CHAOS at KWANTLEN

Impeachments and lawsuits plague Kwantlen's student union P6

THE UBYSSEY

VROOM

Formula UBC team rebuilds for a new season P8

SWIMMING SMASHES RECORDS

P9

"SHOCKED AND APPALLED"

UBC TAs RAISE POSSIBILITY OF STRIKE BEFORE EXAMS

P3

Our Campus

One on one with the people who make UBC

Drawing!

News»

Editors: Kalyeena Makortoff & Micki Cowan

ANIMAL RESEARCH »

UBC ordered to process animal research information request

Micki Cowan
News Editor

A provincial ruling will force UBC to make some decisions on whether they will reveal additional animal research information.

STOP UBC Animal Research (STOP), an animal rights group that has been working to get more information publicized about animal research at UBC, received word this week that the university will have to continue processing their requests for information.

The group made a complaint to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) after their requests for information from UBC were stonewalled.

"Earlier last year, UBC appeared to be moving forward with processing some of our requests, and then they sent us a fee estimate," said Brian Vincent, a spokesperson for STOP. "Shortly after that, UBC appeared to have changed its mind and said no, we're going to apply Section 3.1.e to everything, you're not getting anything from us."

Vincent was referring to Section 3.1.e of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), which exempts records from applying to rules in FIPPA if they contain research information on faculty members, teaching or research assistants, or other persons carrying out research at a post-secondary education facility.

But the decision made by the OIPC adjudicator, Jay Fedorak, was that while many of the items of information STOP was requesting could be protected by UBC, some were applicable under the code.

The three items of information the adjudicator found to not fall under the section were lab inspection reports conducted by the Canadian Council on Animal Care, the source of primates used at UBC, and names and affiliations of members of the Animal Care Committee.

"The most important thing is this ruling does not require [us] to disclose more information about animal research...It's about whether these records are subject to request," said Paul Hancock, Access and Privacy manager at UBC.

"Once the issues are addressed, then we need to gather it, then we need to review it and then we need to come to a decision on what to release," he said.

UBC will have 30 calendar days to decide what steps it will take.

"You're looking at a David and Goliath situation here...It's encouraging, given those odds, that we [may] actually manage to compel UBC to reveal something," said Vincent.

—with files from Justin McElroy

TA PAY»

TAs rush to find union agreement

Andrew Bates
Senior Web Writer

COURTESY OF FLICKR

A large number of TAs are graduate students and are represented by the Graduate Student Society.

After a year and a half of little progress, TA contract talks could escalate quickly.

On Tuesday, executive members of CUPE 2278, the union representing teaching assistants at UBC, held an emergency meeting to update members about "drastic" changes to the bargaining situation. They emerged after 90 minutes of discussions vowing to meet again on February 15, and raised the possibility of calling a strike vote.

"We have been bargaining under the understanding that [UBC is] operating under a net-zero [increase] mandate. We recently found out that some people [at UBC] are being paid increases while some are not," said CUPE 2278 President Geraldina Polanco. "There is money, they're just not going to budget money for us."

The union pointed to the Schedule of Remuneration and Expenses Paid to Employees, which showed a 9.33 per cent increase in take-home pay for UBC President Stephen Toope from 2010 to 2011.

"When I first heard about the financial injustices that were going on, I was shocked and appalled," said Molly Campbell, a Master's student in Land and Food Systems. "I really hope we can mobilize all TAs in the university and make everyone aware of the situation."

But Lucie McNeill, director of Public Affairs, said that the faculty and management have not had an increase in base salary, which may not be reflected in renumeration documents. "It's not a secret, [the net zero mandate] is widely known," McNeill said. Toope has not taken an increase in base salary in four years.

CUPE will be returning this week to bargaining with the information, and will have a membership meeting on February 15.

Proposals by both sides have included a number of changes to the current contract, including separating a TA's employee duties from their student duties, and making a threat of academic harm for TA complaints worthy of a union grievance. UBC and CUPE have been negotiating since the current collective bargaining agreement expired in 2010.

Until now, they've been negotiating on non-monetary issues. The union aims to finish those negotiations this week before moving on to monetary issues, which include obtaining wage parity with TAs at the University of Toronto.

Wages for UBC TAs are only $29.54 per hour compared to $39.92 at U of T.

"I still have a lot of questions, but a general sense of anger," said Ryan Davison, a PhD student at the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability. "It's more of a value principle that the same value of work is valued more at U of T than UBC."

"UBC doesn't compare itself to SFU or UVic or the colleges," said Polanco. "They compare themselves to U of T. They say that they're a world class university, then we want to be treated as though we're employees of a world class university."

"It's a little bit hard to compare," McNeill argued, noting that at some schools, hourly rates are higher but hours per week are lower. "We want to make sure we're competitive and fair across the whole spectrum, not just one institution."

McNeill remains hopeful. "The discussions are progressing, they're respectful, they're productive, I hear," she said. "I understand that the parties have reached agreement on a number of non-monetary issues. Obviously, the university's priority is to conclude successful negotiations... We work for and hope for successful negotiations as soon as possible."

But the union is worried that budget deliberations won't be addressed until the summer. "Our labour power is certainly more valuable when there's a lot of teaching and TAing that's being done on the campus," said Polanco.

THEFT»

SUB basement thefts from clubs still unresolved

GEOFF LISTER/THE UBYSSEY

Ashwini Manohar
Contributor

Part of being a club at UBC is managing finances, which translated this December into the club offices becoming a target for theft.

The UBC Yoga Club, Dancing Horizons and the UBC Brewing Club became victims of theft this December. The clubs, located in the SUB basement near Copyright, had cash boxes with several hundred dollars stolen. In one instance, a small laptop was taken.

Kathy Yan Li, president of the UBC Brewing Club, lodged a complaint with AMS Security right after the theft occurred. "They said that we weren't the first people to report that and there had been one or two cases earlier that week. I'm a bit annoyed about that because they should've warned us," she said.

But AMS Security manager Shaun Wilson said that although one report was filed earlier than the other two, "nothing in that report gave notice that we could expect the other two offices to be stolen from too." Because the thefts occurred within a week and at a specified location, AMS Security now sees a connection in the incidents.

Since the incidents, various security measures have been taken to prevent further thefts, including re-angling existing security cameras in the targeted hallway.

"Please keep your [door lockbox] code confidential. Also the policy is that we don't advise you keep valuables like laptops or large amounts of cash or cash at all in the club rooms," added Wilson.

"The problem is that there are no security cameras here, so we can't actually see who comes into the clubs," said Vicky Hoang, treasurer of Dance Horizons.

The clubs, for the most part, have written off the loss and moved on. "We're now considering buying a safe, just because it's safer—no pun intended," said Reisz.

News briefs

New animal research data revealed

UBC released new information on Monday, January 30 about the purposes for which animals were used in research and educational activities in 2010.

The information includes a breakdown of six purposes, and what proportion of UBC's animals are used for each: basic research (64.9 per cent), medical research (27.1 per cent), regulatory testing (1.2 per cent), education (1.4 per cent) and breeding (5.4 per cent).

This information was released to supplement a prior report stating how many animals were used for research, what species they were and how invasive the research was.

Staffer from UBC sentenced to house arrest

John Mwotassubi, who stole $460,000 from UBC while employed as a financial manager at BC Children's Hospital, has been sentenced to two years of house arrest.

Mwotassubi stole the money over seven years by writing fraudulent cheques to a consulting company that he owned. The theft was discovered in 2010.

Mwotassubi will be required to pay back the money, and Judge Ronald Fratkin stated that public shame will also serve as a punishment: "He'll be the guy that stole the money from the Children's Hospital. That's how he'll be remembered."

Professor's technology brings the sun inside

A technology developed by UBC physics professor Lorne Whitehead is set to go into commercial production.

Whitehead developed compact sunlight collectors and a prism light guide, allowing sunlight to be collected from the outside of a building and transmitted through pipes to light up the interior.

Plans are underway to incorporate the technology into prefabricated building panels leading to substantial energy savings. The technology has already been used in demonstrations at BCIT, and is set to be incorporated in the Oregon Sustainability Centre in Portland.

UBC student allegedly assaulted

An alleged assault has left a woman paralyzed from the waist down and her family devastated.

Jin Ying Ni, who was just a few courses away from completing her Certified General Accountant designation, was allegedly assaulted on January 14 by her husband, Mark Jia, and at time of press remained in hospital.

The two met while both attending UBC. An article in *The Province* quoted Ni's mother at a news conference, who said that "the incident destroyed [Ni's] life." Jia has been released on bail, and has been ordered not to enter the hospital where Ni is being treated or have any contact with Ni.

SUBSIDIES»

Low subsidies, high taxes for graduates

Post-secondary graduates contribute more taxes than they were subsidized

Arshy Mann
Managing Editor, Web

A new study argues that students aren't the freeloaders that some might believe them to be.

"Paid in Full: Who Pays for University Education in BC," published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), has found that British Columbians with a post-secondary degree contribute more to the public coffers through future income taxes than it would cost taxpayers to pay for their entire degrees now.

"There seems to be a conventional wisdom...that students are subsidized and they should stop complaining about high tuition fees because really taxpayers pay for their education," said Iglika Ivanova, an economist with the CCPA and the author of the report.

"But because [post-secondary graduates] earn more money, they end up paying more taxes. The question is how much more do they pay in taxes and is that enough to cover the upfront costs of their degree."

In the study, Ivanova compared how much it costs to fund a four-year degree to the expected lifetime income tax contributions of a university graduate. The higher earnings of degree-holders combined with lower rates of dependence on welfare or employment insurance meant that students more than end up paying their own way.

"A lot of people, when you talk about lowering tuition fees, think you're saying you want to subsidize education," said Ivanova. "But you're not really subsidizing it. They pay."

According to her findings, governments could cover the entire cost of tuition twice over and would still be getting a bargain.

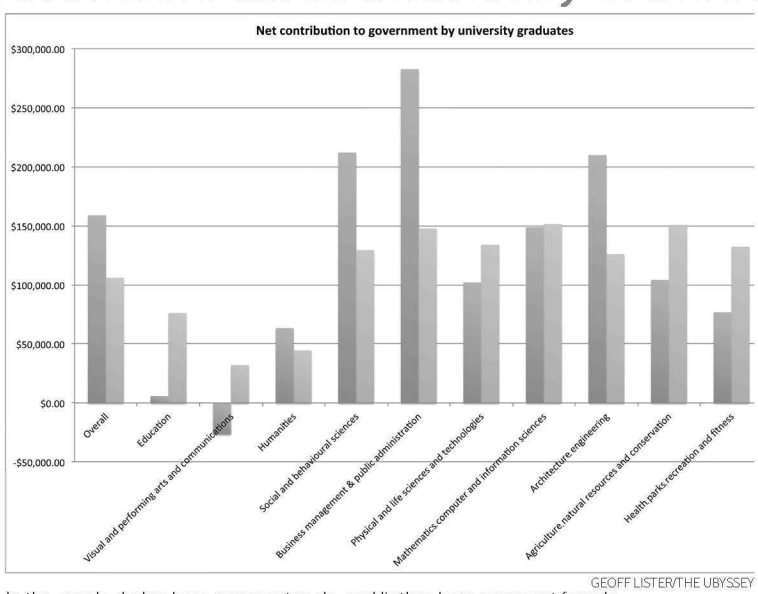
The CCPA study didn't take into account the various other ways that degree-holders contribute to the economy, such as by paying higher consumption taxes and contributing to economic growth and innovation.

Ivanova embarked on the project in order to update a previous CCPA study done by UBC economist Robert Allen in 1998, which came to a similar conclusion.

She was interested if Allen's findings still held at a time when tuition rates increased substantially and British Columbians were paying less in taxes.

"Some people have speculated that we have so many graduates now [and] that university education isn't what it used to be. Maybe it no longer has a payoff for students," she said.

"But by and large we continue to find that almost every field of study, including things that you would think have no practical value, like humanities, pay for themselves."



GEOFF LISTER/THE UBYSSEY

In the graph, darker bars represent male, and ligther bars represent female.

Visual arts was the only discipline that didn't cover its own cost, because artists tend to earn considerably less than their peers in other professions.

Ivanova went on to argue that because many prospective students experience "sticker shock" when confronted with the high cost of a university degree, they may decide to pass on higher education and that governments are therefore missing out on the potential tax revenue.

"So why are we putting barriers to education for so many people by having high tuition fees instead of making sure that everyone who wants to can get an education and contribute to society?" she said.

Zach Crispin, chairperson for the BC wing of the Canadian Federation of Students, argued that decision-makers should take heed of this study.

"I would definitely hope that [governments] would take a look at the data that's been presented here by the CCPA and at least choose to freeze and work towards reducing tuition fees in the short term and really think fully about getting rid of financial barriers to post-secondary education," he said.

He also pointed out that the study demonstrates that the net gains to the public treasury from higher education have actually been decreasing.

"The fact is that when we used to have a more progressive tax system, those numbers were higher," he said. "As we move to reduce tuition fees and increase the tax base through a progressive tax system, students are going to be paying for their education more times over and we can actually increase the quality of it at the same time."

Ivanova emphasized that regardless of how high tuition fees are, students end up paying for their degrees one way or another—it's just a matter of when.

"It's economically feasible and fairer to ask graduates to pay for their degrees through taxes after graduation rather than asking them to pay through high tuition fees up front."

AWARDS»

Profs awarded for research

UBC announces its 2011 faculty awards

Micki Cowan
News Editor

UBC has announced its 2011 faculty research awards, with awards going to research on topics ranging from HIV to computer screens.

The Jacob Biely Research Prize, which is awarded to an active faculty member with a distinguished record of research, went to Julio Montaner for his work in the field of medicine.

Montaner has been researching HIV for "at least a few decades" and is best known for his contributions to the development of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART).

His group was central to the creation of the HAART cocktail, which was unveiled at the 1996 International AIDS Conference in Vancouver. Since then, Montaner and his colleagues in Vancouver and the United States have treated thousands of HIV-positive people in BC and millions around the world with HAART.

"BC today has driven morbidity and mortality to an all-time low; the number of new HIV diagnoses in BC is down by greater than 60 per cent and the trend continues to go downwards," he said.

Montaner said he hopes winning the award will shed light on the issue and garner support.

"BC has been blessed by the support that the provincial government has been able to give us but...we haven't been able to convince our colleagues across the country or at the federal level that [HAART] is the way to go."

Wolfgang Heidrich, winner of the Charles A. McDowell Award, has been recognized for his excellence in "pure or applied scientific research." His research is in computational imaging and displays, where he works to codify optical and computational methods.

COURTESY OF MARLIS FUNK

Julio Montaner has received an award for his research on HIV treatment.

"For example, in standard photography we just have light projecting through a standard camera lens onto an image plane and then we obtain a photograph," said Heidrich in an interview with *The Ubyssey*.

Heidrich has been researching in the field at UBC for ten years. More recently, he has been working on 3D displays.

Heidrich said that it's a great honour to win the award—not just for him, but for his graduate students as well. "It's not just me sitting in my office and coming up with formulas and things like that. Every individual project has a very strong involvement by the graduate students, so I see it as a recognition also of theirs," he said.

The President's Award for Public Education through Media was presented to Alfred Hermida of the School of Journalism for sharing research expertise via the news media.

The Killam Research Prize goes to full-time faculty members in recognition of outstanding research and scholarly contributions. Recipients from the Faculty of Arts included Neil Safier from history, Jessica Tracy from psychology, Barbara Dancygier from English and Dominic Lopes from philosophy.

From the sciences, winners included Mark MacLachan from chemistry, Nemkumar Banthia from civil engineering, Randy Gascoyne and David Huntsman, who both study pathology and laboratory medicine, and Victor Leung from electrical and computer engineering.

Along with the research awards, ten fellowships were awarded to assist faculty members on a recognized study leave.

ADMISSIONS»

Application website crashes at deadline

Laura Rodgers
Contributor

Applying to university is a nerve-wracking process to begin with, but some prospective UBC students were given yet another reason to worry on the eve of their application deadline.

At approximately 10:30pm on January 30, the second-to-last day UBC applications were accepted, prospective students logging in to submit their applications were unable to do so. When all they wanted was to submit their information and then breathe a sigh of relief, a server outage crashed the online form.

Surrey high school student Shayne Kelly had saved his application earlier that evening, then tried to submit it after the outage occurred.

"It was definitely confusing as to whether my application was submitted or not," he said in an email. "I ended up refreshing the page over and over again, [and] got a few different error messages."

Kelly was not the only student frustrated by this incident. "Of course when I decide to leave [my] UBC application until the last minute, the site has 'technical difficulties' and crashes," tweeted applicant Megan Gallant.

UBC still does not know the reason why the server outage occurred. "[UBC Academic Services] are investigating, but they're not exactly clear as to the cause of the disruption," said Sam Saini, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions.

"We can't confirm right now if it's because of increased server load or increased applications being submitted at one time," he added.

According to Saini, this sort of outage is unprecedented. "Not to my knowledge, I can't remember a server outage that prevented us from collecting applications," he said.

The server outage continued until about 3am. By 6am, applicants were already reporting on Twitter that their applications were going through without a hitch. "OMG... submitted [my] UBC application," wrote prospective student Jeffrey Baldwin via Twitter at 5:41am.

Kelly was able to log back in after the outage was fixed. "I was quite relieved once I could finally log in and see that my application had been processed," he said.

Enrolment Services hopes that lengthening the deadline to February 1 at 11:59pm has made up for the outage.

> **We can't confirm right now if it's because of increased server load or increased applications.**
>
> **Sam Saini**
> Associate director, Undergraduate Admissions

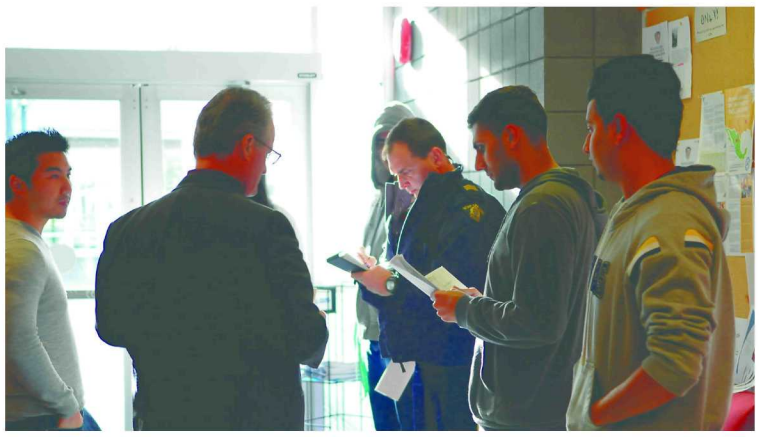
Saini claims that Enrolment Services has the situation "in hand" right now, and the application form has been restored to full functionality. He also confirmed that no application information was lost during the outage.

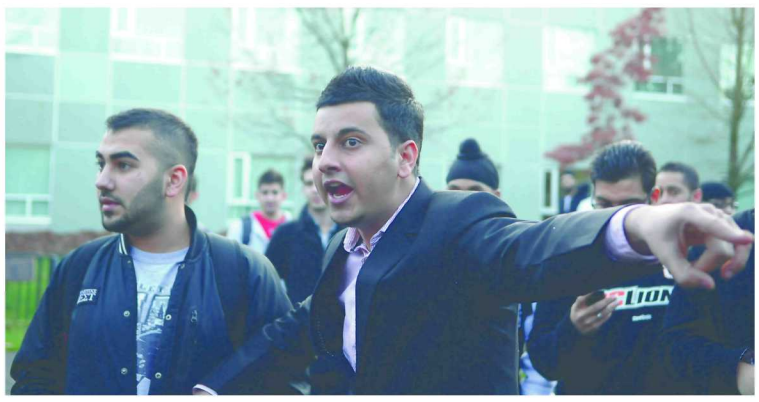
UBC isn't sure how many students were affected by this issue, but will continue to look into how to prevent this from happening again.

"We will continue to investigate, to ensure students aren't [again] put in a rather unfortunate predicament," said Saini.

$27 000

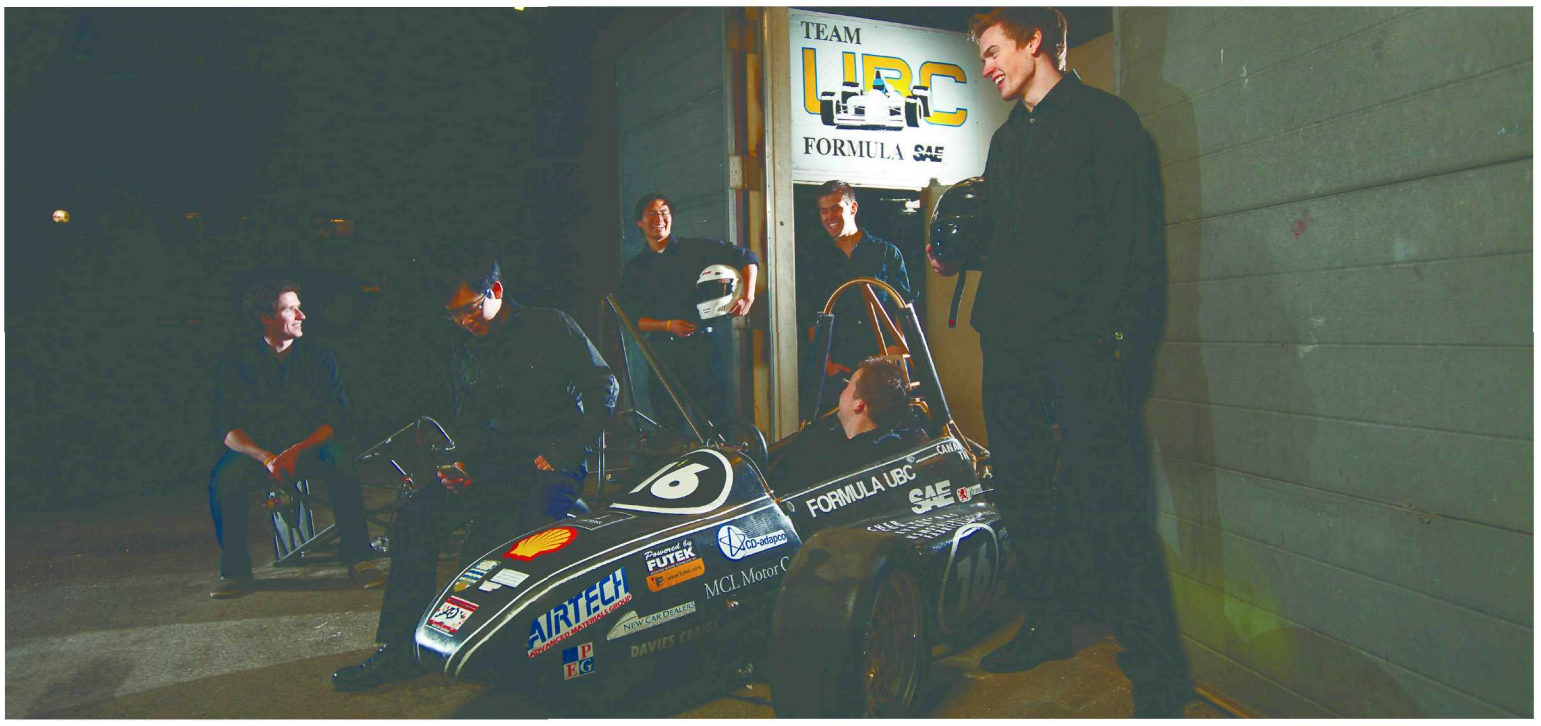
LYING TO STUDENTS?
REFUSING OUR ELECTED
OFFICIALS THEIR RIGHT TO
DEFEND THEMSELVES?
BULLSHIT!



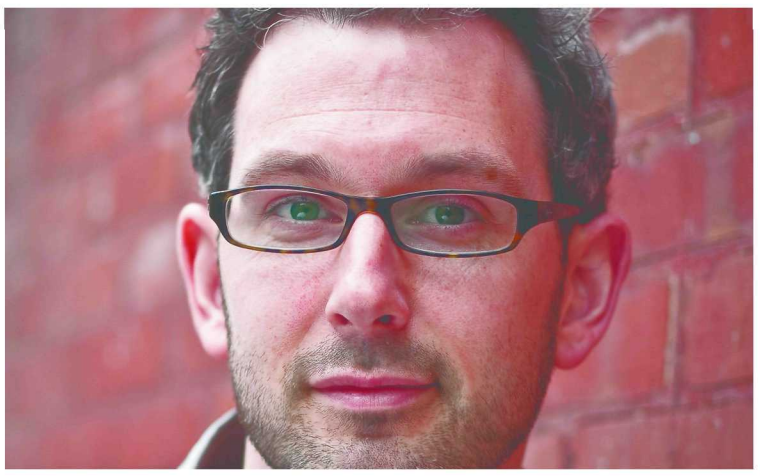


No.

NAME
NOM


TEAM
UBC
FORMULA SAE
FORMULA UBC
SAE
AIRTECH
FUTEK
MCL Motor C

cafe
grocery
sprouts
ubcsprouts.ca



SWIMMING»

CanWest gold for the UBC swim teams

With two teams loaded with talent, UBC hopes to bring home CIS gold next

Colin Chia
Staff Writer

It was a successful weekend for UBC's varsity swimming team as they brought home both the men's and women's Canada West championships from Edmonton.

In his first season as head coach, Steve Price was happy he was able to continue the Thunderbirds' winning tradition.

"The expectation of me coming in here was not only that could I try to bring the program up, but also recapture the dominance that we had in the 90s," he said.

UBC topped the women's standings with 949 points to University of Calgary's 830, while the men's team had 861 points to the University of Alberta's 744. Each team has now won two consecutive Canada West championships.

Savannah King was named athlete of the meet after winning three gold medals, one silver and one bronze. Martha McCabe, who is preparing for the Olympics in London this summer, beat her own record in the women's 200 metre breaststroke. She finished with a time of 2:22.40, which beat the record she set last year of 2:22.57.

"Martha McCabe is by far our number one prospect. It's great that she's using the university season as a launching point into her Olympic year," said Price. He also noted the contributions of the team's rookies, with first-year Rebecca Terejko winning a silver medal.

COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ATHLETICS
The men's and women's teams pose with their new banners. Tommy Gossland and Martha McCabe both set records at the meet.

At the end of the competition, Price won the women's coach of the year award. "I really appreciated that. It's a selection by your peers, so for those guys to recognize the work I'd done with the women's team was pretty special," he said.

On the men's side, Tommy Gossland was the stand-out, winning seven medals, six of them gold. Gossland also set a new Canada West record in the men's 100 metre freestyle with a time of 49.28, besting Chad Hankewich's University of Calgary record of 49.46 set in 2007.

"To get on the podium for all seven events is pretty amazing," said Price.

Gossland joined Kelly Aspinall, Rory Biskupski, Craig Brazier and Duncan Furrer as the men's Canada West all-stars. Brittney Harley, Savannah King, Heather MacLean, Martha McCabe, Fionnuala Pierse, Grainne Pierse, Rachelle Salli and Tera Van Beilen were named to the women's all-star team.

The goal for the Thunderbirds now is to win on the national stage at the CIS championships in Montréal, held February 23-25.

UBC last won the women's national championship in 2009, while the men haven't won since 2008. Both national titles have since been in the hands of the University of Calgary, and the challenge will now be to reclaim them.

"Calgary's still a really strong team, and the next step is to take the results from CanWest and try to take the championship," said Price.

"It's a different meet. When you have the entire country there, it's a little harder to get the points and a little harder to get on the podium. So you really have to be on your game, especially on the relays."

And while Martha McCabe—Canada's 2011 female swimmer of the year—has all but booked her ticket to London, there are a few other members on UBC's swim teams that have goals that go beyond the national level.

On the men's side, Tommy Gossland and Rory Biskupski both hope to represent Canada at the Olympics. As well, the men's team has pair of imports looking to make a splash at the international stage; Duncan Furrer and Kevin Chu are both vying to represent Switzerland and China, respectively.

LACROSSE»

A new club beckons lacrosse enthusiasts

GEOFF LISTER/THE UBYSSEY
Despite playing Canada's oldest sport, UBC's lacrosse club is still in the formative stages.

Nic Roggeveen
Contributor

It is strange that Canada's oldest sport appears to be a product of the sports created after it. It combines the speed and power of football and hockey with the endurance and strategy of soccer and basketball. We are talking, of course, about field lacrosse.

While UBC boasts varsity teams in all of the aforementioned sports, field lacrosse—Canada's official summer sport—is noticeably absent. A few dedicated lacrosse lovers, however, are doing their best to change that.

"Last year, in February, I was missing the sport a lot and I got together with a few guys I knew and started a lacrosse club," said Dan Millar, a second-year mechanical engineering student and co-founder of the newly minted Thunderbird Lacrosse Club (TLC).

"Mostly through word of mouth we've been growing the club, expanding it and trying to find new players," he said.

This past November, the TLC was officially constituted by the AMS—thanks in large part to the passion and vision of Millar and two of his friends, Sam Neuharth and David Hammond. Millar said there had been previous attempts to form a lacrosse club on campus, but for various reasons all of those ventures came up short.

While this group has had comparatively more success establishing a lacrosse club than others, the fledgling team still faces many challenges.

In addition to constantly looking for new recruits and "struggling at the goalie position," procuring competition has been quite a chore.

"We were working on setting up games with Washington State; unfortunately that fell through due to a field-use issue," Millar said. "We've been working to get playing with other universities in the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association. There are a few teams; Simon Fraser has a team, and so does the University of Western Washington. We've been trying to get some games with some local clubs too, but at the moment we're really not quite ready for a competitive schedule. Hopefully, next year we'll be really ready for that."

The new club has high hopes for the future. Millar and his fellow TLC executives hope one day to see the club join the varsity ranks at UBC.

"That's the ultimate goal," said Millar. "I don't know how long it'll take, but I'd love to see it happen. I'd love to see it happen while I'm still here at UBC."

The club consists of 20 men and women with varying degrees of experience and talent, and is constantly looking to add to that number. "You don't need any experience to come out; we'd love to have every player we could grab. A few of the executive members even started out without any [experience]," said Millar.

"There are very few people I know who have tried lacrosse and it was their sport within a year."

The Thunderbird Athletics Council's Athlete of the Month

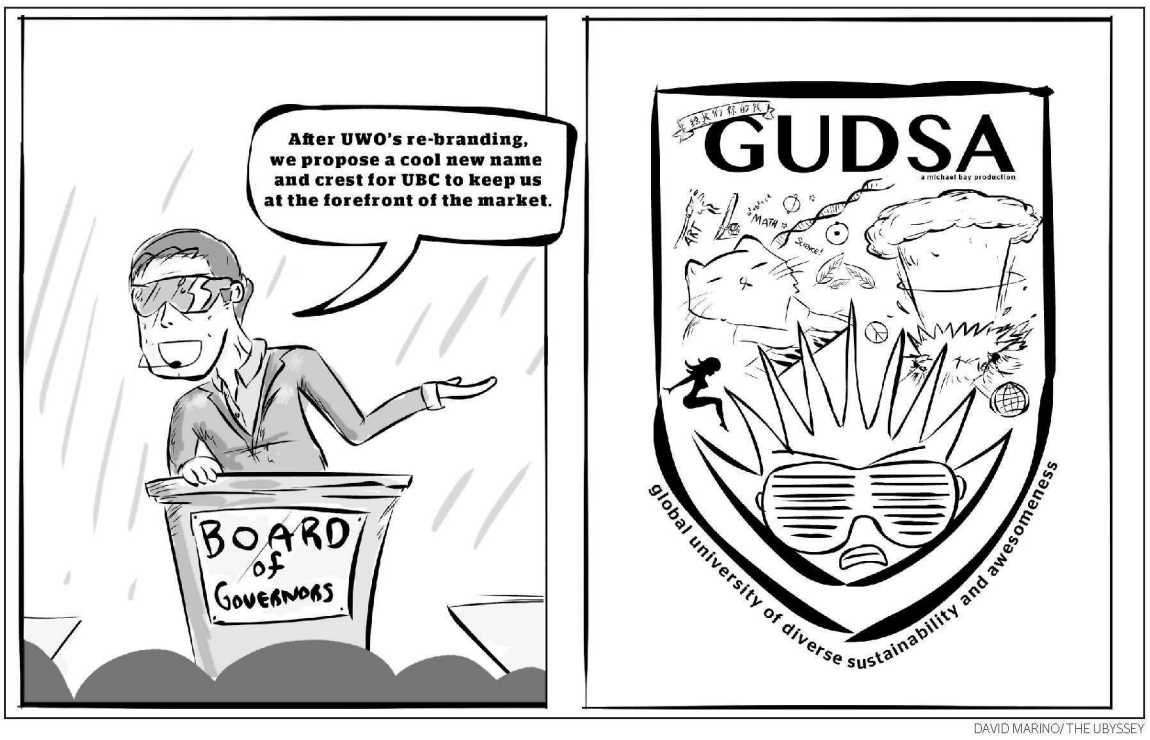
GEOFF LISTER/ THE UBYSSEY
After dominating at the Canada West, Gossland hopes for CIS gold in February

The athlete of the month for January is **Tommy Gossland**. Gossland is a fifth-year veteran on the men's swim team, and this past weekend he was phenomenal at the Canada West championships.

He won six gold medals and set several records. Grossland achieved three personal bests at the meet, which translated into two Canada West records and one UBC school record. He was also an essential part of the men's 4x100 free relay, in which he swam a strong last leg in the race.

Gossland's success in the pool helped the UBC men's swim team win the Canada West championship for their second consecutive season.

—Thunderbird Athletics Council



DAVID MARINO/ THE UBYSSEY

The Last Word

Parting shots and snap judgments on today's issues

Does UBC need a spiffier name?

Last month, the University of Western Ontario decided to drop everything from its name that would lead you to believe that it's in London, Ontario. Administrators felt that its name was too provincial for an international university, so in a great unveiling, UWO became "Western University."

There's a lot of prestige when you can market yourself as a global institution; it helps you in the rankings, and international students bring in great wads of money. UBC has developed its reputation internationally, but are we *really* happy with the name? Yeah, it combines two international-sounding words ("British" and "Columbia"), but perhaps we can jazz up our title a little more to make sure that prospective students know what we're all about.

A few possible suggestions:

To reflect UBC's chilled-out West Coast sensibilities: the University of Now.

To reflect UBC's status as the world's most sustainable place ever: The Sustainable Institute of Research in Sustainability.

To attract ski bums with rich parents: The University of Whistler, Vancouver campus.

All we're saying is, let's be open to some creativity here. We could throw off all the baggage associated with sleepy old BC, and make this university the sleekest, sexiest, money grabbin'-ist university in the country.

The UBC swim team deserves more recognition

Last weekend, the UBC swim team went to Edmonton and won the Canada West championships. Again.

It's something they've done for many years during a 15-year reign of dominance in Canadian swimming.

UBC produces more world-class swimmers than any other school in this country, and you'll see full proof of that during the 2012 Olympics in London this summer. That's nothing new; it's been this way for over a decade. But the amount of praise they get from the university is much less than other elite sectors of this campus.

Such is the fate of those in the separated silo of sports at UBC. The university's research is given heavy publicity, and rightfully so—but it's unfortunate that we often give our athletic acheivements only cursory attention.

UBC should strive to celebrate the achievements of those that come here to research butterflies as much as those who come here to swim them.

A few lessons from the Kwantlen debacle

The long and absurd saga of the Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) over the past six years tells us a few things about student unions.

First, it reminds us that the AMS isn't so bad. Despite a few publicly embarrassing acts by executives or a few thousand squandered student dollars, there's nothing at UBC that resembles the incompetence or the viciousness of the KSA. Not even close.

The second lesson to learn is the importance of student journalism. It's highly unlikely that the true identities of Justine Franson and Nina Sandhu would have been revealed if it had not been for *The Runner*, a small and relatively young paper. The mainstream media doesn't have time to hang around campuses and find out what's really happening.

And finally, it makes us all very thankful that we didn't choose to go to Kwantlen.

Good news for gender diversity, but let's not be too satisfied

The AMS executive has historically been dominated by males, most of them white. But after this election, it will have two females for the 2012-13 school year, with the election of Caroline Wong as VP Administration and Kiran Mahal as VP Academic and University Affairs.

It is the first time since 2007-08 that we will have two women in the executive.

What does *The Ubyssey* think about this? About time! Gender diversity is something we should not only desire on Council, but expect.

Yet the vast majority of our student union presidents have been male, and a female majority on the executive is extremely rare.

While this is good news on the gender diversity front, it's only a small step. The AMS needs to constantly be thinking about how to lower the barriers not only for gender, but for all the different aspects of diversity.

The Ubyssey mounts a case for thieves, then abandons it

As our news section chronicles in this issue, the SUB has had a rash of thefts recently.

At this point, you might expect an editorial giving tips on how to protect your stuff and condemning the despicable thieves. But is that what you turn to *The Ubyssey* for? No. You turn to us for cutting edge perspective, swear words on the front page and snarky comments about people in power.

So let's consider the benefits of stealing. Of course, if you're the one doing the stealing, the benefits are clear: you get things and don't have to pay for them.

But is *society* better off with people stealing things?

It prevents complacency, for one thing. Having thieves out there keeps us on our toes—especially in the library, where falling asleep can mean waking up with a missing backpack.

Perhaps most importantly, the presence of thieves among us is a reminder that there are lot of assholes in the world, and while we need to trust the goodness of strangers every so often, we should also keep a certain level of cynicism.

Okay, this editorial is probably a case of contrarianism run amok. We should also acknowledge that if it had been any of our stuff that got stolen, we'd be absolutely furious.

Elite universities need dynamic student bodies

Editor's Notebook

Justin McElroy

How much should the grades you get in high school matter? And how much should those grades determine where UBC will evolve as a university?

Those are the questions this school wrestled with over the past few years as it made its transition to broad-based admissions.

The debate is not about whether UBC should care if you played trombone in Grade 11 or Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*. It is about whether they can take the steps needed to truly become the elite, world-class university they so dearly wish to be.

Let me explain.

There are many reasons why UBC doesn't quite match up to the Ivy League, and many reasons why plenty of talented Canadian students want to go to McGill, Western or Queen's rather than here.

But one of them is the perception that we're a degree factory. That you go to UBC to study hard for four years, get a shiny piece of paper and leave.

Much of this is UBC's doing, of course. If you have an admissions process that only cares about grades, if you have a campus that's hard to live close to, if you have an administration that compartmentalizes faculties, if your main financial incentives are based on high school grades (as was the case with the now-departed President's Entrance Scholarship), then students are trained to value certain things when they get here.

But the fact remains that you don't become a degree factory without the consent of the people inside the factory.

Gary Mason of *The Globe and Mail* hit the nail on the head in his column earlier this week:

"As undergraduate admission standards have shot ever further skyward, the student body has been something of an intellectual—and some would say cultural—monolith.

"Yes, the students are unquestionably bright, but many are nerdy, high achievers consumed with one thing: marks. Consequently, the student body has become increasingly unidimensional, dominated by brainiacs void of any curiosity about all that university life can be."

Here's the thing: he's right. If you talk to alumni or read back issues of *The Ubyssey*, you'll notice this university used to be much livelier. It had students less preoccupied with marks while still making amazing contributions to society.

It's different now, for many reasons. It's different because as tuition and the value of a degree has risen, the desire of students to spend time on pursuits not directly related to studies has fallen.

It's different because as the cost of living in Vancouver has skyrocketed, more and more people spend more and more of their time on buses, removing them from campus.

But it's also different because students who get 80 to 90 per cent in high school are becoming an endangered species here. Many smart high school students come from all types of backgrounds and have many different extracurricular pursuits. They probably could get 95 per cent if they needed to, but they have other priorities. And it's much harder for them to get into UBC than before.

(And a note: UBC is not different because there are more Asian students who care about marks than in the past. This university has been on the forefront of attracting outstanding Asian students from outside Vancouver for 20 years, inside Vancouver for decades longer, and always will. Those who accuse UBC of not being commited to racial diversity are, frankly, race-baiting without tangible evidence.)

As a result, while UBC has grown and improved by leaps and bounds in the last three decades, the dynamism of the student body has stagnated. And that, as much as anything else, will need to change if this university is to become the "elite" institution it so desires to be.

A school needs all types of students to have a well-rounded, stimulating centre of higher learning. We need more curious, rabble-rousing, eccentric people—people who can do more than recite numbers and please professors. We need students who want to start their own businesses and make their degree worth something, even if they aren't hired right out of school.

So what can UBC do? There are three main things that come to mind.

First, they can hope the provincial government starts to really care about post-secondary education, and puts billions more into UBC over the next decade.

Alright, big laugh there.

But seriously, there are three simple things. One is to sharply increase the amount of housing for students and faculty while decreasing the price, so that the cost of Vancouver doesn't become an impediment to attracting quality people.

Another is to continue to build the endowment to rival those in America, so UBC can ensure finances aren't an impediment for any students or faculties that want to embark on the grand academic endeavours that make universities great.

And the third thing they need to do is take more control over who comes here. The difference between a 73 and 83 per cent student in high school is fairly stark. The difference between 83 and 93? Not nearly as much. Grades aren't the only mark of a great student who will do great things for a university, and the more tools UBC has at their disposal to select students, the better.

The Sauder School of Business made the change to admissions years ago, and while I can quibble about the hive-like, sometimes creepy culture around the faculty, the commitment to a full range of engagement, academic and otherwise, starts before they even come here—and the results speak for themselves.

From them, we know what the future can look like on campus. UBC has become the first major university in Canada to adopt broad-based admissions across the entire campus, and if they implement it correctly, it will be a game changer.

This discussion means little to us. We're already at UBC. But we might be pleasantly surprised at what this place is like when we come back to the (newly-built) alumni centre for our ten-year anniversaries.

I suspect that UBC's change on admissions will be a big reason why.

MOVIES»

Oscars continue "white saviour" film trend

We should think critically about what we watch—not whitewash history

Melodramatic Musings

Will Johnson

Television legend George Takei posted an alternate poster for the Academy Award-nominated movie *The Help* on Facebook recently. Rather than the title, the poster read, "White People Solve Racism."

And then, as a kicker: "You're welcome, black people."

I should state right away that I haven't seen this movie, nor do I plan to. And it's not because I'm not interested. I actually really like Emma Stone and Bryce Dallas Howard, and I think Viola Davis is one of the most talented actresses working today. She deserves her nomination, and with any luck she can beat reigning queen Meryl Streep.

I also haven't read the book by Kathryn Stockett, though I understand it does a marginally better job of balancing its depictions of American segregation in the 1960s.

A few of my friends have tried to convince me to give it a chance. But the reason I won't buy a ticket to see *The Help* is that I don't want to support institutionalized racism.

For those of you who are new to the controversy, here it is in a nutshell: this movie, no matter how well-intentioned, is revisionist history that casts white people as the saviours of poor, simple black people.

For other examples of this trend in movies, which are often called "white saviour movies," see *The Blind Side*, *Gran Torino*, *Dances with Wolves*, *The Legend of Bagger Vance*, *The Green Mile* and even *Avatar*.

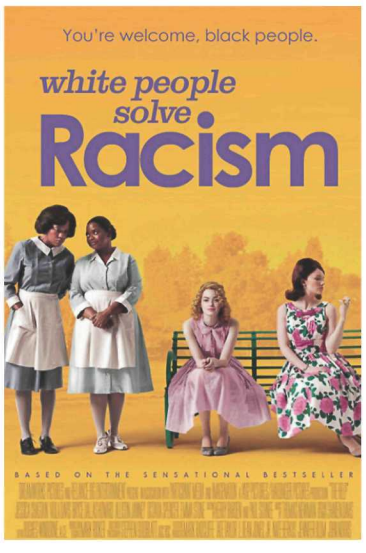
The Help may only be the latest in a long line of these movies, but now it's been nominated for an Academy Award for best picture. It stands to make a lot more money. (It's already made more than $100 million.) And audiences are walking out of theatres feeling sniffly and inspired, though they haven't stopped to consider the implications of what they've seen.

Here's the thing. I am, like the protagonist of this movie, an ultra-privileged white person with little or no knowledge of the historical context. So I'd like to share some observations from people who know a lot more than I do.

Despite efforts to market the book and the film as a progressive story of triumph over racial injustice, *The Help* distorts, ignores and trivializes the experiences of black domestic workers.

Statement made by the Association of Black Women Historians

Here's a statement from the Association of Black Women Historians: "Despite efforts to market the book and the film as a progressive story of triumph over racial injustice, *The Help* distorts, ignores and trivializes the experiences of black domestic workers. We are specifically concerned about the representations of black life and the lack of attention given to sexual harassment and civil rights activism."



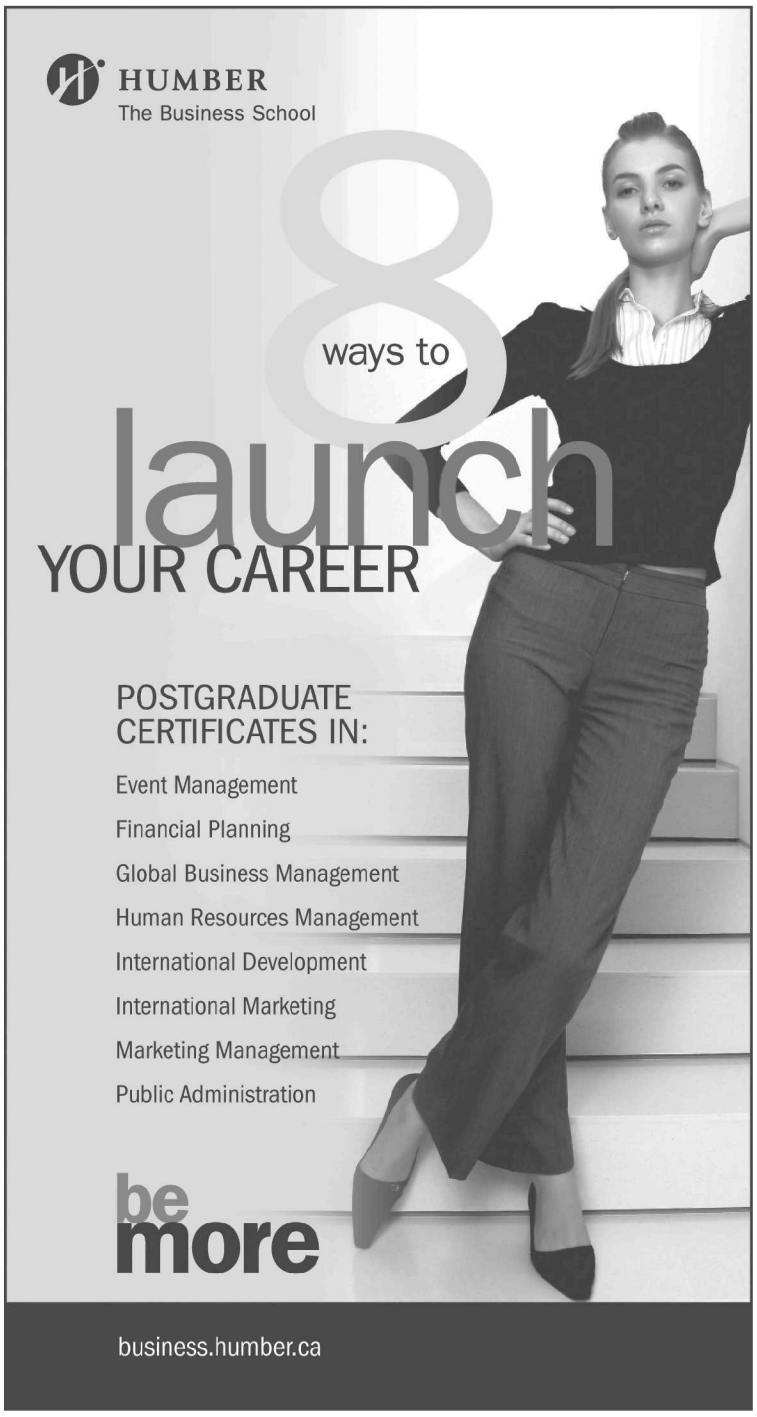
Okay, and here's another from actor Wendell Pierce, who played detective Bunk Moreland in the hit HBO series *The Wire*. He described *The Help* as "passive segregation lite that was painful to watch." Pierce took his mother, who had raised a number of white children years ago, and she found the movie to be "an insult."

He later tweeted, "Watching the film in Uptown New Orleans to the sniffles of elderly white people while my 80-year-old mother was seething, made clear distinction... the story was a sentimental primer of a palatable segregation history that is Jim Crow light." He added that Hollywood often wants films that depict black experiences as long as they include a "great white saviour."

Now, I understand that a lot of people really enjoyed this movie. Many thought there was nothing wrong about it, and some even found it touching.

I'm not trying to take that experience away from you. I just think we should think more critically about the entertainment we're consuming, and consider the potential consequences.

There's an interesting dialogue to be had here. And that's what I'll be watching closely.



BCIT engineers.

Are you interested in sustainability and innovations in building science?

The BCIT Building Science Graduate program offers a unique, interdisciplinary approach that teaches the theory and practical skills necessary to deliver durable, healthy and energy-efficient buildings.

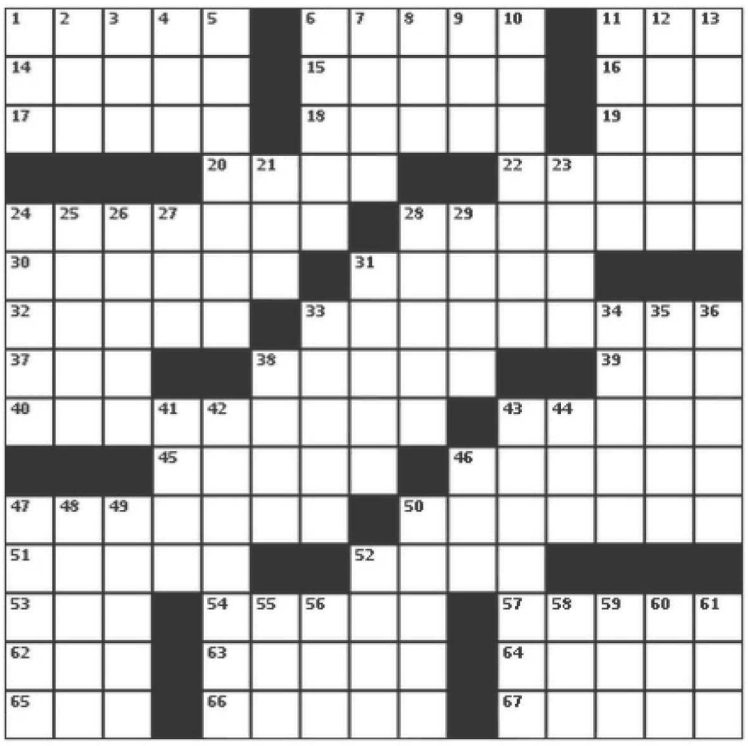
Learn more about these degrees:

> Master of Engineering (MEng)
> Master of Applied Science (MASc)

Apply now for September.

bcit.ca/buildingscience

BCIT® | It's your career. Get it right.



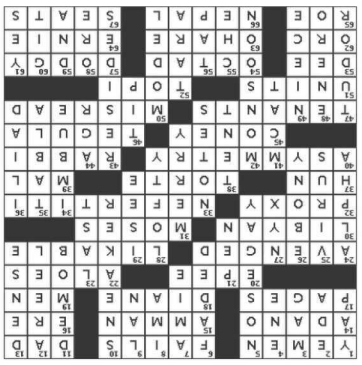
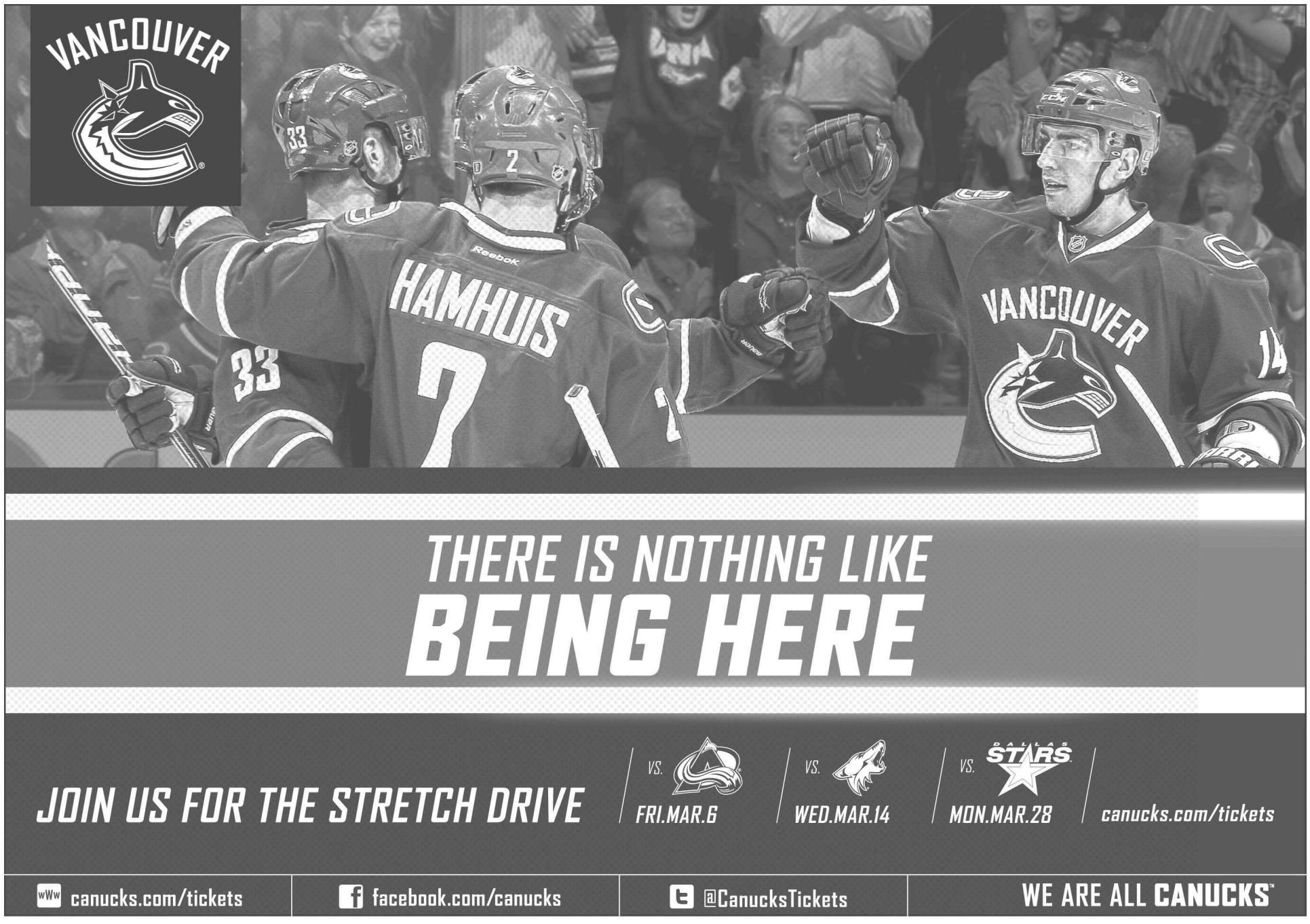
(CUP) — Puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com. Used with permission.

Across

1- Arabian republic
6- Falls short
11- Family man
14- Hersey's bell town
15- Capital of Jordan
16- Afore
17- Senate attendants
18- *Cheers* waitress
19- Adult males
20- Blunted blade
22- Healing plants
24- Exacted retribution
28- Pleasing
30- Inhabitant of Tripoli
31- Hebrew prophet
32- Agent
33- Wife of Akhenaton
37- Attila, e.g.
38- Rich cake
39- _ de mer
40- Skewness
43- Jewish scholar
45- Brooklyn's _ Island
46- Flat roofing tile
47- Lease holders
50- Engage in textual misprision
51- Single things
52- Pith helmet
53- Actress Ruby
54- Group of eight
57- Chancy
62- Tolkien ogre
63- Midway alternative
64- Bert's buddy
65- Fish eggs
66- Sherpa's home
67- Chairs

Down

1- Mouth, slangily
2- Writer LeShan
3- Periodical, briefly
4- Chemical ending
5- Posy; 6- Washed out
7- French friend
8- _ little teapot...
9- PC linkup
10- Athletic shoe
11- Brit's discharge
12- Staggering
13- Compact
21- Compose
23- Endure
24- A, as in Athens
25- Infectious agent
26- Black-wooded tree
27- Greek goddess of night
28- Towering
29- Aha!
31- Joyous
33- Short letters
34- Permeate
35- Small hand drum
36- Greek epic poem
38- Canvas shelter used on camping trips
41- Future doc's exam
42- Rainy season
43- Dwells
44- Cabinet dept.
46- Apex
47- English royal house
48- Diciembre follower
49- Bridget Fonda, to Jane
50- Standard for comparison
52- Skater Lipinski
55- Friend of Fidel
56- Faucet
58- Metal-bearing mineral
59- Kind of fingerprint
60- Obtain, slangily



3	1			2	8			
5			3					
	6				7			9
7	2			8	3			
	9						1	
			6	7			5	3
8			7				9	
					1			4
			4	5			2	8