THE HUBYSSL

ENT PUBLICATION

ISSUE

Vol. LXXXIX No. 44 |

Shattering the stereotypes

OKER CHEN PHOTO / THE UBYSSEY

BY MARIE BURGOYNE AND SAMANTHA JUNG
Women's Issue Coordinators

Politics. Education. The workforce. The household. Marriage. These are only a few of the areas where women have been relegated to certain positions.

From traditional religious societal ideas regarding gender, to simple anti-mysogynist thought, to a loudly protesting sector bent on distinction between the genders in every way, current ideas of "femaleness" vary. These are all valid, and as divergent as they are, these and other prominent philosophies also have one commonality.

They are the mechanism by which stereotypes and "norms" regarding women have been created because of overuse, repetition, and conformity. Women have fit into one version of a cookie cutter or another for centuries.

The theme of this year's *Ubyssey* Women's Issue is "Shattering"—the shattering of images of women, reflecting on the breaking down and elimination of stereotypes. Reflection herein is on how one is viewed through the eyes of others, but more importantly, on how one goes about looking inside oneself, via mirrors. Occasionally, breaking out of comfort zones of self identification is helpful.

Ironically, the mirrors that we're "breaking" do not necessarily have negative connotations. However, it is important to recognize that women, and men too, often perceive themselves through a cultural lens. They often behave according to expectations, be those expectations for the submissive housewife or the bra burner. By smashing the stereotypes that are imposed both by others and by themselves, women have a more positive outlook on life as individuals and their impact on society will be greater.

The debate over gender influence versus societal impact is not just taking place on the international level, through United Nations efforts. It begins at the individual level. As Mary Wollstonecraft once said, "I do not wish [women] to have power over men; but over themselves." Men and women each need to be more perceptive and self critical.

Be more aware of the influence the movie industry and the literary canon have on society. How are women portrayed in the movies you watch and the books that you read?

Get involved in your university. UBC has the Womyn's Centre and literary feminist magazines. What are the options women have regarding gender roles? Women do not have to be primary caregivers, just as men do not have to be the primary source of income in the family. Is Angelina Jolie the ideal independent woman? Is Condolezza Rice? Is it both? Is it neither?

Hopefully we can eliminate your pre-existing views of gender in society and move toward equality for everyone, where the recognition of one gender does not supersede that of the other. U

Classifieds

announcements

AUS ELECTIONS.
The Arts Undergraduate Society General Elections are underway! Arts students can vote by paper ballot March 11 to 14 at the SUB and in Buchanan.

STUDENT MODELS
wanted for SUS' Fashion Show Fundraiser on Wed, March 19. Models must be available from 4-8 pm on event day and for a 1 hr fitting. Contact pro.sus@gmail.com if interested with your height & size.

announcements

STEVE WEXLER,
Faculty of Law Professor will be performing his new translation of PLATO'S APOLOGY at Regent College March 3, 11:45 am, March 8, 2:30 pm and March 10, 3:00 pm at the Faculty of Law, Moot Court and March 14, 7:30pm at UBC Robson Square.

DREAMS AND OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCES:
FREE 8-Week Course at Library Square. Starts: Saturday, March 8, 2008, 3:30-4:30 PM. 1-877-GNOSIS-1. vancouver@gnosticmovement.com

announcements

CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY.
Information section. Coast Mental Health is in search for individuals who are in their final year or with completed degrees in psychology. Wed. March 19 from 12-1pm. UBC Buchanan. www.coastmentalhealth.com.

STUDENT COURT
will be hearing the decision made by the Elections Administrator to announce the results of the VP Academic race. The Elections administrator is alleged to have knowledge of voting irregularities in the race. March 13, noon, SUB 224.

help wanted

NEED SOME MONEY?
Work part-time during the year as a part of the marketing team &/or work during the summer as a painter. jh9@interchange.ubc.ca, 604-562-3572.

services

75-CENT COFFEE.
Fair trade organic. Come on down to our store in the basement of the SUB, room 66. Hours: Mon-Fri 11 AM - 5 PM.

CLARINET/SAXOPHONE LESSONS.
Classical, Jazz, World. RCM prep. Experienced teacher with BMus. (UBC) & Master of Music (C.U. NY). Contact Mike Dowler at 778-893-2154.

services

ESSAY WRITING HELP.
Professionals in business over 20 years. Call 1-800-345-8295 or email customessay@bellnet.ca

GOJU KARATE
Classes in Kitsilano, Tues & Thurs 7:30-9:30pm. 604-230-0161. www.mariomckenna.com

MAGSILA ATHLETIC PERSONAL TRAINING.
Cheap and affordable rates. Contact Simon Cheng at simon@magsila.com. www.magsila.com.

GOT A BROKEN IPOD?
Its battery won't hold a charge? Get it fixed by a UBC student for less. Call 604-719-1814.

Free classifieds for students: For more information, visit Room 23 in the sub or call: 604-822-1654

THE UBYSSEY
March 7th, 2008
VOL. LXXXIX N°44

EDITORIAL BOARD

WOMEN'S ISSUE EDITORS
MARIE BURGOYNE & SAMANTHA JUNG

COORDINATING EDITOR
CHAMPAGNE CHOQUER
COORDINATING@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

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

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

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

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

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

PRODUCTION MANAGER
KELLAN HIGGINS
PRODUCTION@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

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

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
STEPHANIE FINDLAY
VOLUNTEERS@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It was time for Justin McElroy to try what only Alex Aylett had done before. Paul Bucci argued that wasn't necessarily true, as there was the time that Stephanie Findlay and Allison Bailey watched Jacob McNeil accomplish the feat, courtesy of an assist by Celestian Rince. But that was irrelevant, as Boris Korby reminded people, because they were watching the Champagne Choquer Special, produced in Trevor Melanson's backyard, and sponsored by the fine people at Raeven Giest-Deschamps incorporated. The show, featuring the comedy stylings of Oker Chen and Goh Iromoto, was thought to be a success by Trevor Wolfe, who believed the jokes to pristine. Connie Do disagreed however, and let her disagreement be known to Samantha Jung, the President of the Matthew Hayles Fan Club. Yet her complaints, like those of Stepahnie Taylor's, fell flat on the floor when heard by Amanda Reaume, who thought it to be criticism on par with Marie Beurgoyne's, who once thought Brandon Adams was a competent reporter. This amused Kellan Higgins, who knew this not to be the case, but having the same power as Levi Barnett, kept his mouth shut. Jeenye Kim noticed his silence, and confided to Marie-Helene Westgate that it was akin to Jordan Chitterly's refusal to admit to his indiscretions.

Canadian University Press
Canada Post Sales Agreement Number 0040878022

Seven things you didn't know About WILLA

BY STEPHANIE TAYLOR

With International Women's Day coming up on March 8th, nobody is more excited than Jillian Gordon, the president of UBC's official political club for women, Women Involved in Legislative Leadership (WILLA). Gordon is eager to promote women's voices on campus in support of International Women's Day. Here's what she wants you to know:

1. WILLA puts out a tri-annual publication, *Antigone* magazine. *Antigone* is the official outreach vehicle of WILLA, and it publishes a variety of articles relating to women and politics. Focusing on the diversity among women, Gordon notes that the upcoming issue will discuss ableism. "One of the issues we have to deal with [is] are we having enough representation of women of colour? Are we having enough representation of maybe a different sexual orientation?"

Look for *Antigone* in the SUB in the magazine racks, the Womyn's Centre, Buchanan and the political science office. Look for the latest issue in the coming weeks.

2. It's nonpartisan. As Gordon explains, WILLA was born out of a perceived need to give better representation to women's voices and opinions within political science. "In political science classes, there's a good presence of women. But the people putting their hands up, getting engaged are predominantly male. We sort of felt that 'we're here too, we have a voice [and] we want it listened to.'"

However, WILLA isn't about ideology or partisan politics—it's about providing a resource for women to become politically engaged. "[WILLA] is a place for women to be engaged politically, but not necessarily in a partisan manner."

Antigone of Sophoclean drama, daughter of Oedipus via incest, martyr, and feminist icon c. 1882

3. It's not just for political science students. While it obviously focuses on issues of political participation and women, WILLA aims to involve women of all majors. As Gordon explains, WILLA is dedicated to providing a voice for all women on campus, regardless of their academic focus. "It's for women and women's allies, so if you love women, you should love WILLA!"

WILLA is about engaging women in a broader sense. "There's lots of ways to be actively engaged, not just politically," says Gordon.

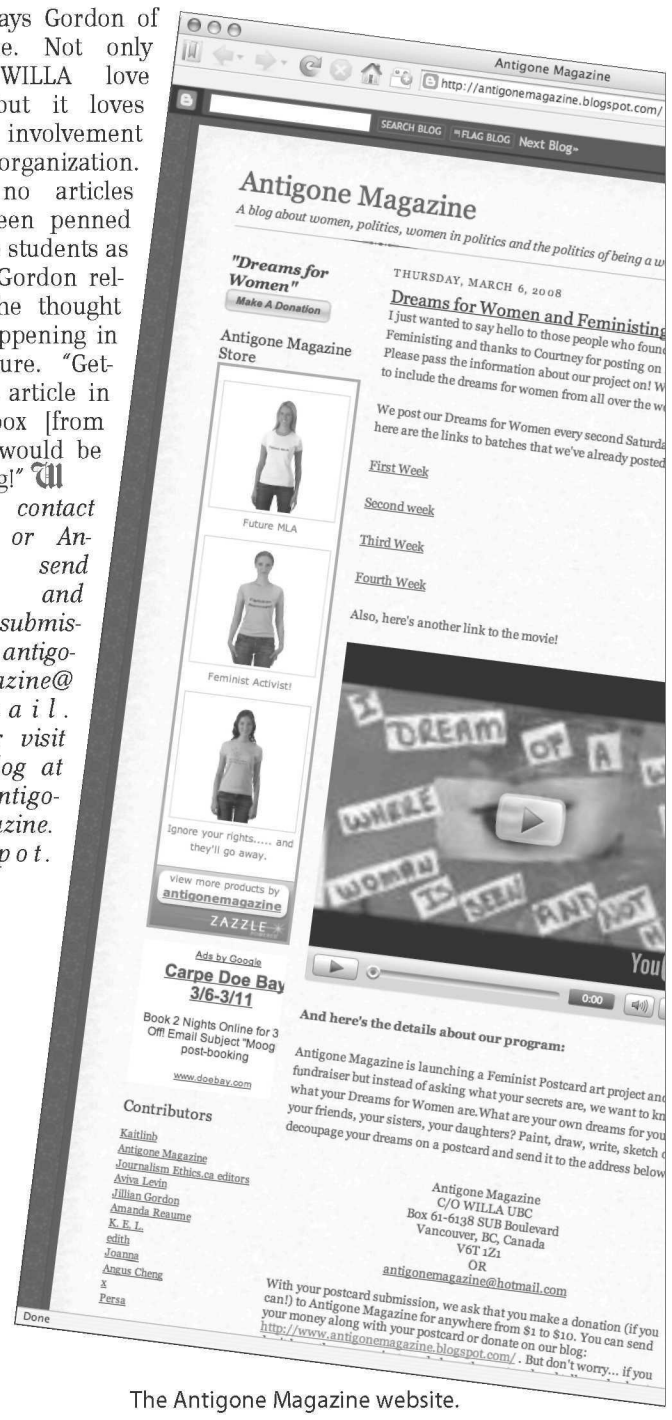
4. It sponsors campus events. In addition to the upcoming event celebrating International Women's Day, WILLA offers a host of other events for students on campus to engage with the organization. "We host a breakfast in November [and] we host Connect, which is a networking lunch."

5. It's growing, and it wants *you*. As an organization dedicated to getting women's voices heard, WILLA is always looking for new members and article submissions. As well, it has applied for an office within the SUB, which Gordon hopes will help students access it more readily.

6. It mentors young girls. As part of its outreach program, WILLA is planning to work with young girls interested in leadership and politics. Gordon explains: "What we're going to do with them is say, 'Hey! Do you want to be a young leader? Do you want to be in politics? Come hang out with us, let us give you some skills.'"

7. It loves men! "Every issue we feature a 'Men We Love' section," says Gordon of Antigone. Not only does WILLA love men, but it loves male involvement in the organization. While no articles have been penned by male students as of yet, Gordon relishes the thought of it happening in the future. "Getting an article in my inbox [from a guy] would be amazing!"

To contact WILLA or Antigone, send emails and article submissions to antigonemagazine@hotmail.com or visit their blog at www.antigonemagazine.blogspot.com.



The Antigone Magazine website.

Lick, bite, kiss

How to make a woman curl with pleasure

BY R. GEIST-DESCHAMPS

To stimulate an erogenous zone is to light someone's body on fire with erotic delight. There are very specific places an assiduous lover will try to stimulate to make his or her partner go insane. This article serves as a reminder of a few classics you might want to employ. This being said, it is also possible for an entire body to be an erogenous zone, but here are a few areas on which to concentrate.

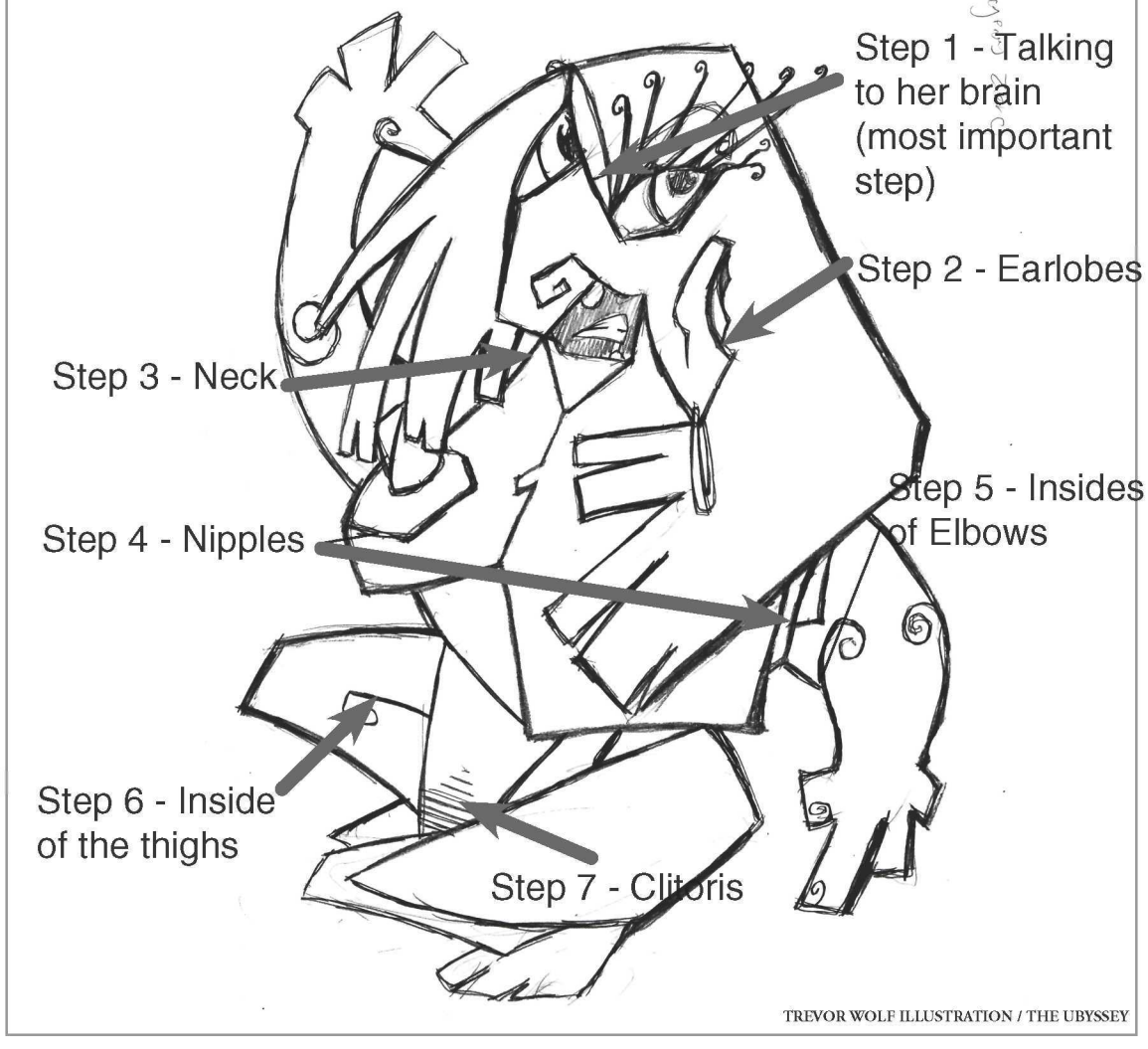
The earlobes are an excellent place to start; nibble them and massage them gently between your fingers. Kiss and lick (with a little pressure) the slope of her neck. Stroke underneath her breasts and massage them according to her desires. Bite her nipple a little (though this is a good trick for men as well). The inside of the elbows and knees have very sensitive skin, which should be stimulated with lips and tongue.

Take care of that inner thigh, tempt her into believing you'll stimulate her clit, which is a crucial landing place in this foreplay to follow and then focus on another area. The underside of the buttocks can be another excellent place to stroke, while focusing the mouth on her collarbone. Using ice and bubbly water in giving your woman oral pleasure can be exciting, but please, no dribbling. Listen to your lover and follow her cues. If she hasn't been breathing hard for the past five minutes, you've probably picked a zone she doesn't particularly enjoy.

According to a representative at the Art of Loving, a Vancouver shop that sells sex toys and holds sex-positive workshops, erogenous zones can also follow the energy lines within the bodies, such as chakras. Within different people, these "energy areas" can be stimulated in more or less intense ways. This is simply another way to see the concept of an erogenous zone.

The most erotic part of sex is the brain. The importance of being vocal, suggestive, and tantalizing in one's words is just as important as having an enticing touch. You might want to try talking about your fantasies to break boundaries. Slow it all down and linger. Tease her into submission before you launch yourself into full swing. Without denying the joys of a quickie, taking your time on a Friday night can make for excellent entertainment.

If you want to learn more about Tantric Massage, with Men touching Woman, there is an intensive seminar being given in coordination with the Art of Loving on March 9th and 16th: http://www.artofloving.ca/seminars/upcoming-seminars.



Journalism

Turn your DEGREE into a CAREER!

If you have a university degree, you may qualify for Langara College's 8-month journalism certificate program and get hands-on experience writing and preparing news and feature stories for print, broadcast and the web.

Learn more.
Information Session March 25, 7 p.m. in room A228.

LANGARA COLLEGE

Call **604-323-5415-5335** or
Visit **www.langara.bc.ca** for more information.
Apply before April 30 for September 2008 intake.

One Step Storage

Summer - Co-op Terms - Studying Abroad? Visit our website.

www.onestepstorage.ca

Space is limited, so book on-line today.

Student Storage Solutions

One Step's Mobile Locker simplifies storage for students:

- ***Convenient delivery***
- ***Affordable***
- ***Secure***

E-mail: info@onestepstorage.ca Hotline: (604) 204-0001

Insite reduces HIV: scientists

GOH IROMOTO PHOTO / THE UBYSSEY

Darcy Lapushinsky, an Insite user and worker, spoke at the Insite Conference on Thursday March 8th at the Life Sciences building held by the Integrated Science Student Association (ISSA). She discussed her unexpected transition from a stable lifestyle as a power crane operator to that of an injection drug user at the age of 45. Her message was clear."This could happen to anybody."

The talk also discussed the role of science and politics in the development of public health policy, focusing specifically on the positive effect of North America's first supervised injection site located in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. UBC Medicine's Dr. Thomas Kerr delved heavily into the Canadian government's political agenda to undermine and ignore the evidence-based research on Insite's positive effects on drug users and the neighborhood.

Other speakers included UBC VP External Stephen Owen, Dr. Will Small, Dr. Richard Mathias, and BC MLA Jenny Kwan.

Currently up to 18,000 users per month use the safe injection site, including people who would otherwise resort to alleyways, street fronts, and other public areas. Heading towards a possible closure on June 30th, 2008 due to the lack of government support, the ISSA and several other key figures hope to raise awareness amongst the public, leading to the facility's continued legal operation.

For more information see: www.science.ubc.ca/~isp

—Goh Iromoto

The Elections are coming, the Elections are coming.

Just like the British, who came to beat down the Americans in the Revolutionary War, the Ubyssey Elections are upon us.

We are having elections for the following positions:
Coordinating Editor,
Sports Editor,
Two News Editors,
Multimedia Coordinator,
Webmaster,
Culture Editor, Features Editor
Photo Editor, Production Manager
Copy Editor, Volunteers Coordinator

To apply contact
coordinating@ubyssey.bc.ca
or stop by SUB 24

Women's Issues in the news

Pay equity still far from being achieved

Women in Canada get paid 27.5 per cent less on average than men for the same work, according to a report released yesterday by the International Trade Union Confederation.

Canada's position is far below the global average, which is 16 per cent less for women than their male counterparts.

Countries in East Asia lead the way in wage discrepancy, with women earning 33.4 per cent less than men in Japan, 32.7 per cent less in China, and 31.5 per cent less in South Korea.

In many countries, however, women are much better off. In Europe, the average pay gap is 14.5 per cent, in Qatar and Costa Rica women were paid 2.2 per cent more, and in Bahrain women received 40 per cent more on average than men.

According to the authors of the report, this is explained by the low participation of women in the workforce in Bahrain. Women that do work are likely to be highly educated, highly skilled, and in higher paid jobs.

However, the authors stated that in most countries, higher education for women does not lead to a smaller pay gap. In some cases, the gap increases with the level of education obtained.

The report also stated that pay discrepancy is also largest in female-dominated jobs, such as health care and social work.

Men helping out more with chores

Men still aren't doing their share of chores around the house in the United States, according to a report released yesterday by the Council on Contemporary Families.

But they are doing more housework than their predecessors of years past.

According to the report, men's contribution to the household chore list has doubled over the past 40 years, while their contribution to child care tripled over the same span.

In the 1960s, men did approximately 15 per cent of household chores. Now, men do approximately 30 per cent.

The report's co-authors, Scott Coltrane of the University of California, Riverside and Oriel Sullivan of Ben Gurion University predict men's contributions will continue to increase as more women enter the workforce.

Harvard implements women-only gym hours

Harvard University has recently instituted special women-only gym hours in one of their gyms. For six hours a week, in one specific gym on campus, men are not allowed to enter. The staff during these times are also women.

This change was prompted by a group of female Muslim students who petitioned the university for this change. They have said it offends their sense of modesty to exercise in the presence of males. The special hours enable the Muslim women to dress in proper exercise attire.

Harvard spokesman Robert Mitchell stated that the university attempts to accommodate requests from religious groups, and pointed out that Harvard has also designated prayer spaces for Muslim and Hindu students.

Proponents for the change also note that the policy is no different from private gyms who cater partially or even exclusively to women. Critics state that the policy is unfair by its denial of resources that are supposed to be available to everyone.

Ubyssey.ca

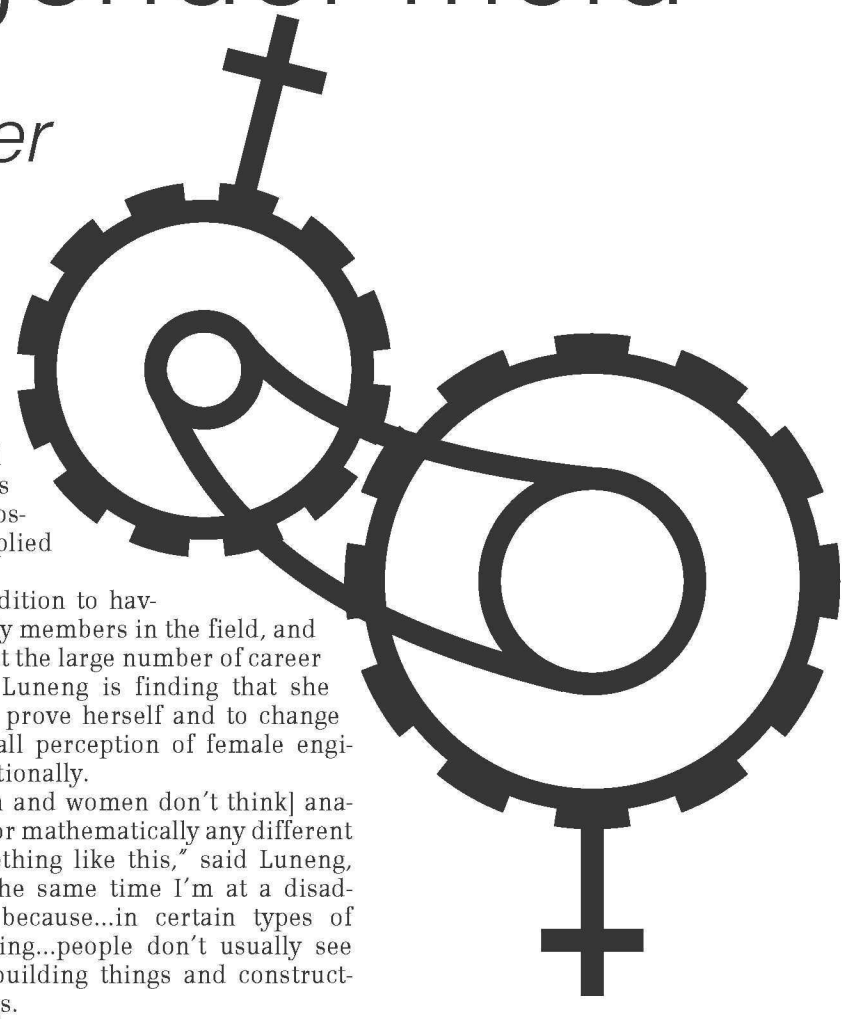
LSAT MCAT
GMAT GRE
Preparation Seminars

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

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

Girl shifts 'geers' gender mold

Red jacket woman to show off her skills at Canadian Engineering Competition



BY MARIE BURGOYNE

Upsetting the status quo, debunking stereotypes, and replacing them with innovations can be done abstractly, with speeches and ideas. But it can also be built concretely. That's exactly what UBC engineering, and one Bailey Luneng are trying to do.

From March 6-9th, a delegation from UBC is participating in the 23rd Annual Canadian Engineering Competition (CEC) at the University of Waterloo. Junior and senior teams compete in categories from actual physical design to debate over how designs can be effectively utilized. In Bailey's category, the task is to take no more than four hours to come up with a solution to a problem unknown to the teams until the task begins.

According to the CEC website, this year's theme is "Designing Global Change, emphasis[ing] that design is a proactive process: it is only by taking action that we can truly make change happen."

Aside from the VW Beetle prank that's resurrected almost annually, one thing that UBC Engineering is known for is the disproportionate male to female ratio. In 2007, the ratio of women to men was 870 to 3,741; women represent only 18.9 per cent of the faculty's student population.

Luneng is a second-year chemical engineering student and a participant in the junior team design competition at this year's CEC.

"People notice more when I'm doing engineering because I'm a woman," said Luneng. "For presentations, people are more receptive to hearing women," though she is dubious about, and not necessarily a fan of, the preconceived notions behind such a reception.

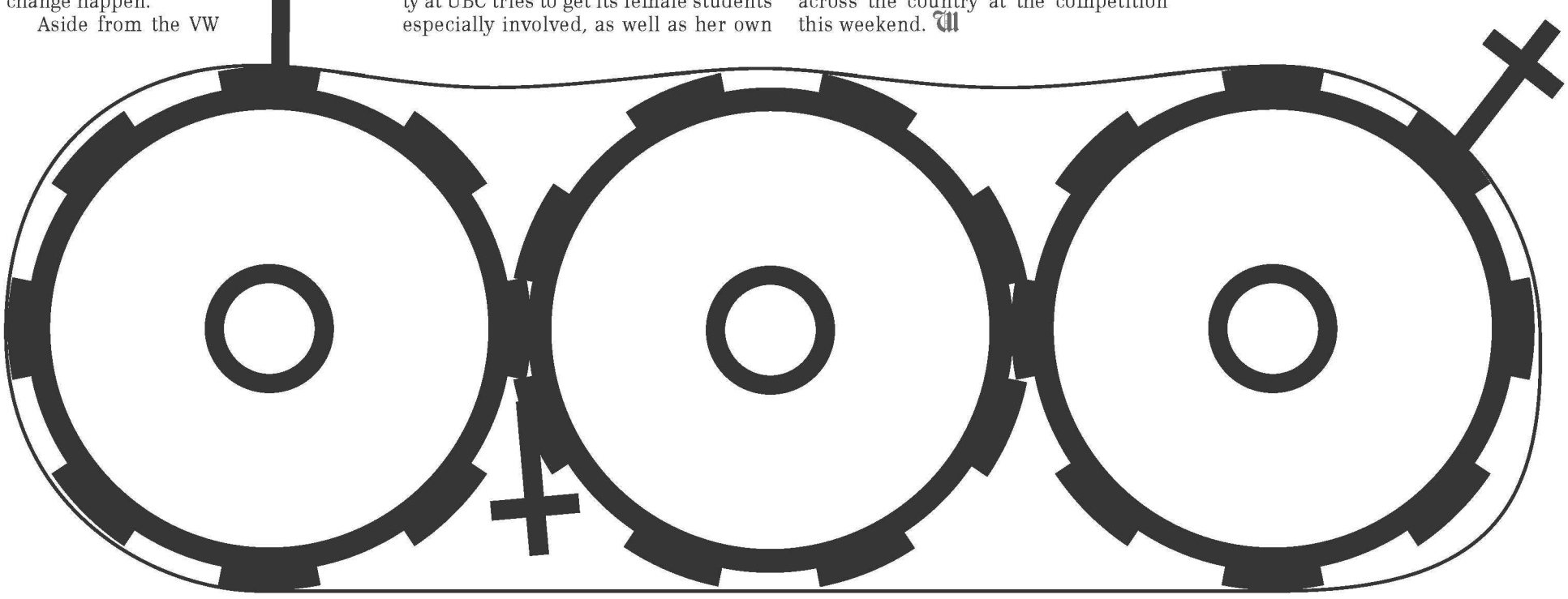
Luneng has high praise for both UBC Okanagan, where she attended first year, and UBC Vancouver's engineering programs. She's looking forward to discussing innovations like UBC's more hands-on integrated engineering program with delegates from other schools. She talks a little bit about how the faculty at UBC tries to get its female students especially involved, as well as her own personal reasons for choosing applied science.

In addition to having family members in the field, and looking at the large number of career options, Luneng is finding that she wants to prove herself and to change the overall perception of female engineers nationally.

"[Men and women don't think] analytically or mathematically any different for something like this," said Luneng, "but at the same time I'm at a disadvantage because...in certain types of engineering...people don't usually see women building things and constructing things.

"I know power tools and I can use [them] better than half of the people on my team," she said.

Power tools or not, Luneng is hoping to deconstruct some preconceived notions of female engineers at UBC and across the country at the competition this weekend.



Alternate abilities and challenges in feminine attraction

BY JEEHYE KIM

Feminist movements object to women being portrayed as sex objects. On the contrary, for Dawna Lee Rumball, and women with disabilities, it is the opposite perception of them that they are trying to fight against, the idea that women with disabilities are asexual.

Rumball is a student in the department of educational studies at UBC, and is also deaf. She does not use sign language, but communicates by speaking and speech-reading. Also, she uses her Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART) for her classes.

"I think society, and dare I say politicians, think women with disabilities are asexual and always need to have things done for them, that they are not independent, they are "freaks, and not pretty," Rumball told *the Ubyssey*.

She blames the media for negative representation of disabled women, or the lack thereof. "I mean look at Hollywood, how often do you see a really sexy and beautiful woman character that happens to have a disability? Even [in] that Oscar winning movie [Million Dollar Baby], [Hilary Swank] wanted to kill herself [rather] than live life in a wheelchair." Hence, Rumball correlates the visual obviousness of something like a wheelchair with the relative difficulty of finding someone.

Dawna Lee Rumball

Asked how society's perceptions of women with disabilities translate to their dating prospects, Rumball admitted that comparably, she herself does not have a difficult time being involved in a relationship, only because her disability is not visually obvious, and perhaps is "less work."

"That's not a nice way to think," she said. "Society first sees disability then women. Women with disabilities identify themselves first as women. I know I do. I don't go around saying, I'm a disabled woman. I say I am a woman. That's it."

Comparably, when she met non-disabled men from online matching sites after chatting for a few weeks without having told of her disability, they were "surprised, nervous, but soon relaxed and had a good time." Her visually disabled friends did not last more than two dates.

Similarly, men with disabilities face the same challenges as women with disabilities, and according to Rumball, her guy friend who uses a wheelchair and is "like David Beckham hot," had his furious date throw her drink in his face. "He never kept his disability a secret again."

Nevertheless, Rumball observes that non-disabled men are less likely to date a disabled woman, than vice versa. "Women seem to be more accepting of a man with a disability."

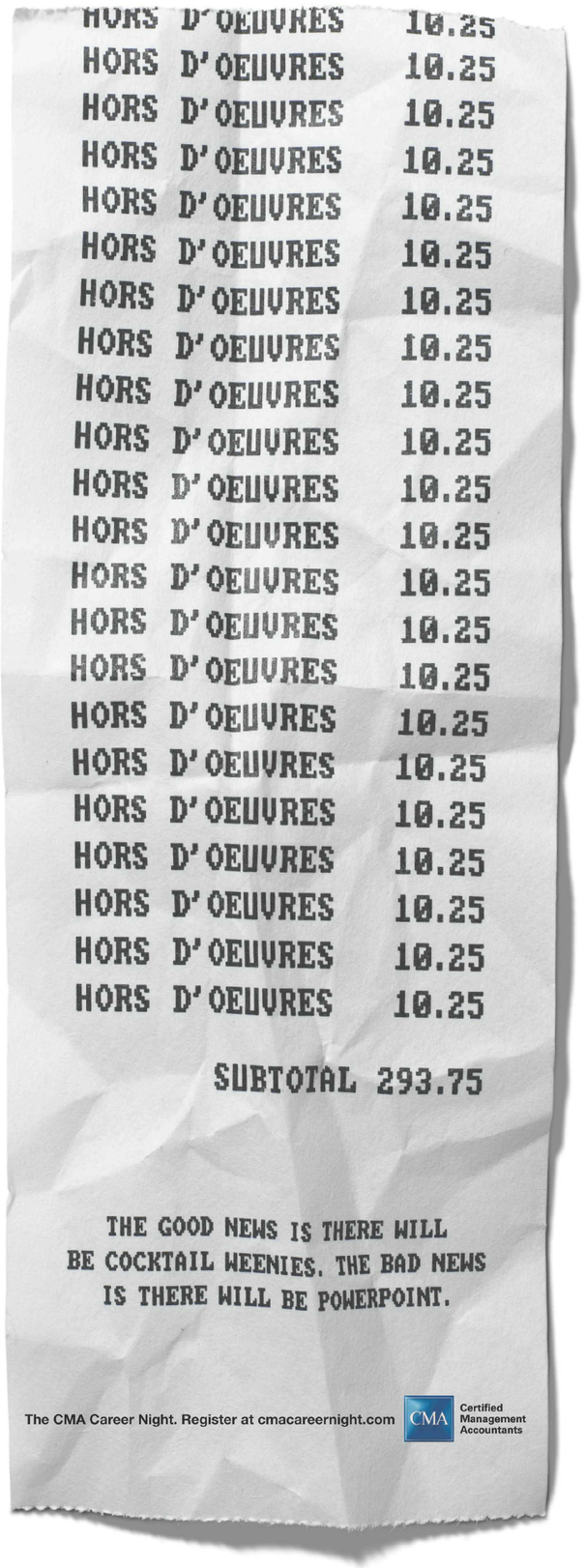
She reasons that it's because men are "visual creatures" and it's all about the "looks and potential brood mare status" for them.

"The more a woman is 'able' to be his partner the more interested he is in her. If she is in a wheelchair, or has a missing limb, or is blind, he'll be looking for someone that isn't. It's a cruel fact of life, one a lot of women with disabilities probably won't disagree with me about."

On the many myths surrounding women with disabilities, such as that "they don't have sex, aren't interested in a relationship, or even use sex toys, are all still being refuted in 2008," she said. "It is the education system that needs to work towards dispelling the myths and negativity regarding disability.

"That's what [my participation in] The Unruly Salon was trying to do, and I hope that this will become an annual thing for UBC."

For more about the Unruly Salon, a lecture and performing arts series, see page 9.



Tying the knot or not

Changing perceptions of marriage

BY SAMANTHA JUNG

Gettin' hitched later

The 2006 Census found that there are fewer married people than unmarried over the age of 15. 51.5 per cent of Canadians were unmarried in 2006; this is compared to 48.5 per cent of Canadians in 2001, and 38.6 per cent in 1986.

Canadians are also getting married later. In 1998 the average age of both a first-time bride and a first-time groom was 27.6. However, the most recent data from Statistics Canada in 2003 reported that the average age of a first marriage in BC to a member of the opposite sex was 28.8 for women and 31 for men.

The inclusion of same-sex marriages in Statistics Canada data in 2003 is definitive evidence that social norms have changed. In 2003 the average age of a first marriage in BC to a member of the same sex was 41.6 years for women and 43.9 for men.

What's going on?

Why are people getting married later, or not at all? Carrie Yodanis, a sociology professor at UBC, feels that the way marriage is defined has changed. This change in perception could explain why people are getting married later.

"People talk about marriage [today] as being increasingly about a presentation of status," says Yodanis. "[Marriage] used to be that people would come together earlier in their lives and build a life together. Now people are waiting longer and getting educations and building careers and marriage is kind of this presentation of all that they have achieved as individuals."

Yodanis mentions a sociology study in which a group of women aged 28-34 who have never been married were interviewed. The study found that these women still felt the pressure to get married, despite changing perceptions within society.

Yodanis says that gender roles are becoming more "androgynous" as well; men can be seen in roles that have, in the past, been associated with women.

Another sociology professor at UBC, Silvia Bartolic, says there are two levels at which one can describe the trend of people getting married later, or not at all. One is the individual level; people decide that they do not want to get married, they have not yet met "the one", or they want to pursue personal interests.

"It's not as expected as it used to be historically that you would get married right out of high school. It's more normative that people travel, get degrees, see the world," says Bartolic.

The other is the social level. For example, people can see the divorce rates rising.

"You don't know when you step into marriage whether it's going to be forever," says Bartolic. "Nobody knew that before either, but there were other social factors that supported you. So if you did become a widow [or get divorced], you had a family that helped you. Because we're becoming more individualistic, we don't necessarily have the same social support [as we used to]."

Bartolic also discusses the changing role of women in society as a reason people are getting married later. Whereas in the past the role of a woman was to bear children and to raise a family, now women have freedom of education, to work and pursue whatever they would like to do.

Age not a problem

So would getting married later mean a more successful marriage? Gerry Cossitt from Enrich Canada, which is a company that advises and assesses couples before and after marriage, says that age is not a factor in determining a marriage's success, but that the level of success is determined by maturity, communication level, how a couple resolves conflicts, and family upbringing and background.

"I actually have [seen] very mature 21-year-old [couples], and couples that are older that didn't have that maturity level," says Cossitt. "I really find it depends on life experiences and where they're at and coming [from]."

Cossitt finds that finances are a problem that couples getting married later have.

"Because [couples] are getting married later in life, what I found very interesting was that some issues like financial [issues]...[were] kind of a weak area," says Cossitt. "But mainly the reason was...they just hadn't discussed those areas very much because they were both financially independent."

Crystal Lexvold, 19, and her fiancé, Ryan King, 20, got engaged last October. Their wedding is to take place on September 19th, 2009. They have known each other since they were four or five years old, and began dating when Crystal was 15.

"There've been a couple of people that have wondered about our age," says Lexvold, "but when they realize we've been dating for four and a half years it's kind of like 'It's about time, really.'"

Lexvold feels age does not really have an effect on their union. "I don't think age has too much of an impact on us, just more finances," says Lexvold. "[Ryan] wants to go to school to get his doctorate, so he'll be going to school for a few more years, so I'll be bringing in most of the income."

Bartolic also feels that age is not necessarily a factor in determining the success of a marriage. She notes that "stressors and strains" have a larger impact. These can vary depending on age. Bartolic says that "it's easier to be in the norm," that is, if you are the only one of your friends at 18 getting married, social factors will put a stress on your relationship. Bartolic says other stressors could include demanding careers and stepfamilies for older couples.

"The first few years of marriage are the ones that are the most difficult, because you have to get used to each other," Bartolic says. "So if you have additional stressors...that take a lot of your time, those kinds of factors are going to make it harder for you to be successful [in marriage], so it's not necessarily age."

Cohabitation: an alternative to marriage?

There is an increasing number of couples choosing cohabitation over marriage. The number of common-law marriages has likewise risen. A couple may declare common-law status after cohabiting, or living together, for two years in BC. Since 2001, Statistics Canada has found that the number of Canadians that were involved in a common-law relationship has increased by 18.9 per cent. This might be because the same-sex community was counted in the census for the first time.

Nevertheless, common-law marriage is becoming more socially acceptable.

"Some people are choosing never to get married, but that doesn't mean they're not with the same partner for a long time. They don't need the formal piece of paper," says Bartolic.

Cossitt says a problem couples can run into when cohabiting is if they get married too soon after moving in together.

"I call it the gunny sack process," says Cossitt. "When the couple [is] cohabiting and relating, when issues come up, do they put them on the shelf and deal with it later? And sometimes later is after they are married, [when] it feels more permanent...now [they] bring all those issues off the shelf. It's like emptying the gunny sack on the table, and it's just overwhelming."

Where is marriage and its perception in society going? Yodanis feels that marriage is not changing as much as we expect it to. Despite changing gender roles, women still do a lot of the household or "invisible" work, for example.

Bartolic says that marriage is not going to disappear anytime soon. "I still think people want to get married," she says, "and [the future of marriage is] going to depend on how the norms play out."

Teach English Overseas

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

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

...not colors. Although, our coordinator might say different. He's American, which is also ironic because he is our copy editor our canadian content. Anyways, **write for colours**, feedback@Ubyssey.bc.ca

WE PRINT T-SHIRTS

Quality Printing Inc.
3716 Main Street
Vancouver, BC V5V 3N7
tshirts@qualityprintinginc.ca
Tel: 604-876-8595 Fax: 604-876-8099

COLOURS

BECOME A DOCTOR
From $35,000 for all
4 years after 12th grade
in China-in English
U.S.(MLE) eligible
No MCAT- US recognized Top Medical / 107 year Universities other fee extra- 1 yr as Jr Dr
American Dream Abroad LLC
Grab Ready March/September Admission
www.AmericanDreamAbroad.com
email: MedicineAbroad@yahoo.com
Call for application now:
209-832-3111 Call 24/7

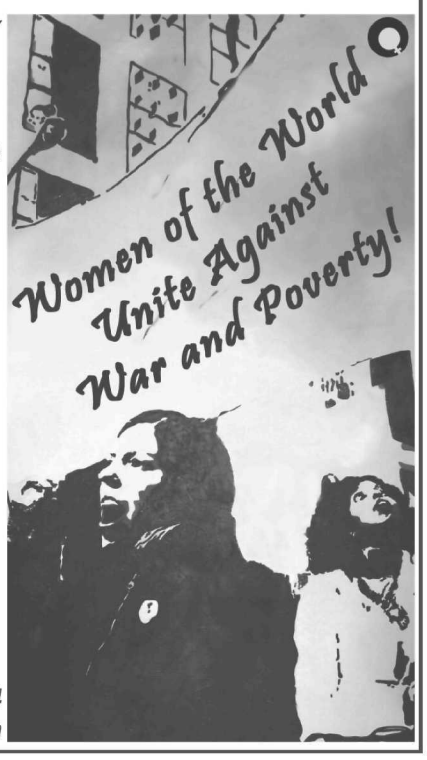
!INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY!
IWD 08 | Saturday March 8th

MARCH & RALLY
March: 11am-Thornton Park (Main St Skytrain)
Rally: 12pm-Victor Square (Hastings & Cambie)

INFORMATION FAIR
1PM-4PM - BCIT Downtown (555 Seymour St)
Refreshments provided!

CELEBRATION
music, poetry, dancing & more!
7pm - Trout Lake Communittee Centre (3350 Victoria Dr.)

For more information please contact:
604-780-7604
iwdvancouver@gmail.com



UBC CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING

Transportation Open House

Update on the
Strategic Transportation Plan, Transit,
and Campus Traffic Calming Projects

Thursday, March 13, 2008
1:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Student Union Building Concourse
6138 Student Union Boulevard

For directions to the Student Union Building,
go to www.maps.ubc.ca

For further information, contact
Dianna Colnett (Manager, Consultation) at
604-822-4682 or dianna.colnett@ubc.ca.

planning.ubc.ca universitytown.ubc.ca

Women's Lib

7 pieces of literature about the female

BY MATTHEW HAYLES

ROSEMARY ELLIS ILLUSTRATION / THE UBYSSEY

1) The Tale of Genji

Author: Murasaki Shikibu
Published: New York : Vintage Books, 1985 (but actually c. 1000 CE).

A book written by women, for women, it is also the world's first, true-to-form novel. A stunning narrative layered thickly with elegant prose and stylized poetry. Almost nothing is known of Murasaki's life, save that she served in the train of a more important princess. A long read, the book concerns itself largely with the life of Prince Genji, who is sort of an Emperor's bastard son, and the women he conquers. More or less a study in what a man should be for a woman. One of the earliest works to advocate a free sexuality for both men and women. Deals with a fair amount of what we would call gender bending, but wouldn't raise an eyebrow in Heian, Japan.

2) Vindication of the Rights of Woman

Author: Mary Wollstonecraft
Published: London: Printed for J. Johnson, 1792.

Wollstonecraft is almost single-handedly responsible for the entire swath of feminist philosophy from the last two centuries, and is officially a first wave feminist. Her essay helped break down the walls that separated women from books and ballots. While she doesn't state explicitly that men and women are equal, she sets the basis for the arguments that would be used by the civil rights movement nearly two centuries later—equality among all human beings, and universal entitlement to the commensurate rights.

3) The Subjection of Women

Authors: John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor Mill
Published: New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1869.

Not only was John Stuart Mill one of the founding fathers of Liberalism, but he and his wife/mistress championed the cause of Women's Suffrage in late 19th century England. Immensely controversial at the time, Mills and Mills pegged the docility and weakness of women as culturally bred, throwing out the pseudo-science of Social Darwinism and Biological Determinism that spread at the turn of the last century. Admirable for the simplicity of his arguments—largely that discrimination hurts society.

4) The Feminine Mystique

Author: Betty Friedan
Published: New York : Dell Pub. Co., 1963.

The book that more or less kicked off second wave feminism by pointing out that there was more to human existence than material comforts and voting. I read this over most of last August, and enjoyed every page of it. Friedan herself went through the quiet transformation from tepid housewife and contributor to women's magazines to become a stoic women's orator. The book leaves you with a concrete sense that she is speaking from experience, that what she is telling us is true, and that what she is recommending is *right*.

5) The Beauty Myth

Author: Naomi Wolf
Published: Toronto : Vintage Books, c1991.

You could reasonably argue that this book trumpeted the birth of third wave feminism. A cogent continuation of rebuttals to the Superwoman Backlash of the 1980s, Wolf argued that beauty is political and patriarchal and of course exploitive, that it prescribes behaviour and not appearance. Her psychological analysis of the tricks that beauty plays on each of us, both men and women, are frightening. She has a bad habit of blaming men individually for problems that are structural, and referring to that which is good in humanity as "traditional women's values."

6) Airless Spaces

Author: Shulamith Firestone
Publisher: New York : Semiotext(e), 1998.

My favourite feminist I've never really sat down and read properly until recently. Firestone (that is her real name) came from a Jewish Orthodox family in Montreal, and is most famous for *The Dialectic of Sex*, which was published in 1970 and is a seminal work in second wave feminism. She's so radical she broke with at least three of New York's most radical women's groups, at least two of which she helped found. Firestone has compared giving birth to shitting a pumpkin, and has explored the possibility that the taboo on incest is outdated. Airless spaces is a collection of short stories set amid a sinister New York where immiserization is bureaucratic. Written 28 years after *The Dialectic of Sex*, this book reflects a more pessimistic view as Firestone drifts outside the career she had chosen.

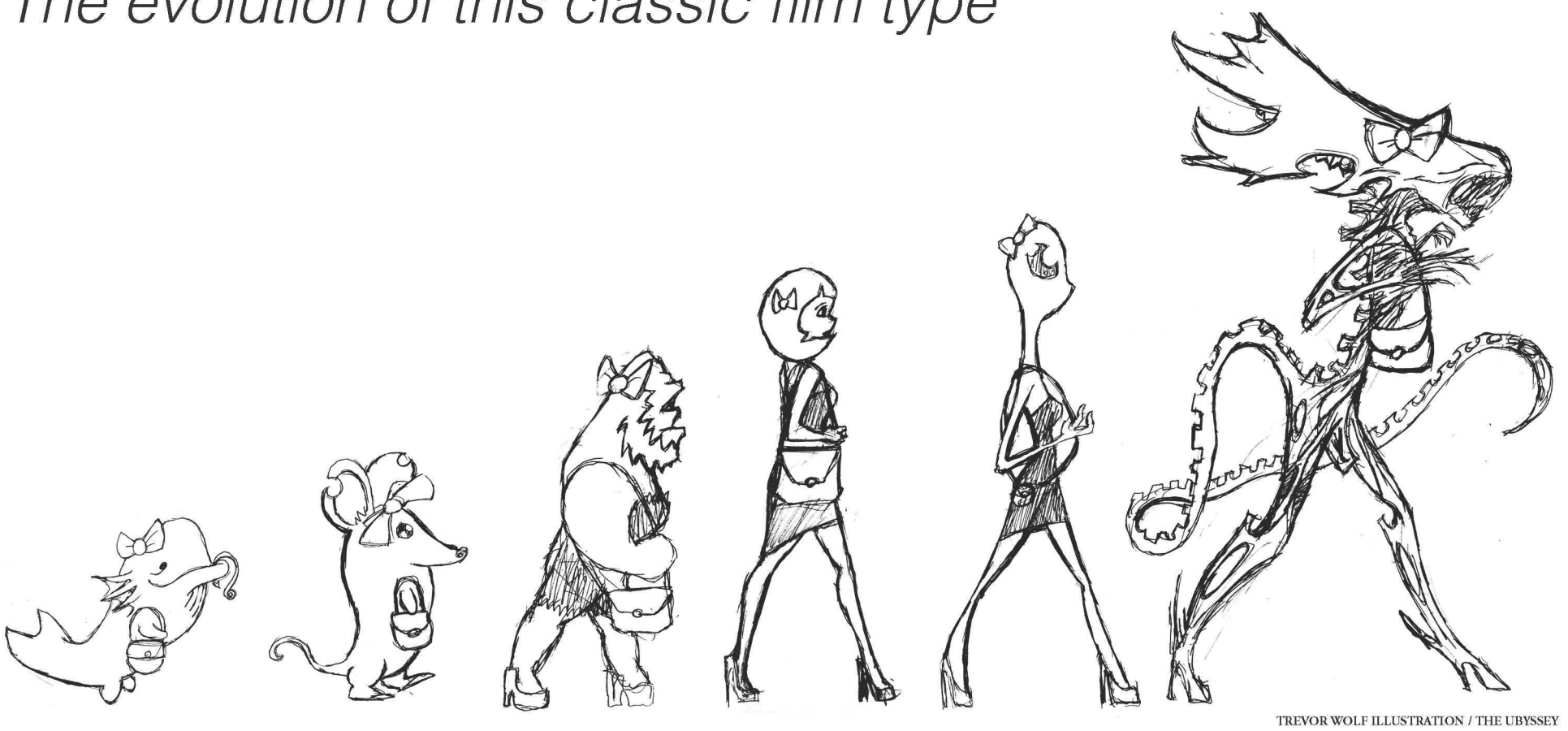
7) The Vagina Monologues

Author: Eve Ensler
Published: New York : Villard, c1998.

This is a new classic. I read it in one standing over an extended lunch break in a bookstore in Ottawa one self-employed summer. But seeing it was so much more invigorating. Equal parts audacity, sincerity, hilarity, and making-the-men-in-the-audience-uncomfortable-ity, the play consists of a series of women talking about their down-theres, each set scripted by Ensler based on her interviews with other women. Ensler is still turning out new plays. She came to Vancouver to put on *The Good Body* a couple of summers ago. Like Jackie Chan, she does all her own stunts.

Putting the chick (flick) under the heat lamp

The evolution of this classic film type



TREVOR WOLF ILLUSTRATION / THE UBYSSEY

BY JACOB MCNEIL

"Chick flicks" have a unique place in film culture. Since it was founded Hollywood has been making movies specifically for women, but, especially in the early days of moviemaking, very few of these films were made by women.

Like most industries the internal machinery of Hollywood has historically been controlled by men, and as a result women in films tended to be portrayed as men saw them.

Needless to say this resulted in rampant sexism, as can be seen in "women's pictures" such as *Mildred Pierce* (1945). In the film, a newly divorced woman enters the workforce as a waitress and through intelligence, hard work, and determination, works her way up to becoming a business tycoon. A pro-feminist tale of female independence, right? Not exactly: the more successful Mildred gets, the worse her life and the lives of her family become. By the end one of her daughters has died, while another becomes an exotic dancer and a murderer. The film essentially argues that working women are disgraceful and dangerous; by leaving the home they abandon their families and cause untold misfortune.

But where older women's films were outright sexist, modern chick flicks tend to be subtly so. Many chick flicks today make their female leads weak, wishy-washy, manipulative, or downright psychotic. The love story in *While You Were Sleeping* is fuelled by a web of lies constructed by the protagonist. *Bridget Jones' Diary* has its lead frequently humiliated. In these cases and many others, chick flicks treat women with more than a little contempt.

One particular problem in a lot of chick flicks is the prevalence of "Shining Knight Syndrome". The female lead's life is a wreck without a man; when she finally gets one in the end, it makes everything better and the two live happily ever after. Forget about how hard it is to maintain a relationship, or how bad it is to judge your self-worth solely on who you're with; the mere presence of a male in her life is supposed to make everything okay.

Are we seriously expected to accept this? The basic message of many chick flicks—that women need a man to be truly happy, and when they get one, things will be perfect—has been refuted and ridiculed countless times. They operate on the archaic assumption that a woman's value is determined solely by the man she is with.

Of course, there are exceptions, chick flicks that break with these conventions and portray women in a more positive light. *My Best Friend's Wedding*, for example, features a lead that is manipulative and irrational, but in the end she overcomes these traits. In lieu of getting the man she becomes a better and stronger person, showing that it is possible for a woman to be independent and happy. And of course, there are films like *Thelma and Louise* that focus more on women themselves rather than love, with great success.

The complicated part about all of this is that the gender politics of a chick flick have nothing to do with whether you actually watch it. *My Best Friend's Wedding* may have a healthier portrayal of women, but *Bridget Jones' Diary* is simply a better movie. *Thelma and Louise* is a great film but not necessarily one you would watch with a large group of friends.

There are good reasons for watching chick flicks, regardless of how good they are for women in general. However, it's important to keep your eyes open, to think about what you see, and to question the rationale behind the way these films portray their female leads. Chick flicks may be made for women, but that doesn't mean that they're good for them.

Alternately-abled women to take centre stage

BY CONNIE DO

On March 8th UBC's Green College will hold several lectures about the challenges facing women with disabilities.

The presentations, part of an afternoon titled "International Women's Day: Mothering Work and the Performance of Daily Life Care-giving", is fifth in a set of seven colloquia called The Unruly Salon Series, where artists and scholars share their stories and perspectives as a way of challenging some of the stereotypes of those with disabilities.

The series is the creation of Leslie G. Roman, an associate professor in the department of educational studies at the UBC Faculty of Education, and Geoff McMurchy, the artistic director of both S4DAC (The Society for Disability Arts and Culture) and The Unruly Salon Series.

In its first year, The Unruly Salon brings together internationally renowned scholars of disability studies and professionals from the arts as a means of demonstrating that disability arts, culture and scholarship are useful in the pursuit of equality and justice.

Roman says that each of the seven Salons is distinct and deals with a wide array of disability-related issues crossing racial, class, and sexual boundaries.

"The Unruly Salon dares to imagine what it means to be human without the idea of perfection or purity," she says.

According to Claudia Malacrida, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Lethbridge, attention to disabled women is important because in the past, people have not been concerned with disabled women specifically; in the disability movement, women's issues have not been in the foreground.

Malacrida is giving a talk on March 8th about the challenges women with disabilities face.

"Many women find themselves parenting or they're parenting alone," says Malacrida. "Women tend to be marginalized compared to men regardless of their ability or disability."

She continues to say that women without disabilities earn less money, and have more challenges in the workplace and the public sphere. But when it comes to disabled women, all these problems are highlighted and exaggerated. Disabled women also need to deal with problems arising from access to employment, access to education, and lack of accessible housing in safe neighborhoods.

> *The issues that are particular to women with disabilities are not being spoken about, they are not put in the centre of the movement.*
>
> CLAUDIA MALACRIDA
> *Associate Professor of Sociology*
> *University of Lethbridge*

"In the early years of the disability movement, there has been criticism from women with disabilities saying that while the movement is giving us some political voice, the issues that are particular to women with disabilities are not being spoken about, they are not put in the centre of the movement," says Malacrida. "This particular combination is what we would call in sociology a 'double jeopardy' or 'multiple jeopardy,' where the effects of gender and disability interact to create a heightened oppression."

Despite these challenges, Malacrida does not consider disabled mothers tragic, but heroic. She sees them as heroic because the kinds of policies and structures they parent under make mothering more difficult than it need be. Many of the challenges to women's employment, in-home supports, and access to affordable, accessible housing could be changed by government. She says, "The government says on one hand that they care particularly about family but I think that for women with disabilities, their experiences would tell us differently."

A graduate course in educational studies, taught by Roman, is also offered at UBC, and works in conjunction with the Salons. The course consists of three broad ideas: a focus on formal education on disabilities, participation in educational experiences, and different social views on disability.

David Anderson, a student enrolled in this class, feels that the needs of disabled students at UBC have been largely accommodated but not advocated. Making campus more accessible does not seem to be the top priority, which evokes a feeling of segregation from students like Anderson who, for example, may need to go around the back to find the elusive elevator to the Student Union Building instead of entering through the front door like everyone else.

"The Student Union Building,' says Anderson, "is accessible but it doesn't feel like you're a majority student. It's not a focus so you feel like a second class or third class citizen."

Salon 5 will be on March 8th from 1pm to 5pm in the Green College Reception room. Subsequently, Salon 6 will be on March 20th and Salon 7 on March 29th. More information regarding this series including contacts and bios can be found on The Unruly Salon website at *www.unrulysalon.com*.

HIRING

Apply in person for the best summer job you've ever had!

March 12 thru 15th
10 AM to 4 PM

1696 Duranleau
Granville Island

Bridges
restaurant bistro bar

Bridges

Fun in the sun!
Staff sport teams
Staff events

HIRING
ALL POSITIONS

Hosts, Servers
Kitchen and Bartenders
Experienced and starting positions available

www.bridgesrestaurant.com

Volunteer for the Ubyssey. SUB 24, Tuesdays 12-3pm.

PUT YOUR DEGREE TO WORK

If you have a university degree in any field, you may be able to earn a BCIT diploma in one year. BCIT's advanced placement into diploma and post-diploma business programs can fast-track you into a career in:

Financial Management
> Accounting
> Taxation
> Finance/Financial Planning
> General Insurance and Risk Management

Contact: Tim Edwards, Associate Dean, 604.432.8898

Operations Management and Information Technology
> International Trade and Transportation*
> Information Technology Management*
> Operations Management*
*relevant business degree required

Contact: Mary Tiberghien, 604.432.8385

Business Administration
> Business Administration (Post-Diploma)
> Human Resource Management

Contact: Liz Moran, 604.451.7019

Marketing Management
> Professional Real Estate
> Entrepreneurship
> Marketing Communications
> Professional Sales
> Tourism Management

Contact: Jackie Laprise, 604.432.8293

For more information, visit **bcit.ca/admission/transfer/advanced**

Apply now for Fall 2008

TECHNOLOGY CHANGES EVERYTHING | BCIT

"Not my problem?" Men's role in stopping violence against women

Op-ed piece from a man's perspective

BY ALEX AYLETT

Canada has a problem with violence against women. The statistics will stop you in your tracks: depending on the polls you read, between one half and one quarter of university-aged women have been sexually assaulted, most by someone they knew or trusted. But I don't want to write about statistics.

I'm a man, and for a long time those kinds of numbers left me feeling both angry and defensive. Angry at the cruelty that they represent, but also defensive because of the accusation that seemed to linger behind them: the accusation that somehow all men were to blame. I knew that not all men abuse; in fact some of those same studies show that many women turn to male friends for support and care after surviving an assault. But somewhere between those private moments and public efforts to stop violence, men's voices get lost. It is time for us to find our way, past anger and defensiveness, to something more productive.

> *Between one half and one quarter of university aged women in Canada have survived being sexually assaulted. A woman or child is assaualted in Canada almost every minute of every day.*

One of the problems may be how we imagine what rape and assault to be. When I was a teenager I thought I knew what rape was—rape was something that happened after dark, in an alley or a park. There was a stranger, a knife, and a woman in the wrong place at the wrong time. It was like the terrible details of the Pickton trial, but played out at a different scale—not something I could do anything about, except offer to walk my friends home at night.

When someone close to me was assaulted a few years later, I learned how far off I was. The maniac in the park is mostly myth. Although those kinds of attacks do happen, the majority of women are assaulted in a familiar place and by someone they know. Many women are assaulted in their own homes, dorm rooms, or workplaces. My friend was one of those women. Chances are some of your friends and loved ones were too.

Other than unproductive dreams of vigilante justice, the myth of the maniac doesn't lead to much. On the other hand, seeing the real picture means recognizing that men are in a privileged position to stop violence. We are on the inside, so to speak, inside groups of friends, colleagues and family members where we can stop assaults before they happen. We are inside groups where we can intervene to diffuse situations that encourage violence, and where together we can speak out publicly against the violence that we see around us. But for that to go anywhere, we also have to start looking for the reasons why some men are violent; what is the bigger picture? I have my guesses. The increasing violence of pornography, the bland acceptance of sexism in popular culture, and the aggressive sexual competition that we as men often goad ourselves into all definitely need to be addressed.

These and a host of other things don't make all men rapists, but they do create a context that facilitates assault, and that reassures and celebrates those who are violent. I am not sure what the answer to this problem is, but I am sure that men, all of us, have a part to play in finding it. We have both a privilege and a responsibility to ask where this violence is coming from, and to speak out against it. We need to look at the events that capture the headlines not as horrible exceptions, but as signs of a more general problem that is with us everyday.

Over the past five years, I have worked with Allies@UBC, an on-campus resource group that deals with issues of sexual violence. It has been one of the most rewarding parts of my on-campus life, and I've learned a few things over the years.

The most important, I think, is that violence against women really isn't a "women's issue". It is everyone's issue. Not only do men have a unique position that makes it possible for us to prevent sexism and violence in our communities, we also have a lot to gain. In some way all of our relationships with friends, with lovers, and with family will benefit when the everyday violence that women have to face finally stops.

Let's look at those statistics again. Between one half and one quarter of university aged women in Canada have survived being sexually assaulted. A woman or child is assaulted in Canada almost every minute of every day. It is time for men to become involved with this issue, to move past feeling defensive or angry and to start making a difference. It is time for men to read articles like this and realize that this is something we can get involved with. It is time for men to say that we are people first and foremost, and that this kind of violence, like all forms of violence, has to stop.

Editor's Note: Alex Aylett is a founding member and alumnus of Allies@UBC, a pro-feminist UBC resource group that runs a variety of sex-positive events on campus ranging from the Fall White Ribbon Pancake Breakfast to the OralSex Workshops. For more information, contact allies@interchange.ubc.ca.

Shattering images of femininity

Op-ed piece comparing two female role models

BY MARIE-HELENE WESTGATE

Last Saturday's *Globe and Mail* ran simultaneous profiles of Hilary Clinton's rise to political heights and the empire of celebrity paparazzi surrounding Britney Spears.

Over a cup of green tea that morning, I couldn't help but think what a brilliant editorial choice it was to feature America's respective leading ladies in the same issue. North American culture's fixation with these two iconic subjects never ceases to compel me.

While Clinton has worked for decades to gain public approval, Spears' presence has figured prominently in print and television media since her 1999 debut record sold many millions of copies.

The Globe's Sinclair Stewart, a financial services reporter, explores the styles of speech and dress that have come to form our collective perspective of Clinton as an unpopular, impenetrable chameleon in the piece, which is headlined "Why Clinton is still tops in Little Rock."

Steward describes Clinton as "seeming stiff and unlikeable," before claiming that supporters from her hometown of Little Rock, Arkansas, tell another story. Stewart asks the question, "Can such an exhaustively analyzed figure [as Hillary Clinton] really be so misunderstood?"

Stewart introduces Clinton by means of association with Joe Purvis, an all-American "bear of a man." Stewart sets up Purvis to bolster Clinton's likeability with a rooted reflection of America's image of what is trustworthy.

Stewart finishes with a reference to Bill Clinton, who "...famously remarked that Democrats prefer to fall in love with their candidates, while Republicans prefer to fall in line. Unfortunately for Hillary, [her husband's] words appear to be ringing true."

Meanwhile, in the arts review section, journalist Peter Cheney deploys his arsenal of quotes from prominent Los Angeles paparazzi—all male—who earn their livelihoods snapping photographs of a pop singer's notorious spiral to self-destruction.

"It is her antics that have made Los Angeles the centre of the paparazzi universe," Cheney writes.

He blames Britney Spears for L.A.'s ongoing photographic feeding frenzy, on account of "the annulled Vegas wedding, the custody battles, the kids without car seats, the pantyless limousine exits and what may be history's most over-examined psychiatric meltdown."

> *"While the media investigates Britney Spears and Hillary Clinton's likeability under the guise of equal opportunity, I find myself stuck in the trusty binds of subordination from which feminism still can't quite break free.*

I can't help but wonder when male celebrities were ever disparaged so passionately for their own alleged indecencies. Is it because Spears, once the girl next door we could all gawk at in *Maxim* magazine, has failed to maintain her end of the contract to mirror our cultural ideals of innocent, yet hyper-sexualized femininity?

Veteran paparazzo Frank Griffin says of Britney Spears that "...she provokes it, and she's part of it...She can't live without [the paparazzi], and they can't live without her."

Cheney's article suggests that Spears's symbiotic relationship with the media is a mutually beneficial one for all parties.

If the saying, "behind every good man stands a greater woman," stands up to equality discourse, then what of the managers, agents, publishers, producers and marketing teams lurking in the lucrative shadow of Spears?

If Cheney's article provides any basis of quantitative data, Los Angeles' multi-million dollar paparazzi empire consists overwhelmingly of males.

A look at Cheney's investigative piece begs the question: Is Spears the sole benefactor—if she is a benefactor at all—of the seemingly endless bounty offered up by what Cheney has coined "Target: Britney"?

In an era that fancies itself well-endowed in progressive liberalism, how is it that media still critiques female figures according to the same categories feminists of all genders have been striving to eradicate?

At this very moment, reporters and journalists are deploying evidence of physical appearance and sex appeal in the character trials of Hillary Clinton and Britney Spears.

Days after finishing my cup of tea and tossing my Saturday paper into the recycling bin, I'm still very much in the dark about these two leading ladies.

While the media investigates Britney Spears and Hillary Clinton's likeability under the guise of equal opportunity, I find myself stuck in the trusty binds of subordination from which feminism still can't quite break free.

Witch trials have always provided strategic distractions from the real question of who, truly, wants to see these women hung, and what exactly these women are on trial for.

I think I have substantial proof that greater forces are at work regarding the case of shattering images of femininity. I'm still deliberating on whether or not my question will make the headlines next weekend: Who do we hate most, Hillary or Britney? U

THE UBYSSEY $3000 Community Contribution Award

At the Ubyssey, we feel that a sense of community on campus is important. Since 1998, we've been putting our money where our mouth is, and offering $3,000 Ubyssey Community Contribution Award. This annual award recognizes returning UBC students who have made a significant contribution to developing and strengthening a sense of community on the UBC campus by:

1. Organizing or administrating an event or project, or

2. Promoting activism and awareness in an academic, cultural, political, recreational, or social sphere.

The award is open to all returning, full-time UBC students, graduate, undergraduate and unclassified in good standing with the Ubyssey Publications Society. For the 2007-2008 academic year, we will award a $3000 award for a project. Deadline will be April 1 2008 and the award will be disbursed to the successful candidate on April 10 2008.

Nominees for the award will be judged on:

1. The impact of the contribution made - the number of people involved or affected.

2. The extent of the contribution - the degree to which it strengthens the sense of community on campus.

3. The innovation of the contribution - preference will be given to recognizing a new contribution over the administration of an existing one.

4. The commitment of the individual to UBC as a community.

Nominations should include a cover letter by the nominator, either an individual or a group, briefly stating the nature of the contribution made, the individual being nominated, contact information of the nominator and the nominee and a letter (approximately 500 words in length) describing the contribution made and how the above four criteria have been met.

Students are welcome to nominate themselves, but those doing so must attach a letter of support from another member of the campus community. The award will be judged by a committee chaired by a representative of UBC Student Financial Assistance and Awards office and members from various parts of the campus community.

Deadline for submission of completed nominations should reach the Ubyssey, Room 23, SUB, no later than Tuesday, April 1, 2008.

For further information, please contact Fernie Pereira, Business Manager, The Ubyssey, at (604) 822-6681 or email: fpereira@interchange.ubc.ca

“