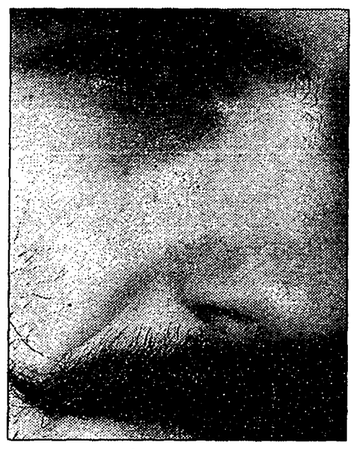

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THE MOUSTACHE EFFECT
UBC's unlikey (and humourous) environmental activists. PAGES 6–7

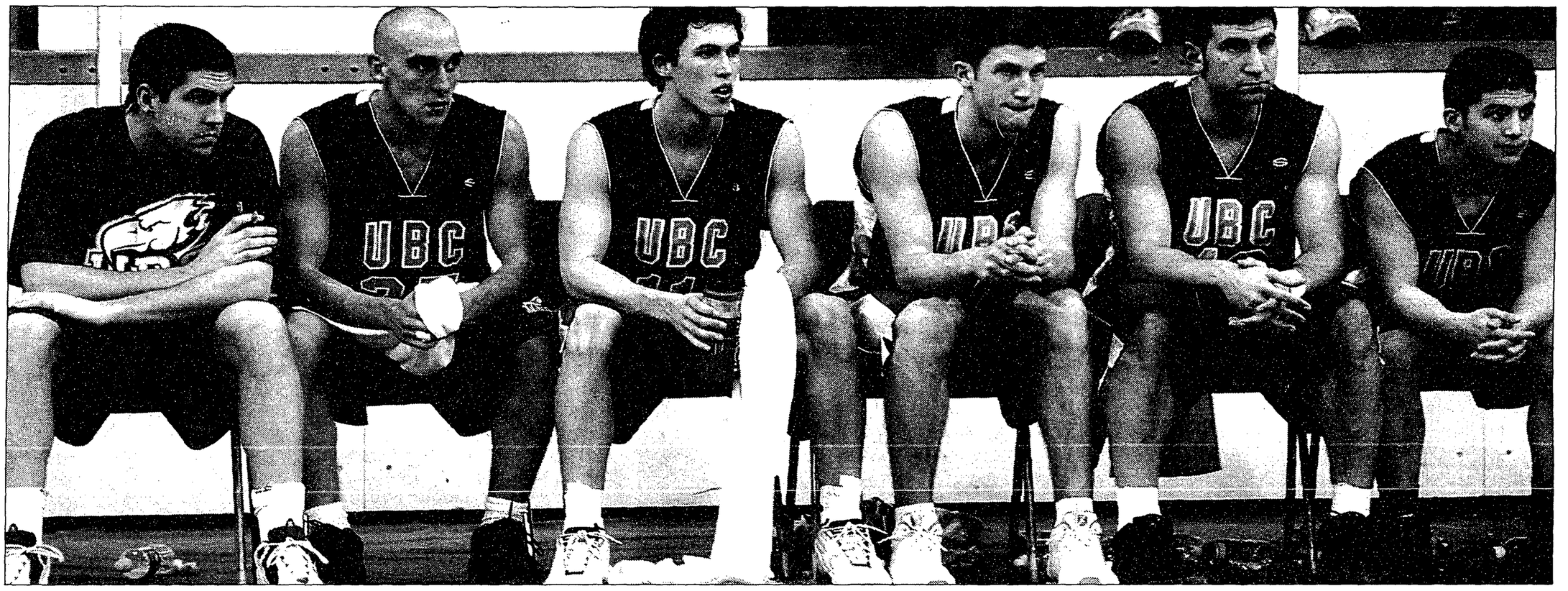
FLAMING FLAMENCO
An exclusive interview with Spanish guitarist Paco Peña. PAGE 5

SPONGEBOB GAY?
The hard war against deviant sponges and puppets. Grab your pumice scrub, this could get ugly. PAGE 10

The Ubyssey

The Beach Boys, keepers of keys and secrets since 1918.

TUESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY, 2005 VOL. LXXXVI N°37



Basketball Birds eliminate SFU from playoffs for second year running

Their cross town rivals took them to the limit, but UBC goes on to play Victoria for a chance to advance to the Canada West Final Four next month. The T-Birds are hoping to earn a third consecutive appearance at the National Championships in Halifax. Read more on page 9. **YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO**

Forensics to be phased out

by Eric Szeto
NEWS STAFF

UBC's graduate forensic psychology program, a pioneering program in Canada, is set to be phased out in 2008 much to the aggravation of the program's founders.

While forensic courses will still be offered at an undergraduate level, the graduate program is being removed because of what the psychology department calls a shift in its policy.

"Any department changes over time. We've had other programs that have existed and they've changed," said Psychology Department Head Eric Eich.

"Forensics [is an] important area, I'm not saying it's trivial because it's not," he added. "It's a fascinating, sexy area...but the thing is there are lots of others too and...you build on the strengths that you have and how things develop over time and it's a hard decision but you have to do it."

Dr Don Dutton, a professor and co-founder of the forensics program, has a different take. Forensics makes a significant contribution to society and removing the program would be a disservice to everyone, said Dutton.

"I personally have the belief that psychology should wrestle with the problems of the day and that we have a debt to the broader society," said Dutton. Universities have a broader debt to society to help with everyday problems, not just abstract tinkering that may or may not ever contribute to anything...I think it's too easy to get locked up in an ivory tower in a lab."

Barry Cooper, a recent graduate from the forensic psychology program at UBC, is also confounded by the faculty's decision to remove such a popular program.

"I guess it's frustrating because there is such a demand for forensic psychologists in the community and even in academia there's a disproportionate amount of graduate applications in the forensic area," said Cooper.

However, forensic psychology isn't the only area in the field of psychology that deals with the everyday problems of society, said Eich.

"If you look at...the people we've hired now that do health psych things, a lot of that has real world major implications," said Eich. "How is it that stress in the urban environment gets under your skin? We're looking at genet-

See "Forensic" page 2.

Punjabi language looking to have larger role in Canada

by Rob Annandale
NEWS WRITER

A UBC professor is embarking on an ambitious campaign to elevate the status of Punjabi within Canada.

At present, Punjabi holds foreign language status, but if Sadhu Binning, an instructor of Punjabi at UBC and the vice-president of the Punjabi Language Education Association (PLEA), gets his wish, things are going to change.

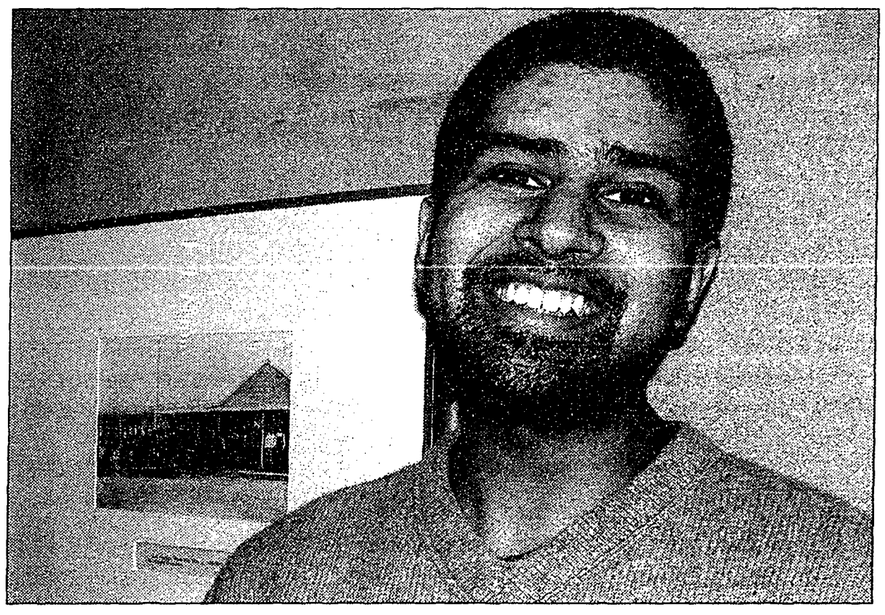
"The demographics of Canada have changed and we need to move and to acknowledge some of the changes that are happening," said Binning.

Binning considers Canada his home and does not feel that his language and culture are foreign. His Punjabi-English bilingual book of poetry, *No More Watno Dur* (No Longer Away From the Motherland), delves into his coming to terms with his adoptive country.

Though Canada recognises many aspects of his native culture, Binning said that the Punjabi language is still treated as something foreign. The cultural importance of language means that "Punjabi and other languages should also belong here and not stay foreign forever," he explained.

In BC, where only English and Chinese are spoken more often, Punjabi is one on a list of seven possible second languages that can be studied in the public school system. Nationally, Punjabi ranks

See "Punjabi" page 2.



TONGUE TIED: A photograph of early Punjabi settlers confirms Harjeet Grewal's assertion that the language has a long Canadian history. **MICHELLE MAYNE PHOTO**

UBC alumni donate $8 million towards biodiversity research

by Hilary Onas
NEWS WRITER

A donation of $8 million from two UBC alumni for a new biodiversity research centre will give the university new opportunities to study the diversity of life, from single genes to ecosystems.

Vancouver couple Ross and Trisha Beaty, both graduates of UBC, made the donation last month.

"It is important to know what is happening in the area of species loss and species diversity," said Ross Beaty, adding that he hopes the centre will examine possibilities for minimising or reversing damage caused by humans. "Non-human species are being heavily disturbed by human impact."

Beaty learned of the biodiversity project from UBC President Martha Piper in 2003 and, after discussing the idea with his wife, the couple decided to make a donation.

The building, which will be called the Beaty Biodiversity Research Centre, will include both research facilities and a natural history museum—a combination that will be the first of its kind in Canada.

The Beaty Museum of Natural History will showcase UBC's vast collection of specimens, which are not currently accessible to the public. The museum is expected to include an insect collection of over 600,000 specimens as well as Canada's second largest fish collection—over 800,000 specimens.

"The museum will communicate the science to the average person in society...to explain in ordinary terms why biodiversity is important," said Beaty, who is the chairman of the Pan American Silver Corporation.

Research done through the centre will be reflected through the exhibits and displays in the museum.

"The goal of the natural history

See "Big Money" page 2.

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

UBC INTERNATIONAL WEEK GLOBAL CHATS SPEAKER SERIES. The UBC International Relations Students Association presents: Three Projects: Islamic Empire, Pax Americana, or a World of Law A Lecture by Gwynne Dyer Time: 12:30-2:00pm Date: Tuesday February 22nd, 2005 Location: Norm Theatre at the SUB.

THE UBC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STUDENTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS: UNITED NATIONS: Reform or Collapse - Chances and Dangers of UN Reform 60 Years After the Foundation of the World Organization A Lecture by Andreas Zumach Time: 4:00-6:00pm Date: Wednesday February 23rd, 2005 Location: Norm Theatre at the SUB.

HUGE SHOE CLEARANCE SALE 3450 W. Broadway (+Collingwood) 50-80% retail on Vasque hiking boots, Trailrunners & mountaineering boots. Emu boots, shoes & slippers (genuine sheepskin & merino wool) $30-$40. Fashion footwear – Projekt & Habit brands -$20.

UBC RUN FOR RURAL MEDICINE FUNDRAISING 5KM RUN/WALK and 10km run, April 2, 2005. Check out www.ubcmed.com/rural run for details. Great prizes!

Extra-curricular

WWW.PRIDEUBC.COM: An AMS Resource Group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered students and allies. Visit our website for events and info!

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Services

UBC FOOD COOP PRESENTS SPROUTS, a student run, not for profit cooperative grocery store. Find snacks, fresh produce, ready-made- meals, baked goods and more on the lower level of the SUB. Open 11-6 Monday to Friday.

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COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE
UBC Strategic Transportation Plan Update
UBC UNIVERSITY TOWN

The UBC campus community and members of neighbouring communities are invited to provide feedback on the Strategic Transportation Plan (STP). The STP is a living document for managing transportation at UBC in support of Trek 2010 and the Official Community Plan.

The 1999 version of the STP needs to be updated to serve the changing transportation needs of UBC's growing community. UBC's department of Campus and Community Planning is facilitating this process.

We will have information on STP performance to date and feedback forms for your comments and suggestions.

OPEN HOUSES:

March 1, 2005, 12:00pm - 4:00pm
Student Recreation Centre (SRC), East Gym *
6000 Student Union Boulevard

March 2, 2005, 3:00pm - 7:00pm
War Memorial Gym, Foyer *
6081 University Boulevard

*For directions to the open houses please visit **www.maps.ubc.ca**. Both locations are conveniently adjacent the temporary trolley and diesel bus drop-off areas. Parking is available in the temporary surface lot at East Mall and University Boulevard, or in the North Parkade.

For further Information contact:
Karly Henney, Planner, UBC Campus and Community Planning
tel: 604-822-4169 fax: 604-822-6119 email: karly.henney@ubc.ca

www.trek.ubc.ca www.planning.ubc.ca www.universitytown.ubc.ca

SFU program likely to flourish, critics say

"Forensic" from page 1.

ic markers as well as psychophysiological, so there are a lot of areas that are studied."

When UBC does finally abolish the program, Simon Fraser University (SFU) will be the only other program offering forensic psychology in BC and one of only a handful in Canada.

Eich feels that the end of forensic psychology at UBC will allow SFU's program to flourish.

"It makes a lot more sense to have one really thriving [program] like at SFU," he said.

But considering UBC's reputation in this field it's disappointing to lose this program, according to Dr John Yuille, a long time forensic psychology professor at UBC.

"It's too bad because UBC is prominent in forensic psychology," said Yuille, who's set to retire at the end of this year. "Psychiatry and psychology need to get together and they have to get together to solve the problems of society."

Forming a separate institute or faculty that combines these two areas is an option that may be pursued but the likelihood of this actually happening remains quite uncertain, according to Dutton.

"What I think John Yuille and I are proposing now is maybe getting a group of people in psychiatry and...really saying to UBC 'you need a whole new area. You need some group of people that are really dealing with social problems and focus on applied issues,'" he explained.

"We've pretty much exhausted all appeals," he added. "What else can we do?"

Punjabi advocates hope for symbolic recognition

"Punjabi" from page 1.

sixth among the most common languages and enjoys no such privileged status.

Binning's group is not looking for official language status but it is seeking both symbolic and financial recognition from the federal government.

Harjeet Grewal, a second-year Master's student in Asian Studies at UBC, finds the request reasonable given the fact that people have been living, speaking and writing in Punjabi for nearly a century in Canada. Although he was born and raised in Canada, Grewal speaks Punjabi every day to his parents, his peers and his four-year old daughter.

"I have Canadian values but I still use the language," he said.

Grewal hopes that symbolic recognition will lead to some concrete changes. Providing an example of a problem area, he cites the fact that it is currently impossible to study the language at UBC beyond the 300 level.

A greater number of Punjabi speakers will benefit members of both the Punjabi and the non-Punjabi communities by allowing greater access to each other's cultures and increasing social integration, according to Grewal.

However, Roy Bornmann, director of communications for the Minister of State (Multiculturalism), does not see a role for the federal government in this matter.

Although Bornmann agreed that certain communities might legitimately lobby for improved facilities in their language at the local level, he sees any "prioritisation" of particular languages at the federal level as potentially problematic.

Canada is made up of approximately 200 different language groups, each having played an important role in the country's history, explained Bornmann.

"I'm not sure if you can pick one culture or one language and say that this one is more important than the others," he said.

Binning knows that the campaign will be a struggle. When asked how optimistic he is about his project's hope of success, he said that he and his PLEA colleagues are "not very hopeful that things will happen right away but, in the long run, we definitely are."

In the meantime, PLEA members plan to continue to try to raise awareness of their cause. Last Sunday, they held a celebration of the Punjabi language to mark UNESCO's International Mother Language Day.

Museum complex will be a Canadian first

"Big Money" from page 1.

museum is [to educate]," said zoology professor Dolph Schluter, director of the new centre. Schluter hopes the research centre and museum will serve to "connect visitors with the process of research and discovery in biodiversity science."

The building, which will stand at five storeys in height and will stretch over 12,600 square metres, will offer research resources that are not currently available—members of UBC's biodiversity research community presently work through various buildings and departments on campus.

"The biodiversity research centre will provide offices that we currently don't have," explained Schluter. "You cannot overestimate the importance of shared architecture to inspiration in science."

Schluter is also confident that the new laboratory facilities will enable researchers to launch new and ambitious research programs and answer major questions in the field of biodiversity: what's out there, what relationships exist, and how diverse ecosystems are around the world.

The next 50 years will see biodiversity declining, which makes its preservation critical, according to Schluter. In this capacity, the new centre can play a key role, since its goal is to discover what is behind this decline, he explained.

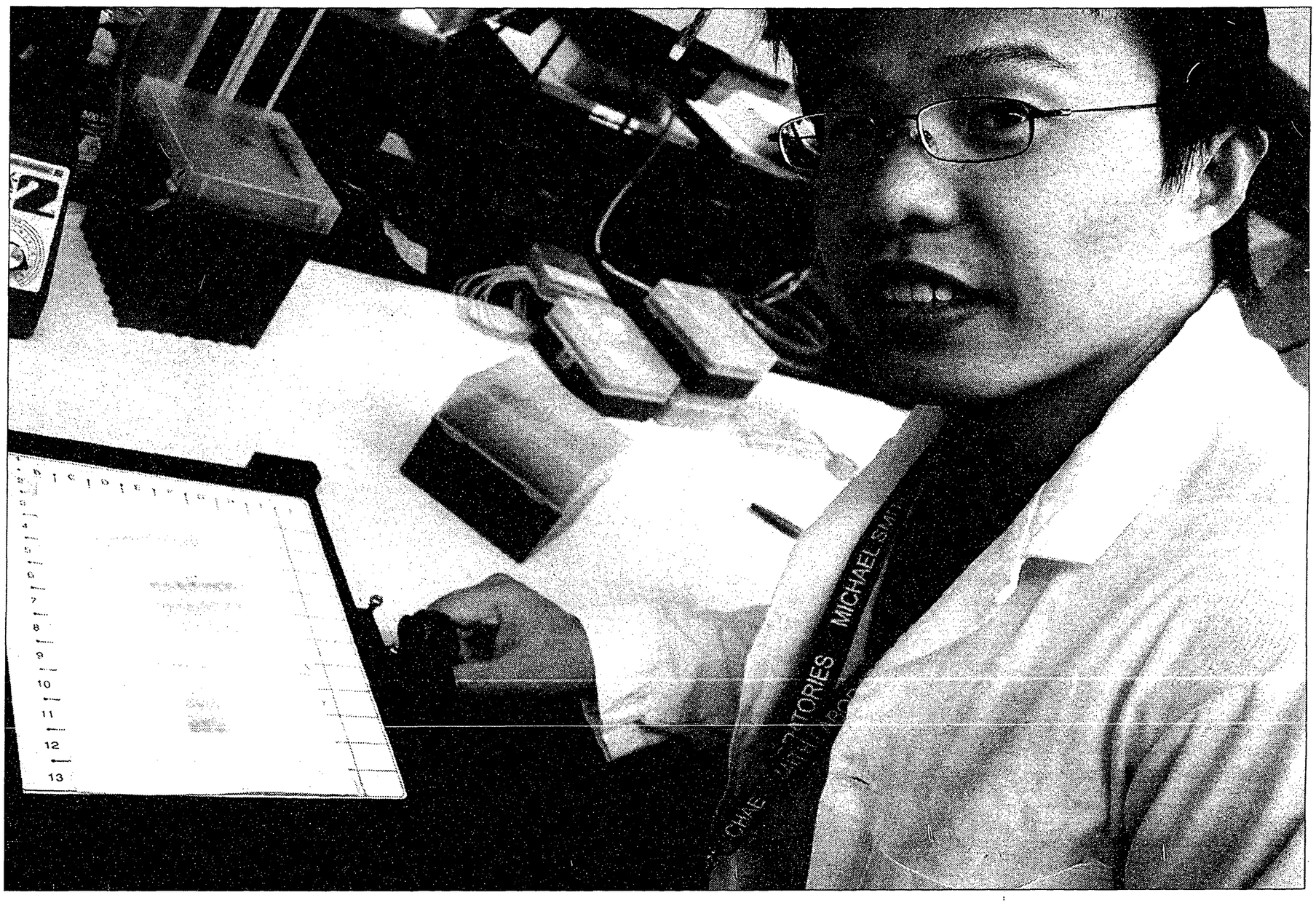
The first experiment to be launched upon the centre's opening will be called "Biodiversity Knockout"—an initiative designed to address the consequences of a loss in biodiversity.

"The centre can only be positive in terms of enhancing and improving what is [at UBC] now," said Beaty. "I expect the centre will provide significant and long-lasting benefits to UBC students and faculty, the Greater Vancouver public, and Canadian and foreign visitors."

The Beaty Biodiversity Research Centre and Museum of Natural History is scheduled to open in November 2007.

UBC researchers hope to cure BC's beetle woes

by Matt Hayles
NEWS WRITER



BLINDING ME WITH SCIENCE: Research assistant Roy Lin works with conifer RNA as part of the pine beetle project. MICHELLE MAYNE PHOTO

Only six millimetres long, the mountain pine beetle has been wreaking havoc in British Columbian forests well in excess of its size, but research at UBC may change that.

According to a provincial report, an aerial survey has identified some 7.2 million infected hectares, with the number of areas showing significant damage doubling since last year.

Natalia Kolosova, in her second year of doctoral studies at UBC, said that this epidemic translates into a multi-billion dollar loss for the forest industry.

Students and postdoctorates are currently involved in a large-scale tree genomics project headed up by UBC associate professor Jörg Bohlmann and colleagues. With $11 million in funding from Genome Canada, Genome British Columbia, and the provincial government, the Treenomix program "aims to provide a solid base in tree genomics to advance biological knowledge and aid breeding programs," said Bohlmann.

But that funding is coming to an end in September 2005, and Bohlmann has recently submitted a new proposal to look for the specific genes that make trees resistant to the insects and pathogens that threaten them in British Columbia.

Trees protect themselves with a ring of programmable cells that can be set either to produce wood growth or to build a complex array of defensive resin ducts.

"And they're filled with nasty stuff," said Jeanne Robert, who is working with Bohlmann in her first year of doctoral studies, "so when an insect goes there and tries to chew on the tree, if it bites into one of these it's going to get a mouthful of sticky, gooey, toxic crap."

Since the 1970s, researchers have been identifying trees that show greater resistance to insects. By comparing the genomes of resistant and vulnerable trees, Bohlmann hopes to identify and characterise the genes that help trees protect themselves. With any luck, this will eventually lead to an index of resistant characteristics.

But Bohlmann stated that his goal is not genetically engineered trees. "That's a non-starter," he said, "and let's just take that off the table right away." Rather, he hopes to make this research available to traditional tree breeding programs.

"Some trees produce more resin, some trees produce more resin ducts, some trees produce more toxic resin," said Kolosova. "And they're trying to address that question and trying to understand which chemical components are most important for tree defence mechanisms, which genes are most important. And once we narrow it down they'll be able to select trees that are able to resist the...invasion better."

The Ministry of Forests expects the mountain pine beetle to continue affecting the supply of available lumber in BC for the next 80 years, but the peak is projected some time before 2010. Projects like Bohlmann's may help minimise the damage, and speed recovery. With forestry the second most important resource in Canada, preventative knowledge would certainly be a boon.

Group of UBC scientists investigating killer Vancouver Island fungus outbreak

by Gabriela Perdomo
NEWS WRITER

A group of UBC scientists, using state-of-the-art genetic technology, is on its way to find the cure for a deadly form of fungus affecting Vancouver Island.

Working under Dr James Kronstad at UBC's Michael Smith Laboratories, the scientists are about to finish the genome sequencing of a kind of infectious fungus called *Cryptococcus*. The sequencing will aid in the development of drugs and vaccines to protect people from the infection.

"Once you know all the genes, they all become candidates to make antifungal drugs," said Kronstad. "We are now in the early stages on that pipeline."

The presence of the fungus was first detected on the east side of Vancouver Island in 2001. Since then, over 100 habitants and visitors to the island have been diagnosed with *Cryptococcus* and three have died from it.

The fungus causes a specific kind of lung tumor, pneumonia and sometimes meningitis; recovering from it can take months. Over 300 animals have also been reported as infected so far.

The fungus outbreak on the Island surprised both physicians and scientists. Until 2001, *Cryptococcus* had only been found in people suffering from immune deficiencies, such as patients with AIDS—but none of the Vancouver Island patients fit the profile.

Before the genome was mapped, field research led by Dr Karen Bartlett, an assistant professor of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene at UBC, revealed that the fungus found on Vancouver Island is different than the type commonly found in patients with immune deficiencies.

The fungus found on the Island, *Cryptococcus Gattii*, was previously found only in tropical or subtropical countries, such as South America and Australia.

Bartlett and her research group successfully isolated the air-borne organism in 2002, discovering that once inhaled, the fungus stays in the lungs, causing the symptoms seen on Vancouver Island. Learning more about the organism was essential, said Bartlett.

"Nobody was doing research, but when these cases became apparent, both in humans and animals, Public Health got interested," she explained.

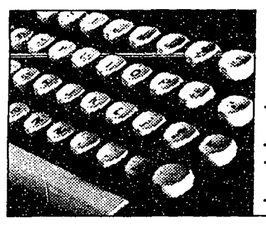
Continuing the study is important since physicians and scientists in Canada were not aware that the fungus could affect people without immune problems, she added. Some of the patients from Vancouver Island were diagnosed incorrectly due to the lack of information available on the fungus, a factor that may have contributed to the three deaths.

"Understanding the genome means that doctors can run rapid tests to identify the organism in a patient, so the therapy can start early," Bartlett said.

Three years after what was called "the killer fungus outbreak" on Vancouver Island, the *Cryptococcus Gattii* genome mapping is ready and its sequencing is almost done.

With the help of new technology and various organisations—Genome Canada, the Natural Sciences and Energy Research Council (NSERC), the Genome Sciences Centre (affiliated with UBC), the BC Cancer Centre and UBC Bioinformatics Centre—both Kronstad's and Bartlett's research teams could soon see the end result of their work.

"I feel good that we could keep up and use that state-of-the-art technology here in Vancouver", said Kronstad.



NEWS BRIEFS

In a UBC country garden

As the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre is built around the shell of Main Library, UBC's landscape architects are planning a revitalisation of the surrounding Library Gardens.

The Library Gardens are the oldest designed landscape on campus and the proposed changes will attempt to reflect that history, said UBC landscape architect Patrick McIsaac.

"It will be a hybrid in so many ways," he said. "We can't restore it to what it once was, but we're trying to make it more useable."

The water features in two forested garden areas on either side of the clocktower will be restored and certain "Chinese garden" elements will be added, said McIsaac.

The design for the gardens was presented to the public Monday and will also be evaluated by a design panel before being sent to the Board of Governors for approval later in the spring.

"The intent is for it to be a contemplative, quiet space," said McIsaac. The green space on the other side of the library complex is part of the University Boulevard Architectural competition and is intended as a more social space, he added.

Some trees will be removed when the library expands, but most will be relocated to other parts of campus, McIsaac said. One of the trees slated for removal is the cypress used in the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

"We're going to have to find something new for a Christmas tree," McIsaac said.

Money for thought

An anonymous donation of ten million dollars will help UBC establish a dedicated institute for mental health research and three research chairs.

The donation will be matched by the provincial government, Premier Gordon Campbell announced Monday, leaving the University with $20 million for the project.

"All members of our society, including those afflicted with mental illness, deserve the best care we can offer," the donor said in a release.

Five million dollars has been set aside to allow the Department of Psychiatry to recruit three researchers in the fields of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry and Depression, and Psychotherapy.

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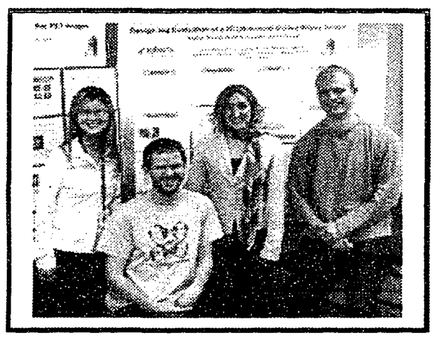

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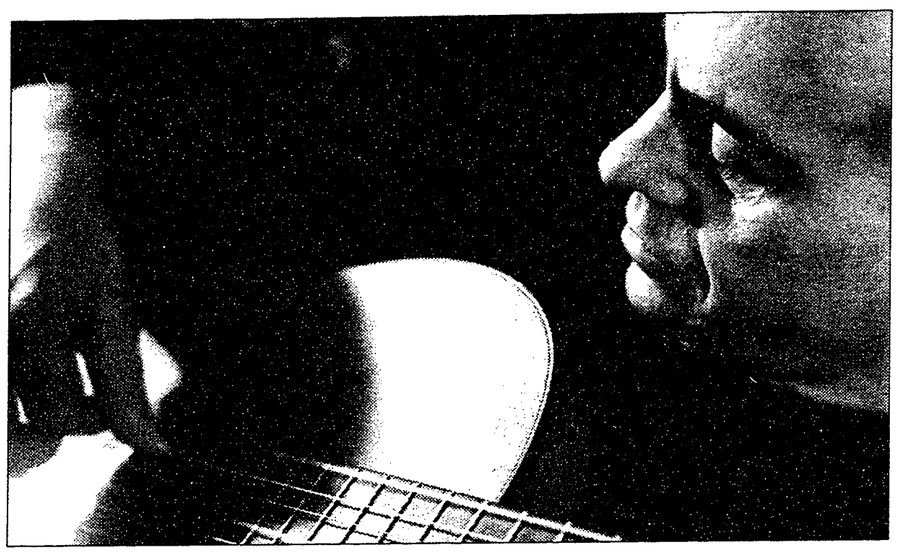
medicalbiophysics@uwo.ca
tel: 519 – 661 – 2111 (ext. 86550)

Western
Graduate Studies

Peña plays passionate flamenco from the heart



Paco Peña
Performing at the Vogue Theatre
Feb. 27

by Alyssa Burtt
and Shireen Nabatian
CULTURE WRITERS

Born in the Andalucían city of Córdoba, Paco Peña began learning guitar from his brother at the age of six and made his first professional appearance at the age of 12. Since his early beginnings as a young musician Peña has been touring internationally. His skills as a guitarist, composer, dramatist, producer, and artistic mentor have allowed him to transform perceptions of this archetypal Spanish art form like no one before him. Peña is also known for combining musical genres from blues to Latin American styles and has recently been exploring musical theatre as another avenue of expression. We had the unique opportunity to interview Paco Peña for the upcoming show in Vancouver at the Vogue Theatre. Read on to hear Peña's own views on the musical journey that has led him to Vancouver.

UBYSSEY: Living in the heart of Southern Spain you probably grew up with Flamenco music and dance all around you. What inspired you to become a musician? Did you always know you were going to be a musician, or did you ever have other plans?

PEÑA: If you are born with music in you, you will follow your inclination wherever you are. In Cordoba, when I was a kid, flamenco was all around me. I just followed the inevitable call. However, I did not trust that I could become good; I just liked it and I did what I wanted. Total dedication came later with the fascination of constant discoveries in this beautiful musical world.

UBYSSEY: Can you tell us a little about the roots of flamenco music and dance?

PEÑA: A great many peoples and cultures have arrived in Andalucia and settled there throughout the course of history, particularly from the Mediterranean area. A rich mixture of Eastern and Western elements has developed there and has produced a unique, strong musical culture that is the basis for the artform that is flamenco.

UBYSSEY: Who are some of your biggest musical influences?

PEÑA: In flamenco there are three guitarists that stand out; three huge pillars from whom most guitarists have learnt most things, during my generation anyway. They certainly have been my main teachers, and they are Niño Ricardo, Ramón Montoya and Sabicas. Of course, I have been privileged to be around with many other musicians from other disciplines, really too many to mention. The combination has really shaped my taste in music and my direction.

UBYSSEY: How did you feel about your role as an artist representing Spanish music and culture when you first started touring internationally?

PEÑA: I never consciously assumed a role of representing Spanish music. I simply am Spanish and whatever I produce will, I think, have that mark. I always did, and still do, what I like doing and what is and was important and meaningful for my soul. And I did that by displaying my art, if you will, in an honest way, representing my tradition. The fact that it has been accepted with respect around the world makes it really rewarding and a wonderful bonus.

UBYSSEY: What inspired you to combine flamenco music and dance with musical theatre?

PEÑA: It is a natural progression from being totally immersed in the world of flamenco. It is such a rich artistic culture that it still has much undiscovered potential—and I wantto discover some of it!

UBYSSEY: How has your success in the world shaped your choices as an artist?

PEÑA: It allows me to present to the world some of my search, some of my discoveries about what I do (as I said earlier) and knowing that I will certainly please at least some audiences, and will be received with respect on account of my reputation.

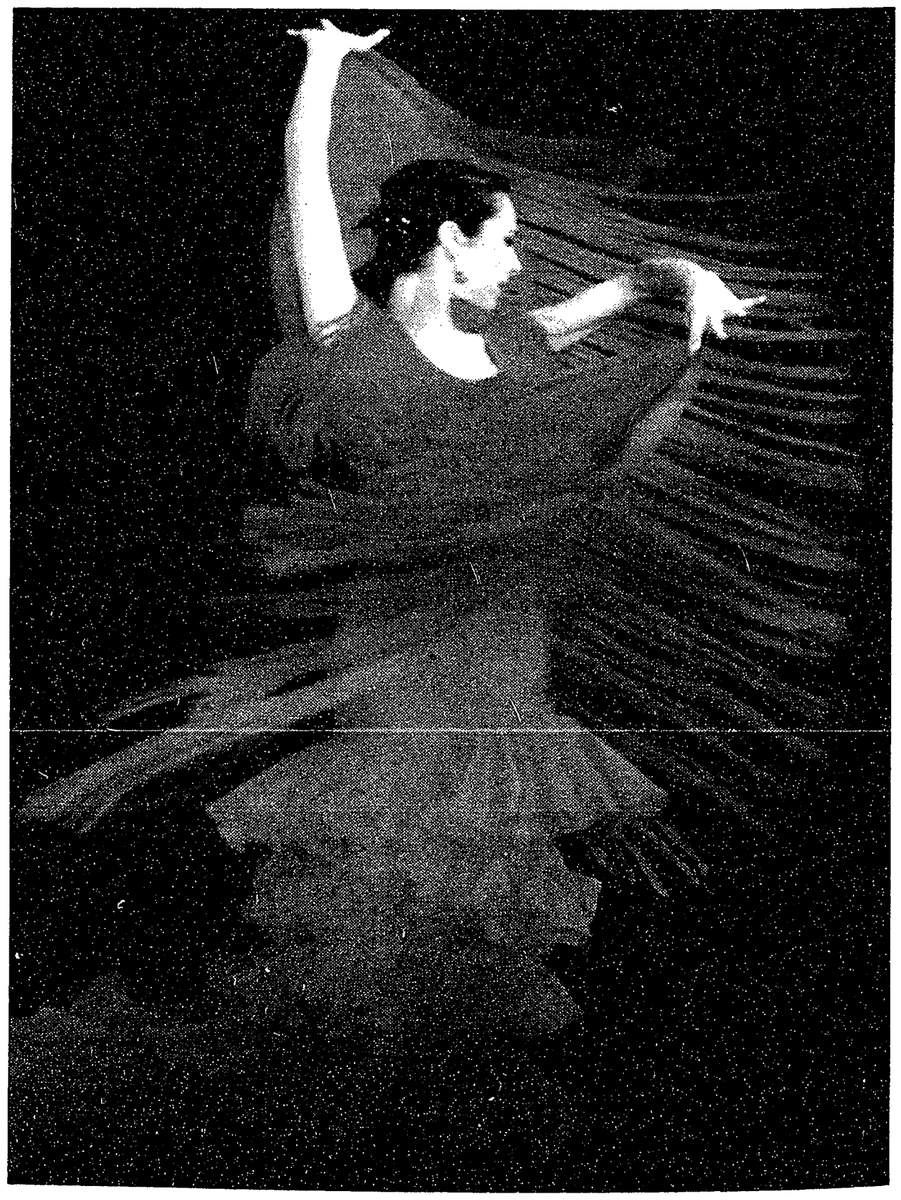
UBYSSEY: As an internationally renowned musician, you have probably had the opportunity to work with a diverse range of musicians. Can you tell us about some of your most memorable collaborations?

PEÑA: One that stands out and is particularly endearing is my performing with Victoria de los Angeles, who very sadly passed away a few weeks ago. The great classical guitarist John Williams, the wonderful Joe Pass, Eduardo Falú, Inti Illimani, Leo Kottke, and the great composer Stephen Dodgson. All great human beings.

UBYSSEY: It says in your biography that you have "further plans to marry flamenco with the forms and forces of classical music." Can you tell us more about these exciting plans?

PEÑA: I have just completed a Requiem Flamenco, which I made into a Requiem for the Earth. It is a flamenco piece but uses a choir as well as a children's choir. Apart from following the tradition of Requiem text, I want to comment with this piece about the fragile nature of our existence, about the devastation of the planet Earth, and yet to point out that there is time for mankind to learn from past mistakes and take action to protect it. ■■

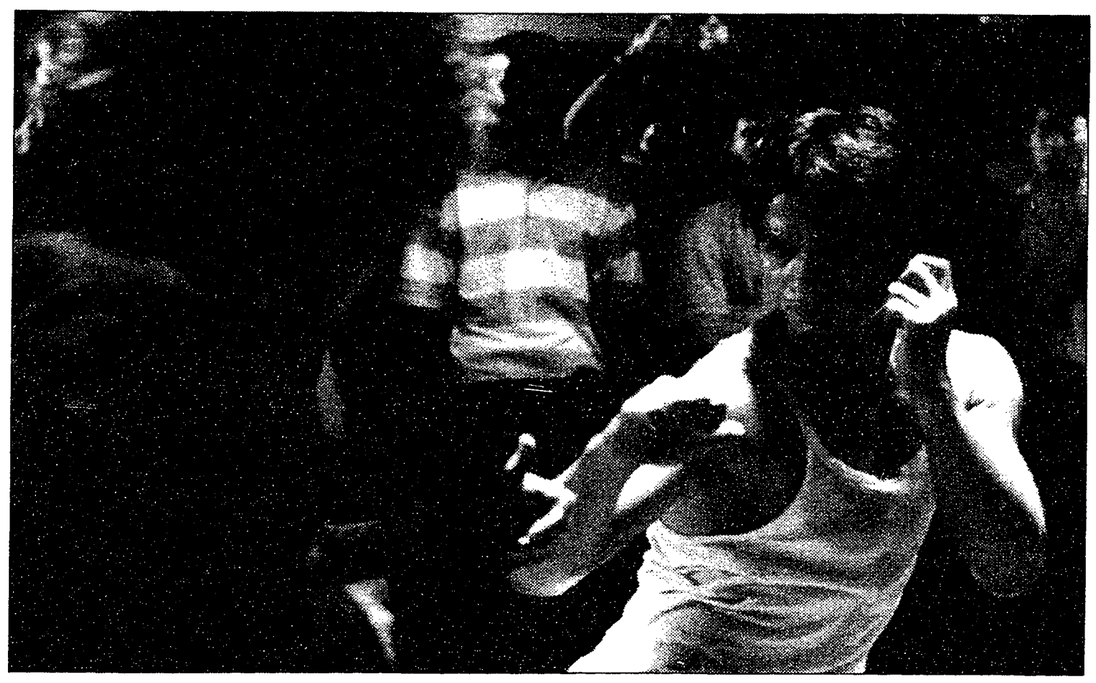
You can experience the passion of the Paco Peña Flamenco Company at the Vogue Theatre this Sunday February 27. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.



Lethal art

ONG-BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
now playing

by Jesse Ferreras
CULTURE STAFF



Tony Jaa is billed in the high-impact trailers for *Ong-Bak: The Thai Warrior* as the next superstar in the tradition of such martial arts masters as Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan and Jet Li. *Ong-Bak* star Jaa succeeds effectively at exposing the audience to "Muay Thai," a deadly martial art less known to the western world than karate or kung fu, as well as a new martial arts master whom his producers expect will be the next chop-socky superstar to kick his way across the big screen.

Ong-Bak is the name for the head of a Buddha statue in a tiny, peaceful, heavily religious rural town on the outskirts of Bangkok. The Ong-Bak is stolen by a greedy drug-dealer and the Buddha-fearing residents of the town believe they are doomed to plague if it is not restored to its shrine. Ting (Jaa), a young student of Muay Thai is instructed to never use the fatal martial art until the head of the Buddha is stolen, and he volunteers himself to go to the city and bring it back to the shrine so that the small town may be saved from the plagues brought upon them.

Once in Bangkok, Ting encounters George (Petchtai Wongkamlao), a man born in the same peaceful village, who has become corrupted by the lure of the metropolis, and in doing so has amounted significant debts with the lackeys of the local crime boss who is so evil that he is mobilised in a wheelchair and speaks out of his neck with a voicebox. With George's help, Ting traverses the Bangkok underground, gaining notoriety for his exceptional fighting skills, all the while never straying from his set goal of returning the Ong-Bak to his village.

When criticising a martial arts film, one must attempt to ignore the plot and the acting altogether. Director Prachya Pinkaew does a number of favours for western audiences with *Ong Bak*: he exposes a wide audience to the budgetary achievements of Thai cinema; for the uninitiated, he gives us a full-throttle introduction to the lethal art of Muay Thai.

Furthermore, he enlists the services of an artist of amazing physicality to showcase Muay Thai to the world, providing for the art itself a spectacular introduction and in turn a successful career break for Tony Jaa. The fight scenes are endless (literally...not virtually) and barely give the audience a chance to breathe, and left an indelible impression on its viewers at the Vancouver premiere. Jaa showcases a muscular brutality virtually absent from the style of the comical Jackie Chan, and is praised by some media as the martial artist that Bruce Lee fans have been waiting for.

Jaa's status as the next martial arts master is questionable, however—although he is an amazing fighter, who allegedly performs with "No safety nets...No computer graphics...No strings attached," he lacks the charisma to distinguish him from more recent martial arts superstars. Bruce Lee was famous for his exceptional skill and a brutal intensity; Jackie Chan endeared audiences for investing humour into his style; Jet Li performs with such intensity he seems primed to explode.

Tony Jaa, meanwhile, is distinct mainly for the level of brutality in his fight scenes, but hardly for his acting. His lack of substance, however, is more than compensated for by his skills as a martial artist, which induced endless "whoas" and "wows" as he took out fighters more than twice his size beneath showers of sparks and even submerged underwater. The best martial arts thrillers make you want to get up and fight—on this count, *Ong-Bak: The Thai Warrior* delivers with style.

Solid not Staggering

LEEROY STAGGER
Beautiful House
[Boompa Records]

by Megan Turnbull
CULTURE WRITER

How do you review a musician based on one song? My assignment is to shed some light on the talents of local singer/songwriter Leeroy Stagger, based solely on the song "Just In Case" from his upcoming album *Beautiful House*.

Leeroy Stagger has been lumped into the ambiguous category of alt-country, the agreed upon classification for any music that includes an acoustic guitar at some point and doesn't sound like Nickelback or some other formulaic rock group.

The sampler that I received includes two versions of the song "Just in Case." As far as I can hear, they are pretty much the same except the "radio edit" is only three minutes long as opposed to the four minutes and eighteen seconds version that will appear on the album. God forbid the radio should ask its listeners to pay attention to something for more than three minutes!

I don't hear an instant classic here, but it's an enjoyable song with a catchy beat. Stagger's vocals have a moody punk flavour, which create an interesting contrast when paired with the up-beat pop tempo of the music. It's a radio friendly song that reminds me a bit of the Thrills or early Foo Fighters. "Just in Case" is the song that will be released to the radio, and since radio singles are usually the least interesting songs on albums, I think there's a good chance that Stagger's album will be worth listening to.

Stagger's full album will be released today, and I would encourage you to go out and support a talented local musician. And if grabbing the CD based on one song is not your thing you can experience the Victoria native live tonight at The Media Club in Vancouver for his CD Release party. For more information visit www.leeroystagger.ca.

TAKE OFF, eh!

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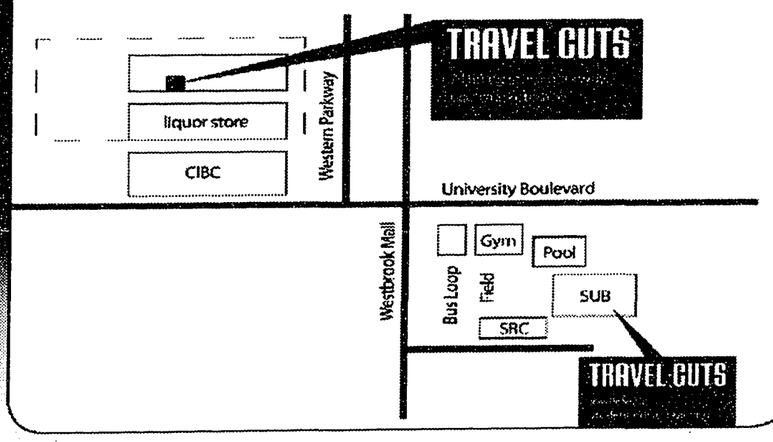

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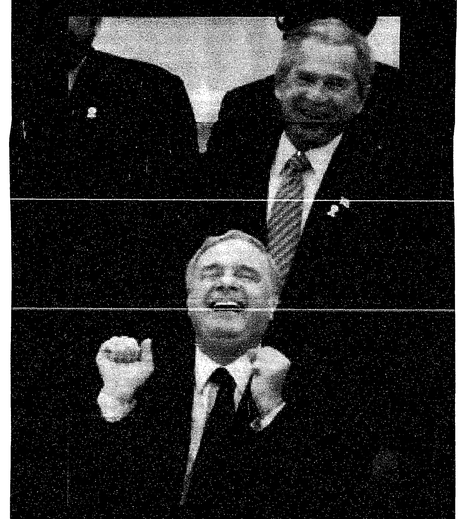
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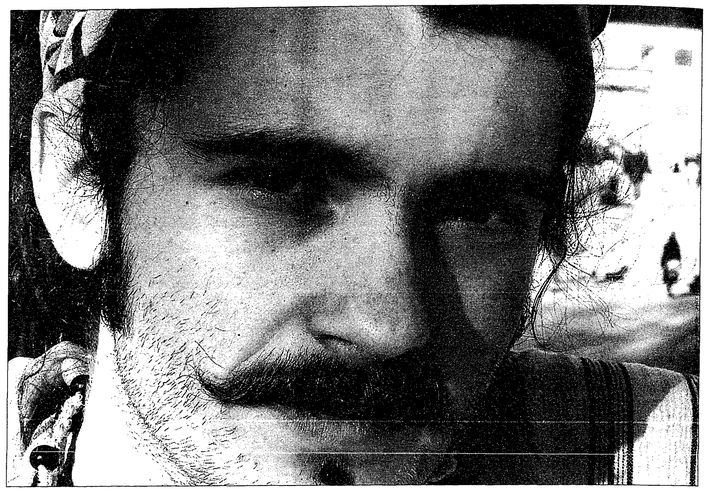
UBC's moustachioed renegades

The Moustache Club proves that "ambitious hippie" is not necessarily a contradiction



YOU CAN'T TELL, BUT I'M WEARING ROLLER SKATES: Chris Ross, president of the Moustache Club.

text and photos by Trevor Gilks
FEATURES STAFF

Nearly two years ago, the Moustache Club was constituted as an official club of the Alma Mater Society (AMS). Its humble origins were based upon the principle of furthering the awareness and appreciation of moustaches, initiating thoughtful discussion of moustaches, and increasing the visible presence of moustaches on campus. But from its simple, stubbly roots as a Tom Selleck-worshipping half-serious fanclub for facial hair, it has thickened and expanded into one of the most active, public and enigmatic groups on campus.

The Moustache Club has taken a guerilla approach to enhancing awareness of not only the moustache, but a variety of other contentious issues affecting students, such as sustainability, student politics, and Wreck Beach conservation. While some initiatives originally seem to deviate from the club's initial moustache-oriented goals, club founder and president Chris Ross maintains that regardless of whether or not the moustache is explicitly involved, they continue to seek inspiration from their facial namesake.

"The moustache inspires us because it demands attention" explains Ross. "It's out there, it makes you pay attention, and it's impossible to ignore. And that's how we want to approach things too, anything from artwork, to music, to politics, serious issues, and just fun and nonsense—just get out there and make ourselves heard and be like the moustache of the student body."

Protecting the one place near campus you can wear nothing but a moustache

When UBC announced plans to build student residence towers on Marine Drive in a position that would overlook Wreck Beach, the Moustache Club became surprise crusaders for its conservation. The esoteric club joined forces with other groups such as the Wreck Beach Preservation Society (WBPS) and Pacific Spirit Park Society (PSPS), the AMS and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). And while they themselves would be the first to admit that the Moustache Club may not have any substantial lobbying power against UBC Properties Trust (the department responsible for the construction), they have proven themselves to be effective student motivators and a representative voice of an untapped portion of students.

"I appreciate the work that they do," said AMS Vice President Administration Lyle McMahon. "They have a fairly ambiguous platform in terms of their constitution, which allows them more creativity and to have more fun with what they do. I find them to be quite effective [especially] in terms of motivating the audience of students who wouldn't otherwise give a shit."

As part of UBC's goal to increase the number of students being housed on campus, there are four residence towers being built between Totem Park and Place Vanier. Three of them are going to be 20 storeys, one 17, all on top of a five storey base, and all four of them will lurk over Wreck Beach. UBC Vice President External Dennis Pavlich claimed that the closest tower's reduction from 20 storeys to 17 would preserve the privacy of Wreck Beach. However, the Moustache Club was driven to action when it obtained photos taken from the partially constructed building that revealed a clear view of Wreck Beach.

"They claimed they would only be 20 and 17 storeys tall, but what they forgot to mention, or didn't feel like mentioning, is that that doesn't include a five storey base and an elevator shaft that continues on over the roof that adds who knows how much else," points out Ross.

The first building is only partially completed—none of the other three have even been started—yet already it is an eyesore on the otherwise scenic beach. "They had only built up to the 15th floor and we could already see the top three from the beach," explained Ross. The club organised a Wreck Beach conservation protest to give students a first-hand demonstration of exactly how threatened the beach really was by the new constructions. The event was well attended by UBC students as well as members of the WBPS.

While the Moustache Club's relationship with the WBPS began humbly—mostly through personal friendships and mutual interests—the group has slowly begun to gain acceptance and recognition, and has even become somewhat of an unofficial link between the students and the WBPS and the GVRD. At this Wednesday night's AMS Council meeting, Ross will be presenting the GVRD's recommendations, which involve modifying the size and the zoning of the towers to an extent that remains possible given the construction already completed.

Pay attention, Martha

Ross recognises that it is probably too late to stop the remaining towers from being built or scaled down in size, but maintains that it was never a black-and-white issue.

"The University usually just goes ahead with things," explained McMahon. "The most valuable outcome [of the Moustache Club's efforts] would be to try to encourage change in UBC's consultation practices and recognise that it's imperative to take in the wishes and views of campus members which, while the University will probably disagree, includes groups like the WBPS."

Hopefully this outcome will come to fruition, as the Moustache Club has a lot to teach UBC's administration about consulting students. The primary public forum held by the Moustache Club is Pole On The Knoll, a weekly celebration of silliness, creativity, music, art, good will, dialogue, food, and magic that takes place all day on Fridays outside of the SUB around a "psychedelic" barber pole that regularly draws inspiring attendance levels that would make Brian Sullivan jealous.

Ross publicly emphasises the fun aspect of the event, claiming "we just play around her and celebrate and expand the nonsense" (the "her" being Madama Belle Moustache, the affectionately named pole). But despite his casual claim that "she twists up out of UBC's dear Grassy Knoll every so often and is quickly surrounded," Pole On The Knoll is an undeniably informative platform attended by a healthy mix of the knowledgeable and the curious. And most importantly, it's an abundant source of friendly and student-biased information of the most accessible variety.

As with almost every other aspect of life, attendees of Pole on the Knoll are compared by Ross to moustaches. "When you first start growing a moustache, it's stubbly, and it's ratty, and ugly, and it isn't the facial hair you really want to present. And when people first come to Pole On The Knoll, they may not know anything about the campus, they may not be able to express themselves artistically or musically. But just like moustaches grow and become luscious and full, people get more aware and talented and can express who they truly are."

The Election Circus

During the recent AMS Executive Elections, the Moustache Club provided an event during the important democratic process designed to appeal to those who would be turned off by the bloated self-importance of the event: The Election Circus.

The event consisted of an election forum that was designed to be a take-off of the staunchly drawn-out debates that preceded it. The event took place on the day that voting started, making it the most relevantly timed election event, and its light-hearted tone made it among the best attended. The format also allowed for back-and-forth discussion between candidates, whereas the official debates only allowed the candidates to give brief answers to two or three questions, many of which failed to address relevant issues or encourage thoughtful discourse. Ross is undoubtedly used to not being taken seriously, but felt that "the real debates were the silly ones."

The Circus's goal was to establish a balance of election issue discussion while keeping it relevant, accessible and fun. Presidential candidate Jeremy Shell, for example, gave his views on consultation in the form of a rap battle, while Board of Governors candidates Quinn Omori and Tim Louman-Gardiner faced off in a pie-eating battle, and Vice President Academic candidates were asked to debate campus development while maintaining a drum circle.

During the event, candidates got a chance to engage in open discussion to a larger and more interested audience instead of giving one sentence answers to buzz questions. Vice President Academic candidate Karen Ward said "The Election Circus was a blast. Considering how much complaining there was over the limited number of "official" debates and decent speaking times, being invited to participate in something so different was both an honour and a really enjoyable afternoon.

"Plus, I was drumming on a skateboard," she added.

But never forget where you came from

The Moustache Club continued their trend of increasing voter turnout by conducting a referendum coinciding with the U-Pass referendum which asked students whether or not the AMS should recommend to Martha Piper that she grow a moustache or, should she find herself unable, attach an artificial one. The referendum passed nearly unanimously, and an email was sent by AMS Vice President Administration Lyle McMahon to UBC's President making the request. Piper has yet to reply.

Throughout all of their endeavours, however, the Moustache Club has never lost sight of their original inspiration—the bowtie to your birthday suit and the welcome mat to your smile—the moustache. Recently indoctrinated into the World Beard and Moustache Association (WBMA), the Moustache club has been actively distributing mugs with moustache protectors, re-decorating advertising in the SUB to make it more moustache-friendly, and actively addressing the issue of the disparaging lack of Tom Selleck imagery in the SUB.

For those tracking their activities, the Moustache Club's motley crew of members and hangers-on can seem random, scattered and even disorganised. But to understand their diverse inspiration, one must first understand the moustache itself. "Moustaches are neither exclusive nor specific," says Ross.

"They are fuzzy, arbitrary, undefined, mysterious and open for all to freely ponder and enjoy. Grow it, show it, join in and celebrate!" ■

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Carnegie Centre Theatre, 401 Main Street (at Hastings Street)

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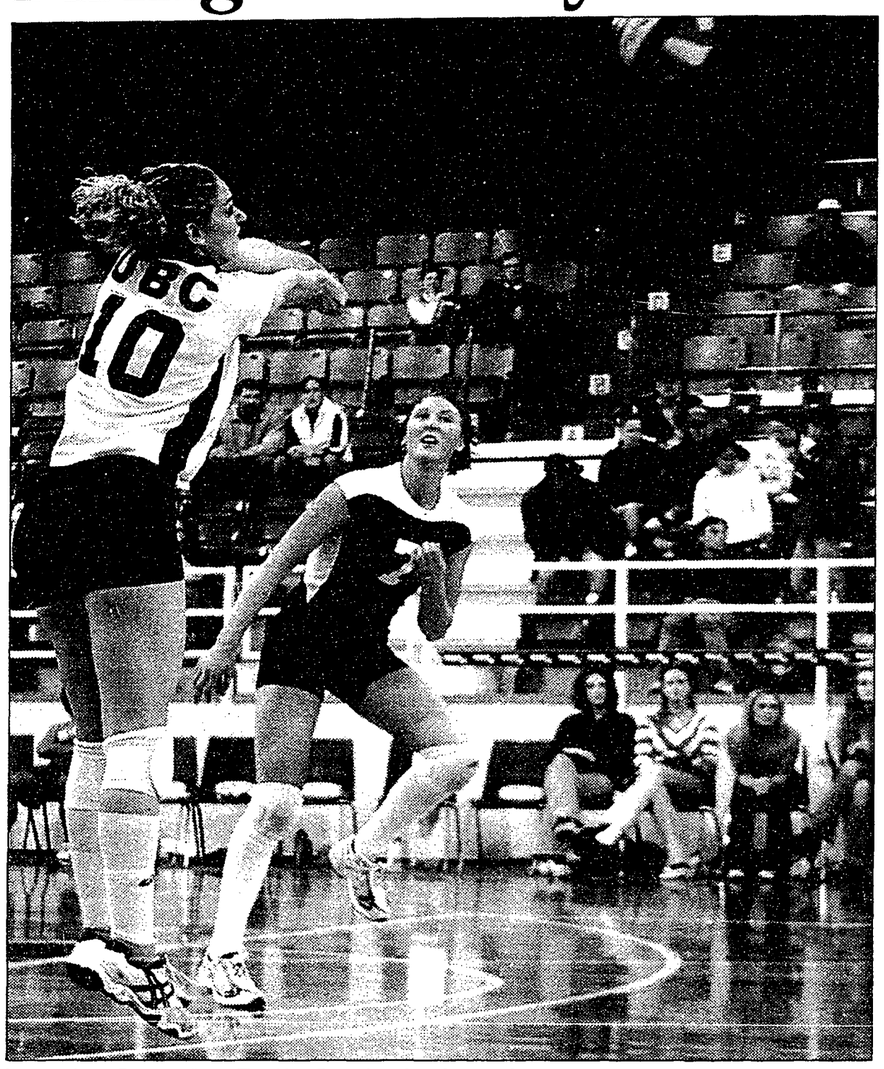


WINNING FORM: Emily Cordonier in action. YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO

by Eric Szeto
SPORTS EDITOR

Too bad they don't teach accountability in politics. After a third set collapse that would have sealed the series sweep for the women's volleyball team, coach Doug Reimer was the first to admit his mistakes in Saturday's match against the Regina Cougars.

"The difference was the coach making too many subs," he said. "It wasn't the players that went in, but [player changes] upset the rhythm that they were in."

Up throughout the whole set and by as much as five at one point, the Birds looked to be cruising to their second consecutive three-set victory in as many nights. That was until the unnecessary substitutions, when a tired Cougars team, fighting for their last breath awoke. The Cougars eventually took the set 25-22.

Disheartened? No. The Birds responded as they have all season, reeling off an early 12-4 run that put them in the driver's seat for the rest of the fourth set. A mini-comeback was staged by the Cougars in the middle of the set, but the hot hand of fourth-year Shelly Chalmers came alive in the fourth with three of the final five points to seal the 24-14 victory.

Fourth-year Maya Miguel, who clinched the win with the final point in the fourth, was eager to end the match.

"I think in the fourth set we definitely had a mindset that we were putting it away," said Miguel, who finished with an impressive nine kills and 11 digs. "We were up by so much [in the third set] but they were fighting hard."

The Birds got off to a blazing start which was highlighted by fourth-year Emily Cordonier, whose forceful shots took down two Cougars with the ball, nearly taking off a Cougar's arm and ricocheting another off a Cougar's head. Neither was injured in the play.

Despite Reimer's claims that his substitutions were the cause of the T-Bird problems, Cordonier was quick to take some of the blame over to the player's side.

"We fell back a little bit, our momentum was broken a little bit by the sub[s]. But really as a team you have to be able to do it no matter who's in the lineup," she said. "So if he takes responsibility for half of it, we'll take the other half."

Reimer just wanted to create adversity.

"I had to convince them in between games that it's a good thing for us to be in tighter sets. We're not going from here to the national final without losing sets and having to come back...You never want to give a quality team a chance to get back at you," said Reimer.

"I think physically and mentally we're peaking. We've got a lot of jump right now."

The Birds head to Calgary for the Canada West final four this weekend. ■■

BIRD DROPPINGS

Finito

The men's volleyball team ended their season on a sour note after losing to Manitoba in a best-of-three playoff series this past weekend. After sweeping the opening match against the Bisons, the Birds failed to win another set in their remaining two matches.

One more time

The women's basketball team can now focus their energy on defeating the unbeaten SFU Clan, after sweeping their Huskie opponents in Saskatchewan over the weekend in the first round of the playoffs. UBC has lost all three matches this past year against the Clan. UBC begins the Canada West final four Friday against Regina. ■■

Rekindling that old flame

by Eric Szeto
SPORTS EDITOR

There were only two possible endings for the men's basketball Thunderbirds going into their game-three series finale versus their cross-town rivals from SFU Sunday—do or die.

With visions of Saturday night's 71-69 loss still fresh in their minds, UBC had to make sure they brought their A game.

The Birds prevailed in decisive fashion defeating a feisty SFU Clan 96-65.

The first half was relatively even for both squads. Both showed signs that they had just sparred 24 hours prior. This didn't last long.

With minutes remaining in the half, fifth-year forward Mark Tasic's emphatic dunk, was not only pivotal in galvanising the crowd, but the score as well. The Birds pulled away on an 11-4 run to end the half with a 46-33 lead.

The Birds carried that momentum into the second half, as the floodgates opened. The Birds scorched the Clan but also cleaned up on the other end with some outstanding hustle plays by Tasic.

Fourth-year Casey Archibald, who had a game high 27 points, led the assault, making a pair of threes that put the Birds up 71-46.

If SFU was going to go down, however, they weren't going to go easy. Tempers flared during a loose ball battle as SFU's Emmy Unaegbu grappled with fifth-year forward Pete Wauthy.

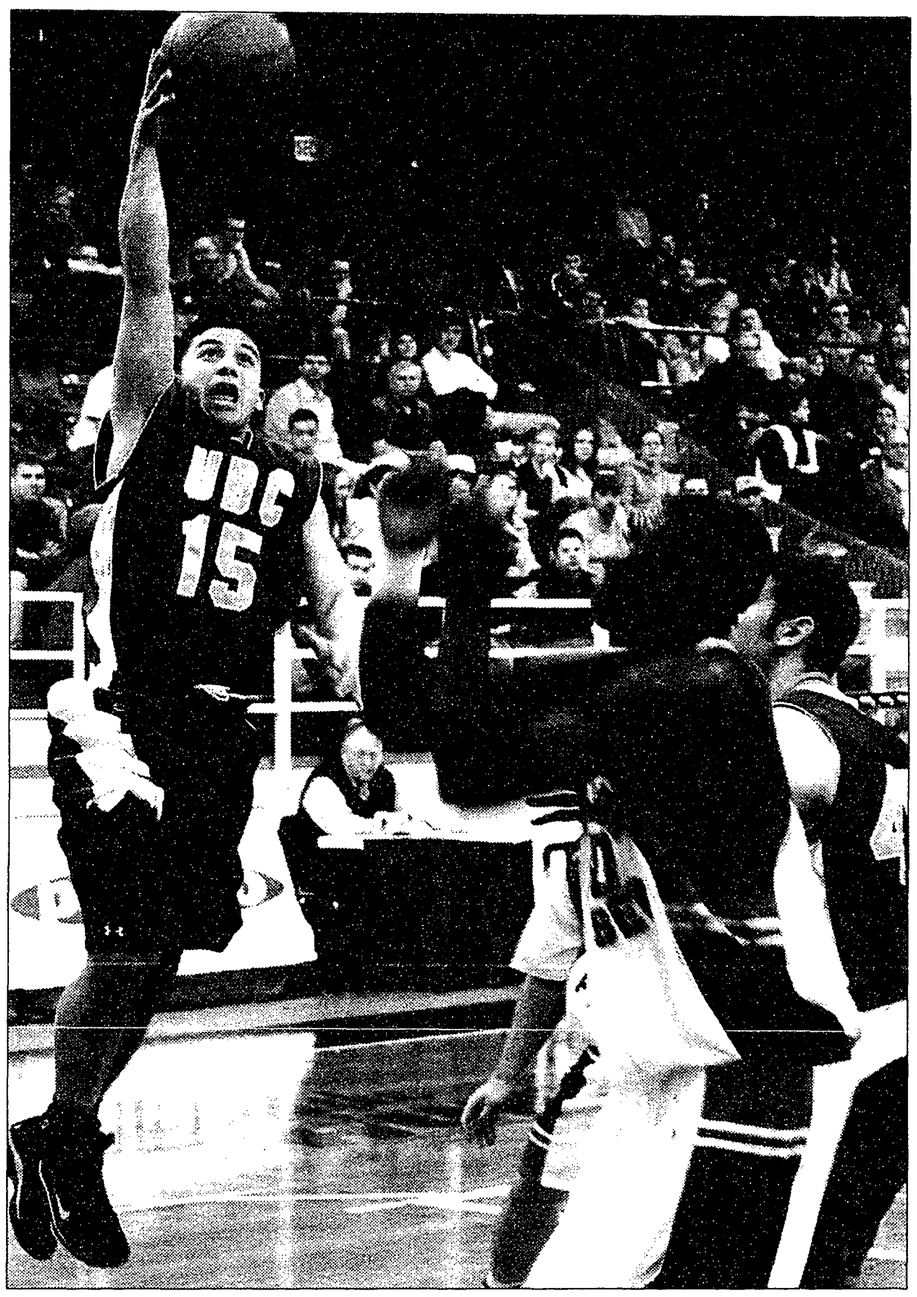
Wauthy hit the floor hard and laid still for a moment, but eventually returned to his feet. Applause for Wauthy quickly turned to heckles and boos for Unaegbu, who was charged with a technical.

A similar bout occurred on Saturday night when a frustrated Wauthy pushed Unaegbu.

Regardless of the score, the Birds put on their best Hamburglar impressions and brought intensity on every chance on the back court, notching 12 steals, many of those leading to points. This allowed the game to open up as the Birds collected 32 points off turnovers.

"Our defense today was like [NCAA] Division One defense," said guard Jordan Yu, who had a solid five points, five assists and three steals.

"We really stepped up a level on defense and I don't know how many steals we had today but we had a lot and it made a difference."



SWEET TOUCH: Birds guard Jordan Yu attacks the rack against SFU last weekend. **YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO**

SFU went into the match undermanned as Brent Charleton, the CIS leading scorer was playing despite an elbow injury. This was a golden opportunity for coach Hanson to exploit.

"Our philosophy today was we really wanted to get the ball to Ryder [McKeown] as many times as we could. He had gone 12 for 15 in the first two games and we knew he could score and we wanted to make [SFU's] Aaron Christensen play defense and just kept feeding him the ball."

McKeown, who finished with 13 points, three rebounds and four assists, didn't want another repeat of Saturday's last second fiasco.

"We played each other seven times so they knew our stuff, we knew their stuff and it comes down to who's going to make plays out of the offence because if you just run it you don't get anything out of the offence," he said, "so we had some creativity today."

"Emotions are high, it's the playoffs. You play against guys enough you get on each others nerves but everyone's competitors," said McKeown. "Everyone wants to win."

The Birds head to play UVic this weekend. The winner of that series that will determine who will advance to the CanWest Final Four to be played the following weekend.

T-Birds and Dinos brawl through last weekend of CIS hockey season

by Dan Morris and Hiu Lo
SPORTS WRITERS

And the grand total of penalty minutes issued over the weekend: 247.

If those numbers are indicators of the types of games that will be played next weekend when the Calgary Dinos host the UBC Thunderbirds, then it's safe to say that after next weekend's series those penalty minutes will be eclipsed.

Friday's 3-3 draw was nothing short of excitement and full of penalties. The game between these Canada West rivals was clearly leading up to the playoffs as the whole arena could sense the rivalry that had been boiling up during this season.

Early in the first, the T-birds were down 1-0 but they kept persevering and matching the Dinos for every goal. Goals by rookie Jordan Beirnes and forward Stephane Gervais tied the game going into the third.

The game became fairly intense in the third as most of the 149 penalty minutes were handed out then.

The Dinos were able to sneak one by goaltender Peter Mandoli, who was substituting for an injured Doug Groenstege to make the score 3-2. The T-Birds were awarded a series of penalties midway but were able to prevent the *Dinos from capitalising.*

Then all hell broke loose. An on ice brawl materialised and both teams were awarded three 10-minute misconducts. When the dust settled the Birds were able to find their stride, getting the equalising goal with 3:18 left in regulation courtesy of second year forward Eric Clark.

Coach Milan Dragicevic felt that despite the numerous penalties awarded to both teams, the T-Birds did their best in keeping a level head during the feisty game.

"I thought we did a pretty good job keeping our cool. Things like that are going to happen in the heat of the moment," he said.

Saturday's game ended in Calgary's favour. Despite putting up a valiant effort, UBC was downed by the Dinos 3-1. The Birds looked rusty, not showing the offensive execution that has been a hallmark of their recent triumphs.

The third frame proved perhaps the most interesting of the game. Just over five minutes in when Calgary had seemingly notched their third, it was called back.

Mandoli, described the play. "I made the first save on a pass across, and the puck went across the crease, and he kicked it in."

Calgary was latter able to convert once again later in the period, sealing the game by a 3-1 score.

But as in previous nights, emotions soared, and near the end of the game numerous misconducts were handed out after altercations between the Birds and Dinos transpired.

Dustin Paul, who assisted on UBC's lone scoring play, described the frustration in the first period.

"As a team, it is frustrating when we don't capitalise," he said. "We did get stymied here and there, but we can't focus on that."

Dragicevic noted that his team was lacking the offensive intensity required to get those important goals.

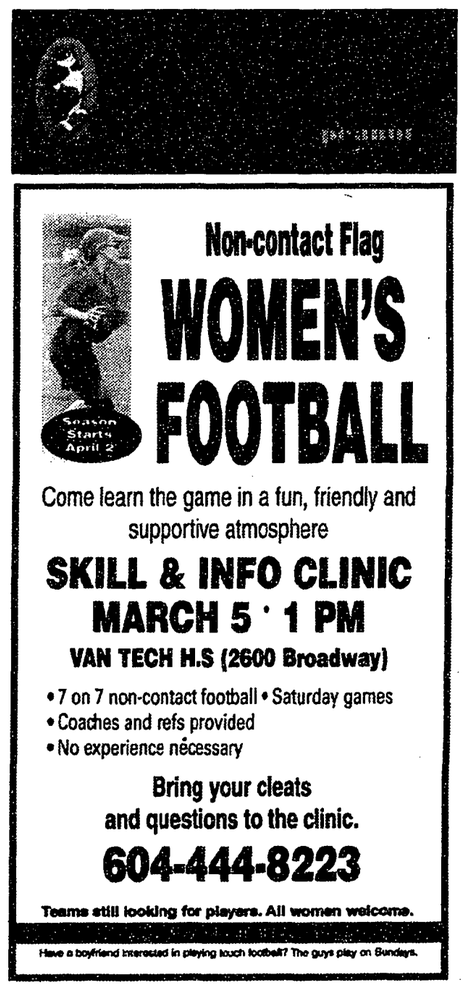
"I didn't think we generated a lot of traffic, and our power-play was off," said Dragicevic.

"We were slow to move the puck, we didn't make crisp passes. Tonight was a tough game with the number of penalties."

UBC will be looking for revenge after their first round loss last year to Calgary. The best of three series that takes place next weekend in Calgary will most likely be more intense.

"We know some of their tendencies, plays, and what happens is we develop some animosity towards them," said Dragicevic.

"What this game shows us is the need for physical play."



The Ubyssey

TUESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY, 2005
VOL. LXXXVI N°37

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Jesse Marchand was driving down Sara Norman Blvd. when she ran a red light and hit Trevor Gilks. Jesse Ferreras and Claudia Li were in the back seat telling her to run him over again. Greg Ursic started banging on the hood of the trunk after he was put in there by mob lackeys Ania Mafi and Dan McRoberts. Police chief Sarah Bourdon and deputy sergeant Paul Evans stopped them on Michelle Mayne Avenue. The prison guard led her into a police lineup which also consisted of Eric Szeto, Nic Fensom, Alex Leslie and Carrie Robinson, who made faces at Megan Turnbull and Alyssa Burtt as they tried to identify the assailant. Shireen Nabatian ran out of the observing room behind them in suspicious fashion. Yinan Max Wang and Matt Hayles were twiddling their thumbs at the metal detector and missed the runner as the alarm went off. Gabriela Perdomo was taking a nap outside the front door and tripped her, as Rob Annandale tried to help the runner off the ground. Hilary Oñas pointed at him from across the street screaming "HE STOLE MY GAMECUBE CONTROLLER" and he was arrested.

EDITORIAL GRAPHIC *Ania Mafi*

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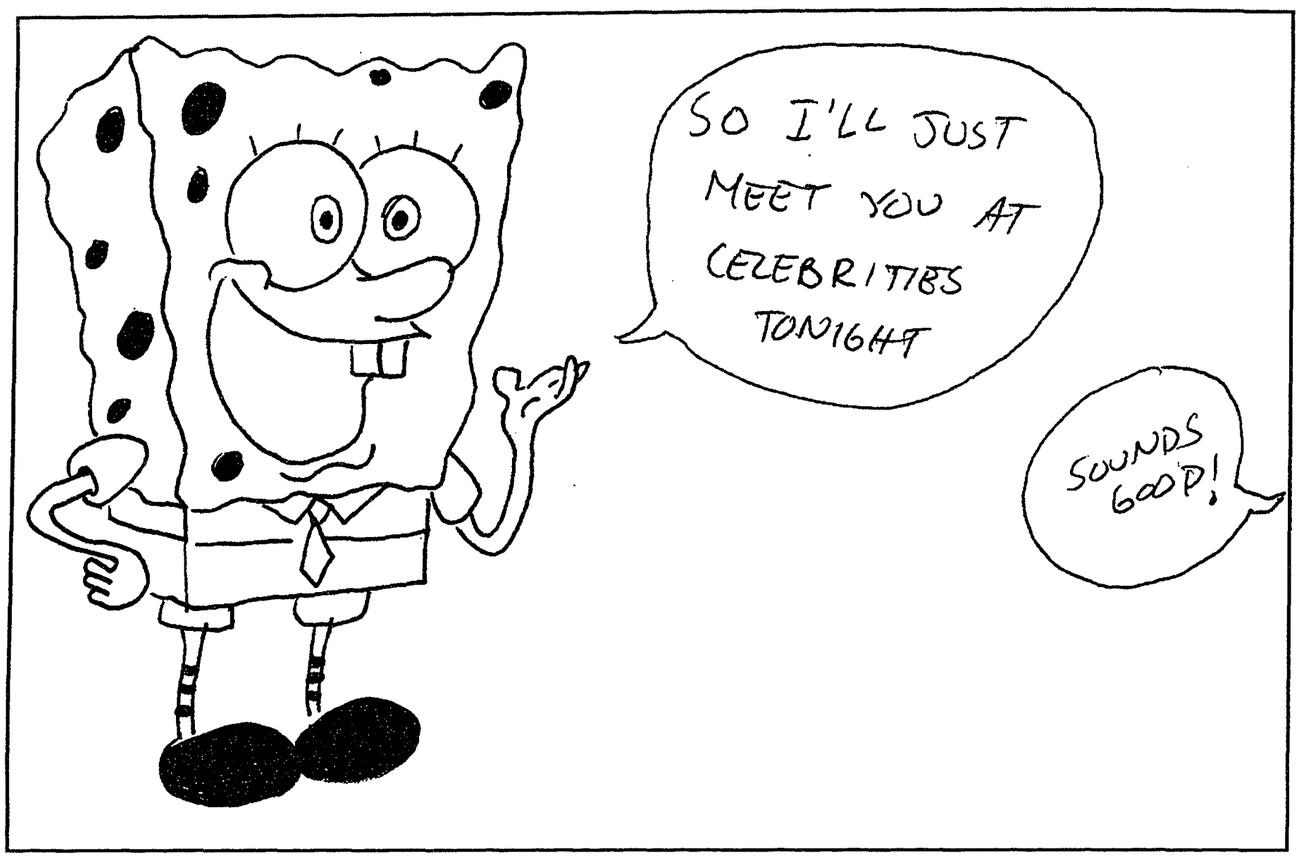
A gay contraceptive



Read all about it! SpongeBob SquarePants is gay! Yes, this rectangular mass of yellow plastic wearing strangely geometric pants is the new threat to the children of the world (never mind that science would suggest that sponges can't engage in sexual activity).

This new revelation has again created a stir over what children should and should not be watching. It seems as though condemning popular characters such as Tinky Winky, the purple teletubby, and Bert and Ernie from Sesame Street, is not enough. In order to bring the issue fully to light, groups such as the ultra-religious organisation Focus on the Family needed to target something bigger, something better, something...spongier. So this time around they chose poor SpongeBob as a symbol of what they fear their children might become.

SpongeBob's purported sins are as follows:

1. He's a little too close to his friend Patrick, and he enjoys a show called *Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy*.

2. Patrick cross-dresses in the SpongeBob SquarePants movie.

3. SpongeBob recently appeared in a tolerance-promoting educational video with Barney, Clifford, Arthur, Sesame Street and Muppet Show characters, Bill Cosby, Diana Ross and Whoopi Goldberg. The video is apparently "pro-homosexual" and is an attempt to "brainwash" kids.

The criticism of SpongeBob is nothing new and seems to further highlight what has become an extremely sore spot in the world of children's entertainment. Characters are continually branded as having blatant homosexual tendencies and groups looking to promote conservative agendas repeatedly demand tighter censorship rules.

Recently, PBS came under fire for airing a cartoon that featured two lesbian couples in one episode. US Education Secretary Margaret Spellings criticised the program, stating that many parents would not want their children exposed to such lifestyles.

This seems like a backward step in a time when television has seemed to move toward a token degree of acceptance, with prime-time programs such as *Will and Grace* and *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*. On the latest episode of *The Simpsons*, Marge's crotchety sister Patty finally came out (though she ended up nearly marrying a man in drag instead of a lesbian). On the popular teen drama *The OC*, Marissa has recently started a widely-discussed lesbian relationship. Adult shows seem to integrate homosexuality on an increasingly frequent basis.

At the same time, there seems to be an emerging intolerance of homosexuality in children's programs. The Traditional Values Coalition, an American fundamentalist group, warned parents on its website about the rampant cross-dressing and transgender themes in the movie *Shrek 2*. The bartender in the movie— who the group's website describes as "evil"—appears as a male dressed as a female. (The website neglects to mention the character's most horrifying characteristic: it is narrated by Larry King.) Oh, and Pinocchio's nose grows when he lies about not wearing women's underwear. The scandal of it all!

Even Bert and Ernie, the lovable *Sesame Street* characters who happen to share an apartment and sing songs about rubber duckies, have come under fire. Their plight stretches back through the years. In 1993, one North Carolina preacher began a radio campaign to have them banned for their immorality.

Now these religious concerns have moved into the realm of public policy. The US Congress has just passed the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005, which raises fines for broadcasting so-called indecent material from $37,500 to $500,000 US. And this wave of fear is not unique to our southern neighbours. Canada also has many groups lobbying to get these shows off the air.

We recognise that religious advocates have the right to complain about what they see as the erosion of morality undertaken by wily sponges and puppets. However, it is imperative that our governments appreciate that the protection of free speech and expression must extend to television programs that depict homosexual relationships as they truly are—natural, positive components of our society.

PERSPECTIVE OPINION

ReferenDumb

by Dustin Johnson

Saying that the government represents public opinion and public will is the same thing as saying that a part represents the whole. This reflects anti-imperialist philosophy and how modern society's attempt at achieving "democratic utopia," is at the expense of Indigenous others.

The idea above is untrue unless assimilationist propaganda coerces individuals into a social machinery as mere nuts and bolts. This is what we, as Indigenous students, were subjected to in this recent AMS ReferenDumb.

This AMS ReferenDumb displayed how subjecting the inherent rights of the minority Indigenous population to the political and social whims of the majority was constructed as a positive exercise in "democracy." Such a majority with a misinformed opinion of, and, dare we say, a racist history against, Indigenous people. I am referring here to the racist exercise that the BC government imposed on the general public in 2002, concerning the nature to which inherent and unceded Indigenous rights were left to the mercy of validating and maintaining the regime of Gordon Campbell and Geoff Plant. Rightfully so, many Indigenous people considered that example of a ReferenDumb as "racist and dumb." How is that not immoral in appropriating the voice of a racialised group of people who are continually oppressed and whose inherent and unceded rights are persistently disrespected and spat on?

Leading up to this AMS ReferenDumb, the arguments in favour of denying our Indigenous voice, historically oppressed at UBC, included a number of opinions seeking out logistical "problems." One was the issue of multiple representation. This idea suggests that some students are so deceitful that they would try to represent a position more then once on AMS Council. Perhaps if one were to approach these meetings and attempt to represent not only an Indigenous voice, but also an International voice (being Maori or Ainu for example), as well as representation from the Arts faculty, this supposes that such a person would develop an alter-ego to participate. Multiple representation? Versus what? Hardly any representation and a continued defence of the racialised status quo where Indigenous voices are silenced and ignored? Or are Indigenous people even seen as worthy of having any sort of recognition anymore?!

Another argument included classifying Indigenous people as mere "interest groups." How can Indigenous people, such as the Musqueam, be an "interest group" when the fact of the matter is that we occupy their unceded territory without their willing consent. In the tokenised recognition that "we acknowledge that we are on 'traditional' Musqueam territory and we are very grateful," this ignores the reality that we actually continue to benefit from the displacement and ongoing colonisation of the Musqueam. Far from an interest group, Indigenous people like the Musqueam are a host group. Diverting recognition from this reality, by remaining complacent in the colonisation of Indigenous peoples right in your backyard, persistently aids in prolonging Indigenous oppression by the Canadian state.

The ideals of holding referendums to achieve "democracy" merely consolidate imperialist control and preserves white-skin privilege by following the established "rules and order." When the majority of UBC's population aren't so blatantly racist against Indigenous people, that old colonialist excuse of refusing to consider the rights of Indigenous people is either one of ignorance or one of protecting a comfort zone at the expense of others. Thus, conforming to that level of privilege diminishes any meaningful capability of utilising the capacity of a critical thinker, when you systematically become nothing but sheep.

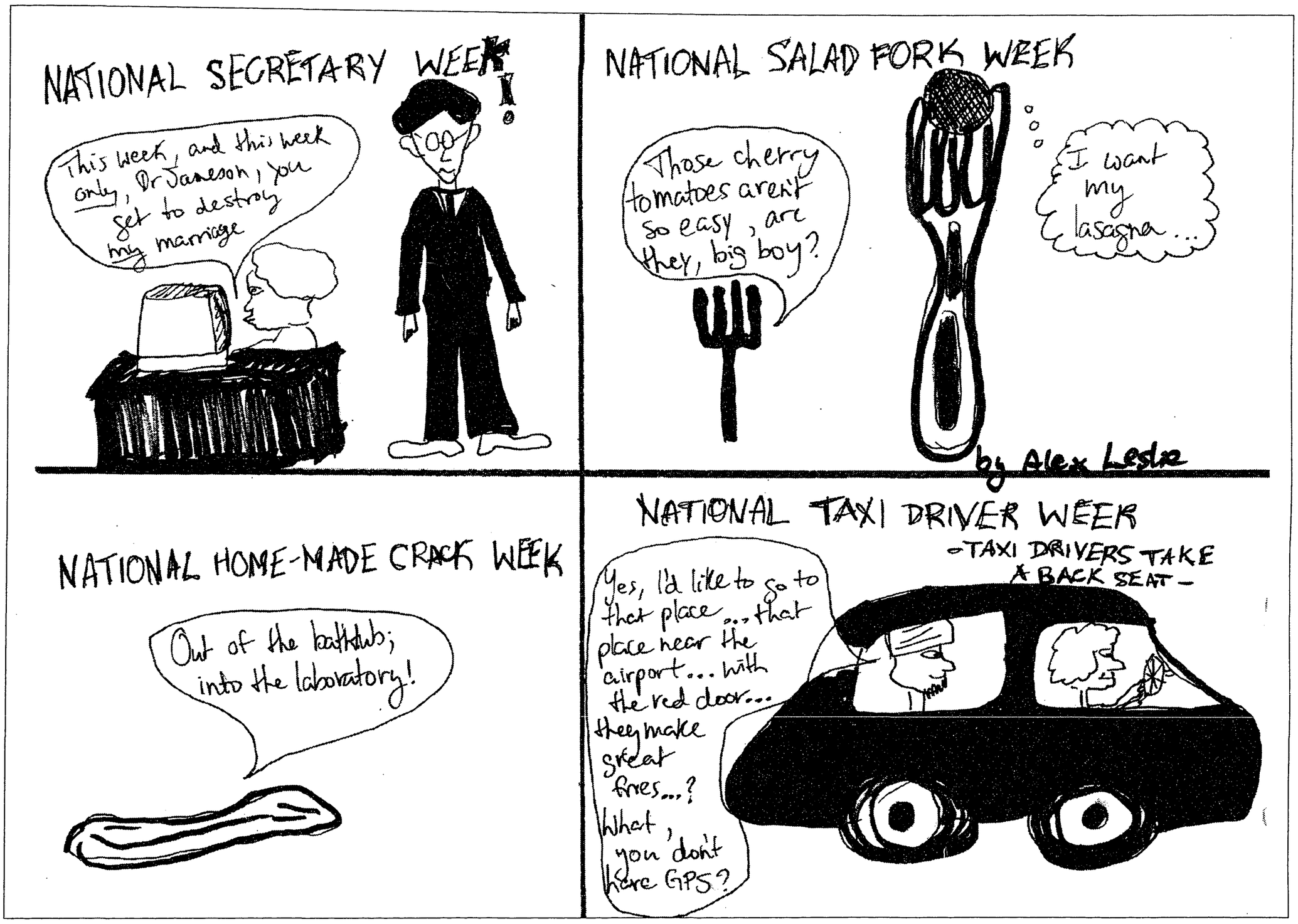
This is a voting position that should have been in existence already, for those that see any meaningful values at all in a white man's bureaucracy. This referendum was constructed as the only viable alter-native to see the voice of Indigenous students "equally" re-presented on the AMS Council.

With this referendum failing Indigenous and International students, reflected is how UBC operates in the maintenance of a racialised and privileged status quo. Remaining complicit in the cultural oppression of Indigenous people, and I don't mean a tokenised cultural commodification thereof, prolongs the destructive effects that colonisation wreaks on the psyche of Indigenous people. At least students get to keep their bus passes. Business as damn well usual. But we were "following the rules," right? Who knew in this day and age that dealing with the "indian problem" could be done on the Internet, seeking "certainty" and preserving conformity for the sake of colonial bliss!

—Dustin Johnson
President, Indigenous Students Society of UBC

The Funtacular Comic Contest

In case you missed it, we are now on number three of the top four entries to the Ubyssey Funtacular Comic Contest. Behold #3 "National holidays that never were," by Alex Leslie. Watch for #2 in the next issue of the Ubyssey.



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—Stephanie Leung
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—David Bell
Arts 4

Paper Clips—They're more versatile. Less decision-making, less commitment.

—Graham Diering
Science 3

Paper Clips—Once you staple something you can't take it apart, right? Whereas, you put paper clips on it, you can take it apart and put it in whatever order you want.

—Carla Tsang
Arts 3

Paper Clips—You always have to take staples out again, if you, by mistake, staple something you didn't want to, I guess.

—Jolien Otten
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Paper Clips—Paper clips are convenient, first of all, because I don't like staplers, I like just having a couple of paper clips lying around, and you can sort through pieces of paper. I sometimes staple when I hand papers in, but I usually go with paper clips.

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