UBC Archives Serial

THE UBYSSEY

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U-Pass stalled, presumed dead

by Alex Dimson

Despite three years of effort, negotiations for a mandatory student bus pass have once again faltered, leaving the university to pursue alternative ways of reducing traffic to campus.

Gord Lovegrove, UBC's director of Transporation Planning, said he is "disappointed" after the Alma Mater Society (AMS) and the university failed to agree on the financing of the U-Pass plan.

SENFT

The proposed U-Pass would include a series of transportation initiatives, including a mandatory student bus pass, car-, and vanpool parking deals, and improved facilities for cyclists.

"The administration's feeling is we're not going to have a U-Trek card this year," Lovegrove said.

Lovegrove's comments were echoed by AMS Vice-President of External Affairs Graham Senft.

"The university is just not willing to put up the money we hoped they would," he said.

The two sides had been negotiating over how the cost of the U-Pass card should be covered. According to Senft, the latest proposal had students paying $29 a month for the pass, an amount that he said is too high when compared to the $15-20 price tag that he believes is necessary for students to endorse the pass.

But Lovegrove said the university simply could not afford to pay any more of the costs.

The university is now exploring other methods to meet its obligation to the Greater Vancouver Regional District to reduce the number of single occupant vehicles travelling to campus by 20 per cent by 2002.

The university has committed $500,000 to Lovegrove's department to come up with other ways to reduce traffic to campus.

Lovegrove predicts that the money will go towards funding some of the initiatives originally included in the U-Pass bundle, such as the creation of a better campus shuttle, an enhanced car- and vanpool system, and a "token" bus discount.

This discounted pass, which would be purchased from the uni-

See "U-Pass" on page 4

SHELL OUT: You'll be paying cash for the near future because the U-Pass negotiations seem to be finally dead in the water. For good.
ADRIAN LIU PHOTO

FIRST DAY OF VOTING DECLARED A SUCCESS

by Alex Dimson

Despite the driest campaign in years, turnout for the Alma Mater Society (AMS) elections was surprisingly good after the first day of voting, according to elections officials.

AMS Elections Administrator Jo McFetridge said last night that turnout was "looking good" after the first day of voting.

"While we don't have all the information so far, we got a lot of voter turnout," said McFetridge, who could not provide official numbers by press time. "No catastrophes, everything went smoothly."

While voter turnout for the AMS elections is typically small–last year's record-high turnout saw only 4400 votes cast out of an eligible pool of roughly 33,000 students–this year's mostly dull election campaign threatens to bring even fewer students to the polls.

MCFETRIDGE

The campaigns of the last few years have been marked by contro-

See "Election" on page 4

Future of UBC Farm in question

by Sarah Morrison

The threat of losing the campus farm to new residence development has spurred the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences to begin education and food-growing programs on the 70-acre plot of land.

TRELOAR

Both the faculty's South Campus farm and its Totem Field are slated to be developed into residences in UBC's Official Community Plan (OCP), a document that outlines campus development for the next 20 years.

But Jonathan Treloar, president of the Agricultural Undergraduate Society, who is working on projects to show the farm's educational value, said that he sees different reasons behind the university's plans to develop the land.

Over the past 20 years, said Treloar, agriculture studies at UBC have moved away from land-based studies towards greater laboratory work.

"We've left it, and it's really not that surprising that they want to develop it...we've basically left our fields virtually fallow, except maybe Totem Field."

But Agricultural Sciences graduate student Derek Masselink, whose thesis work centres on the UBC farm and its future development, has a different perspective.

"The reason that this area hasn't been developed [for agriculture] is that it's been threatened with development for the last 12 years," he explained. "Why invest anything if you know you're going to lose it?"

"Now we're just trying to reveal the possibilities of using this for something other than housing," Masselink added.

According to Fred Pritchard, UBC director of Campus Planning, both areas are designated as future housing reserves, which means that they have been considered for development in the future.

"It could be used for housing at some time in the future, but it, for the moment, is being retained for its present uses," he said, indicating that the land's use will be re-evaluated in 2012.

Farm manager Ted Cathcart says that rather than trying to halt development in the South Campus area, the faculty is interested in becoming an integral part of the new community.

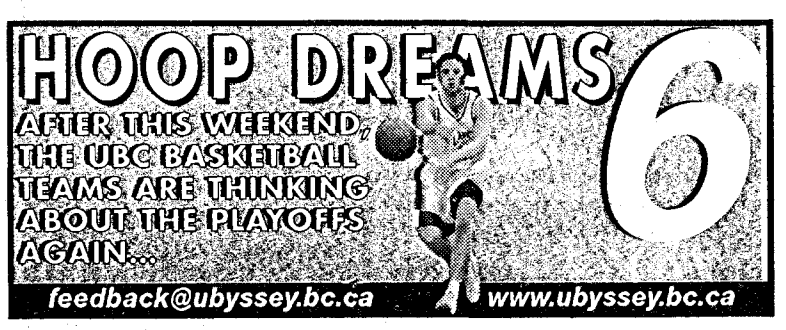
"The faculty is looking at a way of integrating the agricultural side of things into the housing development...What we'd like to do is use this as a big learning experience, a model. To have people come live in a community where there is agriculture around them, and that they have responsibility for their living area."

"Ideally, we want to produce food for UBC students and the surrounding communities," added Treloar.

"With the development of South Campus in the near future, we want to be an integral part of that community, and educate people as to

See "Farm" on page 4

BAAA, BAAA, BAAAAA, BAAAAAAA! That's what it sounds like when six sheep say "Back off, *Ubyssey* hack and get that goddamn camera out of our goddamn faces!. SARAH MORRISON PHOTO



UBC Archive Serial

CLASSIFIEDS

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Announcement

WORM COMPOSTING WORKSHOP on Wed Jan 24 from 12-1pm. Call Gillian at 822-9456 or email gillian.allan@ubc.ca for more info.

VEGGIE LUNCHES, every Tuesday 12:30-2:30 pm in the Penthouse (3rd floor) of the Grad Center, 6371 Crescent Rd, vegetarian and vegan food, suggested donation: $4.00

Callboard

CALL FOR PAPERS - "The Seed", the UBC undergraduate Journal of Canadian subjects from the disciplines in the humanities and Social Sciences for the Spring 2001 issue. For more info contact, Canadian Studies Student Association, Box 15 SUB, 6138 SUB Blvd, V6T 1Z1, canstudiesassn@hotmail.com, deadline: Jan 19, 2001.

SUBMISSIONS WANTED! Wreck magazine is looking for poetry, short fiction, drama, art and photography by UBC students. Email gil@lynx.net

Volunteer Opportunities

FRONTIER COLLEGE is looking for volunteers to tutor elementary or high school students in East Vancouver. If interested, please call 873-5767 or email frontiercollege@hotmail.com.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IS A CHILD'S LIFE: Become a Literacy Tutor! The Learning Disabilities Association Vancouver chapter is offering valuable volunteer experience for individuals planning a career working with children. Info session: JAN 25, 7PM, Oakridge Library; JAN 31, 7PM, Firehall Library. For more information call the LDAV office @ 873-8139.

MOTHERS WITH 2 SONS are needed for a UBC study. Mothers get $20 and children a T-shirt. If interested call 822-9037.

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To place an Ad or Classified, call 822-1654 or visit SUB Room 245.

THE UBYSSEY

Pride issue

Coming out Feb. 9, 2001

Meeting this Friday for anyone interested in contributing to *the Ubyssey*'s annual Pride Issue, which deals with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer issues.

We need writers, photographers, and graphic artists.

SUB Room 241K
12:30pm Friday, Jan. 19, 2001

For more information, e-mail Erin (hoult@interchange.ubc.ca) or Julius (jelefante@hotmail.com) or call Daliah at 822-2301.

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shameless giveaway

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Come to SUB Room 245 with the answer to the question below, and you may win 1 of 5 copies of the "SAVE THE LAST DANCE" soundtrack!

Question: Name the actress that stars in "SAVE THE LAST DANCE".

The soundtrack captures the wide-ranging settings of this interracial romance with a mix of hip hop, R&B, and pop. Soundtrack features K-Ci & JoJo, Pink, Lucy Pearl, Montell Jordan, Ice Cube, and more.
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Bagel shop plans to be finalised soon

by Sarah Morrison

The dark, quiet basement of the SUB's Gallery Lounge may be lost with the Alma Mater Society's (AMS) plans to install a two-storey bagel shop in the space.

The two-storey bagel shop would have a preparation area downstairs, and would serve customers upstairs. The shop would be connected to the Gallery by a take-out window facing into the bar.

AMS Vice-President Finance Mike Warner hopes that final plans for the bagel shop, as well as renovations adding more student seating between Pie R Squared and Blue Chip Cookies, will be approved at the AMS's next council meeting, scheduled for January 24.

WARNER

But not all students are happy with the plans.

"I don't like that idea really, because sometimes during the day when it gets [busy] here, it's the only place you can really escape from everyone, and sit down with someone and have a nice, quiet pint," said Patrick Service, a third-year Arts student.

According to AMS Designer Michael Kingsmill, installing the bagel shop has been a long-term goal of the AMS.

"The bagel store has been something that has been thought about for about five years," he said. "It's a health-conscious food type, and the thought is that it will be well subscribed to by students."

He also pointed out that it would provide more students with on-campus jobs.

KINGSMILL

The AMS plans are an attempt to stop revenue loss from the bar, and use its space more effectively.

"There has been a declining patronage of the Gallery Lounge, and it's something we would like to arrest," explained Warner.

"The revenues have been down, and that side of the lounge just hasn't been used," he said. "That area downstairs just isn't used period."

Kingsmill also addressed concerns about the loss of space in the Gallery.

There will be little actual space lost in the bar, according to Kingsmill. The 350 square foot basement will be lost to the new bagel shop, however 336 square feet will be gained when the stairs leading down to the basement are no longer needed.

"We're going to build on top of the stairs and make them usable...so the net loss is actually only around 70 square feet, which is peanuts, really," Kingsmill explained, adding the renovations won't change the number of seats in the bar.

The renovations are estimated to cost $160,000 and will be paid for by the earnings from other AMS ventures. Construction of the bagel store would begin in June, and carry through the month of July, leaving August for start-up.

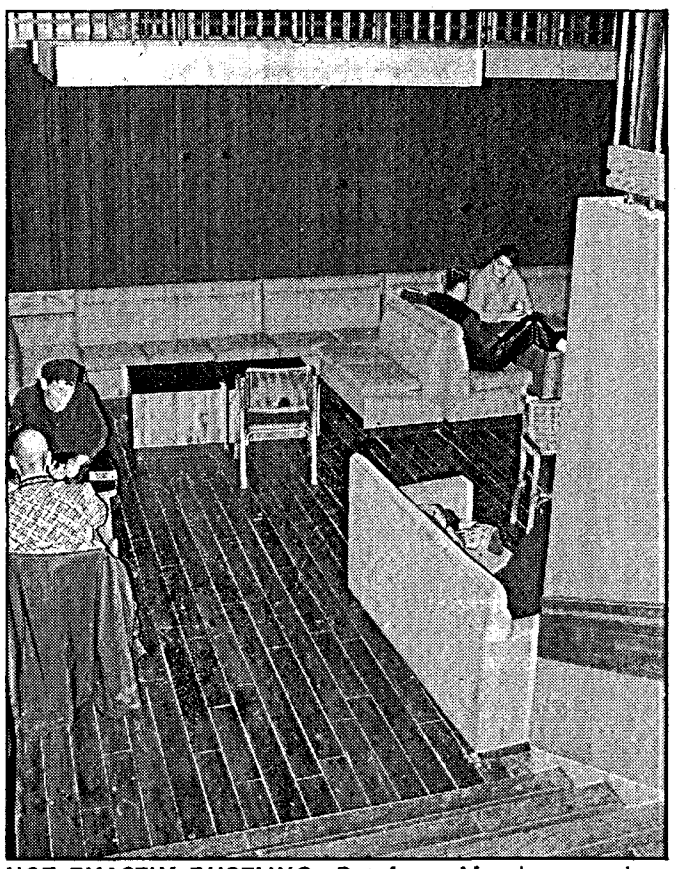
The bagel shop is being given a 1950s diner theme, emphasing bright colours. Designs and themes are also being planned for the Gallery, which would be connected to the shop.

Warner said that the Gallery space will become more efficient as it will be used more throughout the day.

"Now we can use the Gallery in the morning as a seating area for the bagel shop, whereas in the evening, obviously, the focus changes to a nightclub atmosphere with music and drinking. Then the bagel shop is less important," he explained.

Graduate student Jonathan Entwisle said he thinks the AMS' plans are a good idea.

"I think we need more venues...for eating, especially at lunchtime, when it's really crowded."



NOT EXACTLY BUSTLING: But for a Monday morning, business at the Gallery isn't that slow. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

Kymberlee Nelson, a fourth-year agricultural sciences student studying in the bar in the afternoon was unsure about the idea of combining a bagel shop with a bar.

"I think it might help them out because they've lost business since they stopped smoking...but I think it would be too crowded, and I don't like it, because I come here all the time." ❖

Vanier complains about caf

by Scott Bardsley

A meeting between Place Vanier residents and UBC Food Services held late last November has led to an improvement in food service, according to students.

At the meeting, roughly 100 residents voiced complaints to Andrew Parr, head of UBC Food Services and the manager of Vanier's cafeteria, about food quality, cafeteria sanitation and high food prices.

UBC Food Services, which manages the Vanier cafeteria, assigns a point value to the food it sells to residents which Parr says correlates with the cost of the food. In addition, residents, who are required to purchase a meal plan, pay $7.13 every day for overhead to fund the operation of the cafeteria.

However, when Vanier House Presidents Jenny Chu, Rob Eso and Christa-Lynn Donovan compared the cafeteria's prices to store prices of comparable items last year, many food items were being sold at prices well over their retail value.

They said they found that food such as pasta sauce, eggs, and cereal was being sold in the cafeteria for over twice its retail value, while the price of vegetables such as carrots and cucumbers were sold for approximately three times their store prices.

Parr explained to *the Ubyssey* that price of items includes "a small upcharge" to account for shrinkage, theft, and wastage.

But since the meeting, Parr said that Food Services has re-evaluated "all items [by] comparing our current pricing to our contract pricing." He noted that the prices of many items were lowered either immediately or after the Christmas break.

Eso, Vanier's Mackenzie house president, said that he has noticed "quite a bit of improvement" since the meeting.

The presidents also determined that the cost of food for a day, based on the nutritional requirements of the Canada Food Guide, would cost about 900 points, yet even the largest meal plan only gives students 656 points per day.

While Parr agreed to some extent with this assessment, he noted that the current point allocation takes into account that students do not always eat at the cafeteria, but many go home or out for dinner from time to time.

Many residents also worried about food safety, particularly concerning foods, like potato salads and mayonnaise, which are left in the open in the cafeteria instead of being refrigerated.

But Parr said that the regular Vancouver Health Board inspections give Food Services "a very high standing and a very good inspection rating."

Parr acknowledged, however, that management addresses complaints about particular staff members who may not be following safe practices.

"[Management does not] always see those things first-hand and we do rely on our customers to come forward and inform us of any mishandling of food [which] helps tremendously in keeping those standards up," he said.

Students also say that since the meeting improvements have been made in posting most prices and updating cashier's keyboards to prevent inconsistent pricing.

While many concerns were addressed during the meeting, one major concern of residents of residents was not: food quality. Chu said the issue was avoided because it is largely a matter of personal opinion and because the house presidents wanted to focus on issues that were more easily addressable.

In the long run, Parr said he will be offering the same menu at both Vanier and Totem, as well as including nutritional information alongside prices in September, "rais[ing] the notch on both units. ❖

OH, THAT VANIER CAF FOOD: While the food will remain at its current high quality and variety, it'll cost you less!. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

York strike deal made

by Reka Szekely
The Excalibur

TORONTO (CUP)—Striking graduate and teaching assistants reached a tentative agreement with York University's administration last Tuesday morning after a bitter 11-week struggle.

"It's more or less exactly what we were asking for right from the beginning," said Mark Hiller, chief steward of the teaching assistants, one of the three units of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3903.

The deal was struck after a forced ratification vote last Friday, which only saw one of three bargaining units, the contract faculty, agree to the university's proposal.

The vote was called by the Ontario Ministry of Labour in December, and was strongly opposed by the union executive. When both the teaching assistants and graduate assistants rejected the offer, the two sides went back to the table for a marathon bargaining session, which resulted in the current agreement.

The major point of contention during the strike was tuition protection for teaching assistants and graduate students—meaning that any tuition increases will be met with a dollar-for-dollar rebate. This prevents the university from negating salary raises with tuition hikes.

The two-year agreement includes tuition protection for both teaching and graduate assistants. Hiller says that York is the only university in Canada to offer such protection. He said he expects teaching assistants across the country to make similar demands when their contracts come up.

The deal also establishes a first contract for graduate assistants, including a base pay of $5880 for the first year, plus an $882 signing bonus and $7300 in the second year. All units will receive a two per cent pay raise.

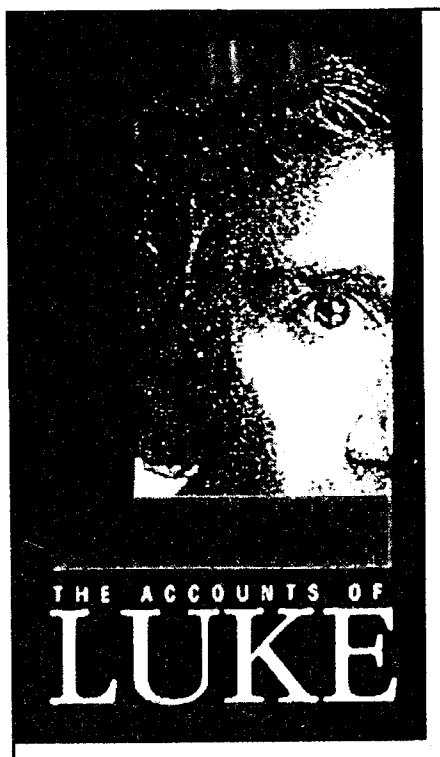
In a prepared statement, York President Lorna Marsden called the agreement "great news."

"There are no winners this morning except undergraduates. This is their day and it's taken far too long. We are a university with a spirit of tolerance, respect, and the patient pursuit of knowledge, and we must immediately return to normal academic life," she said.

Nikhi Puru, a second-year student at York, is relieved that the strike is over. "I actually feel much better. I wanted it to be done," said Puru. Most York students agree, but many worry about the time lost to the strike.

"I'm relieved, but I'm still angry about the whole thing," said Emily Falls, a first-year music major. "I'm feeling pretty stressed out now because of all the stuff we're going to have to catch up on now." ❖

-with files from Dan Verbin



Riveting! Striking! Delightful!

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Wednesday January 24th
7:30pm, Scarfe 100
(University Blvd. at Main Mall)

Thursday January 25th
7:30pm, SUB Ballroom

Tickets available at the UBC Box Office 822-2711
Students $6 (2 for $10)
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UBC ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN CLUBS
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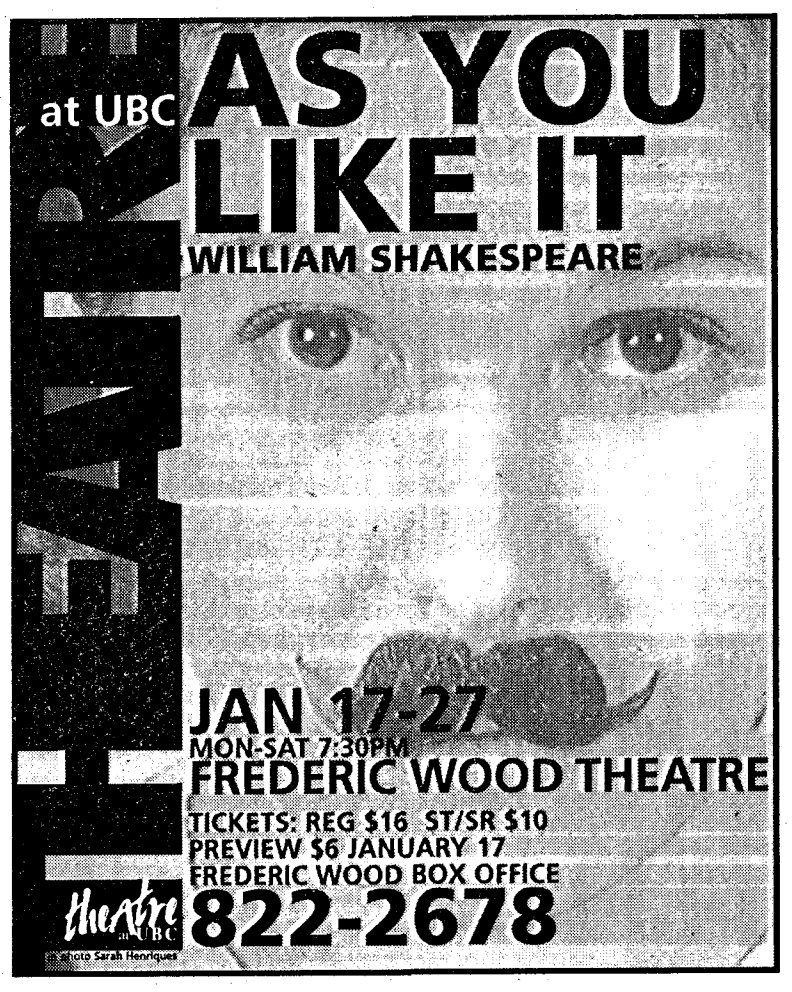
Breakfast with the PRESIDENT

If you would like to win breakfast with President Martha Piper on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH, 2001 FROM 7:30-9:00 A.M.
please contact The Ceremonies Office by email at kking@exchange.ubc.ca with the following information:

- *first and last name*
- *faculty*
- *program of study*
- *current year*
- *student number*
- *mailing address*
- *phone number*

The first 25 students to respond will win breakfast with the President!
Deadline for entries is Friday, Janary 19th at 4:30pm.
Only those individuals selected will be contacted.



NEWS briefs

Student court to decide on referendum question

Student court judges and officials will meet this week to decide whether the health plan referendum can go ahead.

The Alma Mater Society (AMS) Council referred the matter to the court to determine whether the current referendum question is a fair, yes-or-no question. The question asks "Should the AMS immediately withdraw from the AMS/GSS Health and Dental Plan and refrain from seeking another health and/or dental plan without first staging a referendum on the issue?"

The question was framed by two UBC students, who collected over 1000 signatures on a petition to force the AMS to hold a referendum on the issue.

AMS President Maryann Adamec said that she expects the judges to meet mid-week to decide on the question. She said she expects the decision will be made by the next Council meeting, scheduled for Wednesday January 24.

AMS program to give students a tax "break"

While likely not the break students are hoping for, a new AMS initiative will give some UBC students the opportunity to have their tax returns professionally processed for free.

UBC students making an income of less than $20,000 will be allowed to file their tax returns online with Intuit Canada for no charge by following a link from the AMS web site.

The arrangement, between the AMS and Campus Advantage, a commercial consortium of Canadian student societies that the AMS is not formally part of, was approved for a 6-month trial period by AMS Council on Wednesday.

AMS Vice-President Finance Mike Warner said that he expects to sign the contract soon, and that the project will go online within a few weeks.

The arrangment will not cost the student society anything, though students with an income over $20,000 will be charged between $12-24 depending on the date filed and marital status.

The AMS will receive a portion of this money, said Warner, who added that revenues may go toward creating a bursary fund.

The arrangment will expire on September 30 of this year and will then have to be renegotiated.

AMS Mini-School courses to begin January 22

Classes are filling up quickly for the AMS Mini School.

Non-credit courses in subjects like bartending, first aid, and massage begin January 22.

At the AMS Council meeting Wednesday evening, Mini School Coordinator Kumi Teranisha announced that the bartending course is already full, and there are only two spaces left in the web design course. She said that demand for the courses has exceeded her expectations.

The first of the courses run for a six-week trial period, after which the AMS will consider whether to continue the program in future years.

The most expensive course is $100 for a first-aid class led by instructors from St. John's Ambulance, but most of the classes average between $35 and $45.

Courses are weekly. Students can register at Subtitles until January 18. ❖

"U-Pass" continued from page 4

versy. Last year, the proposal to include campus residences under the provincial Residential Tenancy Act, the legislation that governs the relationship between tenants and landlords, brought angry residents out to the polls in droves.

And recent years have witnessed candidates debate numerous contentious issues, including which national student lobby group best suits UBC students, potential student fee increases, and the role that corporations should play on campus.

The issues in this year's campaign, by contrast, have been far less polarising and less interesting to students.

But McFetridge remains optimistic that voter turnout will be high this year.

"There doesn't seem to be anything controversial, yet. But still we're getting pretty good numbers," she said. "The campaign that we put out probably helped voter turnout. We put a lot of effort into it."

Students standing near the SUB's polling station seemed divided only on whether or not they should vote, and most indicated that differences in the candidates' positions were difficult to discern.

Graduate student Jenn Miuert said that she always votes in the election, but has not been impressed by any particular slate.

"I think I'll probably just vote for the most experienced people for each position," she said. "I can't say that I've been overwhelmed."

First-year Science student Peter Tomlin, who had just finished voting at the Koerner's Library polling station, said that he read the candidates' comments in *the Ubyssey* election supplement published last week.

"I had a hard time figuring out who to vote for, for some [categories] I just picked people at random," admitted Tomlin.

But many other students, like second-year Commerce student Jason Ling, have no interest in voting in the election.

"I'm not really sure what any of them do or who they are," Ling said.

Polling stations are located at major points around campus and voting continues until Friday. ❖

"Farm" continued from page 4

where their food is coming from," he said, indicating that the Alma Mater Society (AMS) had expressed interest in using the farm's produce for its food outlets.

AMS Food and Beverage Manager Nancy Toogood said that she was interested in the faculty's program, and hopes to begin using food from the farm in the near future.

"I'm really excited about it...we certainly always want to support that if we can," she said. "As long as it isn't too cost-prohibitive, we're definitely looking to change."

Toogood expects to know by the first of April what products the AMS could begin to buy organically and locally, at a competitive price and indicated that the AMS may be able to purchase food that will be ready in the spring.

UBC Food Services also expressed some preliminary interest in using food from the farm. However, Food Services Director Andrew Parr said that the food volume needed by Food Services will probably exceed that of what UBC's farm is able to produce.

"What we talked about doing, possibly, is using UBC Farm to supply us at one location, or maybe at a couple locations," he said. ❖

"U-Pass" continued from page 4

versity or the AMS at between $35-45, would be far more expensive than a U-Pass. But it would still be a better deal than the $63 students currently pay for a standard bus pass.

Senft said the discount is better than nothing.

"It wouldn't have the same impact as a mandatory bus pass at $15," he admitted. "But it would still be a tremendous benefit for people who ride the bus nowadays."

While the prospects for a U-Pass are likely dead for this year, both Lovegrove and Senft are hopeful that a student referendum could be held on the issue some time next year, if only for a mandatory bus pass without the other offers included in the U-Pass.

Lovegrove expressed concern about offering only a bus pass, however.

"When you're talking about a mandatory bus pass and nothing else you're only hitting a third of the student population at most," he said. "We want to continue with a balanced, equitable approach that has something in it for everyone."

Senft, meanwhile, said that he is attempting to persuade TransLink to reduce the amount of money it would like the university to commit to a U-Pass.

But when asked about this possibility, TransLink spokesperson Russel Busche responded with an emphatic "no," citing the need for TransLink to break even on the U-Pass. ❖

Québec students await election of new party leader

by Pierre-Olivier Savoie
Québec Bureau Chief

MONTRÉAL (CUP)—Student leaders in Québec are optimistic about the benefits to students that could arise if Education Minister François Legault runs for the Parti Québécois(PQ) leadership.

"If Legault goes for the leadership, there could be positive effects in the short run," said Christian Robitaille, president of the Fédération Étudiante Universitaire du Québec, the francophone federation of university student associations. "He's going to want to build political capital before the next election, which should take place within a year or a year and a half."

"There could be positive effects in the short run"

—Christian Robitaille, President of the Fédération Étudiante Universitaire du Québec

Since the announcement of Lucien Bouchard's resignation as premier of Québec last Wednesday, Legault has been discussed as a possible candidate for the leadership race. Alongside Finance Minister Bernard Landry and Health Minister Pauline Marois, Legault seems to be one of the three main candidates within the PQ. Other names, such as Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe and former Premier Jacques Parizeau, have also surfaced in the media.

Duceppe, however, has publicly dismissed the possibility of entering into provincial politics. Parizeau and Landry are part of what Robitaille calls the "old guard."

"Landry is supposed to have two years left, so it's perhaps not the best timing for him to become premier," said Robitaille, who added that a 'new guard' could spark a new debate on Québec nationalism.

Marois has been able to negotiate both education reforms and health care cuts, without losing too much credibility. But Phil Ilejevski, campaigns coordinator at the Canadian Federation of Students in Québec, says that Marois is unpopular with unions and nurses, especially after the province-wide summer 1999 nurse strike.

Ilejevski also strongly criticised Legault's "corporate" background—he is a former president of Air Transat—as well as his allegedly business-oriented view of education.

Both Ilejevski and Robitaille also pointed to Legault's lack of governmental experience. Legault was elected to the National Assembly in 1994.❖

Ontario government gives okay to private university legislation

by Katie Meyer
Ontarion

GUELPH, ONT. (CUP)—The Ontario government has passed legislation allowing private universities to operate in the province. In late December, the Post-Secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act passed its final reading in Queen's Park.

"This act will help give students more opportunities for a high-quality education and ensure that they will have innovative and flexible choices," said Diane Cunningham, minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities.

However, some academics and students say that they have concerns about the introduction of private universities in the province.

"I think the real concern is that this will divert attention away from the need for investing in our public institutions," says Maureen Mancuso, University of Guelph associate vice-president academic.

The provincial government says that no public funds will be given to private universities. But Ontario Liberal education critic Marie Boutrogianni thinks differently.

"During the parliamentary hearings, when I asked the parliamentary assistant if [Cunnigham] could guarantee that no grant money or research money would be given to private universities from the government, she gave no guarantees," Boutrogianni said.

"To say that no public money is going to private institutions is a fallacy," she said.

Boutrogianni is also concerned that under NAFTA's "fair treatment clause," private universities could claim that public universities have an unfair advantage in the economic market because they are publicly funded, therefore forcing the government's hand into funding both sectors equally.

The provincial government, however, denies this possibility.

"We have sought a legal opinion on this. Our rights over health care and education are not threatened by the NAFTA agreement," says David Ross, a spokesperson for the Ontario government.

But Bountrogianni said she has consulted different lawyers.

"It will be a difficult egg to unscramble, once it's cooked"

—Marie Boutrogianni, Ontario Liberal education critic

"As it is written now, and as international lawyers have said, once we let them in, we may not have any control," said Boutrogianni. "We may be obliged to give them public money. It will be a difficult egg to unscramble, once it's cooked."

Jonathan DaSilva of the Central Student Association, the University of Guelph's student union, said that private universities could mean skyrocketing tuition increases and the creation of a separate system for the rich.

"Students could essentially buy a university degree for, say, around $40,000. They say this legislation is increasing accessibility, but its only giving more options to those who can pay those high private tuition fees and for students who may not have the marks to get into a public university."

NDP education critic Rosario Marchese agrees. "This legislation does not mean more choices for the majority. It means a private club has been created for the wealthy."

DaSilva said that he also fears research at public universities could be in jeopardy.

"Private universities, through corporate funding, will be able to pay their professors more. They'll have more up-to-date technology and more research dollars. The government is cutting funding to universities and is not putting the funding into public universities to keep them at a competitive level."

He is also worried that this could drive up the tuition rates at public universities, in order for them to compete.

"The real worrisome possibility is that this legislation may falsely lull people into thinking that this private university initiative will solve the current challenges facing post-secondary education in Ontario," says Mancuso.

Private universities could be in effect as early as September, according to Cunningham. The Post-Secondary Education Quality Assessment Board will advise the minister about new programs, including new university degree programs that will be offered by community colleges.

"Ontario's prosperity and the future prosperity of our students depends on them having access to high-quality and relevant education and training programs where and when they need them," said Cunningham.❖

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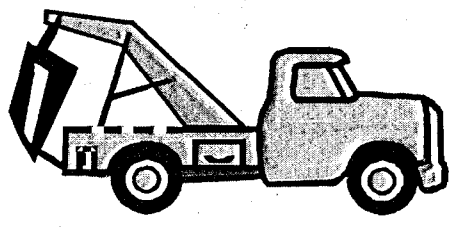

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The Campus Advisory Board on Student Development (CABSD) is seeking nominations of individuals, services and programs or departments who make exceptional contributions or significant improvements to student experience and the learning environment at UBC.

Nominations from UBC students, faculty, staff and recent graduates are welcome.

Submissions, includng a written statement and two supporting letters, should be sent to the Office of the Vice President, Students, Room 123, Old Administration Building, 6328 Memorial Rd. by Feb. 15th, 2001.

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Birds own the court

Two wins and playoff hopes just got brighter for basketball men

by Dustin Cook

With its disappointing 4-8 record, the UBC men's basketball team headed into the weekend with its playoff hopes on the line. Losers of five of their last six games and stuck in the basement of the Canada West division, the Birds needed desperately to beat the Trinity Western Spartans twice in order to turn their season around. And that's just what they did,

It wasn't pretty to watch but the Bird's managed to squeak out a 55-45 victory Friday night. It was a dull and low-scoring game in which neither team could execute its shots effectively—the Birds' 35.7 per cent field goal average was just slighlty better than the Spartan's paltry 29.4 per cent. The only Birds who were really effective were third-year guard Ben Sansburn, whose 15 points were a team-high, and Sherlan John, who scored nine points and added ten boards. But in the end, the Birds' effort was enough to win, as the Spartans could only score a pitiful 17 points in the second half.

On Saturday night, a different UBC team showed up. In an impressive effort, the Birds dominated the Spartans from the outset of the game. After scoring the first basket, the Birds set the tone early on and went into the half with a 32-28 lead. The Birds held the lead until there was 7:17 left in the second half. Then the Spartans went on a 13-4 run to go ahead 58-57. But the Spartans first and only advantage was short-lived. On the Birds' next two possessions, Pat McKay and Courtney Kolla smoothly dropped three pointers to put UBC back on top, 63-58. The Birds then outscored the Spartans 23-9 in the game's final minutes to seal the victory, 81-66.

Key to the Birds' success was their ability to play a disciplined team game on both sides of the court. The Birds scored at will, and showed a willingness to spread the ball around as well as the patience to wait for the opportunity to take the right shots. Unlike the night before, the Birds shot well from the field and had no trouble scoring on the Spartans' defence, which vanished as the game progressed. McKay and Kolla took advantage of some outside looks and combined for nine three-pointers.

Team captain Kolla led the Birds' balanced attack with 21 points, while McKay followed with 18. For the third-straight game, Sansburn elevated his play by scoring a season-high 17 points, and once again John was a force, scoring 12 points and pulling down ten rebounds. If not for the play of Spartan guard Tyler Coston, whose 25 points included six three pointers, the Birds would have easily routed the visitors.

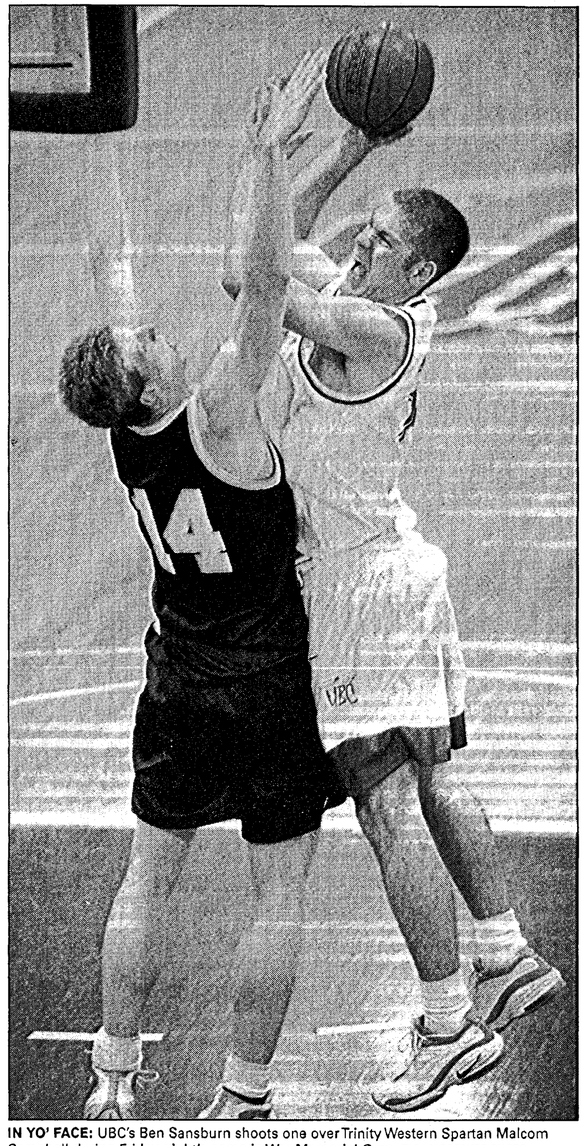
"A lot of teams don't really want to play us because I don't think we've proven to everybody how well we can play yet," said Kolla. "We're kind of just gelling at the right time and by March, teams are going to have to look out because we're really going to be looking forward and looking strong."

After defeating the Spartans, who had won six of their last seven games, the Birds have a lot to look forward to. They are right back in the playoff race, and if this weekend was a clear indication that the Birds are improving, it couldn't have come at a better time.

"It was a great weekend for the guys, a big step for our program," said first-year head coach Kevin Hanson. "Our goal at the beginning was to peak our play into February and it looks like were doing that. We've come a long way as a team. We still make unnecessary turnovers, but as a team we're growing, we're building and we're starting to get some performances out of some of the guys...I really like our chances of finishing high in the playoff spots."

The weekend was a step in the right direction for the Birds, but how far they will go remains to be seen. If the Birds are to continue their ascent out of the cellar of the Canada West they will have to do so on the road. Next week they start a six-game road trip in Manitoba that will either make or break their playoff hopes. With the conference tightly packed, the Birds will likely have to battle for a playoff position until the end of the season.

"What we're looking to do is get in the playoffs and then be a threat," said Sansburn. ❖



IN YO' FACE: UBC's Ben Sansburn shoots one over Trinity Western Spartan Malcom Campbell during Friday night's game in War Memorial Gym. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

Rushed, rattled and missing two point guards, Birds persevere

by Tom Peacock

It's official—Julie Smulders is out for the season. The star point guard on the UBC women's basketball team, citing 'personal issues,' will miss the rest of the year.

The basketball team suspended Smulders late last term in order for her to get her schoolwork under control, forcing her to miss the last two league games and a holiday tournament. After returning to practice for a few days, Smulders told head coach Deb Huband she needed to step away from basketball so she could get school and the rest of her life on track.

In spite of Smulders' absence, the remaining nine players had no trouble with the struggling Trinity Western Spartans on Friday night, shooting ahead by 23 points at the half, and winning the game 79-55.

With Friday's win, the Birds extended their winning streak to nine games. That's the good news. The bad news came early in the second half of the game, when replacement point guard Charmene Adams went over on her right ankle. It is unsure when Adams will be able to return to play. Rookie Sheila Townsend stepped into the point guard position for Saturday's game, one that looked nothing like the previous night's rout.

Though the Birds eventually came out on top for their second win of the weekend, Saturday's game was close, really close.

"I knew we'd win. It was just a matter of when we'd stop making stupid mistakes and finally get it together," said fifth-year guard Stacy Reykdal. But Reykdal's hindsight confidence didn't tell the whole story of a second half which could have gone in either team's favour.

The score was 32-31 for UBC at the half, and TWU kept the score close right up until the 14-minute mark of the second stanza. Then the rookie point guard began what would effectively become the Sheila Townsend Show. The Pitt Meadows native, a first-year transfer from Texas Pan-American, started her show with two from the line, putting the Birds ahead by one.

Then it was Townsend with a jump shot for two, and then a Townsend steal found Carrie Watson for two. Then Townsend outside for three. Then Townsend skipping through the TWU defence with a textbook cross-over for two, and suddenly, the Birds were up by ten.

Time for a break, or so the Birds seemed to think. But the Spartans were far from finished, and quickly came back within striking distance of the win.

"We went out after the time-out really flat," UBC head coach Deb Huband said after the game. "I think people were just finding times to rest...[Trinity Western] doesn't quit, and they just came roaring back. I think we were caught on our heels a little bit."

Luckily for the Birds, Townsend's performance wasn't over yet. The team's third choice at point guard took control of the scoreboard with a timely three-pointer with just over a minute left to play.

Then the Birds stepped it up on defence, something they hadn't really done all game, and TWU returned to its end of the court scoreless. UBC ran the clock until there were only seconds left. Then Townsend charged the lane and made the best pass of the night to Jennifer Washburn, who easily sank a baseline jumper from just outside the key.

With four seconds left, the game was 69-64.

Trinity still wasn't done though, and a long desperate pass found Spartan Heidi Frandrup for a three-pointer. But the ball was UBC's and time was up. UBC had won the game 69-67.

"It was a different game than last night, I think, with our short bench, some fatigue, and a few people have been struggling lately who didn't step up tonight," Huband said. "But with nine on the roster and one person with an ankle, you really need everybody contributing."

But Huband said she was impressed by the way Townsend had stepped into the vacant spot at point guard.

"She did a very good job tonight, not only scoring, but getting people involved in the offence...Sheila's a scorer. Her first thought is to put the ball in the hoop and she does a good job at that. So for her to be able to step back and to think 'team,' and make sure the offence was organised, she did a really good job."

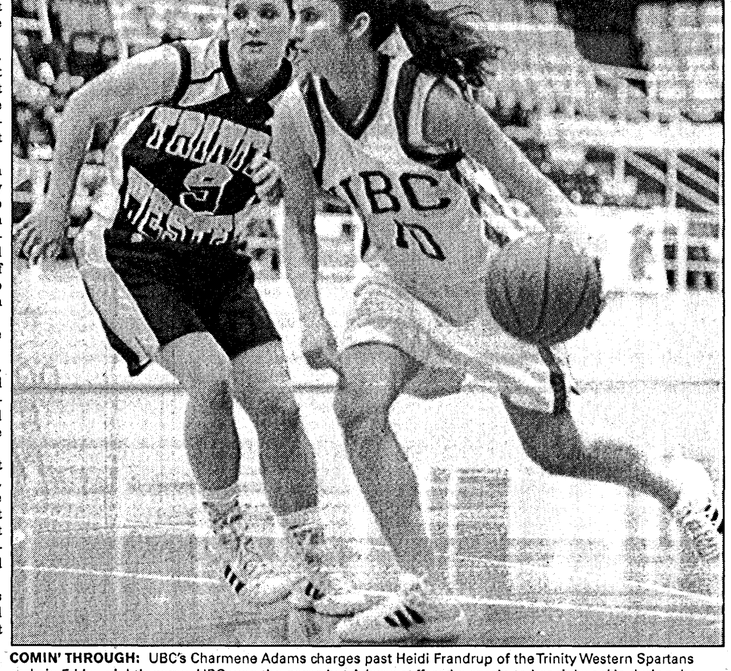
Townsend said she had played a little bit of point guard in high school but this was her first time starting in the position for UBC.

"I'm getting used to it. There's a lot of plays to know, and just getting to know all the players and everyone's strengths is a big thing, so Deb's helping me out with that," she said.

Townsend said the team felt a little rushed and a little rattled during Saturday's game, but looking ahead, she sees a general level of confidence among the remaining Birds .

"I think that the team has really bonded. I think that we all believe in each other. It has been up and down all year, but now we know these nine players are the team, and we've all got to stick together."

The remaining Birds will certainly have to stick together next weekend when they head to Manitoba to face the University of Manitoba Bisons for two games. The Birds are now in fourth place in the Western division of the Canada West with an 8-6 record. ❖



COMIN' THROUGH: UBC's Charmene Adams charges past Heidi Frandrup of the Trinity Western Spartans early in Friday night's game. UBC won the game but Adams suffered a sprain to her right ankle during the second half. She will likely sit out next weekend's games against Manitoba, but she is expected to return to play before the post-season. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

BIRD droppings

Women's Volleyball

The UBC women's volleyball team ended a six-game winning streak on Friday, losing 3-0 in Edmonton to the University of Alberta Pandas. The teams met again Saturday and the Birds rallied for a 3-1 victory. UBC is now in second place behind Calgary in the Canada West Conference. They play at home next weekend against the fourth-place University of Saskatchewan Huskies at 6:15pm Friday and 8pm Saturday. Friday's game will be broadcast live on CITR 101.9, UBC's campus radio station.

Men's Volleyball

The UBC volleyball men had a tough time on the road this past weekend, losing two in a row to the second-place University of Alberta Golden Bears. The Bears won both matches 3-1, improving their record to 10-4. The 7-8 Birds are sitting in fourth place heading into next weekend's games against the Huskies in War Memorial Gym. Game time is 8pm Friday and 6:15 Saturday.

Swimming

The Thunderbirds are hosting the Canada West Championships at the UBC Aquatic Centre next weekend. the racing starts on 6:30pm Friday, with the finals being held at 5pm Saturday and Sunday. The Birds will try to defend their conference titles against the six other teams in the conference. The CIAU Championships are scheduled for the weekend of February 23 in Guelph, Ontario. ❖

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UPS STAFF BOARD REPS, NASH, AGENT, SPECIAL ISSUES, UBYSSEY COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR AWARD, POST MORTEM, OTHER BUSINESS

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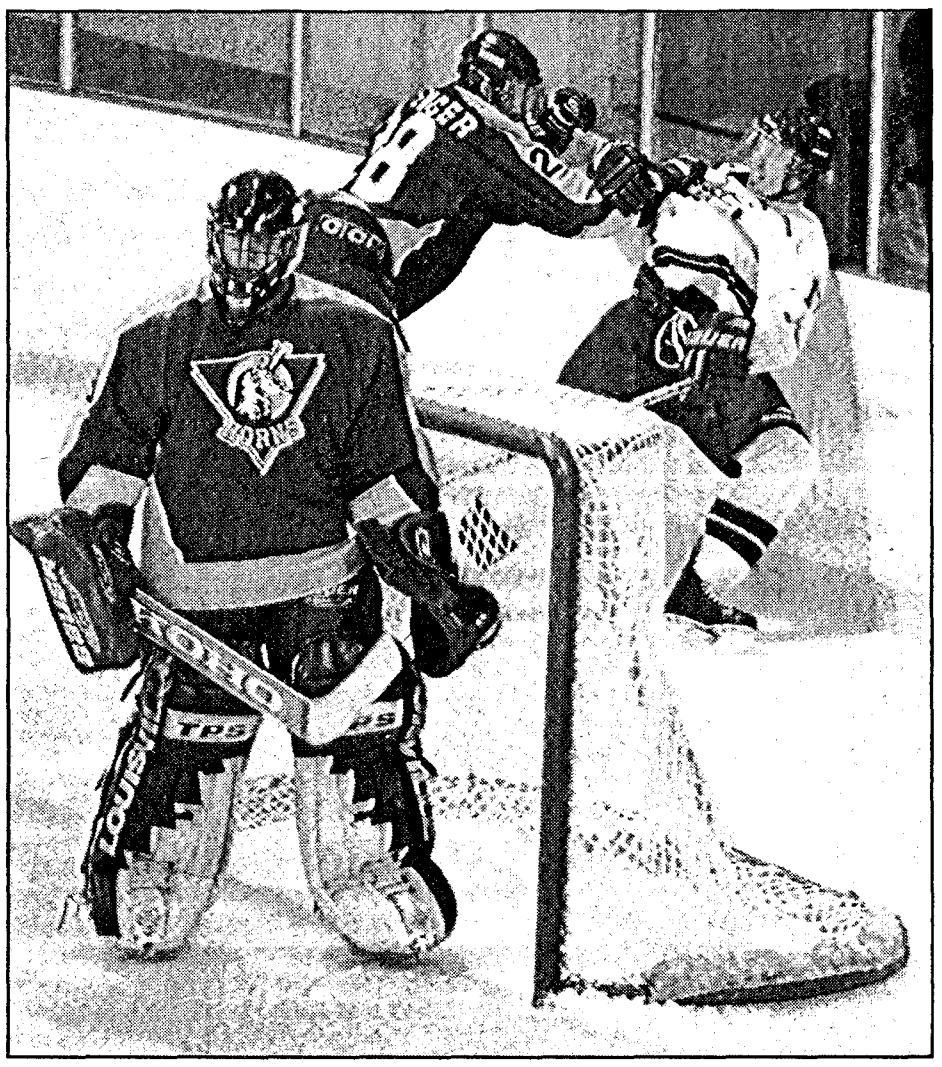


WHOA THERE TOUGH GUY: UBC's Chris Rowland takes some abuse from Pronghorn Joey Spencer behind Lethbridge goalie Andrew Houthays during Saturday night's game at Thunderbird Winter Sports Centre. Rowland scored his first three goals this season during the two games against Lethbridge. TOM PEACOCK PHOTO

Birds win two!

by Sara Newham

Sometimes, miracles do happen. This weekend, the UBC men's hockey team not only beat an opponent that was above .500, they did it twice. Heading into the tilt against the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns, the home team was a miserable 2-12-2, and in a must-win situation. Fortunately, the Birds came up big as they dumped the visitors by a score of 6-3 Friday and 3-1 Saturday to take all four points, putting the Birds within six points of third-place Calgary for the final playoff berth.

The two teams came out hard Friday night. Each side had a few scoring opportunities and a ton of great hits. It was UBC, however, who drew first blood as third-year forward Nils Antons, who was left alone in the bottom of the slot, fired it past Lethbridge goalie Scott Tollestrup at the 5:48 mark of the first.

The Pronghorns evened it up on a goal by forward Dino Caputo just 18 seconds later, and when the 'Birds got themselves into penalty trouble late in the period, Lethbridge capitalised twice on the powerplay to take a 3-1 lead.

At the start of the second period, UBC looked like a completely different team. Two minutes in, right-winger Chris Rowland started UBC's comeback when he danced around Lethbridge defenders and took a shot from the left face-off circle that beat Tollestrup on the glove side. The goal was Rowland's first of the season, and it seemed to breathe some life into the Birds.

When the Pronghorns started taking foolish penalties themselves, the T-Birds exacted their revenge. Right-winger Tim McEachen scored a powerplay goal at 13:04 to even the score at three apiece. Less than two minutes later, on another UBC powerplay, McEachen potted his second of the game. Then Rowland added his second goal at 19:18 to make it 5-3 for the home squad. The Pronghorns were probably relieved to hear the buzzer end the second period. They had been outscored 4-0 and out-shot 27-5 in the middle frame alone.

"After the first period, they didn't even have [any] scoring chances so I was kind of bored in the net. It was nice to see the guys play so hard. Everybody played really good today," said UBC goaltender Robert Filc, who received extra motivation from the attendance of his father, Jan Filc, the head coach of the Slovakian National Hockey team, at Friday night's game.

The Birds' intensity and emotion of the second period spilled over into the last frame. Lampshire scored the Birds' final goal of the night after the Birds swarmed around the Horns' net and squeezed the puck past Tollestrup. It was this goal, the Thunderbirds' sixth, that led to Tollestrup's replacement by Andrew Houthays.

"We played together. We had a bad start, but everybody stuck together and we pulled it through at the right times and capitalised on some smart chances and actually got a bit lucky. I think we deserved it," McEachen concluded.

On Saturday, UBC went up on the scoreboard first as Rowland received a great cross-ice pass from Lampshire, went in alone on Houthays, and lifted a backhand over the goalie. Then Bird forward Sandy Hayer scored his fourth goal of the year to make it 2-0 at the 18:32 mark of the first. There was no scoring in the second.

"They came out pretty strong. It wasn't as fast a pace or as physical a game as last night. I think the first game of the series took its toll on both teams, but I thought positionally we were pretty good," UBC head coach Mike Coflin explained. "Let's face it. That's a good experience for our players to go through, playing in a tight one-, two-goal game and playing with a lead. We haven't done that much this year, obviously. I think we learned some things from it."

Coflin had opted to put Peter Brady in net instead of Filc for Saturday's game, and Brady came up big on a few early attempts by Lethbridge. He was superb for much, if not all, of the night.

Not wanting to lose two straight contests, Lethbridge became desperate in the third period. They fired a number of shots at Brady and increased their pressure in UBC's territory. Their hard work eventually paid off as they ended Brady's shutout bid at 4:04, when defenseman Joey Spencer scored to make it 2-1.

The Thunderbirds didn't let Lethbridge get any closer however, and added an insurance goal at 15:50 when right-winger Dustin Paul somehow squeezed the puck past the Lethbridge netminder to make it 3-1.

Most weekends the Birds are badly outshot, with the weekend shots against total somewhere between 70 and 80 shots on net. This weekend however, it was the other way around as UBC outshot their opponent 73-56.

"There's been times this year where you can't really question our work ethic, it's just a matter of whether or not we're working smart. And tonight we just worked smart. We stuck to the system. Since Christmas it's been a different environment, and it's been really nice," stated Lampshire, who had a fantastic weekend, collecting one goal and four assists.

"I thought it was a strong effort," concluded Rowland, Saturday's UBC player of the game. "Coming off last night's game, it was big that we followed through and came out with another sixty minutes. It was the little things, especially in our end, getting the puck out [was key]. I hope it will stay like this, keep the flow going, and build on these two wins."

The Birds will be in tough next weekend as they head to Edmonton to square off against the University of Alberta Golden Bears, the top team in Canada. The T-Birds have had some success in Edmonton against the Bears, but will have to be on top of things and play their A-game if they hope to continue their post-Christmas roll. ❖

Some good ole country tunes

BY MICHELLE MOSSOP

NEKO CASE AND HER BOYFRIENDS
w/ Carolyn Mark
at Richards on Richards
Jan. 13

Despite having the flu, and despite the pressure from the Richard's on Richards management to end her show in time for "Salsa Night," Neko Case gave a sold-out crowd something more than just some good old country tunes.

Though it took the crowd (which included everyone from indie-rock kids to my second-year English professor) a while to warm up, it wasn't very long before cowboy boots and Converse sneakers alike were tappin' away. Carolyn Mark's opening performance was less than exhilarating and it *was* only eight o'clock. But once Case, backed by Carl Newman from the New Pornographers and Dallas Good of the Sadies, started the show with "Jet Out of Running," nobody could keep his or her feet on the ground.

Case, dressed in a black turtleneck and slacks, looked less like a country singer and more like a lounge diva. She delivered her lyrics with a power and soul comparable to the sounds of Nina Simone or Aretha Franklin. And her attempts to twist her long red hair back in a bun, only to let it fall back down as she resumed singing, showed a willingness to flirt with the audience that only a diva could possess. But songs like "Twisted the Knife" and "Whips the Blanket," in which Case belted out some traditional Nashville wails, reminded the audience that it was, indeed, at a country show. And Good captivated the audience with his guitar skills.

Although Case is known for her temper tantrums and melodramatic ways, it was this very passion that carried the show. And though I wouldn't want to date Neko Case, I couldn't help falling in love with her highly emotional voice, which expressed sadness and heartache with every lyric.

Mark was invited back onstage for the encore for some sing-along songs. Both performers bounced around excitedly all over the stage, strumming their guitars. Then, Case, in a second encore, sang the crowd's request, "Tacoma Song," and a song she wrote for the soundtrack for the film *the Gift*, which is when she pulled out her old Gibson guitar. Guitar-playing is a relatively new skill for Case, and she stopped part way through the song to remember a chord. Though it stopped the song, it didn't stop the energy of the room, which was full of the intimacy and honesty of Neko Case. ❖

Rocks, jocks, and many smoking barrels

BY GREG URSIC

SNATCH
now playing

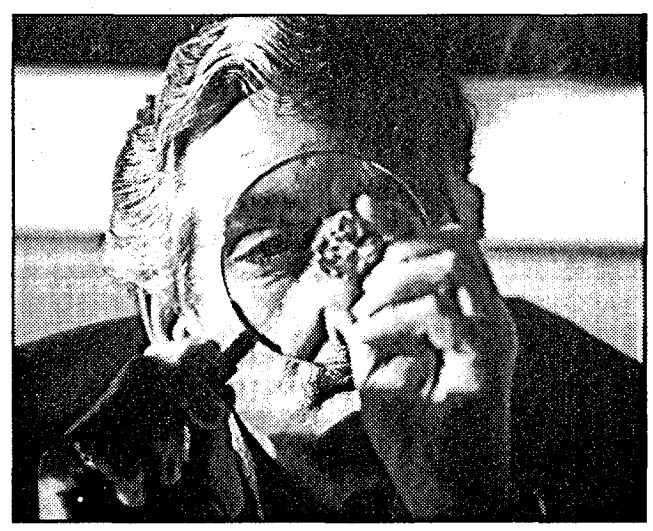
The release of Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* in 1994 prompted a schism in the staid-gangster movie genre. The standard hallmarks—serious characters, gunfights, intrigue, and damsels in distress—were enhanced with snappy dialogue and gallows humour. The biggest change, however, was the introduction of the mobius strip-style plot line, where linearity didn't matter, creating a story that constantly folded upon itself—flitting between past, present and future so that the viewer was forced to pay close attention to every subtle detail.

Inevitably, numerous copycat films emerged that tried to capitalise on Tarantino's success, but it wasn't until 1998 that someone else pulled it off—British director Guy Ritchie, with *Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels*. His latest film, *Snatch*, is proof that his first time out wasn't a fluke.

Turkish (Jason Statham) is a young man with an entrepreneurial bent, who, when he's not running his gambling operation, manages bare-knuckle boxers. Through a business deal gone wrong, he becomes acquainted with Mickey O'Neil (Brad Pitt), a mumbling manic motor-mouthed piker who also happens to be a one-punch marvel. Turkish persuades Mickey to join his stable of fighters, but soon discovers that Mickey has his own agenda, getting Turkish in trouble with the gangsters who run the underground boxing circuit. Other characters that become involved in the drama include a four-fingered degenerate gambler/jewel thief, a vicious boxing promoter, a gang of inept robbers, a polite hitman, a crazed Russian gunrunner, a group of Irish gypsies, a crooked New York jeweller, and a pugnacious pet. The common thread binding them all is a perfect diamond the size of a peach pit. And if you aren't confused yet, you soon will be.

Ritchie's first film, *Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels*, was shot on a small budget, with a no-name cast (except for rugby bad boy Vinnie Jones) but quickly became a rousing success at home, later finding a receptive audiences abroad. While not a technically a sequel to his first film, *Snatch* is stylistically very similar. Ritchie utilises his trademark bombastic staccato sequences, bounces off on radical tangents to throw the viewer off balance. He did, however, opt for a decidedly darker satirical tone in this film, which may make some people uncomfortable (think *Very Bad Things*). What struck me as particularly daring was his decision to create a story with such a voluminous cast.

Ritchie faced a daunting task with this film: how to adequately flesh out roughly 20 principal characters without hopelessly confusing the audience? The feat was made doubly difficult, as several cast members are big name stars. But Ritchie manages the feat—each actor is full-bodied, receives ample screen time, and no one character is the centrepiece. With so many talented actors, it is difficult to pick out one performance that stands out. Rade Serbedzija is hilarious as the mad Russian who blithely burns through each of his nine lives, as is Vinnie Jones' manic hitman. On the other end of the spectrum, is Alan Ford as Brick Top, the promoter with a penchant for pigs, who epitomises cold-blooded viciousness. If forced to pick my favourite, however, I would have to go with Brad Pitt.



Pitt resurrects his trailer trash look from *Kalifornia* and adopts a nearly indecipherable brogue that sounds like my best friend's Uncle Wally on a bad day. As Mickey O'Neil, the hard-drinking wily grifter and part-time pugilist, Pitt displays a wide range of emotions, demonstrating again that he is not only a star, but also a gifted character actor. And I would be remiss if I didn't mention the dog that subtly stole every scene in which he appeared.

While *Snatch* initially struggles to find its stride, and is very similar to Ritchie's earlier film, once it gets going it is fresh and funny enough to stand on its own. ❖

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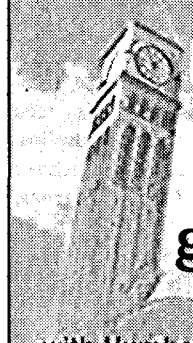

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RECORDING ARTIST, SARAH MASEN

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MONDAY, JANUARY 22ND
SUB THEATRE, 12:30
DR. MAXINE HANCOCK

"DOES GOD CARE ABOUT OUR SUFFERING?"
TUESDAY, JAN. 23RD
SUB THEATRE, 12:30
DR. JOHN STACKHOUSE

"JESUS OR NIETZSCHE: WHO WILL LEAD US INTO THE 21ST CENTURY?"
DR. RIKK WATTS
SUB BALLROOM, 7:30

"CHOOSE FREEDOM OR SLAVERY: THE BIBLE'S REVOLUTIONARY EDGE."
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH
DR. IAIN PROVAN
CHEM 250, 12:30

ACCOUNTS OF LUKE
FEATURING BRUCE KUHN, AWARD WINNING BROADWAY ACTOR
SCARFE 100, 7:30
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PANEL ON SCIENCE, FAITH & SOCIETY WITH UBC PROFESSORS
THURSDAY, JAN. 25TH
DR. PHILIP HILL (MECHANICAL ENGINEERING), DR. OLAV SLAYMAKER (GEOGRAPHY), DR. BART VANDER KAMP (FORESTRY), AND DR. BERT CAMERON (MEDICINE)
SUB THEATRE, 12:30

ACCOUNTS OF LUKE
2ND PERFORMANCE, BRUCE KUHN
SUB BALLROOM, 7:30

"THE GODS MUST BE CRAZY: DISCERNING THE DELIGIOUS OPTIONS"
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26TH
DR. MIRIAM ADENEY
SUB THEATRE, 12:30

THE AMAZING VANCOUVER SOUL GOSPEL CHOIR WITH CHECO TOMASO
CHOOSE FREEDOM CELEBRATION AND BENEFIT CONCERT FOR ORPHANS IN CHINA
UNIVERSITY CHAPEL, 7:30 (5375 UNIVERSITY BLVD., ONE STOP BEFORE UNIVERSITY VILLAGE)

THE UBYSSEY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2000
VOLUME 82 ISSUE 27

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Tom Peacock directed Daliah Merzaban to the section for the groom's family and motioned Holland Gidney towards the section for the other groom's family. Nicholas Bradley told Tara Westover in hushed tones how he didn't really approve of the second groom's family. Michelle Mossop, who was eavesdropping, was indignant, but Duncan McHugh was more concerned about the change in his inheritance prospects. Sarah Morrison glared enviously at Hywel Tuscano who had a better seat than she did. Alex Dimson sat at the back of the church, praying that Tristan Winch hadn't bought a toaster for a wedding gift as well. Laura Blue wept with joy. Graeme Worthy fidgeted with his jacket wishing that the ceremony would just be over so that he could get some free cake and champagne from the reception. Adrian Liu felt embarrassed because he'd forgotten to polish his shoes. Scott Bardsley insisted on introducing himself to every member of the other family, including Tyler Bradford, and Alicia Miller, the black sheep of the family. Dustin Cook, the choir leader, started to panic because Sara Newham, his key soloist, wasn't there, but fortunately Helen Eady agreed to step in at the last minute, just in time for Reverend Greg Ursic to start the wedding.

Canadian University Press
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Marriage is so gay

Technically, the headline isn't quite right. In all of Canada, on any given Sunday, there must be hundreds of weddings. But none of these is totally gay. Not a single one. In Toronto, on any given Sunday, dozens of people get married, maybe more. None of these weddings is totally gay, either. Not gay at all, in fact. And this is a problem.

This past Sunday, at the Metropolitan Community Church in Toronto, there was a wedding that was kind of gay. So gay, in fact, that it was the gayest wedding since the Middle Ages, according to one newspaper.

Two women and two men married. Which would have been okay, as long as one man married one woman, and then the other woman married the other man. That wouldn't have been gay at all. But because the men married each other, and the women married each other, it was totally gay, and all of a sudden, it's a totally big deal.

This is a good thing. And a bad thing.

It's a good thing because, for the first time ever, two same-sex couples were legally married. Under the auspices of Ontario's Marriage Act, Joe and Kevin got married, and so did Elaine and Anne.

In doing so—through a Christian marriage tradition known as the publication of the banns—the two couples joined the ranks of millions of other Canadians who enjoy wedded bliss, not to mention the income tax benefits and other perks that married couples, gay or otherwise, receive. In short, they received the same status as heterosexual married couples, and made it seem like gay couples are almost as equal as straight couples.

Almost. And that's the bad news. Because even though the totally gay Joe and Kevin and Elaine and Anne are totally married, some people beg to differ.

Some people. Like Bob Runciman, the minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations for Ontario. He's on the record as saying that marriages shouldn't be gay at all. Which means that Sunday's totally gay wedding may be in trouble.

In December, the Metropolitan Community Church announced that it would use the tradition of marriage banns to circumvent the usual way of getting married. In Ontario, a couple can get a marriage license from city hall. Requests from gay couples, however, have in the past been denied. But whether a marriage is done by license or by banns, someone has to do the paperwork. That man is Bob Runciman, who, apparently, is not gay at all. He is, however, in charge of the marriage registry, and if he refuses to register these two marriages, then the whole things is going to end up in the courts. The lawyer for the church has instructions to commence proceedings against the province if the marriages are not registered.

For Joe and Kevin and Elaine and Anne, that would be an insult, even if it's not an unexpected one. But it might be worth it. Because if people aren't prepared to accept a wedding that's legal in front of a church, its congregation, and the law, then people deserve to be challenged in a court of law. In the Netherlands, gay marriage is now legal, and Canada should be ashamed of itself if it doesn't follow suit. If the Toronto marriages don't make same-sex marriage implicitly legal, then it may be for the best that the matter gets settled in court, once and for all, and that same-sex marriage is openly legal.

Either way, Sunday's wedding is a victory for everyone who supports Kevin and Joe and Elaine and Anne. They made marriage totally gay, and that can only help make more marriages totally gay. And it's about time. ❖

LETTERS

The value of Arts

In September of 1996, I came to UBC to study Science. Science was what everyone expected of me. Having graduated top of my class in high school, my parents, teachers and classmates saw my scientific talents and knew they would carry me far. Upon arriving at Totem Park residence, I was quickly adopted into a circle of Science and Engineering students on my floor. They were my peers. The Arts students around us read novels and wrote papers while we stayed up late working on lab reports and problem sets. We bought into a stereotype that Arts students were slackers or less hardcore than us. We made jokes that they would serve us French fries at McDonald's someday. When it came time for us to take our Arts electives, we boasted about how easy they were. Science was also what I had always expected of myself. I wanted to be challenged. I wanted to prove something to myself. I thought Science was the way to do it.

In that first year, I considered majors from Engineering physics to astronomy—but of course never Arts. That summer, I finally settled on honours biochemistry, registered for my classes, and left the country on a two-month volunteer trip. For the next 60 days I lived in a foreign culture, spoke a foreign language, and stared out over rolling hills trying to articulate all I was learning and how I was changing in a small travel journal. Seeing and living the "big picture" of life in this way filled me with a type of curiosity that I knew studying molecules could not satisfy. In my first week back at UBC, I switched into Arts.

And this was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

Now a proud UBC Arts grad, I take with me valuable skills, knowledge and memories. I speak three languages, I think analytically, I write, I am more down to earth and I think more divergently. I remember watching a professor break down in tears for his love of Canada, and another one calling me to recognise the impact of linguistic discrimination on people's lives. For many of us, an undergraduate degree is not just an academic pursuit, but a major part of the transition into adulthood. Arts is an excellent education in both of these respects.

I am back at UBC, in first-year Medicine. Most of my classmates are Science graduates. I have asked many of them if their degrees have helped them. I always get the same response: No, maybe for a week or two while we studied my small area of expertise, but everything else is new. My Arts degree helps me every day in Medicine, in less obvious ways. It helps me with human contact. It helps me to think about the whole patient, her family, her social and political context, and the international web in which we all interact. I believe that the value of Arts in medicine is not unique. I would expect similar insights and approaches from Arts students in law, business, education, in advanced scientific studies or research, and of course in daily life.

There is a culture at UBC that puts its faith and admiration in future scientists, engineers, and technologists. I've experienced this elsewhere as well. My uncle, who never attended university, used to puzzle over why anyone would waste their time in Arts. "What can you do with an Arts degree?" he asked. In my first year of Science, I wondered with him. After I changed faculties, a friend's father asked what I was studying at UBC. When I told him I was in Arts, he replied, "Oh, so you're studying to be a waitress..."

I would like to challenge this culture. In the history of humankind, science is but one component of our progress. And if we forget religion, philosophy, language, literature, music and the like, what will become of us? Science and Arts too often dichotomise, when what we really need is recognition of their interdependence. As we press on into the future, our scientific, technological and medical advances will bring complex social implications. To ensure that these advances constitute progress, thinkers having a balanced multidisciplinary perspective will be our leaders.

Science, engineering and such are fascinating disciplines and I encourage and support anyone who loves them to study them. But to all those who love reading, writing, composing, acting, creating, philosophising, to all those who have been swept away by this culture that doesn't always know the value of Arts, *think about it.*

–Colleen Carey
Medicine 1

AMS hampered by high level of indifference among UBC students

by Matthieu "Frenchy" Maftei

PERSPECTIVE
opinion

"Things are going to change at the AMS if I'm elected," an eager candidate told me the other day. "I'm going to ensure that this society is more open and more accountable to students." Not wanting to sound like the crusty old Alma Master Society (AMS) hack that I have become, I simply bid this candidate good luck and walked away. Because once in office, none of what this candidate told me will happen. None of it. By this time next year, another eager would-be student politician will appear and will chant the same empty phrases. In my many years of involvement in student politics, which stretch all the way back to my first year in 1994, I have seen many an election, having even run in a few myself. And I have come to observe that the AMS has never become more open to students. Is it because these election promises are just a ploy to get elected? Or is it because the institutions of the AMS, with all the permanent staff members, systematically block any attempt at openness? Or is it because deep down inside all student politicians are evil? No, it's none of these reasons. The only people responsible for the lack of openness at the AMS are the students of UBC.

Last year, approximately 4400 votes were cast in the AMS executive elections. Even though this was the largest voter turnout in years, this still represents only a fraction of UBC's over 33,000 students. Many have suggested that the lack of interest in student elections is due to a lack of information. But unless you live under a rock, there is absolutely no way that you can avoid elections during campaign week on campus. All of the issues are described at length on posters, student forums are held pretty much everywhere, and *the Ubyssey* devotes an entire issue to the cause. But students just can't be bothered to be interested. Even the heroic efforts of Jo McFetridge, this year's elections administrator, at the first all-candidates forum can't bring students to care.

Yet to describe UBC students as simply apathetic is not entirely true. See the biblical fury students display when fighting any fee increase. I remember the day when the AMS introduced a $2 fee increase to establish a child-care bursary fund. And I remember the protests. "How dare the AMS take my money? How dare they even think of increasing my student fees?" was the common battle cry of thousands of outraged students. This fund was established to help single mothers attend classes at UBC. Call me hopelessly naive, but I don't believe that these people actually thought that the place of a single mother was in the kitchen and at the bottom of the social ladder. I can't believe that. There is only one explanation, and that is that UBC students just couldn't be bothered to give up 30 seconds of their lives and read what the fund was for. The same scenario has been repeated throughout the years. Its latest incarnation can be seen with the fight against the AMS/GSS Health and Dental Plan. The speed at which Kathy Lo and Matthew Laird collected their petition signatures to fight this extended medical insurance plan would make even the most hardened campaign manager tingle. Again UBC students demonstrate that they are only interested in saving a few minutes of their selfish lives. Instead of taking the time and going through the opt-out procedure, these self-righteous students have decided that hundreds if not thousands of students should go without extended medical insurance. But most of the signatories of that petition don't know about the opt-out procedure: despite the AMS' best efforts, they can't be bothered to read or to listen.

When the new execs take office at the end of the month, don't expect any radical changes. The primary task of all student politicians is never described in any elections pamphlet or in the AMS Bylaws: it is to force people who don't want to care, to care.

This is why I ran for the Radical Beer Faction for three years, to prove how high the level of indifference runs at UBC. To the countless students who came up to me after the elections were over and said: "I would have voted for you, but I didn't get a chance to vote," I say thank you. To all those who voted for me: the joke was not on the AMS, nor was it on the serious candidates. The joke was on you. ❖

–Matthieu "Frenchy" Maftel is a fourth-year Arts student.

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Put away the popsicle sticks

by Tyler Bradford

YOUNG BC CONTEMPORARIES
at the Canadian Craft Museum
until Jan. 28

What do you think of when you here the term "craft"? I'm sure you envision your grandmother's latest crochet endeavour at the community hall or, perhaps, building mobiles out of popsicle sticks at summer camp. But that's not what's at the Canadian Craft Museum.

The Canadian Craft Museum's current exhibition highlights the winners of the Millennium Collection Competition—a celebration of the next generation of outstanding BC artisans. On display are the artists' winning works, as well as other notable pieces of their craft. These pieces use various materials, ranging from wood and metal to ceramics and CAT scans. All the winning craftspeople are BC residents under the age of 30—most of whom are graduates of the Emily Carr School of Art & Design or the Kootenay School of Arts.

Upon first walking into the Canadian Craft Museum, one immediately takes in Jeremy Hatch's iconoclastic *Ceramech Teapot* series. It is definitely the most intellectually challenging work of the artists on display. At first glance, his pieces are metallic, machine parts, but upon a closer inspection, one can see they are really porcelain, with a wheel thrown on. Further mystifying pieces are the unique CAT scan images of the inside of the "pots" which are set behind each one. The CAT scans show the insides of each of the pots. These scans reveal how completely useless they actually are, as they can't hold anything. His work tackles the concept of function head-on.

Jill Allan's various hand-blown glass pieces, including her winning *Rocking Bowls* collection, were intriguing. While one might assume that simple glass bowls lack creativity, Allan's work proves that this is not the case. The bowls of various vibrant colours lack the flat bottom of a "normal" bowl. These bowls are rounded on the bottom and possess the ability to rock about, leaving them "functional but risky," in the words of the artist.

The jewelry of Dana Grund and C. Lizz Hamakawa were also notable. Hamakawa's pieces have a soft, delicate appearance, with an elegant fluidity to them. Her winning piece, "Twisted Slice," is made of a hammered gold sheet melded with chrysoprase, shaped into an 'S' curve. Particularly pleasing was her *Aquatic Creative Exploration* series. These broaches made excellent use of colour and seemed to flow as if they

were creatures of the sea.

Meanwhile, in contrast to Hamakawa's works, Grund's jewelry appears to embrace a simple stylistic design ideal. This is particularly evident in his winning bracelet, "Stretch"—a simple steel spring used with a rectangular sterling silver frame to create a stylish, yet simple piece of jewellry. The one exception to the simpleness of Grund's work is perhaps his most beautiful piece on display; a work entitled "The Cinnamon Peeler." This copper/gold leaf/silver work is the artist's interpretation of Michael Ondaatje's poem, and if you've read the poem, you can definitely understand where the artist drew his inspiration for the piece.

Mima Preston's work incorporates a wide variety of unique textiles, being some of the more cerebral work on display. Preston won in the Existing Works category, for "Tangled Web," and the Proposed Works category, for "The Shelter." "Tangled Web" is a very unique dress that was originally woven onto a gelatin form, leaving an ultra-light dress.

Jacqueline Robbins' display featured four sets of work. The two older pieces, a tray with an elaborate butterfly design and a cup and saucer display, showed off the artist's glazing ability. But it was her two more recent sets, *The Bug* series and the award-winning *I Love Frogs* dinnerware set that show Robbins' flair for fun, using Crayola colour schemes and simple childlike designs.

The most impressive collection of the exhibit belongs to Micha Forestell. His unique fine furniture pieces show a great affinity for traditional woodworking skills, as well as his ability to design unique modern furniture. Forestell's furniture shows an incredible ability to use angles, grain and finish to his advantage. Some highlights from his display include his award-winning "Hall Table," which was co-created with Tamara Jones. With its beautiful Curly Makore top and subtle curves and tapers, it shows the craftspeople's immense amount of attention to both form and detail. The standout of his collection, however, is "Unequalateral." This black and yellow table uses sharp colour contrast and angles to create the illusion of shadow.

It seems an ironic twist that the work of such creative geniuses is on display in the heart of downtown's business district. It's as if these young artists are attempting to counterbalance their own creativeness and tactile ability with the cold greed and mundane paper shuffling that towers over top of the gallery.❖

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