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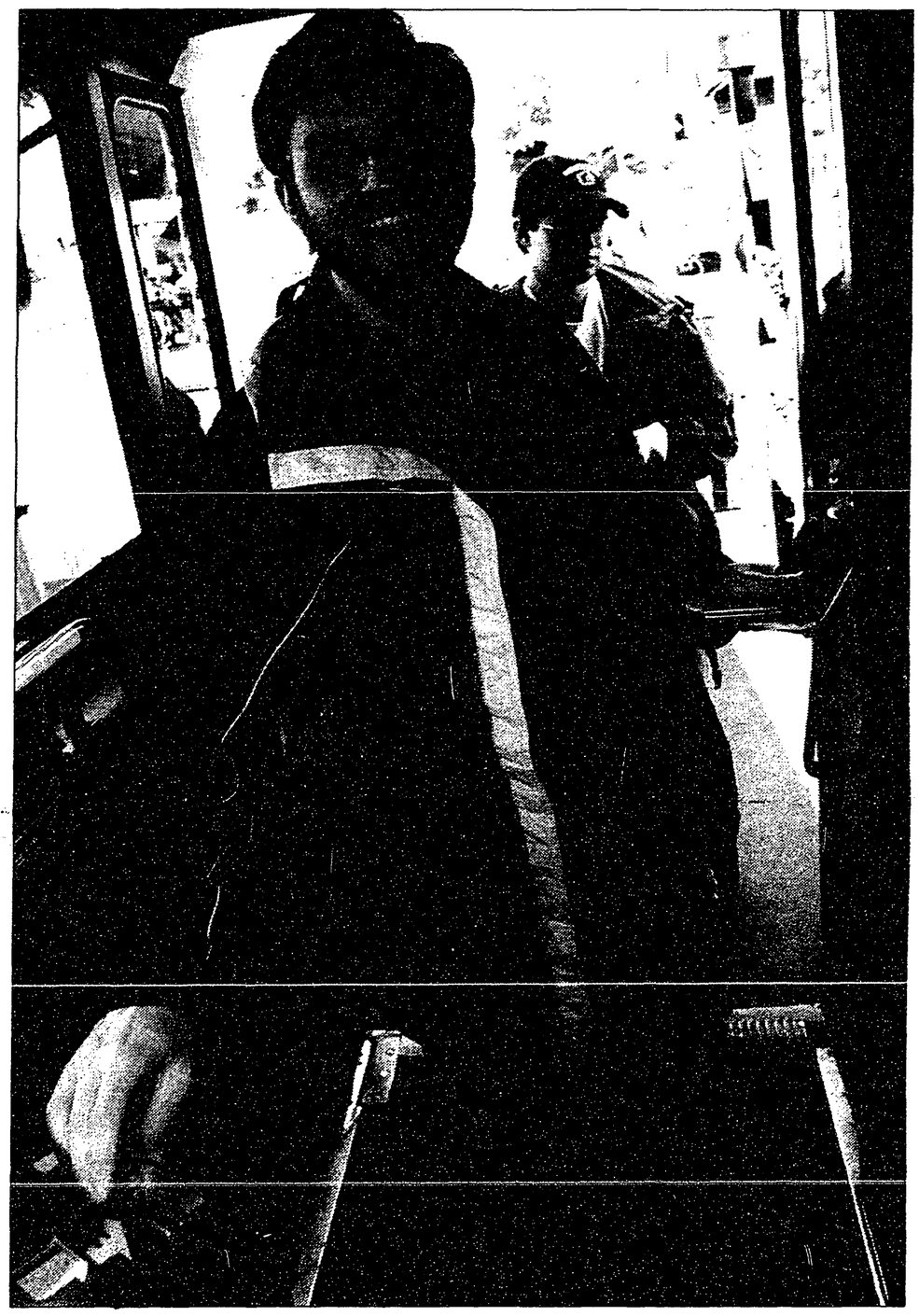
Tuesday, September 28, 2004 Volume 86 Issue 7

THE UBYSSEY

Feet stuck to the floor since 1918

U-Pass price increase possible

Changes proposed by Translink would take effect May 2005



PAYING THE PRICE: Students may have to shell out more for U-Pass.
MARNIE RECKER PHOTO

by Sarah Bourdon
NEWS EDITOR

A Translink proposal to increase the price of the student U-Pass by two dollars per month has reinforced the shared resistance of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) and the UBC administration.

If the increases are implemented, the cost of regular fares and monthly FareCards would also increase. The extra revenue would go toward helping fund transit and road improvements over the next three years, said Ken Hardie, director of communications for Translink.

"We consulted on how we were going to pay for [the improvements] and there were three sources of revenue," explained Hardie. "One was an increase in property taxes, another was the introduction of a new parking tax and then the third was a six per cent increase in fare revenue."

Improvement plans include the replacement of 492 buses and custom vehicles, as well as the building of new transit operating and maintenance centres.

"We proposed buying a large number of buses over the next three years," said Hardie. "Some of them are replacement buses, most notably the trolley bus fleet."

Many of the older buses will be replaced with larger coaches in an effort to improve services along major commuter routes.

"The UBC students, almost more than any other single group, understand the stress that is on the system now and obviously the need to ramp up service is there," said Hardie.

Both UBC and the AMS are opposing a fare increase for the U-Pass and will be lobbying Translink during the final decision-making process.

"[Translink] has always sort of signaled that they think likely there would be increases down the road and we've never accepted that there would be increases down the road," said Geoff Atkins, associate VP of Land and Building Services. "This is a money maker for them so our perspective is that we don't accept the notion that there has to be increases."

With negotiations pending between Translink, the University and the AMS, Atkins questions the company's motives for wanting to increase the price of the student pass.

"We would certainly challenge them to say what are the additional expenditures? Where did you go wrong

See "U-Pass" page 2.

Not just a load of trash

New system improves recycling on campus

by Sarah Bourdon
NEWS EDITOR

A new composting system at UBC will greatly increase the amount of waste that can be recycled on campus.

The system, which is capable of composting five tonnes of organic waste per day, is the first of its kind for a school of UBC's size.

"This is the first larger scale in-vessel, on-site application for a Canadian university," said John Metras, director of UBC Plant Operations.

Compost is collected in bins located in food outlets around campus, including the Student Union Building, Totem Park and Place Vanier Residence cafeterias. The waste is then transported to a facility on South Campus where it is broken down in a self-contained composting unit.

The new unit accelerates the natural biodegradation process by controlling moisture and air flow. The process takes around 14 days, producing a soil-like material that can be used as fertilizer.

"What comes out of it is basically not recognisable when compared with what went in," said Metras. "We end up producing basically a nutrient-rich, dark soil amendment product. The idea is that we'll use it in our landscape operations on campus and we can provide stuff to the UBC Farm and the Botanical Gardens."

Before the system was implemented, about 42 per cent of campus waste strain was being recycled. The new composting technology has the potential to increase this figure to 60 per cent.

"The stuff that's left over that goes to landfill now, probably about half of it is actually potentially compostable material," said Metras. "It's going to be a phased-in approach so

See "Compost" page 2.

THIS ISSUE:

CULTURE: Many, many VIFF movies
A closer look at the largest Vancouver Film Festival ever. **Pages 6-7.**

SPORTS: Football win!
Birds 2-1 for first time since 2000. **Page 9.**

EDITORIAL: Up-Ass fees
Translink trying to stick it to students. **Page 10.**

FEEDBACK@UBYSSEY.BC.CA
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UBC professor wins $100,000 award for development of WebCT software

by Dan McRoberts
NEWS WRITER

A UBC professor has been named recipient of the prestigious EnCana Prinicipal Award by the Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation.

Dr Murray Goldberg, an adjunct professor of computer science, received the annual award—and the $100,000 cash prize that comes with it—for creating and developing WebCT, a set of software tools that facilitate online learning for university students around the world.

"I can't imagine how or why they chose me but I feel exceedingly honoured," said Goldberg. "I was invited to a luncheon of some of the BC nominees long before I found out and I looked around and thought 'I don't have a chance here' but it was very satisfying to be included in such a group."

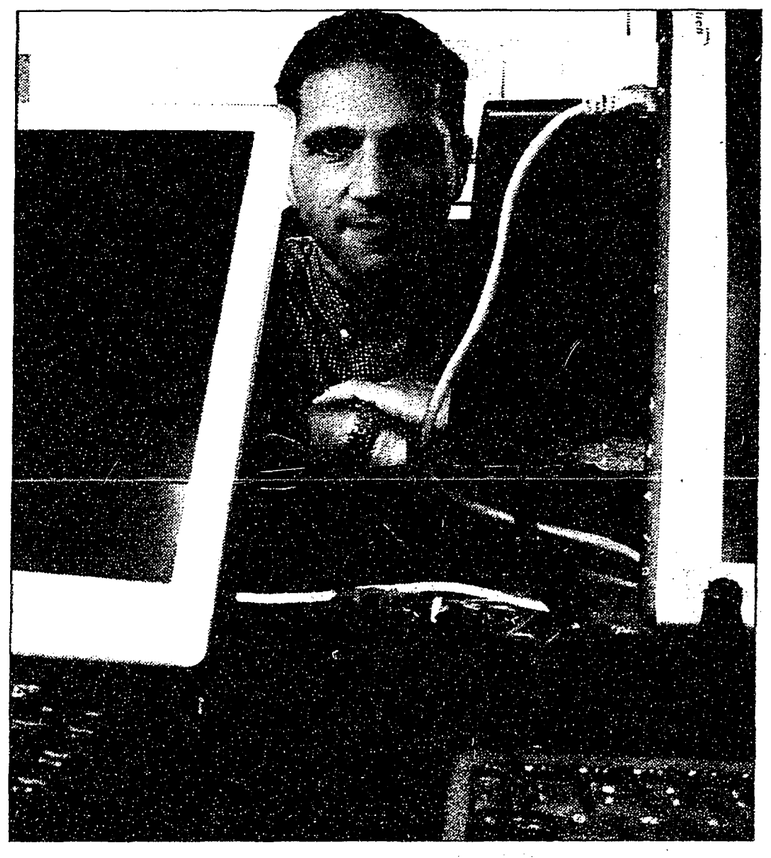
Goldberg started work on the project that would eventually become WebCT shortly after joining the faculty at UBC in 1992. Working with grant money provided through UBC's Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund, Goldberg set to work on establishing a web-based version of Computer Science 315, the course he was teaching at the time.

Despite some initial success on a small scale, Goldberg was frustrated by the fact that that entire grant had been spent on making the online option for one course. Inspiration struck one night in November 1995.

"I was laying in bed one night and thinking to myself 'this is such a waste of money' because it cost us almost 50,000 [dollars] to build the first course...and so instead what I thought we could do was maybe just build ourselves a little set of tools with which we could build subsequent web-based courses."

Within months, Goldberg and his team had given away copies of the software to hundreds of universities.

See "Award" page 2.



IN THE MONEY: Goldberg wins award. NIC FENSOM PHOTO

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ON OCTOBER 3RD, JOIN THE CANADIAN BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION'S CIBC RUN FOR THE CURE. Walk, jog, or run one or *five km and raise money for a future* without breast cancer. To register, visit cbcf.org

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Correction:

In a story entitled "ACF under review," in the September 21 issue of *the Ubyssey*, it was reported that the review would be starting on September 27. In fact, the review has been ongoing since May. In addition, the Alma Mater Society will not be participating in the complete review. The AMS will only be involved in reviewing the safety of the event.

In an article entitled "Lawyers not just in it for the money" in the same issue, the law firm sponsoring Pro Bono Students Canada was reported to be McCarthy-Trault. In fact, the law firm is called McCarthy-Tetrault.

The Ubyssey regrets the errors.

On a happier note...

Come write for the news department!

Come by to news meetings on Tuesdays at 1pm, or e-mail news@ubyssey.bc.ca

We love you very much

Composting requires public education component

"Compost" from page 1.

Metras. "It's going to be a phased-in approach so it will probably take a few years before we reach the maximum it can do."

Bins have been used in residence cafeterias for around a year and a half, according to Dorothy Yip, the general manager of retail operations and purchasing for UBC Food Services.

"People have been using them," said Yip. "It's worthwhile. At the very beginning we had some growing pains but that's to be expected. We still have some since there are always students who are new to the system so there's a learning curve every year but it's definitely worth it."

One challenge has been getting users to avoid putting non-organic materials, such as plastic, metal and glass, into the compost collection bins, said Yip.

"There are pictures and words on posters above the bins to let people know what goes into each bin," she said. "Unfortunately, there are still people who just don't read and they just throw everything in thinking it's a garbage bin."

However, the hope is that there will be more awareness of composting on campus as the bins are added to more locations, according to Metras.

"There's a huge public education component to this," he said.

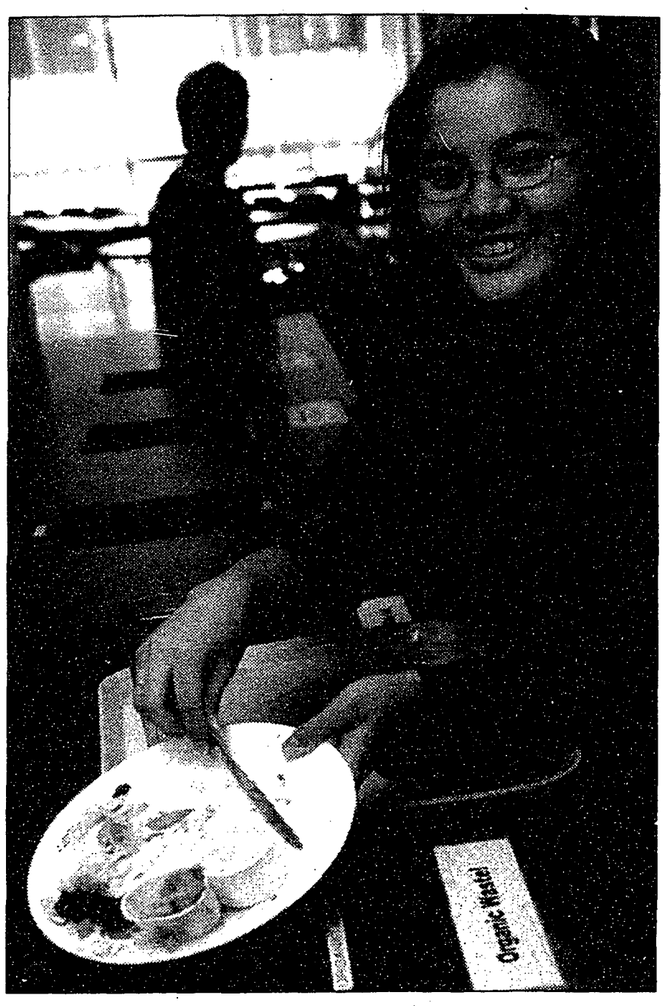
Though the collection of compost materials is more costly than previous waste management methods, the expenses are off-set by the program's benefits, added Metras.

"There's a couple of cost savings here," he explained. "We won't have to pay for the material to be dumped in the landfill...and if we can produce our own compost material then we don't have to buy fertilizer and soil amendments from off-campus."

According to Metras, the program will also reduce the amount of truck traffic to and from campus and may provide research and educational opportunities.

Ultimately, the system will improve the sustainability of the campus as a system.

"The benefits are that we're doing something positive from an environmental perspective," said Metras. ❖



GOING ORGANIC: Waste can be recycled with new program. **MARNIE RECKER PHOTO**

UBC, student society to lobby for no price increase

"U-Pass" from page 1.

last year when you negotiated the price?" he said. "We would want them to show why it is they think they need a two dollar increase."

The AMS plans to lobby against increases for both the 2005 winter session U-Pass and the potential summer pass that would be introduced in May. Once Translink produces their final decision on fare changes, students will vote in a referendum on whether to reinstate the U-Pass program.

"Translink has had a guaranteed increased ridership with the U-Pass, and we're pretty sure they've had increased revenue with almost 40,000 people purchasing the U-Pass. We feel that these are grounds that there should not be an increase," said Holly Foxcroft, VP External for the AMS.

The recommendations from the Translink staff will be reviewed by the company's board on Wednesday, following which they may move on to a wider public consultation. The board will make a final decision in November and fare changes could be implemented by January 2005.

Changes to the U-Pass prices would go into effect in May 2005. ❖

WebCT has had a "tremendous impact on teaching"

"Award" from page 1.

had given away copies of the software to hundreds of universities.

"There was a huge pent-up demand for people wanting to teach via the web. What was holding them back was the cost and the technical expertise required," he said. "The tool set solved these problems."

The WebCT project was selected from a field of nominees being considered by the Calgary-based Manning Foundation.

"It's a tough competition," said Donald Park, executive director of the foundation. "Submissions are received from across Canada and this year we had 76."

Nominated innovations are evaluated against five criteria, including intellectual achievement, uniqueness and originality, development of the idea to a finished product, commercial success and the social/economic benefits to Canada and society at large, said Park.

According to the man responsible for nominating Goldberg, the WebCT software measures up well.

"It's fair to say that WebCT has had just a tremendous impact on university teaching not just at UBC, not just in Canada, but throughout the world," said Lorne Whitehead, UBC VP Academic, who feels proud of the university as well as Goldberg.

"While Murray deserves the credit...if you think about it, UBC can be very proud that it provided the environment where that innovation could occur."

Whitehead, himself a winner of the Prinicpal Award in 1984, was effusive in his praise of Goldberg.

"You just couldn't imagine a nicer person to win an award like this quite frankly," he said. "He's modest, friendly and an excellent communicator. He's just a tremendous person and I think to see someone of his personality and character win the award is particularly rewarding for me."

Goldberg responded with generous praise of his own.

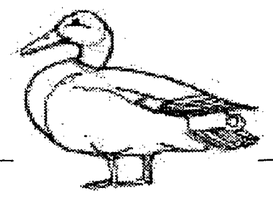
"WebCT simply wouldn't exist if it wasn't for UBC," he said. "I can't tell you the number of people I've spoken to at other universities that have said to me 'boy, you know if somebody invented this at our university it never would have seen the light of day' because they don't have a mechanism for getting these things out into the world, and UBC does."

As for the six-figure boost to his bank account, Goldberg plans to save the money for supporting future projects.

"It's a personal award...it's quite lovely. I hope to use it to support something else that I would like to do in the future," he said. "One of the hardest things about trying to see an idea that you have be meaningful and go beyond the idea stage is that it costs money." ❖

'TWEENS

Between Classes



Send your event listings to us so we can write it in here.

coordinating@ubyssey.bc.ca

Vancouver women gather to Take Back the Night

by Hilary Oñas
NEWS WRITER

Carrying signs with slogans like, "A woman is raped every 17 seconds," and "Hey John I'll show you a bad date," a diverse group of women took to the streets of Vancouver for Take Back the Night (TBTN) on Saturday.

Following a rally with several speakers in Jonathan Rogers Park, protesters stopped traffic as they made their way up to Broadway.

The annual event, presented by the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter, aims to unite women of various backgrounds and life experiences to work towards a common goal—an end to violence against women.

Many of the women in attendance had participated in the event before and were inspired to come back this year.

"I just wanted to help out," said Asia Melville, a volunteer at the march. "I just liked the energy of the last march that I was in, in Calgary...and wanted to be part of it in Vancouver."

Other participants, such as Linda Sourivanh, had never been involved with TBTN before.

"My manager at work is an activist for rape relief," Sourivanh said, adding that after hearing about the event, she decided she wanted to experience it for herself. "I thought I would come out and take back the night."

Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter has been operating since 1973 and was Canada's first rape crisis line. The shelter organised TBTN from 1980 to 2001 and decided to participate in the initiative again this year.

"[Take Back the Night] is not only to stop rape, but it's also... to demand livable welfare," said Samantha Kearney, an employee at the shelter. A boost to welfare is imperative so that women living in abusive relationships can leave at any time and know that they will be provided for as they rebuild their lives, Kearne explained.

Vancouver's first TBTN march, organised by the "Fly-by-Night" Collective in 1978, did not have the mandatory city permit. The refusal to ask for city permission has not changed 26 years later.

"We have the right to walk in the streets," said Lynda Gerty, another employee of the rape relief shelter. "We don't need men's permission—and we're not asking for it."

Organisers were quick to point out that although men are asked not to participate in the march, they can still help to spread the message.

"Men can work to end male violence and support women who work to end it too. They can help fundraise and get involved in childcare as they are in Take Back the Night," said Gerty. "After all, there is no way to end the violence without the cooperation of men."

The shelter's employees hope the event has sent a message to the government in light of cuts to social programs in BC, which they feel have decreased options for women. Though the event lasts only one night, the hope is to end violence against women completely, said Gerty.

BANDING TOGETHER IN SUPPORT: The Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter's Take Back the Night rally attracted many supporters. **MARNIE RECKER PHOTO**

"That's a particular experience for women who are going to attend [Take Back the Night] that is rare and that we're creating for one night and then demanding that we have it all the time." ❖

The Vancouver Rape and Relief and Women's Shelter provides a 24-hour crisis line that can be reached at 604-872-8212. For more information on the shelter, check out www.raperelief-shelter.bc.ca

Student society forces UNBC paper to recall issue

by Jonathan Woodward
BC BUREAU CHIEF

A Prince George, BC student newspaper removed its papers from campus and faced the freezing of its bank accounts in a fight with its student council over an editorial that suggested men should be made into "novelties for the super rich" last week.

The University of Northern British Columbia newspaper *Over the Edge* can publish again, but with a disclaimer distancing the student council from the opinions and an agreement to run any controversial content by a university-appointed harassment officer.

The article, entitled "Men in the Modern World" and published under a pseudonym in the opinions section on September 15, blamed men for the development of destructive technology, stating that only men would need "dangerous phallic symbols like guns, rockets and submarines."

Now, more than ever, a woman feels "the need to build a 700 megaton explosive penis extension and point it at someone else," it said.

The article raised the ire of at least one student, who complained to Northern Undergraduate Student Society (NUGSS) that it had gone too far.

NUGSS asked *Over the Edge* to remove all of its papers from off-campus locations on Friday, September 18. *Over the Edge* voluntarily removed the on-campus papers as well.

NUGSS executive met the following Tuesday and passed an interim motion to freeze the newspaper's funding, saying the article violated UNBC's harassment and discrimination policy.

BURKHOLDER

"Some of the ideas expressed in the article create a hostile, intimidating and offensive environment and are directed at individuals on the grounds of their sex," said Dr Cindy Hardy, the UNBC Harassment Officer.

Most of the article was funny, she said, but it crossed the line when it said that, when genetic technology allows, "men should be forced into nonexistence for the safety of the entire Earth. Maybe one or two that could be kept alive as novelties for the super rich."

"If we make pets out of people, then we're not treating them with respect and dignity as humans," said Hardy.

The author's other phrases were "so flagrantly ridiculous" that they couldn't be found offensive. But the article should be dealt with before similar articles targeting other groups appeared, she said.

There is no chance that the article was heading down a slippery slope, said managing editor Stephanie Wilson.

"It was originally intended to be satire, an amusing comment on society," she said.

Editor-in-Chief Carolynne Burkholder said that threatening the paper with a loss of funding was the society's "way of asserting editorial control over *Over the Edge*."

The newspaper will look into options for financial and editorial autonomy, she added.

The editorial board decided the article was fit for print, at least in part because the author himself was a man, who wrote under the psuedonym Sera N. Noosbig. They decided the article would be better received if the author's gender was ambiguous.

But some readers harassed the head of the UNBC woman's centre, whose first name is Sarah, because they thought she might have written the tract.

The resemblance to her name was accidental, Burkholder said, as it was an anagram of the original author's name.

It was contradictory that a man could pose as a woman in writing an anti-male article, and then be accused of discrimination against men, said Burkholder.

The student society acted quickly because *Over the Edge* is a service provided by the student union, said NUGSS President Jeremy Belyea. It might have appeared to readers that the anti-male opinion expressed belonged to NUGSS, he added.

Funds were thawed when *Over the Edge* agreed to print a disclaimer on its opinion pages disavowing any connection to NUGSS.

The paper will apologise for the use of the name Sera, will publish an article by Belyea, and will refer controversial articles to the harassment officer.

While this settlement allows the paper to publish again, it doesn't satisfy Chris Dinn, the president of a national student newspaper organisation, Canadian University Press.

"I don't think that's their role to make decisions on what's acceptable for publication and what's not," he said. "If they're worried about being responsible for what they're printing, then it would be better just to let [*Over the Edge*] be autonomous."

Other campus newspapers of similar size have become autonomous from their student unions through per-student fees that provide core funding, he said. ❖

"The most important election in the world"

UBC political science experts weigh in on the race for the White House

by Will Keats-Osborn and Colleen Tang
NEWS WRITERS

UBC political scientists agree that the upcoming US election is a uniquely important event for the world, but some say that a change in American administration would not lead to the policy changes that some Canadians seem to be hoping for.

"[This] U.S. presidential election, especially this one, is the most important election in the world. The stakes are huge," said Paul Quirk, Phil Lind chair in U.S. Politics and Representation and a political science professor at UBC.

"There is no way you can overemphasise how important this election is," added Dr Richard Price, an associate professor of political science at UBC. "The world is paying more attention to this election than any other election around the world. If the world could vote, [President George W.] Bush would be out of office."

If the American people do vote for Democratic candidate John Kerry, there will be some significant changes in American foreign policy, according to Dr Allen Sens, a senior political science lecturer.

"The major change in tenor and tone will be at least a rhetorical commitment to multilateralism and to repairing damaged relations, primarily with European allies but with other countries as well," he said.

"The impact of a rhetorical change in the White House would mean a general lowering of tension, distrust, and indeed anger between America and most of its key allies, and that is a situation that any Canadian government would simply find comforting," said Sens. "Right now Canada doesn't have too many inside tracks to the Bush administration. The bridges we had are burned, probably beyond repair."

While the election of Kerry would likely lead to a "withdrawal in honour" from Iraq, Sens said that there would be "virtually no change" in the way the US government has dealt with terrorism since 9/11.

"The same issues come up regardless of who is in power, and must be dealt with accordingly," said Sens.

In terms of economic policy, Kerry's desire to focus on the resolution of trade disputes would make the United States a more sympathetic ally of Canada, according to Dr Price.

On the other hand, a change in leadership south of the border does not guarantee positive progress on some of the economic disputes that concern many Canadians, said Dr Colin Campbell, research chair of the US Studies Program at UBC.

"Issues like softwood lumber...aren't going to disappear just because there is a Democrat in the White House," said Campbell.

With little more than one month to go before the election is held on November 2, Bush and Kerry are running neck and neck in the polls.

A Gallup poll conducted from September 13 to 15 suggests that Bush holds an eight per cent lead over Kerry among registered voters while a Harris poll of likely voters surveyed between September 9 to 13 suggested a one-point lead in favour of Kerry.

The race is very close and US expatriates living in Canada could significantly impact the result by casting a ballot, according to Dr. Richard Johnston, head of the Political Science Department at UBC.

"It could be important," said Johnston. "What really matters is the counting of all votes, including expatriate ones, in the handful of 'battleground states' that are hovering around 50 percent [support for either candidate]." ❖

So we're having an election on Wednesday and these lucky folks can vote in the election:

Paul Carr
Michelle Mayne
Jesse Marchand
Sarah Bourdon
Ania Mafi
Alex Leslie
Dan McRoberts
Carrie Robinson
Paul Evans
Nic Fensom
Eric Szeto
Jonathan Woodward
Matt Simpson

These people need to show up to the all-candidates forum:

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Jenn Cameron
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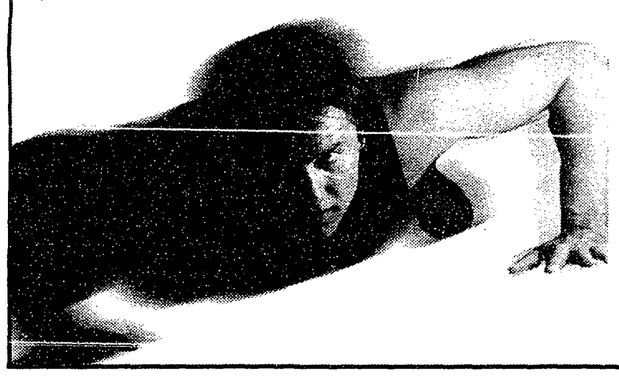

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Sudan in Crisis

Humanitarian aid worker's account

by Eric Szeto
NEWS STAFF

The humanitarian crisis in the Sudan is far from improving and innocent civilians are living in absolute terror, said a humanitarian aid worker in a talk on Wednesday night.

Cathy Huser, a coordinator with Doctors Without Borders, said that although she returned from Sudan over two months ago, she still finds herself overwhelmed by the thought of the atrocities she observed while she was there.

"I've been doing this work for ten years and have been in some fairly critical crisis situations but personally my experience in Darfur is one of the most difficult I've had in the years I've been doing work," explained Huser, who has also worked in Haiti, Somalia, Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia and the Congo.

The Sudan has experienced conflict for the past 50 years. Since the uprising in early 2003 by the Darfurian rebels, the Sudanese government has responded by oppressing the peoples of the region, Huser said.

It is estimated that over 1.7 million people have fled from their homes, most of them settling in camps in Darfur.

"In [Darfur] the rebels claimed that they are fighting against what they describe as the marginalisation and the exploitation of the Darfur region by the Sudanese government," Huser said. "In response to that there was a very, very aggressive, oppressive response back by the government."

The burning and looting of villages and violence against civilians by militias are just some of the atrocities that have caused a mass movement of the population, said Huser.

"Most families I spoke to were going...where there were big numbers of people." Huser added that most of these families moved to populated areas because they felt that if they were attacked the international community would act more quickly.

Kalma camp, one of the refugee settlements in Darfur contained about 50,000 people in July. That number has now climbed to more than 80,000.

Still, moving to these camps does not necessarily mean people are better off since access to potable water is difficult and in some camps sanitation facilities are non-existant, compounding the already grim situation, according to Huser.

Abdel Azim Zumra, a member of the forestry faculty at UBC, felt the talk was informative but commented that the political situation was misrepresented.

"I think she gave an excellent presentation of the humanitarian situation," said Zumra. "I think however she misrepresented the political framework that she gave for what's happening there." Zumra said that Huser focused too exclusively on the internal confict in Sudan and did not provide enough international context.

"The talk was good. It was very effective and I think everyone felt a bit of what Cathy was feeling," added Christina Chan, a second-year science student. "What we see today is not even close to what is happening so I'm sitting here trying to digest everything that I see on the screen which is a fraction of what goes on."

"These are real people," said Huser. "This is something that is happening in a far off land but it is happening to human beings." ❖

Leaving Afghanistan

Canadian Red Cross raises refugee awareness

by Kenneth Chan
NEWS WRITER

From recounting their dramatic tales of escape from Afghanistan, to the difficulties they faced as refugees in Canada, the three Afghani women speaking at the Public Library on September 21 had much to say.

Fahima Ahmad Nessar, Ramzia Denshad Faiz and Froozan Jooya, all members of the Afghan Canadian Women's Network, told the large audience their individual stories.

Nessar, who was a biology professor at Kabul University, spoke of her time working as a field nurse with the Red Cross in northern Afghanistan. Late one night, members of the local militia stormed her house and physically assaulted her daughter. To this day, loud doorbells and phone rings still haunt Nessar.

Determined to flee, Nessar was forced to pose as a domestic worker because professionals were not allowed to leave the country. She arrived in Canada in 1992.

Faiz also held a professorship at Kabul University, teaching psychology.

When the mujaheddein took control of the Afghan capital in 1992, Faiz took advantage of an opportunity to teach in Moscow. In 2001, after the Russian government approved her visa, she left her native land and came to Canada.

Despite being a trained scientist, Faiz had to work at a bakery and for a tailor in order to make ends meet. After a lengthy process, her credentials were eventually recognised.

"I'm going step by step toward my goal," she said.

Jooya on the other hand, never worked in Afghanistan because she left at a young age. She spoke of her memories of being smuggled out of the country with her parents. Jooya has spent more than half of her life in Canada and now holds degrees in sociology and criminology, and is a social worker while also pursuing graduate studies in sociology.

Adapting to life in Canada has been a challenge and Faiz acknowledged the various friends and organisations that have supported her in her efforts to improve her English and gain work experience.

Now Faiz is helping others to make the same transition, working with children who grew up in war-torn surroundings.

"Nobody has the time to talk to these children and help them deal with their unique problems," she said. "Their parents don't know about the children's difficulty."

The event was part of a series called A Story to Tell and a Place for the Telling, coordinated by the Canadian Red Cross. Organiser Jenny Moss said that she hoped the talk was able to increase awareness about refugees in Canada.

"There's too much stereotyping of refugees," she said. "We want people to have more compassion of them." ❖

The political side of sex

NICE PANTIES: Jay Friedman talks sex at Vanier. JONATHAN WOODWARD PHOTO

by Jonathan Woodward
BC BUREAU CHIEF

Students expecting to learn about their sexuality from sex educators touring Canadian campuses may find some politics mixed into the message due to the upcoming American election.

Sex educators, counsellors and therapists who lecture students across North America this time of year are becoming more polittically active, said sex educator Jay Friedman.

"Under the Bush administration, rights to sex education are being taken away," said Friedman, who is best known for his lecture series, "The J-Spot."

"I'm very worried about the outcome of this election."

In a speech last week to several hundred students at Place Vanier and Totem Park Residences, Friedman talked frankly about male ("microwave oven") and female ("crock pot") arousal, decried "locker room talk" when it pressures men to score, and dispelled the myth of "blue balls."

But he saved his criticism for a school system that he said may as well teach children that a vulva is "what mom and dad drive" and a vagina is "a state outside of Washington, D.C."

"We are crippled by sexual ignorance," he said. "The clitoris is the only part of the body that is designed for pleasure. I think it's political that we are not taught this pleasure."

Friedman said his lecture has become more outspoken over the past three years, especially after initiatives by George W. Bush to introduce a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriages.

Other sex educators have similar political concerns.

"We see our field under attack by the current administration," said California sex therapist Stephen L. Braveman.

The US has the highest teen pregnancy statistics in the developed world: more than three times Canada and six times most European nations, he said.

At the same time, schools in Braveman's nearby Salinas Valley only teach abstinence, refusing to acknowledge that teenagers are sexual beings, no matter what their parents think, he said.

This alienates children from parents' messages and endangers them, he said.

"We need comprehensive sex education in this country."

With the change in political climate, the American Association of Sex Educators, Counsellors and Therapists has been pushed to make political statements more often, said Dr Peter Kanaris, a sex therapist in Long Island, New York.

"The right is more in control and more influential," he said. "It's a result of this that sex educators are broadcasting their messages louder."

The controversy stretches farther back and crosses party lines, said UBC history professor Paul Krause.

Dr David Satcher, the American Surgeon General between 1998 and 2002, was replaced after he said that it was important to teach children about sex, said Krause.

In 1995, Surgeon General Jocelyn Elder talked about the need to educate children about masturbation in schools. She came under huge pressure to resign, forcing then-President Bill Clinton, a Democrat, to cut her loose, he said.

"In general, sex in US society has been a heated and volatile debate since colonial days onward," he said. "There has always been a fudging of the public and the private realms."

"The big contradiction of the Republican Party is that they are against big government, but want government to be involved in sex and in choosing a sexual partner," Krause explained.

The situation is different in Canada, where Pierre Trudeau's adage that "the state has no place in the bedrooms of the nation" is still a powerful political idea, he said.

At the end of his speech, Friedman abandoned his political message and offered a "gift" to his audience to improve their sex lives: Kegels. By contracting the muscles that stop the flow of urine in three sets of ten per day, anyone can build muscles that can aid sexual prowess.

"It's something that can be done anytime, even at breakfast," he said. "Kegels with your bagels.

"But the best thing about Kegels is that no one can tell that you're doing them," he said, standing in front of several hundred Vanier residents. "I'm doing them right now." ❖

AUS elections plagued by low turnout

An average of 40 students voted in the Arts Undergraduate Society's (AUS) election held last week. After results were announced Friday night, less than one percent of Arts students had approved the candidates running for a variety of positions, including Alma Mater Society (AMS) council representatives.

The lack of voters was mirrored by the lack of candidates, as there was an actual election—rather than a ratification—only in the race for first-year representative to the AUS.

In that particular case, John Wang and Cheryl Lee defeated four other candidates for the two available positions. As for AMS council, only three candidates ran for the five available posts, leaving the remaining positions to be filled by appointment.

Arts students were able to vote online through the WebVote function on the Student Service Centre website, but this nod to convenience did not increase turnout. ❖

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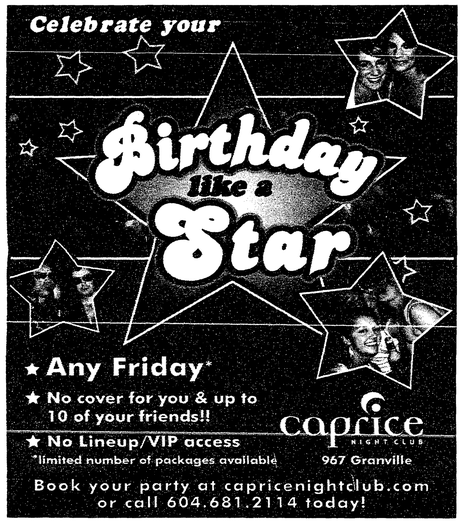

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L'Isola (The Island)
Playing Oct. 5

by Erin Hope-Goldsmith
CULTURE WRITER

Last Saturday I had the choice between going to see *Shrek 2* at the SUB, or going to see *L'Isola* at the VIFF. Not to diss Shrek, who's a charming guy, but the choice wasn't too difficult. *L'Isola* is filled with the rich imagery of life in an Italian fishing village, in all its harsh and primal beauty. In a naturalistic, completely gimmick-free style, it documents a season in the lives of a sister and brother growing up.

The documentary-like quality of the film is played up by a camera technique that occasionally views like a home video, with a close-up image drifting here, there, sliding down to focus on somebody's hand then up to their nose. Though it did enhance the hypnotic effect of immersing you in the scene, the camera work also did something to your stomach.

That aside, it is captivating to watch as Teresa and her older brother Turi mature, and learn how to negotiate the demands and limits of family and society while somehow staying integral to themselves in the strict world. Both actors are excellent, but the young Veronica Guarasi's natural poise and vibrance really illuminate her performance as Teresa. Think of the last Hollywood child actors you saw: Macaulay Culkin anyone? Next to him, Guarasi stands out like your grandma's Sunday dinners in comparison to an Arby's sandwich. Speaking of grandmas, Teresa's nonna is a delightful character, providing the necessary nurturing and love in a world dominated by hard work and harsh actions.

"The Island" is what the Italian fishermen call the huge circle of nets they set out to catch tuna. The image that sticks in the mind most is that of Turi, learning this necessary yet brutal art, as he swims alone to inspect the nets of the island while his terse father and the other men wait above in the boat; just as they will wait when the tuna arrive to be caught and slaughtered. Though we are pleasantly unaware of the presence of a director's guiding hand, the film's metaphors and meanings unfold in retrospect just like remembrances of a salient dream.

This is a picture of a way of life that is inseparable from the land and the sea. After this intensely real yet dream-like tale, rich with wild windswept coast, death and birth of animals and the struggle for survival of the human soul, I walked out of the theatre onto Granville St and had trouble adjusting my mind and legs; I felt I was still bobbing on the waves of an Italian boat. ❖

I Like to Work
Sept. 26

by Simon Underwood
CULTURE STAFF

Every August weary parents prepare to shed their children for another school year. Before they lapse into a critical state of atrophy, a spate of articles will no doubt litter the 'Life' section warning against the 'bully problem' and offering defences for middling children to mount against grade school thugs. What Francesca Comencini's *I Like to Work* (Mi Place Lavorare) quietly illustrates is that the politics of the schoolyard differ little from those of the workplace. Forget camaraderie: it's every administrative assistant for themselves. And that new intern wants your desk.

Based on a true story that led to the rewrite of Italian labour laws, Comencini's subject is Anna (Nicoletta Braschi), an invoice checker and single mother who arbitrarily becomes a company target when a merger refits her long-time employer with a cruel new manager of Human Resources. A fait accompli sends her packing at the hands of a co-worker ordered to annex her desk. Her computer is sabotaged. She is forced to sit by the photocopier and interrogate users as to their intentions with the Xerox. Her stone-faced boss assigns her next-to-impossible tasks, pitting her against co-workers willing to ignore, avoid, and abuse her for their own survival. Forget the union representatives who inspire the same confidence as your high school guidance counsellor, Anna's only ally is her self-sufficient latchkey daughter. But even she confesses to her exhausted mother, "I don't want to be like you."

I Like to Work is simply told—Comencini resorts to the time-old device of the important recital that will inevitably be missed—but the straightforward structure allows the director to linger on the stark, washed out imagery of a workday morning. At one point the camera draws back as Anna bleakly meets her own beleaguered expression in the mirror, and pulls in at another to chase her subterranean mission through a labyrinth of impenetrable file cabinets. Braschi, recognisable from her role in *Life is Beautiful*, commands the screen with a weathered grace at each instance, fiercely refusing to kowtow even when her own mental health is at stake.

I Like to Work is a intense indictment of a corporate culture that forces workers to be flexible until they break. ❖

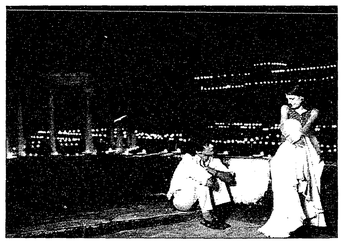
Hari Om
Playing Oct. 3

by Ajay Puri
CULTURE WRITER

Growing up, I watched my fair share of Bollywood films. You know the typical plot: boy meets girl, girl rejects boy's affection, dakus (bad guys) take away girl, boy rescues girl by killing hundreds of dakus and they happily get married—of course I've omitted an hour of musical numbers. Well, going in to watch *Hari Om*, I was expecting another typical Bollywood style movie; however, to my delight it turned out to be atypical and indeed quite comical. Bharatbala's *Hari Om* is what could be labeled as one of those 'off beat' Indian films such as the ever popular South Asian hits as *Monsoon Wedding, East is East* or *Bend it Like Beckham.*

Being of South Asian decent, I appreciated the humour and sub-dialogues which reminded me of the fun and charming side of Indian culture. Most enjoyable were the various Indo-pop numbers remade by Nitin Soni and the witty Indian slang. This film can be enjoyed by all South Asians, and is also entertaining for those not accustomed to the Indian humour as the characters and plot cater to all audiences.

In a coconut shell, the movie is about an auto-rickshaw driver (or 'four-wheeler' as they say in India) named Hari Om, played by Vija Raaz from *Monsoon Wedding*, who gets himself involved with a crook and ends up owing him a fair chunk of change. To avoid selling his four-wheeler, named Madhuri, he escapes serendipitously with Madhuri and a charismatic and lovely woman from France named Isa, who is played by Camille Natta.



Escaping the boredom of her boyfriend Benoit, played by Jean Marie Lamour of *Swimming Pool*, Isa joins Om on this spontaneous voyage. The two travel across the beautiful landscape of Rajasthan—the land of love stories—finding out who they really are.

What made the night most memorable was having the director, executive producer, main editor and even the mother of Ms Natta present at the screening. After speaking with director, Bharatbala, I got an inside listen to the many interesting tidbits that the audience probably didn't know. Like how the film amazingly finished only ten days prior to the Toronto International Film Festival, with the whole film taking only 45 days to shoot.

Arriving home I realised two things from the movie, that there is always a human connection between any one of us despite our differences and secondly, as the director put it, "everybody has a love story". ❖

Dig!
Sept. 24 & 25

by Chris Little
CULTURE WRITER

Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival, this feature-length documentary by director Ondi Timoner is a fascinating and devastatingly candid update of the often tiresome rock biopic formula. Shot over a period of seven years and culled from more than 1500 hours of footage, the film chronicles the career trajectories of two (former) darlings of the indie scene, The Dandy Warhols and The Brian Jonestown Massacre, as well as the friendship of the bands' respective leaders, Courtney Taylor and Anton Newcombe.

Digl begins by focusing on the common desire of both groups to stage a revolution in the extremely conservative music industry, which was then dominated by boy bands and disposable pop fluff. However, the Dandy's short-lived status as the "next big thing" and their corresponding decision to sign with a major label soon establishes an irreconcilable rift between Taylor and Newcombe. Eventually the pair's differing approaches to balancing creativity with success place them fundamentally at odds. This story is played out amidst revealing shots of the bands' triumphs and catastrophes, both onstage and behind the curtain.

Without a doubt the central figure of the film is Massacre front-man Newcombe, whose delusions of grandeur and maniacal egotism are only magnified when contrasted with the "well-adjusted" presence of his rival and former friend, Taylor. Both men endure their fair share of difficult moments, yet Newcombe emerges as easily the more volatile, nearly self-destructing at every available opportunity.

Although Newcombe may well be a musical genius, *Digl* demonstrates that unmitigated talent when combined with an unbroken string of selfish actions and poor decisions can easily lead to nowhere, or at least relative obscurity. ❖

The Machinist
Sept. 26

by Eric Szeto
CULTURE STAFF

After not having one night of sleep for more than a year, Trevor Reznik's mind begins to break down.

The Machinist is a psychological drama starring Christian Bale as Trevor Reznik. He holds down a 9 to 5 job, but as his insomnia begins to compound he starts to distance himself from the rest of the world. Unable to account for the bizarre string of events that surround him, Reznik cannot understand who or what is responsible for all this.

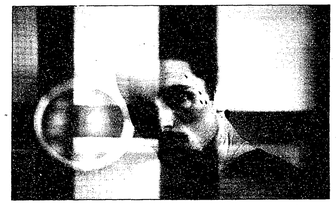
The separation between reality and Reznik's dementia begins to obscure as the movie unfolds. His behaviour becomes unstable and erratic as this whirlwind of confusion blows into his life. His only explanation is that the people around him are devising a plot to ruin him.

Ivan, played by John Sharian, is the mysterious character Reznik formulates some suspicion for as he goes to great lengths trying to prove Ivan's existence is not just a figment of his own imagination. It is this obsessive determination that reinforces to the audience that Reznik's sanity is indeed questionable.

Leading a lonely life that is compensated by his frequent visits with Stevie, a prostitute played by Jennifer Jason Leigh, Reznik looks to her as his only source of salvation. The two develop a genuine relationship, but as his mind begins to psychologically unravel and break, so does his relationship with Stevie.

Bale, from *American Psycho*, once again shows his viewers how good he is at playing bizarre and twisted characters, giving a memorable performance in this film. He also provided us an inside glimpse at how losing 60 pounds for a role can create a buzz of repugnance throughout the entire theatre.

The downfall to this film is that as the story unfolded, it became predictable. At times Ivan, who was obviously his alter ego, started to resemble Brad Pitt's character in *Fight Club*. The film became a little tedious and slow in its delivery, which took away from its ability to be a psychological suspense thriller. ❖



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If you wonder at all, ever, about anything, email Alex at features@ubyssey.bc.ca. Or come to the features meeting this Friday at 1 PM in SUB room 24. On the couches. Handbook included.

WRITE FEATURES

"Against stupidity the very gods themselves contend in vain." — Johann von Schiller
"It serves me right for putting all my eggs in one bastard." — Dorothy Parker
"I like eating apple slices with jam." —Alex Leslie

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SUB 24

Another kick at the can

Women's soccer goes for third straight national championship

by Kelsey Blair
SPORTS WRITER

What do you think about when you're a two time defending national champion team? Do you rest on the glory of last year? Do you think you're invincible? Do you feel pressure?

If you are the UBC women's soccer team, you simply go out and try to prove yourself.

A new season means a new team, and with a record of 3-1-1, the 2004 Thunderbirds are already showing that they are ready to compete for another title.

In the last two years, the team has a 32-3-2 record, including the playoffs, a school record 16 game winning streak, and more than eight shutouts.

To boot, UBC all-time scoring leaders Sarah Regan and Ros Hicks were also named the most valuable players at the last two CIS championship tournaments. Those are pretty big cleats to fill.

This year's captain Heather Smith will be looked to on and off the field. The fourth-year, who was a staple of the defensive line last year, will be moved to midfield in order to get more touches on the ball. Along with fifth-year players Candace Lovstad and Amber Brownlee, Smith will be looking to lead this year's team.

With the departure of Hicks and Regan, one might assume that the team's weakest link is in the forward position. Wrong. There are five players all vying for spots up front. North Vancouver's Janine Kerr netted five goals for the Birds last regularseason and according to her coach Dick Mosher she is "a natural forward who is ready to step up."

Danielle Tabo, who led the British Columbia Collegiate Athletic Association (BCCAA) in goals scored last season, is another threat and will compliment Kerr nicely. Also packing an offensive punch are Ariane Williams, who currently plays in the mid-field, Katherine McRae and rookie Jill Kinsman.

Mosher is particularly enthusiastic about Kinsman, who scored twice in UBC's 7-0 rout over the Regina Cougars on Sept. 18.

"She has Canada West [All-Star] written all over her," said Mosher. "With a 'never-say-die' attitude, she can play anywhere on the field."

If the cliché "offense wins games but defense wins championships" has any element of truth, this year's team must be feeling pretty confident. Last year the team boasted eight shut-outs—a very difficult number to match—but the T-Bird defense has the potential to be just as strong this season.

Mosher boasts that UBC has "the best goaltending tandem in the country." Goalkeeper Hannah Shochiet, who was rookie of the year in the 2002 season but sat out last year because of knee injuries, will split the netminding duties with Kelly McNabney, who was named the top keeper at last year's CIS championship.

Despite suffering their first loss of the season this past weekend in Calgary, the Birds are still poised for a run to the playoffs. Mosher is definite about his what focus of the first half of the season is: "to prove that we are able to compete with the best in the league." ❖

UBC runners on the road

The UBC women's cross country team placed ninth overall and fourth among NAIA teams at the Stanford Invitational 4km race on this past Saturday.

UBC, ranked second in the NAIA heading into the race, was led by sophomore Shannon Elmer, who placed 24th in 14:48. Teammate Celia Ambery was 30th in 14:53.

The Stanford team, who compete in the NCAA, placed first overall, while SFU was the top NAIA school. The UBC men had the weekend off.

The UBC cross country season had kicked off a week previous at the University of Washington's Sundodger Invitational on Sept. 18.

The T-Bird women couldn't defend their title at the event, finishing second behind SFU, while the UBC men placed third behind SFU and Eastern Oregon.

Both men's and women's teams are in action this coming weekend at the Willamette Invitational in Salem, Oregon.

Exhibitionists

If was both feast and famine for the UBC men's hockey team in their weekend exhibition series against the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) Trojans this past Friday and Saturday.

In Friday night's game, the T-Birds exploded for six goals in regulation time and the visitors kept pace, scoring a half-dozen of their own. It took overtime to settle the affair, with UBC's Jon Kress netting his second of the night to clinch the 7-6 victory.

Casey Bartzen led the UBC attack on the evening with four assists while Derek Dinellle, Steve Bunney and Jarret Winn all had a goal and an assist.

On Saturday afternoon, the teams faced off at the Pacific Coliseum and perhaps the change of venue distracted the shooters. The final result was a 2-1 win for the Trojans, despite UBC outshooting SAIT 32-21.

UBC was significantly shorthanded in the second game with six regulars out of the lineup including Bartzen and starting goaltender Chris Levesque. ❖

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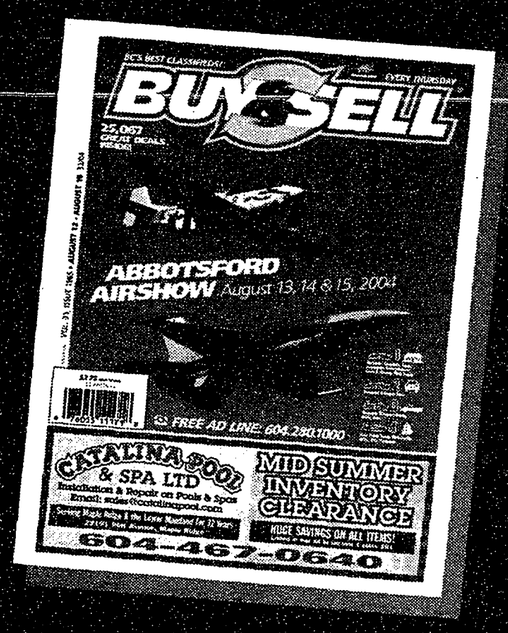

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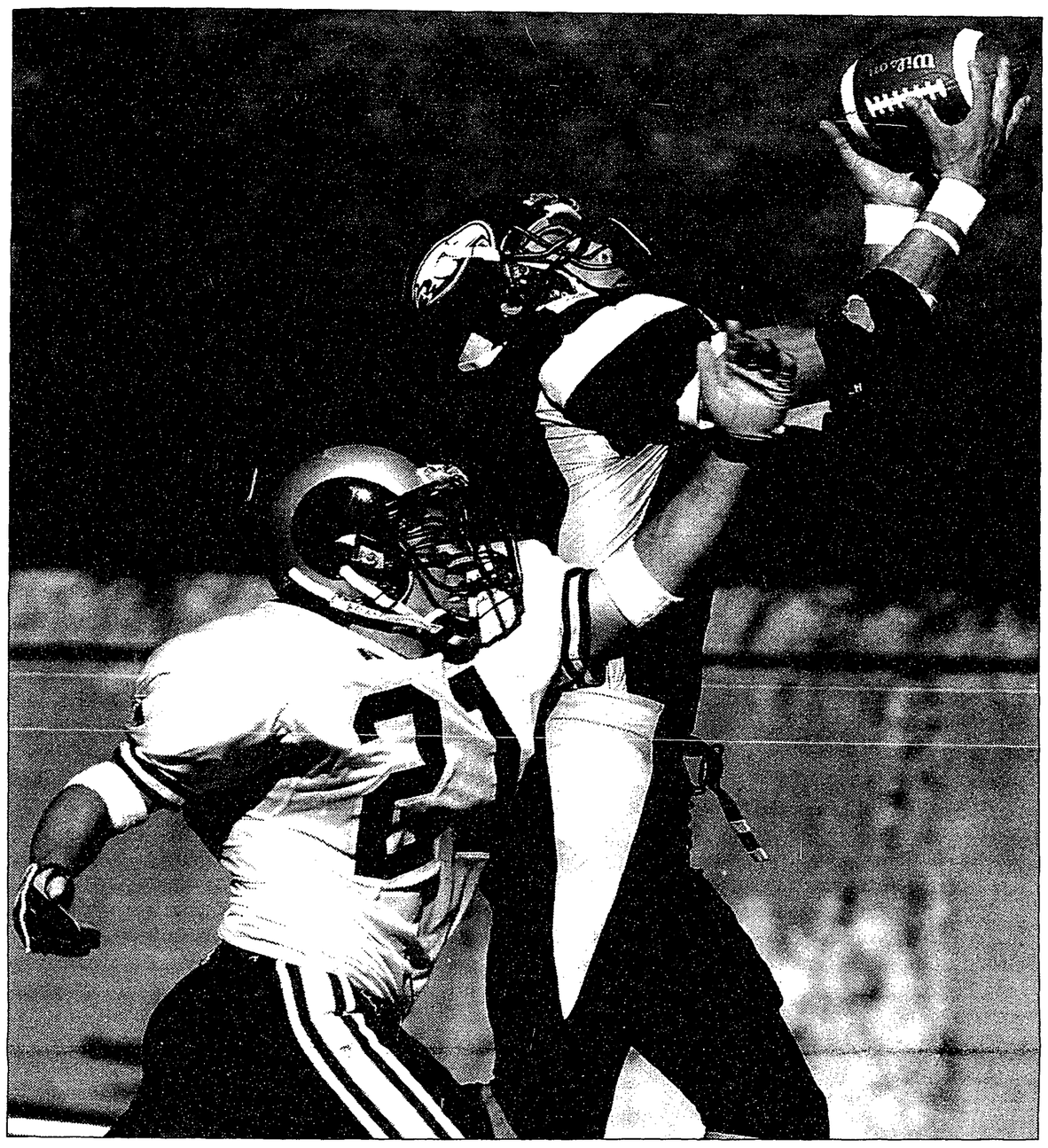
Ol' fashioned whupping

UBC features balanced attack in a 44-21 defeat of the Regina Rams at home



AERIAL BOMBARDMENT: UBC enjoyed a fine day on offense on Saturday, with four passes caught for touchdowns and 285 receiving yards in total. Nathan Beveridge led the Birds with two touchdowns and 137 yards overall. RICHARD LAM/UBC ATHLETICS PHOTO

by Charlie Hatt
SPORTS WRITER

By this date last year the UBC Football team was 0-3 and spirits were understandably low.

This season, however, is a decidedly different story. With wins over Manitoba and Regina, and a heartbreaking loss to Alberta, the Thunderbirds have charged out to a 2-1 start and can legitimately think about the playoffs instead of just playing the season out.

Perhaps the best word to describe the 2004 version of the T-Birds is balance. In offense, an effective mix between the run and the pass has led to success and a lot of points on the scoreboard. On the defensive side of the ball, the team has enjoyed stingy run stopping and a secondary that has been opportunistic in creating turnovers.

It was precisely this balance that was on display Saturday afternoon for the Birds in their home opener. Played in front of a near capacity crowd at Thunderbird Stadium, the Birds went to work early against Regina, scoring two touchdowns in the first quarter, staking themselves to a 16-0 lead.

Third-year quarterback Blake Smelser connected with fifth-year slotback Nate Beveridge for a big completion that set up the Birds' first score: a two-yard run by Chris Ciezki. Smelser found Beveridge just a few minutes later for a 61-yard touchdown strike.

"Give all the credit to the offensive line," Smelser said. "I had so much time today and I could just sit back and read the field."

Smelser enjoyed a career game, throwing completions on 17 of 24 passes for 285 yards, four touchdowns and no interceptions. He praised Ted Goveia, the team's new offensive coordinator, for guiding UBC's offense.

"Coach Goveia is doing good things, locating mismatches all over the place and we're just capitalising on them."

The fog that rolled in for the second quarter mirrored the fog that the overmatched Regina squad played in all day. Aside from a small stretch in the fourth quarter where Regina scored two quick touchdowns—including one on a blocked punt—the Birds dominated from start to finish.

Three second-half touchdown passes—from Smelser to Jesse Tupper, Beveridge, and Alan Pepper—and another Ciezki touchdown run cemented the victory for the T-Birds.

The UBC defence wouldn't let the offense steal the show, as they limited the Rams' rushing attack to 53 yards, nabbed two interceptions, and sacked the Regina quarterbacks four times. Nick Johansson, a fourth-year defensive tackle and the team's lone returning first-team All Canada West selection from last season, had one of those sacks.

"A quick move inside worked out for me and I got to the quarterback," said Johansson. He cites the effort of players that have had to step in for injured starters as a key to the Birds' defensive success

"Anytime anybody steps up you know it's really good. We're playing hard and going at them."

The T-Birds now have the second highest points per game average in the Canada West Conference and with upcoming games at Saskatchewan and in the Shrum Bowl against SFU, they'll need every point they can muster. Goveia thinks they're up to the task.

"That's the game plan, to win and put up as many points as you can," said Goveia. "So as long as we continue to improve each week we should be able to get the same results, but it is a tough conference."

Any football coach will tell you that balance is a crucial quality for a team that wants to contend. The 2004 UBC football team hopes for balance both offensively and defensively but there is one category they wouldn't mind seeing conspicuously imbalanced—their win-loss column. ❖

Field hockey Birds off to winning start

by Dan McRoberts
SPORTS EDITOR

Ten weeks, nine games and a three team fight for two berths in the national championship. That was the situation facing the UBC women's field hockey team as they took to Wright Field this weekend to begin their Canada West regular season with games against the university teams from Victoria, Calgary and Alberta.

"Canada West is an extremely competitive conference," said T-Birds assistant coach Dallas Plensky. "All three teams we are playing are very competitive."

The Birds emerged as the class of the field, however, with one-goal victories against Alberta and the UVic Vikes book-ending a comprehensive 6-1 drubbing of the Calgary Dinos.

The three wins put the defending national champs in pole position in what Plensky describes as the most competitive conference in Canada.

With the national championships being held this November in Edmonton, the Golden Bears have a guaranteed place as hosts, but the Prairie visitors still gave UBC all it could handle on Friday afternoon. A late goal from Stephanie Quinn proved to be the only entry on the score sheet from either side as UBC got off to a winning start.

Alberta went on to lose to Victoria by a 2-1 score before recording a come-from-behind win in their last game of the weekend against the Calgary Dinos. Down 2-1 early on, the Bears struck twice in four minutes to win 3-2 against a Dinos team that went winless at the tourney.

The Calgary team suffered the most lopsided defeat of the weekend at the hands of the T-Birds on Saturday afternoon. The UBC attack was led by Laura Dowling's two goals scored in the 46th and 49th minutes that effectively put the game out of reach. Kathyrn MacPherson, Stephanie Quinn, Leigh Sandison and Devon Bromley rounded out the T-Bird scoring.

UBC's control over the match was quite complete, as they peppered the Calgary goaltender with shots and dominated in midfield. Indeed, it was against the run of play that the Dinos managed to break the shutout in the dying minutes as the game finished 6-1 for the Birds.

For Sunday's finale it was fitting to see a rematch of last year's CIS championship final as UBC met up with their arch-rivals from the University of Victoria. With both teams undefeated going into the match, the result would have a tangible impact on this year's race for the championship as well.

The Thunderbirds started with two quick goals from Quinn and MacPherson around the 20 minute mark, and held on for the win. Victoria replied in the 32nd minute, but could score no more as the Thunderbird defense stood firm.

With the victory, the Thunderbirds have a clear leg up on their rivals with only six games remaining. The team's intense schedule of practices should mean that UBC will improve in time for the next tournament in Calgary (Oct. 8-10), said Plensky.

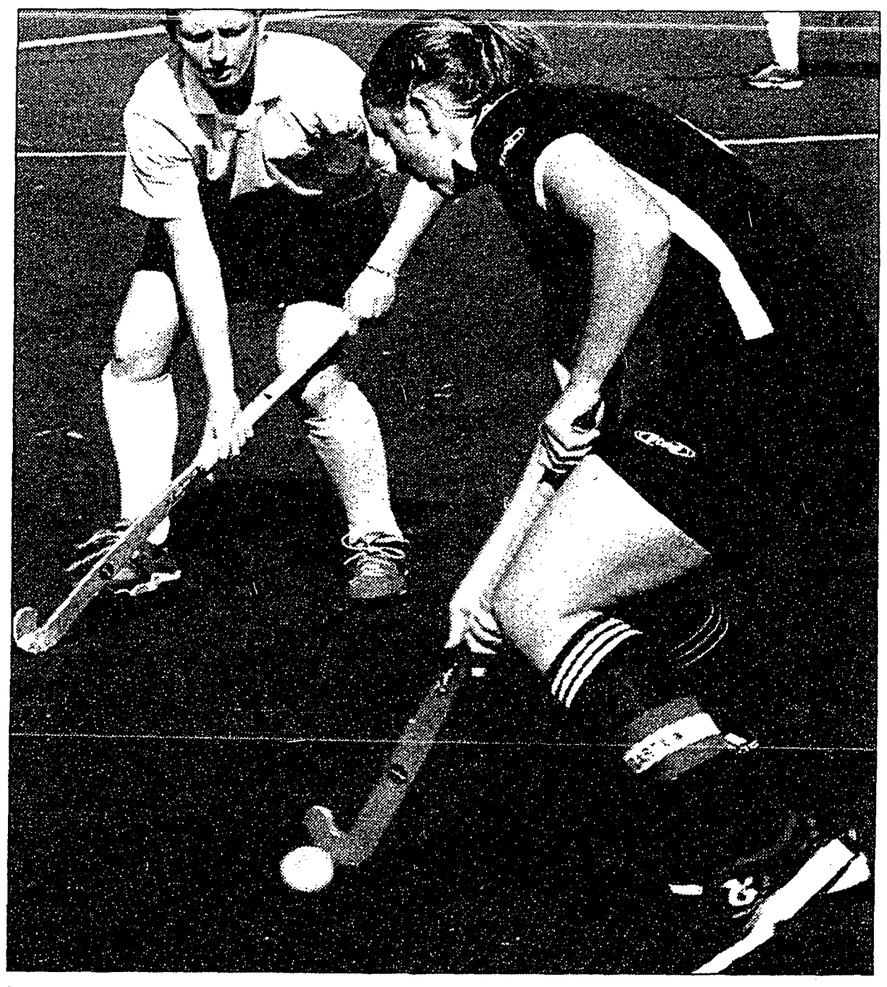
"It's such a short, intensive season, only ten weeks...you have a lot of time with the athletes and you can really make a difference in their skills because you're with them so much," she said.

Fifth-year midfielder Stephanie Jameson, the T-Birds' co-captain, said that while it's still early on, the team seems to be in the championship mindset.

"Our team is actually quite similar this year, I think this year everyone seems a little more cohesive as a unit," said Jameson. "Everyone is really excited, I know we were excited last year but everyone has a really good feeling about this year."

If this weekend's action is any indication, the Birds will face some tough battles in the weeks ahead. Jameson welcomes the challenge.

"Personally I think that it's actually really good that the games are going to be fairly close this year," she said. "I think that our team does better when we have strong competition." ❖



NO REVENGE HERE: UBC forward Jennifer Tait pushes the tempo against the UVic Vikes Sunday (Sept. 26). The Birds defeated the Vikes 2-1, the team they beat in last year's CIS championship final. After winning all three games this weekend, the Birds next see action Thanksgiving weekend in Calgary. NIC FENSOM PHOTO

THE UBYSSEY
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Jesse Marchand is sitting around and Michelle Mayne is staring at her ass. Sarah Bourdon laughed so hard that Alex Leslie had to cover her ears. Dan McRoberts was confused by the different lengths of his legs. Ania Mafi slid the soap over the soft, supple curves of the countertop. In terms of socio-ecomonics, Paul Evans was extraordinarily stimulated into conversation with Carrie Robinson. Eric Szeto sat on his hands because Jon Woodward has scissors and he is flailing them at Liz Green. Nic Fensom contemplated a sex change. "Shawna Halll" screeched the parrot perched in the corner. All of a sudden remembering the time Darryl Hol jumped three times. Looking up in disgust Marnie Recker realized that that odour was eminating from her feet. As Dan Silverman threw the football at Kenneth Chan it accidently hit Hilary Onas and Charlie Hatt started to scream. Kelsey Blair and Colleen Tang teamed up to paint the campus ketchup. "Ditto," said Wil Keats-Osborn. Ancilla Chui returned truimphantly with two erasers and a green pen. Simon Underwood thought he would and so he could and he was good. It turns out that Ajay Puri really, really loves doing geography trivia while waxing Chris Little's toe hair. Alexander Wright flew his toy plane right into Erin Hop-Goldsmith. And Trevor Gilks said hello.

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Shove your increase

When Translink officials present their fare increase recommendations this week, it's not likely that their first thoughts will be of the needs of students. Not that this should be expected. Students, of course, only make up a large percentage of the transit-using public and are among the demographics least likely to own cars. Or, that is, cars that don't bear the appearance of having just been assaulted by a convict with a screwdriver.

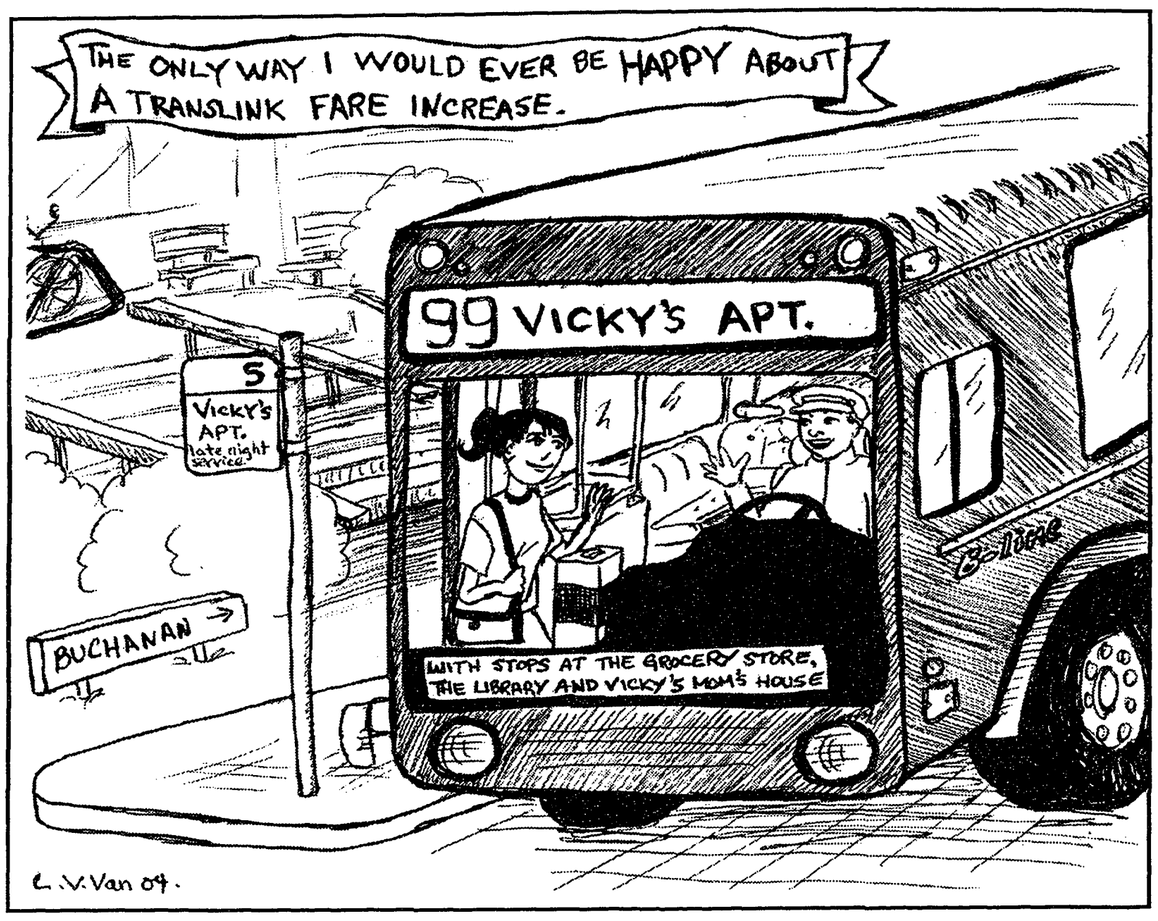
Translink's new proposal includes adding two dollars a month onto the price of our U-Pass, which will contribute to the $41 million in extra revenue the company hopes to rake in by 2007.

Now, at first glance, this proposal seems justifiable. After all, bus service to and from UBC is in definite need of improvement. The U-Pass has increased transit ridership to a level that has placed major strain on the system. Every morning, students in all degrees of dampness watch with mounting frustration as buses whisk past like awkward, smoke-spewing steeds.

As a remedy, Translink proposes to replace entire fleets of buses, including the archaic trolley fleet. A spokesperson from Translink explained that small buses will be replaced by bigger buses on main arteries such as Broadway to deal with swollen ridership.

Okay. So the proposal sounds like it will benefit students in the long run. But there's something wrong with this plan.

With the introduction of the U-Pass in 2003, it became mandatory for all UBC students to fork over $20 per month to Translink. This guaranteed Translink a lot of money—much more than they likely would have made without the pass. With 40,000 students paying $160 for eight months of transit, they were guaranteeing themselves $6.4 million. The proposed extra $2 per month will add another $640,000 to that per year.



Now, with the AMS adamant that students at UBC should not pay more than $20 a month and UBC refusing to pay any extra increases that Translink might insist on, it looks like students will be the ones screwed in the end.

After only one full year of ridership and no summer U-Pass in sight, Translink is already trying to change the contract and the onus looks like it will be on us to pay for it.

Why, after only two years, are we being asked to pay more money for a program that has already fattened Translink's purse? For such a small slice of the population pie, students are contributing a fairly large chunk of money towards Translink's wish list.

From so-called increased bus service to the controversial RAV line, Translink is grasping at funding straws everywhere to fund their $1 billion expansion project. This will include $59 million worth of bus and HandyDART fleets and $84 million for for 34 new sky train cars. And $15 million for an "expanded cycling network." Additionally, nine overpasses or roads will be improved or widened. Why are students the ones being asked (again and again and again) to foot the bill?

We at *the Ubyssey* adore, as much as any other commuting soul, the smell of a stranger's moist gortex poncho pressing into our freshly-washed (nay, freshly-scrubbed) morning faces. But, to quote the venerable Jay-Z, "money ain't a thang"—indeed not, unless you don't have any. Coughing up unagreed-upon cash to Translink, which is already profiting from our spending, will amount to moving money from thousands of meagre wallets into a snugly-stuffed coffer.

Jay-Z would surely not approve. ❖

LETTERS

AMS VP Admin double-talks

by Mike Mjanes

In his recent commentary "Corporate support an evil necessity," AMS VP Administration Lyle McMahon attempts the very delicate art of talking out of both sides of his mouth.

In response to a recent complaint about corporate advertising on campus, Mr McMahon, to whom this responsibility falls, admits that he is against this advertising on principle. He implies that if he could do something about it, he would. Alas, his hands are tied. He is simply stuck with the legacy left to him by previous administrations. But he admonishes us, the student body, to elect "a progressive executive" to make decisions differently in the future.

While I applaud Mr McMahon's political acumen, I have to take exception to this blatant opportunism. What exactly would this "progressive executive" accomplish for us, the students? Cut out a much-needed source or revenue from the AMS coffers? Increase student fees? Cut services? While the advertising revenue does represent a small percentage of the AMS' total budget it is money nonetheless and, as any student knows, every little bit helps.

But after urging us to vote for change, Mr. McMahon proceeds to detail the steps already taken by the AMS on this issue. I applaud the pragmatic approach taken by the AMS with regard to corporate sponsorship, and would hope that it continues. Taking a strong policy stand against companies with unacceptable labour practices is a terrific example of the way that the AMS can use its clout to affect positive change. Likewise by setting firm guidelines regarding the content of advertisements. There should be no place on this campus for sexism or any other type of discrimination, irrespective of the source.

PERSPECTIVE opinion

Mr McMahon characterises the corporate advertising on campus as an "encroachment on public space." This is the common cry of the anti-corporate groupthink so pervasive on campus. Of course, this objection is always limited to the corporations that have actually paid to be there. No one seems to mention the dozens of flyers, ads and handbills that are posted on every free pole around (and occasionally in) the SUB. I don't mean the student selling used textbooks, or the local clubs shilling for members either. Take a peek at the bus loop sometime. Surely framed and professionally prepared advertising, with restricted placement, is less of an encroachment on our public space than this unregulated posterama, from which no revenue is derived. And what is the environmental impact and cost to the school once these ads become dislodged and litter our campus?

The fact is, you can't pretend we don't live in a free market society, or that advertising is not a part of our world. Academia is insular enough without burying our heads further in the sand. The presence of advertising on campus seems to only bother those who have for some reason never learned how to filter it out. And let's be honest, it's not exactly Times Square here. The last ads I saw 'plastered' in the SUB bathroom were for anti-smoking. But truth be told, most of the time I'm in the can, I'm a little more focused on the reason for my visit than whether or I not I should buy a car.

I agree with Mr. McMahon that we need to vote and hold accountable our AMS representatives. But we could also use a lot fewer ideologues and a lot more practical policy.

—Mike Mjanes is a first-year Law student

Here's the letter's policy

feedback@ubyssey.bc.ca

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Choice of "barrier" term is misleading, says resident

PERSPECTIVE opinion

I read with interest your story regarding the South Campus Plan (South campus plans get tentative nod) in The Friday edition (Sept. 24th) of the Ubyssey. Allow me to first state that in addition to being a faculty member in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology I am also a resident of the campus community living in that area of campus formerly known as B Lot (Hawthorn Place). I was also the UBC Faculty appointee to the South Campus Working Group, to which you refer in your article. My letter today reflects my personal opinion and response to the quoted statements attributed to Mr Jim Moodie, the private consultant contracted by UBC to facilitated the development of the South Campus Neighbourhood Plan, and should in no way be read as an official statement of either the University or the Faculty Association.

In your article, Mr Moodie is quoted as saying that "one point of contention was the potential for the development to become a 'gated community with a natural buffer' due to the treed barrier zone designated to run along the southern side of West 16th Avenue." I understand that Mr Moodie very likely said a lot more then could be incorporated within the context of a newspaper article, nonetheless, it strikes me as unfortunate that of whatever he said, this is what was repeated, especially as it does not reflect the reality of either the plan or the nature of the extensive community involvement in generating these plans. Perhaps it does reflect the fact that there has been a strong push by some members of the residential and development community here at UBC to remove as many of the mature second growth forest as they can get away with and replace them with private market condos.

After learning through their experience of the University Boulevard Plan about what doesn't work, UBC set up the innovative and creative South Campus Working Group to ensure full and adequate consultation at all stages of the planning process—that is, to bring in potential critics (and supporters) before the project hit the big time stage. The working group included not only UBC staff and consultants, but a representative body of community stakeholders such as graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, staff, University area residents, and other interested community groups designated by the University. Last spring the working group met weekly for several months. We listened to experts, community members, outside interests, developers, and all manner of people. As opposed to the more tightly controlled and restrictive UBC/GVRD appointed Advisory Planning Committees, the working group was truly able to draw upon the expertise, knowledge, and experience of a wide cross section of people who comprise our university community.

The plan that left the hands of the working group was a truly amazing document. While still a 'conservative' document in many senses, it did present some rather daring and ecologically friendly characteristics. It had broad based support from working group members and it contained a number of very creative features. One of these was the forest buffer that Mr Moodie appears to have implied will create a gated community (for interest sake, a gated community is already under construction at UBC at the intersection of Larkin Drive and West Mall where for the minimum price of 1.25 million dollars anyone who wants can buy a piece of seclusion backed by a patch of forest). I would strongly urge the Ubyssey and any of its readers to take a walk up to the Fishery Building, just south of 16th, off of Wesbrook Mall, and consider the fine stand of second growth forest that is there. This is the 'barrier' that some seem concerned about. In fact, let's consider our words. This is not a barrier, nor should we even call it a buffer—it is a forest, a grove of trees, a woods. To call it a buffer or a barrier is to make it one step closer to becoming firewood and timber. While it may not have the majesty of Cathedral Grove on Vancouver Island or Lighthouse Park in West Vancouver, it is a forest worthy of keeping. It is a piece of second growth forest that, if maintained, could contribute important ecological values to our already overcut and damaged environment.

The plan proposed by the South Campus Working Group doubled the width of the buffer mandated in the Official Community Plan. It did so, not to create a 'gated community' but to respect the ecology and the potential to maintain and enhance local biodiversity that preserving the forest would lead to. Yet, there are strong pressures to remove all of the forest except what they are forced to keep. Some vested interests will point to the clauses about 'tree retention' and promise that for every tree cut down a new tree will be planted. But, in the same sense that a replanted clear-cut does not make a forest, neither will a one for one on-campus tree replacement model preserve that wonderful stand of second growth trees that have survived for over 80 years on South Campus. At the end of the day the forest will be cut down again and for what?

I suppose that there is a rhetorical purpose to talk about barriers and gated communities. Most of us who live, work, and study in the university community are very concerned about creating false barriers and enclaves of privilege. It is, however, sad to see language turned upside down so that an act designed to keep as much as South Campus Forest open and living as possible for all of us has now become an attempt to create an exclusive gated community. While it is easy these days to be pessimistic about human defacement of the environment, one does hope that a will and a way to keep this forest can be found.

—Charles Menzies
Faculty and UBC resident

Downtown Eastside Visit was a Dog and Pony Show

Governor General Adrienne Clarkson didn't achieve anything by strolling the Downtown Eastside. The san itized version of Vancouver's skid row didn't truly show the brokenness that Clarkson needed to see.

Instead, she opted for the scenic tour with Mayor Larry Campbell and Councilor Jim Green as guides and a mini-phalanx of security. The stops she made had no homeless people or had been 'cleaned out' before her arrival. Protestors were jeering at Clarkson and company, but their screaming fell on deaf ears. She and her entourage "walk[ed] all over us" said anti-poverty activist Bill Cunningham, and didn't really care about what they had to say.

The demonstrators had every right to voice their concerns, but their criticisms toward Clarkson wouldn't do much because she doesn't hold political power. Instead, it's more effective for them to vent their anger at the mayor, who said, "I do whatever I want and if [the protestors] don't like it they can vote me out." You all heard his challenge, folks.

If Clarkson really wants to see first hand what the poverty is like on the Downtown Eastside, she should go there alone without Mayor Campbell or other politicians tagging along. She can even take a tour with a street worker. Better yet, she can volunteer at a soup kitchen to get a sense of the desperation and actually serve the people of Canada. After all, she always talked about wanting to connect with Canadians from all walks of life.

—Kenneth Chan
Ubyssey Writer

colour bash

Discover the cultures of Africa and the Caribbean at Colour Bash, a three-day diversity fair from **September 29 to October 1** at the SUB Conversation Pit.

Drop by for display booths, dance, and music between 12 noon to 2 pm. The Diversity Fair, coordinated by the Student Administrative Commission - Culture, was designed to provide learning and appreciation of various cultures among students.

There are four other Diversity Fairs planned for the rest of the year, with themes including Asia, South Pacific, Europe, Middle East, and Latin America.

u-pass news

U-Pass Awareness Days
September 28 - 29
12 pm -1:30 pm
SUB South Alcove

Last week Translink proposed an increase in ridership fees for 2005. Find out how this will affect the U-Pass program and voice your concerns and feedback on student transit issues.

Reminder: The deadline for U-Pass subsidies is October 8. For subsidy criteria, please refer to **http://www.ams.ubc.ca** and click "U-Pass" on the left-hand menu bar.

club funds here

Is your club looking to tap into additional funding resources?

Try the AMS Club Benefit Fund which is available for activities such as travel conferences, special projects, fundraising events and academic programs that reflect UBC student life. The AMS will fund up to half the cost of the project, to a maximum of $450.

Criteria requirements and applications are available at the Student Administrative Commission office at SUB Rm 238F. Applications must be submitted 4 - 6 weeks prior to the event date. Contact the Financial Aid Commissioner for more details at **finaid@ams.ubc.ca.**

finances

Financial Awareness Days

September 27 - 29
12 pm to 1:30 pm
SUB South Alcove

September 27, 6:30 pm to 8 pm
Totem Park Residence

September 28, 6:30 pm to 8 pm
Place Vanier Residence

Not sure where to find information about student loans? Trying to find cost-effective ways to live on campus?

Drop by the SUB during Financial Awareness Days for informative presentations from student financial advisors, UBC Career Services, and UBC Financial Assistance and Awards and other professionals.

Snacks and refreshments provided. Presented by the Finance Commission.

tutoring

Don't wait for your mid-term exams to find out about AMS Tutoring Services. Get on the fast-track by checking out what they offer, including:

Free Drop-in Tutoring: Help offered for 100-level courses in Math, Chemistry and Physics, all levels of English and writing for all courses. Available Monday to Thursdays, 4 - 10 pm in the SUB South Study alcove.

Appointment Tutoring: Available for a range of first and second year level courses. Cost is $17/hour - can be used for individual sessions or group sessions.

Tutor Registry: Look for an on-line tutor, based on your academic needs and rates, by visiting **http://www.ams.ubc.ca/tutors.**

Interested in becoming a tutor? Register on-line at **http:///www.ams.ubc.ca** (under Tutoring) *or through the AMS Tutoring office, located at SUB Rm 249O.*

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Lower Mainland: more than 4500 New Spaces
UBC: 2200 New Spaces
Emily Carr Institute: 150 New Spaces
Capilano College: 350 New Spaces
Langara College: 500 New Spaces
Vancouver Community College: 600 New Spaces
BCIT: 1145 New Spaces

Central & Southern Interior: 6300 New Spaces
University College of the Cariboo: 800 New Spaces
UBC Okanagan: 4500 New Spaces
Okanagan College: 1000 New Spaces

Kootenays: 700 New Spaces
Selkirk College: 250 New Spaces
College of the Rockies: 450 New Spaces

Vancouver Island: 4000 New Spaces
UVic: 1900 New Spaces
Camosun College: 550 New Spaces
North Island College: 250 New Spaces
Malaspina Univ. College: 1100 New Spaces
Royal Roads University: 200 New Spaces

Northern BC: 1500 New Spaces
UNBC: 600 New Spaces
College of New Caledonia: 400 New Spaces
Northern Lights College: 250 New Spaces
Northwest Community College: 250 New Spaces

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