're just getting familiar with them and their wacky tour guide (Spalding Gray) when Laura loses her passport and finds herself stranded in Rangoon for at least another week.

That's the last we see of McDormand and Gray, and Arquette is left to carry the film on her own. Just for kicks, she pays a friendly local (U Aung Ho) to escort her past military checkpoints to see the countryside, where she immediately becomes involved in the fight for freedom.

Arquette is an engaging and sexy actress when properly cast, but here she isn't believable in the lead. Like Patrick Swayze in *City of Joy* (another tale of an emotionally scarred American doctor alone in a ravaged foreign country), she simply doesn't have the range. Laura keeps her emotional distance for most of the film, except when she gets really pissed off, so Arquette merely looks indifferent a great deal of the time.

To be fair, she isn't helped by uninspired direction and a pretty awful script, which offers little in the way of character development. Her transformation from brooding, suffering soul to purposeful radical is unconvincing. There's also weak dialogue ("The dream was so vivid, I felt I was awake"), some amazingly bad rearview projection and way too much music; to give you an idea how out of control the situation was, the credits listed a 'score wrangler'. Yikes.

Beyond Rangoon is only ostensibly about Burma, and Laura's inner journey is neither plausible nor interesting enough to carry the film. The decision to show us the events of August 8, 1988 from an outsider's perspective was a bad one. In trying to draw parallels between Laura's suffering and that of the Burmese, the filmmakers simplify the issue beyond belief.

Judging by the pamphlets and publicity surrounding the film, there are hopes that *Beyond Rangoon* will make a difference. I doubt it will, and that's a shame. By the end of the film Laura and her freedom-fighting friends are running for their lives across a bridge under heavy artillery fire, and it's nothing more than a poorly done action sequence right out of *Rambo III*. Then again, *Beyond Rangoon* clarifies the situation in Burma in much the same way Stallone's film encouraged discussion of the Afghanistan conflict.

We live in a free country. No one is forcing you to see this film; read the pamphlet instead.

ARTS & CULTURE

Crowds gather Under the Volcano

Under the Volcano
11 days ago at Cates Park

by Federico Barahona

"We don't know what this is in benefit of, but whatever cause it is, we support it," declared the lead singer of Victoria's cow punk goddesses, The Vinaigrettes, summing up the mood at this year's Sixth Annual Under the Volcano Festival of Arts and Social Change.

More like a gathering of people under one big sky than a music festival, Under the Volcano prides itself on being a true alternative festival that sets its own agenda.

As opposed to a corporate agenda a la Lollapalooza? "This is not a Molson rock fest," an organizer pointed out, when asked how Under the Volcano compared to other summer attractions. "Hey, we don't charge you $35 for the day." In fact, Under the Volcano charges no admission (apart from the donations of festival goers).

Regardless of how you feel about corporate sponsorship, what makes Under the Volcano a truly worthwhile event is its diversity. After all, where else can you experience children's performers, Native traditional dancing, cutting edge poetry, hardcow punk world music, as well as international short films, all in one location?

MAURAN KIM

One of the performers at **Under the Volcano.**

Strangely enough, most of this year's highlights took place on the second, more intimate, stage. The beats and rhythms of Ramon Flores and Kin Lalat proved that there's more to the local Latin American music scene than B.C. Salsa's brand of generic cumbias. The Vinaigrettes — "Patsy Cline fronting L7" — sped through their set with an odd combination of humour and brutality: accessibility with alternativeness.

Jeet Kei's Chinafied hip hop suffered from a muddy mix, but his rhymes about Mumia Abu-Jamal — a Philadelphia journalist unjustly accused of killing a cop, now fighting for his life on death row — came across loud and clear.

On the first stage, Sawagi Taiko, a drum group made up of five Asian women, took everyone by surprise. Sawagi Taiko performed traditional Japanese songs, interchanging lyrics on Asian stereotypes portrayed in the mass media, and the role that pieces like *Miss Saigon* play in perpetuating stereotypes. Needless to say, the crowd demanded to hear encore after encore and, happily, Sawagi Taiko complied.

The real highlight of the festival, however, was this year's innovation: The International Activist Film & Video Festival, which featured short films and documentaries from around the world. Some of the best titles included *Blockade*, a documentary exploring the conflict between a white settler community and First Nations; *New World Murder*, a nine-minute look at the role of the media during the Gulf War; and *Green Guerillas*, a look into the efforts by the Philippines' New People's Army to save the rain forests from logging companies.

MAURAN KIM

One of the band members from **Sawagi Taiko.**

Not everything ran smoothly, however. Under the Volcano 1995 did have some problems. Some people felt that the lack of a "big" headlining act gave the festival a lack of focus (the last two festivals were headlined by P.O.W.E.R. and Bob's Your Uncle). The film festival could have benefited from bigger screens and a better sound system. The distant music from the first stage made it, at times, difficult to pay attention to the images on the screens. And, finally, two women who started dancing topless were not amused by the cops' pleas to put their tops back on, "or else."

These are bugs that will be worked out, no doubt.

Modern compositions have attitude

Decade VI
11 days ago at the Metropolitan Tabernacle

by Christopher Norman

Classical musicians often tend to be unwilling participants in the composer's attempt to force his or her will upon innocent air molecules. The resulting distortion of his or her intentions may well be the reason why people tend to complain that composers are unable to "reach out" and "connect" with the audience.

Happily, performance standards have improved, and when modern music is played as brilliantly and compellingly as it was by 16 members of the Hornby Festival Ensemble during the *Decade VI* concert, there's no reason why any strong-minded person can't enjoy it.

One of the great things about the show was the rather eclectic programme; the disparate nature of the various pieces made it clear that "modernity" is not a style, but an attitude towards composition, and that there are as many different kinds of modern music as there are composers, even in the reputedly "austere" 1950s.

The first piece played was Canadian Jacques Hetu's *Trio* for flute, oboe and harpsichord. This was a ravishingly beautiful piece of music: incredibly rich in harmonic and instrumental colour, and visceral and exciting in its complex rhythmic twists. The performance itself was probably the best of the evening. The players had perfect intonation and ensemble, and blended together very clearly.

After that they were joined by a cellist for Elliot Carter's *Sonata* for flute, oboe, cello and harpsichord. I've heard a lot of Carter's stuff, and although I admire his craftsmanship, I can almost never listen to him for more than a few minutes. This piece was no exception; it had a lot of activity to interest me through the first movement, but after a bit of the slow second movement I couldn't follow it anymore. This was no fault of the performers; they performed as well as they could, but it would have been nice to have the harpsichord a bit louder and the cello in particular a bit quieter.

That said, the only real disappointment of the show was Witold Lutoslawski's *Dance Preludes for Clarinet and Piano*. It was a set of five very short, unmemorable pieces based on Polish dance rhythms. (It's not really Witold's fault; it was 1954, and composers in the Eastern bloc had to conform to the Communist party principles of accessibility or else. He got better later on.) Lori Freedman's clarinet playing probably didn't help. She sounded strained, as if she was labouring to get each note out, and sometimes the sound of her blowing into the instrument was louder than the tone coming out.

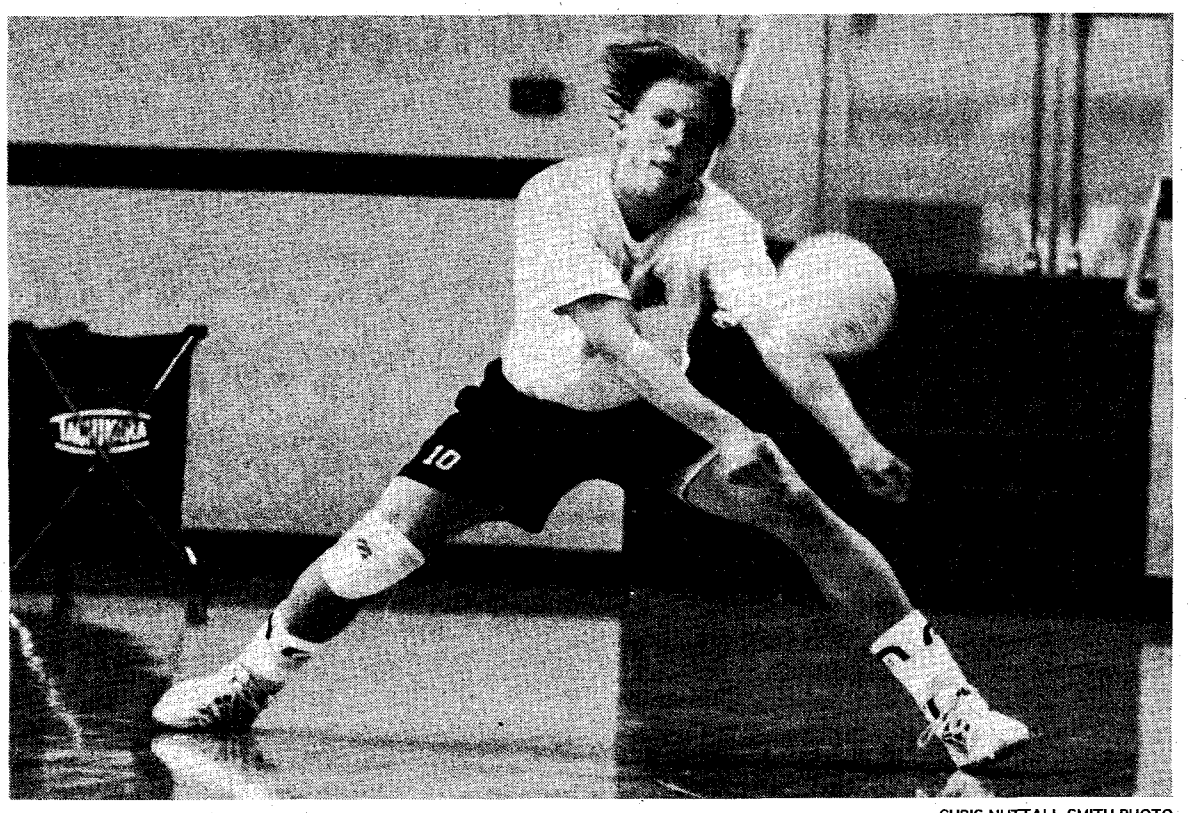
Two pieces by Karlheinz Stockhausen followed. This is a man who has been relentless in his pursuit of the coveted "Bad Boy of Music" title since the late '40s. Despite his mania for being the first kid on the block for everything, he's managed some decent music. His *Sonatine* for violin and piano is a very early piece (1951); it's an inoffensive serial work with some nice tunes. Well-played, but nothing to get worked up about.

His *Refrain* for three instrumentalists was a more interesting listening experience. It consists of disjointed clusters of percussion and piano "events" that Stockhausen describes as "a quiet and spaciously composed continuity of sounds [which] is disturbed six times by a short refrain." The points at which the refrain is heard are chosen by the players. I assume the performance was accurate, although I doubt I would have known the difference even if I'd had the score to follow. It was an intriguing series of atmospheric effects, but again, not one of Karl's masterpieces.

The main event was Pierre Boulez's cantata *Le Marteau Sans Maitre*. This was one of the most influential pieces of the '50s; with its unusual instrumentation (guitar, vibraphone, flute, viola, percussion), radical total-serialism technique, and innovative colours (a combination of Webern-type austerity and Messiaen-esque exoticism), it's also Boulez's best-known work. It's in nine parts, four of which are poems by Rene Char set for mezzo-soprano, while the other five are instrumental "commentaries". The performance was fantastic — clean, clear, precise, even well-sung. Although I don't think it was quite as dramatic or as rocking as either of Boulez's own recordings, it was still a very fine job.

The Vancouver New Music Society will be continuing the *Decade* series into the '60s, '70s, etc. If you have any interest at all in knowing what's been going on in the last few decades outside of the solitary confinement cell of rock, go ahead and catch them.

Men's volleyball players go on Korean tour



CHRIS NUTTALL-SMITH PHOTO

ROOKIE Guy Davis "Coming out of high school you can pretty much have your own way, you can hit wherever you want. You come out here and the ball comes right back in your face pretty fast."

by Scott Hayward

Fifteen men's volleyball players were chosen to take part in a 13 day tour of Korea this weekend.

The weekend of August 18-19 saw 15 players make the cut for Korea. Of those, seven are returning from last year's team, six come to UBC with college level experience and two are true freshmen. However, going to Korea does not guarantee players a position on the varsity team this year.

Coach Dale Ohman is confident that UBC is "definitely in the hunt" for the national championship this year. "Our setting is intact, our right side is intact, and our middle is intact," he said. "We've improved our depth in all those positions."

> **"Michael Kurz came to school about two weeks ago. He was the last missing piece of the puzzle."**
>
> Coach Dale Ohman

Ohman does not think the team's lack of size in the middle will be a problem. "Team passing is still a question mark because these guys are good passers and can run a one or two passer system, but they haven't proven themselves ... at the university level."

The power hitting spot was a void which was filled recently. "Michael Kurz came to school about two weeks ago. He was the last missing piece of the puzzle of my envisioning my starting line-up and being able to compete in our strong league," said Ohman.

However Ohman is quick to point out that even those players who go to Korea will have to try out for the varsity team in September. "We don't have tryouts until we get back, so it's up to me to try and identify those people who I would really like to see play and who I think should make the team," he said.

Ohman was especially impressed with freshman Guy Davis from Calgary. "He's been the surprise of our camp so far because he's right out of high school," said Ohman. "He passes really well and he's got a good jump."

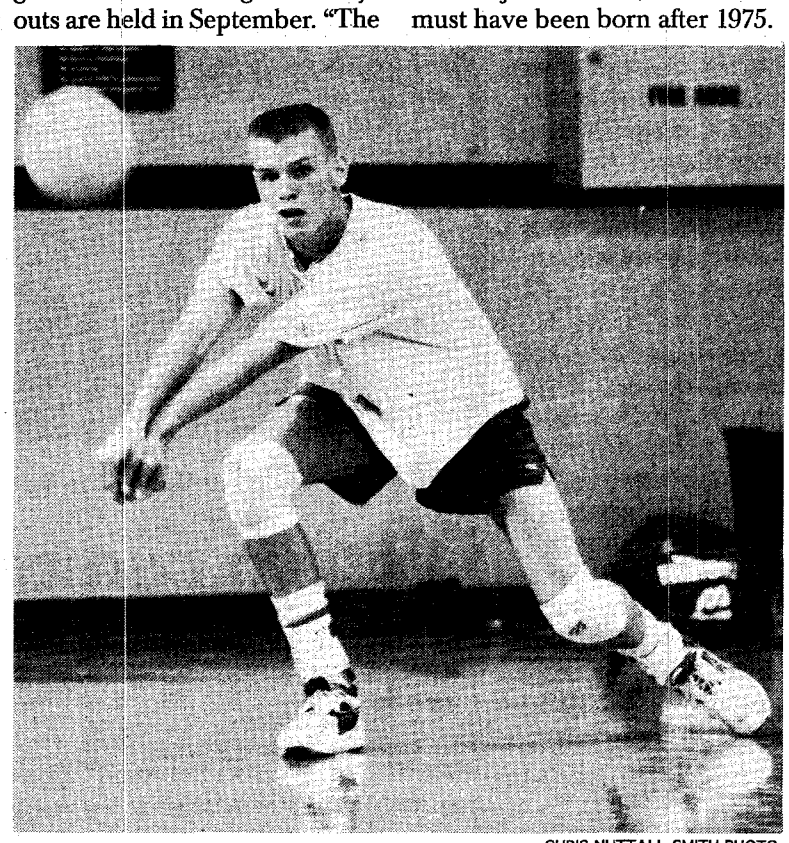
Davis, a first year science student, has had to raise his level of play at UBC with the varsity team. "Coming out of high school you can pretty much have your own way, you can hit wherever you want. You come out here and the ball comes right back in your face pretty fast. It's a high intensity game."

Davis is excited about making the trip to Korea, and feels it will give him an advantage when tryouts are held in September. "The coach will know me and I will have some experience at [the varsity] level," he said. "The first couple of practices here I was really intimidated with big guys and lots of experience here."

Jeremy Westereng will be going to Korea as a second year player with the T-Birds. He thinks the team looks good this year, despite the large turnover of players. "We look pretty sharp, especially considering we don't really know each other that well yet. We're getting to know each other quite fast," he said.

Westereng thinks that Alberta and Manitoba will be the teams to beat in the division. "Calgary and UVic give us some good challenges, but we should be able to beat them," he said.

Volleyball team tryouts begin September 11 at 6:30 pm in the War Memorial Gym, and Ohman encourages everyone who is interested to come out. Both varsity and junior team tryouts will be held together. To be eligible for the junior team, candidates must have been born after 1975.



CHRIS NUTTALL-SMITH PHOTO

VETERAN Jeremy Westereng — looking at the competition beyond Korea.

Student Fee Payment Options
Effective September 1, 1995

Please note that Financial Services will no longer accept cash as a form of payment for tuition fees effective September 1, 1995.

This change is being made for safety reasons, so students and our counter staff will not be handling large amounts of cash and be exposed to the possibility of robbery.

Students can pay tuition fees via:

- **Touch Tone Telephone.** Contact your bank or credit union for details.
- **Payments by bank Debit Card** - located at the tuition fee counter in Brock Hall.
- **Payments by cheque** at the tuition fee counter, by mail, or at any branch of the Bank of Montreal.
- **Cash payments will be accepted**, even for students without bank accounts, **at any branch of Bank of Montreal.**

HEALTH OUTREACH PEER EDUCATION

Health Education Outreach is seeking qualified UBC students of varying backgrounds to join a dynamic team committed to improving the health of students on campus. Particular emphasis will be placed on safer sex and responsible drinking through fun, innovative, informative programs such as health fairs, information tables, interactive activities, campus media/print promotions, displays, presentations and special events.

Training: First mandatory training session will take place Sept. 29-Oct.1

Positions Available: Health Outreach Peer Educators (up to 20 positions), Peer Leader, Special Events Assistant, Promotions/Publicity Assistant, Resource/Office Assistant.

Applications will be accepted until **Friday, September 8** for the Peer Leader position and **Friday, September 15** for all other positions, or until suitable candidates are found.

Note: All Peer Educator positions are voluntary but provide great skill building and resume experience. Leader and Assistant positions provide compensation. T-shirts will be provided along with several social events throughout the year.

For Information and an Application Form please contact:
Pearl Wierenga, Health Education Coordinator
The University of British Columbia
Student Resources Centre
Room 200 Brock Hall, 1874 East Mall
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z1
Phone 822-4858 Fax 822-4957

T-Bird football training camp opens

by Wolf Depner

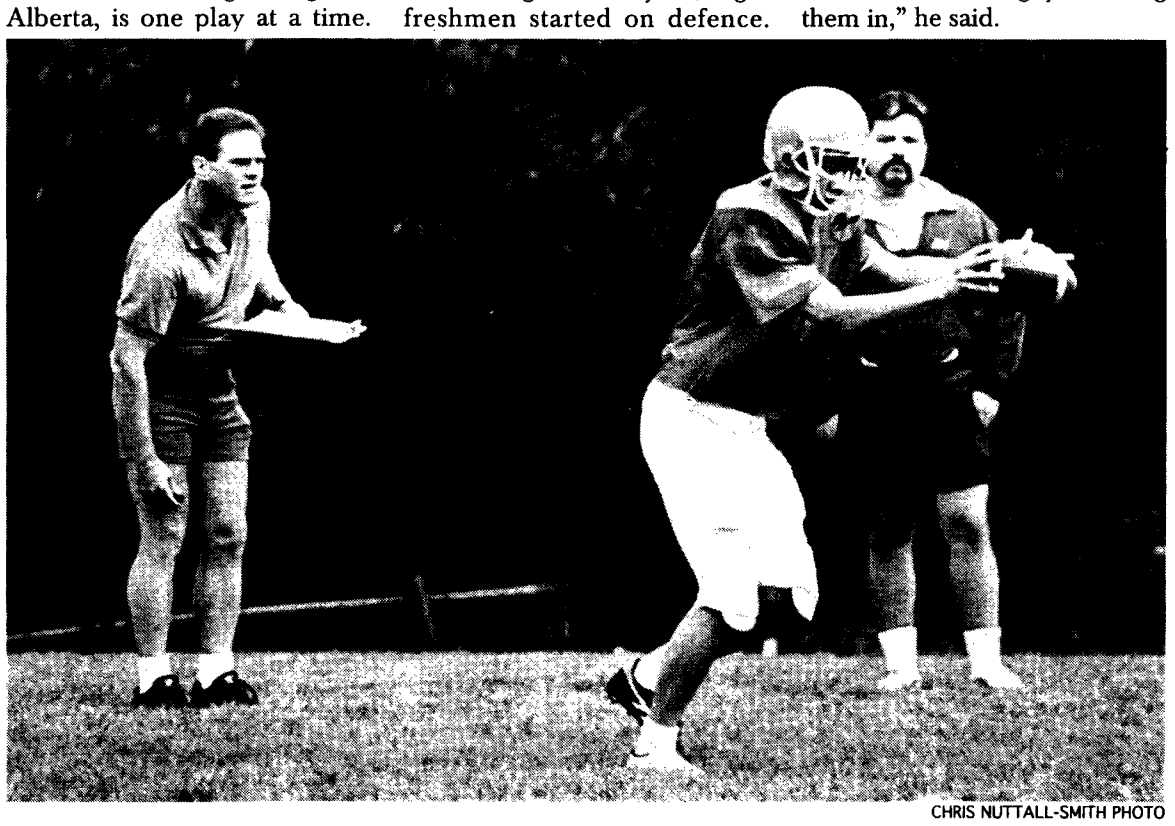
UBC football players are the first wave of Thunderbirds to make the annual migration back to Point Grey. Training camp opened last Friday on an overcast morning with a hint of fall in the air.

The focus for the upcoming season, which kicks off September 1 with a home game against Alberta, is one play at a time. "We're just gonna go out, work on attitude, trying to win one play and then go after the next play and then continue to do that all year long," said rookie Head Coach Casey Smith.

Out of the 70 players on the roster, 31 are new, including several transfer students. Smith hopes that they can contribute right away.

In one game last year, eight freshmen started on defence. "When you are doing that in the Canada West [Conference] that is pretty tough because a lot of the other teams are really experienced," said Smith.

Many teams have players who have already played in junior leagues before they get to university. "We felt last year that we were a little bit mis-matched in [experience] and so we tried to recruit some older guys to bring them in," he said.



CHRIS NUTTALL-SMITH PHOTO

NATHAN NGIENG punts as Head Coach Casey Smith (far left) and guest coach Craig Smith look on.

Fourth-year quarterbacks Adrian Rainbow and Jason Day will again lead the offence and Smith has nothing but praise for the tandem. "Both are really good leaders, they understand our offence and they've been in the league for a while."

Smith also speaks highly of his wide receivers which include 1994 All-Canadian Andrew English and 1993 Canada West Rookie Grayson Shillingford, Jr. "He's just a burner," raved Smith.

The Birds are also strong at running back as veterans Brad Yamaoka and Mark Nohra return as starters. Speedster Ashford Baker will also get some carries.

On defence, the line backer corps has been bolstered by several transfer students and should be "solid." The Birds will count on Alan Wesenberg, John Saari and Andrew Walters to provide leadership as the defence matures. Defence is Smith's biggest concern going into the season.

There are also some questions on special teams. Wide receiver Andrew English will place-kick again this year. "[Punting] is a big area of concern," said Smith. Last year's punter Rob Phillips graduated, so expect third-year player Nathan Ngieng to take over.

While it is far too early to tell how the Birds will fare in the tough Canada West conference, Smith is upbeat. "There is a good atmosphere around and the guys are excited."

Players optimistic as season starts

by Wolf Depner and Scott Hayward

Despite last year's disappointing 1-8-1 record, there is cautious optimism in the UBC football ranks.

Fourth year quarterback Adrian Rainbow reflected on last year's collapse. "We stuck together pretty well, but when you're 1-8-1 it's pretty easy to start pointing fingers," he said. "It got to the point where everyone expected to lose, and there's no way you're going to win that way."

However Rainbow is enthusiastic because this year's team is older and more experienced. Much of the defense is returning and they "came in this year a lot more prepared and a lot more like veterans," he said. "I think we look a lot better."

Rainbow sees a solid starting offensive line in front of him, but one that needs some more depth. "That will come when some of the new guys learn our system," he said.

The team also picked up some experienced recruits from junior leagues "that can step in and start right away," said Rainbow. One of these players is the soft-spoken Jamacian-born Ashford Baker, a 26-year old tail-back known for his ability to weave through opposing defences.

Prior to coming to UBC, Baker played four years with the Calgary Colts of the Alberta Junior Football League who won two National Junior Championships. That experience is reflected in his attitude. "I want to help the team as much as I can. I want to win. I did't come here to lose," he said.

This will be the last UBC training camp for star running back Brad Yamaoka. Yamaoka's focus is on having a fun year and contributing on the field. "Hopefully I can win a couple of games for the team," he said.

But he stressed that football is a team game and for the Birds to win, everybody has to play well. "We've definitely got the skills [to win]."

Turning pro is a definite option for Yamaoka who will enter the up-coming CFL entry draft. He is unphased by proposals to reduce the number of Canadians required on Canadian team rosters.

Neither is third-year wide-receiver/return-specialist Grayson Shillingford. "As long as you can get the numbers up, it should be all right," he said. Running the 40 in 4.4 seconds, Shillingford could be fast approaching his dream of playing pro football.

CHRIS NUTTALL-SMITH PHOTO

MARK NOHRA cuts up field after taking a hand off from backup quarterback Tony Lucas

CFL'ers to coach defense

by Scott Hayward

The T-Birds football team has bolstered its ranks off the field by hiring two top notch coaches with CFL experience. Laurent (Lou) Des Lauriers and James "Quick" Parker bring their knowledge of defense in to help rookie head coach Casey Smith rebuild the team.

"I think the biggest thing is that everyone really respects both of them, because obviously they were both phenomenal athletes in the game. But also, they really teach the game well," said quarterback Adrian Rainbow.

After beginning his career with the T-Birds between 1980 and 1983, Des Laurier played five seasons in the CFL with the Edmonton Eskimos and the Toronto Argonauts.

He will be stressing the basics: tackling and postioning. "I try and stress strong fundamentals, not only in the physical aspect, but I think we have to understand and know the game. If we do that, I think it will take us to the football and being in position to make plays," he said.

He is cautiously optimistic about the young T-Bird defensive line and hopes it will maintain consistency. "'Quick' [Parker] has done an excellent job on those kids' confidence and that's half of it – just believing in yourself and your teammates."

Parker played with the Edmonton Eskimos of the CFL. He has coached with several teams including the BC Lions and, most recently, the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Parker also stresses the fundamentals: blocking, tackling, and a proper pass rush.

Expect an aggressive defense which is not afraid to blitz the quarterback this year. "We're not going to sit back. I've never played like that," said Parker. "[We're] not going to wait to see what the offense is doing. We want to dictate the play."

After reviewing some tapes from last year's defense, Parker promised that the defense will be more organized this year. "They ain't gonna run up and down the field like they did last year, I guarantee that."

UBC ROADMAP TO COMPUTING

An Introduction to Networked Computing Facilities

FREE Lectures and Hands-On Tutorials

A **FREE** lecture and tutorial series has been created to help familiarize faculty, staff and students with the computing facilities at UBC. A companion document to the lecture series, entitled *UBC Roadmap to Computing*, will be for sale at the UBC Bookstore. All lectures will take place in the Instructional Resource Center (in the same building as the Woodward library) in the rooms noted below. For more information about the lecture series, please call 822-5809, or send e-mail to *roadmap@cs.ubc.ca.*

Electronic Mail: Sept. 6, 12:30 - 1:30 (Rm. 4), Sept. 14, 4:30 - 5:30 (Rm. 6)
Netinfo/Interchange: Sept. 6, 4:30 - 5:30 (Rm. 6), Sept. 14, 12:30 - 1:30, (Rm. 6)
Intro to UBCLIB (UBC Library's on-line catalogue): Sept. 7, 12:30 - 1:30 (Rm. 6)
Intro to UNIX: Sept. 7, 4:30 - 5:30 (Rm. 6), Sept. 11, 12:30 - 1:30 (Rm. 4)
Intro to C: Sept. 8, 12:30 - 1:30 (Rm. 4), Sept. 11, 4:30 - 5:30 (Rm. 6)
The Web and News: Sept. 8, 4:30 - 5:30 (Rm. 6), Sept. 13, 12:30 - 1:30 (Rm. 4)
UNIX Editors: Sept. 12, 12:30 - 1:30 (Rm. 1), Sept. 15, 4:30 - 5:30 (Rm. 6)
LaTeX (UNIX text formatting language): Sept. 15, 12:30 - 1:30 (Rm. 4)
X Windows (graphical user interface for UNIX): Sept. 13, 4:30 - 5:30 (Rm. 6)

NEW this fall, we are offering two **FREE** hands-on tutorials: Introduction to UNIX, and Introduction to C programming. Each tutorial is 2 hours in length, and you will work on an X Windows (graphical) terminal running UNIX. As space is limited, please phone 822-0557, or send e-mail to *roadmap@cs.ubc.ca* , in order to reserve a space.

This program was made possible through the support of The Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund and The Department of Computer Science.

opinion

In the beginning, *The Ubyssey* created the heavens and the earth. *The Ubyssey* was formless and void, and its inebrious spirits hovered over the face of the flushing waters.

On the first issue, *The Ubyssey* said, "Let there be light," and there was light, everywhere but the darkroom. *The Ubyssey* called the bright light "day", and called the dark "a perfect time to get around to editing, or maybe smoke a joint, or both". The light remained formless and void, but *The Ubyssey* called it good anyway. There was placement, and there was paste-up, and it was the very first issue.

On the second issue, *The Ubyssey* said, "Let the scribes record the passing of a motion to possibly separate the Alma Mater Society from its former directors, who shall be off in a corner weeping and gnashing their dentures with toothpicks made from the best Corinthian silver." And it came to be. The scrolls were sent to lawyers for their approval, lest the sky collapse and all the Chicken Littles saddle everyone involved with a lawsuit for beaning them one. With that taken care of, *The Ubyssey* called the scrolls good. There was placement, and there was paste-up, and it was the second issue.

On the third issue, *The Ubyssey* said, "Let the students be gathered together in one place so we can see what happened to the dry ground at Thunderbird Stadium once those music festivals had had their way with it." And so it was, though some SACees refused to be gathered and they resigned. Then *The Ubyssey* said, "Let the ground bring forth fruit, trees, and vegetation of all kinds, and we'll have a little salad." *The Ubyssey* called the salad good. There was placement, and there was paste-up, and it was the third issue.

On the fourth issue, *The Ubyssey* said, "The light's still too formless and void in here, how about fixing the infrastructure around this office?" Cherubim and seraphim descended from Plant Ops and attended to the electrical wiring. The red light was set to rule the darkroom, and the bright white light was trapped beneath a table and made to rule the flats from beneath. *The Ubyssey* called these production accessories good but still had to go looking for a stapler. Nevertheless, there was placement, and there was paste-up, and it was the fourth issue.

On the fifth issue, *The Ubyssey* said, "Let there be birds in the air and fish in the sea ... on second thought, that's too boring, why not put the *fish* in the air and the *birds* in the sea?" While the fish and fowl caucuses met to debate the issue, the Alma Mater Society banded together with student unions across the nation to officially join a national student organization that would issue a statement on the matter. *The Ubyssey* looked out its window for the umpteenth time and, seeing a monstrous Fish blocking its view, wished it could liquidate this asset. This sounded good to *The Ubyssey*. There was placement, and there was paste-up, and it was the fifth issue.

On the sixth issue, *The Ubyssey* said, "Let there be beasts of the field and little bitty critters living in the forest." Meanwhile, a Ministry chopped some pretty trees down (to keep the cars safe) *and* the University made plans for a forest sciences building (by replacing a parking lot) – go figure. Then *The Ubyssey* said, "Let us make students in our image. Let them be male and female, straight and queer, artsies and scientists, grads and undergrads, residents and commuters, maybe even reporters and AMS hacks ... and let them all bow down to *us*." And so it came to pass. *The Ubyssey* called its many minions good and had a nervous breakdown from the mounting production stress. There was placement, and there was paste-up, and it was the sixth issue.

Afer the seventh issue, *The Ubyssey* rested (but only for a week).

summer **the ubyssey**

August 24, 1995
volume 12 issue 7

The Ubyssey is a founding member of Canadian University Press.
The Ubyssey is published Thursdays during the summer by The Ubyssey Publications Society at the University of British Columbia. Editorial opinions expressed are those of the newspaper and not necessarily those of the university administration or the Alma Mater Society.

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Canada Post Publications Sales Agreement Number 0732141

A herd of cherubs floated in the meandering sky. Martha Niessen laughed an effervescent laugh. Filling a landscape of myths were many creatures including the delectable Chris Nuttall-Smith, Melissa Kramer, and Andy Bonfield, a small trio of muses from which to garner inspiration. The minotaur form of Sam Arnold appeared from the bottom of the Mountain. He gathered with Stanley Tromp, Pat MacGuire and Pat Hutchinson to plot their ascension to the world of lateral troughs. Their journey was to be transitional. Aiding them in their venture were Charlie Cho and Rick Hiebert, the true Daedelus and Icarus. They were carried by the winds of the oceans, over waves of Rodney Snooks, high into the celestial realm of Diana Stein, until they reached the beginning of spiritual enlightenment. Stars of Chris Coughlan and Suseh Nievares twinkled in amusement as the Trio met with James Rowan, Siobhan Roantree, and Bureau Boy all known to the paeons as the Deities. What they sought were answers to a spiritual quest which all students must embark on. The Deities refused to answer the questions as everyone must find their own answers at the tree of Andy Ferris. The quest was begun at the bridge of Ron Eichler where they caught a taxi down the Milky Way. Voyaging down the galaxy, they encountered Aaron Orlando in the form of a shooting star. Not having time to talk, they hustled unto the surface of Matt Thompson, a most volatile planet. They were threatened by the guardians, Joe Vales and Janet Winters. Carrying nothing but spears dipped in the poison of Deserie Harrison, the guardians of Matt chased the Trio to the edge Jessica Wooliams, a most dangerous cliff to fall from. Running between the legs of their tormentors, they were swept into the gentle embrace of Jenn Kuo. She and her partner in mercy, Erin Hodge, flew the Trio to the planet Federico Barohona. There they were welcomed like brothers and drank from the nectar of Jim Rowley. The planet filled them with delights much like the previous planet had filled them with fear. It was here where they learned the joys of the flesh, the tranquility of Wolf Depner, and the patience of John Bolton. As they were swinging from the vines of morality, the nymph, Ben Koh, came running towards them filled with sumptuous news. There was to be a great announcement in the court of Paula Bach. After having known each other for but a scant period of time, citizens Peter T. Chattaway and Alison Cole were ready to commit themselves to the sanctious bonds of institutional love. Silence rocked the court until the jester, Andy Barham, decided he had to worship the porcelain god. "But what about getting to really know each other?" queried Trent Ernst. "Time is short," murmured the sage Darin Clisby," there is too much to be done." Rick Hunter pondered the dilemma and wonedred at the degree of respect that his peers would giive to the enraptured couple. The ceremony was to be performed the next day. Priestess Mauran Kim was to officiate. The Trio had seen enough. Simon Rogers carried the Trio back to their own land. Educators Tony Zuniga and Jim Conley greeted them upon their return. Flinging thousands of questions to them about their journey, the educators challenged their knowledge to the bone. Chris Norman led the trio away so they could rest after their quest. Christine Price and Scott Hayward went for a walk along the seawall knowing that they, at least, were not in a conflict of interest. Thus the quest had ended but many more were to begin.

Editors:
Coordinating Editor: Siobhán Roantree News Editor: Matt Thompson
Culture Editor: Peter T. Chattaway Sports Editor: Scott Hayward

letters

GSS moved too fast?

The following is an open letter to Graduate Student Society President Heidi Petersen:

I understand that at the meeting held on August 17, 1995 GSS Council decided to apply for prospective membership in the Canadian Federation of Students, a decision which commits the GSS to holding a referendum on CFS membership within a year. I am writing to protest and to express my dismay at the manner in which the decision was reached.

The official meeting agenda that was mailed out to councilors made no mention of even any discussion on the above matter. Two days before the meeting there was indeed an e-mail message sent to councilors by the GSS Director of Student Affairs informing them that Mr. Levine, of the Concordia GSA and long-time CFS activist, was in town and would be making a presentation on CFS membership at the meeting. It also stated that there was a copy of the CFS Policy Manual available in the office for councilors to peruse, and that councilors should bring their questions and concerns. Again, however, there was no notice of motion or any mention that a decision on the matter might be requested at the meeting.

Given the time-frame and the accessibility of the CFS documentation, it was unreasonable to expect councilors to be able to gain the requisite knowledge about the organization to make an informed decision on the matter brought before them. I can certainly understand the last-minute agenda change to accommodate Mr. Levine. However, there was neither an inherent urgency for the GSS to reach a decision on the matter nor any urgency for the Director of Student Affairs to push for a decision at a time so far from executive elections and executive turnover. Consequently, I am both very surprised and disturbed that this rather substantive motion was brought forward in such haste, with no notice or documentation, and decided upon at the tail-end of a summer meeting.

Very truly yours,
Vighen Pacradouni
AMS Rep & GSS Councilor
GSS President 94-95

write us letters and we'll be your friend

LETTERS POLICY: Letters to the editor must be under 300 words. "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 unless the identity of the writer has been verified. 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 office of *The Ubyssey*, otherwise verification will be done by phone.

Frequently misdiagnosed disease leaves sufferers isolated

by Erin Hodge

Interstitial cystitis (abbreviated as IC) is not a fatal disease, but it is incurable, debilitating, and devastating. IC is a chronic inflammation and ulceration of the bladder wall that affects primarily women. The deterioration of the bladder causes mild to severe chronic pain. The cause of IC is unknown. Although its symptoms are similar to those of a bladder infection, it is not treatable by antibiotics because it is not caused by bacteria.

I developed IC when I was 21, last summer. At the time, I felt like I had reached a place in my life where I finally wanted to stay. I had a group of friends with whom I felt comfortable, I had just met my first serious boyfriend, and was feeling optimistic about doing a master's degree after my B.A.

Last June I started to experience pain and pressure around my bladder. I tried to ignore the problem. One day I went for a jog to try to make myself feel better. Shortly into my route I felt my bladder contract and I realized I was about wto leak urine. I was mortified. A 21-year old with a leakage problem? I felt extremely isolated and ashamed.

I went to the doctor's office repeatedly, desperate for relief from the awful feeling that my bladder was never empty. Over the next nine weeks I was given antibiotics, tested for kidney stones and diabetes, and advised to drink plenty of water and cranberry juice, and to do pelvic floor muscle exercises. Nothing worked. One doctor actually argued with me over whether I was really experiencing incontinence, and told me my symptoms would eventually go away if I kept a positive attitude.

September approached and I knew in my heart, having been sick for ten weeks by this time, that my condition was probably permanent, even though my family and friends and the doctors kept reassuring me that I looked fine, that I was so young I couldn't really be facing anything grave.

Eventually I was referred to another urologist. I also saw another doctor at UBC who I had seen since I was nineteen, hoping I could find some reassurance from him. He looked unimpressed by my story and told me I was "manufacturing" my symptoms. He attributed my difficulties to my "anxiety at having a boyfriend".

I was crushed. He had confirmed my worst fear - that there really was nothing wrong with me and the discomfort driving me crazy day and night was all in my head. I hated myself for being such an hysterical, weepy, immature girl. But at the same time, I noted his disinterested, patronizing tone and recognized he was dismissing me out of hand as a typical, "hysterical" female. I cancelled my next appointment with him and never went back.

Finally,in October, with the help of friends, I learned of a disease called interstitial cystitis. My symptoms matched textbook descriptions of IC. I was happy to know my "hysterical problem" might be a genuine disease, but also terrified because I learned how serious IC can be. Some people have such severe pain they can only sleep ten to sixty minutes at a time for a year or longer. Their bladders may only hold 15mL, and they are forced to urinate once every ten minutes. They are bedridden and endure a living death. I did not want to believe this was true, but my mum met someone who had IC this severely (she was 22 as well) and I realized this was no joke.

Two weeks later I had a cystoscopy, a procedure where they insert a scope with a camera into your bladder to diagnose various ailments. When I woke up from the anaesthetic I could hardly think straight I was so scared of what the urologist would tell me. He stood five feet away from my bed, and, without drawing the curtains round for privacy in a room with about six other people all waiting to be discharged, he said, "Well, it looks like it's IC." In my shock, I told him I would rather have AIDS than IC, thinking that at least with AIDS you knew death could end your pain. He told me I was being too drastic and then he left. He was so nonchalant about the diagnosis I thought I was overreacting, but then a nurse told me finding out you have IC is like finding out you have cancer, and, ironically, I calmed down.

Erin Hodge: her physicians insisted she was exaggerating and imagining her pain Jenn Kuo photo

What does IC feel like? I have a mild case of IC; I can still attend school, sleep and work. For the past fourteen months, however, I have spent only ten minutes feeling like I do not need to go the bathroom. Even immediately after I urinate I still feel like my bladder is full. This frustration is agonizing. On bad days I feel like there is an anvil in my bladder, or like a great hand is clenching my bladder and trying to wrench it out of my body. Sometimes all I can muster up the energy to do is lie on my side and breathe.

Physical movement, such as walking, lifting, climbing stairs and riding the bus is often very uncomfortable. I can still do these things, but it takes a lot of resolve. I can no longer go running or swimming, two things I love, but I still have good days when I am up to hiking or dancing.

When you have IC your bladder becomes the centre of your consciousness because it hurts constantly. Each and every minute of every day some or all of your concentration is devoted to trying to ignore and guarding your movements against the pain. On bad days, the pain makes my mind and my perceptions hazy. I feel like a zombie. Several times I have had conversations with people without actually being aware of what we are discussing because the ache in my stomach is too strong to block out.

Historically, IC has been ignored and denied by urology. This may partly be explained by the preponderance of women among sufferers, and the fact the disease affects the bladder, a traditionally "taboo" part of the body. Although the disease has been documented since the late 1800s, it was only in the mid 1980s that the American National Institute of Health authorized funding for research into the disease, and acknowledged its devastating effects.

Around the same time, doctors finally established standard diagnostic criteria for IC. Previous to the 1980s, doctors, including urologists, if they had heard of the disease at all, believed IC was a rare disease affecting only post-menopausal women, and that younger women with unexplainable bladder symptoms were making up their pain, that their problems were "all in their heads." Even today, many sufferers bounce from doctor to doctor over a period of years before someone takes them seriously and diagnoses them. The president of the B.C.I.C. Association spent 12 years being handed between psychiatrists before an enlightened doctor finally diagnosed her. She was told she was making up her pain in response to her unwillingness to adjust to her role as a wife and mother.

I thought that once I had an authoritative-sounding, medical name for my symptoms doctors would take me seriously. This has not necessarily been the case. The doctor I saw over Christmas at home wrote to my doctors in Vancouver and suggested I was "exaggerating my symptoms." He said he had heard of interstitial cystitis but I suppose he did not believe me when I told him I experienced pressure-pain 24 hours a day. I doubt he would have suggested to the cardiologist of a 45 year old male suffering angina or an ulcer that his patient was exaggerating his pain. Why did he find it so hard to believe that I was in pain all the time? I have little cuts all over my bladder which are doused in acid (urine) all day. Of course it hurts; it's like lemon juice on a cold sore. All these trials have convinced me IC needs to have some legitimacy as a "real" disease. Maybe then people will believe it is truly a struggle to live with IC, and that it actually is possible to be in pain 24 hours a day, even if you are only in your twenties and you look fine on the outside.

Interstitial Cystitis: symptoms and stats

- The incidence of IC is estimated at 1 in 1,400.
- IC causes chronic stomach, back, pelvic and genital pain, painful urination, frequent urination (up to 60 times a day), and sleep deprivation.
- Between 85% and 90% of diagnosed cases of IC occur in women.
- Foods and drink which are acidic, sugary, spicy, or which contain alcohol or caffeine frequently exacerbate IC symptoms.
- Treatments for IC do exist, although none are fully effective at relieving the pain.
- Sexual intercourse often makes the pain worse. Some people with IC cannot have sex at all.
- One study found that the average person with IC has a lower quality of life than persons with end-stage renal disease (kidney failure)

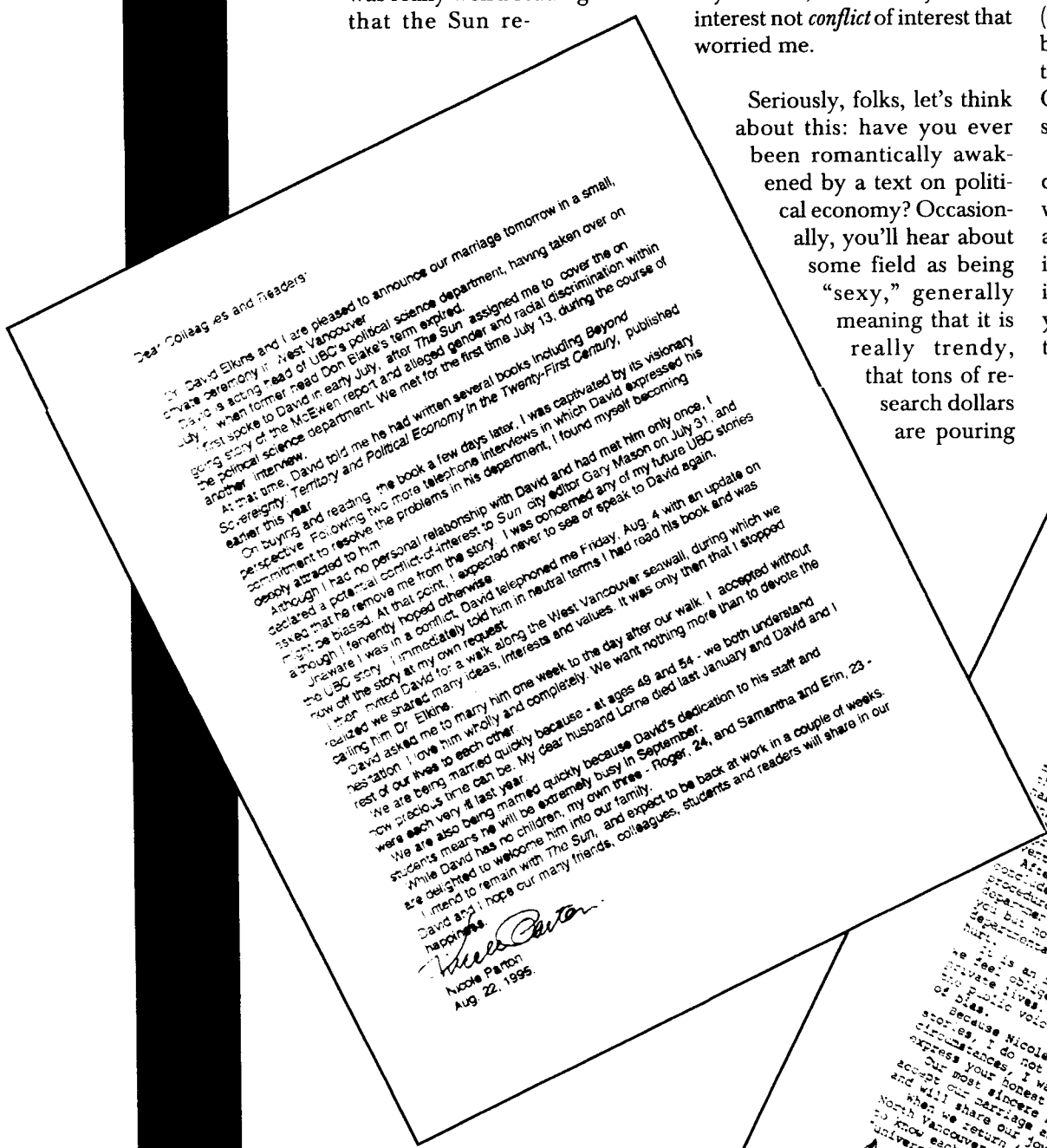
commentary

This just in... UBC is a strange place

by Pat Hutchinson

This university is a really strange place.

Just Tuesday, we got a fax from Nicole Parton and David Elkins announcing their marriage Wednesday morning. My first reaction was, "Oh, how nice–more yuppies announcing their marriage." It reminded me of a Doonesbury strip. Then I realized who the two were. It was really weird reading that the Sun reporter assigned to the Poli Sci ongoing story was about to marry a Poli Sci prof. Then someone pointed out that he wasn't just a prof, he was the department head.



Dear Colleagues and Readers:

Dr. David Elkins and I are pleased to announce our marriage tomorrow in a small, private ceremony in West Vancouver.

David is acting head of UBC's political science department, having taken over on July 1, when former head Don Blake's term expired.

I first spoke to David in early July, after The Sun assigned me to cover the ongoing story of the McEwen report and alleged gender and racial discrimination within the political science department. We met for the first time July 13, during the course of another interview.

At that time, David told me he had written several books including Beyond Sovereignty: Territory and Political Economy in the Twenty-First Century, published earlier this year.

On buying and reading the book a few days later, I was captivated by its visionary perspective. Following two more telephone interviews in which David expressed his commitment to resolve the problems in his department, I found myself becoming deeply attracted to him.

Although I had no personal relationship with David and had met him only once, I declared a potential conflict-of-interest to Sun city editor Gary Mason on July 31, and asked that he remove me from the story. I was concerned any of my future UBC stories might be biased. At that point, I expected never to see or speak to David again.

Although I was in a conflict, David telephoned me Friday, Aug. 4 with an update on the UBC story. I immediately told him in neutral terms I had read his book and was unaware I was in a conflict. David telephoned me Friday, Aug. 4 with an update on the UBC story at my own request.

Now off the story, I accepted David for a walk along the West Vancouver seawall, during which we further invited David for a walk along the West Vancouver seawall, during which we shared many ideas, interests and values. It was only then that I stopped realized we shared many ideas, interests and values. It was only then that I stopped calling him Dr. Elkins.

David asked me to marry him one week to the day after our walk. I accepted without hesitation. I love him wholly and completely. We want nothing more than to devote the rest of our lives to each other.

We are being married quickly because - at ages 49 and 54 - we both understand how precious time can be. My dear husband Lorne died last January and David and I were each very ill last year.

We are also being married quickly because David's dedication to his staff and students means he will be extremely busy in September.

While David has no children, my own three - Roger, 24, and Samantha and Erin, 23 - are delighted to welcome him into our family.

I intend to remain with The Sun, and expect to be back at work in a couple of weeks.

David and I hope our many friends, colleagues, students and readers will share in our happiness.

Nicole Parton
Aug. 22, 1995.

The fax is hilarious, if you're at all cynical about romance. I'm sure it's not the first time that someone has fallen in love at first sight, but it is the first time that they've sent us a press release about it. From first meeting to marriage in a few weeks . After reading Elkin's book, *Beyond Sovereignty*, Parton was so overwhelmed by his "visionary" perspective that she withdrew herself from the story due to a potential conflict of interest.

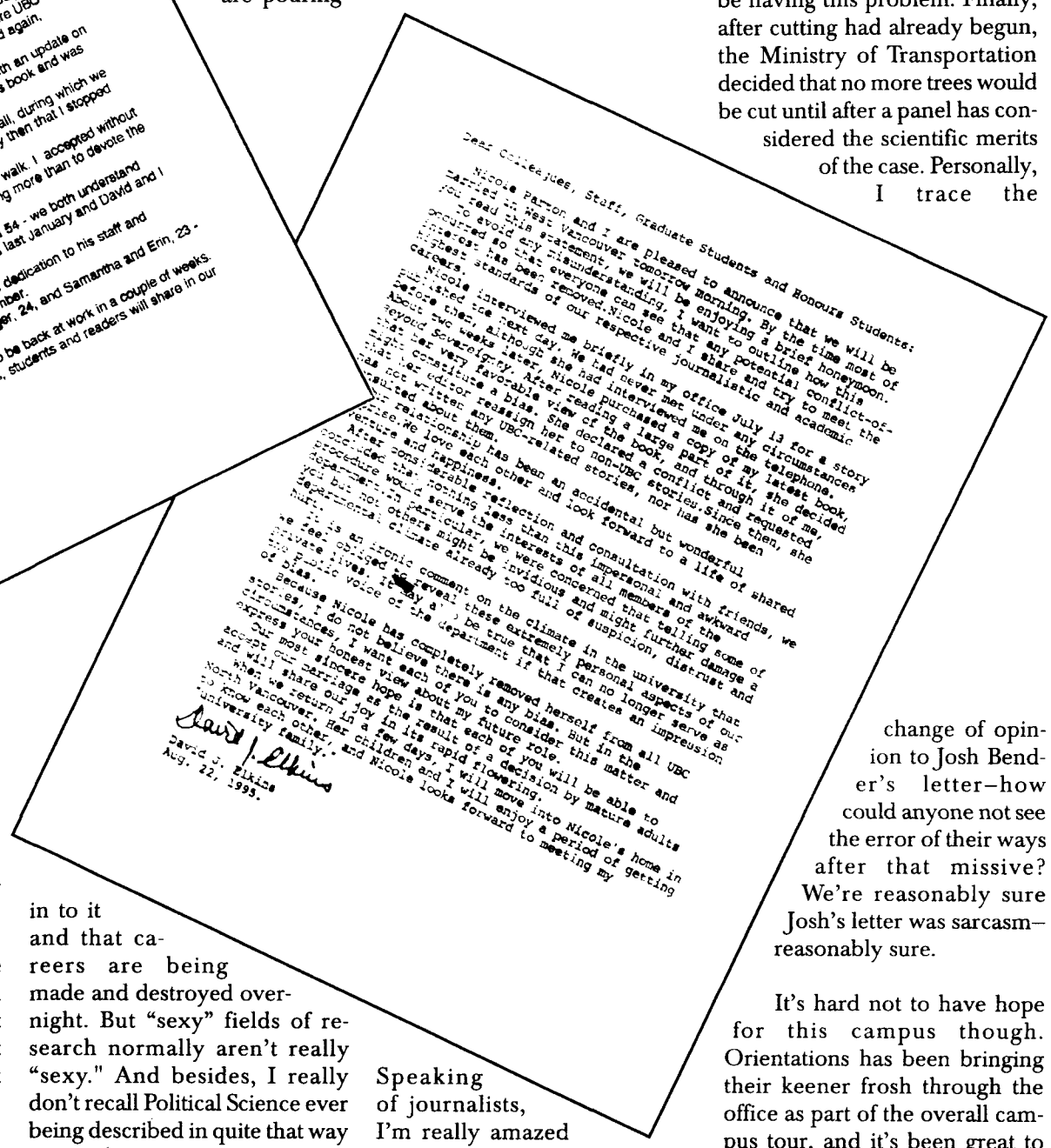
Elkins called her, unaware that she was no longer on the story. She informed him that the story was reassigned and subsequently arranged a non-business walk along the seawall. Not a month later, they're married.

Well, all I want to say is, it must have been one hell of a book. I really can't remember the last time one of my profs wrote a book so, so...*visionary* that I felt it necessary to withdraw from their course to prevent a conflict of interest. Of course, most of my profs wouldn't have minded a total sycophant, but better safe than sorry. No really, in most of my courses, it was always *lack* of interest not *conflict* of interest that worried me.

Seriously, folks, let's think about this: have you ever been romantically awakened by a text on political economy? Occasionally, you'll hear about some field as being "sexy," generally meaning that it is really trendy, that tons of research dollars are pouring in to it and that careers are being made and destroyed overnight. But "sexy" fields of research normally aren't really "sexy." And besides, I really don't recall Political Science ever being described in quite that way either (though things did get pretty interesting when the Wall fell and the USSR collapsed).

Not to pry in anyone's personal life, but you just have to appreciate the irony of a reporter covering a sexual harassment story falling for the head of the department in question. If someone were to dramatize that, no one would buy it. Well, they'd buy it–after several weeks make a TV-movie out of it and cast two actors who hadn't worked outside bad TV-movies since the early 80s in the lead roles. "Special appearance by Marlon Brando as 'Diamond Dave' Strangway."

Should the McEwen Report have taken into consideration that, apparently, the mere mention of political economy can turn formerly hard-nosed reporters into pools of romantic mush? Will copies of *Beyond Sovereignty* (which I'm sure is a really fine book) be *de rigueur* for those attempting to adopt the "Sensitive Guy" look? Will it be the hottest seller of the Fall book season – in the self-help category? I wonder if the book is just a book, or whether it has been assigned to any classes–if it did such incredible things to a hardened journalist, imagine the havoc if a first year class hormones are exposed to it.



Dear Colleagues, Staff, Graduate Students and Honours Students:

Nicole Parton and I are pleased to announce that we will be married in West Vancouver tomorrow morning. By the time most of you read this statement, we will be enjoying a brief honeymoon.

To avoid any misunderstanding, I want to outline how this conflict-of-interest has been removed. Nicole and I share and try to meet the highest standards of our respective journalistic and academic careers.

Nicole interviewed me briefly in my office July 13 for a story published the next day. We had never met under any circumstances before then, although she had interviewed me on the telephone. About two weeks later, Nicole purchased a copy of my latest book, Beyond Sovereignty. After reading a large part of it, she decided that her very favorable view of the book, and through it of me, might constitute a bias. She declared a conflict and requested her editor reassign her to non-UBC stories. Since then, she has not written any UBC-related stories, nor has she been assigned to a life of shared interest in relationship has been an accidental but wonderful venture. We love each other and look forward to a life of shared adventure and happiness.

After considerable reflection and consultation with friends, we decided the morning serve the interests of all members of the department in particular, we were concerned that telling some of UCL but not others might be invidious and might further damage a private lives. It may also reveal these extremely personal aspects of our private lives. It may also reveal these extremely personal aspects of our public voice of the department if that creates an impression of bias.

This is an ironic comment on the climate in the university that we feel obliged to reveal these extremely personal aspects of our private lives. It may also reveal these extremely personal aspects of our public voice of the department if that creates an impression of bias.

Because Nicole has completely removed herself from all UBC stories, I do not believe there is any bias. But in the circumstances, I want each of you to consider this matter and express your honest view about my future role.

Our most sincere hope is that each of you will be able to accept our marriage as the result of a decision by mature adults and will share our joy in its rapid flowering.

When we return in a few days, I will move into Nicole's home in North Vancouver. Her children and I will enjoy a period of getting to know each other. Nicole looks forward to meeting my university family.

David J. Elkins
Aug. 22, 1995.

Speaking of journalists, I'm really amazed by this whole incident. Mainly that someone actually took the time to read the book. Kudos to Parton (or Elkins now, I guess). As a group, journalists are not especially noted for actually reading too many things–we all get such mountains of information, we do tend to skim a lot of it. It seemed quite obvious that most of the journalists covering the McEwen Report, far from doing background on the new department head, didn't bother to read the whole report (at least in week one of the story). In truth, most journalists would have had to say "such a visionary foreword, conclusion and book jacket blurb."

The aforementioned McEwen Report has completely snowballed this summer. Yes, it was a big story, but when people start putting us on TV, there's a perspective problem. Three *Ubyssey* editors had their fleeting moment of fame when the TV cameras, looking desperately for students that weren't heading to the beach, set upon them sitting on the curb, reading the just released McEwen report. If the implication was that our editors are typical of the general UBC student body, then the media obviously have a more skewed picture of this campus than anyone thought.

Certainly, this campus is a little weird. Witness the whole Silver Maple debacle. First we are assured that the Silver Maples are a danger to buses, pedestrians, bikers, heck, to the entire security of the free world. Next thing you know, people are starting to say that if anyone had bothered to prune the trees, we wouldn't be having this problem. Finally, after cutting had already begun, the Ministry of Transportation decided that no more trees would be cut until after a panel has considered the scientific merits of the case. Personally, I trace the change of opinion to Josh Bender's letter–how could anyone not see the error of their ways after that missive? We're reasonably sure Josh's letter was sarcasm–reasonably sure.

It's hard not to have hope for this campus though. Orientations has been bringing their keener frosh through the office as part of the overall campus tour, and it's been great to see smiling fresh faces. I hope that our cynical, jaded stares (they always seemed to arrive right in the middle of a killer meeting or after an all-nighter or two of production) haven't frightened them all away. With this much weirdness going on, we need all the writers we can get.

In no way do we mean to imply that Dr. David Elkins and Ms. Nicole Parton are anything other than sincere, loving individuals who care deeply for each other. We just think the whole thing is really funny.