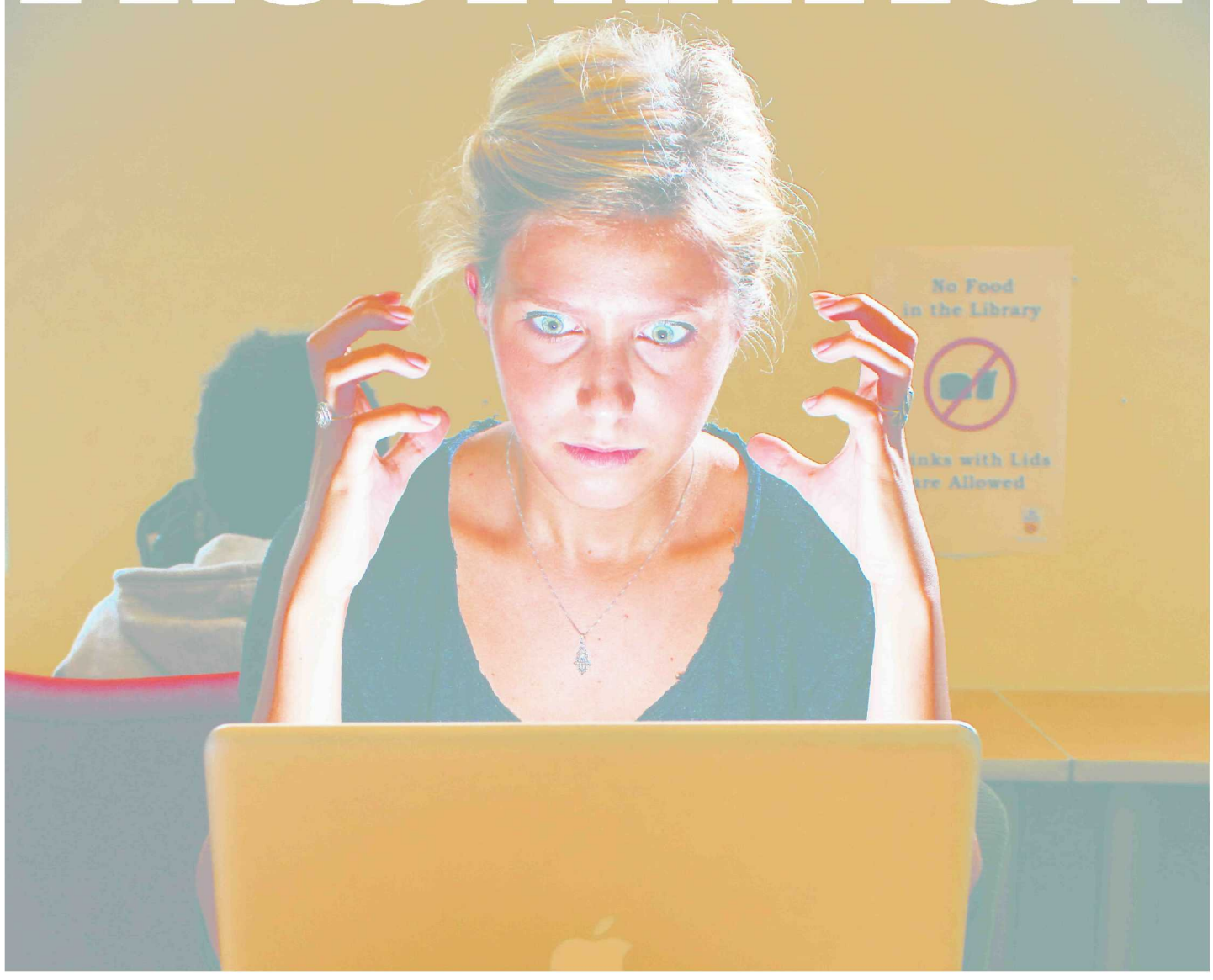
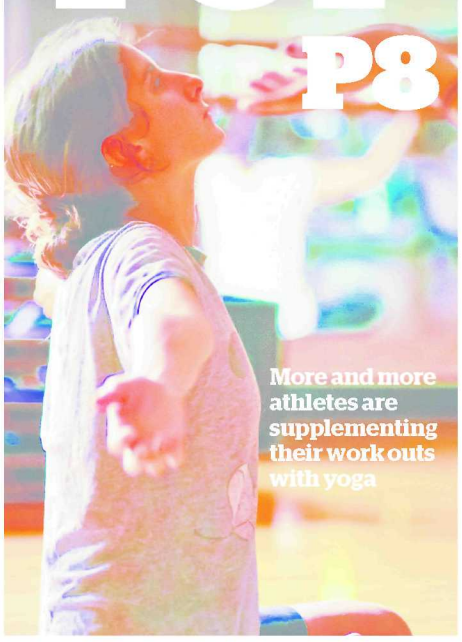
THE UBYSSEY

WIRELESS FRUSTRATION



REACH FOR THE TOP

P8



More and more athletes are supplementing their work outs with yoga

MAN FALLS OFF CLIFF

Emergency crews called to Wreck Beach

P3

Our Campus

One on one with the people who make UBC

Rick Chung: professional partier

Rick Chung

Want to get involved with the Ubyssey?

Write
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SUB 24, FOLLOW THE SIGNS

TAXES »

Tayyar: HST rollback a "pain in the ass" for taxed AMS businesses

Andrew Bates
Senior Web Writer

For AMS businesses, implementing Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) and revamping all of their inventory was a pain. Now the switch back to the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) and Goods and Services Tax (GST) system means businesses will have to jump through all the hoops again.

"Going back and forth definitely doesn't help us," said AMS VP Finance Elin Tayyar. "It's a pain in the ass."

The HST, which has briefly replaced the GST and PST, was announced after the 2009 provincial election and implemented on July 1, 2010.

A public initiative campaign led to the HST's repeal this August as British Columbians voted to extinguish it in a binding referendum.

"It's just a lot more work. There's definitely an air of uncertainty for everyone," Tayyar said. "It's scheduled to be January 2013—the rollback—and we're not sure if that's going to be back to the same system or if we're going to have a different tax, whether or not HST is going to change."

According to AMS director of finance Richard Hester, it will require reintroducing complexity to the process. "We've just implemented a new POS system, so we're going to have to recode all of the items in all of our outlets to break them up into GST/PST," he said. "So at the moment, they're all nice and simple...and we don't know at the moment what the exemptions are going to be."

According to UBC tax law professor David Duff, the HST, which did not carry the PST's exemption for restaurant meals, likely had an effect on the types of food service jobs students often rely on—but the situation may not improve.

"Of course, if you put a tax on an industry that wasn't taxed before, there's going to be some effect," he said. "[But] I'd be skeptical that getting rid of the HST is going to create some kind of boom in the restaurant industry. It's not clear that down the road, the PST will never apply to restaurant meals. Those things might change," said Duff.

Duff felt both sides in the HST controversy were a letdown, as bad tax politics produced bad tax policy—and price increases due to the HST are not expected to disappear.

"I don't foresee price decreases, to tell you the truth. If there's any savings from HST, cost of goods are going up, so we'll just maintain the prices instead of raising them," he said. "That's something for future generations of executives and our businesses, in general, to worry about."

EMERGENCY »

Man falls off cliffs at Wreck Beach

Andrew Bates
Senior Web Writer

An unidentified man appearing to be in his 20s fell off of a cliff between the Museum of Anthropology and Wreck Beach on UBC campus at approximately 1pm on Monday, September 12.

Wreck Beach-goers Ryan Fletcher and Noel Farrand were the first people on the scene. "I was just getting settled down there, at the beach, I heard a noise, I put my head there and I saw the body go down," Fletcher said. "He was unconscious at first, and not for very long, and then we called for help."

It was Farrand who called the police. "It was pretty clear from the beginning that it had to do with his leg, because he was kind of moving around, but there was part of his leg that wasn't moving."

BC Ambulance called Joint Rescue Coordination Centre Victoria (JRCCV) and hovercraft were called on scene. The man was found on the beach in "rough shape."

At 1:17pm the man was conscious, forming full sentences but was in a great amount of pain. Emergency services were loading him onto a spine board for transport.

At 1:35pm, JRCCV told *The Ubyssey* that the man was being transported by hovercraft to meet ambulance services for further transport to Vancouver General Hospital. His injuries were considered serious, but not life-threatening.

According to Farrand, the quick response by emergency services, which took about 30 minutes, made dealing with the incident much easier.

"Not having to do any intensive first aid's always a relief, just because you don't know someone's full injuries, or what's going to happen," he said.

"So it was nice to have people come from all directions, EMTs, fire department, keep him conscious. Keep him breathing, not moving too much."

Fletcher, a publicist, had never had to deal with such an emergency incident before. "You did well," Farrand told Fletcher.

Farrand, a tour guide and staffer at the UBC Ropes Course, had some experience. "I've done it a few times, not tons, more than I'd like to," he said. "You never want to be a part of that, right?"

Farrand noted that many people in the UBC community come to the cliffs.

"The poor guy, he's 20 years old, he just got to school, probably," he said. "A lot of people come to these cliffs at UBC, and we just want them to be safe, and careful about what they're doing."

—with files from Arshy Mann, Geoff Lister and Kalyeena Makortoff

GEOFF LISTER/ THE UBYSSEY

An emergency response team lifts the injured man onto a Coast Guard hovercraft.

BIKES »

Bike shelter to be built in chemistry courtyard

GEOFF LISTER/THE UBYSSEY

Dominic Lai
Contributor

UBC is set to build yet another secure bike shelter—an improvement to bike racks already on campus. The stand-alone facility, to be located in the chemistry complex, features a secure area for 55 bikes, with lockers available for users to store their gear.

Construction on the project will begin around November and will wrap up before the April exam period.

"The intent of these types of facilities are to help remove some of the barriers of cycling," said Carole Jolly, UBC's director of transportation planning.

"One of the barriers we know is a concern is around theft. By providing secure bike parking facilities, we are removing a barrier."

The facility will be open to students, faculty and staff who have registered at the AMS Bike Kitchen, which is the proccess for all secured campus bike cages.

The chemistry bike shelter will join seven existing shelters at UBC. Two more are in development.

However, each one is slightly different.

"Outside it'll look pretty industrial—metal and concrete, but as you walk in, the entire ceiling will be wood with no significant exposed structure," said Ian Ross McDonald, the associate with Bruce Carscadden Architect Inc., the company that is responsible for the shed.

The shelter also has a planned rainwater receptacle that will divert water from the drains. The lockers will be made from recycled plastic.

First-year science student Daniel Chao said, "I think it's a great idea overall. The building's going to be a great addition to the area and I'm planning on really using it once it's done instead of the regular bike racks."

News briefs

Gage South petition launched

A group of students led by *UBC Insiders* editor Neal Yonson have launched a petition to designate Gage South, the area currently comprised of the bus loop and MacInnes field, as "academic" land. Its current designation is "land under review," which has raised concerns that UBC will eventually develop the land for non-student housing.

"Gage South is surrounded by public, student-centric amenities...areas [that] are considered academic and are part of the area that UBC considers the 'heart of campus.' Non-student housing is neither public nor student-centric and therefore does not fit in with the character of the surrounding area," wrote Yonson in a blog post.

The online petition is linked through *ubcinsiders.ca*.

UVic students take action for more public transit

Some students at UVic are tired of seeing full buses pass them by.

While the Victoria Regional Transit Commission met on Tuesday, September 13, UVic students simultaneously launched the Passed Up? transit campaign.

Year after year, students are getting left behind at the bus stop during peak hours, said UVic Student Society chairperson Tara Paterson. Students need to have reliable bus service to be able to make it to classes on time. BC

Transit has many innovative ideas to improve service, but they are held back by the lack of funding coming from the provincial government.

Over the coming months, students will be contacting Minister of Transportation Blair Lekstrom to call on the BC government to help BC Transit with an injection of new funding from the carbon tax.

Stabbing on UBC-O campus

Kelowna RCMP have arrested eight people in connection with a stabbing incident that took place early Saturday morning at UBC's Okanagan (UBC-O) campus.

RCMP responded at 1:29am and found three male victims with life-threatening injuries.

Seven men and one youth have been taken into custody as part of the RCMP investigation. Police are recommending charges of aggravated assault and possession of a prohibited weapon against six of the men.

The other male could face two charges of aggravated assault and assault.

Four of the seven arrested are UBC-O students. One of the victims is a UBC-O student.

GEOFF LISTER/ THE UBYSSEY

The Chapman Learning Commons has no books but provides computers and study spaces for students. UBC is rethinking the role of the library in a university education.

UBC working to move libraries out of the 1990s

Tim Chow
Contributor

When people first walk through the doors of Toronto's downtown reference library, there's a good chance they're going to take note of the liquor licensed "salon" before they see the books.

And the trend of turning libraries into social spaces is not reserved to that reference library.

Like the liquor-serving Toronto library, UBC libraries are evolving from places of books to places that support different learning styles and digitization of information.

Just a quick glance at Koerner Library and Irving K Barber Learning Centre (IKB) shows how libraries are evolving on campus.

"Koerner represents a different time, back in the early 90s where the model for learning was that formal learning only happened in the classroom from professors, then students go away and learn by themselves," said Simon Neame, director of IKB.

"The university recognized that learning has evolved to include social and group learning," Neame continued. "For some students, learning happens from each other during group work rather than from professors during lectures."

Jo Anne Newyear Ramirez, associate university librarian, recalled a time when she passed through the basement level of Koerner Library to find that students had rearranged study carrels to facilitate group study. "IKB tries to support social learning with open spaces, and tables and chairs that easily move around," Neame added.

The implementation of the new group study spaces in IKB was not without challenges.

"The benefits certainly outweighed challenges [but] we do ask students to contribute to maintaining the space, such as cleaning up after [themselves]," said Neame.

Other libraries on campus are also updated to provide spaces to accommodate different learning styles. The newly renovated garden level in Woodward Library provides spaces for group learning. New libraries in the Sauder School of Business and the Faculty of Law will provide a mixture of quiet and group study spaces.

Digitization of printed materials freed up a lot of space for group study spaces, but don't expect printed materials to become extinct at UBC.

"It is currently in a state of transition," said director of library digital initiatives, Allen Bell. However, printed materials no longer need to sit on open shelves, thanks to innovations such as the automated storage and retrieval system in IKB.

"The demand for printed materials is still strong," Newyear Ramirez added. "People still want to be able to refer to the original material [in case] some materials do not come through when digitized."

The general bustle surrounding the study spaces at IKB shows the group spaces have been a success.

Michelle Schumacher, a fourth-year undergraduate student majoring in international relations, finds the group study spaces useful.

"If there is stuff that I do not know about and I know that other people have a solid grasp of the material, I prefer to do group study," she said.

But that doesn't mean that the quiet dungeon-like stalls of Koerner will disappear just yet.

"If I know that I know the [information], I'll go study by myself," said Schumacher.

Neame said that IKB will preserve silent study areas to some extent. "[IKB] strives to provide environments to support a range of learning styles, including group study spaces and quiet study carrels."

Program brings North Korean profs to UBC

Will McDonald
Contributor

A new program designed to promote engagement between Canada and North Korea will be bringing six professors from North Korea to study English and economics at UBC for six months.

"It's a very tentative program. It's the first time it's been done. We're not sure where it's going. Even at the very worst, we're going to learn things. There doesn't seem to be any downside to it," said Stephen Owen, VP External, Legal and Community Relations for UBC Public Affairs.

"It might turn out to be a very positive thing, it might be a bust and something that isn't continued. But I don't think we can lose on it."

The program, which is called the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Knowledge Partnership Program, is directed by Kyung-Ae Park, the director of UBC's Centre for Korean Research.

The names of the professors have not been released, but they are experts in their respective fields of macroeconomics, taxation, international trade and finance at Kim Il Sung University and Jong Jun Taek Economics University.

They arrived at UBC in July and spent the first two months of the program studying English. According to UBC Public Affairs, in addition to taking courses on economics and management, the professors will conduct research projects with faculty advisors.

"The desire is not to prop up a regime in North Korea, but to open up a country...we have so few lines of communication that the universities and our civil society groups can do things that the government can't do," said Paul Evans, UBC's director of Asian Research.

According to Evans, UBC has had a history of academic exchanges with North Korea since the 1990s.

"There's a certain confidence that has been built up over history in exchanges and that's part of the reason that North Koreans feel this is a good place for exchange," said Evans.

Although academic exchanges between Canada and North Korea have occurred in the past, this is the first program of its type to be held at UBC.

Evans also commented on the potential of the program.

"If we can see some indication of a more open conversation, genuinely, knowledge being built on both sides through this and the other events, that's a modest but important step forward in trying to end the isolation of North Korea."

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WEB LIFE»

Everyday I'm hassling

Hasslers.org will get on your case

Andrew Bates
Senior Web Writer

Sometimes you just need someone to hold your feet to the fire to get your paper in on time.

Gordon McGladdery wants to be that man. A 27-year-old musician from Victoria, McGladdery founded *Hasslers.org*, a peculiar type of internet startup that eschews automation for the personal touch.

Hasslers is a motivational service where you sign up with a goal and your contact information, and one of their qualified hassling associates—though currently, McGladdery is the only one—contacts you at the appropriate time and gently prods you until you get the job done.

"You've had days, I'm sure, where you've spent the whole day at the computer, and then all of a sudden, the day is gone and you've kind of wasted it, and you feel bad," McGladdery said. "We all need outside motivation, I think. Friends don't want to do it because they want to hang out, and you hate it when your family does it."

Hasslers can afford to be politely firm. "If someone ignores a hassle that they've requested, first of all, they're ignoring me, which is kind of rude, and people don't like being rude. And I think you also have to consciously process that you're ignoring your own advice," he said.

"I had one girl who wanted to be hassled to sew her jeans five days in a row," McGladdery said. "I called her the first time, she said, 'No, I can't do it today, I'm organizing a party,' and I asked her if it was a jeans-sewing party."

The human element is what separates Hasslers from notifications and organizational software, according to McGladdery. "It's harder to ignore a person than it is to ignore a machine."

INDIANA JOEL/ THE UBYSSEY

Now you can pay someone to do what your mom used to do for free.

Currently, the service is free in its testing stage, but McGladdery plans to introduce a sliding pay scale based on magnitude, where the first hassle is free and the next nine are 89 cents for text messages and $1.19 for emails or phone calls.

When the service started a month ago, it raced to forty users, but it generally shakes down a steady client base of around 10-15 people.

"I've had three people who wanted to just get hassled for exercise, and it worked out well for them," he said. "I had one guy who wanted me to call him three times a week and tell him to do something useful. The last time I talked to him, he had just bought an accordion, and he was going home to practice his accordion."

Need more?

The "SnūzNLūz" Donation Alarm Clock takes hassling one step further. Using your Wifi connection, the clock connects to your bank account. Every time you hit the snooze button, it donates a designated amount of money to a charity you hate. ***thinkgeek.com***

BURLESQUE»

Burlesque performers twist and shout to the Beatles

Catherine Guan
Contributor

Some pairings are simply classic. Think champagne and caviar, port and Stilton, or perhaps Gewurztraminer and choucroute.

Local musician Blue Morris is proposing an addition to this time-honoured list: the Beatles and burlesque.

The sexiest vixens of Vancouver perform burlesque numbers set to live performances of Beatles hits. Choreographer and performer Miss Fitt said it best: "What could be hotter?"

Beatles Burlesque returns to the Anza Club on September 19 after a sold-out show in April. "At the time, I didn't realize how popular the idea was going to be," band-leader Morris recalled. "As soon as the tickets went on sale, it was crazy."

"I think for people who haven't seen a burlesque show, it might have opened the door for them, knowing that they would really enjoy the music," speculated Miss Fitt.

Miss Fitt, among her numerous endeavours, is finishing her BA in psychology at UBC. So, how did a psych major become a modern day Zeigfield girl?

"I gractually grew up as a dancer and I was also in musical theatre," she said. As for burlesque, "I could picture the corset-and-stocking aesthetic." Then she performed alongside Burgundy Brixx, who invited her to go-go dance at the Biltmore's famed Kitty Nights. According to Morris, Miss Fitt is now the "go-go queen" of Vancouver burlesque.

For Morris, the inspiration behind becoming a burlesque band-leader was, well, rather odd. "It was when I saw the movie *The Odd Couple*," he said. The character Felix, played by Jack Lemmon, entered a dance bar where a live band was accompanying the go-go dancers. "I saw that and I was like, I want to play in that band."

A self-admitted eccentric, Morris remarked on the "accepting atmosphere" of the burlesque community. "Burlesque is different from some of the other physical art forms, such as conventional stripping," Miss Fitt explained, "because anybody's body type, appearance, regardless of age or weight, is equally celebrated."

Joining them at this edition of Beatles Burlesque are Max Lazurus and Eric Rasmusson of the Valuables, and MC Chai Tea.

Morris called being able to perform the Beatles hits in this show "a dream come true." Miss Fitt agreed. "It's the same band, but their range of music allows for a range of burlesque styles."

Among the performances is a sultry fan dance by Miss Via Rose to "Blackbird" and an edgy "Helter Skelter" routine by Melody Mangler, one of the most celebrated burlesque performers in Vancouver. Miss Fitt herself is doing a number to "Drive My Car." "I'm a traffic girl who wants to be a star and there's lots of glitter involved," she said. "Lots of glitter."

After a pause, she added, "It's very sexy. I don't think I mentioned that."

Fringe reviews

RED

Written and performed entirely by Sebastian X Samur, an MA student in the University of Quebec's theatre program, *Red* is a perverse retelling of Little Red Riding Hood. And it is exceedingly funny.

It's not an especially complex piece of work. The performance highlights Samur's profuse physical acting abilities. At the beginning of the show, audience members are given bells which, at given times, may be rung, at which point Samur will shift between playing either Red or the Wolf.

It's a fun way of integrating audience participation into the performance, and readily provides audience members with an opportunity to be excessively pernicious to the performer. Moreover, it is immensely amusing to watch how each character interprets the body position which was previously occupied by the other.

Samur's ability to contort his body and convey posture is exceptional. It is remarkable that, almost entirely through the use of exaggerated facial expressions and physical gestures, he is able to maintain the momentum of the performance while consistently provoking laughter; only basic video and music editing compliments his actions.

—Rhys Edwards

Giant Invisible Robot

Giant Invisible Robot–written and performed by Jayson McDonald–is an engaging comedy with weight behind it.

Robot gives us a glimpse into the mind of Russell—a man who reads comics, bites his nails, and is shy around the opposite sex.

The man's only friend is an invisible robot, a machine programmed for "atrocious and spontaneous acts of violence". Despite its instinct to destroy cities across America, the mechanical monster resists the urge to squish the lonely Russell. Companions for years, the two social outcasts experience the highs and lows of life together.

As the play wanders from the perspective of one character to the other, the audience glimpses the psyche of a child and the realities of growing up in an unhappy household.

McDonald gives an exceptional performance, utilizing the power of laughter to capture the viewer's heart. He masters both the swagger of Captain Victory and the allure of the attractive woman from upstairs.

McDonald is entirely convincing of his characters and their imaginary world. This charming tale is filled with much laughter and a small dose of heartbreak.

—Rheanna Buursma

COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Fruitcake is a dark and funny look into life in the psychiatric ward.

Fruitcake

Rob Gee is certainly no Nurse Ratched.

The slam-poet turns his eleven years as a psychiatric nurse into a tangy confection in *Fruitcake: Ten Commandments from the Psych Ward*. Over the hour-long one-man show, Gee makes the rounds and exposits on the hilarity of insanity.

Gee is a capable wordsmith and makes his excursions into verse with ease. His anecdotes–sometimes bawdy, sometimes horrifying–invite more wry amusement than knee-slapping laughter. Each chapter begins, with a voice-over "Commandment" from God–who apparently is female and drawls in a Jamaica accent. Gee's storytelling was unnecessarily restricted by the structure. The musical number ending the show should also be reconsidered.

While the only kind of humour concerning mental patients is the inappropriate kind, Gee's affection for his former wards is evident.

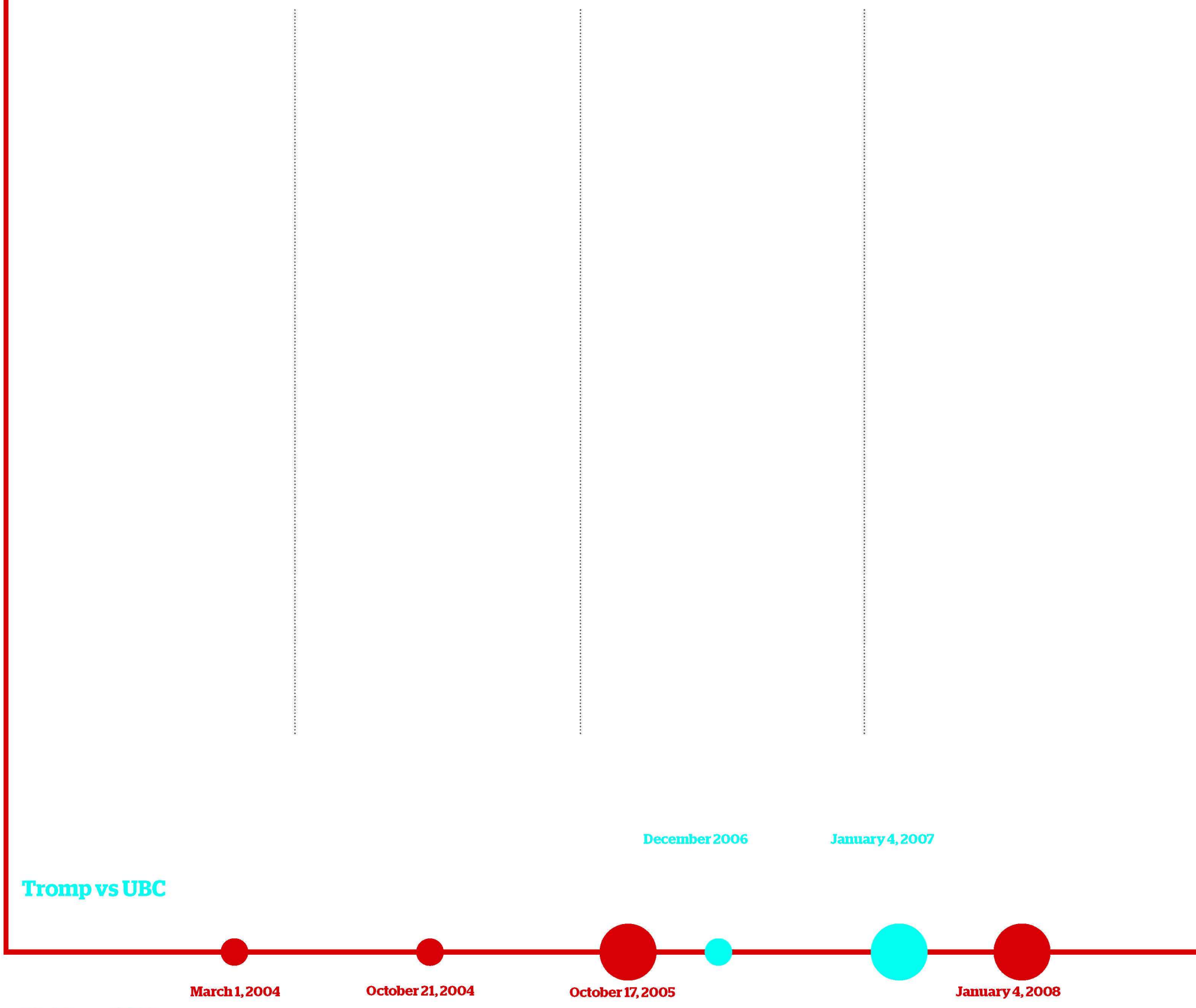
The broad physical comedy is tempered with touches of poignancy.

Years in a flawed health system encouraged a healthy serving of skepticism, but he never lost his empathy or sense of humour. This is a man who stared into the abyss and thought it winked back at him.

—Catherine Guan

Request Denied

How BC universities are fighting to keep their billion-dollar corporations out of the public eye



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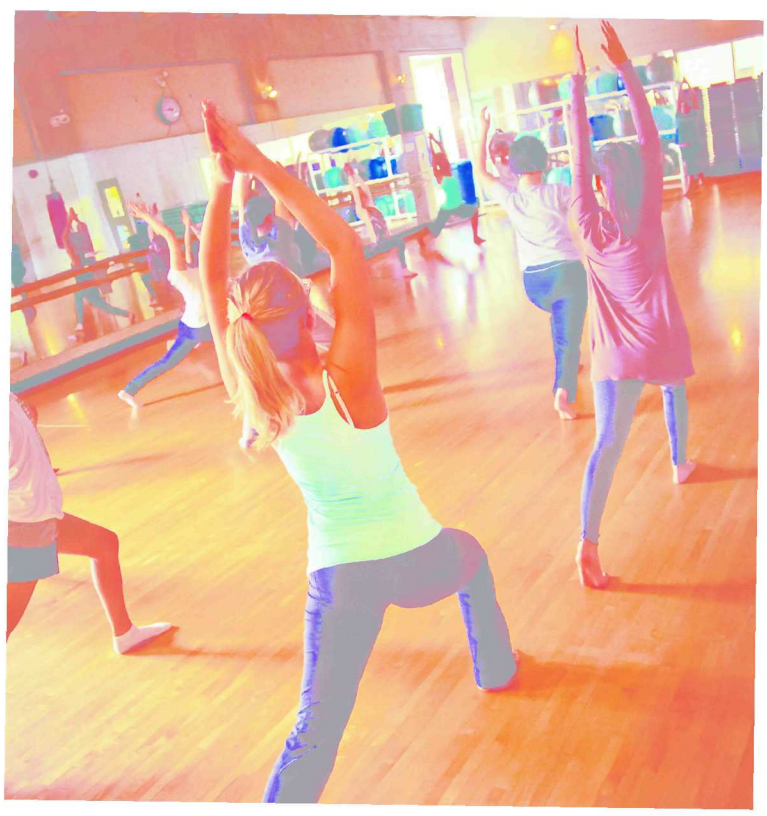

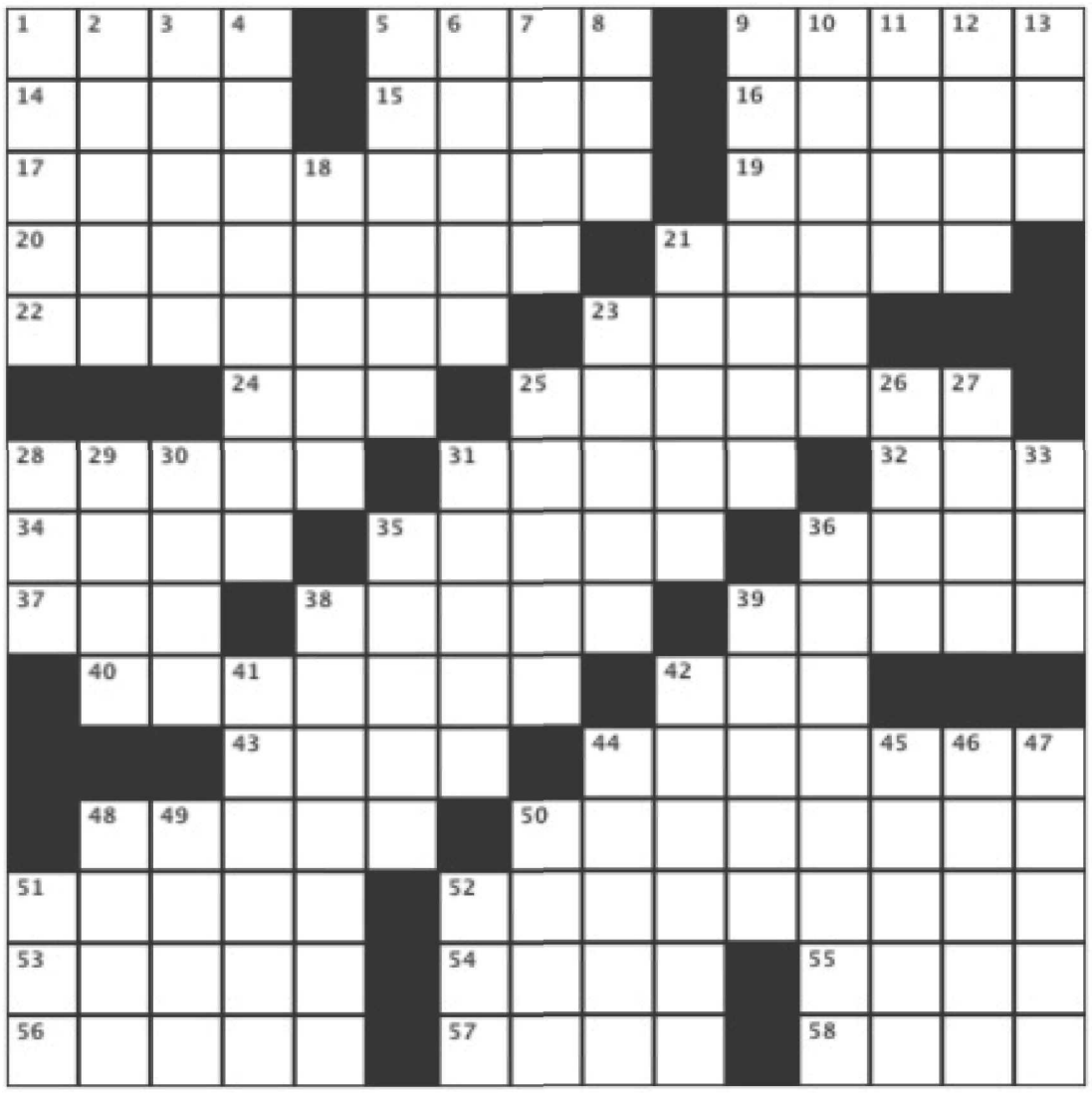

(CUP) — Puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com. Used with permission.

Down

1- Battery terminal
2- Eurasian juniper
3- That is, in Latin
4- Salt of tartaric acid
5- Debt that remains unpaid
6- Seashore
7- Rules
8- Coffee container
9- Radiance
10- Self-centered person
11- Make _ for it
12- Cancun coin
13- Sault _ Marie
18- At the bottom of the barrel
21- Answer
23- Animal life
25- Congo, formerly
26- Ages
27- Crew needs
28- Half a fly
29- Peter Fonda title role
30- Combustible matter
31- The Hindu Destroyer
33- Negative vote
35- Passes over
36- Fistulous
38- Generally
39- Perfidious
41- Combines
42- The Dog Star
44- Put away papers
45- Locations
46- Halts
47- Eagle's nest: var.
48- Alley
49- Organization to promote theatre
50- Empty
51- Puppeteer Baird
52- ___-mo

Across

1- _____ were
5- Legal rights org.
9- Harvests
14- Zilch
15- Crowd sound
16- Everglades bird
17- In debit
19- Drench
20- Trouble
21- Thick-skinned charger
22- Beg
23- Dues
24- Cabinet dept.
25- Cuban dance
28- Bunches
31- Waterfall
32- Campaigned
34- Swerve sharply
35- Glossy
36- Skater Lipinski
37- Shoebox letters
38- Director Kurosawa
39- Kitten
40- Hard to define
42- Prefix meaning "beneath"
43- California wine region
44- Skill
48- Dens
50- Masculinity
51- African language group
52- British lower-court lawyer
53- Chip maker
54- In ___ of
55- French military cap
56- Buy alternative
57- Probability
58- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto)

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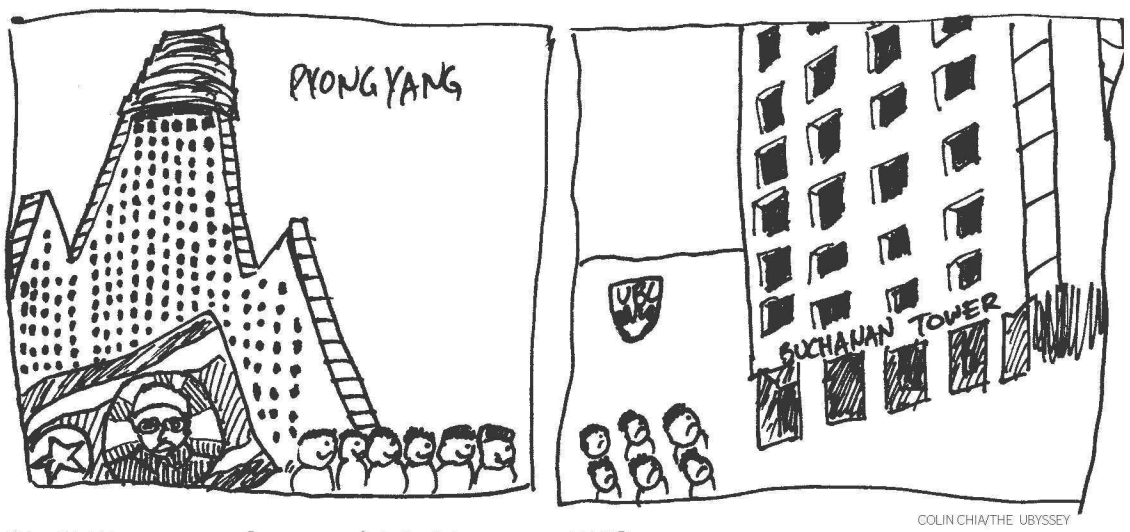


COLIN CHIA/THE UBYSSEY

North Korean professors right at home on UBC campus

The Last Word

Parting shots and snap judgments on today's issues

Seriously guys, you should go to the football game

It's the middle of September, which means that the sun is still out, which means that denizens of this campus can still congregate in large numbers. Take advantage of that now, because for the rest of the year, you will be cold, wet and overwhelmed with homework.

Coincidentally, this Saturday at 2pm the T-Birds football team plays its home opener at Thunderbird Stadium. They have one win and one loss, and are playing the University of Alberta Golden Bears, who have no wins and two losses. In other words, a win is both expected and would help UBC's chances of making the playoffs for the first time since 2006.

So come. Enjoy the ambiance of the stadium. Enjoy the primal force of football in person with thousands of fellow students. While you've still got a little life left in you.

Or FarmAde. Just do something on campus

Alright, fine. You don't like football. Too macho, too confusing. We get it.

But we won't let you off the hook that easily. Friday afternoon is FarmAde, the annual celebration of our very own urban farm. It's a chance to eat free-range burgers, drink handcrafted brew, watch wonderful bands and generally get your country fair groove on.

Plus, it's a chance to show your support for a 24-hectare piece of land that UBC periodically tries to develop into more beautiful and soulless condos. So if football isn't your cup of tea, odds are you'll enjoy this.

And if neither farm nor football fascinate you, then may mercy be placed upon your soul.

We now have a weekly show

If you're anything like our video editor, then you're probably still upset that you never got your invitation to Hogwarts on your 11th birthday. He believes that a part of learning how to cope with being Muggle-born comes with learning how to be better than ALL OF THE WIZARDING WORLD. Which, to him, means making ridiculously awesome videos.

Over the summer we have been re-thinking and greatly expanding our online content. No doubt you have already seen our "93 things to do" video. And now, this week marks the first episode of an ongoing weekly video show.

This enables us to explore new ways of telling stories and offers new spaces for discussion. So, basically what our video editor is trying to say—in his only chance to write text in our paper—is "that Hogwarts can shove their elitist acceptance letters up their urethras. I'm fine with being a Muggle. The wizarding world can suckio-my-ballsio."

The WiFi doesn't work, so you might as well be outside

When a provincial audit of UBC's open wireless system revealed that it left users' personal information vulnerable to attack, UBC decided to phase out the system altogether in favour of the once optional "ubcsecure" network. Secure requires students to log on using an external application, XpressConnect, and, based on the tweets, most people haven't been able to figure it out:

my wireless has been sucking all day!! Over 1.5 hours of me trying to connect to ubcsecure!

ubcsecure is so infuriating! Haven't been able to connect since 9 this morning!

Resorting to my phone to do my readings because ubcsecure is shit.

A university needs a working wireless system. UBC had the summer to make sure that the details of the system were communicated to students, and that apparently was not done in a clear way.

The IT department needs to get this on track within the week or consider reverting to the old system.

The bees are disappearing and it's terrifying

Apples, beets, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, coffee, pumpkins, soybeans, flax, carrots, lemons, peaches, pears, sweet cherries, blueberries—all tasty treats that are pollinated by bees and would die if the bees go away (not to mention honey). That the bees are dying off in the Okanagan is problem enough; without them, it would probably mean the end of us all. And even if we managed to survive, what the fuck would the vegans eat?

Don't blame the Wreck Beach lifestyle for the fire

Earlier this year the RCMP let us know that they were going to be increasing patrols at Wreck Beach. Wreck Beach is one of the few places in Canada (at least outside of Quebec) that feels a little like Europe; we can let it all hang out, in every sense of that phrase. Which is why we worry that the recent fire near Totem Park will cause police to put further restrictions on what happens at Wreck Beach, despite the fact that the fire was pretty far south of the beach itself. We obviously agree that people need to be very careful whenever they have campfires, but this fire wasn't caused by Wreck Beach users. Leave them be.

An empty Pit Pub is something to cry about

On the first day of school, some editors and reporters from *The Ubyssey* decided to grab a few leisurely pints at the Gallery and the Pit in order to take the lay of the land. With knowledge of years past, we were expecting long lines starting at 2pm.

Instead, there were none. The bars weren't empty, but they certainly weren't full of students catching up with old friends as we expected. There are many possible explanations for this; students are poorer every year, prices are going up and expectations for having fun on campus sink lower and lower every year. However one thing is for certain. It sucks. It sucks a whole lot.

Students need a fully operational SASC

Perspective

>> Lau Mehes

Currently the AMS's Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC) is running at a reduced capacity. To put it simply, this is completely unacceptable.

The support coordinator position is sitting vacant—a preventable situation, were it not for the AMS administration's bureaucratic mismanagement.

What does this mean in terms of services lost?

Well, SASC—which is normally open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (including holidays)—is now only open to students 20 hours a week, with only one employee.

They can no longer run their weekly volunteer training program. And while they still provide outreach and referrals to other services in Vancouver, they can no longer offer support. SASC is normally able to offer a range of support services, such as peer support—both in crisis and ongoing—and hospital and police accompaniments for survivors of assault who require assistance in navigating both the medical and judicial systems.

These services have been lost at an absolutely vital time. According to Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW), young women ages 15-24 are the most likely victims of sexual assault. The fact that this demographic makes up a significant portion of the UBC population should be enough to prove the importance of a fully functional SASC on campus. If that doesn't stress the importance enough, consider the fact that, according to Brown University, new students are most vulnerable to sexual assault in the first three months of university.

UBC's student population—not just women, SASC serves people of all genders—needs and deserves the service that they are paying for to be running at full capacity.

There may be other support services in the city of Vancouver, but for UBC students, especially new students, these can be inaccessible. The importance of an easily located, central, on-campus support centre with peer counseling and crisis support cannot be overstated.

That the AMS could so easily mismanage the hiring of a new support coordinator shows that they should be re-evaluating their priorities, to better provide students with the services they need and deserve.

Student well-being should be at the top of the list, and the AMS should be doing everything in its power to replace the support coordinator position and get SASC running at full capacity again. They should be keeping students informed of how exactly they are going about finding the replacement, as their accountability and transparency is already called into question over their mismanagement of this vital service.

As students, what should we be doing to ensure that SASC remains a top priority for the AMS administration?

Well, we need to hold them accountable. Keep emailing AMS President Jeremy McElroy at *president@ams.ubc.ca* and let him know how important peer support is to the work that SASC does. Demand a concrete timeline as to when a new support coordinator will be hired, and hold him to it with emails and discussions. Let's keep this conversation going, and let's get the vital services that SASC offers functioning at full capacity once more.

Fire kills. So does stupidity.

Editor's Notebook

Andrew Bates

In the summer of 2003, my home town of Penticton was surrounded by fire.

To the north, the Okanagan Mountain Park blaze, started by a lightning strike, was consuming 24,000 hectares of land and over two hundred houses from South Kelowna all the way to Naramata, a village on the outskirts of town. To the south, a brush fire in OK Falls was burning, started by a stray cigarette thrown by a motorist.

In the downtown area, we weren't being threatened, but the fire was real to us. We were ready. When you live around trees and there is a forest on fire, even if you're not in immediate danger, you go on high alert.

So the somewhat muted reaction on campus to the Pacific Spirit Blaze last week is baffling to me. The fire, which sprung up last week at midnight and only burned three-quarters of a hectare, was not necessarily a danger. Luckily, the wind didn't push it up the cliff towards Totem or down the beach towards MOA, and with a strong response from fire teams, there was never a real threat that the campus would burn down or anything.

But with the exception of the Twitterverse—an easily excitable bunch if there ever was one—students in Totem or otherwise seemed indifferent to it. One Totem resident compared the noise of the responder teams fighting a fire 500 metres outside of her house to parties: "It's kind of always loud over here, so it's just kind of ignored."

It didn't feel, at the end, like it was real to them. I don't know if it's because the rain that forms the backdrop of so many Vancouver jokes usually prevents things from getting as dry as they have recently, but UBC students should take a forest fire threat seriously.

This campus is surrounded on all sides by a large, old-growth forest with plenty of dead things in it that would love to burn if you gave them a chance. The lucky thing is that we generally don't have to worry about forest fires starting. We're not the Okanagan, which will spring ablaze if you leave it unattended for five minutes in the summer.

But we are a heavy urban interface zone. If you look at the Village, it sits literally right next to Pacific Spirit Park. If that forest ever saw an inattentive smoker or a lightning strike in the right weather conditions, those people could be in serious danger.

It's like the danger of underwater currents when you're swimming: it may not be a regular danger, but you have to be aware of it and you have to respect it. Forest fires are somewhat more serious than your neighbours having a party.

STUDENT BODY»

Just plain pickled: handling your first week hangovers

Happy Healthy Horny Raeven Geist-Deschamps

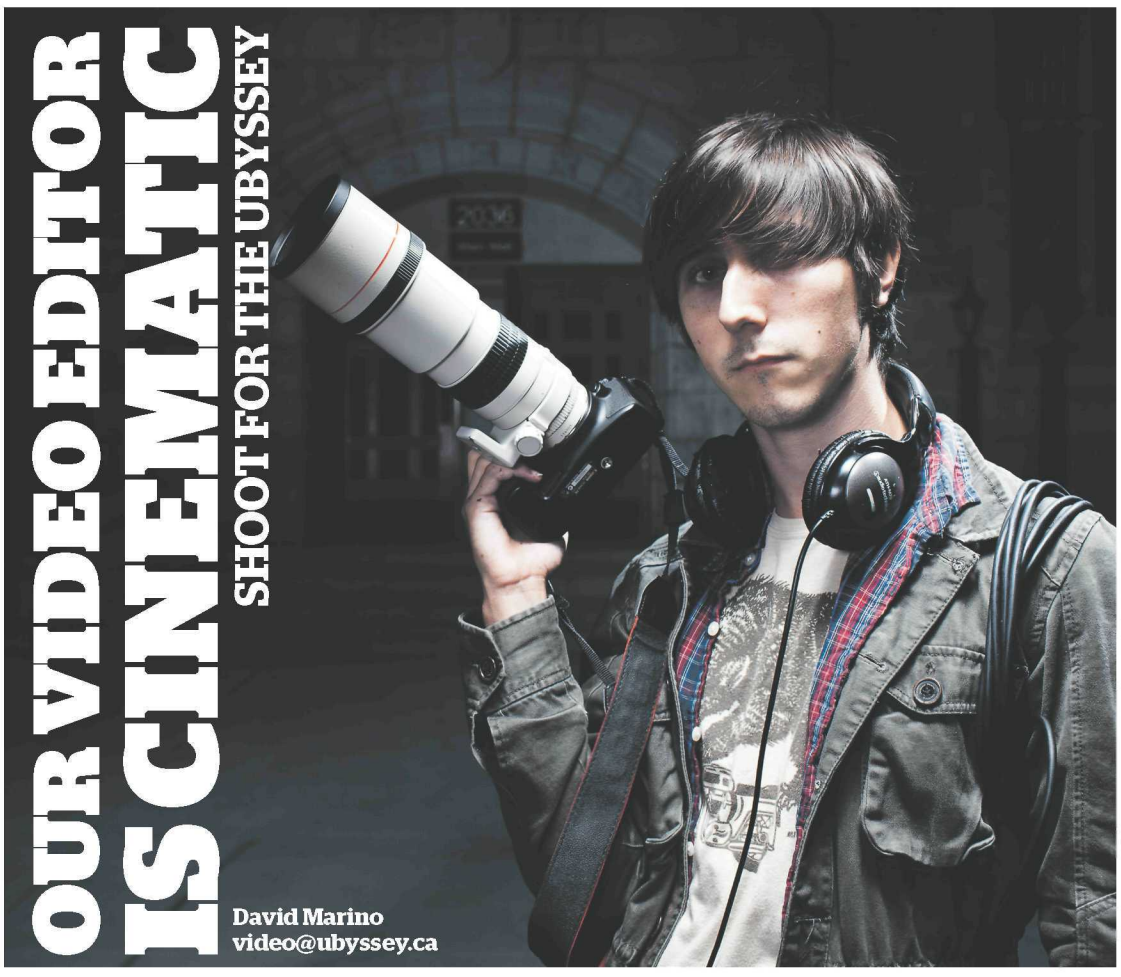
Raeven is a former medical writer, sex columnist and yoga instructor, having recently returned to UBC as a science student to tackle medical school prerequisites and the mysteries of existence. This column discusses ideas, concepts and bits of mental fluff about health and illness which affect students and their ability to tackle a degree while maintaining wholeness of body, mind and heart.

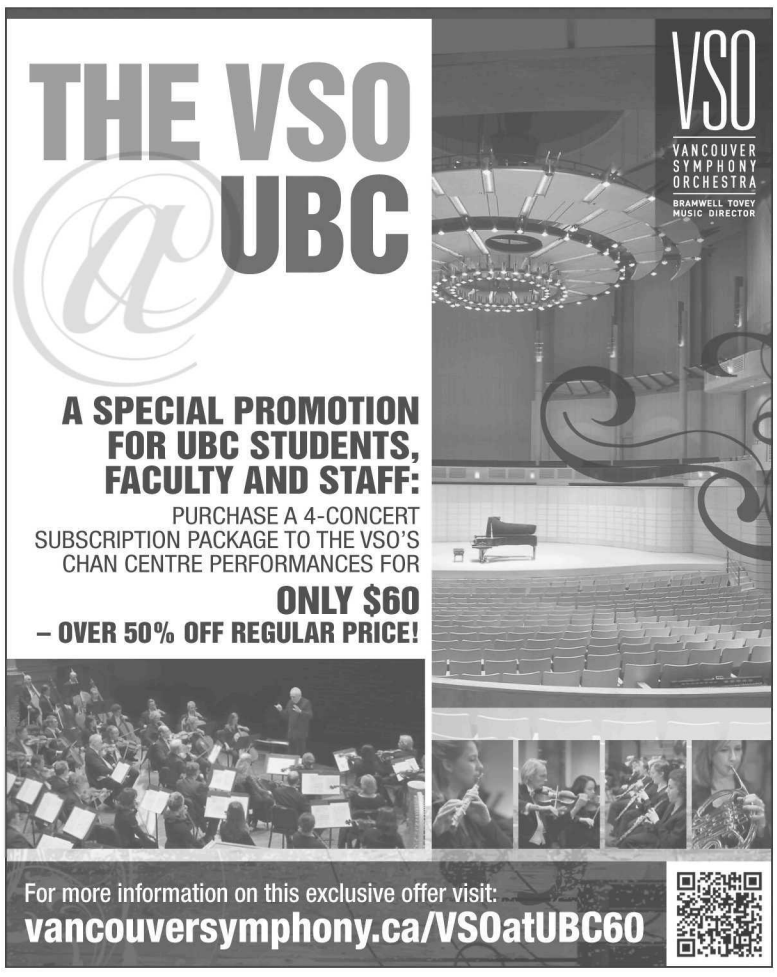
As we're sliding into the second week of school, many of us might be battling a weekend's worth of hangovers launched by the AMS Welcome Back BBQ and its cheap beer. If you're going for a week's worth of binging, let me assure you this is the time to do it before reality sets in and you remember you're actually at UBC to study.

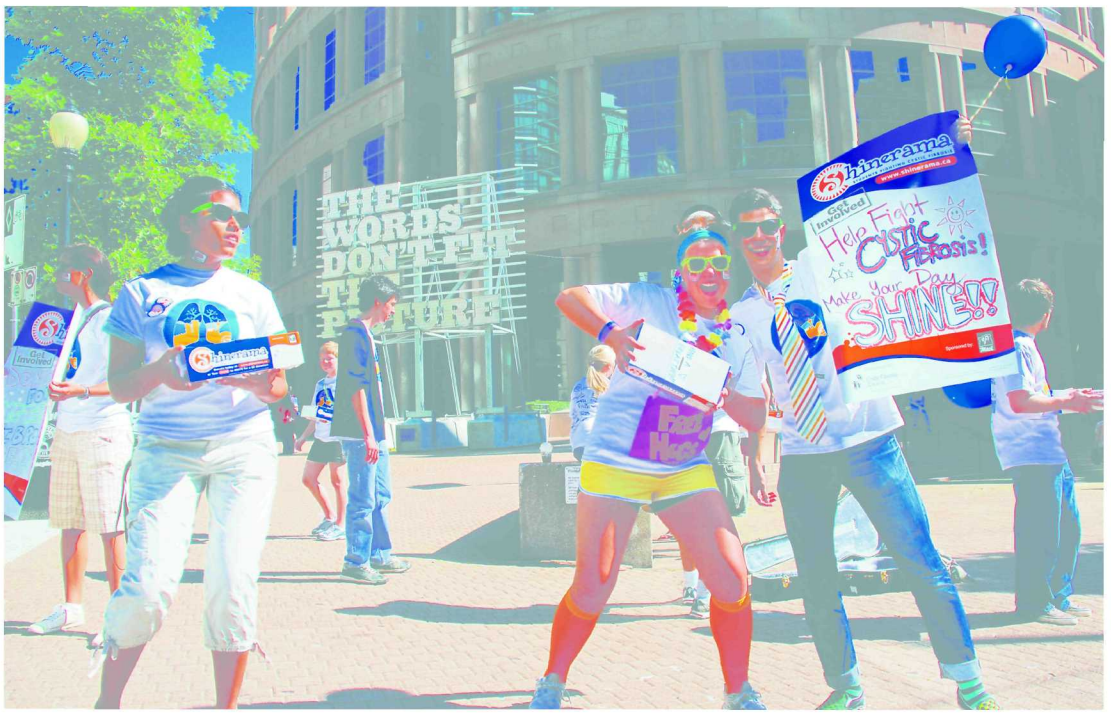
To keep your marathon drinking afloat, stick to liquor and carbonated water. It might be more expensive, but it will keep you going for longer than sweet combinations would. Or if beer is a-beckonin', only indulge in those cheap bubbles every second day. Sugar hangovers are what keep you nauseously cuddled in the fetal position, pondering regrettable—or heroic—behavior from the previous night. To be a first week binging champion, you have to get out of the house and exercise to get your circulation going, aerate those throbbing brain vessels and generally avoid gaining weight from all the sugar in your alcoholic bevies. Also, fear not the early morning vomit. If it's inevitable, head for the porcelain bowl to abandon the phlegm-covered bubbly bits from the night before, then launch a couple aspirin down your gullet and prepare to rage.

To take care of your hangovers, I've painfully tested a few theories and here's what's worked over in my camp. Sober up before going to bed by staying up and drinking water for at least two hours before hitting the sack. Go for a jog right after you get up and before you're fully sober. Sleep. Hit up the aspirin, but not the Tylenol, because the latter uses the same molecules that degrade alcohol in the liver, which overloads your body's capacity to detoxify your blood—which is bad. Coconut and tomato juice are wonderfully full of electrolytes and less processed than Gatorade! If you're a yogi, a practice with tons of twists will massage your organs and help you squeeze out the ethanol. And if you're feeling particularly brave, I've heard half a Caesar and half a beer will get you under control for the times ahead.

However, let me put on my Debbie Downer shoes for just a second and let you know that shriveling your liver on the regular is pretty terrible for your health. The actual limits are fairly low; guys shouldn't be drinking more than ten beers a week or two beers a day and ladies, no more than seven beers a week or one and a half beers a day. Also, hangover helpers like water and tomato juice don't actually do much for your liver, they just replenish your body's vitamins and make it juicy once more after the anti-diuretic properties of alcohol have zapped away your fluids via excessive urination. Frizzled livers aside, enjoy the lack of inhibition, hazy memories and maladroit adventures ahead!







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