3 Piper
The Ubyssey sits down with the UBC president to discuss the big issues

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Commerce election saga ends

by Miriam Torchinsky

After confusion about election practices and possible rule infractions, a new president of the Commerce Undergraduate Society (CUS) has been declared. But some commerce students are still concerned about the controversy.

The CUS elections took place over two days at the beginning of March. After an appeal was declared invalid, Rosalin Wang-Foon was named as president of the CUS. Wang-Foon had been widely accused of violating a verbal rule of which she claims she was unaware.

The CUS Candidates' Handbook forbids candidates from campaigning within 30 feet of polling stations. An amendment to include candidates' agents under this rule was adopted at the CUS All-Candidates Meeting at the end of February. Wang-Foon says she attended only part of this meeting.

On the first day of voting, a friend of Wang-Foon's, Jesse Sims, was warned by the CUS Returning Officer, Swan Lee, not to violate election bylaws by campaigning on Wang-Foon's behalf close to the polling station. Sims, however, claims that he was not campaigning while near the polling booth.

But at a presidential candidates' meeting that day, Wang-Foon was warned of her alleged offence. The purpose of the meeting was ostensibly to get the presidential candidates to agree on a suitable reprimand for the perceived violation.

This meeting would ordinarily be chaired by the CUS Returning Officer, but Lee was unavailable, and Irfhan Rawji, the outgoing CUS president, chaired the meeting instead.

"[The meeting was] to talk about what the punishment should be that [the candidates] thought was fair, but also to try and get their input on how serious they thought the offence was. I knew how serious in my mind it was, but I wanted to make sure [that we were] on the same page," said Rawji.

"As civil university students, as mature university students, they should be able to come up with a solution themselves. It's only logical," added Lee.

The candidates eventually agreed to revoke 75 per cent of the votes that were cast for Wang-Foon during the time of the alleged infraction, and to re-allot them to the three other candidates in proportion to the votes that they had received in other ballot boxes during the day, which were considered a 'true sample.'

But Wang-Foon does not think that asking her opponents to come up with a penalty was an appropriate solution.

"This is a dream position for an opposing candidate—being able to collude with fellow opposing candidates to destroy the candidate being assigned a punishment," she said.

She also says that she "felt bullied and coerced into recognising a grossly unfair and unjustified penalty."

And Adam Zive, another presidential candidate and the outgoing CUS vice-president external, said that the ruling was unsatisfactory.

"I believe that [the other candidates] felt that disqualification was the right thing to do. We went into the [meeting] as a good faith gesture, and none of the candidates felt that it was something that even should have been negotiated," he claimed.

Zive would have won the election had Wang-Foon been disqualified.

Wang-Foon later submitted an appeal to CUS Ombudsperson Geoff Kwan to investigate her complaint. Kwan also received complaints from two other presidential candidates. He recommended to the CUS executive that Wang-Foon be disqualified.

"The evidence was clear that an offence had been committed," said Kwan.

The CUS Executive agreed with Kwan's recommendation and voted unanimously to disqualify Wang-Foon from the election. Since Zive was another presidential candidate as well as a CUS Executive member, he did not vote.

Wang-Foon, however, believes that due process was not followed. She appealed to the AMS Elections Committee, and submitted a complaint to the AMS Ombudsperson. There are several complaints about this issue in the ombudsperson's office pending reports.

And at an AMS Council two weeks ago, Arts councillor Bev Meslo made a presentation to Council on Wang-Foon's behalf. Meslo made a motion to have the AMS direct the Ombudsperson to investigate the matter. But Council defeated the motion.

The AMS Elections Committee released a statement last week saying that the CUS executive erred in disqualifying Wang-Foon from the election, and overturned her disqualification.

Wang-Foon was then declared CUS president, defeating Zive by a wide margin.

"There is no doubt in my mind that there was no due process, or even principles of natural justice, followed until the matter was brought to the AMS," said Wang-Foon.

Zive, however, disagrees.

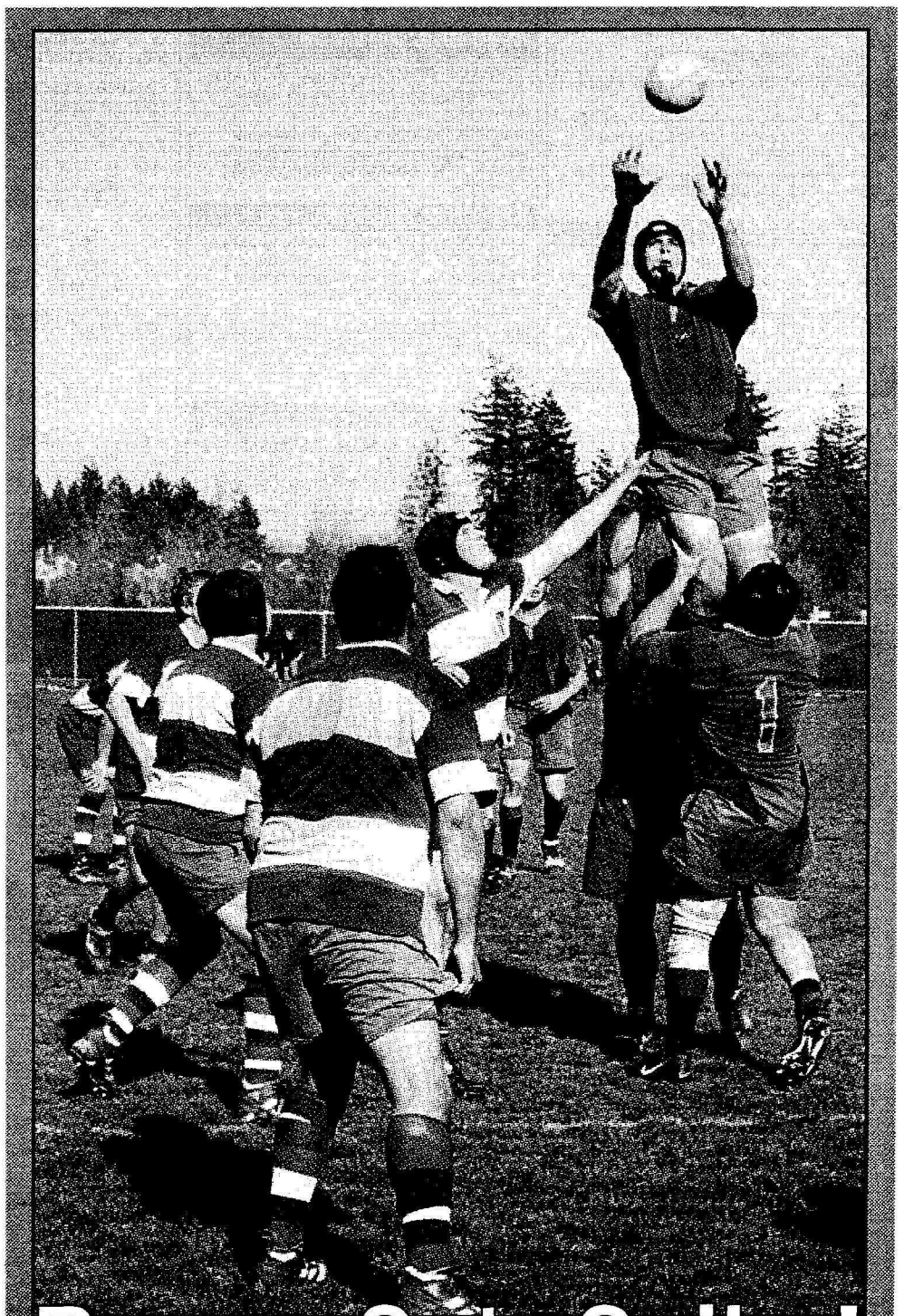
"There's many parts of the [AMS Elections Committee] process that I felt were unfair. There was no sense of due process and they generally failed to provide justice or procedural fairness throughout the process. I generally feel that [the AMS'] actions were inappropriate."

Zive hired legal counsel to "[try] to secure due process from the AMS." He also said that they were unsuccessful in this attempt. Zive is considering approaching the Student Court about his concerns.

With all of the confusion, some commerce students are concerned that the issue is not over. Lee says that if the AMS bylaws allowed for a by-election, that would be the best solution.

"There's still a lot of animosity going on in the CUS, and unsettled feelings in Commerce," said Lee.

Wang-Foon, meanwhile, says that the new CUS executive hopes to clarify election procedures.❖



Bump. Set. Spike!

HEAD AND SHOULDERS AND LEGS ABOVE THE REST: The Thunderbird forwards win the lineout with a nice and high lift that leaves the Simon Fraser University (SFU) Clansmen watching in awe. The top-ranked UBC men's Division I rugby team played against SFU at Wolfson Field on Saturday in quarterfinal action. UBC came from behind to win the game 27-23 late in the game. The 14-1 Birds will now face the Britannia Lions in the semifinals. The Brit Lions were the only team to have given UBC a loss during the regular season. RAOUL KIM PHOTO

see story page 11

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Coke deal to open?

by Michelle Mossop

The public may soon learn the details of UBC's confidential exclusivity deal with Coca-Cola.

Yesterday, BC Information and Privacy Commissioner David Loukidelis began his examination of a Freedom of Information (FOI) request launched by outgoing *Ubyssey* Coordinating Editor Bruce Arthur to disclose the details of the sealed Cold Beverage Agreement signed by UBC, the Alma Mater Society (AMS), and Coca-Cola in 1995.

"Government institutions like [UBC] should not be able to make secret monetary agreements with private companies," said Andrew Epstein, the lawyer representing Arthur. "There is no reason for it and the law should not allow for it."

Arthur filed an FOI request with the Commissioner in late 1999 after UBC denied a request to disclose the deal.

UBC was the first Canadian university to sign a contract with Coke. If unsealing the deal is found to be in the public interest, it could lay the groundwork for similar challenges across the country, said Arthur.

He added that the amount of money the AMS and UBC receive from Coke is directly tied to the amount spent on Coke products by students.

"If students are getting sold, they should know how much they are getting sold for," said Arthur.

UBC Legal Counsel Dennis Pavlich said that keeping the Coke deal confidential allows UBC to get the best possible deal, which could not have been reached without such a clause.

"The university would be happy to disclose the agreement, but because of the confidentiality clause that was part of the agreement we signed, we cannot, we are obliged to adhere to that clause," he added.

AMS General Manager Bernie Peets said that the student union does not oppose disclosing the contract details.

In a 1996 submission to the Commissioner, UBC said that most of the revenue from the deal would be used to improve access for disabled persons at UBC.

Arthur's FOI request is the second launched by *the Ubyssey*.

Ubyssey reporter Stanley Tromp's 1995 request to unseal the Coke deal was rejected by then-Commissioner David Flaherty, who ruled that because Coke and UBC had agreed to keep the contract confidential, it must remain so.

Tromp then took his case to the BC Supreme Court, which overturned Flaherty's decision on the grounds that the hearing was conducted improperly. Loukidelis will now re-evaluate the request.❖

CORRECTION: in the Arts County Fair spoof ad on page eight in last week's *the Old, White, and Straight*, which was the *Ubyssey* spoof issue, it should have been called Arse County Fair. Our mistake.

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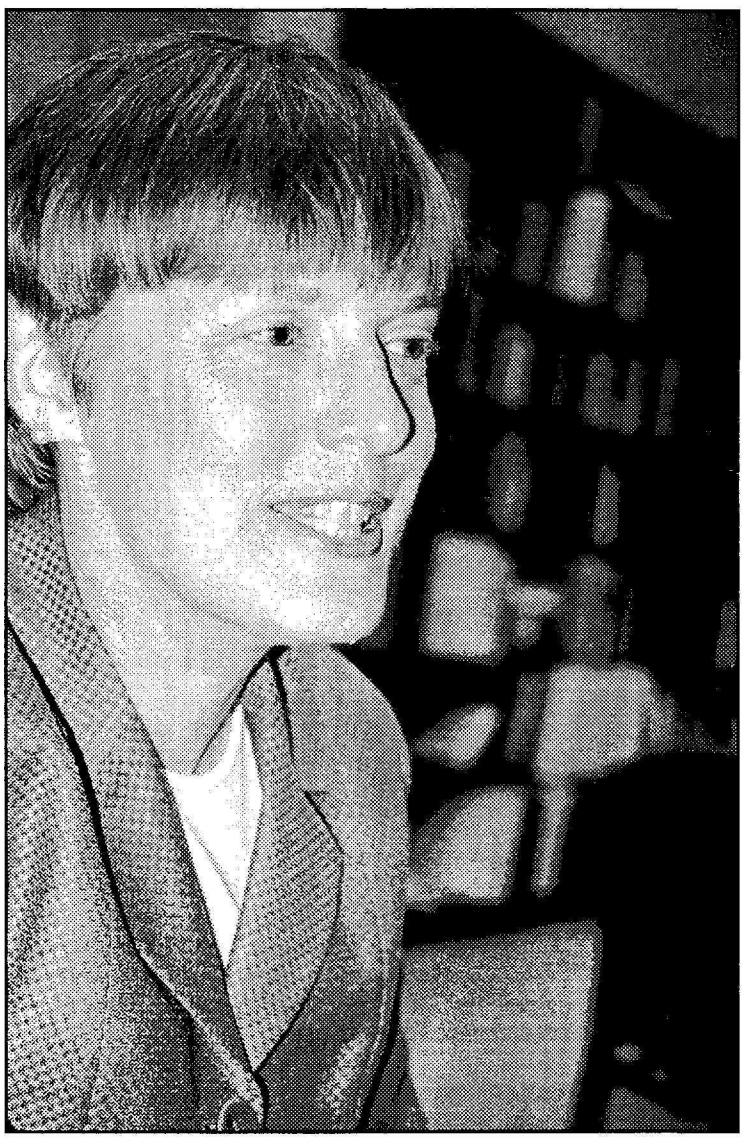
Piper talks tuition



PIPER: UBC President Martha Piper is animated and emphatic when she speaks about her vision for the university. She says UBC is on its way to becoming "the best university in Canada." TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

by Alex Dimson

In person UBC President Martha Piper acts just like you might expect the head of a major university to act. She is affable, keen, inquisitive and she speaks with conviction and optimism about her vision "to make UBC the best university in Canada," even in the face of challenges to the university's financial status.

Piper, who took over as president in 1997, sat down with *the Ubyssey* on Monday to speak about the issues that UBC has faced over the last year.

The recently-announced provincial budget has drawn attention to the funding of universities. One of the major sources of contention on campus this year has been the university's proposed tuition policy—Policy 72—which would introduce differential tuition fees in undergraduate programs if it is passed by the UBC Board of Governors (BoG) next month.

Piper said that the university is exploring this option in response to student demand for tuition revisions.

"Why are we doing it? We're [looking at] it because students asked us to do it about three years ago. Students [were] really upset with the current tuition policy so we honoured that and promised that we would review the current tuition policy," said Piper, who added that the committee convened to amend the tuition policy proposal received a lot of student input.

"This is the committee wisdom, this was not something that was predetermined," said Piper.

But critics have attacked the proposal because, they say, differential fees could discourage students from taking more expensive programs because of the price, regardless of their academic interests. The Alma Mater Society (AMS) adopted a motion in February formally opposing "any university policy advocating significant increases in tuition, institution-based tuition decisions, and/or program-based tuition calculations."

Piper acknowledges these criticisms, but stands by the proposal.

"I'm aware of the arguments and certainly the Board is aware of the arguments. The counter argument is that [students in cheaper programs] are subsidising students in a much more expensive program. There are some who say that is the role of a public university, but there are students who do mind it. Like anything within the university, there are many sides to the question. This is an important debate [to] have," said Piper.

But regardless of whether or not Policy 72 is passed, Piper said that the university would neither support nor fight against a further extension of the BC tuition freeze, which has kept tuition levels stable since 1996, should it come under review.

"The university is never going to say 'freeze or no freeze.' What we would like to do is have a thoughtful debate about what makes sense—to offer affordable access to quality post-secondary education."

Piper said that while the freeze has been a boon for students, the BC government hasn't adequately increased provincial funding to offset the freeze.

"We are falling significantly behind in the amount of money we have per student from tuition. The total amount of money we have per student is about $440 less than [universities] in Ontario and Québec. That translates to $55 million for the four established BC universities. That's a lot of money...this gap has to be addressed," said Piper, who explains that this gap has taken its toll on the university infrastructure. Along with the presidents of BC's other major universities, she has been lobbying the NDP government for more funding.

"The tuition freeze policy has a cost, if the government doesn't pay it [the students] pay for it. By not being able to get into the classes [they] want, and by having large classes and by not having first year science labs."

Piper acknowledged, however, that this year's provincial budget has begun to resolve this gap. The budget devoted $85 million to BC universities and colleges—a jump of 7.5 per cent over last year's spending.

The president also spoke about UBC's relationship with corporations—an issue that has become an almost perennial controversy since the university and the AMS signed a ten-year contract with Coca-Cola in 1995, giving the soft drink giant exclusive rights to distribute cold beverages on campus. The contract—which is strictly confidential—has been challenged by many students, who want the document to be made public.

"We have to look at what [arrangements] make sense," said Piper. "For me the bottom line is influence on education and academic integrity. When you cross that line it doesn't make sense. If I felt a Coca-Cola deal influenced what was taught in the classroom or affected our knowledge discovery or our academic freedom or our academic integrity, we wouldn't be promoting it and we wouldn't support it," she explained.

The issue has become prominent once again this year as students at Québec universities have protested against their universities signing similar cola deals. For example, Student opposition to exclusive beverage deals at the Université du Québec and the Université Laval has led both universities to cancel their Coca-Cola contracts.

Piper, who in 1998 was named Business Communicator of the Year by the BC Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators, does not think the UBC's Coke contract has had a detrimental impact on students. She argues that, in some ways, the deal has contributed towards the university community.

"The Coke deal is kind of old news. In fact the students were big partners in the Coke deal. I don't personally feel that that really changes the way we function as an academic community. In fact some of the Coke money is going to support [UBC Athletics]," she said.

"But there is always that fine line and you have to be very very vigilant," she added.

But even with this funding, UBC's Athletics program has been scaled back by funding cuts this year, culminating with the drastic downsizing of UBC's track and field team last month. Piper said that despite the cutbacks, she considers sports an integral part of the university.

"I think sports are absolutely critical. [The cutbacks] aren't being made because we don't value sports, they're decisions being made solely on the basis that we don't have the revenues and the resources to do everything," explained Piper.

"The question I would ask [students] is where do we get the money? If tuition is frozen and we don't want to have sponsorships and the government feels the money they give should go to classrooms then where does the money come from?"

But despite any funding woes and controversy, Piper says that she is generally happy with UBC's accomplishments this year.

"What I'm most pleased about is the number of new degree configurations there are. We now have project-based learning in Applied Sciences. We have a [combined] Arts/Engineering degree. We have instituted the faculty of Arts co-op program. We've renovated 60 classrooms," said Piper.

But she admits that not all of her goals have been met. She cites increased co-op participation, a better relationship with the downtown core, and improving UBC's research infrastructure as outstanding goals.

She is quick to emphasise, however, that UBC has made considerable progress.

"[We] are re-focusing on students while not negating or forgetting our research mission. I really believe that a university needs to get it right with its undergraduates students—they are our most critical resources," said Piper.❖

'Toban signs deal, averts shutdown

by Dave Leibl
CUP Manitoba Bureau Chief

WINNIPEG—The University of Manitoba (U of M)'s student newspaper will not be shut down after the U of M Students' Union (UMSU) signed an agreement with the newspaper last week.

The agreement to keep *The Manitoban* up and running comes three weeks following a motion passed by UMSU Council to confiscate funding from the newspaper and evict *the Manitoban* from its office.

Citing concerns over finances, the Council voted on March 8 in favour of terminating the Manitoban's autonomy agreement, which sparked demonstrations from students who claimed UMSU's actions violated their right to a free press.

UMSU president Steven Fletcher is pleased with the arrangement.

"I think this is good for students. It's good for the student union and it's good for the paper. Everyone wins," said Fletcher.

The new contract, which is awaiting ratification by UMSU Council, does not abrogate the former agreement, but includes several amendments—including a mechanism to settle disputes between the student union and the newspaper.

Under the agreement, an ombudsperson committee will investigate any complaints brought against *the Manitoban*. If disputes cannot be resolved to the committee's satisfaction, a referendum will be called.

Manitoban Editor-in-Chief Kevin Matthews says the newspaper staff is satisfied with the agreement, but still has concerns over the way councillors handled the issue.

"We felt bullied. They were asking us to put everything on the table and negotiate under duress," he said.

More than 200 students applauded last Thursday's announcement of the new agreement, but many said they were still bitter over UMSU's earlier decision to shut down the newspaper without giving prior notice to students or *the Manitoban* staff.

"This should never have happened. UMSU should never have taken such drastic action without first consulting us," said Andre Lavergne, who has co-founded Students at Large, a student information network.

Lavergne and a group of about 100 students held a demonstration following the announcement. They maintain UMSU's purported infringement on *the Manitoban*'s autonomy is part of a larger issue of free speech.

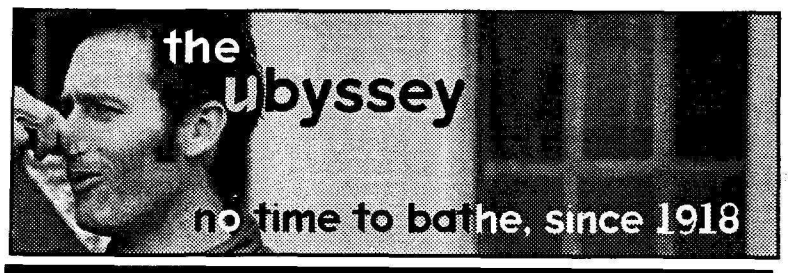
Unhappy with recent amendments to UMSU bylaws that permit students to speak at Council meetings only at Council's discretion, protesters marched across campus demanding that Fletcher restore full speaking rights to all students.

At that time, Fletcher told students he valued their input and would take their concerns into consideration.

On Monday, however, Fletcher said he does not plan to amend UMSU bylaws. He said that if students wanted to their concerns to brought before Council, they should have played a more active role in the union earlier in the year.

"When we had postings for committees, those postings were up for months. I begged and I pleaded with all sorts of people to sit on [a general affairs committee]," he said.

"For people to turn around and say that they don't have speaking rights...is very hypocritical."❖



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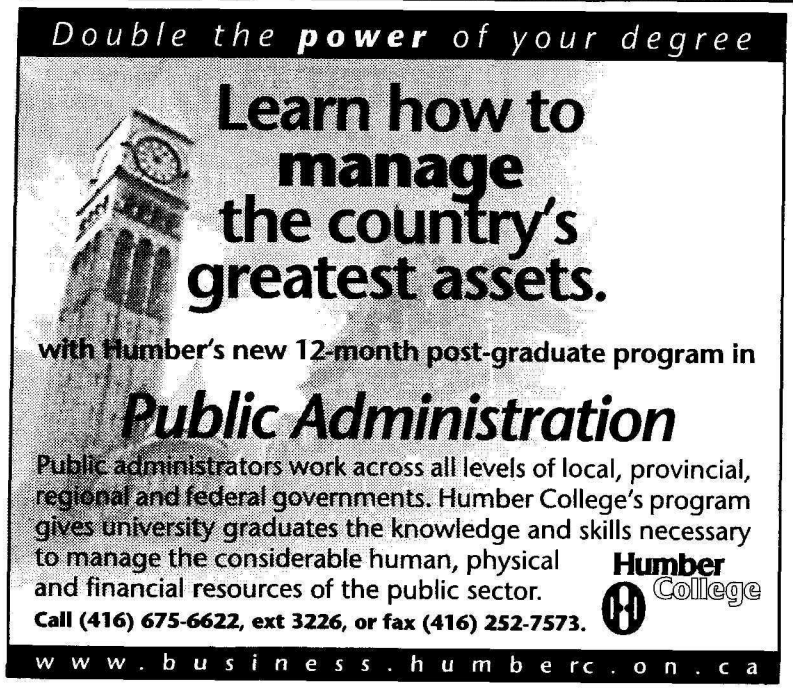

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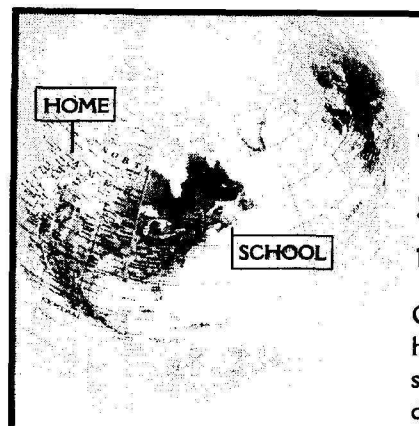

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Green tax wins support

by Tom Peacock

A recently-completed survey shows that UBC students and staff are supportive of tougher measures to reduce the amount of garbage produced on campus.

UBC's Waste Reduction Task Force conducted two separate week-long waste reduction programs this term, one in the SUB, mainly at Blue Chip Cookies, and another at the Totem Park Residence cafeteria. A survey done as part of the program found that both students and staff favour these waste reduction measures.

According to Sean Pander of UBC's Sustainability Office, 85 per cent of the people surveyed at the two locations supported a proposal to implement a "green tax" on disposable containers.

"We wanted to see how people would respond to such a program, so we can start it up for next fall," he said. A ten-cent green tax was charged on styrofoam cups at all Alma Mater Society (AMS)-run food outlets in the SUB in February, and a ten-cent discount was offered to customers who brought their own reusable containers.

According to a study done by UBC graduate student Melissa Felder, 40 per cent of the garbage produced on campus comes from disposable food packaging and tableware.

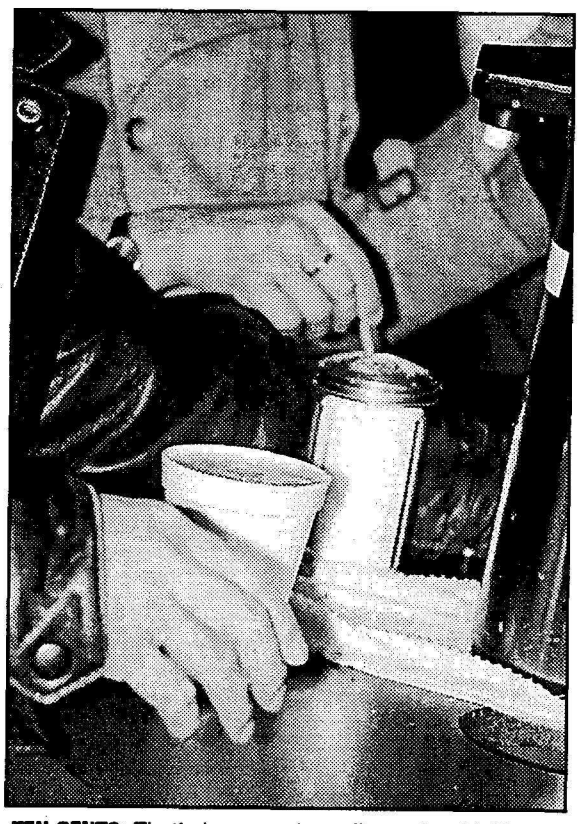
"And if you consider that a large part of the rest is food waste, which is recyclable in some way, then you see that we can reduce garbage by a lot," said Jennie Milligan of the Student Environment Centre (SEC), the AMS resource group that initiated the campaign.

The campaign has received a lot of support from the head of AMS Food Services, Nancy Toogood, who plans to implement the "tax" in all SUB food outlets next year.

But getting UBC Food Services to accept the plan was more difficult, according to Milligan. She notes, however, that it seems likely that the plan will go through.

Director of UBC Food Services Andrew Parr told *the Ubyssey* in February that he is very concerned with the amount of waste produced on campus, and that he wants to work with the Sustainability Office to reduce waste.

Pander admits that the initiative has to move one step at a time. "We thought that in order to make something happen; let's get rid of bulk items," he said.



TEN CENTS: That's how much you'll pay for drinking it coffee or tea in that styrofoam cup in September.
TARA WESTOVER/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

The Waste Reduction Task Force is made up of delegates from UBC Food Services, the AMS, the SEC, the Sustainability Office, and UBC Waste Management. The "Green Tax" the Task Force hopes to have in place by next fall will add ten cents onto prices, and will deduct ten cents for patrons who bring their own containers.

"We might not call it the 'Green Tax,'" said Milligan, citing fears that such a name might scare business away from the food outlets. "Maybe 'Brown Tax,' or something like that would be better."

Almost 700 students and staff completed the survey, which showed that 60 per cent of respondents decreased their use of styrofoam and paper mugs and plates. Fewer than one per cent of respondents disagreed with the waste reduction efforts.❖

Land issues for Squamish U

by Stanley Tromp

Securing land is proving to be an ongoing problem for former UBC President David Strangway's private university project in Squamish, and there are questions surrounding which organisation is receiving donations for the project.

Last December, Amon Lands Ltd abruptly withdrew its offer of free land in the Squamish area for the university project, citing unspecified environmental considerations, according to *the Vancouver Sun*. Strangway has since been seeking a new land donor.

The non-profit entity Strangway set up to oversee the construction and operation of the university, and to own its assets, is called the Howe Sound Educational Foundation (HSEF), which gained provincial society status last April.

However, project leader Peter Ufford, a former UBC vice-president of external affairs, told a Squamish council meeting on March 7 that the HSEF does not have charitable status, which allows an organisation to issue receipts for tax purposes, making it more attractive to potential donors than a non-profit society.

Squamish council said in a news release from last December that "a commitment of $20 million in donations to the HSEF" had been announced. At the March 7 council meeting, a further $80,000 was allocated to assist the HSEF.

Strangway's university Feasibility Report, which he presented to Squamish council in December claims substantial fundraising success.

"One foundation has allocated $600,000 to us and several others have expressed interest," the report reads, also noting that the project had "already raised $15 million of a target of $30 million to $50 million. This is a remarkable level of achievement before even announcing a fund-raising campaign." The report did not not specify what organisation—the HSEF or otherwise—would receive any of the money.

Corinne Lonsdale, the mayor of Squamish and an HSEF board member, said that she thought Strangway's report referred to the HSEF, including the statement, "We have Revenue Canada charitable status."

"There has been some question as to what the nature of the Howe Sound Educational Foundation is," Ufford told council on March 7.

"It is a registered not-for-profit entity. It is not our charitable status entity, because we have not had to invoke that yet. We are not at that stage," he said.

"We do have independently a charitable organisation established, and we will activate that organisation when it's appropriate, and probably with respect to lands acquisition and donation," added Ufford, who would not name this organisation.

Repeated calls to Strangway and HSEF Director and project publicist Steve Crombie to ask the name of the organisation were unanswered.

"Howe Sound is not [a charitable organisation] and does not have to have that status to carry out the business we're carrying on here," said Ufford.

But last month Crosbie seemed to believe that the HSEF did in fact have charitable status.

"I think we [HSEF] do have charitable status now," he said.

"We don't work under any other charitable name that I know of. We needed charitable status to get the land, and Amon would have got a tax receipt."

"It was my understanding the Howe Sound [Educational] Foundation would have received the land," said Amon Lands president James Tiampo.

"The Howe Sound group is the only name I know. I think they do have a registered federal charity, but I don't know if it's the Howe Sound or another one," he said.❖

SUB to take on new look

by Sara Newham

The familiar sights of the SUB may not be as familiar come September, now that the Alma Mater Society (AMS) has started to renovate rooms and relocate clubs at a cost to students of roughly $650,000.

While AMS representatives say that the renovations are essential, some campus clubs question whether the changes are necessary, and are frustrated by a lack of consultation in the process.

Under the first phase of the SUB Strategic Plan, various groups—including AMS Security, Safewalk, Speakeasy, and the Pottery Club—will move to different locations in the SUB, according to AMS Vice-President Administration Mark Fraser.

Fraser said that the renovations are designed to increase the space available for student use.

"We're going to renovate it and make it available to students," he said.

AMS Designer Michael Kingsmill added that the AMS would like to use space more effectively, for example by having the second level of the SUB house more AMS services and clubs, in order to increase student traffic flow on that level.

But Juni Desil, assistant coordinator of Colour Connected, a campus resource group representing people of colour, is unhappy with the amount of consultation that her group has received from the AMS.

"So far no representative has come down and spoken to us. There is no letter, no fax, no e-mail," said Desil, who is unsatisfied with the actual renovation plans.

"As a resource group, there's an understanding that we're here to fulfill the needs of students and we can't do that if every year they're wondering where is Colour Connected," she said.

But Brian Maclean, director of Speakeasy and co-chair of Pride—the campus resource group representing gay, lesbian, bisexual, and queer students—disagrees, and says that Pride has received a lot of consultation.

"It's still really early—the way things started it could have been a difficult issue, but [the AMS is] really trying to get everyone involved," he said.

Maclean would like the resource groups—which are currently located throughout the SUB—to be given more visible and prominent locations so that they can attract more students.

Although the renovations are only in the preliminary stages, the AMS is exploring the idea of having all resource groups—including Pride, Colour Connected, the Student Environment Centre, and the Women's Centre—together on the second floor.

Kingsmill said that there are also plans to renovate the rarely-used kitchens in the basement of the SUB for club use. The Pottery Club, the Bike Co-op, and the AMS Council chambers could move to this space.

Other renovation plans include adding a unisex bathroom for the physically challenged on the second floor, renovating Blue Chip Cookies, and increasing lighting on the second floor.

This year, the AMS has also renovated the second-floor outdoor courtyard, and created a new lounge with sofas and chairs near the cafeteria.

The renovation projects draw on the Capital Projects Acquisitions Fund, which comes from a $15 levy collected from each student. Kingsmill expects the SUB Strategic Plan to be completed within two years.❖

Environment a trade issue?

FAIR TRADE? EU Ambassador to Canada questions the priorities of trade organisations such as the WTO. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

by Daliah Merzaban

Environmental concerns should be integrated into all areas of trade policy, says Danièle Smadja, the European Union (EU) ambassador to Canada.

"The protection of the environment is very much at the centre of the European Union," Smadja, who was at UBC this week for the opening of the Institute for European Studies, told *the Ubyssey* on Monday.

Smadja was in Vancouver discussing the role of the EU in international affairs with government officials and the media. The EU is a 15-member regional trading bloc which recently acquired a common currency, the Euro.

Smadja said that the EU promotes a multilateral approach to tackling environmental problems, in particular through multilateral environmental agreements, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Montréal Protocol on Trade in Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

But commenting on the World Trade Organisation (WTO), an international trade body with 134 member countries, she said that trade and the environment have not gone hand-in-hand—a flaw she believes the WTO must address in future trade negotiations.

When the WTO ministers' meeting was held in Seattle at the end of last November, tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets of downtown Seattle to protest the WTO's impact on the environment, human rights, and labour rights.

Smadja said that criticisms surrounding the WTO's negligence of existing environmental agreements are warranted. She cited, for example, the rights of individual countries to trade genetically-modified organisms.

The EU, concerned about health issues surrounding hormone-injected beef, for instance, refused to import the beef from North America. Due to a ruling by the WTO court in the late-1990s, the EU must now pay Canada $13 million [US figures] and the US $117 million in compensation for contravening WTO trade rules.

Smadja said that the WTO must more effectively consider the concerns of individual trading entities, like the EU, regarding environmental issues in trade negotiations.

"The problem is how you reconcile the rules which are embodied in trade agreements and the rules which are embodied in environmental agreements and, as far as the EU is concerned, there should not be any primacy of the WTO over the environmental agreements," said Smadja.

And she said that the protests in Seattle served to open the eyes of many WTO member countries to the importance of public consultation.

"Seattle did constitute a kind of waking-up call for countries and I think now we are going to be a little bit more vigilant about what is going on from there and not just look at trade problems within the WTO but to reach out and communicate better with all the stakeholders," she said.

Other concerns raised in Seattle centred on the influence of trading blocs on social programs like education. Smadja said that national governments are not willing to give over regulation of these programs to a multilateral body.

Comparing the EU with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)—a trading bloc including Canada, the United States, and Mexico—she said that similar regional integration policies are unlikely.

While all the EU member states are relatively equal in terms of size, standard of living, and economy, Smadja said that because the member states of NAFTA are so different in these terms, anything more than a trading relationship is doubtful.

But Smadja, who has lived in Canada for almost two years, did draw comparisons between Canada and the EU in terms of multiculturalism. While the EU has effectively integrated its member countries politically and economically, she said that the various European cultures in the region have been preserved.

"We respect very much the 15 different cultures of the 15 different member states. We believe that it's not only important to respect them but to keep them as such," said Smadja, who added that Canada has also avoided creating a homogenous culture.

"What I find fascinating in [Canada] is the fact that Canada is the mirror image of the entire world because there is not one single community which is not represented in Canada."❖

UVic hacker gets off easy

by Patti Edgar
the Martlet

VICTORIA (CUP)—To avoid a costly legal battle, a University of Victoria (UVic) computer science student has recently signed an agreement with Mattel, one of the world's largest toy makers.

Matthew Skala, a UVic master's student and his Swedish Internet friend Eddy Jansson created CP4break, a computer program that explains the inner workings of Mattel's software program, Cyber Patrol, and allows users to override passwords of the program, which blocks out over 80,000 websites.

Cyber Patrol is touted as "the world's most trusted Internet filtering solution" on the company's website.

The agreement gives Microsystems Software Inc—a division of Mattel—the rights to Skala's share of CP4break and of an essay that examines Cyber Patrol.

Sydney Rubin, a Microsystems Inc spokesperson, says that the company launched a lawsuit because Skala and Jansson's program undermined the ability of parents to protect children from inappropriate online content and infringed on the company's copyrights.

However, Skala said that the lawsuit obscures larger issues of academic freedom and individual rights.

He says that he tackled Cyber Patrol's software because he is concerned that Internet filtering software tramples on young people's freedom of choice.

"Cyber Patrol is marketed to schools, libraries and employers," said Skala. "You have a private company that's deciding what is right or wrong for a public organisation."

Skala comes from a long line of people who hack Internet filtering programs to reveal what's on their lists.

Skala and Jansson say they see no evidence of a clear political or religious agenda on Cyber Patrol's list, but websites that criticise Cyber Patrol, as well as an atheist news group, are censored. About 50 per cent of the blocked websites are inactive.

Anti-web filtering organisations such as Peacefire point out that the lists of content being blocked by companies like Cyber Patrol isn't available to consumers because it is considered a trade secret.

According to Peacefire, sites by Planned Parenthood, the AIDS Authority, *Mother Jones* magazine and a feminist newsgroup are among those blocked by the company.

Rubin calls such criticism "nonsense," but did cite Planned Parenthood as an example of a website which is only blocked if parents chose to activate the sexual education filter on the program.

"That's only one of a 100 reasons why something is or isn't on our list," she said. "This is a human creation. It's not perfect, but it's not deeply flawed." She says Cyber Patrol offers an alternative to government Internet censorship.

David Jones, president of Electronic Frontier Canada and a professor at McMaster University in Hamilton, says his group stands behind Skala and doesn't feel he did anything illegal.

"There are two ways to battle censorship," he said. "One is to fight the decision makers. Another approach is to work around the technology. It's a way for people, especially young people, to get their freedom back and we like it."

Jones says the lawsuit will send a chill through academia, where reverse engineering—taking apart programs to see how they work—is a "time-honoured tradition."

The agreement signed by Skala and a similar one signed by Jansson state that they can't reverse engineer or create programs that bypass any other Microsystems software, or help someone else do it.❖

The year in review

The Ubyssey chronicles another year on—and sometimes off—our Point Grey campus

by Nicholas Bradley and Daliah Merzaban

All in all, it's been a quiet year at UBC. The strike, which Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) locals had been threatening all year, lasted only half a day. The controversial Genocide Awareness Project (GAP), which drew large crowds of protesters and led to violence and arrests at some American college campuses, arrived at UBC in a scaled-down form, sparking only small protests. And the ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), held in Seattle in November, was largely ignored by UBC students, even though it was a focal point for students and activists from across North America. But even if it has been a quiet year on campus, there have still been important issues at play. The question of differential tuition fees has been debated, student fees went up by nearly $200, and the chance for students to get a discounted bus pass has been put on hold until next year—at the earliest.

With the school year coming to an end tomorrow, *the Ubyssey* takes a look back at the hot topics of the past eight months, in chronological order.

A mandatory health and dental plan

To help ease the cost of fillings, antibiotics, and contact lenses for students, the Alma Mater Society (AMS) introduced a mandatory health and dental plan this year. But the price tag of the plan—$168—and the rules behind it have prompted much criticism from students and dental officials this year.

Students voted in favour of the plan in a referendum last October, and now all students—full and part-time members of the AMS or Graduate Student Society—will pay $14 per month for health and dental coverage.

Many students are pleased with the plan, but it has come under attack this year because of the rule that students can't opt out of the plan unless they are already covered by equivalent medical *and* dental plans. This means that students with health coverage but no dental coverage must pay the full fee anyway.

While many universities across Canada offer similar plans, undergraduate students are generally given more opt-out options.

The health plan also came under scrutiny earlier this year after the College of Dental Surgeons of BC (CDS) warned dentists to use caution before joining the UBC dental network, a major feature of the plan which offers students an additional 20 per cent discount if they go to specific dentists for dental work.

The CDS said in a notice to all dentists that joining such a network could put them in conflict with the *Dentists Act* and Rules, which could in turn lead to disciplinary action.

But the plan is being used extensively by students, and a health plan office in the SUB basement is open to deal with student inquiries about coverage.

Dutton vs. Mahmoodi ends in knockout

A long-standing sexual harassment case was finally resolved this year. After almost five years of investigation and deliberation, the BC Human Rights tribunal ruled in October that UBC political science professor Don Dutton discriminated against a student, Fariba Mahmoodi, by sexually harassing her, and ordered Dutton to pay over $13,000 in damages.

Mahmoodi came to UBC in 1994, and hoped that Dutton would be able to help her get into graduate school in psychology; she claimed that she understood that in exchange for physical intimacy, Dutton would help her get accepted, despite her poor grades. Still, Mahmoodi forged one of her letters of recommendation, and testified that she believed that Dutton's support was waning. Mahmoodi then embarked on a campaign to "destroy [Dutton] professionally," she admitted under cross-examination.

It is unclear what actually took place between Mahmoodi and Dutton during their meetings at the professor's house, but it seems clear that Mahmoodi understood that some kind of contract had been made. The case passed through various levels of university investigation before being referred to the BC Human Rights Tribunal in 1998, which made its ruling at the end of October.

Dutton disputed the ruling, and Mahmoodi was disappointed that she was not awarded more in damages. He has spent over $100,000 on his defense, and she is still not in graduate school. Many of the facts of this case are still unknown, but some conclusion, at least, has been reached in this case.

TAKING A STAND: Then-AMS Coordinator of External Affairs Nathan Allen protests against the Genocide Awareness Project in late February (above). UBC political science professor Don Dutton (left) was charged with discrimination after a lengthy series of investigations. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO (ABOVE) CHRIS NUTTALL-SMITH/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO (LEFT)

The abortion debate hits UBC

Last summer, Lifeline, a student club, began planning to bring the Genocide Awareness Project, a controversial anti-abortion display, to campus. GAP, a project of an American group called the Centre for Bio-ethical Reform (CBR), drew protests on some American campuses it has visited in the past, largely due to the comparison it makes between abortion and acts of genocide such as the Holocaust. Opposition to GAP quickly mounted at UBC, and the university became involved in negotiations with the CBR over the terms under which GAP would be allowed on campus.

The full-size display never made it to UBC, however, and the first scaled-down version that Lifeline itself mounted in November lasted only half a day before it was torn down by three protesters. The incident has since become the subject of a lawsuit, launched by three Lifeline members against the three protesters, who have also faced disciplinary action from the university. At issue is the question of free speech, and whether Lifeline and GAP should be allowed to voice controversial sentiments, or whether their perceived message violates hate laws. Former UBC law student and BC Civil Liberties Assocation President Craig Jones, who made a name for himself during the fallout after APEC, has taken on the case against the demonstrators.

GAP made another appearance at UBC in late February and drew another protest, although this time the display stayed up all day. The Crown has recently decided not to press criminal charges against the demonstrators, and the civil case in still in the courts.

The Battle in Seattle

Two years ago, when the APEC leaders' conference came to Vancouver and UBC, the opposition on campus was widespread, and the protests gained support from many students on campus. When the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held its ministerial conference in Seattle last November, however, it failed to capture the interest of students in the same way the APEC had, despite the fact that thousands of protesters from across Canada and the United States would be making their way to Seattle to protest the organisation, which regulates global trade.

UBC students were among those protesting, joining busloads of students from other local universities and colleges. And on campus, an anti-WTO teach-in and a hunger strike attempted to call attention to the conference and to the WTO itself, whose policies are often criticised for promoting trade at the expense of labour and environmental standards. The protests in Seattle quickly became international news, as police clashed with demonstrators using tear gas and rubber bullets, and as the city's downtown core was looted and eventually placed under curfew. Hundreds of protesters were arrested, and later released, and the city's police chief resigned over the affair.

Despite the violence, however, the protests were successful in shutting down the first day of the conference, accompanied by stalling trade negotiations and US President Bill Clinton's public criticism of the WTO. The week-long conference left Seattle without having made any significant decisions; it did, however, gain widespread notoriety, as the protests were covered by media from around the world. UBC's hunger strikers, meanwhile, recently earned an audience with Canadian Minister of International Trade Pierre Pettigrew.

CUPE strikes campus

Last August, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

support staff Local 116 held a strike vote, which found 89 per cent of its membership in favour of job action. This was just the beginning of a five-month stand-off between campus CUPE locals and the university over faltering contract negotiations.

Soon joined by Local 2950, Local 116 began to threaten rotating job action after contract negotiations with UBC—which had been underway since January 1999—failed to reach a resolution.

The university began to prepare for job action in the fall, sending out e-mails, revising the UBC strike policy, and warning professors to inform students. While some students worried their classes would be interrupted after numerous arbitrary deadlines set by the locals came and passed, most remained completely apathetic towards the whole issue.

Meanwhile, similar problems with contract negotiations at other BC universities ensued, and support staff at the University of Victoria set up pickets all over campus for a day-long strike in November. A rotating and full strike also disrupted classes at the British Columbia Institute of Technology from October 21 to November 15.

And when UBC students returned to campus in January, they were greeted by a week-long rotating strike which stopped buses at Blanca, blocked the entrance of Koerner library for an afternoon, and offered students free parking in campus parkades for the week.

Then, for the first time in history, support staff at all four BC universities went on campus-wide strikes on February 1 after the universities and the provincial government failed to meet their deadline for a contract. CUPE officials province-wide were demanding the resolution of sectoral issues, including wages and value-added benefits similar to the rest of the public sector.

But the strike lasted for only half a day and was unsuccessful in attracting much student support, with the majority of students crossing picket lines to go to class. But it didn't really matter because the CUPE locals, who had been without a contract since April 1999, reached an agreement by noon that day.

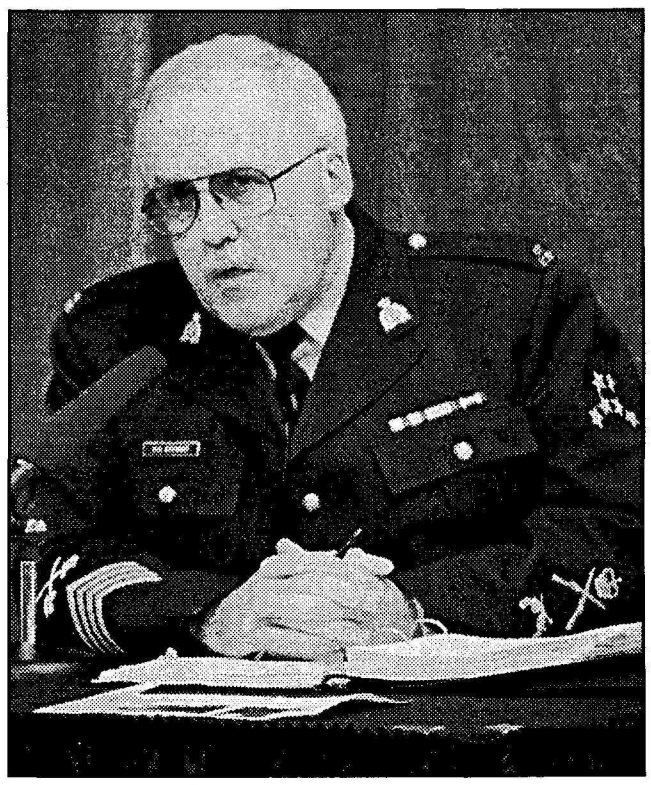
The RTA shakes up AMS elections

The issue that generated the most conversation on campus this year was likely the debate over the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA), which dominated the AMS elections in late January and swept the anti-RTA Students for Students slate into all five executive positions.

The RTA is the provincial legislation that governs the relationship between renters and landlords. The 1999 AMS external commission had proposed that the RTA would give more rights to students living in residence, and the Action Now slate—largely composed of external commissioners—made it one of their main campaign issues.

The Action Now campaign, however, was completely derailed when students living in residence and residence associations strongly voiced their opposition to the RTA. There were also charges, eventually dismissed, that UBC Housing had been part of the anti-RTA campaign.

The residence associations were largely very upset with the prospect of the RTA, and probably played a healthy role in the sound defeat of the Action Now candidates and the election of Students for Students, who sported two residence association co-presidents. Several appeals of the election results were all dismissed, and with them, the RTA issue seems to have died.



STANDOFF: A row of RCMP officers faces off against student protesters at Gate 6 during the APEC summit in November, 1997 (above). Staff Sergeant Hugh Stewart testifies at the Public Complaints Commission (right). RICHARD LAM/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO (ABOVE), TARA WESTOVER/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO (RIGHT)

APEC inquiry still creaking along

It may be over two years since the APEC conference visited UBC campus on November 25, 1997, but throughout this year, the RCMP Public Complaints Commission (PCC) continued to investigate police action during APEC.

Over 40 public complaints were filed about RCMP conduct during APEC. Since October 1998, the PCC has been investigating complaints—largely from student protesters—that the RCMP overreacted when they dealt with protesters during APEC.

Questions of credibility plagued the inquiry from the beginning, and allegations of conflict-of-interest and bias have sidetracked the hearings. But after testimonies this year from key officials involved—including UBC President Martha Piper, Prime Minister's Office (PMO) official Jean Carle, and Staff Sergeant Hugh Stewart—the most striking turn of events occurred at the end of February.

Several students participating in the inquiry—including former UBC students Jonathan Oppenheim and Jaggi Singh—withdrew their complaints after Prime Minister Jean Chrétien declined an invitation by PCC Chair Ted Hughes to testify at the hearings.

The students had been hoping from the start to explore the possible involvement of the PMO in APEC security arrangements. They charge that Chrétien directed the RCMP to ensure that there would be no visible signs of protest for fear of embarrassing certain foreign leaders, including then-Indonesian President Suharto.

But with Chrétien's rejection, the students said they had lost faith in the ability of the PCC to fully investigate the problem, and withdrew their complaints even after over 100 witnesses and more than 30 allegations had been heard by the PCC.

Protesters of the activist group Democracy Street—including Garth Mullins and Annette Muttray—did not abandon the hearings, which ended on March 31. Lawyers and complainants will present their final oral arguments in June.

Amidst all of this chaos, the fundamental question of whether protesters were rejected their democratic right to freedom of expression during APEC has yet to be answered and, given the complications that have surrounded the inquiry from the start, it is doubtful whether it ever will be.

Mexican student strike quashed

While students across Canada participated in the Canadian Federation of Student's national Day of Action in February to protest funding cuts to education, a ten-month long student strike at Latin America's largest university was brutally and abruptly ended by federal police in Mexico.

The students had closed down Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) in April of 1999 after the Mexican government announced a plan to increase tuition from the Canadian equivalent of a few cents to the equivalent of $200—in contravention of the Mexican constitution, which guarantees free public education.

The students occupied the university and barricaded the main campus, effectively shutting down the university for over 270,000 students.

Although UNAM administration eventually withdrew their initial proposal, the student strike continued in order to protect the educational rights of future students. The students were demanding a guarantee of stable tuition fees in the future, an end to privatised entrance exams, and a more democratically-run university.

But the strike ended abruptly in February after, in two police actions, 998 people—mostly students—were arrested at the university.

Over 100,000 Mexicans marched through the streets of Mexico City to demand the release of the jailed Mexican students. Meanwhile, students put up pickets at Mexican consulates across Canada to support the Mexican students, and to call attention to the internationally widespread issues surrounding rights to accessible education.

No U-Pass this year

Plans to implement a mandatory student bus pass fizzled out this year over funding disagreements and lack of political will from the AMS.

The plan, similar to one at the University of Victoria, would see all students pay a fee which would make their student cards equivalent to a bus pass. The U-Pass proposal was designed to reduce single-occupant car trips to campus, and included other measures to benefit students coming to campus by bike or carpool.

But the plan would require TransLink to supply many new buses to cope with the increased demand. And without additional funding from UBC, the monthly cost to students for the pass would have been roughly $25 a month, a figure which the AMS decided was too high—the student society wanted the university to pay a portion of the cost of the plan, since it would benefit the entire campus, not just students. Some members of the AMS were also unwilling to make the U-Pass mandatory for all students, a condition which TransLink insisted upon. The plan has been put on hold as a result, a significant setback in efforts to reduce traffic to campus.

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JOB ACTION: CUPE workers rally in front of the UBC Bookstore in a job action held before the strike itself. Students taking the bus were forced to walk from Blanca when bus drivers refused to cross picket lines. TARA WESTOVER/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

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$11.99 for a Student Haircut with this ad!
OPEN 10AM-6PM • 7 DAYS A WEEK
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two blocks south of Marine Drive)
A SHORT DRIVE FROM UBC AND TO
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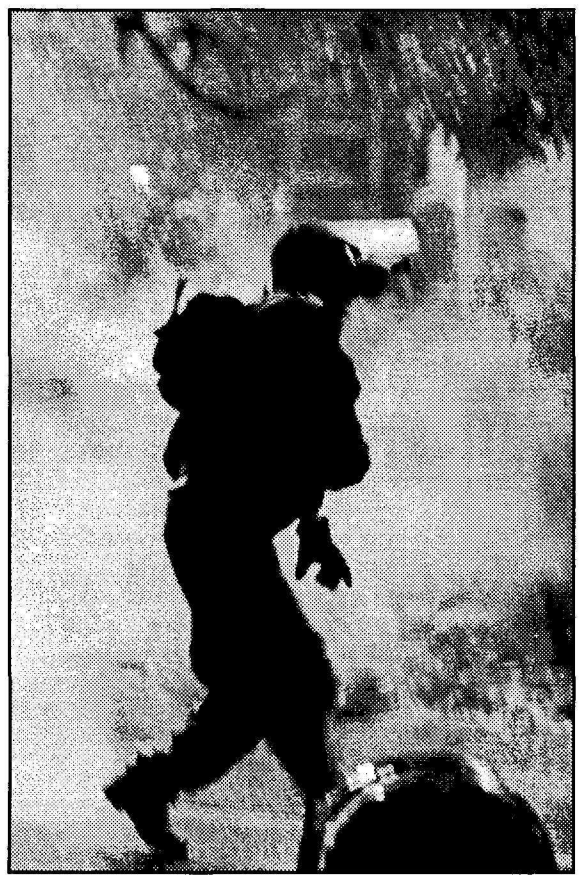
The Clean, Safe, Friendly Place
To Store Your Stuff!



DAY AND NIGHT: Protesters blockaded the Sheraton Hotel during the day (above), while at night Seattle's streets were filled with tear gas.
TARA WESTOVER/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTOS

continued from page 7

However, the AMS did fund new bike lanes this year. Cyclists commuting to UBC now have designated bike lanes along University Boulevard between Blanca and Wesbrook—an important improvement to cycling facilties at UBC.

The smoking ban goes poof

Smokers were dealt a blow on the first day of the new millennium when the Worker's Compensation Board (WCB) introduced a strict no-smoking policy for all public facilities in BC, including pubs and restaurants.

At UBC, the new regulation mostly impacted the Pit Pub and the Gallery, the two licensed areas of the Student Union Building. The new rules were aimed at protecting workers from second-hand smoke.

But the BC Supreme Court threw out the WCB regulations earlier this month, ruling that the WCB implemented the ban without sufficient public consultation. Some pubs in the Lower Mainland have argued that the ban has hurt business. The WCB now requires more extensive consultation with the hospitality industry before a similar ban can be implemented again.

Despite this announcement, the Gallery and the Pit are remaining smoke-free. Fears of lost profit did not materialise, and, according to the AMS, the smoking ban has had only a minimal impact on business at the Pit and the Gallery—and has had a great impact on improving the atmosphere of the pubs for non-smokers. The City of Vancouver is now considering a municipal smoking ban.

The freeze is still freezing

Students graduating this year can consider themselves lucky—they've finished before the tuition freeze has ended. For the past five years, the provincial NDP government has frozen tuition fee rates at their current levels. And although last week's new provincial budget announced that the freeze would continue for another year, and announced new spending for post-secondary education, this year has brought speculation over the cost of a degree for future students.

The AMS has adopted a policy supporting that tuition be tied to inflation, a stance similar to that of the BC Liberal Party, whose leader, Gordon Campbell, told *the Ubyssey* that, although he would like to maintain the freeze, tuition may rise after the next election.

Meanwhile, universities are looking for ways to offset the costs of the tuition freeze. UBC is considering implementing a policy of differential tuition fees, which would see students pay tuition based on faculties. Courses in the Faculty of Arts, for example, would cost one rate, while courses in the Faculty of Science would cost another. Although this policy has yet to be approved, it may be in place as early as next year.

And in the end...

This year was, for the most part, uneventful. The campus failed to become excited or enraged over any issues, and no event gathered any significant attention from students. In short, this was just another year at UBC, another year that will be easily forgotten. If there's anything that the past few years have shown, it's that it takes a major international event happening right here on campus, complete with a huge police presence, to get students up in arms about anything. And with nothing along those lines planned for the near future, it seems safe to say that this year will be just like years to come. Students will go to their classes, and professors wil teach them. And then everyone will go home. Such is life at UBC.❖

U of Toronto finalises an anti-sweatshop code

TORONTO (CUP)—The University of Toronto (U of T) is set to adopt a new anti-sweatshop code of conduct.

The code will require that all manufacturers producing clothing with U of T insignia disclose their labour practices. The finalised code, details of which are being kept confidential until just before the April 18 University Affairs Board meeting, is the first of its kind in Canada.

Recently, eight members of the group Students Against Sweatshops (SAS) occupied the office of U of T President Robert Prichard for ten days in hopes of speeding up the process.

SAS member Genny Santos said that the anti-sweatshop group will be keeping an eye on the code's progression until U of T's Governing Council meets in May.

Prichard says that he is pleased with the policy, which he calls "enforceable and workable." He adds, however, he regrets that the sit-in took place.

"The sit-in was an irrelevance except that it took [SAS members] out of the dialogue."

But the SAS has no regrets.

"We had to make the issue public," said Santos.

—with files from the Varsity

Fair trade coffee at U of M?

WINNIPEG (CUP)—A group of University of Manitoba (U of M) students have started a petition to bring fair trade coffee to campus, after citing concerns about the labour and environmental practices of Starbucks, the university's current coffee supplier.

Fair trade coffee ensures that coffee workers receive a living wage, and that the product is bought directly from farmers who encourage ecologically sustainable practices.

A recent study of Guatemalan coffee plantations—commissioned by Starbucks, but produced by the independent Commission for the Verification of Codes of Conduct—said that almost half of the coffee workers are not paid the national minimum wage of $2.48 (US) per day, and over 80 per cent are not paid overtime.

National roundup

But U of M Student Union President Steven Fletcher says that it's unlikely that fair trade options will be pursued on campus.

Fletcher, whose administration brought Starbucks to campus this year, says that many coffee alternatives already exist on campus for students who don't want to purchase Starbucks coffee.

At UBC, the Alma Mater Society-owned Blue Chip Cookies has begun to offer fair trade coffee in addition to its regular selection.

—with files from the Manitoban

York smoke-free by 2004

TORONTO (CUP)—York University is getting ready to implement a Toronto municipal smoking ban.

Effective June 1, 2001, smoking will be prohibited within restaurants unless there is a designated smoking area that is sealed off. And by June 1, 2004, billiard halls and bars will also be non-smoking if there is not a separate smoking room.

Phyllis Clark, York's vice-president finance and administration, recently issued a memo that campus business owners will be resigned to a smoke-free future.

Rob Castle, owner of the Underground, a campus restaurant/bar, is not overly concerned with the 2001 regulation, citing studies that show smoking bans do not adversely affect day business.

However, he is worried that night business, which would be affected under the 2004 restriction, could have an adverse effect as more people smoke during the evenings at the facility.

In response to the ban, the university plans, among other things, to increase security campus patrols to ensure compliance with the bylaw.

Some student smokers, meanwhile, are not happy with the future ban.

"There's a smoking section, and there's a non-smoking section. If you don't want to smell smoke...go to the non-smoking section," Meir Perez, a first-year business and society major, said of the ban. "If smoking is legal, it should be legal everywhere."

Earlier this year, BC introduced a bylaw prohibiting smoking in public facilities, but it was recently rescinded for further review. The Gallery and the Pit Pub, located in UBC's SUB, however, will remain smoke-free.

—with files from excalibur

Ryerson protests tuition

TORONTO (CUP)—Police and campus security officers were called in to control a student demonstration at Ryerson Polytechnic University.

The protest came as Ryerson's Board of Governors decided to put a two-year-old motion to hold off deregulating tuition fees up for review by its finance committee.

The deregulation, approved by Ontario in 1998, but on hold at Ryerson since then, allows universities to charge any amount of tuition in such programs as engineering, computer science, law and dentistry.

Following the decision, students took over the meeting room. In response, Board members called off the meeting and, protected by police officers and security guards, left through a back stairwell.

The finance committee has been asked to discuss the issue in upcoming weeks.❖

—with files from the Ryersonian

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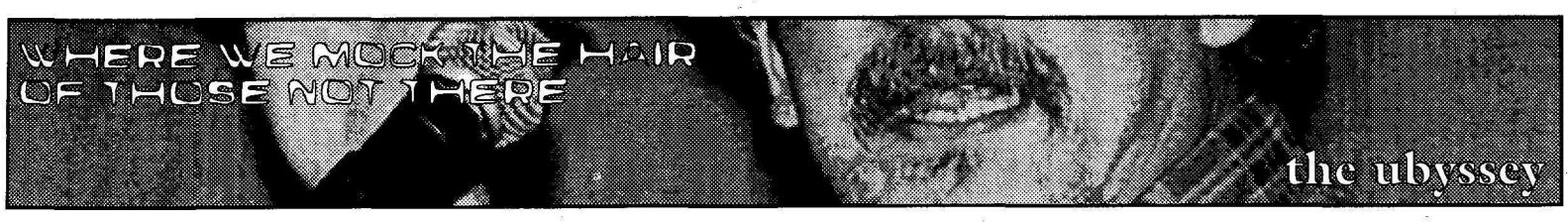

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CMA CANADA

Faculty to screen for diseases

by Joni Low

Beginning next year, students accepted by the Faculty of Dentistry will have to provide personal health documents as part of a new policy approved by the UBC Senate in February.

Upon acceptance to the faculty, students are now required to submit health records showing evidence of immunisation against infectious diseases to University Student Health Services.

Though health records have no bearing on a student's admission to the faculty, students who test positive for diseases such as Hepatitis-B or HIV may be forced to modify their academic program, or, at worst, seek alternative career options.

One of the statements to be added to the Winter 2000 UBC Calendar cautions students that "being a carrier of any one of the conditions may restrict both [their] educational opportunity to obtain competency for graduation, and [their] practice as a dentist."

Donal McDonnell, acting chair of the admissions committee for the Faculty of Dentistry, believes that this policy is necessary.

"All the Faculty of Dentistry is trying to do here is bring ourselves in line with the Faculty of Medicine, which currently has a policy more or less worded exactly the same."

In December 1998, the Faculty of Medicine proposed a similar policy which was criticised for potentially limiting students' career options. One major concern was that students who had a communicable disease would be restricted from assisting at the surgery table, an experience essential for most medical professions.

But McDonnell says that the risk levels between the two professions are different.

"There is some blood-letting involved in the practice of dentistry, from the point of view of extracting teeth...I think that the general opinion is that the risk is so low, the risk of infectivity is low. In medicine, where the volumes of blood and other tissues are relatively larger, I think the risk is considered a little different."

He says that the Dentistry policy was made in the best interest of both students and patients.

However, the policy cannot ensure that current students are free from communicable diseases. The issue of safe practice is regulated by the BC College of Dental Surgeons, a provincial body responsible for issuing licenses to practice dentistry.

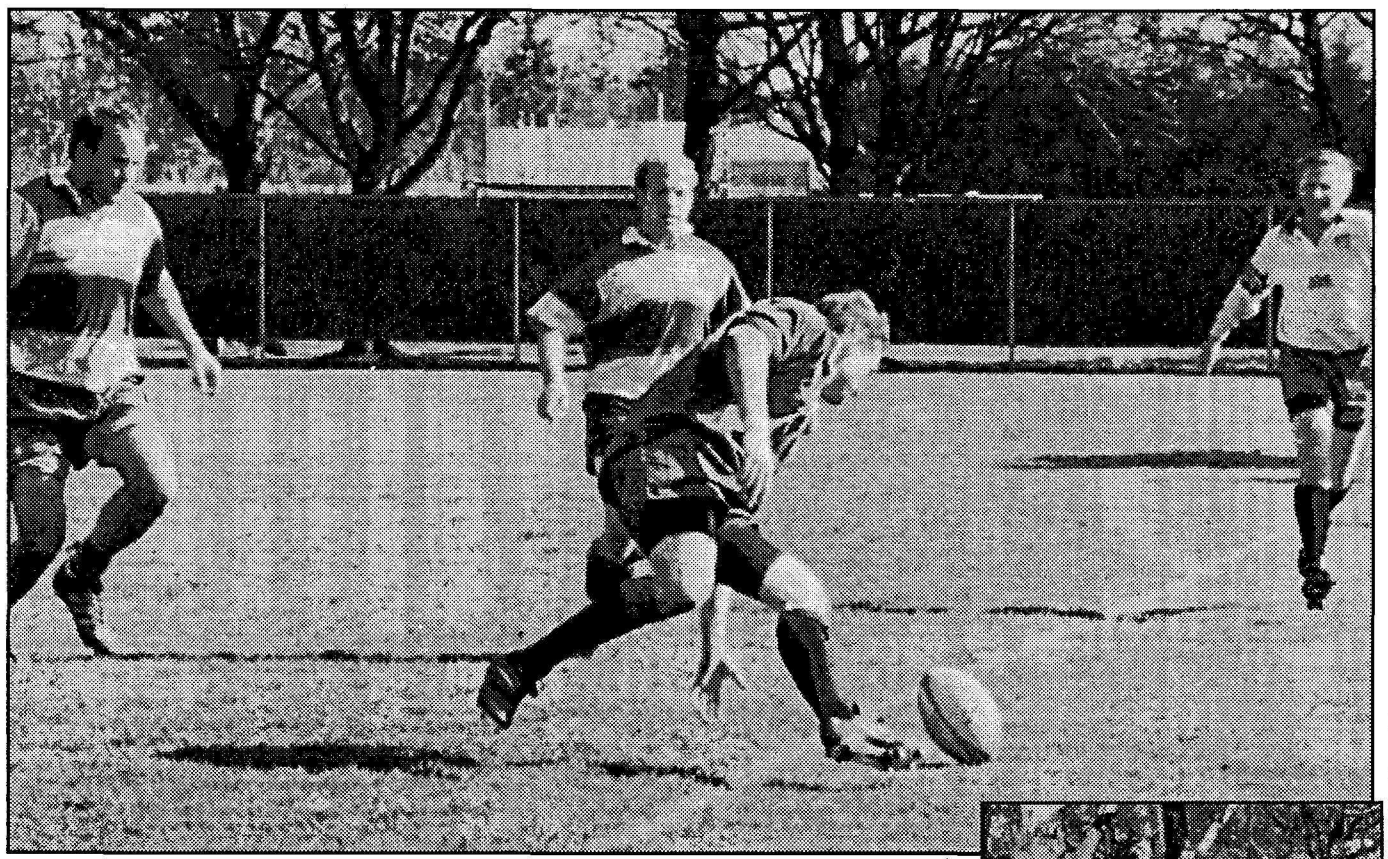
Yet the college operates on the same principles for public and professional safety.

"We're interested in trying to ensure that there is safe dental practice for the public," said John Silver, Deputy Registrar of the College of Dental Surgeons (CDS).

Dentists are expected to follow CDS-recommended barrier techniques against communicable diseases.❖

Birds luck out in quarterfinals

The number-one ranked UBC rugby team defeats SFU, but not in their typical winning form



GOOD ENOUGH: The number-one ranked UBC men's rugby team had trouble against Simon Fraser University (SFU) in playoff action on Saturday, but the Birds managed to pull it together at the end. A UBC player scrambles for the ball as it goes out of bounds with three Clansmen looking on (above). Late in the second half, UBC fly-half Ian Stewart enters the endzone and heads towards the uprights with a SFU player in pursuit (right). Tempers flare and players get rough after Stewart scores the final try (bottom right). NAOMI KIM PHOTOS

by Naomi Kim

If all else fails, a little luck can mean all the difference between winning and losing.

UBC got lucky.

In the second round of the First Division men's rugby playoffs, UBC faced the Simon Fraser University Clan on Saturday. UBC, the number one-ranked team in the division with an impressive 12-1 regular season record, were up against the number nine-ranked Clansmen.

The Birds were coming straight from a tight victory against the University of California-Berkeley Wednesday, and with five starting players missing due to injuries, UBC struggled early but managed to squeeze out a 27-23 win to advance to the semifinals in two weeks.

"We definitely dodged the bullet on that one," admitted UBC captain and flanker Grant Munro. "We're ranked number one and we can play a lot better than we did and we're going to have to if we want to continue [to the finals]."

Although the final is a likely possibility for the Birds, it was the least of their concerns on Saturday. With SFU jumping out to a 13-5 lead, there were bigger priorities. The Clan successfully ran the ball and played an expansive and physical game, and the forwards drove the scrum into the endzone in the second half to lead 23-17.

But with 20 minutes remaining in the game, Ian Stewart—UBC's regular starting fly-half who did not start due to injury—came into the game. Shortly afterwards, UBC managed to cut SFU's lead to 23-20.

The Birds continued the pressure and just five minutes later, they were back on the 22m line, but failed in the kick attempt. The Birds inched forward again, and with the backs lined out, Stewart found the hole and placed the ball under the uprights for the game-winning try.

"We won the last 20 minutes [of the 80-minute game]," said Stewart.

Referee calls and non-calls were disputed throughout the game but in the end, one ruling was clear. SFU played the better game.

"UBC is a very good team," said SFU head coach Mike McMartin. "They deserve to continue on [but] I felt [we] played really well and so did [UBC]...I thought we were the better team on the day."

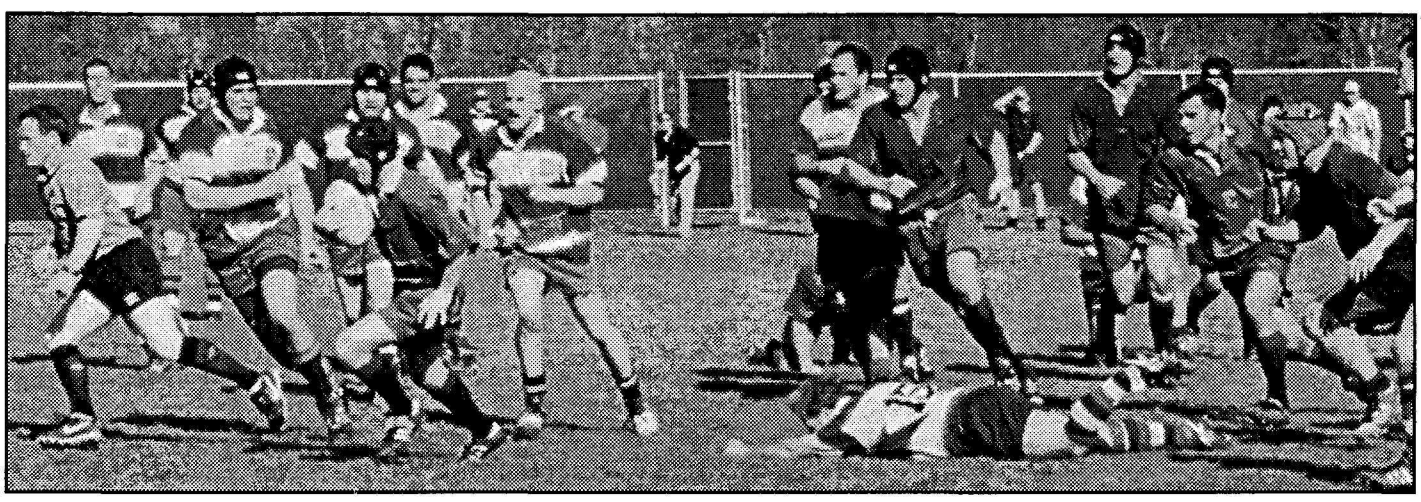
"Give [SFU] all the credit," said UBC head coach Spence McTavish. "They came here and they think they gave their heart and soul for that game and we kind of just gave a token effort but we managed to get it in the end."

"[Our team] was very poor," said McTavish, who also noted the injured starting players. "I think they had a good attitude towards the game but they just didn't light it up on the field today.... Towards the end of the game, they started to get all involved, but maybe that was just kind of the sense of urgency, but that's the type of an urgency that you need throughout the whole game."

UBC will need to get that urgency back for their next game, which will be against the Britannia-Lions (12-4) who ranked in sixth-place after the regular season. They easily won their quarterfinal against the Castaway Wanderers 34-7. The Brit-Lions, a former premier league team, played UBC twice during the season. The teams split the series, with the Brit-Lions handing UBC their only loss of the regular season. Semifinals will take place April 15.

"When we play well, I think we're the best team in the league by far," said Munro. "But it's just a matter of...making sure everything goes well."

Everything including healthy players, sharp skills, winning attitude, and, well, being lucky doesn't hurt either.❖



SPEEDY LITTLE KIWI: UBC fly-half Ian Stewart–a New Zealand native–shown with the ball, finds the hole, gets past the outstretched SFU full-back (on the ground) and runs in the winning try. NAOMI KIM PHOTO

BIRD droppings

BASEBALL

The Birds spent the weekend in Walla Walla, Washington and played two double-headers against Whitman College, an NCAA Division III team.

Saturday, UBC started off with two wins, 3-1 and 7-1 against the hosts, but Sunday, Whitman College came back, handing UBC a 8-2 loss. But the Birds would not leave without the final word, and blew their opponents away with a 20-2 win in the final game of the weekend.

The Birds are now 11-16 and will travel to Lewiston, Idaho on April 7 and 8 to play Lewis-Clark State College, a NCAA Division I team.

WOMEN'S GOLF

The golf team took its NAIA number-one ranking and confidence to the Eastern Washington and Gonzaga Tournament in Spokane, WA on Sunday and Monday for a non-stop 36-hole, 9.5-hour contest. Rookie Sarah Moodie and team captain Maija McCauley played excellent games and led the team to a second-place finish, just behind the University of Idaho, an NCAA Division I team.

In the first round, McCauley shot a 74 (two over par) for the team's lowest single round score of the entire season. Moodie was not far off, shooting 76, followed by a 77 in the next round to combine for a team season-record two-round low of 153. And as a team, UBC scored a combined team low of 313.

Moodie finished in fourth-place overall, and McCauley finished in seventh.

UBC and the University of Idaho will meet again in their next tournament, to be hosted in Moscow, Idaho. Although Idaho beat UBC this tournament, the T-Birds beat Idaho in a previous meeting.

MEN'S SOCCER

In exhibition play, the UBC men's soccer team faced off against the NCAA number 14-ranked team, the University of Washington (UW). The match took place in Blaine, Washington but the home advantage was all UW would have. The Birds took the win 2-1, with rookie forward Steve Dickinson scoring both UBC goals.❖

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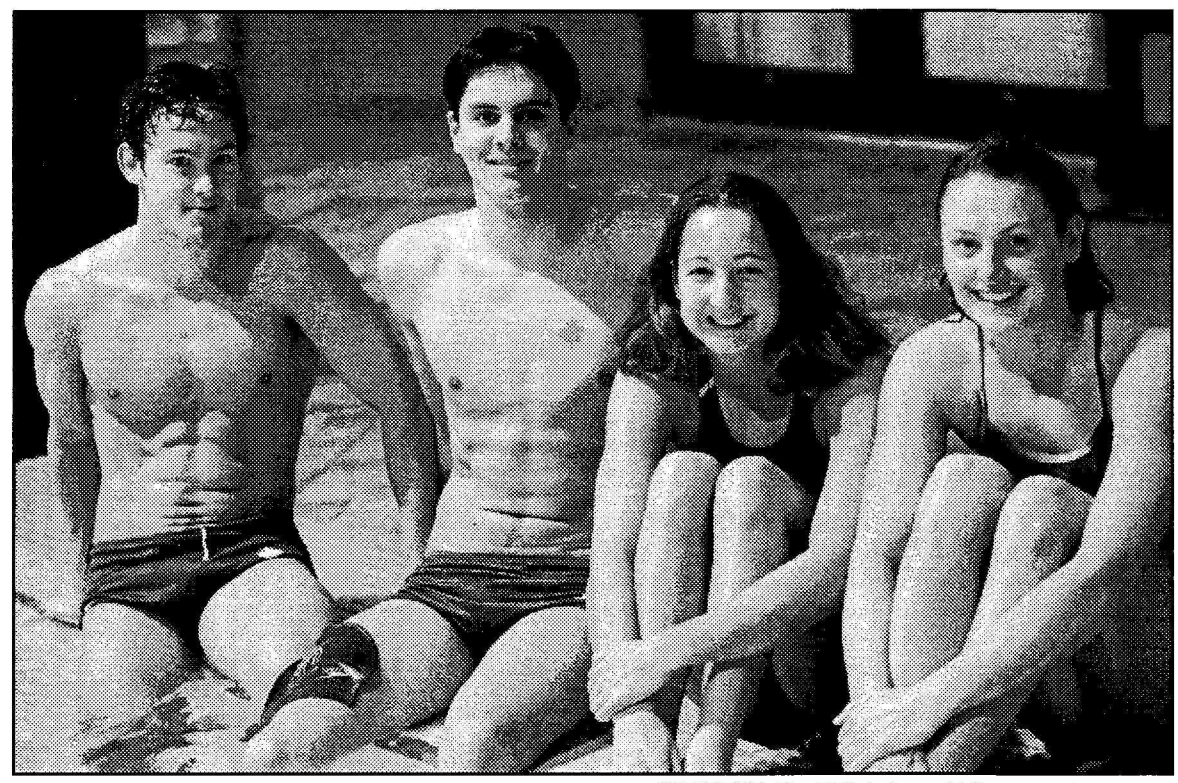
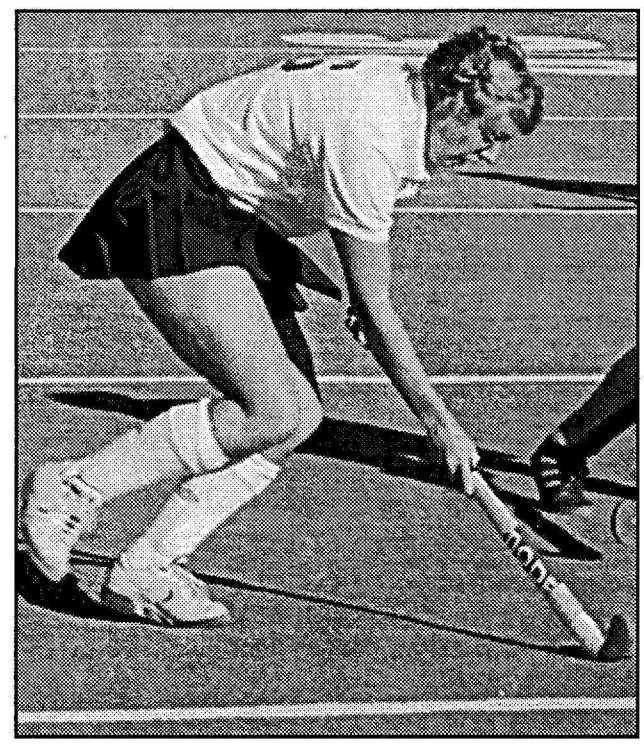
The year that was—again

***The Ubyssey*'s year-end sports awards are here! With the T-Birds' on-field results surprisingly similar to last year's, you may experience a feeling of déjà vu. But no pushing, and only one per customer, please**





TOP BIRDS: The T-Birds brought the same three national championships they won in 1998-99 home to roost. Men's and women's swimming each earned another banner to hang over the pool—they were led by Olympic hopefuls (above, from left) Mark Versfeld, Mark Johnston, Jessica Deglau, and Marianne Limpert. Meanwhile, newcomer Wieske van Zoest (left) helped women's field hockey to their second straight crown.
TARA WESTOVER PHOTO (TOP), BRUCE ARTHUR/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO (LEFT)

by Naomi Kim

Healed bruises, dried mud on cleats, and final exams—the mark of another season's end. A time to relax and to remember the good games, the bad games, and the rainy, rainy weekends.

Looking back, it certainly seemed like the year that already was—last year, in fact. The women's field hockey team and the men's and women's swim teams brought back UBC's only national championship titles, just as they did in 1998-99.

But its not as if the Thunderbirds lacked stiff competition. This year, schools in the West won 12 of the 19 CIAU championship titles—and Alberta, Victoria, Calgary, and UBC were the top four.

But in the end, as they have before, the Birds faced familiar foes and familiar fates. Just as in 1998, the UBC football team lost to the Saskatchewan Huskies in the Canada West finals; the women's volleyball team's championship bid included the midseason addition of a national team member, but ended at the hands of the juggernaut Alberta Pandas for the fourth straight year; men's basketball failed to make the Canada West finals for the fourth season in a row; and the dreams of the women's basketball team vanished in Victoria for the fifth straight time.

And, of course, the men's hockey team failed to make the playoffs, but this year, it wasn't *that* formulaic—the Birds set records for futility. Meanwhile, the men's volleyball team virtually had a playoff spot in its grasp as it countered a slow start to the season with a midseason winning streak. But in the toughest conference in Canada, they couldn't close the deal, and missed the playoffs.

In some ways, though, it was also a year of the new, as UBC teams looked south of the border for competition. The baseball, cross country, and golf teams all officially played in the US-based NAIA conference for the first time, with the baseball team now calling Nat Bailey Stadium home.

And it was another year of farewells—UBC's CIAU medallist teams will have to face huge player turnovers. The women's field hockey, women's volleyball, and women's rugby teams lose large chunks of their rosters to graduation. The track and field team says goodbye to not only its athletes, but to most of its events as well, as the program was axed due to funding pressures.

Also leaving are such star athletes as women's basketball's Jessica Mills and football's Akbal Singh. As well, longtime men's basketball coach Bruce Enns resigned after 15 years; women's volleyball coach Erminia Russo ended her three-year interim stint filling in for Doug Reimer; and with the end of the track and field program, head coach Carmyn James' time at UBC ended abruptly.

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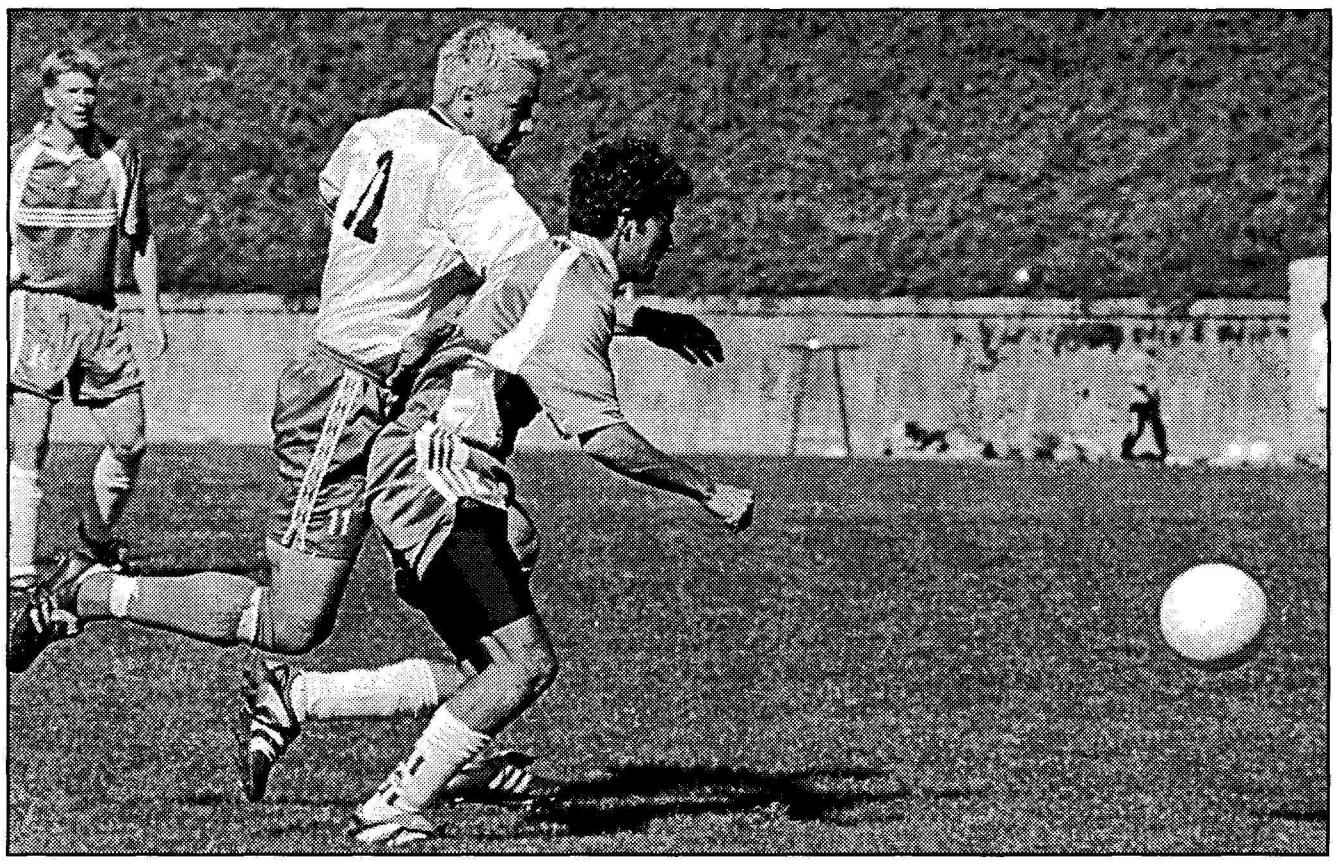

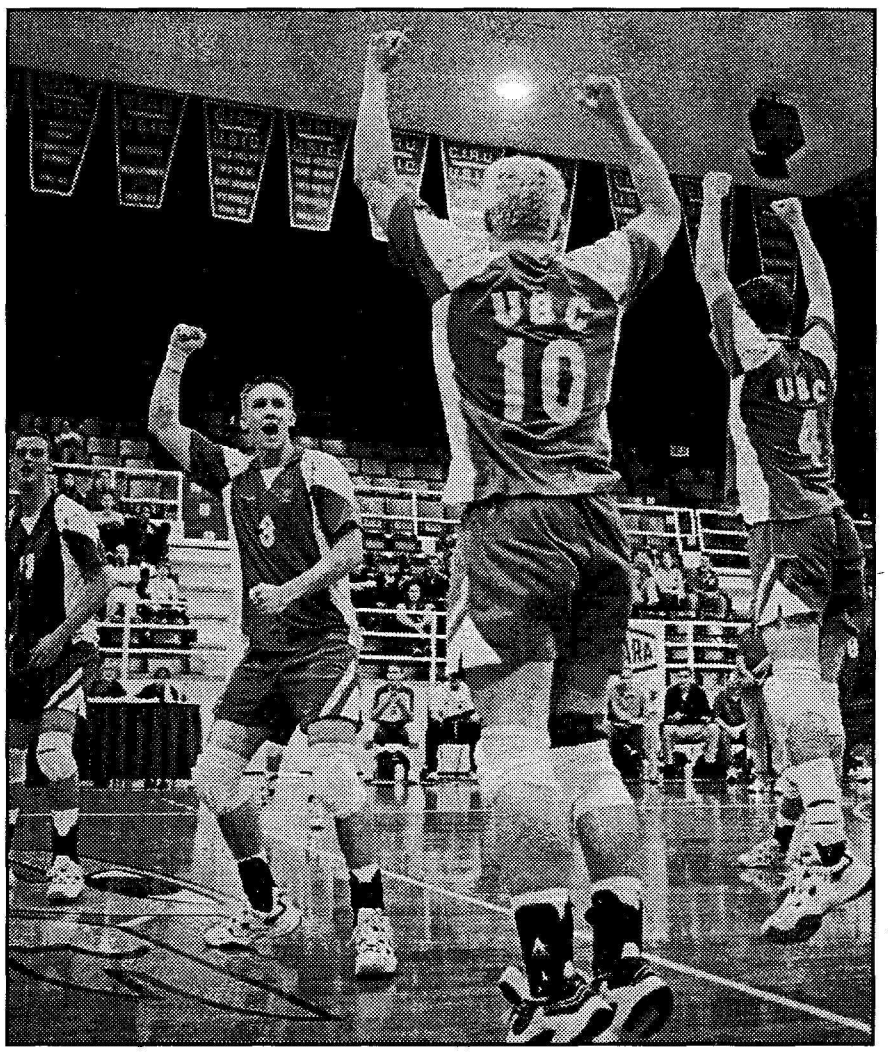

ALL THE WAY: No, there weren't any men's soccer or men's volleyball medals, but the contributions of soccer rookie Adam Plummer (number 11, above) and volleyball veteran Guy Davis (number 10, left) were recognised with national honours. TARA WESTOVER PHOTOS

continued from previous page

But other teams—men's soccer, men's basketball, women's basketball and swimming—will remain relatively the same, and will continue to build for next season.

Despite questions of funding and turnover, UBC teams focused on the game and produced memorable performances. In winning style, both women's and men's swimming, women's ultimate, and men's rugby teams dominated the competition throughout their seasons. Other efforts were not necessarily rewarded in rankings or medals—the men's soccer team that suffered a devastating playoff loss via an offside goal that ended a superb match; the women's soccer team, which had been ranked in the top five all year, bowed out of the playoffs on penalty kicks against the ever-present Alberta Pandas; the men's volleyball team; and the amiable women's hockey team that started its season with eight straight losses but ended with back-to-back home wins.

The fourth annual *Ubyssey* Golden Coyote awards recognise the athletic achievements of the players that shone throughout the year. The UBC teams proudly played in blue and gold, but only a few were awarded with gold around their necks. Numerous fans and medals may not have been there, but the athletes and coaches representing UBC made this a year that will be remembered for both its disappointments and accomplishments alike.

FEMALE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:

Before the season started, she was called the team's "dark horse" by women's field hockey head coach Hash Kanjee. Dutch striker *Wieske van Zoest* fit right in with UBC's defending national champs. Most of last year's squad returned this season, but the addition of van Zoest and her team-leading 11 goals certainly helped the team win a second-straight national title. Just watching her stick tricks is reason for amazement, and at full speed with the ball, she is deadly.

Honourable mentions: Maureen O'Connor, field hockey; Sarah Moodie, golf; Carrie Watson, basketball.

MALE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:

On a talented soccer team, striker *Adam Plummer*, a transfer from Cariboo University College, managed to make his mark and collect a few awards in his first year at UBC. He was recognised as a Canada West All-Star, Canada West Rookie of the Year, CIAU Rookie of the Year, and was named a Second Team All-Canadian.

Honourable mentions: Zaheed Bakare, basketball; Robert Filc, hockey.

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:

There were incredible athletes from a variety of sports in this category, but one who raised the bar to the highest level is high jumper *Sarah McDiarmid*. In her first year as a Bird, she won the bronze in her event at the CIAUs. And that was the worst of her three showings at the national championships. In her second year, she won the gold with a jump of 1.80m. And in this year, her third, she won the gold again to successfully defend her national title and become a CIAU All-Canadian. This is the end for her as a CIAU high jumper, but although UBC will no longer have a track and field team, McDiarmid proved that she was the best in Canada during her short time at UBC.

Honourable mentions: Jessica Mills, basketball; Jessica Deglau, swimming; Sarah Maxwell, volleyball; Ann Harada, field hockey.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:

Running back *Akbal Singh* thrilled the crowds at Thunderbird Stadium last year as he dodged and darted through the opposition to run to a school and Canada West record—1296 yards. This year, he broke his own school record with 1646 yards on the ground, and added 11 touchdowns. The two-time Hec Crighton Award Nominee, for the most outstanding university football player in Canada, fell short of the award, but he's got plenty of hardware: he holds the Canada West single-season rushing record, the UBC season record for both rushing and for total offence, and he's a two-time CIAU first-team All-Canadian. He is also a nominee for the BC Athlete of the Year Award.

Honourable mentions: Mark Johnston, swimming; Courtenay Kolla, basketball; Steve McCauley, soccer; Guy Davis, volleyball.

MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER (FEMALE):

In a non-conference soccer game against Simon Fraser University, she broke her nose, fractured her eye socket, and broke her cheekbone in three places as a result of a collision with the SFU goalkeeper's foot. Fourth-year midfielder *Kim Spencer* was supposed to miss the entire four-week regular season, but she returned to the pitch after only three weeks, in time to play the last game of the regular season. Spencer will return to the team for one more term next year in her fifth and final year at UBC.

MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER (MALE):

In another miraculous recovery, fifth-year power *Guy Davis* missed the first half of the volleyball season with an abdominal hernia. But he worked hard to rehabilitate his injury and soon joined his team, which became, over the Winter holiday break, an exuberant, emotionally-charged, and confident squad that went on to beat several of the top teams in Canada. The Birds went on a 9-1 game roll upon Davis' return. Head coach Dale Ohman described him as the "heart and soul of the team." Davis helped make UBC a constant fixture in the national top-ten rankings until the end of the regular season, when they just missed out on making the playoffs. He was named the Canada West Player of the Year and was two votes away from being named the CIAU Player of the Year.

TEAM OF THE YEAR:

The UBC *men's and women's swimming* teams have each won not one, not two, but three national championships in a row—an accomplishment unmatched by any other CIAU team. The men's side consists of four CIAU All-Canadians, while the women boast six, including the CIAU female swimmer of the year. No other Canadian university team comes close to this level—now, after splashing around with the little fish, several Birds will face the best in the world at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

Honourable mentions: women's field hockey; women's golf.

COACH OF THE YEAR:

The men's and women's swim teams may be good, to put it lightly, but there has been one constant behind their combined nine championships (six women's and three men's titles) over the past seven years—that would be head coach *Tom Johnson*. He was named the CIAU coach of the year for the past three years, for a total of five times over the past seven years. The strength of the powerhouse UBC swim teams never seems to diminish, and that is partly due to his in- and out-of-water influence and approach to coaching.

Honourable mentions: Dale Ohman, men's volleyball; Erminia Russo, women's volleyball; Hash Kanjee, women's field hockey.❖

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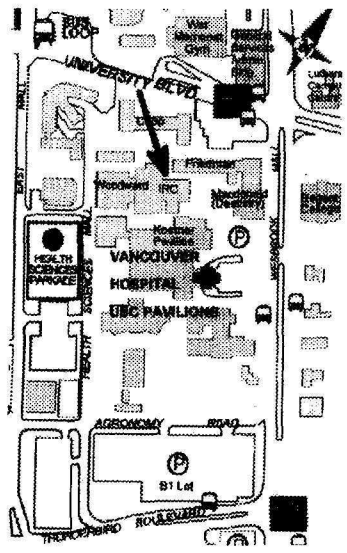
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
ON THE COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN FOR THE UBC CAMPUS



THURSDAY, APRIL 27TH, 2000
TWO SESSIONS: 12:30 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
OR 7:30 - 9:00 P.M.

WOODWARD - INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE (IRC), LECTURE HALL 4
2194 HEALTH SCIENCES MALL (BUILDING ON NORTH SIDE OF HOSPITAL)

The Official Community Plan (OCP) for the University of British Columbia provides a vision and goals for future development, broad land use designations and objectives for more detailed planning. The purpose of the Comprehensive Community Planning process (called Area Planning in the OCP) is to interpret those policies and objectives as a framework for development approval. This will be the third of three public meetings and will focus on the second draft of the Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP), which addresses planning issues such as: parking and transportation; parks, greenways and playing fields; location and diversity of housing types; densities and building forms; commercial and market housing uses; community facilities; and detailed development policies.

The draft CCP and an "Issues and Options Report" can be viewed and downloaded at the website www.ocp.ubc.ca. If you do not have internet access, copies of the CCP and "Issues and Options Report" are available from Campus Planning and Development, 2210 West Mall (hours: M-F, 8:30am - 4:30pm). Draft #2 of the CCP will be available at the meeting.

For questions or further information call Jim Carruthers, Campus Planning and Development, at 822-0469.

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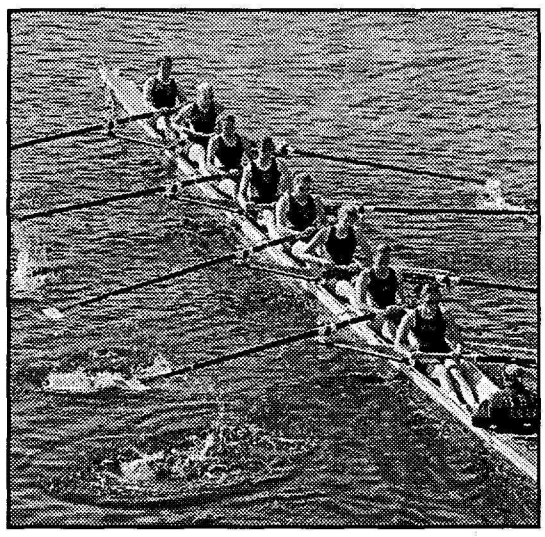
UVic rowers beat up on UBC—again

by Holland Gidney

VICTORIA—It's 10:23am and a crowd of about 30 people is gathered on the Johnson Street Bridge. Ten minutes later, a cheer goes up as someone with binoculars spots two rowing shells passing under the Bay Street bridge a kilometre away. As the boats get closer, the cheering gets louder as people encourage their favourite crews.

Oxford and Cambridge have their annual rowing race and Harvard and Yale have theirs; the equivalent race between the University of Victoria and UBC is the Brown Cup. Held at the end of the spring rowing season, the race pits each school's top men's and women's eight against one another in a head-to-head race over several kilometres. This year's Brown Cup, held Sunday on the Gorge Waterway, marked the ninth time the men have raced, and the eighth time for the women.



MAYBE NEXT YEAR: Despite a good effort, the UBC women couldn't pull off an upset against UVic in Brown Cup racing. HOLLAND GIDNEY PHOTO

UVic has never lost a Brown Cup race, but this year it looked like UBC might present a challenge. At the Elk Lake Spring Regatta, held at the beginning of March, the UBC men's eight was ahead of UVic until a mechanical problem allowed UVic to surge ahead and win the race. And since the UVic and UBC women's varsity crews hadn't raced against each other in eights since the fall, there was some speculation that UBC might have a chance.

But in the end, the results were the same as they are every year: UVic easily won both the men's and women's races, even though both UBC crews were closer than last year. In the women's race, this may have been due to major changes to the boating order of the UVic boat made the week before Brown Cup.

"It was quite an overhaul," said Rick Crawley, coach of the UVic women's crew. "I decided to try the shake-up approach."

Crawley decided to go with a completely new boating order after he saw a breakdown in the eight that faced Washington State University in a regatta in Bellingham two weeks ago. UVic had a boat-length lead over WSU at the 200-metre mark but fell apart and lost the race. The UVic coach dropped three rowers from the boat and moved everyone around so that only the coxswain and seven-seat stayed in the same place for Brown Cup.

As a result, the UVic women claimed the Brown Cup win with a time of 11:17, while UBC finished 19 seconds back in 11:36.

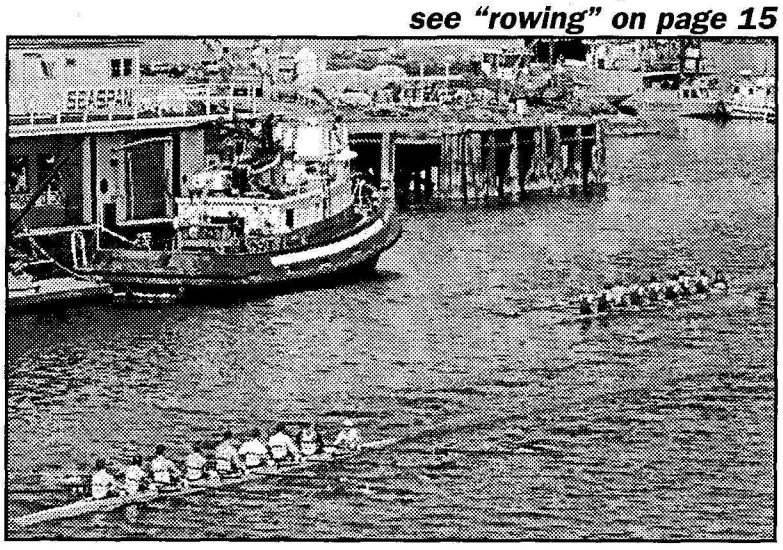
Though his crew finished second, UBC women's coach Craig Pond was not disappointed with his team's performance.

"I felt that the crew performed very well. In the final weeks leading up to the race the crew made some major improvements, and we feel that we had the best race we possibly could at this time," he said. "Even though the results did not prove us number one we feel we won the race within [ourselves]."

As for the men's race, most spectators didn't see the collision that happened in the first kilometre of the race. As UBC was passing UVic, the two crews clashed blades, causing UBC's stroke to lose control of his oar. UBC lost approximately three boat lengths as as result.

"I'm not sure who was in the wrong and who was in the right," said UBC men's coach Mike Pearce. "But there's no way there should

see "rowing" on page 15



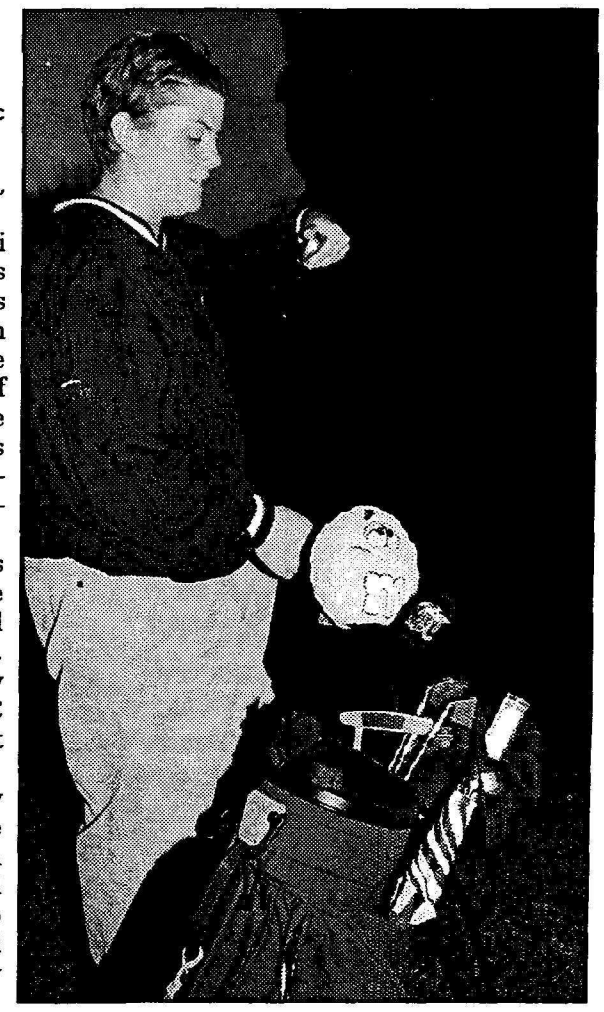
OPEN WATER: There was pre-race speculation that the UBC men's eight might be able to pull off its first win in the Brown Cup, but after an early collision with the UVic boat, UBC was never able to recover and was defeated once again by their rivals. HOLLAND GIDNEY PHOTO

Women's golf top-ranked in NAIA

Going into the NAIA championships, a young UBC squad is hopeful about its chances for glory

by Naomi Kim

SWING AWAY: The UBC women's golf team practices at Monterey, California (above), and team captain Maija McCauley shows off her M&Ms head covers (right). The team is ranked number one going into the NAIA championships, which will be held May 16-18, in London, Kentucky. The T-Birds are ranked above 88 American schools. PHOTO COURTESY UBC WOMEN'S GOLF TEAM (ABOVE), CYNTHIA LEE PHOTO (RIGHT)



By all indications, the UBC women's golf team would be the last to admit they're the best. But there's little question that they are.

Team captain Maija McCauley and teammate Jackie Hays shrink away from the tape recorder, and McCauley smiles hesitantly as she obligingly poses for photos. She mentions that last year the team had to wear spandex shirts as part of its uniform. But not this year—there's nothing uncomfortable or self-conscious about this team. Except maybe its competition: UBC, the Canadian underdog, is beating all of its American opponents.

In its first year in the NAIA, the team was unsure of what to expect. UBC went in unranked, but now, going into the final two tournaments of their season, the Birds are ranked number one. Entering the NAIA championships, which take place May 16-18 in London, Kentucky, the only Canadian women's golf team is ranked above 88 American schools. Heading straight to the top and teeing off against the best in the States is a daunting task, but if anything, these unassuming seven girls are giddy about the whole thing.

"It'll be neat because when we go there," said Hays and McCauley, bantering back and forth. "People will be like...whoa, they're new and ranked number one.' "

"Who are they?"

"People might look up to us—that's probably not the right word—but look at us like *'oh.'*"

But even at UBC, there were times when the golfers were given looks of surprise. Many people still don't know that there is a UBC golf team. But McCauley and Hays agree that the team is getting more recognition now that an increasing number of people play golf and the game has become popular thanks to golf phenom Tiger Woods.

But golf is not just a leisurely pastime for the team. Like other UBC teams, the golf team has regular practices and weekly work-outs. To build endurance—one tournament this weekend had 36 straight holes—they run and swim as a team.

Last year the team played against American schools and played in NAIA tournaments, but were not in a conference and therefore ineligible for the championships. This will be their first year playing at the nationals.

As the brand-new team in the NAIA, the golfers' goals consisted of winning their home tournament, which they did, and going to the NAIA championships. But the goal-turned-slogan of "Destination Kentucky" will now be more than just a trip. The only question at the nationals will likely be what colour medals the team will bring home.

But the golf team is far from cocky about its chances. You may have seen these girls around campus, but they're not the bragging type. Most of them are just trying to get through their first year of university. Four of them are rookies, and McCauley is the only graduating player this year.

In a sport where the slightest wind or bump on the turf changes the game and where its the little things that count, the team has it all covered. They travel in one mini-van to their tournaments in the States, and they do little things like writing down the good things about each other that help them come together as a team. McCauley and Hays, for instance, made and presented golf tags for each of the players with their names and their goal of "Destination Kentucky" on the tags. The golfers' club head covers indicate the wide range of personalities on the team, from McCauley's M&Ms to buffalos, whales, and other animals; they certainly have a fun time on their road trips.

Within such a positive environment, head coach Ann Oishi advocates focusing on golf and continually improving. At the level that the team plays at, many players have comparable abilities. According to Oishi, at least 60 per cent of the performance is based on nerves. The important thing is to have fun and relax, and Oishi feels that her main job is managing the constant pressure, and making sure the team gets its sleep, nutrition, and energy.

Kentucky will be what Oishi calls the "real test," and she's anxious about that. She's just as excited about her players, whom she refers to as "[her] girls." She e-mailed and called some of them at 2am to tell them the "mind-blowingly exciting" news of their number one NAIA ranking immediately after the rankings were released.

The UBC women's golf team is young at heart—many of the golfers are young in age, too—and is enjoying its time at the top. Golf may be considered a luxury and upscale sport, but the UBC team has also certainly made it its own game.

Most of the golfers also play during the summer, but the game has remained fun for them all, despite year-round play. And this season, the motivation to play has remained strong, and the depth of the team has only helped its success.

In the future, McCauley and Hays, like their teammates, eventually "want a career in golf, but not in the LPGA."

They know they're good, but they add, "Right now, we're not good enough."

So said the champs.❖

"Rowing" from page 14

have been a collision." He said that the officials watched the two boats get closer together but did not issue a warning to either crew to give way. "They sat there and watched the collision happen, then told the crews to move apart."

Though he was onshore and didn't see the collision happen, after talking with the officials, UVic men's coach Howie Campbell said that it appeared that UBC moved across and pushed UVic over to the point where the coxswain couldn't move over any further without hitting the shore. "The officials called it a navigational mistake," Campbell said. "Unfortunately you can't afford to make any mistakes in a race of this kind."

Because the collision happened early on in the race, it may not have affected UVic's victory, but the crews probably would have finished a lot closer together. While Pearce felt that his crew might have had had a chance to beat UVic, Campbell didn't think that the collision had much of an effect on the final outcome. "It was early days, we'd started to move back on them," he said. "But it's unfortunate that we can't call it a clear victory."

UVic finished in a time of 10:20, while UBC crossed the line in 10:32. Both times were well off the course record, which is under the 10:00 mark.

While nothing unexpected happened at this year's Brown Cup, next year's race could prove interesting, something Crawley is looking forward to.

"I'd like to see UVic and UBC finishing two to three seconds apart," he said. And if the two young and inexperienced crews racing for UBC improve, that could very well happen."❖

Today's Special

by Duncan M. McHugh

Vancouver has a lot of local indie talent, and it was about time someone got it all down on record. Sean Raggett, singer for the Riff Randells and former Good Jacket owner decided to do just that. The result is *Vancouver Special*...

Sean Raggett is holding a really big cake. Really. His mother's friend made it for him and he's excited about sharing.

This isn't just any cake, of course. Raggett has been working towards this cake for several years. The cake was made for the release party of *Vancouver Special*, a compilation of Vancouver's best indie bands and a benefit for A Lovin' Spoonful, a Vancouver charitable organisation that provides meals for people living with HIV and AIDS. It's been quite an experience for Raggett. Since undertaking *Vancouver Special*, he has sold his clothing store, seen his band—the Riff Randells—take off, and put together the best compilation that Vancouver's music scene has seen in a long time. But *where did it all begin*?

Raggett's first exposure to independent music came via a tried-and-true method in Vancouver: by volunteering at CiTR, UBC's radio station.

"I started volunteering there in '91, hung around for about a year and then a friend of mine, who did a show called *Canadian Lunch*, which was a local, independent radio show, invited me to come host with her. She left the following year, so I took over the show and I did it 'til '95."

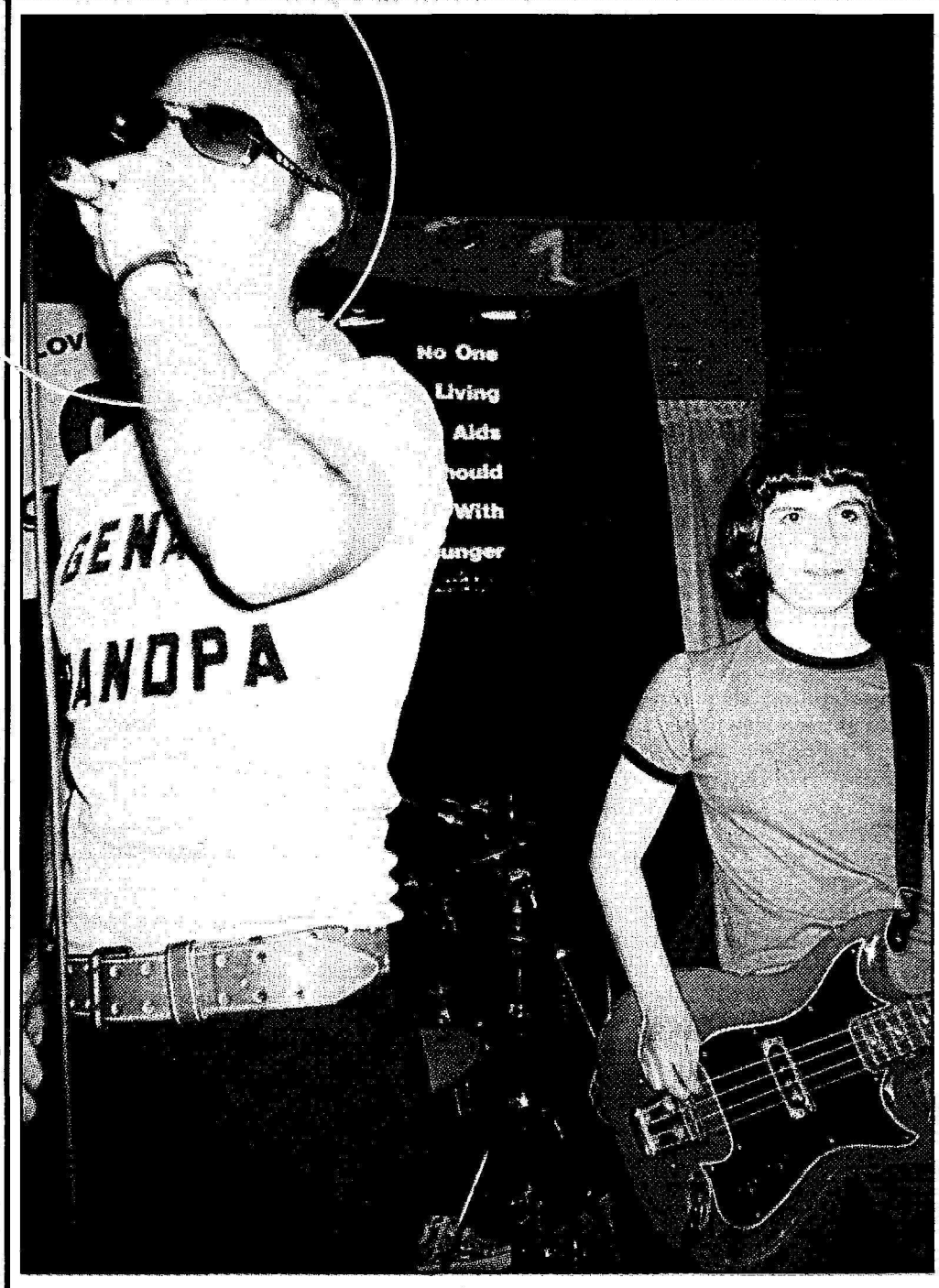
During that time, Raggett served as a programmer, worked on the executive, and wrote a column for CiTR's magazine, *DiSCORDER* (the column he wrote for was entitled, appropriately enough, *Vancouver Special*). It was a cool time for Raggett.

"[Working at CiTR] was a total resource in terms of being able to have access to the music that was coming in from across the country...I miss it a lot."

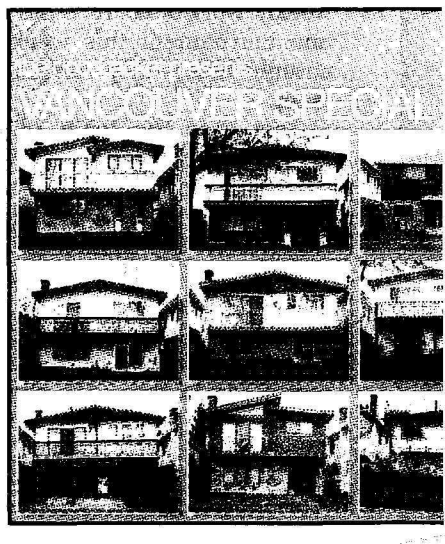
After finishing his degree, Raggett left town for a while. But upon his return to Vancouver, he felt the pull of one of his other loves: vintage clothing.

"My partner and I had come back from Montréal and we landed in Vancouver, and we were wondering what we should do. I had been into clothing for a long time, just mostly for myself, going to Value Village, Salvation Army and finding clothes. There's quite a market for resale on consignment items, vintage stuff from the '70s, so that's what I knew how to do. And [my partner] was an artist, so the idea behind [the Good Jacket] was that she would have an art space and I would sell clothes up front. We made a living that way, by starting a business."

The Good Jacket's philosophy was to sell quality vintage pop-culture clothing. Located in "Dysfunction Junction," an affectionate moniker given to the triangular intersection at Kingsway and 8th by local businesses, the Good Jacket fit in well with the surrounding neighbourhood. When it came time to celebrate the store's six-month anniversary, Raggett asked a neighbour for some help.



THE RIFF RANDELLS, rawkin' out in style at the first of the *Vancouver Special* Marine Club shows. What a belt!
CAT MOORE PHOTO



"We had access to [Angel's Tattoo Parlour/Art Gallery] and [Angel's owner] said, 'Yeah, sure. I'd love to have a party.' So we had our six-month anniversary party in the early summer of '97 with July 4th Toilet, Pigs In Space, and thee Shitcookies, a band that had only gigged at a summer BBQ in New Westminster...so they were this hot thing. That started the tie-in with music."

The Good Jacket became the official clothier for CiTR guru Nardwuar the Human Serviette's band, the Evaporators. The store also provided stage wear for bands like the Pepper Sands, July 4th Toilet, and the Smugglers, who used Good Jacket clothes for a bright orange-themed appearance at the Pit.

In addition to the store's renowned inventory, Raggett's parties also became legendary. Nar whose band, thee Goblins, were invited to perform, remembers them quite vividly.

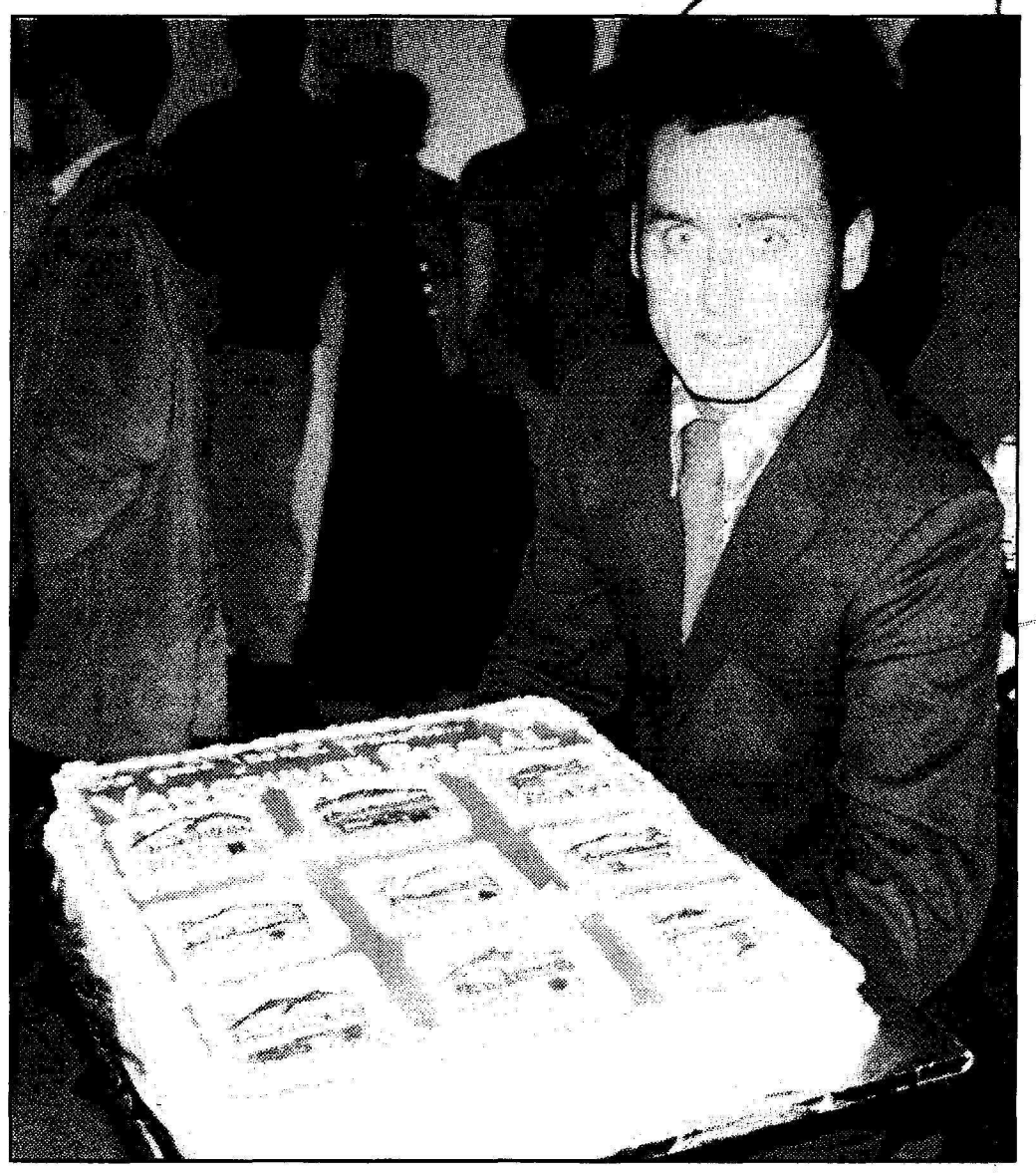
"The Good Jacket parties were absolutely incredible. For some reason cops used to hang ou parking lot behind the Good Jacket and eat pizza and stuff. So Sean would be having these hu ties and the cops would just be eating pizza and watching them, even though they should've bee

ting down the place. There were minors in there; there were people just having a great time and the cops did nothing. They knew that Sean was so cool and these parties were packed every single time. It was amazing," recalls Nardwuar.

Some of Vancouver's finest underground bands came to play. Bands like Destroyer, Full Sketch, Bossanova, and the Radio were all participants, and with concert names like *Condo Rot City!*, *Pop Is Us!*, and *Feelin' Fine in '99*, how could they resist? The shows were a success and, most importantly, they were showcasing bands that didn't really have any place else to play.

"A lot of these bands had not played in the other venues," says Nardwuar. "They weren't playing the Starfish Room, they weren't playing the Columbia Hotel, it was a completely different scene."

"I was very selective," says Sean. "But there was no shortage of people to ask. I wanted the shows to be about new talent, but I had the advantage of being involved in the music scene for a few years prior to that. So, I already knew a few people that had been in bands, were still in bands, that were continuing into other forms, so I knew who was serious about their music and who wasn't."



HEY! NICE CAKE Sean Raggett shows off a *Vancouver Special* cake at the album's release party, last Saturday at the Helen Pitt Gallery. DUNCAN M. McHUGH PHOTO

It was these concerts that inspired Raggett to put together *Vancouver Special*. He felt that the bands that played at the Good Jacket deserved the exposure that a compilation could provide. However, just as he was beginning to start the album, an offer was made on the Good Jacket's retail space.

"Someone came in, two weeks after I had started filing tracks, and wanted to let me know that we'd be neighbours. She was going to be moving across the street...and I said 'That's funny, I always thought about selling.' I just kind of brought it up without meaning anything by it, and she said, 'How much?' and within two days the deal was done. It was a surprise, but it was a move that has obviously been for the better. For me, I got to work full-time on the compilation."

And work he did, pulling together 24 tracks from a broad range of artists. A testament to the calibre of bands included, Raggett found it quite easy to pick the tracks for the album.

"I drew tracks, from the bands, that they had submitted, but I didn't have to edit anyone's track. So, it worked out in the sense that all the bands are already making really good music, and in the terms of a compilation, there's no horseshit, if I can be blunt. There's not a lot of compilations, there's one or two that's completely horseshit-free. This compilation is horseshit-free, there's no horseshit.

"There hasn't been [a compilation] in the recent past...that's concentrated on contemporary pop, like good pop underground bands, not just people that are together for six months. These people are musicians."

"It is a complete document of an undocumented scene," says Nardwuar. "It's excellent. It's representing a scene that has not been represented anywhere else. For some of those bands, this is their first time on vinyl. It's great."

Despite the anthropological merit of such a compilation, it's also remarkable because it's a benefit album. All of the bands have signed over their royalties to A Lovin' Spoonful and Raggett is quite proud to be involved with the charity.

"They're very practical, very hands-on. They're all volunteers as well...so there's actually an element of caring going on there. It could have been any charity, although, in terms of what's going on right now and where help is most needed, this is one of the areas. And going at it from the basis of nutrition and natural health makes total sense to me. On top of that, there's also a few members of the rock community that are already involved with [the organisation]. There was a bit of a connection."

So, now that the album has finally been released and that the *Vancouver Special* concert series, that had let up to the release—which Raggett emceed—is done with, what now? Well, there's a chance of more collaborations in the future.

"We were thinking about doing a 'We Are the World,' [with] all the bands. Robert Dayton [of *Terminal City* and the *Drippy Gazette*] suggested something to the tune of 'Cleaning up East Vancouver, we're going to take to the streets with a Hoover,' and just play off of that. It could still happen."

Also on his plate are the Riff Randells. Having just released a 4-song 7" on Mint Records, Sean and the gals head on a cross-country tour of Canada in June. First and foremost, however, Raggett wants to ensure that *Vancouver Special* is the success it deserves to be.

"[The album] totally exceeded my expectations...There'a sense of upliftedness about the whole thing; when people can have a bit of dignity and not worry so much about themselves. And to have that opportunity isn't all that common."❖

y. Nardwuar,

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ALEX GOPHER
YOU, MY BABY & I
[Disques Solides]

Would you like to get funky? Then you should pick up this album. Alex Gopher has successfully created an album that fuses excellent guitar riffs with hypnotic electronica. He has a groovy, seductive sound that is an intense mixture of voices and synthesisers (think Moby's *Play*). A great deal of drum'n'bass also penetrates the album, creating many high-power dance tracks. Songs like "Quietstorm" have a hypnotic-trance groove to them that is actually quite relaxing (although often mind-numbing).

So, let's say that you pick up this album. Now you've shaken your booty for a bit to the funky tunes and you suddenly have a revelation, one which presents one of the few fundamental problems with this album. It is completely devoid of coherent lyrics. Granted, it does have a few sporadic words tossed throughout the tunes (mostly directly relating to the names of the tunes). This can be a problem, but the bright consumer (hopefully you) will realise that many dance tracks have few lyrics, and thus it may not be a problem to the music zombies that the industry has created.

The second prominent problem with this disc is that it only has ten tracks. Ten tracks! When I slap down my hard-earned money at the local music store I expect more than ten measly tracks and a smile from the checkout boy. Alex Gopher, while a bit on the short side, has put together a really slick album for you dance monkeys out there to groove the night away to.❖

—Calum MacConnell

JET SET SATELLITE
Blueprint
[Nettwerk]

Have you ever thought of sitting down, writing a few lyrics, putting those lyrics to music and repeating the process ad-nauseum? If so, then you too are capable of churning out a record like the one these two lads from Winnipeg "created."

Blueprint leans toward a crunchy rock style that many bands have adopted, most of whom pull it off better (i.e., Econoline Crush or the Matthew Good Band). Tracks like "Best Way To Die," and "After The Rain" are an attempt at rock music, but they seem fake, over-produced in a vain attempt to sound heavier.

The band originally started out much lighter but changed its style for this album. It's unfortunate, since the lighter tracks that are included on the album ("Blueprint" and "Afterglow") are quite good, with flowing sounds and peaceful melodies—sometimes a little too peaceful, almost sleep inducing.

Overall, the lyrics are a shabby mess. Uneven and rushed, they sound as if they were written to fit the tunes. Jet Set Satellite's "Blueprint" is manufactured; it has been cut and pasted together so that everything fits. On the contrary, the impression is one of disorganisation and dystopia. So, if you're in the market for some rock, do yourself a favour and buy something else.❖

—Calum MacConnell

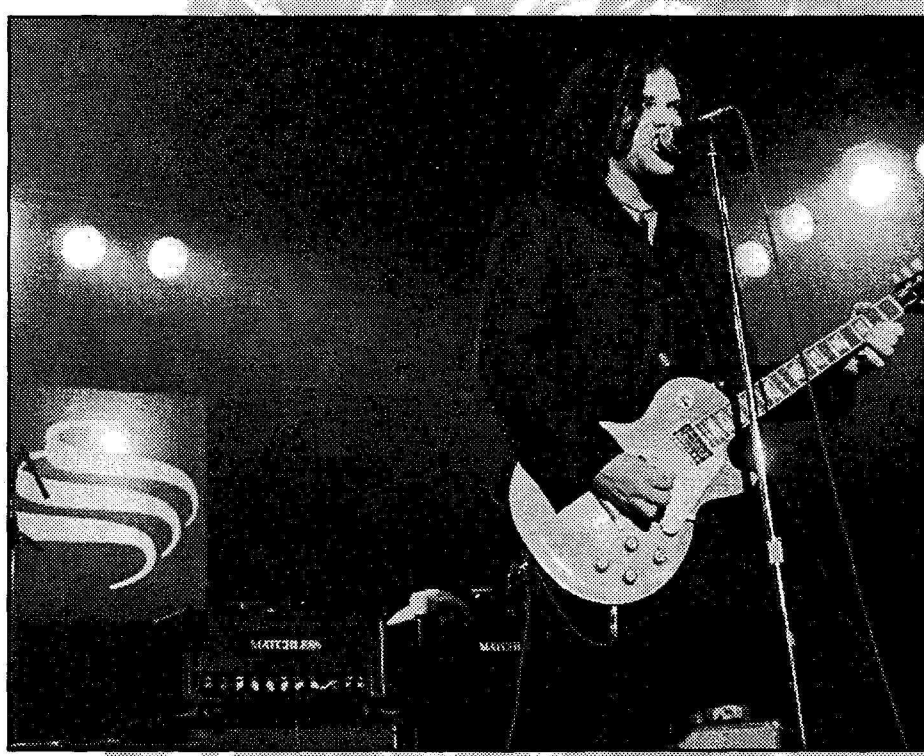
BOWERY ELECTRIC
Lushlife
[Beggar's Banquet]

You're feeling very sleepy, your eyelids are heavy, you can't keep them open. Either you're being hypnotised, you're pulling your eighth consecutive all-nighter, or you're listening to Bowery Electric's latest release, *Lushlife*.

Frankly, this album put me to sleep. Each and every song is based around the repetitive beat of a drum machine—the same beat playing over and over again. This computer-based music group churns out song after song of monotonous noise, each song extremely similiar to the one that preceded it. The vocals are unimaginative and the tone is stagnant. This album is an insomniac's dream come true—a few listening minutes and you'll be in a coma.

It's almost painful listening to all of the tracks on such a lacking album,and more difficult still to find any redeeming factors. Even the art on the album cover is dull. It's a suprise that the artists were able to stay awake long enough to record the songs. Bowery Electric's *Lushlife* is depressing white noise—its release another hapless move by a shortsighted industry which actually thinks people are going to like this sort of thing. At least now I've got an extra jewel case for other, more worthy CDs.❖

—Calum MacConnell



The show was smok' in'

THE DU MAURIER CONCERT STAGE 2000
at the Whistler Conference Centre
Mar. 25

With Big Sugar and the Tea Party headlining the show, Whistler was set to host quite the shindig. It was almost enough to forget about the lung cancer and nicotine addiction

by Duncan M. McHugh

"Gentleman, smoking is not permitted in this venue."

This seems to sum up the du Maurier Concert Stage 2000. The "gentlemen" in question were told they couldn't smoke and yet they were surrounded on all sides by the red box and tendrils of golden smoke that make up the du Maurier logo. The whole event operated within this dichotomy. On the one hand is du Maurier, patron of the arts, which supports hundreds of cultural events across the country. On the other hand is du Maurier, the company that makes a product that is killing a lot people.

This didn't seem to bother any of the artists playing on the bill.

"I'm not here to say smoke or don't smoke," said Big Sugar's Gord Johnson before the show. "[Du Maurier is] our patron of the arts now. Who's going to step in when they're gone? I hope somebody. Do you think the laundry detergent companies are going to move in and start presenting rock-and-roll shows? That would be nice if they did, but right now we have people like du Maurier and liquor companies, things like that. It makes the world go 'round, I'm not going to pretend for a second that it doesn't."

"You don't come to a Tea Party concert and think, 'this is so great, I want to light up,'" added Jeff Martin, lead singer for the Tea Party.

So, with dozens of artists eager to participate and a thousand fans forking over $30 each, the Whistler Convention Centre sold-out for what could be cynically construed as an elaborate ad for a cigarette company.

The evening began in the lobby with a performance by Vancouver singer Coco Love Alcorn. Accompanied by a pianist and avant-garde dance company Kokoro Dance, she warmed up the audience with a pleasant enough set. But fans who had come for Big Sugar and the Tea Party were getting pretty antsy. Eventually, the concert hall was opened.

Toronto DJ Whitey Don set things up for Big Sugar's reggae set with a strange segue. For a man who's supposed to be a reggae expert, he chose, confusingly, to play some really lame music—sticking to dub versions of songs like "Billie Jean," "You Sexy Thing," and "It's A Hard Knock Life," from *Annie*. Weird.

After a tedious wait, Big Sugar began a tedious set. I had been looking forward to seeing what Big Sugar would do, backed by the Lowdown Babylon Horns and performing alongside Vancouver painter Thomas David Anfield, who had been asked to create a painting during the set. Unfortunately, the performance wasn't nearly as dynamic as it was supposed to be.

Anfield's painting, while interesting, didn't really seem to have much to do with the music being played. Big Sugar were loud enough to necessitate ear plugs, yet I was bored enough that I found it difficult to stay awake. Though reggae may be dear to Big Sugar's hearts, it wasn't too dear to the audience's ears and I was quite relieved when they finished their hour and a quarter-long set.

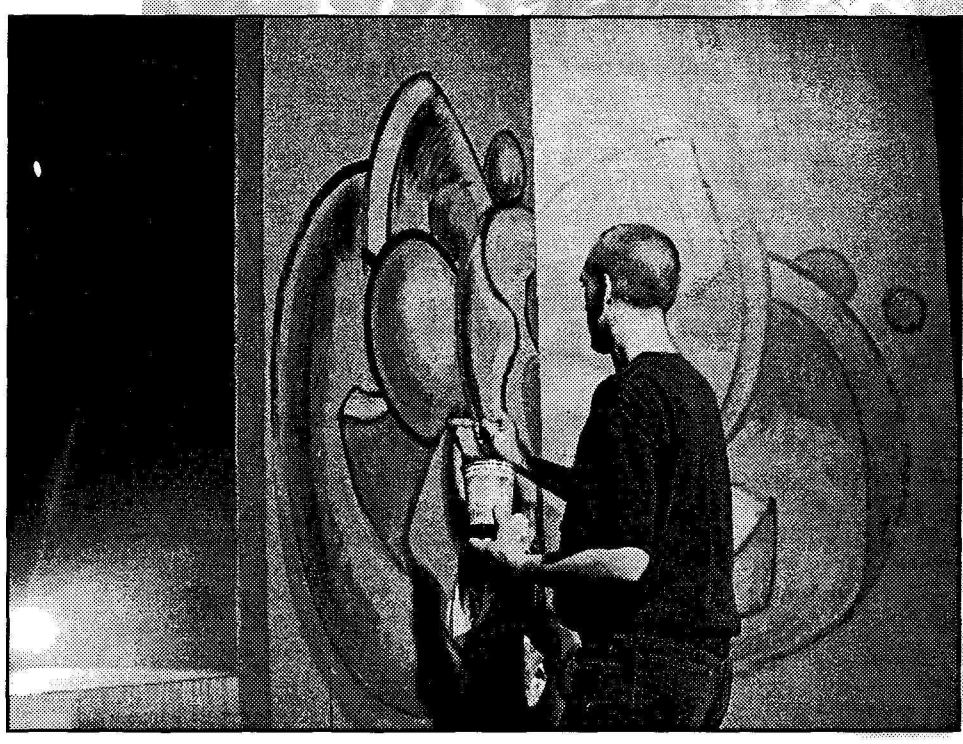
The Tea Party were up next. I might have had difficulty sitting through Big Sugar, but I was really not looking forward to the Tea Party. However (can't..believe...I'm...saying..this), I enjoyed their performance. I attribute this to my having anticipating the worse. It's sort of like an Adam Sandler movie—you find it kinda funny because you expect it to be all really dumb.

Their set didn't start off too well though; frontman Jeff Martin was saying something about abusing the atmosphere, and he kept on reassuring the audience that everything they were sensing was "real," that no one had spiked the beer. Ah, sure. Still, the band managed to play tight, loud rock pretty well (though Martin's look-I'm-throbbing-with-intensity schtick began to wear pretty thin). It was also amusing to figure out what songs they were covering, which were rather eclectic. First came a cover of Moby's "Why Does My Heart Feel So Bad?" then a shortened version of Leonard Cohen's oft-covered "Hallelujah." Finally, in ultimate rock-and-roll style, the Tea Party started playing "Sister Awake," moved to David Bowie's "Heroes," then went back to "Sister Awake." I had only ever seen Ozzy Osborne try that before (with an "Iron Man"/"Paranoid" medley, no less).

BAD ADVICE is doled out by Death (above) outside the Whistler Conference Centre while Jeff Martin of the Tea Party (above left) plays beneath the ubiqutous du Maurier logo inside. SARA YOUNG PHOTOS

Keeping with the spirit of the night, the group was joined by several other artists throughout their set. The North Indian Ensemble and the Armadillo String Quartet both added an organic side to the Tea Party's middle-Eastern influenced, but increasingly electronic sound. As well, an Indian folk dancer joined the show, as did the Kokoro Dance company for a repeat performance.

Although it was an ambitious undertaking, the du Maurier Concert Stage 2000 didn't really live up to the promise of being an artistically ambitious show with diverse artists. Yes, there was an eclectic mix of performers, but the show was pretty much dominated by the two headlining rock bands. And I can assure you that the throng of kids that showed up didn't come to see a guy painting or a group of avant-garde Japanese butoh dancers, nor did they pay much attention to them. As for du Maurier, they made sure that everyone—including student journalists, who were bussed, fed, hotelled, and dressed for the show—were taken care of. Despite my skepticism, they put on a good show that pleased most of the paying spectators. As long as the crowd's subconscious didn't fall prey to the giant logos that surrounded them, there was no harm done.❖



AN ECLECTIC MIX: Vancouver painter Thomas David Anfield (left) and Kokoro Dance (below) performed onstage with the bands at the du Maurier Concert Stage 2000. SARA YOUNG PHOTOS

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A ubyssey SHAMELESS GIVEAWAY

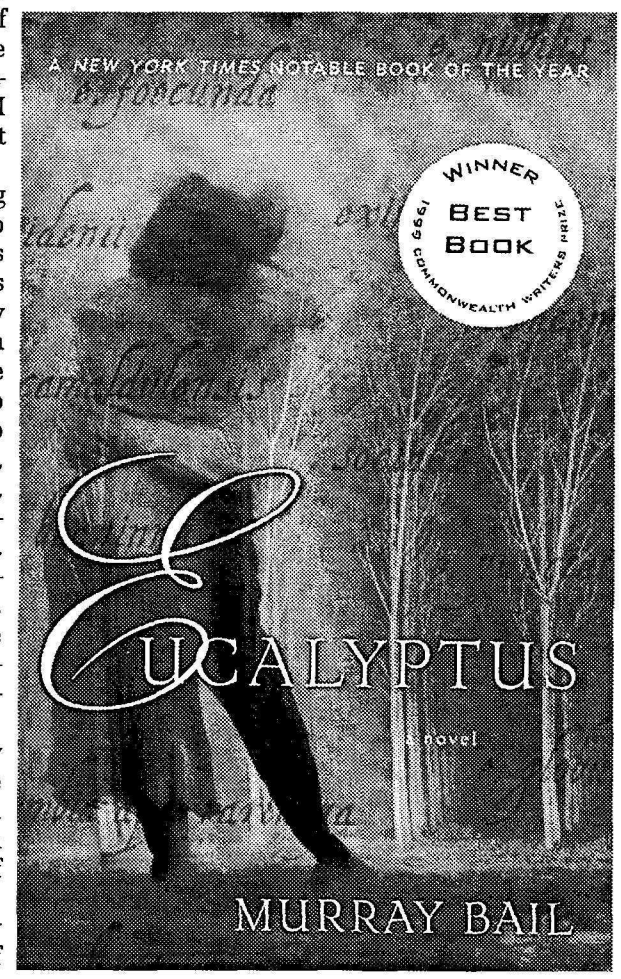
Eucalyptus

by Murray Bail [Vintage]

by andy barham Fractured fairytales, but nothing like those from the *Rocky and Bullwinkle Show*. Modern, with only the shadow of something fantastic lurking in the background, concealed within the drooping foliage of sunburnt gum trees. Bail's narrative is metafictional, but isn't too obvious about it. He explores the concept of the fairytale without dissecting it into its parts, making his exhumation unobtrusive, almost unnoticed.

Instead, we are given examples of fairytales in modern setting via the storytelling of Ellen's unofficial suitor, and I daresay, at this point, that I should elaborate a little on just what *Eucalyptus* is all about.

Holland is an exile from the big city who lucks onto a large sheep ranch in New South Wales. So far as the local yokels are concerned, it's pretty obvious Holland is a city dweller recently transplanted into a country setting. Although his wife dies in childbirth, she manages to bear him a daughter, Ellen, who grows up to be a fabulous beauty, despite, or, as Bail would have it, because of the fact that she is covered in moles, *à la* Marilyn Monroe. So far, there is nothing of the fantastic to haul us into the fairytale realm. Indeed, a mole-covered heroine smacks of magic realism, the fairytale's bastard child of the 20th century.



But we leave the normal workaday world behind, and finally enter the realm of the fabulous, when Holland begins cultivating an obsession with planting and raising every species of eucalyptus tree on his land. Obsessions of this sort aren't exactly fabulous (they're the hallmark of eccentricity, as commonplace in the outback as they are in the hinterlands of BC). Fabulation enters into this otherwise banal plot when Holland decides that the only man who shall marry his daughter will be the first one who can successfully name every single species of gum tree growing on his land. It is the stuff of fairytales, no doubt, when Ellen's reputation spreads, and would-be suitors come from far and wide to win her hand.

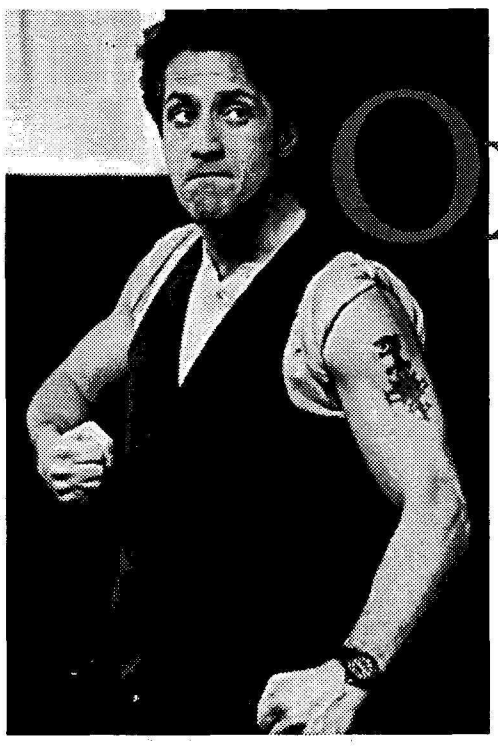
By itself, such a plot would make for very thin reading, but Bail has added to it a collection of fairytales of the modern sort—narrated by Ellen's unofficial suitor, whom her father doesn't know about. This unnamed suitor has a tale for every different species of gum tree, and they are all as romantic as only a fairytale can be. It is really through this rather artful device that Bail deconstructs and redefines the concept of the fairytale. We don't learn about the fairytale—not through ponderous dissection of the fairytale's minutiae, as is usually the case in metafiction; rather, we develop our understanding of this long neglected genre through reconstructed examples plucked from their medieval antecedents and replaced into modern settings. Bail, through the unofficial suitor, gives us the entire concept of the fairytale in a new, modern form suitable to a post-modern reader.

These redesigned fairytales are no less fantastic than anything codified by the Brothers Grimm, or created by Hans Christian Andersen, or even E.T.A. Hoffman, despite their modern settings and the absence of the usual supernatural interventions. In a way, Bail is telling us that the world we have created for ourselves is every bit as fabulous and fantastic as anything dreamed up by our superstitious medieval ancestors.

On the cover of the book, there is a certificate which tells the potential reader that Bail's reconstructed modern fairytale won the best book award somewhere or other, as well it should have. *Eucalyptus* beats the hell out of anything I have read recently by any post-modern North American or British author. The Governor General might heap awards on the next Margaret Atwood clone, and the *New York Times Book Review* might lavish endless praise on the latest tiresome and trite bit of magic realism. But for my money, give me more Murray Bail. This is the way literature should be going in our brand-spanking new millennium.❖

The Male Intellect: an Oxymoron?

at the Vogue Theatre until April 16



by Jaime Tong

If you agree with ol' T.S. that April—the time of term papers, exams and allergies—is indeed the cruellest month, then a night at the Vogue to catch Robert Dubac's new comedy, *The Male Intellect: an Oxymoron*? might cure some of your woes.

In his 90-minute one-man show, Dubac plays a character named Bobby who is going through a relationship crisis with his fiancée. As he tries to figure out just exactly what it was that he said or did wrong, various characters from his past, all played by Dubac, appear to help Bobby out.

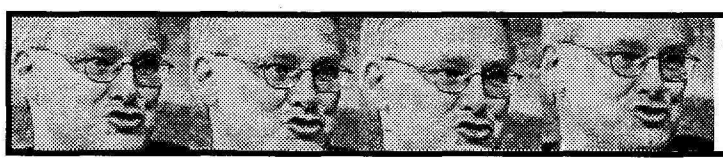
There's the Colonel, an *extreme chauvinist* who teaches Bobby things like "never call a female a bitch unless she's calling another woman a bitch; in that case, that bitch is fair game." Another person who emerges is Fast Eddie, who tries to be cool in his leather jacket with the turned-up collar. Jean-Michel, an exchange student who uses his French accent to charm women, old Mr. Linger who has been in search of his mermaid for at least a hundred odd-years, and tough Ronnie Cabrezzi round out the cast.

Dubac kept the opening night audience laughing right from the beginning when he appeared with a stack of self-help relationship books with impossible titles. Illustrating his point that none of these tomes was able to help solve his problems, *he asks for the curtain to rise so that he can show what his brain has been cluttered with.* On one side of the stage, there is a frilly curtain to represent the feminine half of his brain. The other side is cluttered with wicker furniture, clothes, a television set, some chairs and a couch. Needless to say, he spends most of his time in the more masculine side.

Bobby's problem is that his fiancée has requested more space. So while Dubac is busy figuring out what he did wrong, he remembers advice about women that he learned from the five men who tried to teach him. Dubac manages to create six very distinct characters through simple changes of lighting, voice, and clothing.

So far, you're probably thinking, "Hmm...this show doesn't sound so hot," but it really is entertaining. There just isn't much to say about it simply because Dubac relies more on what he says and various one-liners rather than special effects to amuse the audience.

Dubac manages to present typical male chauvinism in a way that makes the audience laugh rather than get offended. While the show doesn't have any profound observations about men and women, it is a hilarious way to pass some time. I didn't really have any quibbles with the show. Its objective was simply to entertain the audience with humour, and judging from the response last Saturday night, it succeeded.❖



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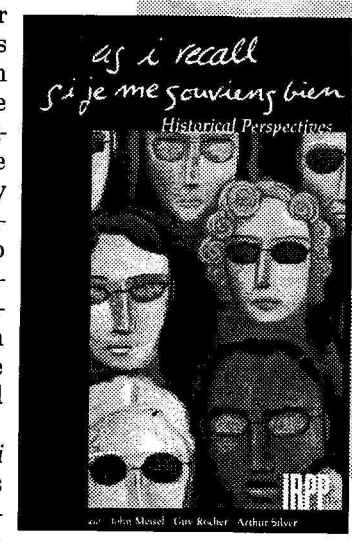
AS I RECALL, SI JE ME SOUVIENS BIEN: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

edited by IRPP with John Meisel, Guy Rocher, Arthur Silver

by Regina Yung

In my Grade Six classroom, a map of Canada covered the far wall with brightly coloured provinces and star-marked capital cities. I remember looking at it as my teacher showed us overheads of Canadian flags proposed before the advent of the maple leaf. Most of the flags featured British colours and involved some perversion of the Union Jack, but the one I remember best had nine beavers encircling a frog. I am not making this up.

Although these days it's usually less blatant, Anglo ambivalence towards the Francophones in their midst—and vice versa—has been there pretty much since Confederation. In the wake of the 1995 sovereignty referendum, the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP), an independent bilingual think-tank, decided to promote French-English discussion by producing a commentary on pivotal Canadian events that would include both Francophone and Anglophone points of view.



The result, *As I recall: Si je me souviens bien,* takes 34 points in Canadian history, from the Conquest to the Referendum and illustrates the divergent interpretations given to them from inside and outside Quebec. While this may not be a sunny Saturday morning read, it is a good primer on Anglophone and Francophone perceptions of—and problems with—each other.

The book's format reflects its mandate, with a summary of each event followed by two essays, one written by John Meisner, an Anglophone political science professor, and the other by Guy Rocher, a Francophone sociologist. The fault lines surrounding national unity emerge as each event provokes two different reactions based on remembered grievances that stretch from the hanging of Louis Riel to the failure of the Meech Lake Accord. As the IRPP is careful to note, this is not really a textbook, it's a document of intercultural relations. Faced with differing interpretations of each pivotal event, readers are left to figure out the implications for themselves.

Although the essays are the main focus, I found the pictures and political cartoons to be just as instructive. They demonstrate firsthand the public opinions of the time and are usually much, much funnier. One such cartoon by Sydney Barron had the caption: "Don't turn the [cereal] box around that way, Ricky...you know your father can't stand all that French in the morning."

The essays themselves are all painlessly short, and while they include enough to give an idea of the issues, they aren't even close to being all-inclusive. For example, considering that the IRPP acknowledges the lack of a Native voice in the historical mainstream, I'm surprised that the section on Oka isn't longer. I guess the point is to go find out more myself.

This compilation is certainly not a definitive statement—it's more of a bicultural sound bite—but it does provide some very relevant background for the Anglo-French debate that characterises Canadian politics and culture. Despite the rosy idealism behind this book's concept, understanding the issues behind the resentment may be the only non-band-aid solution to Anglophone and Francophone Canada's relationship problems. *As I recall, Si je me souviens bien* is a good place to start.❖

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Kids who think they're rock stars:
talking to Kelly Jones of the Stereophonics

by Catherine Driver

Contrary to rumour, the Stereophonics' Kelly Jones is not related to Tom Jones. But before you put away that hot pink satin underwear you've been looking to get rid of, keep in mind that Kelly Jones is nonetheless, one sexy Welshman. He and the rest of the 'Phonics were in town this past Friday, co-headlining a Commodore show with fellow Brits the Charlatans. I expected to meet a larger-than-life rock star, but instead Jones was an unexpectedly down-to-earth guy.

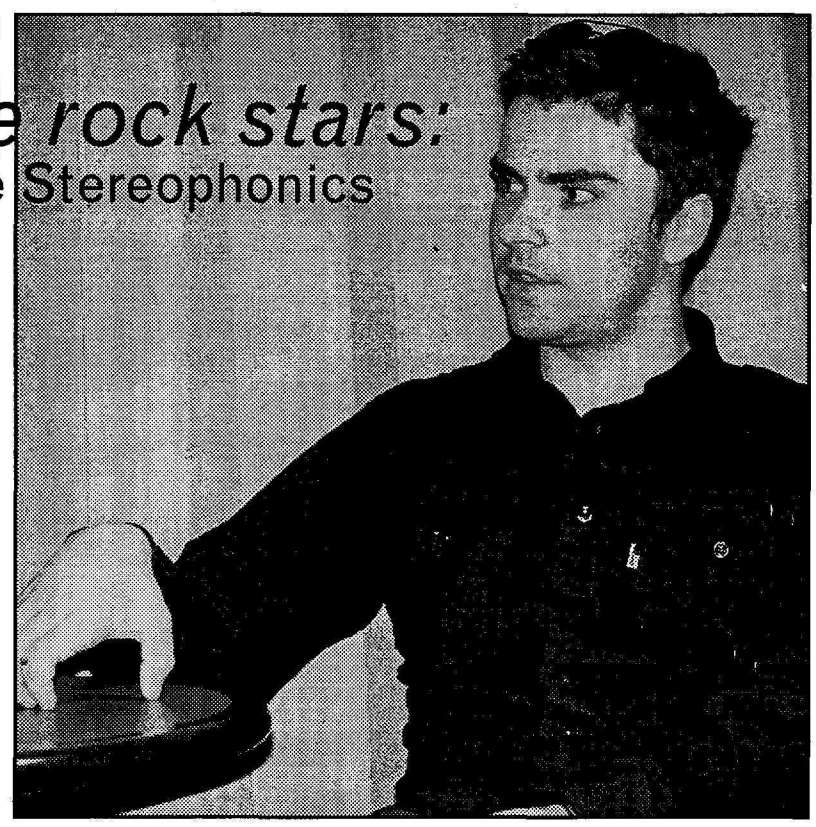
The Stereophonics are Kelly Jones on vocals and guitars; Richard Jones on bass, and no relation to Kelly or, for that matter, Tom; and Stuart Cable on drums. All three grew up together in the small town of Cwmaman, South Wales, and began playing together under the rather tragic name Tragic Love Company, a reflection of an early influence of theirs—a Canadian one in fact. A friend passed on a tape of the Tragically Hip to Jones and he became an instant fan.

"All we played was this and we liked it, and we just started doing cover versions and playing bars and stuff with these songs. From then on we just bought all the records we could find on them."

The band changed its name to the Stereophonics in 1996 (the name came from Stuart's father's old radio, which was called a Stereophonic) and that same year got picked up by former Virgin Records owner Richard Branson's V2 label. They released their debut album, *Word Gets Around*, in 1997, and followed it up two years later with *Performance and Cocktails*. The songs on the albums are good old rock 'n' roll, each telling a different story. Jones writes his songs as narratives, which are influenced by everyday life.

"[Inspiration comes from] different people, either stuff you experience or you see other people experiencing, watching films, travelling, meeting different types of people, seeing different places. Just funny stuff and sad stuff whatever. [I] just try to keep it as real, realistic and honest; the stuff that I've known personally, I've done, seen—try not to be too pretentious about it."

The Stereophonics have been extremely popular in the UK for the past three years. They have sold thousands of albums, been nominated for numerous Brit Awards (they won for Best Newcomer in 1998), and hosted a festival at Morfa Stadium in Wales this past summer for 50,000 ecstatic fans, but it is only now, with *Performance and Cocktails*, that they are gaining attention on this side of the Atlantic. The Stereophonics will be on tour with the Charlatans until the end of April, heading into the studio in June.



IT'S ABOUT THIS BIG: Welshman Kelly Jones of the Stereophonics describes his beautiful home country. DUNCAN M. McHUGH PHOTO

Jones remains humble about the band's popularity but admits to enjoying some of the opportunities which have come about through the band's fame, such as performing a duet with Tom Jones ("Mama Told Me Not to Come" from Jones' *Reload*) and meeting Paul McCartney.

"We met him [McCartney] at the MTV awards in New York. He was just such a down-to-earth guy, you know, telling us stories about how he used to hitchhike to Wales when he was a kid. And he'd heard of the band which, you know, Paul McCartney knows who you are is a bit strange, really. But he's a lovely guy, you know, to meet somebody like that who's been through it all, and Tom Jones, and come out on the other side and still talk to you like you're a human being rather than half those fucking kids who think they're rock stars. It gives you hope that there's something decent about the whole thing."❖

SPIN DOCTORS
Here Comes the Bride
[Universal]

It's been eight years since the Spin Doctors released their megaplatinum studio debut *Pocket Full of Kryptonite*, featuring the smash hits "Little Miss Can't Be Wrong" and "Two Princes." The Spin Doctors have yet to achieve comparable success with any of their subsequent albums. After listening to *Here Comes the Bride*, their latest attempt at revitalising their long-dead reputation, it's easy to see why.

The album is extremely ambitious and wide-ranging, but while it may do a lot, it doesn't do any of it well. Whether it's Jamiroquai-like grooves with Steve Miller-sounding vocals, attempting sunshine pop-rock à la Mark McGrath and Sugar Ray, or just playing straight-ahead, passive rock, the Spin Doctors' material all winds up sounding like a wide range of half-assed attempts. And indeed, all we end up with is crap—perhaps a wide-range of crap—but crap nevertheless.

But even worse than the bad material are the cheesy Z95 production effects: wailing sirens, amateur scratching, videogame sound effects, organ and choir bridges (not surprisingly, the band actually does play strains of the marriage song) and an extra annoying bit with an answering machine. In the end, it seems that the only purpose of these effects is to confirm listeners' nagging suspicions that yes, it can get worse.

Last August, it was announced that the Spin Doctors' frontman Chris Barron had been diagnosed with a rare form of vocal paralysis which rendered him unable to speak or sing for an indefinite period of time, perhaps even forever. Let's hope that during this unexpected hiatus, the band will learn how to do something that, unlike music, they can actually do well.❖

—Alicia Miller

CAT POWER
The Covers Record
[Matador]

The knock against Cat Power is that she only has two songs, the sad one and the slow one. Actually, she has others: the fast one, and the angry one, and, way back when, she played the fuzz-tone one. Not to mention the slow, sad one, and the slow, angry one. But whether she has two or five or whatever doesn't really matter, because they're all good. Really good, and she makes other people's songs better, slowing them down and saddening them up until they're just right.

On *the Covers Record*, Cat Power, also known as Chan Marshall, sings a dozen covers of songs, from the Rolling Stones to Moby Grape, and in the process has come up with an excellent follow-up to her last album, *Moon Pix*. Marshall, accompanying herself on guitar and piano, strips these songs down to their essentials, drawing out the melancholy and bittersweet in each of them. She breaks the songs apart and builds something almost unrecognisable, but often better than the originals.

"(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" loses its chorus, its main riff, and most of its tune; all Marshall leaves of the best-known song on the album is a sparse, brooding guitar line. All of Mick Jagger's cock-iness is gone, and Marshall's beautiful, schizophrenic drone fills the space it leaves. The Velvet Underground's "I Found a Reason," and Smog's "Red Apples" get equally good treatments.

Marshall seems to have stumbled across a sound she's happy with. On early albums such as *Darling Said Sir*, she's almost uncomfortable singing a good song, and sounds as if this is the last thing in the world she wants to be doing. But she's always been good with covers—her version of the Sonic Youth classic "Schizophrenia," on the b-side of the "Nude as the News" single, is one of her best-ever songs. And now Marshall seems to enjoy singing and playing—the songs are no less moody or sparse, but they're less bleak and dismal. *The Covers Record* is impressive and sad and great and a lot of other good words. And if you listen carefully, you'll realise that no one really needs more than two songs.❖

—Nicholas Bradley

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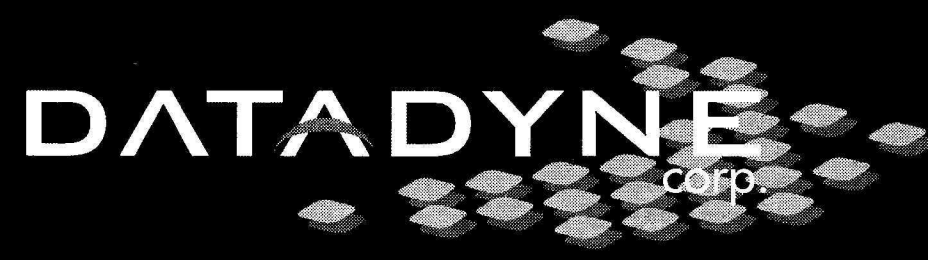

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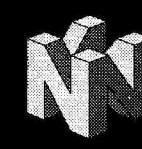

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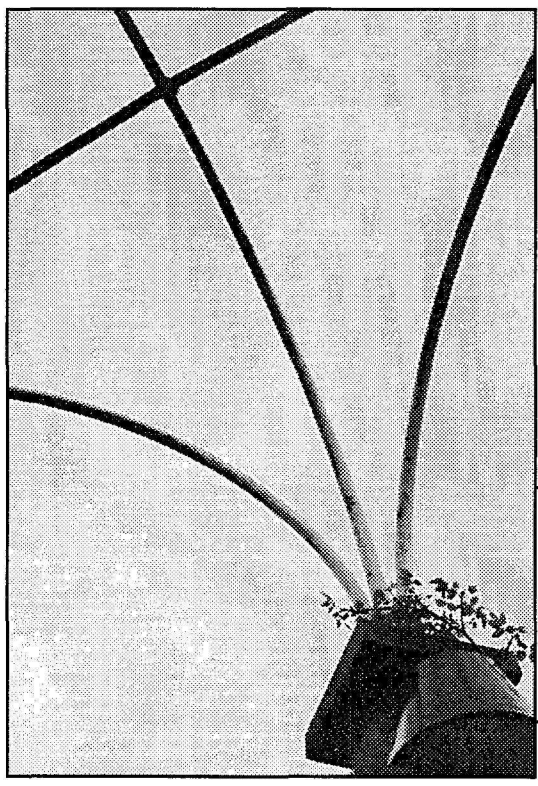
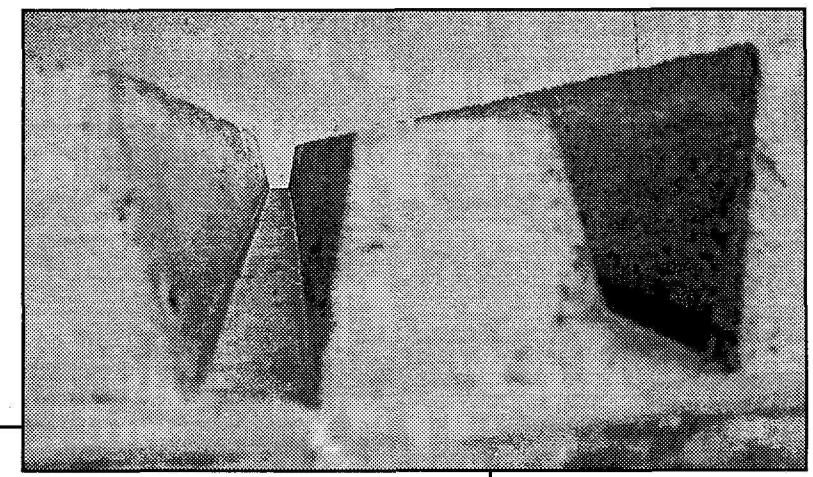
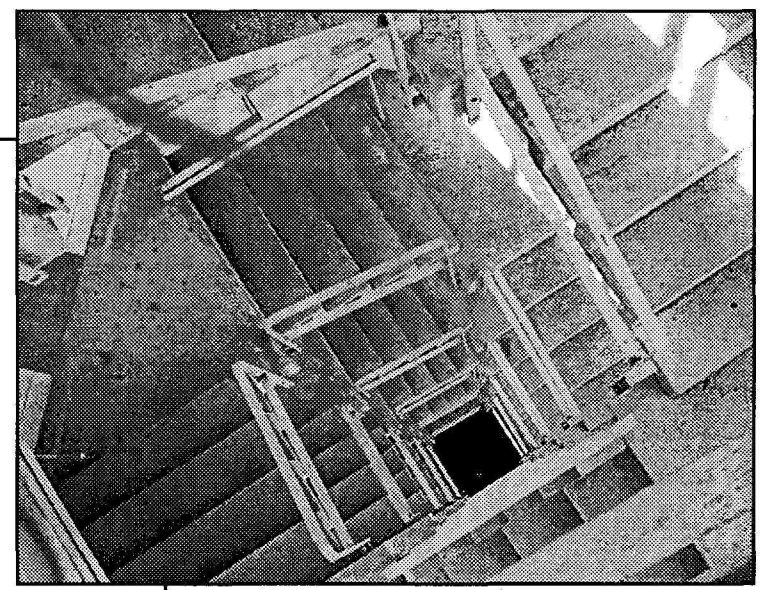
the where am i? contest

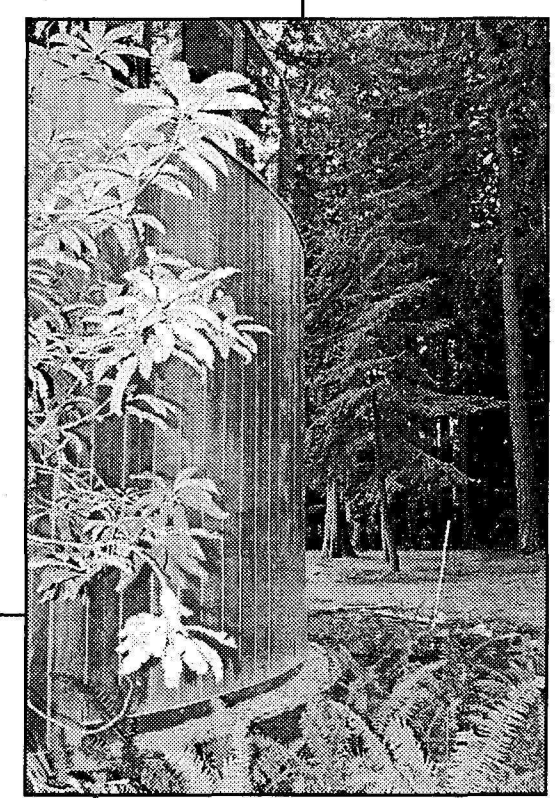


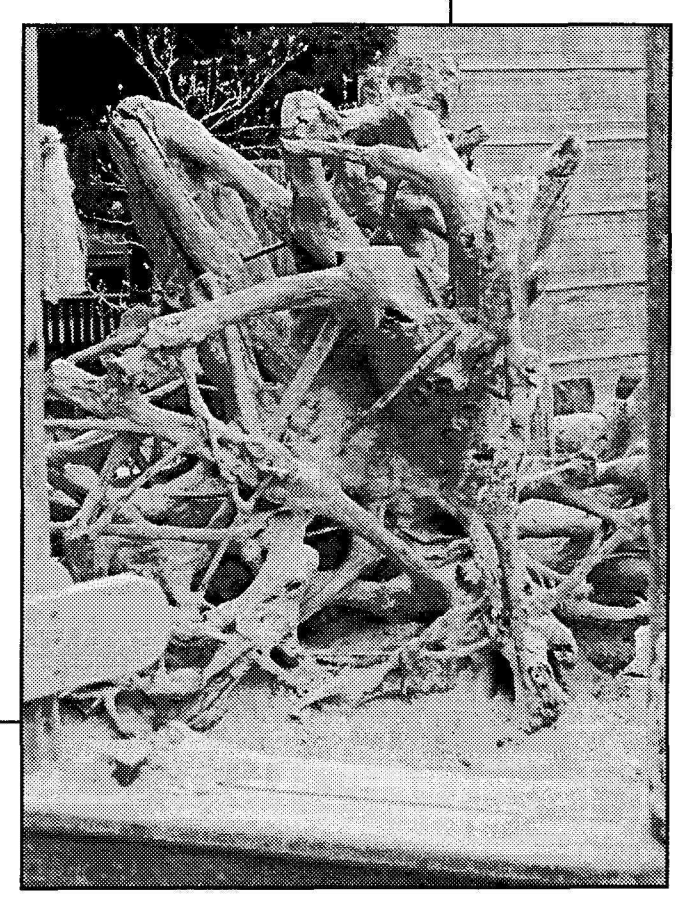
All of these photos were taken on the UBC campus. You may walk by them every day. In fact, it's probably safe to say that every single person on this campus walks by one or more of them every day. So where are they? What are they? If you know what these objects are and where they are on campus, then come to SUB room 245 and if you're right, you'll win an entirely random prize. You can't just say "it's over there, next to that building with the light," either.



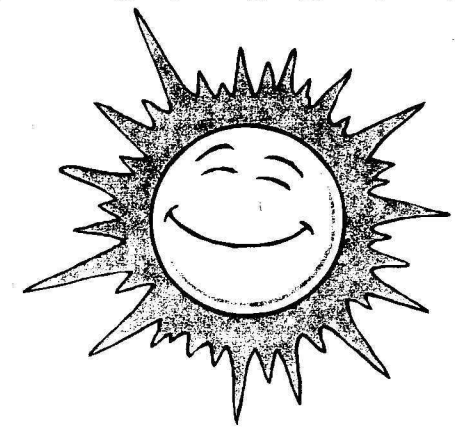
all photos by tara westover







Have a Great Summer!



After you polish off that last paper, there may be a few other things you need to do before kicking back and enjoying the rest of the summer.

The AMS has a few tips to help you get started:

Rent your place:

The AMS Rentsline has been helping students find off-campus housing since 1993. If you are looking for a place to live off-campus, searching for a roommate, or if you want to advertise a place for rent, the AMS Rentsline can help.

- **Students seeking housing** can call the Rentsline from any touchtone phone and listen to voice ads for free. Rental ads are categorized into different types and by location.
- UBC Students who want to **place an ad** on the Rentsline can purchase a discounted passcode at the SUB Box Office for only $5.00. Rental listings stay on the system for two weeks, and can be deleted early if you find a roommate or tenant first.
- Non-students can find out more information by calling the Rentsline at **714-4848**.
- If you need assistance, call Customer Service at 730-2010.

Find a job:

Joblink is UBC's student-run employment centre. We're here to help you plan your career, find out about jobs, and (most importantly) GET THEM. Operating year-round, JobLink offers a variety of resources to students, including:

- Job postings for on and off-campus jobs; part-time and full-time; temporary and permanent. You can find job postings on the Job Boards in the SUB, and online at the AMS website
- Free one-on-one resume and cover letter advising sessions.
- Resource library with books on all aspects of career-planning and job hunting

Joblink Student Employment Centre

SUB Room 100A ph 822-5627
joblink@ams.ubc.ca

Calling all volunteers!

Call for Student Volunteers who want to help with AMS First Week, UBC's Year 2000 Orientations Week.

First Week will run from September 4-10. Volunteers are needed to help run the many events that will be part of this week long party.

For more information contact Tom Booth; 822-9949 or services@ams.ubc.ca

Employment Opportunity

First Week Coordinator

Alma Mater Society of UBC

The AMS is looking for a First Week Coordinator to help organize our week-long orientations festival, from September 4-10, 2000. The First Week Coordinator would be a student position filled from May 1/2000 to September 1/2000 full time (approx. 35 hrs/week) and part-time from September 1 - September 15.

Renumeration approximately $7000 for this term.

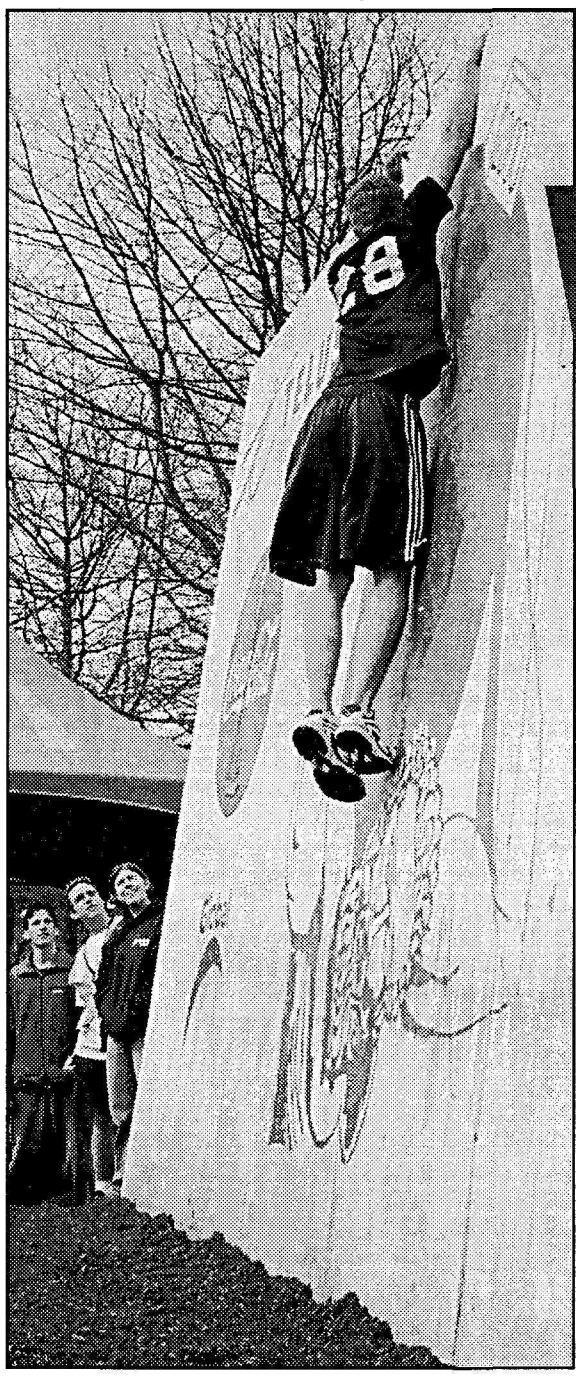
The responsibilities would include:

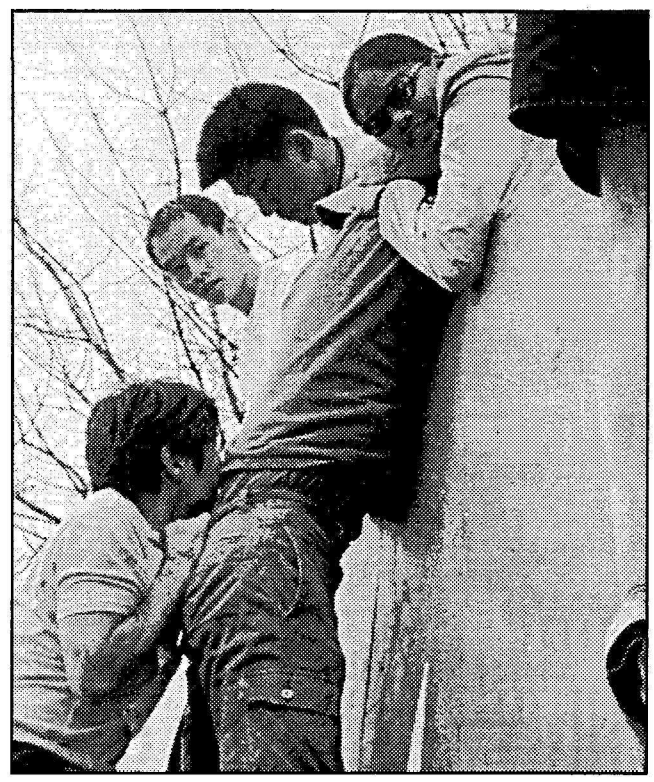
- Arranging for speakers, entertainment, performers, etc. as necessary with consultation from the steerage committee.
- Coordinating all marketing endeavors including mail-outs.
- Recruiting, training and coordinating volunteers and special staff for First Week.
- Supervising assistants during the final month of the summer and during the First Week events.
- Coordinating activities during first week.
- Securing all necessary rooms, equipment, power, security, etc. which may be needed for events during First Week.
- Overseeing First Week budget.
- Providing regular progress reports to the executives, communication to the steerage committee, as well as a final report to council.

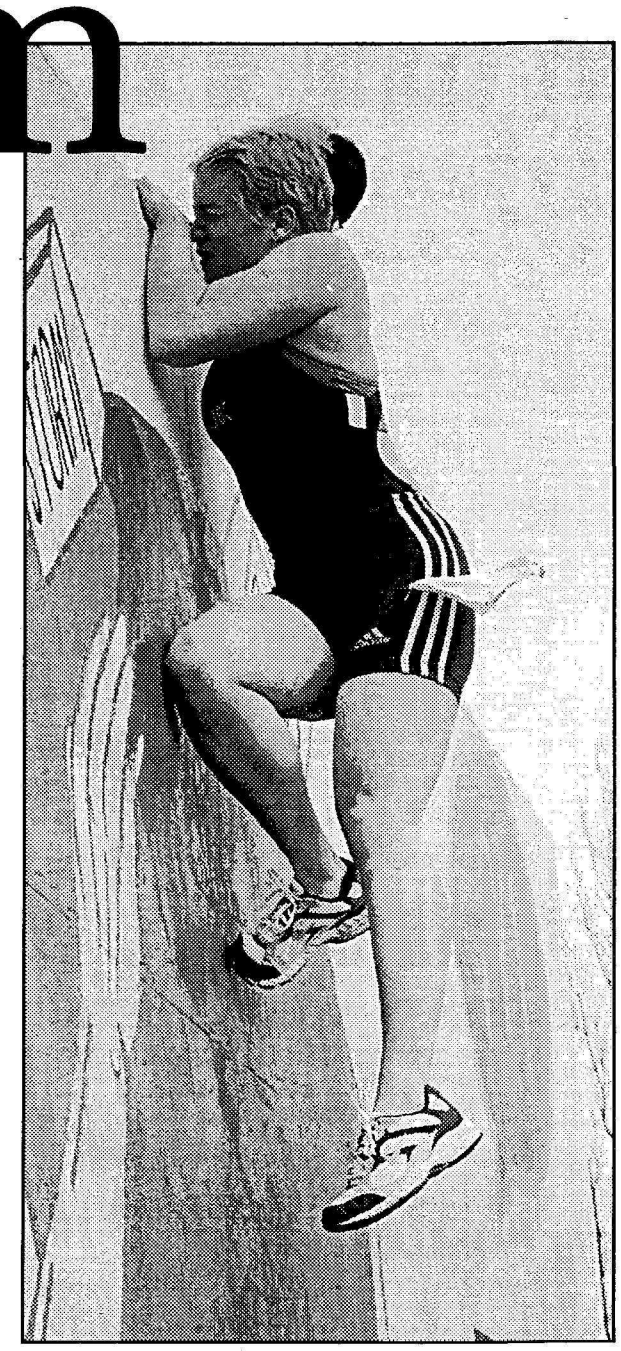
Applications should be addressed to:
Tom Booth, Executive Coordinator of Student Services
Room 260- 6138 SUB Blvd
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1 **Application Deadline: April 14**

For more information about the AMS check out www.ams.ubc.ca or email feedback@ams.ubc.ca

storm the wall







UP AND OVER: Super Ironman Mark Gallagher (left) was the first person to get over the wall unassisted since 1996. Ironwoman Sarah Tennant (right) scales the wall in the finals. In the Ironman competition, meanwhile, various strategies were used, including the infamous thank-god-he-wore-a-belt technique (above). BRUCE ARTHUR PHOTO (LEFT) TOM PEACOCK PHOTOS (ABOVE, RIGHT)

Start your job search here

YOUTHOPTIONS BC

If you're 15 – 29 years old,

check out Youth Options BC. There are more than 12 employment programs, including summer jobs, environmental work, volunteering in exchange for tuition credits, and work experience.

Last year, more than 20,000 young people found a position through **Youth Options BC**; this year, you could too. The jobs go fast, so start your **job search now!**

For information on programs, visit the Youth Options BC web site:

www.youth.gov.bc.ca

or call a Youth Options BC representative toll free:

1-877-BC-YOUTH

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology
Honourable Graeme Bowbrick,
Minister Responsible for Youth

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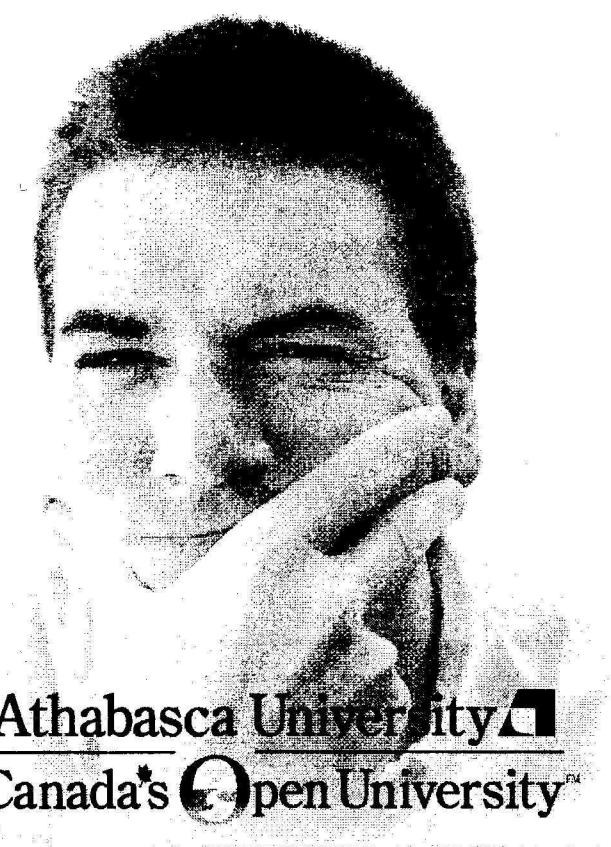

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CAROLYN MARK
Party Girl
[Mint]

Somewhere along the line, country music got to be popular. Not the plastic Top-40 country of Garth or Shania, and not the Wilco-led alt-country scene that was trendy a while ago, but something similar to the stuff your mom would make you listen to on the station wagon's crappy tape deck during family road trips somewhere on Vancouver Island in the mid-1980s, and that, at the time, you really hated. Maybe Carolyn Mark's mom wedged her in the back seat of a car and subjected her to the torch and twang, too, because this Islander's take on country is a document of her cross-country travels. And somewhere on the road, this music got a lot better than you thought it was when you were seven years old.

Maybe this kind of thing isn't, in fact, popular on any big scale, but there's at least some attention being paid to it. Neko Case's face has been plastered on the cover of music magazines and newspapers all spring, and the reviews of the former Emily Carr student and Maow drummer's new album, *Furnace Room Lullaby*, have all been glowing. And Case and Mark team up as the Corn Sisters, Toronto's Sadies have put out another strong record, and back in Victoria, the Buttless Chaps have been making a name for themselves in local music circles. Both Case and the Buttless Chaps get mentioned in the liner notes to *Party Girl*, Mark's first album, along with Dallas Good of the Sadies, as well as the Victoria bars she's been playing regularly; this album is one that's been made by a lot of people, scraped together in the homemade way that Mark plays and sings her songs.

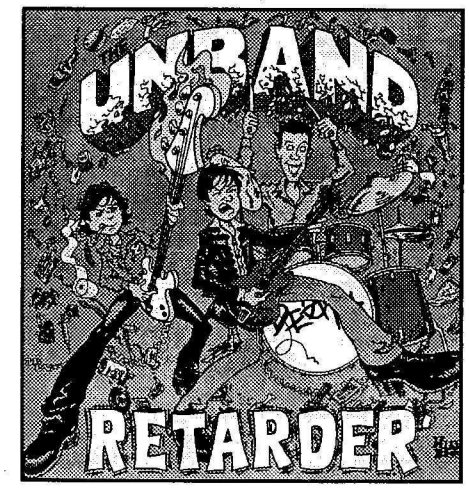
It's not a great first record, but it's not a bad one either. "Small Victory," which features ex-Eric's Trippers Rick and Tara White, is a really good song, and "Both Ways" is a catchy lo-fi tale of black hearts. Some of the lyrics fall into country clichés, and some of the songs sound too similar, but the general impression the album leaves is of a mostly drunken trip across Canada and back, bookended of course, by the pre-recorded voice welcoming you aboard BC Ferries, a voice all too well-known to Victorians. Mark has gone out and made a solid collection of her songs, and a few bumps on the road shouldn't take away from her efforts. Makes you realise your mom was right all along.❖

—Nicholas Bradley

THE UNBAND
Retarder
[TVT Records]

A Band or an Unband? What the hell is an Unband? A band that hasn't quite yet reached full banddom, or a band that won't ever be a good band or *the* Band—a fake band, a four-man conspiracy, a practical joke? Does a band become an Unband when it ceases to be relevant? Does a band strive towards Unbandness or avoid at all costs succumbing to the condition which is Unband? Does being in an Unband mean that you become an Unperson; someone that never ever really existed? Does an Unband write Unsongs, play Uninstruments, go to Unparties, eat un-cooked food?

What is the meaning of this new band called the Unband? They have an album called *Retarder* and it is heavy rock, good for driving, drinking (not necessarily at the same time, but maybe) and otherwise raising hell. The Unband look like a bunch of washed-up, middle-aged twenty-something college kids. No doubt they have hairy, pasty white beer-guts, black lungs, and stinky feet, though you can't tell that from the album sleeve. The Unband would like to thank AC/DC, Frankenorange, Nashville Pussy, The Strippers, Nonsense Ben, the cast of Le Fish, Sparks and the Tee-Tote-Lers, Dee Pop, B-Dub, Leggy Lizanne, SiouxZ, Heimytown, Tommy "the Cannon" Hanson, and a whole wack of other such notables. They have decided to sing about their favourite "Ski Hat," a "Cocaine Whore" they once met, how they always "Drink and Rock," and how they "(Sure do feel like A) Piece of Shit" sometimes. The Unband don't unrock. ❖



—Tom Peacock

Arts County Fair strikes back

by the Arts County Fair Committee

While we have greatly enjoyed previous *Ubyssey* "spoof" issues, this year's *"Old, White, and Straight"* was a disappointing break from your fine satirical traditions. As organisers of Arts County Fair, we are disappointed to see *the Ubyssey*'s mean-spirited alteration of the Arts County Fair poster in your recent *"Old, White, and Straight."* The poster [page eight], and accompanying write-up, implies that ACF is nothing more than a cash grab for TicketMaster, contains "third-rate acts," and costs $17.50 per ticket. This information is misleading to say the least; however, we hope that this is merely a result of *the Ubyssey* staff's lack of knowledge about ACF, and in this spirit, we would like to clarify a few points:

1. It is impossible to hold a concert for 15,000 people without TicketMaster, who charge a mandatory $2.75 per ticket as a "service charge." We've had a long-standing agreement with the SUB TicketMaster outlet to pay our guests' service charges ourselves. As a result, patrons buying tickets in the SUB do not have to pay this surcharge.

2. Past Arts County Fairs have included bands like 54-40, Econoline Crush, Matthew Good Band, Barenaked Ladies, and Great Big Sea. While we don't presume to dictate other's musical tastes, it is hard to argue that bands such as these (as well as Moist and The Watchmen) are "third-rate," as many of them are top Canadian album sellers.

PERSPECTIVE
OPINION

3. The $17.00 (not $17.50) price is only for the day of the Fair. The first 1000 tickets sold to ACF are only $11.00 each, and up until April 5 tickets are $13.75. This is to encourage early ticket sales, and not to "gouge" students who put off purchasing their tickets until the day of the fair. The term "gouge" is erroneous in itself, as Arts County Fair is arguably the lowest-priced event in Vancouver where you get to see five exceptional Canadian bands.

Each year, Arts County Fair donates over $25,000 to AIDS Vancouver and the Canadian Cancer Society, and in its nine-year history has donated a total of over $100,000 to both of these charities. This is made much easier by the literally thousands of hours of unpaid labour put in by our staff of student volunteers. While it is not our place to tell you what to write, we wonder if it is reasonable or fair for a UBC publication to crudely attempt to ridicule an event which gives so much, not only to two worthwhile charities, but to UBC students in general?

What is most surprising to us was *the Ubyssey*'s choice not to change the name of Arts County Fair in any way in their "parody." Not only is the resulting poster slanderous, but it makes us wonder why, while all the other "spoof" advertisements in the "Old, White, and Straight" had their names altered, ours was left unchanged. At the very least, we think *the Ubyssey* should apologise for this oversight.

—This letter was signed by all 22 members of the Arts County Fair Committee. See related correction page 2.

Transit Service Adjustments

Starting April 10, 2000

Between now and 2005, TransLink's draft Strategic Transportation Plan calls for over $1 billion in capital investments to expand your transit system. More service, more vehicles, more comfort. In an ongoing effort to meet your transit needs, TransLink adjusts service schedules four times a year. Please check the sources listed below for more detailed information about your specific transit routes:

SCHEDULES ON LINE: www.translink.bc.ca
See the "What's New" page for a complete list of changes

NEW TIMETABLES: Available at City & Municipal Halls, Chambers of Commerce, Libraries & Travel InfoCentres

CUSTOMER INFORMATION: 521-0400

THE BUZZER: Pick up the March 31 edition onboard buses, SkyTrain and SeaBus

TALKING YELLOW PAGES: 299-9000 #2233

Routes in your area with improved service:

25 *Brentwood/UBC (L)*
49 *Metrotown Station/Dunbar Loop/UBC (L)*
99 ***B-Line:*** *Lougheed Mall/Brentwood Mall/ Broadway Station/UBC (BL)*
480 *Steveston/UBC –* ***will now run throughout summer!***

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the ubyssey

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2000
VOLUME 81 ISSUE 48

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We are an autonomous, democratically run student organisation, and all students are encouraged to participate.

Editorials are chosen and written by *the Ubyssey* staff. They are the expressed opinion of the staff, and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Ubyssey Publications Society or the University of British Columbia.

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Letters to the editor must be under 300 words. Please include your phone number, student number and signature (not for publication) as well as your year and faculty with all submissions. ID will be checked when submissions are dropped off at the editorial office of *The Ubyssey*, otherwise verification will be done by phone.

"Perspectives" are opinion pieces over 300 words but under 750 words and are run according to space.

"Freestyles" are opinion pieces written by Ubyssey staff members. Priority will be given to letters and perspectives over freestyles unless the latter is time sensitive. Opinion pieces will not be run until the identity of the writer has been verified.

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

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Vancouver, BC. V6T 1Z1
tel: (604) 822-2301 fax: (604) 822-9279
email: feedback@ubyssey.bc.ca

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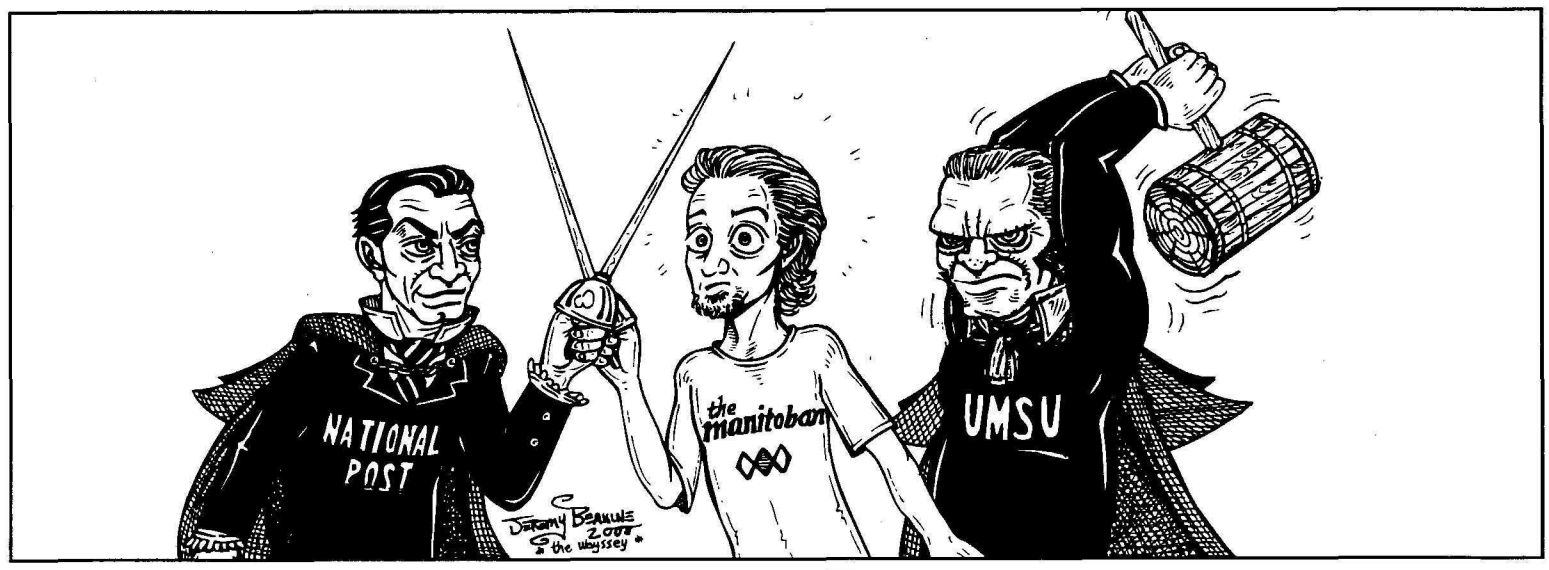

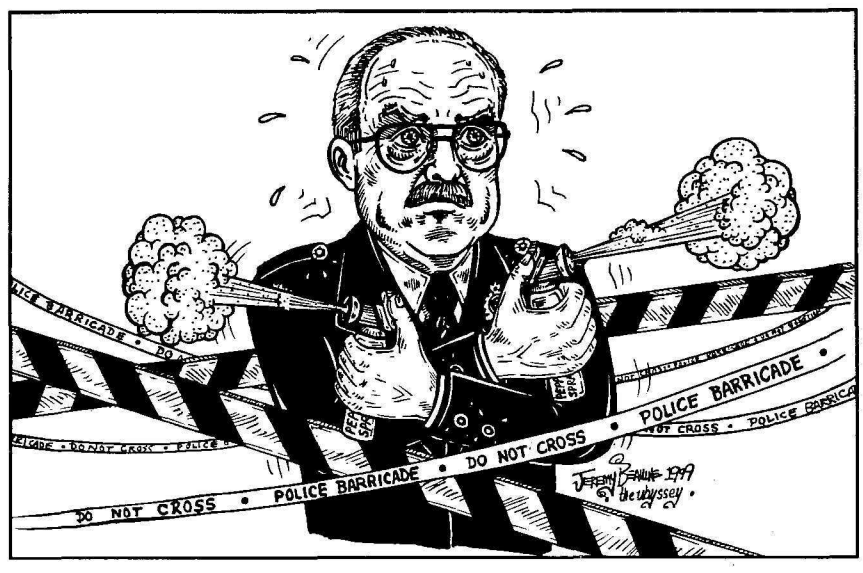

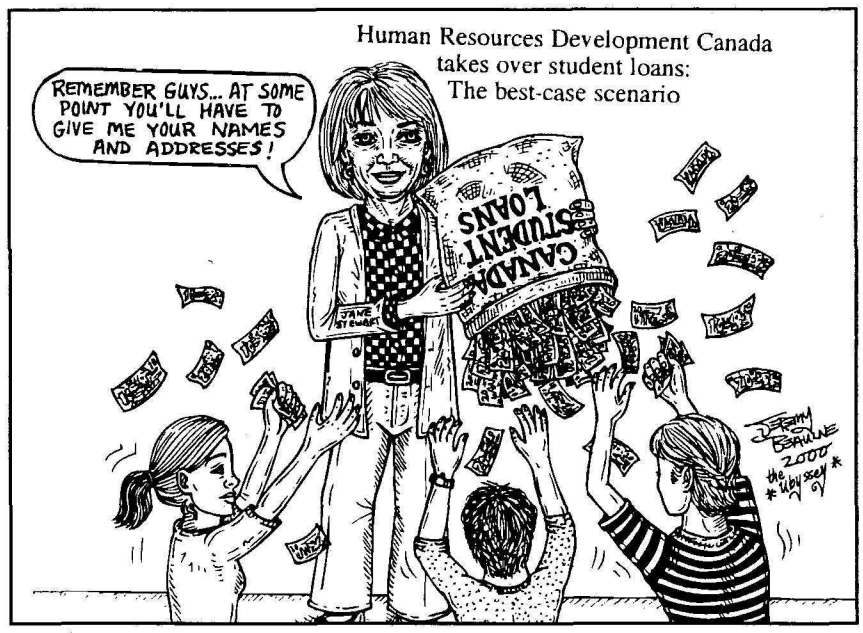

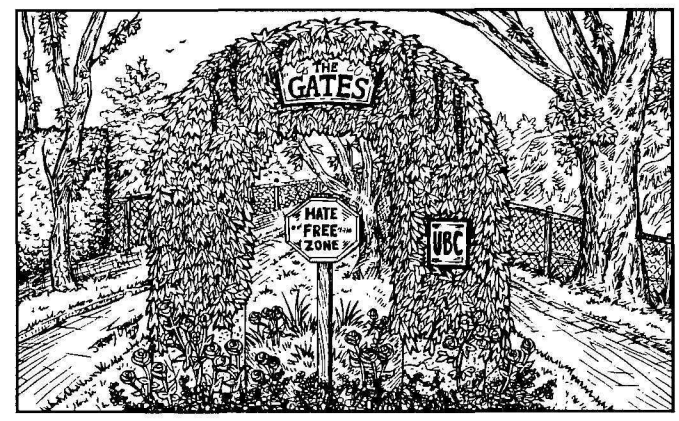

The best of Jeremy Beaulne 1999/2000

A Year's worth of contributions

Jonathan Abourbih announced the bad news to Emmanuel Adjei-Achampong, Greg Amos, Barbara Andersen and the rest of the crowd. "The end is nigh!" he yelled. Terror descended upon humanity. Naomi Angel and Lisa Arnold burst into tears, clutching Bruce Arthur's coat. Coby Asiedu hid in a bunker, along with Gordon Au, Margaret Bain, Brooke Ballantyne, and David Banks, hoping vainly that the end of the world could be avoided underground. Bruce Banner, on the other hand, decided that he might as well enjoy his last few days alive and set about planning a party at Federico Barahona's house. Everyone was there: Andy Barham, Jeremy Beaulne, Jeff Bell, George Belliveau, Justin Berger, Laura Blue, and many, many more. Syvi Boon converted to Catholicism, Jesse Boparai to Buddhism, Tanya Boteju to Judaism, and Laura Bracken to Islam; they didn't go to the party because they wanted to stay home and pray. Even Nicholas Bradley repented of his sins. Dev Britto and Shane Bryant went looting in order to express the freedom that impending death allows. Emil Burdett laughed gleefully as he burned the house that Dannis Chan, Drew Chao, Kar Yan Cheung, and Lawrence Chew all lived in. Natasha Adda Chin also marvelled at the lack of consequences and went off to rob a bank with Jo-Ann Chiu and Joe Clark. Julie Colero professed her undying love for Deirdre Crampton, but was shocked to find that Russ Davidson, Lisa Denton, Junie Desil, Alex Ditmson, Manuel Dobles, and Julian Dowling had already done the same. Jessica-Ann Dozois tried to spend her life savings and go to the South Pacific to face the inevitable doom, but Patti Edgar refused to sell tickets, as pilots Thomas Egli, Julius Elefante, Maureen Evans, Neil Fernyhough, and Fuzzy all refused to spend their last days working. Jenn Gardy held a workshop with key-note speakers Holland Gidney, Katy Gilliam, Flora Graham, and Teya Greenberg who all discussed how the dinosaurs must have felt. Kevin Gurr read Craig Hasbrook's book on the subject and Karmen Ho wept. Vanessa Ho, Merillee Hughes, Melissa Hungerford, and Deno Hurst took the bus down south to meet James Hvezda, their favourite actor. Meanwhile, Sara Irvine, Stephen Irving, Aisha Jamal, Eric Jandciu, Gurpreet Singh Johal, Nicola Jones, Jen Johnston and some NASA staff, including David Jurasek and Stephanie Keane, all worked on building a space ship that could carry them and their families away. Naomi Kim, Heather Kirk, Caroline Kirseborn, Amanda Kobler, and Susanna Kong all gave up on the project realising it would never be completed in time, and instead decided to join Richard Lam, Vincent Lam, Ryan Landels, Jannine Lasaleta, and Doretta Lau who were dancing in the streets. Cynthia Lee, Paul Leung, and Brian Lin all kept their businesses open because they did not believe the end was upon them. But even though the profits were huge, their companies' accountants, Thomas Lindner, Michael Liston, John Little, Andrea Lobo, Joni Low, and Dale Lum refused to keep the records. Glenda Luymes, Erin Kaiser, Calum MacConnell, Jeff MacIntyre, Brian MacLean, and Mark McDonald continued working too, but only because they loved their jobs so much. Alana McFarlane stole Jo McFetridge's boat and went sailing with her best friends from kindergarten: Cherilyn McKay, Rich McKay, Clayton McKee, Edward McKenzie, Duncan McHugh, Aly McMeans, and Mark Magdaluyo. Hilary March and Nyranne Martin sat on the dock and sulked because they had not been invited, while Glencora Maughan and Daliah Merzaban tried to console them. Alicia Miller went for a long walk on the beach with Claudine Allison Montes. Cat Moore wrote letters to all the people she had forgotten about before, like Eve Moreau, Sarah Morrison, Kara Mosher, Michelle Mossop, and Jenn Neilsen, even though she knew they would never get them. Sara Newham spent her last days reading poetry by Lisa Niemetschek, Che Nolan, Kat Norris, Ron Nurwisah, and Christian Obeck, while Coralie Olson and Simon Owen wrote their own. Harmohanjit Singh Pandher, Tom Peacock, Vital Peeters, Mwalu Peeters, Anna Peled, and Rob Peters all tried to convince people to join their respective cults, but only Stephanie Phillips, Billie Pierre, Irene Plett, and Kyra Pretzer were swayed. Most people, including Doug Quan, Richelle Rae, and Gabby Resch, just laughed at them. Jen Riley decided to marry Jamie Robinson while David Roh left Joyce Rosario to join David Rott in Monaco. Andrew Rowat, Helenna Santos, Anthony Schrag, Martin Schoebel, Erin Shaw, and Todd Silver all drank themselves stupid, while Daniel Silverman, Vashti Singh, Matthew Smith, and Fiona Steele preferred heroin. T.R. Stevenson went bungey-jumping and Melanie Streich took Superdude skydiving. Fara Tabatabai, Amit Taneja, Elizabeth Taron, and Nicola Taylor all figured it wasn't worth the hassle and just went home to sleep. Kim Thé apologised for hurting Wah Kee Ting so many years ago, and Jaime Tong and Miriam Torchinsky applauded. Stanley Tromp dropped the charges against Michael Ursell and Greg Ursic, thinking it was better to live and let live, if only for one more day. Wayne Van Der Meide, in contrast, decided to tell Charlene Wee, Laurie Weir, Daryl Wener, Tara Westover, and Andrea Winkler just how much he really hated them. Graeme Worthy and Jerome Yang decided to gorge themselves on the cakes that bakers Aaron Yip, Alannah Young, and Sara Young had been making all week for the famous Regina Yung's birthday. And as the world ended, Brian Zeiler pondered how the universe must have let off a huge sigh of relief, but he was wrong; he had overestimated the world's significance.

Many thanks to "a hero"

I am writing in hopes that the kind young lady who assisted me when my wheelchair called it quits on a ride along the north side of the 16th avenue pathway will read this. I had forgotten to take my cell phone along and can't imagine what I would do sitting there in my wheelchair without any power. Along came Vicki who offered assistance and proceeded to push me and the heavy chair back to Hampton Place where I live. It was a huge undertaking for her, but she struggled and we made it most of the way. When I just couldn't let her continue, for fear she would injure herself or be late for her appointment (and I had to take some responsibility for being unprepared), I used the chair to lean my body weight on and pushed with my legs the short distance home. As I approached the turn into Hampton Place there was Vicki waiting to make sure I made it okay.

What a hero. I didn't ask her for any of her information other than her name and faculty but, after calming down and getting safely home, I wish I had. The faculty she named was Kinetics and she was in third year. She wasn't a very big lady to take on pushing a big lady in a very heavy wheelchair.

The last and most embarrassing part of the story was phoning the repair service for wheelchairs. The gentleman asked me to describe what had happened in detail and so I told the story of rolling along the paved path and bouncing along the cracks in the tree roots at regular intervals, some much larger than others, but many in groups, and when scaling the final one I was airborne and dropped to the pavement and the chair stopped dead—no power. He then asked if I had looked around the chair at all and of course I hadn't, so he asked me to look for a connection on the side of the batteries, which I did, and there were two connector parts undone—no power source. I easily pushed them together and wowee it worked like a dream again (and saved a needless service call).

I didn't make it to the shops as I had intended, but it proved to be a day I will never forget—especially the part Vicki played in it. What a special lady you must be and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. IOU big time. Yeah UBC!!!!

Jacqueline Tupper
Hampton Place

PhD student corrects Mozambique article

by Emma C. Kishindo

Some misinformation about your Mozambican story [Mar.17]:

May I begin by thanking you for showing some interest in a country like Mozambique which would not have received any attention in your paper had it not been for the fact that it was making such headlines all over the place that you could not afford to ignore it. My reason for writing, however, is to bring to your attention some facts which were not correct which appeared in the article "The destruction of Mozambique" by Deno Hurst [Mar.17] in the *2000 Race is still the issue*. My suspicion is that these facts were incorrectly reported because of their racial implications, which I feel makes this response necessary. It is necessary because I am aware that your readership has a very limited access to news about Africa and therefore, it is very important that the people who can volunteer to educate them do so. This would ensure that the little information your readers have on Africa is as accurate and up to date as one can possibly make it. An item such as you carried on Mozambique is a commendable effort on your part, but I believe you are also obligated to ensure that your articles are as accurate as possible so that you provide your readers with an accurate picture of the continent and her people and not just half-truths.

There are three issues I would like to respond to in this article. First, the author says that "With no bordering countries willing to accept the growing numbers of refugees, this population became ducks in a pond for hunters with sub-machine guns." He makes this statement with reference to the 17 (he says 15)-year civil war that started soon after Portugal gave independence to Mozambique in 1975 and ended in 1992. This is a half-truth because, while South Africa refused to take any refugees from Mozambique, Malawi took in more than one million refugees who stayed in Malawi until after the war, with some refusing to go back now after the war. Yes, it was no secret that South Africa shot (and still kills) anybody caught trying to cross the border illegally, even now with the flood problem. These, I suppose, are the only people that Hurst refers to "as ducks in a pond for hunters with sub-machine guns." Any environmentalist who visits the places where the Mozambican refugees lived in Malawi cannot fail to wonder whether it is not the responsibility of everyone to stop mass movements of people even within the same geographical region, given the extent of the ecological damage that Malawi is suffering as a result of hosting so many refugees in a country that is already overpopulated.

Secondly, Hurst calls Mozambique the poorest country in the world. Again this is not true. It is *one* of the poorest countries in the world. The African Development Report (1997) (a World Bank report) shows more than six African countries with much worse gross domestic product (GDP) than Mozambique for the year 1995. Malawi is one of those countries behind Mozambique with a GDP of $1.375 billion (US) and a growth rate of 1.4 per cent against Mozambique's $1.527 billion and a growth rate of 4.6 per cent. 1999 estimates put Mozambique's growth rate at more than ten per cent while Malawi was estimated at just over five per cent. I would not consider these facts very important in themselves were they not closely connected to the third point I found disturbing in Hurst's article—not reporting the assistance neighbouring countries like Malawi, with all her poverty, gave to Mozambique during the floods.

In real terms, Malawi and South Africa have to be acknowledged as the real heroes during the four week battle against the floods in Mozambique. More so for Malawi for sparing her two only spare helicopters to help save lives in Mozambique. There are countries in Africa and the world with much more complicated military outfits and a lot more to spare who waited too long before going to Mozambique to save lives. I think this should have been mentioned in this article because I don't believe anybody in the West can imagine a whole national army having only two helicopters and still being able to respond to a neighbour's call for help without any thought of what would happen to her army if those two helicopters went missing in action. This is even more important to mention because the news of disasters in Mozambique travelled to the rest of the world in less than 24 hours. The Western rich capitalist countries who regard themselves as guardians of democracy and human rights took more than two weeks before announcing their sophisticated aid packages for a situation that needed a bunch of helicopters to save life first and sustain that life later with food, clean water and medicines. The West literally waited for most of that life to cease before bringing aid to sustain those lives that were too stubborn to perish. And Hurst doesn't see the need to mention this? Why does he find it easier to dwell on historical injustices committed by Westerners in Africa and ignore the fact that the West still does not seem to feel inclined to respond quickly to the problems in Africa as they would in Kosovo or some place where the race involved is very much like their own?

Anybody who followed the events in Mozambique knows that you can't ignore the work that Malawian soldiers with their two helicopters did to save lives in Mozambique. At least the South Africans had fought and could go back for more if they saw the need. The least that the West could have done would have been to give the Malawian and South African soldiers more helicopters so do the job faster if they did not want their soldiers to do that kind of work. A few helicopters from their armies would not have wiped out their entire airforce budget the way it did with ours. (You probably would have given us something you didn't want/use anymore, anyway). For us in Malawi, unlike the West, we have nothing to choose from, nothing to plan for, nothing to save for. We can afford to give our neighbours 100 per cent support in times of distress because we do not plan for wars. We can't afford wars unless some Western government persuades us to buy their weapons of mass destruction so we can kill each other. I, of course, realise that Western journalism is all about putting the Western world in a good light, showing us in the Third World how much you still care about us, how the guilt you suffer from all those years of colonising us and exploiting our natural resources makes you feel partial towards us. But you could do us a favour by also recognising how our own efforts to get back on our own two feet are being forever frustrated by your new institutions of slavery and colonialism such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. These are still committing more serious atrocities against the peoples of the Third World than the Western world cares to admit.

By the way, have you heard about the African Children's Choir? They are actually in Vancouver right now and I had a chance to attend one of their performances which they performed in St. Helen's Anglican Church on West Eighth and Trimble. I believe it was one of the most lively musical performances I had ever enjoyed in a long time and I was truly proud to be an African. I was very happy to hear that they are raising money to help themselves and other children back home in Uganda and Rwanda who are victims of AIDS and the Rwandan genocide until they told us that these kids have been on the road for 17 months. Now. Seriously, isn't this a form of child labour? Seventeen months on the road raising money and they are still not through yet! And these are children, some barely six or seven! Is this not slave labour, to be precise? These children have no say about what they are doing or how it should be done. They have been brainwashed to believe that they can't have a decent life at home in Africa because they are orphans. They work their young bodies and voices to death to raise money for their organisers to travel the world over in the name of helping poor African children. Why can't these organisers use school dropouts for this kind of fund raising? There are plenty of school dropouts over the age of 16 or 18 who are orphans in Uganda and Rwanda who would be happy to be on the road for this long. These would have a say on what they are doing and would choose what to do with their lives when the fun is over.

When a similar problem was discovered in Romania, nobody in the West suggested making Romanian children work for the aid that was being sent to them. Can you imagine anybody suggesting that as a way of helping out Canada's poor children? And what I find most unethical is that these kids have been told to say "NO" to adoption. Why should they be forced to say no to staying where they like best? If they were 18 or older they could decide to defect from their masters and remain in any country they had visited that they liked. These kids can't. They are like circus animals who are kept for the sole purpose of making money for those who care for them. We know from watching the young Cuban boy, Elian, on television how such children feel. I feel these children are being robbed of a normal childhood, something that the West could never accept happening to any of their children regardless of the circumstances of their birth. I do not see how these children, whose lives have been so disrupted by war and AIDS and now by someone conceiving of this fundraising venture which keeps them on the road for many months under God knows what conditions, could ever grow up into normal adults in their own countries. Any suggestions as how to help these poor souls?❖

—Emma C. Kishindo is a PhD student from Malawi in the Centre for the Study of Curriculum and Instruction

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SATURDAY, SUNDAY & HOLIDAYS
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MAYDAY BREAKFAST
$3.99

streeters

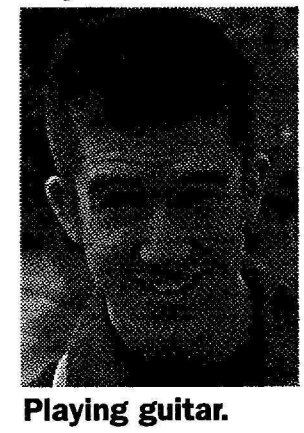
What is the most creative way to alleviate year end stress?

Exercise...Exercise and liquor.

—Todd Knutson
Arts 4

I sing and annoy people.

—Chris Lam
Arts 1



Playing guitar.

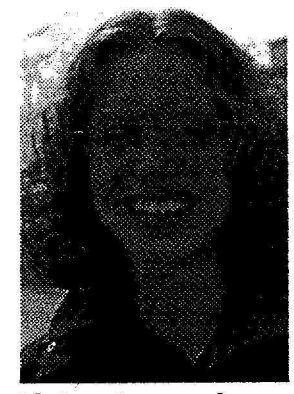
—Tyler Miller
Science 3

Going for walks with people.

—Gordon Macleod
MA Music

I listen to one of my worship songs from Church.

—Sandra Gin
Arts 1



Listen to music really loud and jumping around.

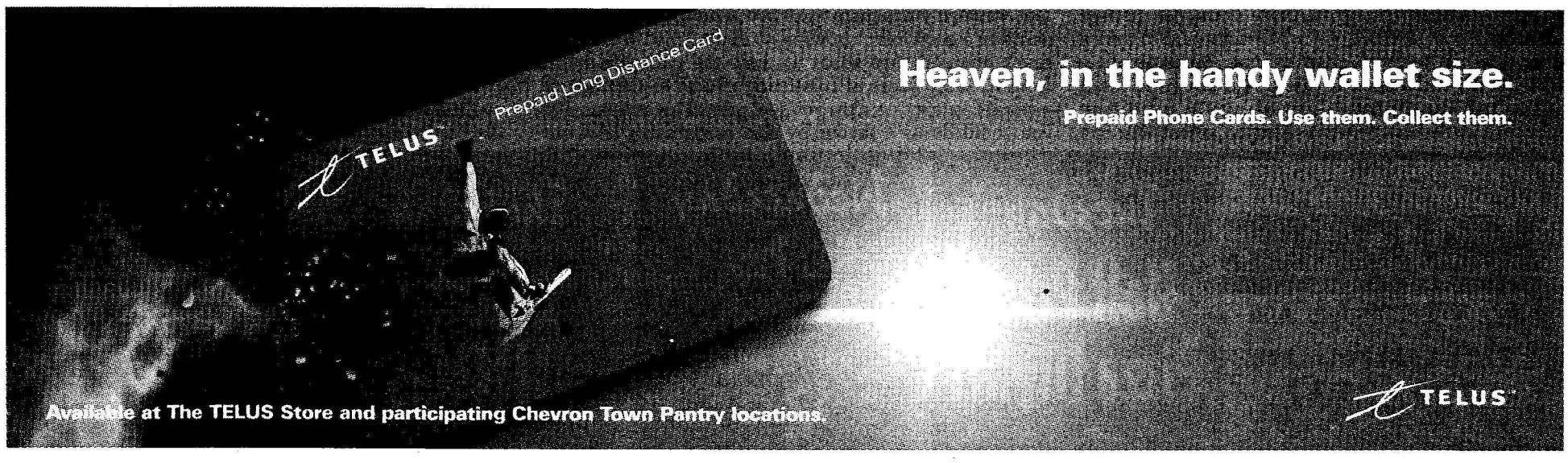
—Deanne Leyenaar
Science 3

Veg in front of the television.

—Samantha Fu
Music 3

Listen to music really loud.

—Jennifer Harrington
Science 3

I make crafts and stuff. I also cut my hair.

—Jen Sunday
Science 3