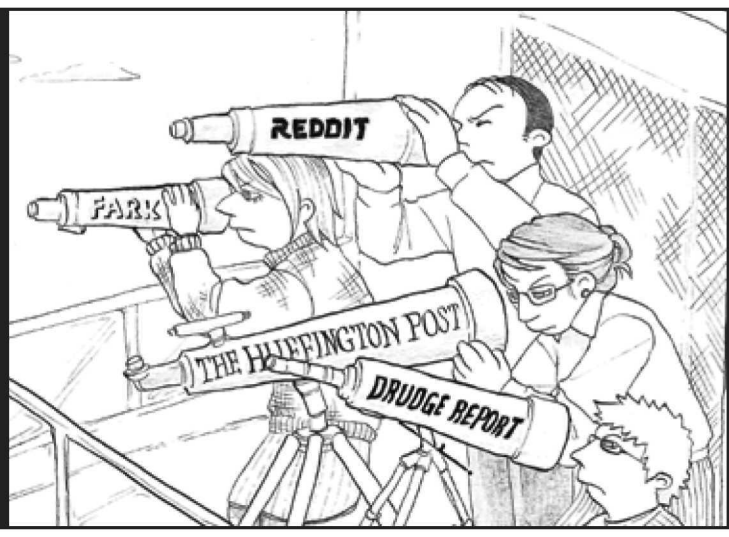
Hanging out in Justin's mom's basement **SINCE 1918**

WE PEER INTO THE FUTURE WITH OUR MEDIA DEMOCRACY SUPPLEMENT.

PAGE 5



WHAT'S IN THE BOX? TINY PARTIES ON PAGE 6

THE UBYSSEY

NOVEMBER 04, 2010

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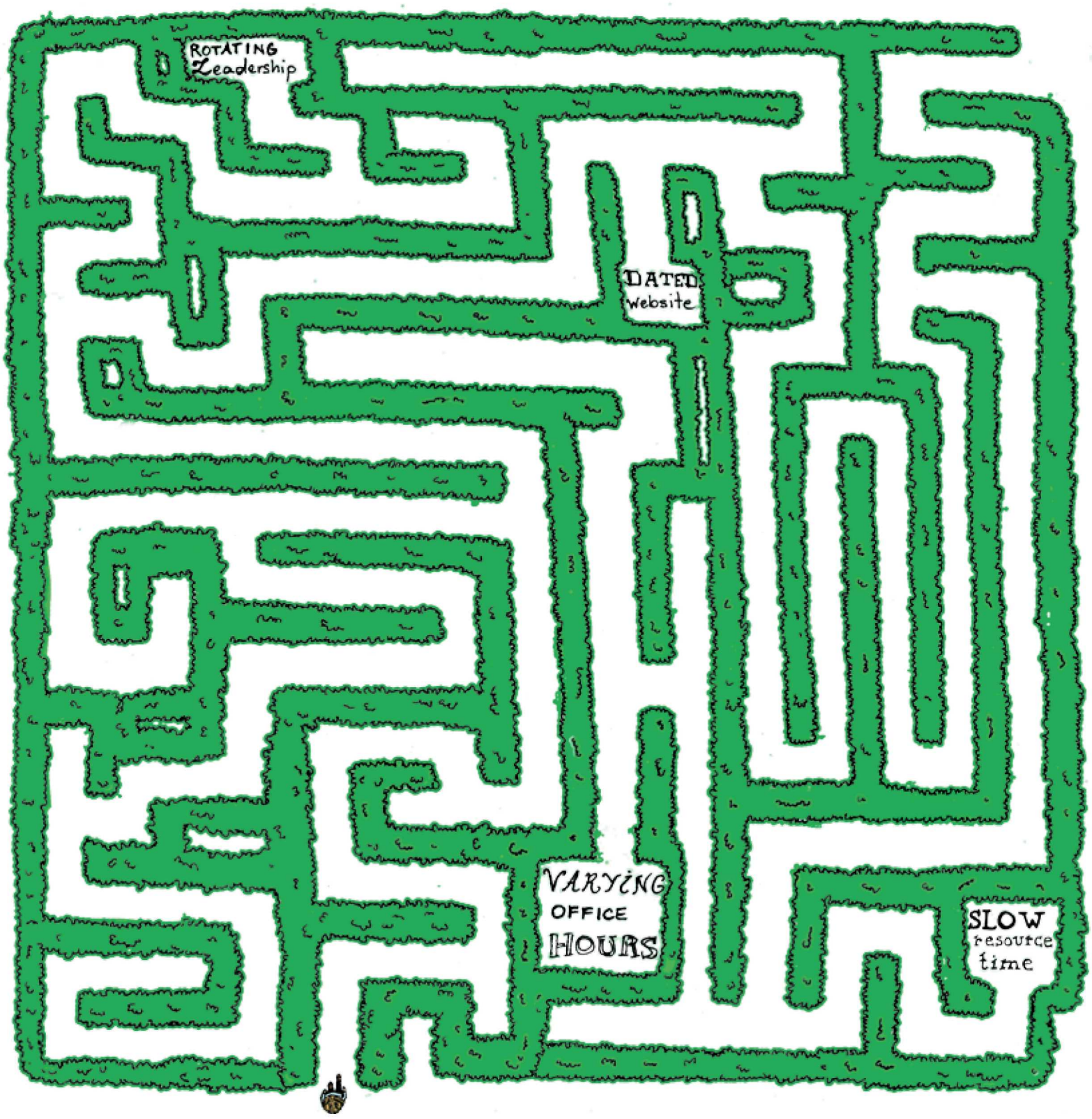
Entering a Maze



Why it's difficult to reach the AMS Resource Groups. PAGE 4

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LEGAL

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 Please include your phone number, student number and signature (not for publication) as well as your year and faculty with all submissions.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

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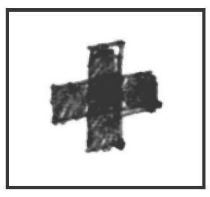
EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOV. 5

CITR BEARD GARDEN

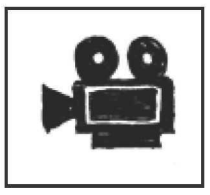
CiTR 101.9 FM presents BEARD GARDEN! (It's like a beer garden... but with beards.) Grow out your beard or get crafty! Prizes will be awarded for most creative home-made facial hair and wackiest homegrown facial hair. There will be music, dancing, mingling and, of course, beer. DJs include Bryce Dunn, Brad and Spencer John and Roy E Biv. • *8pm, SUB room 214.*



INFLUENZA VACCINE CLINIC

The influenza vaccine is recommended to all British Columbians. It is provided free of charge to those at high risk of influenza-related complications. The nurses at the vaccine clinics will be able to help you determine if you are high-risk or not. Low-risk persons can purchase the vaccine for $20. Payment can be made in cash at the time of the vaccine or paid in advance at Student Health with credit or debit. • *8:30am–4pm, UBC Hospital, Bernstein Conference Room, Room M460.*

SATURDAY, NOV. 6



UBC FILM SOCIETY SCREENING: *DESPICABLE ME*

The UBC Film Society will be showing *Despicable Me*, featuring the voices of Steve Carrell and Julie Andrews. When a criminal mastermind uses a trio of orphan girls as pawns for a grand scheme, he finds himself profoundly changed by the growing love between them. • *Runs until Oct. 7, 7–9pm, Norm Theatre, SUB, $2.50 members, $5 non-members.*

SPINAL CHORD GALA FUNDRAISER

ICORD and the Vancouver Cantata Singers are joining forces to present their second annual interdisciplinary gala. This unique event will feature live classical & jazz music in the architecturally inspired atrium of the beautiful Blusson Spinal Cord Centre, with hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. Funds raised at this event will benefit both organizations. • *8–10pm, Blusson Spinal Cord Centre, 818 West 10th Ave., e-mail* niamath@icord.org *for more information.*

SUNDAY, NOV. 7

KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE

Every year, a commemorative Kristallnacht lecture is held at the Beth Israel synagogue. This day is prepared by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre's Kristallnacht Committee. This year's keynote speaker, Dr Reva Adler, will be talking about the root causes of genocide, ranging from the Holocaust to Rwanda and Darfur. • *7:30pm, Beth Israel Synagogue, 4350 Oak Street.*

BUIKA AND LILA DOWNS

Two of world music's hottest stars, Buika and Lila Downs, are making Vancouver one of their only three North American tour stops (and only Canadian stop) on Nov. 7, 2010. Enjoy as they pay homage to legendary ranchera vocalist Chavela Vargas in an evening that interweaves interpretations of flamenco, funk, jazz, soul, boleros and Latin music. • *8pm, Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, $47–$63, buy tickets at* ticketmaster.ca.

MONDAY, NOV. 8

DUSK LANDSCAPE PAINTING

Robert Singley, a DMA student in music composition, will present a concert event of organ sounds and sunset images. Bob will create music to accompany several films he is creating, all based on the concept of "dusk landscape painting." • *8–9pm, Coach House, Green College, 6201 Cecil Green Park Road, free event, contact* gc.events@ubc.ca *for more information.*

TERRY GLOBAL SPEAKER SERIES: DAMBISA MOYO

Debunking the current model of international aid promoted by both Hollywood celebrities and policy makers, Dr Moyo offers a bold new road map for financing development of the world's poorest countries that guarantees economic growth and a significant decline in poverty—without reliance on foreign aid or aid-related assistance. A question and answer period will follow. Copies of *Dead Aid: Why aid is not working and how there is a better way for Africa* will be sold at the event. • *12–1:30pm, Chan Centre, ticket info at* terry.ubc.ca.

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INTRODUCTION TO ADOBE INDESIGN

In this course, you get the opportunity to design a print project of your own, with hands-on instruction in the use of this powerful layout program. At the completion of this course, you will have gained an understanding of the basics of colour management, font usage and print production, as well as a working knowledge of the layout and design tools available in InDesign. • *Nov. 4–Dec. 9, 6:30pm, UBC Robson Square, go to* tech.ubc.ca *for more information.*

NEWS

EDITOR ARSHY MANN » news@ubyssey.ca
ASSOCIATE SALLY CRAMPTON » associate.news@ubyssey.ca

Quantum institute comes to campus

UBC avoids using "big bang" pun during announcement

ELISE GRIEG
egrieg@ubyssey.ca

When the next generation of quantum gadgets are born, UBC may play a major role in their development.

UBC has recently formalized a partnership with Germany's Max Planck Society to create the Max Planck-UBC Centre for Quantum Materials. The centre will cooperate with top scientists and facilities in Germany, which will help further the research on quantum materials. UBC is already at the forefront of quantum research, and the Max Planck Society is one of the foremost research institutions in Germany and has received 32 Nobel Prizes.

"[The Max Planck Society] recognizing UBC as one of the few places that they want to interact with is of course a great honour for UBC and it should create quite a bit of visibility," said Professor George Sawatzky, interim director of the Quantum Matter Institute. He also said that this sort of recognition could attract more funding from donors.

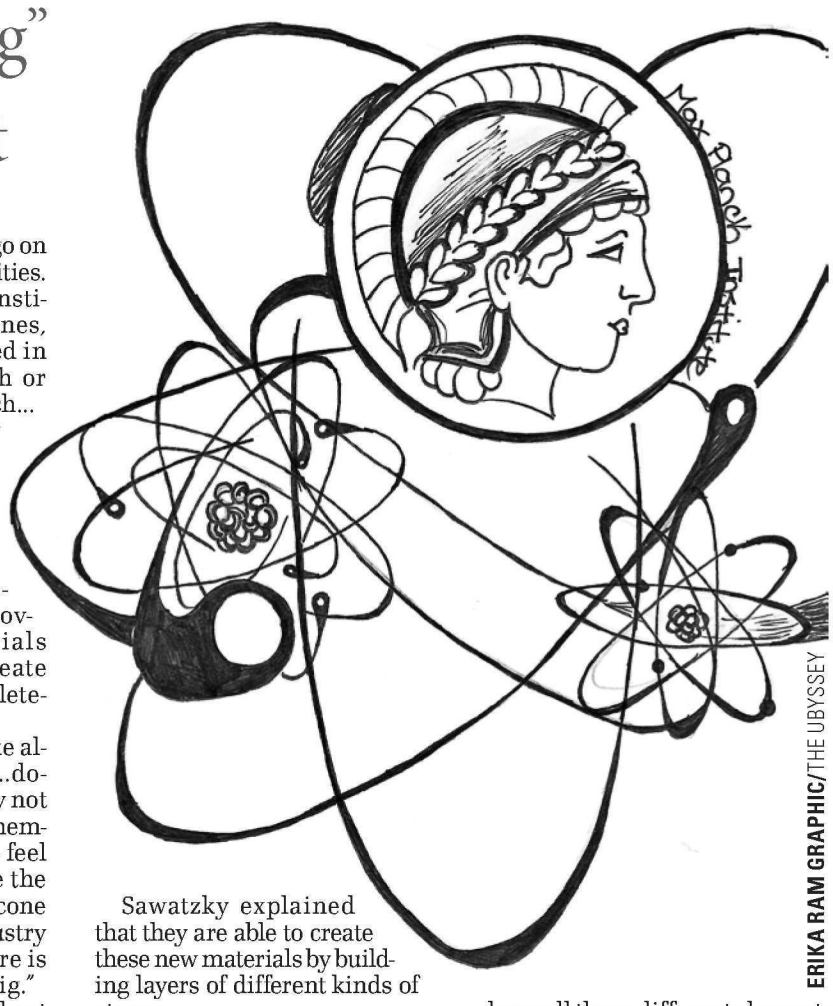
The international cooperation makes it possible for researchers to make use of new facilities at other universities. Researchers, faculty members, graduate students and even some undergraduate students to go on exchanges to visit these facilities.

"There are about seven institutes in Germany, large ones, that are very much involved in quantum matter research or quantum materials research... and they have some really top facilities that we do not have, that we don't even have in Canada, that we now have complete access to, " Sawatzky said.

The research could potentially lead to new discoveries, as quantum materials researchers are able to create new materials with completely new properties.

"You can pretty well make almost whatever you want...doing things which are simply not heard of in natural-like or chemical-like environments. We feel that this could very well be the new platform replacing silicone technology in the whole industry of devices," he said. "So there is the chance that it will be big."

The devices, however, will not be very large. "[This] is all on an atomic scale, so that means that the length scale, the size of these devices you could make with these new kinds of materials... are things on the order of one angstrom, which means that is picometres rather than nanometres scale devices."



ERIKA RAM GRAPHIC/THE UBYSSEY

Sawatzky explained that they are able to create these new materials by building layers of different kinds of atoms.

"We find that when you put these lego blocks together... it actually turns out that you created a new material at the interface which has even more exciting properties than either of those two do," he said. As they are able to "put the atoms exactly in the right position and place...and you have all these different elements that you can play with, it's a huge, huge area of possible new properties that you can make."

In a press release, UBC President Stephen Toope said that "the knowledge and discoveries generated from these collaborations will profoundly change the lives of present and future generations."

Akomas a textbook study in perseverance

SALLY CRAMPTON
associate.news@ubyssey.ca

When the Living Library was organized at UBC in mid-September, *The Ubyssey* sat down with Andrew Chima Akomas, who goes by Chima, a third-year Commerce student from Canada who was raised in Nigeria. He was one of the 'living books' that was being rented out by Irving K. Barber for the event.

Chima has Marfan syndrome, a connective tissue disorder that affects eyesight, spinal tissue, lung tissue and a whole variety of other bodily functions. Chima is blind.

Event organizers were keen to get Chima involved in the Living Library so he could share his story with others. One of the organizers "saw me in the hallway and thought I looked like a good book," he said.

"I had a curved spine progressively getting worse, so they had to fuse my spine when I came over [to Canada]," he said.

"My eyesight was getting worse, I'd already lost the sight of one eye in Nigeria. I had heart surgery, lung surgery. It's been one thing after the other. The medical care I received here saved my life. My spine was completely fused—they put rods and staples along my spine, that stopped the fusion progressing. My sight is now at zero. I can't see anything at all."

Andrew Chima Akomas. **GEOFF LISTER PHOTO**/THE UBYSSEY

Both of Chima's parents were students at the University of Manitoba when he was born. Being a Canadian citizen, "I thought it would be more beneficial for me to come back here and seek medical help," he said.

Despite his health problems, Chima doesn't feel being blind hinders his studies or ability to get around campus. "I've been [completely] blind for three years now and I can now get around and navigate. I'm sure you could even walk with a white cane with your eyes closed!"

As for taking notes in lectures, "luckily there's been really great technology for blind people. I have a screen reader that reads back to me what's on my screen. So with keyboard shortcuts on my laptop I can take notes on Word documents."

"People often ask me, 'how do you do schoolwork? How do you get around?' Life being blind is not as bad as it seems, it's not as hard as it seems to be. Also, I want to show people that I don't bite!

"People are often apprehensive, they don't know how to act. Really, there's no right or wrong. Just act how you want to. I want people to get to know that people with disabilities are just normal people."

Next year, Chima is looking to take an exchange year in Denmark. "I hear they have good facilities for disabled people."

After university, "I think I'd like to work for the government, business or commerce. I really like international business and trade. Import and export kinda stuff. Even something that connects between here and Nigeria would be great.

"I'd like to travel, meet and help people," he said.

When it comes to meeting people on campus, "I've really had to develop my voice recognition skills. I have to pick up voices, accents, expressions...and sometimes smell. If I shake your hand, then maybe I can remember what your hand feels like.

"It's a mixture of things that I rely on. The best and easiest way is to just introduce yourself."

NEWS BRIEFS

3000 PEOPLE PRESSURE METRO VAN FOR UBC RAPID TRANSIT

The AMS is planning on presenting their formal response to Metro Vancouver's Regional Planning Committee on November 5 with regards to their campaign to pressure Metro Vancouver into placing a higher priority on rapid transit to UBC.

Since the AMS launched the campaign around two and half weeks ago, their website, ubclinenow.com, had 7500 unique visitors. More than 3000 people used the website to email Metro Vancouver and over 1100 people joined the Facebook group.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO STRIKE AVERTED

LONDON (CUP)—The potential strike at the University of Western Ontario may have been averted with a tentative agreement reached between administration and faculty in the early morning on Wednesday.

Both sides bargained past the strike deadline of 12:01 a.m., the Western News reports. The deal still needs to be ratified by the union.

The main issue at stake was a series of proposals put forth by the university that would centralize the faculty review process and compromise academic freedom.

MOA RECEIVES $1 MILLION DONATION

The Michael O'Brian Family Foundation donated $1 million to UBC's Museum of Anthropology.

The money is intended to go towards renovating one of MOA's largest galleries as well as supporting undetermined future projects. What is currently known as Gallery Three will be renamed the O'Brian Gallery in honour of the gift.

MATH PROF EMBROILED IN COURT BATTLE WITH UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

WINNIPEG (CUP)—A math professor who was suspended for three months at the University of Manitoba is currently embroiled in a legal battle with the university.

Gabor Lukacs is taking legal action against what he believes was an unfair decision to award a student his PhD without fulfilling all the necessary requirements, after attempting to resolve the matter within university channels.

The dispute began after the student failed a comprehensive PhD candidacy exam for the second time, requiring him to withdraw from the program, according to U of M regulations.

The student successfully appealed the requirement to withdrawl to Dean of Graduate Studies Jay Doering, who in late September 2009 announced his decision to waive the PhD candidacy examination requirement for the student, after the Graduate Studies Committee requested otherwise. A court hearing is set for Nov. 30.

AMS resource groups off to slow start

Lack of planning before September leaves some groups unprepared

KALYEENA MAKORTOFF
kmakortoff@ubyssey.ca

There are six resource groups (RGs) in the AMS: the Social Justice Centre (SJC), the Women's Centre, the Student Environment Centre (SEC), Pride UBC, Colour Connected Against Racism and Allies at UBC. All six groups are currently volunteer-run and receive direct funding from the AMS. And many have had a shaky start to the year, with obstacles to accessing general information and contact details.

The RGs were collectively funded $57,300 for the 2010-2011 year, according to AMS President Bijan Ahmadian. They are required to submit a budget and a list of their executives to the AMS, but all other internal matters are left to the individual groups.

Despite repeated attempts, Pride UBC, the SEC, and Coloured Connected could not be reached for comment, and Allies declined comment. However, those that were willing to speak suggested that there may be motive for change.

"THIS MONTH, YOUR COORDINATOR IS..."

Jillian MacBride, resource coordinator for the Women's Centre, began her position in late October after transferring from Langara College, where she worked with their student union's Women's Centre.

"I feel like there could be greater accountability, because I'm having trouble answering questions. Therefore I assume that students would also have trouble getting answers. I haven't been officially told who my supervisor is and that's a bit of a problem," she said.

Over the past two years, the RGs chose to hire a coordinator through Work Learn. This year, they were informed by the AMS that this was technically not allowed, because the RGs are not their own legal entity. The RGs held an emergency meeting in early September to discuss the fate of the coordinating position.

"We started thinking, 'Is this a position we needed anyway?' because it was going to cost us $10,000, which we thought could be better spent," explained Katie Fitzpatrick, the president of the Social Justice Centre.

They decided that volunteers from each RG will serve as a rotating coordinator on a monthly basis throughout the 2010-2011 year. However, MacBride sees some advantage in having a year-long, paid placement for a resource group coordinator for continuity and the benefit of new members and executives alike.

"That's the position I think would be really helpful, because it could be someone that I could go to, to answer questions....it could be the missing link, especially between us and the administrative-type people as well," she said.

Fitzpatrick, who is the acting resource group coordinator for November, expressed similar sentiments, but defended the choice for rotation. "I think that there's a possibility that a hired coordinator is a better option, but we felt this was something worth trying this year and if it doesn't work out, we're willing to discuss other options of how it should be run, because I do see the concerns [regarding] which is the best way to organize."

CATCH 'EM IF YOU CAN

Contacting individual RGs is presently a challenge, although some improvements have been made. The Women's Centre only recently began posting office hours and individual executive email information. Fitzpatrick has also now posted contact information on the RG Library door as November's RG coordinator.

Group offices like Colour Connected provide a paper list on their door where interested individuals can post their own emails to receive further information, but there is no email or telephone contact for the group.

The AMS website provides links to the comprehensive and up-to-date site of Pride UBC and the Student Justice Centre, but there is no working link for Colour Connected, the Student Environment Centre or the Women's Centre, and the Allies blog is password-protected. However, general RG emails and phone numbers can be found on the AMS website sidebar and many do have updated Facebook groups.

The offices of the AMS resource groups, located on the top floor of the SUB. **GEOFF LISTER PHOTO/**THE UBYSSEY

"In terms of the individual groups, I mean, [they] always take differing amounts of time to get organized, and some groups will spend a whole year not really getting organized because they have a low membership and some will be really organized, based on momentum from the year before," said Fitzpatrick.

In addition, the doling out of RG funds is annually reevaluated based on their activity from the previous year, making an immense difference in how much money each RG receives. For example, this year Pride UBC received $10,314, while Colours and Allies only received $2865 each.

AMS Code does not require RGs to have office hours. Fitzpatrick also informed *The Ubyssey* that the RG constitution, called Points of Unity, also does not require executive office hours.

"That's actually a good idea of having office hours and availability," she said.

"We do have weekly meetings which we try to make public...but having office hours is a good idea too, so people could come by and talk to us when they wanted."

When asked if RG information, constitutions and regulations are accessible, Fitzpatrick said that the fact that students don't know is "a matter of it not getting circulated."

"Constitutions and those things do exist, but as it stands right now, we don't have the online stuff that we should. We don't have the website going and we don't have proper list-serve communication between the different resource groups that make sure everything is being communicated effectively," she explained.

"It's something that needs to be addressed and it suggests us possibly looking into having one of the resource group coordinators or a couple of them during their time look into changing the structure for next year."

POSSIBILITY FOR CHANGE

Fitzpatrick says planning ahead will most likely solve coordination and organization problems.

"I think we need to be a bit more clear about making sure that happens in advance so that we're not scrambling in September, because then you're looking at new members and you're getting started for the year, it's hard to get everything going right away. And it's really important to have consensus—we're not the kind of group that wants to make executive decisions without consulting people properly, and that makes it hard."

Fitzpatrick said that she has recommended that all the resource groups add in their constitutions a requirement that structural plans for the next year be decided in April.

"It will be good for us at the resource groups to talk about putting in a better structure for next year to get going with a little more momentum."

★ SHAMELESS GIVEAWAY ★

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Mark Boulos, *Comrade Teteng*, 2010. C print. Courtesy of the artist.

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RECYCLED NEWS

GEOFF LISTER PHOTO /THE UBYSSEY

ANDREW MACISAAC
Guest Editor

Over the past decade, the way in which news is written and disseminated has changed considerably. As clichéd as it seems to say, the rapid proliferation of technology and the increasing ease of access to the internet has revolutionized the way news is made and consumed.

The easiest way to get news used to be through buying a paper or tuning into a news channel for an hour or so. Now these formats seem slow and inefficient. You can get your information on demand, be it by reading a newspaper via an always accessible phone app, or following whatever Twitter accounts catch your eye. And visiting a news aggregation site can ensure you don't just get up-to-date coverage, but exactly the sort of content you want.

While all of this has an amazing upside by allowing people to be immediately informed and connected to the world we live in, it also has a downside. What we're looking at in this Media Democracy issue is something we call "news recycling."

The increase in outlets for news and information has outpaced the sources of content for them, leading to an increasing trend of recycled content throughout the entire spectrum. The mainstream media is doing less on-the-ground journalism and more commentary on secondary sources. Aggregators like *The Huffington Post* and *Drudge Report* merely collect and post already published content. On Twitter, re-tweets operate as one of the world's largest rumour mills. And all of this takes place within the context of increased access of information for all. This *Ubyssey* Media and Democracy supplement explores the issue of news recycling, for better and for worse.

INDIANA JOEL ILLUSTRATION/THE UBYSSEY

Twitter-related inaccuracies: "a little (blue) bird told me"

NINA KIRIDZIJA
Contributor

Imagine sitting down to read the daily newspaper, only to find a story about your own death gracing the cover. On September 18, 2010, former NHL coach Pat Burns found himself refuting news stories about his apparent death, and he has Twitter to thank for that.

After TSN tweeted that Burns had died, other media outlets pounced on the news, and within less than an hour, hundreds of tweets and retweets claimed that the former coach was dead. It wasn't until Pat himself spoke to TSN that the story was set straight, and all reports on his death were replaced with apologies for the misinformation.

> "The basic tenets of journalism—especially source attribution—hold whether you're living in the Twitter age or not."
>
> **ALANA COATES**
> ASSISTANT DIGITAL EDITOR
> *THE MONTREAL GAZETTE*

TWITTER KOMAIL NAQUI PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

Katherine Sedgwick, assistant managing editor at *The Montreal Gazette*, a newspaper pulled into the entire Pat Burns death fiasco, described the story as "a lesson learned for many media outlets." Jamie Pitblado from *The Vancouver Sun* agreed, saying that Twitter is an unreliable source because it has "no checks and balances," as opposed to traditional journalism.

User-generated content has become the new face of journalism, and helpful as it may be in sharing information at warp speed, the Twitter birdie simply can't always be trusted. Pat Burns's story is one of many when it comes to people tweeting false information. Countless fake celebrity accounts claim to be legitimate, resulting in misinformation because the source is not who users believe it to be. Ed Miliband knows how it feels to have false information sent around about him: the former British energy minister and opposition leader fell victim to a Twitter scam when embarrassing messages about his sex life were sent out via the information network in February of this year.

Problems with Twitter may seem to have a pretty straightforward solution if we're the ones in control of what we read and who we follow; it's an obvious answer to just be careful of who you're following and what information you're choosing to believe. But the real issues arise when reliable news sources take notes from unreliable tweets. News has always been depended on when it comes to current events. After all, it is the job of a journalist to report stories from accurate sources. Yet in Pat Burns's case, not only did those following Twitter get it wrong, so did any person who read or reported the false death in a legitimate newspaper.

Twitter is an obvious risk, but Alana Coates, assistant digital editor at *The Montreal Gazette*, said that, "In any breaking news situation, whether it's for online/print/TV/radio/etc, the initial information regarding the incident is always pretty sketchy; there's no getting around that." So maybe we shouldn't be putting all the blame on that cute bird. Sedgwick praised Twitter for being a "valuable tool that helps journalists monitor the news."

In any case, the bottom line when it comes to news seems to be intact.

"The basic tenets of journalism—especially source attribution—hold whether you're living in the Twitter age or not," said Coates.

Commuter News increasing readership

The Toronto Transit Commission has complained of the litter "daily rags" have been creating. **HENRY YU PHOTO**/THE UBYSSEY

JONNY WAKEFIELD
culture@ubyssey.ca

For some, they're trash. For others, they're their only source of news. The past five years have seen an explosion in commuter newspapers worldwide.

Commuter papers like *24 Hours* and *Metro* have been the only growing newspaper market worldwide. Usually hawked at transit nodes and left as litter, many deride them as "daily rags." This has become a problem in cities like Toronto, where the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) banned the distribution of these papers on their property, according to a report in the *Toronto Star*.

"It's our hope that if people actually have to go to a box and select the paper they want, that means they really wanted it," said TTC general manager Vince Rodo. "And they'll take it out of the subway system with them."

Transit riders in Vancouver are very familiar with these papers. *24 Hours* entered the Vancouver media market in 2005, according to Elena Dunn, the paper's local director of sales. The papers are owned by Sun Media Corporation and operate editions in metropolitan areas around Canada, including Toronto, Ottawa, and a French language edition in Montreal.

Since 2005, *24 Hours* and other commuter papers have taken a sizeable chunk out of the readership of the larger dailies. *The Province* has lost some 45,000 daily readers since 2005, according to Dunn. While this is undoubtedly due to a number of competing factors, *24 Hours* takes credit for part of this hit.

"*The Province* and *The Vancouver Sun* [have] never recovered their levels from before we entered the market," she said.

This is partly because *24 Hours* targets a different, more advertising-attractive demographic than these papers.

"The *24 Hours* are geared much younger. 18–49 is our primary demographic, and we also target women. It's a demographic that isn't easily reached with other media."

The format and the content commuter papers provide is part of the reason for their success among younger demographics, said Dunn.

"The intent of the *24 Hours* is that it should be readable within 20-24 minutes. The stories are shorter.... People don't need the 1000 word editorials in a traditional daily newspaper, they can get that anywhere."

While *24 Hours* has taken a chunk out of the readership of those papers, their five-day readership of those papers is still considerably higher: the Vancouver *24 Hours* has a readership of around 535,600, whereas *The Province* still has around 804,400.

Papers like the *24 Hours* are filling a void, says Mary Lynn Young, director of the UBC School of Journalism.

"They wouldn't be in business if they weren't filling a market need," said Young. "They're...easy access, short daily news hits for commuters."

While Young does not dismiss these papers out of hand, she stresses that they are a part of a balanced media diet.

"If you're going to be reading the commuter paper on the way to school, that's good, but supplement it with *The New York Times* and *The Guardian* and the BBC and other kinds of media to make sure that you're knowledgeable about a wide range of issues across different ideological and media platforms."

Canwest sells *The Province* & *The Vancouver Sun*

ANDREW MACISAAC
Guest Editor

Earlier this year, Canwest Global Communications owned Global TV as well as a plethora of newspapers across the country, including the *National Post*, *The Vancouver Sun* and *The Province*. However, having declared bankruptcy, Canwest was forced to sell its assets.

This originally sparked speculation that perhaps there would be a change in the face of the Canadian newspaper business, with a move to more independently-owned print media. Yet this change did not occur, as Canwest sold the entire newspaper arm of its business to the newly formed Postmedia Network.

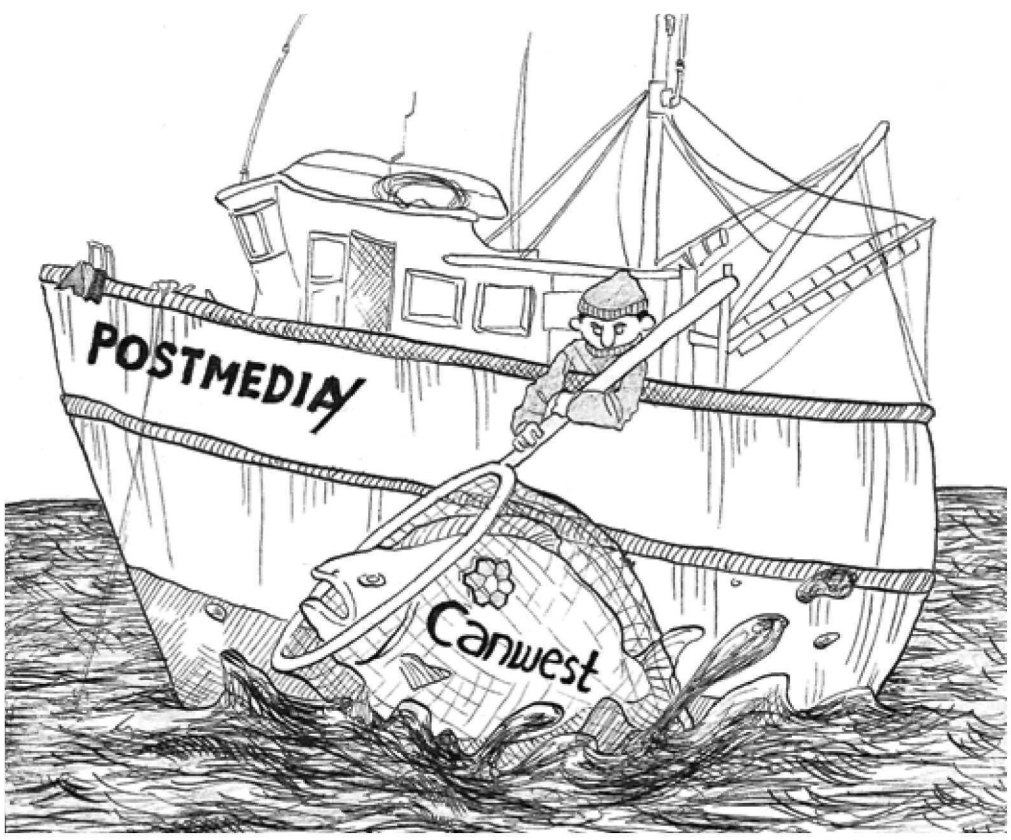
According to Postmedia, their broad scope provides them with an advantage: "Collaboration from the Postmedia Network of daily newspapers gives Postmedia News unique strengths in quickly developing and disseminating relevant content."

However, Christopher Waddell, associate professor and director of the Carleton School of Journalism and Communication, said this is not always the case.

"For almost a decade now the media world has been caught up in convergence—the belief that the same material can be produced by a small number of journalists for distribution across the television, print and Internet operations all owned by the same company. That's proven to be an almost complete disaster for everyone involved, to the point where it is impossible to identify any benefits that came from convergence."

In a survey of issues of *The Vancouver Sun* and *The Province*, there are many instances where the two papers share common stories. This is particularly visible on their websites, where many of the same articles by the same journalists are featured in each paper's "current headlines" crawl at the same time. According to Waddell, this is a bad thing: "Readers see less and less of what is distinctive about their community in their newspapers or newscasts and that has led to declines in audience and readership."

However, the viewership of the Postmedia Network's websites has been high. ComScore Inc, who released data on the popularity of the news company's sites, recorded 4.4 million Canadian visitors in August, a value 37 per cent higher than any of Postmedia's competitors.



INDIANA JOEL ILLUSTRATION/THE UBYSSEY

WHAT IS A

TREVOR RECORD
features@ubyssey.ca

Have you ever seen an article in a n
be you've seen an article in *The Ub*
the story didn't come from that pa

News agencies, also sometimes
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ries and photographs, to video and

Some of these organizations, lik
operatives in which media organiza
an University Press (CUP), the wir
is a service of this type.

News agencies could be consider
we are calling "news recycling." De
the internet today, news agencies
out of a need for stories of internati
ted quickly at a time when "quick"

The oldest of these services cla
Agence Havas, it was renamed Age
headquarters was liberated from N
sistance. For North America, The
formed, coming together in 1848 a
orating on the Mexican War. CUP
them the oldest student-run news

THE CANADIAN PRESS MAY

ERIKA RAM ILLUSTRATION/THE UBYSSEY

Originally appearing in 1910 to
The Associated Press (AP) via m
coverage, starting in 1917 during
Canada's most powerful news ag
with news stories, photographs,
the sole distributor of AP content
related to pension, Candian media
separated from the service in rec

WIRE STORY?

JOE PICKLES ILLUSTRATION/THE UBYSSEY

ewspaper that has an (AP) or (CP) in it? May-
yssey that has (CUP) in it. Those mean that
per.
s referred to as wire services, are organiza-
dia outlets. This can range from written sto-
other multimedia content.
te Reuters, sell this content. Others are co-
ations pool their resources centrally: Canadi-
e service that *The Ubyssey* is a member of,

red the original organizations putting out what
espite generally distributing content through
have existed for over a century. They arose
onal and national importance to be transmit-
could be a week after an event had occurred.
aims it dates back to 1835; originally called
ence France-Presse in 1944 after its Parisian
Nazi control by journalists in the French Re-
Associated Press was the first wire service
as the result of five New York papers collab-
dates back to 1938, which they claim makes
wire.

CHANGE TO A FOR-PROFIT MODEL

TREVOR RECORD
features@ubyssey.ca

In an ironic case of *The Ubyssey* being forced to recycle content, The Canadian Press (CP) is currently in the process of changing from a not-for-profit cooperative to a for-profit model, multiple media sources have reported.

*CTV*globemedia, Torstar Corp and Gesca Ltee, currently the largest members of the cooperative, will become the largest shareholders if the deal goes through, Reuters reports. In exchange, they will be giving several million to pay off a pension-related deficit at the service. "Special regulations" for their pension plans had been approved by the Governor General, according to a memo cited by *The Vancouver Sun* last week.

Postmedia News reports that the organization will be called Canadian Press Enterprises once the restructuring is completed. It is currently uncertain in what ways the operation of the news agency will be affected. *The Ubyssey* was unable to reach Scott White, the editor in chief of The Canadian Press, for comment.

provide Canadian papers with news from
orse code, they began providing their own
World War I. Ninety-three years later, CP is
ency, providing hundreds of media outlets
video and audio content. They also remain
in Canada. In addition to funding problems
a giants Canwest and Sun Media have both
ent years.

PERSPECTIVES: REFLECTIONS ON THE RALLY TO RESTORE SANITY

MATTHEW NAYLOR
Contributor

I'm somewhere over the continental United States as I write this. My Rally to Restore Sanity vacation/nerd pilgrimage is over, much to my liver's relief. The Rally was enormous, making headlines across the continent. But I was also there for election night, so I had a front row seat to another clash in the sane-versus-not battle raging south of our border. The rally might have been a turning point, but sanity is far from restored.

The crowd was far more diverse than I'd expected. I assumed that the majority of the attendees were going to be coming from, in Stewart's words, his show's "small but demographically valuable" audience, but I'd be hard-pressed to say even that the majority of the ralliers were in that 18 to 24 group. They were people from every walk of life who felt that reason and respect had been displaced by fear.

They wanted to be Sandra Bullock in *Speed*—a madman had taken control of a bus within which they were trapped, and they wanted to seize the wheel and get things back on track.

They were also well-informed. While most that I talked to said that *The Daily Show* and *The Colbert Report* were the infotainment they most regularly watched, everyone said that they took at least a perfunctory glance at other media to get the real story. I think they appreciate the lens—the perspective offered by the Comedy Central nighttime news hour is unique, so who really cares whether or not the whole thing is laden with comedic invective.

For all the pretences to non-partisanship, the rally was overwhelmingly Democratic and left-leaning. This was to be expected; if the rally was really a response to any kind of insanity, it's the insanity that finds its expression in the Tea Party Express, Freedom Works, and Glenn Beck.

The comparisons to the Glenn Beck Rally of last August were inevitable. Every report on the rally that I got my hands on mentioned at least the disparity in the number of attendees (at 215,000 or so, Stewart's more than doubled the Beck-stravaganza). Many went deeper, with right wingers seeking solace in the fact that while the Stewart crowd was larger, Beck's was much, much angrier, and in doing so rather proved the point of all those who showed up at the later rally. They have a point: just three days later the voting public (about half of the actual public) refudiated the crap out of the Democratic Party.

The forces of insanity are more politically organized than those that oppose them, and this rally didn't do much to change that. The acts were funny, and everyone there had a blast, but they didn't say what the people who were upset needed to do to affect that elusive 'return to normalcy.' I know that this is an impossibly high bar to set, but after the Gettysburg Address, attendee Gary Will said that "the crowd departed with a new thing in its ideological luggage, that new constitution Lincoln had substituted for the one they brought there with them. They walked off.... under a changed sky into a different America." We, by contrast, picked up our garbage and wandered off for a Halloween night out. Things were still crazy in America.

Paul Bucci and Matthew Naylor attended the Rally to Restore Sanity in Washington DC this weekend. **KEEGAN BURSAW PHOTO**/THE UBYSSEY

PAUL BUCCI
Contributor

Last week's Rally to Restore Sanity has come and gone, and the midterm elections are over. The Democrats lost seats, and Sean Hannity is screaming about the fundamental and inexorable strength of Republicanism.

Great. Perfect. Amazing.

Obama was on Jon Stewart's show last week, and Jon firmly took him apart. People were worried that any criticism of the President's first 18 months in office would hurt the Democrats, and should therefore be avoided. I disagree. It was beautiful to see Stewart engage in a real dialogue with Obama over his actions. It showed what a democracy looks like.

A functioning media in a functioning democracy criticizes the government constantly. No bill is ever good enough, and no government is working hard enough. You need good criticism to progress.

I know it's hard to remember, but very recently we were being told that journalists couldn't and wouldn't ask certain questions of George W. Bush. It was either not allowed, or they quietly allowed themselves to be pressured into staying silent. Can you imagine anyone throwing a shoe at Obama?

In fact, all of the abuses of the last eight years could have been mitigated by a careful and engaged media. I won't say that they would have been stopped, but at least there would have been some accountability enforced. That's our job. People seem to forget that the reason news media entertains is so that we can also inform.

During the rally, Stewart made the claim that, "If we amplify everything, we hear nothing."

Keith Olbermann of MSNBC reacted to this by discontinuing his "Worst Person in the World" segment of his show. He admitted that the anger expressed in the segment had become institutionalized and was therefore more divisive than useful. He also spent a good deal of time criticizing Fox by drawing lines in the sand, but old habits die hard, I guess.

As Stewart said, I don't think that we can really know exactly what this rally was about, but at the least it was a significant cry out against an overwhelming powerlessness in the political sphere.

The blogger-journalist: objective or subjective?

Guess which of these three is blogging about land use issues at UBC. **GEOFF LISTER PHOTO**/THE UBYSSEY

KAIT BOLONGARO
Contributor

In the past, bloggers and professional journalists occupied two different reporting spheres, with bloggers basing posts on personal interpretation and professional journalists sticking to the parameters set by editors. However, these two entities have now become synonymous with one another, often blurring the line between self-expression and objective reporting.

"That's the point of blogs [to be more subjective]," said Frances Bula, a freelance blogger for *The Globe and Mail*. "Readers look for something more personal. There's no need to be super opinionated, but the writer needs to indicate a bit of one."

Joe Cutbirth, an associate professor at the UBC School of Journalism, said blogs are not a new phenomenon.

"Blogs have existed for centuries; they just haven't been on the internet," said Cutbirth. "From columnists in newspapers to pamphleteers, this is the same spirit of the blog [for the expression of] an individual's voice and fast stream of consciousness."

While blogs do become a vehicle for the journalist's self expression, when these opinions and news are blended into one voice, do the readers know where the distinction is?

"It can become biased," said Kanaiya Mutua, a UBC student and blog follower. "I think it leaves the reader to make the same conclusion as the writer at times. The reader isn't given an impartial stand on the situation.

"Having said that, as a reader a blog is more personal, because it is written by one voice," Mutua said. "The writers become more humanized."

Bula said she also prefers blogging as she receives more feedback on her work than from her written pieces. "Blogs connect me better with readers and they feel more of a personal connection."

Fiona Andersen, business editor for multimedia with *The Vancouver Sun*, further supports this need for dialogue with readers.

"Blogs are a great way of getting short news blurbs out there to get dialogue and comments [from readers]," said Andersen. "That way it's a conversation to get the community involved [with the blog]."

This need for connection certainly seems to be the overall sentiment of blogger-journalists. Of the eight featured blogs on *The Vancouver Sun* website, six were op-ed based and two were regurgitated news without any personal interjections. In fact, these two writers used their blogs to promote their works published by the newspaper, using the blog as more of a platform for personal promotion.

However, does a journalist's need for self-expression and connection with their readers supersede the public's right to objective journalism?

"Bloggers' work isn't laid out like other news reports," explained Cutbirth. "In the newspaper, the stories from the first to the last page read the same. All the paragraphs are basic and the same. Commercial journalism tries to be consistent in what it presents to the readers. Readers want to read it quickly. There's a reason blogs and journalism aren't side by side. They do have a little more leeway to be informal and to experiment with voice, when traditional news stories try to be sanitized."

This brings into question the position of the editor. "I don't pre-approve the blog posts," said Andersen. "The contributors send me a copy after it's posted, and I look over it."

Being that blogs and traditional journalism have different forms, perhaps major newspapers shouldn't use blogs connected to their website without more editorial oversight to monitor their content. However, blogging seems to be the path down which online journalism is heading.

"Blogs are here to stay," said Bula, "but they will evolve and the periphery will be pushed out, and it'll be harder to break in as a newbie."

If this is the case, then what is the future of print journalism and how will it be affected by this trend? Cutbirth says this is part of the history of media which is constantly evolving.

"Blog is short for weblog," said Cutbirth. "We have had people like that for centuries and as long as people want to express themselves they will use the technology of the day to do so." U

VFM HAS BECOME CONTINUOUS

NOW LET'S SEE SOME BLOGS THAT AREN'T ABOUT STUDENT GOVERNMENT

JUSTIN MCELROY
coordinating@ubyssey.ca

For the last four years now, a cornucopia of blogs have sprung out of the ether every January to report on the AMS elections. Some are incisive, some are silly, some are forgettable and all are in the running to get a bit of money for their work from students who vote in favour of their coverage in a separate election. This is known as Voter Funded Media (VFM), and it livens up campus politics and keeps candidates accountable.

Unfortunately, elections end, the monetary incentive dries up, and none too surprisingly, so do the VFM blogs. Sites once populated with comments become as barren as this campus on a Sunday morning. And *The Ubyssey* is once again the only news source on campus. Mwahahaha!

We rhetorically laugh, but this isn't an ideal system. Alternative media is needed in any society; it provides other viewpoints on issues and keeps the mainstream groups on their toes. I've always loved the combination of entertainment and reporting done by the various blogs on campus, and think that VFM is without a doubt a good thing.

But there have been problems in its implementation. For one, the month-to-month grind of student issues and politics didn't get due attention under the old system. Elections are by nature the glitziest part of the political process, but elected leaders reveal themselves to be effective or incompetent during their terms, not their campaigns.

Also, because the old system only gave financial compensation in one big splurge, it favoured ex-student politicians with plenty of experience and opinions. They would enter the competition for a month, blog a little during the elections, collect a few hundred dollars, and depart.

But these problems have been rectified, and the AMS has made VFM year-round. Giving credit where credit is due, they realized that the current system wasn't ideal and made the necessary changes. Small miracles can occur.

That being said, should a year-round system entice new VFM blogs to spring up—and we hope there are many—it would be nice if they focused on things other than our student union. VFM blogs can be a great way to get people talking about the student experience in new and interesting ways. This is a giant campus with interesting things happening in research, academics and student life—areas that VFM blogs rarely cover.

Those that like seeing ambitious and egotistical students play pretend government like it a lot. But student government is not the be-all and end-all of this campus. This may come as a shock to some in the AMS, who tend to think that if everyone only knew all the awesome stuff they were doing they would totally agree, but our student union is but one ingredient in the pizza that is this campus. And not everyone likes sardines. U

CULTURE

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ASSOCIATE ANNA ZORIA » associate.culture@ubyssey.ca

Tiny Parties fulfills sloppy, sexy expectations

MIRANDA MARTINI
Contributor

On the evening of November 1, students and art enthusiasts shake off the rain to attend the opening of a new exhibit at the AMS Art Gallery. Entering the gallery, the attendees show ID and pay $3 for drink vouchers at the door. It might be any beer garden, except that the "garden" consists of an eight foot-by-eight foot wooden cube with a curtain partitioning it from the blank, sterile cleanliness of the gallery space. It looks like a party thrown by Polly Pocket, or a gala funded by IKEA to promote minimalist housing.

In fact, it is Brendan Albano's *Tiny Parties*, an experiment in spatial reimagining and architectural potential. It's also a unique opportunity for Albano to throw a sick party for all his friends.

Inside the cube, roughly eight people jostle politely to loud dance music, elbows tucked firmly at their sides. A "bartender" pours beer from a keg that is attached to the makeout closet, an even smaller area designed to give amorous partiers a semblance of privacy. The DJ is pinned behind the turntables in the corner; in order for him or her to leave the space, the party must be briefly shut down while the entire space is dismantled. This occurs a few times during the evening so that a new DJ can take up the position and so the speakers can be swapped for louder ones. While this goes on, the dancers amble around with their drinks and chat, once again taking on the role of decorous gallery spectators.

Party in a box. **GEOFF LISTER PHOTO** / THE UBYSSEY

Albano's other works, which include using the characteristic Facebook symbol to "like" another artist's gallery show and spearheading a guerrilla campaign teaching public transit users how to start conversations on the bus, revolve around the intensely self-aware culture of twentysomethings. This exhibit seems to be a continuation of this theme within the youth-centric context of the dance party.

"I'm a youth," he responds to this suggestion. "So, yeah, I'm interested in youth culture." However, he goes on to say, *Tiny Parties* has more to do with his interest in how society interacts with different environments. University students are expected to wear the various hats of partier, scholar, professional, child and so on, depending on their surroundings. Albano seeks to unpack this chameleon aesthetic by forcing spaces and identities unnaturally together—the neutral gallery space juxtaposed against, as Albano terms it, "the sexy, sloppy expectations of the dance party."

That's something to keep in mind the next time you're part of an anonymous jostling mass on Wednesday night at the Pit, perhaps asking yourself if you might be having a better time in an eight-foot cube. U

Tiny Parties *runs November 1-5.*

Don Giovanni heats up the old auditorium

On stage with the eternal libertine in Mozart's classic

JENICA CHAUKIOCK
jchaukiock@ubyssey.ca

After two years of renovations, UBC's old auditorium is finally set to re-open with the UBC Opera Ensemble and UBC Symphony Orchestra's production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. The show promises a number of surprises.

"For this particular opera, we were able to obtain the sets from Prague, where Mozart premiered the opera," said Nancy Hermiston, founder of the UBC Opera Ensemble and director of the show. "These sets, the costumes, the wigs, the shoes, [and] the props are all from the production of [the Mozart Theatre] at Prague."

Written in 1787, the Italian opera *Don Giovanni* tells the story of the libertine Don, also known as Don Juan in Spanish, whose insatiable lust and ego eventually condemns him to hell. As a nobleman, lover and murderer, Don Giovanni possesses a debonair style that is as alluring to audiences in the present day as it was when it was written.

"Don Giovanni is totally the ladies' man [and] he is good-looking," said Jose R Anton, one of the performers to play the titular character. "He knows how to allure women, and how to use the power of his words and of his wealth to move the world."

Don Giovanni seduces a maiden. **PHOTO COURTESY RICHARD EPP**

Anton is thrilled to have the part of Don Giovanni, but to play an iconic womanizer demands more than just stage acting. "When you step into a character like Don Giovanni, you have to forget all your colleagues, about your sense of honour [and everything] that makes you a human being. You have to completely erase anything that will interfere with Don Giovanni's mentality, [because] there is only [one] main purpose for him: to satisfy his needs as a man," said Anton. "He followed liberty, freedom and, more than anything, his sexual desire, to the point that he was dragged to hell."

There is a universal appeal to *Don Giovanni*, not only for the tale but also because of the response it solicits from audiences. "*Don Giovanni* is [like] the Don Juan or the Casanova story," said Hermiston. "So there's an eternal theme of love, power and lust."

"Even if the audience cannot understand [the story]," said Anton, "they can still relate to it and say, 'At one point, I met [someone like] Don Giovanni. I met the guy with an intense look in his face, [who] literally undressed me right there.' "

> There is only [one] main purpose for Don Giovanni: to satisfy his needs as a man.

But above all, *Don Giovanni* is an immortalized opera. Its aesthetic form is just as important as its story. "Opera has everything," said Hermiston. "Opera has the beautiful sets and the beautiful costumes, so there's plenty for the eye. It has the orchestra, it has the singing and, frequently, dance. It is a culmination of so many different art forms." U

Don Giovanni *will be performed in Italian with English surtitles. Tickets for the November 4 - 7 show are available online or in person at the Old Auditorium box office.*

FOOD WITH KAIT BOLONGARO

GET FULL WITH FOOD SOCIETY

At only five years old, the Food Society is one of the younger clubs on campus. Despite its age, membership has quickly grown to 400 people and counting.

It was originally started by a small group of Land and Food Systems students who wanted to create a club related to their major. However, the goal wasn't to focus on the dietary aspect but on the experience of food itself. The club started giving cooking workshops, and that's where it all began.

Nowadays, the club hosts cooking workshops for beginner and advanced cooks. They also have dine out nights to new and interesting restaurants around Vancouver for those who are more interested in eating food than fabricating it.

> Food Soc is divided into groups of ten or fewer people who have similar interests such as baking, wine tasting or cooking.

The President of the Food Society, Ryan Chang, is a Japanese restaurant enthusiast. He said the best place for sushi in Vancouver is Shiro Sushi at 3096 Cambie Street. "It looks really crappy on the outside but the sushi chefs there are all Japanese. I would recommend the Chirashi Don, which is basically sashimi on a rice bowl. It's cheaper and gives you a good variety."

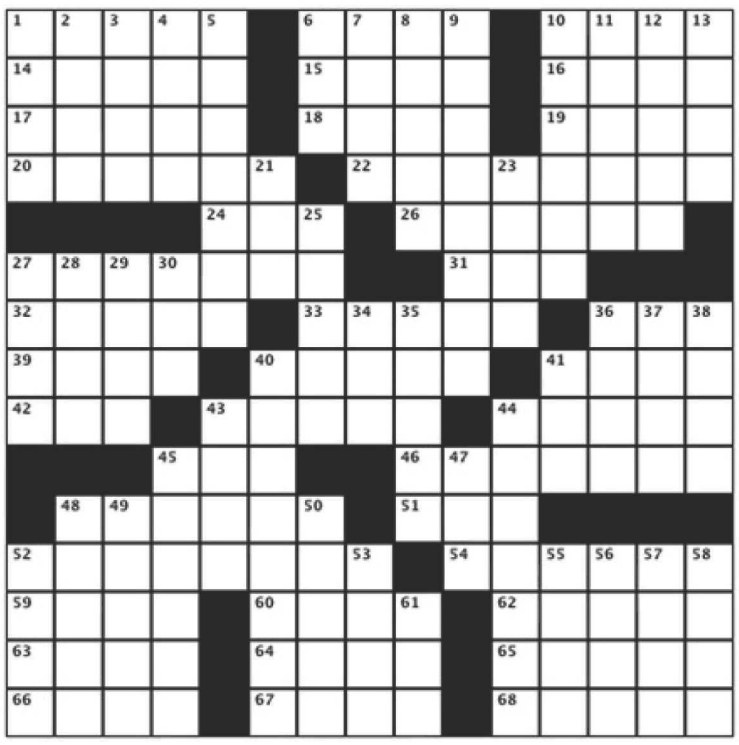
Aware of its relatively large size for a food related club, the executives have introduced the concept of mini-societies. These are small groups of ten or fewer people who have similar food interests such as baking, wine tasting or advanced cooking. This allows the club to maintain the personal connections which are attached to the food experience. The mini clubs are voted on by the members and they choose the most popular ones. Since food is such a broad interest, this allows for more people to become connected to the Food Society.

Students are known for their unhealthy eating tendencies. "For some students, there is the health aspect of take-out and it shouldn't be your main diet. For me, eating can be just about feeding yourself, or it can be an experience," Chang stated. "On campus, it's very mass-produced and choices are limited." U

The Food Society office is located in SUB 111D. For more information, check out their website at www.ubcfoodsociety.com.

GAMES & COMICS

CROSSWORD



PUZZLES PROVIDED BY *BESTCROSSWORDS.COM*. USED WITH PERMISSION.

ACROSS
1. Wooden shoe
6. Cheek
10. A single time
14. Device with 88 keys
15. Off-Broadway theatre award
16. Glass ornament
17. Freud contemporary
18. Hue
19. Queue
20. Hinder
22. Quadrangle
24. Shoebox letters
26. Boil
27. Suffix
31. Hwy.
32. Dull
33. Trio
36. Marsh
39. Half of zwei
40. Baked dough
41. Gaucho's weapon
42. Bass, e.g.
43. Chaplin persona
44. Diamond flaw?
45. Hawaiian food
46. Mohammedan
48. Twinned
51. Dr. of rap
52. Sonorous
54. Unprincipled
59. Gumbo veggie
60. Frozen treats
62. Circumvent
63. Lecherous look
64. American space agency
65. One of the Leeward Islands
66. Corm of the taro
67. Secluded spot
68. Country singer Travis

DOWN
1. Box
2. Adjutant
3. Latvian, e.g.
4. Draft classification
5. Roast
6. Scribble (down)
7. Passing notice
8. Fermented grape juices
9. Literate
10. Flattened at the poles
11. Sound of a horse
12. Boat often made of birch-bark, canvas, or fiberglass
13. Biblical garden
21. Agnus
23. Network of nerves
25. More
27. Entreaty
28. Trompe l'___
29. All there
30. NFL scores
34. Bottom line?
35. Swift
36. Configuration
37. "The Time Machine" race
38. DEA agent
40. Instructions
41. Bikini top
43. Raced
44. Rudimentary component
45. Rogue
47. Madrid Mrs.
48. Jabbed
49. Broadcast
50. Noble, in a way
52. Meadow mouse
53. ___majeste
55. Above
56. Sitarist Shankar
57. Mine entrance
58. For fear that
61. Japanese honorific

SOLUTION

Submit your comics to our website at *ubyssey.ca/volunteer/submit-a-comic.*

VIRGINIE MENARD | production@ubyssey.ca

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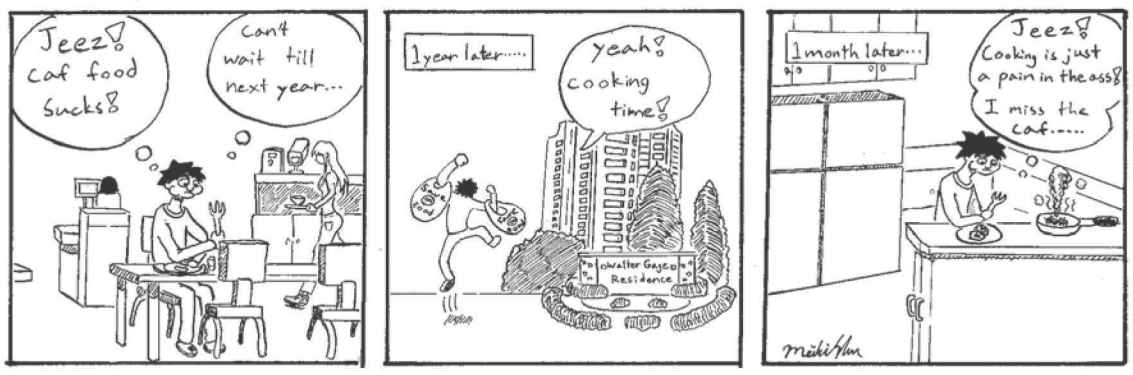
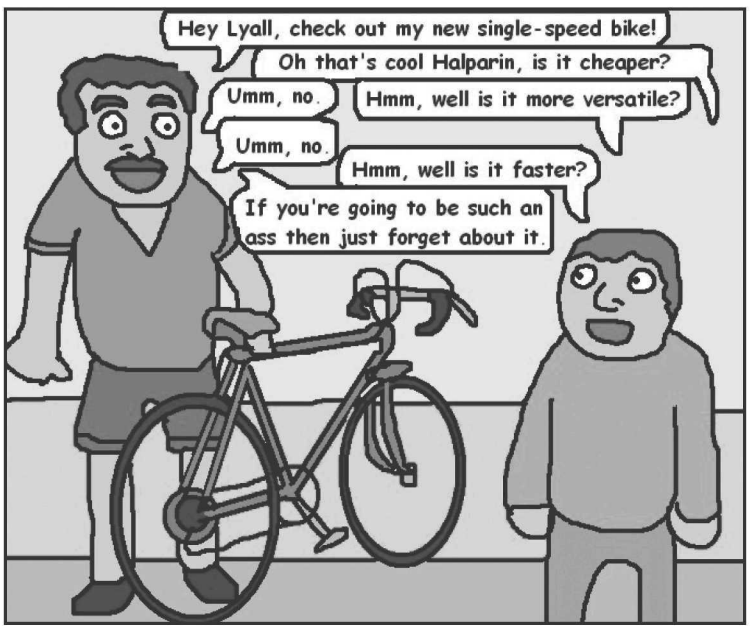
COMICMASTER, BY MARIA CIRSTEA

SUSCOMIC.COM, BY MIKE BROUND

SAZAEMON, BY MEIKI SHU



CORPUS CHRISTI, BY ROBERT E. LEE (*YOURCORPUSCHRISTI.BLOGSPOT.COM*)



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EDITORIAL

GOODBYE, GOOD LUCK AND GOOD RIDDANCE

In the last issue of our paper, you have may noticed a back-page advertisement by Gordon Campbell, a message directly to students.

This was ironic for two reasons. The first is the obvious fact that he has now abruptly announced his resignation. The other is that the relationship between our soon-to-be-ex-premier and university students has never been exactly cordial.

To most, the tuition hikes of his first term are Campbell's lasting legacy. They doubled the cost of a degree in this province, resulted in hundreds of students laying siege to the Old Administration Building overnight (really, it happened), and created an ideological split between student unions and leaders that continues to this day (excepting certain current AMS presidents).

Given the fiscal state of the province and the impact a seven-year tuition freeze had on universities, it was in many ways an inevitability. But it was marked by an arrogance, suddenness and refusal to compromise that became a hallmark with this administration. For many, the HST was the last straw. But students? Well, students turned their back on this government long ago.

If it wasn't over tuition, maybe it was the government's secretive decision to fire the Okanagan University College board and change it to UBC-O. Or maybe it was the last-second cuts to universities in 2008 (UBC received $15.8 million less). Or maybe it was the $16 million cut in aid programs in 2009.

This premier did some good, especially on the economic and First Nations fronts. His decision to enact a carbon tax was also a bold, potentially visionary move. But his best-before date passed years ago, and the only thing that can be said for his decision is 'better late than never.'

Now, Campbell is free to leave the grueling task of public life, one that he has devoted three decades of his life to, and enjoy more time at home—which just happens to be an apartment at UBC. Perhaps now he'll be able to connect with students more than he ever has before.

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES NO CHILD'S GAME

Halloween is a cathartic experience for some people, and a lot of it has to do with costumes. But the mixture of fluid identities and unidentified fluids can make for a ribald night out as far removed from innocent trick-or-treating as Jack Skellington is from Santa Claus.

But what about damage that goes beyond the physical? Many see dressing up in a costume as an opportunity to express themselves. Sometimes, though, this kind of roleplay can take a nasty turn.

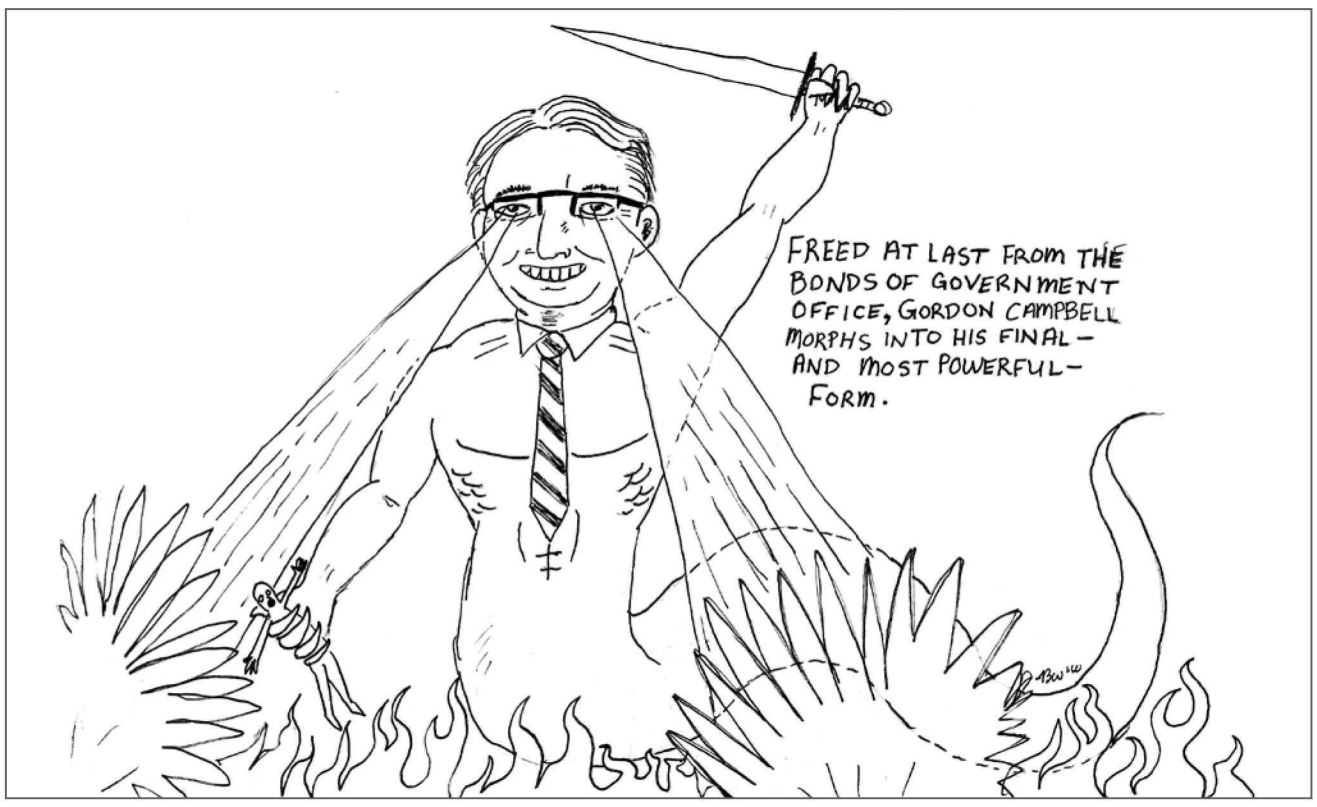
Two years ago, four UBC students attended parties in rez and the Pit in blackface. This wasn't the blackface of minstrel shows—straw hat, red lips, et cetera—but a modern, updated version. They wore what one might loosely term 'hip-hop' attire, and in the photos we've seen they are grimacing, striking threatening poses and throwing up gang signs whilst drinking Malt Liquor. It doesn't matter whether their costumes were meant to summarize African-American males as a whole or one specific subculture. Four white men painting themselves to look black and acting like buffoons isn't just tasteless, it's wrong—on Halloween or any other day.

This Halloween, three Vancouver men dressed as 'bashed' gays. Their outfits included Hannah Montana and Justin Beiber t-shirts, rainbow wristbands, and signs originally reading "It gets better" altered to say "It doesn't get better." Oh, and the injuries—fake gashes, blood and black eyes.

A quick Twitter-snooping of some of the individuals involved reveals an interest in HIV awareness campaigns and youth outreach groups. There is a good chance their costumes were meant as ironic social commentary from people within the LGBT community—but does that make them okay?

Would either of these groups have dressed this way on any day other than Halloween? We're betting they wouldn't.

Here's a tip for next year, folks: stick to the basics. The holiday was originally about cheap costumes kids could wear—clowns and devils and ghosts. As an adult celebrating a child's holiday, you may be tempted to add a layer of complexity. If you do, watch your step. There's a thin line between being satirical and being an asshole.



BRYCE WARNES GRAPHIC/THE UBYSSEY

TOO SEXY

HEY EVERYONE,

The *Too Sexy* team firmly believes that condoms (as vexatious as they can be) are absolutely necessary. We want you to believe it too. That's why this week, our column focuses on condom troubleshooting and FAQ. So let's dive right in, shall we?

CAN YOU USE TWO CONDOMS AT THE SAME TIME?

No.

"Double-bagging" is a strict no-no, as the two condoms rub against one another and cause tearing. This means greater risk of STIs and/or pregnancy. Most people know this from sex ed class or TV, but we thought we'd mention it anyway.

DOES THE EXPIRY DATE ON THE CONDOM MATTER?

Yes.

All condoms have an expiry date printed on the wrapper. An *expiry date*, not a *best before*. Rubber does become brittle as it ages. As well, don't store condoms in your wallet or back pocket, and don't carry around condoms you intend to use for any extended period of time. Heat compromises the integrity of the condom, and constant bending and jostling may cause pinholes.

CAN YOU USE FLAVOURED CONDOMS FOR VAGINAL/ANAL SEX AS WELL AS ORAL SEX?

No.

Flavoured condoms, while a great option for spicing up oral sex, contain sugar as a flavour agent. Sugar + pussy/ass = yeast infection. Also, you should ALWAYS change condoms when switching sex locations. For example, don't transition from anal sex to vaginal sex with the same condom, or vice-versa. This puts additional wear and tear on the condom.

CAN UNCIRCUMCISED MEN USE CONDOMS?

Yes. Please, yes.

The procedure of putting a condom on is slightly different because of the foreskin, but don't let that discourage you. Before you begin, put a small drop of WATER-BASED LUBRICANT on the inside of the condom tip.

Next, pull back the foreskin, pinch the tip of the condom and unroll it down the penis. Hold onto the base and push up gently at the middle of the shaft so the the foreskin returns to its normal erect position. Also, some uncircumcised men find that buying a slightly longer than necessary condom is helpful, as this gives extra space for the foreskin to move and prevents the condom from riding up if it gets under the foreskin.

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH FEMALE CONDOMS?

Well, they're great for group sex involving one male and more than one female. They are latex sheaths that fit inside the vagina instead of over the penis. If you're using a female condom, don't use a male condom at the same time (see: 'double-bagging'). Female condoms are more expensive than male condoms, slightly less prone to breakage but more prone to slippage.

I CAN'T FIND A CONDOM BIG ENOUGH FOR ME.

Bullshit. If I can wear a condom like a hat, it can fit over your dick. Otherwise, see a doctor. If your ego demands satisfaction, try large sized condoms, proceed and be less of a nincompoop next time.

WHAT DO I DO IF I LOSE MY ERECTION WHILE HAVING SEX WITH A CONDOM ON?

Stop having intercourse. If you continue, the condom will slip off. Do something else for awhile. If/when you have an erection again, put a new condom on to resume sex if you feel like it.

LETTERS

THE PIT'S INAPPROPRIATE ATTITUDE

The Pit annoys me big time. What does it think, why is it so arrogant?

My first experience with the Pit was during the Gala introduction week for international students last summer. Being European and never forced to wait to go to a club, the first line-up in my life was fun. I saw it as a cultural experience. When we walked in, after being lined up for over half an hour, the Pit was empty...Weird.

Last week, on Halloween Wednesday I was going to try the Pit again. But after standing half an hour in a judge line-up, with the guys at the door doing nothing, I walked away. This is not how I want to be treated as a customer. Knowing that the Pit has a monopoly when it comes to clubbing on campus, and can therefore do what it wants, I still think that it should change its attitude.

It should change from being arrogant with unnecessary line-ups towards a more friendly and laidback "by students for students" attitude. Screw that wannabe fancy club attitude and act normal!

Pit goers should not accept standing in line-ups for so long, just because it is their only option. We should complain more and be able to go clubbing without unnecessary, haughty and annoying delays.

Melle Nikkels

Send us your poor, your tired, your huddled masses/thoughts/letters. We take 'em all. Unless they're over 300 words. In any case, to have a letter in here, send us an email at *feedback@ubyssey.ca.*

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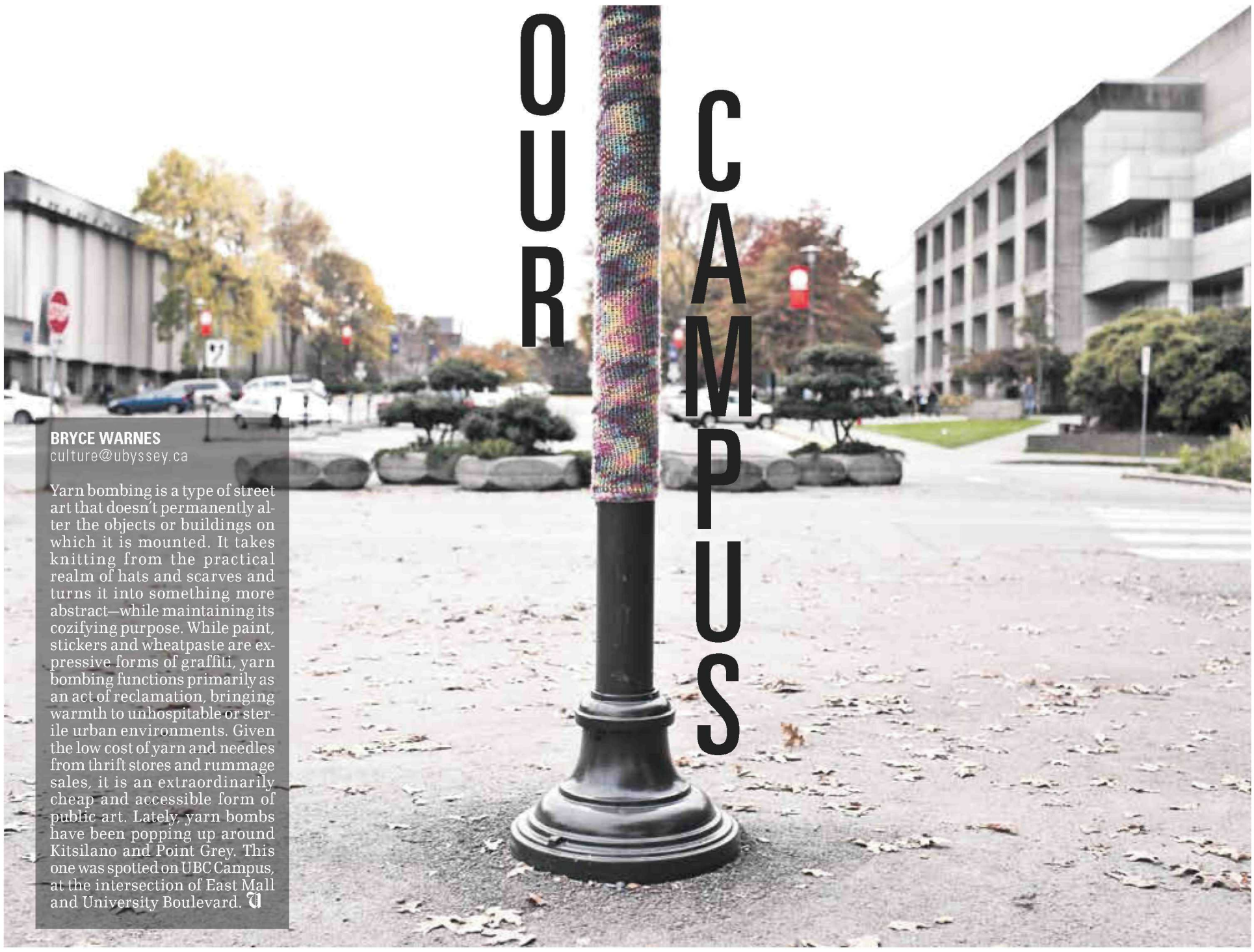
OUR CAMPUS



BRYCE WARNES
culture@ubyssey.ca

Yarn bombing is a type of street art that doesn't permanently alter the objects or buildings on which it is mounted. It takes knitting from the practical realm of hats and scarves and turns it into something more abstract—while maintaining its cozifying purpose. While paint, stickers and wheatpaste are expressive forms of graffiti, yarn bombing functions primarily as an act of reclamation, bringing warmth to unhospitable or sterile urban environments. Given the low cost of yarn and needles from thrift stores and rummage sales, it is an extraordinarily cheap and accessible form of public art. Lately, yarn bombs have been popping up around Kitsilano and Point Grey. This one was spotted on UBC Campus, at the intersection of East Mall and University Boulevard.

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